

# Heritage Statement

## 9 Wedderburn Road, London NW3 5QS

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**Written by:** Ignus Froneman B Arch Stud ACIfA IHBC

**Date:** 10 October 2023

**On behalf of:** Mr & Mrs Maizil

**Ref:** 0808

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Heritage Statement has been prepared by Ignus Froneman, Director at Cogent Heritage, in consultation with the Applicant, 4H Architecture and SM Planning. The subject of the assessment is the grade II listed building at 9 Wedderburn Road, which is part of a pair (7 & 9), built in c. 1887 to the designs of Horace Field and Edwin E Moore. The Heritage Statement supports a listed building consent application for internal changes to the ground floor and lower ground floor unit of the house (which is now subdivided).
- 1.2 The author of this report is a qualified heritage consultant with over 20 years of experience in the historic environment. This includes regular appearances as an expert witness at public inquiries, on behalf of both appellants, public bodies and local planning authorities.

#### **Purpose of the report, heritage assets and research**

- 1.3 The Heritage Statement assesses the effects of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the listed building. The application site falls in the Fitzjohns/Netherhall Conservation Area, although the proposed internal changes would leave the conservation area unaffected and it is not considered further. The same can be said of the listed houses along the south side of Wedderburn Road (some are listed as in pairs, and others individually).
- 1.4 Detailed archival research was not undertaken at this stage, as there are drawings relating to previous applications that record the likely original layouts of the ground and lower ground floors (in 1981), and also further extensive alterations in c. 2003.

#### **Legislation and policy summary**

- 1.5 The section below summarises the key provisions of s.66 & s.72 of the Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990, the National Planning Policy Framework and the Development Plan policies.

- 1.6 **Legislation:** Legislation relating to listed buildings and conservation areas is contained in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (the Act). Section 66(1) of the Act sets out the statutory duty in relation to development affecting the setting of listed buildings: and section 72(1) sets out the statutory duty in relation to any buildings or other land in a conservation area.
- 1.7 It is a well-established concept in case law that 'preserving' means doing no harm for the purposes of the 1990 Act. The Court of Appeal's decision in *Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v East Northamptonshire District Council* [2014] (EWCA Civ 137) established that, having 'special regard' to the desirability of preserving the setting of a listed building under s.66, involves more than merely giving weight to those matters in the planning balance. There is a strong statutory presumption against granting planning permission for any development which would fail to preserve a listed building or its setting (and the same for conservation areas). In cases where a proposed development would harm a listed building or its setting (or a conservation area), the Barnwell decision has established that the duty in s.66 of the Act requires these must be given "*considerable importance and weight*".
- 1.8 The key legal principles established in caselaw are:
- i. 'Preserving' for the purposes of the s.66 and s.72 duties means 'to do no harm'.
  - ii. The desirability of preserving the setting of a listed building, or the character or appearance of a conservation area must be given 'considerable importance and weight'.
  - iii. The effect of NPPF paragraphs 199-202 is to impose, by policy, a duty regarding the setting of a conservation area that is materially identical to the statutory duty pursuant to s.66(1) regarding the setting of a listed building (and s.72 in relation to the character and appearance of a conservation area).
  - iv. NPPF paragraph 202 appears as part of a 'fasciculus' of paragraphs, which lay down an approach corresponding with the s.66(1) duty (and similarly the s.72 duty).
  - v. If harm would be caused, then the case must be made for permitting the development in question, and the sequential test in paragraphs 200-202 of the NPPF sets out how that is to be done. If that is done with clarity, then approval following paragraph 202 is justified. No further step or process of justification is necessary.
  - vi. In cases where there may be both harm and benefits, in heritage terms, great weight has to be given to the conservation and enhancement of a listed building,

and its setting, and the preservation and enhancement of a conservation area. It is possible to find that the benefits may be far more significant than the harm.

- 1.9 **The National Planning Policy Framework:** Section 16 of the revised (September 2023) National Planning Policy Framework (the NPPF) deals with conserving and enhancing the historic environment, in paragraphs 189 to 208. Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.
- 1.10 According to paragraph 194 applicants should describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.
- 1.11 According to paragraph 199, which applies specifically to designated heritage assets, great weight should be given to a heritage asset's conservation (the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This reflects the provisions of the 1990 Act in that it applies irrespective of whether it involves total loss, substantial harm, or less than substantial harm to significance.
- 1.12 Paragraph 200 states that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. It then deals with substantial harm to, or total loss of significance of, different types of designated heritage assets. Paragraph 201 continues on the subject of substantial harm (this level of harm is not relevant to the present proposals).
- 1.13 Paragraph 202, on the other hand, deals with less than substantial harm. Harm in this category should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) describes public benefits as "*anything that delivers economic, social or environmental progress*".
- 1.14 **The Development Plan** is the London Plan (2021) and Camden's Local Plan (2017).
- 1.15 **The London Plan:** The London Plan 2021 deals with Design at Chapter 3. Policy D4 deals with delivering good design and states that the design of development proposals should be thoroughly scrutinised by borough planning, urban design, and conservation officers, utilising appropriate analytical tools. The design quality of development should be retained through to completion by, amongst others, ensuring maximum detail appropriate for the design stage is provided.

- 1.16 Policy HC1, entitled "*Heritage conservation and growth*" is the most relevant of the policies in Chapter 7. Parts A and B of the policy deals with strategic considerations/requirements and these are not relevant to determining planning applications.
- 1.17 Part C deals with development proposals affecting heritage assets, and their settings. This part of Policy HC1 requires development proposals to conserve the significance of heritage assets, by being sympathetic to the assets' significance and appreciation within their surroundings. The policy also requires the cumulative impacts of incremental change from development on heritage assets and their settings to be actively managed. Development proposals should avoid harm and identify enhancement opportunities by integrating heritage considerations early in the design process.
- 1.18 **Camden's Local Plan (2017):** Policy D2 deals with heritage and requires development to preserve and, where appropriate, enhance Camden's rich and diverse heritage assets and their settings, including conservation areas and listed buildings. According to the policy, the Council will not permit development that results in less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset unless the public benefits of the proposal convincingly outweigh that harm. Specifically in relation to listed buildings, the Council will (amongst others), resist proposals for a change of use or alterations and extensions to a listed building where this would cause harm to the special architectural and historic interest of the building.

