

## Heritage Statement

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1273545

Date first listed: 17-Oct-1986

Statutory Address 1: CHURCH OF ST JAMES, ALBION STREET, CH45 9LF

### Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

Statutory Address: CHURCH OF ST JAMES, ALBION STREET, CH45 9LF

District: Wirral (Metropolitan Authority)

Parish: Non Civil Parish

National Grid Reference: SJ 30646 93891

### Details

This list entry was subject to a Minor Amendment on 01/09/2016

SJ 39 SW

3/73

WALLASEY,

NEW BRIGHTON,

ALBION STREET (north side),

Church of St. James

(Formerly listed as: WALLASEY, VICTORIA ROAD (south side), New Brighton, Church of St. James)

4/21/22, 3:13 PM CHURCH OF ST JAMES, Non Civil Parish - 1273545 | Historic England

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1273545?section=official-list-entry> 2/4  
17.10.86

II



Church. 1854-6. By Sir G.G. Scott. Snecked stone with ashlar dressings, slate roof. 4-bay nave with aisles under lean-to roofs, north and south transepts, chancel with northeast

tower, south chapel and vestry. Aisles have paired cusped lights between weathered buttresses. Gabled western porches with entrances of 2 orders and round windows. Clerestory has traceried triangular windows. West end has gabled buttresses, west door of 2 orders, 3 cusped lancets and top round windows. Transepts have gabled buttresses, 3 cusped lancets and rose window to north and south. Chancel has canted end, Lombard frieze and corbelled angle shafts; 2-light windows. Tower has gabled angle buttresses; cusped pointed east entrance and blind arcading to north; 2nd stage has traceried lancets; 3rd stage has paired trefoil-headed lights; 4th stage has nook shafts and 2-light louvred bell openings, cornice with ball flower. Broach spire has 2 tiers of lucarnes, the lower tier removed, niches over broaches. South chapel has diagonal buttress and 2-light windows. Vestry extending to south of 1923, straight-headed windows with cusped lights. Interior: Nave arcades of 5 bays on round columns. Chancel arch on columns with foliate capitals. Low iron chancel screen, octagonal timber pulpit with figures; 1912. Arch to north organ loft and 2-bay arcade to south chapel. East end has wall paintings, 1899, by A.D. Hemming; canopied figures and angels, ceiling also painted. Painted reredos, 1891, by A.D. Hemmings. South chapel has reredos and parclose screen, 1938, by B.A. Miller. Some interesting C19 stained glass to north and east.

Listing NGR: SJ3064693891

### Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: 444539

Legacy System: LBS

### Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.



1.Church of St James. 2. 18 Albion Road – Main House. 3. Garage/ Couch House



**Corner Albion Street & Fowell Road**



**Corner Albion Street & Victoria Road**

## **Assessment Of Heritage significance**

The church was built between 1854 and 1856 to a design by George Gilbert Scott. The foundation stone was laid on 16 February 1854 by the Rt Revd John Graham, Bishop of Chester, and the church was consecrated on 10 July 1856. A south vestry designed by A. R. Keighley was added in 1924.

The Church contains fine murals, reredos and stained glass designed by Alfred O Hemming, and also a Minton tiled floor. St James' was the vision of the 19th century founding fathers of New Brighton and contains many monuments to them.

This church was the vision of James Atherton and the other founding fathers of New Brighton when they planned to create a fashionable 'watering place' on unpopulated sand hills and heathland on the Wirral side of the River Mersey in the early 19th century.

St James was opened for worship in 1856 and seated a congregation of 947. There are monuments to Atherton and the other great benefactors who enabled the church to be built and subsequently beautifully adorned.

The great Victorian church artist Alfred O Hemming was commissioned to design murals, the reredos and stained glass on a scale, and of a quality, rarely seen in a small town provincial church. Other features include a Minton tiled floor in the Sanctuary and a beautifully carved oak pulpit.

Externally, the dominant feature is Scott's spire which, at 172 feet high, is the tallest in Wirral and a nautical landmark.

The church has a strong musical tradition and also possesses a fine Bewsher & Fleetwood organ which is older than the church itself, having been transferred from the redundant St John's Liscard in 2006.

The church is also the home of the New Brighton Heritage and Information Centre, where visitors can learn about the history and heritage of New Brighton and about the town's current facilities and attractions.

## **Architect**

George Gilbert Scott was born in Gawcott, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, Scott was the son of the Reverend Thomas Scott (1780–1835) and grandson of the biblical commentator Thomas Scott. He studied architecture as a pupil of James Edmeston and, from 1832 to 1834, worked as an assistant to Henry Roberts. He also worked as an assistant for his friend, Sampson Kempthorne, who specialised in the design of workhouses, a field in which Scott was to begin his independent career.

