

Heritage Impact assessment

Pule Hill Hall Rag Lane, Thurgoland.

The proposal is to erect a York stone porch to the front door of the premises.

The property list entry number 1192102
Grade II first listed 18 March 1968

The property was built probably late C18 and restored late C20. The property has had various openings rebuilt over the years.

A previous porch constructed in stone up to sill level with a timber and glass superstructure over. This porch was in place for many years probably prior to listing.

Careful thought has been put to the proposed porch and a joint site meeting has taken place with Mr. A. Wiles - conservation officer for Barnsley M.B.C. Mr. R. Watting - the owner and G. Wilkinson agent resulting in a draft scheme submitted for observations to be made.

The final drawing shows the existing front door stone surround & head being undisturbed and framed by a seven stone porch complete with plinths and square columns to reflect the existing stone surround to the front door.

The design is simple and would enhance the appearance of the front elevation and would not detract from the character of the property.

A copy of the entry of Pule Hill Hall on page 157 of the book 'The making of Barnsley' showing the above mentioned porch is attached to this assessment.

THOMAS KERESFORTH & PULE HILL HALL

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Pule Hill Hall is not mentioned in Nikolaus Pevsner's West Riding edition of *The Buildings of England* but is not without architectural interest and, more importantly, has a most interesting past.

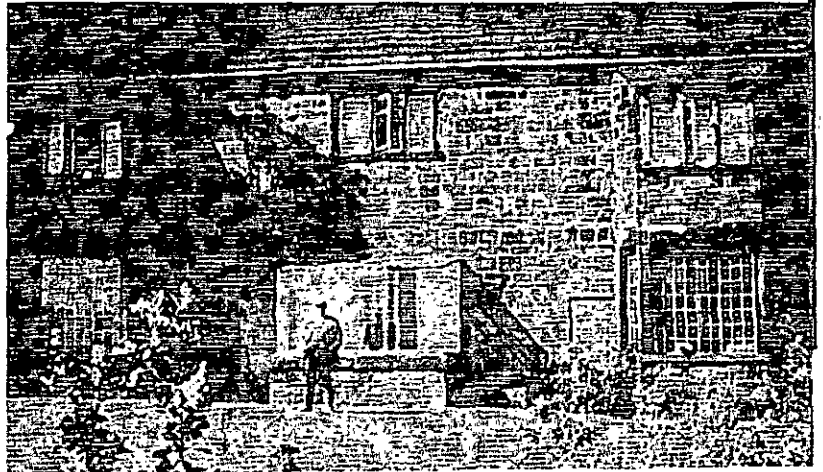
My interest in Pule Hill began in 1975 when researching the smaller country houses and manor houses of the Barnsley area as part of an adult education class project. Initially it represented an intriguing name on an ordnance survey map, reached by footpath or track from the A629 at Thurgoland. The first sight of the back of the farmhouse and its yard and outbuildings proved to be of considerable interest but when the then owner, Mr Bockin, took myself and local historian Arthur Clayton to the front of the building we received a most pleasant surprise. Here could be seen the impressive facade of a small country house which, with its weathered coat of arms, was once the residence of someone of local importance. Mr Bockin, although born in the house and about to retire from farming, was unable to supply any information, saying that hardly anyone had expressed any interest in the building. A little research was obviously needed but what follows is by no means complete.

Pule Hill, according to A H Smith's *Place-Names of the West Riding*, is named from a small pool near the farm; Pule or 'Puel' represents the dialect pronunciation of 'pool' (i.e. 'puil'), so in early documents it was phonetically spelt 'Pule'. A house probably existed on or near the site in medieval times, 'Pulehill' being recorded in a deed of 1420.

For many years Pule Hill was associated with a family called Bamford. John Bamford lived there in about 1600. John married and had a son and two daughters. The son, also named John, was to marry three times; his first wife came from Bamford in Derbyshire, perhaps explaining the origin of the family name; his second wife, Alice, came from Bradfield, producing two sons, both dying young; his third wife, Priscilla, came from Roxby, Lincolnshire and had five children, three of them boys.

The triple-married John Bamford, esquire was a man of some substance, having purchased the manor of Thurgoland and serving as a Justice of the Peace. He also held the office of treasurer for lame soldiers during the reign of Charles 1. John's support of the Royalist cause was at considerable personal cost; he was to leave, according to Joseph Hunter, 'an embarrassed estate to his son and heir, whose own extravagance, and his losses in the civil wars, compelled him to dispose of what he had in Thurgoland ...'. Lyon Bamford sold Pule Hill, along with the neighbouring estates of Roper House, Cheesebottom and Thurgoland Hall with its manorial rights. It must have been a very distressing time for the family since two of Lyon's brothers had been killed in the Civil War and their affairs were in ruin. Mr W E Spencer's work on *Penistone and parts of South Yorkshire during the Great Rebellion* (in Sheffield City Archives) includes quite a lot of information concerning the winding-up of Bamford's affairs, including several begging letters.

Pule Hill became the residence of someone from one of the most ancient families of Barnsley: Thomas Keresforth. The Keresforths were one of only a few local families who were able to prove their right to bear arms



Mr Bockin outside Pule Hill Hall.
The author