

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 30 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Town Friends' Meeting House

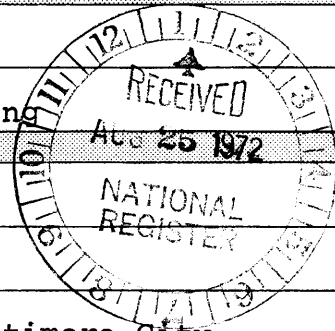
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Aisquith Street Meeting; Baltimore Meeting

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1201 East Fayette Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Baltimore City CODE: 510



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Liber: SCL 4560 Folio: 359
Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 610, Baltimore City Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 21401 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore City
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

[see continuation sheet]

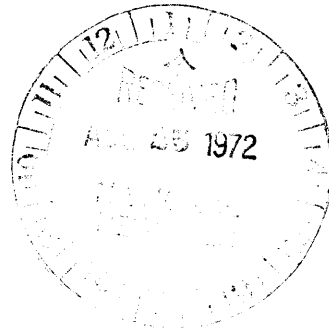
7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Town Friends' Meeting House typifies the refined simplicity and dignity of the Quaker Meeting House. It is a two-story, brick building which has undergone several alterations over the years. The architect of the 1967 restoration, Francis H. Jencks, has attempted to restore the building as it appears in a photograph taken circa 1845-1850.¹ The exterior fabric of the meeting house is original.

Three of the exterior walls are set in Flemish bond, while the fourth wall, on the east, is of common bond. Apparently the building always had a chimney with stove in the east gable, but the chimney in the west gable was a later addition, added in the early 19th century.² The building at one time apparently had six entrances, two in the north and two in the south walls and one at each end; however, the two doorways in the north side (Fayette Street) were bricked over and remain thus. Some of the window sashes are original, but most are of the mid-19th century, at which time the pediments over the first-floor windows were applied. The outside shutters were changed from the louvered to the solid type during the 1967 restoration. At that time, also, evidence was found that the balcony may have extended along the west end wall, although it is now along only the south wall.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

¹The drawings for the 1967 restoration are on file at the offices of Wrenn, Lewis and Jencks, 113 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Measured drawings made by Mr. Addison Worthington in 1956 are in the possession of Mr. Philip Myers, 4208 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

²The earliest known drawing of the building is on the border of the Poppleton Map of Baltimore (1852) to be found at the Peale Museum in Baltimore.

SIGNIFICANCE

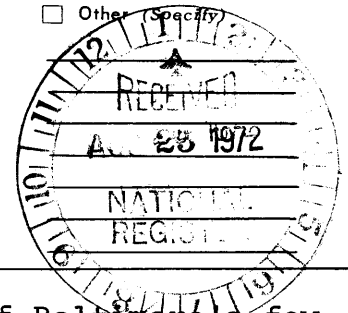
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1781

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Town Friends' Meeting House is one of Baltimore's few remaining 18th-century structures. It is the oldest religious building in the city, having been built in 1781. At that time, the Patapsco Friends' Meeting, then located in Baltimore County, received permission from the Gunpowder Monthly Meeting to move to the eastern side of Jones Falls, at Fayette and Aisquith Streets, and to build a meeting house there. George Mathews was the contractor for the building, which was considered to be "quite on the eastern border" of the city.¹ The cost was \$4,500.² The congregation became known as the Baltimore Meeting or the Aisquith Street Meeting, and by 1793, had attained the status of a Montly Meeting.

In 1828 during a stormy session, the Orthodox Friends withdrew from the Baltimore Montly Meeting because of disagreements with the liberal element, which then became known as "Hick-sites." This division is still observed by both groups.

From as early as 1660, the Society of Friends exerted a strong influence socially, politically, and economically in Maryland. A number of influential Baltimore Quakers worshipped at the Aisquith Street Meeting House: Philip E. Thomas, first President of the B & O Railroad; Johns Hopkins; Moses Sheppard, the philanthropist; the Ellicott family, who founded the mill town of Ellicott City, just outside Baltimore; and Isaac and Elisha Tyson, Baltimore merchants and early exponents of the anti-slavery movement.

The building was abandoned in about 1921 and remained unused until 1967, when extensive restoration was undertaken through the efforts of a group of private individuals in cooperation with the city government. It is now (1970) operated by the Peale Museum which has plans for installing exhibits and opening it to the public in the very near future.

The name "Old Town" Friends' Meeting has been applied to the building since the restoration, in recognition of its location in that part of the city of Baltimore which was annexed in 1745 and which now is due for rehabilitation under Urban Renewal.

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jacobsen, Phebe R. Quaker Records in Maryland. Publication No. 14, The Hall of Records Commission. Annapolis, 1966.

Matthews, Thomas H. A Sketch of Old Town Meeting House. Printed by John W. Woods. Baltimore, 1881.

Records of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Stoney Run and the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Homewood. (Microfilm) Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. [see continuation sheet]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 17' 31"	76° 36' 04"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.1 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Maxwell G. Armor, Jr. and Mrs. Catharine F. Black

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **July 12, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland 21401** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date July 21, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/30/73

ATTEST:

John A. Roalson
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/23/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Maryland	
COUNTY		Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		
	MAR 1973		

(Number all entries)

Old Town Friends' Meeting House

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Landmark List

1967 local x

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation
Room 402, City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland code 24

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

¹Quoted in The Morning Sun (Baltimore), May 22, 1967.²Thornbury, D. L., "The Society of Friends in Maryland," Maryland Historical Magazine XXIX (1934), p. 107.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Rose, Harold Wickliffe. The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. 1607-1789. New York, 1963.Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1881.Thornbury, D. L. "The Society of Friends in Maryland." Maryland Historical Magazine, XXIX (1934).