

Disposal Report

Worcestershire County Museum Collection

Accession Number 4146 *Angela* Caravan

Background

In 2012 a 1920s hand-built leisure caravan named *Angela* was donated to Worcestershire County Council to reflect the caravanning leisure activities of the wider population and for display behind the Castle 3 Motor Car currently on display in the Transport Gallery at Worcestershire County Museum.

Angela was donated by the Wardle family from Wareham who owned the caravan for almost 70 years and was hand built by the Angela Caravan Company of Flamstead near St.Albans between the years 1922 – 1924 and is one of only 25 remaining. The Angela Caravan Company was formed in 1931 and owned by the Purdey family who had been cart builders for over 100 years. Angela was the name of the owner's daughter. In 1940 the company ceased trading and was taken over by the Army.

There was concern in 2012 that the caravan was in a deteriorated state and the scale of resources that may be required to conserve the item could be significant.

Current Position

The caravan is an original item and offered potential for conservation, but investigations have discovered that it has had many modern alterations prior to acquisition and is in such a poor physical state that it is unsafe for use, fragile and has very little salvageable material on the vehicle to be deemed useful for research or practical study.

- The chassis and wheels will need extensive work, requiring new spokes, tyres and inner tubes.
- All the outer trim will be lost during restoration due to deterioration. Each body panel of the vehicle will need to be removed and replaced.
- The roof is not original and is a fibreglass replacement that will need to be removed.
- Most of the interior has already been removed prior to acquisition or has been destroyed by rodents and will therefore need to be replaced.

All that will remain of the original vehicle is some of the chassis, floor, sides and ends of the mollycroft roof and most of the bare frame of the vehicle but not all as some of this will also need replacing due to rot.



In accordance with the Museums Worcestershire Acquisition and Disposals Procedure, a disposal report was prepared by curatorial officers and a significance matrix created to inform suitability for disposal.

Comes from the Museums Worcestershire geographical collecting area	No – Warwickshire
Has research potential	No - Other examples exist, very little of this example is original or indeed remaining.
Has associations with people or events	No
Is in stable, displayable condition	No
Is an original object	Partly
It is the best/only examples or samples in the collection	Yes, only example
Its is the best/only examples or samples in other collections	No
It is safe to store and handle	No - Structure has become unstable.

Is the object of low significance? Yes

An object should be considered of low significance if it meets five or more of the above criteria

Recommendation

The vehicle is not displayable due to its condition, is damaged beyond repair and cannot be moved or worked upon without further significant damage, leaving very little left of the original useful for research or conservation. It is recommended that object be deaccessioned from the collection.

Museums Worcestershire would aim to retain the object and **reconstruct** the caravan for use as a working object placed outside in the grounds of Worcestershire County Museum **rather than conserve** the object as a museum artefact.