

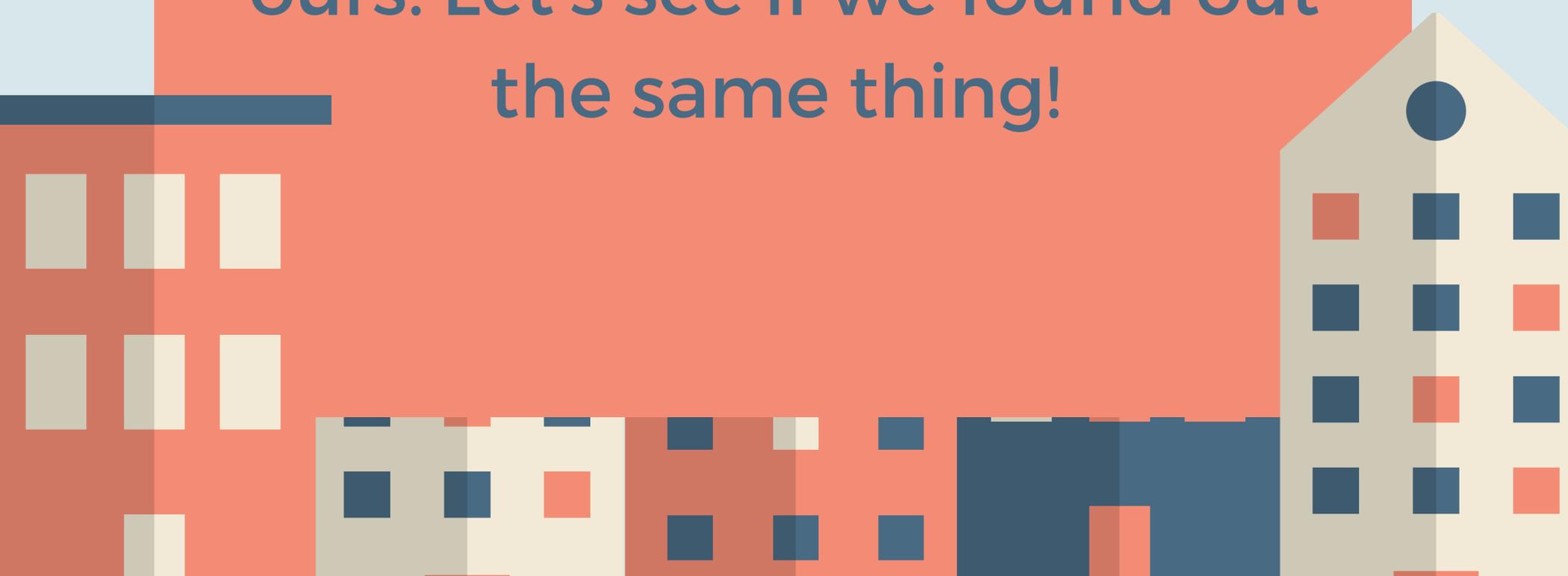


WESTON  
MUSEUM

# WESTON'S LANDMARKS

There are so many incredible buildings and landmarks in Weston, and lots of these are easily identified.

