



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 any 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 Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse

other names/site number Bauman/Eshleman Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 39 Horning Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Brecknock Township vicinity N/A  
state Pennsylvania code PA county Berks code 011  
zip code 19540-8747

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide x locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Andrea McDonald \_\_\_\_\_ April 17, 2009  
Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government



<u>  1  </u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>  2  </u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	RELIGION	Sub:	religious facility
	FUNERARY	Suyb:	cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	RELIGION	Sub:	religious facility
	FUNERARY		cemetery

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)      No style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	sandstone
roof	red cedar shingles
walls	sandstone
other	

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1855

Significant Dates NA

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.)

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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: Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster, PA 17602

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	4454100	417300	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Henry W. Horning, director

organization Alleghany Mennonite Historical Association date July 10, 2007

street & number 179 Kramer Road telephone 610-777-3003

city or town Mohnton state PA zip code 19540-8131

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

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

name Alleghany Mennonite Historical Association, \_\_\_\_\_  
c/o Grace M. Sensenig, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 415 Route 897 East \_\_\_\_\_ telephone (717) 949-3475\_\_

city or town Newmanstown \_\_\_\_\_ state PA\_\_ zip code 17073\_\_\_\_\_

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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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Section 7 Page 1

Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse  
Berks County, PA

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The Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse property is located at 39 Horning Road in Brecknock Township, southwestern Berks County, one mile east of the village of Alleghenyville and less than two miles from the Lancaster County line. The Alleghany (historic spelling) Mennonite Meetinghouse property consists of one contributing resource, an 1855 vernacular sandstone meetinghouse, and one contributing site, a 1754-1971 cemetery featuring relatively simple sandstone and limestone grave markers. Two frame privies are located directly behind the Meetinghouse and are uncounted features. The Meetinghouse and cemetery are located on opposite sides of Horning Road, just south of PA Route 568. The property is on less than one acre of rolling land in the upper part of the Allegheny valley sloping to the south and east. The property is surrounded by fertile cropland cultivated by a few remaining farmers, but the landscape is dotted by encroaching housing developments. Even after a century of use and some restoration work, the Meetinghouse retains its architectural integrity, and the Meetinghouse and cemetery together continue to convey a specific sense of place and time. Changes to the property have been very limited, enabling it to continue conveying the architectural design and construction methods used by Pennsylvania German Mennonite congregations in the 1850s.

**Exterior**

The Meetinghouse was built in 1855 by volunteer members of the Mennonite Society and their neighbors. It is a one-story Pennsylvania German meetinghouse-style building without a basement that was constructed from native sandstone and wood harvested from local forests. The rectangular shape is 35 feet by 27 feet with 18-inch-thick walls extending to the peak of the roof. The foundation and walls are made of sandstone. Three six-lite double-hung shuttered windows are in the north wall; two are in each of the other walls. The original window frames are pegged at the upper corners. The windows, sash and shutters have been maintained and are operable. Red cedar shingles cover the gable roof. The eaves of the roof are enclosed with a simple box-style cornice. The exterior woodwork is painted white. The only entrance doors to the Meetinghouse are two original paneled entrance doors on the west side with original German latches. Toward the south is the entrance to the ladies' cloakroom and nursery. Toward the north, the other door opens into the main assembly room where the members gathered for worship. Small original 16" x 24" wooden doors in the upper walls of the north and south ends of the building could be opened for light and ventilation in the attic. Two privies, circa 1950, abut the east wall of the Meetinghouse for the convenience of those attending the meetings. The Meetinghouse was never connected to water or electrical utilities.

**Interior**

The interior is plain and unadorned. The stone walls were plastered around 1950. The windows are constructed with deep sills, and the walls are rounded to meet the sides of the nine windows. Above the ceiling, a 34-foot main beam, reinforced by a truss, supports the ceiling and roof; there are no posts in the assembly room. The original ceiling and room partition are made of random-width, unfinished tongue-and-groove pine boards just as they were constructed 150 years ago. Most of the uncovered, wooden floor appears to be original. Random-width tongue-and-groove unfinished pine boards cover most of the floor; however, about one fourth of the floorboards at the entrance to the main assembly room are 2 ½ inch even-width unfinished floor boards. No written record or oral tradition documents whether these are original

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floorboards or if the floor was repaired.

All of the furnishings are original, including the wooden benches, the preacher's bench and the singer's table with benches. The wooden benches are hand-made, open-back with round legs pegged into the seat.

The preacher's bench has a closed, shoulder-high back. The singer's table includes one drawer with dovetail construction and has a removable top fastened with wooden pegs. On the men's side, the four original pine board hat racks with cast iron hooks are still suspended from the ceiling joists with pine boards. The hat racks above the seating section each have 15 hooks. Above the singers' table, each hat rack has nine hooks. A board fastened to the north wall above the preacher's bench contains an additional eight hooks.

