

1615 - ITALIAN HOSPITAL, GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL
DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT - ALTAR REMOVAL

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INTRODUCTION

Narrative relating to Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care at GOSH

Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) considers that the spiritual care of patients, their families and our staff are of paramount importance. GOSH is committed to providing support to all families and staff regardless of which faith group or philosophy they identify with. The multi-faith chaplaincy team are therefore available to all families and staff for emotional support and spiritual care.

GOSH has made significant investment in built facilities to support spiritual care over the years. The historic St Christopher's Chapel, constructed in 1875 and relocated in 1991 in an ambitious engineering project, is the focus of Christian prayer and worship for patients, families and staff. However, the increasing diversity of the UK population, reflected in the demographic of GOSH's patient and staff population, has resulted in the development of additional facilities to meet the needs of families and staff of other faiths.

GOSH has a Shabbat room available to Jewish families which is used for preparation of meals and rest over the Sabbath, when families are unable to travel.

In June 2018 GOSH opened a new Muslim Prayer Room in order to provide an appropriate facility for Islamic worship. This facility provides the necessary ablution rooms and segregated facilities for men and women, as required by Islamic custom and rituals.

As part of the Muslim Prayer Room project GOSH has also created a small quiet room, made available to families and staff of other faiths and philosophies, providing a suitable space for private meditation and reflection.

The Chapel in the Italian Hospital was built in 1898 when the current building was constructed. The Chapel would have originally been utilised primarily by the community of nuns that lived in the hospital and provided patient care. The Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul would have used the Chapel for private prayer and praying the Liturgy of the Hours in community.

Early drawings of the Italian Hospital show that the Chapel was collocated with the nuns' residential accommodation and rooftop exercise space. Although the Chapel will have been used by patients of the Italian Hospital, it was primarily an important part of the resident community's living space. Therefore, the Chapel should be seen principally as a facility that supported the prayer life of a resident community of consecrated women, rather than a hospital Chapel.



The Altar, 1903

INTRODUCTION

The Sight and Sound Centre that GOSH will create in the Italian Hospital will be an outpatient facility. Children and families that visit the centre will be advised that the faith facilities that they may want to visit are on the main hospital site a short distance away. GOSH does not propose to provide faith facilities within the Sight and Sound Centre.

GOSH is keen to celebrate the history of this important building and is sensitive to the historic importance of the Chapel and its fixtures and fittings. However, an altar is, first and foremost, an item of ecclesial furniture and should be used for its intended purpose. If the altar remains in situ in the Italian Hospital Chapel, there is no prospect of it ever being used for its intended purpose. Covered and screened from view, this important installation will be hidden from sight.

Relocation of ecclesial fixtures and fittings is not uncommon. Altars and other church furnishings are often moved from redundant places of worship to churches that remain open. GOSH has received support from the private secretary to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, for the proposal to relocate the Italian Hospital altar to ensure its continued use.

The altar is not suitable for transfer to other GOSH faith facilities, since it could not be accommodated in St Christopher's Chapel and would be inappropriate in a space designed for non-Christian denominations. Overtly Roman Catholic in its design and iconography and orientated for celebration of the Mass in the extraordinary form (pre 2nd Vatican Council), the altar is most suitable for the rear of a church or Chapel, behind a circumnavigable altar.

GOSH has identified a suitable new home for the altar in the Roman Catholic Parish Church of Our Lady and St Joseph in Matlock, Derbyshire (Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham), where it would be placed in a Lady Chapel, used for the celebration of Mass on weekdays.

Relocating the altar to Matlock will ensure that it will be used by an active worshipping community for its intended purpose. All other architectural features of the Italian Hospital Chapel will be retained and refurbished where necessary, in order to celebrate the history of the space. Information regarding the altar and the Chapel will be produced for the GOSH archive and for a display both in the Italian Hospital Chapel and in the Parish Church of Our Lady and St Joseph in Matlock.



