

HISTORIC PLACES

Our history, the history of the dangerous classes and rebellion against oppression, is today a barely audible murmur - but yet not gone. The ghosts of the subalterns and the defeated whisper to us a discontinuous tradition of memory and conflict, bringing the oil right there where the fire is.

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Ladegården poorhouse

Aboulevarden, Rosenøms Allé, Worsaaevj og Jakob Dannefaerds vej, 1970
1620s-1920
Initially royal farm, it became the main total institution in Copenhagen for centuries: war and pest hospital until 1768, psychiatric hospital until 1816, and therefrom a "poor farm" - a forced labour camp to discipline the new city workers who were crowding the bro-quarters, until something made it obsolete: the prison.
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Danish West India Company

Strandgade 4, 1401
1728-1912
Roughly where Nørdea headquarters lay today, there were the headquarters, warehouse, and sugar refinery factory of the West Indians and Guinea Company, that ruled until 1755 the triangular slave trade, which destroyed 110.000 Africans' lives only by the Danish ships. Denmark was the seventh largest slave-trading nation in the world.
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Odd Fellow Palace

Bredgade 28, 1260
1755
In 1762 the family von Schimmelmann bought this Rococo mansion to make it the centre of a colorful cultural life. It all was paid by their plantations on the West Indias, a sugar refinery in Copenhagen, and guns to trade for slaves - the whole Atlantic triangular slave trade.
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The Yellow Palace - The Slave Society

Amallegade 18, 1260
1756
Still housing the administration of the royals, this palace was built by Frederik Børgum to accommodate his slave-trading company and the Slave (trade) Society that he founded to lobby for slavery at court.
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West India Warehouse

Toldbodgade 40, 1253
1781
Warehouse for the products imported from the slave plantations in the West Indias, mainly coffee and sugar, of which Copenhagen was the trade centre of Europe. The notable leaning of Scandinavians for coffee and candy was boosted from this building.
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Royal Greenland Trade Department

Strandgade 91, 1401
1782-1950
From this house the state-owned Royal Greenland Trade Department dominated the colonies in Greenland, ruling that country with a combination of trade monopoly and institutionalised racism.
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Carpenters' strike

Adelgade 27, 1304
1794 (1871)
First major strike in Copenhagen, started by a group of carpenters against a tyrannical master. They were supported by other crafts-men, who gathered on the streets. 123 journeymen were arrested and expelled from Denmark. In the same carpentry where the strike started was founded the 1st international labour union of the country in 1871.
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The Jew Conflict

Strøget
1819-20
Anti-semitic pogroms took place in Copenhagen from September to January, including storming stores in Strøget, physical attacks to jew people and houses, intimidation, and harassment.
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P. Wulffs Cigar Factory

Nordre Fasanvej 115, 2000
1841-1898
One of the many tobacco factories that proliferated in XIX century Copenhagen, on the wake of local poverty and cheap wares coming from the colonies. Tobacco industry made out for half of child labour in town, 10% of the industrial workforce back then.
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Blegdamsvej Prison

Blegdamsvej 6, 2200
1848
Jails popped up right after new poor emigrants came from the countryside. The oldest Danish prison, still housing around 90 inmates, is also renown for having witnessed several successful jailbreaks: 3 prisoners escaped in 1993, 4 in one of its best days in 1994, and probably the last one so far in 2012. Good luck!
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America's Quay

Amerikakaj, 2100
1850-1920
Many of the 350.000 Danes that emigrated to America, including the 31.000 political and social so-called "criminals" deported by police and authorities, left this quay behind, together with their beloved ones, memories and projects, to continue the struggle for life far away.

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Frederiksberg Poorhouse - Frederiksberg Hospital

Howitzvej 20, 2000
1863-1933, 1960s
Poorhouses were institutions to cure poverty with a combination of condescension and hard work. For the old, sick, weak, disabled, and above all, for the poor, it housed above 1000 interns in 1900 only in Copenhagen. Anyone who was considered worth of need could find in these institutions shelter and food for work, while loosing their civil rights, as fx. to marry. This one meaningfully evolved into hospital. During the 60s, in the infamous department D1 of this institution, there were conducted over 500 experiments with LSD on unsuspecting psychiatric patients.
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Battle of the Fælled

Fælledparken
1872
First massive confrontation of the early socialist movement in Copenhagen with the police and the soldiers. It happened in the northern part of the park the 5th of May following a demo in solidarity with striking bricklayers, all in the wake of the Commune in Paris, and of an increasingly organised local workers' movement. The Danish branch of the 1st International reached 5000 members among the city workers crammed into the newly-built bro-quarters.
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State-controlled brothels

