

LOST HACKNEY



Elizabeth Robinson

A HACKNEY SOCIETY PUBLICATION

LOST HACKNEY

Victoria and Albert cottages, 3-10 Myrtleberry Street (south side), Dalston. (Formerly Temple Street.) Demolished by Hackney Borough Council in the '70s to make way for the Holly Street estate. Decorative keystones with the Victoria motif can still be seen on Richard's Villas, Lavender Grove, and with the Albert motif on Liscombe's Villas, Mapledene Road.



Decorative keystones from Victoria and Albert Cottages



 **LOST HACKNEY** 

ELIZABETH ROBINSON

A HACKNEY SOCIETY PUBLICATION

1989

Text and captions by Elizabeth Robinson
copyright © 1989 Elizabeth Robinson

cover
Abney House in 1843 by T. H. Shepherd

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Robinson, Elizabeth, 1957-
Lost Hackney.
I. London., (London Borough) Hackney.
Demolished buildings
I. Title
942.1'44

Acknowledgements

The publication of *Lost Hackney* would undoubtedly have pleased Israel Renson, a keen member of the Hackney Society who died in 1986, for with his initial idea and enthusiasm, the project began; Michael Hunter was also much involved with its early stages. Their contributions are much appreciated. Thanks are also due to Martin Andrews and Robert Thorne of English Heritage (London Division), Lyn Blackmore of the Museum of London (Department of Greater London Archaeology), Sylvia Carlyle of the Religious Society of Friends, David Mander and the staff of Hackney Archives Department, Roger White of the Georgian Group, and especially to Mike Gray and Andrew Thorp.

Sources of illustrations

The author and publishers are grateful to copyright holders for permission to reproduce material listed below. (Numbers refer to pages.)
English Heritage (London Division); ii, 9-17, 29, 30, 43, 59, 60, 66, 67
Geffrye Museum; front cover
Greater London Record Office (Maps and Prints); 69
Hackney Archives Department; 19-22, 25, 27, 34-46, 38, 39, 41, 42, 49, 52, 53, 62, 64, 67, 70, 71, 73, back cover
Library Committee of the Religious Society of Friends; 54, 56, 57
Museum of London (Department of Greater London Archaeology); 24
National Monuments Record; 51
private collection; 40, 44, 47
William Robinson's *History of Hackney*; 32, 33

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without permission.

Published by The Hackney Society
Designed by Sue Clarke
Typeset and printed by Expression Printers Ltd, London N7 9DP
ISBN 0-9506558-6-4

CONTENTS

Preface	<i>vi</i>
Introduction	<i>1</i>
Squares	<i>7</i>
Houses	<i>23</i>
Almshouses	<i>46</i>
Churches	<i>55</i>
Schools	<i>63</i>
Further reading	<i>74</i>
Index	<i>75</i>

∞ PREFACE ∞

To lament the loss of Hackney's historic buildings is not a recent phenomenon of our conservation-minded age. Benjamin Clarke was doing it a century or so ago, in his *Glimpses of Ancient Hackney and Stoke Newington*, while fifty years before that T.H. Shepherd's visual record of Abney House in the hands of the demolition men implicitly deplored the passing of fine architecture, fine craftsmanship and rich historical associations.

In its time, Hackney has possessed buildings of national importance, notably Hackney House, which was designed by the Palladian Colen Campbell circa 1727 and was demolished as early as 1799. Balmes, demolished in the mid-nineteenth century, was an outstanding example of the early seventeenth century style known as Artisan Mannerism and, with its paired giant pilasters and huge roof, was perhaps the most striking building ever erected in the borough. Both houses were complemented by splendid gardens. Their disappearance, and that of the other buildings recorded in this book, is part of the progressive visual impoverishment of Hackney in the past two hundred years. Much of this has happened in the name of progress; in this century Shoreditch and Hackney Borough Councils have both played prominent roles in promoting the demolition of handsome, and often structurally sound or recoverable, historic buildings (Nichols Square, the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and the Retreat Almshouses are examples that come to mind) to make way for flats that are architecturally worthless and socially disastrous.

If we now seem to be more sentimental than past generations about these losses, this is perhaps because we realise better the enriching effect that historic buildings have on our environment, and

still more because we have little faith in the quality of their replacements. Georgian terraces, so despised by the Victorians, are now widely regarded as the high water mark of urban design (one of the finest in London, Church Row in Stoke Newington, was demolished to make way for council offices in the 1930s); even so, surviving examples continue to be mutilated or neglected by unsympathetic owners. The conservation legislation added to the statute book since the last war has as a basic flaw a reliance on the local authorities for its implementation. Philistinism and politics are just two of the factors which all too frequently intervene – as, in the case of Hackney, when politically-motivated dislike of 'gentrification' prevents the designation of conservation areas.

This gives added importance to the role of local organisations such as the Hackney Society, and national organisations like the Georgian Group, as watchdogs over what remains. Despite the legislative safeguards it could be argued that the odds are stacked against us, since we have to contend with the baneful effects not merely of philistinism and politics but also of development-hungry big business and the high-pressure salesmanship of (for instance) those who manufacture replacement doors and windows. It often seems a David-and-Goliath line-up; it is not, however, a confrontation we can shirk, and it is very much to be hoped that the publication of this book will provide valuable ammunition in the battle to preserve what remains of Hackney's past.

Roger White
Secretary, The Georgian Group
37 Spital Square E1

∞ INTRODUCTION ∞

I am toiling away 'lonesome leisure hours' in thus reviewing old memories, and in spirit perambulating streets and lanes, gardens and fields, the aspects of which have so completely altered within the last fifty years, that were our old fellow parishioners, who have in that period passed away from among us, once again to visit their old resorts they would prove as ignorant of the several localities as the places are of them. . . .

So Benjamin Clarke, writing in *Glimpses of Ancient Hackney and Stoke Newington* in 1894, lamented the great changes in Hackney's physical appearance. Almost a hundred years later, *Lost Hackney* is a record of yet more changes – a catalogue of destruction which has taken place over the last six hundred years. It has been a very great loss indeed. Had it not occurred, we would undoubtedly have a much richer urban landscape.

Even now, with greater awareness of the arguments for conservation and preservation, and legislation which can be used to support these aims, many buildings in Hackney, important both for architectural and historical reasons, are in a parlous state of repair. The Hackney Society's most recent publication, *Buildings at Risk in Hackney* (1988), lists many which are in danger of the fate of all those in this book.

Why, then, have these buildings been lost? Clarke cited some of the reasons; 'Neither of our now most populous villages is as it once was; much of their beauty and their picturesque surroundings have passed away for ever. Houses and manufactories have taken their place. The miles on miles of roadways, the tram-lines, and still more the railways, have crossed and cut up our meadows and field walks, and the smoke of the metropolis has smirched our trees, our shrubs, and flowers . . .' The expansion of Hackney in the nineteenth century and corresponding need for better communications was one. Fashion, that subtly ever-present dictator of what is 'in' or 'out', also played an important role. For example, in Victorian times, Georgian architecture was almost universally disliked. In the early decades of the

twentieth century, moves to clear 'slum' dwellings and increased power granted to local authorities led to the demolition of whole areas. Post-war, there was an overwhelming desire for a clean sweep, always perceived to be for the public good. A great deal of expedient 'sympathetic demolition' of minimally damaged buildings took place, the acres of council housing which replaced them often far exceeding a desirable population density. For many buildings in Hackney and elsewhere in London, the war was the occasion of, and not the real reason for, their destruction.

For the last hundred years, conservation has been very much in vogue; the introduction of legislation and formation of various pressure-groups has raised and established the whole issue in the public sphere of debate. In 1882, the first piece of legislation to help in the fight for conservation, was passed – the Ancient Monuments Act. Prior to this, the first of several important pressure groups, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), was formed by William Morris. Morris, architect and designer, poet, orator and socialist, in addressing the SPAB in 1889 stated; 'It has been most truly said . . . that these old buildings do not belong to us only; that they have belonged to our forefathers and they will belong to our descendants unless we play them false. They are not in any sense our property, to do as we like with. We are only trustees for those who come after us.' This rings equally true a century later and the pioneering work of the SPAB goes on. In 1893 the London Survey Committee, later the Survey of London, was formed to photograph and measure unavoidable losses. This function has since been augmented by many others including preservation, restoration, and listing of buildings. Several buildings in this book were surveyed by them; Brooke House, Jerusalem Square, the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Hoxton Square, Charles Square, St Thomas's Square and Nichols Square. The National Trust was formed in 1895. In 1937, the Georgian Group of SPAB was formed, and in 1958 the Victorian Society. In 1940, the National Buildings Record, later the National Monuments Record was begun, with the intention of photographing all important buildings throughout the country.

A particularly important legislative milestone, the 1944 Town and Country Planning Act, gave powers to local councils to list buildings. In a further Act of 1947 the listing categories were refined, with the results that Grade I listed buildings were not to be demolished; for Grade II listed buildings, a good reason was required before permission to demolish would be given; for those in the Grade II* category, interior alterations also required consent; in the Grade III category, the owners were just required to give notice of demolition. All churches, church dwellings, church schools, 'Crown' buildings and those owned by the Crown Estate Commissioners were exempt

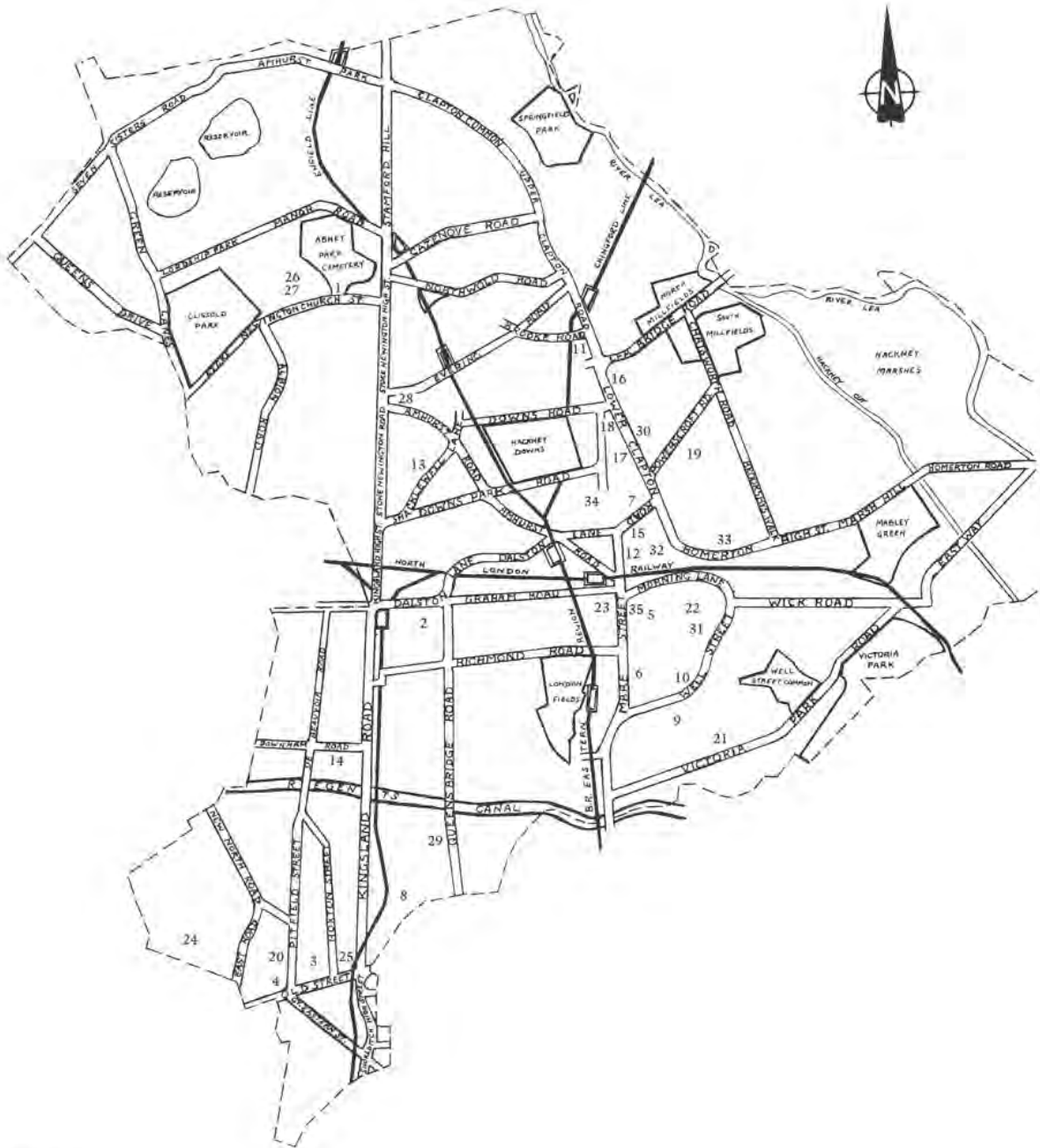
from this law. Since then, the listing system has been amended and now includes three categories: Grade I, II* and II. All interiors and exteriors of all three categories of listed building are now protected from alteration without prior planning permission. Unfortunately, all buildings in ecclesiastical use are still exempt from planning law. In 1967, ten years after the formation of the Civic Trust to which this Society is affiliated, the Civic Amenities Act empowered local authorities to designate Conservation Areas 'the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. The 1986 Housing and Planning Act reinforced previous legislation, further enabling councils to protect historic buildings. A Department of the Environment circular of March 1987 amplifying the Act stated that 'local authorities stand in the vanguard of those protecting historic buildings and areas, and the Secretary of State hopes they will make diligent use of all the powers available to them. Public opinion is now overwhelmingly in favour of conserving and enhancing the familiar and cherished local scene, and authorities should take account of this when framing their policies affecting historic buildings and conservation areas.'

The London Borough of Hackney's *Local Plan (Deposit Draft)*, published in 1987, 'lays down a firm commitment to good design standards and the conservation of all that is best in historic or distinguished built forms of which Hackney has a proud heritage . . . Conservation areas will be designated where the architectural quality, history of the townscape, distinctive character and appearance merit preservation and enhancement. Their particular, cohesive character may be found over relatively large areas and may include open spaces, water areas and items of industrial archaeological importance'. The listing of buildings without reference to the urban context in which they stand is indeed very often of limited value. The compilers of the *Local Plan* refer to in excess of 1,250 buildings in the Borough included in the DoE's Statutory List. It is perhaps worth pointing out that the view that these buildings are somehow magically 'protected' against negligent or misguided owners (often the Council itself), is entirely fallacious. The demolition of listed Georgian houses in Laura Place, without consent, is a case in point. Listing itself offers no protection; only a vigilant Council exercising legislative powers can protect the environment. According to the *Local Plan*, the Council's objectives are 'to protect and safeguard buildings of architectural or historic interest . . . to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of conservation areas and other areas of special interest and character . . . to protect sites of archaeological, scientific and ecological interest', so perhaps we can view the future with more optimism than the past would lead us to expect.

This book provides a record of some of the lost buildings of Hackney. It is a personal selection, and there are, of necessity, omissions. (Illustrations of some buildings can be found in other recent, easily available publications such as *A Second Look*, 1975, *A Hackney Camera 1883-1918* and Benjamin Clarke's *Glimpses of Ancient Hackney and Stoke Newington*, 1894 rep. 1986.) Factors of availability and quality of illustrations were often decisive in choosing which buildings to include. Extensive archival research sometimes produced no results. In the case of Albion Square, no illustration of the building at the west end of the square could be found, and only a measured drawing of a doorcase in Jerusalem Square suitable for inclusion survives. A thematic approach has been adopted, with sections on squares, houses, almshouses, churches and schools. This enables comparison and emphasises, in the case of the squares and almshouses, the destruction of a whole community, not merely a single building. All buildings have been categorised here according to their first known use.

In locating the buildings, the following maps were invaluable; John Rocque's Survey of London 1745; the Hackney Parish map of 1831 (by Thomas Starling); the Godfrey edition of reprinted Ordnance Survey maps (first edition from c.1868-73 with a second edition from 1892-97 and a third from 1912-17), and the present Ordnance Survey for comparison purposes. Questions constantly asked, but not always answered, were those of dating the building, what it was used for, when and why it was demolished, and what currently occupies the site. It is my hope that this book will reflect the rich architectural heritage of Hackney and be both a record of what we have lost, and an encouragement for us all to work positively in the area of conservation.

