

Heritage Statement
E024217 - KNOBBYS KARAOKE BAR, 2 - 8 WEST ST, Blackpool, FY1 1HA

The ATM site is located within the Town Centre conservation area which was designated in 1984. Blackpool town centre is the commercial and entertainment heart of the town containing a mix of buildings of different styles, types and ages. The seafront has always been Blackpool's key driver, from its early days attracting visitors eager to bathe and promenade to today's collection of leisure facilities along its length, and modern public spaces such as the Comedy Carpet. The historic shopping area is focused around Abingdon Street, with a grid of north-south and east-west streets containing shops and other commercial premises running off it.

The spatial character of the north of the area is uniformly dense, with a regular, tight urban grain and a strong sense of enclosure in the streetscene. The spatial character of streets is related to the role of each street in the street hierarchy with Dickson Road being the widest street reflecting its role as a through route and local centre. East-west streets leading to the sea and close to the town centre tend to be wider than those further inland, with funnel-shaped spaces towards the sea particularly at the west end of Queen Street; these 'squares' provide valuable open spaces, connecting to the Promenade with views of the sea. Most of the grid-pattern streets have a homogenous spatial character, narrower in width than principal routes and with well-defined building lines created by uniform terraces.

The architectural character of the town centre is varied, representing architectural styles from the mid to late 19th century to the present day. The buildings exhibit an eclectic mix of styles and finishes, with many 20th and 21st century characteristics, typical of a busy town centre. Typical architectural styles from the late 19th century are fairly well represented, including Renaissance, Baroque and classical styles, while Gothic Revival is largely confined to places of worship. Quite a number of buildings exhibit interwar features, reflecting a spike in activity during this period when re-building and re-fronting of existing properties occurred. Styles adopted are typical of the period and include free classical compositions, and others of Art Deco inspiration such as the former Woolworth's building and the former Burton's Building. There is also a good collection of faience-clad buildings on Topping Street. No. 28 was re-modelled in 1933 as the new showrooms for Naylor's Fireplaces by John C. Derham, FRIBA, of Blackpool, emulating a proscenium arch or even a giant fireplace. Stanley Buildings on Cauce Street/Church Street is another good example, which was designed by J C Robinson of the Borough Surveyor's Department (fig. 12).

The components and materials used are sympathetic to the local area, great care was taken when work was done on the building. The ATM does not affect any existing architectural features and the integrity of the property.

Taken in context of the building and shop front, the ATM and signage are in proportion to the existing shopfront features. Any works done to the exterior of the building would be easily reversed and replaced to match with the existing frontage and return it to its previous state.