



HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

OFFICE USE ONLY

USN:

IDENTIFICATION

Property name(if any) Peach Pond Quaker Burial Ground and Site of Peach Pond Meeting House
Address or Street Location 873 Peach Lake Rd
County Westchester Town/City North Salem Village/Hamlet: _____
Owner Town of North Salem Address 277 Titicus Road North Salem, NY
Original use Burial ground and Meeting House Current use town cemetery
Architect/Builder, if known _____ Date of construction, if known meeting house 1773

DESCRIPTION

Materials -- please check those materials that ~~are~~ ^{were} visible until 1978

Exterior Walls: wood clapboard wood shingle vertical boards plywood
 stone brick poured concrete concrete block
 vinyl siding aluminum siding cement asbestos other: _____
Roof: asphalt, shingle asphalt, roll wood shingle metal slate
Foundation: stone brick poured concrete concrete block

Other materials and their location: _____

Alterations, if known: Meeting house burned to the foundation Date: 1978

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated

Explain: some old stones sinking into ground; some need repair

ATTACHMENTS

Photos

Provide several clear, original photographs of the property proposed for nomination. Submitted views should represent the property as a whole. For buildings or structures, this includes exterior and interior views, general setting, outbuildings and landscape features.

Please staple one photograph providing a complete view of the structure or property to the front of this sheet. Additional views should be submitted in a separate envelope or stapled to a continuation sheet.

Maps

Attach a printed or drawn map indicating the location of the property in relation to streets, intersections or other widely recognized features so that the property can be accurately positioned. Show a north arrow. Include a scale or estimate distances where possible.

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(Continued on reverse)

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Narrative Description of Property: Briefly describe the property and its setting. Include a verbal description of the location (e.g., north side of NY 17, west of Jones Road); a general description of the building, structure or feature including such items as architectural style (if known), number of stories, type and shape of roof (flat, gabled, mansard, shed or other), materials and landscape features. Identify and describe any associated buildings, structures or features on the property, such as garages, silos, privies, pools, gravesites. Identify any known exterior and interior alterations such as additions, replacement windows, aluminum or vinyl siding or changes in plan. Include dates of construction and alteration, if known. Attach additional sheets as needed.

see attached

Narrative Description of Significance: Briefly describe those characteristics by which this property may be considered historically significant. Significance may include, but is not limited to, a structure being an intact representative of an architectural or engineering type or style (e.g., Gothic Revival style cottage, Pratt through-truss bridge); association with historic events or broad patterns of local, state or national history (e.g., a cotton mill from a period of growth in local industry, a seaside cottage representing a locale's history as a resort community, a structure associated with activities of the "underground railroad."); or by association with persons or organizations significant at a local, state or national level. Simply put, why is this property important to you and the community. Attach additional sheets as needed.

see attached

Revised 9/09



The Peach Pond Meeting house site and Quaker burial ground

The site and the burial ground are within the 2.86-acre Peach Pond Cemetery on the east side of Peach Lake Road (Route 121). (see attached map A) The aerial view (map B) shows the entire property with the Quaker burial ground marked with a black border; the Meeting House site is in red. The area within the black border is to be landmarked.

The whole property is bounded on the south by 121 Restaurant and an auto repair shop on Dingle Ridge Road; on the north and east by private residential property; and on the west by Peach Lake Road. The land is slightly sloped, higher than the road. A stone wall runs parallel to the road. Another stone wall borders the property on the other three sides. About in the center of the property are the remains of the 1773 Peach Pond Meeting House : the stone foundation, the entrance steps and a mounting block/carriage step. There are 36 inscribed gravestones in the original Quaker cemetery dating between 1813 and 1930 and many unmarked (in the Quaker tradition of simplicity) stones from the 18th and early 19th centuries. A gravel drive leads to and around the graves and ruin. On other parts of the property are more recent burials beginning in 1981 when the Town of North Salem purchased the property for a town cemetery. The active cemetery is not part of the area proposed for landmarking.

The Meeting House site and Quaker burial ground were important in the early history of the town in the Peach Lake area which was first settled by Quakers. Having settled on Long Island and in Flushing in the 1600s, the Quakers did not get along well with the Dutch and began moving north to Mamaroneck, Chappaqua, Peach Pond, Pawling, etc. Here, among the first, were Palmers, Fields and Bloomers who held Society of Friends meetings in their homes under the auspices of the Oblong Monthly Meeting in Pawling. A committee from Pawling visited in 1760 and reported favorably that a Meeting should be settled here. In 1762 David Palmer deeded the land for the meeting house and burial ground to Samuel Field for the benefit of "friends who are in scorn called Quakers."(see A, attached) The Meeting House was built in 1773.

The clapboard Meeting House was originally 20 X 30' and enlarged to 30 X 32, in 1778. It had one opening with two doors – one for men, one for women to enter their separate sides. The shutters and doors were made of vertical boards. The interior was simple – white-washed walls, plain benches and one small stove near the middle. (see B for several pictures of the building, including one of the 1879 funeral of Will Bloomer). The Meeting House was active through the Revolutionary War and served the community until 1810, when declining membership sent the remaining members to Goldens Bridge for regular meetings. The building was kept in good repair, and an annual meeting in August and other events were held there until 1964. In April 1978 the Meeting House was destroyed by fire, accident or arson, as two boys were seen running from the building. The stone foundation, steps and mounting block/carriage step are still there.

