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JANET CLARKE HALL H2334

NEW FRONT FENCE & LANDSCAPING

57-63 COLLEGE CRESENT PARKVILLE

HERITAGE ACT 2017 HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

10 April 2024



1. Project details

1.1. Heritage Impact Statement for:

Janet Clarke Hall, 57-63 College Crescent Parkville H2334.

1.2. This Heritage Impact Stage forms part of a permit application for:

The construction of a new boundary fence and landscaping at Janet Clarke Hall, The University of Melbourne.

1.3. Prepared for:

Janet Clarke Hall, The University of Melbourne

1.4. Prepared by:

Michael Taylor Architecture & Heritage.
Level 6, 443 Little Collins Street Melbourne.

1.5. Date:

10 April 2024

2. Significance of the place or object

2.1. Heritage Listings/Studies

Heritage Act 2017

The site and building are located on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) as Janet Clarke Hall H2334. The extent of registration is illustrated on the diagram below.

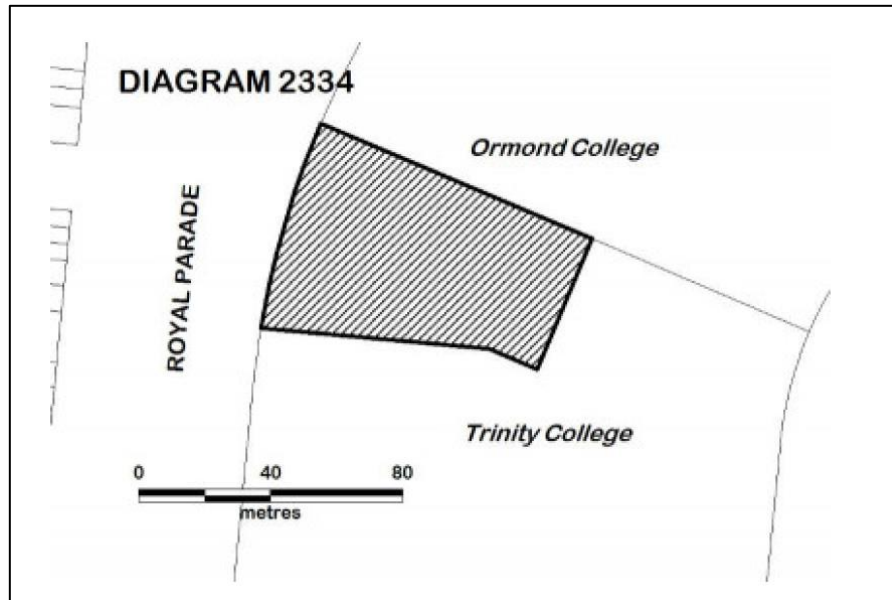


Figure 1, VHR diagram 2334 showing the extent of H2334 Janet Clarke Hall (VHR)

Melbourne City Council (MCC)

The site is also included on the MCC's Heritage Overlay as HO340. The extent of registration matches that of the VHR.

Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

A CMP was written for Janet Clarke Hall in 2006/7 by Lovell Chen. The document provides historical analysis for the place as well as policy and guidelines to guide future development of the site. The CMP notes that the fence is of no significance.

2.2. Cultural heritage significance of the place or object

Janet Clarke Hall is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria. Its statement of significance notes:

Janet Clarke Hall is historically significant as the first university college in Victoria, and in Australia, built solely for female students. It has provided residential, recreational and tutorial assistance for female students at the University of Melbourne since 1891. It is significant for its continuous use as a university college for over a century and for its role in the development of women's tertiary education in Victoria. (Criterion A)

Janet Clarke Hall was unique in its foundation in Australia and was ground breaking in its establishment, as similar women's colleges were not established in other Australian states until the early mid-twentieth century, and in Victoria until 1918. (Criterion B)

Janet Clarke Hall is a fine example of an eclectic late nineteenth century Gothic Revival institutional building and of a residential university college. (Criterion D)

Janet Clarke Hall is significant for its association with several prominent Victorians. These include its founder Dr Alexander Leeper, the first Warden of Trinity College, and Janet Lady Clarke, a supporter of many philanthropic, cultural and educational movements in nineteenth century Victoria, who made possible the construction of the main wing, and after whom the College is named. Janet Clarke Hall is also significant for its association with some of Melbourne's major architects and architectural firms, including Charles D'Ebro, William Blackett and A & K Henderson. (Criterion H)

Janet Clarke Hall is also significant for the following reasons, but not at the State level:

Janet Clarke Hall is of local significance as a landmark in the Parkville area since the 1890s and for its long association with the University of Melbourne. It is associated with distinguished former students and scholars such as the long-serving Principal Enid Joske, the Nobel Laureate Prof Elizabeth Blackburn, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission Prof Gillian Triggs, Chancellor of Sydney University Dame Leonie Kramer, Chancellor of Melbourne University Dr Fay Marles, Chancellor of La Trobe University Prof Adrienne Clarke and Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University Prof Sally Walker.¹

2.3. Existing condition of the place

Janet Clarke Hall was built in 1891, with subsequent wings built in 1927, 1929, 1956 and 1962. The building is three storeys tall, constructed of brick with contrasting sandstone and rendered detailing. The main 1891 wing which fronts College Crescent/Royal Parade has a gothic revival style with a steep pitched slate tile roof.



