


DR WILLIAMS'S LIBRARY- 14 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AR

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE | OCTOBER 2019

8555-CPM- ZZ-ZZ-RP-A-10002_P01

Contents

1.0 Introduction

1.01 The Report

Dr John Eaton and CPMG have prepared this document for the Dr Williams's Library Trust which owns and occupies Dr Williams's Library, 14-15 Gordon Square, London. The Trust is faced with the need to undertake significant structural repairs to the building, which houses a book and manuscript collection of international importance. This is made up of manuscript materials, paintings and other artefacts. In addition to the structural work the Trust has undertaken a review of the facilities, activities and the internal environments within the building.

The Library as a heritage asset must be viewed on three major levels. There is continuing function of the Library as the legacy of and the continuing instrument of religious and political freedoms in the United Kingdom. There is the importance of the collections that it houses and there is the building in which the Library is housed and in which it operates. The overall objective of the Trustees is to balance these important aspects and to secure the continuation of the Library within its present building, to improve the conditions in which its important collections are held and, to restore its building to a satisfactory condition for the foreseeable future. The opportunity is also being taken to provide improved access to the collections for scholars and to widen the teaching commitment of the Trust through improved reader and teaching facilities.

In 2018 a study prepared by Corbett +Tasker (structural engineers) reported serious structural defects to the floors in each side of the North and South wings of the building. It was clear from the Corbett+ Tasker analysis that the book stacks housing parts of the collection in each of these areas would need to be removed in order to avoid a progressive collapse of parts of the structure. Their structural analysis has shown that throughout the seven levels of the building from the basement to the roof, the side wings were originally constructed with load bearing central partitions and, throughout the history of the Library, ad hoc repairs and removals have magnified the structural weaknesses inherent in the original construction. As a precaution, and due to the heavy loadings imposed by the book collection, the Library is now removing those parts of the collection in the most seriously affected areas to other areas of the Library and off site. In addition, and as precautionary measure, the Library is now closed to the public.

The studies undertaken by Corbett + Tasker show that it is imperative that significant and urgent repair work is necessary to stabilise the internal structure of the building. As this will involve considerable disruption to the working of Library the opportunity has been taken by the Trustees to re-evaluate the functions and the environmental conditions within the Library as a whole. In consequence, certain other changes are proposed which, it is intended, will be undertaken concurrently with the structural repairs. Accordingly, a number of changes and improvements in the disposition of the Library functions and the internal conditions are proposed throughout the building. These are discussed in detail in the accompanying Heritage Statement.

Over a period of nearly 300 years, Dr Williams's Library has developed into the world's leading repository of the records of English religious dissent. As a result scholars who wish to investigate any issue or any person whose life touches on church history is drawn to visit Gordon Square. In addition, the Library holdings are of great and irreplaceable importance to theologians and literary scholars. The Library attracts leading figures from British and overseas universities who seek to study in a wide range of fields that include Hebrew studies, the classics and, increasingly the history of the book, philology and bibliography.

Of considerable importance to the holdings of the books, manuscripts and pictures are the environmental conditions in which they are housed. The building was constructed in1849 as a shall of residence, University Hall and the Library, formerly housed at Queen Square acquired and moved to the building in 1890. The structural analysis undertaken by Corbett + Tasker has shown that it is not advisable to house the book collections above level 4. The loadings for which the building was designed being residential and they are not appropriate to housing a large and heavy book collection. With the exception of the introduction of electric lighting and a gas fired hot water pressure heating system, little has changed to alter the environmental conditions in which the collections are held. The opportunity has been taken to review and improve the environments within the building as well as introducing more effective ways of storing the collections. In consequence additional means to control temperature and humidity are proposed as well as housing more of the book collection in modern rolling stack arrangements. A general improvement to the conditions in which the collections are housed is a matter of pressing concern.

2.0 Legacy

2.01 Religious Dissent

Religious Dissent dates from the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 and the re-establishment of the Church of England as a state church requiring absolute conformity to its ceremonies and the Book of Common Prayer. Over 2000 ministers in England and Wales (including about a sixth of the parochial clergy and many university and school teachers) for conscientious reasons could not accept the terms of conformity and were ejected from their livings or posts. They were joined by a significant body of their former parishioners, upon whose charity they depended, who also rejected an Anglican prayer-book religion seeking instead an evangelical preaching ministry. For nearly three decades ministers and their lay supporters held illegal meetings for worship, experiencing harassment from local officials and informers, and suffering fines and imprisonment. Persecution if not continuous was at times extremely fierce, especially during the late 1670's and 1680's when most open meetings were suppressed. The Toleration Act (1689), passed after the Glorious Revolution, allowed Dissenters a bare toleration to worship in public. In many areas of civil and religious life, most notably education and politics, they continued to be discriminated against. Roman Catholics and those who denied the Doctrine of the Trinity were excluded from the Act. Nevertheless the Toleration Act represented a major advance in the liberty of the individual. For the first time the state recognised its subjects could hold alternative religious views from the established church. It was the foundation of many of those rights we take for granted today: the freedom to assemble for religious worship, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and in time the removal of the Anglican monopoly in most areas of public life, notably education, politics and the law.

Before the mid-eighteenth century Dissent consisted of four major denominations: English Presbyterians, the largest, wealthiest, and most influential part; Congregationalists; Baptists; and Quakers. During the second half of the eighteenth century the religious landscape of Britain was transformed by a series of evangelical revivals. For the first time these revivals reached groups previously untouched by formal religion, the agricultural labourer, the collier, and the industrial worker, as well as revitalising the religion of many regular churchgoers. The results were striking. The growth of Methodism is the best known example, though before the mid-nineteenth century the largest body, the Wesleyan Methodists, were still tied to the Church of England. The main beneficiaries in England and Wales among the Dissenters were the Congregationalists, who grew from about 900 congregations at the end of the eighteenth century, to around 2,000 by 1831, and to over 3,200 in 1851. The Baptists were also to experience considerable growth. By contrast the leading Presbyterian congregations rejected religious enthusiasm adopting rational beliefs. Many became Unitarian. By the end of the eighteenth century their congregations had become centres of considerable wealth and influence in the main urban centres, providing many of the leaders for reform, both locally and nationally. The Presbyterians, and later their Unitarian successors, drew certain practical conclusions from their religious beliefs. Because of their minority status, they had a deep-seated commitment to the concept of religious (and therefore civil) liberty. They can be found in the vanguard of every major reform movement from the late eighteenth to the end of the nineteenth century: parliamentary reform, Friends of Peace, anti-slavery, agitation for civil and religious equality, women's rights and suffrage, educational reform, and so on.

