

The College Park Association of Friends' Meeting House
(Friends' Meeting House)
1041 Morse Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2061

HABS,
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43-SANTOS,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

THE COLLEGE PARK ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE
(Friends' Meeting House)

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CAL,
43-SANJOS,
3 -

Location: 1041 Morse Street, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California. (adjacent to Route 17 and Newhall Street).

USGS San Jose West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.595020.4133120

Present Owner: The College Park Association of Friends. (The present meeting refers to itself as "San Jose Friends Meeting," even though it has never legally changed its name.)

Present Use: Quaker Meeting House

Significance: The College Park Association of Friends' house of worship is noteworthy as the oldest extant Quaker meeting house in California. Erected in five weeks in 1885, its plain unassuming architecture exemplifies the theology of the Quakers. The College Park Association of Friends is derived from the first established Quaker meeting on the west coast, which was formed in 1861 in San Jose.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History;

1. Dates of erection: The Meeting House was erected in March and April 1885.
2. Architect: None.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Description of present property: Book 4182, Page 263, Serial #1520411, July 24, 1958. Grantor: State of California under Director of Public Works to Grantee: Anna Belle Wilson, Marion B. Werner, Betty J. Bateman, William Trickey, Herbert C. Jones.

"A portion of Lot 3 in Block 16 commencing at a point on northerly line of Lot 3, 82.78 feet from easterly corner of Lot 3; thence south 196.33 feet to the Southwest line of Lot 3; thence 2.25 feet to most westerly corner of Lot 3, thence 180.35 feet to the most northerly corner of Lot 3. (Note: This is basically a triangular lot.)

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Book 3937, Page 686, California Laws of Eminent Domain.
Grantor: College Park Association of Friends, et al.
Grantee: State of California. "For freeway purposes, a
portion of Lots 1, 11 and 12 of Block 6 on Morse Street
containing 34,649 feet."

Book 126, Page 11, March 14, 1890.
Grantor: James Bean.
Grantees: To the present trustees, George N. Jones, Abner Allen,
George Hammon, Samuel J. Brun and Charles E. Cox.

Description of property: "A certain lot . . . beginning on Morse
Street, Lot number 11, in Block Number 6, 125 feet by 50 feet.
(Note: The Meeting House had been built five years earlier.)
It is of interest that James Bean stated in this deed that he was
donating this property "in consideration of the love and interest
which the said property . . . has for the principle of Christianity,
as understood and held by the religious Society of Friends."

An unrecorded document dated April 18, 1885, described the
property as 80 feet by 80 feet on the East Side of Morse Street.
Said property was deeded to Trustees Moses Mendenhall, Benjamin
H. Jones, Joel Bean and George N. Jones. The deed also
stipulated that if the Quakers ceased to function, the Meeting
House would be auctioned and the proceeds distributed to the
aforementioned trustees, who had financed the building of the
Meeting House. (Herbert C. Jones, "History of Our Meeting's
Incorporation", page 1, (no date). Jones stated that said
document was in the Friends' Filing Cabinet. Unfortunately, all
these documents and papers are not organized, and this
researcher attempted to scan the filing cabinets, but was unable
to locate this deed.)

4. Builder, contractor: The following excerpts from Joel Bean's
Diary describe the actual construction:

"Tues., Mar. 17, 1885
Jas. B. & I bought lumber for Meeting House. (Note: Jas.
B. is probably James Bean.)
Thurs. Mar. 19, 1885.
Carpenters began work on the Meeting House - Johnson and
Melville Ward.
Fri. Mar. 20, 1885.
The frame was raised.
Tues. Mar. 31, 1885.
Melville Ward began to paint Meeting House outside.

Fri., April 3, 1885.

The Meeting House was plastered first coat by S. L. Weaver.

Sat., April 25, 1885.

Finished the Meeting House.

Sun., April 26, 1885.

First Meeting in the Meeting House."

Herbert C. Jones, "The Quakers in San Jose," 1949, page 4.
In about five weeks the Quaker Meeting House was ready for
worship.

5. Notes on original plan and construction. The original meeting house contained only the meeting room.
6. Alterations and additions: The vestibule (north) and the rear addition (social room, formerly dining room) were built after 1885 and prior to 1906. This is reported by Herbert C. Jones, ("The Quakers in San Jose," page 7), who states, "In the early days there was no dining room, nor front vestibule, in the Meeting House. However, the dining room was in existence in 1906, when, due to the earthquake, my parents, my brother and I moved in mattresses and bedding and slept on the floor until the foundation of the house in which we lived could be braced." More definite dates of said addition could not be found. The bathroom and storage additions were built in 1958, when the Meeting House was moved.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

