

Hans Fowler Price – Weston's Architect

The architect Hans Fowler Price (1835-1912) worked in Weston for over 50 years and left a significant legacy of buildings. Born in Bristol, he completed his training with the architect Thomas Denville Barry in Tranmere (Merseyside).

In 1860, the 24-year-old Price arrived in Weston, a town whose rapid growth offered plenty of opportunities for an architect. Within a few years he had gained important commissions and found patrons like the Smyth Pigott family and Sir Arthur Hallam Elton in nearby Clevedon.

Price designed many of the best known public buildings in Weston, including the first board school, the market (destroyed in a fire), the Victoria Hall (demolished after war damage), and the remodelled and extended Town Hall. He also designed numerous Victorian villas which are instantly recognisable by their decorated gable ends. His work as consultant architect for the Smyth Pigott family included major developments such as the new tree-lined route of Waterloo Street and the Boulevard, which was inspired by Parisian models.

The total number of new buildings by Hans Price is unknown but is likely to be many hundreds. He worked in partnership with other architects, including Walter Hernaman Wooler (1853-1936) who worked with Price for 23 years. When Price died in 1912, his obituaries praised his architectural skill, business sense, and vitality.

Find out more about Hans Price in this book:

"Weston-super-Mare: the town and its seaside heritage" Historic England, 2019. Allan Brodie, Johanna Roethe and Kate Hudson-McAulay.



© Historic England

Weston Museum Burlington St BS23 1PR

Weston Museum in Burlington Street is worth a visit. As well as being a Hans Price Building, the museum provides a history of Weston. The café serves lunch. Entrance is free.

Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm
www.westonmuseum.org/



The Old Town Quarry South Road BS23 2LU

You may also wish to visit The Old Town Quarry which hosts a model of a Hans Price House and a café. Entrance is free.

At the north end of Grove Park turn into Queens Road. The Quarry is at the top of the road at the start of South Road.

Oct-March: Thursday-Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm
April-Sept: Wednesday-Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm
www.OLDTOWNQUARRY.CO.UK/



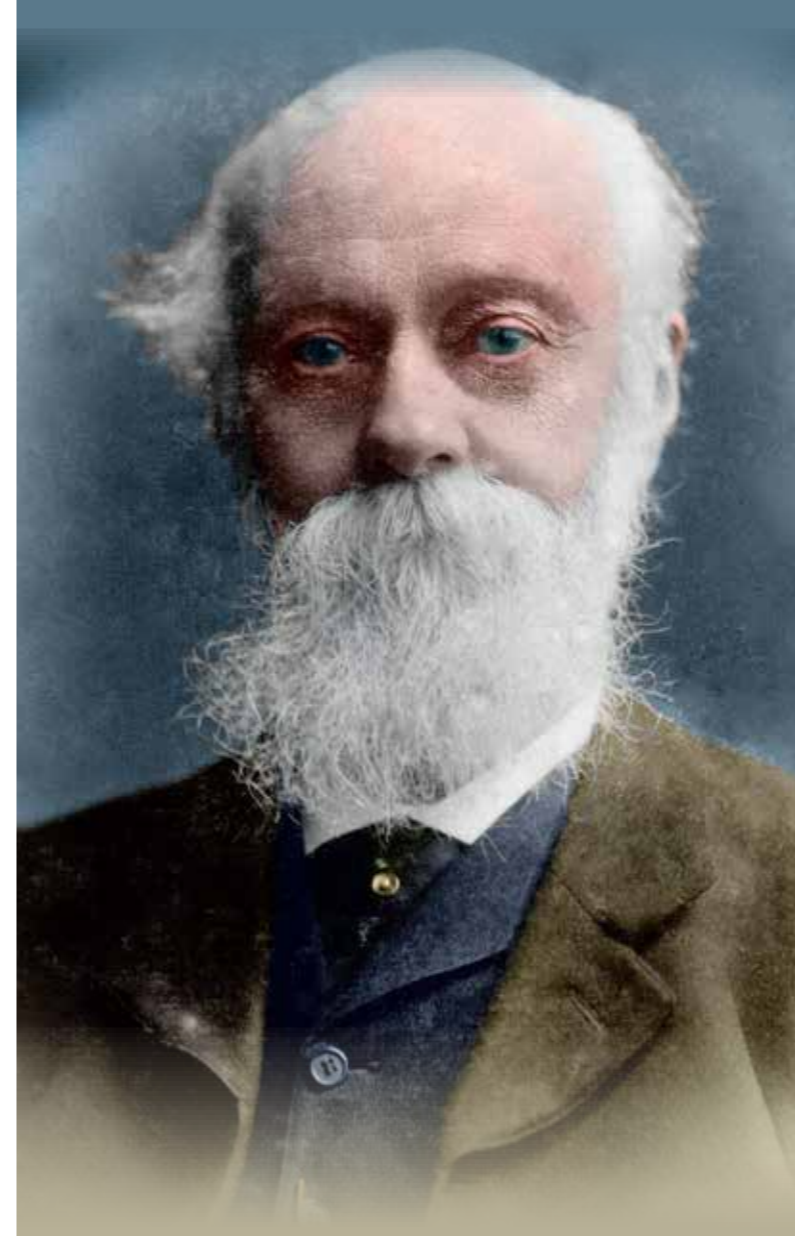
Weston-super-Mare Civic Society

The Civic Society aims to stimulate public interest in the town, promote high standards of planning and architecture.