## **2.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Historic background overview**

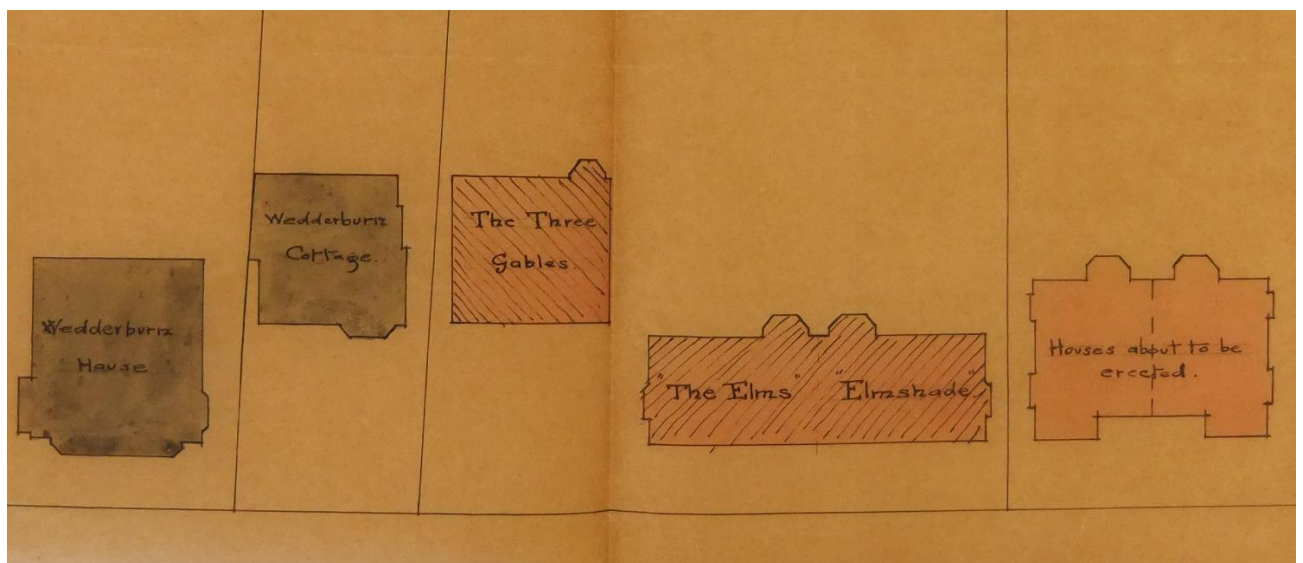
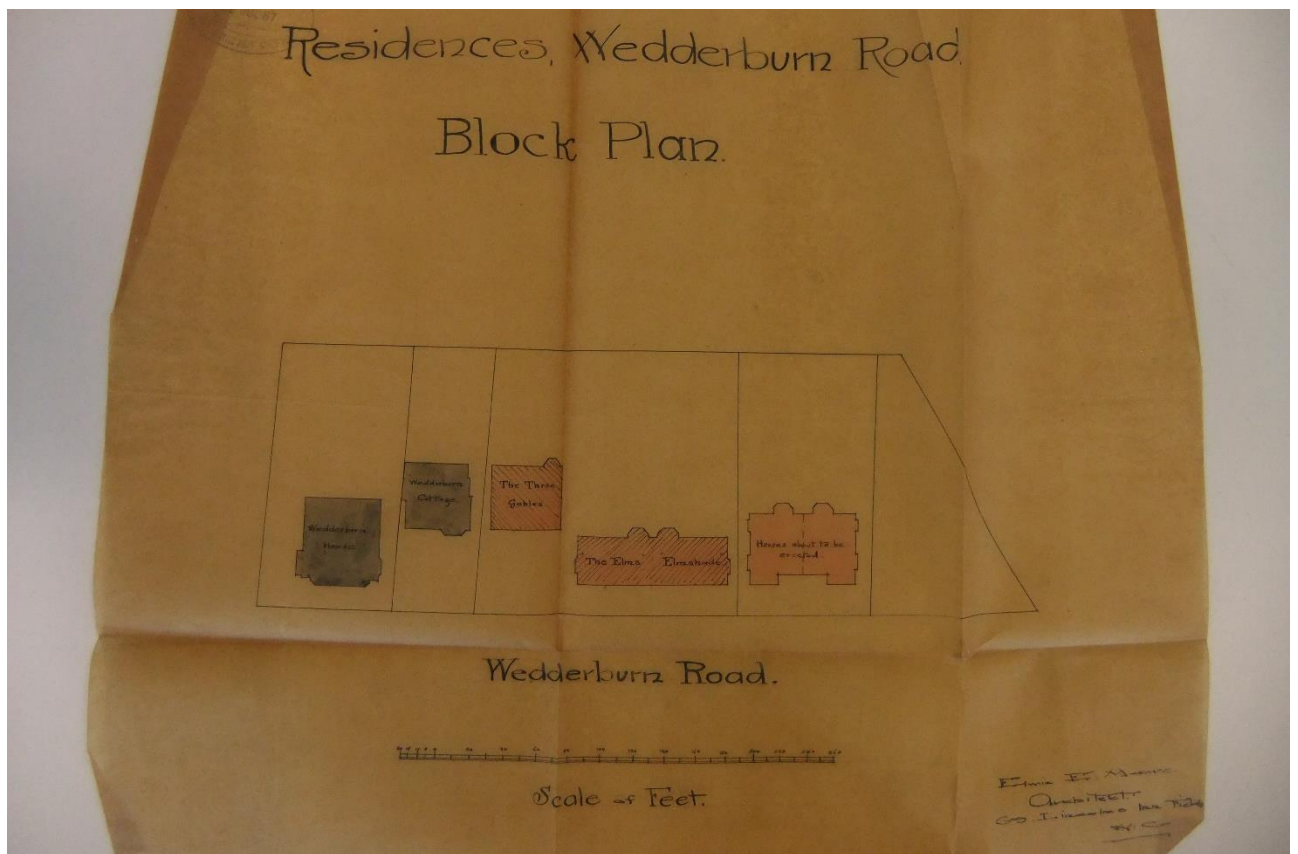
- 2.1 Wedderburn Road was laid out in the 1880s, on land that was historically part of the garden of Rosslyn House. The road was named after the one of the former residents of Rosslyn House, Alexander Wedderburn. The south side of the road was developed first, by the then owner of Rosslyn House, Charles Woodd. He employed Horace Field, who (in association with Edwin E Moore) designed the whole ensemble at 1-13. 1 Wedderburn Road, known as Wedderburn House, is thought to be the first mansion block in Hampstead.
- 2.2 Development on the north side of the road started later, in 1895, after Woodd's death when the house and land were sold by his widow. The architect for these houses was W A Burr.

- 2.3 Cherry and Pevsner, in the *Buildings of England London 4: North*, briefly mentions the house: "Nos 3 and 5 are set back, detached houses of c.1886 with mullioned windows in Tudor manor house fashion; Nos 7-9, c. 1891, is a long frontage with Georgian sashes. The more showy Nos. 11 and 13 have Dutch gables".<sup>1</sup>
- 2.4 The list description attributes the house to Horace Field, whereas Pevsner seemingly more correctly cites *Horace Field & Moore*. A plan of the south side of Wedderburn Road, dated 1887 and signed by Edwin E Moore "Architect" of 69 Lincoln's Inn Fields (**Fig 1**), indicates that Moore certainly had a hand in the design of the buildings; the plan accompanied a letter by Moore to the Metropolitan Board of Works, in which he (as the architect) challenged their decision to refuse his application relating to the depth of the window reveals. The drawing shows that 9 Wedderburn Road was originally called 'Elmshade' and was a pair with 'The Elms'.
- 2.5 Horace Field (1861-1948) was the son of the London architect Horace Field. His early work was in Hampstead, where he designed houses in Gainsborough Gardens and Wedderburn Road. In 1891 he designed the Lloyd's bank Rosslyn Hill, which Gray in his book *Edwardian Architecture* notes 'makes a perfect composition in the "Wrenaissance" manner – the "programme" can be read from the group constituted by the branch bank manager's house and adjoining houses, all in red brick with brown Ham Hill stone dressings and Westmorland slate'.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.6 Most of Field's work was in the Wrenaissance style, with the largest example being the offices of the North Eastern Railway Co. Field did design in other styles, with his Lloyd's bank at Kensington High Street, designed in the Charles II manner. In 1905 he published along with Michael Bunney the book *English Domestic Architecture of the XVII and XVIII Centuries*. This book helped generate interest in houses from this period, resulting in many consequently being saved from destruction. In 1906 Field went into partnership with Charles Evelyn Simmons.

