

Barbican Station

Opened 23rd December 1865. Previously called Aldersgate Street, Aldersgate, Aldersgate and Barbican, it was finally renamed Barbican in 1968. This was part of the Metropolitan Line extension to Moorgate Street. The British Rail widened lines opened in 1866. It used to have a curved iron and glass roof which spanned the whole station and the brackets can still be seen on the high retaining walls. The booking hall and station buildings were demolished along with the roof in 1955. It was this that caused Sir John Betjeman to write his "Monody on the Death of Aldersgate Street Station"

† † (cross the road at the traffic lights, turn left and walk along Aldersgate Street to the corner with Fann Street).

Golden Lane Estate

Looking across the road you will see the Golden Lane Estate. This housing estate is one of many managed by the local authority the City of London Corporation. The first parts were completed in 1957 and the later phase which is nearest you was completed in 1962. These buildings are now Grade II listed. The tall block that you see is Great Arthur House and has unusual yellow glass curtain walling and the strange concrete roof structure that conceals the water tanks.



This is one of the 3-D layouts of the estate that can be found on the walls



Crescent House



Great Arthur House

The presence of the Shakespeare pub and bust perhaps reminds us that there was a once a house at number 134 Aldersgate Street that was called Shakespeare's House and although it was claimed the Bard lived here in 1596 there has never been any proof.



† † (near to where you are standing will see a carved frieze, go and have a closer look at it)