

In the 1970s, the GLC improved the public sports facilities and built a new shelter at the north-east corner of the rugby pitches. An undated archive plan shows two new 'ablution' blocks proposed either side of the 1950s dressing room block. However, this idea seems to have been superseded by the creation of a separate changing and washing rooms in the north-east corner of the site, which is still in use today. This was followed by the construction of the One O'Clock Club building.

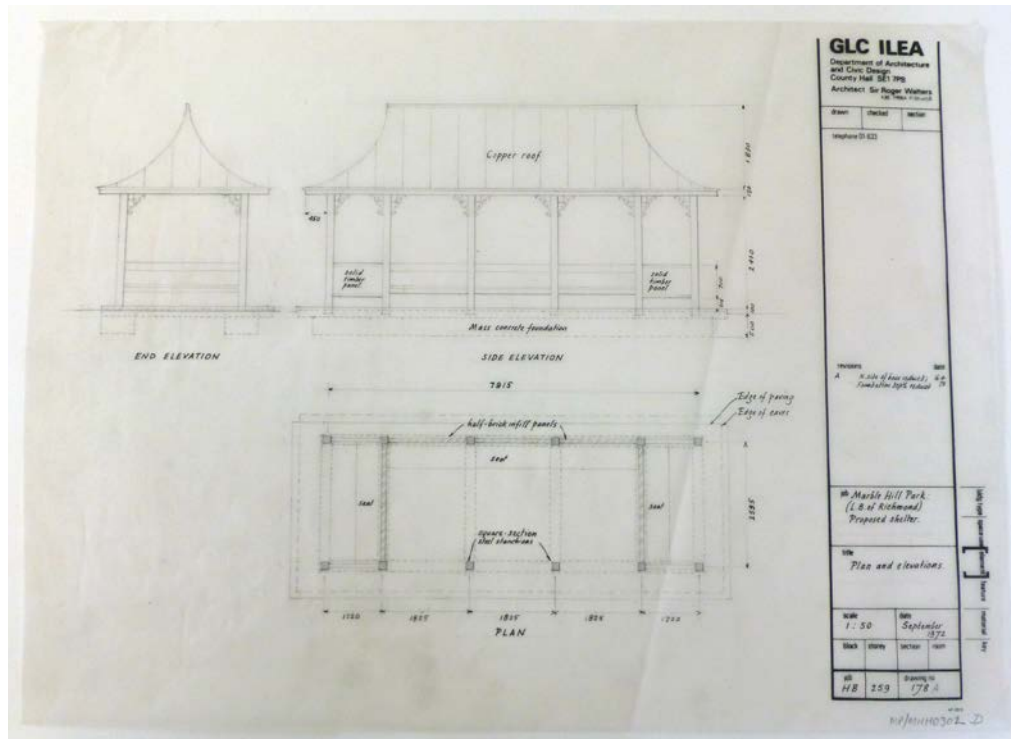
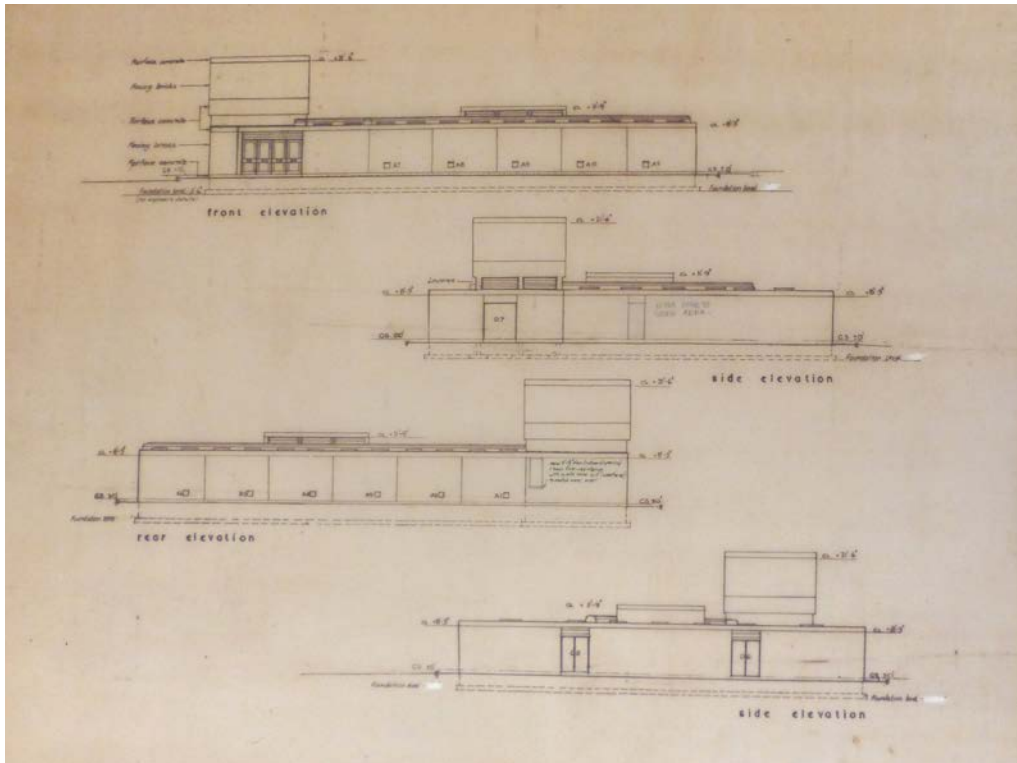


Fig 45 GLC drawing for a new shelter with copper roof, 1972



Fig 46 Today the shelter is without its copper roof which was stolen some years ago

