

Handrails for 1 Albany Terrace, London

1. Existing Handrails at 1 Albany Terrace



Plate 1. GF to FF



Plate 2. GF to FF Detail



Plate 3. GF to FF Detail

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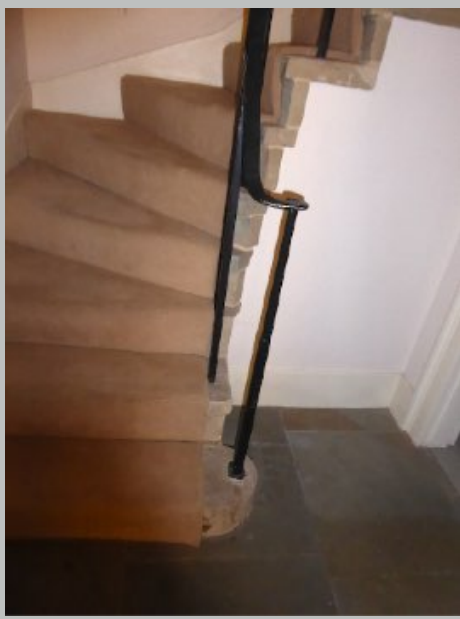


Plate 4. Basement to GF



Plate 5. Basement to GF Detail

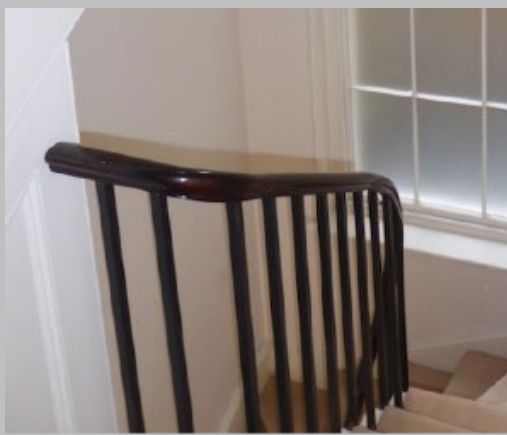


Plate 6. FF-SF



Plate 7. FF-SF Detail

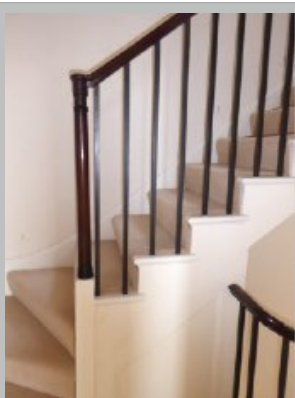


Plate 8. SF-TF

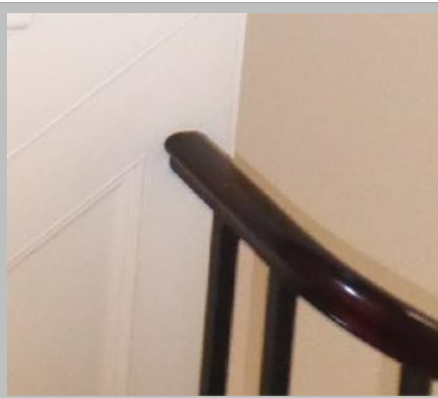


Plate 9. SF detail



Plate 10. SF-TF Detail

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Plate 11. SF-TF

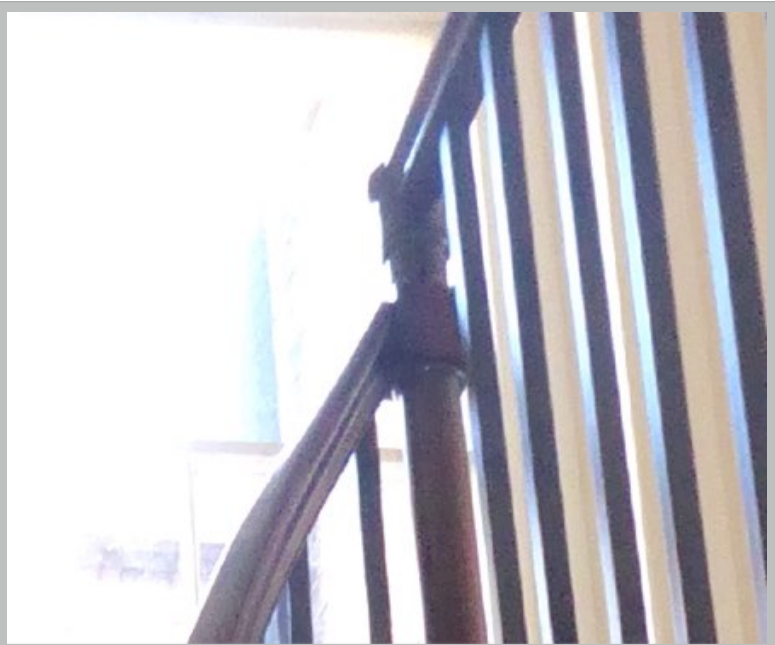


Plate 12. SF-TF Detail

2. Comments of Camden Council Conservation Officer (26.1.23) on pre-application consultation for replacement handrails etc

2.1 General Comments

STAIRCASES

Stone (Basement to First Floor) and timber (Second to Third Floor) cantilevered staircases should be retained and repaired as necessary. The metal balustrading and handrail (Basement) should be retained and restored with no alteration or additions to the base of each baluster. The existing timber handrail from Ground Floor up may be replaced with a new timber rail in a period appropriate design similar to the existing. The design detail should be submitted at application stage for consideration.

2.2 Comments in Schedule of works

Basement

Original stair and metal balustrading and handrail should be retained

Existing metal handrail and balustrade are original and should be repaired and refurbished if necessary

Ground Floor

Metal balustrading to be retained in full, non- original handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica (see Proposed 06)

Metal balustrading retained non-original handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica (see Demolition 07)

First Floor

Metal balustrading retained non-original handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica

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Timber stair and timber balustrading retained, handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica

Second Floor

Timber stair and timber balustrading retained, handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica

Timber stair and timber balustrading retained, handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica

Third Floor

Timber stair and timber balustrading retained, handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica

Timber stair and timber balustrading retained, handrail could be replaced with a period appropriate replica

2.3 This advice therefore suggests that Camden Council is of the opinion that: the iron balustrade and handrail from the basement to the GF are original and must be retained and; the balusters throughout are also original and should be retained but; the handrails from GF to TF are not original and so could potentially be replaced with appropriate period replicas, subject to submission of details of the proposed replacement.

