

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Principal London (formerly Hotel Russell) Russell Square

Evidence of its heritage value per Historic England Register: 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: RUSSELL HOTEL AND ATTACHED RAILINGS WITH PIERS AND LAMPS

List entry Number: 1246152

Grade: II*

Date first listed: 03-Dec-1970



Legacy System Information

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

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 477923

List entry Description

Details

CAMDEN

TQ3082SW RUSSELL SQUARE 798-1/95/1423 (East side) 03/12/70 Russell Hotel and attached railings with piers and lamps

GV II*

Hotel. 1892-98. By Charles Fitzroy Doll, surveyor of the Bedford Estate. Red brick with terracotta dressings. Roofs and turrets with green fishscale tiles. Tall slab chimney-stacks with horizontal brick and terracotta bands. Originally with central copper dome and lantern, now with tile mansard roof. STYLE: flamboyant French Renaissance style derived from engravings of the Chateau de Madrid, with elaborate decorations. EXTERIOR: 8 storeys, attics and basements. Symmetrical facade of 7 gabled bays with octagonal corner turrets. Return to Bernard Street, 12 windows; return to Guilford Street, 8 windows and attached rectangular tower at the right-hand angle. Facade articulated vertically by octagonal turrets with ogee roofs at angles, penultimate gabled bays with canted bay windows rising from ground to 6th floor terminating in half ogee roofs with 2-light windows, and a 3-bay central, projecting porch with round-arched entrance flanked by single window bays rising to 4th floor level with recessed bay windows forming the central bay above the entrance. Projecting modillion cornice at 5th floor level above which flanking bays become 3 storey semicircular turrets surmounted by conical tile roofs with gablets and linked across the now flat, recessed central bay by a wide arch surmounted by a scrolled pediment with 2 round-arched, paired windows, an entablature with the date 1894, above which a rectangular gabled dormer. All with elaborate terracotta decoration. Round-arched ground floor windows in shallow, arcading with attached Ionic columns. Other windows square-headed, mostly mullion and transom casements. 1st floor with continuous projecting arcaded terracotta balconies with round-arched balustrade and coats of arms in the spandrels. At 1st floor level flanking the balcony over the entrance, figures wearing historical costume in corbelled niches. 2nd floor continuous balconies with terracotta round-arched balustrades. 3rd and 4th floor windows with cast-iron continuous balconies.

Projecting modillion cornice at 5th floor level above an enriched frieze, following the contours of the bays. Shaped gables with horizontal brick and terracotta bands and small windows. Returns in similar style.

INTERIOR: entrance hall lined in pink and red marble divided into 3 by grey marble round-arched arcades on grey marble columns with gilding. Frieze and spandrels with sumptuous plaster moulded females of proto art-nouveau character. Marble staircase rises to right. Ceiling in Jacobean style. Chandeliers, and some stained glass. Woburn Suite beyond a large hall now with low partitions, with black and white marbled pilasters, heavy modillion cornice and coved ceiling with lavish swags under false ceiling. 'Victorian Carvery' with grey marble panelling to frieze height and grey marble clad hexagonal columns which culminate in alternating little Ionic columns and sculpted figures. Similar columns in frieze around walls. Projecting fireplace in matching marble. Chandeliers. King's Bar panelled to frieze height with some organic capitals to pilasters, doorcases (one now a bookcase) with giant Jacobean keystones under plaster friezes of chubby putti. Marble fireplace. Trabeated ceiling with a variety of mouldings. Virginia Woolf room with art nouveau plaster spandrels and plaster ceiling cornices. Bedford Suite with pilasters and plaster ceilings. SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: attached wrought-iron railings with terracotta piers and cast-iron lampstandards with figures at the bases on piers. HISTORICAL NOTE: Doll's flamboyant use of terracotta is a distinctive feature of the Bedford Estate; this is his finest remaining building and the survivor of two extravagant 1890's hotels that imposed a fin-de-siecle character on Russell Square.

Listing NGR: TQ3017882085

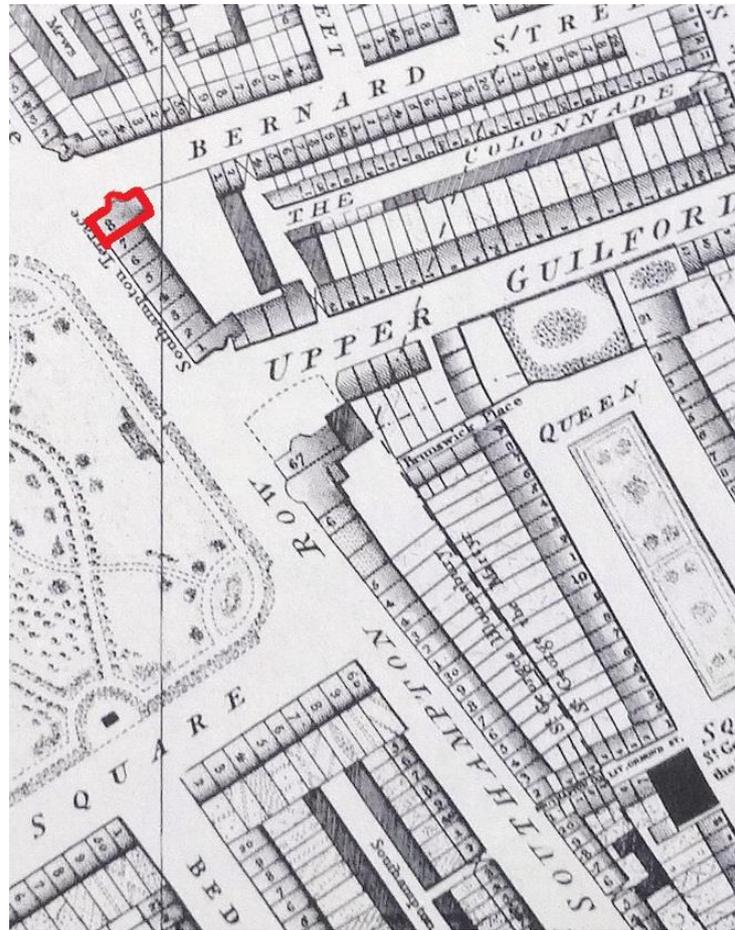
National Grid Reference: TQ 30178 82085

The building is also within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area (BCA) and is referred to in the BCA Appraisal & Management Strategy. 30 Doughty Street is still providing much-needed family housing, as it was originally intended to.

The case for installing the plaque on this building:

The Pankhurst family are world renowned for their work in promoting Women's Suffrage. Their home at 8 Russell Square, later replaced by Hotel Russell, was the incubator for much of Emmeline Pankhurst's pioneering work from 1888 to 1893. All of her three campaigning daughters also lived there. Details of the Pankhurst family's contribution to society may be found in the background information document in support of this listed building application. The position of former 8 Russell Square on the north-west corner of the hotel gives due prominence to this historically

significant family of former residents, capturing the admiration of the thousands of tourists who pass that on a daily basis on their way to the British Museum.



8 Russell Square indicated in red on William Faden's map of 1813 when it was known as 8 Southamton Terrace

Preservation of the listed wall:

The material and method to be used for fixing the plaque to the wall is non-invasive, unlike plaques installed by English Heritage, which require a large area of brickwork to be cut away.

This means that the fixative will not harm the brick-work and the plaque may be carefully removed at a later date, if necessary, without damaging the brickwork.

November 2017