

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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
CATAWISSA FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of South Street near corner of Third

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Catawissa

VICINITY OF

11th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Columbia

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Borough of Catawissa

STREET & NUMBER

North Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Catawissa

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Columbia County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

35 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bloomsburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

6/5/36

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Catawissa Quaker Meeting House is a one-story log structure approximately thirty (30) feet by 27½ feet. The building has a stone foundation, wood floors, log walls and a wood shingle roof.

It is a one-story structure with a loft. The interior walls, ceilings and partitions are constructed of wide white pine boards which have been left unfinished. The exterior is made of hand hewn timber, v-notched at the corners and filled between with a mortar of mud and pebbles. The door latch is hand forged iron, fastened with hand-made nails.

The interior is divided into two rooms, with a partition made of white pine boards with a beaded joint. The partition is constructed like a dutch door and opens horizontally. The pews are plain, straight narrow planks. On either side of the partition (men's and women's side), there is one bench built squarely against the front of the meeting house and six other pews on the side. Only two of the pews have backs which are merely one thin board or slat.

In the main meeting room, a wood burning stove remains from an early date. The other room contains a stove of slightly later vintage. Two primitive tables are also to be found in the meeting room.

The small windows are protected by board shutters attached to the exterior with strap hinges. The chimneys are brick covered on the exterior with stucco.

The building has been faithfully and authentically restored and rests on its original site and foundation.

The Catawissa Quaker Meeting House was included in the Works Progress Administration effort and was designated as official project #65-1715. Four drawings were made at that time (6/5/36) and are on file at the Library of Congress. The survey is #PA 212, 6/5/36 drawn by R. W. Lear. The WPA project was called the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

B 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION			
<input 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 1789 circa

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Catawissa Friends Meeting House is thought to be the first completed house of worship in the valley of the North Branch of the Susquehanna between Sunbury and Wyoming. In 1774, Quakers from Berks County began settling in the area.

The Catawissa Friends held worship services in their homes at first as an "Indulged Meeting", allowed by Exeter Monthly Meeting. In 1787 one and one-half acres of land were made available to the Friends by William Hughes. Title to the tract was conveyed to Moses Roberts, John Mears, Thomas Clayton, and Job Hughes as Trustees. This was to be the site of the Friends meetinghouse, which was built in 1789.

Friends met for worship in this meetinghouse and in 1796 they achieved monthly meeting status. Catawissa Monthly Meeting included in its membership Friends from Roaring Creek, Catawissa, Fishing Creek, and Muncy. However, migrations away from this region, especially to Ohio and Canada, depleted the membership, so that by 1808 the Monthly Meeting was laid down, and Muncy became the monthly meeting for the area. In 1814 the worship groups of Catawissa and Berwick merged with Roaring Creek to become known as Roaring Creek Monthly Meeting. First-day meetings continued to be held in the Catawissa meetinghouse until 1856. From then until about 1890 the meetinghouse was not in use.

Around 1890 Miss Mary Emma Walter singlehandedly took charge of the meetinghouse, opening it every Sunday and worshipping there. She also cleared away weeds and cleaned the meetinghouse. She carried on this service of love and faithfulness until a few months before her death in 1930. Today it is used as an educational resource for the schools.

This meetinghouse remains as evidence of a determined and faithful group of Quaker pioneers in Columbia County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .95

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	3	7	6	9	4	0	4	5	3	4	1	2	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Marjorie Robbins & Mr. John L. Walker

ORGANIZATION

Catawissa Garden Club

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

115 South Fourth

TELEPHONE

717-356-7069

CITY OR TOWN

Catawissa

STATE

Pennsylvania 17820

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE **WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director**
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 1-18-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CATAWISSA FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

A History of Catawissa Pennsylvania, Jeanne B. Roberts and John R. Albright co-editors, 1974.

History of Columbia and Montour Counties, J. H. Battle, 1887.

History of Columbia County, John G. Freeze, 1883.

History of the Catawissa Quaker Meeting and the Roaring Creek Quaker Meeting, Willard R. Rhoads, 1963.

Atlas of Columbia and Montour Counties, F. W. Beers and Co., 1876.