NB. For the avoidance of doubt, Historic England and The Georgian Group will be consulted on an application for LBC and could potentially take a different view on the acceptability of replacing the handrails.

3. Relevant Historic Precedents for Georgian Handrails

3.1 The design of staircases evolved throughout the Georgian Period and varied dependent upon the architectural style and status of the house, the architect and the client.

3.2 Albany Terrace was designed by John Nash and was built around 1825 and a mid-status house. Some examples of staircases by John Nash are provided below at Plates 13-17.

3.3 Some other examples of staircases from the early 19th C are shown below at Plates 18-27.

3.4 Early Georgian hand rails were generally chunkier in scale but some examples from that period are shown for comparison in Plates 28 and 29.

4. Potentially appropriate period replicas

4.1 Although the conservation officer seems to have accepted that the existing timber handrails from GF upwards are not original and can potentially be replaced with appropriate period replicas, on the basis of the study of handrails in this paper, the existing hand rails are of an appropriate design and materials for the period and the date of the house and for the architect.

4.2 Although in the first instance, it is the client's prerogative to select the preferred design, I recommend that any replacement should not be wholly dissimilar in profile, dimensions and material to the existing handrails, to avoid major difficulties and delays in securing LBC for the whole project.

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Plate 13. Gothic Nash staircase for Lough Cutre Castle. 1817



Plate 14. Simple Nash Staircase for Sandridge Park 1805



Plate 15. Gothic Nash staircase for Shanbally Castle



Plate 16. Nash staircase for Sussex Place, London

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Plate 17. Nash staircase for West Grinsted Park



Plate 18. Camberwell Grove 1830s - mahogany handrail



Plate 19. Wapping Pier Head 1813 - hardwood handrail

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1800
1810

44.
BOWCOMBE ROAD,
GAREBOOKE, ISLE
OF WIGHT.
A flight of timber
stairs with three stick
balusters to each
tread. At the bottom
of the stair the
scrolled rail is
supported by a thin
iron rod, almost
concealed by timber
balusters. This was a
common arrangement.
*(photo NMR
ED118341)*




45.
HOLLINS HALL,
FLAUNDEN, HERTS
A timber secondary
stair in a large house
which has all the
characteristics -
shaped tread-ends,
stick balusters, slim
turned newel - of a
principal stair in a
modest town house.
*(photo NMR
BB780965)*



Plate 20.

