

The ALBION HOTEL

19/20 Caroline Street



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The Development of a Beerhouse

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Pryme's Estate

Before the area developed the line of Caroline Street was an offshoot of Cottingham Drain, open to Conduit Street, as Worship Street was then named. On plans of 1814/15 the area between what was to become King Street and Caroline Place is marked as the site for the new Sculcoates Church. However the new Christ Church was later, 1821, built just to the south on the corner of John Street and the renamed Worship Street. Caroline Street was developed in the early 1820s on land owned by George Pryme and named after Caroline of Brunswick, wife of George IV. George IV's coronation was held in 1821 and to commemorate it up to 4000 children took part in a procession around Hull. An advertisement of 1822 for new houses in Caroline Place recommended them as "*uniting all the advantages of Town and Country*"; they were some of the first to have front gardens, as can be seen on the 1853 O.S. plan (Fig.4). Reform Street commemorates the passing of the Reform Act in 1832, which extended voting rights to property owners. George Pryme became MP for Cambridge 1832-41. Other streets developed on Pryme's land include Francis Street, New George Street, Raywell Street and Russell Street. The municipal boundary between East and West Sculcoates passed through Caroline Street, Worship Street and Grimston Street.

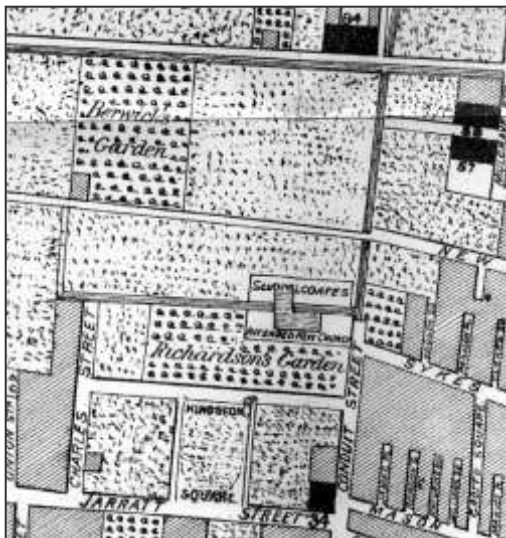


Figure 1 Anderson, 1814

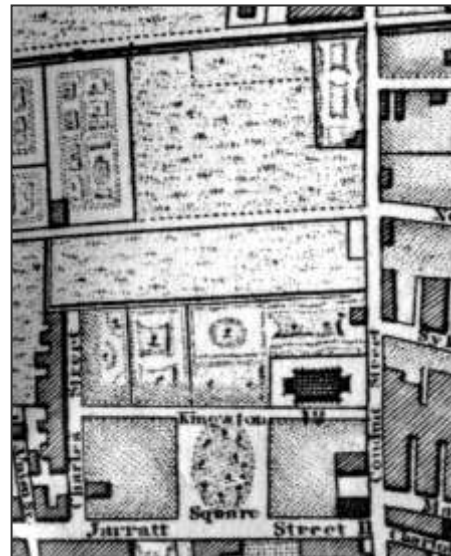


Figure 2 Baines, 1823

For development purposes Pryme's land was divided into individual plots and sold off but the eastern, Caroline Street, section only developed slowly. By 1834, when the architect/builder of the estate, Timothy Jarvis, drew a plan showing plots and owners, only Jarvis' own property on Francis Street had been built on at the Caroline Street end of the estate. Although Reform Street and Alicia Street are shown on Jarvis' plan as laid-out up to a garden adjoining Caroline Street there are no streets shown between Christopher Street and Caroline Street above Francis Street on contemporary town plans. The site of the Albion was part of the garden marked "*not to be sold*" on Jarvis' plan and leased by the banker George Liddell. The garden extended from the south side of what would become Alicia Street to Cottingham Drain. The plot was still a garden on a plan of 1842 but when George Wilkinson produced a detailed plan of Hull in 1848 Reform Street and Alicia Street had been extended to Caroline Street. Wilkinson only shows buildings developed halfway from Christopher Street to Caroline Street, the Albion site is still blank. The first large scale Ordnance Survey of Hull in 1853 shows the southern corner of Reform Street and Caroline Street fully developed. The smaller six inch O.S. plans of 1851/52 also show the Reform / Caroline Street

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corner developed. However the Albion site does not feature in the earliest building register, which lists new buildings and alterations dating from 1852, nor is it on the 1851 census.



