

= The Angel , Islington =

The Angel , Islington is a historic landmark and a series of buildings that have stood on the corner of Islington High Street and Pentonville Road in Islington , London , England . The land originally belonged to the Clerkenwell Priory and has had various properties built on it since the 16th century . The site was bisected by the New Road , which opened in 1756 , and properties on the site have been rebuilt several times up to the 20th century . The corner site gave its name to Angel tube station , opened in 1901 , and the surrounding Angel area of London .

The current structure was completed in 1903 and was known as the Angel Hotel . The building was acquired by J. Lyons and Co. in 1921 and was used as a restaurant . In 1935 it was chosen as a property for the British version of Monopoly . The building was sold to the London County Council in 1959 to be demolished as part of plans for road improvement works that did not take place . It was returned to private ownership , renovated from 1979 and reopened in 1982 as the Angel Corner House . It is currently used as offices and a branch of the Co @-@ operative Bank , and is a grade II listed building . In 1998 a new pub called the Angel , operated by J D Wetherspoon , opened at an adjacent premises .

= = History = =

= = = Early history = = =

In the early 16th century , a building in this area of London on the Great North Road was known as the Sheepcote . It was named after lands belonging to St John 's Priory . The building was being used as an inn by the end of the 16th century and was known as the Angel by 1614 . The inn took its name from the Angel of the Annunciation which appeared on the sign .

The Angel Inn became a useful stop when travelling to the City of London , as the rural area outside it was considered dangerous , with travellers having armed escorts from Wood 's Close to Islington . Despite its name , and common association with Islington , the grounds of the inn and all of the western edge of Islington High Street were in neighbouring Clerkenwell .

= = = 17th ? 18th century = = =

By 1630 , the inn was owned by William Riplingham , officer of the Great Wardrobe . Riplingham built an extension of the courtyard ranges on the site of the Angel Inn around 1638 , for which he was fined due to breaking building regulations . These ranges survived up to the early 19th century . By 1677 , the Angel was owned by James Compton , 3rd Earl of Northampton and occupied by Edward Fawcett , who ran the inn until his death in 1696 . The premises accommodated livestock traders destined for Smithfield Market as well as long distance travellers .

In the early 18th century , the Angel was the largest coaching house in a row of several along Islington High Street . Robert Bartholomew took over ownership of the inn in 1744 and was succeeded by his son , Christopher around 1766 , who continued to run it until the end of the century . The inn was the subject of William Hogarth 's 1747 drawing , The Stage @-@ Coach , Or The Country Inn Yard , which depicted busy coaching inn trade and traffic . In his book The Inns and Taverns of Old London published in 1909 , Henry C. Shelley said " The Angel dates back to before 1665 ... In the seventeenth century and later , as old pictures testify , the inn presented the usual features of a large old country hostelry . "

The building of the New Road in 1756 bisected the Angel Inn site and the stable buildings were cut off on the southern side . The inn was on the northern side , on the corner of what is now the junction of Islington High Street and Pentonville Road , while the stables were now on what is St John Street , adjacent to the New Inn , which had been established in 1744 . The Angel benefited from the extra traffic brought by the New Road , and in addition to accommodation provided a number of assembly rooms for public meetings . The author and political activist Thomas Paine is

believed to have begun writing Rights of Man at the Angel in 1790 , and there is a monument on Islington High Street commemorating this .

= = = 19th century = = =

By the start of the 19th century , fields south of the Angel were being built on , resulting in all land towards the City of London being urban . The Angel was rebuilt during 1819 and 1820 to become a post house and meeting place for various London businesses . The redevelopment was directed by Charles Smith , and subsequently let to James Smith . The size of the inn was reduced and adjacent plots were sold off , allowing development of houses and shops , though the inn 's grounds remained substantial . It was now advertised as the " Angel Inn Tavern and Hotel for Gentlemen and Families " , and the front of the tavern faced the New Road .

