

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CE-638 CE-1293

0812932410

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Colora Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Lipencott Road, immediately north of Colora.

CITY, TOWN

Colora

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

COUNTY

Cecil

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Colora Monthly Meeting of Friends

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Colora

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

zip code

21917

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cecil County Courthouse

Deed reference:

was 50 F 314

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CE-638

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Colora Meeting House is a one story structure built on land donated by Thomas Waring. Its setting is picturesque with the meeting house sitting on a small knoll surrounded by large oak trees. The meeting house is a rectangular building with walls constructed of fieldstone with a stucco covering. There are two inside end chimneys protruding through a slate roof. The original roof was shingled with wooden shingles that were two inches thick. It took 5,276 shingles to complete the job. The roof has a plain box cornice. The foundation of the meeting house is made of stone and has two ventilation holes in both the west and south foundations. The walls of the meeting house are eighteen inches thick. All of the windows have 6/6 sash except the window in the attic. The windows have board and batten shutters that are painted brown (one shutter is missing from a window on the north wall). The major part of the construction was done by the young men of the congregation who were under the direction of a stone mason and a carpenter. The stone and plaster materials were supplied by Lloyd Balderston I. The total cost for materials and construction of the meeting house amounted to \$626.62.

The north and south walls of the meeting house are 36 feet long. The south wall or the facade has two six-panel doors. There are two windows between the doors and two flanking the doors. The window frames are pegged. Each door has a granite sill and stepstone. The north wall of the meeting house has two windows set opposite the doors on the south wall.

The gable walls of the building, east and west respectively, are twenty-two feet long. The east end has one window which is situated to the left of a door. The door has a wooden sill. Extending eastward from this wall is a leanto shed that measures nine feet by fifteen feet. It has a slate roof and rests on a stone foundation approximately three feet high. The exterior of the shed is of board and batten construction. The west wall of the meeting house has a window on the first storey and one in the attic. The window in the attic is to the right of center and has a 2/2 sash.

At the front of the meeting house extending from the southwest corner of the building twelve feet and running parallel to the facade is a stone wall with a granite cap. The cap was originally wooden. This serves as a retaining wall for the small knoll upon which the meeting house sits. In the center of this wall is an opening with granite steps leading down to the driveway from a small granite platform. This platform was used by Quaker men to dismount from their horses without stepping in the mud. A diagonal sidewalk leads from each of the front doors to the opening in the retaining wall.

The interior of the meeting house is divided in half by a paneled partition on a north south axis. This paneling has counter-balanced sliding sections and a door in a typical Friends meeting house arrangement. There are sixteen moveable pine benches arranged with one center aisle on each half

(See continuation sheet #1)

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Colora Meeting House
Cecil County,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION

of the meeting house. These benches face the raised "Elders' benches" which are on the north wall of the meeting house. Some of the flooring in the elevated section has been replaced due to moisture and insect damage. The original woodstoves were replaced twenty years ago, but have been retained by the meeting house. There is a trap door to the attic in the western section of the meeting house. The floor is of random width pine. The interior woodwork has never been painted and has darkened naturally to a rich brown. The floors have handwoven rag rugs on them and the benches have padded cushions. The meeting house also has foot cushions.

A small cemetery lies to the east of the meeting house. It has stone walls on the east, west, and north sides with an entrance on the west wall. The southern border to the cemetery was at one time an eight-stall horse shed which was torn down about 40 years ago. The grave markers are very simple and typically Quaker. The burial places of Betsy Ross's daughter, Jane Canby, and two granddaughters, and that of Lloyd Balderston I, who founded and named Colora village and established an early plant nursery, are located here.

Above the meeting house on a higher piece of ground is a two story frame building which was built in 1969 and was used as a Friends schoolhouse until public schools were built. This building is covered with asbestos shingles and measures thirty feet long by nineteen feet deep. Originally there was one room upstairs and one down. Since the closing of the school in 1890, this building has been used to house the caretaker.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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"/> 1400-1499	<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 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 1841

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Colora Meeting House was built in 1841 because of a doctrinal division in West Nottingham Friends Meeting. The site of the meeting house was well chosen for the contemplative use of the building and it imparts an extraordinary sense of peace and natural beauty. The Colora Meeting House retains many of the original features which most Friends meeting houses have lost. Outstanding among these is the fact that the interior woodwork has never been painted.

East and West Nottingham Friends Meetings, which comprised the congregation known as Nottingham Monthly Meeting, tended to follow the teachings of Elias Hichs, the Quaker liberal. A small group of Friends attending West Nottingham Meeting wished to follow more conservative views and affiliated themselves with the Orthodox Friends in establishing this meeting house. At one time, this meeting house was the headquarters of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Primitive.

Also, as previously mentioned in the description, several of Colora Meeting's more famous members are buried in the cemetery, including Jane Canby, daughter of Betsy Ross; two of Betsy Ross's granddaughters; and Lloyd Balderston I, the founder of Colora and a pioneer horticulturist.

Colora is a typical example of the type of meeting house built in the area of southeastern Pennsylvania and northeastern Maryland in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was constructed of local stone in the traditional manner which required separate entrances for the men and women and a sliding door to divide the interior into two areas. The interior of this building is unaltered, remaining as an illustration of how the interior of a 19th century Friends meeting house was meant to appear.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Plumstead, Edward, local historian and preservation leader.
Balderston, Lloyd III, Spokesperson for Colora Monthly Meeting.
Lippincott, Ruth B. (Edit.) The Balderston Family, Colora Branch.
Prinos, Franklin Printing Co., 1959.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. Lutz, III, field historian

ORGANIZATION

Cecil Historical Trust, Inc.

DATE

December 24, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. 2

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Rising Sun

STATE

Maryland

zip code

21911

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CE-638 Colora Meetinghouse



CE 634

Colora Meeting House
Photograph Credit -
Cecil Historical Trust.



Colora Meeting House
Winter 1975-6

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COLORA, MARYLAND

SOUTH ELEVATION

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