

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 23 1982
DATE ENTERED APR 22 1982

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
Evesham Friends Meeting House
AND/OR COMMON
Mount Laurel Meeting House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Located at northeast corner of junction of Moorestown-Mt. Laurel Road
and Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Roads (Evesboro Road) N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Mt. Laurel N/A VICINITY OF 6th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE New Jersey CODE 034 COUNTY Burlington CODE 005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	N/A IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Moorestown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
STREET & NUMBER
Main and Chester Avenues
CITY, TOWN Moorestown N/A VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Burlington County Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER
County Office Building, 49 Rancocas Road
CITY, TOWN Mount Holly STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey - #6-31
DATE
August, 1936 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

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

Located on a four-acre plot of land at the intersection of the Moorestown-Mt. Laurel Road and Evesboro Road, the Evesham Friends Meeting House property contains an 18th century meeting house (1760, 1790), the schoolmasters building, two small early outbuildings, an unmarked burying ground and numerous trees.

The Evesham Friends Meeting House is a large (85' x 40') 2-1/2 story stone meeting house built in two sections. The eastern five bays were built in 1760; and in 1798 the two bay western section was added.

The earliest portion has a five bay front with two paneled double leaf entry doors on the south facade. The windows are 6/6 and 12/12 sash with paneled shutters on the ground floor. The windows have segmental brick arches on the first floor. At the time of construction of the western section (1798) the wall of the east wing was raised slightly to provide an even connection of the roof of the 1798 addition. When the wall was raised, the second floor window levels were also lifted about 12 inches. The stonework of the 1760 portion is well coursed on the south wall and roughly coursed elsewhere. A one story frame portico projects over the center three bays on the south wall and across the entire east gable end. At the northeast corner is a small frame outhouse.

A 2-1/2 story two bay section was added to the west gable end in 1798 which is approximately half the size of the original 1760 unit. The stonework, as with the original, is coursed on the south wall and random or roughly coursed at the gable end and north wall. Windows are all 12/8 sash with paneled shutters on the first floor. A frame portico protects the double leaf paneled entryways on the west and south facades. A datestone (1798) is placed beneath the pent at west gable end.

On the northern facade of the meeting house are lines which indicate that a building was attached. The secondary records related that this section was built in 1698 and measured 30 x 40 feet. The date is improbable, but the faint outline of a foundation approximately this size can be discerned. This unit was removed in 1828.

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 checked="" 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 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 1760, 1778, 1798

BUILDER/ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Evesham Friends Meeting House is a fine representative example of Quaker architecture. With its exceptionally well preserved interior and ingenious movable room partitions, the Evesham Meeting House is one of the most pristine and intact of the larger meeting houses in New Jersey. Built in 1760, this is the second oldest meeting house in Burlington County and is still used for Quaker services. In addition to its architectural and religious importance, the meeting house and property was the overnight encampment site of the British Army under the command of General Henry Clinton on June 19, 1778.

Architecture

Constructed of locally quarried stone, the Evesham Friends Meeting House is a splendid expression of 18th century Quaker architecture. The exterior is quite simple and reflects a 1760's edifice onto which an addition was appended in 1798. It is on the interior where the features are exceptional. Virtually all of the interior is of the period (save for electrical lighting fixtures and a 1877 stove setting in the middle of the floor). Wooden pews, stairways, wide board wainscoting, gallery, support columns, window moldings and doors are all late 18th century.

Of particular importance are the ingenious vertically sliding partitions in the center of the meeting room dividing the large room into two separate rooms as necessary. While these paneled sliding partitions were typical features of the larger Quaker meeting houses, few are still completely intact in the state (the brick Crosswicks Friends Meetinghouse still retains this feature). In the tradition of Quaker philosophy, the woodwork and detailing is quite simple, but it is uncommon to find such a pristine survival in New Jersey.

Religion

The Monthly Meeting of Evesham was officially established in 1760. Construction of the older portion of the present meeting-house began the same year.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

**UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.967

QUADRANGLE NAME Moorestown, NJ Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 5101921210 4420320
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 210, Lot 20 - Mt. Laurel Township Tax Map (sheet #19)
 (see continuation sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>N/A</u>			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nan Pillsbury

Revised by T. Karschner, Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection

ORGANIZATION

Historical Society of Moorestown

DATE

4/1979

STREET & NUMBER

401 Mill Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 235-6080

CITY OR TOWN

Moorestown

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Laura Schmidt

4/21/81

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

4/22/82

Melba Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Evesham Friends Meeting House

Continuation sheet Mt. Laurel, New Jersey

Item number 7

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Description (continued)

