



Isle of Man
Government
Reillys Ellan Vannin

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1999
THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS REGULATIONS 2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 21 August 2007, the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

Former Methodist Church Aka Red Cross House Derby Road Douglas IM2 3EN

as represented by the buildings delineated on the plan hereto attached, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its special architectural and historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Committee.

Dated this 13 September 2007
By Order of the Department

E J Callow
Secretary, Planning Committee.

1st Floor, Murray House,
Mount Havelock,
Douglas,
IM1 2SF.

NOTE :

Under The Town and Country Planning Act 1999;

**Schedule 2
The Protected Buildings Register**

Notifications of entries on register etc.

2. (1) As soon as may be after a building has been entered in the register, or the register has been amended by removal of a building from it, the Department shall serve a notice on the owner and the occupier of the building stating that it has been entered in or removed from the register.

(2) The owner or the occupier of, and any other person having an interest in, a building which has been entered in the register may apply to the Department to remove the building from the register-

(a) within the prescribed period after service on him of a notice under sub-paragraph (1);

(b) after the expiration of the prescribed period after the decision of the Department on a previous request under subsection in relation to the building.

Under the Registered Building Regulations 2005

3. Periods for purpose of Schedule 2 paragraph 2(2)

(1) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after notice of registration, within which owner or occupier may request de-registration) is 21 days.

(2) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after initial period, during which owner or occupier may not request a de-registration) is 5 years.

c.c.:-

1. Local Authority

2. The Owner/Occupier of the Building

3. Director of Manx Museum and National Trust, Kingswood Grove, Douglas;

REGISTERED BUILDING CONFIRMATION

NAME: Red Cross House (Former Methodist Chapel)
ADDRESS: Derby Road, Douglas
POST CODE: IM2 3EN
LOCAL AUTHORITY: Douglas Corporation
GRID REF: 237913 E 476356 N

Introduction

Red Cross House is located in the upper Douglas Woodbourne Road Conservation Area. Situated on the corner of Derby Road and Park Road, it maintains a position of prominence as it is approached from Broadway.

History

The Methodist New Connexion, (M.N.C) similar in its doctrines to the Wesleyans, was a new religious sect that came about during a time when several small religious groups were being formed with varying success throughout Britain, following the death of John Wesley in 1791. (Branches of the Methodist Church. *Cited* www.infoplease.com)

Originally founded by Alexander Kilham from his church in Sheffield, (The Methodist New Connexion (sic) *Cited*, wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodist) the new sect soon thrived and quickly expanded, particularly across the north of England. In 1886, records show that a place of worship 'for a company of former Methodists' was located at 1 Athol Street, Douglas. In the same year the Isle of Man was given the status of Home Mission Station and John Shaw was placed in overall charge. (Coakley. F. 2001. Manx Methodist Historical Society Newsletter 17)

By the late 19th Century, Douglas was rapidly expanding though poorly 'missioned', according to reports from the time. (Coakley. F. 1999. Methodist Chapels in Douglas. *Cited* www.isleofman.com/manxnotebook) Subsequently, it was decided to 'sanction' the building of a chapel, commissioned by the council of the Methodist New Connexion under John Shaw, 1886. (*ibid*)

Records for 1888 show that there were four societies of the Methodist New Connexion that existed on the Island at this time (*ibid*), however delegates were sceptical about the need/justification for a new chapel given the limited numbers of followers on the Island. None the less, a site was subsequently purchased for £1,800.00 (*ibid*). The establishment of such a church would serve the twin functions of bringing together the dispersed elements of the church followers on the Island, whilst providing a centre of worship for the increasing numbers of "... members of M.N.C.... taking holidays here'. (*ibid*) who had travelled here from the north

west of England. Subsequently, the building of this new chapel was to be sited in Douglas, the chosen site being Derby Road.

