

CALN FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
(Caln Quarterly Meeting)
NE Corner of Kings Highway (Route 340) and Meetinghouse Road
Thorndale
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6227

HABS
PA-6227

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
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1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CALN FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

(East Caln)

HABS No. PA-6227

- Location: Northeast corner of King's Highway (Rt. 340) and Meetinghouse Road, Thorndale, Chester County, Pennsylvania
- Present Owner: Religious Society of Friends
- Present Use: Meeting House periodically used for religious worship by neighboring meetings of the Society of Friends
- Significance: Built in 1784 and extended in 1801, Caln Meeting House poses an unusual solution to the need to accommodate a quarterly meeting. The Caln Friends chose to expand their meeting space by adding onto their existing meeting house, rather than simply building a larger structure. For the addition, they recreated the original building form and, as a result, the preparative and quarterly meeting rooms are set side by side. This arrangement visually demonstrates the hierarchy of meetings within the Friends' faith. Caln Meeting House, therefore, is uniquely suited to the interpretation of the Quaker system of Preparative, Monthly, and Quarterly meetings that was crucial to the spiritual, financial, and organizational support of the Society.

In 1800, Caln and other Friends meetings in the area joined together under the auspices of Caln Quarterly Meeting. To accommodate gathering of this larger organizational unit, constituent meetings sponsored a major addition to Caln Meeting House in the following year. The new construction doubled the building's size and essentially mirrored its form, creating the exterior appearance of four neatly joined modules. However, while the 1784 section was divided inside by a central partition, the 1801 addition contained a single open room. After the 1827 schism between Hicksite and Orthodox Quakers, this architectural arrangement took on a new significance. Both groups continued to meet in the building, a highly unusual circumstance made possible in part by the meeting house's generous proportions and linear disposition of rooms. Hicksite and Orthodox Friends continued to share the space uneasily throughout the nineteenth century. Although neither

group used Caln Meeting House frequently after 1910, it was the site of an historic joint meeting in 1952, and stands today in good condition.

Quakers were holding meetings for worship and business in Caln Township by 1716. Within a decade, the original meeting house proved inadequate and Friends chose to erect a new building on a different site. The 1784 one-story, six-bay-long fieldstone structure is the third meeting house of the Caln Friends. Starting in the mid to late eighteenth century, the doubled form provided for equally sized men's and women's meeting rooms and was used by many meetings in the Delaware Valley.

Historian: Aaron V. Wunsch and Virginia B. Price.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1784; 1801.

In response to the annual query regarding the construction of buildings in 1784, the Friends reported, "One New Meeting House Built at East Caln for their better accommodation."¹ To this newly built structure, the Friends later attached an addition that was identical in scale and in plan to the original. This extension was done in 1801 so that the Caln Friends Meeting House could accommodate the newly established Caln Quarterly Meeting. The member monthly meetings were asked to contribute money towards the project, which cost about £350 to £375;² by the time of the 1802 annual queries, the Quarterly Meeting addition was complete, doubling Caln in size.³

¹Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 16th 1784, p. 88.

²At the time Caln Quarterly Meeting was established, the Monthly Meetings assigned to it were Bradford, Sadsbury, Uwchlan, and Robeson. Within those Monthly Meetings, there were at least a dozen Preparative and Indulged Meetings. The price of the addition was estimated by the Caln Quarterly Meeting in 1800 and then raised to £375 when assessing the Monthly Meetings in 1801; see Caln Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 13th 1800; and Caln Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 14th 1801.

³T. Chalkey Matlack, "East Caln," Book 2, p. 20; Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 16th, 1784; Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 3rd, 1802.

2. Architect: No known architect or master builder has been identified as having a connection to the design and construction of Caln Meeting House. Typically the Friends nominated a committee who, collectively, had oversight of the building project and the financial aspects of the endeavor. The names of the 1784 and 1801 building committees for Caln are unknown at this writing.

3. Original and subsequent owners:⁴

1759 Deed Book L, vol. 2, p. 328

Richard Pike to Rob't Millar and Thomas Parkes (Larks)

1st mo 18th day 1759

1800 Deed Book T2, vol. 43, p. 233

Soloman Miller, son and heir to Rob't Miller, to Thomas Stalker, Thomas Vickers, Joseph Hoopes, and Thomas Edge

12th mo 10th day 1800⁵

1802 Deed Book B, 3rd vol. 50, p. 136

Thomas and Jane Stalker to Thomas Vickers, Joseph Hoopes, and Thomas Edge

2nd mo 9th day 1802

1823 Deed ...3 vol. 67, p. 348

Thomas Vickers, Joseph Hoopes, and Thomas Edge to John Edge, Samuel Coates, Jr., Gainer Pearce, and George Pearce

1st mo 11th day 1823

The above chain of title was compiled as a result of the 1827 Separation of Hicksite and Orthodox Friends. In 1828, Bradford Monthly Meeting were convinced that all of the Trustees

⁴Chain of Title, ca. 1827, Bradford Friends Monthly Meeting, misc. manuscripts, Friends Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the Monthly Meeting Minutes, it was noted that a change in trustees was needed in 1781 because "the friends who were appointed to have care of the conveyance for the ground at East Caln meeting are all Deceased." The new Trustees were Griffith Mendenhall and John Hooper, Jr. See Bradford Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 16th 1781. This transaction was omitted from the deed list cited above.

