



Howden's Heritage

*A walk through
Howden's past*



*Howden Civic Society supported by the
Heritage Lottery fund.*

1. THE SHIRE HALL

Built as a covered market and assembly rooms, the Shire Hall resembles a Dutch town hall with its large stepped gable and mullioned windows. It has been used as a theatre, roller skating rink, concert hall and cinema. The facilities have been much improved by the Shire Hall Trust which installed new tiered seating in 2001.



2. MARKET PLACE

Market day used to be Saturday. From medieval times farmers and their families came from nearby villages to buy and sell. In later years the workshops and shops in the market place supplied almost everything Howden needed, from boots to candles and hats to dresses, all made on the premises.

3. THE WHITE HORSE INN

The White Horse Inn is one of Howden's oldest inns and was in existence as early as 1702. The yard was the picking-up point for carriers from many villages in the area. It was bought in 1773 by the Carter family, who owned several of the town's inns and breweries in the 19th century.

4. PARKIN'S SHOP, 5 MARKET PLACE

This shop has been a butcher's since 1867, having previously been a grocers and a candle-maker's. The decorative tiles on the shop-front were added in the 1920s by the then owner Frank Moore. During the depression of the 1930s Mrs Moore ran a soup kitchen here twice a week using spare bones and vegetables given by other shopkeepers.



5. THE HALF MOON INN

The original Half Moon Inn, first recorded in 1661, was for many generations the town's largest and most important inn with fashionable Assembly Rooms and extensive outbuildings. 'The True Briton' stage coach stopped here en route between Liverpool and Hull. The inn was rebuilt by the Goole architect H B Thorp in 1890. Hull Cooperative Society moved from Churchside to this building in 1937.

6. BRIDGEGATE

Howden's September Horsefair was once famous all over Europe with buyers coming annually from as far as France, Belgium and Russia. As many as 16000 horses changed hands during the week, mainly destined for army use. Most trading took place in Bridgegate which was so full of people and horses that it was virtually impossible to move along its length.

7. BARON WARD

Brought up in a cottage behind the Angel Inn which stood here, Thomas Ward, born in 1810 had a remarkable career. Starting work as a jockey, here and on the Continent, he joined the household of the Duke of Lucca and became, in a series of extraordinary steps, Minister of Finance and then Prime Minister of Parma.

8. BRIDGEGATE HOUSE

This fine town house, with its six bay brick front laid in Flemish bond, dating from the mid-18th century, was probably built by Thomas Graver, apothecary and surgeon. It became the home of the Spofforth family, a branch of which emigrated to Australia, where Frederick Spofforth, the 'demon bowler', was the greatest figure in early Australian test cricket.



9. HOWDEN HALL

Behind this impressive early 18th Century wall is Howden Hall which was built as 'the house of a small manor called Paradise'. Whilst the house is mainly Georgian, it may have its origins in the 17th Century. The Worsop family lived here for 147 years and added many rooms and features including rare panelling in the dining room. In 1864 the Yorkshire Show was held on the ground behind the house and circa 1900 a grand ballroom was added.

10. HAILGATE HOUSE

This handsome house, with its outstanding Greek Doric porch and pediment, was built in the 1840s and became the home of the Green family who, as solicitors, performed many legal and civic duties for the town. Later it was used as offices of the local authority until 1987 and as a nursing home until 2001.

11. 78 HAILGATE

A nice example of a 3 storey late 18th Century house, probably associated with one or more of the breweries which flanked it. In the 1920s, Nevil Shute Norway, the Chief Calculator at the Howden Airship Station where the R100 was being built, lodged here. He later became famous as the novelist Nevil Shute and his first novel 'Marazan' was probably written here.

12. HIGHBRIDGE HOUSE

Built about 1700, this 7-bay house was named after the bridge that spanned the River Derwent near here in medieval times. Since 1930 it has been the Majestic Cinema, offices, a club and in 2004, became a Community Services Centre. Note the hipped roof and the segmental pediment below the centre window on the first floor, part of the original doorway.

13. THE BISHOP'S MANOR

This is the great banqueting hall, all that remains of a much larger palace built by the powerful bishops of Durham, who stayed here on their way to London. Prince John spent Christmas here in 1191 and Kings Edward II and Henry V also visited. Most travelled by barge on the River Derwent, an old course of which can still be traced near the site.

14. THE ASHES

A survey of the Bishop's palace and grounds in 1648 describes 'a close of ground called The Ashes' adjacent to the moated orchard, garden plots and fishponds. In 1927 Charles Briggs gave the land and buildings to the trustees of Ashes Playingfields Trust to create public playing fields and recreation grounds for the people of Howden.

