

Application ref: 2024/5365/L  
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Date: 7 January 2025

**Development Management**  
Regeneration and Planning  
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Mrs Cathy Power  
English Heritage  
100 Wood Street  
London  
EC2V 7AN

Dear Sir/Madam

## **DECISION**

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

### **Listed Building Consent Granted**

Address:

**2 Gower Street  
London  
WC1E 6DP**

Proposal:

Installation of one commemorative blue ceramic plaque to Rhoda and Agnes Garrett. Inset into the front elevation of 2 Gower Street at ground floor level, centred between the windows and aligned in height with the existing plaque

Drawing Nos: 1 - Cover letter and Heritage Statement; 2 - Design and Access statement\_2 Gower Street; 3 - Location Map; 4 - Current site photographs; 5 - Existing Elevation\_BP/3991-I; 6.1 - Proposed Elevations\_BP/3991-vi; 6.2- Proposed Elevations\_BP/3991-iv; 6.3 - Proposed Elevations\_BP/3991-v; 7 - Proposed Details; 8 - Plaque Material Details

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant Listed Building Consent subject to the following condition(s):

Conditions And Reasons:

- 1 The works hereby permitted shall be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this consent.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

1 - Cover letter and Heritage Statement; 2 - Design and Access statement\_2 Gower Street; 3 - Location Map; 4 - Current site photographs; 5 - Existing Elevation\_BP/3991-I; 6.1 - Proposed Elevations\_BP/3991-vi; 6.2- Proposed Elevations\_BP/3991-iv; 6.3 - Proposed Elevations\_BP/3991-v; 7 - Proposed Details; 8 - Plaque Material Details

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 3 All new work and work of making good shall be carried out to match the existing adjacent work as closely as possible in materials and detailed execution.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

#### Informative(s):

- 1 Reasons for granting Listed Building Consent:

The application building at 2 Gower Street is listed as Grade II on the National Heritage List for England (No. 1322173) and is in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area (Sub Area 5. Bedford Square/Gower Street). It is located at the southern end of a terrace of 10 townhouses (2-20) on the east side of Gower Street that were built c.1780 and shares a boundary with the Grade I Listed No.11 Bedford Square. The subject building is four-stories with basement, and has been rendered in a plain white painted stucco, and margin glazing to the lower ground floor sash windows.

The proposed works relate to the installation of a second official English Heritage ceramic Blue Plaque commemorating Rhoda Garrett and Agnes Garrett on the front elevation between the two ground floor windows. Both Rhoda and Agnes Garrett were early female pioneers in business, and women's rights activists. The plaque would read: "RHODA / GARRETT / 1841-1882 / AGNES GARRETT / 1845-1935 / Interior decorators / and suffragists / lived, worked and / died here."

There is an existing English Heritage Blue Plaque commemorating Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett (pioneer of woman's suffrage) at ground floor level between the front door and central window of the subject building. It is also noted that there are a number of other Blue Plaques applied to the façades of Gower Street, and there is the risk that if additional plaques are applied it may result in a cluttered appearance and detracts from the architectural qualities of the buildings. However, in this specific case, the listing description for the terrace specifically references the occupation of No. 2 by Rhoda and Agnes Garrett at the property.

The proposed plaque would be positioned centrally between the two ground floor windows, in line with the existing Blue Plaque. A circular section of stucco/brickwork would be cut out and the plaque inserted into the recess to sit flush with the elevation. Although a small amount of historic fabric would therefore be lost as a result of the works, this is the standard fixing method for official English Heritage Blue Plaques, and it is considered in balance that the addition of the proposed plaque would further enhance the significance of the listed building by allowing its history to be appreciated by the public.

It is therefore considered that the proposed works would not harm the special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Building and would will preserve the character and appearance of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The application has been advertised in the press and by means of a site notice, whereby there were no consultation responses.

- 2 The site's planning history has been taken into account when making this decision.

Special regard has been attached to the desirability of preserving the listed building and its features of special architectural or historic interest, under s.16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (ERR) 2013.

As such, the proposal is in general accordance with policies D1 and D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017. The proposed development also accords with the London Plan 2021 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 3 You are advised that any works of alterations or upgrading not included on the approved drawings which are required to satisfy Building Regulations or Fire Certification may require a further application for listed building consent.
- 4 This approval does not authorise the use of the public highway. Any requirement to use the public highway, such as for hoardings, temporary road closures and suspension of parking bays, will be subject to approval of relevant licence from the Council's Streetworks Authorisations & Compliance Team, 5 Pancras Square c/o Town Hall, Judd Street London WC1H 9JE (Tel. No 020 7974 4444). Licences and authorisations need to be sought in advance of proposed works. Where development is subject to a Construction Management Plan (through a requirement in a S106 agreement), no licence or authorisation will be granted until the Construction Management Plan is approved by the Council.
- 5 All works should be conducted in accordance with the Camden Minimum Requirements - a copy is available on the Council's website (search for 'Camden Minimum Requirements' at [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)) or contact the Council's Noise and Licensing Enforcement Team, 5 Pancras Square c/o Town Hall, Judd Street London WC1H 9JE (Tel. No. 020 7974 4444)

Noise from demolition and construction works is subject to control under the

Control of Pollution Act 1974. You must carry out any building works that can be heard at the boundary of the site only between 08.00 and 18.00 hours Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 13.00 on Saturday and not at all on Sundays and Public Holidays. You must secure the approval of the Council's Noise and Licensing Enforcement Team prior to undertaking such activities outside these hours.

In dealing with the application, the Council has sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. The council publishes its adopted policies online, along with detailed Camden Planning Guidance. It also provides advice on the website for submitting applications and offers a pre-application advice service.

You can find advice about your rights of appeal at:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/guidance/guidancecontent>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DPope', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Daniel Pope  
Chief Planning Officer