

Townscape Heritage Project

Building Timeline

139 HIGH STREET



INTRODUCTION

The research to create a timeline of the historic buildings of Stockton has drawn on resources such as trade directories, newspapers and census information. Whilst we have been able to construct some quite detailed pictures, there are gaps which we would like to fill. If you have any further information that could assist us, please contact Eleanor.blyth@stockton.gov.uk.

C1851 WATSON

139 High Street is recorded as the home of Robinson Watson for four decades, being recorded in the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 Census. He is recorded as a merchant and is then stated to be retired according to the 1871 Census. He is recorded as a draper in the 1851 Directory. He was principal partner in the drapery business Watson, Brigham and Co. which had premises on Finkle Street. His son William Metcalf Watson of 147 High Street took on the business.

Robinson Watson was one of the first members of the Town Council after its reconstruction after the passing of the Municipal Reform Act in 1835. He was a member of the Board of Guardians and was a director of the Hartlepool Railway.

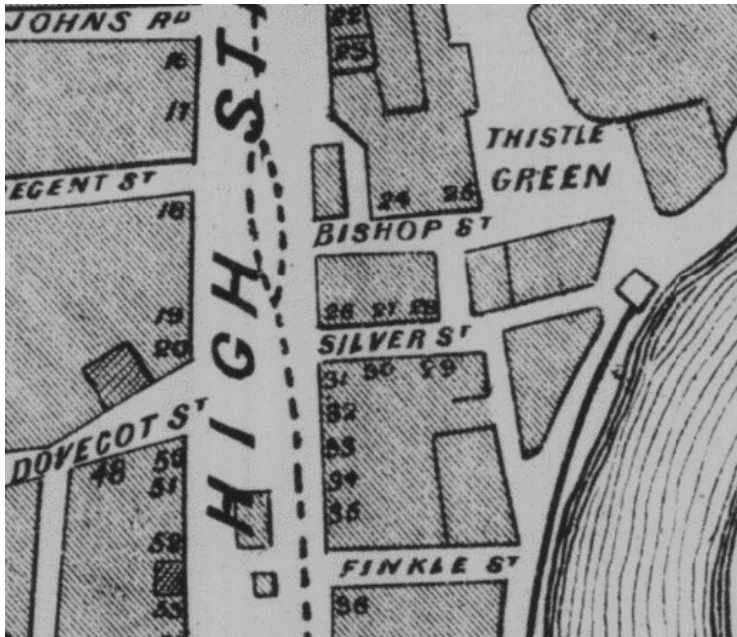
He died in January 1880 aged 80 years. It was reported in the press that nearly every shop on the High Street was closed as the funeral procession made its way to Holy Trinity. to respect the passing of one of Stockton's oldest inhabitants.

C 1882 STANTON

Stanton's Bootmakers is recorded as in occupation of 139 High Street over a long period with an adjacent premises - numbered 139a occupied by Eastman's butchers.

Stanton's shop was first opened by Thomas Stanton on Bishop Street, marked as 25 on the key of this 1880 plan of Stockton.





Stanton's moved to the High Street in the 1880s. Advertisement start to appear in the press in 1882, notifying of the move to "new and extensive premises." The Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 24 April 1886 reports that Mr Stanton was fined 10s 6d for obstructing the highway with boxes outside his premises.

Thomas Stanton, shoe shop keeper appears in the 1881 Census living at 127 High Street with his wife Kate (Catherine), their daughter Jane, sons Thomas and John, brothers in law Michael and Daniel McCormack -who are employed in the shop -and 4 servants. Stanton's established itself as a prominent feature of the High Street, with stores across the North East.

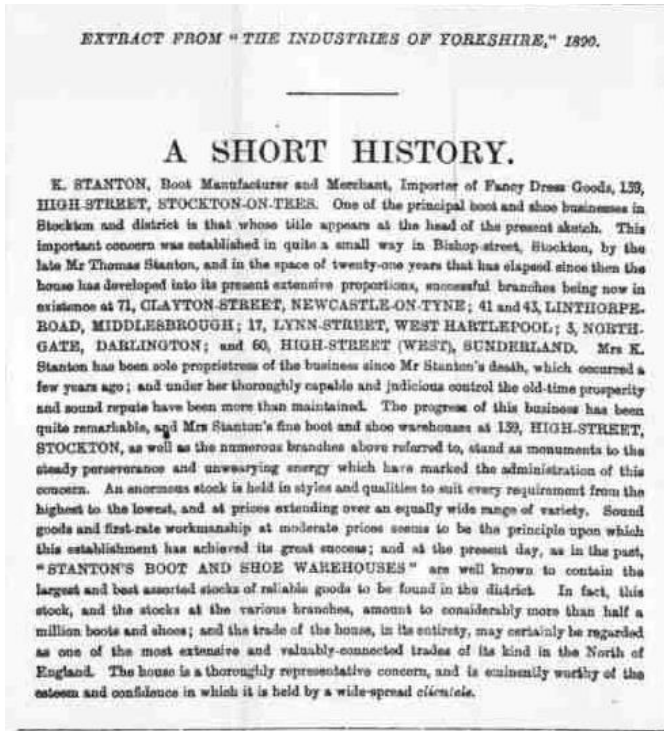
Thomas Stanton died in his thirties on 9th September 1886. At the time of his death he was living at 23 Westbourne Street, Stockton. Catherine Stanton is recorded at this address in the 1891 Census. Her occupation is recorded as a Boot and Shoe Maker and Merchant. She is living with her daughter Gertrude and a servant. When her husband died, Catherine took over the shop. Mrs K Stanton bootmaker is found in the 1896-1897 Wards Directory and in trade directories through till the 1936-1937 edition occupying 139 High Street as a Bootmaker's.

By 1901 Catherine is living at 'Glenholme' West End Terrace Stockton with her daughter Gertrude. The 1911 Census records them remaining at this address with Catherine still occupied in the shoe business.

There are many advertisements for the business over the course of its time on the High Street. Sometimes Mrs Stanton is referred to as C Stanton.



Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 13 December 1890



Mrs Stanton was creative and prolific in promoting the company. There are many advertisements for the business. In 1896 Mrs Stanton is offered a prize for the customer that could make the greatest number of words out of the phrase 'Stanton's boot everyone.'

Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 13 September 1902



Catherine's son, John Francis Stanton was actively involved in the business, being referred to in the press several times as bootmaker of 139 High Street.



The 1911 Census Summary describes 139 High Street as a lock up shop with Stanton as the occupant. 139a is described in the summary also as a lock up shop. It is occupied by Nelson & Son.



Whitby Gazette 15th December 1911



North Eastern Daily Gazette 21st December 1911



1914 Stanton's is advertising its support for the war effort by fulfilling a contract for 12,000 pairs of army boots. There are also military brushes and travel rugs.



Catherine Stanton died in January 1929. Probate was granted to her son John Francis Stanton and Sir Frank Brown. Frank Brown was knighted in 1913. He was an accountant and a former Mayor of Stockton.



Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 04 January 1913



Stanton's continued to advertise from 139 High Street until the 1930s.

In September 1942 the press reported the finding of the body of John Francis Stanton at business premises in Hartington Road. A shotgun was found nearby. The verdict at the inquest was suicide. John Francis Stanton was managing director of K Stanton & Son, Boot Manufacturer. It was reported that he had been troubled with worries for some time. His address at the time of his death was Stanton House, Hartington Road.

C 1938 MARKS & SPENCER

The Wards Directory 1938-1939 records Marks and Spencer at 139 High Street until its closure in 2018.

