

Stroud Town Council Local Heritage Asset List

King Street, 47, Town Time Niche, GL5 3DA	
Historic building	Conservation Area: Stroud Town Centre Stroud Town Centre NDP area
Architectural detail	List entry number SLHA0019



Description

Arched niche on the exterior of the ground floor of 47 King Street, used from 1870 to 1982 to house a clock which showed "Railway time", the London time used for the railways: "Before 1845, Stroud set its time by the sun. Being some 90 miles west of the meridian, noon was nine minutes later in Stroud than it was at Greenwich.

However, the railways had complicated timetables which were all set to London time (Greenwich Mean Time) as this 1845 poster made clear - 'Calculated throughout at London time'.

Eventually, Stroud had to give in and adopt 'Railway time' like everyone else."
(www.digitalstroud.co.uk)

In 1858, a new clock set to Railway time was made by Robert Bragg, a local jeweller,

optician and watchmaker, Robert Bragg. Originally mounted outside Bragg's shop on the High Street, in 1870 the clock moved with Bragg's shop to King Street where it stayed until it was vandalised in 1982. The clock can now be found at Stroud's Museum in the Park. (www.museuminthepark.co.uk)

Sources

Digital Stroud (2016), Getting Here, Rail, Stroud Time,

<http://www.digitalstroud.co.uk/gettinghere-rail-stroud-time>, viewed 1 July 2017

Museum in the Park (2013), Discover, Stories from the Collection, The Bragg Clock,

<http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk/bragg-clock/>, viewed 1 July 2017

Selection Criteria	
Age	
Rarity	Unusual architectural feature related to advent of railways.
Evidential value	Link to a significant, surviving 19th century feature of the town: the Bragg Clock. Link to the need to adjust timekeeping in the nineteenth century for accurate railway timetables. Redolent of a period of major technological change.
Landmark status	The clock was a former well known landmark.
Date of inclusion	June 2017

With thanks to Stroud Preservation Trust – www.stroudpreservationtrust.org.uk

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