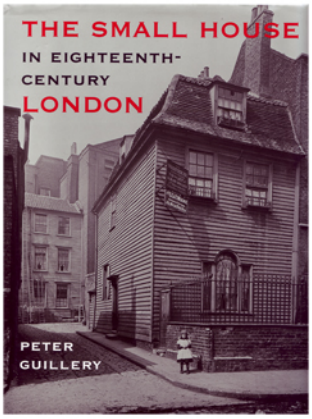
We love historic Peckham

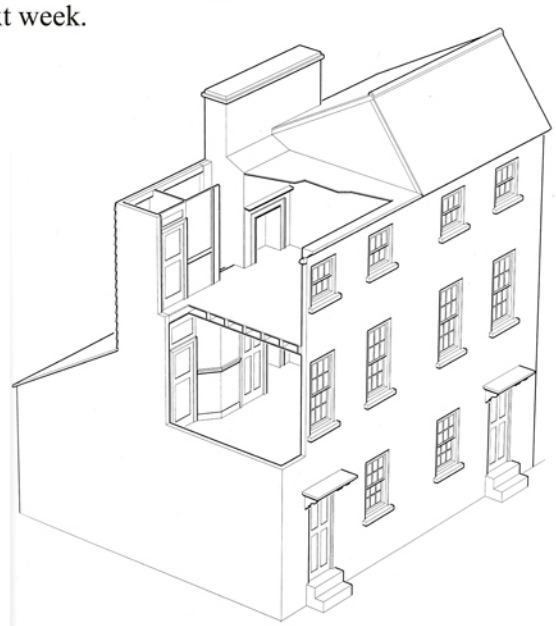
Houses from Peckham's village past still stand on the High Street.



In the 1930's the Royal Commision surveyed seventeenth and eighteenth century buildings in Peckham. Although many of these buildings have since been lost, some as recently as the 1980's, there are two groupings of vernacular buildings that still survive. In his groundbreaking 2004 study, The Small House in Eighteenth Century London (pictured) Peter Guillery discusses the importance of the smaller houses lived in by the majority of London's eighteenth century artisans and tradesmen.

Peckham's oldest building is situated at Nos. 60-62 Peckham High Street, hidden behind the Crackerjack store. It is a seventeenth century vernacular building, timber framed and clad in weatherboarding. It was raised by a storey in c1800, and is currently empty. Next to this at No.58 is the sole survivor from c1725 development of vernacular buildings with Palladian styling. It is a tall timber framed building with clay tile roof and a one-room per floor plan. These houses were built when Peckham was a country village and a resort outside of London. They are a unique mix of rural building techniques and urban fashions. Unlisted, they could all be demolished next week.

Nos 58-62. The historic view shows the grouping in 1928, and the sketch shows the view above the shops.



242 Nos 56 and 58 Peckham High Street, perspective reconstruction.

Another grouping survives at 98-104 Peckham High Street. They date from around 1700 and were originally one room timber framed houses. Although much altered they retain an early scale and vernacular character. Behind was the site of the Peckham Theatre, rebuilt as a school in the 1820's, and now ruined after a fire in 1988. These building's modest scale, antiquity and lack of protection make them ripe for re-development. These are our last links with Peckham's former village character.

98-104 Peckham High Street dates from around 1700. To the right a Victorian view.

The Peckham Society

Conserving the best of historic Peckham for the Future