

4 AMPTON PLACE, LONDON WC1X 0LZ

DESIGN, ACCESS & HERITAGE STATEMENT

The Planning and Listed Building applications relate to the lower maisonette, first floor studio & upper maisonette at 4 Ampton Place.



1. Site Analysis

4 Ampton Place is a five-storey property built during the first half of the 19th Century (c.1830). It is Grade II listed and within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. The front elevation has a rendered ground floor storey and basement while the upper sections are stock brick. The rear elevation is also of stock brickwork.

Extracts from 'Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy' – Adopted 18 April 2011:

Calthorpe Street/Frederick Street.

This sub area is situated on the eastern edge of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, east of Gray's Inn Road, and abuts the boundary with the London Borough of Islington. It comprises an area of mainly terraced housing built on the Swinton and Calthorpe Estates to the east of Gray's Inn Road, an historic route dating back at least to Medieval times. It is one of the few parts of the Conservation Area that has a noticeable fall from west to east, being on the west side of King's Cross Road which follows the valley of the now culverted River Fleet. The northernmost part around Swinton Street was developed in the late 18th century following the construction of New Road (now Euston Road) and a small suburb to the north of this area around Battle Bridge. The remainder of the area was developed over the period 1820 to 1850 by the builder Thomas Cubitt who had his yard in this area. A notable pattern is the progression of development from west to east and the gradual variation in the detailed treatment of the frontages. In the 1860s the excavation for the new Metropolitan Railway cutting bisected Swinton Street and Acton Street towards their eastern end.

Most of the buildings in this area date from the 1820s to the 1840s, and were designed and built by Thomas and William Cubitt. 19th century development progressed from west to east, although there have been some areas of post-war redevelopment. There is slightly greater use of stucco render in these quieter streets. There is generally a grander, classical approach to the overall composition of elevations, which boast pilasters, pediments and projections, emphasising the design of the terrace as a single composition (particularly evident on Frederick Street). Several terraces in this area have entrance porticos at street level giving greater architectural significance, a feature not seen in the streets to the north.

The property is part of a portfolio of properties acquired by Community Housing Association in the 1970's in Frederick Street, Ampton Place and Ampton Street. 4 Ampton Place was converted into three self-contained units during the early/mid 1980s as follows:

Basement & ground floor – 2 bedroom maisonette

First floor – bedsit flat

Second & third floors – 2 bedroom maisonette

2. Development Objectives

One Housing Group is carrying out a series of repairs and improvements throughout the majority of their properties in the immediate vicinity (i.e. Frederick Street, Ampton Street and Ampton Place). Generally, the works consist of the essential renewal of services (mechanical and electrical installations), kitchen fitting and bathrooms together with all other necessary repairs. Targeted improvements to the internal layouts of the maisonettes, flats and bedsits may also be proposed on a property-by-property, unit-by-unit basis.

4 Ampton Place is one of several properties planned for upgrading in the sixth phase.

3. Design Solution and impact on heritage assets

The layouts of the maisonettes and studio flat are to be retained with only a handful of minor alterations (such as changes to door swings, removal of non-original cupboard etc, kitchen layout alterations, new boilers, etc) which are all shown on the submitted drawings.

Planning consent and Listed Building consent are therefore sought for these works together with the following:

- where non-original timber windows and doors are found to be beyond repair they are to be replaced to match existing (or as otherwise indicated on the drawings) including new double glazing – located in basement storey and rear elevation dormer casement windows to the 3rd floor mansard roof slope
- Selectaglaze secondary glazing (locations identified on drawings)
- a roof-mounted communal satellite dish (painted black) is also proposed to the main roof, rear slope

The proposed alterations are minor and discreet – they will generally not be noticeable from the street and will therefore have no adverse impact on the listed building. Double glazing is being proposed only to new joinery that is replacing defective non-original joinery (doors/casement windows) and located in the basement and attic storey. The changes do not harm the building nor do they affect any original features, they are reversible and will positively contribute to the stock of housing in the area by improving the quality and standard of accommodation available.

Listed Building consent is also sought for the addition of plasterboard dry-lining on a protective membrane to the existing basement brick walls (external, party and spine walls) replastered in the 1980's with sand cement render. After much research and finally consulting the Building Research Establishment (BRE) their advice is that either the damp render should be hacked off (with the potential to damage to the underlying historic brickwork) and replastered, or a damp-resistant membrane should be applied over the damp/defective render and finished with plasterboard dry lining. The latter is their preferred solution as it is the most effective and reversible and has been approved in principle by Camden. It will add only 28mm to the thickness of the wall and is relatively minor and quite discreet. Drawings of the critical junctions with windows are also submitted to illustrate how the additional thickness is to be married with existing features, such as splayed window reveals.

4. Access

There are no proposed changes affecting the access arrangements to the property.