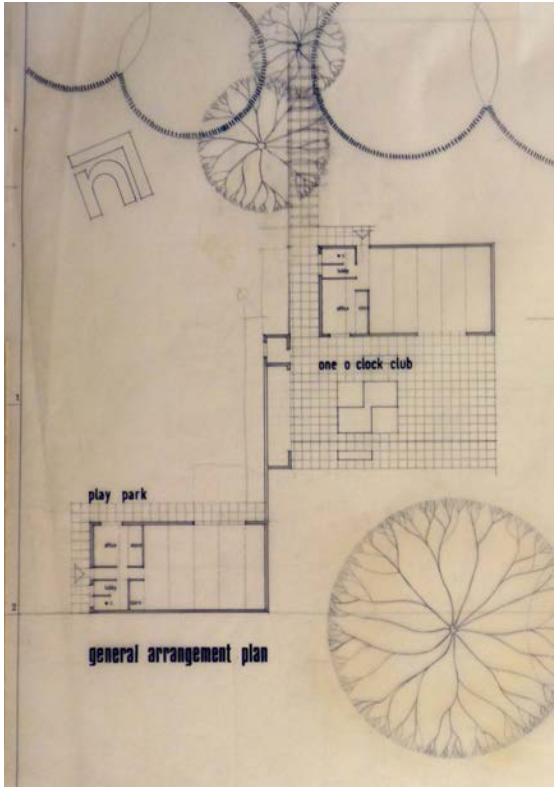


Historic England Archive

Fig 47 GLC elevations of the proposed changing rooms in the north-east corner of the park, c. 1970

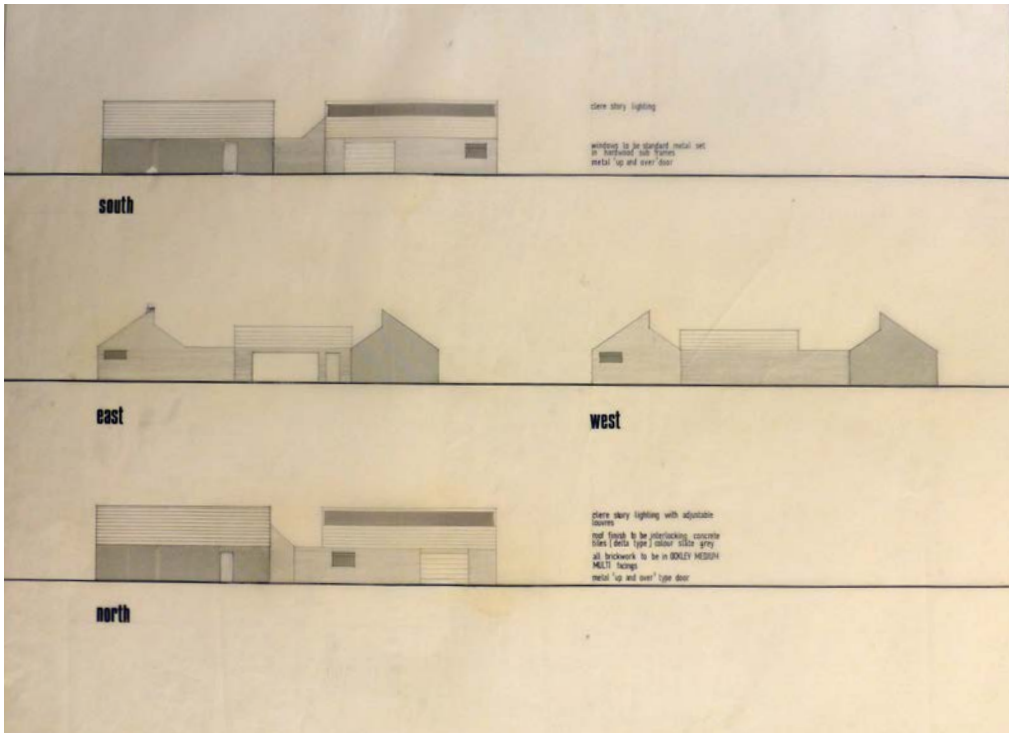


Fig 48 The changing rooms and yard in front



Historic England Archive

Fig 49 GLC plan for the building of the One O' Clock Club, 1972-3



Historic England Archive

Fig 50 GLC elevations for the building of the One O' Clock Club, 1972-3



Fig 51 The Club building and playground

2.3.6 Marble Hill House, 1900–1987

1900 to 1910

The impetus for the London County Council's acquisition of Marble Hill came principally from a wish to preserve the estate as a public open space rather than to conserve the house. Archive plans from 1905 show the layout of the house when it was obtained and some repairs to the floors. The greatest loss was the service wing, including the Countess's 'China Room', which was demolished in 1909. The footprint of the servants' hall was rebuilt at ground level as a toilet block.

