A PHOTOGRAPHIC
&
CARTOGRAPHIC COMPILATION

OF

LONDON DISTRICT POST OFFICES

IN THE VICTORIAN
&
EDWARDIAN ERA

BY

JAMES A. NORRIS.

COPYRIGHT L.P.H.G. 2009

EDITED BY PETER A.FORRESTIER SMITH & MICHAEL C. GOODMAN



First Edition 2009

A Photographic & Cartographic Compilation of London District Post Offices in The Victorian & Edwardian Era.

Devised by Werner Bauschke and James Norris
Written by James Norris
© London Postal History Group 2009

ISBN 0-905397-17-7

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, with prior permission of the London Postal History Group.

Published by
London Postal History Group
64 Gordon Road
Carshalton
Surrey
SM5 3RE
England

Printed in Great Britain by New Bradwell Reprographics,
Milton Keynes. MK13 0BH.
www.nbrprint.co.uk

PREFACE

This work is dedicated to my late friend Werner Bauschke, a LPHG member for many years, who shared my specific interests regarding, not only London postal history, but the offices in which the letters were cancelled, their locations and the appearance of the actual buildings.
His profession as an architect meant he had a passion for these Victorian and Edwardian buildings and, when I first met him, he had an extensive photographic record of virtually all of the London District and Branch offices still in existence in the 1980's.

It was his intention for us to jointly publish a study using his modern photographs and my material researched from turn of the Century photographs. Many of these are taken from Victorian lantern slides held in the Post Office Archives. We met on several occasions at his home town of Sindelfingen to discuss the work and compare notes. Unfortunately he died suddenly in 1999, followed ten days later by the death of his wife. Sadly, no one appreciated the importance of his life time work and the bulk of it was destroyed. Some of his photographs have been donated to the Post Office Archives and some were in the possession of myself and the Editor. From these various sources I have been able to compile our intended work.

Map extracts.

The maps are predominantly from three sources giving a comparison of changes in street names and building locations;
1. Richard Weller's line engraved maps from 'The Postal Maps of London 1858' (NPM publication) scale six inches to one statute mile
2. George W. Bacon's nine inch maps of 1888 from the' A-Z of Victorian London', published by the London Topographical Society
3. Edward Stanford's 'Library Maps of London and its Suburbs' dated 1863 with a scale of six inches to one statute mile (1:10,560) from the facsimile edition by Old House Books.
Extracts of Stanford's large scale Postal Town Delivery District Maps from Charles Dickens's London Guide of 1879 are included showing the area covered within the city boundaries.
Additional extracts are included from Ordnance Survey maps, predominantly on a scale of 15 inches to 1 mile, reduced from the original scale of 1:2500.

Photographs of the early District Offices.

Very early photographic records do not appear to exist. Some of the original offices of 1856/7 are not included in this work, unless they have survived until the period when cameras were more widely used in the 1880's. This is so with the SE & NW offices which remained in the same premises from their genesis until after the turn of the century.
Of course, some of the offices only had temporary premises during the evolution of the system, until suitable locations could be found. Availability was evidently a problem, as in the case of the SWDO, which struggled to secure a permanent site until 1861.
As, regrettably, many of these early buildings have been demolished, such photographs are unlikely to exist.

Availability and condition of these early photographs is often poor. During reproduction it has sometimes been difficult to maintain clarity and many are dark with poor contrast.

References are made regarding each office location from two publications which are generally accepted to be authoritative works on early Postal history; 'J.B. Seymour' & 'H.C. Westley'.
It is interesting to note some differing accounts have been recorded and it has not always been possible to substantiate these differing conclusions.

The staff at the Post Office Archives have been most helpful in the production of this publication and without their help and patience it would not have been possible.

James A. Norris.
2009.

© James A. Norris & London Postal History Group ISBN 0-905397-17-7

CONTENTS.

	Page
Introduction to the Evolution of the London District Post Office System	4-7
Map of the London District Post Areas showing sub divisions of 1857	8
Segment Map showing London Postal District through the EC & WC Districts including cart routes	9
The Northern District Office	10-15
The North Eastern District Office	16-17
Eastern District Office	18-22
South Eastern District Office	23-29
Southern District Office	30-32
South Western District Office	33-38
Western District Office	39-42
North Western District Office	43-49
West Central District Office	50-54
East Central District Office GPO	55-67
Paddington District Office	68-74
Wandsworth (Battersea) District Office	75-76
Mount Pleasant Sorting Office	77-83
The King Edward Building GPO	84-89
District Office Locations of 1902	90
Railway Station Office Locations of 1902	91
District Office Locations with numbered suffixes	92-133
Bibliography	134

Introduction to the Evolution of the London District Offices.

After the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840, the volume of mail within London increased dramatically, creating a burden on the GPO at St Martins le Grand.
The logistics of transporting and organising mail to and from the inner city area caused tremendous sorting and delivery difficulties. With this came the added complication that many streets had evolved with identical names but in totally different areas of the city, with no means to differentiate between them.

In an attempt to resolve this situation, after ten years of gradually worsening postal congestion, a select committee on postal matters was formed to tackle the street names problem, with a view to re-naming all those streets with duplicate names. This proved to be unpopular with the public and, whilst there were some name changes, it was not until the 1870's any significant alterations were made.

Rowland Hill had campaigned for a divisional system as early as 1843 but, at that time, his plans were rejected on grounds of implementation difficulties. It was not until his appointment to Secretary to the PMG in 1846 did he began to have some influence. In 1854 he was to become Secretary of the GPO, at which time an independent committee of officers was formed to establish a district sorting office system, with hourly deliveries in the inner city area. In July, 1855 they reported their conclusions, which found in favour of Hill's proposals.

The District Divisions.

The solution was to divide the capital into sectors and, in 1856, Rowland Hill devised a scheme using the same layout as the points of a compass, thereby creating 8 separate districts; N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, & NW, adding a further two central 'hubs' EC & WC, to act as the control centre, with offices located in each district. (See Cart Route map on page 9 by Day & Son, published 1856). These Offices were known as 'Postmen's Offices' and were not open to the public.

This system was based on segmental divisions radiating out to an approximate 12 mile boundary from the EC inner city area.

The system was unanimously approved and fully implemented in 1857.
The Post Office went to great lengths to gain public awareness of the district boundaries to ensure letters were correctly addressed. The British Postal Guide of January 1857 was one of several publications produced at the time to convey the message, as the following extract from pages 124 & 139 of the guide demonstrates;

POSTAL DISTRICTS.

132. Arrangements are in progress for the division of London and the Suburban Villages, &c. into Ten Postal Districts. The following are the names of the Districts, with their abbreviations, viz.:—

East Central.....E.C.	Eastern .....E.	Western .....W.
West Central .....W.C.	South Eastern .....S.E.	North Western.....N.W.
Northern .....N.	Southern .....S.	
North Eastern .....N.E.	South Western.....S.W.	

By the addition of the initials of the Postal Districts to the ordinary addresses of letters for London and its neighbourhood, the public will greatly facilitate the arrangements of the Post Office. For the purpose of affording the necessary information, the initials of the District have been given for every important street or place (see page 139.); and the following Receiving Houses, both in the Town and Country parts of the London Delivery, have been arranged according to the Districts in which they are situated.

XV.

PRINCIPAL STREETS AND PLACES IN LONDON AND ITS ENVIRONS,

WITH THEIR POSTAL DISTRICTS.

167. The Postmaster General, anxious to promote rapidity and correctness in the delivery of Letters, has, for postal purposes, divided London and its environs into Ten Districts, each to be treated, in many respects, as a separate town; and, to render this arrangement effectual, he earnestly requests that every means may be taken by the Public for causing Letters to be directed *according to the District for which they are intended.* The initials of the district, as shown in the following list, will suffice; and in the direction of a Letter these initials should be legibly written in a separate line, and should in all cases end the address, thus (the Eastern Central district being taken as an example):—

James Thompson, Esq.,
300, *Cheapside.*
E.C.

or, when the Letter is from the country, thus:—

James Thompson, Esq.,
300, *Cheapside,*
London.
E.C.

168. Among other means of inducing this practice, it is suggested that, when convenient, each Resident of a London District should add the name of the District, or the initials, to his own Address inside his Letters when writing to Correspondents, and on his Address Card. Also that, if in business, he should give the name or the initials in the heading of bills or invoices, in advertisements or placards, and on any article of manufacture which may bear his address.

169. Any correspondent who may not attend to the above arrangement, should be requested to observe it.

If the initial letters be thus regularly appended, the Post Office Department will be materially aided in its endeavours to ensure a rapid and correct delivery, and the Public will derive a corresponding advantage.*

TABLE OF DISTRICTS.

Names.	Initials.	Names.	Initials.
Eastern Central District	E. C.	South Eastern District	S. E.
Western Central District	W. C.	Southern District.	S.
Northern District	N.	South Western District.....	S. W.
North Eastern District	N. E.	Western District	W.
Eastern District	E.	North Western District.....	N. W.

* Further information, if desired, will be found at pp. 9 and 40 of the Second Report of the Postmaster General.

To introduce the system to the public, leaflets were printed and distributed to each Post Office for the Postmen to hand out during their 'walk' within each district. It is interesting to note the EC area required 30,000 leaflets, the WC 13,000 the N 35,000 but the NE only 17,000.

The N, NE, S, SE & NW were predominantly rural areas and so the demand was reduced in these districts.

In The British Postal Guide of 1857 an A-Z of every street, road and place name within the perimeter of the district boundary was listed with the requisite district initials, running to a concise total of 26 pages.

This meant, thereafter, all correctly addressed mail coming into the metropolis, from anywhere in the country, could be sent directly to the appropriate office, where it would be sorted, instead of having to pass through the General Post Office at St Martin's le Grand.

The boundaries from district to district were well thought out. The division between WC area and the EC inner hub were designed so Postmen would have no longer than a fifteen minute walk from the GPO at St Martin's le Grand before commencing their delivery 'walk'.
This, coupled with the expansion of the suburban railway network, facilitated the circulation of the city mail.

The rapid expansion of the London postal system created a very efficient means of communication. This enabled multiple correspondences to be sent and received within the metropolis on the same day with immense advantages for business and commerce.

Postal District Maps.

The new postal districts created great public interest and activity for the production of contemporary maps. These new divisions soon gained preference over the traditional borough boundaries, which had served their purpose well. The majority of maps after 1856 gave greater prominence to the Postal Districts and many were printed with the district initials in bold black or red type.

District Reorganisation.

Ten years into the use of the system it became evident the NE & S offices were only handling a small quantity of mail in comparison to the other districts. At the end of 1866 the NE office was abolished and amalgamated into the E and, in December 1867, the S office was closed on grounds of cost saving and absorbed into the SE & SW offices early in 1868. This obviously caused some problems with these areas which had become well established and continued to be recognised by the public by their former initials. The Metropolitan Board of Works declined to alter the appearance of the district initials on the street signs from NE to E. In their eyes it was the responsibility of the local District Board.

The Metropolitan Surveyor of Posts finally recommended the S District Office be closed. A notice was sent to each address affected by the change, which was to commence on the 1st March 1868. The addresses affecting the S district were to be transferred the following month. In 1869 the Post Office Guides reflected this change and maps were even slower to acknowledge any significant alteration until around 1870. In the following years many road and street names were renamed to fall in line with changing city designations of district boundaries.

Changes to the System in 1879.

In 1879 new Sub Districts were formed; Paddington, Ealing, Norwood, Putney and Wimbledon.

In 1881 the short lived Putney and Wimbledon Sub Districts were abolished and absorbed into the recently formed Wandsworth District.
A later sub District Office was created in Putney High Street in the 1890's.

In 1896 Ealing District Office was abolished and the area it had catered for was absorbed into the Paddington District.

In November 1897 the Wandsworth District was re-named Battersea but continued to occupy the same premises.

This London District system was very successful and remained unchanged for nearly sixty years until 1917, when the districts were again sub divided to create a numbered district allocation to encompass the suburbs as well as the city.

[Special thanks to The London Topographical Society and Simon Morris for permission to reproduce part of their Newsletter number 29 in this section of the book].



Two early views of Putney Sub District Office 151 High Street.



Courtesy PO Archives

DIRECTION OF LETTERS FOR LONDON, AND ITS ENVIRONS.

THE Postmaster-General, anxious to promote rapidity and correctness in the delivery of Letters, has, for postal purposes, divided London and its Environs into Ten Districts, each to be treated, in many respects, as a separate Town; and, to render this arrangement effectual, he earnestly requests that every means may be taken by the Public for causing Letters to be directed ***according to the District for which they are intended.***

The initials of the name of such District will suffice; but, if preferred, any other contraction, or the name in full, may be used instead.

TABLE OF DISTRICTS.

NAMES	INITIALS	NAMES	INITIALS
Eastern Central	E. C.	South Eastern	S. E.
Western Central	W. C.	Southern	S.
Northern	N.	South Western	S. W.
North Eastern	N. E.	Western	W.
Eastern	E.	North Western	N. W.

In the direction of a Letter, the initials, or initial, as the case may be, should be legibly written in a separate line, and should in all cases end the address: thus, a Letter for the Western District should be addressed as follows :—

> *James Thompson, Esq.,*
> 500, *Piccadilly,*
> *London.*
> *W.*

except when the Letter is ***posted*** in a London District, and then the word London may be omitted.

Information as to the District in which any part of London or its Environs is included may be obtained in either of the following publications, which can be procured at every Head Post Office and every London District Receiving House :—

1.—" The British Postal Guide," published quarterly—Price 6*d.*

2.—An Alphabetic List of the "Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts"—Price 1*d.*

A similar List, Price 1*s.*, in larger type, and accompanied by Maps, is now under preparation.

The London Post Office Directory also contains the like information in the part headed " Street Directory."

It has been suggested to residents in London and the neighbourhood, that they should give the initials of the District in which they live, whenever they communicate their own addresses either in the inside of Letters or in any other way; and it is hoped that their correspondents will carefully repeat the initials so given when directing Letters in reply.

If the initial letters be thus regularly appended, the Department will be able to assort, with facility and correctness, the Country Letters, according to their respective Districts, before they reach London in the morning.

By a recent improvement, about 90,000, or fully one-half of such Letters, are already so assorted with as much correctness as circumstances allow—a change which has greatly expedited the morning delivery in London and the Suburbs; and it is hoped that, if the previous assortment, with full facility for correctness, can be extended to all, this advantage, seconded by other improvements now in progress, will eventually secure to the Public the benefit of a further and important acceleration of that delivery.*

By Command of the Postmaster-General,

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
February, 1857.

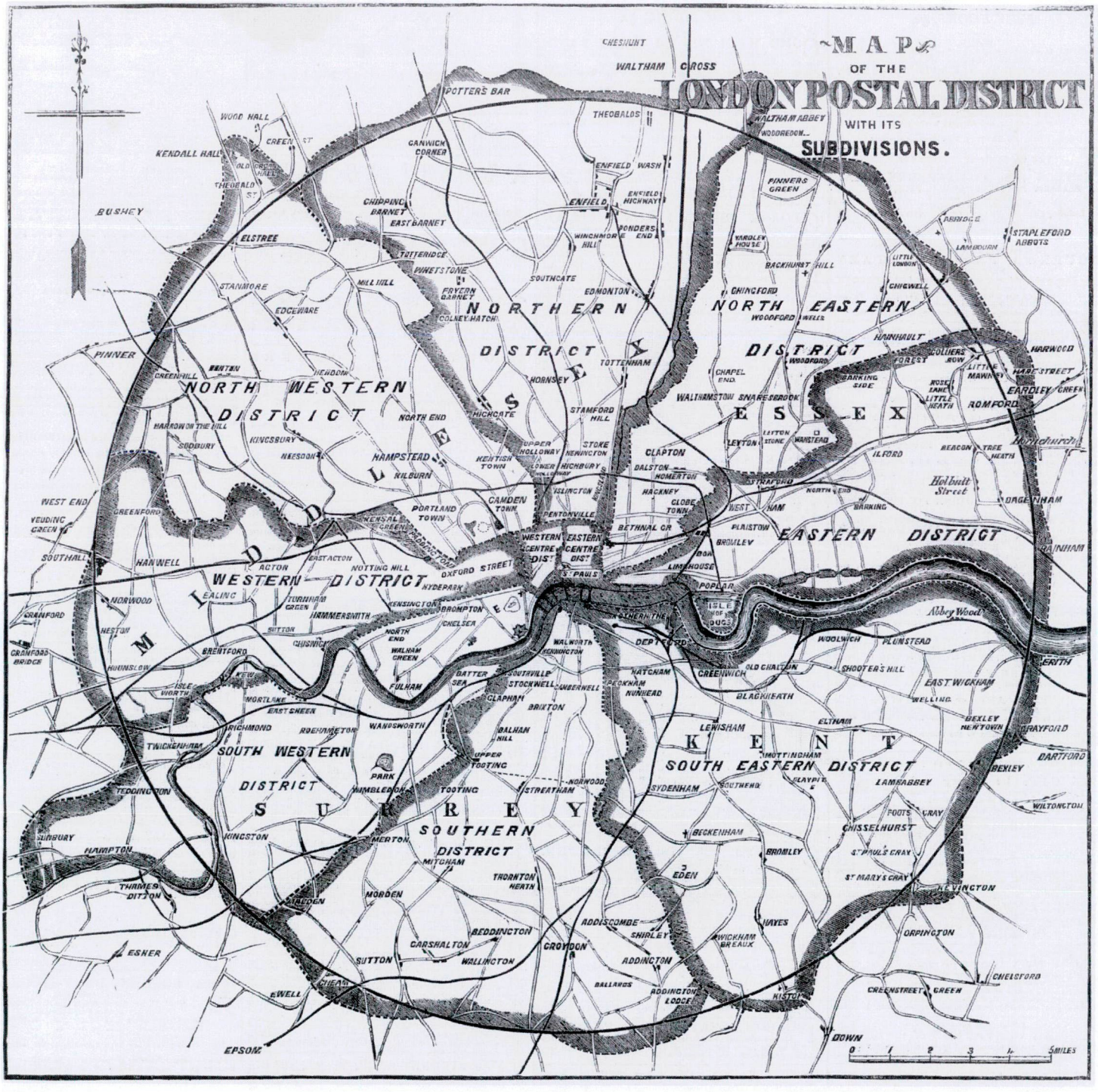
ROWLAND HILL,
Secretary.

* Further information, if desired, will be found at pp. 9 and 40 of the Second Report of the Postmaster-General.

H & G. 250 000 2/57

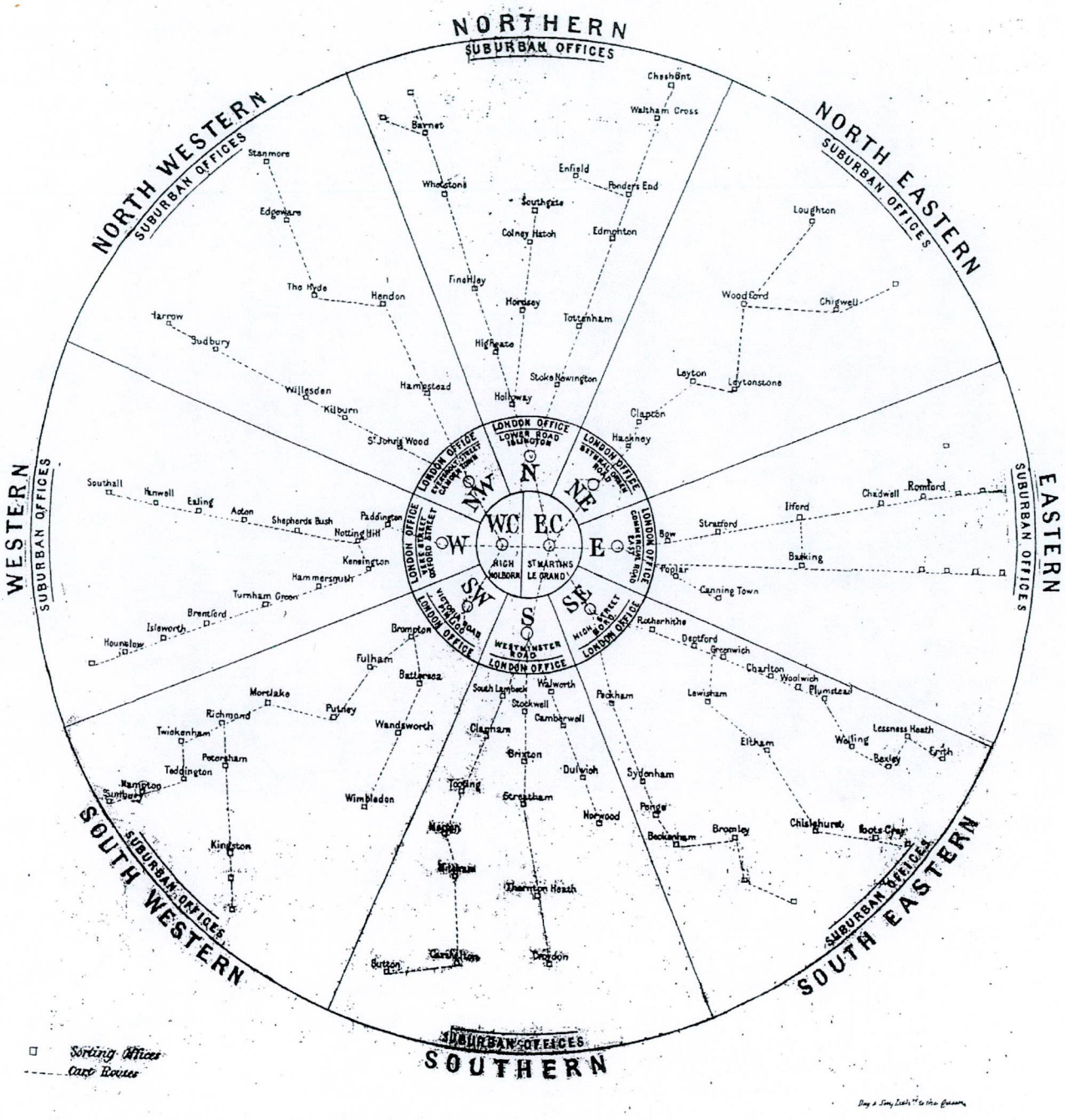
Poster issued by the GPO in February 1857.
Courtesy Simon Morris of The London Topographical Society.

MAP OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST SHOWING SUB DIVISIONS OF 1857 & 12 MILE RADIUS BOUNDARY



Extracted from The Illustrated London News, January 17th 1857 edition.

LONDON POSTAL DISTRICT MAP Showing the position of each LONDON and SUBURBAN SORTING OFFICE with Cart Routes and circulation through the EAST and WEST CENTRAL DISTRICTS.



Cart Route Map c1856 by Day & Son. The original is in poor condition.
Courtesy Post Office Archives.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE.



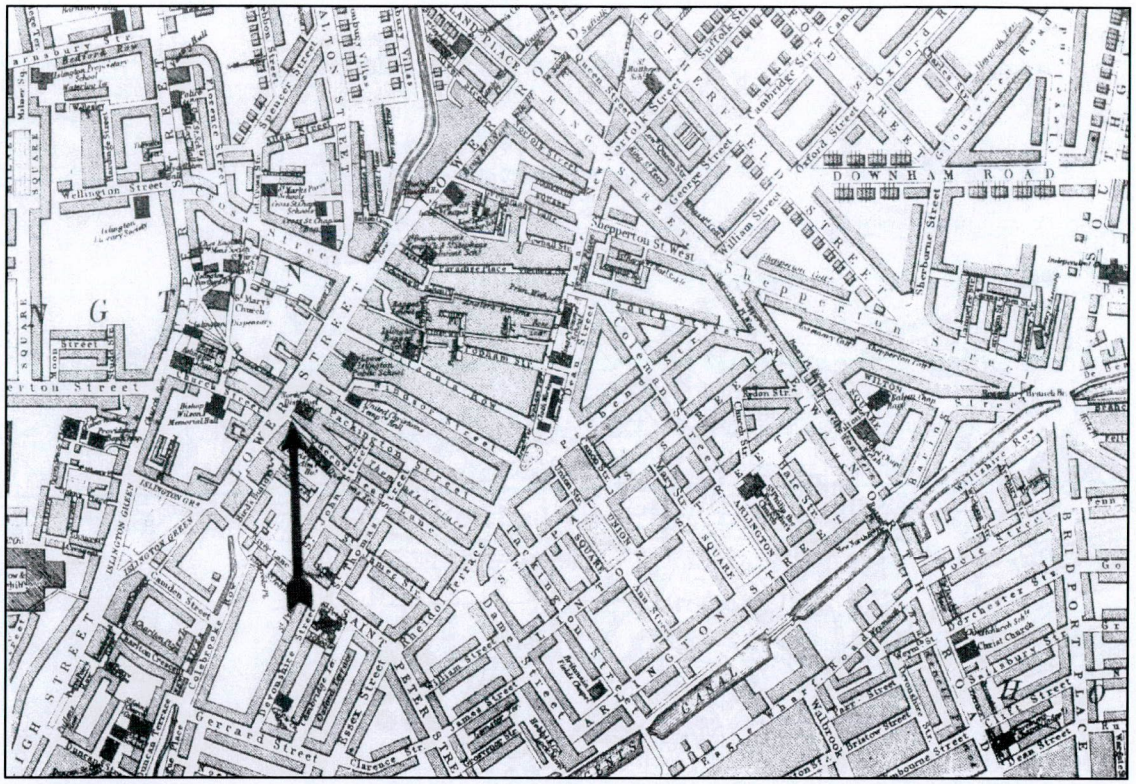
Courtesy PO Archives

Essex Road, Islington (formerly Lower Street)

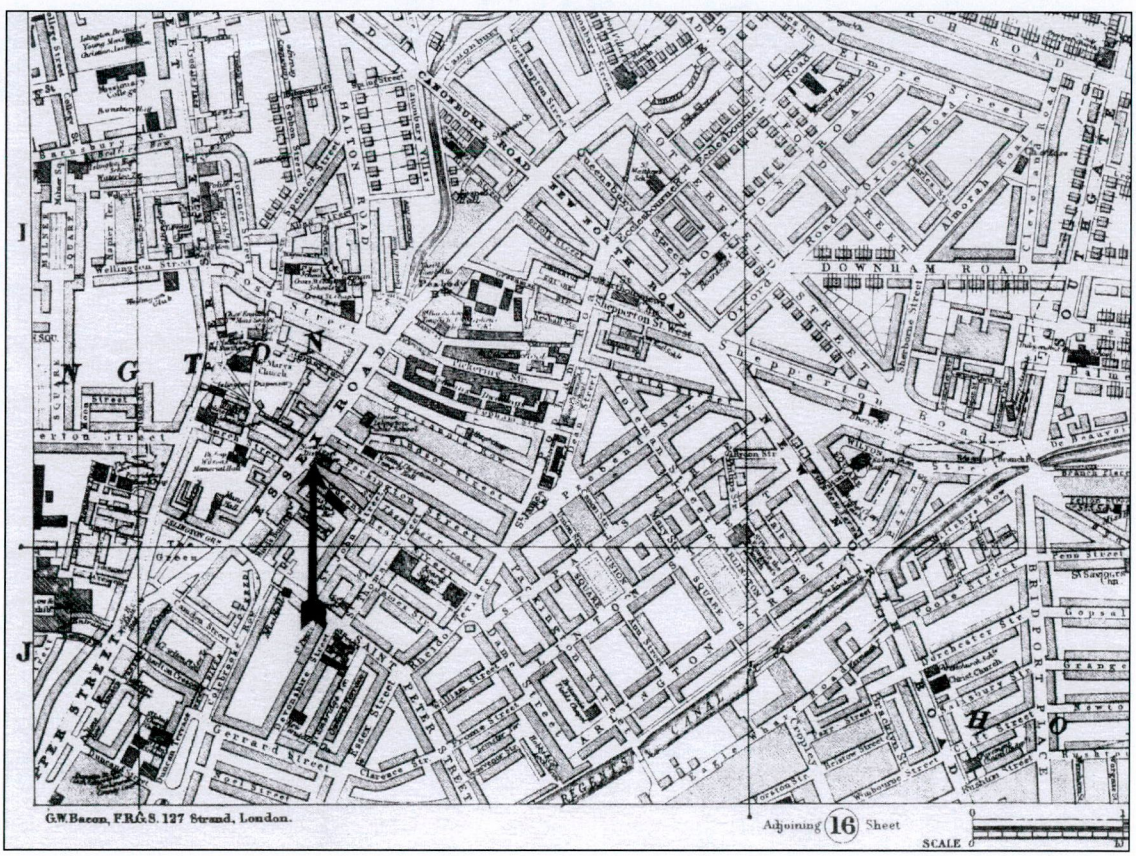
Office opened on 1st September 1858.
Essex Road was renamed Lower Street in the reforms of duplicate street names around 1870. Office location is actually on the corner of Packington Street and Lower Street.

This short listing demonstrates the confusion in source material;

J.B. Seymour - Essex Road.
H.C. Westley - Lower Street.
1860 Post Office Guide - Lower Street.
1902 Postal Directory - 46 Essex Road.



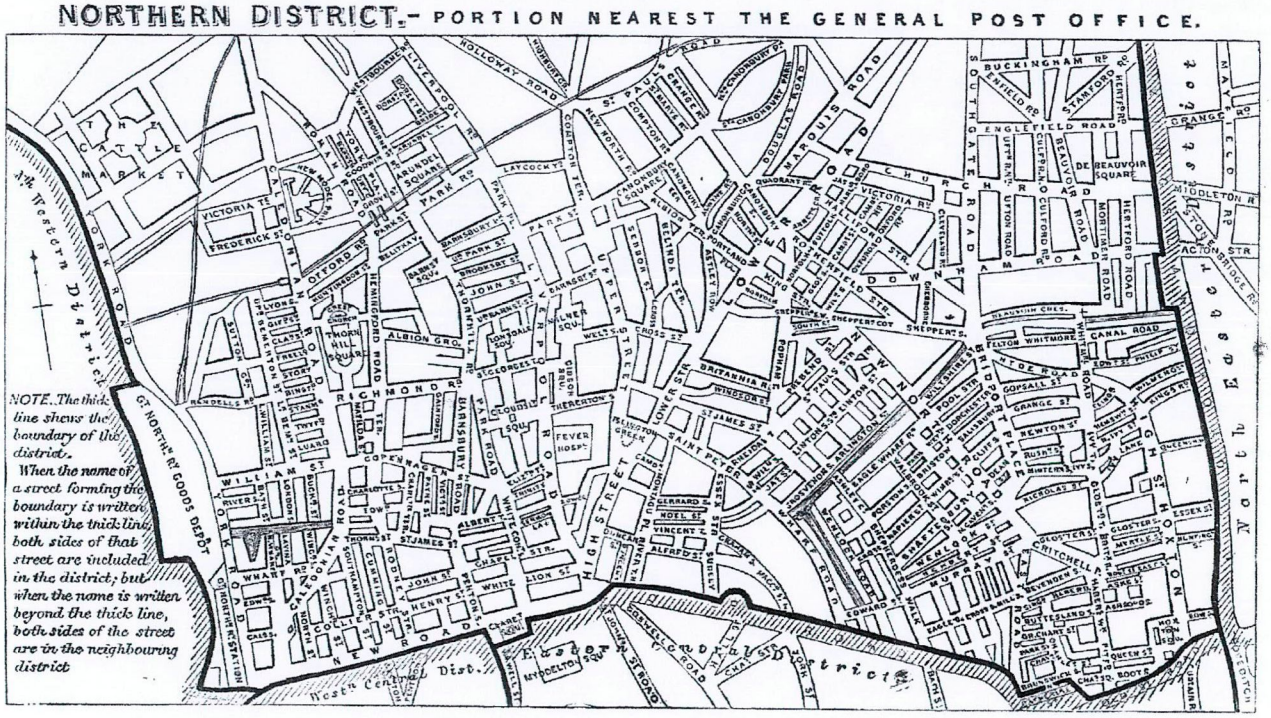
Extract from Richard Weller's Map 1858 showing location of office in Lower Street



Bacon's 9" Map of 1888 showing Essex Road. Note Upper Street lies west of Essex Road
Lower Street was renamed Essex Road in May 1864.



