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Heritage Statement

Works associated to the Lower Ground Floor, Rountra Building

42-43 Gloucester Crescent, London, NW1 7DL

Application Site

The building relating to this application is Grade II listed and was formally used as a piano factory. The main use of the building is now of commercial offices. Thomas and William Piper built the property in 1852, for piano manufacturers Messrs Collard and Collard.

The building consists of English bond yellow stock brick. The roof is flat and not visible from the street scene. The footprint is a unique circular shape of approximately 350m².

An open well is located around the footprint of the building, and this was used for moving the pianos from floor to floor, with a former hoist, during the manufacturing process. Collard and Collard were the oldest of the well-known piano-manufacturing firms of the St. Pancras area, having patented a form of upright "square" piano in 1811. This building replaced a similarly shaped one, which was destroyed by fire a year after it was built in 1851.

The interior of the building consists of cast-iron columns and beams to vaulted brick ceilings; cast-iron columns, each with molded plinth and capital, surround blocked-in central well; iron king post trusses radiate from central well; the addition houses an open-well staircase with a simple iron balustrade and cantilevered stone treads, and has stone flag flooring.

border Camden Town Centre. The property is within a sustainable, thriving, town centre location, close to public transport and amenities. The closest station is Chalk Farm underground on the northern line, with easy access in to central London

The building forms a dominant feature in the area, and significantly protrudes from the more uniform, terrace residential properties that dominate the street.

The property is unique in its immediate surroundings, although other unique examples of round footprint buildings in close proximity include the Roundhouse building on Camden High Street.

Impact of proposed development

The proposed internal changes would not be visible from the outside, and it is therefore not considered that it would impact on any part of the conservation area, or would affect the wider area.

The proposed development would not have any impact on original features of the building, as there are no original features that are being removed. The proposal merely consists of the alteration and addition of internal stud partitions. These partitions are not original and do not add anything particular to the heritage asset. The changes can also be easily reversible and can adapt to the nature of the use of the building.

It is envisaged that the changes would preserve the heritage asset and would not have any detrimental impact on the wider conservation area.