

Arts and Crafts Houses in the Minchinhampton Area of Gloucestershire

Nine houses listed Grade II

The long-established and instantly-recognisable vernacular building traditions of Gloucestershire, with warm local limestone for walls, roofs and windows, pointed gables and extensive interior joinery, provided the Arts and Crafts designers and architects who moved to the south Cotswolds at the very end of the C19 and beginning of the C20 with the inspiration to create their own buildings, using traditional materials and methods. Several architects sought to leave London and live near nature, but it was really the move to Sapperton by Ernest and Sidney Barnsley and Ernest Gimson which prompted the great flowering of Arts and Crafts building and

design in the area around Stroud and Cirencester which would be so lasting and influential. Our designation project identified a number of houses constructed in Minchinhampton, Rodborough and Amberley by Cotswold Arts and Crafts architects during the first four decades of the C20 which merited further assessment. The houses around Minchinhampton Common are delicate, often subtle designs, with fine detailing which is vulnerable to unsympathetic change, and as such are under threat of the sort of cumulative alteration which can quickly erode their integrity and authenticity.



Milestone Cottage. 35

These buildings included ones by architects of established national reputation, such as Ernest Barnsley and Norman Jewson, but the project also allowed us to assess examples by good local and regional architects whose work was not yet represented on the List. The buildings which have been listed as a result of the project include four houses by Thomas Falconer (1879-1934), who had trained in London and set up on his own account in Amberley in 1909, and was responsible for a number of houses in the area, all demonstrating a deep love and understanding for local building traditions, as well as his evident skill and dexterity as an architect.

Milestone Cottage (listed Grade II), a modest Thomas Falconer house, clearly shows how the Gloucestershire cottage tradition persisted well into the C20. Built just before the First World War as a house for a farm manager, this compact cottage is an extremely well-preserved example, with a wealth of restrained but

beautiful interior detailing. As was the case with most of the Arts and Crafts houses constructed in the area in this period, the window and door furniture and other ironwork was made by Alfred Bucknell, the foreman-blacksmith who worked with Gimson and the Barnsley brothers at Sapperton; the timber doors were provided by Peter Waals's workshop in Chalford.

While the houses we selected for designation all share a deep debt to traditional Cotswold building and demonstrate all the characteristics which make them recognisable as part of the Cotswolds Arts and Crafts movement, they do show considerable variety and invention. Greystones (listed Grade II), variously attributed to Ernest Barnsley and Norman Jewson, is a handsome house with deep roofs, a steep central gable, stone-mullioned windows and gabled dormers. Despite some reordering of the ancillary spaces, the house is little altered, and the interior retains good joinery which reflects local traditions.



Greystones ³⁶