

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 17 1980

DATE ENTERED MAY 7 1980

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

Little Falls Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Old Fallston Road
at Reckford Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Fallston

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY
Harford

CODE
025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Little Falls Monthly Meeting of Friends, Inc. c/o Alice Rensberg

STREET & NUMBER

2130 Fallston Road

CITY, TOWN

Fallston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21047

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Little Falls Friends Meeting House is located on the east side of Old Fallston Road (Maryland Route 152) at its junction with Reckford Road in Fallston, Harford County, Maryland.

Constructed in 1843, it is a sprawling one-story stone structure with shallow-pitched gable roof and a shed-roofed porch across the west and south facades. The walls are of random-coursed fieldstone laid with large granite quoins and brick jack arches over the windows.

The west (main) facade is five bays across with two double doors filling the central bay. This entrance is flanked on either side by two 12/12, double-hung sash windows with three-panel shutters. Each leaf of the doors has four panels, three horizontal ones above a vertical. There is a four-light transom above each set of doors. The porch has square, chamfered posts resting on a concrete floor. The porch roof and the main roof are sheathed with slate shingles.

The south end is wide, but contains only two bays, a 12/12 window on the west and a double door with transom on the east. This facade has been stuccoed but two datestones in the gable remain visible. The larger stone reads 1843, while the smaller stone above reads 1773. The latter was saved from the earlier meeting house, which was taken down when this one was built. The shed-roofed porch continues around the south end and at the east end of it is a privy with a four-panel door opening onto the porch. This frame structure, covered with clapboards, is now used for storage. Steps lead from the porch to the ground in front of the door; below this east end of the porch and privy, a small basement has been carved out for the modern furnace.

The east facade, overlooking the cemetery, has two windows centered in the end wall.

The north end has a window to the west and door to the east identical to those on the south end. A datestone of 1843 is located in the gable. There is a frame privy to the east of the door and an entrance porch sheltering both the door to this and the door to the meeting house. This privy has clapboards on the north and west sides, but vertical board siding on the east. It has a batten door and appears later than the privy on the south end.

A brick stove chimney rises from the gable peak at each end of the building. A modern brick furnace fence stands to the east of the original chimney at the south end; it was constructed flush with the wall without disturbing the stonework or stucco. Each of these 12/12 sash windows has a good; they are the only windows without shutters. This facade is also stuccoed. A small, modern frame shed has been built against the south end of this wall.

The interior of the meeting house is divided into two spaces by two pulley-operated, counter-balanced horizontal board partitions. The bottom half of the partition slides down into horizontal board wainscoting while the upper panel slides up through the ceiling into the attic. The south room was for the men, the north for women.

The ceiling is probably a later alteration and is composed of narrow unpainted boards. The original wide board floors remain but are concealed by a wall-to-wall floor covering.

6 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 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 **1843**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Little Falls Friends Meeting house is a fine example of the Quaker architecture of the area comprised of southeastern Pennsylvania, northern Maryland, and northern Virginia. It is the largest one-story meeting house to survive in Maryland and retains all its original details (except perhaps the ceiling). It has the characteristic features of the Friends' meeting houses, including two entrance doors and a sliding partition dividing the interior into the men's and women's sides.

Little Falls Meeting had a school connected with it from circa 1749 until the early 20th century. At one time this Meeting ran as many as three Quaker schools simultaneously. The school building survives here as a reminder of this Meeting's continuing interest in education.

The Little Falls Meeting itself dates from the mid-18th century. It was founded by William Amos, a Harford County man who determined his own religious beliefs and, when he found they coincided with those of the Quakers, began the Meeting here. Amos is buried in the graveyard here.

HISTORY

Quakerism flourished in Virginia and Maryland between 1655 and 1775, when many Friends moved from Pennsylvania. Friends settled on the Western Run of Gunpowder River before 1675 and formed a monthly meeting in 1739. Friends met at Patapsco Forest on the Little Falls of Gunpowder River in Harford County in 1747. A handwritten account, "The Yearly, Quarterly, and Particular Meetings of the People Called Quakers in the Several Provinces of America", written in 1762, shows the Little Falls Meeting to be under the care of the Gunpowder Monthly Meeting.

The Little Falls Meeting appears to have been in operation long before the Monthly Meeting here was formed in 1815. In his History of Harford County, Preston writes:

William Amos, a resident, large land owner and officer in the militia of that county, was walking on his premises one Sabbath morning, when his meditations and their effect upon his mind were of that character that he called worship. Here he afterwards resorted from a sense of conviction and found satisfaction in the continuing of the practice. Finally, being joined by several of his neighbors, upon comparing notes and making inquiries, they found their views on religious matters coincided with Friends, and going twenty miles to the meeting at Gunpowder, in Baltimore County and their case being

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.374 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Jarrettsville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 379100 4374020
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See boundary of Little Falls Monthly Meeting of Friends, Inc. property on enclosed plat map #27-61 (Deed GRG 586/572).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Pamela James, National Register Coordinator/
 Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust/
 Historic District Commission

DATE Sept. 1978/September 1976

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle/
 45 S. Main Street

TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438/838-6000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis/
 Bel Air

STATE Maryland 21401/21014

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

J. Miller 2-6-80

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John M. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-7-80

ATTEST: *Cynthia ...*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
 Regional Coordinator

DATE 5-5-80

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Little Falls Friends Meeting House
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Each side of the meeting house has a series of benches on graduated risers facing the front (east). At the front of the rooms facing west, are three shorter benches on two risers which were for the elders.

