


Newark victorian trail


This is the fifth leaflet in a series of seven and the full range may be viewed on our website www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk/

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 Nottinghamshire
County Council



Newark Civic Trust 



The Gilstrap Trust

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Newark Victorian Trail

Distance: 3.0km

Time: 2 hours 15 minutes. Easy Trail

Start/Finish: at the bronze model of Newark in the Castle Grounds

Wheelchair & pushchair friendly

This slightly longer walk takes in some of the town's many diverse and interesting Victorian Buildings.

Start the walk at the bronze model of Newark in the Castle Grounds, leave via the iron gates and turn right to the Registry Office (1), formerly the Gilstrap Free Library. The gift of the prominent maltster Sir William Gilstrap, it opened in 1883.

Town Council and was refurbished again in 2019.

Retrace your steps, go past Boar Lane to the junction with Kirk Gate, cross the road and turn to look at 2 Middle Gate (4). This was the Boar's Head public house from 1778 to 1959, rebuilt and extended in 1883. Note the angle in the Middle Gate frontage and the extremely fine plasterwork.

Proceed towards the church, cross the road and stop opposite the School of Violin Making (5). The work of the Nottingham architect Watson Fothergill, this was built in 1887 in the Italian Gothic style as the Nottingham and Notts Bank. Closed as a bank in 1919 it became a world-renowned violin making school.

Behind you is Sibley's Butchers, erected in the 1890s as Bank Chambers. Note the oriel window, ornate ironwork over the side door and cogged brickwork. This clearly shows the intention for extension.

At the junction with Church Street turn right and as you enter the Market Place pause to look at the tall, ornate building to your right, 14 Market Place (6). This was erected in 1885 for Martin Wilkinson, one of the town's jewellers.

Turn left across the Market Place to Bridge Street and at the far end cross into Barnby Gate. Continue until you reach the Methodist Church (7). Opened in 1846 as a Wesleyan chapel, it is a fine example of a town chapel with an extensive gallery and fine coffered ceiling.



The canalisation of the river through Newark and improvements to the Great North Road in the late C18 heralded the start of a period of unprecedented prosperity for the town. Until then trade had been largely based on agriculture and coaching.

Businesses were established along the river, albeit still very much influenced by a rural hinterland. By the start of the Victorian age malting and brewing and flour milling had become prominent. The town gained from the arrival of the railways and, as dependence on agriculture diminished, so the town's manufacturing trades expanded. Such endeavours attracted all classes who needed houses and schools.

Although small cottages continued to be built, from around 1850 better, terraced housing was being erected along the major

access routes. New streets between these routes followed, for example William and Whitfield Streets and, aligned to the Great Northern Railway, Lincoln and Sydney Streets. Industry, especially malting, was attracted to line-side development and while most are now long gone, signs of them do still remain.

This trail features a broad spectrum of buildings, both commercial and social, and illustrates the gradual evolution of styles and influence of personal taste and needs through the Victorian age. Look for boot-scrappers by house doors, an indication of the state of the roads at the time, and coal-chute manhole covers which provided for the delivery of coal into cellars, a particular feature of houses directly fronting a street.

The library moved to modern, purpose-built premises in 1988.

Cross over the pedestrian crossing and walk into Boar Lane. On the right 16 A Boar Lane (2) and the buildings behind were once a maltings.

Continue to Middle Gate, turn right, and stop opposite the Buttermarket Shopping Centre (3). This opened as the New Market Hall in 1884 and provided indoor stalls. Note the carved Town Arms with motto "Our Chartered Rights". Always very popular with shoppers, the Hall was sold by the Town Council and re-developed in 1990. It is now owned and managed in partnership by Newark and Sherwood District Council and Newark

Originally with seating for 1,400, alterations in the 1980s introduced moveable seating and a sound system. The church is much used for concerts.

Behind you, the former **Methodist New Connexion Chapel (8)** opened in 1848 with seating for 400. When the congregation dwindled members ceremoniously left the building and walked across to join the Wesleyans.

Return towards Bridge Street, turn right into Appleton Gate and continue past the Palace Theatre to the former County Police Station (9). Erected in 1875 it is notable for its blue brick diaper-work. It is now the Piano School for Newark College.

Turn right into Magnus Street (10). Laid out in 1869 for houses "suitable for tradesmen or retired persons of limited means", the street recalls one of Newark's greatest benefactors, Thomas Magnus. It still exhibits an air of respectability.

Continue to the junction with Friary, formerly Priory, Road (11) which has a good mix of housing. Turn left then pause to look at the houses opposite. One of the town's finest name-plaques, "The Old Willow Pattern", marks the house erected in 1885 for Henry Wiltshire, glass and china dealer. Nearby "Priory View 1878", records the two large houses built for Thomas James Bingham.

Continue downhill. Look for a worn, shield-type name-plaque "Beacon Terrace 1878 JG" (John Gregory). Through the wide entrance the two terraces of smaller houses, known today as Beacon Terrace, were also erected for him in 1878 and 1881. The final terrace, without a name plaque, also dates from the 1870s and has at times been recorded as both Priory and Friary Terrace.

