

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2017/0414/P	Jennifer M Emerson	Jennifer M Emerson 259 North Road Groton Connecticut 06340 USA	08/02/2017 20:51:35	OBJ	<p>The site of Cleveland Street Workhouse/Middlesex Hospital has a rich legacy spanning back centuries. Not only does it share a deep connection to medical history, but also to social reform, in one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. As a boy, Charles Dickens lived only doors away. This very Workhouse inspired him to later write 'Oliver Twist'. It was the first English novel to have a child protagonist. It had a profound impact upon the plight of the poor. A man actually named Bill Sykes had a shop right opposite there (see Dr. Ruth Richardson's 'Dickens and the Workhouse'). Incidentally, just gazing upon the site influenced me so much I used it in my own novel, 'Dickens and the Whore'. Dr. Joseph Rogers made great strides in the treatment and conditions of patients within this same building. His 'Reminiscences of a Workhouse Medical Officer' (available for free via Google Books) gives incredible insight into his revolutionary and compassionate changes. Further, this site is the documented final resting place of over one thousand human beings. These graves run 20 feet deep. Is it fitting to disturb them simply because they were poor, or because they died hundreds of years ago? I agree that this site needs work. However, before any demolition, I urge you to first allow a comprehensive, professional archaeological survey of both the structures and grounds. It is only fitting. Please do not deny the precious artifacts and stories waiting to be discovered their due. Thank you.</p>
