



Listed Building Application

30 March 2020

LBC - DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

**Blue plaque: Noor Inayat Khan (1914-1944)
at 4 Taviton Street, Bloomsbury, WC1H 0BT
in the London Borough of Camden.**

Site Analysis

Number 4 Taviton Street is in Bloomsbury Conservation Area and Grade II listed (entry ref.1378972). Its present occupier is University College London (UCL), the freeholder the University of London (UoL).

The current building history:

Number 4 Taviton Street is part of a terrace numbered 1-12 (consecutive) built by Thomas Cubitt on the Bedford Estate in about 1824. Built of yellow stock brick, 4 storeys and basement; the ground and basement levels façade white stucco lightly channelled; vertically proportioned windows, three bays wide, the first floor with continuous cast-iron balconies; a wide running cornice between 2nd and 3rd storeys, plus a parapet cornice. Originally built for domestic use, by the 1940s when Noor stayed here with her family, in common with much of the street, this address was (together with 3, 17, 18 & 19 Taviton Street) run as a boarding or 'apartment house'. In the early 1970s number 3 and 4 Taviton Street were adapted by the present occupant, University College London (UCL), for teaching and administrative purposes. However, the frontage is largely unchanged since Noor's residence. UCL have agreed that the current lightning cable that runs down the full height of the façade will be partially rerouted to accommodate the fixing of the plaque. The whole terrace is listed grade II and lies within the London Borough of Camden's Bloomsbury Conservation Area, Sub Area 2.

The many varied and remarkable past residents of the Bloomsbury and Holborn area, commemorated by plaques, complement the historical narrative, and are noted to raise the cultural significance of the area.

Design Process Components

It is proposed that English Heritage erect a blue ceramic inset mounted plaque, of 19.5-inch diameter, inset into the brickwork by a depth of 50mm. To be located centrally between the two ground floor windows, height centred vertically on the main transom bar of the sash windows; positioned as shown on the attached plan orthophoto, scaled 1:50 photogrammetry image, along with the geospatial surveyor annotation detail dimensions, these images take the role of architect drawings. The decision to locate the plaque here is so as to be as appropriate as possible to the

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design of the façade of the building, to align with the earlier blue plaque at number 8 Taviton Street; and to be easily visible to the average passer-by.

The exterior elevation of the building will be slightly adapted to accommodate the blue plaque (please also see separate Installation note). The Conservation Architect from Historic England has confirmed that the solid brick masonry of this building should well be able to carry a recessed plaque.

There will be no change to the use of the building, no floor space will be added or subtracted, and no new homes will be built on the site. The layout of the building will not be changed, nor will the scale of the building be affected. There will be no landscaping undertaken.

Access

No new access points and routes are proposed. No changes are proposed in relation to pedestrian and cycle routes, road layout, local services and public transport provision. The blue plaque will be visible from the public highway and therefore no new access is required. There is no new need for provision of access for emergency services.

Design Solution

The above information has explained and justified the proposed development, and the lack of necessity for good access into and through the site in relation to the proposed works. The English Heritage blue plaque design has been developed over 150 years in sympathy with the character of London buildings. The plaque is hand crafted and is thought to respond positively to most local contexts. The freehold owners of the building, the University of London, and the leaseholders, SOAS, have both approved the project, have given their consent. The architectural character of this listed building will only be affected in a minor way, and the historical and cultural interest of the property and area will be enhanced within the local and wider community.

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