

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Town Friends' Meeting House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Aisquith Street Meeting; Baltimore Meeting

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1201 East Fayette Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Peale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		Museum is
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		caretaker

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:  
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Liber: SCL 4560 Folio: 359

Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 610, Baltimore City Court House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

[see continuation sheet]

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Town Friends' Meeting House typifies the refined simplicity and dignity of the Quaker Meeting House. It is a two-story, brick building which has undergone several alterations over the years. The architect of the 1967 restoration, Francis H. Jencks, has attempted to restore the building as it appears in a photograph taken circa 1845-1850.<sup>1</sup> The exterior fabric of the meeting house is original.

Three of the exterior walls are set in Flemish bond, while the fourth wall, on the east, is of common bond. Apparently the building always had a chimney with stove in the east gable, but the chimney in the west gable was a later addition, added in the early 19th century.<sup>2</sup> The building at one time apparently had six entrances, two in the north and two in the south walls and one at each end; however, the two doorways in the north side (Fayette Street) were bricked over and remain thus. Some of the window sashes are original, but most are of the mid-19th century, at which time the pediments over the first-floor windows were applied. The outside shutters were changed from the louvered to the solid type during the 1967 restoration. At that time, also, evidence was found that the balcony may have extended along the west end wall, although it is now along only the south wall.

<sup>1</sup>The drawings for the 1967 restoration are on file at the offices of Wrenn, Lewis and Jencks, 113 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Measured drawings made by Mr. Addison Worthington in 1956 are in the possession of Mr. Philip Myers, 4208 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

<sup>2</sup>The earliest known drawing of the building is on the border of the Poppleton Map of Baltimore (1852) to be found at the Peale Museum in Baltimore.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1781

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Town Friends' Meeting House is one of Baltimore's few remaining 18th-century structures. It is the oldest religious building in the city, having been built in 1781. At that time, the Patapsco Friends' Meeting, then located in Baltimore County, received permission from the Gunpowder Monthly Meeting to move to the eastern side of Jones Falls, at Fayette and Aisquith Streets, and to build a meeting house there. George Mathews was the contractor for the building, which was considered to be "quite on the eastern border" of the city.<sup>1</sup> The cost was \$4,500.<sup>2</sup> The congregation became known as the Baltimore Meeting or the Aisquith Street Meeting, and by 1793, had attained the status of a Montly Meeting.

In 1828 during a stormy session, the Orthodox Friends withdrew from the Baltimore Montly Meeting because of disagreements with the liberal element, which then became known as "Hick-sites." This division is still observed by both groups.

From as early as 1660, the Society of Friends exerted a strong influence socially, politically, and economically in Maryland. A number of influential Baltimore Quakers worshipped at the Aisquith Street Meeting House: Philip E. Thomas, first President of the B & O Railroad; Johns Hopkins; Moses Sheppard, the philanthropist; the Ellicott family, who founded the mill town of Ellicott City, just outside Baltimore; and Isaac and Elisha Tyson, Baltimore merchants and early exponents of the anti-slavery movement.

The building was abandoned in about 1921 and remained unused until 1967, when extensive restoration was undertaken through the efforts of a group of private individuals in cooperation with the city government. It is now (1970) operated by the Peale Museum which has plans for installing exhibits and opening it to the public in the very near future.

The name "Old Town" Friends' Meeting has been applied to the building since the restoration, in recognition of its location in that part of the city of Baltimore which was annexed in 1745 and which now is due for rehabilitation under Urban Renewal.

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jacobsen, Phebe R. Quaker Records in Maryland. Publication No. 14, The Hall of Records Commission. Annapolis, 1966.

Matthews, Thomas H. A Sketch of Old Town Meeting House. Printed by John W. Woods. Baltimore, 1881.

Records of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Stoney Run and the Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Homewood. (Microfilm) Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. [see continuation sheet]

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	17'	31"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		76°	36'	04"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.1 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. Maxwell G. Armor, Jr. and Mrs. Catharine F. Black

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

July 12, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

CODE

24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date July 21, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Old Town Friends' Meeting House

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Landmark List

1967 local x

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation  
Room 402, City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland code 24

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

<sup>1</sup>Quoted in The Morning Sun (Baltimore), May 22, 1967.

