

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel

other names/site number Providence Meeting House

2. Location

street & number Intersection SR4038 & SR4036 W of Route 51 N/A  not for publication

city or town Perry Township N/A  vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Fayette code 051 zip code 15473

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brent Glass Dr. B. Glass, Exec. Dir. 9/11/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

PA Historical and Museum Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

- 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Providence Quaker Cemetery & Chapel  
Name of Property

Fayette County, PA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	1	structures
		objects
3	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

FUNERARY/chapel

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

FUNERARY/chapel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

other: NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE

roof METAL/TIN

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Settlement / Exploration

**Period of Significance**

1790-1895

**Significant Dates**

1895

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 603840 4436340  
Zone Easting Northing  
2         

3           
Zone Easting Northing  
4         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clinton E. Piper, Preservation Consultant

organization for Terry Necciai & John Axtell date June 1997

street & number RD #4, Box 89A telephone 412.537.2738

city or town Latrobe state PA zip code 15650

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Quaker Church Cemetery

street & number c/o Friends of Little Redstone telephone   

city or town Perryopolis state PA zip code 15473

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

*Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

Section Number 7 Page 1

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Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel in Perry Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania stand on a commanding hilltop at the intersection of SR 4036 and SR 4038 on a 1.1 acre plot one mile west and south of Perryopolis. The chapel was built circa 1895 on the site of the original Providence Meeting House, oriented to the south. The chapel is in a rural area characterized by rolling farmland with the immediate grounds comprised of a cemetery of approximately sixty headstones. Many more graves are unmarked. The grounds are defined to the north, east, and west by a contributing circa 1895 cast iron fence. Only about 40'-0" of the fence is intact along the southern edge of the cemetery. The remaining 125'-0" of fence along the southern edge of the cemetery has by replaced with a circa 1960 non-contributing chain link fence. The 20' by 30', one-story, roughly-coursed stone building was intended to serve as a cemetery burial chapel. (*Photos #1 and #2*)

The chapel has three openings across the south elevation or facade with two openings on the north elevation. It has a gabled roof of tin and standing end chimneys. The centered doorway with no actual door, is flanked by two windows which have metal bars in place of sashes. The facade contains a bronze tablet which reads: "Providence Meeting of the Society of Friends," sometimes called the "Quakers" was established at this site in 1789. Worshipped in a log structure until 1793 when a meetinghouse built of stone was erected. The stone used in the construction of this chapel was recovered from the ruins of the old meetinghouse." (*Photo #3*)

The interior of the chapel has whitewashed stone walls with two gable end fireplaces with large integral stone chimneys. The floor is dirt and the ceiling is open to the roof. The interior is unfurnished. (*Photo #4*) Historic photographs indicate the building did have a solid wood door, where there is now none. The building has changed little since its erection in 1895. Despite some vandalism, the Providence Chapel retains integrity.

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*Youghiogeny Bank of Pennsylvania  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

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ceiling of, one of the second floor bedrooms of the addition leads to the attic.

The circa 1935 alterations and additions to the Bank Building are sufficiently sympathetic so as to preserve the integrity of the original structure. Changes to the windows did not result in a change of the original size of the opening, only the type of windows. Photographs from the late nineteenth century indicate that the bank had simple Federal style wooden door and window surrounds and a bracketed cornice on the roof gable at that time. The alterations are minor, documenting 1930s attitudes towards historic vernacular buildings and prevailing standards of rehabilitation and adaptive use. The bank building exhibits integrity considering its age and the succession of uses it has served.

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*Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

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The Providence Quaker Cemetery is significant under Criterion A, for Exploration and Settlement, as representative of the Quaker settlement and meeting in the Perryopolis area which was central to the historic development of the area. The property meets Criteria Consideration A, for a Religious Property and Consideration D, as a cemetery which reflects early Quaker settlement no longer displayed by other local resources associated with Quakerism. The chapel was primarily constructed for utilitarian reasons and serves secondarily as a monument to early settlement by Quakers. The period of significance for the property begins in 1790 with use as a Quaker meeting place and ends in 1895 with the erection of the present chapel and cast iron fence.