In 1861 the Quakers started assembling in private homes, thereby establishing the first Quaker Meeting on the entire west coast in San Jose. The organizers were Jessie and David Hobson, who, like many other Quakers, had migrated to California from the east or midwest for the mining and/or farming. In 1866 the group had built its first meeting house at Ninth and St. John Streets in San Jose which was subsequently sold. In the 1870s and 1880s a schism was developing among the Quakers. Some favored the simple, traditional and non-pastoral theology, and others were imbued with the revivalist spirit and had ministers. This rift was felt at the San Jose Meeting in the 1880s. Joel Bean, a prominent Quaker theologian who adhered to the simple doctrines, and his wife, Hannah, migrated to San Jose in June 1883. They attended the Stockton Avenue Meeting, as the Pastoral Friends were called at this time. Subsequently, Bean and his followers set up a separate "silent" meeting on February 21, 1884, which met at Rutherford Hall, a Masonic Lodge, at the corner of Second and San Antonio Streets in San Jose. The Masonic Lodge and Meeting House was located over a saloon. In 1885 the "silent meeting" Quakers had erected the present meeting house in the then developing College Park

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sub-division in the western part of San Jose. The same year the College Park Meeting applied to the Honey Creek Quarter, (Iowa), their governing body, to be recognized. This became a hotly debated subject both for Quakers here and in England. Many supported Joel Bean's religious tenets. Initially, the Honey Creek Monthly Meeting turned down the College Park Association's request and disowned the memberships of Joel and Hannah Bean. Conservative Quakers around the country and in England rallied to Bean's "silent meeting" theology. In time the Beans were reinstated, and the College Park Association of Friends grew and counted many Quakers from this area. Many maintained their affiliations with their own meetings, but also attended the College Park meeting. "The College Park Association of Friends" was officially incorporated by the Secretary of State of California on December 2, 1889.

Herbert Hoover: Locally, it is said that Herbert Hoover attended the College Park Meeting House when he was a student at Stanford University (1891-1895) in nearby Palo Alto. Prior to his college days, Hoover had lived in Newberg, Oregon, with his uncle, Henry Minthorn, who was affiliated with a Quaker Academy. The Joel Beans, formerly of Iowa and presently of San Jose, had known Hoover's uncle from Iowa days and had maintained the friendship. Thus, when Hoover became overfatigued because of too much work at Stanford, he recuperated with the Beans in San Jose and probably attended the meeting. (Marion Bailey Kaufmann, "Hoover Worshipped with San Jose Quakers," San Jose Mercury News, April 11, 1965, no page.) After talking to the Friends and local historians, the Hoover connection could not be substantiated.

Another outstanding man who was affiliated with the College Park Association was Herbert C. Jones. A highly esteemed lawyer, State Senator and Conservationist, he served as a State Senator for 22 years, originally being elected in 1913. He held the distinction of winning the state senatorial nomination of the Republic, Democratic, Progressive and Prohibitionist Parties. In 1920 he assisted in establishing Junior and State Normal colleges throughout California. He was a moving force behind the College Park Meeting and was responsible for gathering and researching its history.

With a keen sense of history he donated his political papers, consisting of 40,000 items to Stanford University so "that it might be of assistance to students of California Politics." (Letter, March 23, 1956, to Dr. Edgar E. Robinson, Stanford University.) These papers reflect the shift from a *laissez faire* philosophy to a welfare state and cover the years 1912-1954.

The College Park Association of Friends is still meeting today and prides itself on having the oldest meeting house on the west coast.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Interviews:

Interview in August 1978 re. Herbert Hoover with Ralph Rambo at his house, 1214 Santa Clara Street, Santa Clara, CA.

2. Primary and unpublished sources:

County of Santa Clara, Records Office, Deeds. 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose.

College Park Association of Friends, Miscellaneous photos and documents, College Park Meeting, 1885. Meeting House, 1041 Morse Street.

Jones, Herbert C. "History of Our Meeting's Incorporation." 2 pp., undated.

Jones, Herbert C. Collection, Manuscript Department, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.

Jones, Herbert C. "The Quakers in San Jose," paper read to Meeting of Friends, November 5, 1949. Copies at San Jose Friends' Meeting, 1041 Morse Street, and San Jose Historical Museum, Kelley Park, San Jose.

King, Thomas M. "David Hobson, Berryessa Pioneer and Methodist-Quaker." Paper read November 20, 1975. Copy at San Jose Friends' Meeting, 1041 Morse Street, San Jose, California.

3. Secondary and published sources:

Academy of California. Church History. Fresno, CA: Academy Guild Press, 1954. Vol. IV, pp. 233-240.

Butler, Phyllis F. The Valley of Santa Clara Historic Buildings, 1792-1920. San Jose: Junior League of San Jose, 1975.

Foote, H. S., editor. Pen Pictures From the Garden of the World or Santa Clara County. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1888.

Heintze, Carl. "Quakers Seek the Quiet, Simple Faith." San Jose Mercury News, February 27, 1954.

Kaufmann, Marion Bailey. "Hoover Worshipped with San Jose Quakers." San Jose Mercury News, April 11, 1965, pp. 20-21.

LeShana, David D. Quakers in California. Newberg, Oregon: Barclay Press, 1969.

Rice, Bertha Margarite, Builders of Our Valley. San Jose, CA:
Published by the Author, 1957.