Figure 2, Janet Clarke Hall principal facade addressing College Crescent (February 2023)

The residential college is located next to two other VHR properties, Ormond College H0728 and Trinity College H0100.

¹ VHD citation – Janet Clarke Hall, Statement of Significance.

The existing boundary fence along College Crescent, Parkville, was built in 1973. The fence is constructed using a blend of brown, red and Hawthorn Bricks and features a central metal decorative pedestrian gate, flanked by two light posts on the entrances brick piers. Creeping plants grow along much of the fence.



Figure 3, Janet Clarke Hall front fence existing conditions of central entrance gate (2023)

Permission was granted in early 2023 for the partial demolition of the fence, maintaining the central fence and pillars and construction of a temporary hoarding to comply with a Melbourne City Council (MCC) emergency works order. These works commenced in May 2023.

Behind the fence is a brick paved footpath and basic landscaping including planted garden beds and some larger trees. A fire hydrant is also located towards the north. Concealed behind the wall.



Figure 4, existing condition of the courtyard behind the wall/fence (2023)



Figure 5, Partially demolished fence following permit exemption works (June 2023)

2.4. Current use of the place

Janet Clarke Hall is a residential college at the University of Melbourne.

3. Proposal

3.1. Background to works

An MCC Building Notice was served to JCH on the 14 November 2022. It noted:

- *The masonry wall located along the front street alignment of 57-63 College Crescent, Parkville (commonly known as Janet Clarke Hall) is structurally unsound and presents a risk to the occupants and members of the public. For the location of the wall, refer Appendix A at the rear of this building notice.*
- *Demolish the masonry wall located along the front street alignment of 57-63 College Crescent, Parkville (commonly known as Janet Clarke Hall) and make the area safe.*

A Heritage Act Permit exemption P38060 was granted for the partial demolition/ lowering of the brick fence and construction of a temporary solid fence in February 2023 with the qualification that MTA&H were engaged to design a new replacement fence.

The fence was partially demolished, and a temporary hoarding installed in May 2023.

3.2. The proposed works

- Demolition of temporary hoarding and remaining fence and gate.
- Removal of all courtyard plants, garden beds and paving.
- Construction of a new brick and metal palisade fence.
- Relocation of the existing 1938 memorial gate and lamps to the new transverse fence abounding the Assistant Principal's private garden space.
- Construction of new landscaping to front entrance including a new entry ramp, landing and steps. New paving to be bluestone to match the existing steps and landing materials.

4. Information to support an assessment against sections 101(2) and 010(3) of the *Heritage Act 2017*

4.1. Impact of the proposal on the cultural heritage significance of the place or object

4.1.1. Physical impacts

The proposed demolition of the remainder of the existing fence and temporary hoardings will have no adverse physical impact on the sites noted cultural heritage significance. The fence is not original, in poor condition and does not contribute to the sites noted significance historical or architectural significance.

The site's 2007 CMP supports the demolition of fabric of no significance.

The 1938 memorial gate, a one-off donation to commemorate a Scottish Baronet's Australian mother, will be retained and relocated to the Assistant Principal's garden fence. Refer to Dr Peter Mills' *Eleonor Furness Memorial Gate* advice, 11 April 2023, previously issued to HV under RFI 1.

4.1.2. Visual impacts

The proposed new brick and palisade fence has been designed to complement the material and architectural character of Janet Clarke Hall, without being of a faux-heritage design.

Early photographs of the college and neighbouring sites show a timber picket boundary fence. This fence no longer exists on either adjacent VHR sites which now have contemporary fences. These served as precedence for the proposed works. Reconstruction of a timber picket fence is not proposed as this boundary condition does not meet the College's security or access requirements.

A timber picket fence would also require more maintenance and is less sustainable than the proposed construction. The site's CMP has no policies requiring the reconstruction of an early fence. Reconstruction of a plain timber picket fence would also not contribute to the site's noted architectural significance as an example of an eclectic late nineteenth century Gothic Revival institutional building.



Figure 6, Janet Clarke Hall c1910-1920 (SLV 2023)

The fence will be constructed with sandstone or cement rendered plinth with brick pillars and metal palisade fencing. Pillars will be capped with sandstone or cement render to match the plinth. The central gate will be constructed in a similar material to the fencing with pediment metal artwork. The design is to be finalised following design consultation within the college. This can be subject to a permit condition.

