

Heritage Statement - Part 2

As noted in Part 1, Falmouth Civic Society have obtained support and funding from the local community to replace the stolen Fitzroy barometer and to reposition it as close as practically possible to its original position on the face of the Old Custom House. In 2013 consent was given (PA13/03623) to move the granite housing of the barometer to a position under the portico and hidden behind a column, effectively privatising as it is within the external seating of the Stable restaurant. In this position it is neither publicly accessible nor visible from the street – a far cry from its original purpose and intention when gifted to Falmouth in 1868.

Returning the barometer close to its original position, as shown in elevations SM038-1-11 and FCS 01, will ensure it again becomes a valuable community asset, visible to all passing by, and one that reflects its heritage. It will be carefully moved back in accordance with the accompanying Method Statement.

The main change to the housing will be the replacement of the timber framed door and glass with a marine grade stainless-steel housing and lockable door with security 'glass' (security grade UV stabilised coated Polycarbonate which is non-breakable). The old timber framed door and glass was clearly insecure (as the theft of the barometer showed), and it has been vandalised while in the position under the portico. There are precedents for similar stainless-steel barometer housings, for example in Coverack, so the proposal is not an unusual one. We view this as important, as original Fitzroy barometers are rare and valuable, and so security is vital to prevent further theft or damage from vandalism. The design is simple and elegant and shows the barometer to its best effect. It will be accompanied by two stainless steel plaques, one recognising the community donors, and the other an interpretation of its history.

The Old Custom House is Grade II* Listed, and it is in close proximity to the Grade II* Listed Offices (of the former G C Fox & Co), no. 48 Arwenack Street, and also close to a number of other Grade II Listed buildings. The move to near its original position will have no impact on these buildings, or on the Old Custom House. The only historic loss is to the railings and being able to place it in exactly its old position, which we would have preferred to do – but this has been ruled out by the insertion of a door for disabled access. The new door, the moving of the Barometer housing and removal of the railings were permitted in the 2013 planning consent PA13/03623.

We believe that this proposal is important in restoring a part of our heritage and returns a valuable community asset to the people of Falmouth in a place as close as possible to where it originally stood.



The Barometer housing as it was prior circa 2013



The Barometer Housing prior to moving for disabled door access in 2016 following approval under applications PA13/06323 and 06324.



The existing position of the barometer housing under portico at left hand end and only accessible by negotiating dining tables and chairs.



The existing housing door in badly damaged wood and broken glass.



The proposed position is between the door and window shutters where plant pot located where it will be accessible to the public but not interfering with disabled access door.

A larger image of the FitzRoy Barometer purchased by the Falmouth Civic Society for insertion in the re-located Granite Housing