The pine board partition separates the ladies' cloakroom and nursery from the main assembly room. In the center of the partition, a paneled passage door with an old-fashioned cast iron thumb latch leads from the cloakroom into the main assembly room. On either side of the passage door, a 32-inch-square window opening with a hinged door was built into the room partition three and one-half feet above the floor. These openings not only improved ventilation, but were for the convenience of mothers of small children since the cloakroom also served as a nursery. The simple furnishings in the cloakroom include the original built-in wood chest on the east wall, an armless rocking chair and original hand-made backless benches along the southern wall. Above these benches, two boards on the wall contain eleven original cast iron hooks for shawls and bonnets. Twisted wire hooks on the partition wall were added at an unknown time.

### **Contributing Site**

Across the road from the Meetinghouse lies the Bauman/Eshleman Cemetery, named for the families who contributed the land for the burial ground. More recently it has been referred to as the Alleghany Mennonite Cemetery. The cemetery includes nine rows that run in a north to south direction with uneven lengths ranging from two to 40 markers per row. Anna Gehman's 1960 cemetery directory records 175 burials between 1754 and 1971; only three took place after regular services were discontinued at the Alleghany Meetinghouse in 1954. A total of 145 markers still stand today including 46 native sandstone markers, 88 limestone slabs, eight marble gravestones, and three surface-level markers. Thirty of the older graves in the northeast quadrant are either unmarked or have weathered, illegible markers. The only available cemetery record (Anna Gehman's 1960 directory) notes the existence of these graves but provides no additional information.

The first burial was in 1754 for Peter Eshleman Sr. in an unmarked grave, most likely in the northeast corner of the cemetery. The earliest graves are found on the northern side of the cemetery; 46 are marked with native sandstone that was inscribed with only initials and year of death. Some of these sandstone markers are weathered and illegible today. The oldest, clearly-legible marker bears the inscription of M. K. 1779. More recent grave markers are found on the south side of the cemetery and include more detail; 88 limestone slabs contain the full name of the deceased, spouse name, birth and death dates and age at the time of death. About one-half of these markers are engraved with German script but in the English language. The earliest date found on a limestone marker is 1842. Three surface-level grave markers are located in the southeast quadrant of the cemetery; two are unpolished marble and the third, a polished marker with a death date of 1971, marks the most recent grave. In the southwest quadrant, eight unpolished marble gravestones with death dates ranging from 1913 to 1936 are notably more elaborate

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than the 134 plain limestone and sandstone markers. Consistent with the plain and simple lifestyle of the Mennonites, none of the gravestones include symbols or artwork. The progression in the type of the grave markers may indicate an improvement in the quality of life over the years.

A level grass-covered plot, slightly elevated above the road, the cemetery is enclosed by an iron-pipe fence with concrete posts that was built in 1935. Approximately one-fourth acre, the cemetery has no trees or landscaping. Surrounded by cropland, the well-maintained cemetery provides documentation for researchers who frequent the cemetery seeking an understanding of the life and culture of preceding generations.

**Changes**

The only significant alteration to the structure of the building was the removal of the chimneys to minimize the risk of loss by fire. The only major replacement was the roof, which replicates the original design. In 1997 the leaking roof was replaced with red cedar shingles that are in keeping with the original roof material; the pitch is unchanged. The chimneys were removed when the roof was replaced. One chimney was located at the southern roof peak for the small coal stove that served the cloakroom, but this stove was removed prior to 1950. The other chimney, located at the midpoint of the roof peak, served a stove located in the center of the main assembly room. This stove was removed in 1990 since it was deemed unsafe. To maintain the integrity of the building, the original exterior walls were sealed by repointing all the mortar joints, and the original exterior woodwork was repainted in 2005.

Other removals at this site include hitching rails, a picket fence and the horse shed. Hitching rails and a picket fence located across the front of the churchyard along the east side of Horning Road were removed in the early 1920s. A horse shed, located on the west side of Horning Road and on the north side of the cemetery, was removed about two decades later.

Water is available on the site since 2001, when a well was drilled and a hand pump installed. A large maple tree died and was removed. Several small trees were planted in the late 1980s.

Because of the limited alterations to both the exterior and the interior of the building, the property retains the ability to convey its original significance. Despite the increasing residential developments in the township, the area immediately surrounding the property remains active farmland.

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Allegheny Mennonite Meetinghouse  
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### **Introduction**

The Allegheny (historic spelling) Mennonite Meetinghouse is significant to local history under Criterion C for Architecture as an example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania German Mennonite religious building. The property also contains a Mennonite burial ground. The period of significance is 1855, when the construction of the Meetinghouse was completed.

