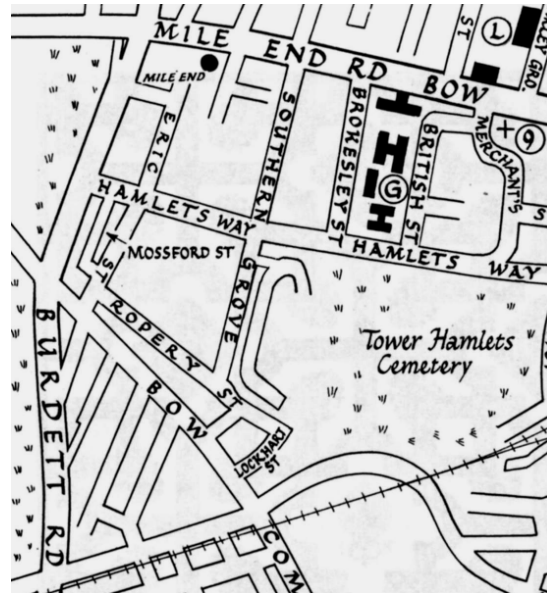
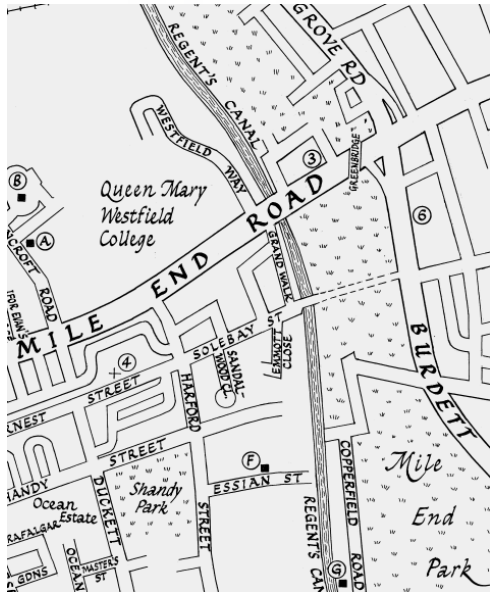


HERITAGE of LONDON TRUST *in association with* Pevsner Architectural Guides

Story of London Walking Trails: Mile End

YALE



façade. This is a building by Piers Gough and stands on the site of a former manor, **Essex House**. This mansion was used by the Guild of Handicraft before being turned into a Convent. A huge cinema and entertainment hall then occupied the site before it was transformed into an office block.

Pavilion roof in the park. You can see **Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London** campus accommodation across the canal. This is award winning architecture whose



copper-fronted walls mimic the railroad and the canal as well as acting as a sound barrier to the railway. **Mile End Park** is a success story of modern urban planning and has encouraged use of the **Regent's Canal**.

Walk down to Grove Road and cross at the zebra crossing. The **railway bridge** that you see on your right is where the first V1 rocket fell in London during World War II. Continue down Grove Road the way you came and turn left on to Morgan Road. You are now on one of the two estates that define the residential area. The estate was owned and developed by the Morgan's of Tredegar in South Wales, hence the Welsh street names. You will pass **Holy Trinity Church, Central London Girls School** and enter **Tredegar Square**.

Tredegar Square gives an uncommon impression of East London. It is a



Mile End is an ambiguous area. Cambridge Heath Road marks the end of a mile from Aldgate at the edge of the City, and it is this distance which gives the area its name. But Mile End does not end there! The road extends another mile and a half to the East. Within the area north and south of Mile End Road are some curiosities from the past and present to discover and which make it a great area to walk: schools, parks, squares, canals, hospitals, music halls, temples, churches and cemeteries.

Start at **Mile End station**. Look over the road to a house with an upside down semi circle on its

Cross Grove Road and walk up the steps onto the bridge that crosses the Mile End Road. Known as the **Green Bridge**, it opened in 2000 and is covered with planting. The bridge ensures that **Mile End Park**, which stretches from Victoria Park in the north down to Limehouse, is unbroken by the road. From here you get a good view of Docklands and the Olympic Site. The **Mile End Road** has been re-branded "High Street 2012" as it is the main route from central London to the Olympic Park.

Walk north over the bridge into the Park, down Clinton Road and stand on top of the **Arts**

square to rival any in West London, with its Georgian terraces and fan lights. Unlike many West End squares, the centre of the square is open for to the public. During World War II, the central area was dug up to make space for underground shelters which were to house 10% of the local population.

Walk to the Mile End Road and cross over. Walk down Southern Grove to **Tower Hamlets Cemetery**. It was the last of seven built during the 1800's to alleviate the lack of burial space in central London. The Cemetery deserves investigating as it has many interesting monuments and is also a peaceful nature reserve.

Walk down Hamlets Way, cross Grove Road and back into Mile End Park. Continue ahead to the bridge over the canal. The **Regent's Canal** links Limehouse Basin by the Thames to the Grand Union Canal near Paddington. It was built in 1820. For many years it was used as a direct transport link for the distribution of industrial and perishable goods from the Midlands to London and beyond. Today it is a wildlife haven and recreational area. Further south in Mile End Park are the **Ragged School Museum (G)** and **Mile End Stadium and Sport Centre**.

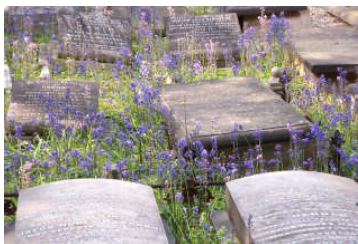
Cross the footbridge and walk to the end of Solebay St before turning right back on to the Mile End Road. On the north side is **The People's Palace**, which today is part of **Queen Mary Westfield College, University of London**. Its

strange name derives from the book "All sorts of Conditions of Men" in which the writer Walter Besant envisaged the improvement of the working classes through education and "rational recreation".



Soon it was given accreditation as an educational establishment and merged with other colleges. The **1930's building** to the left has low relief panels depicting Drama, Fellowship, Music, Sport and Dance executed by Eric Gill. It was a later addition to **The People's Palace**.

Walk through Queen Mary's, keeping the Queen's building to your left. Walk through the courtyard where there are student café's and you will see another cemetery. Older than Tower Hamlet's



Cemetery, the **Nuevo Sephardic Cemetery** dates back to 1783. There used to be 9500 graves here but only 2000 remain, some having been removed to make way for university buildings. Members of the Sassoon and Rothschild families are buried here. This site is of great historical importance and is a reminder of the East End's long standing Jewish history.

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