

Design & Access Statement

For Planning and Listed Building Application at 19 Mercer Row, Louth LN11 9JG

1. Introduction

This statement accompanies the application for Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission for the replacement of windows on the front elevation of the Grade II listed property at 19 Mercer Row.

2. Location

The property is situated on Mercer Row within the vibrant town centre of Louth, surrounded by numerous town centre amenities.

3. History

The building, a 3-story terraced red brick structure, holds historical significance as a Grade II listed property as part of the block listing for properties 17 to 23 Mercer Row.

4. Proposal - Window Replacement Details

The proposal includes the replacement of windows on the first and second floors of the South elevation facing Mercer Row:

- **First Floor Windows:** Two windows measuring approximately 1300mm x 2400mm. Originally, these windows featured margin light sashes but were altered to a different style, similar to those at 21 Mercer Row (6 over 6 configuration). The replacement will adhere to the original style and size.
- **Second Floor Windows:** Two windows to be reinstated in their original 3 over 6 configuration. Notably, one window was previously replaced with an opening out flush fitting casement, currently in a precarious state. This window will be restored to its original 3 over 6 design for both authenticity and safety concerns.

5. Window Replacement Specifications

- **Material and Manufacture:** All proposed windows will be manufactured in softwood and installed with sash weights, replicating the historical construction methods.
- **Glazing:** The windows will feature 4mm glazing, toughened where necessary, and factory-face glazed to ensure consistent quality and compliance with safety standards.
- **Finish:** A uniform white finish will be applied to the windows, both internally and externally, maintaining a cohesive appearance in line with the property's historic aesthetic.

6. Design Principles and Contextual Integrity

In alignment with the original window configurations, the proposal ensures the restoration of the windows to their former design, reinstating their architectural authenticity within the listed building context.

6. Access Consideration

Given the nature of the proposed works limited to window replacements, the project does not introduce any modifications or alterations affecting the existing access to the building.

7. Access Consultation and Impact

- **Consultation:** Given that the proposed works solely involve window replacements without altering access, dedicated consultations regarding access modifications were unnecessary.
- **Positive Impact:** The proposed restoration of the windows is anticipated to positively contribute to the building's overall integrity. By aligning with the historical style and rectifying safety concerns, these renovations aim to enhance the building's aesthetic appeal and safeguard its structural soundness.

8. Conclusion

The proposed restoration of the windows at 19 Mercer Row is poised to significantly enhance the building's visual appeal, reinstating its historical style and contributing positively to the streetscape within the town centre.

Furthermore, the rectification of the precarious second-floor window aligns with not only the building's aesthetic improvement but also ensures the safety and structural integrity of the property. This restoration effort not only preserves the building's heritage but also serves to elevate the overall architectural character of the area.