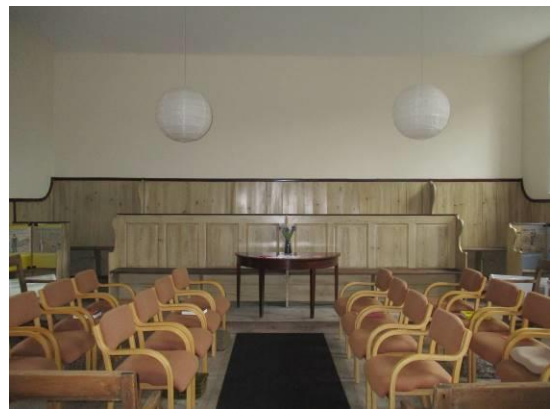


***Friends Meeting House, Gildersome***

*75 Street Lane, Gildersome, LS27 7HX*

*National Grid Reference: SE 24332 29076*



***Statement of Significance***

***The meeting house has high significance as a good example of a meeting house dating from the mid eighteenth century. It has an attractive setting with a coach house and stables fronting the street and a burial ground to the rear. The historic interior preserves its historic character and appearance with the retention of original fittings and features.***

### **Evidential value**

***The meeting house has high evidential value for its fabric which includes an interesting collection of joinery fittings from the eighteenth century. During the nineteenth century gravestones were discovered and there is potential for further gravestones, the burial ground has high archaeological potential.***

### **Historical value**

***This has been a site of Quaker worship since 1756. It retains much of its historic layout and a number of original or early features, including in the meeting room; the Elders' stand, dado panelling, panelled shutters and in the school room wrought iron hooks for the panelled shutters, tables and benches with ink wells. The simple headstones of the burial ground remain and two seventeenth century gravestones are located in the school room. The meeting house and burial ground have high historical value.***

### **Aesthetic value**

***The main frontage of the coach house and stables to the street provides an attractive entrance into the site via a stone arch. The meeting house has a plain and simple exterior whilst internally retaining much of its historic fittings including panelled shutters and dado panelling. Twentieth century additions to the cottage detract slightly from the character of the group of buildings. Overall, it has high aesthetic value.***

### **Communal value**

***The meeting house was built for and remains in primarily Quaker use. It makes a positive contribution to the local street scene and is opened each year as part of Heritage Open Days, and as such is appreciated by local people who may not be users of the building. The building and burial ground embody Quaker values of simplicity. The meeting house has medium communal value.***

## **Part 1: Core data**

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Leeds*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: 0032810
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Leeds City Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *Yorkshire*
- 1.6 1.6 Civil parish: *Gildersome*
- 1.7 Listed status: *II*
- 1.8 NHLE: *1250653*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *1756*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Not established*

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: *Gordon Appleyard*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites:

*Cottage (1810)*

*Stable and coach house (1849)*

1.18 Attached burial ground: *Yes*

1.19 Information sources:

David M. Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp. 798-799.

Peter Leach and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Yorkshire West Riding* ed. (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2009), pp.277.

Helen E. Roberts, *Researching Yorkshire Quaker History: A Guide to Sources*, University of Hull, 2003, pp. 41-42.

Ancient Gravestone in Gildersome Burial Ground, *The Friend* (vol 6), 1848

University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, Special Collections, Carlton Hill Collection, Gildersome Burial Ground MS/DEP/1979/1/PLA/20

Peter Rice, *Local Meeting Survey*, January 2016.

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

### 2.1. Historical background

During the seventeenth century Friends from Gildersome travelled to attend worship at the Leeds Meeting. By 1705, a Meeting was being held twice a month in the area presumably in local Friends homes. Land was purchased in 1709 for a meeting house which was built in the same year. In 1756 land was acquired from John Reyner for £35 on a site opposite Street Lane; a new meeting house with burial ground was built here and the former meeting house was sold. The site of the meeting house expanded; a cottage was constructed to the west of the meeting house in 1820, and a gatehouse, coach house and stables which front Street Lane were built in 1849.