The majority of early families in the Perryopolis area were Quaker. The Quaker settlement centered on the Red Lion Valley, a level section of the Little Redstone Creek Watershed. Quaker families began arriving in southwestern Pennsylvania in the 1770s, when a group from Hopewell, Virginia settled west of Brownsville in Washington County. Providence Meeting, founded in 1789 (current site of Providence Cemetery), was one of eleven Quaker Meetings established in southwestern Pennsylvania between 1780 and 1800. Of these eleven congregations, nine were within a fifteen mile radius of Brownsville. Providence was one of the earliest and largest of these congregations, comprised mainly of families from eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. It was the focal point of Quaker settlement north of Brownsville. While there were originally many Quaker meeting houses and cemeteries, few buildings have survived into the present century, however many intact cemeteries exist.

The Society of Friends played an important early role in the development of the region. Bridgeport (now South Brownsville), Fayette County, was the center of the various Quaker settlements, geographically, as well as socially. Members of the society were prominent in Bridgeport history and helped to make this little community an important boat building center. When the *Enterprise*, one of the first steamboats on the western waters and the first to go to New Orleans and back on its own steam, was launched in 1814 it was piloted by Henry Shreve, a descendant of local Quaker lines who grew up in Perryopolis and Brownsville. Prosperous farms were established as well by early Quaker settlers in these various settlements.

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*Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

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However, in the 1830s, the Quaker settlements of Western Pennsylvania began to decline. The area was deeply effected by Elias Hicks, a traveling preacher, who founded a new Quaker theology. After the "Hicksite Controversy" most of the congregations split in two, and a second meeting house was built at nearly every meeting location, but this was not the case at Providence since the number of members was decreasing and many were transferring to other meetings. The number of Quakers gradually declined due to westward migration, tensions over abolition and military activities during the Civil War period. Between 1850 and 1870, most of the individual congregations ceased to meet, including Providence, which closed in 1870. Gradually, after 1870, the meeting houses fell into ruins. Many of the individual parcels of land were sold to other denominations or to cemetery associations. In either case, few original buildings remained intact.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the Providence Meeting House which was built in 1793 to replace an earlier log structure, was a derelict stone building in the midst of an actively used cemetery. According to local sources, over 500 Quakers were buried in the cemetery, but the graves were unmarked, following Quaker tradition, until after the Meeting House closed. After 1870, the descendants of the Quakers continued to use the cemetery, but began erecting markers. For the most part, the family names are the same as those among the membership of Providence Meeting: such as Cope, Hewitt, Griffith, and Brown.

Elma Cope Binns, a descendant of locally prominent Quakers, initiated the construction of a memorial building in 1895 on the place where Providence Meeting House stood. Fourteen of the original fifteen acres purchased by John Cope in 1793 for the meeting house were sold at the same time, leaving one acre for the cemetery and chapel. Some stone from the original building was used to erect a building of reduced size. It was centered inside the area on which the original building stood. It was intended that this building would serve as a chapel for funerals and as a shelter for family groups who might visit the cemetery.



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*Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

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The Providence Quaker Cemetery is an important tie to the early settlement period of the Quakers in Western Pennsylvania. Approximately 500 graves are believed to be located on this hilltop, ranging in date from soon after the establishment of the church in the 1790s, through the 1870s when the meeting house closed. Once closed, many of the unmarked graves were identified following Quaker tradition. This meeting house and cemetery served the Redstone and Jefferson Townships. No other comparable buildings have been identified in the region.

