

Designations

- Listed at Grade II as White Lodge to Marble Hill Park, list entry number 1250209
- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The White Lodge was built by Lieutenant General Jonathan Peel (1799-1879), probably soon after his purchase of Marble Hill in 1825. Peel had built through the Sweet Walk a new drive providing an approach to the Mansion from Richmond Road. A lodge to guard the road entrance would have been a necessary attribute. The architect of the design, which has touches both of the Greek Revival and of a cottage orné, is not recorded. After Marble Hill became a public park the lodge was turned over the staff accommodation and in c. 1952 the London Country Council added a flat-roofed bathroom extension to the south-west corner on the site of a small lean-to structure. Since the site was taken over by English Heritage the White Lodge has remained in that use and is not open to the public.

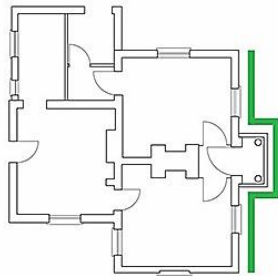
Brief description

The White Lodge is a small, compact, single storey building. The original structure is roughly a 'T' shape in plan and orientated so that the horizontal stroke of the 'T' is aligned to be parallel with Richmond Road. The principal axes of the building do not run exactly north-south and east-west but for the purposes of this gazetteer will be assumed to do so for simplicity's sake. It stands on the west side of the junction of Richmond Road with the drive. The walls of the main portion are finished in white-painted stucco, while those of the rear wing are whitewashed brick. The roof is hipped and covered in slates with lead flashings to the ridges. On the line of the rear wall of the front portion is a tall chimney, consisting of a block of three tall stacks built of stock brick. They are separated by shadow gaps but brought together with a shared stone cornice. They are crowned with three tall pots bearing modern metal cowlings.

Significance

Moderate

THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior



Location: North elevation

Date(s): c. 1825, 1987

Significance: High

Brief description: This is the principal elevation of the White Lodge, which faces Richmond Road. It is a simple composition of three bays, arranged symmetrically about a central porch consisting of a pediment supported on Greek Doric columns. These lack fluting and indeed all the Classical detailing is much simplified and somewhat crude in execution. There are corner pilasters and a very simple frieze.

Notes: There is a small step down into the building from pavement level.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	White-painted stucco
Windows	Two casements with margin lights
Doors	Six-panel front door, possibly modern
Features	Tall railing running across the front, erected in 1987.

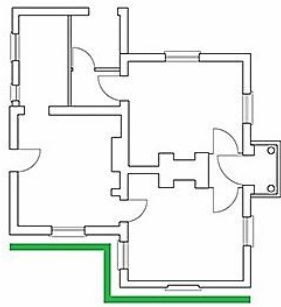


THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior

Location: East elevation

Date(s): c. 1825

Significance: High

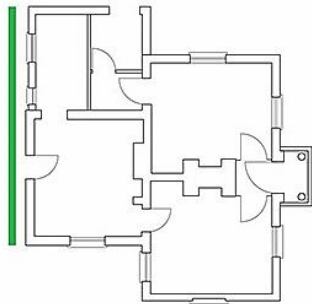


Brief description: This elevation faces the drive. It consists of the shorter, end wall of the front portion of the building, a return and the side wall of the rear wing. The frieze continues round from the north elevation and there is a second corner pilaster to mirror that at the northeast corner. This one, however, is sunken into the wall surface like a nook shaft and indeed the lower section ‘dies’ into it – perhaps unintentionally.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Front portion finished in white-painted stucco, rear wing of whitewashed brick although window has stucco surround
Windows	Two casements with margin lights, one in the return between the two sections
Doors	None
Features	Blocked window in end wall



THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior



Location: South elevation

Date(s): c.1825, c.1952

Significance: Moderate

Brief description: This is the rear elevation of the Lodge, which faces the Sweet Walk. The angle of the front and rear wings is filled by a flat-roofed extension which houses the kitchen and bathroom and was added by the LCC. The frieze is carried round but otherwise the original fabric is devoid of any kind of ornament.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Whitewashed brickwork to rear wing, whitewashed render to 1952 extension
Windows	Two casements with margin lights in flat-roofed section, of different dimensions to but following pattern of those in original section
Doors	Back door providing access from living room, flat panelled
Features	Wooden porch with latticework sides and arched entrance with quatrefoils in spandrels, date unknown

