

Our ref: EJM/CE/17016-03

28th April 2016

Henrietta Billings
SAVE Britain's Heritage
70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ

by email only

Dear Henrietta,

RE: THE FUTURIST, LIME STREET, LIVERPOOL

Thank you very much for the copies of the 1917 plans that Jonathan Brown managed to copy from the City Archive and which are really useful. I have appended extracts of these plans related to the front section of the building. Some comments arise out of these drawings as follows:

Firstly in the basement there are two cross walls, one positioned where I expected (13 ½" thick I suspect) and one additional one, albeit appearing slightly narrower (9" thick I suspect). There appears to be a steel beam under the second position I was anticipating seeing a wall.

This is positive as it shows that there are some walls which have a buttressing effect on the front wall, and thus will assist with any temporary works scheme externally, by helping resist any surcharge developed. Of course this depends on them being in reasonable condition.

I was then also considering why there does not seem to have been any attempt to access the basement. It may be that the floors to the two rooms, or shops, either side of the foyer have collapsed (I was not shown into these during my visit). But with a careful sequenced methodology I would imagine that access ought to be possible. If that was the case then providing a small raking shore, or similar, to the front wall in the position of the assumed beam would further assist with potential surcharge, and could of course be replicated elsewhere in its length. It would be good to establish the principal of access to the basement with the City Council.

Secondly the basement plan shows the brickwork steps out towards Lime Street, to each shop unit (see attached part basement plan). Again subject to inspection of condition this may mean that any temporary steel frame structure may be able to reside over this and thus the walls would be in compression rather than surcharging the basement wall with lateral pressure. It also means that services in the pavement should run outside this line. This would be subject to checking the alignment of the walls carefully, their condition and also thickness and thus their ability to take load without buckling. Of course the plan of the front wall at basement level, with the steps in its length will also provide some stiffening to resist this action, as opposed to a continuous wall along the length of the building.

The second item which comes out of the plans is that the second floor plan shows that, in fact, this was largely an open space (a tea room) then with a kitchen at one end. However now there are more cross walls. This leads me to the conclusion that the out of plumb of the front elevation occurred prior to the insertion of these cross walls, as otherwise there would have been movement cracks, and thus I conclude that no movement has occurred since the walls were added. This is with the exception of the wall which is strapped.

So subject to verification of the accuracy of the plans, that no changes or subsequent alterations have occurred at basement level, and the condition, I believe this reinforces the conclusion in my previous letter that a temporary works scheme to provide lateral support the front elevation should be perfectly possible.

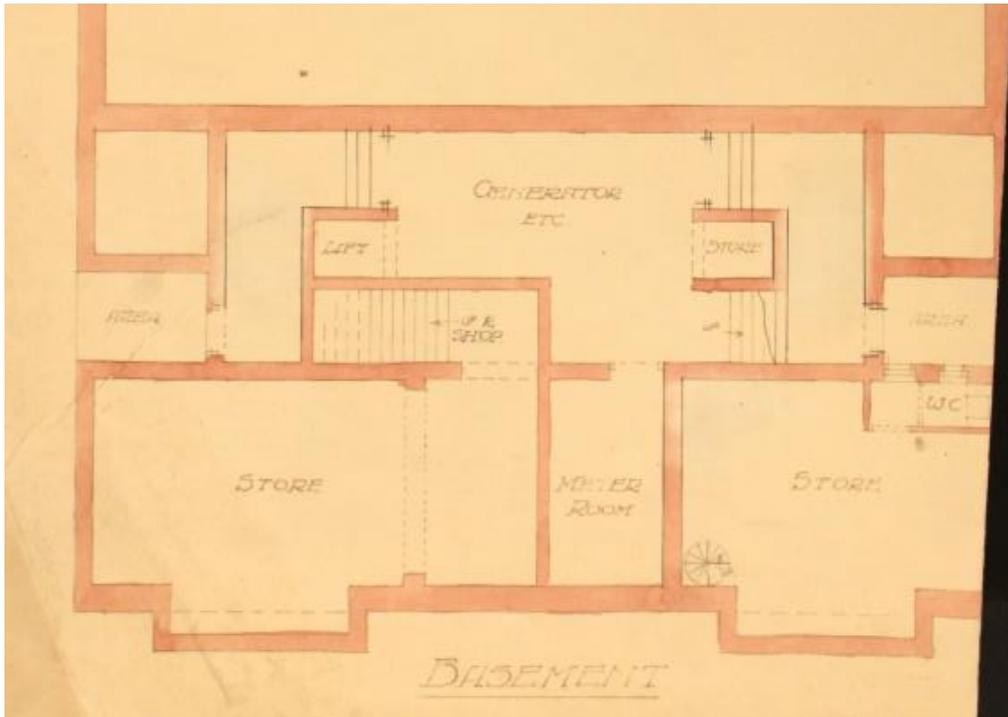
Please do let me know if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

