

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 3 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC

WEST NOTTINGHAM MEETING HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

LITTLE BRICK MEETING HOUSE

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER About 1 mile south of Harrisville at  
the intersection of Cox and Cowen Roads.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

West Nottingham

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Cecil

015

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Edward Plumstead

under restoration

Cecil Historical Trust, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. 2

CITY, TOWN

STATE

zip code

Rising Sun

VICINITY OF

Maryland

21911

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cecil County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

zip code

Elkton

Maryland

21921

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

West Nottingham Meeting House is a brick, one-story building, built in 1811. It is situated on the east side of the old road which runs south from Harrisville to West Nottingham Academy. The existing structure was built after an earlier log meeting house was taken down and moved to Rising Sun to serve as a shop for a local craftsman. The brick meeting house is rectangularly shaped and measures 45'4" by 30'. The building has a gable roof shingled with slate. There is a box cornice with crown and bed moulding. At each end of the meeting house are two inside end chimneys. The foundation is constructed of fieldstone and the brickwork was laid in American bond. The windows on the first story have paneled shutters and the doors have triangular pediments over them. The windows have 9/6 sash. All the exterior trim is plain and painted white. Only one door has a latch, the others are secured by wooden bars across them on the inside of the building. The shutters; doors; frames; windows; including sash and much of the glass; as well as the crown moulding are original.

The north and south walls are 45'4" long and represent the front and rear of the meeting house. The north wall of the meeting house has two double door entrances with six-paneled doors. These doors are ten feet from the ends of the building. One door has a wooden sill, the other a concrete one of more recent vintage. Between the doors and at each end of the building there is a single window with paneled shutters. There are also two windows between the two entrances. The south wall or facade has a door and window alignment identical to that of the north wall. The south entrance closest to the public road has a small porch that is eight feet wide. The porch floor, originally all stone, now has a concrete cap. This entrance was the men's entrance. The other door has a granite step and both doors have granite sills. Some of the brick and stone work has been repointed. Two small ventilation holes are in the foundation.

The east and west walls are thirty feet long. These are the gable ends of the meeting house. On the west walls are four windows. The two on the first story have paneled shutters while the two on the attic story have board and batten covers. In between the first story and attic on both walls is an iron S-shaped tie brace. There are two small ventilation holes in the foundation of the west wall. The east wall has no windows in the attic and only one on the first floor. This is located just to the left of a door that is two feet off center. The window has paneled shutters. Along two-thirds of this wall runs a shed porch which extends from the small wooden shed on the northeastern corner of the meeting house. This porch is of pegged mortise and tenon construction. A small bench is located on each side of the door.

On the northeast corner of the meeting house is a wooden shed comprising a women's privy and cloakroom. This has German siding on all sides except the south side which is board and batten. The roof is one-half shingle and one-half tarpaper. The wooden cloakroom is 18' long and 12' wide. There are doors at the north and south ends. There is one window

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |            |
| RECEIVED         | MAY 3 1976 |
| DATE ENTERED     | NOV 7 1976 |

West Nottingham Meeting House  
Cecil County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION

on the west wall and two on the east.

A graveyard extends to the east of the meeting house and is surrounded by a cast iron fence. It contains a few 18th Century Quaker grave markers and a Roman Row.

To the north of the meeting house stood a horse shed whose outline still can be seen. This also housed the men's privy.

The interior of the meeting house is divided into two sections by sliding panels. Both sides of the meeting house are nearly identical. The floor is pine and in very good condition. Each side of the meeting house has a central aisle which runs from the door on one side to the door on the other. On each side of each aisle are six moveable benches with backs. Along the entire north wall is a stepped platform on which are two rows of fixed benches known as the "Elders' benches" or "facing benches." Two folding dropleaf desks are attached to the elders' benches, one on each side of the meeting house. Two supporting posts exist, one to each side of the divider, which help support the ceiling. These posts are tapered with lambs-tongue chamfers and are gouge-carved at the tops. In each of the aisles slightly to one side is a cast iron stove made about 1870. All the benches are painted a light brown. There is a trap door to the attic on the west side of the meeting house. At the present time the paneling that makes up the divider is painted, but it was not originally.

About ten years ago the interior of the meeting house was renovated by the Friends and such items as a new acoustic tile ceiling and some masonite wainscoting were added. Under the direction of the Cecil Historical Trust, Inc. the building is being restored to its original appearance.

# 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 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 1811

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first meeting house erected on this site was a log building in 1727. This was used until the present brick edifice was built in 1811. West Nottingham Friends Meeting together with East Nottingham Meeting at Brick Meeting House, Calvert, formed a single congregation, known since 1730 as Nottingham Monthly Meeting. The monthly business meetings were held alternately at this meeting house and at Brick Meeting House. In 1778 Nottingham Monthly Meeting was held here continuously due to the occupation of Brick Meeting House by a detachment of General Smallwood's troops. The original log building was used as a shop and then a stable. Some pieces of the wood of this structure are in the possession of Brick Meeting House.

In the cemetery there are several 18th Century Quaker grave markers, a rare survival. It contains also a Roman Row which served as a graveyard for Roman Catholics who found it the most convenient place for burial. Several cousins of Abraham Lincoln's are buried in the cemetery.

West Nottingham Meeting House is representative of the meeting houses built by the Society of Friends in the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries in this part of the country. It exhibits the usual two entrances, one for women and one for men, and sliding panels to divide the interior space in half, as well as the raised "Elders' benches."

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnston, George. History of Cecil County. Baltimore: County Directories, 1956.  
 Miller, Alice. Cecil County, Maryland. Elkton: C & L Printing, 1949.  
 Brown, Kirk. Report of Committee on History in Bicentennial of Brick Meeting House. Lancaster, 1902.  
 Cecil Historical Trust, Inc.  
 Edward Plumstead, local historian and preservation leader.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.7

UTM REFERENCES

A 

|      |   |   |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 8 | 4 | 0 | 7       | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4        | 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| ZONE |   |   |   | EASTING |   |   |   | NORTHING |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ZONE |  |  |  | EASTING |  |  |  | NORTHING |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ZONE |  |  |  | EASTING |  |  |  | NORTHING |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ZONE |  |  |  | EASTING |  |  |  | NORTHING |  |  |  |  |  |  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

George W. Lutz, III, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION

Cecil Historical Trust, Inc.

DATE

December 24, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

R.D.2

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Rising Sun

STATE

Maryland

zip code

21911

## 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 M. Pearce*  
SHPO

4/30/76

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*John M. Pearce*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/9/76

TEST:

*W. Plumstead*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/1/76