

SADSBURY FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
Simmontown Road, .25 mile east of Route 41 intersection
Christiana vicinity
Lancaster County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6651

HABS
PA-6651

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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SADSBURY FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

HABS No. PA-6651

- Location: Sadsbury Friends Meeting House can be found on Simmontown Road, about one-fourth of a mile east of the intersection of Route 41 and Simmontown Road, near Christiana in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.
- Sadsbury Friends Meeting House also can be found, per USGS 7.5' x 7.5' map, at 395815N by 0755928W.
- Present Owner: The Trustees for the Religious Society of Friends of Sadsbury Monthly Meeting own and operate the meeting house property.
- Present Occupant and Use: Although unoccupied for much of the twentieth century, Sadsbury Friends Meeting House again is used as a place of worship for members of the Society of Friends.
- Significance: Among the earliest extant meeting houses in the Delaware Valley, Sadsbury is a rare example of an early meeting house form. Sadsbury's square shaped plan and three-by-three bay elevations with centrally located entries on the southeast and southwest resemble those meeting houses built in late seventeenth and early eighteenth-century Philadelphia. Of those, the most is known about the 1703 structure, the Second Bank Meeting House, the appearance of which survives in a sketch. Like the Second Bank Meeting House, Sadsbury has entries on contiguous sides and is capped by a hipped roof.
- Coupled with the use of dual entries, the unequally partitioned interior of Sadsbury suggests that the Sadsbury Friends followed the English format for worship when they designed and erected their meeting house in 1747. In England, and during the early settlement period in the Delaware Valley, both men and women Quakers met together in the larger of the rooms for worship. They then separated into different spaces for the business portion of the meeting. The logistical effects of the English program, as seen in Sadsbury, are manifested architecturally in the two front elevations as well as in the position of the partition, the facing benches, and the gallery. Today, however, the facing benches have been relocated and the gallery is gone for it burned as early as 1764. Evidence of the gallery is seen in the attic space.
- Historian: Virginia B. Price.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The present meeting house of the Sadsbury Friends was built around 1747. This replaced their first meeting house which was a log structure constructed specifically for the Friends' needs in 1725.¹

2. Architect: There is no known architect or designer credited with building the meeting house.

3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: Between 1747 and 1902, the Sadsbury Friends were the only owners and occupants of the meeting house. After 1902, when the Friends moved into Christiana, it is said that the meeting house was rented to the Maple Grove Mennonites.² The length and terms of their tenure are unknown.³ The Sadsbury Friends retained ownership of the structure throughout and in the 1970s began to use it as a place of worship again.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Under the oversight of a building committee, the Sadsbury Friends were collectively responsible for the raising of their meeting house. It is unknown, however, just who actually built the structure or who supplied the materials for the project.

5. Original plans and construction: Although no plans or architectural drawings survive from the period of construction, the meeting house remains largely intact. Built up from a square footprint, the two-story meeting house was capped by a hip roof and oriented with its corners on the cardinal points. Inside, Sadsbury was planned around dual entries in its southeast and southwest elevations. Its partition ran on a southeast to northwest axis, just the off the midpoint of the building because of the centrally located southeast door, and its facing benches were against the northeast wall. While the partition is in situ, the original position of the facing

¹Sam Bradley, "The Monthly Meeting of Sadsbury," brochure, n.d., Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, Pennsylvania; Inventory of Church Archives (/) Society of Friends in Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA: prepared by the Pennsylvania Historical Survey (/) Division of Community Service Programs (/) Works Progress Administration, 1941), entry #119; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1891-1925, 1 mo 28th 1891, pp. 1-3; and T. Chalkley Matlack, comp., Brief Historical Sketches concerning Friends' Meetings of the Past and Present with Special Reference to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Moorestown, NJ: 1938), pp. 263-266.

²Patent Book A, vol. 14, pp. 237-239, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1891-1925, 1 mo 28th 1891, pp. 1-3; Sam Bradley, "The Monthly Meeting of Sadsbury," brochure, n.d., Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, Pennsylvania; Inventory of Church Archives, entry #119. Although information about the construction of the Sadsbury Friends Meeting House remains elusive, the minutes do record requests by the Leacock meeting to move their place of worship in 1748. Their request was granted and the Leacock Friends relocated to Bird-in-hand. At this time, the minutes reference a deed for some land on which to build the meeting house; because of the context, it is likely that this refers to the Leacock Friends and not to Sadsbury. In 1751, Leacock changed its name to Lampiter. Late in the eighteenth century, they rebuilt their meeting house in brick. See Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 6th 1748, p. 48; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 6th 1748/49; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 1751, p. 57.

³It was said that in 1909, the Mennonites would soon be leaving the Sadsbury Meeting House for their own building in nearby Atglen. The Mennonites used the Sadsbury Meeting House for their first day schools and evening sings. See "The Landmarks of Caln Quarter," Friends Intelligencer (November 20, 1909), p. 740.

benches is inferred from the two windows in the northeast elevation -- as opposed to the three bays characterizing the other three elevations -- and the evidence of a tiered gallery running around the southeast, southwest, and northwest walls in the present attic space of the building.

This plan suggests that the Sadsbury Friends adhered to the English meeting format wherein men and women met in a single space for worship and then the women Friends removed to a smaller compartment for gender-specific business meetings. At Sadsbury, the meetings for worship were held in the larger apartment northeast of the partition; there too the men met for business. This arrangement meant that the southeast doorway was the men's entrance and the southwest portal the women's. That the facing benches were obscured from view in the southwest apartment mattered little as it was the logistics of the business meetings that necessitated closing the partition and gathering in the southwest apartment at all. The second floor was a gallery space initially; ghosts of the benches and stairs are visible on the interior of the walls and are all that remain of the gallery today.

6. Alterations and additions: One of the earliest alterations to the stone building is said to have happened in 1777, at which time tradition purports it was "destroyed by fire."⁴ It also is said that Joseph Gest, sometimes spelt "Guest," was the one who fixed the meeting house after it sustained damage during the American Revolutionary War. The minutes from the Preparative Meeting of Friends held in Sadsbury record a Joseph Gest in the membership. He married Deborah Dickinson in 1765 and was active in the meeting during the 1780s. There is no mention in the meeting minutes, however, of his trade or of repairs to the structure on Simmontown Road during this interval. Yet in A Biographical History of Lancaster County, the author notes that Joseph Gest (1722-1804), moved into Lancaster from Delaware County to live with his uncle, Thomas Clemson. In Lancaster, Gest learned the carpenter's trade. Soon, Gest "became an extensive contractor, and was engaged in erecting some of the finest buildings among the early settlements."⁵ Certainly qualified, Gest would then be in a position to rebuild the meeting house after the alleged fire but without accounts to document his professional practice, his role remains supposition.

Confusing the issue, perhaps, is the Lancaster Meeting which belonged to the Sadsbury Monthly Meeting. This building was damaged during the American Revolutionary War. Both the building and the grave yard associated with the Lancaster Friends were in a "waste[ful]" condition in 1779.⁶ Because of its ruinous state, the Quarterly Meeting recommended closing up the Lancaster Meeting house in 1780.⁷ The remaining sash and glass were removed, the large

⁴See, for example, Harold Wickliffe Rose, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America (/) Built in the English Colonies before the Republic, 1607-1789, and Still Standing, (New York, NY: Hastings House, 1963), p. 389; and Matlack, pp. 265-266.

⁵Alexander Harris, A Biographical History of Lancaster County (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1974), s.v., "Gest, Joseph," p. 18.

⁶Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 20th 1779, p. 305; Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 11 mo 15th 1779, p. 11.

⁷Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 1780, p. 312.

house shut up, the “lessor apartment” restored, and the graveyard fenced.⁸ Three years later, twelve pounds sterling worth of repairs were made.⁹

This work, sponsored by the local Friends, was not enough. In 1785, the matter was brought before the Committee on Sufferings because the damaged house “affects our Society more extensively than the limits of this Quarter.” Moreover, the Friends’ “general meetings [in the ‘large meeting house’] had been discontinued since the year 1775 and the inside work of the House being destroyed by the soldiers in the time of the late commotion so as to be in a very shattered condition.”¹⁰ While the circumstances and condition of the structure were discussed by the Sufferings Committee, the Friends debated being able to restore it at all. They noted that the roof was gone and the meeting house “appears to be much out of order.” They thought, perhaps, that pulling it down and erecting a smaller one would be the best course of action.¹¹ Two years later, they decided to fix the meeting house and the Yearly Meeting’s Committee on Sufferings allocated them one hundred pounds sterling to do it.¹² By August of 1789, the work was contracted out.¹³ James Miller reported, in November, that “the repairs at Lancaster Meeting house were complete.”¹⁴ Other than the case of the Lancaster meeting house, the sufferings listed for the Sadsbury Friends focused on what personal property was seized during the war. Things were taken and fines were imposed on the Friends because of their advocacy of peace. Articles lost included horses, cattle, sheep, swine, wagons, carts, grain, hay, bed and bed clothing, wearing apparel, farming utensils, and household furniture.¹⁵

Between 1803 and 1808, the condition of their Lancaster property again occupied the Sadsbury Friends at their Monthly Meetings. A committee reported to the Monthly Meeting, in 1803, that the building needed a new roof. The fences, however, were in “good repair” and the furniture worth about six pounds sterling. Yearly rents came to twelve pounds sterling and the committee suggested fitting the “middle apartment [. . .] for use as a schoolroom.” Once rented

⁸Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 2 mo 21st 1780, p. 13.

⁹Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 2 mo 17th 1783, p. 66; Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 5 mo 19th 1783, pp. 69-70.

¹⁰Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 5 mo 16th 1785, p. 97.

¹¹Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 8 mo 21st 1786, p. 118.

¹²Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 5 mo 19th 1788, pp. 144-145; Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 11 mo 17th 1788, p. 153.

¹³Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 5 mo 18th 1789; Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 8 mo 17th 1789, pp. 163-164.

¹⁴Western Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 1779-1818, 11mo 1789, p. 167.

¹⁵New Garden Friends Monthly Meeting, Sufferings, 5 mo 3rd 1784, pp. 17-18. In 1803, the Friends in Caln Quarter revisited the issue of military requisitions. Those who suffered included thirteen Friends of Bradford Monthly Meeting (grain, stock, leather, boards, bees, and saw); four Friends of Sadsbury Monthly Meeting (grain, stock, and a watch), and three Friends of Uwchlan (grain and linnen [sic]). The losses totaled £104.18.7. See Caln Quarterly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 16th 1803.

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as a schoolroom, the incoming money could defray maintenance expenses.¹⁶ The Friends again listened to a committee appointed to evaluate the Lancaster property in 1805. This committee reiterated the earlier conclusions, saying that the “roof is in a decayed state and from leakage, other parts of the building receive damage”; therefore, the committee proposed to the Monthly Meeting that a “new roof and other repairs necessary to make property productive” be done. The committee reminded the Monthly Meeting that the Lancaster Friends usually held their meetings in the south end of the house, and so asked that the southern section not be rented out. By reserving the south compartment, the committee ensured that there would be meeting space available when the Lancaster Friends needed it.¹⁷ The Friends elected to have William Webb do the work. In 1808, Webb completed his job. The meeting house was restored and the Friends owed Webb £104.18.0 for his services.¹⁸

During the 1810s and 1820s, the Sadsbury Friends built a meeting house in Columbia for the Indulged Meeting there and then faced paying off the costs of construction. In 1813, they owed about \$300.00.¹⁹ By 1815, they removed a house belonging to the Lancaster Friends.²⁰ By 1822, there was a surplus of money generated by the rents of the Lancaster meeting house, one part as a dwelling, one as a school room. The \$200.00 that had accumulated was claimed by the East Sadsbury Friends and by the Columbia Friends. Those in East Sadsbury wanted the money to offset the expense of building their meeting house and those in Columbia hoped to pay for some land they bought for use as a burying ground.²¹ In the same Quarter as Sadsbury Monthly Meeting, the London Grove Monthly Meeting experienced growing pains similar to those of East Sadsbury and Columbia. Between 1811 and 1814, they complained their meeting house was too small to accommodate them and expressed a desire to build anew. When that tactic stalled, the London Grove Friends stated that the meeting house was “unsafe” because the walls were failing. A committee nominated to investigate determined that some small repairs would suffice.²² Although references to the meeting houses of Lancaster, Columbia, East Sadsbury, and London Grove exist, no mention is made during the Monthly Meetings or the Quarterly Meetings of the Sadsbury Friends’ meeting house specifically at this time. Thus there is no conclusive documentary evidence to a Revolutionary War era fire there, or to the second one, mentioned in the oral histories of Sadsbury.