15. THE OLD POLICE STATION

Built in 1843 as a Superintendent's house with cells, this fine building was designed by Henry Lockwood, who erected similar buildings in Driffield and Market Weighton. He was also the architect of Trinity House in Hull and, with his partner William Mawson, designed the mills at Saltaire.



16. 4 PARSONS LANE

Parts of this largely Georgian House date back to the late 17th century but it was refronted in grey-yellow bricks in the early 1800s, possibly from the nearby Newport brickworks. The distinctive door-case has twisted cable mouldings set in sunken panels. The Misses Blackburn ran a private school here until 1962.

17. GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A school was established within the Minster in about 1265, teaching Latin (the language of public administration) to all pupils from 6 – 18 years, and Song to the choristers. The present two schoolrooms date from Tudor times and were in use until 1925. It was the last endowed schools in East Yorkshire.

18. THE SPOTTED COW

On this site stood the Spotted Cow, popular as a beer house with the farmers attending the Corn Market. For many years it was kept by the Harrison family and eventually became a lodging house, often used by Irish farm workers until the 1960s. It was saved from demolition and is now restored as a private house.



19. The CHESTNUTS

This handsome red-brick and slate house with its large Tuscan style porch on the south front was built circa 1800. It is the site for the Bedern, the house for priests from the nearby Minster. The coach-house was restored in 2003.

20. 37 - 49 PINFOLD STREET

On this site from 1665 to 1794 were two houses, owned by the town, where the needy could lodge. They were replaced by a workhouse, where the inmates were required to work for their keep. The new building included a manufactory, cow shed, stone breaking yard and prison. It closed in 1839.

21. 14 ST. JOHN'S STREET

This early 18th century house with its typically steep roofline is the oldest property in the street. From 1839 it was a solicitor's office, first of George England and then of successive generations of the Green family, who played an important part in Howdenshire's local government, acting as clerks to many public bodies until 1985.

22. 10 – 11 CHURCHSIDE

Built in the early 1850s, this became known as the Town Hall. The upper floor was used as a magistrates' court and for lectures, concerts and vestry meetings. The ground floor was divided between Howdenshire Savings Bank and the Mechanics Institute, the latter becoming a WVS. clothing store during the Second World War.

23. 2 CHURCHSIDE

Built in the style of a Florentine palazzo, as many Victorian commercial buildings were, this is the only example in Howden. William Small and his sister, Justice, from London, developed the site as business premises. Justice's initials are above the door. By 1881 it was occupied by the Yorkshire Banking Company.



24. BOWMAN'S HOTEL

The Nag's Head was renamed Bowman's Commercial Hotel and Posting House in 1851 when John Bowman became the owner. In 1864 the Yorkshire Show was held in Howden and extra accommodation was built at the rear of the hotel. By 1876 it had stabling for 85 horses, 18 bedrooms and a smithy in the yard.

25. WELLINGTON HOTEL

Known in the eighteenth century as the White Hart Inn, the Wellington was a stopping point for stage-coaches travelling between Liverpool and Hull. The notorious pastime of cock-fighting was practised here in the early 19th century. In the 1820s the inn was renamed in honour of the famous Duke, victor at Waterloo.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Howden was first settled in Saxon times and with its adjacent lands was given to the Prince Bishops of Durham by William the Conqueror. Its street pattern, and notably Hailgate, was dictated by an old course of the River Derwent with a crossing at Highbridge which encouraged trade and growth.

Prominent in medieval times were Roger of Howden who assembled a history of England from the 8th to the 12th century, and chronicled the reign of Henry II, and John of Howden, a poet and benefactor of the church. Miraculous events at his funeral led to his tomb becoming a centre of pilgrimage from the 14th century.

The Prince Bishops created a palace and a grammar school, and the Canons of Durham began the building of the Minster Church which was given Collegiate status in 1267, focussing ecclesiastical wealth on the town. The annual Fair granted by King John brought London merchants here to sell to local tradesmen: their visits ceased in the mid-1700s and were superseded by the internationally famous Horse Fair until the 1920's.

Prosperity based on the Church ceased with the Reformation, but the town experienced a new heyday as a key point in the national network of coaching services in the 18th century. The advent of railways, canals and the consequent growth of Goole caused another decline, arrested and reversed perhaps by the construction of the M62 motorway.

The numbers on the map show the location of the similarly numbered entry above.

