

Friends Meeting House, Beverley

Quaker Lane, (off Woodlands), Beverley, HU17 8BY

National Grid Reference: TA 02930 39656



Statement of Significance

A meeting house built on a new site in 1961 to the design of Joseph Konrad. The building is of low heritage significance.

Evidential value

The building itself is wholly of the 1960s; no earlier fabric is contained in the building, which is of low evidential value.

Historical value

Quakerism in Beverley has a history dating back to the 1660s, but the present site was only acquired by the Quakers in about 1960 and the site and building have relatively low historical value

Aesthetic value

The simple functional architecture of the building is typical of the 1960s. It is not particularly distinctive in appearance and overall is of medium aesthetic value

Communal value

The meeting house appears to be well-used by the local community and has high communal value

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Pickering & Hull*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0006890*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *East Riding of Yorkshire Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *Yorkshire*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Beverley*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Not listed*
- 1.8 NHLE: *Not applicable*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *Beverley – Westwood Area*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *1961*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Joseph Konrad*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *31 March 2106*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Diana Sandy*
- 1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *None*
- 1.18 Attached burial ground: *No*
- 1.19 Information sources:

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol.II pp.705-6
Friends in Beverley: A Brief History of a Quaker Meeting (2001)
Local Meeting survey, March 2016

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

2.1. Historical background

In 1667 Thomas Waite leased a plot of land on the east side of Lairgate in Beverley for a burial ground. A meeting house was extant there by 1702 and a new meeting house had been built on the same land by 1714. By 1808 this building was in poor condition and an estimate for a new one was obtained from a surveyor named Thomas Thorpe in 1809. A site for the new building and a new burial ground in Love Lane (now Quaker Lane) was given by Christopher and Mary Geldart and the new building had been finished by 1811. The Beverley meeting was discontinued in 1837 but the meeting house survived at least until 1897. The site is now built over. The meeting was revived in 1955 and a new site in Quaker Lane was acquired for a new meeting house designed by Joseph Konrad (husband of a member of the Hull meeting). The meeting house opened in 1961.

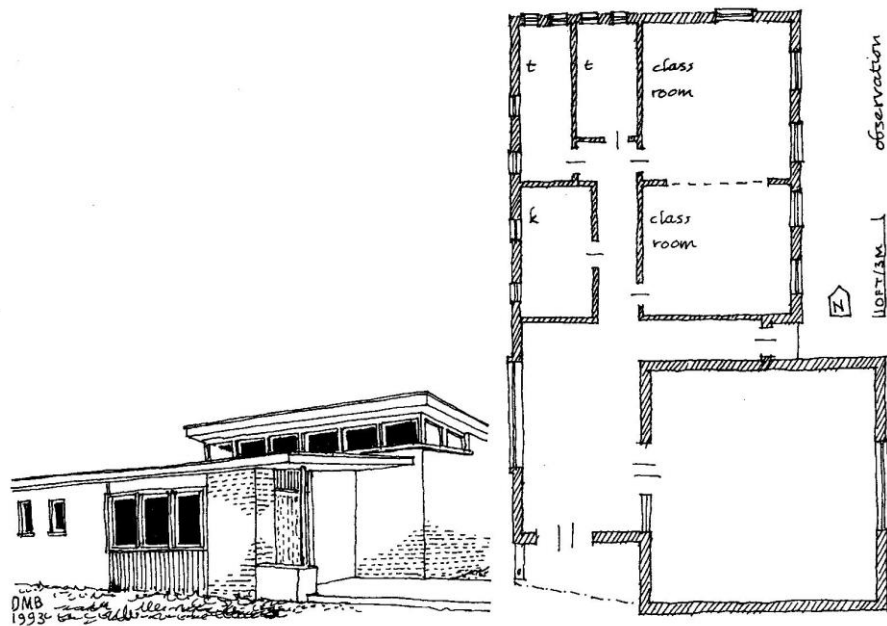


Fig.1: sketch and plan by David Butler (1999)

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The building is composed of two intersecting elements: a long single-storey range containing the entrance, amenities and classrooms under a shallow monopitch roof, and the meeting room in a taller rectangular block at the south east corner under a monopitch roof of the opposite slope. The external walls are all of cream brick laid in stretcher bond, the roofs are covered in felt. The windows are mostly timber and rectangular, but the meeting room is distinguished by a strip clerestory and has a large window with sidelights in the east wall overlooking the garden. The simple interior of the meeting room is severely functional, with bare brick walls, a light timber floor and modern lightwood furniture.

2.3. Loose furnishings

There are no loose furnishings of heritage interest.

2.4. Attached burial ground: N/A

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house stands on a secluded site and is reached down a narrow lane off the north side of Wood Lane, on the west side of Beverley town centre. There is a mostly paved garden to the rear.

There is a record of a burial ground (and former meeting house) in Havelock Street, Bridlington, but this is no longer in Quaker ownership. The site of the earlier burial ground and former meeting house is just south of the present meeting house, on Quaker Lane.

2.6. Listed status

The building is not a candidate for statutory or local listing.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

Humber Archaeology Partnership were consulted. The site of the former meeting house is noted as being of interest and has some archaeological potential; it was on the edge of the medieval town.

Part 3: Current use and management

3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: Good
- ii) Attached burial ground (if any): None

3.2. Maintenance

The building appears to be well-maintained. No information was supplied about regular inspection or maintenance regimes.

3.3. Sustainability

The meeting has implemented measures to reduce environmental impact. No detailed information was supplied.

3.4. Amenities

The meeting appears to have all the amenities it needs in the meeting house - including a kitchen, toilets and several rooms of different sizes. There is no resident warden.

The meeting house is close to the town centre and has good public transport links during the week. There is limited on-site parking

3.5. Access

All the main rooms are on the ground floor which has level access throughout. Access was improved and an accessible toilet created c2012.

3.6 Community Use

No information was supplied about community use. The meeting has a lettings policy.

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

There is no sign of general crime or heritage crime at the site. The presence of a homeless person during the winter of 2014/15 caused some concern; the Meeting facilitated meetings with all the appropriate agencies, including the Police, to resolve the problem. The locality is generally well cared-for and has low crime levels, low deprivation and high community confidence.

3.8. Plans for change

There are currently no plans for changes to the building.

Part 4: Impact of Change

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

- i) As a Meeting House used only by the local Meeting:* there is probably scope for alteration if required, subject to planning constraints.
- ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use:* as above, there is scope for alteration, subject to planning constraints.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House: the building could doubtless be found another use if the meeting were laid down, subject to planning constraints (it is in a conservation area).

Part 5: Category: 3