

**NEWCASTLE MUSEUM
SECTION 75W - MINOR MODIFICATION TO A PART 3A DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL
(MP06_0083)**

SCOPE OF WORKS AND DESIGN STATEMENT

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View of existing Newcastle Northern Entrance (Prior to gate installation)

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1.0 Introduction

The following report outlines the proposed minor modification to the recently completed Newcastle Museum.

2.0 Current approvals

The Museum's development approval is through the Part 3A, special use zone of HoneySuckle Special Area. The approval was granted on 23 June, 2009 and a subsequent minor modification was granted in for external plantrooms and minor interior revisions. (MP06_0083 Mod 1 - 10/12/09)

3.0 Proposed modification

The recently opened Newcastle Museum are proposing to construct a set of painted steel gates to secure the northern entrance to the Museum.

The main purpose of the gates is for after hours security, as the gates are an essential component of the Museum's security plan. The area created between the existing buildings and the new foyer defines a large courtyard or re entrant space. This area gives direct access to the main glazed front entrance doors which, because of their design, do not provide the levels of security required for a museum and its collections.

The area is popular with the patrons of late-night venues in the immediate vicinity and has in the past been a focus for anti-social behaviour. As part of the need to protect the buildings and the public amenity, it is crucial that the enclosed area not be open to public access when the Museum is closed. The small spaces created beside the new structure, used for heritage interpretation, are particularly vulnerable and there is a requirement that these are secured when the museum is closed.

4.0 Design Statement

The gates have been designed to work with both the heritage industrial site as well as providing a link to the design of the new architecture. They have been designed by an artist / blacksmith directly under Council's Public Art Program and are seen as being highly appropriate for the task in hand. They have minimal contact with the building fabric and have been designed to complement the overall precinct.

Simplifying the design so as not to conflict with the contemporary architectural design has been addressed by using clean simple lines and little ornamentation. The complex curve of the gate header is a reference to the striking roofline design of the Entrance Foyer and the Temporary Gallery between the Erecting Shed and the Boiler Shop.

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5.0 Function

The reasons for installing the gates are site specific for the functionality of the building use. i.e evening functions in the courtyard, Café and discouraging anti social activity after closing hours. Other locations are not used for the same purposes.

In the development of the gates a number of options have been explored by the project team to meet all requirements. The proposed option is the agreed option to meet all constraints - heritage impact, fire egress and structural. The gates comply with the fire engineered solution for egress.

6.0 Heritage Impact

In preliminary discussions, the following queries have been raised by the Heritage Council.

How does the design relate to the elements of the historic buildings?

The design intent is to make reference to the existing heritage buildings earlier use as a blacksmiths shop and boiler room. This is achieved by using substantial steel sections as used in turn of the century decorative iron gates in the palisade fence style as well as the railway theme with the bridge like curves on the gate header and door handles which refer to the 'Buck' railway engine featured in the collection.

What is the impact of these gates on the overall visual character of the group of heritage buildings?

The gates are positioned between what was originally open space between the buildings but visually make a link between the old and new. Views of the original buildings are not impacted.

What are the physical impacts ie how the gates are attached to heritage fabric?

Using the traditional method of inserting the railings into as small a cavity as possible in the brickwork at four points is seen as the least invasive means of attachment and in keeping with the heritage fence installation techniques of the time.

What sort of excavation is required for the foundations?

4 x concrete footings were installed for the gate posts with a heritage consultant present to ensure excavation did not impact on any resulting archaeology found. The area was mapped in conjunction with the rest of the building and footings were designed not to impact on the identified archaeology.

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Are there any archaeological implications?

Not in the construction of the gates, however the insertion of the footings have been monitored under the requirements of the Archaeological Management Plan.