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<sup>1</sup> Cherry and Pevsner, *The Buildings of England. London 4: North* (London, 1998) p. 238

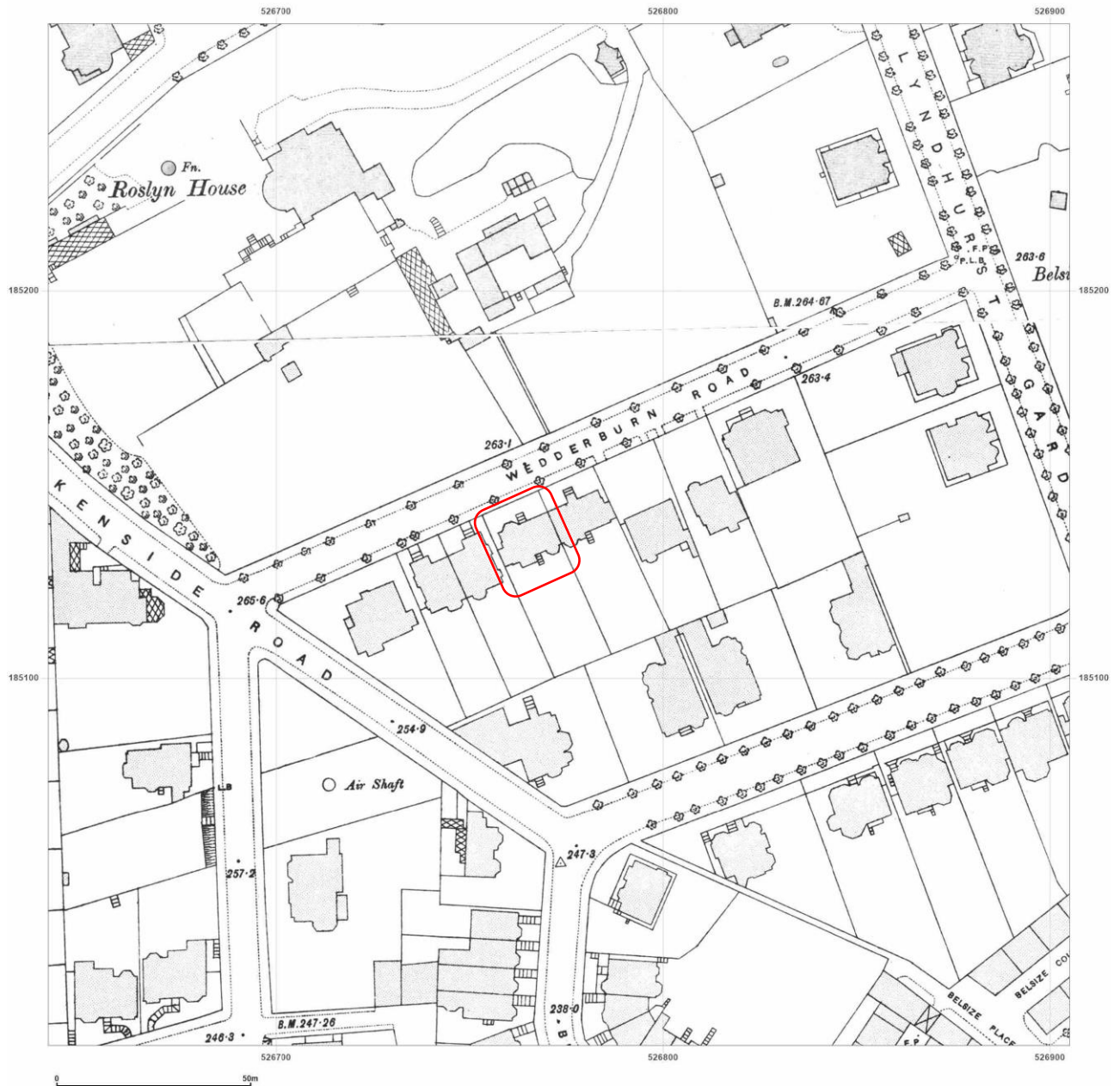
<sup>2</sup> Gray, *Edwardian Architecture. A Biographical Dictionary* (London, 1985) p. 178



**Fig 1:** A plan of the south side of Wedderburn Road, dated 1887 and signed by Edwin E Moore "Architect" of 69 Lincoln's Inn Fields.

2.7 The 1896 Ordnance Survey map (**Fig 2**) shows the south side of Wedderburn Road developed, with Rosslyn House still standing to the north.





**Fig 2:** An extract of the 1896 Ordnance Survey map.

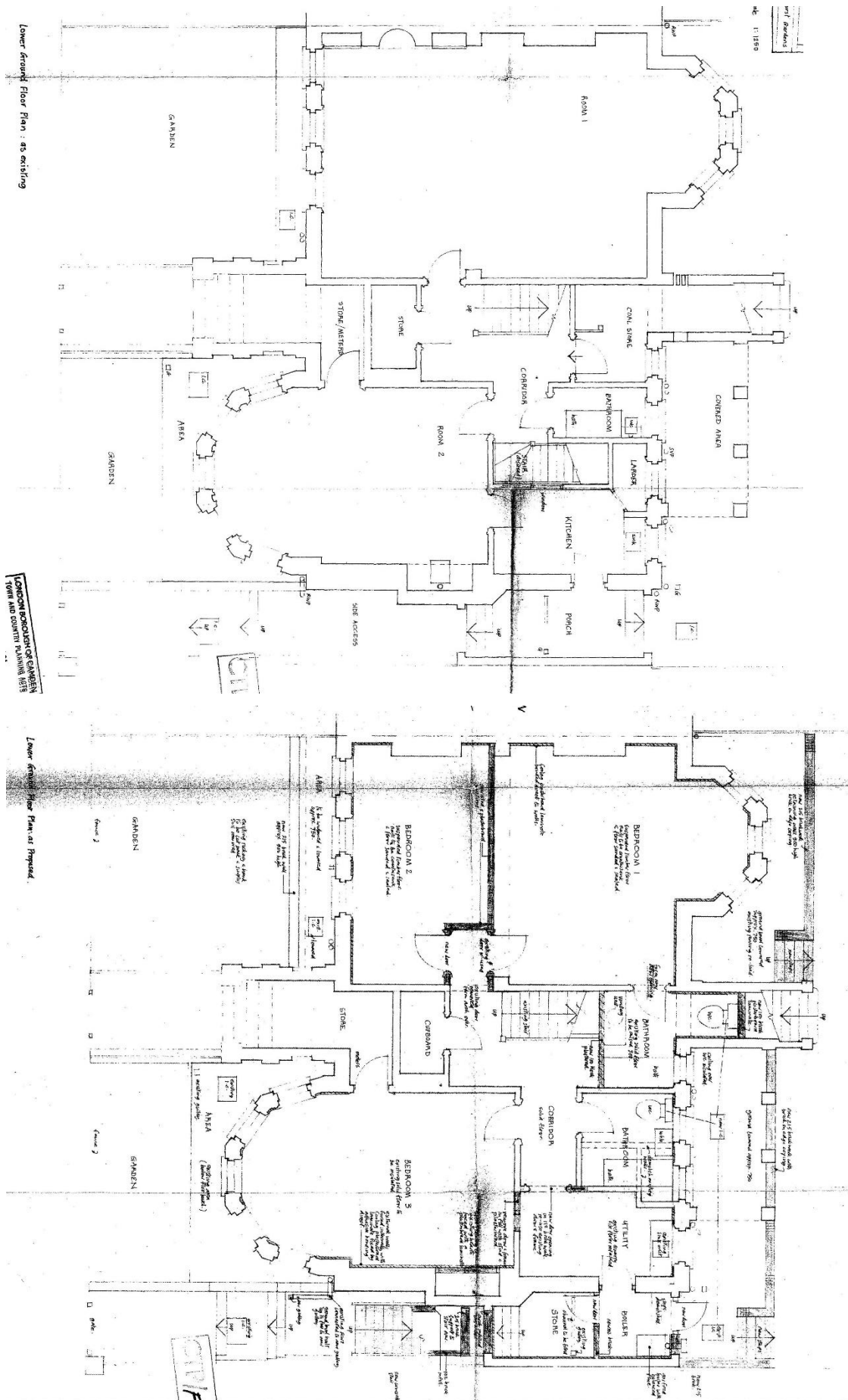
- 2.8 The 1896 Ordnance Survey map (**Fig 3**) records the footprint of the pair at 7 & 9 Wedderburn Road. It is interesting to see that the pair was not designed to be symmetrical. 9 Wedderburn Road had a bay on the façade that was absent on 7, and although both had adjoining rear bays and steps down to the garden, the design was again not symmetrical, with 9 Wedderburn Road featuring the rectangular terrace at the back and with a rear porch at 7 Wedderburn Road.



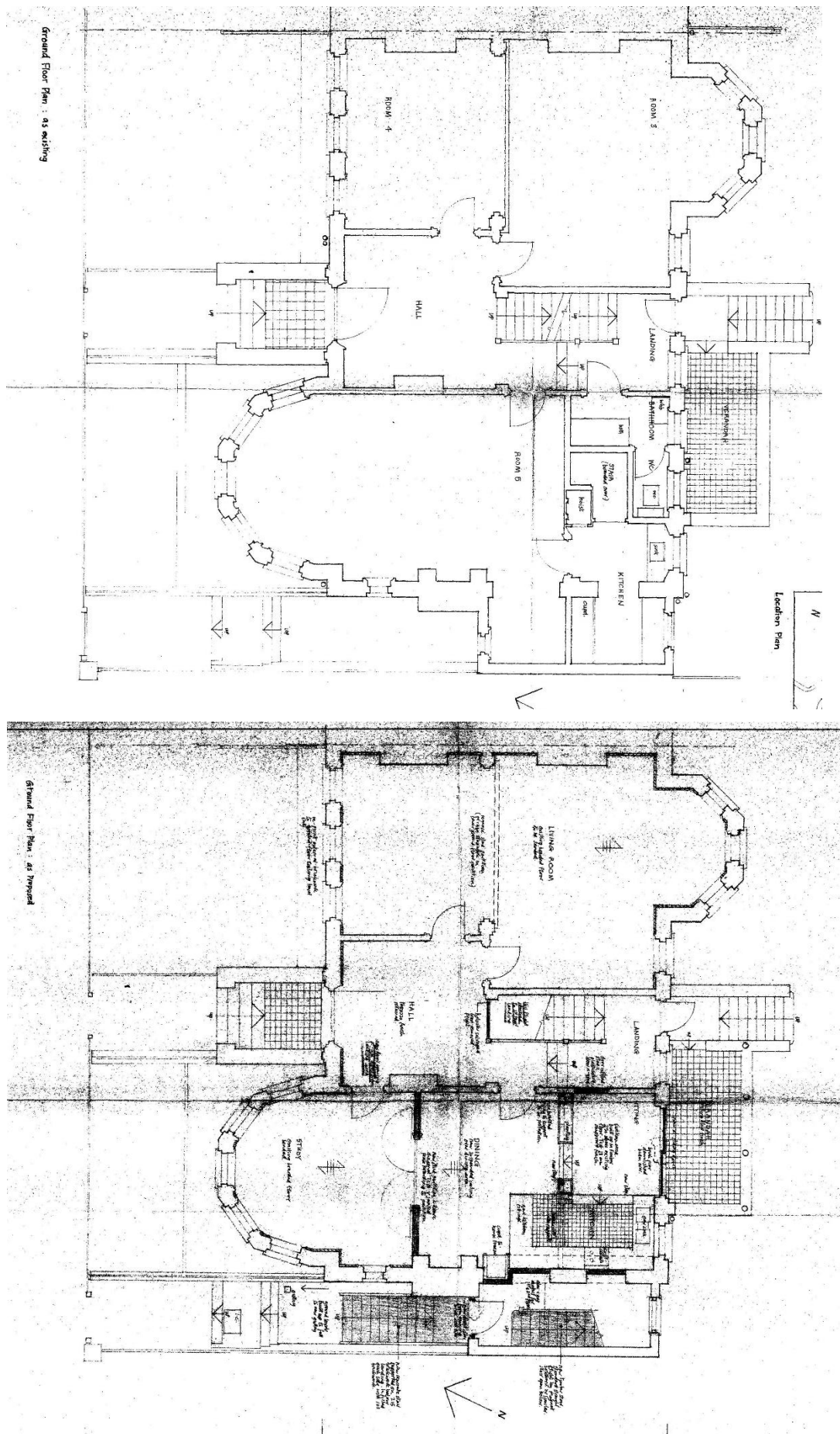
**Fig 3:** A detailed extract of the 1896 Ordnance Survey map, with the application site highlighted red.

- 2.9 The planning history of 9 Wedderburn Road records changes to the building on two occasions in the more recent past; relatively minor changes, made in 1981 (ref 31514), and more extensive refurbishments in 2003 (ref LWX0302077).
- 2.10 The 1981 plans (**Figs 4 & 5**) record changes to the ground and lower ground floors (by this time the house appears to have already been subdivided), including what appears to be the reconfiguration of the original plan form at both floors. At this point the original plan, as recorded on the existing drawings, appears to have survived reasonably intact, though there was an obvious later partition between the principal eastern rooms of the ground floor, which was subsequently removed.

