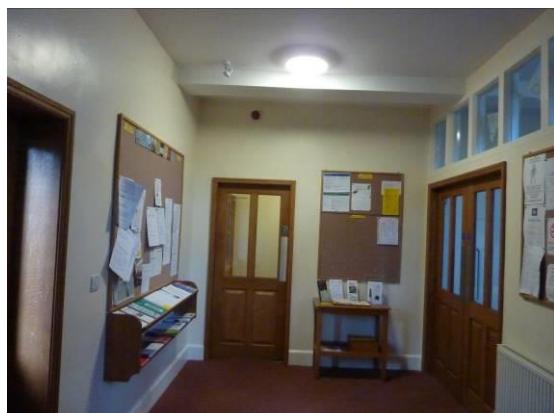


Friends Meeting House, Bakewell

Chapel Row, Bakewell, DE45 1EL

National Grid Reference: SK 21771 68262



Statement of Significance

The meeting house is a building of historic interest with a few historic interior fittings of value, and a relatively intact exterior of simple, neat design. There is an association with the Quaker businessman John Allcard, for whom Burton Closes in Bakewell was built.

Evidential value

The meeting house retains evidence for the history of Quaker meetings in Bakewell and for the evolution of the building with additions and interior alterations. The burial ground with headstones has the potential for adding to knowledge about local Quakers. There is relatively low evidential value

Historical value

There is historical interest in the association with Friends in Bakewell, and with the Quaker businessman John Allcard. The building and burial ground have medium historical value.

Aesthetic value

The relatively simple architectural treatment reflects the value systems of those who built it, and there is medium aesthetic value

Communal value

The building is well used by the local community and twenty-first century alterations were made using a consultation of local user groups to inform how the building was modified. There is high communal value

Part 1: Core data

1.1 Area Meeting: *Nottingham and Derbyshire*

1.2 Property Registration Number: *0001830*

1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*

1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Peak District National Park Authority*

1.5 Historic England locality: *East Midlands*

1.6 Civil parish: *Bakewell*

1.7 Listed status: *II*

1.8 NHLE: *1245886*

1.9 Conservation Area: *Bakewell*

1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*

1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*

1.12 Date(s): *1852; 2006-7*

1.13 Architect (s): *Not established; Adrian Russell*

1.14 Date of visit: *19 November 2015*

1.15 Name of report author: *Clare Hartwell*

1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Alison Gray and John Wood*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *None*

1.18 Attached burial ground: *Yes*

1.19 Information sources:

Stell, C., *Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-houses Derbyshire* (RCHME 1986), p. 33

Butler, D. M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), Vol I p. 123-4

Wood, J., 'Bakewell Meeting House Project Plan' unpublished report, 2004.

Hartwell, C. Pevsner, N. & Williamson, E., *The Buildings of England Derbyshire* (Yale University Press, London and New Haven, forthcoming).

Grey, A., Volunteer Form, February 2016

Part 2: The Meeting House & Burial Ground: history, contents, use, setting and designation

2.1. Historical background

The first meeting house in the area was in Monyash (q.v.), formed in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. In 1852 a meeting house was built in Bakewell as the gift of John Allcard on land given by the Bowman family. Allcard was a Quaker businessman for whom Burton Closes was built on the outskirts of Bakewell in 1845-8 to designs by Joseph Paxton and John Robertson with interior schemes by A.W.N. Pugin, early Victorian architects and designers of the highest calibre. The meeting house was altered when a stone porch was added to the building, probably in the late nineteenth century, by some accounts around 1870.



Figure 1. Detail of the date inscription and window

The building became disused in 1880 and various subsequent uses are recorded, including as a Salvation Army Hall (Butler). It was used as a school during the period 1945-1960, when alteration included the removal of the gallery, and insertion of kitchen, toilets etc. The building was subsequently taken back into use by the Friends and alterations and repairs included strengthening and refurbishing the roof structure, which had started to fail, in 1980, and removal of the shuttered partition between the principal rooms and replacing it with a solid wall in 1988. A major phase of refurbishment was planned in 2000 informed by the input of twenty-four regular user groups as well as the members of the meeting; planning

and listed building consent was obtained in 2004. Work started in 2006, initially with the input of the architect John Cunningham, taken forward by the architect Adrian Russell. The scheme involved a complete refurbishment of the interior with a new kitchen, the demolition of existing poor quality extensions and the addition of a new rear extension. This provides a disabled toilet, shower and stairs up to the reinstated gallery. A chair store was also added. The building was reopened in 2007.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

