

# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST BULLETIN

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## HARRY JOHNSON AWARD

The winners of the Harry Johnson Award for 1989 are Dr. & Mrs. J.L. Hart, for the restoration of the Watermill Barn, 23 Main Street, Linby.

The barn was a mid-18th century building, with later additions and alterations. A waterwheel was added around 1850, powered by diverted water from one of the two streams passing through the village.

The barn is constructed in coursed and squared rubble, with stone dressings to door and window openings.

The barn was bought by the present owners in 1985, having been empty for a number of years. The building had a corrugated asbestos cement roof and was generally in a run-down condition and with the waterwheel collapsed into its pit.



The owners carried out extensive research and obtained advice from informed sources before planning and undertaking the work.

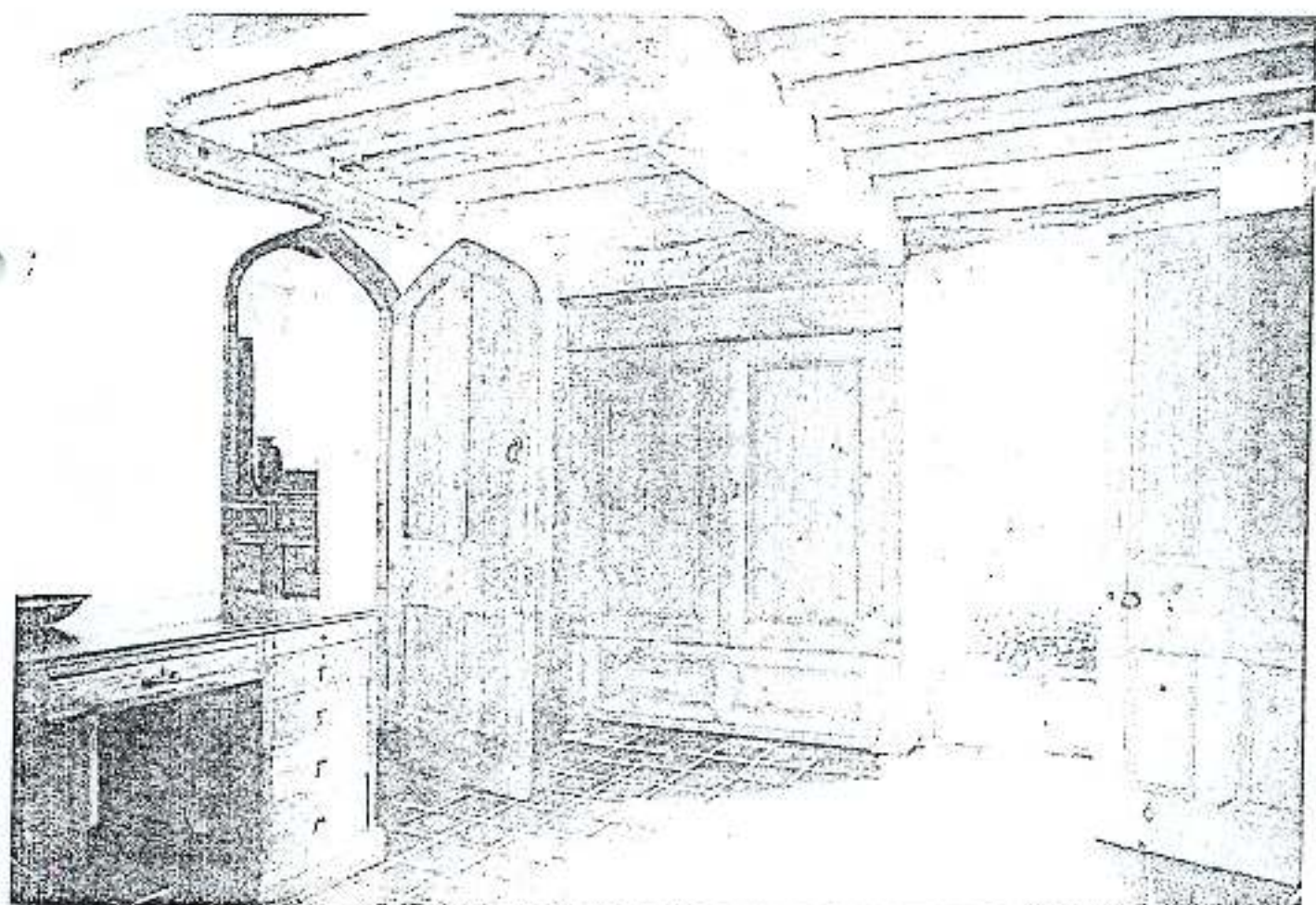
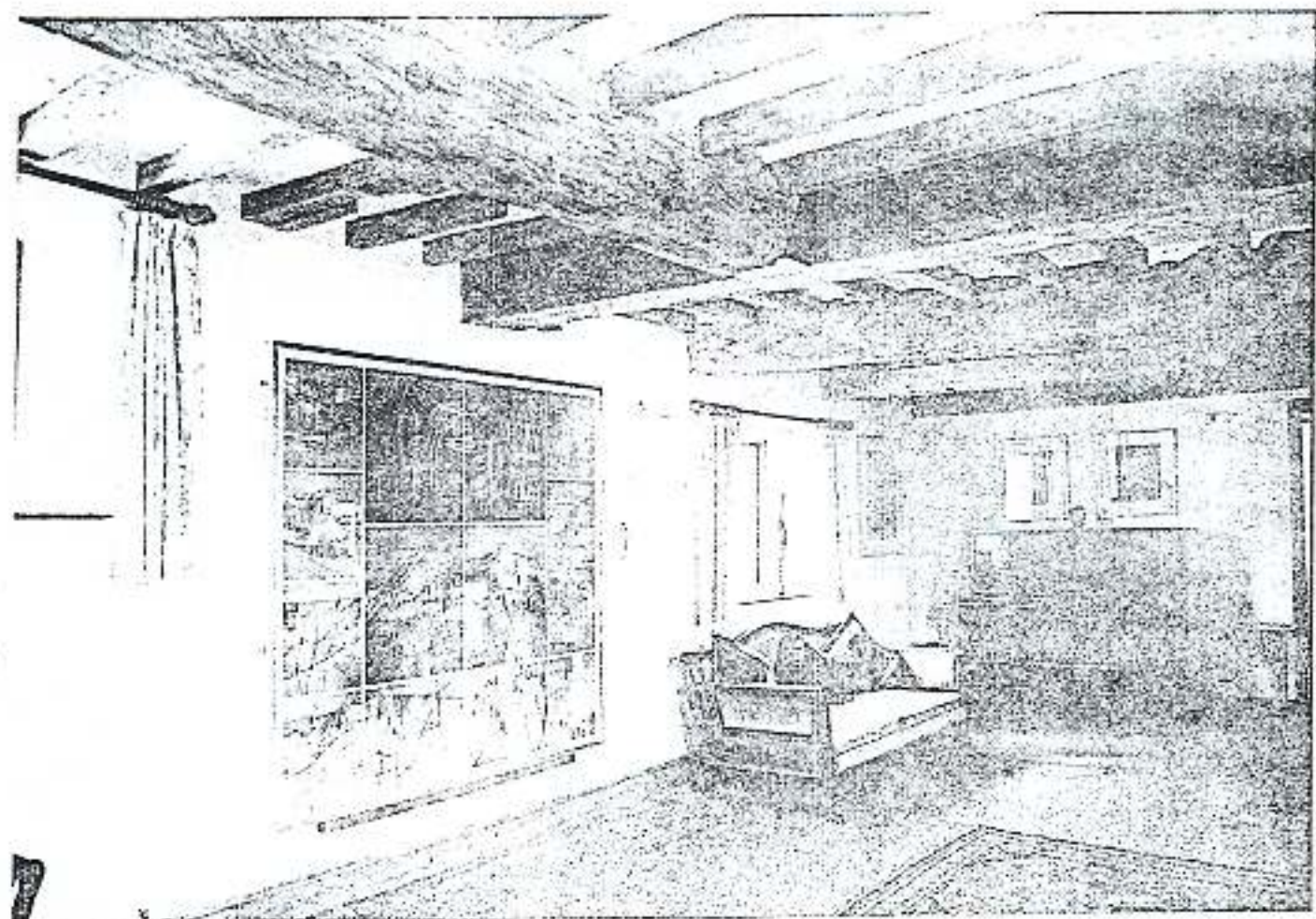
The barn was two storied, with a number of door and window openings and ventilation slots. All these existing openings have been retained to their exact size and shape and incorporated into the new residential use. The new windows are in stained hardwood, of simple profile and design. The building has been re-roofed using clay pantiles and the front yard laid out in reclaimed brick and stone.

