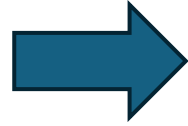


54 Monkgate / Agar Street





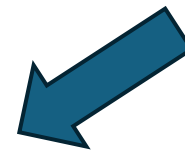
May 2011



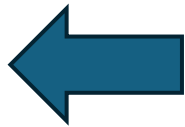
May 2012



August 2016



July 2018



July 2023

What we are doing

1. Identify historical themes that might inspire a mural; history is important.
2. Looking for a range of human/animal and inanimate (buildings etc) stories

What we're not doing

Designing a mural

1. Agar St

- Street is 1st recorded on late 1880s maps, as a row of modest workers' housing
- Victorian infill for increasing urbanisation and proximity to industry.



Agar Street as a terrace on the 1892 OS Map. IMAGE: National Library of Scotland.

1. Agar St



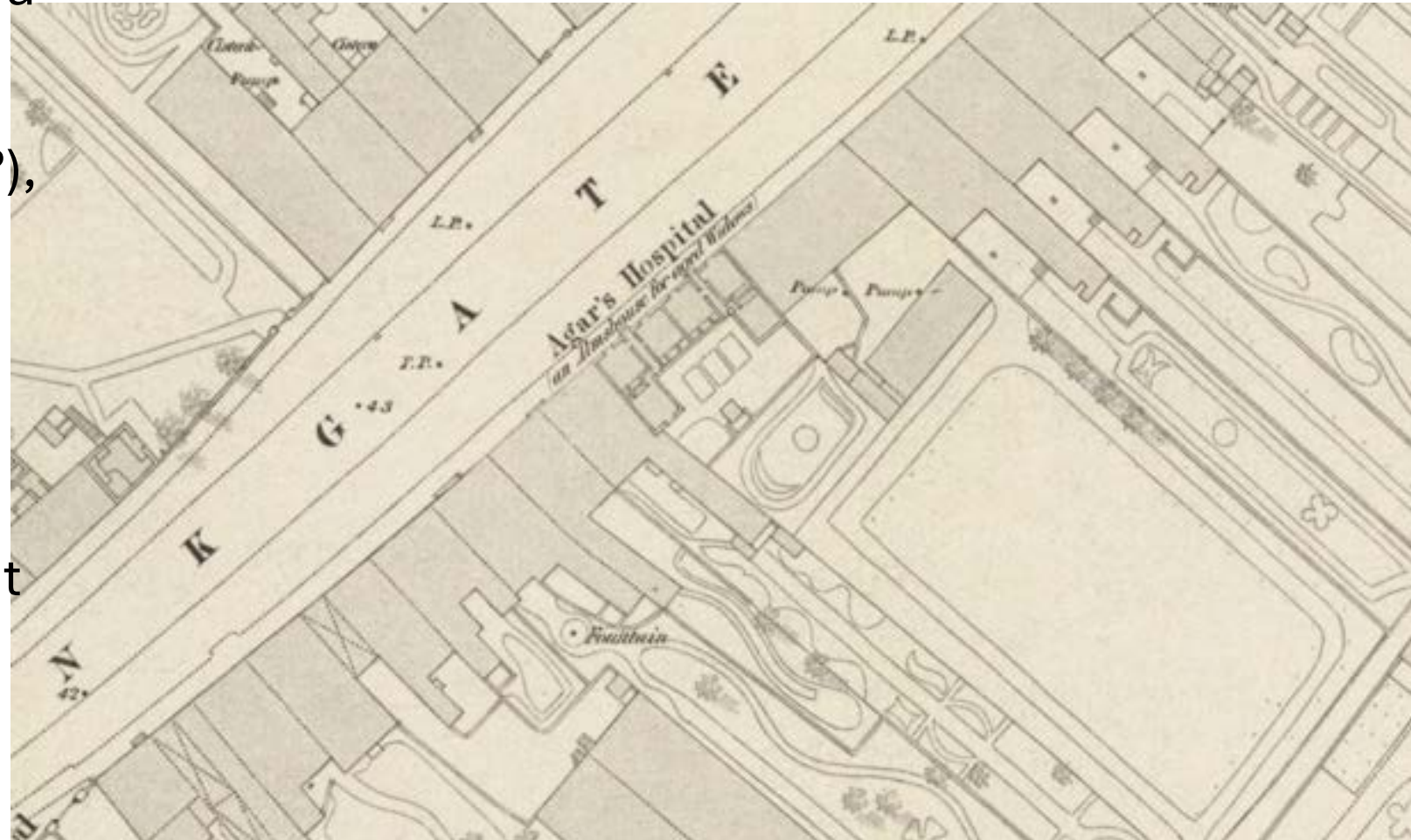
Late 19thC postcard of Monksgate showing the newly-created Agar Street – seen on the left with end gable of No.54 used for advertising.

