

The Conservation Office

Statement of Significance Example 2:

Tregillard (Grade II)

Part 1: The church in its rural environment

Tregillard chapel lies at the edge of a dispersed rural settlement. It is a former Bible Christian wayside chapel. The hamlet itself is a Conservation Area.

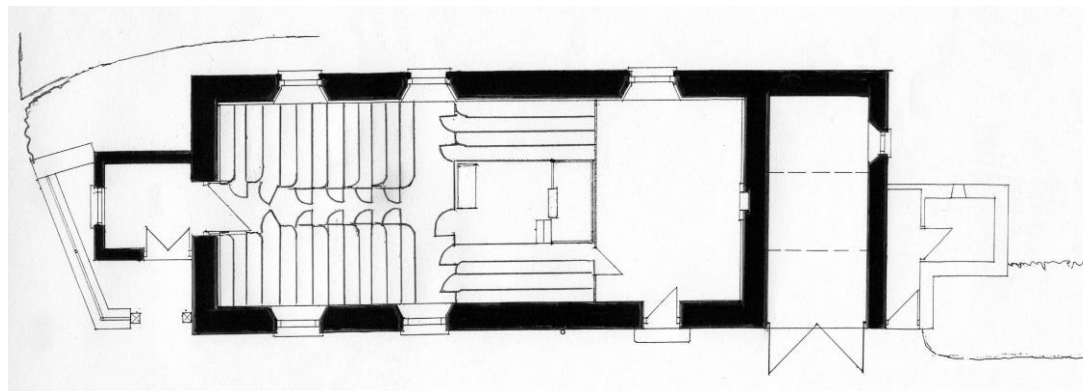
The chapel dates from 1828 and is of particular interest as a little altered example of a wayside chapel with chapel, Sunday School and stable building extending in linear fashion (moderate to high significance). It stands in a slightly isolated position at a cross-roads. There is no other land within the curtilage of the building other than a tiny front yard enclosed by a wall with railings which contains the small entrance porch.

The chapel is small (8m by 5m), and the adjoining Sunday School smaller still (5m by 3m). The walls are of coursed rubble with rough-cast rendering to the entrance elevation. The roofs are covered in Cornish slate. There are two original hornless sash windows on each of the side elevations (moderate significance). The Sunday School continues under the same roof and the stable, in the same materials, is a lean-to at a slightly lower level.



The chapel showing the south elevation

Much of the furniture is original, including the box pews and leaders' benches (moderate significance), but the small rostrum pulpit is later. The chapel is separated from the Sunday School by a folding timber screen (moderate significance).



Plan of the chapel as existing (not to scale)

This tiny chapel is kept in good condition and there are no serious structural defects. There are no modern facilities within the building and none such are available nearby, as the hamlet has no other public buildings.

Part 2: The significance of the area affected by the proposal

The proposal is to install a kitchen within the former stable (now used as a store, no original fittings survive) and provide an extension to house a toilet suitable for disabled access. The stable is a survival of an early plan form (moderate significance). It is a reminder that visiting preachers would often arrive on horseback. The leaders' pews are also a rare survival of an internal layout (moderate significance). The Sunday School room will be enlarged by repositioning the timber screen between it and the worship area. This will allow greater use of the building by the community. The reduction of the worship area will mean the loss of three rows of pews (moderate significance), but the box pews nearest the entrance will remain and the leaders' pews near the pulpit will be repositioned.

Bibliography: Stell, C (1991) *Nonconformist Chapels & Meeting-houses in South-West of England*
Dolbey, G (1964) *The Architectural Expression of Methodism*
Thorne, R (1978) *The Early Bible Christians*
Lake, J etc. (2001) *Diversity and Vitality: the Methodist and Non-conformist Chapels of Cornwall*
Listing description.

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