The Altar, 2018

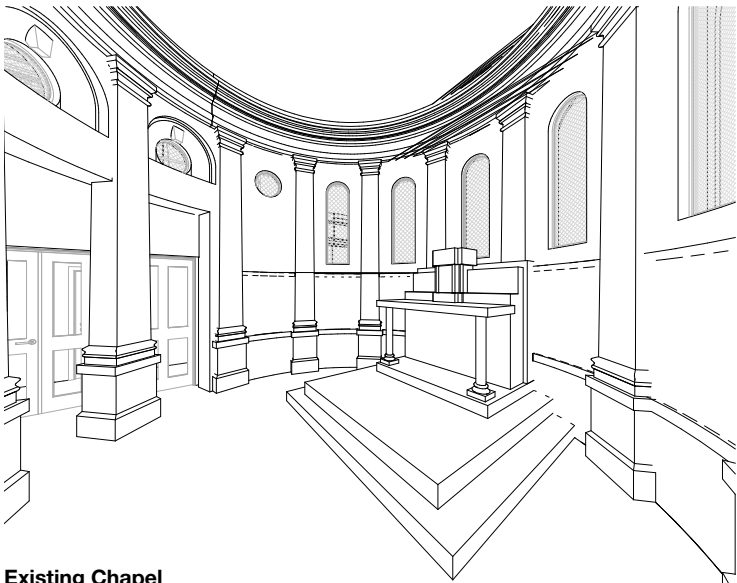
INTRODUCTION

The Design and Access Statement is to be read in conjunction with the following drawings and reports:

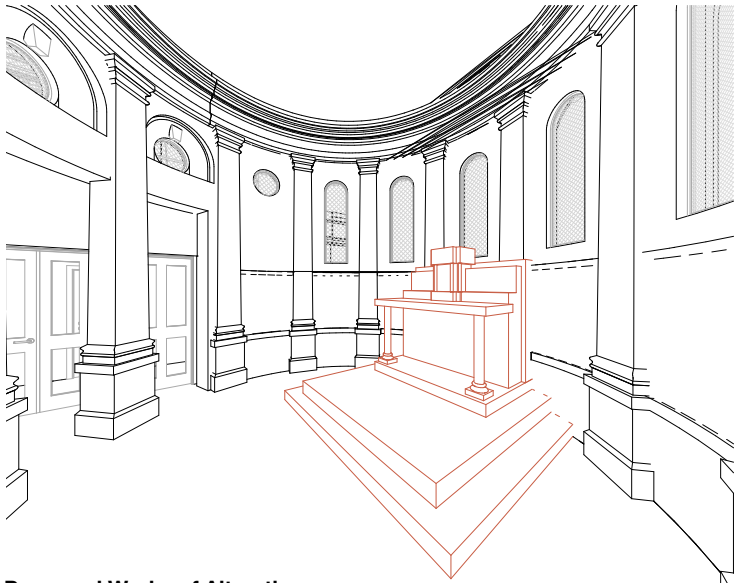
- Covering letter
- Existing drawing - plan, elevation and 3D
- Proposed Works of Alterations drawing - plan, elevation and 3D
- Proposed drawing - plan, elevation and 3D
- Photographic study
- Heritage report

Listed Building consent is sought for the removal of the marble altar and 2no. steps. It is proposed once the altar is removed, the area behind where the altar was is reviewed by a specialist and made good.

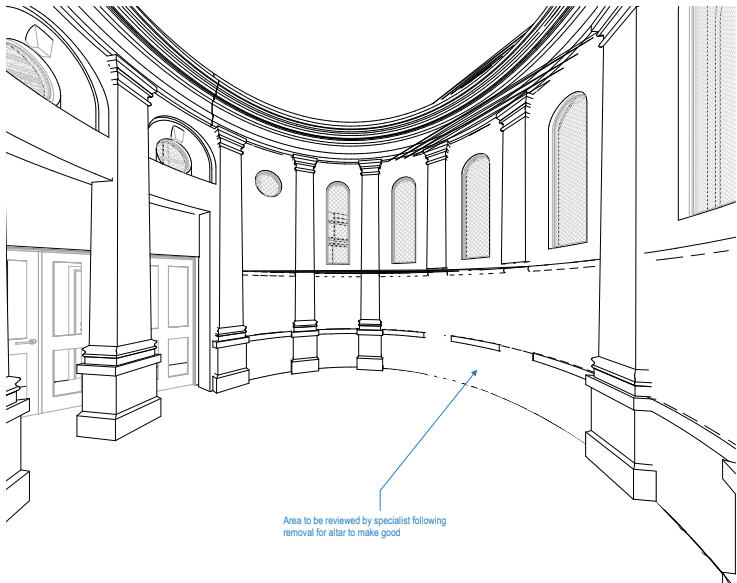
All other original elements within the chapel will be retained.



