

**Dickens  
Fellowship**

www.dickensfellowship.org

48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX

Joan Dicks, Joint Honorary General Secretary, joan@dickshg.freemove.co.uk 020 7242 8575

Dr Ruth Richardson  
35 Hartham Road  
Copenhagen Fields  
London N7 9JQ

18 April 2012

Dear Ruth

I am writing on behalf of the Council of the Dickens Fellowship to accept your kind proposal that the name of the Fellowship should feature on the blue plaque which is proposed for the house at 22 Cleveland Street (formerly 10 Norfolk Street.)

The Dickens Fellowship has known about this former home of Dickens for some time, and there is a feeling that a plaque on the building is long overdue. It is very fortunate, from our point of view, that the campaign to save the Cleveland Street workhouse has drawn attention to the site, and has led to this proposal. Dickens's residence here, at key periods in his life, is certainly worthy of record.

It is clear that the proximity of Dickens's former home to the Strand Union workhouse would have had an influence on his depiction of the workhouse system in his novels. He would have been familiar with other workhouses from other stages of his life in different parts of the country, but all his early experiences were incorporated into his fiction, and there can be little doubt that the Cleveland Street workhouse contributed to the compound portrait of 'the workhouse' in *Oliver Twist*.

Dickensians from all over the world followed the campaign to save the workhouse with interest, and it had widespread support. We wish you all success with this linked project and look forward to hearing further from you. Please let me know if you need further help.

With all good wishes.



Joan Dicks  
Joint Hon Gen Secretary, The Dickens Fellowship  
Trustee, The Charles Dickens Museum

35 Hartham Road Holloway London N7 9JQ

12<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Dear Mr Jatania,

This is to confirm that the house at number 10 Norfolk Street which has now become world famous as the childhood and adolescent home of the novelist Charles Dickens is the same house now known as number 22 Cleveland Street.

I have forwarded to you the photograph of the house from the article in *The Dickensian*, written by the Editor at the time, the Dickens scholar Mr Leslie Styles 1951; also the letter from Joan Dicks, President of the Dickens Fellowship supporting the application for a blue plaque on the house.

However, should you be called upon to supply require information concerning further contemporary proofs, I am happy to confirm that I have verified the following:

- The British Museum ledger which records Charles Dickens's obtaining of a Reader's ticket from the address 10 Norfolk St Fitzroy Square
- Charles Dickens own first-known calling-card gives his address as 10 Norfolk St Fitzroy Square
- Contemporary maps and ratebooks show that number 10 Norfolk Street is the house on the SE corner of Norfolk Street and Cleveland Street, now numbered 22 Cleveland Street

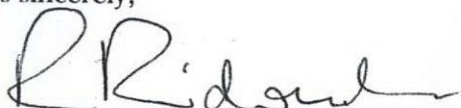
This data is fully recorded and verifiable, being reproduced in my book *Dickens and the Workhouse*, published this year by Oxford University Press.

The Cleveland Street Workhouse was listed Grade II in 2011 after the submission of documentary evidence to the Department of Culture Media & Sport which demonstrated that Charles Dickens had lived in the house at 10 Norfolk Street, which is now 22 Cleveland Street, and that it is therefore very likely that the novel *Oliver Twist* received some inspiration from the proximity of Dickens's home and the Workhouse.

I gave a lunchtime talk earlier this year at Camden Town Hall in the Euston Road on the discovery that Dickens had lived only a few doors from the Cleveland Street Workhouse, at which I presented the visual evidence of the association of Dickens with number 10 Norfolk Street/22 Cleveland Street, and the identity of the buildings. The talk was attended by a number of people from the Planning Department, who were therefore able to witness these proofs of the identity of the house, and the fact of Dickens's having lived there, so I do not anticipate any difficulty on this score in obtaining permission to erect the plaque.

I keenly look forward to the erection of the plaque.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ruth Richardson, DPhil., FRHistS.

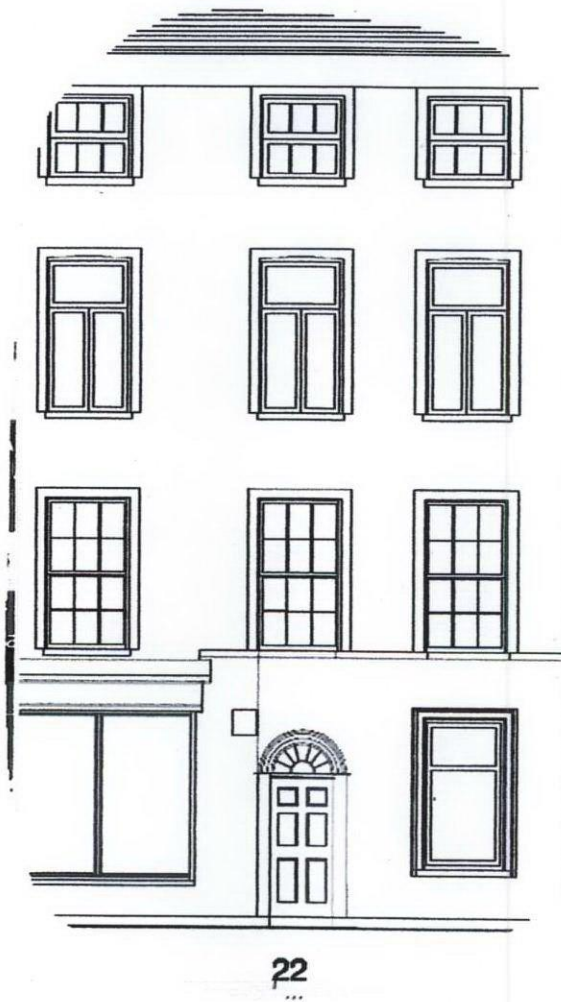


— 10 Norfolk St in 1951 (2).JPG



1951

— 22 Cleveland St elevation snip.JPG



22

— Attachments:

Dickens old home blue plaque position.JPG

61.7 kB

Dickens plaque agreed design+text.JPG

55.8 kB