

## 1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 Additional detail has been requested as part of Camden Council's consideration of application 2015/6817/L. This additional statement is made to assess the impact of the following:
- 1.2 Relocation of existing door leaf of the head of the staircase at upper ground floor, to the upper ground floor south west room in re-opening the closed opening from the landing, shown on drawing GRO/CO/211.
- 1.3 Relocation of the redundant door leaf of the second floor east centre room, a bathroom, to the opening to the head of the staircase, also shown on drawing GRO/CO/211.
- 1.4 Relocation of existing square paneled door leaf of the second floor north east room, currently a kitchenette, to the landing door opening of the enlarged north east room, shown on drawing GRO/CO/231.

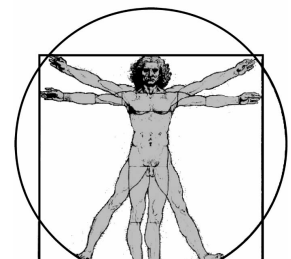
## 2 EVIDENCE BASE

- 2.1 *The Survey of London* refers to the door leaf between the upper ground floor south west room and landing as an *early design*. To define what *The Survey* meant by an *early design*: in *Period House Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900* [Countryside Books 2005] Linda Hall notes *From about 1670 doors with both true and applied paneling have bolection mouldings around the panels, and as with earlier versions they mirror the wall paneling of the period... in more important houses the bolection moulding is combined with fielded or raised and fielded panels.* [p45] and of six panelled doors... *panel mouldings of varying degrees of complexity depending on the status of the house or the status of the individual room within the house. The panels on the inner face are nearly always simpler than those on the outer face...* [p43]
- 2.2 It would therefore be concurred that the second floor bathroom door is indeed the *early design* door, that may have been relocated from the south west upper ground floor room during alterations in the 1970s.
- 2.3 It can be construed that *early doors* were replaced at both upper ground and lower ground floors to adhere to a fashionable 18th or 19thC taste, the existing doors having matching raised and fielded panels to both faces. (Heritage Statement Part One [242-2015-11-30-1] noted 18thC modernisation of those rooms, including door leaves.)
- 2.4 The basis of dating of the interconnection of the two ground floor west rooms is the style of the architraves of their two doors, the lion boss being a popular theme following Waterloo in 1815 (As noted in Heritage Statement Part One 242-2015-11-30-1). That would of course be an earliest date, but not

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necessarily a latest date. It is most likely that the interconnection of the two west ground floor rooms was at the same time as the abandonment of the door opening from the landing to the south west room. Those alterations would have included the lion-head bossed architraves to both doors of the enlarged room. The *early design* leaf of the abandoned door opening may have been fixed shut and left visible on the landing side, but the room side boarded over to remove trace of it. That could explain why the door leaf shows on the section in *The Survey* but not on the plan. Work carried out after publication of *The Survey*, for installation of services, may have been the reason for the leaf to be abandoned (or relocated) as now seen.

### 3 IMPACT

- 3.1 There is clear evidence in *The Survey of London* for the existence and pattern of a door from the ground floor landing to the south west room. The sub-division of the second floor north east room, not an original configuration, makes the re-use of a 'redundant' door leaf from ground floor modernisation extremely likely. There is no harmful impact in re-use of the *early type* door from a non-original partition that is to be stripped out, and the relocation to an appropriate second floor door opening of the kitchenette door, this being related to stripping out of the kitchenette and bathroom. Reverting a second floor door to, perhaps, its original floor, would not falsify the historical record.
- 3.2 Furthermore the relocation of a modern 18th or 19thC leaf with raised and fielded panels from the head of the stair to the reopened doorway to the south west room serves to reflect the status of the room, it being the largest of the reception rooms. And the subsequent use of the *early design* leaf with bolection mouldings at the head of the stairway does not falsify the history, given the likely presence of such doors throughout this floor.
- 3.3 The principal impact for the reopening of the door opening on the ground floor would be the architrave detailing. From a purely practical point of view the drawings show that there would be insufficient width for the boss in the top right corner and a full width shaft for the right hand architrave as viewed from the south west room. The door opening dates from before the change of architraves, so the earlier style architrave would be appropriate.
- 3.4 It might be asked if it would appear odd for two adjacent doors to have different architrave styles? Were the presentation of the house to be from a single period, survival of original features would make that single period the base date for restoration, and much later work of interest would have to be abandoned in such restoration. However the proposed works are not to make a single period restoration.
- 3.5 The rich history of the house is manifested in the proximity of details from different historic periods. Therefore the question, would it appear odd for adjacent doors to have different architraves, must be answered subjectively, not objectively. It would be assessed as subjectively acceptable, the architrave selected from the established historic menu in the house.

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