Dissenters included many of the industrial magnates and leading businessmen, particularly in Lancashire, West Yorkshire and the East and West Midlands, who transformed the economy making Britain the leading industrial nation of the world. They included many household names: in business Courtauld (textiles), Tate (sugar), Holt (Blue Funnel Line shipping), Brunner (later ICI), Pilkington (glass), Nettlefold (later GKN), Lever Brothers (later Unilever), Cadburys, Rowntree, and a host of less celebrated but historically crucial firms in banking, brewing, railways, and textiles; in literature such well-known writers as Coleridge, Charles Dickens, Charles Lamb, and Elizabeth Gaskell; in local and national government, the Chamberlains of Birmingham, together with many MPs and mayors and councillors; and major intellectuals such as the theologian and scientist Joseph Priestley, who discovered oxygen. Many dissenting businessmen and their families used their wealth to establish major philanthropic enterprises: for example the Tate Gallery, Morley College (for Working Men and Women), the John Rylands Library in Manchester, and new towns to house their workers at Saltaire, Port Sunlight, and Bournville. More generally Dissenters founded domestic missions and schools to aid the poor. They worked in public health and through local politics to improve living conditions, particularly in the towns. By the mid-nineteenth century, according to the 1851 Religious Census, less than half those attending a place of worship attended the Church of England, yet the latter retained most of its privileges as an established church, particularly in education.

2.0 Legacy

2.01 Religious Dissent (cont)

Dissenters were excluded from Oxford and Cambridge by religious tests. As a consequence Dissenters played a major part in establishing the University of London in 1826; the first English university to admit students regardless of their religion. Before the 1832 Reform Act Dissenters were largely excluded from voting in parliamentary election; they could only marry in their own chapels after 1836; and until 1868 they were forced to pay church rates to support the Church of England. For further information refer to appendix C.

2.02 History and Development of The Library

The Trust was established by the will of Dr Daniel Williams, the leading London dissenting minister of his day, who died in January 1716. He left instructions to his trustees to house his books and to make them available in London to dissenting ministers and students. The Library opened in 1730 and is therefore the oldest Library open to the public on its original benefaction. The collections were greatly enlarged over the years with many important gifts of books, manuscripts, and portraits. It is still maintained by the charitable Trust on the endowment that Daniel Williams gave; it receives no external funding. Though surrounded by University College London, and the other Colleges in the University of London, the Trust is independent.

Dr Williams's Library has become a major research collection, and is regarded as the pre-eminent library for the study of English Protestant Nonconformity. But its holdings are of even wider significance because of the importance of Puritanism and religious dissent in the history and culture of both this country and of the United States of America. The manuscript collections include the original minutes of the Westminster Assembly (1643-52), the most important parliamentary committee of the Civil War and Interregnum period, and the last of the post-Reformation synods; Richard Baxter's Reliquiae Baxterianae, the most significant and substantial seventeenth-century account never to have received scholarly edition (comparable to Bunyan, Burnet, Clarendon, Evelyn, Pepys). Roger Morrice's historical manuscripts, including the Entring Book, the most significant record of British political and religious history of the late seventeenth century; together with the major sources for the history of eighteenth and nineteenth-century dissent. Among the many substantial collections of eighteenth-century letters are those of Joseph Priestley, the discover of oxygen.

The extensive archive of Henry Crabb Robinson, containing his diary (1811-1867), reminiscences, correspondence, and other papers, is of great literary significance for students of Romantic poetry. Robinson corresponded with many of the leading German and British Romantic literary figures of the first half of the nineteenth century, including Coleridge, Wordsworth, Southey (a reader in the Library), Sir Walter Scott and Harriet Martineau, and their letters to Robinson are included in the collection. The Library today serves a very wide readership, which includes ministers of all denominations, academics, independent scholars, general readers, and students, and is open to the general public free of charge for reference, with a small membership fee for those who wish to borrow books. But many of those who use the Library are not members, and visitors include a large number from overseas, particularly from North America. A postal service is maintained for those members who live outside London and are unable to visit the Library in person.

3.0 The Site

3.01 Historical Development of The Site

The present Library building, the oldest building on the West side of Gordon Square, was completed as University Hall in 1849 and formed an important part of the development of the Duke of Bedford's Estate in the 1840's. It is one of a handful of buildings built to commemorate the passing of an act of parliament and was built following the passing of the Dissenters' Chapels Act (1844) as a permanent memorial to perpetuate the great principle of religious liberty. The Act safeguarded the chapels and endowments of Unitarian and liberal Dissenters from the threat of confiscation by their orthodox opponents. Following a design by the distinguished professor of architecture, Thomas Leverton Donaldson, it cost £10.000.00 and was completed in October 1849 in just over a year. The money was raised from 200 subscribers contributing £50.00 each.

It was built originally as a residential hall to provide the sons of liberal dissenters an opportunity to study at University College London, which had been founded as a non-denominational alternative to Oxford and Cambridge. Conscientious Dissenters could not study at the old universities because of the requirement to subscribe to Anglican religious tests. In 1853 Manchester New College, which trained students for the ministry, moved from Manchester to share the building. Due to financial difficulties, the Society of University Hall was dissolved in 1882, and the building was handed over to Manchester College. In 1884 a detached building, the Morley building (currently leased to UCL), was built to provide accommodation for a further nine students. Manchester College (now Harris Manchester College) moved to Oxford in 1889 following the abolition of the religious tests at the old universities. University Hall was then sold to the Trustees of Dr Williams's Library to house the collection of books and manuscripts. The building was sold to the Trustees of Dr Williams's Library, rather than to some other organisation, in order to maintain the historic Memorial. The Library opened in Gordon Square in 1890.

3.02 The Site

The Library is situated on the West side of Gordon Square. To the South side is a terrace of Georgian style buildings in the ownership of University College London (UCL) and to the North is a building known as the Cloisters and is part of the Catholic Apostolic Church of Christ the King that stands at the corner of Gordon Square and Byng Place.

