

Hanham Mausoleum

A free-style classical building faced with Portland cement; square, with a deep projecting cornice surmounted by a dome and a small lantern. It is entered via steps and a round-headed doorway to the west and lit by three stained glass bulls-eye windows.

Adjacent to St Nicholas
Church
Manston
Dorset
DT10 1EX
England

Scan for Google Maps Link



Architects

Not known

Year Built

1876

Style

Neo-Classical

Listing

Grade II (England and Wales)

Condition

By the 1960s the lead from the roof had been stolen and the mausoleum had fallen into disrepair. A programme of repairs were carried out by the present owner of the mansion house in 2009 and completed in 2010. The repair works included reinstating the collapsed cornice, repairing cracks and recovering the roof with a lead substitute. The mausoleum remains well maintained and appears to be in very good state of repair (2020).

History

The mausoleum was built by Captain Thomas Hanham (d.1883) who lived at Manston House. A pioneer for the introduction of cremation to the British Isles, Hanham used the mausoleum to store the bodies of his wife (d.1876) and mother (d.1877) while he sought permission to cremate them. When this was refused, he built his own crematorium and did the job himself in 1882. His own body was cremated there the following year. Hanham's wife and mother, also supporters of cremation were interred in the mausoleum when they died in 1876 and 1877. Cremation was made legal in Britain in 1902.

Sources

BoE: Dorset (1972) 266;

RCHM: Dorset (1970), 3, 144;

Shell Guide: Dorset (1966) 96;

Sir H Thompson, Modern Cremation (1889), 19-20.

Roger Guttridge: Dorset - Curious & Surprising, (Halsgrove)

Photos



Location

SatNav Co-ordinates: 50.934664379998964, -2.262610496000352