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INTERIORS

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HERITAGE STATEMENT

Re: Basement doors to 60 Albert Street, London NW1 7NR

60 Albert Street is part of a grade 2 listed terrace in the Camden Town Conservation Area of Camden. The terrace forms the eastern side of the middle part of Albert Street and was completed circa 1845. The property is typical of a medium sized, early Victorian townhouse.

This local context has influenced the proposed, mainly traditional designs of the doors, window, fire surround and spiral staircase (to the garden). The choices for other key features - such as the kitchen and finishes - are sympathetic and/or harmonious to the style and character found in the early Victorian era.

The property exhibits three key stages of development; the original terraced house; a traditional closet wing extension; a modern penthouse addition.

Although the English Heritage listing describes the original features of the front elevation on this section of Albert Street: "it's square-headed doorway, panelled door, recessed sashes with margin glazing to the ground floor, cast-iron balconies to the 1st floor sashes", number 60 in fact boasts few original features.

The property is currently being refurbished as a single family house, as until two months ago, number 60 Albert Street was serviced as two flats. The upper flat was completely refurbished in 1986. The lower flat has been remodelled to a lower standard, and longer ago. An architect has confirmed few original features remain apart from the staircase, some cornice and the generous front windows. The front door and surround are late 20th century additions; the original internal walls have been replaced by stud partitions; some chimney breasts have been removed and others altered; those original and additional external doors and windows that have been replaced, are generally (but not entirely) of low quality and poor design.

The impact of the proposed doors will be a considerable improvement to what exists both in terms of aesthetics and functionality. Quality materials will replace the crude features and sympathetic design will be employed to create a greater cohesion of style.

There will be no impact on the street scene and no adverse impact to the quality of the interior spaces as the proposed doors will run along original architectural lines and the cellular quality will be retained.

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