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

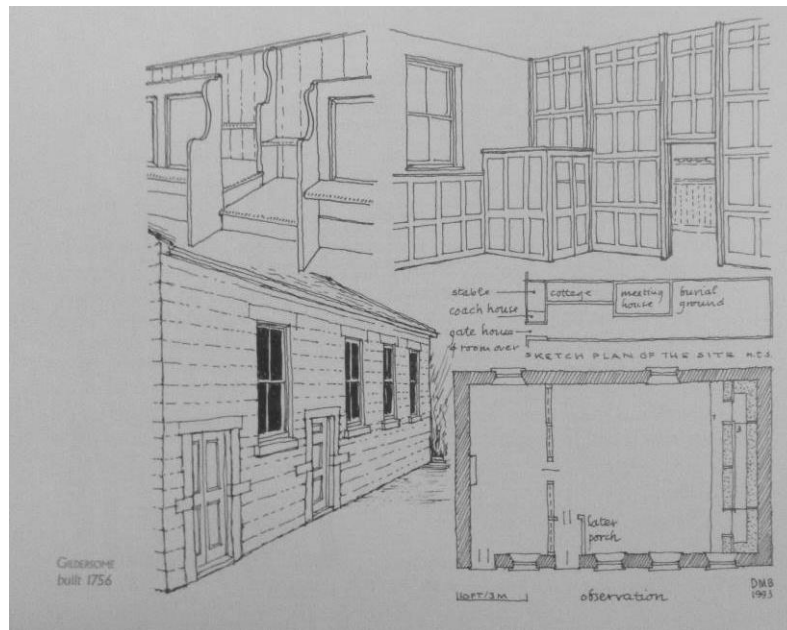


Figure 1: Ground floor plan (not to scale) and perspective  
(Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol. 2, p. 798)

The meeting house was built in 1756, constructed of ashlar stone finished in render to the north wall, west gable and part of the east gable. The pitched roof is covered with artificial stone slates with stone ridges and carved stone corbels support the timber guttering, whilst the downpipes are uPVC. One stone chimney stack is located on the west gable end. The rectangular building is aligned on a west-east axis, with the entrance facing south. The 4-bay meeting house is arranged with a 3-bay meeting room to the east and a 1-bay school room to the west. The main entrance faces south, this elevation has a stone plinth and four sliding sash windows with lintels and projecting sills, dating from the nineteenth century. Doorways are located either side of the first window to the west of the elevation with tie-stone jambs. The four panelled door to the west of the first window leads into the school room whilst the six panelled doorway to the eastern side leads into the meeting room, with a cast iron boot scraper at its entrance. The west and east gables are blind. The rendered north elevation has two sliding sash windows and a small lean-to is located to the east of this elevation.

Inside, the internal porch leads into the main meeting room. The main meeting room and the school room are divided by panelled shutters painted white which can be raised and secured to the ceiling of the school room on wrought iron hooks. The meeting room has a timber floor with a central stone floor slab formerly used to accommodate a heating stove. The original tongue and groove panelling surrounds three sides, which were painted with a grained effect in the twentieth century. The raised two-tier stand at the east wall has shaped bench ends. To the southwest corner is the internal porch with coat hooks, further coat hooks are located on the panelled division which also provides access into the school room. The school room contains basic modern kitchen facilities to the north. The west wall has a row of coat hooks, a chimney breast with twentieth century tiled fireplace and a fitted cupboard unit to the north of the chimney breast. Fitted to the panelled division south of the doorway to the east is a hinged school desk with inkwells. Wrought iron hooks for shutters line the ceiling, and there are two drop pendant lights. Two seventeenth century gravestones have been relocated from the burial ground to the school room for safekeeping.

### 2.3. Loose furnishings

There are two sets of different open-backed bench designs, those with armrest supports and those without. In the school room is a central table containing inkwells, an unusual feature.



Figure 2: Two styles of open-backed benches



Figure 3: Table with inkwells.

### 2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

The burial ground is still in use for burials and is located to the east of the meeting house. It is enclosed by a stone wall and is well planted with mature trees and planting. The burial ground has a uniform character with a central row of small round headed headstones with basic information inscribed according to Quaker tradition and further headstones to the entrance of the burial ground. Burial records are located in Brotherton Library Special Collections at the University of Leeds. Located in the school room are two gravestones dating from 1662 and 1667. These were uncovered in 1848 when work was being carried out to remove the foundations of an old fence wall near the meeting house.

