

PCAS-HMS

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0300804508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE  
HISTORIC BA-80

AND/OR COMMON Gunpowder Monthly Meeting/New Gunpowder Friends Meeting House

2 LOCATION PRICEVILLE ROAD AT JUNCTION OF QUAKER BOTTOM ROAD #1  
ELECTION DISTRICT 8 HEREFORD QUAD  
3rd Councilmanic District  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Cockeyville X VICINITY OF 2nd Congressional District  
STATE Maryland COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION  
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE  
-DISTRICT -PUBLIC -OCCUPIED -AGRICULTURE -MUSEUM  
X BUILDING(S) -PRIVATE X UNOCCUPIED -COMMERCIAL -PARK  
-STRUCTURE -BOTH -WORK IN PROGRESS -EDUCATIONAL -PRIVATE RES DENCE  
-SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE -ENTERTAINMENT X RELIGIOUS  
-OBJECT -IN PROCESS -YES RESTRICTED -GOVERNMENT -SCIENTIFIC  
-BEING CONSIDERED X YES UNRESTRICTED -INDUSTRIAL -TRANSPORTATION  
-NO -MILITARY -OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME Trustees of Gunpowder Monthly Meeting of Friends Telephone #: 323-8588  
STREET & NUMBER c/o Mrs. Thomas Hobbins, 12 Tamworth Road  
CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21210

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building Liber #: CWB 944 Folio #: 308  
STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue  
CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS \*  
TITLE MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES SURVEY: BALTIMORE COUNTY  
DATE ONGOING SINCE 1964  
GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING-HOUSE ENTERED 7/29/65 -FEDERAL X STATE -COUNTY -LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 State Circle  
CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

\* in WESTERN RUN-BELFAST ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT (600 APPROX 10/25/65, NR pending)

# DESCRIPTION

	<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIR		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>		ORIGINAL SITE
	<input type="checkbox"/>		MOVED
	<input type="checkbox"/>		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New Gunpowder Friends Meeting House is twice "new," having been built at a location new to the members in 1821, and then having been rebuilt between the 25th of March and the 4th of July following the fire of 1866.

The house stands on a hill with an excellent view of unspoiled Quaker Valley. Rectangular in shape, it is a very simple, one-story building of stone, with a gabled roof. A narrow porch runs across the main front of the building parallel to the roof ridge. A wider porch is attached to the west end. There are overhanging eaves at the gable ends. A box cornice runs along the main and rear facades.

The meetinghouse is six bays wide. Entry is by two paneled doors in the second and fifth bays. The doors are topped with transoms of four lights each. The double-hung sash windows are 12 on 12 types. An inside chimney, centrally located, rises through the roof ridge.

The east gable end is composed of three bays as is the west end. Each end has a centrally located door, paneled, with transoms above, four lights in each transom. Most windows on the building are equipped with blinds, painted black. There is a loft story with one boarded window in each gable.

In addition to the main meeting room in the east end of the house, there are two smaller rooms on the west end. On the north, there is a stone extension with a lean-to roof, a storage place for garden tools. The grounds are equipped with two wooden necessary houses behind a screen.

The meeting room is finished in plain style, furnished with straight wooden benches, lined up to face each other. The plan of the floor space conforms with the Quaker custom of separating the sexes during Meeting. Each of the wooden front doors leads into the meeting hall. One was used by women and the other by the men of the congregation. A sliding frame partitions the hall into two separate sides. Of course, there is no pulpit, no decorations, no symbols, nor works of art.

Dimensions in 1821 were 56 by 32 feet.

The small, well-built chapel is an architectural gem, its sharply cut stones reflecting the sunlight from its green hilltop.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTO	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-14	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-15	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1821; rebuilt 1866      BUILDER/ARCHITECT Contractor,  
Charles Trimble, 1866.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Surviving records show that a Gunpowder Meeting of Friends existed a few years prior to 1739 in the valley of that river, and traditional accounts claim an even earlier organization. Gunpowder Monthly Meeting became an independent group in 1739, set free from the Monthly Meeting at the Clifts. Its location was present Beaver Dam Road and the first building was replaced by a new structure in 1773; the second house still stands there surrounded by a cemetery. (1)

The old site south of Shawan Road was inconvenient for some members, and on October 6, 1819, the Friends decided that the majority of their members were living in the Western Run and Belfast Valleys.