The benches are original. In the east corner of the south room is a corner cupboard built for the storage of books. Although not built in, it has been here a long while and is filled with old books. Narrow strips of wood are nailed several inches apart on either side of the cupboard, allowing the shelf height to be adjusted. The bookcase is about seven feet tall and has two five-panel doors.

Behind the meeting house is a cemetery which dates from the earlier structure on this site. The first graves here are unmarked as was the custom among Quakers at that time. The earliest marker is that of William Amos, founder of Little Falls Meeting. Amos was buried at his farm, but his body and slate marker were later moved to the cemetery. The inscription reads: Wm. Amos d. 1759. A later memorial stone is inscribed William Amos of England. A cast-iron fence surrounds the graveyard, containing about an acre and a half.

To the south of the meeting house is a one-story frame structure with gable roof built in three sections. The easternmost addition was put on during the renovation of the building in 1975 (James T. Wollon, Jr., Architect). The central section was added after 1898, and the original was built in the 1850s as a school.

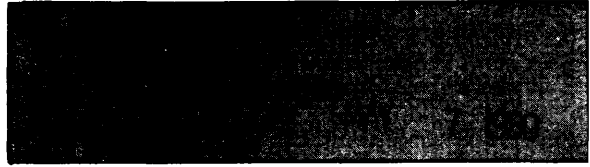
The mid-19th century school building consists of one large room with three bays on the south facade and two on the north and west. The east wall was taken out when the 189 addition was made. This section is covered with clapboards and rests on a rough stone foundation. Batten shutters have been restored to the structure based on an old shutter found under the building. Windows have 6/6 sash. The entrance on the south now consists of one batten door sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with rough log posts on a concrete base. There was originally another door immediately to the right of the present one; this was apparently removed when the first addition was made as the opening is covered with the same boarding found used on that section. An exterior chimney of brick on a concrete foundation is situated between the two earlier parts on the south facade. A metal stove pipe extends from the top of the brick stack which is broad with stepped brick at the roofline and a plain narrower stack above and below.

The post-1898 portion is a one-bay structure sheathed with German siding and sitting on a concrete block foundation. The 6/6 windows here also have new batten shutters. The 1975 addition contains a kitchen and two bathrooms and is slightly wider than the earlier sections. It sits on a concrete block foundation and is covered with clapboards. Its smaller windows have matching batten shutters.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Little Falls Friends Meeting House
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The interior of the 1850s and post-1898 sections are one open space with two chamfered posts and a foot-high plaster wall at the ceiling marking the former outside east wall of the earlier section. The floor of the addition was at platform level until it was lowered in the recent renovation. The woodwork in both sections is very plain, though different in form. The most interesting thing about the interior is the gently arched ceiling. The story goes that the teacher in the 1850s insisted on a vaulted ceiling so he could teach astronomy. This vaulted ceiling was extended into the post-1898 section when it was built.

Stored in the school building is a wood stove that was used in the meeting house. It is a cast-iron pot-bellied stove. Molded into the iron is the following: "Champion N^o 132, The Wehrle Co., Makers, Newark, Ohio."

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Little Falls Friends Meeting house
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

favorably considered by that body, they were taken into membership. (p.195).

In 1749 Thomas Bond conveyed part of "Bond's Forest" to be laid out near the road including a house now built intended for a Meeting House for people called Quakers, to worship God in, and also a school house already built. The first meeting house on this site at Fallston was a small log cabin, which was used until 1773 when a stone building was erected. The present house was built in 1843 and incorporates the datestone of the 1777 house along with its own.

In a survey conducted by the Yearly Meeting at Lombard Street in 1853, the Little Falls Meeting is shown to have had 53 Quaker children and three schools, all of which were taught by Friends. In 1871 Little Falls is listed as one school of three in the Baltimore Quarterly Meeting. (Forbush: 1972; p. 54).

Little Falls is a Hicksite Meeting, being a part of those Quakers greatly influenced by the preaching of Elias Hicks, who journeyed through this area between 1797 and 1829. He advocated Christian rationalism combined with the Quietist emphasis on the Inner Light. Elias Hicks could not admit that all parts of the Bible were divinely inspired. He insisted that people could not know the holy scriptures unless they first recognized the spirit of God in themselves.

The Hicksites were in a position to attract individuals who could not accept the fundamentalist view of the Bible, but Bliss Forbush states that :

a weakness of the Hicksites was their heterogeneous nature. Many members had no settled convictions concerning Quakerism. Most were birthright members and, out of habit, conformed to the customs of the Quietist period. They were united in desiring to maintain these customs, recoiled from what seemed to them to be the intolerance of all orthodoxy and held to the doctrine of the Inner Light. They more slowly moved away from their Quietist ways, enlarged their previous religious and philanthropic activities, but being less aggressive, did not grow in numbers until the modern time. (p.69).

Membership of this meeting through the years is as follows:

<u>JUST BEFORE CIVIL WAR</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>
325	205	152	115	70	58	57

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Little Falls Friends Meeting House
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Forbush, Bliss. A History of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends. Sandy Spring, Maryland: Baltimore yearly meeting of Friends, 1972.
- Preston, Walter W. History of Harford County. Baltimore: Press of the Sun Book Office, 1901.
- Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. 1963.
- Werline, Albert Warwick. Problems of Church and State in Maryland. 1948.
- Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage. By the Author, 1967.
- Pamphlet, "Little Falls Friends' Meeting". Available at the meeting house, Fallston, Maryland.
- The Aegis, 8/19/76. p. B1.