1800
1810

46.
CLAPHAM ROAD,
LONDON
In this stone and iron
London stair the
plain stick balusters
alternate with
uprights of two
different patterns.
One unusual and
slightly clumsy detail
is the way that one of
these patterned
uprights is bent
round the curve on
the landing.
*(photo Peter
Pope/Andy)*



47.
RADNEY PLACE, BATH
The upper part of a
very delicate
geometrical stair
made of stone. The
mahogany handrail is
the thinnest possible,
hardly thicker than
the iron stick
balusters, enlivened
by S-curve panels and
iron lattice work on
the landing.
*(photo NMR
J460342)*





Plate 21

1810
1820

48.
HILDESHAM HALL,
CAMBS.
The slope of this stair
is unusually shallow.
The handrail is
turned not on the
lowest step, but on
the first step up. The
thin square section
balusters with their
central knobs are
probably of cast iron,
but may be wrought
iron.
*(photo NMR
BB785130)*



49.
TREGOTHNAN,
CORNWALL
A handsome imperial
stair rising in one
flight and returning in
two at the centre of
William Wilkins's
imperial neo-
Jacobean mansion.
The stair itself is of
stone, the balusters of
iron in tracered
Gothic patterns. Such
Gothic balusters were
very popular in the
late Georgian period.
(photo Country Life)




Plate 22

1810
1820

50.
LEIGH COURT,
BOSTON.
The long double
staircase rising to the
central hall of this
country house has a
heavy cast-iron
balustrade
foreshadowing
Victorian types; the
balusters support a
mahogany rail inlaid
with brass dogtooth.
The shallow rake of
the stone treads
suggests that it is
almost certainly
supported on iron
columns.
*(photo NMR
BB967600)*





51.
ST THOMAS'S STREET
SOUTHWARK,
LONDON
A standard London
stair made of
softwood, with plain
treads and plain stick
balusters. The only
ornaments are the
turned newel posts
on their high bases
and the curving
mahogany rail.
(photo Georgian Group)



Plate 23

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<p>1820 1830</p> <p>52 TREDGAR SQUARE The first to second floor stair in an East London terraced house. The plain side balusters, newel and handrail are all painted, though the rail is probably hardwood. Both the soffit of the stair and the skirting on the wall-side have touches of elegant curvature. (photo LMA 732876)</p>	 <p>53</p> <p>54</p>	<p>1820 1830</p> <p>55 GROSVEN SQUARE The principal flight of a central London terraced house shows a stair with cast-iron balusters of alternating pattern, and a thin wrought-iron rail. The bottom end of the rail rests on a cast-iron newel of vaguely neo-Gothic design. (photo LMA 705885)</p> <p>56 WHITBY SQUARE A stone stair in one of the terrace houses built by James Bouverie with iron balustrading in which vertical bars alternate with pairs of plain rods. (photo LMA 69486731)</p>
<p>Plate 24</p>	<p>Plate 25</p>	

<p>1830 1840</p> <p>57 THE BRITISH, NEWTON LANSVILLE, BRUXES The upper flights of a secondary staircase with a very rich-finished appearance: a dog-leg arrangement, steep rake, close string, massive painted newels and very substantial balusters. This stair is a timely reminder that appearances can be deceptive. (photo NMR 88501177)</p> <p>58 MORTONVILLE, CHICHESTER, WILTSHIRE, MIDDLESEX A stone stair with elaborate cast-iron balusters of two forms supporting a plainy-moulded wooden rail. Unusually with stone treads, the tread-ends are curved. (photo NMR 88527052)</p>	 <p>59</p> <p>60</p>	<p>1830 1840</p> <p>59 CARLTON HOUSE, TOWER, LONDON The principal features of this stair are the heavy iron balusters with their square central knobs. The wrought-iron rail is also very substantial. (photo NMR 83646276)</p> <p>60 LLOYD STREET, BRIGHTON, LONDON The plain timber stair of the late Georgian decade: a type found throughout England and Wales. (photo LMA 7312014682)</p>
<p>Plate 26</p>	<p>Plate 27</p>	

