

Friends Meeting House, Crawshawbooth

13 Co-operation Street, Crawshawbooth, Rossendale, BB4 8AG

National Grid Reference: SD 81079 25366



Statement of Significance

The building has high heritage significance as a purpose-built meeting house which assumed its present form before the middle of the eighteenth century. It incorporates an unusually complete range of features, including a former stable and retains early or original fixtures and fittings. The building stands in its original context within a burial ground.

Evidential value

The meeting house is an eighteenth century building of at least three phases, illustrating incremental growth. This is evidence for the character of Quaker organisation, resources and worship. There is potential for refining knowledge of the site and the community it relates to with further research and analysis of the building and burials. The buildings and site have high evidential value.

Historical value

The history of local Friends started with a detached burial ground in a more remote location, continuing with acquisition of this site in 1715, within a village setting; this illustrates the confidence of the meeting and its ability to manage resources. Incremental building is evidence of gradual development typical of Nonconformist groups. Historical value also resides in the range of eighteenth century building elements, the presence of an interior with historic internal layout and fixtures, and burial records. The building has high historical value.

Aesthetic value

The building is typical of early eighteenth century meeting houses and is constructed with features and materials reflecting local vernacular building traditions. The site is a valuable part of the local scene. The immediate setting with a walled burial ground around the building contributes to the high aesthetic value of the building and the site.

Communal value

The meeting house remains primarily in Quaker use, with low level of community. It makes a very positive contribution to the character of the area both in terms of its appearance and its contribution to the historical context of the settlement. Quaker values of simplicity and openness are embodied in this building which has medium communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Pendle Hill*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0021490*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Rossendale Borough Council*
- 1.5 Civil parish: *Rossendale*
- 1.6 Historic England locality: *North West*
- 1.7 Listed status: *II**
- 1.8 NHLE: *1361998*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*

1.12 Date(s): 1715, 1736, 1793

1.13 Architect (s): None/not established

1.14 Date of visit: 17 May 2015

1.15 Name of report author: Clare Hartwell

1.16 Name of contact made on site: Ian McHugh

1.17 Associated buildings and sites: Detached burial ground at Barrow Hill

1.18 Attached burial ground: Yes

1.19 Information sources:

Butler, D. M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. 1, pp. 303-304

Hartwell C., & Pevsner, N., *The Buildings of England, North Lancashire* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press 2009) p.564

RH, *Crawshawbooth Meeting House* (local publication, nd)

Lancashire Archives DDHCL/1/1; DP/372/2

<http://crawshawbooth.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/>

Hilary Whitehead, *Local Meeting Survey*, March 2015

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

2.1. Historical background

Friends in Rossendale held meetings in private houses in the seventeenth century when there are records of a 'conventicle' in the house of Richard Ratcliffe. Meetings were also held at the house of Abraham Hayworth in Haslingden and John Ratcliffe was fined £20 for preaching there. There is some confusion over the origin of the burial ground at Chapel Hill, since some sources record that it was given by Richard Ratcliffe in 1660, and Ratcliffe was fined in 1670 for 'hedging a parcel of land to bury dead corpses in and diverse have been interr'd there.' Other sources, including one quoted by Butler, state that a burial ground was given by Henry Birthwaite and his brother in 1685, however Quaker burials on the site had taken place for more than twenty years by this time. The first recorded burial is of Mary Hayworth, wife of Abraham Hayworth, whose house had been used for meetings, on the 23rd January 1663. Others buried there include George Hayworth or Haworth and James Rishton, both of whom died in 1692 while being held in Lancaster prison for refusing to pay tithes, and for giving testimony against tithe payment.

The burial ground was not thought a suitable site for a meeting house and instead land was acquired in nearby Crawshawbooth in 1715 for £30. The site is beside a former packhorse route near the junction of other roads, and was therefore convenient for access from the wider area. A meeting house was built in the following year at a cost of £60 and registered as a Quaker place of worship. It was licenced under provisions of the Conventicles Act, and the document, dated October 11th 1716 refers to 'A certaine Ediffice or building newly Erected in the forest of Rossendale for an assembly of persons called Quakers etc.' The licence was granted to Henry Birtwhistle. The building appears to have originally consisted of a single

room, now absorbed into the dwelling house, above a stable. External steps up to the house survive. In 1722 John Birtwhistle gave £20 to be invested to provide hay for the Friends' horses and to provide for repairs, later supplemented by more gifts from others. In 1736 the building was extended when a new meeting house was added to the east side of the building. This is probably the date of the surviving gallery and fixed furnishings. Records suggest that an upper floor was added to the old meeting house in 1793, when it was used as a school. The area around the building was being used as a burial ground from 1728, extended in 1823 and in 1875, though the burial ground at Chapel Hill remained in use until 1847. Lancashire Records Office holds a transaction dated 1785 relating to the meeting house and transfer of land from Richard Ecroyd to Henry Marriot. Both figures appear in the record as Quakers who were associated with other meetings in the Pendle area (Sawley qv).



