

Swarthmoor Hall

Swarthmoor Hall Lane, Ulverston, LA12 0JQ

National Grid Reference: SD 2818677293



Statement of Significance

Swarthmoor Hall has exceptional heritage significance as the historic home of the Fell family, and for its close association with the early Quaker movement led by George Fox and Margaret Fell. The house built in c1586 retains many historic features externally and internally, and now houses an important collection of furniture and artefacts, some associated with Fox and the Fells. The south and east ranges contain the most significant fabric and spaces; the 1914 extension is less important. The historic farmyard setting has been altered since the 1960s with the loss of the large barn; one small historic barn survives

south of the hall which has medium significance. The rural setting, gardens and site layout contribute to the significance of the place as a whole.

Evidential value

The hall has exceptional evidential value for the historic fabric which incorporates several phases from the late sixteenth century onwards. The barn has medium evidential significance. The site as a whole has high archaeological potential relating to buildings on the site that have been demolished.

Historical value

The site is closely associated with the beginnings of the Quaker movement, as the home of the Fell family and briefly of George Fox, who married Margaret Fell in 1669. The plan-form and internal features of the core of the hall reflect its original domestic use. Emma Clarke Abraham extended and restored the hall after 1912 and it has been owned by the Friends since 1954. The hall and the collection have exceptional historical value, and the barn and site as a whole have high value.

Aesthetic value

The hall is a good example of a late sixteenth and seventeenth century yeoman house, constructed in local materials following Cumbrian vernacular traditions. The exterior, principal interior spaces and historic fittings such as the staircase have high aesthetic value. Although the farm buildings have been altered and the large barn was demolished in the 1960s, the attractive gardens, remaining barn and rural setting add to its aesthetic significance.

Communal value

The hall has exceptional communal value as a centre of Quaker heritage, and is also well-used by the wider community and visitors to the southern Lake District. In Quaker ownership since 1954, rooms in the buildings are available for residential and community lettings, the hall is open as a museum and there is a cafe. The place makes a positive contribution to the local area.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Swarthmoor*
- 1.2 Land Registry Title Numbers: *CU201528 and CU203532*
- 1.3 Owner: *Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *South Lakeland District Council*
- 1.5 Civil parish: *Ulverston*
- 1.6 Historic England locality: *North West*
- 1.7 Listed status: *II**
- 1.8 NHLE: *1270174*

- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *c1586; 1912*
- 1.13 Architect(s): *Not identified; Frank Gray Wallis*
- 1.14. Date of site visit: *22 June 2016*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Marion Barter*
- 1.16 Names of contacts made on site: *Jane Pearson*
- 1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *Swarthmoor Meeting House*
- 1.18 Attached burial ground: *No*
- 1.19 Bibliographic references:

The Life and History of Swarthmoor Hall, 2016 (guidebook)

Arthur Kincaid, *The Cradle of Quakerism, Exploring Quaker Roots in North West England*, 2011

M. Hyde and N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Cumbria*, p630

Mary Mason, *Childhood Days at Swarthmoor Hall*, 2011

Isobel Ross, *Margaret Fell*, Sessions Book Trust, 1984

Angus Winchester, *Swarthmoor Hall History and Tradition: the Making of a Quaker Mecca* in Lancaster University Centre for North West Regional Studies, Regional Bulletin new Series No 10, summer 1986, pp24-33

Greenlane Archaeology, *Swarthmoor Hall, Archaeological Excavation*, July 2012

The Swarthmoor Hall Historian, Volumes 1 (nd), 2 (winter 2012), 3 (nd), and 4 (nd) (unpublished)

Barrow Archives, Plans and drawings for Swarthmoor Hall, 1913 and 1914 (BDSH/30/4)

Friends House Library, A draft of the part of Swarthmoor Hall Estate bought for Capt James Lindow, c1860 (Abraham MSS, MS Vol 364 item 52)

Historic prints, paintings and photographs, Swarthmoor Hall collection

<http://www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk/>

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

2.1. Historical background

The date Swarthmoor Hall was first built is traditionally given as 1586, the date that George Fell, father of Judge Thomas Fell built the house. The estate formed part of

the Neville Hall estate and Fell was initially a tenant. The character and details of the core of the building are consistent with the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century. The hall originated as the house of a high status yeoman farmer, with ancillary agricultural buildings arranged around a yard. The hall is noted as the home of Judge Thomas Fell and his wife Margaret, influential figures in early Quakerism; George Fox first stayed here in 1652 during his travelling ministry in the North and the Fells gave him significant support during the early years of the Quaker movement. Judge Thomas Fell died in 1658. Margaret Fell and Fox married in 1669, but Fox did not live here for more than a total of four years before his death in 1691, due to his travelling ministry and periods in prison. Meetings for worship were held here before the meeting house at Swarthmoor was built in 1668. Margaret Fell died in the house in 1702 and is buried at Sunbrick Quaker burial ground.

