

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Newberry Friends Meeting House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Highway 150 & 56 West N/A not for publication

city or town Paoli vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Orange code 117 zip code 47454

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia R. Keltner

11-20-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof METAL: Tin

other STONE: Sandstone

STONE: Granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage

Architecture

Period of Significance

1856-c. 1930

Significant Dates

1856

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Newberry Friends Meeting House
Name of Property

Orange County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 *

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	5 4 3 4 8 0	4 2 6 8 4 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thelma Lindley, Clerk of the Monthly Meeting

organization Newberry Friends Meeting date 5-31-95

street & number 926 N CR 275 W telephone 812/723-3224

city or town Paoli state IN zip code 47454

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees of the Newberry Monthly Meeting

street & number c/o Thelma Lindley, 926 N CR 275 W telephone 812/723-3224

city or town Paoli state IN zip code 47454

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Newberry Friends Meeting House
Orange County, Indiana

Newberry Friends Meeting House was built in 1856. The adjoining cemetery predates the church by at least twenty years; the land was acquired in 1818 for burial purposes and the oldest marked graves date from the 1840s.

Located just west of Paoli, the seat of Orange County, the site is wedged between the old Louisville and Indianapolis Railroad on the south and U.S. 150 on the north. Although the site occupies relatively flat land near Lick Creek, surrounding the site is a typical Southern Indiana landscape of rolling hills.

The church occupies the east end of the property and faces east (photo 1). It is a one story, four bay long, gable-fronted meeting house of wood frame construction. The foundation is of coursed rubble limestone (photo 5), and walls are covered with yellow poplar clapboard siding.

The east front has a single opening, the recessed main entry. The centered doorway is trimmed with plain flat boards and a vernacular entablature. Jambs are paneled as are panels beside the narrow double leaf doors with transom. Common features to all other elevations include the skirt board at sill plate level, wide plain corner boards, and the heavy plain entablature with cornice returns (photo 2).

The north side of the meeting house has four two-over-two windows with plain surrounds (photo 2). The windows are symmetrically placed but not equidistant; the center two are closer, leaving more blank wall space flanking them. The corrugated metal roofing is visible from side elevations.

The south wall also has four windows, which align with the north windows (photo 3). However, between the westernmost windows is a doorway with double leaf paneled doors. A later (c.1900?) exterior chimney is centered on this elevation.

The west wall is now blank, but originally it had two symmetrically placed windows (photo 4). This alteration corresponds to the construction of an altar on the interior west wall.

The interior of Newberry Meeting House has a typical one room plan (photos 6 and 7). Floors are wood plank, walls have a wood wainscot with added plywood panels above this, covering the original plaster walls. The ceiling is of white painted boards. Running down the center of the ceiling is a line of raised boards transverse to the other ceiling boards (photo 8). This marks the location of a large wood shutter which divided the men's (west) and women's (east) side of the sanctuary, reflecting Quaker practice in the mid 1800s. A windlass raised and lowered the

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Newberry Friends Meeting House
Orange County, Indiana

shutter, and the line of boards masks the slot for the shutter. Although the practice of dividing men and women ceased by the early 1900s, part of the windlass mechanism remains in the attic. Window surrounds are formed out of plain boards.

Two rows of original yellow poplar pews form a center aisle. The altar platform at the west end was added, probably just after 1900. The platform has a single balustrade railing and wood pulpit (photo 7). Originally, the door on the south wall would have served as the men's entrance and the main entry would have been for women. Changes in Quaker practice toward the end of the nineteenth century called for unified services and a more traditional altar arrangement.

Other practical changes to the building include adding a small closet by the main entry, replacement of the original heating stove, and in 1947, the building was wired for electricity. Original furnishings add to the integrity of the meeting house, including pews, a secretary, and a clock (photos 10 and 11).

The cemetery is west of the meeting house (photo 13). Like many other rural cemeteries, it was laid out with uniform rows of headstones. Early stones are simple sandstone slabs with elegantly carved lettering (photo 14). This style gave way to Victorian types such as the arch-topped slab or obelisk type. Early 1900s markers are typically granite. Of special note are stones of African-Americans buried here (photo 17). While not outwardly different in appearance from other stones, those of African-Americans are historically important to the site.

