

25: WANDSWORTH COMMON

(b) ELSYNGE ROAD

(For an account of the history of the area see **Wandsworth Common: Introduction.**)

Buildings & Townscape

By 1871 development had occurred on the north side of Wandsworth Common and in Park Road (now Elsyng Road), Garden Road (now Vardens Road), and Spencer Road.

Development occurred in an incremental way and comprised mainly semi-detached groups of buildings with generous rear gardens. The south side of St. John's Hill was developed at the same time as parts of the north side (in the St. John's Hill Grove conservation area) and, being in mixed commercial/residential use, is functionally similar.

Elsyng Road comprises a variety of two and three storey buildings exhibiting both Classical and Gothic influences in their architectural styles. The red and yellow brick buildings with their pointed arched windows express the Gothic influence, whilst the gault brick buildings with their parapet roofs, columned porches and mouldings to windows are characteristic of the Classical influence. Nos.9-11 and 13 are of particular interest, being of three storeys with rustication to basement storey and Corinthian columned projecting porches. Original boundary walls and piers survive to front.

Spencer Road similarly exhibits buildings of different styles and periods. The most significant architecturally and historically are the early Victorian buildings. Nos.8-22, 23-25 & 33 form a group and are of particular interest. Nos.14-22 are a group of two and three storey yellow stock buildings with rusticated basements. Nos.14-16 have square columned porches and 18-22 decorative doorcases. Cast iron railings survive to front. No.33 is of three storeys, yellow stock brick with rustication to ground floor and basement.

Both ground floor and basement have projecting bays. The windows have decorative moulded architraves. Rendered and stippled quoins to corners alternate.

The buildings in Marcilly Road are terraced, of two storeys and more domestic in scale than elsewhere in this part of the Conservation Area.

Vardens Road comprises mainly semi-detached and terraced buildings. The Roundhouse public house, of three storeys, has a curved frontage.

This character statement is intended to give an overview of the development and current character of the conservation area; it is not intended to be prescriptive, nor to be a summary of planning constraints or an inventory of individual buildings or other features whether listed or otherwise.