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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Quaker Farms Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 467-511 Quaker Farms Road

NA  not for publication

city, town Oxford

NA  vicinity

state CT

code CT

county New Haven

code 009

zip code 06483

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

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

#### Category of Property

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>19</u>    | <u>4</u>        | buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | sites      |
| _____        | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| <u>19</u>    | <u>4</u>        | Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. 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.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

6/27/91  
Date

Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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]

8/9/91

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
/secondary structure  
RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
/secondary structure  
RELIGION/religious structure  
HEALTH CARE/hospital

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal  
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY  
REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, CONCRETE  
walls WOOD/Weatherboard, Shingle  
roof ASPHALT, METAL/Tin  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Quaker Farms Historic District in the Town of Oxford lies west of the north-south ridge that divides the Housatonic and Little rivers. The 12 properties of the district front on Quaker Farms Road (State Highway Route 188), which carries steady but modest traffic. The district consists of Christ Church Episcopal (1814), its most significant architectural resource, and nearby houses in the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles, built from 1720, many of which were homes of families that helped found the rural church and have supported it over the years.

Christ Church Episcopal faces west, close to the road. It is a rectangular white clapboarded edifice without portico but with an entrance composition of doorway with flanking paired Roman Doric pilasters and Palladian window. The doorway and its accompanying window are in a projecting tower, which is tied to the main building by two cantilever beams and rises to a high three-stage steeple designed in the manner of James Gibbs. The two tiers of five 12-over-12 windows in the side elevations are large in size, occupying a high proportion of the wall space. At the second floor, the windows have Gothic-arched heads filled with interlacing tracery above the small-paned sash. The central section of the Palladian window is the same. (Photographs 3, 4, 5)

On the interior, a three-pointed archway separates the entrance from the sanctuary. Galleries run around three sides, rounded at the back and curved at the front. Columns supporting the ceiling have Ionic capitals, and a second Palladian window with central Gothic arch pierces the east wall over the altar. (Photographs 6, 7, Figure 1)

The Greek Revival house (1836) across the street at 467 Quaker Farms Road is a temple-style example of the mode, having portico and three bays of 6-over-6 windows under a strong pediment, with tympanum of smooth boarding, in its front elevation. The rural character of the property is highlighted by the substantial frame outbuildings. (Photographs 1, 2) Another Greek Revival house (1844) stands at 487 Quaker Farms Road. It is ell-shaped, with entrance in the angle of the ell. Each end elevation has two bays, projecting gable roof without pediment, and typical rectangular attic window. The absence of pediments and the projection of the roof suggest the oncoming Italianate style. This property has the

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most extensive outbuildings in the district: a two-story structure with arched windows at the first floor (purpose of the building unknown), an old garage, a gambrel-roofed barn, and several chicken coops. (Photographs 10, 11)

The structure at 486 Quaker Farms Road (1800), a reminder of the district's modest industrial history, was converted from a carriage manufactory to a five-bay Colonial design with Greek Revival central doorway. Its neighbor at 494 Quaker Farms Road (1935) is a modest Colonial Revival house with a portico whose coved ceiling is supported by paired posts.

Across the street, 489 Quaker Farms Road is the only Queen Anne-style house in the district. The turned posts and sawn brackets of its hipped-roof porch and the fish-scale shingles covering its gable end are unmatched elsewhere. The two-bay house at 491 Quaker Farms Road (1725) is perhaps the oldest in the district, but has been altered from time to time so that it now presents a vernacular appearance. (Photograph 12) Its 1/2-story barn of vertical siding has a small pyramidal-roofed cupola. (Photograph 13) A series of alterations also is reflected in 511 Quaker Farms Road (1772); today the principal block of the house is the three-bay section (1805) added in the Federal style. (Photograph 15) Its coved portico resembles the similar Colonial Revival portico at 494 Quaker Farms Road. (Photograph 14)

The district forms a nucleated settlement of houses mostly built from the mid-18th to mid-19th centuries. All frame and all modest in size and architectural pretension, they form a setting and foil for the church with its outstanding architectural features.