2. Agar Hospital

Agar's Hospital (1631–1879), a long-standing almshouse for widows founded by Alderman Thomas Agar (or Beatrix Agar?), a tanner and former Lord Mayor.

Comprised 3 cottages for 6 widows.

Administered by the Agar family for over two centuries, it fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1879.



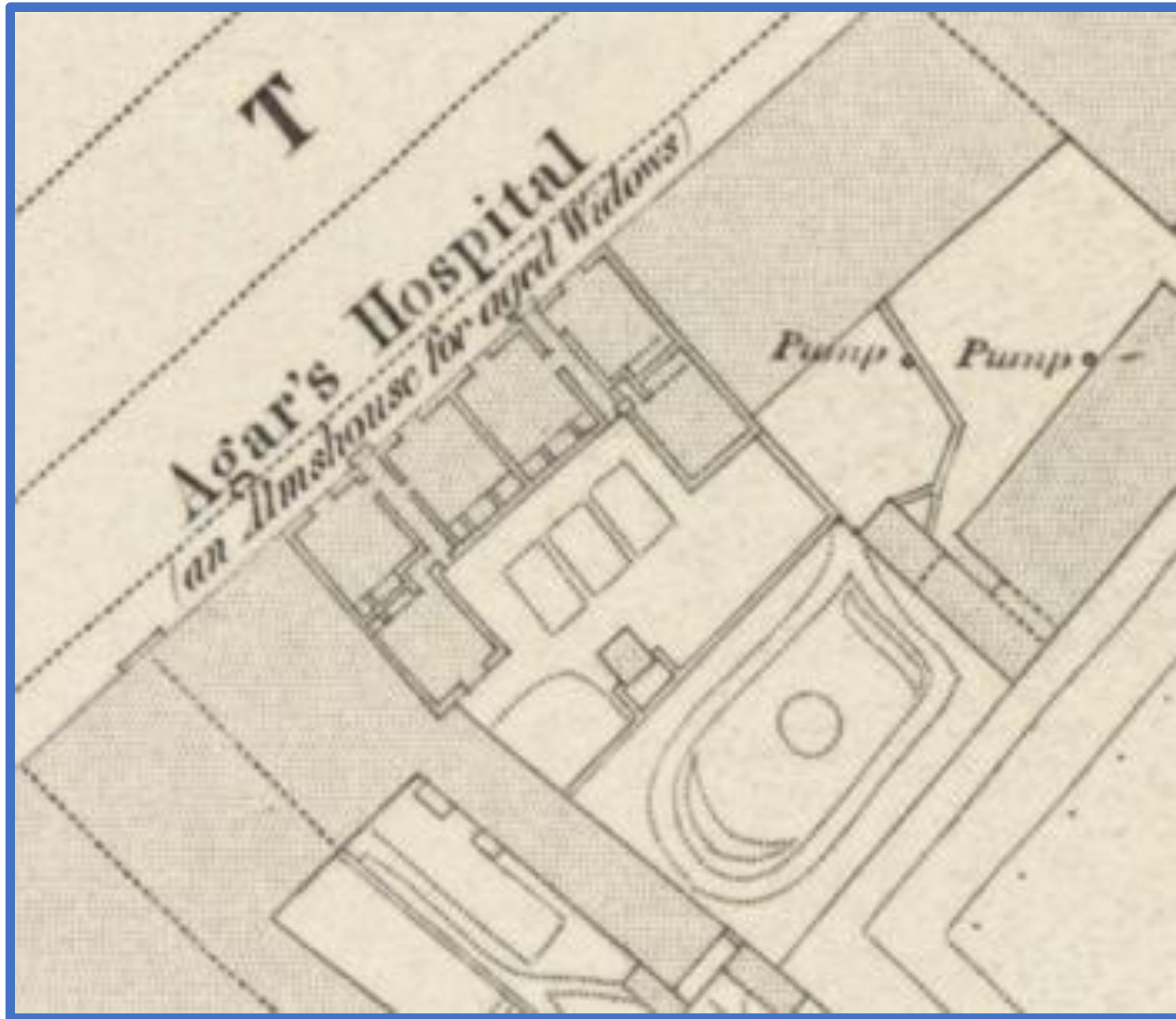
Agar's Hospital as detailed in the 1852 Town Map of York. IMAGE: National Library of Scotland.

