



ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions

Mr Philip Hobson,
CADW,
Welsh Government,
Plas Carw, Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed,
Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QG.

Date: 25th February 2016

Dear Mr Hobson,

Re: Request for Listing of the former Grove Park Girls Grammar School, Wrexham.

This letter is a request for the above named property to be recorded as a Listed Building with all the prestige and protection such buildings receive.

The request is made on behalf of The Grove Park Preservation Society, Save Our Heritage, and the concerned people of Wrexham.

Background:

- The land for the school was donated/gifted to the town during the 1900s by Sir John Cunliffe. The land was to be used for educational purposes. A covenant was put in place to this effect and remains in force today.
- The present (standing) building was the original building of the girls school and it was designed and built during the 1930s to house the educational services and facilities of the Grammar School Girls, who at the time were being taught in the Grove Park Boys Grammar School. It was first occupied from 1st May 1936 and finished in its present form in 1938. It was designed by, the then County Architect, Gilbert D Wiles, and reflects the times insofar as it is very much in the Art Deco style, with possible nods to the Bauhaus style which was also becoming popular in the 1930s. Having carried out a study of Existing Listed Buildings of the Art Deco style in Wales, and England, I have come to the conclusion that the Former Grove Park Girls Grammar School is in fact a rather good example of the style and worthy of Listing.
- The school was officially opened on the 22nd February 1940 by the Rt Honourable Earl de la Warr, President of the Board of Education. In the first year, the school had 577 girls on its register. Alicia Gower-Jones, the first head mistress, commented at the opening, that this was "the only grammar school built between the two wars".
- The school's main entrance hall has a dual marble staircase leading up the balcony, which overlooks the hall. This in itself is definitely art deco in style, and indeed a similar art deco style staircase was featured in the recent TV series Mr Selfridge. Internal finishings are of quality and style replicated in Art Deco buildings across the UK.



Roland George MRICS FCIQB FASI
Telephone: 01978 844079 email: archlectic@web-nexus.com
Regulated by the RICS





ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions

- The exterior of the school features very attractive hand brushed finish brickwork and pattern work, which in itself is a gem produced by talented artisans, rarely seen across Wales and England.

The Structure and Condition:

- The building is structurally sound which any professional building surveyor would verify.
- The building has been reported to have suffered some vandalism and other relatively minor damage caused by neglect.
- A programme of remedial treatment to make good the effects of the vandalism and neglect will be relatively inexpensive and this Art Deco building would be returned to all its glory.
- An Asbestos Report was commissioned by the Wrexham Council during the 1980s which found asbestos in the post war concrete tower block and related buildings. This was removed at the time and since then those building have been demolished.
- The Detailed Asbestos Report of the 1980s also concluded that there was NO ASBESTOS in the original main building, with each detailed area receiving the report NAD.

The Threat to this Property:

- Wrexham County Borough Council, in their wisdom, have determined to demolish this good example of the Art Deco Style in Wales, and even England and Wales. The decision was made by 10 councillors on the Executive board without full council consultation and without requested public consultation. Demolition is scheduled for April of this year, though they may start before.

Listing Request:

We, The Grove Park Preservation Society, Save Our Heritage, and the concerned people of Wrexham, request that CADW carry out an urgent survey of this property and issue a listing at the earliest possible time, with safeguards in place to prevent the demolition being rushed out before a final listing is made.

Below are photographs to support the above.

Respectfully,

Roland George MRICS, FCIQB, FASI, on behalf of the above Societies and Groups.



Roland George MRICS FCIQB FASI
Telephone: 01978 844079 email: archlectic@web-nexus.com
Regulated by the RICS



ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions



ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions



Grove Park School
Front Elevation from Chester Rd
as of today.

ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions



ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

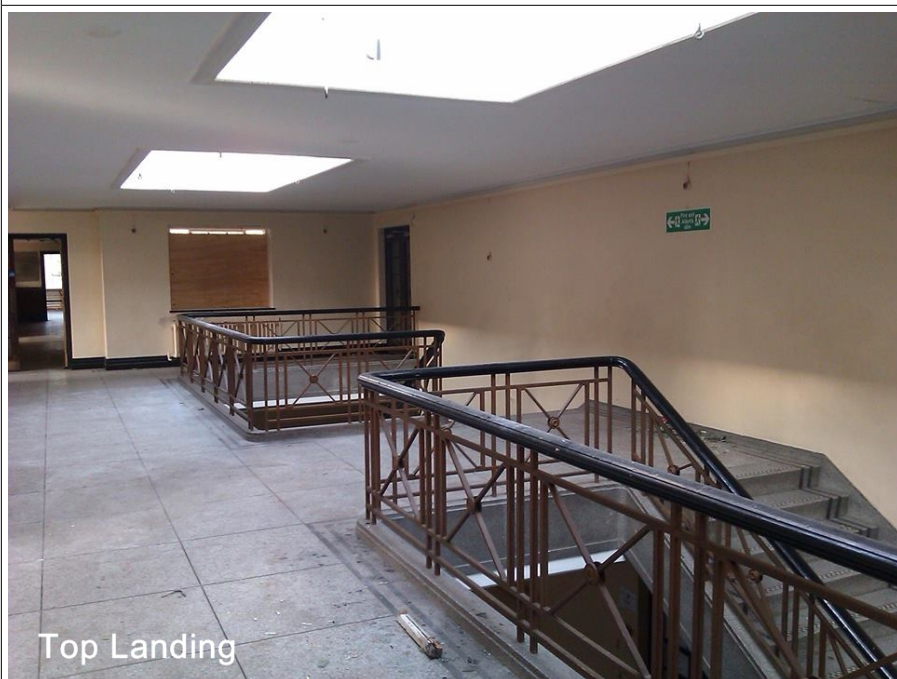
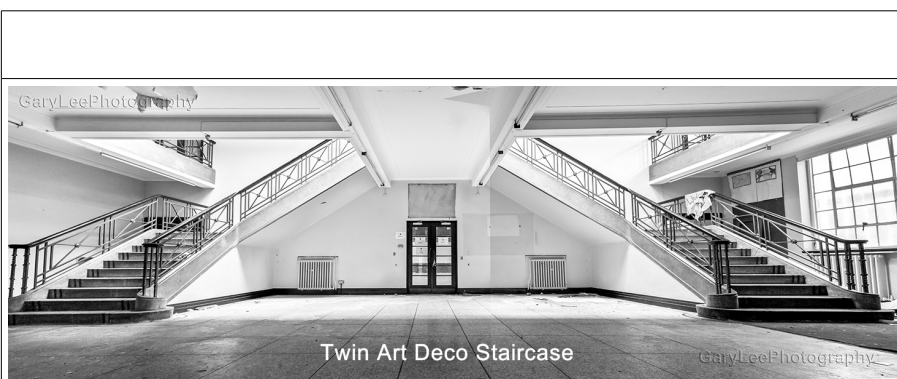
~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions



ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions



~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions

Other Examples of Art Deco Architecture:



Templemore School Belfast Listed B1

ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions



ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

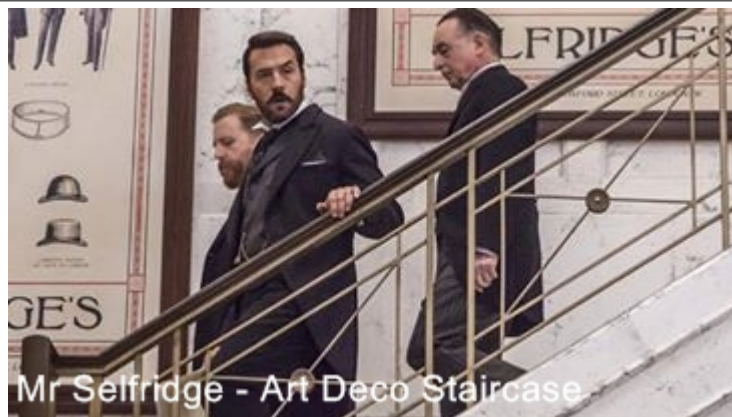
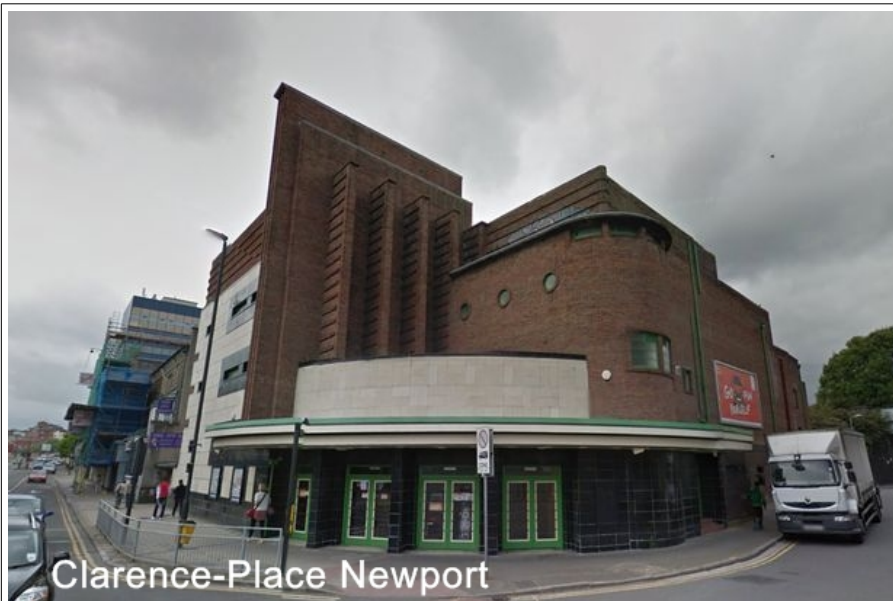
~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions



ARCHLECTIC ARCHITECTURAL

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES - CHARTERED PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SURVEYOR
CHARTERED CHARTERED BUILDING SURVEYOR

~ Imagination

~ Innovation

~ Application

~ Resource

> Creative Solutions