There is one vacant lot in the district, included for visual continuity, and one vernacular house (1933) at 473 Quaker Farms Road, which is considered to be contributing. Two non-contributing houses are the Ranch (1974) at 490 Quaker Farms Road and a recent Colonial Revival residence (c. 1970s) at 495 Quaker Farms Road.

The houses physically form a cohesive group, a settlement adjacent to the church. Beyond them are open spaces. The church and its neighbors are an easily identified entity, a rural grouping along Quaker Farms Road.

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Inventory

In the following inventory, the first column indicates by C or NC whether the resource is considered to Contribute to the historic and architectural significance of the district, or to be Non-Contributing. The second column gives the street address, the Assessor's map, block, and lot number of the property, and the names(s) of the owner(s). The owner(s)' mailing address is the same as that for the property unless an additional address is given. The date of construction is shown in the third column. Dates are taken from the Assessor's records unless otherwise indicated. E indicates the date was taken from Early Houses of Oxford. V indicates visual approximation. A brief description is found in the fourth column.

|   |  |          |  |
|---|--|----------|--|
| C | 467 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-53-5A)<br>Oleyer, G.R. & S.W.         | 1836     | Tomlinson-Lum House.<br>2-story frame Greek Revival<br>L-shaped gable-roofed house.<br>Three bays face street, with<br>door at left flanked by<br>pilasters under entablature of<br>plain architrave and frieze with<br>projecting molded cap. Windows<br>are 6-over-6 except for<br>rectangular attic window.<br>(Photograph 1) |
| C |  | c.1930 V | Pyramidal-roofed garage, covered<br>with clapboards. (Photograph<br>2)   |
| C |  | c.1900 V | 1/2-story frame gable-roofed<br>barn with vertical siding; 1-<br>story wing to south. (Photo-<br>graph 2)  |
| C | 470 Quaker Farms Road<br>(21-62-11, 12)<br>Christ Church Episcopal | 1812     | Christ Church Episcopal, George<br>Boult of Southford, architect.<br>Frame Federal/Gothic Revival 39'<br>x 52' rectangular edifice with<br>projecting square front tower.<br>Windows at first floor are 12-<br>over-12, at second floor 12-over-<br>12 under added top section of<br>pointed arch with interlacing               |

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tracery. Foundations are random rubble stone. Siding is white pine clapboards (original), 4 1/2" exposed to weather, nailed to 4" x 4" studs. All corners have corner boards paneled by means of applied moldings. (Photograph 3)

At first floor of tower, which projects three feet, paneled double door is flanked by two reeded Doric pilasters on each side, which support cornice with flat brackets. Above door, blind balustrade forms base for Palladian window whose sections are separated by reeded pilasters; middle section has Gothic-arched head. (Photograph 4)

At level where roof intersects tower is small Gothic-arched window, while above it in first stage of belfry is, on front and side elevations, false window in form of vertical ellipse filled with interlacing moldings. Second stage, belfry proper, stands on tower deck; it is octagonal; louvers fill each of eight sides. Third and final stage, surrounded by Chippendale balustrade whose posts carry urns, is also octagonal, but smaller. On each of eight faces is false pointed arch opening filled with interlacing moldings. Above, lower half of ogee roof is shingled; upper half is covered with metal. Wrought-iron weather vane (not original) extends above cylindrical wooden

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finial. Roof framing is typical post-and-purlin construction. (Figure 1) Timbers are hewn oak. (Photograph 5)

Immediately inside front door, stairways rise to galleries. On first floor, two aisles divide 1858 slips and lead to altar and chancel, which are of 20th-century origin. (Figure 1) Dados of wide boards cover side walls up to windows. Above, walls are plaster, painted. Galleries are supported by square reeded posts. Their paneled fronts are framed above and below by gold-colored rope moldings and dentil-like courses. (Photograph 6)