Eskildgade, 1657
1874-1901
During around 30 years took the state control of the brothels, fx on the side streets of Vesterbro. The prostituted women were named "public harlots" and subject of strict surveillance and control by police.
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Human zoo at Tivoli

Vesterbrogade 3, 1620
1878-1909 (1902)
During more than 30 years around 40 different so-called folkekaravaner (popular caravans) exhibited humans perceived as exotic at the Tivoli gardens. Chinese, Inuit, Amerindians, Africans, etc. were fenced and displayed in bizarre dioramas for the amusement and enlightenment of the crowd. It also became the field of struggle for those exhibited, who sometimes organised themselves well enough even to strike for better conditions, as during the Chinese exhibition of 1902.
- 01

Arbejdsmuseet - Workers' Museum

Rørnersgade 22, 1362
1879 (1982)
Present-day workers' museum opened as the first workers' association building in NW Europe. Today is a museum on the history of the working class.
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Ghetto of Vognmagergade

Vognmagergadekvarter, 1124
1881-1914
Around 3.000 Jews escaping from persecution and poverty in East Europe settled around the turn of the century in Copenhagen, mostly in this quarter. They found a strong pressure to leave their Yiddish language and culture, especially from the local better-off Jews.
- 45

Assassination attempt of Estrup

Esplanaden, 1263
1885
The 21st of October the young typographer Julius Rasmussen attempted to murder the unpopular Danish prime minister J.B.S. Estrup. The shot supposedly hit a button in Estrup's coat and did not hurt him. Julius was captured and sent to prison where he was found hanged few years later.
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Common Bakery of the Workers - Rutana

Nannasgade 5, 2200
1886-1980, 1981, 1983
First of a federation of up to 41 cooperative bakeries started by the cabinetmakers' union. This factory had its own mill, a 40 m high silo, and counetd with 295 co-operative workers. Two hours squatting of Rutana in 1981 was one of the first squats in Copenhagen. It got squatted again in 1983. "Rutana radio" pirate radio emitted from the silo.
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West Prison

Vigerslev Alle 1D, 2450
1895
This 4 stories high panopticon building houses the largest Danish penitentiary with over 400 prisoners. It was over the years the place of rebellion and fight for many, including some successful jailbreaks, from 1999 famous bank robber escape to 2018 last fight so far, just to remember two.
- 48

Proletaren – Anarkistisk organ for Skandinavien

Hedebygade 11, 1754
1896
Here was the editorial office of the first anarchist & non-socialdemocratic paper of the workers' movement in Danish.
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Milk Depot Enigheden (the Unity)

Lygten 39-41, 2400
1897-1996
Cooperative dairy started by workers of the Copenhagen Dairy Assoc. when the company forbid them to unionise. It became the longest-lasting and most successful food workers' coop in town.
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Ungdomshuset (the Youth House)

Jagtvej 69, 2200 - Dortheavej 61, 2400
1897-1960, 1982-2007
Built as Folkets Hus (House of the People) in the XIX Century by the workers' movement, it housed, to name one among thousand things, the 1910 International Woman's Conference of the Second International, where it was suggested the institution of International Women's Day on March 8. It got emptied in 1960, to get later squatted and become Ungdomshuset, an autonomous and very active political and punk cultural centre. Police clearance of the house in March 1, 2007, was responded with riots in Copenhagen for months. The old building was torn down and Ungdomshuset moved to its present location in Nordvest.
- 50

The Copenhagen Maid Service Association

Gøthersgade 49, 1123
1899
In the 1th was founded the Union of Maids from Copenhagen, a city which counted at that time with 150.000 servants, 2/3 of them women, in almost slavery conditions: not allowed free movement, ownership, vote, or any defense against being punished by the master. The union helped to improve radically maids' conditions, published newspapers, and erected elderly homes and schools.
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The Underground

Amagertorv, 1160
1901
People just evacuated on the streets before the proliferation of public and private toilets, in turn spread due to the new hygienic principles. These safe public underground toilets for men and women meant an important step for the latter to be able to walk the city's streets and stay outdoors.
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Stjernen (The Star)

Dronning Olgas Vej 70, 2000
1902-64
The present housing site between Dronning Olgas Vej and Nordre Fasanvej is placed where the production of Arbejdernes Kooperative Bryggeri Stjernen (workers' cooperative brewery "the Star") took place. Before the IIWW it
- was the third biggest producer of beer in the country.
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Sophus Rasmussen's Printing House

Kingsgade 5
1905
From here the often named "first Danish anarchist" wrote and printed Skorpionen, one of the first anarchist papers in Danish.
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Sophus Rasmussen parents house

