



ENGLISH HERITAGE

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

Blue Plaque to Leslie Hutchinson 31 Steele's Road, London NW3 4RE

1. Site Analysis

Number 31 Steele's Road is a brick-built detached house, of two storeys, with attic and semi-basement, which was built in 1874 by the architect J. M. Brydon, who briefly lived there, and since altered. It is of asymmetrical design, with a projecting porch and bowed bay windows rising from basement to the first floor. Steele's Road consists of detached, highly individual houses built for artists with studios at the back. The buildings here are mainly by Batterbury and Huxley, and according to Pevsner were 'in the vanguard of the new taste': red brick, with brick decoration, floral tiles and Dutch and Queen Anne motifs just beginning to appear. From the street, the houses have a fairly conventional appearance.

2. Design Process Components

It is proposed that English Heritage erect a standard ceramic commemorative blue plaque at 31 Steele's Road, to commemorate the singer Leslie Hutchinson, who lived there from 1929 until 1947.

There will be no change in the use of the building, no floor space will be added or subtracted, and no new homes will be built on the site. The layout of the building will not be changed, nor will the scale of the building be affected. There will be no landscaping undertaken.

The exterior elevation of the building will be slightly adapted to accommodate the blue plaque (please see enclosed Installation Note). The plaque will be sited on the façade between first and second floor levels (see enclosed Rectified Positioning Photo).

3. Access

No new access points and routes are proposed. No changes are proposed in relation to pedestrian and cycle routes, road layout, local services and public transport provision. The blue plaque will be visible from the public highway and therefore no new access is required. There is no new need for provision of access for emergency services.

4. Design Solution

The above information has explained and justified the proposed development, and the lack of necessity for arrangements to be made to facilitate access into and through the site in relation to the proposed works. The English Heritage blue plaque design has been developed over 140 years in sympathy with the character of London buildings. It is hand-crafted and is thought to respond positively to most local contexts. The architectural character of this listed building will only be

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INSTALLATION NOTE

Please see below sections from our contractor specification, detailing the method of plaque installation:

- 2.3 **For ceramic plaque:** Cut circular recess into the fabric of the building of sufficient depth to allow 'flush' accommodation of the plaque and its mortar bedding, allowing 6mm (1/4") maximum clearance around the plaque.
- 2.4 Notwithstanding BS 8000: Part 3, clause 3.7.9: The removal of masonry to accommodate the plaque to be in locations which will least affect the strength, stability and sound resistance of the extant construction. Cut carefully and neatly, avoiding spalling, cracking or other damage to surrounding structure.
- 2.5 Key and well wet recess and render in sharp sand and O.P. cement 3:1. Fill back of plaque with (10mm mesh) shingle and cement 5:1, set in position, completely fill space leaving no gaps and point flush with the surrounding masonry, finish neatly and remove all residue. Mortar mix (use lime mortar unless otherwise instructed), colour and texture is to be best possible match to existing masonry. The inscription to be set level and true, the outer edge of the white, glazed perimeter of the plaque to be positioned flush with the surface of the surrounding masonry.