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3. The Agars

The Agar family were a prominent family in York, with later generations including:

Thomas Agar, a wool draper and merchant and Lord Mayor of York in 1724 and 1744. The Miser Mayor? --> Mansion House

Joseph Agar (1833-1920), a tannery owner, and Lord Mayor of York on three occasions (1881, 1888 & 1889).



Joseph Agar (1832–1920), Lord Mayor of York, as a Boy
unknown artist. York Art Gallery

4. Monkgate & Jersey Dairy Co. Ltd

The Monkgate & Jersey Dairy Co. Ltd operated at Nos. 48–52 Monkgate (on the corner of Agar St) in the early 20thC. Company dissolved in 1967

Building later becoming a furniture shop.



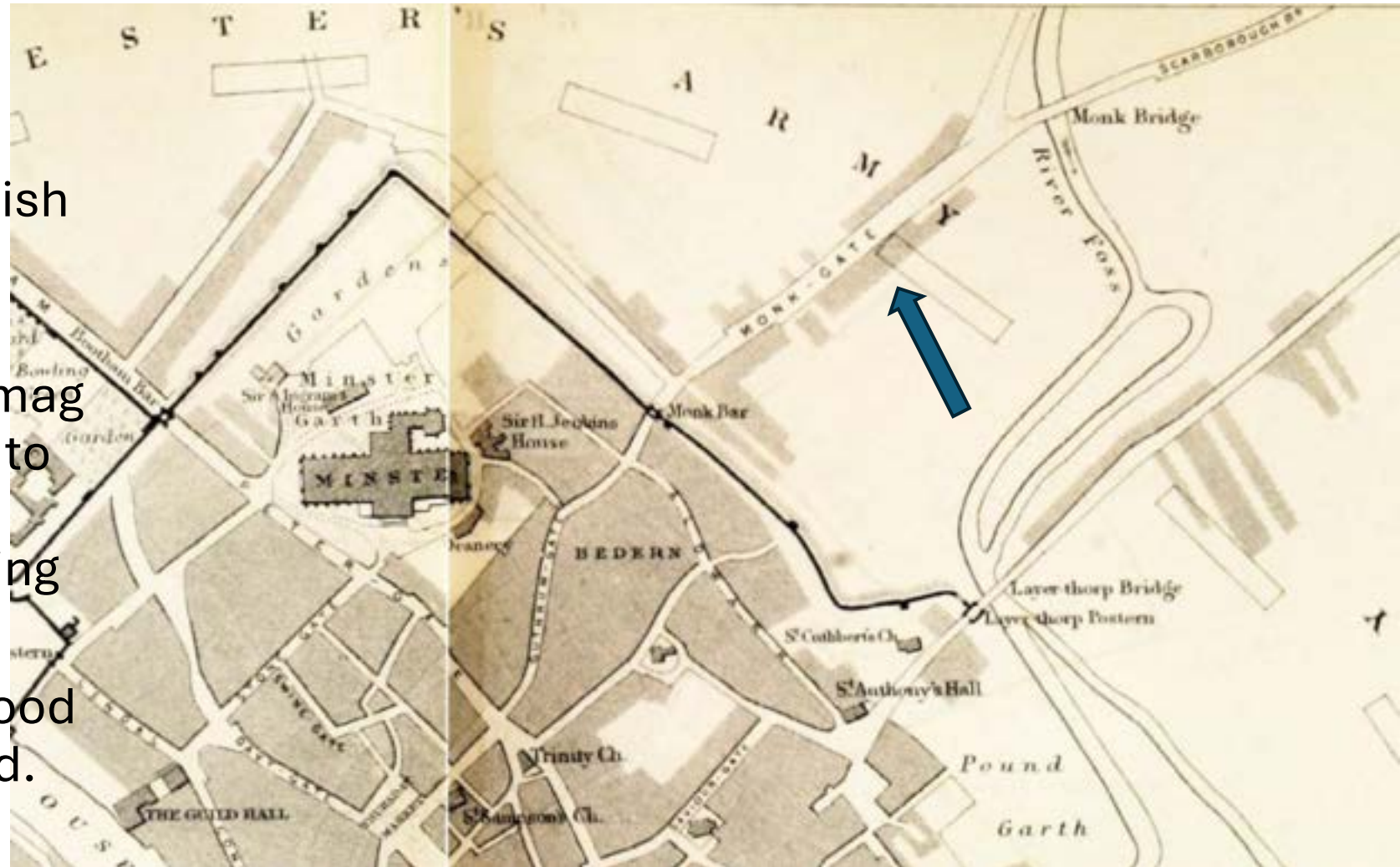
Milk churn for M&J Dairy Co.

