

ARNEY'S MOUNT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
(Mount Friends Meeting House)
(Shreve's Mount Friends Meeting House)
Southwest corner of Juliustown and Arney's Mount Roads
Mount Holly vicinity
Burlington County
New Jersey

HABS NO. NJ-1243

HABS
NJ-1243

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ARNEY'S MOUNT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE (Mount, or Shreve's Mount, Friends Meeting House)

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- Location: Southwest corner of Juliustown and Arney's Mount roads, Arney's Mount, Burlington County, New Jersey.
- Owner: Trustees for the Arney's Mount Meeting of the Society of Friends
- Present Use: Meeting House for religious worship
- Significance: Arney's Mount Friends Meeting House, erected of local Bog Iron stone between 1775 and 1776, is not readily discerned from vernacular residences of the area. While similarities with indigenous architecture is indicative of meeting house design, Arney's Mount represents a particularly domestic-looking form. The development of this meeting house form was likely a factor of meeting size, being all that was necessary to accommodate a small, rural meeting. It is reflected in additional meeting houses within Burlington Quarter, but is otherwise with few contemporary counterparts in the Delaware Valley. Its two-story, three-bay configuration is not completely without precedent, however. It may have been derived from a significant early building type, as represented by an extant rendering of the Second Bank Meeting House, erected in Philadelphia in 1703.¹ Among the identifying features of the later derivative seen at Arney's Mount is the lack of the interior partition that traditionally separated concurrent meetings for men's and women's business. Instead, a shuttered gallery may have served to fulfill that function until 1850, when the meeting no longer found it necessary to conduct business meetings separately.

The meeting house is also of interest for its near pristine interior. Although dating to the reconstruction that followed a (second) fire in 1811, the facing benches, gallery, and other wood elements and finishes are intact. The building is still without electricity or plumbing, and a wood stove serves as the only heat source. Coupled with the still rural nature of the surrounding landscape, the Arney's Mount Meeting House of today is almost indistinguishable from that portrayed in historic photographs.

Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS Historian, Summer 1999

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

¹ Once more prevalent, only a few examples of the meeting house form remain. The best example extant is Sadsbury Meeting House in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Ewchlan Meeting House is of a similar, although altered, form.

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A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1775-76. A "1775" date stone appears over the entryway to the north rear elevation, which faces the road. In addition, the February 13, 1775 deed to the property identified it as the lot upon which "a new meeting house is intended to be built."² Although the date stone indicates that the meeting house was begun in 1775, it was not fully completed until 1776. It was then that the Burlington Quarterly Meeting reported, in response to the annual queries, that a meeting house had been built at "Shreves Mount."³

2. Architect: There is no known architect for Arney's Mount Meeting House. The design most likely was derived from the members themselves, perhaps in consultation with a local builder. It is interesting to note that the Springfield or Copany Meeting House, also erected in Burlington Quarter that year, is of the same two-story, single-celled form. Although Copany was erected in brick, the two are of the same proportions and basic dimensions (both approximately 42' x 30'). As testimony to the domestic character of this type, Springfield Meeting House was converted into a residence in the 1950s. According to the current owner, the interior likewise contained a partition (or shutters) in the loft area only.

3. Original and subsequent owners: A deed for the property, originally containing one acre, two roods and 26 perches, was issued on February 13, 1775. Jonathan Hough conveyed the lot to Daniel Doughty Smith, Samuel Shinn, Samuel Allinson, John Comfort, Peter Ellis, Edward Black, and John Hillar as trustees for the Mount Meeting. As stated in the deed, the lot was intended "for the sole use of the said people, called Quakers, belonging to the meeting settled at the place where the said lot is situate, on which lot a new meeting house is intended to be built by them, and a burying place to be made for the interment of their dead forever." The lot remains in trust for the Friends of Arney's Mount Meeting.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: According to oral tradition, Samuel Smith was the builder. Inscribed in a stone on the south front elevation of the meeting house is "S. Smith." The minutes from the preparative meeting are missing for the period of construction, and so there is no documentation to support this. Likewise, no clues are provided by the minutes of the Mount Holly Monthly or Burlington Quarterly meetings, of which Arney's Mount Meeting was a part; the former meetings minutes are not extant

² Mount Holly Monthly Meeting, Misc. Deeds & Property Papers, 1775-1896, FHL RG 2 (oversized).