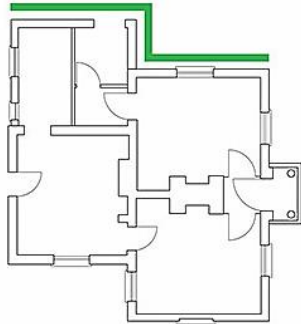


THE WHITE LODGE – Exterior

Location: West elevation

Date(s): c.1825, c.1952

Significance: Moderate

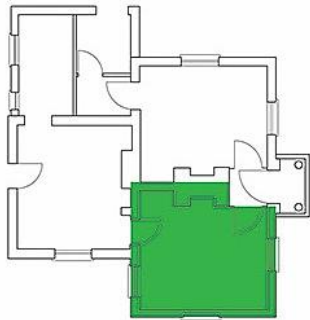


Brief description: As built this was presumably identical to the east elevation, although the window that is blocked in the corresponding position on the east side here is open. The flat-roofed kitchen and bathroom extension projects beyond the line of the original west wall of the front portion.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	White-painted stucco/render; on flat-roofed section this stops short of ground level
Windows	Two casements with margin lights, that in flat-roofed section, of different dimensions to but following pattern of those in original section
Doors	None
Features	Downpipe, stench pipe, security light



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G1

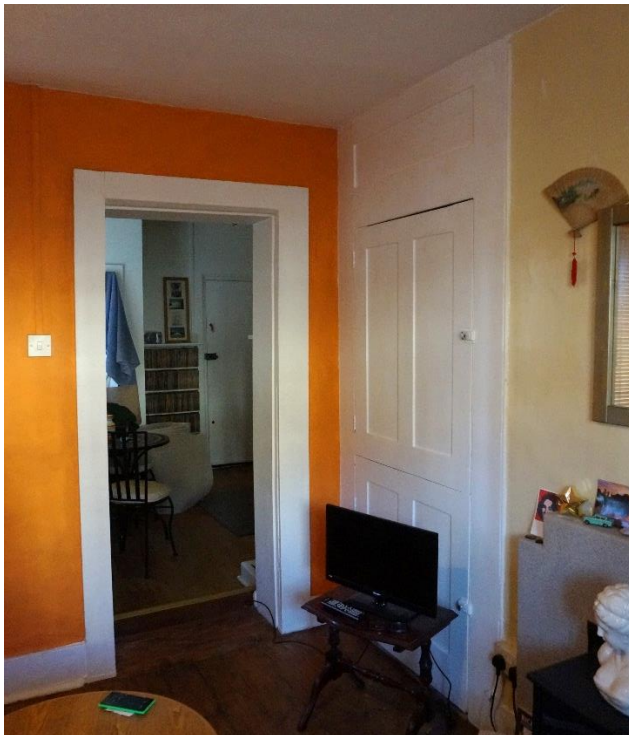
Name: Living Room

Date(s): c.1825, mid-late C20

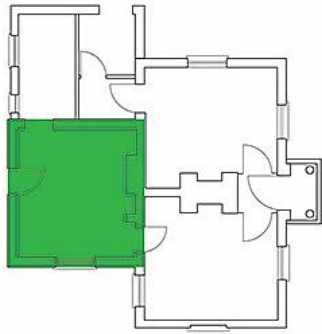
Significance: Some significance

Brief description: The eastern of the two rooms occupying the main section of the lodge towards the road, entered via a small lobby to one side into which the front door opens. It is shown as a living room on the 1952 plan.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted
Floor	Laminate
Ceiling	Plaster with no mouldings
Joinery	Skirtings, doors, architraves, windows
Features	Modern fireplace surround; historic cupboard filling space to left of chimney breast



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G2

Name: Dining Room

Previous name: Kitchen

Date(s): c. 1825

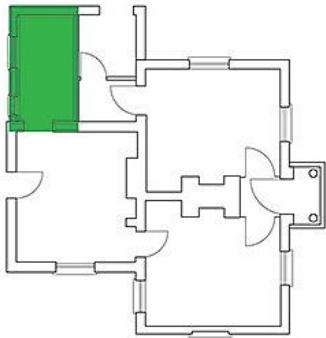
Significance: Some significance

Brief description: This room fills all of the original rear wing (i.e. the long stroke of the 'T') and was presumably originally housed services. There is a back door providing access to the garden. This space is shown as a kitchen on the 1952 plan.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Painted and plastered
Floor	Boards (modern)
Ceiling	Plaster, no mouldings
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Blocked fireplace in north wall; hatch to roofspace, built-in cupboard in southeast corner