The cemetery has been counted as a contributing site, the meeting house is a contributing building. Newberry Friends Meeting House and Cemetery still appears much as it did in the 19th century.

Section 8-Statement of Significance

Newberry Friends Meeting House and Cemetery meets National Register Criteria A and C. The congregation played a significant role in the settlement of African-Americans in Orange County, and today the graves of these African-Americans at Newberry remains the most visible resource associated with their history. The meeting house is a fine example of a vernacular, gable-front building with Greek Revival moldings. It is the best known example of this type in the county, and is noteworthy for its high level of integrity. Newberry Friends Meeting House and Cemetery meet Criteria Consideration A because the significance of the site and building are tied to its role in ethnic heritage and architecture rather than religion per se.

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Newberry Friends Meeting House
Orange County, Indiana

Orange County's early history is very much related to early settlement by upland southerners, many of whom came from the Carolinas. Although Indiana remained a territory until statehood in 1816, settlement began as early as 1807. Early settlers traveled old Native American trails or buffalo traces. A very significant trail linked the Falls of the Ohio area with Vincennes. This trail which passed through Orange County just south of Paoli was important for trade, mail, and settlement. Later, the New Albany-Vincennes Road would follow this route, but would detour to the north to pass through Paoli, and immediately along the north edge of the Newberry site. A stage coach route along this road continued well into the 19th century, even after the advent of rail service overshadowed its significance.

Settlement of African-Americans in Orange County is directly linked to settlement by Quakers from North Carolina. Although the primary wave of settlement was primarily Upland Southern in origin, the Quakers differed in that they were actively abolitionist in belief and encouraged African-American settlement on Indiana's "free" soil. Other Indiana communities in which the Friends dominated, such as Richmond, soon fostered African-American settlement and established Hoosier Quaker villages as comparative safe havens for freed slaves and their families.

Paoli was established by a group of North Carolina Quakers in 1811. Pasquale Paoli Ashe was the namesake of the town; he was the son of North Carolina governor Samuel Ashe. Pasquale had died just before the expedition left North Carolina. Jonathan Lindley led the group of settlers. He had been a successful businessman and politician before coming to Indiana, and became a leader in Orange County and Indiana very quickly.

Other Quaker settlers arrived to augment those already in Orange County as part of the Lindley group. Some Quaker families moved to avoid slavery, bringing their slaves with them to Indiana and then declaring them freed. By the mid 19th century, roughly five per cent of the county's population was African-American, a high figure for a very rural Indiana county at the time. Unfortunately, very few resources identified with the heritage of African-Americans exist in Orange County. Chambersburg, once known as Lick Creek, is thought to have been founded as an African-American settlement before the Civil War, and it may retain some resources from that era. The south side of Paoli is thought to have housed a black settlement, but information remains scanty. A one room school on Wells Avenue in French Lick still stands, but has been drastically altered. Also near French Lick is a Knights of Pythias Cemetery used by African-Americans and, in French Lick, the upper floors of commercial building were used by a local black fraternal order (Prince Hall).

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Section number 8 Page 4

Newberry Friends Meeting House
Orange County, Indiana

A later resource of notable quality is the First Baptist Church in West Baden Springs (NR, 1994). This resource documents a later chapter in the history of African-Americans in Orange County. Although the demise of slavery brought on by the Civil War and Emancipation Proclamation canceled the need for African-Americans to stay in small self-sustaining communities, their numbers remained steady in Orange County until the early 1930s. No relevant research has been done as to why these communities, such as those in Paoli or Chambersburg, continued to flourish, but one may extrapolate several factors. First, these communities were established and the influence of Quaker tolerance was still useful. Perhaps more significant locally was the development of resorts at West Baden Springs and French Lick which offered professional employment opportunities which were open to blacks. The resorts developed in the 1890s and prospered until the Great Depression. With the closure of the resorts, many families were forced to move away to seek employment.

