

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 15). 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 Slate Hill Cemetery
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Yardley-Morrisville Road at Mahlon Drive not for publication n/a
city, town Lower Makefield Township vicinity n/a
state Pennsylvania code PA county Bucks code 017 zip code 19067

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		structures
		<u>1</u>	objects
			Total
			<u>0</u>

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
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.

Brent D. Glass, PA Historical & Museum Commission

Signature of certifying official Brent D. Glass

Date 3/2/92

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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Funerary Cemetery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Funerary Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

n/a

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a

walls n/a

roof n/a

other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Slate Hill Cemetery is located at the intersection of Yardley-Morrisville Road and Mahlon Drive in Lower Makefield Township at the boundary of the township with Yardley Borough. It is approximately four miles from the Falls Meeting House. The surrounding area is essentially residential, and nearby on the Yardley-Morrisville Road is the colonial mansion house of Joshua Anderson. The cemetery was created in three sections: a plot granted by Thomas Janney in 1690 located nearest the intersection; a section granted by Abel Janney in 1721 immediately to the northwest along the Yardley-Morrisville Road; and the last part granted by Joshua Anderson in 1788 further to the northwest along Yardley-Morrisville Road. The two Janney grants were made to the Falls Meeting and are the Friends section of the cemetery; the Anderson plot was granted to the township as the township's first public cemetery. The burials in the cemetery date from 1698 to 1918. The cemetery is bordered by a stone wall along the Yardley-Morrisville Road and Mahlon Drive. Many mature trees are scattered throughout the one and a third acre cemetery, in which there are no buildings. The cemetery has very good integrity.

The Friends section contains 487 graves of which 185 are marked. Most of these burials pre-date 1800, according to a Federal Works Projects Administration survey sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission in 1941. Most of the unmarked graves represent the final resting place of the early settlers in Lower Makefield, virtually all of whom were Quakers and members of the Falls Meeting. Grave markers were placed in very rough rows running southwest to northeast. Three types of markers are found in the Friends section. Over eighty per cent are brownstones. Another approximately two dozen markers are wood painted white or wire wickets. There is no carving on any of the stones. They are simply engraved with information on the person's name, date of death and age, and sometimes the name of a spouse or parent.

The Friends section has the only seventeenth century gravestone (dated 1698) in Bucks County, and one eighteenth century gravestone dated 1753. The 1698 stone is 27 inches above ground, 18 inches wide, and 6 inches thick with a semicircular curve on top. It is simply engraved "1698 here lye the body of Joseph Sharp son of Christopher Sharp." The second stone of similar size is also simply engraved, "Here lies the Body of John Brown who departed this Life the 15 April 1753 aged 56 years." The last burial in this section was that of Martha E. White in 1918.

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The public section contains 96 marked graves, including graves of six free African Americans who served in Volunteered Colored Regiments during the Civil War. Grave markers are arranged in rows running southeast to northwest. The earliest gravestone in this section is dated 1860 and the most recent 1914. Gravestones have no carving. They are engraved similarly to those in the Friends section, although Civil War veterans have the name of their unit engraved also. The six African American graves are those of William Ganges (1901), Torbut Ganges (1887), Thomas Miller (1884), Jefferson Mosley (1908), George Congo (1901), and Samuel Harmon (1903).

There is a need to repoint some sections of the stone wall and reset and straighten some of the gravestones, but otherwise the graveyard is much as it has long been.

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)

Exploration/Settlement
Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1698-1908

Significant Dates

1698

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

The Slate Hill Cemetery is one of the two oldest burying places in Bucks County, both being established in deeds dated June 4, 1690 conveying land in Lower Makefield and Falls Townships to the Falls Monthly Meeting of Friends. The Slate Hill Cemetery, located about four miles from the Falls Meeting house, has the distinction of having the only seventeenth century gravestone (dated 1698) in Bucks County. It also has one eighteenth century gravestone dated 1753. Many of the graves are eighteenth century and represent the early Quaker settlers in Lower Makefield. The other cemetery established in 1690, located across the road from the Falls Meeting House, is largely devoid of marked graves and has no stones earlier than the first decade of the nineteenth century. The dates of unmarked graves in this cemetery are not known. The Slate Hill Cemetery has the added distinction of including the graves of six free African Americans who served in Volunteer Colored Regiments during the Civil War.

