

# Heritage Statement for 9 Crosland Hill Road, Huddersfield HD4 5NX

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## Introduction

This heritage statement has been prepared to support the planning application for the installation of a small Electric Vehicle (EV) charger to the rear of the Grade II\* listed building at 9 Crosland Hill Road, Huddersfield. The purpose of this statement is to assess the impact of the proposed works on the architectural and historical significance of the building and its setting.

## Architectural Significance

9 Crosland Hill Road, also known as Crosland Hall, is one of the oldest houses in the district, with its origins dating back to the early 1500s.

The building has a rich history that reflects the architectural and social developments of the region over several centuries.

Crosland Hall has strong associations with the Crosland family; a notable local family connected to the area. The hall is reputedly linked to Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, whose family coat of arms is part of the state flag of Maryland. The building's historical significance is further enhanced by its connection to the local quarrying community, particularly the Manor House quarry.

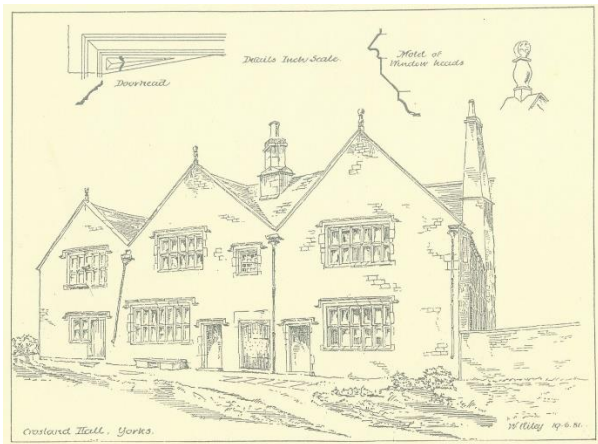
The hall was originally constructed as a single dwelling and is built of hammer-dressed stone with a pitched stone slate roof. The building features a twin-gabled front, deeply recessed transomed windows, a twisted central chimney stack, and moulded head and jambs of the original central doorway. The precise date of construction is not known, but records indicate that Thomas Crosland lived there in the mid-16th century. The house remained in the Crosland family until the early 18th century. During this period, the hall was used as a family residence and was likely involved in agricultural activities, given its association with surrounding farm buildings and lands.

Throughout its history, Crosland Hall has undergone various alterations and additions. In the early 18th century, the building was extended to the east with a two-storey addition. The south wall was completely rebuilt, and a first floor was inserted, increasing the footprint of the building by approximately 30%. The hall was later sold to the Battye family in 1783, who carried on an extensive legal business there for about fifty years. The building was partitioned into separate dwellings by 1850, reflecting changes in its use and the needs of its occupants.

In the 1990s, Crosland Hall underwent significant renovation work following a listed building application submitted to the council. This work was part of a broader effort to assess and preserve the hall's historical fabric, which included structural repairs and conservation of historic architectural elements

The building was in extremely poor condition and required both alterations and numerous repair works. During this period, further research indicated that parts of the building dated back to the 16th century, showing the complexity of the structure and prompting more detailed investigation into its historical development.

As part of this renovation, the west-most gable was completely redeveloped.



*Crosland Hall prior to its renovation in the 90's*



*Crosland Hall now*

Overall, Crosland Hall's historical context is characterized by its architectural evolution that made it possible to keep its charm but always be a working building, ever changing to remain relevant. This evolution included:

- An addition of an extension to the east in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century
- Its conversion from a legal practice to cottages in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Renovation and redevelopment of the west-most gable in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

It is also characterized by its association with notable local families, and its role in the local community. The building's significance is recognized through its Grade II\* listing, which highlights its architectural and historical importance.

## Specific Characteristics of the Rear Elevation

The rear elevation of Crosland Hall mirrors the gable arrangement of the front elevation. It features one five-light stone mullioned window in each gable on the first floor and one three-light stone mullioned window in the centre. The ground floor has an original one six-light stone mullioned and transomed window in the east gable, and had a similar window reinstated as part of the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century renovations. Previously this was blocked by a one-storey 18th or 19th-century pitched roofed extension.



The extension to the east is two storeys high and likely dates to the early 18th century.

## Impact of the EV Charger on the Setting and Significance

The proposed installation of a small EV charger to the rear of the building is designed to have minimal impact on the architectural and historical significance of Crosland Hall. The charger will be discreetly positioned to avoid obstructing or altering any of the key architectural features of the rear elevation. This would only even be visible from the rear private road and would be placed below where the post-box is situated now and be a similar size. This could easily be obscured by planters.



*Rear elevation*



*Example of EV charger*

Given the Hall's evolution of the last 460 years and, the addition of an EV charger is considered a minor alteration that will not detract from the overall aesthetic or historical value of the building. It should also be noted that such a charger would of course be removable if future-residents wished this.

## Justification for the Proposed Works

The installation of an EV charger is a necessary and forward-thinking adaptation to support sustainable living and reduce carbon emissions. As electric vehicles become more prevalent, providing charging facilities is essential for the convenience of residents and visitors. The proposed location at the rear of the building ensures that the visual impact is minimized, preserving the character and appearance of the Grade II\* listed building. Furthermore, the installation of the EV charger aligns with broader environmental goals and demonstrates a commitment to sustainable practices while respecting the heritage significance of Crosland Hall.

## Conclusion

The proposed installation of a small EV charger to the rear of 9 Crosland Hill Road, Huddersfield, is a carefully considered alteration that respects the architectural and historical significance of the Grade II\* listed building. The discreet placement of the charger ensures minimal visual impact, and the justification for the works both aligns with contemporary sustainability objectives and also the ever-changing use of the building itself. This heritage statement supports the planning application by demonstrating that the proposed works allow the asset to remain relevant without harming the setting or significance of Crosland Hall.

## Sources consulted used in preparing this statement

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