

Case Name: TAKING STOCK: Roman Catholic Church of St Mary and Presbytery, High Street, Madeley, Telford

Case Number: 1416080

Background

The Roman Catholic Church of St Mary and its presbytery, Madeley, are being assessed as part of the Taking Stock Diocese of Shrewsbury National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) project.

Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	List Entry Number	Name	Heritage Category	EH Recommendation
1	1416158	Presbytery of Roman Catholic Church of St Mary	Listing	Add to List
2	N/A	Roman Catholic Church of St Mary	Listing	Do not add to List

Visits

Date	Visit Type
27 August 2013	Full inspection

Context

The Roman Catholic Church of St Mary and presbytery, Madeley, are being assessed as part of a National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) project which follows on from a 'Taking Stock' review of churches belonging to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury. Churches in the Diocese are presently under-represented as buildings of special architectural or historic interest on the National Heritage List for England.

The church and presbytery have not been previously assessed for listing. They stand in the Madeley Conservation Area, which in turn lies within the Ironbridge World Heritage Site.

Assessment

CONSULTATION

The Diocese, the Patrimony Committee, the Historic Churches Committee (HCC), the local authority and the Historic Environment Record were invited to comment on the factual details of the case as part of the consultation process. The Historic Churches Committee responded to say that though the presbytery and ancillary building have an interesting history, they do not survive in a complete way. Taken together they considered the group disappointing and the church particularly is not a memorable work by an otherwise very good Catholic architect. Nor did it have any furnishings of merit. On balance they considered that it was not worthy of listing. The other consultees did not comment.

DISCUSSION

The statutory criteria for designating a building or structure are its special architectural or historic interest (Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings, March 2010). English Heritage's 'Places of Worship Listing Selection Guide' (April 2011) notes specific considerations which may be relevant when assessing this building type; these include character, intactness, alteration, fixtures, fittings and decoration, historic interest, and group value.

The Roman Catholic church and presbytery at Madeley differ from the other sites being assessed as part of the Diocese of Shrewsbury 'Taking Stock' NHPP project because they form a continuation of worship rather than a broadly contemporary church and associated presbytery.

The presbytery originated as a house incorporating a chapel at the rear. It was built in 1769 and was funded by wealthy Catholics of the time including the Duke of Norfolk. As the HCC comments suggest the house has suffered from a degree of alteration over the years, which has resulted in changes to its visual appearance, with windows and doorways either inserted or blocked. The house was given a different orientation in the C20, when the front door was moved from east to the south elevation, the east elevation was rendered, and a single-storey, lean-to extension was built against the west gable wall of the house. The interior lacks fixtures or fittings of interest. The former chapel is now used as parish rooms and was also altered in the C20, when a floor and staircase were inserted. However, the basic plan form of house with chapel to the rear is still readable. While the house presented a respectable, good-quality exterior of coursed, shaped and tooled stone blocks, the chapel, which uses brick and rubblestone in its construction, was discreetly placed behind so as not to draw attention. Such discretion is typical for a Catholic place of worship in the C18 and Madeley has clear historic interest as a very rare survivor of a building used for Catholic worship prior to the first Catholic Reform Act of 1778 when public Catholic worship was still illegal in England. Very few examples of this building type are known to survive and only a handful are listed. These include chapel House (The Priest House), Ancroft Haggerston, Northumberland, of the later C18 for the Haggerston Family, and The Chapel House, Otterbourne, a mid-C18 house with a rear wing made into a chapel in 1782 by the Smythe family of Brambridge House, Colden Common. Both are listed at Grade II and the Madeley example is comparable with them.

The recently enacted Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (2013) has delivered a significant change to the Planning Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) 1990 in s.1 (5A) (a) and (b). This enables us to recommend a building for listing because of its architectural or historic interest and to concentrate upon the historic fabric whilst excluding modern extensions or alterations if it is beneficial to do so. In this case it is recommended that the building is listed at Grade II, but that the modern lean-to extension against the west gable wall of the house be excluded, likewise the modern floor inserted in the former chapel and the staircase accessing it be excluded. Although nothing apparently remains of original fixtures and fittings in the main house, there is a possibility that some fabric is original and so it is recommended that the whole house is included in the listing.

