

In 1865 The Christian Mission, which became The Salvation Army in 1878, was founded in the East End of London. A lot has changed in Whitechapel since then, but this guide will help you find some of the buildings and locations associated with The Salvation Army in its earliest years.

1 The Blind Beggar Public House

From Whitechapel underground station turn left along Whitechapel Road to The Blind Beggar public house on the corner of Cambridge Heath Road.

In June 1865 William Booth met a group of mission workers holding a street meeting outside The Blind Beggar public house. He addressed the assembled crowd and the missionaries were so impressed with his preaching that they invited him to lead a series of meetings in a tent on a nearby Quaker burial ground.

Now cross Cambridge Heath Road into Mile End Road



8 The Ebenezer Hall

The Ebenezer Hall stood on the left hand side of Fieldgate Street and was used for Christian Mission meetings from 1870-1880. The property also housed the print works where The War Cry was produced.

Continue down Fieldgate Street; bear right and cross over to the long established Whitechapel Bell Foundry and turn left onto Whitechapel Road.

9 The People's Mission Hall

20-22 Whitechapel Road were purchased by the Christian Mission in 1870. The Hall, which was large enough to seat 1,500 people, was first used for public worship on Sunday 10 April. The building also contained smaller meeting rooms and a People's Soup and Coffee House.

The Headquarters of the Mission were transferred to the People's Mission Hall from The Eastern Star and remained here until the Salvation Army set up its International Headquarters in Queen Victoria Street in 1881. By 1893 the building housed a men's hostel and the Headquarters of the Men's Social Work.

Cross Whitechapel Road at the nearby pedestrian crossing. Turn Right, passing on your left The Salvation Army's Booth House Lifehouse. The staff at this flagship social care centre serve those in need in Christ's name.



2 and 3 The Bust and The Statue

The bust of William Booth was unveiled in 1927 and the statue (at the other end of what now remains of Mile End Waste) was erected to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth. The Vine public house, outside which he often preached, stood in this area.

Return to The Blind Beggar public house and cross carefully to the opposite side of Whitechapel Road.

4 220 Whitechapel Road

In 1867 The Christian Mission, as it had come to be termed, desperately needed a central meeting place, managed to acquire The Eastern Star, a run-down beer shop, for £120. The building, 220 Whitechapel Road, became The Christian Mission's first Headquarters.

The façade of the building next door (222) retains some of the characteristics that 220 would have had in 1867.

Continue west up Whitechapel Road and turn left into Cavell Street.

5 The Skittle Alley

This car-park was the once the site of The Alexandra Hall, a converted skittle alley adjoining The Raven public house. On Sunday mornings and afternoons in 1867 and again in 1870 William Booth preached here.

Continue along Cavell Street to Ford Square, which retains much of its Victorian character. Then turn right into Varden Street, continuing along New Road. Turn left and cross New Road.

6 The Dancing Academy

23 New Road bears a blue plaque indicating that, on Sunday 3 September 1865, Professor Orson's dancing academy was used for the first indoor Christian Mission meeting. When the Saturday night dancers left in the early hours of Sunday morning, the missionaries would move in with brooms and benches to prepare the room for Sunday worship. This arrangement went on until 1867.

Continue along New Road to Commercial Road. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn right along Commercial Road to Christian Street, the third turning on the left.

7 102 Christian Street

Mrs Elizabeth Cottrill, a Soldier at Whitechapel Corps, began bringing saved prostitutes to her home in Christian Street in 1881. The women were coming to meetings, finding salvation and then having no-where to return to but the brothel. This was the Salvation Army's the unofficial beginning of their rescue work.

Return to Commercial Road and take care to cross at the nearby traffic island. Turn right then left into Parfett Street – a pedestrian precinct with late Victorian houses. Continue to the end of Parfett Street and turn left into Fieldgate Street.



10 The Effingham Theatre

Early in 1867 William Booth added The Effingham Theatre to his Sunday preaching stations. The theatre was used by the Christian Mission until April 1870. The site, opposite Booth House, is now a Citroën car showroom.

Continue along Whitechapel Road to the site of The Pavilion Theatre.

11 The Pavilion Theatre

This theatre, originally 193 Whitechapel Road, was used for an eight week period when The Effingham Theatre was being rebuilt.

Turn left into Vallance Road, to Vallance Gardens, on the right, where a sun-dial marks the site of the tent.

12 The Tent

On Sunday 2 July 1865, here, on a disused Quaker burial ground, William Booth led meetings in a large tent erected by a group of missionaries. From this beginning grew the world-wide work of The Salvation Army.

13 Hanbury Street Rescue Home

In 1884 the work being carried out in Mrs Cottrill's increasingly crowded house in Christian Street was moved to a refuge at 212 Hanbury Street (now the site of a block of flats). This was The Salvation Army's first rescue home.



SALVATION ARMY WHITECHAPEL WALKABOUT



For information about the Salvation Army International Heritage Centre contact heritage@salvationarmy.org.uk | 020 7326 7800 or visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk

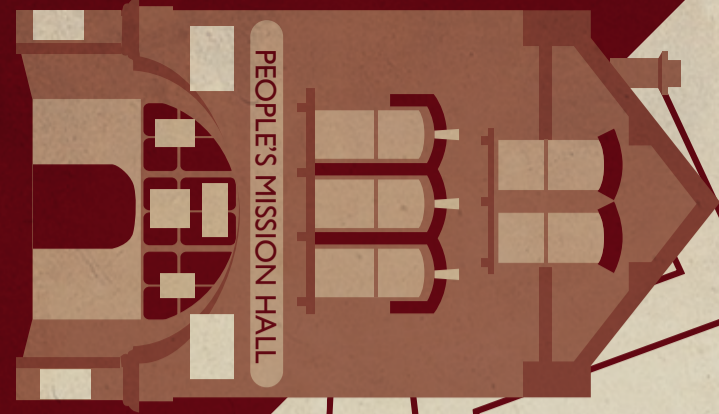
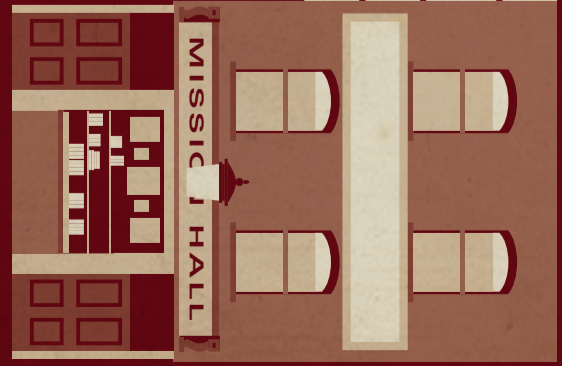


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WHITECHAPEL

VALLANCE GARDENS

ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL

WHITECHAPEL STATION

COMMERCIAL RD

WHITECHAPEL RD

MILE END RD

Cambridge Heath Rd

Old Montague St

Hanbury St

Fieldgate St

Greenfield Rd

Settles St

Parfett St

Myrdle St

Romford St

Fordham St

New Rd

Varden St

Cavell St

Ford Square

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