

IMMANUEL KANT AND HULL HISTORICAL TRAIL

For suggested route and main locations see map opposite

THE TRAIL begins at **Hull Minster (1)** then, after viewing **Trinity House (2)** and the former Grammar School (*Hands on History Museum*- open p.m. 2nd and 4th Saturday), go along South Church Side to Market Place. This was the centre of the Georgian town, then surrounded by shops and inns with the Guildhall and ‘golden’ statue of King William III at the southern end. Go north along Market Place, turning right down Scale Lane crossing the High Street to stand on Scale Lane Footbridge. It was on the River Hull here the ships from the Baltic docked, unloading onto the merchants’ private wharves on the west side. Return to High Street and go right, up to **Maister House (3)**. Then make a detour left up Chapel Lane to **St Mary, Lowgate (4)**.

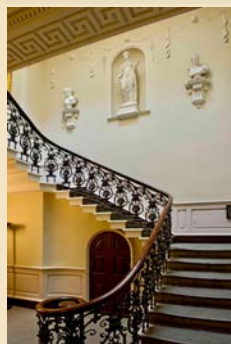
1 Hull Minster (Holy Trinity) (Open Mon-Sat)

This impressive medieval church has many memorials to merchants who traded with the Baltic and Scandinavia. At the west end of the nave north aisle is a long inscription to Philip Green, who died 1803, brother of Joseph Green, Kant’s best friend.



2 Trinity House (Occasional guided tours)

The mainfront, 1753, of the almshouses of the Guild of Masters and Pilots, Seamen of the Trinity House of Kingston upon Hull. Charles Staniforth, brother-in-law of the Greens, was an Elder Brother of Trinity House. His brother John was Warden six times.



3 Staircase of Maister House

(National Trust)
Not usually open except on Heritage Open Days

Built 1744, after a fire, it was the home of the Maisters, leading importers of iron and timber.

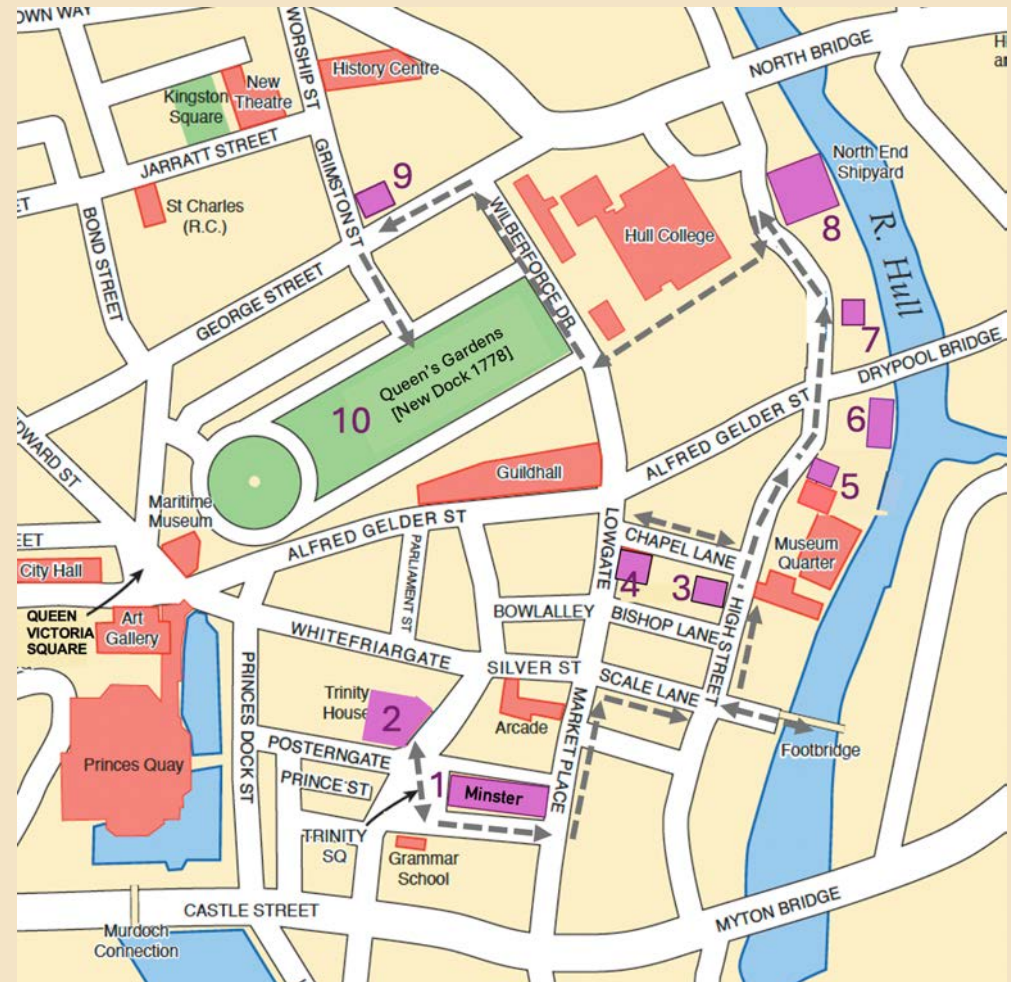
Members of the family were at times resident at Danzig, Gothenburg, Stockholm and St Petersburg.



