Proposed Alterations to Front Office, Removal of Stair, etc. **Job No. 1558**
Friends Meeting House, Manchester
for Society of Friends

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

SITE AND CONTEXT

1. The Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street is opposite the rear side of the Central Reference Library Manchester situated on one of the principal routes to Albert Square, a busy bus route, a short distance from the tram stop in Peter Square. To the rear of the Meeting House is the Police Station, on either side are offices, small shops, and café bars. It has an excellent location for a much used Church and community building.

EXISTING BUILDING

2. The present building was constructed in 1829 as a Quaker Meeting House and burial ground, to serve the rapidly expanding population of Manchester. For 180 years it has served the spiritual and social needs of the Quaker community, and continues to do so.

3. As-Built the Meeting House originally had a large Meeting Room capable of subdivision (by a huge vertical screen) into 2 Meeting Rooms, one for men, one for women. The original plan is appended. In 1920 the women's hall was reconfigured as a suite of social rooms upstairs with a concourse below with offices and committee rooms. In 1963 the whole building was radically altered with virtually all of the original details removed from the large galleried meeting hall, and a modernist interior was created as a dual purpose Quaker worship space, capable of being adapted as an assembly room, a recital space or a dance floor. In 1997 the concourse and adjacent rooms were reconfigured as a small conference suite and 'correct' period detail was reintroduced to the concourse. In the last 10 years 2 schemes have been developed to give wheelchair access and accessible W.C.s at ground level and basement level.

PROPOSALS

4. The 2 existing external handrails are to be repositioned as indicated on the enclosed drawings, and the pair of front doors are to be replaced by a new wider door/glazed screen for improved access.

ACCESS

5. The ground floor entrance and the basement level are all fully accessible, with accessible W.C.s already. This proposal repositions the handrails to the front steps to more convenient locations for visitors/staff with reduced mobility and provides a DFA 2 compliant front entrance door with optional push pad control.

Bernard Taylor Partnership Ltd.
13th August, 2009

PLANNING
17 AUG 2009
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