The present church, which stands adjacent, was designed in 1852-3. It dates from the period of expansion of Catholic churches following on from the Restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850, when not only were Roman Catholics free to practice their faith, but the infrastructure for territorial bishops to oversee this worship was re-established. The church was designed by Joseph Aloysius Hansom, a notable Catholic ecclesiastical architect. There appears to have been a funding issue which resulted in an intended west tower and the sanctuary not being built. This is unfortunate as it gives the church an unfinished appearance which compromises the integrity of the design, meaning that, despite the renown of the architect, it does not compare favourably with Hansom's best ecclesiastical work, much of which is listed, some of it at a high grade. Internally, the lack of a defined sanctuary similarly compromises the space, although the pointed-arch arcades are attractive. There is also very little in the way of original fixtures and fittings, with fixtures such as the carved wooden angels to the aisle corbels and the organ having been brought in from elsewhere.

It is recommended that the presbytery and former chapel are listed at Grade II primarily for their historic interest. Although the present church was designed by a notable Catholic ecclesiastical architect, it is considered that its design is compromised and it lacks original fixtures and fittings. As such it does not meet the criteria for listing in a national context, though it would be a good candidate for a local list. As discussed above, the modern extension to the presbytery and the inserted floor and staircase in the former chapel should be excluded from the designation. In recommending the extent of designation, we have considered whether powers of exclusion under s.1 (5A) of the 1990 Act are appropriate, and consider that they are, as set out in the proposed list entry.

CONCLUSION

After examining all the records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing with regard to the presbytery and former chapel are fulfilled. The presbytery and attached former chapel are therefore recommended for listing at Grade II. The criteria for listing with regard to the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary of 1852-3 are not fulfilled. The 1852-3 church is therefore not recommended for listing.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION

The presbytery, formerly a priest's house incorporating a rear chapel, of 1769, is recommended for listing at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- * Historic interest: the presbytery is a very rare survivor of a house and chapel purpose-built for Catholic worship prior to the first Catholic Reform Act of 1778 when public Catholic worship was still illegal;
- * Plan form: the building remains readable as a house with an attached chapel discreetly placed to the rear so as not to draw attention, as was typical for a Catholic place of worship in the C18.

The Roman Catholic Church of St Mary of 1852-3 by Joseph Aloysius Hansom is not recommended for listing for the following principal reasons:

- * Architectural interest: the integrity of the design has been compromised by the intended west tower and sanctuary having not been built, leaving a blocked chancel arch and tower arch on view;
- * Architect: though designed by A W Hansom, a notable Catholic ecclesiastical architect, this church does not compare favourably with listed examples of his work;
- * Fixtures and fittings: there is a lack of good-quality fixtures and fittings original to the church.

Countersigning comments:

Agreed: the presbytery originated as a place of Roman Catholic worship in a period when, due to legislation, such public worship was banned. It is a remarkable survival from this period which merits designation in the national context despite later alterations. However the adjacent church, lacking the chancel and tower originally intended, does not compare favourably with other churches of its date and should not be listed.

NFB 30.i.14

Annex 1**List Entry****List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: Presbytery of Roman Catholic Church of St Mary

List Entry Number: 1416158

Location

Presbytery of Roman Catholic Church of St Mary, High Street, Madeley, Telford,

The listed building(s) is/are shown coloured blue on the attached map. Pursuant to s.1 (5A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ('the Act'), structures attached to or within the curtilage of the listed building (save those coloured blue on the map) are not to be treated as part of the listed building for the purposes of the Act.

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Telford and Wrekin	Unitary Authority	Madeley

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed:

Date of most recent amendment:

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy Number: Not applicable to this List entry.

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description**Summary of Building**

Presbytery and parish hall, formerly priest's house with chapel to the rear. 1769 with later alterations. Sandstone and brick with small tiles to roofs. The modern lean-to extension built against the west gable wall of the house is not of special architectural or historic interest and is excluded from the listing.

Reasons for Designation

The presbytery, formerly a priest's house incorporating a rear chapel, of 1769, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- * Historic interest: the presbytery is a very rare survivor of a house and chapel purpose-built for Catholic worship prior to the first Catholic Reform Act of 1778 when public Catholic worship was still illegal;
- * Plan form: the building remains readable as a house with an attached chapel discreetly placed to the rear so as not to draw attention, as was typical for a Catholic place of worship in the C18.

History

In 1676 there were 51 adult 'papists' recorded as living in Madeley, more than anywhere else in Shropshire, and as such it is sometimes referred to as 'the mother mission of Shropshire'. During this period there was an unlicensed Catholic school and a Mass centre at Madeley Court, home of the recusant Brooke family. In 1760 another recusant family, the Giffards, donated a plot of land on the High Street, and in 1769 a house incorporating a chapel at the rear was built despite the opposition of the local vicar. Constructed with funds given by wealthy Catholics, including the Duke of Norfolk, the building cost approximately £500. It originally seated 200, although by 1851 there were 400 sittings, and 500 attended Sunday services.

