

Rob Tulloch
Development Control
London Borough of Camden
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By email

1 October 2015

Dear Mr Tulloch,

Library and Under Treasurer's House, Lincoln's Inn, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A - Planning applications: 2015/4408/P, 2015/4541/L, 2015/4500/L

We write to register a firm **objection** to the proposal to demolish the Assistant Treasurer's House at Lincoln's Inn. This modest building may appear a pawn amidst the architectural glories and monumental splendour of the Inn. Nonetheless it was very carefully designed to stand with dignity and modesty beside Hardwick's Tudor Revival buildings.

Completed in 1962 it is also an intriguing example of those who seek to do the best of things in the worst of times. This was an era when many aggressively modern interventions were made in historic complexes. This deliberately modest building with its brick diapering and hoodmoulds was designed to stand discreetly beside Hardwick's monumental library without striking a jarring note. It is the more subtle in being both self effacing yet carefully designed to proclaim its purpose as the home of the Under Treasurer.

Lincoln's Inn, in addition to the numerous listed buildings within it, is rightly designated as a conservation area. This is in recognition of its exceptionally beautiful landscaping both in terms of mature trees and spreading lawns. The Under Treasurer's House stands well within the Inn as perceived from every view point from which it can be seen. Equally it is carefully proportioned when seen from outside behind the wall with handsome entrance gate. As a small building it also has a nice relationship with the pavilion containing the public conveniences on the other side of the road, which is a distinctly neat building of its kind.

The proposed replacement does not seem to bring any significant gain worthy of the demolition of this carefully designed building. It offers a modest extension to the library and some office

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accommodation, but both of these could be provided for elsewhere in a scheme of the size proposed or indeed in other property belonging to the Inn.

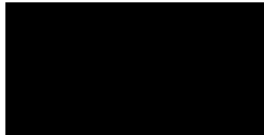
As the new accommodation would be linked to the library through a passage and glazed gallery it will be in any event a somewhat awkward arrangement.

The proposed replacement cannot be considered to be an enhancement of the conservation area. Though designed with some recognition to the context and replicating the scale of the existing building it is less accomplished and the large window on the side of Lincoln's Inn square is unduly assertive.

Lincoln's Inn is one of the most delightful historic (and beautifully maintained) enclaves of its kind in central London. We regard these changes as unnecessary. In addition the individual trees, many now in splendid maturity, all make a significant contribution to the beauty of the place. For this reason we also object to the proposed removal of a fine magnolia beside the entrance to the Great Hall for the convenience of the building works. This is a generous site where in our view an alternative should be considered.

We urge the council to reject this aspect of the application. It is splendid to see the current cleaning of Stone Buildings and the overall harmony of the Inn itself. The proposal to demolish this building is an unnecessary damaging proposal which should be rejected.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Binney, CBE Hon FRIBA
Executive President