



Lower High Street, late 1940s.

The Square with the Peacock in the background c.1900.



This trail will take you around the town, where you will see many interesting buildings and learn a little about the town's history. The trail is circular, starting and finishing at The Symington Building on Adam and Eve Street. It is about a mile long and will take around an hour, unless you decide to stop in one of the many excellent cafes or independent shops here in Market Harborough.

The town of Market Harborough didn't exist until the beginning of the 13th century when a Royal Charter allowed a market to be held outside the settlements of Arden, Little Bowden and Great Bowden. Workshops, storehouses and homes were built creating streets and yards behind the market areas.

The lush surrounding countryside helped Market Harborough grow through trade and agriculture and its place on the road from London to Leicester, Nottingham, Derby and Manchester made it a busy, prosperous and exciting town.

In 1645 it was King Charles I's headquarters on the night before the Battle of Naseby. The following day Oliver Cromwell wrote to Parliament announcing his defeat of the King from an inn in the town. The positions of information boards describing the town's part in the Battle of Naseby are marked on your map by this symbol: ✂

The town was the origin of Thomas Cook's package holiday empire; Symington's Table Creams and the famous Liberty Bodice for children. The Symington Building is the starting point of the trail. The former R & W H Symington & Co Ltd corset factory is now the home of the Harborough Museum and the Market Harborough Library where you can find out more about the town and district's fascinating story.

We would like to thank the Market Harborough Civic Society for its support in creating this trail.



Upper High Street early 20th century.

Opening times:

Sunday / Monday: closed
 Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday: 10am - 6pm
 Saturday: 10am - 4pm

See website for information on holiday opening hours and possible entry charges for some activities and exhibitions.

Harborough Museum

The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street
 Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7LT