Stanford's Map extract from "Charles Dickens's London Guide 1879".



Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

Barnet

Bush Hill

Colney Hatch

Crouch End

East Barnet

Edmonton

Enfield

Enfield Highway

Finchley

Fryern Barnet

Hadley

Highbury

Highgate

Holloway

Hornsey

Muswell Hill

New Barnet

Palmer's Green

Ponder's End

Potter's Bar

Southgate

Stamford Hill

Stoke Newington

Theobalds

Tottenham

Totteridge

Waltham Abbey

Waltham Cross

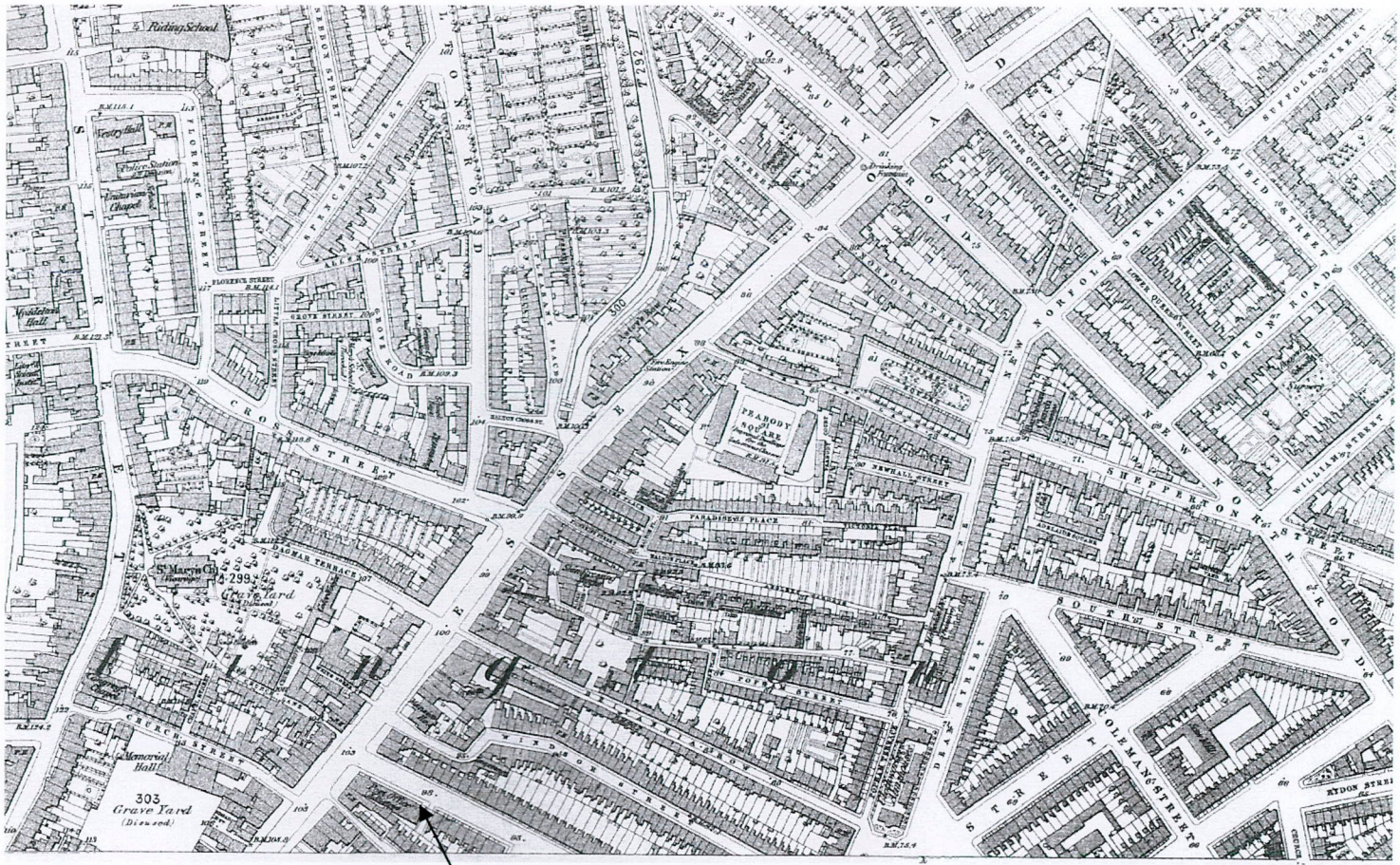
Whetstone

Winchmore Hill

Wood Green



The NDO (now designated N1) 116 Upper Street taken by Werner Bauschke in 1980. This building has remained at the same location and virtually unchanged since 1858, although the street has been renamed.



Map of 1871 showing location on corner of Essex Road & Packington Street



Photograph of same location taken by W Bauschke in 1986 shows the building in use as The Merchants Hall.

NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

Temporary Office first opened at 78 Church Street, Bethnal Green, on 12th October 1858.

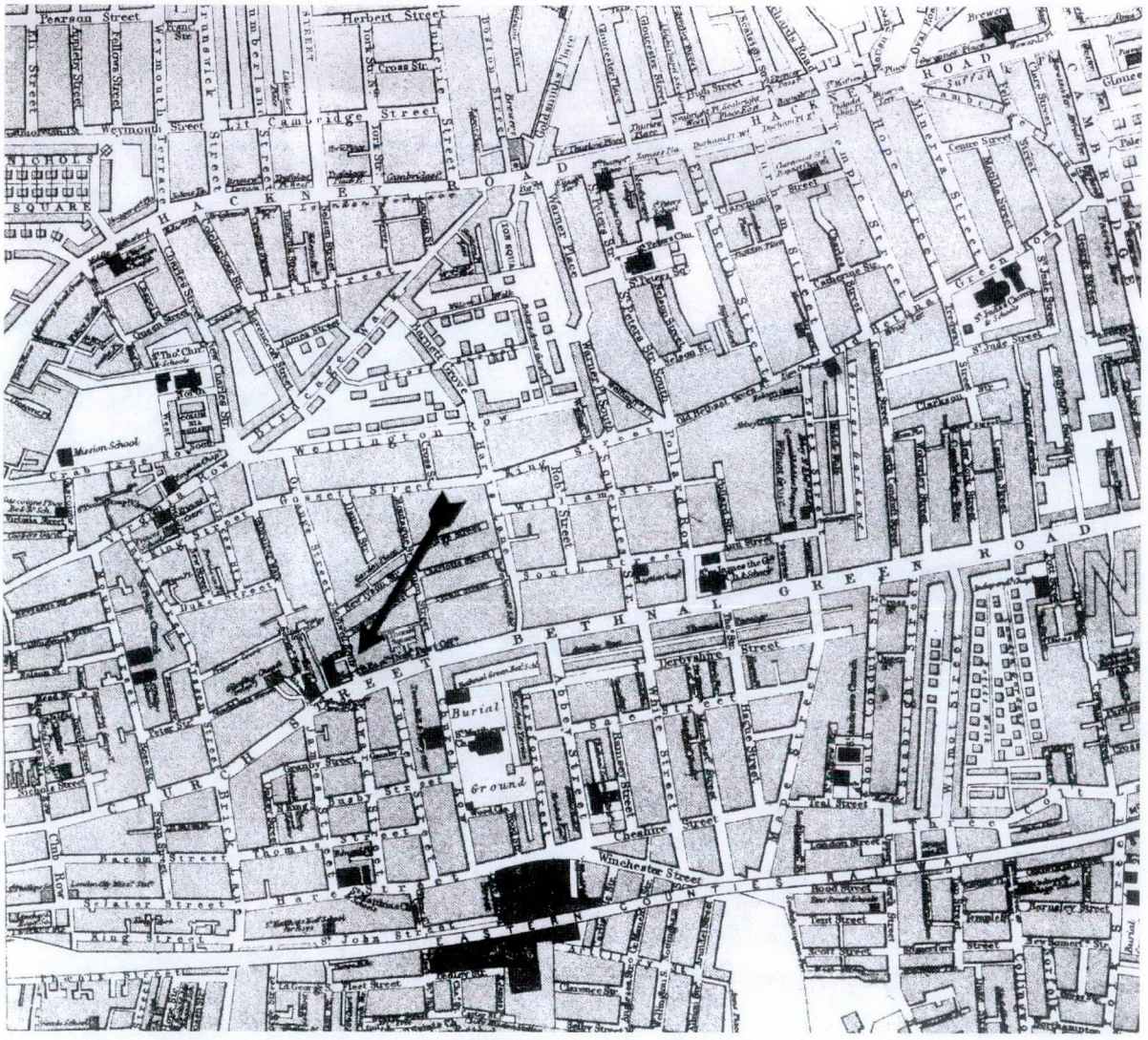
No photograph exists of the original building.

This office is also listed as Bethnal Green Road but, as can be seen from the map extract from Weller's map of 1858, this is not the case.

Both J.B. Seymour & H.C. Westley list this office at Church Street, Bethnal Green.

1860 Post Office guide lists location as temporary office at 78 Church Street.

At the end of 1866 the NE office was abolished on grounds of cost saving and amalgamated into the Eastern District. See notes under District Reorganisation in the introduction.

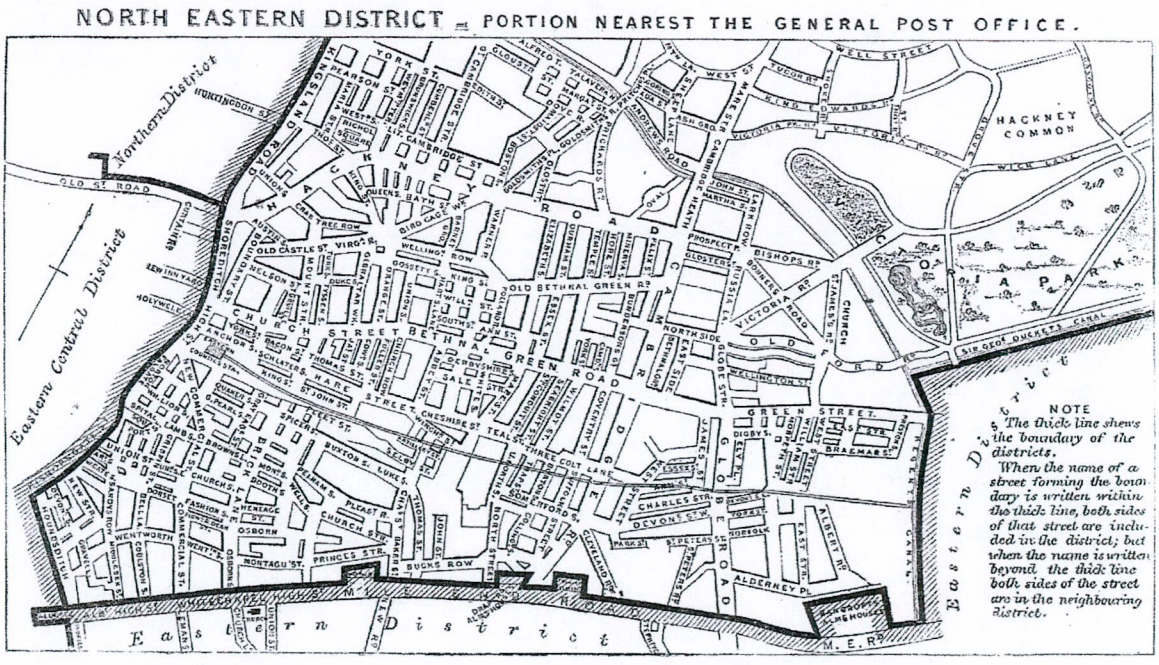


Extract from Richard Weller's map of 1858 showing location of NEDO.

NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

Cambridge Heath
Chigwell
Chigwell Row
Chingford
Clapton
Dalston
Hackney
High Beech
Homerton
Lea Bridge (Essex)
Leyton
Leytonstone
Loughton
Sewardstone
Shacklewell
Snaresbrook
Walthamstow
Wanstead
Whips Cross
Woodford
Woodford Bridge



Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.

EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

206 Whitechapel Road

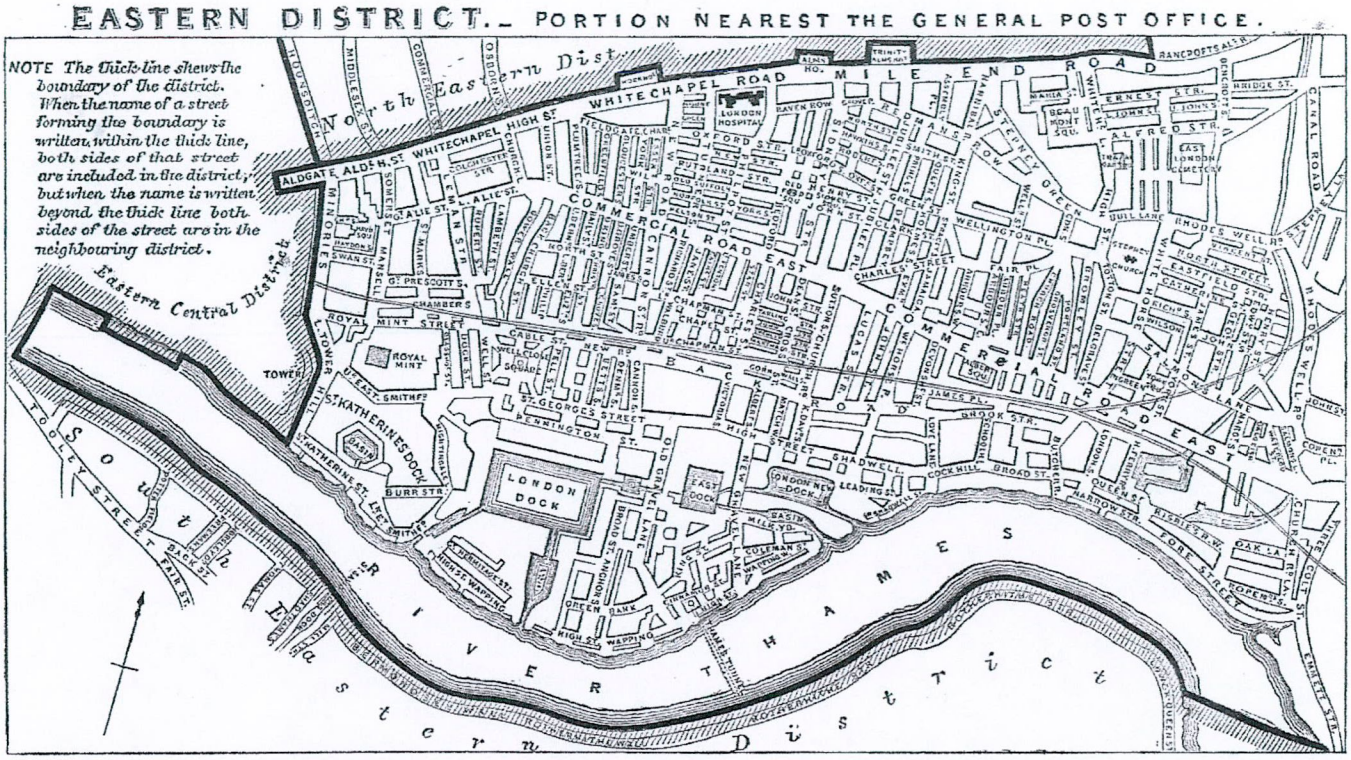
Office opened on 18th March 1858 in Commercial Road East.
Both Seymour & Westley list this office at Nassau Place, Commercial Road.

Weller's map clearly shows the location in Commercial Road East but about one street away from Nassau Place. The relevance of Nassau Place is not known.
The segment map of 1856 and Bacons map of 1888 both list the location more specifically at Commercial Road East

1860 Post Office guide lists location as Nassau Place.

1902 Postal Directory lists the Office at 195 Whitechapel Road.

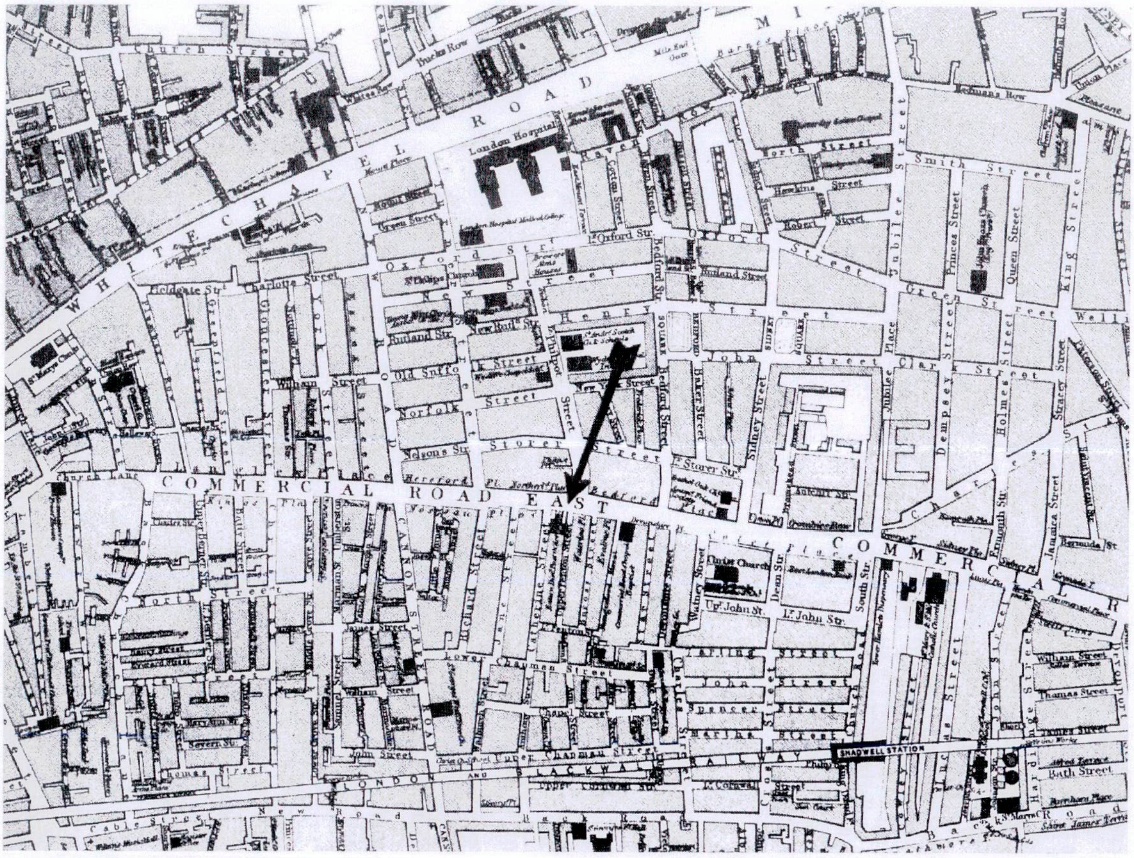
From the original photograph above (taken from a lantern slide) the road number 206 can be seen on the glass pane above the door and the wording 'Eastern District Office' in the brick work detail.



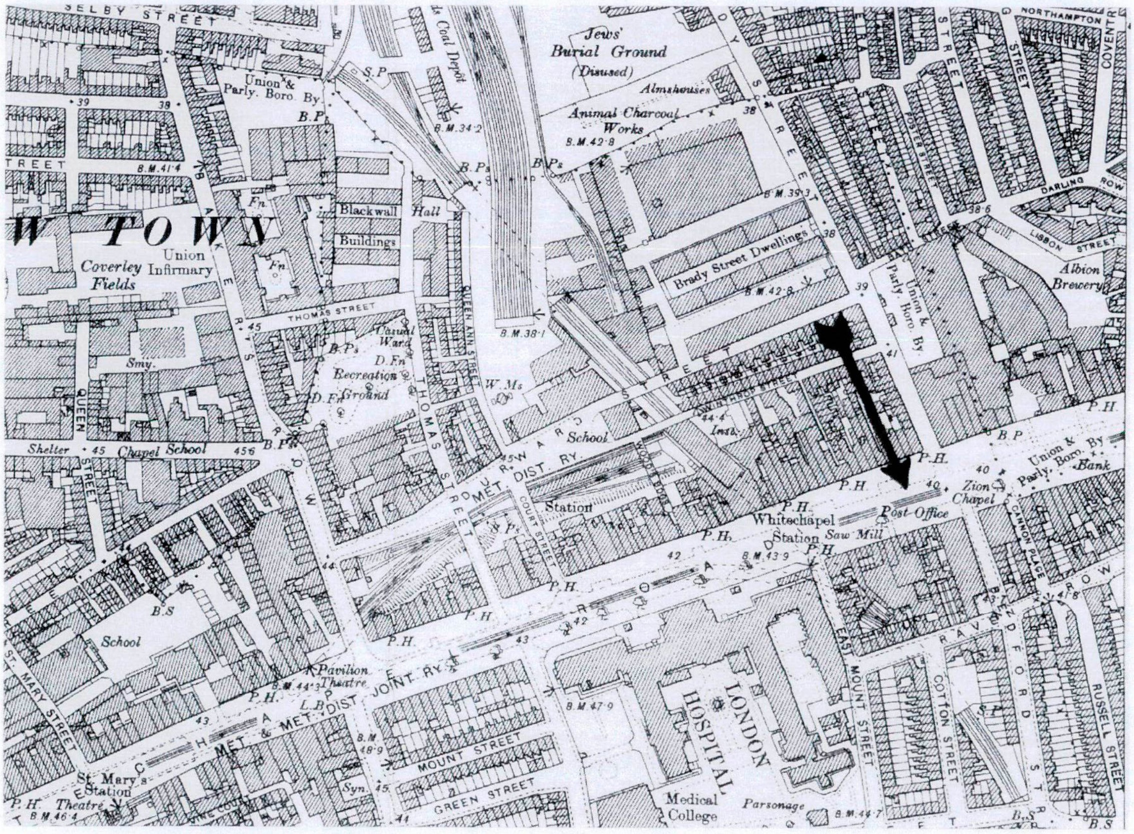
Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.

The thick line shows the boundary of the District. When the name of a Street forming the boundary is written within the thick line, both sides of that Street are indicated by the District but, when the name is written beyond, the thick line on both sides of the Street are in the neighbouring District.

Note from map index;
"To keep the District list within convenient limits, it has been necessary to omit the names of many Streets, &c.
These are such as in the address of a letter are generally followed by another name, that some well-known main Street or Road in the immediate vicinity, or the general name of the locality in which the place is situated.
When, therefore, a Street &c., cannot be found in the List, the Postal District to which it belongs can be ascertained by referring to the name of the neighbouring main Street, or to the general name of the locality, as described above.
There are some exceptions, viz., where a main Street is on one District, and certain smaller Streets near to it are in another. In these cases, the smaller Streets themselves are inserted in the List with the proper District Initials".



Richard Weller's Map of 1858 showing Commercial Road location.



OS Map of 1894 showing location of Whitechapel Road premises.



Stanford's Map extract from "Charles Dickens's London Guide 1879".

EASTERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

Aldersbrook

Barking

Barkingside

Bow

Bromley (Middx)

Chadwell

Colliers Row

Dagenham

East Ham

Ilford

Knott's Green

Old Ford

Plaistow (Essex)

Plashet

Rainham

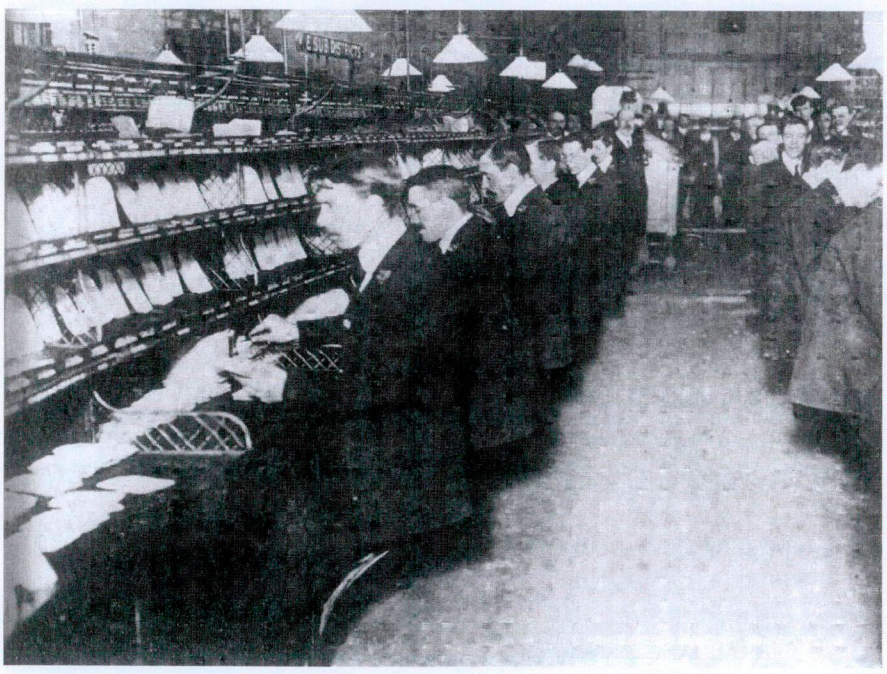
Romford

Stratford

Upton (Essex)

West Ham

West Ham Abbey



Sorting mails for the Eastern Sub Districts.

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

239 Borough High Street.

Office opened on 24th March 1857 in High Street, Borough.

Seymour lists this office at Blackman Street, Borough & Westley's listing is 170 High Street, Southwark. This office evidently relocated several times as illustrated in the maps on page 24 & 28. The sites were in close proximity to one another. This may explain the reason for the inconsistent address.

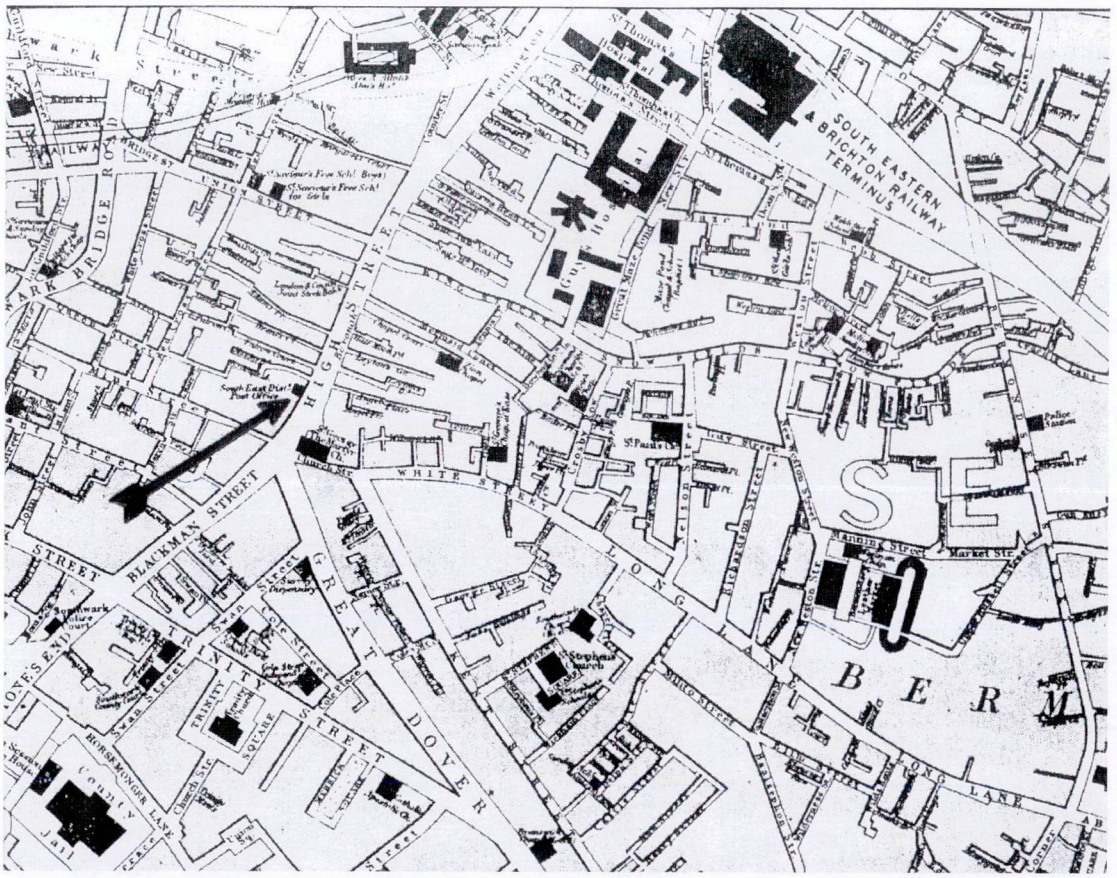
Weller's map clearly shows the location in High Street, Borough.
Blackman Street is adjoining and spurs off in a south westerly direction.

The segment map of 1856 states High Street, Borough, confirming the original location.

