



Ashaadibi Education and Cultural Centre

Press Release

Monday 14th September, 2026

Nelson Street building: Grade II listing stops mosque conversion project

Plans to transform a disused synagogue into a mosque and community hub by Ashaadibi Education and Cultural Centre (AECC) have been halted after Historic England unexpectedly granted the property Grade II listed status. AECC is now exploring legal options.

On 4 February 2026, AECC exchanged contracts to purchase 30-40 Nelson Street, London, E1 for £2.35 million. At the time, the building was unlisted, and the buyers spent over £10,000 on legal checks, local authority searches, and building surveys revealed no listing concerns. A group named Friends of Nelson Street Synagogue applied to Historic England for listing status.

Historic England inspected the site on 5 March 2026 and issued a Consultation Report on 28 May 2026, prompting AECC to retain specialist legal counsel. On 1 September 2026, internally Historic England recommended a Grade II listing to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The decision was finalised and sent to the buyers on 10 September 2026, officially awarding the building Grade II status (List Entry No. 1497126) and protecting the Ark and Bimah as designated fixtures. Consequently, AECC has paused the conversion project to explore legal and contractual next steps.

As of September 2026, AECC has raised £2.05 million in donations and loans towards the purchase.

The Board of Trustees is disappointed by this listing, as contracts were exchanged to purchase the building to convert it into a mosque and community hub with no restrictive conditions. The response from the community has been very positive, which is reflected in the large amount of funds collected in the space of seven months. The decision to list the building comes only two months before the full payment is due to complete the purchase. AECC thanks all its donors, supporters, and well-wishers for their enthusiastic response to this project and will keep everyone informed of developments.

[End]

Notes to editors:

1. Ashaadibi Education and Cultural Centre, charity no. 1154529.
2. Historic England awarded Grade II listing status on 10 September 2026 (List Entry No. 1497126).
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1497126?section=overview>
3. For queries, please email: info@ashaadibi.co.uk www.ashaadibi.co.uk