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Heritage statement
Former police station
Mellor Street
Spotland Bridge
Rochdale

The following heritage statements sets out to describe the above property and the architectural benefits which it displays.

The property is located within the Spotland bridge conservation area, set upon the junction of Mellor Street, Spotland Road, Edenfield Road, and Rooley Moor Road.

The property was built in 1908 as the police station for the area and also served a fire engine horse drawn. The building is constructed from briefly Accrington Nori facing brickwork laid in stretcher bond, the roofs are all blue slate clad, all if the principal windows are framed with natural rusticated sawn stone surrounds, projecting above the roof at all gables are parapet walls in brick finished with natural stone copings.

The original building was built intentionally as two halves, the two storey part was the residential home of the police sergeant, where the single storey was for the police station. The two storey section comprised of to the ground floor entrance hall, stair off, lounge, dining and kitchen with a yard/garden to the rear. The 1st floor comprised of 3 bedrooms, bathroom. The police station single storey section comprised of charge room, two cells, exercise yard and garage/carriage Black Maria/fire engine. To the outside of the property there is a stable at the rear which was accessed down the side opposite to Mellor Street. Additional stabling also existed to the rear of the garage.

Stonework, all windows and doors are set on stone cills seated for stone to the principal elevation, and brick for all other. The main entrance and former police station entrance door are framed with quoin blocks ashlar cut with flute and bull nose to the reveal. The windows are of the same quoins more simply long chamfered into the window reveal. To the lounge there is a 45 degree bay window with 5 fenestrations with the same quoin blocks and simple chamfered into the window reveal, all of the principal windows are mullioned with double chamfers into the reveals, in addition the bay has stone transoms, the roof of the bay has a rusticated stone banding leading to a flat roof over, originally the property had 3 chimneys and a cells vent shaft all of which had a rusticated stone taurus capping there now only exists 2 chimneys and the vent shaft. Atop the parapets are square cut stone copings and bandings terminating at the ridge with an arch cut ridge block. The upper floor windows are connected via stone bandings aligned to the cills and heads, and to the centre of the principal gable there is a stone relieved and rusticated plaque which has at some time been pebble dashed. Over the main door there is a date stone arts and crafts rusticated, over the former police station door there is a carved stone police sign.

Brickwork, as previously indicated the brick used is Accrington Nori, the windows are brick reveals with segmental arches over vousoir cut.

The windows and doors are now upvc throughout excepting the front and side doors which are timber the side door being possibly part original.

Roof, the main roof has a pitched roof perpendicular to the principal elevation, with a further pitched roof at 90 degrees to this with leaded valleys. The single storey element has two pitched roofs joined by an accessible flat roof terrace which run parallel to the principal elevation. The rear roof has been extended to the rear to cover the former exercise yard, which has a differing pitch to that of the original roof. The soffits and eaves are long drawn with pitched soffits, timber facias and pvc gutters which would have once been cast iron.

The outside stable has been converted into a garden room store which is rendered.

To the rear of the property a upvc conservatory has been erected which blights the current building but once approved will be replaced by an extension which will compliment the style of the existing.

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continued following remarks made by the conservation officer.

The former police station sits within the Spotland bridge and fold conservation area upon the junction known as Spotland Bridge which is the junction of Mellor Street, Edenfield Road and Bridgefold road, in the shadow of the former Spotland mill textile mill. The area is one of Industrial Revolution era importance which covers an era from water to steam power for the former mills. There are several ancillary buildings to support the former industrialised area namely Victorian residential streets, St Clements Church, Hurst Hill (house), the possible remains of Spotland Bridge House, the economic area identified by a masoned frieze "Spotland Bridge" possibly part of the co operative society which sits upon the junction leading to Rooley Moor road, which was the main gateway into Rossendale and its mills. (As an addendum the authors ancestors operated as carters operating in Rossendale transporting cotton from Manchester and Rochdale via Rooley Moor, and the various turnpike roads.)

The proposed site existing

The former police station sits upon a substantial triangular site which is around half the size of it original, the site would have been made up of a large paddock area for the horses used in conjunction with the police station which would indicate its significance, and, possibly bounded originally by either a brick/timber railed paddock wall/fence but most likely the former. The police station visible elevations would have been very similar to the current views, the main house being visible including its roofs, whereas the roofs on the police station and cells area would have been visible from its front and rear elevations, the side elevation of the roofs being obscured by the parapet walls, to the side elevation facing North originally a window positioned which served the original stair landing which at some point has been converted to a door serving the flat roof section between the the duo pitch roof as a terrace. The elevation facing North and the junction of Spotland Bridge shows both the single and two storey elevations including the original cells ventilation shaft and previously mentioned remains of the side window surround to the first floor.

To the rear elevation single storey following the comments made by the officer there are currently two eave levels, the left hand side being original which potentially served the stabling/Heating Cellar? Whereas the right hand side served the prisoner yard which originally had no roof, the roof being added at a later date. It has been noted that a cat slide roof has been added however the original roof had a flared Gambrel roof eave which has been flattened during works carried out at a later date. See the original drawings.

Proposed works to the single storey

It is proposed that a flared straight gambrel eave roof be introduced to match the roof added to the former exercise yard now kitchen.

The rear single storey roof detail although this has been identified as an incongruous detail it does replicate the original detail as designed and originally built by reinstating the gambrel roof detail yet retaining the parapet wall although the original was designed to have a kick in the parapet to follow the roof. The reasoning behind the need to reinstate the gambrel greatly increases the opportunity to insulate and further ventilate the current roof which demonstrates a very low door head and eave detail, which is uncomfortable for the occupants to navigate.

Should it be the case that nothing other than the original detail was being reinstated the term cat slide would be acceptable however the original gambrel would have been introduced for several reasons, firstly to slow the flow of water from the roof,

Secondly to ensure an unscalable height of wall next to the exercise yard, thirdly to ensure good access to the heating cellar/stable area? It is unclear as to why and when the roof pitch was regularised but this can only be assumed that due to repair maintenance etc or just as a minor alteration when the prisoner yard was roofed over and in conjunction to this. However this has created a very poor construction detail using a construction joint which will always be susceptible to water ingress as it is currently. It is therefore seen that the levelling of the eave at a height which will facilitate the current and future use of the building, minimise any potential water damage to the historic fabric and carried out in a sympathetic manner will produce a sympathetic detail which replaces and retains the original as designed form of the rear elevation.

Materials

It is duly noted that any materials used will be of a good match reclaimed materials to ensure a seamless finish to the proposed works.

