HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

LOCAL LIST: DACORUM

Present Name of Site NASH MILLS Historic Name (if known)

See Also: Abbot's Hill and Shendish Manor

Parish/Town NASH MILLS

National Grid Reference of Principal Building: TL071 044

Present Area (approximate) Hectares

Brief Description

In 1791, Henry and Sealy Foudrinier, stationers in the City of London, purchased a mill at Two Waters, near Hemel Hempstead, and began making paper.

John Dickinson purchased Apsley mill in 1809 and the nearby Nash Mill in 1811 where he installed and developed machines of his design which were producing some of the best and most consistent paper in the country.

The house at Nash Mills was at first occupied by John Dickinson until he moved to Abbots Hill (q.v.) in 1834 and his partner Charles Longman occupied the house until 1856, when it was occupied by the Evans family (daughter of John Dickinson). The house became offices in 1906 and the garden which set off this house was absorbed into the Mills complex over time and no trace no remains of it.

The memorial garden was set up after the First World War to commemorate the 213 people from ten Dickinson Mills killed during it.

The memorial comprises an inscribed metal plaque set in a carved stone surround which has a coat of arms within a wreath. The inscription reads 'To the eternal honour and undying memory of the gallant men of the firm of John Dickinson and Co. who gave their lives for their country in the Great War 1914-1918'. A further inscription reads `To the glory of Nash Mills Men who gave their lives in the World War 1939-1945'. The 213 names are arranged beneath according to the site where each worked.

This memorial was set in a small garden near to Stephenson's Cottages (built 1840 for Leonard Stephenson, the engineer who introduced steam engines to the Mills) which ws laid out with lawns and flower beds. The whole site is due for redevelopment and the memorial garden is to be restored.

Important people associated with site:

Owner: John Dickinson, and Charles Longman, Paper manufacturer;

Arthur Evans, archaeologist

Assessment of significance: "The Nash Mills war memorial, constructed shortly after the end of World War I is an important historical testament to the men who worked for Dickinson's at ten sites in England and abroad. There is a presumption in favour of designating free-standing war memorials as they are an important reminder of nationally and internationally significant events which had a tragic impact on local communities. This war memorial is architecturally distinct and is within a kept garden. It has the added interest of being dedicated to the dead of a single business and is a fitting tribute to the fallen of two world wars, deserving of national recognition which Listed status confers." (EH Listing Entry)

Principal Uses: Memorial Garden

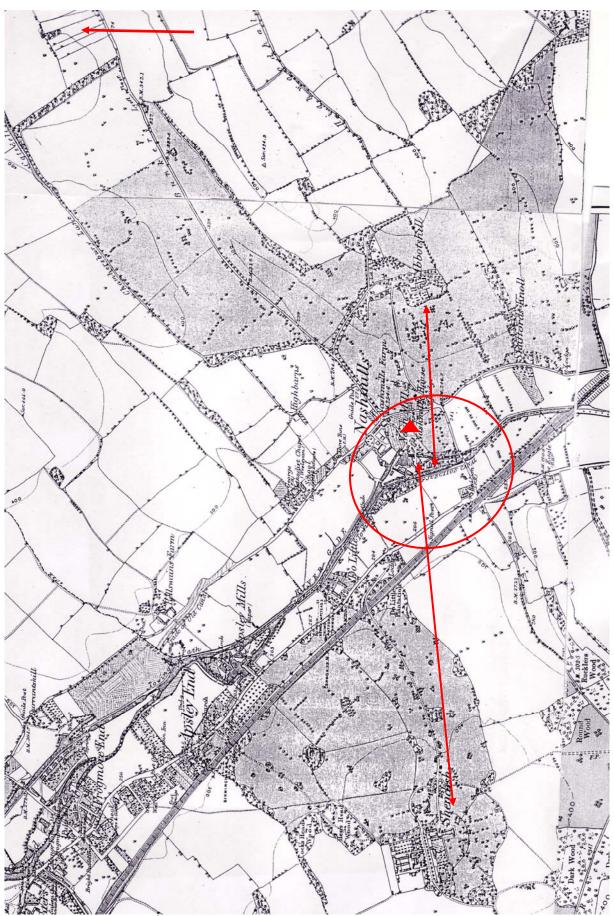
Public Access/Rights of Way: Adjacent to Lower Lane, Nash Mills

Designations: (e.g. Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Area, Listed Buildings, EH Register of Historic Parks & Gardens, Tree Preservation Orders, SSSIs, Nature Reserve, National Trust, County Wildlife Site, etc)

Memorial: Grade II

Sources of information: EH Listing Information, Site Visit

Site visited by: Hertfordshire Gardens Trust Date: 2011.2012.21013.2104



Ordnance Survey 1st Edition . 6": 1 mile showing links between Nash Mills, Abbots Hill and Shendish. Approximate position of Nash Mills Memorial Gardens