

Webb, Fiona - CED LDS

From: McCutcheon, Libby - CED L&DS
Sent: 22 October 2009 14:20
To: Webb, Fiona - CED L&DS
Subject: FW: Mortuary associated with former Hollingbourne Work House - Kent

----- Original Message -----

From: ROEBUCK, Judith <Judith.Roebuck@english-heritage.org.uk>
To: Mason, Simon - E&R EW
Sent: Thu Oct 22 07:48:05 2009
Subject: FW: Mortuary associated with former Hollingbourne Work House - Kent

Simon

Just realised Carol didn't send it to you directly so here it is

Judith

From: RYAN, Carole
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 4:29 PM
To: GEE, Emily; KENDALL, Peter; ROEBUCK, Judith
Cc: KEANE, Dolores
Subject: RE: Mortuary associated with former Hollingbourne Work House - Kent

Dear Peter and Judith,

Because Emily is on Annual Leave today I am replying to your query.

Hollingbourne Poor Law Union workhouse was opened in 1836 but these original workhouse buildings became a private residence in about 1930 called White Heath and are reported no longer to exist. The mortuary is not shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map and first appears on the 1895 sheet, repeated on the 1908 sheet.

Although the 1999 RCHME volume by Kathryn Morrison "The workhouse" does not have a specific section on mortuaries, either in the text or the index, it is clear from diagrams of 1830s workhouses in this book that they usually had a dead house or mortuary situated in the men's and women's yards, or possibly near an infirmary, but were not situated apart from the main buildings. Through the period 1840-70 they continued to be sited within the main workhouse buildings. It was only after 1870 when measures for improved sanitation were made that purpose-built mortuaries were situated separately from the other buildings. There is no specific reference to either Hollingbourne Workhouse or its mortuary chapel in the RCHME book although Hollingbourne Workhouse appears in the catalogue of workhouses in Appendix II.

The former Hollingbourne Workhouse mortuary is an attractive Kentish Revival style purpose-built mortuary, rectangular in plan with projecting gabled porch. It is constructed in yellow brick with red brick dressings with steeply pitched tiled roof with gables and terracotta finials and original plank door with bold ironmongery. However, given the loss of its original context, it is more likely to be considered of local interest than of statutory standard.

Of the 29 Kent workhouses itemised in the catalogue at the back of the RCHME volume (Ps 205-6) there has been a high degree of attrition by demolition or alterations. In the limited time available it has not been possible to establish an accurate head count. However the former Bridge Workhouse of 1835 and the former Sundridge Workhouse (now Sundridge Hospital) are both statutorily listed, Coxheath has been demolished apart for the later chapel (listed Grade II) and only the later chapel at Pembury is listed Grade II.

I hope this is helpful,

Carole Ryan,
Heritage Protection Adviser.

--Original Message-----

From: GEE, Emily
Sent: 21 October 2009 09:04

To: RYAN, Carole; METZ, Posy
Cc: KEANE, Dolores
Subject: FW: Mortuary associated with former Hollingbourne Work House - Kent

Hi Carole and Posy,

Further to my reply to Peter just now, herewith the attachments. Please could one of you spend a few minutes considering: the date of the mortuary and that relative to mortuary development at workhouses (my hunch is that they were added later in the C19)-- the Workhouse book should have a bit on this; the context of listed workhouses in Kent, as Peter asks; if we think this has legs. I think it is very sweet but unless it turns out to be 1835, with that context lost I would have thought it was strong local. But would be grateful for you to investigate a bit and get back to Peter and Judith today.

Thanks,
Emily

From: KENDALL, Peter
Sent: 21 October 2009 08:55
To: GEE, Emily
Cc: ROEBUCK, Judith
Subject: Mortuary associated with former Hollingbourne Work House - Kent

Emily

I think Judith and or Simon Mason of Kent CC may have raised this building with you. Simon is giving evidence at a major public inquiry into a road rail freight facility at Bearsted that as proposed would remove this building. The consultants for the other side (CgMs) have suggested the building is of no more than local interest and should be recorded.

We do not have time to ask for formal assessment of the building for listing as Simon may be giving evidence tomorrow. This could follow. Simon has asked for our initial advice as to whether the building would make it through an initial sift for consideration for listing. I attach photos and a map culled from a web site and this has the following text.

Hollingbourne (occasionally spelt Hollingbourn) Poor Law Union officially came into existence on 12th October 1835. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, one representing each of its 23 constituent parishes as listed below:

County of Kent: Bicknor, Boughton Malherbe, Boxley, Bredhurst, Broomfield, Chart next Sutton Valence [Chart Sutton], Debtling [Detling], Frinsted, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Hollingbourne, Huckling, Langley, Leeds, Lenham, Otterden, Stockbury, East Sutton, Sutton Valence, Thurnham, Ulcombe, Wichling, Wormshill.

The population falling within the Union at the 1831 census had been 13,365 with parishes ranging in size from from Bicknor (population 44) to Lenham (2,197). The average annual poor-rate expenditure for the period 1833-5 had been £18,400 or £1.7s.6d. per head of the population.

Built in 1836, the Hollingbourne Union Workhouse stood on the Maidstone to Ashford Road. The Poor Law Commissioners authorized an expenditure of £5,000 on the building which was to accommodate up to 300 inmates. It had an H-shaped layout with an entrance block facing to the south which would probably have contained the board-room, porter's room and master's quarters at the centre. Inmates' accommodation was located to each side and in the ranges to the rear.

The significance of the mortuary must be reduced by the fact that it is only a small surviving part of a much larger establishment but conversely the building has some architectural character and if lost there will be no physical marker of the former site. I do not know how many workhouses survive in Kent and any advice on this would be welcome. My suspicion is that we have lost most.

Any informal advice from you or a member of your team would be helpful, otherwise I think we should advise Kent CC that there is potential for the building to be listed and that we could clarify this for the benefit of the inspector, if not before the inquiry finishes taking evidence then before he produces his report.

Peter

Concerned about how climate change may affect older properties? What about saving energy?

Visit our new website www.climatechangeandyourhome.org.uk today.

This e-mail (and any attachments) is confidential and may contain personal views which are not the views of English Heritage unless specifically stated. If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system and notify the sender immediately. Do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way nor act in reliance on it. Any information sent to English Heritage may become publicly available.

