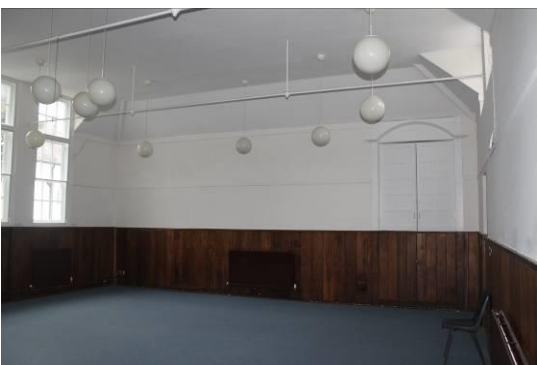


Friends Meeting House, Hampstead

120 Heath Street, London, NW3 1DR

National Grid Reference: TQ 26396 86084



Statement of Significance

The meeting house was built in 1907 to the designs of the Quaker architect Fred Rowntree. The building is an attractive product of the Edwardian Arts & Crafts movement and contains some of the original meeting room chairs. There have been some minor internal alterations but the building is still of high heritage significance.

Evidential value

The building is of medium evidential value. It has suffered some alterations since it was built, and there is doubtless some archaeological evidence of past change.

Historical value

The meeting house was built in 1907, and is one of several meeting houses in North London by Fred Rowntree. It is of medium historical value.

Aesthetic value

The meeting house is an attractive Arts and Crafts design, retaining many external and internal features of note, including chairs by Philip Clisset or his followers. The appearance of the building externally has been little altered but there have been some internal alterations. Despite this, the building is of high aesthetic value.

Communal value

The meeting house is well-used by local groups and is of high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *North West London*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0008610*
- 1.3 Owner: *Six Weeks Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *London Borough of Camden*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *London*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Hampstead NPA*
- 1.7 Listed status: *II*
- 1.8 NHLE: *1378849*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *Hampstead*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *1907*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Fred Rowntree*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *16 October 2015*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Charles Robertson*
- 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 402,403.

The Friend, 1991, p.1332

Local Meeting survey by Charles Robertson, September 2015

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

2.1. Historical background

The meeting was settled in 1898. A proposal to build a meeting house was accepted in 1906 and the site of the former Stamford House in Heath Street, an awkwardly-shaped sloping plot, was purchased in that year. The new meeting house was opened in November 1907. The architect was Fred Rowntree, of Scarborough, a Quaker who was distantly related to the chocolate-making Rowntrees of York and who designed a number of buildings for the Society of Friends including the meeting houses at Golder's Green and Muswell Hill (*qv*). The small size of the site required the accommodation to be on three floors: a large hall in the basement, the meeting room and an entrance lobby on the ground floor and a library above the lobby. The building was thoroughly overhauled in 1991 (architect: John Marsh) and it may have been at this time that the original internal stair was replaced by a modern stair.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

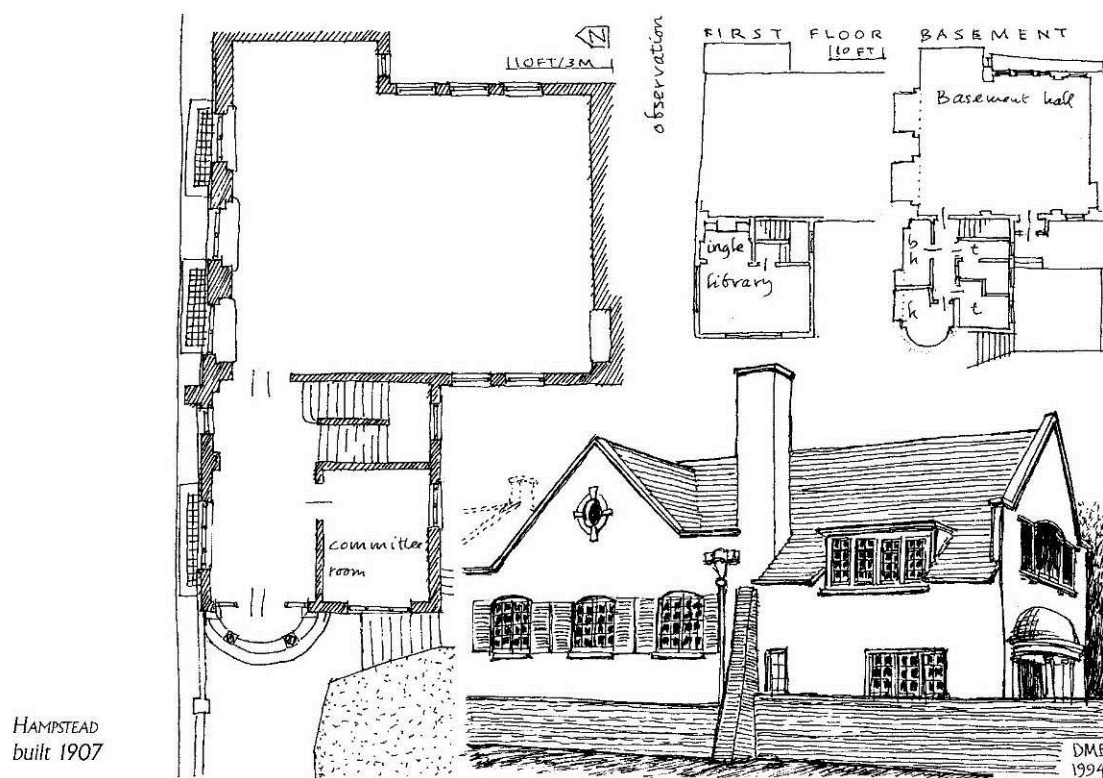


Fig.1 Plans of the building and a perspective view of the north front, from *Butler*, 403

