

Context

The Bell Inn public house, located at Station Avenue, Coventry, CV4 9HS.

Visits

29th May 2018

Assessment – Discussion

The Bell Inn is a public house located on Station Avenue in Tile Hill.

The building is shown on a map dating to 1813. There is a pub listed on this site in the 1851 census, then “The Wheelwright Arms”. The pub was previously known as the "Bell-In-The-Tree” Inn.

The pub is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch-to-the-mile map dated 1888. At this date there were few other buildings around this location – an exception being the 16th century timber framed house adjacent (The Cottage, 12 Station Avenue), which is a Listed Building (Grade II).

The two storey building is externally rendered with a pitched clay tile roof. It has dormer windows at either end of the front elevation, brick chimney stacks and half-timbered gable to the south. A porch has been inserted (possibly in the very early 20th century) across the entire front elevation of the building. The interior contains historic tiled fireplaces.

From the mapping evidence, it appears that the front two-storey elevation part of the building is the oldest, with the rear of the buildings having been enlarged over the last 80 years (the 1937 Ordnance Survey map is the first map that shows extensions to the rear of the property, which were further extended sometime between the 1950’s and 1970s).



The Bell Inn, May 2018



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Assessment – Criteria

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

Historic: The Bell Inn shows an associative interest to the development of roadside pubs in the outskirts of Coventry.

Artistic: The building has character of a 19th century (or earlier) public house with interest provided by the chimney stacks, half-timbered gable, dormer windows and porch. The building plan and architecture shows the development and adaption of this building over time.

Community: The Bell Inn is important to the identity, cohesion and memory of people who live and visit Tile Hill. It is important as one of the few remaining pre-Victorian buildings in Tile Hill.

Evidence: This physical building itself is an important resource for understanding the development of the historic building. As the age of the building is unknown (but a building on this site is thought to date back to at least the 1810's); the interior of this building may contain historic building fragments that date back further than the external appearance suggests. This evidence adds to our archaeological knowledge of this building.

Age. This public house probably dates to at least the 1810's, but could contain earlier elements.

Rarity. A largely intact public house building of this date in a roadside location in the suburbs of Coventry is rare.

Integrity. The building is externally structurally complete, and may contain fragments of earlier building(s).

Coventry's identity. It is a distinctive historic element of one of Coventry's surviving pre-industrial settlements which have been subsumed by the expansion of the city. It is also distinctive of the wider Arden rural environment on the fringe of the city which developed over centuries with a mix of settlements, farmsteads and smallholdings.

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 Bell Inn public house is locally listed.

Reasons for recommendation decision

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

- Historic interest: The Bell Inn shows an associative historic interest to the development of roadside pubs in the outskirts of Coventry.
- Evidential interest: The building is thought to date back to at least 1813, but may well contain earlier fragments of historic buildings. The adjacent building dates to the 16th century, and this building could contain historic building evidence that date back further.
- Community interest: This public house shows the identity of this area of Coventry, where public houses were built on the roadside to serve travellers and locals alike.
- Coventry's identity: The Bell Inn is a distinctive historic element of one of Coventry's surviving pre-industrial settlements and part of the Arden rural settlements.

This report dated: 11th July 2018

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