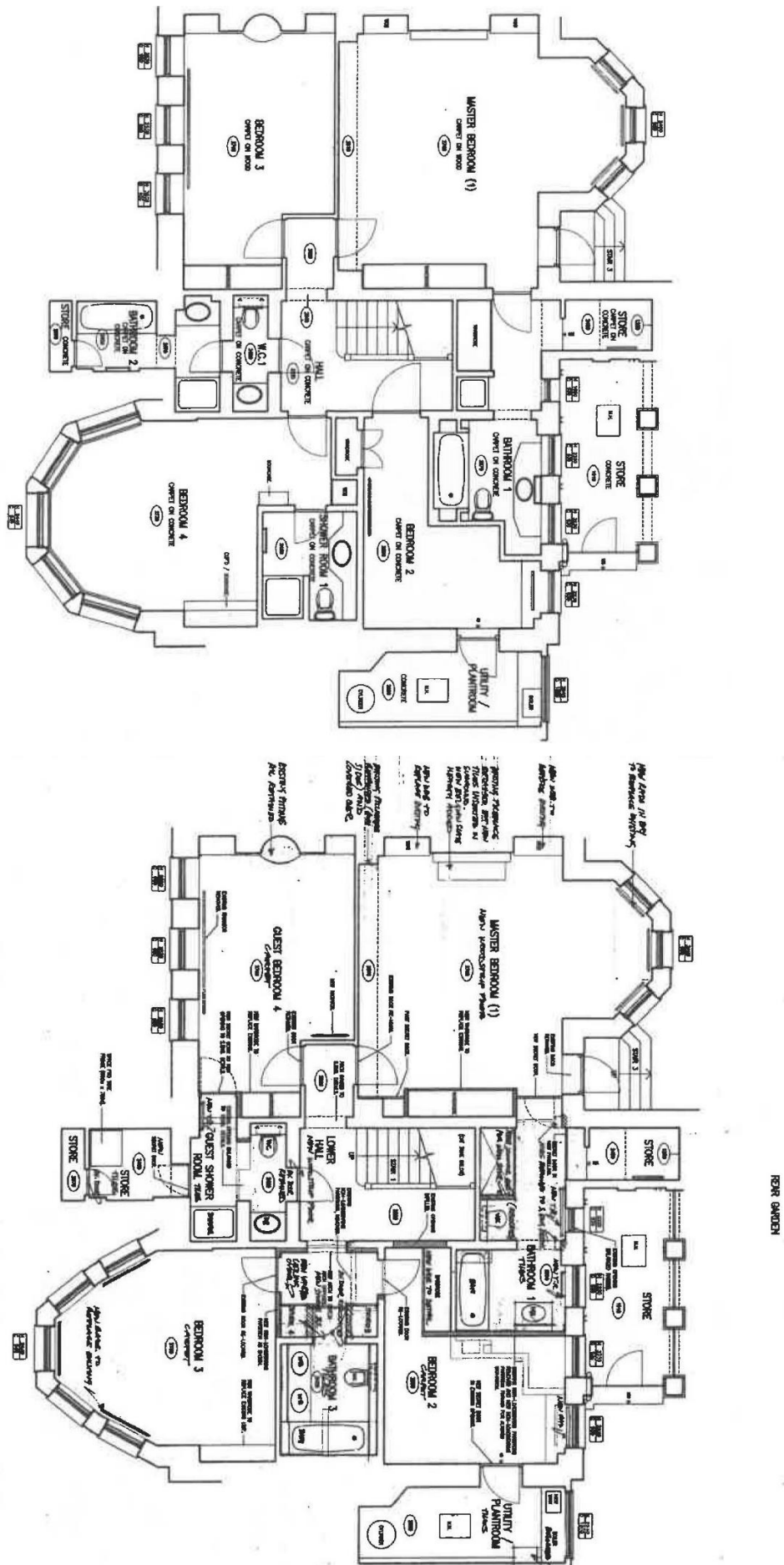




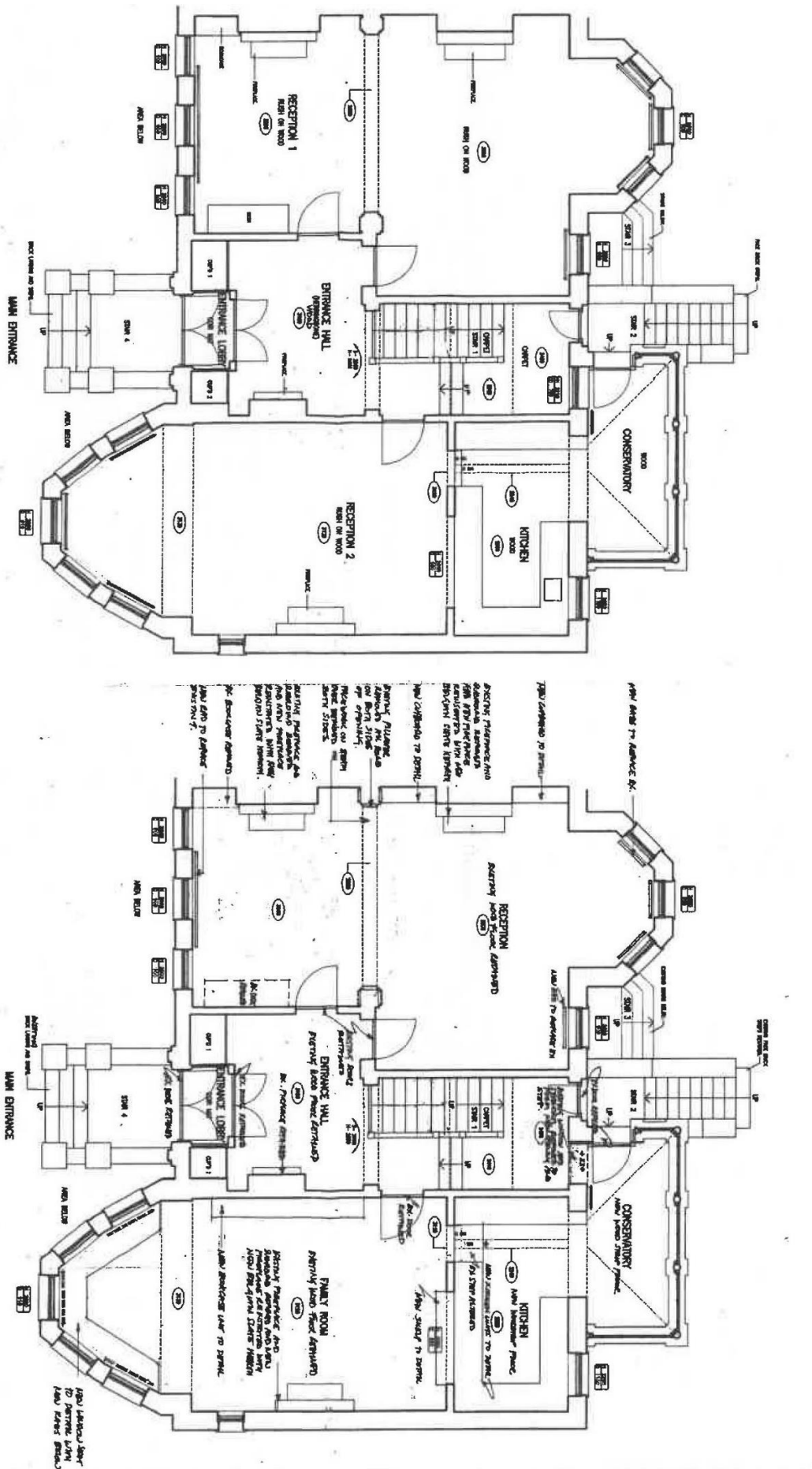
**Fig 4:** Existing (top) and proposed (bottom) lower ground floor plans, 1981.



