

Friends Meeting House, Monyash

Chapel Street, Monyash, DE45 1JJ

National Grid Reference: SK 14993 66703



Statement of Significance

The building is an early example of a meeting house which retains the essentials of what is probably the early eighteenth-century plan, interior elements and exterior appearance, with evidence for earlier origins. The extensions are also of interest, and there is special historical significance in the association with John Gratton.

Evidential value

The building and its extensions demonstrate a changing building history which probably has its origins with a seventeenth-century building, successively altered and augmented for use by the Quakers. The position of the building and nature of the plot it occupies relates to the medieval layout of the village and there is high evidential value.

Historical value

The building is of special interest as an early eighteenth century meeting house. The association with John Gratton gives additional historical value, since he was a prominent Quaker preacher and writer, and for the manner in which his life illustrates the religious turmoil of the seventeenth century. There is high historical value.

Aesthetic value

The building is of modest nature with vernacular characteristics, giving it medium- high aesthetic value

Communal value

There is currently relatively low communal value, but the building has a history of serving the community and there is an aspiration to return it to community use. The communal value is low with potential for medium or high value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Nottingham and Derbyshire*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *00000*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Peak District National Park*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *East Midlands*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Monyash*
- 1.7 Listed status: *II*
- 1.8 NHLE: *1334920*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *Monyash*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*

1.12 Date(s): *probably late seventeenth century with eighteenth century rebuilding and later extensions.*

1.13 Architect (s): *Not established*

1.14 Date of visit: *15 November 2015*

1.15 Name of report author: *Clare Hartwell*

1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Alison Gray*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *Attached cart shed, attached extension possibly a stable*

1.18 Attached burial ground: *Yes*

1.19 Information sources:

Stell, C., *Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting-houses Derbyshire (RCHME 1986)*, p. 52-3

Butler, D. M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999),

Peak District National Park Authority, 'Monyash Conservation Area Appraisal' December 2011

Richard L. Greaves, 'Gratton, John (1642/3–1712)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/11305>, accessed 4 Dec 2015] John Gratton (1642/3–1712): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/11305

Hartwell, C., Pevsner, N. & Williamson, E., *The Buildings of England Derbyshire* (Yale University Press, London and New Haven, forthcoming).

Grey, A, Volunteer Form February 2016

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

2.1. Historical background

John Gratton (1642-1712) was a prominent Quaker preacher and writer who was born in Bonsall in Derbyshire and moved to Monyash in c. 1668 where he formed or joined a Baptist congregation. He became disillusioned with Baptist doctrine and in 1671 he experienced what he identified as a Pauline conversion while riding to Sheldon, in which the Quakers were revealed to be his people. Gratton travelled all over Britain to spread the message and was imprisoned for his beliefs in Derby. He wrote several books, including a spiritual autobiography. The exact circumstances of the foundation of the present meeting house in Monyash are obscure. Some sources identify it as Gratton's own cottage left to the Friends on his death in 1712, other sources state that he sold the Monyash property before moving to Nottinghamshire. In any event there is a strong historical association with Gratton and his mission. The Monyash monthly meeting was effectively independent from 1668-1735; thereafter it became part of the Chesterfield monthly meeting. Use as a meeting house discontinued in 1892, but the building remained in the ownership of the Society. It was turned to different uses during the twentieth century, acting variously as a shop, potato store and a more recently as a youth club. A phase of consolidation and restoration began in the early twenty-first century.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The building consists of four separate elements, probably of different dates, but the precise building history has not been retrieved. The meeting house itself is probably the earliest element, with extensions to the east and to the west. The appearance and certain elements of the main building tends to support a seventeenth century date, probably with major reconstruction in the eighteenth century. It is of roughly coursed limestone rubble, with dressings of gritstone and other dressings of what appears to be sandstone. The main roof is slated, stone flags are used for the extensions. The building is of single volume with a gallery and is of rectangular plan. The principal elevation faces south. There are obvious signs of disturbance in the stonework, suggesting alteration and possibly the raising of the roof line. To the east a tall window with an ashlar gritstone surround with hooks for shutters and modern joinery lights the main meeting room. To the west an upper mullioned window with a surround of similar ashlar lights the upper part of the gallery. A window to the ground floor below is also mullioned, of differing stone, and the stonework suggests that it is a modification or replacement of an earlier opening. Both these windows have iron stanchions and lattice leaded lights incorporating some panes of crown glass. A door in the extreme west side has an ashlar lintel. The north wall of the building is without windows, and abuts with a neighbouring property. The extension to the east end is a very simple structure of coursed rubble, gable-end to the street, with a single offset door as the only opening. Butler identifies it as a former stable. On the west side of the meeting house there is a low extension, said to have been a coal store, and an attached open-fronted shed with plain cast-iron columns along the open side, which probably acted as a stable or cart shed. This building has a timber roof incorporating sawn timbers probably of nineteenth century date and re-used timbers possibly of seventeenth or eighteenth century date. Carpenters' marks are visible on some of these timbers.

