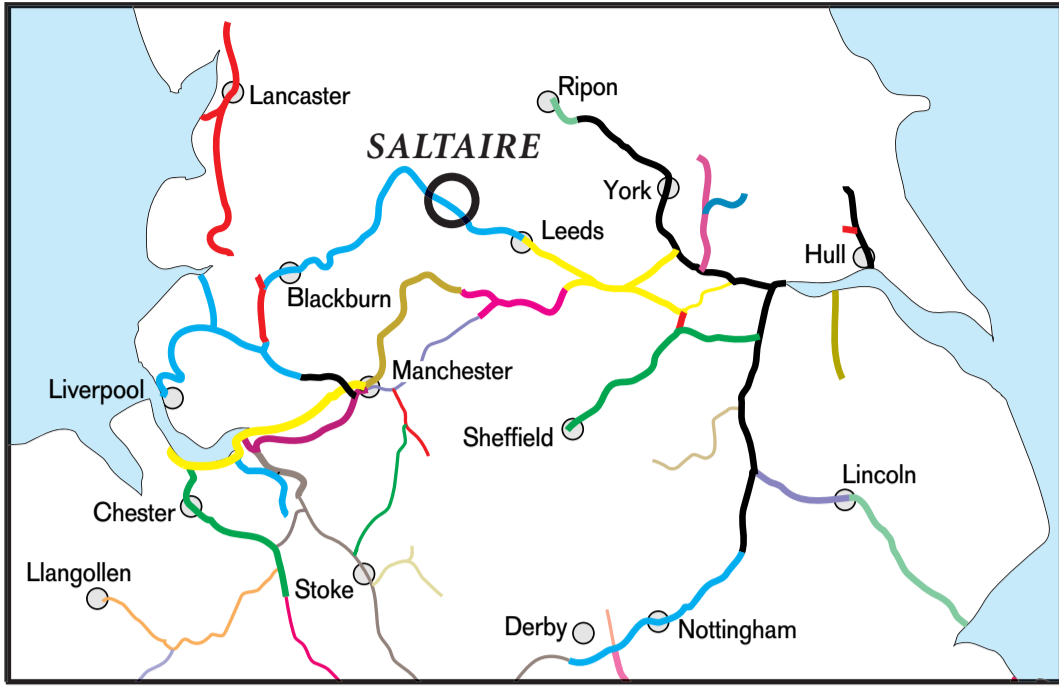


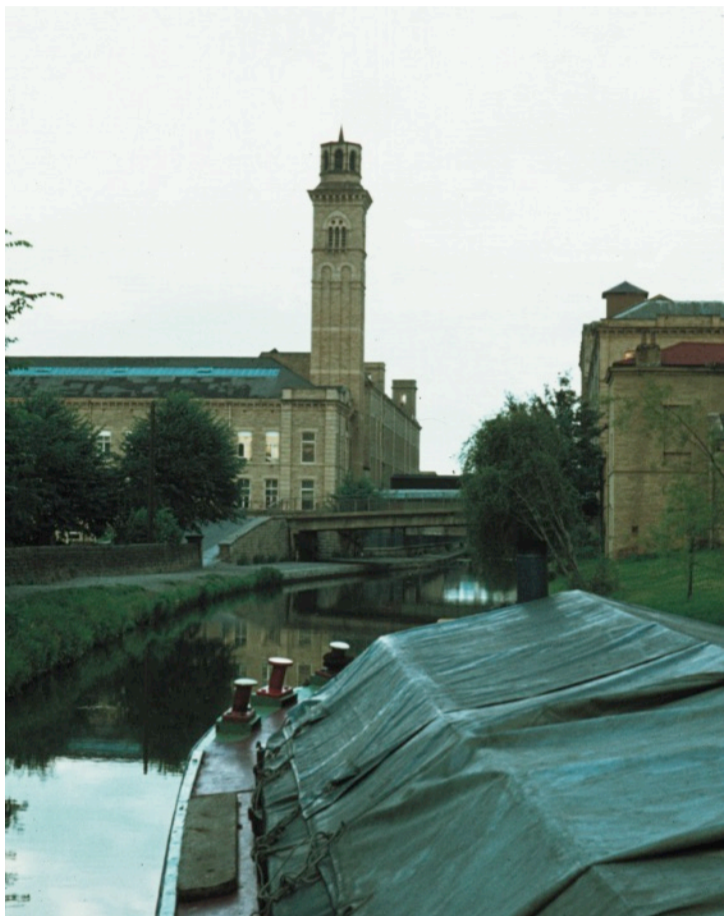
# SALTAIRE



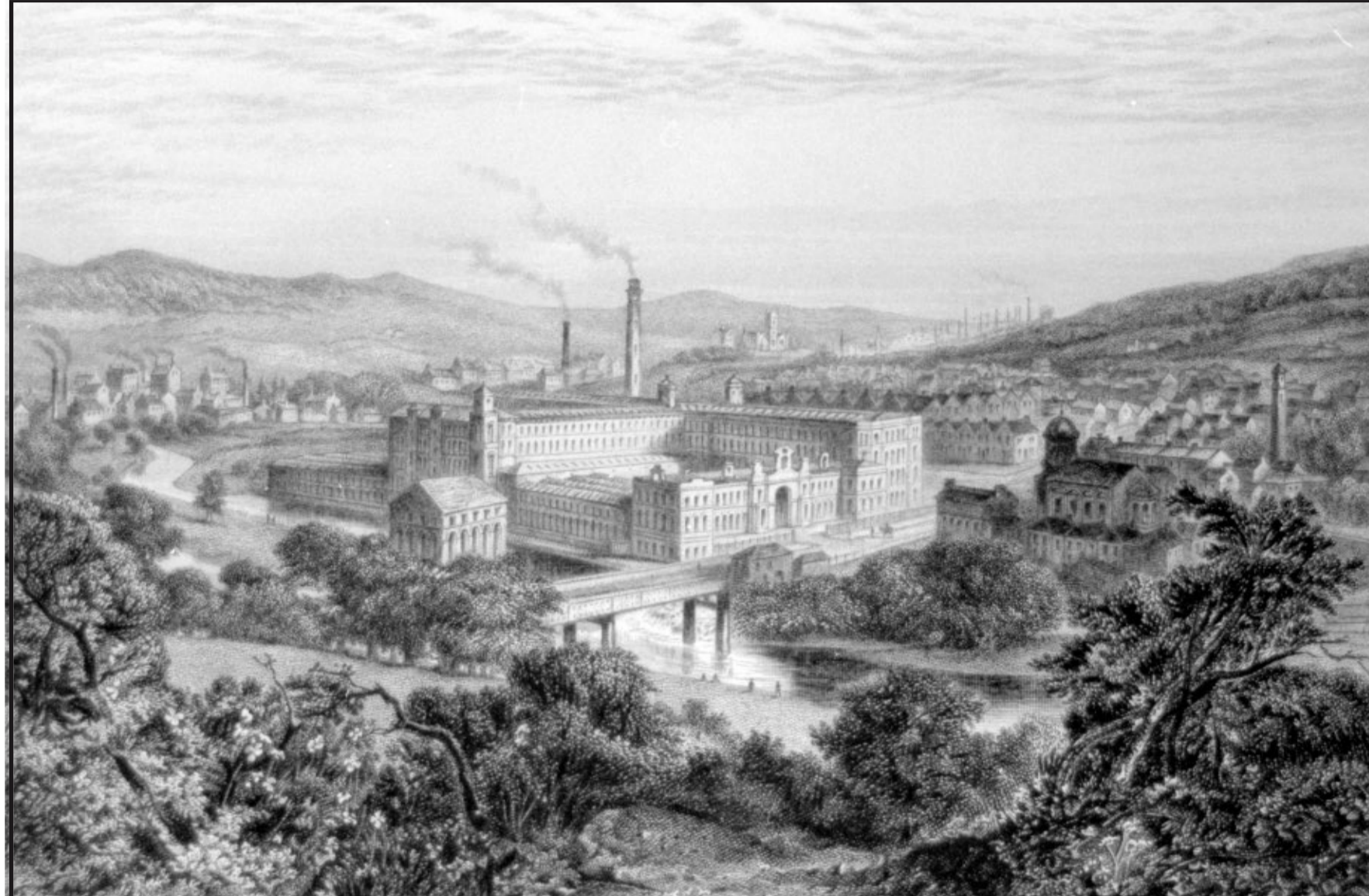
Saltaire is an outstanding and well-preserved example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century industrial town. Its layout was to exert a major influence on the development of the 'garden city' movement, and was one of the first successful solutions to urban industrialization. The architecture admirably reflects mid-19<sup>th</sup> century philanthropic paternalism, as well as the important role played by the textile industry in economic and social development.



