

DUDLEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL



Discover over 900 years of architectural history along our heritage trail



WELCOME TO DUDLEY'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL

This tour allows you to experience Dudley's fascinating history through its buildings and forms just one part of Dudley Council's suite of self-guided tours for the town centre - including the Dudley Time Trail (30 bronze ground plaques) and the Tecton Trail (Dudley Zoo's 12 examples of 1930s reinforced concrete structures).

The town grew around the foot of the castle and the broad medieval market place was at the heart of the medieval planned town laid out by Gervase Paganel in the 12th century. It was flanked by 'burgage plots' formed of shop frontages with long strips of land to the rear, which as 'back lanes' set a limit to the built-up area.



The 17th century, however, saw a steady expansion with the growth of coal mining and ironworking, but through the Black Country's industrial heyday in the 18th and 19th centuries, Dudley kept its image of a bustling market town. Today's town centre possesses a number of attractive buildings well worth a second glance. Some examples of these buildings make up Dudley's Architectural Heritage Trail.

1 THE INHEDGE

"Inhedge" is variously a medieval field name or else the "innidge" - the ditch outside the town walls. Whatever its origin, the street still marks the transition between medieval town (the narrow part of Wolverhampton Street) and country (wider part).

In the 19th century it was the gardens associated with Horsley House, a Victorian mansion originally set in two acres of grounds. It was purchased by the Corporation in 1955 and demolished in 1958.

2 FINCH HOUSE

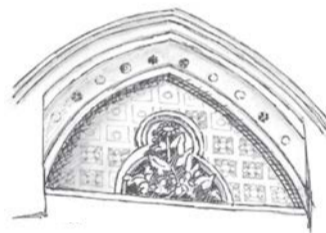
Finch House was built in 1707 for John Finch, who was a rich nail and iron merchant and fellow member of the Unitarian Chapel (see No.7). It is a good example of the Queen Anne style, in red brick with a prominent central bay and pediments and has been a Grade II* listed building since 1949.

3 CHADDESLEY HOUSE

This delightful eighteenth century house marks a period of expansion of the town. Noteworthy are the ball ornaments on the parapet. This is one of a row of buildings designed as prestigious Georgian and early Victorian townhouses, which are now all listed Grade II.

4 FORMER LLOYDS BANK

During the Edwardian period, Lloyds developed what was almost a house style for its banks. The combination of pointed arches, Romanesque detailing and terracotta panels of ornate decorative foliage, is typical of this style.

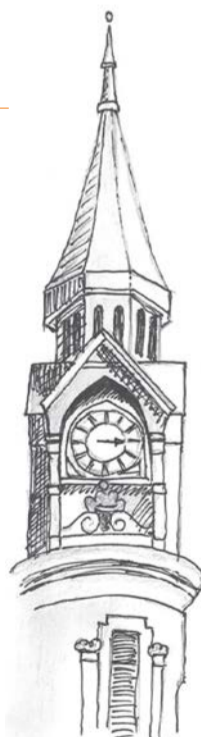


5 FORMER HEAD POST OFFICE

Though built in 1909, this imposing sandstone-faced building is very much in the Classical manner. This Grade II listed building boasts a huge, off-centre pediment mounted on pilasters (columns attached to the wall) and a fine stone coat-of-arms. It also has other features such as quoins (the raised blockwork at the corners) and parapet typical of the last flush of Edwardian Classical architecture. This building contrasts well with the 'Commercial Gothic' style of the adjacent Crown Inn.

6 THE CROWN INN

Built in 1895, the Grade II listed building, with its striking appearance and prominent location, is a landmark in Dudley. The Crown retains its Victorian Gothic character, displayed in its splendid spired bartizan (corner turret with windows) and first floor oriel windows, crowned with charming little chateau-style roofs, covered in distinctive Westmorland slate.

