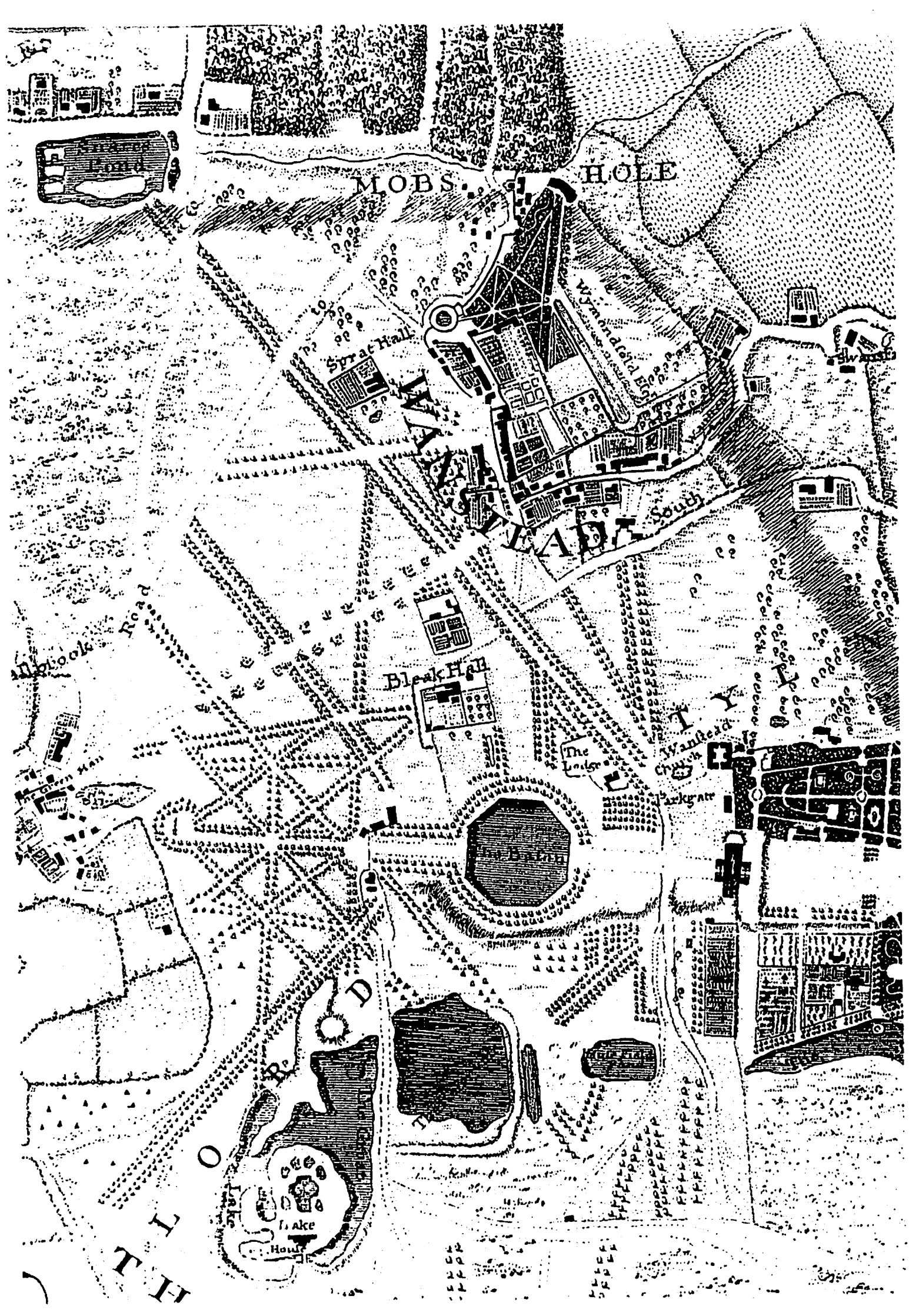


STATEMENT OF EVIDENCETHE GAZEBO, 20 THE AVENUE, WANSTEAD, REDBRIDGE

1. The Gazebo, 20 The Avenue, Wanstead, is included in the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. It is an early eighteenth century garden building standing upon ground which once formed part of the estate attached to Grove House, Wanstead.
2. The property was acquired in 1689 by Sir Francis Dashwood (father of the Hell Fire Club Dashwood) and given by him to his daughter Susan and her husband Sir Orlando Bridgeman in January 1708. In 1710 they sold the property to Jeremiaiah Gough, a grocer of London. Gough's widow sold it to Matthew Wymondsold. Later owners were Humphrey & George Bowles and the Rushout family.
3. The original Grove House which stood somewhere near the junction of The Avenue and Grove Park was probably built in 1690 by Sir Francis Dashwood. It was rebuilt in 1822.
4. During the ownership of the estate by Bridgeman and Gough several plots of land were sold. The Gazebo was built on one of these, but whether before or after the plot was severed from the estate is uncertain. In 1713 there is a mention of a summerhouse, then owned by Orlando Gee and in 1720 a summerhouse was sold with other property by Richard Brocas to Robert Surman, but there is no indication that Gee had sold his summerhouse to Brocas, so it is possible that there were, at that time, two separate buildings of the kinds on Grove House (or former Grove House) land.
5. The Gazebo which forms the subject of the appeal now stands within the garden of No. 20 The Avenue, a detached house not more than a dozen years old.
