

Friends Meeting House, Hull

Bean Street, Anlaby Road, Hull, HU3 2PR

National Grid Reference: TA 08202 28510



Aerial view from Google Earth



Statement of Significance

The meeting house was originally erected in the 1980s or 1990s as offices for the Hull Probation Service. It was purchased by Friends in 2005 and enlarged and adapted for Quaker use. The building is of low heritage significance

Evidential value

The building is entirely modern and is of low evidential value.

Historical value

The building has some slight interest as the former office of the probation service, but overall is of low historic value.

Aesthetic value

The meeting house is a functional modern building with little (low) aesthetic value.

Communal value

The building has always been used for community purposes and has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Pickering & Hull*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0026110*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Hull City Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *Yorkshire*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Kingston upon Hull*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Not listed*
- 1.8 NHLE: *Not applicable*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *c1980, enlarged c2007/8*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Not known*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *31 March 2016*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *David Ives*
- 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.II pp.709-10
Local Meeting survey, Not returned

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

2.1. Historical background

In 1687 Hull Friends purchased a house and garden in Lowgate Street for use as a meeting house and burial ground. A large new meeting house was built in 1781, possibly on the old burial ground. It was sold to the Oddfellows Friendly Society in 1852 after the Friends purchased a Wesleyan schoolroom for use as a meeting house and also to facilitate Adult School and other work. The success of the schools was so great that in 1880 a new meeting house was built alongside the existing building in Mason Street. The 1880 building was superseded in 1918 by a three-storey Georgian house in Percy Street, which was converted to serve as a meeting house with a flat on the top floor. The 1880 building was later demolished. Butler notes that repairs and improvements were made to the Percy Street

property in the early 1990s but in 2005 the property was sold and Friends purchased the former offices of the Hull probation service in Bean Street, west of the centre. This functional single-storey building dating from the 1980s or 1990s was considerably enlarged in 2007/8 by the addition of halls and a flat for the Warden behind the front range containing the main meeting room

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The building is single-storeyed. The walls are faced with red brick laid in stretcher bond and the shallow-pitched roofs are covered in felt. Fronting the street behind a hedge is a long low range with an off-centre glass-enclosed porch. To the left of the porch are five rectangular windows lighting the main meeting room, to the right are three windows lighting a smaller room. Behind the original front range the building has been much extended. The main meeting room is a simple modern space with a timber floor and plain plastered walls. Other spaces are similar in character.

2.3. Loose furnishings

There are a number of painted benches in the main meeting room and elsewhere which appear to be of mid-nineteenth century date and presumably come from a former meeting house.

2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

None

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

Bean Street lies west of the centre of Hull. At the Anlaby Road end are a few two storey buildings of c1900, some in commercial use, but most of the buildings in the street are post-war houses.

2.6. Listed status

The building is not a candidate for statutory or local listing

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

Low (Humber Archaeology Partnership consulted, no records).

Part 3: Current use and management

See completed volunteer survey

3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: Good
- ii) Attached burial ground (if any): None

3.2. Maintenance

No information

3.3. Sustainability

There are solar panels on one of the roof slopes

3.4. Amenities

The meeting house has all the amenities it needs (several meeting rooms of different sizes, kitchens and toilets)

3.5. Access

The building is of one storey only and there is level access to every part.

3.6 Community Use

No information

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

No information

3.8. Plans for change

No information

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 complex is relatively spacious and probably too large for use by the local meeting alone; it could be readily altered.

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use: The building is already used by the wider community and there is ample scope for alteration if required, subject to planning permission.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House: an alternative use could be found for the building if the meeting were laid down and there would be no heritage constraints to demolition and the redevelopment of the site.

Part 5: Category: 4