

The Look-out or Gun Tower



This tower is sometimes referred to as 'The Gun Tower' in honour of the guns which originally stood at its base. It is also known as the 'Look-out' tower or the 'Observatory Tower', which is what it was used for by its builder, John Powell Powell.

The tower was built in about 1812 in the north meadow of the Park and gave its owner a clear view of the Thames Estuary and the ships passing in and out of the Port of London. It was used for signalling to both his own vessels and to those of his friends – in the days before telegraphy and mobile phones. It is constructed of brown bricks and crenulated with coping stones. Standing four stories high, it was a clear landmark from the sea when it was first built.

Its windows are circular or round headed and the doorway is simple cambered. Because of vandalism, many of its openings have now been blocked up, but there is talk of making it into a visitors' attraction in the future.

It was listed as a grade II building in February 1973.