⁵See also, Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 14th, 1800. All the Trustees for the "lot of ground whereon Friends' Meeting House in East Caln stands are all deceased and we are advised by council to appoint others in their place who are to endeavor to obtain a conveyance from Solomon Miller, Eldest son of Robert Miller the last deceased Trustee [...]."

for the East Caln Friends' meeting house and property were "by death and other ways removed."⁶ By 1832, the Bradford Friends endorsed the appointment of four new Trustees for the Caln buildings and land. Before the transfer could take place, the sole surviving Trustee, Gainor Pearce, conveyed the property in trust to the Hicksites in March 1833. The Bradford Monthly Meeting, however, continued to recognize the four Friends, whose appointments it had confirmed, as the legitimate Trustees.⁷ Years later, in 1882, the Hicksites made additional changes in the meeting house Trustees naming, for example, Joel R. Davis, Thomas Clayton, and Jesse T. Pratt as Trustees in 1882.⁸ Attendance later declined and the Caln Friends' meeting was laid down. Their property was conveyed in trust to Sadsbury Monthly Meeting at the end of the century.⁹

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: It is likely that the Friends turned to one of their members for building expertise and, if possible, extended that person a contract for the construction of the initial meeting house in 1784 and the extension in 1801. They used locally-available materials, such as wood and fieldstone, to build it.

5. Original plans and construction: There are no known plans for the Caln Friends' Meeting House. However, the building retains its original plan -- maintaining the two room, doubled cell type -- in the original section, with a single open space in the 1801 extension. Because of the flexibility offered to the Friends in this doubled meeting house plan, the building could accommodate various groups and activities as needed and, significantly, without ongoing structural changes.

6. Alterations and additions: Most of the alterations to the building came as a response to fire damage or from a desire for contemporary comforts, such as electricity.¹⁰ For example, at

⁶Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 6th 1828.

⁷Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 5th 1832; Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 4 mo 3rd 1833. This dual ownership of the property suggests that both the Hicksite and Orthodox Friends used the meeting house and so, then, they continued to share the space throughout the nineteenth century.

⁸Caln Preparative (Hicksite) Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 8th 1882.

⁹Coatesville Record June 21, 1968.

¹⁰HABS Historians Catherine Lavoie and Aaron Wunsch, who conducted the larger survey of meeting houses, noted that there were at least three fires at Caln. One occurred in the west end, burning down the shed and damaging roof timbers, and another in the quarterly meeting room at the northeast corner. Repairs from the latter included a partial rebuilding of the floor, facing bench, and wainscoting. Site visits, 1997, and Personal Communication, Francis Brown to Aaron V. Wunsch and Catherine Lavoie, 1997.

the same time as the Quarterly Meeting room was under construction, the Friends added onto the women's apartment. Because of the cost (£60), the addition probably was a privy.¹¹ In 1822, the Quarterly Meeting dictated that ventilators be constructed in the meeting house; this was done and the bill for \$34.77½ was forwarded by the Caln Friends to the Quarterly Meeting.¹² Hints at the on-going efforts to care for the property are made in the 1860s and again in the 1880s. Between 1861 and 1862, there was some work on the roof covering the meeting house and the sheds; unfortunately no specifics are mentioned.¹³ Twenty years later a newspaper article referenced some improvements made at the meeting house; at this time a porch was added, the woodwork painted, and the cushions re-stuffed and overhauled.¹⁴

As seen in a photograph dated April 1903, it appears the shed (probable privy) burned taking the northwest corner of the meeting house with it.¹⁵ No mention of a fire or repairs is noted at this time, however. In 1913 and 1914 there was some work done on the meeting house, but no details of the improvements were provided in the minutes or newspapers.¹⁶ It is likely that the roof and cornice were replaced or repaired at this time because Sadsbury Monthly Meeting, who held the Caln property in trust, solicited the Samuel Jeanes Fund for money in June 1912. Sadsbury asked for \$800.00 to off-set the cost of fixing the meeting house at Caln; in 1913, the request was approved in part. The Jeanes Fund allocated \$525.00 toward the project, but in July Sadsbury submitted two bills for the job: \$493.20 and \$66.36.¹⁷ Presumably they were paid.

