

Friends Meeting House, Slough & Windsor

74 Ragstone Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 2PX

National Grid Reference: SU 97155 79145



Statement of Significance

An economical, nicely-detailed design of 1966 by Paul Mauger, somewhat altered. The building is of medium heritage significance.

Evidential value

The high-level windows might suggest a meeting house, but otherwise there is little to denote its function. The building is of low evidential value.

Historical value

The Meeting was established here in 1966, on land once belonging to Eton College. The building is therefore of relatively recent date and has low historical value.

Aesthetic value

This is in some respects a pleasing design, with good brickwork detail and an unusual roof form. It is of medium aesthetic value.

Communal value

The building is well used by local groups and as such has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Chilterns*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0008510*
- 1.3 Owner: *Chilterns Area Quaker Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Slough Borough Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *South East*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Slough 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): *1966*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Paul V. Mauger*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *4 November 2015*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Andrew Derrick*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Janet and David May-Bowles*
- 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, pp. 28-9
- May-Bowles, J and D., *Come Friendly: A History of Slough Preparative Meeting, 1938-2007*, 2nd edition, 2010
- Local Meeting Survey, by Janet May-Bowles, July 2015

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

2.1. Historical background

A Meeting was established in Slough in the 1920s, in hired premises. The present site (land formerly belonging to Eton College) was acquired for £3,000 in 1964, and the meeting house and warden's flat built from designs by Paul V. Mauger of Mauger Gavin & Associates. A glazed link on shallow foundations between the buildings was necessitated by a sewer passing through the site.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house (figure 1) was built in 1966 from designs by Paul V. Mauger. It consists of a meeting room, square on plan, with a lobby and glazed link to a classroom block with warden's accommodation upstairs. The buildings are constructed of multi-coloured red brick laid in Flemish bond with raised concrete surrounds to the triangular headed windows, each of which has four lights. Pedimented gables of the same pitch as the window heads rise up to overhanging eaves on each side, the resulting roof a very shallow version of a helm spire. The windows have been renewed in uPVC. A flat-roofed, mainly glazed link connects to the classrooms and flat, and is faced in the same materials.

Inside, the meeting house is a simple, square, double-height space, well-lit at the higher level by windows on all four sides and with a radial pattern to the ceiling. The walls and ceilings have been lined with acoustic panelling to reduce disturbance from aircraft and motorway noise. The floor is of woodblock.

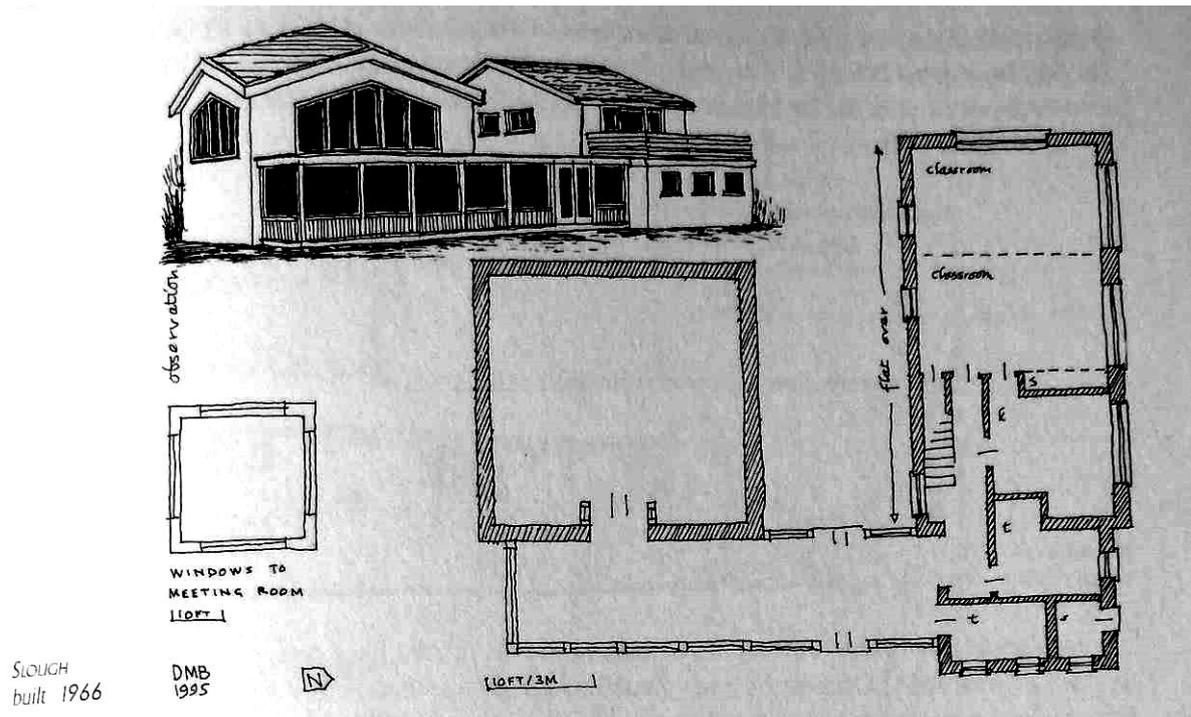


Figure 1: Elevation and plan, from Butler, 1990, p. 29

2.3 Loose furnishings

None requiring special mention.

2.4. Attached burial ground

None.

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is in an area of twentieth-century development, mainly suburban housing. Immediate neighbours include a Muslim centre and a Freemasons' Hall. There is a small garden at the rear. The raised M4 forms a backdrop to the south.

2.6. Listed status

The building is not listed and is not considered to be listable. It is more altered than, and lacks some of the good internal detailing of Mauger's earlier meeting house at Bromley (*qv*).

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

No information is available, but this is likely to be low. The site was previously farmland, although a sewer is known to run through it.