

116 peckham high street

NAME **THE RED BULL**
DATES. 2017 - 2019
CLIENT. SOUTHWARK COUNCIL
SPONSER. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND
MAIN
WORKS. **RESTORE**

PARAPET CORNICE
CAST IRON RAILINGS
TIMBER SHOPFRONTS
TILE FRIEZE + GRANITE
CONSERVE
TIMBER CORNICINGS
STONEMARK CORNICE

REPAIR
REPOINT BRICKWORK
REDECORATE
STONEMARK
FASCIA
SHOPFRONTS
DECLUTTER
PILASTERS FROM SIGNAGE

“ Trying to keep the brickwork and stucco work clean and in a good condition has been a challenge over the years. The new pointing has made a very big impact to the building's appearance.

Joesph, current freeholder

right: The Red Bull Public House in 1979 - Southwark Local History Library and Archive

left: 116 Peckham High Street in 2017 before works and in 2019 after works

116 Peckham High Street also known as The Red Bull belongs to the cluster of former Public Houses which sit in the eastern edge of the Rye Lane Conservation Area.

As noted in the area assessment of Peckham undertaken by English Heritage in 2009 there was a pub here by the 17th Century that went by the name The Red Bull. The present building, however, dates from the 1880s and was likely a rebuild as a consequence of the road widening of 1880-82. This corner building replaced an prior hostelry that, until the late 19th Century, had an extensive yard at the rear known as Bull Yard, which today is just a short alleyway. Another special piece of history from this period still found on site is a panel of coloured tiles by W B Simpson and Sons, depicting the trial of Queen Katharine that adorns the bar wall inside.

The philosophical principle enshrined in the manifesto of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings states changes that occur over a building's lifetime ought normally to be respected and not casually discarded during later renovations. As a result, the main works proposed to repair and restoration the appearance of the building was to conserve what was there whilst carefully restoring damaged and lost historical features from recent retail redecorations.





For example, this SPAB principle was applied to the ground floor elevations with respect to the premise not functioning as a public house at this time. The 19th Century elevations were not exactly restored to prevent interference with a future use and help continue a retail use that is profitable and remunerative to its respective lessee. The result was a new shopfront that returned it as closely as possible to the original design and, by doing so, generated a more architecturally coherent arrangement of display windows and entrance doors that was sympathetic to the building's redecorated upper storeys.

The upper storey brickwork was carefully repaired "as found". A Doff cleaning, which is a specialist cleaning process was used. A 'DOFF' machine super-heats water to produce high-temperature steam. Once this was completed, the brickwork dried and excess dust and dirt brushed off sample patches of different lime mortar mixes were reviewed before a full repointing.

“ **The biggest challenge was matching the new balmoral granite with the existing granite. We finally found a reclaimed slab which was much closer in grain and colour. We then had to try and to get every piece we needed out of it.**”

Alan, Site Manger at Triton Restoration Ltd.

above: restoration works to the missing deep modillion cornice and brattishing section prior to redecoration works
right: replicating the frieze tiles and decoration works to the fascia

“ **The customary aggregate for lime mortar is a 50/50 mix of fine sharp and coarse sharp sand. The polyhedral aggregate grains provide strength, resilience and resistance to shrinkage.**”

John Hutchinson, Historic Building Consultant



The only additions or alterations were the removal of untidy surface accretions and the replacement of sections or items of decoration that, if not replaced with matching items, would be perceived by the general public as being evidence of neglect or impoverishment. For example, the replacement of a missing section of cast iron brattishing above the ground floor cornice, the deep modillioned second floor cornice and a small but delicate tile frieze that was heavily damaged and missing from the side return elevation. Using a squeeze mold, each replica was then handmade with traditional methods.

Redecoration of the various items executed in render applied as "stucco" in imitation of dressed masonry respected the design intention to imitate stone either as ashlar or carved work. Stridently coloured or over-elaborate painting schemes were not considered. The new shop front sections were painted a deep red, whilst the stall risers clad with balmoral granite to match the existing arrangement. The new brattishing was painted in black to match existing and all the new cornices to side elevation matched existing.

