

St Mary's Street / Market Street

An important commercial street forming part of the historic market area of the city centre.

These streets are part of the city's early medieval street pattern, leading into the north east and north west corners of the market place from the two spinal routes of Sidney Street (the Roman road) and Senate House Hill (the medieval Highe Street). The medieval origins of these routes are illustrated by

the churches that stand at either end. Other buildings have been redeveloped over the centuries with high quality examples now covering the C18, C19 and C20, providing a highly varied frontage. The activity is predominantly commercial, reflecting the character of the area for the past millennium.



Street view

SIGNIFICANCE - HIGH

General Overview

This area provides the link between the two main routes of Sidney Street and Senate House Hill and lies at the heart of the commercial area of the city. They are recorded on Braun's map of Cambridge of 1575 as Sherers Lane (St Mary's Street) and Shoemakers Lane (Market Street) suggesting that the streets around the market place were each associated with a specific craft or market activity.



Great St Mary's Church

space within the streetscene divided from the street by historic railings.

Similarly, Holy Trinity Church occupies a large part of the south side of Market Street and forms the corner to Sidney Street, with the building providing architectural interest to the street (including its embattled roofline and pinnaced porch), and the fringe of churchyard an attractive area of greenery in the streetscene that softens the otherwise hard urban surroundings, in addition to its historical interest as a medieval burial ground. Other buildings on the south side of Market Street represent a mixture of purpose built shops or showrooms, including No. 23 which includes

Great St Mary's Church, first recorded in 1205 but probably replacing an earlier religious building, was first home to the University of Cambridge, acting as the focal place for scholars. The early C13 church was destroyed by fire in 1290 and subsequently rebuilt in the early C14, and later significantly rebuilt again in the C15 though retaining part of the C14 chancel. It was the main venue for the university's debates, lectures, ceremonies and celebrations for several centuries. Some of the great scholars, philosophers and theologians of the reformation spoke in the church, including Erasmus, Ridley, Cranmer, Latimer and Calvin. It remains a venue for the University Sermon which, until the late C19, all members of the university were required to attend, requiring the insertion of galleries of seating as the university expanded in the C18. It is also the point from which the first official English mile was measured. The churchyard occupies the entire south side of St Mary's Street, with the church providing a strong and architecturally interesting frontage and the churchyard a green



Holy Trinity Church

first floor shop windows, or C19 townhouses with ground floor shops. Among these the Art Nouveau shopfronts, No. 21 Market Street stands out as a high quality example that provides considerable artistic value in the streetscene. Alongside Holy Trinity Church, Henry Martyn Hall stands out in the streetscene for the use of the eye-catching flint facing of the walls, with stone dressings in Gothic style, and a tall oriel window clasping the corner with delicate perpendicular tracery. These details suggest the building's ecclesiastical connections (Henry Martyn was an early C19 preacher and biblical translator).

The north sides of the two streets and the linking section of Market Hill are more architecturally diverse. Generally rising to three storeys with attics or four storeys with flat roofs, it rises to a high point of six storeys (although visually only one storey higher than the adjacent four storey buildings) at the junction with Market Hill (Nos. 16 – 20 Market Hill). The dominant style and materials are the early C19 neo-classical buildings faced in Gault brick with six-over-six sash windows and flat arches of gauged brick over as well as parapets at the roofline. These have inserted shopfronts, some of which continue up to the first floor, amongst them No. 10 Market Street stands out as a particularly fine example. The Market Hill buildings feature an arcaded walk that provides a wider area of street and shelters its well preserved early C20 shopfronts. Indeed, this building stands out within the street for its accomplished architecture, described by Pevsner as the best example of modernism in Cambridge. Nos. 1 and 2



