

Historical Statement

**Flat 9A Acton Street
London WC1X 9LX**

Submission for
Householder Planning Application
Listed Building Alterations



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The land around Acton Street remained undeveloped by the expansion of London until the mid 1700s. In 1745 the Foundling Hospital built a new hospital on 56 acres of fields, on the northern edge of London now known as Coram Fields.

This was followed by the building of the New Road turnpike (now the Euston Road), in the late 1750s. The road was London's first 'by pass' from Paddington to Islington created to allow troop movements and to drive cattle to the City markets, avoiding Holborn and St. Giles.



The Foundling Hospital – viewed from the South



1746 The future Acton Street shown by red line

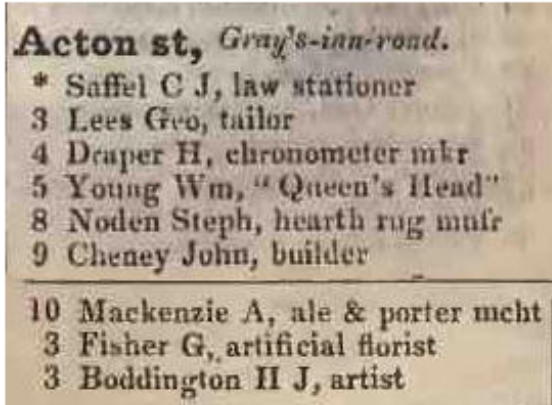
The survey of London (1952) says that work started on Acton Street after 1776 the western end of the street was built first as a cul de sac. The street was owned and developed by the Swinton Brothers on a field called Acton Meadow. A further six houses were added after 1834, the remainder of the street was completed by 1845. Swinton Street to the north was built at the same time.



Acton Street as a cul de sac in 1834

The street was completed by 1845. The earlier buildings of the 1776–1780 period are of simple Georgian type, with fine wooden door-cases. The eastern end, where the street was extended later, is similar to Swinton Street in its principal features and may be the work of the same builders.

Robinson's street directory of London Tradesmen shows that in 1842, 9 Acton Street was occupied by John Cheney a bricklayer and builder.



Acton street, Grays Inn road 1842 Robsons street directory

The English Heritage 1999 listing describes the properties as Grade 2 listed Nos. 7-13 and attached railings as follows;

Yellow stock brick with chaneled stucco ground floors and first floor beads. Four storey with basement.

Square headed entrances with paneled doors and over lights, gauged brick flat arches to recessed sashes, parapets

Interiors not inspected.

Kings Cross station was built in 1851-52 and the area continued to develop. Acton street is shown on this 1871 Ordnance Survey map.

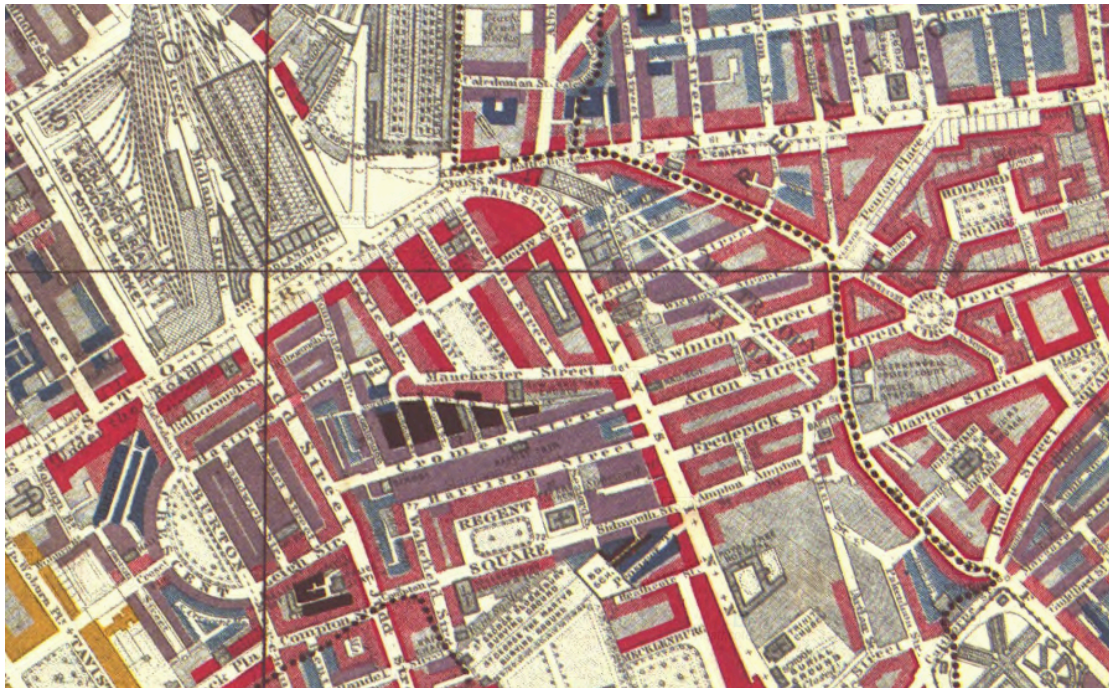


9 Acton Street shown in red



Kings Cross Station in 1852

Charles Booth's map of London in 1889 shows that Acton Street was classified as 'Fairly comfortable. Good ordinary earnings'. Unlike the more deprived areas to the north and west of Acton Street.



Booths Poverty Map 1889

After World War II, the area around Kings Cross began to decline, as the railways industrial and distribution functions decreased. The area became a notorious red light district and was no longer seen as a respectable part of London.

9 Acton Street remained a single dwelling until 1983, when planning permission was granted to convert Nos. 7, 9 & 11 Acton Street into flats and maisonettes.

The property was not listed until 1999, when it had already been converted into three dwellings – two maisonettes and a flat on the first floor.

The area has now begun to regenerate, due to the redevelopment of Kings Cross station and the arrival of Eurostar services at St Pancras International in 2007.