

**Former Friends Meeting House, Hoddesdon**

Lord Street, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8NE

National Grid Reference: TL 37163 08791



**Statement of Significance**

***A meeting house of 1828/9, designed by William Alderson of Chelsea and built on a new site to replace an earlier meeting house elsewhere in Hoddesdon. The attached burial ground also dates from 1828. The original building is now linked to a hall built in 1929 but the main meeting room has been little altered and still preserves its original character. The site as a whole is of high heritage significance.***

**Evidential value**

***The building was erected on a new site and has been little altered; it is of medium evidential value.***

**Historical value**

***A very well- preserved example of an early nineteenth-century Quaker meeting house by a named Quaker architect and with a burial ground attached; the whole is of high historical value.***

**Aesthetic value**

***The simple Classical exterior of the original building is attractive and the original character of the interior has been very little altered. The building is of high aesthetic value.***

**Communal value**

***The meeting is laid down and the building is out of use, so it currently has no communal value, except as a familiar element in the streetscape.***

**Part 1: Core data**

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Hertford & Hitchin*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0005970*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Borough of Broxbourne*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *East of England*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Hoddesdon NPA*
- 1.7 Listed status: *II*
- 1.8 NHLE: *1100502*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *1828*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *William Alderson of Chelsea*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *19 October 2015*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Gerald Drewett, Ray Bomber*
- 1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *1929 Quaker Hall and caretaker's dwelling adjacent*
- 1.18 Attached burial ground: *Yes*
- 1.19 Information sources:

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol.1, p.260/1  
Colvin, Howard, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*, 4th edn. 2008, p.64  
Stell, C., *An Inventory of Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-houses in Eastern England*, 2002, p.140

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

### 2.1. Historical background

From 1675 onwards, Friends in Hoddesdon hired a hall belonging to the Black Lion Inn for their meetings. In 1697 they built a new meeting house in Marsh Lane (now called Essex Road) with a burial ground attached. The building continued in use for meetings until c1827 when it was sold and converted to two cottages. The cottages were demolished in 1956. A new meeting house was built in Lord's Lane in 1828, with a new burial ground at the rear. The new building was designed by the Quaker architect, William Alderson of Chelsea. In 1929, a small Friends Hall and dwelling were built on a site immediately to the west and in 1978 the hall was linked to the main meeting house through the original west wing. The meeting closed in 2011. There are current proposals for the redevelopment of the Quaker Hall and for adapting the original meeting house for a community use.