5. Monkgate (street)

In **1644 siege of York**, **Monkgate** lay between Parliamentarian and Scottish siege lines and Royalists defending the city.

Monkgate significantly damaged when Royalist's set fire to the suburbs to stop Parliamentarian forces using them for cover.

Agar's Hospital is understood to have not been destroyed.



6. Notable structures: Monk Bridge

Monk Bridge, repeatedly rebuilt since medieval times, formed the principal northern approach into York.

Its strategic role reinforced Monksgate's importance as a key arterial route.



'The Minster from the Foss', c.1795-1805, understood to show Monk Bridge with the north end of Monksgate between the bridge and the Minster. Image: York Museums Trust - YORAG: R3162.

6. Notable structures: Monk Bridge



'The Minster from Monk Bridge' (c.1785-95) by William Payne. Monkgate is centre-right, leading to Monk Bar. The left-hand side of Monkgate, as seen, should in theory include Agar's Hospital; perhaps the short building behind the two trees. IMAGE: York Museums Trust: YORAG: R359.

7. Notable structures – Black Horse pub

(No. 29), first mentioned in 1822, rebuilt in 1897 by W.G. Penty for Hunt's Brewery.



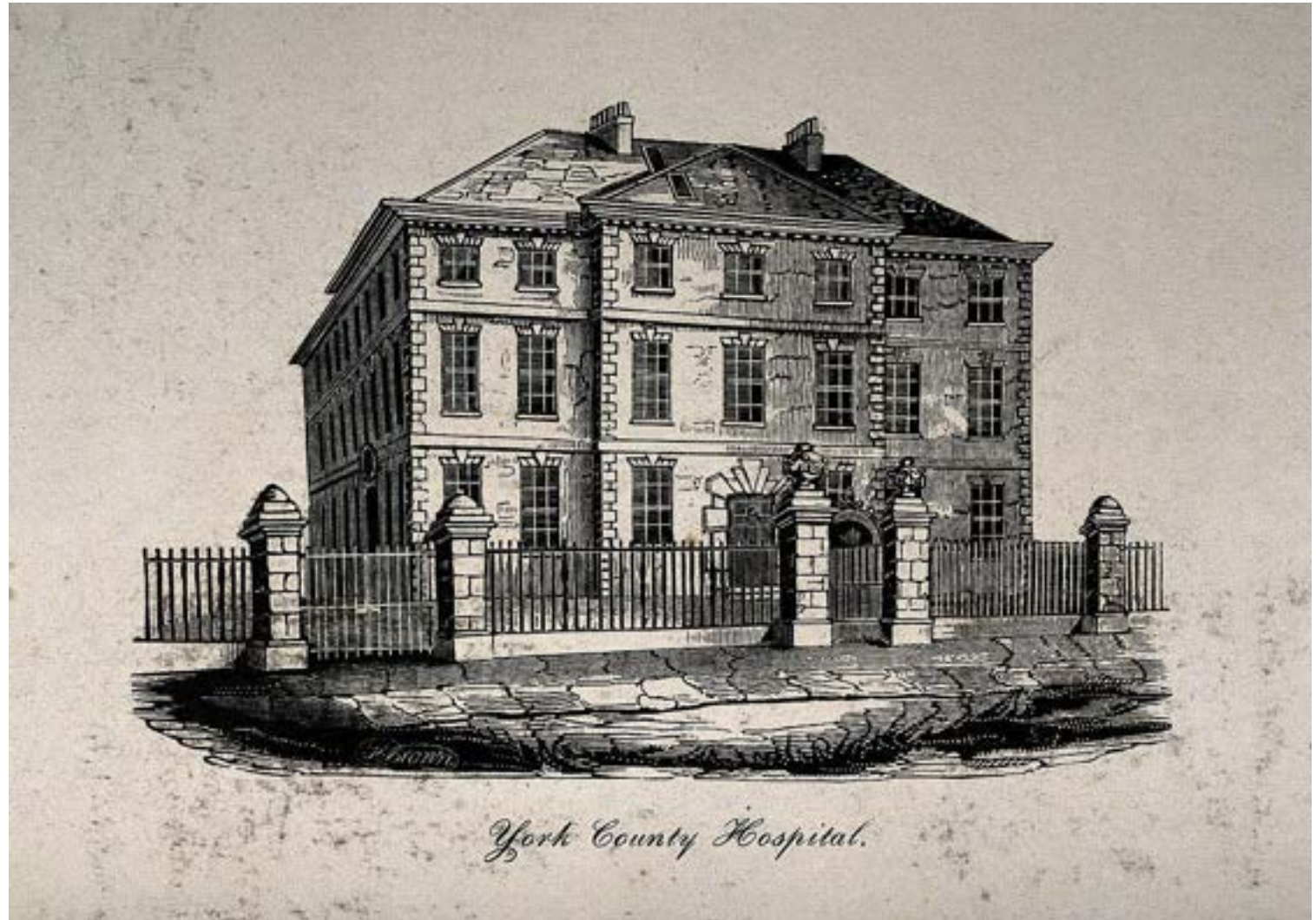
8. Notable structures – County Hospital

Hospital has its origins in a small hospital established in Monkgate in April 1740.

Moved to larger premises in Monkgate in 1745 and larger again (current one) in 1851, designed by J.B. and W Atkinson.

Served the poor of the County.

Original county Hospital building
(1745-1851)



9. Notable structures - Two schools