¹¹Caln Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 13th 1801. It is Aaron Wunsch's suggestion that the addition to the women's apartment was a privy.

¹²Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 7th 1822.

¹³Caln Preparative (Hicksite) Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 1st 1861 to 1 mo 2nd 1862.

¹⁴Daily Local News (West Chester) September 26, 1883.

¹⁵Caln Friends Meeting House, Photo April 5, 1903, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

¹⁶Coatesville Times August 20, 1910; Rose, Colonial Houses of Worship, p. 362; work apparently continued into the summer of 1914. See Daily Local News (West Chester) July 11, 1914. Unfortunately neither source elaborates on what specifically the Friends repaired at Caln Meeting House.

¹⁷Sub-Committee Having Charge of the Income of the Samuel Jeanes Fund for Meeting House Purposes, Minutes, 1900-1914, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

In 1927, the latches were stolen from the doors.¹⁸ By 1930 there was no source of heat in the building; these circumstances limited its use to the warmer months of the year.¹⁹ As the 1930s progressed, the meeting house received more attention. In 1934 it was painted and repaired. The improvements must have lasted because three years later the Friends held a First Day School in the building during the summer; they noted that they were “pleased with the improved appearance of the meeting house, which [had] been put in good repair, including several coats of paint.” By then the new King’s Highway was finished; it ran nearby the meeting house and so the Caln Friends hoped it would enable more people to come to the site and generally “renew the interest [in the meeting house] on the part of many.”²⁰ Unfortunately, King’s Highway brought both good and bad intentioned visitors to Caln Meeting House. In 1939, vandals defaced the structure and graveyard.²¹

During the 1950s, the Old Caln Historical Society sponsored the repair of the roof and rebuilding of the wood-frame shed, which had burned at that time.²² In 1965, another fire in the northwestern corner of the meeting house was reported. This time it was arson. The fire started in the shed and then spread to the meeting house roof; the firemen on scene later reported that the building was spared largely because of the green timbers in the roof. The interior of the building probably suffered from water damage, but luckily, little else was destroyed in the blaze.²³ The present shed is a post-fire replacement with contemporary (ca. 1970) framing and a concrete floor.²⁴ In the 1980s, the Old Caln Historical Society had the chimneys repaired, the mounting block fixed, and the building stone repointed. In 1986, the Friends of Caln mounted a campaign for a new roof for the meeting house.²⁵

¹⁸ Coatesville Record November 14, 1927.

¹⁹ Local Daily News (West Chester) September 13, 1930.

²⁰ Coatesville Record June 21 1968; Local Daily News (West Chester) May 29, 1937.

²¹ Coatesville Record July 28, 1939.

²² “Caln Meeting House,” Nomination form 1984, National Register for Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.; Personal Communication, Francis Brown to Aaron V. Wunsch, 1997.

²³ Coatesville Record September 11, 1965.

²⁴ DeSilets, p. 12.

²⁵ “Caln Meeting House,” Nomination form 1984, National Register for Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.; Local Daily News (West Chester) June 28, 1986.

B. Historical Context

In the 1710s, Concord Monthly Meeting established Caln Preparative Meeting and named Thomas Pierson and William Cloude as overseers for the new group.²⁶ By June 1716, the Friends in Caln were acknowledged by the Quarterly Meeting, who stated that:

The request of the Friends of the Inhabitation of Caln for a first Day's meeting to be Settled amongst them being Considered, it is the sense of this meeting that they may keep a first Day's meeting there and have Liberty to Build a meeting house on the Land of John Mendinhal according to the Friends' proposal.²⁷

Having purchased an acre from Mendinhal, the Caln Friends built a meeting house made from logs on the site. They continued to meet there for the next ten years.²⁸

In 1725, the Quarterly Meeting again granted the Caln Friends "liberty to keep a meeting"-- this time on the fourth day of the week.²⁹ The request of the Caln Friends was granted. In September 1726, on behalf of the Friends of Caln, Concord Monthly Meeting presented to the Quarterly Meeting Caln's desire to relocate. The application was for "the removing of their meeting house to the other side of the Valley it being the most central place of Friends belonging to that meeting [...]." The Monthly Meeting approved the site, after a visit to the proposed place, and recommended that the preparative meeting be allowed to move and "to build [...] a meeting house accordingly."³⁰

Located just over two miles from Downingtown, the new site of the Caln Preparative Meeting contained four acres. It is traditionally said that Caln Friends built a meeting house using log construction techniques at this place.³¹ Although they had a new log meeting house,

²⁶Coatesville Times August 20, 1910.

²⁷Chester Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 6th 1716.

