

Tennis Court Terrace

A small terrace of cottages built in 1825 by the Cambridge developer Charles Humfrey.

Tennis Court Terrace contains a terrace of houses which, together with Nos. 4-12 Tennis Court Road, form part of a planned enclave of residential development all built in 1825 by Charles Humfrey, developer and Mayor of Cambridge. This is a tranquil area, set off the

busy route of Trumpington Street to west. The north side of the street is made up by the grounds of Pembroke College with greenery spilling over into the street.



Street view looking west

SIGNIFICANCE - SIGNIFICANT

General Overview

This is a narrow street, set out as part of the formal development in the early C19 of the land between Tennis Court Road and Trumpington Street and north of Addenbrooke's Hospital. The street was laid out for the residential development and its narrowness contributes to a tranquil residential character.

The terraced houses share characteristics of Humfrey's other developments in Cambridge, which mainly represented formally planned suburban areas, expanding the city beyond the medieval core and providing houses for artisans or college servants and the emerging middle classes. Distinctive positive features include the use of Gault brick throughout, which creates a strong sense of unity as well as being the material most used by Humfrey. The survival of six-over-six pane vertical sliding sash windows and fielded panel timber doors, with semicircular overlights and gauged brick arches above, are all period features that provide evidence of the age of the street's development and are part of its formal design. Whilst chimney pots are now missing, most of the chimneystacks remain and the front roof slopes have not been marred by the insertion of attic dormer windows. As such the buildings have a high degree of architectural integrity.



Nos. 1-6 Tennis Court Terrace

The buildings also retain narrow front gardens, providing an element of privacy from the streets and opportunities for greenery although this is rather limited at present. The strong building line and terraced frontage on one side of the road and high college boundary wall on the other create a strong sense of enclosure that adds to the street's tranquility, with the view eastwards terminated by a large tree in the grounds of Downing College.



Cosin Court

The terrace is owned by Peterhouse College and is used for academic accommodation, as is Cosin Court which is accessed via the footpath leading to Trumpington Street at the west end of the street.

The scale of development is generally only two storeys, providing an intimate, human scale that is attractive for this small residential enclave. In addition to the primarily residential use, the other significant uses are car parking and access.

Unfortunately, the west end of the street acts as a service entrance to Pembroke College, with relatively blank elevations



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and the barrier and ramp for vehicles framed in the view along the street. This detracts from the historic character of the street.

Townscape Elements

- The 2 storey terraces are set back from footpath edge behind small front gardens.
- Well preserved historic buildings illustrate the development of the area as a small suburban residential enclave by a notable developer as part of the early C19 expansion of Cambridge beyond its medieval core.
- High boundary wall on the north side gives a dead frontage, but adds a strong sense of enclosure with garden greenery spilling over the wall's top.
- The view east is drawn to the prominent mature tree on Tennis Court Road, with fine buildings beyond.

- The view west is framed by a high boundary wall and terraced houses, with an indeterminate stop in the vehicular ramp and narrow footpath.
- The coloured glass sculpture (in glass lantern) situated on Foundress Court adds interest to the north eastern skyline.
- Soft landscaping is restricted to the small front gardens of the terraces.

Streetscape Enhancements

The main opportunities would be the restoration of railings to the terraced houses and the use of improved or natural materials for pavement surfacing. All the public street furniture is modern and the car park and entry barrier is particularly prominent.

Redevelopment Opportunities

The private multi-storey car park offers an opportunity for redevelopment, which could help to provide an active frontage to the west end of the street.

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
No. 4 Tennis Court Road	Listed Grade II	c1825	2	Gault brick	slate	Charles Humfrey	
1-6	Listed Grade II	c1825	2	Gault brick	tiled	Charles Humfrey	
7	Positive building	C19	3	Gault brick	parapet		
Peterhouse: Cosin Court	none	1969	3	brown brick	tiled	David Roberts & Geoffrey Clarke	
Hostel	none	early C20	3	red brick	clay tiled		
Pembroke boundary wall	Listed Grade II	early C19	N/A	Gault brick			
Pembroke Master's Lodge (Foundress Court)	Positive building	1998	3	portland stone	flat / metal sheeting	Eric Parry	