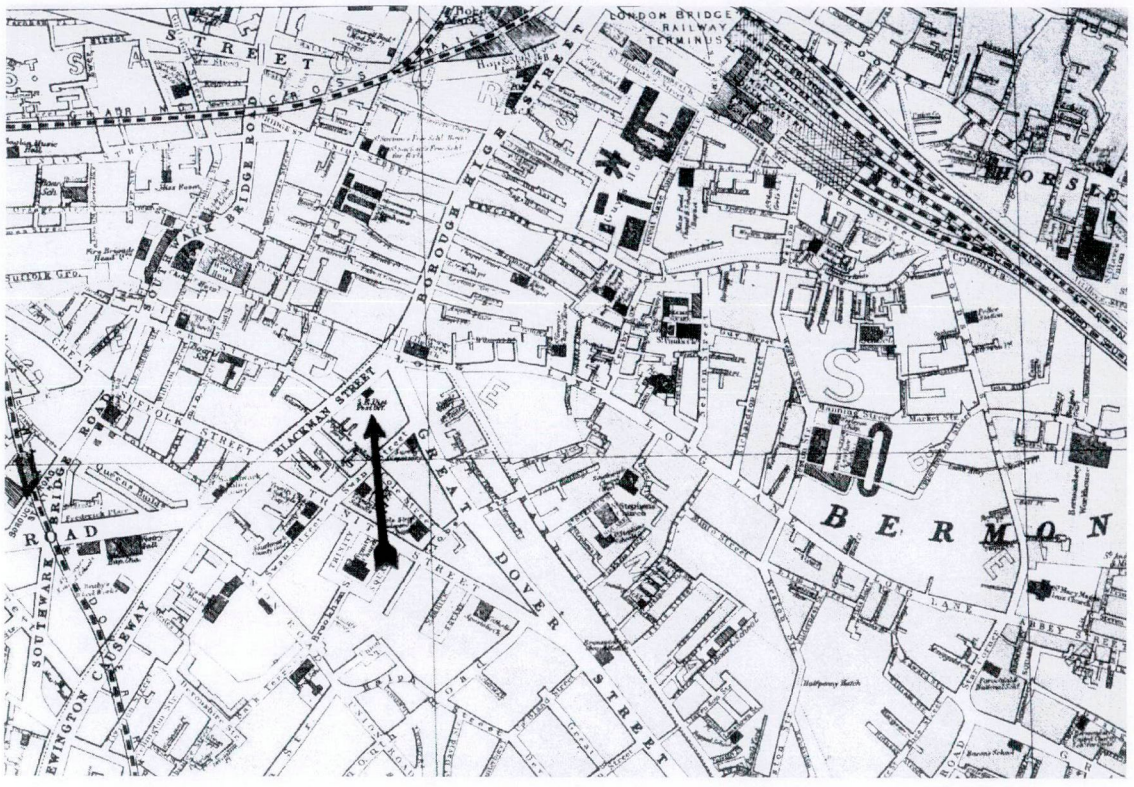
1860 Post Office Guide lists location at 170 High Street.

Bacons map of 1888 shows the office has moved to a new position in Blackman Street just a few hundred yards West of the original location.

1902 Postal Directory listing is 239 Borough High Street. The photograph above displays 239 on the building to the left, on the glass pane above the door. The wording South Eastern District Office can just be seen spanning the office frontage.
The main building is still in existence today although the buildings to the left and to the right have been demolished. This can be seen in the comparative photographs taken by Werner Bauschke in 1981 & 1985.



Richard Weller's Map of 1858 showing location in Borough High Street.



Bacon's nine inch Map of 1888 showing location of Post Office building on opposite side of the road in Blackman Street.



W Bauschke 1981

239 Borough High Street. The building has remained virtually unchanged since 1880.



W Bauschke 1985

Photographs taken prior to and after the erection of the new Post Office extension.

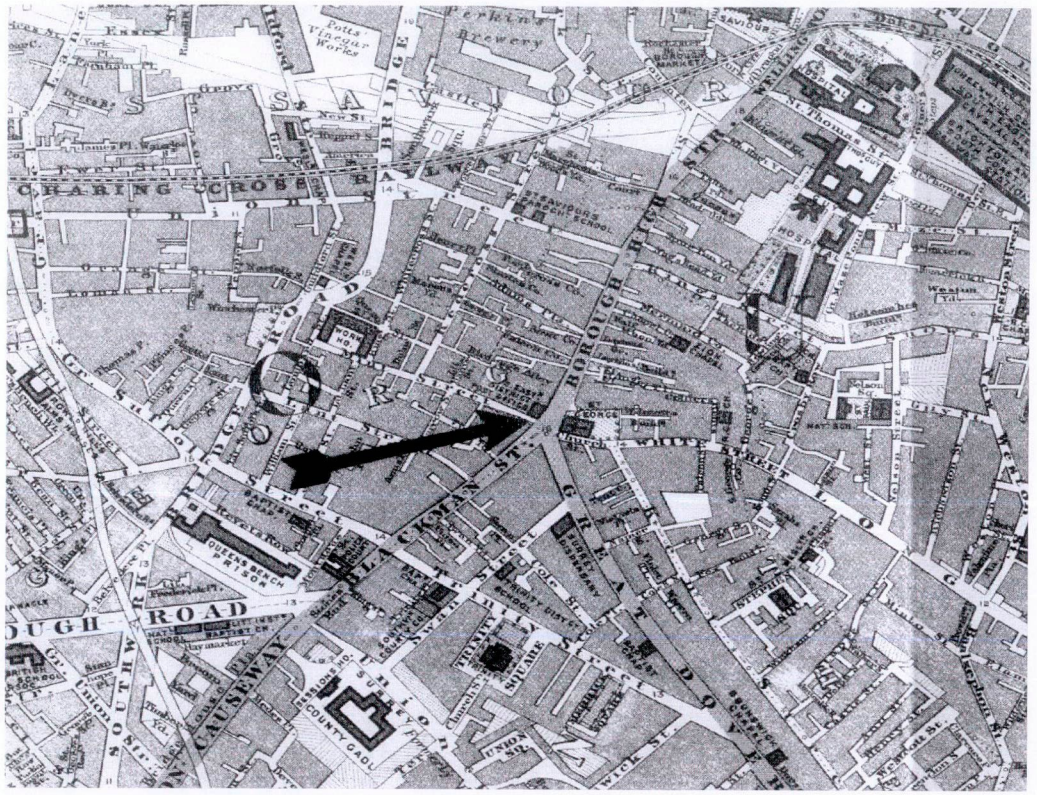


Stanford's Map extract from "Charles Dickens London Guide 1879".

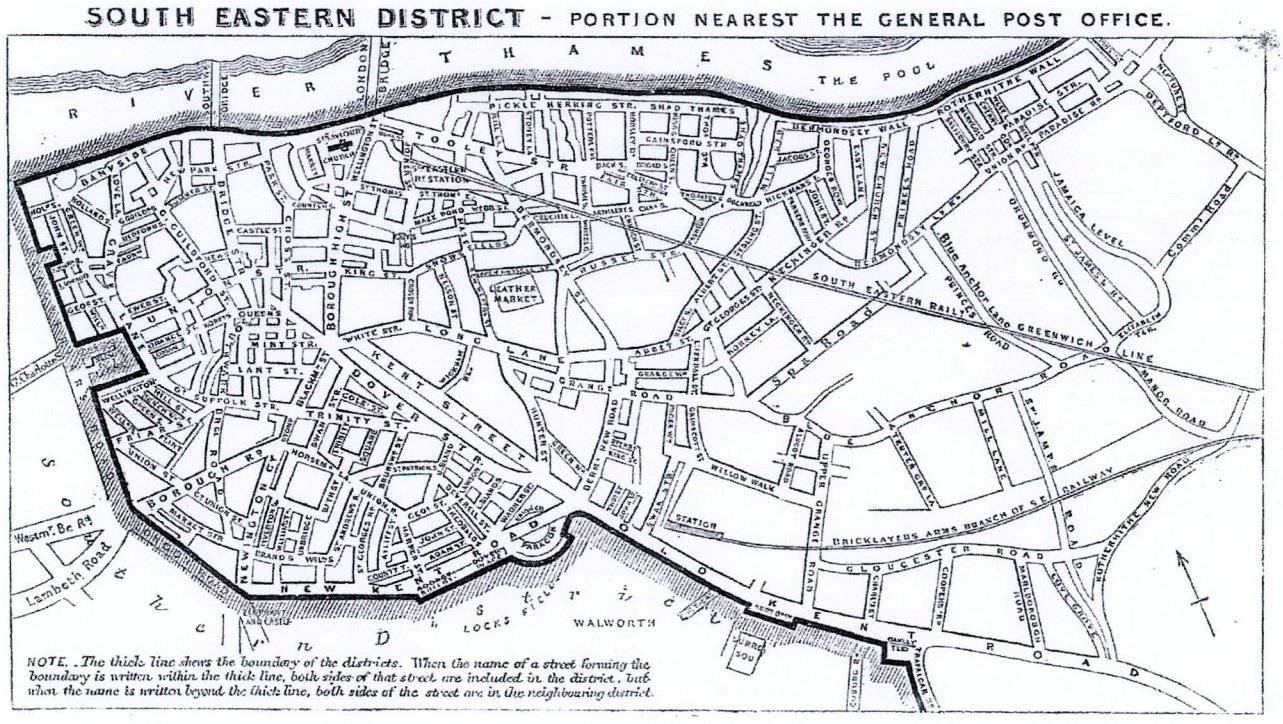
SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

Abbey Wood
Beckenham
Bexley
Bexley Heath
Blackheath
Blendon
Bridging
Bromley (Kent)
Charlton
Chislehurst
Crayford
Deptford
Eltham
Erith
Foot's Cray
Forrest Hill
Frognels
Greenwich
Hatcham
Hayes
Hurts
Keston
Lee (Kent)
Lesnes Heath (Original spelling) now Lessness Heath
Lewisham
Locksbottom
Mottingham
New Charlton
New Cross
North Cray
Nunhead
Old Charlton
Peckham
Penge
Plaistow (Kent)
Plumstead
Rushey Green
St. Mary's Cray
St. Paul's Cray
Shooter's Hill
Sidcup
Southborough
South End (Eltham)
South End (Lewisham)
South End (Sydenham)
Sydenham
Upton (Kent)
Welling
Wickham East
Wickham West
Widmore (Kent)
Woolwich



Stanford's Library map of 1863 showing position of Post Office on corner of Mint Street.



Map extract from" Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857



Courtesy PO Archives

South East District Office interior c.1900.

The 110 strong work force assembled in this photograph gives an indication of the high volume of mail passing through this District Office.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE.

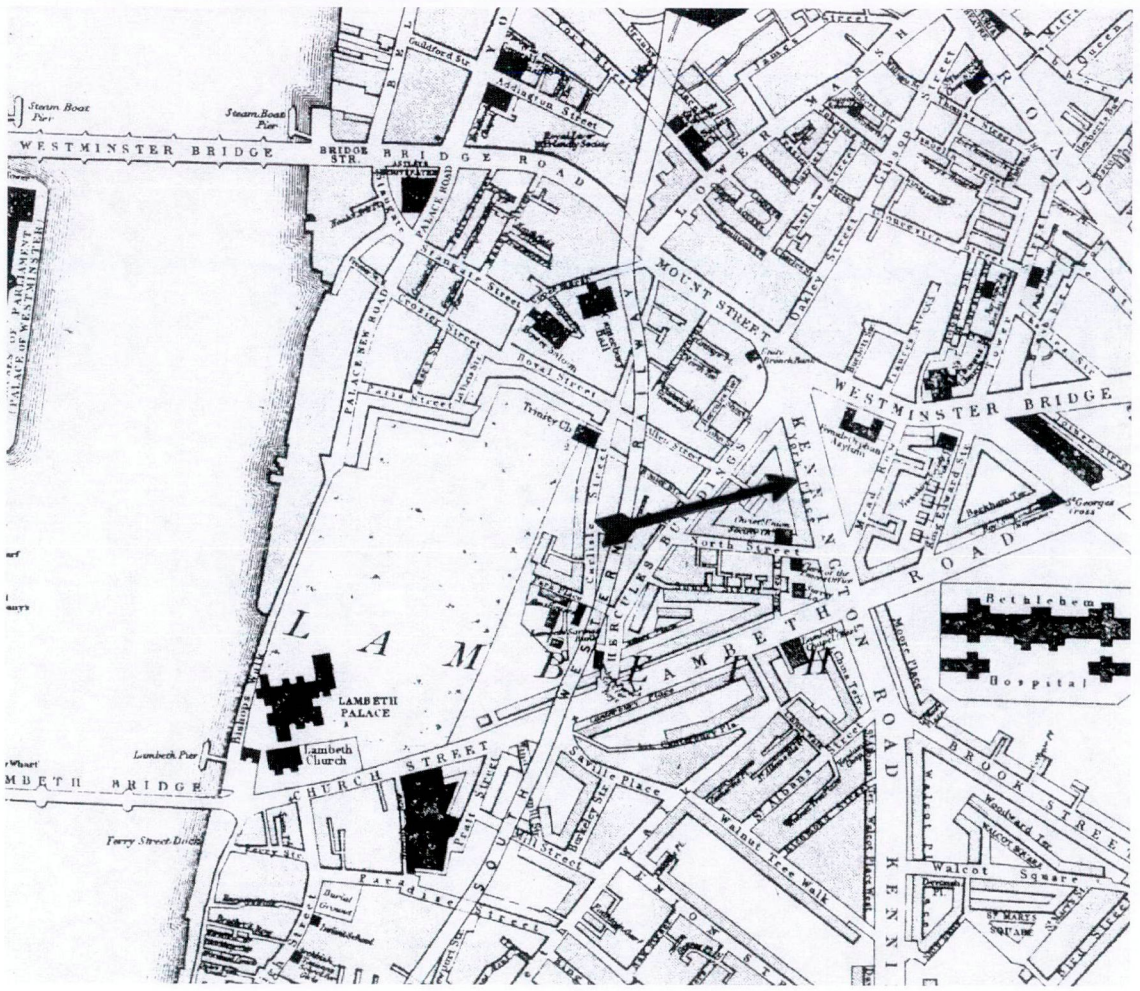
Temporary Office first opened in Westminster Road, Lambeth on 1st September 1858.
No photograph exists of the original building.

Weller's map of 1858 does not show the location, as it does with the other offices.
The office subsequently relocated to York Place, which is on the Kennington Road: exact date is uncertain.

Seymour lists this office at York Place, Lambeth but Westley gives Westminster Road, Lambeth, as does the District segment map.

1860 Post Office Guide lists location as temporary office in Westminster Road.

The Southern District Office was short lived and closed in December 1867, on grounds of cost saving, and absorbed into the SE & SW offices early in 1868. See notes under District reorganisation in the introduction.



Weller's Map of 1858 showing location of York Place, but no indication of a Post Office.
This map may have pre dated the allocation of the premises by a few months.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

Addington

Addiscombe

Annerley (Original spelling) now Anerley

Balham

Beddington

Brixton

Camberwell

Carshalton

Cheam

Clapham

Croydon

Dulwich

Herne Hill

Maldon

Merton

Morden

Mitcham

Norwood (Surrey)

Shirley

Stockwell

Streatham

Sutton (Surrey)

Thornton Heath

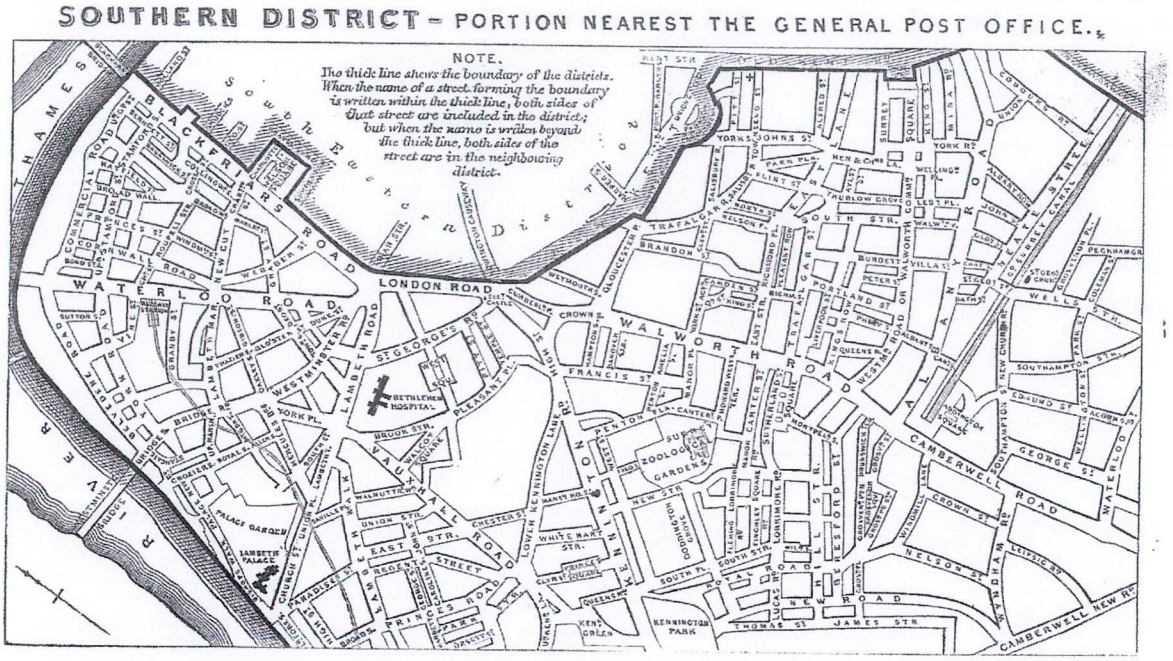
Tooting

Waddon

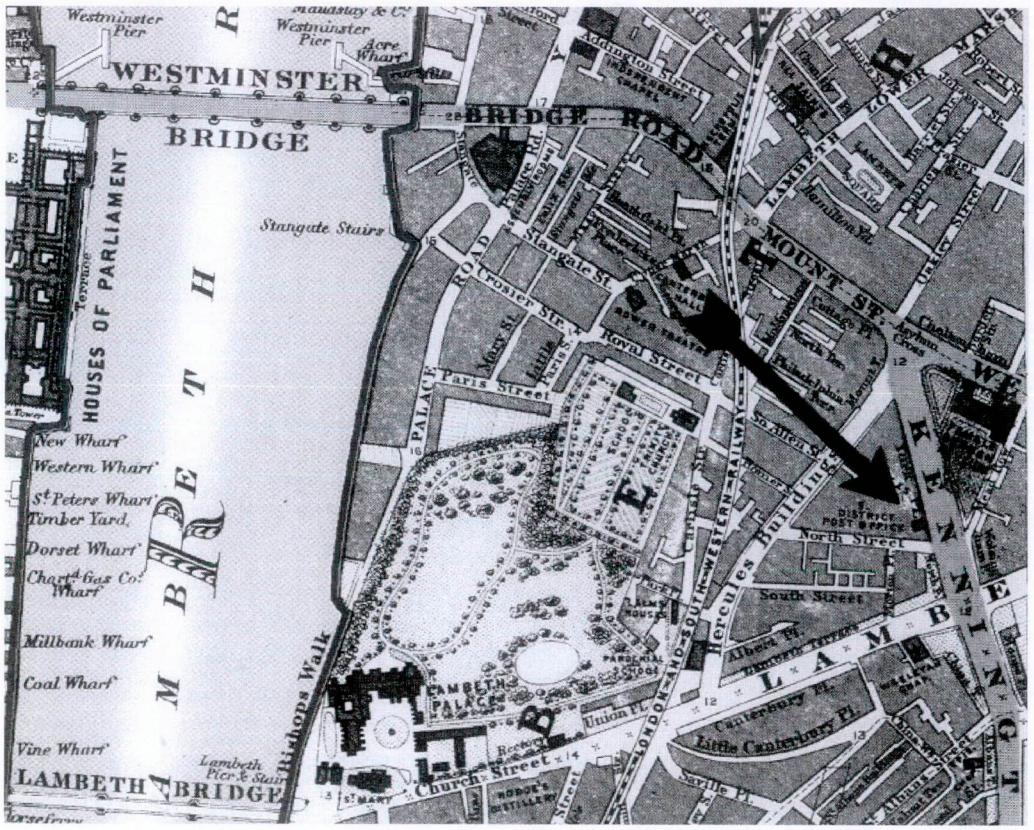
Wallington

Walworth

Westow Hill



Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.



Stanford's Library map of 1863 clearly showing position of Post Office in York Place.

SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

Howick Place, Victoria Street.

The history of this office is well documented. The Office of 1857 was temporary until suitable premises could be found.

Notes from minutes held in PO archives;

Letters were initially sorted at 3 Ecclestone Street South, where the Post Office had a lease until 1870 at a rent of £50 p.a.

In July 1858 a ground floor room in St Peter's Chapel, Charlotte Street, Pimlico was rented from the Rev'd Mr Paul for £60 p.a.

In January 1859 Charlotte Street premises were deemed to be too small and another room measuring 33' x 17' above the existing office was rented from Rev'd Mr Paul for additional £35 p.a.

The Post Office found a new tenant Mr Wood for the now unwanted office at 3 Ecclestone Street South which became a milliner's shop run by the Misses Mary & Eliza Kelly.

1860 Post Office Guide lists location as temporary office in Little Charlotte Street, Buckingham Gate.

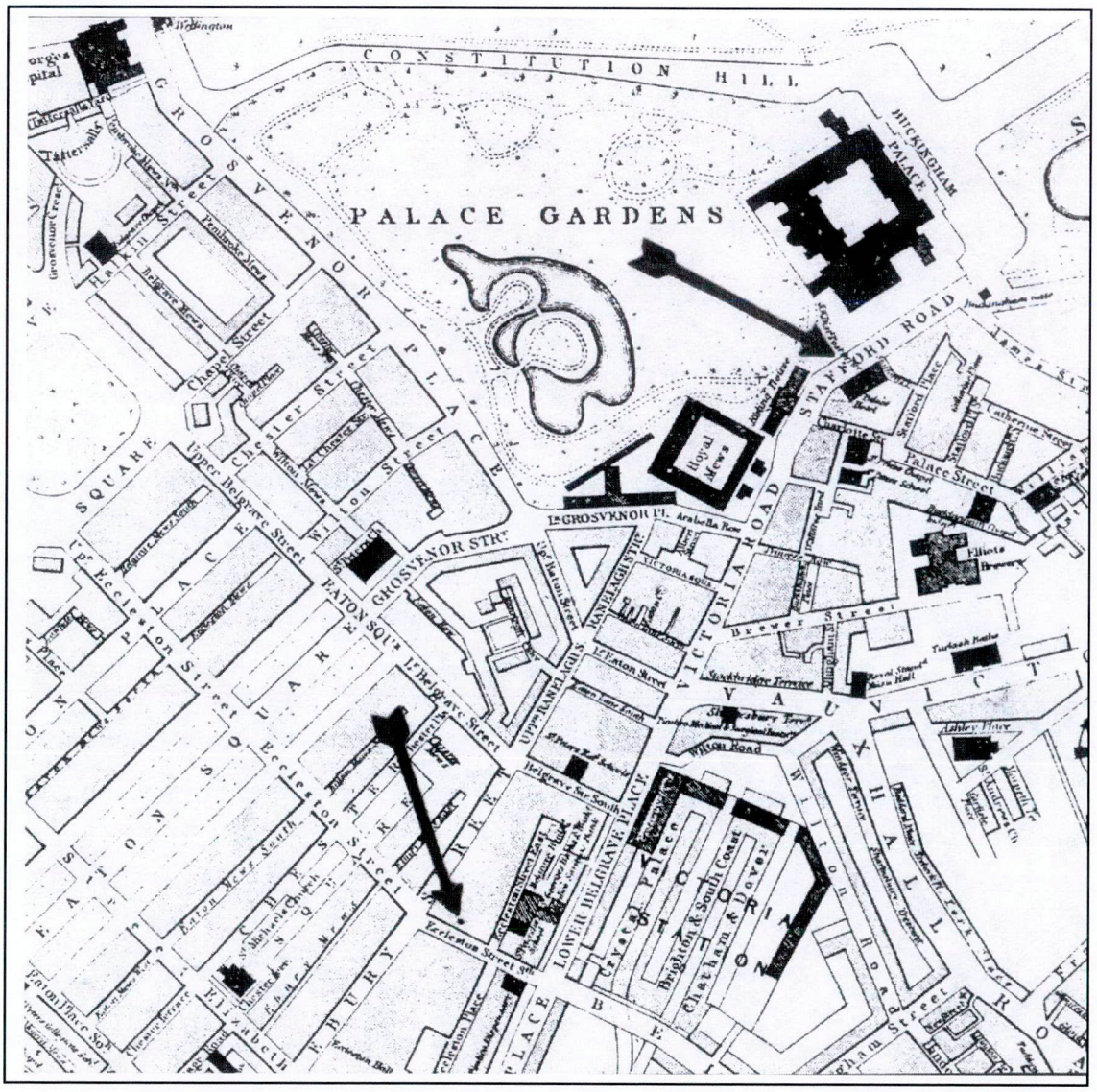
In June 1861 the SWDO secured a permanent location at No.8 Buckingham Gate Pimlico and is listed here in the PO Directory of 1865.

On November 20th 1894 the SWDO was relocated to a new purpose built premises in Howick Place (formerly Philip Street) on the former site of the Middlesex House of Correction.

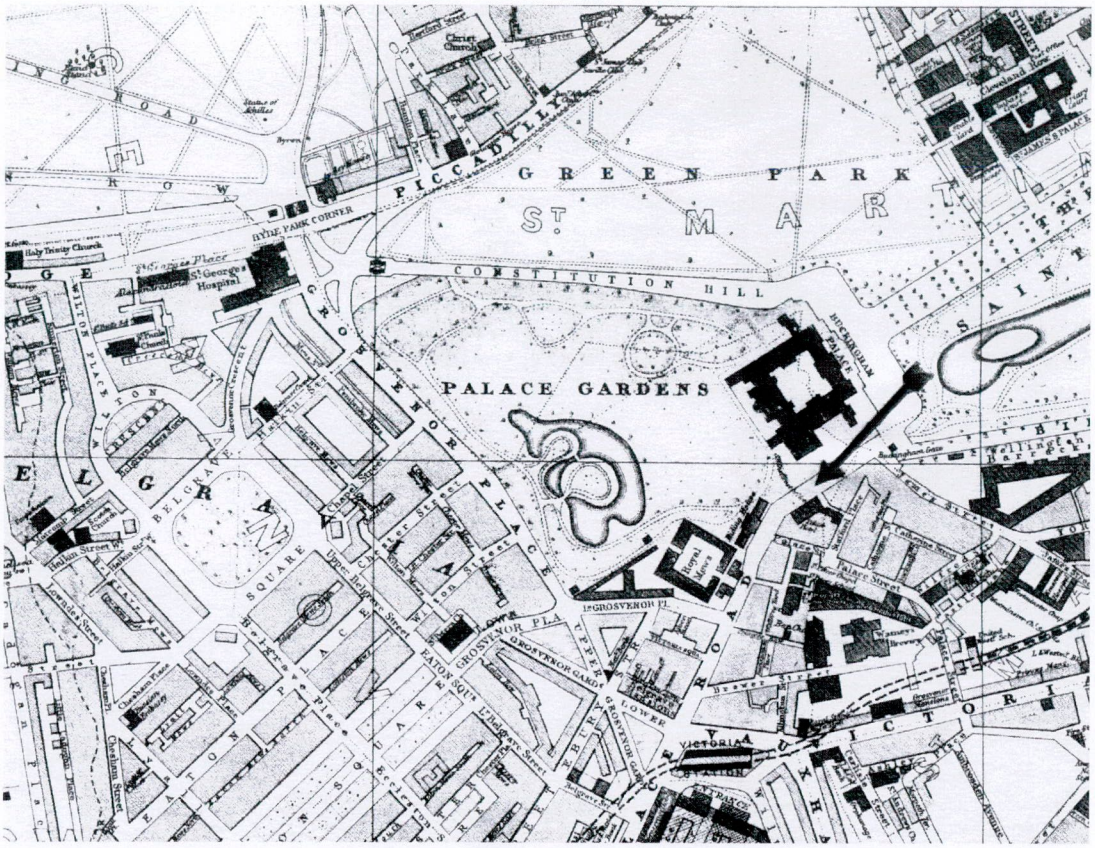
Seymour & Westley both listed this office at Buckingham Gate, Pimlico

Segment district map of 1856 on page 9 indicates location of office in Victoria Road Pimlico but is, more accurately, between Buckingham Gate and Victoria Road (formerly Buckingham Palace Road)

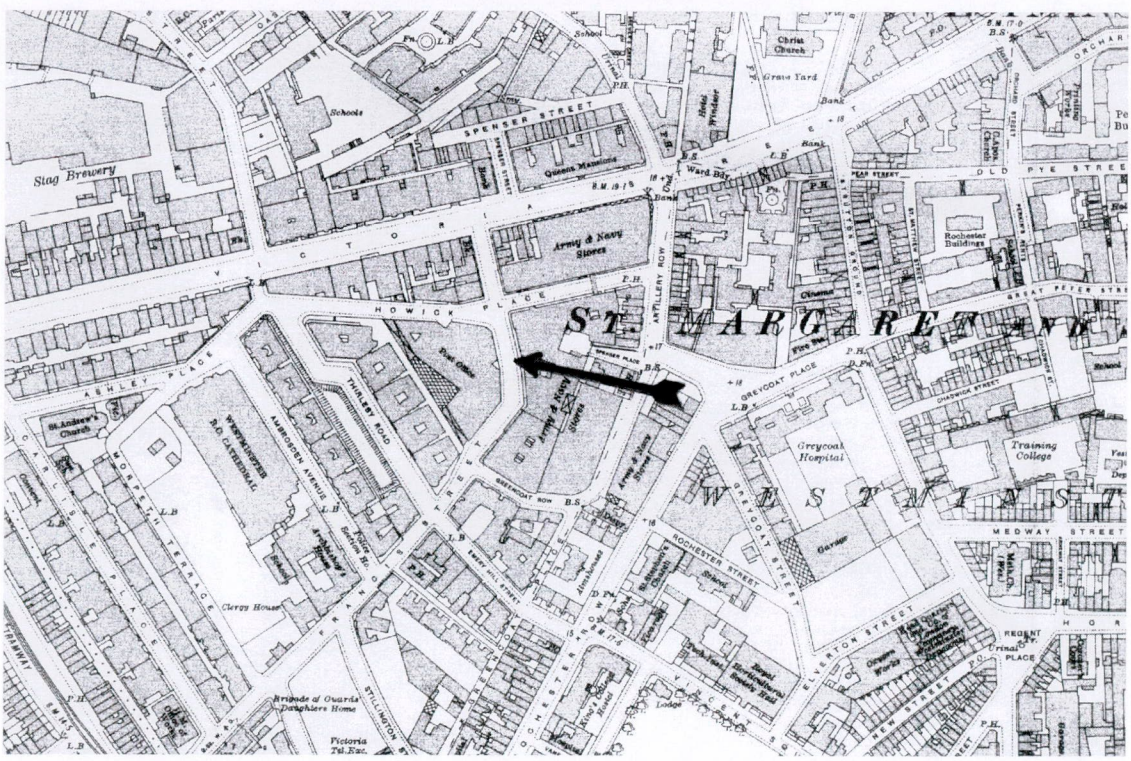
1902 Postal Directory lists address at Howick Place.



Extract from Richard Weller's map of 1858 showing both locations of SW District Office Ecclestone Street South and Victoria Road formerly Buckingham Palace Road.



Bacon's Map of 1888. Office location Buckingham Palace Road.
Buckingham Gate is actually nearer Birdcage Walk, which caused some confusion in the addresses given for the 1860's.

