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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Friends Burial Ground  
other names Friendship; B-5086

2. Location

street & number 2506 Harford Road  not for publication  
city or town Baltimore  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Independent city code 510 zip code 21218

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

[Signature] 11-24-04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - Determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 1-12-05  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Carlson K Beall

Friends Burial Ground (B-5086)  
Name of Property

Baltimore city, Maryland  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
3		structures
		objects
5	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary—cemetery

Religion—religious facility

Domestic—single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Funerary—cemetery

Religion—religious facility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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B-5086  
Friends Burial Ground

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Name of Property

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## Description Summary:

The Friends Burial Ground is the earliest cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland, established in 1713 on Harford Road in what is now the eastern section of the city. The property is approximately 2.8 acres in extent; about 2.3 acres of the grounds form a rectangle, the longer sides running east-west, with the remaining half-acre section forming a triangle extending to the south. Originally, the plot was only one acre, which is now located in the southwestern portion of the burial ground. The cemetery contains a total of approximately 1900 small, simple grave markers, arranged in compact rows interspersed with large trees. The graveyard is surrounded by a fieldstone wall eight feet high, built in the 1860s, now covered with moss, roses, and ivy. An iron gate in the eastern wall provides the entrance off Harford Road. Also on the property are a three-bay, two-story stone house, constructed in the 1860s as a residence for the sexton; a receiving vault installed in 1879; and a small stone tool shed of ca. 1890. The property comprises a total of five contributing resources: the cemetery (1 site), the 1860s sexton's house (1 building), the stone wall, tool shed, and receiving vault (3 structures).

## General Description:

The land was first purchased for the use of Quakers in 1713, and a log meetinghouse was built within one year. In 1781, Baltimore Quakers built a new meetinghouse at Fayette and Aisquith streets in the Oldtown section of the city, and the original building was abandoned. No visual evidence of the log meetinghouse survives in the burial ground. The earliest marked gravestone is dated 1802, but it is likely that the cemetery contains unmarked 18<sup>th</sup>-century graves, although no written records of interments survive from that period.

The sexton's house, built in the 1860s, is a simple two-story fieldstone building similar in form to working-class housing of the period. The east façade, facing Harford Road, is two bays wide with an entrance in the northerly bay and fronts directly on the sidewalk; the north façade, facing the cemetery, is three bays wide with a central entrance. In 1879, a "receiving vault" was moved from Aisquith Street and was placed along the northern wall of the burial ground. A stone tool shed was erected behind the sexton's house in 1890, and a two-story frame addition was made to the rear of the house ca. 1910.

The cemetery's 1900 graves are organized in parallel rows stretching from north to south and marked with gray cut stone markers. The graveyard is divided into six sections, roughly according to age. The oldest section's markers are slightly darker, and there are some gaps within the rows. All of the stones are small and unadorned. At the back of the cemetery are two

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rows of weathered stones which were moved there in 1926 from the burial plot at the Aisquith Street Meetinghouse. Large mature oaks, maples, and poplars shade the cemetery.

Friends Burial Ground (B-5086)  
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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social History \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1713-1926 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1713—establishment of cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
 1860s, 1879, 1890—construction of major existing resources \_\_\_\_\_  
 1926—relocation of burials from Aisquith Street property \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on files (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Summary Statement of Significance:

The Friends Burial Ground is significant under Criterion C for its design; its rows of low, simple grave markers are typical of Quaker cemeteries of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their simplicity and uniformity convey the community's egalitarian principles, and their serried ranks reflect the Quaker emphasis on order. The 2.8-acre property includes the earliest burial ground in Baltimore, established by Quakers in 1713, and contains 1900 marked graves. It has been used continuously since its establishment; while the earliest legibly-dated grave marker dates from 1802, the cemetery undoubtedly contains unmarked 18<sup>th</sup>-century burials. The stone wall surrounding the cemetery, and the stone sexton's house, were constructed in the 1860s; a stone tool shed dates from 1890, and a frame addition was made to the house in 1910. No substantial changes have occurred to the Burial Ground since 1926, when 122 graves were relocated there from the cemetery at the Aisquith Street Meetinghouse which had been acquired by the city for the construction of a public playground.

