



Middleton Garden &amp; Co-op Central Store

#### Factory Street meeting

In 1846 a group of men met over a slaughterhouse in Factory Street, Middleton. This meeting laid the foundation of the Middleton and Tonge Industrial Co-operative Society. The men collected subscriptions of three pence a week until they raised £40.00. They finally, after a considerable time, rented a shop at Little Park and opened for business in 1850. The same principles of the original Rochdale Pioneers were copied by the Middleton Society. Many Co-op grocery stores opened from the late 1850's in the surrounding area of Middleton as the townspeople's confidence grew in the society and its pure food along with the 'divi'. In the early 1970's the Middleton and Tonge Industrial Co-operative Society merged with the Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society.

#### The Jumbo Tea Party, Jumbo

In 1860 The Jumbo Tea Party was held at Lowbanks Farm, Jumbo. This meeting endorsed plans for a Co-operative Wholesale Society by Co-operative retail societies in northern England. Charles Howarth, one of the original Rochdale Pioneers, gave his support for the CWS.

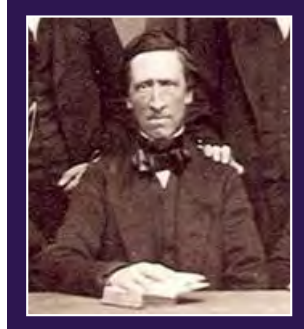


Jumbo Farm, Middleton

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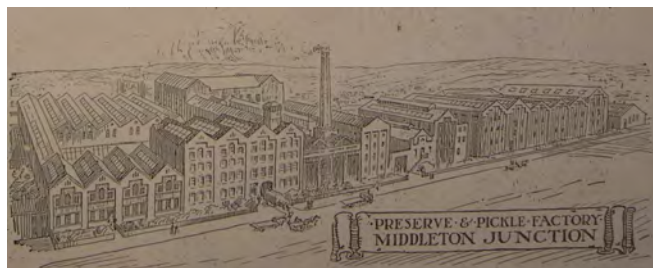
Rochdale Pioneers



Charles Howarth 1814-1868

#### Pickles factory, Mills Hill Road

By 1863 the CWS imported, processed, manufactured and distributed food and basic necessities. In 1896 a preserve factory was specially built at Mills Hill also producing pickles and Christmas puddings. In 1938 a factory in Baytree Lane produced soft drinks, mineral water, wine and spirits.



Middleton Junction Preserve and Pickle Factory



Staff of the Jam and Pickle works at Mills Hill, 1914

#### Middleton Co-op Central Store, Long Street

The Middleton Co-op Central Store opened in 1871 in Long Street. Provisions and drapery were sold. The clock on the top of the building bore the name 'Smiths Derby'. Eventually they sold almost everything required by the people of Middleton. In April 1963, the Beatles performed at the Central Store Hall. It was a great night for over 300 fans of the fab four. The top two floors were demolished in the late 1963 and the building is now a Pound Superstore.



Former Middleton Co-operative Central Stores

## History

The Middleton and Tonge Industrial Co-operative Society opened their first store in 1850 in Little Park. The Central Store with its decorative clock was built in 1871 on Long Street, and was probably the most impressive Co-op building in Middleton town centre at the time. The Store, of which only the ground floor remains, was perfectly integrated to the urban landscape in the Victorian times. Like in the other towns and villages of Rochdale Borough where the Co-op societies were successful, the Middleton and Tonge Co-operative Society contributed to the urban development with the construction of purpose-built stores and shops. This information leaflet tells the story of the Co-op society and is illustrated with fantastic historic photographs revealing the beauty of the co-op buildings, most of which are now gone.

Aside from the Co-operative Society, the town of Middleton has a rich history which dates back to the 15th century. Thomas Langley, Samuel Bamford and Edgar Wood are three of the most important figures of the town. Edgar Wood was born in Middleton in 1860 and was the architect of Long Street Methodist Church and many other buildings in Middleton. He too has contributed to give Middleton its special architectural character.



## Middleton and Tonge Industrial Co-operative Society information leaflet

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Long Street, Middleton

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#### Central Offices and Warehouse, Sadler Street

By the mid 1950's the Central Offices of the Middleton and Tonge Co-op were located on Sadler Street and the grocery warehouse was located next door to the offices. The Central Offices building later became the Middleton Council Offices.



Central Offices, Sadler Street

#### Co-op Milk Depot, Water Street

The former Co-op Milk Depot was located on Water Street. In 1921 it distributed milk and in 1936 the Co-op merged with United Co-operatives Dairies (now the Carpet Factory Warehouse).