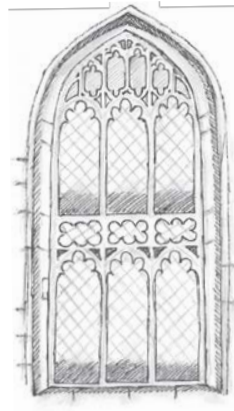


7 UNITARIAN CHAPEL AND PARSONS CHARITY SCHOOL

The current Grade II listed building dates from 1717, built after the original chapel (opened in 1702) was burnt down in a riot (a fate met by many non-conformist chapels at the time). The non-conformist tradition was particularly strong in the industrial towns of the Black Country, including Dudley. This Chapel is sandstone with a west front faced in stucco and has a rather Byzantine appearance above the front door. Attached to the chapel is the old Parsons Charity School, with its Victorian round-headed cast iron windows - a most unusual and attractive building.

8 ST THOMAS'S CHURCH (TOP CHURCH)

Founded in the 12th century and originally dedicated to St Thomas A Becket, only the stone crypt of the medieval church survived a complete late Georgian rebuilding. The present church, locally known as Top Church, was built in 1815-18 by the architect William Brooks in a light sandstone, probably Tixall stone. It is constructed with a frame, roof spans and window tracery of cast iron. This very early use of iron technology justifies its Grade II* status. Internally it has a font sculpted by James Forsyth who also carved the Dudley drinking fountain (No.16).



9 THE COOPERATIVE EMPORIUM

On the opposite corner to St Thomas's Church and standing in complete contrast to it, is the tiled, three storey former 'Cooperative Emporium'. Designed by Webb & Gray and built in the 1930s Modernist style, with metal windows and a circular roof turret faced with faience tiles, this building is a major landmark.



10 FORMER CRANAGE'S AND THE LITTLE BARREL

Two of the most notable buildings are on this side of the historic, though much-altered, high street. The frontage of the Little Barrel is of a width typical of one of the town's original burgage plots and it is notable the internal walls curve in a reversed 'S' shape. Cranage's is a small building distinguished by its delightful two storey oriel window and 'C' in an oval garland high on the front wall. These were once sophisticated tea rooms.

11 N° 1 AND 2 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET

The 18th century first floor facades and later shopfronts of the jeweller's shop and the Shrewsbury Arms pub, hide evidence of earlier timber-framed buildings, similar to those which once lined both sides of Wolverhampton Street. The jeweller's has a fine Art Nouveau shopfront, with curved glass and bevelling and the jeweller's name on elaborate panels beneath the window. This is the last remaining shopfront of this style in Dudley. Both are listed Grade II.



12 BARCLAY'S BANK

This truly imposing building which dominates the view up Wolverhampton Street was built c 1930. The bank has a large pediment on Corinthian columns and squared pilasters above the angled corner entrance, symbolising stability.



13 CRITERION CINEMA

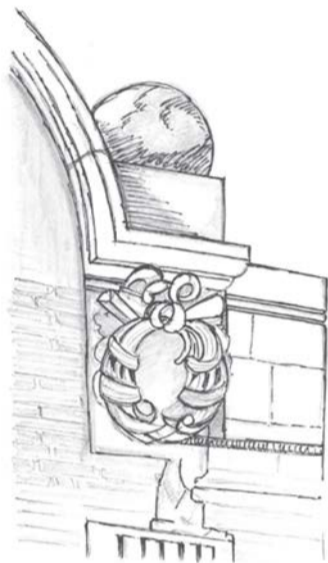
This is another building adopting the Classical style, with its symmetrical façade, pilasters and bold triangular pediment. The former cinema opened in 1923, but closed in 1956. It was one of a number of cinemas in the town including the 1937 Odeon cinema located opposite Dudley Zoo entrance and the 1928 Regent Cinema opposite Top Church (now the Venue).

