

METHOD STATEMENT: Barometer Housing Relocation

INTRODUCTION

The barometer housing, was moved to its current position under the portico of the The Stable (Old Custom House) in 2016 from its original position on the street elevation to make way for a disabled access door as part of the List Building and Planning Consent PA13/03624. The proposal is to re-locate the housing as close as possible to its original position and to install a barometer similar to the original Fitzroy barometer which was stolen in the 1960s.

The housing is constructed of 3 components:

1. Concrete Plinth:

- Cement rendered masonry (concrete block) with a masonry paint finish, built off stone paving slabs.
- Chamfered at head to meet granite base above.
- Dimensions W1140 x H500 x D460mm.
- Back of plinth built against wall of the building.

2. Granite base section:

- Honed finish local granite.
- Rectangular block with moulded socket/skirting for barometer case.
- Rear rests against wall of building.
- Inscribed at lower right, front: "FREEMAN, PENRYN"
- Sits on top of the rendered base plinth.
- No visible mortar joint between the two components.
- Removal or render from plinth section will determine method of connection between two elements (suspect mortar joint only) which shall be replicated during reassembly.

3. Granite barometer housing section:

- Honed finish local granite sitting in base socket.
- Inscribed at head, front: "ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION"
- Tall, narrow badly damaged timber door with broken glass viewing panel (from theft of barometer).
- Barometer instrument absent (stolen).
- Detached from wall of building.
- Suspected dowel joints (concealed) to connect with base.
- This component is not attached to the wall and there is a gap of 115mm to the wall behind the section. On reassembly we will attempt the same method of refitting to the section above and below though for public safety a stainless steel anchor strap resin anchored into grommet top and wall may be required.

RELOCATION METHODOLOGY:

1. Rendered concrete block replica plinth to be formed in proposed position ready to receive granite base & housing.
2. The barometer housing section to be lifted from the base section by a specialist monumental mason.
3. Granite base removed from plinth by a specialist contractor.
4. Base and housing reassembled on new plinth by monumental mason replicating original techniques.
5. Disused rendered plinth to be removed. Render on building wall to be made good with render mix, decorative scribing/plinth band and paint finish all to match existing.
6. Stone Paving slabs to be made good.
7. The completed work shall be photographed and added to a full photographic record of all stages of the work, a copy of which to be available to the Local Planning Authority upon request.

END