

Quaker Meeting House, Jersey

71 La Colomberie, St Helier, Jersey, JE2 4QA

Coordinates: 49.18141°N, -2.09913°E



Statement of Significance

The meeting house was built in 1872 due to the munificence of Arthur Pease. It has medium heritage significance.

Evidential value

The fabric of the building has the potential to reveal more about the history and development of the building. It has medium evidential value.

Historical value

The meeting house dates from the Victorian period and owes its construction to Arthur Pease, a member of the prominent Quaker family. It has high historical value due to this association.

Aesthetic value

The meeting house is a small building which has been altered and extended over time. It has low aesthetic value.

Communal value

The meeting house has been an important part of the life of local and visiting Quakers and the local community. It has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Hampshire & Islands*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0000600*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *States of Jersey*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *N/a*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *St Helier*
- 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): *1872*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Not established*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *21 August 2015*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Johanna Roethe*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Cathy Eglington and Bruce Deane*
- 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. 1, pp. 234-5
Local Meeting survey by Kate de la Mare and Bruce Deane, June 2015

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

2.1. Historical background

Early references to Quakers on Jersey suggest that it may have been a place of banishment for English Friends. In 1742, the meeting was settled. In about 1833, a detached burial ground was bought in Patriotic Street for £85. (This was sold in 1956 and the remains reinterred in Granville Cemetery.) The site of the present meeting house and money to build it were presented in 1872 by Arthur Pease (1837-98) of Darlington. Member of a prominent Quaker family, Pease represented Whitby (1880-85) and Darlington (1895-98) in Parliament. Initially, the meeting house contained a meeting room with a small retiring room, with toilets in the yard behind. A porch may have been added later. In 1973, a small kitchen and a single-storey children's room were built in the yard. In 1982, a Portakabin classroom was installed for £2,500. In 1989, the yard was fully developed with two classrooms, a kitchen and toilets (architect: W.V. Jelley) at a cost of about £55,000. In May

2008, a major refurbishment was completed which included a new timber floor to the meeting room, new drainage, the removal of a suspended ceiling, the installation of roof insulation, the insertion of a small mezzanine floor and the construction of a new porch (architect: Jeremy Barnes of Barnes & Collie, St Helier).

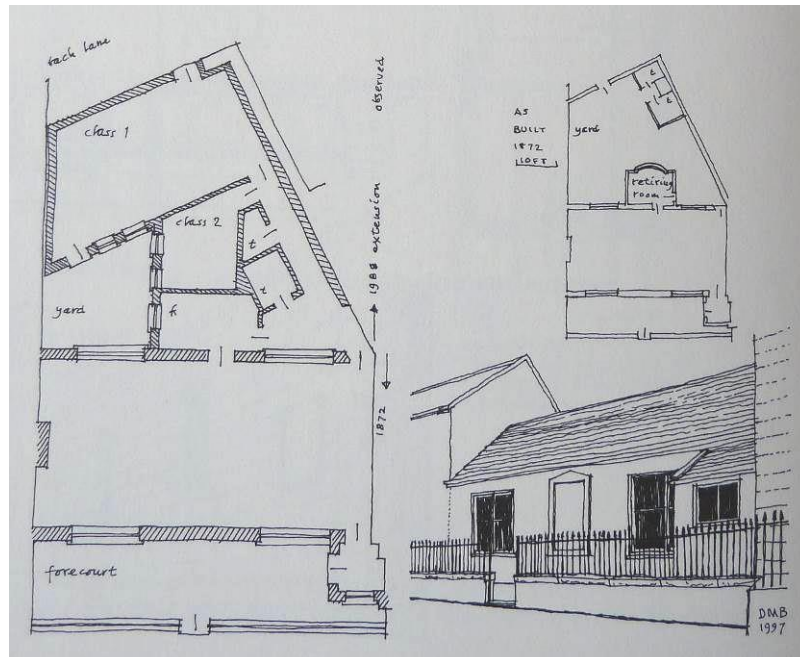


Fig. 1 Plan as in 1997 (left) and as in 1872 (top right), and perspective. (Northeast is at the top of the plans, not to scale) (Butler, vol. 1, p. 234)

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house was built in 1872 and extended in 1989. The plan is oblong with the street elevation facing southwest. To the rear are two ranges of buildings with asymmetrical footprints (containing a kitchen, toilets and two rooms) grouped around a small courtyard. The walls are probably of solid local granite which visible on part of the rear extension (photo top right) with brick arches over the windows but the external walls of the 1872 building are rendered and the front elevation is lined to simulate masonry joints. The pitched roof is covered with slate. There are two modern skylights. The chimney stack at the northeast has been removed above roof level, although the chimney breast survives inside. The 1989 extension is faced in brick in stretcher bond and has flat roofs. Its rear elevation is rendered. The entrance porch of 2008 has a flat roof, a small parapet to the street and clerestory windows to two sides. The street elevation of the meeting house has three windows: a plain sash window with plate glass at the centre flanked by sash windows with sidelights.

