

Fenton House

Proposed installation of a water fountain in the rose garden



**Design and Access Statement
November 2019**



Introduction

This Design and Access Statement accompanies an application by the National Trust for Listed Building Consent to construct a bespoke fountain in the rose garden at Fenton House, Hampstead, London. It explains how the proposed development is a suitable response to the site and its setting.

Background

The rose garden is located within the northern garden of Fenton House which is a Grade I listed building (List Entry Number: 1378648). Surrounded by garden gates, railings and walls which are Grade II listed (List entry Number: 1378654).

The main house was built in c. 1686 with the original garden walls built in the 17th and 18th Century. The proposed location for the fountain is in an area of the garden which was excavated by 1.5m in the 1980s and lain with brick pavers to create a sunken rose garden.

There is a desire to reintroduce the connection of the natural springs and wells once associated with the Hampstead area. Introducing flowing water into the garden will create much needed movement and sound. The rose garden provides a good opportunity for the location of the new fountain.

Proposed Design

Following the construction of the rose garden in the 1980s, an 18th century statue of a shepherd girl was placed centrally. This was stolen in the mid-1990s and replaced with a plinth and crude looking urn.

The proposal is to replace the urn and plinth with a new bespoke pedestal and basin. Water will cascade over the basin and into a small pool below. There will be four lower spouts of water, one on each face of the pedestal. The water will collect in the pool and recirculate using a pump hidden within the pool.

The fountain design is provided in the following drawings attached:

- 001 Proposed fountain elevation
- 002 Proposed fountain plan
- 003 Proposed fountain site plan

The National Trust has taken internal advice regarding the construction of the fountain. Below is the current intention for the fountains construction but may be amended slightly to fit the location and function.

The construction of the fountain will involve the following:

- Cut out and set aside 2240m² of the existing brick pavers
- Excavate to a depth of approx. 600mm
- Lay a concrete slab (thickness to be confirmed) and build up the pond walls with structural concrete blocks
- Lay the pool area with rubber liner

- Excavate to a depth of 400mm along the existing flower bed to lay new electric cable and connect the pump to existing power supply.
- Erect fountain connecting it to the pump
- Finish the pool surround with bespoke cast stone edging to match the base of the fountain pedestal.

Access

The proposed installation of the water fountain at Fenton House has no implications for the existing vehicular and pedestrian access to the site.

Heritage Asset Assessment

Please see the attached Heritage Asset Assessment.

In assessing the heritage of the location of the fountain the Gardener-in-charge has engaged Trust sources for advice and guidance including the regional Curator, Garden advisor and building surveyor.

The Heritage Asset Assessment for the garden reveals that the garden has undergone several changes throughout its ownership, including a complete re-design in the 1980s under National Trust.

Consultation

In assessing the location and design of the fountain, the National Trust has engaged with the Gardener-in-charge, the regional curator, garden advisor, building surveyor and regional archaeologist. Externally, the Conservation Officer for Camden, Nick Baxter, has also been consulted with and visited the site on 29th August 2019.

Figures and photos



Figure 1: Birds eye view of Fenton House with proposed location for new fountain circled



Photo 1: Looking south into the rose garden



Photo 2: Looking north into the rose garden. Existing plinth, urn and flower pots to be removed.



Photo 3: Close up of plinth and urn which will be removed and replaced with proposed water fountain

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