Above gallery fronts, square posts become round oak columns rising to primitive Scamozzi Ionic capitals. In unique arrangement, side galleries are joined at west end in rounded curve and terminate near east end (not extending to front wall) in convex curvatures. (Figure 1), a unique arrangement. (Kelly, p. 156) Ceilings above side galleries are flat, but in middle area ceiling is four feet above them, supported by half-barrel vaults along each side. (Figure 1) Crystal chandelier is 1881 gift from Trinity Church, Seymour, which received it as a gift from St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, New York. Originally lighted by candles, then kerosene lamps. At rear of galleries is 699-pipe E. & C.C. Hook & Hastings (Boston) organ of c. 1872, gift, in 1951, of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ansonia. Its tall walnut

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case, divided into pointed-arch openings for pipes, has architectural front of columns with foliate capitals in heavy Victorian design. Fronts of pipes are stenciled in blue and gold. Organ obscures the Palladian window of front elevation.

Second Palladian window, twin of first, is in east wall at front of church; now glazed with stained glass. (Photograph 7)

32' x 98' parish house addition to north dates from 1960.

- |    |  |        |  |
|----|--|--------|--|
| C  | 473 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-53-4)<br>Blaurock, W.B. & J.R                                 | 1933   | 1-story frame vernacular house covered with clapboards. Irregular fenestration. Central chimney in front slope of gable roof. On site of David Tomlinson's 19th-century store. (Photograph 8)  |
| NC |  | 1982   | Frame garage/barn.   |
| C  | Quaker Farms Road<br>(21-62-AR1)<br>Shuster, G.G.<br>19 Carriage Drive<br>Oxford, CT 06483 |        | Vacant land, included for visual continuity.   |
| C  | 486 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-58-43)<br>Fowler, Thomas & Linda                              | 1800 E | Carriage House.<br>2-story frame Colonial house with five bays and central entrance, on ashlar stone foundations. Converted from carriage manufactory, c. 1869. North bay, first floor, is without window. Door has Greek Revival enframingent with plain wide pilasters and plain wide architrave and frieze under flat cap. (Photograph 9) |

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- |    |   |            |  |
|----|---|------------|--|
| C  | 487 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-53-3)<br>Munson, R.L. & P.         | 1840       | Hotchkiss-Tomlinson House.<br>2-story frame Greek Revival<br>L-shaped house covered with<br>clapboards. Entrance through<br>screened porch in angle of L.<br>6-over-6 windows. Attic windows<br>glazed in Greek Revival fret<br>pattern. Additions to rear.<br>(Photograph 10)                         |
| C  |   | c. 1900 V  | 2-story frame building with<br>round-arched windows at first<br>floor. (Photograph 11)   |
| C  |   | c. 1930s V | Garage. (Photograph 11)  |
| C  |   | c. 1900 V  | 1/2 story frame gambrel-roofed<br>barn. Now veterinary hospital.<br>(Photograph 11)  |
| C  |   | c. 1900 V  | 1-story frame chicken coop.<br>(Photograph 11)   |
| C  | 489 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-53-2)<br>De Gennarro, J. & E.      | 1860       | Eliza Tomlinson House.<br>2-story frame Queen Anne T-<br>shaped house with three bays.<br>Door at right. Hipped-roof porch<br>supported by turned posts and<br>sawn brackets. Windows are 12-<br>over-12, an anomaly. Attic gable<br>end is covered with fish-scale<br>shingles. Tin shingles on roof. |
| C  |   | c. 1930s V | Frame pyramidal-roof garage.   |
| C  |   | c. 1900 V  | Frame ice house.   |
| NC | 490 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-58-44A)<br>McClelland, D.A. & B.A. | 1974       | Raised Ranch.  |
| C  | 491 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-53-1)                              | 1725       | Griffin-(David) Tomlinson House.<br>2-story frame 2-bay vernacular   |