³ The land formation upon which the meeting house rests was originally called Shreve's Mount for its former occupant, Caleb Shreve. When later in the possession of Arney Lippincott, it was referred to by its current name. The minutes of the mid century monthly and quarterly meetings refer to it simply as "Mount" Meeting (perhaps during the transition in ownership).

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for that year, and the latter is silent on the issue. It was not uncommon within mainstream culture for the builder to carve his initials upon the structure. Such practices were generally frowned upon by Quakers. It was viewed as vain, and ran contrary to the communal nature of the design and building process. More common among Friends was the practice of carving initials merely as a form of graffiti. They regularly appear on the interior benches, and sometimes on the facades of meeting houses, although rarely are they so prominently placed. Members of the Smith family attended Arney's Mount meeting and acted as trustees for the meeting, and therefore could have played an important role in the construction of the meeting house. On the opposing north facade of the meeting house is inscribed with equal prominence the name "I. Coate." This suggests that Smith was not solely responsible for the construction of the meeting house. Perhaps one's role was largely financial while the other served as builder. In one of the few other examples of a name(s) appearing prominently, it was that of the individual who figured prominently in financing the construction of the meeting house. Paying homage to a benefactor would seem more in keeping with Quaker tenets.⁴

5. Original plans and construction: Despite fires that gutted the interior of the meeting house, it probably stands today as originally planned. The placement of doorways and windows conforms to the interior layout, particularly with regard to the windows over the facing bench and gallery. There is also no indication of significant changes in the finishes, other than a slight shift in the placement of the stairways (as exhibited by the charred remnants of a previous landing), and the construction of a newer roof.

6. Alterations and additions: The meeting house sustained two fires which occurred within a decade of each other, the first in 1800 and the second in 1809. Thus, the interior finishes and furnishings date to 1809.

The miscellaneous accounts provide some information regarding changes to the meeting house and its environs during the period from 1797 to 1882. The "old stove" was sold for \$5 in 1803 and references are made to monies paid for cords of wood, indicating that the meeting house was heated then, as today, by wood stove. Samuel Shinn and Jacob Merritt are paid for building sheds (presumably for the horses) in 1802. In 1807, Shinn is again paid for "bricks and mason work in altering the stove for the meeting house." Repairs were made in 1827, with Lammel Ellis being paid \$20.98 "for expenses repairing

⁴ A similar controversy exists regarding the initials carved into Chichester Meeting House, in Boothwyn, PA., where the name of a prominent member of the meeting appears. In this case, the individual is said to have financed the construction rather than actually undertaking it himself. Another possibility is that one was responsible for the initial construction, and the other for the reconstruction that followed the fires of 1800 and 1809. Also, it would be interesting to know if there is any connection with S. Smith of Philadelphia and Burlington County who was Quaker, author of histories of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey, and died that same year. Could he be the Arney's Mount benefactor?

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the Mount Meeting House,” and Isaac Fairholm, for “boarding carpenters and smith work.”

The most obvious change in the meeting house is the heavy-handed repointing of the stonework that occurred in the 1980s. The new mortar was so intrusive that a faux application of brown paint was added to once again demarcate each stone.

