



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST BULLETIN



THE OLD BOWLS PAVILION, 86 BRIDGFORD ROAD WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAM, NG2 6AX.

NUMBER 1.

AUGUST, 1986

Dear Member,

Welcome to the first of our new and informal Bulletins, issued to keep you aware of the current activities of the Trust and its members. We are keen to publish your views, comments and letters, and it is hoped the Bulletin will be published bi-monthly. A regular item will be the report from the Northern and Southern Area Revolving Fund Groups (two committees who aim to identify and sympathetically restore buildings for sale to the general public). The Bulletin's launch is to provide a more informal discussion publication allowing the 'glossy' Newsletter to move towards a more academic content.

Looking forward to the next edition of the Bulletin, we hope to describe the work of the Trust during the past year as a preview to the A.G.M. in November. Therefore, if you have anything to share with the rest of the members, please write to Bryan Cather, The Bulletin, Notts. Building Preservation Trust, Old Bowls Pavilion, 86, Bridgford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6AX. We hope you will find your Bulletin is useful and informative. Watch this space.

BUILDINGS AT RISK REGISTER

The English Heritage Commission has declared 1987 as the "National Buildings at Risk Year", reflecting the potential loss of many of the vernacular buildings in which the Trust is interested.

A register is being compiled at the County Planning Department from details submitted by members of the public on buildings believed to be under threat, and which will be individually considered on how they might be saved.

RICHARD SIMPSON

LAMBERTS FACTORY, TALBOT STREET.

The building described on the front cover of the last Newsletter and threatened by demolition has had the application for listed building consent to demolish called in by the Secretary of State at a recent public inquiry. Evidence was heard from the Trust and other amenity societies. The hearing has now closed and we are patiently awaiting a decision.

BRYAN CATHER.

REVOLVING FUND REPORTS

SOUTHERN AREA:

Manor Farm, Colwick

Manor Farm is a Grade II listed building in the Borough of Gedling which the owners, Dobson Park Industries, are seeking to dispose of. The farm consists of an imposing two-storey farmhouse (possibly reduced from three storeys) with attached barn thought to have been built in the late 17th century, and two adjoining ranges of more recent single-storey outbuildings.

After a period of negotiation, the Trust has now formally accepted the offer of the property as a gift, subject to terms being agreed.

A feasibility study is now being examined which converts the house into two residential units, with a further two units in the barn and an additional four units on the adjoining land.

St. Stephens Road, Sneinton

Completion on the 31st July in conjunction with the City Planning Department, this modest refurbishment will be offered for sale following an exhibition on these premises showing good practice in urban renewal. It is hoped to announce the date of the opening ceremony shortly, so that members can attend and inspect the property.

Ollerton Hall

The Trust has been requested by Newark District Council to assist in developing detailed proposals for the future of this fine 17th century building.

73 Main Street, Papplewick

This attractive stone cottage, left to the Trust by the late owner is presently being examined by the Trust's architect, Mr. B. Allebon.

Wollaton Dovecote

This fine building has now been restored by the Architect, Mr. John Severn. If anybody wishes to inspect the interior, the key may be obtained from the reception desk in the Park Industrial museum.

Dalestorth House, Sutton-in-Ashfield

Several schemes are being examined to explore a new use for this building which has the support of the owner.

14 High Street, Arnold

Mr. John Severn has been appointed architect for this Grade II property which involves complete refurbishment with grant aid from the District and County Councils. The Trust has in this instance acted on behalf of the owner, and encouraged the support of all parties, whilst retaining an interest in the completed scheme.

NORTHERN AREA

Warden's Cottage, Slaynes's Lane, Misson

This delightful cottage, dated 1692, undoubtedly the actual date of erection, was considered important enough to be recorded by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments many years ago. It has been derelict for as long as the Trust has been in existence and was included in a presentation to Bassetlaw Planning Committee on 19th June, 1985. It is listed Grade II. The exciting news is that the cottage has now been purchased for the Trust by founder-member Martin Horrocks acting on our behalf at the auction on Wednesday, 16th July.