6. The building is square in plan and built of unusually fine gauged brick with red rubbed-brick dressings. It is raised on a brick substructure. This encloses a small cruciform chamber, and is itself buried in an earthen mound, with a short tunnel access on two opposite sides. This lower chamber has a rough plaster ceiling of cross-vaulted form, and may well have been treated as a grotto in the original design. Large sashed windows look out from the main room to North and South, and doors, (possibly not original in their present form), are set in the East and West walls. On either side of these openings, the brickwork is slightly recessed in tall narrow panels, and the parapet above repeats in broad and narrow panels the alternating rhythm established below. The facades are almost devoid of ornament apart from the thin moulded stoneparapet capping which breaks forward over the piers between the shallow brick panels.
7. Although unelaborated and severely rectilinear the facade treatment is not to be dismissed, as undistinguished or lacking in elegance. It is a sophisticated treatment in which the vocabulary of classical architecture has been reduced to flat geometry to uncommonly pleasing effect. Above the plinth each facade is contained within a perfect square divided vertically into three equal parts. The outer thirds are each further divided by piers of pilaster-like proportions flanking a recessed panel in the proportions 4:5:4. The a-b-a horizontal rhythm and the organisation of the facade with pilastered principal and attic "orders" are all unmistakably classical in intention and the proportions of the parts and their proportional relationships one to another reflect classical disciplines of design.
8. The interior is lined with fielded panelling and has a box cornice. The ceiling is modern. A small fireplace has been inserted in one corner.