B. Historical Context:

Brief History of Arney's Mount Friends Meeting & Meeting House

An Indulged Meeting for Worship was first established in 1743, under the care of the Burlington Monthly Meeting. According to the minutes for October 3rd, “sundry Friends belonging to the upper part of Mount Holly Meeting made application in writing to Burlington Monthly Meeting for liberty to hold a meeting for worship on the first day of each week, during the winter season, at the meeting house standing near Caleb Shreve's Mount.”⁵ Conflicting information exists as to whether the earlier structure was erected as a meeting house or was actually a log schoolhouse being used for meetings.⁶ There is very little information extant to confirm either stance, or to describe that structure that formerly stood at Arney's Mount. The Burlington Quarterly Meeting records give compelling evidence to support the theory that the log building was constructed as a meeting house. First, in May 1741, they recorded that a meeting house was “about to be built” near Arneytown.⁷ And then later, in 1776, when the minutes record the completion of Mount and three other meeting houses in the quarter. It is stated that these meeting houses are “all near the respective places where the *former houses* stood.”⁸ Adding to the confusion, however, is the fact that a 1860 diagram of Burlington Quarter indicates the simultaneous existence of both a “Mount” and “Arney town” meeting.⁹ Other references to a earlier meeting house include a 1771

⁵ Burlington Quarterly Meeting, Minutes, 3rd day of the 8th Month 1743, as cited in Ellis Derry, *Old & Historic Churches of New Jersey*, (Union City, N.J.: Wm. H. Wise & Co, 1979), 117. According to Chalkley Matlack, however, the minutes refer to an old school house. T. Chalkley Matlack, “Brief Historical Sketches concerning Friends' Meetings of the Past and Present with special reference to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,” Book 1, pgs. 149-51, 149.

⁶ An entry in the Misc. Accounts appearing on the 30th day of the 8th month 1809 states “paid John Gardner for moving and *rejoining* the Mount School House.” If this is the same school building in which the Friends met prior to the current meeting house, the term “rejoining” suggests notched, log construction.

⁷ Burlington Quarterly Meeting, notations appearing at the back of the minute book for 1686-1767.

⁸ Ibid., minutes, 26th day of the 8th month 1776. The other meeting houses were located at Mt. Holly, Springfield (Cpany), and Crosswicks.

⁹ Michener, Ezra, *A Retrospect of Early Quakerism; Being Extracts from the Records of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and the Meetings Composing it*. (Philadelphia: T. Ellwood Zell, 1860), 34; reprint, Washington: Cool Spring Publishing Company, 1991.

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notation within the journal of Ephraim Tomlinson in which he mentions attending a marriage at the log meeting house near "Julytown."¹⁰ The deed to the property recorded in 1775 specifically states that it is the lot upon which a *new* meeting house is intended to be built.¹¹ Certainly there was a school house on the property, for in 1809, the Friends pay John Gardner for the "moving and rejoining" of the Mount School House.¹² It is not stated whether the school house was being moved to or from the site. This occurred just after the fire, so perhaps the school house was moved to the site to serve as an interim meeting location. The minutes from 1809 also mention concurrent with rebuilding the meeting house, the "School House mtg (meeting)."¹³ Historian Ellis Derry suggests that a log meeting house existed first, but that a schoolhouse was later used for meetings. He cites the late dates of references to the schoolhouse to support his position.¹⁴ Perhaps the structure served for a while in both capacities and was thus referred to interchangeably as meeting house and schoolhouse.

The Burlington Monthly Meeting granted the "Mount" Friends Preparative Meeting status in 1776. This supposedly was prompted by good attendance to the Indulged Meeting.¹⁵ Based upon the 1775 date stone, the construction of their meeting house was already underway. Indeed, the commitment to truth demonstrated by the willingness to build a new meeting house may have prompted the privilege of holding a business meeting. As mentioned, the Mount Meeting House was one of four new meeting houses built in Burlington Quarter in 1776.

In 1800, Mount Meeting House suffered its first of two fires. The extant preparative meeting minutes do not begin until 1808, and so they cannot be relied upon to provide any information regarding the damage caused by the fire or the process of reconstruction. The only piece of information found is a scant reference appearing in a book of "Miscellaneous Accounts, 1797-1882." An entry made on December 28, 1801 reads: "paid Thomas Harrison one Dollar for service done *at the time the Mount Meeting House was Burnt.*"¹⁶ Oral tradition and various secondary sources provide the only substantive information. According to one source, the fire

¹⁰ Matlack, 149.

