



20th December 2022

Additional information regarding proposed sash-window-doors to Chester Road elevation of the Grade II listed Bridgewater House, Manchester

The current submitted proposal for the insertion of sash window-doors in four locations on the Chester Road elevation has been based strongly on the avoidance of visually altering the high significance principal elevation and its 18th and 19th century, multi-pane sash windows and their arrangement, which is the dominant characteristic of this elevation.

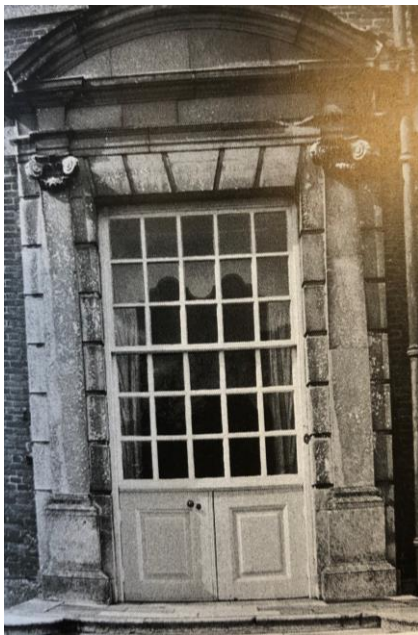


Figure 1 – An example of a sash window-door used in a Grade I listed country house.

The current window arrangement upon the elevation dates to at least the early-1880s, when two original front entrance doors were removed and matching sash windows inserted. This forms a significant change in its own right, having been undertaken specifically by and for the Bridgewater Canal Company for their long use as their offices.

These important alterations by the company also included the redesigning of the principal front room and former entrance hall (to the eastern dwelling), which were combined into one large room to form the company's new, main boardroom, which resulted in the current internal decorative scheme of plastered walls, ceiling, cornice, skirting and central ceiling rose.

The use of sash window-doors was a popular choice in 17th and 18th century country houses/large town houses, where garden access was required without the visual disruption of inserting a door upon an elevation. Examples of historic, existing uses of sash window-doors can be seen in Figures 1 & 2 below.

Figures 3 and 4 below show a previous scheme that our London architects at Stephen Levrant Heritage Architecture designed for a new sash window- door in a listed townhouse, showing its completed appearance in Figure 5. Please refer to Figure ?? for our original architectural elevation and section drawing as an example of how the door/window would operate.



Figure 2 – Uppark, Suffolk, showing the use of a sash window-door to the centre of the rear elevation, allowing for the fenestration pattern to remain unaltered.



Figure 3 – A new sash window- door designed by SLHA.



Figure 4 – An internal view of the new sash window- door designed by SLHA.

The current proposal of sash window-doors in these four locations is the least harmful solution to allow garden access from the east elevation, and will allow for:

- the retention of the four high significance 18th and 19th century sash windows
- the preservation of the character and appearance of the 19th century redesigned boardroom immediately behind
- natural daylight into the proposed rooms through the retained original sash windows
- the current, established appearance of the entirely glazed principal elevation of the former Bridgewater Canal Company Offices to not be visually altered from the street through the use of perimeter planting and new wall with railings based on historic precedents

it is considered that the submitted proposal will incur the least harm when compared to inserting solid timber doors, and will maintain the important alterations carried out by the Bridgewater Canal Company as the longest, and most important occupants of the building for nearly 100 years, and will ensure no visual change to the elevation from street level.

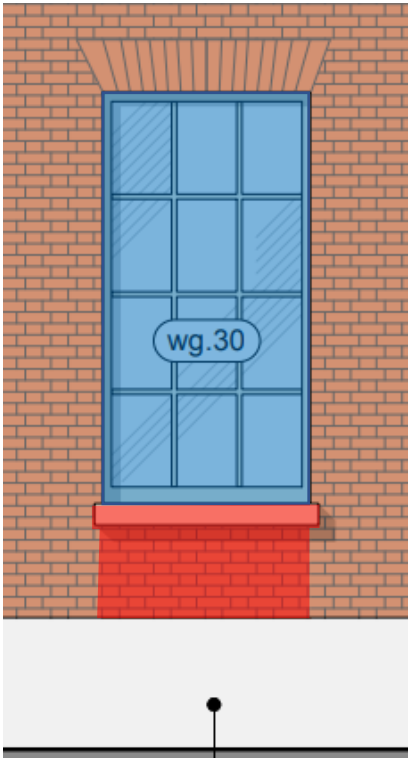
	
Figure 5 – Existing original sash window, showing original sash window to be retained in-situ (shaded blue) and area of brick and stone sill to be removed (shaded red).	Figure 6 – Proposed sash window-door, retaining all parts of the original sash window above (shaded blue), with timber, panelled doors inserted beneath, demonstrating the minimal level of historic fabric removal required to convert original window into garden access door.



