Artisan
FINE ARCHITECTURAL PLASTERWORK

Charles Dickens Museum





The scenario: The Charles Dickens Museum at 48 Doughty Street is where the famous author originally wrote Oliver Twist, The Pickwick Papers and Nicholas Nickleby, achieving international fame as one of the world's greatest storytellers.

Artisan Plastercraft was commissioned to carry out a survey of the drawing room ceiling to report on its present condition and give an expert opinion on its future management.

Our scope: The purpose of the ceiling survey was to assess and document the following:

- Inspect and ascertain the extent and condition of the remaining lath and plaster ceilings where possible.
- To make recommendations on what areas of the ceiling soffits could reasonably be secured.
- Where it was thought that the existing ceilings could be reasonably retained and secured, recommend a suitable method of securing ceilings/ mouldings in keeping with the character and listed status of the property.

Our solution: We advised that where ceilings had evidence of missing "keys" and delamination they required securing with a combination of blanket wadding and stainless steel screws and washers using our system of stabilisation.

The process involves holes being drilled and countersunk into the face of the ceiling. Stainless steel screws and washers are then screwed into the recess to find the timber joists above. The spacing of holes will vary depending on the joists, relief enrichments and the condition of the ceiling. All holes are then filled with a patch of metal gauze and a mixture of lime /gypsum plaster and then made good, matching the original finish to ensure they become no longer visible.

Client: Charles Dickens Museum

Location: Camden, London

Duration: 1 Day

Category: Surveys