¹¹ Mt. Holly Monthly Meeting, Misc. Deeds and Property Papers, 1775-1896. The deed was recorded on the 6th day of the 3rd month, 1775, but the wording suggested that the property had been given to the Friends at an earlier date. Perhaps the intention to build a new structure prompted the Friends to properly record a deed.

¹² Mount Preparative Meeting, Misc. Accounts, 1797-1882.

¹³ *Ibid.*, minutes, 8th month 31st 1809.

¹⁴ Derry, 118.

¹⁵ *Historical Records Survey New Jersey; Inventory of Church Archives of New Jersey, the Religious Society of Friends*, unpublished manuscript (Newark, NJ: 1941), 36.

¹⁶ (Arney's) Mount Preparative Meeting, Miscellaneous Accounts, 1797-1882. FHL RG2/Ph/M67.

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took place on February 17, 1800, destroying the roof and much of the woodwork. The floor was supposedly saved by the snow, which that was thrown in through the doors and windows.¹⁷ In 1809, a second and supposedly far more extensive fire occurred. It resulted in the complete devastation of the interior of the meeting house, leaving only the stone walls standing.¹⁸ Evidence of the fire can be found in the charred remnants of the former landing, visible beneath the cabinet stairs located in the southeast and southwest corners of the meeting house. The only mention that appears within the preparative minutes are the findings of those requested to "examine the accounts of the committee appointed to rebuild the meeting house." During November 1809, Abram Merritt and Rowland Jones reported that \$818 had been "subscribed for that purpose," and that \$804.12 had been paid to "David Ewings and others for building it." A month after the above report was recorded, the meeting placed "the balance in his (Newbold's) hands after paying the expense of Rebuilding the Mount Meeting House."¹⁹

Gleaned from the minutes and accounts for Mount Preparative Meeting are the necessities of regular care and maintenance, and the nature of its execution. A caretaker was appointed on a yearly basis. This individual was responsible for tending the fires to heat the meeting house before meeting, and for routine maintenance. Peter Shinn took care of the meeting house in 1797, Joseph Morris in 1802, and Jacob Norcross in 1807. Norcross was also paid to cut wood on the meeting house lot, presumably to supply the wood stove. Various members routinely saw to repairs for which they were reimbursed. Samuel Shinn was called upon to build (horse) sheds in 1802, and again in 1807 to build a fireplace flue. In 1827, Isaac Fairholm was paid to attending to the meeting house, cutting wood and making fires, for "smith work," and for boarding carpenters undertaking more extensive repairs to the meeting house. Lammel Ellis assisted with the repairs.²⁰

In 1827, the Society of Friends split over issues of faith and practice into Hicksite and Orthodox factions. Like most rural Friends, the Mount Friends sided with the Hicksites. Because there was no Orthodox meeting house built in the vicinity, it may be assumed that there were few Orthodox sympathizers. In some of the larger towns and villages within the Burlington Quarter, such as Burlington and Chesterfield, Orthodox meeting houses were erected.

Due to declining membership, the preparative meeting was laid down in 1871, and its remaining members attached to the Mt. Holly Meeting. After this time, the meeting house was used occasionally for worship until finally discontinued in 1898, although occasional "appointed"

¹⁷ Ellis L. Derry. Old and Historic Churches of New Jersey. Union City NJ: Wm. H. Wise & Company, 1979, p. 119.

¹⁸ Ellis, p. 119.

¹⁹ Recorded in the account books on the 20th day of the 12th month 1809.

²⁰ Mount Preparative Meeting, Misc. Accounts, 1797-1882.