Figure 3 Goodwill & Lawson, 1848. This plan is slightly out of date as it is based on one of 1842 but does show Halfpenny Hatch

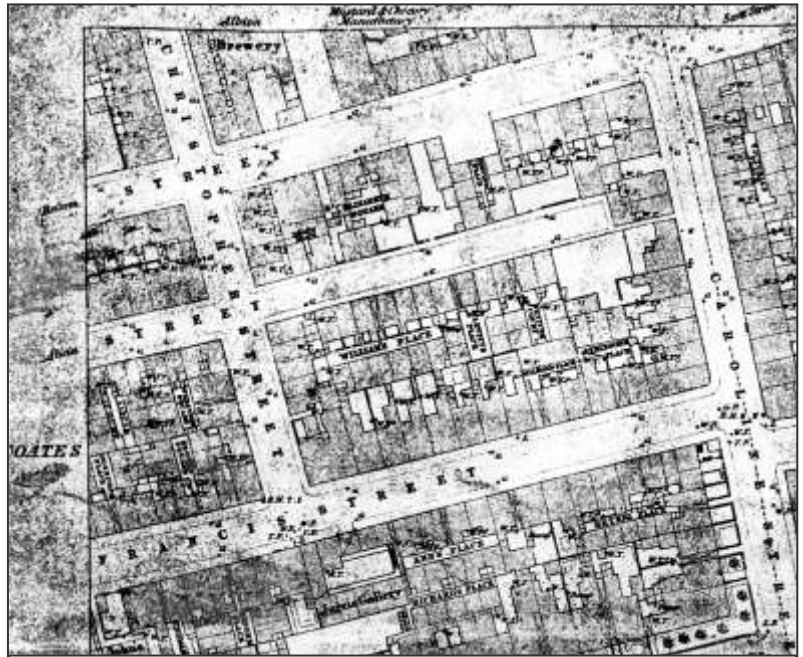


Figure 4 Ordnance Survey, 1853

By 1842 Caroline Street had been numbered, 1-30, with 1-15 on the west side and 16-30 on the east, however, when the garden site was developed the new houses were numbered 16-19 but those on the east side were not renumbered. Confusingly there were two 16-19's Caroline Street. By the time of the 1851 census numbers 16-18 had been built on the west side but apparently not the corner of Caroline and Reform Streets, i.e. No.19. This is unusual, it is often the case that a pub is built on a corner site first and the surrounding houses follow later. The 1851 directory adds to the confusion by only numbering the west side of Caroline Street up to 14 with No.16 on the east side but between 14 and 16 lists William Goodman, grocer and beer seller, unnumbered; Goodman does not appear on the census. Directories take time to compile and are usually at least a year out of date. The Sculcoates Poor Rate of 1850 clarifies the situation with numbers 16-18 built but unoccupied and Goodman occupying premises on the east side of Caroline Street. In conclusion the Albion site was built late in 1851 or early in 1852 as a beerhouse. John Kingston, a soot merchant, owned numbers 16-19 when built and a later occupant of the Albion, James Brentano, acted as a trustee of the property by Kingston's will. The number of the Albion in directories fluctuated between 19 and 20 from the late 1850s until the late 1880s when it stabilised at 20. Surprisingly the northern side of Reform Street directly opposite the Albion was not developed till c.1910.

