

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 25 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Head of Chester Avenue and
Main Street (south side)

NA
not for publication

city, town Moorestown vicinity of

state New Jersey code 34 county Burlington code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Sandy Wang, Director of Development Moorestown Monthly Meeting of Society of Friends Attn: Wm. Coles Jr.

street & number Moorestown Friends School Main and Chester Ave. Moorestown Friends Meeting House Main and Chester Avenue, Moorestown

city, town Moorestown, NJ 08057 vicinity of state NJ 08057

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pre-1785 records, Swarthmore College Friends Historic Library

street & number Burlington County Clerk's Office County Office Bldg., Rancocas Rd.

city, town Mt. Holly state NJ 08060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Burlington County Inventory & Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975-75 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of New Jersey Heritage, Department of Environmental Protection

city, town Trenton state NJ

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION

Prominently sited on a gentle slope south of Main Street opposite Chester Avenue, the Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse consists of seven major buildings - the Friends Meetinghouse (1802), Roberts Hall (c.1800), the West Building (1897), the Kindergarten (1927), the Headmaster's House (1929), the Upper (High) School (1929) and the modern elementary school (1965). All, save the kindergarten, are brick.

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Meeting and historical records indicate the building date to be 1802. In addition, the 1802 date, composed of gray stone, is inset into the brick work in the gable of the western wall. This building is the third Friends Meeting in Moorestown, but the first on this site. This venerable construction is still used by the Meeting members for their house of worship. The 1914 two-story addition of smaller rooms accommodates classes and service groups. The larger 1969 portion fulfills the needs as a social center, library and Meeting offices.

The original (1802) portion of the Meeting house is a one and a half story, 6 bay by 3 bay building and in brick. The northern facade has 16/16 windows and two doors with small porticos containing scalloped gable peaks. The western facade has 6/6 attic windows. The lower windows are 12/8. This western side of the building also has two doors--one in the 1802 part and one in the 1914 addition. The eastern facade duplicates the western, except the doors from the 1802 and 1914 portions open into the covered hallway separating the Meeting House from the 1969 social hall. The 1914 extension as viewed from the south is six bays wide with 8/12 windows. There are shutters throughout; panelled on the first floor and louvered elsewhere. The west and south facades have a simple one story wooden porch.

On the interior, the main meeting hall is one story with a large balcony extending in one and one half pews from the western and eastern walls and four pews in from the southern part, or nearly half the meeting area, excluding the stage. The majority of pews face north toward the stage for ministers and visiting speakers, with several rows facing west and east from the eastern and western walls

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Burlington County, NJ Item number 7

Continuation sheet

Page 1

respectively. The pews are original, and are presently covered with simple cushions (no such luxury was allowed in 1802).

The doors contain the original wrought-iron hardware forged by Reuben Matlack in his blacksmith shop (HABS-NJ-264; demolished 1965). The handles have heart-shaped attachments and the large keyways are rectangular. All doors are completely studded. Original hinges are still intact and working.

Carved wooden valances adorn the windows. The lower 3-4 feet of wall is painted wooden panelling on both the main floor and balcony levels. The banister hand railings are mahogany with plain painted balusters and moulded base.

In 1914 a two-story addition was connected to the south wall of the 1802 building. The doors leading into the main meeting hall from the ante-chambers on the west and east were once those of the outside wall and have the original hardware. A basement level houses rest rooms, storage and nursery school area.

The second floor of the addition can be entered from the 1802 balcony door, and down several steps from platform to a gathering hall area on west side of the building. Steps lead down to the first floor anteroom. As you walk east down a hallway, a storage room and bathroom precede a roughly 16 x 20 foot class/meeting room. The larger room has three, three-foot wide windows, 8/12. The easternmost room is a library of sorts with built-in bookcases. Stairs lead down to the eastern antechamber and entry from the south port and D'Olier Hall. All rooms have plastered walls and simple painted woodwork. The windows and doors have period hardware.

The first floor has an eastern antechamber connecting hall and stairs; central meeting room; and entry and cloak room area.

In the basement is a gentlemen's bathroom, followed by a closet and a nursery/Sunday school room. All rooms contain plaster walls and painted woodwork. The basement windows in the nursery are 3/3.

United States Department of the Interior
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RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MAR 14 1983

NATIONAL
REGISTERSection number 7 Page 2Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse,
Moorestown Township, Burlington County, NJ

Although not a historic part of the Meetinghouse complex, the 1969 addition is physically attached to the older building, so should be briefly described. It is a one-story building and the main Social Hall for the Friends and contains a full basement. The large first floor social room is roughly 34 x 35 ft. and is connected to a southern library area. Back-to-back eight foot fireplaces divide the rooms, and sliding, folding doors may be closed in the rooms at their fireplace sides. The library is two feet narrower from east to west than the social room because of book shelves. A balcony opens over a court from the southern library wall. A fully equipped modern kitchen is north of the social room.

