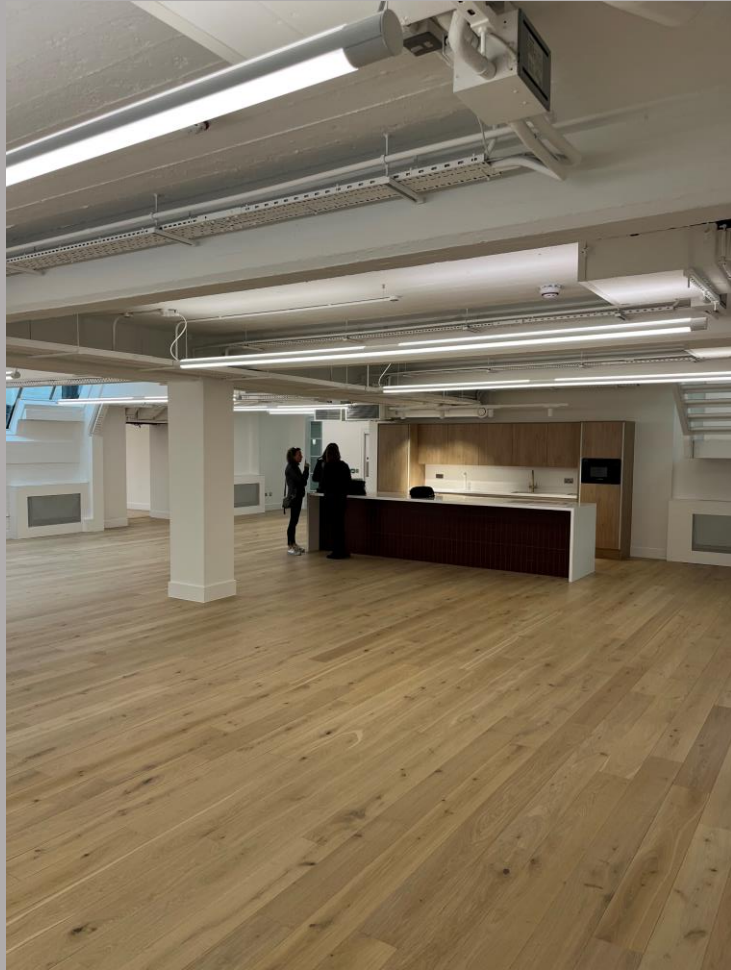


Project Ref: S4918

Client: Bordeaux Index

Address: Units 4.3 & 5.2 Heals Building, Tottenham Court Road

Historic Statement



Heritage Category:	Listed Building
Grade:	II*
List Entry Number:	1379023
Date first listed:	14-May-1974
Date of most recent amendment:	11-Jan-1999
Statutory address 1:	18 – 26 Torrington Place
Statutory address 2:	Heal And Son Limited Including Habitat, 191-199, Tottenham Court Road

TQ2981NE 798-1/99/1640

CAMDEN TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (East side) Nos.191-199 (Consecutive) Heal and Son Ltd including Habitat (Formerly Listed as: TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD Nos.193-199 (Consecutive) Heal & Son Ltd)

14/05/74 GV II\* Includes: Nos.18-26 TORRINGTON PLACE. Department store and warehouse. Original central section of frontage five-window bays 1914-17 by Cecil C Brewer and A Dunbar Smith; southern extension of five bays with identical style of elevation 1936-8 by Edward Maufe; northern extension of seven bays in a complementary idiom of 1961-2 by Fitzroy Robinson and Partners. Portland stone facing on a steel frame throughout. Pantiled mansard roof with dormers. EXTERIOR: Four storeys, attic and basement. Central and southern section in stripped Classical style have free-standing octagonal columns with bronze bases and caps to ground floor carrying plain entablature. Plate glass display windows are set back behind an arcade. On upper storeys, piers rise above columns to abbreviated capitals and deep entablature having enriched cornice and incised Roman lettering with the dates MDCCCX, MCMXVI and MCMXXXVII and the name "Heal and Son" (twice). The voids between the piers in alternating rhythm of single and triple lights divided by stone pilasters and filled with close-paned steel windows for two storeys, and continuous steel windows recessed on the third storey. The spandrels between first and second floors carry cast metal panels in low relief with colour designed by Joseph Armitage and depicting various wares and implements, eg. textiles, sheep shears, a bed, teazle, pottery wheel and vase.



The northern extension has a similar rhythm of bays and identical storey heights with the entablatures ranging through. Entrance in right hand bay with projecting hood bearing the royal coat of arms. Square piers to the ground floor, the set back display windows on the front and return to Torrington Place having curving non-reflective glass. Attic recessed with flat roof and projecting frame for window-cleaning cradle. The windows between piers of larger steel sections, the spandrels between first and second floors here filled with ceramic blue and cream relief panels designed by John Farleigh and made by Kenneth Clark and depicting wares interspersed with large letters "H" for Heals. INTERIOR: notable chiefly for the circular wooden staircase within a well at the rear of the store, built as part of the Smith and Brewer work in 1914-17. Both Heals and Habitat are entered through the 1960s building at ground-floor level and their plans are confusing on the other floors; they have no division corresponding to the periods of the building but over-and-undersail each over.

Listing NGR: TQ2953181906. Extract from Historic England.org

Our analysis of the listed building has identified that notwithstanding the exterior its significance is also derived from the plan form and internal fabric and features. These illustrate its former use. The areas or elements of higher heritage importance are generally within the public retail areas (at ground floor level and also towards the Tottenham Court Road frontage) related to the Heal's store as part of its early 20th century and inter-war phases. The basement and other upper storey levels within the main store (and also the 1960s extension) are as a general rule of lesser heritage interest by comparison with the main retail space at ground floor and the key circulation areas. Across the entire Site there is clear evidence of more modern interventions as each of the different internal spaces have been variously adapted and successively refurbished for changing uses and also new tenant occupiers. Existing modern introductions such as office partitioning, kitchen and bathroom facilities, flooring and services are of no special interest. The units 4.3 and 5.2 fall within the areas of lesser heritage interest with contemporary flooring, finishes, lighting and mechanical services. The proposed works provide for minimal cellularisation using demountable crittal style partitioning and modification of existing installed mechanical and electrical services. The proposed works in our opinion do not detract from or harm the fabric of the listed building.