

Architecture of Fleet Street

North Side - From Bolt Court to Temple Bar

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THE HERITAGE of FLEET STREET

LONDON 2023

(claxity.com) indicates there is a full description on <https://www.claxity.com> Further details and images of Listed buildings can be accessed on www.historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch and entering the address; if accessing many listed buildings, use the map search

No. 152-153

Plain plastered façade likely covering post-Great Fire buildings.

Bouverie House (No. 154-160)

Stripped Classical with an Art Moderne window grid filling the central section. The 1960s addition of attic storeys looks heavy handed. The original portion is a 1924 design by Campbell-Jones, Sons & Smithers. *(claxity.com)*

No. 165

Banal C21 replacement (complete with incongruous fourth-storey balcony) of Hulton House (No. 161-166), a rather plain but rational 1955 design by AS Ash of 1955, for the magazine publishers Hulton Press. The clock on the right side has been retained from the previous building.

No. 167-169

Anonymous office bloc with entrance and an odd stack of windows with pretend sills on its right. By R Seifert & partners of 1961.

No 170 and No. 171

The narrow facades of these two addresses were incorporated into the 1980s redevelopment of No 173-176. Two examples of liberally interpreted Renaissance idiom with no pretensions to scholarship but an overall gracious effect. G Pidding is responsible for No. 171 (built 1881).

No. 173-176

A Post-modern brick and terracotta composition loosely referencing Jacobean revival Victorian forms. The brick panels are prefabricated and the return along Fetter Lane is longer than the Fleet Street portion. Somewhat busy, despite the lack of detailed ornament but with effective relief of mass, relative to its considerable size. 1986 by RF White & Associates.

FETTER LANE TO CHANCERY LANE (N SIDE)

No. 180

Less successful than No. 173-176 across the road, the smooth red brick terminates in blank, extended gables and dull-charcoal elevations. Of 1984 by Thomas Saunders Partners.

No. 184

Red brick with stone accents (including superimposed oriel windows), relieving arch and shaped gable. 1892 by Farebrother, Ellis & Clarke.

DC Thomson (No. 185) and newspaper offices (No. 186)

Like No. 184, the façade at No. 185 features a relieving arch and oriel windows, here deployed with extra detailing. 1913 by Meakin, Archer & Stoneham. Meanwhile, No. 186 (built 1893) despite the modernised ground floor and merger with No. 185 retains period glazed tiling and mosaic spelling out the titles (owned by DC Thomson) of newspapers that had their London base here.

St Dunstan in the West

The tall Neo-Gothic steeple surmounts the entrance and dominates the street aspect. Also notable, however, are the aedicule with clock and recessed side entrance with statue of Elizabeth I. It was built from 1830 to designs by John Shaw Sr and John Shaw Jr. The interior is octagonal, recalling early Christian styles and wears its Gothicism lightly. Grade I listed.

Law Life Assurance (No.187)

Historicist London stock brick with stone dressing and prominent, rounded oriels and terminating balustrade. Interesting extra storey in the leftward three bays as well as aediculated entrance. 1834 by J Shaw Jr. Grade II listed.

Coutts & Co. (No. 188-190)

Orderly, spare modernism w/ large roundels around entrance; 1967 by Anderson, Foster, Wilcox.

No. 191-192

Unadventurous 1986 Post-modern recladding of an earlier C20 structure by YRM Partners.

CHANCERY LANE TO BELL YARD (N SIDE)

Attenborough & Son (No. 193)

A former Jeweller and Silversmith was housed in this rounded-corner building of bright red sandstone and profuse ornament. A romantic, eclectic composition of 1883 by Archer & Green. Grade II listed. *(claxity.com)*

Law Courts Branch of the Bank of England (No. 194)

Renaissance Revival, palazzo-style, richly detailed front with loggia turrets at each corner. The former banking hall is now a resplendent pub. AW Blomfield's work here (1888) is self-confident and demonstrative. Grade II listed. *(claxity.com)*

The Royal Courts of Justice (a.k.a 'The Law Courts')

Spanning the eastern end of the Strand and the beginning of Fleet Street, this 1868 design by George Edmund Street is a high point in Gothic Revival style and in Street's career. It is rich in decorative elements, steeples, ogive arches and allegorical and memorialist sculpture. It was built between 1873 and 1882. Thanks to its institutional role, it retains excellently preserved interiors. Grade I listed.



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Additional notes

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Further reading: The www.claxity.com website has extensive pages covering all the classical buildings within the City of London.