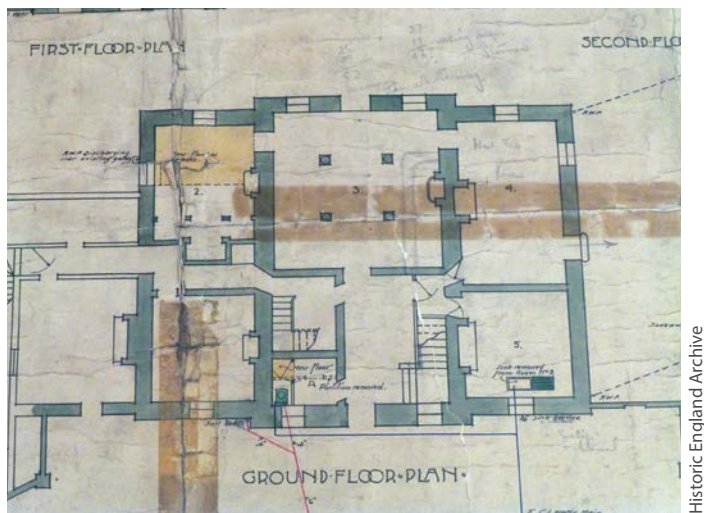


Fig 52 LCC ground floor plans for Marble Hill House, 1905

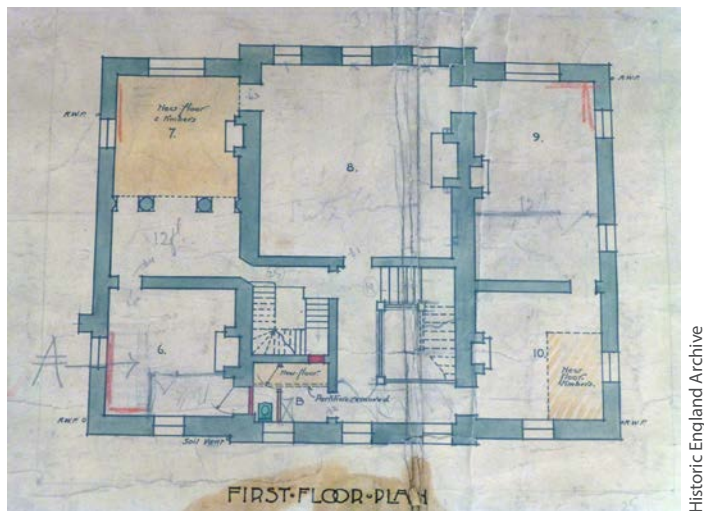
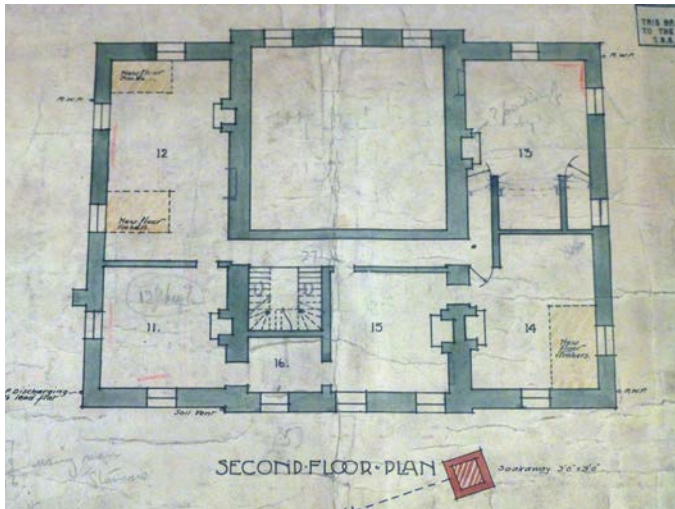
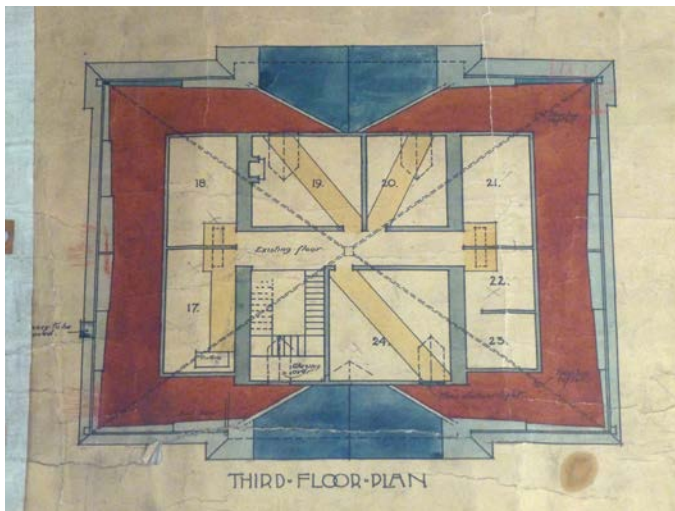


Fig 53 LCC first floor plans for Marble Hill House, 1905



Historic England Archive

Fig 54 LCC second floor plans for Marble Hill House, 1905



Historic England Archive

Fig 55 LCC third floor plans for Marble Hill House, 1905



Fig 56 The toilet block built in 1909

1920 to 1940

An archive plan of 1926 shows the Dining Parlour labelled as a refreshment room and the Paper Room as a kitchen (Historic England ref: MD/MHH0015 D). This is the earliest evidence of the house being used for visitor facilities.

In 1938, the LCC sought the advice of The Georgian Group, then part of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, regarding the restoration of the rooms for opening to the public. A report was compiled by Mr H. Clifford Smith which describes several earlier sources of information, and gives opinions on the condition of various rooms and what works should be carried out. He describes how the ground-floor hall was used as a tea room, the dining room used as a kitchen and the breakfast room used as a hockey players changing room. The rooms of the first floor (apart from the Great Room) were occupied by the park keeper and subdivided to protect the occupants from draughts (as illustrated in figure 60).



Richmond Upon Thames Local Studies Library and Archive

Fig 57 The 'Saloon', now the Great Room, from the report by The Georgian Group, 1939



Richmond Upon Thames Local Studies Library and Archive

Fig 58 The mahogany staircase, from the report by the Georgian Group, 1939

1950s and 60s

After the Second World War, the house was subjected to several campaigns of restoration, notably in the 1950s and during the major campaign of works in 1965-6, which brought it effectively to what it looked like in 1750.

In 1951, works were undertaken to the cornices of both north and south elevations: the modillions were renewed in concrete. It was later realised that the spacings of the modillions were incorrect, being derived from early photographs, and in 1965, they were replaced with fibreglass.

