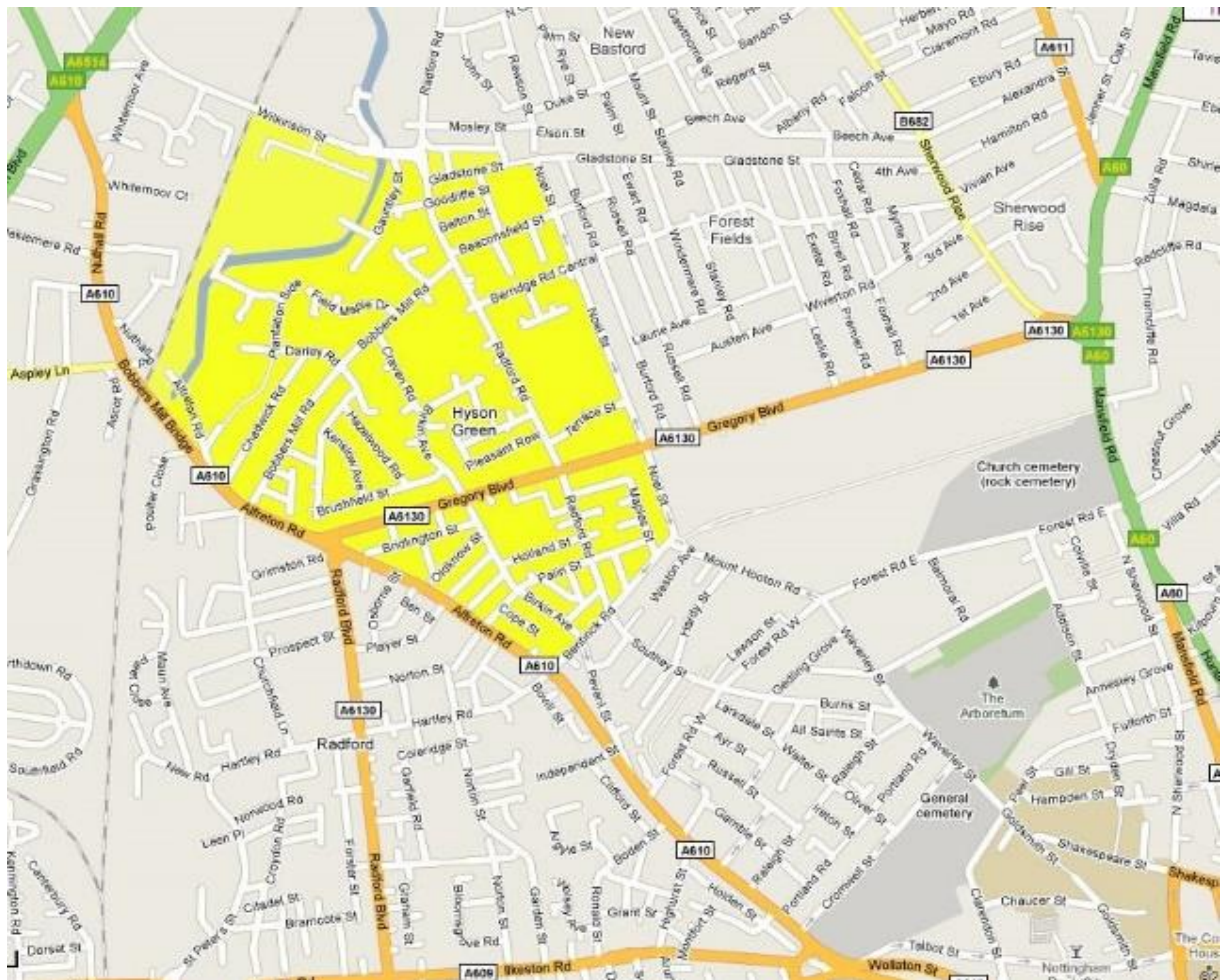


Hyson Green, Nottingham by Graham Woodward

Hyson Green was originally part of Radford Parish. Before the Enclosure Act of 1798 the area on the north side of Nottingham, now known as Hyson Green, New Basford, Forest Fields and Carrington, was a large open hilly area of poor-quality sandy soil, originally part of Sherwood Forest and of little agricultural use or value; the land was valued at 5/- per acre (£11 today). The area was part of the Basford and Nottingham Lings (Ling being another name for Heather) and was originally owned by William Peverel, Earl of Nottingham. He was the founder of Lenton Priory, governor of Nottingham Castle and owner of Lenton, Radford, Aspley and Basford.

In this guide, Hyson Green is the area coloured yellow on the map shown below. It is bounded on the north by Wilkinson Street and Shipstone Street, on the east by Noel Street, on the south by Bentinck Road, on the southwest by Alfreton Road and on the west by the Midland Railway to Mansfield. It covers an area of just under one sq. km (195 acres) and is now part of the Hyson Green & Arboretum Ward of Nottingham City Council. In 1880 the Local Government Board ordered that 177 acres of Radford Parish be transferred to Hyson Green, which is close to the size of the area today.

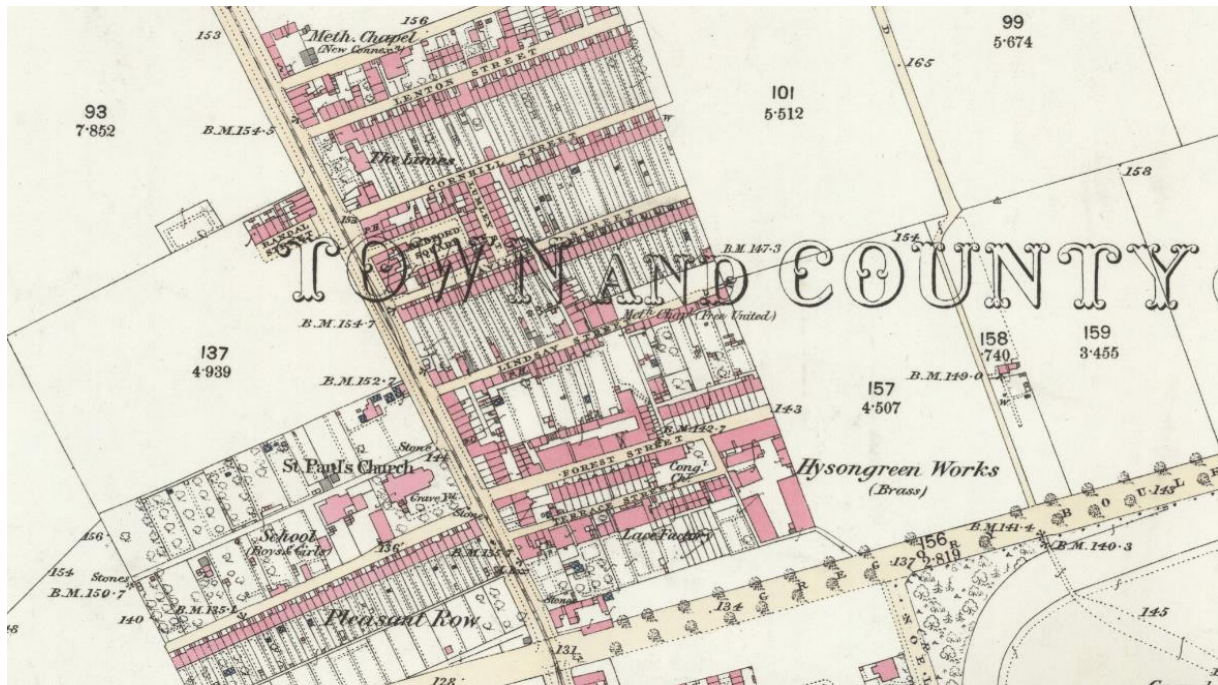


White's directory of 1832 states that Hyson Green is '*another well-built village, which has been erected during the last ten years*' ... with a population of, '*upwards of 2000 souls.*' The directory also says that the name may derive from the serving of Hyson Tea at John Pepper's popular tea garden (on the Green) at his Cricket Players Inn which opened in 1824. Hyson tea was a high quality green tea imported from China, and highly prized in the late 18th century.

According to Robert Mellors in his 1914 publication *'Old Nottingham Suburbs'*, by 1814 the area had become known as the High Sands, as mentioned in Captain Barker's booklet, *'Walks 'round Nottingham'*. Mellors also suggests that the name may have come from John Ison who built two houses with gardens near the inn and painted the name Ison Green on his house wall. Whatever the source, by 1820 the name Hyson Green was in common use.

