

From: Gail Waldman
Sent: 09 January 2024 10:22
To: Josh Lawlor
Cc: Rose Susan; Peter Cassidy; delcia keate; Therese Gray
Subject: Re: 4 The Grove 2023/2876/P and 2023/2939/L

Dear Josh,

4 The Grove 2023/2876/P and 2023/2939/L

Thank you for your email of 5 January 2024.

Further to my email to you 4 January 2024, we have had the opportunity of undertaking some research into the terrace/retaining wall to 1 to 6 The Grove.

The Survey of London: Volume 17, the Parish of St Pancras Part 1: the Village of Highgate, which can be found on British History Online at <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol17/pt1> , is, as I am sure you know, an invaluable resource. The Survey deals with “Nos 1-6 The Grove (site of Dorchester House Garden)” at pages 77 to 94.

Numbers 1 to 6 The Grove were built on the site of the garden to Dorchester House (formerly known as The Blew House or Blewhouse). Dorchester House ran perpendicular to and its garden ran parallel with what is now The Grove. It is known that the house itself was still standing in 1688, but not by 1699. Numbers 1 to 6 were erected in in the garden 1688.

Here are a couple of references to the terrace/retaining wall from The Survey which confirms our belief that they are of some considerable age:

“The west boundary wall of the Grove gardens is of considerable antiquity with four centred arches and recesses, one with a rough pediment above it, and there is a drop of about 10 feet between the upper and lower gardens behind the Grove houses. This terrace work is continued both to the north and the west to include the whole of the garden of No. 7, The Grove, which is called "The Great Garden" on the map of 1804 reproduced on Plate 1.”

“The remarkable terrace supported by a massive retaining wall forming the gardens of the houses in the Grove is referred to on p. 86. Doorways in this wall lead into brick-vaulted cellars designed as four centred arches of distinctly Tudor character and therefore likely to have been in existence when Thorpe built or altered the Great House.” There is an undated plan of the house by Thorpe, but he and his son, both “architects” were written of contemporaneously in 1612.

You should be aware that, in respect of the application for which permission was granted on 20 December 2023, as we believed the property to be of great significance we asked to visit, but were not permitted to so.

I should be grateful if you could upload this note to the application file.

Kind regards

Gail Waldman

Chair, Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee