

The following has been prepared in connection with listed building consent and planning application for the alteration and refurbishment of 55 Gray's Inn Road, particularly in understanding the age of the rear closet wing.

#### Historic Information:

- Image 1 is a photograph taken circa 1946 of 55 Gray's Inn Road, which shows its relationship to its neighbour and counterpart number 53 (later to be demolished and redeveloped in the 1970s).
- Both share a very similar front elevation with closely matched window proportions and the notable blind half window detail of number 55. This photograph implies that the two buildings followed a standard form for that part of the road and terrace.
- Drainage application plans for number 53 (Image 2) from the late 19th century show a similar floor layout and building proportion to that of number 55. Notably these plans show the rear-closet wing rising to a flat roof at first floor level. Although this does not confirm that the two buildings were identical it suggests a degree of consistency between the two.

#### Site Investigation:

- Image 3 is a photograph of the existing Southern wall of the closet wing. A metal strapping/bracket is visible through the render above a brick coursing DPC showing where the timber frame of the closet wing begins – on top of a ground floor brick wall.
- Images 4, 5 and 6 show the closet wing's timber framed construction with block work to the Northern wall. Chicken wire can be seen here, a practice dating from the late 19th century.
- Image 7 is the existing floor plan showing the scale of the openings into the closet wing at first floor. The opening is very narrow in comparison to the doors in the main body of the house.

#### Summary:

On the basis of the historic floor plans and photographs it can be surmised that number 55 and number 53 shared a very similar form, including small details such as the half blind window and rear roof light position to the ground floor.

It is therefore suggested that the closet wing was the same as number 53, finishing at first floor level and later built up from the original brickwork in timber frame as indicated by the different construction approach. Small indicators such as the chicken wire used in the wall construction can help identify this as a later addition.

The entrances to the closet wing over the first, second and third floors are all very narrow compared to the doors in the main body of the house, which further suggests it as a later addition.

Because of these points it can reasonably be argued that the closet wing was a later addition to the original structure.

