

## ***Friends Meeting House, Wimbledon***

*40 Spencer Hill Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 4EL*

*National Grid Reference: TQ 24398 70382*



### ***Statement of Significance***

***A modest interwar terraced house, in use as a meeting house since the 1970s, and of overall low heritage significance.***

#### ***Evidential value***

***The building has been in use as a meeting house only since 1973 and still has the character and appearance of a domestic property. As such it is of low evidential value.***

#### ***Historical value***

***The building belongs to the interwar suburban expansion of Wimbledon. It has been a meeting house since 1973. As such it is of low historical value.***

#### ***Aesthetic value***

***The building is a pleasant interwar suburban house, and is of medium aesthetic value.***

#### ***Communal value***

***The building is well used by Friends and other community use, though its facilities are inevitably modest given its small size. It is of medium communal value.***

### **Part 1: Core data**

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Kingston & Wandsworth*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0032880*
- 1.3 Owner: *Six Weeks Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *London Borough of Merton*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *London*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Wimbledon NPA*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Not 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): *Inter-war period*
- 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: *Stuart Wallace*
- 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. 596  
*The Friend*, 2 March 1973, p.252  
Local Meeting Survey, by Susanna Riviere, 14 June 2015

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

### 2.1. Historical background

Quakers began meeting in Wimbledon in the 1950s. After a succession of short-term hirings, a three-bedroom interwar terraced house was acquired by Preparative Meeting in 1973 for £15,000. The first floor was made into a flat and let. A gate at the bottom of the small rear garden led to an alley with access to the hall of a nearby synagogue, with whom good relations were developed (the Reformed Jewish congregation has since removed, and the site redeveloped). A rear conservatory/classroom was added in 1985-6.

### 2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The property is a typical interwar terraced property, two-storey and pebbledashed, with a tile-hung gabled bay and arched recessed porch. Inside, the meeting room is formed from the two interconnected ground floor rooms, with separate kitchen and WCs. Upstairs there is a separate flat.

### 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 lies within an area of interwar, mainly residential development.

## 2.6. Listed status

The house is not listed and is not considered to be listable.

## 2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

Low.