Husumgade 12, 2200
1907
After being sentenced to prison for his anarchist activities, Sophus Rasmussen went underground. Nevertheless, he occasionally visited his family's apartment in Nørrebro, where the 13th of November two policemen trapped him. He chose to kill one of them just before himself rather than being jailed again.
- 55

Assault on the stock exchange

Borsgade, 1217
1918
Raid on the stock exchange of Copenhagen on February 11th following a big demo that started in Jagtvej 69 and today's Arbejdsmuseet. The participants were armed with maces, walked into the stock exchange and hit the stockbrokers. Later they attacked the police with bricks collected from the construction site of the Christiansborg.
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Battle of Grøntorvet

Israel Plads, 1361
1918
That's how were named the confrontations between a crowd of "48.000 unemployed that starve and freeze", as stated in one of their banners, and the police that started after a mass demonstration on November 13th to last some days. It was the culmination of several months of unrest and conflict between the revolutionary socialists and Danish state, already supported by the Social-democrats.
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University Institute for human Hereditary Biology and og Eugenics

Tagensvej 14, 2200
1929-1969
Denmark became the 1st country in the world to adopt a law on sterilisation and castration. It was aimed at preventing "spiritual undermines" (psychics, alcoholics, vagabonds, epileptics, insanity, etc.). It could also be applied to masturbation, homosexuality, transvestitism and other "sexual perversions". Around 11.000 Danes were sterilised, 2/3 of them women, including 1.012 homosexuals.
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Memorial for the volunteers in the Spanish Civil War

Churchilparken, 1263
1936-1939 (1986)
Memorial raised for the 220 Danish volunteers who died in the Spanish Civil War. About 550 Danish antifascist workers went to Spain to fight.
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Emdrup Adventure Playground

Keldsøvej 5, 2100
1943
First adventure playground in the world, founded by the Workers Coop Housing Association, pedagogue John Bertelsen, and landscape architect C.T. Sørensen, for the children to play free in absence of adult-manufactured or rigid play-structures, so they could build and shape their environment according to their own creative vision.
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Stjerne Radio

Istedgade, 31, 1650
1943-45
Old radio store where the resistance group Holsker Danske was funded in 1943. After a couple of weeks playing British and American songs with loud speakers to annoy the nazis in the winter of 1944-45, the Schalburg Corps, Danish volunteer branch of the Germanic-SS, blasted the store into the air. Now it is a museum of resistance.
- 60

Destruction of Riffelsyndikatet

Arhusgade, 2150
1944
Biggest sabotage action by the partisan group BOPA. It meant the demolition of a nazi warfare factory, owned by the well-known millionaire A.P. Møller. On June 22, in cooperation with 3 employees, the armed group exploded 400kg of explosives to blow it up. It stopped the gun production there forever and contributed to the escalation of rebellion towards a popular strike one week later.
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The Popular Strike

Istedgade, 1650
1944
Riots against nazi soldiers started in Vesterbro on June 29th to soon spread to other quarters and evolve into a 4 days general strike. It costed 51 lives and got the Danish nazi Schalburg Corps out of town.
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German girls Mobbing

Nytorv, 1450
1945
On May 5th happened many mob vengeancees against the women said to have had sexual intercourse with German soldiers during the nazi occupation of Denmark. They were shown shaved and naked, hanging posters of "tyskerluder" or "feltmadras" (Germans' whore) to be spit and insulted by the crowd.
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Christianshavn execution place

Nordlyssen 60, 2300
1946-50
Concrete floor memorial for the last place of the execution of death sentences in Denmark. The last of the 29 nazis killed here, and the last death penalty in the country, was Ib Birkedal Hansen, much hated Gestapo interrogator and brutal torturer.
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Blushøjlejren

Blushøjvej, 2450
1948-1962
Caravan camp consisting of around 80 wagons and 300-400 people, mostly families of Schleswig-Holstein origin. They typically were seasonal workers like circus artists and musicians. The freetown evolved into something like the last slum of Copenhagen. It was closed in the 60s and the travelers were resettled elsewhere, against the will of many of them, who lost their freedom and intense family life.
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Association of 1948

Ølandsgade 1, 2300
1950s
Club and dancehall of the Association of 1948, first Danish association of LGTB people. It published possibly one of the first LGBT-magazines in the world, Panbladet, from 1954.
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Rigshospitalet

Blegdamsvej 9, 2100
1952
The world's first successful sex reassignment surgery was conducted at Rigshospitalet with a great press coverage to 26-year-old Christine Jørgensen, former American soldier.
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Vega

Enghavevej 40, 1674
- 1956

Present day music hall opened as a working class movement's house in the 1950s, not only for the assemblies and political meetings, but also a place for building workers' culture and socialising.