Figure 7 – Existing east elevation of Bridgewater House, showing the estimated window arrangement to the left side.



Figure 8 - The proposed east elevation, showing no visual change to the principal elevation from Chester Road.



Figure 9 – A cut-away drawing of the proposed east elevation, showing the location and appearance of the four sash window doors, only when viewed from within the narrow private front garden spaces.

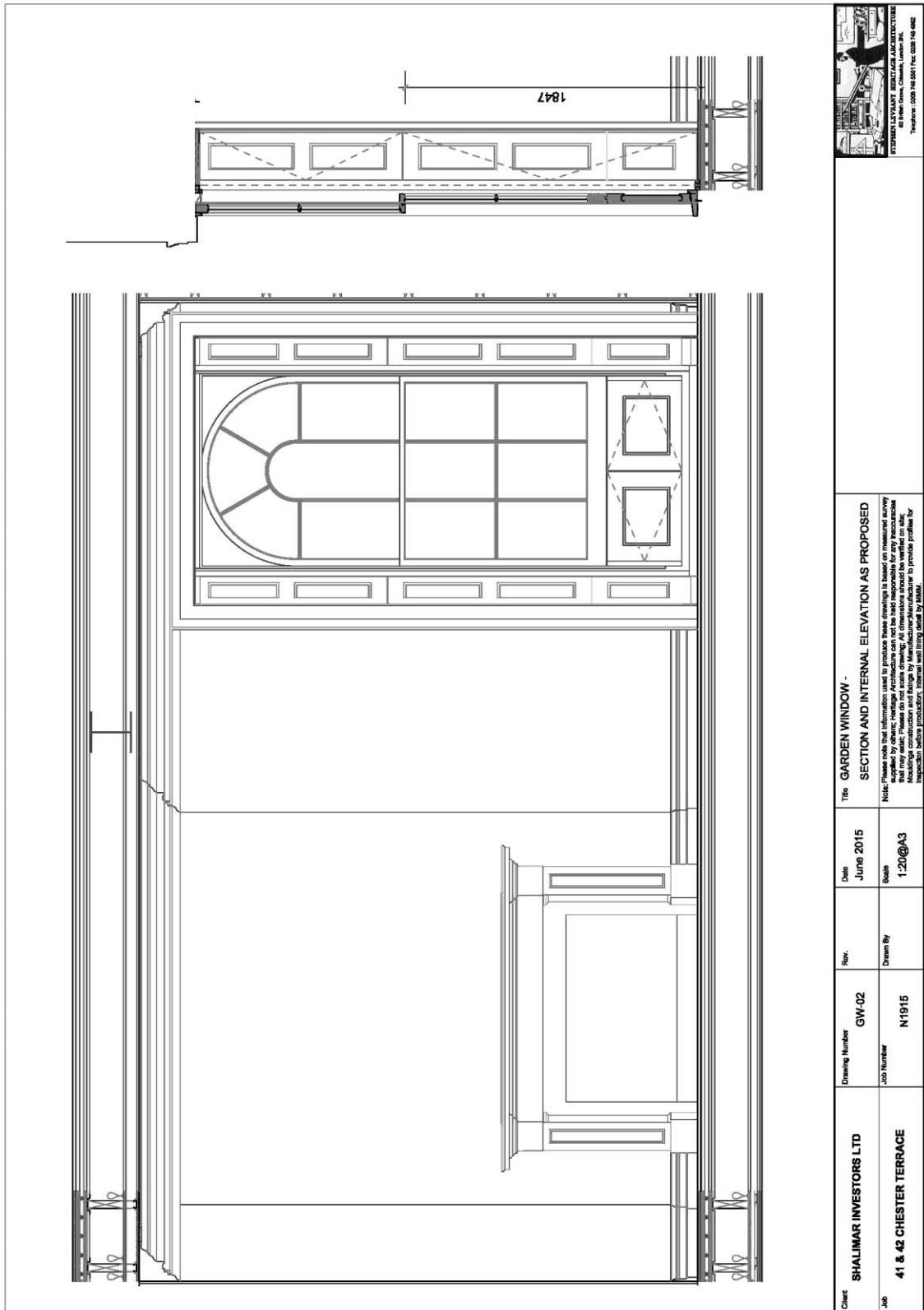


Figure 10 – Stephen Levrant Heritage Architecture architectural internal elevation and section of a new sash window-door (2015).