Figure 1. Illustration based on an engraving of 1798 (Crawshawbooth Meeting)

Various alterations were made over time to the building; the moveable shutters beneath the gallery may date from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century; they are of pine, grained to resemble oak. Electricity was provided in the twentieth century, and a modern WC installed. In the late twentieth or early twenty-first century the dwelling house, above the stable was renovated and given a new porch and a large window, both on the south side. Archive views such as in Figure 1 suggest that this replaced an earlier porch structure and smaller window. The meeting house part of the building was damaged by flooding on two occasions in the ten years prior to 2015, which necessitated refurbishment.

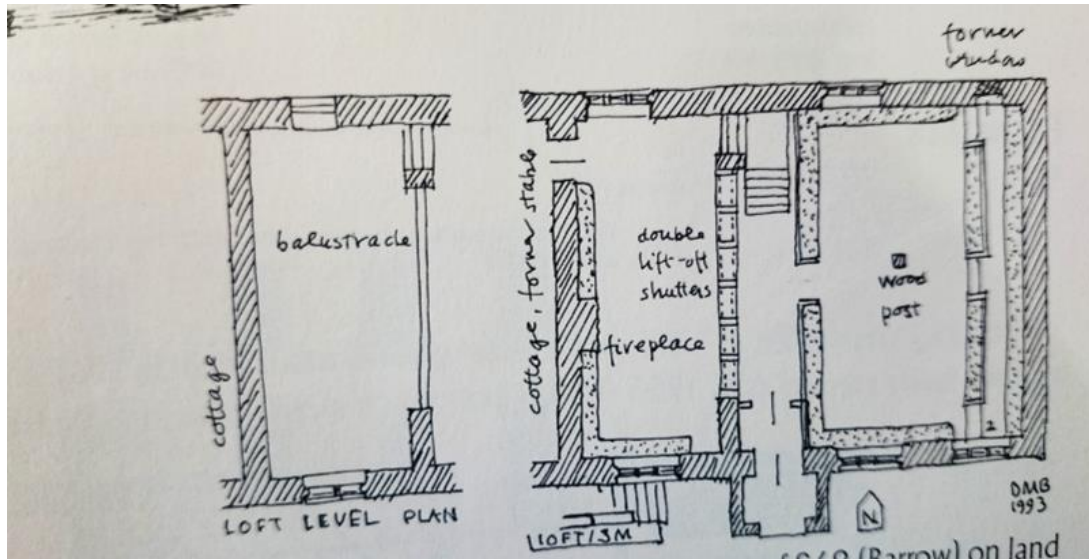


Figure 2. Ground floor plan of the meeting house as reconstructed by Butler (north at the top; not to scale) (Butler (1999), vol. 1, p.303)

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house and integral cottage and stable originate as a building first erected in 1715 and extended to the east in 1723, for the main meeting room. It was altered again later in the eighteenth century, possibly in 1793 when it appears that the west end of the building was remodelled. It is constructed of squared and coursed sandstone rubble with moulded stone window surrounds and a sandstone slate roof. The watershot masonry is laid in narrow courses in the main body of the building and larger blocks in the cottage superstructure. The meeting house element to the east is of one volume with a gallery at the west end (Fig.2). The cottage element to the west is of double pile plan and two storeys above a former stable. The meeting house is entered via a gabled porch left of centre in the south elevation with an oak plank-and-batten door. There are two tall six-light mullioned-and-transomed windows to the right (east) lighting the main meeting room. Like all the windows in this side, they have diamond-pattern leaded glazing detail. To the west there is a three-light mullioned window to the ground floor with two-light mullioned window above, lighting the smaller meeting room and gallery, respectively. The rear has a narrow upper window with timber joinery lighting the gallery and a three-light mullioned window below. The main meeting room is lit on this side by a single tall six-light mullioned and transomed window, with to the west side a blocked window which formerly lit the stand. The east gable elevation has a capped gable chimney and is without openings. The masonry indicates alteration or rebuilding at the top.