The Friends Meeting office and work room are situated under the library area in the basement. A general purpose room lies under the social room. A large storage room is beneath the kitchen on the north.

There are six buildings which comprise the structures belonging to the Moorestown Friends School: Roberts Hall, Ca. 1800; the West Building, 1897; the Kindergarten, 1927; the Headmasters House, 1929; the Upper (High) School, 1929; the Elementary School, 1965. All but the modern Elementary School are contributing.

ROBERTS HALL

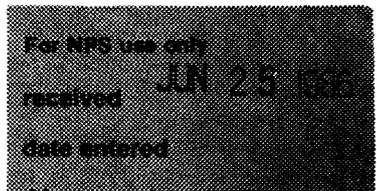
Joshua Borton built this building around 1800 as a private home. Rather large for one family, the house is a 2½ story, five-bay, stuccoed over brick structure with a pitched roof. The fireplace flues meet at the attic top in a common chimney at each end of the building. Windows in front (north facade) are 4/4 on the first floor and 6/6 on the second; the rear has 6/6 on first level.

A fan-styled 1/2 circle inset is in the gable of the eastern elevation. A small one-story columned Georgian Revival porch shields the main (north) entrance. The shutters are original and so is their hardware. The back door is also original plank type with interesting wrought iron hardware.

Roberts Hall is a central hall plan house. It was first a one-family home built by Joshua Borton, then a general store and Post Office as well as residence when Gilbert Page owned it between 1813- 1839. The present common name came from Ebenezer Roberts who again used it as a family residence. In 1929 it was purchased by the Moorestown Friends School for living quarters for teachers, and was remodeled into four

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,

Continuation sheet Burlington County, NJ Item number 7

Page 3

apartments, as at present. The attic has finished floors, while the basement has dirt and in some areas plank floors.

The main building appears to have been built at one time in 1800. A two-story addition was erected to the south some time later on the west side. There are some remaining original hand-rolled glass panes in the windows.

First floor, east side.

Remodeled as an apartment with living room, bedroom and kitchen and bath, this area is being used as a Thrift Shop Store. The room divisions have remained. The baseboards are 19th century.

First floor, west side.

This apartment consists of a library/office, bedroom, living room and kitchen. The main functional fireplace is in the far north room, facing Main St. Its mantel is rather ornate woodwork for a Quaker home.

The majority of doors are original and have four inset panels. Their wrought iron hardware varies in style. In the living room, the doors leading to the second floor stairs and basement stairs have been sealed. The north wall is also wood panelled. The fireplace on the south wall is sealed and abuts the wall between the living room and kitchen.

Just north of the entry door is a built-in closet/bureau. The doors and side are panelled. A wide-width plank door with wrought iron hardware leads to the back porch.

Second floor, east side.

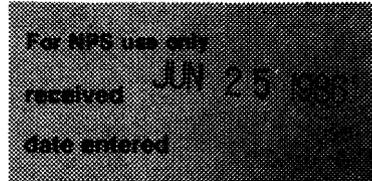
The apartment contains two bedrooms, living room, bath and kitchen. A hall connects all the rooms. The baseboards are 19th century (as previously described), except those remodeled for heating panels. Some of the window panes are original hand-rolled glass.

Second floor, west side

This apartment duplicates that below it on the first floor west except that the kitchen and living room are smaller. The rooms are contiguous as in a "railroad" apartment. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Continuation sheet Burlington County, NJ Item number 7 Page 4

floors of the entry/hall and living room are all random-width New Jersey pine, maintained in excellent condition.

The sitting/guest room fireplace has an identical patterned carved mantel to the first floor below it. The second floor unit, however, is closed off.

Basement

Old plank flooring partially covers the area, but there is also dirt flooring in other parts. Although "sealed off" from the first floor apartment, the old stairs remain.

Fireplace base/supports are present, although the fireplaces on the east side have been removed.

Attic

This area is completely floored. Roof beams are pegged. On the east and west walls the fireplace flues lead to chimneys. Although removed from the east side of the building, the fireplaces' brick airways lead from the middle of second floor room ceilings to a common chimney.

WEST BUILDING

This large three-story brick building was built in 1897 by the Orthodox Friends faction as a replacement house of worship for the previous structure on the same site. The windows of this building are 6/6 at all levels. They have shutters, and are topped by bricks that are fanned over each window. The eastern and western elevations have one-story, columned porches covering cement bases. The northern, or "front" entry has a one-story columned porch protecting the door. An 1897 date marker is located in the northern gable.

