

8 August 2022

Infrastructure NSW
C/-Mr Tom Kennedy
GTK Consulting
PO Box R220
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Dear Tom,

**POWERHOUSE PARRAMATTA RESPONSE TO FURTHER SUBMISSIONS – MOD 1 TO STATE
SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT CONSENT SSD-10416 – ST GEORGE'S TERRACE**

I refer to your request for heritage advice in relation to submissions made by the City of Parramatta Council (the Council) for the Section 4.55(1A) Modification Application (MOD 1) to the Powerhouse Parramatta project (SSD-10416) with regard to St George's Terrace.

Advisian understands that the Council has recommended the reinstatement and restoration of the first-floor verandahs to St Georges Terrace (reference No. COPC18 and COPC28). Council's response of 15 July 2022 stated that:

"The balconies floor details and the upper balcony roofing are documented in manuals and similar example across Sydney. Unfortunately, no other example of a row of terraces with the same characteristic of St George terrace exist in Parramatta LGA. Therefore, this part of the facade is considered vital to Council to ensure the reinterpretation is authentic to the building's original fabric as a double storey terrace home and not a 1970's era shop façade.

The balconies are a distinctive characteristic of this typology and double storey terrace. It is strongly recommended that those would be reinstated using traditional materials with simple details if not evidences of the original are sourced."

In responding to Council's recommendation, the relevant Articles from *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013* (The Burra Charter) have been considered in Table 1. The Burra Charter provides best practice guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance.

Table 1 Relevant Articles of The Burra Charter

Article	Response
3.2 Changes to a <i>place</i> should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.	Reconstruction when proposed under the context of this Article indicates that evidence is important when considering making changes to a place. See Article 20.1 for further discussion.

Article	Response
20.1 <i>Reconstruction</i> is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the <i>fabric</i> . In some cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the <i>cultural significance</i> of the place.	<p>The conservation process of “reconstruction” differs from “restoration” in that “<i>reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material</i>” (Article 1.8). Applying this definition and Article 20.1 to St George’s Terrace, it is acknowledged that the place, especially its verandahs, is incomplete through previous intrusive alterations. However, there must be sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of fabric. Whilst two-storey terraces were commonly built across Sydney in the late Victorian period, given the lack of original drawings or available historical images (prior to significant alterations) and Council’s comment that no other comparative examples exist in the Parramatta Local Government Area, it is not considered that reconstruction could be applied in this case to a dominant façade element.</p> <p>The Statement of Significance notes that St George’s Terraces is an example of “<i>modest Victorian period terraces</i>”. Whilst there exists a basic description for some of the former elements that featured on the façade, a full understanding of the verandah detailing employed by builder, Herbert Coates, can only be speculated. For example, the design and materials employed for the verandahs and all of its constituting columns, balustrades, friezes, brackets and fringes that typically featured in the Victorian Filigree and similar architectural styles of the period.</p>
20.2 <i>Reconstruction</i> should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional <i>interpretation</i> .	It is proposed that in lieu of an authentic reconstruction of the first-floor verandahs, an interpretive element would be installed to complement the remaining brick privacy walls with recessed arches that currently provide some physical evidence of the former verandahs and the residential terrace typology.

Advisian notes that Infrastructure NSW have provided responses previously in relation to the rationale for the adaptive reuse approach adopted for conservation of St George’s Terrace which is intended to provide a flexible programming space to support operation of the Powerhouse Parramatta.

I trust this letter is satisfactory to you.

Yours faithfully,



Claire Jones
Advisian Pty Ltd