

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in respect of the above application for re-painting the door and windows at 168 Todmorden Rd. Bacup.

Nos. 164, 166, 168 and 170 Todmorden Road were Listed as buildings of historic importance in late 1984.

At the time, Nos.164 and 166 had been knocked into one dwelling, the lower windows in each at that time being pairs, separated by a single mullion. The doorway to no.164 had been blocked. Due to these alterations, 164 and 166 were Listed together as being, quote, 'of group value only', acknowledging that they were part of a whole.

Nos 168 and 170 were more intact, and each was Listed individually in its own right.

In early 1985 all four houses were made the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order by Rossendale Borough Council, with the intention of demolition.

Todmorden Road was constructed in the early 19th century to improve access for the local woollen manufacturers to the markets in Yorkshire. Spinning mills in Bacup and the Greave valley produced thread which was taken to handloom weavers in the purpose built houses along the road, where it was woven to be collected by passing carts and taken to market. These small individual blocks of houses can clearly be identified almost in the order in which they were built, as they spread incrementally along the route. Although it is not a Conservation Area, Todmorden Road has more Listed Buildings closer together than any other part of Bacup.

Because of the unity of roofline and upper window design, it is quite likely that nos.164 -170 were built by the same mill or plot owner, but as there are straight joints between 166 and 168, and 168 and 170, it seems that 168 and 170 were added on later at different times.

After being Compulsorily Purchased by the Council, the Listed Building status was recognised and the houses acquired by the Greater Manchester Buildings Preservation Trust for renovation and resale. It was at this time that 164 and 166 were made into separate dwellings, the doorway to 164 being re-opened and the lower windows of both made to match those of 168 and 170, as it was presumed they had originally been. When all four houses were stone-cleaned and painted in identical colours, they became far more of a unity than they had been for some considerable time.

It is therefore probably advisable to keep the colour schemes of the woodwork on these buildings compatible with each other, so their similarity can be easily read and interpreted by building historians.

To have one very differently coloured in the middle would break the pattern. This especially includes the painting of the wooden gutter.

As it appears that all woodwork existing at the time of Listing has now been long lost, it is probably impossible to say what the colour originally was, or should be. It is a matter for present day discussion and agreement as to what it is now. If, however, a colour was specified by the vendors at the time of the purchase after renovation, it would seem reasonable to continue with that condition.

What should be mentioned is that the window frames as now exist are not replicas of those that were Listed, which in turn may not have been the originals; in the Listing, it is specifically recorded that it is only the central window that has a sash frame, and this is in keeping with evidence of all other windows of this type both existing and in photographs from the late 19th century. The replacement of these with sash windows at each end of the group is unprecedented, and the thickness of the frames on the outer edges alters the balance of the window grouping. As painted in

a dark colour, this thickness is somewhat disguised, but in a light colour, it would be more noticeable and emphasis the fault in design.

Please see the attached photos of the houses as they were in early 1985 after Listing but before renovation.

Yours faithfully

Kathy Fishwick (Chair, Rossendale Civic Trust).