Existing Chapel



Proposed Works of Alteration



Proposed Chapel

DESIGN & ACCESS

Existing Site Location

Transport Links

The Italian Hospital at Great Ormond Street is located in Central London with excellent transport connections from national rail links, local underground and bus services. The nearest underground station is Russell Square, approximately 5 minutes' walk from the Italian Hospital.

Key

Green Area

River

Cultural / Retail

GOSH



DESIGN & ACCESS

Existing Site Location

Local Amenities

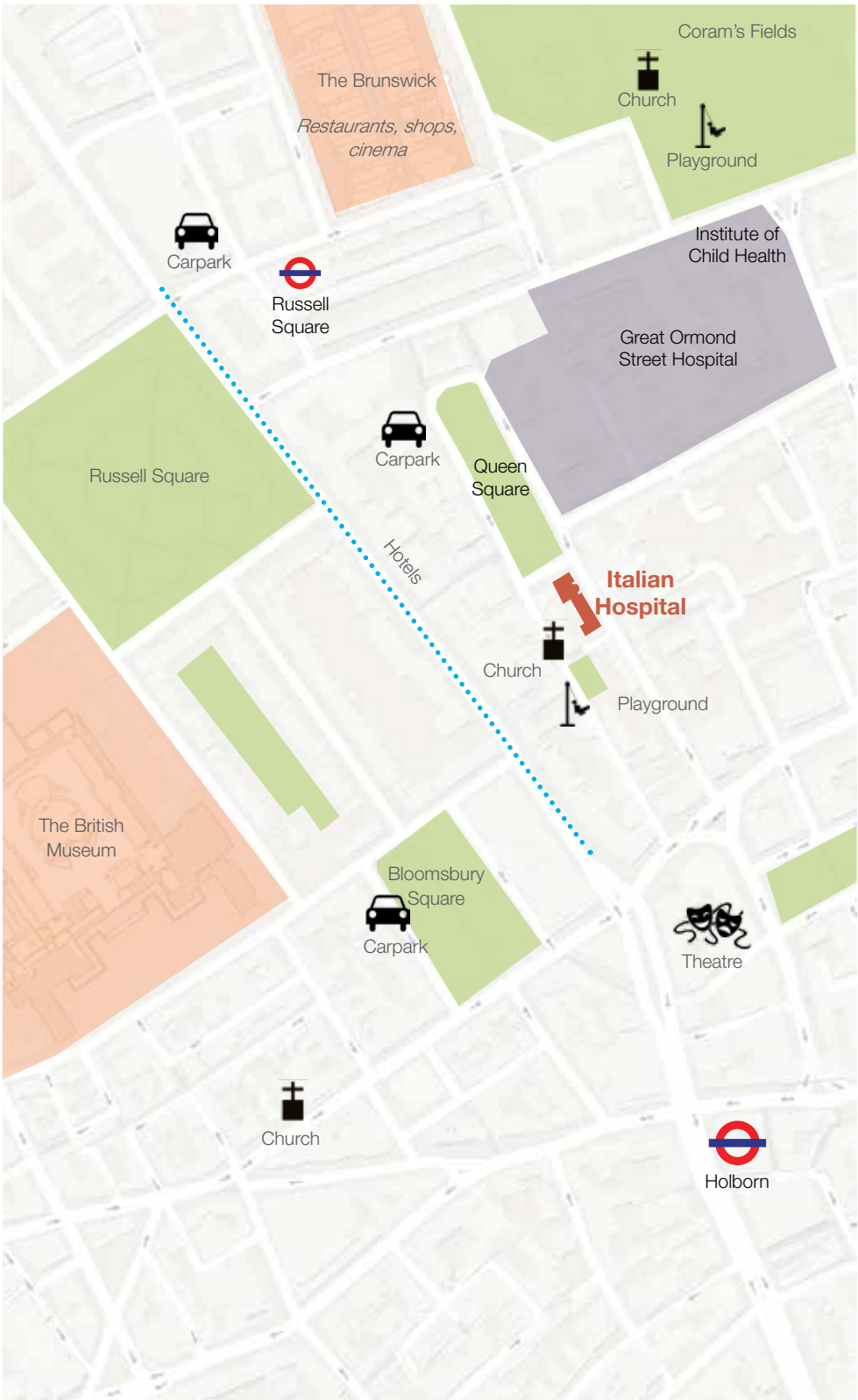
The site is well served with local amenities; a number of hotels, cultural/retail spaces and green areas are in close proximity. The Italian Hospital faces Queen Square to the North West, providing a green outlook for the building and an amenity for any visiting patients and staff. The Mary Ward Centre and the October Gallery are directly adjacent to the west of the Italian Hospital, accommodation includes a café and gallery.