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|    |   |                          |  |
|----|---|--------------------------|--|
|    | Rex, R.E. & C.A.  |                          | plank-wall construction house on high stone foundations. Shed-roofed porch protects central entrance. Served as Post Office. After 1950 fire, chimney was removed and roof raised. Roof covered with metal shingles. (Photograph 12)   |
| C  |   | c. 1900 V                | 1/2-story barn. Novelty siding of east elevation indicates alterations, c. 1920s. (Photograph 13)  |
| C  | 494 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-58-44)<br>Bernhardt, E. & M. | 1935                     | 1-story frame Colonial Revival gable-roofed house. Central doorway is flanked by paired 6-over-1 windows. Square columns support coved-ceiling portico similar in design to that at 511 Quaker Farms Road. (Photograph 14)   |
| NC |   | 1972                     | 2-story gambrel-roofed shingled garage with residential rooms on second floor.   |
| NC | 495 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-42-D1)                       | c.1970s V                | 2-story, frame, Colonial Revival 5-bay house behind old stone wall.  |
| C  | 511 Quaker Farms Road<br>(13-42-9)<br>Dann, W. & K.H.     | 1720<br>1772<br>on house | Perry-Pangman House. 2-story frame Federal 3-bay house with roof line parallel with road. Door in left bay has 5-pane transom. 12-over-12 windows with flat molded caps replace 2-over-2 windows installed in 1870. Paired round columns support coved-ceiling gable-roofed portico. Wing to south is original section. Ell to rear. Addition built in 1805 is 3-bay section seen from |

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street. (Photograph 15)  
Chimney is off-center to  
right; three windows as a  
group are off-center to the  
right. Foundations are granite  
ashlar, while siding is  
clapboards. Sited on bank  
above road.

C

c.1920s V

Frame garage with diamond-shaped  
window over doors.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1725-1935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1725-1935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

George Boulton  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Quaker Farms Historic District is significant architecturally because it consists of an outstanding Federal/Gothic Revival church and its accompanying nucleated settlement of houses constructed from mid-18th to mid-19th century. The houses are good examples of their styles, but are equally important because they form a background setting or foil for the dramatic features and fine architectural character of Christ Church Episcopal.

**Historical Background**

In the 17th century, the height of navigation on the Housatonic River was at Derby, nine miles southeast of Quaker Farms. As early as 1683, settlers one at a time were pushing further inland from Derby along the Derby-Woodbury Road (now Quaker Farms Road) to the Quaker Farms area in what was to become the Town of Oxford. The name Quaker Farms was in use at the time, but the reason for the name is unknown. Early (1708) settlers, freemen of Derby, included members of the Tomlinson, Hotchkiss, Nichols, and Lum families, names which are associated with houses in the Quaker Farms Historic District and with the early history of Christ Church Episcopal. A petition for a separate New Derby (Oxford) parish was granted by the General Court of Connecticut in 1741, and in 1798 the Town of Oxford was incorporated, using land taken from Derby and Southbury.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church was established in Oxford center in 1764. By the early 19th century, when a sufficient number of Episcopalians resided in the Quaker Farms area and the number of complaints about traveling the 2 1/2 miles to Oxford center was increasing, Christ Church was established as a chapel of St. Peter's. David Tomlinson was chairman of the building committee. Consecrated September 3, 1817, by Bishop Hobart, Christ Church became a separate parish in 1827.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (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

Specify repository:

Connecticut Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 15

UTM References

A      
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B      
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The district boundary is shown by the dotted line on the map drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include properties occupied by Christ Church Episcopal and adjacent houses. Generally, property lines are followed, except at the rear of 487 Quaker Farms Road where an arbitrary line is used for the purpose of excluding agricultural acreage.

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title David F. Ransom, Consultant

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date 12 January 1991

street & number 59 South Prospect Street telephone 203 566-3005

city or town Hartford state CT zip code 06106

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Architectural Significance

The overall design, proportions, and detailing of the interior and exterior of Christ Church Episcopal make it a fine example of its type. For example, it is of interest that the the proportions are carefully and regularly worked out: the width of the tower is one-third the width of the front elevation, while the depth of the building is 1 1/3 times the width. It is to be noted that the projecting tower rises directly from grade, in the manner of Christopher Wren's churches, to its great height. While the general layout of the building is consistent with Federal/Adamesque practice common at the time, as are the presence of the elliptical windows in the tower and the use of Palladian windows, the Gothic pointed arches and accompanying tracery are not. The close relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Church of England, which strongly favored medieval forms during the 19th century, may explain the presence of the Gothic windows at Quaker Farms. If so, the influence of the mother church had indeed reached out to the frontier.<sup>1</sup>

Fine detailing on the church ranges from the raised moldings of the exterior corner boards to the series of small curved shapes arrayed in dentil-like courses on the interior gallery fronts. The curved shapes of the galleries themselves are also unusual and fine.