<sup>2</sup>Thornbury, D. L., "The Society of Friends in Maryland,"  
Maryland Historical Magazine XXIX (1934), p. 107.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Rose, Harold Wickliffe. The Colonial Houses of Worship in  
America. 1607-1789. New York, 1963.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County, Mary-  
land. Baltimore, 1881.

Thornbury, D. L. "The Society of Friends in Maryland." Mary-  
land Historical Magazine, XXIX (1934).

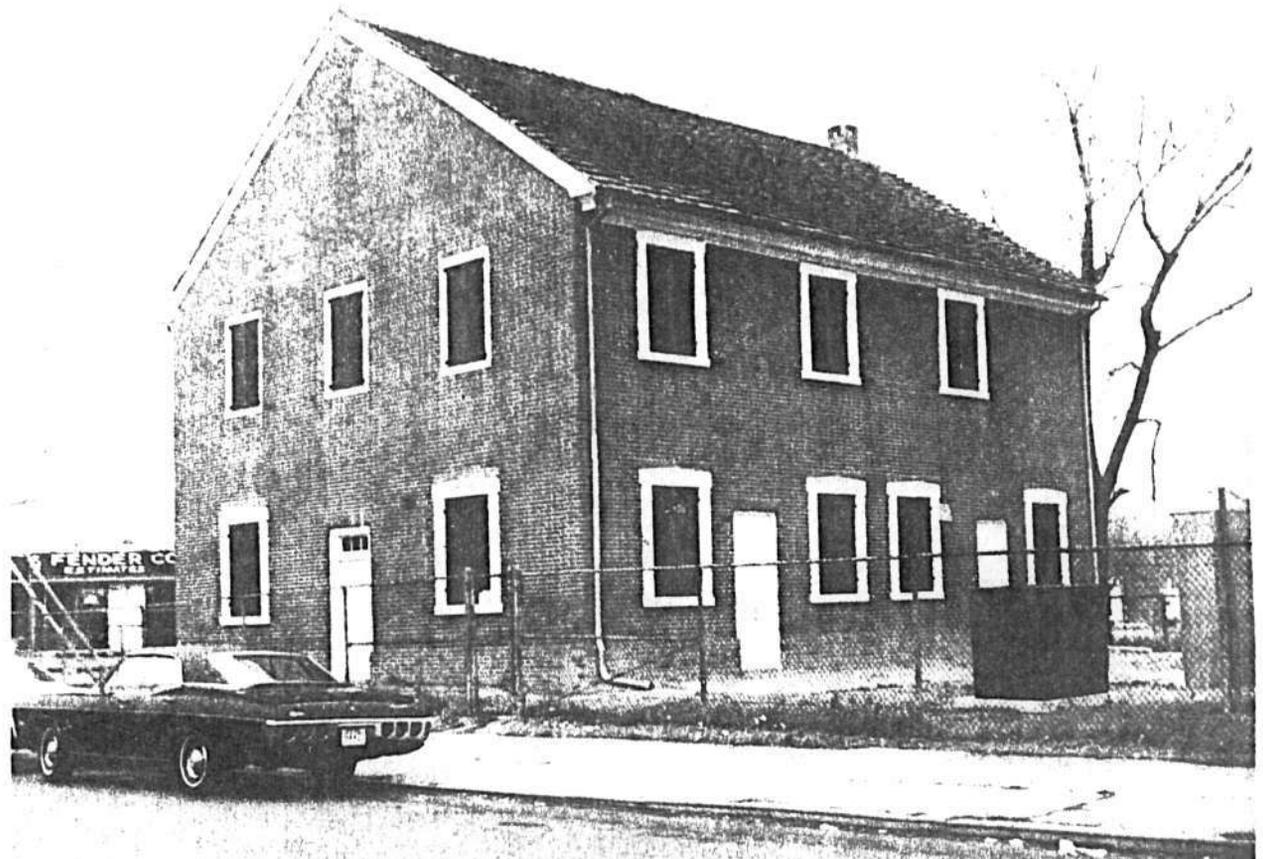
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Town Friends' Meeting House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Aisquith Street Meeting; Baltimore Meeting			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1201 East Fayette Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Romaine Somerville			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, Room 402, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  Friends' Meeting House from the southwest			



