

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL FILE COPY

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 Fall Creek Meeting House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number State Road 38 N/A not for publication
city or town Pendleton vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Madison code 095 zip code 46064

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 36CFR 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. Kalk 10-31-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or 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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

Name of Property

County and State

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, district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0.

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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK; STONE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1857 - c. 1890

Significant Dates

1857

c. 1890

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 Bibliographic 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:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

Fall Creek Meeting House
Name of Property

Madison IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 1.8 ac.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	6	1	0	4	4	0	4	4	2	7	5	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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 Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date 7-31-96
street & number 422 1/2 Fifth St. Suite 202 telephone 812/378-0800
city or town Columbus state IN zip code 47201

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 Fall Creek Meeting House, c/o Maude Ward
street & number 625 E. Water St. telephone 317/778-4302
city or town Pendleton state IN zip code 46064

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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Fall Creek Meeting House

The Fall Creek Meeting House is situated on a lot located 584 feet north of State Road 38 in Fall Creek Township, Madison County. Beyond the meeting house lot is farmland.

The Fall Creek Meeting House is a one-story, wood frame building. A "T" in plan, the building was constructed in two sections: the top of the T (the north section) was built in 1857; the stem around 1890. The original part of the building was raised when the addition was built and a basement installed. The building has a low-pitched, cross-gable roof. The roof covering is asphalt shingles, except for the covering of the west porch roof which is standing seam metal roofing. The foundation is brick. The building is sided with clapboards.

There are several entrances for the building. On the east side, the entrance at the south end of the building is a four-paneled, wood door with a transom. This opens onto a small wood porch (photo 2) and provides access to the rear of the sanctuary. The entrance on the north end of this facade (photo 3) is a set of double, four-paneled, wood doors with a transom. This entrance leads to the front of the sanctuary. There is also a small, wood porch here.

A third entrance is located on the west side of the building (photo 6). This is located near the north end of the building and is a set of double doors similar to the entrance on the opposite side. Another entrance is a single, four-paneled, wood door with a transom, located at the north end of the c. 1890 addition (photo 6). The latter two entrances open onto a wide, wood porch on the west side of the building. The three porches are similar in design, with turned posts, and lattice screens at the bases. A fifth entrance, located at the east end of the north side of the building (photo 4), leads to the basement through an enclosed, gabled entry.

Windows in the building are wood, with double hung sash. Most of the windows have one light in each sash. Windows on a small, gable-roofed, north extension (photos 4, 5) have multi-light sash. Window surrounds are plain, except for those on the c. 1890 addition, which have architrave heads (right in photo 6).

The interior of the building is one, open room (photos 7-9). Window surrounds and base molding are plain wood. On the ceiling of the 1857 section of the building are encased beams. Three iron posts serve as supports in this section (photo 8). The floor rises from north to south (photo 8). The floor material is carpet over wood. The simple

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Fall Creek Meeting House

wood benches which have been in the building since the turn-of-the-century comprise most of the furnishings. Other furnishings include an upright piano on the west wall, and a book case on the east wall. Illumination is provided by early twentieth century, fluorescent fixtures (photos 8, 9).

The basement is accessed by two stairways, one each on the east and west sides at the south end. It was added when the c.1890 addition was built. A full basement, it houses mechanical equipment for the building, as well as a small kitchen. The floor on this level is concrete. The walls are plastered. There are several windows high on the walls which provide light to this space. Artificial light is provided by a few early twentieth century, incandescent fixtures.

The Fall Creek Meeting House is significant under Criteria A, in the areas of Settlement, and under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture. The meeting house represents the Quaker settlement of Fall Creek Township. The building is an outstanding rural example of the Greek Revival style of architecture. The building's association with settlement in Fall Creek Township and its representation as an architectural type, rather than its association with a religious organization, are the focus of this nomination.

History

The Fall Creek Meeting House is located near the town of Pendleton in Fall Creek Township. Early settlers, arriving in the area in the late 1810s and 1820s, were from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Kentucky, and were of English, Scotch, and Irish descent. The first Quaker settlers - most of whom were from Pennsylvania - arrived in the 1820s. They were part of a great westward migration of Friends seeking better and cheaper farmland.

