

Statement of Significance

The Old Seven Stars, 19 Newtown, Bradford on Avon

Listing: Grade II (List Entry Number: 1036084). Listed 23 August 1974

Group Value:

19 Newtown forms a cohesive architectural group with the adjacent properties at 1 and 3 Wine Street, contributing to the historic streetscape of the area.

Architectural and Artistic Interest

19 Newtown is prominently situated close to the junction of Wine Street and Newtown. It is understood that there was a house on the site since the early 1700s and the current building was built in the late 18th Century by John Sandell. The building comprises three storeys (plus cellars) and is constructed of ashlar stone, with a mansard roof. The upper pitch of the roof is stone-tiled, while the lower pitch is slated.

The building has three cambered-headed dormers with wooden casements at the second floor, and five sash windows with glazing bars set in reveals. The south east (front) façade has a plain string course at first-floor level, a moulded cornice, and a plain parapet. There is a flat moulded cornice supported by stone brackets, and a six-panel door with a rectangular fanlight above.

Its architectural significance derives predominantly from its façade and prominent location within the hillside on Newtown.

Planning History

Alterations to the ground floor to improve the functionality of the pub were made in the 1950s. Plans are available at Wiltshire and Swindon Archives. No other applications have been found within this archive.

A search of Wiltshire Council's online planning database has returned the following results:

LPA Ref	Description	Status	Decision Date
PL/2024/11681	Block up existing internal doorway, create new internal doorway to first floor bathroom.	Approved	14/02/2025
18/00770/LBC	Replace one window and sill which is rotten plus another rotten sill. In all case these units will be replaced like-for like. Replacement of deteriorating coping stones.	Approved	29/03/2018
W/13/00377/FUL	Installation of a glazed porch canopy	Approved	29/04/2013
W/04/00395/LBC	Replace three dormer windows	Approved	05/04/2004
W/94/00542/FUL	Erection of double garage	Approved	04/09/1994

W/89/01520/LBC	Replacement of windows with white UPVC – Georgian Style	Refused	31/10/1989
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Historic and Community Interest

Newtown was developed in the second half of the 17th century on land owned by the Methuen family, who resided in the nearby Priory. The Old Seven Stars operated as a pub under the Wilkins family throughout much of the 19th Century and was one of four public houses in Newtown. In the 1830s James Alexander built a brewery behind the pub which supplied beer to other pubs and in the 1840s he developed land further behind the pub and on the east of Wine Street. By 1860 he had built a malthouse on the face of the old quarry at the bottom of Wine Street.

The whole brewery complex was sold to Ushers in the 1910s, however, brewing and malting at the site ceased in the first quarter of the 20th Century and the site around the pub was cleared of buildings. The Seven Stars ceased operation as a public house in the late 1960s and was converted into a house. As a result, its community significance has been gradually lost.

Evidential Interest

The building has been subject to numerous changes and there is little remaining evidence of its former operation as a public house. Vaulted passages leading towards the former brewery, a disused WC within a vault to the rear of the property, together with its cellars provide some remaining evidence of the building's former operation as a public house.

Significance

The NPPF defines significance as the “value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.”

The significance of the building lies largely with its historic fabric and architecture - its form, layout and architectural expression/detailing and use of high-quality design materials which have architectural interest and which are typical of and contribute to the character of the conservation area.