To the rear of the barn, a late Victorian dairy block has been partly demolished and re-joined to the barn by a smaller link block. The crew yard addition, at the front of the barn, has been removed and the later single storey farm buildings in brick, backing on to the road, have been restored.

The judges, representing the N.B.P.T. and the C.P.R.E., were impressed by the total concept of the scheme, by the thought and commitment that had gone into it and, especially, by the finished result.

The owners are to be congratulated on winning the first Harry Johnson Award with such a commendable scheme.





## THE HARRY JOHNSON AWARD

Harry Johnson was a well known architect in the North of the County and South Yorkshire and was a founder member of the Notts Building Preservation Trust in 1967. He also took an interest in the countryside and in conservation matters generally.

Upon his death last year, it was not surprising that both the Trust and the C.P.R.S. wished to preserve his memory in some tangible way and it was agreed to hold an annual award for good design within the countryside.

It was decided that the Harry Johnson Award, as it was to be named, would be made to the owner of the best new building, or the best restoration of a building, within a village setting.

The judging for the first award has now been undertaken. The panel, from both preservation groups, was favourably impressed by the quality of the six nominations received and especially impressed by the commitment of the building owners involved.

Most of the nominations were made by the Parish Councils in which the buildings stood and their participation was much appreciated.

Of the six nominations only one was a new building and one was for pure restoration and repair; the other four were for restoration and change of use from farming or agricultural to residential use.

The first nomination was for a new garage to an existing cottage in the village of Oxtun. The owner had gone to considerable lengths and expense to create a vernacular building with a modern use.

The second nomination involved a group of redundant farm buildings, which the owner had carefully converted to residential use, at Elkesley. This was particularly impressive because the owner had carried out most of the work himself and the 'before' and 'after' shots revealed what a labour of love it must have been. It was felt that the owners would have benefited from a little expert advice on purely design matters.

A third nomination was for the restoration and repair of a T.C. Mine building in Kinoulton. The old rectory had been badly neglected over the years and it was a revelation to see how the building had been brought back to life by its new owners. It was felt, however, that this building was not completed as the builders were still working on the site and it was suggested that the building should be re-entered next year.

The fourth nomination was for a group of farm buildings at Grove, restored and converted to residential by A.H. Turner Design Ltd. of Retford. This work was, again, work carried out to a professionally high standard by a firm with great experience at this kind of development.

The remaining two nominations were both for the restoration of a water-mill and its conversion to residential use, one at Linby and the other at Church Warsop. Both owners had carried out much of the back-breaking work themselves in their so-called spare time. The detailing of both was excellent and original timbers and artefacts had been carefully cleaned and displayed.

The task of judging between these nominations was a very difficult one and the judges would have liked to give an award of some kind to every owner. After much deliberation, however, the panel voted to give the Harry Johnson Award for 1989 to Dr. & Mrs. J.L. Hart for their work on the Watermill Barn at Main Street, Linby.

As a close second, the panel would congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Warnock of Warsop Mill, Church Warsop, for their sheer dedication and commitment to their restoration of the mill.