In 1849 Father W Molloy led efforts to build a new and larger church which anticipated further expansion. On 21 April 1852 the foundation stone was laid of an ambitious new church designed by Joseph Aloysius Hansom. Hansom is a noted Catholic architect who worked briefly in partnership with E W Pugin, and also both independently and with family relatives. As well as designing ecclesiastical architecture he designed the Classical Town Hall of Birmingham, founded 'The Builder' journal, and invented the Hansom cab. The church was opened on 18 August 1853. It had a wide nave flanked by full-length aisles and was intended to seat 500. The intention was to also build a sanctuary and a west tower, but this was not realised and the chancel and tower arches remained blocked up.

The original house and chapel were put to a variety of uses. In September 1882 it briefly housed Missionaries of the Sacred Heart from Issoudin, France. From 1889 Madeley was served from Shifnal, and from 1891 the house was rented out as a boarding school for young ladies. The school was short-lived, but the house did not become the priest's house again until 1969. By the 1990s the building was in a state of dereliction. A scheme of adaptation saw the former chapel split in two by the insertion of a floor with the ground floor used as parish rooms, while the house is presently in use as the presbytery.

Details

Presbytery and parish hall, formerly priest's house with chapel to the rear. 1769 with later alterations. Sandstone and brick with small tiles to roofs.

PLAN: two-storey presbytery with double-height former chapel attached to rear, north side, now with inserted floor and used as parish rooms.

EXTERIOR: the original front elevation of the house faces east and is of two storeys and three bays with modern rendering, a moulded stone eaves cornice, and a hipped, tiled roof. The central doorway has been altered to form a square window and all the windows have modern window frames. The south elevation faces the road and except for a vertical strip of render to the right-hand, south-east corner is of large shaped and tooled stone blocks in regular courses with a brick dentil eaves cornice. The roof is pitched at the left-hand end and hipped at the right-hand end. A large brick stack rises left of centre from the eaves. The present irregularly spaced windows are later insertions with concrete lintels. Shaped stones within the stonework suggest that there were previously other windows on the first floor. The central doorway has a modern door. Built against the left-hand, corner is a modern, single-storey, lean-to extension built of roughly coursed rubblestone with a window with a concrete lintel and modern frame. Projecting to the rear of the extension is the south elevation of the former chapel, which is the same height as the house. It is built of hand-made bricks in Flemish bond with a brick dentil eaves cornice and pitched tiled roof. The west gable wall of the house is also built of large shaped and tooled stone blocks in regular courses. The ground-floor level and part of the first floor level with a blocked window are obscured by the modern, lean-to extension. An attic window above has been altered to insert a modern window frame and a narrow window has been inserted to the left. To the left of the house the west gable of the former chapel projects. The wall is built of roughly coursed rubblestone with the brickwork of the south elevation wrapping round the south-west corner. A central doorway with a concrete lintel is a modern insertion as is the round-headed window over. Rough straight joints suggest that there was originally a horizontal rectangular window in the gable apex. The north elevation of the former chapel is built of roughly coursed rubblestone with a brick dentil eaves cornice and a tiled roof

which is hipped at the left-hand end and pitched at the right-hand end. The north-east corner has a narrow strip of render. Set towards the centre and right-hand side are two large rectangular windows with concrete lintels and small pane window frames. The right-hand window has been shortened to allow a doorway to be inserted underneath. There is a temporary timber shelter set against the windows.

INTERIOR: the internal layout of the house has been altered, with the front door moved from the east elevation to the south elevation and doorways correspondingly blocked and corridors formed. On the first floor the ceilings in the front bedrooms have been lowered, though the upper part of the walls, with picture rails, are still visible in the attic. There are apparently no original fixtures or fittings of interest. The roof structure has been altered with many timbers later insertions. The former chapel has had a floor inserted with a narrow staircase in the north-west corner. There are no original fixtures or fittings of interest.

EXCLUSIONS: the modern lean-to extension built against the west gable wall of the house is not of special architectural or historic interest and is excluded from the listing.

Pursuant to s.1 (5A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ('the Act') it is declared that the modern floor inserted into the former chapel and the staircase accessing it are not of special architectural or historic interest.

