

BSO

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

101<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL

ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

WHEREAS:

1. Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("the Act") requires the Secretary of State, for the purposes of the Act and with a view to the guidance of local planning authorities in the performance of their functions under the Act and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in relation to buildings of special architectural or historic interest, to compile lists of such buildings, and she may amend any list so compiled.

2. On 4 February 1975, the Secretary of State compiled a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest situate in the London Borough of Hackney.

3. The Secretary of State, having consulted with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England and such other persons or bodies of persons who appear to her appropriate as having special knowledge of, and interest in, such buildings, considers that the said list should be amended in the manner set out in the Schedule hereto.

NOW THEREFORE the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on her by Section 1 of the Act, hereby amends the said list in the manner set out in the Schedule hereto.



SCHEDULE

The following building shall be added:-

491376

**GREEN LANES**

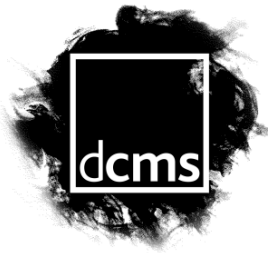
**John Scott Health  
Centre at Woodberry  
Down**

**II**

Health Centre. 1948-1952, with minor later-C20 alterations. Under the direction of Robert H. Matthew ARIBA, Architect to the LCC, by W.J. Durnford FRIBA, Senior Architect and A.E. Miller FRIBA, both of the General Division; with Medical Officer of Health Sir Allen Daley and his successor Dr. John A. Scott. Reinforced concrete frame, faced with golden brown handmade bricks and stone. Steel Crittall windows. Swedish influenced modern style with a simple monolithic quality, classically proportioned with only narrow sill bands giving any decoration. 2 storeys including parapet with flat roof behind.

PLAN: Extended C-shaped plan around a central court. The plan segregates the multiple services: doctor's consulting ranges to Green Lanes wing, and School Health, Child Welfare and Ante-Natal units in the more protected wing to Springpark Drive on the estate. A linear former Nursery extends to the east and curves forward slightly at the east end.

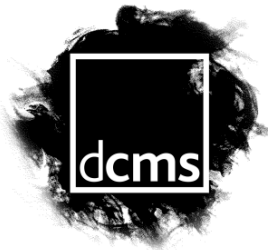
EXTERIOR: GREEN LANES ELEVATION comprises main range of 22 windows to ground and first floors with wide central entrance; set back wing to right of 5 window bays over entrance; and set back wing to left of 10 window bays also with entrance to right. The windows generally form a continuous strip with slightly advanced stone surrounds; original metal framed casements survive behind late-C20 plastic double-glazing. Entrances have similar stone surrounds with deeply recessed doors in stone architraves. Return elevation to SPRINGPARK DRIVE has main range of 27 window bays (4 windows with secondary glazing) flanked by advanced bays, that to right with 3 individual windows above wide entrance of glass brick in stone surround with central recessed door; that to left of of 3-storeys with late-C20 door and canted glazing below full-height first floor glazing, all within thin stone surrounds, and a strip of 6 single pane windows to second floor. This 3-storey block returns to REAR elevation with 4 individual windows at each floor. This is flanked by an even taller narrow range, blind except for a tall stair window with small horizontal metal glazing. Beyond this, it continues as before with rear range that has 15 window bays, end elevation of 5 over 3 individual windows, and the courtyard facing side with fire escape. The strip windows continue to the courtyard facing elevation of



Springpark Drive, and that of Green Lanes wing, but here there is a single-storey late-C20 addition within the formerly open central court. Return elevation to Green Lanes has 6 individual windows at ground and first floor and tall stair window to corner. Tall chimney to mostly blind end elevation with 3 individual windows. Facing SOUTH, a two-storey glazed window divided into 3 panes, that to left at ground floor is an entrance; to left a strip of 8 windows to ground and first floors. Attached by a low link and to the east is the Day NURSERY, which was built as an integral part of the complex, although it does not communicate internally. This building, now the Woodberry Down Early Years Centre, was renovated and in part extended in 2004. This range appears subsidiary but is in a similar architectural style and it has some historic interest for the services it provided within the original complex: rooms for toddlers, tweenies, babies, as well as pram space. It comprises a single storey linear range that slews at the east end to fit the site. The special interest is concentrated at the entrance, with its sinuous glazed doors with overlights and a deep overhanging roof, and lettering indicating WOODBERRY DOWN DAY NURSERY. The rest of the nursery range is of lesser interest.

