

Thank you, to all those who have supported the School so generously over the years. For more information please see the website www.boothamschool.com or phone 01904 623261 and ask for Jane Peake, Development Director.

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BOOTHAM
BOOTHAM SCHOOL YORK

Building on our History

Bootham School is engaged in a major development project to restore and upgrade its historic buildings. We have produced these display boards to inform the passing public and to shroud the building work at street level. We thought that you, too, may be interested in these historical notes - here they are in pamphlet form.

The school's main site, here on Bootham, runs from No 41 to No 59 – ten listed, Georgian mansions. Behind this fine façade lies a thriving school, with a lively community of about 500 girls and boys aged from 11 to 18, around 120 of whom are boarders. What you may not see from the road here, is the nine acre estate which lies behind these buildings, with gardens and playing fields; home to a modern, happy school community, which has been part of York for over 185 years.

1748
today



BOOTHAM
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Running north from the city, No's 39 - 45 Bootham were originally built as a terrace in 1748 by Thomas Griffith. Behind No 45 a substantial four storey block was added in about 1800 – including a fine 'ballroom'. This room was later divided up and was effectively lost for many generations. The school now plans to restore this room to something like its former glory, for the benefit



of the city as well as the school community. Today's façade of No 45 was a late 1800's addition and the only part of the Georgian original now visible in this frontage is the front door casement. No's 41 and 43 were joined into one in about 1800. The original staircase remains in No 43, and the fittings and mouldings are of the period, almost certainly created by Thomas Wolstenholme.

No 47 was built in 1753 by John Carr for Mary Thompson, widow of Edward Thompson, M.P. for Oswaldkirk. It was subsequently owned by the Pickard family and was bought by the School in 1901.



Note the lengths of stone cornice over the windows, unsupported by an entablature or brackets. Internally, the house is little altered with moulded ceilings and enriched architraves to doors and

windows. No 49 was built in the late 1600s originally as two dwellings. In 1738 it was converted in to one. For a time it was the residence of Joseph Rowntree and was acquired by the school in 1866.

No 51 originally known as 'Bootham House' or the 'Johnstone Mansion' was built for Sir Richard Vanden Bempde Johnstone. The house was finally completed in 1804 and here the Johnstones, a county family from Hackness, enjoyed 'the season' in Regency York. The school moved here, from its original site on Lawrence Street, in 1846, a move propelled by the unhealthy surroundings of Foss Islands. The swampy land had necessitated the schoolmasters of the day to keep a pistol handy for shooting rats! Boys



were posted as lookouts; when a rat was spotted, the master would throw down the chalk and blast away with the firearm. Occasionally, if the lesson was at a critical point, the young lookout would be given the chance to try his hand at vermin dispatch! Finally an outbreak of cholera forced the Governors of the day to abandon Lawrence Street in favour of the clean air of Bootham.



No's 53 & 55 was built as one house in c1765 and was then divided about five years later. The style suggests that John Carr may have been the architect.

Note the similar cornice arrangement as seen in No 47. Also, the first floor centre window is blind and retains the original glazing bars.

No 57 was first recorded in 1759 and was home for 40 years to Dr William Burgh. The main part of the house frontage was built in 1830, when it was heightened and stuccoed to suit the style of the day.

No 59 was built in the late 1700's and, along with its neighbours 53, 55 and 57, was acquired by the school in the early part of the last century.

Take a moment to reflect as you walk past, on one of the finest street side facades in York – and one of the best school frontages anywhere. Over the years, Bootham has acted as custodian of these historic buildings. They are a blessing and a challenge – costly to maintain but a wonderful home to those who learn, live and work in the school. And for the wider community of York and its visitors, these buildings present a fine aspect to the city's street scene.