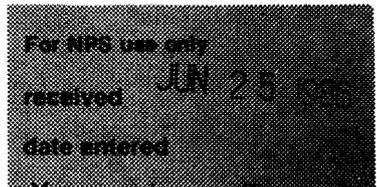
In 1926, the basement was remodeled as a lunch room, and in 1956 the sloping floor of the Meeting Room was leveled to make an Activities room. It is a gym-like room with small balconies, hard floors for athletics or meetings.

KINDERGARTEN BUILDING

Constructed in 1927, this semicircular wooden frame building has its main entrance to the north, near the eastern end of the Elementary School. The clapboard has been well

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Continuation sheet Burlington County, NJ Item number 7 Page 5

maintained. It is located on property which allows a play-
yard with play structures for the children.

UPPER SCHOOL (HIGH SCHOOL)

The three-story, Y-shaped structure was completed in 1929. This brick structure was expanded both for classrooms in the "wings" and additional gymnasium area to the north in 1959 to the present facility.

The main entrance is from the south elevation through an arched doorway, and the windows on either side are also arched. A semi-circle window with spiderweb design is in the gable over the entrance. A small dome with louvered sides rises above the roof "in back" of the main entrance.

The majority of windows are 9/9. On the basement and first floor levels, on the first section to the side of the entrance, the window section numbers are 12/12, 6/6, and 12/12.

On the end facade, as seen from the eastern elevation, is an entrance, over which is an arched window.

HEADMASTER'S HOUSE

In 1929, the Headmaster's House was built on the site 120 E. Main St. It was built in a Colonial style, and is a three-bay, 2 1/2 story building with three dormers at roof level. There is an entry from the western elevation and extension to the south attached to the northern part of the structure.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The final building addition to the present Friends School complex is the Elementary School (1965). It is an all-brick, two-floor structure with its main entrance to the north on the upper level. There are additional entrances from the east, with close access to the Kindergarten, and to the west, for easy and closer access to the Upper School. The style is a plain rectangular building with little or no decoration.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1802-1938 **Builder/Architect** Unknown (Joseph Haines, head carpenter of the meetinghouse)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

RELIGION

The Quaker influence in the village of Moorestown is clearly demonstrated by the Moorestown Friends Meetinghouse and School. Quakers settled Moorestown in the early 18th century and had a profound influence on the history and development of Moorestown. The prominent location of the Friends Meetinghouse and School print an indelible Quaker stamp on this community. The two adjacent properties have been in continuous use for religious and educational purposes for over 200 years.

The Meetinghouse, built in 1802, is a good example of Quaker architecture and the oldest religious facility in Moorestown. The adjacent Friends school property, although the structures date primarily from the 1920's, had school buildings as early as 1785 and reflects the Society of Friends long-standing commitment to education. By 1920 the Society of Friends School in Moorestown had developed a full college preparatory curriculum and continues as such to the present-day. The 1929 high school building, called Upper School, is a very good expression of Georgian Revival architecture as applied to an educational facility.

The 1802 Meeting House is the third building for the Moorestown Friends. The first two buildings were built on the northwest corner at the junction of Chester Ave. and Main St.. "Adams Meeting" was built of logs in 1700, followed by a stone building in 1721 when the first building was destroyed by fire in 1720 (1), and finally the 1802 construction when the Society of Friends had outgrown the second Meeting House.

Since Moorestown was founded largely by Quakers (Friends), the Meeting House was focal point for not only religious worship, but their social functions as well. By 1802, the Chester Preparative Meeting, as it was then called, was an active growing body. Today, the 1981 group of Friends continues to use the old building as the center for religious worship and educational conference, while social functions

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 40: School & Meetinghouse

Quadrangle name Moorestown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Moorestown Township Tax Map Sheet #41,
Block 273, Lots 1, 1A, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 12A, 13A, 16A, 16B, and 17

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

NA

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nan Pillsbury

organization

date 1984-86

street & number 401 Mill Street

telephone (609) 235-6080

city or town Moorestown

state New Jersey 08057

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Walter C. J. ...

title Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources

date June 16, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda McClelland
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/22/88

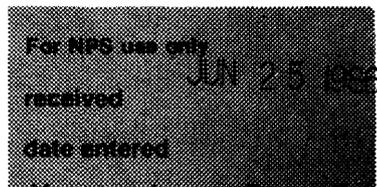
Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Burlington County, NJ

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

and Friends Meeting administration offices are located in the 1969 addition.

