

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Bucks
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wrightstown Friends Meeting Complex

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 413 at Wrightstown

CITY OR TOWN:
Wrightstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Eighth

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE: 42

COUNTY:
Bucks

CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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 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 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)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wrightstown Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 413 at Wrightstown

CITY OR TOWN:
Wrightstown

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bucks County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Doylestown

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: Bucks

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.

Wrightstown Friends Meeting is a two-and-one-half story, gable-roofed structure of stucco-over-stone construction typical of late eighteenth century rural architectural style.

Sometime after 1721, a one-story log cabin meeting-house was erected on the site of the present meeting. In 1735, the "space before the gallery" of the original meeting house was floored over to make an upper room. Two years later, a one-story addition of local shale stone was built at the north side. The log meetinghouse remained until 1787, when it was replaced by the present structure.

Between 1787 and 1789 the present meetinghouse was erected, utilizing the stone walls of the 1737 addition, raised to the two story height. The building, of local shale stone, measured 40' x 65'. The yellow-tinged stucco is believed to have been utilized to conceal the fact that the stonework was done at different times by different masons. The six-bay structure features a pent eave at the attic level of each gable end, twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the first story and twelve-over-eight sash windows on the second with panelled shutters flanking both. Two pairs of panelled double doors are located in the east elevation with a single pair of panelled double doors in both the north and south elevations.

*see addition
balcony on
all 4 sides.
originally*

The interior of the 1787 meetinghouse had panelled shutters on the first floor extending to the second floor ceiling to divide the balcony. The second floor was equipped with built-in tiered benches, of wide pine boards. The heavy movable benches of the first floor were arranged in rows that faced the gallery. Beginning in 1925, alterations of the interior were undertaken. These included replacement of the facing gallery in the south end of the meetinghouse with a platform, removal of the second floor balcony seats, and the flooring and subdividing into classrooms of the upstairs.

Several sheds, for the use of worshippers with horse or carriage, once stood on the property. Only one such shed remains, the most recent loss occurring as a result of fire in 1972.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Bucks	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

In 1845, the Monthly Meeting erected a two-and-one-half story, fieldstone schoolhouse to replace one built in 1815. The original schoolhouse on the site had been constructed in 1769. Early in the twentieth century the school became public and in 1941 was remodelled for use by the meeting's caretaker and for community functions.

ADDITION

present use

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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 Wrightstown Friends Meetinghouse is representative of local vernacular architectural style of the late eighteenth century in this section of Pennsylvania. Wrightstown Meeting dates from 1721, but meetings in an early Quaker settlement nearby date from as early as 1685. The present meetinghouse was erected to accommodate the needs of a growing community. The meetinghouse, in typical fashion, was multi-purpose, housing facilities designed for worship services, religious education, and monthly business meetings. One or two times a year meetings were held at Wrightstown for the benefit of all Quakers in Bucks County. Among the worshippers at Wrightstown from 1814-1820 was painter Edward Hicks, noted for his famous work, "The Peaceable Kingdom."

present use

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atkinson, D.W. Friendly Invaders.
 Battle, J.H. History of Bucks County.
 Davis, W.W.H. History of Bucks County, 2d. edition.
 Wrightstown Monthly Meeting Minutes
 Ford, A. Edward Hicks: Painter of the Peaceable Kingdom.
Old Houses in Bucks County, Volume 4.

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
NW	40°	15'	60"	74°	59'	08"			
NE	40°	15'	60"	74°	58'	51"			
SE	40°	15'	51"	74°	58'	51"			
SW	40°	15'	51"	74°	59'	08"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14.7

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: 1. Esther M. Atkinson
 2. Harvey Freedenberg, Student Aide

ORGANIZATION 1. Wrightstown Meeting DATE June, 1973
 2. Pa. Hist. and Mus. Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 1. Rt. 413 at Wrightstown
 2. William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Bldg.