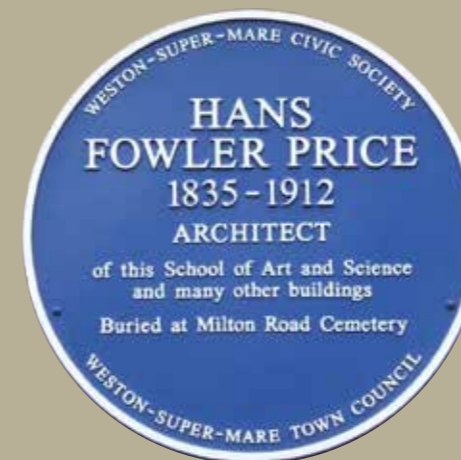
The Society has produced a range of publications, including walks, designed to celebrate the heritage of the town and the surrounding countryside.

Which can be found on the web site.
www.westoncivicsociety.org.uk

Images: North Somerset Council



In the footsteps of Hans Fowler Price A walk through Victorian Weston-super-Mare



In the footsteps of Hans Fowler Price A walk through Victorian Weston-super-Mare.

This walk provides a snapshot of some of Hans Fowler Price's architectural work in Weston-super-Mare.

The walk has been devised by North Somerset Council in partnership with Historic England as part of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone initiative.

The walk

The walk starts on the corner of Station Road and Graham Road. Close to the Railway Station (250 steps). On bus routes and with plenty of car parking.

The walk is all on flat terrain and will take about an hour. Why not make it a full day out and take time throughout the walk to visit the Museum, Grove Park, The Promenade and enjoy Weston's cafes and shops.

The route highlights just some of the many Hans Price buildings. The map also shows other Hans Price buildings to give a sense of how much influence Hans Price had on the architecture of Weston.





1. Station Road/corner with Graham Road: A furniture warehouse for the auctioneers and estate agents Lalonde Bros and Parham, designed by Hans Price & William Jane in 1904 and opened the following year.



2. 5-15 Beaconsfield Road: Six gabled villas built in the 1880s and 1890s. Their decorated gables are typical of the 'Weston villa' which Hans Price developed.



3. Walliscote Road – Walliscote Board School: 1895-97, by Price & Wooler. This was the town's first board school.



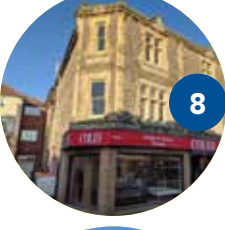
4. Walliscote Road – Town Hall extension and remodelling: 1897, by Price & Wooler, including the upwards extension of the tower.



5. Walliscote Road/ Regent Street – Magdala Buildings, 1870



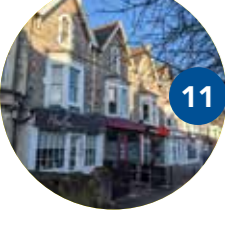
6. 1-7 Orchard Place: 4 houses with shops, Price & Wooler, 1892.



7. 45 Meadow Street: A corner shop of 1905, by Price & William Jane with Wilde & Fry for Roe Bros., picture frame makers, oil and colour men



8. 59-63 Meadow Street: A well-detailed terrace of three houses with shops of the 1880s.



