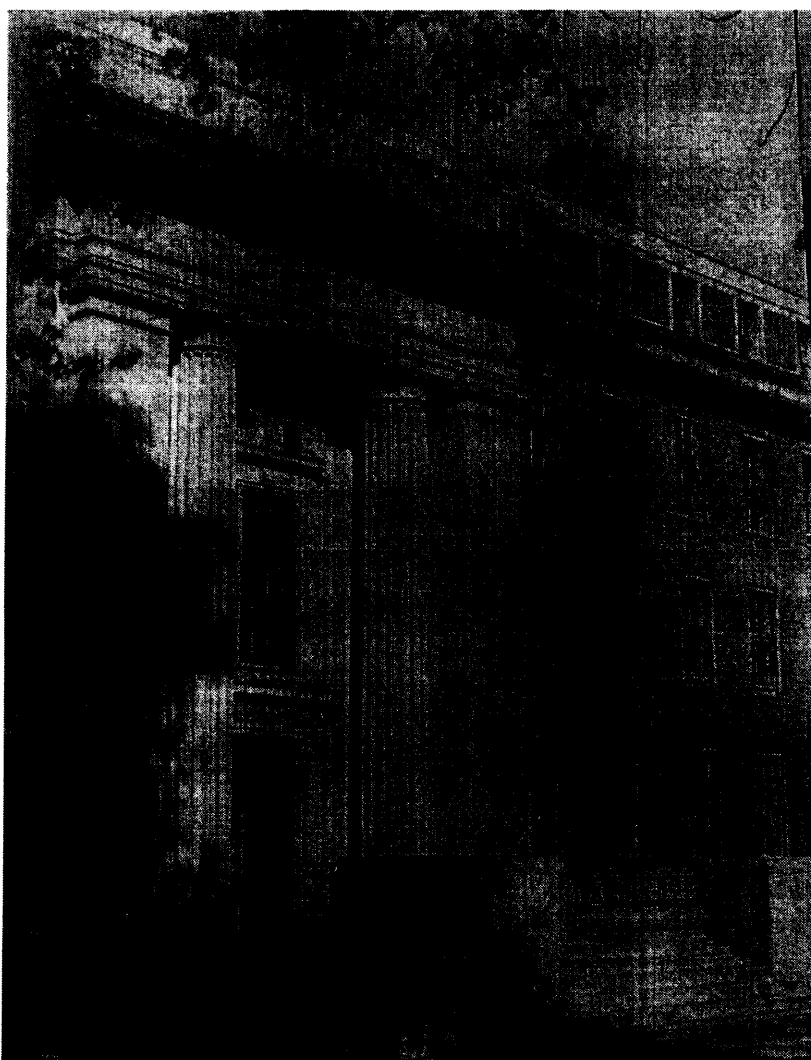


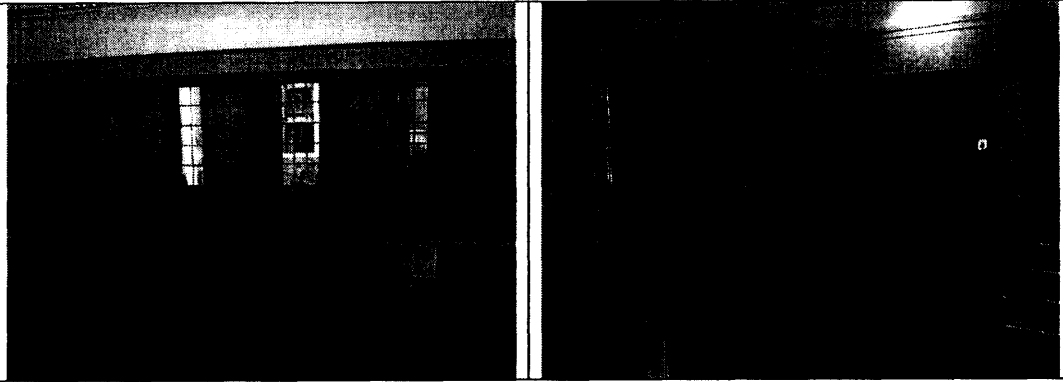
Conservation Management Plan

**Friends House,
173-177 Euston Road,
London NW1 2BJ**



East entrance, Friends House, 1927

AHP Architectural
History
Practice

Name: First floor staircase and lobby	Plan ref: EF1
Current Use: Main staircase from east ground floor entrance; landing leading to a series of lettable suites and meeting rooms on first floor.	
Short Description: A carpeted landing, with double copper glazed doors leading north and south to a series of meeting rooms. (The north doors are closed and a more modest entrance has been formed beside it to access a later corridor.) Either side of the original double doors are copper glazed lights. The staircase up to the second floor is described in entry for S1; the principal double staircase (leading to the ground floor) is clad in Leckhampton stone, with half-landing floor and staircase walls covered in the same material. The landing is lit by a steel-framed bay window in the west wall and three long, wooden sash windows in the east wall. The windows and doors have architraves of Leckhampton stone; the central east window also has a recessed stone sill. The landing walls are clad to dado height in the same material. The half-landing is home to two original wooden benches which were originally photographed in the ground floor east entrance lobby. The L-shaped benches tucked into the space behind the staircase voids are marked on Lidbetter's 1928 plan. Other original features include cast iron radiators and radiator covers.	
	
Short history: The principal staircase is as it was originally designed. Alterations on the first floor landing include the addition of a double door in the south wall of the room that was originally the Quaker Institute, beside the original glazed doors leading to the north wing. The new opening leads to a modern corridor, reconfigured as part of large-scale works to the first floor in 1996/7. The original north corridor doors remain but are currently redundant. The original lobby and staircase pendant lights have been replaced with modern lights. The lifts and their surrounds date from 1978, and the floor carpet and signs on the wall are modern.	
Significance: The landing and staircase are original spaces with high quality decoration. The changes to the landing are minor or reversible. As integral, principal and original parts of the listed building, the staircase and landing are of considerable significance .	
Issues/vulnerabilities: None.	

an effect on the setting of the building. There is certainly scope for alteration, but the design will need to be handled sensitively.