The Newberry Friends Meeting House is significant for its role in the settlement of Orange County by African-Americans. As one of few resources linked to the early history of blacks in the area, the church and cemetery provide a vital link to the pre Civil War period. The congregation's relative acceptance of blacks is physically demonstrated in the marked graves of African-Americans. Newberry was the first, and for many years, the only cemetery in the area which African-Americans were able to use. The grave of Oscar Bowman is an example. Bowman, born in 1861, was a stage coach driver on the previously mentioned New Albany-Vincennes Road. The oldest marked grave of an African-American dates from 1871 (photo 17).

The Newberry congregation dates to 1826. On November 28 of that year, the group bought two acres of land comprising the nominated site. It is thought that a log church was built in 1826 on the site, and the deed describes the site as "...containing two acres of land including Friends meeting house...", seemingly indicating that a church building existed prior to November 1826. Some claim that the congregation existed as early as 1818, and met in private homes until a meeting house was built. The first trustees were Abram Osborn, Ebenezer Doan, Henry Towell, Alexander Clark, William Holaday, Aaron Maris, and Thomas Lindley (likely a member of the Lindley expedition). The name of the meeting came from a meeting in Newberry, Ohio.

In 1870, the congregation became concerned about an apparent decline in numbers. A series of general meetings were held to counter the decline. Dayton Hudson, a traveling Friends minister from North Carolina, came to Paoli in the early 1870s and held revival meetings in the area, including Newberry. In June 1873, the first revival meeting was held. It was agreed to hold a revival each June, a tradition maintained to the present day, although through the years, the meetings have taken on more of a homecoming function. The significance of Newberry diminished

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Newberry Friends Meeting House
Orange County, Indiana

when Paoli received its own Quaker meeting house in 1892. This building burned down in 1953, leaving Newberry as the only meeting house in the vicinity. Another Quaker meeting house at Lick Creek was (judging from verbal descriptions) nearly identical to Newberry. It no longer exists. Another meeting house called Beech Grove has not been identified.

Newberry Friends Meeting House has architectural significance in addition to its historic importance. Newberry is a fine example of the gable-front Greek Revival type so popular for public and semi-public buildings in the 19th century. Few pre-Civil War buildings of this type exist in Orange County, and based on staff experience (since no state-sponsored survey exists), buildings with the level of integrity of Newberry are very rare. The plain and dignified quality of the building is characteristic of Quaker meeting houses; religious doctrine called for such buildings.

Newberry Friends Meeting House remains in use as Quaker meeting house.

Section 9-Bibliography

Dillard, Arthur Lingle. Orange County Heritage. Paoli, IN: Stout's Print Shop, c.1971.

History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana. Chicago: Goodspeed, 1884.

Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. African-American Resources Survey, 1994.

Minutes. Lick Creek Monthly Meeting.

Orange County Recorder's Office. Deed Book B, page 340. (records ownership transfer to Friends).

Pluris, Gerene. Booklet about Friends in Orange County, Ind. Paoli, IN: Stout's Print Shop, 1958.

Teachers of Orange County. Historical Notes of Orange County. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1969.

Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 6

Newberry Friends Meeting House
Orange County, Indiana

A parcel of land in Orange County, Indiana more particularly described as follows: Part of Section 34, Township 2 North Range 1 West, beginning a bench on the west side of the Indian boundary line, then east eighteen poles in the big road, then south eighteen poles to White Oak, then north to the beginning, containing two acres of land including Friends Meetinghouse.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary, as described in the property deed on record in the Orange County Recorder's Office in Paoli, Indiana.



NEWBERRY
 FRIENDS
 MEETING
 PLACE

36611 SE FRENCH LICK
 SHOALS 22 MI
 NEWBERRY CH
 PROSPECT 7 MI
 T. 2 N.
 T. 1 N.
 16543100
 4268120

Willow

32'30"

4266

4267

4270

36611 SE FRENCH LICK
 SHOALS 22 MI
 NEWBERRY CH
 PROSPECT 7 MI