



Location of Westminster's Workhouses and Infirmaries

Workhouses were established by the ten civil parishes which administered the old City of Westminster, south of Oxford Street, before 1900. The parish workhouses appear at the beginning of this list. In the mid-19th century the parishes joined together into three poor law unions, which are listed next. Finally in 1913 the unions merged to become the City of Westminster Union. Those parish workhouses which were taken over by the unions are included in both sections, but the exact location of the workhouse is only described in the entry under the union.

The former parishes of St Marylebone and Paddington, which became the northern part of the City of Westminster in 1965, also had workhouses. Details of these are given at the end of the list.

English Heritage has published a book, *The Workhouse: A Study of Poor-Law Buildings in England* by Kathryn Morrison, 1999, and two useful websites on the subject of workhouses can be found at www.institutions.org.uk and www.workhouses.org.uk.

The Earliest Parish Workhouses



Elevation of the St Marylebone Workhouse

St Anne, Soho parish

See *Survey of London, volume 33, pp 190-191*

1697 – c1711	Symbell's Alley (exact location unknown)
c1711 – 1766	Oxford Street (site of present No 103a)
1766	Chapel Street (now Great Chapel Street)
1767 – 1771	Hog Lane (now under Charing Cross Road)
1771 – 1837	Rose Street (building is now 14 Manette Street)
1837 – 1868	see <i>Strand Union</i>
1868 onwards	see <i>Westminster Union</i>

St Clement Danes parish

See B1071 (1 November 1770) m/f box 377, Pigot's Directory 1836

before 1771 not known
 1771 – 1836 Portugal Street/Carey Street (now the site of Strand House)
 1836 onwards see Strand Union

St George, Hanover Square parish

See Survey of London, volume 40, pp 316-319, and Pevsner's London, volume 3, p 569

1725 – 1870 Mount Street, rebuilt 1786-8
 1786 – 1870 Fulham Road (called "Little Chelsea"), rebuilt 1858, infirmary added 1876-8
 1870 onwards see St George's Union

St James, Piccadilly parish

See Survey of London, volume 31, pp 210-214

1688 – 1721 Salter's Court (now Smith's Court) – old and infirm only
 1721 – 1748 New Street (now Ingestre Place) – old and infirm only
 1725 – 1868 Poland Street
 1868 onwards see Westminster Union

St Margaret, Westminster parish

Sources St Margaret's Parish Records, E unlisted 1829 (dated 1624); E unlisted 1828 (dated 1655); E2432 (7 December 1670); Morden & Lea map, 1682; E2419 (8 August 1726); Rate Book index (1787), Survey of London, volume 42, pp 347-350

[c1624 – c1701] Tothill Fields (possibly not the same building throughout; c1670 new workhouse; by 1682 on site of present Grey Coat School)
 1701 – 1726 not known
 1726 – [c1787] Little Almonry
 [c1787] – 1852 Dean Street (possibly expansion of Little Almonry site; demolished c1852; now site of former Department of Trade and Industry offices, on the corner of Great Smith Street and Victoria Street)
 c1842 – 1870 York Street
 1851 – 1870 Marloes Road, Kensington
 1866 – 1870 St Ermin's Hill/Petty France
 1870 onwards see St George's Union

St Martin-in-the-Fields parish

See *Survey of London, volume 20, p 113*

1664 – 1683	Hemmings Row/Castle Street
1683 – 1724	not known
1724 – 1868	Hemmings Row/Castle Street, rebuilt 1772
1868 onwards	see <i>Strand Union</i>

St Mary le Strand parish

See *Acc 452/19 (1762); G1003 (9 June 1779, 1 May 1781, 28 September 1789, 17 December 1800, 29 December 1801); Acc 452/20 (1811)*

before 1762	not known – possibly Denham's Yard
[c1762] – [c1768]	New Street, Shoe Lane (now Little New Street) and Shacklewells, Hackney (exact location unknown)
[c1777] – 1801	Garratt Lane, Tooting, Wandsworth (exact location unknown)
[c1781] – [1789]	Swan Yard (now the site of India House, Aldwych)
1789 – 1800	George Yard (now the site of India House, Aldwych)
1801	Great White House, Hoxton (exact location unknown) (see also Precinct of the Savoy)
1801 – [c1802]	Robertson & Simpson's house, Hoxton (exact location unknown)
1811 – 1836	Old Kent Road (now the site of Leo Street/Clifton Crescent)
1836 onwards	see <i>Strand Union</i>

St Paul, Covent Garden parish

See *Survey of London, volume 36, pp 60-61, and Pevsner's London, volume 3, p 614*

1703 – 1720s	Hart Street (now Floral Street)
1720s – 1734	Bow Street/Hart Street (now the site of the Royal Opera House)
1734 – 1778	Denmark Court (collapsed 1787; now Exeter Street, site at the back of 14 Tavistock Crescent)
1778 – 1836	Cleveland Street
1836 onwards	see <i>Strand Union</i>

Precinct of the Savoy

See G1003 (17 December 1800)

before early C18	Savoy Hospital
early C18 – 1790	not known
c1790 – 1801	Great White House, Hoxton (see also St Mary le Strand)
1801 – 1836	not known
1836 onwards	see <i>Strand Union</i>

Liberty of the Rolls

See K324 (2 March 1736/7), and *Pigot's Directory 1836*

before 1737	not known
[c1737] – ?	Elm Street, Gray's Inn Lane/Road
? – 1836	Bird's Buildings, Lower Street, Islington (now Essex Road, east of Islington Green)
1838 onwards	see <i>Strand Union</i>

The 19th Century Union Workhouses

See also Kelly's London Post Office Directories and Ordnance Survey maps for details of locations.

St George's Union

The result of the merging of St George, Hanover Square and St Margaret and St John, Westminster, 1870 – 1913.