²⁸Lippincott's Quaker Meeting Houses and a Little Humor, p. 67; Rose, Colonial Houses of Worship, p. 362; Coatesville Record June 21, 1968; Daily Local News September 13, 1930; Coatesville Times August 20, 1910.

²⁹Chester Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 14th 1725.

³⁰Chester Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 14th 1726.

³¹Lippincott's Quaker Meeting Houses and a Little Humor, p. 67; Rose, Colonial Houses of Worship, p. 362; Daily Local News September 26, 1883; Coatesville Record June 21 1968; Daily Local News September 13, 1930; Coatesville Times August 20, 1910.

the Caln Friends did not sell their original (1716) meeting house right away. Years later, in 1743, William Pim bought this 1716 meeting house from the Friends. It was during Pim's ownership that the building became known as the "old Pim place at the foot of the hill."³² Seemingly unconcerned about the legalities of land ownership, it was not until 1759 that the four-acre parcel on which they had been meeting since 1726 was finally conveyed to the meeting's Trustees.³³

The present meeting house was built on the same site in 1784.³⁴ It followed the doubled type or two cell plan first used at Buckingham in 1768. By creating a six-bay facade, equal weight was given to both apartments inside and out. At least architecturally, then, the men and women of Caln each had a purpose-built place for worship and conducting their business meetings in accordance with the American Friends' program.³⁵ However, unlike the majority of meeting houses to follow the prototypical design in Chester County, Caln was only one story in height while most, elsewhere, were two.

In 1800, Caln Quarterly Meeting was established to fulfill the needs of the growing Quaker population in the region. Several Monthly Meetings were assigned to Caln, including Caln itself, Bradford, Sadsbury, Uwchlan, and Robeson. Within the limits of these Monthly Meetings were many more Preparative Meetings; the Quarterly Meeting helped bind these smaller units into the larger Quaker community by offering spiritual guidance, administrative support, and financial interdependence. The Monthly Meetings, for example, paid for an addition to the Caln Meeting House in 1801.³⁶ The newly erected space was the province of the Quarterly Meeting, a use suggested by its large, open interior hiding behind a six-bay facade

³²Coatesville Record June 21 1968; Daily Local News September 13, 1930; Coatesville Times August 20, 1910; Matlack, "East Caln" Book 2, p. 16. It is possible that scarce documentary evidence and that the date of Pim's purchase have led some to believe that the present -- and third -- Caln meeting house was built in the 1740s.

³³Coatesville Record October 26, 1953; and Lippincott's Quaker Meeting Houses & A Little Humor, pp. 66-67.

³⁴Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 16th, 1784. At this time, the Friends requested permission to only pay one half of its subscription to Monthly Meeting. Their request for a temporary, but lessor, financial obligation could be related to costs of construction project.

³⁵For more information regarding the development of the prototypical meeting house form, see the documentation for Buckingham Friends Meeting House (HABS No. PA-6224).

³⁶Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 15th, 1801; Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 7th, 1801; and Bradford Monthly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 3rd, 1802.

identical to that of the original building. The Caln Friends Meeting House is the only example discovered during the HABS survey that provided for additional meeting space in this way -- recreating in scale and in outward form the initial building. Most opted to build a second structure that would include a gallery to better accommodate increased numbers during the Quarterly Meetings.

Perhaps because of its modular appearance and linear floor plan, Caln Meeting House continued to be used by the Quakers throughout the turbulent nineteenth century. Particularly unusual was the sharing of the meeting house spaces between the Hicksite and Orthodox factions of Friends after the 1828 schism. They did, however, patronize separate graveyards. Despite the meetings of both major sects, the preparative meeting(s) at Caln was discontinued in 1910 and the building infrequently occupied thereafter. As a nod to structure's ability to accommodate all of the Caln Friends, it was chosen as the site of an historic joint meeting of the Hicksite and Orthodox Friends in 1952.³⁷

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Caln Friends Meeting House exemplifies both the continuity of Quaker design and its ingenuity. Built of local materials and imitating a domestic model, Caln is recognizable as the product of the American Friends' discipline. The original (1784) meeting house was a two cell or doubled structure divided by a central north-to-south partition. The apartments - on either side of the partition - had their own windows for light and their own doorway for access. This side by side arrangement produced two architecturally balanced entities; moreover, it is a tangible expression of the American Friends' program wherein men and women sat in gender-specific apartments for both worship and business. The central partition was raised during meetings for worship and closed for the business portion. Evidence of the American Friends' programmatic requirements is found in the meeting houses constructed in the mid-eighteenth century forward. Meeting houses adhering to this building plan have been identified as the "doubled type" in the HABS survey and are perceived by many as typical examples of Quaker meeting house design.

