

Quaker Meeting House, Salisbury

51 Wilton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7EP

National Grid Reference: SU 13572 30393



Statement of Significance

The meeting house is a picturesque structure probably built in the 1830s and enlarged in the 1850s. For much of its life the building was a villa but was absorbed into the adjacent hospital in the 1920s and has been owned by Friends since 2003 and converted for Quaker use. The building is listed Grade II and has high overall heritage significance.

Evidential value

The building has been the subject of a very thorough refurbishment and much of the fabric has been renewed but there is still evidence of past functions and the building is of medium evidential value.

Historical value

The development history of the building has not been fully elucidated, despite a heritage study, but is clearly of considerable interest. It may have been built as a lodge, then enlarged into a villa. For at least some of its life, the building was associated with the Fisherton Asylum, a pioneering mental institution. The building has high historical value.

Aesthetic value

The treatment of the main front of the building has obvious links to the cottages ornées popular in the first decades of the nineteenth century and the building is certainly of medium aesthetic value.

Communal value

The building has been used as a Quaker meeting house since 2010, with additional use by local community groups. From the 1920s it was part of the adjacent hospital. The building has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Dorset & South Wiltshire*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0012220*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Wiltshire Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *South West*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Salisbury*
- 1.7 Listed status: *II*
- 1.8 NHLE: *1243327*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *Salisbury*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *mid-nineteenth century, recent alterations 2010*
- 1.13 Architect(s): *Not known; recent work by Philip Proctor Associates*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *11 July 2016*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Ken Smith*
- 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, pp.686/7
Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record, HER no.: DW 19616
The Story of Salisbury Quakers (leaflet)
Local Meeting survey by Ken Smith, April 2016

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

2.1 Historical background

Quakers were active in Salisbury from the 1650s. A meeting house and burial ground were acquired in 1692 and registered in 1702. Another site in Gigant Street was acquired in 1712 for a purpose-built meeting house with a burial ground attached. The meeting was

discontinued in 1826 and the meeting house sold for other uses. The meeting re-opened 1934 and in 1962 Friends bought a house in Rectory Road, which provided a meeting room with a flat above. In 2003 Friends acquired the derelict Kennet Lodge on Wilton Road, which was enlarged and adapted for use as a meeting house with ancillary spaces and a flat above. The new meeting house opened 2010.

Kennet Lodge is a building of two main dates, but its development history is not fully understood. The smaller two-storey eastern section with a bow end to the road was probably built in the 1820s. Its original purpose is uncertain: it may have been a lodge, a toll-house for the adjacent turnpike road or a small picturesque villa. Some time after 1854 it was enlarged by a single-storey addition to the west and is shown on the first Ordnance Survey as Pembroke Lodge, a private house standing in its own grounds. These grounds were adjacent to those of the Fisherton House Asylum, a large private madhouse owned and managed by the Finch family, which later became known as the Old Manor Hospital. In 1923 Pembroke Lodge was purchased by the hospital and used as a convalescent home for ladies. It was later used as staff accommodation and re-named Kennet Lodge. The hospital was absorbed into the NHS in 1954 and closed in 1997. Kennet Lodge then lay empty until it was purchased by the Quakers in 2003. After an extensive refurbishment, the meeting house opened in 2010.

2.2 The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house is a composite structure of at least two main dates, with rendered painted walls and roof-coverings of Welsh slate. At the east end is what was originally a small two-storey freestanding building of the 1830s with a semi-circular bowed front. Freestanding peripteral columns on the ground floor support a jettied and rendered upper storey. On both floors are moulded timber windows with four-centred heads and marginal lights. The original entrance on the east side wall has a pedimented doorway and plain rectangular sashes. To the west is a long single storey range under a simple pitched roof, with a door and window, both with four-centred heads and a large canted bay window. At the west end of this range the external wall is carried up to form a plain parapet enclosing the roof. On the west end wall the parapet with its moulded coping is ramped up and carries three chimneystacks. The face of the parapet is relieved by sunk panels. The rear (south) elevation has a canted bay window and two round-headed full length sashes with glazing bars under a glazed pent roof carried on iron columns. To the right (east) of this roof is a modern brick addition of two storeys.

The main interior spaces are a large entrance lobby filling the centre of the building and the meeting room which occupies the west end. This is a wholly modern space with windows in two sides and skylights in the raised centre of the ceiling.

2.3 Loose furnishings

There are no loose furnishings of heritage interest.

