

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 26 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 17 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

** *wh*
Quaker Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Maple Street Cemetery

CITY, TOWN

Adams

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Berkshire

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION NO MILITARY OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Town of Adams

STREET & NUMBER

Town Hall, Park Street

CITY, TOWN

Adams

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01220

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Town Hall, Park Street

CITY, TOWN

Adams

STATE

Massachusetts 01220

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (MASS-2-44)

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE 1934 (HABS)

1967

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Washington, DC

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

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 Quaker Meeting House is located within the Maple Street Cemetery in the western part of the town of Adams. According to town records, it was constructed sometime between 1781 and 1784. The simple two-story clapboard building measures 36½ feet by 28½ feet and has a ridge roof and brick chimney on the west end. The facade (south) facing Maple Street has double doors for separate entry by men and women. On either side of the doors are single windows with twelve-over-twelve lights and wooden shutters. Directly above these windows are corresponding windows on the second floor, these having nine lights.

The frame of the Meeting House is mostly oak and original, but the exterior clapboards have been replaced over the centuries. Photographs taken c. 1900, c. 1955, and c. 1970 indicate that replacement has been an ongoing process. Judging from the type of clapboards (butt-joined) and nails used, it is likely that some portions date from the mid to late 19th century, while the remainder are of mixed recent dates.

The roof is slate and appears to date from the late 19th century or early 20th century. The original roof was probably covered with wood shingles.

The foundation of the Meeting House was of field stone and existing evidence indicates that it was shallow, as there is no basement or excavated area beneath the structure. Some time in the 1930's, however, the remains of the stone foundation were removed and a concrete foundation poured around the structure.

The interior of the building has been essentially untouched, and the interior wooden surfaces show no major deterioration after 200 years.

The plan of the Meeting House is divided for separation of men and women. On the first floor the division consists of eight feet of fixed partition with a door near the main entrances and elsewhere of movable paneled sections, one hinged at top and four sliding up. The dividing wall on the second floor consists of one-inch wide pine boards fixed in position. The first floor is nine feet high and the second floor is eight feet. The total area on both floors for men is ten square feet more than for women. Seating consists of rows of benches. There is one fireplace on each floor, located on the west (women's) side. There is no evidence of the use of paint on the building.

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 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 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

1781-1784

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Quaker Meeting House in Adams is significant as one of the few remaining examples of eighteenth century Friends meeting house architecture and is important for its associations with the early settlement and history of Adams.

The town of Adams (originally East Hoosuc) was settled soon after 1769 by a group of Quakers, most of whom were from Smithfield, Rhode Island and nearby Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The Friends soon owned nearly all the farms in the valley. They worshipped for a time in their homes, usually in that of Isaac Killey, and in the early 1780's built the present meeting house. The adjacent cemetery was used by the Friends for a considerable period before the Meeting House was built, and not until 1797 was the land formally deeded by Isaac Killey, John and Patience Lapham, John Russell and James Lapham, to John Lapham and John Wells who held it for a brief period before turning it over to the Society of Friends.

The Quaker Meeting House was constructed so that men and women could hold separate meetings. There were two outer doors for separate entrances and movable partitions allowed for privacy during the separate meetings. In the religious service the partitions were raised. Women sat on the left (west) side where they received the benefit of the fireplace. On the elevated seats were seated visiting preachers and leaders, including Hannah Hoxie, a talented preacher who occupied the high seat on the women's side for many years. Since there were no evening meetings, there was no provision for lighting the building. On Sundays, when there were two services, those coming from a distance brought their lunch and stayed to both services.

The highway past the Meeting House was originally an Indian trail, known as the Pontoosuck Path, which connected with the Mohawk Trail in the north part of the valley. It is now appropriately called Friend Street. One of the early settlers on this road was David Anthony, whose family occupied a prominent place in the town and whose great-granddaughter Susan B. Anthony became a national and world-wide figure. A famous suffragist, Susan B. Anthony no doubt developed her concern for temperance and freedom for women from her Quaker heritage.