Key

- Green Area
- River
- Cultural / Retail
- GOSH

- 01 View from Queen Square
- 02 View from St. George's Church
- 03 View from Playground, Old Gloucester St



DESIGN & ACCESS

Existing Site Location

Site Approaches

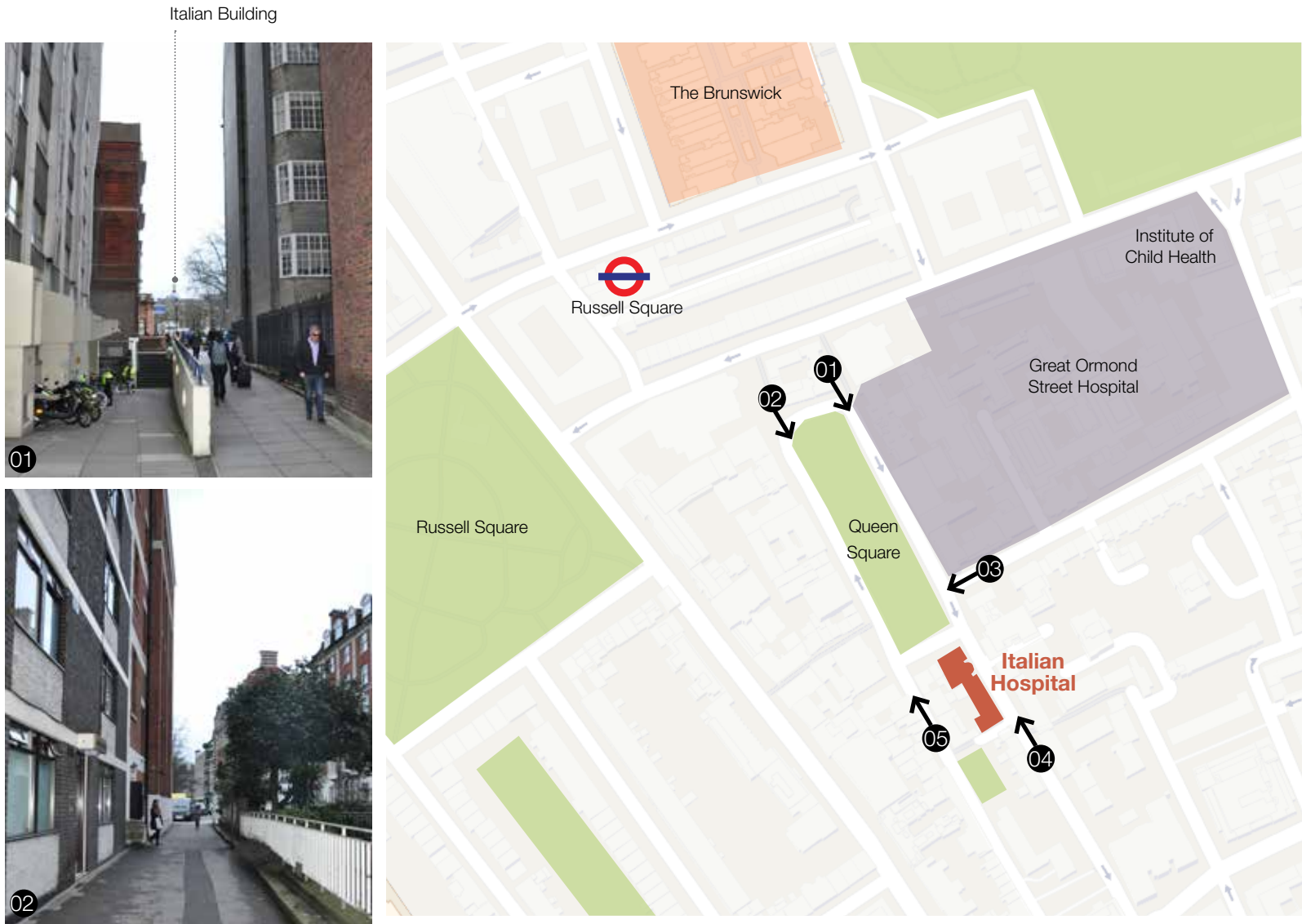
The sites key approaches and vistas are summarised in the diagram.