The first modern house was built by a Mr Elliott, a joiner, on Pepper Street near Lindsay Street, about 1802, followed in the early 1820s by worker's houses, built by The Society of Workmen, at Pleasant Row, Terrace Street, Forest Street, Lindsay Street, Saville Street, Cornhill Street and Lenton Street. Most were three-storey houses with the upper rooms used as workshops for hosiery production. The houses were sold to the tenants for £70 each, paid by instalments. Pleasant Row and Terrace Street survive today as streets, but the old houses have been demolished. The other streets were replaced by Hyson Green Flats.

The 1881 OS Map (below) shows the location of the first houses. They had long gardens rather than the small courtyards used elsewhere and were built to a much lower density than in Radford.



When this map was published in 1881 the only main road was Radford Road. Bobbers Mill Road from Alfreton Road to Radford Road was built in the 1870s, but apart from the church at the Radford Road end there were no houses along its route.

Although the map is only an extract, it shows the whole of Hyson Green as it was in 1881. Gregory Boulevard, shown in the bottom right-hand corner of the map, was named after the de Ligne Gregory family, with building work beginning in 1880 and completed in 1883.

The Gregory family, under George de Ligne Gregory, owned a substantial amount of land in Nottingham, Lenton and Radford, including several coal mines. In 1825, George Gregory became Sheriff of Nottinghamshire and later moved to Hungerton Hall, Lincolnshire. He then purchased Harlaxton Hall and had it rebuilt about 1851. In 1860 his estate passed to John Sherwin Gregory who also had land at Bramcote where there is a pub named after the family, The Sherwin Arms, and where his sister built a row of almshouses. John Sherwin died in 1869. The Gregory Hotel on Ilkeston Road, Radford, is named after the family.

Because of the open nature of the land, a racecourse was established on the adjoining Forest site in about 1689. In 1730 it was reduced in length from four miles to two. In 1798 a new figure-of-eight course was built but was not successful. Instead, a 1¼-mile oval course was built in 1813, where they raced for the 'King's Plate'.



(Above) This extract of George Sanderson's 1835 map shows the site of the racecourse on the Forest and the small development of Hyson Green.



The painting above, by John Holland Senior in 1865, shows a grandstand on the Forest, built in 1777 by John Carr of York. Races were normally held in July or August but later they moved to October, after the Goose Fair, held then in the Old Market Square. People from all walks of life appear in the picture. Affluent looking people are grouped around the grandstand, whilst others are shown in the foreground either involved in scuffles, picnics or queuing for the beer tent. The small gable-fronted buildings in the background are where the current pavilion stands, but the church on the horizon is a mystery; it should be St Andrews on Mansfield Road, but that was not built until 1869.



(Above) This picture shows the Grandstand on The Forest. The date is not recorded but as the houses in Forest Fields can be seen in the background, it is at least the late 1890s. The 1881 OS Map shows it to be near the corner of Noel Street, on the south side of the newly built Gregory Boulevard. The large projecting 'bay-window' faced south towards Forest Road. The racecourse closed in 1892 and the grandstand was demolished in 1912.

(Below) Some wealthy residents of the Arboretum area built houses on Forest Road with roof-top towers so they could watch the racing from the comfort of their own homes. This house, formerly number 55 Forest Road East, has now been demolished.





(Above) A race day at the Forest race-course, Jubilee Day, 1898. The view is looking north towards Gregory Boulevard. On the horizon, the tall chimney on the left was a bleaching and dying works near Wilkinson Street, the building in the centre is Shipstone's Brewery on Radford Road and the large factory on the right is Birkin's Lace Factory, New Basford.

Despite the development of the parish, a measure of the still wild and exposed nature of the area was demonstrated by a decision in 1840 not to build a Union Workhouse on ten acres of land on Sherwood Rise, purchased specially for the purpose. It was later considered too much of a hardship for the poor to be transported across the scrub land to reach the building and instead the workhouse was built on York Street near the town centre. The land was later used for three narrow avenues: First, Second and Third Avenue.

In September 1844, Hyson Green Parish was formed out of Lenton and Radford and in 1877 it became part of the Borough of Nottingham. After the boundary changes the area was ripe for further development, which began in earnest from about 1885.

By the start of the 1880s most of the big factories in the city had already been built. Radford and Basford had their lace factories, John Player and Raleigh Cycles both built their factories in Radford and Lenton and Boots Chemists occupied a large site on the east side of the town centre. Hyson Green was not therefore an industrial heartland as such, instead concentrating on housing, light-industry and shops. By 1902 the whole area had been completely developed.

Today (2020) it is a vibrant part of the city. In the 1km (three-quarter mile) section of Radford Road between Bentinck Road and Wilkinson Street there are 180 shops, most still trading; the area has an extremely diverse population that keeps trade alive.

Churches

The oldest church building in Hyson Green is St Pauls (below) on Radford Road, now a redundant church. It was consecrated in 1844 as the main parish church.

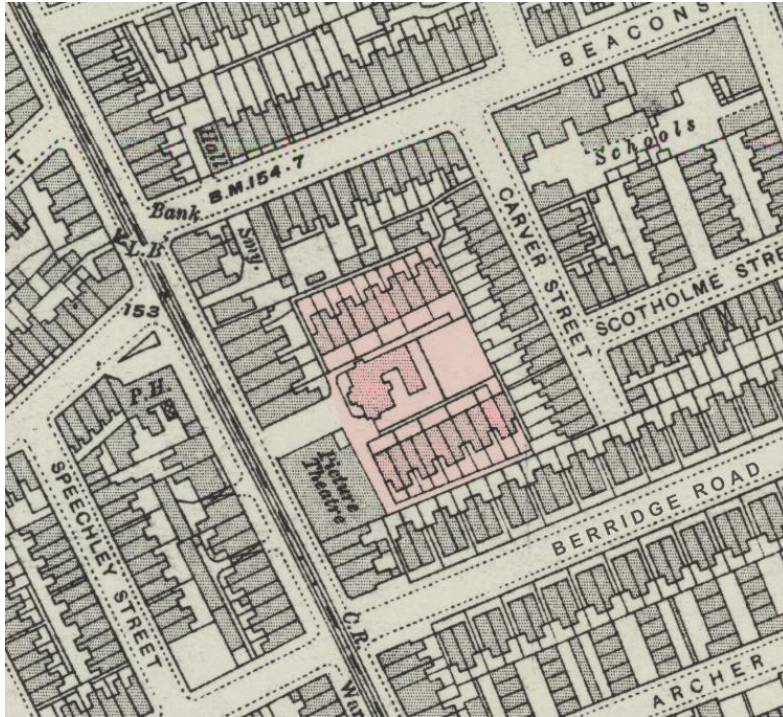


St Pauls was designed by the architect Henry Isaac Stevens of Derby and opened by the Bishop of Lincoln. A Chancel was added in 1889 but by the 1980s the congregation had diminished in size to the point where the church was no longer viable. In 1987 the parish merged with St Stephens on Bobbers Mill Road. St Pauls closed in 1994 and the building has since been converted into flats.



St Pauls old vicarage (left) was on Scotholme Avenue off Radford Road, behind Lenos Cinema. Designed by Samuel Saunders Teulon, it was built in 1855 in a semi Gothic style and stood in a one-acre garden that fronted Radford Road. In the 1890s, the garden was built upon with a row of cottages on each side and houses fronting the road.

In 2001 the building was converted into a block of flats called The Old Vicarage and was opened by the Mayor, Councillor Roy Greensmith.



(Left) This extract from the 1915 OS Map shows the almost hidden location of St Pauls old vicarage and the two adjoining terraces. The houses were not almshouses or solely for the use of church members but were rented out to the general public.

About this time a new vicarage was built on Gregory Boulevard, but it has now been demolished.

The *Picture Theatre* shown on the map was Lenos Cinema, now demolished. The pub (P.H.) was the Old General.

St Stephens (below) on Bobbers Mill Road was consecrated in 1898, opened by the Bishop of Southwell. It was paid for with money from the Gt Central Railway Company after they demolished the original church to build Victoria Station. It originally served the northern end of the parish whilst St Pauls looked after the southern half, but in 1987 the two parishes merged. When St Pauls closed in 1994 St Stephens became known as St Stephen with St Paul. The church is very much the same as it was when it was built to a design by William Douglas Caroe, but the parish room and vicarage have both been demolished and replaced by a community centre (The Vine) and sheltered housing complex. The church is now Grade II listed.





