Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☒ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	Peale Museum is caretaker
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	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:	STATE	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	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:	STATE:	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland 21401	24

[see continuation sheet]

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ 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.[1] 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.[2] 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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

[1]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.

[2]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.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☒ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

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.[1] The cost was $4,500.[2] 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 "Hicksites." 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						OR	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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39°	17'	31"	76°	36'	04"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
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

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

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

[1]Quoted in The Morning Sun (Baltimore), May 22, 1967.

[2]Thornbury, D. L., "The Society of Friends in Maryland," Maryland Historical Magazine XXIX (1934), p. 107.

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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, Maryland. Baltimore, 1881.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

B-9

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:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Romaine Somerville

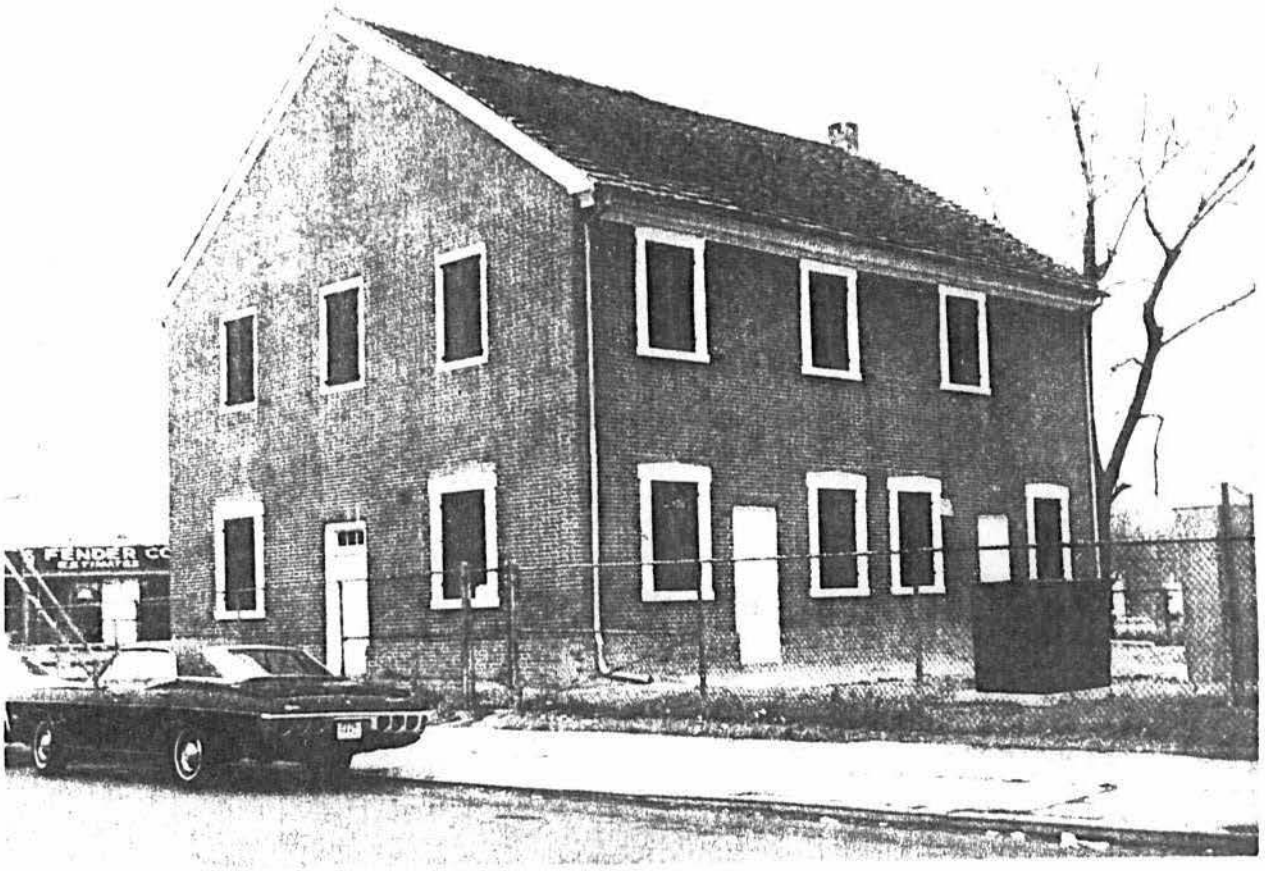
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

