

Fig. 7 Drawings and sections by Lidbetter of east and west elevations, c. 1927 (FHL)

Both the eastern and western blocks were set around open courtyards, the east courtyard designed as a quiet haven where Friends could gather before and after meetings (Clark). This courtyard contained a fountain, apparently included at the last minute (partly) to counteract the noise of traffic. On the north, south and east sides of the courtyard, large folding doors were designed to turn the wide ground floor corridors into fair weather cloisters.

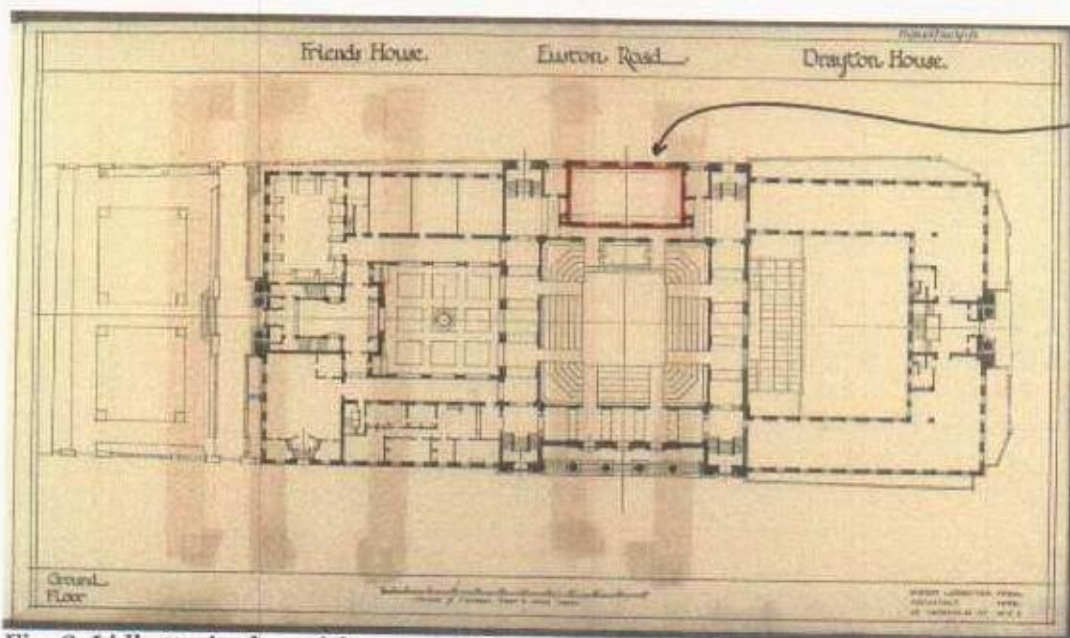


Fig. 8 Lidbetter's plan of the ground floor, 1928 (FHL)