Phone: 0116 305 3627

Email: harboroughmuseum@leics.gov.uk



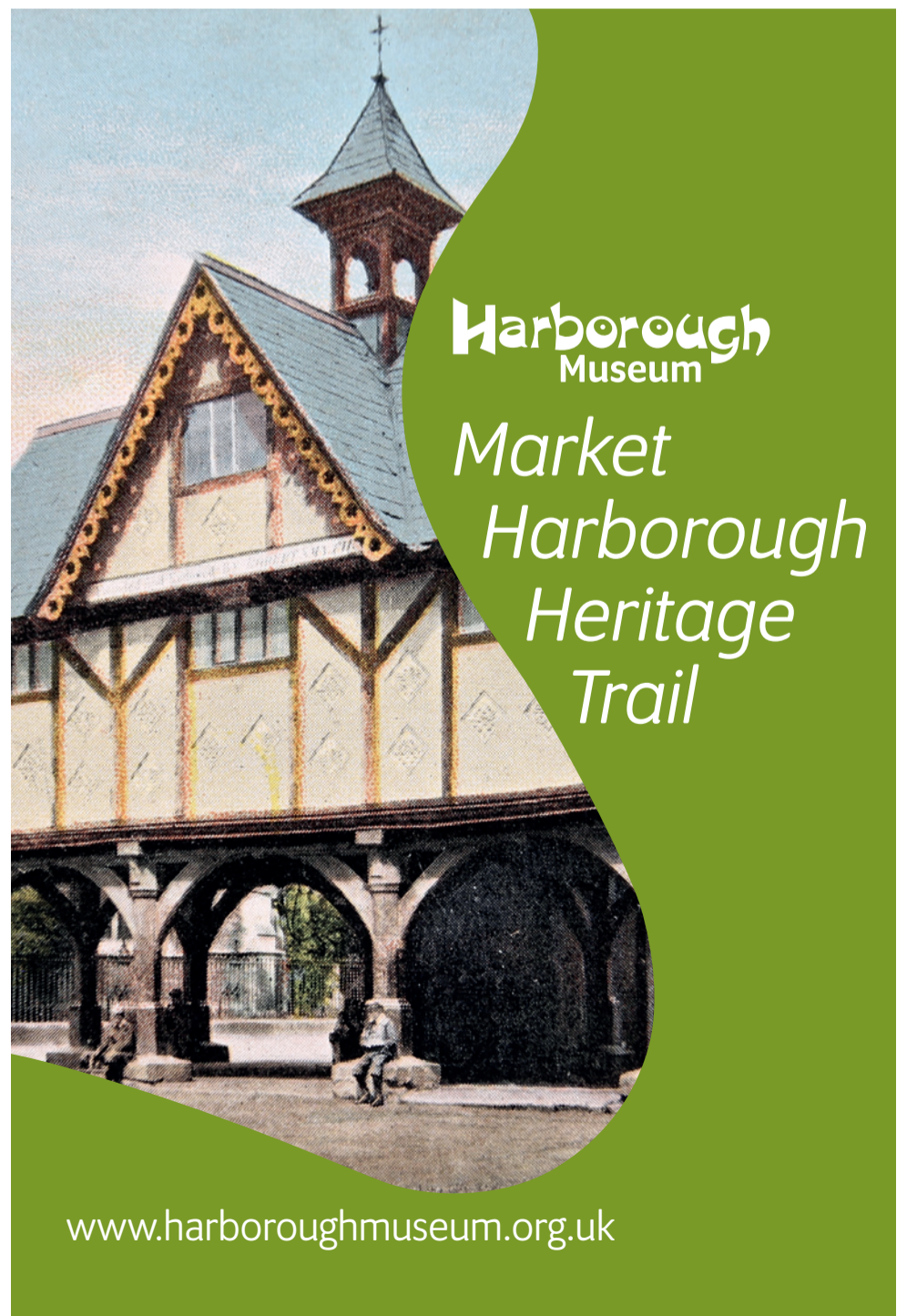
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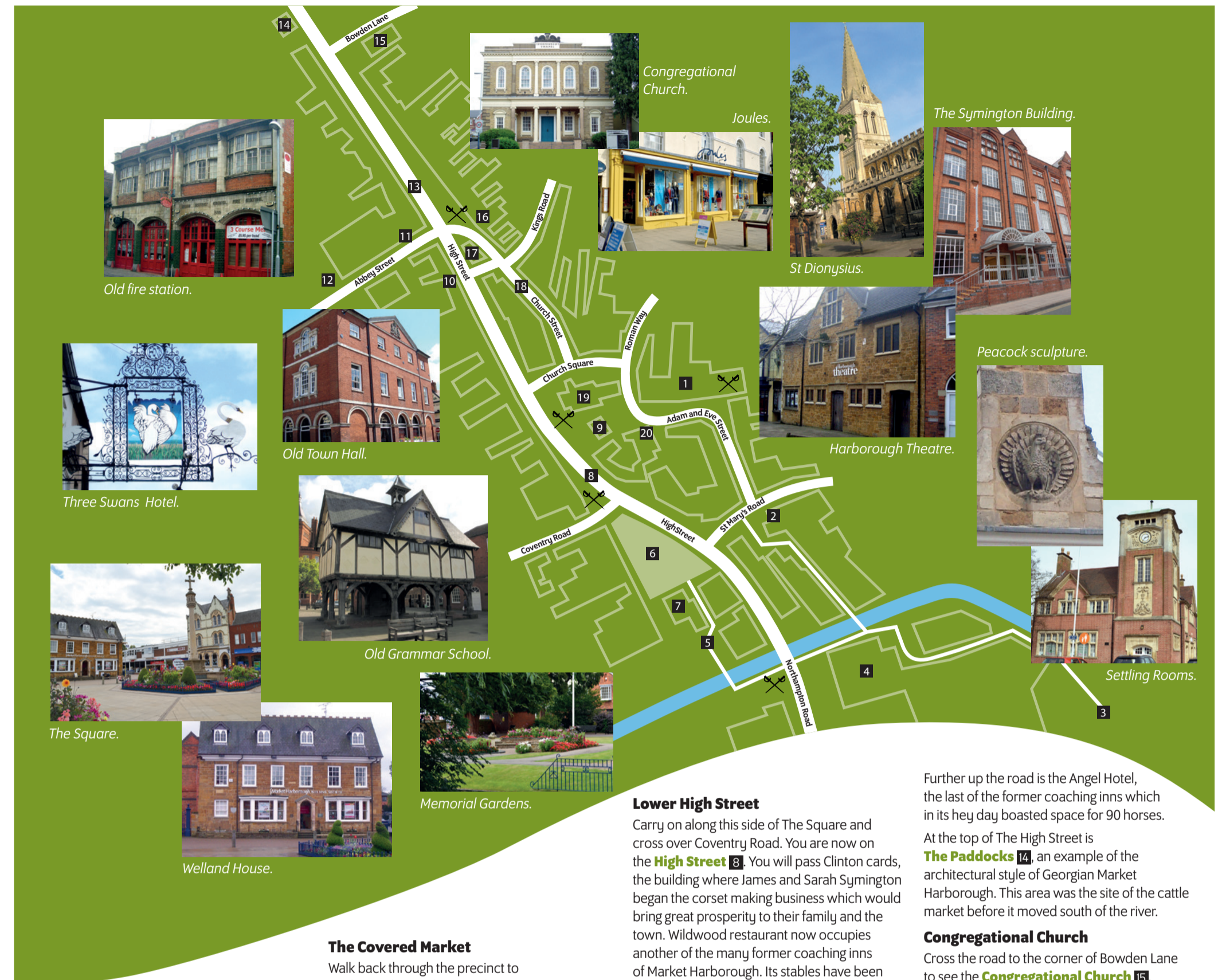
www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk