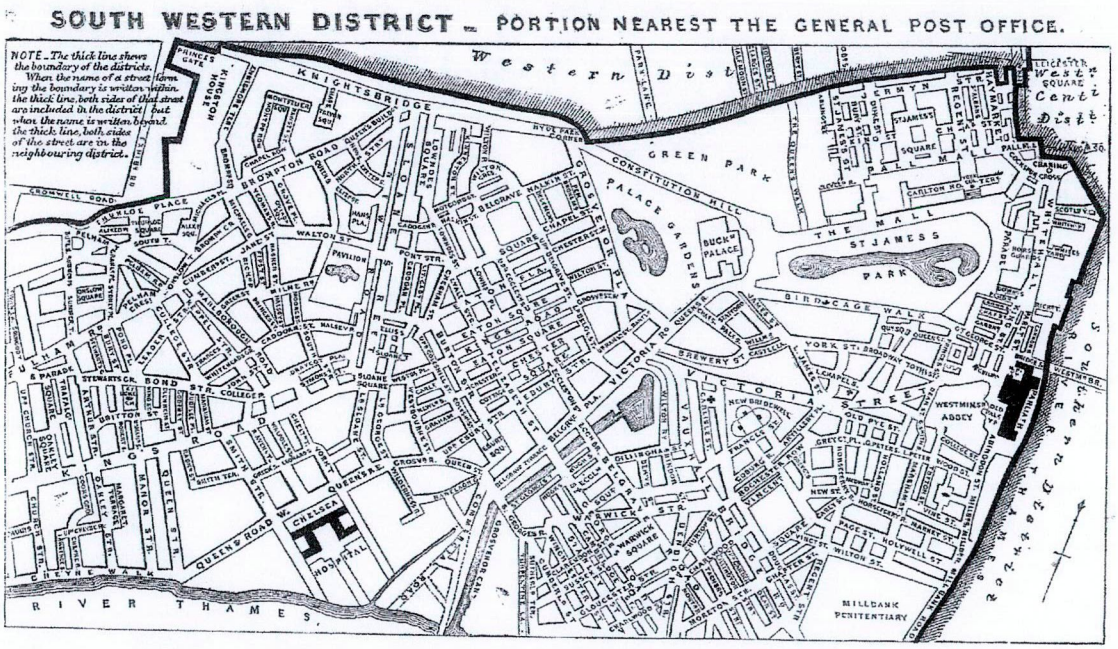


OS Map of 1916 showing location of Howick Place Post Office.

SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

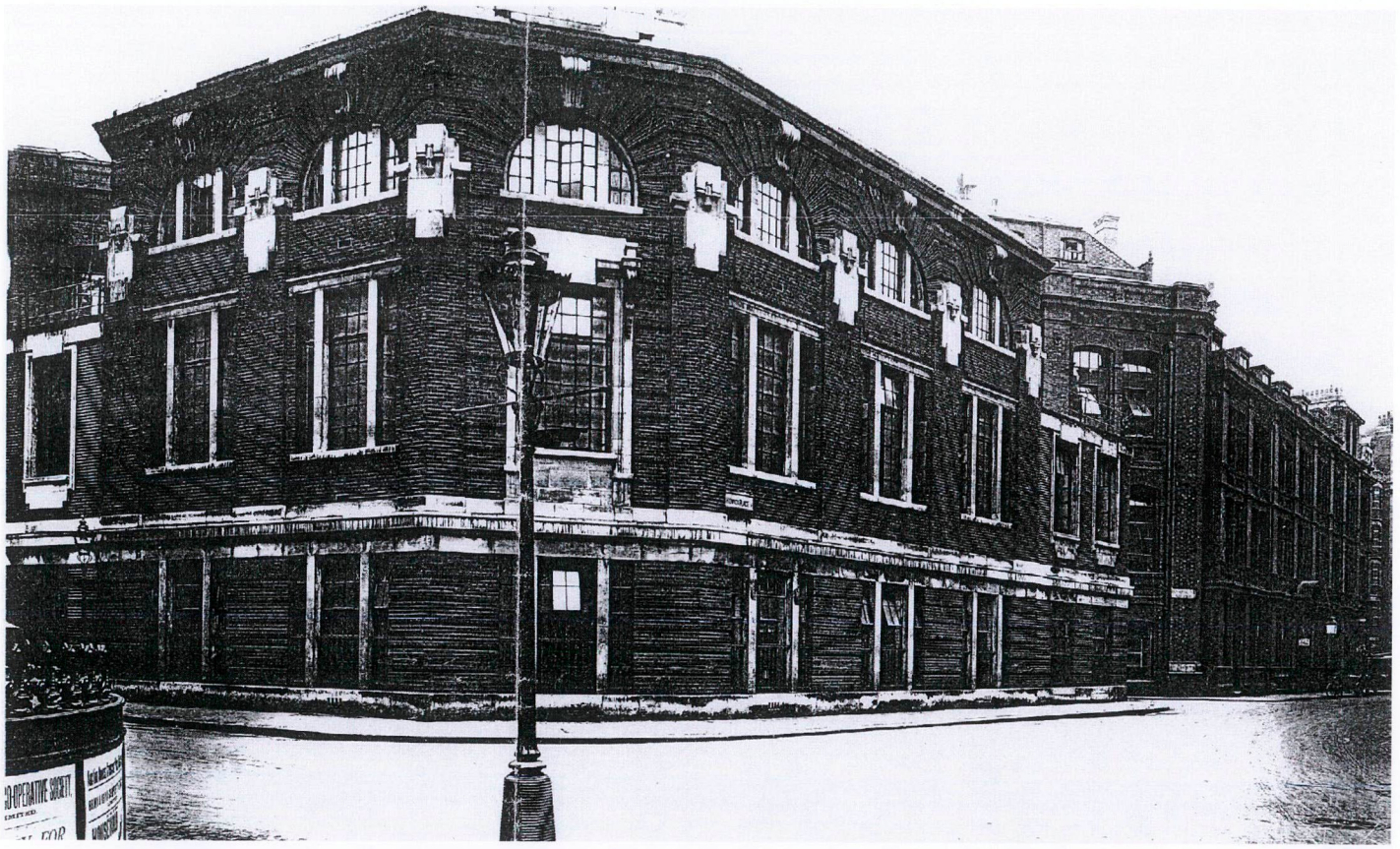
Barnes
Battersea
Brompton
Bushy Park
Chelsea
East Sheen
Fulham
Garrett
Ham
Hampton
Hampton Court
Kew
Kingston
Mortlake
New Malden
Norbiton
North End (Fulham)
Parson's Green
Petersham
Putney
Queen's Elm
Richmond
Roehampton
Rose Hill
Sunbury
Surbiton
Teddington
Tolworth
Twickenham
Walham Green
Wandsworth
Westcombe
Wimbledon



Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.



Stanford's Map extract from "Charles Dickens's London Guide 1879".



SW District Office c1894 - Howick Place, Victoria Street.
The main Post Office building is situated towards the end of the street.



9 Howick Place SWDO (later designated SW1) taken in 1981 by Werner Bauschke.
This is the building situated at the extreme right of the above photograph.

WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

Vere Street (Oxford Street).

Office opened 24th March 1857 on corner of Vere Street and Oxford Road.

The address is often referred to as Oxford Street and is shown on the 1857 segment map with both street names, as the premises fronts both streets.

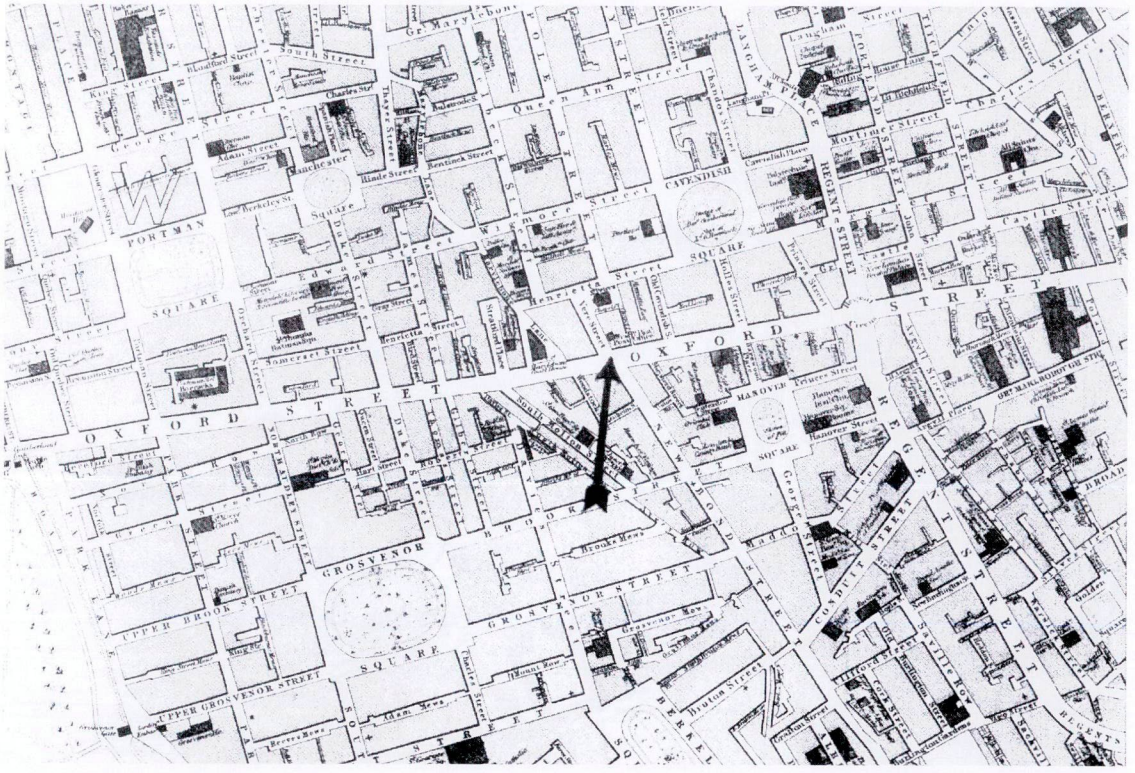
Seymour listed this office at Vere Street. Westley refers to 19 Old Cavendish Street.
No record has been found in the archives to substantiate Westley's findings.
Maps of this period do not appear show an office at this location. It may have been a temporary office as Old Cavendish Street is only two streets to the East.

Weller's Map of 1858, interestingly, indicates a smaller premises set back from Oxford Street and more correctly positioned in Vere Street.

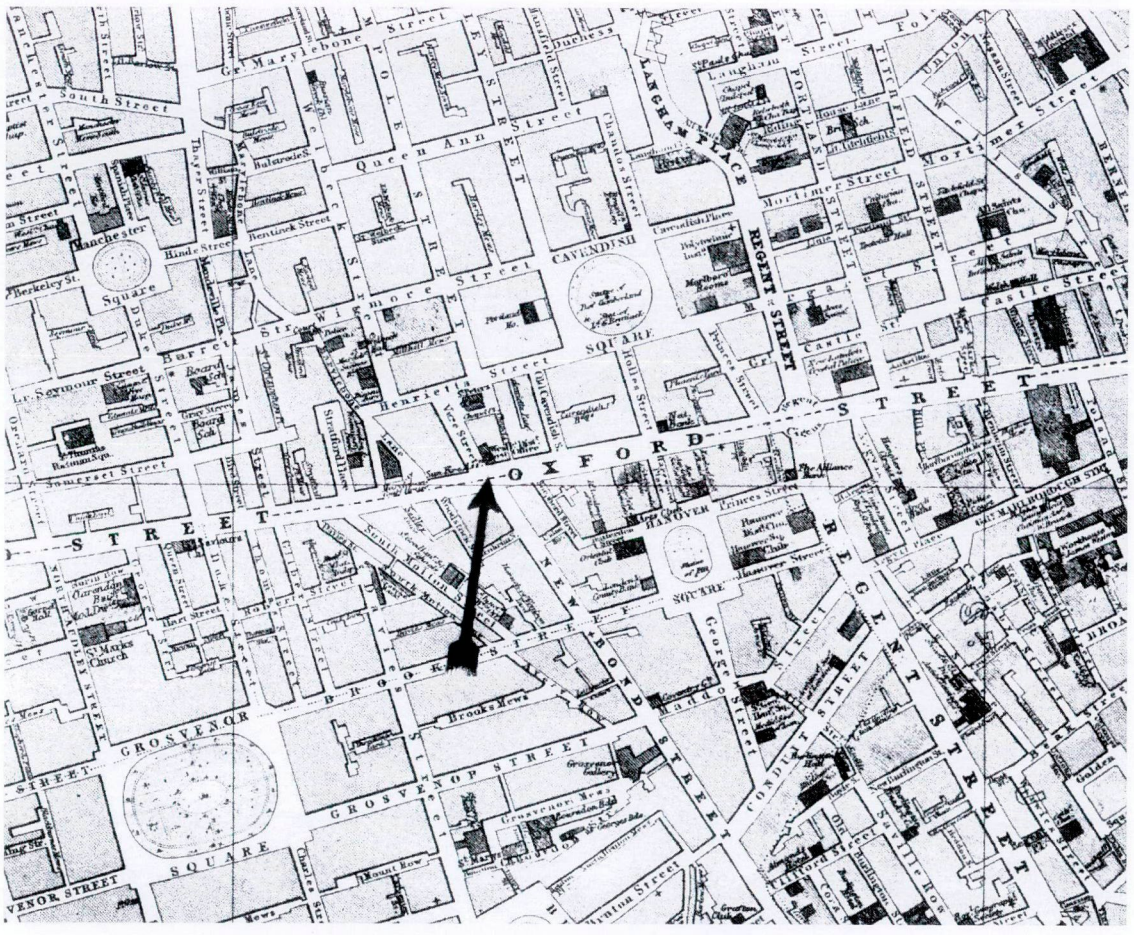
1860 Post Office Guide lists office at 19 Old Cavendish Street.

Bacon's Map of 1888 shows a clear location on the corner of both streets.

1902 Postal Directory listing is 3 Vere Street.



Weller's Map of 1858 showing Office with smaller premises set back from Oxford Street.



Bacon's Map of 1888 showing extended Office location
Corner of Vere Street and Oxford Street.

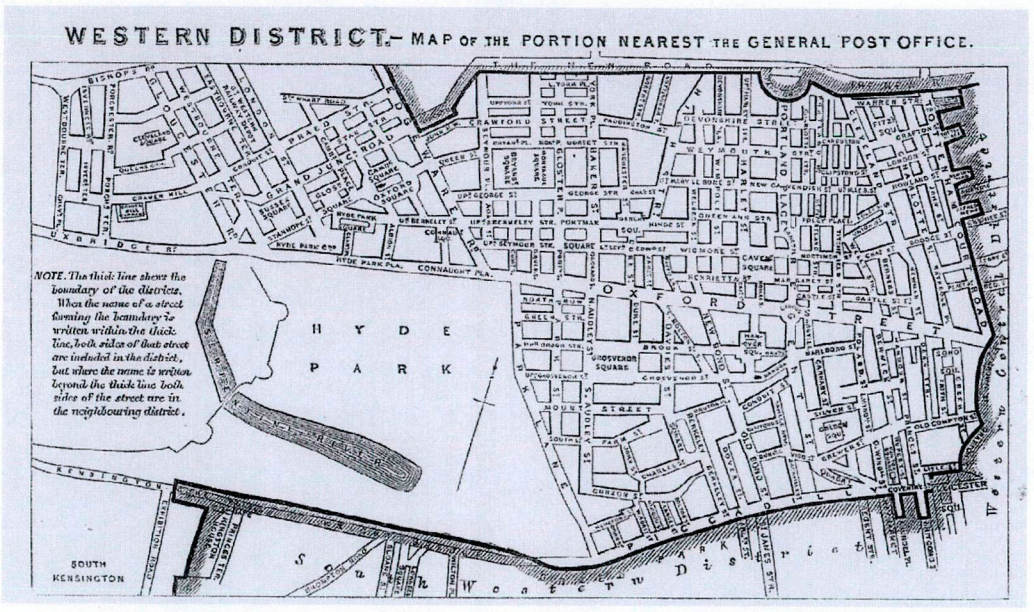


Stanford's Map extract from "Charles Dickens's London Guide 1879".

WESTERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

Acton
Acton East
Apperton
Bayswater
Brentford
Brook Green
Castlebar Hill
Chiswick
Ealing
Ealing Little
Greenford
Gunnersbury
Hammersmith
Hanger Hill
Hanwell
Hanworth
Heston
Hounslow
Isleworth
Kensal Green
Kensington
Kew
Lampton
Little Sutton
Madge Hill
North Hyde
Northolt
Norwood (Middx)
Notting Hill
Scrattage
Shepherd's Bush
Smallbury Green
Southall
Stamford Brook
Starch Green
Strand-on-the-Green
Sutton (Middx)
Turnham Green
Whitton
Worton



NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

57 Eversholt Street, Camden Town

Office opened on 17th July 1857 in Eversholt Street, Camden Town.
This office remained in the same building throughout the Victorian era.
Seymour & Westley both listed this office at Eversholt Street.

Notes from PO archives; The photograph above c1890 has been used in many postal history publications and shows the Parcel Mail coach delivering sacks of packets labelled NWDO. The horses and drivers were supplied by contractors but the guard employed by the Post Office did the sorting inside the coach. The guard's duty was to protect the mail and he was issued with a revolver and sword bayonet, demonstrating just how importantly the Royal Mail was regarded in Victorian times.

1860 Post Office Guide lists office at Eversholt Street.

The 1902 Postal Directory entry for NW District has a Branch Office at 57 Camden Road with no mention made of Eversholt Street. Why this should be is not known as the PO records show the office remained in the same location well into the 20th century.
It is probable Camden Road was a temporary office whilst this office was extended to cater for increased volumes of mail.



Courtesy PO Archives

57 Eversholt Street, Camden Town

This photograph shows a later view of the Post Office, probably around 1920.
The view below, taken by Werner Bauschke in 1985, demonstrates how little this building has changed with time.

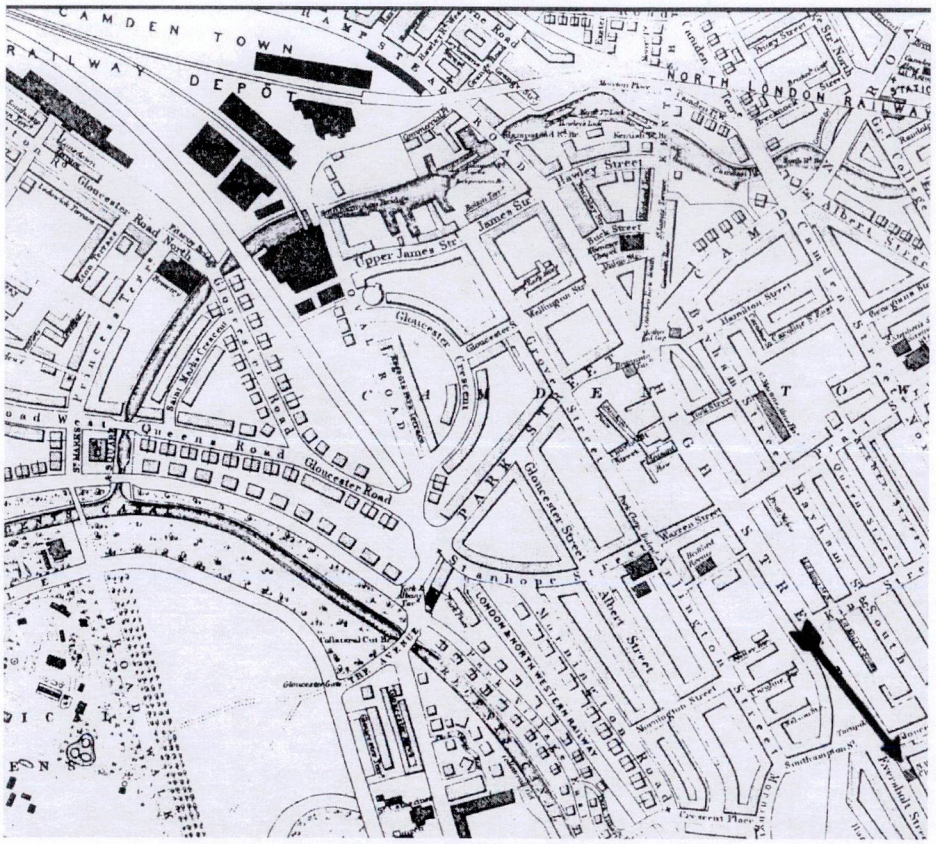




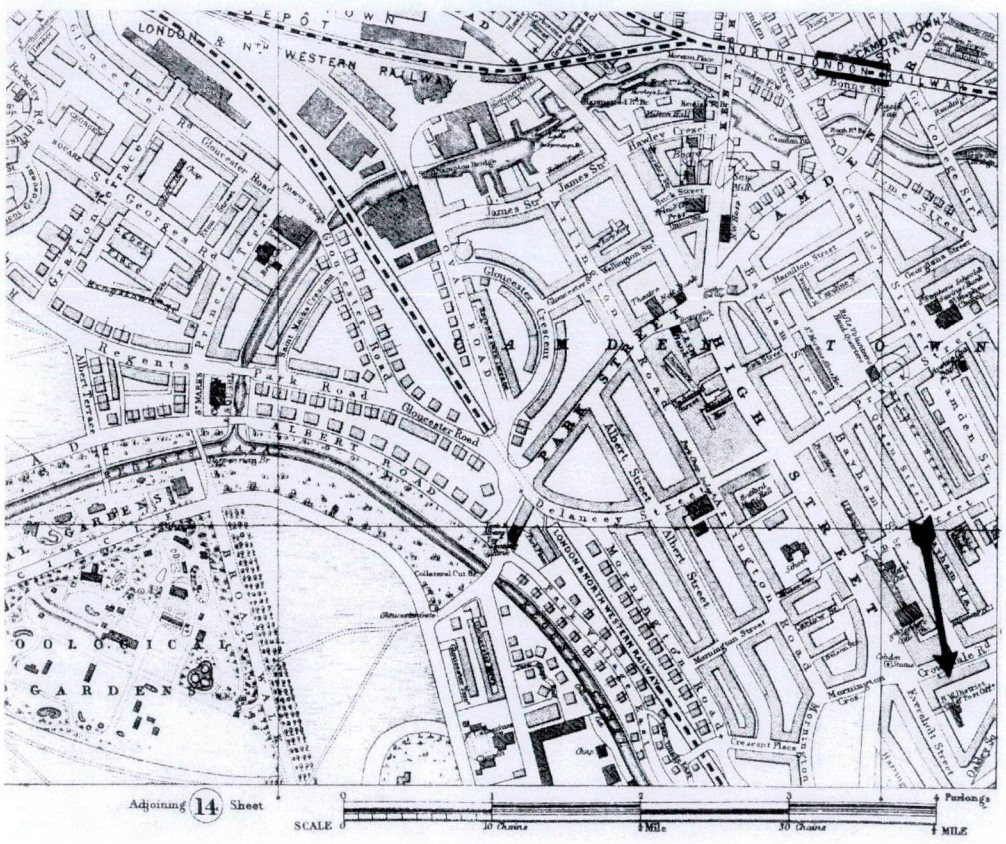
Close up of decoration above entrance doorway
corner of Eversholt Street and Crowndale Road.



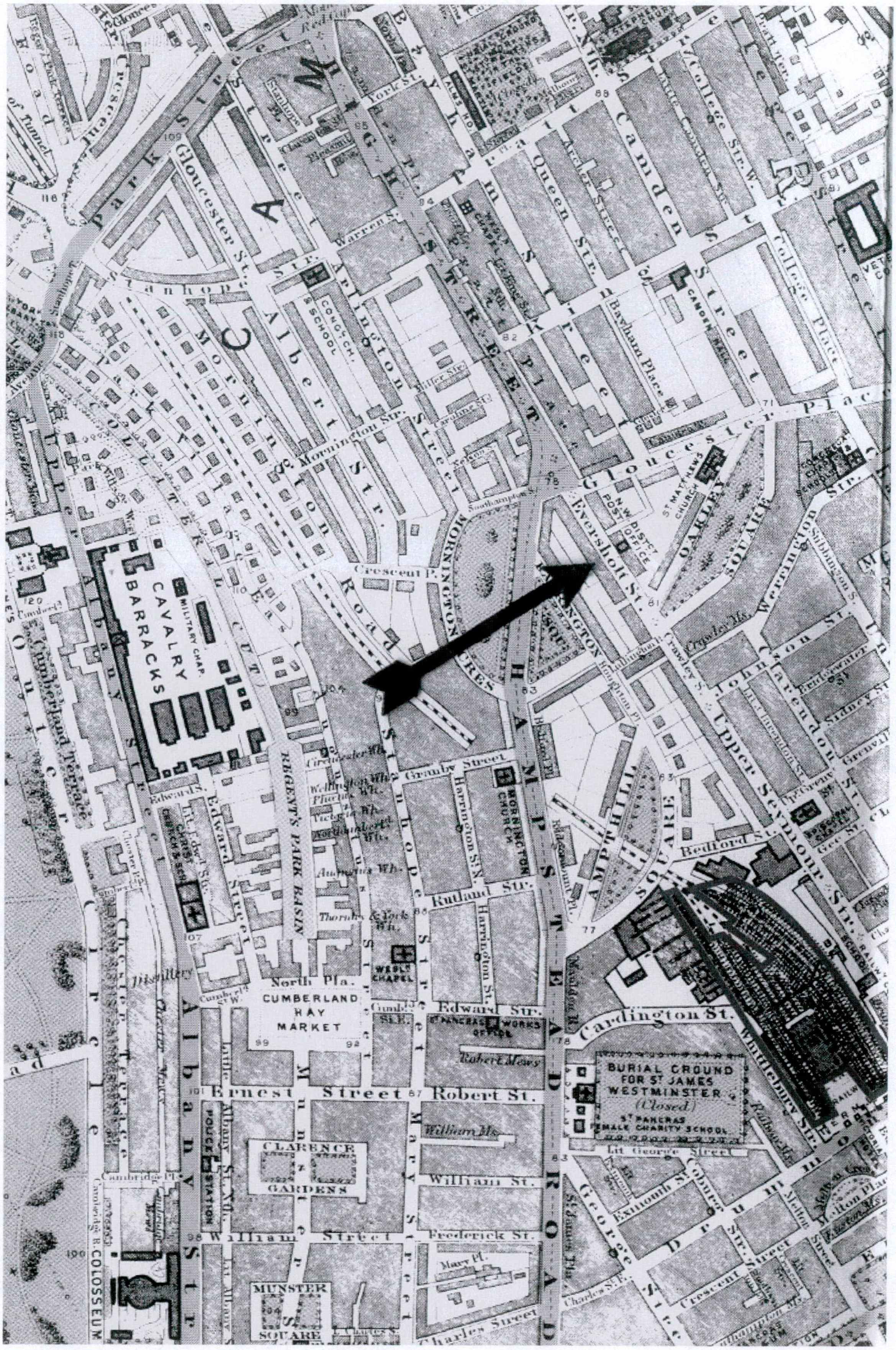
Crest above first floor window.
Photographs taken by Werner Bauschke in 1985



Richard Weller's Map of 1858.



Bacon's nine inch Map of 1888.
The detail is difficult to reproduce due to proximity to map edge.



Stanford's Library Map of 1863 showing detail of extension to building fronting entire length of Eversholt Street.

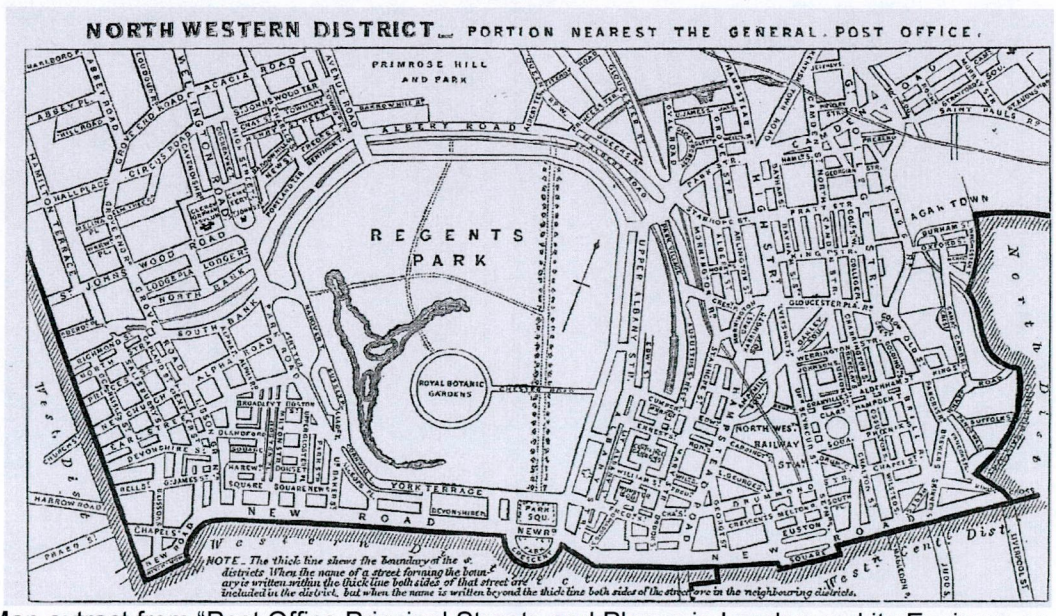


Extract of Stanford's Map from "Charles Dickens's London Guide 1879".

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT

Places within the sub divisions from the Map of the London Postal District 1856

Edgware
Elstree
Golder's Green
Golder's Hill
Greenford Green
Hampstead
Harlesden Green
Harrow
Hendon
Highwood Hill
Kendals Hall
Kenton
Kentish Town
Kilburn
Kingsbury
Mill Hill
Neasden
North End (Hampstead)
Perrivale (now Perivale)
Portland Town
Preston
St.John's Wood
Stanmore
Sudbury
(The) Hyde
Wembley
West End (Hampstead)
Whitchurch
Willesden



Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.

WESTERN CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

126 High Holborn.

Office opened 20th June 1857.

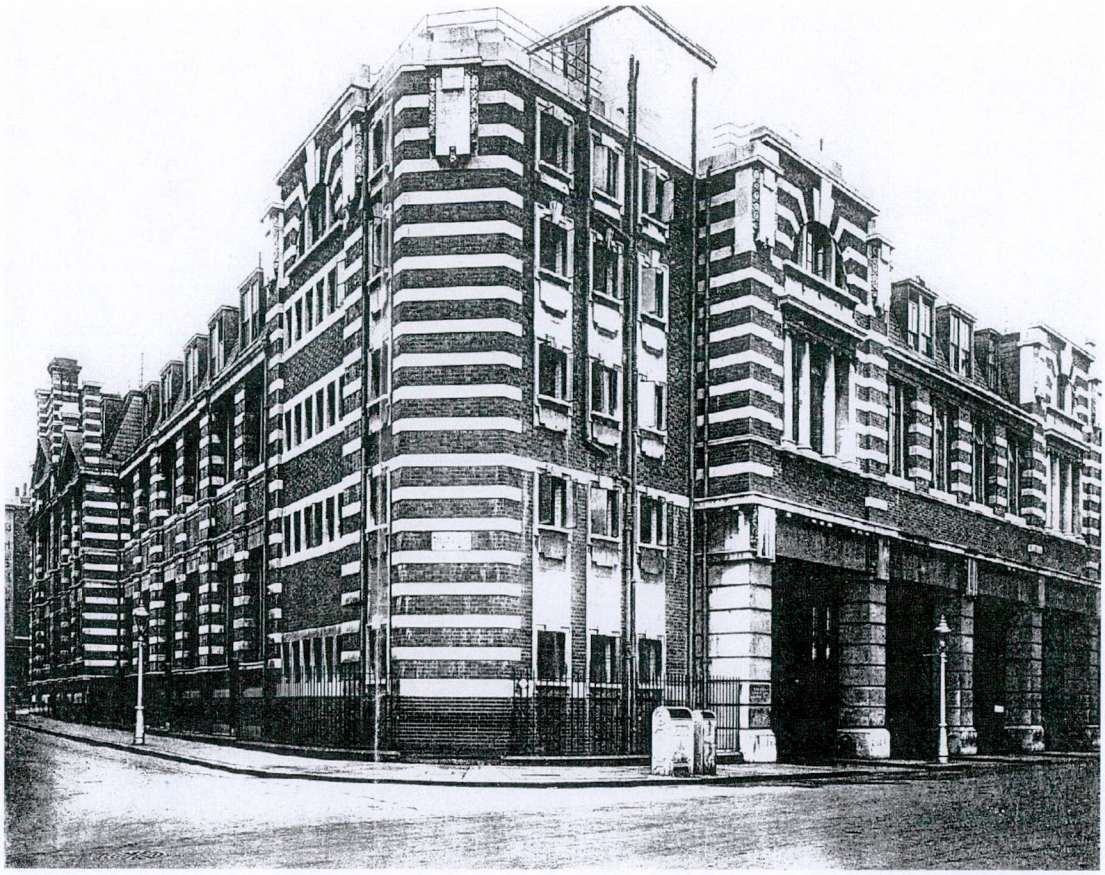
The second most important office sharing the central hub of the District sorting system with the EC Office in St Martin's le Grand.