The Friends worshipped in the Adams Quaker Meeting House until they moved to western New York. The Meeting House is now under the care of the Adams Society of Friends Descendants and serves as their annual meeting place. It is owned by the town which also cares for the burial ground in front of the Meeting House where the pioneer Friends rest in their unmarked graves.

The architectural significance of the Quaker Meeting House lies in its virtually unaltered and well-preserved interior which continues to illustrate a people and way of life important in the history of Adams.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Barlow, Edwin T. Architectural report on the Quaker Meeting House. Adams, 1934.
 Dewey, Rev. Chester. History of the County of Berkshire. Adams, 1829.
 Hart, David M. Architectural report on the Quaker Meeting House. Boston, 1975.
 Holland, Joseph Gilbert. History of Western Massachusetts. Springfield: Samuel Bowles & Company, 1855.
 Spear, W.F. History of North Adams, 1749-1885. Idaho: Clearwater Publishers, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	6,5,3	6,7,0	4,7	2,0	9,0,0	B						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C							D						

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

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

DATE

May 17, 1976

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

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

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

5/18/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Reed W. Olson

DATE

8/12/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles Abney

DATE

8.17.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

76000236

Property Quaker Meetinghouse

State Massachusetts Working Number 5.26.76.3488

Bershire

TECHNICAL

Photos 0
Maps 1

FORMER DETERMINATION

CONTROL
pl
OK 5.26.76

HISTORIAN

accept
S. Grosvenor
7/1/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
S. Alden
7/8/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Core
8/16/76

KEEPER

Stamp
8.17.76

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered AUG 17 1976
Federal Register Entry 10-5-76 Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