The first recorded deed for Moorestown, New Jersey was written in 1682. By 1685, the first Friends meeting in the vicinity were held on alternate First Days at the homes of Timothy Hancock and John Kay (1,2). The meetings were held under the authority and care of the Burlington Monthly Meeting.

In 1700, the first Meeting House was erected in Moorestown (1,2,3,5). The building was a small log cabin and was located on the northwest corner of Main St. and Chester Ave. After the Meeting house was built, John and Hester Adams deeded the property to the trustees and overseers of the Society of Friends for 14 shillings (1,2,5). This original Meeting House served the growing community until 1720, when it burned down, forcing Meetings to be held in "dwelling houses" again for a while.

By 1721, a larger stone building replaced the one which was burned. This second Meeting House in Moorestown served the community until the end of the century when the increase in the number of Friends strained the capacity of the 80-year-old building.

Dated "5th mo. 13, 1800" an entry in John Hunt's diary states, "at eighth hour a committee met to consider about repairing or building our Meeting House---concluded to build a new Meeting House, tho' not very soon". (1) Plans and work must have begun shortly after Hunt's diary entry.

The location of the new building was moved across the road to an area southeast of the junction of Main St. and Chester Ave. on property purchased in December, 1781 from Ephraim and Hannah Haines. The first Friends school was built on this property in 1785 (1,3,5). The committee for the new Meeting House proposed that the building be 66 ft long by 40 feet wide with a partition across the center, that it be built of brick and estimated that its cost not be more than 1000 pounds (3).

The inset stone date on the western gable of the building is 1802. In order to raise funds for this Meeting House, subscriptions were solicited. Each person (family) gave according to his resources. In a book owned by Reuben

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

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JUN 25 1987

Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Burlington County, NJ Item number 8

Continuation sheet

Page 2

Matlack (blacksmith) the total monetary amount listed was a little over \$2500. This sum was not supposed to be the whole, as there are records of later contributions.

Some service and supply donations were (1): Elizabeth Stokes boarded masons, "manager" Robert French made the bricks (clay taken from near Bishpan Rd.), Reuben Matlack did the blacksmith work. Others furnished work, lumber and stone. The head carpenter was Joseph Haines and his bill was \$706.45. Until the first of the 11th month (November) 1802, he, Abraham and Clayton Haines each got seven shillings and six pence. Joseph's boys, Thomas and Caleb, received five shillings and three shillings six pence for the two periods.

It may be hypothesized that the old stove from the 1721 Meeting House was brought over to the new building as there was an item of one dollar for mending the stove foot. Further, the benches may have been brought as well, but neither has been authenticated.

Finally, the first meeting in the new House were held in 1803 when the inside of the building was completed. In fact the local congregations had grown so, that both Chester (now Moorestown) and Westfield Meetings formed their own Monthly Meetings independent of Evesham.

Being pacifists, the Meeting was barely affected by the War of 1812. In 1827, however, an internal upheaval arose. Elias Hicks, an outstanding Quaker preacher of his time, opposed "arbitrary authority" of big city elders (Philadelphia) in imposing any kind of doctrine, believing that the "Inner Light" was sufficient guidance for each individual. The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting did not sustain his view, so Hicks' followers formed their own group, becoming "Hicksites", and the remaining group called "Orthodox", and both maintaining the name of "Society of Friends". In Moorestown, the Meeting House was taken over by the Hicksites, while the Orthodox retained possession of the 1785 school.

In 1839, the Orthodox Friends built their own frame building (on the same grounds) and a later large brick one in 1897 on the same site. After the two groups reunited early in the 1900's, the 1897 building was no longer used for Meeting. It is used presently as gymnasium, cafeteria and music building for the Friends'school.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,

Continuation sheet Burlington County, NJ Item number 8

Page 3

In 1929 when George DeCou wrote his book (2), he stated that of 952 members of the Friends Meeting, 512 members belonged to the Hicksite group and 440 to the Orthodox...a late date for separate identities.

In 1914, the increase in activities and number of members dictated that an addition be built to the 1802 building. Accordingly, a two-story extension was erected. It contained storage and social meeting rooms on the second floor, and library room. The first floor main mid-section was an extension of the Meeting House Hall. A Sunday-school classroom and restrooms are downstairs.

The D'Olier wing was constructed on the eastern side of the building in 1969, separated from the 1802-1914 building by a covered brick hallway. It was designed by Richard A. Yarnall. The large social room is used for conferences, receptions, banquets (a large complete kitchen on the north side). A smaller reception area connected to the larger one may be closed off for small meetings or library work with the school children. Downstairs the Meeting offices reside and a conference room, a music practice room and additional rest rooms.