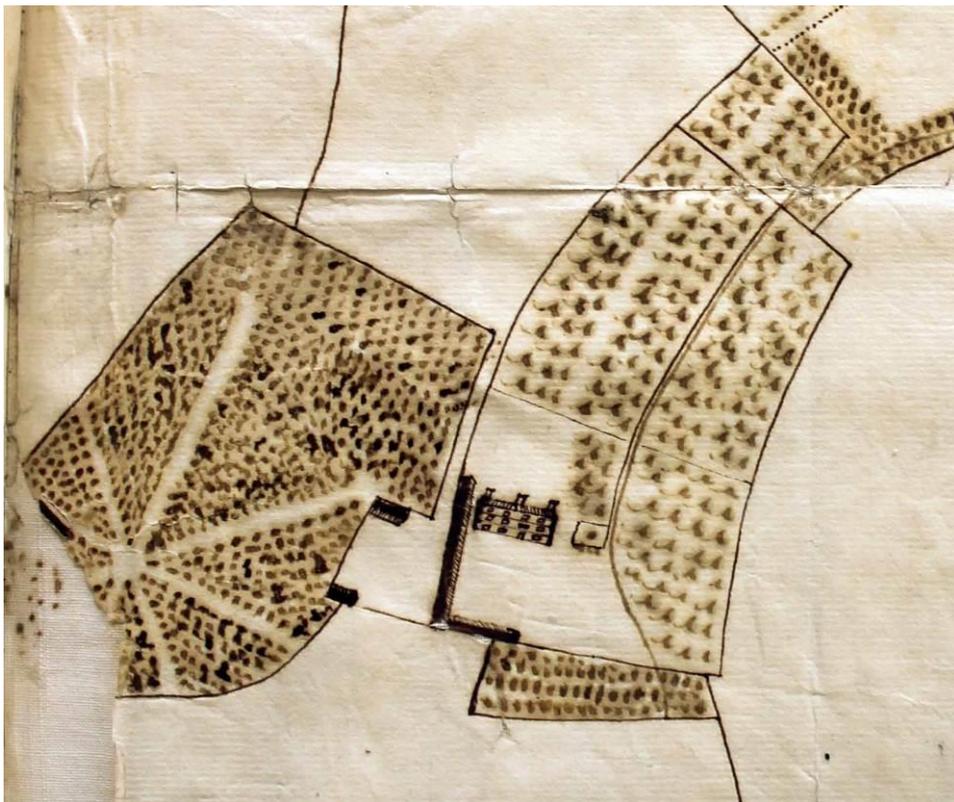


Fig.1: detail from a plan of c.1760 showing the hall, farm buildings and a 'wilderness' plantation to the west (Friends House Library ref. LSF MS Vol 364)

The Fells and their descendants the Abrahams owned the hall and surrounding farm land until it was sold in 1759; it then became the property of William Lindow a Lancaster merchant. A plan made for Lindow in c.1760 shows the hall and a 'wilderness' plantation laid out to the west (Fig.1). The plan also shows a long barn to the west of the hall, other outbuildings to the south and west and orchards to the north. During the late eighteenth century and throughout the nineteenth century, the hall and farm was tenanted and various sources record that the buildings fell into disrepair; the print in Figure 2 shows the west end of the hall partly ruinous. In this print the small vent features to the top floor of the north-east wing suggest it was used for storage, not domestic accommodation (compare with those on the barn in Fig.3); the taking-in door to the middle floor may relate to this use.



Fig.2: engraving of the hall in c.1829 (Swarthmoor Hall collection)

Some repairs were made to the hall in the nineteenth century, including raising the roof at the west end of the front range, but Winchester (p.26) notes that the full extent of the works is not known. Historic maps and images (Fig.3 and 4) show the large west barn with a half-round horse gin (for threshing) towards the south end of the east front; the north end had mullioned windows and a chimney expressing a former domestic use. Excavations by Greenlane Archaeology in 2011-13 revealed another structure at the north end of the barn, possibly a brewhouse. To the west of the long barn was a small barn and a bull house (demolished mid-twentieth century) and to the south was a stable and to the east side of the entrance another barn.



Fig.3: print from a drawing by F.W.Lockwood dated 1874 (Swarthmoor Hall collection)

Views of the hall from the late nineteenth century show the buildings in a reasonable state of repair, but with blocked windows to the south front of the hall (Fig.3 and 5). By the nineteenth century the hall had become the focus of Quaker tourism with visitors from as far afield as America visiting (Fig.5) and architectural fragments such as pieces of panelling were apparently removed as souvenirs.