Friends' meeting house dated 1852 in an inscription on a window lintel in the front elevation. The building is of rectangular plan and constructed of blocks of ashlar. There is a hipped slated roof with deep eaves. The principal entrance elevation on the east side is of three bays with large eight- over twelve-pane pivoting casement windows and a later nineteenth century ashlar porch positioned between the two northern windows, reflecting the internal divisions of space. The north elevation has four smaller nine-pane windows of similar sort, the top pair lighting a gallery. The south elevation is lit by two large windows similar to those of the east elevation and the west elevation has stone-built extensions of 2006-7. The front porch is a later addition, and is shown on the OS map of 1896. It is gabled and has a pair of notional pilasters framing the door. The gable fascia is of twentieth or twenty-first century date based on the original and the door could be of nineteenth century date.

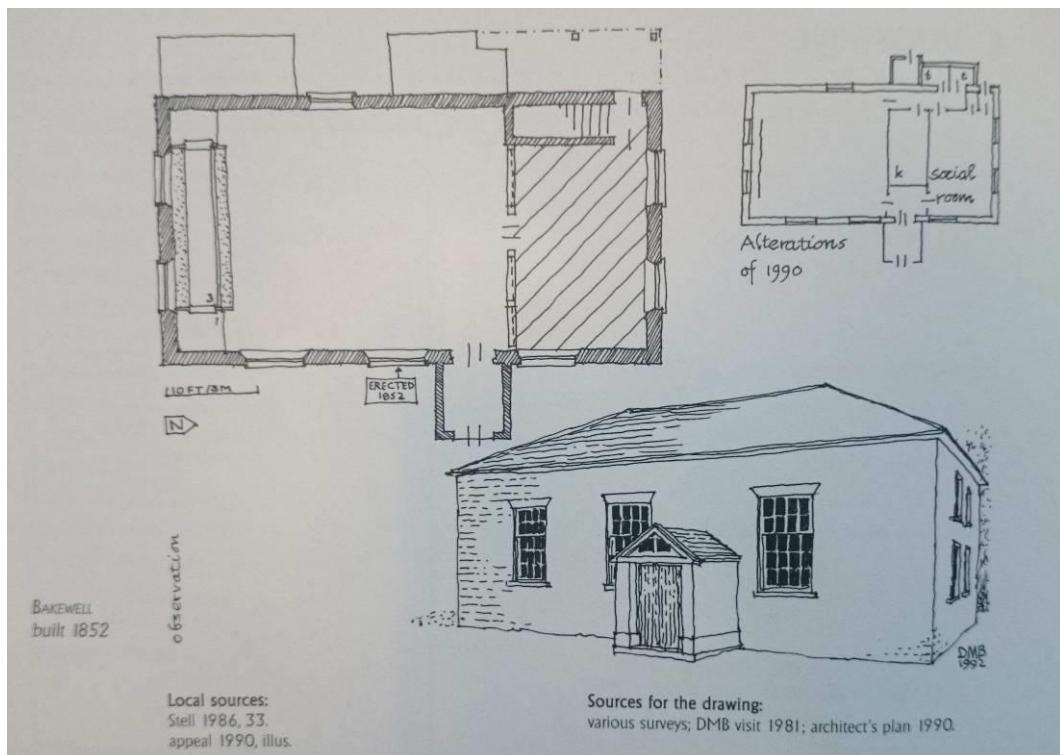


Figure 2. Plan and elevations with details of later alterations (Butler).

The interior of the meeting house has been partially restructured retaining the elements of the original plan form. The doorway opens to a corridor with the principal meeting room to the south, and WCs and stairs to the gallery ahead, to the west. The smaller room to the north contains modern kitchen facilities. The principal meeting room to the south retains the original timber panelled stand against the south wall. The stairs and the upstairs room are of modern construction replacing the nineteenth century originals.

2.3. Loose furnishings

Two of the original benches have been retained in the main meeting room.

2.4. Attached burial ground

The burial ground retains a number of headstones laid flat on lawns. The date range is from 1856 -2000 and the ground is subject to routine maintenance.

