

Friends Meeting House, Malton

Greengate, Malton, YO17 7EN

National Grid Reference: SE 78729 71890



Statement of Significance

A large and handsome brick meeting house of 1821/3, replacing an earlier meeting house on a different site in the town but apparently built on an existing walled burial ground, which is still in use. The building is said to incorporate various improvements suggested in William Alexander's Observations on....Meeting Houses, which was published in York in 1820. The building was very well restored in 1993 and contains two large meeting rooms with panelled timber screens. The site as a whole is of high heritage significance

Evidential value

The building was apparently built on part of an existing burial ground. The original interior is substantially intact but there may be evidence of some lost features, like the original hot air heating system. The building is of medium evidential value

Historical value

A very well-preserved example of a substantial early nineteenth century meeting house, which is of high historical value.

Aesthetic value

The plain brick exterior of the building is attractive and the interior of the main building preserves a great deal of its original character. The building is of high aesthetic value

Communal value

The meeting house has been used more or less continuously by Quakers since its opening in 1823 and more recently by other community groups. The building has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

1.1 Area Meeting: *Pickering & Hull*

1.2 Property Registration Number: *0002340*

1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*

1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Ryedale District Council*

1.5 Historic England locality: *Yorkshire*

1.6 Civil parish: *Malton*

1.7 Listed status: *II**

1.8 NHLE: *1291410*

1.9 Conservation Area: *No*

1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*

1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*

1.12 Date(s): *1823; 1993*

1.13 Architect (s): *Not established; Michael Sykes*

1.14 Date of visit: *1 April 2016*

1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*

1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *John Woods*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *Former Caretakers house listed Grade II (see description below)*

1.18 Attached burial ground: *Yes*

1.19 Information sources:

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol.2 pp.745-7
Stell Christopher, *Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting houses in the North of England*,
RCHM, 1994, pp.213-5
North Yorkshire County Heritage Environment Record, SMR number MNY2640
Local Meeting survey by John Woods, January 2016

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

2.1. Historical background

The first record of a Meeting in Malton is in 1671 and in 1677 a building in Spital Street was acquired for a meeting house. This modest structure with a thatched roof survived until 1882 and is recorded in a painting kept in the present meeting house. In 1820 Friends resolved to building a much larger new meeting house, apparently within an existing burial ground, which was opened in 1823. Some aspects of the internal arrangements of the new building, including the division of the rooms and the hot air heating arrangements, were probably influenced by William Alexander's *Observations on....Meeting Houses*, which was published in York three years before. The meeting house was listed in 1951. By the 1980s it was in poor condition and proposals were put forward to demolish the meeting house and build sheltered housing on the site. The building was then upgraded to II* and the demolition proposal was eventually rejected at a Public Inquiry. The building was fully restored in 1991/3 with a large grant from English Heritage

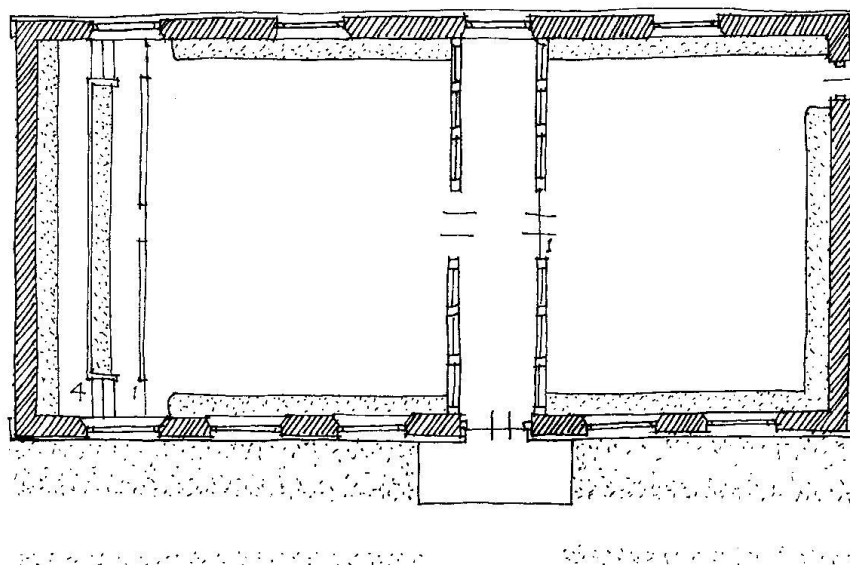


Figure 1: The plan of the main meeting house (omitting the original small side wings),
Butler, Vol. 2, p. 746. North is at the top

