Brandenbergh House, which stood on this spot, was the home of the Lord of the Manor in medieval times. Later, around 1820-21 it became the home of King George IV's estranged wife Queen Caroline, a kind of Regency princess Di. She had become very popular because the king had treated her pretty badly, and he was widely hated, especially by the working classes.

When she died here her funeral procession on 14th August 1821 from Hammersmith was turned into a riotous demo, erupting into fighting; two Hammersmith men, carpenter Richard Honey and George Francis, a bricklayer, were shot dead at Hyde Park Corner. A memorial stone was built to them in the churchyard after collections in pubs all over London.