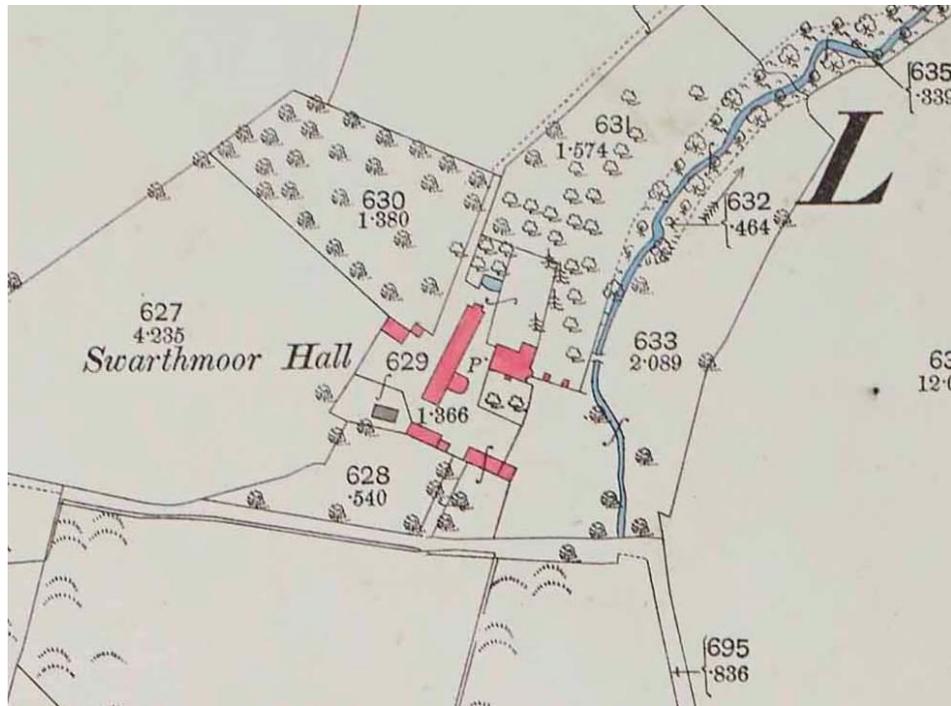


Fig.4: extract from 1890 OS map (Lancs sheet XVI.7, 1:2500 - Cumbria Archives)



Fig.5: c.1900 - Friends Mary and Isaac Braithwaite visiting from America (Swarthmoor Hall collection)

Interest in acquiring Swarthmoor Hall for a Quaker centre grew in the late nineteenth century, leading to funds being raised to help Emma Clarke Abraham (a descendant of the Fells) buy the estate from William Fletcher Lindow in 1912. Between then and 1919, she refurbished the hall, adding a north-west wing. The architect for the works was the little known Frank Gray Wallis of Liverpool (Fig.6). The north-west addition created new services to the ground floor with bedrooms and bathroom above. Emma installed new panelling to the principal ground floor rooms, made by herself (according to plaques set into the panelling). Improvements were also made to the farm buildings, gardens and boundary walls; the archway over the entrance into the yard from the south was designed by Wallis, dated 1914 and inscribed with the initials ECA.