Grey Coat School for Girls (31-35 Monkgate, founded 1705, moved to Monkgate in 1784). A charitable school for orphaned girls who were fed, clothed, and prepared for domestic service.



Grey Coat girls, led by a police sergeant, march down Stonegate in June 1944 to celebrate the school's anniversary. Image: York Press.

9. Notable structures - Two schools

Lime Tree School
(62 Monkgate, c.1900).



Lime Tree School, 62 Monkgate, c.1900.

10. Notable people - George Stubbs

George Stubbs (1724 – 1806) studied human anatomy at York County Hospital in the 1740s, as well as being a portrait painter.

Here he began his detailed study of horse anatomy, laying the foundation for his artistic career.

(Human dissection at the time associated with bodies provided by grave-robbers, so Stubbs was held in “vile renown” in York!)



Anatomical drawing of a horse, William Stubbs.

11. Notable people - Rev. Charles Wellbeloved

No. 38 – Middleton House, home of Rev. Charles Wellbeloved from 1798-1811.

Wellbeloved was a significant English Unitarian divine, educationalist, and archaeologist.

Best known in the city for his contributions to the study of Roman antiquities in York and excavation at St Mary's Abbey.



Etching showing excavations of St Mary's Abbey 1820s. The excavation was overseen by Charles Wellbeloved and medieval stonework as depicted is now in situ in the basement of the Yorkshire Museum.

12. Notable people - **George Hudson**

No. 44 Monkgate, home of three times Lord Mayor of York, **George Hudson (1800-1871)**, aka the “Railway King.”

Hudson was key to the region’s 19th-century railway boom and ensuring York became a major railway junction terminal in the North

Leads to York's industrial prowess then, and today's tourist attraction.