"The interior of the edifice is one of the most interesting in Connecticut," Kelly wrote, "due not only to its beauty but also to the fact that it has been so little changed."<sup>2</sup> While this statement about little change may be true on a relative basis, there have been several interior changes over the years, including removal of the high staircase pulpit (1858), replacement of the square box pews with slips (1858), changing the glazing of the chancel window from small panes of clear glass to stained glass (1878), painting the interior white (1879 - original color unknown, but thought not to be white), installation of the present chancel platform, altar, and pulpit, which are not original, and adding the pipe organ (1879) and the chandelier (1880).

Despite these changes, the integrity of the building as a whole, exterior and interior, is good, reflecting the outstanding quality of the church's design and workmanship.

The houses that are near the church, while less dramatic than the church in their quality, are good examples of the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles. By providing a record of the settlement and development pattern of the district, the houses contribute an important component to its significance. The agricultural character of the outbuildings contributes to the historical authenticity of the district, as does the association with the Tomlinson,

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Hotchkiss, Nichols, and Lum families with both the houses and the church. As a group the houses and barns form an appropriate historically- and architecturally-related context for the outstanding quality of the church. The splendor of the church in the rural community is exceptional; an explication of the circumstances surrounding its inception to explain so architecturally distinguished a design is not at hand. Perhaps its construction is a demonstration of the power and outreach of pattern books based on the work of Robert Adam, the English architect whose work influenced the Federal style, books published in England and distributed in America, as well as similar books of American origin.

1. Similar Gothic-arched windows appear in Trinity Episcopal Church (1802), Milton Historic District, Litchfield (listed in the National Register of Historic Places April 23, 1976). Milton is an equally remote location to feel the influence of the Church of England. The windows at Milton may be an alteration, subsequent to 1802 (see National Register nomination).