To the rear of the site is an area of open space containing a two storey building in the ownership of the Trust. This building, known as the Morley Building is leased to UCL. See appendix 1 – Location Plan.

The site is included with the Bloomsbury Conservation area under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. See appendix B– Bloomsbury CA sub-Area.

Dr Williams's Library that comprises numbers 14 and 15 Gordon Square and attached Railings and Pillars is listed Grade 2 under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The listing (List Entry Number: 111307 - 28th March 1969) is as follows -

SITE AND CONTEXT:
Red Line- Site Boundary
Blue Line- Land Leased to UCL

3.0 The Site

3.02 The Site (cont)

Dr Williams's Library that comprises numbers 14 and 15 Gordon Square and attached Railings and Pillars is listed Grade 2 under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The listing (List Entry Number: 111307 - 28th March 1969) is as follows –

University Hall, later library. 1848. By TL Donaldson. Red brick with stone dressings. Tudor style.

EXTERIOR: 5 storeys and semi-basement. Double fronted with 5 bays of windows. Façade articulated by octagonal turrets with stone octagonal finials, rising the height of the building. Stone band at first floor cill, wide 2nd floor sill band with quatrefoil enrichment and crockets.3rd floor strings on with crockets. 4-centred arch doorway with moulded architrave, decorated spandrels, hood mould with decorated label stops and panelled door. Above the entrance, and oriel window of 4 pointed leaded lights rising through the 1st and 2nd floors, with a quatrefoil enriched apron at 2nd floor level, cornice and terminating in a brick gable. Windows, except the semi-basement, with pointed headed lights and hood moulds with devoted label stops. Ground floor windows with enriched aprons, of two lights flanking the entrance and 4 lights to the outer bays. Similar windows to the 1st and 2nd floors but with enriched spandrel panels. String with crockets beneath stone-capped, crenelated parapet.

INTERIOR: entrance hall with heavy Gothic style stone in imperial style type stairs. Behind, a panelled room with stained glass windows. 1st floor library with cast-iron gallery.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: attached cast iron railings with octagonal stone pillars having shaped finials (Survey of London: Vol. XXI, Tottenham Court Road and Neighbourhood, St Pancras III: London :-1949)

SITE AND CONTEXT:
01 Interior- Stained Glass Windows
02 Interior- Imperial Style Type Stairs

3.0 The Site

3.02 The Site (cont)

Where development proposals are likely to affect heritage assets, the Government, at paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to ensure that applicants describe the significance of any heritage assets that would be affected by the proposals. The level of detail being proportionate to the importance of the asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposals on its significance. This report therefore seeks to describe the significance of the Library, its holdings and the building in which the collections are housed. It is important to consider all three related elements as designated heritage assets.

4.0 Heritage Significance

4.01 Assessment

The Government advises local planning authorities at paragraph 128 of the NPPF that, in determining planning applications that would affect heritage assets, they should require applicants to describe the 'significance' of any heritage asset that would be affected by the development proposals. Significance is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as 'The value of the physical presence of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its architectural or historic interest'.

Local planning authorities are required to take account of these Statements of Significance when they consider the impact of a development proposal on a heritage asset to ensure that any conflict between the conservation of the heritage asset and the proposed development is avoided or minimised.

In addition, the Government has advised local planning authorities that when they determine a planning application they need to take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of a heritage asset and putting it to a viable use that is consistent with its conservation. In addition, local planning authorities are recommended to consider the desirability of any new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

The Government recommends that the effect of an application on the significance of a designated heritage asset such as Dr. Williams's Library should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing these applications a balanced judgment is required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss to the significance of the heritage asset.

Local planning authorities are advised at paragraph 136 of the NPPF to look for opportunities for new development within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably.

It is in the light of these Government heritage policies that the proposals for the redevelopment of Dr. Williams's Library need to be considered.

4.02 Criteria for Assessment

The English Heritage document Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance published in 2008 sets out logical approach for evaluating decisions on the historic environment. This includes the provision of a framework of four key values that should be used to assess the significance of historic buildings.

Understanding the values and the significance of buildings is necessary to inform decisions about their future.

The four key values are as follows -

- Evidential value - the potential of a building to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical value - the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a building to the present – it tends to be illustrative or associative.
- Aesthetic value - the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a building.
- Communal value - the meanings of a building for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

It is clear from this general schema that the heritage value of the asset does not reside solely in the built form. Here, the significance of the Library must also be viewed on three significant levels. Primary among these is continuing function of the Library as the legacy of and the continuing instrument of religious and political freedoms in the United Kingdom and the importance of the collections that it houses.

4.0 Heritage Significance

4.02 Criteria for Assessment (cont)

The overall objectives of the Trustees are to secure the building and its important collections for the foreseeable future. The opportunity is also being taken to provide improved access to the collections for scholars and to widen the teaching commitment of the Trust through improved reader and teaching facilities.

With specific regard to the building, the following aspects are of significance;

- The external elevations and appearance of the building.
- The interior of the Library and its associated offices.

5.0 Significance of External Elevations

5.01 Evidential Value

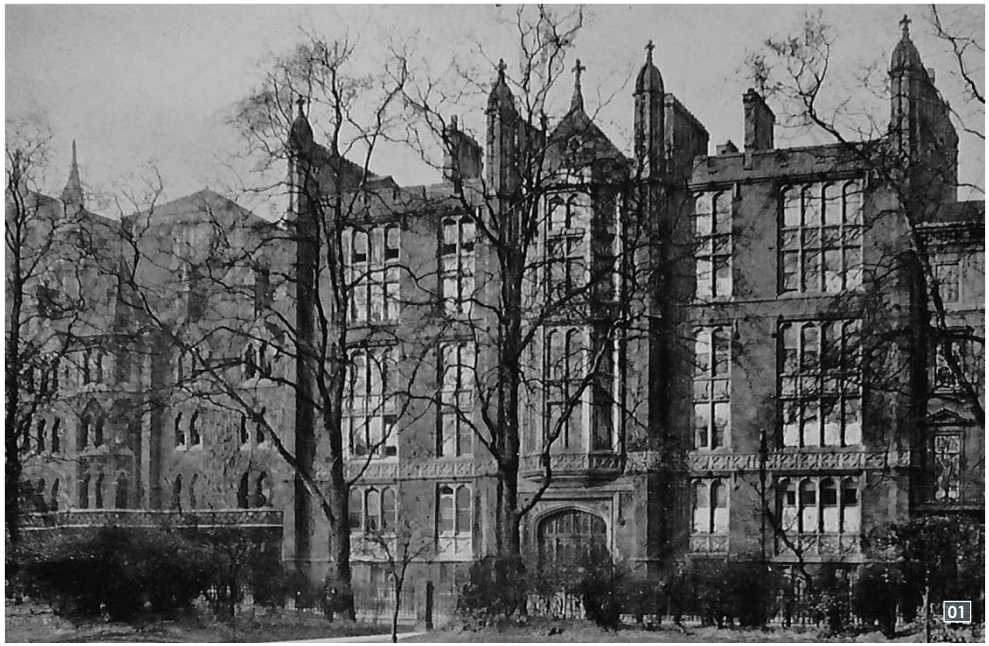
The exterior of the building is in many important respects little changed since its construction in1848. A minor modification has taken place to the front elevation in that an existing subsidiary entrance on the North wing at ground floor level (introduced in the 1890's) has been adapted to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (1995). The front elevation facing Gordon Square was extensively repaired and overhauled within the last ten years. The rear elevations have not been preserved in the same way and here, a number of windows have been modified and new widows introduced. In the 1890's and accommodate the Library holdings certain of the rear windows on each side of the projecting central core have been blocked up.