¹⁶Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1844, pp. 238-241; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 7 mo 5th 1803, p. 241.

¹⁷Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 5 mo 7th 1805, pp. 266-267.

¹⁸Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 1 mo 5th 1808, p. 296; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 2 mo 2nd 1808, p. 298.

¹⁹Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 2 mo 2nd 1813, p. 357.

²⁰Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 12 mo 5th 1815, p. 402.

²¹Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 4 mo 2nd 1822, pp. 514-516.

²²Western Quarterly Meeting, 1811-1814, pp. 385, 387, 400, 402, 417, 429.

Sadsbury, 1747-1828

A decade *before* the Revolutionary War era fire supposedly occurred, the minutes of Quarterly Meeting noted in February of 1765, “[a]nd as the Meeting House at Sadsbury is lately burnt down, it is agreed that the General Meeting next Quarter be held at this House [London Grove].”²³ Substantiating its reference to the 1764 fire in Sadsbury meeting house, two years later the Quarterly meeting recorded that “[a] new Meeting house built at Little Britain, & another at Sadsbury, both in Lancaster County, in the Room of two that were burnt at those Places in the latter of the Year 1764.”²⁴ Because the 1764 fire was large enough to prevent business meetings of the Quarter from taking place there, the decision by Sadsbury Monthly Meeting to “lay the account of building” before the Quarterly Meeting in 1765 seems appropriate. Presumably they did so because the meeting was more than eighty-five pounds sterling in debt. As a result, a committee to audit the account of repairing the meeting house was established.²⁵

Similarly, in 1778 the Quarterly Meeting elected to hold its meetings at London Grove instead of Sadsbury. It is unclear, at this juncture, if the meeting house had been burned as legend tells. If there was no fire, then it is possible that the meeting house was used during the war for soldiers’ quarters or as a hospital, and the destruction occurred as the structure was adapted to war-time needs.²⁶

In 1817, the Sadsbury Friends had recovered from the effects of the revolutionary war and, apparently, were thriving. Suggestive of their success is that they decided to host the Quarterly Meeting more often and so submitted their proposal to do so.²⁷ Although nothing came of the Sadsbury Friends’ proposition at this juncture, that the Friends were willing to take on the extra responsibility implies something about the strength of their meeting and about the capacity of their meeting house.

Sadsbury, 1828-61

During the 1830s, the number of meetings held at Sadsbury increased. As early as November of 1830, the Sadsbury Friends repeated their suggestion that they host the Quarterly

²³Western Quarterly Meeting held at London Grove, Minutes 2 mo 18th 1765, p. 105.

²⁴Western Quarterly Meeting held at London Grove, Minutes, 8 mo 18th 1766, p. 130. Unfortunately, the meeting house for the Little Britain Preparative Meeting is gone. The Hicksite Friends, later known as Penn Hill Meeting in Wakefield, gathered in a nineteenth-century building (1823) that was donated to them by Jeremiah Brown. This structure replaced the 1758 stone building that later burned around the time Sadsbury did, in 1764-65. Only a plaque attached to the 1823 structure commemorates the 1758 establishment. The Little Britain Orthodox Friends constructed a one-story, brick building for their meetings by 1840. See Inventory of Church Archives, entries #354, #377.

²⁵Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 7 mo 17th 1765, pp. 140-141; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 27th 1765.

²⁶Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 1778, p. 287.

²⁷Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 1 mo 7th 1817, p. 415; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1738-1824, 3 mo 4th 1817, p. 417.

Meeting more often.²⁸ Once its offer was accepted, the Friends had the meeting house altered to suit the Quarterly Meeting. The minutes recorded their actions as follows:

The report of the Committee relative to improvements in and about Sadsbury Meeting house for the better accommodation of the Quarterly Meeting being now under consideration, it is adopted in both its parts and Moses Whitson, Asahel Moore, and James Williams are appointed to have the work done. The Monthly Meetings are requested to furnish James Williams with their several proportions of the sum mentioned in said report, the Clerk is directed to forward to each of the Monthly Meetings a copy of this minute. (/) The report is as follows, to wit, (/) To Caln Quarterly Meeting

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of repairs in and around Sadsbury Meeting house, having all met except one, report, that they agree in believing that the partitions should be doubled and fourteen new benches furnished, also that the two back benches in each end should be raised, they estimate the expense at one hundred dollars.

They further report that five of their number agree in believing that eight new stalls should be erected provided Sadsbury Preparative Meeting will permit such suitable timber as their land will afford to be taken, for this purpose.²⁹

Some years later, the Friends leased nearby farm land to James Simmons. The agreement was valid for five years, between 1854 and 1859. A portion of Simmons's rent hinged on him assuming the role of caretaker. Simmons was responsible for keeping "depredations" from taking place on the Friends' property. He also had to maintain the meeting house in "good order." On meeting days he was instructed to open up the building and to lay fires to warm it, if the weather was cold. He was to cut wood and keep a supply near the door for the Friends' use as well as to prepare, when necessary, the graveyard for interments.³⁰

Sadsbury after the Civil War (1866-1886)

Tradition tells that the Sadsbury Friends heard the guns of Gettysburg while at their meeting house. The storekeeper, who ran his business from a brick building just north of the meeting house, took note of the battle sounds. He then hid his casks of gunpowder in the meeting house cellar for safekeeping. The premise was that no one would think the Quakers, who were advocates of peace, would have anything to do with gunpowder and the war. Therefore, the cellar would not be suspect. It was well known, moreover, that the Friends had suffered for their belief in nonviolence during the American Revolution. The storekeeper must have hoped that the Friends' peaceful reputation, confirmed during the 1770s and 1780s, would

²⁸Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1828-1844, 11 mo 2nd 1830, p. 39.

²⁹Caln Quarterly Meeting, Men's Minutes 1828-1900, 5 mo 24th 1838, pp. 45-46; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, 6 mo 6th 1838, pp. 156-157.

³⁰Lease between Sadsbury Preparative Meeting to James Simmons, Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1828-1844, pp. 313-314.

protect his investment. The same legend also describes the cellar doors as “barrel-shaped” as to accommodate the casks.³¹

What happened to the gunpowder in the cellar remains untold, but the building had sustained some damage by 1865. In March, a committee was appointed to restore the meeting house for the Sadsbury Friends. By September the Friends established another committee to audit the accounts associated with the maintenance work; from this business, it can be inferred the job of patching the structure and/or its interior had begun.³² Over the next two years, the bills contracted during the repairs were settled. About \$1500.00 of the requisite funds were raised on subscription from the membership.³³

Again in 1869, the Sadsbury Friends elected a committee to oversee alterations and improvements in the meeting house. This included the arranging of seats. The cost of the work done amounted to \$116.99.³⁴ In 1870 the committee turned in another bill (\$3.23) and brought up the subject of a mechanics lien against the property. A committee was empowered to act on the matter of the lien, although who held the lien and why was left unrecorded. In November of 1870, the Friends paid for \$1.80 worth of nails, a transaction that suggests some work still was being done on the property at that time.³⁵

One and one-fourth tons of coal were paid for in February of 1872, implying the house was heated during the winter months. In May, the Friends agreed to honor Henry Moore’s bill for “repairing the shutter partition, &c.,” in the meeting house.³⁶ The partition required more attention a decade later, as the Friends compensated Alfred Carle for mending it in 1883.³⁷ In the interim, the Friends attended to the heating system. A new grate and new stove pipe, for

³¹Personal Communication, Mary Joyce Walton, March 2000. The barrel shaped doors were lost in the 1970s renovations of the building. Another account reads, “It is related that Samuel Sellars, who had a store near the meeting house when the Pennsylvania Railroad was building, stored several hogsheads of liquor in the cellar. The doorway leading thereto was too narrow for the bulges of these containers of concentrated rye and apples to pass through and the jambs were hewn out for their relief, which is yet plainly in evidence.” See Thaddeus S. Kenderdine, “Around Sadsbury,” Friends’ Intelligencer (3 July 1909), p. 425.

³²Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 2nd 1865; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 27th 1865.

³³Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 28th 1866; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 27th 1867.

³⁴Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 30th 1869; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 1st 1869. Also in 1869, the treasurer’s account referenced an “old stove” suggesting perhaps it was sold. See Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1882, 4 mo 12th 1869.

³⁵Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 1870; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 28th 1870; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 30th 1870.

³⁶Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1882, 2 mo 1st 1872; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1882, 5 mo 8th 1872.

³⁷Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1882, 5 mo 26th 1883.

example, were installed in 1875. Outside, the Friends elected to have the grounds surveyed and burial lots laid out. This was done in 1876.³⁸

In 1884, there was a committee appointed to determine if the meeting house needed cleaning, washing, and painting. If they decided it did, the committee was to see that the work was done. Also that year, sundry repairs were made to the stove and pipe; for that job, Lewis Coates presented a bill for \$4.99. By September, the committee reported the outstanding accounts related to the meeting house maintenance were paid. The committee also requested that coal be put in the cellar for future use. The next month, the meeting house was cleaned, and that committee submitted an expense report totaling \$33.75.³⁹ It is possible that some of this activity took place at the Lampiter meeting house; the Lampiter property was under the care of the Sadsbury Friends and the references made to the meeting house are not clear as to which building they meant.

The cost of coal and its delivery to the Sadsbury Friends came to \$10.53 in 1885.⁴⁰

Discontent 1886-1901

In September of 1886, the Friends discussed the possibility of abandoning their meeting house and moving to a location in Christiana. To do so, they would need to build another meeting house and to finance that, they would have to sell the eighteenth-century meeting house property. Undecided, the Friends left the subject for a future business meeting. Although unsatisfied with the meeting house, they appointed a committee to oversee the cleaning of the building and the blackening of the stoves. The meeting house was cleaned during the month and so the committee was released by the next business meeting of the Friends.⁴¹ The following year, the Friends raised the possibility of making the building more comfortable. At this juncture, they talked of the Columbia Meeting as well as the physical location of the meeting in “this house.” The Sadsbury Friends empowered a committee to have “this house” sashed or plastered, the exterior woodwork painted, and various other un-specified repairs. The committee for “plastering the house, &c.” was continued until the job was completed in November.⁴²

In 1888, the Friends questioned if it would be feasible to construct a meeting house in Columbia; because of this on-going consideration, it is difficult to say, for example, where Calvin Cooper worked for the Friends. Cooper presented a bill (\$49.50) for leveling and surveying. Moreover, the Friends appointed William Jackson “to have some glazing done to the

³⁸Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1882, 10 mo 1st 1875; Sadsbury Preparative Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1882, 9 mo 12th 1876.

³⁹Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 7 mo 2nd 1884; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 27th 1884; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 8th 1884; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 1st 1884.

⁴⁰Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 25th 1885.

⁴¹Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 1st 1886; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 20th 1886.

⁴²Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 7 mo 20th 1887; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 21st 1887; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 28th 1887; and Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 2nd 1887.

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windows.” It is unclear if the window glazing occurred at the meeting house on Simmontown Road, or if it was done to the structure in which the Columbia Friends met, mostly because of the ambiguity of the Columbia Friends’ meeting place.⁴³ Similarly, in 1889, the Friends paid seventy-five cents to have the partition shutters repaired; the location was not specified.⁴⁴ Again in 1890 the Friends turned to the subject of erecting a new meeting house for the Columbia meeting and sent William Jackson to make repairs to a meeting house.⁴⁵

Still toying with the idea of moving into Christiana, the Sadsbury Friends met in a hall in town. This practice was short-lived as the Friends determined these “parlor” meetings were not feasible. In response, the treasurer’s account recorded a payment for “rope and repairing of shutters” in the old meeting house.⁴⁶ They also set up a committee to assess the heating and ventilation of the building. It can be inferred that some upgrades were made to the system because that committee reported they had collected almost all the money needed to pay for new heaters; the Friends were short \$2.25 in March of 1894. This deficit was cancelled when the Friends sold the Columbia Meeting’s property on Cherry Street to the Columbia Land Improvement Company later in that year. Another source of revenue came from the sale of lots in the cemetery; this brought in an additional \$22.50. At this time, however, the Friends spent \$78.38 on new cushions for the meeting house and \$6.09 for fire insurance.⁴⁷

The Friends continued to meet in the meeting house for the next several years. In January of 1896, the Friends expressed concern for being able to heat the meeting house. To alleviate some of their anxiety, the trustees for the meeting bought and stored coal for use in the remaining winter months. The Friends also nominated Thomas Stewart to “have the house well heated and properly aired” before each gathering. Stewart was to start a fire the night before the meeting to ensure the building was warm enough.⁴⁸ In September, the Friends again addressed the issue of

⁴³Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 4th 1887; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 8th 1888, p. 53; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 5th 1888; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 28th 1888; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 28th 1888. Confusion increases due to the fact that the Columbia Meeting was laid down by Sadsbury Monthly Meeting in 1886. Perhaps the discussion of the Columbia meeting house was generated after the Indulged Meeting was laid down and the Friends were faced with selling the property. In fact, the committee appointed to examine the Columbia property reported that the house and grounds were not in good condition. See Inventory of Church Archives, entry #269; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 30th 1893, p. 18.