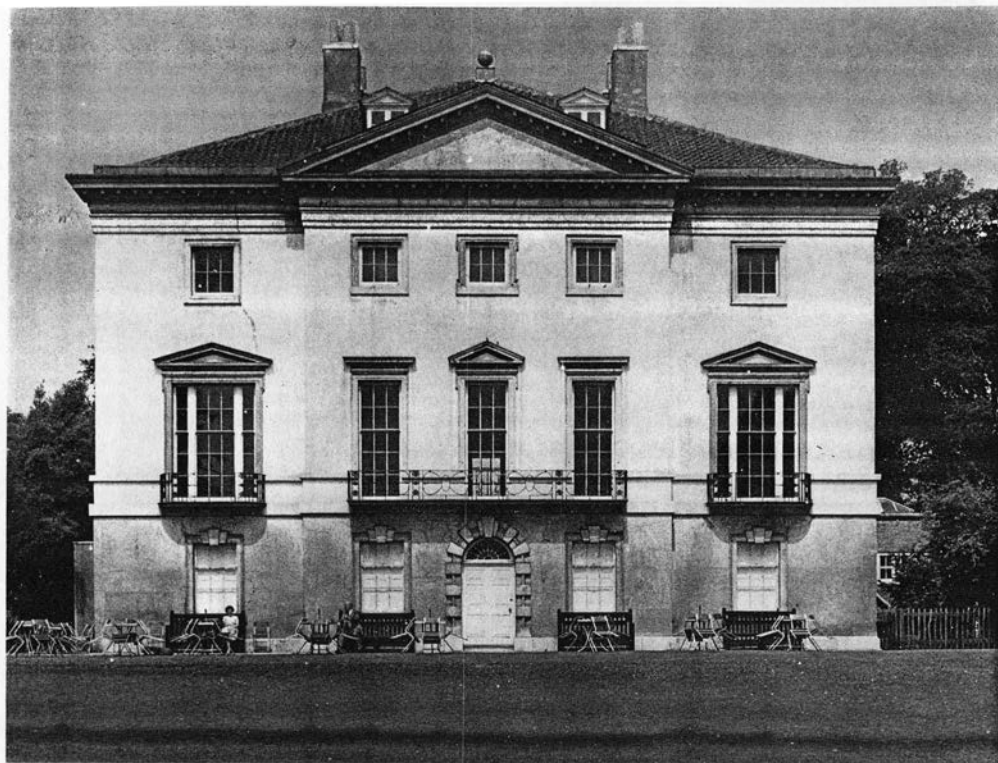
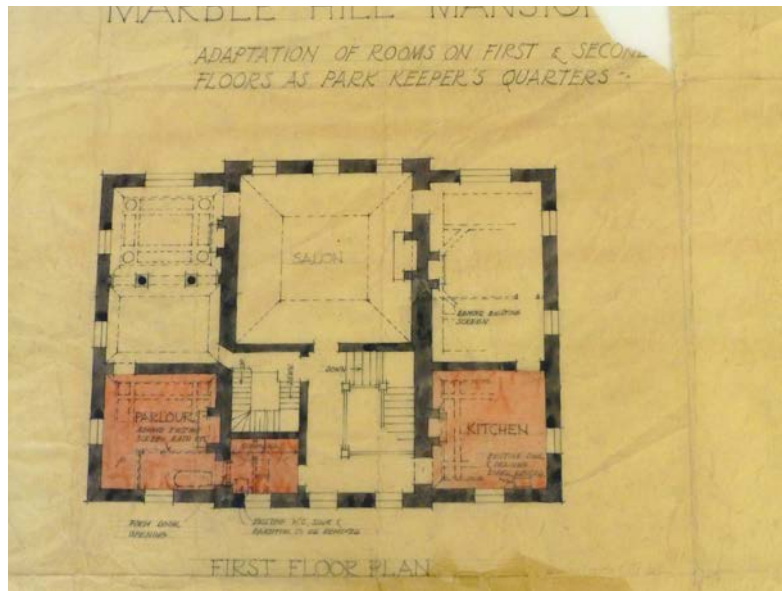


Fig 59 The south façade of Marble Hill House before alterations in the 1950s and 60s

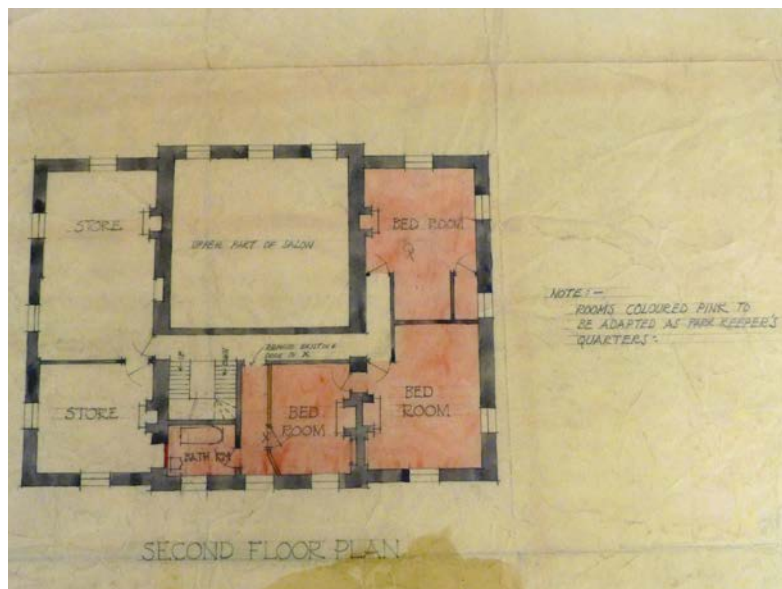
Internally repairs and restoration was carried out in several of the principal rooms. In 1955 fear of a recurrence of dry rot led to the replacement of the floor of the Dining Parlour on the ground floor with Portland paving. The cornice here was reproduced modelled on the cornice under the landing in the Staircase Hall. Some of the floors in the other rooms, for instance the mahogany floor in Lady Suffolk's Bedchamber, and all the ceilings on the first floor except in the Great Room, were repaired following dry rot damage. The existing chimneypieces in the Damask and Dressing Rooms are 20th-century replicas of the 18th-century originals and the one in Lady Suffolk's Bedchamber comes from the house at No 29 Clapton Common, London.

In terms of room uses during this period, the visitor facilities in the house seem to have expanded. There were two dressing rooms (in what is now the toilets and in the mess room), a private tea room (in the Breakfast Parlour), a restaurant (in the Tetrastyle Hall), snack bar and servery (in the Dining Parlour) and kitchen (in the Paper Room). Other works include updating the park keeper's accommodation on the first and second floors; this created a three bedroom apartment with parlour (Miss Hotham's Bedchamber), bathroom and kitchen (the Damask Room).



Historic England Archive

Fig 60 LCC floor plans for alterations to the first floor for the park keeper's accommodation, 1950s



Historic England Archive

Fig 61 LCC floor plans for alterations to the second floor for the park keeper's accommodation, 1950s

The 1965-6 restoration of the building represents the most radical intervention into the historic fabric under the aegis of the new Greater London Council. Its aims were to bring the house into a serviceable condition, and to re-present the interior and exterior as an historic house museum. Several post-1750 alterations to the building were reversed, and numerous works of art and items of furniture were acquired: the interiors were re-decorated, notably on the ground and first floors, in an attempt to re-create the appearance of rooms during Henrietta Howard's occupancy. The internal partitions introduced for the convenience of the occupants in the earlier 20th century were removed between 1950 and 1965 in an attempt to re-instate the original volumes of the rooms, notably on the first floor. The Dressing Room and Miss Hotham's bedchamber were restored to their original dimensions, and all the ceilings (the Great Room excepted) needed repairs, after damage through dry rot. Historic England room records document that damage from dry rot was significantly worse on the second floor, resulting in the removal of the majority of the joinery and other fabric.