To the west of the meeting house is a flight of stone external steps leading up to the cottage. A doorway beneath leads into the former stable in the ground floor. The cottage has generally twentieth or early twenty-first century joinery to external openings. This is also the date of the openings at first-floor level, a sash window and a glazed porch. There is a small rectangular window above, offset to the east and a stone chimneystack in the east gable end. The return west elevation has a boarded opening offset to the north at ground-floor level. At first-floor level there is a flush two-light mullioned window. A rectangular opening to the south is blocked with masonry. The first floor is lit by a narrow window (north) and broader window (south). To the north is a lean-to extension, a blocked opening at basement level and two windows of different sizes. In the rear (north) elevation the extension reaches to first floor level and there are steps up to a doorway on the inner side.

The internal meeting house space is divided by a gallery and partition separating two meeting rooms of unequal size. The larger room to the east has a stand running along the east end with fixed benches with panelled back, and central steps. In front on each side is a fixed bench, the back treated as a balustrade with stick balusters and newels with small ball finials. At the north end of the stand there is a book cupboard with panelled door set in to a blocked window opening. There is also fixed seating with panelling to dado height along the north wall. At the north-west corner of the room there is a stone stair with an altered timber balustrade which has stick balusters, a slender turned newel and an added handrail. The balustrade has been blocked with timber panels. The gallery has a simple balustrade with stick balusters and a plain handrail. Beneath is a partition consisting of two layers of pine shutters which can be dropped down on each side so that the two rooms can be connected. The small meeting room beneath the gallery has three chamfered beams supporting the gallery. There is very simple fixed seating with panelled backs and a blocked fireplace with a plain stone mantel in the west wall.

The stable has been subdivided, probably in the twentieth century, and is said to have had a WC in the rear compartment. There are rough chamfered beams to the ceiling supported by later timber posts. Walls are whitewashed and there is a stone flag floor. A number of blocked openings are in the west wall. The inner wall at the stable entrance has a recess, possibly for a lantern.

2.3. Loose furnishings

There is a large free-standing table of simple construction with turned legs which is reputed to be of early seventeenth century date, however it may be somewhat later in date. A sturdy rustic chair of similar date is said to have belonged to or been used by George Fox. These furnishings are of high intrinsic interest and seem to have been associated with the building for a considerable period, possibly since the inception of the meeting house. In addition there are a number of free standing benches of oak which are probably of nineteenth or early twentieth century date, a probably earlier bench in the smaller room, and a number of painted chairs of differing designs and dates, probably including nineteenth century examples. There is also a large cupboard, possibly of early nineteenth century date, in the gallery.



Figure 3. The seventeenth-century table

2.4. Attached burial ground

The attached burial ground is enclosed by a stone wall with flat copings, probably rebuilt in the twentieth century. A number of headstones have been moved and ranged along the inner sides of the boundary wall. The area was extended in 1823 and in 1875; an indication of the original arrangement is shown in figure 1. A list of interments is held at the Lancashire Record Office, with an approximate date range of 1728 to the 1980s.



Figure 4. Reset marker stones in the burial ground

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The building is situated on the west edge of the Pennine village, set back from Co-operation Street, which leads to access driveways and is mainly used by local traffic. The River Limey runs in a channel to the west of the building. There is a disused nineteenth-century mill to the north. The village developed in a ribbon settlement pattern along the main road to Burnley. The detached burial ground is situated just over a mile away to the south-east on Chapel Hill, at NGR SD 81882 23654 where the walls and entrance arch are listed. These were renewed in 1847.

2.6. Listed status

The meeting house is appropriately listed at grade II* reflecting its early date, in the first generation of purpose-built meeting houses, and the range of early fittings fixtures. The listed building description would benefit from being expanded.

2.7 Archaeological potential

The site was an open field or garden when first acquired in the early eighteenth century, however its position on an ancient packhorse route means that there could be some archaeological potential. The burial ground has archaeological potential.