⁴⁴Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 2nd 1889.

⁴⁵Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 1st 1890; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 29th 1890; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 26th 1890; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 4 mo 2nd 1890.

⁴⁶Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1891, 10 mo 24th 1890; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1891, 4 mo 23rd 1891; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 4th 1891, p. 74.

⁴⁷Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 6th 1894, p. 111; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 1st 1893; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 3rd 1894, p. 31.

⁴⁸Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 1st 1896.

heat. They elected a committee to oversee the cleaning of the meeting house and the installation of a heater.⁴⁹

While the Friends remained in the meeting house, they adapted its interior to their changing needs. In July of 1896, they established a committee to explore different uses for the southeast room. Options included utilizing the space for a committee room or for a library. By the end of the summer, the committee reported that progress was made in the southeast room. It is likely the room was converted to a library at this time because they received money from the Samuel T. Jeans Fund specifically for that use.⁵⁰ In January of 1897, the southeast room still required the “placing of some shelves” and the hanging of a curtain on the front of the said shelves. It was finished, however, in time for the February meeting.⁵¹ In 1898, the Friends desired “another bookcase” for the “library,” probably referring to the southeast room.⁵² In addition to the library, one other significant change was contemplated. In June of 1897, the Friends considering altering the interior by “way of raising, or lowering, the [middle] partition across the meeting house or taking away.” After several months of thought, the middle partition was left alone.⁵³

The following year, the heater was restored to proper functioning condition and a load of kindling purchased for \$8.37. No other references to the meeting house were recorded in the minutes of the Friends’ meetings that year. In 1899, the Friends had to get the heater fixed again. They also discussed making some changes to the cellar. M.P. Cooper told them, in November, that “the heater had been put in thorough repair, [and] also recommended that the cellar be thoroughly cleaned and sunk sufficiently to make it more accessible to the heater also that a window be cut through the wall to give more light.” At the next meeting, the committee placed in charge of the cellar alterations reported “that the work has been quite thoroughly done.” Other than cellar, the treasurer’s accounts recorded \$2.50 for “repairs to the meeting house,” which suggests the building proper received some minor work as well.⁵⁴

⁴⁹Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 30th 1896.

⁵⁰Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 30th 1896; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 28th 1896; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 2nd 1896; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 30th 1896.

⁵¹Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 20th 1897; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, 2 mo 27th 1897.

⁵²Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 28th 1898, p. 55. They ordered the bookcase in February 1899 and it arrived by March 1st; at that time, the Friends elected to have the other bookcase repaired. In May, they bought books for the library. See Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 1st 1899, p. 58; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 1st 1899, p. 58; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 31st 1899, pp. 59-60.

⁵³Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 2nd 1897, p. 46; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 30th 1897; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, 10 mo 20th 1897.

⁵⁴Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 29th 1898, p. 54; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 28th 1899, p. 61; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 1st 1899, p. 63; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 27th 1899, p. 64. In the West Chester newspaper, Daily Local News, it was noted that “our enterprising stove men, Mssrs. Gordon and Stauffer, put a large cellar heater in their meeting house, which will be a great improvement over the old coal stoves, and will add greatly to the comfort of the congregation that gathers at that place.” The meeting house in question was not identified, but it is likely Sadsbury had something similar shortly thereafter because of references to the heater and cellar separate from the coal and

In 1900, the general maintenance required for their meetings again occupied the Friends. Bills for lumber were met as were those for cleaning the meeting house and for obtaining stove coal (\$13.45). Cooper supplied the coal. By June, out-going money subsidized tidying the meeting house (\$1.65), revamping the heater (\$28.38), excavating the cellar (\$10.40), and an additional sum of \$55.14 for coal, lumber, and other supplies from Cooper. The meeting house was spruced up in time for the November meeting.⁵⁵

The condition of the building, however, warranted more attention from the Friends. A committee was selected to evaluate the walls, roof, and floors of the meeting house. In January of 1901, the committee estimated \$1573.00 would be needed to repair the meeting house. The Friends decided to ask the Monthly Meeting to apply to the Samuel T. Jeans Fund on their behalf.⁵⁶ Unfortunately, when interviewed by a sub-committee appointed by the Monthly Meeting, not all of the Sadsbury Friends wanted to fix up their structure. It was noted that “the Sadsbury Friends seemed to be divided in opinion as to which would be best, to [. . .] repair the old or build a new house.” The sub-committee said that the “Sadsbury Friends [needed] to decide among themselves which they would do before any appropriation could be made or aid extended” from the Monthly Meeting.⁵⁷ The following report, dated February of 1901, was accepted by the Sadsbury Friends:

To Sadsbury Preparative Meeting: (/) The committee appointed to consider the advisability of repairing the meeting house or building of a new one in the vicinity of Christiana, report as follows that, this committee in conjunction with the Trustees (a majority of both being present) deliberately considered the subject from its various standpoints, and were united in recommending

First, that a suitable building to provide shelter on the occasion of burials and to use exclusively for funeral and cemetery purposes be erected on or near the burial grounds at a cost not exceeding the sum of five hundred dollars \$500.00

Second, That the old meeting house be taken down and such material thereof as may be suitable to be used in the construction of a new commodious and modern meeting house, to be erected on grounds comfortably large enough to admit of carriage shedding and shade trees, and to be located within the Borough of Christiana Lancaster County.

Third we recommend that a committee be appointed to solicit subscriptions from among Friends or friendly persons, for a fund to be used for the betterment and development of the cemetery, and the erection of a new meeting house.

stoves. Daily Local News (West Chester), September 17, 1875.

⁵⁵Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 31st 1900, p. 65; Sadsbury Preparative Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 2nd 1900, p. 66; Sadsbury Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 30th 1900; Prep, 9 mo 26th 1900; Prep, Minutes 11 mo 28th 1900.

⁵⁶Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, 1 mo 2nd 1901, p. 71.

⁵⁷Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 29th 1901, p. 75.

Fourth, This committee although working in perfect harmony in their joint labors with the Trustees are not as yet entirely clear in their own minds as to the best course of action or cost of the new meeting house They are however a unit in the thought that the new meeting house should be notably comfortable and commodious, modern in its architectural simplicity and plainness and should symbolize the principals of society.⁵⁸

In July of 1901, the Friends discussed the architectural needs of the meeting. The chairman of the Committee on Repairs to the Meeting House reported that “on the ideas given by an expert, who had thoroughly examined the walls &c., that they were united in opinion, that it would be best to take the top off of the walls, the North half down, build a new wall near the middle, roof it in or the same style as at present, with slate, or shingle roof, retain present floor or ceiling as they are, if practicable, and all other propositions that have been heretofore made and that conflict, with the present, are hereby annulled.” The Friends agreed to the proposed alterations and charged the Committee on Repairs with the task of seeing that the changes are made.⁵⁹ Their resolution did not last. In August of 1901, the Friends deferred the recommended improvements to the meeting house, instead choosing to build anew. They opted to purchase the “triangular” lot from William Brinton at a price of \$400.00. The parcel was located in Christiana. By October the Friends restricted the new meeting house enterprise to \$4800.00, including the necessary paving, shedding, and finishing “ready to occupy.”⁶⁰

“Old” Sadsbury, 1901-99

As the Sadsbury Friends moved into the twentieth century, they faced costly maintenance expenses. Keeping the eighteenth-century building in good repair was more than the 223 adult members could do alone. In January of 1901, the Sadsbury Friends again applied to the Monthly Meeting for help. This time, the Monthly Meeting agreed to request the needed \$1573.00.⁶¹ Unfortunately, no further action occurred. In May of 1902 the Preparative Meeting recorded the failure of a proposed sale of land. The disappointment over the sale was noted because the anticipated funds were to finance the work at “old” Sadsbury. This left the Trustees of Sadsbury Friends “at liberty to repair the meeting house when they can see their way clear, in the best way to preserve it.”⁶²

⁵⁸Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 29th 1901, pp. 75-77.

⁵⁹Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 28th 1901, pp. 79-80. The proposed changes for Sadsbury are similar to what happened to the Upper Springfield Meeting House in Burlington County, New Jersey, wherein the height of the building was reduced and the pitch of the roof changed to accommodate it. Personal Communication, Catherine C. Lavoie, August 2000; see also, “Upper Springfield Meeting House,” Nomination form, 1979, National Register for Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

⁶⁰Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 28th 1901, p. 80; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 1st 1901, pp. 81-82; Lancaster County Court Records, Deed Book R, vol. 16, p. 52. The deed of sale from William P. Brinton to the Friends was dated September 17, 1901 and recorded January 16, 1902.

⁶¹Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 9th 1901, p. 189; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 6th 1901, p. 191; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 2nd 1901, p. 71.

⁶²Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 5 mo 28th 1902, p. 85.

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Nothing else was mentioned in the business meetings of the meeting house until 1907. At that time, the Friends talked of needing money "for repairs to cemetery and at old Sadsbury." In August, the Friends reported that they "received considerable encouragement in the way of funds for the repair of the wall and [building of a] new fence at the cemetery."⁶³ Although the record does not expand on the specific "encouragement" they received, the Trustees presented a "concise statement of the receipts and expenditures incurred in the improvements at and about the old meeting house and cemetery." The report was accepted and the clerk instructed to include the accounting from the "Trustees of Improvements" in the minutes. The report, as recorded by the clerk, follows:

The Trustees of Sadsbury Meeting Property desire to make the following report of the repairs and improvements made at old Sadsbury, to house and grounds, We petitioned the court to appoint viewers to change the road, so that our land would lie all together and be of more uniform shape this they did, cost of order, viewers's charges, &c., was \$19.20. -- To straighten the boundary still more, we bought a small field of land from . . . for \$14.01. They enclosed the cemetery in the south and west with a substantial iron fence at a cost of \$426.65. They leveled the old road, and graded the land taken in at a cost of \$356.76. We repaired the old wall and continued it to extend the entire length of the north side, which cost, including cement \$323.07. They repaired - re-roofed, and painted the houses which cost, for material and labor, \$279.39. Of the \$150.00 granted the Friends by the viewers as damages, we gave to the Township to help bear the cost of grading the new road \$75.00. For sundry small expenses such as surveying removing old schoolhouse, lime taking up, stumps, &c, we paid \$146.12. Making a total expenditure of \$1640.20.

Of this sum \$1110.00 was contributed. The Preparative Meeting directing the Trustees to take charge of and expend for improvements a legacy held by William P. Brinton of \$276.67, principal and interest, and one held by William L. Paxton of \$51.25, both of which bequests were designed as for the care of the grave yard. \$40.00 was received for lumber sold, \$150.00 for road damages, \$13.70 returned by the court, and \$10.00 was rec'd for lot No. 1 in new part of the cemetery of Enoch P. Moore making in all \$1648.62. Leaving a balance in the hands of the Tres'r \$8.42 to meet outstanding bills aggregating about \$60.00 After Sam'l Swain's daughters had contributed liberally to the general fund Sue'n R. Huston and Mary R. Sprawl volunteered to pay for the painting of the meeting house; (although badly needed, an expense which the Trustees hesitated with their limited means to incur) The expense of the northern entrance does not appear in this report as it was erected and contributed by Samuel Whitson. This is not made as a final report, as there is still considerable unfinished work to do, but to inform friends of what has been done, and how the money has been expended hoping that by their liberality they will enable them, the Trustees, to procede with the completion of the work.⁶⁴

⁶³Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 7 mo 31st 1907, p. 134; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 28th 1907, p. 135.

⁶⁴Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 1st 1909, pp. 152-155.

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In 1911, the Sadsbury Friends again authorized their Trustees “to solicit and receive funds and to finish the improvements under way at old Sadsbury.”⁶⁵ This time, however, no record was made of specific work carried out at the meeting house. The minutes remain silent, excepting references to their efforts to maintain the burial ground, for the next several years.