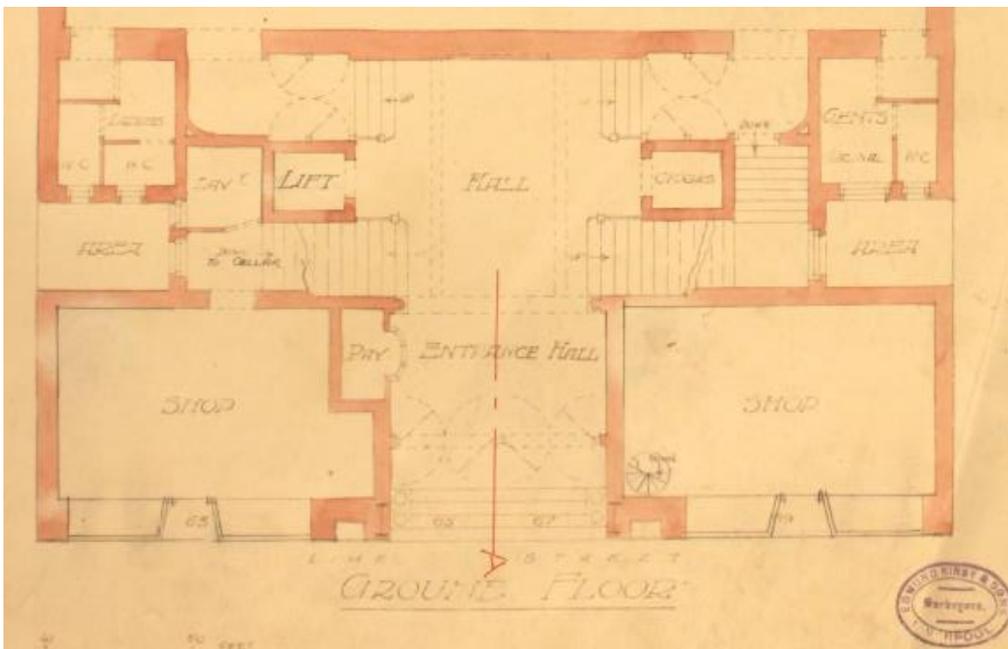
FOR THE MORTON PARTNERSHIP LIMITED,

Edward Morton

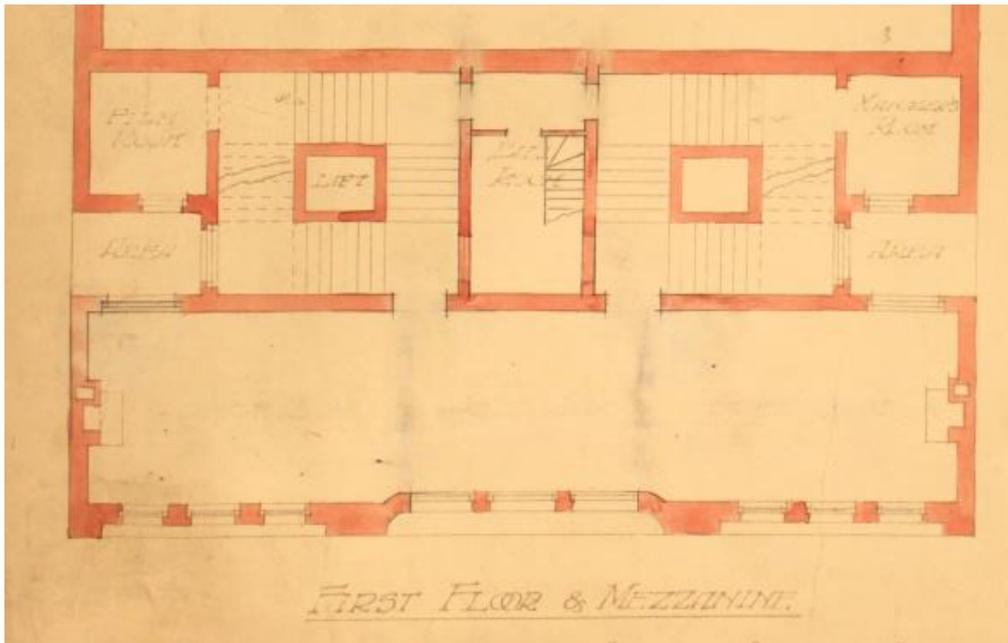
EDWARD MORTON B.Eng (Hons), C.Eng, FICE, IHBC