Five members were appointed to "secure the lot of ground, continue the subscription, collect the money, purchase materials and receive proposals for building the Meeting House as soon as possible and convenient." One member offered one acre of ground and the committee reported that "the house will be fifty-six feet long by thirty-two feet wide, one story high, with four doors, eight windows twenty four lights each, eight by ten glass, and built of stone and when nearly finished ... will cost thirteen hundred and fifty dollars." The "New Gunpowder Meeting House was built in 1821. (2)

The ground it stood upon was part of the tract "Sammy's Meadow Enlarged." (3)

Legendary stories state that the meeting house was burned by "vengeful Southerners" but the county paper of the time shows a more mundane cause for the conflagration:

FIRE.--On Sunday, 25th., inst., about 1 o'clock, P.M. the Friends' Meeting House situate in the 8th District, a short distance above cockeysville, took fire, it is supposed, from a defective flue, and was entirely consumed. The furniture and a valuable library of about 500 volumes were saved, by the citizens in the neighborhood. (4)

The blaze took place on March 25, 1866, and William C. Gardner in his fact sheet writes that the minutes do not mention the cause of the fire:

A committee was quickly appointed to "rebuild and make such alterations as their judgement may indicate," and the building was rebuilt in time for Monthly Meeting held on fourth of seventh month, 1866. It was built on the same foundation, and there is no record of any changes in design. (5)

The Eighth District foreign correspondent of the Maryland Journal, who signed himself "Ich Dieu," reported the rapid reconstruction:

8th District ... August 20th, 1866 ... Next September the Friends of the Baltimore County Quarterly Meeting assemble at their meeting house in this District. By the way, this building deserves a passing note indicative of the enterprise of our citizens. Last winter it was entirely destroyed by fire. In a short time, Phoenix-like, it rose from its ashes more beautiful than ever. Some have remarked that the old house will hardly recognize the new, all of which is attributed to the liberality of the members, the judgment of a wise building committee, Thomas J. Matthews, Sam'l M. Price, Edw. Scott, and others, and the skill of the contractor, our worthy young townsman, Charles Trimble, Esq. (6)

Continuing to quote Mr. Gardner's summary of Quaker history:

During the late 1800's, a Friends School was conducted in a frame addition to the west end of the Meeting House. Up to twenty children attended the school taught by a member of the Meeting. When she resigned to become married, no replacement could be found and the school was forced to close.

Gunpowder Meeting flourished until the late 1940's when, after the deaths of many of the older Quakers, attendance gradually dwindled and only occasional meetings were held. In the Spring of 1957, several faithful members decided to make a determined effort to increase attendance or stop meeting entirely. On the fifth of fifth month, Friends from other meetings and the surrounding community met for meeting for worship, and on following first-days, a number returned. The Meeting continued to grow, but in the early part of seventh month of the same year, the member who had done the most to bring about the rejuvenation, passed away. Attending his funeral were many members of the Lions Club in which he was active and it was their desire to participate in a physical restoration of the Meeting House. Providing all funds and volunteer labor, they removed the old frame school room from the west end of the building and erected the spacious porch that looks out over the cemetery.

In 1958, the entire east wall of the Meeting House had deteriorated and buckled to the extent that it was felt necessary to remove and completely rebuild it from the ground up. This was accomplished with windows and doors being replaced exactly as they were. (7)

The "member who had done the most" as mentioned in the paragraph above, was Mr. I. Waugh Matthews of Quaker Bottom Road. Since the restoration, regular meetings have been held at New Gunpowder. (8)

A member interviewed in 1976 thought that this beauty spot was much more peaceful before construction of I-83. The residents fear invasion by developers and the house was vandalized on one occasion and window lights over a century old were smashed. The scenery draws photographers, painters, and romancers to the spot. Attendance at the weekly service at 11 a.m. on "first day" varies from 5 to 30. Joan Jacobson reported last year on the quiet of the cemetery:

The meeting (Quaker term for church) has "gas-less, sparkless, self-starting lawn mowers," or sheep, to keep the cemetery neat, as a notice from the meeting says. (9)

Notes:

1. Phoebe R. Jacobsen, Quaker Records in Maryland (Annapolis, 1966), pp. 25-26.
2. William C. Gardner, "Gunpowder Friends Meeting House," data sheet, no date.
3. B. C. Deeds, WG 160:511.
4. Maryland Journal, Towson, March 31, 1866, p. 2, col. 6.
5. Gardner, "Gunpowder Friends."
6. Maryland Journal, August 25, 1866, p. 2, col. 4.
7. Gardner, "Gunpowder Friends."
8. S. E. and C. E. Clemens, From Marble Hill to Maryland Line (Monkton, 1976), p. 39.
9. Joan Jacobson, "Developers Closing in on Quaker Valley, Its Heritage," Evening Sun, February 17, 1976, p. C5.

