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HERITAGE STATEMENT

for

**19 ATHERTON STREET,
PRESCOT,
KNOWSLEY,
L34 5QN**

(Revision B – January 2022)

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Introduction

This supporting heritage statement has been prepared to assess and support the merits of a Householder Planning Application, which seeks to partially demolish and rebuild an existing single-storey extension within a conservation area, repair and re-paint the pebble dash render which covers the property, and the repair and restoration of the original timber windows.

This document has been prepared with information sourced from the Historic Environment Record (HER), by virtue of paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Site

The site is located in the rear garden of 19 Atherton Street, Prescot – a mid-row terrace property located within the Prescot Town Centre conservation area.



Historical Context

Thought to be one of the oldest streets in Prescot, Atherton Street has always been a prominent link which connects the 2x principle roads of High Street and Eccleston Street.

Historically, the street has been home to a variety of watchmaker studios – most notably, No.17 Atherton Street, which has obtained Grade II listed status in recognition of the former watchmakers who lived and worked within the building.

In recent years, Atherton Street has undergone an extensive restoration scheme, which has resulted in buildings being cleaned, shop frontages being tidied up, and the pavements and road being re-laid with a historic variant of traditional cobblestones and granite paving.

Historic Environment Record (HER) of the Surrounding Area

Within the immediate 100m radius surrounding 19 Atherton Street, the HER identifies 2x listed buildings. They are:

37 High Street,
17 Atherton Street.

Also, the HER identifies 1x building which has previously been considered for listed status:
Prescot Wesley Methodist Church.

37 High Street – L34 6HF

This building is has been Grade II listed since 30th June 1980.

The HER describes the building as the following:

“PRESCOT HIGH STREET SJ 49 SE (north side) 6/36 No. 37 30/6/80 II

House. c.1815. Brick with stone dressings. 2 storeys, 2 bays. Stone base and cornice. Windows are sashed with glazing bars, those to ground floor with wedge lintels. Round-headed entrance has stone surround of roll moulding with flanking fillets and impost blocks. Complete fanlight and C20 6-fielded-panel door. Gable-end stacks”

Although this building falls within 100m of 19 Atherton Street, the architectural design and heritage will not be affected by the proposed work at 19 Atherton Street in any way. The building is located on another road, a significant distance from the proposed works at 19 Atherton Street, and therefore will not be affected.



37 High Street (Unaffected by the proposed work at 19 Atherton Street)

17 Atherton Street – L34 5QN

This building has been Grade II listed since 21st May 1991.
The HER describes the building as the following:

“PRESCOT ATHERTON STREET SJ 49 SE 6/49 No 17

House forming part of a terrace. Circa 1790. Brick in Flemish bond; Welsh slate roof. 3 storeys, regular 2-window range. Moulded eaves cornice. Sash windows to upper floors, all hornless, those to 1st floor under segmental arches. Late C19 style shop front with doorway to right. Ridge stack to left. The importance of the building lies in the survival of an integral 2nd floor watch-maker's workshop visible to the rear. 30-pane window, lintel at eaves level, 4 principal mullions one with a shaped eaves bracket. 1st floor sash windows under segmental heads. This building marks an early phase in the history of watch making in Prescot, an industry for which the town was nationally important”

Although this building is adjacent 19 Atherton Street, the heritage and surviving historic elements will not be affected by the proposed work at neighbouring 19 Atherton Street.

The proposed work to be conducted externally on 19 Atherton Street is entirely remedial: restoring the original timber windows, repairing and re-painting the currently damaged pebble-dashed render, and replacing the main front door with a traditional timber door. Although the property is adjacent 17 Atherton Street, none of the proposed work will affect / impact the property.

Internally, none of the proposed work in this planning application at 19 Atherton Street is situated along the party wall with 17 Atherton Street – therefore no work will affect the Grade II listed building.



17 Atherton Street (Black shop Frontage) and 19 Atherton Street (Blue door, damaged frontage, surrounded by safety fencing)

Prescot Wesley Methodist Church – L34 5QN

This building was considered for listed status on 5th June 2014 – although unsuccessful. The reasons behind its exclusion from the Listed Building register include:

- The overall baroque-influenced architecture lacks consistency and the high level of distinction which is required for listing,
- Although the exterior of the building is largely unaltered, the interior has undergone extensive alterations including the loss of original features,
- The building is not historically associated with any notable national clerics, architects or patrons.

Although this building falls within 100m of 19 Atherton Street, it will not be affected by the proposed work at 19 Atherton Street. It is located too far from any proposed work to be affected.



Prescot Wesley Methodist Church (unaffected by the proposed work at 19 Atherton Street)

19 Atherton Street - External

The property dates c.1790 and was constructed in Flemish bond brickwork, with timber-sash sliding windows, and Welsh slate tiles.

Previous owners have made many clear alterations, which deter from the high quality street scene along Atherton Street.

The most notable alteration is the addition of a dark grey pebble-dash render – which has started to sag and flake off the walls. Where the pebble dash has fallen off, the original brickwork appears to have been removed, mish-mash brickwork can be seen instead.

The building's former cellar-light has been filled in – it is unclear whether the original stone arch remains.

On the front elevation, the original front door and 1x original timber sash window have been removed; being replaced with a Georgian sash style, white UPVC window and blue door.

To the rear of the building, a narrow (2.2m wide) single storey extension projects 6.8m from the existing property. On this flat-roof extension, the brickwork does not match the original property, and the door and windows have been boarded over.

19 Atherton Street – Internal

Internally, the building is in exceptionally poor condition. Internal floors have been removed, stairs are unstable and lead to nowhere, and the building is suffering from severe damp.

The majority of original timber lintels have been removed and replaced with modern concrete; original floor joists have been removed and replaced (with the exception of the 1st floor, which is missing); the chimney breast has been removed from the front room at ground level.

Proposal

The proposal intends to restore 19 Atherton Street to a habitable property which complements the surrounding nature of Atherton Street and the Prescot Town Centre Conservation Area.

All necessary remedial work will be conducted without detriment to the existing historic property.

After ensuring the building is structurally safe, the internal layout will be adjusted to create an open-plan lounge and kitchen/diner at ground level, with 4x bedrooms on the upper floors.

The rear extension will be partially demolished and re-built slightly wider (increasing from 2.2m wide to 3.5m wide), making it a more accessible – usable space.

All original timber windows will be retained and restored, the damaged pebble-dash render will be repaired and re-painted in a muted tone, and the main front door will be replaced with an appropriate timber door to enhance the character of the building.

Schedule and Specification of Works (Render)

Existing damaged pebble-dash render to be repaired and re-painted in a muted-white tone.

Originally, the render was to be removed and replaced, however an investigation into the condition of the existing render has indicated that the render is adhered well to the brickwork - removal of the render may cause severe damage to the historic brickwork beneath; therefore, to protect the building from damage by removing the render, the existing render is to be repaired and re-painted.

Justification

The majority of the works will be internal, with a relatively small alteration to the later addition in the rear garden – away from any public views.

By ensuring the structural security of the building and restoring the building's façade, the building will be brought in-line with the other good examples which line Atherton Street, overall positively contributing towards the building stock in the Prescot Town Centre Conservation Area.