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**Proposal for applications to English Heritage for blue plaques  
to commemorate Thomas Layton (1819-1911) and Sarah Trimmer (1741-1810)**

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### **Outline of the Proposal**

An application should be made to English Heritage for blue plaques to commemorate the lives of Thomas Layton and Sarah Trimmer.

The blue plaques scheme relies entirely upon nominations from the public.

Although it could not form part of the application it can be noted that there are ten English Heritage blue plaques within the London Borough of Hounslow with nine in Chiswick and one in Feltham.

### **English Heritage Assessment Criteria**

**Annex 1** provides a full account of English Heritage's criteria for the selection of proposals for blue plaques in London.

It would seem that both Thomas Layton and Sarah Trimmer meet these criteria.

### **The Proposed Locations of the Blue Plaques**

The only remaining suitable building which has significant associations with Thomas Layton is Brentford Library (opened in 1904) at 11F Boston Manor Road, Brentford, TW8 8DW. Although St. George's Church (built in 1887) is still in existence it may be considered that it has associations with many other individuals and also that the fabric of the building has been radically altered. Thomas Layton's house at 22 Kew Bridge Road no longer exists.

The only remaining suitable building which has significant associations with Sarah Trimmer is her School Room (built in 1806) at 367 High Street, Brentford, TW8 0BD. Although the building has recently undergone radical alterations it is likely that Sarah Trimmer would recognise it if she were able to see it today. The house occupied by James and Sarah Trimmer at the time of James's death in 1792 was close to Thomas Layton's house and, again, it no longer exists. The house that Sarah then occupied until her death was on the western side of Windmill Road at its junction with Boston Manor Road. This house no longer exists.

### **Further Consultations**

If there is support for the proposal then it would first be necessary to receive the consent of the owners of the buildings in question: the London Borough of Hounslow and IDM Properties and/or any occupiers. Both Brentford Library and Sarah Trimmer's school room are Grade II listed buildings and therefore listed building consent would be required in both cases before a plaque could be installed. Brentford Library lies within a conservation area and additional planning permission would therefore be required.

### **Next Steps**

If the proposal receives the express support of the Thomas Layton Trust, the Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society, Brentford Community Council, the London Borough of Hounslow and IDM Properties, then formal applications can be drafted and, following further consultation, submitted to English Heritage (**Annex 2** contains a copy of the application form).

We would be very happy to carry out all of the administration required to prepare and submit the application.

Jim Storrar and Margaret Thomas  
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jimstorrar@hotmail.co.uk / margaretathomas@hotmail.com



ENGLISH HERITAGE

## Criteria used in the evaluation of suggestions for commemorative blue plaques in London

Public nominations are the lifeblood of the London Blue Plaques scheme and English Heritage welcomes suggestions for plaques in London from private individuals and organisations alike. However, it asks proposers to note that many more such suggestions are received than can be approved, given the resources available, and that the evaluation process is therefore highly selective. For this reason, proposers (whether individuals or organisations) are limited to the submission of one proposal per calendar year for a single subject or for multiple subjects and buildings meeting the criteria outlined in clauses (d) and (f) below.

The following criteria will be used by English Heritage to assess proposals for the installation of permanent commemorative blue plaques in London. They update those originally adopted by the London County Council in the 1950s. The criteria are the primary but not the only means of assessing proposals and it should be noted that fulfilment of the selection criteria does not, in itself, guarantee acceptance of a proposal. Although all plaque suggestions meeting the criteria will be considered, because of the limited resources available English Heritage will take expert advice to determine priorities among the subjects suggested.

- (a) For proposals concerning famous or important people, the following requirements must be met:
  - i. They should be of significant public standing in a London-wide, national or international context; and
  - ii. They should be understood to have made some important positive contribution to human welfare or happiness; and
  - iii. Their achievements should have made an exceptional impact in terms of public recognition; or
  - iv. There shall be strong grounds for believing that they are regarded as eminent and distinguished by a majority of members of their own profession or calling.

- (b) Without exception, proposals for such commemoration will not be considered until the subject has been dead for twenty years.
- (c) A person's residence in London should have been a significant period, in length of time or in importance, within their life and work. Where this association totalled less than five years, far greater stringency will be applied in assessing the case.
- (d) Proposals will be considered for plaques commemorating more than one person. In such instances, each of the figures to be commemorated must be of significance in their own right and meet criterion (a).
- (e) Fictitious characters will not be commemorated.
- (f) Proposals can be considered for the commemoration of buildings that have a historical significance worthy of public notice – other than a particular personal association – either because:
  - (i) a historical event of particular importance occurred there, or
  - (ii) the building had an important historical significance that is not obvious from its present appearance, use or any existing commemoration.

However, proposals in this category can be accepted and assessed only as resources permit, and at the discretion of English Heritage.

- (g) Although most plaques are erected on houses, flats and places of work associated with famous people, other types of building are not excluded. However, plaques shall not be erected to commemorate short term associations with educational or ecclesiastical buildings, military establishments, hospitals, hotels, private clubs, Inns of Court or royal palaces – or on any other building that is associated with so many well-known figures as to make the selection of an individual for commemoration inappropriate or invidious.
- (h) A plaque will only be placed on building fabric that is contemporary with or pre-dates the association being commemorated, and not on the site of a former residence or on buildings that have since been radically altered.
- (i) A plaque must be clearly visible from the public highway and will normally only be erected on a building and not on a boundary wall or gate pier.
- (j) Proposals will not be considered where a person's association with the relevant building is already clearly and permanently marked or commemorated in some way, by local authorities, privately, or under some other initiative.
- (k) Proposals will also not be considered where a person has already been commemorated by a plaque previously erected elsewhere by the English Heritage scheme or its predecessors: the Royal Society of Arts, the London County Council and the Greater London Council.