Lantern at right side of door reads 'Western Central Office'.
Notice to left of door reads Post Office Telephone.

Seymour & Westley both list this office at High Holborn.

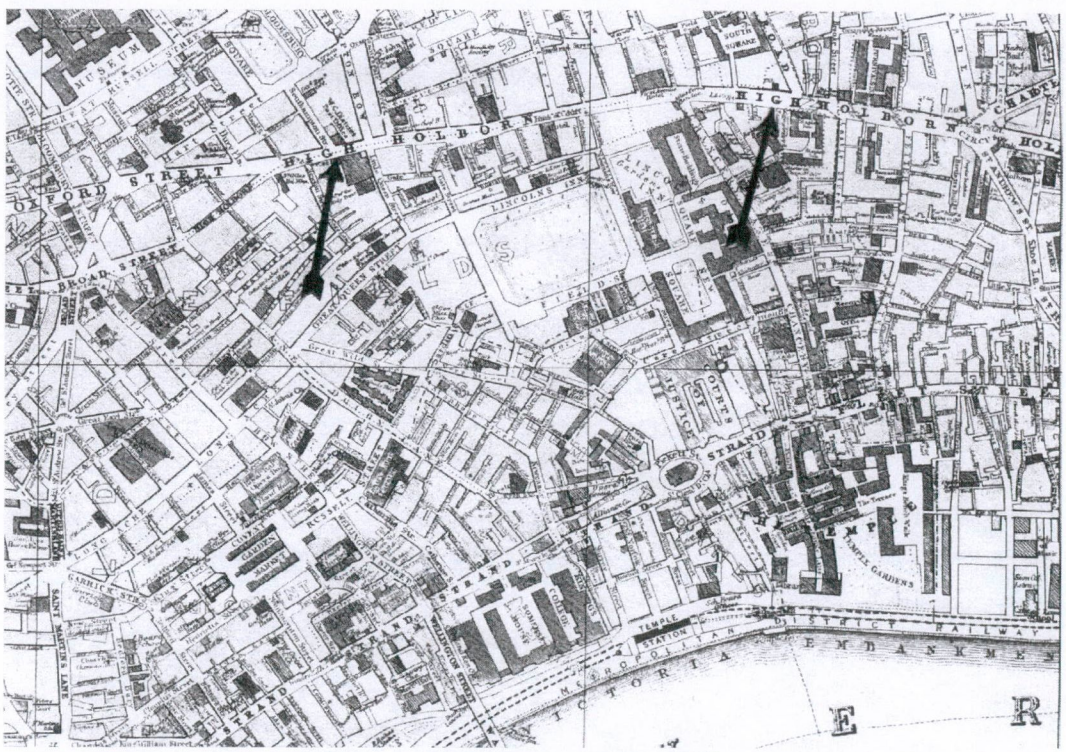
1860 Post Office Guide lists office at High Holborn (corner of Southampton Street).

1902 Postal Directory lists address at New Oxford Street.

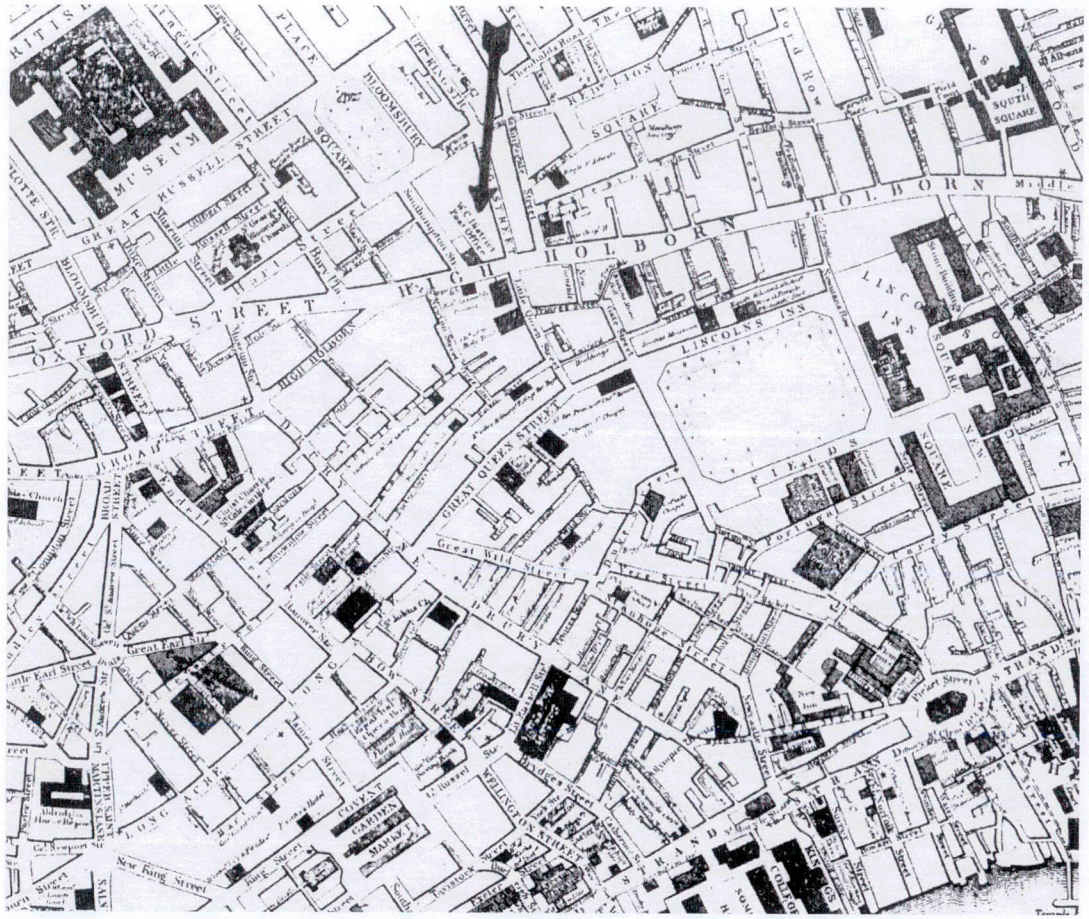


Courtesy PO Archives

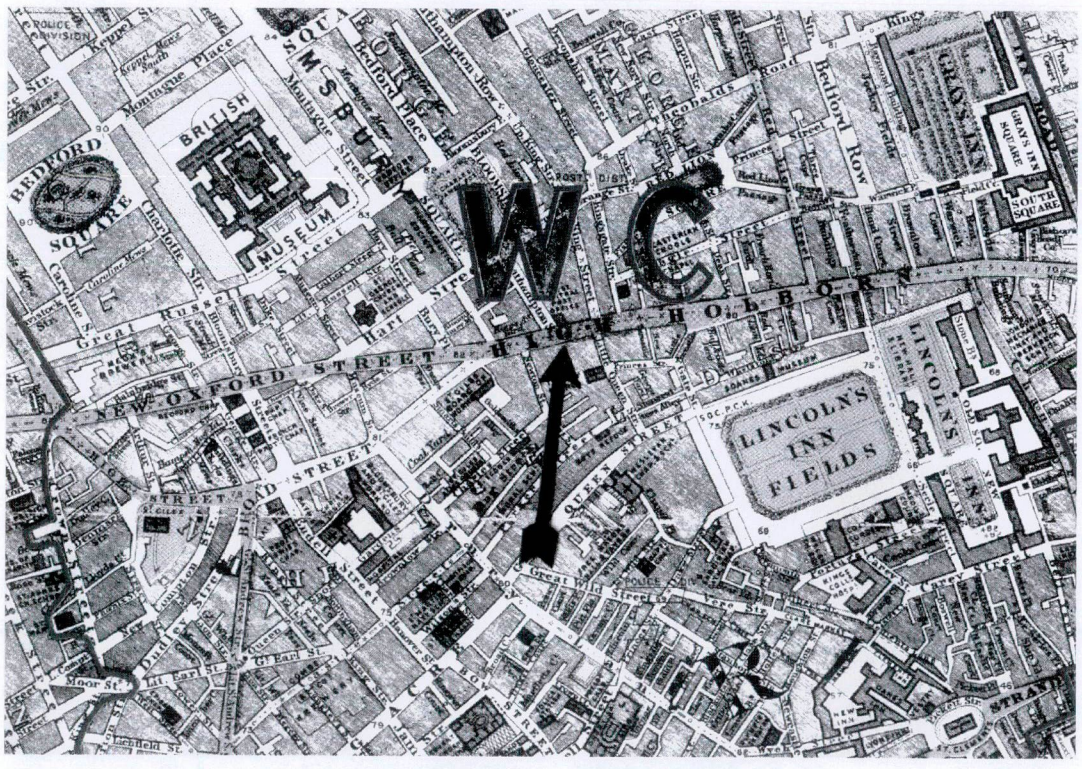
Side & rear view of West Central Office. Sign on wall indicates High Holborn to left of view and Museum Street to the right.



Bacon's nine inch Map of 1888 showing District Office location (arrow on left) and sub office to the west (arrow on right)



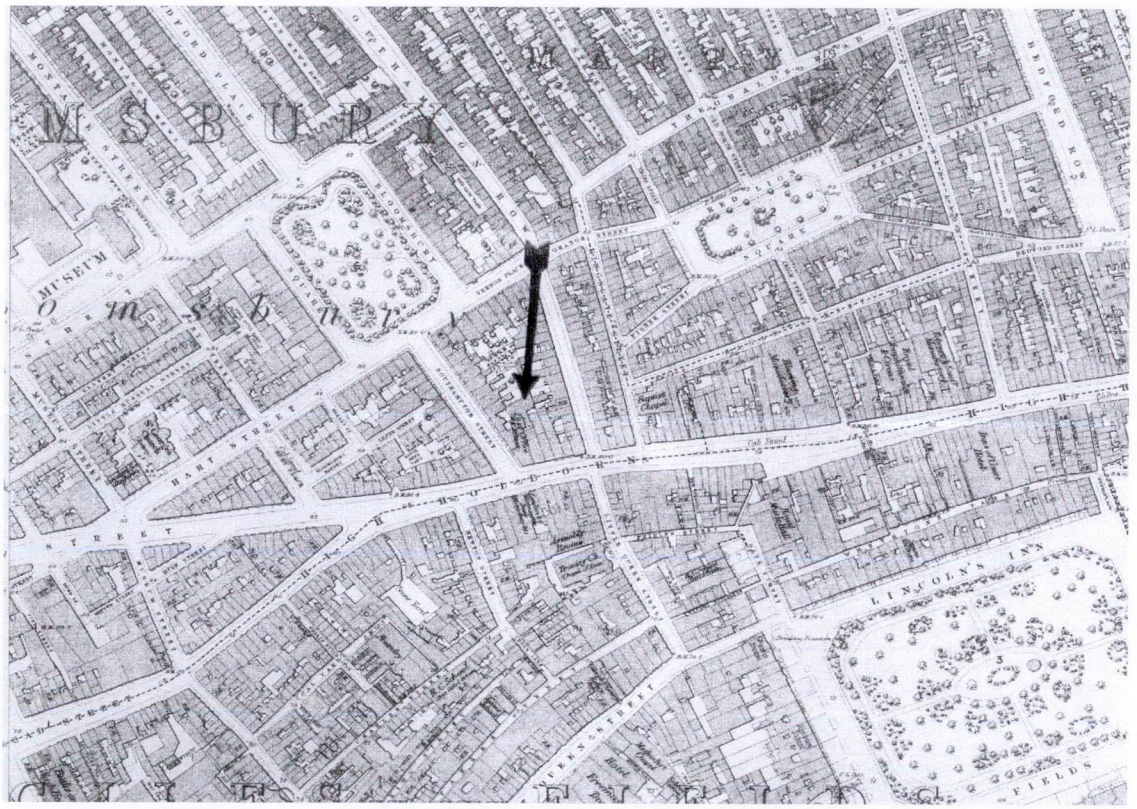
Weller's Map of 1858.



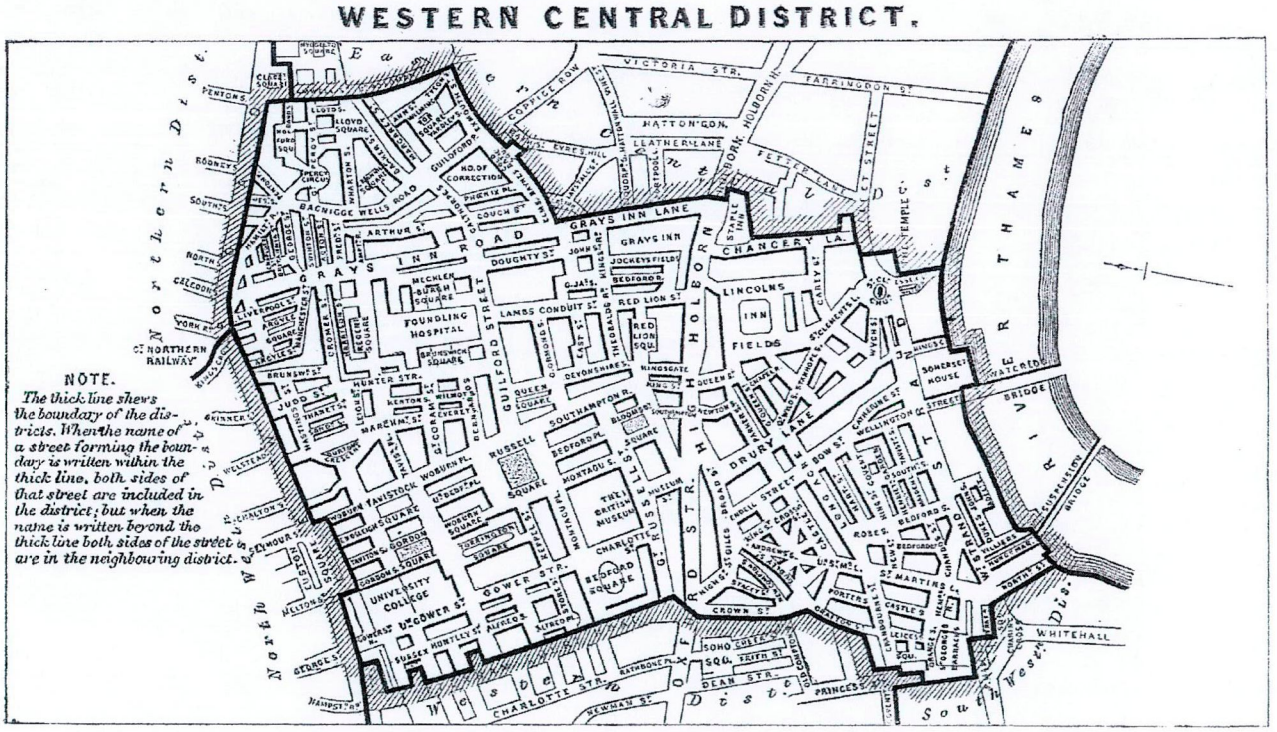
Stanford's Library Map of 1863.



Stanford's Map extract from "Charles Dickens's London Guide 1879".



Map of 1873 showing a larger premises fronting Southampton Street, with pedestrian entrance via High Holborn.



Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.

EASTERN CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

View of Smirke's original Building erected in 1829

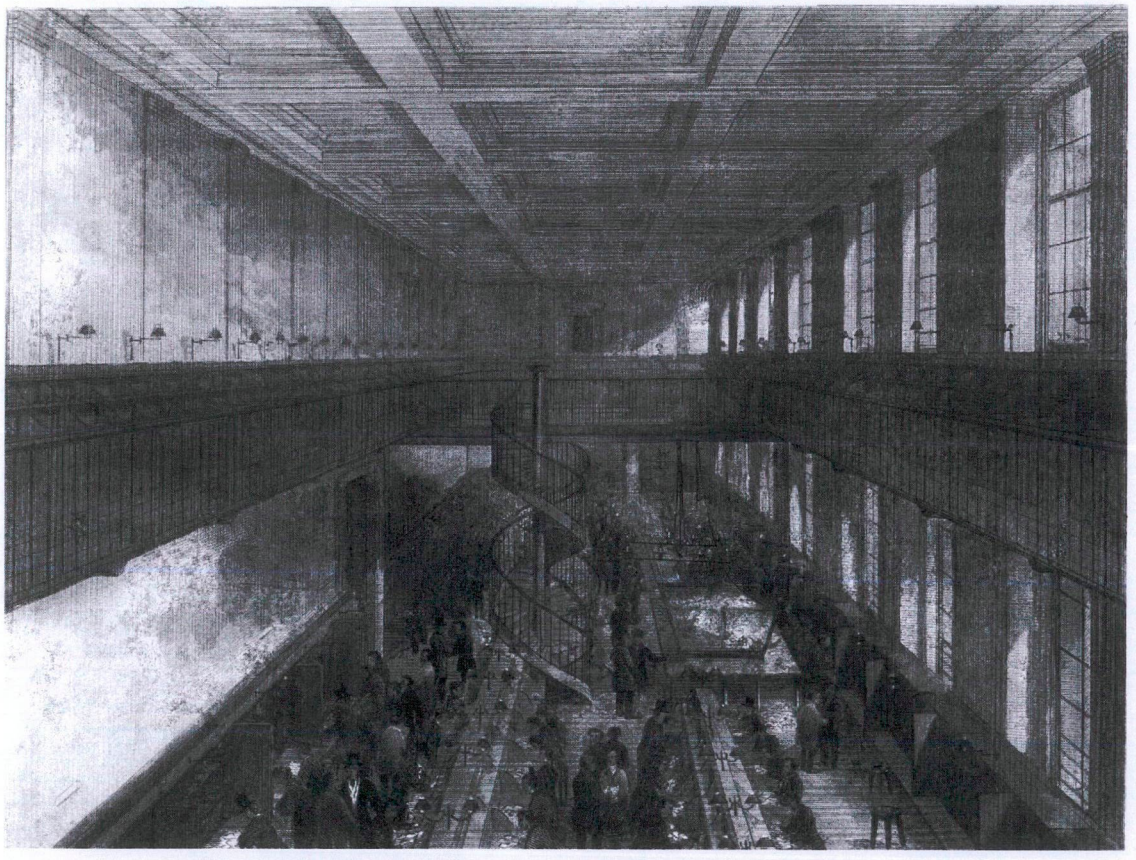
St. Martin's le Grand.

The Eastern Central District Office building was the former GPO headquarters, erected in 1829 in St Martin's le Grand. This office, with the Western Central office, became the central hub of operations for the new District Postal System.
Prior to the reforms of 1856, all mails travelling in and out of the city came via this building for sorting.

The original building was erected between 1823 – 29 on the eastern side of St Martins-le-Grand, to designs by a leading 19th century English architect, Sir Robert Smirke.
Many photographs exist of this fine structure, which was based on a Grecian style with ionic porticoes. The Inland sorting room was 400 feet long, 80 feet wide and 78 feet in height.

In the 1870s a new building was added on the western side of the street to house the Telegraph department and the General Post Office, so called 'North Building', was added immediately to the north of the Telegraph building. Bacon's Map extract for 1888 shows this quite clearly. During the 1890s the GPO continued to expand but Smirke's building was closed in 1910 and demolished soon afterwards.

The steel engravings on the next page show just how impressive the interior of the building was in its hey day.



Interior view of the Letter Carriers Room. Steel engraving by Gilbert Ellis.



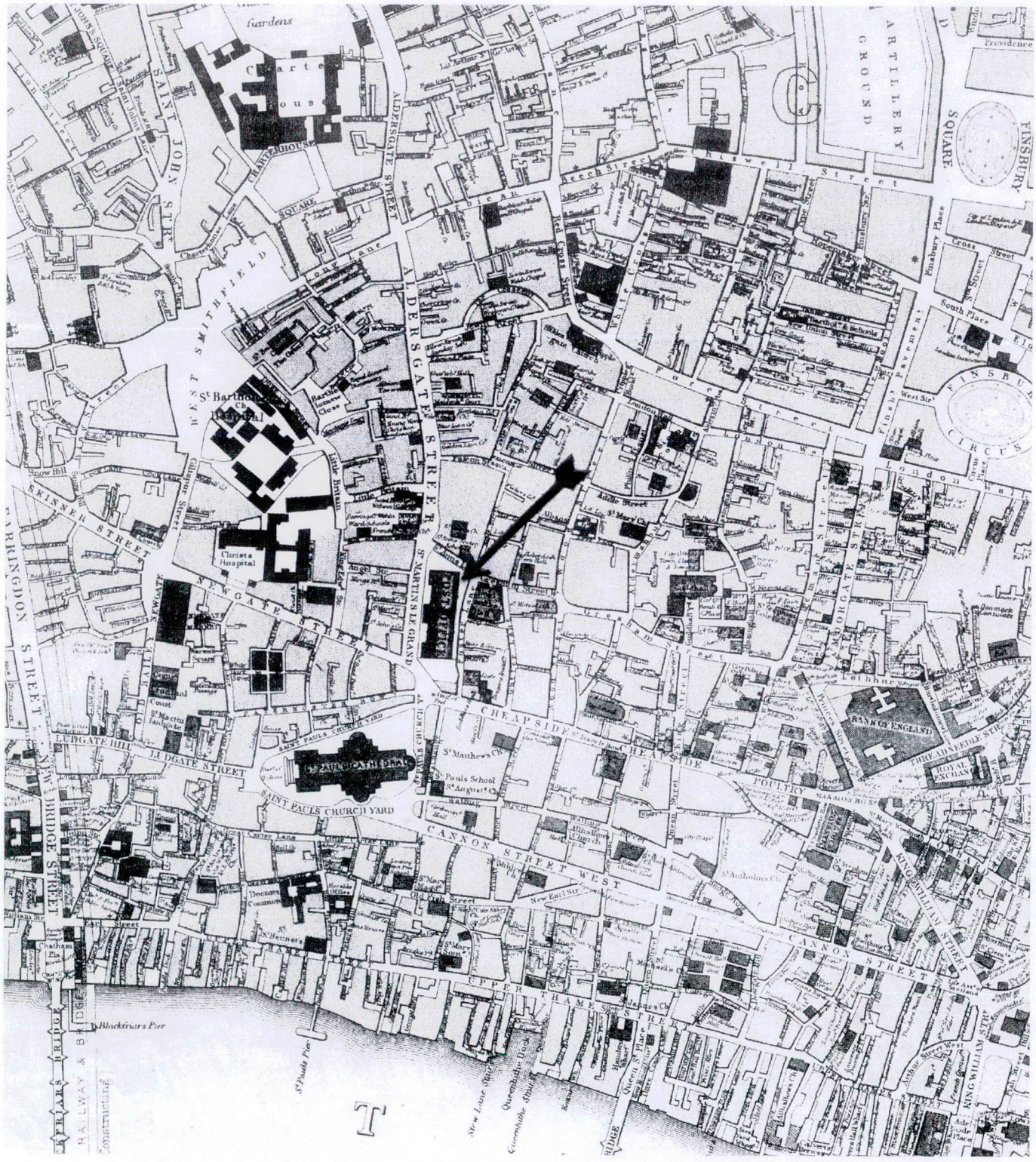
Interior view of the Inland Office. Steel engraving by Gilbert Ellis dated 1844.
Evidently the scene depicts an earlier date.



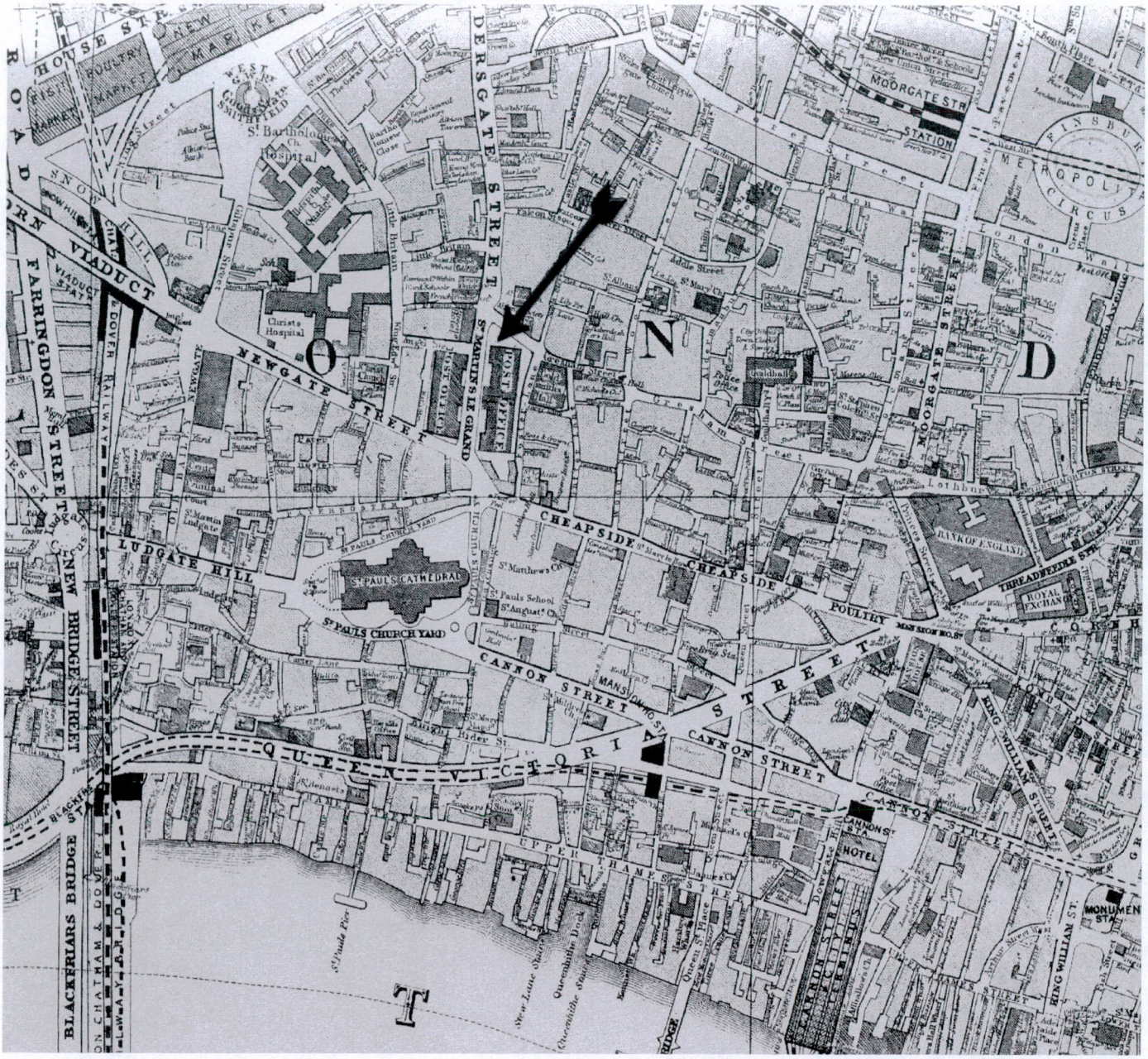
Left Aspect of original GPO East building c1900.



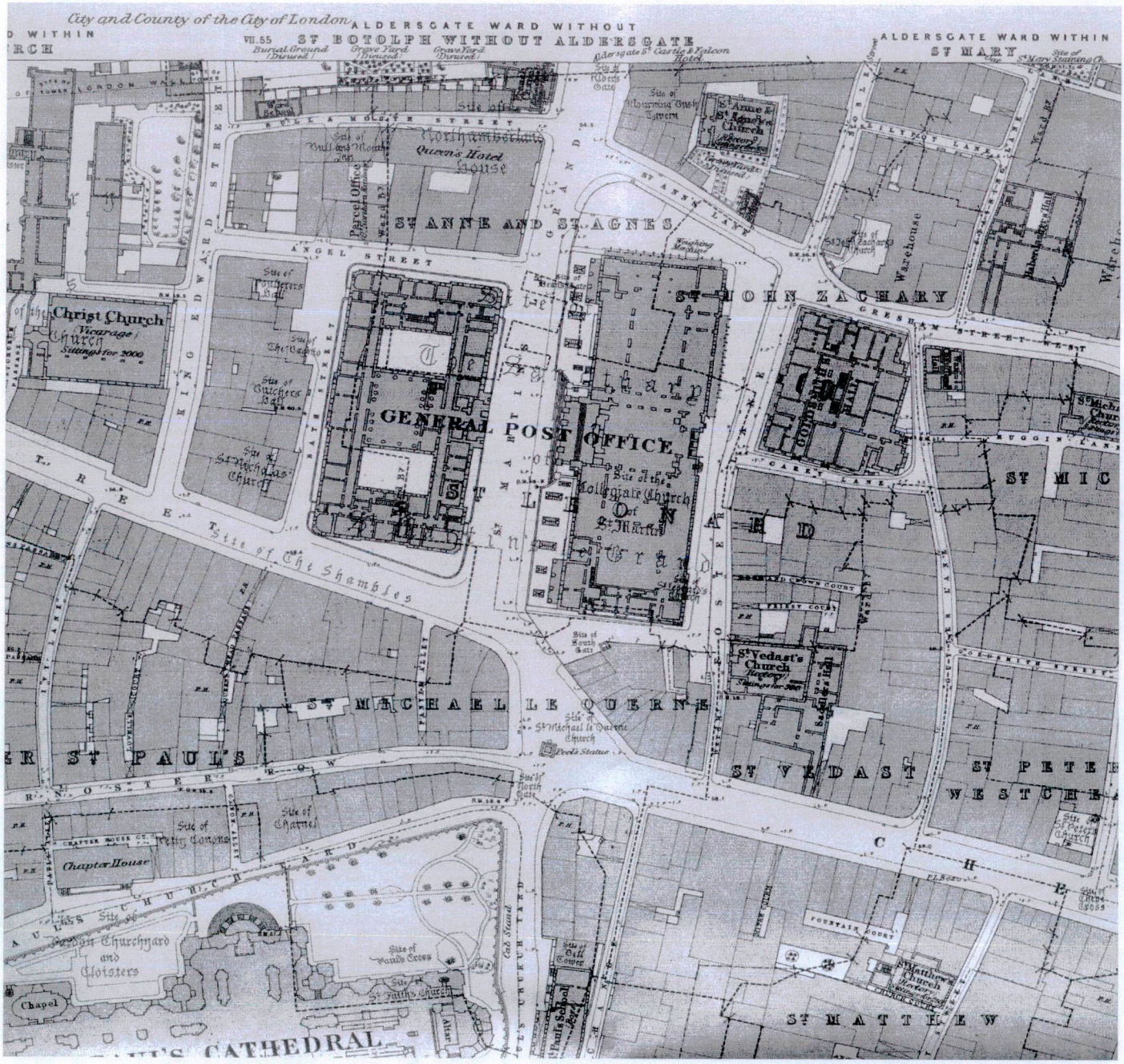
Right Aspect of original GPO East building c1900.