The Friends noted that “the grounds and buildings both here [in Christiana] and at old Sadsbury should have more specific care” in 1919. In order to better maintain the sites, the Friends discussed taking some of the proceeds from the sale of the Columbia property to pay for their property upkeep. Altogether they needed \$200.00 in the treasury and an additional \$150.00 for “repairs at old Sadsbury.”⁶⁶ By 1922, the Friends formed a committee and charged it with raising money to redo the tenant house as well as funding the necessary improvements in the cemetery at old Sadsbury. To finance the work, the committee asked permission to take \$100.00 of the surplus interest earned on the money collected from the Columbia property sale. That source of income, plus that raised by the sale of a portion of burial plot at Columbia and a gift from William Jackson, was opened up to the committee for use at old Sadsbury.⁶⁷

Looking ahead to the bicentennial celebration of Sadsbury Meeting, the Friends focused on readying the old meeting house and surrounding grounds for the event. The improvements committee for the cemetery at Old Sadsbury submitted the following report:

Results from Expenditures at Old Sadsbury Cemetery 1923:

1. A new stone drive with grading;
2. Hitching shed site graded and filled;
3. Grading around meeting house;
4. Grading around barn and farm house;
5. Three sides of meeting house patched and then coated with white cement and white sand;
6. West porch and room adjoining of meeting house repaired;
7. All exterior wood work two coats of paint;
8. Interior of meeting house plaster repaired and all the interior walls given two coats white cement and white sand;
9. Girders lifted to place and supports placed under them;
10. Cellar cleaned out all rubbish;
11. All flag steps to meeting house rebuilt with concrete foundations;
12. New stone steps into basement, new locks on doors; new cord on sash;
13. Meeting house cleaned;
14. Upping block reset on concrete base and elevated to conform to grading;
15. All trees in and about meeting house and farm buildings trimmed;
16. Briers and bushes cut and trees trimmed along approach to property;

⁶⁵Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 30th 1911, pp. 165-166.

⁶⁶Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 4 mo 6th 1919, p. 13; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 10 mo 5th 1919, p. 17.

⁶⁷Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 2 mo 5th 1922, p. 41; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 4 mo 3rd 1922, p. 43; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 6 mo 4th 1922, p. 44; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 7 mo 2nd 1922, pp. 45-46; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 2 mo 4th 1923, p. 52; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 4 mo 1st 1923, p. 55; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 11 mo 4th 1923, pp. 60-61.

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17. Spring house repaired -- all pipes to and from spring house renewed and relaid;
18. Seven foot retaining wall built around spring and for 25 feet south with flag steps on concrete foundations;
19. The old log house with attachment removed and a new six room house with cellar under all and porch built on same site;
20. All outside steps made of flag stones on concrete foundations with pointed finish;
21. New water provisions for house and proper drainage system;
22. New wire and board fence around farm buildings and garden;
23. New sill under one side of barn, stall rebuilt, wing wall made and foundations walls repaired;
24. New weather boarding on two sides of barn and stone flooring repaired;
25. Farm buildings painted to harmonize with meeting house.

Members contributed \$4398.86, and that money made the work possible.⁶⁸ As plans for the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Sadsbury Meeting moved forward, more committees were appointed to oversee the preparations. Expenses of the building and grounds committee reached \$6.00 in all; cleaning cost \$5.00; and the total bills for the event came to \$110.53. All the work done is not reflected in the total, however. The building and grounds committee, for example, reported that "Joseph Bonsall did hauling of benches, etc.," free of charge.⁶⁹ In August, the Friends received two donations of \$10.00 each for use at Old Sadsbury.⁷⁰

Unfortunately, the floor girders dropped 3'0" when the Friends gathered inside for the anniversary meeting.⁷¹ No one, however, was hurt. The meeting house was not used again by the Friends as a place of worship until 1970s.⁷²

In the 1970s, the Friends decided to return to their old meeting house.⁷³ They had James Miller of Christiana oversee the structural renovations. The wood floor, that collapsed during the two hundredth anniversary celebration, was underpinned with steel girders and the basement enlarged and remodeled. Miller added modern comforts to the building, including heat, kitchen facilities, and wall-to-wall carpeting. Some references to the building's previous appearance survived this alteration, such as the charred beams in the attic ceiling and a ghost of the long-

⁶⁸Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 1 mo 6th 1924, pp. 63-65.

⁶⁹Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 7 mo 6th 1924, pp. 83-85.

⁷⁰Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 8 mo 3rd 1924, p. 88.

⁷¹"Sadsbury Friends Meeting House," Newspaper clipping, n.d., Library, Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, Pennsylvania.

⁷²It is unclear what happened to the Sadsbury Friends between 1925 and the 1970s; the preparative minutes end in 1925 -- after the anniversary preparations -- and newspaper clippings available in the meeting house library mention the 1970s era renovation but does not illuminate the status of the Friends' themselves. Were they dispersed? Under care of Caln Quarterly Meeting? When did the Monthly Meeting come back into being? While the meeting's status is undetermined in this interval, the meeting house was closed.

⁷³Presumably there were enough members in the area to warrant re-establishing Sadsbury Meeting and the proceeds of the sale of the Christiana meeting house helped finance the renovation efforts at the meeting house on Simmontown Road. The documentation I reviewed was not clear on this point and so this remains supposition.

vanished gallery on the attic walls; however, some disappeared altogether like the enlarged, “barrel” shaped cellar doors from the Civil War era. The cellar doors were replaced.⁷⁴

B. Historical Context

The New Garden Monthly Meeting established the Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting in 1724, and in the next year, a log meeting house was built to accommodate the new group. By 1737 the Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting was created. Over the next decade, the Sadsbury Friends continued to maintain a strong presence in the area. It was then that the Sadsbury Friends erected the present, two-story stone meeting house on land given to them by Thomas and Richard Penn, who as “proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania, granted and conveyed [the property] unto Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper, Trustees for the Religious Society of People commonly called Quakers, as recorded in Patent Book A, vol. 14, p. 237, and dated 11-30-1748, said Society also known as the Sadsbury Friends Meeting or Sadsbury Meeting of Friends.” They added to this parcel in a few years (1759), buying four more acres so that their holdings would include the site of their original log meeting house. Although Moore and Cooper acted as Trustees to the meeting, it is unclear if their duties including overseeing the construction of the buildings in 1725 and 1747. The minutes, as well as the oral tradition surrounding the Sadsbury Friends’ history, do not reveal who was involved in the architectural planning for the meeting’s buildings.

The minutes kept by the Sadsbury Friends record many of their decisions regarding the discipline. Albeit infrequently, they also wrote about the structure that housed their meetings. We know, for example, after 1854 and before 1872 that the Sadsbury Friends switched from burning wood to coal in the fireplaces of their meeting house. Thus, judging by what they wanted us to know, that is to say, what they left behind for us to read, it was the intangible that was important to the Friends. Their meetings concentrated on Friends coming and going from area, as well as those who wanted to marry and those who broke the rules. The focus on education and behavior, rather than material comforts, and on the spiritual, rather than the fashionable, put the actual place where Quakers met firmly in the background. It was what happened there, and not the physical surroundings, that was important to the Society of Friends. By building in the plain style, their choice of architectural expression emphasized this point. The Quaker meeting houses stood in sharp contrast to the ornate, large cathedrals seen in England and on the continent. As such, the building was an intentional manifestation of the Quakers’ rejection of the traditional iconography and the scale of the Anglican and Roman Christian edifices.

The meeting house, then, was another “Quakerism.” It was identifiable instinctively, just as their choice of clothing was and how they behaved. Quakers, for example, are known for starting schools, supporting abolition, and refusing to doff their hats to anyone but God. The causes they advocated were generally the same, but specific outreach fluctuated from region to region depending on the local community’s abilities and needs. Such versatility -- within a common theme -- also was found in the meeting house. Certain programmatic requirements had to be met, but there was no prescribed way for doing so. Building simply and plainly with local materials and mechanics, therefore, translated into a variety of building forms. The diversity of the whole, moreover, overshadowed the local architectural context. Corner chimneys, for

⁷⁴“Sadsbury Friends Meeting House May Be Restored,” Newspaper clipping, January 29, 1967, Library, Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, Pennsylvania; “Sadsbury Friends Meeting House,” Newspaper clipping, n.d., Library, Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, Pennsylvania; John Young, “Sadsbury Meeting Restored,” Newspaper clipping, June 1, 1975, Library, Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, Pennsylvania.

example, appeared in Chichester and Uwchlan as well as Sadsbury. In spite of the location of the chimney stacks, each of the meeting houses looks very different.⁷⁵

Although the meeting house was simply built and its form was influenced by the locality, it was not erected in a ship-shod manner. Quaker meeting houses have stood the test of time because they were constructed well. Careful craftsmen used good materials. Sadsbury, for example, is over 250 years old. Because of this, the meeting house is an important link to the Friends of ages past. Not only can we enter the eighteenth-century buildings today, but the austerity of the interior ensures the structures look and function essentially as they always have. Preserved from the iconographic controversies that plagued the European churches and motivated reformers to strip their church interiors, the Quakers' vernacular buildings endured and continued to serve their meetings' needs.

The scale of the meeting house was determined by the size of the meeting. Once a meeting house was constructed, if the membership grew, the Friends settled more meetings for worship and so maintained a consistency in the numbers gathering for individual preparative meetings. This meant that the building never became too small for the group. It also spawned the growth of Quaker neighborhoods, emerging near the meeting houses, and kept factions within the Monthly Meetings from developing over the location of the building as no geographic area was favored over another. On the flip side, as numbers decreased, the smaller meetings could be re-absorbed.⁷⁶

Sadsbury, the largest Monthly Meeting in Caln Quarter, was one of the four Monthly Meetings of the Quarter. It was made up of Leacock (Lampiter), Lancaster, Bart, East Sadsbury, and Columbia as well as Sadsbury Preparative.⁷⁷ Perhaps the design of Sadsbury Friends Meeting House indicates its role in setting up and guiding the meetings around it. For example, Sadsbury's square plan, hip roof, and dual entries are all features reminiscent of the meeting houses constructed in Philadelphia during the early settlement period. As colonists moved westward from Philadelphia to Lancaster in the early eighteenth century, the Friends among them recreated their cultural landscape in the new places they settled. Moreover, their built environment was one quietly dominated by the presence of a meeting house. Located near the Chester - Lancaster County line, Sadsbury was an outpost of Quaker thought in the 1720s when their meeting was set up. So when the Sadsbury Friends were ready to build a meeting house, they must have looked eastward to the traditional plans of the established meetings in Philadelphia for models. And when beginning a second meeting house in the late 1740s, they drew upon the same sources from the early settlement period, this time imitating what those

⁷⁵Similarly, Bradford and Chichester both had centrally located doorways in three elevations; it is likely Sadsbury did as well. Sadsbury's entries would have been in the southeast, southwest, and northwest elevations; a ghost of the northwest door is all that remains of that entryway. Because Sadsbury was built a decade before Bradford or Chichester, perhaps it was a model the Friends in those areas looked to emulate. Another scenario could be that the third door was added after the 1764 fire. In either case, the three buildings suggest some form of regional communication, with Bradford and Chichester meetings using the Sadsbury format or with the three groups working out an architectural expression of their religious beliefs in concert with one another. Creating three entries was difficult enough that it can not be assumed the groups each generated the form simultaneously and without contact.

⁷⁶Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1828-1844, 1 mo 5th 1830, pp. 26-27; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1845-1882, 1 mo 7th 1863, pp. 167-168; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1882-1915, 12 mo 3rd 1901, p. 211; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1882-1915, 2 mo 8th 1905, p. 245. For example, 377 members met at Sadsbury before the Hicksite-Orthodox split of 1827. That number, moreover, is not so different from the tally of constituents after the split. Within the limits of Sadsbury, there were 332 adult members in 1863. In 1902, the membership consisted of 326 Friends; this number dropped to 310 in 1905.

⁷⁷Kenderdine, p. 428.

pioneering Friends constructed after they had established a presence in the city. At that time, two decades after the meeting began, the Sadsbury Friends decided to replace their first meeting house with a more permanent structure made of stone.

Speaking to the symbolic role of Sadsbury's formal appearance is that the square plan, especially with its two fronts, is unusual in its rural location. Other meeting houses with dual entries, such as the (1703) Second Bank Meeting House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were built in urban areas and erected much earlier than Sadsbury was.⁷⁸ In the city, moreover, the square plan and two dominant doorways reflect an attempt to adopt the needs of the men's and women's business meetings to more confined lots or to the restrictions imposed by neighboring buildings. Situated as it was in an agricultural setting, Sadsbury faced none of these obstacles in its design, thereby, its orientation and structural ornament were intended from the outset.

