

Friends Meeting House, Carlton Hill

188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, LS2 9DX

National Grid Reference: SE 29419 34965



Statement of Significance

A modest meeting house built in 1987 that provides interconnecting spaces which create flexible, spacious and well-planned rooms which can be used by both the Quakers and community groups. The meeting house has low architectural interest and low heritage value.

Evidential value

The current meeting house is a modern building with low evidential value. However, it was built on the site of an earlier building dating from the nineteenth century, and following this a tram shed. The site has medium evidential value for the potential to derive information relating to the evolution of the site.

Historical value

The meeting house has low historical significance as a relatively recent building, however, Woodhouse Lane provides a local context for the history of Quakers in the area from 1868.

Aesthetic value

This modern building has medium aesthetic value and makes a neutral contribution to the street scene.

Communal value

The meeting house was built for Quaker use and is also a valued community resource. The building is used by a number of local groups and visitors. Overall the building has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Leeds*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0004210*
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Leeds City Council*

1.5 Historic England locality: *Yorkshire and the Humber*

1.6 Civil parish: *Leeds*

1.7 Listed status: *Not listed*

1.8 NHLE: *Not applicable*

1.9 Conservation Area: *No*

1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*

1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*

1.12 Date(s): *1987*

1.13 Architect (s): *Michael Sykes*

1.14 Date of visit: *15 March 2016*

1.15 Name of report author: *Emma Neil*

1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Lea Keeble*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites:

Detached burial ground at Adel NGR SE 26414 39353

1.18 Attached burial ground: *No*

1.19 Information sources:

David M. Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp. 809-816

Jean Mortimer, *A Brief History of Leeds Quakers*, nd

Helen E. Roberts, *Researching Yorkshire Quaker History: A Guide to Sources*, University of Hull, 2003, pp. 52-53.

Leeds City Council, planning application document, 15/06892/FU

Leeds Quakers, *A Short History of Leeds Quakers*, nd.

<http://www.leedsquakers.org.uk/meetings/central-leeds>

University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, Special Collections, Carlton Hill Collection, Leeds Rawdon Friends Meeting House 1897-2002 (MS/DEP/1979/1/RAW/1/41)
Rawdon FBG (MS/DEP/1979/1/PLA/23)

David Owen, Local Meeting Survey, February 2016.

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

2.1. Historical background

Yorkshire has strong associations with the early Quaker movement; the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, George Fox travelled through the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire between the years 1651 -52. It was following one of these meetings in Yorkshire that a William Dewsbury of Allerthorpe became convinced of the Quaker way of thinking and

became a Quaker minister travelling across Lancashire, Cumberland and Yorkshire. It was shortly after Dewsbury's time in Leeds that a Meeting was settled, Friends would meet outside on Woodhouse Moor and Holbeck Moor as well as at the homes of local Friends.

In 1672, land was purchased in Meadow Lane (now Camp Lane Court) for use as a burial ground. A meeting house was built on the site in 1699 at a cost of £142, and extended in 1723. A stable was built in 1709 at a cost of £33, which was extended in 1711 to accommodate a room above for use as a school room by Miles Walter. A number of alterations and extensions took place at the meeting house in the late eighteenth century, some of which included internal changes to create a larger school within the meeting house for Joseph Tatham in 1756. An extension for a women's Quarterly Meeting was built in 1785.

A request was made by the Quarterly Meeting to either enlarge or rebuild the meeting house in 1785. By 1788, a new meeting house was built on the site; this was one of the largest meeting houses in the country at that time. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the needs of the Meeting were changing and as a result new buildings were constructed on the opposite side of Camp Lane Court; a cottage for the doorkeeper, men's committee room and ancillary facilities. In the mid-nineteenth century the Leeds suburbs were expanding and Friends were living in other areas of the town; this resulted in the meeting house becoming too remote for all Friends to attend.

Following the death of Friend John Jowitt in 1865, part of his estate in Woodhouse Lane was sold to the Friends for £2,225. A new meeting house was built to the designs of Edward Birchall and opened in 1868 (Figure 1). The meeting house also provided space for school rooms, a committee room, a library, reading room and a caretaker's house. In 1905 London Yearly Meeting was held at this meeting house, the first time the meeting had been held outside of London. Following the First World War the Carlton Hill Meeting experienced a decline in their membership numbers, and the meeting house was becoming too large for the Friends' needs and too costly to maintain. In 1921, Friends sold the main meeting house building to Albrechts Limited and Friends continued to meet in the school room. By the 1930s the British Broadcasting Corporation had purchased the former meeting house and in 1978 made an offer to the Friends for the school room, which was accepted. This building was later purchased by Leeds Metropolitan University and is now known as the Old Broadcasting House.