³⁷Lippincott's Quaker Meeting Houses and a Little Humor, p. 67; Rose, Colonial Houses of Worship, p. 362.

The present (1801) Caln Friends Meeting House is a variation on the doubled type. For this structure, the Friends doubled the whole meeting house by adding six bays to a six bay building. Caln, then, is longer than those traditionally planned as the doubled type meeting houses and modeled after Buckingham (HABS No. PA-6224). Their decision to extend the original meeting house, rather than construct a new one, explains the unusual box-like partition. The east end wall was replaced with a partition wall, dividing the enlarged structure in half. This partition was doubled, so that both rooms could raise or lower the partition sections on their sides. This duality allowed for greater insulation and soundproofing between the two rooms. While the building form was not repeated in Friends' meeting houses, the doubled partition was.

2. Condition of fabric: The fabric of the meeting house is in good condition.³⁸

B. Description of Exterior³⁹

1. Overall dimensions: The meeting house is a one-story building punctuated by twelve bays on its south (front) elevation. Shaped in plan as a rather elongated rectangle, Caln Meeting House measures about 105' x 49'.⁴⁰

2. Foundations & walls: Caln Meeting House was built of rough-cut rubblework.

3. Structural system, framing: Caln has load-bearing stone masonry walls. The roof structure is without trusses; it consists of principle rafters resting on pole plates and connected at center to struts resting on the summer beam. There is no major purlin. Moreover, joists rather than tie beams connect the wall plates. Due to fire damage, early members have been reinforced by sistered supports.

4. Porches, stoops: There is a porch sheltering the west entrance into the meeting house; it also serves as the access point into the (twentieth-century) utility shed at the northwest corner of the building.⁴¹ The porch measures roughly 14' x 9'; the shed has a broader footprint,

³⁸Site visit, Aaron V. Wunsch, 1997.

³⁹For more precise measurements, please see the drawings for HABS No. PA-6227, in the HABS Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., as well as the field notes attached to the HABS record.

⁴⁰For exact dimensions, please see the measured drawings that accompany this report.

⁴¹There was a fire in the west end of the building in the 1950s; as a result, the northwest shed had to be rebuilt and some of the roof timbers replaced. It is likely that the privy was here initially and after the 1950s

measuring 16' x 12'. A shed roof covers the porch; the ridge of the roof stands at just over 10' tall.

There also was a porch at the southeastern end of the meeting house; it screened the entrances into the Quarterly Meeting room and so was approximately 33' long. It, like the extant porch, had a shed roof. The roof was supported by two posts and the floor raised slightly off the ground to account for a change in grade. Beneath the two windows, between the doors into the Quarterly Meeting room, there was a bench.⁴²

Two stone stoops ease the transition from the ground into the two west meeting rooms. In place of the late nineteenth-century porch at the east end of the south elevation, there are steps leading up to the eastern most entrances. These too are made from stones. Similarly, there are several small stone steps leading up to the doorway in the east elevation of the building. The difference in number of steps or the use of a stoop is explained by the change in grade, which slopes down from west to east, and the need for the structure's floor to remain level.

5. Chimneys: There are four symmetrically placed interior chimney stacks; each shaft has an arched cover. As there are no fireplaces inside, these must have been built to accommodate the stove pipes or were added to visually balance the one shaft tied into the stove pipe heating system.⁴³

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Six doorways lead into the meeting house proper, with four of them in the south (front) elevation. The west doorway has a single, folding door and the east has a single door. The two west doors, opening into the original half of the meeting house, are double doors. These doors have flush panels. The doors for the eastern half, that control access into the Quarterly Meeting room, are replacements. The doors for the east two doorways are

renovations not rebuilt inside the shed. See Aaron V. Wunsch, Caln Meeting House notes, HABS office, Washington, D.C.

⁴²Early views of the meeting house, dating around 1868 through the 1870s, show no porch on the eastern half. The wood porch, however, was in place by 1883. See Daily Local News (West Chester) 26 September 1883, in Clipping file, Chester County Historical Society, and the photographs at the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania, referenced in the Sources of Information section below.

⁴³Robert L. DeSilets, Consultant Architect, "A Report on Historic Structure Findings for the Conservation and Adaptive 'Joyous Use' of the ca. 1726-1800 Caln Meeting House," Report for the Caln Meeting House Conservancy, December 1993, p. 13.

singles and so do not fit into the space allotted for the now-missing double doors. To compensate, paneling has been inserted to fill in the gap. The paneling in the east doors and in-fill also differs from the west; in these it is two long rectangular panels each set over a square one; the east doors each have three panels. The surrounds are simple and held together by butt joints and pegs. Covering the south and east doors are un-supported, gable-fronted hoods. There are also two batten access doors in the east and west gables.

b. Windows and shutters: The meeting house windows are nine-over-nine light double hung sash; these are flanked by shutters with flush paneling reminiscent of that seen in the two western-most doors in the south elevation.