Harborough Museum

Market Harborough Heritage Trail

www.harboroughmuseum.org.uk



The Symington Building

The Symington Building 1 is an iconic former Victorian corset factory, originally the home of R & W H Symington & Co Ltd. The building is now the offices of Harborough District Council and home to the Harborough Museum and Market Harborough Library. The massive windows allowed light to flood into the building so that the hundreds of sewing machinists could work long into the summer evenings. In the underpass by Gallones ice cream parlour is one of the town's five Civil War Trail boards. Where Adam & Eve Street turns right, by the wine merchant, you will see a plaque above Quaker's Yard to famous travel pioneer, Thomas Cook. He had his home and workplace here, in the 1830s.

The Peacock

At the crossing over St Mary's Road you will see the Peacock Inn (now Pizza Express) with its **peacock sculpture** 2 in the chimney stack. Partly constructed in the 17th century this was one of Market Harborough's many coaching inns.

Continue through St Mary's Place until you get to the bridge. This crosses the River Welland, once the historic boundary between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, and in the Dark Ages it was the boundary of the Northern Danelaw. Follow the precinct until you reach the car park (near Sainsbury's). Towards the middle of the car park is a red brick building called the **'Settling Rooms'** 3. This whole area was once the cattle market where livestock was brought to be sold to farmers, dealers and tradesmen. The 'Settling Rooms' were where the bills and accounts were paid or 'settled'.

The Covered Market

Walk back through the precinct to Market Harborough's award-winning **indoor market** 4. Medieval markets gave the town its name and without them it wouldn't exist in its current form. There were cattle and livestock markets, a dairy market and general produce markets. Seasonal Fairs brought the addition of entertainment and inns and taverns prospered. The modern indoor market is home to a variety of stall and traders and continues the town's 800 year market heritage.

Go past the indoor market, with the river on your right and turn left to follow the river, crossing the Northampton Road at the pedestrian crossing near the road bridge. Carry on for part of the 'Millennium Mile' of riverside walkway. When you reach the footbridge on your right, cross over and enter the **Memorial Gardens** 5, through a gate to your right. The gardens were built in 1954 as part of the town's commemoration of the Second World War. The grand blue gates are from Gopsall Hall, which was demolished in 1951.