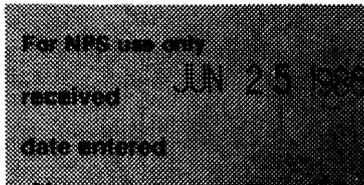
The 1802 Moorestown Preparative Meeting House, formed as the Chester Preparative Meeting, is the oldest house of worship in Moorestown and the oldest one in continuous use in Moorestown. Many of the old Quaker families that were prominent in the 17th and 18th centuries have present-day descendants in the Township. Some of the names are: Borton, Buzby, Coles, Collins, Conrow, Haines, Heulings, Lippincott, Matlack, Roberts, Rogers, Stokes and Stiles.

EDUCATION

The Moorestown Friends School is the oldest continuously functioning Society of Friends full-service educational facility in New Jersey. Established in 1785, it provides broad educational opportunities for students ranging from pre-school to grade 12. Dedicated to educational excellence Moorestown Friends School has primarily a college preparatory curriculum. Every member of the 1980 graduating class went on to college.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Burlington County, NJ Item number 8

Continuation sheet

Page 4

In 1785, the Moorestown Friends built their first educational building on the south side of Main St. at Chester Ave. It was erected on 2 3/4 acres of land purchased from Ephraim and Hannah Haines in December, 1781 by the Elders and Overseers of the Chester (old name for Moorestown) Preparative Meeting for that purpose. The site of the school is just west of the present 1802 Meeting House. Within the current property limits of the Society of Friends Meeting House and School, this site demonstrates potential to yield information important to early American educational practices. The stone structure cost about \$1003. By 1812 there were around 100 pupils enrolled at the school and taught by Rachel Hunt.

A second frame building was built in 1829 by the Hicksites when the Orthodox and Hicksite factions of the Friends religion had their schism. It was located on Chester Ave., on what is now Second St. When the street was "put through" in the mid-1800's, the building was moved a short distance north on the site of the present Moorestown Post Office. The primary Moorestown Friends High School was built on the site. It was not until 1873 that the first free public school was opened in Moorestown.

In 1920, the two Friends Schools merged under one administration called MOORESTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL. All high school classes were held at the former Friends High School (2nd and Chester) and all elementary classes were held in the former Friends Academy (south Main at Chester). The kindergarten building was constructed in the summer of 1927, and is still in use.

The present Upper School (also known as Friends High School) was completed in 1929. The white bricks came from the razed Friends High School at 2nd st. This building was expanded in 1958-9. In addition, the Headmaster's house at 120 E. Main St. was purchased in 1929. Roberts Hall, the 1800 building at 86 E. Main St. was purchased in 1929 as a teachers residence and is still used for that purpose in 1986.

Finally, the Elementary School for grades 1-6 was built 1964-5, the first classes entering in September, 1965. Four classrooms were added in 1968.

Thus the structures of the Moorestown Friends School complex were built and purchased from 1785 to 1965. Two of the graduates who were Nationally prominent were Alice Paul

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Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Burlington County, NJ Item number 8

Continuation sheet

Page 5

(1901), founder of the ERA movement, and Dr. Joseph Stokes (1912), famous pediatrician, based at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. His brother, Dr. S. Emlen Stokes (1910) was prominent in Moorestown and some regional medical research institutions.

The graduates from this educational system have been prominent in Moorestown's growth and contributed to the governmental system. Although the percentage of Friends (or Quakers) in Moorestown has decreased as new residents settled in the area and brought other religions with them, the current descendents of the early settlers and the remaining older Township structures present the newcomer to Moorestown with an aura of a long-established area with continuing Quaker influence.

Small Quaker schools were always maintained in the homes of members throughout Colonial times. One of the characteristics of the Society of Friends was a strong "concern" for the education of children. In a regional meeting in 1779, a report from the "committee appointed for ye regulating of schools" recommended that there should be a school established by each particular meeting. To this end, the Elders and Overseers of the Chester Preparative Meeting bought a piece of ground on which to build a school house in 1781. The land was across the road from the Meeting House then in use, i.e. to the southeast.

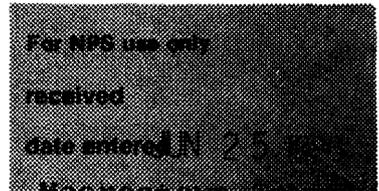
It took until 1785 to collect money for and get a stone building built for a one-room structure about 35 feet by 25 feet. It was located on the present grass plot between the Meeting House and West Building. The school's cost, including fencing cost 112 pounds, 3 shillings and 2 pence, or in today's terms, about \$1003.

Records show that in 1812, the rate for student was two dollars for each per quarter. The only teacher at that time was Rachel Hunt. As the number of students increased, she asked for an assistant, but the request was denied since the committee could not see "why she needed help with only one hundred children under her care." She retired in 1813 due to ill health because of the strain.

