

After visiting n.8 Gloucester Gate, an impressive 6 storey residence designed by John Nash, dating 1832, we are happy to report the following. Behind the magnificent stucco fronted façade the interiors have been much altered from their original scheme, including 7 chimneypieces, 6 of which are later replacements, almost certainly having been installed in the 1980s during significance renovation and adaption. We will list methodically an outline of each chimneypiece in the interest of clarity. The fact that the chimneypieces are installed on raised hearths it's another clear sign that these are later additions, because they are laid on the existing floor while originally they would have been flush to the floor.



## 1. Dining Room

Recently installed on a raised hearth with new chamber lining, this chimneypiece, whilst attempting to create a sympathetic replacement, is pedestrian in design and lacks the architectural significance one would expect in a room of this calibre.

In terms of hierarchy this room would certainly have had a more important mantle, both sophisticated in execution and design.

## 2. Bar

As per example 1, recently installed with raised hearth and sited on the entry level in a principle room, like its pier in the Dining Room it lacks architectural significance and design one would expect of a property of this calibre and historical importance.



## 3. Reception

Arguably the two most important rooms in the house, the Reception and adjoining Family Room have a matching pair of later installed surrounds, mounted on raised hearths and fitted in the 1980s. These mantles are a later concoction using antique components, the shelves being later, the jambs from a poorly carved late 19<sup>th</sup> century surround blended with an earlier frieze of paterae in an attempt to make sympathetic with their surroundings. They are neither appropriate in quality of design nor manufacture for these two magnificent Drawing Rooms.





#### **4. Family Room**

As above.



#### **5. Master Bedroom**

The Master Bedroom fireplace appears to be a 21<sup>st</sup> century reproduction. The appalling quality of the marble combined with very low quality of execution in carving make this chimneypiece totally inappropriate for this property.



### **6. Bedroom 02**

Sited in an auxiliary room, whilst simple in design this chimneypiece has a small but significant grate of discerning quality that could well be original to this premises. Unlike the others, the footblocks are sited below the new hearth level and would suggest that this mantle has been in situ for a significant period of time. The surround appears to be executed in stone with many subsequent layer of paint.



### **7. Bedroom 04**

Later installed on raised hearth, approximately 1980s, dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century this chimneypiece and grate are inappropriate for this magnificent building by John Nash.



The following selection of reproduction chimneypieces is of exceptional quality and the design of each of these is architecturally correct.

**Ground Floor Library**



**Ground Floor Dining Room**



**First Floor**



**Second Floor**

