



Listed buildings and places
Les bâties et endraits historique

8, Dumaresq Street, St. Helier.

This report has been prepared by Jersey Heritage as part of its responsibility under a Service Level Agreement to provide reports and recommendations to the Minister for Planning and Environment on the architectural, historical, archaeological and other significance of buildings and places.

The assessment undertaken and the recommendation given in relation to the above building and place is made under the auspices of Article 51 of the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law, 2002; and the criteria for the listing and grading of heritage assets adopted and published by the Minister for Planning and Environment.

The report also includes the views and advice offered by the Listing Advisory Group in relation to the assessment of this building and place.

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Date of report: 31/01/2013

File ref: HE0210

Special interests of the site

Historic interest

The Dumaresq Street properties share a common back boundary, which suggests that they were part of a planned development. This is borne out by the documentary evidence. The road was laid out by Guillaume Dumaresq before 1725 and the rear plot boundary was defined by a pre-existing prison. Pitt Street was laid out before 1735/6. The 1795 map of the island shows the relationship of these streets to the older town, which essentially still had a medieval plan with just one wide main street. By this time new development was beginning to fan out along the streets radiating from Charing Cross at the west end of St Helier, including the Dumaresq/Pitt Street block and Hue Street to the north.

This house was originally detached, with a symmetrical four bay elevation and squared granite chimney stacks. It retains its central passage plan and original boarded room divisions and has a number of good quality fittings which suggest an early-mid 18th century date for its construction. These include the staircase, doors and a fireplace. The roof trusses are also original. Documentary evidence suggests it was built in the years after 1743. The back range west of the passage was added later in the 18th century and the house was modernised in the earlier 19th century. The lowest flight of the staircase, the east bedroom fireplace and the sash windows are all of the type used in the Pitt Street houses. The brick back range on the east side of the passage may have been added at this time or slightly later, when the west end of the building was converted into a shop; the shop front dates to the mid 19th century.

Architectural interest

This four-bay, two-storeyed house was originally detached; the roof gables have granite copings and kneelers overbuilt by the upper floors of adjoining properties. Both chimney stacks have been heightened; the eastern is rendered, the western built of large squared granite blocks. The walls are granite rubble set in loam, rendered externally. The four symmetrical first floor windows have sixlight sashes with narrow glazing bars in beaded frames. There is another of the same pattern on the ground floor with external shutters. The central fourpanelled front door is flanked by Ionic pilasters and incorporated into a shop front under a common dentilled cornice. This has a separate shop door at the west end of the elevation with a terminal pilaster of the same type (now incomplete). Wings have been added at the back of the house; the earlier, on the west side of a flagged central passage is stone-built with a lean-to roof and a pair of six-light sash windows on the upper floor. On the ground floor a large window with a door at either end is set under a common lintel; this is a secondary alteration and the south door appears to be a replacement for the north. The later wing on the east side is brick-built with a gabled roof (originally hipped at the north end). It had a similar ground floor window arrangement under a long lintel, now void and in poor condition. The first floor oversails to form a covered passage at the back of the property.

A central passage leads to a wide rear doorway, an original opening formed in rubble and occasional bricks with a heavy oak lintel. Externally this has been refaced in brick of a different, early 19th century, type. The heavy doorframe is of pegged construction with an angle-bead. A pine plank and muntin partition forms the east side of the passage and rises through two storeys. On the ground floor it has been plastered over and a panelled dado applied on the hall side. The room to the east has a 20th century fireplace flanked by full height wall cupboards missing their doors; architraves and skirting boards are in early 19th century style. There is a third original recess for a wall cupboard in the rear wall, which has

