

Fitzwilliam Street is a good quality set-piece street of fine early C19 terraced townhouses built in matching materials and with many shared details.

Fitzwilliam Street is a fine street of early C19 houses built as rows of 'well-proportioned, unpretentious houses for the professional classes'. The larger houses at the east end were probably designed by the architect/speculator/townsmen, Charles Humfrey. The street is named after the founder of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Richard VII Viscount Fitzwilliam of

Meryon (1745-1816). As a development of closely contemporary houses, many built together as single terraced developments, the street has a strong early C19 character which is reinforced by the survival of many of the original architectural details and materials.



Fitzwilliam Street

SIGNIFICANCE - HIGH

General Overview

The street is narrow and tightly enclosed, running north-east to south-west between Tennis Court Road and Trumpington Street. Due to its orientation the frontage of the south side is often cast into heavy shade in the morning but is more brightly lit during the late afternoon. The near continuous building line on either side provides a strong sense of enclosure with views channeled to the Fitzwilliam Museum to the west. To the east, the view is largely closed off by an impressive group of trees leaning over the high garden wall of No. 15 Fitzwilliam Street.



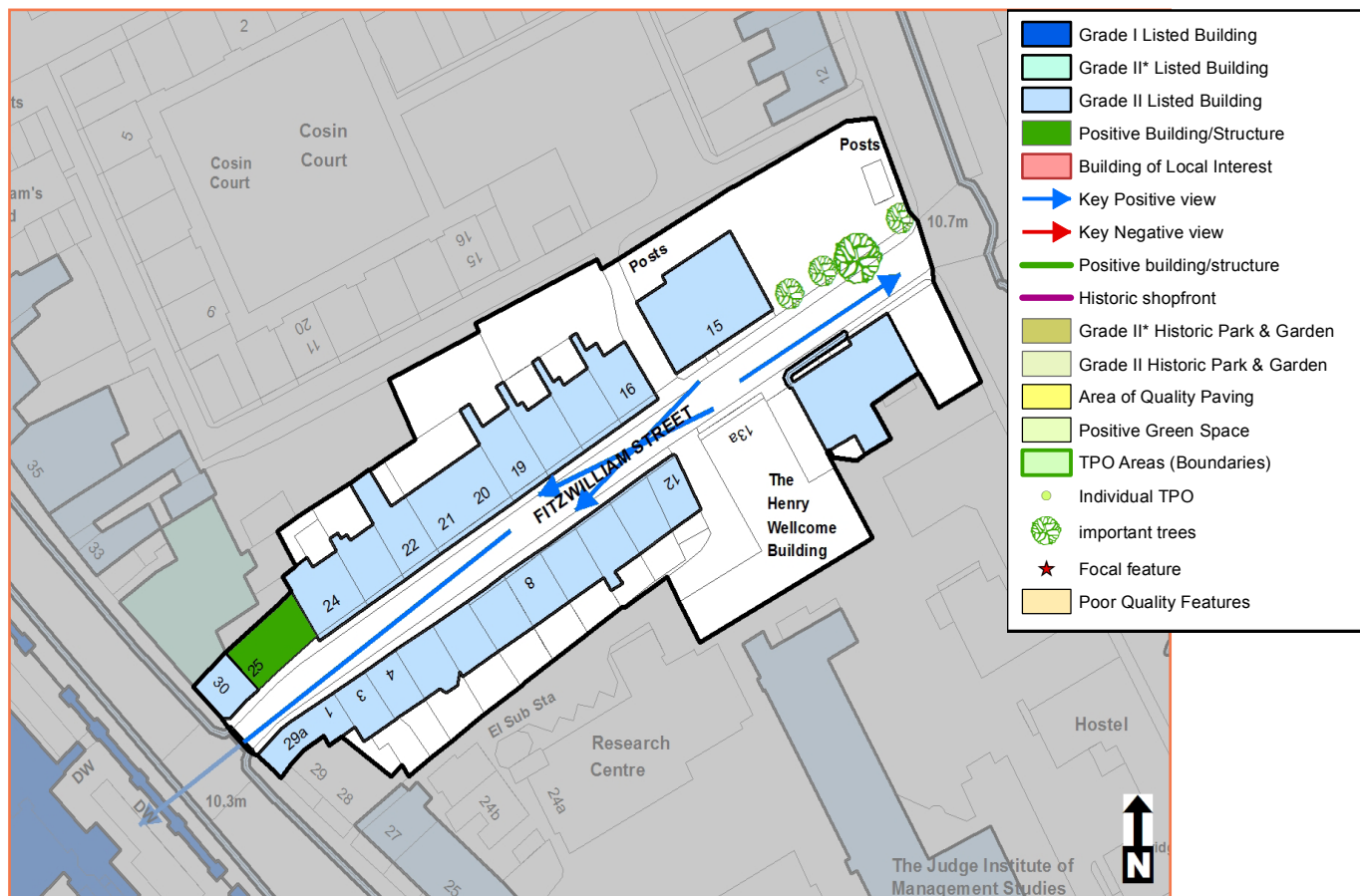
Views channeled to the Fitzwilliam Museum



