

A quiet residential street of mostly C19 houses.

Lower Park Street is a tranquil residential street on the edges of the New Park Street residential area and the open space of Jesus Green. The terrace that runs along the south side of the street was built by Jesus College for its servants in the early C19 and is some sixty years earlier than the housing directly to the north. The uniformity of the row, and its high degree of architectural integrity due to its long ownership by a single institutional landowner,

makes it stand out from other contemporary terraces. The broad grass verge to the front also provides a distinctive setting to the houses and contributes to an attractive streetscene. The mid-Victorian primary school buildings on the north side of the street have been sympathetically modernised and retain most of their historic character, reflecting the development of state education for the children of working people in the city in the mid C19.



Lower Park Street

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

This is an attractive street of early C19 workers' housing in Gault brick with an attractive green setting and forming an enclosed lane with views channelled to the gently curving frontage. The long terrace of cottages has a near continuous roof and eaves line, though those to Nos. 43 and 44 are slightly higher, creating a horizontal emphasis with a strong rhythm of door and windows openings. The frontages are very plain with a consistent use of flat brick arches for window heads and six-over-six pane sash windows with exposed sash boxes. Doors are all painted green and are panelled timber doors with very little detail to the openings. The chimney stacks remain unaltered with a consistent style of chimney pot.



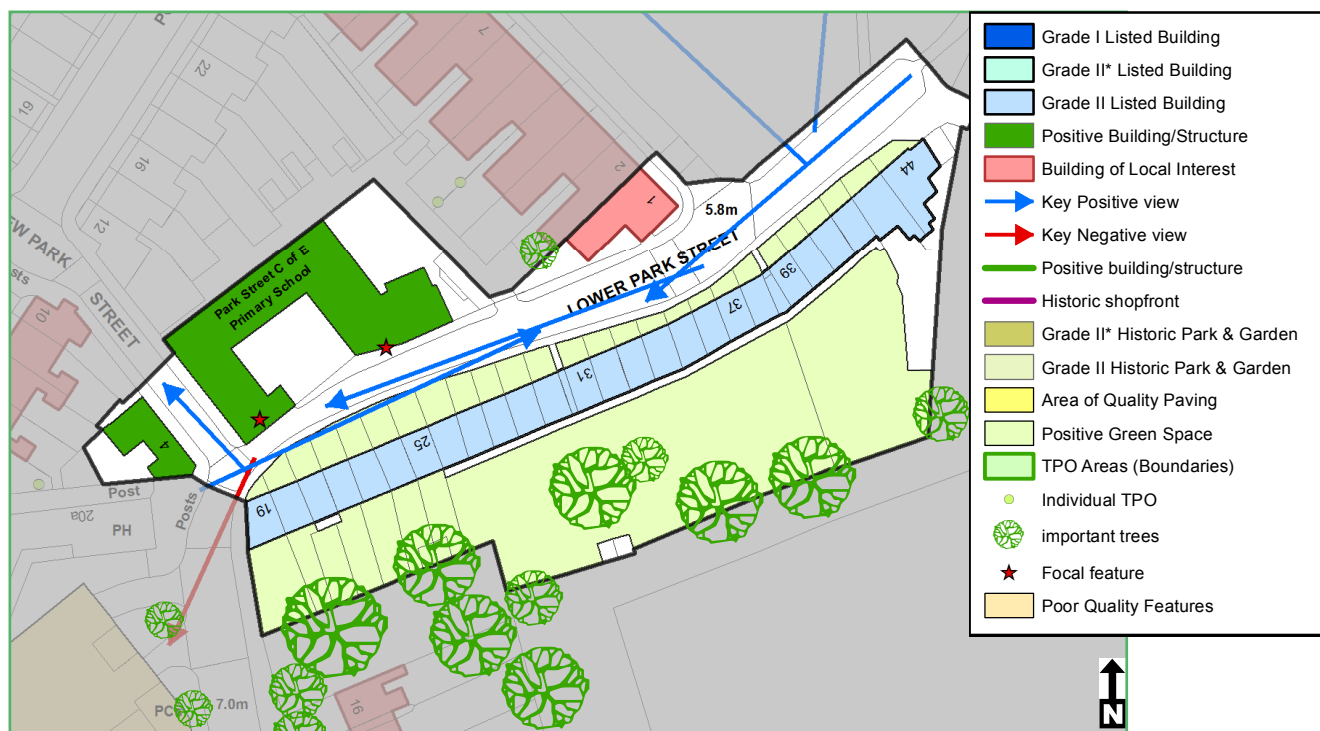
School buildings



Horizontal emphasis and strong rhythm

The curving edge of the green lawn in front of the cottages helps to further emphasise the curve of the frontage. This lawn gives a feeling of spaciousness despite the enclosed nature of the street, which adds to the quiet ambiance of the area which is reinforced by the generally low volumes of traffic. The school buildings are of single storey construction in Gault brick with pitched slate roofs. The gable ends of the ranges running up to the street frontage have tall Venetian windows with red brick surrounds to the central light and a dentil course to the eaves.

From the east end of the street there are expansive views over Jesus Green, whilst the street plays an important role in delimiting the edge of the park in views back towards the city centre. The park railings contribute to maintaining a sense of the space of the street. Two trees within the lawn and those within the rear garden of the building on the corner to Park Parade contribute to the green character, whilst the tall trees of Jesus College to the south form the skyline backdrop to the houses.



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Townscape Elements

- A long terrace of early C19 workers' cottages in a remarkably unaltered condition, set back from the footpath edge by varying distances due to the curve of the street.
- The street has a one-sided feel due to the more varied and lower scale development of the north side.
- Unusually (for central Cambridge) the street has an open lawned garden to the front of the terrace, which provides a distinctive green setting and adds to the spacious quality of the street.
- The rhythm of architectural details along the street including the windows, doors and chimney stacks, is an important feature of its architectural integrity and aesthetic value.

- The backdrop of tall trees in Jesus College's grounds and on Park Street heightens the sense of enclosure and tranquility.

Streetscape Enhancement

Better quality surfacing to the footways would be an improvement.

Street Lighting

Replacing the modern street lights with new fittings which reflect the historic character of the street would be welcome. Lighting levels for any new fittings should be carefully chosen to discourage vandalism such as the graffiti on garage doors.

Landscaping

Additional planting in the school playground would soften the severity of the school boundary.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
19 - 42 (consec.)	Listed Grade II	early C19	2	Gault brick	slate / pitched – No. 19 is hipped		
43 & 44		c1830	2	Gault brick	slate / pitched		
C of E Primary School	Positive building	C19	1	Gault brick	slate / pitched		