24, Moorgate, Retford

This Grade II listed house was allowed to get into even worse condition than Warden's Cottage, Misson, and then the owners applied for consent to demolish; a well-known technique. Fortunately, at the very last moment on 23rd June, the Secretary of State for the Environment decided to call in the application for his own determination and a Public Inquiry will be held towards the end of this year.

HAGGS FARM PRESERVATION SOCIETY

We have received news about the recent formation of the Haggs Farm Preservation Society, a place familiar to all D.H. Lawrence fans.

The society aims to preserve and document the Grade II listed building at Underwood. Unfortunately documentation is thin on the ground and the Society Secretary, Mr. Karl Orend, would welcome any information regarding the history of the farm or location of documentary sources.

Mr. Orend understands that a small book was written about the history of Haggs Farm and published locally between 1930-1960, although he can find no details of its author or publisher. If anyone has any knowledge of this publication he would be most pleased to hear from you. Mr. Orend can be contacted at 31A, Wilson Lane, Longford, Coventry, CV6 6AB.



SHIREOAKS STATION

Shireoaks Station was built by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway between 1883 and 1884 in the company style of twin-pavilions flanking a central section with a projecting canopy. Although originally part of the Sheffield-Worksop line, by the turn of the century it had been integrated into the Great Central Railway, and was finally acquired by the London North Eastern Railway. After successfully avoiding Dr. Beeching's axe, the line has remained open for passenger and goods use.

Concern by British Rail over a lack of security and rising maintenance costs has now forced B.R. to accept that the buildings have no further value to them. It has therefore been decided to install two new passenger 'shelters' further along the raised platforms.

Following discussions involving the Trust, the Parish Council, the County and District Councils and British Rail, the environmental and architectural importance of the buildings has now been recognised by their inclusion within an enlarged Conservation Area.

The station buildings form part of an imposing group, which includes the adjoining Station Hotel, and which also backs onto the now infilled Chesterfield Canal. Although sadly neglected and boarded up, the buildings are solidly constructed and quite capable of re-use.

In the absence of any firm proposal to attract new users, British Rail has now invited the Trust to enter into negotiations to acquire the buildings at a nominal cost.

By tackling the immediate problems of vandalism and continuing neglect, the Trust proposes as a first step to carry out a comprehensive face-lift scheme. At the same time every effort will be made to investigate alternative uses, to ensure the continued use of these fine buildings.

Further news of progress will be available in the next bulletin.

RICHARD SIMPSON

CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, NORMANTON-ON-SOAR

The attractive riverside aspect of the Church of St. James at Normanton-on-Soar is well known for its rare crossing tower with a tall broach spire (other examples of a crossing tower can be seen at Whatton and Langar) and thirteenth century carved masonry. Sadly, during the afternoon of the 19th June, 1986, the oak chancel roof and early English masonry parapet was severely damaged by fire.

The Reverend Arthur Clark informs me that most of the chancel roof needs replacing and the parapet rebuilding and restoring. The church was adequately insured against such a disaster, however, assistance is sought to carry out work to the building which is not covered by the insurance and which can best be performed while the builders are on site. It is for this reason a restoration appeal has been launched for work to the fabric and fittings, including a rare Elizabethan oak chest.

If you can help with services or donations, please contact Mr. D. Astill, 32, Far Lane, Normanton-on-Soar (Loughborough 842684). Any assistance would be most welcomed.