George Gilbert Scott was appointed architect to Westminster Abbey in 1849, and in 1853 he built a Gothic terraced block adjoining the abbey in Broad Sanctuary. In 1858 he designed Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch, New Zealand which now lies partly ruined following the earthquake in 2011.

Later, Scott went beyond copying mediaeval English gothic for his *Victorian Gothic* or *Gothic Revival* buildings and began to introduce features from other styles and European countries as evidenced in his Midland red-brick construction, the Midland Grand Hotel at London's St Pancras Station, from which approach Scott believed a new style might emerge.

Scott was awarded the RIBA's Royal Gold Medal in 1859. He was appointed an Honorary Liveryman of the Turners' Company; and on 9 August 1872 he was knighted, choosing the style Sir Gilbert Scott. He died in 1878 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

A.O. Hemming (1843 – 1907) Stainglass Designer. Alfred Octavius Hemming initially trained as an architect in Edinburgh and worked for Clayton & Bell in 1868. He established his own firm in 1883 in London which continued as A.O. Hemming & Co until 1940.

## Assessment Of Impact

The proposed works are to a property opposite St James Church – No.18 Albion Street.

18 Albion Street comprises of a main house which dominates the corner of Albion Street & Fowell Road. The garage (Couch House) sits further back on the sites rear and side boundary. There is a tarred area to the front of the garage.

The main house has already been converted into residential apartments with the garage (couch house) remaining empty and not really used.

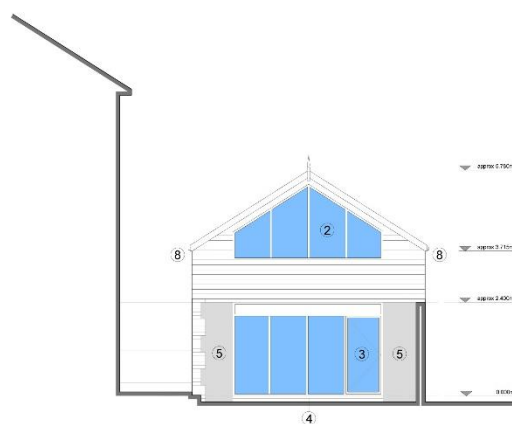
The client's proposal is to convert the garage/ couch house into a 1 bed apartment with parking to the front.

The design approach was not to extend the building but merely raise the roof by 1M to accommodate head room for the mezzanine level bedroom keeping the footprint the same which would have minimal impact on the main house and the church across the road, St James.

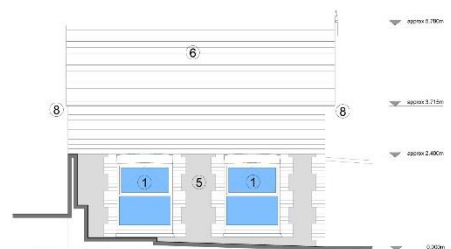
The proposal also creates a visual link from the mezzanine level with the church through the proposed glazed gable end.

No new structural openings are proposed, and existing opening will be glazed except for the blocked-up window to the rear.

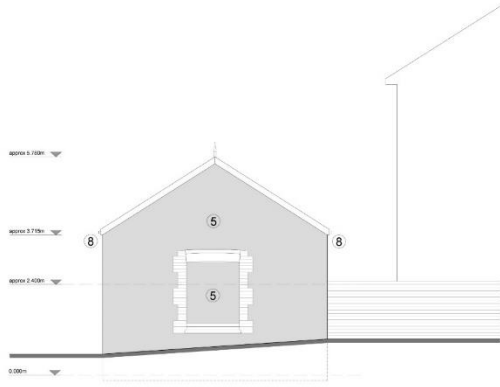
The materials will remain the same and made good where required. The band of treated timber cladding is proposed to the new section of wall only, which sympathetically highlights the new with the old, which could be painted in a heritage colour as agreed with the planning department. The roof will be clad in the existing roof tiles.



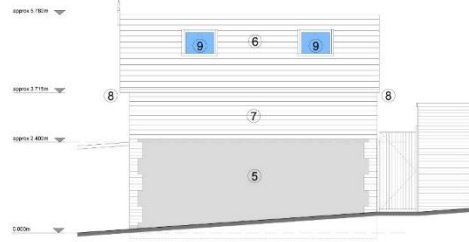
Proposed East Elevation  
scale 1:100



Proposed South Elevation  
scale 1:100



Proposed West Elevation  
scale 1:100



Proposed North Elevation  
scale 1:100

## Mitigation

We feel the impact of the proposal will be positive for The Church of St James across the road, as it's minimal in nature. No extension, it remains within its existing footprint and shell with only the roof that is being raised slightly. It also tidies up an area of the property which has been left to deteriorate over the years. This would also make the view from the church grounds more appealing for visitors and the neighbouring community.

The proposal also brings much needed quality accommodation to the area for singles or couples looking for affordable rentals



