

## ***Friends Meeting House, Winchmore Hill***

*59 Church Hill, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1LE*

*National Grid Reference: TQ 31295 94657*



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

***A meeting house of 1790/91, probably designed by John Bevans and probably built on the site of an earlier meeting house. The meeting house is attached to an extensive burial ground established in 1682. The building has been enlarged and the main meeting room has been altered but still preserves something of its original character. The site as a whole is of high heritage significance.***

### ***Evidential value***

***The building stands on an earlier site and is of medium evidential value.***

### ***Historical value***

***A reasonably well-preserved example of a late eighteenth-century Quaker meeting house with a large burial ground established in the 1680s, all of high historical value.***

**Aesthetic value**

***The exterior of the original building is attractive, but its original character has been somewhat altered by later alterations and. The building is of medium aesthetic value.***

**Communal value**

***The present meeting house has been used by Quakers continuously since 1791, and more recently has been well-used by other local community groups. The building has high communal value.***

**Part 1: Core data**

1.1 Area Meeting: *North London*

1.2 Property Registration Number: *0006120*

1.3 Owner: *Six Weeks Meeting*

1.4 Local Planning Authority: *London Borough of Enfield*

1.5 Historic England locality: *London*

1.6 Civil parish: *Enfield LPA*

1.7 Listed status: *II*

1.8 NHLE: *1359012*

1.9 Conservation Area: *Winchmore Hill*

1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*

1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*

1.12 Date(s): *1790*

1.13 Architect (s): *the builder is named as John Bevan. This was probably John Bevans, a Quaker builder and surveyor of Plaistow, who also designed the Devonshire House meeting houses in the City of London (1789-demolished), and the meeting houses at Guildford (1805-6) and Derby (1808).*

1.14 Date of visit: *22 October 2015*

1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*

1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Neil Macindoe*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *former warden's cottage adjacent to the meeting house, built in 1911(and now let to tenants); the brick boundary walls of the attached burial ground are listed grade II in their own right (see list description at section 6 below).*

1.18 Attached burial ground: *Yes*

1.19 Information Sources:

Beck, W. & Ball, T.F., *The London Friends' Meetings showing the rise of the Society of Friends in London*, 1869, pp. 299-301

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol.1, p. 433-4

Colvin, Howard, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*, 4th edn. 2008, p.123

King, A., *An Account of the Winchmore Hill Meeting*, 1957

Olver, David, *A History of Quakerism at Winchmore Hill*, 2002

Stell, C, *Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting Houses in Eastern England*, 2002, pp.81-82

Local Meeting survey by Neil Macindoe, November 2015

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

### 2.1. Historical background

A Meeting was in existence at Winchmore Hill by c1662. The present site was given by John Oakley in 1682 for use as a burial ground. On the site stood a thatched barn and a dwelling house occupied by Oakley and his wife. Oakley died in 1684 and on the death of his wife Elizabeth in 1687 whole property passed to Friends. The barn was adapted as a Meeting House in 1688 but was also used as a dwelling for a tenant. The house was let to provide income for the poor of the meeting. In 1787 it was recorded that both the meeting house and the wall enclosing the burial ground were ruinous. In 1790/91 a new meeting house was built on the site of the old one, with a doorkeeper's dwelling attached at the rear. In 1796 a schoolroom and lobby were added in a side wing and in 1809 a washroom, which was later used as a kitchen. In 1911 the caretaker was re-housed in a new cottage next to the meeting house and the accommodation at the rear of the original building was adapted and enlarged to provide cloakrooms. The architect for this work was L. Sutton Wood. The cottage was enlarged in 1980 and is now let to tenants. A conservatory forming a passageway to the cloakrooms was built in 1987 as part of a major renovation, for which the architect was John Marsh. In recent years the problem of building subsidence has been addressed and further refurbishment is ongoing.