### **Mennonite Settlement in the Allegheny Valley**

The Mennonites are a religious group adhering to the principles of the Anabaptist movement, which began as the left wing of the Protestant Reformation in Switzerland. To escape religious persecution and achieve greater economic opportunity, the Mennonites accepted Penn's invitation to settle in the New World. Arriving in Germantown as early as 1683, some of these immigrants moved westward to establish their homes. Jacob Bauman, a Mennonite, was the first settler in the Allegheny Valley of what would become Brecknock Township, Berks County. According to local tradition, around 1740 while searching for an area where game and fish would be more plentiful, young Jacob met a Native American at Bowmansville who offered to be his guide. He told Jacob that to be successful in life one must locate where the water flows toward the rising sun. So Jacob made his home along the eastward-flowing Allegheny Creek and was a lifelong friend of the native. History does not record any hostilities between the natives and the white settlers in the Allegheny Valley. Jacob obtained a warrant on October 8, 1745, for 77 acres of land. A short time later, he was followed by his brothers (John, Christian and Peter), then the Hornings, Eshlemans, Webers, and others until the upper part of the Allegheny Valley was completely occupied by the Pennsylvania German Mennonites.

In the 1800s, many of the settlers derived their living from the soil as truck farmers, selling their produce in the city of Reading at farmers markets. Early in the nineteenth century, before lime was used to neutralize the acidity of the soil, the farmers believed the soil was worn out and began to migrate to other areas. As the result of problems encountered by the nonresistant Mennonites during the Revolutionary War and fear that the fledgling Colonial government might not honor the religious freedoms granted to them by William Penn, many began to migrate to Upper Canada, where they could live under the English Crown. In 1816

Preacher Joseph Bauman moved to Canada with a family of 12 children, using two four-horse teams and one two-horse team to make the trip. The Conestoga wagons were heavily loaded with food, household furnishings, tools, and equipment for homesteading. Including friends, a total of 33 individuals and 28 horses traveled in the caravan. The migrations that began in 1807 and continued through 1825 weakened the congregation so that it never fully recovered. Even after the completion of the Meetinghouse in 1855, the congregation never flourished.

Initially the Mennonites of the Allegheny Valley worshiped in homes led by their first minister Christian Bauman. Later they met in a log union meetinghouse jointly constructed by the Lutherans, Reformed, and Mennonites in 1767. Around 1800 a new building was erected that was too modern for the conservative-minded Mennonites so they withdrew from the union church and again worshiped in homes. Soon after

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their withdrawal, Christian Bauman's son, Joseph, was ordained to serve the congregation. Oral history states that the new church included either a steeple or an organ, which would have been offensive to the Mennonites of that era. These circumstances were an early influence that led the Alleghany Mennonites to consider building their own place of worship.

### **The Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse**

For a better understanding of the events that led the Alleghany Mennonites to build their own place of worship in 1855, the influence of the following events involving the Bowmansville congregation, which was in the same district, should be considered. The Bowmansville congregation initially worshiped in the dwelling attached to the mill on the current site of the Bowmansville Roller Mill. In 1794 the first meetinghouse was built near what would become the village square. The church held a pay-school in the meetinghouse for 38 winters until a new schoolhouse was erected in 1832. The church continued to operate a pay-school in the new building until the 1849 Act of the Pennsylvania Assembly required a tax-supported free school operated by the state. The citizens of Brecknock Township became polarized over the transition from a church-operated school to a state-operated school, and tensions became so intense that they resorted to litigation to resolve the issue. Since the use of the law was forbidden by the Mennonite creed, the members involved in the school fight were excommunicated from the Mennonite church. These former members then organized and built the Pine Grove Mennonite Church, which was dedicated on August 13, 1854. To counteract losing more members to the newly organized Pine Grove church and to stimulate interest in the struggling Alleghany congregation, the district leadership decided to build the Alleghany Meetinghouse. They chose a location next to the Bauman-Eshleman family cemetery, which had already existed for a century after the first burial in 1754. Construction began in the summer of 1854 with dedication in August 1855.

Deacon Henry H. Weber (1784-1873) chaired the building committee and kept a detailed record of donations and expenses in the German language. He notes that Solomon Weber donated one-fourth acre of land for this purpose. The cost for building and furnishing the Meetinghouse totaled \$377.93. The Bowmansville Mennonite Church district owned the Alleghany Meetinghouse property and the property was cared for by the trustees of this district. A neighboring member of the congregation served as a volunteer janitor who kept the building comfortable and presentable.

The Meetinghouse was used for regular monthly services where the congregation was admonished, encouraged, and nurtured in their faith. Services included hymns, prayers, Scripture reading, and a sermon. The members faithfully continued this pattern of worship at the Alleghany Meetinghouse for nearly a century.

Members arrived for worship on foot or by horse and carriage. After the automobile replaced the horse and buggy, the horse sheds were no longer used. After decades of use, the horse sheds were likely in poor condition and no longer needed. According to oral history, they were removed in the early 1940s.

When the congregation dwindled to nine members, they were assimilated into the nearest Mennonite congregations. Regular services at the Meetinghouse were discontinued in 1954. After regular services were discontinued, interest in the Meetinghouse declined, the condition of the Meetinghouse deteriorated and the building suffered minor vandalism. From 1954 to 1994, responsibility for limited property

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maintenance was shared by the trustees and youth groups of the Bowmansville district. An annual outdoor Bible school was held on the premises from 1950 to 1970. Between 1970 and 1977, the Meetinghouse was occasionally used by a select group of friends who met to reminisce and sing old hymns.