In 1829, the Friends religion had a schism.... the Hicksite and Orthodox factions separated. A frame school house was built on Chester Ave., about where Second Street joins it,

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,

Continuation sheet

Burlington County, NJ Item number 8

Page 6

before the street was constructed. After Second Street introduction, the school was moved a short way northwest to what is the location of the present post office by the Hicksite owners. A primary school was conducted in this building until 1880, when it was replaced by a larger brick structure called, Moorestown Friends' High School.

The old Orthodox school was called the Friends' Academy. It merged with the High School in 1920, called by its present name Moorestown Friends School. The physical plants were located all in one area when the new High School (Upper School) was built on connecting 12-acre property to the Main & Chester property in 1929.

In 1927 the semicircular wooden-frame Kindergarten building was constructed. It is in use today, "behind" the new Elementary School constructed in 1965. Its main entrance is from the north and connects by walkway to the modern brick building.

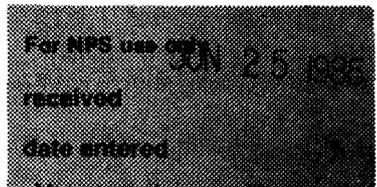
There have been three headmasters since 1925. Chester Reagan came to the school in 1925 and remained until he retired in 1955. He was responsible for the main growth and integration of the Friends school as well as one-handedly keeping the system going during the American Depression. Reagans's successor was Merrill Hiatt from 1955 to 1969, when Alexander MacColl became Headmaster and remains so in 1986.

The 1802 Meeting House is used for weekly Meeting for the students, and its 1969 extension is used for some classes and special school meetings and receptions.

It can be seen that the present forty-acre Moorestown Friends School complex is still a viable educational institution which has and still is preparing students by high educational standards and actions of the citizens who have been educated in the public school system.

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Continuation sheet Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse, Moorestown Township,
Burlington County, NJ Item number 9 Page 1