- From the northern end of Queen Square
- From Great Ormond Street to the east
- From the south-east from Holborn accessed from either Old Gloucester or Boswell Street

It is understood that the majority of those visiting currently visiting GOSH via public transport do so from Russell Square station (which is to the north of Queen Square)

Key

- Green Area
- River
- Cultural / Retail
- GOSH
- 01 Approach from North East Queen Square
- 02 Approach from North West Queen Square
- 03 Approach from Great Ormond Street
- 04 Approach from Boswell Street
- 05 Approach from Old Gloucester Street

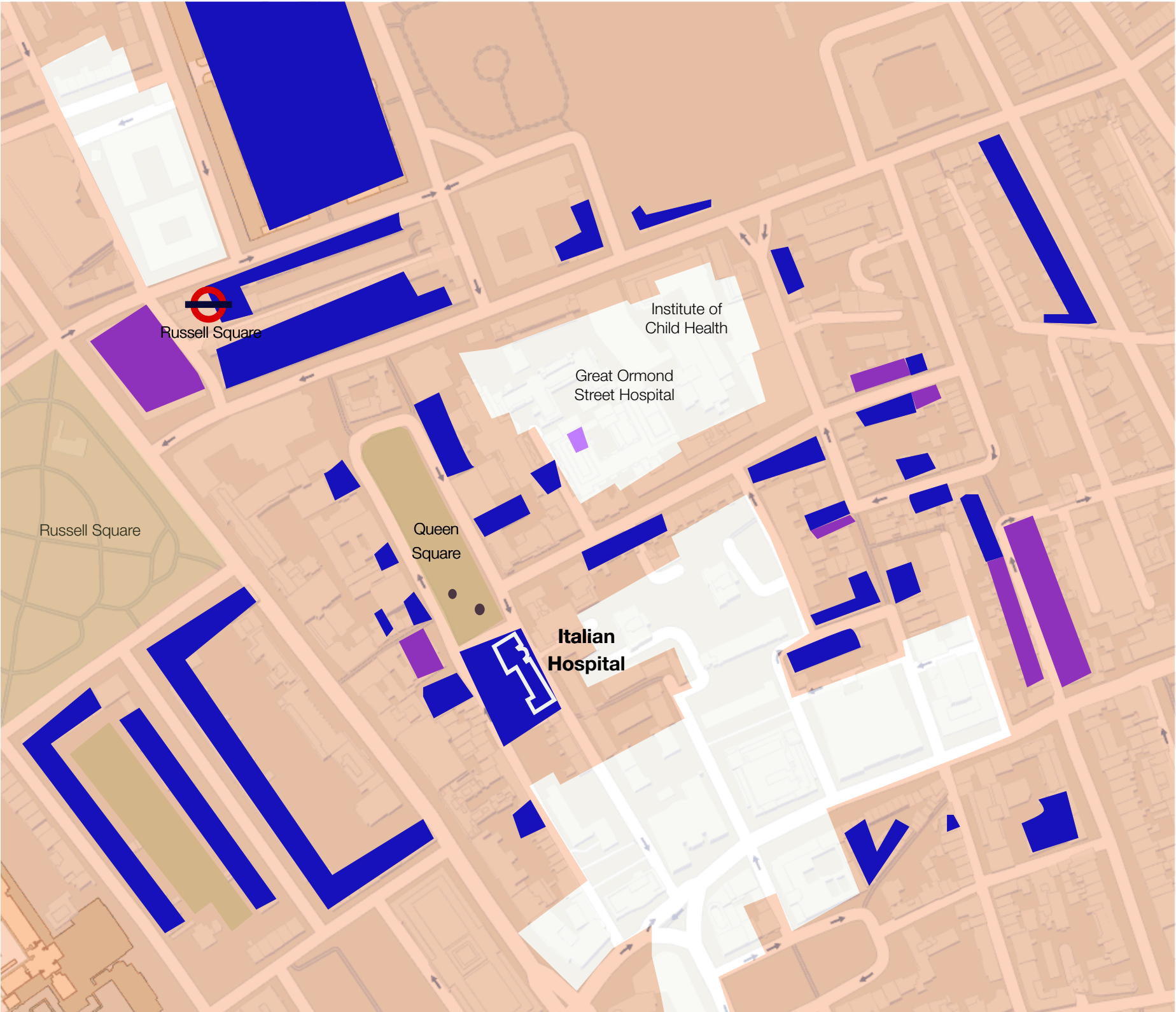


DESIGN & ACCESS

Existing Site Location

Conservation / Listed Building

- The site is part of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.
- The building was listed Grade II in 1992 and the neighbouring Mary Ward Centre is also Listed. The listing recognises the value of the building to the exterior and acknowledges the interior is ‘mostly altered, with a plain chapel’.