In 1681 William Penn was granted what is now Pennsylvania by King Charles II and Penn arrived here in the fall of the following year to organize the colony. At the Assembly of March, 1683 the eastern portion of the colony was divided into three counties: Chester, Bucks and Philadelphia. In 1692 the part of Bucks County along the Delaware River was divided into five townships: Makefield, Falls, Middletown,

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Bristol and Bensalem. William Penn selected a site near the falls in Bucks County to build his manor of Pennsbury and in 1683 he gave the land near the falls on which the Falls Monthly Meeting of Friends subsequently built the first meeting house in 1692. This place is now know as Fallsington. Prior to 1692 the meetings were held in private homes. The Falls Monthly Meetings was the mother of all subsequent monthly meetings established throughout the county.

Virtually all the first settlers in Bucks County were Quakers from all over England who were seeking refuge from persecution in the mother country. Some forty families settled in Falls and Makefield in the first few years. Among these individuals were William Yardley, Richard Hough, and Phineas Pemberton who were prominent in the Falls meeting and in colonial government. Another individual, Thomas Janney, a prominent Quaker preacher, from Styal in Cheshire, purchased a grant in Lower Makefield of more than one thousand acres where he built a plantation complete with a mill pond and a water mill. The mill pond is still a prominent feature on Core Creek today. He was an important member of the Falls Meeting to which he granted the original section of the Slate Hill Cemetery in 1690. In 1695 he returned to England to visit friends and died there the following year at age 63. He had four sons who were active in the community and the Falls Meeting.

Joshua Anderson, who appeared in Lower Makefield in the mid-eighteenth century, acquired portions of the Janney grant and adjoining properties. He became a man of substance and his mansion house still stands on the Yardley-Morrisville Road nearby the Slate Hill Cemetery of which he was the grantor of the third section in 1788, it being the first public burying place in the township.

The two gravestones in the Slate Hill Cemetery dated 1698 and 1753 are very significant examples of early Bucks County gravestones. These two stones are starkly simple and unadorned, and it is readily apparent that the stone cutters who made these stones did so in conformity with the plain Quaker traditions. In contrast, the elaborate and beautifully carved gravestones popular in New England and Virginia cemeteries in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries derived from traditional English designs used since Elizabethan times. These stones often included flattering epitaphs and were appropriate heraldic designs of family arms. The plainness of design of Quaker gravestones continues to the present time and is typical of the gravestones in the new section of the Falls Meeting graveyard in Fallsington where only the name and years of birth and death are engraved on the stones.

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There was a community of free African Americans which had existed in the Yardleyville section of Lower Makefield since early in the nineteenth century. It was an unusual feature of a country town such as Lower Makefield. These people derived their freedom largely from the Quaker practice of manumission. When the Civil War began, able men of this community volunteered to fight for the Republic, and six of these veterans of the GAR now lie interred in the part of the cemetery granted by Joshua Anderson.

In 1990 the Falls Meeting of Friends granted the 1690 and 1721 sections of the cemetery to Lower Makefield Township.

Davis, W.W.H., "History Bucks County, PA" (Revised) A. Lear, Inc.
Pipersville, PA 1975 Vol I pp 36-90; Vol III pp 1-12, 55-62, 122-126

"Bucks County Cemeteries" MMS in Bucks County Historical Society,
Doylestown, PA

Bucks County Deeds: Books 1 p327; 10 p186; 17 p206; 37 p72,
Bucks County Register of Deeds, Doylestown, PA

PA Historical & Museum Commission Comprehensive Sites Survey -
Lower Makefield Township by Bucks County Conservancy,
Doylestown, PA 1981 p 24 (integrity rated good)