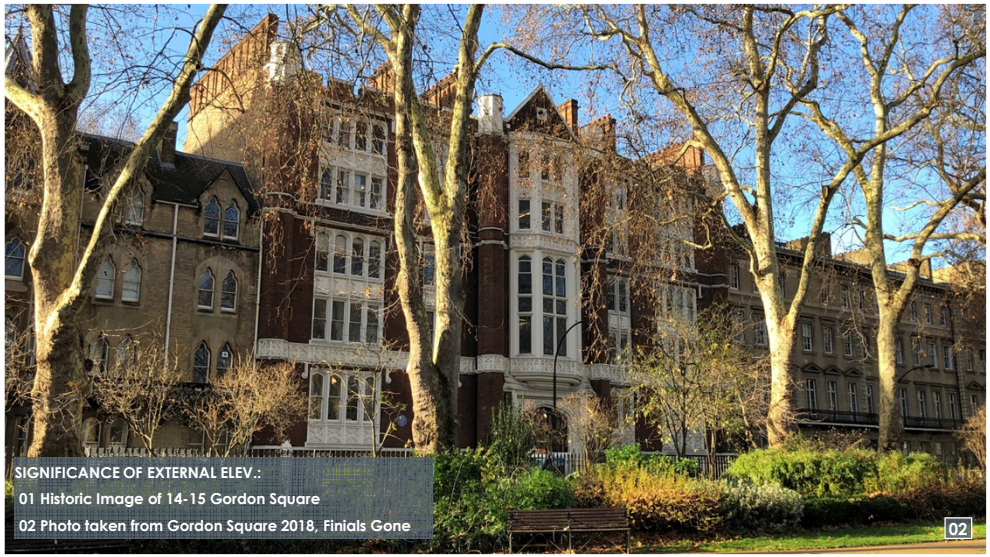
Approximately forty years ago, the whole of the original slated roof coverings were removed and a new covering of concrete interlocking tiles installed.

Early twentieth-century photographs of the Gordon Square elevation show that the brick octagonal turret features that extend the full height of the building were originally topped with crocketted finials that are now lost.

The construction of the building is well documented. A full specification for the construction of the original building is to found in Donaldson T.L. and Cunningham G.W. (1860) Handbook of Specifications London. Atchley & Co. Donaldson (1795-1885) being the architect for the building. The Donaldson and Cunningham Handbook is of considerable interest as it reveals much of the constructional technique and materials used in the building and, in particular, the somewhat hybrid nature of much of the structural work.

A close examination of the construction provides evidence of the willingness of the Victorians to embrace the technology of the age and to combine this with prevailing medievalism characteristic of the aesthetic climate of the time. While to all outward appearance the building is an example of Gothic Revival there is a great deal of cast iron framing in the central core and particularly in the lecture hall and the main Library reading room. The large spans in these areas as well as the lintels above certain of the largest windows is achieved through the use of cast iron a material entirely unknown to the medieval mason.





5.0 Significance of External Elevations

5.01 Evidential Value (cont)

Built originally as a hall of residence, few interior features of the original occupancy have remained unaltered. The North and South wings are sparingly detailed with the exception of the many remaining fireplaces. The introduction of services and fire prevention measures to the two internal staircases in particular has had a considerable impact on the interior spaces. Reference should be made here to the associated condition survey drawings, see appendix C. A significant amount od structural stabilisation and rehabilitation of the interior spaces is now necessary.

Since the occupation of the building by the Trust a continuous record of the maintenance of the building has been kept.

5.02 Historical Value

The building is unique in being one of very few buildings in the United Kingdom erected to celebrate the passing of an Act of Parliament. As described above, it was originally constructed as a hall of residence for Non-conformist students admitted to study at University College London and was originally known as The University Hall. The building was, as stated above, acquired in 1890 by the Trustees of Dr Williams's Library and the library collection was brought to the building from Queen Square.

Consistent with the central idea that the Library has to be considered as a heritage asset on a number of levels is the continuing association with the aims and aspirations of non-conformism in the United Kingdom. The Trust was formed to provide a focus for non-conformist thinking and the use of the building is entirely appropriate for this purpose being constructed as a memorial to the passing of legislation giving legal status to the freedoms so long sought by the non-established religions in this country.

Additionally, the Library holdings are in many case unique and since 1982, when the Congregationalist Library was incorporated into the collections housed in Gordon Square, the two major stands of non-confomist thought have been brought together.

5.03 Aesthetic Value

The Library is a significant example of the Gothic Revival architectural style. Beginning in 1740's in England this became an international style of increasing popularity particularly in early to middle Victorian England reaching its peak in the 1870's. Underpinning the adoption of this style is an underlying reaction to the industrialisation of the age and a conviction that the gothic age was, to use Pugin's words, a more pure form of society.