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G3

Name: Kitchen

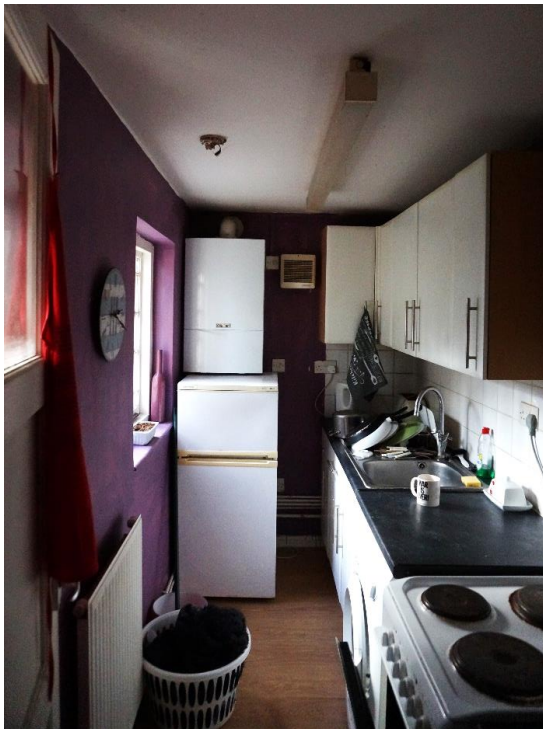
Previous name: Wash room

Date(s): 1952

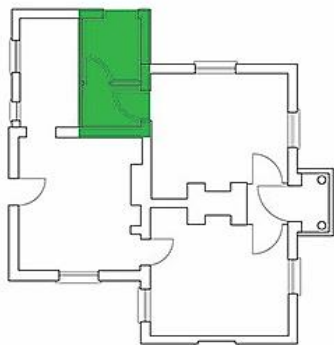
Significance: Neutral

Brief description: This room occupies the larger part of the flat-roofed extension added in c. 1952. Intended as a wash room, it was subsequently converted to a kitchen.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted, tiled in vicinity of work surface
Floor	Boards (modern)
Ceiling	Plaster (no mouldings)
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Modern kitchen units, boiler



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G4

Name: Bathroom

Date(s): 1952

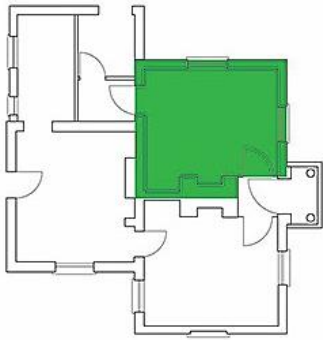
Significance: Neutral

Brief description: This room occupies the smaller part of the flat-roofed extension added in c. 1952. Access is from the dining room via a small lobby that also leads to the bedroom.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted, tiled in vicinity of bath
Floor	Laminate
Ceiling	Plaster, no mouldings
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Sanitary ware



THE WHITE LODGE – Interior



Room: G5

Name: Bedroom

Date(s): c. 1825

Significance: Some significance

Brief description: This room occupies the western half of the front portion of the house. It can be reached both via the entrance lobby and the kitchen – the latter of these doorways was cut through in the late twentieth century. This room is shown as a bedroom on the 1952 plan.

Element	Description (including history)
Walls	Plastered and painted
Floor	Carpet
Ceiling	Plaster, no mouldings
Joinery	Doors, architraves, skirting, windows
Features	Historic cupboard occupying space to right of chimney breast; C19 chimneypiece with moulded ornament in relief in recessed panels



Designations

- Not statutorily listed
- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

This is the smaller of two grottoes known to have been constructed at Marble Hill by Henrietta Howard (the larger one is no longer extant) and is first shown on a survey of 1735. It was decorated with shells and blue glass over a long period – Lady Howard mentions being “at this time over head and ears in shells” in a letter in 1739, and a letter from her then-eleven-year-old niece written in 1763 indicates that the work was still in progress at that date. The 1752 map suggests that the setting was very different and far more extensive. Following Lady Howard’s death the grotto evidently fell into disrepair as it is recorded as being abandoned and derelict in 1816. Subsequently it was completely abandoned and the vault fell in. The site was filled in and levelled, and the grotto was only rediscovered by chance in 1983 when the ground above was affected by settlement. A restoration of the structural shell and the path leading down to it was carried out but what remained of the original interior was too fragile to be conserved.

Brief description

The grotto is approximately square in plan and, as built, was a brick structure with an elliptical, probably groined vault whose crown was about level with the ground. The brickwork, now only visible inside, marks the extent of the original structure: the remainder is the product of the restoration of 1986, most obviously the concrete slab roof. There are elliptical-headed recesses on three sides, while on the fourth side a portal with an elliptical-headed arch opens into a small well into which a long flight of steps descends from ground level. In the middle of the floor of the grotto is a circular opening. The altar with triangular plinth and circular mensa was placed here in the restoration. The entrance arch and retaining walls to either side are faced in rubble coursing and in the middle of the well is a cairn-like structure. The grotto is soft-landscaped with evergreen shrubs and surrounded by a low hedge.

