

P.A. 59181

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 17 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 9 1975

**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

Friends Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S of Casco rd; US 302

Quaker Ridge

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Casco *Me.*

VICINITY OF

First

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

Cumberland

005

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Casco Friends Meeting

STREET & NUMBER

Quaker Ridge

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Casco

VICINITY OF

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

142 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Portland,

Maine

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Friends Meeting House is a small gabled structure standing 1½ stories high. It is basically rectangular in shape with a lean-to projecting on one side. The exterior is extremely simple, sheathed in narrow clapboards with an unobtrusive cornice. The whole structure is painted white. The windows, of which there are eight on the principal floor and one in each gable, are rectangular and are sash hung in a six over six pattern. A small chimney is located on the slope of the roof at the back. The one entrance is found on the narrow side of the lean-to facing the road.

The interior is divided into three parts under an unfinished attic. The entrance opens into a vestibule lighted by two windows. Opposite the windows are two doors, each leading into one of the rooms of the meeting house proper. The main body of the meeting house is rectangular and is divided equally by an interior partition. This partition is most unusual in that it is solid along its base and sides but contains a large shutter in the middle section, hinged at the top and fastened to the ceiling of the front room when open. Its function was to separate men and women during meeting but to allow communication when speaking occurred. Both rooms feature a simple paneled wainscot up to the level of the windows. Above, the walls are covered with plaster. The ceiling is flat and plastered, while the corner posts are exposed and paneled. Both rooms are lighted by three windows, one on each of its exterior walls.

Both sections are furnished with pews. Those of the front room (originally the men's section) appear to be original. They are simple and highbacked. The pews of the back section are more elaborate, possessing curved, scrolled arm rests. These probably date from a turn of the century refurbishing which included the addition of the simple parlor organ that is located in this section.

Aside from these minor changes, the fabric of the building appears to be entirely original, an amazing survival from 1814. It is basically sound, and continues to occupy its original foundation and site on Quaker Ridge, commanding a view of the surrounding countryside, and the White Mountains beyond.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This modest structure on Quaker Ridge in Casco is the oldest surviving meetinghouse of the Society of Friends in the State of Maine. The meetinghouse was constructed in 1813 when Casco was part of Raymond and Maine part of Massachusetts. It is unusually well preserved, retaining a considerable amount of its original interior. The only modification occurred in the late 19th century when the west wall was enlarged slightly to provide for a harmonium, a somewhat unusual feature for a Quaker congregation. Quaker meetings were generally quiet affairs with speaking and especially singing rare.

The Friends Meeting at Casco was organized in 1802 by settlers from nearby Windham, whose own meeting dates from 1779. Quakerism in Maine made its first appearance in 1662 when a group of Friends, escaping persecution in New Hampshire, held a meeting at what is now South Berwick. This group soon left for Boston, however, and the first established religious worship by the Society of Friends was at Eliot in 1730. The Falmouth (now Portland) Meeting dates from 1740 and was a source of much discontent among the town's Congregationalists and other more conservative sects well into the 1780's. In spite of such intolerance, Quakerism continued to spread throughout what is now York and Cumberland Counties, then Maine's most settled areas. Meetings were founded at South Berwick (1742), Harpswell (1751), Durham (1771) and Windham (1779). Gradually, after the end of the Revolutionary War and the establishment of the Federal government, persecution became rare. With the opening of the Maine hinterlands in the last decade of the 18th century and first decades of the 19th century, a Quaker meeting became a feature of many communities in Southern and Central Maine.

Nathaniel Hawthorne spent much of his childhood in Casco in the home of his uncle, Richard Manning. In his first diary, written as a boy, Hawthorne paid the Friends of Casco a gracious compliment, noting that "They never cheat!"

The Friends Meeting House was used as the site of Casco's first town meeting when it was set off from Raymond in 1841. Regular Sunday meetings were discontinued in 1921 and until 1956 one annual meeting was held there. Since then it has been used for regular Sunday meetings during July and August by Friends who are largely summer residents of the Sebago Lake area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holden, William C., The Story and History of Casco, Maine 1941

Miller, Elizabeth, M., Letter to Maine Historic Preservation Commission August 22, 74

Williamson, William D., Condition of the Religious Denominations of Maine at the close of the Revolution, Maine Historical Society, Vol. 7, pp 220-21
Upton and Son, Bath, Maine 1876

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCE 18-24-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 ac.

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	3	7	7	0	7	9	4	8	6	9	4	7	5
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur Gerrier, Student Assistant.

January 1975

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

207-289-2133

STREET & NUMBER

31 Western Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta, Maine

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

James H. Mundy

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 15, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE

9/9/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

SEP 8 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Friends Meetinghouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Cumberland

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/06/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75000095

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11-22-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

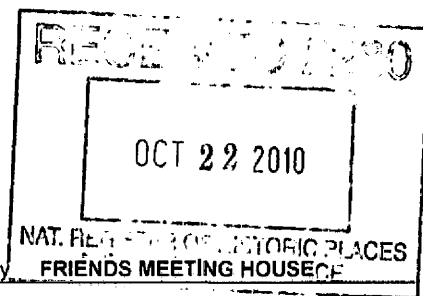
DATE 11-22-10

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Name of Property

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

County and State

CUMBERLAND CO., MAINE

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1

COUNTY, Town	NAME	NR ID #	Correct UTM' s
Cumberland, Casco	Friends Meeting House	75000095	19/377105/4869432

The above UTM coordinates replace the incorrect coordinates provided in the original nomination/registration form for this property.