

# Hull Museum Education

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## The Significant Buildings and People of High Street

### The Pease Warehouse



The Pease's were one of the most prosperous merchant families in Hull during the 17th and 18th centuries. Joseph Pease, who traded during the 18th century, built the Pease warehouses in 1745 and 1760. Joseph was one of the great entrepreneurs of the century and had his proverbial finger in a wide range of pies. The capital and credit that he procured was invested in trade, shipowning, underwriting and whaling. He is infamous as the founder of Hull's oldest bank and his interests included oil-seed crushing, cotton spinning,

white lead, whiting, soap and paint making and, through his son-in-law, distilling and copper mining.



Pease believed in making his capital work, so every penny of his wealth was invested in growing concerns. In 1753 he was adding to his assets by building up property in Manchester, investing in cotton and offering loans. In 1754 Joseph Pease & son opened the first Hull bank; at the time there were no more than a dozen banks in the country. The bank became known as Pease & Harrison's when J/R/ Pease succeeded his grandfather in

1778; at the time when he took over the reins the business empire was valued in excess of half a million pounds.

The Pease Warehouses, which are some of the oldest and most elegant surviving in the country, were restored in 1981 and converted into apartments. The residential complex blends tastefully into the surroundings of High Street and the character of the building has been retained by the developers.