Elizabeth Robinson
Clapton Square
May 1988



Outline map of the Borough of
Hackney, locating buildings
discussed in the text

Key

- 1 Abney House
- 2 Myrtleberry Street, Dalston

Squares

- 3 Hoxton Square
- 4 Charles Square
- 5 Jerusalem Square
- 6 St Thomas's Square
- 7 Clapton Square
- 8 Nichols Square

Houses

- 9 Shore House
- 10 Pilgrim's House
- 11 Brooke House
- 12 Church House
- 13 Shacklewell House
- 14 Balmes House
- 15 Templars' House
- 16 Clapton House
- 17 Howard's House
- 18 Deaf and Dumb Asylum
- 19 Hackney House

Almshouses

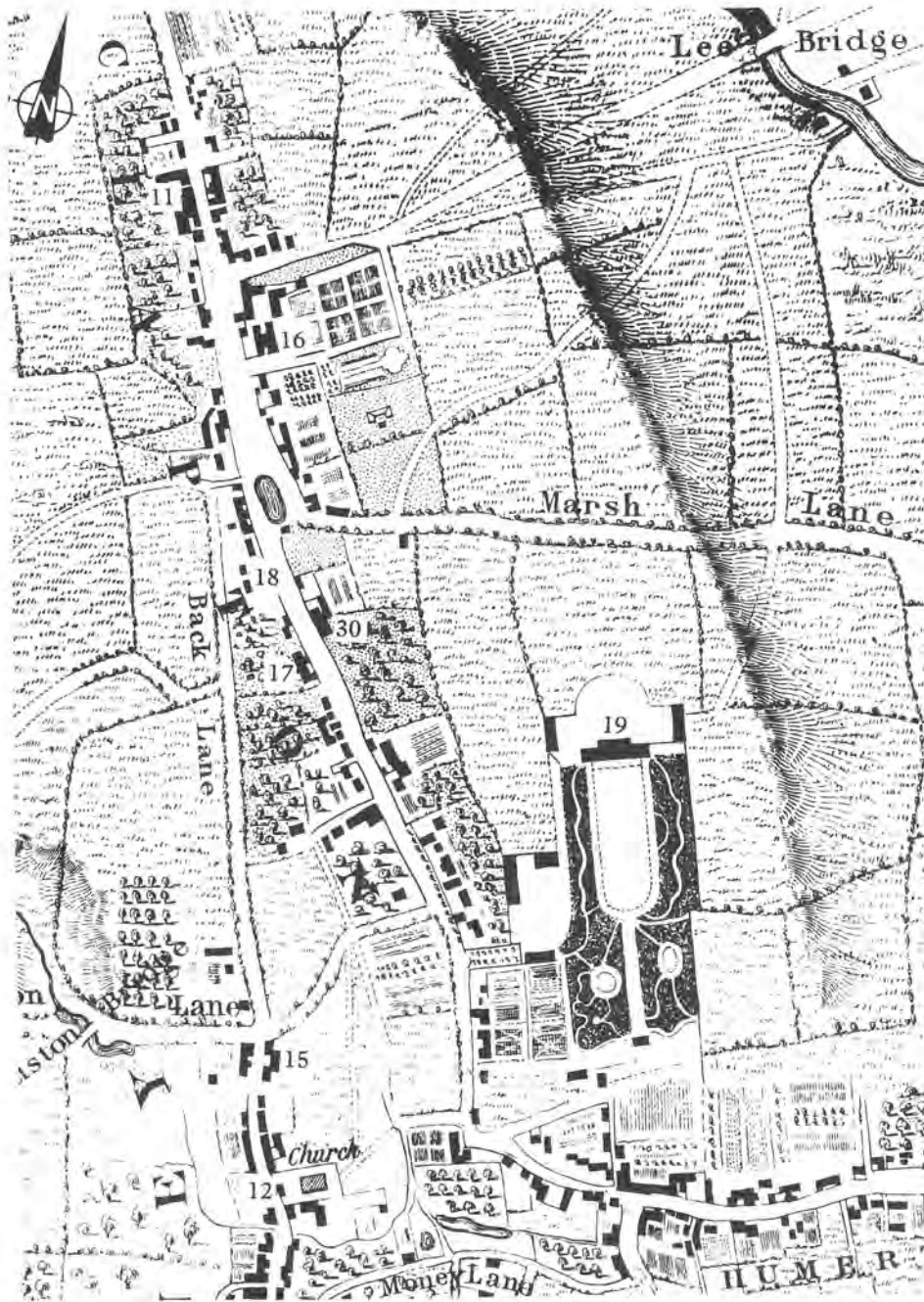
- 20 Aske's Hospital
- 21 Norris's almshouses
- 22 Retreat almshouses
- 23 Spurstowe's almshouses
- 24 Lumley's almshouses
- 25 Porter's almshouses
- 26 Yoakley Road almshouses

Churches

- 27 Friends' Meeting House, Yoakley Road
- 28 West Hackney Church
- 29 St. Mary, Haggerston

Schools

- 30 Hackney School
- 31 Hackney Free and Parochial School, Chatham Place
- 32 Hackney Grammar School, Sutton Place
- 33 Homerton College
- 34 Hackney Church of England School, Clarence Road
- 35 Hackney Pavilion
- 12, etc Hackney churchyard



Part of John Rocque's map of 1745 showing the villages of Hackney and Clapton with ribbon development along the principal thoroughfares. Hackney House, built around 1727, dominated the area both as a sizeable mansion and for its impressive formally laid out gardens. But the area was still rural, with field boundaries clearly marked. Clapton Pond, just to the north of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum (18) has survived, whereas very few of the buildings on this map have. The roads remain with a few changes of name; Back Lane is now called Clarence Road, Money Lane is Morning Lane and Marsh Lane is Millfields Road.

Key

- 11 Brooke House
- 12 Church House
- 15 Templars' House
- 16 Clapton House
- 17 Howard's House
- 18 Deaf and Dumb Asylum
- 19 Hackney House
- 30 Hackney School

∞ SQUARES ∞

At the turn of the century there were about a dozen or so squares in Hackney and Shoreditch, ranging in date from the reign of Charles II to the mid-Victorian period. Of these, more than half have no original housing remaining, and all of the others have suffered substantial changes which have affected the character of the square.

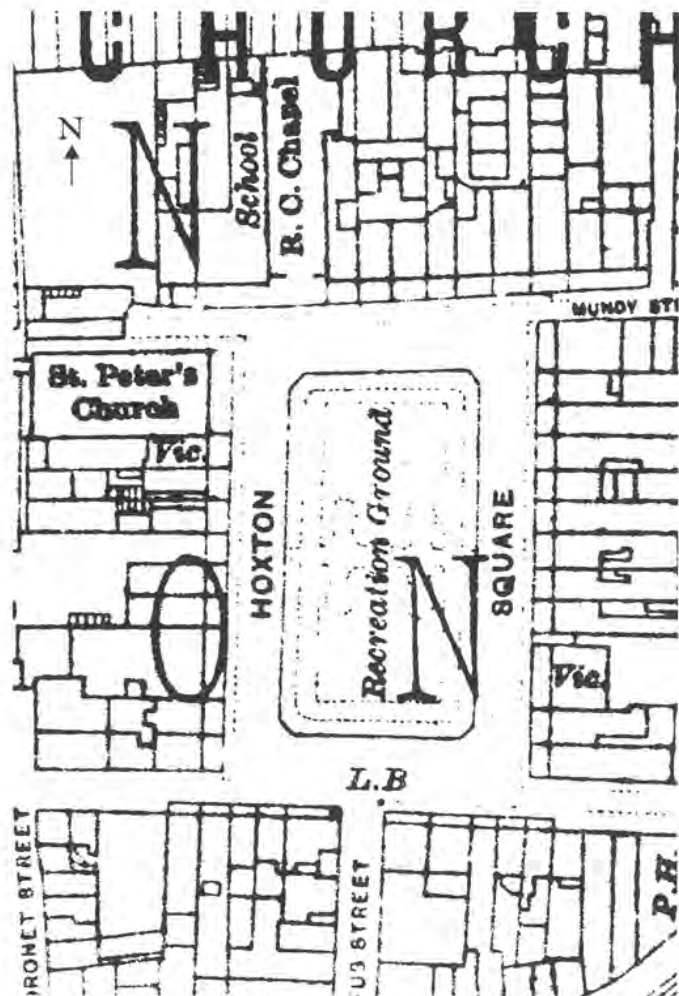
Since the early seventeenth century, the square had been a feature of urban planning peculiar to London. The *Report of the Royal Commission on London Squares* published in 1928 described squares as 'a very distinctive and attractive feature of the plan of the parts of London in which they are situate: similar open spaces are not to be found except to a very limited extent in other towns in this or other countries'. Some were conceived and planned as a uniform whole, whereas other squares were plots for building carried out in a much more speculative and piecemeal manner. Nevertheless, a semblance of uniformity in building was usually aimed for, and the presence of a central park or garden area was often an attractive feature.

In the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, Hoxton was a suburban village, well known for theatres such as The Curtain, pleasure gardens, nurseries and market gardens. Hoxton Square and Charles Square, laid out at its southern edge, emphasise its popularity as a residential area.

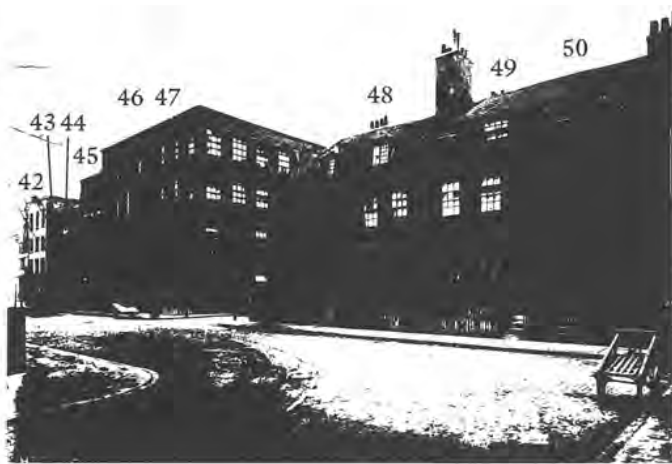
Hoxton Square was laid out in 1683 in the shape of a parallelogram. Samuel, (later Sir Samuel) Blewitt and Robert Hackshaw were leased the land on October 19, 1683, by the Austen family who continued to hold the land until 1730 when 'Sir John Austen sold to Israel Wilkes the younger over 100 houses, including a Nonconformist chapel and The London Apprentice, all described as "in or near Hoxton Square, Hoxton Street and King Street" '. Blewitt and Hackshaw in turn leased smaller plots for building between 1684 and

1700. The development was an attempt to emulate square developments further west in London. It acquired for the district a reputation for genteel living – a marked contrast with its present day ambience. James Parkinson (1755-1824), the physician and geologist, lived at number 1, Hoxton Square.

By the mid-nineteenth century, the area was a centre of the furniture trade, and nearly every house is listed in trade directories as being in workshop use.



Ordnance Survey map showing Hoxton Square in 1915



The photograph below, taken in 1921, shows numbers 41 to 50 on the south side of the square. Numbers 41 to 45 and 48 to 50 were the original houses; only 41 and 42 are still standing. 43 to 48 were demolished pre-1952, 49 and 50 after 1952. The flush window-frames predate the provisions of the 1709 Building Act, which required all wooden door and window frames to be set back four inches from the brick façade as a precaution against fire, following the Great Fire of 1666.

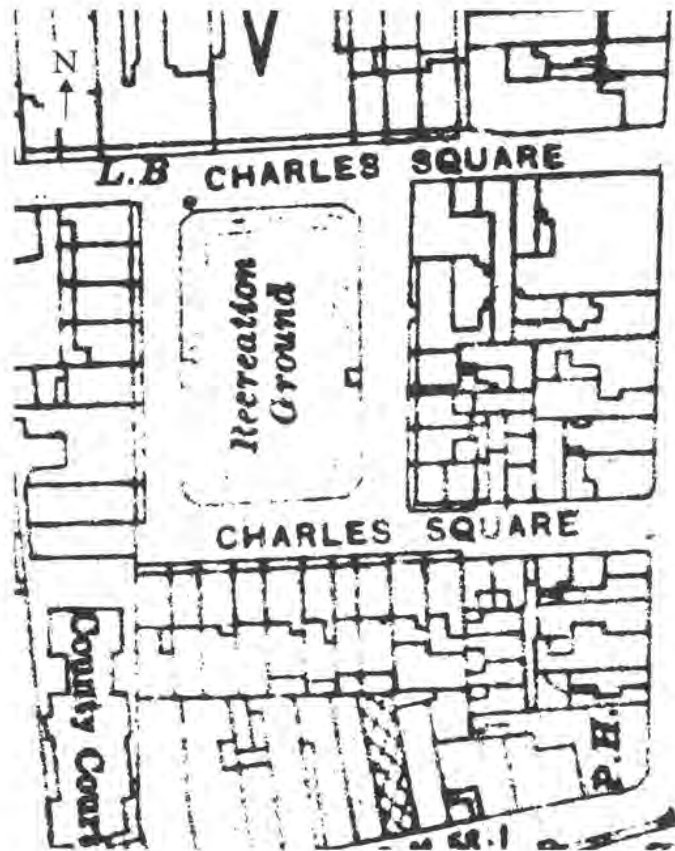
Hoxton Square: south side,
numbers 41 to 50. Photograph
taken in 1921



Charles Square took its name from William Charles who was leased a plot of land, most probably corresponding to number 39, a house at the north-east corner of the square, in March 1684/5. This plot was referred to in the lease as 'a parcel of ground situate in a new intended square called Charles Square'. Another plot, the south side, was leased in 1721, then sublet further to William Crocker in 1770, when it was described as 'set with greens, plants, fruit and other trees'. It has been suggested that the area's fashionability fell in the early eighteenth century, which would explain the ninety year time span in the building of the square. By December 1770, numbers 5 and 6, on the south side, had been built. Numbers 7 to 12 were erected shortly afterwards, but 13 and 14 not until after 1774, resulting in a less than uniform appearance. The terrace became known as Crocker's Row, and had exceptionally good exterior details.

Peter Chassereau's 1745 Survey of Shoreditch shows the west, north and east sides of the square; of these, number 16 on the west side, formerly the Shoreditch County Court House (before the present Court House was built at the rear of Old Street) has survived and dates from pre 1726. 15 and 17 were designed as wings to number 16, with three storeys and a basement; many of the rooms were panelled with elegant cornices. By 1922, both these houses were in use as factory premises.

Pevsner, writing in 1952, described Charles Square as a 'remarkable eighteenth century relic . . . a very dilapidated square'. During the early 1950s the square was gradually compulsorily purchased by Shoreditch Borough Council, who demolished the once-elegant Restoration and Georgian houses to make way for blocks of flats.



Ordnance Survey map showing Charles Square in 1915

Charles Square: south side, numbers 4-14. Note the different doorcases and window dimensions on first and second storeys. The photograph dates from c.1920





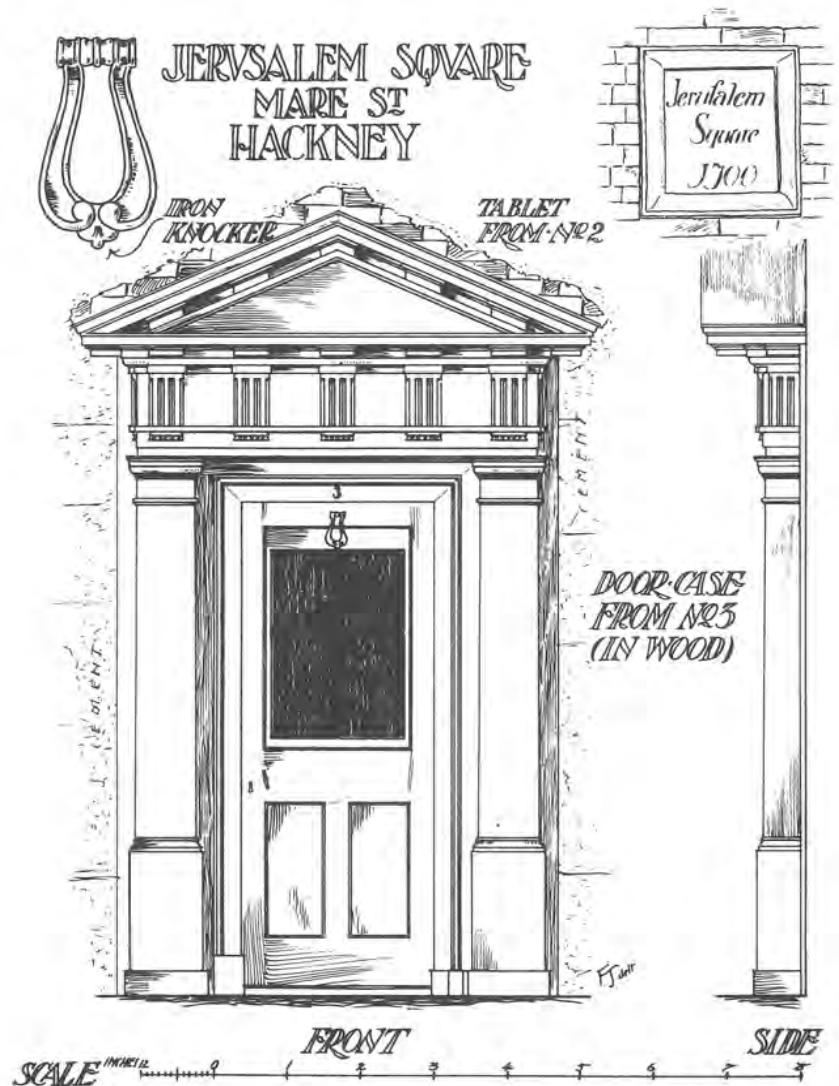
above left 12 Charles Square (south side): fine carved, consoled doorcase with broken pediment supported by slim square pillars and scroll. The photograph dates from c.1920

above 17 Charles Square (west side): part of a panelled ground floor front room

left 23 Charles Square (north side): panelled entrance hall and staircase, probably built 1686-7. This photograph shows how the building had been adapted for office use by the early 1920s



Jerusalem Square, Mare Street, was built in 1700 and demolished in the early 1900s. It was a small-scale development with buildings on three sides. It was situated on the east side of Mare Street, roughly opposite Hackney Town Hall. A scale drawing of the wooden door-case of number 3 survives which is reproduced below. The site was used by the London County Council to build the Salvation Army hall and Valette Street estate, one of the first L.C.C. estates, c. 1912.



St. Thomas's Square, Mare Street, contained some fine Georgian houses, and was laid out in 1772 on land owned by St. Thomas's Hospital estate. Richard Price (1723–91), the nonconformist and writer on morals, politics and economics, was an early resident in the square, and described moving from Newington Green to 2, St. Thomas's Square following the death of his wife in 1786. On 25 March 1787 he wrote in his Journal 'I have now before me a very troublesome week. I am to remove from this house to the house I have taken at Hackney. This will make a great change in my situation.' On 1 April 1787, he wrote, 'The last week has been employed in the most disagreeable work of removing. It has hurried and fatigued me though I have had all possible assistance and done but little. . . I am at present low in spirits, reflexions on the enjoyments that have now gone for ever and the great change in my situation affecting me deeply. Almost all my goods, furniture, books, papers, etc are now brought to this house but they are thrown together into

such heaps that it will be a long time before I can settle into any order.' From 1770, Price had been morning preacher at the Old Gravel Pit Meeting House (which stood at the junction of Morning Lane and Chatham Place) and after his wife's death he moved to be nearer to his congregation. A second reason for a move so late in life was his involvement in the foundation of New College, Hackney, where he lectured on 'select parts of Morals, Mathematics and Philosophy'. (see Hackney House, p.44)

Numbers 19 and 20 at the north west corner of the square were destroyed following an air raid on 7 September 1940, but damage to other houses was minimal. The buildings could probably have been refurbished, but were demolished in the early 1950s and replaced by blocks of flats, which have themselves recently been refurbished. The Chapel on the south side of the square was also built in 1772, but was closed in 1896 and became the Emperor Cinema in 1915; it is now used as a bingo hall.



below left East side of
St. Thomas's Square; numbers
8 to 1 (l. to r.)

