

= Highgrove House , Eastcote =

Highgrove House , also known as High Grove House or High Grove , is a Grade II listed mansion in the suburban area of Ruislip , within the London Borough of Hillingdon . Originally built in 1750 by the Reverend John Lidgould , the house was rebuilt in 1881 by Sir Hugh Hume @-@ Campbell following a catastrophic fire . Along with Haydon Hall and Eastcote House , Highgrove was one of the three main houses of Eastcote and eventually became a residential hostel for homeless families , run by the local council from the 1960s until 2007 . An area of the estate was sold to the local council in 1935 by the then @-@ owner Eleanor Warrender to become what is now Warrender Park . In 1975 , the house was granted Grade II listed status on account of its special architectural character .

The house was subsequently closed as a hostel by the council and sold for £ 1.295m to Westcombe Estates . Planning permission was granted to the new owners in January 2007 for the conversion of the building into a luxury housing block of 12 units and expanded for a further three years in February 2010 .

= = History = =

= = = First house = = =

The site of the present house was originally owned and lived on by the Hale family in the 13th century . Reverend John Lidgould of Harmondsworth bought part of the land owned by Martha Hale and Elizabeth Kelly in 1747 and had the first house built .

Robert Turner bought the house and lived there from 1758 ; his son sold it in 1787 to the canon of Wells Cathedral , William Blencowe . John Humphrey Babb leased the house from the early 19th century , purchasing it outright from the Blencowe family in 1813 . Upon his death in 1825 , his successor as Deliverer of the Vote in the House of Commons , James Mitchell , moved to the house , living there until his own death in 1833 . His widow subsequently sold Highgrove at auction .

In 1843 , the house was bought by Lieutenant General Joseph Fuller . Days before his death , his daughter Juliana married Sir Hugh Hume @-@ Campbell in October 1841 . Ownership based to Fuller 's daughter , the new Lady Hume @-@ Campbell , although in 1879 the house was destroyed by fire . The Uxbridge Volunteer Fire Brigade with assistance from a pump provided by Pinner Hall were unable to save the building .

= = = Second house = = =

The ruins of the house were cleared following the fire , and Sir Hugh contracted Edward Schroeder Prior to design the new house , which was completed in 1881 . Prior followed the Queen Anne and early Georgian architecture styles in his design , which is based around an " L " shape with an southern extension for the house 's domestic services . Highgrove was built of red brick , with two storeys and an attic . The window arches were also made of brick . On the ground floor facing the gardens , three sets of three windows in bays were included . Prior 's design drawings for the house were shown in an exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1882 .

The Hume @-@ Campbells had no children , and the house eventually passed to the Warrender family in 1894 , who , as the grandchildren of Sir Hugh from his first marriage , were the next of kin . Brother and sister Hugh and Eleanor Warrender shared the house and were friends with Jenny Churchill , the mother of the future British prime minister Winston Churchill . He stayed at the house for his honeymoon in the early 1900s .

In 1935 , Eleanor Warrender sold 10 @.@ 5 acres (4 @.@ 2 ha) of the grounds of the house to the local council to establish a new playground and park , now named Warrender Park , and 13 acres (5 @.@ 3 ha) to Ideal Homes for a residential development . During the Second World War , she made Highgrove available to the military , and British and American personnel from RAF

Northolt stayed there .

Highgrove was bought by the Ruislip @-@ Northwood Urban District Council in 1949 following Eleanor Warrender 's death . The Council gave it to the Middlesex County Council and the house became a home for the elderly . In 1965 , ownership passed to the newly established London Borough of Hillingdon and Highgrove became a residential hostel for homeless families . The house received Grade II listed status on 26 November 1975 due to its special architectural character , though was slightly damaged by a fire in the attic in 1979 . According to English Heritage , a Grade II listing denotes " buildings that are of special interest , warranting every effort to preserve them . "

= = = Restoration = = =

The house closed as a hostel in 2007 , after the London Borough of Hillingdon chose to replace its temporary accommodation with affordable permanent housing , in light of a directive from the Government for all local authorities to reduce the number of families in temporary housing by half by 2010 . Highgrove , together with six other buildings was put forward to be sold for redevelopment , with the proceeds to be invested in the construction of new housing .

Permission was granted for the restoration of the house and its conversion into a 12 unit luxury housing block in January 2007 . Part of the conversion work by the new owners , Westcombe Estates , involved the demolition of an annex building to make way for a sheltered housing block . At that time , the total land around and including the house included with the sale was 0 @.@ 74 hectares (1 @.@ 8 acres) . In February 2010 , the planning permission for the work was extended for a further three years .

In June 2010 , an arson attack damaged sections of the ground floor and first floor . Two people were arrested the following day and released on bail in relation to the attack .

The construction of mews houses behind Highgrove House as part of the development was halted in July 2011 after it was found they were being built 1 @.@ 5 metres (4 ft 11 in) out of the positions set in the planning permission . Following a review , the council agreed to allow the developers to continue the work , despite the close proximity to several existing houses bordering the site .