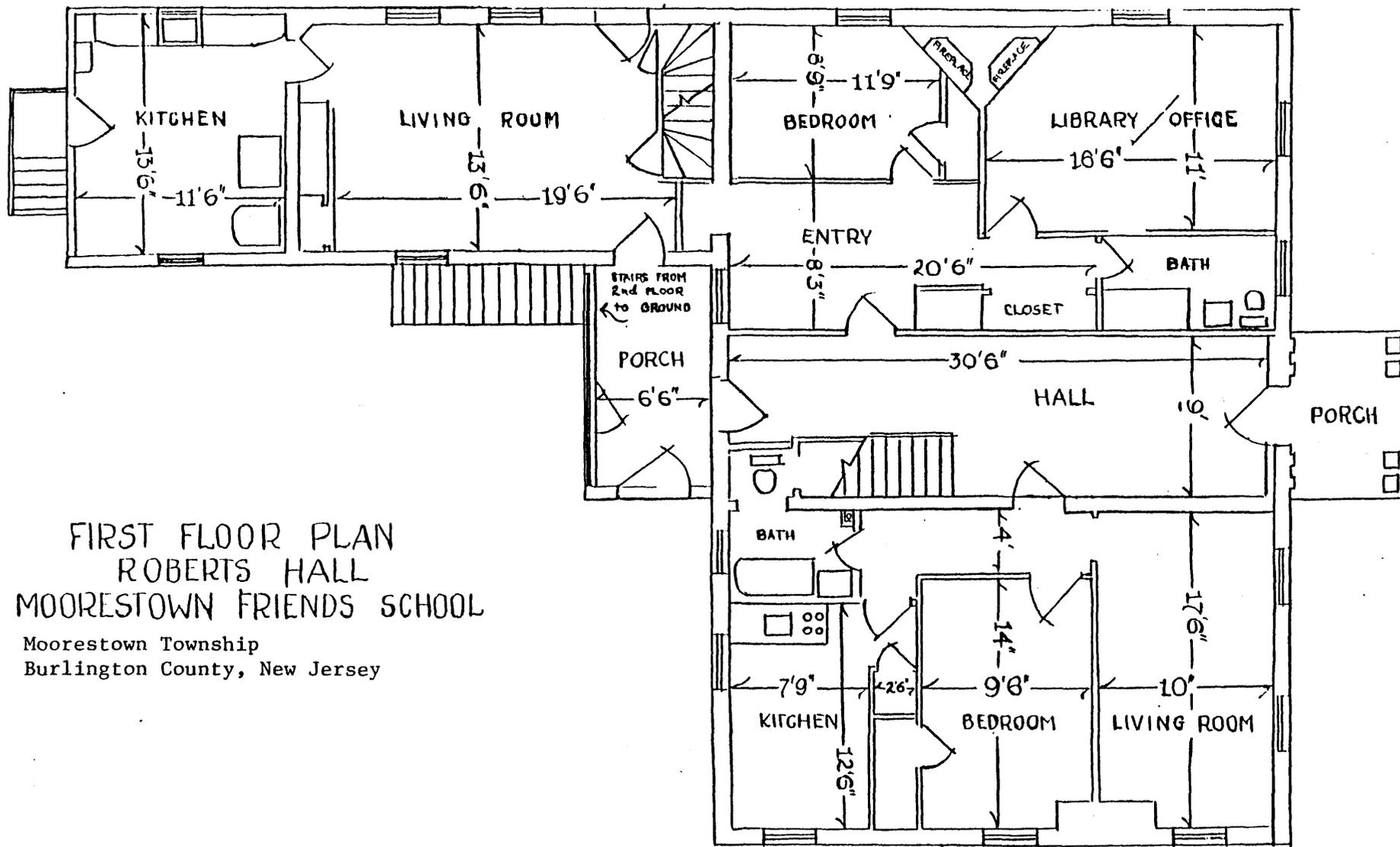
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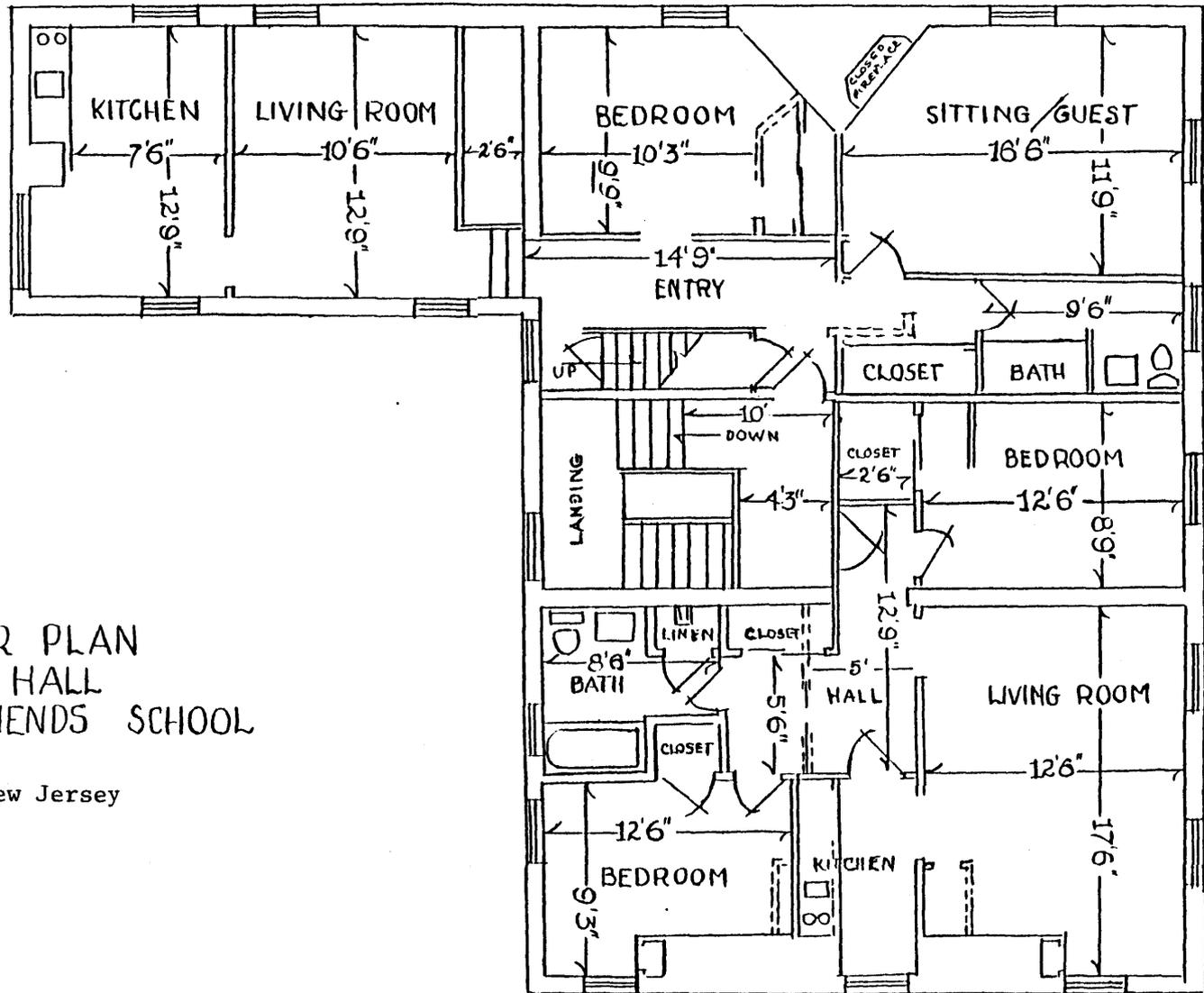
Tax Map
 Moorestown Friends Meetinghouse & School Complex
 Moorestown Township
 Burlington County, New Jersey

