

A varied street of mostly C19 buildings including town houses set behind large front gardens but now dominated by the 1960s multi-storey car park.

Park Street is a broad and open street developed as a quiet residential enclave in the mid C19. Today, residents share the space with the traffic created by the many buses entering from Round Church Street and by the cars accessing the multi-storey car park.



View north



View south

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

Park Street is a broad and open street containing student residences, a theatre, car parking and the Meeting House of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The land generally stood on the east side of the King's Ditch (outside the city), which was still evident in this area in the late C17. It was developed for town houses in the early C19. The line of the road may have been constrained by existing properties at the entrance from Jesus Lane, as plots on the west side were very shallow and the houses built on this side only had small yards behind. On the east side of the road, however, more prestigious townhouses were constructed with large front gardens providing an attractive setting to each property. The gardens at the rear backed onto the parkland of Jesus College, which is now used as sports fields.



View into Park Street from Jesus Lane



ADC theatre

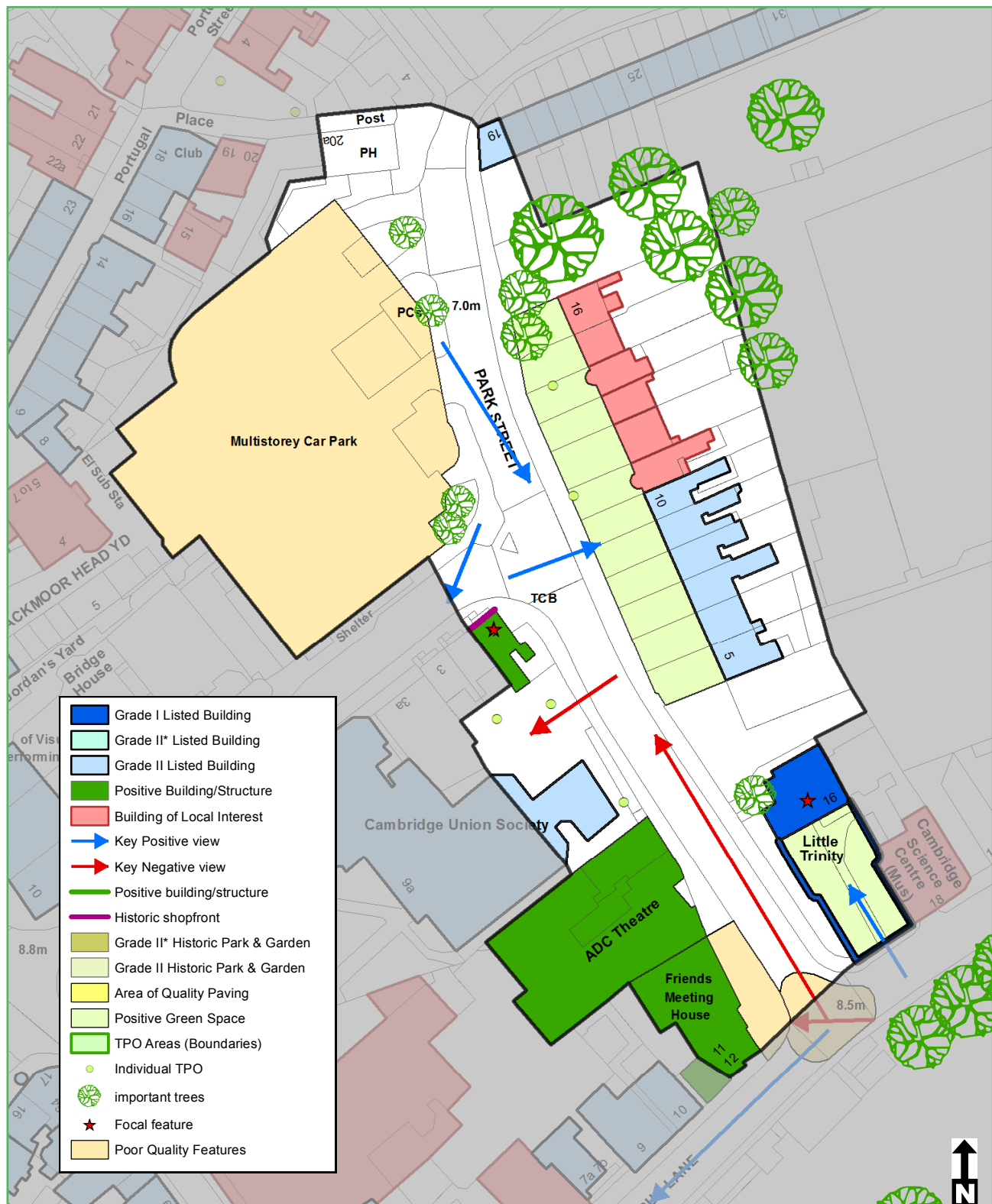
Just behind the Jesus Lane frontage, a large plot was created (possibly through a sale of land belonging to the Quakers) on which a theatre for the Amateur Dramatic Club had been built by the 1880s. This adjoined the University Pitt Club. The Cambridge Union Society's Rooms also extended from just east of the Round Church up to buildings fronting the west side of the street by the late C19.

