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Listed Building Application  
Via Planning Portal

29 February 2024

## LBC - DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

**Blue plaque: Joseph Lister (1827-1912)**  
52 Maple Street, London, W1T 6HL  
London Borough of Camden

### Site Analysis

**Number 52 Maple Street is Grade II listed (list entry 1113111 – for 50-52 evens); and lies within Fitzroy Square Conservation Area.**

### The Current Building description of 52 Maple Street:

Maple Street lies on the south boundary of the Fitzroy Square Conservation Area, sub-section 'The Surrounding Streets'; at its east end joining Tottenham Court Road to run westwards to Cleveland Street. In 1777-8, the street laid out speculatively by the landowner Charles Fitzroy, 52 Maple Street originally numbered and named 28 London Street; renumbered in 1886 and the name changed to Maple Street in 1907.

The north side of the street terrace houses nos. 46-56 (evens) in which Nos. 52 lies, has four storeys plus basement and mansard (possibly one of the 19th century alterations mentioned in the list description), with banded stucco at ground floor level; two bays wide, built of London stock brick, in c.1780; the entrance door set to the left with a semi-circular head and fanlight; the sash windows of vertically proportioned receding size, a plain parapet band.

Originally a single residence, by the nineteenth-century subdivided, the house is currently residential apartments.

### Plaque details

Manufacture of English Heritage ceramic blue plaques is undertaken by specialist artisans. The detailed materials and making description is an attached document. After firing, plaques have a diameter of 495mm and are 50mm deep. Set into the fabric of a building to a depth of 50mm, so that they rest flush with the surface of the elevation. Plaques have been found to be extremely durable. Similar plaques erected by the Society of Arts under the scheme have lasted for over 150 years. Modern plaques have a slight domed surface which encourages rainwater to flow over and in effect makes them self-cleaning and require little maintenance; the colour will not fade.

*Step into Fitzroy's story*



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### **Proposed position of the new blue plaque: front elevation of 52 Maple Street**

It is recommended that the best position for the plaque on the front elevation would be located at ground-floor level; centred horizontally on the stucco pier between the two windows; vertical height to symmetrically straddle the stucco band that aligns with the upper half sash window panes.

The significance of the architecture and context with the terrace has been carefully considered; the Historic England Conservation Architect consulted and has agreed with the proposed location. Located as shown on the attached document surveyor orthophotos, scaled 1:50, and oblique views; **the submitted surveyor orthophotos take the role of architect drawings and the square-on view at 1-50 scale will print to scale at A1.**

### **Existing and proposed elevations submitted – technical description**

The metric survey images submitted with the application do, we believe, take the role of existing and proposed elevations, the square-on image shows to scale 1:50, and are within +/- 5mm accuracy.

A description of these survey elevations to note are that they are geometrically correct orthophotos derived from accurate photogrammetric models using a professional DSLR camera, focus lens, tripod/telescopic mast. The DSLR imagery spatially controlled and coordinated on architectural features referenced to a site grid of control/tie points. Specialist photogrammetric processing software generates the photogrammetric model and extraction of the orthophotos, therefore are accurate existing elevations. The blue plaque design is scaled and superimposed onto the elevation views using Adobe Photoshop; and therefore give both the existing and proposed elevation.

### **Plaque installation methodology;**

The exterior elevation of the building will be slightly adapted to accommodate the blue plaque. Detail individual installation instructions are advised on by the Historic England, Conservation Architect, who provides the technical advice to English Heritage and contractor - that the proposed location brickwork and stucco will be of solid construction and well able to take an inset plaque; the contractor instructions for installation to include:

1. Surveyor scale geospatial ortho images (see attached documents) are provided to the contractor for preparation of the positioning of the plaque; the contractor to measure on site before work commences, to ensure horizontal and vertical dimensions are correct and the plaque site is prepared to ensure the layout is set symmetrically within the architectural and stucco features.
2. To note that owner consent has been agreed for the contractor to re-pin the trailing cable.
3. Notwithstanding Building Regulation 7 - Instruction BS 8000 : Workmanship on building sites - Code of Practice; and BS 8000-3 Workmanship code of practice for



masonry; the removal of stucco and masonry to accommodate the plaque is not deemed to affect the strength, stability and sound resistance of the extant construction.

4. For ceramic inset plaque; Contractor to mark positioning; cut circular recess into the fabric of the building of sufficient depth to allow 'flush' accommodation of the plaque and its mortar bedding, allowing 6mm (1/4inch, no greater than 1/2-inch outer rim).
5. Drill and cut the circle carefully and neatly through the stucco, which may be cement based. Care taken when removing the stucco that the surrounding areas are not detached from the brickwork.
6. Care taken to ensure the surrounding brick courses are not damaged or dislodged.
7. Key and well wet recess and render – mortar mix advised to be of lime mortar for bedding and filling the reverse void in the plaque.
8. Set in position, completely fill space leaving no gaps and point flush with the surrounding building surface masonry; colour and texture is to be best possible match to existing painted stucco.
9. The inscription to be set level and true; the outer edge of the white glazed perimeter of the plaque to be positioned flush with the surface of the surrounding stucco; finish neatly and remove all residue.

There will be no change to the use of the building, no floor space will be added or subtracted, and no new homes will be built on the site. The layout of the building will not be changed, nor will the scale of the building be affected. There will be no landscaping undertaken.

### **Access**

No new access points and routes are proposed. No changes are proposed in relation to pedestrian and cycle routes, road layout, local services and public transport provision. The blue plaque will be visible from the public highway and therefore no new access is required. There is no new need for provision of access for emergency services.

### **Design Solution**

The above information has explained the proposed development, and the lack of necessity for good access into and through the site in relation to the proposed works. The English Heritage blue plaque design has been developed over 150 years in sympathy with the character of London buildings, the location and positioning of the plaque chosen to be as appropriate as possible to the design of the façade of the building, and to be visible to the average passer-by. The ceramic plaque is hand crafted and is thought to respond positively to most local contexts. The architectural character of this listed building will only be affected in a minor way, and the historical and cultural interest of the property and area will be enhanced within the local and wider community.



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### Consents

The freehold owners of the building have approved the project and given their consent; the Historic England Conservation Architect has been consulted on the proposed position, that the building is structurally able to take an inset plaque, and for the methodology of the installation. If planning Listed Building Consent approved, we would hope to install the plaque in autumn 2024.

If you would like to discuss the application or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Cathy Power  
Blue Plaques Manager  
English Heritage

6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 100 Wood Street, London, EC2V 7AN  
 07802 775022 [cathy.power@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:cathy.power@english-heritage.org.uk)