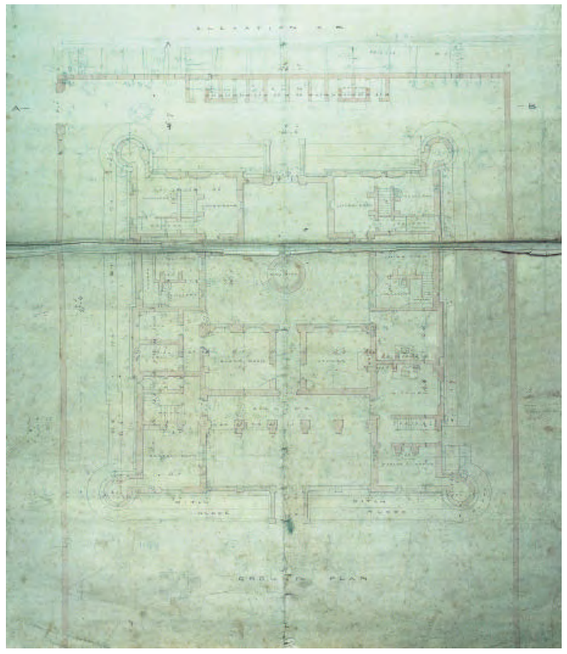


Plate 1 Proposed plan of the building (c.1857) DRO QSD/AM/4 (ii).

3.1.5 ***The Architect; Thomas Penson.***

Thomas Penson the younger was the son of Thomas Penson (c.1760-1824) who was unofficial County Architect for Flintshire until he was officially recognised in 1810. He designed county gaols for Caernarfon (1784) and Flint and presumably passed on some of his expertise in this area to his son.

Thomas Penson (II) was a pupil of well known Greek revival architect and Chester practitioner Thomas Harrison. After establishing his own practice in Wrexham and Oswestry he became County Surveyor for Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire and was a fellow of the RIBA and a

Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Penson is also thought to have made a considerable contribution to improving the road system in Montgomeryshire. His buildings were characterised by his neo-Jacobean style which included 'fancifully shaped gables, pedimented windows and use of ashlar'.[8] This style is especially evident in his Market Hall and British School (both in Wrexham) and Llanrhaeadr Hall.



Plate 2 The Market Hall, Wrexham, 1847 (photo 2005).

In the Wrexham area his main commissions included,
Market Hall, High Street (1847)
Gwersyllt Hill (1841)
The British School, Brook Street (1844)
Holy Trinity Church, Gwersyllt (1850 – 1)
The Parish Church at Rhosllanerchrugog (1852-3)
The New Bridge over the Dee at Cefn Bychan (1845)
The Sontley Road Bridge over the Clywedog (1845)

Elsewhere in the region his commissions included,
Llanfyllin Union Workhouse.
The bridge over the Severn at Llanymynech
The Flannel Market Hall at Newtown (1832)
Newtown and Llanidoes Union Workhouse at Caersws (1838-40), Pentrehelyn (1830)
Vaynor Park (1840 – 1853)
Llanrhaeadr Hall (1842)
Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry (1836-7)
St. David's Church, Denbigh (1838 – 40)

[8] Hubbard, E. The Buildings of Wales, Clwyd (Pevsner Series).

Christ Church, Welshpool (1839-44)
St. David's Church Newtown (1843 – 7)

Thomas Penson (II) had two sons, Thomas Mainwaring Penson and Richard Kyrke Penson who were both architects. Thomas Mainwaring Penson designed Flintshire Militia Barracks, Mold 1857 – 8 and Shrewsbury Railway Station. Richard Kyrke Penson had a reasonably large practice and was responsible for St. Mark's Church at the rear of his father's building.

Thomas Mainwaring Penson was a key figure in the vernacular revival and was the first man to design a contemporary 'Black and White' Building in Chester. He designed much of Eastgate Street, from the Grosvenor Hotel to Brown's department store and much of how Chester appears today is down to Penson and his contemporaries. He was also responsible for the Flintshire Militia Barracks, Flint (1857-8), a building which clearly owes much to its cousin at Wrexham. This building was converted to council occupation in 1897 and, sadly, demolished in the late 1960's.[9]

The Militia Barracks in Chester (sadly demolished to make way for the current Police Station in the 1960's) is recorded by Pevsner as being designed 'by Penson'. It is assumed this is Thomas Mainwaring Penson given his Chester connections. The building dates from c.1856.



Plate 3 Chester Militia Barracks, on the site of what is now the Police HQ near the Grosvenor Bridge.

[9] Owen, p. 103.



Plate 4 Flintshire Militia Barracks, demolished in the 1960's.

3.2 Design Context

Before the Militia Act of 1852 there was little Barracks provision for the auxiliaries, save a few privately built examples. Under the Act the volunteer forces regained their statutory existence, and the provision of better facilities gained impetus. The Act of 1852 was followed by another the following August by which the county lieutenants were ordered to find a militia 'storehouse', or to erect one if no suitable accommodation was available. This was to act as a secure store for arms, clothing, and other materials with accommodation for a sergeant major and a minimum of six NCO's to form a permanent guard.[10] It had to include a parade ground for mustering and the issuing of equipment.

