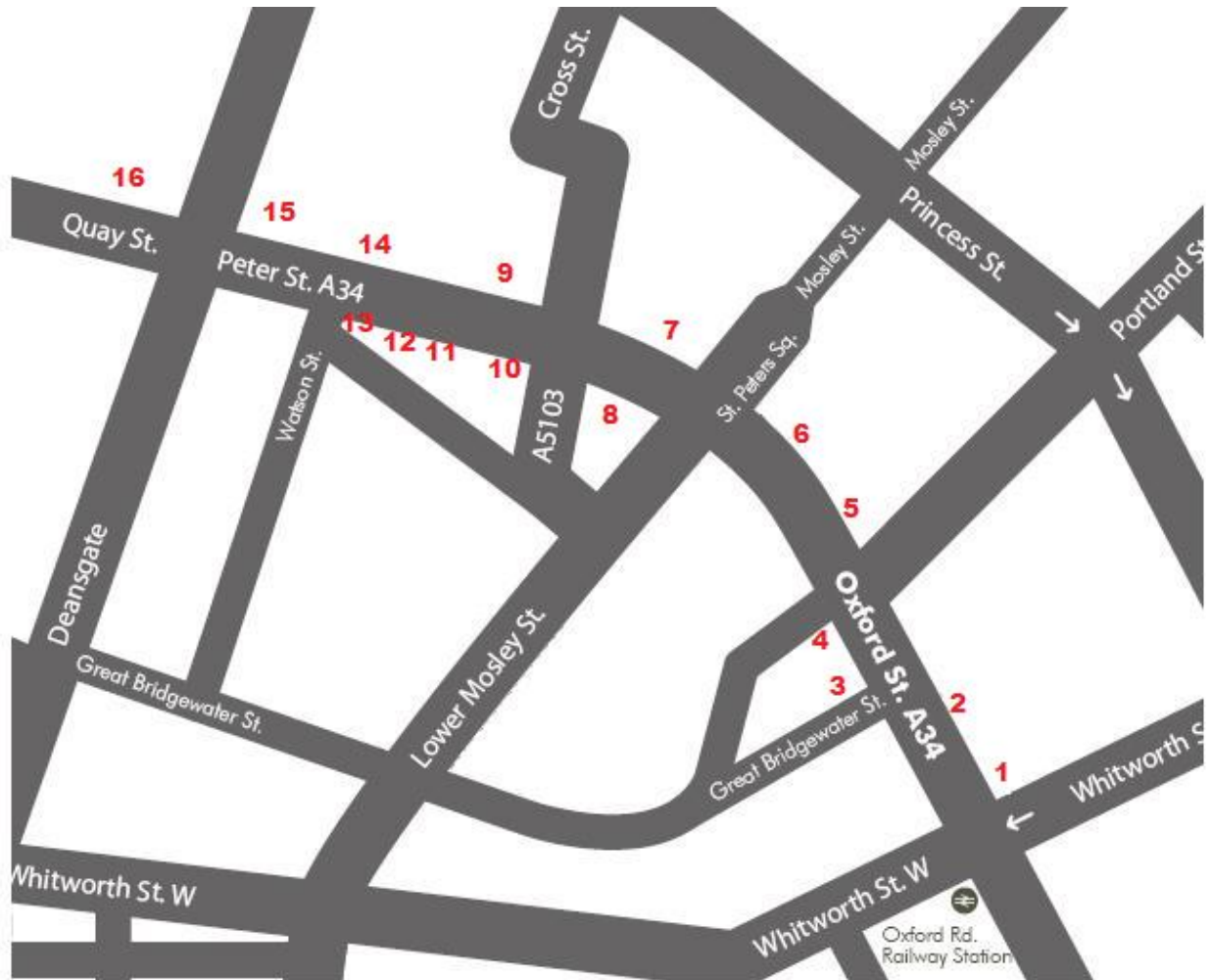


The Lost Stage Walking Map

Come and explore Manchester's 19th century "Theatreland", that developed from the 1880s onwards along the axis of Oxford Street and Peter Street. Although the majority of the original buildings are gone, their architecture mirrored the buildings around them. Now resigned to the history books Manchester's old theatres are still inscribed on the streets. Don't forget to use your imagination as you go back in time to walk the streets as a 19th century goer.



Begin your tour on the right hand side of Oxford Street, which was laid in the 1790s, where you will see the **1. Palace theatre**, opened in 1901.

Continue along Oxford Street on the right hand side.

Along Oxford Street there is an impressive white building, home to cafes and newsagents. This was once the **2. St James's Theatre** which opened in 1884 and was converted into a picture house in 1908. The building also contained a hall which held exhibitions and a fairground wheel that stuck out from the building's roof.

On the left hand side you will find a Chinese Restaurant, this was previously the **3. Manchester Hippodrome**, opened in 1904.

Next to the Hippodrome is a McDonalds which was home to **4. Oxford Theatre**, you can still see the lettering of “The Picture House” in the brickwork.

Cross Portland Street.

After the traffic lights, on the left is a Wetherspoons, previously this was home to the **5. Plaza Ballroom**, opened in the 1930s it only lasted for 10 years.

Next to Wetherspoons and Varsity is a boarded up building. This was once home to the **6. Prince’s Theatre** from 1864 to 1940. This was the first theatre to be built on Oxford Street.

Cross St Peter’s Square and on your right is the Central Library and on the right is the Midland Hotel.

The Central Library contains the **7. Library Theatre**, added to the library in 1928. The theatre is due to close in 2010. **8. The Midland Hotel** was opened in 1903 and was built on the site of two Victorian Concert halls.

At this point you enter Peter Street, laid around 1790, site of the infamous “Peterloo Massacre” in 1819. Continue along and cross Mount Street.

On the right-hand side of Peter Street and you will find shop and office units. On the wall of one of these is a blue plaque recording the site of the **9. Gaiety Theatre**. Now a subway sandwich shop, the Gaiety occupied the site from 1884 to 1921 when it was converted into a picture house.

The terracotta building opposite the Gaiety is the **10. former YMCA** which is now refurbished into a modern office block. Prior to this the site was occupied by the Natural History Museum in 1875, which gave the name to Museum Street next to it.

On the left is **11. Theatre Royal**, 1845, the first theatre to appear in Manchester’s “Theatre-land”. It is now home to a nightclub.

Continue along Peter Street, cross Southmill Street and you will find...

On the left is an office block the **12. Folly theatre**, originally called the Alexandra. Opened in 1865 was one of the first formal variety theatres to open in the city.

Next to the Folly Theatre you will find the **13. Free Trade Hall**, one of Manchester’s finest buildings. Almost destroyed in the Blitz, the frontage was restored and reopened in 1951. The hall was home of the City’s Halle Orchestra for 130 years.

Opposite the Folly Theatre is the **14. Albert Hall**, built in 1793, it was formerly a lecture hall for the Temperance Society, and is now a nightclub.

On the right is the **15. Grande Theatre**, built in 1883 it is now the Christian Scientist Church and Reading Room.

Cross Deansgate Road onto Quay Street and you will discover the finale of the walk, the **16. Opera House** built in 1912.