Water Street, Middleton  
Ordnance Survey map, 1929

#### Co-op Drapery, Tailoring & Furnishing Dept, Long St

The department moved in 1936 to a purpose built building which is now Barclays Bank. The furnishing department expanded in 1959 to a building which is located near the Roebuck public house.

Furnishing Department, Long Street,  
Local Studies collection





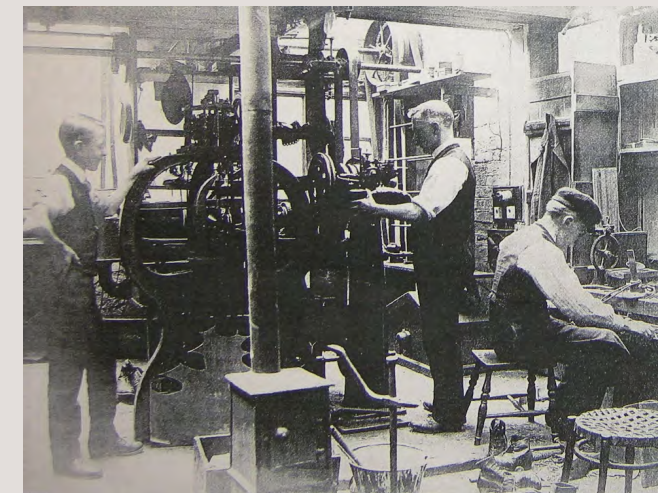
This 1909 Ordnance Survey map shows the town centre of Middleton, with the tramway running along Long Street, and the now Grade I Listed St. Leonard's Church. The Middleton and Tonge Industrial Co-operative Society played a positive role in the development of the area. Some of the buildings and sites of the Middleton and Tonge Co-operative history described on the other side of this leaflet are marked on the map.

1909

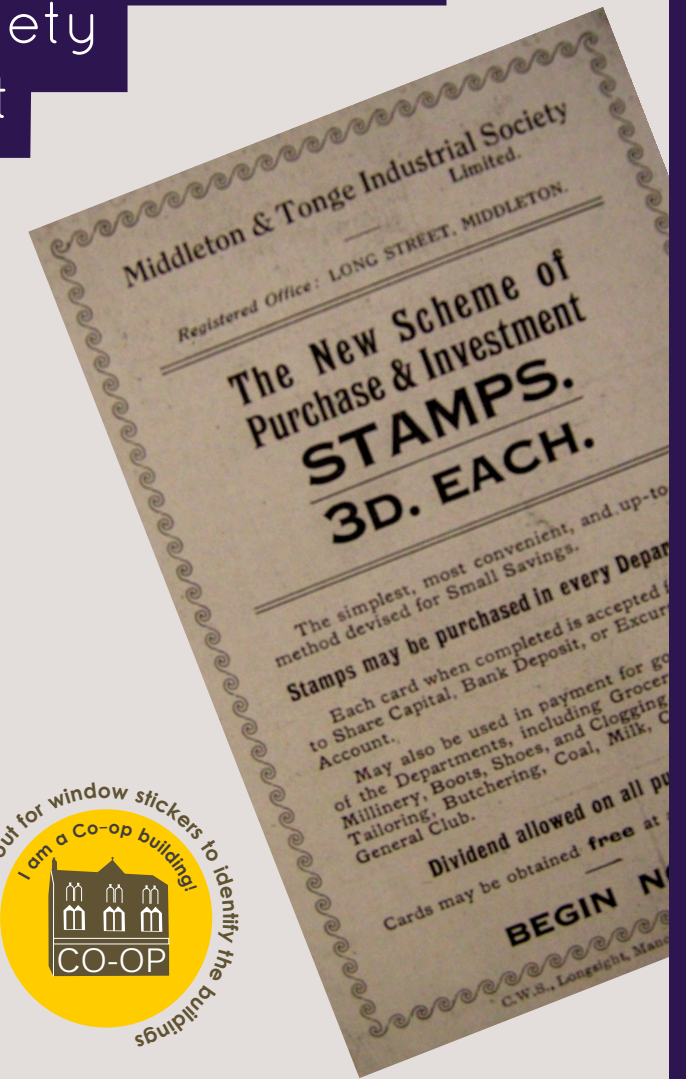
## Middleton and Tonge Industrial Co-operative Society information leaflet



Self service at the Central Stores, June 1949



Shoe Department, Co-op Central Store, Long Street



Middleton Electric Traction Company, Ltd



Manchester New Road, Middleton, 1930