Reinforcing this understanding of the deliberateness of Sadsbury's form, the invocation of dual entries reflects the early Philadelphia Friends' adherence to the English program, wherein men and women met together for worship in the larger of the two interior apartments with the facing benches and then segregated themselves for gender-specific business meetings. By doing so, each gender needed its own entrance, a requirement satisfied by doorways on contiguous sides of the building. That the urban meeting houses, such as the Second Bank Meeting House, did so suggests a high level of planning to accommodate -- from the very beginning -- both men's and women's meeting needs. Similar forethought went into the Sadsbury building; since this was the Sadsbury Friends' second meeting house and was one constructed after they gained enough of a presence in the area to become a Monthly Meeting of their own, it can be inferred from the building's shape and dual entry plan that the features were architectural choices resulting from symbolic and programmatic considerations.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: Sadsbury Friends meeting house resembles many of the buildings seen in the Delaware Valley. It is made of locally quarried stone. Similar to the embanked house type characteristic of the Pennsylvania German community, the meeting house was built into a hill. Thus, the site gives direct access into the primary floor where the meetings take place on the upper side of the slope as well as provides ground level access into the cellar on the down side of the hill. In addition to its materials and its position in the landscape, the scale of the meeting house reflects the Germanic tendency to build once and well. The Friends constructed a meeting house large enough, and sound enough, to accommodate their needs for more than two hundred years.

Aesthetically the meeting house distinguishes itself from the Germanic influences, instead reflecting the theological principles of the Society of Friends. Following a domestic model in scale and form, it is an example of the "plain style" of building. The absence of worldly ornament in the meeting house, or its plainness, spoke to the Quaker community's eschewal of iconography and the culture it represented. In sum, then, the meeting house that the Sadsbury Friends constructed embodies both of these tendencies:

⁷⁸Other examples include the Boarded Meeting House (1683), First Bank Meeting House (1685), and the Great or High Street Meeting House (1696). Personal Communication, Catherine C. Lavoie, August 2000.

the regional influence of the Pennsylvania Germans and the cultural preferences of the Religious Society of Friends.

Although the Sadsbury meeting house incorporates both regional and theological characteristics of the Quakers who built the meeting house, by the early twentieth century its initial configuration was obscured to contemporary visitors. The interior space had been reorganized and the gallery had burned. Visitors, moreover, interpreted the southeast elevation as the most prominent facade.⁷⁹ Sadsbury, however, was planned around a two-entry format and followed the precedent set by early Philadelphia meeting houses. Similar to those in Philadelphia, such as the Second Bank Meeting House, Sadsbury has a square-shaped plan; up from the square footprint rises a volumetrically balanced structure shaped by even proportions. The two equally weighted facades are its most distinctive formal characteristic. The sameness of the building's elevations is reinforced visually by the two "fronts" or entrances leading inside the meeting house from the southwest and southeast. Both elevations, moreover, take advantage of the sunlight that southern exposure offers.

The duality initially obscures the meeting house's structural hierarchy. This makes it unclear to the modern-day visitor which door was the true front or dominant entry. On one hand, the southwest elevation has coursed stonework and stuccoed foundations. But countering the architectural embellishment of the southwest elevation, and so casting doubt on its perceived function as the formal front, is the presence of a porch and wood-frame privy. Traditionally, the privy was placed near the side of the building occupied by the women's meeting which was secondary space to that of the apartment designated for group worship and the men's business meetings. In addition, looking from the road, it appears that the more prominent facade is the southeast elevation. The southeast wall, however, consists of rubble stone.

The interior holds the clues to Sadsbury's original plan. Inside, the primary partition runs northwest to southeast with a door cut into it that connects the two rooms. This portal, significantly, is aligned with the exterior doorway in the southwest elevation. Together with the greater degree of architectural finish seen in the laying up of the stone in the southwest wall, this suggests that the front facade was on the southwest. Therefore, Sadsbury's plan reflects a traditional English use of space wherein the meeting for worship was held jointly but meetings for business were separated by gender. The building accommodated the men's and women's meetings by providing a separate door for each to use. It also can be inferred from the position of the partition that the change in fenestration for the northeast elevation allowed for the facing benches. The seating of the elders, then, was in the most prominent location inside, that is to say, on axis with the central door of the partition and the primary entry from the southwest. The facing benches have now been shifted to the northwest.

2. Condition of fabric: The Religious Society of Friends for Sadsbury Meeting has maintained the building since its construction. After some work done in the early 1970s, the meeting house has remained in stable condition. There is some rust on the exterior, metallic components such as the locking mechanisms of doors and shutters; some moss growing on the walls, primarily near ground-level; a crack in the cement floor of the porch; and remnants of stucco. Repairs are made routinely, as seen in the on-going

⁷⁹See, for example, Matlack, p. 267, wherein he states the front faced southeast.

replacement of rotted wood supports in the porch, new fascia along the southeast elevation of the storage addition, fresh paint in the storage/privy addition, and patches in the stone walls. The Friends removed the shutters from the windows in northeast elevation; these are stored in the storage/privy addition along with the hardware. Several shutters lack the sliding bolt locks that once fastened to the sill and parts of the sliding bolt locks that attached to the shutters themselves.

Inside, the meeting house is in good repair except in the attic. The attic or former gallery is used only by pigeons today, perhaps because the space lacks a floor and ceiling and is accessible only by ladder. There also is some graffiti, possibly in German, on the plaster walls. Downstairs on the main floor, the plaster has cracked and fallen off the walls entirely in some places, such as above the window in the northeast wall of the library, revealing sheet rock below, and in the northwest elevation of the storage area, revealing the lath below.

B. Description of Exterior⁸⁰

1. Overall dimensions: Sadsbury Friends Meeting House is an almost square building, measuring 48'2" x 43'3"; it is two stories tall (about 33' to the ridge of the roof) and visually is divided into three bays by three bays. On the southwest elevation, there is a porch and a storage/privy addition. The porch provides cover for the door into the structure from the southwest as well as gives access to the storage/privy located on the west end of the southwest elevation. The porch measures approximately 16' across (measuring northeast to southwest) and storage/privy about 17' across its southwest elevation. The northwest elevation of the storage/privy entity is 14'9" across. Inside, the storage area is 7' from northeast to southwest and the privy almost 7' square. Beneath the meeting house is a basement, extending 8'9" below the first floor.

2. Foundations and walls: The foundations and walls were fashioned out of rubble stone. The southwest facade differs from the others's un-coursed masonry in that it has coursed stone walling, a stone belt-course, and foundations covered by a layer of stucco, all indications that this was intended to be the true front facade of the meeting house. The rubble stone of the northeast and northwest walls were stuccoed over entirely. The walls of the storage/privy addition consist of painted clapboards. Similarly, the porch posts are made of wood rather than the stone seen in the main building.

3. Structural system, framing: The meeting house is of load-bearing stone masonry construction. Framing for the second story gallery was altered, or perhaps destroyed entirely, by a fire in the eighteenth century. After the fire, it is said, the gallery was not rebuilt. With the gallery enclosed, the second story is now an attic space. Girders run around the perimeter of the building at the level of the second floor, providing needed support at the internal division of the frame. Girders, sometimes called bridging joists, and a summer tie the walls together and receive the floor joists. The floor system of the attic consists of joists running northeast to southwest into the interior girders, and notched into the summer beam running northwest to southeast above the primary partition. The joists anchored the floor boards for the second floor space; the underside of the joists is

⁸⁰For more precise measurements, please see the measured drawings for HABS No. PA-6651 and the accompanying field notes.

used to hold the plaster ceiling of the first floor in place. The interior girders also support the posts rising up into the tie beams of the ceiling frame.

Because the gallery burned, the framing in the attic ceiling is a mishmash of joists, tie beams, remnants of lath, and several posts. Southwest of the principal partition and corresponding summer beam in the attic floor, the ceiling joists run northeast to southwest. Two angle braces and a modern collar tie beam transfer weight from the roof above to the summer and girt. There is no other framing or interior partitions in this side of the attic space. Northeast of the primary summer beam, the ceiling joists run northeast to southwest, except for a section in the center of the building beneath the roof ridge, and a portion framed out with long trimmers over the center of the northeast meeting room. Suggestive of a post-construction or post-fire stabilization project, there are metal straps visible at the point where the hip rafters join to the post in the roof truss. The metal straps help to secure the joint. This was a practice common in the 1830s, which corresponds to the renovation done to accommodate the Quarterly Meeting. Unfortunately, due to the fire and the material changes it brought, it is difficult to discern what happened when. However, it is clear that the roof and attic space were configured around the position of the primary partition wall, suggesting that it is in its original location.

The roof system, here a combination of principal and common rafters reinforced by struts, rise from adjacent sides of the meeting house; diagonal girders called dragon beams are needed to support the feet of the hip rafters at the intersection of the wall planes. To do so, the dragon beams project out over the corners of the building.⁸¹ The use of a hipped roof was common in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, which happens to be when the meeting house as built. Aesthetics, therefore, reinforce the traditionally held construction date.

4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: In the southwest elevation, a porch links the storage/privy addition to the main structure. It is covered by a shingled, shed roof that is supported by two wood posts. There is no finished ceiling in the porch, leaving the common rafters and nailers/sheathing exposed from below. The floor area is concrete. Two stone steps break up the distance created by a change in grade between the ground and porch floor on the southeast side. Leading up to the doorway in the southeast elevation are three stone steps. There is a bulkhead entry into the basement in the northeast and northwest elevations. They rest on stone and concrete pads and have two metal doors that open upward and outward to give access into the basement.⁸²

5. Chimneys: There are four interior chimneys located at each corner of the meeting house. The chimneys are made of brick masonry. The stacks appear to be short and straight, with flashing covering up two courses of brick above the point where the chimney and roof meet. Each terminates in a cap that is slightly longer in width than the main part of the stack and is two courses high.⁸³

⁸¹Please see HABS No. PA-6651, drawing no. 2; the section illustrates how the hip roof system works.

⁸²During the 1970s renovations and fitting out of the basement, the barrel-shaped doors that opened into the cellar were removed and discarded. Personal Communication, Mary Joyce Walton, March 1999. (It is likely that the east bulkhead replaced the older entrance because early photographs suggest that there was access to the cellar from this side. Moreover, the Preparative Meeting minutes refer to the erection of the north entrance at the expense of Samuel Whitson; see Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 1st 1909, p. 154).

⁸³During my site visits, I was unable to get onto the roof for a closer look at -- and an opportunity to measure -- the chimney stacks. Please see the measured drawings and field notes that accompany this report for the dimensions.

6. Openings

a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance doors, leading into the building from the southeast and southwest, are double doors. The double doors, also called folding doors, consist of two sections hung on opposite jambs. They are made from wood. Mitered at the corners, the single architrave dips, from the fillet, into a trough with an open-v profile up and then down an incline (too slight to be a true ovolo). This decorative molding, sometimes called facing, is applied to the door frame, which is also wood, and stops at the sill. Each door of the pair hung in the southeast and southwest doorways consists of six recessed panels, aligned vertically two by two. The doors are about 8' tall and the arrangement of the panels in each emphasizes the overall height of the entry. The doors have been painted on the outside. In addition to the paint, the doors themselves are protected from the elements by storm doors installed at the outer edge of the door frame. The metal storm doors are glazed, in fact they are primarily glass.

Scars in the fabric of the northwest elevation suggest there was an opening in the center bay. It was probably a door because the in-fill is lower than the corresponding windows; if truly the ghost of a door, this entryway would be on axis with the southeast door and probably would have resembled the others in appearance.

The door into the storage/privy is made of wood. It too is paneled, except here there are four 2' panels aligned horizontally one over another. The door, including its frame, is just under 7' tall and about 2 ½' wide. There is a wood sill, serving as a door stop or weather strip, nailed into the floor boards of the storage area. The door frame lacks ornament, such as architrave trim, and structural embellishment seen in complicated joinery.

b. Windows and shutters: The windows at the first floor level of the meeting house are glazed with six-over-six light double-hung sash. They are each about 8' tall and are protected by modern storm windows fastened to the outer edge of the frame. The lights are replacement panes. Surrounding the window frame is a single architrave, with mitered corners, ornamented simply by a gently curving cyma reversa molding that rolls from the fillet toward the sash. Layers of paint obscure any finer detail, but the molding profile and open-v shaped trough between the cyma molding and the fillet are indicative of mid-nineteenth century preferences, from which it can be inferred that these are not the original windows. Each window rests on a straight sill, fashioned of wood, and sits between paneled wood shutters. Each shutter has three recessed panels in an a-b-a rhythm (small-large-small, or geometrically, square-rectangle-square), is painted to coordinate with the colors in the door, and has several locking mechanisms.

The second floor windows, that once lit the gallery, have been replaced with louvers, each having thirty-four horizontal slats. They extend down from the cornice line and are nestled in unadorned, flat wood surrounds held into their respective places in the stone wall by concrete. There are three windows in the southeast, northwest, and southwest elevations of the meeting house, corresponding with the former location of the gallery. Approximate measurements for the nine gallery windows are 3' x 5' each.

