

Quaker Meeting House, Sheringham

14 Cremer Street, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8DZ

National Grid Reference: TG 15987 43214



Statement of Significance

The building has overall low heritage significance as a simple small meeting house built in 1963, well-designed by its architect whose later additions have enhanced its architectural interest.

Evidential value

As a relatively modern building erected on a greenfield site, the meeting house has low evidential value.

Historical value

The Sheringham meeting is fairly recently-established and its meeting house has little historical value.

Aesthetic value

This is a thoughtfully-designed and interesting little building, which has been enhanced by later additions. It is certainly of some aesthetic value.

Communal value

As a place of public worship which is also used for some community activities, the meeting house has some communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Norfolk and Waveney*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0009110*
- 1.3 Owner: *Friends Trusts Ltd*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *North Norfolk District Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *East of England*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Sheringham*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Not listed, not locally listed*
- 1.8 NHLE: *N/a*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *1963, 1987*
- 1.13 Architect(s): *Peter Codling*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *26 June 2014*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*
- 1.16 Name of contact made on site: *Sheila Goldsmith*
- 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, p. 456

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

2.1 Historical background

According to Butler, a meeting was settled in 1947 in the home of Emma Pegg, which in 1956 moved to a hired hall. A site with an existing house and some open land was later purchased for a new meeting house, which was designed by local architect Peter Codling in a modern style and opened in 1963. The existing house was retained. An extension for a children's classroom which was also designed by Peter Codling was apparently added in 1987 (the building itself is dated 1963). The main entrance to the meeting house was originally on the

right return gable end, away from the street but in 1999 a new entrance was provided to the street frontage, with a substantial new porch and an access ramp from the pavement.

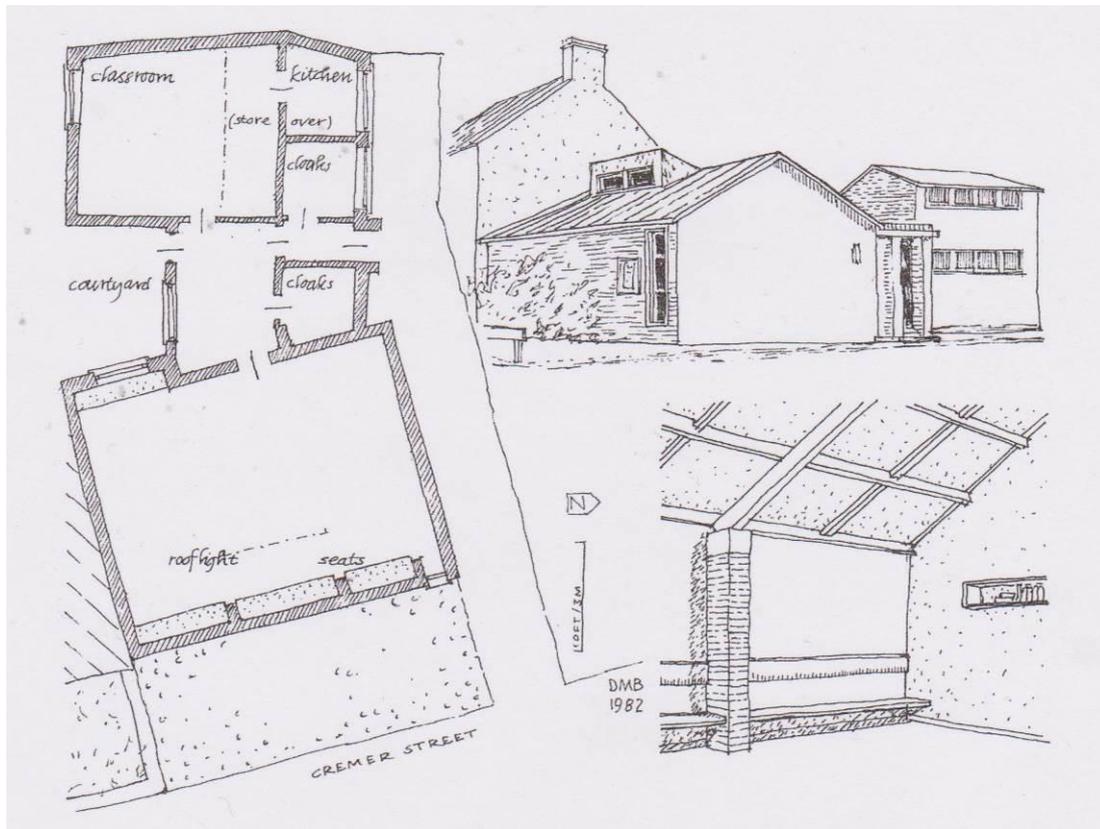


Fig.1: Ground floor plan of the meeting house and classroom before the addition of the new porch and access ramp on the street front. (Butler (1999), vol.1,p.456)

2.2 The building and its principal fittings and furnishings

The meeting house is a simple building on a rectangular plan lying parallel to the street, originally set behind a small front garden, with a side entrance. The walls are faced in brown brick laid in stretcher bond, a pitched roof covered in copper sheet. On the street front is a full-width entrance lobby with a front which is part concrete and part-glazed under a monopitch roof, added in 1999. It is a dramatic solution to the need for an access ramp which rises across the front of the porch. At the rear is a single storey link to the classroom block, which is two storeys in front and single-storeys at the rear towards the garden. The walls are faced in banded brickwork with the date 1963 worked in pebbles. The pitched roof is covered in copper.

The interior of the meeting house is a simple space with a parquet floor, walls part plastered and part bare-faced brickwork, and top-lighting from a skylight between the laminated timber roof beams.

2.3 Loose furnishings

None of note

2.4 Attached burial ground

Not applicable

2.5 The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house fronts a quiet suburban street, lined with modest two-storey late nineteenth and twentieth-century houses.

2.6 Listed status

The building is not listed, is not included in a local list and does not stand within a conservation area. It is an attractive and original modern building but is probably not a candidate for national or local lists.

2.7 Archaeological potential of the site

It seems unlikely that the site, which is on the outskirts of Sheringham, has any archaeological potential.

Part 3: Current use and management

[Volunteer survey not received]

3.1 Condition

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

3.2 Maintenance

Information not received

3.3 Sustainability

Information not received

3.4 Amenities

Information not received

3.5 Access

Information not received

3.6 Community Use

Information not received

3.7 Vulnerability to crime

Information not received

3.8 Plans for change

Information not received

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 space is modern, simple and uncluttered and could doubtless be adapted to a different internal arrangement if required.

ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use: the building is already used for both worship and secular functions.

iii) Being laid down as a Meeting: the building could doubtless serve a wholly secular purpose without undue loss of character.

Part 5: Category: 4