Opened in 1890, the church could accommodate about 500 people. Total cost of the building was £2,500.00 including a plot of land to build a school. (Isle of Man Examiner, 19th July, 1890. Cited Coakley. F. 1999. Manx note book)

Red Cross House (as it is now known as) fronts both Derby Road and Park Road, both laid out across what was formally the Woodbourne estate. (Frith. W, 1889. Area Plans. Douglas Borough Archive). The church, erected in 1890, was designed by W. Frith of Oldham and built by W. Kelly of Douglas. The original block plans indicate the adjacent road as Brisbane Street! This was later to become Park Road which was set out in 1892. (Slack.S. 1996. Streets of Douglas, Old and New)

Located close by, the Douglas School of Science, later known as Park Road School, opened in 1894, and shares many common features with the Methodist Chapel. These being predominantly the Red Raubon brick detailing, off-set by the light coloured local brick.

The Methodist New Connexion numbers on the Island were never strong and subsequently from 1907 attendance figures fell steadily until in 1914 the property was sold to St Thomas' Church to be used as a school hall (Chapman. S. 1971. Cited Manx Methodist Historical Society Newsletter 17). Up until it was sold in the mid 1970's, the church served a number of additional functions. These ranged from being used as an overflow from Park Road School prior to the building of St Ninian's High School for boys and as the headquarters for the 10th Douglas Scouts (later renamed the 5th Douglas). At one point it was also used by the St Francis' private school which was also located in Derby Road, before becoming the headquarters of the Red Cross.

Architectural Interest and Aesthetic Quality

The majority of churches/chapels throughout the Island are of dressed stone /rubble construction. Whilst a small number of brick built churches/chapels do exist on the Island, these are in the minority and generally of no particular architectural merit. Derby Road Methodist Church however, was clearly designed and built as a 'show case' church, displaying the most contemporary of innovations in architectural detailing, whilst retaining the acceptable format of what constituted a house of worship.

The building itself comprises of nave, gallery and transepts which were separated from the nave by moveable screens decorated with tinted cathedral glass. Elsewhere the use of stained glass has been limited in both its form and style, but also in its quantity. Used predominantly in the small lancet windows and tracery of the main tower, they consist of simple geometric designs. The exceptions to these being the larger tracery windows displaying a mixture of geometric and floral motifs.

The use of constructional polychromy, as first advocated by Ruskin, had gained in popularity from 1850/60's and so became something of a Victorian 'trademark' in church design. It comprised of contrasting coloured brick or stone, which in turn could extend to the use of contrasting slates of differing shades.

Such detailing was employed by Frith in creating contrasting areas between the Ruabon brick detailing and terracotta work, and the light faced brickwork used as the infill. Elsewhere Frith has employed terracotta detailing in the form of hollow rounded ridge tiles which off-set the grey expanse of slate and so continues the theme of contrasting colours throughout the building.

The perimeter wall and main entrance gate are also a combination of Glenfaba brick, Ruabon brick and moulded terracotta. These latter mouldings depict what appear to be compressed four leaf floral designs. Similar floral motifs were a common and elaborate feature of the Aesthetic Movement's influences of the late 1800's, particularly in their depictions of sunflowers.

The bricks were produced locally on the Island, believed to be from the Ballanard Brick, Tile and Terra-Cotta Works located a mile outside of Douglas, (Coakley F. 2004. cited Mercantile Manxland, p2. 1900) who were producing ever increasing quantities in order to meet the increased demand in their products at this time. It was noted that the quality of their products being 'unsurpassed by any other maker' (ibid). However, in its report on the opening of what was then, the Methodist New Connexion chapel at Derby Road, The Isle of Man Examiner states that; "The church is built of Glenfaba brick, relieved by Ruabon bricks and tera-cotta (sic) which will make this building one of the handsomest (sic) of its kind in the Island." (Isle of Man Examiner 19th July, 1890. Cited, Methodist Chapels in Douglas).