The External elevation of Library building to Gordon Square is largely unchanged in its external appearance. The rear of the building (as discussed above §7.1.1) has experienced greater change. The style of the building is significant as a record of one of the leading architectural styles characteristic of mid-Victorian England. It also reflects certain of the prevailing moral aspirations of the time. It is a load bearing brick design, which is symmetrically balanced and designed to reflect the importance of the interior and the central core area at the respective floor levels. Thus, the main façade to Gordon Square contains an imposing entrance reached by way of a set of stone steps. And, above this are the full height windows of the main Library offices and Reading Room. Balancing this, on either side are symmetrical wings to a more domestic scale.

The design is unified by the use of stone label mouldings, embellished stone banding, hood moulds above certain of the windows and a crenelated parapet. To give emphasise to both the ends and the central section of the building are octagonal pillars in brick which were originally capped with decorated finials. The piers between the sections of cast iron railings to the footpath echo the design of the octagonal features.

In recognition of its architectural importance 14 and 15 Gordon Square and attached Railings and Pillars are listed Grade 2 under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

SIGNIFICANCE OF EXTERNAL ELEV.: Listed Railings

5.0 Significance of External Elevations

5.04 Communal Value

The Library has importance not solely in respect of its individual architectural qualities as it forms an important part of the ensemble of buildings on the Eastern side of Gordon Square and which are prominent from the Square itself. To one side is the Cloisters building, a gothic revival building attached to the church of Christ the King and to the other is a neo-Georgian terrace built sometime after in the twentieth century..

6.0 Significance of Interior Spaces

6.01 Evidential Value

The interior of the building has inevitably been altered and adapted to reflect its use as a library. As discussed at section 3 above, the building was constructed originally as a hall of residence before being acquired and used thereafter, as a dedicated Library in 1889. In addition, and as also discussed above the introduction of services and fire precaution measures has resulted in significant changes.

Perhaps the most significant evidential features of the building, apart from the arrangement of the central spaces, are vestiges of the living conditions of the first students to New Hall as originally constituted. These are found in the two side wings and, consist of the fireplaces and the general detailing of doors and skirting's. Other than the introduction of structural measures to stabilise the building in these parts no significant changes are proposed to the materials used or to the general configuration of the spaces.

Painted on the walls of the Lecture Hall is a series of well-documented murals by the Victorian artist Edward Armitage RA (1817-1896). In the late 1950's they were whitewashed and, in the mid-1980's covered with wallpaper. At some later stage it may be possible to remove the paper and whitewash to reveal these paintings. In the interim, nothing will be done to compromise the painted work further.

The front Reading Room is an interesting example of a formal Victorian Library with cast iron spiral staircases serving the surrounding cast iron galleries. These are somewhat clumsy later interventions and obscure much of the original detailing. The large stone oriel window with leaded lights facing Gordon Square serves to give considerable stature to the space.

The rear Reading Room is a further and equally interesting example of a formal Victorian library. The built-in furniture consists of double-sided sets of impressive book presses with ornamented features. These and the galleries over are of timber construction and are evidence of good quality Victorian carpentry. No changes are proposed to the presses.

It is noteworthy that certain of the original external openings have been blocked up to accommodate these features.

6.02 Historical Value

Arguably, the most significant elements of the interior are contained in the central part. Here, the central entrance hallway and stair at ground floor level, the double-height lecture hall and the double height reading room are of most architectural significance. Much of the work at the fourth and fifth levels is not original to the building as is the introduction of a steel floor at level 7 in the rear part of the central core.

Above level 5, much of the detailing is purely functional reflecting the fact that the areas at this level were not intended for public access

The two side wings are of limited historic interest in so far as architectural merit or in respect of any specific historic figures or events connected with them.

The central areas are of architectural historical significance and are interesting examples of the Victorian gothic revival architecture of the period. Like the side wings they are of limited historic interest in so far as any specific historical figures or events are concerned. The importance of the building, which is largely plainly detailed, is to a very large extent bound up in the importance of what it does and what it contains.

While gothic revival themes run through the interior of the most important parts of the building it should be noted that many of these effects are achieved through the use of the basic engineering materials characteristic of the steam age. Significantly, what appear to be floor systems supported by principal timber beams, carved braces and wind posts on stone corbels in the main central areas are, in reality, cast iron beams cased out to give the appearance of medieval work.

6.0 Significance of Interior Spaces

6.03 Aesthetic Value

The internal spaces within the side wings spaces are modest having, generally wooden boarded floors simply plastered walls and ceilings and simple four panel painted wooden doors. These, together with the timber painted architraves and skirtings are characteristic of the period. The fenestration is generally stonework with single glazed lights. To the frontage the timber sashes are set into the stonework, while the rear there are later galvanised metal frames.

Where modifications prove necessary it is proposed to make such provision with minimum intervention to the fabric of the spaces concerned and to undertake repairs on a like for-like basis using traditional materials wherever possible.

The ground floor Entrance Hall with its Imperial style staircases is an impressive space. Minor repair and redecoration is proposed.

The Lecture Hall is an impressive double height space with exposed ceiling beams, a timber dado and leaded light windows containing late Victorian stained glass. The restoration of the Murals concealed behind the wallpaper above dado level (discussed above) is a matter that is desirable subject to the availability of funds.

The Reading Room areas to the front and rear are double height spaces with galleries around the non-fenestrated sides. The fenestration at both the front and the rear consists of full height stone casements with leaded lights. Both spaces are of considerable architectural quality and interest. The rear area has a timber-framed gallery part of which forms the original construction and part was added across the tops of the book presses in 1853. The double galleries to the front are of cast iron construction served by cast iron circular staircases and were added in 1890.

6.04 Communal Value

At present the Library is not used to anything like its full potential. The collections are very rare and greater access is considered desirable. In many respects, the collection of both books and pictures might be regarded as one of the hidden treasures of London. The primary intention of the proposed changes to the internal spaces within the Library is, apart from essential structural and refurbishment work, to promote greater access to the collections and to improve the quality and use of the facilities that already exist.

The Lecture Hall is at present ill served by lavatory and kitchen provisions. To give a more flexible use of this Hall, minor modifications are proposed to the adjacent spaces to make provision for these subsidiary facilities. In addition, improvements are proposed to the environmental conditions within the Hall. This will enhance the range of activities that can be undertaken and, in particular, enable a range of GIS compliant travelling exhibitions to be accommodated.

