

June 2024

**Guilford Place Drinking Fountain, Southwark**  
CONDITION SURVEY AND REPORT OF PROPOSED WORKS



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## **DETAILS**

Name: Guilford Place Drinking Fountain

Location: Guilford Place, London WC1N 1EA

Materials: Marble, Granite

Year: 1870

Listed: Grade II, TQ 3056382182 (List entry no: 1246147)

## **DESCRIPTION AND HISTORIC PROVENANCE**

Drinking fountain situated on a traffic island. 1870. Designed by architect Henry Darbishire for the Misses Whiting to commemorate their mother. Granite base with stone figure. Raised circular plinth with 2 block steps to circular base of rough-hewn granite blocks with round-arched niche for animal trough at base, supporting projecting semi-circular basin and smooth granite drum surmounted by a sculptured figure of the Woman of Samaria, in loose robes and scarf, kneeling on left knee to fill a water jar. The drinking fountain forms a civic group with the cast-iron railings to the Ladies' & Gentlemen's public conveniences (gv), situated behind it. (Now a wine bar)

## **CONDITION**

Date of Condition survey: 1st of June 2023

Weather conditions: Sunny, 18 degrees Celsius

Report prepared by: Florian Kirchertz

The fountain is in overall good condition and structurally sound.

The marble figure is heavily stained presumably from traffic contamination (soot, carbon), but appears to be in overall good condition with only slight surface erosion. One of the vessel handles is missing.

The granite main body is also in good condition with only surface staining. The drainage, which is integrated in the basin section has been poorly installed / repaired and would benefit from a stone indent or colour matching resin repair. The stainless-steel hatch at the rear has been broken, the lock removed and the door bent. The circular granite steps have lost some edges, and the treads at the rear of the fountain have loss to the surface (currently filled with concrete).

There is a live water connection and push button operated tap on the fountain, however there appears to be a blockage or a ceased connection, as the water does not flow from the tap, but rather leaks through one of the joints within the plumbing system.

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## **PROPOSED REPAIR METHODOLOGY**

### **Cleaning:**

Initially we recommend carrying out a DOFF Clean to the entire structure. This will help to remove all organic staining from the stonework. Areas of carbon staining should be poulticed with Ammonium Carbonate at 10% solution in 2 subsequent cycles. The poultice will be applied to the drinking fountain in areas where the carbon build up cannot be removed with steam.

### **Repair / reconditioning of existing plumbing:**

The existing plumbing has an active water feed from the bar below (tested), however the push button system does not currently work. It is likely that this can be repaired, or worst-case scenario the tap and push button will need to be replaced. The existing water feed is based on a modern 25mm MDPE plastic pipe, which will be retained.

### **Replacement of rear hatch:**

The rear access hatch is broken (although it kind of shuts, the door is bent, the lock is missing and the hatch is mounted to the granite surface, as such protruding outwards. We will remove the hatch, re-bate the granite and fit a new hatch with a 3- lever lock, that sits flush with the surface of the granite, so a memorial plaque can potentially be fitted above.

### **Granite repairs:**

The first course of granite steps (although a later addition to the fountain) has incurred damages to the edges, all around. At the rear the entire surface of 2 of the treads are missing and have been filled with concrete. We recommend carrying out edge indent repairs to the nosing with granite matching the existing as closely as possible. The rear two treads will require larger scale indents, replacing the entire treads surfaces.





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