

Application Name: **The Mermaid Inn**

Number: 1478319

Type: New

Heritage Category: Listing

Address:

2 Gosberton Road, Surfleet, Spalding, PE11 4AB

County	District	District Type	Parish
Lincolnshire	South Holland	District Authority	Surfleet

Recommendation: **Reject**

Assessment

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Historic England has received an application to assess The Mermaid Inn in Surfleet for listing. A live planning application for the conversion of the building into five flats, which involves its partial demolition, is currently being considered by South Holland District Council, due to be determined by the 18 October 2021.

HISTORY AND DETAILS

The Mermaid Inn is likely to have originally been constructed in the late-C18 or early-C19 and was advertised for sale in a local newspaper of 1810 along with sixty acres of arable and pastureland and associated farm buildings. By the mid-C19 the inn had become associated with Surfleet Brewery, which had been constructed to the south and west of the inn. As part of the establishment of a brewery on site, a new frontage to the public house was constructed, fronting Surfleet Road to its east, with the earlier range fronting Stockhouse Lane. It is likely that the new range was constructed as a domestic dwelling for use of the proprietors, with the attached inn located to the north. By the mid-C20 Surfleet Brewery has ceased production, with the demolition of the brewery buildings taking place soon after. During the early-C20 the dwelling and inn were knocked together to create a large public house with the building rebranded as a 'roadhouse' inn. The sale of the site in 1938 describes a substantial inn with three public rooms, eight bedrooms, carparking and tea and pleasure gardens.

The Mermaid Inn's principal, early-C19 frontage faces Surfleet Road to the east, constructed of brick in Flemish bond with stone dressings. This range has a hipped roof covered in clay tiles. The building

is two storeys, arranged over five bays, and has a central entrance door with classical surround with Tuscan columns supporting an entablature above. Ground floor windows are six-over-six panes while the first floor has three-over-six. All windows appear to be sash-style uPVC replacements and have flat stone arches with keystones. The building continues to the north and west along Stockhouse Lane with a perpendicular range, also brick, with a variety of roof styles, all covered in slate. This perpendicular range is L-shaped and has an attached large, single-storey range running to the north. Windows all appear to be replacements in sash-style uPVC. The interior is understood to have been altered, particularly in the early-C20 with the knocking through of the dwelling and the earlier public house. Photographs on the internet show that the interior of the building has predominantly modern fittings; there are not known to be any historic features of note.

CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT

Judged against the criteria and the considerations in our supplementary Listing Selection Guides (December 2017), The Mermaid Inn, Surfleet does not meet the criteria for listing for the following principal reasons:

Degree of Architectural interest:

- * while the early-C19 domestic frontage facing Surfleet Road has some interest and some good classical detailing, the rest of the building is modest, without any particular features of note;
- * the building has seen significant alteration with the dwelling and inn knocked-through to form a large public house in the early-C20. Later alterations such as interior refurbishment and replacement windows have further degraded the building's interest.

Degree of Historic interest:

- * while of interest as an inn and dwelling once forming part of Surfleet Brewery, all of the surrounding brewery buildings have been lost, with better examples of the building types surviving elsewhere.

CONCLUSION

The Mermaid Inn is of clear local interest as an early-C19 dwelling with earlier public house, once forming part of Surfleet Brewery, but it lacks the special interest required for statutory listing.

SOURCES

The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury Friday 31 August 1810

Lincolnshire Standard 1938

The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire, Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., p685