

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Restorative alterations to basement windows at Albany Wing

National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square

20/05/2016



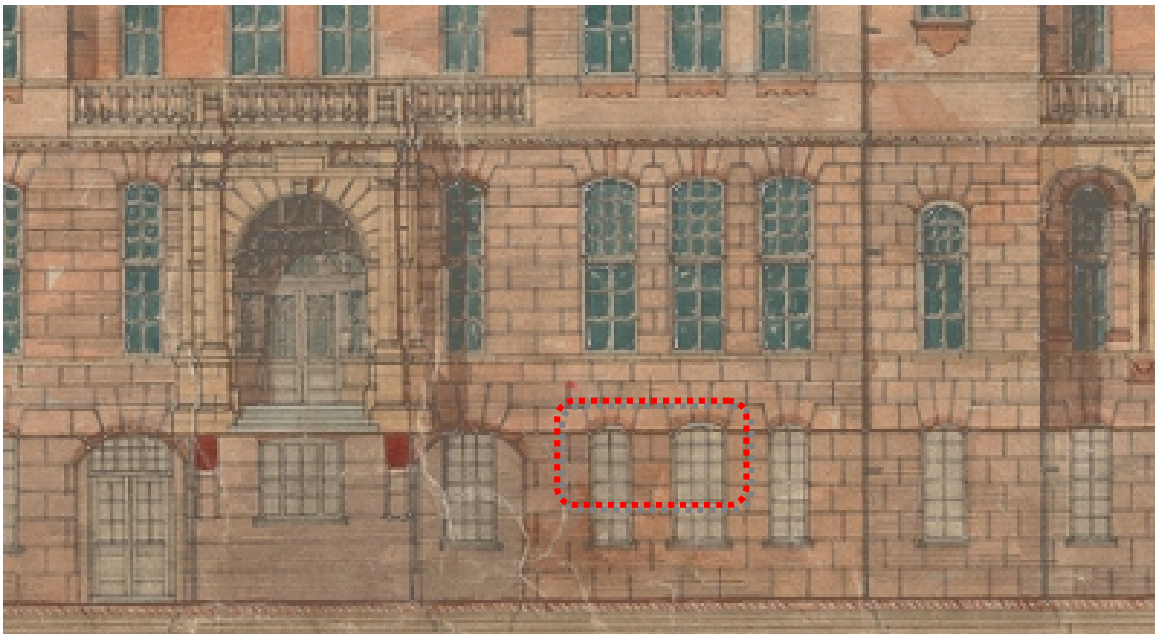
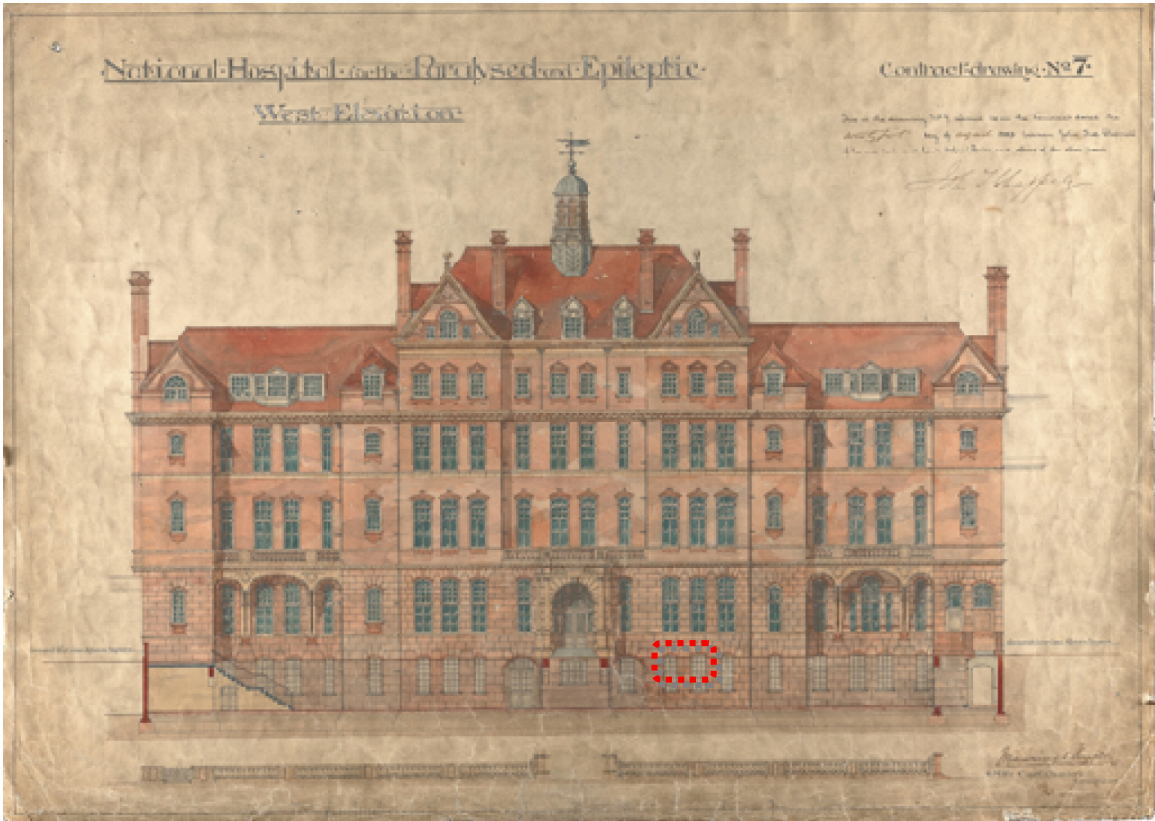


(image 1) Existing Building

View from North of Queen Square to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery with Albany Wing in the foreground, Queen Mary Wing in the background.

