

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2019/4462/L	Richard Simpson for Primrose Hill CAAC	27/12/2019 11:47:01	NOBJ	ADVICE from Primrose Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee 12A Manley Street, London NW1 8LT

04 December 2019

23 Gloucester Crescent NW1 7DS 2019/4462/L

No objection.

The Committee is grateful to the applicant for giving us access to the building following our discussion on 4 December.

The house is one of the earliest in the conservation area: the original lease is dated 1839, and the house makes an architectural pair with 39 Inverness Street, where the lease is from 1837. A number of original details have survived. These include (not a complete list) cornice details at ground and first floor which are exceptional in their completeness and, despite some damage from water ingress, condition. A number of doors and door frames, and windows are also original as are some skirtings.

The house was lived in by Alan Bennett from 1968, and retains a number of features, like the kitchen door and glass screen in the lower ground floor, and bookcases at the ground floor, which were installed for him. These are of special interest, as is the surviving decoration.

The house was Listed in 1999.

We advise that we would have no objection to the proposed opening of the lower ground floor window in the side elevation within the existing internally recessed bay, but we would wish to have the details subject to further approval. The lack of alignment, which we accept is original, with the blind windows above, requires careful consideration of both frame and its scale and detail, and location in the depth of the wall.

We acknowledge that it is the applicant's intention to retain and conservatively restore the nineteenth-century survivals: we welcome this.

The retention of the 1968 material is a more complex matter. It would be desirable to retain what is still in good condition, but the overall ambience cannot be retained. A full photographic survey would be helpful. We understand that Alan Bennett's archive is to be donated to the Bodleian Library in Oxford (announced 2008), and that the Bodleian has a programme of 3-D recording of writer's work places to support their archival holdings: Dr. Chris Fletcher is the contact at the Library. If their 3-D recording is not possible, a set of record photos of the house should be lodged with the archive, as well as with Historic England and the LMA. Salvage of items which need to be dispersed might also be appropriate.

Richard Simpson FSA
Chair