

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Montgomery</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Plymouth Friends Meeting House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Corner Germantown and Butler Pikes**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Plymouth Meeting**

STATE <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>3742</b>	COUNTY: <b>Montgomery</b>	CODE <b>091</b>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Plymouth Meeting Society of Friends**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Corner Germantown and Butler Pikes**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Plymouth Meeting**

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE: <b>4237</b>
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Montgomery County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Airy and Swede Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Norristown**

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE: <b>3742</b>
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks**

DATE OF SURVEY: **June 1, 1970**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**William Penn Museum**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1026**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Harrisburg**

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE: <b>3742</b>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
COUNTY: Montgomery  
ENTRY NUMBER: 3742  
DATE: 3/7/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

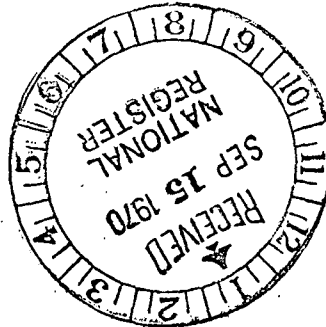
(Check One)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
				<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Meeting House was probably built in 1708 of native limestone, in the Colonial style. In 1780, the eastern wing was added to be used as a school, and to replace the original log cabin school on the premises.

In 1867, the interior was damaged by fire but the original walls remained sound and the interior was rebuilt pretty much as the original. At this time a porch was added across the entire front of the building.

In 1945, another wing was added to the rear of the building, which is now used as a social room.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1708 1780 1867

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first Quakers to own this site were Francis Rawle and James and Elizabeth Fox, who bought 5327 acres from William Penn in 1686. About two years later these families moved to Philadelphia and sold their land to Welsh Quakers.

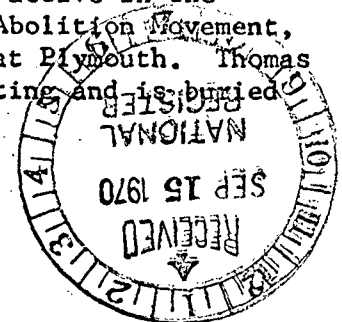
Before the erection of the present Meeting House, meetings were held in the homes of friends in the area. As early as 1691, William Penn wrote from London, "Commend me to the Friends at Plymouth Meeting."

The first deed for the Meeting property was dated October 6, 1704. Title was given by Lumly Williams for two pounds to Isaac Price, William Dickinson, Abraham Dawes and John Roads, elders of the Meetings.

About this time, friends conducted a school on the premises in a log cabin. It was the first school in the Township and still flourishes here. The Meeting played a primary role in organizing and developing education in the area. David Rittenhouse (clock maker and astronomer) went to school here and one of his clocks is still in use in the Meeting House.

During the Revolutionary War, the Meeting House was used as a hospital and gathering place for George Washington's troops. There is a letter written by Mordecai Gist of Baltimore, a distinguished officer in the American Army. It is headed, "Camp at Plymouth Meeting House, the 13th day of the 12th month, 1777." This was when the army was at Gulph Mills, six days before going to Valley Forge. The letter begins: "I have these two nights past taken up my quarters in this House of Contemplation."

Prior to the Emancipation Proclamation, Plymouth Meeting was a hub of Underground activity. Plymouth Meeting Friends were active in the movement. Lucretia Mott, while campaigning for the Abolition Movement, at Abolition Hall across the road, attended meeting at Plymouth. Thomas Hovenden, internationally known artist, attended meeting and is buried in the graveyard.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bean's, History of Montgomery County  
 Roberts, Ellwood, Plymouth Meeting  
 Cranor, Abbie, Research for 200th Anniversary of Plymouth Meeting Friends

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 06' 06"	75° 16' 48"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Helen Reichart Mirras, Historical Committee

ORGANIZATION

Plymouth Meeting Historical Society

DATE

12/30/69

STREET AND NUMBER:

807 Inverness Lane

CITY OR TOWN:

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

4237

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

[Signature]