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is positioned close to the centre of Bakewell at the end of a narrow cul-de-sac running west from the principal A6 Buxton/Matlock road. It is positioned behind a block of buildings and a Methodist chapel which opened in 1866, probably replacing a predecessor recorded in 1829. A burial ground lies to the east and south of the meeting house, and there is also a car park on the east side. To the rear of the building there is a small estate of twentieth century housing on an area shown as fields on the 1896 OS map.

2.6. Listed status

The building is listed grade II, an appropriate designation.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

Although there do not appear to be specific find spots or known areas of archaeological sensitivity associated with the site, Bakewell is an ancient settlement with Anglo-Saxon or earlier origins and the frontages to the east of the meeting house could conform to medieval burgage plot divisions. For this reason the site should be considered to have archaeological potential.

Part 3: Current use and management

See completed volunteer survey

3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: Good
- ii) Attached burial ground: Optimal/generally satisfactory

3.2. Maintenance

A repair and maintenance plan is in place and the most recent QI was carried out in December 2014. The building was considered to be in very good condition. Work completed since then includes repairs to the chimney, roof slates, pointing etc. leaving only minor cosmetic works to be done.

3.3. Sustainability

The meeting does not use the sustainability toolkit, however the following measures have been implemented:

- The 2007 refurbishment was to the highest sustainable standard allowed by the local authority to comply with the listed building status.
- High efficiency gas boiler installed as apart of new heating system 2007. All lighting is low energy.
- Rainwater recycling system for toilet flushing.
- Separate recycling bins & composting system for Friends and user groups.

- Burial ground is maintained with wildlife in mind – no pesticides, bird boxes, variety of planting.
- Encouragement of car sharing where possible and provision of bike racks.

3.4. Amenities

The meeting has the amenities required within the meeting house, including a kitchen and WCs.

3.5. Access

A disability access audit was undertaken in 2005 with the input of a local disabled access group. There is level access throughout the ground floor of the building and a fully accessible WC. The renovation works of 2007 aimed to comply with current standards for accessibility. There is a car park with level access to the building.

3.6. Community Use

The renovation of the building was undertaken with the input of local user groups and the building is currently let for community uses for 30-40 hours per week.

Bookings are generally accepted from clubs, societies, voluntary and community groups, but not from commercial or party political organisations, or where use would compromise Quaker aims or traditions.

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

There is little local crime and anti-social behaviour, although litter and dog fouling has affected the burial ground. There is contact with the local community police team.

3.8. Plans for change

There are no plans for change in the immediate future.

Part 4: Impact of Change

4.1. To what extent is the building amenable or vulnerable to change?

Summary addressing scenarios below:

- i) *As a Meeting House used only by the local meeting:* Recent changes appear to answer the needs of the meeting; there is limited scope for additional changes to the interior if required
- ii) *For wider community use, in addition to local meeting use:* Recent changes were designed to reflect the needs of user groups, however there is limited scope for additional changes to the interior if required
- iii) *Being laid down as a meeting house:* Any substantial changes would be limited by the building's status as a listed building and its situation in a conservation area, however there is a demonstrable need for community space in the town, which might theoretically be answered by the building.

Part 5: Category: 2

Part 6: List descriptions

Name: FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

List entry Number: 1245886

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, CHAPEL LANE

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Derbyshire

District: Derbyshire Dales

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Bakewell

National Park: PEAK DISTRICT

Grade: II

Date first listed: 20-May-1974

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

List entry Description

BAKEWELL

SK2168 CHAPEL LANE 831-1/4/80 (West side (off)) 20/05/74 Friends Meeting House

II

Quaker meeting house. Dated 1852. Coursed dressed sandstone. Welsh slate roof.

EXTERIOR: single storey; 3- and 2-window ranges. Plinth. Later porch between bays 2 and 3 with twinned ashlar pilasters supporting a pedimented wooden gable; ashlar side walls. The original building has large windows with projecting stone sills and wedge lintels each opening now glazed with fixed 12-pane lights beneath pivoting 8-pane openers. Centre lintel states 'ERECTED 1852'. Boxed eaves to hipped roof. Rear: various lean-tos and ashlar stack at eaves. Right return: 9-pane casements on 2 floor levels. INTERIOR: the original space now divided and gallery removed. Present meeting room retains elders' bench with panelling across front.

Listing NGR: SK2177268256