

**Southdown House : 207 Canterbury Road<sup>1</sup>**

This property is a large double storey building, with one of its shorter end-walls butting right onto the road. It is an imposing house and probably had a garden in front of it originally. For many years, the house bore a fire insurance mark dated 1709, insured in the name of John Reeder. This area is now the entrance and car park for the Methodist Chapel. The house is a Grade II listed building, in which the description states:

The house is 18<sup>th</sup> century

Plastered with pseudo timber framing (This has now been removed)

Renewed tiled half-hipped roof with 3 dormers

Later 19<sup>th</sup> century shop front to the road (This, too, has now been removed)

Side elevation has a simple door-case with a semi-hood, panelled reveals and a panelled door

The top panels of the door now have glass.

As usual, the inspector was not able to see inside the property when he wrote his description for the grading. The house stands where the Quaker Meeting House used to be and this house may well have been where they met. It contains some very old features in its cellar, which suggest an older date than the 18<sup>th</sup> century given by the grading. The present owner has been given a possible date of 17<sup>th</sup> century at least. There are chalk clunch blocks lining the cellar and the beams supporting the floor above certainly appear very old indeed. There are several references in the Churchwardens' Accounts to the Quakers. They began meeting in Birchington in about 1650.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix No. 40