



A proposal for what became Regent Street

BASIRE, James.

Plan of a New Street from Charing Cross to Portland Place.

London: Luke Hansard & Sons for the House of Commons, 1812. Original colour. 400 x 555mm.

£600

A plan of one of the proposals for linking Carlton House, the palace of the Prince Regent (later George IV) to his new park in Marylebone, Regent's Park. Orientated with north to the left, it was engraved by James Basire for the 'First Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue' (now the Crown Estate). It shows Carlton House and Pall Mall north to the proposed Piccadilly Circus, a straight new road with colonnades to Oxford Circus and a straight Portland Place to Devonshire Street. Surrounding streets marked include Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, Old and New Bond Street, Carnaby Street and Oxford Street, as well as St James's, Hanover and Cavendish Squares. This design, which lost out to John Nash's, is distinct in having a square with a 'Public Building' in the centre of the street instead of the sweeping curve of today's Quadrant.

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