

Buildings of Local Interest in Harston

Selection criteria:

Age (A)

Rarity (R)

Aesthetic interest (AI)

Group Value (G)

Archaeological interest (Ar)

Archival Interest (Ac)

Historical association (H)

Designed Landscape interest (DL)

Landmark status (L)

Social & communal value (SC)

Historic core: Church St

Hill View Cottages – 72-76 Church St & 2-6 Button End (G, A, R, AI, Ac,H)

were built about 250 years ago. Originally three dwellings 1-3, now converted and extended to two larger ones. Original beams – built c 1750. The right hand cottage No 1 was once an inn called the Sign of the Gate, primarily serving the coprolite miners of the second half of C19th. Rev Mansfield-Williams, Harston vicar 1954-60, recalls there was an iron stanchion fixed to the chimney to hold the sign. He also recalled that Harston vicars, including Rev Bosanquet (1844-48), used it as lodgings in preference to the damp vicarage!

Nos 4-6 Hill View Cottages in second row of three in Button End are also important- old beams, claybat, etc, old sweet shop locals remember, - many finds in garden –old pipes, etc. Have historical records/deeds & how renovated. Old style windows.

No's 37-39 Church St (A,R,AI,G,Ac,H)

were 3 residences built before 1800 with front brick facing added in 1874 (check date with owners) and occupied by the Newling family (from before 1800 – 1962) & Hopkins, related, until 1988. The Newlings ran an early agricultural engine contractors business from 1858 – 1912, taking their steam threshing machines around the neighbouring farms to harvest and thresh their crops although the barns that housed their machinery have disappeared.

The building nearest Church St used to be thatched, but was later tiled. All three buildings were eventually converted into one residence.

Connections to adjacent listed Fountain Cottage (once Farm)

Have historical records/deeds/photos

Wendy & Rupert Dick bought the property in 1988 and sold in 2015 but kept the land behind which had two new eco-houses built on it.

1920 row of 6 Council Houses Nos 15-25 – (H, AI, R, G, SC)

first council houses built under Addison Act – large, good quality, special design/architecture of group of houses with long gardens so can grow veg & dispose of sewage waste. Original design been largely preserved for the whole row although some of tall chimneys have been removed. 3 bedrooms + washroom + copper. In 1970s council converted old coalhouse & toilet into downstairs bathroom. (Need to check whether interior layout has changed much)

Was built on land owned by Longs of Harston House, sold when estate broken up in 1893 and large gardens used land called 'Camping Close' –old communal area for gatherings, events, etc.

Lilac Cottage- 22 Church St (G, H, SC - may include as group with 20 church St)

may be built c 1850s- need to check with owners- not there on 1799 inclosure map - lived in by Runhams, poss in village since 1830s – originally shoemaker, then by 1880s was market gardener/small farmer + cattle Last Runham died 1936. Later rented out by, then lived in by Beatrice Ashby (local family & teacher) after renovations. Large lovely garden sold off for building of 22A in early 21 century leaving small garden. Enhances streetscape of church St with old school house & old school next door.

The Old School & House 20 Church Street. (A,R,AI,G,Ac,H,SC)

House there before 1799 inclosure map, but smaller- a photo shows single storey to right probably raised to 2 storey. School behind house was built after c1855 when Liddy Eden married builder Alfred Jude and she taught in the newly built school after Rev Durbin had acquired land from Jesus College. It became the National School until 1876 when it became a Board school but

it was overcrowded. The school room at the back had 84 pupils in 1876. The new Victorian school built on the High St took over in 1877. Then used as Sunday School and as youth club in C20. Today, both house and schoolroom are one residence. Note original arched windows of school room – those of house changed over time & back again.

No 5 Church St: 'Dormer Cottage' (A,R,AI,G,Ac,SC)

built around 1750 & on 1799 inclosure map - used to be two labourers' cottages, lath & plaster, tiled but originally thatched, each with 4 rooms, which were part of William Long's Harston Estate for sale in 1893.- typical of the time for village. They are now one residence, No 5 Church St. Although condemned in 1930s as used to flood as below ground level, once they became owner occupied (as opposed to having tenants) they were renovated. Has some original ceiling beams. It has been extended with conservatory and addition of dormer windows. Few labourer's cottages left in village.

Stag Villas, 7 & 9 church St (R,AI,G,Ac,SC)

two semi-detached brick houses, built by William George Jude (Haslingfield builder) in 1904 on land formerly of Long's Harston Estate. Part of the original garden wall can still be seen, topped by a concrete ball. Better quality buildings – patterned brickwork - for rent to better off workers/professionals eg music teacher, policeman, etc. Name from local tale that builder saw Stag passing when building it.

