



3975/ML/man

22nd September 2017

TRESCO ABBEY TOWER - WINDOWS HERITAGE, DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Introduction

This application is for the replacement of the 7 side hung white PVC windows in the Tower at TreSCO Abbey on the third and fourth floor with white painted timber windows.

These 7 windows that were fitted some years ago should be seen in context with the other 225 timber windows in the Abbey. The chosen material was selected to avoid maintenance for health & safety reasons due to the height above the ground of the openings. This application is for permission to replace them with timber windows. These new items of joinery will be installed in the future when the PVC windows' useful life ends. They are the same size, will appear almost identical from the ground floor level and will have a similar appearance.

Heritage.

The four storey tower on TreSCO Abbey built in 1890 sits on top of a rocky outcrop above the Penzance road. Previous windows have been direct glazed or timber casements in the granite openings. Although the views of the Abbey from the east are significant, the impact of the joinery in the openings is not. The effect of the replacements will be minimal as they will appear similar to the PVC windows.

TRESCO

SV8914 TreSCO Abbey 1358-0/7/120 12/02/75

GV II

Country house. Mostly of 1843 and 1861, with tower of 1891, for Augustus Smith and Thomas Algernon Dorrien Smith. Roughly coursed granite with ashlar dressings; slate roofs and granite ashlar stacks. Complex evolved plan: main square block with east tower, to east of west wing and south-west wing. 2 and 3 storeys. North elevation has 3-storey entrance bay between main block and west wing, with monogram AS and date 1843 over chamfered 4-centred arched doorway; this is flanked by a slender 3-storey tower with small windows, corbelled-out parapet and pyramidal roof and a canted 3-storey bay to left with a similar corbelled parapet; chamfered surrounds to entrance bay and canted bay 2-light mullioned windows; oriel window of 1851 further to right. Courtyard to rear has corbelled lintels over doorway and 2/2-pane sashes to 3-storey left-hand (east) elevation which has canted bay brought forward to rear (south) with 4-light mullioned window set in corbelled parapet above recessed bay with monogram AS and date 1861 and 2-light chamfered mullioned window set above 4-centred arched doorway; similar windows to continuation of range (south-west wing) flanking south side of courtyard. South-west range has glazing-bar sashes set in corbelled-out parapet and large mullioned plate-glass windows to south-east elevation. Main range has 2-storey 5-bay south-facing elevation with flanking projecting gables of different sizes flanking bay to centre with mullioned plate-glass windows and corbelled lintels over casement windows; similar windows to other elevations; 4-storey east tower has corbelled lintels over mullioned windows and corbelled-out parapet. Interior: stone flag floors, granite chimneypieces and panelled doors in chamfered architraves. Other features include stick-baluster staircase. Dining Room, mostly completed by 1864, has canted roof with timber muntins and rails, chamfered pointed arches to cast-iron stove and Chinese wallpapers brought to England by Augustus's grandfather, Samuel Smith, a merchant with connections in the Orient. Doorway to Library with similar canted roof and wallpapers which leads to small picture gallery with maps fixed to walls and sitting room with Italianate pastoral scenes set in architraves. Panelled ground-floor room with granite chimneypiece in tower. Overlooks the tropical gardens created by Augustus Smith and Thomas Algernon Dorrien Smith, Lord Proprietors of the Scilly Isles. Considerable poverty was prevalent on the islands before the arrival of the Smiths in 1834. Augustus Smith made education compulsory, built churches and other buildings and increased the prosperity of the islands through the improvement of agriculture and commerce, principally the introduction of the flower industry. Augustus was succeeded by his nephew Thomas Algernon, who continued his work especially in the flower industry. He was also an amateur architect who was responsible for the church on Tresco (q.v.) and the Post Office in Hugh Town (q.v.). (Buildings of England: Pevsner, N and Ratcliffe, E: Cornwall: London: 1951-1970: 210; P Laws: The Buildings of Scilly: Redruth: 1980-: 14).

Listing NGR: SV8952514280

The use, scale, appearance, and the access considerations all remain the same.

Conclusion

The PVC windows will be replaced with timber in the future. There will be little visual change to the Abbey, and therefore no harm to the protected building.



