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History of Euston

The changing nature of the station and Euston Square Gardens over time

1830



1870



1913



1938



1970



1990



Today



Euston Station opened in 1837, as London's first inter-city railway terminal serving the London and Birmingham Railway. Originally built on New Road (now Euston Road) at the edge of the expanding city, the name of the station came not from the local area but from the main landowner the Duke of Grafton's ancestral seat, Euston Hall in Suffolk.

The station's success led to rapid expansion. In the 1840s and 1850s, the station was rebuilt and enlarged. Throughout the 19th century, the station expanded multiple times to accommodate the booming railway traffic. By the 1930s, the Victorian station was considered outdated. Despite protest from conservationists the station was rebuilt in the 1960s.

Somers Town, named after Charles Cocks, 1st Baron Somers, the area began to be developed from the 1780s. Notable early residents of Somers Town include Mary Wollstonecraft, writer, philosopher and feminist who lived there with her husband the political philosopher William Godwin and died there after giving birth to Mary Shelley, the future author of Frankenstein.

The expansion of Euston and St Pancras stations led to a massive influx of labourers and increase in population and a decline in living standards. In the interwar period social housing was developed, and the area has continued to evolve with the construction of the British Library and Francis Crick institute.

Regent's Park Estate: Between the Nash design terraces of Regent's Park and Euston, a densely populated, working-class district emerged throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. The area was redeveloped into the Estate following the severe damage inflicted on the area during the Blitz. Commissioned by the Metropolitan Borough of St Pancras, the new estate was built in phases during the 1950s and 60s as a pioneering example of post-war social housing.