ADDRESS

Park Close, WICK LANE, EGHAM

Parish EGHAM
District RUNNYMEDE
County SURREY

Case UID: 159941

Date First Listed:

Formerly Listed As:

RECOMMENDATION

Outcome: No, do not list Recommended Grade: NL 15-NOV-2005

BACKGROUND:
After examining all the papers on this file and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are not fulfilled.

CONTEXT: We were asked to assess Park Close for listing as the building had recently changed hands. There are no current planning applications but the owner has recently been carrying out renovation works and may soon apply for planning consents. Associated stabling at South Gates was last year assessed and turned down for listing.

HISTORY: This building was built circa 1900 by Herbert Huntly Gordon, an architect articled to Sir Aston Webb, who designed a series of buildings in the City, including 90-94 Fleet Street and 123-127 Cannon Street. The original client is not at present known but in an article in "The Times" of 25th June 2004 Marcus Binney speculated that the house may have been built for Huntly Gordon himself as according to his obituary in the RIBA journal for 1929 "he designed, and in the same way built, a charming house at Englefield Green for his own occupation". Huntley Gordon became very successful at property development and later moved to Bishop's Avenue, Finchley, known as "Millionaires Row".
In 1918 Park Close was bought by Urban Hanlon Broughton, an engineer who left for America to build railways, married the daughter of a railway magnate and took over as president of an American railway company in 1909. Mr Broughton was also an early petrol and oil magnate and a close friend of Edward VII. The adjoining stabling at South Gates was built on Crown Estate land as stabling to accomodate his show hacks and hunters and the site used as his Ascot summer lodge. Broughton later became MP for Preston and was on the honours list for a barony when he died in 1929. The peerage was given to his eldest son, Huttleston, and to commemorate Urban's name the family gave Runnymede, where King John signed the Magna Carta, to the National Trust with 184 acres. The Fairhaven family also created the National Trust gardens at Anglesey Abbey. The Fairhaven family left South Gates in 1939 and during their tenure may have been responsible for a one bay addition to the south in matching style which provided a Library and ballroom extension on the ground floor and two further bedrooms above.

After the Second World War the house was in the same ownership from 1957 until 2004. Works undertaken at this time included the insertion of further dormer windows, the addition of a swimming pool extension attached to the south, changes to the terrace walls and the erection of a summer house inthe grounds. The roof tiles were renewed after the hurricane of 1987. At the time of inspection in September 2005 the house interior had been completly stripped leaving only the bare walls, chimneys had been removed from the main house and the eastern wing had a gash in

the roof and walls where dormers and casement windows had been removed.

DESCRIPTION: A large country house dated 1900 on rainwaterheads designed in a mixture of Voyseyesque Arts and Crafts style with Free Gothic style towers. The materials are brick pebbledashed with stone window dressings and battered buttresses and tiled roofs retaining three brick and stone chimneys of the original five on the service wing but all four original chimneystacks to the main range have been removed. In addition the building has three elaborate stone towers with stone and flint chequerwork, one over the main entrance on the west front, one leading into the service courtyard and one to the former laundry.

The plan form is roughly L-shaped with the main house facing east and west with a north eastern service wing with stable, garage and laundry courtyard to the north. The building is of two storeys and attics and the windows are mainly mullioned or mullioned and transomed casements with leaded lights. The entrance front faces east and is of six bays. The southern bay is a later addition in matching style with crenellated parapet, not shown in an undated "Country Life" photograph. The penultimate bay has a large gable with plain bargeboards and five-light windows. Adjoining to the right is a projecting stone and chequerwork stone and flint tower with crenellated cornice, battered buttresses and round-headed arch below with blank niche with tile-on-edge top. The penultimate bay to the right has a two storey canted bay with battered buttresses. The original chimneys, four flat-roofed dormers and finial to the tower shown in the early "Country Life photograph have been removed. The west or garden front is very reminiscent of Voysey with narrow first floor mullioned casements and battered buttresses. It was originally a symmetrical front of seven bays with end projecting bays with seven-light windows under hipped roofs with battered buttresses, central two storey canted bay to the entrance and ground floor canted bays. A further castellated bay was added later to the south altering the symmetry. The central entrance retains its cast iron door.

Attached to the south side of the main range is a later C20 one storey swimming pool addition with patio doors and cast iron balustrading to the roof. The south front of the service wing is of six bays terminating to the east in a wide gable with wooden bargeboards with a five-light mullioned window to the upper floor but the ground floor had been removed at the time of inspection. Three other mullioned windows remained to this front but the other windows had been removed with enlarged openings. The roof was open to the elements where two later flat-roofed dormers had been. Four original chimneystacks remained but there had originally been a fifth, shown in the "Country Life" photograph. The western front of the service wing is of one to two storeys and the most prominent feature is a three storey projecting tower, pebbledashed with stone dressings and battered buttresses and a chequerwork band of stone and flint to the top storey. There is an oriel window with elaborate carved base and a clock face above with a heraldic crest with owl and cockerel supporters and the motto "VIRTUTE NON VERBIS" - deeds not words. Above is the inscription "Days and moments quickly flying". A round-headed arch leads into the courtyard which has garages and former stabling in matching style. The former Laundry, later known as The Dower House, to the west has a three storey tower similar to the tower leading to the service courtyard but without the clock and oriel window and with the formerly open round-headed arch now having a mid C20 door. At the time of inspection the interior of the main house had been completely gutted with exposed rafters with collar beams to the attics, one surviving wooden partition and exposed concertina trusses to the floors, where these remained. No staircases, fireplaces panelling or internal doors survived.

ASSESSMENT: This is an interesting c1900 large house designed by Herbert Huntley Gardon, a pupil of Sir Aston Webb, possibly for his own occupation, in an Arts and Crafts style strongly influenced by Voysey and with three elaborate Gothic style flint and stone towers. It has some

additional historic interest as between 1918 and 1939 it was the home of the Fairhaven family who gifted Runnymede to the National Trust and laid out the gardens at Anglesey Abbey. The building received some fairly small external alterations by the additional of a southern bay, later C20 swimming pool and additional dormers but within the last year part of the roof of the service wing, four chimneystacks to the main range, a number of dormers and windows have been removed and the whole interior of the main house has been gutted. This building has now been too radically altered externally and internally to recommend for statutory listing although it certainly has interest in a local context.

ASSESSMENT:

Please contact the owner and his agent about the outcome. They are waiting before submitting planning applications. The details are on the file.

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION:

A c1900 large house designed by Herbert Huntly Gordon, a pupil of Sir Aston Webb, in an Arts and Crafts style influenced by Voysey built of stone and pebbledash with battered buttresses and casement windows with leaded lights with three fine quality flint and stone Gothic style square towers. Between 1918 and 1939 it was the home of the Fairhaven family who gifted Runnymede to the National Trust. There had been some minor alterations but the recent removal of many chimneystacks, dormers and other windows and the complete gutting of the interior has altered this building too radically for it to qualify for statutory listing.

VISITS

13-SEP-2005 Internal

COUNTERSIGNING

Countersigning Comments: Agreed. This country house of 1900 has real claims to architectural interest, for its design by Herbert Huntly-Gordon with clear Voysey influences. The low garden elevation and the entrance towers are impressive. However the house has suffered from unfortunate and significant alterations, such as the removal of all chimneystacks and the original interior. For a house of this style and date, these losses compromise it beyond having sufficient special interest to list. 08-DEC-2005

Second Countersigning Comments:

HP Director Comments:

WICK LANE
Englefield Green
Park Close

NL

Case UID: 159941

Proposed LBS UID: 494452