Title

Executive Director

Date

Sept 8, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

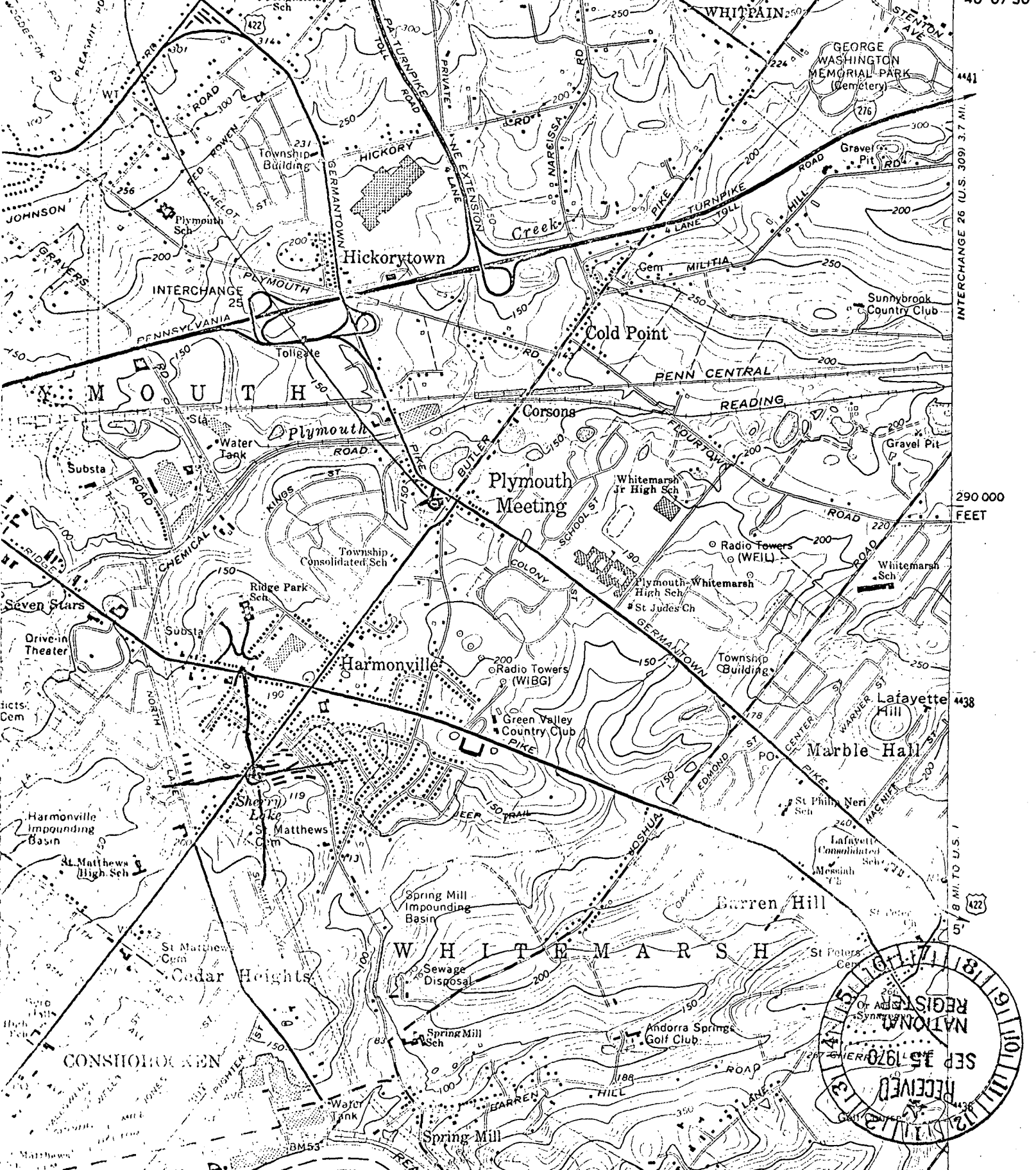
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# PLYMOUTH FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

NORRISTOWN QUADRANGLE  
PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SE/4 NORRISTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

5964 11 NW  
(LAMBLER)

POTTSTOWN 22 MI. PENN SQUARE 1.9 MI. 17'30" ALLENTOWN 37 MI. INTERCHANGE 31 (PA. 63) 10 MI. 2 690 000 FEET 477 478 75°15' 40°07'30"



INTERCHANGE 26 (U.S. 309) 3.7 MI.

290 000 FEET

8 MI. TO U.S. 1

RECEIVED  
SEP 15 1970  
NATIONAL REGISTER