

## The Rookery

County - GREATER LONDON

Name – THE ROOKERY, STREATHAM

District - LAMBETH

Grid Reference - TQ3070

Grade - II

G1514

Early C20 public gardens, 11/2 ha, developed in grounds of early C18 spa house.

Mineral springs were discovered at Streatham in 1659, and the Well House (or Streatham Well) was built in early C18 to house visitors to the spa. While the C18 house (renamed The Rookery in 1826) was demolished in 1912, the site of the principle mineral well survives, being near the centre of the present formal gardens. The property came on the market in 1910, and was presented to the London County Council 1912. The ½ ha grounds were opened to the public in July 1913.

The grounds slope down from north-west to south-east. To north-west, a terrace (with bedding displays) overlooks formal lawns to south-east, with fine mature Lebanon cedars. Rock garden to north, with stream, varied rhododendron, heathers and spring bulbs. To south-east, the former kitchen garden of The Rookery has been given an ornamental layout, with paved geometrical paths, central pond, rose pergola. Exuberant floral displays. The site of the 1659 mineral well is to the north of the formal pond. White garden in formal layout, further to south-east. The grounds of The Rookery lie to north-west of Norwood Grove (q.v.).

Besant Sir W, London South of the Thames, 1912, 264-265. Brace M, London Parks and Gardens, 1986, 98-99. The Streatham Society, Streatham: Pictures from the Past, 1983, 14-15. Sunderland S, Old London's Spas, 1915, 127-130.

## NOTES

This is from the register of gardens and parks of special historic interest which has been compiled by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, who are required by statute to send copies of all entries to owners and occupiers, to the relevant local planning authorities and to the Secretary of State.

The register is produced to draw attention to important historic gardens and parks as an essential part of the nation's heritage. If their existence is not widely known enough, they could all too easily be overlooked, for example in plans for new development. The Commission believe that the register will be helpful both to owners, and to planners, developers, statutory bodies and indeed, to all those concerned to protect the heritage.

No new controls apply to gardens in parks in the register, nor area existing planning or listed building controls affect it in any way. Some of the gardens contain or are associated with buildings that are on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Neither the statutory listing of these buildings nor the planning controls that apply to them are affected by the fact that the same buildings are mentioned in the register of gardens.

The fact that a garden is included in the register does not mean that there is any public right of access, other than along public rights of way or unless the property is separately advertised by the owner as being open to the public.

Only gardens and parks with historic features dating from 1939 or earlier are included on this register. Additions since that date have not been extensively described in the register, nor have such additions been taken in to account in the selection and grading of the gardens, since the register indicates the gardens' special historic interest.

Headings in the register are made up as follows;

County; Name of Site; District; Civil Parish or Town: National Grid Reference for the site or for its central part; Grade (I, II\* or II) .

The Notes are arranged wherever possible as follows:

Type of site, area in hectares (0ha) dates and designers of key surviving elements of the site (including the house, if appropriate); surviving features of the garden or park; other interesting aspects – e.g. historic associations; main published references.

The Gradings. The same symbols (I, II\* or II) have been used as are employed for statutorily listed buildings, and have been allocated to indicate the following qualities:

Grade I – parks and gardens which by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together make them of exceptional interest.

Grade II\* - Parks and gardens which by reasons of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together make them if not of exceptional interest nevertheless of great quality.

Grade II – Parks and gardens which by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together make them of special interest.

These gradings reflect the importance of the garden or park concerned, in comparison with other gardens or parks in England as a whole. If there is a listed building within the limits of a registered park or garden, the grade may not necessarily be the same, since the building and the garden or park are not always of equal importance.

While every effort has been made to ensure that entries in the register are accurate, the Commission will be pleased to receive further information both about gardens in the register and about other historic gardens that may have been overlooked. Revised or additional entries will be issued from time to time.

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission  
English Heritage

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