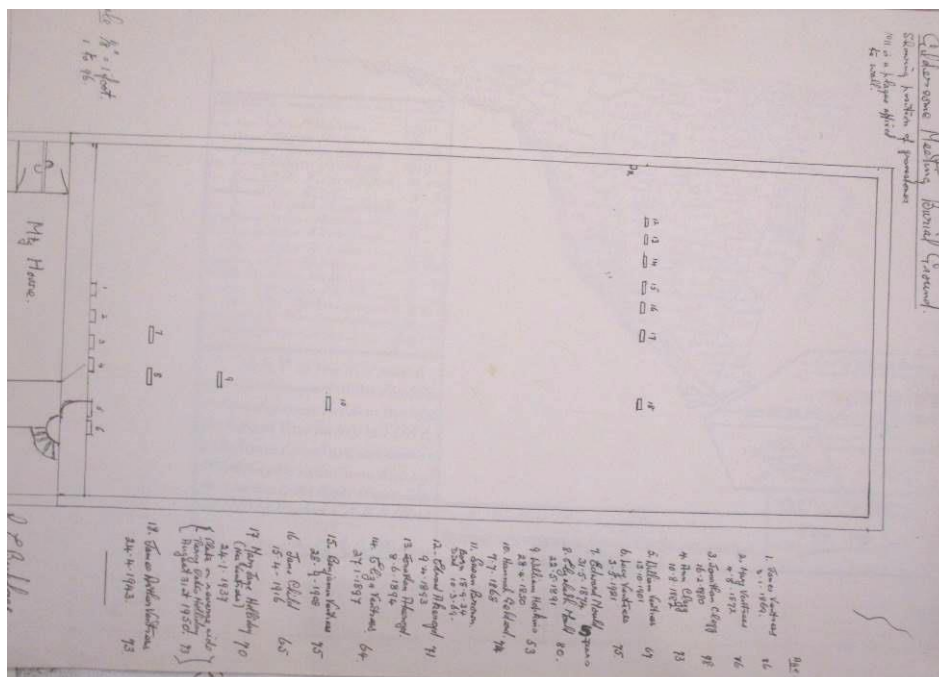


Figure 4: Gildersome Burial Ground, nd. North is to the right.  
(Brotherton Library, Special Collections, MS/DEP/1979/1/PLA/20)

## 2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

Gildersome is a village which lies five miles southwest of Leeds city centre. The meeting house is set back from Street Lane and is screened from the road by the coach house and stables built in coursed sandstone. Access to the meeting house is via the entrance arch of the coach house. The stables retain a fine set of original timber stalls and sloping hay racks, stone floor and a hit-and-miss ventilator window. Between this range and the meeting house is a one storey cottage which has been altered over the years, with additions to the rear and a conservatory to the south. To the south of the meeting house is a rockery garden which leads to the burial ground to the east.



Figure 5: Stables

The meeting house falls in an area which is predominantly residential with nineteenth century stone short terraces to the south, and on the opposite side of Street Lane is a row of maisonettes with commercial premises at ground floor and areas of 1930s residential development. A detached burial ground is located in Morley, Bruntcliffe Lane.

## 2.6 Listed status

The meeting house is correctly listed at Grade II. The list description should be revised to acknowledge that the two seventeenth century gravestones have now been relocated into the school room. As a result of the other buildings on the site pre-dating 1948 they are listed under the curtilage rule. However, the stable and coach house may be suitable candidates for listing in their own right. The stables represent a rare example of a Quaker stable with good quality original stalls still in-situ.

## 2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

No former buildings were present on site prior to the present meeting house being built. Overall, the archaeological potential of the site, including the burial ground, is considered to be medium.

## Part 6: List Description

Name: **GILDERSOME FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

List entry Number: 1250653

Location

GILDERSOME FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, STREET LANE

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

County:

District: Leeds

District Type: Metropolitan Authority

Parish: Gildersome

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 30-Apr-1982

List entry Description

SE22NW LS27 STREET LANE SE2429 MORLEY (east side) 1/44 Gildersome 30.4.82  
Friends' Meeting House

- II

Friends' Meeting House. c1756. Ashlar, stone slate roof. Single storey. 4 bays of sash windows with lintels and projecting sills. Set either side of the 1st window doorways with tie-stone jambs. Shaped gutter brackets. Stack to left gable.

Attached to front are two C17 gravestones from earlier graveyard and meeting house on a different site. They are inscribed:

" HEAR . LYETH . THE and " HERE . LYETH . THE . BODY . OF . THOMAS . BODY . OF . ANTHONY . JEFFERSON . WHICH . GASSON . WHO . DYE DEPARTED . THIS . D . THE 29 OF FEBRUARY LIFE . THE . 27 . OF . 1669 . OF AGE . 79 " THE , 12 . MONTH . CALLED ADAR 1662 "

Interior: retains Elders' Gallery with raised-and-fielded panels and same to division wall to schoolroom at rear.

Listing NGR: SE2433229076