

Western Yearly Meeting House
Hendricks County
32.1972.1

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Marker Text

Western Yearly Meeting House has been the site of annual meeting of Religious Society of Friends since 1858. The Depository was erected to house Quaker records, 1873. Friends Central Academy served as a secondary school 1881-1919.

Report

The Quakers were diligent record-keepers. Using the Minutes of the Western Yearly Meeting of Friends for 1858, 1873, 1881, and the Minutes of the Plainfield Monthly Meeting of Friends for 1919, IHB researchers were able to locate information to support all of the marker's text. The Quakers started meeting at the Western Yearly Meetinghouse in Plainfield in 1858. They erected the depository in 1873, as documented by the Minutes of an 1873 meeting. The Society of Friends (Quakers) designed the Central Academy to prepare children for entrance into Earlham College, which was also Quaker-built. The Central Academy opened in 1881. By 1919, the Academy's Trustees met with the Committee. They decided to close the school due to lack of funding, and did so in the summer of 1919.

If this marker were to be re-written today, the text would include more contextual information on the significance of the Quakers in the region and why such schools were important.