Part 3: Current use and management

3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: good. The building has been repaired and redecorated following flooding and walls have been cleaned following removal of whitewash. Following a building survey of 2011 works of refurbishment also included treatment of timbers for woodworm and maintenance work to the gutters and chimneys.
- ii) Attached burial ground: Optimal/ generally satisfactory

3.2 Maintenance

There are adequate funds to meet ordinary maintenance needs and a steady income stream from rental of the attached cottage. The building and burial ground have become susceptible to flooding, possibly as a result of recent development in the area. Measures have been taken locally to ameliorate drainage, but it is not known how effective these will be. The meeting is in contact with the appropriate bodies, including the Environment Agency, but has thus far been unable to acquire the necessary paperwork to allow the building to be insured.

3.3 Sustainability

The meeting does not use a Sustainability Toolkit but has implemented measures to reduce its environmental impact. This includes:

- Use of electricity from an environmentally responsible supplier
- Introduction of curtains to reduce heat loss
- Measures are in place for recycling and waste management
- Management of burial ground to encourage wild birds

3. 4 Amenities

The facilities are basic. There is only one WC and very limited kitchen facilities. The presence of lead piping makes it necessary to run water off before use. The heating system is not considered to be adequate.

3.5 Access

The building is accessible, apart from the gallery, on one level. This includes the WC, but the latter is not fully accessible to all wheelchair users. There are no baby change facilities. Hazard tape has been attached to the internal steps to make them more visible to people with poor sight.

There are local transport links by bus. There is limited local street parking, but no parking on site and car-sharing is encouraged. Walking or cycling to the building is encouraged, and bikes can be stored in the former stable.

3.6 Community Use

There is currently no community use of the building and there is not a lettings policy.

3.7 Vulnerability to crime

The area generally has low crime levels but there have been thefts of coping stones from the perimeter wall. There have been problems with noise from the local pub, largely affecting the tenant of the cottage. Contact has been made with the neighbourhood police team.

3.8. Plans for change

There are no current plans for change

Part 4: Impact of Change

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

i) As a meeting house only: The building meets the worship needs of the Meeting, lacks adequate sanitary and kitchen facilities. With appropriate building recording and analysis and the advice of a conservation accredited professional it might be possible to adapt the stable to resolve this. The historic plan form and fixtures should be retained, as well as the older items of free-standing furniture which have probably been associated with the building for a very considerable period.

ii) For wider community use, additional to local meeting use: The lack of good kitchen and toilet facilities militates against wider use, though it would theoretically be possible to accommodate certain community uses, if facilities can be improved.

iii) As a consequence of being laid down as a meeting house and passing into secular use: Closure of this historic meeting house would be very regrettable. In the event of closure great care would need to be taken to safeguard the internal volumes and historic fixtures. It would not be suitable for some uses such as residential without causing harm to the interior. Appropriate measures would need to be taken to manage the burial ground.

Part 5: Category: 1

Part 6: List description

Name: FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

List entry Number: 1361998

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, COOPERATION STREET

County/District	District Type	Parish
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Lancashire	Rosendale District Authority	
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Grade: II*

Date first listed: 07-Jun-1971

Date of most recent amendment: 30-Nov-1984

Details

SD 82 NW RAWTENSTALL COOPERATION STREET Crawshawbooth

2/177 Friends' meeting Rouse 7.6.1971 (formerly listed as Friends' Meeting - House and Cottage adjoining Friend's Meeting House under Crawshaw Booth) 11*

Meeting House, 1715, extended to right 1736, with cottage added at left end 1739. Watershot coursed sandstone (whitewashed), stone slate roof on 2 levels with chimney at right gable of cottage, simple bellcote at gable of Meeting House. Cottage is double-depth, of one bay and 3 storeys; Meeting House is 3 bays and 2 storeys. Gabled porch at junction of 1st and 2nd bays of Meeting House, small recessed 3-light mullioned window to left, 2-light window above, and a flight of external steps to raised cottage door to left; to right, 2 large mullion and transom 6-light windows: all these windows with diamond lattice glazing. Cottage to left has raised deck to altered 1st floor door and window; below this at ground floor is a small stable, and above, at 2nd floor, a small 4-pane sash window. Left return wall has 2 similar windows at the same level and a 2-light mullion window at 1st floor. Rear fenestration of Meeting House matches front. Interior: ante-room in low ground floor of 1st bay (original Meeting House room) has 2 chamfered beams, panelled wall seats, and partition wall in which similar panelling forms downward-opening shutters giving onto the larger Meeting room; this has the same arrangement, with a gallery over the ante-room approached by stone steps and doorway in rear corner, and a panelled wainscot raised up at the east side to form the back to a wall seat up one step.

Listing NGR: SD8107925366