2. J. Frederick Kelly, Early Connecticut Meeting Houses (New York: Columbia University Press, 1948), p. 126.

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Bibliography

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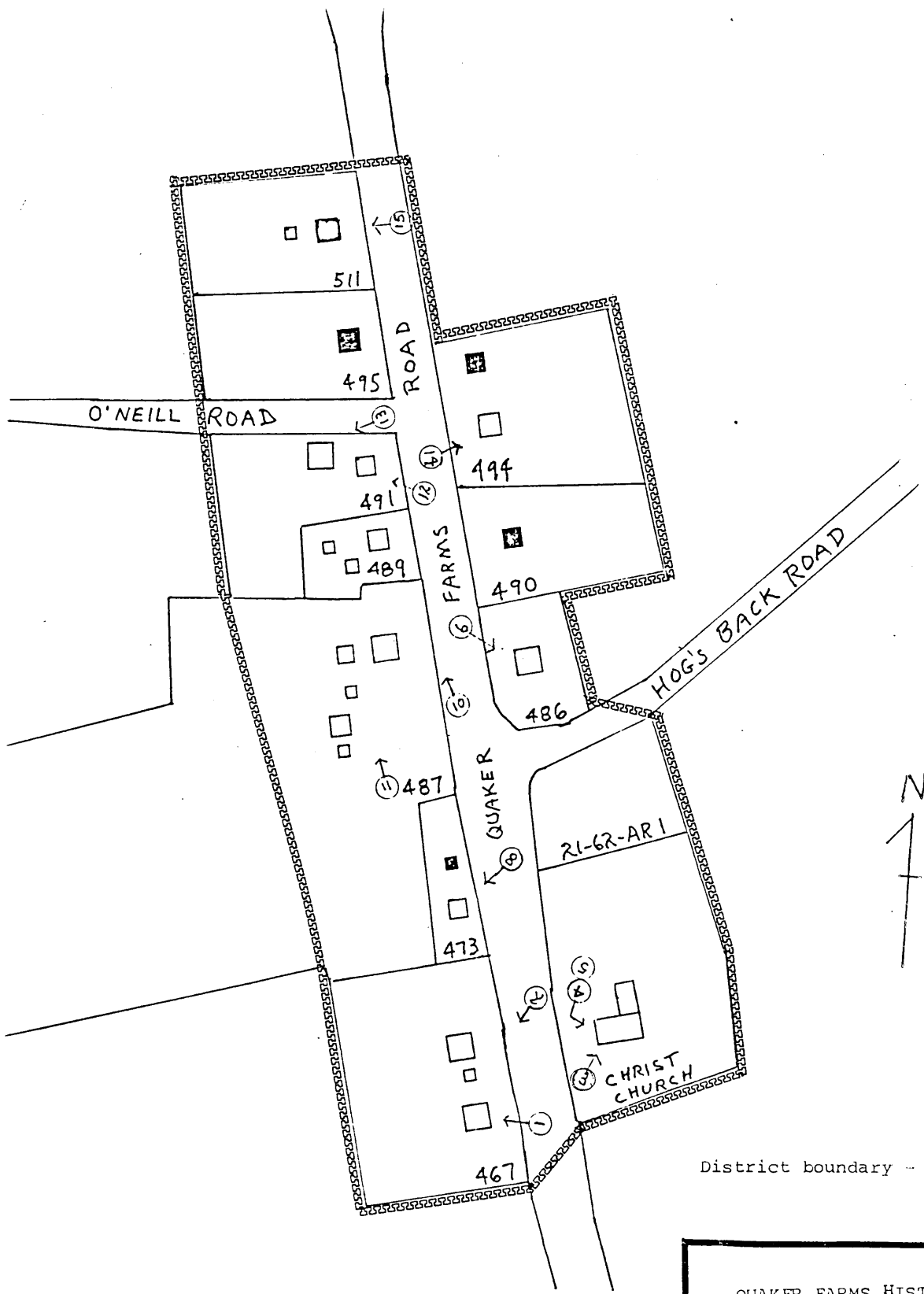
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UTM References

- A 18/654050/4587000
- B 18/654140/4587480
- C 18/654000/4587450
- D 18/653900/4587960
- E 18/653950/4587970
- F 18/654000/4587900