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meetings were held. With renewed interest, the meeting was revived as an indulged meeting in June of 1941, under the care of Mount Holly Meeting. Sunday worship, as well as occasional guest lectures were held here, under the clerkship of William Bacon Evans. In March of 1942, with thirteen members in attendance, it was proposed that Arney's Mount become a "regularly established meeting."²¹ Lack of adequate heating prompted members to hold meetings in private homes during the coldest winter months, such as those held in the home of Charles and Irene Doehlert in the winter of 1943-44. Among the members of the newly-revived meetings was Elizabeth White, eminent botanist and proprietor of Whitesbog, the cranberry bog owned by her family since the mid-nineteenth century. In more recent years, young families have joined the meeting, and Arney's Mount is enjoying continued rejuvenation.

Arney's Mount Meeting House & the Evolution of Meeting House Design

Arney's Mount Meeting House was part of a boom in meeting house construction that occurred within the Burlington Quarter in 1775-76. Four new meeting houses were built, three of which were (then) part of the Burlington Monthly Meeting. These were erected at Mt. Holly, "Shreves" Mount, and Springfield or Copany. The fourth was Crosswicks Meeting House, a part of nearby Chesterfield Monthly Meeting. In each case, the new structure is said to have replaced an earlier meeting house on the site. Interestingly enough, the three built within Burlington Monthly Meeting were remarkably similar, particularly Mount and Copany. Arney's Mount Meeting House is distinguished by its stone construction (Mt. Laurel is the only other south Jersey meeting house erected of stone), but it is otherwise of the same basic specifications and dimensions as Copany Meeting House. More common throughout the Delaware Valley was a single-celled, *single-story* meeting house type. An example was nearby Mt. Holly (later raised to two stories).

The meeting house type represented by Arney's Mount is particularly domestic in character, looking more like a dwelling house than a building intended for religious worship. Perhaps as testimony to this, Copany is currently being used as a residence. The earliest of its type extant in Burlington Quarter were built in (Old) Springfield in 1728 (later reduced to one story), and in Bordentown in the 1740s. Old Springfield has also been converted for use as a residence, and Bordentown as offices for the neighboring bank. Numerous other examples are extant, but are not as readily identified due to later additions. These include Hancocks Bridge, Woodbury, and Greenwich. What they all have in common is a two-story, three-bay wide form with a central entryway. Because many of the other examples were altered when they were enlarged to better accommodate women's business meetings, it is not known whether most included the shutter gallery that distinguishes Arney's Mount.

²¹ Arney's Mount Preparative Meeting, Minutes, March 8, 1942 (copy supplied by meeting member, Marion Blaetz).

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The Chesterfield Meeting House, on the other hand, was distinctly different. It was of the two-cell doubled type that was just coming into popular use. Modeled after Buckingham Meeting House in Bucks County, PA., this became the standard for meeting house design for nearly a century. And in the succeeding decades, most meeting houses were patterned after the Buckingham form. These included Burlington, Shrewsbury, Mansfield, Medford (Hicksite & Orthodox), Haddonfield (Hicksite and Orthodox). As mentioned, many of the older meeting houses were enlarged, hence conforming to the doubled prototype. Arney's Mount and Copany were the last of the single-celled meeting houses built in southern New Jersey, and of them, Arney's Mount is intact and still in use.

Beyond the scope of the Burlington Quarter, there was considerable precedent for an early single-cell meeting house form. Most of the early rural meeting houses were of a single-celled plan, although also of a single story. They generally received later additions to accommodate women's business meetings and/or a growing population. The gallery at Arney's Mount allowed for an expanded membership, and possibly for separate business meetings. Of the two-story, single-celled meeting house from the early period, most were separated by a partition and contained gender-specific entryways on contiguous sides. An example of this important early form is the Second Bank Meeting House erected in Philadelphia in 1703.²² More is known of this than most of the earliest Philadelphia meeting houses because an image of it remains. Thus, in interior plan, Arney's Mount represented a significant variation in the earlier type.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Arney's Mount Meeting House is a vernacular structure constructed of local Bog Iron stone. Its fairly diminutive scale is like that of a modest residence. Its use of indigenous materials and restrained detailing are indicative of the Quaker plain style of meeting house design. These elements combine at Arney's Mount to exemplify the tendency of Friends meeting houses to more closely resemble domestic than ecclesiastical building forms. The only ornament of any type to appear at Arney's Mount are found in its inscriptions and its entry porches. Inscriptions include a date stone, and carved names and initials (presumably of those responsible for various phases of its construction). The gabled hoods that cover the front and rear elevations are supported by chamfered posts (the plinth stone to the south bears the initials "F.L."). The somewhat ornamental pents formerly located at either gable end of the roof have been missing for many years.