been stripped back to bare stone; a few bricks are used in the jambs. The ceiling is plastered and has no ceiling beam. The room to the west of the hall was used as a shop; there was formerly an oblique connecting door at the foot of the stairs. The partition, which is partly on the line of the ceiling beam, is plastered over. The fireplace and cupboards have been stripped out and the rear wall knocked through. The end of the ceiling beam is carried on a hanger where the shop window has been inserted. The back room is fitted out with panelled cupboards of early 19th century type and has a fireplace in the south wall; the surround dates to the 1930s. The end of the ceiling beam is carried on a hanger where the large window in the east wall has been inserted. The brick rear wing has external access only on the ground floor. It was formerly a kitchen; there is a cast iron range in a brick-built stack which is butted against a pre-existing stone east wall. This in turn is butted against the north-east corner of the earlier house; the fabric here is exposed and there are no external openings. The staircase is set against the back wall on the west side of the hall and has flights of unequal width, determined by the position of the rear door. It is built round a square newel post with angle beads which rises to attic level. The lowest flight was remodelled with the hallway in the early 19th century; it has a round mahogany handrail and bulbous turned newel with stick balusters. On the first floor the detailing is mid 18th century; with a second angle-beaded end post to the upper flight and a T-section handrail. The stick balusters are probably replacements. The upper flight was boxed in, probably in the 20th century, and the head of the stairs has been altered. The central newel is in place but the terminal post has been sawn off and repositioned, leaving the base projecting from the first floor ceiling. A short length of original handrail has been reused and two sections of turned baluster, split longitudinally, have been pieced in underneath. The steps of the upper flight are made of oak. The lower stair is lit by a sash window in the rear wall, which is an enlargement of an original opening. This can be seen internally where the jambs are formed of soft orange bricks. The angle of the reveals changes where the opening has been widened in harder dark red brick. Externally it has a segmental brick arch cut into the older stone wall. On the first floor the plank and muntin room divisions are exposed. Both rooms have original doors with two large fielded panels and long iron strap hinges set in narrow moulded architraves mounted on the partitions. Between the rooms at the front of the house is a closet accessed from the larger east room. The side walls to this are replacements of the early 19th century although the partition to the landing is original. The closet appears originally to have opened into the west room as here the ceiling beam is moulded on both edges; where it coincides with the partition to the stairs it is only moulded on one. As this is the tie beam to one of the roof trusses it indicates that these elements are contemporary. The other ceiling beam is free-standing and has angle beads on both lower edges. The east room has a fireplace of early 19th century type like those in the Pitt Street houses. The west room has a fireplace of early-mid 18th century type with a 'floating' moulded mantelshelf mounted on a plain pine surround with angle beads. The cast iron grate is later. This room has wide pine floorboards which may be original. Both rooms have secondary doors to the rear wings. The west wing has a fireplace surround of simple later 18th century type flanked by wall cupboards lacking doors. The east wing has two plain rooms divided by a panelled partition. Two roof trusses are visible in the attic. They are made of pine half trunks, halved and lapped at the apex; the joint is secured by four pegs. The ridge piece is lodged between the principals but has been renewed together with the common rafters. The junction of the principals with the tie beams is not visible. There is a single tier of flat purlins lodged on the back of the trusses; some are pine, others an unidentified wood. To provide headroom over the stairs the central section of the back roof slope is raised. The heightened wall which incorporates a window is built of early 19th century brick but appears to be a replacement for an earlier structure which was possibly timber-framed. In the roof space over the rear wing to the west and in line with the original partition is a projecting wooden wall bracket with an

ogeemoulded terminal which probably formed one end of such a structure. The adjoining section of roof to the western attic was raised in the late 19th century and incorporates a dormer window of this date. The attic partitions are tongue and groove boarding of 20th century date. The eaves are enclosed, trapping earlier plaster on the gable wall and wallpaper on one of the roof trusses. The rear wing at the west end of the house has a lean-to roof with a pine half-trunk principal and a back purlin. The walls are exposed granite rubble in bond at the south-west corner.