St Stephens Mission Hall (above and below) was built on Gladstone Street in 1902. It was partly a chapel of ease for the main church but also used as a meeting place. It is now a Muslim education centre.

Gladstone Street was named after William Ewart Gladstone, a Liberal MP who served four terms as Prime Minister between 1868-94. He had connections to Nottingham as a trustee of the Newcastle Estate (The Park Estate) and was very popular with working class voters.



There are three large non-conformist churches still standing in Hyson Green: Palin Street Baptist Church (1883), Gregory Boulevard United Reformed Church (1884) and Gregory Boulevard Methodist Free Church (1895).



The Baptist Church on Palin Street (above) is huge. It was once known as the Shiloh Gospel Hall and was designed in the Gothic Revival style by J.W. Chapman and built in 1883 – the foundation stone is dated 21 June. The tower is 25m (85 ft) high and the church had seating for 500 people. It is a Grade II listed building.



The complex occupies a triangular site of about 2000 sq. metres between Palin Street, Hubert Street and Acourt Street, and includes a school, a meeting room and other community facilities.

It was a Baptist church until 1983 when the congregation moved to new premises on Raleigh Street near Canning Circus - they now use the Cornerstone Church on Castle Boulevard. It is now a Mosque and Islamic complex, used by the Assemblies of the First Born.



Gregory Boulevard United Reformed Church (above) was built in 1884 and added to in 1899. It is a Grade II listed building. The Methodist Free Church (below), also on Gregory Boulevard near the corner of Noel Street, was built in 1895, designed by F.W. Dixon. It was later used as Hyson Green Girls Club but is now Hyson Green Community Centre.



There was a Methodist chapel on Lindsay Street and one on Berridge Road Central, but both have been demolished.



(Above) On Berridge Road West is the Karima Institute and Bobbers Mill Community Centre, an Islamic Centre. In 1915 the building was the Berridge Road Lace Factory, owned by Scott Lambert & Wood Ltd, making lace and elastic hosiery. (Below) A Presbyterian Preaching Station (chapel) on Noel Street was erected in 1900.





St Mary's Roman Catholic church (above) on the corner of Cardwell Street and Goodliffe Street was built in 1910 to a design by Samuel H. Langley. It replaced a mission hall (below) called Vine Chapel, built in 1880 in Beaconsfield Street. It is now a Spiritualist Church. The chapel was used by Mary Potter's Little Company of Sisters to support the local poor with terminal illnesses – Mary Potter's story is covered later in the guide.



Housing

Hyson Green was developed later than nearby Radford, and at first avoided the hovels that were erected there hastily in the 1820s and 1830's. Apart from the small area around St Pauls church on Radford Road, mentioned earlier, the majority of the development in the parish took place from 1880. By 1915 the population of the parish had risen to 15,991.

Alfreton Road to the south west was made into a turnpike road in 1758 but Mansfield Road in the east was not turnpiked until 1787. In 1883 the completion of Gregory Boulevard linked the two roads and opened-up the Lings area for development, along with Forest Fields, Carrington, Sherwood and later Mapperley Park.

Most of the Victorian houses in Hyson Green that are still standing are three-storey buildings, while Radford had mainly two-storey properties. In fact, the houses were built to a much higher standard than those in Radford and have survived in larger numbers. This was mainly because the area was subject to the imposition of new building regulations introduced when the parish became part of Nottingham in 1877, before the main development began. A large number of houses were built from 1880 by J.R. Morrison.

James Robert Morrison was born in 1845 in London. His family were tailors by trade. His father died when he was eight years old and he was apprenticed to a local builder. After he married in 1873, he moved to Newark, but after his son was born his wife left him to return to an Irish Convent. With the help of his mother and sister he moved to Nottingham where he went into business as a builder with Bob Ward, a plasterer, and David Pearson, a bricklayer. Together they built over 230 houses in the Bobbers Mill Road area of Hyson Green, almost doubling the size of the 'village'.

He built the Langham Hotel on Radford Road, where he and his family lived. He also built the Avenue Hotel in Craven Street, now known as the Clock pub, the Carlton Hotel on Noel Street, now called the Frog and Onion, and the New Inn, Radford Road, later called the Radford Arms.



(Above) Houses in Hazelwood Road off Berridge Road West.

In 1883 Morrison became a town councillor for Sherwood Ward and later chairman of the council's building committee. He oversaw the building of the Poor Law Offices on Shakespeare Street, later to be the City Registrar's office. In February 1886, he also built the Grand Theatre at the corner of Gregory Boulevard and Radford Road.

James Morrison died in April 1886 after an accident whilst riding in his horse-drawn gig. He was buried in the General Cemetery at Canning Circus.



(Above) These houses on Berridge Road West, built about 1902/3, are typical of many built in Hyson Green. Most have been changed in some way during the last 140 years, but the original design of three-storeys with plain frontages fitted with sash-cord windows is still very evident. The building on the left was once a corner shop. Very few of the houses had bathrooms and most had outside toilets. Some had a bath in the kitchen, and at night they all had to make do with a commode or a pot under the bed instead of an indoor loo. Today, most have either a bathroom in a converted bedroom or one built on the back of the house.



(Left) Some two storey houses were built. These are on Hazelwood Road.

Although these houses did not have bathrooms they were in good condition and were retained when the area was redeveloped in the 1980s.

Most had bathrooms built onto the back of the kitchen and central heating installed. Today the area is a smokeless zone, making the old coal fires now a thing of the past.



On Birkin Avenue (above) the three-storey format was used, but here they have wooden bays on brick plinths at ground floor level and small front gardens. These were more upmarket than the flat-fronted houses, but a step below the villa-style houses (below) on Noel Street. They have stone bays, some at both ground and first-floor level.





Two-storey houses were built, but only in smaller numbers. The houses shown above are on Bobbers Mill Road and were built about 1900.

Villa-style houses (below) with double stone bay windows were built on the south side of Gregory Boulevard. They reflected the higher status of the new boulevard.





(Above) On the north side of Gregory Boulevard early development stopped a short distance east of Alfreton Road and the gap was not filled until the late 1920s. (Below) At junctions where the roads met at an angle, such as Alfreton Road and Gregory Boulevard, every building plot was filled, whatever the shape; in this case with what looks like half a house.





(Above) Between 1919 and 1939, Nottingham City Council built over 17,000 council houses and these built on the northwest side of Bobbers Mill Road in June 1920 are typical of the early designs. (Below) On Gregory Boulevard, private developers filled in the gaps along its north side.





(Above) On the north side of Berridge Road the houses are of a much more elaborate style. This whole row was built about 1899, as one unit, and they are large houses with servant's quarters in the attic and are like the ones built in the Arboretum area to the south.

(Below) The north side of Berridge Road Central has these two-storey villa-style houses, with side entrance doors. The same style was built on both sides of the road until Hyson Green Flats were built in the 1960s on the south side.





These two rows of terraced cottages, ten in each row, were built either side of the Old Vicarage on Scotholme Avenue. Vehicle access is not available. The road was named after the former Scotholme House, built between Beaconsfield Street and Gladstone Street.





(Above) In Beaconsfield Street, these houses are very different to most of the others in the ward. They are three-storey and have stone bays at ground floor level, but at first and second-floor level the windows have moulded surrounds in stone, instead of plain brick, a very unusual feature. They are a mix of Georgian and Victorian styles.

(Below) The view up the road shows the houses to best effect.