Externally the most obvious changes were the alterations to the fenestration of the south front, especially the removal of early 19th-century windows and their replacement with Georgian forms, and the reduction in height of all windows of the first floor, restoring them to their 18th-century proportions, as shown in Campbell's engravings. This work had been recommended by The Georgian Society in 1939. The pediment cartouches, shown in early depictions, were restored in fibreglass, like the modillions, as mentioned above. The works to the exterior of the building also revealed archaeological evidence for changes to the fabric, including cut-back corbels of balconies at attic level on the south elevation, and the remains of a Palladian window on the western side, removed in 1750 by Brettingham. The roof was covered with new tiles and the chimneys were rebuilt.



Fig 62 The south front today

During the 1960s restoration the use of the house was greatly debated. There were suggestions that the house should be used for lectures, conferences and educational meetings, similar in function to a community centre. It was even proposed to turn Marble Hill Park into an arts centre. The restoration scheme for Marble Hill House won a Civic Trust Award in 1967. The Assessor said "...the restoration has been carried out with thoroughness and authenticity... the whole represent architectural scholarship and money well spent by our largest local authority in the interest of civic amenity."

It is interesting to note that the restoration was motivated by public concern: 'During 1961/ 2, local agitation in favour of restoration of the House was revived'.

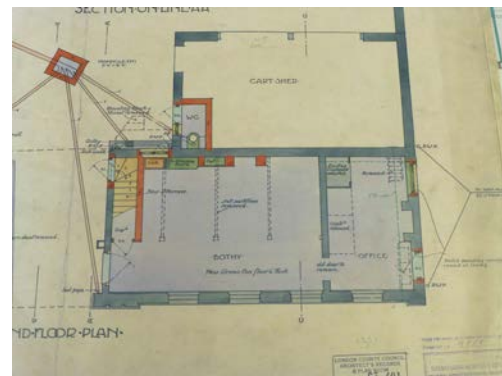
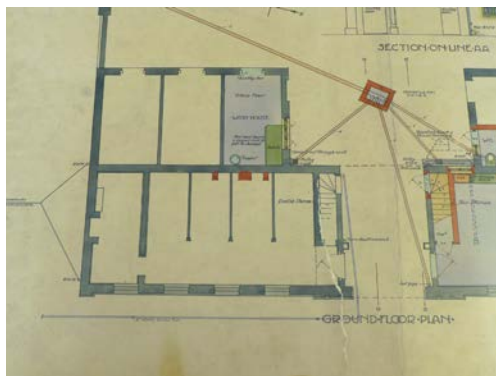
2.3.7 Stable Block, 1900–1987

Plans dated 1905 reveal substantial alterations to the Stable Block's first floor where the northern half was made into an apartment; the southern half was already in use as an apartment and underwent minor alterations. On the ground floor, there were no major alterations, just a change of use to office and gardeners' bothy. Externally, the fenestration was altered on the west façade.



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Fig 63 The east façade of the Stable Block, c. 1900



Historic England Archive

Fig 64 Ground floor plan of the Stable Block, for 'new office, bothy and tenements', c. 1905. This shows a wash house in the south-west corner, and a cart shed in the north-west corner

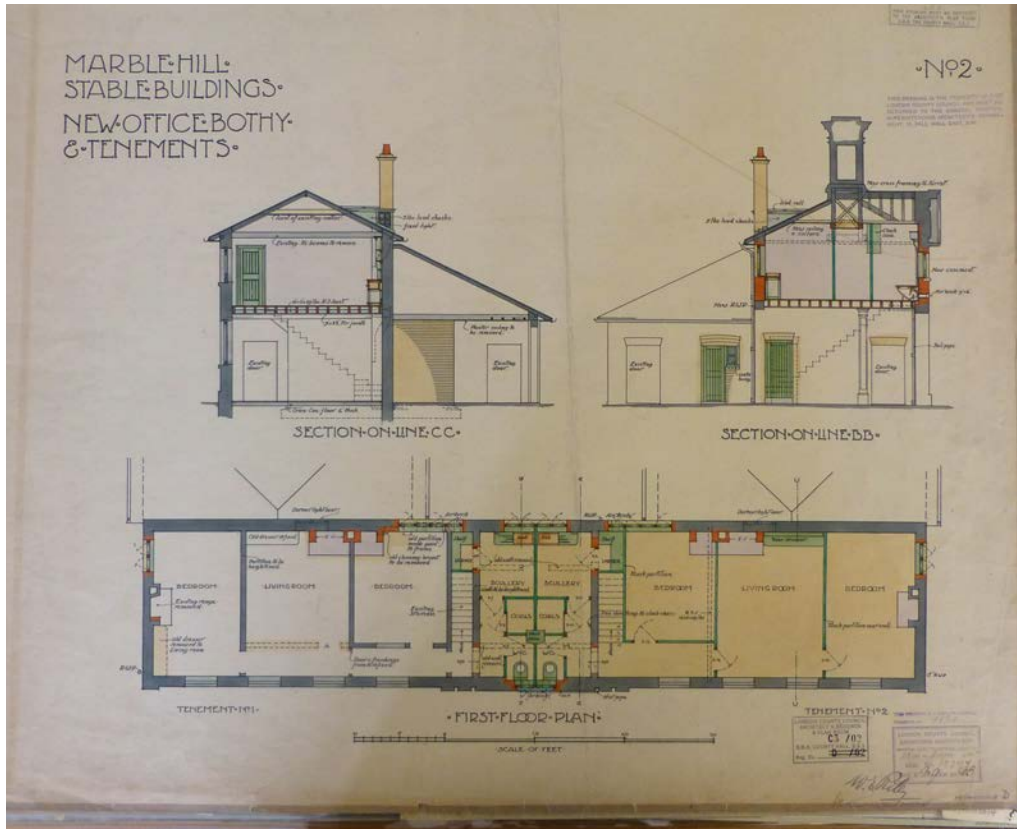


Fig 65 First floor plan of the Stable Block, for 'new office, bothy and tenements', c. 1905