Pantile Cottage, 12 Church St (A,R,AI,G,Ac,SC)

The front section was once two stud and plaster and boarded labourers' cottages that form front part; in past stairs went up from lounge area- part of former Harston House estate sold in 1893. Built around 1700 probably of wattle & daub. (Needs checking) Original timber framed building- still ceiling timbers in front part downstairs and in bedrooms indicate former layout, & timbers at gable ends. Front and back walls of front section of house have brick walls outside but plastered inside. (Two rows of old cottages nearby were removed in 1920s-30s when the council houses were built in The Footpath). Few labourer's cottages left in village.

Hurrell's Row cottages (A,R, AI,G,H,SC)

were built about 1860 off Church Street (yet 1799 inclosure map shows some buildings were there then) and described as 12 mean dwellings built of clunch blocks. Collapse of one building in 2015 **check** showed clunch foundations, 2-3 feet of brick wall with claybat walls above. Layout – 2 rooms up and down, originally a spiral staircase, No 4 retains a lot of original features including sliding windows. Fireplace/chimney stack shared by adjoining cottages giving different location of alcove in alternate residences.

It is thought they were built by the Hurrell family (large local land owners) to house their workers. Arthur Hurrell certainly owned all the cottages until 1910 when William George Jude bought them, including a former blacksmith's shop.

Jude sold the freehold cottages in 1933 to (James) Harry Albert Nash who started to sell them off individually from 1950s and all sold by 1970.

The first building in the row was the washhouse but has had a second storey added once it was converted from a business premise to residential. The Clock Shop was run by Eric Webb for many years, but some can remember a TV shop there in the 1960s.

Historic core Royston Rd- old commercial area

40-48 Royston Rd (A,R,AI,G,Ar,H,SC)

Group of houses- The Saddlers' & Weaving cottages; Camping Close House & Queen's Head Group of adjoining houses that run from **40-48 Royston Rd** were once all owned by Christopher Wedd, a saddler who moved to Harston around the 1840s. They were probably built in the 18th century but No 46 and No 40 had new facades built on in the 1860s.

No 46 was called **Camping Close House** and held land behind called Camping Close, a pasture where children played or Methodists held meetings. It was later planted with orchards before

being developed as Pightle Close.

No 44 (**Saddlers Cottage**) and 42 were originally the foremans cottage for the saddler to live in and 42 the business premises/stabling, etc. A number of different saddlers and shoemakers worked there until the 1920s when all the premises were bought by Sir W Graham Greene of Harston House. It is thought Helen Greene housed her dyeing and weaving business she started about 1918 in the business premises, now known as **Weaving Cottage**.(No 42)

The Queens Head was built early C18th and sold in 1890 as part of the late Christopher Wedd's estate. The Ashby family were innkeepers for many years (1890-1937). In 1933 the building to the south (left) of the Queens Head was removed to widen the main road (and provide the present carpark) and the pub was partially restored and modernised in 1937.

Old commercial area around Memorial Green

No 7 Royston Rd (A,G,H,SC)

built mid-C19 on land that had previously been part of the Green, before Inclosure. had a grocers store there from about 1904 and butchers (with local pork & imported beef & mutton) all run by the Pask family, in the 1920s photo shown with workers Frank Lawrance & Frank Wisbey. (The Pask butchers then moved to the High St until Pask retired in 1933). The property, Ditton Cottage, was owned by the Lawrance family of blacksmiths in the 1960s and 70s.

No 5 Royston Rd (A,G,H,SC)

was From about the 1850s until 1940s a Post Office was run there by the Gwilliams family, and nephew Ilsey. It was later owned by Vera Norfolk, sister-in-law of Mr Stocker of 1 High St, and she ran a haberdashery/dress shop there named 'Vera's Boutique' from about the late 1950s-70s. Area called Post office corner. House extended, altered a little.

No 3 Royston road, Byron Lodge (A,G,H,SC)

former Bath house and Badcocks bakery in early C20. Se Mellor memories on website
Get details from website

No 1 Royston Rd- Fountain Cottage (A,G,H,SC)

– once 4 cottages- later combined into one faces Memorial green – water used to be collected from pump on the Green. Memories & info on past occupants.

