

ARCHITECTURAL & HISTORICAL INTEREST

HEAL AND SON LIMITED INCLUDING HABITAT, the building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. It's a Grade II listed building.

191-199 Heal and Son Ltd incl. Habitat TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

Includes 18-26 TORRINGTO PLACE. Department store and warehouse.

Original central section of frontage 5-window bays 1914-17 by Cecil C Brewer and A Dunbar Smith; southern extension of 5 bays with identical style of elevation 1936-8 by Edward Maufe; northern extension of 7 bays in a complementary idiom of 1961-2 by Fitzroy Robinson and Partners.

Portland stone facing on a steel frame throughout. Pantiled mansard roof with dormers.

EXTERIOR: 4 storeys, attic and basement. Central and southern section in stripped Classical style have free-standing octagonal columns with bronze bases and caps to ground floor carrying plain entablature. Plate glass display windows are set back behind an arcade. On upper storeys, piers rise above columns to abbreviated capitals and deep entablature having enriched cornice and incised Roman lettering with the dates MDCCCX, MCMXVI and MCMXXXVII and the name "Heal and Son" (twice). The voids between the piers in alternating rhythm of single and triple lights divided by stone pilasters and filled with close-paned steel windows for 2 storeys, and continuous steel windows recessed on the 3rd storey. The spandrels between 1st and 2nd floors carry cast metal panels in low relief with colour designed by Joseph Armitage and depicting various wares and implements, eg. textiles, sheep shears, a bed, teazle, pottery wheel and vase.

The northern extension has a similar rhythm of bays and identical storey heights with the entablatures ranging through. Entrance in right hand bay with projecting hood bearing the royal coat of arms. Square piers to the ground floor, the set back display windows on the front and return to Torrington Place having curving non-reflective glass. Attic recessed with flat roof and projecting frame for window-cleaning cradle.

The windows between piers of larger steel sections, the spandrels between 1st and 2nd floors here filled with ceramic blue and cream relief panels designed by John Farleigh and made by Kenneth Clark and depicting wares.

INTERIOR: notable chiefly for the circular wooden staircase within a well at the rear of the store, built as part of the Smith and Brewer work in 1914-17. Both Heals and Habitat are entered through the 1960s building at ground-floor level and their plans are confusing on the other floors; they have no division corresponding to the periods of the building but over and undersail each other.

Existing photo



THE HEALS BUILDING, 1 ALFRED MEWS, LONDON W1T 7AA – INTERNAL WORKS TO THE 5TH FLOOR

SETTING & ACCESS

The application site is a 5TH floor of the existing building on the ALFRED MEWS. Access is via the public footpath to the reception on the south side of the HEALS building.

The 5th floor is served with two lifts which are placed on the south side of the Heals building (ALFRED Mews corner) WC'S and Accessible WC are located on the 5th floor.



DESIGN PROPOSALS

The '1 ALFRED MEWS' has been recently remodelled and refurbished. Some of the original features like glass lifts, windows, parquet wood flooring have been retained with new features added in a sympathetic and seamless manner.

Internal works to the 5th floor will involve installation of stud and glass partitioning, new floor finishes, decorations of new walls (painting/wallcoverings) and new light fittings. The proposal include to retain existing stone floor (entrance area close to the terrace) and retain the existing wood flooring in the east side of the building(enclosed area close to the WC).

The scope of works will include: demolition of one of the existing partitions, blocking one of the existing doors, relocation of some of the existing fan coil units.

There are no works to the exterior of the building, windows or to the existing roof.

Applicable Building Regulations have been taken into account in formulating the proposals

HISTORIC BUILDING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There will be no loss to any historic fabric such as walls, windows, doors, timber framing, roofing or architectural features. The design takes full account of the significance of the building and it is our professional view that the proposals will not cause harm or loss to that significance, ensuring that the building can continue to accrue value (in terms of significance). The approach to the works is based on the following key conservation concepts:

- Minimal intervention
- Like for like repairs
- Respect for the significance of the building (value and age and Maintaining authenticity

In this respect there appears to be no material reason in conservation terms why the Authority should not grant listed building consent.