236-242 LIVERPOOL ROAD: Shops and other occupancies

Brief description

This is 'York House', a substantial, finely-worked face-brick suite of four shops, two each side of an entrance to four upper occupancies. The facade is a tallish four-bay design marked by stepped piers, a high parapet decorated by strips of recesses, and paired windows in each bay. There are transom lights above the cantilevered awning. As in many buildings in the Town Centre, the facade bears some intrusive and defacing signs.

Outline history

This building was erected on four of six lots of land held by Athelstane H Whitney of Cheltenham. Whitney had a house and store on the site as early as 1883 and an 1885 source calls this 'York Villas'. The Building Application of 1930 describes the present building as four shops and offices, each of four rooms, each estimated to cost £1,875. When the property was transferred from the Whitney estate to Beatrice Eleanor Whitney in 1952 its improved valuation was £33,500. By 1955 this figure was £45,000.

Reason for listing

A confident and handsome example of modern architecture of the Inter-War period with a fine streetscape presence. *Criteria* (a), (c).

Other relevant documentation

BA Nos 6083-6086 of 1930; Valuer-General's records for various years; Council files; in Ashfield Council Archives. *Sands Directories*.

