

This is the eighth in a series of leaflets being produced by the Society to illustrate some of Wakefield's fascinating and rich heritage. Look out for other leaflets as they are published. You can find out more on our website. All leaflets have been printed locally using F&C-certified paper sources, sustainable inks and reduced waste.

Find out more about the lost buildings of Wakefield by scanning the QR code or by visiting our Discover Wakefield webpage: [wakefieldcivicsociety.org.uk/discover-wakefield](http://wakefieldcivicsociety.org.uk/discover-wakefield)



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Wakefield  
Civic  
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# 08 Discover Wakefield The Lost Buildings



Wakefield  
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**Building interest in Wakefield  
since 1964**

## THE LOST BUILDINGS OF WAKEFIELD

Wakefield can trace its built heritage right back to medieval times and there are examples of buildings from just about every period from the early 16th century right through to the modern day. However, many of Wakefield's old buildings have been demolished over the years and this leaflet highlights just a few of the more significant buildings that have been lost.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s Wakefield was a prosperous and affluent city befitting its status as the administrative centre for the West Riding, but this put pressure on the city's infrastructure and there was a push to modernise, to tear down old buildings no longer seen as fit for purpose and to replace them with new buildings.

These buildings were in a new style. Practical and increasingly desirable, they better served the needs of the time, be they new shops and offices or residential tower blocks and modern housing. Growth in personal transport also led to a need for road widening schemes, opening up some of the city's narrow streets.

Both the Council and developers had sufficient funding available to make large-scale changes across the city, sweeping away the poor quality semi-derelict and poorly maintained properties to replace them with these bold new schemes.

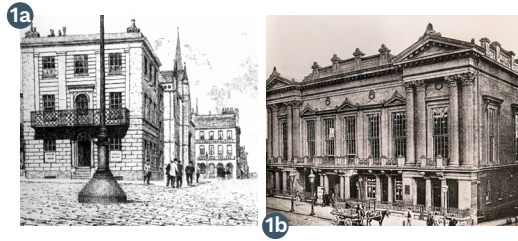
One example in particular, the Corn Exchange, which stood at the top of Westgate, drew matters to very public attention. After a period of financial decline and some subsidence damage, a fire finally led to the handsome building being put forward for demolition. Although there were significant calls for it to be rescued, the building was demolished in 1963.

The demolition was a trigger for concerned people to call for the creation of a Civic Society – a Society that would be “dedicated both to preserving and celebrating our built heritage and to campaigning for new developments to be of the very highest standard and quality possible”. Following a public meeting at the Town Hall on 9th March 1964, Wakefield Civic Society was formed.

## KEY BUILDINGS

### 1. The Corn Exchanges in Westgate

There have been two Corn Exchanges in Wakefield. The first, opened in 1820 and stood at the top of Westgate, between Silver Street and Marygate. A new, larger building was opened just opposite on the south side of Westgate in 1838. This was demolished in 1963.



### 2. Market Cross on the Cross Square

The Market Cross was built 1707. It was open at the bottom, for market traders to sell fresh produce such as eggs and butter, and, had a domed meeting room above, accessed by a wooden spiral staircase. It was demolished 1866.



### 3. The Golden Cock Inn, Westgate

One of Wakefield's timber framed buildings from the 16th century, the Golden Cock was later converted into shops and eventually demolished in July 1963.



### 4. The Moot Hall in Kirkgate

The Moot Hall and Rolls office stood behind the buildings on the south side of Upper Kirkgate, approximately at the rear of the current Boots shop. It was demolished 1913.



### 5. The Manor Bakehouse

The Manor Bakehouse stood in the current Marygate. Local statutes dictated that all bread for sale had to be baked in the bakehouse. It was close to the Bread booths opposite (on Bread Street), where the bread was then taken for sale.

### 6. Clayton Hospitals in Cross Street and Northgate

Wakefield's first 'Clayton Hospital and Dispensary' stood in Cross Street, facing towards Wood Street and took its name from local businessman Thomas Clayton who donated funds for the hospital wing.

Clayton left a legacy when he died in 1868 and this enabled a new hospital in Northgate. The foundation stone was laid on the 26th November 1876 by Colonel Charlesworth of Chapelthorpe Hall.



The old hospital closed and was converted into offices before being demolished in 1973. The new hospital closed in 2012 and much of it was demolished pending redevelopment of the site.



### 7. Alverthorpe Hall, Batley Road

The hall, built by the Maude family in 1585, and demolished 1946, stood on the site now occupied by Flanshaw Junior & Infants School. Many people lived in the hall over the years, including Henry Clarkson who wrote 'Memories of Merrie Wakefield' in 1887.



### 8. Flanshaw Old Hall on Flanshaw Lane

The oldest part was built by Philippe Nevile, listing the house in his will in 1588. In 1700, William Haywood modernised and enlarged the house, putting his monogram and date, 'H W E 1702', on the porch. It was demolished in the post war period to provide land for St Michael's junior school.