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

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Aisquith Street Meeting; Baltimore Meeting

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1201 East Fayette Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Baltimore East quadrangle

SCALE: 1: 24 000

DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

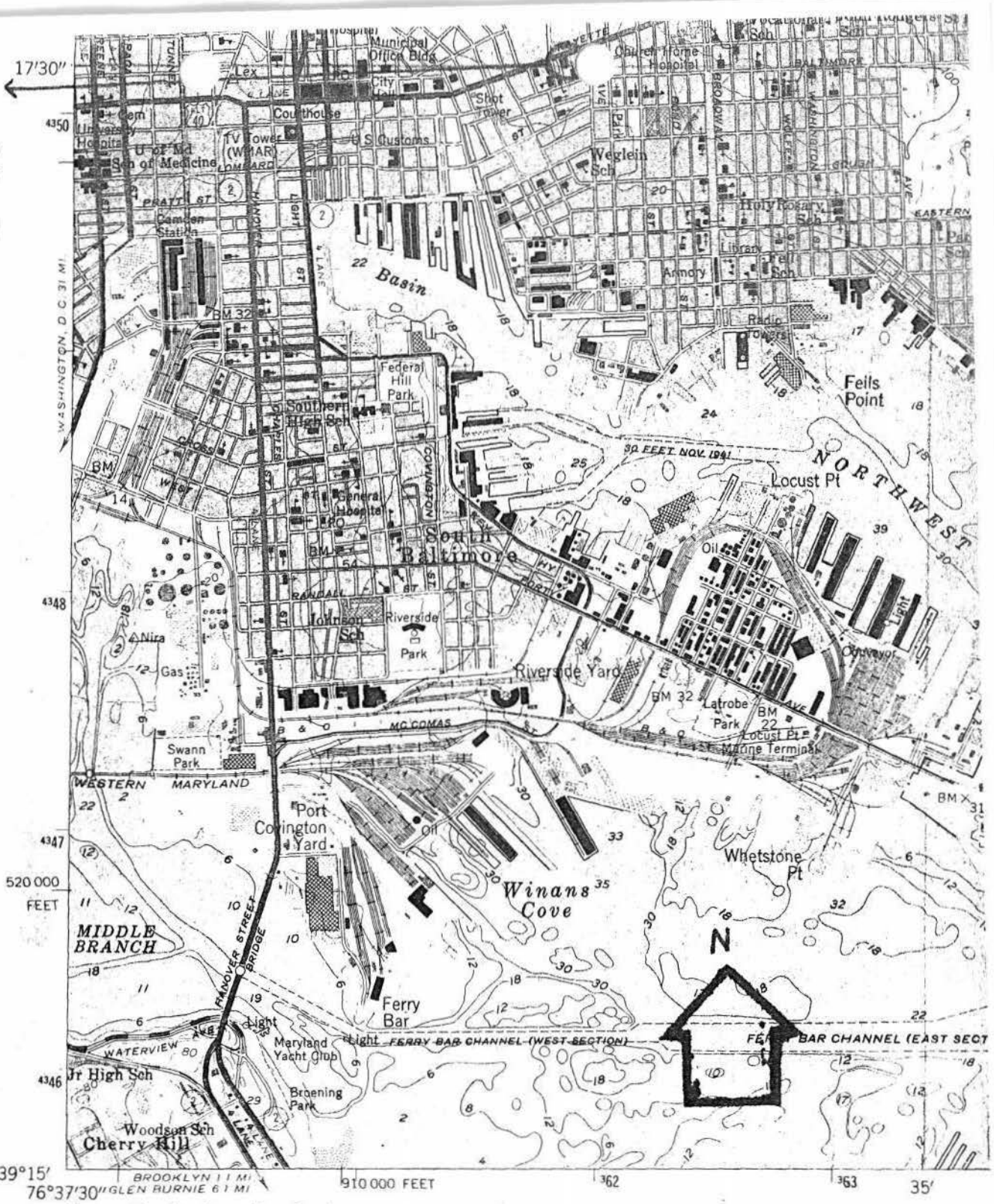
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

