


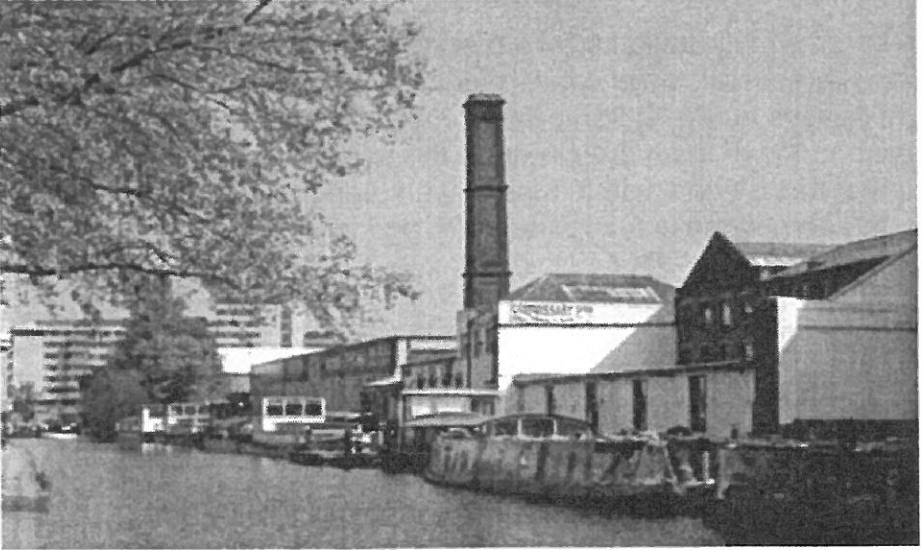
Hackney

Local Heritage Listing

Assessment Report

ADDRESS	Holborn Studios, Eagle Wharf Road
DATE	January 2014
OUTCOME	Add to Local List

CASE ID:

DESCRIPTION
 

(top) Iconic images taken at Holborn Studios, which began as the Regents Canal Ironworks in

1841 and includes a distinctive chimney and gabled brick ranges fronting onto the canal (bottom).

Holborn studios is located in the south west of Hackney on the south side of the Regents Canal. The site comprises a part two and three storey warehouse with a chimney stack located at the north east corner fronting the canal. Part of the site dates from the mid C19th and was originally used as the Regents Canal Ironworks. It is currently occupied by Holborn Studios, one of the largest in Europe and internationally recognised. The site is made up of a number of studios, green rooms, offices, workshops, storage areas, WCs, and a canalside restaurant all set around an internal courtyard. The site forms part of the Regents Canal conservation area, which was designated in 2007 and the building is identified as townscape merit in the area appraisal.

HISTORY

The site was first occupied by the Regents Canal Iron Works in 1841, which supplied structural and ornamental ironworks, including to prestigious buildings like the British Museum, Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament. In 1874, No. 49 became an engineering works, whilst No. 50 was used for the manufacture of metallic bedsteads. It was during this time that the distinctive chimney and gabled ranges were constructed. These uses continued until the 1950s when City Engine Works took over No. 50 and extended the building onto Eagle Wharf Road. Following the decline of the industrial sector in the 1960s, the site lay vacant for many years until being leased by Holborn studios in 1989. The site now forms the largest photographic studio complex in Europe and has played host to photographers such as Rankin, David Bailey and Annie Leiboviz producing iconic images of countless numbers of famous personalities.

ASSESSMENT

Historical Interest

Origins as an early ironworks, which supplied pieces to prestigious buildings and locally to several of the canal bridges on the Regents Canal. Surviving ironwork trusses and cast iron pillar are remnant of this era. The early buildings and those that came later on the site show the area's historic development as a canalside industrial works and its adaptability to its current use as an internationally recognised film and photographic studio.

Architectural Interest

The surviving remnants of the early Victorian ironworks and later gabled ranges and distinctive chimney are a collectively a good example of an historic canalside complex that continues to tell the story of the early development of the Regents Canal. The 'polonceau' trusses and iron roof to the original ironworks are identified as being of significant interest by the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Service due to their rarity.

Environmental Significance

Makes a significant contribution to the environment of the Regent's Canal, having a functional and visual relationship. An increasingly rare remnant of the former industrial buildings that once lined the canal and part of the reason for the designation of the Regents Canal conservation area.

Aesthetic or Artistic Merit

The distinctive late 20th century chimney is a local landmark that is visible in both directions for a significant stretch of the canal.

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SOURCES: Independent Heritage Report, Turley Associates

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 23rd October, 2013