English Heritage  
November 2013



# London Blue Plaque Scheme Nomination Form

## SECTION I. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the blue plaques scheme. Public nominations are the lifeblood of the London-wide plaques scheme and English Heritage welcomes nominations for plaques in London from private individuals and organisations alike.

Our consideration of nominations is based on the advice of an expert Blue Plaques Panel which carefully applies a set of selection criteria and ensures that shortlisted subjects are of the highest standard. The criteria are set out in full on the Blue Plaques pages of the English Heritage web site and are partially incorporated into this form.

### Before you start

Before proceeding with your nomination, please read the following.

- All proposals must meet the basic selection criteria outlined on our [Propose a Plaque](#) page.
- Please use [Find a Plaque](#) on the blue plaques website to check that your nominee doesn't already have a plaque under our scheme (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/#section7>)
- Your nominee(s) may have been proposed in the past. If already shortlisted you do not need to proceed further. If previously nominated but turned down within the last ten years, we will be unable to reconsider them. Please e-mail the blue plaques office at the address below to find out before completing the form.

### Guidance note

- This is a highly competitive scheme. Nominations are subject to thorough historical research and discussion, and may be turned down for many reasons: for example, if a subject's historical significance is felt to be insufficiently clear, and if the connection to a surviving London building is not strong enough.
- Proposers (individuals or organisations) are limited to the nomination of one plaque in any calendar year.
- Please note that even if all the selection criteria are met, English Heritage reserves the right to determine priorities among nominations on the basis of the expert advice provided by our Blue Plaques Panel.

If you have any queries or require further information, please contact the Blue Plaques Team at [Blue.Plaques@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Blue.Plaques@english-heritage.org.uk)

Please confirm that you have read and acted upon the above, by checking this box

## SECTION 2. Details about yourself

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

Title\*

First name\*

Surname\*

Email address\*

Telephone

Address, with post code\*

Organisation, if representing one

Position in that organisation

Relationship with or interest in the subject being proposed

### Now consider which type of plaque your nomination relates to

A blue plaque may commemorate **an individual** (such as Winston Churchill) or **a group of people** associated with one building (such as Leonard, Julian and Aldous Huxley). Please note that it is generally impracticable to have more than three names on a plaque. For individual or group suggestions complete Section 3. Exceptionally a plaque may commemorate **the wider historical associations of a building** (such as 7 Gower Street, where the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was founded). For historical event nominations please complete Section 4.

## SECTION 3. Nomination for an individual figure

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

If you are nominating a plaque to commemorate more than one person, please complete this section fully for each individual, using separate forms for each.

If you are nominating a building with wider historical associations please skip to [Section 4](#).

1	* Nominee's first name	
2	* Nominee's surname	
3	* Nominee's formal title	
4	* Profession or occupation	
5	* Date of birth	
6	* Date of death <i>The proposed person MUST have died at least twenty years ago to be eligible for consideration.</i>	
7	* Please give a brief account of the life and achievements of the person you are proposing (200-350 words). <i>Full biographical research will be carried out if your nomination is eligible for acceptance.</i>	
8	* Please explain why you believe this person deserves a plaque, and how they meet the following selection criteria (200-350 words). <i>For proposals concerning famous or important people, those with significant public standing in a London-wide, national or international context, the following requirements must be met:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>i. They shall be understood to have made some important positive contribution to human welfare or happiness; and</i></li><li><i>ii. Their achievements should have made an exceptional impact in terms of public recognition; or</i></li><li><i>iii. There shall be strong grounds for believing that the subjects are regarded as eminent and distinguished by a majority of members of their own profession or calling.</i></li></ol>	
9	Please supply details of the nominee's other key honours (titles, awards, etc) and memorials (other plaques, statues, street names, etc) of which you are aware.	
10	Please add any references or links to other information that you think will help us in our research and decision-making.	

11	Please list any additional attachments concerning the individual and suggested addresses (documents, images etc) that you are submitting.	
12	<p>* Please list all London address(es) associated with the nominee of which you are aware, including London Borough and post code.</p> <p>At least one address must be proposed and must be in Greater London (but not in the City of London).</p> <p>If your proposal is shortlisted, full address research will be carried out by historians employed by English Heritage. This will include all the London buildings associated with your subject, of which the most appropriate will be selected for commemoration.</p>	
13	<p>* Are any of the proposed addresses your property? If so, please indicate which.</p> <p>Please note that all possible London addresses will still be considered and, if a plaque is erected, it may ultimately go on a different property.</p>	
14	<p>* Please provide any details you have on the nature of the association of the nominee(s) with the named address(es).</p> <p>For example, was this address a residence or work place? Did they undertake work of particular significance whilst there? When were they connected with these properties? (Provide dates if possible).</p>	
15	Briefly, please provide any information you have about the building(s), such as date, architect and builder.	
16	<p>* Please confirm that, as far as you are aware, the suggested address(es) are the original buildings associated with the nominee(s). Are you aware of any large-scale works at the suggested addresses since the proposed individual was associated with them?</p> <p>We do not consider 'sites' of now-demolished buildings, or properties with significantly altered appearances or facsimile frontages.</p>	
17	Are you aware that the suggested buildings have been renumbered or renamed?	
18	* Please confirm you have attached photograph(s) of the address(es).	

