

Friends Meeting House, Middlesbrough

131 Cambridge Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 5HL

National Grid Reference: NZ 48046 17930



Statement of Significance

The meeting house occupies a substantial Edwardian detached house of 1911, which was purchased by Friends in 1959 and adapted for Quaker use with a new meeting room. Overall the building is of medium heritage significance.

Evidential value

The original house was erected on a greenfield site; there are not likely to be any below-ground remains and the site and building have low evidential value

Historical value

The building was originally erected in 1911 as a private house to the designs of the local architects Moore & Archibald, and is of medium historical value

Aesthetic value

The building is a handsome and substantial Edwardian detached house which retains some original decorative features internally and is of medium aesthetic value.

Communal value

As a Quaker meeting house which is well-used by the wider community, the meeting house has high communal value.

Part 1: Core data

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Teesdale & Cleveland*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: *0012310*
- 1.3 Owner: *Friends Trust*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Middlesbrough Borough Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *North East*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Middlesbrough*
- 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): *1911, meeting room added 1961*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Moore & Archibald, meeting room by Thomas Crawford of Middlesbrough*
- 1.14 Date of visit: *17 May 2016*
- 1.15 Name of report author: *Neil Burton*
- 1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Kitty Grove-Stephensen*
- 1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *The former Ayresome burial ground now part of Linthorpe cemetery, NGR NZ 48344 18797*
- 1.18 Attached burial ground: *No*
- 1.19 Information sources:
Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol.2 pp.748-51.
Middlesbrough drainage plans 1911 Teesside archives No. 875C
Local Meeting survey by Kitty Grove-Stephensen and Jane Nicholls, undated

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

2.1. Historical background

The Quaker industrialist Joseph Pease of Darlington was largely responsible for the early development of Middlesbrough. He realised the potential of the place as a port for north country coal, purchased the Middlesborough estate in 1829, laid out a new town in 1831 and linked it to the Stockton to Darlington railway, in which he was a major shareholder. Quakers were extensively employed in the management of the Middlesbrough ironworks and

other concerns and at first attended the meeting in Stockton, but in 1849 a substantial meeting house was built in Wilson Street with a burial ground attached. In 1871 the building was sold to the Corporation and in 1873 a new meeting house was built in Grange Road with schools attached. In 1944 the meeting house complex was requisitioned as a hostel. Friends did not return to the building after the war and sold it in 1953; it was demolished in 1967. A house was purchased in Cornfield Road to provide temporary accommodation but in 1961 a larger detached house in Cambridge Road (built in 1911 to the designs of Moore & Archibald) was acquired and a new meeting room added.

2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The original 1911 house is in the Olde Englishe style characteristic of the Edwardian period. The walls are of hard red brick laid in English garden wall bond, with dressings of stone and some timber-framing. The building is two storeys high with pitched roofs now covered in concrete tiles. The main front has a central doorway under a timber canopy with a double-height canted bay window to the left. To the right is another canted bay window with an oversailing timber-framed upper storey under a cross-gable. Attached to the left side of the house is the 1961 meeting room; this is a single-storey structure of red brick laid in stretcher boond, with a flat roof and large rectangular window openings with timber casements. The interior of the original house retains many of its original fittings. The meeting room space is severely plain.

2.3. Loose furnishings

There are several unpainted pine benches with shaped arms, probably nineteenth century.

2.4. Attached burial ground (if any)

None.

2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is situated in Linthorpe, an attractive southern suburb of Middlesborough. The building stands in a small garden at the junction of Cambridge Road and Eton Road.

The Quaker burial ground at Ayresome (*NGR NZ 48344 18797*) was established soon after 1660 and served a wide area. After 1745 the burial ground fell into disuse but was still maintained. Another burial ground was opened in 1847 next to the new meeting house in Wilson street but was closed in 1855 and the Ayresome burial ground was re-opened and has been used ever since. The Linthorpe municipal cemetery was established nearby in 1869 and was gradually extended northwards until it enclosed the former Quaker burial ground on three sides.

2.6. Listed status

The building is a not a candidate for listing.

2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

This is a suburban site with low archaeological potential.