²² Although a prevalent early meeting house form, the only extant examples of it in the Delaware Valley are the Sadbury and Uwchlan meeting houses in Lancaster and Chester counties Pennsylvania, respectively.

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2. Condition of fabric: The meeting house is in fairly good condition. The roof ridge demonstrates a slight sway, and a few elements (such as some of the fixed benches that ring the interior) are in need of repair. A heavy-handed repointing of the mortar joints detracts from its aesthetic appeal, but has been somewhat remedied by paint work.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This is a two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay structure with a gable roof. The building measures 42'-2" in width, 30'-3/4" in depth, and stands 28'-3-1/2" from the floor to the roof ridge. The south front and north rear elevations, although they differ in window placement, both have central entryways and appear as "front" facades. The true front is to the south, while the north provides the meeting house with a street front. The east and west side elevations are essentially the same; both are two bays across, including an entryway.

2. Foundations: The foundations are of rough-cut Bog Iron stone.

3. Walls: The walls are of random-coursed, rough-cut or rubble stone. The stone is locally referred to as Bog Iron and was quarried from "Arney's Mount" where the meeting house sits. A heavy-handed repointing job was undertaken during the 1980s. So obtrusive was the mortar that the stonework was actually painted onto it to regain the original pattern of the stonework. There are a number of noteworthy inscriptions in the stone, including a date stone and the names of potential builders. The date stone, reading "1775" appears over the entryway on the north rear, or street front, facade of the building. Appearing on the south front elevation, towards the west end and about mid-way up the wall, is the name "S Smith." According to oral tradition, this is the name of the individual responsible for the construction of the meeting house. On the opposing north wall, in one of the quoins along the eastern edge is the name "I. Coate."

4. Structural system, framing: The building is of load-bearing masonry construction with a roof system consisting of pegged rafters resting on a sill-plate. There is no ridge pole, nor are there collar beams, purlins, or braces to add support. A few of the rafters near the center of the structure have diagonal members nailed to the outside of them (near the peak of the roof), thus acting as a collar beam or cross-bracing member. The fires of the early nineteenth century destroyed the original roof structure, and the current one (judging by light-frame construction) is probably an even later replacement.

5. Porches, stoops: Gable-fronted porches cover both the south front and north rear entryways. The one to the south front is slightly larger and more elaborate. The gable front roof includes a return cornice and is supported by chamfered posts resting on a high stone plinth. The eastern plinth has the initials "F L" carved into it; perhaps a clue as to its builder. The roof is covered with wood shingles, and the floor consists of two large

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sections of cut slate. The north porch consists of little more than a gabled hood supported by slender, squared posts. A few large, uncut stones are laid before the north doorway, under the entry porch. There is no porch or stoop at the east and west side entries.

6. Chimneys: A single brick chimney stack, providing ventilation to the wood stove, appears along the roof ridge, to the west of center.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There is a doorway at each elevation, appearing to the center of the south front and north rear facades, and towards the southern end of the east and west side elevations. The principal entry is to the south, where double, paneled doors provide entry. The surround consists of a plain wood section with a bead along the inner edge, held with a butt joint. The doors are barred from the outside. The north doorway also consists of double, three-panel doors, but the doorway is narrower. The surround is the same. There is a wrought iron thumb latch on one door, but the door is locked from the inside. The doorways to the side elevations are single, six-panel doors with the same surrounds.

b. Windows and shutters: The meeting house is lit by twelve-over-twelve-light sash windows in the first story, and eight-over-eight in the second. The north rear has only two, twelve-over-twelve-light sash windows, elevated to the height of the door lintel to accommodate the interior facing benches. The window placement also limits outside distractions while providing more subtle, indirect lighting. The first story windows have the same surrounds as the doorways, while those on the second story are without the added bead and have a mitered joint (possibly a consequence of being rebuilt after the fire). There are paneled shutters on all the windows (panels appear on inside only), held by strap hinges.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The side gabled roof is covered with composition shingles, and appears to sag somewhat.

b. Cornice, eaves: There is a simple boxed cornice, without a return. The eaves overhang in the gable ends, but the pents are missing (apparent from the plaster patches that have replaced them).