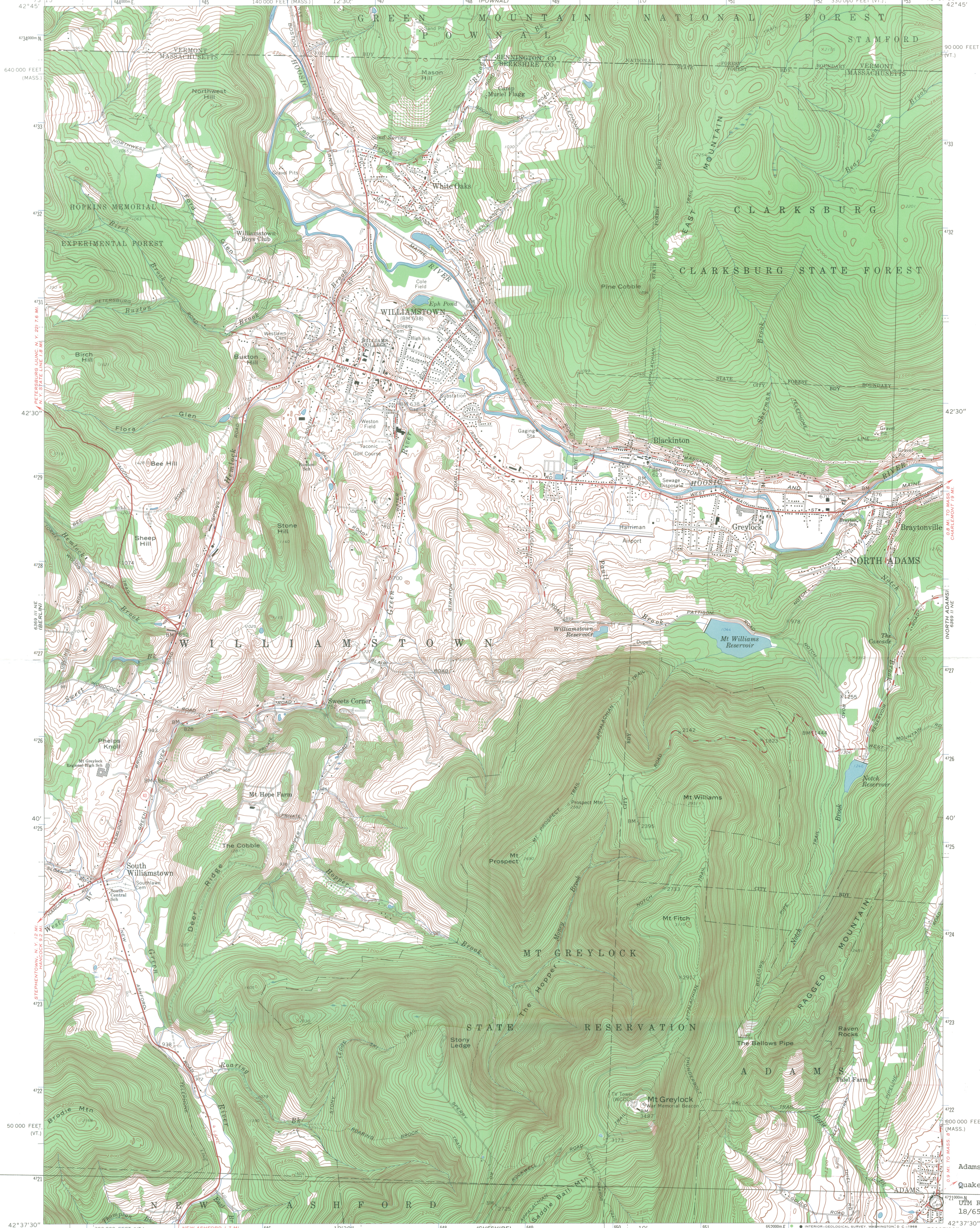
NPS Number

8/17/76

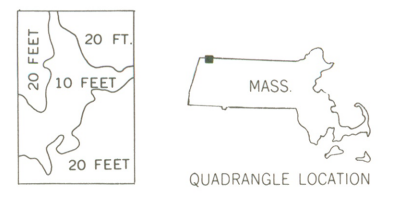
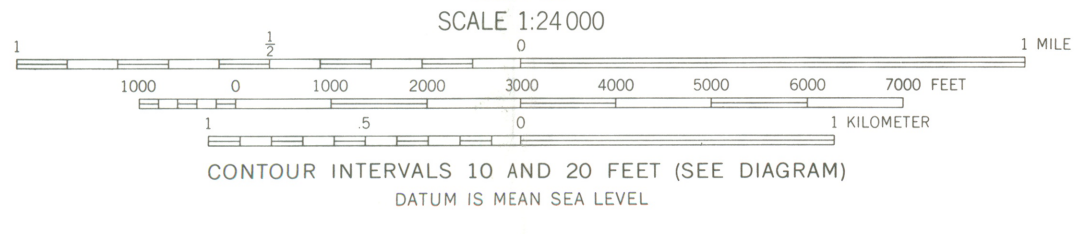
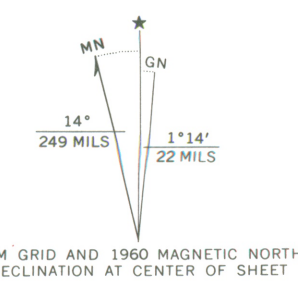
Title:

Quaker Meetinghouse
Berkshire Co., Mass.