Both main reading rooms as they are currently arranged do not lend themselves to the fullest use. Modifications to the central area are proposed to modernise the Library use at the interface with its readers and to provide greater tacit surveillance of the reading spaces (theft and mutilation being common problems). Minor modifications are also proposed at gallery level (as described above) to provide more usable space at the upper levels for manuscript and map reading. At present the Library has no or restricted facilities for these activities.

It is critically important that the various holdings are maintained to the highest possible standard. These issues have become more pressing in recent years and the Trustees are aware of the need to preserve the holdings of the Library and to maintain them not for a small section of the community but also for the wider academic and reading public for whom the Library was originally established. Central to this is the provision of enhanced environmental conditions in which to house the collections held within the Library.

7.0 Summary

7.00 Summary

In approaching the sort of work needed to restore the Library physically and to maintain it as a continuing centre for scholarship and research, it is necessary to balance those aspects of the building that have historic and architectural significance with the functions that are central to its effective operation as a centre for its historic legacy and its promotion of learning in the twenty first century. The primary purpose of the Library is to house and to make accessible both now, and into the future a growing and an internationally important collection of books, manuscripts paintings and other artefacts.

Significant structural defects have been identified within the building. These have arisen in the main from the use of the two side wings of the building for the storage of books. The original purpose of these parts was not for use as a specialist Library; they were built for domestic use. As a consequence of the loads imposed by the growth of the book collection over the past 130 years, a progressive weakening of the structure in these parts has taken place. This work is considered so important to the fabric of the building that the structural engineers have recommended the emptying of the holdings from a significant number of areas within the Library in order to avoid a progressive collapse. It should be noted that simple repairs are insufficient and significant structural improvements are needed. On the basis of the advice given by the structural engineers the Library has been closed to the public and its holdings are being removed to temporary safe storage in anticipation of the necessary repair work.

Reference should be made to the accompanying Heritage Statement for details of the proposals to remedy the defects and the modifications proposed to the general arrangement of the Library to improve both the accessibility and operation of the Library to promote greater use by readers. Facilities that are not currently available such as a new area for manuscript and map reading and an overall enlargement of the number of reader places are also proposed.

The environments within the building are twofold. There is the general environment for readers and staff and the specialist environment for the storage of rare books, manuscripts, pictures and other sensitive material. Reference should be made to the accompanying Heritage Statement for the need to provide more areas of enhanced environmental control to ensure the long-term survival of the collections in optimal conditions.

In order for the library to continue and to flourish it is necessary to implement a significant repair and expansion programme. This has provided an opportunity to review the working of the building on a more comprehensive level and to propose changes that will contribute to its continuity. In all cases, it is proposed to implement these changes without compromising the historic significance of the building or its primary function as a place of scholarship and research.

Appendix A –
Location Plan

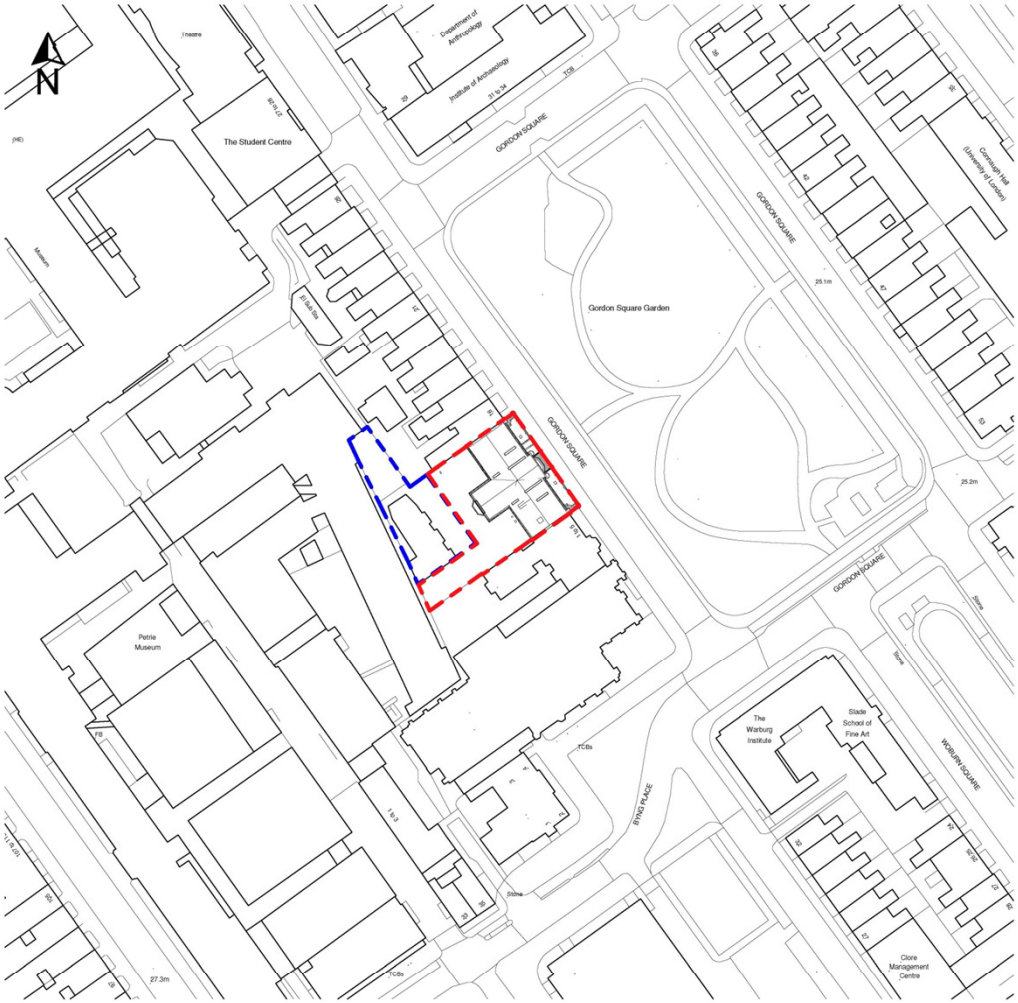
Drawing based on survey information and Revit model produced by City Survey's, refer to below model file. CPMG cannot be help responsible for any discrepancies within the original Revit survey.
- City Survey- 10410E_R

Drawing Key

Site Boundary Line

Land Owned by Dr Williams's Trust, Leased to UCL

This drawing should be read in conjunction with the latest revision of the; Block Plan- W82-CPM-Z1-ZZ-DR-A-10002



