

A busy street lined by college buildings, walls, trees and bus stops.

Emmanuel Street (or Emmanuel Lane) has existed since at least the late C16. Its earliest building is the boundary wall of Emmanuel College which, in part, follows the line of the boundary of the Dominican priory which dates back to the Middle Ages. Emmanuel College's early C19 New Court building provides part of a frontage of otherwise modern buildings to the east, whilst the North Court and boundary make

a strong contribution to the western frontage. Today, the street is usually busy as it forms part of the 'overspill' from the Drummer Street bus station with buses moving in and out of the area, tending to dominate the streetscape. The trees in Emmanuel College New Court and Fellows Garden spill over the college walls into the street, whilst the greenery of Christ's Pieces provides an attractive stop to views north.



Views along Emmanuel Street

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

Braun's map of Cambridge of 1575 shows a street on a similar north east to south west alignment to Emmanuel Street and running along the boundary of the land of the former Dominican priory which was marked by a high wall.



College walls

The buildings, walls and grounds of Emmanuel College dominate the street and represent the growth and expansion of the college premises over four centuries. The C19 college buildings have Tudor revival details that refer to the C16 origins of the college and create interest in the street scene. Despite the large grounds, the college buildings run up to the edge of the pavement and are prominent in a number of important street views. Of special note is the gatehouse of North Court with its large Romanesque arched entrance and the buildings that run up to the corner with Drummer Street. The walls of the college grounds on both sides of the street create long, inactive frontages over which the greenery of the gardens can be seen, sometimes in the distance in the private gardens, or sometimes spilling over the boundaries where it contributes more directly to the streetscene. Further college buildings are glimpsed through gateways, whilst the curved end of the Queen's Building is prominent in views from the west side of the street due to its eye-catching modern form.