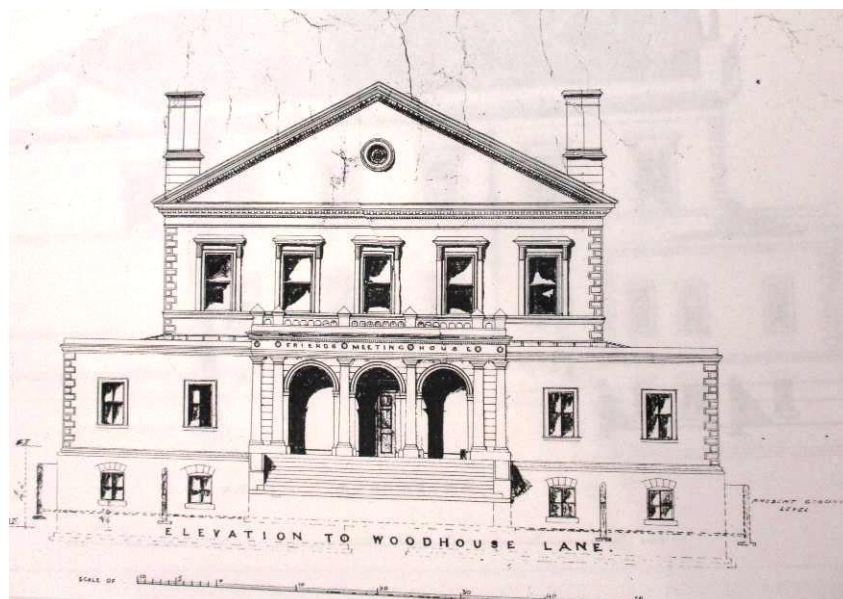


Figure 1: Plan of Carlton Hill Meeting House built in 1868
(Brotherton Library, Special Collections, MS/DEP/1979/1/PLA/2)

From 1979 Friends hired premises in Hyde Park until a new meeting house was built in 1987 on a different site on Woodhouse Lane. The Meeting approached a number of architects when considering the design of the new meeting house, including those with experience of designing meeting houses; Bartlett and Gray, Mauger, Gavin and Associates, H. Martin Lidbetter, and Trevor Dannatt. The designs proposed by Michael Sykes which were chosen (also designer of the meeting house in Bradford). The new meeting house was built to not only provide accommodation for Friends to worship but also with interconnected spaces which could be let; part of the building was used by the charity Age Concern and today this area is in use by Dyslexia Action. In addition to the meeting house Michael Sykes designed an accommodation scheme for older people on the same site, built in 1987. These flats are now managed by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