St. Thomas's Square, north
side; a photograph taken in
1943 showing numbers 18 to
12 (l. to r.). 19 and 20 had
been destroyed in 1940.

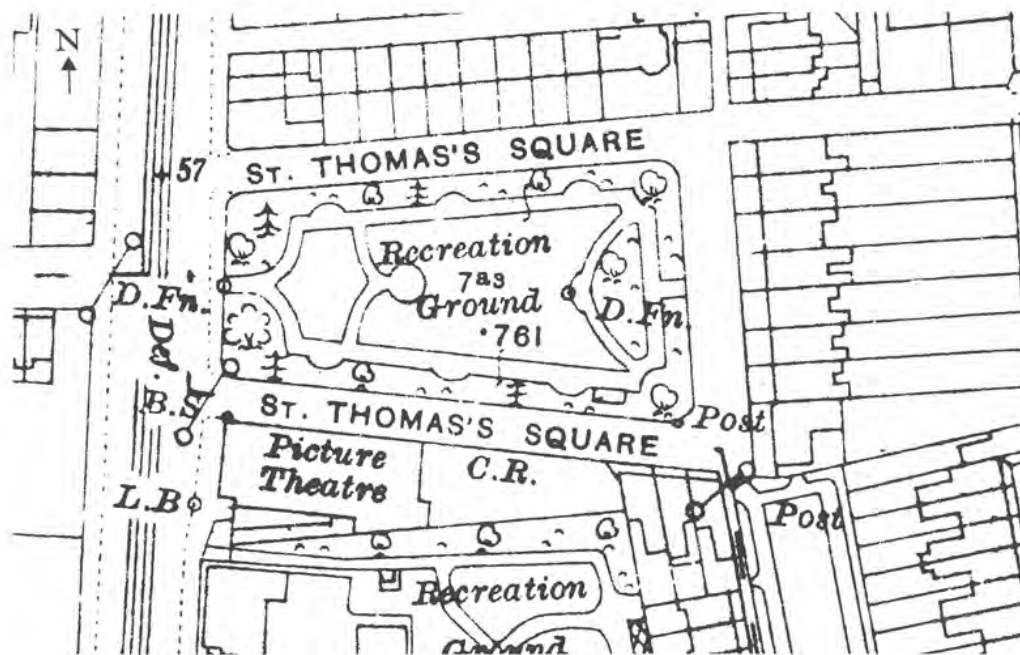


St. Thomas's Square, south side:
Chapel House nearest the
camera, and the north side of
St Thomas's Square Chapel
photographed in 1904





St. Thomas's Square; a 1904 photograph of the doorcase at number 1 showing a fine fanlight and tablet with the date 1772

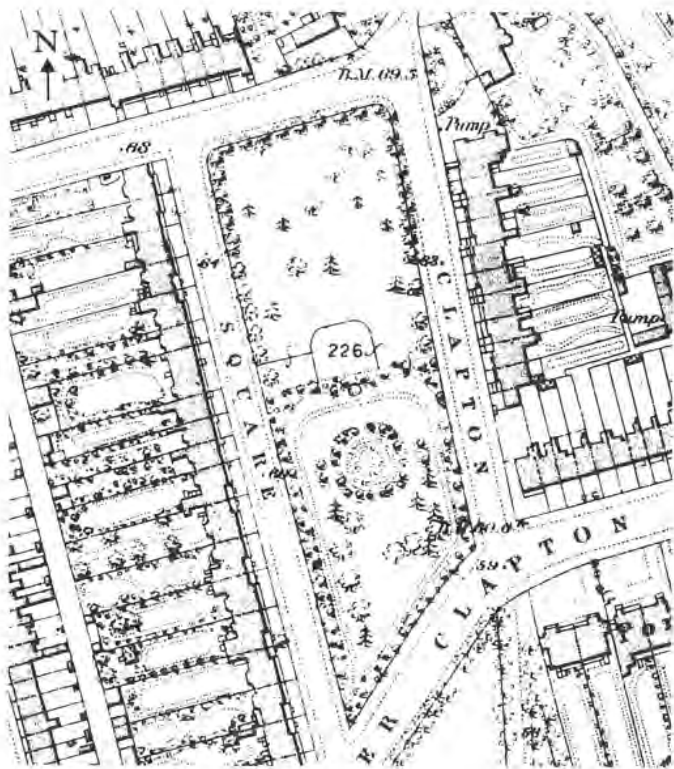


Ordnance Survey map showing St. Thomas's Square in 1913

Clapton Square, laid out on Clapton Field in 1816, was developed in a piecemeal fashion, as the Field, an area bounded by Lower Clapton Road to the south and east, Clarence Road to the west and Clarence Place/Clapton Square/Clapton Passage to the north, was auctioned in lots. There were already several large, detached houses at the north and east of the square which were demolished in the late nineteenth century to make way for the Victorian mansion blocks of Cavendish and St John's Mansions. One of these was the home of William Hurst Ashpitel, a surveyor and architect who lived there from 1812 onwards and who may have been responsible for overseeing the building of the square. Semi-detached houses and terraces were built on the west, north and east sides of the square. The square was described in a sale document of June 1869, when the whole was auctioned by the Tyssen-Amhurst estate, as being in a position 'which will always be esteemed by the Citizen as a place of Residence ... the convenience of the spot, its aspect of quiet retirement

combined with an agreeable vivacity, and the universally high character of the Residents, several of whom have been in occupation many years, have conduced to render this Square one of the most favourite locations in the Northern Suburbs of Town.' Number 6, on the west side, was the home of Theodore Rothstein, a Russian emigré often visited by his friend Lenin. Number 13 (also on the west side and still standing) was the Manor Office of William George Daniel Tyssen, Lord of the Manor of Hackney.

Numbers 2 to 6 were badly damaged on November 8/9 1940, and demolished shortly afterwards to make way for the Churchwell Court flats. The terrace on the east side of the square (numbers 29 to 38), of three-storeyed, flat fronted, semi-detached houses, is also no longer extant. All the houses were demolished in 1943, except numbers 35 and 36, presumably minimally damaged, which survived until 1947. This land is now the site of Hackney Social Services building.



Ordnance Survey map showing the square in 1870

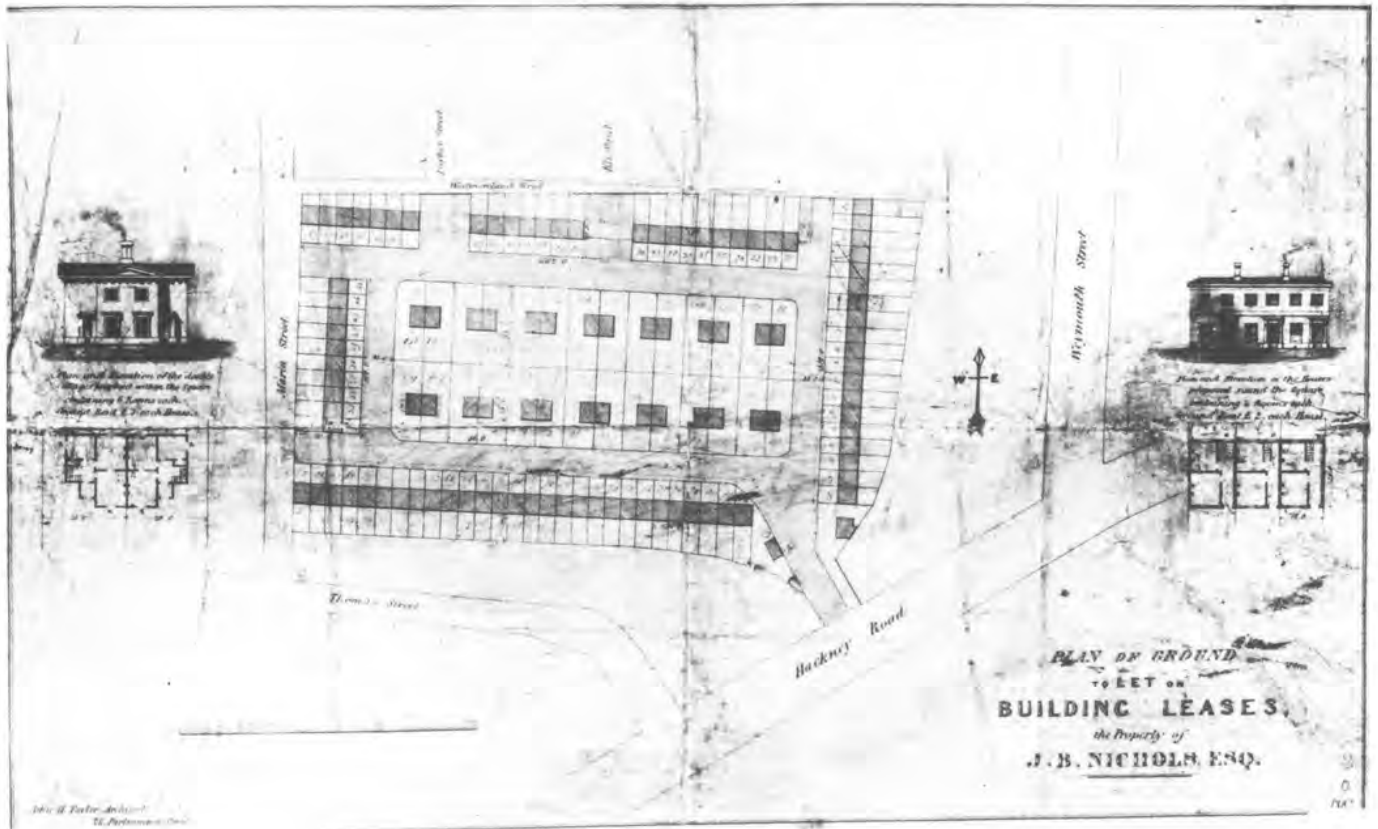
Clapton Square: a photograph of the east side taken in 1905. Cavendish Mansions on the left, and St John's Mansions next to them are still standing. The flat-fronted Georgian houses (numbers 29 to 38) were all demolished between 1943 and 1947



Nichols Square, off Hackney Road in Haggerston is perhaps one of the saddest losses of all. Described by Pevsner as 'notable architecturally', it was laid out in 1841 to the design of John Henry Taylor, an exhibitor at the Royal Academy in the same year. The square was named after the landowner, J.B. Nichols.

The perimeter terraces were in the classical style, flat-fronted with porticos; the central area contained twenty-eight pinchbeck, semi-detached cottages in Tudor style. This juxtaposition of Classical and Tudor styles was very effective. The west side of the square was demolished to make way for the North London Railway extension line built to run from Dalston Junction to Broad Street between 1861 and 1864 – a project which displaced 4,500 people in the parish. By 1962, when the houses were still 'in excellent

condition', Shoreditch Borough Council had taken the decision to demolish the square, despite protests in the press. One writer accused the Council of 'leading the way in 1963's attack on parts of London well worth keeping by demolition of an early 19th century square of, for the East End, unusually high quality'. Another writer stated that 'the legal processes have gone through without anybody or any organisation in Shoreditch or in East London apparently giving a thought that the erection of another block of modern flats in a regrettably repetitious style will rob the district of a picturesque quaintness which East Londoners should have been steadfastly determined to preserve'. Nichols Square made way for a housing estate, Fellows Court and a large car park.



below left Nichols Square;
the original plan for the layout,
dating from c.1840

Nichols Square, east side: one of
the classical style terraces.
St. Chad's Church on the left,
(built in 1868 by James
Brooks) is still standing. The
photograph was taken in 1957



Nichols Square, north side
looking west; tudor and
classical style stuccoed houses.
The photograph, c.1963, dates
from shortly before the
demolition of the Square



Hackney once possessed some fine houses ranging from mansions, such as Hackney House and Clapton House, to merchants' houses, such as 179 Lower Clapton Road, later the Deaf and Dumb Asylum. Some were primarily important for their architecture, others, such as Brooke House, had historical associations with the rich and famous, or curiosity value owing to an unusual building design or legend which surrounded them. All but two or three of these houses were still standing in 1800; only one – Brooke House – was to survive long enough to suffer bomb damage in 1940, and the wisdom of its subsequent demolition is now rather questionable. With the larger buildings, size often led to their destruction when a suitable use could no longer be found. Some were adapted for institutional or educational use, as with the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Church House, Abney House and Clapton House; others were subdivided as tenements, as with the Pilgrim's House and Shore House. But very often, older houses were demolished because the nineteenth century expansion of the metropolis eastwards resulted in great demand for land to build the Victorian suburb of Hackney.

So what have we lost? As well as simply losing a façade or a local landmark, we have lost fascinating gardens, laid out formally or containing exotic plants and shrubs; interiors – often not well-recorded – containing panelling, fine plasterwork, carved staircases and tiled rooms have been lost. But perhaps most importantly, we have lost the chance to glance back at a fascinating sociological record of life in the era of gracious (and not so gracious) living.

Shore House stood on the site of the garden of the present 18 Shore Road. Also known as the 'manor of Shoreditch place' the building shown in the pen and wash drawing opposite was built c.1570 on land originally belonging to the Knights Templar, then leased to the Shoreditch family. It is known that the original battlements were removed c.1661 following storms. Shore House was surveyed in 1740 by Samuel Robinson, as was the Pilgrim's House. His measured drawing with detailed description is in the Victoria and Albert Museum Collection. In this, Shore House is described as 'an Ancient, durable Building of Brickwork, built with Abutments in which are the Windows and Doors, ornamented of late years on the [] frames and Door Cases, with Plastering in Imitation of Stone Work'. The house is also marked on Rocque's 1745 map, standing in Water Gruel Row, as Shore Road was then called. Research has shown that by 1798 the property had been divided up into tene-

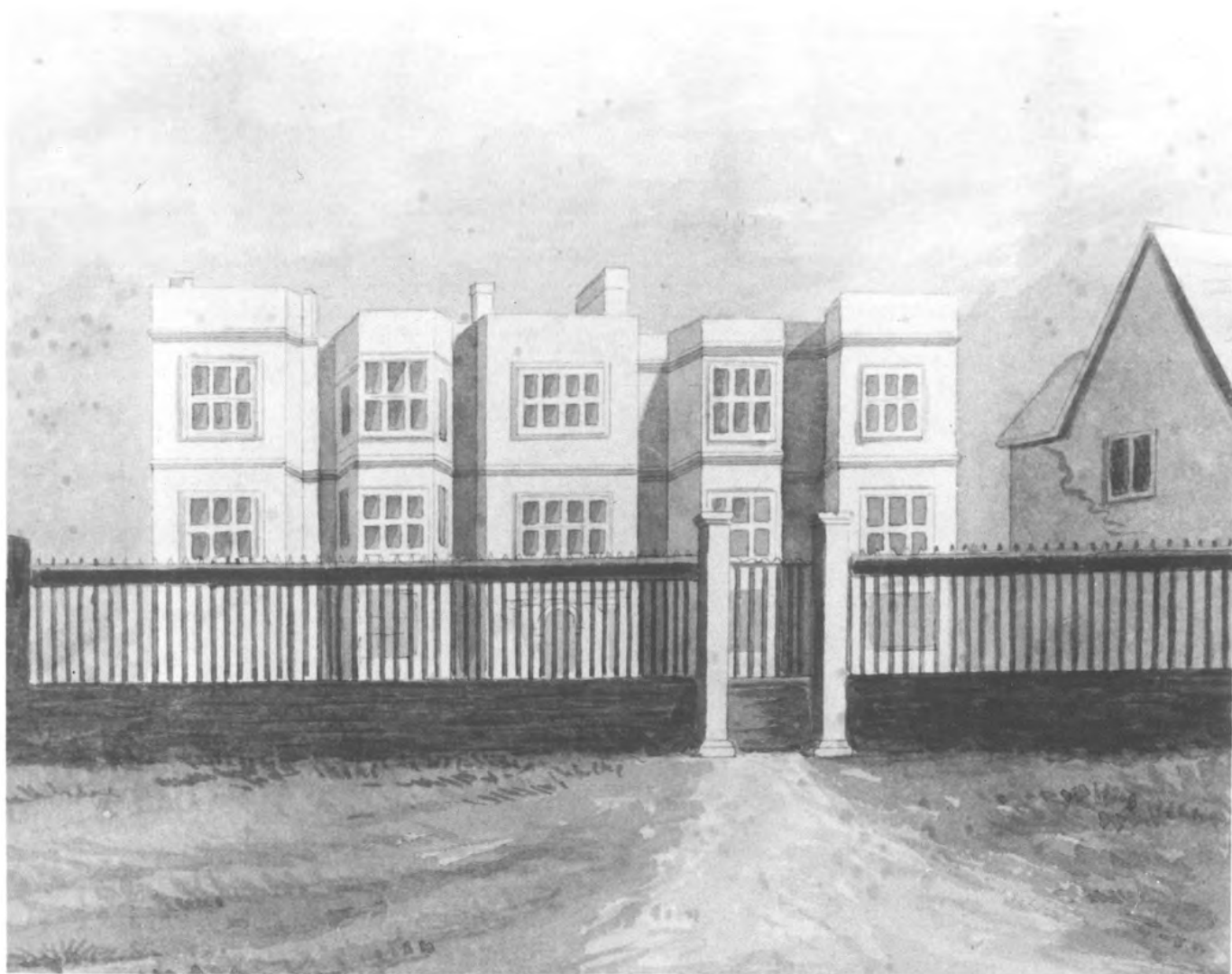
ments. It was demolished in the early decades of the nineteenth century. By the 1831 Survey of Hackney, the present Georgian houses had been built; the site of Shoreditch Place is marked on the 1870 Ordnance Survey map.

In 1978 the owner of 18 Shore Road contacted the Inner London Archaeological Unit, following the unearthing of a wall in the back garden. Excavation of the site led to the uncovering of three walls (extending over an area 3.85 x 3.22m) of a mid-fourteenth century building. Fragments of Venetian glass and pottery found in the footings may suggest an outbuilding belonging to a more significant building, and are also useful in attempting to date the structure. A jug of c.1300 found in the clay base of the structure came from Mill Green in Essex. Maitland, a nineteenth century historian, described the site of 14-18 Shore Road as 'one of the greatest remains of antiquity in this Parish'.