See List Description below. The meeting house comprises a two storey range with a gabled west-facing entrance front to Heath Street and a single-storey range containing the meeting room set at right-angles to the rear. The long north elevation fronts directly onto the narrow street called Hampstead Square. The external walls are faced with stucco. The roofs are covered with tiles. The entrance front has a timber projecting porch with timber Doric columns and a semi-domed roof. To the right is a two-light casement window and above is a four-light casement window with raised segmental centre. On the north elevation the lower part of the wall is bare-faced red brick laid in English bond. At the base of the wall are concrete strips with small inset lights, replacing the grilled semi-basement windows

mentioned in the list description and shown on Butler's plan (fig.1). In the centre of the front rises a tall chimney stack. To the right of the stack are a three-light window on the ground floor and a three-light dormer in the roof. To the left of the stack is the meeting room, which has three segment-headed windows with external shutters, set under a broad gable with an oculus. The east elevation, which is largely concealed from view by other buildings, has three tall windows to the meeting room, with three smaller windows to the basement storey.

From the entrance lobby, a modern stair leads up to the first floor library which has a plain tiled fireplace in a deep segment-headed recess. The main meeting main room on the ground floor has what appears to be a modern vertical-boarded dado, as well as plain-plastered walls and ceiling. There are no fixed furnishings.

2.3 Loose furnishings

There are 15 rush-seated ladder-back chairs (now in the library), which formed part of the original meeting room furnishings. These are said to be by the Victorian Herefordshire chair-maker Philip Clisset, a key figure in the furniture-making of the Arts & Crafts movement. There is also a timber bench in the hall from the Devonshire House meeting house.

2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

None

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The building is slightly set back from the busy Heath Street, with a long elevation to the narrow sloping lane called Hampstead Square.

2.6. Listed status

The building is properly listed at grade II.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The area was partly built-up in the eighteenth century so has medium 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): Not applicable

3.2. Maintenance

Quinquennial inspections are organised by Six Weeks Meeting. The Premises Committee make an annual inspection in accordance with Trustees requirements. No details were supplied of funds available for maintenance.

3.3. Sustainability

The meeting does not use the Sustainability Toolkit but has implemented measures to reduce its environmental impact. These include the following:

- A new efficient boiler, with a more effective thermostat.
- Double glazing in the meeting room.

- Where possible, all waste is recycled

The building does not have an Energy Performance Certificate.

3.4. Amenities

The meeting has all the amenities it needs in the meeting house - a kitchenette and disabled toilet on the ground floor and a larger kitchen and toilets in the basement. There is a resident warden, whose accommodation is within the building.

There is good public transport, seven days a week, by bus and Underground. There is no car parking on site but there is secure storage for bicycles.

3.5. Access

The meeting house is accessible to people with disabilities. There is level access into and inside the building, an accessible WC and a hearing loop. There are no special facilities for partially-sighted people. There has not been a Disability Access Audit.

3.6 Community Use

Friends use the building for about 4 hours per week. The building is available for community lettings for 72 hours per week and is used for approximately 40 hours per week. The meeting has a lettings policy which encourages uses broadly in line with Quaker principles. Quaker-led groups are allowed to use the meeting house for free. Users value the good location and flexible space.

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

There has been no heritage crime and there are no signs of general crime at the site. The locality is generally well cared-for, has low crime levels and low deprivation and high community confidence. There is no liaison with the Local Neighbourhood Policing 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 used only by the local Meeting: scope for future change to the original meeting house is constrained by its grade II listed status.

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use: as above, scope for change in the main building is also constrained by listing.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House: If the meeting were laid down, any new use would have to respect the historic character of the building.

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: 1378849

Location

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 120, HEATH STREET

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

County	District	District Type	Parish
Greater London Authority	Camden		London Borough

Grade: II

Date first listed: 11-Jan-1999

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: 478207

List entry Description

Details

CAMDEN

TQ2686SW HEATH STREET 798-1/16/820 (East side) No.120 Friends Meeting House

GV II

Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting House. 1907. By Frederick Rowntree. Stucco with brick ground floor to left hand return. Tiled gabled roof with tall buttressed chimney-stack on return. Arts and Crafts Free Style. EXTERIOR: 2 storeys and basement. Gabled Heath Street facade with semicircular timber porch of distyle-in-antis columns, their pedestals on the 2nd of 3 stone steps, supporting a deep entablature with copper half-dome; panelled doors, part-glazed with small panes, and brass handles. To right, a transom and mullion window with glazing bars. Similarly detailed Venetian style window at 1st floor level. Left hand return to Hampstead Square with grilled semi-basement windows; left hand gabled bay with 3 2-light square-headed casements in shallow segmental-arched recesses with louvred shutters and a keyed oculus in the apex, all with small panes; right hand bay with a single and a 3-light window and a box dormer breaking through over-hanging eaves, all with glazing bars. INTERIOR: plain with Arts and Crafts detailing. A small lobby leads into a hall with a motif of shallow arches around the walls. 1st floor library with fireplace. HISTORICAL NOTE: Frederick Rowntree was an architect member of the famous Quaker chocolate manufacturing family from Yorkshire, who designed a series of Friends' Meeting Houses around the country. Listing NGR: TQ2639686084