Repeated architectural features

The buildings share the same grey Gault brick, contributing to the sense of unity and are all (except No. 15) of three storeys on the north side, with a parapet to the roofline that helps to unify their terraced frontages. The south side is generally of two storeys, rising occasionally to three with some dormer windows to attics under mansard roofs at the west end. The repeated use of semi-circular arched heads to the front doors is another common detail, as is the survival of six over six pane sash windows without horns. The street is notable for the survival of iron railings to the basement areas, which is another repeated feature that provides a horizontal emphasis to the street. Occasional iron window box supports are also present and represent a distinctive Cambridge feature.

Fitzwilliam Street is not particularly busy and only lightly used by cyclists and pedestrians. It is one-way heading west and takes traffic from the University's Downing Site out onto the city's inner ring road. The majority of the buildings are student residential with the exception of the Leverhulme Centre (The Henry Wellcome Building), which is part of the university.



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Townscape Elements

- The street is a narrow and intimate space with strongly defined building line and a tight sense of enclosure.
- The majority of buildings are set just back from the pavement behind railings often with basement areas.
- The metalwork of railings and window-boxes is a key feature of the street.
- Looking west, the vista is terminated by an end pavilion of the Fitzwilliam Museum's principal façade.
- Looking east, the vista is blocked by attractive trees spilling into the street from a garden.



View east, with trees spilling from garden

- Regular chimneys on the north side and variations in roof-height on the south side give some interest to the skyline.



Interesting skyline

- With the exception of occasional window boxes and the trees to No. 15 Fitzwilliam Street, there is little other greenery in the streetscene.
- The quality and survival of original architectural details and joinery is an important feature of the street, made more important by the uniformity of the buildings.

Streetscape Enhancement

The pavements are presently covered in modern concrete slabs and pavers, although the granite kerbs and gullies are original. The relaying of the

footway in more traditional materials would be the principal townscape improvement

The streetlights, although innocuous, are not especially appropriate and could be replaced.

Redevelopment Opportunities

There is little scope for redevelopment. The Leverhulme Centre (The Henry Wellcome Building), has a modernist appearance but is of a scale, form and materials that is in harmony with the street's earlier buildings. This is partly due to its narrow frontage, which does not dominate the streetscene.

Alterations to the unlisted properties will need to carefully consider their impact on the generally harmonious character of the street. Some minor alterations to properties, particularly removing features inserted later, may be possible. However the uniformity of architectural detailing should be protected.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
1-12 (consec.)	Listed Grade II	c1825	2 + attics + basements	Gault brick	Nos. 1, 3 and 4 are mansard, others not visible / slate		Includes No. 29A Trumpington Street
13a The Henry Wellcome Building	none	c 2004	3	Gault brick	parapet		
13 - 14 (part of King's College Hostel)	Listed Grade II	c1830	3 + basement	grey Gault brick	hipped / slate		
Eastern end of King's College Hostel (at Tennis Court Road junction)	none	C19	3& 4	buff brick	hipped / slate		
15	Listed Grade II	c1825	2 + basement	grey Gault brick, stone dressings	hipped / slate	attributed to William Wilkins, but more probably by Charles Humphrey	
16-24 (consec.)	Listed Grade II	Early C19	3 + attics + basements	Gault brick	parapet / slate		Charles Darwin lived at No. 22 from 1836-7
25	Positive building	C19	3	Gault brick	Parapet / slate		
30 Trumpington Street	Listed Grade II	Early C18	3	Brown brick, rubbed red brick dressings	tilled		Nos. 30, 31, 33 to 40 (consec) form a group

NOTE: All Listed Buildings in Fitzwilliam Street form a group