Shore House: photograph of the excavated site looking west (from the garden of 18 Shore Road towards the house) showing a fourteenth century stone-built structure constructed over a ditch, containing a possible drainage channel



Shore House: a pen and wash drawing of the front elevation.
This illustration probably dates
from c.1725



The **Pilgrim's House** (also known as the Priory of St John of Jerusalem, King John's Palace, St John of Jerusalem's Palace) stood at the junction of Palace Road (now Forsyth House on the Frampton Park Estate) and Well Street. (The site is marked on the 1870 Ordnance Survey map.) It is shown here in a measured drawing by Samuel Robinson dated 20 April 1741. Other drawings by him, notably of Shore House and Hackney Church and Churchyard, date from the same decade – the 1740s. He was accountant of the school in Church House (see p.31), and was not, in fact, a surveyor although he often described himself as such on documents. Other engravings of this building were published in periodicals such as the *European Magazine* and in William Robinson's *History of Hackney*, but Samuel Robinson's drawing is particularly interesting as it shows the structure of the house (built with a central courtyard) and gives measurements and historical details. He writes: 'Report makes known that this ancient Building is the oldest House in Hackney, and was built, for ye Refreshment of Pilgrims: They had such Houses of Entertainment every 10 Miles. It was formerly Moted round; but the Moat is now Stopt up. It is a Square Erection, only Jetts out 2 foot on the E & W the jetting begins at the S End of the Yard, and continues

the whole length to the N End of ye Edifice. It hath 8 Apartments or Dwellings; (viz:) 3 on the S Side, 3 on the N side, one on the East of the yard, and one on the West of the Yard. Each of these apartments hath a ground Floor & Chamber except the 3 on the South Side which have only a Chamber, and those on Each Side the Yard have a Cellar; tho it may be not So, when moated round. The East Side of the Building is Rented by a Farmer; and the West Side by a Gardner, who keeps a publick House. These pay a Rack Rent to the Lady Offley Relict of Squire Offley of Smallborough near Brendford in Middlesex. The pantiling on the East of the yard shews some what of a Tower or Turret. It may be further noted, that each Apartment had in elder time an house of Ease peculiar to Itself over the Moat. There is now a Pump in the midst of the Yard; from [which?] the Inhabitants have good Spring Water. [Now?] the Gardner and Farmer let their Rooms to Lodgers. This Building is 80 foot to the North of the Road or Well Street; and Bears from Shore House NE 100 Paces or 500 foot or the $\frac{1}{10}$ of a Mile.'

A later engraving, dated 17th September 1801 says that the house is 'Now inhabited by Chimney Sweepers'. By the 1831 Survey of Hackney, the house was no longer standing.

Brooke House, described by Clarke as ‘by far the oldest (and perhaps the only) surviving baronial mansion in our parish’ stood on Upper Clapton Road north of the junction with Kenninghall Road. Some parts of the structure dated from the late fifteenth century, when the house was probably the country residence of William Worsley, who became Dean of St. Paul’s in 1479. In the sixteenth century the house was held by Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland; Thomas Cromwell, who enlarged it; and Henry VIII, among others. In July 1536, the house was the scene of a reconciliation between Henry VIII and his daughter Mary. Mary had, prior to this, been persuaded to take the oath of supremacy and sign the articles illegitimizing her birth. It was recorded that Mary ‘was brought rydinge from Hunsedonne secretly in the nyght to Hacknaye, and [that] afternone the King and the Queene [Jane Seymour] came theder, and there the Kinge spake with his deare and wel beloved daughter Marye, which had not spoken with the Kinge her father in five yere afore, and there she remayned with the Kyng tyll Frydaye at nyght, and then she roode to Hunsdone agayne secretly’. A description of the house survives from the mid sixteenth century when Edward VI gave Brooke House to Sir William Herbert, a gentleman of his Privy Chamber: ‘there is a Manor place whiche is a Fayre House all of bricke havinge a Fayre Hall and a parlor a Faire ketchyn a Pastory a drye larder with Buttry Pantery and all other houses of Office necessary and many Fayre Chambers a Faire long Galerye a proper Chapell and a Closet comynge out of the great Chamber over the Chappell a proper lybrarye to laye bokes in many other proper Roomes wythin the same Place And also a Fayre barne to ley haye a Faire Stable Roome able for stabling for horses And the said house is inclosid upon the backeside wyth a greate brode dyche and without that a Fayre large garden inclosid to the sayd House with a pale necessary for a garden or an Orcharde And at the furder ende of the sayd house [an] Orcharde havinge but Fewe treese of Frute therein wiche conteynyth di’ acre or theraboutes And at the Hither end of the House comynge From London ys a Faire large garden grounde inclosyd with a bricke wall’.

The name Brooke House originated during a period beginning in

1609 when it was owned by the Greville family, Barons Brooke of Beauchamps Court. Prior to 1621, when the Grevilles inherited the barony, it was known as King’s Place. In an extract from his Diary for 25 June 1666, Pepys wrote, ‘and (Mrs. Pen) carried us to two gardens at Hackeny (which I every day grow more and more in love with) – Mr. Drakes one, where the garden is good, and house and the prospect admirable – the other, my Lord Brookes’s, where the gardens are much better, but the house not so good, nor the prospect good at all – but the gardens are excellent; and here I first saw Oranges grow, some green, some half, some a quarter, and some full ripe on the same tree, and one fruit of the same tree doth come a year or two after the other. I pulled off a little one by stealth (the man being mighty curious of them) and eat it; and it was just as other little green small oranges are; as big as half the end of my little finger. Here were also great variety of other exoticque plants, and several Labarinths and a pretty Aviary. Having done there with very great pleasure, we away back again, and called at the Taverne in Hackny by the church and there drank and eate; and so in the cool of the evening, home – this being the first day of my putting on my black stuff Bombazin suit, and I hope to feel no inconvenience by it, the weather being extremely hot.’

From 1759 to 1940 the house was used as a private mental asylum, and it was during this period that more alterations to the building were made. It was damaged by bombing in October 1940, and acquired by Hackney Borough Council in March 1944. The degree of damage was not so great that restoration was impossible, but the house was carefully demolished and recorded in 1954-5, this forming the basis for volume XXVIII of the Survey of London. This careful demolition provided an opportunity for a thorough archaeological excavation, at which point the house’s historical significance was realised.

Various artefacts survive, including a wall-painting from the late fifteenth century chapel, which is on display in the Museum of London, and a sizeable amount of panelling, now installed at Harrow School. The site was used for Brooke House School.

This building must rate as Hackney’s greatest loss this century.

Brooke House: a pre-war photograph showing the north-west corner of the second courtyard



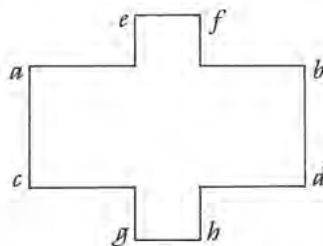
Brooke House; panelling in the Long Gallery. The photograph was taken after bombing in 1940



Church House was built c. 1520 at the expense of Christopher Urswick (1448-1522), Rector of Hackney, diplomatist and personal friend of Henry VIII. Urswick was used as a character – the priest – in Shakespeare’s *Richard III*. In a Charity Roll dating from Edward VI’s reign, it was described as ‘a tenement buylded by the parishioners, called the Churche house, that they might mete together and come of matters as well for the Kyng’s business as for the churche and parishe’. From the early seventeenth century it was used as a free school, then a charity school, following a bequest by Margaret Audley of Hackney which provided a schoolmaster’s salary. Here twelve local boys were ‘taught to read, write and cast accounts’. In 1741, the churchyard was surveyed by Roger Root, and the plan (reproduced on the back cover) included Church House:

‘This Scale Measures the School as follows

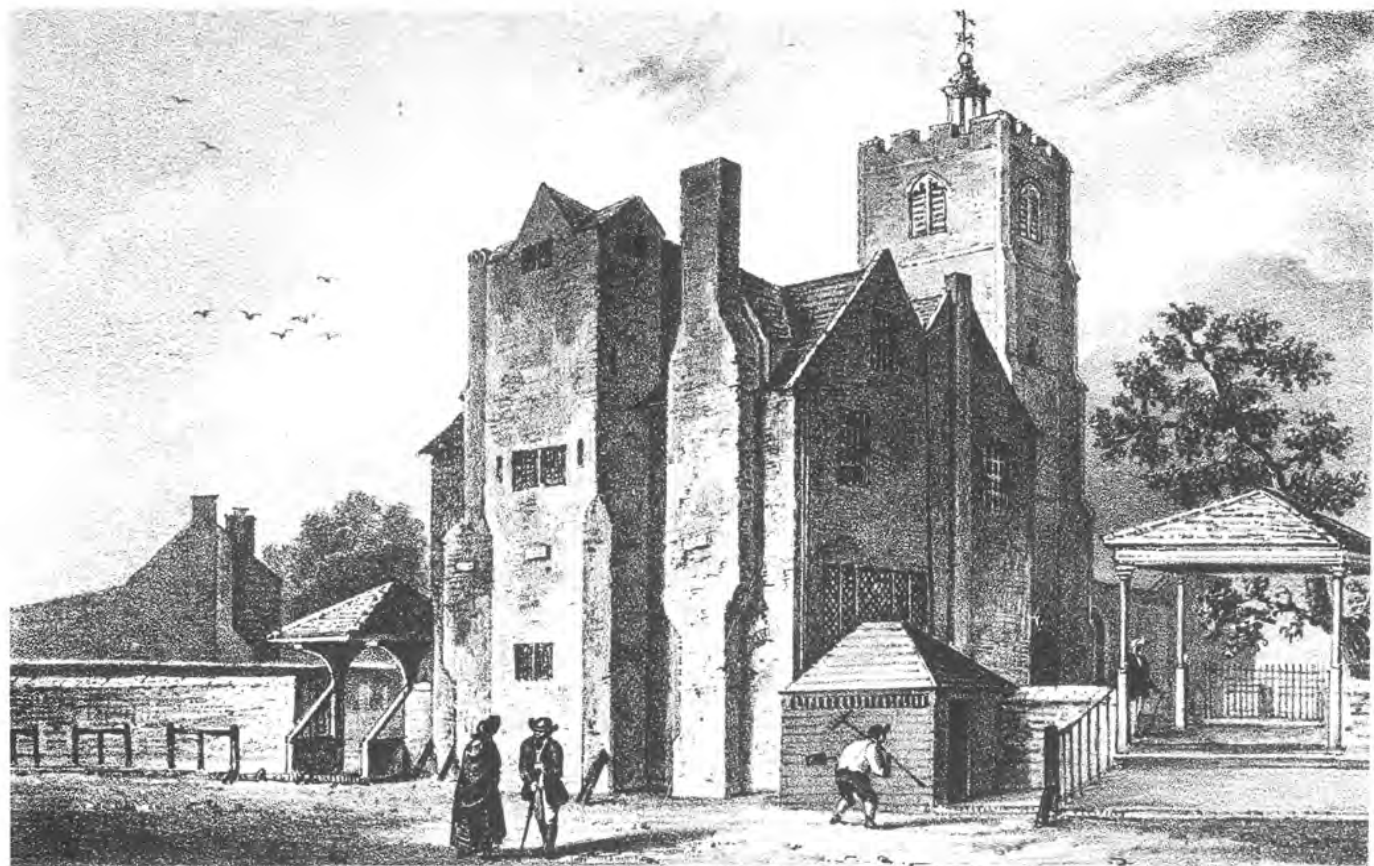
The School is in Measures viz North & South 41 foot the middle part, also East and west is 41 foot the flank of the Building being 26 foot and the middle part jetting out 8 foot East and 8 foot West. The middle part is likewise N & S 8 foot and the School 16 foot North so that it is easy to Conceive the Ground plan to be in the form of a Cross. Thus



a, b, or c, d N & S 41 foot
 a, c, or b, d E & W 26 foot
 e, f or g, h E & W 8 foot
 g, c or f, h N & S 42 foot

The Height to the Ridge of the Middle part is 40 foot to the Eaves of the Same 36 foot. The the [*sic*] Ridge of the School 32 foot to the Eaves 19 foot the largeness of this Roof admits 2 Dormers of 8 foot wide and 8 high: with Windows in them of 2 foot Square, It is Remarkable that the Bricks of this Building allow 3 Courses to a foot The Stocks 9 foot long and the Cage 12 foot long here is Correction on the Back of Instruction’.

The building was demolished in 1802 and is the site of the first Hackney Town Hall, now used by the Midland Bank at the junction of Mare Street and Dalston Lane. (The date above the entrance, 1900, refers to the addition of stone cladding to the building.)

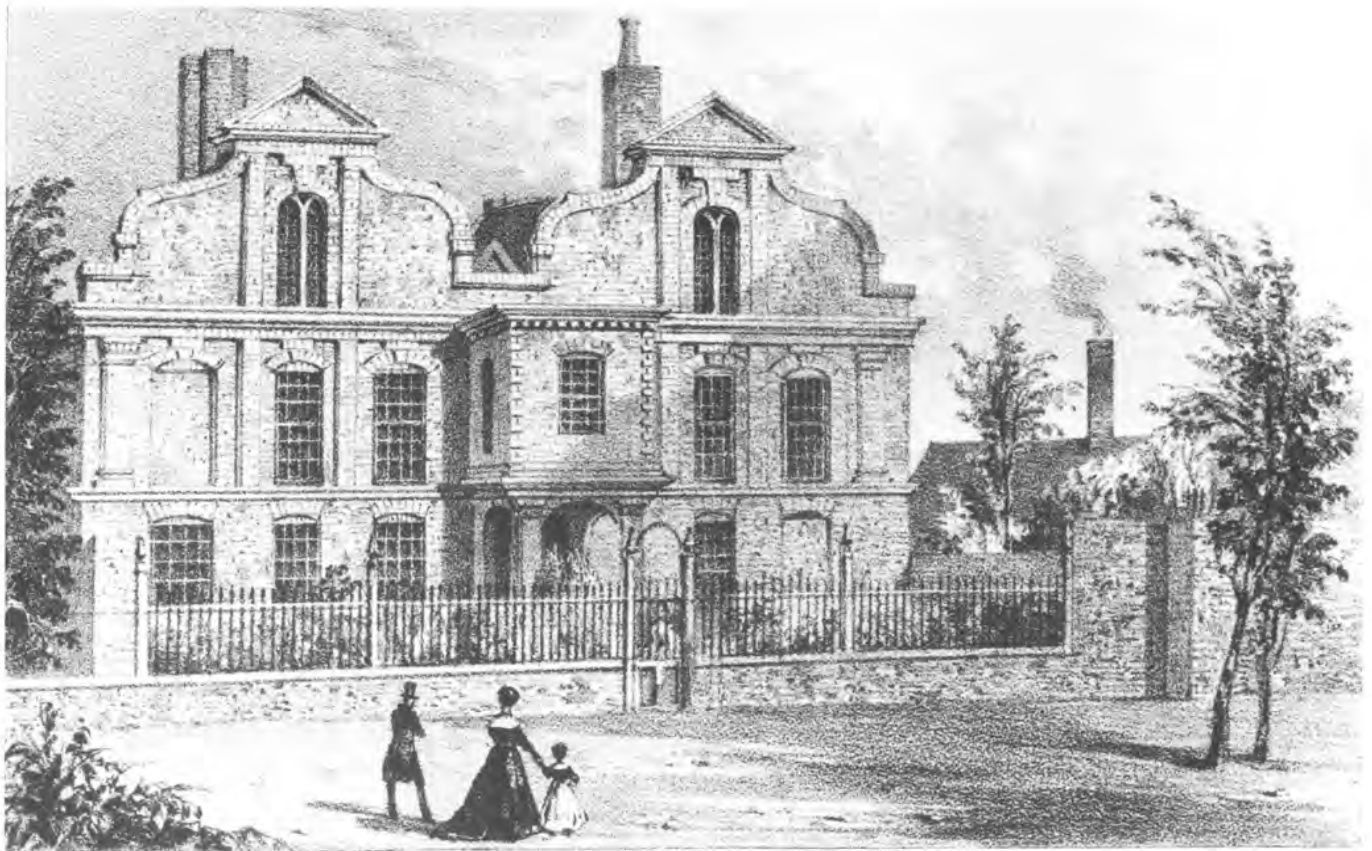


Church House: an early nineteenth-century engraving showing the south-west elevation from William Robinson's *History of Hackney*. The tower of St. Augustine's Church in the background is still standing

Shacklewell House stood to the north west of Shacklewell Green, roughly on the site of the present Seal Street. The site of the house is marked on the 1868 Ordnance Survey map. William Robinson's *History of Hackney* states that the house was the family seat of the Herons; Giles Heron married Cecilia, daughter of Sir Thomas More,

Henry VIII's chancellor. The house later passed into the hands of the Rowe family, whose arms were in stained glass windows in the house. A later owner was Francis Tyssen, one of the Lords of the Manor of Hackney. During the sixteenth century, the house became known as the Manor House. It was demolished in the late eighteenth century.

Shacklewell House:
an early nineteenth-century
engraving from William
Robinson's *History of Hackney*



Balmes House was built c.1540 for two Spanish merchants and stood just to the west of Kingsland Road, roughly between the present canal bridge and Downham Road. It was used by the Whitmore family from 1634-87; Sir George Whitmore (d.1654) was a supporter of the King, and was Lord Mayor of London in 1631-32. Legend states that 'here it was that Charles I, with his Court, were entertained in tents in the garden by Sir George Whitmore, who occasionally resided here during his mayorality in 1631-32. Here it was, in the year 1641, that the same unfortunate Sovereign was greeted on his return from the north by a band of his devoted loyal subjects; for here, the King, with the Queen, the Prince, the Duke of York, Princess Mary, Elector Palatine, and Duchess of Richmond, came in coaches, which turned into Balmes' ground.' The Cavaliers convened a meeting of the Lord Mayor and principal citizens and offered the King a guard of 10,000 men.

