

Context

The Albany pub is situated on the corner of Albany Road and Broomfield Road, opposite Broomfield Road Railway Bridge.

Visits

Date: 2nd February 2017. Interior and exterior visit.

Assessment – Discussion

The Albany public house is a large pub dated 1907 at the corner of Albany Road and Broomfield Road, Coventry. The architect was *T.D.Griffiths* for Marston, Thompson & Evershed. T.D.Griffith (*sic*) of Hertford Street, signed a notice of intention to erect a hotel on the west side of Albany Street for Messrs. Marston, Thompson & Co on 9th May 1907. The exact date of completion is not noted; however plans were approved on 14th May 1907. There are two versions of the plans (no elevations), one dated 9th May 1907 and the other “August 1907 (as built)”. The building has the inscription “AD 1907” above the main door.

The Albany was built with five hotel rooms on the first floor together with a club room, it also offered a smoke room, lounge, billiard room, and coffee room on the ground floor. Within a couple of years two of the downstairs rooms were knocked into one with a small stage.



Albany public house in 1913



Albany public house in 2017

It is a good example of the commercial premises that were built in the Edwardian development of the new suburb of Earlsdon. It is built of red brick with extensive sandstone detailing around windows and doors, and has a slate roof. The building includes many of the original Edwardian features of the building, including many original windows and original outbuildings (possibly stables) at the rear. The bar is original, and many of the interior features date to the original build. It is a significant survival of an Edwardian public house with ornate detailing.

The developers of much of the Edwardian terraced housing between Earlsdon, the Butts and Chapelfields (the Newcombe brothers) had strong nonconformist beliefs and were against social drinking and their deeds forbade building public houses. Therefore there are few public houses in the area, and the Albany public house is a rare example.

Assessment – Criteria

Assessing the heritage asset against the Local List criteria; the heritage asset is valued locally for the following:

Historic. It is important to understanding the development and growth of this part of Coventry, the public houses being developed at this time, and in contrast to the nonconformist beliefs of developers in the surrounding area. The pub is named after the road that it is on; which is, in turn, named after HRH the Duchess of Albany who visited the area in 1898.

Artistic. It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area by its design, detailing and original features. It is a good example of this architectural style, and of an early 20th century public house building. The building has ornate detailing, and little expense was spared in its construction.

Community. It is important to the identity, cohesion and memory of large parts of the community, being a focal point and meeting place for the last 110 years.

Age. It was built in 1907. It is contemporary with the surrounding roads in Earlsdon, which were constructed around this time.

Rarity. It is one of only two pubs built in the early 20th century in the Hearsall - Earlsdon area.

Integrity. The exterior is largely intact and it retains the original outbuildings (possibly stables). The interior has a separate original bar and a lounge with a stage which was created decades ago by amalgamating 2 other rooms.

Group value. It has strong group value with the red brick terrace buildings in the area of a similar date.

Coventry's identity. It is an important part of the Victorian and Edwardian suburb of Earlsdon.

Conclusion

After examining all the records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for local listing are fulfilled. It is recommended that the Albany public house is locally listed.

Reasons for recommendation decision

The Albany public house is recommended for local listing for the following principal reasons:

- Artistic interest: as a good surviving example of an early 20th century public house, with good detailing;
- Historic interest: for its association with the development of the Victorian and Edwardian suburb of Coventry;
- Community interest: for its importance to the identity and cohesion for the community for the last 110 years.

This report dated: 1st June 2017

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