By the 1850s , the Angel was reported to be in decline . The New Road was renamed Pentonville Road in 1857 , and the inn 's management successfully put shop fronts on the road around 1870 , along with extensive refurbishments . In 1880 , the Angel was refurbished internally for William Henry and Richard Baker , later to become large @-@ scale pub owners . In 1883 the stables were sold to the London Street Tramways and the main building was sold to the brewers Truman , Hanbury , Buxton & Co. in 1896 .

Construction of a new building in pale terracotta stone with a corner cupola was started in 1899 by the architects Frederick James Eedle and Sydney Herbert Meyers . The brewers proclaimed the new building to be " the widest @-@ known hostelry in the world " , and work was completed in 1903 . A panel on a second floor balcony still bears this opening date . The parish of Clerkenwell became the Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury in 1900 and when the City and South London Railway opened a new tube station in the area in 1901 it was named Angel .

= = = 20th ? 21st century = = =

The pub ceased trading in 1921 and the building was sold to restaurateurs J. Lyons and Co . It was adapted as the flagship site of the business , though it was not technically a standard Lyons Corners House . The restaurant remained popular , and could accommodate up to 300 people , as did Lyons Corner Houses across London throughout the 1920s and 30s , but fell out of favour as fast food began to become popular in the 1950s .

In 1959 The Angel was closed and sold to the London County Council as part of a plan to demolish it to make way for a new road scheme at the Angel intersection . It was used temporarily by the City University . Finsbury merged with the Metropolitan Borough of Islington to form the London Borough of Islington in 1965 and ownership of the site passed to the Greater London Council . The proposals for demolition of the site along with road changes were opposed by Homes before Roads and the Islington Society . Plans to alter the intersection and create a layout similar to that at Old Street roundabout were abandoned and the building was saved from demolition .

The Greater London Council sold the building to the New River Company , with the property becoming part of the London Merchant Securities portfolio . The building was renovated between 1979 and 1982 by McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd with architects Elsom Pack & Roberts converting the building for office use and renaming it Angel Corner House . The ground floor is now a branch of The Co @-@ operative Bank , and the ORC International market research agency occupies the upper floors . The building is now privately owned by Hamilton Investment Properties .

The building , along with this section of Islington High Street has been part of the Angel conservation area since 1981 and The Corner House has been a Grade II listed building since 1991 . The council describe this as " the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance " . Local planning regulations stipulate that new development in the area must not be taller than the dome on the Angel Corner House .

= = Related developments = =

On 27 October 1998 , a J D Wetherspoon pub named The Angel opened at 3 Islington High Street , adjacent to the former pub building . It stands on the part of the original Angel Inn site that was redeveloped as shops in 1820 .

Ten Four Pentonville Road is a redevelopment of Angel Mews . It is located at the site of the original Angel Inn 's stables . The Hilton London Angel Islington Hotel is named after the pub . It is located on Upper Street to the north of the original Angel .

= = Cultural references = =

" The Angel Islington " is a property in the British version of Monopoly . In the game it is the third @-@ cheapest property on the board , reflecting the downmarket state of Islington through most of the 20th century until its gentrification in the 1980s . Victor Watson , of British manufacturers John Waddington Ltd , and his wife , Marge , decided to include the property on the board whilst taking tea at the cafe . This account of events appears on a plaque displayed in the bank within the building ; the inscription says it is the " only site on the board named after a building " . It is part of the light blue group with Pentonville Road and Euston Road . In the game , a house at the Angel costs £ 50 ; by the turn of the 21st century a house on Islington High Street fetched around £ 600 @, @ 000 .

In 1827 , James Pollard painted The Royal Mail Coaches for the North Leaving the Angel , Islington , currently on display in the Tate Gallery . The Charles Dickens novel Oliver Twist contains a reference to the Angel , where " London began in earnest " . Neil Gaiman 's fantasy television series Neverwhere has a character named Angel Islington , after the inn . " The Angel , Islington " is the opening track on singer / songwriter Frank Turner 's album Positive Songs for Negative People .