INTERIOR: Entrance Hall to the Green Lanes entrance is lined with polished hardwood including a revolving door and commemorative plaque, and pair of plain columns. Entrance from Springpark Drive has oval tray ceiling. Ground floor lecture hall has lost the original light fittings ceiling decoration. First floor Doctors Common Room has a streamlined surround of horizontal blocks; to a recessed fireplace with metallic frame, and original light fittings. First floor corridors continue the perimeter of the building with circular roof lights and open plan waiting areas interspersed with offices to each side. Three staircases comprising metal framed glass panels under metal ramped handrail culminating in circular green metallic newel post. Stairs are well-lit by glass brick ceiling lights, glass brick partitions from corridors, and tall exterior stair windows.

HISTORY: The Woodberry Down Health Centre, re-named the John Scott Health Centre soon after opening in 1952, was built to serve c.17,000 people, with a projected capacity for c.23,500. 6,500 of these potential patients lived on the contemporary Woodberry Down Estate, and the attached Nursery School was to accommodate 42 children. The Woodberry Down Estate fills six acres at the northern boundary of the old County of London. The LCC acquired the Victorian villas on the site in order to develop this new estate between 1946 to 1948. The site had the benefit of proximity to the New River and its twin Stoke Newington reservoirs, of which the Health Centre and the housing enjoyed attractive vistas. Woodberry Down was to be the only one of the LCC estates to fulfill the ambition of the County of London Plan, written in 1943 by the influential planner Patrick Abercrombie and the Country Architect J.H. Forshaw. This called for new housing to form neighbourhoods in the manner of traditional London villages, where most daily needs were provided for with schools, shops, community centre and library, and comprehensive health care. The comprehensive school has been demolished, and shops



and library have been altered. Much of the housing, the health centre and the nursery survive. A health centre was planned for the Woodberry Down Estate as early as 1939, and a brief was set out in 1946 when LCC Architects W.J. Durnford and A.E. Miller began working with the Council's doctor, John A. Scott, to prepare plans. The discussions between the architectural and medical departments, as well as other committees and government departments such as education, allowed the thoughtful planning and inclusion of a wide range of local health authority services: Medical Practitioners' and Dental Surgeons' Unit, a School Health Unit, Child Welfare Unit, Ante-Natal Unit, and a Remedial Exercises and Child Guidance Unit. The idea of comprehensive health care with all these services under one roof alarmed many in the medical profession who perceived it as threatening the ideal of the family doctor. Progress was delayed by a dispute between the Ministry of Health and the British Medical Association about the suitability of such a comprehensive health centre. However, in 1948, permission was obtained and ground was broken in March 1949. This was less than one year after the creation of the National Health Service, and construction went forward on this first model of a new and specialised building type.

SOURCES: The Architects' Journal. August 6, 1953. Vol.118, no.3049. p.168.

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Building, March 1949.

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'Oldest and Newest- Bristol', in British Medical Journal, no.5451, 26 June 1965.

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Architect and Building News, vol.209, no.17, 26 April 1956, pp.428-31.

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Webster, The Health Services Since the War, vol.2 1958-79, London, HMSO, 1996.

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Sir Bernard Dawson, chairman, Interim Report on the Future Provision of Medical and Allied Services, Cmnd.693, 1920.

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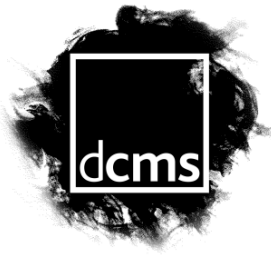
John Allan, Berthold Lubetkin, Architecture and the Tradition of Progress, London, RIBA, 1992.

Irvine Loudon, John Horder and Charles Webster, eds., General Practice under the National Health Service 1948-1997, London, Clarendon Press, 1998, pp.1-10, 26-34, 54.

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CL/CER/3/8/160A, Woodberry Down Health Centre, London Metropolitan Archives

CL/PH/1/229, LMA



LHA Circular 7/67

**SUMMARY OF IMPORTANCE:** The Woodberry Down Health Centre was one of the first and the most impressive NHS health centres in the country. Opening in 1952, under the title of the John Scott Health Centre, it was built to serve c.17,000 people, with a projected capacity for c.23,500. 6,500 of these potential patients lived on the contemporary Woodberry Down Estate, one of the early LCC estates to fulfill the ambition of the County of London Plan, written in 1943 by the influential planner Patrick Abercrombie and the Country Architect J.H. Forshaw. The health centre survives mostly unaltered and its original planning and design is clear and impressive. Furthermore, ongoing extensive thematic research has more fully shown the seminal importance of this building in the history of the modern health system. The Woodberry Down Health Centre therefore meets the criteria for listing at Grade II for its historic special interest as one of the first post-war health centre following the 1948 creation of the National Health Service, and for its architectural special interest as a mostly intact 1946-52 design by LCC Architects that expresses innovative planning as well as high quality design of the period. The historic and architectural special interest of the Health Centre is compounded by its context within the Woodberry Down Estate. The Health Centre, along with the Junior and Infants School, has an important context within one of the most significant examples of LCC urban planning and architecture, which came to fruition after WWII.