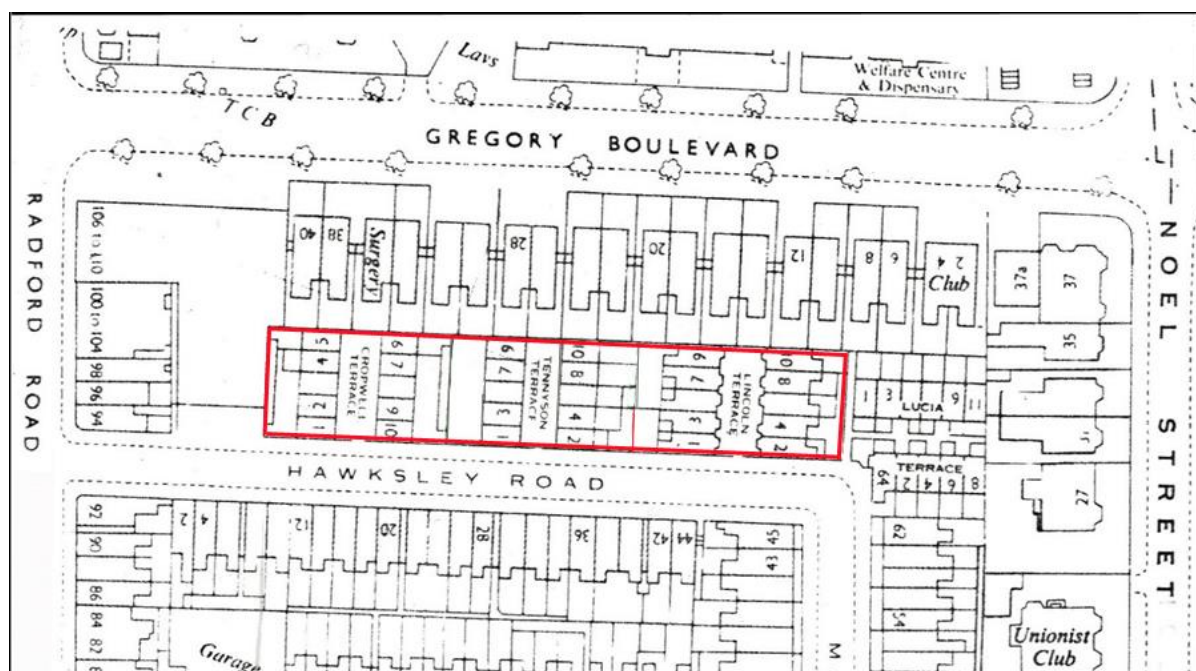
(Above) The west side of Noel Street, south of Gregory Boulevard and leading towards Mount Hooton Road, has some very grand houses, much more elaborate than elsewhere in the ward. Their style is more in keeping with the Arboretum area to the south. This one is now the Nottinghamshire Ambulance Service West Notts Club. Others on this section of Noel Street (below) are less elaborate but still very substantial houses.



Not all the houses were built to the same high standards. Tennyson Terrace off Hawksley Road was built about 1885 at right angles to the road, as building plots were priced according to the length of the road frontage. Placing houses at a right angle, with no front or back garden, meant that a builder could get fifty-percent more houses on a site for the same money; the urgent need for cheap housing overrode the building of idealistic houses.



In the case of Hawksley Road, building the houses on the north side at right angles to the road in the form of three terraces meant that the builder squeezed over 30 houses in the same road frontage as 22 on the south side (below). The site is now a car park.

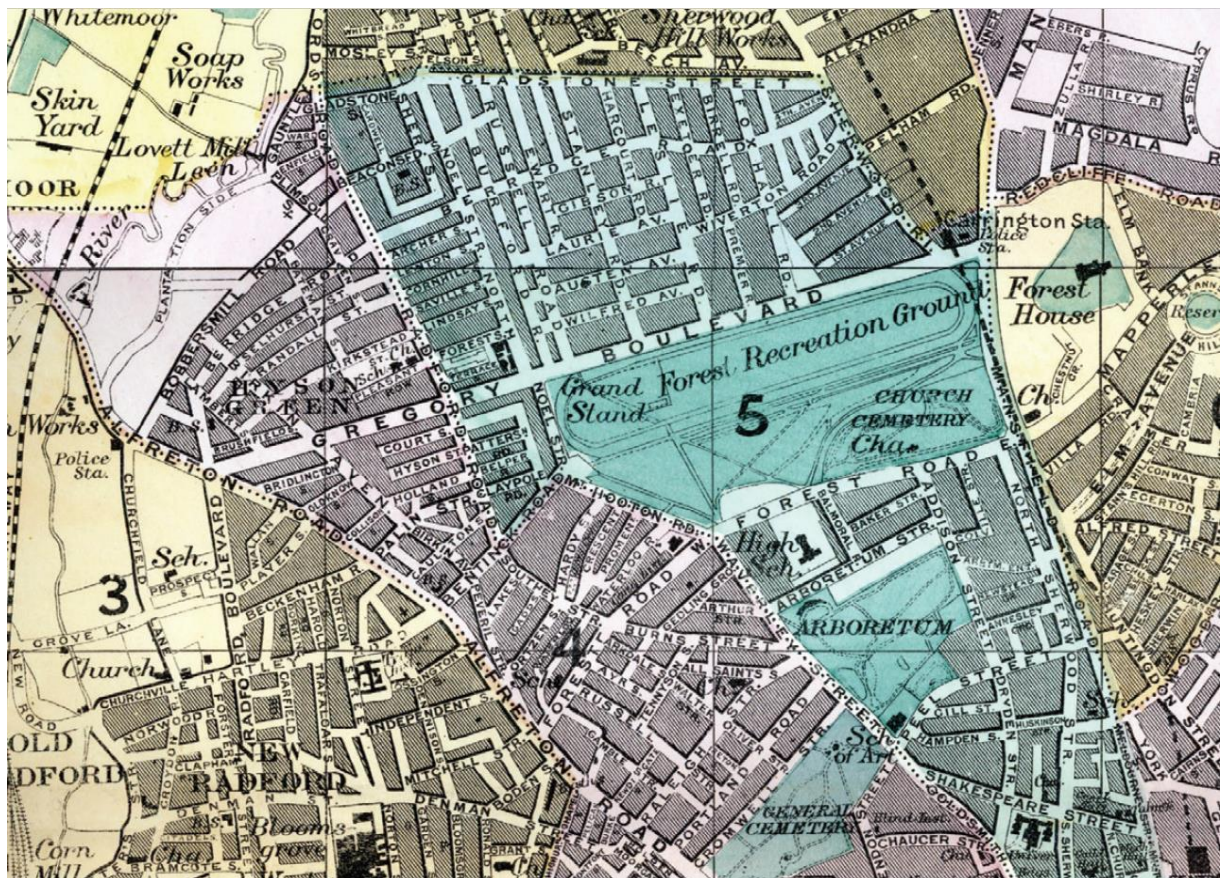




(Above) The area between Gregory Boulevard, Radford Road, Palin Street and Birkin Avenue, shown on the 1915 OS Map above, had a large concentration of small, back to back houses. Unlike Radford they had gardens instead of yards, but the houses were very small. They have all been swept away. Dalkeith Terrace still exists, without any houses, and Hawarden Terrace now curves round to follow the old line of Hyson Street, but again with no houses. The main area is occupied by the Mary Potter Centre and its large car park. (Below) The north side of Holland Street has houses built in the 1950s.



By 1902 the whole of the Hyson Green area was completely developed, as was New Radford and Forest Fields. The 1902 Ward map below shows the development in detail.



By 1912, most of the long gardens belonging to the older houses had been filled with densely packed housing, similar to those in Kirkstead Terrace shown below.



The biggest change in housing came in 1964 when the oldest houses in the centre of the parish were replaced by the brutalist inspired Hyson Green Flats.

The new flats occupied a site between Gregory Boulevard in the south, Radford Road in the west, Berridge Road Central in the north and Noel Street in the east. They were built in a similar style to those at Balloon Woods and Basford and were known as deck-access blocks. The complex included 593 individual flats and 31 high-level walkways. Balloon Woods was built by the Yorkshire Development Group, a consortium of councils in Hull, Sheffield, Leeds and Nottingham, and Hyson Green flats were built to the same pre-fabricated design.



Most people loved the flats at first, or maisonettes as they were officially called, being on two floors. They had a lounge, two or three bedrooms, a bathroom, a fully fitted kitchen and underfloor central heating. For many tenants they were a dream home until the problems began. Defects in the construction meant that rainwater seeped through the joints in the concrete, mould began to take hold, windows fell out without warning and small sections of concrete fell off the walls. Although access was mainly by the walkways, the blocks also had lifts which broke down on a regular basis.

In the 1970s, Hyson Green flats became a popular place for what was called 'blues parties' with reggae music and alcohol two of the main attractions. There was a large Caribbean community in Hyson Green, especially in the flats, and they really knew how to party! On Fridays and Saturdays, youngsters flocked to the flats from the surrounding districts and the area got a bad reputation, somewhat unfairly. This was only made worse by the dilapidated state of the flats, and the Nottingham riots in July 1981, quite vicious in Hyson Green, confirmed most people's worse fears about the ward. The flats were demolished in 1988 and replaced by a supermarket, low-rise housing and a large block for sheltered accommodation (Glenstone Court).

A much taller block of flats at the corner of Gregory Boulevard and Noel Street (below) is still standing after 60 years, having been upgraded in 2007. Now known as High Point it was built using the Bison Wall Frame System, like others at Sneinton, Radford and Sherwood and is 53 m (173ft) tall. It is one of only a few remaining high-rise blocks from the 1960s.





