

northallerton

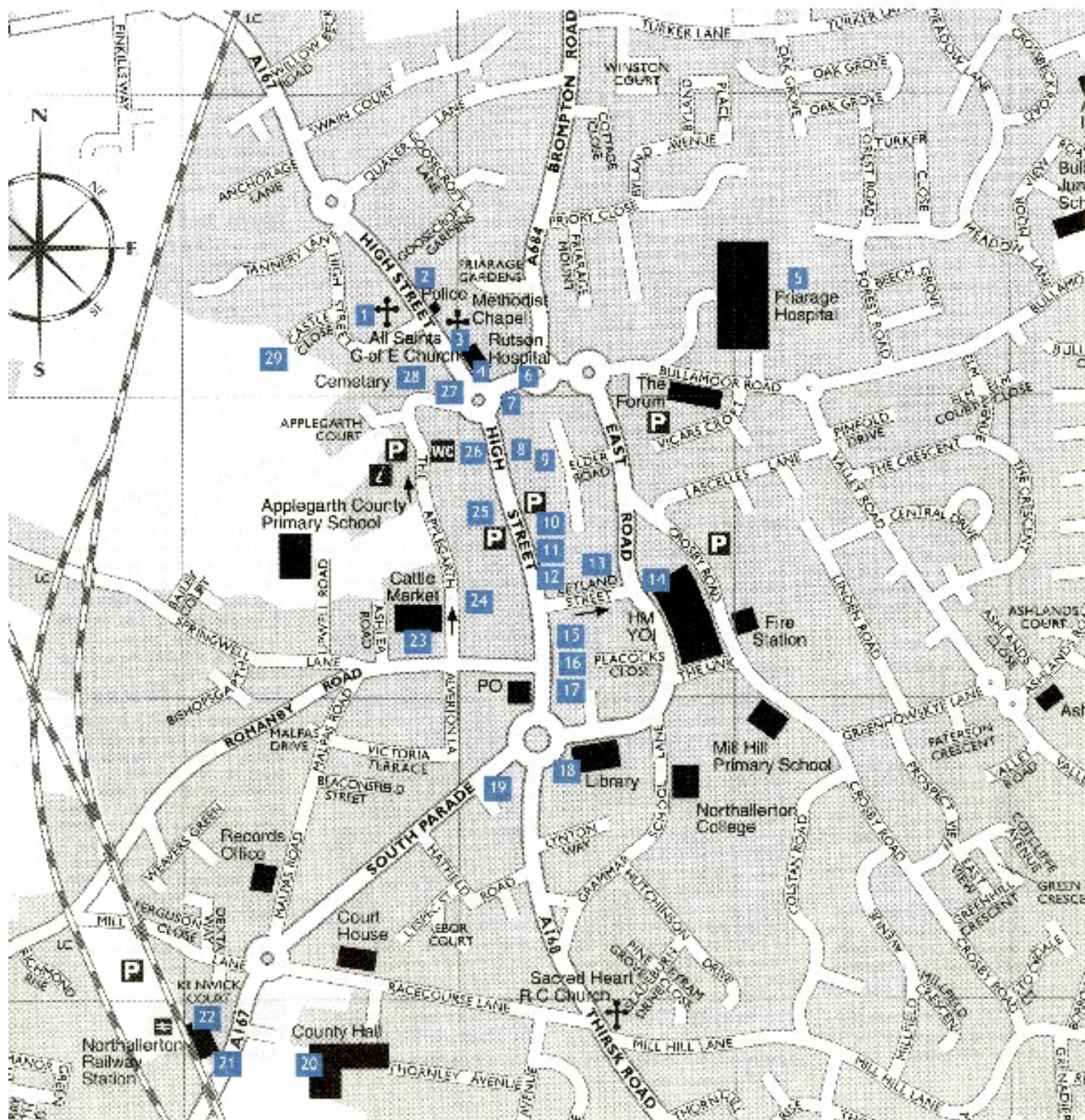
THE HEART OF NORTH YORKSHIRE

Welcome to Northallerton, the administrative centre of England's largest and most lovely county, North Yorkshire. The town has been a thriving market place for many centuries surrounded as it is by rich farmland and magnificent pastoral scenery. The townspeople, with the still strong rural influence, are renowned for their friendliness and hospitality.

