

HERITAGE STATEMENT

The Smithy and The Old Forge in Little Barrington are both listed Grade 2.

The Smithy is 17th century Cotswold stone building, formerly the northern part of Spring Hill Cottage and then a smithy (i.e. a blacksmith's workshop) and then converted into a domestic dwelling.

The Smithy has a fine two storey Cotswold frontage of coursed dressed limestone with a projecting stone plinth and a stone slate roof and a tall central chimney. The two 3 light ground floor stone mullioned windows with hood mouldings have leaded light casements, the left hand window having ten panes, and the right hand window eight panes.

The right hand first floor window comprises a 3 light stone mullioned window to match the ground floor windows but without the hood moulding. The left hand first floor window is a 2 light window with arched stone heads to both lights.

The recessed entrance is unusual and distinctive with a wide 4-centred stone arch with a hood moulding with two stone seats within the recess. The entrance door is 20th century.

At the rear there is a fine 3 light stone mullioned window to the sitting room and two 2 light stone mullioned windows to the first floor bedrooms. On the ground floor is a blue slated rather unprepossessing 19th century single storey shallow pitched lean-to addition for a kitchen and a toilet with an ill-proportioned 20th century metal Crittal window.

The Sitting Room has a good wide 4 centered arched Cotswold stone fireplace. The fireplace in the Dining Room has been removed at some time in the past (a redundant stub chimney remains on the roof). An area of disturbed stonework in the position of the former fireplace suggests that a doorway has been knocked through to link the blacksmith's workshop to the forge and the doorway was blocked up when the Smithy and the Forge were converted into two separate dwellings.

The Old Forge is also 17th century and was used in conjunction with the adjacent Smithy before also being converted into a domestic dwelling.

The single storey stone frontage incorporates a 3 light stone mullioned window with a hood moulding, and a 20th century entrance door with a stone porch canopy and surprisingly a garage door opening. The stone slate roof with a central chimney has two 3 light 20th century dormer windows.

At the rear of the property is a two storey stone gable and an adjacent single storey stone ground floor and a stone slate roof with two 20th century dormer windows. All the windows at the rear of The Old Forge are inappropriate 20th century metal Crittal windows.

The interior of The Old Forge has been much compromised in the 20th century.