Modern housing has been built to replace the worst of the old properties. On Birkin Avenue (above) semis have been built, with similar houses erected in Bridlington Street (below left). On Radford Road (below right), flats have been built on the site of Lenos Cinema.



There is an old saying, "Always make the back as good as the front", but that does not seem to have been applied to the multiple occupancy houses on Gregory Boulevard shown below on the left. The picture on the right is of Vincent Gardens, some of the new houses built when the Berridge Road Central area was redeveloped in the 1980s.





(Above) On Bridlington Street some of the old houses were kept; these are on the north side. The former shop on the corner has a skilled piece of street art on the wall. Sometimes it is hard to work out why these houses were kept, as the rest of the street was completely redeveloped, but many of the houses were structurally sound and only needed uprating.

The houses shown below are on the northwest side of Alfreton Road between Collison Street (right) and Thurman Street (left). They were built on the site of Hickton's Brewery. Wright's 1894 Directory refers to the site as being occupied by, "*George Hickton, a manufacturer of hop bitters*".





(Above) Pleasant Row, one of the first streets built in 1820, was redeveloped in the 1970s with low-rise flats replacing the original three-storey frame-worker's houses. Today (below) the street is 'pleasant' with the old St Pauls church yard on the northern side.



Shops

You could not write a guide to Hyson Green without including the shops. If you could look up Hyson Green in a dictionary it would probably say, '*a shopping centre in Nottingham with some houses*'. By 1900, it was Nottingham's premier 'out-of-town' shopping area and one of the most popular and profitable shopping sites in the East Midlands. Even today it is a vibrant place where you can buy food from almost every part of the world. Nearly every street had a corner shop, but along Radford Road you could buy everything from an aspirin (introduced in 1899) to a zip fastener (1909).

Space in this guide does not allow for the inclusion of all the shops. Instead, the focus below is on some of the more interesting ones.



Perhaps the most striking shop is Sharif & Sons Superstore on the corner of Radford Road and Gregory Boulevard. The display of fruit and veg is amazing, and you can buy almost everything – when I visited, the owner was cutting up raw sugar cane for sale. (Below) The site has been a prime location since about 1915 when it was *Mitchell's Motor & Cycle Depot*. It was redeveloped in the late 1950s and became a Fine Fare supermarket.





Both sides of Radford Road (above) have always had individual shops, and nearly all are still in use today, although the goods on sale have changed considerably due to the introduction of supermarkets. In 1915 the list of trades from Bentinck Road down to Gregory Boulevard and back was as follows:

- chemist
- grocer
- fruiterer
- baker
- tailor
- hard confectioner
- butcher
- hardware store
- milliner
- fishmonger
- draper
- boot maker
- furniture dealer
- jeweller
- stationer, and
- needlework dealer.



This is just a short list, as there are over one hundred and eighty shops on the main retail part of Radford Road. The list shows how you could buy almost anything, but you had to visit several shops to do so. Today you can still buy furniture and hardware items, and just about every kind of takeaway meal known to man.

Nottingham Co-operative Society Limited had a large grocery store (above) on the east side of Radford Road that must have given many independent traders stiff competition. The first Co-op shop in Nottingham opened on Gregory Street, Lenton in 1863, and by 1915 they had over 30 large shops across the city. Most were built in a standard style but this one is different. Not only is it flat fronted but it has the letters N, C and S (**N**ottm **C**o-op **S**oc.) on the terracotta pillars each side of the shop.



(Above) Staddon's Furniture Store on Radford Road was an early department store and one of the biggest shops on Radford Road. The site was originally a grocery store but rebuilt in 1926. Staddon's was established in 1919 and moved here sometime after the new shop was built. This picture dates from 1965. The shop is now Krakus Food Store.



(Above) View north down Radford Road towards Gregory Boulevard. The white building on the left is an NHS centre but was once Knight Brothers Drapery Store.



(Above) Staddon's Furniture Store with a number 43 trolleybus to Bulwell (1964). (Below) The Medina Store and The Medina Chemist were once Woolworths and Boots the Chemist.





The picture above was taken in 1910 outside what later became the site of Woolworths and Boots. The picture shows a flooded Radford Road after a heavy snow fall. The building to the right of the tram with the high-level window was the Radford Arms pub. The building in front of the tram was later Woolworth's (below) and the building covered by advertisements was later the site of Boots the Chemist.





(Above) Hyson Green Post Office on Gregory Boulevard is still going strong despite thousands of others like it closing over the last twenty years.



The letter box outside the post office was erected during the reign of King George Fifth (GR, 1910-1936). The first pillar boxes in Britain were erected in 1853 in the Channel Islands and were originally hexagonal in shape. The Post Office then dabbled with square boxes, fluted columns and later octagonal ones before settling on a cylindrical shape in 1879. One of those early cylindrical boxes can be found in Broadway in the Lace Market, and there are two of a similar date in the Park Estate, the three oldest boxes in the city.

The box on the left dates from 1910 and was cast by McDowell Steven & Co Ltd of London & Glasgow. Stamp vending machines like the one attached to the side of the box were withdrawn in the 1980s.

A demonstration of how things have changed in the last 100 years is that in 1915 this box was emptied eleven times a day, the last collection being at 10.45pm, whereas today it is emptied only once a day (5pm). There are over 11,000 pillar boxes from King George's reign still in use across the UK.



Hyson Green Market is still on this site on Radford Road, next to the old Cricket Players pub.





(Above) Shops between Berridge Road and Bobbersmill Road about 1964. (Below) The north side of the road, where Asda is now, showing Sail Brothers Store (1966)





(Above and below) The corner of Berridge Road Central and Radford Road. In 1910 and 1915 this was Thomas Sallis & Sons house furniture store. By the 1960s it was Lovejoy's Seed Store and Pet Shop. It is now a one-man Pound Shop.





(Left) Just along from Berridge Road Central towards Leno's Cinema was this shop, Hippey's bakery. The shops were built about 1894. Herbert S. Hippey was the owner until 1904 when John E. Hippey took over. Frank Hippey must have acquired the shop sometime after 1915 as Wright's Directory shows him on Berridge Road Central that year with a sweet shop. The 'Hair by Michael' shop next door has been a hairdresser since at least 1904.

Hippey's was a full bakery with ovens at the back. They baked fresh bread every day and in the mornings the smell was alluring; it must rank as one of the best aromas ever.

When I took this photo in 1980 the owner let me inside to see the large ovens. They were inserted into the wall and heated by a gas burner, although originally, they were coal fired. The shop is now closed, and the upper windows have been replaced, badly. The owner of the adjoining hairdressers, now Karen's Flower Kabin, said that the ovens were removed a long time ago.

The four-bedroom flat above the shop was recently offered for rent at £386 pm per person.

(Below) A view looking west along Radford Road in 1966 with the Old General on the left.





Further up Radford Road, on the east side opposite Bobbers Mill Road, was Jocelyn's scooter shop, now the Cake Box. In the 1960s, Jocelyn's were a Lambretta scooter main dealer, but also sold all the 'Mod' paraphernalia, such as mirrors, racks, fog lights, aerials, windscreens and all manner of go-faster items. Later they concentrated on Suzuki motorcycles and eventually became Gregory Motorcycles, moving to Mansfield Road and later Carlton. Roy Warton further down the road was cheaper but had a reputation for being a miserable man who would fail your scooter's MOT just because he could!

(Below) The same section of Radford Road about 1966. Jocelyn's shop was the small white building behind the woman crossing the road.





(Above and below) At the north end of Radford Road, between Bobbers Mill Road and Wilkinson Street, the shops are only on one side of the road, the east side, but nearly all are still in use despite the national decline of small shops.





The Valve Shop on the corner of Shipstone Street is like a shop from the past. It sells car parts and every small domestic electrical item known to man, including many things that are no longer available anywhere else.

(Below) These shops on Radford Road are opposite the entrance to Asda's supermarket. The sandwich shop (*Tramwiches*) takes its name from the passing NET tram system and is a clever piece of branding. Those shops with the shutters down are closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, not because the area is in decline.





As in most towns, for everyday items the corner shop ruled supreme right up until the 1970s. This one (above) is on the corner of Hazelwood Road and Berridge Road West (right). Ironically, corner shops, or convenience stores as they are now called, are making a comeback, as many people no longer do a 'large shop' at the supermarket.

(Below) These shops on Berridge Road were handy when you came out of the school next door.