Key

Conservation Area

Grade II Listed

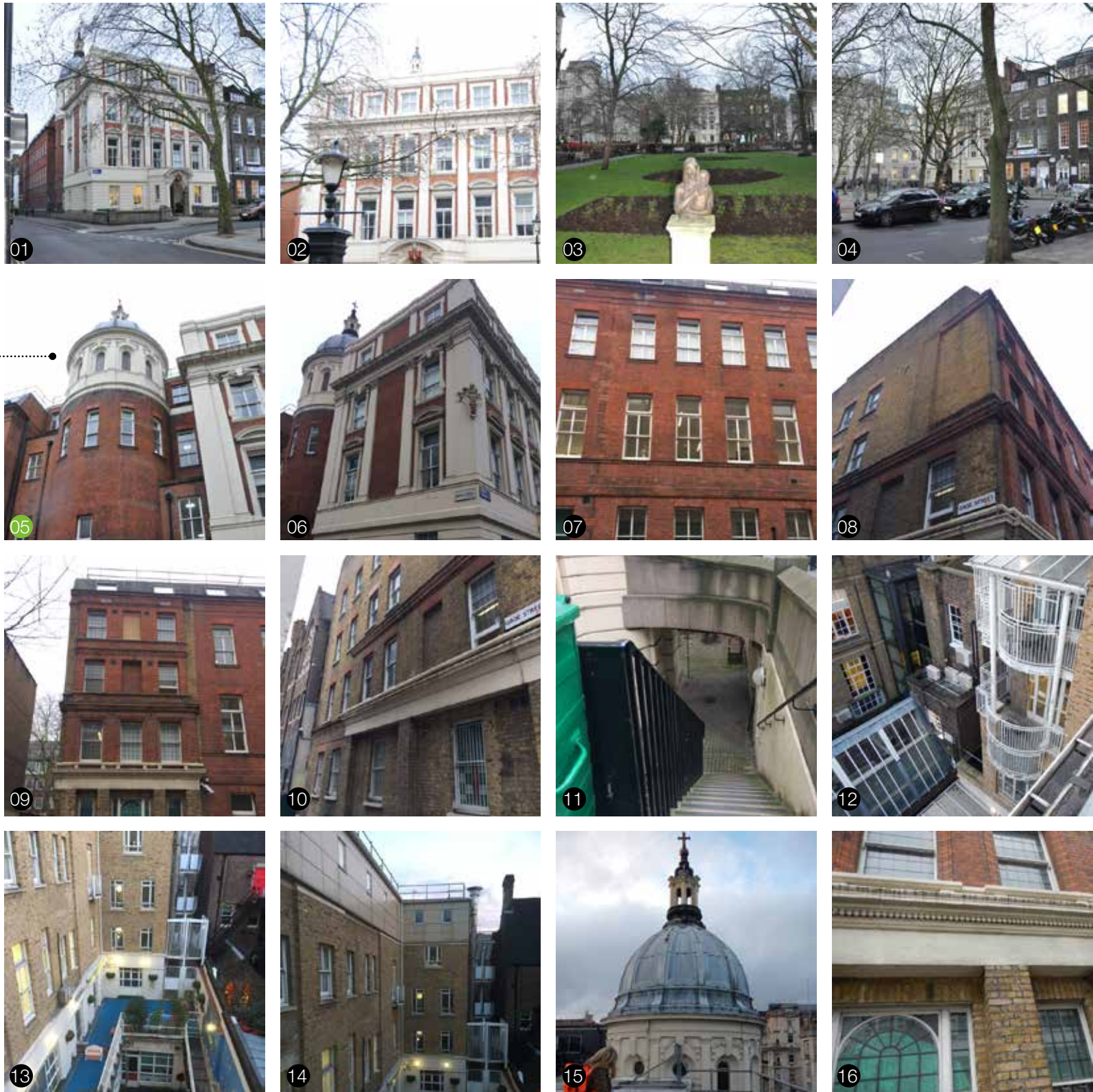
Grade II* Listed

DESIGN & ACCESS

Existing Building - Chapel

Description

The frontage building faces Queen Square to the north, connecting to the Mary Ward Centre to the west and returns at the top of Boswell Street to meet the cupula. The chapel is located on the third floor in this location