Site Location Plan
1 : 1000

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P01	2019-10-28	Drawings issued for Planning

ORIGINATOR REF: 8555

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN
People, Purpose, Place

CPMG Architects Ltd

Nottingham 23 Warser Gate, Nottingham, NG1 1NU tel: 0115 958 9500
London 31/35 Kirby Street, London, EC1N 8TE tel: 0207 492 1805
Birmingham The Lewis Building 35 Bull Street Birmingham B4 6EQ
enquiries@cpmg-architects.com
www.cpmg-architects.com

PROJECT

Dr Williams's Library
Library Building

DRAWING TITLE

EXTERNAL WORKS
Site Location Plan

DRAWING PURPOSE

PLANNING SUBMISSION

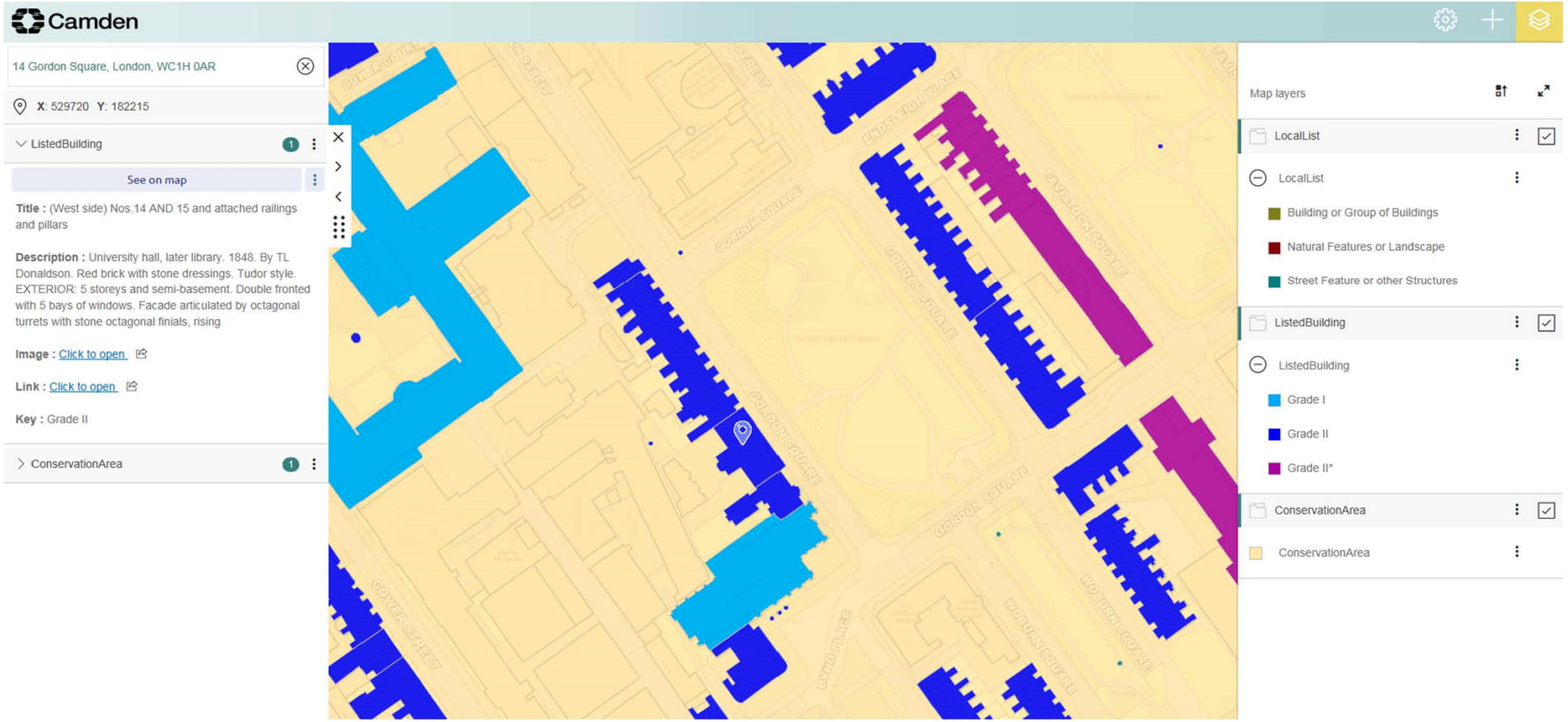
DRAWN BY	DATE	CHK'D BY	SCALE	MEDIA
HW	2019-10-28	RF	As indicated	A2

PROJECT - ORIGINATOR - ZONE - LEVEL - TYPE - ROLE - NUMBER — REVISION

W82-CPM-Z1-ZZ-DR-A-10001 — P01

ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management
ISO 14001: 2015 Environmental Management
PAS 1192-2: 2013 Building Information Modelling

Appendix B –
Bloomsbury Conservation Area



Extract taken from Camden Council's Conservation Area Map; https://www.camden.gov.uk/conservation-areas
Information accessed and page printed on 21.10.2019.

Appendix C –
Significance of Religious Dissent

What is religious dissent?

Religious Dissent dates from the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 and the re-establishment of the Church of England as a state church requiring absolute conformity to its ceremonies and the Book of Common Prayer. Over 2000 ministers in England and Wales (including about a sixth of the parochial clergy and many university and school teachers) for conscientious reasons could not accept the terms of conformity and were ejected from their livings or posts. They were joined by a significant body of their former parishioners, upon whose charity they depended, who also rejected an Anglican prayer-book religion seeking instead an evangelical preaching ministry. For nearly three decades ministers and their lay supporters held illegal meetings for worship, experiencing harassment from local officials and informers, and suffering fines and imprisonment. Persecution if not continuous was at times extremely fierce, especially during the late 1670s and 1680s when most open meetings were suppressed. The Toleration Act (1689), passed after the Glorious Revolution, allowed Dissenters a bare toleration to worship in public. In many areas of civil and religious life, most notably education and politics, they continued to be discriminated against. Roman Catholics and those who denied the Doctrine of the Trinity were excluded from the Act. Nevertheless the Toleration Act represented a major advance in the liberty of the individual. For the first time the state recognised its subjects could hold alternative religious views from the established church. It was the foundation of many of those rights we take for granted today: the freedom to assemble for religious worship, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and in time the removal of the Anglican monopoly in most areas of public life, notably education, politics and the law.