Stylistically, the church, through its use of innovative use of contemporary materials, could be viewed as an attempt by the nonconformist church to distance itself from the established Anglican Church. However, whilst design played a major role, the issue of cost was also paramount. In this respect, the use of readily available bricks in different colours and mouldings served to produce strikingly modern designs whilst being able to be constructed quickly and relatively cheaply.

It could be argued that Frith's design, whilst drawing on these points also capitalised on the established trend of the period by embellishing the church in a muted, neo - Gothic decorative manner, employing moulded terracotta to produce the tracery window designs in conjunction with larger sand stone tracery windows on the ground floor. All this helped serve the purpose of promoting their cause, especially important in the case of the Methodist New Connexion as their existing congregation was relatively small and somewhat dispersed on the Island. (Coakley.F. 2001. Manx Methodist Historical Society Newsletter 17. p1.)

Dixon and Methesius (Victorian Architecture. 1978. p232.) state that an essential feature of Nonconformist church architecture was the provision of subsidiary facilities contained within the church. These generally comprised of teaching and utility rooms, as was the inclusion of a separate school within the church boundary, all of which are to be found in the Derby Road Methodist Chapel. The combination of contemporary materials combined with its architectural style incorporating these 'additional features,' was seen as essential components in encouraging attendance and subsequent use of the facilities.

Recommendation

Red Cross House is suggested for inclusion on the Protected Buildings Register for the following;

Architectural Interest and Aesthetic Quality

Its unique architectural style (in respect to the Island) is representative of the stylistic associations predominant throughout England during the latter part of the 19th Century and the subsequent rarity of such ecclesiastical designs here on the Island.

Both the church and the near-by school, built within a few years of each other, uniquely complement each other stylistically.

Historic Interest

The Church forms a unique link between late 19th century architectural developments and the Methodist Church's attempt to capitalise upon this 'contemporary' style in order to promote its teachings here on the Island.

Age and Rarity

Though of no great significant age, Derby Road Methodist Church is representative of an architectural style that gained some, though limited support here on the Island. In addition to this, the church is unique in that it represents the only ecclesiastical interpretation of this architectural 'trend' here on the Island and as such should be protected under Registration.

Bears close stylistic similarities with the United Reform Church in Sutton-in-Ashfield (opened 1906, cited Churches and Chapels p5 .oldnotts.co.uk). This church also employs many matching elements seen at Derby Road, Douglas, including the use of stone tracery windows off-set against Ruabon brickwork and terra-cotta detailing.

Landmark Qualities

The church spire is a prominent feature throughout the locality including the lower section of Derby Road as one approaches from the bottom of Broadway off the promenade.

Group Value

Derby Road Methodist Church is one of a small number of buildings that are representative of the use of polychromatic brickwork in addition to the use of Terra-Cotta detailings and Ruabon brick, redolent of the 1880's 1890's design movement.

As a representative of this late 19th Century architectural style, Derby Road Methodist Church shares many of these stylistic features with a small number of other building here on the Island which include; The Ridgeway, The Wheatsheaf and Park Road School.

Together they form a small, yet important element in tracing the development/progression of architectural developments here on the Island.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

Books

- Dixon. R. & Muthesius. S.** 1978, Victorian Architecture
- Gelling C.J.** 1998, A History of the Manx Church 1698 – 1911
- Slack. S.** 1996, Streets of Douglas – Old and New
- Kniveton. G. et al,** Douglas Centenary 1896 - 1996

Maps and Plans

- Douglas Corporation Archive**
- DoLGE.** Current digital map,

Photographs

- Wilson. T.**
Assistant Building Conservation officer

Internet Sites

- www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook
- www.oldnotts.co.uk/sutton/churches.htm
- www.buildingconservation.com/articles/terracot/terracot.htm
- <http://gov.im/mnh/elections/art/artists/cubbon.xml>
- <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0859598.html>

Other

- Wilson. T.L.** 1999 Civic and Public Architecture of the Isle of Man 1870 – 1940
(M.A. Thesis)



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