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(image 2) Historic Western Elevation
Original Construction Drawing, 1883, with proposed area of work highlighted
National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (Albany Wing),
the then National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic.

INTRODUCTION

Planning Application

This planning application is for the associated work to restore two windows on the facade of a Grade II listed building, which is located within a Conservation Area.

Background

The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery is located at Queen Square, in Bloomsbury. It is the UK's largest dedicated neurological and neurosurgical hospital. It has been established for 150 years and provides comprehensive services for the diagnosis, treatment and care of all conditions that affect the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nervous system and muscles.

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to refurbish two existing store rooms within the basement floor of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (Albany Wing) into an office and reconfigured store. Two of the external windows to these rooms have been partially boarded-up, onto which a now redundant mechanical ventilation unit has been fixed. This allows an uncontrolled flow of air into these spaces which is unsuitable for an occupied space. In addition they reduce the limited daylight to these rooms and are unattractive.

We propose to remove the two ventilation units and boarding, and restore the windows to resemble their original appearance. This will improve ventilation, daylight and therefore the rooms' quality of environment. In addition, while the windows are not immediately visible to the passer-by at street level, due to their location within a light well, the proposed work will enhance the building's overall appearance.

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Listing

The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (Albany Wing) is Grade II Listed (ref: 798-1-174291; listing date: 9th December 1997).

Built between 1883-5, and designed by MP Manning and J Simpson, the listing makes note of the building's external facade, internal features, plan and its historical context.

The building's external features described in the listing include:

Venetian windows and carved brick in pavilion gable ends; triangular pediments on second floor. Tall, narrow round-headed windows with hoods above and pediments on second floor. Tall, narrow round-headed windows with hoods above and aprons below on the first floor. Rusticated brickwork on ground storey. Handsome terracotta entrance porch with voussoirs. Recessed terracotta balustraded loggias to link blocks, in French Renaissance style. Ornate blind aedicules on north pavilion flank wall.

Of these features, the Venetian windows will be directly affected by this application. The proposed work restores two of these windows to resemble their original appearance.

Of the building's internal features described in the listing, the basement is not included. The historical context is unaffected by the proposal.

Conservation Area

The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery is located within Bloomsbury Conservation Area (Sub-Area 11 - Queen Square & Red Lion Square). Albany Wing is identified within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy:

"Of particular note is the symmetrical facade of the grade II listed National Hospital for Neurology (formerly the Institute of Public Health) dating from 1885, which is richly decorated in terracotta. This building has important philanthropic and social links with the area."
(Ref 5.202)

Context

The following provides commentary on the areas immediately adjacent to the Hospital Building.

UCL Institute of Neurology

To the North is the UCL Institute of Neurology, 1978. It is identified as a "Detractor/Opportunity Site" within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy with the following description:

“The concrete, thirteen-storey tower of UCL Institute of Neurology, which is situated to the north east of the square, detracts as a result of its height, bulk and unsympathetic articulation and proportions.” (Ref 5.199) and: “The street scene is harmed by the presence of unsympathetically scaled buildings including the 13-storey concrete tower of the 1978 Institute of Neurology.” (Ref 5.212)

Queen Mary Wing

To the South is the Queen Mary Wing, 1937 by Slater, Moberly & Uren. It is mentioned positively within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy:

“The Queen Mary Wing by Slater, Moberly & Uren was added in 1937, and constitutes a quality example of modern movement 1930s hospital building with full-width balconies to all wards, strong horizontal emphasis and fine Art Deco reliefs.” (Ref 5.202)

Queen Square

Albany Wing’s main facade (South West) faces Queen Square, which is a London Square.

The windows in question are only partially visible from pavement level, due to their position at basement level, within the lightwell.



(image 3) Existing Window
view from Queen Square at ground level, looking
across lightwell, down to basement level, at one
of the affected windows.



(image 5) Existing Windows
view from the lightwell at basement level, at both
of the affected windows.



(image 4) Existing Window
Internal view



(image 6) Reference Window
Equivalent view to image 6, adjacent window

PROPOSED WORKS

It is proposed that two windows in the basement of Albany Wing, within the buildings' main facade (southwest elevation) that look onto a lightwell (image 5) will be restored to their original appearance.

Existing

Currently the upper sash of each window has been covered with plywood, upon which a circular mechanical ventilation unit has been mounted (images 3-5). It is unclear if the original glazing bars of the upper sash have been removed. The remainder upper sash framing (stiles and rails) remains intact.

Proposed

The proposal is to remove the circular mechanical ventilation unit and plywood boarding from the upper sash of both windows, and reinstate the glazing. Joinery, including glazing bars, will be reinstated as necessary depending on their condition.

A window immediately adjacent to the two windows upon which the work is proposed will be used as the reference for the original appearance of the window's upper sash (image 6). New materials will match that of the lower sash, including the arrangement of glazing panels. Glazing in the left-hand window is arranged into two vertical sections, whereas it is arranged into three vertical sections in right hand window.

For further information please refer to the following drawings that accompany this application:

- QSST-MAA-002-B1-DR-A-0010 - Location Plan
- QSST-MAA-002-B1-DR-A-0011 - Site Plan
- QSST-MAA-002-B1-DR-A-0020 - Existing Plan
- QSST-MAA-002-B1-DR-A-0030 - Existing Elevation
- QSST-MAA-002-B1-DR-A-0200 - Proposed Plan
- QSST-MAA-002-B1-DR-A-0290 - Proposed Elevation