

Heritage Statement

17 The Old Convent

This heritage statement accompanies listed building consent application for works on number 17 Old Convent, RH19 3RS.

This statement describes the listed building, the surrounding buildings / area and schedule of works. It analyses the significance of the heritage of the building affected and any impact on the setting. This should be read in conjunction with the drawings provided as part of the application.

Summary of works

Internal / External alteration to install a usable power supply for charging of hybrid electric car

Installation to run from internal power supply, located in the internal entrance hall cupboard, with a small hole being formed at low level through the external wall to allow for run of power cable to location at front of building (indicated on accompanying drawing..).

The outlet box for connection of loose cable to car to be located at low level behind existing planting, to minimize the visual aspect.

The power cable is also to be run at low level (colored black).

The listing, significance of history & character of the building / structure

The Old convent (formally known as Saint Margaret's Convent) was first listed in August 1972 and since then has been upgraded so it now holds Grade 1 listed status.

List entry number 1248986 TQ3938 2/54

Listing Grid Reference TQ3919938960

A significant reason for the listing of The Old Convent is that it is an outstanding example of the work by the architect Sir George Edmund Street, one of the greatest architects of the Gothic Revival. G E Street is best known for designing the Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand in London. St Margaret's convent was built between 1865 & 1890 with some extension by his son A E Street. The convent was built for John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866) who founded the sisterhood of St Margaret in 1855 during his time as Warden of Sackville College (East Grinstead) and he commissioned the Old Convent to be built. The Old Convent is a complex of ecclesiastical buildings which includes a chapel and is arranged around two main quadrangles. The architectural and aesthetic value comes from the picturesque and asymmetrical arrangement of the stone buildings in their landscaped setting and their Gothic revival design. The convent has had many uses over the years apart from its religious ones – it acted as a sanatorium during the war, as a school and as an orphanage.

The buildings at The Old Convent were converted to residential use in 1978, the convent has remained in private ownership ever since. The Old Convent is set in 11 acres of privately owned grounds which act as communal grounds / gardens to the 31 houses that make up the Old Convent today.

Number 17; location, history & context within the convent.

Location

Number 17 The Old Convent located adjacent to the original chapel main complex of the convent building, this was originally the main kitchens and we understand it dates from c. 1865 – 1870. Number 17 faces North West into the convent grounds. The location of number 17 is shown below on the google earth extract and convent location plan.