14 222A/223 HIGH STREET

The elegant building (neighbouring Fountain Arcade) dates from the early to mid 19th century and is a good example of the architecture of the period, thus is Grade II listed. Note the progressively reducing depth of window from the grandly pedimented ones at first floor to the simple, square frames at third floor level. The bold stone cornice (projecting parapet) above the second floor windows and eaves balustrade are typical features of the period

15 FOUNTAIN ARCADE, MARKET SQUARE ENTRANCE

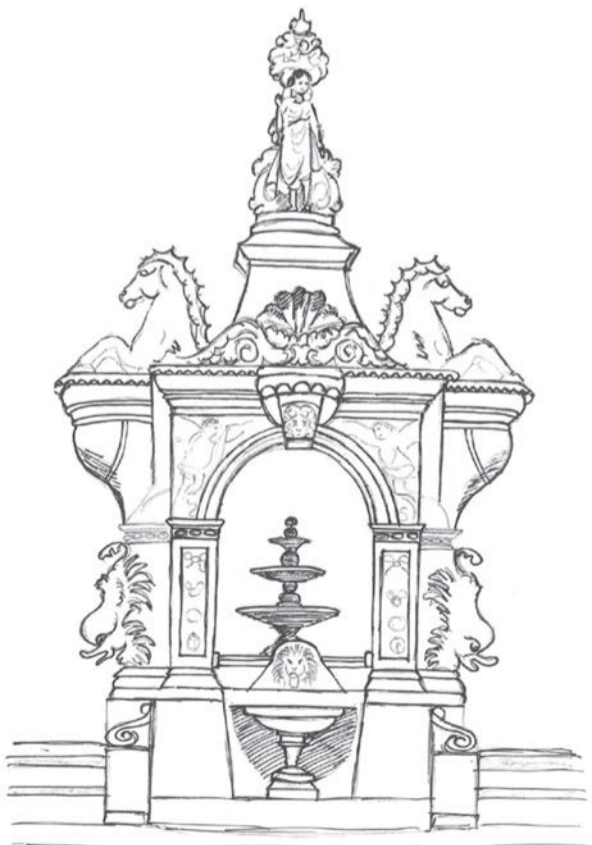
In direct contrast to its Georgian neighbour, the Fountain Arcade, which was built in 1925, exhibits the English free style of architecture, in stone and red brick. It incorporates a pair of curved Flemish gables with pairs of oriel windows on the upper floors, framing the entrance. The architect was George Coslett.



16 DRINKING FOUNTAIN

In 1860, the 17th century town hall was demolished and replaced by the present fountain. Its purpose was to provide clean drinking water for dogs, horses and people.

It was commissioned by the Earl of Dudley and first flowed in 1867 when it was ceremonially presented to the people of Dudley by Countess Georgina. The fountain is listed Grade II* and was designed and sculpted in flamboyant Italian Renaissance style by James Forsyth who sculpted the Perseus Fountain at Witley Court, Worcestershire. Note the statues of mining and agriculture located within the two niches and the figures of commerce and industry on the top.



17 LONG ENTRY

This passage runs from Market Place to King Street, the length of a medieval burgage plot, sinuously curving in a reversed 'S' shape. This is typical of the curve created when ploughing with teams of oxen to create individual strips in medieval fields. Most of the property boundaries off the High Street and Market Place still exhibit this feature, which suggests the Norman planned town was originally laid out over the arable fields of Anglo Saxon Dudley.



18 FORMER WOOLWORTH'S

Looking above the modern shopfront, note how the upper floors present a striking architectural composition in streamlined Art Deco style, incorporating decorative motifs such as scrolls, fluting, cable and guilloche patterns. The style drew inspiration from ancient cultures such as the Egyptians and Aztecs, as well as the Classical past and more recent art movements such as Cubism. The building's designer, Woolworth's Chief Architect Bruce Campbell Donaldson, chose it as Woolworth's in-house style for the 1930s builds.

