

St. Katharine's, The Danish Church in London External Masonry Repair Project  
December 2016

Design and Access Statement (incorporating Heritage Statement)

This Heritage Appraisal Report has been prepared by Malcolm Fryer Architects to support the planning and listed building applications for the external masonry repair project at St. Katharine's, The Danish Church in London, a grade-II\* heritage asset presently on Historic England's Heritage At Risk register.

The historical significance of St. Katharine's The Danish Church has been summarised in a Heritage Summary Statement prepared by Alan Baxter Associates (ABA) that has been included in this application. This document should be read in conjunction with the ABA Heritage Summary report.

Malcolm Fryer Architects specialise in historic buildings and are accredited in historic building conservation (AABC).

**Listing Description**

THE DANISH CHURCH

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: THE DANISH CHURCH

List entry Number: 1245872

Location: THE DANISH CHURCH, ST KATHERINES PRECINCT

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

County: Greater London Authority

District: Camden

District Type: London Borough

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II\*

Date first listed: 10-Jun-1954

Date of most recent amendment: 11-Jan-1999

Legacy System Information

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

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 477947

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

TQ2883SE ST KATHARINE'S PRECINCT 798-1/82/1517 (East side) 10/06/54 The Danish Church (Formerly Listed as: ST KATHARINE'S PRECINCT The Danish Church, No.4 (The Pastor's House), No.5 (St Katharine's Hall))

GV II\*

St Katharine's College Chapel, now the Danish Lutheran Church in London. 1826-1828. By Ambrose Poynter. For the Royal Hospital of St Katharine. Restored 1969. Grey brick with stone dressings; west end with stone facing. Tall, collegiate type chapel in Perpendicular style of 7 bays. Attached to and flanking the church, No.4 The Pastor's House and No.5 St Katharine's Hall (qv). EXTERIOR: west end gabled with octagonal corner turrets having arrow slit windows, enriched above the roof line and terminating in spires. Pointed arch doorway with wooden door and square-headed label with enriched spandrels and stops. Above this, a tall 7-light traceried window. A hexagonal clock surmounted by a crown and flanked by coats of arms in the apex of the facade. North and south facades with a high, tall 3-light traceried window to each bay, above which the cornice and blocking course. East end with similar traceried window to west end. INTERIOR: simple and whitewashed, with two figures of Moses and John the Baptist late C17 by Caius Cibber brought from the former Danish Seamen's Mission in Commercial Road E14; former church fittings and monuments dispersed c1950 between the Tower of London and St Katharine's Foundation, Butcher Row E14. HISTORICAL NOTE: St Katharine's College Chapel was built to replace a chapel forming part of the religious hospice, founded in 1148 by Queen Matilda and later known as the Hospital of St Katharine, on a site next to the Tower of London; in 1825 the original site was made into St Katharine's Dock. The patronage of the chapel had always rested with the Queen of England; Queen Alexandra, Danish wife of King Edward VII, granted it to the Danish community in London. (Survey of London: Vol. XIX, Old St Pancras and Kentish Town, St Pancras II: London: -1938: 101-115).

Listing NGR: TQ2864783281

## Selected Sources

### Books and journals

'Survey of London' in Old St Pancras and Kentish Town The Parish of St Pancras Part 2: Volume 19 , (1938), 101-115

National Grid Reference: TQ 28647 83280

## **Approach to Repair**

The external masonry repair project at St Katharine's aims to address structural defects and stone degradation (for which the church is included in Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register) in order to return the main elevations and turrets to a good state of repair, for the safety of visitors as well as for the long-term health of the heritage asset.

The approach to repairs at St Katharine's has sought to balance the retention of historic fabric with the restoration of the fine ashlar stonework, which is of high significance. Extensive surveying has identified essential repairs and the most appropriate repair types have been applied consistently across the primary ashlar elevations.

There is a clear prioritisation to repair structural defects, enhance failed weathering elements and restore the appearance of the fine ashlar work to the main facade. In addition to essential repairs, there is an aesthetic need to restore the clear crisp profiles of the ashlar work to the highly significant west elevation.

## **Summary of Proposals**

(To be read in conjunction with specifications submitted as part of this application.)