Historic England Archive

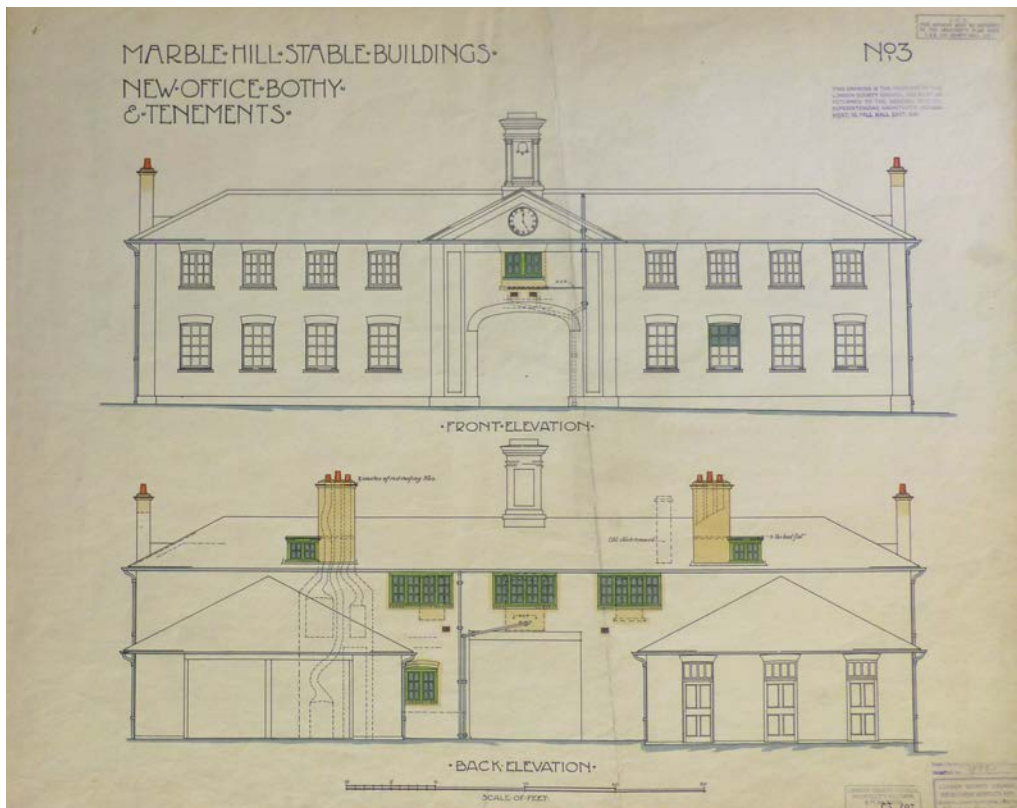


Fig 66 Elevations and sections of the Stable Block, c. 1905

Historic England Archive

The 1952 drawing shows the appearance of the rear façade before doors and windows were changed on the cart shed and wash house.

The archived 1963-4 plans show the internal walls in the southern half of the ground floor which were removed to create the tea room. A doorway and window were also added to the south façade.

A plan of 1967 shows a proposal to build an extension onto the southern end of the building for a new tea room, however this was not executed.

The last major work to the Stable Block was the installation of toilets in ground floor of the northern half, the former bothy; they took on their present arrangement c. 1993. The ladies toilets were renovated in 2014.

All the known changes are marked on the phasing plans in section 2.3.9.

