

## Heritage Statement

### History and Development

This house was originally called Chapel House, and was built in 1793 by Sir Richard Hotham, the founder of Bognor, as his own residence. The Chapel from which it took its name was used as a Chapel of Ease until St John's Chapel was built in 1882, and was pulled down later in the century. The house was then called Bersted Lodge and subsequently Hotham Lodge. 2 storeys and semi-basement. 10 windows. Stuccoed. Cornice and parapet. 2 large bays of 3 windows each on both floors with one window on the outer side of them and 2 between. The bays are linked on the ground floor by an arcaded veranda raised above the ground level with an iron railing between the columns and approach at each end by a curved flight of steps with handrail, (that of the south flight broken off). Above the veranda is an iron balcony with hood supported on trellis columns. Moulded frieze and dentilled cornice between the veranda and the balcony. On the north side of the north bay is a similar arcaded veranda approached by a curved flight of steps from the north front and iron balcony over without hood. On the south side of the south bay is a terrace with iron railing (formerly having a ground floor room built out with frieze, cornice and balcony without hood over, and one large window with semi-circular head). The south front has a curved bay containing 3 windows. At the north-west corner of the house is a tower built in 4 sections, each set back within the lower. Clock face on the north and south sides of the top section and cupola containing a bell over supported on 8 columns with weather vane surmounting it. Interior has moulded cornices to the ceilings and architraves to the doors, mantelpieces on columns or with Grecian decoration.

### Pictorial Record

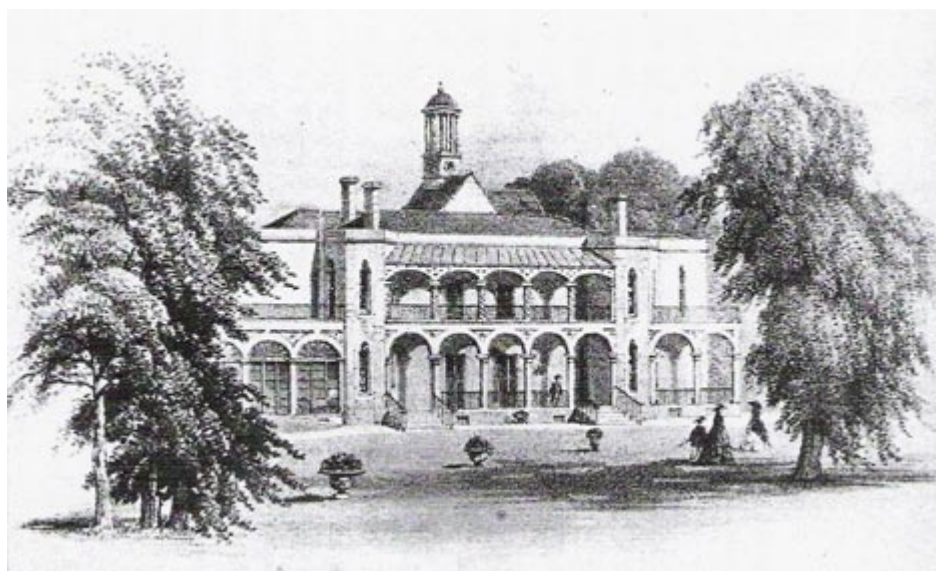


Illustration soon after completion in 1793



Present day image. See appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the Specification for current defects

### **Impact**

The proposed works have been designed with input from relevant employees of Arun District Council to try to minimise the impact of the repairs. This has included laboratory testing of the existing material that requires repair in order to find the most suitable repair material, analysis of the paint to the outside of the building and recommendations resulting from this for its removal.

### **Justification**

The works proposed can be justified by the fact that the clock tower is currently in a poor state of repair, and due to water ingress and the resulting damage that will be exacerbated by further freeze thaw cycles and the build-up of salts within the brickwork, the building will degrade further if left in its current condition. The repair materials have been specifically selected for this project and once repairs have been carried out the building will be in a far better condition than it is currently.

### **Mitigation**

The choice of materials and repair methods will help to mitigate any negative impact on the general public regarding the repairs as they are fit for use, will appear to be historically correct and will improve the performance of the building.