

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 92000976 Date Listed: 8/14/92

Cropwell Friends Meeting House Burlington NJ  
Property Name: County: State:

Evesham Township MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*GA* Patrick Andrus \_\_\_\_\_ 10/28/92  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Period of Significance for this property (1793 - 1941) is amended to include only 1793, the year of construction of the building. This is the appropriate period because the building is only nominated for architectural significance. The NJ SHPO has been consulted and agrees. The form is officially amended to include this new Period of Significance.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

976

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cropwell Friends Meeting House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 810 Cropwell Road  not for publication  
city, town Evesham Township  vicinity  
state New Jersey code 034 county Burlington code 005 zip code 08053

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>1</u>     |                 | sites      |
|              |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>1</u>        | Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of Evesham Township

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 6/25/92  
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Ardus

8/14/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Funerary/Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Funerary/Cemetery

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick common bond with random header courses

roof Gable roof with wooden shingles

other Wood clapboard siding on additions - Shed roof porch with wooden posts

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Cropwell Friends Meeting House, built in 1809, is located at the corner of Cropwell Road and Old Marlton Pike in Evesham Township, Burlington County, New Jersey.

The two acre property includes the Meeting House, a grounds-keeper's house (previously a school house), and a Friends burial ground. These different sections of the property are connected with unpaved drives. The buildings and burial ground are placed in a grove of mature cedar, sycamore, and tulip trees.

The graveyard is an important component of the site. The grave markers are small and simple and include initials or full names and years for birth and death. Most of the markers are headstones and there are some footstones. Interments date from the late eighteenth century to the present time. The oldest grave marker dates from 1796 and bears the initials "T L" for Theodosia Lippincott. Her grave stone is of brick manufactured in her family's brick kiln. Polished granite marks more recent interments.

The cemetery, which is the oldest in Evesham, holds the graves of over 400 persons. On the gravestones are such recognizable names as Evans, Wills, Cooper and Lippincott -- descendants of the Township's most significant families.

Cropwell Friends Meeting House is a one and one half story masonry structure, rectangular in plan and symmetrically disposed. The six-bay length measures 50 feet and the three-bay gable end width is 36 feet. A nineteenth century shed-roofed porch runs across the length of the east facade.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1793 - 1941  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1793  
1809  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cropwell Friends Meeting House is a fine example of a traditional rural Quaker Meeting House, typical of those built throughout the Delaware Valley. The history of this site reflects a Quaker method of settlement -- procuring land initially as a burial site and later building a structure to house religious meetings. Today, while the surrounding context has changed, the Cropwell Friends Meeting House, in continuous use for 182 years, is in an excellent state of architectural preservation. This structure remains the only tangible non-residential link to the original colonial Quaker settlers of Evesham Township and the Village of Cropwell therein. It is one of the few surviving structures from the settlement period. For these reasons, the Cropwell Friends Meeting House should be included within the multiple property listing as a historic resource of Evesham Township, New Jersey.

Most Friends came to the American colonies to escape religious persecution in England and Wales. The West Jersey Proprietors promoted tracts of land in Burlington and Evesham and directed advertisements towards the Friends. Their first ship, the Kent, arrived with settlers bound for Evesham Township in August of 1677.

Early American Quakers were farmers and continued the agrarian way of life they had lived in England. The farming village called

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Acroterion. Cultural Resources Survey of Evesham Township. Prepared for the Township of Evesham, New Jersey. 1985.

Benenson, Carol A. and N. Catharine Claypool, Kise Franks Straw, "Historic Resources of Evesham Township, New Jersey." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, July 1989.

Boyer, Charles S. Ramble Through Old Highways and Byways of West Jersey. 1935, 1936. Reprint, John D.F. Morgan, Editor, Camden County Historical Society. Camden, NJ: Advertising Printing Company. 1967.