Although constructed in two phases, the interior exhibits a uniform design featuring the traditional meeting house plan with a center sliding partition down the middle aisle for dividing the large meeting hall into two separate rooms as necessary. These six wood panels slide vertically. There are four rows (two in each division) of simple wooden pews with a raised platform in the front (north). The building has a gallery on rear and side walls. The two stairs to the gallery are in the rear, to the southwest and southeast corners. These galleries are supported by round columns. The interior of the meeting house is virtually unaltered. Alterations are limited to modern lighting fixtures and a parlor stove. The stove has a name plate - "Orr, Painter & Co., Reading, PA, Woodward Pat'd 1877."

The schoolmasters house is a three bay, 2-1/2 story brick dwelling with a two bay frame wing located at the extreme northwest corner of the property. The brick section is the original unit. Built around 1786 (Evesham Monthly Meeting Minutes. II/VIII/1786), it has common bond brickwork with five courses of stretchers. The foundation is stone. The first floor windows are 9/6 sash and the second floor windows are 6/6 sash. A belt course divides the two floors. The roof is gable. The portico over the door is modern. A photograph from about 1920 establishes that the frame wing was originally a one story lean-to off the gable end. This unit was raised to a full two stories around 1950. In the rear of the house is a large modern stone platform.

Two outbuildings stand on the property - an outhouse and a shed. The outhouse has modern exterior sheathing and roof, but on the interior is a 19th century (perhaps 18th century) toilet stall. The shed is hewn braced framing, but also has a modern sheathing and roof replacement.

The burying ground is at the east end of the meeting house beyond the outbuildings.

Quite a few trees are on the property, but of particular note are the huge oak and sassafras trees, both considerably over 200 years old. The sassafras tree is listed as the largest of its species in New Jersey.

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Evesham Friends Meeting House
Continuation sheet Mt. Laurel, New Jersey Item number 7

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Description (continued)

Two long horse and carriage sheds are shown to the north of the meeting house in the 1936 HABS plans, but these no longer exist. Between the two sheds a well was indicated and a small square structure (also no longer extant) was indicated just to the north near the northeast corner of the property.

The property has a slight grade rising to the northwest.

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Evesham Friends Meeting House

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Significance (continued)

The founding of Evesham as a colonial village began in 1693 when William Evans, a Quaker minister, and his wife Elizabeth Hanke settled on 300 acres in the area owned by his father. Meeting records indicate that the first Friends meeting was held in the Evans' home in 1694. The first meeting house was built in 1698.

On the 23rd day of the third month, 1759, an official request was laid before the Haddonfield Monthly Meeting and considered by the Quarterly Meeting (County governing bodies for the Friends) on the 21st day of the third month, 1760. The Evesham Friends asked to have their local body granted the separate official powers of controlling their own monthly meeting rather than continuing under the Haddonfield jurisdiction.

In 1798, the building was extended westward by half the original length. Impetus for the extension may have been due to the schism in the Quaker bodies, as the Orthodox Friends met in the older eastern end, while the Hicksite Friends held their meetings in the newer western part. A divider of doors hung on weights and pulleys was used to separate the two ends, or raised to extend the available area when required.

Services are still held in the meeting house although a declining congregation and inadequate heating have precluded winter meetings.

Military

In evacuating Philadelphia in favor of New York City during the American Revolution, some 15,000 British soldiers, under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton, marched through the center of New Jersey. The troop movement began on June 16, 1778 and the records indicate that Clinton's army encamped at Evesham on June 19, 1778. Evesham Meeting House was probably the center of this brief military campsite. Oral accounts and secondary sources confirm this, but Friends minutes make no mention of these war activities (this was not unusual in light of the pacifist precept of Quakers).

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

Evesham Friends Meeting House
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Bibliography

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Evesham Monthly Meeting Minutes.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Evesham Friends Meeting House