Image 1



Image 2

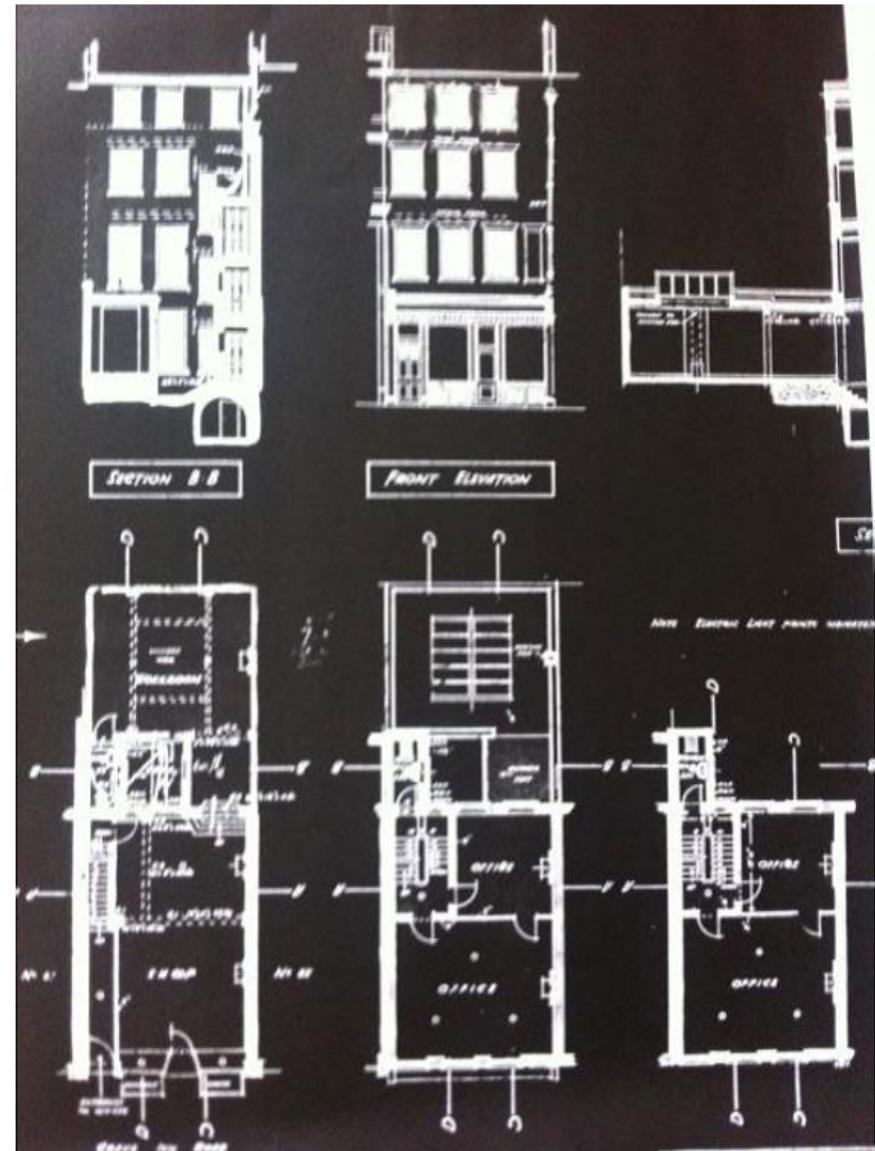


Image 3

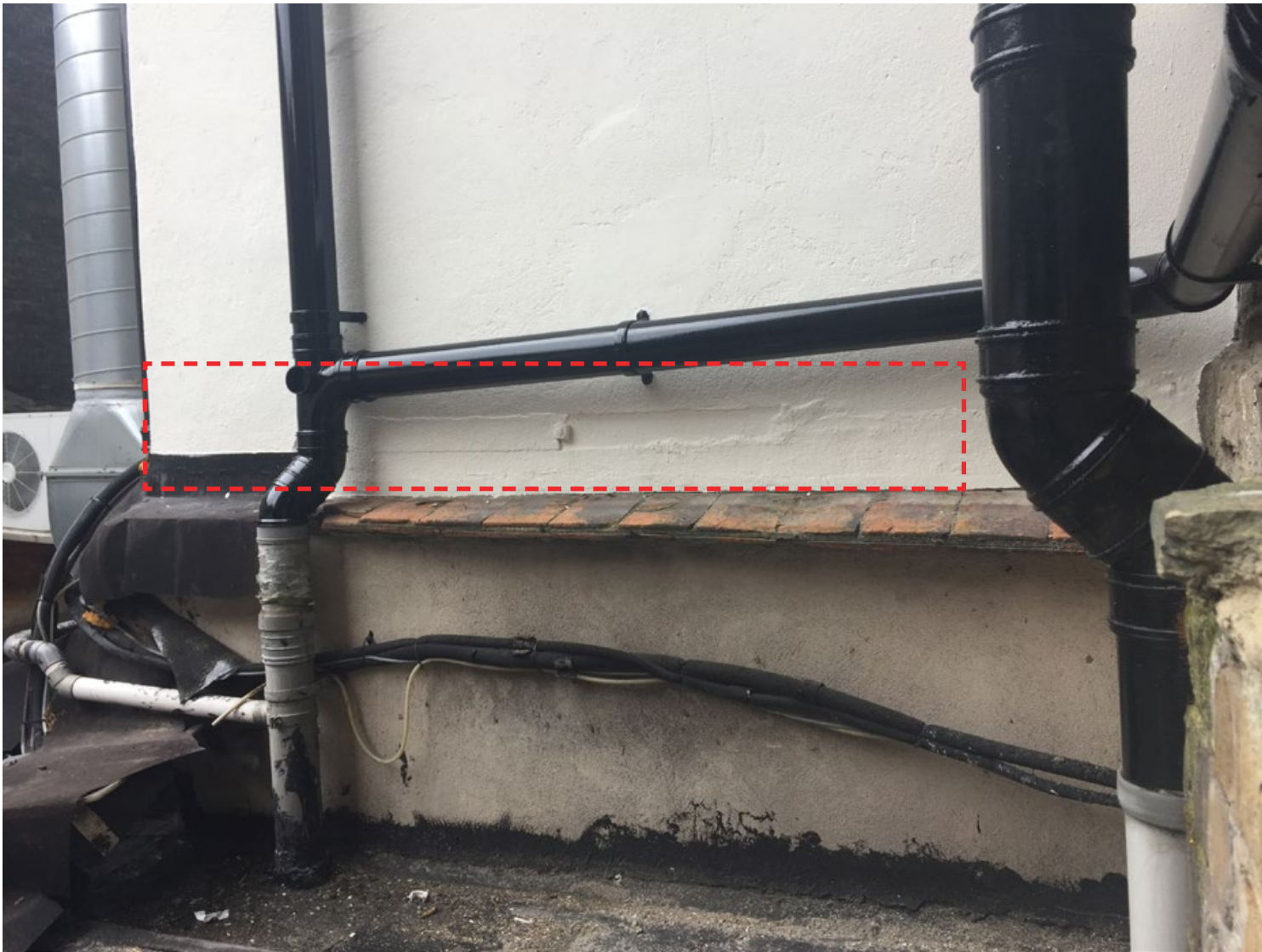




Image 4



Image 5





Image 6



Image 7