7. Roof: The meeting house has a gable roof with a ridge that runs east to west. There is a box cornice as well as pents in the gable ends. Wood shingles on oak lath provide the roof cover.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: A box partition divides Caln Meeting House into two equally-sized sections, of six bays each. The west half is subdivided by another, single partition running north-to-south. This portion of the building, with its two rooms, was constructed in 1784. The eastern side of the meeting house remains a large open space, with only a turned post in the center of this room. Along the entire south (front) wall there are built-in benches. These are not to be confused with the facing benches, which are located against the north (rear) wall of the meeting house.

As a one-story structure, Caln lacks a gallery or balcony space.

2. Stairways: There is no interior stair connecting the main floor and attic space above. Access to the attic is by way of the batten gable windows, that is, via the outside of the building.

3. Flooring: The floor is made of wide hardwood planks. To the east of the box partition, the flooring is made from pine.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered above the chair rail and wainscoted below. The wainscoting, however, consists of unfinished, wide butt joined boards with a bead. The ceiling also is plaster.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are two interior doors, each cut into one of the two partitions. They are single doors, swinging to the east.

b. Windows: Inside, the sash is nestled in a simple surround, notable for butt joints and a lack of paint. Each has a deep plastered reveal and an unpainted wood sill.

6. Partition: The west (1784 portion) side of the meeting house has a center partition that runs north-to-south. Made of poplar, it consists of three parts. The top and bottom sections are stationary, while the center section slides up and down to open. There is graffiti dating to the 1700s on this partition wall. The primary partition, now dividing the west and east halves of the building, is located where the end wall of the original 1784 meeting house was. It separates the general meeting house in the west from the Quarterly Meeting room in the east. This partition has two sets of shutters, forming a box for soundproofing purposes.⁴⁴ In both partitions, the wood has been left unfinished and unpainted. Also, a doorway was cut into each partition wall just at the base of the stand.⁴⁵

7. Benches: There are three rows of facing benches placed on the two-tiered stand; there also are hinged clerk's desks. The desks have ink wells carved into the rail.

8. Hardware: Most of the remaining hardware in Caln Meeting House is attached to the doors and window shutters. There are butt hinges on the eastern-most doors and iron strap hinges on the western two double doors. There are also iron rim locks attached to the shutting stiles and sliding bolt locks anchored in the door heads and sills. The double doors are opened by thumb latches; the single folding door by modern metal door knob. This door is secured by a modern Yale deadbolt lock. The shutters are hung by strap hinges (painted white) and held into place by hook and eye fasteners.

9. Mechanical equipment: Initially, iron stoves (coal burning probably) heated the meeting house rooms. What remains today are holes in the ceiling, cut to accommodate the stove pipes, however, the holes do not correspond with the location of the chimney stacks. One stove is shown in situ in a historic view of the meeting house. By the time of the National Register nomination in the 1980s, the stoves were gone. A free-standing electric heater was used in the

⁴⁴Note: The Sadsbury Friends also built a double-sided partition at the time they became host to the Quarterly Meeting (1838). It is likely then that the Sadsbury Friends used the box-like partition at Caln as a model. See HABS No. PA-6551.

⁴⁵Regarding the identification of the wood, see DeSilets, p. 13.

east meeting room instead.⁴⁶ Similarly, the electricity powered minimalist lighting inside the building.⁴⁷

The source for water was a well, although that well was described as “not potable” in the early 1990s. There is no plumbing/sewer connection on site.⁴⁸

D. Site

The Caln “Friends [...] assembled at the old meeting house on the north side of Chester Valley. It is a lovely spot, high and commanding an extensive view.”⁴⁹ Such was the site of Caln Meeting House, a place the Friends had been coming to since 1726. At that time, Concord Monthly Meeting assigned Robert Pyle, Benjamin Mendenhall, Henry Osborn, Moses Key, Abraham Widdoes, and Benjamin Mendenhall, Jr., to select (with the Friends of Caln) a place for a new meeting house on the other side of the valley, upon the mountain.⁵⁰ The Caln Friends moved here from their initial location, in the valley, on an acre of land previously belonging to John Mendenhall.⁵¹ In the 1743, William Pim bought that meeting house and property. Although he deeded back to the Trustees the rights to the burial ground there, the first Caln Friends’ Meeting House became known as “the old Pim place at the foot of the hill.”⁵²

⁴⁶“Caln Meeting House,” Nomination form 1984, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.; the photograph was taken in the east meeting room (built for Quarterly Meeting) because it shows the turned post in the center of the building. See HABS No. PA-6227 drawing no. 1 of 3.

