

Case Name: The Smiths Arms Public House

Case Number: 469625

Background

We have been asked to consider The Smiths Arms Public House for listed status due to concerns over its demolition.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	Name	Heritage Category
1	The Smiths Arms Public House	Listing

Visits

Date	Visit Type
01 December 2011	Full inspection

Annex 1

The factual details are being assessed as the basis for a proposed addition to The National Heritage List for England.

Factual Details

Name: The Smiths Arms Public House

Location

The Smiths Arms,
37 Sherratt Street,
City CENTRAL,

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Manchester	Metropolitan Authority	Non Civil Parish

History

This building was constructed some time between 1775 and 1794 as a middle class domestic property, thus belonging to an early period of city expansion. It originally formed a three-storey plus basement double-depth property. It was converted into a public house c1827, reflecting the industrialisation of the Ancoats area.

During the period c1827-1860 the building underwent a phase of extension to the north west and internal alteration to the ground and first floor, as well as the cellar. The public house was upgraded c1892, at which point it was re-fronted with a façade designed by the Manchester architects, Booth and Chadwick. Two new bar areas were also inserted to the ground floor. This enlarged the bar parlour (the right rear room), necessitating the removal and re-siting of some partition walls, which in turn removed the balustrading for the stair. The entrances to the two front rooms were also moved at this point and a curtail step added to the stairs.

The pub also appears to have had a period of renovation during the mid-C20. Rear extensions were added to provide internal W.C. facilities, the majority if not all of the fireplaces were renewed, while tiling to the vestibule and hall walls was renewed or added. It may also have been during this period that the wall between the two left hand rooms (a bar and the former kitchen) was removed.

The building closed as a public house during the 1990s. It has remained empty since this time and is currently in a derelict condition. All fixtures and fittings directly relating to the building's use as a public house, such as bars and seating, have been removed.

Details

A late-C18 domestic building, converted to public house use c1827, with late-C19 and mid-C20 alterations.

Materials: Brick with sandstone detailing and slate roofs.

Plan: Irregular plan aligned south west to north east; rectangular to the front range with rear extensions to the north and north west.

Exterior: The building is of three storeys plus basement and three bays to the main elevation. The ground floor consists of two paired windows with chamfered sandstone cills divided by stone pilaster mullions and a central entrance, all underneath round-headed arches of moulded brickwork incorporating foliage drip moulds and stylised knots. There is a stepped brick string course with dentils at first floor level. Above the entrance there are two stepped brick corbels, framing the name of the pub and surmounted by a recessed rectangular area with scrolled hood above. Windows to the first and second floor are flat-headed; those to bays

one and three are paired with ovolo moulded mullions, while that to the centre is single. They all appear to be one-over-one pane sashes, although those to the second floor have been boarded over. There are plain stone cill courses to both levels.

The rear elevation is of four bays with a three-storey outrigger to bay two. To the right of this on the second floor sits the one remaining original eight-over-eight unhorned sash, although some glass has been lost. The remainder are either blocked, boarded over and/or renewed casements. The north east elevation has a fire escape inserted at first floor level; it is otherwise blind. There is evidence of renewed brickwork to the gable. The south east elevation is blind and has three brick stacks. The north-east extensions are single-storey and have numerous blocked openings.

Interior: The main entrance leads to a vestibule with dado height mid-C20 tiling. A corridor with late-C19 tile flooring runs through to the rear where it accesses the W.C. area. Tiling matching the vestibule, as well as wainscoting, lines the walls to the rear half of the corridor. The enclosed straight flight stair sits to the right, between the front and rear rooms which are accessed via angled entrances. Both rooms have chimney stacks, although their fireplaces have been removed; that to the front room incorporates an oil painting of a blacksmith. The left hand room runs the depth of the property. There is a corner chimney stack to the north west and one to the north wall; both fireplaces have been removed. A door leads through to the north west extension, however this could not be accessed due to unsafe flooring. The south section of the W.C. area, which was formerly part of the yard, is lined with glazed bricks. It is overlooked by two internal leaded windows in the former external wall of the bar parlour, however these have now been boarded over from the parlour side. All internal doors to this floor are modern.

The first floor has one room running the width of the front; this has a chimney breast to either end although the fireplace to the north has been removed and that to the south is C20. Two rooms sit to the rear of the original section; that to the right has a C20 bathroom inserted and leads through to the outrigger which houses fitted cupboards and a water tank. The rear left room retains original moulded plaster skirting to the majority of the walls. C20 partitions have been inserted to the centre of the first floor and openings knocked through original partitions. All doors are modern, save for a four-panel door leading to the outrigger.

The dog-leg stair from the first to second floor is the original, although the handrail has been sawn off at half-landing level. It has stick balusters with turned newels; these are paired to the landing, approached by a ramped handrail. The front right room has a C20 fireplace. There are two rooms to the left accessed from the landing; these both have C20 fireplaces. The two smaller rooms to the rear right are plain; one accesses the outrigger although this was not inspected due to unsafe flooring. All doors are modern, save for a late-C19 two-panel example. Door architraves have been replaced to the two right rooms and the door to the outrigger; the others appear original.

The cellar is accessed via a renewed wooden stair. There are two rooms to the front and one large room to the rear. The two doors are wood plank, late-C19 / early-C20 examples. Fireplaces have been blocked throughout. A barrel chute survives to the front.

Selected Sources

Ivan Hradil, Dr Peter Arrowsmith and Dr Michael Nevell: University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, The Smith's Arms, Ancoats, Manchester: An Archaeological Building Survey, July 2007

Map

National Grid Reference: SJ8493498711



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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF – 1406473_1.pdf.