

Heritage Statement for proposed alterations to Shirley House, Sunny Place, Robin Hood's Bay

What is significant about the heritage asset?

This statement is in support of an application to replace the stair rails, fence and gate that form the boundary to the front of Shirley House. The property is a Grade II listed building within the Old Town of Robin Hood's Bay, which is a conservation area with an Article 4 direction. Listed in 1969,ⁱ the property stands at the SE end of a terrace of 5 properties known as Sunny Place. It is said to date from 1651, and there are records relating to the adjoining properties that date back to 1628.

The front of the property forms part of a street scene based on the Sunny Place terrace, which shares common design features and which in turn form part of a coherent and historic village landscape. There is a heavy wood picket fence surrounding the front of the property and ascending to the front door. The present structure dates from the 1990s, though there is photographic evidence of a similar structure existing in the Victorian era.

Assessment of heritage significance

While Shirley House is a heritage asset, the fabric that contributes to its listed building status relates to the external appearance of the building.

What works are proposed?

The present structure is rotten in a number of places and is now unsafe, presenting a hazard to the occupants and to passing pedestrians. The aim of the proposed work is to replace the existing boundary structure with one of the same design and dimensions, taking the opportunity to ensure that its details conform as closely as can be ascertained to its appearance in the Victorian era.

What impact do the works have on the part of the heritage asset affected?

The overall appearance will be unchanged, other than the substitution of a double gate opening for the current single gate, within an opening of the same width. Detailing of the hand-rails and newel posts will more closely approximate to the appearance in the Victorian period.

How has the impact of the proposals been minimised?

Pre-application advice was sought in November 2019. A search was undertaken for historic images of the boundary fence and stairs. The findings have been submitted as part of the application. The proposed design seeks to more closely approximate to the detailing seen in the late 1800s, whilst retaining the same overall dimensions and proportions as existing.

Pre-application advice was obtained in December 2019 from Clair Shields at N. York Moors NPA.

ⁱ 6.10.69 No 6 (Shirley House)

GV II House, early C18, possibly with older core. (Painted date 1651 AD.) Coursed sand- stone with varied tooling, some very fine, some standard herringbone; much patching and rebuilding on front. Pantiled roof with brick stack. 2 storeys, attic and basement, 2 bays, irregular. At right 5

steps, with wood handrail, to studded boarded door under gabled wood hood on fancy brackets. At left boarded basement door and inserted window. On ground and first floors 2 replaced 12-pane sashes with projecting sills. Modern dormer with small-paned casement. Left end chimney. Carved name stone inserted below ground floor window.

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