No. 10 Market Street



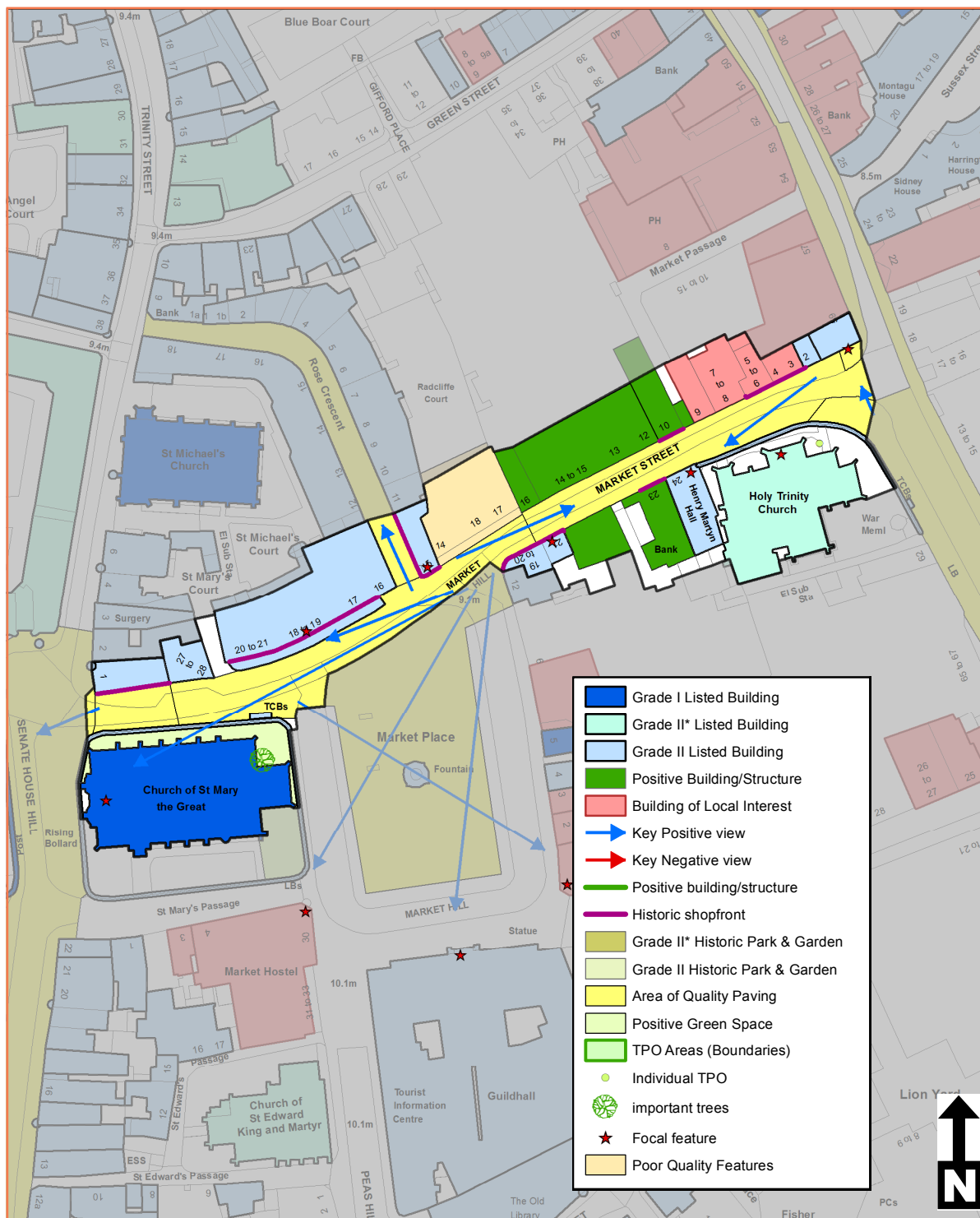
Channeled views from St Mary's St to Senate House

Market Street also stand out as timber framed buildings dating from the C18, identifiable due to their cladding of painted plaster and timber-framed sash windows set flush with the walls (rather than recessed into it), helping to reveal another period of the street's development.

The buildings are set at the back of the pavement providing access directly to shops from the street, which is part of the area's historic commercial character. The frontages of buildings are now broad, suggesting considerable amalgamation of property since the medieval plots were set out. However these are broken into numerous narrow frontages by shopfronts, helping to preserve a market town style rhythm of buildings. The buildings form long informal terraces that provide a strong sense of enclosure, except for where the streets open onto the market place. This provides very varied views, including those channeled along St Mary's Street towards the Senate House and Law Schools, and glimpsed views through gaps in the north side into St Michael's Court, Rose Crescent and Market Passage. The market place provides numerous views in which the bustle of the market is shown as the commercial heart of the town, a role it has played for a millennium. The long frontage of the

Guildhall dominates the view south, representing the function of the space as the centre of civic life for the city, another role that has been held for many centuries. Looking along the street, a series of buildings provide focal features in views, including those mentioned above, although Great St Mary's stands out as the dominant feature of the street.

The street benefits from high quality paving that is the result of recent enhancement, as well as historic schemes, and includes large stone flags for the broad footpaths, with stone kerbs to the narrow carriageway, which is surfaced in brick pavers thereby helping to identify this as a street where pedestrians are given priority. A group of the red K6 telephone boxes stand at the corner of St Mary's



© Crown copyright (Licence No. 100019730) Not to Scale

Street and Market Hill forming an element of traditional street furniture seen against the historic iron railings of the churchyard.

