

Hugh Miller

London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Argyle Street
London WC1H 8ND

Application Ref: 2007/4642/INVALID/IN

8 November 2007

By email

Dear Hugh

14 Elm Row - Incomplete Application

1. Requested information

Thank you for your letter of 16 October, in response to which I attach the following:

- A section through the existing window frame (there is no arch) to show mouldings and revealing at a scale of 1:10 the detail of the moulding.
- A section through the proposed new door and frame (there is no arch) to show mouldings and revealing at a scale of 1:10 the detail of the moulding.
- Full existing elevation of the front of the house including the existing window at basement level at scale 1:50.
- Full existing elevation of the front of the house (which remains unchanged) including the proposed door at basement level at scale 1:50. There is no alteration to the existing brickwork or arch, although the concrete wall below the window would be removed to make space for the door.

2. Further Background

- *Window being replaced is not original:* I hope the drawings and photographs previously supplied illustrate that the existing window is relatively recent (20 or so years old). It sat atop a concrete wall which also was not original, and probably dated from around the same period.
- *Windows on ground and first floors not the same:* The windows on the ground and first floor of our house have different shapes, sizes, panes and mouldings. There is no consistency between them. We have therefore sought to adopt mouldings, pane sizes and a style of door that would suit the basement opening and the house generally rather than simply replicate one or other of the windows above.

- *Colour and material of door the same as window:* The new door is the same colour as the window it replaces (white), and the same colour as the windows on the ground and first floors. The door is made of solid wood painted white, which is the same as the window that it replaces.
- *No brickwork affected:* The door we have had made has been specifically measured to fit the space that is left from removal of the window and concrete wall. We do not want to alter the brickwork of our house at all.
- *Returning to the original look of the house:* The window is a relatively recent addition. As the existing stone steps indicate, the house (which was a blacksmith's house) originally had a door directly into the basement and so we are seeking to revert to that. Not having a door to the basement begs the question why there are stone steps leading down to a window.
- *Style of the door consistent with house and area:* In choosing the style of the door we were very careful to ensure both that it was consistent with the windows above it, that it was secure (and so uses strengthened glass), that it will allow in sufficient light so as not to make the basement into a dungeon, and that it is not inconsistent with the area in which we live. I attach photographs of two 'glass based' doors on the same street as our house (no.1 Elm Row in particular is quite similar in outward appearance to our house, and has at street level a glass door similar to the one we are proposing), and two further similar doors within a stone's throw of our house. As I hope they indicate, our proposed door fits with the style and look of the area perfectly.
- *The door would be a fire exit:* The stairs between the basement and ground floor are (and were when we purchased the property) narrow spiral stairs which are not always easy for someone old or infirm. The existing window would not have provided an exit in an emergency, particularly as it did not open wide enough. A door would provide important peace of mind for us as a fire exit from the basement.
- *Door is not visible from the street:* Unlike the other doors on our street and in the area which we have shown in the photographs, the proposed door is not at all visible from the street.

I look forward to hearing from you. As this is the first planning process myself and my wife have been through, we are not completely clear as to the process. Perhaps you could let me know what the next step might be. In the meantime, if there is anything at all on which I can assist, or if I can clarify any aspect of this application, I would be delighted to speak to you on that. My contact details are at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Munir

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cc. David Bloom

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