The Square

Now go through the gates and into **The Square** 6 with the Town Square War Memorial at its centre. To your left is **Welland House** 7, originally two houses and built in brick before being clad in stone and is now the Market Harborough Building Society. Caffè Nero occupies Catherwood House. It was built for local pharmacist William B Bragg in 1876. His nephew William Henry and his son William Lawrence were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in 1915 for their work on x-ray crystallography. Their contribution is marked by a Green Plaque.

Lower High Street

Carry on along this side of The Square and cross over Coventry Road. You are now on the **High Street** 8. You will pass Clinton cards, the building where James and Sarah Symington began the corset making business which would bring great prosperity to their family and the town. Wildwood restaurant now occupies another of the many former coaching inns of Market Harborough. Its stables have been converted into the restaurant kitchens. Facing Church Square and The High Street is the distinctive timber-framed building, the **Old Grammar School** 9, founded by Robert Smyth, who came from the town and made his fortune in London. Built in 1614 the open ground floor of the school originally held a butter market. The building was restored in 2014.

Further up the road Barclays Bank is in the former Harborough Bank premises. The façade of this and the HSBC building were both created in 1900.

Continue to the **Three Swans Hotel** 10 which was first mentioned as 'The Swan' in 1517. This is another of the town's great coaching inns. John Fothergill was its eccentric proprietor during the Second World War. He wrote many books of menus, recipes and reflections on his life in the hotel trade.

Abbey Street

Turn left on to Abbey Street and opposite you will see **Edinburgh House** 11, a concrete building. This was the HQ of Golden Wonder the makers of crisps and snacks and is built on the site of the old Corn Exchange.

Further along the road are the distinctive former **fire station** 12 with its large red doors and the ambulance station with its polished tiles.

Return to the **High Street** 13.

Upper High Street

The first tall building on your left after Edinburgh House is The Manor House. It probably got its name when the Steward of the Manor, William Wartnaby, came to live here in 1772. During the early twentieth century it became the premises of Richards & Son a bespoke tailors who specialised in high quality suits and clothes for equestrian sports.

Further up the road is the Angel Hotel, the last of the former coaching inns which in its hey day boasted space for 90 horses.

At the top of The High Street is **The Paddocks** 14, an example of the architectural style of Georgian Market Harborough. This area was the site of the cattle market before it moved south of the river.

Congregational Church

Cross the road to the corner of Bowden Lane to see the **Congregational Church** 15, built in 1844, with its Ionic and Corinthian columns.

Walk down past alleys that lead to yards, where goods were made and poorer families lived and worked.

Towards the town centre is **Joules** 16, the Market Harborough based fashion retailer. This building was home to Falkner's boot and shoe workshop which was moved and re-created in the Harborough Museum.

The Old Town Hall

The building that appears to be in the middle of the road is the **Old Town Hall** 17, which was built as a gift to the town by the Earl of Harborough in 1788.

Church Street & Church Square

Going down **Church Street** 18 will allow you to look down Little Street, which goes through to The High Street.

At the end of Church Street, cross over to the Square. You will reach the medieval church of **St Dionysius** 19, which was originally a chapel to St Mary in Arden (close to the railway station) and a church for pilgrims. This is why it has no graveyard. The Harborough Toys, 17th century wood and bone toys, were found in the St Dionysius Church and you can see a selection of them in the Harborough Museum.

At the side of the church is the **Harborough Theatre** 20. This stone-faced building was originally built as a cycle shed in 1935 for the workers of R & W H Symington & Co Ltd. The 1471 keystone was found in a door frame on a far wall.

The Symington Building, where you began the trail, is across Church Square.



Old fire station.



Congregational Church.



Joules.



St Dionysius.



The Symington Building.



Three Swans Hotel.



Old Town Hall.



Old Grammar School.



The Square.



Welland House.



Memorial Gardens.



Harborough Theatre.

Peacock sculpture.



Settling Rooms.