The grounds were used as an exercising field for the Artillery Company in the 1660s. References to Balmes can be found in Pepys' diary during this decade: on the 12 May 1667 'and thence to Sir G Whitmore's house, where we light and walked over the fields to Kingsland and back again, a walk I think I have not taken these twenty years but puts me in mind of my boy's time, when I boarded at

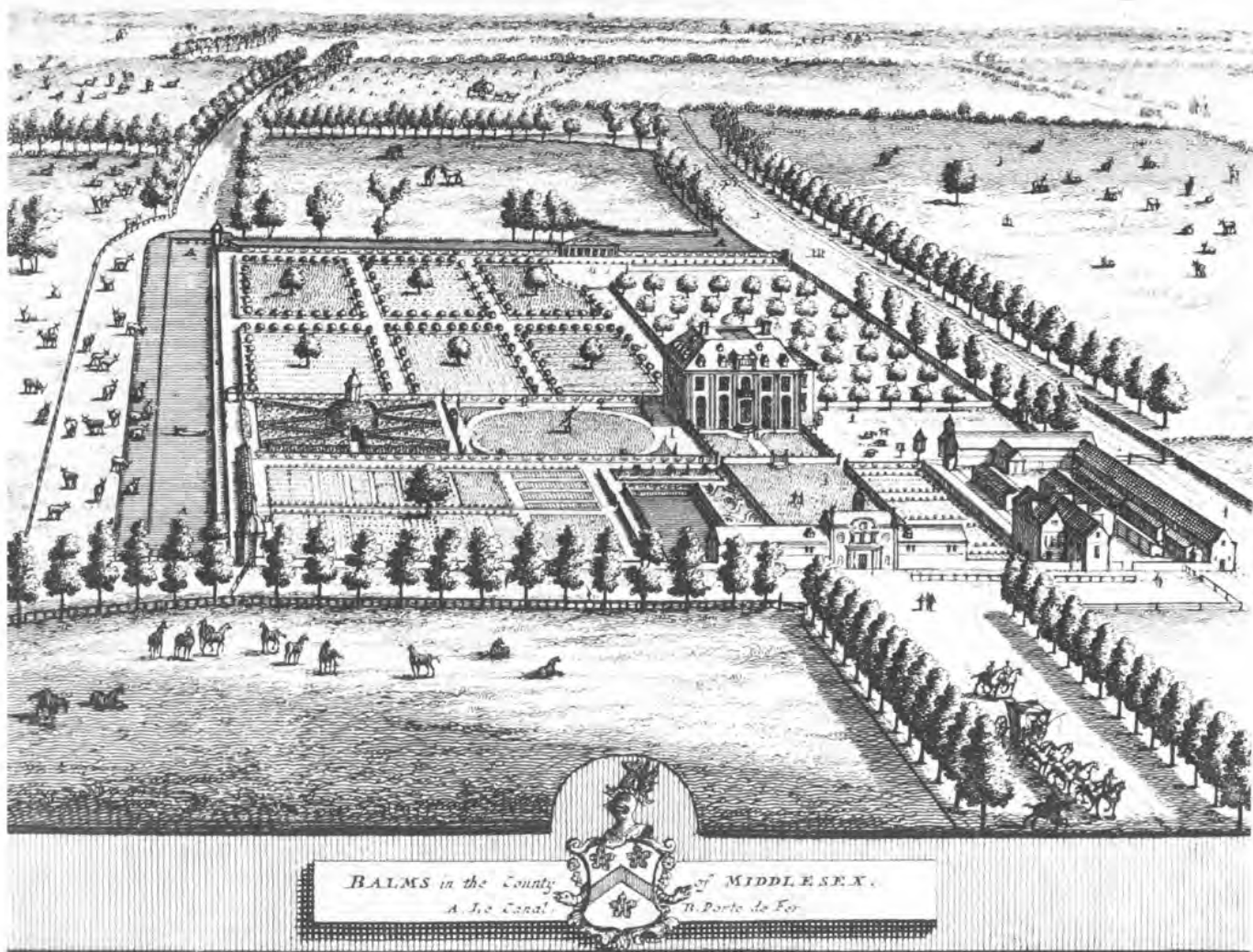
Kingsland and used to shoot with my bow and arrows in these fields. A very pretty place it is . . .' Following this, it was sold to Richard de Beauvoir in 1680 during which period it was noted for its gardens. In the eighteenth century it was leased by Dr Meyer Schomberg (d.1761) for the reception of lunatics, this use being continued by Mr Warburton. Around this time, the building became known as 'the Mad House'.

The illustrations of the house shown here appear to be of a seventeenth-century building, though this may represent a remodelling of an earlier building. The architectural style was basically classical. The double dormer windows in the roof – a highly unusual feature in England – appear to represent north European influence. The interior included fine carved ceilings. The gateway shown in the landscape view was demolished c.1794, and was said to bear the date 1623. Originally, a moat surrounded the house. Avenues approached from Hoxton and Kingsland Road.

The elevation of the south front is a watercolour by George Toussaint, dated 1852, and was probably commissioned shortly before the demolition of the house. The artist lived locally in Maitland Place, Lower Clapton, and painted many local buildings.

Balmes House: the south front,
drawn in 1852 by
George Toussaint, shortly
before the house's demolition





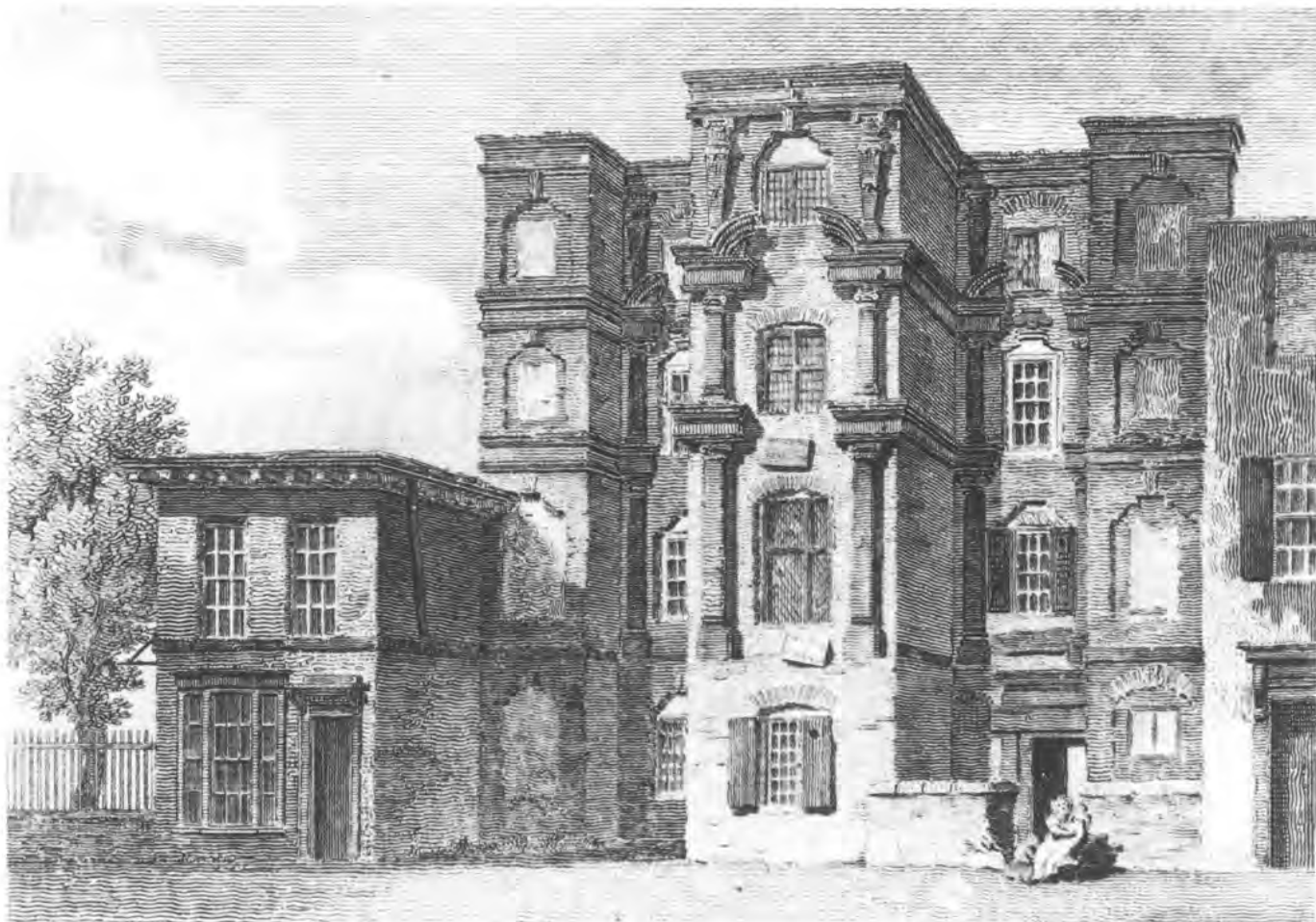
BALMS in the County of MIDDLESEX.
A. Le Canal B. Porte de Fer

Balms House and grounds in 1707. This is the earliest known illustration of the house, published in James Beeverell's *Les Delices de Grande Bretagne et de l'Ireland*

The **Templars' House** stood at the north of Mare Street, on the east side, on the site of the present 'Crown' public house. It was roughly opposite Ward's House*, another lost building of Hackney. Legend has it that the house belonged to the Knights Templars, who held large amounts of property and land in Hackney, probably including Temple Mills, until their suppression in 1312. The house was brick-built, and can be dated on architectural evidence to the early seventeenth century. The style incorporated pronounced classical details. Little is known of the building's history until the late eighteenth century, when it was used as a tavern – it was called the

Blue Post. Some public meetings were held there until the business was taken over by a Mr Bunn who moved to the Mermaid Tavern further south in Mare Street, near the Rectory on the north side of the churchyard (see back cover). After that it was let as separate tenements, housing about twenty families, when it was known as Bob's Hall. The building was demolished c.1825 and the site used as a stone mason's yard before houses and the 'Crown' were built.

*see *Glimpses of Ancient Hackney* for an illustration



Abney House (see cover for illustration) was built for Thomas Gunston (1667–1700) and completed just after his death in 1700. He was the son of a wealthy linen draper, and a prominent non-conformist resident of Stoke Newington. The hymn-writer and divine, Isaac Watts (1674–1748) was a close friend, and came to stay in neighbouring Fleetwood House in 1696. Watts was closely involved with the building of Abney House project and later lived there from 1734 until his death in 1748. After Gunston's death, the property passed to his sister, wife of Sir Thomas Abney, Lord Mayor of London.

The mansion, which faced onto Church Street was built of red brick, a seven bay symmetrical building of two storeys with a mansard roof. The south and north fronts were identical. Watts described it in a Pindaric Elegy:

Solid and square it rises from below:
A noble air without a gaudy show
Reigns thro' the model, and adorns the whole,
Manly and plain. Such was the builder's soul,

A campaign which ran through the 1830s to provide London with seven privately funded and developed cemeteries was to prove crucial to the fate of Abney House and its estate. During 1839 and 40, plans for a cemetery on the site were drawn up; the initial one showed Abney House walled off from the rest of the estate, and many old features such as the great Elm Walk and other well-established vegetation were to be retained in the layout of the new cemetery. In 1840 the estate became the property of the Abney Park Cemetery Company. At this point, the house was occupied by the Wesleyan Theological Institute, which moved to new premises in Richmond in 1843. Paintings of the house were commissioned in July 1843 from T.H.Shepherd (1793-1864), and immediately following an auction of the house, it was demolished. The gates were preserved as a side entrance to the cemetery, which was itself 'rescued' from an advanced state of decay in 1979 by the London Borough of Hackney.

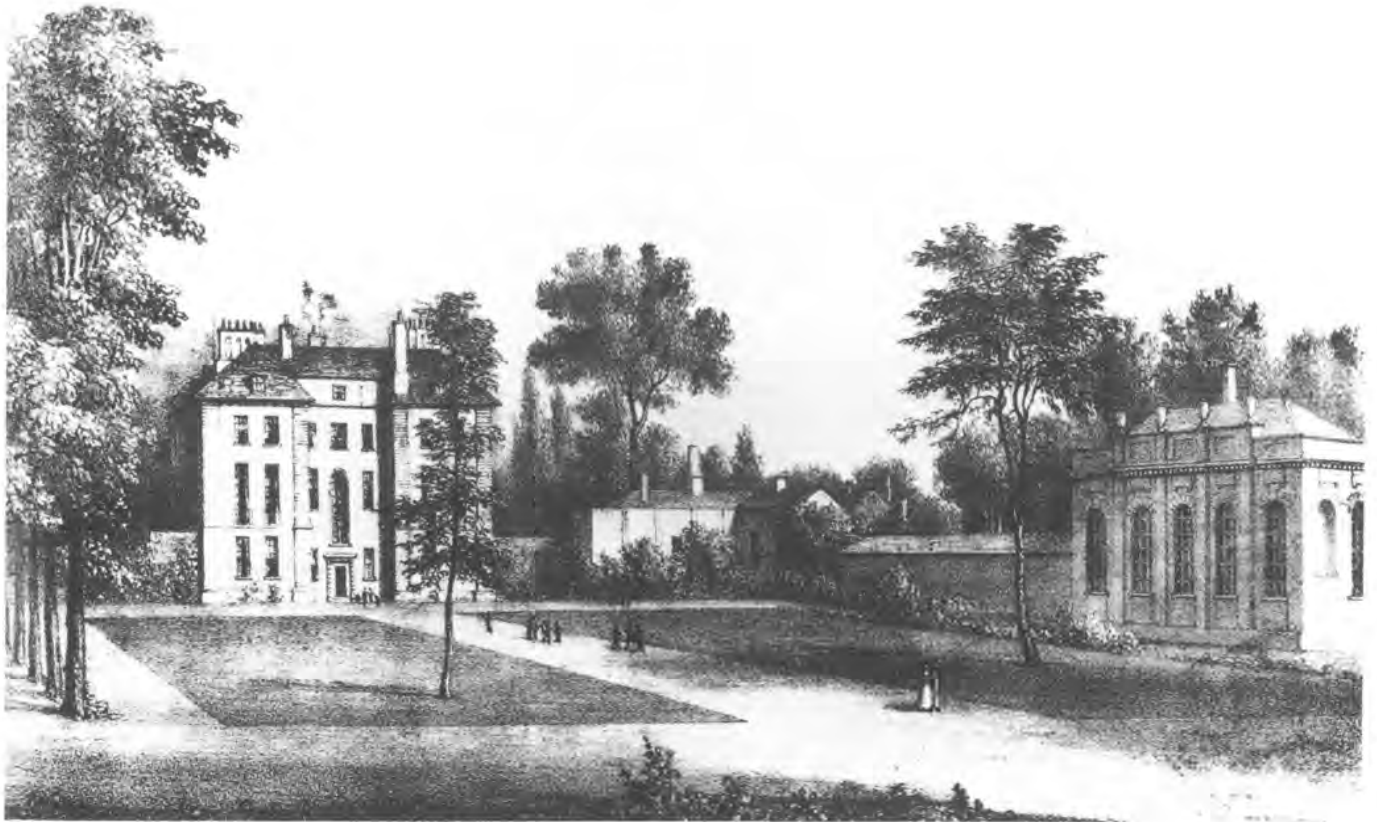
left Templars House: an early nineteenth century engraving

Clapton House stood to the north of Clapton Pond, opposite St. James's Church, and was probably built during the reign of Charles II. Bishop Thomas Wood, the founder of almshouses in Upper Clapton, lived there from 1680 to 1692. It was then bought by Sir William Chapman, a director of the South Sea Company, who was ruined by its failure in 1720. After various other changes of ownership, James Powell bought Clapton House from the Franco family in 1799.

In 1858, the house, 'a handsome building standing in some nine acres of ground', was leased by St. John's Foundation School, a choir school for sons of the clergy which had been formed in 1851. In 1861, the Rev E.C. Hawkins was appointed as headmaster and his son Anthony Hope Hawkins, author of *The Prisoner of Zenda* under the *nom-de-plume* Anthony Hope, was born at Clapton House on 9

February 1863. He described the house as 'a dignified old mansion standing back from the road behind its wall and drive, just opposite to St. James' Church. It was rumoured that the house had once been inhabited by a Bishop; it was even said that his ghost haunted one of its big attics . . . the old place was not unworthy of episcopal dignity. On the garden side you looked down on a broad walk between hedges that stretched for near a quarter of a mile down towards the watery meadows of the Lea. So looking, on your right was the wilderness, then a formal garden with a round pond, then a lawn with a big mulberry tree, and then a splendid rookery . . . a double row of great trees, and such a cawing at all proper seasons and occasions!'