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**493785**

**WOODBERRY GROVE**

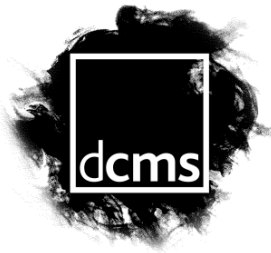
**Woodberry Down  
Community JMI School**

**II**

Primary School for London County Council's Architects Department, now owned by LB Hackney. Planned as part of the London School Plan of 1947; design published in January 1948; work began January 1949; opened 1951.

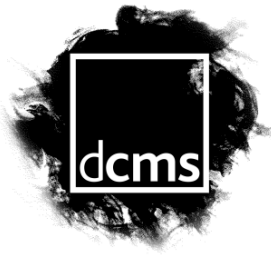
**MATERIALS:** Yellow stock brick in stretcher bond with recessed joints, quoined treatment to corners and soldier course over window openings. Windows square or rectangular with metal frames with shallow slightly pronounced cills. Larger windows, and those of prominence, such as to the classrooms, halls and dining rooms, are surrounded with flat architraves and mullions faced with matte pale blue and yellow tiles. Shallow pitched red tiled roofs, the east nursery ranges with clerestory windows. A spare Scandinavian influenced design aesthetic.

**PLAN:** That first programme of permanent school design after the war produced a characteristic plan seen at Woodberry Down. It is a long, finger plan with classrooms on the south side of a spinal corridor



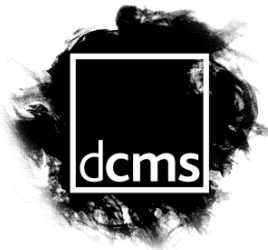
and cloakrooms on the north. Separate assembly halls for the infants (at ground floor) and juniors (at first floor) project at the west end, where the staff rooms and main entrance from the road are. The separate dining areas are in a similar two storey range projecting north from the east end of the site. The considerable slope of the site to the north, down towards the New River, means that the ground floors become raised at the north side, with exposed basements below. An early aerial photograph shows that the school has not been extended.

EXTERIOR: From Woodberry Grove, main approach is framed by a low brick wall with a glazed plaque featuring a crest and in red lettering: 'L.C.C. Primary School Woodberry Down'. Entrance to the site is through a two storey, flat roofed range with first floor classrooms over three wide open bays with tiled pilotis. Beyond this, the two main entrances for children, that to right recessed with tiled deep jambs featuring 'infants' in lower case red cursive script; that to left is for juniors, similarly detailed in green. Above these are the tall windows of the main stair hall, and to the right are the windows of the staff rooms, those at ground floor with matte tiled surrounds. Continuing to the north is the two storey halls range with tall tripartite window to ground floor in blue tiles, below similar window with yellow tiles. Set on a stone platform is an abstract sandstone sculpture of a man with a boar, the provenance of which is not known. To Woodberry Grove, a humble caretaker's house in similar style, but with replaced windows and doors, and not of special interest. From north, the linear classroom range of two high set storeys (accommodating the sloping site), the central twelve bays advanced and with tall central entrance and parade of windows at each storey under shallow pitched roof. Advancing to east and west are the hall and dining room ranges. The hall has a large tripartite window at each floor, with dressed in yellow (first floor) and blue (raised ground floor) tiles; dining hall has a run of windows at the raised ground floor level with yellow tiles. A low bike shed advances west from the dining range, and a similar single storey original wing projects from the hall. The north ends of the halls range has four storeys with two windows to each floor, the dining rooms range has three windows over three storeys, both of these with a shallow pitched gable. To east end, the nursery ranges, these lower, and featuring continuous shallow clerestory lights also under the shallow gable, so that the roof has the appearance of floating over the classroom range. The nursery classrooms have an external corridor on the south side with metal framed part panelled, part glazed walls. This links back to the dining rooms range where the first floor has a 9-light run of windows with blue tiled mullions. The entrance at this end (into the spine corridor, from the east) is fully faced with blue tiles to ground and first floor. From south, the two storey range of six classrooms at each floor features a continuous run of ground floor windows with pale yellow and pale blue tiled surrounds; plain windows above set immediately below shallow pitched roof. The 3 entrances to west end have shallow curved cantilevered canopies.



