

The Settle~Carlisle Railway Conservation Area

The buildings of the Settle~Carlisle Railway are of national significance and have been given statutory protection through designation as a Conservation Area. This publication is one of a series intended to provide a better understanding of the special character of these buildings and to assist those entrusted with their care in appropriate conservation and repairs.

The series has been prepared by the North East Civic Trust for English Heritage, The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Craven District Council, Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council. The series consists of:

1. Buildings of the Settle~Carlisle Railway: An Introductory Guide to their Conservation
2. Station Buildings of the Settle~Carlisle Railway
3. Station Masters' Houses of the Settle~Carlisle Railway
4. Railway Workers' Cottages of the Settle~Carlisle Railway

Other Publications

Stations & Structures of the Settle & Carlisle Railway, V R Anderson and G K Fox
Rails In The Fells, D Jenkinson

Advice On Conservation & Other Planning Matters

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BUILDINGS of the SETTLE~CARLISLE RAILWAY



Railway Workers' Cottages

Funded by English Heritage, Craven District Council, The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council

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Railway Workers' Cottages of the Settle~Carlisle Railway

The driving of a railway line across the high moors and bog of the upper Yorkshire Dales was a keen test of endurance. Yet when the navvies had gone the task of operating a reliable service would be an equal challenge to the railway workers whose livelihood would be earned from the line. Nearly 150 Midland houses were built at around 30 sites from Settle to Petheril Bridge Junction near Carlisle. Often near stations, sometimes on the open fell, the introduction of these stylised 'Derby gothic' railway terraces must have contrasted sharply with the more organic development of traditional local housing.

The introductory leaflet in this series illustrates how, amidst strong competition, the Midland Railway had committed itself to constructing its own link between Scotland and the Midlands, taking advantage of goods and passenger traffic. Both applications have contributed to its character through construction of suitable facilities which make up the legacy of buildings seen today, including the railway workers' cottages. The line was planned and built as a portfolio of standard design details which fostered a strong character and identity, much of

which is still intact. This is the reason why a Conservation Area has been designated, and why the preservation and enhancement of its buildings is so important. However, this task is made more challenging as all of the cottages are now in private hands, whilst the line still operates as a main-line railway.

This leaflet illustrates elements which give these cottages their character, and shows how suitable upkeep and reinstatement where elements have been lost, can conserve these unique houses for future generations.

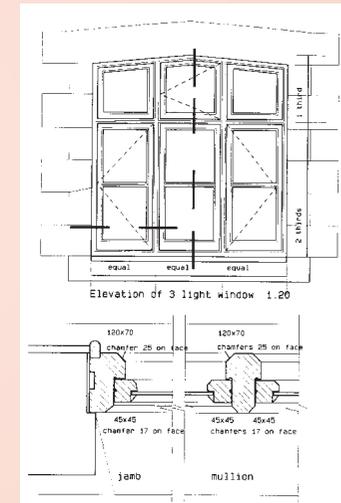
Conservation, Maintenance, Repair & Replacement

Regular maintenance and repairs help ensure the continued life of any building by preventing decay, especially of joinery. But in buildings like those in this Conservation Area, additional care must be taken to do such work without altering the features which give them their architectural character and historic importance.

It is therefore vital that maintenance and repairs are carried out to appropriate specifications, using traditional techniques, suitable materials (such as only seasoned, matching timber), and usually only by specialist contractors who are sympathetic to the principles of good building conservation. As much original fabric as possible should be retained during repair works (including elements like glass and metalwork), as their unnecessary replacement not only damages the appearance of the building, but also diminishes its authenticity and historic value. Replacement should be kept to the



minimum necessary to ensure the building's long term survival, but where this does become necessary, it must be seen as restoration rather than modernisation. No two buildings are exactly the same and local variation must be respected during any work.



Character of the Railway Workers' Cottages

The railway workers' cottages follow one of two main types of terraced two-storey cottage. One type is easily identified by its large dormers, whilst the other has unbroken eaves. Both have walls of local stone or brick, and slate roofs with special crested ridges. Porches and tall chimneys complete the composition.

Distinctive features include the joinery elements. Windows are predominantly

arched headed and adopt a specific design of casement window with glazing bars. Doors vary, but are mainly of a batten design with either two or four panels. Some of the most striking features of the cottages are the broad overhanging eaves, the tabled verges and the distinctive design of bargeboard which adorns them. Dormers and porches emphasise the importance of eaves to the character of the cottages.

Occasionally, Midland cottages of other designs were built alongside the standard ones. For example, Kirkby Stephen also has single-storey cottages, and Petheril Bridge Junction has several of a non-standard type.

Unfortunately, many of the originally consistent elements have suffered through lack of maintenance, removal, inappropriate modern replacements, or, sometimes with even worse results, replacement with poor replicas. For example, some ridge tiles have been lost, and tabled eaves have been altered or removed. Bargeboards may have been replaced with alien designs or inferior copies, and as well as windows themselves being replaced, some window openings have either been blocked up or altered.

Some cottages are now unrecognisable and their association with the line has been obscured. Yet most survive to illustrate their distinctive character which is an integral part of the line's history. With authoritative advice and a wider appreciation for the legacy of the fine buildings associated with the Settle~Carlisle Railway, those which have suffered a loss of character could once again be restored for generations of owners and occupiers to come.