In the southeast elevation there is a window, glazed with a single light, illuminating the basement. It is located south of the central door and was cut into the stone wall after the initial construction of the building. It sits in a window well. The window frame is wood and has no architrave trim or other such architectural embellishment.

The storage area windows, in the southwest and northwest elevations, are 3' in height. The southwest elevation window has shutters, presently closed, that have short, strap hinges and consist of a series of vertical boards held in place by a horizontal batten on the inside. The window is no longer glazed, and the batten is reinforced by another board nailed into it. The northwest window, previously glazed with nine lights, consists of boards nailed into the frame.⁸⁴ The northeast elevation opening is louvered, allowing for air circulation in and out of the privy. The hardware, frames, and shutter boards of the storage/privy fenestration are all painted.

7. Roof

a. Shape, covering: The building has a low-pitched hipped roof covered by shingles and protected by metal gutters and down-spouts. The storage/privy addition has a shed roof, made of common rafters, that abuts the stone walls of the meeting house proper. There is some flashing running along the joint on west wall. Like the main roof, the shed roof is shingled.

b. Cornice, eaves: The deeply recessed cornice of the meeting house consists of the cymatium (here, a gently curving cyma recta), fascia and soffit boards, and bed molding that has cyma profiles. Each part of the cornice is made from wood and painted. In contrast, the cornice of the storage/privy addition consists of fascia and soffit boards nailed into place and painted.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The main floor of the meeting house consists of three rooms and a vestibule. The primary partition, at one time separating the men's and women's meeting rooms, runs northwest to southeast just south of the southeast entrance. The secondary partition extends on a northeast to southwest axis; this was added in the late nineteenth century in order to create a library. Stairs that descend to the basement run along the northeast wall.

The basement is accessible from the interior of the building by way of the stairs on the northeast wall and from the outside by two bulkhead entries. The basement consists of a large space used today as a social hall. The south corner of the room serves as a nursery, or for child care. Along the northeast wall, beneath the stair, are two bathrooms, one each for men and women. A storage closet (west corner) and the kitchen open off of the main room on the northwest side.

⁸⁴This window is shown in photograph no. 110.s212/022 at the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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The attic, approached through a hatch in the vestibule ceiling, was once the gallery. From the outline of the steps seen on the walls, the gallery probably featured a three-tier seating arrangement and was accessed at the southwest end of the building.

2. Stairways: There is a modern staircase leading from the first floor into the basement at the northeast wall. It has a straight descent, in a single run, modern metal handrails for safety, and carpeting on the steps. The open stairwell is bounded by a wood railing that consists of horizontal slats arranged much like a post-and-rail fence. In the vestibule, there is a hatch to the attic or former gallery, but no ladder stair in place to provide access.

3. Flooring: Wall-to-wall carpeting hides the wood floor and covers the stairs leading down to the basement. The tongue and groove floor boards, of varying width between 4" to more than 8", run northwest to southeast in the privy and northeast to southwest in the southern half of the storage area. Where the floor boards meet at the door leading from the storage area to the privy, the boards are placed on a diagonal. The wood floor of the attic or gallery space has vanished, although the northeast to southwest floor joists remain. However, in the basement beneath the carpeting is a concrete floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls of the meeting house were covered with drywall and painted on the inside during the 1970s renovation. The drywall, unfortunately, has caused the walls to be furred out somewhat. Also in the southwest meeting room, the partitions, support posts, clerk's door, and main door were painted on the sides facing into the southwest room. The wood paneled walls and partitions of the northeast meeting room, library, and hall are not painted. The ceiling, in all the first floor rooms, is plaster painted white. Although initially the interior walls of the attic or gallery were plaster on lath, little -- beyond a few pieces of lath hanging from the ceiling joists -- remains of them today. There is no ceiling, beyond the joists and girders, in the attic. The basement walls are made of painted cinder block, as well as interior partitions of drywall that are painted. There is also a series of structural posts running northeast to southwest between the southeast wall and the kitchen. The dropped ceiling in the basement is composed of acoustical tiles. It also obscures the structural joists for the floor above.

5. Openings

a. Doorways and doors: Like the exterior door surrounds, the inside of the southeast and southwest double, folding doors is encased by simple, flat wood boards unadorned by beading and corner blocks. Five of the six interior doors on the first floor are demarcated by thin facing boards running from floor-to-ceiling and resemble stiles more so than door jambs; lacking a true door head, the walls above the door and between the so-called stiles are filled in by horizontal boards.⁸⁵ Except for the doors facing into the southwest meeting room, none of the doors or frames are painted. The appearance of the southwest clerk's door and the central door through the primary partition is very similar to that of the paneled partition sections of the southwest room. Each consists of six horizontally-oriented panels. The two doors into the hall, one from the northeast meeting room and the other from the library, are four paneled examples differing mainly in frame. Not defined

⁸⁵The facing boards or stiles as I have dubbed them, that run vertically next to the door & in place of a surround, resemble the boards nailed into the chamfered posts of the primary partition to hide the track for the northeast panels. Perhaps, then, the doors and northeast side of the partition were installed at the same time.

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by the floor-to-ceiling boards, the entryway into the library from the hall has a traditional door frame and simple wood surround in keeping with the adjacent butt-joined transom. Although clearly recognizable as hanging stile, shutting stile and rails, the component panels in the door connecting the library to northeast room are flush, in fact they are quite similar to the sections of the partition wall around it and to the northeast clerk's door.

The doors of the basement area are all modern, probably installed during the 1970s creation of the space. They are wood, swinging from butt hinges and opening by door knobs, but lack the paneling found in the first floor doors.

b. Windows: Each double hung sash window is glazed with six-over-six lights and is positioned to be flush with the exterior wall surface. This leaves a deep sill, measuring around 1'8", which has a plaster surface. The window frame consists of two vertical posts, akin to stiles, and a header, or secondary horizontal member that extends to across the top of the sash and joins to the inside edge of the vertical pieces. Applied to the frame is a single architrave with mitered corners. This ornament that suggests a mid- to late nineteenth-century origin. The whole surround is painted to match the paneled partitions and doors in the southwest apartment; the plaster reveals are left white.

Providing light into the vestibule is a stationary transom. It consists of three lights, positioned side by side, resting between the glazing bars or muntins, and encased in a simple wood frame. Similar to the other window frames, the corners are not mitered; instead, they are held in place by butt joints. This opening served as a source of natural light into the vestibule, a particularly dark space when the door and partitions were closed.

The nine attic or gallery windows also are recessed, exposing simple, unadorned plaster reveals. The sills are plaster, painted white. Each window has a wood shutter, swinging to the inside. Above the double hung sash windows lighting the first floor there are two patches in the northeast wall. It is possible that the first floor windows were larger, or that there was some other opening in this wall, perhaps indicative of a time when the interior was oriented toward the northeast and the facing benches in place against that wall.

There is one glazed window lighting the basement. It, too, is pushed to the outside edge of the wall and so leaves a deep interior cinder block sill. The window frame consists of an un-painted, exposed wood lintel, sill, and two vertical boards nailed into place. There is no decorative or molded casing applied to the frame.

6. Decorative features and trim: The decorative components of the meeting house are subtle, and so in keeping with the tenants of simplicity identifiable with the material expressions of Quaker religion. Here, the ornament consists of large, chamfered posts made of oak. Four are positioned as half-columns. Two flank the southwest door, but are between the large windows, and two are in corresponding locations against the northeast wall. The six support posts of the primary partition also are chamfered. Two other chamfered posts are in the northeast meeting room. One stands in the middle of floor while the other is partially hidden by the northwest wall of the library. These, like the two half-columned examples against the northeast wall, are not painted.

7. Partition: The partition walls are integral to the Friends' practice of separating men and women into two meetings; the movable walls provided privacy when closed and allowed the groups to communicate when open. In the Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, the primary partition was doubled in the early nineteenth century to accommodate the Quarterly Meeting, a business meeting, and to respect the confidential nature of that gathering. For the southwest side partition wall, on each side of the centrally-located doorway, there are two sections each consisting of four horizontal panels. The top and bottom panels are stationary; the middle two slide up and down on a track attached to the chamfered posts. On the northeast side, there are four sections corresponding to those of the southwest. These panels, however, appear to be re-used, resembling the double doors rather than those panels on the southwest side. Overall, the northeast partition's panels are oriented horizontally to move up and down on a track attached to the chamfered posts, but look as if they were constructed to hang vertically. The side of the panels facing to the northeast, as well as the track, is not painted; this accentuates the difference between the southwest and northeast partitions.

Similar to the panels of the northeast partition, the barrier between the northeast meeting room and the library consists of two panels resting between actual wall boards. These panels do not slide up and down, but the wall is doubled like that of the primary partition and so exhibits a similar effort to sound proof the apartment. This partition probably was installed at the end of the nineteenth century, coinciding to the creation of the library.

8. Stand: There is a two-tiered stand with three rows of benches against the northwest wall; the clerk's door opens into the partition from the top of the stand. Access to the clerk's door is by way of the top level of the two-tiered stand; there are three rows of benches on the stand at the northwest wall as well as two raised against the southeast.

9. Hardware: The interior doors all are operated by iron thumb latches applied to the shutting stile near where it joins to the lock rail of the individual doors; the southwest clerk's door and the two doors opening into the hall or vestibule have butt hinges, while the others have strap hinges. The side hinges of the northeast clerk's door include strap hinges that terminate in a heart shape as well as a H-L hinge at the joint that allows the two leaves to fold against one another when pulled open. Also securing the northeast clerk's door is a wood "button" that swivels back and forth. It is attached to the southeast board of the door frame. This button keeps the door closed by circumventing the latch and preventing entry from the southwest until those on the northeast side agree to open it. The southeast and southwest doors have rim locks, that is, they are applied to the surface of the door. The iron rim locks are operated by thumb latches similar to those seen on the interior doors. The thumb latch attached to the southwest door, however, is not in its original place. There is no corresponding hole in the door itself that lines up with the escutcheon. Instead, a modern Yale dead bolt lock secures the entryway. The southeast and southwest doors also have two sliding bolt locks on the shutting stile that are anchored in the door head and sill of both doorways. The upper lock is loosened by a chain. There is no signature or stamp visible on the iron locking mechanisms to indicate the maker or supplier of the hardware.

The doors in the basement have modern hinges and metal door knobs. The door into the storage area presently locks with a padlock and hook and eye. The position of the former door knob and escutcheon is visible.

Shutter latches now consist of a sliding bolt lock to secure the opening from the inside. There is also a ring pull located below each bolt lock. These features are both more recent than the sliding bolt lock fastened onto the sill.

Other hardware found in or on Sadsbury Friends Meeting House includes the fireplace equipment placed on the stone hearth in the southwest meeting room. The screen, tools, and andirons are all additions to the building made, most likely, after the 1970s renovation. The Friends replaced the original fireplace equipment when it wore out, or at the latest, when they acquired the coal stoves. Two of the stoves are in the library. Lastly, found in the southwest meeting room as well, are the iron cup pulls on the panels of the partition. These are needed to open the moveable sections of the partition.

10. Mechanical equipment

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Initially the four corner fireplaces of the meeting house heated the interior. Later, stoves were inserted into the fireplace openings. Two of the stoves are in the Library; the one in the fireplace (with hole cut into chimney breast for a stovepipe above) was stamped, "WILD.FLOWER.No7 (/) pat'd 1859." The other, placed against the northeast wall for storage, reads "MARCH BROWNBACK (/) STOVE CO., POTTSTOWN, PA (/) No. ALERT 12." Today, the meeting house is warmed by electric base board heaters as two of the four fireplaces are closed over.

There is no air conditioning system in the meeting house. The louvered windows and screens allow air to circulate in the attic space and in the privy. No other ventilation system has been installed.

b. Lighting: The meeting house has electric-powered lights that supplement an ample supply of natural light let in through the large windows. There are wall sconces and chandeliers on the first floor, no means of artificial light in the attic, and utilitarian lights illuminating the basement.

c. Plumbing: Initially the plumbing for Sadsbury consisted of the privy located in the frame shed structure at the west corner of the building. Today, the privy has been replaced by modern conveniences: men's and women's bathrooms. The restrooms are located in the basement, as is a fully operational kitchen.

9. Original furnishings: The benches, last used for the 1924 anniversary celebration, were saved during the 1970s renovation. Prior to the 1970s repairs, the benches were piled up in the building. This older form of seating furniture was supplemented with several benches taken from the meeting house in Christiana (these have taller backs).⁸⁶

D. Site

1. Historic landscape design: On behalf of the Friends settled about Sadsbury, Samuel Miller and Andrew Moore applied to the Concord Quarterly Meeting for permission to erect a meeting house. Shortly thereafter, in the Quarterly Meeting held 9 mo 8th day 1725, it was noted that "this meeting informed that those Friends of Sadsbury have agreed

⁸⁶Personal Communication, Mary Joyce Walton, March 2000.