Brown, Thomas S. "When Friends Attend To Business." Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends. 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. 1986.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:  
Evesham Township Municipal Building

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 2.0 Moorestown, NJ Quad

UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated as Lot 3 of Block 23 in the Township of Evesham, New Jersey.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The geographical boundary of this nomination corresponds to the current boundaries of the property owned by the Society of Friends and includes land historically associated with the Cropwell Friends Meeting House.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Margaret Westfield, R.A., Carl Gainsborough, and Martin Shore

organization Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants date 11/15/91

street & number 425 White Horse Pike telephone (609) 547-0465

city or town Haddon Heights state New Jersey zip code 08035

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cropwell Friends Meetinghouse, Historic  
Resources of Evesham Township, Burlington  
County, New Jersey

### CROPWELL FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

#### DESCRIPTION

supported by four square wooden posts. The posts stand on stone footings that are flush with the brick porch floor which is laid in a herringbone pattern with bluestone edging. This brick floor continues along the north and south facades. The building is constructed of red brick using common bond pattern with randomly placed header courses. Openings in the brickwork above the doorways indicate original door pent locations. A wood-shingled gable roof meets a prominent wooden box cornice with cyma recta crown moldings on the east and west facades.

Both the east and the west facades are punctuated with two doors and four windows. On the east facade, double-leaf wooden screen doors cover double-leaf wooden doors that feature three raised panels per leaf and original wrought iron hardware. The doors on the west, or rear facade, lack both screens and hardware. These doors are raised above ground level as carriage doors. Each door is flanked by windows so that each facade displays an A-B-A, A-B-A rhythm. Each window is 12-over-12 sash and has raised-panel wooden shutters with original wrought iron hardware and spring-activated latches. Cast iron shutter stops are shaped to resemble scallop shells.

The north and south facades each contain three openings as well as small clapboard additions at nineteenth-century porch locations. The south facade contains a door and a twelve-over-twelve sash window on the ground floor and a smaller second story six-over-six sash window located centrally. The north facade's fenestration is similar to the south; however, the clapboard addition encloses the original entrance door and features a six-panel door and a pair of windows. Each facade has an S-shaped iron anchor for a tie-back at the second floor level. Two brick chimneys project through the north and south ends of the gable roof.

Just as the exterior of the meeting house can be described as simply articulated, the interior exhibits the traditional, plain woodwork of the Quaker aesthetic. The space is divided by a wooden partition into two equal-sized rooms, north and south. Two wooden columns in the center of each room support a cedar plank ceiling. The attenuated, double-entasis columns have box capitals, simple bases, and 2 1/2 foot high wooden pedestals. The floor is composed of 6-inch wide pine boards. Benches with scroll-shaped arms are placed in rows at opposite ends of the room, facing each other. The clerk for the business meeting has a small leaf desktop mounted behind one bench, the only feature that distinguishes the clerk's seat from the others.

The adjustable room partition panels are one of the most remarkable original interior features. The wooden partitions, when closed, separate the two rooms. The partitions are solid cedar with raised panels and small wooden handles. Fourteen partitions are wall units and one is a hinged door. Partitions on each side of the mechanism slide vertically on wooden tracks. The tracks extend to the

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Cropwell Friends Meetinghouse, Historic  
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ceiling and double as piers. Each of the partitions, which are about 4 1/2 feet across, has counter-balanced upper and lower sections. Stationary pocket panels along the top and bottom of the room divider contain the sliding panels when they are in the open position. When the lower sections are pulled up from the floor, upper sections simultaneously lower from the ceiling closing the gap. The partitions are in excellent working condition and still in regular use.

Interior walls have white pine wainscoting extending five feet from the floor with plastered surfaces above. Hardware on the interior doors and windows is mostly original and in good condition. Electric lighting is provided by four modern lights. These modern copper fixtures are small and have a colonial design that compliments the intact early 1800s interior.

