

UPPER EVESHAM FRIENDS MEETING SCHOOL HOUSE
14 Union Street (Rear)
Medford
Burlington County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1063

HABS
NJ
3-MED,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS
NJ
3-MED,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UPPER EVESHAM FRIENDS MEETING SCHOOL HOUSE

HABS No. NJ-1063

LOCATION: 14 Union Street (Rear), Medford Monthly Meeting House Grounds, on the South side of street 400 feet West of the intersection of Union Street and Main Street, Medford, Burlington County, New Jersey.

USGS Mount Holly, New Jersey Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.514900.4416300

SIGNIFICANCE: The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) operated a school on this site since 1759(1). This structure was probably built sometime between 1840 and 1860 as a replacement of the 1759 school(1).

DESCRIPTION: The original frame structure is 24 feet wide by 28 feet long. The framing lumber is very uniform, probably cut with a circular saw and attached with square cut nails. The peaks of the rafters are pinned. The foundation is rubble masonry with cement mortar and no basement. This original section was probably built in the period 1840 to 1860(1) replacing an earlier structure and used as a one room school house. The building is oriented north south with roof slopes east and west. The principal entry is at the north end. The exterior is painted clapboard siding with an asphalt shingle roof and the windows are double hung. The interior is painted wainscoting with plaster walls above and a plaster ceiling. The floor boards are pine.

An addition to house a kitchen 24 feet wide by 23 feet long and an open porch 24 feet wide by 8 feet long were added to the south end of the building about 1905(1). This end has a lower ceiling and a metal roof. It is supported by locust posts and is open underneath.

The entire building is electrified and most recently heated by oil. Water service is available at the building but not connected. There is no sewer connection.

The basic building structure appears to be in good condition considering its age. The electrical system is antiquated and sanitary facilities are inadequate for any reasonable use.

A brick chimney was discovered above the ceiling in the rafters of the original structure, apparently to serve a wood stove, since removed.

There is no record locally available documenting the

UPPER EVESHAM FRIENDS MEETING SCHOOL HOUSE
HABS No. NJ-1063 (Page 2)

actual construction date, cost, design or builder. Minute books of the Upper Evesham Meeting are in the archives of Haverford College and may contain further information and documentation.

HISTORY: Members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) were extensively persecuted in England in the late Seventeenth century. They began settling in New Jersey around 1675 in Salem. Williams Penn's arrival in 1682 brought large numbers to the areas surrounding Philadelphia in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

They were primarily farmers and settled here due to the good soil, favorable climate, availability of timber and game as well as the proximity to water power and water borne transportation on the Southwest Branch of the Rancocas Creek.

Worship groups were initially held in individual homes. As the population increased and the hardships eased, the need for education of their children was recognized. A school house existed on this site in 1759(1) when a burial ground was purchased for the Meeting. Worship services were commonly held in the school house until the meeting house was constructed.

A frame meeting house was built about 1762(2) and was replaced by the present brick meeting house in 1814. This was designated as the Upper Evesham Preparative Meeting to distinguish it from the Evesham Meeting in Mount Laurel.

Traditionally, "Friends" have conducted unprogrammed religious services without a paid clergy and were organized without an ecclesiastical hierarchy(3). However, they do have a structure for conducting business and communicating religious information within the faith.

PREPARATIVE MEETING: Usually a worship group.

MONTHLY MEETING: Conducts religious and secular business on a monthly basis and is composed of one or more Preparative Meetings.

QUARTERLY MEETING: Meets 3 or 4 times a year with representatives of 6 to 10 Monthly Meetings.

YEARLY MEETING: Meets annually with representatives from component Quarterly and Monthly Meetings for religious and secular business.

UPPER EVESHAM FRIENDS MEETING SCHOOL HOUSE
HABS No. NJ-1063 (Page 3)

The school building was built before 1876 as it is shown in its present position in Scott's Atlas(4). Pictures exist from 1814(1) when the meeting house was built, indicating a school oriented 90 degrees from the present structure. The school was closed in 1898(2). Subsequently, it has been used for social and religious functions associated with the Meeting and community.

Other former school buildings similar to this one exist at Cropwell in Evesham Township, Mansfield near Columbus and Evesham at Mount laurel as well as elsewhere in Medford. All have been converted to residences. They are all similar in size, shape and architecture to this building.

This recording is being done because the building is to be converted to a Caretaker's residence and recordation is a condition of Municipal and Pinelands Commission development approval.