⁴⁷As late as 1965, there was no electricity in the shed/utility room. See Coatesville Record November 19, 1965.

⁴⁸Site visit, Aaron V. Wunsch, June 1997; plus, please see “Caln Meeting House,” Nomination form 1984, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.; Robert L. DeSilets, Consultant Architect, “A Report on Historic Structure Findings for the Conservation and Adaptive ‘Joyous Use’ of the ca. 1726-1800 Caln Meeting House,” Report for the Caln Meeting House Conservancy, December 1993; and the historic views on file at the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania, cited in the Sources of Information section below.

⁴⁹Local Daily News (West Chester) August 20, 1949.

⁵⁰Local Daily News (West Chester) August 20, 1949; Concord Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 14th 1726.

⁵¹Concord Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 6th 1716.

⁵²Bradford Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 19th 1743; Coatesville Record June 21, 1968; Matlack, “East Caln,” Book 2, p. 19.

The tract on which present Caln Meeting House stands encompasses approximately six acres.⁵³ Although not purchased until 1759, it appears that Friends have met somewhere on this property since 1726. There are no above-ground traces of a meeting house predating the present one. The graveyard, however, contains the mortal remains of the earliest meeting members. The lot currently demarcated for burial stretches north of the meeting house. It is enclosed by stone walls; these walls abut the building at the center of the north (rear) elevation - the outside corner before the 1801 expansion - and then again at the northern end of the east elevation. Within the stone walls, uniform stone grave markers dot the landscape. This is in keeping with the Friends' discipline which prevented them from adopting elaborate memorials to the deceased. A mid-1910s survey listed about 1000 marked graves here but three-fourths remain unknown as their stones designate where they were buried but not who they were. The earliest dated tombstone is from 1754.⁵⁴ After the Separation in 1827, the Orthodox Friends purchased some land across the street from the meeting house to use as their burial ground.

West of the meeting house stands a stone mounting block, although it had to be rebuilt after a truck ran into it (from King's Highway?). The mounting block was reoriented at this time.⁵⁵ Although no longer extant, horses received shelter at Caln in one of three horse sheds; one was east of the meeting house and two were northwest of it.⁵⁶

No major building activity has occurred on the site since the 1801 expansion for the Quarterly Meeting. Instead, a small porch was added in 1883 and later removed; a shed appeared at the northwest corner and King's Highway was laid out close to the meeting house proper. Small stones mark the original position of the drive.

E. Supplemental Information: Transcription of 1859 Deed to Meeting House Property:

⁵³Coatesville Record June 21, 1968; Local Daily News (West Chester) June 28, 1986; see also, Lippincott's Quaker Meeting Houses & A Little Humor, pp. 66-67.

Note: Only four of these acres are included in the National Register listing. See "Caln Meeting House," Nomination form 1984, National Register for Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

⁵⁴Daily Local News (West Chester) July 11, 1914.

⁵⁵Personal Communication, Francis Brown to Aaron V. Wunsch, 1997.

⁵⁶Coatesville Record November 14, 1927; and Personal Communication, Francis Brown to Aaron V. Wunsch, 1997; the sheds also are visible in several of the historic views. The east horse shed, for example, had at least twelve stalls. Please see the historic views held in the collections of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania, referenced in the Sources of Information section below.

