

CANONS BUILT STRUCTURES AND SIGNIFICANCE

DOVECOTE



Doves were kept in the past for food, particularly in the lean winter months. Dovecotes were the buildings used to house whole flocks.

A prominent local historian notes the date of 1511 carved into a stone of the dovecote. This date would mean that the building was constructed for the priory of St Mary Overie at Southwalk. The priory surrendered its property to the Crown during the Dissolution in the 1530s. The dovecote has been repaired many times, including in the 1990s after vandalism.

OBELISK



The summers of 1821 and 1822 had remarkably low rainfall and local wells dried up. Local tradition holds that a spring miraculously appeared at the location of the obelisk, but it seems that an artesian well was sunk, where water is forced up from deep underground by pressure. The portland stone plaque includes the words:

‘God opened the rock and the waters gushed out’
from Psalm 105 Referring to Moses striking the rock.

The supply failed soon after the obelisk was built.

LODGE



The lodge first appears on the 1897 Ordnance Survey map. However, it does not appear on the 1871 map and therefore may have been built at any time between 1871 and 1897. It was an architecturally unambitious design, perhaps of the 1870s, with Tudor-gothic details on the elevation to the drive, including chamfers on the window jambs and timber transom and mullion window frames.

The drive was re-routed as part of 1960s changes and the lodge and its gates were cut off from the main house.

CULTURAL-HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

This is an internationally-recognised method of assessing a building or structure in different contexts. Based on the understanding of the history of the structures, judgements can be made and elements placed into a grading system. The significance of an element, which might be a single stone, or a whole building, guides what might happen to it in the future. The more significant an element, the more should be done to sustain, reveal and enhance it.

The different grades of significance are defined below. The grades of the elements at The Canons are on the right and in the illustrations.

(Outstanding significance)
(A building or element of national or international importance, or a fine, intact or little-altered example of a particular period, style or type that embodies the importance of the buildings or site overall or the element to which it is a part.)
Considerable significance
A building or element of regional importance (London and the South East), or a good example of a particular period, style or type with a high degree of intact original fabric that contributes substantially to the importance of the buildings or site overall, or the element to which it is a part, that may have been altered.
Moderate significance
A building or element of local importance (South London), or an element that contributes to, but is not a key element to the importance of the buildings or site overall, or the element to which it is a part, that may have been altered.
Neutral significance
An element which neither contributes, nor detracts from the importance of the buildings or site overall.
Negative
A building or element which detracts from the overall significance of the buildings or site overall.

Elements/units	Statutory designation	Significance
Canons House	Listed Grade II	Considerable
Canons House WC north extension		Negative
Madeira Hall		Neutral
Dovecote		Considerable
Obelisk		Considerable