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house is a large plain structure of one tall storey. It is rectangular on plan and has a shallow-pitched roof hipped at both ends. The external walls are of brindled local brick laid in Flemish bond with a plain stone plinth and a moulded timber cornice; the main roof is covered in Westmoreland slate. The south front facing the burial ground is six bays wide with a wide entrance in the fourth bay from the left. Above the entrance door is plain sunk panel. The three bays to the left of the entrance and two bays to the right have large rectangular windows with 12/12 small-paned timber sashes. Below the windows is a

continuous un- moulded stone cill-course. The east and west side walls are blind but have lower extensions with central doors flanked by 6/6 sash windows and monopitch roofs. Though much restored, these extensions are original (they are shown on a plan of the building dated 1824) and contained a library and WCs. The rear wall of the main building, which fronts a narrow passage, has four tall windows with 12/12 sashes.

The main entrance leads directly into a cross-passage with full-height timber screens of raised and fielded panelling on both sides. Mounted on the panelling are rows of timber hat-pegs. The passage is spanned by a timber bridge with a timber handrail. The date and original purpose of this bridge is unclear. It may relate to an earlier internal arrangement, though there is no indication that there were ever galleries.

On the west side of the passage is the main meeting room, with three windows on the south side and two on the north. The room has a dado of painted timber panelling, with perimeter benches. The dado ramps up at the west end for the elder's stand, which has a panelled front with a delicate timber handrail. The plain plastered walls rise to a simple moulded cornice and the flat plaster ceiling has a central circular ventilator. The smaller or Women's meeting room is raised one step above the passage. The internal decoration is similar to the large meeting room but there is no stand. The plan of 1824 shows that there was originally a flue running below both meeting rooms with vents for supplying hot air from a basement furnace in the east wing. The original boiler for the underfloor heating still exists *in situ*.

2.3. Loose furnishings

There are no loose furnishings of heritage interest

2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

The meeting house stands on the north side of a large rectangular burial ground, fronting Greengate to the south and with tall brick walls on all sides. According to the statutory list (see below) the east and west walls date from the 18th century. The south wall to the street has a wide central entrance with a stone lintel inscribed on the north side ANNO DOMINI 1823. There many grave markers, mostly dating from 1825-1925 and now all laid flat. The burial ground is now maintained as a garden, with several large mature trees. At the south west corner is a small cottage, built c1823 as the caretaker's cottage. The property is currently in separate ownership, but the Area Meeting is in the process of repurchasing the cottage now that the owners wish to sell.

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

Malton meeting house lies on the northern edge of the old town centre. Immediately facing the meeting house is a modern commercial building but the area is largely residential area with a mixture of old and modern housing.

2.6. Listed status

The meeting house and boundary walls are properly listed at Grade II* and the caretaker's house is properly listed at Grade II

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

North Yorkshire County consulted, SMR number MNY2640. The building and burial ground lie on the northern edge of the old central area and should be considered of high archaeological potential.

Part 3: Current use and management

3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: Good
- ii) Attached burial ground (if any): Optimal. The ground is cared for by volunteers

3.2. Maintenance

The last Quinquennial Inspection report was carried out in 2015 by a suitably-qualified person. The building was found to be generally in good condition, with some maintenance requirements, which have mostly been attended to. The chief concern was the removal of asbestos. The local meeting has enough money to maintain and repair the interior; external works are the responsibility of Area meeting. The meeting does not have a 5-year management plan.

3.3. Sustainability

The meeting does not use the Sustainability Toolkit, but has implemented several measures to reduce environmental impact. These include the installation of secondary glazing, new boilers and a draught lobby at the entrance. The building does not currently have an Energy Performance Certificate but the meeting would consider obtaining one.

3.4. Amenities

The meeting has all the amenities it needs in the meeting house - including two meeting rooms of different sizes, two kitchens and four toilets. There is no resident warden.

The meeting house is in central Malton. The town has a railway station and there is a daily bus service. There is some on-site car parking but no secure storage for bicycles.

3.5. Access

The building is single-storeyed and there is level access to all rooms. There is an accessible WC, a hearing loop and aids for partially-sighted people. A Disability Access Audit has not been carried out.

3.6 Community Use

Friends use the building for 2 hours per week. The building is available for community lettings for a maximum number of 80 hours per week (2 rooms) and is used for approximately 20 hours per week. The meeting has a lettings policy. No smoking, alcohol or gambling is permitted. Users value the meeting house because the rooms are well-priced and quiet.

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

There has been no general crime or heritage crime at the site. The locality is generally well cared-for, has low crime levels, low deprivation and high community confidence. There is no liaison with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team and the matter has not been considered.

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: there is very little scope for significant change within the main part of the meeting house building because of Listed Building constraints.

