

**Bookended by banks:  
the origins of the Coop's mismatched buildings**

### Strand 1820

The Coop is built on the site of the old London Inn later Hotel. Historians are unclear exactly when the hotel was built but sometime in the period 1780-1806. At this time there were only two hotels catering for the newly established health resort, the other being the York hotel further up the Strand. The Strand itself was only properly established around 1780 with a row of town houses with gardens at the front. At the end of the Strand nearest the junction with Beach Road the London Inn was established seen here with a portico. Note that next door is a low cottage with the first shop front taking the place of a garden.



### Strand 1890

The character of the Strand has changed markedly and is now primarily full of shops. Note that to the left of the London Hotel is a low building with Shapter's shop extension selling bicycles and ironmongery. This is in the same position as the shop in the 1820 picture as corroborated by the pavement outline. The bank building which later became Lloyds is prominent to the left.



### Strand 1900

Sometime after 1820 and before the 1840 tithe map the London Inn was extended with a uniform roof height. Quite possibly the first 3 windows on the left of the building mark the original building. The stables are located behind in Strand Hill. Note how cramped the road layout is at the corner.



### Strand & Strand Hill corner 1920

The London Hotel fell out of favour and was not able to compete with the newer hotels like the Royal, Grand and Blenheim. It closed about 1911 and was pulled down to be replaced by 1913 with this new building which included a Hopkins garage and the Cridge restaurant. The Cridge building on the left may look familiar.



### Strand 1955

Part of the impressive building with the ornate fretwork did not last long as it fell victim to a road widening scheme, so the end adjacent to Strand Hill was pulled down and on the reduced space a classically designed Midland bank was built which opened in 1926. Hopkins garage moved to Piermont Place. Cridge's restaurant has given way to Brunt's and the full extent of the building is now clear. Next door Shapter's original shop has evolved into a garage. The building behind the garage is still lower than Brunt's.



## Strand 2026

The bank buildings remain the same. Brunt's became Woolworths until the early 2000's. Shapters garage finally closed in the 1960's and the building was demolished. A new building designed as a modern supermarket for the Gateway chain was built on the site. Like many buildings of its time it didn't attempt to fit in. It's pavement line is the same as the bank and the old shop which can be dated back to at least 1820 in contrast to the Brunts/Woolworth building which followed the line of the old London Hotel. Gateway/Somerfield was taken over by the Coop supermarket chain which used the old Woolworths building to expand the shop space in 2011.



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P.S. Note to the Coop. The front of the Brunts/Woolworth building needs some attention if we are to retain the detailed decoration of this building unique within Dawlish town centre and which helps give the town its character.