STUART WARBURTON

WIVERTON HALL

It is known that the 'Gothick' part of the Hall was built in 1814, alongside the medieval gatehouse which was incorporated in it. Now the identity of the architect has been discovered, by Mr. A.P. Baggs, the architectural historian on the staff of the Victorian County Histories. He has been working on Fisherwick Hall, Staffordshire, and noticed that when it was being demolished in 1814-17, some materials from it were purchased by 'Mr. Wood of Nottingham, Surveyor to Mr. John Chaworth of Wiverton, who is building a house there'. This must be the Henry Moses Wood, who is listed in H.M. Colvin's Biographical Dictionary of British Architects as responsible for various pieces of work, including parsonages at Sawley (Derbyshire) Radcliffe-on-Trent and Colston Bassett (enlargements only), for the new dining room of 1833 to County House, High Pavement (now the County Record Office) and for Forest Lodge, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, recently so splendidly repaired by the Trust and now brought back into use by Nottingham City Council. He was active as a land surveyor and produced a map of Nottinghamshire.

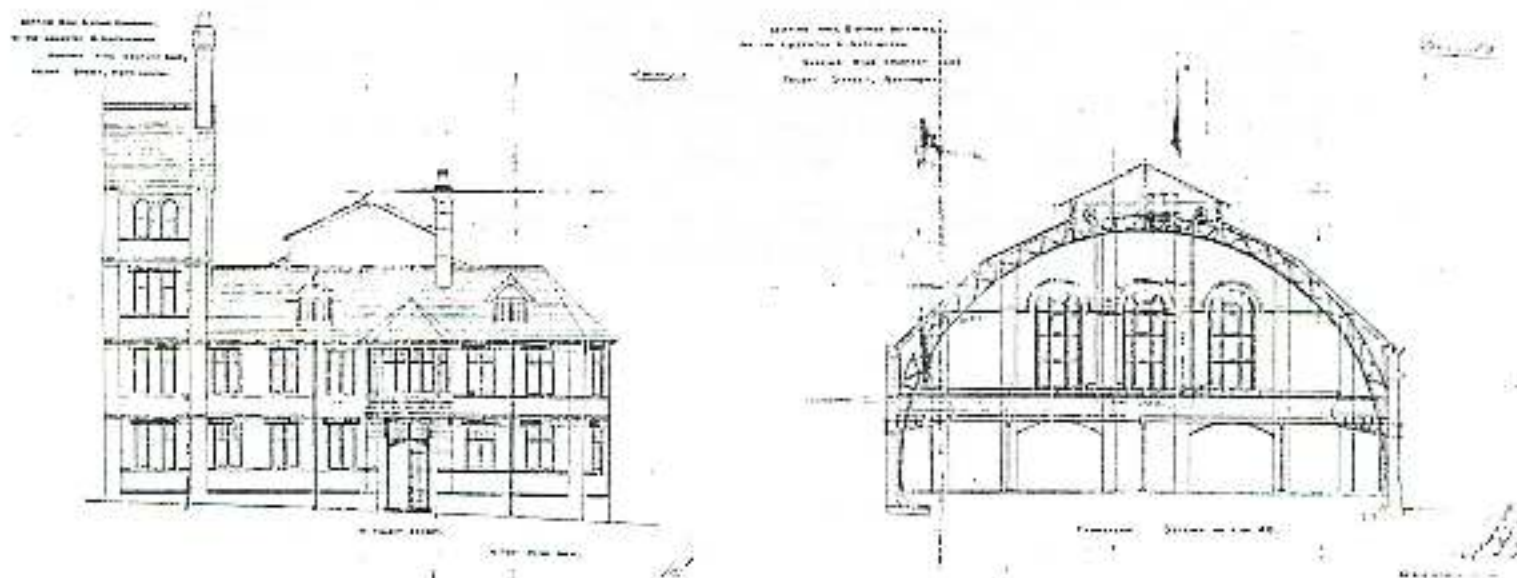
It is sad to report that Wiverton Hall is still empty and decaying, in spite of efforts by the Trust and by the planning authorities.

