Designated: First designated September 1973; extended November 1990 to include the south side of Crawford Place west of Brendon Street and the north side of Crawford Place between the almshouses and Watson’s Mews.

Historical Background: The streets were laid out and developed in the early 19th century as an area of ‘fourth’ rate terraced houses. The area has remained largely intact with the exception of Cato Street which was mostly redeveloped in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Listed Buildings: 1a Cato Street; 41-3 and 46-53 Harrowby Street; 6-9, 16-22, 23, 25-38 and 41-49 Molyneux Street; 4-14 and 15-27 Shouldham Street.

Key Features: There is a very high degree of townscape uniformity, dominated by terraces of narrow fronted, stock brick early 19th century houses, most of which are three storeys high above a basement and remain in use as single family dwellings. In many ways, the area forms a distinct ‘island’ of a unique small scale, uniform and close-built character. There are five mid-19th century public houses which form important features in the townscape.

Adjacent Conservation Areas: Partially bounded by the Portman Estate Conservation Area to the north and east.

Strategic Views: Not affected.

Areas of Special Archaeological Priority: Not affected.

Article 4 Directions: None.

Regulation 7 Directions: The whole area is affected by the requirement that any advertisement for the sale or letting of land (including estate agents boards advertising shops, houses, flats or offices) must be given consent by the City Council as local planning authority. Displaying an advertisement without having first obtained consent is a criminal offence.

Planning Briefs and Design Guidelines: The City Council has published ‘A Guide to Roof Extensions’ for the Molyneux Street Conservation Area which prohibits the erection of mansard roofs on many houses in Shouldham Street, Molyneux Street and Brendon Street. Elsewhere, it gives details of the Council’s preferred form of roof extension.

Spaces protected by the London Squares Act 1931: None.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens: None.

Contacts

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