The school moved to Leatherhead in 1867. Clapton House was demolished in 1881 when no tenant could be found, and is the site of the present Thistlewaite Road.



below left Clapton House:
back view – lithograph c.1840
by W. Day

Clapton House: photograph
taken shortly before demolition
in 1881. The posters on either
side of the gates advertise
furniture from the house for sale

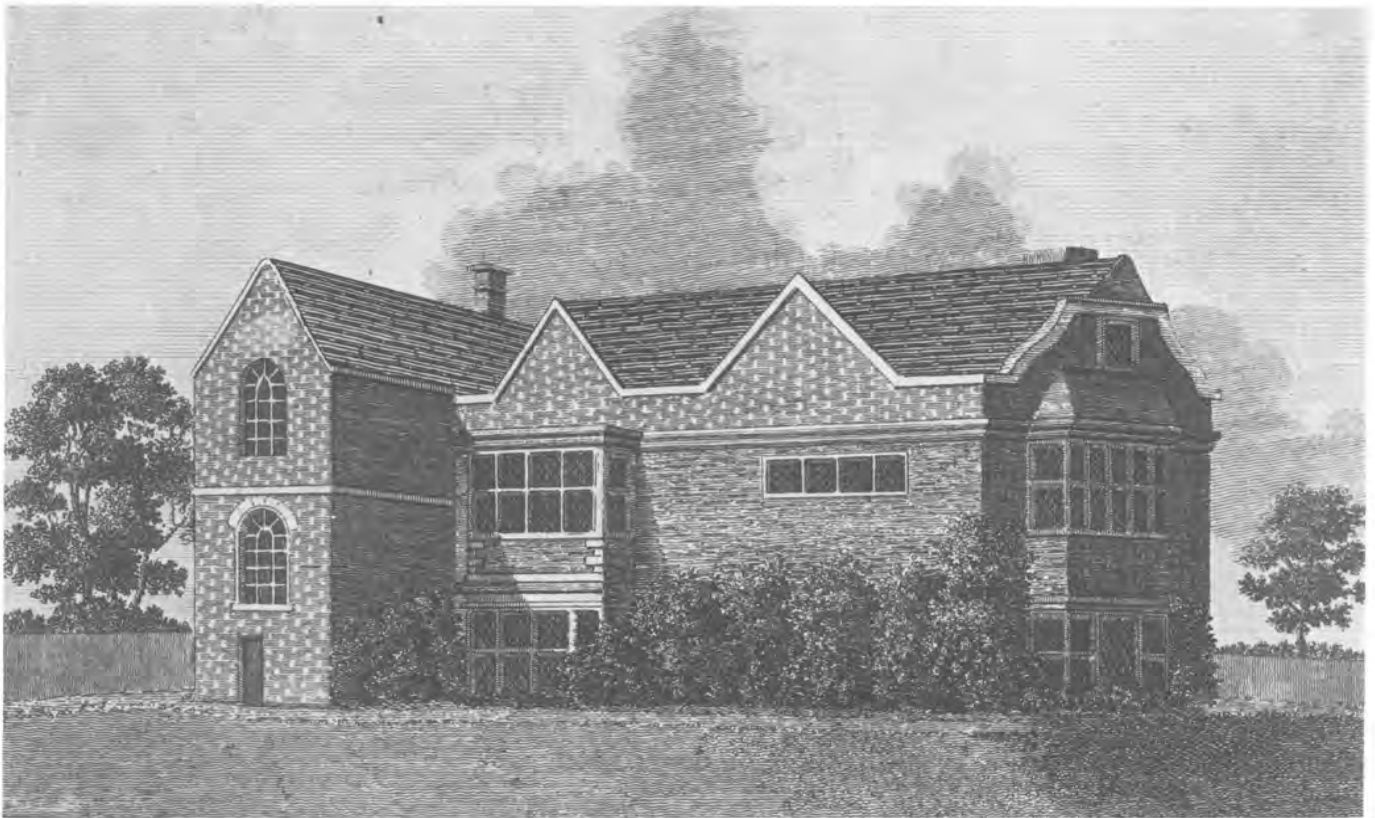


Howard's House stood roughly on the site of Rowhill Road, at the junction with Lower Clapton Road, and was built in the early eighteenth century. It was the birthplace of John Howard (1726/7-90), the celebrated philanthropist. The Howard League for Penal Reform still continues his pioneering work.

John Howard sold this house, which he inherited from his father in

1742, to Thomas Smith, Lord of the Manor of Tottenham, in 1785. The proceeds were used to finance his travels and writings. He later lived at 168 Church Street, Stoke Newington, and died in Russia in 1790. The house, 'built in Elizabethan style', was demolished prior to 1826, according to early nineteenth-century sources.

Howard's House: illustration
from the *Gentleman's Magazine*,
June 1793



The **Deaf and Dumb Asylum**, 179 Lower Clapton Road, was originally a merchant's house. It was one of a group of houses (177 to 187b Lower Clapton Road) which were compulsorily purchased by Hackney Borough Council under the 1925 Housing Act to provide land for building 'working class dwellings'. Contemporary records claim that it was almost impossible to find alternative sites in the borough. Following the Council's decision to make a Compulsory Purchase Order, a government enquiry was held in October 1930; the Council were well aware that 179 Lower Clapton Road was an 'ancient monument' as defined by the 1882 Act, but despite a public outcry, including an article in the *Sunday Times* on 8 June 1930 which described the building as being 'in an excellent state of preservation' they proceeded. At the government enquiry it was stated that 'altogether, this house was unique as a fine detached building'; Councillor W.R. Power, an ex-Mayor of Hackney said that 'the borough had lost all its local spirit of pride in its historic dwellings'. Other houses which were demolished included number 183, occupied by the Gaviller family from 1809 to 1913, with a particularly fine garden, and number 185, Byland House (formerly Bahia house).

Number 179 was built during the reign of Queen Anne, probably in 1712 by Markham Eeles, a glass and china merchant who died in 1731; his initials were incorporated into the wrought iron entrance gate. The house's nickname 'Piss pot hall' undoubtedly derived from this time. Following Eeles' death, William Bowman, a banker, lived there. From 1860 it was used by the British Asylum for Deaf and Dumb Females, who had previously occupied Eagle House, Homerton (which was at the junction of Homerton Row and Homerton High Street and has also been demolished, some time after 1945). This charity was founded by the Sutton family.

Oak panelled rooms and a fine garden which stretched to Clarence Road were lost when the building was demolished in April 1933. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings wrote to Hackney Borough Council requesting the incorporation of the gate and entrance in the new housing scheme, but they were sold to a museum in Chicago. Under a heading in a local paper, 'Fine effort to get rid of slums', the opening of the Lower Clapton Road Housing Scheme flats was reported the following year. The Minister of Health asked the Mayor to 'please convey to your council and your officers my appreciation of the energetic and whole hearted manner in which they have responded to the appeal of the Government to put an end quickly and in a limited time to the evil of the slums'. The Powell House flats of 1934 were demolished in 1986 to make way for a new council housing estate.

The demolition of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum must rate as one of

the Council's most scandalous and outrageous decisions, which resulted in the loss of one of north London's finest buildings.

Deaf and Dumb Asylum:
the front doorcase
photographed c.1930 by Albert
Hester following Hackney
Borough Council's decision to
compulsorily purchase and
demolish the building



Deaf and Dumb Asylum: the front elevation, c.1910



Deaf and Dumb Asylum:
fireplace and surround in the
Tiled Room. A photograph
taken in June, 1930



Deaf and Dumb Asylum:
staircase window showing
turned balusters and oak
panelling



Hackney House was built about 1727 for Stamp Brooksbank MP, a wealthy nonconformist merchant later to become governor of the Bank of England, who lived there until his death in 1756. The architect was Colen Campbell (1676-1729), a virtuoso Scottish designer and writer, who was a leader in reviving the Palladian style of architecture in Britain. The first volume of his *Vitruvius Britannicus* was published in 1715 and marked this revival; it was an important work both as a magnificent record of the best classical buildings of the time in England, and as a great influence on craftsmen and builders. It demonstrated the way in which the 'national taste' was to develop. Campbell's own work included Wanstead House (1713-20), demolished 1824), Stourhead, Wiltshire (c.1720) – an example of the villa style – and the remodelling of Lord Burlington's House (c.1717), the first Anglo-Palladian town house, which now houses the Royal Academy of Arts. Campbell was possibly the first to adopt the astylar terrace, which was to become the standard urban façade used throughout the Georgian period. This style was adopted in building Hackney House – the façade was without columns or pilasters, but the basic order of column, void, column, was maintained. The design of the wings, added much later, followed the same astylar composition.

Hackney House stood in a walled estate of 18 acres to the east of Lower Clapton Road; the whole estate comprised 200 acres of farmland stretching as far as Homerton, Millfields Road and the Lea Cut. (Rocque's map of 1745 shows this. See p.6.) At Brooksbank's death, the estate was purchased by John Hopkins, then passed to Benjamin Bond Hopkins, whose son sold it to Samuel Stratton, and he in turn to Thomas Hubbard. In November 1786 it was purchased by John Hurford Stone and William Blackburn on behalf of the 'Committee for conducting the New College among Protestant Dissenters' who were anxious to remedy the shortage of training establishments for prospective nonconformist ministers. A report dating from November 1788 stated that 'of the several Collegiate Establishments in Europe we know not of any other that professes the advantage of having originated in a period in which the Human Mind, enlightened by discoveries as important as they are New devotes itself to the investigation of Truth; nor do we know of any other that has been founded expressly for the purposes of teaching and maintaining the genuine Principles of Freedom, Civil and Religious'. In 1788 the east wing was added by the architect William Blackburn, a friend of John Howard (qv). The following year, the west wing was added, and College House, which stood until about 1870, was built nearby for the resident tutor Abraham Rees.

Although the institution was short-lived owing to the hostile political and religious climate, the distinguished staff included the

nonconformist minister and writer Richard Price (who lived at 2, St. Thomas's Square), the scholar and writer Gilbert Wakefield, and the theologian and scientist Joseph Priestley (who lived in a house on the site of 113-115 Lower Clapton Road). Thomas Paine, author of *The Rights of Man*, lectured there in 1792. In 1796, the college closed



and the *Gentleman's Magazine* announced that 'Babylon is fallen'. The building was demolished c.1799; the building materials may have been used for 'the five houses', (now the site of Lower Clapton Health Centre in Lower Clapton Road) and the Priory (now Chatsworth and Dunlace Roads).

Hackney House: an illustration from c.1790



∞ ALMSHOUSES ∞

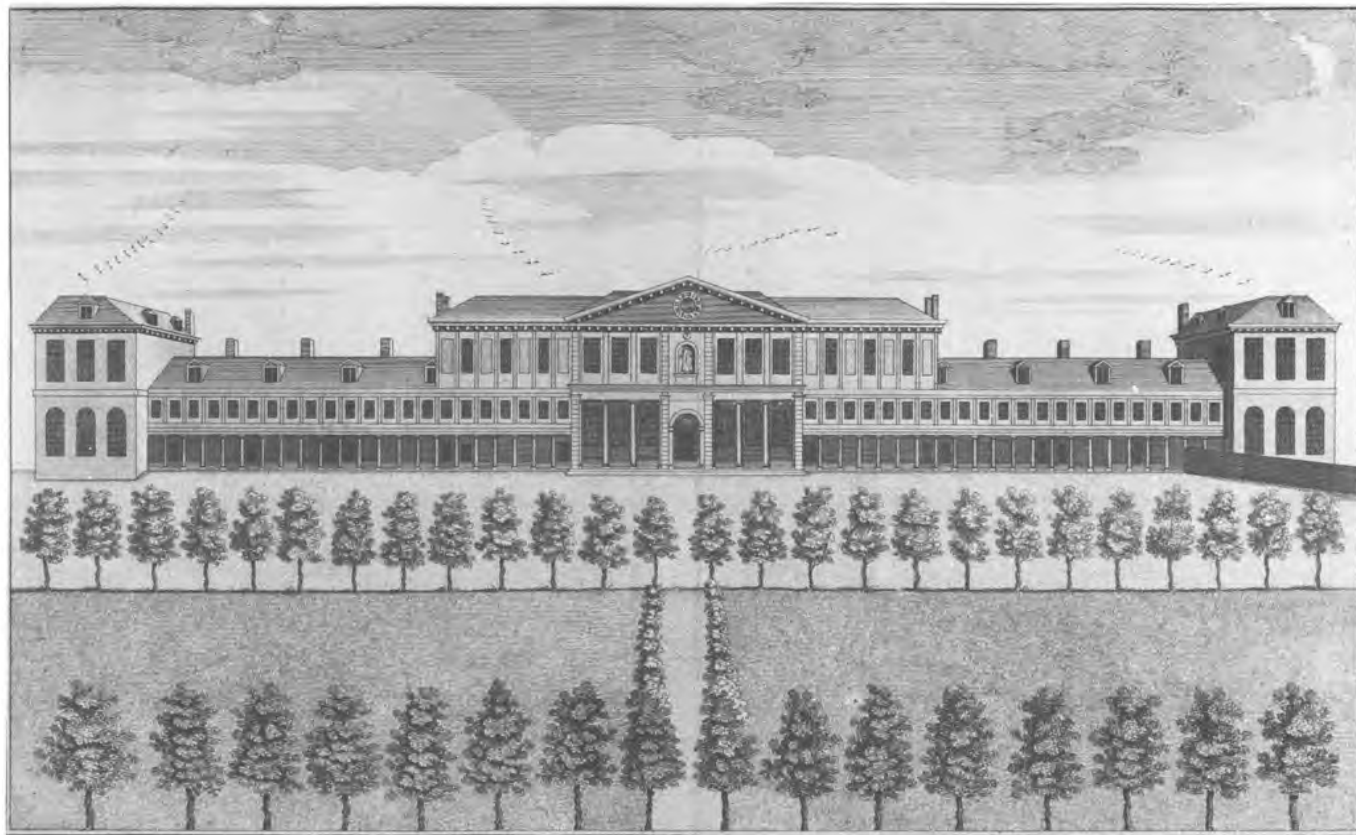
Hackney once contained many almshouses, forerunners of the modern hospital. Shoreditch was particularly popular as a site for such buildings; Peter Chassereau's 1745 Survey of Shoreditch shows as many as nineteen in that area alone. Reasons for this included east London's proximity to City Companies, and the greater availability of land in comparison with other parts of London. Lumley's almshouses were among the first to be built; approximately five more almshouses were built during the seventeenth century, of which the grandest was Aske's Hospital. This particular building set quite a trend, and during the following two decades, another five almshouses were built in the Shoreditch area. Of these, only the Ironmongers' (built in 1714) remain, saved after a public enquiry in 1906, when the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the National Trust objected to their demolition. These almshouses survive as the Geffrye Museum.

Aske's Hospital was one of the earliest and grandest almshouses to be built in Shoreditch. It took its name from its benefactor Robert Aske, who left £20,000 to the Haberdashers' Company in 1688 to build an almshouse. On 13 June 1690, a site was bought in Pitfield Street and the hospital was built in 1692-95 to designs by the scientist, Robert Hooke (1635-1703). The central two-storey section housed a chapel, school rooms and ten tenements on each side. This was fronted by an open colonnade with an ambulatory, 340 feet in length. The projecting wings also housed school rooms. The chapel was consecrated on 24 November 1695.

A contemporary account described the inhabitants as 'Twenty poor, decayed Men Haberdashers, who all Diet at a Common Table together, have every two Years a Gown, and three pounds a year in Money, likewise Twenty poor Boys the Sons of Haberdashers enjoy ye same Benefit, and are also taught to Write and Cypher to fit them for Callings'.

The buildings had become very dilapidated by 1882 when they were demolished. The replacement building, on an adjacent site dating from 1825-27, is now used by the City and East London College.

Aske's Hospital: an engraving
from Ellis's *History of Shoreditch*,
1798



Norris almshouses were 'erected in testimony to their late rector the Reverend Handley Norris M.A. by the Parishioners of South Hackney' and provided accommodation for women parishioners. Built in the 1860s, when much of South Hackney was laid out for development*, they were firmly Victorian in style, unlike most other almshouses in Hackney.

These attractive buildings, with patterned brickwork and diamond-shaped leaded light windows were demolished in 1968. They were situated at 145 Victoria Park Road (at the junction with Handley Road). The site has been used for similar purpose housing.

*See *Victorian Villas of Hackney* for a map and further description



Norris almshouses:
a photograph taken shortly
before demolition in 1968

Retreat almshouses were endowed and built in 1812 'for the comfort of Twelve Widows of Dissenting Ministers By Samuel Robinson' and stood at the junction of Retreat Place and Mead Place. The architectural style is a typical example of the early Gothic Revival trend. Here, Gothic details have been superimposed on a highly utilitarian

building. This style was also used for the Hackney Grammar School in 1829 (see p.68).

*These almshouses were demolished following bombing in 1940 and the site used for housing.

Retreat almshouses:
an early nineteenth-
century engraving



Spurstowe's almshouses were in Sylvester Path, behind the Hackney Empire in Mare Street. The cartouche above the central doorway read:

'Out of ye Pious intention of WILLIAM SPURSTOWE. D.D. deceased. formerly Viccar of this Parish of Hackney these six Almes houses were Erected & built Anno Dmni 1666. for ye Habitations & dwellings of six Poore Widdowes of this Parish of good life & Conversation who dyed before hee made a Settlement upon ye said Almshouses & after his decease HENRY SPURSTOWE. late of London Esqr. Brother to ye said Dr to Perfect & Establish ye Drs good worke Anno Dmni 1667 settled for ever certain Lands in ye said Parish on severall Trustees for ye said six poore Widdowes better support & maintenance & for no other persons whatsoever In testimony whereof HENRY SPURSTOWE of London. Gent. Sonn of ye said HENRY hath erected this Inscription.

Anno Domini 1689.

REBUILT 1819.'

The buildings were one storey tall, with a wide pediment and curvy chimney stacks. They were demolished in 1966; the almshouses have been relocated to Navarino Road and the site used to build a small warehouse.



Spurstowe's almshouses:
a photograph taken shortly
before demolition in 1966

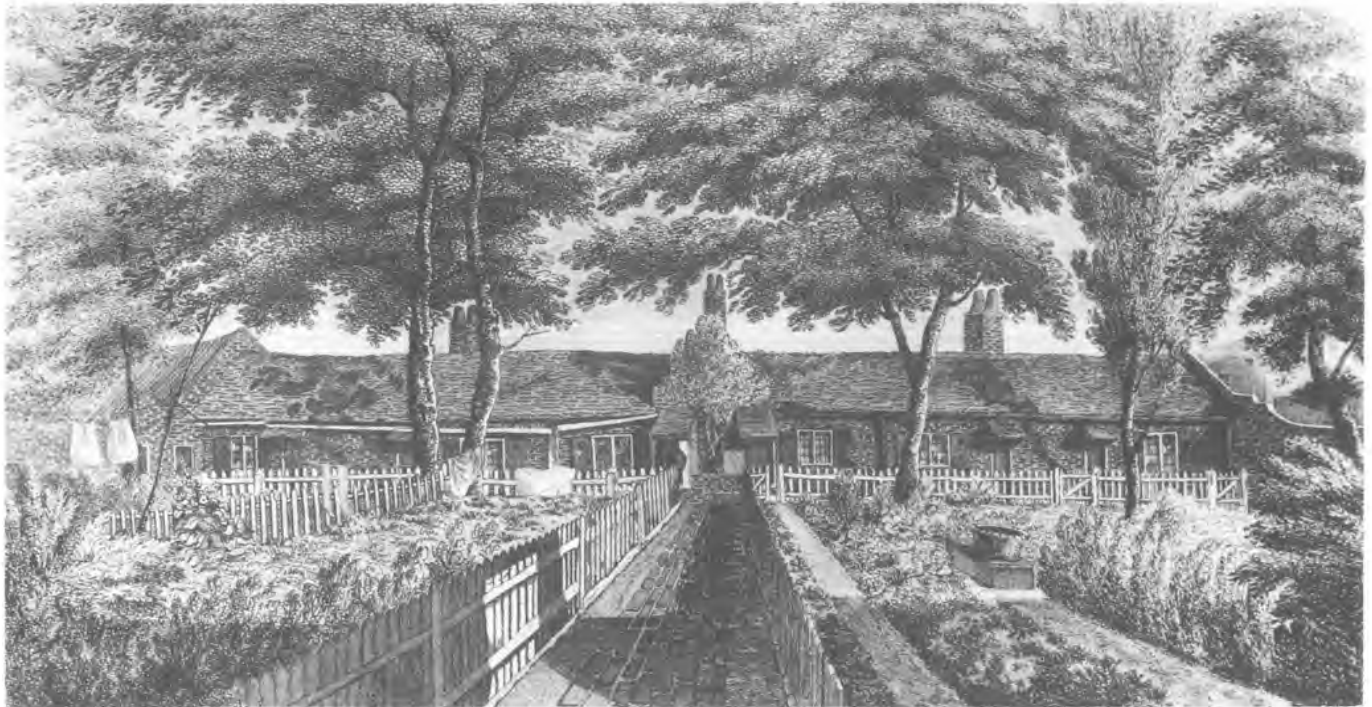


Lumley's almshouses stood on the east side of Shepherdess Walk, at the junction with Nile Street. Elizabeth, Viscountess Lumley, established a trust in 1657 for the building of six almshouses; they were to be situated in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, or St. Botolph, Aldgate. No suitable land could be found in either parish, so in 1672, a plot in Shoreditch, which belonged to Bishopsgate parish was used. This area was known as the Pest House field, a name

which arose following the Plague in 1665, when pesthouses or 'lazarettes' were erected in various parts of London to enable the sick to be cared for.

