

Heritage Statement

Identification & Assessment of Heritage Assets

Barnham Court

The list description is quite scant considering the importance of the building and given the date of listing (1958), it is acknowledged that it is for identification purposes only and does not identify or define 'significance':

SU 90 SE BARNHAM CHURCH LANE

5/427

5.6.58

Barnham Court

Grade I

Unusual mid C17 house in the style of Kew Palace and Broome Park, Kent. Three storeys. Five windows. Red brick. Brick cornice above ground floor. Another heavier one with modillions above first floor. Each window bay on ground and first floors flanked by brick pilasters. Three shaped Dutch gables. Tiled roof. Sash windows with glazing bars. Rusticated brick doorway with triglyph frieze and pediment. C19 additions of lower elevation to south.

Listing NGR: SU9557703572

The listed building is faced with red brick and has a north-east front of five bays, which was heavily influenced by Dutch architecture of the period. Architecturally this takes the form of a formal, symmetrical composition for the principal front with classical pilasters, sash fenestration and the use of shaped gables crowned with segmental and triangular segmental pediments.

The pedimented brick door case has Doric pilasters against a rusticated surround. Its plan form is double-pile (parallel ranges) with four very tall chimney stacks along the flank elevations. Few Artisan Mannerist houses survive anything like their original appearance, unlike Barnham Court which is of national importance and a rare example. Jonathan Foyle considers that Barnham Court is related in its planning and elevations to Kew Place of 1631, but on a more compact scale.⁴⁵ Although the subject of successive ownerships, tenancies and with that repairs, change, extension and the early 19th century rebuilding of the gables.

It has been valued by successive generations. Unlike Kew Palace, Foyle comments that Barnham Court has retained the openness of its original situation, which relies on the green and the sweep of the access lane approach.

Pevsner & Nairn (1994) note the back of the building is much plainer than the front with two bigger shaped unpedimented gables. The inside is referred to as plain

with a simple contemporary staircase, in the centre of the rear range. The balusters are from Jacobean to the later 17th century dumb-bell shape.

It is thought that the original entrance was probably across the end of the south-eastern room. There is evidence of substantial sections of re-used timber framing in the cellars and the attics of the existing building. The brickwork is laid in English bond, whereas Kew Palace is reputed to have started Flemish bond in England.¹⁶

The updated version of 'The Buildings of England: West Sussex' by Williamson and Nairn dated June 2019 indicates that Barnham Court was built on brick-earth.

It is identified as 'a very good mid – C17 brick house, the best of its date in the country, admired by Nathaniel Lloyd.' Reference is made specifically to the influence of the 'Thameside merchant's houses' like Kew Palace which was built by Samuel Fotrey in 1631 and frustration again expressed about the lack of knowledge as to who the builder was. It is assumed that the builders probably had connections to the City of London where the Artisan Mannerist style was developed and became fashionable.

Williamson and Nairn identify Barnham Court as following a stricter classicism and more orderly design introduced by Inigo Jones and the Office of Works and began to appear in West Sussex buildings after the 'Restoration'. This included forms adapted from Dutch and other northern European countries. In the case of Barnham Court, the designer is also unknown but is reputed to have 'achieved an overall effect of all-over magnificence combined with precision and elegance in the details of moulded and cut bricks.'

It is referred to as being 'fashionably compact: double-pile with four main rooms on each floor served by four tall chimneystacks, over a cellar.' The front elevation is described in detail and it is noted that the back elevation is much plainer.'

Where walls and piers exist within or forming the boundary of the Manor is listed by virtue of forming and defining the curtilage of the listed building and having done so at the time of listing as well as pre-dating 1st July 1948.