In the southwest corner of the ceiling is a hatchway that leads to the unfinished attic. On the end walls, narrow interior chimneys extend out from the wall about 10 feet above the floor. These chimneys feature corbelled bases and summer-month stove pipe covers with swirl designs. Two cast iron wood stoves, one for each room, are still used during the winter months despite the recent installation of a modern heating system. This new ceiling-hung heating system is the only intrusion in the otherwise pristine space.

The additions date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and originally housed men's and women's bathroom facilities. The south addition is now used for storage while the north addition has been upgraded and enlarged to also serve as a kitchen.

Interior window treatments date to the 1870s and consist of wooden Venetian blinds and valances that are stained to match the interior woodwork. The wooden valances have a simplified floral pattern in the women's section and a scalloped design in the men's section. On the window sills are photographs of the meeting house that document different events in the building's rich history — a history still clearly evident in the Cropwell Friends Meeting House today.

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Burlington County, New Jersey

## CROPWELL FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

SIGNIFICANCE

Cropwell, located in Evesham Township, became a thriving Quaker settlement in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The name Cropwell was given to the settlement by Friends on account of strong family ties to the old English name and because their crops prospered in the rich soil.

As with other Friends Meeting houses in the Delaware Valley, the land for Cropwell Meeting was initially procured as a burial ground. Minutes of the Evesham Preparative Meeting from the "10<sup>th</sup> of the 10<sup>th</sup> mo., 1793," stated that "Joshua Lippincott on behalf of Friends of Cropwell informed the meeting that they have procured a Lot of Ground near Cropwell School House containing two acres for the purpose of a Burial Ground and probably where on to erect a Meeting House in the future." Samuel Borrough in his will dated the same year donated 50 pounds to the Cropwell meeting for a new meeting house. The oldest stone in the burial ground dates to 1796.

At the meeting of the "3<sup>rd</sup> mo., 1<sup>st</sup>, 1805," the plans for the meeting house progressed. The building fenestration, dimensions and a thirteen foot ceiling with a "sliding partition through the center thereof..." was agreed upon. By the "8<sup>th</sup> mo., 31<sup>st</sup>, 1809" the building was completed as planned. The building and fixtures cost a total of \$1,762.11 and the funding was raised by subscription.

Also on this 2 acre site is a c.1865 building previously known as the Cropwell School. The original school building, located on another site to the west, was used for meetings prior to the construction of the present Meeting House. The original school was removed in 1865 and the present structure erected. The new school building fell out of use in the late 1870s and presently serves as the caretaker's residence. Extensively altered, this structure does not contribute to the Multiple Property Nomination due to its lack of integrity.

Charles Boyer, in his 1935 book, *Rambles Through Old Highways and Byways of West Jersey* includes a section about Cropwell Meeting House. The section discusses the peaceful relations between Native Americans and the Quaker settlers at Cropwell. Boyer's account states that the Cropwell Meeting House was, "Erected in the midst of Indian country, as evidenced by the large number of crude implements, tomahawks, pestles, and arrow points, which are found in the fields, between the north and south branches of Cooper's Creek, its record is unsullied by any overt act on the part of its members to disturb the peace and harmony between these aborigines and the newcomers. At the time the Cropwell Meeting House was built, and for a number of years later, a few Indians lived the the neighborhood...."

The 8<sup>th</sup> mo., 1909 marked the Meeting House's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A public commemorative meeting for Cropwell was held on the grounds and the meeting's history was researched and

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recorded by various members. Since then the Cropwell Friends have had many open house programs in addition to their regular meetings. South Jersey's *Courier-Post* newspaper featured an article about the Cropwell Friends Meeting House on March 3, 1991. The article interviewed people who are part of the meeting and described the continuing activity present here.