**Fig 5:** Existing (top) and proposed (bottom) ground floor plans, 1981.



**Fig 6:** Existing (top) and proposed (bottom) lower ground floor plans, 2003.



**Fig 7:** Existing (top) and proposed (bottom) ground floor plans, 2003.

- 2.11 The existing 2003 plans (**Figs 6 & 7**) record further changes to the ground floor and lower ground floor plans, not recorded on the proposed 1981 plans and for which no records were found online (although it is possible that the records of historic applications are incomplete) including the enclosure of the ground floor veranda to form a conservatory, and the insertion of a bathroom at the western lower ground floor front room. Further proposed changes to the plan form are recorded, but also changes to the decoration of the house, much of which was annotated on the drawings, although some detailed sections/elevations also survive. It was at this time that the present layout was established, which is not reflective of the original (or pre-existing 1981) layout, aside from the basic plan form of a stairs hall/stairwell centrally, flanked by principal rooms (at the ground floor this has remained most legible, whereas at the lower ground floor only the eastern principal rooms are still recognisably in something of their original layouts).

### Significance

- 2.12 The pair at 7 & 9 Wedderburn Road was listed on 11 January 1999, on the same day that all of the other houses on Wedderburn Road were listed. The main descriptive text from the list entry is quoted below:

*"Semi-detached pair of houses. 1887. By Horace Field. Red brick, hipped and tiled roof with eaves cornice, tall brick chimneys. White-painted wooden sash windows; dormers in roof. Queen Anne or early Neo-Georgian style. 2 main storeys. Long front of 8 windows width to each house, with strongly projecting single-storey bay windows at the two ends and brick porches, also projecting and covered by segment-headed hoods over pilasters, in centre of each house. Upper storeys flat-fronted. INTERIORS not inspected. Part of a group with Nos 1, 3, 5, 11 and 13 (qqv), also early works by Field."*

- 2.13 The significance of the pair at 7 & 9 Wedderburn Road is attributable to its architectural and historic interest. In essence, the building is a reasonably well preserved example of a pair of houses in the 'Wrenaissance' style and it provides physical evidence of this style, in particular so alongside the neighbouring contemporary buildings by the same architect(s) on the south side of Wedderburn Road. The list description specifically draws attention to the group value of the contemporary houses.
- 2.14 The building, as with the others on the south side of the road, is an example of Horace Field's early work, albeit with Edwin E Moore having clearly also been involved in the design.





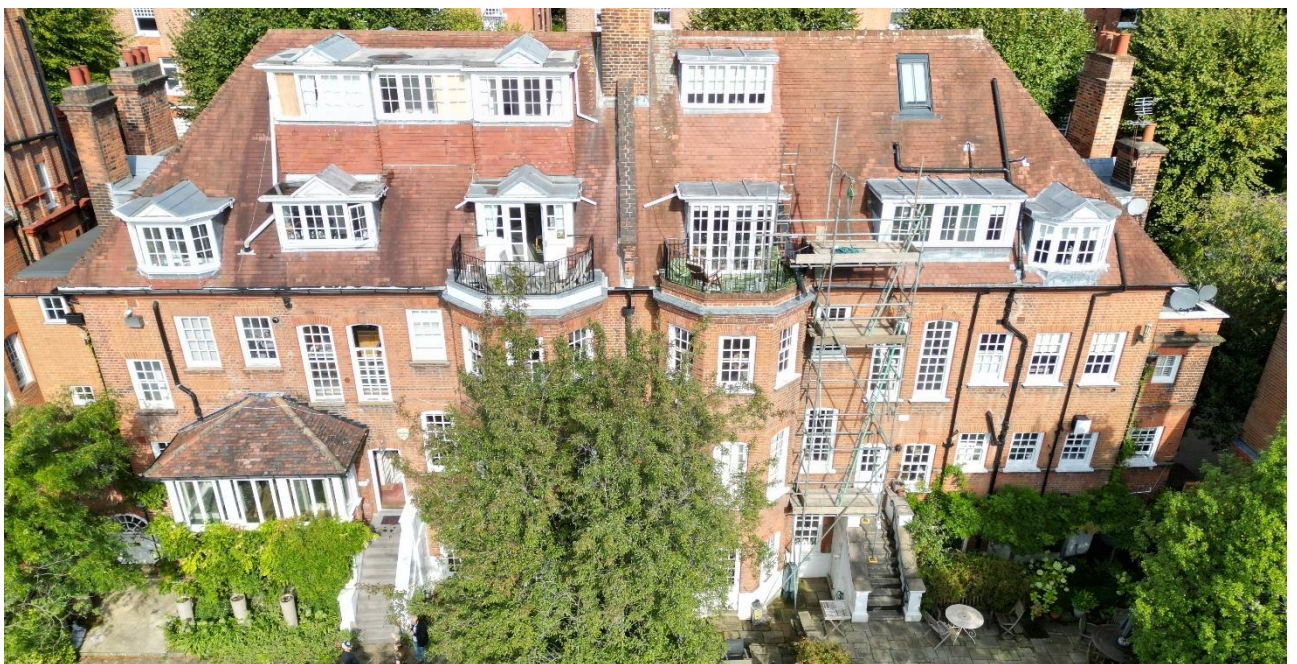
**Photo 1:** An oblique view of front and side elevation of 9 Wedderburn Road, showing the heightened side projection and the two tiers of dormers.

- 2.15 The exterior displays architectural quality, and although the frontage of the pair is now largely symmetrical, the Ordnance Survey maps up to 1919 record that 7 Wedderburn Road did not have a bay. It did have the projecting brick porch, whereas 9 Wedderburn Road originally had the front bay, and a flat entrance. This indicates a clear and perhaps purposeful design intent for the pair not to be symmetrical, despite other aspects of the elevational composition following a recognisable symmetry. Any sense of symmetry has, however, been further upset by the conversion of the roofspace at 9 Wedderburn Road to accommodation, and it consequently now has two tiers of dormers to both the front and the back. The side projection at 9 Wedderburn Road has also been altered by extending it as a stair core for the upper unit, and it was partially rebuilt.
- 2.16 The absence of symmetry is more notable at the rear, where 9 Wedderburn Road always had the veranda, which was absent at 7 Wedderburn Road. It is not known whether this always had a tiled, hipped roof, although it appears as though the windows above this roof have been adjusted to accommodate it, suggesting the roof was added. In any event, there is now a decidedly asymmetrical arrangement when the two elevations are compared (albeit the garden boundary between the two houses makes a direct comparison hard).





**Photo 2:** An elevated view of the rear elevation of 9 Wedderburn Road.



**Photo 3:** An elevated view of the rear elevation of 7 & 9 Wedderburn Road.



- 2.17 As has been noted, the interior has been subject to relatively comprehensive remodelling, including changes to the plan form, although there are still some good historic features, e.g. the principal staircase with barley twist balusters, some joinery (e.g. some of the doors and architraves, though there are also replicas), and two of the ground floor chimneypieces (the small one in the entrance hall, and the one in the main western room; the two in the eastern part of the house were replaced c. 2003, when the rooms were also refitted with internal features, e.g. cornicing).
- 2.18 Aside from the main staircase (**Photo 4**), the ground and lower ground floor of the building cannot be said to have any particularly fine or significant features. Some rooms have been subject to the cosmetic application of features such as elaborate cornicing to add to their stature, but these are recognisably inauthentic and, in some places, rather at odds with the building.