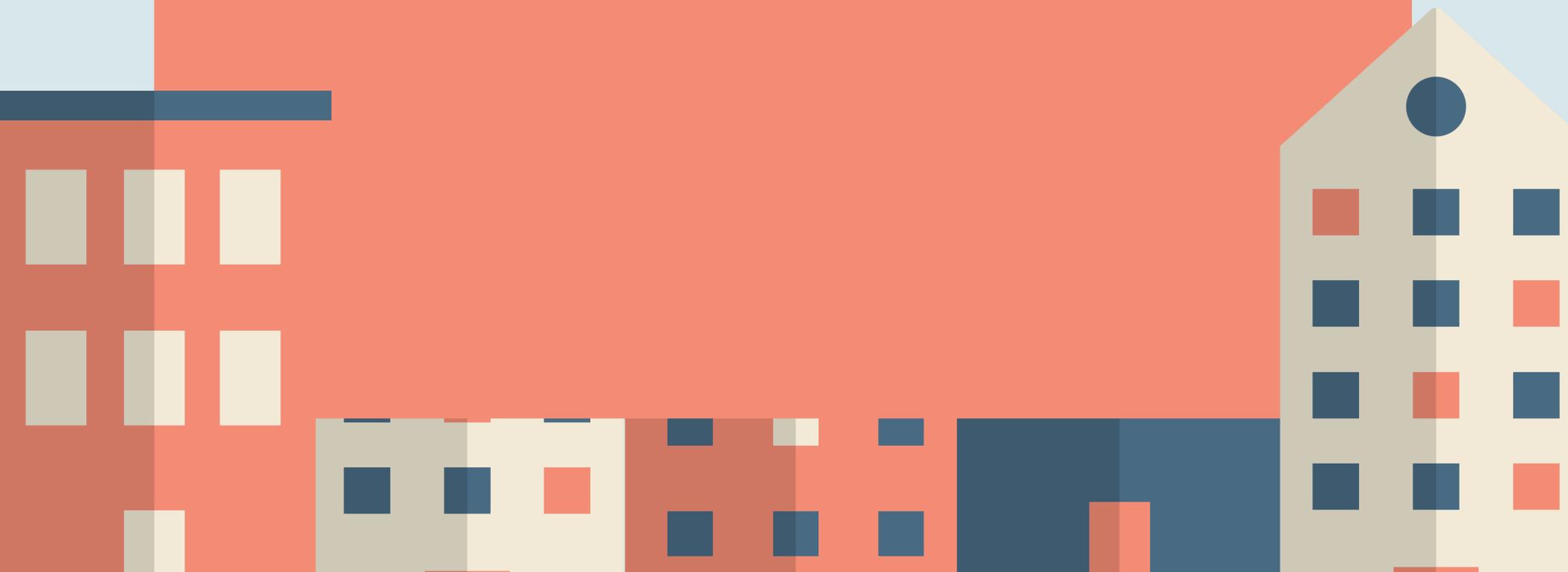
Now that you have completed your research, take a look at ours! Let's see if we found out the same thing!



# THINGS WE WERE LOOKING FOR

Throughout your research, we were looking for certain facts about each building:

- When was it built/When did it open?
- Who designed it/built it?
- What was it originally used for?
- What is it currently used for?
- Is it a listed building/Does it have listed features?
- One significant thing that has happened to the building/landmark



# 1. THE GRAND PIER

- Work began on building the Pier on 7 November 1903, with P. Munroe acting as engineer, and it opened on 11 June 1904.
- It was originally built to be a Pier, and originally had 2,000-seat Theatre which was used as a Music Hall and for Opera, Stage Plays and Ballet.
- It is still a Pier, and is used to provide a variety of different services including Weddings, Ticketed Events, Private Parties and Corporate Events.
- The Pier's Pavilion has been destroyed by fire on 2 separate occasions, once in 1930 and again in 2008.
- The Pier was sold to Mr. A. Brenner who improved the Pier's facilities by adding new shops and an amusement arcade to the pavilion in the early 1970's.
- As a result of the extra investment, the Pier became a Grade II Listed building in 1974.

# 2. BIRNBECK PIER

- Birnbeck Pier opened on 5 June 1867, and a banquet was held in the Town Hall. Many of the people of Weston were given a holiday.
- The Gothic Toll House and Pierhead Buildings were designed by local architect Hans Price.
- Birnbeck Pier was built to be a Pier, and some of the attractions included a Shooting Gallery, a Merry-Go-Round, a Licensed Bar and Mutoscopes.
- The Pier was badly damaged by storms in 1990 and closed for safety reasons in 1994. It has been closed ever since.
- It was home to the second phone in the town, which was installed in 1891 - 6 months after the first phone was installed.
- Due to the decline in the condition of the Pier, English Heritage placed it on the Heritage At Risk Register. In 2015, the Victorian Society included the pier on its list of the 10 most endangered buildings.

# 3. KNIGHTSTONE ISLAND

- There are no records as to who built Knightstone Island (as it has always been there), but many people have owned it and built upon it throughout its years. We have included a few of the owners, however there were many more.
- Knightstone Island was first acquired by the Pigott family in 1696 (later becoming the Smith-Pigotts). In 1820, it was purchased by Mr. John Howe from Bristol, and he constructed the first Medicinal Baths there. There were Hot and Cold Saltwater Baths, a Lodging House, Public Refreshment Rooms and a Reading Room.
- The Queen visited to re-open the Island's Perimeter Walkway on 20 July 2007.

