

VLR - 5/20/75 NRHP - 8/28/75

Form 10-500
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Lynchburg (city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Quaker Meeting House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
South River Friends Meeting House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
5810 Fort Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Lynchburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth (W. Caldwell Butler)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in city) CODE: 680

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) None

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
5810 Fort Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Lynchburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

contact person: Mrs. Vivian Rouse
6915 Timberlake Rd.
Lynchburg, Va. 24502

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lynchburg City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lynchburg

CITY OR TOWN:
Lynchburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

(1) TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (See continuation sheet #1)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

COUNTY:
Lynchburg (city)

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(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 South River Friends Meeting House stands on the open summit of a hill on the southern edge of Lynchburg, facing its burying ground and flanked by the Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church, whose congregation owns the meeting house. Completed in 1798, it is a rubble stone structure, approximately 30 by 51 feet, with walls 16 inches thick, and 12 feet high. Three large windows with modern six-over-six sash and two doorways pierce the south facade. There are five bays of windows along the rear (north), and another doorway exists in the two-bay east gable.

The building fell into decay when the Quakers left Lynchburg in the 1840s and abandoned the meeting house. The roof and interior were lost; a Civil War photograph shows a tree growing inside the walls. In the early twentieth century a Presbyterian group renovated the building and held services there. The present roof structure, as well as the shaped shingles on the gables, the shaped slates on the roof, the doors, and other trim, dates from that renovation. Further restoration was undertaken by the City of Lynchburg in the late 1960s. New partitions to separate men from women in the Quaker manner and new benches were installed, and additional work is planned.

The graveyard is noteworthy in itself, having a fine collection of mortuary art. The earliest markers are Friends' stones of the early nineteenth century--crudely shaped native stone, either blank or with initials and a date, many adhering to the Quaker standard restricting such markers to heights of 6 inches or less. A few, however, are larger, professionally carved monuments in characteristic "gravestone" shapes, but even many of these adhere to the practice of having only initials. The "A.P/1804" stone is an example. There is some evidence that the cemetery continued to be used following the Quakers' departure. Outside the stone wall surrounding most of the graveyard is the thin, cruciform, homemade slate stone of the infant James H. Viar, dated 1892. Some interesting survivals of Victorian cemetery art are present in the twentieth-century Presbyterian portion of the cemetery, including two marble markers erected over the graves of members of the Woodmen of the World, one in the form of an upright log, the other resembling a stack of cordwood. These date from the 1920s.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itorian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The South River Friends Meeting House, commonly known as the Quaker Meeting House, is significant for its intimate connections with the settlement of Campbell County and the founding of Lynchburg. Though much restored, it is a good example of the standard Quaker meeting house type and is an unusual survival in this area of Virginia.</p> <p>The Society of Friends, or Quakers, had appeared in Virginia soon after the sect's founding in the mid-seventeenth century, and a handful of Friends were the third group of settlers to come to Campbell County in the mid-eighteenth century. Among these early immigrants was the family of Charles Lynch, whose wife Sarah was a Quaker. After her husband's death she invited the Friends to hold informal meetings in her house, and in 1754 permission was obtained from the Society to form an organized "meeting", or congregation, to be called the South River Meeting after its location below the James River. A meeting house, traditionally believed to have been built of log, was erected near the site of the present one in 1757, but it burned in 1768 and was replaced by a frame building located on the same spot as the present building.</p> <p>The present meeting house was planned in 1791. Its cornerstone (stolen during the nineteenth-century period of abandonment) was laid in 1792, but financial difficulties prevented the completion of the building until 1798. The predominance in numbers and precedence in settlement of Friends in the vicinity was such that this was the only religious edifice in the Lynchburg area (except for an Anglican church built in 1765 and abandoned a decade later) until 1806.</p> <p>The new meeting house was located on a ten-acre tract given by Sarah Lynch's son, John, a prosperous businessman who, in 1786, had obtained a charter for the city of Lynchburg, to be built at the site of his ferry across the James River. That ten acres, intact save for a small portion taken by a highway, comprises the present holding of the Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church.</p> <p>Like Quakers throughout the United States, the Lynchburg Quakers began in the late eighteenth century to free themselves of the taint of slavery, and by 1798 no slaves were owned by any member of the South River Monthly Meeting. This action aroused the animosity of other area residents, but it was restrained until 1835 when an agreement by local merchants not to trade with "outside agitators" was read by Quakers as an oblique warning to themselves. The trickle of movement by the Quakers to the west, begun in 1813 with the emigration of a small group to Ohio, became a flood, and the mass</p>			

(see continuation sheet #2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Virginia
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

exodus of 1835-37 (mostly to Ohio) left Lynchburg virtually empty of the denomination. Meetings for worship ended in 1839, although the keeping of vital records was continued until the official "laying down", or disbandment, of the Meeting in 1858. Its period of neglect lasted for over forty years and was exacerbated by the Battle of Lynchburg fought around it on June 18, 1863. A Presbyterian Sunday School was founded on the grounds in 1897, and the by-then ruinous meeting house was restored in the first decade of the twentieth century.

The South River Meeting House is of a type almost universal for rural Friends meeting houses in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries--a one-story structure built to have separate entrances and separate compartments for men and women, a raised platform facing the group for the use of ministers and elders of the meeting, and a movable partition between the two sections to allow all those attending to hear important visiting speakers. The building's significance is enhanced by the presence of its adjacent burying ground which, in its varying adherence to Quaker standards for grave markings, presents a more human picture of Friends life than do their ideals of conduct taken in themselves. Buried there are Sarah Lynch (in an unmarked grave) and her son John, the founder of the city, whose resting place is marked by a plain Quaker stone and a modern plaque.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Douglas Summers. Lynchburg's Pioneer Quakers and Their Meeting House. (1936).

Morton, Mrs. H. L. History of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church. (1955).

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM References:
17/660060/4137580

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: April 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.</u> Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Title _____</p> <p>Date <u>MAY 20 1975</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia code: 51

1948 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
City Farm, Va. 1963

QUAKER TIRE HOUSE, LYNCHBURG
UTM References:

17/660660/4187580

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
AMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

