

PH0354767

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 13 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 22 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **\*\***

THE NECK MEETING HOUSE AND YARD

AND/OR COMMON

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE AND GRAVEYARD, DENTON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Denton Bridge

North side of Maryland Route 404, onehalf mile west of

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

West Denton

— VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Caroline

011

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

— DISTRICT

— PUBLIC

— OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

— EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— NO

— MILITARY

OTHER: Vacant

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Route 404

CITY, TOWN

Denton

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21629

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Neck Meeting House, situated in a grove of trees on the north side of Maryland Route 404, onehalf mile west of Denton Bridge in West Denton, Caroline County, Maryland, is a one-story, frame building measuring twenty by thirty feet. Constructed in 1802, it is in poor repair, and covered with clapboards of late 19th century date, cut with a circular saw. The building sits on a foundation consisting of the original brick piers filled in with later brickwork. Some of the sills are rotted and need to be replaced, making the structure sag somewhat.

There are two entrances to the building. The southeast facade is three bays long with a wide batten door flanked by two six-over-six sash windows. The one-bay northeast gable end contains the other door. The northwest facade consists of two bays, each with a six-over-six sash window. The southwest gable end also contains a six-over-six sash window. The window sash are later replacements, but the window sills are original. Most of the original shutters remain. They are single board batten shutters, one pair of which is still hung with H-hinges.

The wood-shingled roof was installed in recent years by the Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc., owner of the property. There is a terracotta pipe meant to ventilate a centrally located heating stove projecting from the roof.

On the interior, the walls and floors of the meeting house are still partially covered with the original pit-sawed chestnut and pine boards. Some of the flooring on the first floor has been replaced, but that on the second remains intact.

There are eight original, moveable wooden benches and three original stationary benches in the building. At the eastern end is a closed stairway (railing missing) with its original door. A center support beam on posts was installed after construction to further support the second floor.

Conflicting information regarding the construction of the building indicates that it may have been built in two sections. However, this is not evidenced in the pegged rafters which are all similar.

A broken hand pump is located in the yard south of the building. It stood underneath a small shed roof on posts until 1974 when this collapsed.

The graveyard on the east side of the building contains only stones dated after 1850. Among these are the graves of Jonathan and Rebecca Tylor (see #8).

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### ALSO SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

"In the year 1801, Quakers living near Denton who had formerly belonged to the Nicholite Friends, asked Third Haven Meeting for the privilege of holding preparatory meetings and building a meeting house.<sup>1</sup> This request was granted and in the next year, the situation having been selected and plans for the building completed it was found that \$60 was needed beyond what could be supplied by the Neck Meeting. This amount was raised by other Friends and on September 26, 1802 the first service was held in the new building...."<sup>2</sup>

The 1 1/2-acre lot on which the Neck Meeting House stands was conveyed by William Wilson, an early (1787) settler in Caroline County, to the Society of Friends in 1804 for £4,10s for a meeting house.<sup>3</sup> The lot was a tiny part of Wilson's home tract called "Controversy."<sup>4</sup> The original grantees of this lot were Tristram Needles and Samuel Troth, members of Third Haven Meeting in Talbot County, and Solomon Kenton, James Wilson (son of William), John Dawson, and William Emmerson, members of the Friends Meeting in Tuckahoe Neck, Caroline County. The first service was held in the new building in 1802,<sup>5</sup> which indicates that the building was erected two years prior to the deed of conveyance for the land.