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Maos Lyst

Svanemøllevej 88, 2900
1968
One of the oldest and most emblematic collective houses in Denmark, inhabited over the years by people who differ in different ways from the norms of bourgeois society.

69

Fremmedarbejderklubber (Foreign Workers Clubs)

Sønder Blvd. 120, 1720
1970s
Foreign workers' clubs are the places where gæstearbejdere from f.ex. Turkey, Yugoslavia, or Pakistan would meet to speak their language, eat familiar food, relax, and socialise. Enghave Kirke hosted a big Turkish one in the 1970s.

70

PAN club

Nyrogade 28, 1203
1970-2007
First location of the first and for years unique club in Copenhagen oriented to the gay and lesbian community. It was firstly opened by the Association of 1948 and run by volunteers.

08

Christiania

1407
1971
Squatted military area and self-proclaimed autonomous anarchist district of about 850 to 1.000 residents, covering 34 hectares.

07

Bøssehuset (The Gays' House)

Mælkevejen 69D, 1440
1972
Queer culture centre set up in Christiania around the Bøssernes Befrielsesfront (Gay Liberation Front) from that part of the gay community which don't want to be normalised as a centre for gay activism, parties, and theatre.

71

The Gang of Blekingegade

Blekingegade 2, 2300
1972-1989
Group of communist political activists who underwent a number of expropriations against Danish banks and the postal service, and sent the money to the Popular Front of Liberation of Palestine. A massive cache of weaponry was found in their secret hideout in Amager when they were arrested.

72

Santas' Army

Kongens Nytorv 13, 1905
1974
The political theatre group Solvognen, linked to Christiania, conducted during Christmas an 8-days action and parade involving 100 people on Santa Claus disguise. It included a visit to the supermarket Magasin where they gave for free what seemed to be store's properties, resulting in children terrified by clumsy policemen beating Santa.

73

Fire in Stengade 20

Stengade 20, 2200
1975
This was one of the many buildings in bad conditions, with narrow gloomy backyards, bad hygiene, and fire-dangerous corridor-apartments, in the so-called Black Rectangle or Rabarberlandet at Nørrebro, one of the poorest and most rebellious quarters in Copenhagen. When it got on fire, 9 residents got trapped and lost their lives.

74

Battle of Byggeren

Blågårds Plads, 2200
1980
In the spring of 1980, residents of Nørrebro together with the revolutionary left wing fought a hard fight to preserve "our everybody's building site" between Stengade and Blågårds Plads: Byggeren. The battle was lost, but kick-started the local squat movement.

75

Abel Cathrines Stiftelse

Abel Cathrines Gade 13, 1645
1981-82
First permanent squat in the city, which lasted almost four months before it was voluntarily emptied.

76

Allotria-huset

Korsgade 45, 2200
1982-83
Squatted house and punk venue which became the first squat stormed and closed by police. 35 squatters escaped around 1000 policemen by a tunnel under the street to a truck waiting for them. The house was tied down the same day.

77

Sorte Hest

Platanvej 31, 1810
1984-90
One of the oldest buildings in Vesterbro, former inn from the 1600s, which housed one of the biggest, longest-lasting, and latest to be cleared squat in the city.

78

Kapaw

Viborgsgade 41, 2100
1985-90
When squatted, the owners of this house let the squatters live in. It was the last squat to be cleared in Copenhagen, on October, 1990. The building was demolished in 1993.

79

Battle of Ryesgade

Ryesgade 58, 2100
1986
Facing eviction, the squatters fortified the streets around their building so strongly that it became a cop-free zone for nine days, with massed police unsuccessfully attempting to evict them. After communicating a manifesto through the media, they finally abandoned the house and dispersed without being apprehended.

80

The Palestinians Occupation of the Church of Blågårds Plads

Blågårds Plads 6A, 2200
1991
A group a Palestinian asylum-seekers squatted Blågårds church for over five months to claim for refuge in Denmark, gathering support both from priests and squatters, to finally win their right to settle in the country.

81

The Bomb in Søllerødgade

Søllerødgade 33, 2200
1992
A bomb exploded on March 16th at Internationale Socialister office in Nørrebro, destroying it and killing 29 years old Henrik Christensen. Although a neonazi group claimed it, the case remains officially unsolved.

82

Børnehuset (The Children's House)

Sankt Peders Stræde 17, 1453
1993-2003
This house homed the Copenhagen Child Movement (Børnemagtbævegelsen) in Copenhagen as an "alternative place of creative forces in Copenhagen". The owner of the house let the autonomous young people settle, but after he died the new owner left the youth movement homeless.
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