19 MARKET PLACE

A market has been regularly held here since Dudley received its Market Charter in 1268. Originally the Town Hall and a series of buildings called 'Middle Row' occupied the central space and excavations in 2014 revealed that the buildings were composed of limestone, a material commonly used in Dudley from the 17th century onwards.

20 HALL STREET JUNCTION WITH THE MARKET PLACE

Note the Victorian red brick upper storeys of the buildings on the corner. This block contains the famous Teddy Gray sweet shop and is all that survives from this historic street mostly swept away by the construction of the Churchill Centre erected in the 1960s, a product of the Festival of Britain movement. The street's alignment was incorporated in the new design and can still be followed through the precinct.

21 CORNER OF CASTLE STREET AND NEW STREET

This building (currently Ladbrokes) was formerly the Hen and Chickens pub, rebuilt and extended in 1932 to designs by A T Butler.

22 ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

Known locally as Bottom Church, St Edmund's was Dudley's oldest church until it was demolished in 1646 during the Civil War by the Royalist defenders of Dudley Castle in order to clear their field of fire. The church was rebuilt through public subscription in 1724 in the Palladian style and is thought to be designed by Thomas Archer. It is listed Grade II*.



23 EARL OF DUDLEY'S STATUE (and the start of the Dudley Time Trail)

Erected in 1888, the Grade II listed statue of the first hereditary Earl of Dudley was designed by C B Birch and is of marble standing on a granite pedestal, itself on a stone base. Look for a bronze plaque on the ground close to this statue—this is the start of the Dudley Time Trail.



24 COTTAGES AT NOS 6, 7 AND 7A THE BROADWAY

The Broadway was originally Downing Street and was first driven through to link Castle Street to Tower Street in 1839. The northern ends of both streets were cut off from the town itself and Lord Dudley then took them into the Castle grounds, building a new boundary wall and entrance gates. The Grade II listed row of cottages at 6, 7 and 7a The Broadway represents a captured remnant of Castle Street and although they were rebuilt in brick in the mid 19th century, some still incorporate fragments of limestone walling from earlier cottages on the same alignment

25 FELLOW'S CLUB AND THE FORMER ZOO OFFICES

The Gothic former Zoo offices, dating from the mid 19th century, and Fellows Restaurant with its embattled parapet are both listed Grade II and catch the eye at the top of The Broadway.

26 GREEN MAN ENTRY

Running from the Malt Shovel Public House to Castle Street, this ancient thoroughfare, like Long Entry, runs the length of a burgage plot. It is paved with the dark grey Rowley Rag setts, from Turner's Hill, Rowley Regis - a traditional material for the Black Country. Within the arched passageway, note the limestone walling at the base on the right hand side. This suggests there were stone structures here prior to the construction of the fine Grade II listed Georgian brick building which fronts onto Castle Street today, one of which was once a pub called the Green Man.



27 BAYLIES'S CHARITY SCHOOL

The original school was founded in 1732 for 50 boys, but the intake rose to 200 by 1824 when the present structure, which is grade II listed, was built in Classical form. The statues of boys in the niches above the doors are made of Coadestone. This is an artificial stone developed by Eleanor Coade in the 18th century, widely used for all kinds of architectural ornament. The statues of these boys are the earliest surviving public statues in the town of Dudley.



28 THE POLICE AND FIRE STATION

The Dudley police and fire station began construction during the outbreak of the Second World War (it has a foundation stone dated 1939) and was opened in 1941. Its architects were Webb & Gray who also designed the former Cooperative Emporium (No 9). Above the entrance of the police station are two stone figures of a policeman and watchman carved by Alan Bridgewater. On either side of the entrance are two stone lions with cubs carved by Charles Upton. Also by Upton are the wooden doors carved with 20 scenes of police at work.