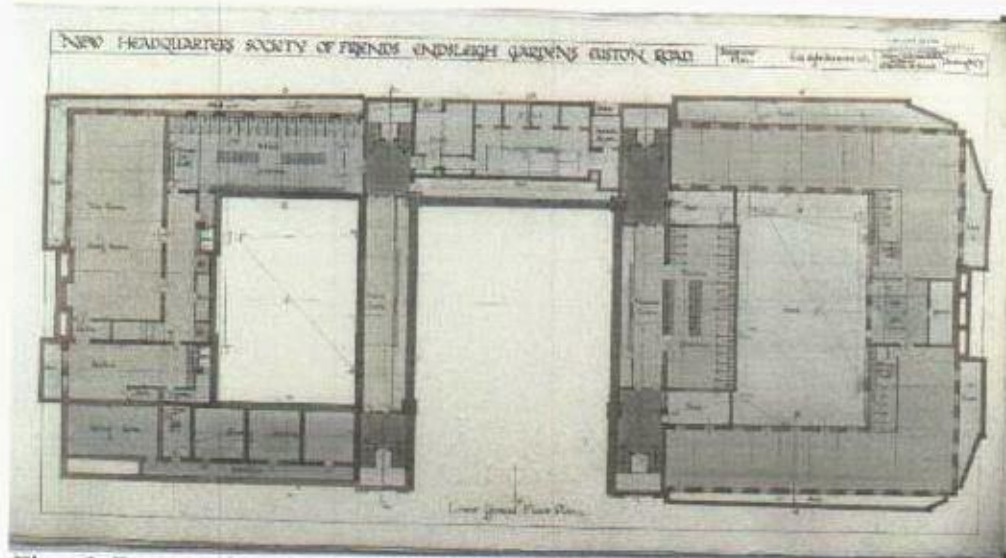
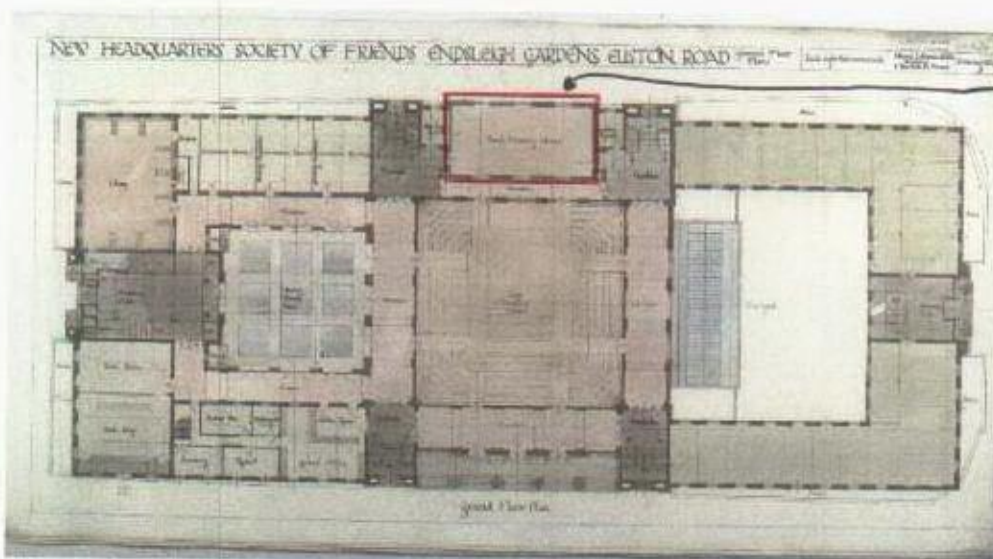


Fig. 18 Basement usage, c. 1926 (FHL)



Location of
Rms 10, 11 & 12.

Fig. 19 Ground floor usage, c. 1926. The general offices did not take this form in 1928, so this plan for the area does not appear to have been as built (FHL)

In the basement were tea rooms, strong rooms and lavatories. On the ground floor, off the south courtyard corridor were three committee rooms with removable partitions which allowed the rooms to be used separately or as one large space. East of these rooms, overlooking the garden, was a double height library. The *Architectural Review* describes this as 'lofty and well lit', with oak book cases and a narrow gallery on two sides. Motifs on the plaster ceiling in the library were repeated elsewhere, especially in the east entrance lobby and large meeting house. According to a booklet which describes the original building, the oak fittings for the library were largely funded by donations from American Friends.

North of the library was the main entrance and reception of the administration block. To the *Architectural Review*, the entrance lobby 'struck a successful note of simplicity', with walls clad in a warm shade of polished stone from Leckhampton. The ground floor corridors were clad in the same

The council would be prepared to give favourable consideration should an application be made to erect a fourth storey on to the Euston Road frontage of Friends House and Drayton House, the eastern end of Friends House and the Gordon Street frontage of Drayton House.

The LCC considered that the addition of a fourth floor on the Endsleigh Gardens frontage would infringe daylighting standards.

Outline proposals to develop part of the garden beside the east entrance were rejected by the LCC in 1962. The minutes do not detail the proposed development, but focus on the threat to the garden of a proposed new road scheme. This did not materialise.

Hubert Lidbetter died in 1966 and his son Martin was subsequently appointed consultant architect to Friends House.

