

Quaker Meeting House, New Milton

30 Whitefield Road, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 6DF

National Grid Reference: SZ 24213 95120



Statement of Significance

The meeting house is a utilitarian building of c.1900 which originally may have been a stable. It was acquired and converted to Quaker use in 1981-82. It has low overall heritage significance.

Evidential value

The meeting house has been much altered and extended over time. It has low evidential value.

Historical value

The building was part of New Milton's development after the arrival of the railway. It has medium historical value.

Aesthetic value

The meeting house is a functional building which has been much altered over time. It has low aesthetic value.

Communal value

The building is primarily a Quaker meeting house but is also in use by local community groups. It has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Bournemouth Coastal*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0007910*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *New Forest District Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *South East*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *New Milton*
- 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): *around 1900 (acquired in 1981)*
- 1.13 Architect(s): *Not established*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *3 June 2016*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Johanna Roethe*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Anne Tyler*
- 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, p. 235
'History of New Milton Meeting House', typescript provided by C. Hall
Local Meeting survey by Christopher Hall, June 2016

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

2.1 Historical background

The building was bought in 1981 for £24,000 and converted for use as a meeting house (architect: Gordon Robbins of Cheshire Robins Design Group). This involved inter alia the addition of a lobby, and the removal of the loft floor. The new meeting house opened on 8 May 1982. According to map evidence, the building had been built between c.1898 and c.1909, either in conjunction with the railway or, more likely, as a stable for the house in front. (Faded lettering on the side and rear elevations advertise stabling, a coal merchant and a railway agent. However, these may not necessarily be related to the building's use as the railway site is at a lower level (which appears to have always been separated from Whitefield Road by a footpath) and there are no signs of former openings in the blank wall now facing the railway.) During the Second World War, the building was part of the headquarters of the New Milton Home Guard. Before 1954 it was a private residence, and from 1954 until 1981 a Christian Science church. An extension had been added in 1954; further small-scale extensions have been added since, including the glazed lobby of 1981-2.

2.2 The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house is an L-plan building. The original part to the north has an oblong plan, while later extensions are at an angle to the southeast. The first extension is the present kitchen under a pitched roof; later extensions to the east and southeast have flat roofs. The most recent extension is a small flat-roofed and brick-faced block to the west of the original building (replacing a corrugated-iron shed). The materials are brick, which to the older part was originally only one 'skin' deep until a cavity wall was created by adding another 'skin'. The southeast extension is of brick to the east, with largely glazed walls to the entrance to the southwest. At the south end of the extension is the library room with a brick base and a timber fascia over the windows. The pitched roofs are covered with concrete tiles; there are also several solar panels. A dormer window is a later addition to the original building which was probably installed during the residential use of the building. The east elevation is largely blank, with two windows to the extensions. The north elevation has no windows. Fragments

of advertisement inscriptions are visible on the north and east elevations spelling out 'Garage/good stabling/carriage...' (east) and 'coal merchant & railway agent' (north).

The full-height meeting room is in the older part. (The former attic or loft floor was removed in 1981-2.) It is lit by the dormer, two rooflights, one window to the south, and a glazed emergency exit door to the west. There are two roof trusses which have tie beams with cross-braced queen posts. To the west is a small store room. Two doors lead from the meeting room into the kitchen at the northeast and the entrance lobby which connects all parts of the building. The ceiled kitchen is lit by a rooflight and one window to the east. Beyond are two toilets, including one accessible to people with disabilities. At the far end is the library room with a corner window.

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 behind 28 Whitefield Road, a residential house in separate ownership which is in poor condition. To the north, the meeting house is separated from the former railway goods yard by a fenced footpath (in existence by 1909).

2.6 Listed status

The meeting house is not listed and is not considered to be a candidate for listing.

2.7 Archaeological potential of the site

The immediate area was fields before the construction of the Brockenhurst to Christchurch railway line which prompted the development of New Milton north of Old Milton. The station at New Milton opened in 1886. Whitefield Road was laid out around c.1900 and the house in front of what is now the meeting house had been built by c.1909. The site has low archaeological potential.