5. Affect on neighbours

The proposals will have no affect on neighbours.

6. Landscaping

The proposals do not include any changes to landscaping.

7. Appendix

English Heritage List Entry Summary for 4, 5 and 6 and Ampton Place.



List entry

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List entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: NUMBERS 4, 5 AND 6 AND ATTACHED RAILINGS

List entry Number: 1246994

Location

NUMBERS 4, 5 AND 6 AND ATTACHED RAILINGS, 4, 5 AND 6, AMPTON PLACE

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Greater London Authority	Camden	London Borough	

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 25-Oct-1971

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 476605

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

CAMDEN

TQ3082NE AMPTON PLACE 798-1/91/42 (East side) 25/10/71 Nos.4, 5 AND 6 and attached railings

GV II

Terrace of 3 houses; the main facade of No.31 Frederick Street (qv) forms the end house of the terrace. c1845-7. Possibly by William Cubitt. Yellow stock brick with stucco ground floors and 1st floor sill bands. 4 storeys and basements. Facade (including No.31 Frederick Street) alternating between 2 windows (Nos 4 & 6) and 1 window (No.5). Single window bays slightly projecting. Square-headed doorways with panelled jambs, cornice-heads, fanlights and panelled doors. No.5 with gauged brick segmental arches to all windows; Nos 4 & 6 to ground floors only. Upper floors with gauged brick

flat arches. Stucco cornice at 3rd floor level. Parapet. INTERIORS: not inspected. SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: attached cast-iron railings with bud finials to areas. (Survey of London: Vol. XXIV, King's Cross Neighbourhood, Parish of St Pancras IV: London: -1952: 63).

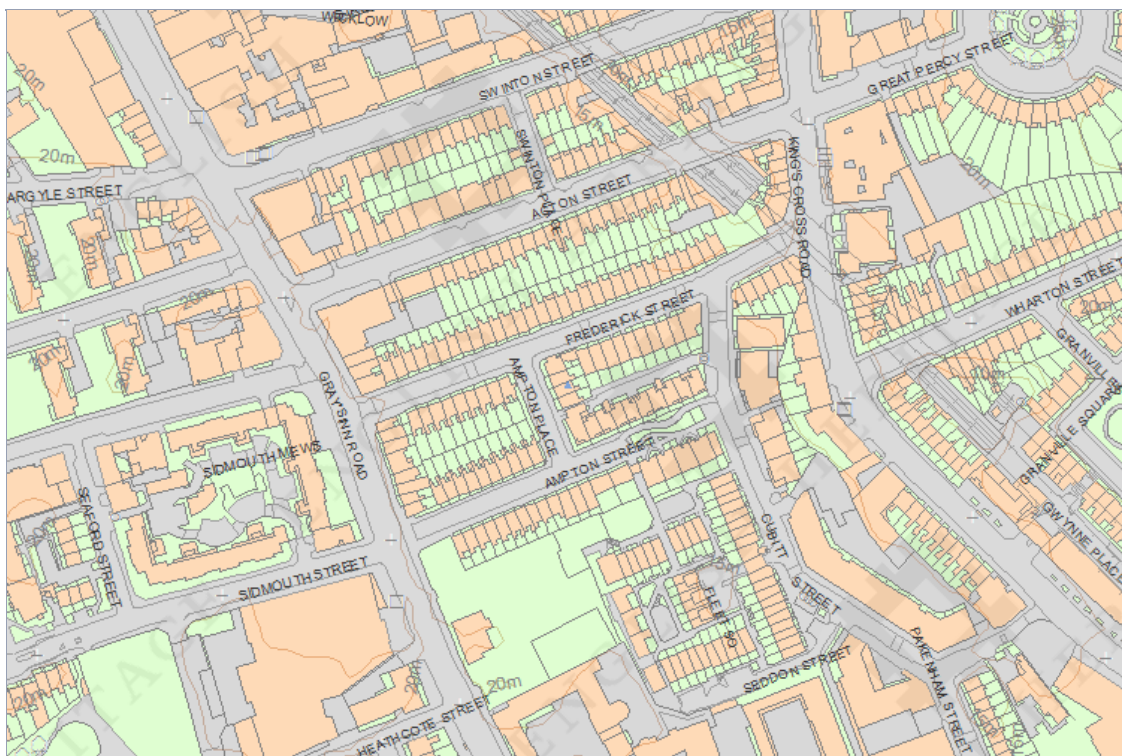
Listing NGR: TQ3069982670

Selected Sources

- 1. **Article Reference** - Title: Survey of London - Kings Cross neighbourhood The Parish of St Pancras Part 4: Volume 24 - Date: 1951 - Journal Title: Survey of London - Page References: 63

National Grid Reference: TQ 30699 82670

Map



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