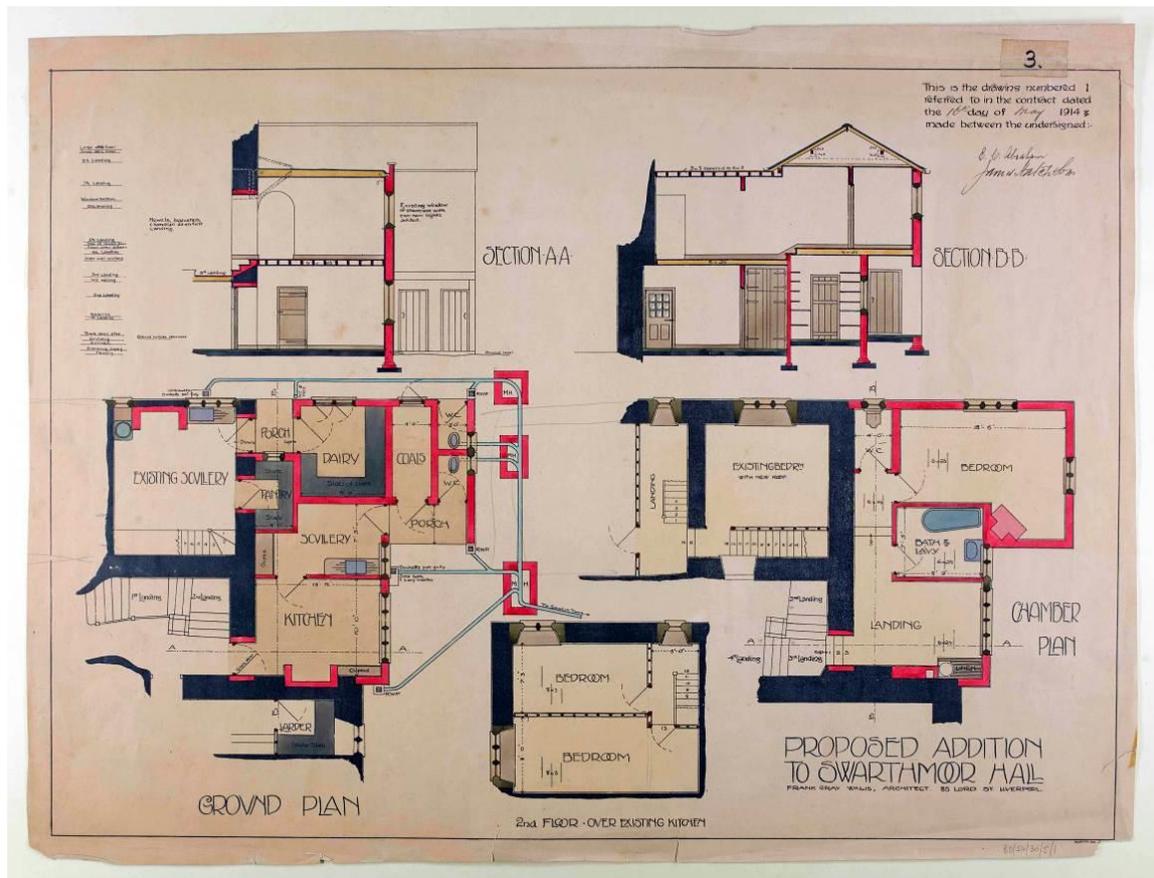


Fig.6: partial floor plans showing rear north-west extension, 1912, by Alfred Gray Wallis (Cumbria Archives, Ref BDSUD_PLANS 1241_3b). North is to the right.

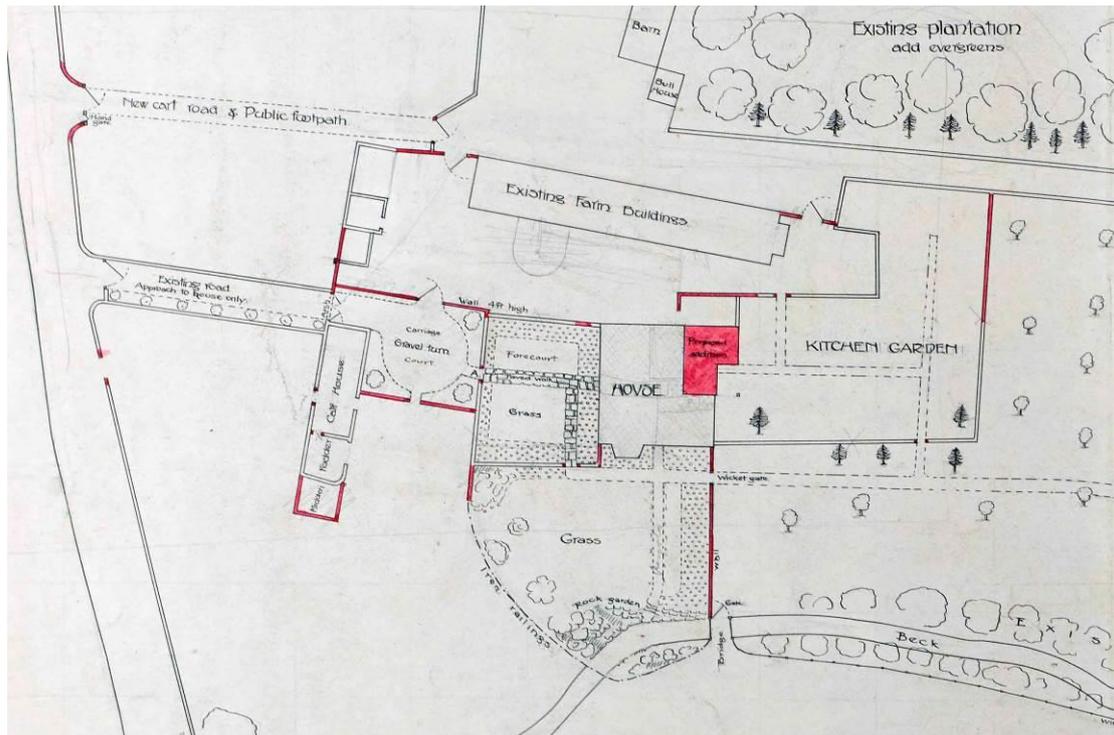


Fig.7: site plan dated 1912 showing proposed changes, by Alfred Gray Wallis (Cumbria Archives, Ref BDSUD_PLANS 1241_3b). North is to the right

In 1954 the hall and the surrounding farmland were purchased by the Religious Society of Friends from Edward Mitford Abraham (nephew of Emma). Improvements included furnishing six historic rooms in the east side of the hall with a collection of Quaker and Swarthmoor Hall related artefacts, books and furnishings. In 1963 the long barn to the west was demolished.