Halfpenny Hatch

A plan of 1823 (Fig.2) shows the garden mentioned above with a house at what would become the southern corner of Alicia Street and Caroline Street, which was occupied by Thomas Leaf, gardener. By 1823 there was a physical barrier across Caroline Street at the southern end of the garden, adjoining Leaf's house, known as Halfpenny Hatch. The owner of the garden would let people use it as a short cut on payment of ½d; it gave access to the parish church and numerous factories. The Hatch appears to be depicted on Whittock's bird's eye view of Hull of 1855 but is not on the 1853 O.S. plan (Fig.4) or the 1850 Poor Rate. Curiously Alicia Street does not fully extend to Caroline Street as numbers 16 & 17 were built across the end of Alicia Street with only a narrow passage to Caroline Street. Possibly they were erected to retain control of Halfpenny Hatch. Leaf's house was demolished or rebuilt in 1853 when William Thompson built two houses on the site, hence the variation in numbering of the Albion, and also filled-in the blank area on the south side of Alicia Street shown on the 1853 O.S. plan. This area of Alicia Street is depicted on page 53/54 of *'Forgotten Hull'*.

The toll was not popular and in 1830 a petition was delivered to George Pryme hoping to get it removed, it was estimated that the "*labouring classes*" could save ten minutes walk to and from work if the toll was abolished. Also in 1830 an old wall, which had impeded carriages at the south end of Caroline Street was demolished on the instigation of Alderman Jarratt. The Hatch was still described as a nuisance in 1847 when George Liddell was rumoured to be buying it from Pryme. The rumours must have been true, as Liddell owned Halfpenny Hatch by 1850. Liddell subsequently sold the Hatch site to William Thompson, a coal merchant. Another Halfpenny Hatch existed at the end of Staniforth Place, Myton, allowing people to cut through to South Parade and on to Anlaby Road.

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When it opened, probably in 1851, the Albion only had a beerhouse licence, which meant it could not sell wines or spirits. Beerhouses existed from 1830 when the Beer House Act allowed anyone to sell beer from their premises on payment to the local excise office of two guineas for a licence; previously they had to apply to a magistrate. The legislation was introduced in an attempt to encourage drinkers to switch from spirits to beer. By 1840 the number of beerhouses was itself becoming a problem and the regulations were tightened, a property qualification became necessary to open a new beerhouse with parish officers providing a certificate indicating the rateable value. The Beerhouse Acts were repealed in 1869 and applications for licences reverted to being at the discretion of the licensing magistrates. The Albion continued to hold only a beerhouse licence until 1962, when Lawrence Clark took over in that year he appeared in the alehouse, not beerhouse, register.

THOMAS C. MATTHEWS,
ALE & PORTER BREWER,
REFORM-STREET,
SCULCOATES, HULL.



Figure 5 Old sign (G Wilkinson)



Figure 6 New sign (G Wilkinson)

The name Albion may come from the Albion Brewery that had been built on Reform St./Christopher St. adjoining the Old Drain in 1835. Perhaps the beerhouse was a 'brewery tap' although this is conjecture as the brewery closed around the time the beerhouse opened. The Matthews family ran the Albion Brewery until it closed in 1858. Why the Albion Brewery was so called is unclear, however, John Markham in *'Streets of Hull'* suggests that Albion Street could be named after a warship. Albion Street started to be developed by 1796 and the Albion was wrecked

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in 1797. A second Albion warship served with distinction 1802-1835, which coincides with the building of the brewery. Later there existed a local steamship named Albion. There were two other Albion breweries in the East Riding, Robert Brown ran the Albion in Driffield c.1857-1859 and William Watson Warwick was victualler of the Hildyard Arms in Patrington and brewed from the nearby Albion Brewery in 1888. Perhaps particularly patriotic inhabitants sometimes named their property the Albion. The North Country Breweries sign for the Albion depicted Britannia but the replacement by Mansfield shows a ship. Mansfield's estate company is now called Sherwood Forest Properties Ltd., who are the owners of the Albion.

John Kingston and his trustees had owned the Albion Inn, from the 1850s to 1900. The brewers Glossop & Bulay of Northumberland Avenue bought the Albion and No.18 from Kingston's estate and it passed to the Hull Brewery Co. when they bought Glossop's pubs in 1920. The size of the original beerhouse can still be seen indicated by the white faience pillars and green tiles, which are probably original features as they are recessed and their addition cannot be traced in the Building Registers. The use of pillars is ostentatious for the area but does draw attention to the building.

