



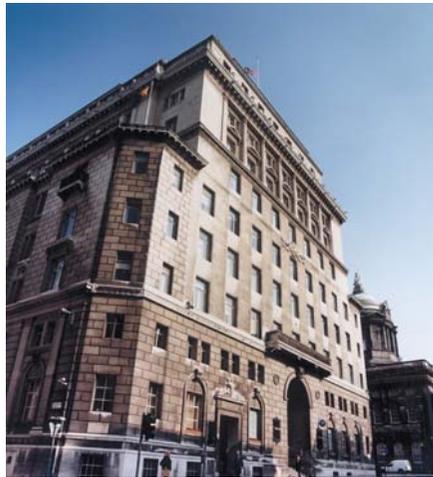
Liverpool Town Hall

The Town Hall was originally designed by John Wood of Bath in 1749, although it has undergone many changes, not least the addition of the dome by James Wyatt in 1802 and the remodeling of the portico in 1900. It stands in a commanding position at the junction of three major streets and backing onto Exchange Flags.



Royal Insurance Building

This was designed by James F. Doyle and completed in 1903 in neo-Baroque style of mansion proportions. The gold-domed tower over the off-set entrance is a major city landmark. The integral sculptural frieze by C. J. Allen is of the highest order and illustrates the theme of insurance. The virtually self-supporting steel frame was one of the first in the country on this scale and allowed expansive open interiors. The building has been disused for many years and is a critical Building At Risk.



Martins Bank Building

is a magnum opus by the Liverpool architect Herbert J. Rowse, who also designed India Buildings, the Philharmonic Hall and Queensway Tunnel. It was constructed 1927-32 and was heavily influenced by the American School of stripped classicism and technology. The interior and exterior sculpture by Herbert Tyson Smith is highly stylized of its period, representing the themes of money and the sea.



***IHBC Summer School
Saturday 16th June 2007
Tour***

Palaces of Commerce

Institute of Historic Building Conservation Summer School June 2007

Palaces of Commerce

2.00 pm Leave Liverpool Medical Institute: Mount Pleasant, Lime Street, St John's Lane

2.20 pm 135-139 Dale Street, Municipal Building, Bridewell Cheap side, Royal Insurance Building

3.00pm Liverpool Town Hall, Exchange Flags, Martins Bank, India Buildings, Oriel Chambers, Fenwick Street

4.00 pm Castle Street, 16 Cook, A Hard Day's Night, Mathew Street, Victoria Street

5.00pm Finish at Adelphi Hotel

This tour will be lead by Joseph Sharples (Author of the new Pevsner for Liverpool) and John Benbow (DC Officer for the City Centre)



Liverpool's historic commercial district occupies the site of the early settlement that was granted a royal charter in 1207. Although the earliest remaining building is John Wood's Town Hall of 1749, the street layout established by the seven ancient streets in the 13th century survives. Virtually all vestiges of residential occupation have been replaced by municipal and commercial buildings, with palatial banks, exchanges, speculative offices and premises for shipping and insurance companies, mostly Victorian and early 20th century. These palaces of commerce are a legacy of Liverpool's wealth and business success. Different architectural styles and materials abound, but the exceptional quality pervades, with examples of work by architects of national standing, including Charles Cockerell, Norman Shaw and Alfred Waterhouse. The area remains predominantly commercial but changing demands for office space have resulted in conversions to residential and leisure uses, whilst Liverpool's current renaissance has revived the office market and led to significant new developments. Much of the historic commercial district is within Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site.