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THE GEORGIAN GROUP  
6, FITZROY SQUARE W1T 5DX

LISTED BUILDING APPLICATION  
FOR  
A FIREPLACE IN THE ENTRANCE HALL

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT  
AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

AUGUST 2016

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document is submitted as part of an application for Listed Building Consent to allow the installation of a fireplace into the entrance hall of 6, Fitzroy Square. The building is owned and occupied by the Georgian Group. It is listed Grade I and is within the Fitzroy Square Conservation Area.

## 2. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

The application Comprises

- The Application Form together with the ownership certificate.
- This Statement together with its appendices
- OS Location, plan scale 1:1250, with the site indicated in red.
- The drawings:
  - 6231/1A- Chimneypiece
  - 6231/2A- Elevation and Plan

## 3. PREVIOUS CONSENTS

After the Georgian Group took ownership of the building in 1995, Listed Building Consent was acquired to allow conversion of the building to their uses. The consent encompassed the full re-instatement of the ground floor (formerly a banking hall) and other works throughout the building. It was always the intention of the Group to re-instate an appropriate chimneypiece in the entrance hall but this may not have been explicit in the 1995 consent – hence this application.

## 4. HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

The application site and Fitzroy Square as a whole are described in the Listing Description and the Survey of London Vol. XXI, of particular relevance to this application are the following:

The Square was initially developed by the Adam brothers 1793-98. They built the East and South sides as varied but symmetrical Classical compositions, the Portland stone facades concealing more or less uniform London plans (i.e. a large room at the front and a smaller one at the back beside the stairs). The exterior architecture has all the hallmarks of the Adam style, but their design work appears not to have extended to the interiors.

It must be supposed that the original intention was to complete the square in the manner commenced by the Adams. However, the North and West sides were built some years later, 1827-35.

The houses in the original Adam sides (E and S) all appear to have had fireplaces in their entrance halls. The houses in the later sides (N and W) did not have them.

Prior to the Georgian Group's ownership, 6 Fitzroy Square was a branch of the NatWest Bank, from 1918 to 1995. At some point, most likely at the beginning of this period, the wall between the entrance hall and the front ground floor room (the

original dining room of the house) was removed to make a banking hall. The chimneypiece was removed at an unknown time, but perhaps at the same time as the wall. The wall and other features: door, architraves, cornices, etc have been reinstated. The fireplace and the chimneypiece for it remain to be reinstated.

At lower ground floor level, at the back of the building the bank vaults remain.

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS

### 5.1 LOCATION

As noted in 4 above, the wall between the entrance hall and ground floor front room has been re-instated. In spite of that it appears that most of the Portland stone paving slabs in the entrance hall are original (or replacements of identical size). The paving is characterised by a uniform rank of 36" square slabs running down the centre and set out from the centre of the hall. Smaller slabs make up the space to the wall on either side.

On the wall surface it is possible to make out later re-plastering in the position of the original fireplace. However what may be taken as the ghost of the mantel shelf is far too high for any chimneypiece let alone one in an entrance hall. It may be the result of a new lintel inserted above the hearth opening.

The existing segmental headed recess in the wall is an approximation, a sign that there should be a hearth there, made when the Georgians first moved in.

In the skirting there are cuts and additions showing that the run of skirting was originally interrupted by a chimneypiece.

### 5.2 THE DESIGN

There are no photographs of the lost entrance hall chimneypiece from N°6. The best evidence is a NMR photograph (appendix 1) showing one elsewhere in the square in an unidentified house. The photograph shows a projecting chimneybreast, which clearly N° 6 did not have. However the stair balustrade is identical to N° 6 and the inner fanlight matches other external fanlights in the Square.

The design of the new chimneypiece is based on what can be made out from the photograph:

- the jambs have recessed panels,
- the lintel a series of lozenges,
- the base block aligns with the unmoulded part of the skirting.

As drawing 6231/2 shows the jambs and base blocks then fall exactly where they should in the paving pattern. The overall height is the same as that shown in the photograph taking the sill of the front door sidelight as a datum.

The new chimneypiece will be made of fine-grained Portland stone. The material of the chimneypiece shown in the photograph cannot be known but it is probably not timber. If it were it would perhaps be the same colour as the painted dado and it is

clearly lighter. Portland stone is an appropriate material being less refined than the marble chimneypieces (albeit replacements) in the more important first floor rooms. Limestone is usual in entrance halls.

### 5.3 BUILDING WORKS

The existing hearth will be opened to its full dimensions and if possible connected to the flue, which is assumed to remain within the wall. The flue will be checked for integrity and a ventilated plate installed out of sight in the gable. The introduction of ventilation into the existing flue will be beneficial to the fabric of the building.

Appendix 1. NMR Photograph



Appendix 2. Photographs of the Location



