

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	27
DATE ENTERED	

**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
Newtown Friends Meetinghouse and Cemetary
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Court Street
CITY, TOWN
Newtown
STATE
Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF
8
CODE
42
COUNTY
Bucks
CODE
017

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Newtown Monthly Meeting of Friends, Inc.
STREET & NUMBER
Court Street
CITY, TOWN
Newtown
STATE
Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Bucks County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Main and Court Streets
CITY, TOWN
Doylestown
STATE
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places
DATE
November 4, 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
CITY, TOWN
Harrisburg
STATE
Pennsylvania

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The original portion of the Newtowns Friends' Meetinghouse constructed in 1817 consists of a two story stone stucco structure 40' x 60' with a gable roof. At the time of construction the second story was left uncompleted. Floor boards for the second story were not laid until 1900. The plan of the meetinghouse is similar to other Friends' meetinghouses of the time with six pairs of exterior doors with orientation of one long side of the building toward the south. This meetinghouse has the simplest of cornices and is completely devoid of ornaments saved for the date stone (1817) presently concealed by plaster in the west gable.

The building is six bays long and three bays deep. The second story windows are interestingly smaller than the lower, leaving a large wall gap between the two ~~rows~~ rows of windows. First story windows are 6 over 9 with narrow stone sills. Second story windows are 6 over 6. The upperstory gable windows have been enlarged to 9 over 9. All the windows have panelled shutters most with their original hardware.

All six of the original panelled, plank-backed doors are still in use. Two pair of doors in the north wall and the one pair of doors in east wall are as originally installed, hung with the original hardware. The two pair of doors in the south wall and the one pair in the east wall have been provided with astragels and rehung to open out. The doors are set above the floor level necessitating a large step down into the room.

Since 1817 several additions have been made to the building. Two masonry additions have been made to the east gable wall, the later (1957) being the more extensive. Clapboard now covers the east gable side and the upper sections of the additions. A full length one story porch was added to the south side in 1868.

The interior layout of the meetinghouse is interesting. In the main hall the addition of the second floor in 1900 created a 2 story well area at the front of the pews. This window-lined well creates an interesting natural lit sanctuary area. Until 1892 the main hall area was divided by a sliding partition to divide the mens and womens meetings. The hall is lined with broad board wainscoating. At the top of the wainscoating the plaster has been furred out so that the plaster face is slightly beyond the face of the wainscoating.

The second floor is divided into separate classrooms. The smaller second story windows have very wide and inward sloping sills.

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NEWTOWN FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE AND CEMETARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Along with the meetinghouse a long horse shed was built in 1819 for the protection of the members horses during meetings. Six stalls remain standing of which three have been enclosed are used for storage.

Next to the meeting house is a small cemetary many of the stones dating from the earlier days of the meetinghouse. The most noted person buried here was the meetinghouses' founder and first minister, Edward Hicks, Hicks is also known as Americas foremost primitive painter.

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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newtown Monthly Meeting owes its origin to Edward Hicks, primitive artist, who in 1815 gathered nearby friends to meet in the empty Court House, Newtown. In 1817 the main part of the meetinghouse was built, permission having been granted by the Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends at the earnest request of Edward Hicks and other Newtown Friends. Edward Hicks was the first minister to speak in the meetinghouse. First a sign painter, Edward Hicks turned to easel painting soon after his becoming a Quaker and his move to Newtown. His fame as a primitive painter grew during his years at Newtown. Busy as a minister at Newtown, many of his pictures were portraits of religious themes and the founding of "A Peaceable Kingdom" by William Penn in the wilderness. The involvement of Edward Hicks at the Newtown congregation and his guiding influence make the Newtown meetinghouse an important part of his life and work.

The Newtown Meetinghouse is an excellent example of a 19th Century, Quaker Meetinghouse. Devoid of any but the simplest decoration the meetinghouse shows the clean and uncomplicated style required by the Quakers. In excellent condition, the Newtown Meetinghouse has seen little alteration since its construction and uses most of the original hardware and furnishings. The meetinghouse, horse shed and cemetery offer a fine example of a 19th Century religious complex so important in the life of its members.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beans, L. L., The Life and Work of Edward Hicks, Newtown Enterprise, Newtown, Pa. 1951, pp. 8-9.

Ford, Alice, Edward Hicks, Painter of the Peaceable Kingdom, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1952, p. 30.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.0

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	3	5	0	5	4	4	0	4	4	5	2	5	8	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

Lois C. Mammel Kenneth A. Mammel / Susan Zacher

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Newtown Friends Meeting

10/18/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Court Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Newtown

Pennsylvania

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

TEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Hicks, Edward, Memoirs of the Life and Religious Labors of Edward Hicks, Late of Newtown, Bucks County, Pa., written by himself Merrihew and Thompson, Philadelphia, 1851, p. 70.

Historic Pennsylvania Leaflet No. 22, text by Dr. Harold E. Dickson, edited by Dr. S. W. Higginbotham and Donald H. Kent, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, 1960, p. 6.

Kenderdine, Thaddeus S., "Newtown Meeting and Its Establishment, Centennial of Newtown Friends' Meeting", Newtown Enterprise, Newtown, Pa., 1915, pp. 14, 18, 20.

Mather, Eleanore Price, Edward Hicks, Primitive Quaker, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 170, Wallingford, Pa., 1970, pp. 3, 9.

Matlack, T. Chalkey, "Newtown Meeting, "Historical Sketches Concerning Friends' Meetings", Moorestown, N. J., 1938, (a typescript in the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Pa.), Vol. 1, p. 115.

Pullinger, Edna S., A Dream of Peace, Edward Hicks of Newtown, Dorrance & Company, Philadelphia, 1973, p. 12.

Smith, Dr. Lettie A., "Edward Hicks, " Solebury Meeting, November 18, 1884, A Collection of Papers Read Before the Bucks County Historical Society, B. F. Fackenthal, Jr., Riegelsville, Pa., Vol. 1, The Chemical Publishing Co., Easton, Pa., undated (1905?), p. 224.

LANGHORNE QUADRANGLE
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