

Friends Meeting House, Richmond upon Thames

1 Retreat Road, Richmond, London, TW9 1NN

National Grid Reference: TQ 17601 74791



Statement of Significance

A fine mid-nineteenth-century stuccoed semi-detached house in the Riverside Conservation Area, acquired by Friends in the 1970s, which is of medium heritage significance overall.

Evidential value

The building was built as a house and has been in use as a meeting house only since 1971. As such, its evidential value is low.

Historical value

The building is of high historical value as a mid-nineteenth-century house in a historic location within the Richmond Riverside Conservation Area, close to the sites of Richmond Palace and a medieval friary. As a meeting house however, its historical value is low.

Aesthetic value

As a fine mid-nineteenth-century stuccoed house which makes a positive contribution to the conservation area, the aesthetic value of the building is high.

Communal value

Wider use of the building is hampered by access issues. While the building makes a positive contribution to the local scene, its use as a meeting house is of low communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Kingston & Wandsworth*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0032860*
- 1.3 Owner: *Six Weeks Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *London Borough of Richmond upon Thames*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *London*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Richmond upon Thames NPA*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Locally listed*
- 1.8 NHLE: *N/a*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *Richmond Riverside*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *c1850*
- 1.13 Architect(s): *Not established*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *10 November 2015*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Andrew Derrick*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Edmund Greene*
- 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. 2, p. 595
Local Meeting Survey, by Peter Maple, 24 June 2015

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

2.1. Historical background

The property is a mid-nineteenth-century stuccoed semi-detached house, acquired by Friends in 1971 for £19,500.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

A large mid-nineteenth-century semi-detached house of Italianate character, of two storeys over a raised basement with stucco detailing and overhanging eaves and central brick stack to the shallow-pitched slate roof. The rear elevation is faced in brick. The large plate glass sash windows have been renewed in uPVC. The front entrance is up a flight of steps, with two interconnected ground floor rooms off the entrance hall serving as the meeting house. The front room retains its original cornice and ceiling rose, while the rear room has lost this

detailing. Windows at both front and back retain their raised timber surrounds and shutters. At the rear, down a short stair, is a kitchen and WCs. The basement and first floor are in use as two separate flats.

2.3 Loose furnishings

There are no loose furnishings calling for special mention.

2.4. Attached burial ground

None.

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is in Retreat Lane, a historic location close to Richmond Green and the site of Richmond Palace, within the Richmond Riverside Conservation Area. It forms one half of a semi-detached pair located near a dog-leg in the street. There is a public car park at the rear, and space for parking two cars at the front of the meeting house.

2.6. Listed status

The building is not listed, although it is included in the London Borough of Richmond's local list. As a fine Italianate stucco design of the mid-nineteenth-century it cannot, with its neighbour at no. 2, be ruled out as a possible candidate for listing. A more detailed inspection would be required, as well as further research into the date, builder and architect.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The building is near the site of Richmond Palace and a fifteenth-century friary. The archaeological potential may be high, although the excavation required for the basement at the time of construction would have disturbed archaeological deposits.