

**PROPOSED ALTERATIONS
TO CREATE A BAR
AT WORTLEY HALL, WORTLEY,
SHEFFIELD S35 7DB**

FOR

WORTLEY HALL LTD.

1.00 INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.01 A.D.W. Shepherd, Dip. Arch., Dip. Cons., R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A., I.H.B.C. of Andrew Shepherd Architect is instructed by the management to seek the statutory consents as required for the provision of a private bar to one of the principal Reception Rooms at the Hotel. This is the panelled Fire Brigade's Union Room, located on the ground floor of the Hall, immediately adjacent to the main entrance door and reception.

It is proposed to fit out a bar in the space to service functions taking place within it. There is no bar at this side of the Hotel. The principal bar is located adjacent to the former Ballroom on the North West corner of the building.

- 1.02 The design has been developed in conjunction with the Hall's management.

2.00 STATEMENT OF NEED

- 2.01 A very large number of weddings and wedding receptions take place at the Hotel each year, with over 200 last year. As such events can last for considerable time over that special day.

The Lounge at the Hall is a smaller and more intimate space which is suitable for the exclusive use of wedding parties.

- 2.02 There is no bar facility in this part of the Hotel. The public bar is located on the opposite side, and so is very inconvenient for the servicing of wedding parties, who are usually located in the original principal reception rooms of the Hall, on its South side.

- 2.03 For the convenience of both the Hotel staff and their guests, it is proposed that a bar be fitted out in a part of the Lounge.

3.00 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 3.01 The history of the Hall and its development has been written elsewhere¹ and the story of its last 50 years has also been recorded²³.

The present Hall was built for Edward Wortley-Montagu, the husband of the famous Lady Mary, who was a Whig politician at the time of George I, and who had been the Ambassador to Turkey and inherited Wortley Hall from his father, Sidney Montagu, who was a younger son of the Earl of

¹ R. Hewlings: *Wortley Hall* Archaeological Journal Volume 137, 1980 pp 397 - 400

² Wortley Hall Ltd: *Wortley Hall: The Workers' Stately Home* Self-published 1990s?

³ Wortley Hall Ltd: *Wortley Hall: Labour's Stately Home* True North Books Ltd., 2003

Sandwich. He had acquired Wortley by marrying the natural daughter of the last of the Wortley Baronets.

It is not known when the Wortley family first came to this area. Alunus de Wortley is recorded as having his residence at Wortley in 1165 and was followed by seven generations of Nicholas de Wortleys. Sir Thomas Wortley who was born in 1440 is known to have lived at "The Manor" at Wortley, which is presumed to be the first Wortley Hall until Wharnccliffe Lodge was built in 1510. Sir Richard Wortley rebuilt Wortley Hall in 1586 and following his death in 1603 his widow became the Countess of Devonshire on remarriage. The Countess purchased the estates in 1643 and settled them onto her grandson, Sir Francis Wortley.

He passed the estates to his bastard daughter, Anne Newcomen. Her son Edward, who took the Wortley surname, inherited the Hall in 1727 but was unable to live there, as was his intention, because of the extent of its decay.

The house replaced a multi gabled, presumed Tudor, house of which no traces remain except an illustration by Samuel Buck⁴. The drawing is marked as being the South prospect but no typography is shown to place the building on the current site.

The local Mason Architect George Platt of Rotherham is understood to have first been engaged to consider the rebuilding of the Hall by Edward Wortley-Montagu, but died in 1743. It is suggested⁵ that George Platt's widow, who continued the business with her son John, recommended James Leoni, the Venetian Architect of some repute, whose main claim to fame today is his first publishing of a first complete and illustrated edition in English of Andrea Palladio's Four books of Architecture. His design for the South front of the house still exists and is inscribed on its back "Rough Draught of the Upright of Wortley by Sig. Leoni April 1743".

The executive Architect and builder seems to have been John Platt⁶ and John Platt seems to have been employed more or less continuously at the house from 1749 to 1789⁷. In 1757–59, John Platt built the East wing of the house, probably to the design of Matthew Brettingham, but the house was still unfinished when Montagu died in 1761. It seems to have not been completed by the time in the 1780s when Platt was commissioned to design and build the West wing and offices for Lady Bute, Montagu's daughter. Her grandson James Archibald Stuart Wortley, (later 1st Lord Wharnccliffe) came to live at Wortley around 1800, and it was he who caused the carving of the coats of arms on the pediment of the Leoni frontage.

He also commissioned works designed and constructed by Peter Atkinson either working for, or with, John Carr of York⁸ including the design and construction of the stable block and attached accommodation.

The house then rested relatively unchanged until works of alteration were commissioned from William Burn, the famed Scots country house Architect, and Hugh Stanuss.