Engineer Accredited in Conservation



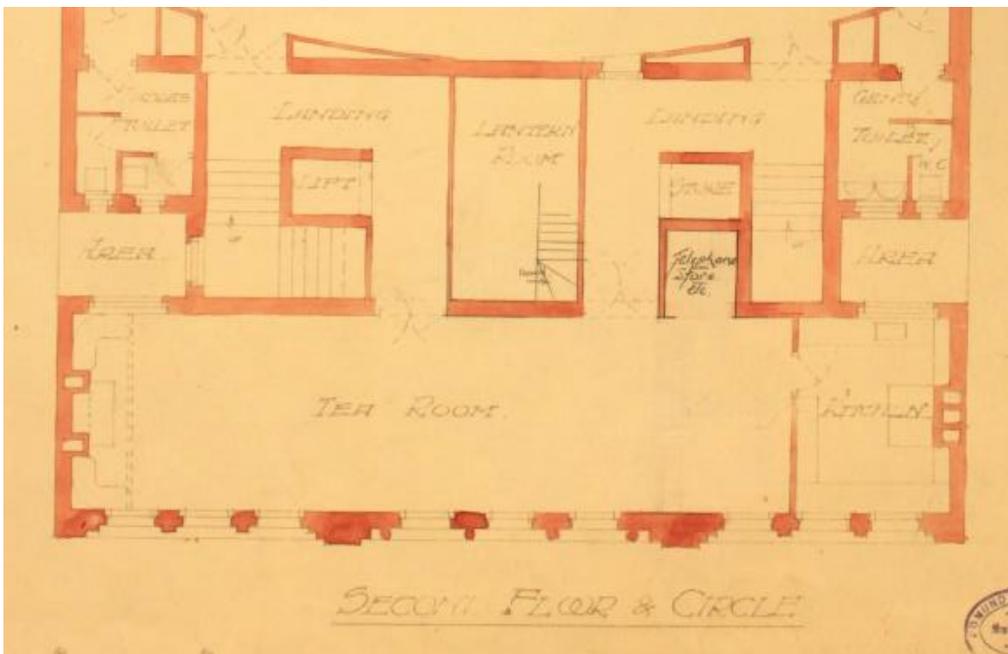
Basement Plan (front only)



Ground Floor Plan (front only)



First Floor (front only)



Second Floor (front only)