

## Residences of the French Royal House of Orleans

Louis Philippe, who from 1830 to 1848 was King of the French, originally followed his father's example and supported the French Revolution of 1789. In 1793, soon after his father – Philippe Egalite, Duc d'Orleans – voted for the execution of Louis XVI, Louis Philippe left France to go into exile, eventually settling in England and living mostly in Twickenham. He had become Duc d'Orleans after the execution of his father in 1793 and returned to his estates in France on the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty in 1814. He became King in 1830 on the overthrow of the direct Bourbon line and was himself deposed in the revolution of 1848. He then returned to England and died at Claremont near Esher in August 1850. Many members of his large family were forced into exile and took residences in the Richmond area which had long been an established refuge for French emigres.

### **Bushey House, Bushey Park**

After the death of the dowager Queen Adelaide in 1849, Queen Victoria lent Bushey House to Louis, Duc de Nemours who was the second son of King Louis Philippe. He lived there intermittently until his death in 1896. The house is now the residence of the Director of the National Physical Laboratory.

### **Camborne House, Petersham Road**

Helen, Duchess of Orleans, widow of Ferdinand Philippe Louis,, died at this Richmond house, where she had been a guest for several months, in 1858. Her husband was the eldest son of Louis Philippe - they had married in 1837 – and died in July 1842 after a fall from his carriage. In the 1848 revolution Louis Philippe had made her regent, but the Chamber of Deputies refused to accept her son – the Comte de Paris – as King. Camborne house, which was No.15 Petersham Road, later became Northumberland House and demolished in 1969.

### **Highshot House, Crown Road**

Louis Philippe and his two younger brothers took up residence here in 1800. They stayed until 1807, living in relative poverty. Antoine, Duc de Montpensier died in 1807 from TB and is buried in Westminster Abbey. Louis Charles, Comte de Beaujolais died in Malta in 1808. The house, demolished in 1927, stood in Crown Road, Twickenham on the site of what is now a single storey factory building. The stone door frame to the old house now forms the entrance to the factory.

### **Lansdowne House, Richmond Hill**

Francois, Prince de Joinville, third son of Louis Philippe, lived here for a time shortly before

it was sold in 1868 to the Duke of Buccleuch who demolished the house to extend his gardens. Lansdowne House stood on Richmond Hill facing the end of Friars Stile Road.

### **Morgan House, Ham Common**

Here, between 1865 and 1869, were born the four children of Robert, Duc de Chartres who was the grandson of Louis Philippe and brother of the Comte de Paris. The family lived there until 1871 and the house now forms the centre part of the Cassel Hospital.

### **Mount Lebanon House, Twickenham**

From about 1866 to 1871 this was the residence of Francois, Prince de Joinville, 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Louis Philippe and father of the Duchess de Chartres who lived at Morgan House. Mount Lebanon stood in large grounds between Orleans House and York House and was burnt down in 1909.

### **Orleans House, Twickenham**



Louis Philippe leased this house on the Twickenham Riverside from 1815 to 1817 and thus gave it its present name. In October 1844, he made a one-day visit to the house as the French king and accompanied by Queen Victoria. His daughter, Princess Françoise was baptised in St. Mary's parish church in 1816 and she died a few years later. In 1852 his widow, Marie-Amelie de Bourbon-Sicile purchased it from the Earl of Kilmorey. From 1855 until its sale in 1877 it was held by her son Henri, Duc d'Alumale. His wife died in the house in 1869. In June 1895, the house had its final link with the Orleans family when the wedding breakfast of Princess Helen of Orleans (daughter of the Comte de Paris) and the Duke of Aosta was held there. The house was demolished in 1926 so that gravel could be extracted from the grounds, but Mrs Nellie Ionides managed to save the Octagon, some domestic

buildings and the land. On her death in 1962, she bequeathed the remains of Orleans House to the borough and it has now been converted into the Orleans House Gallery. For more information see **Local History Note: Orleans House, Twickenham**.

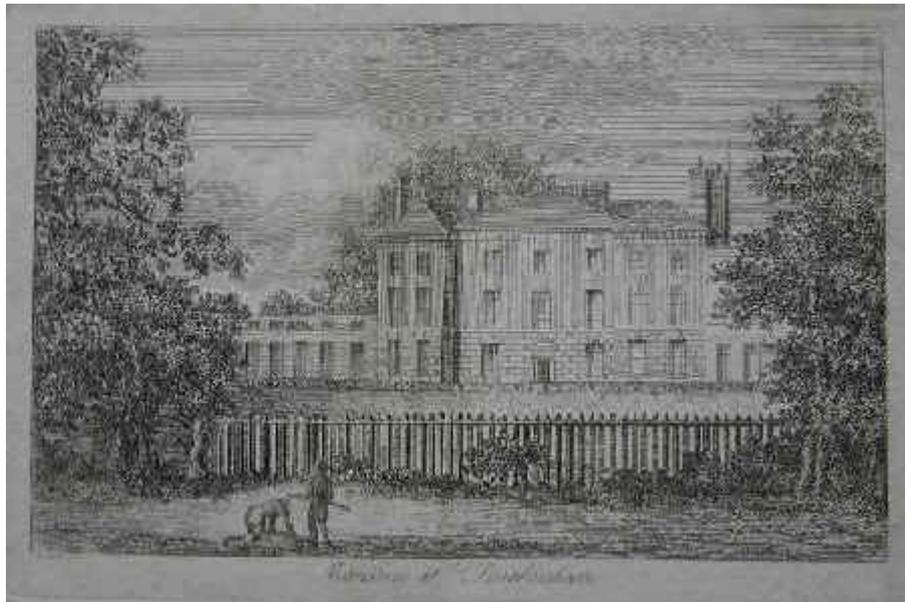
### Riverside House, Twickenham

An 18<sup>th</sup> century house which once belonged to the Countess of Suffolk. In 1850 Mr Horatio Fisher took a 21-year lease, but before this expired, the Duc d'Aumale -from Orleans House which was next door – purchased the remainder of the lease and then the freehold in 1870. He sold the house in 1877 and in 1927 it was bought by Mrs Nellie Ionides who also purchased Orleans House in the same year.

### Sheen House, Sheen Lane

In 1848 this mansion was placed by the owner, a Mr Bates, at the disposal of the exiled royal family. It was used by Louis Philippe's son, the Duc de Nemours, and his children – the Comte d'Eu, the duc d'Alercon and Princess Marguerite. The Comte de Paris, who had to leave France because of the marriage of his daughter, Marie Amelie, to the Duke of Braganza, leased the house from 1886-1892. Sheen House was demolished in 1907; its estate covered the area of East Sheen from Vicarage Road to Upper Richmond Road West. In its Sheen Lane frontage, to the west there still stands its stable block.

### York House, Twickenham



The Duc d'Aumale, 4<sup>th</sup> son of Louis Philippe, whilst living at nearby Orleans House, bought York House in 1864 for his nephew, the Comte de Paris. The Comte had left the house by 1879, but between 1897 and 1906 it was owned by his son Louis Philippe Robert, Duc

d'Orleans who had been born there on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1869 and his sister, Princess Helene in 1871. He moved in 1900 and sold the house in 1906. York House on the Richmond Road near the centre of Twickenham, was purchased in 1926 by the Borough of Twickenham for its municipal offices and is now used by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. For further information see **Local History Note: York House, Twickenham**

More information on the Orleans family and their connections with Richmond is available from the Local Studies Collection.