

PH0660396

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 16 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

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

Coopertown Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

Coopertown Church/ Coopertown Union Sunday School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cooper Street At Route #130

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Willingboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Edgewater Park Township

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

34

Burlington

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

Coopertown Meeting House Board of Trustees

STREET & NUMBER

Ernest N. Sever Jacksonville Road Burlington

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Burlington

VICINITY OF

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burlington County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Mt. Holly

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1977

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

109 West State Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Trenton

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Coopertown Meeting House is a 1 story, 3 bay structure laid up in Flemish bonded brick, on a fieldstone foundation. The house is entered through a central door (both front and back) with flanking 12 over 12 windows. A single bay gable front porch, resting on a pair of tuscan columns, frames the main entrance. This feature was probably added in the late 19th century, judging by the narrow gauge wainscot gable infill. The structure is surmounted by a pitched roof of 45 degrees. The box cornice and end returns are not original. Both entrances have double 3 panel doors, which appear to be original as do the 3 panel shutters.

The interior consists of one room with a small raised platform at one end. Walls are plaster with a late 19th century wainscotting 54 inches high. One of the end walls is repaneled and there is a boxed in tie bar securing the roof.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

August 1802/1806

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coopertown Meeting House is a good surviving example of a small rural meeting house type. It was also the focus of a number of religious groups in Willingboro Township in the first third of the 19th century.

It was the first regular house of worship designated specifically for that purpose in the township. Previously, people met in a centrally located schoolhouse for religious services when a visiting minister could be acquired.

The effort to establish a house of worship began when one James Simpson, a visiting minister, suggested that such a house be erected.

Subscriptions were collected and land was purchased from Charles and Lydia Fetters for \$25.00. This land was placed in trust with the Baptist Church, with the express understanding that the house should "be open and free to be used by all persons professing and believing in the Divinity of Jesus Christ."

In 1806 the Meeting House was complete. It was occupied at various times by Methodists, Episcopalians, Baptists and Friends and at times by several groups at once. From its inception until 1830's the Meeting House was successful. Conflicts arose over attempts to gain exclusive use which resulted in the quiet withdrawal of the Methodists and Episcopalians who erected their own buildings. The Meeting House then underwent a period of revilitization.

In 1841 an application was received from the Mormons or Latter-Day Saints for the use of the Meeting House. That same year Rev. Thomas Hunt was refused the use of the Meeting House to lecture on temperance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- #1 Wallace N. Jamison, Religion in New Jersey: A Brief History, (Princeton, New Jersey) P.4
- #2 Woodward History of Burlington County, New Jersey, (Burlington, N.J.)
- #3 Book K of Deeds (Burlington County Court House, Mount Holly, N.J.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

→ SHOULD BE 5.33 ACRES. 4/3. 3/3/78
OK mmw

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	0	8	1	5	0	4	4	3	2	9	4	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city block 1202, lot 7 and is approximately 595 X 390 feet in size.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Jonathan Fricker, Office of Historic Preservation, Trenton, 609-292-2023)
NO LONGER THERE.

Gae Kane

ORGANIZATION

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

306 East Franklin

(609) 387-2319

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Edgewater Park,

New Jersey 08010

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Fetty Wilson

Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE 12-79-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

Clas Brown Cole

DATE

5-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Coopertown Meeting house
Edgewater Park Township
Burlington County
New Jersey 031

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Trustees continued to hold regular meetings and among other things established a clear line of succession through their heirs. In 1876 they purchased a strip of land. In 1885 and again in 1902 more land was purchased from the Vansciver Family.

A small group organized a Sunday School in 1880 which was known as the Coopertown Union Sunday School. The school was highly successful and continued into the 1930's.

In 1901 the Society of Friends used the building. They continued to use the building, but with the increased number of cars, residents were able to attend their own churches. Finally in the mid 1930's the Coopertown Union Sunday School was closed. The meeting House is now open only on rare occasions and for about ten funerals each year.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bibliographical Reference (continued)

Additional information was taken from the minutes books now in the care of the Burlington County Historical Society, High Street, Burlington, New Jersey.

Also from a history written by J.E. Bishop who served as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Also from interviews and the History of Edgewater Park by William Ferguson