

KOKO – EXTERIOR PAINT

Paint samples were taken as listed on p.4 These were examined as cross-sections and pigments identified. A chemical test for lead was carried out on key sections.

Lead paint

This was only found on the walls at ground floor level. Only one area was examined – the west entrance – but it is likely that other ground floor walls were treated the same.

Lead paint was used on the windows, doors, rain pipes and on the iron grilles in the third floor windows.

Original decoration of the walls

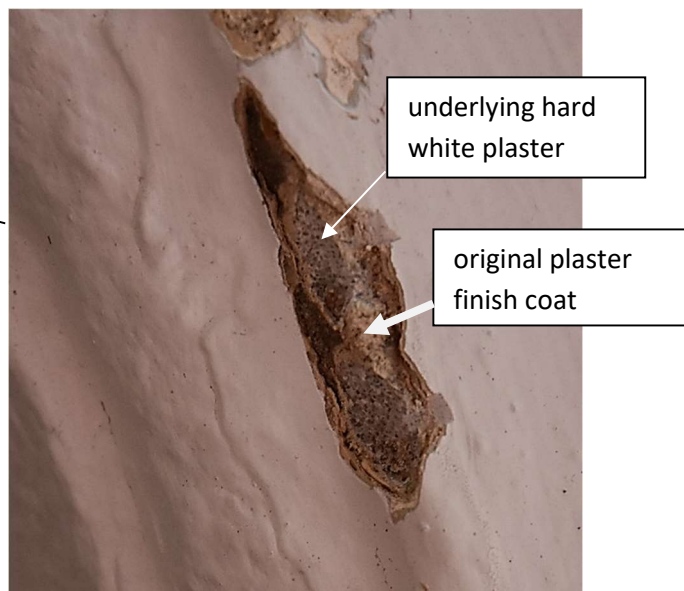
The façade was constructed with a variety of materials, including stone [e.g. the west elevation pilasters] grey cement [e.g. the flat walls, the west elevation columns, the south elevation windows surrounds and string courses] and a hard, white, grit-filled plaster [the surrounds of the 3rd floor circular windows].

At ground floor level the walls were painted with a stone-coloured oil paint based on lead white and a little ochre.

At the front of the building, above ground floor level, a very thin coat of cream or stone-coloured plaster was applied to all surfaces to create a uniform finish. It was also applied to the cement window surrounds and string courses on the south elevation.

The surface of the plaster was sealed with some kind of clear organic coating.

This plaster finish was left untouched until the second half of the twentieth century



Later finishes

First half of C20th

At ground floor level the walls were repeatedly painted with stone-coloured oil paints.

The upper floor walls were left untouched. Only doors, windows and rain pipes were painted.

Second half of C20th

By the mid twentieth century the plaster finish on the upper floors had become thickly coated with dirt, and in some areas it had flaked off, revealing the underlying cement.

Some scraping down took place and then a sealing coat was applied. This was a light brown in colour. The whole façade was then painted with a buff-coloured, textured masonry paint.

Remains of that paint can be seen today on parts of the south string course



Since then the front part of the building has been painted at least seven times with masonry paints. On the upper floors, these paints were always shades of cream or off-white, but on the ground floor dark coloured blue, green and brown gloss paints were used

Recent cement and plaster skim coats

At some point in the recent past, earlier layers were partly scraped off, and then a thin skim coat of cement was applied to some flat areas of walls. It was not applied mouldings such as those around the circular windows.

On the SW corner of the building, attempts appear to have been made to remove this coating.

The penultimate time the building was decorated a white plaster skim coat was applied to flat parts of the walls.



Location of samples

Ground floor

- 3 pilaster to right of entrance door
- 4 entrance door

**First floor**

- 1 pilaster to right of north door to 1.14
- 2 moulding to left of pilaster

Second floor

- 5 keystone
- 6 string course
- 7&26 column
- 8 column base
- 9 pilaster



- 27 wall below upper windows – early layers
- 28 layers over first scheme
- 29 first scheme



- 10 layers on curved corner



South side

- 12 string course
13 wooden window
14 rain pipe
15 window surround



Third floor, west

- 16 iron grille
17&18 circular border
scroll moulding
19&20 intermediate layers revealed by scraping
21 original scheme



Third floor SW corner

- 22 cement skim on pilaster
- 23 layers below cement skim
- 24 white plaster over cement skim
- 25 original plaster

