

85-87 South Bridge, Edinburgh: Historic Building Appraisal

Planning Ref: 12/04521/FUL

Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Mr Joe Crolla. It is based upon documents supplied to CFA and on a site visit carried out by Dr Mike Cressey on 15 May 2015. Number 85-87 South Bridge is a Grade B-listed tenement forming an integral part of the Robert Kay design (circa 1790) for the South Bridge and it also lies at the centre of the UNESCO world heritage site.
- 1.2 The exterior facades contain classical architectural elements that include advanced string-courses, balustrades, two Italianate windows and pediments. The building rises from the Blair Street/Cowgate basement level (Level 1) to the South Bridge street level (Level 5) with another three floors above to the third floor attic level (Level 8). Levels 1-2 and 8 still contain modern partitions whereas levels 3-7 have had their interior partitions stripped out revealing only vestigial traces of c.1930s historical fabric relating to office and domestic space.
- 1.3 Mr John Lawson, the City of Edinburgh Council's Archaeology Service (CECAS) earlier requested in a Planning Statement that a Level 2 building recording survey be undertaken but following the recent site visit it was agreed that this level of recording was not appropriate given the extent of the stripping out of the building and it now be lowered to an *Appraisal* survey.

2. Building Recording Methods

Desk-based Research

- 2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment will be carried out and include an examination of the Statutory List and any readily available bibliographic sources held in the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for Scotland (RCAHMS) to place the building in its historical context.

Photographic recording

- 2.2 CFA bases its recording on the recording levels outlined in ALGAO (2013).
- 2.3 CFA will use a Nikon D300 camera (12 megapixels) to take high-resolution digital photographs of the external and internal elevations. All photographs taken will be recorded onto photographic record sheets which will be appended at the back of the survey report. Selective representative images will be included in the report.

- 2.4 Photographic location plans showing the orientation at which each shot was taken will be produced and cross-referenced to the appended photographic register.
- 2.5 The architectural drawings and plans produced by the architects for Mr Crolla have been examined and are considered most suitable subject to embellishment on each floor level. The floor plans will be colour-coded to show the position of the early and late 20th century partitions as appropriate.
- 2.6 The final illustrated report will include a descriptive narrative for each floor and assess the requirement for any further recording work based on the results of the appraisal survey.

3. Products and Reporting

- 3.1 The Products of the project will comprise:
- Summary report(s) for *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*
 - An illustrated reports detailing the results of the survey, identifying any requirements for further work. The report(s) will be in a form acceptable to CECAS.
 - An entry onto the OASIS archaeological database.
- 3.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland within six months of completion of fieldwork and any relevant post-excavation analyses.

4. Resources and Programming

4.1 Project Personnel

- 4.1.1 **Bruce Glendinning** BSc PgDip MCIfA will manage this project. Mr Glendinning graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1993 with a BSc in Archaeology. Since then he has worked as a professional archaeologist with many units throughout Scotland and England. He has extensive experience of managing large-scale archaeological projects in both rural and urban environments. In addition to project management he has acted as a consultant for ERM, Environ, RSK, Morrison Homes, Robertson Residential, Apex Hotels, Wimpey Homes and Stewart Milne Homes amongst many others.
- 4.1.2 **Archaeological Building Surveyor** will be Dr Michael Cressey BA MSc PhD MCIfA FSA Scot. Dr Cressey will direct the survey work and oversee the production of the final report. Over the last ten years Dr Cressey has conducted numerous building surveys associated with high status buildings including Derry Lodge and Kelton Mains Farm on behalf of the National Trust for Scotland. In 2005 Dr Cressey co-ordinated internal recording at John Knox House, High Street Edinburgh. Since 2005 Dr Cressey has overseen architectural recording at the A-Listed Dunbar Town House, East Lothian on behalf of East Lothian Council. In 2009 Dr Cressey has completed a Level 4

standing building recording at the A-Listed Duntarvie Castle, West Lothian. Dr Cressey was a major contributor to Historic Scotland's *Guide for Practitioners* on upstanding building survey. Since 2013, Dr Cressey has been managing a programme of building recording at the A-Listed Riddle's Court, Lawnmarket Edinburgh, on behalf of the Scottish Historic Building's Trust.

- 4.1.3 Our proposed **Illustrator** for the project will be Graeme Carruthers MA ACIfA who will produce the illustrative work for the final report. Graeme is a member of CFA's Graphics Department as well as a building surveyor and has worked on numerous projects, including Abbotsford House, Scottish Borders, Riddle's Close, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh and most recently providing graphics for the Assembly Rooms on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

5 Health & Safety

- 5.1 All CFA staff have been inducted into CFA's Health and Safety Policy. All work for the project will be subject to Risk Assessment procedures.

6. Reference

ALGAO: Scotland Historic Building Recording Guidance 2013.