The Friends Burial Ground derives additional significance under Criterion A for its association with the Quaker community whose members played a disproportionately influential role in the early economic and cultural development of Baltimore. Founded in 1792, the Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends included many prominent merchants and industrialists whose activities helped shape the city as it emerged through the first half of the nineteenth century. Friends controlled manufacturing and milling operations, were involved in the founding of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and established a wide variety of mercantile and financial interests in Baltimore during a particularly important formative period in the city's history. The fruits of these enterprises provided the means for philanthropy, through which Friends were instrumental in the founding and development of many of the city's early social and cultural institutions. These institutions include McKim's School, the first free school for poor children in Baltimore, which antedated the establishment of the city's public school system by nearly two decades; Johns Hopkins University; the hospitals founded by Hopkins and by Moses Sheppard; and numerous social institutions directed toward the welfare of the sick and aged, and toward securing civil rights for minority citizens.

The period of significance, 1713-1926, begins with the establishment of the cemetery and spans its development to 1926, when 122 burials were relocated to the cemetery from the Aisquith Street meetinghouse and the Burial Ground substantially achieved its existing configuration and appearance.

### Resource History and Historic Context:

The earliest documentary reference to a Quaker meeting in the Baltimore region dates to June 1681, when a group of Quakers met in a private residence near the present burial ground to form the Patapsco Meeting (a "meeting" is equivalent to what other denominations call a "congregation"). They continued to meet and worship in members' homes for the next 32 years. In 1713, a Quaker farmer named Richard

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Taylor bought one acre of woodland for ten shillings from John Ensor, identified as “a planter of Baltimore City,” for the purpose of establishing a meetinghouse. Taylor named the tract Friendship. A log meetinghouse was in place by the following year, as it was mentioned in Baltimore County court records in June 1714; this was the first religious structure in what is now Baltimore City, and the first burial ground.

At that time, Harford Road—now a major artery connecting downtown Baltimore with Harford County to the northeast—was a dirt pathway called Darley Road, and the surrounding area consisted of woods and farmland. In his will dated 1726 Richard Taylor bequeathed the Friendship tract to his son “for the use of a meetinghouse and burying-place for Friends forever.” Actual ownership of the land remained in the hands of the Taylor family until 1833.

By 1781, many Quakers had moved to the Inner Harbor area of Baltimore, as they shifted from agrarian to mercantile trades. As of 1778, the Maryland Quakers had resolved to free all of their slaves, and set expulsion from the Meeting as the penalty for refusing to do so. The ban on slave ownership induced some Quakers gave up agricultural pursuits, which were largely dependent on slave labor, and take up commerce in the thriving port city of Baltimore. They built a meetinghouse at Fayette and Aisquith streets, and continued to use the Friendship property as a burial ground, but no longer for worship. The early log meetinghouse was abandoned, and no trace of its structure or foundation remains visible above ground today.

Quakers played a prominent role in Baltimore’s mercantile, industrial, and philanthropic activities from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup>, a crucial formative period in the city’s history. Many of these early Quakers are buried at Friendship, including thirty members of the Tyson family. The best known was Elisha Tyson, who was born in 1749 in Pennsylvania and moved to the Baltimore area in 1773. Having amassed a fortune by milling grain, Tyson retired from business in 1800 and devoted his life to philanthropy. He was a staunch advocate of civil rights for African Americans. Through his personal efforts, influence, and financial support, he fought discrimination against blacks and assisted free blacks who had been kidnapped or captured for sale further South. He helped establish a school for blacks on Sharp Street in 1797, out of which grew the Bethel AME Church, one of the largest African American institutions in Baltimore. Tyson persuaded the Maryland legislature in 1796 to allow slave owners to include provisions in their wills to manumit their slaves. After his death in 1826, it was reported that some 10,000 blacks followed Tyson’s funeral cortege to the Aisquith Street Meetinghouse, where he was first buried; his remains were reinterred at the Friends Burial Ground a century later. Elisha Tyson’s son Isaac became a prominent businessman, served as a director of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Union Savings Bank, and helped found the Savings Bank of Baltimore.

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Another early Quaker businessman and philanthropist buried at Friendship is John McKim, who prospered in the shipping and textile industries in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Baltimore. At his death in 1819, he directed his heirs to establish the first free non-denominational school in Baltimore with an endowment of \$3000; the McKim Free School opened in 1821, nineteen years before the city government began its first efforts to create a public school system.

