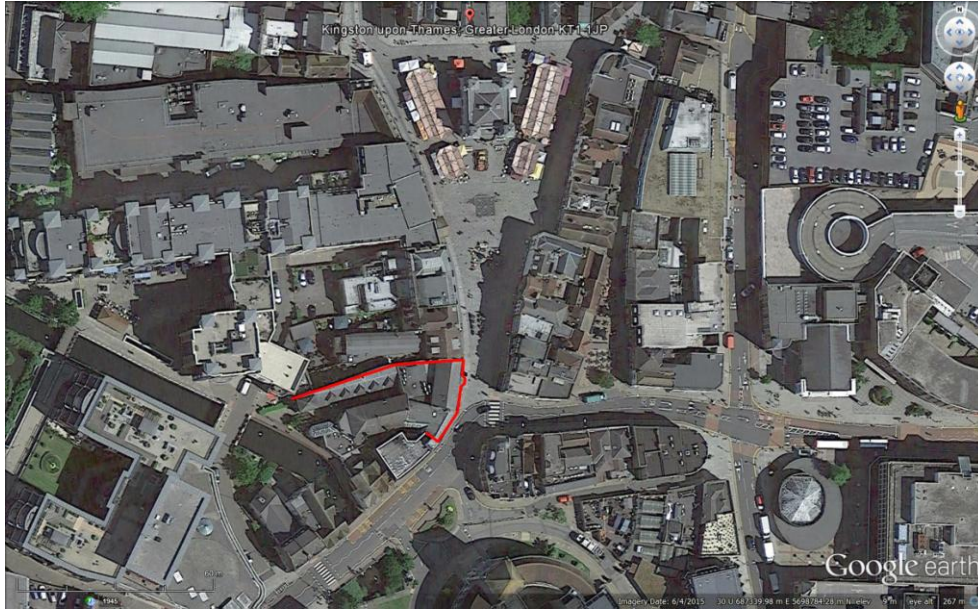


The Griffin Centre, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1JP.  
Historic analysis of the Trade Sign Pediment. 27 02 2016.



2016 Google earth. Location of The Griffin Centre near the Market Place, Kingston UT



2016 Google earth. Detail of the site showing the location of the trade sign.

### Location

The Griffin Centre, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1JP. The trade sign is on the facade of the southern building, affixed just beneath the first floor sash windows. NGR. TQ1788969133.



2016. Photograph taken by Kingston upon Thames Enforcement Officer

### **Scope of this Report**

This report examines and analyses a Trade Sign with architraved pediment affixed to the front of the southern building comprising the Griffin Centre – formerly the Griffin Hotel. The sign has recently been repainted in accordance with a scheme of redecoration submitted and accepted under application number 15/12597/FUL.

### **Description.**

The sign consists of a gilded image of a griffin within two fluted pilasters under an architraved pediment with plain entablature. To either side are elongated scroll brackets. The sign is assumed to be made from sections of timber. At present the fields are painted white with the details picked out in grey to match the quoins and window frames.

The building is Listed and the entry is Listed below. It is interesting to note that the Images of England photograph taken in 1999 shows the Trade Sign painted green.

**Listing.**



1999 © Mr John Sparks LRPS

IoE Number: 203155. Location: THE GRIFFIN HOTEL, 1 MARKET PLACE (west side)  
KINGSTON UPON THAMES, KINGSTON UPON THAMES, GREATER LONDON  
Photographer: Mr John Sparks LRPS. Date Photographed: 15 August 1999  
Date listed: 06 October 1983. Date of last amendment: 06 October 1983  
Grade II.

59/6/24 MARKET PLACE  
06-OCT-1983 (West side)

1

Former Griffin Hotel, now Griffin Centre, including shops, bar and first-floor former  
Assembly Room

GV II

Former Griffin Hotel, now shops and bars, and including the first-floor former Assembly  
Room. Early- mid C19, incorporating some earlier brickwork and with a range probably of  
the 1860s to rear. Stuccoed brick to front, with painted quoins, cornice and bands, stock  
brick to rear with red-brick dressings; slate roofs and brick stacks. Three storeys. Long front  
continuing round from the High Street towards the Market Place, thought originally to have  
been two buildings.



Tripartite composition of three bays, then three-light bow front over late C20 entrance with two bays to right over former carriage entrance now infilled by late C20 shop front. Upper floors have four-light sashes set in painted architraves, eared on the first floor and with keystones. New central entrance leads to rear shops, with on first floor former assembly room denoted by round-arched windows and glazing bars with a single transom.