Weller's Map of 1858 showing Smirke's original Post Office building.



Bacon's nine inch Map of 1888 showing the streets demolished to make way for the growth and expansion of the new Post Office buildings around 1870.



OS Map of 1873 scale 1:1760 (one yard to one mile) showing detail of rooms within the GPO buildings of St Martin's le Grand.

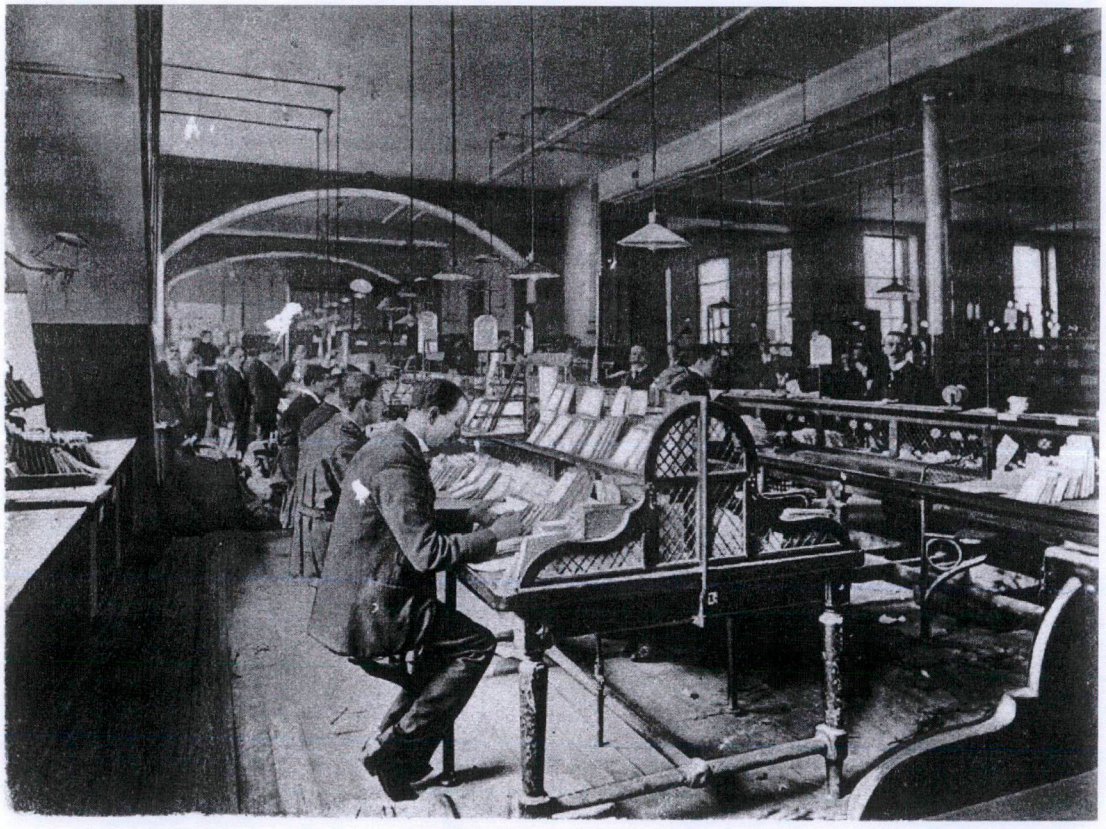


View showing the buildings demolished to make way for the North Building.
The Bull and Mouth Inn, located opposite the GPO - one of the city's
principal coaching inns - was a casualty of the modernisation in 1870.

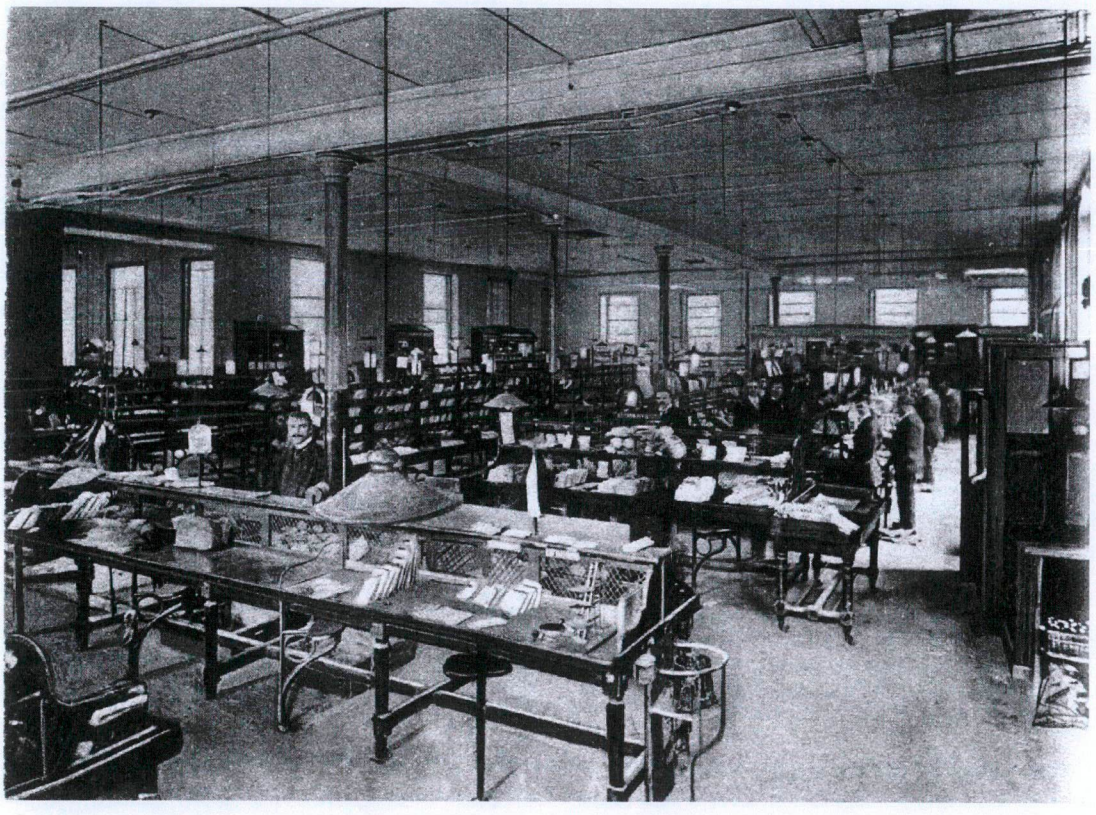


Courtesy PO Archives

View of the new Post Office & Telegraph Office Building in 1874
Located on the west side of St. Martin's le Grand before erection of the North Building.



Interior views of the GPO St Martin's le Grand Foreign Mail Sorting Room in 1903.





Elevated view of new and old GPO buildings St. Martin's le Grand 1905.

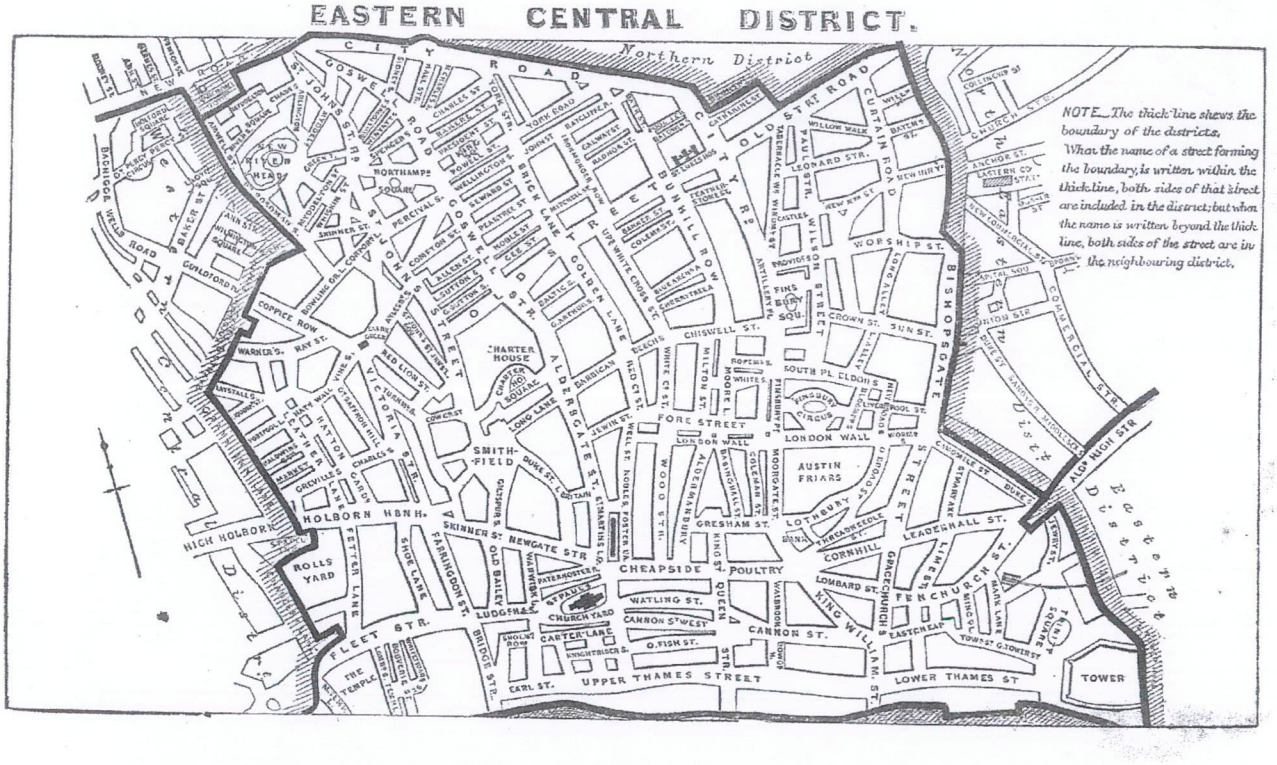




An interesting view showing every day street activity outside the Post Office
in St. Martin's le Grand. The newspaper boy on the left is carrying a banner which reads;
"Three destroyers sunk at Port Arthur" which accurately dates this photograph to 1904.
(Port Arthur, Manchuria, Russo-Japanese War).



Stanford's Map extract from "Charles Dickens's London Guide 1879".

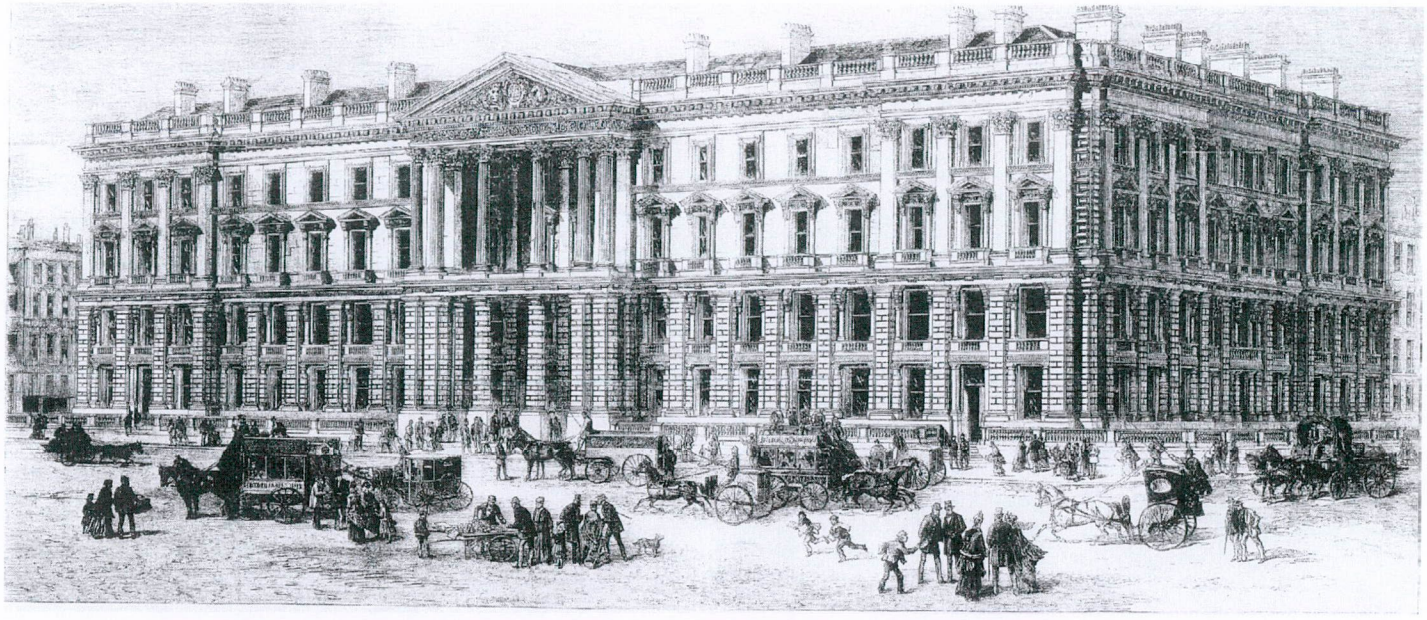


Map extract from "Post Office Principal Streets and Places in London and its Environs as divided into Postal Districts" by Edward Stanford for the Post Office April 1857.

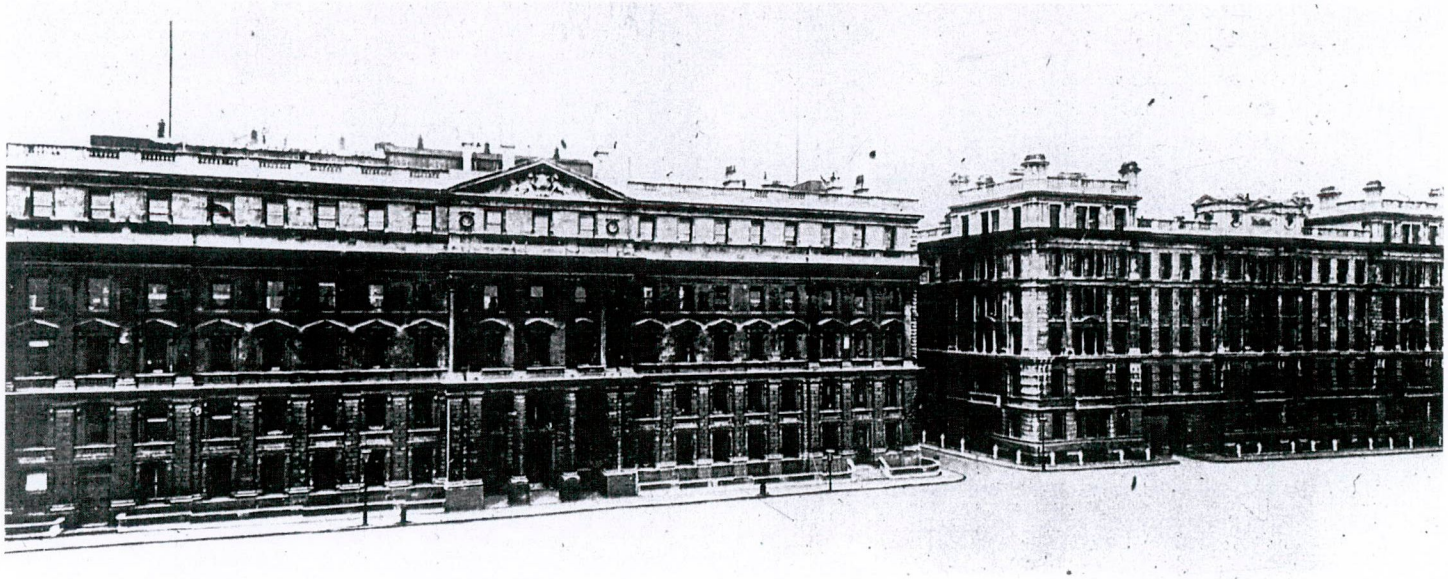


Courtesy PO Archives

Postmen preparing for sorting ECDO 1908.



'Proposed New Buildings of the General Post Office St. Martin's le Grand'
Illustrated London News April 9th 1870.



Courtesy PO Archives

GPO West & North buildings St Martins Le Grand, soon after completion.
The completed building was a close replication of the original 1870 proposal.

PADDINGTON DISTRICT OFFICE.



Courtesy PO Archives

London Street Paddington. c1890.

The Postal District reforms of 1856 did not consider an office in Paddington necessary. There had been an office in Spring Street (see Weller's map extract on page 70) prior to this date but it was not until 1879 further changes were implemented to include the provision for an additional Western District Office to help the already over burdened Office at Vere Street. This was due to the massive expansion in business and commerce in the West of the city.
It became essential to extend the district system. A natural geographical choice was to use the existing facilities at the neighbouring Paddington office in Spring Street. Around the same time, in 1879, new sub Districts were formed. In addition to Paddington, offices at Ealing, Norwood, Putney and Wimbledon were added to the postal area system. However, Ealing was comparatively short lived and was abolished 17 years later in further refinements to the system and absorbed into the Paddington operations.
Wimbledon and Putney had very much shorter lives than Ealing, they lasted only two years!

However, it was not until 1895 Paddington acquired full District Office status.

A Post Office Circular of 5th November 1895 announced a significant change in Circulation arrangements affecting West London;

"Commencing with the Night Mail Despatches of the 13th November ~ towns which sort correspondence for the London Districts will be required to make up a bag or bundle, as the case may be, for the

PADDINGTON DISTRICT OFFICE

to contain correspondence for Paddington Town District, and for the Sub-Districts of ;

Acton,	Hammersmith	Maida Hill	Shepherds Bush
Ealing	Hanwell	North Kensington	West Kensington
Ealing Dean	Kensington	Notting Hill	

hitherto forwarded to the W.D.O., and for the Sub-District of Chiswick, hitherto forwarded to the G.P.O.

The present bag or bundle for the Western District Office must be continued, but it must contain correspondence for the Western Town District only.....
Commencing with the Day Despatches of 14th November, the direct despatch of Great Western Railway correspondence now made from W.D.O. (Vere Street) will be transferred to the Paddington District Office.

Towns served by the Great Western Railway will consequently from that date receive correspondence from the Paddington District Office instead of from the Western District Office (Vere Street)."

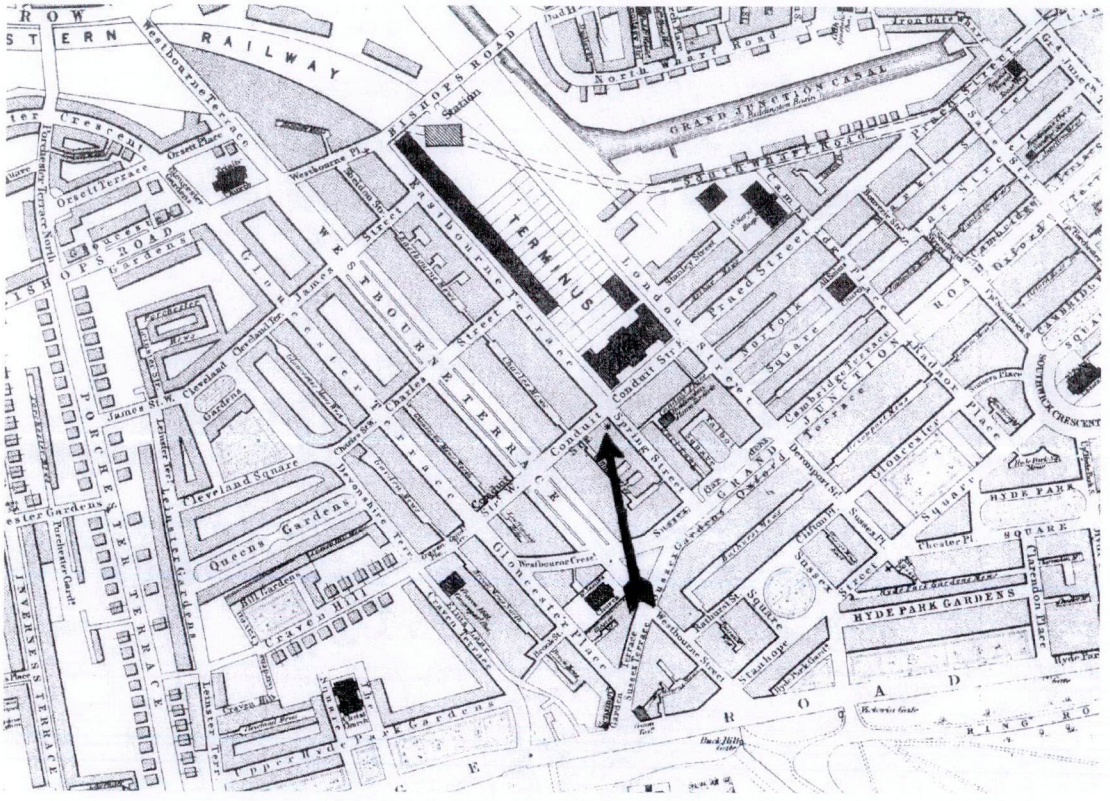
Part of the expansion plans involved the erection of a new building in London Street adjacent to the station terminus (see page 71).This office employed 50 sorting staff transferred from Vere Street Western District Office to cater for the increased volume of mail arriving from the West Country at the Great Western Railway station.

A tunnel was constructed between London Street and the station building to increase the efficiency of handling mail bags making Paddington a king pin to the district operations, the whole DO employing over 400 staff.

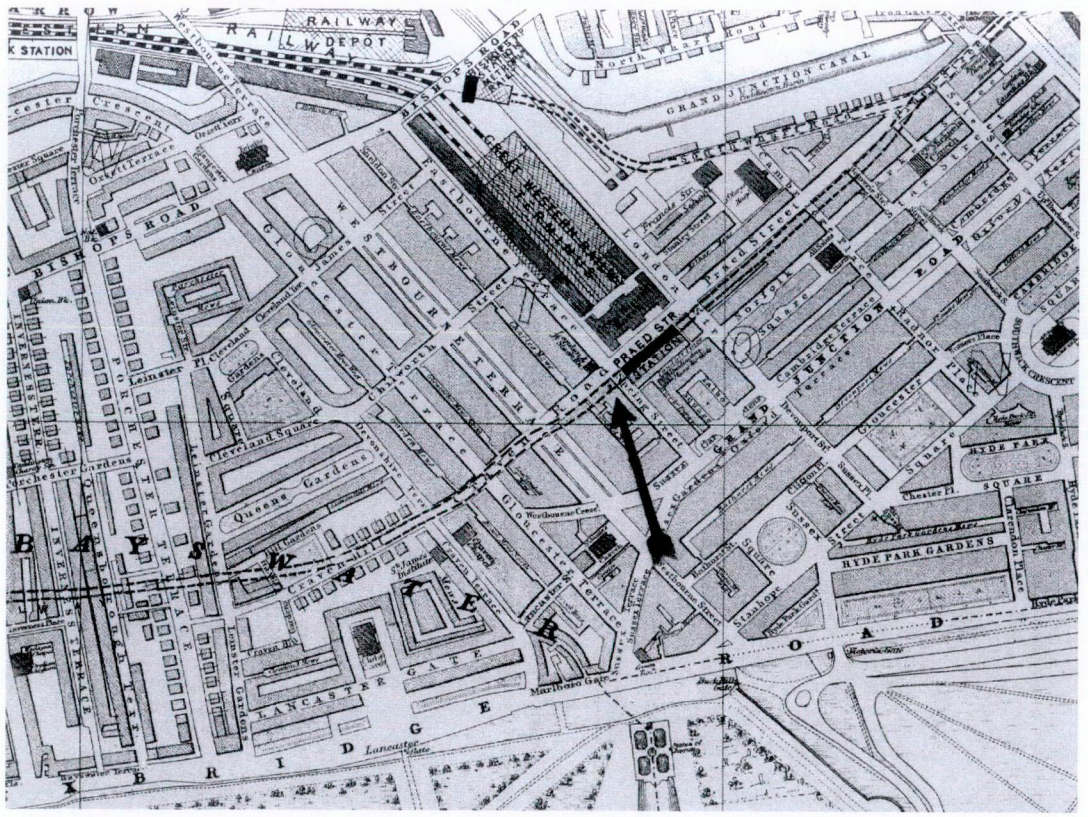
In 1890 a great deal of property was demolished in Francis Street and Stanley Street to allow construction of the purpose built office and premises for the new DO in London Street. (See map on page 71). The new office was completed by the end of 1892.

The old sorting office in Spring Street was vacated in 1892 and the premises used to house the Branch Office counter which had previously occupied 19 London Street.

The 1902 Post Office Directory lists Spring Street as Paddington Branch Office and no longer as a District Office.



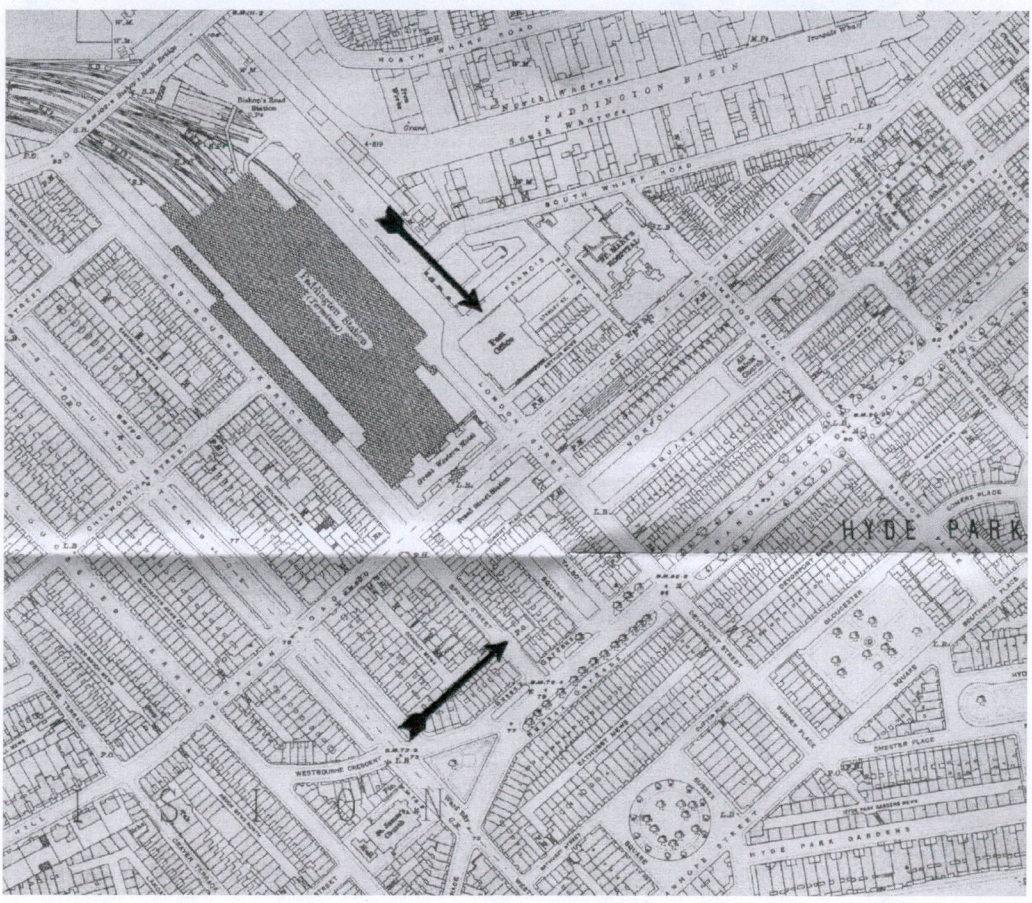
Weller's Map of 1858 showing office in Spring Street.



Bacon's Map of 1888 showing office in same location and growth of the railway with addition of Praed Street Station. This map is just too early to show the location of London Street office.



Paddington London Street District Office c1908. W Bauschke photographic collection.



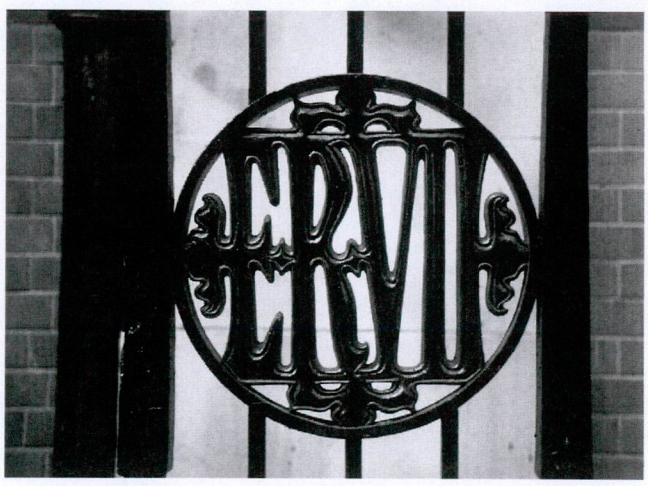
OS Map of 1914 showing location of the new London Street and former Spring Street premises.



Paddington District Office London Street. Photograph taken by Werner Bauschke in 1986.
It is interesting to note the building has remained virtually unchanged in almost 100 years.