Figs. 41-45 The existing floor plan in 1968, from basement to top floor (FHL):

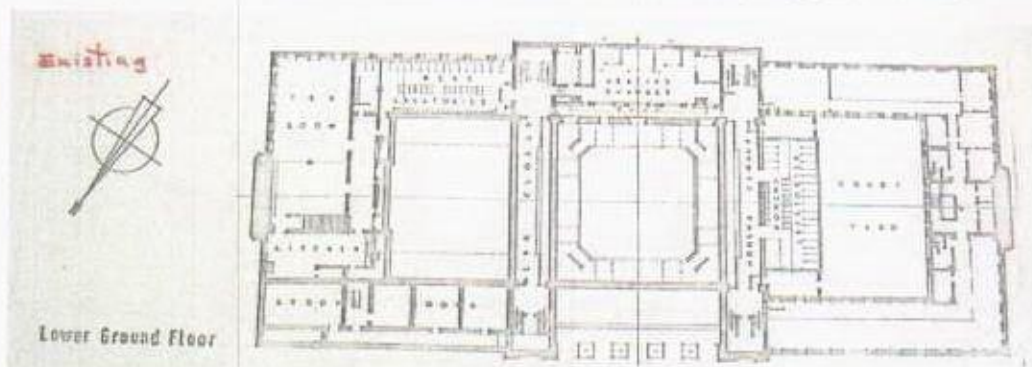


Fig. 41 Basement, 1968

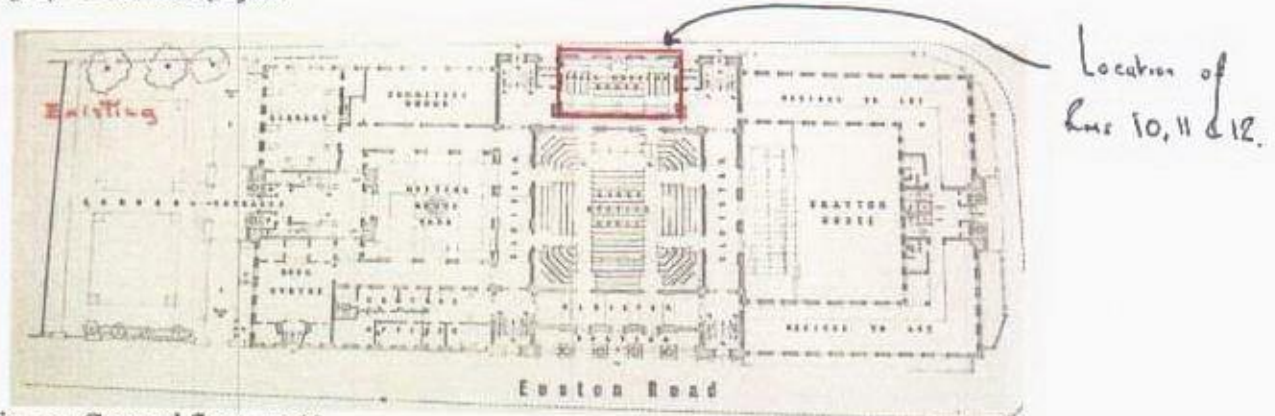
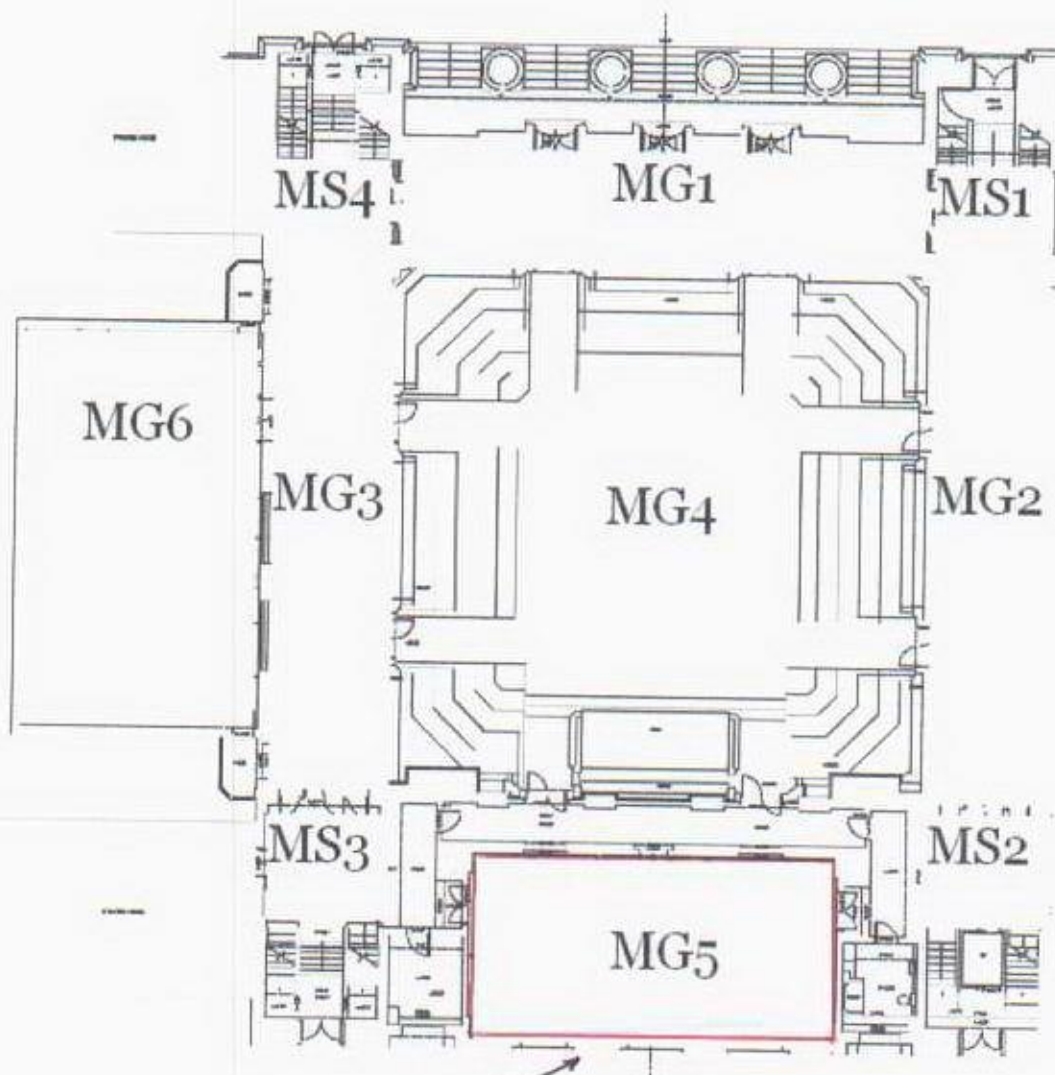


Fig. 42 Ground floor, 1968

Ground floor



Location of Cnr 10.11 & 12.

Name: Meeting rooms in former small meeting house	Plan ref: MG5
Current Use: Meeting rooms.	
Short description: Together, these rooms occupy the main hall of the former small meeting house. Apart from painted wall panels and stone architraves around what is visible of the original-style windows, no detail of historic architectural interest remains.	
	
Short history: The small meeting house windows were replaced in identical style in 1978. The original meeting house space was subdivided horizontally in 1986-7 to form these meeting rooms on the ground floor. Probably at the same time, the small 'retiring rooms' on either side – still mentioned on a plan of 1968 – were converted into a disabled WC and tea room, respectively. In the process, the original leaded lights in the WC's fan window were replaced with large panes of frosted glass. The leaded lights still survive in the tea room.	
Significance: The 1980s subdivision caused these spaces to lose much of their original significance, although the fact that the 1927 meeting hall space could be restored means they remain of moderate significance . The (now painted) panelling which clads the south wall is probably the only finish which remains from the original small meeting house. The windows are the most significant external feature.	
Issues/vulnerabilities: Externally, the horizontal subdivision is visible, cutting across the large arched windows. Inside, the subdivision has the same unsightly effect.	