

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

CASE STUDY

West Midlands

For 25 years the Architectural Heritage Fund has helped voluntary organisations regenerate historic buildings, creating community and education facilities, workspace and homes. This has often been a catalyst for further regeneration. We have supported relevant voluntary groups with grants, loans and advice on more than 700 projects to date. This is an example:

Living History Centre: back-to-back dwellings, Ladywood, Birmingham

Built around 1830, these two terraces of houses are the last surviving fragment of Birmingham's "back-to-back" dwellings. They housed semi-skilled workers and provided workshop space for artisans engaged in various trades that were an essential part of the city's life in the last century, when Birmingham had hundreds of acres of back-to-back dwellings. The last of its occupants were moved out in 1966 when the houses were deemed unfit for human habitation, but they somehow managed to escape demolition. The Birmingham Conservation Trust intends to restore the



buildings

and create a history centre in conjunction with the National Trust. This will allow the public to see how much of Birmingham's population lived and worked, and how they contributed to the city's prosperity. Some first-floor dwellings may be available as accommodation for those wishing to visit the city for short breaks. The National Trust also anticipates using some of the buildings as office space when the project is complete in 2004.



Organisation: Birmingham Conservation Trust

Contact: Elizabeth Perkins – 0121 303 2664

Grade II listed

Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: £1,840 Feasibility Study Grant in 1994, £100,000 loan offered in 1998, £ 15,000 Project Organiser Grant offered in 2000

The Architectural Heritage Fund – Registered Charity No 266780

We provide grants, loans and advice to voluntary organisations regenerating historic buildings.

Further information is available from:

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