

**Former Royal Ear Hospital and Former Student Union Building Capper Street / Huntley Street
London WC1 E 6AP Planning Application - 2015/1281/P**

Dear Seonaid Carr

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The above planning application has recently been brought to the attention of the Twentieth Century Society. We have reviewed the application and wish to object to the proposed demolition of the frontage block of the former Royal Ear Hospital for the reasons set out below.

Local significance and Conservation Area status

The former Royal Ear Hospital was built to the designs of architectural practice Wimperis, Simpson and Guthrie in 1925-6 and opened in 1927 by Neville Chamberlain, the Minister of Health, as a state of the art specialist medical centre. The Society considers the Capper Street frontage to be of significant architectural and historic local interest. The building lies in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area and is specifically noted as a positive contributor to the Conservation Area. The Conservation Area Statement describes the building as follows: "A finely detailed entrance façade facing Capper Street constructed from red brick, with vertical ribbings, it has neo-Tudor influences in the form of a stone entrance surround and stone projecting bay window rising to the upper floors".

Impact of proposed demolition

The above planning application includes the demolition of the building frontage and we are concerned that this loss will both erode the character of this part of the Conservation Area – a designated heritage asset - and also obliterate links with the historic hospital building that is an important part of the medical history and character of this part of Bloomsbury. We urge the applicant to look again at options to preserve the character and important architectural heritage of this building as part of their redevelopment plans.

For these reasons outlined above, we wish to object the above planning application in its current form.

Kind regards,

Henrietta Billings
Senior Conservation Adviser
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Registered Charity No. 1110244



