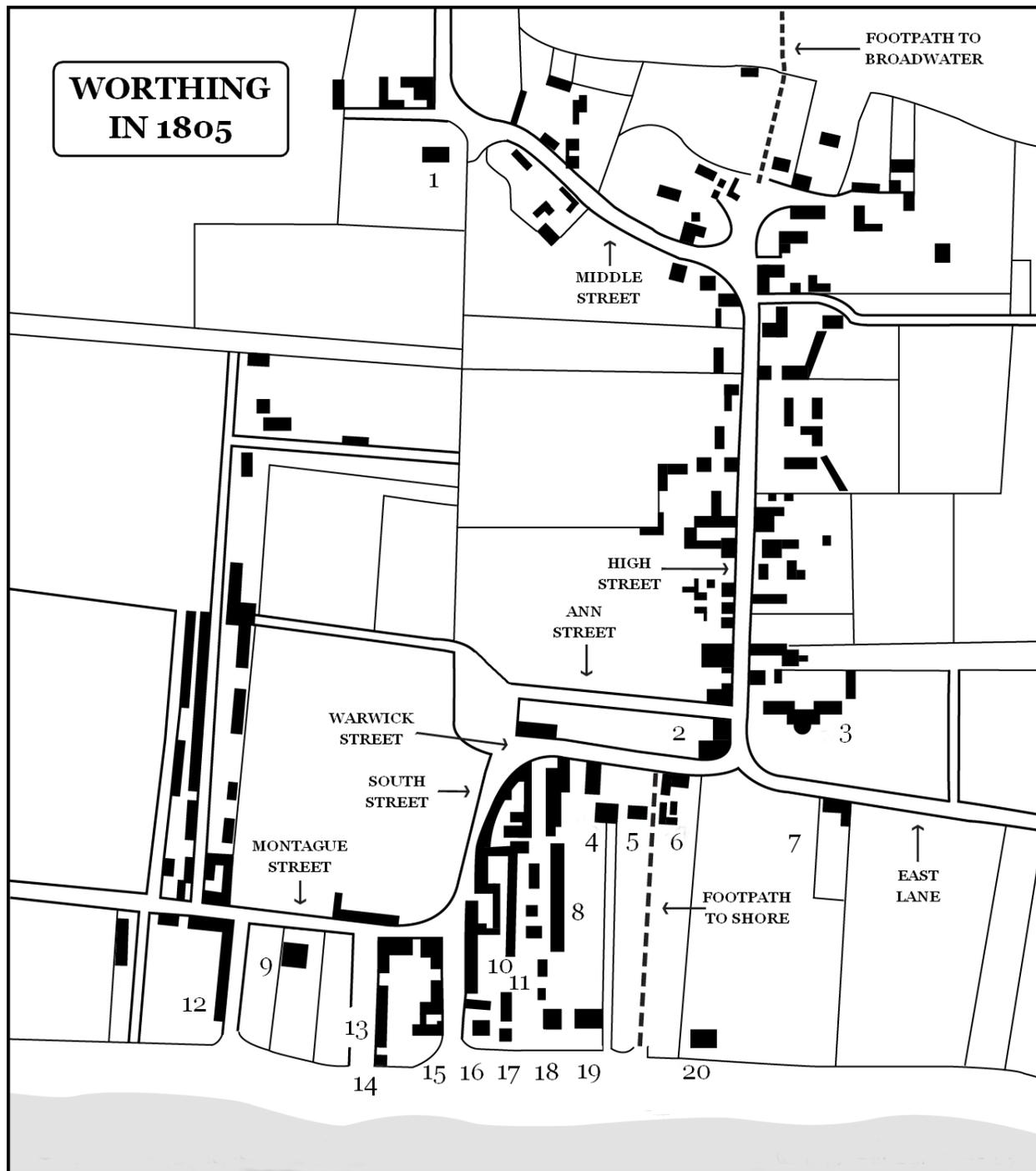


A WALK AROUND JANE AUSTEN'S WORTHING



Because the street structure of central Worthing has changed little since 1805 (and most of the street-names remain the same), the map of 1805 is not only more than serviceable for our purposes – but has the added advantage that it identifies the old buildings rather than the current ones.

Buildings marked with an *asterisk still stand today. All the others are long gone.



Our short walk around Jane Austen's Worthing – it will take half-an-hour at most – starts at ***STANFORD'S COTTAGE [5]** in Warwick Street, today a branch of Pizza Express.

Stanford's Cottage, which was known from the middle of the nineteenth century as Stanford Cottage, was the house where Jane Austen and her family stayed in 1805. The view towards the sea from the upstairs part of the restaurant allows us to imagine the open views southwards that the house had in 1805. The outlook from the north frontage was also entirely open, since neither Ann Street nor the northern side of Warwick Street had yet been built.