Although the active membership was declining in 1810 and beyond, Quaker affiliation was not. Thirty-six friends -- Bloomers, Palmers, Ryders, Fields and Griffins -- were buried in the Quaker cemetery between 1813 and 1910. These are the families that lived near Peach Lake on today's Bloomer Rd, Peach

Lake Rd, Dingle Ridge Rd, etc. A mystery is the gravestone of Catherine O'Brien, wife of Michael. Her stone includes a cross, and since the Quakers did not decorate their stones, she was clearly not a Quaker and was buried outside the burial ground. Gilbert Bailey, a Quaker who served in the Revolutionary War with a distinguished record, is buried on the edge of the original burial ground because he violated the Quaker tenet of pacifism.

The Bloomers, Fields, Palmers and others were not only serious about their religion. They were committed to education, too. They built what is almost certainly the first schoolhouse in North Salem on William Bloomer's property. What became known as the Pine Tree School was built at least by 1784, when it was mentioned on a boundary in a deed.

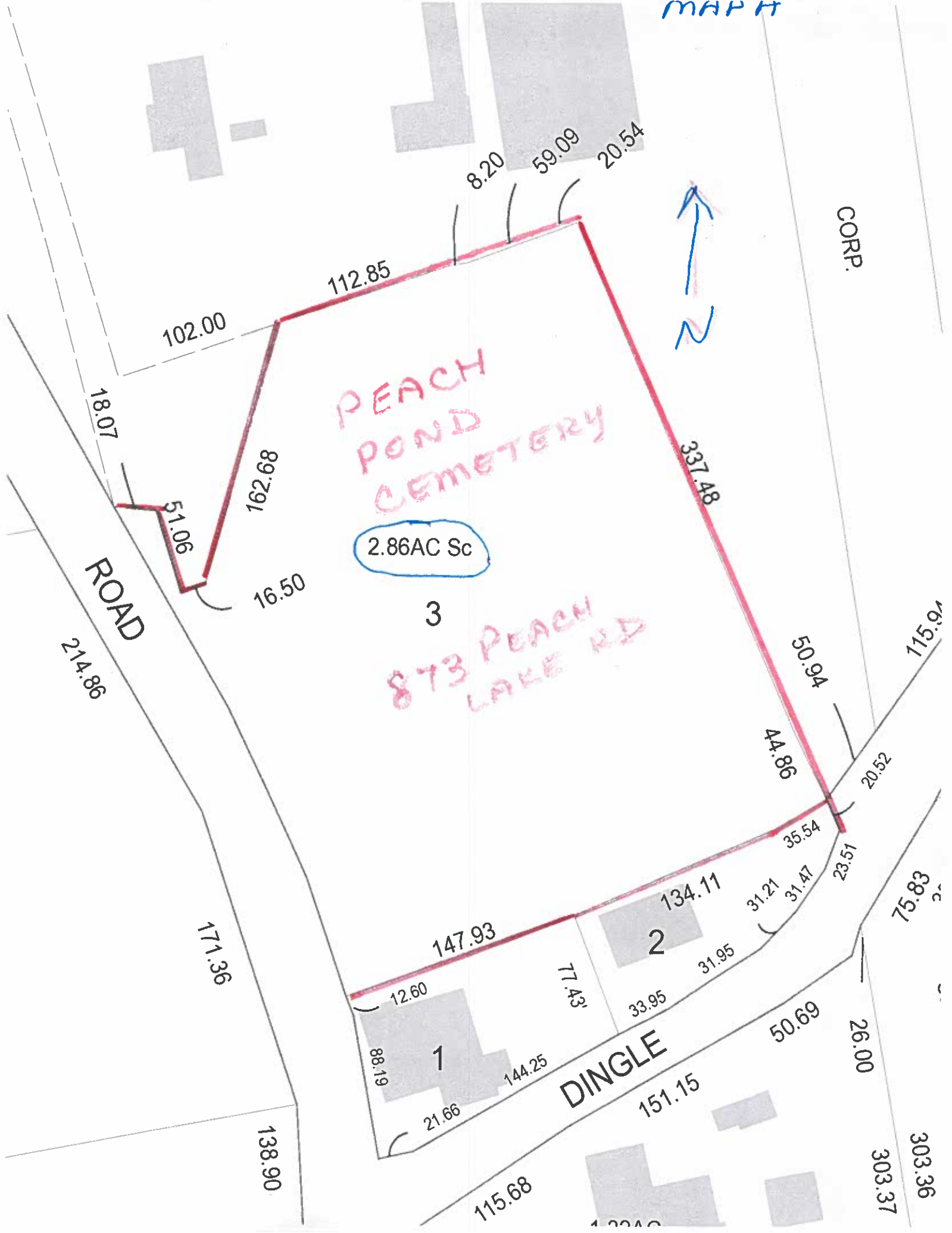
In the 1980's, representatives of the county examined properties in Croton Falls and around Peach Lake for their historic significance. The Quaker Meeting House and Cemetery were among them. Both were enthusiastically reviewed. Frank Sanchis in his 1977 book *American Architecture: Westchester County, New York* writes about four of the county's early meeting houses, including Peach Pond.

