Montefiore Mausoleum

The design of the mausoleum is based on that of the tomb of Rachel, near Bethlehem, a celebrated burial structure of the ancient world restored by Lady Montefiore. It is domed and rectangular in plan, with heavy rustication. Behind the mausoleum there is a low stone column, presumably recalling Judith's original monument ("And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day"; Genesis 35, 19). The simple interior is lit from above by a coloured glass skylight. It contains two marble tombs surrounded with wooden fretwork and has a wrought-iron 'perpetual lamp' hanging in the centre.

Architect(s)
Not known

Listing
Grade II (England and Wales)

Year Created
1862

History
Sir Moses Montefiore, 1st bt (1784-1885) made a fortune at a relatively young age and devoted himself thereafter to good works. Among other things, he secured a firman from the sultan placing Jews on the same footing as all other aliens (1840), founded a school and hospital in Jerusalem (1855), raised funds for the Jewish and Christian refugees at Gibraltar (1860) and interceded on behalf of the Moldavian Jews (1867). In 1833 he had commissioned the architect, A D Mocatta, to build a synagogue at Ramsgate where he lived. The mausoleum, which stands close by, was built in 1862 following the death of his wife, Judith, Lady Montefiore (d.1862).

Condition
Good (2002).

Sources
BoE: NE & E Kent (1976), 423;
G Callow, Moses the Victorian Jew (1990);
S & V D Lipman, The Century of Moses Montefiore (1985);
G Wyatt, Sir Moses Montefiore and Ramsgate, Kent C C, nd.
Location
Honeysuckle Road,
Ramsgate,
Kent
CT11 8AB