The significance of Religious Dissent and its place in history

Before the mid-eighteenth century Dissent consisted of four major denominations: English Presbyterians, the largest, wealthiest, and most influential part; Congregationalists; Baptists; and Quakers. During the second half of the eighteenth century the religious landscape of Britain was transformed by a series of evangelical revivals. For the first time these revivals reached groups previously untouched by formal religion, the agricultural labourer, the collier, and the industrial worker, as well as revitalising the religion of many regular churchgoers. The results were striking. The growth of Methodism is the best known example, though before the mid-nineteenth century the largest body, the Wesleyan Methodists, were still tied to the Church of England. The main beneficiaries in England and Wales among the Dissenters were the Congregationalists, who grew from about 900 congregations at the end of the eighteenth century, to around 2,000 by 1831, and to over 3,200 in 1851. The Baptists were also to experience considerable growth. By contrast the leading Presbyterian congregations rejected religious enthusiasm adopting rational beliefs. Many became Unitarian. By the end of the eighteenth century their congregations had become centres of considerable wealth and influence in the main urban centres, providing many of the leaders for reform, both locally and nationally. The Presbyterians, and later their Unitarian successors, drew certain practical conclusions from their religious beliefs. Because of their minority status, they had a deep-seated commitment to the concept of religious (and therefore civil) liberty. They can be found in the vanguard of every major reform movement from the late eighteenth to the end of the nineteenth century: parliamentary reform, Friends of Peace, anti-slavery, agitation for civil and religious equality, women's rights and suffrage, educational reform, and so on.

Dissenters included many of the industrial magnates and leading businessmen, particularly in Lancashire, West Yorkshire and the East and West Midlands, who transformed the economy making Britain the leading industrial nation of the world. They included many household names: in business Courtauld (textiles), Tate (sugar), Holt (Blue Funnel Line shipping), Brunner (later ICI), Pilkington (glass), Nettlefold (later GKN), Lever Brothers (later Unilever), Cadburys, Rowntree, and a host of less celebrated but historically crucial firms in banking, brewing, railways, and textiles; in literature such well-known writers as Coleridge, Charles Dickens, Charles Lamb, and Elizabeth Gaskell; in local and national government, the Chamberlains of Birmingham, together with many MPs and mayors and councillors; and major intellectuals such as the theologian and scientist Joseph Priestley, who discovered oxygen. Many dissenting businessmen and their families used their wealth to establish major philanthropic enterprises: for example the Tate Gallery, Morley College (for Working Men and Women), the John Rylands Library in Manchester, and new towns to house their workers at Saltaire, Port Sunlight, and Bournville. More generally Dissenters founded domestic missions and schools to aid the poor. They worked in public health and through local politics to improve living conditions, particularly in the towns. By the mid-nineteenth century, according to the 1851 Religious Census, less than half those attending a place of worship attended the Church of England, yet the latter retained most of its

privileges as an established church, particularly in education. Dissenters were excluded from Oxford and Cambridge by religious tests. As a consequence Dissenters played a major part in establishing the University of London in 1826; the first English university to admit students regardless of their religion. Before the 1832 Reform Act Dissenters were largely excluded from voting in parliamentary election; they could only marry in their own chapels after 1836; and until 1868 they were forced to pay church rates to support the Church of England.

History of the Library

The Trust was established by the will of Dr Daniel Williams, the leading London dissenting minister of his day, who died in January 1716. He left instructions to his trustees to house his books and to make them available in London to dissenting ministers and students. The Library opened in 1730 and is therefore the oldest Library open to the public on its original benefaction. The collections were greatly enlarged over the years with many important gifts of books, manuscripts, and portraits. It is still maintained by the charitable Trust on the endowment that Daniel Williams gave; it receives no external funding. Though surrounded by University College London, and the other Colleges in the University of London, the Trust is independent.

Dr Williams's Library has become a major research collection, and is regarded as the pre-eminent library for the study of English Protestant Nonconformity. But its holdings are of even wider significance because of the importance of Puritanism and religious dissent in the history and culture of both this country and of the United States of America. The manuscript collections include the original minutes of the Westminster Assembly (1643-52), the most important parliamentary committee of the Civil War and Interregnum period, and the last of the post-Reformation synods; Richard Baxter's *Reliquiae Baxterianae*, the most significant and substantial seventeenth-century account never to have received scholarly edition (comparable to Bunyan, Burnet, Clarendon, Evelyn, Pepys). Roger Morrice's historical manuscripts, including the Entring Book, the most significant record of British political and religious history of the late seventeenth century; together with the major sources for the history of eighteenth and nineteenth-century dissent. Among the many substantial collections of eighteenth-century letters are those of Joseph Priestley, the discover of oxygen. The extensive archive of Henry Crabb Robinson, containing his diary (1811-1867), reminiscences, correspondence, and other papers, is of great literary significance for students of Romantic poetry. Robinson corresponded with many of the leading German and British Romantic literary figures of the first half of the nineteenth century, including Coleridge, Wordsworth, Southey (a reader in the Library), Sir Walter Scott and Harriet Martineau, and their letters to Robinson are included in the collection. The Library today serves a very wide readership, which includes ministers of all denominations, academics, independent scholars, general readers, and students, and is open to the general public free of charge for reference, with a small membership fee for those who wish to borrow books. But many of those who use the Library are not members, and visitors include a large number from overseas, particularly from North America. A postal service is maintained for those members who live outside London and are unable to visit the Library in person.

The Library building (University Hall)

The present Library building was built in 1848-49 to provide 'some permanent Memorial, educational or otherwise', to mark the passing of the Dissenters' Chapels Act, and so to perpetuate 'the great principle of unlimited religious liberty'. The Dissenters' Chapels Act was approved by Parliament to right a great wrong, without which Unitarians would have been stripped of all their chapels and endowments. It is one of a handful of buildings built to commemorate the passing of an act of parliament. Completed at a cost of about £11,000 as a hall of residence for ministers and the sons of Unitarians studying at University College, London, the premises were shared by Manchester New College from 1853, which acquired the lease in 1882. Upon the removal of the College (now Harris Manchester College) to Oxford in 1889, the building was sold to the Trustees of Dr Williams's Library, rather than to some other organisation, in order to maintain the historic Memorial.