

**LBC – Blue Plaque to Jim Henson ; Historic England Conservation Architect – Technical Advice –
Copy of supporting letter for submitted plaque position v2**

From: Harper, Ian

Sent: 15 February 2021 16:05

To: Power, Cathy

Subject: RE: BP Henson - revised positioning v2

Dear Cathy

Plaque for Jim Henson at 50 Downshire Hill, Hampstead, London NW3 1PA

Thank you for sharing the revised location montage of this plaque. It is located in the panel to the right hand side of the front door, between the door and the French window.

In detail: Horizontally, the plaque is centred on the panel, measured between the pilaster of the front door and the architrave of the French casements. Vertically it is centred on the upper of the 4 glass panes of the French casement, and I think this location is ideal. From the perceived perception point of view, it boldly ignores the intruder alarm rather than 'running away' from it.

Previously we have looked at alternative positions, which included the following:

- a) On the same wall panel but in a lower position centred on the astragal between the third and fourth pane of the same casement. This location was imbalanced due to the larger area of plaster above the plaque than below the plaque (when viewed orthogonally).
- b) On the slightly wider plastered panel to the left hand side of the front door. Noting that the window is a different style than the rest of the windows and that its vertical position on the wall is different to that on the right hand side, never the less, there is a parallel opportunity to align vertically with its heavy transom between the casement and the top lights. Due to the steeply falling pavement line from right to left, view of the plaque at this location would be obstructed by the horizontal balustrade atop the pavement wall. Furthermore, the relationship with the balcony supports is not symmetrical (as it is on the right hand side) and this would cause distraction.

From the technical point of view I am happy that the wall construction at the proposed location is suitable and sufficient to take a recessed plaque. As with any brick walling finished with render or stucco, which material made be exceptionally hard, the recess must be carefully drilled round and sawn out rather than hammered out for fear of detaching the stucco over a wider area.

Please advise if any of the above needs further explanation.

With best wishes, Ian

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