Old-Time New England, Bulletin of Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities
Vol LXIV No. 2 1973 Special Issue on Gravestone Carving.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.325 A

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>514675</u>	<u>4453350</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a corner of the Yardley-Morrisville Road at Mahlon Drive thence
N44°15'W along said road 463.65 feet to the Township Line thence N83°45'E along said
line 188.1 feet to a corner thence E44°15'S 351.45 feet to a corner at Mahlon Drive
thence 148.5 feet along said drive to beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Actual boundary of cemetery.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph N. Thompson, Vice Chairman
organization Lower Makefield Township Historical Com. date March 1991, Revised July
street & number 1006 Lehigh Drive (Home) telephone (215) 493-3084 (Home)
city or town Yardley state PA zip code 19380

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The 1941 Federal Works Project Administration survey is referenced in letter of Ralph N. Thompson to Dan Deibler, January 14, 1992.

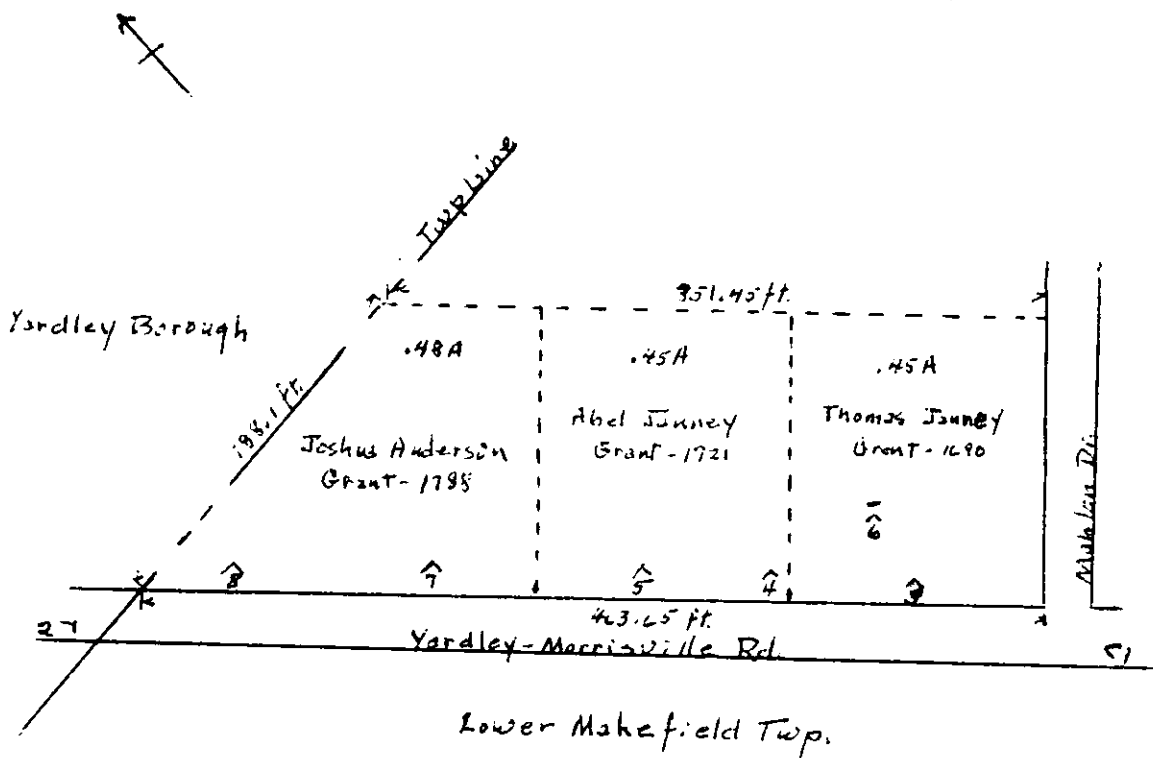
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SITE PLAN SLATE HILL CEMETERY