Architecturally, the Cropwell Friends Meeting House is a fine example of a traditional Quaker meeting house. Its use of materials, sound methods of construction and fine hand crafted interior wood detailing is representative of a strong vernacular tradition seen in Quaker religious structures throughout the Delaware Valley. The outward appearance of this meeting house is unpretentious, simple in form and mass, yet utilizes an established architectural vocabulary expressing a certain level of sophistication and prosperity within this community. This vocabulary is one deeply rooted, inherently conservative and pragmatic. The favored building material is masonry and the tradition of brick construction is one brought to the Delaware Valley from England by Quaker immigrants who were familiar with the rebuilding of London after the 1666 fire. The use of brick is widely seen in southern and western New Jersey, Philadelphia, and northern Delaware not just for religious structures but for domestic architecture as well. This predominant use of brick is discussed in the related National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Form. Other elements of this vocabulary include wood panelled shutters, wood shingling on gabled roofs, brick chimneys, and wood porches over the main entries.

An outstanding feature of the Meeting House is the plan arrangement whereby an ingeniously designed flexible wooden panel system divides the room equally into two sections. That the partitioning system still remains intact and operational offers insight into the programmatic requirements of early Quaker meetings as seen in several meeting houses in the Delaware Valley. The two-room interior arrangement is clearly articulated on the front and rear facade of the meeting house through the symmetries of the fenestration pattern.

For both architectural and historical reasons, the Cropwell Friends Meeting House set with its burial ground within a grove of trees, contributes to the Multiple Property Nomination and is a significant historic resource within Evesham Township, New Jersey.

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Cropwell Friends Meetinghouse, Historic  
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CROPWELL FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

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- Evans, William and Mary. Personal interview of 20 January 1992.
- Evens, Elizabeth L. *History of Cropwell Meeting House*, Central Record Press. 1909.
- Evesham Township Bicentennial Committee. *Yesterday's Evesham Township*. Evesham, New Jersey: 1986.
- Evesham Township Historic Preservation Commission. *Historic Village of Marlton Walking Tour and Historic Evesham Motor Tour*. 1988.
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- Lake, D.J. and S.N. Beers. *Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: C.K. Stone and A. Pomeroy, 1860.
- Scott, J.D. *Combination Atlas Map of Burlington County, New Jersey*. 1876.
- Zelley, William H. "Historical Sketch of Cropwell Meeting," *Cropwell Friends Meeting House 1809-1959*. Levering-Riebel Co., Camden, NJ. 1959.

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Section number PHOTOS Page 1

Cropwell Friends Meetinghouse, Historic  
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**CROPWELL FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