The original six houses were a series of one-storey brick buildings, with tiled roofs and gardens at the front. They were repaired in 1781, rebuilt in 1822, and demolished in 1898 following administrative reorganisation of the charity.

Lumley's almshouses:
an engraving from Wilkinson's
Londina Illustrata, 1834



Porter's almshouses, shown here in a painting by T. H. Shepherd, were built in 1826 on the site of earlier almshouses endowed by John Walter. They were designed by John (?) Wallen, and stood on the north side of Old Street opposite Shoreditch Town Hall. Thomas Porter's bequest was managed, like John Walter's, by the Drapers'

Company. an arrangement which continued until the turn of the century. In about 1902, the foundation moved to Wood Green, and the buildings were demolished shortly afterwards. The site now houses the Magistrates Court and Old Street Police Station.

Shepherd's view of
Porter's almshouses



Yoakley almshouses were built in 1835 as a result of an endowment by the Quaker, Michael Yoakley (1631-1708). The single-storey classical style building comprised eleven dwellings to provide two-roomed accommodation for women. They were situated to the north west of the Friends' Meeting House in Yoakley Road (formerly Park Street), and were demolished in 1957. The site was used to build a Seventh Day Adventist Church, flats and an electricity sub-station.

Yoakley almshouses: one of the single-storey houses built in 1835



∞ CHURCHES ∞

The old church tower of St. Augustine's Church is all that remains of Hackney when it was a medieval village. The church was built c. 1300 and was used until St. John's was built as a replacement to accommodate the increasing population of Hackney in 1792-97.

Many other churches of various denominations have also been demolished in Hackney. We are now living in a period when an increasingly secular society is rendering many church buildings redundant, posing problems for those responsible for these buildings. Ironically, though, all church buildings are still exempt from planning law, making them even more vulnerable.

The **Friends' Meeting House**, Yoakley Road was built in 1828 to a design by William Alderson. Originally a three-bay house with colonnades curving forwards was planned; however, only the three-bay house with three-bay loggia on square piers was eventually built. The interior was plain but elegant, with a gallery supported by pillars with Grecian capitals.

A Meeting of Friends was established in Stoke Newington as early

as 1698, but the need for a building did not become pressing until the early nineteenth century, by which time many Quakers had moved from the City to this area. By 1955 attendance at the Meeting House had fallen considerably, and the site was sold to Stoke Newington Borough Council. The building was demolished in 1957, but the cemetery behind the church, where many notable Quakers are buried, remains.



Friends' Meeting House:
the galleried interior
photographed in 1942

Friends' Meeting House:
Yoakley Road, photographed
in 1942



STOKE NEWINGTON

West Hackney Church (St. James) stood at the junction of Stoke Newington Road and Amhurst Road, and was built between 1821 and 1824 by Sir Robert Smirke (1781-1867). Smirke was an ardent advocate of the Greek classical revival in architecture, influenced by travels on the continent. His work includes the British Museum, Canada House in Trafalgar Square, St. Mary's Bryanston Square, and numerous other important buildings in London.

The cost of the church, £18,000, was paid by the Commissioners of the Church Building Act of 1818. The purpose of this Act was to continue the work of the 1711 Act – to counter the dangerous effects of the spreading of nonconformity, by re-establishing the Church of England where this was considered necessary and desirable. The local population was increasing steadily by the early nineteenth century, and the church was built to seat up to 2,000 people. It was an imposing rectangular building with a four-column Greek doric portico, in contrast with Smirke's frequently preferred Ionic style. The pediment was surmounted by a circular stone cupola.

The church was bombed in 1941, but the portico and east wall survived, and Pevsner suggested retaining these as a ruin. Alternatively, the church could have been rebuilt incorporating the ruins. However, they were sadly demolished in 1958 and a new church, St. Paul's, built on the site.



West Hackney Church:
rear view showing the
substantial ruins remaining
after bombing. The photograph
dates from June 1941.



West Hackney Church:
photograph taken in June 1941,
after bombing



St. Mary, (see next page) Thurtle Road, (formerly Brunswick Street, then Haggerston Road) was built in 1826-7 by John Nash (1752-1835), who, along with Smirke and Sir John Soane formed the Board of Works which advised the Commissioners of the 1818 Act on architectural matters. Nash is renowned as an extremely versatile architect, responsible for the major part of Buckingham Palace, the layout of the terraces around Regent's Park, the Marble Arch and the Brighton Pavilion.

The church was built in the Gothic style – the two castellated octagonal towers being a typical feature of this style. (In fact, they were built without the cupolas shown in this illustration.) In 1860, during a debate in the House of Lords, Haggerston was described as

‘being in a state of spiritual destitution so notorious that out of a population of more than 30,000, scarcely two hundred could be gathered within the walls of its church, capable of seating 1,500’. A new vicar, J. Ross was appointed, and he launched an appeal for funds. James Brooks, a Hackney resident, and architect of St. Chad's Church, Dunloe Street E2, (see Nichols Square, p.20) was asked to re-design the chancel and sanctuary, and convert the church to a stricter Gothic style.

The high tower was a local landmark until the church was destroyed by bombing in 1941. Shoreditch Almshouses, which stood opposite the church, are also no longer extant. The site is now a playground.

St. Mary's, Thurtle Road:
a nineteenth century engraving
by Robert Schnebbelie



∞ SCHOOLS ∞

In the seventeenth century, Hackney was a popular place for the education of noblemen's, merchants' and citizens' sons and daughters. Pleasantly rural, it was still close to the city. Girls from all over England were sent to be 'finished' at schools in Hackney. Pepys, in 1667 wrote, 'that which we went chiefly to see was the young ladies of the schools, whereof there is great store, very pretty'. The names of Perwick, Winch and Woolley are found as proprietors of schools in Hackney at this time. Several of these schools featured in Restoration comedies, the subject of jokes for providing their pupils with rather too worldly an education.

Hackney School, which was situated near Laura Place off Lower Clapton Road, was probably built in the 1630s, when it was a girls' school run by Mrs Salmon. Katherine Philips (1631-64), the poet and translator of some of Corneille's plays, was educated here, where she learnt French and Italian. Later, it was run by Benjamin or Samuel Morland. Henry Newcome married one of Morland's daughters in 1714, and succeeded his father-in-law as headmaster. Various members of the Newcome family ran the school until 1803. In its heyday it was noted for amateur dramatics; performances, mostly of Shakespeare's plays, began in 1729, and continued throughout the eighteenth century. By 1792, the school could boast sixty former pupils as Members of Parliament – they outnumbered old Etonians!

The building was demolished in the early 1820s and was replaced by the London Orphan Asylum (built in 1823-25), which itself survives in an incomplete form.



Hackney School: an engraving, c.1820 by R. Reeve



Hackney Free and Parochial School stood at 28 Chatham Place, at the corner of Retreat Place. This engraving by George Hawkins shows the school almost exactly as it was built in 1811 except that the blind recesses at each side of the door were replaced by windows. Benjamin Clarke, writing in 1894, recalled rivalry between boys at this school and the Church of England school in Clarence Road: 'For a time the boys looked askance at each other, and a small internecine war was established, which required some judgment on the part of the respective authorities to calm down, and the number of boys at each school then averaged over 120. At length strife arose with the boys of the Free School, or better known as the Hackney Charity School, in Chatham-place, some small boys of the Sutton-place Grammar School having been maltreated by them. The quarrel was instantly taken up by the Clarence-road School as well, and the two schools, in face of a common enemy, at once became friends (and ever after remained so). Our Field of Waterloo was the Hackney Churchyard, and, as the "charity brats" (the name then given them) poured in from Chatham-place along the Churchwell-path to intercept the Grammar boys as they came out of school in the

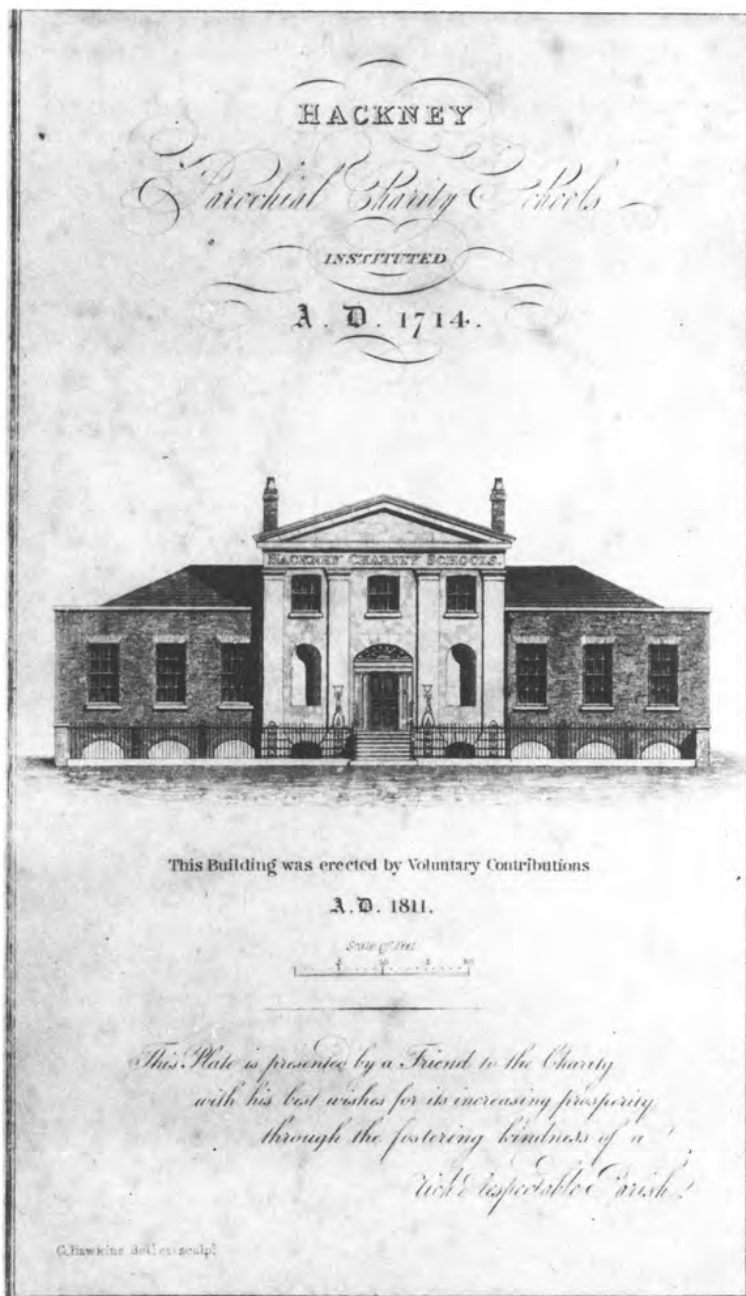
afternoon, we, from Clarence-road, in equally "imposing columns," rushed down Clapton-square, took the path, now by the Coroner's Court, along the Rectory Garden-wall, and outflanked the Charity boys. There really was some military genius shown on the part of our leaders. The fight became fast and furious, stones and other missiles were freely used, as well as heavy book straps. In the midst of the combat the police made their appearance, and by dropping on the ringleaders (for the Charity boys were the aggressors) the riot was with great difficulty quelled, even without a magistrate to read the Riot Act, or calling out the military to empty their shot-belts or give a bayonet charge. So ended the battle of Hackney (now for the first time placed in the rolls of fame), so ended the Grammar School's quarrel...'

The school occupied this building until 1895 when it moved to Isabella Road. The building was then used as a laundry, hall and Sunday school and latterly as a furniture factory. The east side of Chatham Place (numbers 2 to 26), including several Georgian houses, the school and the New Gravel Pit chapel were demolished to make way for the Frampton Park Estate in 1969.



Hackney Free and Parochial School: the doorway, and wrought iron railings photographed in 1969 shortly before demolition

Hackney Free and Parochial
School: a commemorative
engraving by a local artist,
George Hawkins, c.1820

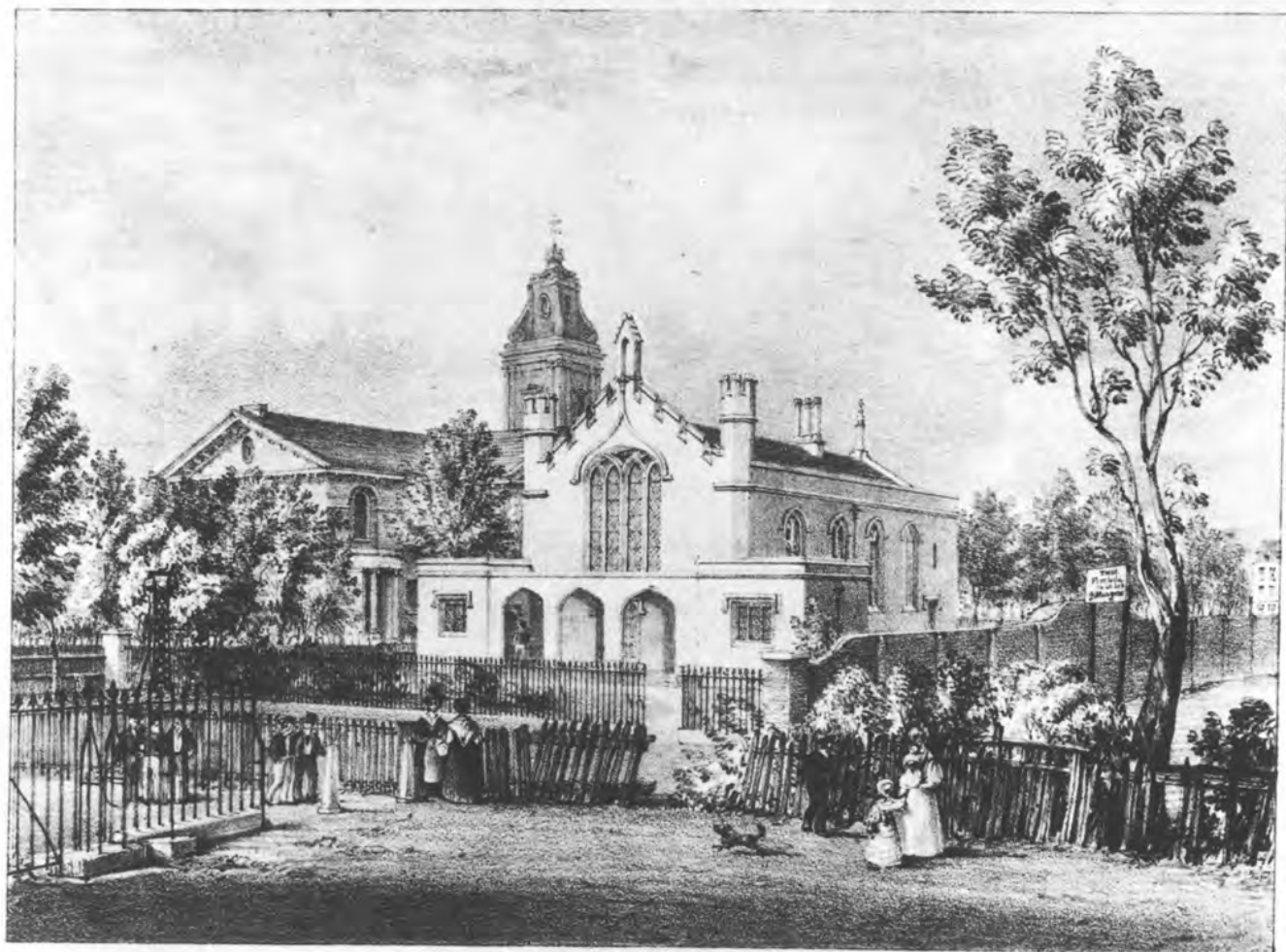


Hackney Grammar School stood at the north-west end of Sutton Place. It was built in 1829 at a cost of about £1,300, and was consecrated on 1 October 1830 by the Bishop of London. It was also known as the Proprietary Grammar School; the son of anyone who purchased three £15 shares could be educated there, but anyone who kept a shop in Hackney was barred from becoming a proprietor. (This exclusion led directly to the foundation of a Church of England school in Clarence Road, which was opened very shortly after the Grammar School in 1830.)

The early popularity of the school did not last and by the mid 1840s the number of pupils had decreased to fifty. So the school was closed after a comparatively short existence, and the building converted into

a private dwelling-house known as Sutton Lodge. It was the first building to be built on the north side of Sutton Place – the present semi-detached houses, numbers 17-22, followed later. Pevsner described the school in 1952 as ‘a dear little building with a miniature college chapel front: low-pitched embattled roof’. The conflict between land for housing and for industrial purposes had already been experienced in this area, when the gardens of 17-20 Sutton Place were taken over for use as factory premises around the turn of the century. Hackney Grammar School was demolished in the fifties to make way for an extension to the Metal Box Factory, a building now used by Hackney Council’s District Surveyors.