If you have an hour or two to spare, why not enjoy yourself and, not only visit the shops and cafés, but take the **Town Trail** and discover what makes Northallerton unique. The Trail focuses on the High Street with occasional deviations for those with more time to spend and has been designed so that it is possible to start at any point on the route. In order to assist in the identification of individual places a key has been provided within the text overleaf to be used in conjunction with the map.

★ - Historical Information Plaque

Town Trail



North End

The northern end of the High Street is perhaps the most natural starting point for a Trail in Northallerton as this was the original town centre. Dominating this end of the town is the

1 Parish Church occupying a site used for a similar purpose since the seventh century. A detailed leaflet outlining its development is available inside (access by arrangement with the Verger). From the church proceed across the road and almost immediately one can see one of the town's most historic buildings **2 Porch House**★, a private home which was built in 1584. It has, over the years, been altered and extended and its Elizabethan mullioned windows have long since disappeared. Charles I stayed here as a guest in 1640 and as a prisoner in 1647. On the latter occasion he is said to have tried to escape from one of the now bricked-in windows in the south wall. Porch House still retains the iron railings, once common to most buildings at this end of town to protect them from the animals brought from as far afield as Scotland and during the town's famous horse and cattle fairs. Next door is the **3 Police Station**, originally the property of the Lascelles family and previously used as the Northallerton Town Library and Local Government offices. Moving southwards along this side of the road one soon comes across the

4 Rutson Hospital★ which was built on part of the site of a former Carmelite Friary. Originally known as Vine House, because of the great vine which once grew across its front wall, in 1877 it opened as the Cottage Hospital and in 1905 it was named after its principal benefactor, Mr Henry Rutson of Newby Wiske.

Town Centre

Whilst crossing the end of Friarage Street on the left one can catch a fleeting glimpse of the entrance to the

5 Friarage Hospital★,

named after the Friary in whose former grounds it was built during the Second World War. The present entrance was originally opened in 1857 as a workhouse. Once across the road one may observe that the building on the corner once acted as the

6 Post Office (opened in 1877) and still retains its post box in the wall. Alongside it stands the fine stone fronted building, formerly known as **7 Durham House** which once provided a

handsome residence for the Prince Bishops of Durham.

Dominating the centre of this part of the High Street is the large Victorian **8 Town Hall**

designed by Messrs Ross & Co of Darlington and built by A Peacock & Son of Northallerton on the site of the former butchers' shambles at a cost of £5,000. It was opened in 1873 and has, over the years, served many purposes including market hall, cinema and dance hall. Tucked in alongside the Town Hall is **9 The Fleece**★

which is claimed to be the oldest house in the town. It was built on the site of a former Austin Friary and possibly incorporates some of its stonework within its walls. Among its many admirers was Charles Dickens who stayed there in the mid-nineteenth century. Standing very close to The Fleece, and still retaining one of the few older shop fronts, is the interesting premises of "Lewis & Cooper". A grocery business of the old style, it claims to stock over 32,000 lines and attracts visitors from far afield.

At this point one can begin to admire the long, wide High Street which is a feature of a number of market towns in the region. As the town grew in size and importance this area gradually became its commercial centre. One should note the changing level of the roofline of the older buildings, the varying pattern of the window frames found in the upper storeys and the keystone, a feature which appears above many of the windows. Most of the older buildings in this part of the High Street date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. A street market has been held every Wednesday and Saturday since the 16th Century. Standing to the south of the Town Hall is the ancient **10 Market Cross** re-occupying, since 1987,

its original site opposite one of the first coaching inns, the **11 Black Bull**, now smaller in size. In 1785 it received the first London to Edinburgh mail coach to pass through the town. A little further along stands probably the most majestic of the surviving coaching inns, the **12 Golden Lion**★. In its heyday it stabled up to 30 horses and welcomed important visitors such as the Duke of Connaught in 1876.

