

262 LIVERPOOL ROAD: Hotel

Brief description

The Crocodile Farm Hotel is a two-storeyed former shop and dwelling with roughcast-finished brick walls, a chamfered corner and Free Classical detailing. The shopfronts have been greatly changed and there is now a shallow cantilevered awning. Behind the front part there is a modern glazed extension facing the Mall walkway but bearing no relationship to the Liverpool Road frontage.

Outline history

This site marks what was originally the corner of Central Road, on the opposite corner of which stood Ashfield Town Hall. The Hodgens Brothers, drapers and grocers, traded in a building on the corner of Liverpool Road and Hercules Street from 1892 to 1904, when the present building was erected. The monogram HHH in the corner pediment signifies Henry Hughes Hodgens, for whom this grocer and draper shop and the residence above was built, while the date 1904 in the other pediment signifies its building date. In 1922, still owned by Hodgens, the premises became a wine shop leased by Caldwells Ltd. In 1943 the sub-lessee was James Ryan and in 1952 the estate of the late H H Hodgens sold the property to Caldwells Wines. It became a patisserie and coffee shop called 'La Mimosa'. The change of use to a hotel was approved in 1994 and trading as the Crocodile Farm began in 1996.

Reason for listing

A building with an interesting history and great potential as an important corner in the Liverpool Road scene. *Criteria (a), (c), (d).*

Other relevant documentation

Council Rate Books, 1904-19; Valuer-General's records, 1908-55; Council correspondence; in Ashfield Council Archives. *Sands Directories*. See also BA No 69 for 1995, *ibid*.