In 2000, a new building known as Fell Barn was built on the site of the demolished long barn to provide residential accommodation and a meeting room. Prior to construction, archaeological evaluation of the former barn site was undertaken by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, in 1997. In 2007, the Stables west of the entrance archway were rebuilt to provide staff and residential facilities. The barn to the east of the archway is still in farming use and was repaired in c2010, and a café was created in the outbuilding to the east end in 2015.

In 2015 rooms on the west and north-west side of Swarthmoor Hall were refurbished to provide improved residential accommodation for guests, designed by BTP Architects (Rob Harrington project architect).

2.2. The buildings and principal fittings and fixtures

In this section the key buildings are described in turn.

The Hall: Built as a house in the late sixteenth century for George Fell, extended and restored in c.1914 by architect Alfred Gray Wallis for Emma Clarke Abraham. The Hall is constructed in rubble stone with a dry dash render finish. The roofs are laid with Cumbrian slate in diminishing courses, with stone ridges. The flat roof to part of the north-west addition is lead with a masonry parapet. Chimneys are rendered with stone details and rainwater goods are cast-iron. Mullioned windows and door surrounds are sandstone. The windows have lozenge leaded glazing in steel-

framed casements. The core of the historic building is L-plan and 3-storey with the entrance front facing south, the garden front facing east and secondary elevations facing west and north. The 2-storey wing to the north-west dates from 1914.

The south elevation has stone mullioned windows flanking the doorway to left of centre; the windows have 2 or 3 lights with continuous hoodmoulds to ground and first floor windows to the right of the doorway. The doorway has a chamfered stone surround, embattled lintel, hoodmould and oak door of c.1914. The east elevation has a 3-storey canted bay window to the gable of the south range with mullioned and transomed windows to the front and sides and a stepped window with a hood mould to the top floor. To the right the north-east wing has 2 and 3-light mullioned windows, with a hoodmould only to the first floor windows. The ground floor stone doorway is narrow, and offset to the right. On the first floor there is a chamfered doorway with a carved lintel and hood mould; this has a modern timber balcony.



Fig.8: south and east elevations, 2016

The north gable end has 3-light mullioned windows, with a stepped attic window like that to the east gable of the south range. West of the north gable end is the addition built in c 1914, with a 2-storey wing to the west and a flat-roofed bay with mullioned windows infilling the space between the latter and the north-east wing. The north end of the north-west wing projects to the north with a gabled single-storey former porch. On the west elevation all mullioned windows date from c.1914 and the rainwater goods are aluminium. In the angle between the primary south and east ranges is a stair tower with lean-to roof, now hidden by the 1914 addition.



Fig.9: north elevation with 1914 extension to right, 2016

The interior is entered from the south via a slate-flagged cross passage leading to the staircase. Historically, the room to the left of the passage was used as the kitchen (recently refurbished as a guest sitting room) and the room to the right functioned as the hall, the latter with a bay window on the east gable-end and a lateral fireplace to the north. The hall is used for meetings for worship. The room has a slate floor, walls lined with oak panelling installed by Emma Clarke Abraham, and a moulded flat-arched stone fireplace surround. The ceiling has a moulded cornice and plastered cross beams.

The staircase is of the ‘caged newel’ type, typical of the late sixteenth century, with turned balusters and plain handrails. The parlour in the north-east wing, known as Judge Fell’s study, has two mid nineteenth century windows in place of a single earlier window and panelling installed by Emma Clarke Abraham. Framed prints dated 1845 depict the principal rooms prior to later restoration (Fig.12).



Fig.10: caged newel staircase



Fig.11: Judge Fell’s Study

The secondary rooms to the north-west side of the hall have been refurbished or added in phases (1914 and 2013) and have few historic features. This area was historically used for kitchens, scullery, storage, larder and a dairy on the ground floor with bedrooms above. The existing staircase in the west wing was inserted in a former

dairy as part of the recent refurbishment of guest accommodation, replacing a service staircase from the scullery shown on the Wallis plans (Fig.6).

The three historic rooms on the first floor are over the hall and cross passage (known as George Fox's Room and Margaret Fell's Room) and above the parlour (Judge Fell's Room); these all have wide floorboards and lime-plastered ceilings. George Fox's room has no fireplace but the other two rooms have stone fireplaces, with an elaborate chimneypiece in Judge Fell's Room that incorporates carved timber taken from a bed. Both Margaret Fell's room and Judge Fell's room are shown with panelling in 1845 prints, restored in c1914.



Fig.12: Judge Fell's Room, in c1845 print



Fig.13: Judge Fell's Room in 2016

The second floor to the south range has one large room (known as Thomas Rawlinson's Room) with a bay window to the east and a 4-bay roof with tie beam and collar trusses. To the north-east wing the upper floor room (known as Rachel Fell's Room) was originally perhaps used for storage, with a 3-bay roof with tie-beam trusses (raking struts are missing) and a nineteenth century iron fireplace grate.