Legal reasons for listing

Architectural
Historical

Statement of significance

The group of buildings, 6-8 Dumaresq Street and 4-6 Pitt Street, and their boundaries, are all of special architectural and historic interest. In the context of the historic townscape of St Helier, all these frontage buildings form a group, not only with each other but with the restored buildings on the opposite side of Dumaresq Street and the west side of Hue Street. The group as a whole provides perhaps the best surviving example of early-mid 18th century townscape in St Helier, as well as demonstrating the change of style and scale of urban building which took place early in the 19th century.

8 Dumaresq Street is an essentially complete mid-18th century town house, the later alterations to which, up to the early-middle the 19th century, generally add to rather than detract from its primary significance. It retains its original interior structure and many of its fittings, including joinery, from its primary phase and some from the early 19th century.

Advice offered by MLAG (and others if stated)

At their meeting on 16/05/2011 MLAG agreed with the Jersey Heritage recommendation that the building be Listed as grade 2.

Jersey Heritage recommendation

Listed Building Grade 2

Attachments

Schedule

SCHEDULE

8, Dumaresq Street, St. Helier.

In amplification of the requirement of;

- i) Article 51 Paragraph 3(a) to show in relation to each site included on the List which one or more of the special interests set out in paragraph (2) attaches to the site;
- i) Article 51 Paragraph 3(b) to describe the site with sufficient particularity to enable it to be easily identified and;
- ii) Article 51 Paragraph 3(d) to specify any activity, referred to in Article 55 Paragraph (1), which may be undertaken on the site without the Minister's permission;

the following supports the Minister for Planning and Environment's view that the site known as **8, Dumaresq Street in the Parish of St. Helier** is of special interest.

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| i) | HER Reference | HE0210 |
| ii) | Special interest | ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORICAL |
| iii) | Statement of Significance | <p>The group of buildings, 6-8 Dumaresq Street and 4-6 Pitt Street, and their boundaries, are all of special architectural and historic interest. In the context of the historic townscape of St Helier, all these frontage buildings form a group, not only with each other but with the restored buildings on the opposite side of Dumaresq Street and the west side of Hue Street. The group as a whole provides perhaps the best surviving example of early-mid 18th century townscape in St Helier, as well as demonstrating the change of style and scale of urban building which took place early in the 19th century.</p> <p>8 Dumaresq Street is an essentially complete mid-18th century town house, the later alterations to which, up to the early-middle the 19th century, generally add to rather than detract from its primary significance. It retains its original interior structure and many of its fittings, including joinery, from its primary phase and some from the early 19th century.</p> |
| iv) | Description | <p>This four-bay, two-storeyed house was originally detached; the roof gables have granite copings and kneelers overbuilt by the upper floors of adjoining</p> |

properties. Both chimney stacks have been heightened; the eastern is rendered, the western built of large squared granite blocks. The walls are granite rubble set in loam, rendered externally. The four symmetrical first floor windows have sixlight sashes with narrow glazing bars in beaded frames. There is another of the same pattern on the ground floor with external shutters. The central fourpanelled front door is flanked by Ionic pilasters and incorporated into a shop front under a common dentilled cornice. This has a separate shop door at the west end of the elevation with a terminal pilaster of the same type (now incomplete). Wings have been added at the back of the house; the earlier, on the west side of a flagged central passage is stone-built with a lean-to roof and a pair of six-light sash windows on the upper floor. On the ground floor a large window with a door at either end is set under a common lintel; this is a secondary alteration and the south door appears to be a replacement for the north. The later wing on the east side is brick-built with a gabled roof (originally hipped at the north end). It had a similar ground floor window arrangement under a long lintel, now void and in poor condition. The first floor oversails to form a covered passage at the back of the property.

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v) **Location**

Plan attached

vi) **Restricted activities**

The carrying on, of any of the following activities –

- (a) to use or operate a device designed or adapted to detect or locate metal or minerals in the ground;
- (a) to carry on an activity which might injure or deface the site or part of a site

require the express prior consent of the Minister

vii) **Listed Status and Non-statutory Grade**

Potential Listed Building Grade 2

Plan and Photograph(s) of 8, Dumaresq Street, St. Helier

Plan



Photograph(s)

