

Heritage Statement

Application: 26/02399/LBC – Replace existing timber front door with a new purpose-made timber door closely matching the existing except for introducing slimlite double-glazing to top panels

Site: Sunhill Cottage, 3 Sun Hill, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9AU

Applicant: Mr Armel Baufume

Listing details

- **Name:** Sunhill Cottage, 3 Sun Hill, Royston
- **Designation:** Grade II listed building
- **List entry number:** 1295583
- **Date first listed:** 11 June 1976
- **Source:** National Heritage List for England (Historic England), <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1295583>

Summary of the list description

An 18th-century cottage, dated 1767 on the gable end. Colour-washed brick with a tiled roof and three box dormers. L-plan, one storey with attics, with three Yorkshire casement windows with louvred shutters. No 3 Sun Hill forms a group with Nos 77 and 79 King Street.

Description of proposed works

Replacement of the existing timber front door with a new purpose-made timber door closely matching the existing in design, proportion, panel layout, moulding profiles and materials, except for introducing slimlite double glazing to the two small glazed top panels.

Justification

The existing door is aged and deteriorated very quickly during the hot summer. It is now in poor condition and lets water into the building. Our specialist joiner advises that it cannot be practically repaired. Photographs are attached.

Design and detailing

- Made by a specialist joiner to match the existing door, in Sapele hardwood with traditional mortice-and-tenon construction. Profiles will be taken from the existing door before removal.
- The two small glazed top panels will be fitted with the same slimline double-glazed units (no more than 18mm) proposed for the windows under application 26/02398/LBC, finished externally with putty or a putty-profile bead and dark spacer bars so the glazing reads as traditional.
- Painted finish in green to match the existing.
- Traditional ironmongery matching or reinstating the existing. Security will be improved with a multi-point lock concealed within the door, with only a traditional-style handle and keyhole visible.

Impact on significance

The new door closely reproduces the existing one, so the character and appearance of the listed building, its setting and the group it forms with Nos 77 and 79 King Street are preserved. The only changes are discreet double glazing to the two small top panels and concealed

security improvements, neither of which has a noticeable visual impact. We are happy to agree final details by condition.

Contact with the council and urgency

Before submitting, we called the council several times to discuss the works. Each time we were told someone would call us back, but no one did.

Given the condition of the windows and door, we could not delay any longer. Some of the windows are rotten and broken, and they serve our two young children's bedrooms (aged 2 years and 6 months). The broken glass is a safety risk, and draughts and water getting in make the rooms cold and damp. Water is also tracking into the building's historic timber frame.

We need the work done before winter to keep our children safe and warm and to prevent further damage to the listed building. We would be grateful if the application could be decided as quickly as possible, and we would welcome a call or site visit from the conservation officer at any stage.