Selected Sources

Architectural History Practice, Taking Stock (Diocese of Shrewsbury), St Mary, Madeley, January 2012

Map**National Grid Reference:** SJ6978904460

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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - 1416158_1.pdf

Annex 2

Factual Details

Name: Roman Catholic Church of St Mary

Location: Roman Catholic Church of St Mary, High Street, Madeley, Shropshire,

County	District	District Type	Parish
	Telford and Wrekin	Unitary Authority	Madeley

History

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In 1849 Father W Molloy led efforts to build a new and larger church which anticipated further expansion. On 21 April 1852 the foundation stone was laid of an ambitious new church designed by Joseph Aloysius Hansom. Hansom is a noted Catholic architect who worked briefly in partnership with E W Pugin, and also both independently and with family relatives. As well as designing ecclesiastical architecture he designed the Classical Town Hall of Birmingham, founded 'The Builder' journal, and invented the Hansom cab. The church was opened on 18 August 1853. It had a wide nave flanked by full-length aisles and was intended to seat 500. The intention was to also build a sanctuary and a west tower, but this was not realised and the chancel and tower arches remained blocked up.

Details

Roman Catholic church. 1852-3 by Joseph Aloysius Hansom. Sandstone with small tiles to roofs.

PLAN: five-bay nave with sanctuary in easternmost bay, marked by a low dais, lean-to north and south aisles and south-west porch.

EXTERIOR: the church is built of shaped, coursed stone with a plinth, a steep, tiled roof over the nave and lean-to aisles with tiled roofs. Facing the road, the south elevation has a clerestory with five, small pointed-arch windows with Decorated tracery and diamond leaded lights with clear and blue glazing. At the left-hand, west end a wide buttress projects to the west, wraps over the south-west corner and rises above eaves level with a coped top chamfered to follow the line of the coped gable. The lean-to south aisle has diagonal corner buttresses. The first bay has a projecting, pitched-roof porch with diagonal buttresses and a pointed-arch doorway with moulded architrave and hoodmould and timber double doors. Buttresses separate the second to fifth bays. Bays two to four have three-light, pointed-arch windows with Decorated tracery, with a narrower, two-light window in bay five. The windows have similar diamond leaded lights except for the window in bay five which has a modern stained glass window. The north elevation is similar in detailing to the south elevation with a clerestory, a wide buttress at the right-hand, west end, and a lean-to aisle with diagonal corner buttresses and buttresses separating the bays. The aisle has five, three-light pointed arch windows with Decorated tracery and similar leaded glazing. The east end has a tall pointed chancel arch which is blocked with roughly-coursed rubblestone. The coped gable has a stone cross at its apex and to each side of the blocked archway is a large buttress of shaped and coursed red sandstone. The south aisle on the left-hand side has a blocked pointed arch aperture. The north aisle on the right-hand side has a two-light pointed arch window with Decorated tracery and modern stained glass. The west end has a very tall archway between two slightly-projecting buttresses, with a circular window with quatrefoil tracery in the apex of the coped gable. The nave stonework is of roughly coursed rubblestone. The north and south aisles both have shaped, coursed stonework with a two-light pointed arch window with Decorated tracery and diamond leaded glass.

INTERIOR: the walls are plastered and painted white with ashlar stone nave arcades with pointed arches and alternating circular and octagonal columns. At the east end of the arcades the easternmost arch is supported by a stone corbel. The roof trusses have deep arched braces rising from stone corbels on the clerestory walls, collars, and raking struts. There are three purlins to each side with diagonal timber boarding behind. The aisle roofs have trusses rising from stone corbels on the aisle walls with raking struts rising from stone corbels on the arcades, with diagonal boarding behind the purlins. The aisle corbels now support carved timber angels originally located in the chapel of Cheadle Royal mental asylum in Cheshire. The floor is of red and black tiles now largely carpeted. Hung against the blocked chancel arch is a carved timber crucifix perhaps German in origin. At the east end of the south aisle is a pointed arch niche with a moulded stone frame with a trefoil head and hoodmould in front of which stands a painted plaster statue of Our Lady and the baby Jesus. At the west end of the nave is a large organ with an ornate wooden case and painted organ pipes which was acquired from a local Methodist church at an unknown date. At the west end of the north aisle is the boiler house and the west end of the south aisle is the sacristy.

Selected Sources

Architectural History Practice, Taking Stock (Diocese of Shrewsbury), St Mary, Madeley, January 2012

Map

National Grid Reference: SJ6981104494



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