The block from No. 17 Market Street stands out as an ambitious modernist building that has either been negatively altered or always did have a strange fenestration scheme.

Both streets are within the core traffic zone and therefore virtually pedestrianised for most of the day. St Mary's Street is a mixture of religious buildings, student accommodation, shops and

commercial buildings. Market Street is similar but there are also coffee bars and less student accommodation as it is far more commercial, being one of the main shopping streets.

Townscape Elements

- Buildings generally on back of footpath forming informal terraces or single broad fronted blocks that provide direct access from the pavement to shops and creating a strong sense of enclosure.
- St Mary's Street has a more spacious feel because of the set back of the church behind



Holy Trinity Churchyard

railings with the greenery of the churchyard providing softening in the streetscene.

- Market Street is tighter and narrower with Holy Trinity Church set back behind railings and slightly skewed from the building line and therefore less visible in views along the street.
- St Mary's Street provides excellent views both towards Senate House Lawn and Market Hill.
- Views east from Market Street are closed by buildings on Sidney Street and looking west Great St Mary's Church and King's College Chapel provide an excellent silhouette.
- Holy Trinity churchyard provides a particularly pleasant area of greenery that spills over into



No. 17 Market Street

the streetscene.

- The architecture of the street is varied but the Gault brick faced Neo-classical buildings, also seen elsewhere and particularly on adjoining streets to the north, provide the dominant architectural character. This is taken up and improved on by the modernist architecture of the Market Hill buildings.

Opportunities for enhancement

Wholesale redevelopment of any building seems unlikely, but there may be some scope for encouraging more active use of the upper floors of some buildings. No. 17 Market Street stands out as an opportunity to enhance the frontage through improved maintenance but possibly also through improvements to the building's fenestration.

St Mary's Street

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
1 Trinity Street	Listed Grade II	early C19	3 + attics	Gault brick	mansard / slate		
27 & 28 Market Hill	Listed Grade II	early C19	3	grey Gault brick	mansard / slate		
Church of St Mary the Great	Listed Grade I	C14 - late C15	N/A	oolitic & barnack limestone	flat-pitched / lead & copper	alterations & restoration: 1850-1 Gilbert Scott 1857 Anthony Salvin	
Church of St Mary's railings & gates	Listed Grade II	C19	N/A	cast-iron			
Three telephone kiosks	Listed Grade II	designed 1935	N/A	cast-iron		K6 type designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott	

Market Street

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
1	Listed Grade II	early C18	3 + attic	timber-framed with plaster	mansard / tiled		

Building No./ Name	Status	Age	Height (Storeys)	Wall Materials	Roof Form / Materials	Architect	Notes
2	Listed Grade II	C18 with C19 front	3 + attic	grey Gault brick	parapet / old tile		
3-9	BLI	C19	4	brick, some painted	parapet		
10	Positive building	C19	4	Gault brick	parapet / slate		
11	Positive building	C19	3	Gault brick	parapet		
12-13	Positive building	C19	3	stone / glass & Gault brick	parapet		
14-15	Positive building	C19 / C20	3	Gault brick	parapet		
16	Positive building	C19	4	Gault brick	parapet		
17 & 18	none	1960s	4	white-painted concrete	flat		
13 & 14 Market Hill	none	late 1960s	4	painted concrete	flat	Stanley R Nevell & Partners	built as Radcliffe Court
15 Market Hill	Listed Grade II	Mid C19	4	Gault brick	parapet		rebuilt when 13 & 14 were redeveloped
16-21 Market Hill Gonville & Caus: Market Hill Buildings	Listed Grade II	1937	5	portland stone	flat	J Murray Easton	
27-28 Market Hill (Cambridge University Press)	Listed Grade II	Early C19	3 + attics	Grey gault brick	Parapet/ mansard/ slate		
19-21	Listed Grade II	late C19	3	painted brick	gabled / slate		No. 21 has an early C20 Art Nouveau shopfront
22	Positive building	late C19	3	brick	parapet		
23	Positive building	C19	3 + attic	red brick	gabled / slate		
24 Henry Martyn Hall	Listed Grade II	1887	N/A	flint faced with stone dressings	slate	E S Prior	
Church of the Holy Trinity	Listed Grade II*	C12-C16	N/A	limestone, mostly Lincolnshire	copper sheet		
Holy Trinity railings & gates	Listed Grade II	C19	N/A	cast-iron			