

Quaker Meeting House, Farnham

36 Tilford Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8DL

National Grid Reference: SU 84646 46298



Statement of Significance

The meeting house is a semi-detached house of c.1890 which makes a positive contribution to the streetscape. Overall, it has medium heritage significance.

Evidential value

The fabric of the building may contain evidence about the past, although this is unlikely to be unique. It has low evidential value.

Historical value

Little is known about the history of the house before its acquisition by the Quakers. It has medium historical value.

Aesthetic value

The decorative and little-altered street elevation in particular contributes to the building's architectural interest. It has medium aesthetic value.

Communal value

As a meeting house which is also in community use, the building has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Surrey & Hampshire Border*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0013200*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Waverley Borough Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *South East*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Farnham*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Not listed*
- 1.8 NHLE: *N/a*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *c.1890*
- 1.13 Architect(s): *Not established*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *23 October 2015*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Johanna Roethe*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Michael Gittins*
- 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. 2, p. 589
Local Meeting survey by Michael Gittins, October 2015

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

2.1 Historical background

There was a meeting at Farnham between 1668 and 1712 but there is little information about the meeting house they used. The meeting then lapsed until it was re-established in 1931. In 1945 they bought the current building for £1,925. This building, a house of c.1890, was altered to provide a meeting room with a flat above. Alterations were made in 1965 and 1991. In 2014, a small toilet extension was built at the rear, replacing an earlier extension.

2.2 The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The street elevation faces northeast. The meeting house is a semi-detached house of c.1890. The materials are brick in stretcher bond and a slate roof. The plan is T-shaped, with a two-storey front range and a full-height rear wing. There is a small flat-roofed extension of 2014 at the rear. The main elevation has a two-storey canted bay window; above is a large gabled

dormer with a bargeboard. The northern bay has the entrance porch with a tiled floor and the recessed panelled door, and one window above. The ground floor is plastered; there are vermiculated keystones to the windows and entrance. The first floor has vermiculated quoins. There are two chimney stacks to the side elevation; there is a further stack on the party wall of the rear wing. The roof ridge of the front range has clay ridge tiles. Most windows have been replaced by UPVC, apart from four first-floor sash windows (in the side elevation of the rear wing and the rear and side elevations of the front range).

The staircase (with turned balusters) is set against the party wall. The entrance hall has an arch on corbels with Ionic-style volutes (photo bottom right, p.1). The two ground-floor rooms in the main part of the house now form the meeting room. Both chimneybreasts have been removed in these rooms. The rear wing contains a small meeting room and the kitchen, with toilets in the recent extension. The kitchen contains a blocked chimneybreast. The upstairs flat and the two cellars were not inspected.

2.3 Loose furnishings

None of note

2.4 Attached burial ground (if any)

Not applicable

2.5 The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is located in a residential street near the centre of Farnham. Part of the south side of the street was developed in the 1890s, while the development of the north side was only built up in the 1930s. On both sides there has been in-fill development. The semi-detached house directly to the north (nos. 30-32) was built to the same pattern as 34-36 Tilford Road. The meeting house makes a positive contribution to the streetscape.

2.6. Listed status

The meeting house is not listed and is not considered to be a candidate for the statutory list. It would be suitable for inclusion in the council's local list.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The house was built in c.1890 on a greenfield site. The archaeological potential is considered to be low.

Part 3: Current use and management

See completed volunteer survey

3.1 Condition

- i) Meeting House: Good
- ii) Attached burial ground (if any): Not applicable

3.2 Maintenance

The most recent quinquennial inspection took place about 3 years ago (architects: Nye Saunders). No copy of the report was made available. All the urgent items have been attended to. The meeting has enough money to maintain and repair the building. It has a five-year maintenance and repair plan.

3.3 Sustainability

It is not known if the meeting uses the Sustainability Toolkit. It has implemented measures to reduce its environmental impact. These include the installation of some double-glazed windows. The meeting does not have an Energy Performance Certificate.

3.4 Amenities

The meeting has all the amenities it needs. These are all in the meeting house. There is no resident Warden.

The meeting is accessible by public transport. There is limited parking on site and no secure parking for bicycles.

3.5 Access

The meeting house is accessible to people with disabilities. There is level access into and inside the building, and an accessible toilet. There is no hearing loop and no facilities for partially-sighted people. No Disability Access Audit has been conducted.

3.6 Community Use

Friends use the meeting house for 2-3 hours per week. It is used for an average of 6-8 hours per week. The meeting has a lettings policy. The building is available for hire by self-help groups. As the hire charges are very modest, no free use is granted. Users value the building for its convenient location, warmth, quiet and competitive pricing.

3.7 Vulnerability to crime

There are no signs of general crime or anti-social behaviour at the site. There has been no heritage crime, general crime or other incidents. The locality is generally well-cared for, has low crime levels, low deprivation and high community confidence. There is currently no liaison with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

3.8 Plans for change

The meeting does not have any plans for alterations 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: With the recent completion of the toilet extension, the meeting has all the amenities it currently needs. Should this change, the building could be further extended.

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use: The current use by community groups is relatively low and they have access to all the facilities needed. Should this change, the building could be altered or extended.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting: Should the building cease to be used as a meeting house, it could easily be converted back to full residential use.

Part 5: Category: 3