Hampshire County Council

Staunton Farm – Gothic Library
Structural Inspection, "Roof Beam Ends"
Design Strategy incorporating the Heritage Statement 2

P13926 Rev L1 19/09/2024

Staunton Farm Gothic Library
Middle Park Way
Havant
PO9 5HB

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1.0 Assessment of Heritage Significance

1.1 Introduction

This statement should be read in conjunction with the first Heritage statement prepared for the Listed Building application at the Gothic Library building for structural repairs and preservation works.
A follow up inspection was undertaken by the structural engineer to assess the condition and check for decay to the ends of the main roof beam.

The structural report identified “the timber roof beam to the Gothic Library has a full 215mm bearing (including the corbel width) but is decayed at its bearing. The roof beam appears to have settled by approximately 10mm by the gap between the timber eaves beam and the top of the roof beam. Presumably the other bearing is similar. Although it appears to be reasonably stable, it would be prudent to strengthen the bearing as it is currently decayed by a fabricated steel strap fixed to the face of the eaves beam at both bearings, where it is also supported by the perimeter concrete edge strip.”

1.2 Photographs

Fig 1: Pre works image November 2023.

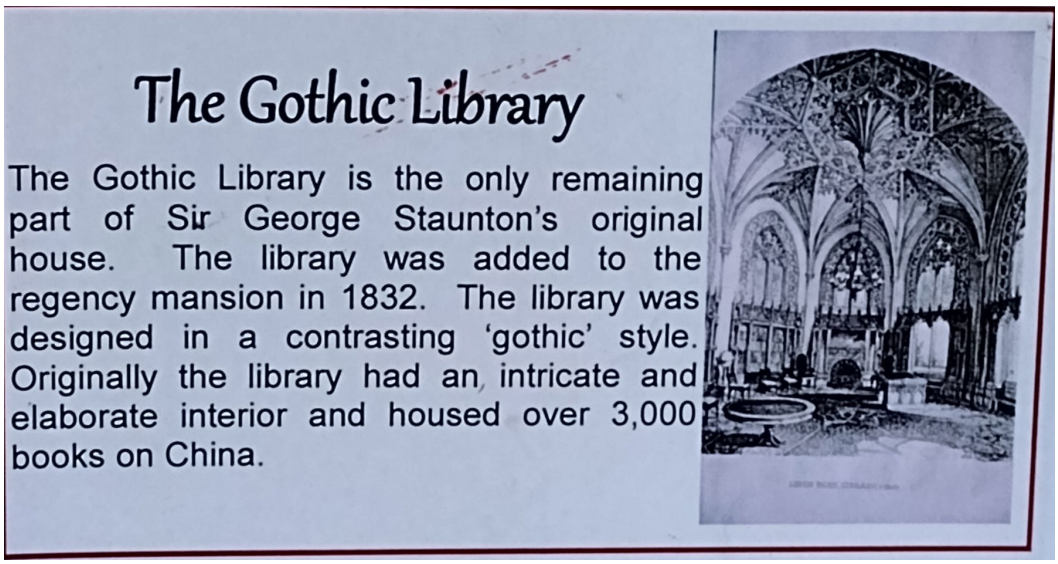

Fig 2: Interpretation of the elaborate interior of the original library

Fig 3: Internal view of Face 1 (South-west).

Fig 4: Internal view of Face 5 (North-east).

Fig 5: Image showing the end of the main roof beam, and timber wall plate above.

1.3 Summary Statement of Significance

Historic Value -

The Gothic Library is an integral part of the visit, being the only remaining part of Sir George Staunton's House. Old paintings suggest that the roof construction vaulting was higher and built with elaborate timber framework and carcass. Therefore, the present roof structure is not as originally constructed.
The Historic value of the building has a **High** significance, but the Historic value of the roof structure would be of **Med** historical significance.

Summary of Significance

The building is the only remaining part of the House built by Sir George Staunton. It is this link in History which gives the name to the farm and country park. Overall, the Heritage Significance is therefore **High**.

2.0 The Proposals

2.1 Summary

The project is a result of an adhoc structural inspection, which identified concerns regarding the condition of the main roof support beam, and the condition of the internal masonry above the internal arch windows.

Works commenced on 9th September 2024, with the erection of an external scaffold, and internal tower access. This high-level access has enabled further detailed close up inspections by the structural engineer and the accredited architectural conservationist.

This application now seeks to obtain Listed Building Consent for additional works following a second close up inspection made by the structural engineer to determine the condition of the main roof beam and a check for decay to the beam ends:-

- Roof structure strengthening proposal:-
  To strengthen the bearing as it is currently decayed, by adding a fabricated steel strap fixed to the face of the eaves beam at both bearings, where it is also supported by the perimeter concrete edge strip.
  The proposed 'U' shape strap detail would prevent this situation becoming worse, whilst avoiding the potential for increased loading on masonry above the arch window.

  Refer to drawing 10009001279-Gothic library SK2
  Once installed, the strap would be painted matt black.

2.2 Statement of Impact

Impact on Historic Fabric

The main roof beam is high level, and the wall plate is recessed above the masonry and cannot be seen. The proposed "U" shape strap would act as a hanger and will be visible. But it is an honest repair and will add to the longevity of the roof structure. On completion the strap would be painted matt black. This being the preferred colour for Victorian building ironwork.
The hanger strap will have very little impact, and potentially would be reversible.
Therefore, the impact of the interventions on the historic fabric is considered to be **Low**.

Impact of Setting of Heritage Asset

On completion, the works will be evident, but they will improve the condition of the fabric and structure.
Therefore, the impact of the setting of the heritage asset is considered to be **Med**.

Overall Impact on Significance

The works to the structure are essential. The works to the fabric will limit further decay.
Overall, therefore, the impact on significance of these proposals is considered to be **Med.**

3.0 Justification and Mitigation:

These proposals are reactive to a structural repair instruction survey, which presented an opportunity to undertake a fabric condition survey.
This proposal along with other works to reduce water ingress, are essential to avoid any further damage to the roof structure.

Heritage Benefits

The proposals will improve the structural integrity, and preserve vulnerable elements of the building fabric, ensuring the building can continue to be operate safe and securely, providing a sustainable use, for the visitors to Staunton Farm to enjoy this heritage asset.