

Heritage Statement

1 Esplanade, Robin Hood's Bay

- 9 MAR 2016

Heritage Significance

No 1 Esplanade is a Grade II listed building (list description below for information) located to the north of Robin Hood's Bay Conservation Area. It is a residential dwelling believed to be of early to mid-nineteenth century origin and is constructed of a pinkish brick under a slate roof. It is representative of the period of Victorian expansion that accompanied the development of tourism in the village which in turn was catalysed by the introduction of the railways. The significance of the building as defined by Historic England's Conservation Principles lies within the combination of the building's historical illustrative value and its aesthetic value; both designed and fortuitous.

NZ 9505 (inset) FYLINGDALES ESPLANADE, Robin Hood's Bay 17/75 Nos 2-11 consecutive. 6.10.69. (Formerly listed as Nos 1-10)

GV II Terrace of houses, early-mid C19. Pinkish brick in English garden wall bond, 1 and 5; Nos 5-8 rendered; stone dressings. Welsh slate roofs, blue and purple of varied sizes. Brick chimneys, some rendered. each 3 storeys, 1 wide bay. Door at left with low overlight; some original 6-panel doors, varied replacements; overlight mostly blocked. 16-pane sashes on ground and first floors, 9-pane on second floors, with wedge lintels and projecting cills. Nos 3, 4 and 9 have original windows complete, the others have later C19 sashes or modern casements, but all in original openings, except for late C19 canted bay on ground floor of No 7, No 8 has an added small porch with segmental lead roof. Rear view shows catslides, with dormers or rooflights, to several houses; some others have varied extensions, some gabled, some 2-storey with pitched roofs.

The building contributes towards the character of the Conservation Area being both the first and/or last building that most people see as they enter and exit the old town. The roofscape is also clearly visible in views through the Conservation Area from Fisherhead. The stand pipe and fountain site are located adjacent the stone curtilage wall which forms the front boundary. This wall is constructed of high quality, herringbone tooled sandstone and is a curtilage listed structure. The proposed sign would be attached to this wall approximately five courses up from ground level.

Assessment of Impact

Impact on the special architectural and historic interest of the listed building

The sign would not be affixed to the listed building and as such the fabric and appearance of this would be conserved. The curtilage listed wall is high quality and does contribute towards the character of the Conservation Area. It is currently free of any appendages and as such the sign would constitute a small piece of visual clutter that would undermine to a limited degree the character and appearance of the wall and therefore the setting of the listed terrace. Accordingly a low level of harm may occur to the building's designed aesthetic value.

Impact on character and appearance of the Conservation Area

There are a considerable number of similar scale signs scattered throughout the village explaining points of interest. This plaque will be designed in a Victorian style consistent with the age of the adjacent listed terrace. Given this and the fact that the plaque will be located to form an interesting grouping with the standpipe and fountain, will be traditionally detailed and of modest size its impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area is considered to be negligible. It is also possible that the plaque might enhance the setting of the standpipe which is considered to be non-designated heritage asset and thus contribute to the aesthetic fortuitous value of this section of streetscape.

Mitigation

It is felt, that the harm outlined above will be offset by the public benefit that will ensue from having the history of the stand pipe and fountain explained. The plaque will be located in such a way as to minimise the number of screws that are fixed directly into the stonework with screws fixed, wherever possible, into 20th century, mortar. If removed at a later date the plaque would leave four screw holes which could be filled with lime mortar and sand to form a 'plastic' stone repair. The plaque will be the smallest size necessary to accommodate the requisite text; indeed the initial plans were for two separate signs and, at the Building Conservation Officer's suggestion, these have been amalgamated to form one sign thus limiting visual clutter. The plaque will be painted in a manner typical of Victorian signage so should not look out of place within this Victorian streetscape and should form an attractive grouping with the fountain and standpipe.

- 9 MAR 2018