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amongst themselves of a place to build a Meeting house on which this meeting approves of.”⁸⁷ “They built one of logs in 1725, on a hill above the spring.[. . .] The present house at Sadsbury was built in 1747, burnt a few years later, and [then they] rebuilt [a] new house in Christiana.”⁸⁸ Although Thomas and Richard Penn granted the Sadsbury Friends a tract of land consisting of 56 acres in the 1740s, the land on which the 1725 and 1747 structures stood was not owned by the Sadsbury Friends until 1759. At that time, they discovered the meeting houses were not on their property and so the Friends purchased a four acre tract. The four acres came out of the 1050 acre parcel known as “Servants’ Land.” In 1818, the Friends added another two acres to their holdings; these were located across the road from the meeting house.⁸⁹ By 1989 the meeting house tract had dwindled to about 23 acres.⁹⁰

Although not in favor of marking grave sites until the nineteenth century, a list of who was buried in the Sadsbury graveyard was made in the 1930s by using the meeting’s minutes. By 1951, a map of the known interments was drawn.⁹¹ The burying ground has evolved over time and can be traced, visually, from the walled area and sparsely marked graves towards the rear of the meeting house to the area to the front which includes late nineteenth- and twentieth-century monuments and markers. Simpler than determining whose mortal remains were laid to rest in the Sadsbury graveyard and where, however, is the perception of the cemetery’s boundaries. In 1909, the Friends spent \$426.65 to enclose the south and west sides with a “substantial iron fence.” The “old” wall, made of stone, was extended to cover the northern edges of the cemetery. Sadsbury Friends’ history reports that the stones came from the schoolhouse, a structure demolished in 1909.⁹² The stone and iron fencing replaced the post-and-rail fences seen in the historic (1890s) photographs.

Care of the cemetery and grounds around the meeting house was of great importance to the Sadsbury Friends. Early in the nineteenth century, they established a fund to help pay for the upkeep and on at least one occasion wrote oversight of the graveyard and property into the tenant’s lease. They also accepted legacies left specifically for the cemetery. Even after the Friends moved into town, they still were concerned with the graveyard.⁹³ For example, in 1901 in the midst of their construction project, they worried over the condition of the cemetery and the grounds. They generated income from the sale of cemetery lots and hoped to direct that money into maintenance of

⁸⁷Concord Quarterly Meeting, Minutes, 9 mo 8th 1725.

⁸⁸Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1891-1901, 1 mo 28th 1901, pp. 1-3.

⁸⁹Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 6th 1895; Sam Bradley, “The Monthly Meeting of Sadsbury,” brochure, n.d., Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, Pennsylvania.

⁹⁰See Edgar Laub, Reg[istered] Surveyor, “Map and Plan Made for the Sadsbury Friends (/) Sadsbury Township (/) Lancaster County,” Property map, January 25, 1989, Copy on file in the field notes attached to HABS No. PA-6651, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

⁹¹A. Hunter Rineer, ed. *Lancaster County Cemeteries*. Vol. 21. (Lancaster, PA: Lancaster County Historical Society, 1983), s.v., “Sadsbury Friends Meeting House (/) Sadsbury Township (/) Burial List before Tombstones Were Used”; Thaddeus B. Harry, Jr., “Sadsbury Cemetery, est. 1724,” Map, 1951, rev. 1962, Copy on file in the field notes attached to HABS No. PA-6651, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

⁹²Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 1st 1909, p. 153.

⁹³Lease between Sadsbury Preparative Meeting and James Simmons, Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, 6 mo 6th 1838, p. 156-157; Minutes 1865; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 7th 1887, p. 47; and Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 5th 1922, p. 41; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 28th 1912, p. 170.

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the old Sadsbury lands. At this time, a full lot cost \$15.00.⁹⁴ The on-going struggle to preserve their property again is shown in the 1913 notation in the meeting minutes to “keep in good order the graveyard or cemetery grounds at old Sadsbury meeting house in Sadsbury township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.” Specifically, at this interval, the Friends mentioned walls, fences, walks, driveways, and tombstones.⁹⁵

How the Friends used the cemetery, moreover, can be extrapolated from the meeting’s minutes. In 1863, for example, it was noted that the women Friends agreed to the proposed changes in how burials took place. At this time it appears that the Friends adopted more of a ritualistic, grave-side service like that practiced by their Protestant neighbors. Now notices would be sent out that a religious meeting would be held so that friends of the deceased could gather at the meeting house and/or cemetery for the interment.⁹⁶ This suggests that there was a shift in how the Friends regarded the burial service, and perhaps, represents an acceptance of not only funerals but also of grave markers. Regardless, the Friends continued to use the graveyard to inter their dead. By 1874, they needed to enlarge the cemetery grounds and two years later paid Warrick M. Cooper for his work “surveying and laying of burial lots.”⁹⁷ Cooper’s work withstood the test of time, for it was the “old part” of the cemetery that needed leveling in 1910. The Friends’ neatening program also included straightening the headstones and removing the footstones from the individual lots.⁹⁸

2. Outbuildings: In addition to the extant wood frame storage/privy appendage, other outbuildings once supported the meeting’s activities. These included an upping block, a spring, and (tenant) farm buildings as well as the now-vanished schoolhouse, hitching posts, two horse sheds, and un-identified small subsidiary structure northeast of meeting house. The latter was placed just east of the center of the northeast elevation and serves as the endpoint to a post-and-rail fence that runs to the east horse shed; the fence separates the sheds from the graveyard.⁹⁹

Off the south corner of the meeting house, across the driveway, is an upping block. This was elevated and reset in a concrete base after the Friends had the meeting house grounds leveled and graded in 1923.¹⁰⁰ Gone is the stone wall and smaller upping block combination that was positioned adjacent to the privy/storage room at the western end of the southwest elevation. This upping block and barrier wall unit is illustrated in a 1896 photograph taken by Gilbert Cope. The image also shows a horse, hitched to one of the two posts in front of the stone wall; the horse’s carriage still is attached to him in the

⁹⁴Minutes 5 mo 29th 1901, pp. 76-77; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 1901, p. 82.

Unfortunately, in spite of their hopes, the proceeds from the sale had to be used to offset the costs of construction and not for the cemetery maintenance.

⁹⁵Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1913, pp. 176-177.

⁹⁶Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes, 6 mo 3rd 1863, p. 121.

⁹⁷Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 4 mo 1st 1874; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 30th 1874; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer’s Account 1869-1882, 9 mo 12th 1876.

⁹⁸Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 29th 1910.

⁹⁹“Sadsbury Meeting House, Lancaster County (/) East View with Burial Ground,” Photograph, n.d., Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Personal Communication, Mary Joyce Walton, March 1999.

¹⁰⁰Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 1 mo 6th 1924, pp. 63-65.

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photograph. Evident too is the sweep of the drive; therefore, the Friends had to have paved the driveway some time after Cope visited the site.¹⁰¹

Cope also captured on film one of the two horse sheds located to the southeast of the meeting house. Like the stone wall that terminated at the upping block, the two sheds ran on a northwest-to-southeast line. The sheds faced one another. In the photograph, four of the stalls are visible. The sheds were made of wood boards aligned vertically, side by side, with the front left open for easy access in and out of the stalls. The roofs were shingled.¹⁰² References to repairs are found in the Preparative Meeting minutes beginning in the 1870s and reappearing up until the June of 1900 budget wherein \$9.16 was allocated for nails and the falling in shed roof. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, expenses included lumber and nails needed for re-roofing the sheds as well as the "boarding."¹⁰³ Both sheds are shown in a view of Sadsbury, looking from the northeast, as is the schoolhouse behind them.¹⁰⁴

In the Friends' record of their early history, written in the 1895 minutes, they noted their first meeting house was built on a hill above the spring in 1725. Over a hundred years later, the Friends procured lumber for the spring house, presumably for its repair. The spring is not mentioned again, until the mid-1920s preparation for the two hundredth anniversary of the settling of the Sadsbury meeting. At that time, a 7' retaining wall, built of stone, was erected and efforts to improve the water supply were made by renewing and re-laying the pipes.¹⁰⁵

Across the post-and-rail fence running behind the northeast elevation of the meeting house are the farm buildings.¹⁰⁶ These included a tenant house and at least one barn. The Friends rented the farm buildings out during much of the nineteenth century;¹⁰⁷ it is likely that these structures are occupied by the caretaker today. By 1900, the Friends allocated funds for fence and posts (\$7.68) but were not yet ready to commit to remodeling the tenant house. At that time the dwelling needed its sash and weather boards updated. It wasn't until 1922, however, that the tenant house was fixed. It was then that the Friends needed to collect monies toward the remodeling work. The next

¹⁰¹See [Perspective View of Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, from the West], Photograph, October 24, 1896, Gilbert Cope Collection, Chester County Historical Association, West Chester, Pennsylvania; copies available at the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The expenditures for the year 1923 included "a new stone drive with grading"; see Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 1 mo 6th 1924, p. 63.

¹⁰²That the roofs were shingled is inferred from the minutes. In December 1896, the Sadsbury Friends noted that the shingles needed for the sheds were ready. See Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 2nd 1896.

¹⁰³Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer's Account 1869-1882, 11 mo 9th 1876; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 31, 1883; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1 mo 2, 1884; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 2 1896, p. 42; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 30 1896; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 28 1896; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 28 1896; and Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 30th 1900.

¹⁰⁴See "Sadsbury Meeting House, Lancaster County (/) East View with Burial Ground," Photograph, n.d., Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

¹⁰⁵Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Treasurer's Account 1869-1882, 3 mo 24th 1881; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 1 mo 6th 1924, pp. 63-65.

¹⁰⁶This fence is shown in "Sadsbury Meeting House, Lancaster County (/) East View with Burial Ground," Photograph, n.d., Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

¹⁰⁷See, for example, Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 1st 1846, p. 3; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 29th 1846, p. 4; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 3rd 1846, p. 4.

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year, in preparation for the two hundredth anniversary celebration, the ground around the farm buildings was graded; a new wire and board fence installed to demarcate the buildings and garden from the rest of the property; the barn repaired, including a sill, foundation walls, stone flooring, weather boarding, and stalls; and the “log house with attachment” removed and a six room house over a cellar built on the same site.¹⁰⁸

Although no longer extant, the Sadsbury Friends had a schoolhouse on their property. The building is marked on the three nineteenth-century atlases of Lancaster County, but is not included in the 1824 map by Joshua Scott. From the atlases, it is clear that building stood across the road from the meeting house; less obvious is which of the two structures pictured was the schoolhouse. By 1909, the schoolhouse was described as “old.” Its age was not its only deterrent; soon after, the Friends determined the “old” structure was obsolete and opted to demolish it.¹⁰⁹ At this time, the Friends also extended the “old wall” along the entire length of the north side of the property, an action that has been interpreted afterwards as an example of Quaker thrift. It is said that the stones of the schoolhouse were re-used in the wall.

The Friends initially stayed away from a system of formal education because of the close association between academia and the church, a connection personified in the learned priests of Anglican and Roman Catholic parishes whose ministry had failed the Quakers. Instead, the Friends placed the responsibility for teaching children on the child’s parents. Thereby they created a system of guarded education within the faith. By the middle of the eighteenth century, a greater interest in the conduct of the Friends -- namely their participation in the consumer revolution and in the Indian Wars -- spawned a commitment toward a more careful instruction of the young Friends. Through education, it was hoped, the children could learn to respect the Society’s discipline and testimonies. To facilitate this effort, the number of Quaker schools increased.¹¹⁰

Although schooling received more attention in the 1750s, it is unclear if the Friends erected specific buildings in which the discipline could be taught immediately. There was, however, a proposal made in 1794 to the Sadsbury Monthly Meeting to build a new school house. This suggests that there was a structure designated as such and that the needs of Friends’ school outgrew it.¹¹¹ Several years later, a Friend bequeathed some property to the Monthly Meeting in order to accommodate a school; unfortunately, the Friends determined that the building was not suitable for its intended use.¹¹² Neither reference definitively identifies the schoolhouse on the Sadsbury property, but indicate that places for education were of concern to the Sadsbury Friends.

Concurrent to the debate and ultimate schism between Hicksite and Orthodox Friends in 1827, the issue of education returned to the fore. This time, the Friends

¹⁰⁸Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 30th 1900; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 1st 1900, p. 68; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 8 mo 29th 1900, p. 69; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 28th 1900; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, 2 mo 5th 1922, p. 41; and Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Joint Minutes 1917-1925, pp. 63-64.

