

# LOOK CLOSELY: THESE BUILDINGS MAY SOON GO TO RUBBLE

FRESH evidence of the plight facing Camden's historic but hardly treasured buildings comes to light in a new book just published called "Goodbye, London."

It gives a pictorial guide to buildings threatened by development and gives special chapters to both Covent Garden and Bloomsbury and Camden.

And it reveals that the march of the developers is continuing, with Joe Levy's Stock Conversion and Investment Trust moving towards the east of King's Cross Station—next door to Tolmers Square—where sizeable chunks of land are waiting to be developed.

Co-author of the book is 35-year-old Christopher Booker, who lives with his wife in Thurlow Road, Hampstead, and who was the first editor of "Private Eye."

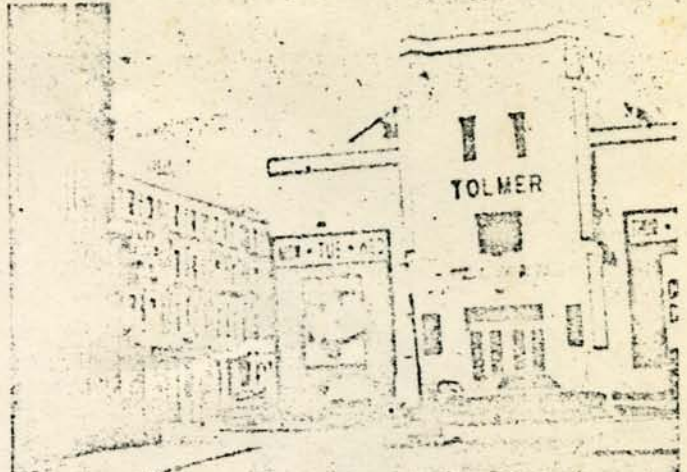
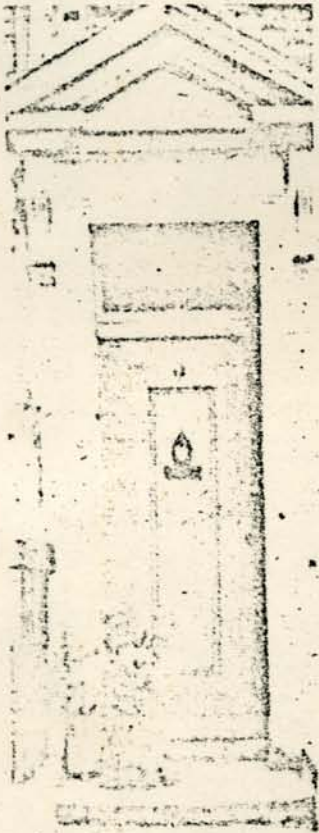
He and Candida Lycett-Green began research work on the book last August and finished compiling their compendium of the threat to Inner London by December.

For some idea of the type of building included, read the picture captions. "Goodbye, London," is published by Fontana.

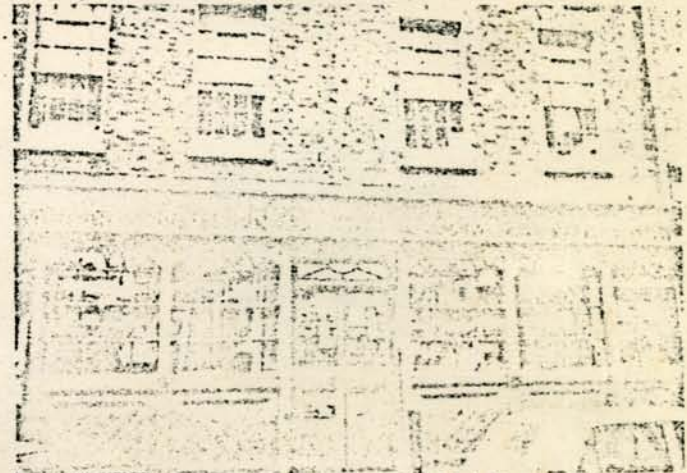
⊙ This house (right) in Dombey Street, Bloomsbury, owned by the Harpur Trust Estate, has been empty for several years.

The book says "there are said to be rehabilitation plans" for the Harpur Trust buildings in Dombey Street and some of the surrounding territory. But this week the agents for the property could not say what plans were going ahead for the area.

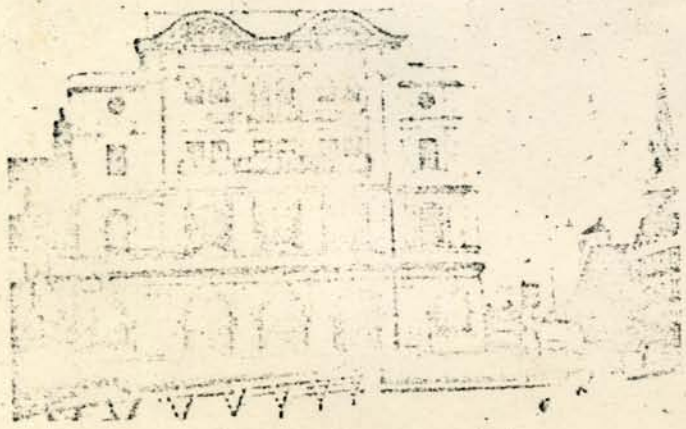
⊙ The BBC's Camden Theatre (below) recently found its notch in history when the Department of the Environment agreed to include it on their list of historic buildings. But now the building and all its past glory has been bought by Joe Levy's Stock Conversion and Investment Trust, the men behind the deal over the redevelopment of Tolmers Square. It lies at the southern end of Camden High Street — on the corner of Crowndale Road — an area where, as the "Journal" revealed last week, there are seen to be a lot of changes.



⊙ A nostalgic glimpse at the cinema which they said used to offer "the cheapest seats in London" — the Tolmer Cinema in Hampstead Road, Euston. It closed in March, 1972, after the owners sold the building to Joe Levy's Stock Conversion and Investment Trust. The building is an 18th century Congregational church and first became a cinema in 1944. There was talk at the time of its closure that the building would be replaced by an office block, but since then the deal over the redevelopment of the Tolmers Square area has been clinched. The book says the land has been set aside for housing and a school in the first phase of the redevelopment programme.



⊙ This attractive looking shop, owned by Comyn Shing and Co, is in Shelton Street, in the heart of the Covent Garden redevelopment area. Now the area is zoned for council housing, Victorian warehouses, offices, pubs and shops.



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