

PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL
HERITAGE ADVISOR
NEW POLICE STATION 3 COURT ST. PARKES
DA11002

Proposal:

It is proposed to demolish:

- existing school buildings behind the police station,
- additions made to the original police station
- the steel security cage between the court and station.

On the cleared site construct:

a new police station in over two levels with basement parking. The ground floor provides for a public entrance, lock up cells and office space, the first floor additional office space and the basement, space for 17 cars.

Address will be to Court St. rather than present Currajong St..

Roof will be a hipped shape over the bulk of the building with flat roofed sections facing Court St.

Materials will be face brick, steel colorbond roof, and painted concrete / render.

The existing police station:

The station will be refurbished for offices and the front area landscaped to include angled carpark, picket fence and pad mounted power substation box.

The Site:

The site is rectangular in shape with a sloping side to Court St. The ground slopes up away from Currajong St. and is largely defined by buildings with a relative small address to Court St. The small scale fire station is sited between the new building and the Hill St. corner. The space in front of the police station is concrete for vehicle parking / maneuvering.

Heritage Listing:

The following buildings are listed in the Parkes LEP 2009 Schedule, as heritage items in the vicinity of the site.

Parkes Court House

Parkes Former Post Office.

Both buildings address Currajong St. and architecturally each of these items is two storey, is constructed of red brick, and has a hipped roof, or a series of slate hip roofs. Both buildings feature a series of arches to the street. Both buildings sit on a base of render / sandstone.

Parkes Police Residence

Parkes Former Police Station

Each building is similar in scale to each other, single storey, red brick walls, corrugated steel gable roofs, and prominent gable ends.

Court House Group.

Those buildings facing Court St., including the Fire Station and St.. Andrews Church.

Documentation:

Drawings, Gardner Wetherill and Associates

Heritage Impact Assessment, Graham Brooks and Associates

Statement of Environmental Effects, Glendinning Minto & Associates Pty. Ltd.

Heritage Assessment:

Demolition.

The demolition of the rear extensions to the police station is considered to have minimal heritage impact on the item and adjacent items. The extensions, although having been designed to match the existing, are not original fabric and are not visible from Currajong St. The work will return the police station to its original size.

The school buildings have not been identified as having heritage significance, and their demolition is considered to have minimal heritage impact.

Views.

From site inspection major views to the new work were identified to the Police Station and the Court House from Currajong St. and from viewpoints from the former police residence and St. Andrews Church in Court St.

It is considered that the impact from Currajong St. will be minimal because of the distance of the new work back from the street, and the existing police station effectively screening this work.

The views from the setbacks from Court St. are such that the significant views to the rear of the Court House will be preserved. Also the small scale fire station on the corner of Hill St. screens the bulk of the new work from these significant view points.

Fabric

The junction between the Court House and the Police Station is an existing steel 'cage' proposed to be replaced by a similar new facility with additional screening. The details of the junctions between bay window of court house and roof of police station need to be considered. In this regard the possibility of retaining existing facility modified to increase privacy should be considered.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that details of materials and colours of the new building be submitted.

Materials.

The walls should be brick smooth texture to match existing.

Roof profile to consider corrugated or similar close ribbed steel profile.

Colours

Colour of brickwork to harmonise with those of the courthouse, former police station and fire station.

Colour of roof of main building to be grey, similar to that of the court house.

Colour of former police station roof to be retained.

Colour of render to be similar to that of the sandstone base of court house.

Use of corporate blue to Court St. be kept to a minimum.

Colour of windows and doors to be different to that of police station

Colour of steel cage to be neutral as a link between two heritage items

2. It is recommended that details of restoration of police station be submitted.

Exterior details such as lights under eaves and police sign possibly removed.

Traditional colours for all windows, doors and trim detail submitted.

All original interior details, windows, doors and fireplaces retained.

Possibility of removing plasterboard from ceiling to reveal original ceiling lining boards

be considered. (A detail of construction used in both court house and former police residence)

3. It is recommended a landscape plan be submitted including the space in front of the former police station including the possibility of a picket fence to Currajong St. and replacement of side fence to adjacent property to south. Plants selected to preferably from a 'Victorian' range of species.

Details of painted picket fence be submitted. Picket gates to electrical substation to be different from the fence, possibly horizontal stained battens to match brickwork.

Details of ground surface to be considered.

4. It is recommended a photographic record be made of existing structures on site that are to be demolished, and submitted to local studies section of library.

Garry Stanley

18.02.11

Comment on letter from National Trust, Lachlan Branch, dated 9 February 2011.

The National Trust in their letter suggested the incorporation of an arched form in the elevations.

It is recognised that arches are a significant architectural element on all Currajong St.

Heritage items, but only on the lesser windows of the former police residence in Court St. The design approach with the new building is to make it a neutral element set next to the heritage items. In this regard it has been set back from

Currajong St. so that it does not contribute to the streetscape, an arched form on the elevation would not be able to be viewed and would be out of character with the building.

To incorporate an arch form on the Court St. elevation would diminish the importance of Currajong St. as the more important 'heritage' street.

Garry Stanley
18.02.11