At the junction with Sleaford Road turn left, cross the road at a pedestrian refuge and continue to the junction with Appleton Gate.

Turn right and continue until you reach Walston Villas (12). These bay-windowed houses were built in 1899. Note the first house is larger as it extends over the tunnel which provides the access to the rear and the curious numbering, a result of infill building.

Turn around and look at the house and shop opposite, all that remains of Elgin Place built with an adjacent row of 17 houses in 1877/8 by T G MacKenzie, a local builder, as an extension of the early C19 Tenter Buildings.

Continue along the street and cross Cliff Nook Lane. The single storey shop and adjacent four houses (13) were built in 1894. The next four were built in 1891. "Cliff Nook Terrace" follows, built in two sections in 1881/82. Look for the boot-scrapers at both nos. 58 and 60. No. 70 was built in 1882. Note the name-plaque "Northern Terrace 1881 GL" (G Leach), high on the six large, three-storey houses. The final two houses were built in 1883.

Go to the opposite side of Appleton Gate and cross Warburton Street. Look across at the **semi-detached villas with 'dutch-style' gables (14).** These are recorded as Appleton Villas and were built in 1886. Each had a china closet off the hall and separate wine cellar. The large, detached house, The Hollies (now Granary Lodge), was built in 1881 for the coal merchant George Henry Robinson.

Continue to the white-painted building (15) at the end of the street. Originally two or three small cottages these became the Railway Hotel c.1865 and, later, the Northern Hotel. Modernised in 1934, the hotel boasted a large bowling green to the rear. Renamed The Bowling Green in the late 1950s it has had several changes of use.

Cross to North Gate Station (16), built when the Great Northern Railway's town line brought that company's service to Newark in 1852. Despite selective demolition, the main station building and remaining cast-iron platform canopy supports are much as originally built.

From the station entrance turn right into Lincoln Street (17). Cross to pass the Robin Hood and Little John Guest House, a former public house. Note the coal-chute in the pavement outside no. 9. Some of the houses have the remains of boot-scrapers.

Pause at the entrance to Alliance Street (18). The terrace of five houses to the right were built by William Duke in 1855 and are recorded as Duke's Houses. Note the tarred walls, an early form of weather-proofing.

Walk into Alliance Street. The four houses of Alliance Buildings, left, date from the 1860s. Note the house by the street, a later addition numbered 46A. The large house, no. 51, bears a date-stone "AD 1880" above the entrance door and the initials "CF" over the carriage arch.

Continue into Lovers Lane. On your right **Nos. 33 - 41 and former shop (19),** were built in the late 1880s. No. 33 retains both its boot-scraper and coal-chute.

Continue to North End Methodist Church (20). The foundation stone of this large Wesleyan chapel with seating for 700 was laid in 1868. The adjacent schoolrooms have date-stones for 1871 and 1892. In 1882 the original schoolrooms were rented by the School Board as North End Board School. A reduced congregation led to the chapel being sold and it has recently been converted into apartments. The congregation continues to meet in the schoolrooms.

By 1888 the North End Board School was too small and **Lovers Lane School (21)** was opened opposite. This provided facilities regarded "as the most up to date in the area". The three main classrooms were 'stepped' so that the children could see and be seen.

Turn right into Meyrick Road (22). Although the houses date from the 1860s the street was not declared a public highway until 1880.

Walk to the junction with North Gate and look right to the former Warwick and Richardson's Brewery Offices (23) completed in 1892. Designed by the Nottingham architect William Bliss Sanders, the 'capacious' Queen Anne style building has a grand entrance leading to the raised ground floor. Note the fine oriel window with the Town Arms above. The offices and brewery have been converted to apartments and commercial use.

Turn left along North Gate and note the row of privies and wash-houses at the rear on the houses in Meyrick Road.

Continue to the White Swan. Pause to look across at the three storey building, now **37 North Gate (24),** erected in 1883 to front the older Ridley's Yard behind.

At the junction with Queen's Road cross the pedestrian crossing and continue up North Gate until you reach the **row of houses (25).** Note the ornamental date-stone for 1884.

Continue past Slaughterhouse Lane and cross over Kirk Gate. Pause to look across to **Ossington Chambers (26),** the terrace of four large houses with steep-pitched roofs opposite. Built in the C17 style, the houses are now offices and were formerly known as Castle Terrace.

Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and bear to the left to reach the Ossington Coffee Palace (27), a former temperance hotel. Erected by Viscountess Ossington in memory of her husband John Evelyn Denison, the late Speaker of the House of Commons, the hotel opened in 1882. The pargeted plaster panels which encircle the building represent the chaos caused by drink interspersed with specific religious scenes. The building became

Government Offices but the ground floor has now passed to commercial use whilst the upper floors and outbuildings have become apartments. Note also the sundial on the south wall with motto "Delay not, time flies", the large hanging sign and panels with fish above the side arches remaining from when a fish restaurant was open in the 1980s.

Cross at the pedestrian crossing and take a look back at the Ossington to end the walk.