If, before leaving Stanford Square, we glance across the old footpath (or "twitten") to the east of the house, we can imagine where **LAMPOR'T'S COTTAGE [6]** used to stand. The path to the seashore between the two houses became known as Library Passage after Stafford's Library relocated to the seafront around 1809. Lampor't's Cottage was referred to in 1938 as "recently demolished".

On emerging into Warwick Street, turn left.

In Jane Austen's time a substantial house called **LANE'S HOUSE [4]**, later known as Bedford House, stood just to the west of Stanford's Cottage. It was demolished in 1940.

Turn left into ***BEDFORD ROW [8]**. This attractive terrace of lodging-houses for wealthy visitors had been built only a couple of years before Jane Austen's visit.

On reaching the seafront, turn right, and then right again into Marine Place.

On the west side of Marine Place, stood **COPPING'S ROW [10]**, a terrace of good-quality lodging-houses, which was long ago swallowed up by extensions to the backs of the shops on the east side of South Street.

Either in – or just north of – Copping's Row was located **STAFFORD'S MARINE LIBRARY [11]**, which in 1805 also housed Worthing's post office. In 1805 this was the lesser of Worthing's two libraries, but around 1809 Stafford relocated to a handsome new building on the seafront, of which just the ground-floor storey survives today, to the east of the Dome.

Return to Marine Parade, and then turn right. Proceed as far as Montague Place, on the west side of which stood – and still stand – the seven houses of ***MONTAGUE TERRACE [12]**. Built around 1794, this was the first terrace of note to be built in Worthing.

Retrace your steps east along Marine Parade to Bath Place.

Where the amusement arcade now stands was the site of **WICKS'S BATHS [14]**. In 1805 Wicks's Baths was the only such establishment in Worthing, so this was the "warm bath" that we know Jane Austen's sister Cassandra patronised on 20 September.

In Jane Austen's time the terrace on the eastern side of Bath Place was known as ***BATH BUILDINGS [13]**. In those days there were no structures between Montague Terrace and Bath Buildings. All the original Georgian houses of Bath Buildings survive, apart from at the sea-end, where there are a couple of modern red-brick replacements.

Return to Marine Parade and turn left.

On the south-west corner of South Street in 1805 was situated the **SEA HOUSE INN [15]**. Although this was Worthing's leading inn at the time, it was not a grand establishment. In 1826 it was replaced by the Sea House Hotel – later the Royal – which was destroyed by fire in 1901. Today the site is occupied by the Royal Arcade.

At the south-east end of South Street was located the **NEW INN [16]**. In 1824 or 1825 this was replaced by the Marine Hotel, which was demolished in 1965. In 1805 the landlady of the New Inn was Mrs Bacon and the landlady of the Sea House was Mrs Hogsflesh, a circumstance that inspired Charles Lamb to write a dreadful little comedy called *Mr H*.

To the east of the New Inn in 1805 stood a small private house known as **MARINE COTTAGE [17]**, which in 1816 was enlarged to become the Wellington Inn, renamed the Pier Hotel in 1863. This was replaced in 1937–8 by a new Pier Hotel in art deco style, which was demolished in 1965.

A few yards to the east of Marine Cottage stood – and still stand – ***GREAT AND LITTLE TERRACE [18/19]**. In 1805 these houses were high-class lodging-houses, and Great and Little Terrace were probably the buildings that Jane Austen refers to in *Sanditon* as “a short row of smart-looking houses called the Terrace”, since similar terms were used in the 1805 edition of John Evans's book *A Picture of Worthing* (of which we are fairly sure Jane Austen owned a copy).

Proceed east along Marine Parade to the corner of Steyne Gardens.

In 1805 the site at the south-west corner of Steyne Gardens was occupied by an **OLD INN [20]**. This was replaced in 1807 by the Steyne Hotel (now the southern end of the Chatsworth Hotel, with an independent restaurant on the ground floor).

Cross Steyne Gardens diagonally in a north-easterly direction.

In 1805 a terrace of three humble cottages known as **BADGER'S BUILDINGS [7]** stood roughly where the Methodist church stands today. In those days this was the only building that interrupted the open views from Warwick House.

Just behind modern-day Warwick, Broadway and Kent Mansions was the site of **WARWICK HOUSE [3]**, Worthing's most notable house in 1805. It was owned by Edward Ogle, on whom Jane Austen based the character of Mr Parker in her unfinished novel *Sanditon*, and it served as the inspiration for Trafalgar House, Mr Parker's house in the novel. The house was demolished in 1896.

On the corner of Warwick Street and High Street stood – and still stands – ***THE COLONNADE [2]**, built around 1802. In 1805, there was a library on the corner, and the three houses to its north were lodging-houses. This library was almost certainly the library that the Austen ladies patronised most regularly during their stay and where, according to her niece Fanny, Jane Austen won 17 shillings in a raffle. Although the Colonnade survives, it was badly damaged by fire in 1888, and there was a further partial reconstruction between the two world wars.

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