

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1991

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1991

To: Charles Townend Allan Hastings Wheler
Harold Tower
Douglas Head Road
Douglas
IM1 5BN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 18th August, 2000, the PLANNING COMMITTEE of the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

Harold Tower, Douglas Head Road, Douglas

as represented by the buildings shown outlined in red on the plan hereto attached, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of architectural and historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alterations or demolition of the structures or appearance of any part of the buildings 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 18th day of September, 2000
By Order of the Committee



R M Quine
Secretary, Planning Committee

3rd Floor, Murray House
Mount Havelock
Douglas

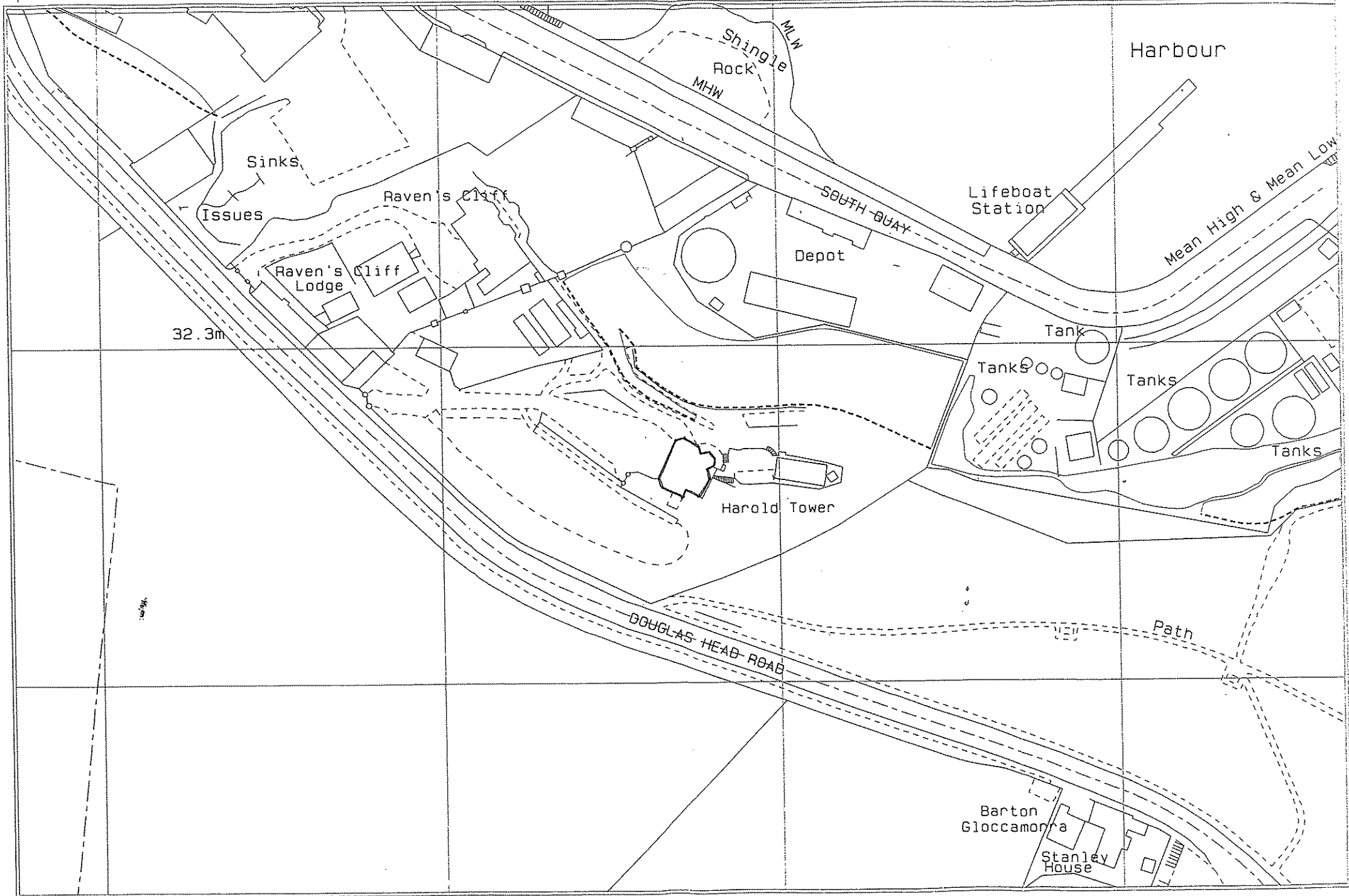
NOTE: Rights to de-registration of the building are provided under the Regulations and in summary are that:

Application in writing for de-registration may be made by the owner or occupier of, and any other person having an interest in the building, within a period of 28 days of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 3rd Floor, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas.