Pubs

There are twelve old pubs in the area covered by this guide but only one is still a pub, the Clock (below) on the corner of Craven Road and Randal Street. It was built about 1888.



(Below) The Carlton Hotel on Noel Street was later re-named the Frog & Onion.





On Birkin Avenue, the Albany (above) was a large commercial hotel that had its own brew-house at the back. A short distance down the road was the King Edgar pub (below). It has the words 'Hoolers Noted' painted above the doorway, which presumably referred to the brewery.





The Clarence Hotel (above) on Alfretton Road was a commercial hotel. When this picture was taken in 2010 it offered shared rooms for £21 per night. Whether that meant sharing with a partner or with another guest was not clear! (Below) The Grand Hotel was also on Alfretton Road at the bottom of Berridge Road and is now a mosque.





(Above) The Smiths Arms on Radford Road was a John Robinson pub, built about 1885.

(Below) The Radford Arms, also on Radford Road, was an Ind Coope's pub, built 1887.





(Above) Langhams pub on Radford Road was a Kimberley Ales pub. It closed in 2008.

(Below) The Cricket Players, also on Radford Road, is no longer a pub.





The Old General (above) on Radford Road, built in 1883 by John Holmes, has recently been re-developed into an apartment complex with shops below, but without the General.



The statue of the Old General over the door was of Benjamin Mayo, a rather eccentric resident of the area. He was born in 1779 and died in 1843, aged 64 years, long before the pub was built. In his latter days he lived at St Peter's Poor House but died in the Union Workhouse.

He was never a General but in Victorian terms was labelled a 'simpleton'. He was well known for drilling street urchins, in military style, up and down the local roads and sometimes wore a military cap. His red jacket became his trademark.

He was buried in Broad Marsh cemetery but there is an epitaph to him in the General Cemetery at Canning Circus near the entrance gate to Clarendon Street. The plaque was erected by a local group of admirers.

The statue over the door was a plaster-cast copy of one that originally stood outside the entrance. The location of the statue is now unknown – it should really be in a museum.



(Above) The epitaph to 'The Old General' in the General Cemetery, Canning Circus.

(Below) The Scotholme Hotel on Radford Road, on the corner of Gladstone Street, closed a few years ago and became an Indian restaurant. Roy Warton's motorcycle shop was on the opposite corner.



Banks

With all those shops and pubs, people needed someone to control their spending and Hyson Green had four old banks to do that, although one did not look anything like a bank.



The bank at the south end of Radford Road (above) was originally a branch of the Union of London & Smiths Bank Limited, later National Provincial Bank. It is now a restaurant. Perhaps the best known branch is that on Gregory Boulevard (below), a former branch of the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Banking Company, later Nat West. It was built in 1901.



Usually, with only a small amount of architectural knowledge, it is easy to spot an old bank. They are often on a corner plot, have a stone-clad façade at ground floor level with a large door, and there is usually a patch on the wall where the night-safe was. The whole idea of the frontage was to demonstrate strength, quality and wealth to invoke confidence.

So, choosing a plain corner shop as your main branch in a prominent district seems rather odd, but that was the case with Farrows Bank Limited and their Hyson Green branch (below) on Radford Road on the corner of Beaconsfield Street.



The shop above is listed in Wright's 1915 Directory as being a branch of Farrows Bank who only had one other branch in Nottingham at 13 Milton Street. The below-par appearance of the branch can perhaps be better understood when the Farrow story is told.

Thomas Farrow was born in Norwich in 1862 and became a solicitor, although he never actually practiced. He championed a fight against unscrupulous moneylenders and helped bring to law the Moneylender's Act 1900 that aimed to reform the industry. He founded Farrows Bank in 1904 as a private undertaking and offered interest rates that were far better than the bigger banks. Three years later he registered it as a public company and by 1920 its assets were said to be £1 million, but on 20 December 1920 bank payments were suspended and the bank effectively went bust.

The widespread havoc caused by the collapse was devastating for many small investors, although the full extent of the collapse was never publicised. Hundreds of ordinary people came face-to-face with poverty, having lost everything and, in many cases, with only the Workhouse or the Poor Law to look forward to. It was later found that the bank had no working capital but instead had debts of £2 million. Farrow and his co-directors were charged with fraud and it was alleged that large sums of money had been paid to family members. After a long trial they were found guilty and jailed for four years. Farrow died in 1934 claiming he was entirely innocent.

Farrow's Bank, Limited.

Head Office: No. 1, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.

Current Accounts.	Opened with £5 and upwards, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. allowed on credit balances.
Deposit Notes.	3 to 4 per cent interest on transferable deposit notes, which are issued in sums of £1 up to £1,000 for periods of from 7 days to 3 months.
Ordinary Deposits.	Interest Payable.
3 per cent. at 7 days' notice.	$3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at 1 month's notice.
4 per cent. at 3 months' notice.	
Home Savings Banks.	Steel Safes for the homes. 4 per cent. interest on sums deposited up to £10. Money at 7 days' notice of withdrawal.
Free Illustrated Booklet.	Write or call for this. Gives full details of all departments of Farrow's Bank.

For further particulars apply to the Manager :

DERBY, Market Place.

NOTTINGHAM, Milton Street.

HYSON GREEN, 314, Radford Road.

LEICESTER, Gallowtree Gate.

Branches, Sub-Branches, and Agencies in every County in the Kingdom.

(Above) Advertising your head office in Cheapside, London, as in this 1915 advert in Wright's Directory, was designed to instil confidence in potential customers. The fact that they only had branches in four Midlands cities should perhaps have raised questions about their strength and security, although hindsight is a wonderful thing if you have it.



(Above) This shop on the corner of Radford Road and Beaconsfield Street was once a branch of Lloyds Bank. It is not shown as such on the 1915 OS Map so may have opened in the 1920s or later. It has all the hallmarks of an ex-bank, as mentioned earlier.

(Below) There is now only one working branch of the 'Big-four' banks in Hyson Green, a Lloyds Bank on Gregory Boulevard.



Schools

There are only two Victorian schools still standing in Hyson Green: Bentinck Road (below left) and Berridge Road/Brushfield Street (below right). Forest Fields Grammar School on Stanley Road and Manvers School on Gregory Boulevard, both in Berridge Ward, also served the Hyson Green area. These schools are covered in my guide to [Radford](#).



There was also a large School Board school on the southeast side of Beaconsfield Street, between Carver Street and Fisher Street, but it was demolished a long time ago and replaced by a modern school, Scotholme Primary and Nursery School.

There is a modern, Catholic school on Cardwell Street, and a modern primary and nursery school, Berridge Primary School (Bobbers Mill Site), near St Stephen's church on the southwest side of Bobbers Mill Road.

Cinemas

Hyson Green had three cinemas, but others were easily accessible in Forest Fields (The Apollo), Radford (The Orion and The Capitol) and Basford (Futurist).



Lenos Picture Palace (above) on Radford Road was previously a New Basford Co-operative Society grocers store that closed in 1909. It opened as The Little John Picture House on 12th January 1911 but closed in March 1912. It re-opened as Lenos Royal Picturedrome on 12th April 1912, named after a Music Hall comedian, Dan Leno but in 1917 it dropped the Royal part of its name. It had seating for 900 people, with double seats at the back, popular with courting couples. A sound system was installed in 1930 and admission to the Saturday children's matinee was either 1d or an empty jam jar. In later years it was often referred to as The Flea Pit and it closed as a cinema on 24th February 1968.



When this picture was taken in 1979 the building was hosting live female wrestling matches starring Miss India and Lolita Loren (left). Lolita's real name was Chris Cassidy, and she began wrestling in her hometown of Manchester when she was 13 years old.

She first toured the northern and midlands circuit as Anglo Spitfire, but later adopted the name Lolita Loren and toured with Naughty Nancy Barton, Mitzie Mueller and Hellcat Haggerty. She was a big star of female wrestling, but also raised a lot of money for charity. She died in 2012 aged 59.

The building has now been demolished and replaced by a small block of flats.



The Boulevard Electric Palace (above), on the east side of Radford Road near the junction of Gregory Boulevard, opened in 1910 showing three matinees a week. It had seating for 700 people. It was one of the first suburban cinemas in Nottingham and showed silent films accompanied by a ladies' orchestra. At one time the frontage had a rounded top to the façade. It closed in 1956 and was a bingo hall for a while. It was later demolished and replaced by the shops shown below.