The brick pillars will be constructed in a pressed clay red brick cohesive with the facade of Janet Clarke Hall behind and not detracting from the College building significant architectural appearance.

The palisade fencing provides a level of transparency, reducing visual bulk and providing views of the principal facade of the College behind from the public realm on College Crescent. The facade was previously obscured by the existing solid fence and overgrown trees, the removal of which will improve the appearance of the College within the streetscape and wider University of Melbourne context.

There is precedence in the College Crescent/ Royal Parade streetscape for contemporary palisade fences to VHR properties including the neighbouring Ormond College H0728 and Trinity College H0100. The proposed new fence at Janet Clarke Hall will not look out of place within this context and will contribute to visual cohesion across the College Crescent/ Royal Parade boundary, having no adverse impact on the significance of these adjacent VHR sites.

The new fence and proposed landscaping will improve the college's overall appearance to the College Crescent/ Royal Parade replacing the existing fence which was in poor condition and partially demolished. The proposed new fence will promote the landmark quality of the building in the Parkville Streetscape,

New landscaping, steps landing and ramping are required to provide access to the main entrance of the college and improve its setting. The new steps and landing are composed to be set off, and not touching, the Sandstone architraves, and retain the original steps in situ. The construction details are at schematic level at this current approvals stage and would be developed on receiving Heritage Act approval. It's recommended that the details be vetted through a permit condition. The proposed new paving and access ramp complement the architecture of the significant building with a visually reductivity material palate. The landing, steps and ramp will be able to be removed in the future and have any adverse impacts on the adjacent heritage fabric. Refer drawing H21.

The new steps and ramp to be finished with bluestone pavers and nosings to match the existing step and landing material, and to complement and extend this material appearance as the entry area.

4.2. Reasons why the proposed works should be supported under s101(2) and s101(3)

4.2.1. Reasonable Use s101(2)b

The residential college has a duty of care to provide security and secure entrance for its residents and staff. The proposed new boundary fence will

provide secure access to the College, off the College Crescent/ Royal Parade public path. Refusal of this permit would impact on this duty of care and reasonable use of the building, which continues its original and intended use as a residential college.

4.2.2. Effect on the ability of the public authority to perform a statutory duty's if the proposal was refused s101(2)(d)

The University of Melbourne/ Janet Clarke Hall has the statutory duty to comply with the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, the *National Construction Code* and Australian Standard AS1428.1 *Design for access and mobility* to provide dignified, equitable and compliant access. Refusal of the proposed entrance ramp would adversely affect the College's ability to comply with these Statutory and regulatory requirements.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Significance

- Janet Clarke Hall H2334 is architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria. Its statement of significance as a University College and as an example of a Gothic Revival institutional building.

5.2 Impacts on the cultural heritage significance of the place

- The proposed new fence will replace the partially demolished existing fence, improving the overall visual appearance of the site.
- The new fence will be constructed in sympathetic materials to the existing heritage building so as to not look out of place nor impact the streetscape appearance of the significant building.

5.3 Conclusion

- The proposed works will have no adverse impact on the cultural heritage significance of *Janet Clarke Hall* H02334.
- The works are suitable for a *Heritage Act 2017* permit.

6. Recommended conditions and staging

Pending the approval of a *Heritage Act 2017* permit, the following conditions are recommended:

1. The permission granted for this permit shall expire if one of the following circumstances applies: the permitted works have not commenced within two (2) years of the original date of issue of this permit or are not completed within four (4) years of the original date of issue of this permit unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.
2. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria is to be given five working days' notice of the intention to commence the approved works.
3. Prior to the commencement of any of the works approved by this permit a construction ready set of detailed drawings including details of the final gate design, landscaping and entrance ramp design must be submitted for the endorsement of the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria and when endorsed becomes part of the permit.
4. Should further minor changes or permit amendments in accordance with the intent and approach of the endorsed documentation become necessary, correspondence and supporting documentation must be prepared and lodged for assessment by the Executive Director who will advise on the approach to be taken to address these matters.
5. Approved works or activities are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the registered place/object. However, if other previously hidden original or inaccessible details of the object or place are uncovered, any works that may affect such items must immediately cease. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria must be notified of the details immediately to enable Heritage Victoria representatives to inspect and record the items, and for discussion to take place on the possible retention of the items, or the issue of a modified approval.
6. All works must cease, and Heritage Victoria must be contacted if historical archaeological artefacts or deposits are discovered during any excavation or subsurface works. Should any munitions or other potentially explosive artefacts be discovered, Victoria Police is to be immediately alerted and the site is to be immediately cleared of all personnel.
7. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria must be informed when the approved works have been completed.