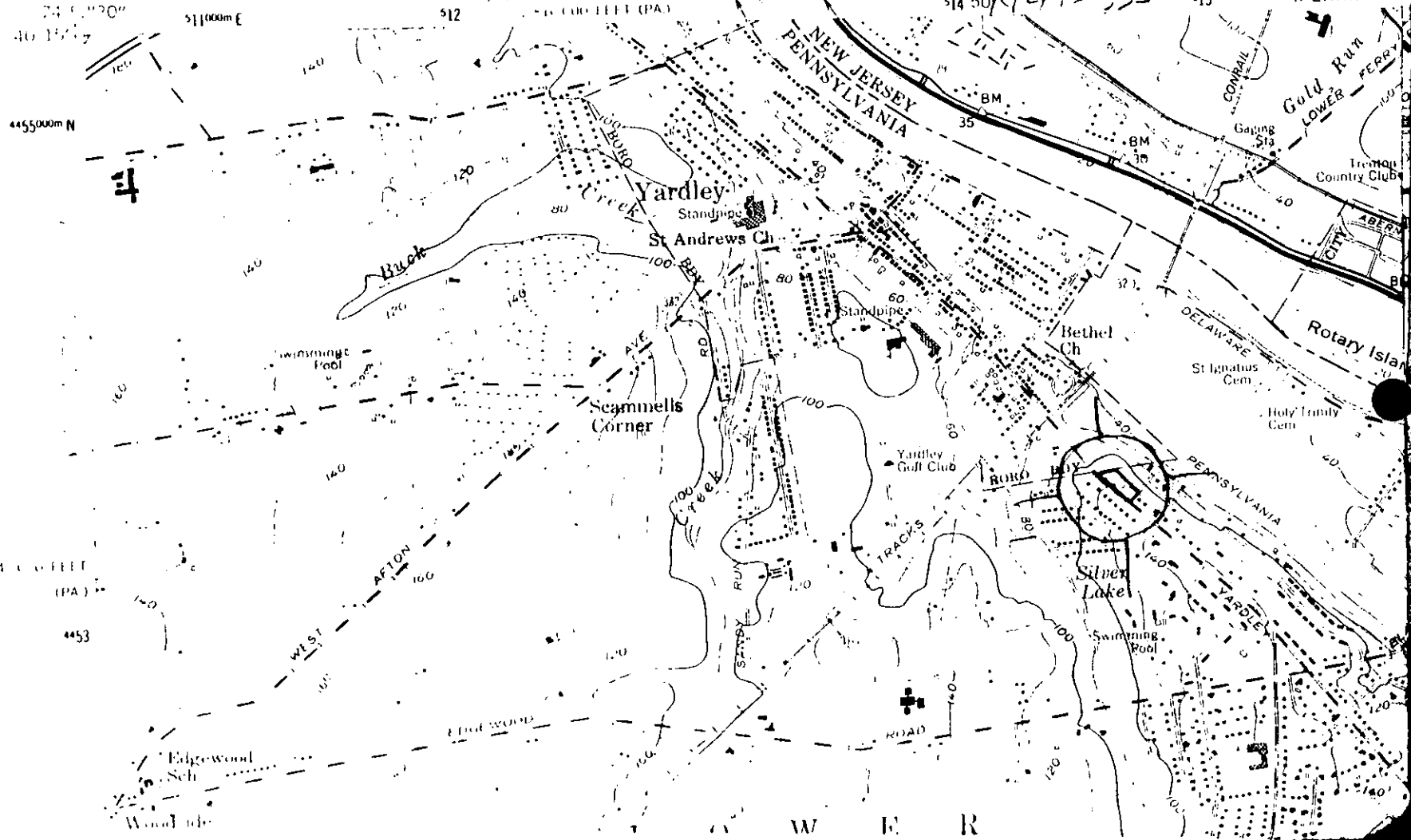
Scale: 100 ft/in

6064 IV SW
(LAMBERTVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Sketch of
Bucks County - Zone
Trenton 12307
F. 2. 14. 75
(445335)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
6064 IV
(PENNINGTON)



W E R