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use: as above, there is little scope for alterations, because of listed building constraints.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House: If the meeting were laid down, the high listing grade would probably limit the range of suitable alternative uses.

Part 5: Category: 1

Part 6: List description (s)

Name: **MALTON MEETING HOUSE AND ATTACHED WALLS BOUNDING QUAKER BURIAL GROUND**

List entry Number: 1291410

Location

MALTON MEETING HOUSE AND ATTACHED WALLS BOUNDING QUAKER BURIAL GROUND, GREENGATE

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

County: North Yorkshire

District: Ryedale

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Malton

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II*

Date first listed: 29-Sep-1951

Date of most recent amendment: 05-Apr-1993

List entry Description

MALTON

SE780715 GREENGATE 801-1/8/40 (North side) 29/09/51 Malton Meeting House and attached walls bounding Quaker Burial Ground (Formerly Listed as: GREENGATE (North side) Friends' Meeting House. Cemetery & Cemetery Perimeter Walls to the S)

GV II*

Quaker meeting house, and attached walls bounding burial ground on north, south, east and west sides. Meeting House dated 1823. Wall to south of burial ground dated 1823; C18 walls surviving from earlier Meeting House garden to east and west; walls to north C20. Meeting House of pink and cream mottled brick in Flemish bond, on sandstone plinth; sandstone dressings, and timber cornice to hipped slate roof. South wall to burial ground of pink and cream mottled brick in English bond; walls to east and west of orange-red brick in English garden-wall bond; stone copings and dressings. Meeting House: one tall storey of 6 bays. Right of centre double doors with 2 grooved panels, 2 raised panels and 2 glazed panels; blocked square opening with stone sill above doors. Remaining windows are 24-pane sashes, 2 to right of doors, 3 to left, over continuous sillband. All openings have flat arches of gauged brick. Scrolled, wrought-iron gas bracket over door. Moulded eaves cornice encircles building. Rear: four 12-pane fixed light windows with flat arches, over sillband. Left and right returns: single, external, square-section chimney stack in centre of each wall. INTERIOR: 2 rooms separated by a passage with panelled shutters on each side, designed to be opened up to form one single large meeting room. Fielded panel doors with original fittings. Overhead gallery with turned column balusters. Room to left: raised and fielded dado panelling. Fitted benches to 3 sides: fourth side has dais behind panelled partition carrying balustrade of short turned column balusters and moulded rail. Passage and both meeting rooms have cast-iron ceiling vents in moulded circular surrounds. Datestone over lintel of main door inscribed: ANNO DOMINI 1823. The plain design of the meeting house, incorporating the acoustic shuttering in the entrance passage, is influenced by William Alexander's *Observations on ... Meeting Houses* (York, 1820), and represents a notable advance in the design of such buildings. Walls to burial ground: wall to south approx 30m long and 6m high has square-arched gateway with monolithic lintel containing cast-iron double gates with spearhead finials. Inner face of lintel inscribed: ANNO DOMINI, 1823. Towards right end is a board door beneath monolithic lintel, giving access to No.21, former caretaker's house (qv). West wall approx 30m long, east wall approx 23m long; both walls varying in height from approx 5m and stepped up in places. Flat coping to all walls. Attached to west wall are 2 slate slabs recording cremations between 1948-1972 & 1968-1990 respectively. Part of west wall collapsed.

Listing NGR: SE7872971890

Selected Sources

Books and journals

Alexander, W, *Observations on Meeting Houses*, (1820)

Name: **CARETAKER'S HOUSE TO MALTON MEETING HOUSE**

List entry Number: 1219516

Location

CARETAKER'S HOUSE TO MALTON MEETING HOUSE, 21, GREENGATE

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

County: North Yorkshire

District: Ryedale

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Malton

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 05-Apr-1993

List entry Description

MALTON

SE780715 GREENGATE 801-1/8/39 (North side) No.21 Caretaker's House to Malton Meeting House

GV II

House. 1823, with later alteration and extension. Pink and cream mottled brick in stretcher bond, with slate roof and right end brick stack. 2-storey 1-window front; entrance in left return, through doorway in wall of adjacent Quaker burial ground (qv). Windows on both floors of Greengate front are 4-pane sashes with stone sills, beneath cambered arches. Raised 2-course eaves band. Left return: 2-storey 2-window gable wall. Renewed door of 6 raised-and-fielded panels in centre, beneath projecting 1st-floor extension on posts. Tall narrow sash window with stone sill to right, and similar window on first floor, to left of extension. Door and ground floor window have cambered arches. Formerly caretaker's house to the adjacent Malton Meeting House (qv).

Listing NGR: SE7874271873