

# GARRY MILLER

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## REPLY TO PRINCIPAL PLANNER/CONSERVATION OFFICER'S CONSULTATION RESPONSE RE PROPOSED WORKS AT THORNBERS, WADDINGTON, RIBBLE VALLEY, LANCASHIRE

### *1. Purpose of this document*

This document has been produced in reply to the consultation response from Ribble Valley Borough Council's principal planner/conservation officer regarding specific aspects of the proposed works at Thornbers (application references 3/2018/0220 & 0221). The points are considered individually below. This statement is to be considered as a supplement to the heritage assessment produced by Garry Miller Historic Building Consultancy in June 2017 in support of the proposal. It should be read in conjunction with that report, along with other documentation submitted as part of the application.

### *2. The proposed link between the garage (former stables) and main range*

In the rear wall of the 19<sup>th</sup> century porch is a blocked doorway (Plate 1, page 3). This doorway will be reopened to accommodate the glazed link, but for alignment reasons will need to be shifted slightly to the east. This limited degree of harm is considered preferable to the alternative of intervention to the high-significance 17<sup>th</sup> century element of the listed building.

### *3. Reinstatement of stable doors in garage*

The original tall and narrow doorways of the stable are to be reinstated, in line with suggestion made by the principal planner/conservation officer. The significance of the building will therefore be enhanced.

### *4. Significance of opening/receptacle in garage crosswall*

The principal planner/conservation officer has asked for information regarding the significance of a receptacle in the crosswall of the garage (Plate 2, page 3). This appears to be the oven element of a 19<sup>th</sup> century cooking range (minus its shelves) which has simply been inserted into an opening that was probably a hatch between the stables. This may have occurred when the building was converted to a garage, i.e. the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The significance of this feature is therefore low.

## *5. Loss of wall of former cartshed*

Concern has been expressed over loss of the west wall of the former cartshed. This wall is now internal and shows some signs of rebuilding, with a 1970s/1980s opening inserted. In their consultation response, Lancashire Archaeology Advisory Service has suggested that the proposal be modified to retain nibs on either side of the opening. This approach has now been adopted and it is considered the reduction in the size of the opening is acceptable.

## *6. Underdrawn ceiling at east end of the house*

The principal planner/conservation officer has requested more information over whether the third bay at the east end of the building was a barn that was open to the roof. There is no direct evidence that this part of the building was originally used as such, but it is of course historically possible because cruck buildings often accommodated both domestic and agricultural functions under the same roof. The presence of the mullioned window suggests though that by the later 17<sup>th</sup> century the building was domestic use and a ceiling had been fitted within. However there is other evidence to indicate that the present underdrawn ceiling is not original and that its removal will not be harmful. This ceiling is of plasterboard laid beneath lath-and-plaster. The roof timbers above are of no great age, probably the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is most likely therefore that when the house was rebuilt in stone in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the ceiling in the bedroom was open to the roof timbers. This ceiling was probably underdrawn when the corridor and bathroom and staircase were installed, i.e. probably the mid-later 20<sup>th</sup> century, as it would have been less straightforward to introduce the partition if the ceiling remained open. Removing the underdrawn ceiling will therefore not be harmful.

## *7. Windows*

Further information has been requested upon the significance of the windows and how this has informed their replacements. The windows throughout the building appear to date from the 1970s/1980s refurbishment undertaken by the previous owners, with two exceptions: the ground floor window to the right of the entrance, and the first floor window to its left. Both of these are of three lights, with the central light of both having an earlier sash (probably 19<sup>th</sup> century): the ground floor window is of two lights (one over one) and the first of eight small panes (four over four, with some bullseye glass). The outer lights in each case are of eight 1970s/1980s fixed small panes. The significance of these early elements is therefore greater, and the proposal is to simply refurbish both of them. The 1970s-1980s windows will have new single-glazed framing, of a pattern to match the existing. The exception is the ground floor window left of the door, which differs from the other front elevation windows in its proportions and that it is of two (slightly wider) lights. The proposal here is to replicate the framing pattern of the three-light ground floor window of the third bay, whose proportions are similar; both windows were probably modified/inserted at a similar date. The window will therefore have two panes above a large single pane in both lights.

## *8. Cupboard on first floor*

This is located on the first floor landing and conceals part of the northern blade of the cruck. The cupboard itself is probably 1920s/1930s, i.e. similar to the staircase. Its significance is therefore low. The removal of this cupboard is now sought, and in doing so it will reveal more of the cruck blade and therefore enhance the significance of the listed building.



*1. The blocked doorway in rear wall of the porch*



*2. The receptacle in the stable*



*3. Underdrawn ceiling in the third bay bedroom*



*4. View of roof timbers in this room, which have been renewed*