Since 1977, an annual historical and inspirational outdoor service has been held on the Meetinghouse lawn on a summer evening. This event attracts more people than the capacity of the Meetinghouse. In 1994 the Alleghany Mennonite Historical Association (AMHA) was formed to oversee the Meetinghouse property and all educational events. The Association continues the annual outdoor service and has added two annual indoor events, a September hymn sing and an old-fashioned Christmas carol singing in December. Frequently bus tours visit the Meetinghouse to receive lectures on local history. Students look for answers to class assignments, and genealogists search for their ethnic and religious roots. Strong interest in the Meetinghouse indicates appreciation for the preservation and ongoing use of the Meetinghouse. As heirs to this unique structure, the board members of AMHA are dedicated to preserving the Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse and cemetery, along with the religious and cultural values that enhanced the life of the community, and to interpret this local history to area inhabitants and visitors.

The Association chose the historic spelling of Alleghany since it is the spelling used in early church records of the Bowmansville Mennonite Church district. This spelling helps to distinguish the Meetinghouse from the village of Alleghenyville in Berks County and from places in western Pennsylvania.

This property was owned by the trustees of the Bowmansville Mennonite Church district from 1855 until it was transferred to the Alleghany Mennonite Historical Association in 1998. The Association conducts an annual business meeting each September.

#### **Mennonite Meetinghouses**

The architecture of mid-nineteenth century Pennsylvania German Mennonite places of worship was influenced by Anabaptist practices following sixteenth century persecution in Europe. During times of persecution, meeting places were disguised; the open air, caves, warehouses, barns, dwellings or other hidden places were used as places of worship. After persecution ended and public meetings were permitted, houses of worship were often patterned after the architecture of dwellings. Pennsylvania German Mennonite meetinghouses were different from other Protestant church buildings of the era since they had no pulpit, steeple and bells or stained glass windows. The characteristics of these meetinghouses expressed the simplicity and basic principles of Mennonites by using the skills of local members and the indigenous materials of stone and wood to construct them. They were small, plain, one-story rectangular structures with a gable roof that had equal pitch on both sides. Double-hung windows for natural lighting and ventilation were shuttered for security and protection from the weather, but always open when the building was in use. Typically two doors provided segregated access to the two rooms in the building. Women first entered the small room that doubled as a cloakroom and nursery while the men entered directly into the main assembly room.

Inside, a gender-segregated seating arrangement typifies Mennonite meetinghouses of this era. Half of the open-backed benches, used by the women, face the speaker. The men sat to the right and the left of the

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speaker (see floor plan). Hat racks are suspended from the ceiling above the men's sections. A wood or coal stove stood in the center of the room.

The seating in the main assembly room was designed around the singer's table. The preacher stood at the head of the singers' table to deliver his sermon, while several men who served as song leaders sat on either side of this table. This practice was an outgrowth of the time when Sunday worship was held in homes around the kitchen table and before each family had access to a songbook.

Most of the mid-eighteenth century Pennsylvania German cemeteries began as family burial grounds of the early settlers. As time progressed, meetinghouses were often built near these family cemeteries and became the responsibility of the congregation. Often enclosed by a fence, sheep were used to groom these small rectangular plots. Many early graves are no longer identifiable; others are marked with simple markers made from native materials.

In the mid-1800s two other similar meetinghouses could be found nearby—the Bowmansville Meetinghouse at Bowmansville in Lancaster County and the Gehman Meetinghouse near Adamstown in Berks County. Both meetinghouses have been removed in favor of larger and more modern buildings. The first meetinghouse at Bowmansville, which was similar to the Alleghany Meetinghouse, was built in 1794 and removed in 1875 when the congregation moved one mile south of Bowmansville. Samuel Gehman's home, with removable room partitions, accommodated the Gehman worshippers until 1846 when a meetinghouse identical to the current Alleghany Meetinghouse was built. The Gehman sandstone meetinghouse was dismantled in 1913. Since both of these meetinghouses were removed, the Alleghany Meetinghouse is the only remaining original meetinghouse in the immediate southwestern Berks and eastern Lancaster area. The architecture of other local places of worship in this era featured church-like structures rather than meetinghouse-type structures.

Three early Mennonite meetinghouses still stand in Pennsylvania: the Germantown Mennonite Meetinghouse in Germantown, Philadelphia County; the Harmony Meetinghouse in Harmony, Butler County; and the Frick Meetinghouse, Montgomery County. In 1908 a Sunday-school room was added to the 1770 Germantown Mennonite fieldstone structure that stands today. Harmony, the oldest Mennonite meetinghouse west of the Alleghenies, notes a brick annex as an early addition to their 1825 stone meetinghouse. The 1812 Frick Meetinghouse was dismantled in 1882 and the original materials were used in constructing the present meetinghouse. Although it is often referred to as an early meetinghouse, the 1719 restored Hans Herr House was initially a dwelling that was also used as a place of worship rather than a structure built to serve as a meetinghouse.