Fig.14: Margaret Fell's Room



Fig.15: Thomas Rawlinson's Room

Barn and Café. Located to the south-east edge of the complex, the 4-bay barn is currently used by the tenant farmer. The building probably dates from the eighteenth century and is typical of vernacular farm buildings in the area. The 1912 site plan (Gray Wallis) shows that it was then in use as a calf house and the café building was used for fodder. The barn is built of rubblestone with a render finish, under a Cumbrian slate roof with concrete ridges and cast-iron rainwater goods. The north

elevation faces the garden and has a large blocked opening to left of centre, two brick-edged small circular pitching eyes to the upper level and one modern 2-light window to the right of the blocked doorway. The south elevation facing the field has tall double timber doors to right of centre, below a concrete lintel. The west gable end adjacent to the arched entrance is blind. The barn interior has lime-plastered walls and retains a historic roof structure with tie-beam trusses (missing raking struts) and two tiers of purlins.

Against the east gable end of the barn is a lower outbuilding, repaired and converted to a café in 2015; this is also built of rubblestone under a Cumbria slate roof and has a distinctive curved north-east corner.

This range is not a listed building, but has some heritage significance as the only remaining historic farm building on the site and a typical example of a vernacular barn.



Fig.16: barn and café from the south-west



Fig.17: café and barn from north



Fig.18: barn interior (photo Rob Harrington)

Firbank Fell. This single-storey range is to the south-west corner of the complex, west of the entrance archway. The building occupies the site of former stables and an open-fronted shed, probably built in the eighteenth century. It was rebuilt for staff facilities and residential accommodation in 2007, and now provides the site office and reception. The cavity-walled structure is partly faced in random rubblestone, with some pebble-dashed render under a Cumbria slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods. The entrances are on the north side facing the yard, with timber windows on both north and south elevations. It has no heritage significance.



Fig.19: 1914 archway from south with Firbank Fell to left



Fig.20: Firbank Fell from the north-east

Fell Barn. Fell Barn was built in 2000, on part of the site of the long barn demolished in the 1960s. The north end of the range was built as a warden's house and is 2-storey; this was refurbished for guest accommodation in 2015 (Wansfell). The southern part of the range is single-storey and provides accommodation suitable for disabled people (Hampsfell), with a large meeting room, lobby, kitchen and lavatories to the central element. The cavity-walled structure is faced in rubblestone and pebbledash render with some timber cladding, under a Cumbrian slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods. Contemporary style fenestration is timber and the main entrances face east. The rear of the building faces west onto a public access track. The building has no heritage significance.



Fig.21: Fell Barn from north-east



Fig.22: Garden workshop

Workshop. North of the house in the south-east corner of the former kitchen garden is a single-storey rubblestone structure used as a workshop and gardeners' shed. It has a monopitch corrugated metal roof and timber windows. Inside, the floor is laid with some ex situ millstones. This building is not shown on historic maps and probably dates from the mid-twentieth century. It has no heritage significance.

2.3 Loose furnishings and collection

The hall contains an important collection of furniture, artefacts, household goods, books, prints, photographs and drawings, largely assembled in the hall since 1954. Items are recorded on an inventory and their condition was last assessed as part of the collection survey by Peter Hall & Son in 2011. Part of the collection is used for research, kept in the Resources Room on the top floor. The furniture collection includes several pieces owned by George Fox, including two chairs previously in Swarthmoor Meeting House, and his lignum vitae bed (Fig.23). The collection contains almost 100 pieces of furniture mainly of seventeenth century date and mostly restored in the nineteenth century. Peter Hall & Son reported in 2011 that overall 'the condition of the collection is very good', with very few items requiring high priority treatment. The six principal rooms in the hall are furnished and presented as a museum with interpretation provided by the well-produced guidebook and information in the rooms.



Fig.23: bed given to Fox in Jamaica in the 1670s, and left to Swarthmoor Meeting by Fox in his will



Fig.24: chair from Exeter Meeting House, said to have been used by Fox in 1677 at Membury Meeting

2.4. The setting

The hall has a rural setting outside the south-west edge of Ulverston, a market town close to the south coast of Cumbria. Swarthmoor Meeting House (1688) is half a mile to the south-east. The hall is surrounded by 130 acres of gently undulating farm land owned by Friends, and leased to a tenant farmer. The fields are used for grazing sheep, with dry stone walls enclosing the fields and bounding the narrow lane to the south. There is a small stream to the east of the hall, and to the west a public right of way (diverted from the hall's yard in 1914).

The historic setting has altered since 1954 when Friends purchased the estate. The large barn with horse gin to the west of the hall was demolished in 1960 and in 2000 replaced with a new building providing residential facilities and a meeting room (Fell Barn). To the south of the latter a single-storey stable range was rebuilt in 2007 to provide offices and further accommodation (Firbank Fell). Linked by the 1914

archway and to the east of Firbank Fell is a barn (leased to the farmer) and to its east gable end a single storey outbuilding was converted to a café in 2015.