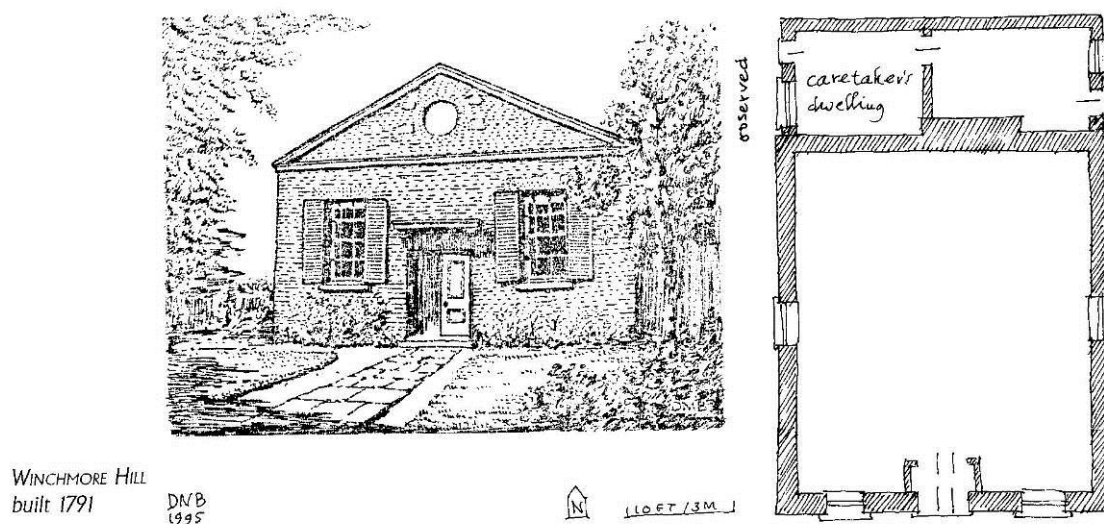


Fig.1 Main front and original ground plan of the building, *Butler* vol.1, p.434

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

The meeting house is rectangular on plan and has walls of stock brick, with a shallow-pitched roof covered in Welsh slate. The south-facing entrance front is of three bays with a central entrance under a stone hood on stone brackets, flanked by pair of straight-headed sash windows with external shutters. The roof ends in a simple pediment with a blind circular recess carrying a modern painted inscription. The plain side walls each have a single sash window. The rear (north) wall is gabled. Across the width of this front is a single-storey annexe under a lean-to roof, which was originally the caretaker's accommodation. Across the front of the annexe is a single-storey flat-roofed lavatory range with four small sash windows. The former school room makes a wing to the east. It is lower than the main meeting house but has an attic lit by a large dormer window on the main front.

The interior of the meeting room has been refitted. There may have been a gallery and also possibly a stand at the north end but there is now no trace of either. The room has a plain boarded floor and a plainly-panelled dado rising to the window-cills. The east, west and south side walls have old fixed benches. The original flat plaster ceiling apparently survives but has had acoustic tiling inserted beneath.

## 2.3 Loose furnishings

There are some loose benches, perhaps of early twentieth-century date.

## 2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

The burial ground was opened 1682. Originally, burials were confined to the southern part of the site adjoining the road and it is known that the ground was enclosed by a wall. Throughout the eighteenth century the burial ground was much in demand, as many of the London meeting houses were located on cramped sites and had no spare land for burials. In 1821 the burial ground was extended northwards over land that had previously been let for grazing and it may have been at this date that the present brick boundary walls were built.

The earliest burials were unmarked, but later burials have the characteristic Quaker headstones – small, round-topped and bearing only the most basic information. The rows of headstones are marked by letters set in the burial ground walls.

The older part of the burial ground includes headstones for the Hoare and Barclay families, both involved in banking. Samuel Hoare junior (1751-1825) was a leading supporter of the campaign for the abolition of the slave trade. In the older part there are stones commemorating Luke Howard (1772-1860; a pioneering meteorologist, responsible for the system for classifying clouds) and Alice Hum (founder of the Palmers Green Girls High School). A stone commemorating the prominent eighteenth-century Quaker physician, John Fothergill, has been removed to the Quaker School at Ackworth, which he founded.

Poor drainage forced the end of burials in 1980, but the site continues in use for the scattering and interment of ashes.

## 2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house has a pleasant suburban setting, in a street lined with mid-twentieth-century houses.

## 2.6. Listed status

The meeting house and boundary wall are both properly listed at grade II. The list description is very brief and should be revised to include the interior.

## 2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The large burial ground in continuous use since the 1680s and there were already buildings on the site by that date. The site has high archaeological potential.

## Part 6: List description (s)

### List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

List entry Number: 1359012

Location

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, CHURCH HILL N21

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
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Greater London Authority	Enfield	London Borough	
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Grade: II

Date first listed: 31-Jan-1974

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 200579

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Details

1. 4411 CHURCH HILL N21 (North-east Side) WINCHMORE HILL Friends' Meeting House  
TQ 3194 11/84

II

2. 1790. One-storey yellow brick building with stucco dressings. Pediment over road front has tablet inscribed: "Friends Meeting House. Built 1688. Rebuilt 1790. Central double door, under bracketed cornice hood, flanked by large sash windows, with delicate glazing bars, under gauged brick arches. One similar window on each return. Domestic addition at back right.

Listing NGR: TQ3130194638

## List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: WALLS AROUND GRAVEYARD OF FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE  
List entry Number: 1078911

### Location

WALLS AROUND GRAVEYARD OF FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, CHURCH HILL  
N21

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Greater London Authority  
District: Enfield  
District Type: London Borough  
Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 20-Nov-1973  
Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS  
UID: 200580

### Details

1. 4411 CHURCH HILL (North-east Side) WINCHMORE HILL Walls around Graveyard of Friends' Meeting House TQ 3194 11/85 20.11.73.

II

2. Plain brown brick walls, late C18 or early C19, breached and repaired in places.

Listing NGR: TQ3128194728

### Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details

National Grid Reference: TQ 31281 94728