2.4 Attached burial ground (if any)

None

2.5 The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house fronts directly onto the A30 Wilton Road on the western edge of Salisbury, in an area known as Fisherton which has a mixture of large nineteenth-century villas and smaller late-Victorian and modern houses. Next to the meeting house and behind it is the extensive site of the former hospital which has been partly redeveloped with modern medical facilities.

2.6 Listed status

The building is properly listed at grade II. The list entry written in the 1970s needs revision to reflect the new use of the building.

2.7 Archaeological potential of the site

The building was erected on open land at the suburban edge of Salisbury and is unlikely to have any archaeological potential.

Part 3: Current use and management

See completed volunteer survey

3.1 Condition

- i) Meeting House: Good
- ii) Attached burial ground (if any): N/A

3.2 Maintenance

The building was comprehensively refurbished in 2002/3 and is in good condition. There is no regular inspection regime by a qualified person, but members of the Premises Committee review the condition of the fabric annually, most recently in early 2016. The meeting has adequate funds to pay the cost of maintenance.

3.3 Sustainability

The meeting does use the Sustainability Toolkit and has implemented measures to reduce its environmental impact. These include:

- Good insulation, an air-source heat pump for heating and solar panels
- Everything possible is recycled and, where possible, only Fairtrade goods are used
- No chemicals are used in the garden and garden waste is all composted

The Warden's flat has an Energy Performance Certificate. The Energy Efficiency Level is 81, the Energy Impact Level 79.

3.4 Amenities

The meeting has all the amenities it needs. These are all in the meeting house. There is a self-contained flat on the first floor, now rented out for income. The meeting is easily accessible by public transport. There is ample dedicated parking on site as well as secure parking for bicycles.

3.5 Access

The meeting house is accessible to people with disabilities. There is level access, an accessible toilet, and a hearing loop. There are no facilities for partially-sighted people but their provision is currently under review. A Disability Access Audit was conducted in 2012 and most of the recommendations have been implemented.

3.6 Community Use

Friends use the meeting house for about 8 hours per week. The building is theoretically available for community lettings for a maximum number of 240 hours per week. It is used for an average of about 50 hours per week. The meeting has a lettings policy. Users value the building for its competitive pricing, warm and spacious rooms and peaceful atmosphere.

3.7 Vulnerability to crime

There are no signs of general crime or anti-social behaviour at the site. Some years ago there were thefts from parked cars in the evening. Lights were installed in the car park and the thefts have stopped. The locality is generally well-cared for, has low crime levels, low levels of deprivation and high community confidence. There is an established liaison with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

3.8 Plans for change

There are no plans for change at present.

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 change within the building, subject to the constraints of listed building control.

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use: as above there is probably scope for change within the building, subject to the constraints of listed building control.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House: If the meeting were to be laid down, the well-appointed meeting house building has a good location, in an area which is currently undergoing regeneration, and could probably find a suitable alternative use without difficulty.

Part 5: Category: 2

Part 6: List description(s)

Meeting House (former nurses home)

Name: NURSES HOME AT OLD MANOR HOSPITAL

List entry Number: 1243327

Location: NURSES HOME AT OLD MANOR HOSPITAL, WILTON ROAD

District: Wiltshire

District Type: Unitary Authority

Parish: Salisbury

Grade: II

Date first listed: 12-Oct-1972

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

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 447057

1. WILTON ROAD 1594 (South Side) Nurses Home at Old Manor Hospital. SU 1330 9/596 II
2. At east end of hospital complex. Circa 1820-30 formerly a villa. 2 storeys and 1 storey stuccoed. 2 storey part to east has bowed projecting bay with overhanging 1st floor on Tuscan columns facing road. Hipped slate roof curved over bay, flat eaves. Pointed marginal glazed casements, 3 on 1st floor and 1 to ground floor in moulded flush pointed frames. Single storey irregular range to west with low pitch hipped slate roof the wall carried up at west end with parapet with moulded coping. Facing road from left to right: paired sashes in moulded 4 centred arched frame. Door in similar surround with fanlight. Canted wood bay to right later but with similar arched lights. Raised west end 2 windows of similar type, altered. The west front has parapet swept to corners and panelled. 2 camber headed sashes with glazing bars. South front: canted bay window with parapet to left. Central section has 2 round headed full length sashes with glazing bars. Slightly taller 2 window section to right and later 2 storey brick extension far right projecting south. Picturesque front to road.

Listing NGR: SU1357230393