The original internal layout of the bar has to be conjecture as, unfortunately, no early plans have survived. When built there would be three rooms on the ground floor with the corner room as the beerhouse. The shape of the counter would probably be semicircular or L-shaped and the area marked as bottle and jug on the 1955 plan (Fig.10) may have been the smoke room. The other rooms downstairs would be private. At the time only favoured customers or friends would use the smoke room, if it existed. The layout depicted on the 1955 plan with two rooms made into one, a horseshoe counter and a smoke room is typical of the late 1880s or early 1890s but probably dates from when Glossop bought it in 1900. As well as internal alterations Glossop would have unified the roofs of numbers 18 & 19; introduced the dentilation under the cornice and string course and rendered the brickwork. The stained glass shown on the cover photograph (mid 1920s) is also probably Glossop's.

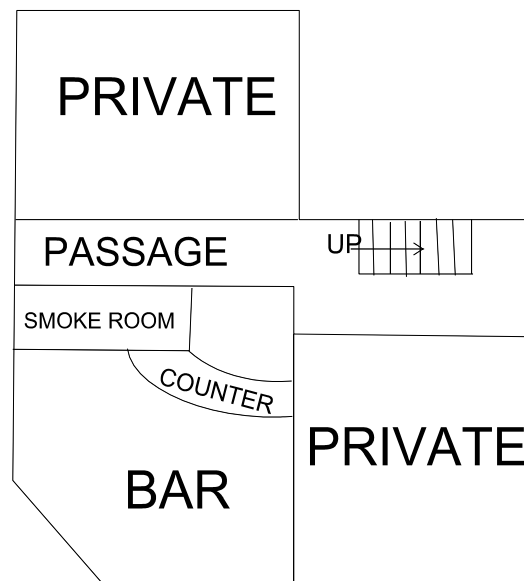


Figure 7 Conjectural plan of the 1850s

A plan of 1931, the earliest available, shows the door of No.19 (renumbered from 18 by then) near the open yard in Caroline Street being blocked up, which had led to a staircase and store. The staircase and store were converted into a WC and lobby. The window above the door would have

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In 1955 a new service road was created along the Reform Street side of the Albion. Although there were no internal alterations the old external store, where the ladies toilets were added in 1933, was partially demolished and a new bottle store built. The new smoke room of 1933 was now a mixed smoke room. Separate rooms for men and women were common even down to the late 1960s and in some pubs the provision of ladies toilets would not be thought essential. In 1980 North Country Breweries doubled the size of the ladies toilets. The old blocked-up doorway to 19 Caroline Street was subsequently reopened later in the '80s, as an entrance to the lounge (the old smoke room) as the toilet was no longer necessary.

More recent alterations include removing internal walls between the bar and lounge and extending the bar counter nearly into No.19. The original doorway to No.19 now opens next to a small stage and the wall between the smoke room and the mixed smoke room on the 1955 plan has been removed. The old mixed smoke room space is currently used as a poolroom. Despite the internal demolition the shape of the original rooms can still be seen. Externally the walls and even the pillars have been painted a slightly garish sort of mustard yellow colour. The Albion is probably unique in having a flagpole that seems to have been continuously used to fly a flag, usually of the merchant navy.

Telephone—65 Hull; 9 Beverley.

Telegrams—"GLOSSOP, HULL."

PRICE LIST OF
WILLIAM GLOSSOP, LIM.,
Celebrated Ales and Nutritious Stout,

Guaranteed Pure, and Brewed from Malt and Hops only,

IN CASK AND BOTTLE.