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Assembly room to rear stylistically of the 1860s, with elaborate plaster decoration. Lozenge-shaped room with arcade on inner wall matching fenestration opposite, with pilasters and round arches bearing plaster heads. The ceiling is a largely tripartite composition of a circle flanked by two diamonds, with central rosette. Doorcase with pediment and moulded architrave.

The Griffin occupies a prominent location at the entrance to Kingston's Market Square, and is recognisably a former coaching inn of early origins. In 1851 it was taken over by John Williams, who established the assembly room to the rear

*It is noted that the Griffin Trade Sign and Victorian style shop front are not mentioned specifically in the description.*

## Historic Photography and Images



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Artist's Rendition from the Illustrated Times 1858

The image of a football match in the Market Place shows the Coronation Stone in the LHS foreground. This is an important reference point for finding relevant images. The Trade Sign is not shown on the Griffin instead there is an ornate shop front.



1890. The Coronation Stone and Griffin Hotel. Used under Fair Use Policy.



Barry Hillman-Crouch  
Design & Recording Services



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1893. Frith Collection used under Fair Use Policy.

In 1890 and 1893 the Griffin Hotel does not have the Trade Sign. Instead there is banner sign saying Griffin Bar picked out in red on this hand coloured post card. The swing sign shown in the 1858 engraving is still in position and windows now have deep architraves.



Undated but before 1897. Frith Collection used under Fair Use Policy. Taken by Francis Frith himself who died in 1898.



Barry Hillman-Crouch  
Design & Recording Services



1897. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

The Trade Sign appears in this photograph as part of a shop front.



Undated but post 1893.



Barry Hillman-Crouch  
Design & Recording Services



Undated but post 1893.



Undated but post 1893.

These turn of the century photographs show the Trade Sign as part of a decorative shop front. The hand coloured postcard shows the Trade Sign in brown.





Barry Hillman-Crouch  
Design & Recording Services



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Undated but post 1893.



1906. Frith Collection used under Fair Use Policy.

These two photographs again show the Trade Sign. In 1906 it has been shown as blue in the hand coloured photograph.



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Design & Recording Services



1906. Frith Collection used under Fair Use Policy. A rare shot looking south.



1911. Post card of the Coronation Stone.



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Design & Recording Services



1950. Frith Collection used under Fair Use Policy.



1999 © Mr John Sparks LRPS

The Trade Sign and shop front are still in position in 1950 and 1999.



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23 March 2015. The grey details of the Griffin Centre are to the left of the Druids Head.



July 2015. Google StreetView.



## Phasing and Discussion

The photographic evidence shows quite clearly that the Trade Sign and pediment were put in place between 1893 and 1897 as part of a replacement shop front. The earliest photographs indicate it was finished in a dark brown stain popular at the end of the C19th. By 1906 it is depicted as being painted blue along with the shop front and pinstripe lines on the other signage. The sepia tint photograph of 1911 shows it as a dark colour which may well be blue.

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The Listing photograph of 1999 shows the Trade Sign, the shop front, the quoins, the plat bands, window frames and other signage a dark green. Whilst recording the Druid's Head next door in March 2015 the author photographed the northern elevation (in part) showing the details to be a deep grey and these are also shown on the Google StreetView image of July 2015.

## Significance

The Trade Sign and pediment are remnants of a shop front erected between 1893 and 1897 and are therefore not of great antiquity. The facade has, unsurprisingly, been painted several different colour schemes, no doubt allied to the branding of each company running the establishment.

## Commentary on the most Recent Paint Scheme

The following images are from the document 'Gravity Griffin Arcade, Kingston, External Frontage, Planning Update\_10th August 2015'. In each case the Trade Sign is clearly shown reversed out in white.

GRIFFIN ARCADE\_EXTERNAL FASCIA TREATMENT

External treatment - **Previous Planning Application** - Previous painted heritage approach



Griffin Planning Update 2015. Page 5.

GRIFFIN ARCADE\_EXTERNAL FASCIA TREATMENT

External treatment - **Updated** - preferred new painted heritage approach



Griffin Planning Update 2015. Page 6.



Griffin Planning Update 2015. Page 7.



Hanging Signs  
Fret cut powder coated metal hangin sign and bracket

Griffin Planning Update 2015. Page 8.

**Conclusion**

As the design proposal clearly shows the change of colour (particularly on Page 8) and as the previous colour schemes have no great longevity or historic precedent than there can be no case to alter it.