High Street

The Pemberton Arms, 2 high St (A, R,AI,G,Ac,H,SC)

In old commercial area/historic core,was named after a member of the well known Pemberton family of Trumpington whose sons married into local families. It was built about 1860-5 on land belonging to Mr Long of Harston House who retained some interest in the Inn until it was sold in 1893. It was very popular, having quoit beds where competition games were played with a number of Cambridge pubs, mostly on Saturday evenings. In 1913 newspapers recorded the landlord was Owen Churchman and *'The sanitary arrangements are about the best in the village. About a dozen carts can stand in the yard, which is the largest in Harston. People leave their horses there while they take the train, making it the most convenient in the village'*. It also had allotments.

In 1930s/40s/50s? local labourers would go there early in morning to seek hiring on for harvest/agric work.

No 1 High St, the Cottage part of historic core facing Memorial Green (A,R,AI,G,H,SC)

Originally a C17th thatched & timbered house that was converted from two cottages (**check**) that used to be a part of the Long's Harston Estate until it was sold in 1893. Internal beams, etc.The garden in front of the house once was part of the Village Green, and after 1802 had a forge built in the building still standing near the road. The forge bellows/furnace were removed by the Stocker brothers whose parents bought it around 1940. Their mother ran a rose nursery on the front land stretching towards the three Horseshoes from 1956 to the 1970s.

Old school house, 8 Station Rd & School (A,R,AI,G,Ac,H,SC)

In 1870s was acquired with the school land bought from Mr Silk, & became the schoolmasters house - the first being Mr Beaumont. Used by school master until 1970s? (Check)

The new Victorian **board School** was built in 1876 in the High St. There were two classrooms initially with children sat behind long rows of desks (galleries). a front entrance below the clock, replacing the Church St school. Many more buildings been added for current school but old Victorian block has much of original architecture.

The Old House, No 25 High St (A,R,AI,Ac,H,SC)

was formerly called Poplar Farm due to the avenue of poplars that used to lead up to the front door. Believed to have been built in the early C17th. It was the Hays family house in the late C18th until 1919, having moved from their farmhouse in Button End and moved their Barn to the Old House garden in 1848. It had a large area of orchard behind. In spite of its age and features, it has never been listed as it has had so many alterations and extensions. Has some internal old beams & fireplace & front little altered.

It had several owners in 1920s & 1930s until the Bisseckers and then the Heap families each had it for over 30 years.

No 29 High St has had a shop there for much of the C20th, changing uses from grocers to antiques, to state agents and more. At one stage there was Miss Jackson's hairdressers to the left, No 27, and a shop to the right that was at times a paint shop, haberdashery or butchers. Shop on west side of High Street (currently an Estate Agent,

Village Hall (A,R,AI,Ac,H,SC)

The land on which the hall is built had been owned and farmed from the late 1700's by the Hays family and was purchased following fund raising activities in 1922-23.

The architect was Mr Betham and the main contractor was Mr Clement Jude of Harston. The total cost of building the Hall and all surrounding site works was £2504. The hall was officially opened by Sir William Graham Greene on 2 November 1923.

The Village Hall's weathervane was made by the local blacksmith, Harry Lawrance. The small building to left of driveway has the letters BC& HECo and is in fact an electricity substation. (Beds, Cambs & Hunts Elec Co)

57 High St- Lincoln House (A,R,AI,G,Ac,H,SC)

Originally owned by Wallman family until c 1918 (**check**) – small farmers & butchers and apple growers – and connected to Nos 55 & 53 (listed). no 57- can see passage from 53 from priest hole to outside of brick tunnel.

59 High St used to be just the farm buildings of Wallman's farm (No 57) including Castle Cottage (workmans) and later in 1930s a yard where Premier Travel buses (photo below right) were kept. This later became a car sales premise (photo left) although some barns were left behind, more recently one converted to a residence.

Old Police House, 70 High St (R,AI,Ac,H,SC)

In 1925 there was a pressing need for a new police house as the existing rented one was needed by the owner. A Cambridge newspaper reported that a suitable site had been found outside the village but the Chief Constable accepted a most suitable site next to the Park which Mr Arthur Hurrell had offered as a gift to the county. In October 1955 planning permission was given to build a police office and garage and a new driveway off the main road with the original driveway being closed (subsequently re-opened). No longer used in 1970s then sold as residence only. Many remember it and the policemen.

