

Heritage Statement for Troy House, 83 Tarrant Street, Arundel

Tarrant Street appears on maps of Arundel going back into the 18th century - Troy House is on the 1785 Paving Map of Arundel. The front half of Troy House, on the street, is 18th century (see photograph A), the rear half was added in the 19th century (see photograph B). To the east of the house a rough lane ran down to the river to the Co-op Coal Wharf; on the other side of the lane was one of several Co-op shops in Tarrant Street, which was demolished by the developer of Tarrant Wharf in the early 1980s. Troy House was listed Grade II in 1974 so he could not demolish it.

Troy House was so called because of Mrs. Ellen Emberson, who lived there from at least 1862; she was the widow of Professor William Emberson, a Professor of Music, and lived there until her death in 1899. She was a friend of the Schliemanns, excavators of Troy in the 1870s, and had from them many Trojan relics exhibited in her drawingroom - hence the name of the house. The West Sussex Gazette published at the time of Mrs. Emberson's funeral (17 January 1899) has a detailed description of all this.

After Mrs. Emberson's death Troy House was lived in by Dr. Pearson in 1912 and at this time was enlarged by the addition of a waiting room and surgery on the eastern end of the house, which was entered from the street by a door in the eastern wall. From 1928 until 1938 Dr. Maurice Townshend and his family lived there. Dr. Townshend served in World War II and died in 1945 (he is on the War Memorial in Arundel), but at that time his family were living at Sefton House in the High Street and Mr and Mrs. Baker were in Troy House, by then No. 63 Tarrant Street. In 1946 the house was divided into two and by 1954 it had become Nos. 83 and 85, as now. Mrs. Baker died some years before Mr. Cheal bought the house for, as he thought, re-development as part of Tarrant Wharf, in about 1980.

The present owners bought the house in 1986.

I was told by John Mills, Assistant Archaeological Officer to the WSCC, that in 1896 the remains of a Roman Villa were found by workmen digging a drain at the western end of Tarrant Street, and that the existence of this villa had been suspected for some time since a fragment of pavement was found many years earlier in Mrs. Emberson's garden (Sussex Archaeological Collections 40, 283 for 1896). During the archaeological investigation of the site of Tarrant Wharf in the early 1980s, many Roman and medieval finds were made on the site of Troy House garden and the ground between it and the river. The archaeologists lived in the basement of Troy House and stored their finds in a large shed in the garden - among them many Roman tesserae and a section of painted Roman plaster. A medieval well found to the west of the house in the garden beside Tarrant Street was reburied.

Design and Access Statement

The application seeks permission to paint the brickwork at the rear of the property which was last repainted in 1998 by the present occupants. Access to the rear of the property is obtained via Tarrant Wharf; there is a gate in the back garden wall with a driveway which leads to a garage in the basement of the house. No change is proposed here.

WITH TWO PHOTOGRAPHS

Front view of Troy House
from Tarrant Street



Rear view of Troy House
showing vehicular entrance
via Tarrant Wharf.