**Photo 4:** The main staircase is original (though not the treads and risers).

- 2.19 The house is not a particularly good or leading example of the Wrenaissance style; indeed it is not an example of Field's exclusive work, with Moore having evidently had a hand in the design. In any event, Field was not a leading exponent of the movement, although he did become reasonably well known as a late Victorian/Edwardian architect and it is an example of Field's early (collaborative) work. There is, therefore, a degree of historic interest by virtue of association with Field and Moore's collaborative work.

- 2.20 Finally, the house is also of historic interest as part of the original development of this part of Hampstead in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is recognisable as a good quality historic house and it makes a valuable contribution to the group it forms part of, all in a similar style.
- 2.21 Artistically and archaeologically there is little to elevate the significance of the house.

### **3.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

#### **Overview**

- 3.1 The proposals can be summarised as:
- i. Moving the ground floor kitchen to the larger room, with associated changes to the area of the existing kitchen, which would be reconfigured. This includes the reinstatement of an original door off the stairwell, and better revealing the rear room, and the legibility of the plan form overall.
  - ii. Reconfiguration of largely non-original partitions at the lower ground floor.

#### **Assessment**

#### **3.2 Alterations to the ground floor:**

- 3.2.1 It is proposed to move the small kitchen at the rear, to the larger ground floor room. this includes an island arrangement, with units along the sides of the room. As can be seen from **Photo 5**, there are existing built-in units flanking the fireplace, with a countertop at the back of the room, and a desk unit at the bay (**Photo 6**). The proposed kitchen would leave the proportions of the room and the legibility of the fireplace intact, and there would be no harm to the significance of the building. This would be reversible, which is materially relevant to any perceived impacts.
- 3.2.2 The existing kitchen and countertop that forms a contiguous space with the front room would be better separated from the front room, so that there would be a better delineation of the original front/rear rooms. The original rear door off the stairwell, which would have given access to this room (it was blocked c. 1981), would be reinstated. Both of these would be enhancements. On one hand, a smaller WC would be created at the rear room, whilst on the other, the room would be more opened-up, and it can be noted that the original layout here has, in any event, been somewhat compromised by the integration of the veranda into this part of the ground floor plan, which has lost a good deal of its integrity and which is therefore less sensitive to change.



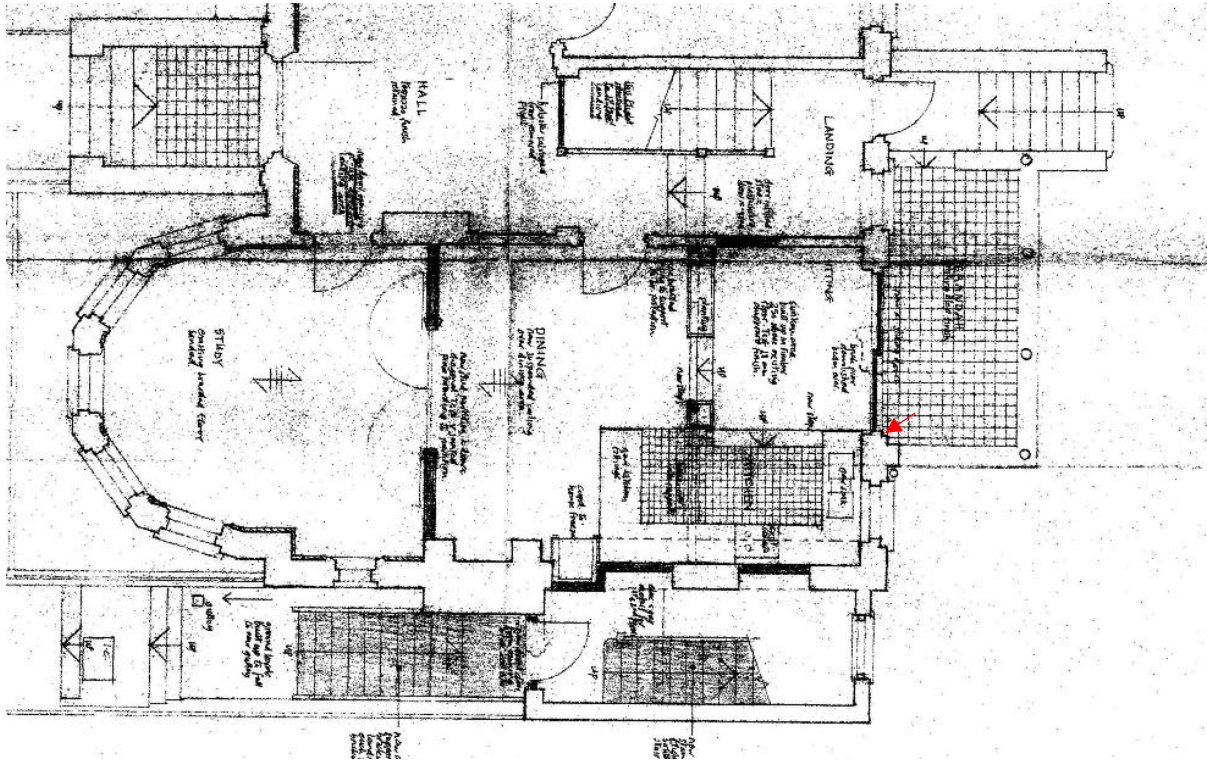
**Photo 5:** The existing built-in units in the western front room, adjacent to the fireplace.



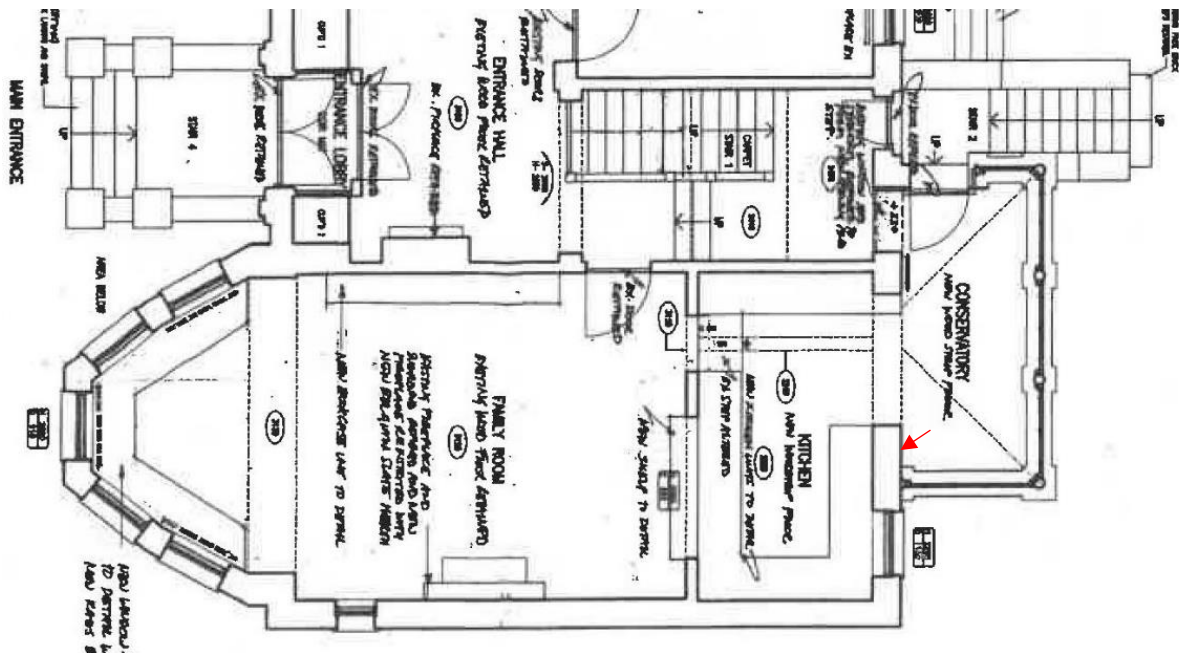
**Photo 6:** The existing built-in units in the western front room, adjacent to the fireplace.



