Heritage Statement 25 July 2020

Nos 57-63 Kentish Town Road, together with the relevant attached garden railings, wall, pillar and gate, were listed Grade II on 14 May 1974. Their List Entry No. is 1379238. They comprise two pairs of semi-detached villas, built in the early 19th century. They are of three storeys: a semi-basement lower ground floor, a raised ground floor, and a first floor. All elevations are of white-painted stucco with slated hipped roofs and central slab chimney-stacks. 1 window each and 1-window recessed entrance bay each side. Pilasters rise from ground floor at corners and centrally to carry an entablature with egg-and-dart ovolo cornice at eaves level. Doorways are square-headed with fanlights and panelled doors; Nos 57 and 59 have floating console-bracketed cornices, whilst nos.61 and 63 have architraves decorated with rosettes and console-bracketed cornices. All windows are recessed sashes, those to both ground floors have architraves with console-bracketed cornices, Nos 57, 61 and 63 have decorative cast-iron balustrading to the frontraised ground floor balconies. No.63 has attached cast-iron garden railings on a stone capped sleeper wall with stone capped pillar and a cast-iron gate.

This application relates to the first floor flat, Flat C, of No. 61, a one-bedroom flat, It is accessed through the original front door, which opens into a small hallway which gives access to the raised ground floor flat. Alongside this a steep staircase leads up to Flat C. The narrow entrance hall gives access to the living room, with the kitchen space opening off it via a raised step; the bedroom, the bathroom, and a large storage cupboard. A ceiling hatch in the bedroom gives access to the roofspace: glass fibre insulation of unknown depth can be seen between the joists.

The flat was clearly refurbished in the 1970s or early 1980s, which may be when the house was converted into flats. All skirtings and architraves, including those to windows, are of this period, with a simple oncesplayed section, and door leafs are painted ply-faced flush type, with a rectangular vision panel to the flat entrance door. It appears that all doorframes have been replaced; that to the living room includes a large fanlight.

The sash windows are single-glazed with traditional glazing bar arrangements. Sashes and box frames may be original, although it is very possible that individual sashes have been replaced during the lifetime of the building.

There are no plaster mouldings or other detail, and no fireplaces: the opening in the living room is boarded over and there is a plaster vent to the chimney breast in the bedroom. Where visible for inspection, plaster to all walls appears to be Carlite type, some on what appears to be sand:cement render backings. There is no evidence of original lime plaster or plaster lath construction: it is possible that plasterboard has been applied to the original timber study, although these too may have been replaced.

Thermal board is visible behind kitchen fittings, comprising a thin layer of expanded polystyrene bonded to gypsum plasterboard.

Flooring is plywood screwed to joists: it is not known whether any original boards are beneath it.

Kitchen and bathroom fittings are contemporary with the renovation works and are in poor condition. The kitchen layout is very poor. Heating is provided by a wall-mounted gas boiler, with pipework run surface-mounted to Stelrad-type radiators.