The town houses were built to a single design of two storeys with basements in Gault brick, with slate roofs and segmental arches to the front doors and rubbed brick flat-arches to the window heads. However, several have been extended to three storeys, reducing some of the uniformity of design. The survival of six-over-six pane sash windows provides evidence of a date of construction of the mid C19 or slightly earlier. 'Boundary' trees planted near the front wall of these properties have grown to maturity and lean over the road casting attractive dappled shade, although two tall Lawson Cyprus trees appear rather incongruous in this setting.



Town houses

Clearance of some of the buildings on both sides of the street and particularly at the entrance from Jesus Lane in the late C20 reduced the sense of enclosure to the street, which is now a wide open space with views channelled to the unattractive eastern frontage of the multi-storey car park. Views along the rear of properties on Lower Park Street include further mature tree planting and, with the small group of trees at the junction with New Park Street, provide a sylvan element to the street scene at its northern end.



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Townscape Elements

- A terrace of early C19 townhouses set back from the east side of the road, with generous front gardens and a unified character resulting from the use of a shared palette of materials and, originally, a single design.
- Views across the gardens to these buildings provide a strong positive aesthetic value as well as an open, green character with several mature trees leaning over into the street.
- The west side of the street has a more varied building line partly as a result of late C20 clearance.
- Skyline features include the prominent chimneystacks of the Cambridge Union Society and the roof of the theatre.
- Greenery in the public realm, including street trees outside the multi-storey car park, trees backing properties to Lower Park Street and alongside the boundary of Little Trinity, makes an important contribution to the 'green' character of the streetscene.



Greenery in the public realm

- The street provides several glimpsed views of interest, including those along the narrow alley at Portugal Place, along the rear of houses on Lower Park Street, and along Lower Park Street itself.
- Although an unprepossessing building, the Quaker Meeting house is one of the earliest in the country and retains evidence for phases of development that extend back to the mid C17.

Streetscape Enhancement

The unkempt land adjacent to No. 5 Round Church Street is in need of enhancement, which should be linked to the use of the property.

The multi-storey car park's bulk intrudes into most aspects of the streetscape. Future redevelopment should seek to reduce the height of development at the road's edge and the over-shadowing of the street at its northern end.



Multi-storey car park

The two Lawson Cyprus trees on the east side of the street are reaching the end of their useful lives. Replacing these with more attractive broadleaved trees could make this a more pleasing frontage.

The service yard at the rear of the Cambridge Union Society offers a poor outlook from the street and could be enhanced through better organisation and improved bin storage.

The wide bell-mouth junction at the entrance to Jesus Lane is now unnecessarily wide due to restrictions on traffic and could now be narrowed to give greater priority to pedestrians.

Redevelopment Opportunities

The west side of the street from Jesus Lane to Round Church Street has some potential for regeneration, rebuilding, enhancement or the better use of space to provide new frontages that address the street more positively than the current buildings.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
Little Trinity, 16 Jesus Lane	Listed Grade I	c1725	3	brown brick, rubbed red brick dressings	parapet / tile		
garage	none	C20	1	painted brick	near flat		
5-10 (consec.)	Listed Grade II	c1830	2 + attic	Gault brick	gabled / slate		
11	BLI	C19	3 + basement	Gault brick	mansard / slate		Nos. 11 – 16 (consec.) form a group
12	BLI	C19	3 + basement	Gault brick	slate		Nos. 11 – 16 (consec.) form a group
13	BLI	C19	2 + attic + basement	Gault brick	slate		Nos. 11 – 16 (consec.) form a group
14	BLI	C19	3 + basement	Gault brick	slate		Nos. 11 – 16 (consec.) form a group
15 & 16	BLI	C19	2	Gault brick	slate		Nos. 11 – 16 (consec.) form a group
No. 19 Lower Park Street	Listed Grade II	early C19	2	Gault brick	slate / hipped		Nos. 19 - 44 Lower Park Street form a group
The Maypole, 20A Portugal Place	none	late C19	2	Painted brick	slate		
Multi-storey car park	none	1962-3	5	Brick / painted concrete	flat	Truscon	
No. 5 Round Church Street	Positive building	C19	3 + basement	Gault brick	slate		
Cambridge Union Society	1866, 1933- 34 extension	1866	3	polychromatic red brick / rendered extension	pantile	Alfred Waterhouse	
ADC Theatre	Positive building	1855	2	painted	slate	C. Burnand	Interesting skyline details
12 Jesus Lane, Friends Meeting House	Positive building	c1659, 1777, 1894, 1927, 1949, 1969	3	rendered	parapet	Fred Rowntree	