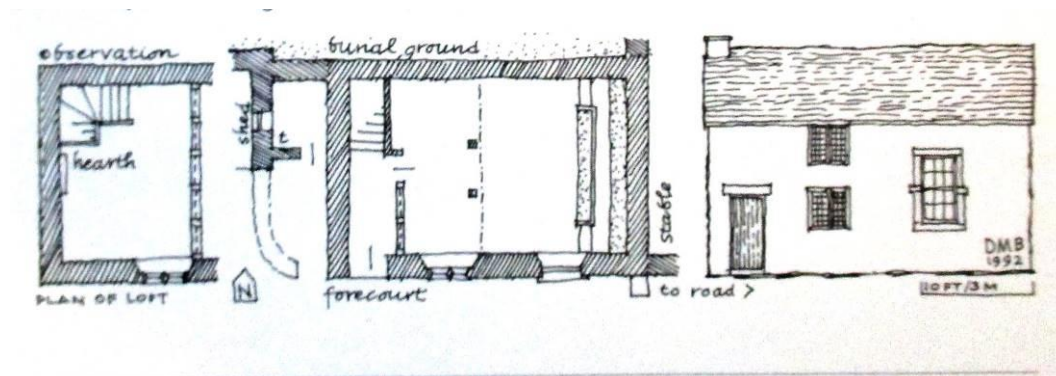


Figure 1. Plan and principal elevation (Butler)

The interior of the meeting house consists of an open space with a deep gallery extending into it. The gallery is supported by a roughly chamfered timber beams lodged on stone corbels. There is an opening in the east wall communicating with the extension on this side, which is without other identifiable internal features. At the west end of the main meeting room there is a doorway to the WC which is situated in the low extension, and access to a stair up to the gallery. This stair is of timber and appears to be of nineteenth or twentieth century date. The gallery is completely closed in by crude shutters, probably of eighteenth century date, which can be removed to give views into the main meeting room. The upper space has a small fireplace with plain lintel possibly of eighteenth or nineteenth century date. The roof space is ceiled in; visible timbers suggest it is of traditional tie-beam type and a number of re-used timbers were found to have been incorporated when the roof was repaired.

2.3. Loose furnishings

There are two very crude wooden benches of unknown date and origin and some modern chairs.

2.4. Attached burial ground

The burial ground is attached to the rear and has a number of standing headstones. It is surrounded by dry stone walls and there are mature trees nearby. The burial ground is still in use, mainly for the burial of ashes, and the most recent headstone is dated 1935.



Figure 2. The burial ground

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house occupies a plot off Chapel Street, one of Monyash's four main thoroughfares, and is aligned at right-angles to the street, forming part of an attractive historic village scene.

2.6. Listed status

Listed grade II.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

There is a Historic Environment Record entry for the building (10273 – MDR 11865) but no find spots or archaeological remains are recorded. Monyash has medieval origins and probably represents a shrunken settlement. The buildings and the plot occupied conform with an identifiable pattern of crofts and strip fields running from the main streets. The area may therefore be associated with medieval remains or settlement patterns with high archaeological potential.

Part 3: Current use and management

See completed volunteer survey

3.1. Condition

- i) Meeting House: Poor. The building is weatherproof.

ii) Attached burial ground: Generally satisfactory but with minor localised problems.

3.2. Maintenance

A programme of repair and maintenance was instituted following professional surveys undertaken in 2002 and in 2009. These included restoration and repair of the roof, with a grant from the Peak Park Authority, installation of new rainwater goods, and installation of fire extinguishers. In 2008-10 damaging modern plaster was replaced with lime plaster, work funded by a grant from the Historic Chapels Trust. Rewiring work has taken place and various works to the grounds and burial ground, included improvement of drainage, tree management and boundary wall repairs.

While care has been taken to ensure that the basic envelope is in repair, works of completing plastering, repairing the gallery floor and installation of services are still required. A basic WC and washbasin were installed in the past year. The last QI took place in December 2014 and no works have been undertaken since that time.

3.3. Sustainability

There are no active measures for sustainability in place as the building is not in regular use and repairs and refurbishment are not complete.

3.4. Amenities

The only amenities are a WC and hand basin which were installed in the past year.

3.5. Access

Level access is obtainable, with street parking nearby, but the gallery is not accessible and the toilet is not accessible for the less able.

3.6. Community Use

The building has been used for various community activities in the past, but owing to its condition it is only in informal use at present while repairs are pending.

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

This is a low crime area and there are no reports of crime or anti-social behaviour affecting the building.

3.8. Plans for change

There are long term plans to complete the restoration of the building and possibly to establish a community resource.

Part 4: Impact of Change

4.1. To what extent is the building amenable or vulnerable to change?

Summary addressing scenarios below:

i) As a meeting house used only by the local Meeting: The building has not been used for meetings for some years and there are no plans to return it to use by the meeting

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local meeting use: The present condition of the building and lack of amenities mean that it is not suited to general use, however it has the potential for return to a community use.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House: The building has in effect been laid down, however it would be possible to adapt it for community use.

Part 5: Category: 2

Part 6: List description

Name: **QUAKER CHAPEL**

List entry Number: 1334920

QUAKER CHAPEL, CHAPEL STREET

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

County: Derbyshire

District: Derbyshire Dales

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Monyash

National Park: PEAK DISTRICT

Grade: II

Date first listed: 27-Jul-1984

List entry Description

SK 16 NW PARISH OF MONYASH CHAPEL STREET 5/144 (West Side) Quaker Chapel II

Cottage, converted c1711 into Friends Meeting House, enlarged mid C19, now Sunday school. Coursed limestone. Limestone and gritstone dressings. Plain tile and stone slate roof. Brick gable end stack. Two storey with single storey additions. Plank door with large lintel to west. Recessed and chamfered 2-light mullion window to east with original iron bars. Leaded lights. Beyond, tall glazing bar sash in limestone surround, with original shutter hinges. Above mullioned window, a 2-light flush mullion window with C20 leaded lights. Single storey stone slate addition to east with no openings. To rear, stone slate addition open to south, supported by cast iron columns. Interior of building has gallery to west and south.

Listing NGR: SK1499366703