

Star and Garter, Fairfield Street, Manchester

Design and Access Statement

August 2023

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Report

Design and Access Statement

Site

Star and Garter, Fairfield Street, Manchester

Client

Headstock Limited

Date

August 2023

Planning Authority

Manchester City Council

Grid Reference

SJ 85008 97724

Prepared By

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Approved By

Dr Rob Smith MCIfA

Report Status

FINAL

Orion Ref

PN3891/DAS/1

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Context
- 3.0 Proposals
- 4.0 Methodology and Specification for historic fabric

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Design and Access Statement has been prepared in relation to proposals for the installation of a mural depicting Ian Curtis of Joy Division to the gable wall of the Grade II listed Star and Garter Public House on Fairfield Street, Manchester.
- 1.2 Orion Heritage were instructed by Headstock Festival to provide heritage support to obtain listed building consent for the mural following the removal of the original artwork from its location at 75 Port Street, when it was painted over with an advertisement for Manchester rapper Aitch's album, on 17th August 2022.
- 1.3 The implications of the proposals in terms of heritage impacts are discussed in the heritage statement which accompanies the Design and Access Statement.
- 1.4 Section 4 of this DAS contains an advised methodology and specification for the work to be undertaken to the building fabric in respect of the installation of the mural. This information is supported by a detailed method statement.

Location and Description

- 1.5 The site is located at the Star and Garter Public House, Fairfield Road, Manchester. The subject building is shown at (plates 1-3).
- 1.6 The building is a late Victorian public house, constructed in red brick and of a hybrid Gothic and Baroque design.



1.7

Plate 1 View of western elevation of the Star and Garter from Fairfield Road



Plate 2 View of principal elevation of the Star and Garter from Fairfield Road



Plate 3 View of eastern elevation of the Star and Garter from Fairfield Road

2.0 Context

Physical Context of the Application Site

- 2.1 The application site is located to the gable end wall of the Grade II listed Star and Garter public house, which is the only surviving nineteenth century building to the plot of land adjacent to the south flank of Fairfield Street. The remainder of the street frontage is currently gravelled and used for car parking.
- 2.2 The immediate environs of the site are made up of the supporting fabric of the railway infrastructure and associated buildings, including the Grade II listed Engine Shed, undercroft and Goods office at Manchester Piccadilly. The elevated railway track over Travis Street and the B6469 generates a degree of severance of longer vistas. The remaining structure of the former Mayfield Station has been repurposed as an arts and entertainment venue.

Historic and Social Context

- 2.3 The mural of Ian Curtis had been painted on the wall of 75 Port Street in October 2020 and was opened to celebrate World Mental Health day and support Manchester Mind, Help Musicians and promote the 24/7 wellbeing text service Shout. The iconic status of the work and its association with the city's identity led to a second Curtis mural in Macclesfield. Both murals were viewed as tourist attractions.
- 2.4 The mural was overpainted with a music advertisement in August 2022 leading to a public outcry within the Manchester community and the wider music community. The search for an alternate wall, ideally within the Northern Quarter began in later August 2022, with the Star and Garter offered as a prospective site.
- 2.5 The historic fabric of the building, which dates from the later nineteenth century, currently suffers under concrete render which is believed to date from the demolition of the buildings adjacent in the 1980s and the exposure of the wall at this time. The Star and Garter was not listed until 1988, and the historic fabric therefore had no statutory protection to ensure that an appropriate lime based render was applied to allow for the capillary action of moisture removal from the brick.
- 2.6 The installation of the mural can be achieved to the higher portion of the wall, with the lower portion having its substrate preserved by re-rendering.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposed development comprises the installation of a mural to the eastern gable end wall of the public house.
- 3.2 The mural depicts the singer Ian Curtis of the post-punk band Joy Division, who died by suicide in 1980, shortly before the release of their second album, Closer and on the eve of the band's first North American tour.
- 3.3 The details relating to the installation of the mural, health and safety considerations, materials are supplied in the RAMS and COSHH documents accompanying the application.

- 3.4 Following the completion of the temporary approval of the mural the wall would have its white painted render reinstated, using a similar approach to the installation methods.

Plates



Plate 4 Mock up of Mural on eastern elevation of the Star and Garter from Fairfield Road