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*Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

**Section Number 9**

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Binns, David H. *A Brief History of Providence Meeting House*. (Locally produced memoir, circa 1960.) Photocopy located in the files of Historic Preservation Consulting.
- Cope, Vergena. *Quakers*. Seventh Grade History Paper, copy from Norma Allison of Perryopolis. Photocopy located in the files of Historic Preservation Consulting, n.d.
- Hinshaw, William Wade. *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, 1946. Chapter on Providence Meeting.
- Nelson, S. B. *Biographical Dictionary and Historical Reference Book of Fayette County*. Uniontown, PA: n.p., 1900.
- Inventory of Church Archives, Society of Friends in Pennsylvania*. Pennsylvania History Survey (WPA). Philadelphia: Friends Historical Association, 1941.

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*Providence Quaker Cemetery and Chapel  
Fayette County, Pennsylvania*

**Section Number 10**

**Page 1**

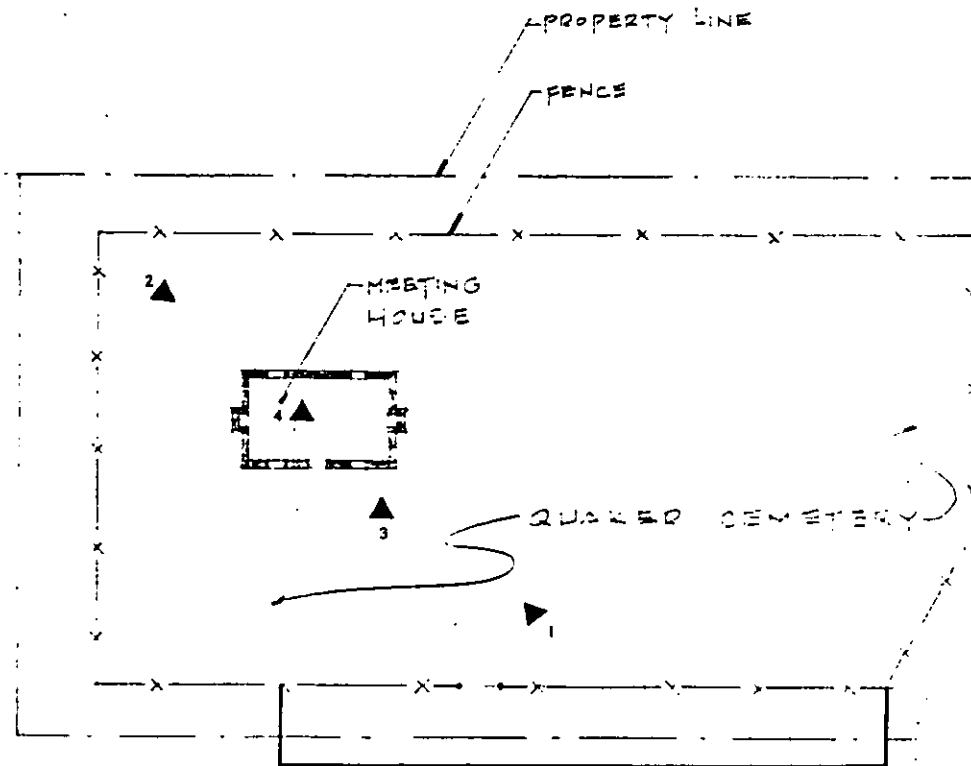
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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

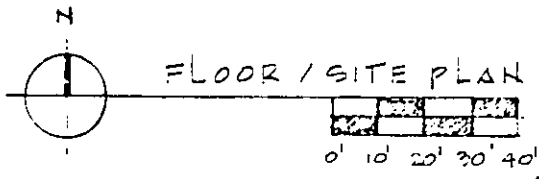
The boundaries of the nominated property are described on Tax Parcel Map #27-10-0027 at the Fayette County Court House, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This tax parcel contains a 1.1 acre parcel historically defined as the Providence Cemetery and Chapel.