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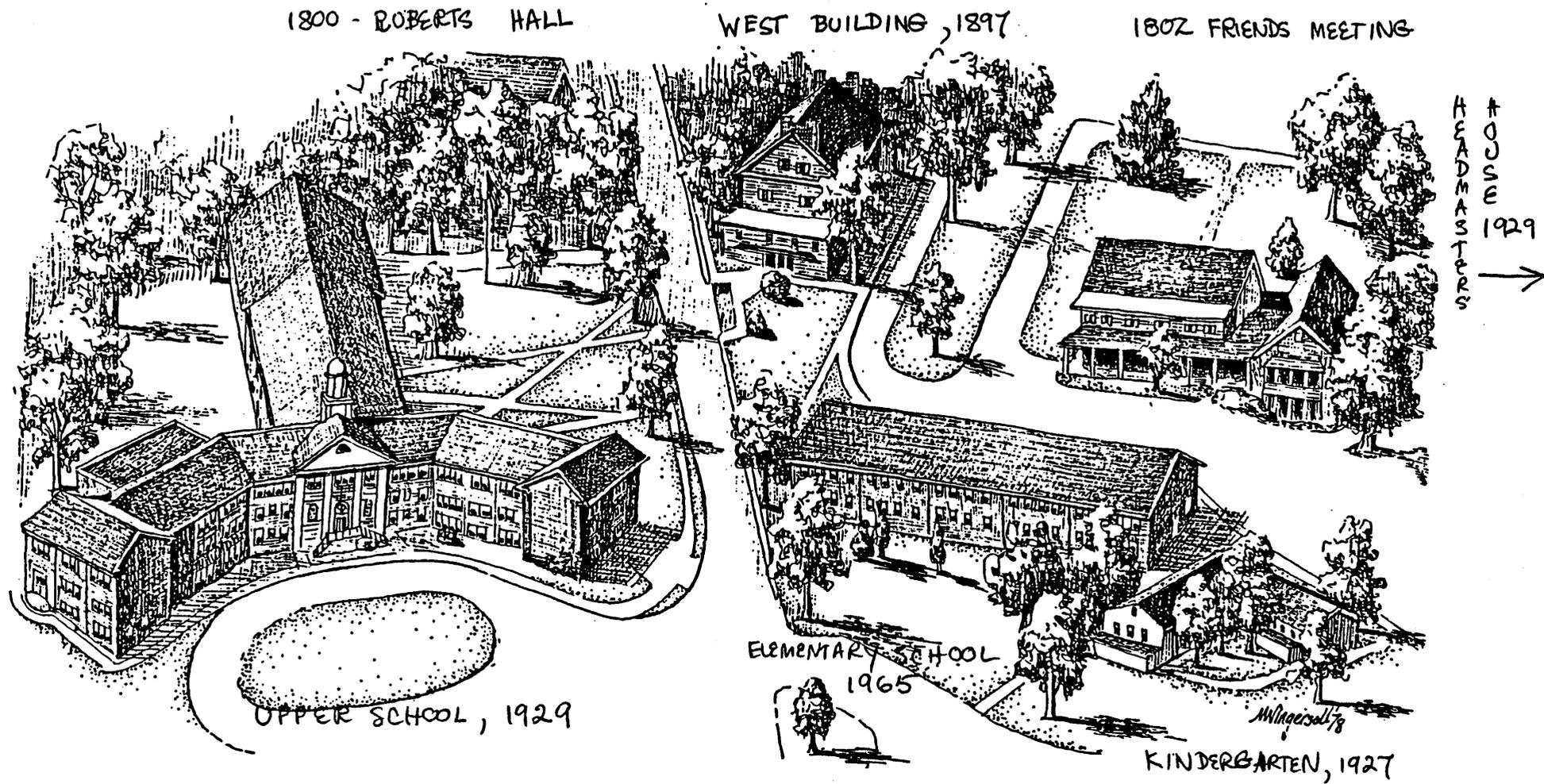
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 ROBERTS HALL
 MOORESTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL
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