

24 October 2011

Heritage Statement

(In support of previous application 2011/4231/INVALID)

The building in question is a late eighteenth century terraced house in Fitzrovia on the southern side of Percy Street. The English Heritage listing from 1972 refers to the terrace of 15-19 Percy Street as follows:

4 terraced houses and later shops. 1764-70, altered. Refaced above ground floor in facsimile. Built by W Franks, W Richmond, H Roydhouse and J Pritchet. Multicoloured stock brick with slated mansard roofs and dormers. Cement cornice and 1st floor sill band. 3 storeys, attics and basements. 3 windows each except No.16 with 2 windows. Gauged red brick flat arches to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. Parapets. Nos 15 to 17: C20 shop and restaurant frontages. No.18: C20 simplified reproduction of former early C19 wooden double shopfront with bowed windows. Square-headed house doorway. INTERIORS: not inspected

We feel that the works we've done are firstly, of a relatively minor nature and secondly, entirely temporary and reversible without trace or damage to the historic nature and structure of the building.

While we understand that part of the value of the building is its openness at first floor level, we feel that the economic advantages of allowing a local business to operate there, along with the lack of harm to the historic integrity of the building, outweighs any disadvantages of the room being temporarily subdivided. This is particularly so when (being at first floor level) it is not easily noticeable or visible from the street level.