

Glossop & District Heritage Trust

Glossop & District Heritage Trust

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Patron Edward William Fitzalan Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk
Chairman Anthony Wright

5/10/23

Development Control

High Peak Borough Council

Dear Sirs

Re HPK/2023/0402 Spinners Arms, 1 Marsden Street Hadfield SK13 2DP – Listed Building Consent

This is a comment by the Trust which addresses the early history of the building.

Local research indicates that it was built, as a public house, by Joseph Eastwood in 1807. On the National Heritage List it is described as originally a *“laithe house and attached barn, late C18th”*, but we can see no basis for that conclusion. In neither plan form, mass, proportions or style does it bear much resemblance to local farmsteads of that period, but it does have strong similarities to other large public houses built locally in the early C19th. In fact, in style it would have been modern for 1807, when many new local buildings still had mullioned windows, and save for the very low and plain front door would not have looked out-of-place in the 1840s. It is also obvious that it must be younger than the late C18th cottages to which it is attached.

In addition, there were already several farms in the village centre, four of which were still working well into the C20th. In the late C18th the domestic textile industry, and by the 1790s the factory spinning industry, were growing rapidly in Hadfield, to an extent at the expense of agriculture, and the overriding construction needs would have been for housing for immigrant workers, handloom shops, warehousing and stabling, and of course pubs to serve the enlarged population. The Heritage Impact Assessment suggests that Hadfield was an *“agricultural hamlet”* even as late as the 1820s, but in fact domestic textiles had become the majority occupation by 1760, and by the 1820s, there being no more space in the old village, a new industrial settlement was growing up on lower ground at Bankbottom, closer to the mills. Even in 1803 Waterside Mill had 300 workers, and by the early 1850s it was probably the largest cotton mill in the world, employing 1500.

The mediaeval village appears to have had a basically linear form, along the former Roman road from Melandra into Yorkshire which was later adopted by the southern line of the *“saltway”* up Longdendale, but with clusters at either end, the centres of which were probably open before being filled with low-cost housing for the incoming workers, which was then cleared away in the C20th to create public open spaces. One was in front of Hadfield Old Hall, dated 1646 but from appearance almost certainly a re-skin of a mediaeval hall; the other, within which the Spinners Arms sits, was at the junction with the old way, Shaw Lane, now Queen Street, which linked Hadfield with other settlements to the east and south. The *“Ivy House”*, 78-78A Hadfield Road, which faces the Spinners Arms, also has a claimed date of 1646.

Earlier housing may well have been cleared to create the site, which would have been leased from the Howard estate. The pub was built along with a block of two houses, the common chimney stack suggesting they were constructed simultaneously. There are at least three other examples in Glossop of large pubs being built together with housing, for the landlord and/or staff of the pub itself or a related business. There was a large yard at the back, with outbuildings, so it is likely that there was a secondary business; pubs of this kind frequently provided stabling or cartage. In an 1829 directory it was referred to as the "Spun Cotton Inn" but was the Spinners Arms by 1835. The 1857 Poor Law Map (Fig 1 below) shows the pub, houses, yard, outbuildings, and the first of the adjacent cottages all within the one rateable property (209). However, by the early 1900s the pub had been extended into the first house, the doorway of which was then built up – see 1905 photo, Fig 2 below.

In 1847 the lease was acquired by John Thornley III. The Thornleys were a major force in the early factory textile industry in Hadfield; from 1777 to 1791 John Thornley I was a partner in Waterside Mill, and from the 1780s he and his sons built three further mills in the village and in 1804 the first Methodist chapel. Diagonally opposite the Spinners Arms in what is now "Sparrow Park" was Thornley Buildings, a tenement block or "barrack" of back-to-back dwellings on three levels with external staircases, which would have been built to house immigrant workers in the family's mills. This appears to have been constructed on the site of a line of C18th cottages, the end cottages surviving, and it is likely that this site was redeveloped in the same period as that of the Spinners Arms.

It may seem surprising that a staunch Methodist bought a pub, but he was leaseholder not licensee, and it would have complemented his property portfolio which was likely to have included much of the old village. In 1842 the Rev George Marsden, a very distinguished Methodist minister who had married into the Thornley family, retired to Hadfield, and the family would have built his house, Croft House, 5 Walker Street (216 on the Poor Law Map). Fig 2, taken during the demolition in 1905 of Thornley Buildings, shows the surviving end cottage, with Croft House in the background centre left. When the streets were named in the 1870s/80s the one in front of the Spinners Arms became "Marsden Street."

In the late 1890s Lord Howard arranged for some carved stones, built into the gable end of the Spinners Arms and believed to be Celtic, to be removed and taken to Glossop Hall, and eventually they found their way to Buxton Museum where they are still in store. The claim was that the so-called "Mouselow Stones" had been found on Mouselow, a Bronze Age/Iron Age site, by the Rev. Marsden, but research by the Trust suggests that although there may be a connection with the Thornley family, this story does not stand up to scrutiny and that the museum's view, that they are probably late C18th - early C19th experimentation, is likely to be correct.

In 1887 the Thornley family sold the pub to Boddington's Brewery. As built it would have had a stone slate roof, this being almost universal in this area until the arrival of the railway in the 1840s. The windows would also have almost certainly been of multi-pane type. Whether or not it is original, the 16-pane sash window on the rear elevation is likely to represent the original style. With these exceptions, though, plus the loss of the doorway and some chimneys to the rear, the frontal appearance is substantially original.

Yours faithfully

Roger Hargreaves, for Glossop and District Heritage Trust



Fig 1 Glossop Poor Law Map 1857 (copyright Glossop and District Heritage Trust)



Fig 2 Spinners' Arms 1905