Quakers first settled in present-day Indiana around 1805 near the Forks of the Wabash. The first permanent settlement was established near Richmond in 1806. The Indiana Yearly meeting which included 22 eastern Indiana counties, as well as nine western Ohio counties, convened in 1821. The yearly meeting house, located in Richmond, was first occupied in 1829.

The Hicksite separation of the Quaker Church began in Philadelphia in 1827. This was a separation of the church through a disagreement in doctrine. The first Indiana church to divide from the Orthodox church over this doctrine was the Blue River Meeting in Washington County, in 1828. Other congregations followed suit in the next few years. A new yearly meeting was formed for the followers of Elias Hicks, who believed in a personal relationship with God as opposed to a strict Biblical doctrine. The majority of Quaker congregations in Indiana continued in the Orthodox tradition of the church.

Prior to the establishment of the Fall Creek Meeting, several of the early Friends in the Fall Creek area attended the Hicksite Milford Creek Meeting. The Fall Creek Meeting's founder, Jonathan Thomas (1766-1839) first came to Fall Creek Township in 1833 to visit his daughter, Rebecca Lewis. Thomas was a devout Quaker who had done missionary work with Oneida and Seneca Native American tribes in New York. After his visit to Fall Creek Township, he returned to his home in Chester County Pennsylvania, but, within a year, sold his farm and returned with his family to found the Fall Creek Religious Society of Friends. Thomas had been affiliated with a Hicksite meeting in Pennsylvania, and the Fall Creek Meeting was founded as a Hicksite meeting.

Quakers who had settled in the area prior to establishment of the Fall Creek Society of Friends included William Williams, John J. and Rebecca T. Lewis, Solomon Fussell and his family, John and Mary Middleton, Daniel and Elizabeth Nicholson, and Neal and Elizabeth Hardy. Soon to arrive were Joseph Rogers and his family. These were the original members of the Fall Creek Meeting.

This first group of Friends applied to the Milford Monthly Meeting for an indulged meeting, which was granted the 17th day of the 7th month in 1834. For almost two years, this meeting was held in the home of Jonathan and Ann Thomas. In 1836, a one-room, log meeting house was built on three acres deeded to the trustees - Joseph Rogers, Solomon Fussell, and Caleb Williams - by Jonathan and Ann Thomas. This first meeting house was located just northeast of the present building. It was finished in time for the marriage of Solomon Fussell and Hannah Lewis on the 1st day of the 12th month in 1836. The building was used twice a week for religious meetings and as a subscription school in the summer. It served the Friends for 21 years, from 1836 to 1857, when the original part of the present meeting house was constructed.

The meeting house was an important religious and social center for the Quaker settlers in the Pendleton-Fall Creek area. It also served to bring area Friends together to promote various causes over the years, including, education, the equality of woman, and an end to slavery. An example of the Fall Creek Friends commitment to the anti-slavery cause was their sponsorship of Frederick Douglass, who came to Pendleton to speak in 1843. Douglass, the most famous African-American Abolitionist in the nation, was a controversial figure. During his speech, he was attacked by a group of local men. Suffering a broken arm, he recovered at the home of Neal Hardy, a member of the Fall Creek Meeting.

Other examples of social responsibility by the Fall Creek Meeting included sponsorship of African American schools in the south in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, prison visits, relief for war and disaster victims, and help for needy families. The Fall Creek Friends were active in the temperance movement, and actively opposed the involvement of the United States in various wars over the years.

Important activities of the church included the First Day School and the Mother's Circle. The First Day School was established in the early twentieth century. By 1914, the enrollment had reached 90. The fact that a large number of the students were non-members illustrates the interest of the church in the entire community, not just the community of Friends. First Day School provided not only religious study, but served as a

social gathering. Activities included a yearly picnic, pageants during the holidays, and providing music for weekly meeting.