### **Significance**

The significance of the Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse is found in its simple architecture that represents mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania German Mennonite places of worship. The rural setting, the original design, the indigenous material, and workmanship based on common tradition demonstrate the building's original structural and architectural integrity.

Without any ornamentation, the simplicity of the Meetinghouse architecture is an important example of the quality of design and workmanship and the simple lifestyle of the Alleghany Mennonites in the mid-

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1800s. Thus, it is one of the oldest surviving, least-altered and originally-furnished Mennonite meetinghouses in the nation and is an example of the primitive places of worship used by the early Mennonites.

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The resources listed above are available at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society,  
2215 Millstream Rd, Lancaster, PA 17602

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary for the nominated property consists of two tax parcels. The tax parcel containing the Meetinghouse is defined by the deed described at the Berks County Courthouse in Volume 3010, page 2359. Located directly across the Horning Road is a tax parcel containing the cemetery and is also recorded in the Berks County Courthouse in Volume 3010, page 2363.

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

The boundary for the Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse and Cemetery corresponds to the historical parcels associated with the building and cemetery. The current parcel description for the Meetinghouse matches the deed that was recorded on April 1, 1856, soon after the building was constructed. A separate parcel for the Cemetery was defined in February 1955, when the land was excised from the surrounding Yerger farm parcel. No buildings, acreage or other remaining resources historically associated with the Meetinghouse or Cemetery have been excluded from the current boundary.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 1

Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse  
Berks County, PA

**Photographs**

All photographs were taken by Bob Shoup of Arrow Photo Service on November 5, 2007. Negatives are on file at Arrow Photo Service, 389 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Photo #	Description	Camera Direction
<b>Exterior</b>		
1	The sign above the doorway which identifies the Meetinghouse	east
2	Exterior showing property and surrounding countryside with Horning Road in foreground	northeast
3	Exterior showing meetinghouse and northeast quadrant of cemetery where the oldest sandstone grave markers are found	east
4	Front façade with main entrance (north) and cloakroom entrance (south); also showing the restored red cedar shingles on the gable roof	east
5	Exterior view with hand pump showing south end and front façade (west side)	northeast
6	Exterior view of north side with three six-lite double-hung shuttered windows and attic door	southeast
7	Exterior view of rear with privys	northwest
8	Close-up of window including original frame with pegged corners along with sash and shutters that are operable	south
Photo #	Description	Camera Direction
<b>Interior</b>		
9	Interior view showing original furnishings: singers' table; hat racks; open-back, wooden benches; closed-back preacher's bench	north
10	Interior view of main entrance panel door with original German latch	west
11	Identical original German latches inside entrance doors (main entrance shown)	west
12	Close-up of pegged table-top and dovetailed drawer in singers' table	northeast
13	Close-up of hat rack above singers' table and original ceiling made from random-width, unfinished tongue-and-groove pine boards	northeast
14	Interior view of window showing rounded walls	northwest
15	Interior view facing partition	south
16	Panel door with thumb latch (facing cloakroom)	south

United States Department of the Interior  
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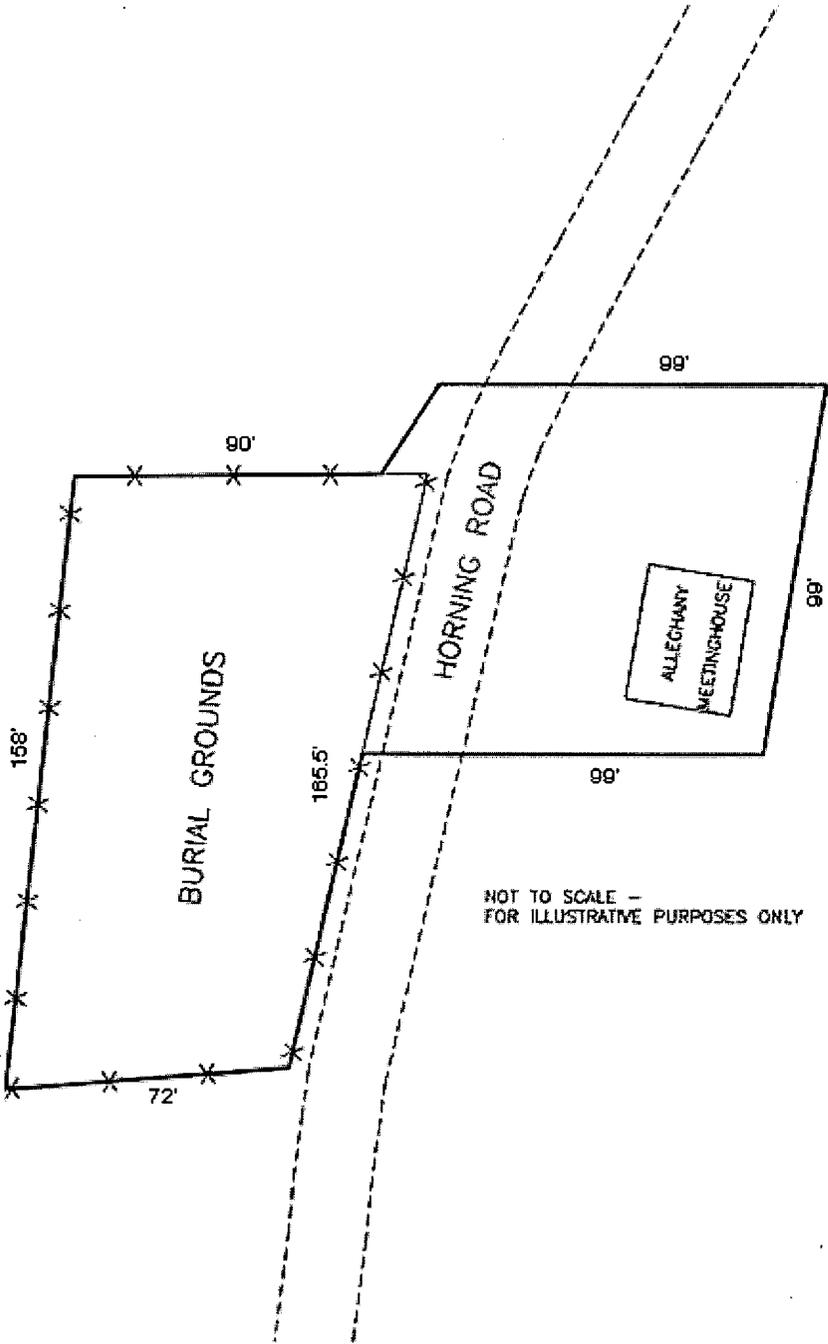
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 2

Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse  
Berks County, PA

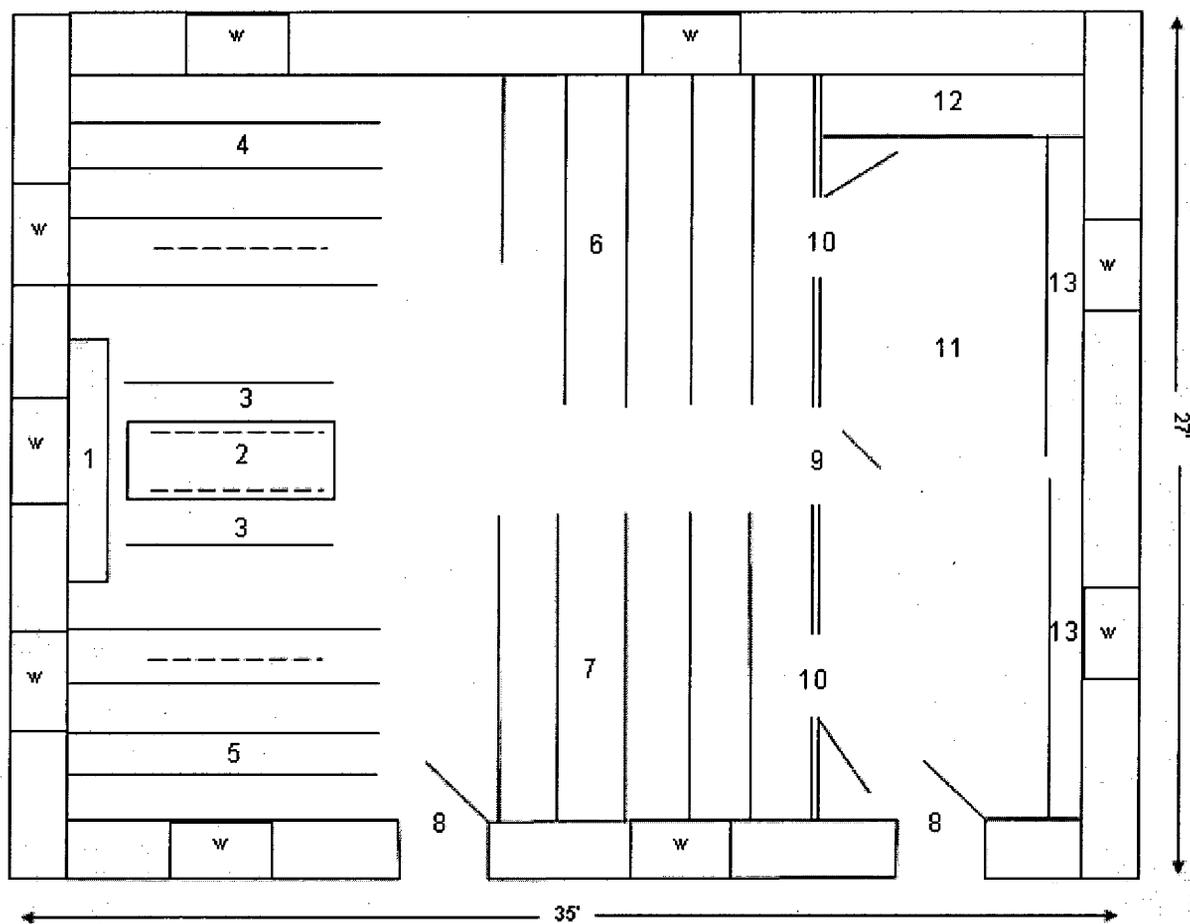
<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Camera Direction</b>
17	Original hardware on panel door in partition (facing main assembly room)	north
18	Interior view showing opening in partition	northwest
19	Interior view of cloakroom including original built-in wood chest on the east wall, armless rocking chair and original hand-made backless benches along the southern wall	east
<b>Cemetery</b>		
20	View of Alleghany Mennonite Cemetery showing native sandstone markers and limestone slabs enclosed by iron-pipe fence with concrete posts	southwest
21	The oldest, clearly-legible grave marker with the inscription M.K. 1779	east
22	View of grave marker for Christian Bauman, first minister, with inscription 1790 C.B.	west
23	View showing flag placed annually by the Amvets at the grave of Civil War veteran Levi Donnehauer (1839-1904)	west