Strong Ale	1/6 per gall. nett.	Pale Ale	pints, 2/6 per doz.
Pale	"	1/2 " "	" "	1/2 pints, 1/6 "
XXXX	"	1/2 " "	Mild Ale	pints, 2/3 "
XX	"	10d. " "	" "	1/2 pints, 1/3 "
Stout	1/2 " "	Celebrated Nutritious Stout,	pints, 2/3	"
	In Cask, 6, 9, 18, 36, 54 gallons.		" "	1/2 pints, 1/3	"

The above can be obtained in small quantities from the Stores, at

THE EAST RIDING MALT KILNS, BEVERLEY.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR HARVEST BEER ON APPLICATION.

Licensees

- 1851 William Goodman, grocer & beerseller, Caroline Street. This does not refer to the Albion but merely a grocer's shop that also sold beer, an off-licence, on the east side of Caroline Street. The Shakespeare was at the corner of Caroline Street and New George Street but Goodman's premises were further north, probably on the corner of Scott Street. (In 1847 a public house and dram shop, the Wheelwright's Arms, Caroline Street, was to let; however this may be an error for the Wheelwright's in Prospect Street.)
- Pre-1855 Adam Killer, joiner and beer seller, Caroline Street. Although unnumbered in the directory, Sculcoates Church Rates of 1855 place Killer at the Albion site and he is

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probably the first occupant of the Albion. A joiner used the yard next to the Albion, No.18, a few years later. At this time No.18 was a house, shop and stable.

- 1856 John Dunwell, beer retailer, 19 Caroline Street
1858/9 Thomas Hickson, joiner, 18 & 19 Caroline Street, house 10 Reform Street
Richard Anderson, beerhouse, 20 Caroline Street.
1861 Matthew Newlove, beer retailer, 19 Caroline Street
1863-7 Matthew Newlove, beerseller and cowkeeper, Albion Inn, 19 Caroline Street.
Although this is the first recorded use of the name Albion it was probably so-called when it opened. Beerhouses did not usually generate enough income to live on and their owners would need other occupations.
1872 John Moor, beerhouse, 19 Caroline Street
1874 Mrs E A Nichols, Albion Inn, 19 Caroline Street
1876 James Brentham, Albion Inn, 20 Caroline Street (listed under Inns & Hotels, not beerhouses although that is probably an error)
1882 No beer retailer or pub mentioned
1885 James Calvert Brentano, beer retailer, 19 Caroline Street
1888 J C Brentano, joiner & beer retailer, 20 Caroline Street
1889 J C Brentano, beer retailer, 20 Caroline Street (became a builder and undertaker)

 **J. C. BRENTANO,** 
Joiner, Builder, and Undertaker,
37, NEW GEORGE STREET. Residence—10, Caroline Place, Hull.

Estimates given for every description of Joiners' & Bricklayers' Work on application.
PERSONAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO ALL ORDERS RECEIVED.

[244]

- 1889 Mrs Sarah Jane Kirkwood, beer retailer (1900 listed as 19 & 20 Caroline Street)
1904 Mrs Rhoda Tadman
1905 Walter Battle
1908 John Henry Shoson
1909 William A Boddy
1911 James Mumby. (Retired in 1923)
1923 Albert Edward Wheat
1926 John Cross
1931 Harold Wilkin
1938 A G Hirst
1939 H McArthur Greig
1940 Fred Conkerton
1941 Charles Benjamin Read
1943 Charles William Mortimer
1949 John Frederick Smith
1950 Rose May White
1958 Ronald Sullivan, Albion Hotel (previously styled as Inn)
1959 Charles Edward Chapman
1962 Lawrence Clark
1963 George William Exelby
1964 George Lyon
1965 John Green
1972 Ellen Hubinette
1975 Melvyn Stephenson
1977 Patricia Stephenson

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1977	Andrew Stephenson
1986	William D'Arcy
1987	Ian Ahern
1991	Robert Johnson
1992	Margaret Phillips
1992	Philip Fowler
1995	Ann Scaife
1996	Cheryl Fenwick
1997	Janis Kempson
2/2000	Walter Phillips

The length of tenancy can often be a good indicator for the trade of a pub. The early 1900s, early 1960s and most of the 1990s saw a heavy turnover of licensees. However six licensees have spent at least seven years at the Albion with some almost twenty.