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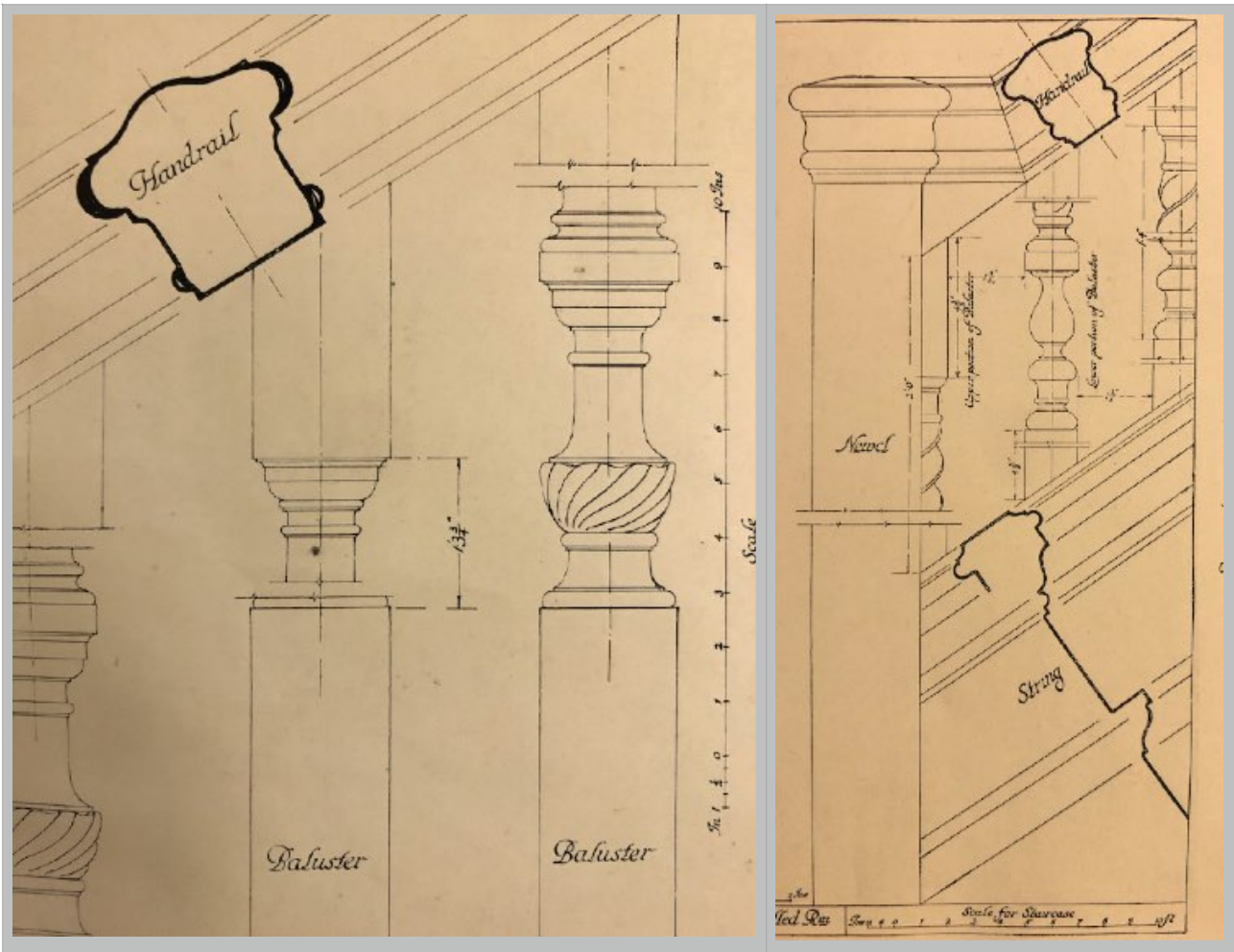


Plate 28

Plate 29.

John Hinchliffe
Hinchliffe Heritage
jnshinchliffe@gmail.com
07736 970396

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