PHOTOGRAPHS

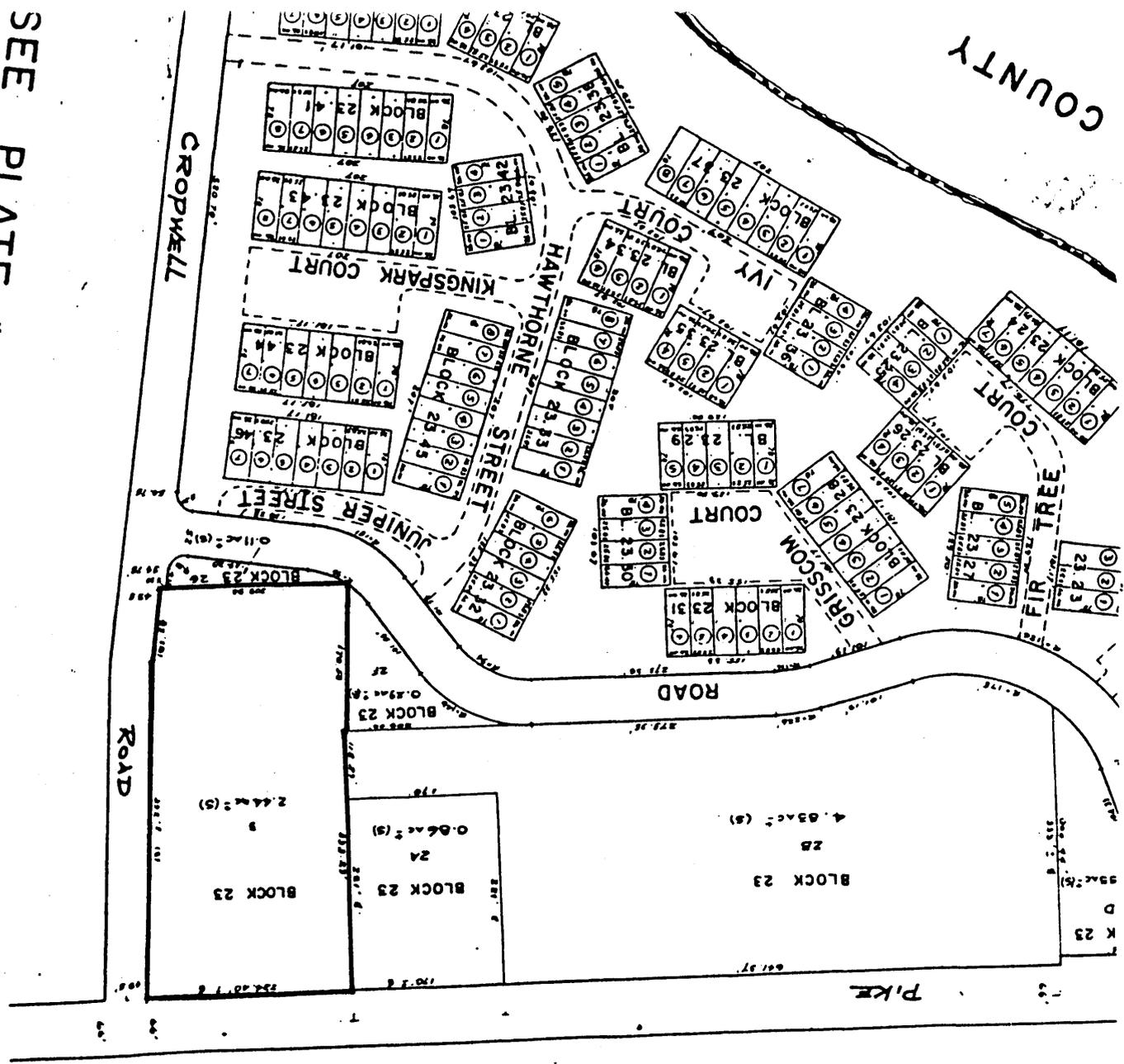
The following is the same for all photographs:

- 1.) Cropwell Friends Meeting House
- 2.) Evesham Township, Burlington County, New Jersey
- 3.) Margaret Westfield, R.A., Photographer
- 4.) June, 1991
- 5.) Negatives held by Margaret Westfield, R.A.  
Westfield Architects & Preservations Consultants  
425 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035  
(609) 547-0465

List of Photographs:

- 6.) View of Cropwell Friends Meeting House looking northwest.
- 7.) Photograph 1 of 5.
- 6.) View of Cropwell Friends Burial Site looking west towards Meeting House.
- 7.) Photograph 2 of 5.
- 6.) View of Cropwell Friends Meeting House looking northeast.
- 7.) Photograph 3 of 5.
- 6.) Interior view of Cropwell Friends Meeting House looking northwest.
- 7.) Photograph 4 of 5.
- 6.) Interior view of Cropwell Friends Meeting House looking southeast.
- 7.) Photograph 5 of 5.

SEE PLATE # 4



PIKE

CROPWELL

COUNTY

ROAD

ROAD

JUNIPER STREET

HAWTHORNE STREET

KINGSPARK COURT

IVY COURT

GRISSOM COURT

FIR TREE COURT

BLOCK 23

BLOCK 23

BLOCK 23

D K 23

2.44 ac (5)

0.66 ac (3)

4.83 ac (5)

59 ac (5)

BLOCK 23

Cropwell Friends Meetinghouse, Historic  
Resources of Evesham Township, Burlington  
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