

Nash's aim when he designed the terraced properties around the park was that they could be seen from it. They are statement buildings and Chester Terrace is one of the finer surviving examples, as the longest terrace surrounding the park complete. Nash's plans have been described as 'a unique planned composition of landscape and buildings, at once classical and picturesque... of national and international importance' (RPCAAMS 2011). The building is this important not only in itself but also as part of the setting of Regent's Park.

Description

Exterior (Pls 1–4)

Number 34 Chester Terrace is a part of the longest unbroken façade in Regent's Park. The majority of the terrace is a symmetrical composition, of four storeys with two windows on the ground floor, three windows on the first and second floors and two on the fourth floor. The ground floor doors and windows are round-arched with architraved heads linked by impost bands. The doorway is recessed with a black panelled door with an arched window above. The windows have margin glazing with architrave 1st and 2nd floor sashes. A cast-iron balcony runs along the 1st floor continuing along the other houses within the terrace. Cast-iron railings are notable on the ground floor containing the external steps to the basement level. The gambrel roof is covered in slate tiles and there are dormer windows. The house as seen is predominantly post-war in date, having been rebuilt following the original plans.

The area of the lower ground floor is accessed via a set of steps from Chester Terrace down to an open quadrangle. All the walls around the quadrangle are rendered and painted cream. The floor is covered in paving slabs upon which a number of potted plants are present. Drainage is present around the edges of the quadrangle. The main house lies to the east with the external steps down to the north. To the south is a room beneath the bridge to the ground floor entrance, this links the main house lower ground floor with the former coal vaults to the west which extend out beneath the pavement above. The north and central vaults have external louvered doors onto the quadrangle, whilst the southern vault is accessed internally.

Interior (Pls. 5–8)

The three vaults have a barrel roof and are plastered and painted. The floor is concrete within the north and central vault and tiled in the southern vault. An opening in the wall between the north and central vault provides access to the central vault via a step down in height, and is likely to represent a later insertion. The southern vault has a tiled floor, as a continuation of the interior decoration within the lower ground floor of the house. There is an external step down from ground level, followed by a smaller internal step within the vault itself. The bases of