See also *Survey of London, volume 40, pp 316-319; Pevsner's London, volume 3, p 569; Survey of London, volume 42, pp 347-350.*

1870 – 1913	Fulham Road - originally St George's parish workhouse
1870 – 1884	Mount Street (demolished 1886; site of present No 103) - originally St George's parish workhouse
1870 – 1878	Marloes Road, Kensington (building is now part of St Mary Abbots Hospital) – originally St Margaret's parish workhouse
1870 – [c1874]	York Street (now the site of Wellington house, on the corner of Petty France/Buckingham Gate) – originally St Margaret's parish workhouse
1871 onwards	Infirmery at St Ermin's Hill – originally St Margaret's workhouse
1884 – 1913	Wallis's Yard, Buckingham Palace Road
1913 onwards	see <i>City of Westminster Union</i>

Strand Union

The result of combining St Anne, Soho (1837-1868), St Clement Danes (1836-1913), St Martin-in-the-Fields (1868-1913), St Mary le Strand (1836-1913), St Paul, Covent Garden (1836-1913), the Precinct of the Savoy (1836-1913) and the Liberty of the Rolls (1836-1913).

See *Survey of London, volume 36, pp 60-61*; *Pevsner's London, volume 3, p 614*; *Survey of London, volume 24, p 113*; *Victoria County History of Middlesex, volume 5, p 180*

1836 – 1913	Cleveland Street (the building is now the Middlesex Hospital Outpatients Department) – originally St Paul's parish workhouse
1868 – 1870	Hemmings Row/Castle Street (demolished 1871; now the site of the National Portrait Gallery) – originally St Martin's parish workhouse
1868 – 1913	[Millfield House, Wyerhall Road] Edmonton
1890 – 1913	Bear Yard/Portsmouth Place (rebuilt c1903 in the adjacent Sheffield Street; now St Philip's Hospital, sold in 1914)
1871 – 1913	St Giles's Workhouse, Broad Street/Endell Street (used, but not owned, by Strand Union)
[c1873] – [1884]	Highgate Infirmary (exact location to be confirmed)
[c1900] – 1913	Hendon Infirmary (exact location to be confirmed)
1913 onwards	see <i>City of Westminster Union</i>

Westminster Union

From the merging of St James, Piccadilly and St Anne, Soho, 1868-1913.

See *Survey of London, volume 31, pp 210-214*

1868 – 1913	Poland Street (now the site of St Giles House Garage) – originally St James's parish workhouse
1913 onwards	see <i>City of Westminster Union</i>

The 20th Century Union**City of Westminster Union**

Incorporating St George's, Strand and Westminster Unions 1913-1930.

See *Pevsner's London, volume 3, p 569*; *Victoria County History of Middlesex, volume 5, pp 32, 180*

1913 – 1930	Fulham Road (now the site of St Stephen's Hospital) – originally St George's Union
1913 – 1930	Wallis's Yard (now the site of 10 Warwick Row)
1913 – 1914	[Millfield House, Wyerhall Road] Edmonton (demolished c1971; now the site of Stand Palace, Silver Street) – originally the Strand Union workhouse
1913 – 1920	Colindale Avenue Infirmary, Hendon (now Colindale Hospital)
1930 onwards	<i>City of Westminster Union ceased and became part of LCC Public Assistance Department.</i>

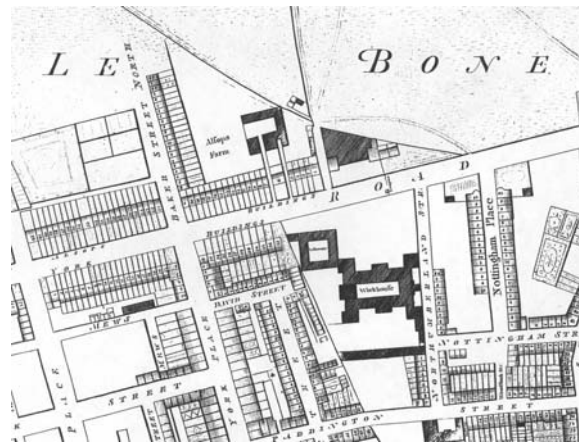
North Westminster Workhouses

Paddington parish

Part of Kensington Union 1837-1845.

See *Victoria County History of Middlesex, volume 9, pp 243-244*

before c1820	[to be confirmed – mainly private contracts, but a parish house was used as an infirmary in 1816]
c1820 – 1838	Harrow Road (three houses, exact location unknown)
1846	Mr Drouet's House, Brixton (exact location unknown)
1846 – 1914	Harrow Road (east of Woodfield Road; now the site of Paddington Community Hospital, formerly St Mary's Hospital)
1914 onwards	Paddington paupers were transferred to St Marylebone



Horwood's map of c1793, showing the St Marylebone workhouse

St Marylebone parish

See *AR Neate: The St Marylebone Workhouse and Institution, 1730-1965, and FHW Sheppard: Local Government in St Marylebone, 1688-1855*

1736 – 1752	Marylebone Passage
1752 – 1776	Paddington Street (now north-east corner of gardens on the south side of the street)
1776 – 1930	Marylebone Road/Luxborough Street (formerly Northumberland Street), (1923-1948 used for outdoor relief; 1949 renamed Luxborough Lodge and used for the elderly; demolished in 1965; now site of the University of Westminster)
1879 – 1930	Infirmery at Exmoor Street, Ladbroke Grove, North Kensington (the building is now St Charles Hospital, as renamed in 1930)
1896 – 1900	Holborn Workhouse, Gray's Inn Road
1930 onwards	St Marylebone Board of Guardians ceased and became part of LCC Public Assistance Department (but see Marylebone Road/Luxborough Street and Exmoor Street above)