



Warm Welcome
Watford
Visitor Maps & Information
Building History
(Selected)

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Central Watford Brief Selected Building History

1 **Cassiobury Park**

The largest park in Watford was formerly part of the Cassiobury House Estate - the former seat of the Earls of Essex. The house was demolished in 1927.

2 **Little Cassiobury**

Late 17th century Georgian Dower House built for the Earls of Essex (Cassiobury House). Grade II* listed.

3 **The Peace Hospice**

Built in 1925 by public subscription as a new hospital. After the hospital moved to Vicarage Road this building was turned into a hospice.

4 **The Town Hall**

Built in 1937-39 and designed by Mr C Cowles-Voysey. Grade II listed.

5 **The Peace Memorial**

Unveiled 1928 and sculpted by Mary Bromet, it originally stood outside the Peace Memorial Hospital. Grade II listed.

6 **The Bandstand (1912)**

Originally in Cassiobury Park, Erected here in 1975. Grade II listed.

7 **The Public Library**

Moved here in 1928 from original site in Queens Road.

8 **Monmouth House 87-97 The Parade**

Pre 1639 red brick mansion built by Earl of Monmouth. Alterations c1771, 1816 & 1927. Grade II listed.

9 **14-16 The Parade (Jacksons Jewellers)**

1480 - 1520 openhall house with 16c additional bay. Grade II listed.

10 **Beechen Grove Baptist Chapel**

Built 1877. Grade II listed.

11 **The Palace Theatre**

Built 1908 as a Music Hall and refronted 1909 / 10. Grade II listed.

12 **44 High Street**

This building was purchased in 1928 by the Metropolitan Railway to be the new Watford Terminus. But despite parliamentary approval, the money was not found.

13 **Watford Market**

The market Charter was originally granted in the 12th century. It was held in the High Street until 1928 when it moved into Red Lion Yard and in 1976 to its current position.

14 **Holy Rood RC Church**

Built in 1889/90 by J.F. Bentley, who also designed Westminster Cathedral. The tower is said to have been intentionally built 2 feet higher than the tower of the nearby St Mary's C of E Parish Church.

15 **Compasses Window**

A 15 century timber window was built into the wall of the rebuilt Compasses pub in 1928. It is facing Market Street.

16 **Charter Place**

A large redevelopment took place in the Red Lion Yard area in 1974. Charter Place was created and the market moved to a new home.

17 **63 - 65 High Street**

Originally the Bucks and Oxon Bank, later Lloyds Bank and now a shop. Sometimes called the 'Wedding Cake' building. It is Grade II listed.

18 **The Coal Duty Boundary Marker**

Standing at the end of New Street Passage was originally sited on the Canal. It was placed 20 miles from the centre of London and marked where coal duty must be paid.

19 **The Bedford Alms Houses**

The oldest inhabited buildings in Watford. They were built in 1580 by the Second Duke of Bedford.

20 **St Mary's Parish Church**

St Mary's Church is mainly 15th century Fragments of an earlier church have also been found. (Open Mon - Fri)

21 **Dysons Tomb**

The tomb of Dyson the brewer stands opposite the Free School. Dyson founded the Cannon Brewery which later became Benskins Brewery.

22 **The Free School**

Founded in 1704 by Mrs Elizabeth Fuller to teach forty poor boys and fourteen poor girls. The Queen Anne building is now used as offices. Grade II* listed.

23 **Derby Road School**

Red brick school built in 1884. This school was the successor to Mrs Fuller's Free School and the forerunner of the present Watford Grammar Schools. Grade II listed

24 **Harlequin Shopping Centre**

This massive retail development first opened its doors in 1990 when Trewins (now John Lewis) occupied the first phase of the development.

For more information:
Watford Museum, 194 High Street
Watford WD17 2DT 01923 232297

The High Street Revisited (Watford Museum)
Timber Framed Buildings in Watford (Stephen A Castle)
Companion Around Watford (Kenneth R Jones)

With thanks to the following Reference Books:

25 **48 Kings Close (Grade II listed)**

Former Watford County Court House with cells built c1858. Red brick with portland stone. Now used as Sikh Temple.

26 **Watford Place**

An elegant large stucco faced house built circa 1797 and altered 1822. Now used as offices. Grade II listed.

27 **The Mecca Bingo Hall**

Originally built in 1913 as a cinema, the Central Hall, became the Regal Cinema in 1930 and the Essoldo in 1954. Its Art Deco style was by Norfolk & Prior.

28 **Timber Framed Buildings**

129 - 131 High Street from 17th century. Grade II listed
133 - 135 High Street from 19th century. Grade II listed

29 **Timber Framed Buildings (Grade II listed)**

1a Carey Place from 16th Century.
137 - 139 High Street c1614 with later brick front.
141 High Street from 16th century. Much altered.
145 High Street c1780. 149 - 151 High Street 17th century.

30 **146 High St**

This building was St Marys Infants School built in 1834. The previous building on this site was The Nag's Head public house whose landlord Will Kemp was said to have received corpses from bodysnatchers and sent them to London.

31 **The One Crown**

Watfords oldest surviving public house. Timber framed and dating from 16th century with 19c stucco front. Grade II listed.

32 **160 High Street**

This building was originally a public house (the Bull until 1750 and the Three Crowns until 1958).

33 **172,172a & 172b High Street**

17th century timber framed buildings refronted in 19th century stucco. Grade II listed.

34 **Watford High Street Station**

Opened in 1862 for the Rickmansworth branch line and rebuilt 1912/13.

35 **Watford Museum**

The Grade II listed mansion was built c1775 for Edmund Dawson and later occupied by the Dyson Family who founded The Cannon Brewery. The two storey wings were added in 1807 and the Interior altered in the 19th century. In 1867 the brewery passed into Benskin family who lived in this building. The brewery stood behind the building and had its own railway sidings. Brewery demolished 1970.