In 1997-98 the independent Friends Meeting House Restoration Committee was formed with the hope of constructing a historically accurate replica of the Meeting House. This did not happen.

Often discussed and argued is the origin of the names Pequenakonck, the name of the Peach Lake area on the early Dutch maps, and Peach Pond, the name of the Quaker meeting here and the early name of the lake. A Field family record says that Samuel and other Fields came here from Peach Pond in Flushing, Queens. The Queens historian did not know of a 17th or 18th century place named peach pond in Flushing but said there were many peach trees there at that time. He suggested pursuing the question at the Friends Historical Society at Swarthmore. But "The Peach Pond" as the name of the lake appears on a 1702 map (County map 564, The East Patent Grant by King William III). Was the name on the original map or added to a later version? If it was on the original, that was many years before the Fields moved here. Strange. Pequenakonck is the Dutch attempt to write a native American word whose meaning is lost. Some claim Peach Pond is derived from Pech Quen that perhaps meant peach tree.

When asked about the origin/meaning of Pequenakonck, Native American historian Evan Pritchard wrote, "Pee-que can mean 'shallow drinkable water.' Also, the two words Konk and Honk as a suffix are often confused. Both have been translated by colonists as a hill or valley (between two hills) but in fact there are instances where HONK more likely refers to a waterfall coming down a hill. The CH is guttural and may be a plural here. NA may be 'near' but that's just a guess."

MAP A



PEACH POND CEMETERY

2.86AC Sc

3

873 PEACH LAKE RD



ROAD

CORP.

DINGLE

18.07

102.00

112.85

8.20

59.09

20.54

51.06

162.68

16.50

337.48

214.86

171.36

138.90

147.93

88.19

21.66

144.25

71.43

12.60

134.11

33.95

31.95

31.21

31.47

23.51

44.86

50.94

20.52

115.94

75.83

26.00

303.37

303.36

115.68

151.15

11111 D



N ↑

A

To all Christian People to whom these presents shall come Greeting Know
 ye that I David Palmer of the County of Westchester in the Province of New York gentleman
 for and in consideration of the sum of nine pounds current money of New York to me in hand
 paid before the executing and delivery hereof by Samuel Field of the County of Dutchess
 in the Province of New York gentleman the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and my self
 there with fully satisfied and contented and there of and of every part and parcel thereof do
 solemnly acquit and discharge the said Samuel Field his heirs Executors and Administrators
 for ever by these presents have given granted bargain'd sold alienated conveyed and confirmed
 and by these presents do freely fully and absolutely give grant bargain sell alien convey and
 confirm unto the said Samuel Field in behalf of friends who are in Scorne called Quakers and
 their assigns for ever one certain messuage and tract of Land situated lying and being in the
 County of Dutchess in the State of New York and bounded as followeth beginning at a heap of stones put up
 on the East side of the new road thence running southerly with said road twenty five Rods to a
 heap of stones thence Eastward by twenty Rods to a heap of stones thence northerly twenty five
 Rods to a heap of stones thence westerly twenty Rods to the place where the said tract did
 begin to have and to hold the said granted and bargain'd premises with all the appurtenances
 privileges and Commodities to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining to him the said Samuel
 Field in the behalf of the above said Friends their Executors and assigns for ever to his and their only
 proper use benefit and behoof for ever and I the said David Palmer for me my heirs Executors and Administrators
 do hereby give grant bargain sell alien convey and confirm unto the said Samuel Field in behalf of the above said
 Friends their Executors and assigns that before the taking hereof I am the sole and Lawfull owner
 of the above bargain'd premises and am lawfully seized and possessed of the same in mine own proper
 right as a good perfect and absolute Estate of Inheritance and have in my self good right full power
 and Lawfull authority to give grant bargain sell convey and confirm the said bargain'd premises in manner
 as above said and that the said Samuel Field together with the above said Friends and their Executors
 and assigns shall and may from time to time and at all times for ever here after by virtue of these
 presents lawfully peaceably quietly have hold use occupy possess and enjoy the said bargain'd and confirmed
 premises with the appurtenances free and clear and freely and clearly acquitted Exonerated and discharged
 of and from all and all manner of former Gifts Grants Bargain'd Sales Leases mortgages wills Entails
 judgments decrees Judgments Executions Incumbrances and troubles what soever and I the said David
 Palmer do hereby Covenant and bind my self my heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by
 these presents to warrant and defend the said Samuel Field together with the above said Friends and
 their Executors and assigns in quiet and peaceable possession of all and singular the said granted
 premises against any just and Lawfull claim of any person or persons what soever in
 witness whereof I the said David Palmer have here unto my hand and seal this fifth day of
 the eighth month in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty two signed sealed and
 delivered in the presence of

William Blomere
Elias Palmer

David Palmer

B



B



B



B

Will Bloomer's funeral

1879