MOBS HOLE

Syrat Hall

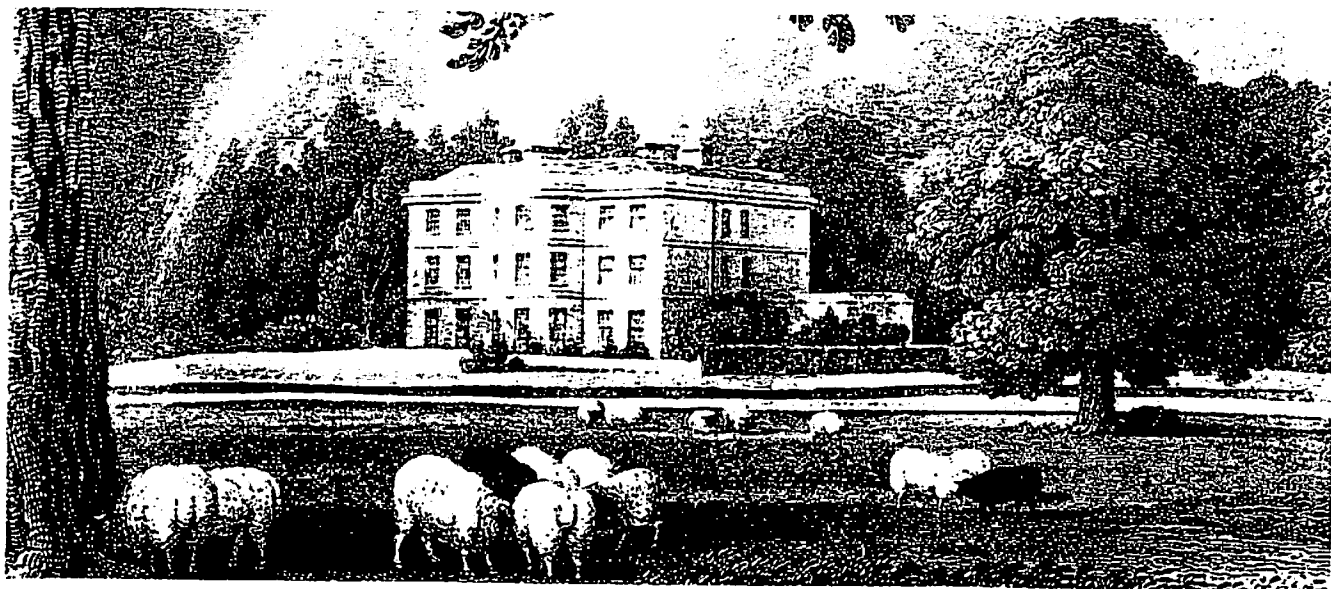
Bleak Hall

The Lodge

Wantage Church

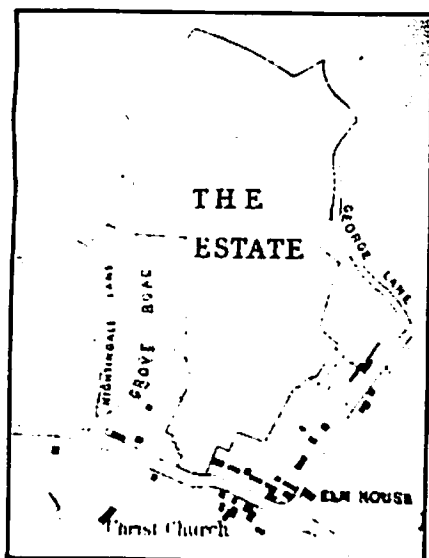
Lake

THE



The Grove Estate was centered on the land occupied by Wanstead Grove, said to have been built about 1690 by Sir Francis Dashwood. The sixty-acre, well-timbered estate was purchased by Humphrey Bowles in 1759 for a sum of around £10,000. He died in 1784 being succeeded by his son George, a notable benefactor and future High Sheriff of Essex. On his death in 1817 the property passed to his niece, Anne Rushout, who soon decided the building was too dilapidated and should be rebuilt. This, whether by good fortune or otherwise, coincided with the demolition of Wanstead House and it would

have been surprising if some materials from the big house down the road were not used in the reconstruction of The Grove. The new house cost Miss Rushout £10,000, immediately pushing the mansion to premier position in the Wanstead property stakes. Anne's tenure lasted over thirty years until it passed on her death back to the male line of the Bowles family. However the upkeep was completely beyond the resources of the new owner and it was sold for £9,250 — a sad reflection on the days before inflation when property was a poor investment!



In 1885 Wanstead Grove was put up for auction and the land sold for building. The house which stood here at the junction of Grove Park and The Avenue was demolished in 1889.



The lake was filled in but the Temple, a classical stone summerhouse, was spared and it now forms a fine centrepiece



in the garden of the house which has taken the same name in The Avenue.