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THE GEORGIAN GROUP
6, FITZROY SQUARE W1T 5DX

LISTED BUILDING APPLICATION
FOR

TWO NEW CHIMNEYPieces
IN GROUND FLOOR ROOMS

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT
AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

MAY 2019

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is submitted as part of an application for Listed Building Consent to allow the installation of two new chimneypieces in the ground floor rooms of 6, Fitzroy Square. The building is owned and occupied by the Georgian Group. It is Listed Grade I and is within the Fitzroy Square Conservation Area.

2. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

The application Comprises

- The Application Form together with the ownership certificate.
- This Statement and its photographs.
- Location plan, scale 1:1250, with the site indicated in red.
- The drawings:
 - 6240/10 – Location Plan
 - 6240/020 – Site Plan
 - 6240/020 – Ground Floor Plan
 - CC030/1D – Front Room Chimneypiece
 - CC030/2D – Front Room Details
 - CC030/3D – Rear Room Chimneypiece
 - CC030/4D – Rear Room Details

3. PREVIOUS CONSENTS

After the Georgian Group took ownership of the building in 1995, Listed Building Consent was obtained to allow conversion of the building for their uses. The Consent encompassed the full re-instatement of the ground floor (formerly a banking hall) and other works throughout the building. It was always the intention of the Group to re-instate appropriate chimneypieces on the ground floor but this may not have been explicit in the 1995 consent – hence this application.

In August 2016 Consent was given to allow the installation of a chimneypiece in the ground floor entrance hall. This work was completed in February 2017.

4. HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

The application site and Fitzroy Square as a whole are described in the Listing Description and the Survey of London Vol. XXI, of particular relevance to this application are the following:

The Square was initially developed by the Adam brothers 1793-98. They built the East and South sides as varied but symmetrical Classical compositions, the Portland stone facades concealing more or less uniform London plans (i.e. a large room at the front and a smaller one at the back beside the stairs). The exterior architecture has all the hallmarks of the Adam style, but their design work appears not to have extended to the interiors.

It must be supposed that the original intention was to complete the square in the manner commenced by the Adams. However, the North and West sides were built some years later, 1827-35.

Prior to the Georgian Group's ownership, 6 Fitzroy Square was a branch of the NatWest Bank (1918 to 1995) and at some point the original ground floor chimneypieces were removed. When the Georgians moved in, simple moulded timber surrounds were installed to give an approximation of what had been removed. These timber surrounds remain and it is proposed that they will be removed and replaced by the new chimneypieces.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS

5.1 THE DESIGN

No record of the appearance of the lost ground floor chimneypieces has been found despite an extensive search. Photographs of other chimneypieces have been found and these are included here in section 6. The wide range of styles should be noted. Nearly all appear to be marble and they tend to be rich, rather than plain. The external elevations of the Square were designed by the Adam brothers but it seems certain they did no work on any of the interiors. And none of the chimneypieces could be described as "Adam".

Prior to the Georgian Group moving in, the two original first floor chimneypieces were stolen. In their place two chimneypieces (made by Chesneys) were installed. At that time it was believed that the new ones were accurate facsimiles of those that had been stolen, compare figs 3,4 and 5. However it is now clear that the record photo (fig. 5) was incorrectly labelled. Figs 6 & 7 show the actual original first floor chimneypieces. This is easy to establish, the two photographs show the skirting, dado rail, cornice and windows that remain in the first floor rooms. As can be seen, these chimneypieces projected forward in a slightly French manner. They are elegant panelled designs with a carved motif in the corner between jamb and lintel, and made of white marble.

There is no desire (and no need) to replace the first floor chimneypieces, even though it is now known their design is based on incorrect information. However, the record photos of the stolen first floor chimneypieces are the only records of any from 6 Fitzroy Square and it seems appropriate that the two new chimneypieces for the ground floor should make some reference to those lost from the first floor.

The first floor rooms were (and remain) linked through large connecting doors, therefore the chimneypieces were identical. The ground floor rooms are not so connected (the two doors are modern introductions) and, in the hierarchy of spaces (their original importance and function) within the house, they are not rooms of equal status.

The house layout undoubtedly followed the universal Georgian arrangement with the ground floor front room being the dining room and the back room, an ante room. The first floor rooms would have been the drawing rooms.

The designs of the two proposed ground floor chimneypieces conform to the hierarchy of spaces. Both are plain white marble, thereby less rich (i.e. less important) than those on the first floor which have coloured marble and a carved central cartouche. The design for that in the front room has carved motifs in the corners and fluting in the jambs and lintels. The fluting giving an affinity with those on the first floor. The design for that in the rear room has the same carved motif in the corners but plain recessed panels in the jambs, and lintel. In other words it is a close copy of those recorded in the photographs of the first floor.

The two chimneypieces have identical dimensions because, as far as can be established, those originally in the two rooms were the same size. Both project forwards in a way similar to those in the record photos. By comparing the proposed designs with the record photos (figs 6 & 7) one can see how closely the original design of the lost first floor chimneypieces has been followed.

5.2 THE BUILDING WORKS

The building works are simple.

The existing timber surrounds will be removed and the plaster cut back to the brickwork. The new chimneypieces will then be fixed in place and the plaster made good.

For the hearthstones, the existing cement render hearthstones will be hacked out sufficient to accommodate the new hearthstone slabs (25mm thick) flush with the floorboards. After the slabs are in place the floorboards will be trimmed and framed around.

6.0 PHOTOGRAPHS