

# Heritage Clubs

A register of Clubs with  
important historic  
interiors

## Selection Criteria

Clubs Working Group



## SELECTION CRITERIA

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The criteria which follow are for the use of Club Working Group (CWG) in deciding which Clubs are eligible for inclusion on the Register. Clubs will be eligible if their interiors satisfy the criteria on either overall intactness or having exceptional rooms or features.

1.2 Nominations for inclusion on the Register can be made by any member of CWG but the pro-forma must be used for this purpose and submitted to the Chairman in the first instance. The nominator must have visited the Club within the past month and have updated the website description where necessary.

### 2 INTACTNESS CRITERIA

2.1 Clubs will be eligible whose interiors are either:

A) wholly or largely intact since before 1945.

B) built between 1939 and 31/12/1969 and essentially intact since construction i.e. any changes derive from repair or maintenance.

C) refurbished as a complete scheme since 1939 and unchanged since 31/12/1969.

2.2 The key quality is intactness, which we define as “the extent to which the interior remains intact, with plan-form unaltered or almost unaltered and most, if not all, the fixtures and fittings surviving from before 1945 (for Clubs built, incorporated or refurbished before or during World War Two) or 31/12/1969 (for Clubs built or refurbished post-War)”

2.3 On plan-form, a complete surviving plan will have lost no internal divisions. Less complete examples may have lost partitions or walls. Only very limited loss of such features will be permitted before an interior fails this selection criterion.

2.4 Plan-form can also be changed by the addition of further rooms or the bringing into Club use of rooms previously used for other purposes. If done sympathetically, and with minimal impact on the essential historic character and layout of the former Club interior, this may be acceptable. However, for Clubs whose overall interior character now owes as much, or more, to modern enlargement as to any surviving historic core, the Exceptional Rooms or Features in Section 3 criteria should be employed in any assessment.

2.5 Fixtures and fittings may include bar counters, bar backs, fixed screens, light fittings, tiled floors or walls, fireplaces, etched or stained glass, but not partitions or other elements of the plan-form. Some fixtures and fittings are especially important i.e. the bar counter, bar back and other elements of the “theatre” around the serving area; any replacement of such features is likely to lead to the criterion not being satisfied. In any event, it will be expected that the vast majority of fixtures and fittings will date from before 1945 (for pre-War Club interiors) or between 1945 and 31/12/1969 (for post-War Club interiors). The emphasis in all of this is on items which reflect the premises' historic function **as a Club**, rather than fixtures and fittings that derive from some earlier use of the building (which, in most cases, would be as a residential building)

2.6 These criteria take no account of the quality of the fixtures and fittings. A basic Club, with a complete set of pre-war fixtures and fittings made by the local joiner, will meet the criteria whereas a lavish late-Victorian Club retaining only a proportion of its original high-class joinery, brasswork or glazing, will fail.

### 3 EXCEPTIONAL ROOMS OR FEATURES CRITERIA

3.1 These criteria cover Club interiors which, although altered to an extent which would exclude them under the Intactness criterion, retain historic rooms or features which are themselves of outstanding national importance and are unaltered since before 1945 (or before 31/12/1969 in the rare case of truly exceptional post-war rooms or features).

3.2 The concept of rarity is important here. The room or feature concerned may be of a type which was always rare, or of a type once common but now infrequently encountered. The other key concept is excellence – the room or feature may clearly be an outstanding example of high-quality design and/or craftsmanship.

3.3 When considering whether a Club meets these criteria, a key question which Group members need to ask themselves is “given a reasonably well-informed and sympathetic audience, is this Club worth sending people out of their way to see?”

3.4 To assist in selecting Clubs using these criteria, the following sub-category headings have been adopted, for internal use only:

**A: Club with an Exceptional Historic Room or Rooms  
(in terms of quality, rarity, or best example of a type).**

**B: Club with an Exceptional Historical Feature(s) or Decorative Scheme  
(in terms of quality, rarity, or best example of a type, including rare  
historic planning arrangements).**

## 4. VOTING

4.1 Voting is restricted to those members who have been granted full voting rights by Club Working Group. All votes must be put in writing to the Chairman and explain the reasoning in support of the member's view. The Chairman will seek further evidence if they consider this necessary.

4.2 Before any candidate can be voted on, at least three members with full voting rights must have visited the Club and conveyed their written views. The exception to this rule is that if the first two surveys yield positive votes then a third visit is not required.

4.3 To secure inclusion using the Intactness criterion, there must be at least two more members with voting rights in favour than there are against. However, after such an endorsement, there will be a six-month period in which members who have not already voted can visit the Club and, if they wish, challenge the decision.

4.4 Selection using the Exceptional Rooms or Features criteria involves a stronger element of judgement, based on the experience and knowledge of those making the call. Therefore, at least three more members must be in favour of inclusion than there are against.

## 5. AUTHENTICATION

5.1 It is essential that every possible step is taken to authenticate all aspects of an interior which render it, ipso facto, eligible for inclusion on the Register. Reference should be made wherever possible to such sources of factual information as building and planning records, early photos, and other historical material, typically held by archives or records offices. Much valid information can also be gleaned from customers who have used a Club for many years.

## PURPOSE

The Register is a vital part of our structured statement of national club preservation priorities. The Register identifies the country's most outstanding club interiors in terms of their high degree of intactness and/or exceptional rooms or features. Following creation of the Register it may warrant the creation of further Regional Inventories. The RIs form the next level, identifying those clubs which, although altered, retain genuine historic layouts, and/or features to a significant degree.

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