

Stroud Town Council Local Heritage Asset List

King Street, 9-11, Burton Chambers, Curio Lounge, Savers, GL5 3BX	
Historic Building	Conservation Area: Stroud Town Centre Stroud Town Centre NDP area
Shop and snooker club, now cafe	List entry number SLHA0021



Description

Former Burton's store and good example of typical Burton's Art Deco style in brick and decorated stonework. 3 storeys with 9 bays to front and 6 fluted stone pilasters, 3 bays to side with 2 stone pilasters in the same style; decorative carved panels above second floor windows, fluted panels above first floor windows. At ground floor, three polished granite door posts, four painted pilasters to the front, two painted pilasters to the side. Original entrance to upper storeys to right side of façade; window light with red and blue enamel details and "Burton Chambers" in gold lettering, double wooden doors with elongated hexagon details and matching side panels; original brass door handles and low post box. All in distinctive and elegant Art Deco style.

Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record 39858 includes the following information: "A 1930s shop building built in international 1930s Modernist style is recorded in both the Verey/Pevsner volume for the county {Source Work 5411.}

The metalwork divisions of the upper first and second floor windows of the King Street Burton's store are noted as an example of the work of the Lion Foundry Co Ltd of Kirkintilloch, within a general website of Scottish architectural ironwork. The condition of the cast iron divisions is noted as good and dates to 1939 {Source Work 10551.}"

Currently there are UPvc windows in second storey, metal framed windows replaced in first storey during recent refurbishment of the majority of the building as a café; the Scottish ironwork is now lost.

On a large corner site, a type favoured by Burton's, site of earlier Royal George hotel, then the Picture House and Hepworths.

For many years the first floor was the billiard hall, accessed through the side door and known to all. These were often provided by Burton's as the company owner was teetotal and wanted to provide an alternative to the public house, as well as making his shops a popular meeting place. The billiard hall remained long after Burton's had closed although it has now been refurbished as a café.

Burton's founder, Montague Burton (1885-1952), born Meshe David Osinsky, emigrated to England from Lithuania in 1900 to escape pogroms. Starting work as a pedlar, he went on to set up a business making and selling affordable tailor made clothing; by 1939, he had 595 branches around the UK and was running a huge and highly successful business.

Burton provided decent working conditions; he also founded chairs in industrial relations and in international relations at a number of universities.

The black polished granite foundation stones are in montagu burtonite from Norway, used in many of Burton's stores and at his main factory in Leeds. They were laid in 1939 by Arnold James Burton, one of Burton's children and Austin Stephen Burton, possibly a grandchild. Many of the shops' foundation stones were laid by Burton's children.

Burton Chambers is a rare example of Art Deco architecture in Stroud town centre. It is also evidence of a business which had an impact on the appearance of many town centres, and their residents, in a drive to sell style to all.

Few former Burton's stores in England are nationally listed.

Sources

Waterford Treasures, News, Burtons Buildings,

<http://www.waterfordtreasures.com/news/burtons-buildings-waterford>, viewed 6 June 2017.

UK Government Web Archive, Moving Here, Migration Histories, Working Lives, Jewish, Sir Montague Burton – an introduction, 5 November 2013

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.movinghere.org.uk/galleries/historie/s/jewish/working_lives/montague_burton1.htm viewed 6 June 2017

Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record 39858

Selection Criteria	
Age	Rare Art Deco building in Stroud Town Centre
Rarity	As above; buildings from this era are rare locally.
Architectural and aesthetic value	Despite a mixed approach to renovation with some insensitive changes, this building still has panache and glamour.
Historic association	Associated with a major UK 20th century business, Burton's, and its founder, business man and philanthropist, Montague Burton.
Landmark status	A well known building in a prominent corner site.
Social and communal value	The billiard hall survived over 60 years as a well known meeting place.
Degree of completeness	Many exterior details are intact.
Date of inclusion	June 2017

With thanks to Stroud Preservation Trust – www.stroudpreservationtrust.org.uk

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