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C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The meeting house interior consists of a single room with a second story gallery appearing along the south front, and the east and west side walls. There are doorways at all elevations, with the south front and north rear, and the east and west side doorways, on axis for ease of traffic flow and ventilation. The facing benches flank the doorway at the north wall. The other benches now flank the center aisle, facing one another rather than the "facing" benches. The stairways to the gallery are located to the southeast and southwest corners of the room. The gallery can be closed off by the shutters. A plastered wall divides the gallery into two unequally sized sections, joined by a doorway. There is a ladder stair to the attic along the east wall.

2. Stairways: Located in the southeast and southwest corners of the meeting house are boxed winder stairways. Beyond the first three steps, is a doorway with a six-panel door. From here, the stairs wind around 90 degrees and continue in a straight run, opening up into the gallery. A small paneled door provides access to a storage area underneath the steps. And from here can be seen the fire's charred remnants of timbers that appear to supported a stair landing in another location. Also, in the gallery, a ladder stair along the east wall provides access to the unfinished attic.

3. Flooring: The floors are of unfinished, wide planking. There are low, three-tiered platforms upon which benches rest along the north wall of the meeting house (facing benches) and along all three walls of the gallery. There is a brick pad to the center of the meeting house upon which the wood stove rests.

4. Walls and ceiling finish: The walls are of plaster (painted white) with unfinished wainscoting on the main floor only (stepped up behind the facing benches to a level commensurate their elevated position).

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The doorways are recessed into the thick stone walls, the reveals are of unornamented plaster and there are no wood or molded window surrounds. The doors leading to the exterior are paneled on the outside and appear as batten doors on the inside. The only interior doors appear on the enclosed stairways and in the doorway between the two sections of the gallery.²³ The former is a six-panel door and the latter has horizontal panels.

²³ The door has been removed from its hinges and is resting on the floor nearby.

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B. Windows: Like the doorways, the windows are recessed, with plain reveals and no surrounds.

6. Benches: The facing benches, located along the north rear wall, are bisected by the rear entryway. Steps provide access from this corridor and at either end. The facing benches consist of two tiered platforms with two rows of fixed benches. Fixed benches were also placed along the south (front) wall and east and west side walls. However, they are now missing from the easternmost side of the south wall, parts of the east wall and all of the western side; the former location of these benches is made evident from the wainscoting which does not extend below the height of the seat.

7. Partitions: There is no partition to separate the meeting room into separate apartments for men's and women's business, as was traditionally done. The solution to separate meeting rooms may have been the shuttered gallery (which is divided into two unequally sized apartments). The gallery shutters may, on the other hand, be solely a factor of heat conservation. There is no extant documentation to explain its function. The lack of partitioned apartment may be a result of meeting size, with two few members to warrant separate business meetings. It is known that separate men's and women's business meetings were abandoned at Arney's Mount in 1850.

8. Hardware: Much of the original hardware appears to be missing. The front and rear doors retain remnants of old latches. The rear and side doors are currently locked or barred from within, and the front door is barred and held with a padlock, from the outside. The doors and the shutters are hung with strap hinges (there are no shutter stays).