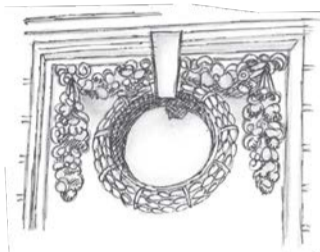


The buildings were opened by the then Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, in 1928. The War Memorial Tower has a fine carving of St George and the Dragon above the main window facing Priory Street, whilst the balcony below carries a moving inscription written by Thomas Hardy for this memorial.



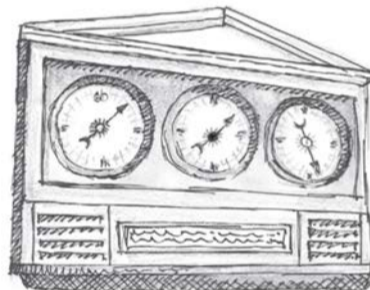
34 PUBLIC LIBRARY

Replacing the original Free Library, the present structure was built in 1909 in Edwardian Baroque style with a grant of £7,500 from Andrew Carnegie, the American millionaire. The central figure mounted at the top of the building represents philosophy, whilst either side of the pediment are figures of Literature and Science. The building is Grade II listed.



35 FORMER DUDLEY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

The red brick and terracotta of the former museum was built in 1883 as the Dudley School of Art and Free Library. It features an impressive corner demi-bastion, below which is a set of meteorological instruments donated by James Smellie to commemorate his wife, mayoress of Dudley in 1925-26.



36 DIXON'S HOUSE

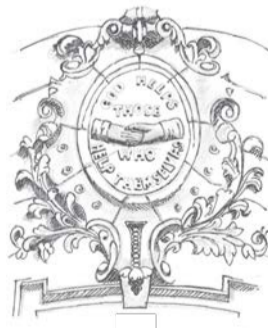
In 1703, this Grade II listed 'Queen Anne' style structure was probably the first building to be erected on the open fields beyond Priory Street. It was built for John Dixon, a wealthy glassmaker whose glasshouse was located at Dixons Green.

37 COUNTY COURT, PRIORY STREET

Originally, major crimes perpetrated in Dudley were tried at Worcester (the County Town), but by the 1850s the fast rising population justified the construction of a County Court. Built in 1858, this Grade II listed building, with its ornate Classical architecture complete with figurehead keyblocks, is highly reminiscent of an Italian Renaissance palace. Notice the tram wire brackets high up on the facade.

38 HOLLOWAY CHAMBERS

Though built in the same year as the nearby former Head Post Office (1909), this building demonstrates a much more eclectic style, with even a hint of Art Nouveau about the corner window to Court Passage. The inscription "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves" is typical of the ideals of the Midland Counties Mutual Benefit Society, for whom Holloway Chambers was built.



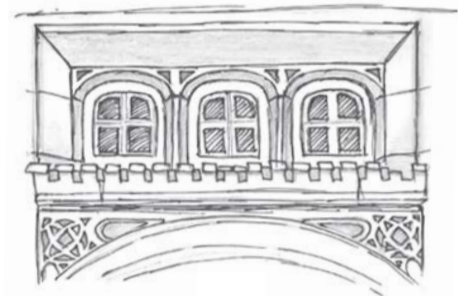
39 STONE SQUARE & OLD FIRE STATION

This was the site of the Dudley Flint Glassworks, established in 1781 by Abiather Hawkes. It produced highly decorative glassware, much of which was sold abroad. The demolition of the glassworks in 1886 created

Stone Street Square whose western edge was established in 1892 with the building of the town fire station built in red brick and terracotta. Archaeological excavations in 2003 uncovered the circular foundations of the old glass cone and its central melting furnace - you can see their outlines marked out in the square's surface.

40 GRIFFIN PUBLIC HOUSE

Midway up Stone Street is this fine example of a 'reformed' public house, dating from 1935 and probably designed by A T and Bertram Butler in the Arts and Crafts vernacular style. Its facade incorporates some typical Arts and Crafts architectural features, such as mullioned windows and a steep stone gable, all within an ashlar frontage which gives a handsome appearance. It exhibits real craftsmanship in the use of high quality materials.



