



Replacement of Existing Basement Sash Window with New Ventilation Louvre

Park House North St, Horsham RH12 1RN

Heritage Statement

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Heritage Statement has been prepared to support an application for Listed Building Consent for the replacement of an existing basement sash window with a fixed ventilation louvre at Park House, North Street, Horsham.

1.2 Park House is a Grade II* listed building of considerable architectural and historic significance. This statement assesses the significance of the heritage asset and evaluates the impact of the proposed works in accordance with statutory duties and national policy.

1.3 This statement should be read alongside the submitted Design and Access Statement and associated drawings.

2.0 Legislative and Policy Context

2.1 Under Section 16(2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, decision makers are required to have special regard to the desirability of preserving a listed building, its setting, and any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

2.2 National policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that great weight be given to the conservation of designated heritage assets. Any harm must be clearly justified and minimised, and proposals which preserve significance should be supported.

3.0 The Heritage Asset

3.1 Park House is an 18th-century building listed at Grade II*, reflecting its high level of significance. The building's special interest derives from its age, architectural quality, historic plan form, and contribution to the character of North Street.

3.2 The principal significance of the building is embodied in:

- Its formal street-facing elevations
- Historic fabric and structural elements
- Proportions, detailing, and materials
- Its role within the historic streetscape

3.3 The basement lightwell to the rear (west elevation), where the proposed works are located, is not publicly visible and does not contribute to the primary architectural composition of the building.

4.0 Description of the Affected Element

4.1 The element proposed for alteration is a timber sliding sash window located at basement level within the rear lightwell.

4.2 The window does not appear to be original and has been subject to alteration, which further reduces its contribution to the building's significance. It appears to be of limited historic and architectural significance, it does not form part of the principal elevation and has been subject to alteration, including the installation of secondary glazing

4.3 The window makes a negligible contribution to the overall significance of the listed building, particularly given its location to the rear at basement level within a concealed lightwell.

5.0 Description of the Proposed Works

5.1 The proposal comprises:

- Removal of the existing sash window and secondary glazing
- Installation of a fixed polyester powder-coated aluminium ventilation louvre within the existing opening
- Retention of the existing sill and surrounding fabric

5.2 The new louvre will be finished in a muted matt grey to match existing louvres within the lightwell and ensure a visually recessive appearance.

5.3 No alteration to the size of the opening is proposed, and the works are fully reversible.

6.0 Impact on Significance

6.1 The proposed works will preserve the significance of the Grade II* listed building.

6.2 The intervention is minor in scale, localised to a secondary and concealed area, limited to fabric of low significance.

6.3 The removal of the existing window will not result in the loss of important historic fabric or features that contribute meaningfully to the building's special architectural or historic interest.

6.4 The installation of a ventilation louvre will not adversely affect the character or appearance of the building, particularly given its location within a rear lightwell, the presence of existing louvres establishing a precedent and the use of a muted and recessive finish.

6.5 The proposal results in no harm and therefore preserves the significance of the listed building in accordance with statutory and national policy requirements.

7.0 Justification and Public Benefit

7.1 Improved ventilation is required to ensure appropriate environmental conditions within the basement and to prevent damp-related deterioration of the building's historic fabric.

7.2 The proposed solution provides a practical and low impact means of improving ventilation, supports the long-term conservation of the building and avoids intervention to more sensitive or prominent elements.

7.3 The works represent a proportionate and conservation led response to a functional requirement.

8.0 Conclusion

8.1 The proposed replacement of a basement sash window with a ventilation louvre is a minor, reversible intervention affecting a non-significant element of the building.

8.2 The works will preserve the significance of Park House and comply with the requirements of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the NPPF.

8.3 Listed Building Consent is therefore respectfully sought.