- 3.02 The grounds were always one of the glories of Wortley Hall, and their existence is attributed to Lady Caroline Creighton, who was the wife of James Archibald Stuart Wortley. The early 19th Century Park was said to be laid out by the head gardener, Joseph Harrison, during the mid 19th Century. He was an early pioneer of gardening and landscaping periodicals publications.

The gardens were stated during a visit by an anonymous reporter in 1877 to include vines, melons, pineapples, peaches and flowers such as azaleas and camellias⁹. The grounds include a fishing lake and an ice house.

⁴ Ivan Hall (Introduction): *Samuel Buck's Yorkshire Sketch Book* Wakefield Historical Publications 1979 page 99

⁵ Hewlings: *Ibid*

⁶ J. D. Potts: *Platt of Rotherham, Mason, Architects: 1700 – 1810* J.W. Northend Ltd., Sheffield 1959

⁷ H. Colvin: *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600 – 1840* (3rd Edition Yale University Press Newhaven and London 1995)

⁸ B. Wragg (Ed.) G. Worsley: *The Life and Works of John Carr of York* Oblong, York 2000

⁹ C. Higham: *A Guide to Wortley Hall Gardens* Wortley Hall Ltd. 2004

- 3.03 The house was reportedly occupied during the Second World War after requisition by the American Air Force and then acquired from the Wharnccliffe family in 1959, having leased it in 1959 by the Labour's Recreational Educational Trust, the latter having leased the building around 1951.
- 3.04 After 1951, when fundraising had allowed them to take the lease on the Hall, volunteers worked hard to achieve the repair and necessary conversion of parts of the Hall to provide residential accommodation at a cost of £10,000. Building Surveyors had intimated that the necessary repairs (if carried out by commercial Contractors) would have cost in the order of £40,000 to £50,000. Amongst the works carried out were the repair of the Fire Brigades Room (former Office), whose panelling and marble columns had been affected by water penetration, and also the decorative work to the walls and ceilings in the Dining Room (Foundry Room) (former Billiard Room)¹⁰

Around 1961 parts of the offices range to the North West side of the Hall were converted to a Ballroom with stage, together with Lavatories and Kitchens and this is operated as a separate Club to the main body of the Hall.)¹¹

Since 1989 the Management of the Hall, now incorporated as Wortley Hall Ltd. operates the Hotel, and has been involved in a continuous programme of upgrading of the facilities. In the main, this has involved the provision of en suite Bathrooms to individual Bedrooms, so reducing the number of Bedrooms, but fitting them out to the standard required for the visitors and conference guests of today.

The Kitchen facilities have also been substantially upgraded, and parts of the principal Function Rooms upgraded and redecorated and refurnished so as to create improved conference and visitor facilities.

3.05 **General Description:**

The Hall is of irregular plan, but in essence comprises three "rings" of development around open Courtyards. The previous section describes the history of the development of the Hall. It is mostly two storeys with a concealed Attic storey to the Southernmost ranges. There is a Cellar under a part of the building.

The seven bay South front has a five bay wing set back with five bays on the left and a single linking bay. The East front has a rhythm of 1:1:3:3 bays with a service wing to the right hand side of two storeys. The South front rhythm is 1:1:3:1:1 with the outer bays flanked with twin ionic pilasters in a central three bay pediment forward of the main line. There is a cill band linking the windows. Generally, there are architraves to windows.

The Library wing has five bays and is linked to the main body of the Hall.

Generally, the Hall is constructed of Coal Measures sandstone laid with very fine ashlar blocks and joints. The windows of the South range are of stained oak at ground floor level and painted elsewhere. The roofs are of Broughton Moor Cumbrian Slate laid to diminishing courses of random widths. There is a plethora of chimneys.

The building has been scarred with various openings and plant (particularly within the Courtyards) which have allowed for its operation as a Hotel and Conference Centre.

4.00 **DESIGN & ACCESS**

¹⁰ Alison Inglis: *Sir Edward Poynter and the Earl of Wharnccliffe's Billiard Room* Apollo Magazine, October 1986

¹¹ Roderick Brown (Ed): *The Architectural Outsiders (Richard Hewlings: James Leoni c. 1686 – 1746: An Anglicised Venetian)* Waterstone, London 1985 (pp21–44).

4.01 The principal aim of the proposal is to service the needs of Hotel guests at functions more conveniently and more efficiently.

4.02 The fabric of the room was in very poor condition after the requisitioning of the Hall during the Second World War. There is clear evidence of water damage to the marble pilasters. The room was restored by volunteers from the Fire Brigades' Union, when the Hall was acquired by the Educational Trust in the early 1950s.

4.03 It is a delightful space with restored panelling, and a restored decorative plaster ceiling, albeit somewhat eccentrically decorated in 1951 or thereabouts! (Photographs 1 & 2).