The porch leads into a draught lobby and a larger lobby under the mezzanine. The meeting room occupies the remainder of the 1872 building. This is one large rooms open to the roof with three original roof trusses with collar beams. The underside of the roof is panelled in timber. The walls have a panelled dado. On the northwest wall is the chimneybreast (no longer functional) with a corbelled mantelpiece and an arched cast-iron grate. On the opposite wall is the 2008 mezzanine with its stairs; this is a small balcony with a glazed panel in the balustrade. The south wall of the meeting room has French doors with an oblong fanlight to the courtyard, a door into the kitchen, and an internal window of fixed panes mimicking two two-over-two sashes. The floor of the meeting room is of new timber with underfloor heating. The spaces in the extension are lit by windows to the courtyard and by rooflights.

2.3 Loose furnishings

The chairs are all modern. Only the circular table at the centre of the meeting room may be of historic interest.

2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

Not applicable

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is located near the centre of St Helier, at the east end of La Colomberie where residential houses take over from shops. On either side are short two-storey Victorian terraces. The terrace to the east has projecting flues, suggesting the meeting house was built on a site which was to be occupied by a continuation of the terrace. In front of the meeting house is a small forecourt with railings and a gate. Between the gate and the meeting house is a narrow tiled walkway, which possibly once led to a former door in the centre of the street elevation. On either side is a concrete surface and chequerboard paving, both with planters around the perimeter. To the rear of the meeting house is a small access lane with the emergency exit for the building.

2.6. Listed status

The meeting house is not a listed building. Between late 2010 and early 2013, Jersey Heritage (on behalf of the Department for the Environment) undertook a review of the designated and undesignated heritage assets on the island. By June 2015, almost half of the listing assessments had been reviewed and implemented. The meeting house was not identified as being eligible for listing. This assessment is considered to be correct.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

It is not known if there was an earlier building on the site. The building lies outside the St Helier Area of Archaeological Potential. 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 in February 2015 (Andrew Arthur MRICS). Only maintenance issues were highlighted, as well as the need to replace the deteriorating main rear flat roof. None of the recommendations have yet been carried out. The Area Meeting has sufficient money for the maintenance and repair of the meeting house. There is no five-year maintenance and repair plan; instead, these are assessed on a yearly basis.

3.3. Sustainability

The meeting uses the Sustainability Toolkit. It has implemented measures to reduce its environmental impact. These include:

- Climate change & energy efficiency: introduced double glazing throughout in 1989 and 2008

- Resource use, recycling & waste management: kitchen waste recycling, rainwater harvesting for watering the garden
- Building maintenance & refurbishment: use of environmentally friendly decorating materials
- Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation: use of environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Transport: locking facility for bicycles

The meeting does not have an Energy Performance Certificate.

3.4. Amenities

The meeting has all the amenities it needs. They are all in the meeting house. There is no resident warden or Friend.

The meeting is accessible by public transport with bus stops and bus station nearby. There is no on-site parking but a public car park is nearby. There is secure parking for bicycles.

3.5. Access

The meeting house is accessible to people with disabilities. It has level access and an accessible toilet. The hearing loop is currently not working. Facilities for partially sighted people include stair nosings. No Disability Access Audit has been undertaken.

3.6 Community Use

Friends use the meeting house for five hours each week. The building is available for community use for 112 hours per week. On average, it is used by community groups for 29 hours per week. There is no written lettings policy. Users include registered charities, self-help groups and spiritual groups. Alcohol use is not permitted. The meeting house is valued for its good location, convenience, reasonable price and for being a familiar building.

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

There are no signs of general crime or anti-social behaviour at the meeting house. There has been no heritage crime at the site or other crimes or incidents. The area is generally well-cared for, has low crime levels, low deprivation and high community confidence. The meeting have approached the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team for general liaising purposes and is awaiting a response.

3.8. Plans for change

There are no 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 used only by the local Meeting: The meeting has all the facilities it needs and the 2008 refurbishment should preclude any major changes in the near future.

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use: Following the refurbishment of 2008, the meeting house has all the facilities required by its users.

ii) Being laid down as a Meeting: In the unlikely event of closure, a sympathetic reuse, for example as a community centre, would be preferable to demolition.

Part 5: Category: 3