Hackney Grammar School:
a lithograph by George
Hawkins published in 1836



HACKNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Published by G Hawkins Upper Clapton, 1836.

Homerton College was on Homerton High Street, between College Street (now Priestley Street) and College Lane (now College Row). This seven-bay fronted building was erected in 1823 and replaced an old mansion which had been used as a Protestant Dissenters' Academy since 1769. The institution was an educational one, preparing nonconformists for the ministry. The location was chosen because Homerton was recognised as a strongly dissenting neighbourhood. In the 1780s, three students suspected of holding Unitarian views were expelled and transferred to Hackney Academy – in Hackney House – which was itself shortly to close owing to the political climate which became so anti-Republican. In 1822, Samuel Robinson, the administrating society's architect, reported that 'the

house is worn out: and I fear that unless it be taken down within a short time some terrible consequences may ensue'. Robinson himself designed the new building, shown here, an imposing low-fronted neo-classical building with a stuccoed central bay. It was opened in 1823. By the 1850s, the college had become an institute for educating and training teachers. The college moved from Hackney to Cambridge by 1893; the premises were sold to the London School Board and were in use as a Residential School for the Deaf by 1913. The building was slightly damaged by bombing in 1940 and subsequently demolished; the site was used for Hackney Borough Council flats, Bannister House.



Homerton College: the first building drawn by George Hawkins in September 1823, shortly before its demolition to make way for the second building on the site (opposite)

Homerton College: the second building. A photograph of the front elevation taken by Alfred Braddock in 1886 showing the fine wrought iron gates and railings



Hackney Church of England School, Clarence Road, was contemporaneous with the Grammar School, Sutton Place. The scheme to build this school was initiated by local tradesmen and backed by the Bishop of London and local rector, Archdeacon Watson. Benjamin Clarke was one of the very first scholars, and wrote that 'the Rev. Archdeacon Watson, the Rev. H.H. Norris, and the leading gentry of the village were present at a service, which was so admirably and efficiently conducted as to be tantamount to a consecration. On the heads of the two boys, whose names were first entered on the list of scholars, the Bishop laid his hands, and the writer happened to be one of the favoured two'. The school quickly had a hundred and twenty pupils, and remained in use for education until 1895.

The building was demolished around the turn of the century and the site was used to build L.C.C. flats in 1903 called Clarence Gardens, which were in turn demolished in the sixties. The site is now occupied by a service road on Pembury Estate.

Hackney Church of England school: view from the end of Clarence Place, c.1835





∞ FURTHER READING ∞

- Amery, Colin & Cruickshank, Dan, *The Rape of Britain*, Elek Books, 1975
- Baldry, J N, *The Hackney Free and Parochial Schools – a History*, 1970
- Booker, Christopher & Green, Candida Lycett, *Goodbye London*, Fontana, 1973
- Burton, Neil, *The Geffrye Almshouses*, Geffrye Museum, 1979
- Byrne, Andrew, *London's Georgian Houses*, The Georgian Press, 1986
- * Clarke, Benjamin, *Glimpses of Ancient Hackney and Stoke Newington*, London Borough of Hackney in association with the Hackney Society, 1894/ R 1986
- Cruickshank, Dan, *A Guide to the Georgian Buildings of Britain and Ireland*, George Weidenfeld and Nicolson Ltd, 1985
- Cruickshank, Dan & Wyld, Peter, *London: The Art of Georgian Building*, Architectural Press, 1975/ R 1986
- Fawcett, Jane (ed.), *The Future of the Past. Attitudes to Conservation 1174-1974*, Thames & Hudson, 1976
- * Hackney Society
 – *Buildings at Risk in Hackney*, Hackney Society, 1988
 – *From Tower to Tower Block: the buildings of Hackney*, Hackney Society, 1979/ R 1980, 1984
 – *Hackney Houses: A Guide to improvement, conservation, maintenance*, 2nd edition, Hackney Society, 1987
 – *South Shoreditch: A Survey of Historic, Industrial and Commercial Buildings with a Strategy for the Area*, Hackney Society, 1986
- Hobhouse, Hermione, *Lost London: A Century of Demolition and Decay*, Macmillan, 1971/ R 1976, 1979
- * Hunter, Michael, *The Victorian Villas of Hackney*, Hackney Society, 1981
- Joyce, Paul, *A Guide to Abney Park Cemetery*, Save Abney Park Cemetery, 1984
- Pevsner, Nikolaus, *The Buildings of England. London except the cities of London and Westminster*, Penguin, 1952
- Powell, Ken & Duncan, Paul, *Scandal! Georgian London in Decay*, SAVE Britain's Heritage, 1985
- Rasmussen, Steen Eiler, *London: The Unique City*, MIT Press, 1982
- Robinson, William, *The History and Antiquities Of The Parish Of Hackney*, J B Nichols & Son, 1842-43
- Rose, Millicent, *The East End of London*, The Cresset Press, 1951
- Sheppard, F H W (ed.), *Survey of London, Volume VIII The Parish of St Leonard, Shoreditch*, London County Council, 1922
 – *Survey of London, Volume XXVIII Parish of Hackney (part I) Brooke House a monograph*, London County Council, 1960
- Simms, T H, *Homerton College 1695-1978*, the Trustees of Homerton College
- Summerson, Sir John, *Georgian London*, Penguin Books, 1945/ R 1962, 1969, 1978
- Williams, E M P, *Clapton House: The Quest goes on*, 1951
- Worpole, Ken (ed.), *A Hackney Camera 1883-1918*, Centerprise
- Worpole, Ken (ed.), *A Second Look*, Centerprise, 1975
- * all publications marked with an asterisk can be obtained from
 David Batchelder
 Hackney Society Chairman
 16 Meynell Gardens
 London E9

☺ INDEX ☺

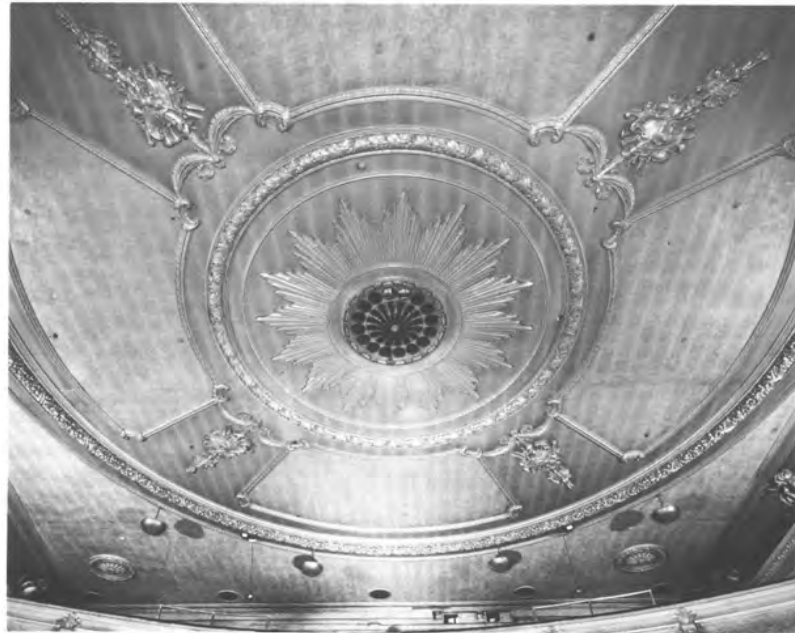
- Abney, Sir Thomas 37
 Abney House cover, vi, 23, 37
 Alderson, William 57
 Ashpitel, William Hurst 18
 Aske, Robert 47
 Aske's Hospital 46, 47
 Audley, Margaret 31
 Austen, Sir John 8
- Balmes House vi, 34-35
 Beauvoir, Richard de 34
 Beeverell, James 35
 Blackburn, William 44
 Blewitt, Sir Samuel 8
 Blue Post 36
 Bob's Hall 36
 Bowman, William 41
 Braddock, Alfred 71
 Brooke House 2, 23, 28-30
 Brooks, James 21, 61
 Brooksbank, Stamp 44
 Bunn, Mr 36
- Campbell, Colen vi, 44
 Chapman, Sir William 38
 Charles I 34
 Charles, William 10
 Charles Square 2, 7, 10-12
 Chassereau, Peter 46
 Chatham Place 66
 Church House 23, 31-32
 Clapton Field 18
 Clapton House 23, 38-39
 Clapton Square 18-19
- Clarke, Benjamin vi, 1, 2, 28, 66, 72
 Crocker, William 10
 Crocker's Row 10
 Cromwell, Thomas 28
 Crown, The 36
 Curtain, The 7
- Deaf and Dumb Asylum vi, 2, 23, 41-43
- Edward VI 28
 Eeles, Markham 41
- Fleetwood House 37
 Franco, family 38
 Friends' Meeting House, Yoakley Road 54, 56-57
- Gaviller, family 41
 Geffrye Museum 46
 Greville, family 38
 Gunston, Thomas 37
- Hackney Academy 70
 Hackney Church of England School, Clarence Road 66, 68, 72-73
 Hackney Free and Parochial School, Chatham Place 66-67
 Hackney Grammar School, Sutton Place 49, 66, 68-69
 Hackney House vi, 23, 44-45, 70
 Hackney Pavilion 77
- Hackney School 64-65
 Hackney Town Hall 31
 Hackshaw, Robert 8
 Hawkins, Anthony Hope 38
 Hawkins, E C 38
 Hawkins, George 66, 67, 69, 70
 Henry VIII 28, 31
 Herbert, Sir William 28
 Heron, Giles 33
 Homerton College 70-71
 Hooke, Robert 47
 Hope, Anthony 38
 Hopkins, Benjamin Bond 44
 Hopkins, John 44
 Howard, John 40, 44
 Howard's House 44
 Hoxton Square 2, 7, 8-9
 Hubbard, Thomas 44
- Ironmongers' almshouses 46
- Jerusalem Square 2, 3, 13
- King John's Palace 26
 King's Place *see* Brooke House
 Knights Templars 36
- Lenin, Vladimir Ilyich 18
 Local Plan 2
 London Orphan Asylum 64
 179 Lower Clapton Road *see* Deaf and Dumb Asylum
 Lumley, Elizabeth, Viscountess 52
- Lumley's almshouses 46, 52
- Mary I 28
 Mermaid Tavern 36
 More, Cecilia 33
 More, Sir Thomas 33
 Morland, Benjamin 64
 Morland, Samuel 64
 Morris, William 2
 Myrtleberry Street ii
- Nash, John 61
 New College, Hackney *see* Hackney House
 New Gravel Pit Chapel 66
 Newcome, Henry 64
 Nichols, J B 20
 Nichols Square vi, 2, 20-22
 Norris, Henry Handley 48, 72
 Norris's almshouses 48
- Old Gravel Pit Meeting House 14
- Paine, Thomas 14
 Parkinson, James 8
 Pepys, Samuel 28, 34, 63
 Percy, Henry, Earl of Northumberland 28
 Pevsner, Nikolaus 10, 20, 58, 68
 Philips, Katherine 64
 Pilgrim's House 23, 24, 26-27
 Piss pot hall 41
 Porter, Thomas 53
 Porter's almshouses 53

- Powell, James 38
 Price, Richard 14, 44
 Priestley, Joseph 44
 Priory of St John of Jerusalem 26
 Proprietary Grammar School 68
- Rees, Abraham 44
 Reeve, R 64
 Robinson, Samuel (fl. 1740) 24, 26-27
 Robinson, Samuel (benefactor) 49
 Robinson, Samuel (architect) 70
 Robinson, William 32
 Root, Roger 31, 78, back cover
 Ross, J 61
 Rothstein, Theodore 18
 Rowe, family 33
- St. Augustine's Church 32, 55
 St. Chad's Church 21, 61
- St. James's Church *see* West Hackney Church
 St. John of Jerusalem's Palace 26
 St. John's Church 55
 St. Mary's Church, Haggerston 61-62
 St. Paul's Church 58
 St. Thomas's Square 2, 14-17
 Salmon, Mrs 64
 Schnebbelie, Robert 62
 Schomberg, Dr Meyer 34
 Seymour, Jane, Queen 28
 Shacklewell House 33
 Shakespeare, William 31
 Shepherd, T H vi, 37, 53
 Shore House 23, 24-25
 Shoreditch almshouses 61
 Shoreditch family 24
 Shoreditch Place 24
 Smirke, Sir Robert 58, 61
 Smith, Thomas 40
- Soane, Sir John 61
 Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings 2, 46
 South Sea Company 38
 Spurstowe, Henry 50
 Spurstowe, William 50
 Spurstowe's almshouses 50
 Stone, John Hurford 44
 Stratton, Samuel 44
 Sutton, family 41
 Sutton Place 68
- Taylor, John Henry 20
 Templar's House 36
 Temple Mills 36
 Temple Street *see* Myrtleberry Street
 Toussaint, George 34
 Tyssen, Francis 33
 Tyssen, William George Daniel 18
- Urswick, Christopher 31
- Victoria and Albert Cottages ii
- Wallen, John 34
 Walter, John 53
 Wakefield, Gilbert 44
 Warburton, Mr 34
 Ward's House 36
 Watson, archdeacon 72
 Watts, Isaac 37
 West Hackney Church 58-60
 Whitmore, Sir George 34
 Wilkes, Israel 8
 Wood, Thomas 38
 Worsley, William 28
- Yoakley, Michael 54
 Yoakley Road almshouses 54

The Hackney Pavilion, Mare Street, was one of the earliest cinemas to be built in 1913. It was demolished in 1972, following which the site was used for Barclays Bank



Hackney Pavilion: detail from the fine plasterwork ceiling in the auditorium



∞ THE HACKNEY SOCIETY ∞

The Hackney Society is a local association affiliated to the Civic Trust. Its aims are:

- 1 To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning within the London Borough of Hackney.
- 2 To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of buildings, streets and areas within the Borough which are of historic interest, architectural merit or distinctive character.
- 3 To study critically all plans for the development of the Borough and its amenities and to put forward constructive criticisms and suggestions.
- 4 To encourage the preservation and improvement of parks, squares and other open spaces within the Borough.
- 5 To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the Borough and its surroundings.
- 6 To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures and publications

If you would like further information, including details of subscriptions, please write to the Chairman: David Batchelder, 16 Meynell Gardens, London E9.

back cover

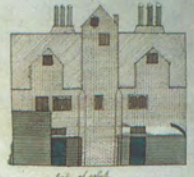
Roger Root's map of Hackney churchyard, drawn in July 1741. In the centre stands St. Augustine's Church, of which only the tower survives. Three other elevations of the church, east, south and north, are also shown. The buildings on the left hand side (bottom to top) are: Mr Hodgekins Corn Chandler, Mr Scott, Mr Holms' Ale House, the Mermaid Tavern, stables, and the Vicar's house. On the right hand side, the buildings included the Black and White house, which was in use as a school by 1741 (at the top) and the Charity School (at the bottom). In the foreground is Church House.

Plan of Hackney Church, & Churchyard, Shewing in due Proportion the four Prospects of the Church and the two fronts of the Latin School with the Houses adjacent, in the North & South side of the Churchyard and the Ground Plan of 9 Church Yards

As the Site of the Church is not square all the Buildings are drawn in this Plan. In the East end of the Church is a small Chapel, the length of which is 10 feet 6 inches and the breadth 6 feet 6 inches. The Church is built on the North side of the ground plan. The Churchyard is a square of 100 feet by 100 feet. The Church is built on the North side of the ground plan. The Churchyard is a square of 100 feet by 100 feet.



This Front of the School faces of Church

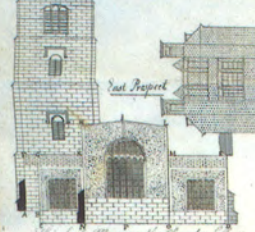


Side of school

This South Prospect of the School as follows. The School is a square of 100 feet by 100 feet. The front of the School is 100 feet long and 100 feet high. The School is built on the North side of the ground plan. The School is a square of 100 feet by 100 feet.

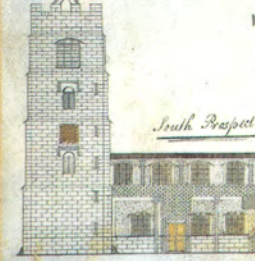
Ground Plan of Church

This East Prospect of the Church, on the East side of the Church, is 100 feet long and 100 feet high. The Church is built on the North side of the ground plan. The Church is a square of 100 feet by 100 feet.

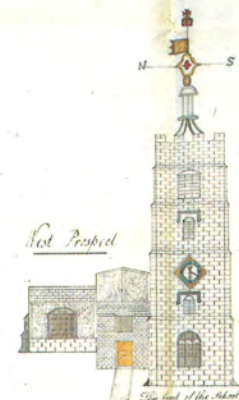


East Prospect

This South Prospect of the Church, on the South side of the Church, is 100 feet long and 100 feet high. The Church is built on the North side of the ground plan. The Church is a square of 100 feet by 100 feet.



South Prospect



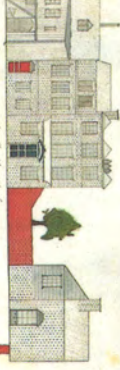
West Prospect



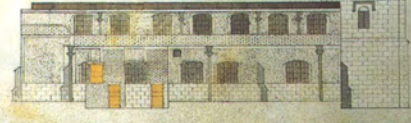
Site plan of the school from the West

Prepared by Roger Auld of Glasgow July 2^d 1721

This North Prospect of the Church, on the North side of the Church, is 100 feet long and 100 feet high. The Church is built on the North side of the ground plan. The Church is a square of 100 feet by 100 feet.



North Prospect



Lost Hackney: a catalogue of six hundred years' destruction. Hackney once possessed many fine buildings. Many of those reproduced in this lavishly-illustrated book are completely forgotten. Now, for the first time, residents and non-residents alike will be able to re-assess Hackney's forgotten architectural heritage, through a unique collection of photographs, engravings, maps and architectural drawings published by the Hackney Society.