¹⁰⁹Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 1st 1909, pp. 152-155.

¹¹⁰See Ezra Michener, *A Retrospect of Early Quakerism* (Philadelphia, PA: T. Ellwood Zell, 1860); Jack D. Marietta, *The Reformation of American Quakerism, 1748-1783* (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania); and Jack D. Marietta, “Ecclesiastical Discipline in the Society of Friends, 1682-1776,” Ph.D. diss, Stanford University, 1968.

¹¹¹Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 19th 1794.

¹¹²Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 17th 1800.

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discussed teaching poor children as well as maintaining local schools for the younger children. They noted that the neighborhoods had become too divergent to keep a school in the Quarter and so suggested opening a boarding school to sustain a guarded educational environment. In 1833, the meeting answered queries regarding schools, something that implies the significance of the Quaker school system to the Society's highest administrative body.¹¹³

Throughout the nineteenth century, the Sadsbury Friends raised money for educational purposes, mostly for the procurement of books for the First Day School and for the library. They also supported schools for children of the indigent and those who were "collord."¹¹⁴ In 1873, the men and women Friends raised the partition and discussed -- as a group -- the schools located within the limits of the Monthly Meeting. They concluded, during the following meeting, that the Monthly Meeting was not prepared to organize schools that would satisfy the Yearly Meeting's requirements.¹¹⁵ By 1890, however, the Friends ran a First Day School. It was in session all summer, but met only once a month in the wintertime. In all sixty-nine children attended, as did thirty-four adults. They were instructed by thirteen officers or teachers.¹¹⁶ Perhaps buoyed by the success of the First Day School, the Sadsbury Friends expressed a desire to establish a school under the care of the Preparative Meeting, and particularly, in their neighborhood in 1893. By the year's end, they also discussed funding a school in Christiana.¹¹⁷ Their efforts in the school business appeared to be successful; in 1906, Sadsbury Preparative Meeting operated two schools. However, their foray into the school business was brief, for the aged schoolhouse was demolished in 1909 and by 1919 the Friends ceased running a First Day School altogether.¹¹⁸

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views

*Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA

The photograph collection of the Chester County Historical Society contains over 70,000 images dating from the 1840s to the present. Subjects include the people, architecture, landscape, and events in Chester County, PA. Within this photographic archive is the Gilbert Cope Collection. Cope was a historian and genealogist. On his travels between 1887 and 1918,

¹¹³Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1829; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 16th 1831, p. 48; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 3rd 1833, p. 79; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 4 mo 8th 1835, pp. 103-105.

¹¹⁴Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, 5 mo 2nd 1850, p. 26; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 2 mo 6th 1856, p. 109; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Minutes 12 mo 3rd 1856, p. 116; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 29th 1870; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 7th 1888, p. 50; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 31st 1891, p. 9; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 1900-01 generally; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 12 mo 7th 1902, p. 213; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 7 mo 2nd 1905, p. 270; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 4th 1906, p. 284.

¹¹⁵Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 9 mo 3rd 1873, p. 257; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 10 mo 8th 1873, p. 258.

¹¹⁶Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, 4 mo 9th 1890, p. 63.

¹¹⁷Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 1st 1893; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 3 mo 8th 1893; Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 7 mo 5th 1893; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 11 mo 29th 1893, p. 20.

¹¹⁸Sadsbury Friends Monthly Meeting, Minutes 6 mo 3rd 1906, p. 280; Sadsbury Friends Preparative Meeting, Minutes 4 mo 6th 1919, p. 12.

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he took about 2500 views that record the Quaker community and landscape in and around Chester County. There are several images of Sadsbury Friends Meeting House (primarily of the two “fronts”) attributed to Cope. Copies are available in the Friends Historical Library and in the Quaker Collection.

*Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, PA

Since 1871, the Friends Historical Library has amassed books, serials, manuscripts, pictures, audio-visual materials, and memorabilia documenting Quaker history and matters “exclusively [. . .] pertaining to Friends.” In this collection there are several photographs of Sadsbury Friends Meeting House as well as the meeting houses built and used by the Orthodox Friends of Sadsbury and the third meeting house for the Hicksite Friends that was erected in Christiana in the early twentieth century.

*Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, PA

The holdings of the Lancaster County Historical Society library and archives consist of county court records, (microfilm) copies of the minutes of the Society of Friends’ meetings, maps, newspapers, and manuscripts. The Manuscript collection is grouped by common theme or origin, such as personal papers or corporate records. Copies of the journal of the Historical Society also are available here.

The meeting house of the Sadsbury Friends appears in the historic maps of the county, but the Historical Society has no photographs of the building on file.

*Moore Memorial Library, Christiana, PA

The library in Christiana maintains a photograph collection that covers local families as well as historic and/or significant sites in the area; in this archive is a photograph of Sadsbury Friends Meeting House on Simmontown Road and one of the present Christian Mennonite Church, built and used by the Hicksite Friends beginning in 1901.

*The Quaker Collection, Special Collections, Magill Library, Haverford College, Philadelphia, PA.

The Quaker Collection consists of 35,000 printed volumes and 300,000 manuscripts including books (some fiction) and the Jenks Collection of seventeenth-century tracts, manuscripts, family papers, meeting records, journals, and diaries. In addition, Special Collections has several photographs of many meeting houses, such as Sadsbury. Some of these images were taken by Gilbert Cope.

*Sadsbury Friends Meeting House, near Christiana, PA.

In the library, there are several scrapbooks that contain photographs of and newspaper clippings about the Friends, their activities, and their meeting house. These are all twentieth-century images.

B. Maps

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D. Most likely sources not yet investigated

Included in the list of vital records for the Sadsbury Friends are minutes for the Monthly Meeting between 1916 and 1969. I was unable to find minutes (on the available microfilm anyway) for the years after 1925 when the Preparative Meeting was laid down. If minutes for the twentieth century exist, they should be read in hopes of finding out what changes were made to the building, how it was used, and for what period it was rented.

Also important are the 1909 road docket, created when the public road was straightened and the school building taken down, as well as any building permits and plans associated with the 1970s renovation. These would be, if extant, located in Christiana, Pennsylvania. Furthermore, the patents and warrants for the property should be on file in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and these would cite the initial land transactions for the Sadsbury Friends. Additional research should begin with this (elusive) primary-source documentation.

E. Supplemental Information

Patent Book A, vol. 14, p. 237-239.

Thomas Penn and Richard Penn Esquires true and absolutely Proprietaries and Governors in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania and Counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex in Delaware To All unto whom these Presents Shall come Greeting Whereas in virtue and pursuance of our Warrant under the Seal of our Land Office bearing date the first day of December Anno Domini 1744 there was Surveyed and Laid out unto Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper of Sadsbury Township of the County of Lancaster Yeoman, as Trustees for the Religious Society of People commonly called Quaker residing within and in the Neighborhood of the Several Townships of Sadsbury in the County of Chester and Sadsbury in the County of Lancaster A Certain Tract of Land situate part in Sadsbury Township aforesaid and part in Salisbury Township (that is to say) forty-one Acres in the County of Chester and the Residue in the County of Lancaster, included within Metes and Bounds following Vizt.: Beginning at a marked black oak in a Line of Land late of William Orson and from thence extending by the same South fifty-four perches to a stump thence by Land late of John Minshal West one hundred

and seventy-six perches to a post Thence by Land late of John Fleming North fifty-four perches to a post, thence by Land of William Tarre East one hundred and seventy-six perches to the place of beginning Containing in the whole Fifty-six Acres and an allowance proportional to six acres per cent for Roads and Highways as in and by the Survey thereof remaining in our Surveyor General's Office and from thence certified into our Secretary's Office may appear And Whereas a meeting house or place of worship hath been since erected upon the said tract of Land by and at the Expense of the said Religious Society of People called Quakers residing in and near the sd. two several townships Now Therefore at the Special Instance and Petition of the said Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper as Trustees as aforesaid that we would be pleased to grant and confirm to them the said Tract of Land for the Uses, Intents, and Purposes herein after limited expressed and declared Know Ye that in consideration of the Sum of Eight pounds thirteen shillings and six pence lawful money of Pennsylvania to our Use paid by the said Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper Trustees as aforesd. (The Receipt whereof we hereby acknowledge and thereof do acquit and forever discharge the said Trustees Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper their Heirs and Assigns by these presents & of the Yearly Quit Rent herein after mentioned and reserved We have given granted released and confirmed and by these Presents for the us our Heirs and Successors Do give grant release and confirm unto the said Trustees Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper their Heirs and Assigns. All that the said Fifty-six Acres Tract of Land As the same is now set forth bounded and Limited as aforesaid With all mines minerals quarries meadows marshes Savannahs swamps Cripples woods underwoods timber and trees ways water water-coarces Liberties profits commodities advantages hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining and Lying within the bounds and Limits aforesaid (the full and clear fifth parts of all Royal Mines free from all deductions and reprisals for digging and refining the Same and also one fifth part of the ... of all other Mines delivered at the Pitsmouth only excepted and hereby reserved) And also free Leave right and Liberty to and for the said Trustees their Heirs and Assigns To hawk hunt fish and fowl in and upon the hereby granted Land and Premises or upon any part thereof To Have and to hold the said fifty-six Acre Tract of Land Hereditaments and Premises hereby granted or mentioned or Intended so to be with their Appurtenances unto them the said Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper their Heirs and Assigns forever But in Special Trust and Confidence Nevertheless that they the said Andrew Moore and Calvin Cooper and their Heirs shall stand seized thereof for the sole and only use benefit and behoof of the said Religious Society of People called Quakers residing and to reside in and about the said two Several Townships of Sadsbury and Salisbury for the time being to and for such uses intents and purposes as the Majority of the said Society using and frequenting the said Meeting House for the time being and their successors for Ever shall from time to time order direct and appoint agreeable to the Act of General Assembly of this Province in that behalfe made and provided And to and for no other use intent or Purpose whatsoever To beholden of us our Heirs and Successors Proprietaries of Pennsylvania as of Our Manor of Springton in he County of Chester aforesaid, and our Manor of Conestage in the County of Lancaster aforesaid in free and common Socage by Realty only in Lieu of all other Services yielding and paying therefore Yearly to Us our Heirs and Successors at the Town of Chester for the said forty-one acres part of the aforesaid described Tract, which lies in the said County of Chester, And at the Town of Lancaster for the Residue of the said Tract of Land which lies in the said County of Lancaster, At or upon the First day of March in ...y Year from the First day of March last past One Halfe penny Sterling for Every Acre of the same or value thereof in Coin Current according as the Exchange shall then be between our said Province and the City of London to such Person or Persons as Shall from time to time be appointed to Receive the Same - - And in Case of Non-payment thereof within Ninety days next after the same shall become due that then it shall and may by lawfull for Us our Heirs and Successors our and their Receiver or Receivers into and upon the hereby granted Land and premises Reenter and the same to hold and possess until the said Quit Rent and all Arrears thereof together with the charges accruing by means of such non-

payment and re-entry be fully paid and discharged Witness James Hamilton Esqr. Lieutenant Governor of the said Province who in pursuance and by virtue of certain Power and Authorities to him for this Purpose (in terlia) granted by the said Proprietaries hath hereunto set his Hand and caused the Great Seal of the said Province to be affixed at Philadelphia this thirtieth day of November in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and forty-eight, the Twenty-second year of the Reign of King George the Second Over Great Britain &c., And the Thirty-first year of the said Proprietaries Government.

Recorded the 27th day of September 1749. James Hamilton (seal)

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 America Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) division of the National Park Service surveyed all extant Quaker meeting houses that are tied to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. HABS Historians Catherine C. Lavoie and Aaron V. Wunsch initiated the study with support from the regional office of the National Park Service and then conducted the field survey over a three year period; Lavoie and Wunsch also served as Project Historians for the Meeting House project. The multi-year Friends Meeting House Study included the Sadsbury Friends Meeting House; and the principals involved in the documentation of Sadsbury were E. Blaine Cliver, Chief, HABS/HAER, Paul D. Dolinsky, Chief, HABS, Robert R. Arzola, HABS Architect, and Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS Senior Historian. The field recording for the measured drawings was completed in Summer 1999. The 1999 Project Supervisor was John P. White (Texas Tech University), who was assisted by architectural technicians Kelly Leigh Willard, James McGrath, Jr., Elaine Schweitzer (School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Cleary Larkin (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville), and Irina Madalina Ienulescu (US/ICOMOS-Romania). The historical report was written by Virginia B. Price, HABS, Washington, D.C. Large format photography was done by Jack E. Boucher, HABS Photographer, and James Rosenthal, HABS Photographic Assistant.