approximately 125'-0"  
of chain link fence



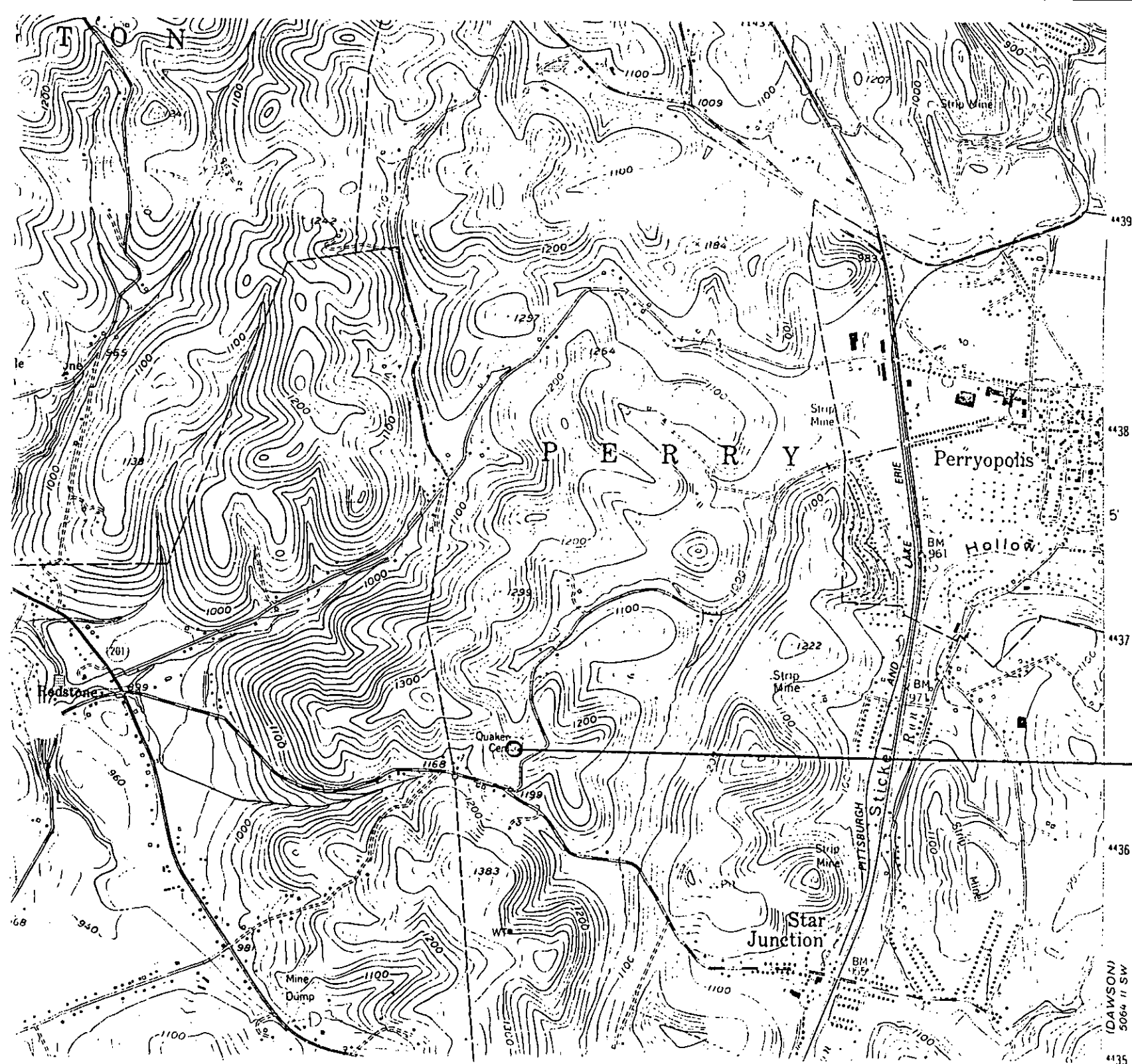
TITLE: PROVIDENCE QUAKER CEMETERY AND CHAPEL

TERRY A NECCIAI  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTING

DATE: DECEMBER 1996

SCALE: SEE VISUAL

DRAWN BY: SDC



Providence Meeting  
House  
Fayette County, W. Va.  
Fayette City Road  
16x17

1. 603640  
4436310

(DAWSON)  
5064 11 SW