Zetland Street

Those with more time to spare may wish to venture down Zetland Street which was opened up in the late eighteenth century to provide easier access to the Court House which originally stood at the far end. Midway along the road on the left stands the former **13 Register Office**★

which, when opened in 1782, was one of only four in the country. It

is now an art gallery.

At the eastern end of the street stands the **14 Prison**, now much altered and extended from the original House of Correction opened in 1783. The land on which it was built had previously been a swampy waste with a pond in the middle where coaching and posting horses were washed and watered.

Once across the end of Zetland Street continue southwards to a position almost directly opposite Romanby Road. On the left one can notice an interesting little courtyard called

15 Romanby Court.

This area clearly demonstrates what can be achieved where old and new are found side by side. Towards the end of this side of the High Street stands one of the oldest inns in the town, the **16 Nags Head**, and the premises known as

17 Collectors' Corner which has a distinctive cruck arch attached to its south wall, surviving the demolished property of which it was once part. At the far side of the ring road one can see the **18 Library**, one of the most recent of Northallerton's public buildings which was opened in 1977.

19 South Parade. A

second detour from the main route is South Parade which runs in a south westerly direction away from the High Street. Opened in the 1860s, to provide easier access to the Railway Station, it is overlooked by some fine examples of Victorian housing. At the far end of South Parade can be found **20 County Hall**, arguably Northallerton's most impressive building. It was built in brick and stone in the Renaissance style at a cost of £33,000 and opened in 1906. Overlooking County Hall on the opposite side of the road is the **21 Railway Station** (opened in 1841) and the site of the former **22 Station Mart**.

Applegarth

Cross the High Street to the western side and proceed northwards to the road junction. At the traffic lights turn left along Romanby Road and carry on for approximately 100 yards before turning right along the narrow road which leads to the Applegarth. On the left stands the town's last remaining **23 Mart** which first began trading in the late nineteenth century. A few yards further along on the right stands a brick building which in its time has seen use as a theatre.

24 Theatre Royal★ (1800 - 1832), a primitive Chapel, an

abbatoir and, in recent years, a health club.

Continue walking northwards to the Applegarth car park where the **Tourist Information Point** is sited. At the rear of Barkers store, turn right up

25 Market Row, now a modern shopping arcade. This was one of the many yards providing cramped living conditions which led away from the High Street at both the eastern and western sides, but which have now been largely removed by redevelopment and replaced by more modern accommodation on the eastern and south western edges of the town.

On re-entering the High Street turn left and proceed north in the direction of the church. Almost opposite the Town Hall stands a once famous coaching inn, the **26 Old Golden Lion**★ where John Wesley preached in 1745. All that remains now of the original building is its frontage, the premises presently being used for retail purposes.

North End

Continue across the entrance to the Applegarth car park and pass the **27 Solicitor's Office**★ which was built in

1856 on the site of the former Guild Hall and Workhouse. At the end of the row, the building on the corner which overlooks the church, is the **28 Old Grammar School**★, now a

solicitor's office. Records suggest that a school existed on the site as early as 1327. The present building was initially erected in 1776 and enlarged and renovated in 1844 as indicated by the varying brick pattern on the northern wall. Note also the high windows, so typical of schools of the time.

★ The road leading west between the Old Grammar School and the church was originally the entrance to the magnificent

29 Bishop's Palace★

which stood fortified and moated in what is now the town Cemetery (traces of the moat are still to be seen). This was a former residence of the Prince Bishops of Durham but by 1678 was in ruins. Some of its stone may have been used in later renovations of the church. In the twelfth century a castle also stood very near to the same site and the area is still today known as Castle Hills.

Text provided by Allertonshire Civic Society, Northallerton.

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