

The origin of the description of The Elms, naming it as 'the gem of Bedhampton'

A Description of The Elms and The Waterloo Room - from the series *The Buildings of England* (1962)

The gem of Bedhampton is The Elms at the west end of the Old Village, a house of the 17th century which was weirdly gothicized in the 18th century.

It has a stuccoed east façade of three storeys, the second story having two venetian windows with tops of the centre lights twisted into ogee shapes and the outlines of pseudo-keystones incised into the stucco above the points, and a similar single-light window in between.

The ground storey has the same arrangement but with the entrance in the middle; the upper storey has three ogee-headed windows.

The owner, Sir Theophilus Lee, added a large room in a new projecting wing to the north after Waterloo to entertain the Duke of Wellington; this has at its angle a delightful three-storied stuccoed castellated tower in a Gothic style of later vintage than the main part of the house, with niches under hoods having foliated bosses on the top storey, panels in the shape of hollow sided lozenges on the second, and pointed recesses (one of them over a doorway with tracery like that of two-light Gothic windows on the ground floor.

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