District boundary - ~~~~~~

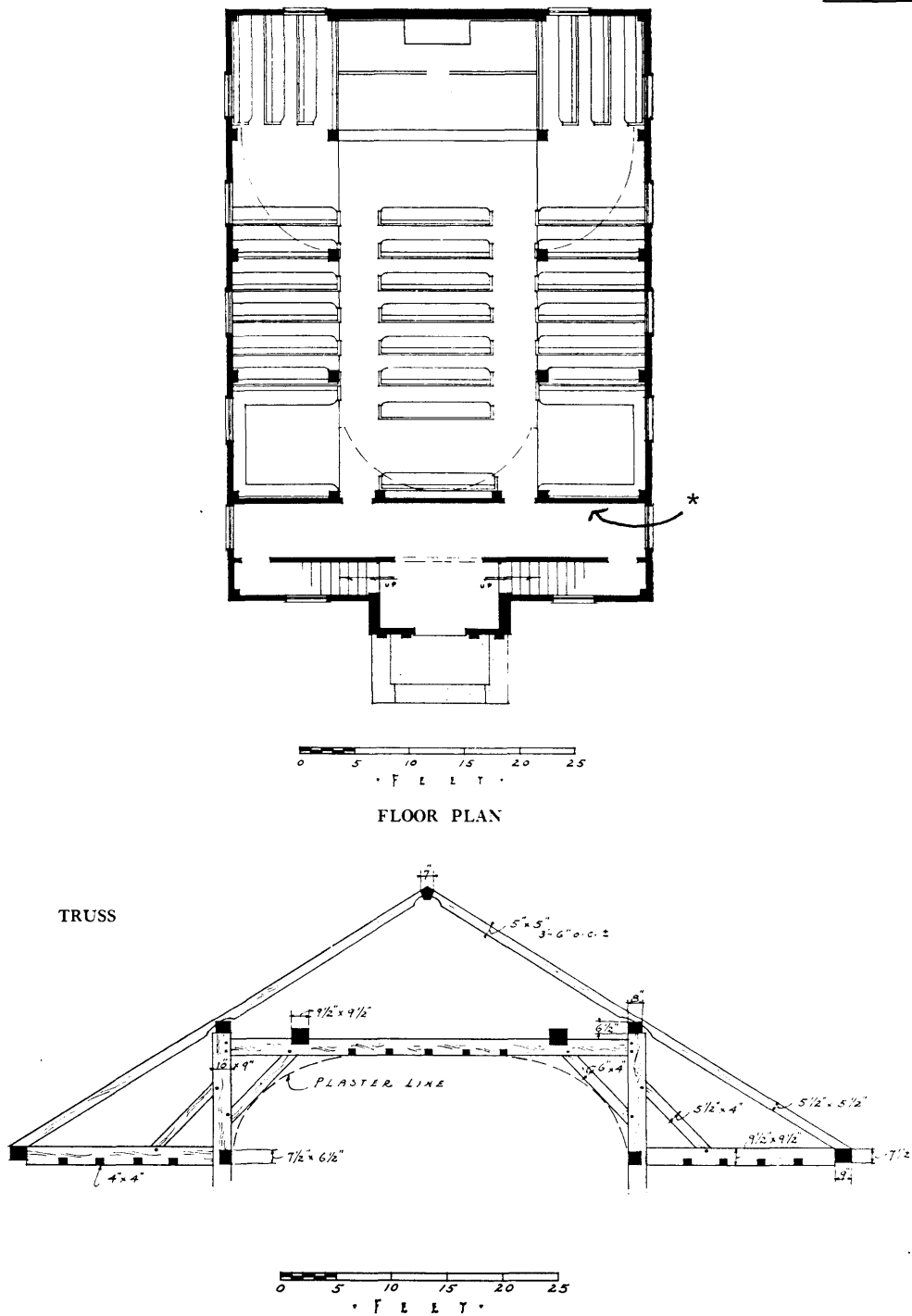
QUAKER FARMS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Oxford, CT

- Contributing
- Non-contributing
- ⊙ Photo key

Scale: 1" = 260'

Quaker Farms Historic  
District  
Oxford, CT

Figure 1



J. Frederick Kelly, Early Connecticut Meeting Houses (New York: Columbia University Press, 1948, v. 2, pp. 156, 161.

Figure 1

\*The added wall at the rear of the pews has been removed since Kelly made this drawing.

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Photographs were taken by David F. Ransom in December 1990. Negatives are on file at the Connecticut Historical Commission.

467 Quaker Farms Road, view west, Photograph 1

467 Quaker Farms Road, barns, view southwest, Photograph 2

Christ Church Episcopal, view southeast, Photograph 3

Christ Church Episcopal, Palladian window, view east, Photograph 4

Christ Church Episcopal, steeple, view southeast, Photograph 5

Christ Church Episcopal, interior, view west, Photograph 6

Christ Church Episcopal, interior, view east, Photograph 7

473 Quaker Farms Road, view southwest, Photograph 8

486 Quaker Farms Road, view southeast, Photograph 9

487, 489, 491 Quaker Farms Road, view northwest, Photograph 10

487 Quaker Farms Road, view north, Photograph 11

491 Quaker Farms Road, view northwest, Photograph 12

491 Quaker Farms Road, barn, view southwest, Photograph 13

494 Quaker Farms Road, , view east, Photograph 14

511 Quaker Farms Road, view west, Photograph 15