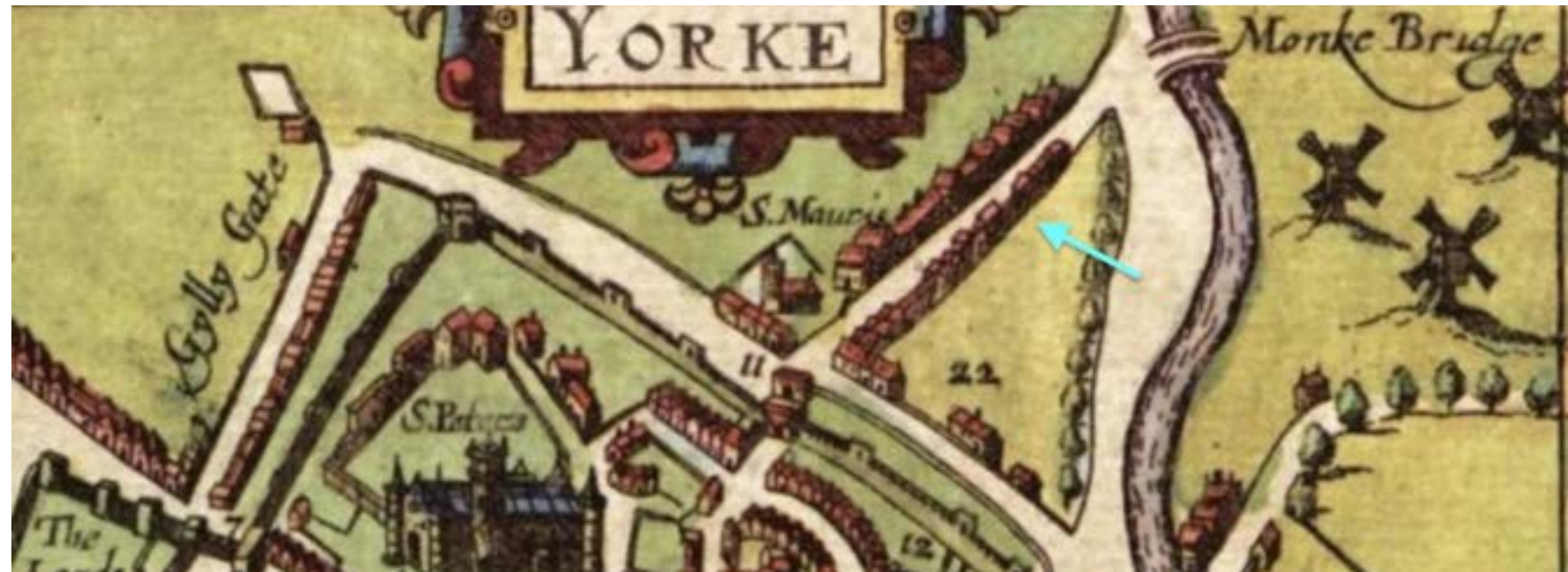
Artist drawing of George Hudson and York Station.

13. Monkgate (area) - Anglo-Norman

No physical evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian activity.

“Munccagate” first mentioned in 1080: monastic or religious association?

1282 records show 50+ tofts in Monkgate, making it a large, thriving suburb. 'Love Lane', also known later as 'Cloister Walk', in 13th-century records as “the path through the selions of Monkgate,” referring to medieval strip fields.



Detail taken from John Speed's 1611 Map of York, arrow showing the approximate location of today's Agar St.

14. Monkgate (area) – Foss Bank

Foss Bank Gas Works (f.1823) helped make area one of York's most significant 19th-/e.20th-C industrial landscapes.

Industrialisation brought increased demand for artisan and labourers' housing (likely why Agar St exists).



The gasworks at Foss Bank (on the site where Sainsbury's now stands). Date unknown. Agar Street is to the immediate right of the chimney. IMAGE: York Press.

14. Monksgate (area) – Foss Bank



Agar St (yellow arrow) in 1947.

14. Monkgate (area) – Foss Bank

Monkgate escaped the worst of WW2.

But the April 1942 Baedeker raid saw district experience bomb damage. County Hospital used for most of the victims of the raid.

17 December 1942, a 1,000 kg bomb—believed to be aimed at the gasworks—fell nearby damaging houses.



Detail of an annotated OS Map used by the Luftwaffe during WW2. The symbols refer to the 'Gaswerks' in Monkgate (55) and County Hospital (54). IMAGE: Raids Over York.

15. Monkgate (area) – Random



1908 photograph showing elephants on Monkgate, part of **Lord George Sanger's travelling circus troupe**. Image: Explore York Archives.

What's missing?

- Other themes?
- Local characters and legends?
- Ghost stories?