



**Lambeth  
United.**



**Lambeth**

# Statues & Memorials

The Black Lives Matter protests during 2020 led to new momentum behind long-standing concerns about statues, memorials and street names with associations with the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. To support Lambeth's public consultation process on the implications for this within the borough, Lambeth Archives was asked to carry out an audit of local instances.

## **This document summarises the key points and considers the wider history of the slave trade within the borough.**

- There were individuals in Lambeth who benefitted from or were investing in the slave trade and the plantation economy. Evidence in Lambeth Archives include wills and local histories; University College London's Legacies of Slave-ownership database confirms evidence of compensation payments in the 1830s.
- Evidence for a small but significant population of former slaves from Africa and the Caribbean, living in Lambeth is found in the parish registers, where baptisms were identified by ethnicity. These record over 80 Black people, mainly young men, being baptised in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

- Clapham was the place where there was a sustained campaign for the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and then slavery in English colonies. The roles of William Wilberforce, Zachariah Macaulay and John Venn are acknowledged locally by memorial plaques and street names.
- From the 1980s Lambeth Council has introduced new public realm names to better reflect the diversity of the borough. Many council offices were renamed after African and Caribbean figures, including Olive Morris, Paul Robeson and Nelson Mandela, but of which only the Mary Seacole Centre survives today. Newer street names include those on the Heath Road estate named after Black British athletes in the 1984 Olympics and Black writers and poets commemorated in side streets along Shakespeare Road. A more recent instance is the expansion and remodelling of the former Tate Library Gardens in Brixton and their renaming as Windrush Square.

- The research has identified several street names, memorials and statuary for which there are links between a historic individual and the slave trade and/or colonialism. With street names, ascription is not a precise science and the person referred to is not always evident. Even after street naming was regulated in 1855, no record was kept of the origin of an approved name. As a result, it is sometimes unclear to whom a name may refer. The research excluded benign links to the slave trade, such as the streets commemorating Venn and Macaulay who campaigned locally against slavery.
- We have included individuals where the link with slavery feels marginal (Tradescant and Bligh) or attenuated (Tate), and stated this. We have also used colour coding to suggest degrees of linkage, with red indicates a clear link. We have also included a list of non-local and uncertain street names.

Street Names, statues and memorials with identifiable local associations	Type	Reason for inclusion	Degree of linkage
Juxon Street, SE11	Street name	Archbishop of Canterbury whose family was involved in the sugar trade in Jamaica and whose family coat of arms has four African heads.	
Tradescant Road (off South Lambeth Road), SW8	Street name and statue	John Tradescant the Elder and the Younger, Lambeth gardeners who made occasional use of slave trade vessels travelling to N America and Africa for the transport of botanical and anthropological specimens.	
Vassall Road, SW9	Street name	Named after Henry Richard Vassall-Fox 3rd Baron Holland of Foxley and his wife Elizabeth Webster, nee Vassal, compensated after the abolition of slavery for their slaves and plantations in Jamaica. Together they owned the Holland estate in Brixton.	
Vassall ward	Electoral division	See above – name of ward in Lambeth.	
Tulse Hill and Tulse Hill ward	Street Name and Electoral division	Named after the Tulse family who held local manors in the early 17th century. Sir Henry Tulse was a later 17th century descendant and a Lord Mayor of London whose wealth came from profits from the slave trade.	
Holland Grove, SW9	Street name	SEE Vassall. Henry Richard Vassall's baronial name following his elevation to the House of Lords (Baron Holland).	
Foxley Road and Foxley Square, SW9	Street name	SEE Vassall. Part of the Wick Estate, which includes Vassall Road and Holland Rd.	
Lord Holland Lane, SW9	Street name	SEE Vassall.	
Lilford Road, SE5	Street name	SEE Vassall. Son of Lord Holland.	
Rhodesia Road, SW9	Street name	The former colonial name for Zambia and Zimbabwe derived from Cecil Rhodes.	
Thurlow Road, SE21	Street name	Named after Edward Thurlow, politician and Lord Chancellor and opponent of abolition of the slave trade.	

Street Names, statues and memorials with identifiable local associations	Type	Reason for inclusion	Degree of linkage
Tomb of Capt. William Bligh, St. Mary's Churchyard, Lambeth Rd	Tomb and Blue Plaque (Lambeth Road)	Transported breadfruit from the Pacific to the Caribbean, which became a staple food for those labouring on slave plantations. Subsequently admiral and governor of New South Wales.	
St. Paul's Church, Clapham	Plaque	Commemorates William Hewer, private trader, investor and governor of the East India Company.	
As above	Tomb	Tomb of George and Elizabeth Hibbert, plantation owners.	
Leigham Avenue, Streatham	Memorial and named flats	Commemorates John and Elizabeth Howland, director of the East India Company.	
National Theatre, South Bank	Statue	Commemorates Oliver Lyttleton, politician (former Secretary of State for the Colonies).	
St. Leonard's Church, Streatham	Memorial	Commemorates John Massingberd, Treasurer of the East India Company.	
St. Thomas' Hospital	Statue	Commemorates Charles Murchison, medic to the East India Company.	
Multiple locations – Henry Tate	Statue Tomb Libraries	Tate gifted three libraries in the borough. Windrush Square was originally called Tate Gardens. His wealth derived from his family's sugar business which post-dated the abolition of slavery.	

Non-Local and uncertain	Type	Reason for inclusion	Degree of linkage
Burgoyne Road, SW9	Street name	Uncertain name. May refers to General John Burgoyne, British officer. Burgoyne was an advocate for the abolition of slavery because he felt the slaves themselves would only side with the British in the American War of Independence if it was ended. However, his role in fighting the Colonial Army was viewed by many as a clear position against its ending.	
Cromwell Road, SW9	Street name	Uncertain name. May refer to Oliver Cromwell and the Cromwell family, who were involved in slave trading and the suppression of rebellions in Barbados (as well as enabling the trading of Irish slaves).	
Dundas Road, SW9	Street name	Uncertain name. May refer to Henry Dundas, MP (latterly Viscount Melville), who was Secretary of State for War during George III's reign. .There is much controversy around Dundas' role in slavery: detractors claim that he was pro-slavery and tried to water down Wilberforce's first motion to Parliament to abolish the trade. Others argue that his amendments enabled the Bill to pass and point to his votes in Parliament at that time in favour of abolition.	
Nelson's Row, SW4	Street name	Uncertain name. Could relate to Admiral Lord Nelson, who was involved in trading and defence/military actions. However, there are other more local possibilities.	