Fig.25: Undated aerial view, mid 20th century (Swarthmoor Hall collection)

Historic maps and views show that the hall had a small enclosed decorative garden to the south side, a kitchen garden to the north and orchards beyond. To the east and south-east, now part of the garden, was a field (Fig.5).



Fig.26: garden to the south of the hall, with Fell Barn, built in 2000 to the left

The burial ground at Sunbrick is about two miles to the south, at SD2861973913; it is notable as the burial place of Margaret Fell (died 1702), wife of George Fox. The walled enclosure is Grade II listed.

2.5. Listed status

The hall is rightly listed at Grade II*; the barn to the south, the boundary walls and other buildings and are treated as listed buildings because they are within the curtilage. The barn is not considered to be listable in its own right due to later changes (particularly the large opening to north being blocked).

2.6. Archaeological potential of the site

The site around the buildings has high archaeological potential to reveal evidence of previous activity and buildings that have been demolished, as demonstrated by the Greenlane Archaeology excavations in 2011. The hall itself appears not to have been the subject of measured survey or architectural/archaeological investigation; it is recommended that archaeological building survey is undertaken prior to any future works of alteration to avoid the loss of valuable evidence. The archaeological potential of the building is high and there is great scope to understand about the building's history and evolution through careful study an investigation.

Part 3: Current use and management

3.1. Condition

i) The hall is in good condition. The last QI was undertaken in 2015 by Rob Harrington of BTP Architects; this identified some items for attention such as internal lime plaster repairs, replacing some roof slates, monitoring external render cracks and securing floorboards. In the last five years, first floor beams have been investigated and repaired, and the ceilings replastered by Adam Jackson, in lime plaster. The next QI is due in 2020.

Friends are reviewing the long term implications of the cementitious render on the exterior of the hall, and wish to develop a strategy for removal and possible replacement with a lime based material, based on analysis and research.

ii) Barn and café. The barn was repaired in 2007 with an agricultural building grant, following a partial collapse of a section of wall. Both buildings are now in good condition.

iii) Firbank Fell and Fell Barn are recent buildings, both in good condition.

3.2. Maintenance and management

A 5-year maintenance plan was prepared by the BTP Architects in May 2016. This has indicative costings attached, with totals per annum ranging from £1500 to £8000, and covering items such as external re-pointing, internal lime plaster repairs, roof repairs and minor works to the landscaping. Maintenance is reviewed annually and local contractors are used for routine issues. Conservation architect Rob Harrington is involved in major works. The property has a full-time manager supported by two part-time administrative staff and a service delivery supervisor. The garden is maintained by a part-time/job-share gardener, and eight volunteers. In the house there is also a housekeeping and catering team.

A conservation plan has not been produced for Swarthmoor Hall; this is recommended good practice for important heritage assets, to inform their management and future development.

3.3. Sustainability

A sustainability strategy is being developed for the property which includes a wide range of issues such as rainwater harvesting, recycling, using local food and suppliers where possible, Green Energy, choosing products and finishes for refurbishment from sustainable sources, gardening organically and reducing use of chemicals. An ecology survey is being commissioned.

3.4. Amenities

The property provides a wide range of facilities. The conference room in Fell Barn is available for lettings as part of a conference suite that includes a kitchen and WCs. There are four sets of rooms available for residential accommodation offering a total of 13 bedrooms: in the west side of the hall there are seven bed and breakfast rooms arranged over three floors, the Wansfell suite in Fell Barn is available for self-catering family groups (four accessible rooms), Hampsfell suite is suitable for self-catering disabled guests and there is a suite of rooms in Firbank Fell. The café is open all year round, every day. The six historic rooms in the hall are open to the public from February to October for a small charge, and by appointment through the winter. The gardens are also open to visitors, free of charge. There is a car park on the south-west side of the property in the yard. The site provides lavatories for visitors, along with facilities for disabled people and baby-changing.

3.5. Access

An access audit was carried out in 2011 by BTP Architects (Rob Harrington) which made recommendations for improving access. In the previous six years access improvements were made to the site including a network of level graded paths across the yard and the outside of the hall. There is level access into Fell Barn, Firbank Fell with dedicated disabled accommodation in the Hampsfell suite. Disabled car-parking is available on the site next to the south end of Fell Barn, with a paved path adjacent. The main car park and yard have gravelled surfaces.

There are toilets in Fell Barn and Firbank Fell accessible to wheelchair users and those with limited mobility. There is a hearing loop in the Fell Barn meeting room.

The hall is not fully accessible to wheelchair-users due to the changes in level, step at the main entrance and internal staircases (there is no lift), but a temporary ramp is available for the main entrance and information is provided about what to see on the upper floor.