San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission. San Jose - An
Inventory of Its Historical and Architectural Heritage.

Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission. Santa Clara
County Heritage Resource Inventory. San Jose, CA: 1975 and
1979.

Sawyer, Eugene T. History of Santa Clara County, California.
Los Angeles: San Jose Historical Museum Association,
Historic Record Co., 1922.

4. Likely sources not yet investigated:

Joel Bean's diaries are with his daughter, Catherine B. Cox,
in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Friends have been in touch with her
about obtaining Bean's records but have not received them.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: This plain meeting house is important as the oldest
existing Quaker Meeting House in California.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The Meeting House measures 19'-3/4" (at its
widest point) by 52'-6". The structure has three bays, one story
and is "T" shaped.
2. Foundations: Concrete (The Meeting House rested on redwood sills
until it was moved in 1958 and placed on a concrete foundation.)
There is no basement.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: This white-painted frame
structure has novelty siding with rounded moldings at the
corners. The louvered shutters (east and west) and the louver
over the main entrance (north) are painted green.
4. Porches: The one-bay entrance porch is reached by two concrete
and one smaller wooden step. The entrance porch has a gable roof
with extended rafters. On either side of the principle entrance
there are new plain wooden rails. To the left (east) of the
addition there is a small stoop. Above the stoop there is a shed
roof. Two doors (facing east and north) lead into the meeting
room and into the addition.

5. Chimneys: At the rear of the gable roof of the Meeting House there is a plain brick chimney on the ridge. The pre-1906 addition has a brick chimney with a stove pipe on the west slope of the shed roof.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The principal entrance (north) has four panels with molded panels and fluted trim. Above the door there is a louvered panel. On either side of the pre-1906 addition in the back there are modern doors (east and west) with plain trim. The door on the west has three lights, and that on the east has ten lights. In the original Meeting House, the back (east) door has five recessed panels with plain trim. In the rear of the pre-1906 addition (south) the door has one large upper pane and is surrounded by plain trim. The adjacent 1958 addition (south), which contains bathroom facilities and a storage area has three doors (two facing west and one south). These doors all have plain trim and one light on top.

b. Windows and shutters: The east and west sides of the original structure have two large double-hung windows with two-over-two panes, vertical muntins, architrave molding and louvered shutters. In the pre-1906 addition there are recessed windows on each side, (east and west), with one-over-one lights, plain trim and molded sills. The 1958 storage space has two east windows, both with a one-over-one-light sash with plain trim.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: A gable roof, (west to east), covers the original structure and has wooden shingles. The pre-1906 addition has a shed roof. The 1958 addition has a flat roof. These additions are both covered with asbestos.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: The meeting room is rectangular. The pre-1906 addition runs across the back of the meeting room forming a "T". There is no direct access from the meeting room to the addition, which is used for storage. The 1958 addition of bathrooms and storage room extends to the southeast of the addition. Although it is contiguous with the addition, there is no access.

2. Stairways: None.

3. Flooring: The meeting room is carpeted, wall-to-wall, and the pre-1906 addition has a linoleum floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The Meeting House has sheetrocked or plaster board walls and ceilings and simulated wood wainscoting. In the pre-1906 addition the rafters are exposed and the walls are plaster board.
5. Doorways: The original door to the meeting room has four recessed panels, a plain transom with one light and architrave time. The four windows are likewise surrounded by architrave molding. (Note: This door was the original entrance to the Meeting House before the vestibule was added.)
6. Mechanical equipment: "One October 15th, (1946), the Meeting House yielded to the march of time. It then had electric lights and electric heater installed." (Herbert C. Jones, "The Quakers In San Jose," a paper, p. 70.

D. Site:

1. General setting: Moved to make way for the freeway, the Meeting House abuts that road. Morse Street is basically a residential area. The front of the Meeting House faces a parking lot and the back of a small shopping center.
2. Outbuildings: There is a new storage facility built in 1958 at the rear of the property. The Friends also own the ranch house to its right (west), which is used for Sunday school and gatherings of the Quakers.

Prepared by Sibyl McCormac Groff
Supervisor
HABS Team
Santa Clara, California
July 1979.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the County of Santa Clara. The 1979 summer project, the last of a three-year recording project in Santa Clara County, was completed under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect; and Sibyl Groff, Project Supervisor (Columbia University); with David Schaaf, Architectural Foreman (Carnegie Mellon University); Jan Cigliano (Oberlin College); and student architects William Coppa (University of Virginia), Jon Lourie (University of Maryland), Anne Munly (Princeton University), John Murphy (Texas Tech University), and Matthew Poe (Virginia Polytechnic University), at the HABS field office in Santa Clara, California.

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The drawings were edited in the HABS Washington Office in the summer of 1979 by architect David Schaaf. The historical and architectural data was edited by Jan Cigliano and Denys Peter Myers, architectural historians on the HABS staff, in 1979 and 1981. Photographs were taken by photographer Jane Lidz in the summer of 1980.