

YIANGOU

HERITAGE STATEMENT

PROPOSED REBUILD TO THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE
ENTRANCE PIER AND CURVED WALL AT

WORMINGTON GRANGE HOUSE, WORMINGTON
NR. BROADWAY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, WR12 7NJ



Figure 01 - Photo of existing gates, piers and adjoining walls from May 2021

April 2024

1.0 Historical Context

This is a brief historical overview of Wormington Grange by the Heritage Collective, who have been independently appointed to research and comment in detail on the architectural heritage.

Wormington Grange is a Grade II* listed country house in the parish of Stanton, Gloucestershire, England. It is situated approximately one mile south of the village of Wormington, close to the Worcestershire/ Gloucestershire County border.

Wormington was originally one of the foundation endowments of nearby Hailes Abbey made in 1254 by Richard, Earl of Cornwall. After the dissolution, Hailes and 'Great Wormington' were granted to Sir Richard Acton of Ribbesford, Worcestershire and early in the 18th Century it belonged to Dr. Thomas Williams, the Worcestershire antiquary and editor of Dugdale's *Warwickshire*. It was let by his widow in 1747, at which time it was still described as a farm.

The present estate was created by Nathaniel Jeffreys between 1770-75. The house from this period, designs attributed to local architect Anthony Keck, was of relatively modest size built in local ashlar limestone with shallow slate roofs and a small pedimented porch between two semi-circular three storey bows. The main front had a symmetry, with an estate office wing projecting to the rear.

In 1787 the property was purchased by Samuel Gist, a Bristol merchant, it remained within his family until 1905. Samuel Gist did not undertake significant alterations to the house, however upon inheriting the estate in 1815, his nephew Josiah Sellick (he changed his name to Gist) who succeeded him, almost doubled it and transformed its character.

Josiah Gist appointed architect Henry Hakewill (1771-1830) in 1826-1827. Hakewill's signed plans remain within the house, although it is clear that these plans were an indication of the proposals and were altered during execution. He was a pupil of John Yenn, whose mentor was Sir W. Chambers.

The Hakewill additions consist in plan of a two-storey block containing a new portico entrance with reception rooms to the eastern side of the older building, and the remodelling and enlargement of the old service wing which extended northwards.

The estate was acquired in 1920 by Mrs Clegg, for whom architect Sir Guy Dawber made minor additions such as the loggia on the southern side of the house and laid out the gardens, which included wrought iron garden gates design by Norman Jewson in around 1930.

Mrs Clegg's daughter Kathleen inherited the house in 1933 and architect A S G Butler over saw the reduction of service quarters and the division of the house into discrete halves. Structures within the service yard were reduced leaving the loggia along the eastern side of the service range, depicted on mapping from 1974.

2.0 Heritage Statement

The entrance gates at Wormington Grange are grade II listed (Entry Number: 1153997). The listing includes the gate piers, gates and adjoining walls. The listed description outlines the following materiality and characteristics:

'Circa 1826. Ashlar and wrought-iron. Double gates in centre, pedestrian gates each side, gate piers, flanked quadrant walls, and straight lengths along side of road. On right, square pier, plinth, panelled face, plain string course, plain cap, step above. Low wall to left, about 9m long, plinth, plain coping, iron railing with top and bottom rails, spear heads to bars. Square pier, as first: quadrant wall sets back, as straight one:

rectangular pier, plinth, semi-circular recess above, raised edge moulding, arched head, plain string course with central projecting block over on plain corbels. Square edge to cap, step above with double console top. Sides of pier plain. Pedestrian gate, double 'mid' rail, Greek key decoration, curved St Andrew's cross braces below, flat top rail with cresting over. To left square wrought-iron pier to main gates, decorative ironwork front and back, vertical bars sides, moulded cap with swept head above. Double gates, double centre rail, curved brace below, swept top rail, spear heads to dog and main bars. Piers, wall and pedestrian gate mirrored on left (q.v).'

The main gates and gate lodge signal the primary entrance to Wormington Grange. As the listing outlines the gates were built in the early 1800's which means the gates were likely designed by Henry Hakewill, an architect who was employed by Josiah Gist from 1826-27 to make extensive additions to the estate. Hakewill was known for both gothic and classical styled buildings; he added the stables, the main house Greek revival extension, the east gate lodge and several gates and stone piers to the estate during this time. The main entrance gate, piers and adjoining walls being among these additions. The style of the gates echo the classical style of the main house whereas the neighbouring gate lodge is in a Tudor gothic style with Cotswold vernacular elements.

Recently, listed building consent (21/00883/LBC) was given to remove the wrought-iron gates and board up the stone piers in order to protect them during the course of the approved construction works to the various buildings across the estate.