

Numbers 26 and 28 Leighton Road, together with their attached railings, are listed Grade II; they were first listed on 9 May 1973. Their List Entry Number is 1379290. and their National Grid Reference is TQ 29156 85180 and Listing NGR is TQ2915685180.

26 and 28 Leighton Road comprise a pair of semi-detached houses built in the mid 19th century but refurbished and altered around 1976. They are of stucco finish, painted off-white, and consist of two storeys with a semi-basement to no 26.. They are composed as a double-fronted villa: a central porch with two fluted Doric columns forms the entrance to no. 28, whilst no. 26 is entered by a recessed side porch set back from the main front elevation. There is a simple roof parapet with a plain projecting blocking course below, which conceals a shallow-pitched hipped roof to no. 26 and a flat roof to no. 28. No. 28 retains four sash windows to the front elevation, the lower pair with what appears to be original fenestration including small square lights to each sash corner; windows above are eight-light four-by-two sashes, both with trickle ventilators, as are the three windows to the front of no. 26, the top right of which includes a ventilator. The central recessed entrance bay to no.28 has two two-by-two sashes with a ventilator to the top sash. Front entrance doors are panelled with overlights.. All windows to the front elevation have stucco architraves. There are attached cast-iron railings to areas.

The recessed side porch to no. 26 is reached by asphalted steps and comprises a pair of simple square columns, the left-hand one fully attached to the flank wall of the main building, with a simple but elegant moulded detail at their heads. The entrance door faces the street of the main building; to the right is a rendered masonry wall with a simple undetailed semi-circular arched opening. Between the porch columns is a narrow wrought iron flat, 51 x 13mm in section, which supports a skin of brickwork forming the porch entablature. This is plain but for a projecting band at the level of the porch roof: it appears that the band was originally of stone but has been made up to a simpler detail in concrete, presumably at the time of the 1976 refurbishment. Above is a plain parapet detail with a 1970s precast concrete double-sloped coping. The flat roof to the porch is asphalted, with an unclipped lead flashing immediately beneath the coping.

The recessed side porch to no. 26 comprises a pair of simple square columns, the left-hand one fully attached to the flank wall of the main building, with a simple but elegant moulded detail at their heads. The entrance door faces the street of the main building; to the right is a rendered masonry wall with a simple undetailed semi-circular arched opening. Between the porch columns is a narrow wrought iron flat, 51 x 13mm in section, which supports a skin of brickwork forming the porch entablature. This is plain but for a projecting band at the level of the porch roof: it appears that the band was originally of stone but part has been made up to a simpler detail in concrete, presumably at the time of the 1976 refurbishment. Above is a plain parapet detail with a 1970s precast concrete double-sloped coping. The flat roof to the porch is asphalted, with an unclipped lead flashing immediately beneath the coping.

It appears that much of the render to the external faces of the entablature date from the 1976 work: fine cracking and spalling of thin-coat work to the projecting course has occurred which suggests it is of sand:cement render.

The underside of the supporting iron flat was concealed by render, but historic water penetration, now resolved, has allowed it to rust. This has in turn caused spalling to the rendered soffit, and falling render has narrowly missed the resident on one occasion. As a result a crash deck scaffold has been erected.

Careful minor opening up has exposed the iron flat which supports the brickwork above, and a structural report has now been prepared which confirms that despite its small section it can safely be retained in position once it is properly cleaned and painted with a system comprising zinc phosphate primer and micaceous iron oxide, which should prevent any further corrosion. Once this work is complete the brickwork above it will be carefully made good, gaps above the iron flat will be infilled as necessary, and the underside meshed to ensure the render has adequate adhesion and can accommodate small amounts of future movement.

The intention is that only unsound render is removed and that careful reinstatement of these areas is carried out in appropriate materials: where existing render and backings are found to be of lime render these will be made good to match, and areas found to be wholly of sand:cement render will similarly be reinstated to match the existing materials.

The roof asphalt will be repaired as necessary and the flashing replaced with a properly wedged and clipped lead detail.

The porch will be carefully cleaned and any other minor render repairs carried out prior to being fully redecorated with a masonry paint system in a colour to match the existing.