



History Nugget for January 2018 : Plaques on Historic Buildings

Merton Council proposed in 1976 that plaques be affixed to historic buildings in the Mitcham Conservation Area, subject to the approval of property owners. Initially the texts for Elm Lodge and the Vestry Hall were approved, and further properties were to be considered. Mitcham Court and Park Place plaques were approved in February 1977.

Two local historians provided the texts for the plaques. A total of 17 plaques were referred to in the council minutes, but a list has not been kept.

Currently there are 14 plaques in the Conservation area:

Parish Church, Vicarage, National School House, Vestry Hall, Elm Lodge, Mitcham Court, White House, White Hart, Burn Bullock, Cricket Pavilion, Tate Almshouses, Canons House, Clarendon Works, Prospect House

and one on Eagle House.

The plaque on Park Place is missing and its text is unknown.

The plaque on 'Grange House' at 62 Church Road was taken down around 2006, and not put back. It read:

60, 62 and 64 Church Road

These listed buildings were originally a pair of semi-detached houses with outbuildings, built before 1742

Early Georgian features include the doorcases, with friezes and pediments, panelled doors and fanlights.

In 1990 an extra plaque was added to the Tate Almshouses when it was renovated.

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage
General enquiries: info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk
Web site: www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk
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Registered Office c/o MVSC, Vestry Hall, 336/338 London Road, Mitcham Surrey, CR4 3UD

The texts on the remaining plaques are given below, in alphabetical order.

BURN BULLOCK

This coaching inn, a listed building, was formerly the King's Head. It was, along with the White Hart, a frequent meeting place for the parish Vestry.

The jettied timber framed wing at the rear facing the cricket green dates from the 16th or 17th centuries; it is tile-hung and contains an attractive wood panelled room. The handsome Georgian front block dates from 1760.

The bow windows and Edwardian 'shell' porch were added later.

THE CANONS

The Canons of Bayeux Abbey, Normandy held an estate in Mitcham formed from three Saxon farms after the Norman Conquest. The Canons of St. Mary Overy, Southwark later built the Dovecot, dated 1511, and the old fishponds. The Cranmer family owned the estate between 1656 and 1939, and granted a lease for the building of the house in 1680. They erected the commemorative obelisk in 1822.

CLARENDON WORKS

This weatherboarded house in the local style of the late 18th or early 19th centuries was reclad in cedar in 1970.

Once known as 'Chart's house', it was the home of the Chart family for many years, including John Chart, the builder, and his son Edwin, an architect and surveyor.

THE CRICKET GREEN

Opposite this clubhouse is the Cricket or Lower Green, part of the common or grazing land of medieval times which largely escaped enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries. Cricket has been played there for at least 250 years. Lord Nelson was once a spectator.

EAGLE HOUSE

A fine Queen Anne house built in the Dutch style, in 1706, probably for Fernando Mendez, a royal physician.

The land was originally owned by Walter Raleigh.

In Victorian times, it was part of the Holborn Union Workhouse school.

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ELM LODGE

This listed Regency House was occupied by Dr. Parrott, a village doctor, in the early 19th century, and for a short time by the artist, Sir William Nicholson. The curved canopy over the entrance door is a typical feature of this period.

MITCHAM COURT

The centre portion, first known as Elm Court, was built in 1840, the wings later. Caesar Czarnikow, a sugar merchant, lived here c.1865-1886 and presented the village with a new horse-drawn fire engine. Sir Harry Mallaby Deeley, M.P., conveyed the house to the borough in the mid-1930s. The Ionic columned porch and the ironwork on the ground floor windows are notable features.

MITCHAM PARISH CHURCH

This church was built in 1819-1822 by John Chart, a local master-builder, to a design in the Gothic style by George Smith.

Some monuments, together with the Medieval base of the tower of circa 1250, survive from earlier churches.

NATIONAL SCHOOL HOUSE

Built by the local firm of Oxtoby in 1788, this listed Georgian building was in use as the first day school in Mitcham village from 1812 until 1897 and later became the Parish Rooms.

Above the clock, presented in 1792 by Mrs. Woodcock, stands an octagonal pillared bellcote.

PROSPECT HOUSE

This Listed building is one of a group of late 18th century cottages, typical of the former village of Mitcham. It has a Georgian fanlight above a flush panelled door.

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TATE ALMSHOUSES

These almshouses were built in the Tudor style in 1829 by the architect J.C. Buckler. They were provided by Miss Tate to accommodate twelve poor widows or spinsters on a site occupied by her family in the 18th century.

Her coat of arms appear on the central gable.

In 1990 the almshouses were renovated by the Family Welfare Association as trustee. They now provide seven homes, the forecourt, gates and wall are new but the building as seen from cricket green is unchanged.

The architect was Eleanor Michell and the builder was Dawkins Construction Co. Ltd. Reopening on 8.10.1991 was by Councillor Peter McCabe, mayor of Merton.

THE VESTRY HALL

The Vestry Hall stands near the site of the village pump, the parish stocks and the lock-up, which later housed the village's hand operated fire pump. The architect of this Victorian building was Robert Masters Chart who became charter mayor of Mitcham in 1934, and whose family served as Mitcham vestry clerks and town clerks for five generations.

THE VICARAGE

This building, erected by Samuel Killick in 1826 for the Rev. Richard Cranmer, replaces an earlier vicarage.

The fanlight and the unusual pattern of window glazing bars are interesting features.

THE WHITE HART

This coaching inn, standing on the site of a much older building, was rebuilt between 1749 and 1757, but the rear is late 17th century in style. Post chaises and post horses were hired here and Holden's stage coaches and Sampson's horse buses started from the yard at the rear. The central feature is a Doric four-columned porch with frieze, cornice and ballustrade.

THE WHITE HOUSE

This 18th century house was renovated in the Regency style in 1826 by Dr A.C. Bartley, a village doctor, whose daughter wrote reminiscences of old Mitcham. The house remained in his family until 1919.

Fluted Greek Doric columns support a slightly altered porch with a bowed front.

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