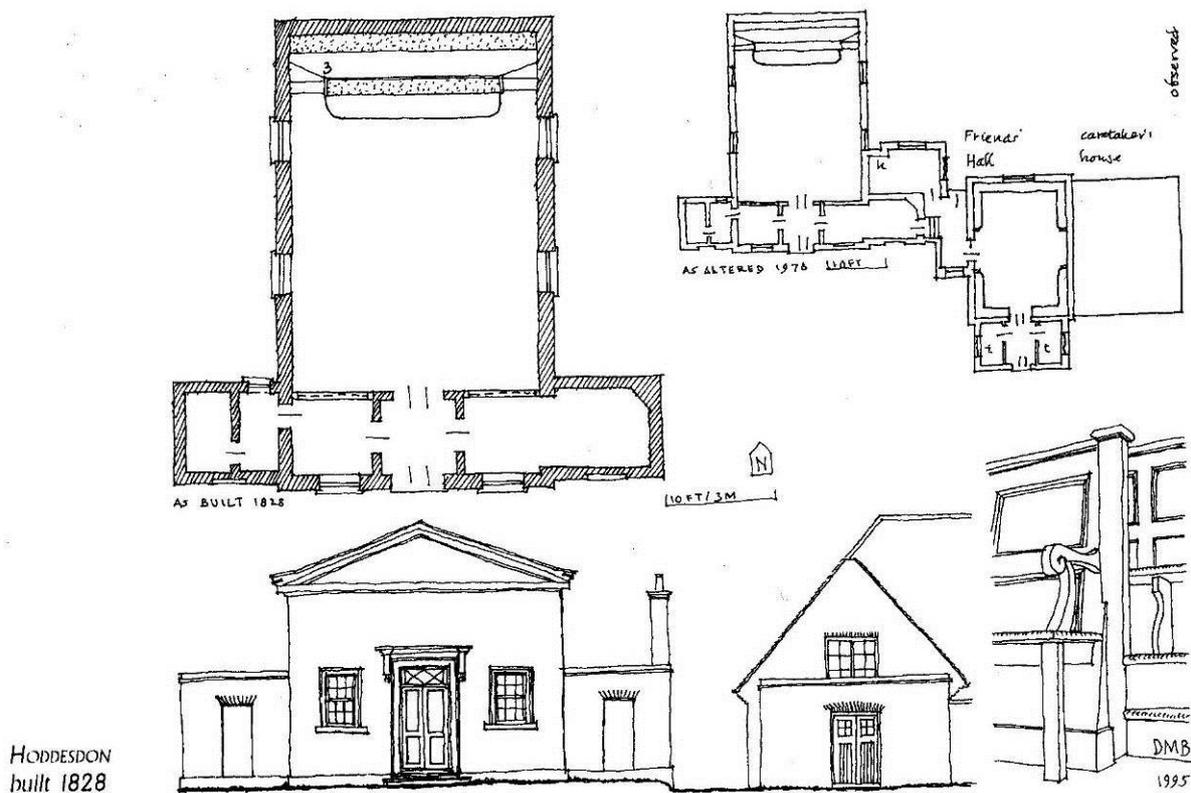


Figure 1: Original plan, existing plan, elevation and detail of elders' stand, from Butler, Vol. 1, p. 261  
(Butler's compass direction is wrong: north is at the bottom of the plan)

## 2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The building is in a simple Classical style and is rectangular on plan, with two small flat-roofed wings flanking the main front at the north end. The walls are of grey/yellow brick laid in Flemish bond; the pitched roof over the main building is covered in Welsh slate. The principal (north) front is capped by moulded stone pediment and is three bays wide with a central entrance up steps, with ornamental iron doorscrapers. The entrance is set under a stone hood on carved brackets and is flanked by pair of straight-headed sash windows. The small side wings (now obscured by vegetation) have blind panels in their north sides. The side and rear walls of the main building are severely plain; the former each have two rectangular openings with sash windows, the latter is blind.

The interior of the main building has survived with relatively little alteration. The main entrance opens into a central lobby between two small retiring rooms. The meeting room beyond has plain plastered walls with a panelled timber dado and a plain moulded cornice. There is a stand across the full width of the south end of the room with a panelled bench across the front. At the north end of the room there are shutters between the main meeting space and the smaller retiring rooms.

The 1929 Quaker's Hall linked to the original west wing of the meeting house is of red brick in a vaguely vernacular style. It is of little architectural interest.

## 2.3 Loose furnishings

The meeting room contains a number of wooden benches which are probably the original furniture.

## 2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

The rectangular burial ground to the rear of the meeting house was established in 1828, replacing an earlier burial ground in Marsh Lane. The brick boundary walls probably also date from the 1820s. There are a number of stone burial markers. The earliest is to Catherine Manser and is dated 1829.

## 2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting stands in a residential street lined with inter-war semi-detached houses.

## 2.6. Listed status

The building is properly listed at grade II. The burial ground walls might be considered to be curtilage structures and covered by the listing.

## 2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The building was apparently built on a new site in 1828 and the burial ground was opened at the same date. The site is of medium archaeological potential.

## **Part 3: Current use and management**

*See completed volunteer survey*

### 3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: The building appears to be in good condition, though unused at present.
- ii) Attached burial ground (if any): Optimal

### 3.2. Maintenance

No information received

### 3.3. Sustainability

No information received

### 3.4. Amenities

No information received

### 3.5. Access

No information received

### 3.6 Community Use

The building is not used at present.

### 3.7. Vulnerability to crime

No information received

### 3.8. Plans for change

Negotiations are apparently well-advanced for the sale and redevelopment of the adjoining Quaker Hall and dwelling and the adapting of the meeting house for community use.

## **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:* the meeting house is currently closed.

*ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use:* the meeting house is currently closed.

*iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House:* the meeting house is currently closed. There are current proposals for a change of use which would involve some alterations to the meeting house building. Listed building consent will be needed for the work. Care should be taken to preserve as much as possible of the special interest of the meeting room interior, which appears to have been little-altered since it was built.

## **Part 5: Category: 2**

## Part 6: List description (s)

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

List entry Number: 1100502

Location

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, LORD STREET

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

County	District	District Type	Parish
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Hertfordshire	Broxbourne	District Authority	
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Grade: II

Date first listed: 07-Sep-1976

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

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 157489

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Details

1. 5251 HODDESDON LORD STREET (south side) Hoddesdon Friends Meeting House TL 3708NW 6a/38 7.9.76

II

2. 1829 yellow/grey brick, stucco dressings. Slate roof, pedimented on N with large, stuccoed mouldings. Central, 2 fold door with oblong, crossed-glazing-bar fan, broad architrave and cornice on Large, leaf-ornamental consoles. Flanking sash windows in moulded frames, 1-storey side bays with recessed panels. Side elevations with 6/6-pane sashes. Cast iron foot-scrappers to front door.

Listing NGR: TL3716308791