# 3. KNIGHTSTONE ISLAND

- The Island changed hands several times throughout the years, and the buildings on it have been either rebuilt or remodelled several times. It was eventually acquired by the local council, who built a new Swimming Pool and a Pavilion, both of which opened in May 1902.
- The Pavilion closed in 1991 due to financial struggles, and in 2006/2007 the whole island was redeveloped. The Bath House and front section of the Pavilion were converted into commercial premises, and the rest of the Pavilion were converted into homes and 2 new apartment blocks were built on the Island.

# 4. THE TROPICANA

- The Tropicana first opened in 1937, and included an Art Deco Diving Board. When it opened it was simply known as "The Pool", becoming branded as Tropicana in 1983.
- The Tropicana closed to the public for renovation after Woodspring District Council successfully applied for permission to demolish the then-listed Diving Boards.
- The Tropicana re-opened in 1983, and the Diving Boards were replaced by a Wave Machine, Pineapple-Shaped Water Chutes and a Water Heater.
- The Tropicana closed its doors as a Swimming Pool for the last time in 2000.
- The next time the Tropicana was used in 2015, when Banksy and other artists curated an art installation inspired by a "sinister twist on Disneyland".
- Since then, it has been used for a variety of different events, such as Funland, Ice Skating and more.

# 5. THE BLAKEHAY THEATRE

- The Theatre building was Weston's first Baptist Church, as was built in 1850 as Wadham Street Baptist Church. It was also the town's first public building.
- In 1862, Hans Price was commissioned to adapt and enlarge the building.
- In 1985, the building closed as a place of worship, and in 1986 the Blakehay was saved from demolition and replacement with a block of flats by the actions of Weston-super-Mare Building Trust and run by the Civic Society.
- Weston-super-Mare Town Council purchased the Theatre in 2004, and it was refurbished in 2010, where it has remained a Community Theatre for residents and visitors ever since.

# 5. THE BLAKEHAY THEATRE

- The Blakehay Theatre operates as a live events venue, programming local and regional theatre, music and dance.
- During World War II, the Theatre was hit by incendiary bombs.

# 6. WESTON MUSEUM

- The building Weston Museum is housed in was designed and built by local architects Hans Price and William Jane in 1912, to house the Gaslight Company.
- It was purchased by Weston Borough Council in 1975 and turned into a new home for the Museum.
- In 1985, the Museum acquired a Victorian Cottage next to the Museum, named Clara's Cottage.
- Weston-super-Mare Town Council acquired the building in 2011, and in 2012 a bid was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to make major improvements. In April 2015, the Museum closed its doors to the public so work could begin on a major redesign.
- The Museum adopted the name "Weston Museum" and reopened on 26 August 2017.
- The building was first given listed status in 1983, and has many listed features including the cobbled floor of the ground floor.

# 7. THE ODEON

- The Odeon was built in 1934 for the Odeon Cinema chain and opened on 25 May 1935.
- The Odeon was designed by T Cecil Howitt, and was built by C Bryant and Sons Ltd.
- Originally, the Odeon has a seating capacity of 1,807 and was equipped with a Theatre Organ with Illuminated Console.
- In 1973, the Odeon was split into 3 smaller units, with a fourth screen added in 1991. Many of the original Art Deco features however, survived - including the Compton Organ.
- The Odeon is a listed building, and was first listed in 1986. There are several reasons why it has been listed, the main 2 being its Architectural Interest and its Compton Organ.
- The Compton Organ is understood to be one of the only two examples known to survive in a functioning cinema.

# 8. THE WINTER GARDENS

- Construction of the Winter Gardens first started in 1925, and was completed in 1927. However, the idea of creating the Winter Gardens dates back to 1881.
- The Winter Gardens Pavilion was designed by Thomas Hayton Mawson and Harry Brown.
- The Winter Gardens is now divided into 2 sections; a Law and Professional Services Academy and Higher Education Teaching Spaces accessed from the Italian Gardens, and the Winter Gardens accessed from the seafront.
- A campaign was started to get the building listed by English Heritage, however this application was denied in April 2015.
- In the 1970's, the Winter Gardens hosted performances by artists such as David Bowie, Deep Purple, Slade and T. Rex.