CITY OR TOWN: 1. Wrightstown STATE Pennsylvania CODE 42
 2. Harrisburg

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 William J. Wewer
 Title Executive Director of

PA. Hist. and Museum Commission

Date 7/31/74

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

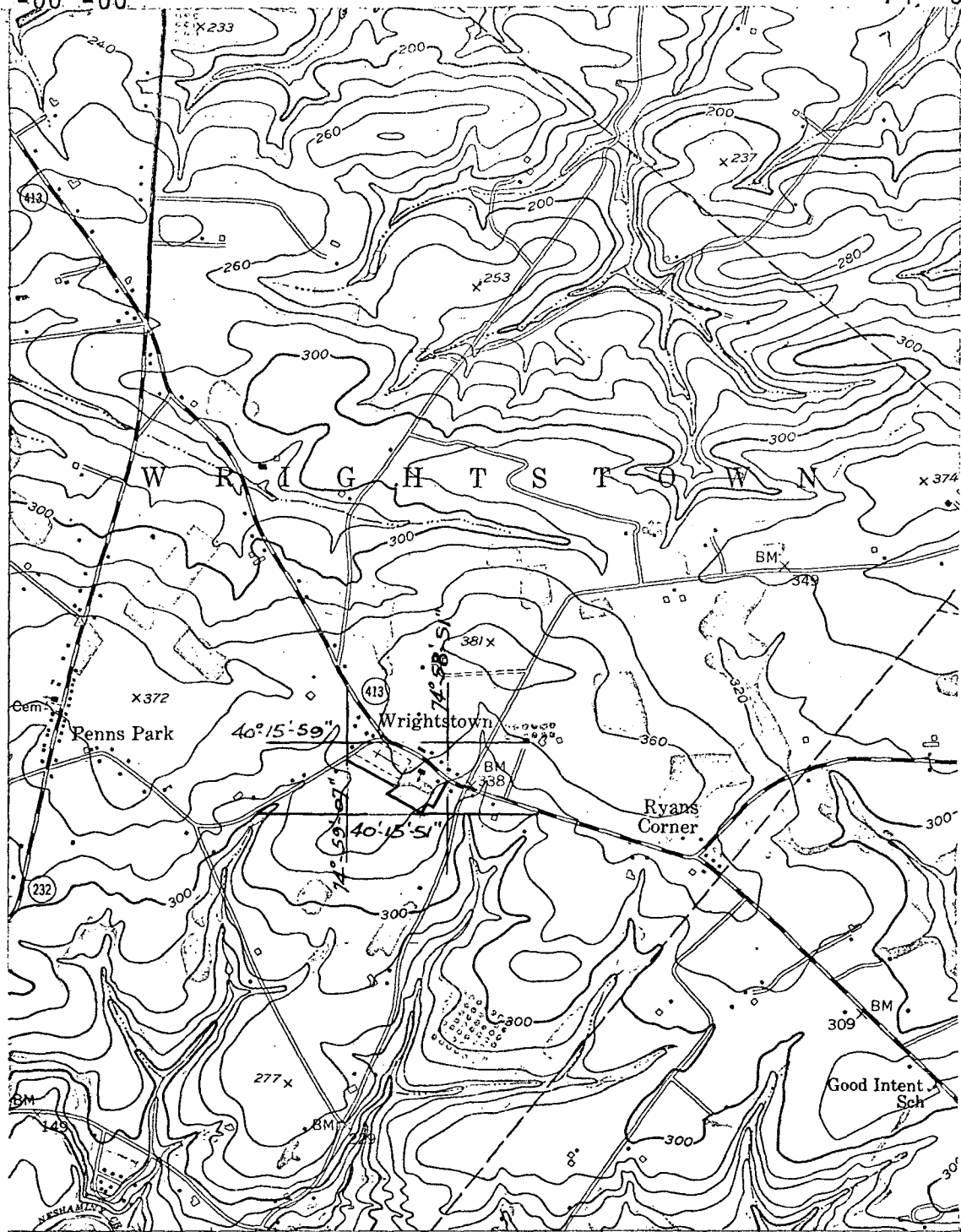
ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

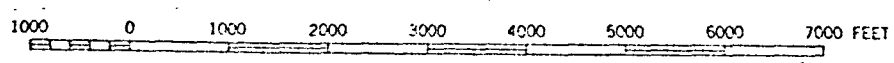
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

75°-00'-00" 74°-57'-30"
40°-17'-30" 40°-17'-30"



40°-15'-00" 75°-00'-00" 74°-57'-30" 40°-15'-00"



SCALE 1:24 000

WRIGHTSTOWN FRIENDS MEETING

Bucks County, Pa.

LAMBERTVILLE, PA.—N. J.

N4015—W7452.5/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1968

AMS 6064 IV SW—SERIES V831