Form 10-301  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

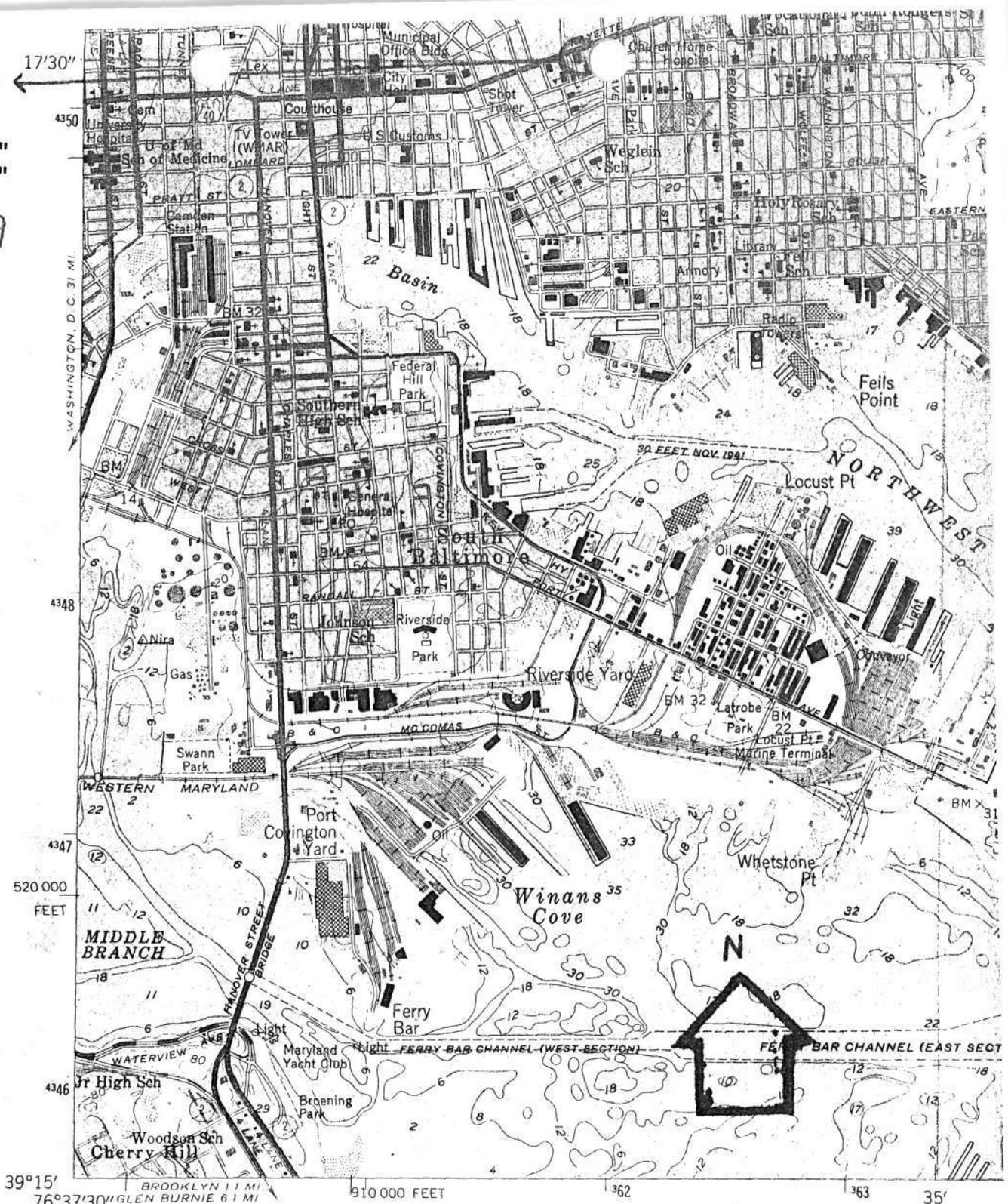
<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Old Town Friends' Meeting House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Aisquith Street Meeting; Baltimore Meeting			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1201 East Fayette Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Baltimore East quadrangle			
SCALE: 1: 24 000			
DATE: 1953			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Property boundaries where required.</li> <li>2. North arrow.</li> <li>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</li> </ol>			

OLD TOWN FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

17'30"

LAT. 39°17'31"  
LON. 76°36'04"

