

**LBC APPLICATION : 22 Mecklenburgh Square – Historic England Conservation Architect – Structural and technical advice comments:**

To Cathy Power  
Blue Plaques Manager  
Historic England

Dear Cathy

**Plaque for Helena Normanton at 22 Mecklenburgh Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1N 2AD**

Counting from the left hand side the house is the fourth one of five which form the stuccoed centre pavilion of a terrace on the east side of Mecklenburgh Square. It is constructed of mass brickwork and finished in stucco, grooved on the ground floor. The fifth house in the pavilion, No 21, already has two blue plaques set in the spandrels either side of the front door and this sets a pattern which it would be hard not to follow. For No 22, the plaque is located in the spandrel panel (created by the arch) to the left hand side of the wide front door. The right hand side is obstructed by a painted out lightning conductor.

In detail, the plaque is located horizontally in the centre of the wide pilaster to the left hand side of the door. Vertically it is located exactly straddling the groove above the springing line of the door and which turns to form a radial of the arch. The location is tight within the architecture of the door surround but it matches the location of the two plaques on the house next door.

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. Exceptional care needs to be taken in this instance for the plaque is close to the left hand edge of the panel.

Please advise if any of the above needs further explanation.

With best wishes, Ian

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