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Further reading – Simpson's History of Mildenhall available from the Museum for £6.50p
www.mildenhallmuseum.co.uk

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Mildenhall Town Sign



Mildenhall has had a market since the grant of a Royal Charter in 1412. Top left - is the cross believed to date from the 14th century. A set of stocks was attached to the cross and were used until the 19th century.

Top right - is St Mary's Church. The church was developed over the years and various architectural styles are evident. There is an excellent guide to the building for sale in the Church for anyone with a special interest.

Bottom right - The red plane is the Grosvenor House Comet that won the Mildenhall to Melbourne Air Race in 1934. The race was held just before the base was commissioned by the RAF in November 1934. Further information about this is available in the museum.

Bottom left - The River Lark by the gas pool with the old bridge and Mill at the end of Mill Street. The river was known as the coal river as boats could get up to the coal wharf in Bury St Edmunds. There was a coal depot behind the Mill in Mill Street.



1. Cottage Hospital

A local GP, Dr. Hills Harris, set up Mildenhall Cottage Hospital one of the first in the country. It opened in 1868 and was funded by public subscription. There were 8 beds. There is a plaque in the church that commemorates Dr. Hills Harris.



2. Pound Meadow

This originally extended round the corner into North Terrace, Livestock was pastured on the meadow and an abattoir stood where Pound Close is now. A plot was sold in 1934 and The Comet Cinema was built. Other plots were sold off in the 1950's.



3. Police Station and Courthouse

This was built in 1851. The police station was moved to a new larger station on Kingsway in 1970 and the court was closed in 2009.



4. Forge

A blacksmith operated here until World War 2. It was demolished in the early 1970's. In 1829 a blacksmith gave some of his land for the adjacent Wesleyan Church to be built. The blacksmith's cottage was behind the forge in High Street.



5. Mildenhall Manor House

It was built in the early 17th century by Lord North and stood on this site until 1934. It was demolished following a major sale of Manor holdings in 1933.



6. The Chauffeur's House

Occupied by the chauffeur to the Manor, the window and blocked up archway to the left of the front door mark the former entrance for the coaches and cars.



7. Westway Cottages

Built in 1819 by Grout, Baylis and Co of Norwich who were operating a manufactory here, processing raw silk from Bengal. It ran ten winding frames, probably powered by steam. After the factory closed in March 1834 the building became a row of single storey cottages, and by the 1920's a doss house. The upper storey was added during renovations in 1933-4.



8. Bridewell

Until recently the location of Mildenhall bridewell (gaol or lock up) was only vaguely known to be somewhere west of the town. The exact position was confirmed when old deeds to West End House were shown to the museum in May 2017.



9. Foundry

Little is known about the Mildenhall Iron Foundry. Trade directories suggest it was active for a very few years in the early 1860's.



10. Bunbury Rooms

Built as a school by Sir Henry Bunbury in 1849 and renovated in 1867 by his son Sir Charles James Fox Bunbury who added the front door and presumably the porch, above which he placed his coat of arms with the date.



11. Almshouses

Built by Sir Thomas Hanmer who inherited the Lordship of the Manor from his maternal grandfather Lord North, who had no sons. Hanmer was well respected in the House of Commons representing the neighbouring borough of Thetford. He died without issue leaving his estate to his nephew Sir William Bunbury.



12. Workhouse Boardroom

The Board of the Guardians of the Poor of Mildenhall met in this building. Other premises in the Workhouse complex were numbers 12 Churchyard now called the Priory and No. 13 the workhouse master residence. The workhouse closed in 1896 after moving to a new building in Kingsway. (The Police Station and Library now stand on the latter's site).



13. Mill

A Mill was recorded in Mildenhall in Domesday [1086]. The present building was erected in 1887 and extended in 1908. In 1919 the Mill generated the town's first electricity later extending to Barton Mills and (in 1932) Worlington. The Mill also provided a radio relay service in the 1930's sending programmes by wire to speakers in subscribers' homes.