The Grand Theatre (above) near the corner of Radford Road and Gregory Boulevard, opened in February 1886 as a repertory theatre. This postcard picture dates from about 1910-15, as in the background can be seen the Boulevard Cinema that opened in 1910. Also, Thomas Beach, a boot maker, is shown in the 1915 edition of Wright's Directory as having the shop on the right, and the car fits that time frame. The theatre was not successful and in 1925 it became a full time cinema. It closed in 1956 and was later demolished. The site is now a garden area with seating.

Public Buildings

The old Hyson Green library (below) on Gregory Boulevard closed recently. The first library was in the police station, but this one opened in 1896 with 11,000 books available. The library has now moved to the Mary Potter Centre and the fate of the old building is unclear.





Hyson Green has had three police stations. The first one (above) was on the corner of Gregory Boulevard and Radford Road opposite the Nottingham & Notts Bank and is now the site of a bed shop. It is mentioned in the 1894 edition of Wrights Directory as also including a free library and reading room. A replacement, CLASP type building was built in about 1960 next to the library, but that closed in the 1990s and was demolished. It was then replaced by the new police station, below, near Wilkinson Street.



Factories

One of the earliest factories to be built in the parish was Sydney Smith & Co's brass works on Forest Street, behind what is now the site of the old library. In 1847 Sydney Smith invented a compact, efficient and reliable steam gauge to show the pressure of the steam in a boiler. It was patented and later used by George Stephenson on his railway engines and steam powered boats. Smith also invented a rotary steam engine, gas apparatus, safety valves and water gauges. He died in 1882 aged 79. The company was then run by two of his three sons, Isaac and William Smith (below) and by 1915 they had moved to a new factory.



Isaac Smith, F.S.A., M.I.M.E.

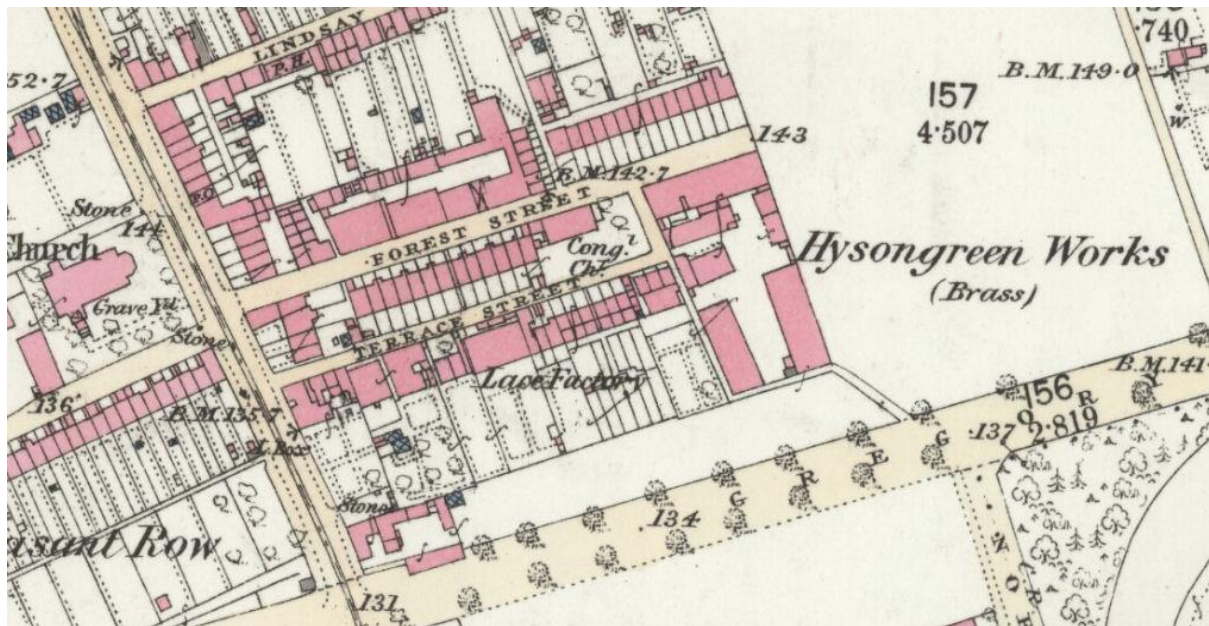


William Smith.

(Below) Sydney Smith & Co's former brass foundry (Hyson Green Works) on the south side of Forest Street. The houses on the left are on the east side of Noel Street as those on the west side were demolished in preparation for the building of Hyson Green flats. When the picture was taken in the 1960s, the building had last been used by the Metropolitan Gas Meters Company.



Hancock's lace factory, on the north side of Forest Street (below), was built about 1824. Forest Street was opposite St Pauls Church on Radford Road. The lace factory shown on Terrace Street was owned by Thomas Billyeald & Co and by 1905 was a cane-work factory; little else is known about the site.



Hancock's Factory was built by the machine builders and lace manufacturers, Hancock & Booker. It was later bought by James Merriman, a lace manufacturer and in 1852 the factory was extended and powered by steam. In 1860 the site was acquired by B.O. Abbott, an elastic web manufacturer, and became known as Abbott's Factory. In 1881 it was occupied by twelve lace makers and five non-lace making tenants, and by 1891 was known as The Forest Street Works. By 1915 it had ten tenants, including the Boulevard Cycle Co., several hosiery makers and a motor-car wheel maker. It was demolished in the 1960s when Hyson Green Flats were built. (Below) Forest Street in the 1960s, with Abbott's factory on the left.



Abbott's factory is perhaps most famous as the location of the murder by Walter Smith in December 1893 of Catherine Mary Cross, age 25, a nurse from Liverpool.

Catherine came to Nottingham to visit her mother and later visited Walter Smith's mother, a dressmaker, to buy a new dress. Walter Smith, an inventor, aged 32, rented part of Abbott's Factory where he refined a new machine capable of producing coloured Chenille, a fashionable material used for ladies dresses. When he met Catherine, he was besotted by her and arranged to meet her at the factory, supposedly to show her his new cloth making machine.

When she got to the factory, Walter Smith locked the door behind her and sexually assaulted her. Later three shots were fired at 2-4 second intervals and Catherine burst out of a door, badly wounded. She had been shot in the throat and was given first aid by a neighbour. Her clothes were all torn at the hip. She died four days later.

At Smith's trial he claimed that the shots were fired accidentally, and before her death Catherine said that she thought the first shot was an accident, but that the other two, which missed her, were deliberate. The prosecution showed that the gun had a 6-lb trigger and had to be cocked between shots so could not have been repeat-fired accidentally. It was also suggested that her clothes had been torn by Smith and the prosecution said that if it had been an accident then surely Smith would have followed her down the stairs to help her.

Smith was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. He was hanged at Bagthorpe Prison, Perry Road, Nottingham on 27th March 1894, one of 18 national executions in that year. The trial was reported in local and national newspapers - the extract below is from the Cardiff Times on 10th March 1894.

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Roze, and members of the farewell tour.

MURDER OF A NURSE.

Sentence of Death.

The trial of Walter Smith, a fitter, 32, indicted
for murdering Catherine Cross, 25, concluded on
Wednesday at Nottingham Assizes, before
Justice Hawkins. The deceased, who had been
engaged as nurse at a Liverpool hospital for
women, came to Nottingham early in December
last to see her mother. She formed an acquaint-
ance with the prisoner, at whose invitation she
visited the factory where he rented rooms, the
object being to inspect a new lace machine
he intended patenting. It was alleged that
whilst there the prisoner fired at her with a re-
volver. One shot entered her chin, and passing
through the windpipe lodged in the backbone.
She died four days after. The defence was that
the weapon exploded accidentally, the absence of
motive being relied upon. It was proved that
three shots were fired. Cross, before death, said
when the revolver first went off she thought it an
accident, but not when two other shots were fired
as she was running away. A three days' trial
resulted in a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner
was sentenced to death.