Significance: Moderate



Designations

- Listed at Grade II as Ice House to west of Marble Hill House, list entry number 1194472
- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

An ice house is mentioned in Swift's *A Pastoral Dialogue Between Richmond Lodge and Marble-Hill* of 1727. As an essential facility for the kitchens (curiously it is located on the opposite side to of the mansion to the lost service wing), it is likely to have appeared at an early date. It is shown on the map of 1752, which suggests that there was a pediment over the arched entrance and indicates that the chamber was planted over and covered in a thicket. Over time it became obsolete, fell into disrepair and was eventually completely lost. It was rediscovered in the 1980s when an approximate restoration was carried out.

Brief description

All that is visible from the exterior is a large earthen mound with a brick portal and segmental-headed arch with a wooden door. The interior is completely lined in brick. A short, tunnel-vaulted passage leads towards the main ice chamber, which is closed off with a metal grille. This has a hemispherical vault and concave sides, still partly lined with plaster, leading down to the central drain.

Significance: Moderate

Notes: The ice house is a habitat for the cave spider *meta bourneti*. It is kept locked and not accessible to the public.



SPORTS CHANGING ROOM AND WORKS YARD

Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

This building was constructed c. 1970 by the Greater London Council Parks Department to provide changing rooms, showers and associated facilities for football and rugby teams using the pitches in the park. Some of the ancillary accommodation was latterly converted into a suite of offices, which, during the guardianship, have come to be used by the Rangers.

Brief description

Located in the far north-eastern corner of the park, this building is an oblong structure built of brownish and purplish brick and exposed concrete cast in situ. With the exception of a tower housing a tank room on the north side it is single-storey throughout. The plan form and massing are entirely orthogonal (the roof is entirely flat) in accordance with the prevailing aesthetic in modernism of the period, although its plain, sparing character no doubt was also partly dictated by the functional nature of the commission. The drawings in the Historic England archive are signed 'James O. Kennedy', chief officer of the Parks Department. The design work was presumably carried out by unnamed employees of the GLC Architects' Department. The deep-plan nature of the building means that much of the natural lighting has to be provided by rooflights. To the north and east is a yard for parking cars and maintenance equipment with two steel-framed sheds.