SOURCES:

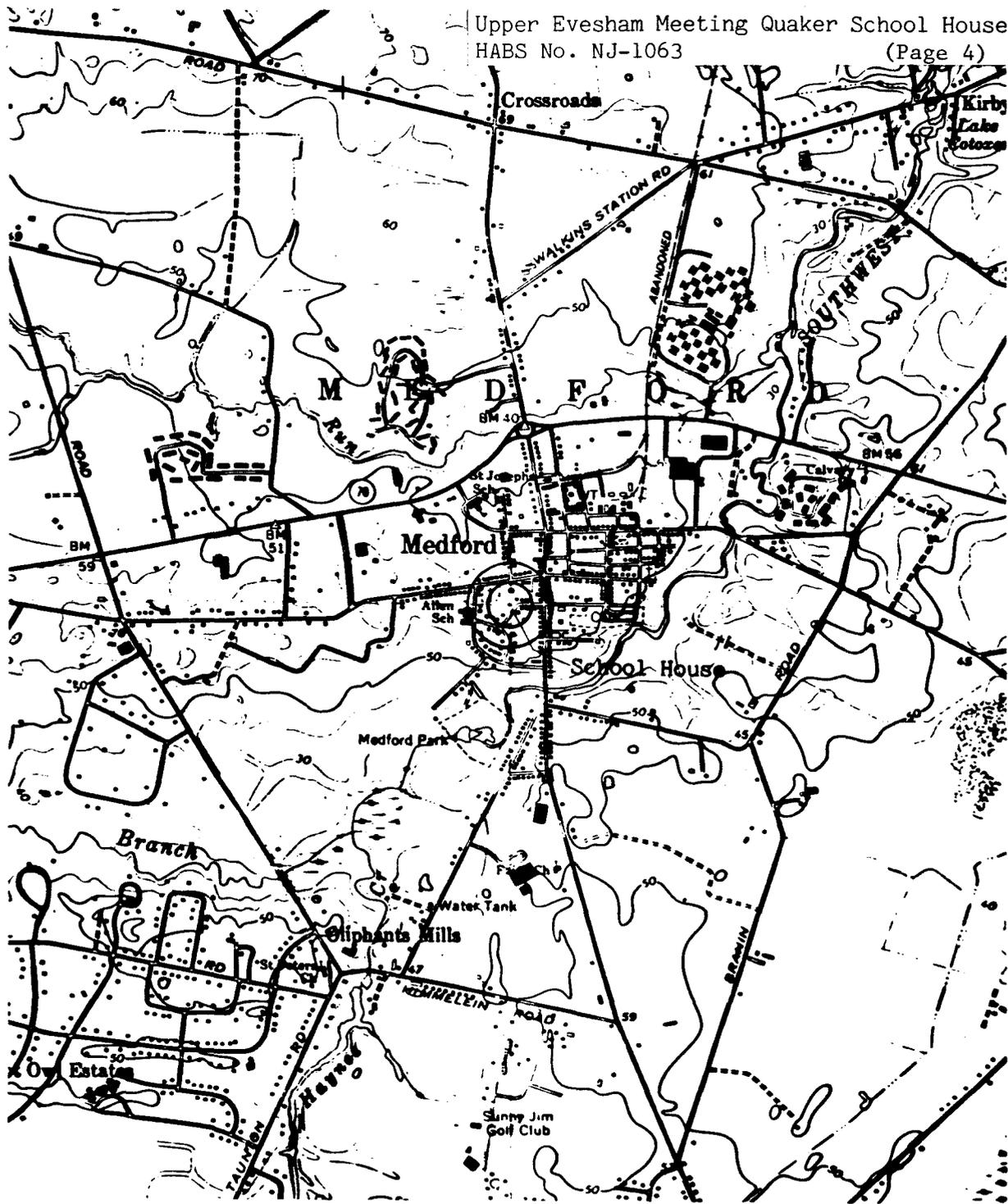
- (1) REPORT ON THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A FORMER SCHOOL HOUSE LOCATED ON BLOCK 1704, LOT 9, MEDFORD, NEW JERSEY: Draft by Barry J. Brady, PHD, Staff Archaeologist, The Pinelands Commission, New Lisbon, New Jersey, April, 1992
- (2) MEDFORD, PIONEERING TOWNSHIP: Medford Historical Society, Medford, New Jersey, 1975
- (3) FAITH AND PRACTICE: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1972
- (4) NEW HISTORICAL ATLAS OF BURLINGTON COUNTY: J.D. Scott, Page 71, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1876

HISTORIAN:

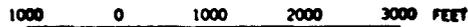
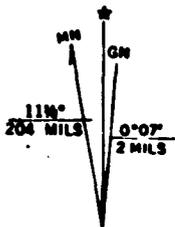
Charles L. Walton, Jr., Professional Engineer & Land Surveyor

Member of Medford Monthly Meeting, successor to Upper Evesham Preparative Meeting.