Sketch of Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse, Berks County, PA



NOT TO SCALE -  
FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

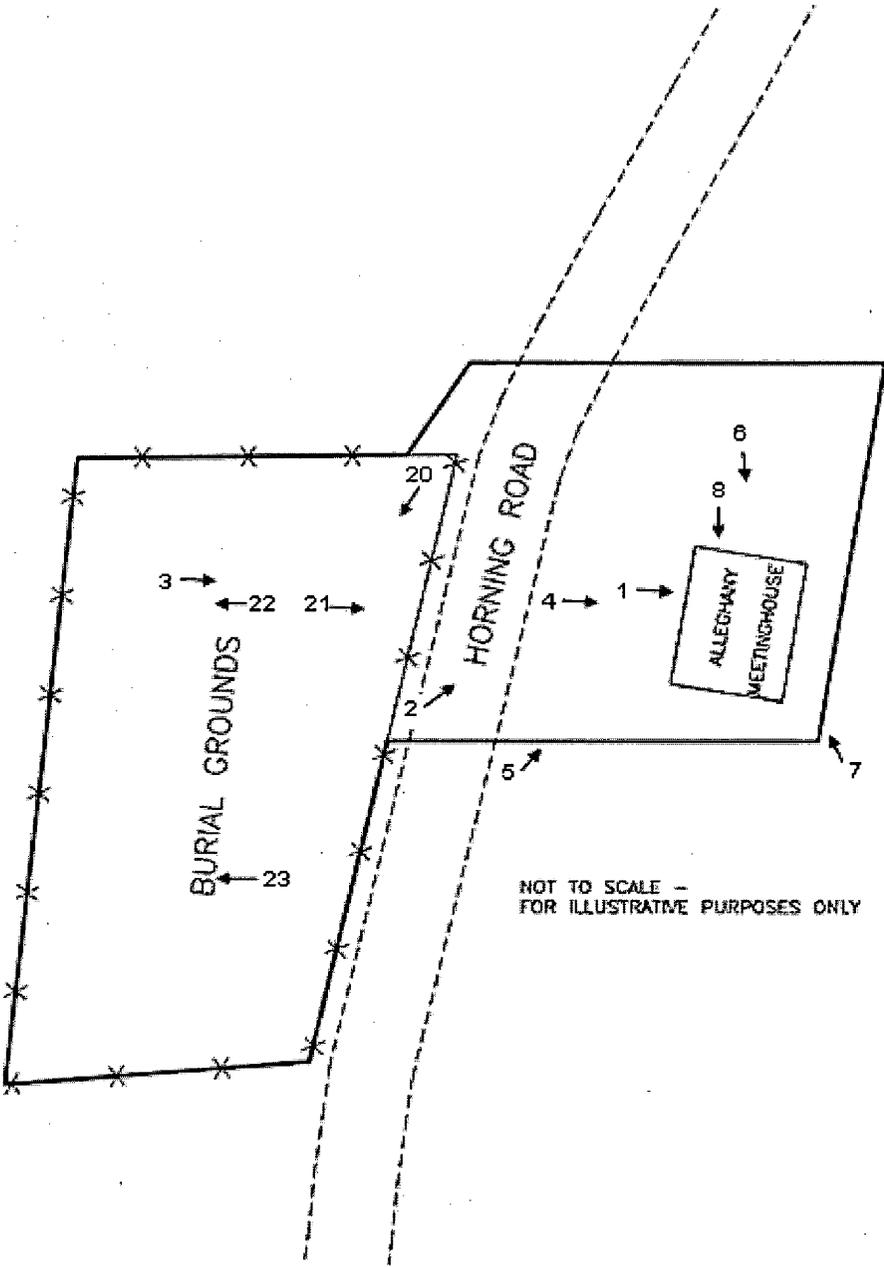
**Floor Plan**  
**Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse, Berks County, PA**



- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Preachers' bench              | 7. Young girls' section           |
| 2. Singers' table                | 8. Entrance doors                 |
| 3. Singers' bench                | 9. Inside passage door            |
| 4. Men's section                 | 10. Partition openings            |
| 5. Boys' and young men's section | 11. Women's cloakroom and nursery |
| 6. Older women's section         | 12. Built-in wood chest           |
|                                  | 13. Backless benches              |

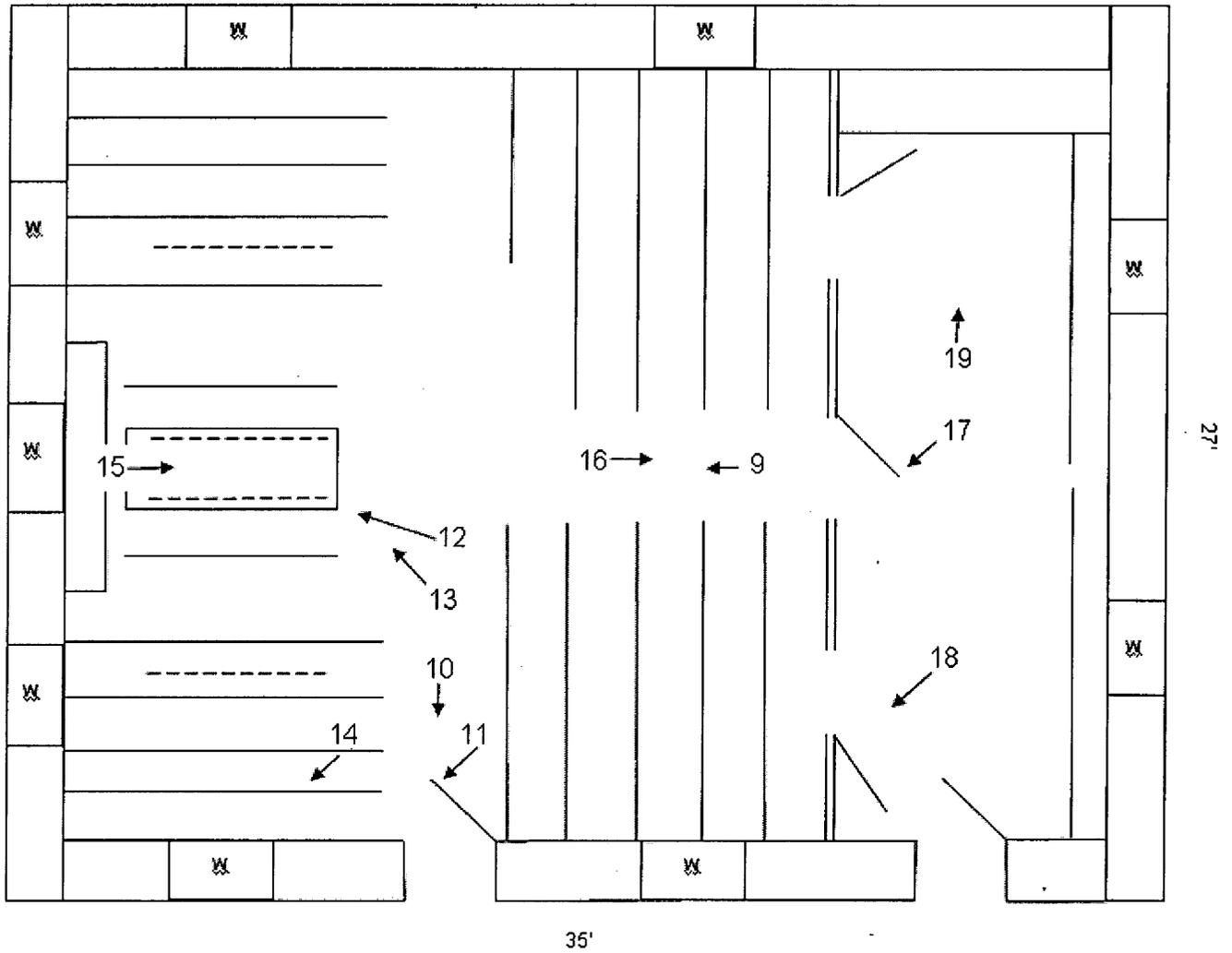
Dotted lines at singers' table and in men's and boys' seating areas represent hat racks suspended from the ceiling.

Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse, Berks County, PA



NOT TO SCALE -  
FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

**Alleghany Mennonite Meetinghouse, Berks County, PA**  
**Interior Photo Key**



- 9. Interior view facing north
- 10. Main entrance
- 11. German latch
- 12. Singers' table
- 13. Hat rack and ceiling
- 14. Window

- 15. Interior view facing south
- 16. Partition door
- 17. Hardware
- 18. Partition opening
- 19. Cloakroom

1855

ALLEGHANY

MENNONITE







1955  
ALLEGHANY  
WISCONSIN







































REST

DONEHOVER

Born July 28, 1839.

Died Dec. 26, 1904.

*AGED*

65 Yrs. 4 Mo. & 28 D.

CO. B. 83rd REGT. PA.