OLD TOWN
FRIENDS MEETING
HOUSE

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

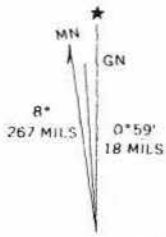
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS Chart 545 (1951)

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

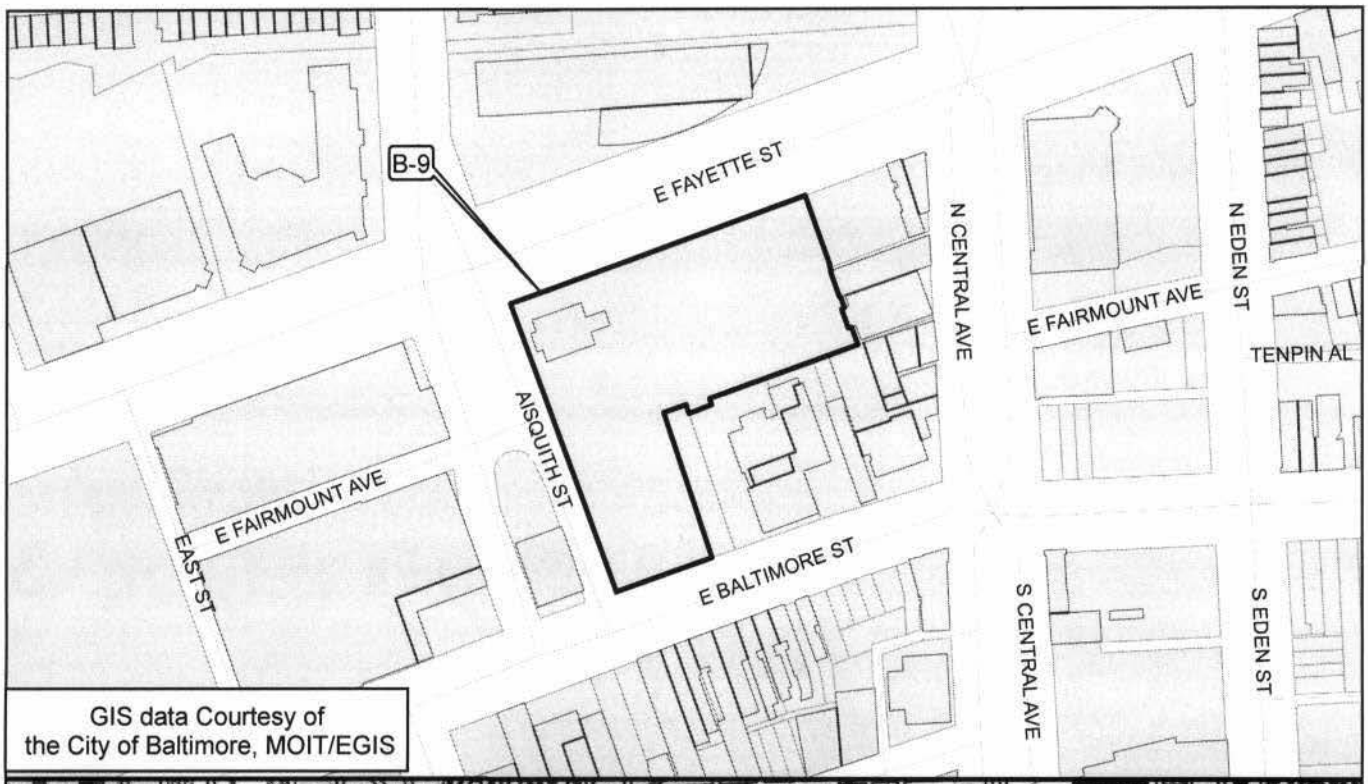
Revisions shown in purple compiled by Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1966. This information not field checked