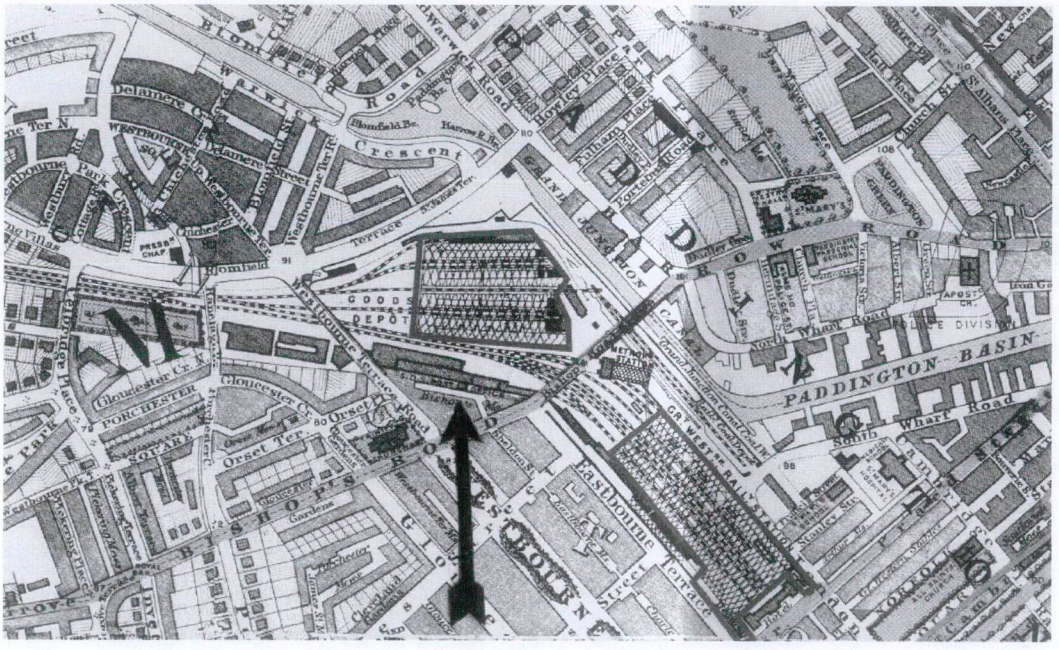
Entrance to Paddington District Office London Street.



ER VII cypher on steel entrance gate.
Photographs taken by Werner Bauschke in 1986.



Paddington Spring Street District Office, after closure in the early 1980's.
Photograph taken by Werner Bauschke in 1985.
An earlier photograph for comparison has not been found.



Stanford's Library Map of 1863 showing 'SDS' Post Office
Located between Bishop's Road and Westbourne Terrace Road.
The significance of SDS Post Office is not certain but included here as it presumably would have some relevance to the District system.

WANDSWORTH DISTRICT OFFICE.



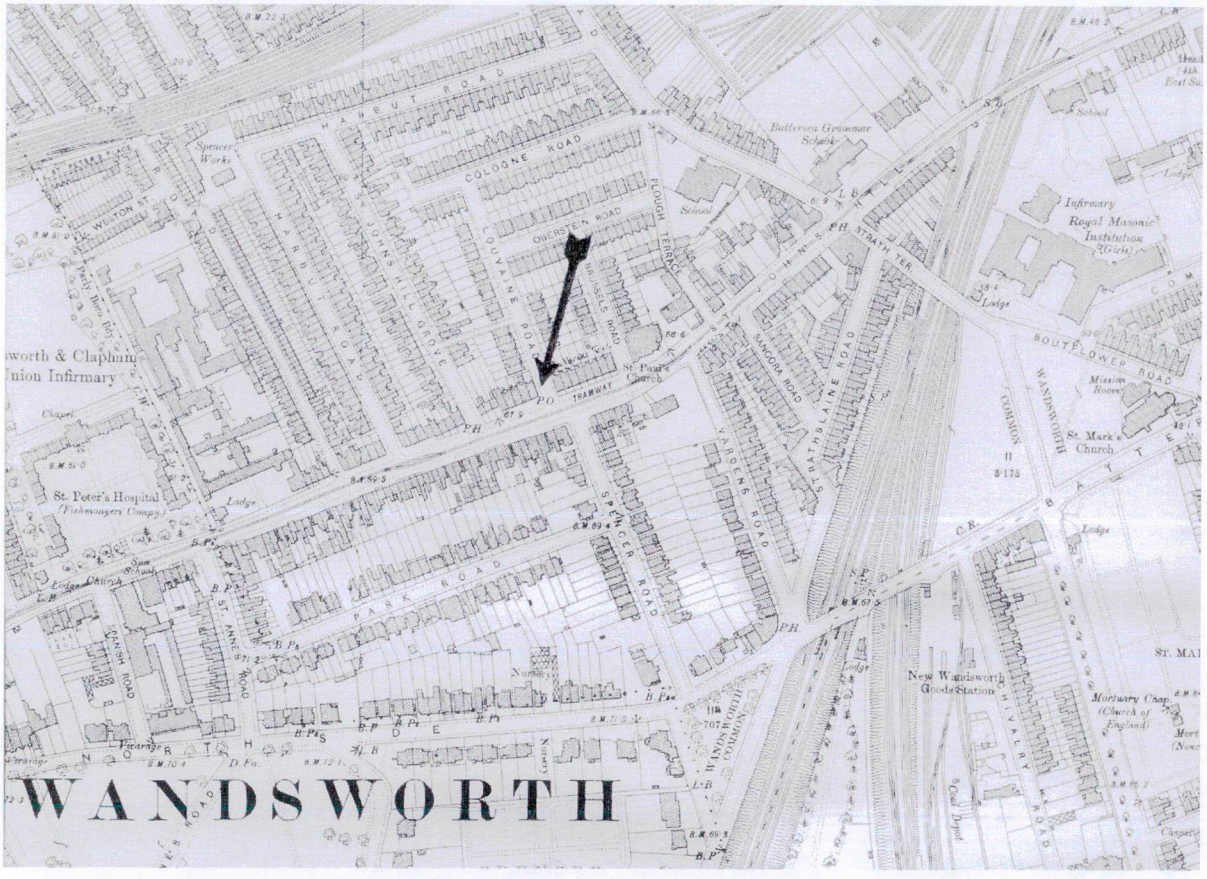
Courtesy PO Archives

Wandsworth Office. (Later re-named Battersea). Wandsworth Road.

In 1881 Wandsworth District Office was created and Putney and Wimbledon Sub Districts were abolished and their areas included in the newly formed Wandsworth District. In November 1897 the Wandsworth District was re-named Battersea but continued to occupy the same premises. Photograph below dated 1941 showing bomb damage.



Courtesy PO Archives



Location of Post Office between East Hill & St. John's Hill OS Map of 1894-96
Scale 15 inches to 1 mile.



Stanford's Library Map of 1863 showing 'SDS' Post Office on the other side of the Wandsworth Road, before the urban expansion which can be seen on the OS map above. The significance of SDS Post Office is not certain but included here as it presumably would have some relevance to the District system.

MOUNT PLEASANT SORTING OFFICE - WEST CENTRAL.



Courtesy PO Archives

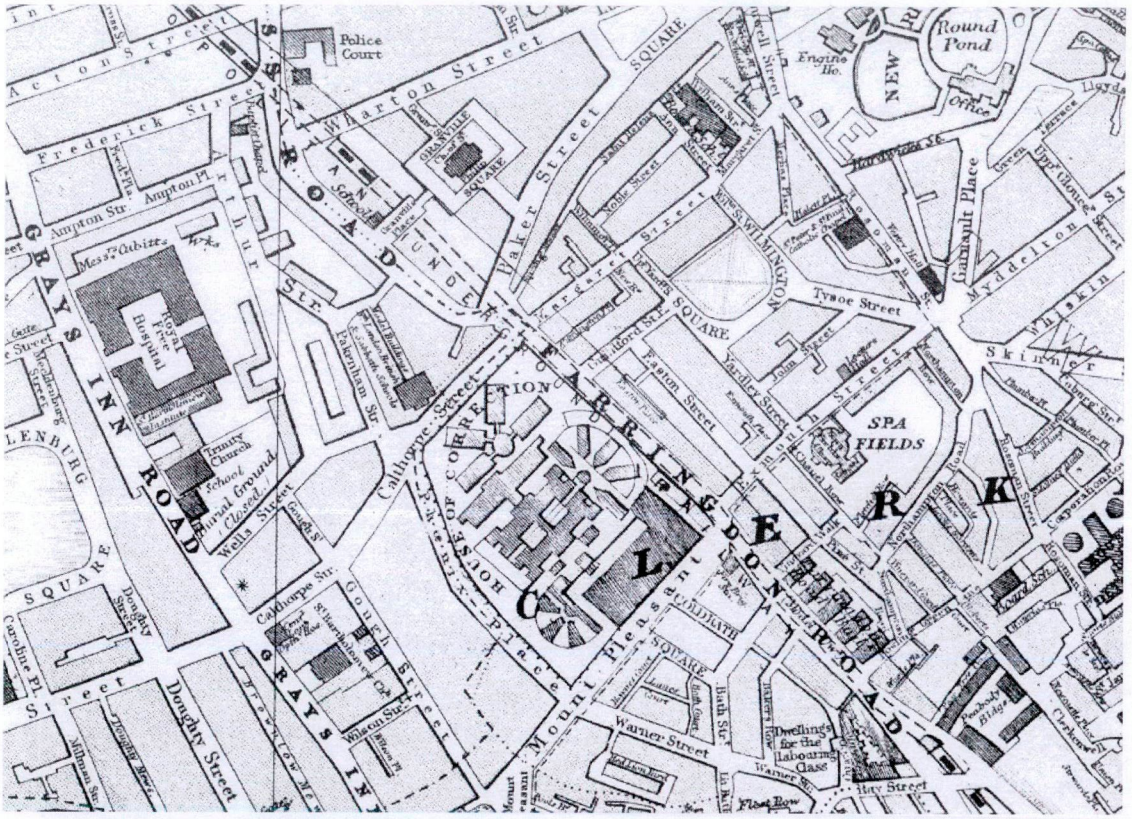
Mount Pleasant Sorting Office c1910.

Although not strictly a District Office, the activities at Mount Pleasant were relevant to the District system and the Office contributed greatly as the system developed towards the end of the 1880's hence it is included in this work.

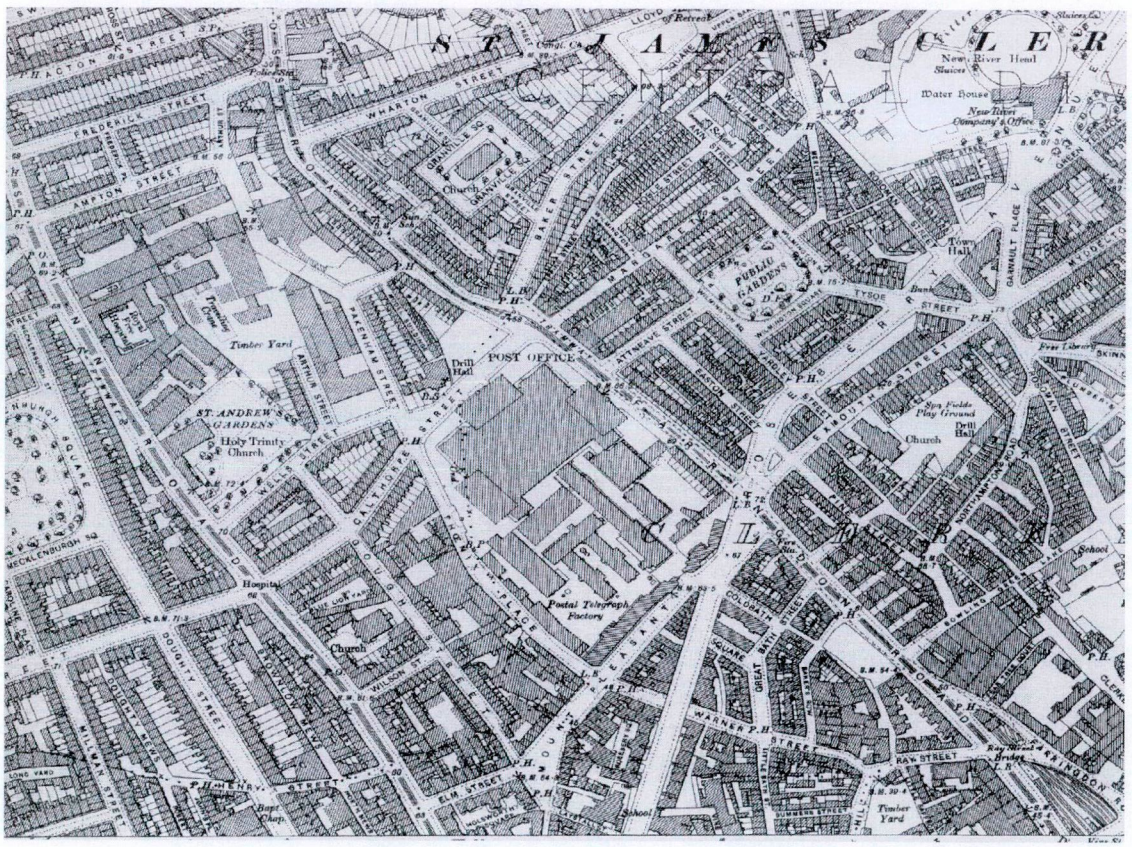
The land chosen for the Mount Pleasant premises was originally fields overlooking the River Fleet in Clerkenwell, which was a fashionable place of residence in the 17th century. A cold spring emanating from this site earned it a reputation as a spa resort by providing healing powers to the bathers who frequented the area, which was known as Cold Bath Fields. In the Eighteenth Century it became run down and was used as a dumping ground for waste, thereafter derisively nicknamed 'Mount Pleasant', which has survived to this day. The site was redeveloped in 1790 and a prison constructed which opened for use four years later and remained in use until 1885.

In 1887 the Post Office took over parts of the old prison for the purpose of parcel sorting:
It was intended only as a temporary measure. However, the site was ideally located to serve the three Railway Stations of King's Cross, St. Pancras and Euston, all on the north side of the city. The Post Office took over the premises fully in 1889 and, in the following year, the first Post Office building was erected expressly for the handling of the parcel post and for housing the postal stores.
An extension was built in 1900 to allow the transfer of the London Letter Post Office from St Martin le Grand. Around 1929 most of the original buildings were demolished to allow further extensions to the letter office.

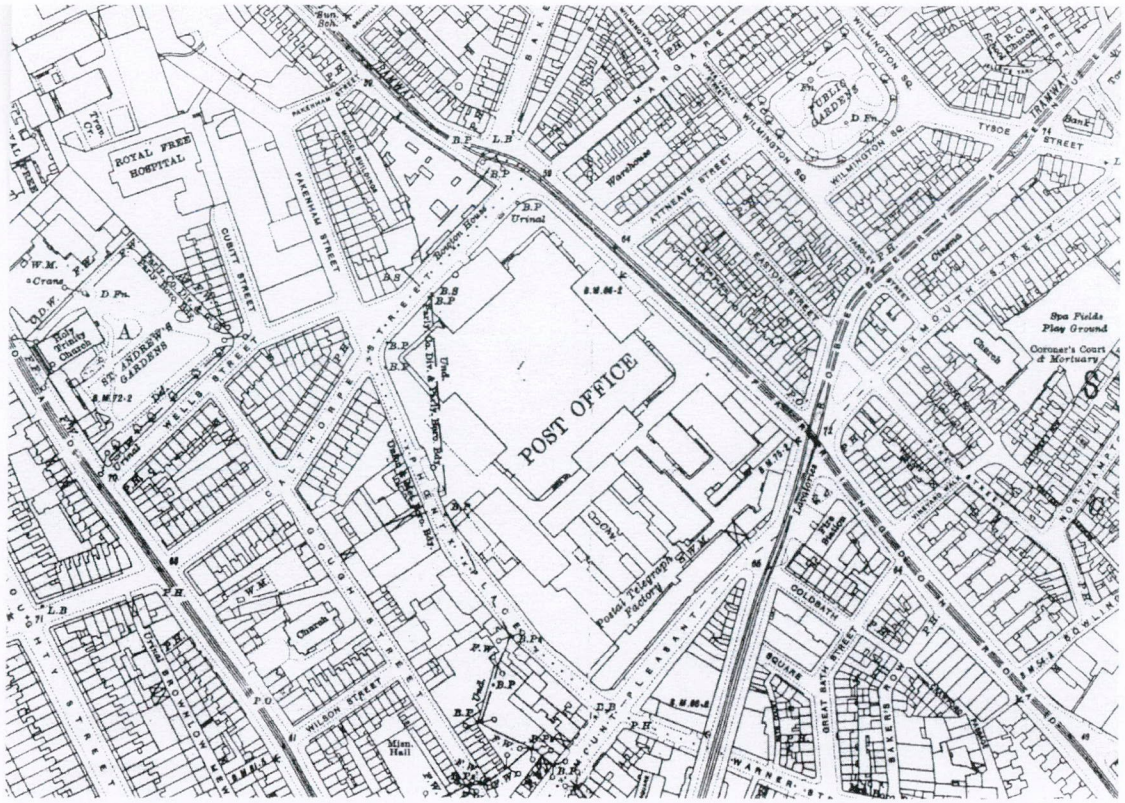
The sign behind the lamp post in the photo reads 'To the Returned Letter Office'.



Bacon's 9 inch Map of 1888 showing the premises as a House of Correction.



OS Map of 1894 Clerkenwell showing conversion of site entirely to Postal use, and The Postal Telegraph Factory fronting Mount Pleasant.

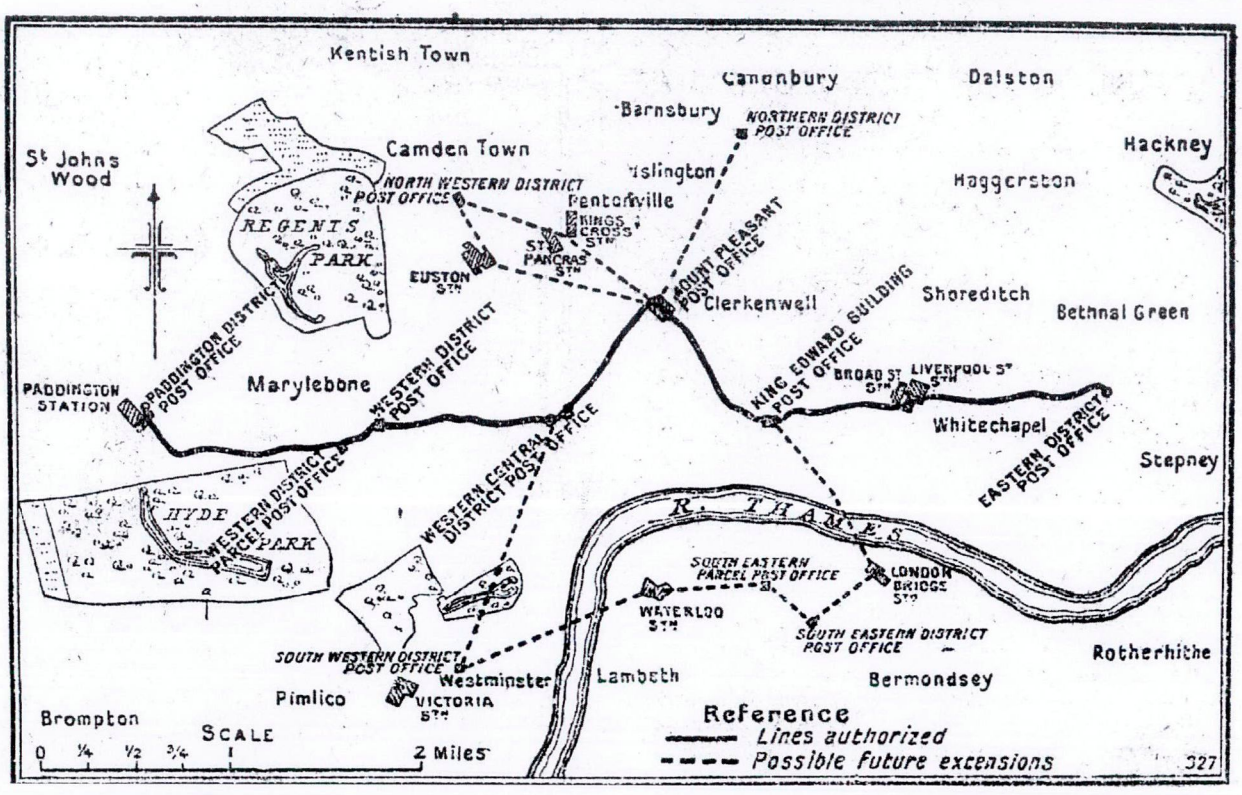


OS Map of Clerkenwell 1914 showing additional buildings fronting Phoenix Place.



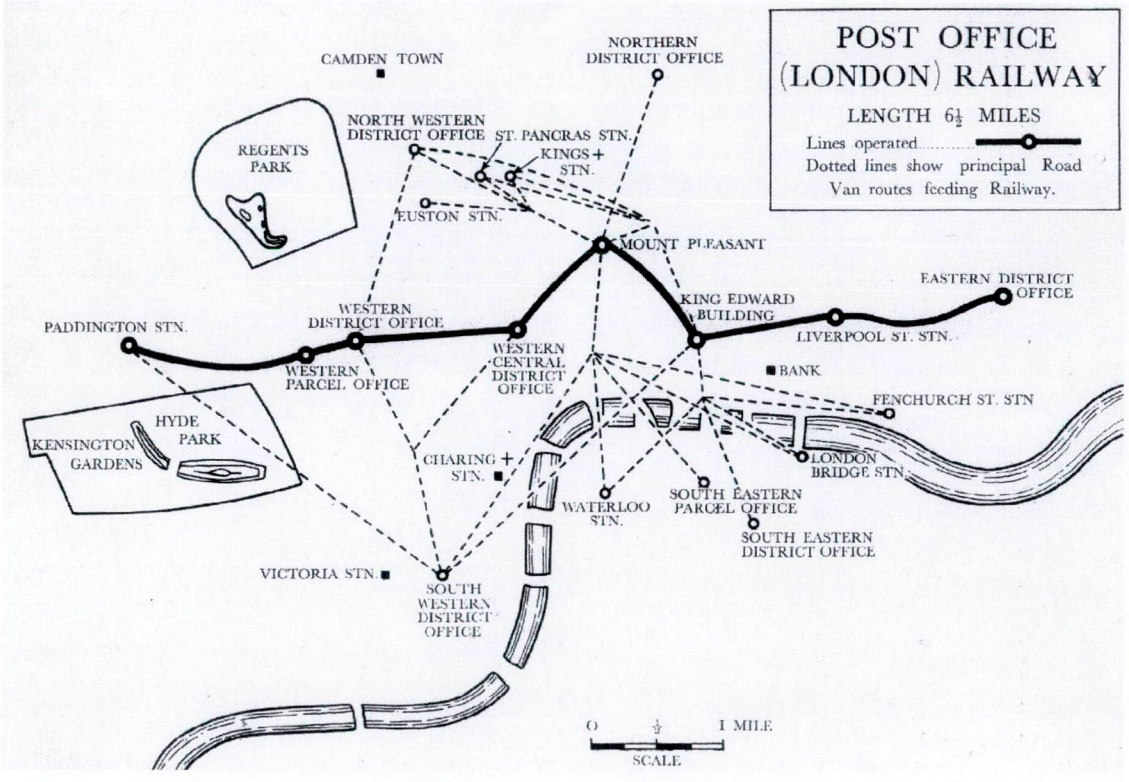
Sorting the morning mail at Mount Pleasant c 1903.

ROUTE OF THE POST OFFICE TUBE.

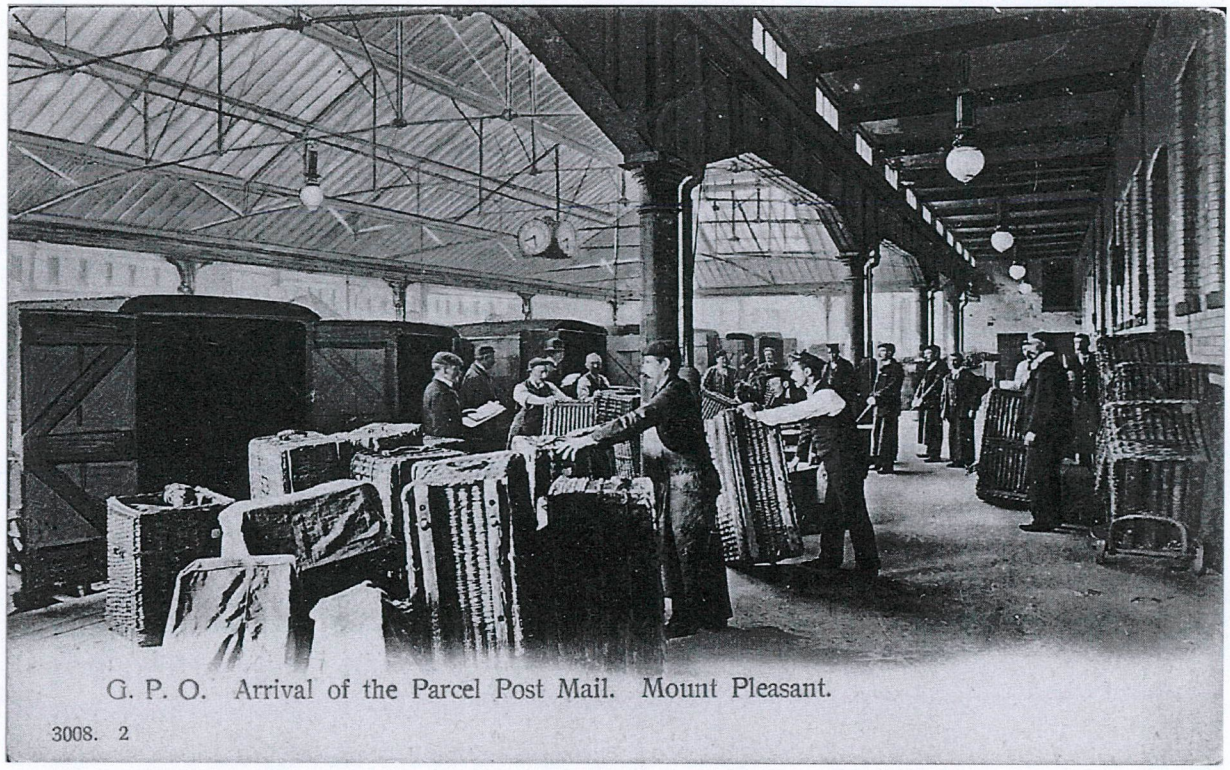


Courtesy PO Archives c1890

The central location of Mount Pleasant in relation to the London District Postal system was a crucial factor in the development of the underground postal railway. This gave rapid expansion to the sorting of mail. Comparisons of the maps show the intended expansion of 1890 and the zenith of the network around 1927.



Courtesy PO Archives



Old and new views of Farringdon Road entrance.



W. Bauschke 1985



Courtesy PO Archives

Arrival of the 4.45 a.m. Brighton Mail at Farringdon Street Entrance.



Courtesy PO Archives

Departure of the 5 a.m. Brighton Mail from Farringdon Street Entrance.





Two views of 114 Farringdon Road, last part of the old Post Office
Photographs by Werner Bauschke 1985.

THE KING EDWARD BUILDING.



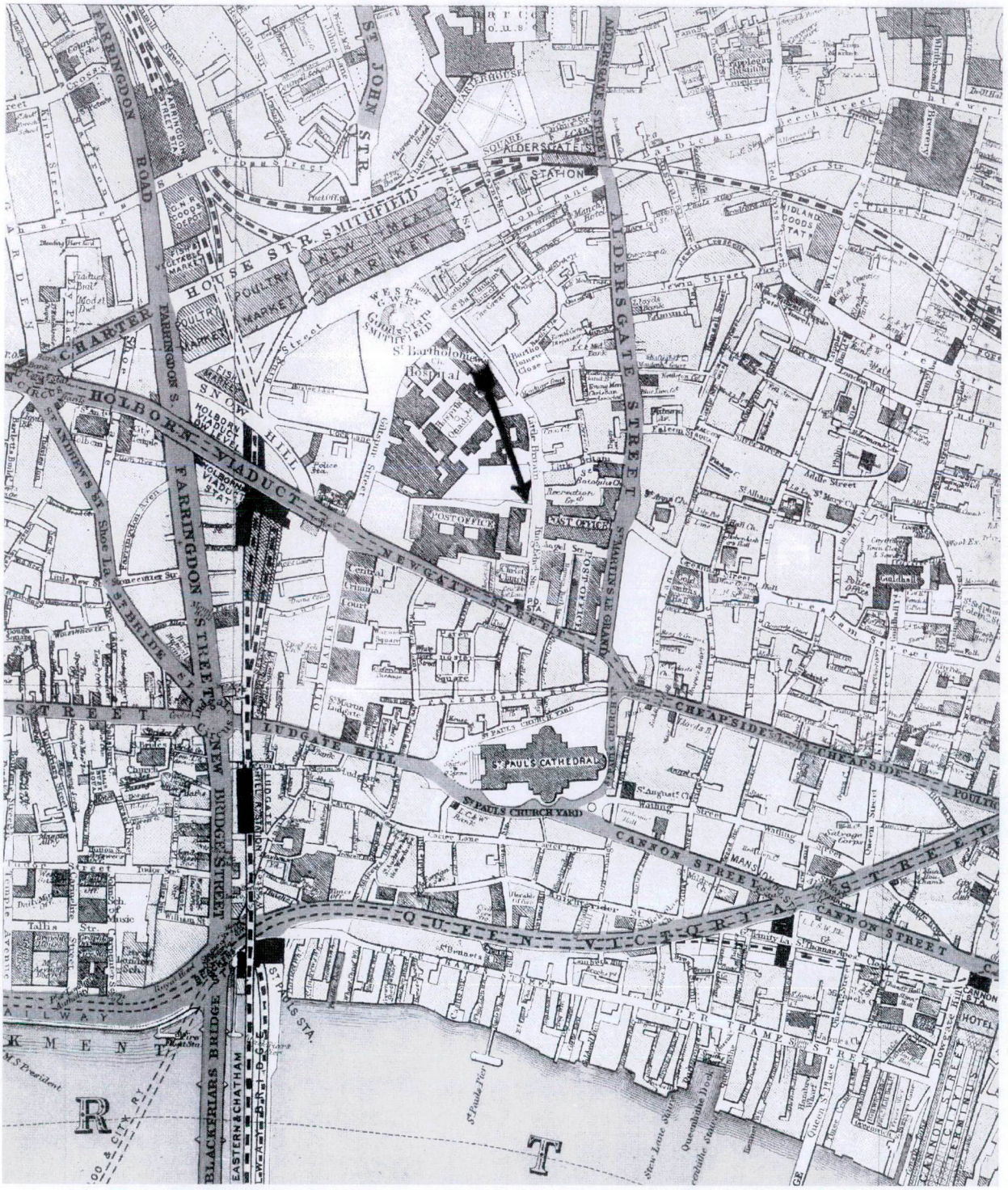
The King Edward Building was opened on 7th November 1910 and fronted Newgate Street on the South side and King Edward Street on the East side. The foundation stone was laid by King Edward VII on October 16th 1905 but he had died by the time of its completion.
The building was designed in the English Renaissance style by the Office of Works principal architect, Sir Henry Tanner and was the first building in London to be constructed from steel reinforced Portland concrete. The New General Post Office as it became known replaced the buildings in St Martin's le Grand which were demolished soon afterwards.





The interior of the building was finished in light Italian marble, the dado and door surrounds decorated with green Irish marble with fixtures and fittings in bronze, with magnificent square marble pillars and panels. The photograph above is from the Valentine postcard series and shows part of the public main hall before final installation of the light fittings.





Extract from Bacon's large scale map of London c1910. This map clearly shows both the New General Post Office King Edward Building in Newgate Street running through to King Edward Street, and the buildings in St Martin's Le Grand.

