



An air of mystery surrounds this archway in the grounds of the Teachers' Training College at Beckett Park, Leeds.

E. HINDLE, LEEDS: In the grounds of Beckett Park Training College stands a monumental arch commemorating the visit of Queen Victoria in 1858 to open Leeds Town Hall. Where was the original siting of this memorial as its present place seems incongruous?

Nobody really knows the story behind the erection of this arch, but there are many theories.

One is that when Queen Victoria came to the inauguration of the Town Hall she was to have had her first view of Leeds from it.

Another theory suggests that an arch had been erected at the time of her visit somewhere in Leeds and that Victoria passed through it on her way to the Town Hall, and that after the visit the arch may have been dismantled and rebuilt on the Beckett Park site.

The first theory has the strongest claim because the Becketts were presented to the Queen at the inauguration ceremony and William Beckett commissioned the arch. It is not impossible, therefore, that William Beckett intended inviting the Queen to visit his estate and built the arch in the hope that she would. Unfortunately all the evidence suggests she never went.

COMMEMORATES QUEEN VICTORIA'S

VISIT TO LEEDS ON 7TH SEPT 1858