

Context

8 Stivichall Croft is a detached building built in the 1930's in Stivichall by the renowned architect, Frederick Gibberd.

Visits

22nd June 2017

Assessment – Discussion

Number 8 Stivichall Croft is a rendered detached building built in 1931. It is notable for being the first commission of the internationally renowned architect and planner, Sir Frederick Gibberd. Gibberd was born in Coventry and grew up in Earlsdon, and went on to become an architect of note, designing buildings such as Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and as consultant architect planner for Harlow New Town. Gibberd built the house at 8 Stivichall Croft in 1931 for his parents, as his first commission.



8 Stivichall Croft, June 2017

It was described in the publication “Small Houses & Bungalows” (1932):

Cost, £1450. Materials, The external walls are hollow-built, 11” thick, and roughcast a pale biscuit colour; the roof is covered with dark-green glazed pantiles; the windows are of steel painted apple-green and are fixed in white wood frames; the entrance door is of wood painted crimson and is glazed with fluted glass; the internal doors are flush, sprayed with cellulose, and have chromium-plated lever handles; the floors are laid with Austrian oak; the living-room and kitchen are equipped with built-in furniture, and glass pelmets are fitted to the windows.

The building has Art Deco styling, distinguishing it from its more conventional neighbours built at a similar time.

The building is mostly symmetrical, two storeys, of three bays, rendered with a central front door. The front door is surrounded by moderne style fluted pilasters and a decorative moulded surround. The upper windows have external shutters and either side of the building is flanked by walls flush to the front façade which screen the rear garden. These are pierced by a garage door on the left and a gate to the rear on the right. The screen walls curve up to join the main façade. The shallow pitched roof is hipped with deep overhanging eaves and a chimney on the left side. The original steel windows and green pantiles have been replaced, but the exterior of the building still retains much of its original character.



8 Stivichall Croft, June 2017

Assessment – Criteria

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

Historic: This building has an associative historic interest of being the first commission of Sir Frederick Gibberd.

Artistic: The building’s Art Deco styling is highly characteristic of the 1930’s and a good example of the period in which the building was built.

Community: This building is the work of Coventrian who went on to become an internationally renowned architect, Sir Frederick Gibberd.

Evidence: -

Age. The building was built in 1931.

Rarity. It is the first commission by the architect Sir Frederick Gibberd and is his only known work in his home city. Despite Coventry being Britain's fastest growing city in the inter-war period, Art Deco style houses are relatively rare in the city.

Integrity. Although there have been some modifications to this building, it is largely complete and the character of the building is largely intact.

Group value. It has a close communal association with other buildings designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd. Many of his other buildings are nationally significant and have been listed by Historic England.

Coventry's identity. This building is a physical reminder of one of Coventry's most distinguished architects.

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 8 Stivichall Croft is locally listed.

Reasons for recommendation decision

8 Stivichall Croft is recommended for local listing for the following principal reasons:

- Historic interest: The building is associated with the renowned architect, Sir Frederick Gibberd.
- Artistic interest: The building is a good example of an Art Deco-inspired 1930's detached house.

This report dated: 15th September 2017

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