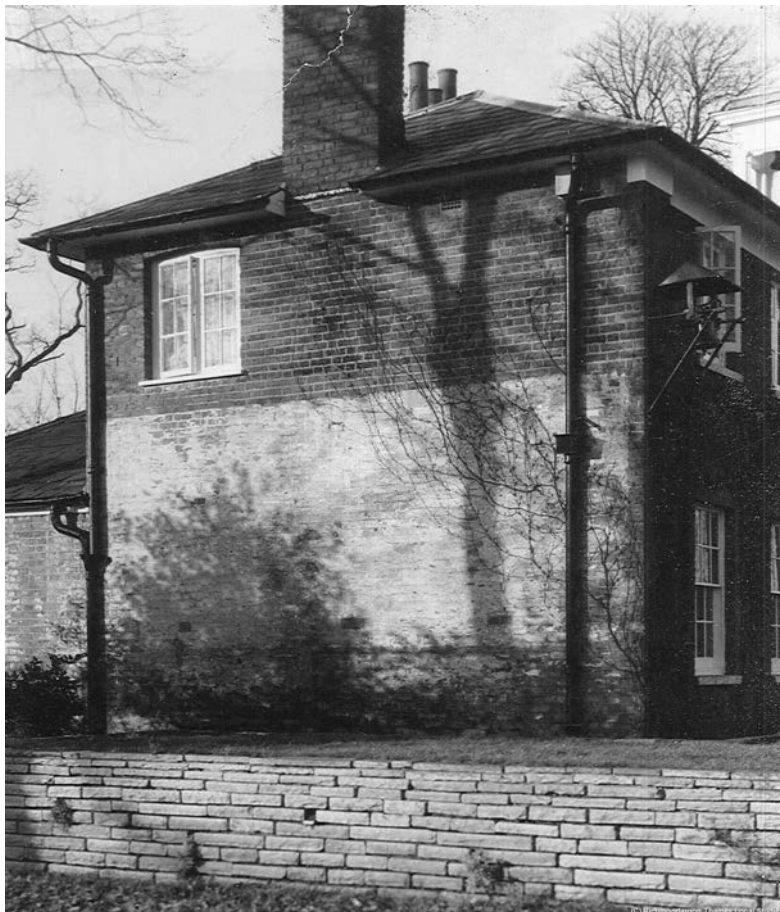
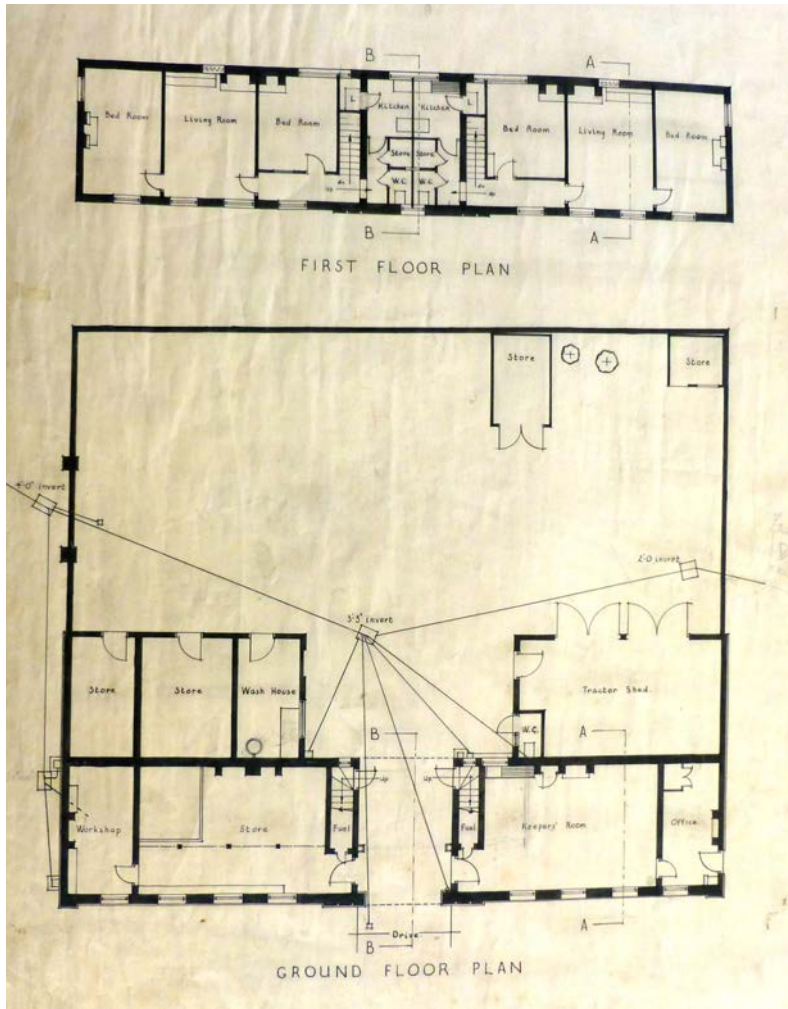
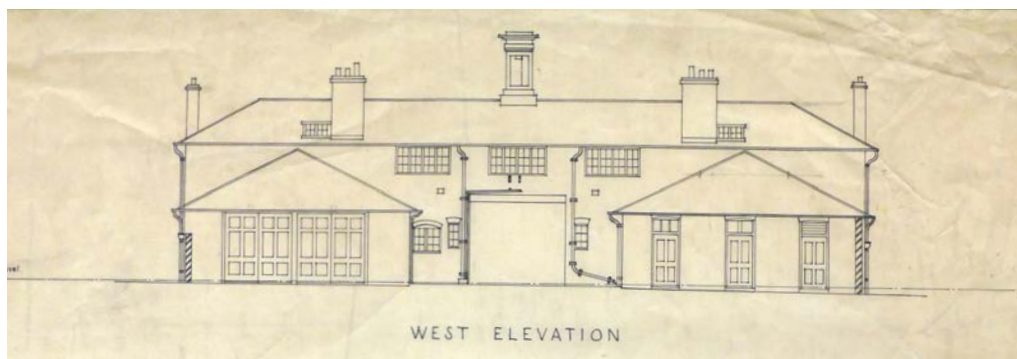


Fig 67 South façade of the Stable Block, c. 1950, before alterations for the café



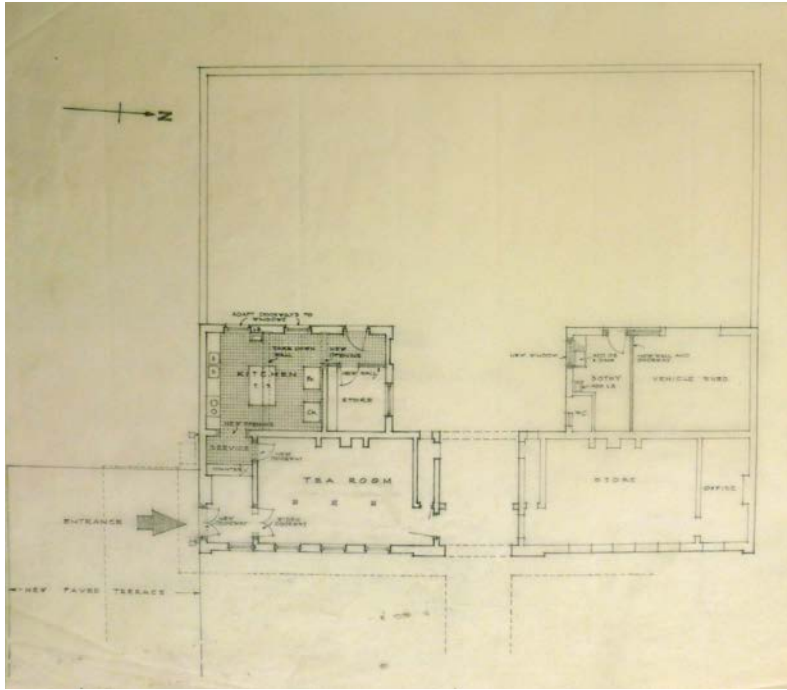
Historic England Archive

Fig 68 Ground and first floor plan of the Stable Block, 1952



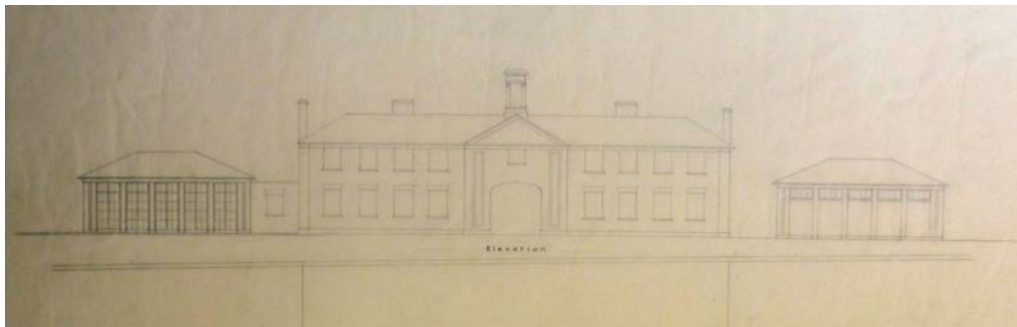
Historic England Archive

Fig 69 Rear (west) elevation of the Stable Block, showing the cart shed and wash house doors, 1952