This Indenture made the 18th day of the first month called January in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and fifty nine Between Richard Pike of the City of Cork in the Kingdom of Ireland Merchant of the one part, and Robert Miller and Thomas Larks both of East Caln Township in the County of Chester and Province of Pennsylvania in America Yeomen of the other part. Whereas the said Richard Pike is seized in fee simple of a certain piece or parcel of land situate in East Caln Township aforesaid. Beginning at a white oak at the distance of one hundred and twenty eight perches Northerly from the Southerly line of his the said Richard Pike's two Tracts of Land, thence along the line dividing the said two Tracts of Land West Sixteen perches to a Chestnut, thence North Forty perches to a post, thence East Sixteen perches to a post and thence South Forty perches to the place of beginning Containing Four Acres. And whereas the People of God called Quakers in East Caln Township aforesaid, have with the Privity and Consent of the said Richard Pike erected and built a Meeting-house on the said described Piece of Land; Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said Richard Pike out of the love and Esteem which he hath unto the said People called Quakers and in consideration of Five shillings Sterling Money of Great Britain unto him well and truly paid by the said Robert Miller and Thomas Larks at and before the Sealing and Delivery hereof. The Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath given granted bargained sold released and confirmed And by these presents doth give grant bargain sell release and confirm unto the said Robert Miller and Thomas Larks and to their Heirs and Assigns All that the aforesaid described Piece or Parcel of Land situate lying and being as aforesaid and containing Four Acres as aforesaid. Together with the Meeting-house now thereon erected And all other Buildings, Improvements, Woods, Trees, Profits, Commodities, Advantages, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the Reversions Remainders, Rents, Issues, and Profits thereof: To Have and To Hold the said described Four Acres of Land Meeting-house, hereditaments, and premises with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Robert Miller and Thomas Larks their Heirs and Assigns, to the use and Behalf of the said Robert Miller and Thomas Larks their Heirs and Assigns forever. In trust to the Use and Benefit of such of the said People called Quakers which now are or which hereafter shall be and continue in Unity and religious Friendship with Friends of Truth and remain Members of their Monthly Meeting of East Caln aforesaid, and to or for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever. And the said Richard Pike doth covenant for him and his Heirs, that he and his Heirs the aforesaid described Four Acres of Land Hereditaments and Premises hereby given and granted or mentioned so to be with the Appurtenances, unto the said Robert Miller and Thomas Larks their Heirs and Assigns To the use aforesaid, against him the said Richard Pike and his Heirs, and against all and every other Person and Persons whatsoever lawfully claiming or to claim by from or under him them or any of them shall and will Warrant and for Ever Defend by these Presents. In Witness whereof the said Parties to these Presents have interchangeably set their Hands and Seals hereinto, Dated the Day and Year first above written.

Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of Us
James Sparks
Jim Waughop}

Richard Pike

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views (in chronological order)

Caln Meeting House site from southwest, showing driveway, stereograph, n.d. S. R. Fisher, photographer (active 1868 - early 1870s). Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House site from southwest, showing horse sheds, n.d. [pre-1883]. Marked "Gift of C. Roland Thatcher." Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House site from west, showing horse sheds and privy, cyanotype, n.d. [nineteenth century]. Collection 912, Quaker Collection, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

Caln Meeting House site from distant southwest, 5 April 1903. Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House site from southeast, showing horse shed, 5 April 1903. Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House from southeast, 5 April 1903. Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House from southwest, 21 May 1906. Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House, interior of west or central room showing stove, [1906?]. Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House from southwest, 1910. Marked "Presented by Miss Mary Cooper." Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House from southeast, cat 1911. Published in supplement to *The Westonian*, January, 1911.

Caln Meeting House from southwest, n.d. [post 1965]. Friends Meeting House Collection, Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Caln Meeting House and site, miscellaneous undated views. Photograph Collection, Old Caln Historical Society, Thorndale, PA.

B. Bibliography

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'Joyous Use' of the c 1726 [sic] - 1800 Caln Meeting House, a National Register Historic
Site, 1993" TD. Collection of Francis Brown, Trustee of Caln Friends Meeting property.

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TD. Caln File, Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

"Excerpts from the Minutes of Caln Quarterly Meeting 1800 - [n.d.]" TD. Caln File, Chester
County Historical Society, West Chester, PA.

Matlack, T. Chalkey. ["Brief Historical Sketches Concerning Friends Meeting Houses of the Past
and Present with Special Reference to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting"] MS. Quaker
Collection, Haverford College, Haverford, PA. **When possible, replace this citation
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*Possibly more info. in: Bradford Monthly (O) Minutes, post 1842; Bradford Monthly (H) Minutes, post 1850; Western Quarterly Minutes, 1784-1800.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation project was sponsored through a Congressional appropriation made to the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) to study Southeastern Pennsylvania specifically. With the Southeastern Pennsylvania funding the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) division of the National Park Service surveyed all extant Quaker meeting houses that are or were tied to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. HABS Historians Catherine C. Lavoie and Aaron V. Wunsch initiated the study

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with support from the regional office of the National Park Service, and later the Foundation for Architecture and the William Penn Foundation; and then they conducted the field survey over a three year period. The multi-year Friends Meeting House Study included Caln Meeting House. The principals involved in the documentation of Caln were E. Blaine Cliver, Chief, HABS/HAER, Paul D. Dolinsky, Chief, HABS, Robert Arzola, HABS Architect, and Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS Senior Historian. The field recording for the measured drawings was completed in Summer 1997. The Project Supervisor was Roger S. Miller, Alexandria, Virginia, who was assisted by architectural technicians Helen Barnard, Cincinnati, Ohio; Kevin Joseph Lam, Houston, Texas; Pamela Leigh Howell, Westlake, Ohio; and Adam Maksay (ICOMOS/Romania). The project historian was Aaron V. Wunsch, HABS, Washington, D.C.; sections I & II were written by Virginia B. Price from Wunsch's notes. Large format photography was done by Jack E. Boucher, HABS Photographer, and James Rosenthal, HABS Photographic Assistant.