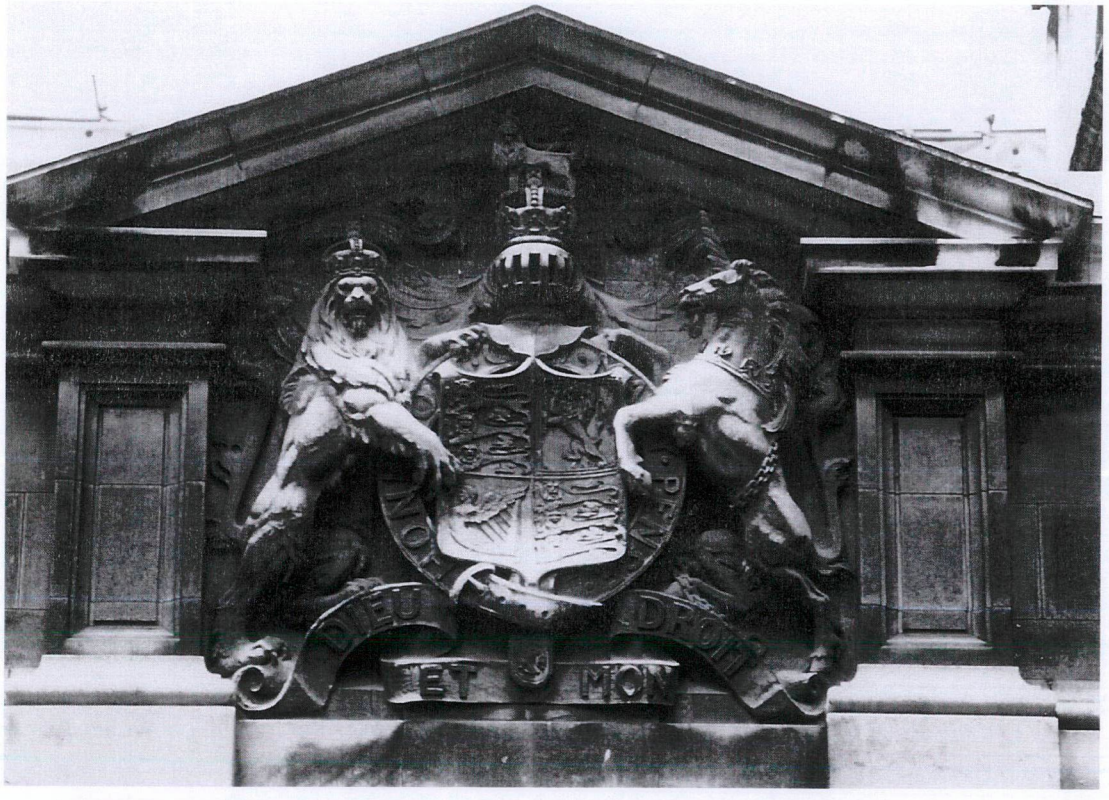
Smirke's building must have been demolished soon after this map was printed.
Also the ground has been cleared on the Eastern side of St Martin's Le Grand.
It is interesting to see that the bus and tram routes have been added to the map showing the extent of expansion in the city in the early part of the 20th century.



Interior view of public hall in all its splendour showing cashier's positions.



King Edward Building front façade from King Edward Street.



Close up view (above) of the Coat of Arms above archway entrance and
(below) Royal Crest over right hand doorway.
Photographs Werner Bauschke 1986.





View of the King Edward Building from King Edward Street,
Photograph Werner Bauschke 1986.
The building has changed very little in 75 years.

DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATIONS OF 1902.

Towards the end of the Nineteenth Century, the London District Postal System again suffered problems of congestion. It was after all the largest City in the World at that time.

In the early Edwardian period some changes started to be implemented within the District system. By 1902 additional offices were opened within each District bringing the total number of offices to 29. In addition to these offices many railway stations had small offices and collection boxes. The entire list is detailed in the Postal Directory of that year;

POSTING IN LONDON FOR THE NIGHT MAILS.—SUNDAYS.

The usual Night Mails are despatched from London on Sundays. There is no general collection of correspondence for these Mails, but letters, postcards, and newspapers—not circulars—bearing, in addition to the postage, an extra fee of ½d. for Inland Letters, &c., and of 1d. for Continental Letters, &c., and posted in the special boxes provided for the purpose at the Post Offices and Railway Stations named below, are forwarded to destination by the Mail Trains leaving London on Sunday evening.

District	Post Offices.	Special Boxes open	
		On Saturdays between	On Sundays between
		P.M. P.M.	A.M. P.M.
E.C.	General Post Office (St. Martin's-le-Grand)	10 30 and 12 0 (midt.)	Midt. Sat. and 6 0
W.C.	General Post Office (Mount Pleasant)	10 45 and 12 0 (midt.)	Midt. Sat. and 6 0
	Western Central District Office (New Oxford Street)	10 30 and 11 0	8 0 and 6 0
	West Strand Telegraph Office (opposite Charing Cross Station)	9 0 and 12 0 (midt.)	Midt. Sat. and 6 0
W.	Western District Office (3, Vere Street)	10 30 and 11 0	8 0 and 6 0
	Paddington, Spring Street, Branch Office	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 6 0
	Hammersmith Broadway Branch Office	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 0
	Kensington, Young Street, Branch Office	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 30
	Notting Hill, Archer Street, Branch Office	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 30
S.W.	South Western District Office (Howick Place, Victoria Street)	10 30 and 11 0	8 0 and 6 0
	Clapham Common Branch Office	9 0 and 10 0	8 0 and 5 15
	Fulham Road, No. 262, Branch Office	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 30
	South Kensington Branch Office (Exhibition Road)	9 30 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 30
S.E.	South Eastern District Office (239, Borough High Street)	10 30 and 11 0	8 0 and 6 0
	Blackheath Village Branch Office	9 30 and 10 0	8 0 and 5 25
	Camberwell Green Branch Office	9 10 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 30
	Greenwich Branch Office (17, Nelson Street)	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 40
	Norwood District Office (35, Westow Street)	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 4 55
E.	Eastern District Office (195, Whitechapel Road)	10 30 and 11 0	8 0 and 6 0
	Bow Branch Office (near the Church)	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 15
	Kingsland Branch Office (15, High Street)	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 15
	Poplar Branch Office (King Street)	9 0 and 10 0	8 0 and 5 15
	Stratford Branch Office (Martin Street)	9 0 and 10 0	8 0 and 5 0
N.	Northern District Office (46, Essex Road)	10 30 and 11 0	8 0 and 6 0
	Holloway Branch Office (91, Parkhurst Road)	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 30
N.W.	Camden Road, No. 57, Branch Office	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 40
	Hampstead Green Branch Office (200, Haverstock Hill)	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 15
	Kilburn Branch Office (56, High Road)	9 0 and 10 0	8 0 and 5 25
	St. John's Wood Branch Office (104, St. John's Wood Terrace)	9 0 and 11 0	8 0 and 5 20

RAILWAY STATION OFFICE LOCATIONS OF 1902.

In addition to the District Offices many railway stations had small offices and collection boxes. The following extract is from the 1902 Postal Directory;

RAILWAY STATIONS.

A general collection of letters, postcards, and newspapers—not circulars—*for all parts*, if bearing the requisite extra fee, is made from the Special Boxes at the Railway Stations named below at 6.0 P.M. on Sundays.

These boxes are also available between 6.0 P.M. and the hours shown below for posting *letters*, *postcards*, and *newspapers for places served by the particular line of Railway* and for the Continent, provided they bear the requisite extra fee.

Note.—Correspondence for Billingshurst, Horsham, and Pullborough must not be posted in these boxes.

Railway Stations.	Provincial Mails, Extra Fee ½d.		Continental Mails, Extra Fee 1d.	
	In Station Letter Box.	In box affixed to sorting carriage or barrier of platform. †	In Station Letter Box.	In box affixed to barrier of platform. †
	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Cannon Street	9 15	9 15 to 9 23	8 50*	8 50 to 9 0*
Charing Cross	8 45	..	8 45*	..
London Bridge (L. B. & S. C. Ry.)	..	6 0 to 9 8	..	..
Liverpool Street (Ipswich Line)	8 30	8 30 to 8 40	..	..
Do. (Cambridge Line)	8 50	8 50 to 9 10	..	..
King's Cross	No collection	after 6 0 p.m.	..	..
St. Pancras	8 37	8 37 to 8 40	..	..
Euston	8 27	..	..	..
Do. (North of Ireland)	8 27	..	..	..
Do. (Ireland generally)	8 27	8 27 to 8 45	..	..
Paddington	8 50	8 50 to 9 0	..	..
Holborn (L. C. & D. Ry.)	No collection	after 6 0 p.m. for Provincial Mails.	8 35*	8 35 to 8 45
Victoria (L. C. & D. Ry.)	No collection	after 6 p.m.	..	..
Waterloo	8 20	8 20 to 8 30	..	..



Victoria Station interior main line platform c1910. The Post and Telegraph Office can be clearly seen on the left of the photograph.

DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATIONS WITH NUMBERED SUFFIXES.

Later in the Edwardian period, numbered suffixes were introduced but this system was not formally accepted until 1917. The original suffix system allowed a Sub District to be allocated within an existing District, the nearest of which to the City centre would be designated with the number 1. The next nearest locations to that Office would be given consecutive numbers.

The 1902 Directory states that quarterly lists of street names and areas were published in 'The Post Office Guide' thereby keeping the public constantly informed of this rapidly expanding system. This was a less expensive publication and easier to up date than the annual Postal Directory.

Werner Bauschke concentrated his photographic study on the numbered suffix listings that appeared in subsequent editions of the Guide.

The following pages are dedicated to this work. Wherever buildings have survived they have been meticulously catalogued by address within each Sub District and included in his photographic library during 1980-90. In many cases the original buildings are still in postal use at that time. Conversely many building still survive but have since been converted to alternative uses. Of course there are instances where the buildings have been demolished, and, in the case of the WC & EC Districts, very few buildings remain.

The listing is sadly incomplete due to the loss of some of the library and so only a selection of buildings from each Sub District have been included.

The photographic record is loosely based on North, North West, South West, South East and East Sub Districts. Much of the previously presumed 'lost material' was later found in an accumulation of the Editor's correspondence with Werner Bauschke. This material has allowed a more complete record to be illustrated here.

There are approximately 400 photographs in Werner's library and a few of the more interesting views have been included in this work.



1984

South Kensington Branch Office. 25 Exhibition Road. This is the building listed in the 1902 Postal Directory listed on page 90. This office was later designated SW7.



1998

Close up view of entrance door to South Kensington Postmens Office SW7 Exhibition Road.



1982

South Lambeth District Office 333 Wandsworth Road 1982.
This building is listed in the 1912 Postal Directory and was later designated SW8.



1986

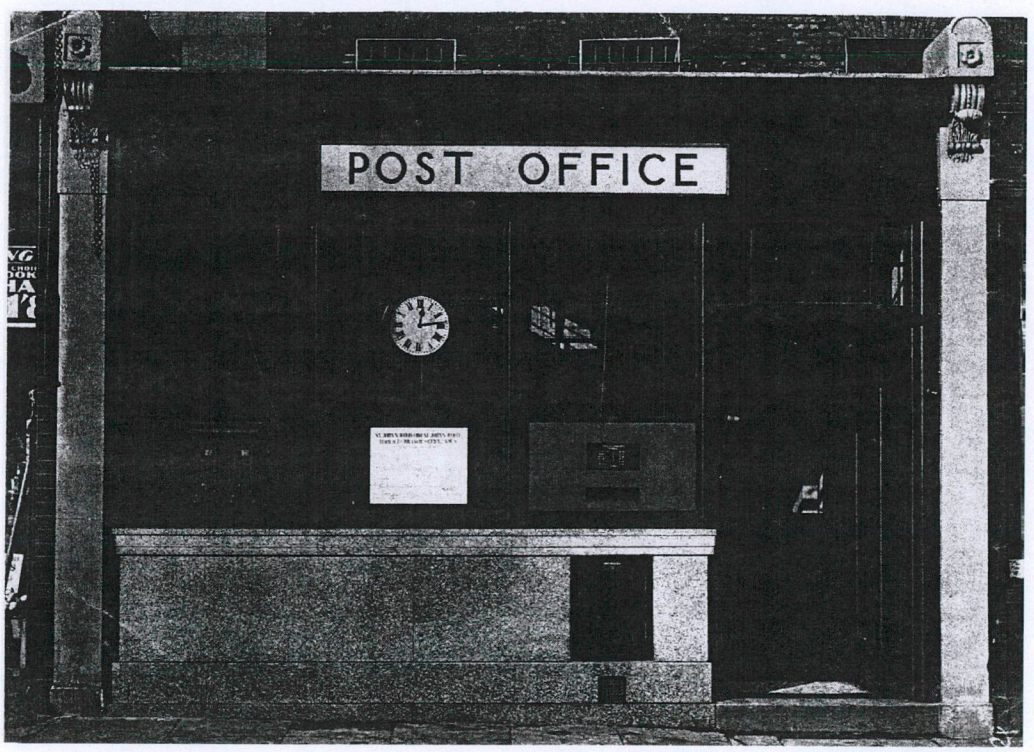
Norwood District Office 35 Westow Street.
This is the building listed in the 1902 Postal Directory listed on page 86.
This office was later designated SE19.



Kingsland Branch Office 15 High Street. This is the building listed in the 1902 Postal Directory listed on page 86. This office was later designated E8. No longer in Postal use.
In 1985 it was occupied by the Harris Carpets Group.



St. John's Wood Branch Office. 104 St. John's Wood Terrace. This is the building listed in the 1902 Postal Directory (see page 90). This office was later designated NW8.
In 1986 it was occupied by Baron Yoshimoto, Japanese Hairdressers!

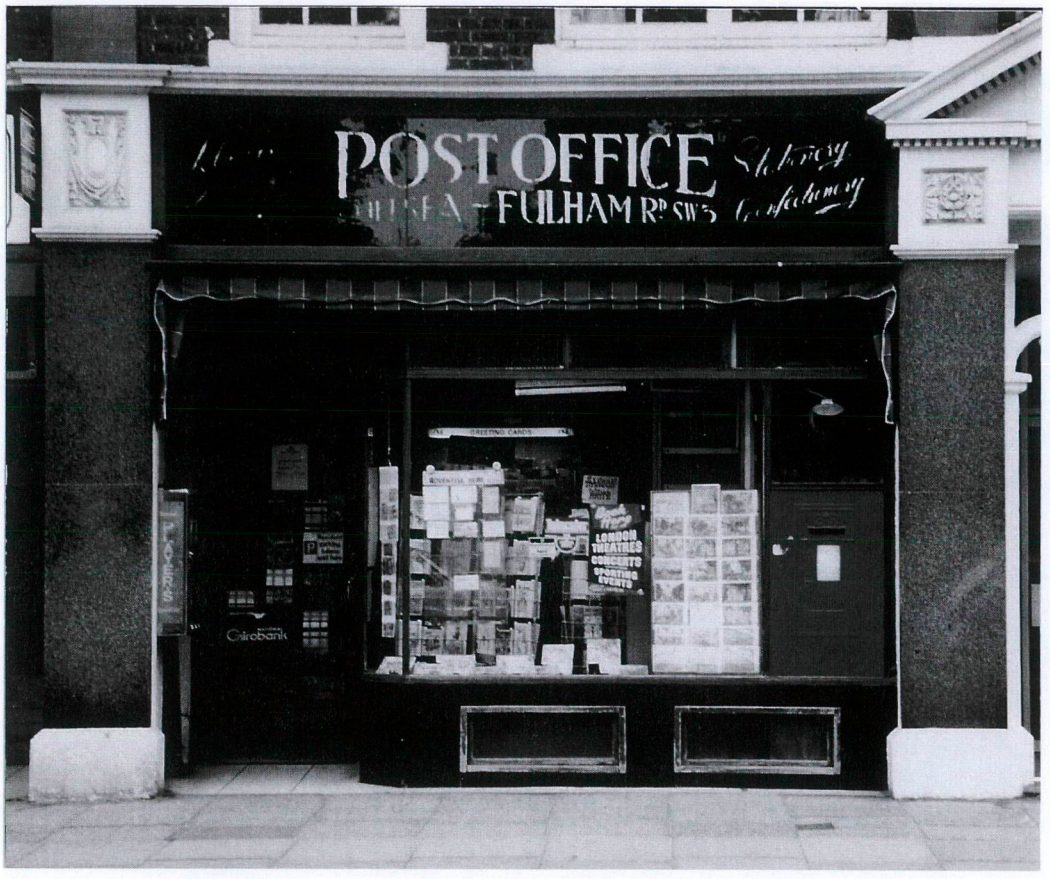


104 St. John's Wood Terrace c.1912.
Poor quality image from original photograph in PO Archives.
The porticoes either side of the shop front can still be seen in the photograph above.



1985

Notting Hill Post Office. 224 Westbourne Grove. Designated W11.
W11 can clearly be seen sculpted in to the stone work in the window lintel.



1985

Fulham Road Post Office. 129 Fulham Road Chelsea. Designated SW3.
SW3 can be seen sign written above the window.



1985.

N2. East Finchley. Market Place Sorting Office.



1985.

N4. Finsbury Park Sorting Office Goodwin Street.



1985

N6. Highgate. 67 Southwood Lane. Building erected 1888.



Date tablet set in gable end of building.



1986

N9. Lower Edmonton Sorting Office. 44-48 Church Street.



Close up view of ER tablet set above doorway and confirmation of building numbers.



1985

N11. New Southgate Sorting Office. 37 Springfield Road.



Close up view of entrance.
The wording 'Postmens Office' is visible above the doorway.



1985

N17. Tottenham. 22 Moorfield Road.



Close up view of entrance showing original green VR posting box set into wall.



1986

N21. Winchmore Hill Sorting Office. Station Road.



Original ER VII collection box set in railings.



1985

E1. Whitechapel. White Church Lane Office.



1985

E3. Bow Common Lane Office.



1985

E5. Clapton Sorting Office 227c Brooke Road. Building erected 1890.



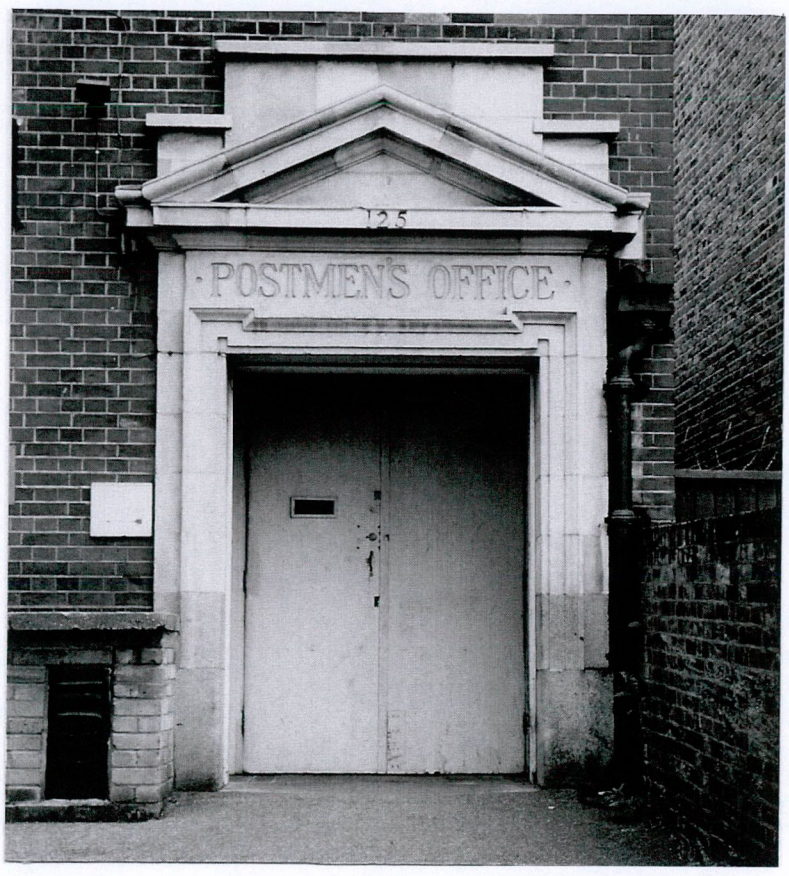
1985

E8. Dalston. 1a Greenwood Road Sorting Office.



1985

E11. Leytonstone Sorting Office. 125 Fillebrooke Road.



Close up view of entrance showing wording 'Postmen's Office' above the doorway.



1986

E15. Stratford Post Office. 415-417 High Street Stratford.



1986

E15. Stratford Branch Office. 413 High Street Stratford.
This building adjoins 417- 415, and can be seen to the right of the photo above.



1986

E17. Walthamstow Sorting Office. Vestry Road. Building erected 1903.



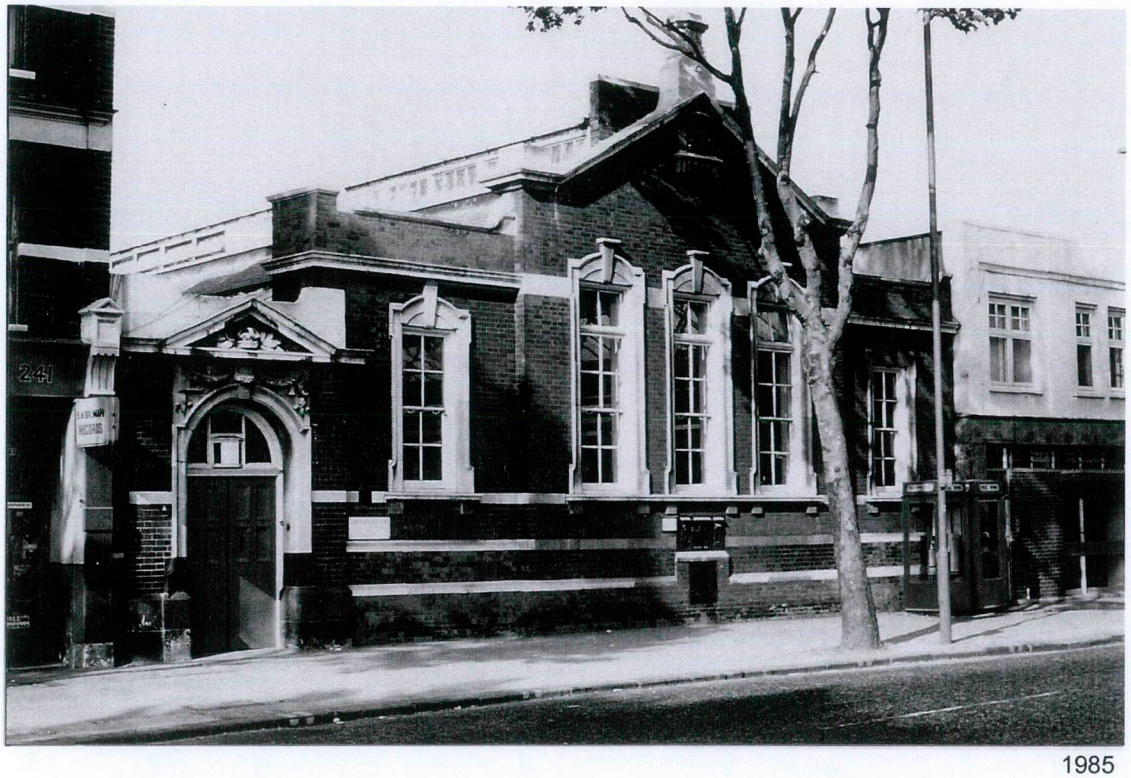


Close up view of gable ends showing date tablet and elaborate coat of arms.



1984

NW1. Camden Town. 10 Parkway.



1985

NW2. Cricklewood. 243 Cricklewood Broadway Office. Building erected 1905.



1990

NW3. Hampstead. 1b Downshire Hill Sub District Office. Building erected c1893.



1986

NW4. Hendon. 131 Brent Street corner of Brampton Grove.



1985

NW5. Kentish Town. Leighton Road Sorting Office. Building erected 1903
Note: the original ER posting box with insignia still exists.



1986

NW6. Kilburn. Belsize Road Office.



1985

NW10. Willesden. Station Road Sorting Office. Building erected 1887.



Close up view of date tablet above doorway.



Close up view of ER VII on gable end of building.



1986

W1. Grosvenor Square. 121a Mount Street.



Close up view busts Queen Victoria and Prince Albert set in niches above doorway.



1984

W1. Portman Square. 132 Wigmore Street & corner of Seymour Mews.



1984

W2. Strand. 3-7 Southampton Street.



1986

W3. Acton. King Street. Building erected 1911.



1986

W4. Chiswick. 561 Chiswick High Street.



1986

W6. Hammersmith. 5-9 Queen Caroline Street.
Note: Hammersmith Post Office sculpted in to stone façade above windows.



1986

W7. Hanwell. 579 Station Road.



1985

W9. Maida Vale Branch Office. 20 Clifton Road.



1981

W10. North Kensington Office. 325 Portobello Road.



1986.

W13. West Ealing Sorting Office. Manor Road.





1985

W14. West Kensington Branch Office. Blythe Road. Building erected 1903.





1986

WC1. 71 Southampton Row Branch Office. Building erected 1902.
Date tablet can be seen on gable end.



PO Archives

This is the earliest view of 71 Southampton Row so far discovered. c1920.
The close up view shows advertising in window :
'A Telephone in your home costs 2/6d per week' and 'Air Mail to Asia USA & Europe'.



1986

EC1. Smithfield Market Branch Office.



1986

EC4. Fleet Street.



1986

EC4. 16-18 New Bridge Street.



EC4. Cannon Street Branch Office. Thought to be from a postcard c.1900.
From the photographic collection of Werner Bauschke.



1980

SW2. Brixton District Sorting Office. Cornwall Road. Building erected 1891.
Now Blenheim Gardens.



1980

SW6. Fulham Office. 780 Fulham Road.



1985

SW4. Clapham. Three views of Venn Street Sorting Office.





Note the 'Postmen's Office' and VR insignia above doorway.



1985

SW5. Earl's Court. 185 Earl's Court Road Post Office.



1985

SW16. Streatham. Prentis Road.



1985

SW17. Tooting. 95 Upper Tooting Road. Building erected 1903.



1986

SW18. Wandsworth. 19 St.Anne's Hill.



1986

SW19. Wimbledon. 1 Compton Road.



1986

SE5. Camberwell. 163 Camberwell New Road.



1986

SE8. Deptford Sorting Office. 4-8 Creek Road.

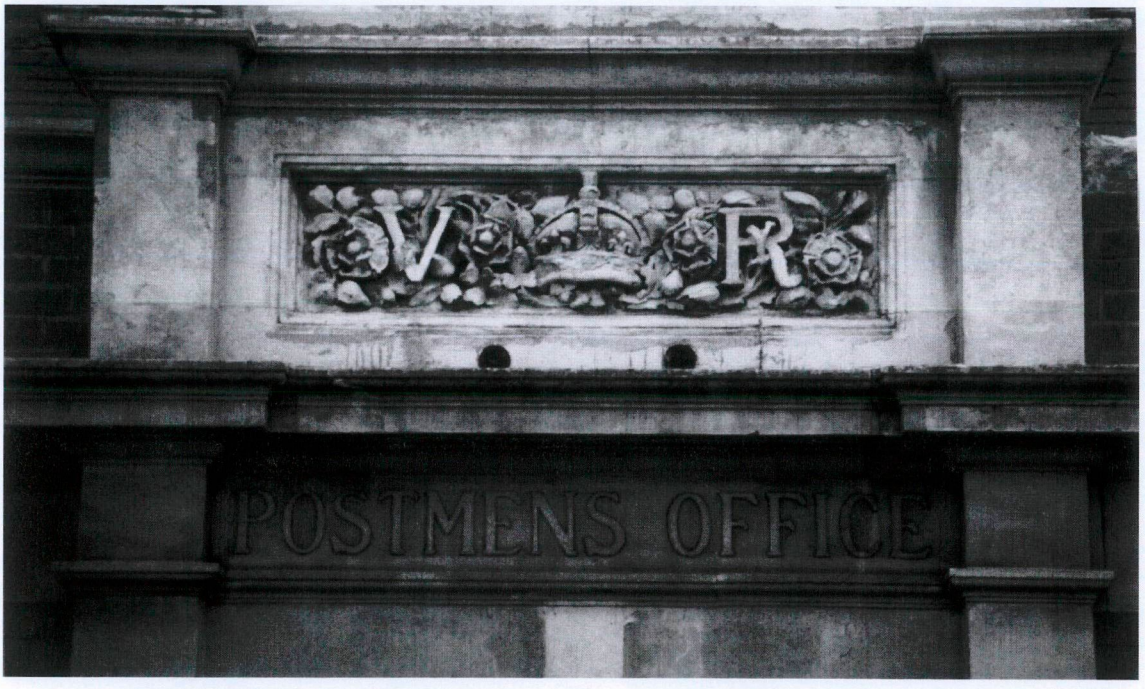


Close up of 'Postmen's Office' doorway with posting box on right and sign on left reads '4-8 Creek Road SE8'.



1986

SE12. Lee. Woodstock Road Sorting Office.



Close up of 'Postmens Office' doorway with VR insignia.



1986

SE17. Walworth. 35 Penrose Street. Building is Victorian as 'VR' insignia can be seen above the doorway but exact date is unknown.





1986

SE21. Dulwich. Alleyn Park Sorting Office. Building erected 1906.



Close up of 'Postmens Office' doorway with ER insignia.



1980

SE22. East Dulwich. Silvester Road Sorting Office. Building erected 1894.



Close up of date tablet and VR insignia set in to brickwork on front façade.



1986

SE23. Forest Hill. Devonshire Road Sorting Office.



1986

SE25. South Norwood. Holmesdale Road Sorting Office.



1986

SE26. Sydenham . 4 Silverdale Sorting Office. Building erected 1896.



Close up of date tablet set into brickwork on front façade.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A History of Mount Pleasant	P.O. Archive Information Sheet 14
A Postal History of London	JWA Lowther
A-Z Victorian London (Bacons Maps)	London Topographical Society
British Postal Guide 1857 (GPO Publication)	Postings (R Haffner)
Dickens Dictionary of London 1879	Charles Dickens
First Post	Peter Davies & Ben Maile
London Topographical Society Newsletter 1989	Simon Morris.
Post Office Buildings of London LPHG	W. Bauschke 1998
Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890	H.C. Westley.
Postal Directory 1902	GPO
Postal Map of London engraved by Richard Weller	National Postal Museum
Royal Mail The Post Office since 1840	M.J. Daunton.
Stanford's Facsimile Library Maps of London 1863	Old House Books
The Life of Sir Rowland Hill & History of Penny Postage Volumes I & II	Geo Birkbeck
The Lombard Street GPO	Sydney Turner
The London Postal Districts 1856-1912 LPHG	W. Bauschke 1997
The London Postal Museum & Archive information sheet - Postcodes 2005	P.O. Archive
The Post Office and It's Story 1912	Edward Bennett
The Postage Stamps of Great Britain 1840-1853	J.B. Seymour
The Postman	F. Heathcote Briant



Making up the mail at 7.57p.m. General Post Office.
Illustrated London News.