5.10 Health and safety considerations

A health and safety report has highlighted the fact that the main staircase in the east block, at first floor level, has a handrail which is lower than is now considered safe. Any changes in this area – which is largely original and unchanged – would be subject to listed building consent.

5.11 Signage

The exterior of the building has several small signs for the benefit of visitors. They are in different typefaces and one is partly obscured by the modern folding railings of the front portico. The Quakers are in the process of redesigning the signage to provide clearer direction for visitors.

5.12 Record keeping

In a large building like Friends House it is important to keep a record of all works carried out to the historic fabric. This is important, both for historical reasons and also to inform future works. Drawings showing such things as drainage runs and wiring arrangements can be invaluable when alterations to the structure are in prospect. Following Martin Lidbetter's death in 1992, Hubert Lidbetter's collection of notes, plans and drawings of Friends meeting houses in Britain and the USA joined his collection of meeting house photographs in the Hubert Lidbetter Collection at Friends House Library. The library consequently has excellent records of the original building of Friends House, and of some alterations made by Lidbetter. Records of more recent works form part of files in current use; these are kept by the relevant departments. Up to date plans of Drayton House are kept by UCL's Estates and Facilities Department.

5.13 Environmental and sustainability considerations

It is understood that the Trustees wish Friends House to be an exemplar of best practice in sustainability. While this aim is wholly laudable, it should be remembered that providing continuing use for an existing historic building is an inherently sustainable practice: the valuable energy required to build Friends House is embodied in its bricks and stone (this energy would be wasted were the building to be demolished in favour of a 'greener' building). The degree to which Friends House may be made more sustainable is the relevant question. Camden Council should be consulted in the course of formulating a building audit with suggestions as to how sustainability could be enhanced. Some likely suggestions, for instance the prevention of heat loss through insulation and more particularly through double-glazing of windows, would have an impact on the character of the listed building and would require listed building consent.