1. Structural works to the North and South turrets:  
Substantial embedded iron elements were discovered at high level within each of the turrets. These require removal as they are causing structural instability and masonry decay. The remedial strategy proposed by ABA is reliant on the installation of safe ladder access and a working platform at roof access level within the turrets in order to stabilise the turrets, remove sections of the corroding iron elements in situ and repair adjacent masonry.
2. External Masonry repairs to the west elevation and to the return bays to the north and south elevations, to include:
  - a. Removal of corroding iron cramps embedded in the ashlar work and replacement with stainless steel cramps (all to specialist stonemason's detail). Stone indent repairs and lime mortar repairs to all existing voids/ areas of spalling as required.
  - b. Removal of crude cementitious pointing and repointing to ashlar facework with lime mortar.
  - c. Renewing the west (main) parapet in ashlar
  - d. Re-pinning of turret pinnacles at high level
  - e. Re-carving/ making safe of pinnacles to south churchyard
3. External masonry cleaning with DOFF steam and localised Conservation Peelaway Type 9 (to carved elements as required)
4. Lime shelter coating to masonry to North and South turrets at high level
5. Access Improvements:  
The survey works revealed that there is currently very poor access to the turrets, roof, bell and clock chamber that poses a considerable health and safety risk. Poor access has prevented repair works to the non-functioning bell and clock as well as gutter maintenance to date, and as a result the provision of safe and permanent

access within the turrets and to the nave roof hatch/ clock chamber has been included for the long-term health of the church.

6. Clock Repair Works:

It is hoped that the clock will be serviced and restored to working order during the works contract. Such repairs have been prevented to date due to poor access to the clock chamber. Proposals include installation of a metal horizontal walkway with guard rail from the south turret roof access door to the east and south, and metal roof steps with guard rail to east and west, all on frames to suit roof pitch.

7. Bell Repair Works:

There is one Bell at St. Katharine's within the north turret which is currently not used as the floor within the turret at gallery level has been removed and use of the bell poses a health and safety risk. Following the installation of safe access within the north turret, it is proposed that the bell and swinging mechanism / frame be removed, overhauled and reinstated in full working order by a named specialist sub-contractor as part of the project.

8. Relaying of York stone paving

The York stone paving to the base of the north elevation bay 1 as indicated on drawing 043-SP-CWA-01 has dropped substantially. The York stone paving is to be lifted before the commencement of the development, and the cause of the drop in paving level is to be investigated before the section of York stones are re-laid at raised level in the original pattern.

## **Impact**

The structural works to stabilise the turrets are necessary to secure the long-term sustainable future of the church. The strategy to remove the corroding iron elements in situ at high level was carefully developed to ensure maximum retention of historic fabric without dismantling and rebuilding. The new structural work to accommodate this is to be carried out from the inside of the turrets and will not be visible externally or from any significant interior.

The removal of iron cramps embedded in the masonry, replacement with stainless steel cramps and associated stone indent repairs will restore the appearance of the prominent ashlar work where corrosion has caused unsafe and unsightly spalling, greatly enhancing the character of the heritage asset.

The careful removal of detracting, unsightly previous cementitious repairs and new conservative masonry repair in fine ashlar and lime mortar to match existing profiles will restore the crispness of the stone detailing and cohesiveness to the principal elevation of the church.

Masonry cleaning and shelter coating will seek to unify the appearance of the principal elevations of the church, enhancing the significance of the heritage asset.

The access improvements included in the proposals are generally low intervention and are required to facilitate the essential repairs to ensure the church is safe for visitors and for the long term structural health of the building. The addition of safe and permanent roof access is necessary for maintenance and will not be visible from any prominent

viewpoints. The impact of visibility of the guardrail from long views will be mitigated through reversibility and sensitive, lightweight design and light colouring to sit comfortable against the stonework from distant views.

Proposals to restore the presently inoperable church clock and north turret bell to working order will serve to enhance the significance of the heritage asset.

## **Conclusion**

The proposals for St Katharine's, The Danish Church will preserve and enhance the character and setting of the heritage asset. Essential repairs works will aim to secure long-term health for the church, and interventions to provide safe and permanent access have been designed to be reversible and minimise visual impact. Importantly, the project will see the building removed from Historic England's Heritage At Risk register.

The proposals put forward show respect to the significance of the historic building, are in keeping with national, local and freeholder policies and are seen as investments to ensure continued viability for long-term sustainable use.