



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Myton Hall

Statement of Significance

This statement of significance for Myton Hall, created by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, is derived from research carried out as part of Hambleton District Historic Designed Landscapes project.

1. Heritage Values Summary

The designed landscape of Myton Hall was developed by its owners, the Stapylton family and its successors, over 300 years with major developments in the 19th century. The historic landscape, including a walled kitchen garden, pleasure grounds, parkland, woodland shelter belts, stables and a fishpond, largely remains. The estate therefore provides an important aesthetic asset for the village of Myton on Swale and its visitors. The house, Myton Hall, is grade I listed as are the gate piers, wall and railings facing the Hall.

2. Historical Value ('Narrative')

For over 300 years Myton Hall was occupied by the Stapylton family who owned most of the adjacent village. Bryan Stapylton (d. 1653) built an early Jacobean country house at Myton but the present Hall has been attributed to his grandson Sir Bryan Stapylton (1657-1727). By the 1820s the designed landscape consisted of a small area of parkland of c. 40 acres in addition to a kitchen garden, pleasure grounds, fishponds and plantations and the 'Long Walk' facing the Hall. By the end of the 19th century, the open parkland had expanded to take in pasture land to the north of the Hall and additional pastures facing the Hall. Internal boundaries within the parkland, shelter belts or field boundaries had largely been removed and replaced by a small number of clumps. The pleasure grounds had been remodelled with a former rectilinear design giving way to a more informal structure.

The legacy of Henry Miles Stapylton (1831-1896) is visible throughout the extent of the historical estate. He enhanced the approaches to Myton Hall with a lodge and formal entrance gates on the approaches to the Hall. As one of the foremost 'scientific farmers' of his day he introduced model farm buildings notably the Home Farm and the stud farm, introduced new crops and better breeding stock for livestock. The village also bears the mark of his concerns for his tenants: notably a range of cottages, and a village pump house which survive. Another major achievement was the construction of Myton Bridge modelled on Westminster Bridge, replacing the earlier ferry across the Swale.



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3. Evidential Value ('Research')

Further research might reveal whether the current Hall succeeded or replaced an earlier house, or was erected on a new site and whether the suggestion that the architect John Etty was involved with its construction can be substantiated.

There are few details in the archives of the gardens around the late 17th century Hall, which are listed in the 1798 survey. Geophysical and other surveys on the ground may give some more information on their layout as evidence of hard landscaping may remain.

4. Aesthetic Value ('Emotion')

Myton Hall and its associated park are an integral part of the village of Myton on Swale and have been so for over 300 years. It provides a semi-wooded green space in an otherwise flat, agricultural landscape. The extensive red brick wall and conifer planting surrounding the private gardens are a key feature of the village landscape, as one of the main access roads to the village passes between the Hall and the uninterrupted rolling parkland to the north and south. Although the larger historical farming landscape was sold off in the early 20th century, the present estate provides an aesthetically pleasing landscape.

5. Communal Value ('Togetherness')

A waymarked walk taking in the village, a section of the parkland and the nearby Myton Pasture, the registered site of the Battle of Myton of 1319 which is accessed via the striking Myton Bridge built by Henry Miles Stapylton, allow locals and visitors alike to access and appreciate the rich historical, architectural and natural history of the site.

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