The Mother's Circle was organized in the early twentieth century. It was open to mothers and others in the community interested in child development. The group participated in projects for the benefit of young people. It raised funds for the purchase of a piano, and sponsored talks by local doctors on feeding and health care for children. The organization donated money to the public library for children's books and to the public park for playground equipment. The group was also active in the public schools, helping with nutrition, health and educational programs.

The membership of the large congregation, which numbered nearly 300 at one time, began to decline after World War II. Old members died, others moved away, and few young people took their places. There are currently only a small number of families involved in the church.

Significance

The Fall Creek Meeting House appears to be one of the oldest extant Friends meeting houses in eastern Indiana. Large concentrations of Friends were historically found in Wayne, Henry, Rush, Hancock, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Jay, and Grant Counties. An inventory of Friends Meeting Houses associated with the Indiana Yearly Meeting was compiled for a recent history. In addition, the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has identified a number of Quaker meeting houses. Though the data for these sources is not complete, it appears that few pre-1870 meeting houses remain in the Indiana counties noted above. Many of the original meeting houses have burned or have been razed. Among those which do remain are the Arba Friends Church in Randolph County (1858), the Oak Ridge Friends Church in Grant County (1867), the Nettle Creek Friends Church in Wayne County (1840), the New Garden Friends Church in Wayne County (1858), and the Walnut Ridge Friends Church in Rush County (1866).

As one of a small number of extant meeting houses, the Fall Creek Meeting House represents the settlement of Quakers in eastern Indiana. The eastern Indiana Quaker settlement of the mid-nineteenth century was one of the largest concentrations of Quakers in the country.

The Fall Creek Meeting House is one of the oldest buildings identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory in Fall Creek Township. Among buildings associated with settlement of the township are the Solomon Fussell Farm, built in 1832

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Fall Creek Meeting House

(60012); the Guy House, built in 1858 (60019); two houses dating from the 1860s (60014, 60015), and several farmsteads dating from the 1860s (60001, 60002, 60004, 60005, 60027). Within the town of Pendleton, early houses include the Stephenson House, built in 1829 (61409); the Gray House, built c.1835 (61410); and a commercial building, built c.1840 (61460). The Fall Creek Meeting House appears to be the only church building associated with settlement which remains in the township.

The Fall Creek Meeting House is an intact example of nineteenth century, rural, ecclesiastical architecture. Architecturally, the building is a simple, vernacular structure. The north part was constructed in 1857. Cornice returns on the east and west (photo 3) sides of this section give it an association with the Greek Revival style. The south addition (photo 2), which dates from c.1890, has little ornament, except for architrave window heads (photo 1). Other decoration on the building includes turned posts on the three porches (photos 2, 3, 6), and scroll work along the cornice. The interior of the building is, like the exterior, simple in design. Historic furnishings include benches which were installed in the building around the turn-of-the-century (photo 7,8). The building has a very high degree of integrity and retains its character from the period around the turn-of-the-century.

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Fall Creek Meeting House

Friends' Intelligencer. Obituary of Ann Thomas (1867).

Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Madison County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1984.

Hinshaw, Gregory P. Indiana Friends Heritage, 1821-1996. 1996.

Madison County Land Records.

National Register of Historic Places, Registration Forms: Pendleton Historic District (Madison County, IN, 1991); Solomon Fussell Farm (Madison County, IN, 1991); and Newberry Friends Meeting House (Orange County, IN, 1995).

Swain, Heather, "A Brief History of the Fall Creek Religious Society of Friends, 1834-1945," April 1995.

Swain, Rebecca, "The Establishment of Fall Creek Meeting of Friends," Paper read before the Pendleton Art Association, March 8, 1923.

Thomas family genealogy records.

The Towne Crier, "The Society of Friends." Pendleton, IN: January 8, 1980.

Ward, Maude, Member of Fall Creek Meeting. Interviews, April 16 and May 15, 1996.

