



The Loudon tomb

This enormous monument has dwarfed all others in St John's churchyard since it was erected in 1810. It commemorates William Loudon, a Scots émigré who had lived at Woodhall Farm in north Pinner with his son, John Claudius Loudon, for a few years before his death.

The son later became famous as a landscape gardener and botanist, and also as a minor architect who influenced the design of Victorian villas. John seems to have been trying out his hand as an architect with this obelisk.

'The monument is one of the largest churchyard tombs anywhere and has been given a Grade II listing'

Part way up it, a mock coffin protrudes front and back. Both William and his widow Agnes, who died in 1841, lie well below ground, but nevertheless rumours later arose, propagated by an American journalist, that one of them was in the mock coffin.

Later in the century, some Pinner lads hopefully bored a small hole into it, but were disappointed, as one of them reported to Edwin Ware, Pinner's first historian. Parts of the memorial were repaired in 1975.

The monument is one of the largest churchyard tombs anywhere and has been given a Grade II listing. John died in 1843 and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.



The monument commemorates William Loudon

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