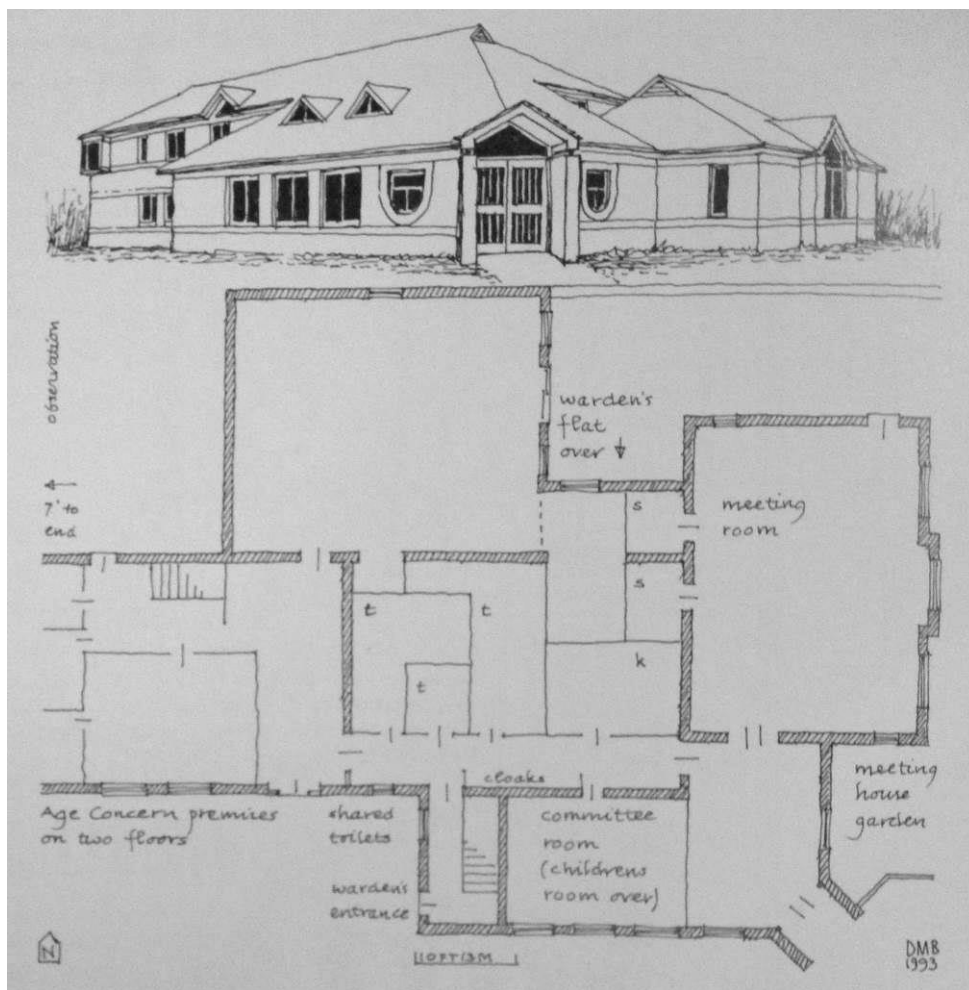


Figure 2: Ground floor plan (not to scale) and perspective
(Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol. 2, p. 816)

The meeting house was built in 1987, to the designs of Michael Sykes. The materials are brown brick laid in stretcher bond, with bands of contrasting brick and buff bricks forming soldier courses for the window lintels and sills and the roof is laid with concrete tiles. The plan is irregular, with a number of interconnecting spaces. The main the roof is hipped whilst the east section of the south elevation facing the road projects under a cat slide roof with two triangular dormers and a further projection to the east with a shallower hipped roof over the main meeting room. The entrance to the meeting house is to the southeast corner

via a gabled porch flanked either side by U-shaped windows. The east elevation of the projecting meeting room consists of a central gabled bay with a full length window. At the rear of the building to the north is a shallow gabled range and a corner window projects from the southwest corner. The fenestration of the building unless is a mixture of 1, 2 and 3-light upvc windows.

Inside a modest sized lobby area provides access into the meeting room and leads to a corridor which connects all the rooms and to the lettable spaces now occupied Dyslexia Action to the west. The main feature of the meeting room is the ceiling lined with tongue and groove panelling with six pendant lights. The walls are plastered and plainly painted, the floor is carpeted and the room is well lit from the east. The corridor runs east to west and provides access to the ancillary facilities and to the stairs leading to the warden's flat and smaller meeting room on the first floor.

2.3. Loose furnishings

The meeting house contains benches with an open-backed bench design with turned front legs. These pine benches were probably from an earlier meeting house.

2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

Not applicable.

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is located just outside the boundary of the Leeds University campus which is north of Leeds city centre. Directly opposite the meeting house is the Department of Mechanical Engineering, part of the expansion of Leeds University during the post-war years; the relief mural 'A Celebration of Engineering Sciences' designed by Allan Johnson in 1963 is Grade II listed. To the north of the meeting house is sheltered accommodation designed by Michael Sykes at the same time as the meeting house.

The boundary of the meeting house site is a mixture of planting and low brick boundary walls. The building is set back from the road, with a small area of garden planted with shrubs and trees. To the east of the meeting house are raised beds and a modest car park is located to the rear. The burial ground at Adel was laid out for use by the Carlton Hill Meeting in 1868, and is at NGR SE 26414 39353.

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 meeting house is on a site which was once occupied by Avenue House, dating from the nineteenth century. Avenue House was formerly the headquarters of the Leeds Motor Club and directly in front of the building was St Mark's petrol station. According to OS maps the property was demolished by 1949 and during the mid to late 20th century a corporation tram shed was constructed, later demolished prior to the meeting house being built. Overall, the site has medium archaeological potential in relation to the evolution of the site.