107–109 High Street and Its History

Oct 20, 2026

Introduction

107–109 High Street, home of Vintage Vet Practice, is a Grade II listed building dating from the early 1800s. It stands in a terrace of listed shops on the east side of Margate's High Street.

Old town directories record traders at No. 107 from the 1840s, from a boot and shoe maker to a Victorian gift shop, and today the building is a round-the-clock vet practice.

The building

Nos. 103 to 109 High Street were listed at Grade II on 22 February 1973. The listing dates them to the early 19th century and notes that Nos. 99 to 109 form a group.

The buildings are three storeys of yellow stock brick with stone coping along the roofline. Their sash windows sit on wooden sills, and some still have their original glazing bars. The shopfronts are modern.

No. 109. No. 109 was built as a three-storey addition on the right-hand side of No. 107, set slightly back from the street. It has one sash window on each upper floor, with the glazing bars still intact.

Victorian traders

Margate's old town directories list who traded at Nos. 107 and 109 through the Victorian era.

Year	No. 107	No. 109
1846	James Knott, boot and shoe maker	No entry
1869	Jane Fawcett, fancy repository	George Chidwick
1883–4	George William Chapman, fancy repository	W. H. Austin

A fancy repository. For at least 15 years No. 107 was a "fancy repository", a Victorian shop selling decorative goods and gifts.

A Chapman on the High Street. In 1883–4 the shop was run by George William Chapman. No link to Charles Wallace Chapman has been found, but it is a nice coincidence for a practice with Wallace-Chapman family roots.

Street numbers have sometimes changed over the years, so these early entries are the best match rather than a certainty.

The 1900s

In the 1900s the building sat among a busy run of shops, pubs and tailors in the middle of the High Street.

Neighbours in 1903. Guides from 1903 show the Prince of Wales pub at No. 108 and E. J. Lovely, picture frame maker, at No. 116. Cant's tailors also traded at No. 110.

A royal visit. In November 1926 the Prince of Wales visited Margate, and a photograph of the occasion was taken at No. 106a, almost opposite.

Redevelopment. Around 1965, photographs were taken of the backs of neighbouring Nos. 103–105 and 111. In 1968 the nearby corner of the High Street and Queen Street was demolished, and by 1970 The Centre shopping precinct had been built off the High Street.

Listed. Nos. 103–109 survived these changes and were listed at Grade II in 1973.

Who traded at Nos. 107–109 for most of the 1900s is not yet known. The 1929 and 1936 Kelly's directories are the next place to look.

The building today

In 2020 the building was marketed as a shop with living space, in the upper part of the pedestrianised High Street.

The space. The listing gave 3,418 sq ft of floor space, with an external store, a cold store and two parking spaces.

A vet practice. On 10 March 2023 Alexander-Wallace Health Care Ltd, the company behind Vintage Vet Practice, was registered at 107–109 High Street. The practice is now open 24 hours a day, every day.

Resident staff. Bruno the dachshund and Mango the parrot are the latest in a long line of characters to work on this stretch of the High Street.

Timeline

Date	Event
Early 1800s	Nos. 103–109 High Street built
1846	James Knott, boot and shoe maker, at No. 107
1869	Jane Fawcett's fancy repository at No. 107; George Chidwick at No. 109
1883–4	George William Chapman's fancy repository at No. 107; W. H. Austin at No. 109
1903	Prince of Wales pub at No. 108, across the street
1926	The Prince of Wales visits the High Street
1968	The High Street and Queen Street corner is demolished
1970	The Centre shopping precinct built off the High Street
1973	Nos. 103–109 listed at Grade II
2020	Building marketed as a shop with living space
2023	Alexander-Wallace Health Care Ltd, behind Vintage Vet Practice, registered at 107–109

Sources

- British Listed Buildings – 103–109 High Street, Margate
- Kent Heritage – 103–109 High Street
- Margate Local History – Bagshaw's Directory 1846
- Margate Local History – Bear's Postal Directory 1869
- Margate Local History – Isle of Thanet Directory 1883–4
- Margate Local History – Lower High Street pictures
- LoopNet – 107–109 High St, Margate

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