Historic England Archive

Fig 70 Ground floor plan of the Stable Block, showing alterations for the tea room, 1963



Historic England Archive

Fig 71 GLC elevation of the Stable Block, showing proposed extension, 1967

2.3.8 English Heritage Guardianship, 1988 to present

Park

Since 1903 the park has been enjoyed by the local people of Twickenham and visitors from further afield. However, the remnant features of the historic landscape have been gradually eroded with the loss of over mature trees and the installation of new features for sport and children's play. During the 1980s, erosion of the ground led to the discovery of the ice house and grotto and the restoration of these areas by English Heritage.

Other minor works include the erection of railings in front of the White Lodge in 1987.



Fig 72 Discovery of the ice house, London Evening News

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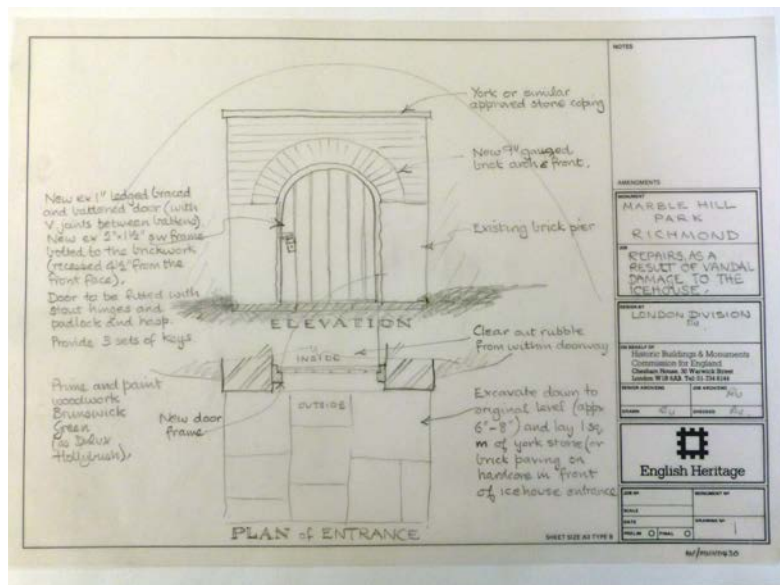


Fig 73 English Heritage drawing for restoration of the ice house

Historic England Archives



Fig 74 The restored ice house

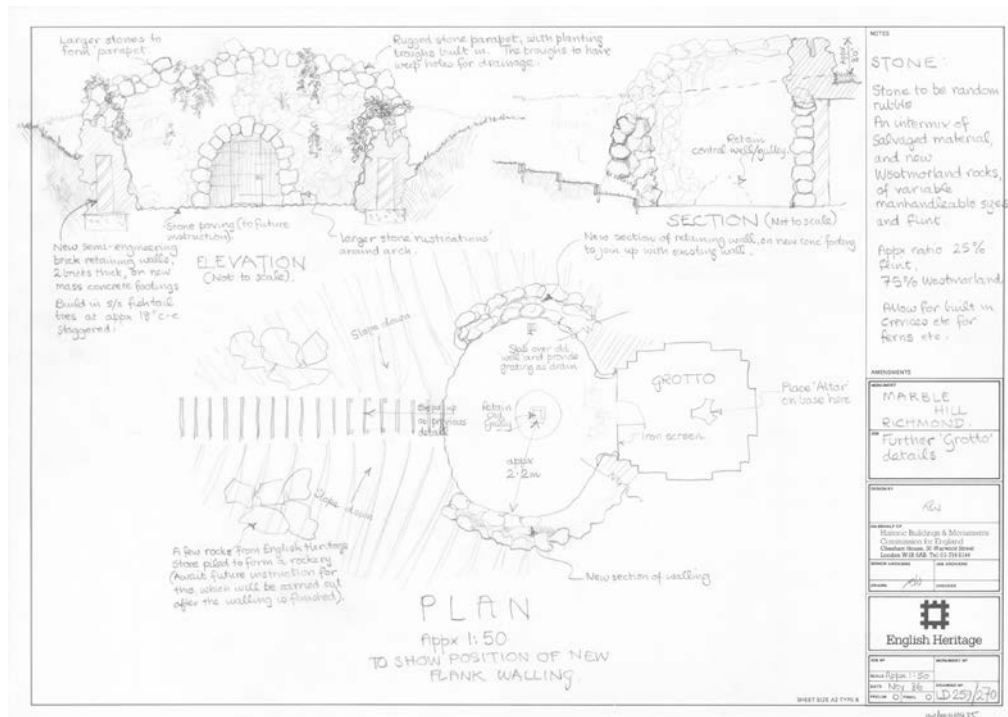


Fig 75 The restored ice house



Historic England Archives

Fig 76 The grotto, photographed in 1983 after its discovery



Historic England Archives

Fig 77 English Heritage drawing for restoration of the grotto, 1986



Fig 78 The restored grotto



Fig 79 The restored grotto

Marble Hill House

The most significant changes within Marble Hill House resulted from its transfer in 1988 to English Heritage. Sensitive and historically informed representations of two of the first floor rooms, the Damask Room and Lady Suffolk's Bedchamber were carried out in 1988 and 1997 (the latter informed by cross-section paint analysis). In 1988 English Heritage completed the restoration of the panelling in the Gallery on the second floor. In 2006 the ground floor Dining Parlour was hung with modern hand-painted Chinese wallpaper.

In terms of visitor operations, the Paper Room was used as a custodians' room from 1987 and then an office from 1994. The control room was also created in 1994 and a doorway was opened up between the control room and mess room. A shop was introduced and the toilets rearranged into their present configuration in 1994; when the shop was created a 20th century doorway between the new shop and the adjacent Mess Room was blocked off.



Fig 80 The Damask Room



Fig 81 Lady Suffolk's Bedroom



Fig 82 The Dining Parlour