Key

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01 Corner of Queen Square / Boswell St | 09 Former pub, Boswell St |
| 02 Queen Square frontage | 10 Gage Street facade |
| 03 View from Queen Square Garden | 11 External stairs to basement lightwell |
| 04 View from St. George's Church | 12 Courtyard, Italian Hospital balconies |
| 05 Cupula | 13 Italian Hospital/Mary Ward courtyard |
| 06 Corner of Queen Square / Boswell St | 14 Courtyard facing shared fire escape stairs |
| 07 Boswell St windows | 15 Cupula |
| 08 Corner of Boswell St / Gage St | 16 Former pub entrance along Boswell St |

DESIGN & ACCESS

Existing Building

Historical Timeline

1860

Giovanni Battista (John) Ortelli built up a formidable business empire and became a great philanthropist. He carried on the looking glass business, but he is also described as a merchant and had fingers in several pies, from furniture to banking. His great work, centred on the poor, the sick, the trafficked and the uneducated of the growing Italian Colony in London,

1884

The Ospedale (from the Latin, ‘Hospitalis’) Italiano was founded by Giovanni Battista (John) Ortelli who donated two Georgian houses in Queen Square to provide medical assistance to the area known as ‘Little Italy’. He was aware of the language difficulties faced by his compatriots in London hospitals.

The main wards were in the front of the building, with smaller ones at the back along with single rooms for private patients or cases that needed to be isolated. For infectious cases, there was a separate block at the back of the building, with its own bathroom and kitchen and bedroom for the nurse in attendance. The Hospital chapel was at the top of the main building, with a corridor past it leading to the flat roof, where convalescent patients could play games and enjoy the fresh air. The Hospital had a large passenger lift, as well as a service lift for food to be sent from the kitchen to the wards. The Sisters of St Vincent de Paul, with their distinctive uniforms, provided the nursing care.

While preference was given to Italians, the Hospital treated any needy person - almost half its patients were British - and it became a respected medical facility, attracting highly qualified staff. Funds for the Hospital were raised from subscribers in Britain and Italy.

1898

New hospital erected by the architect Thomas William Cutler

Early 20th Century photos



View from Queens Square: aside from the new entrance ramp, the front entrance is largely unaltered

1910

Hospital extended when two houses behind it were acquired

Later closed.



Boswell Street: has been altered since the time of this photograph



Original houses facing Queen Square



Room behind Boswell Street Elevation: note the very high ceiling



DESIGN & ACCESS

Existing Building

Historical Timeline, cont.

1946	1948	1956	1961/62	1967	1981	1984	Late 1980s	1992	2009
Hospital reopened with 48 beds and continued as an independent hospital until it was no longer sustainable.	<i>Planning Application (refer to drawings)</i> - Ground floor additions - Alterations/construction of a new roof over a portion of the Nurses' home	<i>Planning Application (refer to drawings)</i> - Erection of toilet addition at ground floor at rear end. - An external flue pipe in an enclosed area	<i>Planning Application</i> - Alterations to the Operating Theatre <i>Planning Application</i> - Construction of two waiting rooms on existing first floor balconies on the Boswell Street frontage	<i>Planning Application (refer to drawings)</i> - Formation of a new waiting room on the 2nd floor fronting Boswell Street - Two new sun-terraces on the 1st floor at the rear	<i>Planning Application</i> - Demolition of a link building and replacing with staircase and the provision of an access ramp	<i>Planning Application</i> - Erection of single storey basement extension to the Queen Square elevation	GOSH charities acquired the building and have used it for a number of different layouts and functions, non in a clinical capacity.	Grade II listed status <i>Planning Application (refer to drawings)</i> - Partial demolition of; rear extensions and infills, the front entrance steps, part of the mansard roof - Internal alterations - Formation of a ground floor play area, front entrance ramp and infill structures	<i>Planning Application</i> - Installation of steel safety railings on top of existing railings surrounding the balconies on the rear elevation at 4th and 5th floor.



Mid 20th Century photos

