

HERITAGE STATEMENT.

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Heritage Statement Completed by:-

Name: Mrs E R A Wood

Contact number and email address; [REDACTED]

OWNERS;

Mrs E R A Wood

Mrs E C Toye

HERITAGE STATEMENT:
Durham, DH1 1QT

Site Name: Capital Restaurant, 69 Claypath, Ground Floor,

1A DESCRIPTION OF THE HERITAGE ASSET:

Listed Building

1 (b) Description of the character and appearance of the heritage asset.

No 69 – 1841 the whole building was the former Mechanics Institute built by Ignatius Bonomi and JA Cory. Currently listed Building Grade II distinctive due to its fine sandstone ashlar frontage incorporating a 6 panelled door in a wide architrave under a cornice.

The building No. 69 The Auction Rooms and 70 Claypath also owned by Mr G.E. Wood (son of J.W. Wood) which became his head office for J.W. Wood and Son. When they moved from North Road. Until his death in 1973. When the property was taken over by his daughters the current owners. Both properties were both listed on the 10th March, 1988.

They have both been used for restaurants since then, keeping, the interior with original features and the stonework outside has recently been cleaned. Hence the current tenants wanted to change the sign to blend in with the newly painted front doors, now black as internally is also regularly redecorated and in excellent condition.

In 1971 planning permission was received for illuminated signage.

THE EXTENT OF THE ASSET and SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ASSET.

The development site is located on Claypath, a street that still follows its original medieval route and retains its overall form. The Victorian building of 69 is situated rising up the hill Eastwards from the Market Place and Walkergate, and blends in with the adjacent listed buildings No.70 being the oldest, and Georgian properties more domestic in nature. This part of Claypath has a multivariate character of the street, many different architectural styles with many of the commercial properties being converted into student accommodation. Also locating pubs, and restaurants.

Number 69 is the former Mechanics institute built in 1841 as above.

THE PROPOSED WORK includes the change of the current advertising sign of the Restaurant name "The Capital" the sign is the same size as the one taken down recently, and is using the same hanging bracket the difference as mentioned above is it is in Black and White to match the newly painted front entrance doors which are now black. Looking smarter. In the planning application we have included a photo of the old sign and a photo of the new sign.

Currently and for some time the upstairs restaurant has been closed and the first floor is empty, hence we have taken down the signs relating to the first floor business, until we are ready to re let.

Due to our knowledge of being in a mixed community, we restrict the hours of The Capital Restaurant to 5.00 p.m. to 10 p.m. so the lit sign will only ever be on for those 5 hrs. As they are not open during the day time. We agreed the hours many years ago as a gesture of goodwill to the local community.

THE IMPACT ON THE ASSET

Proposed change does not alter the relationship between the buildings as that side of the road at the end nearest to the Market Place has take-aways, pubs all opposite Millenium Square at the bottom of the hill. There are other businesses such as Estate Agents and over the road there are some commercial shops like Tesco, but sadly some more student accommodation has replaced commercial businesses. Our Restaurants are of a high quality and we do need to have more commercial businesses in Durham to boost the visitor numbers again. With many more modern areas of Durham, Claypath is one of the places where history and modernity blend together, also having a good mix of visitors and local population.

Sources of Information:

The County Durham Historic Environment Record

National Heritage list

The Owners family history of owning these premises always for commercial use.