Loc.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1942. Field check 1944. Revised 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Vermont coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy duty ——— Light duty ———
Medium duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.—VT.
N4237.5—W7307.5/7.5
1960
AMS 6369 II NW—SERIES V814





PAUL GUZZI

*Secretary of the
Commonwealth*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470

May 19, 1976

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find nomination forms for the following properties:

1. Adams, Quaker Meeting House
2. Lancaster, Lancaster Industrial School for Girls
3. Lynnfield, Meeting House Common District
4. Weston, Reverend Samuel Woodward House

The Quaker Meeting House in Adams was determined eligible by the Secretary of the Interior on February 5, 1976. Therefore, the photographs and other material used in making that determination are already in your office and should be incorporated with the enclosed material which has the required USGS map and signature of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The other properties were reviewed by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth R. Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director

PLW/mw
Enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **AUG 17 1976**

Name

Location

Quaker Meetinghouse

**Adams
Berkshire County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

PR MMott/row 8/19/76

TRANSCRIPT
NORTH ADAMS, MA.
D. 13.200

SEP 2 1976

New
England
Newsclip

Berkshire

Meeting house makes register

ADAMS — Quaker Meeting House at Maple Street Cemetery in Adams will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

That announcement came today from Paul Guzzi, secretary of the commonwealth, on notification by Gary Everhardt, director of the National Park Service.

Acceptance of the 18th century Friends Meeting House for listing on the register means the town is eligible to receive federal funds through the Dept. of Interior for maintenance of the structure, said Michael R. Shay, a member of both the bicentennial commission and the historical commission.

The application for National Register status was filed a year and a half ago.

Final steps on the path to the designation began in May after Mass. Historical Commission received a recommendation for register status from David Hart, director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Mr. Hart had toured the meeting house with bicentennial commissioners in September 1975. His report to the bicentennial commission said, "All efforts should be made to save the Quaker Meeting House."

Federal grants for repair work on the building have been delayed by a request for clarification of grant expenditures for last year. Release of the money is expected after that hurdle is cleared in Boston.

Mr. Guzzi's letter announcing the National Register designation said, "The meeting house is significant as one of the few remaining examples of 18th century Friends Meeting House architecture and is important for its association with the early settlement and history of the Town of Adams.

"The architectural significance of the Quaker Meeting House lies in its virtually unaltered and well-preserved interior which continues to illustrate a people and a way of life important in the history of Adams.

"The frame of the building is mostly oak and original, but the exterior clapboards have been replaced over the centuries. The roof is slate and appears to date from the late 19th or early 20th century — the original roof was probably covered with wood shingles. The foundation was of field stone and evidence indicates that it was shallow. The interior of the Meeting House has been essentially untouched, and the interior wooden surfaces show no major deterioration after 200 years."

ADAMS
The history of the structure ac-
cepted Tuesday by Paul Guzzi, chairman
of Historic Places, it was an-
nounced for inclusion in the National
Register of Historic Places, built in 1727, has been
comparing the announcement notes that
local notables Elbridge Gerry, Gen. John
St. Glover, Col. William Lee, James
Kingford and others spoke there. The
Board of Selectmen met there before Ab-
ner had was built in 1876.

New
England
Newsclip

MJL
5/21

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/176
Reviewer INITIALS: BG KP
NR
DOE AUG 17 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Quaker Meetinghouse
OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: Maple Street Cemetery
CITY, TOWN: Adams CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st
STATE: Massachusetts VICINITY OF: 025 COUNTY: Berkshire code: 003
OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV't MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):
FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable-9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED Unexcavated UNALTERED ALTERED Reconstructed Excavated ORIGINAL SITE MOVED Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- meetinghouse
now- meetinghouse (used annually)

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE - 4
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Vernacular Quaker example*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *Quaker*

NAMES: personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1781-1784*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) *.1 - .9*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

HABS (Mass-2-44), 1934
description: 1 1/2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof; 4 interior end chimney, 2 entrances for separate entry by men and women, interior includes fixed and movable panels for separating men's & women's areas; Alterations: continual replacement of ^{original} cladding as necessary, replacement of original roof with present slate roof, 1930's replacement of stone foundation with concrete replaced. Vernacular

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Quaker Meetinghouse is closely associated with the settlement of Adams (originally East House) and is an important ^{vernacular} example of early Quaker architecture which has survived in nearly unaltered condition.