

6 On the next block is another superb example of Victorian architecture, once a bank. Note the four windows with concave arches, the coat of arms above the door and the decorative rooftop.

7 Proceed to the corner of Booth Street and diagonally opposite is Oddfellows Hall erected in 1855. Within this building were shops, a public house and a concert room. Note the Latin motto meaning "Friendship Truth and Love". Its hotel, the committee rooms and library had an entrance on Booth Street. The grand opening was on 15th July 1856.

Continue to the Give Way traffic sign and turn right, walk to the corner of Old Street.

8 Diagonally opposite is an imposing building once The Heginbottom Technical School and Free Library. With the bequest of £570 by George Heginbottom JP and other local dignitaries, it opened on March 25th 1892. This comprised a fine entrance hall, classrooms, reading and reference rooms, a public library, lecture theatre and well-appointed laboratories.

The library was relocated in 2018, though the rear of the building still houses Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre.

9 Continue along Old Street until reaching the furniture store. This building was the Pavilion cinema which was constructed especially for "animated pictures" and opened in 1908. It was the first Ashton cinema to use Cinemascope in 1954. It closed in 1966.

10 Continue along Old Street to the corner of Delamere Street. In 1920 The Majestic cinema opened. It became The Metro under the ownership of John Downs who also had cinemas in Stalybridge and Mossley. It closed as a single screen cinema in 2003.

10



11 Proceed along Old Street to its junction with Warrington Street. The facing building was formerly the Ashton under Lyne and District Savings Bank dated 1911. There's a splendid lion's head grasping a key in it's jaws over the door.

12 Walk a little further onwards and turn left into Market Avenue to reach the front of the Market Hall. Ashton was granted a charter in 1413. The indoor market was built in 1867 and extended in 1881 and 1930.

Sadly, this building was destroyed by fire in 2004 but rebuilt within the surviving outer walls reopening in November 2008.

12



13 The Town Hall can be seen from this location. Designed in 1840 and extended in 1879 it is a Grade II listed building which once housed the Police Station and a library.

For further information

This leaflet has been funded by Tameside Local History Forum

Pictures on the front cover—
The Higginbottom Technical School and Free Library (8),
Ashton's Crest, Market Avenue (3)




2024

Ashton-under-Lyne Local History Walk



History on Your Doorstep

Look Up in Ashton

Key
Walking Route to follow 
Approximately 1 mile

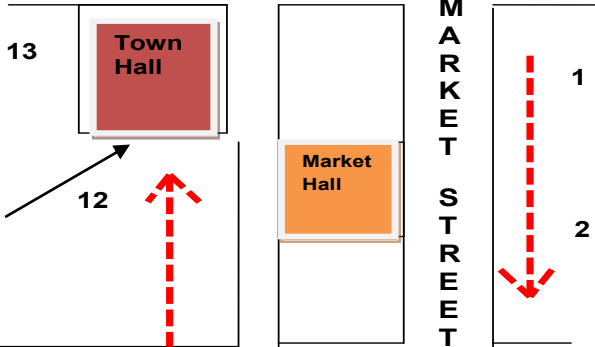
1



9



13



PENNY MEADOW

M A R K E T S T R E E T

Town Hall

Market Hall

1

2



3

9

1 The clock tower stands on Market Street previously called Dungeon Street. The Workhouse was situated here until 1849 when a new one was built on Fountain Street. The Stocks were also here until their removal to Stamford Park.

2 Walk down this street, an 1857 date stone is above the FishNet shop.

3 Turn right onto Old Street. Look above William Hill Bookmakers to see the rainwater head with two dates, 1744 and 1748.

Continue along Old Street reaching the entrance to Market Avenue on the left. Joseph Fletcher, a corn dealer from Failsworth, began work on this in 1840. He did much to modernize Ashton, and in doing so cleared away many filthy dwellings.

4 Note the ornate archway at each end of the last block. Joseph Fletcher lived here until moving further out of town. There is a date stone of 1847 above the furthest archway.

Turn right onto Stamford Street, named after the Earl of Stamford. It was the location of all the best shops and banks.

5 Walk down the street, cross over Warrington Street and on the left is Clarence Arcade built by the Kenworthy family on the site of their old mill in 1894. Note the ornate gables and strap work panels above the entrances and the numerous chimney pots. This is the only covered Victorian arcade in Tameside. On the corner of the building, is an 1893 date stone.

OLD STREET

OLD STREET

3

O L D H A M R O A D

8

B O O T H S T R E E T

10

D E L A M E R E S T R E E T

11

W A R R I N G T O N S T R E E T

11

M A R K E T A V E N U E

W E L L I N G T O N S T R E E T

W E L L I N G T O N S T R E E T

R O A D

S T R E E T

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W O O D S T R E E T

S T A M F O R D S T R E E T

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6



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