In the event that de-registration is not requested by any party within the 28 day period described above, then de-registration may not be requested within a period of 3 years.

- cc
- 1) The Trustees of the G B H Wheler Will Trust, c/o G R M Moore, Dickinson, Cruickshank & Co., PO Box 33, 33/37 Athol Street, Douglas, IM1 1LB
 - 2) Manx National Heritage, Kingswood Grove, Douglas
 - 3) Douglas Corporation, Town Hall, Ridgeway Street, Douglas
 - 4) The Advisory Council on Planning & the Environment, 52 Alberta Drive, Onchan
 - 5) R.B. File 179

Scale 1:1000



Harold Tower

Harold Tower dates from 1833 - when the site was purchased for the purpose of constructing a house. There appears to have been a folly on the site at the time. Work may not have started immediately, but there was a requirement that the works should begin within three years and Sherwood's map of 1949 shows the tower form as we know it today.

One or two early photographs of Douglas Head show the tower clearly, when it was a significant landmark, but it soon became well screened by mature trees (some now protected by preservation orders) as can be seen from photographs and painting in the Manx Museum archives. In these images, only the top of the tower can be seen.

The name, Harold Tower, was used from the outset. It would appear to be a reference to the Saxon King Harold, but this needs to be substantiated by more than the presence of the later plaque in his honour, which is attached to the front elevation of the tower. Battle Abbey, built on the site a few miles from Hastings where Harold fell in battle, was demolished in Henry VIII's purge of the wealthy religious orders. The dedication to Harold, in grounds that had previously been part of a former Nunnery Estate, may be a token gesture of recompense.

Harold Tower is well built, well maintained and striking in appearance and siting.

Reasons for placing Harold Tower on the Protected Buildings Register:

- it is a striking example of mid-nineteenth century confidence and sense of worth, as exemplified by the rigorous but impractical form and the degree of decoration, in the form of castellation
- it is well built in Manx slate although there are few exceptional or important architectural features (the windows are distinctive, the arched internal openings are characteristic of the period, the chimney flues beside the entrance door are unusual).
- the plaster panels beside the front door are probably by a former resident artist (Colbald, who rented the property for two years). They show Orry the Dane and Harold the Saxon, and are of interest and merit.
- it has a significant and commanding site, even if now screened by trees (which must significantly improve the micro-climate, even if reducing the views).
- it has been altered and added to - but, on the whole, these changes have not damaged its integrity.
- its design is attributed to the notable Architect, John Welch.
- previous occupants include John Martin, painter of 'The Plains of Heaven'.

Harold Tower is considered worthy of entry into the Protected Buildings Register on the following grounds: -

- 1) the building's architectural interest and aesthetic quality;
- 2) the building's design is attributed to the noted architect John Welch
- 3) the building has had close associations with nationally important people having been occupied during the 1850's by John Martin: renowned 19th Century artist of "The plains of Heaven" and other major works.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
BUILDING TYPE	Castellated hexagonal tower, originally a folly	
DATE(S)	1833, with subsequent alterations	
ARCHITECTS	Welch	
BUILDERS		
CRAFTSMEN	Cain and Creer Ltd	carried out the reconstruction of the stair and gallery
IMPORTANT OWNERS/PATRONS	Originally part of <i>Nunnery</i> estate - sold on by <i>Goldie-Taubman</i> ; occupied at some point by 19 th century artist <i>John Martin</i> .	
MATERIALS: • ROOF • WALLS • WINDOWS	Welsh slate Manx slate with various others in small quantities softwood sash	
PLAN	interlocking hexagonal towers	
STYLE	Manx Baronial Gothick	
PRINCIPLE FACADE	All in random stone; symmetrical main front, A flight of six splayed steps leads into a projecting porch encompasses large chimney stacks, rising above the roofline, with stepped corbelling at the top finishing in castellations. The projecting bay steps back above the door with a castellated parapet between the chimney stacks, which have two blind arched-headed recesses, diminishing in size. Flat Gothic-headed stone-on-edge arch over porch entry and door. Crude sloping canopy roof over central first floor window with tripartite sash. The roofline is marked by substantial machiolation (projecting castellation) with the section between the stacks set lower than the remainder. There is a string course at first floor level. Ground floor windows have a cruciform mullion/transome set into a Gothic arched headed timber lining and frame set into a rectangular window opening. These may be the work of Creer Brothers. First floor windows are two-on-two softwood sashes. The Main tower can be seen rising above and behind, at a skewed angle. The decorative plaster panels shoe Kings Orry and Harold. To the right, a stone wall and small round tower with castellated parapet screen access to the kitchen area. There is a fountain and pool, in the French manner, in the tarmacadamed forecourt.	