MAURICE BARLEY

I would like to bring your attention to Shorts Warehouse, the modest building which adjoins Lambert's Factory on Talbot Street. Built as 'The Marble' roller skating rink for the Nottingham and Leicester Skating Rink Company Ltd., in 1876 and designed by Nottingham architects Evans and Jolley, this was the second rink on Talbot Street: the first 'The Alexandra' is today occupied by 'Rock City'. The present stuccoed neo Georgian interwar facade is a pale reflection of the buildings original mock Tudor style. Originally designed with an imposing four-centred arched doorway which was further enhanced by a large canted orial window directly above and with a four-storey bay adjoining Lamberts, the ghost outline can still be seen. This building was the reception, refreshment and office accommodation with the skating rink behind.

It has been commented that the roof over the skating rink, a low-relief mansard with lantern light, resembles a mid-nineteenth century railway structure; reasons for the architectural similarity are twofold. Firstly, the concept of a skating rink determines the floor area to be free of any fixed structures such as columns, therefore a single span arch is required. This has been achieved by thirteen 'horse-shoe' trusses of wrought iron in three sections bolted together and mounted onto cast iron buttresses. The overall span is 60 feet with a height from floor to arch underside of 30 feet, not unlike a railway shed, and a gallery running around the rink at a height of 9 feet. Secondly, Evans and Jolley sub-contracted the roof design and manufacture to Andrew Handyside a notable Derby iron founder who is better known for his work on Priargate Bridge at Derby, Trent Bridge at Nottingham and the canopy structure of the present Nottingham Midland Station.

The skating rink had a short life closing in 1886-87, by which date the rink was renamed Victoria Hall. Its subsequent owner Pilkington Brothers of St. Helens used the building for offices, showrooms and warehouse and many impressive glass fittings still remain. Pilkington's left the building in the early 1970s and the last occupiers vacated in 1984. Today the future of the building is uncertain as a result of the County Council application for listed building consent to demolish Lamberts Factory; even if consent is refused little thought has been given to the re-use of Shorts warehouse. If this building was to be demolished, it would be a sad loss for the history of Victorian recreation in Nottingham and of a majestic Handyside roof.



ROBERT SMYTHSON

A monument in Wollaton Church reads "Here lyeth ye body of Mr. Robert Smythson gent architector and surveyor unto the most worthy house of Wollaton with diverse others of great account. He lived in ye faith of christ 79 yeares & then departed this life ye XV of 1614". The monument is important as little is known of this man, described by Girouard as a figure of the first rank in the history of English Architecture. Calculating from the inscription, he was only 31 when appointed chief mason at Longleat.

Wardour Castle was remodelled by Smythson for Sir Matthew Arundell, whose cousin Sir Francis Willoughby employed Robert to build Wollaton Hall. But what of the "diverse others of great account"? There is evidence, including Smythson drawings, to suggest that he produced the designs for Hardwick Hall, Worksop Manor and Burton Agnes. We may also suspect his hand at Thorpe Salvin, Doddington, Manor Lodge at Worksop, Barlborough Hall and Shireoaks Hall.

GRAHAM BBAUMONT

P.S. If you want to learn more about Smythson, then don't miss the Annual Coach Trip on the 30th August, 1986, details of which are enclosed with this Bulletin.

HOUSES AND HISTORY by Maurice Barley

There are very few books on the subject of vernacular architecture that do not in some way refer either by specific note or in the bibliography to the past works of Maurice Barley.

His new book to be published at the end of August, 1986, goes beyond the subject matter of "The English Farmhouse and Cottage" and describes the development of houses of all social classes starting with evidence taken from excavations of Anglo-Saxon villages to the industrial housing of today.

The book is in two parts, Pre-1550 when the medieval tradition was dominant, and Post-1550 when conscious design forms were developed at a time concurrent with a revolution in the ownership of land.

Priced at £25.00, the book is illustrated with some 200 drawings and photographs and will undoubtedly be an important source of material for students on the subject of historic English building.

Published by Faber & Faber (300 pages).

BRYAN CATHER