

Appendix 2 - Pinner Memorial Park Proposed Enhanced Local List Description

Identification and summary of interest: Pinner Memorial Park comprises the landscaped grounds around West House, former home of Nelson's grandson and later location of Book of Remembrance, as a public memorial to the people of Pinner who gave their lives defending freedom against intolerance, racism and oppression and was opened in 1950. West House (locally listed) remains as the William Heath Robinson Museum and café, along with some of its associated designed landscaping from the 19th century. The park and West House form a significant part of Pinner's heritage as a single entity which has evolved from the 14th century to the present day. Grounds and house purchased through public subscription as a living memorial, for the public to enjoy, after the war.

History/intactness/representative of a type: In 1390 West House and grounds were a yeoman holding, situated at the heart of the then hamlet of West End, belonging to John Aldridge. By 1800 the holding had evolved into a gentleman's country house and its land was transformed into the ornamental gardens, with lake and artificial island near the house, and wilder park beyond, which were so essential to the aspiring 19th century gentry. The ornamental lake (fountain added in 1980), walled garden and several trees including Corsican Pine to north and south and one or two earlier Oaks all survive from the earlier grounds, in combination with the later attributes when donated for use as a war memorial in 1950 after a public campaign. The trees in the park are both native and exotic, and include larch, weeping willow, blue cedar, magnolia, copper beach and swamp cypress. The ornamental lake, in existence by 1864, was in its present form by 1894. There is a small dog cemetery near the entrance at the north-west which dates from the 19th century.

Public park features introduced when the transition to a memorial was made that remain today include two banks in the centre of the park planted up with shrubberies; rockery west of lake; floral displays in walled garden which is now designated as Peace Garden with heathers, rose beds and clematis. Chapel Lane was improved with railings, paviers and plaque erected in 1995 commemorating the 'donation of the park by the people of Pinner in memory of those who gave their lives in the war'.



73 This romantic scene is of the house servants enjoying the facilities while the owner, John Hogg, was away. Most of West House was 19th-century in date. The whole of the creeper-clad section, and the part with the right-hand balcony, has gone.

Pictures: Views towards West House in the 19th century

Association with other heritage assets: There is a strong association with the locally listed West House since the park forms the former grounds to this. The park also forms a good adjunct and setting to the Pinner High Street and Waxwell Lane Conservation Area. As the Pinner Conservation Areas (CAs) Supplementary Planning Document states: 'The physical and aesthetic attributes of open space should not be underestimated. ...the leisure, environmental and aesthetic benefits of Pinner Memorial Park are significant to Pinner High Street and Waxwell Lane CAs'.

Association with significant persons or historic events: Nelson Ward, the grandson of Lord Horatio Nelson (hero of Trafalgar) and Emma Hamilton, lived at West House within the park from 1873 to 1883. In the 1860s Lord Nelson's daughter Horatia lived at West End Lodge opposite West House, now a school, and her son Nelson ward lived at West House.

During World War II the grounds to West House were used for Civil Defence purposes with a trench air raid shelter and a British Restaurant built in the park and piggeries set up. Its former grounds were acquired in 1949 by local people with the purpose of the park being a war memorial. West House had been requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence during the Second World War and it too was bought by local people and given to the council in 1949 for the purpose of commemorating those who had died in both World Wars. The park was opened a year later and one of the rooms in West House was used as a shrine to house an illuminated Book of Remembrance. A large stone plinth set into the path at the eastern entrance of the park reads: "*Donated by the people of Pinner in grateful memory of those who gave their lives in war and in thankfulness for all who served and fought for our liberty*".

In the 21st. century the establishment of the William Heath Robinson museum in West House is of national significance, showing the work of an internationally famous artist who lived in Pinner, adding to the historical interest of the park.