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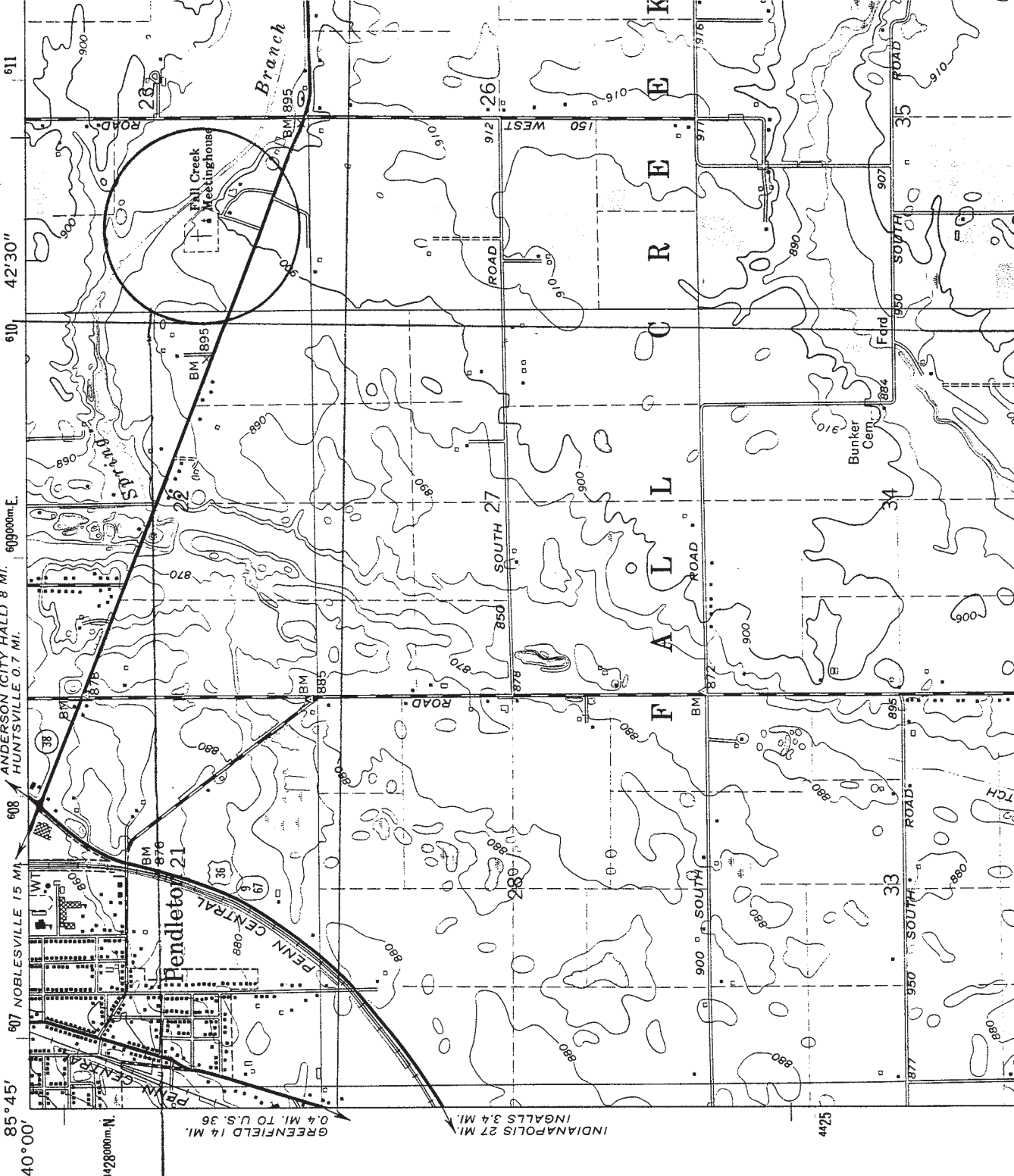
Fall Creek Meeting House

A part of the southwest quarter of Section 23, Township 18 North, Range 7 East: the Meeting House Lot.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DEPA

3884 III SE
(LAPEL)



FALL CREEK
MEETING HOUSE
MADISON CO. IN
ZONE 16
E 610440
N 4427580

4425