Another notable Baltimore Quaker buried at Friendship is Gerard Hopkins, whose nephew Johns Hopkins founded the world-famous hospital and university that bear his name. Gerard was Johns' business partner, and together they ran a provisions store for a few years after 1812.

The oldest recorded grave at Friendship is that of Jesse Brown, dated 1802. There are no records of previous interments, but many unmarked gravestones in the oldest section of the cemetery may have been placed in the 1700s. Consistent with early Quaker practice, the stones were left without name or inscription. The 19<sup>th</sup> century markers also follow the Quaker testimony of simplicity; most stand less than a foot high, and all are plain stones with no ornamentation and little writing. Owing to the Quaker tenet of equality, the grave markers of wealthy merchants such as John McKim or Gerard Hopkins are not unlike those of unknown laborers.

The Baltimore Quakers moved their place of worship from Friendship to Aisquith and Fayette streets in 1781, and built a new meetinghouse on Lombard Street near the Inner Harbor in 1805. Throughout this period, descendants of Richard Taylor remained the actual owners of the Burial Ground. In 1833, the Taylor family sold Friendship to five Quakers acting as trustees for the Lombard Street Meeting (the Meeting assumed direct ownership of the property in 1883). The cemetery did not undergo any significant changes until 1859, when the Lombard Street Meeting purchased an additional two acres for \$1408. In the 1860s, the Meeting built an eight-foot fieldstone wall around the Burial Ground and constructed a two-story fieldstone house for the sexton, in a form typical of urban workers' housing of the period. In 1879, the Meeting moved a receiving vault from Aisquith Street to the Burial Ground, for the storage of corpses in winter until the ground could be broken for burial. The vault was rumored to have been a hiding place for blacks escaping slavery on the Underground Railroad, but there is no documentary evidence to support this story.

In 1889, the Lombard Street Meeting relocated to Park Avenue in the Bolton Hill section of the city. The Meeting built a small stone tool shed at the Burial Ground in 1890, and constructed a two-story frame addition to the sexton's house, containing a kitchen and bathroom, in 1910. In 1926, the Meeting sold the Aisquith Street Meetinghouse to Baltimore City government, which planned to build a playground on the part of the parcel where early Quakers had been buried. Quakers then moved 122 burials (77 of them marked) from Aisquith Street to Friendship, where they were placed in two rows otherwise indistinguishable from the other graves. The same year, the Park Avenue Meeting had the



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western wall fronting Harford Road rebuilt in the same type of stone and added a wrought iron gate. The Burial Ground has remained substantially unchanged since that date.

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 2.8 acres Baltimore East, MD quad

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1   8	3   6   2   4   9   8	4   3   5   3   2   9   1	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4			

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nicholas Fessenden, Ph.D.

Organization Stony Run Friends Meeting date May 2002

street & number 5114 North Charles Street telephone 410-435-3773

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21210

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### Major Bibliographical References:

Adams, Sandy, "Friends Burial Ground," pamphlet, 1986.

Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation staff, including intern William Terrin. *Landmark Designation Report: Friends Burial Ground*, 1999.

Fessenden, Nicholas B. "A History of Quakers in Maryland," *Plain Language*. National Society Descendants of Early Quakers, 1994.

Forbush, Bliss. *A History of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends*. Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, 1972.

Hoopes, E. Erick and Christina Hoopes. *A Record of Interments at the Friends Burial Grounds*, Baltimore, Maryland. Clearfield Company, 1995.

Lundy, Benjamin. *Elisha Tyson, the Philanthropist*. Stony Run Meeting, 1825, rpt. 1994.

Mallonee, Barbara C., Jane K. Bonny, and Nicholas B. Fessenden. *Minute by Minute: A History of the Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Homewood and Stony Run*. 1992.

Wilson, Jane B. *The Very Quiet Baltimoreans*. White Mane Publishing, 1991.

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## Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is located within a parcel described among the Land Records of Baltimore City as Ward – 09, Section – 16, Block - 4114A, Lot – 095. Boundaries are defined by a fieldstone wall which encompasses the historic cemetery.

## Boundary Justification:

The boundaries comprise the full extent of the property historically associated with the resource.