Baptist Chapel, Chapel Lane (A, R, AI, G, Ac,H,SC)

The original chapel was erected in 1799 where the old graveyard is now on a piece of land obtained, in trust, from Mr Swan Wallis for the sum of £1. It replaced the barns and Camping Close field used for preaching by C18th Dissenters. (connections with the origins of the Methodist

movement & with the Ranters). Large church membership and Sunday schools and day school. The present building was erected in 1870 and a new schoolroom built in 1886. Electric lighting arrived in the early 1930s and during the war years the schoolroom initially became a canteen for the troops and later was used by Pye Ltd. to produce radio equipment. Distinctive architecture. History of Baptist church booklet written by Mr wisbey to celebrate 200 years. (check)

The Old Manse, 94 High St (A,R,AI,G,H,SC)

Associated with Baptist chapel was purchased from Mr John Wallman in 1875. The first pastor to occupy it was Mr S H Akehurst. It remained as The Manse until 1972 when it was sold as it was unused and needed considerable modernisation and repairs for which funds were not available. The proceeds of the sale were invested and a Manse Fund was set up.

Pinehurst, 153 High St (A,R,AI,Ac,H,SC)

Retains original external features- windows, woodwork, etc, and pine trees,restored in 1990s, kept character- probably built between 1911-20. Have early associated memories from 1930s/40s- in war billeted officers. Part of land sold off.

180 high St, The former Old English Gentleman pub (A,R,H,L,SC)

(Vujon until closed) marks the northern entrance to the village and stood alone until housing developed around it in the 1930s. It was newly built in 1839 near where a pump stood and on land that had been occupied by a Smock windmill until it burnt down in 1833. It was named after the then Rector of Fowlmere, old Parson Metcalfe, who made builders rebuild a wall further back as it was encroaching onto the highway. They were initially annoyed with him but happier later as they received praise and largess from him so they named the pub The Old English Gentleman instead of The Meddlesome Parson.

Has bench mark on side of pub. (check)

Station Road

Tiptofts, formerly Birnam, Station Rd (R,AI,Ac,SC)

Near Station House - original individual 1930s design, art deco?, little changed- windows, door, tiled fireplace in tiny maids room, bell board for rooms, etc see website. Set alone in acreage.

Newton Road

Sunbourn, Newton Rd (R,AI,Ac,H,L,SC)

built in 1920s/30s- by Signe Laven, Swedish physio; extended by Lindgrens – buildings based on Austrian chalet type style, etc- see website- many original features- balconies, doors, windows, etc, in dominant position on hill above Harston.

Windmill Cottage, Newton Rd (A,R,AI,Ac,L?,SC)

Built early-mid C19 windmill cottage and tower windmill that operated until c 1900s. Remains of lower part of brick windmill & old artesian pump.

Structures

ROC post, Newton Rd (R,AI,Ac,H,L,SC)

Royal Observer corps post used in WW2 – still has original furniture, ladder, etc, in chamber below.Have local memories of its use.

Artesian water monuments (A,R,AI,Ac,H,L,SC)

1. **'cement' Water Supply monument, Button End** Another of the water supply points funded by the Greene family- inscribed 1928 LG. Originally there were steps down into the ditch to access the pipe which has now gone. Photos show the state of the structure before & after being damaged by Hurrell's ditch clearing operations. Living memories of grandparents collecting water, etc & funding by Sir WGGreene.

2. **Brick Water monument on Rhee House garden wall** on bend of church St & Haslingfield Rd. Funded by Greene family with inscription 'In Memoriam/m 1927 AMG'

3. 'cement' Water monument on The Green- continuously flowing – funded by Greene family with inscription 1921 GG & EG (Graham Greene & ? Greene)
To the right of shop before village hall is a ditch with brickwork showing another artesian 4. **water source** provided by Dr Young from his nearby house in the early C20th with Greek inscription 'Apiotov hev + 4 unclear letters' and 1905

Historical open spaces

The (Swan) Green, Royston Rd Connected historically to White Swan Inn that bounded its southern side until burnt down in 1928. Check- used to be location for village fairs until 1930s + living memories of such + artesian well & Village sign & remaining fir trees planted by Greenes?

War Memorial Green at junction of Station Rd, High St & Royston Rd- important green area for siting of war memorial- used to have pump, was part of the original Village Green. General area previously called Post Office corner before War Memorial and Green established clearly in 1920s.

The Drift (off High St- leading to Shelford Rd)

an ancient trackway before inclosure in 1802 linking Harston to Little Shelford Rd with adjoining The Rookery wood. In WW2 army trucks etc, kept there camouflaged by trees lining trackway. Troops were also billeted there in tents. There used to be a guardhouse at the High Street entrance - a cement base remains which is believed was the site of the guardhouse