3.2.3 It is also proposed to slightly widen the opening to the former veranda (now enclosed). When looking at the historic drawings, it can be seen from the red arrows on the extracts at **Figs 8 & 9** below that this wall segment was added later, and there would be no harm in removing the section as proposed.



**Fig 8:** Proposed ground floor plan extract, 1981, showing the former porch arrangement.



**Fig 9:** Existing proposed ground floor plan extract, 2003.

- 3.2.4 It is proposed to retain the parquet floor in the hallway, which appears to be original, and replace the non-original flooring (e.g. **Photo 7**) elsewhere. This would not affect the significance of the building.



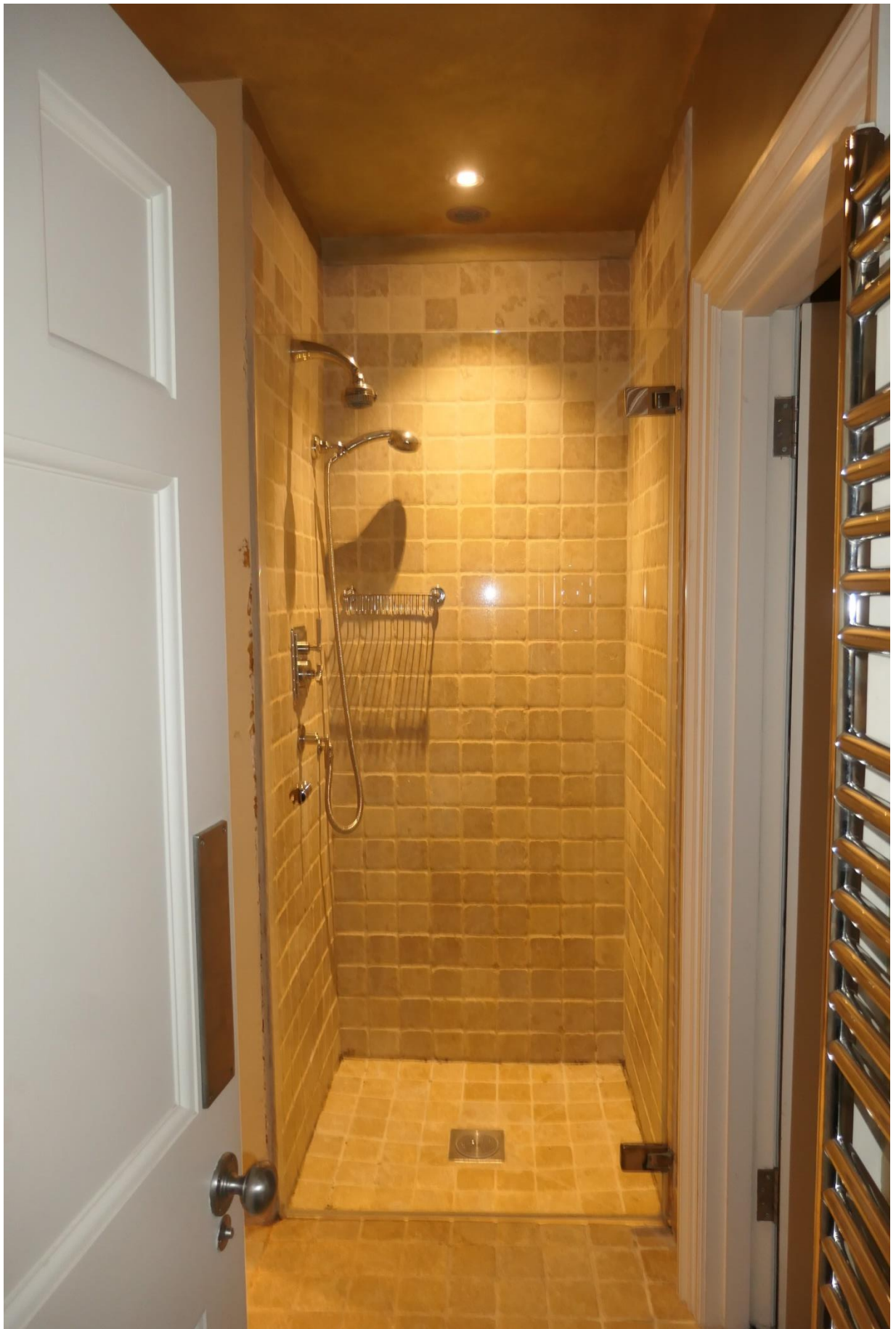
**Photo 7:** The existing non-original flooring in the eastern rooms.

- 3.2.5 The cornices to the eastern rooms are modern (c. 2003) and would be replaced with a cornice matching the original in the western room.
- 3.2.6 The ground floor alterations overall are minor and would leave the legible plan form of the building unaffected. No original features of fabric would be removed, and the significance of the building would be preserved.

### 3.3 **Alterations to the lower ground floor:**

- 3.3.1 The lower ground floor has been heavily remodelled in recent years and there is very little left now that is original. The changes to the plan form here would mostly affect non-original fabric and partitions. None of this would affect anything of significance.
- 3.3.2 There are two nib walls in the area under the front stairs (now a bathroom) that may be the remnants of a historic partition, but this under-stairs area is so heavily altered that it does not meaningfully contribute to the significance of the house (e.g. **Photo 8**).





**Photo 8:** The existing under-stairs bathroom, where the wall on the left (fitted with a shower head and taps) would be removed.

- 3.3.3 An original (assumed) door to the stairwell from here would be retained, but boarded-over on the bathroom side, where a more functional replacement bathroom layout would be created. This would not materially harm the significance of the building.
- 3.3.4 It is proposed to replace the cornices and skirting boards, but these are all modern and the replacements are appropriate for the building, meaning there would be no effect on its significance.
- 3.4 **Overall conclusions:**
- 3.4.1 Overall, the proposals are minor, and would not affect any significant plan form or fabric, and there are no indications that the significance of this highly altered house would be materially affected.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 This report presents a proportionate assessment of the significance of the listed pair at 7 & 9 Wedderburn Road. The effects of the proposals on the significance of the listed building have also been assessed.
- 4.2 The assessment in this report has demonstrated that the listed building has been subject to much internal reconfiguration, and that the proposed minor internal alterations would preserve and enhance the significance of the listed building.
- 4.3 Because no harm has been identified, there are no policy conflicts with the Development Plan. Neither does the proposal trigger paragraphs 200 or 202 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The proposed development also complies with the statutory duties in s.66 and s.72 of the Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act, 1990.