Gatehouse to North Court



Glimpse of college buildings through gateway

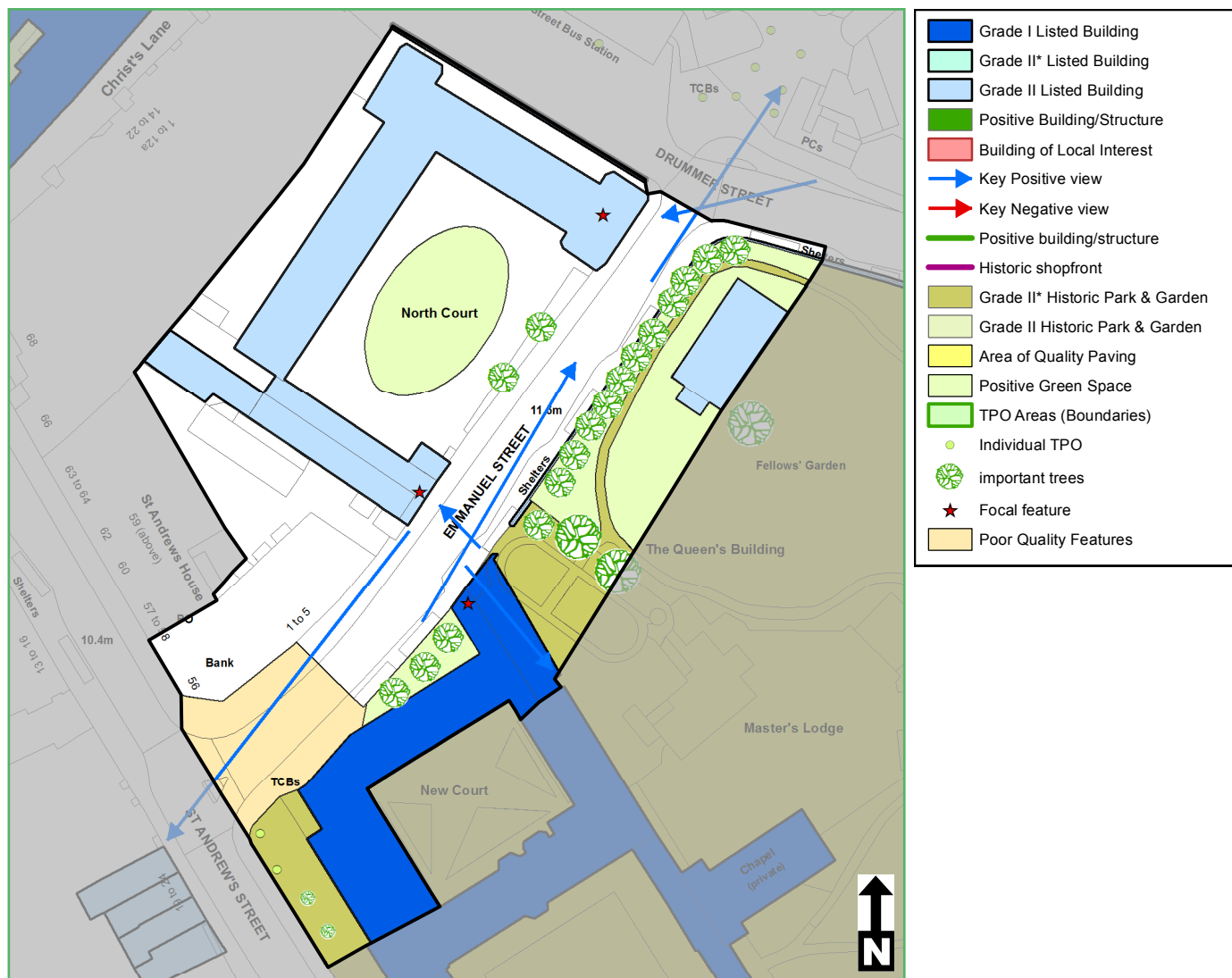


The Queen's Building

The majority of the buildings along the street are in use by Emmanuel College. The exception is the Prudential building which contains offices in the upper floors with some shops and small cafes at ground floor level. The street is heavily used by pedestrians, buses and taxis. The street can be particularly busy when large queues of pedestrians are waiting for buses, sometimes causing congestion along the pavements.



The Prudential building



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Townscape Elements

- The building line is varied, but the college's high walls, railings and greenery maintain the enclosure of the street.
- The listed walls of the college, and early C19 and early C20 buildings of the college provide architectural interest.
- The curved end of Queen's Building provides a focal point to views north east along the street.
- The view north east is dominated by activity of buses and queuing passengers as well as the street clutter created by the many bus stops.
- Emmanuel College North Court provides an interesting roofscape seen over the boundary walls or through the gate.
- Two K6 telephone boxes are located at the junction with St Andrew's Street.
- The wide opening of the south west end of Emmanuel Street provides open views to the interesting street frontage on the west side of St Andrew's Street made up of a mixture of C18, C19 and early C20 townhouses and shops.
- Views of St Andrew's Street include the bulky rooftop element behind retained buildings which are now part of the Grand Arcade

Streetscape Enhancement

The confined street environment and busy bus use of Emmanuel Street has resulted in a build up of sooty deposits on the North Court buildings that give them a dark and somewhat unattractive appearance. Very careful cleaning of these buildings could help to reveal the quality of their details and materials, and would 'lighten' the street as a whole.

Bus shelters in brushed aluminium with glazed covers and narrow benches have been chosen to minimise the impact of these structures on the street scene.

Bicycle racks at the corner with St Andrew's Street add an element of street clutter and are not particularly well located as this is the popular place for pedestrians to cross the road.



Street clutter

Redevelopment Opportunities

The Prudential building together with the entrance to its car park offers the only major opportunity for redevelopment. An increase in scale in any redevelopment scheme should be avoided, however, as this would tend to conflict with the prominence of the historic buildings in the streetscene and unbalance the sense of openness provided by the green spaces on either side of the street.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
1-5 St Andrew's House	none	1957-9	3 + attic	buff brick	slate	F.J. Doyle	Includes No. 56 St Andrew's Street
Emmanuel College North Court: Gatehouse	Listed Grade II	1910-14	2	stone / brick	tiled	Leonard Stokes	
Emmanuel College North Court	Listed Grade II	1910-14	4	stone / brick	tiled	Leonard Stokes	
Emmanuel College boundary wall	Listed Grade II	c1800 Medieval origin	N/A	originally stone, refaced in grey Gault brick			
Emmanuel College: The Bath House	Listed Grade II	Uncertain, by 1688	Rectangular shape, stone curb to edge				Filled from the lake, which is filled from Hobson's Stream
The Queen's Building	none	1995	3	Stone	metal	Michael Hopkins & Partners	
Emmanuel College New Court: North Range	Listed Grade I	1824-5	3	Roman cement-rendered ?	slate?	A. Brown or James Webster	Tudor Style
Emmanuel College kitchens	none	1957-9	2	rendered	copper sheet	Robert Hurd	