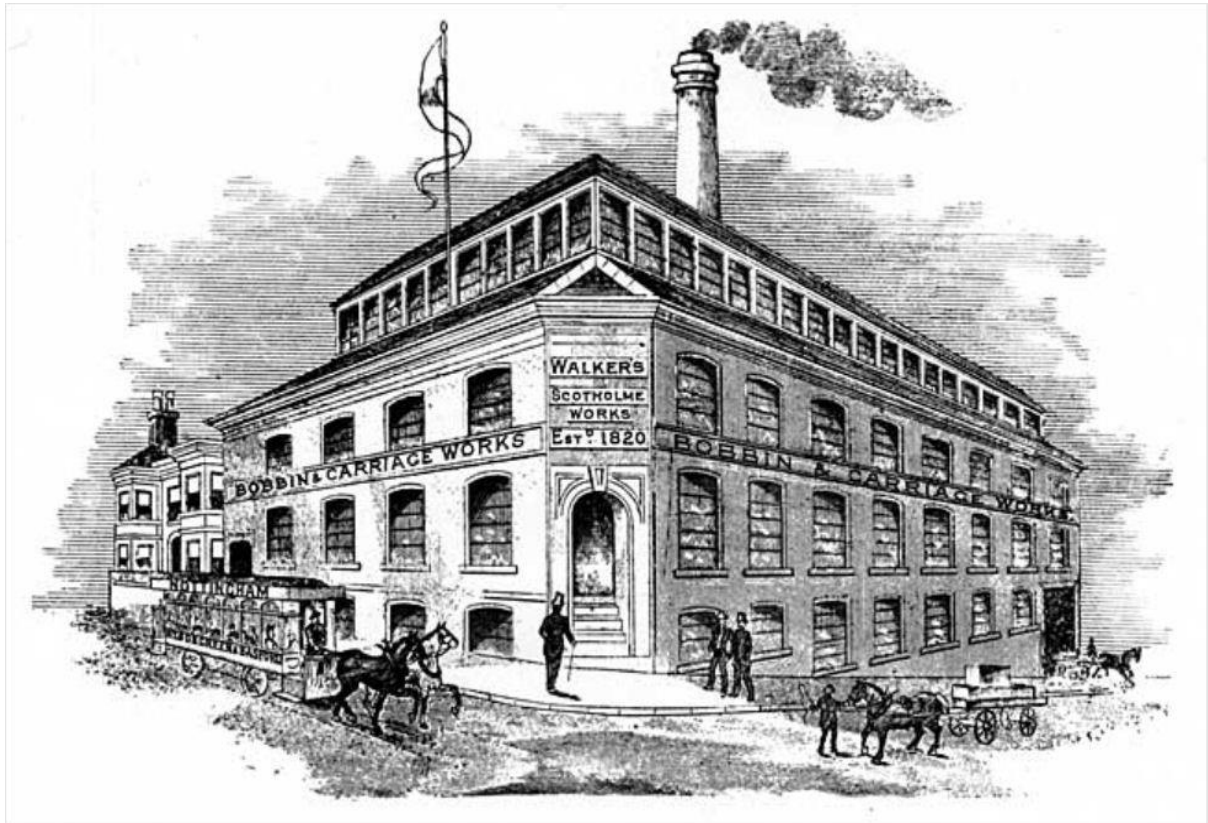
A RECENTLY PUBLISHED REPORT of the Histori-
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(Above) William Walker & Son were bobbin, carriage and comb manufacturers with a factory at 289-291 Radford Road, on the southeast corner of Ward Street. Erected in 1883 it was called the Scottholme Works. In the picture, the horse-drawn bus is on Radford Road. The firm invented a carriage and comb that could hold twice the length of an ordinary bobbin without the need to change the machine's structure – it could be added to any existing machine. It saved time and money and sold very well. The factory site is now Gauntley Court (below), a small industrial estate.





(Above) Not strictly speaking a factory, T & B Gray's warehouse at 10 Palin Street was a large furniture storage depot, but on a factory scale. Erected in 1879 on the corner of Cope Street, it included stabling for twelve horses and sheds for twenty-two vans. They were the first company to introduce covered vans and had new pantechicon wagons. They offered removal services overseas, especially America. The site included a blacksmith's forge, a wheelwright's yard and a carpenter's shop. The site has been demolished and replaced by houses.



(Above) The former site of Gray's warehouse in 2020; Palin Street on the left and Cope Street on the right. These sheltered housing units are dated 2000, which is probably when the old warehouse was demolished.



This factory (above) on Holland Street was a colour printing works belonging to Tom Browne & Co (Nottingham) Limited. It is being converted into flats (2020). A large centre-section of the works known as Westbridge House has been demolished, splitting the site into two parts. The section below also housed Joseph R. Topham Bros. lace factory.



The area south of the old printing works on Holland Street is now occupied by a small industrial estate with auto repair shops and a tyre depot. The Google Earth image below shows the original scale of the printing works in the centre of the picture, with its boiler house chimney. The newer industrial estate is on Palin Street and the large building in the background is the Mary Potter Health Centre on Gregory Boulevard.



(Below) The Muslim Hands centre on Gregory Boulevard was once a dental products factory, making false teeth and related products.



A black and white photograph of Gerard's Soap Works, a large brick building with "GERARD'S SOAP WORKS" painted on its side. Three vintage cars are parked in front: a truck on the left, a sedan in the middle, and another sedan on the right. A group of seven men are posing in front of the cars, with one man holding a trophy. The cars have various signs, including "GERARD BROS LTD", "INO SOAP", and "GERARD BROS LTD".

[illegible]

The company was formed in 1876 by Thomas and William Gerard and was the first to introduce soap making to Nottingham. Its location was well placed as it was next-door to several bleaching and dying works that later became important customers. The nearby River Leen supplied all the water needed for the production process and the area had plenty of scope for future expansion.

In 1897 Gerard's became a public limited company with Thomas B. Gerard as its first chairman. Their main domestic soap product was branded as INO, a toilet soap. It was sold as being, '*The first aid to beauty*'. They also supplied soap flakes and soap bars branded in the name of the customer company. Other soaps were branded as Lily of the Valley, Rose and Lavender.

In 1921 the factory was destroyed by fire but was later rebuilt fronting Wilkinson Street which was extended over the railway in 1931. The rebuild allowed for expansion and the installation of new equipment that helped boost production.

In 1955 the firm was acquired by Cussons who made Imperial Leather soap, and by the 1970s the site employed over 460 people. The works closed in 2006 and has since been demolished.

(Below) This picture, taken in 1978 from Bobbers Mill Bridge, shows the soap works in the background with the brand name INO painted on the brickwork. The much larger building on the far right is Shipstone's Brewery on Radford Road. Hicking & Pentecost's bleaching and dying works is just out of shot on the right.



Only the soap factory's chimney remains today (below), a sad reminder of this once important industry. The flats in the distance are The Woodlands on Norton Street, Radford, approx. 1.6km (1 mile) away to the south.



(Below) Bleaching and Dying was one of Hyson Green's staple industries, and Hicking & Pentecost had a major site at Bobbers Mill.



Community buildings



Perhaps one of the most stylish buildings in Hyson Green, in fact one of the best in the city, is the New Art Exchange (above) on Gregory Boulevard. It opened in 2008 on the site of the old People's Dispensary. It has won five RIBA architectural and design awards.

The other major new building is the Mary Potter Health Centre (below) on Gregory Boulevard. It houses three doctors' practices, a dentist, chemist, the library and several NHS services. It looks a bit like a 1930s Art Deco cinema building.



Famous people

Mary Potter (right) was born in Bermondsey, South London on 22 November 1847. She had a congenital heart and lung condition that left her frail all her life. She became a nun in 1868.

In April 1877 she opened a convent in Lenton Street, Hyson Green, (below) in a disused stocking factory. Her group, the Little Company of Mary Sisters, helped poor people in the ward, especially those with terminal illnesses.

Mary visited Rome several times and her movement spread to many places across the world. In 1880 the sisters moved to a new chapel in Beaconsfield Street and the site in Lenton Street became known as the Convent of Maternal Heart and was still there in 1915.

In Rome in 1882 Mary helped form the first Catholic training school for nurses. She died in Rome in 1913 and in 1997 her body was returned to Nottingham for burial at St Barnabas Cathedral on Derby Road.

A new health centre, The Mary Potter Centre on Gregory Boulevard, has been named after her.





Tom Blower (below) was born in Hyson Green in 1914. He was a resident of Nottingham until shortly before his death from a heart attack in 1955.

Blower was a long distance endurance swimmer who, in July 1947, became the first person to successfully swim the North Channel between Ireland and Scotland, completing the task in 15 hours 26 minutes. No other swimmer managed the crossing until 1970.

Blower, a miner's son, practiced in the River Trent near The Meadows. He swam the English Channel several times, with a personal best speed of 13 hours and 29 minutes in 1937 that set a new record, shaving 23 minutes off the earlier best time.

He was a decorated World War II hero who gained national celebrity for his swimming.

A housing estate at Wollaton, Nottingham has its main road named after him. 📖

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