41 FOUNTAIN ARCADE - TOWER STREET ENTRANCE

A substantial malt house and private dwelling once stood on this site before Alderman Tanfield developed his ambitious shopping arcade in 1925, making liberal use of faience tiles and artificial granite columns. The architect was George Coslett.

42 THE SARACEN'S HEAD

Whilst the present façade dates from the mid 19th century, the pub has 18th century origins. Even earlier elements of the structure are stone built, as can be observed on the gable end. The building is listed Grade II.

29 PRIORY HOUSE

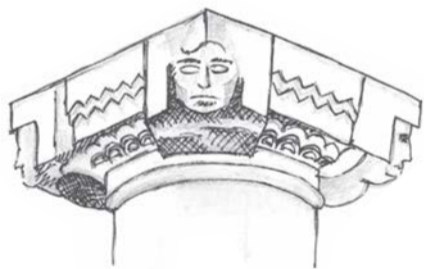
Priory House dates from the early 19th century. It can be seen on a map of 1824 and is mentioned in Pigot's 1835 Commercial Directory of Worcestershire as 'a handsome building'. The stuccoed three-storey building displays many classical features, typical of the late Georgian period, including pilasters, a dentilled cornice, frieze with wreathed patareae, and two impressive Venetian windows either side of the main entrance. It was originally constructed as a grand residence, with extensive grounds attached. After almost 100 years as a private residence, Priory House became accommodation for the Dudley Conservative Club, which it remained for almost another 100 years. The building is listed Grade II.

30 3 EDNAM ROAD

Built in the 1860s as a residence for a surgeon at the Guest Hospital. In 1879 Dr M Messiter took up residence until 1922 when Dr C Messiter was recorded as the surgeon living at the property with his son, Ian Messiter of Radio 4's 'Just a Minute' fame. Grade II listed, it is one of a number of large detached Victorian villas located in this part of the town centre.

31 COUNCIL HOUSE

The new Council House, built in Priory Road in 1934, was designed by the architects Harvey and Wicks as part of a civic ensemble along with the Town Hall, Coroner's Court and War Memorial Tower (No.32). The Grade II listed building is characterised by numerous stylistic references to the Arts and Crafts movement, particularly in the many finely detailed sculptural elements, including the carved stone heads of contemporary aldermen on the columns at the main entrance.



32 OLD POLICE BUILDINGS

Built in around 1850 in the 'Baronial Gothic' style, these Grade II listed buildings originally sat alongside a similarly styled council house built in 1858. The Old Police Buildings were designed to mimic the gatehouse of a medieval castle with towers, battlements and great gates suggestive of a portcullis. Such architecture clearly makes reference to the authority of the state as befitted the headquarters of Dudley's police force.

33 DUDLEY TOWN HALL, CORONER'S COURT AND WAR MEMORIAL TOWER

With the slightly later Council House on Priory Road (No.29), this group of buildings (now listed Grade II*) was designed by the architects Harvey and Wicks.

Discover Dudley
visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk
There's lots to see and do in the borough of Dudley

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To view or download existing or new trails and find out details about other Dudley attractions, visit www.dudley.gov.uk or www.discoverdudley.org.uk

To find out more about the Tecton Structures visit <http://tectons.dudleyzoo.org.uk/> and for more information about the Dudley Townscape Scheme visit: <https://www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk/dudley-projects>







Further visitor information visit Dudley Council Plus, 259 Castle St, Dudley DY1 1LQ
Tel: 0300 555 2345

For information about Dudley's historic environment visit www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/historic-environment

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL MAP

Tecton structures within Dudley Zoo form the separate Tecton Trail
(12 examples in total)

Key

-  Trail
-  Return to start of trail
-  Public Toilets
-  Crossing Points
-  Public Car Parking
-  Virtual Tour available at www.dudleyheritageopendays.org.uk/

