



PROPERTY ■
review

CENTRAL AND SOUTH WEST LONDON

JANUARY 2008

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Corner house of first Metropolitan commissioner



A Grade II listed corner house for sale on Chester Square was once the home of Sir Richard Mayne, one of two joint commissioners recruited by Home Secretary Robert Peel for his new Metro-

politan Police, the world's first organised police force.

A barrister on the northern circuit, Mayne was offered the position without an interview and he was quick to accept. His new salary enabled him to propose to his beloved Georgina from Yorkshire, and they married in 1831.

The first Metropolitan Police constables – dubbed 'Peelers' or 'Bobbies' after their creator – patrolled the streets of London on 29 September 1829. Mayne's fellow commissioner was Colonel Charles Rowan and the two men were responsible for recruiting, training, and organising the new force.

The primary role of the police officers on the city streets was the 'prevention of crime', following the strict instructions of their two commissioners. Eventually Mayne became sole commissioner, facing challenges such as violent street robbers, known as garrotters, the Hyde Park riot of June 1866, and the Clerkenwell Prison explosion of 1867.

Dublin-born Mayne died at home on 26 December 1868, while still in office, and was buried in Kensal Green cemetery, where today stands a monument in his honour. His son was Vice-Admiral Richard Charles of the Royal Navy.

His former home is one of Chester Square's largest houses, with living space of almost 7,400 sq ft on six floors, as well as a lift, roof terrace, and double garage. Accommodation includes five bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, two staff rooms, drawing room, dining room, family room, library and gym. The house also has a dumb waiter and numerous vaults.

Other Chester Square residents have included premiers Harold Macmillan and Margaret Thatcher and violin virtuoso Yehudi Menuhin.



80 Chester Square
£18 million freehold
Ayrton Wylie 020 7730 4628

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