9. Mechanical systems:

a. Heating: The meeting house is heating by a fairly modern wood stove that rests on a brick pad near the center of the meeting house. A stove pipe travels up to the gallery level and over to a brick flue that expels the smoke from the chimney. An earlier and more decorative stove is stored in the meeting house. It bares the scene of a pioneer's settlement, with the pioneer clearing the land, and the inscription, "LEIBRANDT & McDOWELL STOVE, PHILADELPHIA & BALTIMORE."

b. Lighting: The meeting house is lit only by natural lighting, and that of the oil burning lamps that are mounted throughout the meeting house, meant to be reminiscent of earlier days.

c. Plumbing: There is no indoor plumbing. A privy is located in the northeast corner of the burying ground.

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D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design: The meeting house sits at the base of a rise that, although not substantial, is among the few around and has earned it the name "Arney's *Mount*." Prior to its ownership by Arney Lippincott, it was known as "Shreve's Mount, or merely "Mount." The Bog Iron stone from which the meeting house is built was said to have been dug from this mount. The site is further located at the intersection of two "public" roadways, at the southwest corner of Juliustown and Arney's Mount roads. The first leads from Juliustown to Mount Holly, and the latter from Pemberton to Jobstown. The meeting house contains both a true (south) front and a front facing the roadway (to the north). It sits roughly to the center of the lot, with the walled burying ground encompassing a large portion of the property to the southwest. The burying ground occupies the steepest terrain, and appears to be fairly well filled with interments. Many of the earliest graves are marked with primitive stone of Bog Iron, and bear only the initials of their occupants and the dates of death. The burying ground walls have a date stone of 1860, and probably replaced a (wood) fence which is referenced in 1797.²⁴ Plat maps made of the site in 1864 indicate that a long row of horse sheds were once located along the northern border of the property, to the front and west of the meeting house.²⁵

Slabs of Bog Iron, possibly reused, are imbedded to form what appears to be bedding plants, to the front and rear of the meeting house, flanking the doorways.

2. Outbuildings: The horse sheds are no longer standing. They were probably the same that were erected by Samuel Shinn and Jacob Merritt in 1802, and later enlarged in 1842.²⁶ The only remaining outbuilding is a privy located in the northeast corner of the burying ground. It is a standard WPA design, and dates from the Depression era. It is a small beaded-board structure with a shed roof, resting on a concrete pad. The interior furnishings are set in the corner in order to maximize the floor space (see HABS drawing).

²⁴ Arney's Mount Preparative Meeting, Misc. Accounts, 1797-1882.

²⁵ Mount Holly Monthly Meeting, Misc. Deed & Property Papers, 1775-1896. There are two plats included. The first, entitled "Map of Mount Meeting Lands" is by Barclay White and is dated 5 mo. 2. 1864. The second, entitled "Map of Friends Property at the Mount" was attached to a deed dated date 10 mo. 26. 1864 which conveyed 45 perches of land from Emma Newbold & sisters to Barclay While et al (of Mount Meeting).

²⁶ Arney's Mount Preparative Meeting, Misc. Accounts, 1797-1882; 4 mo. 2. 1802; and Minutes, 3 mo. 31. 1842.

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PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

A. Early Views:

Photos: 110/A77/1-16 (FHL); and HV

B. Interviews:

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION:

The documentation of the Arney's Mount Friends Meeting House was undertaken during the summer of 1999 as part of a larger program to record the Friends Meeting Houses of the Delaware Valley. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), E. Blaine Cliver, Chief of HABS/HAER; Paul Dolinsky, Chief HABS; funding was made possible through a congressional appropriation for documentation in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The project was planned and administered by HABS historians Aaron V. Wunsch and Catherine C. Lavoie; and architect Robert R. Arzola. Measured Drawings were produced by supervising architect John P. White, and architectural technicians Cleary Larkin, James McGrath, Jr., Elaine Schweitzer, Kelly Willard, and Irina Madalina Ienulescu (US/ICOMOS). The project Historians were Aaron V. Wunsch and Catherine C. Lavoie; this report was written by Catherine Lavoie. Large format photography was undertaken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher. Special thanks to Marion Blaetz and Maurice Lippincott of Arney's Mount Meeting, and Arthur Steitz of Mount Holly Meeting for their assistance and support.