4 St Mary Lowgate

Hull’s other medieval church (open Friday 12-00- 14.00, Sat. 11-00- 14.00 (May-Oct)

Many monuments of merchants including Wm Dobson (d. 1666) who lived for a time at Elbing and Danzig, and the Pease, Blaydes and Hall families.



TRAIL CONTINUED: Return to High Street and the **Museum Quarter** – with three ‘must visit’ museums (free, open every day) – *Hull and East Riding Museum of Archaeology*, *Streetlife Museum* (Transport) and *Wilberforce House* (Slavery and Abolition). Visit the **Georgian Houses (5)**, adjoining and part of, Wilberforce House Museum, before continuing north past the 18th-century **Pease Warehouses (6)**, set back on the right. Cross Alfred Gelder Street, into Little High Street, and **Blaydes House (7)**. Just north of the last is the **North End Shipyard (8)**, opening 2025, with visitor centre telling the maritime story of the Old Town. Cross the street and go a little to the south and take the footpath that runs west along the line of the North Walls alongside Hull College. At the end of the path turn right and go north along Wilberforce Drive, passing the Wilberforce column, to George Street, then left to **83 George Street (9)**, and immediately right onto Grimston Street, ending at **Queen’s Gardens (10)**.



(5) Georgian Houses
23-24 High Street
Part of Wilberforce
House Museum.
Built 1756 by James
Hamilton, tar merchant.
Philip Green, brother of
Joseph, lived in one of the
houses in 1767-74.



(6) Pease Warehouses (flats)
Built 1745 and 1760 by Joseph Pease,
a merchant born in Holland, who was
a pioneer in oil seed crushing using
linseed imported from the Baltic.



(7) Blaydes House
6 High Street
(University of Hull
Maritime History Centre)
The home of Blaydes
family, merchants and
shipbuilders. They built
the ship that became the
HMS Bounty, of mutiny
fame. Usually open on Heritage Open Days.



(9) 83 George Street (flats)
Originally 15 Charlotte Street. Part of the
fashionable Northern Suburb developed
north of the New Dock. It was built in 1782
for Philip Green who lived here until his
death in 1803. His brother-in-law Charles
Staniforth died here in 1797.



Entrance to the New (later Old, then Queen's) Dock,
from the River Hull (Whittock 1829)

The first two ships to enter the new dock,
when it opened in 1778, were owned by
Philip Green and John Staniforth,
shareholders of the Dock Company. The
dock entrance is now the:

(8) North End Shipyard (opening 2025)
A brand new visitor centre telling the story
of Hull's maritime past, along with the
restored Arctic Corsair, the last distant-
water sidewinder trawler.

IMMANUEL KANT AND HULL

Historical Trail around the Old Town
to places and buildings that would
have been familiar to, or associated
with, Kant's Hull friends.

2024 is the tercentenary of the birth
of Immanuel Kant, the most
important German philosopher.



Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

Question: What is Kant's connection with Hull?

Answer: Kant's two closest friends were Hull-born merchants
Joseph Green and Robert Motherby



Photo: Ralf Konert
(East Prussian State Museum, Lüneburg, Germany)

The Kant Glass On the 30 August 1763 a
gathering of Kant and friends in Königsberg,
Prussia, was commemorated by the signatures of
those attending being engraved on a drinking
glass. In addition to Kant there are six names,
four of which are of Hull men: Joseph Green and
Robert Motherby, merchants, and Charles
Staniforth and John Chappell, ship's captains.

Hull had a long history of trading with the Baltic,
and around 1750 Joseph Green settled at
Königsberg (Kaliningrad), then in Prussia, as agent
for Hull merchants, dealing chiefly in flax, hemp,
and linen yarn for the West Riding and Lancashire
textile industry, and linseed.

Kant, who described Green as his 'best friend', is said to have spent every
afternoon at Green's house. More a scholar than a merchant Green needed an
assistant, and this position was filled, around 1755, by the young Robert
Motherby from Hull, who soon became part of Kant's close circle. The firm of
Green and Motherby managed Kant's finances and the philosopher had a great
influence on the education of Motherby's children. Joseph Green's close links
with Hull continued through his brother Philip, a leading shipowner engaged in
the whaling trade, and the family of his brother-in-law, Charles Staniforth.



Georgian Society for East Yorkshire
For more information see website:
gsey.org.uk



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AND KÖNIGSBERG
#KANT300

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