



Listed Building Application  
26 April 2017

## DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

### Blue Plaque to Spencer Frederick Gore

### 31 Mornington Crescent, Camden, NW1 7RE

#### 1. Site Analysis

31 Mornington Crescent is part of a terrace listed in 1974 (entry number 1113140), one of a group of houses numbering 25-35 consecutively. It is Grade II listed and in the Camden Town Conservation Area. Mornington Crescent is named after Richard Colley Wellesley, Earl of Mornington, Governor-General of India and eldest brother of the Duke of Wellington. The crescent appears first in the rate books in 1821, with one entry and a note by the collector to "leave room for 30 houses." The completed crescent is composed of three blocks of large terraced houses, laid out on the Southampton estate, built by I Bryant in the early 1820s. Building began and proceeded slowly northwards – numbers 1, 5 and 7 were occupied by 1823 and the last house in the crescent was filled by 1832. Number 31 is located within the third terraced block (numbers 25-35 consecutively), and is built of yellow stock brick, two bays wide and three storeys high, with a basement and attic. The basement and ground floor is faced with stucco, the ground floor with coursed stucco and a single round-arched sash window. The entrance door has a pair of engaged Doric columns and is headed with an arched patterned fanlight. A decorative cast iron balcony runs the full width of the house at first floor level. Number 31 is one of the few houses that retain the original upper moulded cornice immediately below the parapet. The original single dwelling has been converted into four flats. The view from the window Gore painted has been lost, as the private gardens that faced the terrace houses are now occupied by the Carreras Cigarette Factory, the Egyptian-style façade of which faces the Hampstead Road.

#### 2. Design Process Components

It is proposed that English Heritage erect a standard 19.5-inch diameter ceramic commemorative blue plaque at 31 Mornington Crescent, to commemorate the painter Spencer Frederick Gore, who lodged here from 1909 until 1912. There will be no change to the use of the building, no floor space will be added or subtracted, and no new homes will be built on the site. The layout of the building will not be

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changed, nor will the scale of the building be affected. There will be no landscaping undertaken.

The exterior elevation of the building will be slightly adapted to accommodate the blue plaque (please see separate Installation Note). The plaque is best placed in a position at first floor level, centred on the brickwork panel between the first floor windows and on the upper glazing panel of the top window. The decision to locate the plaque here is so as to be as appropriate as possible to the design of the façade of the building, and to be visible to the average passer-by.

### **3. Access**

No new access points and routes are proposed. No changes are proposed in relation to pedestrian and cycle routes, road layout, local services and public transport provision. The blue plaque will be visible from the public highway and therefore no new access is required. There is no new need for provision of access for emergency services.

### **4. Design Solution**

The above information has explained and justified the proposed development, and the lack of necessity for good access into and through the site in relation to the proposed works. The English Heritage blue plaque design has been developed over 150 years in sympathy with the character of London buildings. It is hand crafted and is thought to respond positively to most local contexts. The freehold owners of 31 Mornington Crescent have approved the project, there are no leaseholders to consult. The architectural character of this listed building will only be affected in a minor way, and the historic interest of the property and area will be enhanced within the local and wider community.

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