There are no measures specifically for people with sight impairments, but the access audit makes some recommendations for lighting. Site signage is generally clear and legible.

Ulverston has a railway station (about a mile north), but there is no public transport direct to the property. For pedestrians, there is a walking route by public footpath across the fields from the town, but there are no footways alongside Swarthmoor Hall Lane. The property is close to marked cycling routes.

3.6 Community Use

The property is well-used by the wider community and also a centre for Quakers. Meetings for worship are held mid-week and there is also a monthly extended

meeting for worship. The programme of residential and non-residential events is well attended. The garden and house provide opportunities for volunteering, including two tour guides in the hall. There are over twenty volunteers. The property takes part in Heritage Open Days each September, and Quaker Week is held here in early October.

3.7. Vulnerability to crime

Swarthmoor Hall is in an area considered to have generally low crime, low deprivation and high community confidence. No incidents of heritage crime or anti-social behaviour have been recorded. The hall is served by a contract with G4S Security and there is an intruder alarm system. There is currently no resident warden, but Friends in Residence live nearby.

3.8. Plans for change

A 5-year plan for the site is being developed. This will include improving the sustainability of the property, providing improved access for disabled people and expanding and upgrading site facilities. The suite at the west end of Firbank Fell will be the next to be refurbished to bring it up to the same high standard established for guest rooms in the hall. A project is being planned for the barn, to provide a new reception with entrance facing south, mezzanine office space, connection to the café with more space in the barn, and new WCs. The plan will also include better separation of pedestrians and vehicles by limiting car parking in the yard and providing a new parking space south of the barn. A play area for children is also being planned for the garden, and the existing workshop may be replaced by a new building. The removal of the hard cement render on the exterior of the hall is also under consideration, to be replaced with a more appropriate lime render.

Part 4: Impact of Change

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

i) For Quaker use: changes to this fine old building are constrained by its historic features and character, protected by listing. This makes it difficult to further improve energy use, but there is potential for small changes to improve access and enhance interpretation.

ii) As a consequence of being sold by The Friends: it would be regrettable if the hall were to go out of Quaker ownership and it would be difficult to adapt it for a new use given the sensitivity of its character, the setting and the interior.

Part 5: Category: 1

Part 6: Listing

Name: SWARTHMOOR HALL

List entry Number: 1270174

Location: SWARTHMOOR HALL, SWARTHMOOR HALL LANE

County: Cumbria

District: South Lakeland

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Ulverston

Grade: II*

Date first listed: 02-Mar-1950

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Details

ULVERSTON

SD27NE SWARTHMOOR HALL LANE 626-1/1/139 Swarthmoor Hall 02/03/50

II*

House. Early C17. Restored late C19 and early C20 after becoming neglected and ruinous. Roughcast with sandstone ashlar dressings and slate roofs. L-plan (with additions in the angle of the 'L' made in 1912). 2 storeys plus a 3rd, attic, storey. The windows have chamfered mullions (some opened out or renewed during restoration) with diamond-led lights. The south front has one of 4 lights to the left of the door and ones of 2-3-2 lights to the right, the latter linked by a continuous hoodmould. On the 1st floor there is one of 3 lights with a hood, and ones of 2-3-3 lights linked by a hood. The attic is lit by 3 windows of 3 lights. The door has a chamfered surround with an embattled lintel. Chimney on left-hand gable. The right-hand (east) facade has a canted bay window rising to the full height of the gable of the front range. On the ground and 1st floors it has a 4-light window with transom facing forwards and a similar 2-light window to each side. The attic storey is lit by a stepped window of one light over 3, with hoodmould. To the right on the ground floor there is a narrow chamfered door surround with 2 windows of 2 lights to its right. On the 1st floor there is a chamfered doorway with hoodmould and a lintel carved with lozenge and intersecting patterns and with 2 central spirals. The timber balcony is early C20 and replaces an external stair. To the right there are windows of 3 lights and 2 lights linked by a hood. The attic is lit by a 3-light window. Chimneys on right-hand (rear) gable and at the junction between the rear wing and the front range. INTERIOR: much of the interior panelling was restored or constructed in the early C20 by Emma Clarke Abraham. Judge Fell's room in the rear wing includes a fireplace surround which uses timber from a C17 bed. The staircase rises to attic level around a cage of 4 newels infilled with balusters. On the 1st floor the eastern room of the front range is panelled, as is the room in the rear wing which includes a carved fireplace surround. The front attic room has 3 trusses with collars, raised ties, and exposed purlins. HISTORICAL NOTE: Swarthmoor Hall was the home of the Fell family, who acquired the estate in the C16. Margaret Fell, wife of Judge Thomas Fell who died in

1658, became a disciple of George Fox in 1652 and Swarthmoor became a centre for Fox's missionary travels. In 1669 the couple married.

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