INTERIOR: The playground entrance to the north opens into the wide stair leading to the main classroom spine corridor, which is lit from the north side windows and also by skylights at first floor level. The main staircase to the west end of the building is a wide open well with metal balusters. At the landing of the main staircase, set into the exposed brick wall, is a cement and plaster mural, entitled, 'Scraffito' by the artist Augustus Lunn, and installed after having been salvaged from the Festival of Britain's South Bank 'Seaside' exhibition. The mural, in tones of brick red, beige and white, features a collage of scenes of industrial youth engaging in woodworking and reading at desks, with the central theme of a bee above a microscope and violin. There is a further landing with a circular column of glazed blue tiles, and a further double-width flight to reach the junior assembly hall. This top floor hall has an exposed metal girder roof of shallow pitch and a stage to the north end. The infant assembly hall below has a ceiling of encased beams. The dining hall has a similar beam ceiling. The nursery ranges, with clerestory lights that open as hoopers, have a similar metal girder roof structure of shallow pitch, and the underside of the roof is of wire wool construction. The classrooms are simply fitted out with ceilings of encased beams and with generous windows.

HISTORY: The London School Plan produced by the LCC in 1947 included as its first priorities a handful of primary schools to be built in, or near, large housing estates then under construction, in particular its own estates at White City, Tulse Hill and Woodberry Down. Plans for Woodberry Down Primary were commissioned as early as May 1945, along with Tulse Hill (demolished) and Abney Park. The school in Woodberry Down was begun in early 1949, just after construction began on Horn Park (Eltham, now demolished). The 1947 plan provided for a primary school for 560 children and a nursery school for 120 children at Woodberry Grove on the County Council's new Woodberry Down Estate, the largest of its immediate post-war developments. The design, largely as built, was in fact published in January 1948 in both the Architect and Building News and the RIBA Journal (it is clearly for Woodberry Down, although it is not named as such). In December 1948 permission was sought to erect the school in two sections to meet the immediate need for places. Work began in January 1949 and, while not the first permanent post-war LCC to begin construction, it was the first to be designed. It is also the earliest to survive. The London Government Act of 1939 permitted the LCC to buy any work of art or contribute to its cost or maintenance, and a second Act in 1940 allowed it also to commission art. In late 1951 the LCC enjoyed something of a windfall, when the Arts Council granted it a number of works salvaged from the Festival of Britain. The 'Scraffito' mural by Augustus Lunn was taken from the South Bank's 'Seaside' exhibit, designed by Eric Brown and Peter Chamberlin immediately in front of the Royal Festival Hall. Two other murals and some sculpture were also from the Festival of Britain, and were installed at Woodberry Down Secondary School; they were taken into store when that building was demolished. Lunn



(1905-86) was a specialist painter of murals, particularly in tempera, the cement medium used in the Woodberry Down mural seems to have been a novelty. He taught at Kingston College of Art for much of his career, in his private work straddled the boundary between realism and abstraction, much inspired by Giorgio de Chirico and Edward Wadsworth. He was also highly regarded as a restorer of murals as well as a painter of new ones.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANCE: The London County Council Woodberry Down Primary School was conceived just after the Second World War in the London School Plan of 1947, its design was published early in 1948, and work commenced the following year. Research has shown that it has special historic interest as the first permanent post-war LCC school to be designed (and none begun any earlier survive). The school survives remarkably well, and its quintessentially early post-war

Scandinavian-inspired styling remains apparent and is rare in this period when most schools were of pre-fabricated construction and an altogether different aesthetic. For this it has special architectural interest, represented in the quality of the pale brick work, the matte tilework, the shallow pitched roofs and blocky massing, the jaunty lettering, and the impressive scraffito mural imported from the Festival of Britain's South Bank site. It is one of a small group of non-prefabricated schools that illustrates the capital's immediately post-war approach and that compares well with the one other listed school of this period in London (the Susan Lawrence School, LB Tower Hamlets). Separately listed is the nation's first NHS health centre at Woodberry Down (John Scott Health Centre, 1948-52), and these two components of the LCC's progressive estate both have individual special architectural and historic interest as exemplars of their type.

SOURCES:

English Heritage Research and Standards Dept. 'Woodberry Down Primary School' internal report, July 2006. 'L.C.C. Primary School for 80 Nursery Places, 240 Infants and 320 Juniors' in Architect and Building News January 9th, 1948.

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Dated:-

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Signed by authority of  
the Secretary of State

ELAINE PEARCE  
Department for Culture,  
Media and Sport