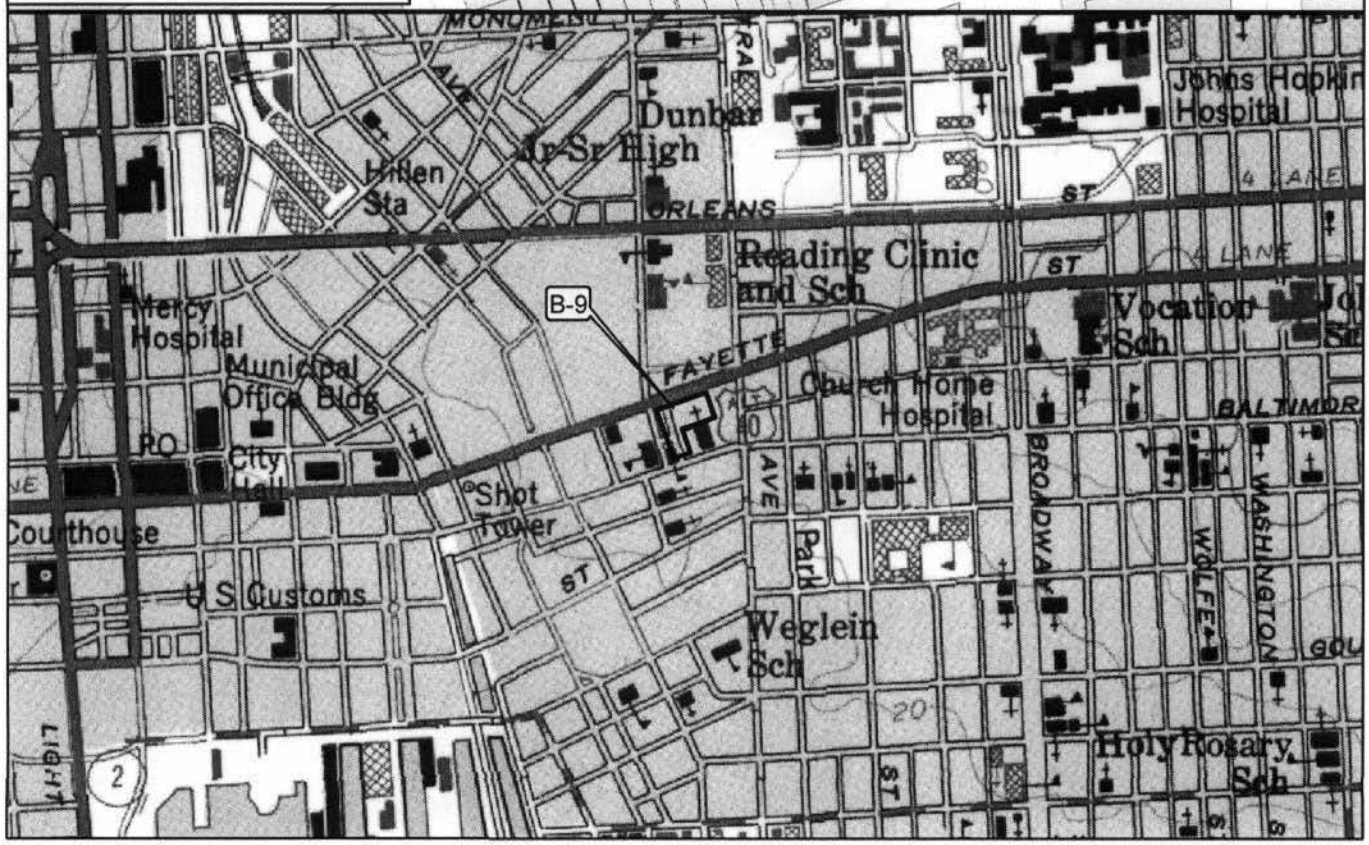
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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.





MAGI #040009590 0009

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore City
TOWN VICINITY
STREET NO. Fayette St. & Aisquith St.

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY B-9

2. NAME Friends Meeting House (Old Town Meeting House)
DATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

8409

FENDER

B-9

Old Town Friends' Meeting House

1201 E. Fayette St.

Baltimore City

CATALOGUED FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION
402 CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD. 21202