

SCHEDULE

The following building shall be added to the list:-

MARIAN ROAD
Boston Cemetery Chapel

496096

II

Cemetery chapel, at present disused. White brick, with Ancaster stone dressings, pinnacles and spire. Slate roof, mainly fishscale, with coped gables. Gothic style with windows with Decorated tracery with hoodmoulds and head-stops. 36 ft long by 20 ft wide, with 70 ft-high tower. Single storey. There is a high open porch with quadripartite stone vault attached to the north side and this is surmounted by square tower. The tower has a broached octagonal spire with a series of adjoining tall lucarnes with narrow buttresses with set-offs. Lucarnes have louvres, some missing. Elaborate finial. West side has three two-light windows separated by buttresses with set-offs. East side has two two-light windows with closed porch in the middle. This has a doorway with pointed arch and door with decorative hinges. Small trefoil window above. On the south side a three-light window. All windows are at present boarded.

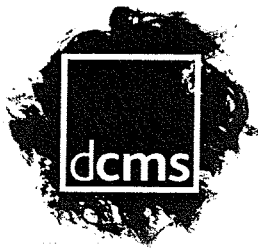
INTERIOR: There are three bays of sexpartite wood and plaster groined vaulting springing from corbels with carved angels. Elaborate carved bosses. Leaded diamond lattice windows, with coloured glass, some damaged. Original door to porch on north side with decorative ironwork. Quarry tile floor. The chapel was designed to seat 60 people. There were originally open pews with carved ends but these do not appear to have survived.

HISTORY

The Burial Board Act of 1854 authorised the setting up of burial boards outside London. In that same year the Boston Burial Board agreed to purchase a twelve-acre plot to the north of the town, to be used as the public burial ground for the parish. In May 1854 the Board advertised a competition for designs for two separate chapels, a lodge and entrance gates, to cost £1,350 (see *The Builder*, Vol. 12, p. 394). The competition also included the layout of the cemetery, including planting and fencing, to cost £200. The first prize was awarded to Pritchett & Sons of York, the second prize to Thomas Barry of Liverpool.

James Pigott Pritchett senior (1789-1868) had been joined in his York practice in 1853 by his son James Pigott Pritchett junior (1830-1911). In 1854 Pritchett junior succeeded to the practice of his brother-in-law John Middleton in Darlington, and it was he who attended the meeting with the Burial Board in July 1854 and was authorised to prepare working drawings. The tender for construction was awarded to Baker & Son of Sleaford. The first stone of the Anglican chapel was laid on 7 November 1854, and that of the Nonconformist chapel on 20 November 1854. The Anglican ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln on 13 August 1855. The cemetery and both chapels opened for funerals on 15 October 1855.

JP Pritchett junior designed more than 100 churches and chapels and was closely associated with church work in Darlington. He designed the layout of Darlington West Cemetery and some twenty other cemeteries. He was a member of the Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland,



a founding member of the Northern Architectural Association, and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. In his obituary in the Darlington & Stockton Times he is referred to as 'an architect of considerable ability'.

Pritchett's layout of the cemetery is still largely intact, with a central lime avenue walk. The Anglican chapel is located on the south side of the walk. The identical Nonconformist chapel on the north side of the walk was demolished in 1961. The chapels were located 200 feet apart and were designed to be seen from the west, looking towards the entrance lodge to the east. In 1885 the cemetery was enlarged and the central walk extended to lead up to the mortuary (which was originally outside the boundary).

Ownership of the cemetery was transferred from the Burial Board to Boston Borough Council in 1933. In 1961 the Nonconformist chapel was demolished, and in 1966 a crematorium was built to the south-west of the original cemetery. The Anglican chapel has been redundant since 1992.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANCE

This is a finely detailed cemetery chapel in white brick with Ancaster stone dressings and fishscale slate roof. It is of 1854-5 and is by the distinguished architect James Pigott Pritchett of Darlington. It is in the Gothic style with Decorated tracery and has an elaborate stone octagonal broached spire. The interior has the unusual feature of sexpartite vaulting with elaborate corbels and bosses. The original openwork pews do not survive. This chapel is significant for its architectural quality, its erection so soon after the Burial Board Act of 1854, and for forming part of a landscape layout - also by Pritchett - included in the Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade II.

SOURCES

Boston Burial Board Minute Books (1854-1933).
Thompson, P., History and Antiquities of Boston (1856), pp. 169-70.
The Builder, Vol. 12, p. 394

