

History of the Meeting

Of all the Quaker Meetings in Kent County, Camden was the last to be established, and is now the only active one. It has absorbed all other Meetings that once flourished in this area. Despite the fact that Camden was founded by a Quaker, Daniel Mifflin who planned a Quaker community, no Meeting House existed until 1805-1806.

Jonathan and Patience Hunn donated the land on which the Meeting stands and the bricks were made from clay which was found on the premises. The front wall is laid in Flemish bond and the sides in Liverpool bond.

There are several unusual features about the Meeting House. The building faces the north while the majority of Friends Meetings for some undetermined reason, face the south. There are no porches and the horse-sheds which are a characteristic sight at many meetings have long been removed. In the burial ground most of the stones are small in keeping with Friends belief of unpretentiousness. There are, however, some new stones of the size found in most cemeteries today.

At the side of the stairway is a panel which can be dropped so that an overflow crowd can be seated on the stairway and yet participate in Meeting. This generally was done for the convenience of servants.

As was the custom elsewhere Friends established a school where a Meeting was built. The Upper floor was used for that purpose here. The Quakers seem to have had the earliest well established schools in the area in fact. A school was conducted here until 1882, the last teacher being Alice Cowgill.

John Hunn, Governor of Delaware 1901-1905, is buried here and there is a marker to Warner Mifflin, an ardent abolitionist who freed all his slaves prior to his death in 1799.

Camden Meeting is said to have replaced Motherkilm Meeting (sometimes called Murderkill Meeting) which was located near Magnolia and burned in 1760. Duck Creek Meeting (near Smyrna) was the first meeting to be established in Kent County. The date for this meeting is about 1705. Little Creek Meeting was formed as a preparative meeting under Duck Creek and it dates from 1710. The present meeting house was built in 1802 replacing an earlier frame building. Little Creek Meeting was undoubtedly the largest ~~meeting~~ Friends Meeting in Kent County, but it finally ~~was~~ was laid down shortly after the Civil War. A well known Philadelphia architect reported