

New Publications from English Heritage

18th-century London's Smaller Houses

by Peter Guillery

Eighteenth-century London was Europe's biggest city and greatest industrial centre. Three out of four Londoners were artisans or labourers, and 40% of the city's population lived in largely manufacturing districts in Southwark and Tower Hamlets. This wide-ranging study is derived from a number of surveys in inner-London districts where some modest 18th-century houses have survived from the once-plentiful housing stock built for artisans and labourers, though they are largely unrecognised, unprotected and newly vulnerable to regeneration investment. This study of vernacular buildings offers significant insights into an important but neglected branch of urban studies.

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Acton Court

The evolution of an early Tudor courtier's house

by Kirsty Rodwell and Robert Bell

Acton Court is the architectural study of a Tudor Manor house, where the building itself sheds light on the social and cultural history of the time. For more than 400 years, the Acton family and their successors, the Poyntz family, occupied the substantial manor house at Iron Acton in South Gloucestershire. Successive remodellings and extensions of their 13th-century moated manor house reflected the growth in wealth of the Actons, and later the increasing prosperity and rise to favour of several Poyntz family heirs, culminating in a three-day visit in 1535 by Henry VIII. Archaeological evidence has shown that a new east range was most probably built especially for this royal visit. The last building development in mid 1550s gave Acton Court

the outwardly regular appearance of a courtyard house. The surviving structures display much of their mid-16th-century appearance.

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Gateshead

by Simon Taylor and David B Lovie

Gateshead has often been overshadowed by Newcastle, its northern neighbour across the River Tyne, yet its history covers the development of a northern industrial town during the 19th and 20th centuries. This period of great change is explored through a study of the town's everyday historic landscape: the legacy of railway engineering, the construction of the Team Valley Trading Estate (a nationally significant example of a state-sponsored attempt to engineer economic change), new public buildings and rapid growth of new housing. The book concludes with a discussion of the conservation of the historic environment in a new period of great change.

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