Dated:- 31st August 2006

Signed by authority of the
Secretary of State

ELAINE PEARCE
Department for Culture, Media
and Sport

LINCOLNSHIRE

BOSTON CEMETERY

BOSTON

GD3548

BOSTON

TF3346

II

SUMMARY OF THE HISTORIC INTEREST

The main Boston town cemetery, laid out by J P Pritchett of Darlington for the Burial Board in 1854.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Burial Board Act of 1854 authorised the setting up of burial boards outside London and in that same year the Boston Burial Board agreed to purchase a twelve acre plot which at that time stood about a mile north of the town. It was to be used as the future public burial ground for the parish and the architect J P Pritchett of Darlington was commissioned to design it. He provided the layout for the grounds and the plans for twin gothic chapels, one for Anglican services set on the consecrated ground to the south of a central walk, and the other on the north side for Nonconformist burials, together with designs for the main lodge building. The Anglican ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln on 13 August 1855 and the first interment took place the same month. Initially the town mortuary stood just outside the boundary of the cemetery although the building was used to align the main central lime avenue walk which ran east-west from the arched lodge. In 1885 the size of the cemetery was increased to include the mortuary building to the west and some additional land to the south, the added land being enclosed by a yew hedge. The central walk and lime avenue were also extended to lead up to the mortuary. Further extensions to the cemetery were necessary in 1928 and in 1940, again spreading west and south (beyond the area here registered). The Nonconformist chapel was demolished in 1961 but the Anglican chapel survives although is no longer in use. In 1966 a crematorium was built to the south-west of the original cemetery and since the 1990s the main entrance to the site has been moved from the old lodge on Horncastle Road to the crematorium entrance off Marian Road on the west side of the site. The cemetery remains under local authority ownership and management.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Boston cemetery lies on the north side of the south-east Lincolnshire town of Boston in a location which was originally rural but which has since been enclosed by urban development. The c7.5ha site occupies generally level ground which is bounded to the east by a brick wall along Horncastle Road, to the north by railings and trees along Red Cap Lane and to the south and west by later extensions to the cemetery. The boundary of these extensions is marked by a slight bank on which stands yew

hedging later allowed to grow into mature trees. The level ground and enclosure of the site preclude views into or out of the cemetery.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Originally, and up until the 1990s, the main entrance into the cemetery was from the east off Horncastle Road. A red brick and slate gothic style lodge, flanked by brick walls, spans the main drive, the two parts being linked at the first storey forming an entrance arch over the drive. The building was designed by the architect J P Pritchett and was erected in 1854-55 in time for the opening of the cemetery. The drive runs west, across the length of the cemetery ground to the mortuary building where, up until the early C20, it terminated. Following the extensions to the cemetery, the closure of the chapels and the opening of the crematorium in the 1960s, the drive was extended beyond the mortuary, turning south-west to link to the main crematorium buildings and car park. When the crematorium was built, it was served by a second entrance which had been created off Marian Road to the south in c1935. Since the 1990s this has become the main entrance.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The main building on the original cemetery site is the Anglican chapel, designed by J P Pritchett and erected in 1854-55. It is constructed of brick and slate in a gothic style, with a tall spire rising over a covered arched entrance lobby on the north front. An identical chapel for Nonconformists (demolished in 1961) stood on the north side of the main drive, designed to form a symmetrical picture with the entrance lodge when viewed from the west end of the central lime avenue.

CEMETERY GROUNDS

The layout of the C19 cemetery (within the boundary here registered) has not altered since the cemetery was opened. The central drive from the Horncastle Road lodge, aligned on the mortuary chapel, is flanked by an avenue of mature lime trees, each row terminated by a Wellingtonia at the east end. An engraving of the cemetery made in c1860 soon after it was opened shows the young limes flanking the drive, confirming that they are part of the original design. From the central straight walk two looped paths run through the burial grounds to north and south, meeting back in the centre of the main walk where the chapels were located, to form a loose figure of eight. The northern and eastern boundaries are lined with a variety of mature tree species and across the whole area many mature trees and shrubs survive, including four varieties of lime, tulip trees, monkey puzzles, red oak and varieties of pine. J P Pritchett the architect was responsible for the layout of the cemetery but it has been suggested (Horton, undated) that a local plant collector by the name of Mr Speake may have been responsible for supplying the wide range of plant species.

The boundaries of the cemetery extension which came about in 1885 bringing the mortuary chapel into the grounds, are marked by mature rows of yew, now grown into large trees, with other tree species evident along the southern boundary of this area. An additional circuit path was added through the extension area and this survives as laid out.

There are several memorials of particular interest within the original cemetery, the most notable of which is the burial site of Sir Herbert Ingram MP for Boston, the

founder of the London Illustrated News, who came from the Boston area and drowned along with his young son on Lake Michigan, North America in 1860. Sir Herbert's body was returned for burial to Boston and the grave is marked by a granite obelisk set with a cast of the face of his son, whose body was never recovered.

REFERENCES

Boston Crematorium and Cemetery guide book (undated)

J G Horton *Trees in Boston Cemetery* (undated pamphlet) L.BOST.718 Lincoln Local Studies Library

M Potts *The flora and fauna of Boston Cemetery Old Part* (cemetery office information leaflet)

White's Directory of Lincolnshire (1856) p284

N R Wright *The Book of Boston* (1978) p107-108

Maps

OS 6" to 1 mile 1st edition published 1887
 2nd edition published 1904

OS 25" to 1 mile 1st edition published 1888

Archive items

The records of purchased graves and register of burials, together with the original plans of the burial plots are kept at the crematorium office. The borough council burial board minute books are retained at the town hall and are not currently available for study.

Description written: January 2003

HJ comments: February 2003

Owners comments: March 2003

Register Inspector: EMP

Edited: May 2003