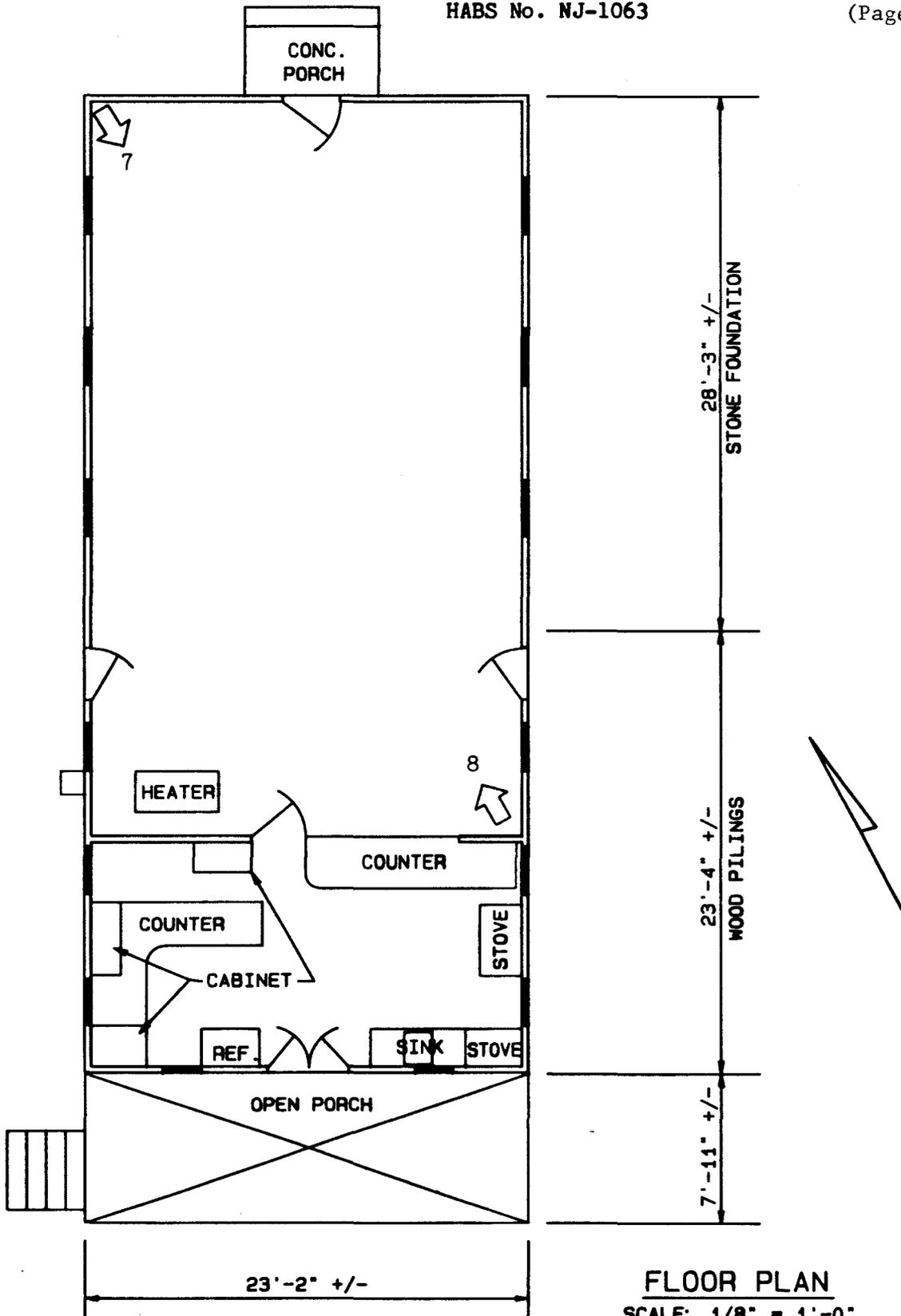
The Walton family has been continuously associated with Quakerism in the Philadelphia area since 1683.



USGS Mount Holly, New Jersey Quadrangle



SCALE: 1" = 2000'



FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"