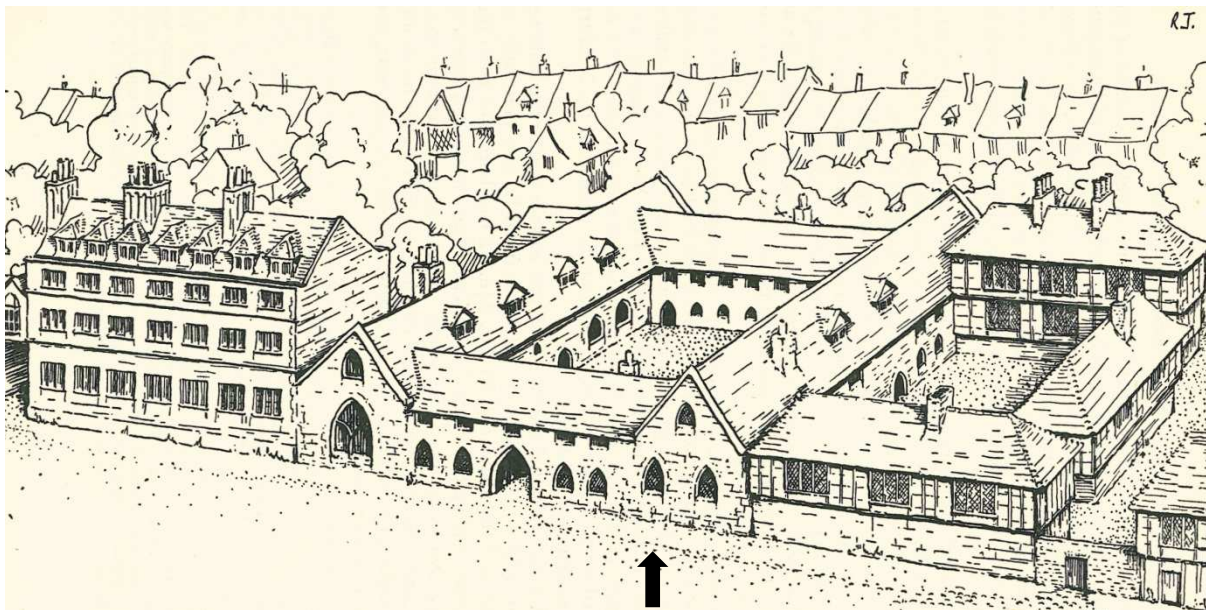


Queens' Lane

Previously the location of the main entrance to College, Queens' Lane is one of the two remaining portions of Milne Street, a connecting street between the river and the town. It ran from Mill Lane, across Small Bridges Street (now Silver Street) all the way to what is now the Great Court of Trinity College. The building of King's College enclosed Milne Street in the 15th century, effectively cutting off this part of the town from the river.

The façade of St. Catharine's College that looks out onto Queens' Lane has changed significantly over time. This artist's impression of the College shows how the College might have looked in the late 1500s/early 1600s before rebuilding took place in 1673.



Artist's impression of the College in 1634, taken from *The Story of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge* by W. H. S. Jones, 1951

The arrow gives the approximate location of what was the entranceway into Main Court after the 1673 rebuilding and before the orientation of the College was changed in 1765 when the Ramsden building was completed. This entranceway can still be seen and is occasionally used for special events.

This area of College fronting Queens' Lane began to be re-built in 1673, with the exterior work completed in 1679 and the interior work completed in the late 1680s. No architect is known but payments to Grumbold, a stonemason, and Mr Elder, a surveyor, are recorded in the College accounts. Along Milne Street side, wooden railings were set up, latterly replaced with iron (paid for by Thomas Sherlock). They were removed in 1955.



View of Queens' Lane towards Silver Street showing metal railings taken from *Memorials of Cambridge, Vol. 1* by C. H. Cooper, 1860

Changes have continued along Queens' Lane. The photographs below were taken just before King's College and St. Catharine's embarked upon their joint building project over King's Lane.



View of Queens' Lane from the corner with King's Lane, c. 1965. Reference: PHOT/3/24/2.

The iron railings were no longer in place by the time this photograph was taken in the mid 1960s. The corner building had changed too. This corner building, along with the 3 storey building running from it for 7 windows was demolished as part of the joint building project, to be replaced with a new Hall and kitchens for St. Catharine's.

Further along Queens' Lane towards Silver Street, the Master's Lodge of St. Catharine's College can be seen through iron railings. The Lodge was built in 1875/6 and was modelled on Sawston Hall in Cambridgeshire.

The garden at the front of the Lodge has changed over time. The view in this picture from the 1960s shows an open drive area. Today bushes and shrubs obscure the view of the Lodge.



View of the
Master's
Lodge from
Queens' Lane,
c. 1965.
Reference:
PHOT/3/11/2



View of the
Master's Lodge
from Queens'
Lane, 2011.
Reference:
PHOT/3/4/14

The Archivist is always pleased to answer questions about the College. Enquiries should be directed to archivist@caths.cam.ac.uk, or call 01223 338343. The Archivist only works for the College on Thursdays and Fridays so there is sometimes a delay in being able to answer queries.