In the 1850's the meeting house was used as a private school in addition to its religious function. Eliza Heacock of Philadelphia ran this school for a time, making it strong through her efforts and ability. Miss Rachel B. Satterthwaite of Denton was another well-known teacher of this school. Just prior to the Civil War, abolitionist meetings were held in the Neck Meeting House. During the war itself, it was used as a camping ground and barracks by the Northern troops.<sup>6</sup>

By 1905 the building had been abandoned as a place of worship and was sold by the trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting of Friends (Talbot County) to J. Edward Tylor of Talbot County for \$200.<sup>7</sup> Tylor's will of 1916 shows that his father and mother, Jonathan and Rebecca Tylor, had been buried in this lot. He devised the entire parcel to his son, Edward Scott Tylor of Washington, D.C.<sup>8</sup> In 1928 Edward sold it to his uncle, Wilson M. Tylor, who in turn sold it to Mrs. Elizabeth White Dixon of Baltimore.<sup>9</sup> In 1930 she made extensive repairs,<sup>10</sup> and in 1949 her heirs sold it to the Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc., the owner of the land adjoining the east side of the lot. Provision was included in this deed that the tract be maintained as a historic landmark and that the graves not be disturbed, but with no obligation to maintain the building.<sup>11</sup>

It is noteworthy also that Jonathan and Rebecca Tylor were grandparents of former U.S. Congressman Edward T. Miller, who wrote a letter to Wilbert L. Merriken, a lawyer in Denton, in 1947 showing that fact and pointing out the significance of the building and graveyard to Eastern Shoremen: "With reference to the old Friends Meeting House on the outskirts of Denton, I used to know a good deal about it. As a matter of fact, it has

(see continuation sheet #1)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES, Caroline County Courthouse, Denton, Maryland  
Land Records of Caroline County  
Probate Records of Caroline County

(See continuation sheet no. 2)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	4	2	7	0	3	0	4	3	0	4	7	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Eleanor F. Horsey

ORGANIZATION

Caroline County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust

Date

April 1975

STREET & NUMBER

4 South First Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland

zip code

21629

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John W. Pearce 7/7/76

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ACCLAS

DATE

10/22/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

10.20.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

great sentimental value in my family and among the families of Eastern Shore Quakers."<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup>It should be noted that there are statements in Cochrane, et al, History of Caroline County (see #9) that the Nicholite Friends existed as a separate society in Caroline County from 1797 to 1817 and then transferred their three meeting houses in Caroline County, including their Neck Meeting House near Denton, to Third Haven Meeting, Talbot County. However, the deed of 1804 conveying the Denton lot is made out to both Third Haven and Tuckahoe Neck Monthly Meeting members.

<sup>2</sup>"The Neck Meeting House at Denton," Rural Living (Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.), Vol. 26, #3 (January, 1971).

<sup>3</sup>Caroline County Land Record TB I/14.

<sup>4</sup>E. F. Horsey, "Origins of Caroline County, Maryland, . . .", Vol. I (Denton, Maryland: By the Author, 1974), pp. 29-30

<sup>5</sup>L. C. Cochrane, et al, History of Caroline County (Federalsburg, Maryland: Stowell Publishing Company, 1920), p. 113.

<sup>6</sup>Cochrane, p. 113.

<sup>7</sup>Caroline County Land Record TLD 69/586.

<sup>8</sup>Caroline County Will JIH 12/69.

<sup>9</sup>Caroline County Land Records TCH 89/542 and TCH 91/11.

<sup>10</sup>K. Carroll, Quakerism on the Eastern Shore (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1970), p. 179.

<sup>11</sup>Caroline County Land Record DRH 113/197.

<sup>12</sup>Letter, Edward T. Miller to Wilbert L. Merriken, 1/23/1947, copy in files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Significance, continued

This unassuming frame building exemplifies the philosophy of the Society of Friends. The Quakers lived and worshipped in an austere manner without ornamentation or superfluity. It is only fitting that a service without music, ritual or liturgy take place in a plain building without ornamentation. The lifestyle of 18th and 19th-century Quakers has disappeared from Maryland. The state's heritage of simple meeting houses remains to indicate the once pervasive role of the Society of Friends.

Major Bibliographical References, continued

Carroll, Kenneth. Quakerism on the Eastern Shore. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1970.

Cochrane, Laura C., et al. History of Caroline County. Federalburg, Maryland: Stowell Publishing Company, 1920.

Horse, Eleanor F. Origins of Caroline County, Maryland, from Land Plats. Vol. I. Denton, Maryland: By the Author, 1974.