Significance: Neutral



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

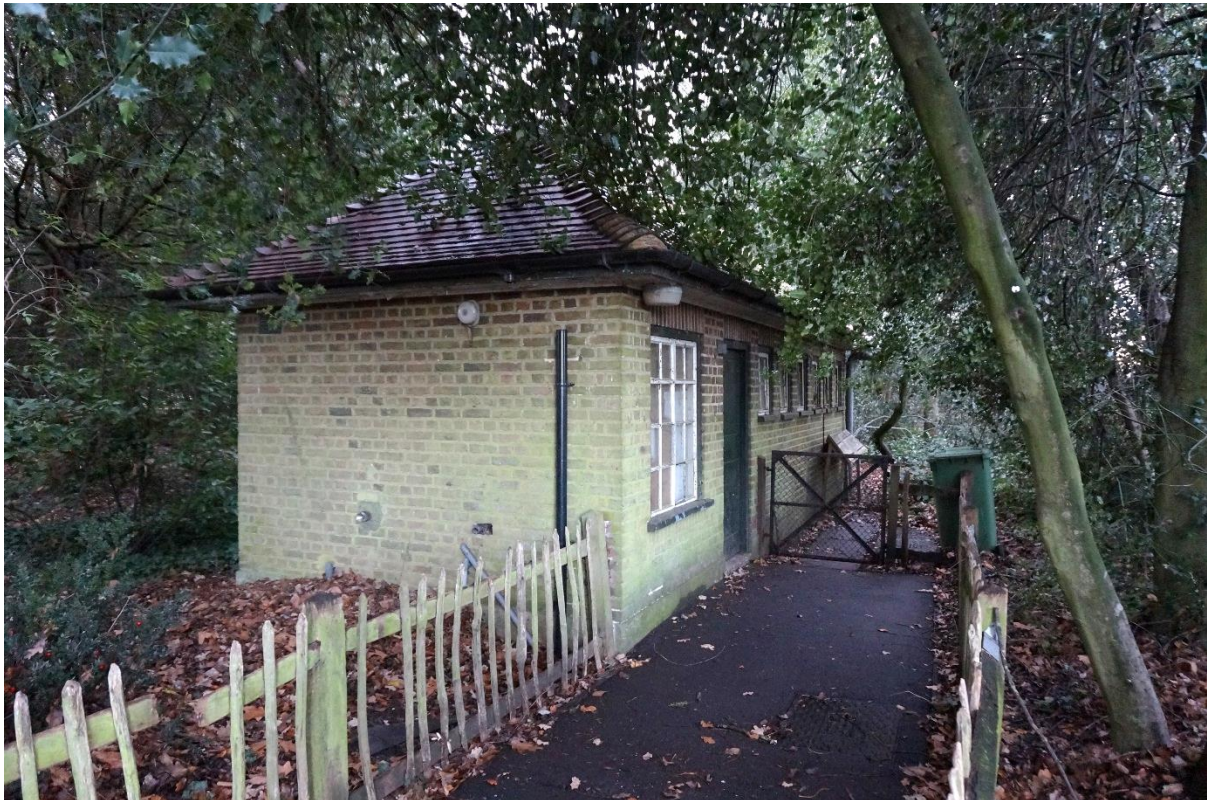
Summary history

This structure was originally built in 1937 by London County Council as a female toilet, along with a block of dressing rooms and a park shelter (q.v.). It was superseded by facilities in the Mansion and Stable Block and has fallen out of use. It is now used as a store.

Brief description

The former ladies' convenience stands immediately to the west of the Mansion adjacent to a footpath linking the Great Lawn to the Pleasure Ground and is now surrounded by dense tree cover. It is a simple oblong structure of brown brick with a tiled roof, hipped at both ends. It has steel-framed casement windows and panelled wooden doors. The cubicles survive inside. The space at the east end was originally a room for the attendant.

Significance: Low



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The changing room was built c. 1938 by the Greater London Council for the sports teams using the pitches in the park. Undated LCC plans in the Historic England archive show an unexecuted proposal to expand the building with the addition of extra changing rooms and an ablution block. Instead, however, the new block of changing rooms was built c.1970, and this building fell out of use. It is now used as a store.

Brief description

Located immediately to the north of the Stable Block, the former dressing room is a simple, oblong structure, timber framed and finished in creosoted horizontal chamferboard. It has a roof hipped at both ends and covered in shingles. The windows are wooden casements. As built, it had an outdoor washing area surrounded by a fence on the eastern side, through which access was provided to four separate dressing rooms.

Significance: Neutral



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

This structure was built c. 1959 by the LCC as a superintendent's lodge by the entrance to the park from Beaufort Road. The design was produced by the Historic Buildings Section of the LCC Architect's Department and is initialled J.S.W. It is now known as the Beaufort Lodge and still in residential use.

Brief description

Located at the far north-eastern corner of the park at the junction of Beaufort Road and Richmond Road, this is a single-storey, yellow brick structure built in emulation of eighteenth and nineteenth century lodges guarding the approaches to stately homes. Stylistically, it is also redolent of the early post-war neo-classicism of architects such as Raymond Erith. It has a pyramidal slate roof and a central chimney stack. Three bedrooms, a living room and kitchen are disposed either side of a central spine corridor. On the north side is a separate, flat-roofed block which, as built, housed the toilet. This is set behind one of two screen walls extending out either side of the west elevation, which terminate in piers crowned by stone balls.

Significance: Low



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The shelter was built in c. 1972 by the Greater London Council to provide covered seating on a terrace where previously there had been only benches. Initially a severely rectilinear modernist structure was proposed, but this was abandoned in favour of an historicising design.

Brief description

The shelter faces west and overlooks the West Meadow. It is a modest structure of five bays, consisting of a roof with a concave pitch supporting on steel stanchions. The end bays are slightly narrower, separated from the central section by solid bulkheads, and the contain benches facing north and south. The roof was originally covered in copper and the angles at the tops of the stanchions and some of the panels have detailing suggestive of eighteenth century Chinoiserie.

Significance: Neutral



Designations

- Feature within a Grade II* listed park and garden

Summary history

The Marble Hill Playcentre was constructed by the Greater London Council in c. 1972 (the drawings by the Parks Department are dated August 1972) to provide play facilities for small children. Formerly operated by Richmond Council, it was taken over by a local charitable and voluntary organisation in 2000.

Brief description

The playcentre is located a short distance to the southwest of the Sports Changing Rooms. It consists of two blocks on a parallel alignment connected by a third, smaller one at a right angle to them forming something approaching a pinwheel plan. All are built of dark red brick with concrete tiles. Both the large blocks have continuous clerestory lights. The plan incorporates a paved play area. Immediately to the west is a larger, grassed play area with wooden climbing structures.

Significance: Neutral