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Phoebe R. Jacobsen, Quaker Records in Maryland (Annapolis, 1966), pp. 25.26.  
 "Gunpowder Friends Meeting House," William C. Gardner (one-page information sheet).  
 S.E. and C.E. Clemens, From Marble Hill to Maryland Line (Monkton, 1976), p. 39.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.8

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S16-34°E	156 feet, 9 inches
S72W	802 feet
N21W	156 feet, 9 inches
N72E	802 feet

#### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	None	COUNTY	None
STATE		COUNTY	

### FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	<u>John W. McGrain</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION</u>
ORGANIZATION	<u>BALTIMORE COUNTY</u>	DATE
	<u>Office of Planning and Zoning</u>	<u>July 14, 1977</u>
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
<u>401 Bosley Avenue</u>		<u>494-3495</u>
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
<u>TOWSON</u>		<u>Maryland 21204</u>

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Gunpowder Quaker Meeting House  
North side of Priceville Rd., west  
of Quaker Bottom Rd.  
accessible  
1821, 1866

Rebuilt in 1866 on the site of an earlier structure built in 1821 and which had burned, this stone meeting house is a typical example of rural meeting houses. They varied little in architectural style and detail regardless of time or geographical location. The congregation is an old one, dating back to 1739, after which time they built a structure which still stands, in a dilapidated state, on the Beaver Dam Road. This meeting house is still used by a small congregation each Sunday.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Gunpowder Quaker Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North side Priceville Road, west of Quaker Bottom Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Gunpowder Friends Meeting  
Mr. Jack I. Matthews

Telephone #: 472-4791

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Quaker Bottom Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: WG 45

Folio #: 77

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Calvert &amp; Lexington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore County Landmarks

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville

STATE

Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gunpowder Quaker Meeting House is a one storey structure of stone, six bays in length, three in width. Its gable ends are to the east and west, and a one storey hipped roof porch extends along the south side, sheltering the two principal entrances, and a one storey shed-roofed porch extends along the west end. One storey, shed-roofed wings of stone extend north behind each end bay.

In the Society of Friends' tradition, the Meeting House is divided equally for men and women; each section occupies three bays of this structure's length, and the principal entrance to each section is in the respective section's middle bay. Secondary entrances are centered in each gable end. The double doors each have three flush panels defined by a single bead on the stiles and rails; together the panels form the normal six panels found in traditional doors. Each entrance has a four-light transom above. All windows are 12/12 and only the east end windows retain their paneled shutters. A board door high in the east gable allows access to the attic. Only two windows are in the north side, one per meeting room inside. Window sills are of tooled marble.

The Meeting House is divided into two meeting rooms by a paneled partition, sections of which are counter-balanced for ease in raising and lowering, thus opening the two rooms together as one. Stiles and rails of the partition have beaded edges, and the panels are raised. Two risers extend along the north side of both meeting rooms, and a single, narrow riser extends along the south side. The northerly risers have built-in rails at their southerly edges, raised on simple, plain newels. Interior walls and ceilings have a simple plaster finish, and openings are finished with narrow, two plane, beaded architraves. A single column, cased with paneling, supports the ceiling structure in the middle of each meeting room.

The westerly meeting room has been subdivided into several small rooms for First Day School classrooms with modern partitions and simple finishes, but the risers remain in place.

see Continuation Sheet #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1866

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present meeting house, located on the north side of Priceville Road, was erected in 1866. It is a typical example of the rural Friends' meeting houses which varied little in architectural style and detail regardless of time or geographical location.

The congregation was given permission to form a monthly meeting in 1739, and the original structure they built is still standing in a dilapidated state on the Beaver Dam Road. A new meeting house was erected in 1821, but it burned and was rebuilt at this site in 1866. This is the reason for the two dates on the cornerstone.

As remembered by Mrs. Donald Miller, the meeting continued to use this building until about 1940 when it became vandalized. Through the efforts of Mr. I. Waugh Matthews, a descendant of one of the original families, and Mrs. Miller's father, the structure was restored and is now used by a small congregation each Sunday. The new porch was built in memory of Mr. Matthews in 1956.

Surrounding the meeting house is a cemetery containing the graves of members of the Price and Matthews families.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Jacobsen, Phebe R. Quaker Records in Maryland. (Annapolis, 1966).

Jacobsen, Joan. "Developers Closing in on Quaker Valley, Its Heritage". In Baltimore Evening Sun, February 17, 1976

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Md. (Philadelphia, 1877).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5A +

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	
Catherine F. Black & James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
For Valleys Historical District Project	September 1976
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1114 Bellemore Road	323-3798
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Baltimore	Maryland

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## Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 (Continued)

Many early, or original, benches remain, their backs being a simple rail at the top, their ends scrolled. The benches are put together with hand-made wood screws.

The two shed-roofed northerly wings are the privies for men and women; the westerly one retains its seats arranged in a continuous bench along its east and north side, with six holes.

Southeast of the Meeting House is a mounting block consisting of three single stone steps leading up to a large stone as a top platform, all of roughly worked marble on a rubble stone foundation.

A corner stone low in the southeast corner is inscribed:

1821      REBUILT  
            1866