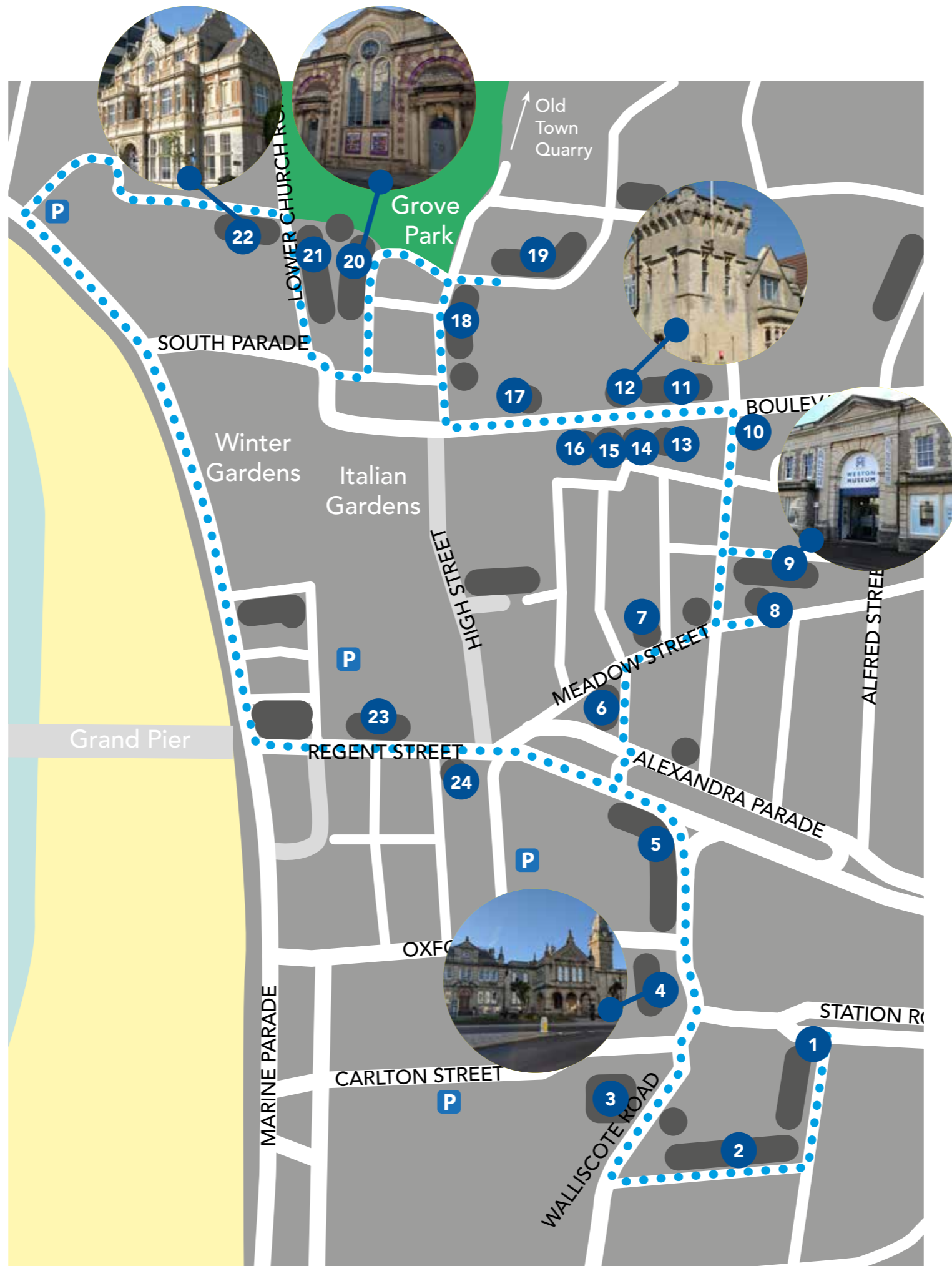
9. Orchard Street/ Burlington Street: Gas Light Company workshops and stores, 1912 (now the Weston Museum). Hans Price's last known work.



10. Corner of Orchard Street/ Boulevard: Former United Methodist Free Chapel of 1875-6 by Price & Grosholz.

11. 1-23 The Boulevard: Terrace of 12 houses, 1870.

12. The Boulevard/with Longton Grove Road: Masonic Lodge of St Kew (now the Constitutional Club), 1880-81. Originally, the tower was surmounted by a timber-framed turret.



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walk route

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Hans Price buildings and restorations

13. 6-8 The Boulevard: St John's Mission Hall, 1880-1, by Price & Wooler.

14. 2 The Boulevard: 1888, built as a photographer's studio.

15. 32 Waterloo Street: offices of the Weston & Somerset Mercury, 1885

16. 28 Waterloo Street: Hans Price's office, 1874.

17. 17 Waterloo Street: Gospel Hall, 1876-77, by Price & Grosholz for the Plymouth Brethren.

18. 132-138 High Street (North): A terrace of five tall houses with shops, 1889.

19. 1-29 Bristol Road Lower plus 1 Connaught Place: Part of the Upper Worthy Estate which Hans Price developed for the Smyth Pigott estate in 1862.

20. Wadham Street – The Blakehay Theatre: This was built as a Baptist church in 1850, which Price extended in 1862-64, one of his first commissions in Weston.

21. 18-28 Lower Church Road: Terrace of houses, 1899, with Price's characteristic carvings in the gables.

22. Lower Church Road: School of Science and Art (now Hans Price conference centre). Designed by Price & Wooler, it was built in 2 phases: 1892-3 and 1899-1900. Walk into South Terrace to see the north side of the building and the tiling work. Continue through to the car park and through the arch to the promenade.

23. 13-29 Regent Street: A much altered terrace of houses with shops, with unusual triangular twin bay windows on the 2nd floor

24. 26-30 Regent Street/corner with St James Street: In 1901, Hans Price converted this Methodist Chapel of 1846-7 into houses and shops (currently Barclays bank)