It is believed that the room was the Hall's Office where the Montagu family would conduct business matters with visitors. As a result, there is an existing pass door (for such business visitors) to the space, as the hierarchical arrangement of any country house would not allow such visitors to use the main entrance door. That is set in a recess to the main space of the room.

4.04 It is proposed to fit out the bar fittings and storage in the space, so creating an area from which refreshments can be served.

Generally, the fittings will be freestanding in space, or fitted against the walls.

There is a dummy door in the area of the proposed bar servery. It is proposed to remove the door from its frame, and then hang it on the back wall of the recess. The brick 'reveals' will be plastered, and glass shelves and lighting will fill the depth of the recess. (Photographs 3 - 5).

The space can be stripped out and the door rehung on its retained frame.

All other fittings could similarly be removed (or reversed) without much effect or damage on the original fabric.

4.05 The floor boarding of this recess area in which the bar is to be located are different and of lower quality than those in the other areas of the room. It is not known whether this is original or is the result of previous repairs.

In any event, we believe that they can be lifted to allow for the insertion of the necessary electrical and plumbing services (as shown on the submitted drawings) and then refixed.

4.06 For reasons of cleanliness for environmental health standards a sheet floor will be laid over a separating layer to the bar servery area.

Similarly, that can be removed to allow the existing floor to be seen if the bar facility is ever stripped out.

4.07 As stated previously, there is an existing replacement external pass door to the space. (Photograph 6).

It is proposed that this be replaced with a timber stable door, with the horizontal joint concealed so that the door appears to continue to be a timber panelled door.

The stable door facility will allow drinks and other refreshments to be served to guests enjoying the glories of Wortley Hall that are its formal gardens immediately around the Hall.

4.08 There are existing steps up to the main entrance of the Hall, and up to the terrace from the gardens. The proposed stable door is at that terrace level.

Disabled level access to the principal ground floor level of the Hall is available on the North side. There is a lift to provide access to the principal bedrooms all at first floor level.

All doors to the principal reception rooms at the ground floor level are of adequate width for wheelchair use.

5.00 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.01 The proposals seek to improve the convenience and efficiency of the service of guests at the Hotel.
- 5.02 We do not believe that Planning Consent is required for the proposals, only Listed Building Consent.
- 5.03 We suggest that the existing fabric is preserved by the proposals and the work is all reversible in the future.
- 5.04 We believe that the enhanced use of the Hotel facilities should allow the works proposed to be granted consent.

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ADWS/TAM/TJC
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Photograph 1



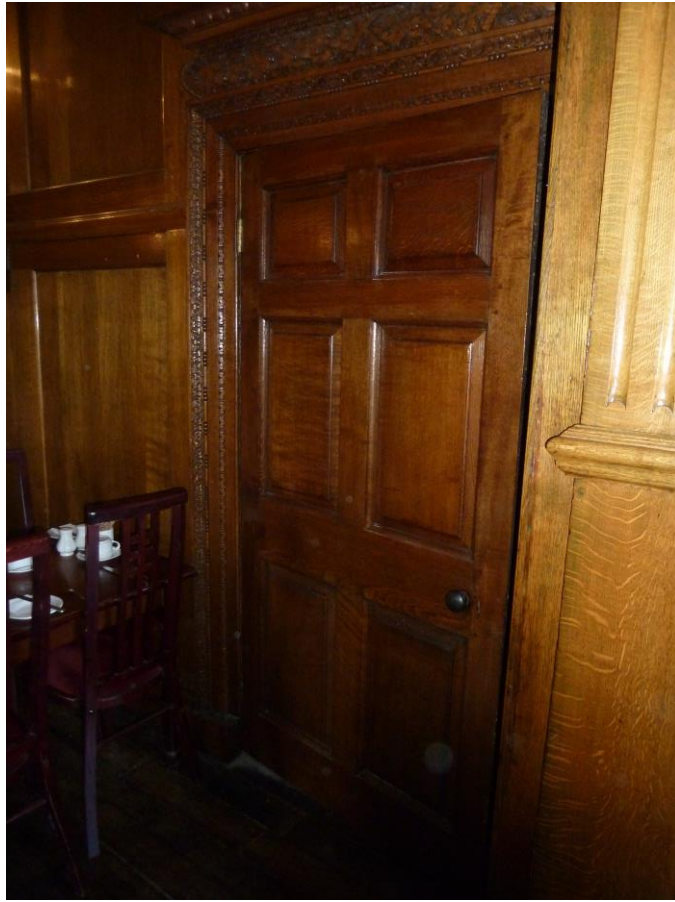
Photograph 2



Photograph 3



Photograph 4



Photograph 5



Photograph 6