Continuation sheet Mt. Laurel, New Jersey

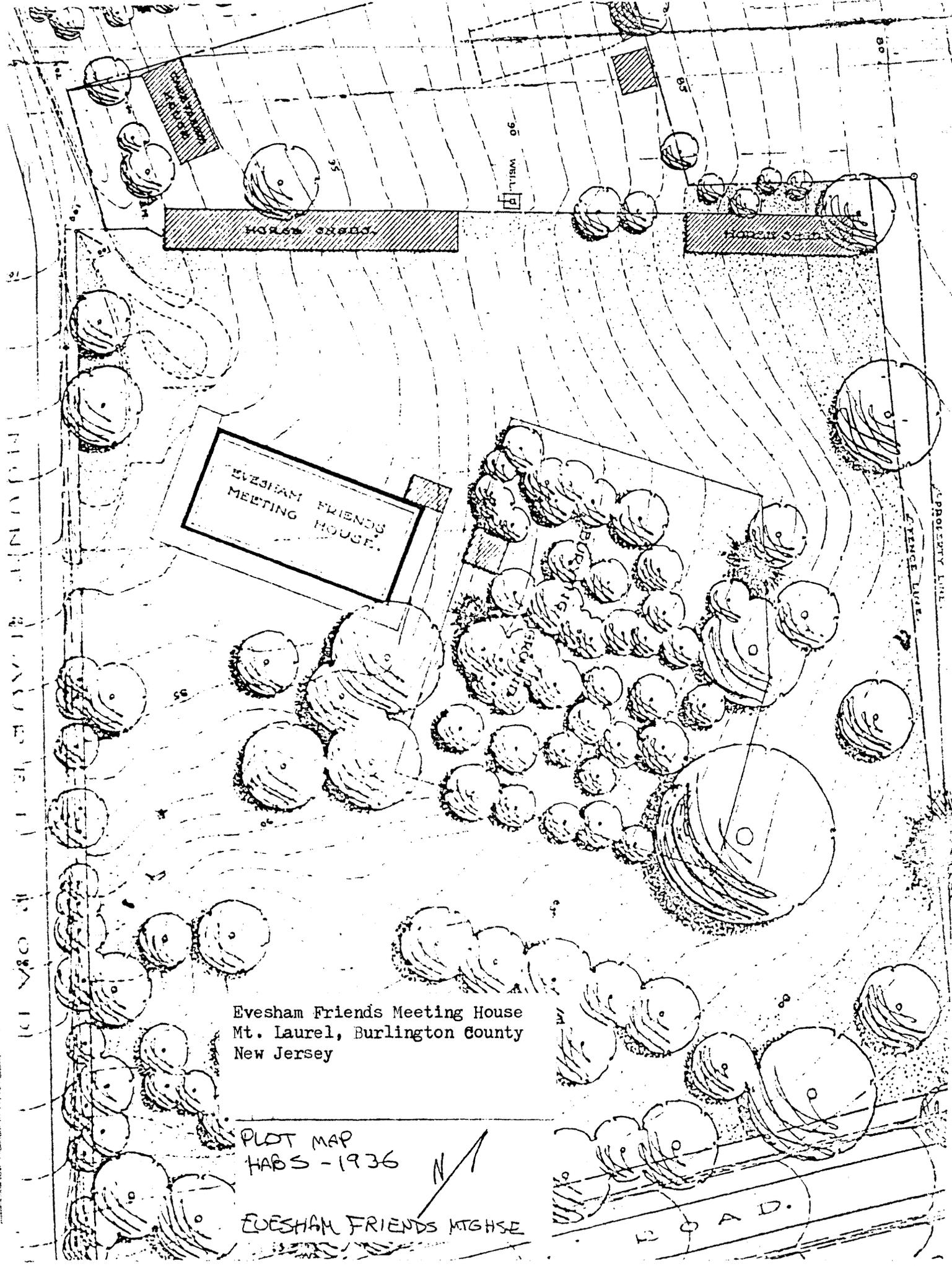
Item number 10

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Geographical Data

BEGINNING at a point in the center of the intersection of the Moorestown-Mt. Laurel and Hainesport-Mt. Laurel (Evesboro) Roads (1) North $26^{\circ}05'30''$ west, 428.80 ft., (2) North $39^{\circ}05'10''$ west, 52.46 ft., (3) North $42^{\circ}20'10''$ east, for a distance of 367.44 ft. to a monument, (4) South $27^{\circ}02'30''$ east, for a distance of 544.43 ft. to the center of Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Road, (5) South $52^{\circ}08'$ west 346.21 ft. down the road to the beginning.

This description is not recorded in any one deed as recited in the genealogical history. It is a composite of all the deeds which included purchases and selling parcels of land. The current plot plan was made by Harry Bowman, former Moorestown Township Engineer.



Evesham Friends Meeting House
 Mt. Laurel, Burlington County
 New Jersey

PLOT MAP
 HABS - 1936

EVESHAM FRIENDS MTG HSE



ROAD.

