

From: Alfrey, Judith (ESNR-Tourism, Heritage & Sport-Cadw)
Sent: 14 April 2016 17:03
To: Coward, Matthew (ESNR-Tourism, Heritage & Sport-Cadw)
Cc: Hughes, Gwilym (ESNR-Tourism, Heritage & Sport-Cadw)
Subject: Grove Park School

Dear Matthew

I have considered the additional material supplied to us by Mr George. My assessment is as follows:

High Storrs School Sheffield: High Storrs School was built as a co-educational grammar school in 1933, designed by the architects to Sheffield City. It has some similarity with Grove Park in its stripped classical style with art deco internal detail, construction (brick with concrete dressings) and plan. High Storrs School was listed grade II in 1989. In my view, there is a clear qualitative distinction between High Storrs on the one hand and Grove Park School on the other. The list description suggests that High Storrs is much more ambitious both in overall design and in detail: for example, the main elevations of both schools take a similar form with advanced central entrance block and projecting end bays, but with stronger articulation of building elements and much bolder detail, High Storrs attains a sophistication and quality which Grove Park lacks.

Templemore School, Belfast: Templemore School appears to be a closer comparator stylistically (albeit earlier in date – it was built in 1924), and is listed grade B1. The criteria for listing in Northern Ireland differ from those in Wales, as do the grades. There are three grades (A, B+ and B). Grade B buildings are described as being of local importance and good examples of period or style: Grade B buildings have been banded in two groups since 1987 (B1 and B2). B1 buildings have a relatively wide range of attributes such as interior features or where one or more features are of exceptional quality and/or interest. All listed buildings have statutory protection, irrespective of grade. I do not think we can draw any conclusions from the fact that this building in Belfast is listed, as not only is the historical context different, but also, decisions about listing are founded on quite different criteria, which include local interest within the scope of statutory protection.

Air raid shelter: Mr George draws attention to the fact that air raid protection was built into the school from the outset. Whilst this is of interest, it does not in my view constitute sufficient new evidence to lead to a re-evaluation of the overall architectural and historic interest of the building.

Judith

Judith Alfrey
Pennaeth Adfywio a Chadwraeth/Head of Regeneration and Conservation
Gwasanaeth Amgylchedd Hanesyddol/Historic Environment Service (Cadw)
Adran yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth/Department of Economy, Science and Transport
Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government

Web: www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

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