

Quaker Meeting House, Farnham

36 Tilford Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8DL

National Grid Reference: SU 84646 46298



Statement of Significance

The meeting house is a semi-detached house of c.1890 which makes a positive contribution to the streetscape. Overall, it has medium heritage significance.

Evidential value

The fabric of the building may contain evidence about the past, although this is unlikely to be unique. It has low evidential value.

Historical value

Little is known about the history of the house before its acquisition by the Quakers. It has medium historical value.

Aesthetic value

The decorative and little-altered street elevation in particular contributes to the building's architectural interest. It has medium aesthetic value.

Communal value

As a meeting house which is also in community use, the building has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Surrey & Hampshire Border*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0013200*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Waverley Borough Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *South East*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Farnham*
- 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): *c.1890*
- 1.13 Architect(s): *Not established*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *23 October 2015*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Johanna Roethe*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Michael Gittins*
- 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. 589
Local Meeting survey by Michael Gittins, October 2015

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

2.1 Historical background

There was a meeting at Farnham between 1668 and 1712 but there is little information about the meeting house they used. The meeting then lapsed until it was re-established in 1931. In 1945 they bought the current building for £1,925. This building, a house of c.1890, was altered to provide a meeting room with a flat above. Alterations were made in 1965 and 1991. In 2014, a small toilet extension was built at the rear, replacing an earlier extension.

2.2 The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The street elevation faces northeast. The meeting house is a semi-detached house of c.1890. The materials are brick in stretcher bond and a slate roof. The plan is T-shaped, with a two-storey front range and a full-height rear wing. There is a small flat-roofed extension of 2014 at the rear. The main elevation has a two-storey canted bay window; above is a large gabled

dormer with a bargeboard. The northern bay has the entrance porch with a tiled floor and the recessed panelled door, and one window above. The ground floor is plastered; there are vermiculated keystones to the windows and entrance. The first floor has vermiculated quoins. There are two chimney stacks to the side elevation; there is a further stack on the party wall of the rear wing. The roof ridge of the front range has clay ridge tiles. Most windows have been replaced by UPVC, apart from four first-floor sash windows (in the side elevation of the rear wing and the rear and side elevations of the front range).

The staircase (with turned balusters) is set against the party wall. The entrance hall has an arch on corbels with Ionic-style volutes (photo bottom right, p.1). The two ground-floor rooms in the main part of the house now form the meeting room. Both chimneybreasts have been removed in these rooms. The rear wing contains a small meeting room and the kitchen, with toilets in the recent extension. The kitchen contains a blocked chimneybreast. The upstairs flat and the two cellars were not inspected.

2.3 Loose furnishings

None of note

2.4 Attached burial ground (if any)

Not applicable

2.5 The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is located in a residential street near the centre of Farnham. Part of the south side of the street was developed in the 1890s, while the development of the north side was only built up in the 1930s. On both sides there has been in-fill development. The semi-detached house directly to the north (nos. 30-32) was built to the same pattern as 34-36 Tilford Road. The meeting house makes a positive contribution to the streetscape.

2.6. Listed status

The meeting house is not listed and is not considered to be a candidate for the statutory list. It would be suitable for inclusion in the council's local list.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The house was built in c.1890 on a greenfield site. The archaeological potential is considered to be low.