An aerial view of Saltaire in 1986. The canal passes between the two parts of the mill, with the River Aire and the former Dixon's Mill site beyond. Roberts Park is on the far side of the river, with the chapel and village on the left.



A traditional Leeds & Liverpool Canal boat approaching the mill in 1977, when it was still in production.



Several architectural influences can be seen in the Congregational Church, where Titus Salt would worship on Sundays.



Several recent views of Saltaire. Above is an example of the wide variety of terraced housing, the larger houses being for those in management positions.

Below is one of the several educational and recreational buildings which Salt provided for his workforce.



The Bradford's worsted trade began in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century but did not develop rapidly until the advent of steam power. Bradford's population grew between 1780 and 1850, rising from 8,500 to about 104,000. Workers' living conditions were poor, and life expectancy for men and women was little over 20 years. The town was filthy, with the polluted Bradford Canal being blamed for a cholera epidemic. To get away from these conditions, Titus Salt, a wealthy businessman who was Mayor of Bradford in 1848, built Saltaire. He used land in the Aire Valley near Shipley where there was a plentiful supply of soft water for washing the wool. Transport links were excellent: the site lay halfway between Liverpool and Hull, alongside the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and the Leeds & Bradford Railway. Bradford architects Henry Lockwood and Richard Mawson, and the engineer William Fairbairn designed and supervised Salt's visionary plan.

Work on the mill work began in 1851 and it was opened in 1853. Salt's new village eventually had over 800 dwellings in wide streets, with a large dining hall and kitchens, baths and washhouses, almshouse for retired workers, hospital

and dispensary, educational institute and church, ample recreational land, and allotments to provide fresh vegetables. He had a genuine concern for his workers and succeeded in providing them with a healthy environment.

After his death in 1876, the firm was taken over by three of his sons. The village was sold in 1933 to the Bradford Property Trust, enabling occupants to purchase their houses. The mill closed down in 1986, and many buildings fell into disrepair. The first move towards regeneration was the creation of the Saltaire Village Society in 1984. In 1989, the Saltaire Town Scheme was established by Bradford Metropolitan District Council and English Heritage.

The integrity of Saltaire as a model industrial village is total: there have been no changes to its layout and appearance since work began in the 1850s. The village is laid out on a gridiron pattern, so as to make the maximum possible use of the land: the streets were organized on a north-south orientation, those in the second phase running east-west. Almost all the public and community buildings were constructed along Victoria Road, leading to the mill.

The houses, built between 1854 and 1868, are fine examples of 19<sup>th</sup>-century workers' homes. All are constructed of hammer-dressed stone with slate roofs. Each was equipped with its own water and gas supply and an outside lavatory. They vary in size from 'two-up two-down' terraces to much larger houses with gardens, for the use of the managers. They are all 'through' terraces, allowing light and air to penetrate, and rubbish to be disposed of without passing through the house. The mill is an imposing building in a grand Italianate style. At the end of the village there is Roberts Park, a landscaped open space with a cricket ground, promenade, bandstand, refreshment rooms, and facilities for swimming and boating.



Today, the shops on Victoria Street include cafés and restaurants for visitors, as well as a bakery and other services for the local community.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1028>  
<http://www.saltairvillage.info/>  
[http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/the\\_environment/planning\\_service/Design\\_and\\_conservation/saltaire\\_world\\_heritage\\_site](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/the_environment/planning_service/Design_and_conservation/saltaire_world_heritage_site)



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