PROPERTY LINE
 FENCE LINE

90
 W.S.I.L.

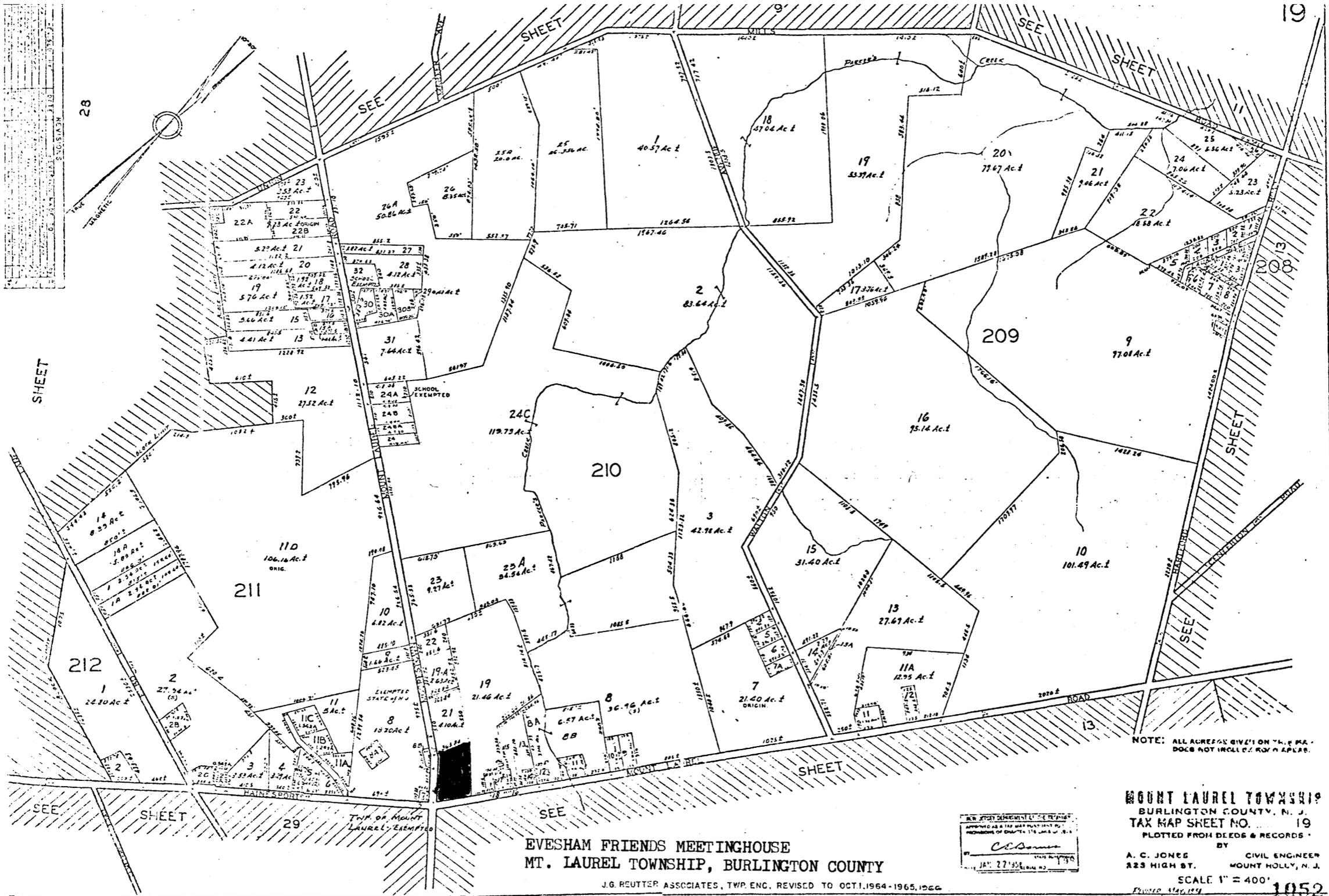
35

80

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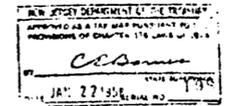
PLANNING BOARD FILE NO. 101



NOTE: ALL ACREAGE GIVEN ON THIS MAP DOES NOT INCLUDE ROW OR PLAR.

**EVESHAM FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE
MT. LAUREL TOWNSHIP, BURLINGTON COUNTY**

J.G. REUTTER ASSOCIATES, TWP. ENG. REVISED TO OCT. 1, 1964-1965, 1966



**MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP
BURLINGTON COUNTY, N. J.
TAX MAP SHEET NO. 19
PLOTTED FROM DEEDS & RECORDS**

BY **A. C. JONES** CIVIL ENGINEER
225 HIGH ST. MOUNT HOLLY, N. J.

SCALE 1" = 400'

1052