B-9



RELAY  
5662 II NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

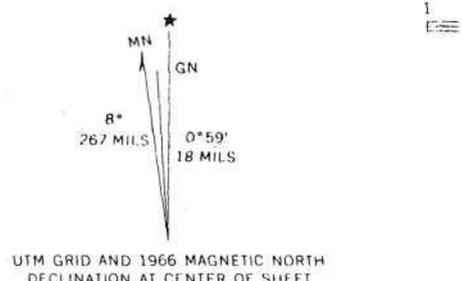
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS Chart 545 (1951)

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

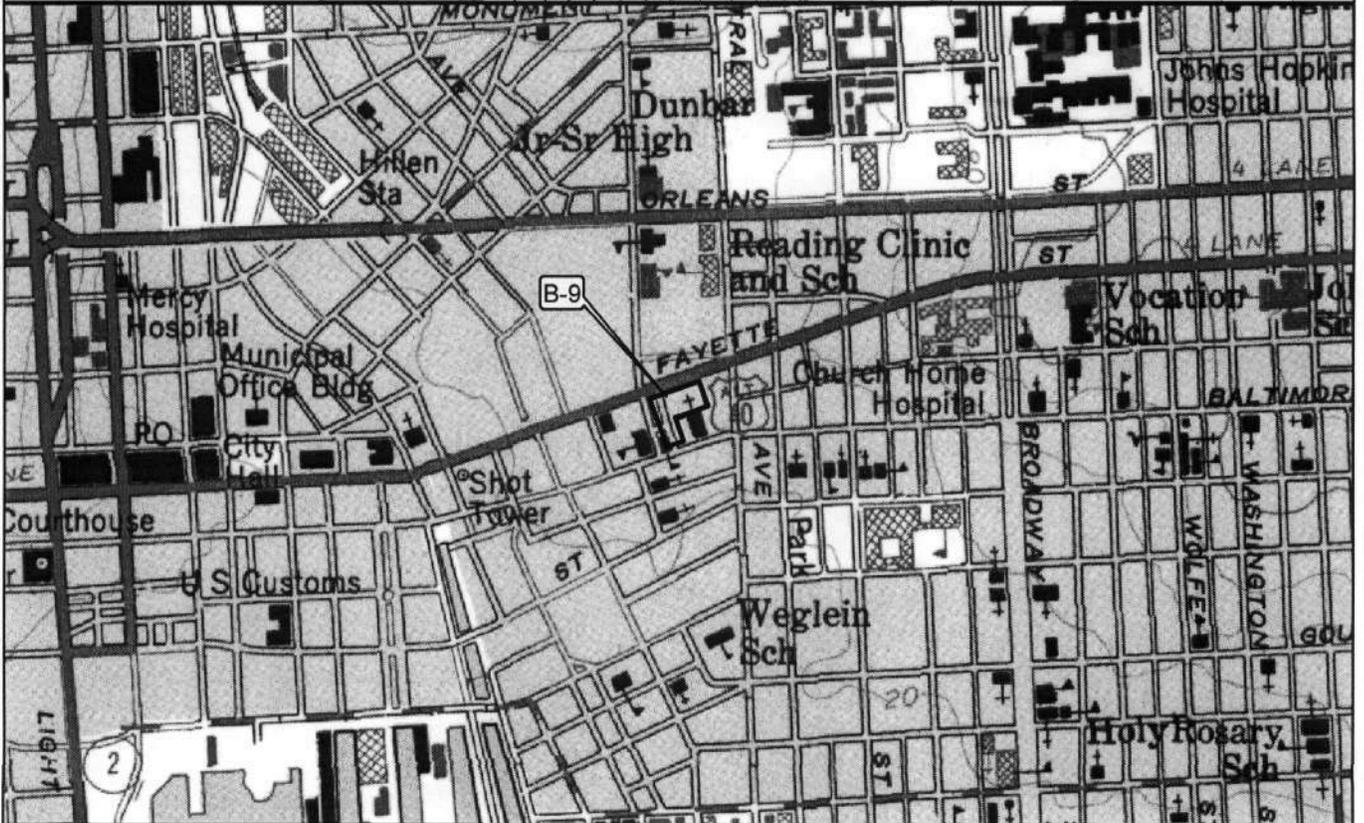
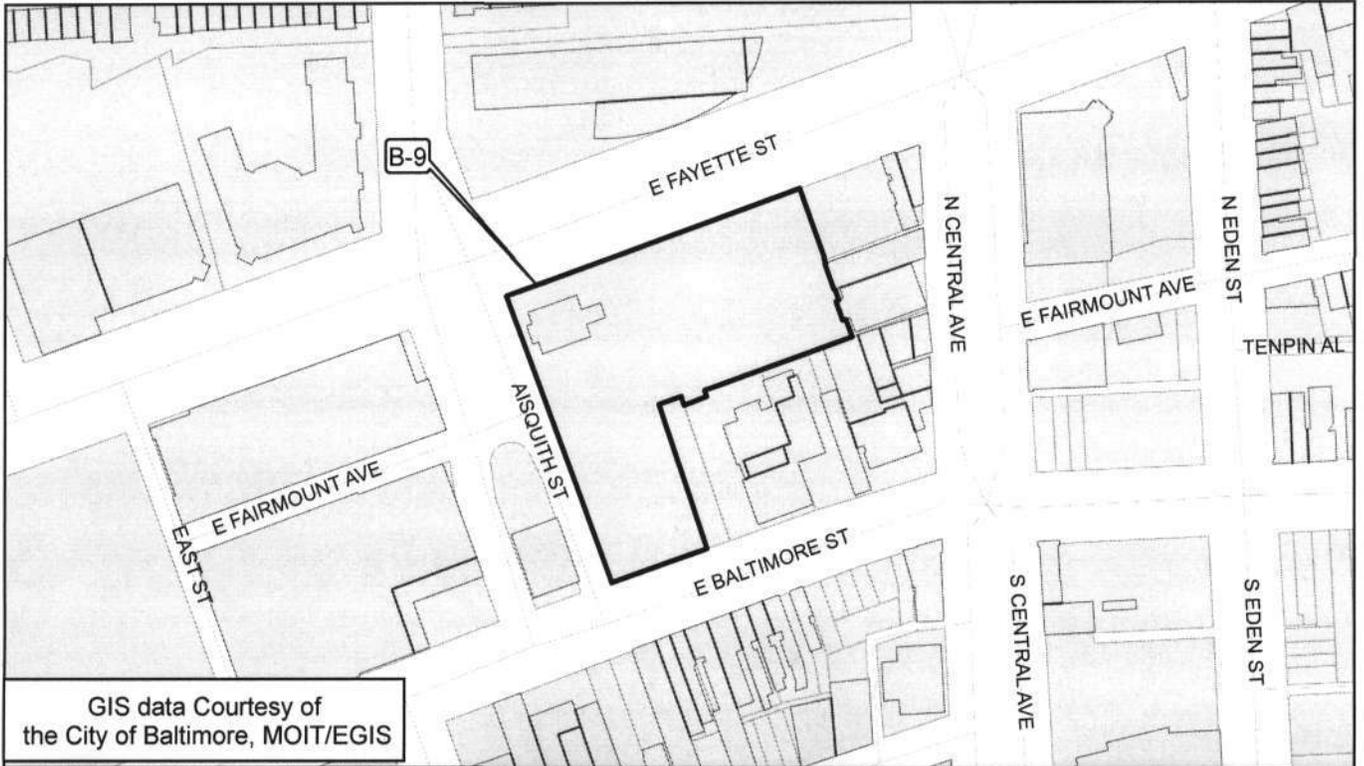
Revisions shown in purple compiled by Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1966. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1966 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

B-9  
Friends Meeting House (Old Town Friends Meeting House)  
1201 E. Fayette Street  
Block 1339, Lot 001  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



<p>1. STATE <b>Maryland</b>          COUNTY <b>Baltimore City</b>          TOWN _____ VICINITY _____          STREET NO. <b>Fayette St. &amp; Aisquith St.</b></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER _____          ORIGINAL USE _____          PRESENT OWNER _____          PRESENT USE _____          WALL CONSTRUCTION _____          NO. OF STORIES _____</p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY          INVENTORY <b>B-9</b></p> <p>2. NAME <b>Friends Meeting House</b>  <b>(Old Town Meeting House)</b></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD _____          STYLE _____          ARCHITECT _____          BUILDER _____</p>
<p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>	
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC</span></p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    <b>Endangered</b>                      <b>Interior</b>                      <b>Exterior</b></p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP <i>(Plan Optional)</i></p> <p>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES <i>(Author, Title, Pages)</i>          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p>DATE OF RECORD _____</p>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE





B-9

Old Town Friends' Meeting House  
1201 E. Fayette St.  
Baltimore City

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION  
401 CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD. 21202