In 1854 the Prime Minister (Palmerston) had the Board of Ordnance draw up a model plan. This was then issued to the counties. In most of the counties however the requirement to attract volunteer's coupled with the security issues led to the development of a new concept, the combined barracks-armoury. The Barracks of the Denbighshire Militia are a prime example of this development.

By 1855 a number of Barracks had been built or were under construction, for the Militia, and some counties were converting local gaols. The desire with many of these buildings seems to have been to architecturally represent the traditions of the amateur military. This tied in to the fashion for emblematic expression of function and history associated with the picturesque movement. The castellated style, with gothic detailing was used to establish the credentials of the owners of new country houses from the late 18th century and, indeed, one of the earliest examples marked the site of a military battle.[11] Many of

[10] Douet, J. British Barracks 1600-1914 Pp152-153.
[11] Sanderson Miller's Tower (c.1750) at Edge Hill marked the position where Charles I erected his standard in the battle of the same name.

the Militia buildings owed more to this picturesque tradition and the fortified houses of the Tudor period than to true Military precedent.

Douet notes 'The commonest architectural emblems applied to these new Militia Barracks were machicolations, crenellations, turrets and arrow slits'.[12]

The tradition seems to have spread to the permanent forces as referred to in an article published in *The Illustrated London News,* February 1855, which heralded the completion of an Artillery Barracks at Ipswich, by R M Phipson. Castles had often been converted to quarters for barracks, including Dover Castle, Kent in 1852. However, the *London News* correspondent believed the Ipswich barracks were the first to be built using a new design which incorporated fortification of the building.

The description read ' The main building is on plan in the form of an |_|_|, having bastions built out on each of its sides, loop-holed at every story. The windows have wrought-iron bullet-proof shutters, also loop-holed; and the whole of these openings are so arranged that no body of men could approach the building, even if they succeeded in forcing the outworks, without being subjected to a sharp and continued fire. A powder magazine, capable of holding from twenty to thirty tons of powder and shot, is placed in the interior of the building, under ground. This is approached by two copper doors, and ventilated with copper chambers carried up to the roof'.

'The main building is surrounded by a fosse or dyke, formed in bricks, with the counterscarp turfed; the entrance being by a drawbridge affixed to the front bastion'.

The Barracks for the North Gloucestershire Militia at Cirencester are good example of the trend, and, happily are still in existence. These were constructed on Lord Bathhurst's land.[13] These, and the Barracks for the South Gloucestershire Militia (in Gloucester) were designed by Thomas Fulljames, who was a pupil of gothic pioneer and practitioner Thomas Rickman.[14]

[12] Douet, J. British Barracks 1600-1914.

[13] An Earlier Lord Bathurst was responsible for one of the earliest examples of the picturesque tradition, 'Alfred's Hall' which was erected on his estate, probably to designs by the poet Alexander Pope.

[14] Rickman was a pioneer of Gothic, being the first to write a systematic treatise on the subject in England in 1812. Colvin p. 812.

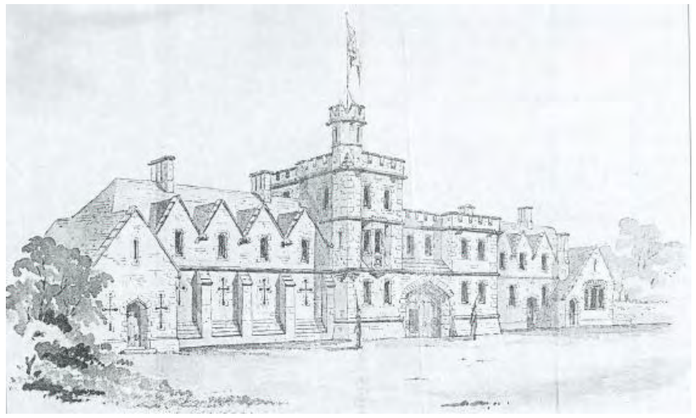


Plate 5 An early design for Cirencester Barracks (Glos. Record office)

The irregular picturesque façade of the Cirencester barracks concealed an 'E' shaped plan, whilst the barracks at Gloucester exhibit closer similarity to those at Wrexham with a largely symmetrical approach to the castellated façade. Interestingly these barracks, whilst the accommodation is similar, have less comfortable accommodation and no internal sanitary provision. It seems from comparison with other London examples that Wrexham's Militia were relatively well provided for.

The defensible nature of the barracks also stems from a requirement to provide an auxiliary force to dispel civil unrest, especially given the recent Chartist insurgencies. Later barracks, such as those in Stockport, provided for undercover drill accommodation, but the stylistic influences remained similar.

The Wrexham Barracks can be seen as an excellent example of this era. The stylistic references of the building owe much to the traditions discussed, but Penson had already established himself as an able practitioner of the 'neo Jacobean' style, which he coupled with military overtones to create the barracks at Wrexham. Clearly here his historical precedents are the moated houses of the Tudor period and the original plans bring to mind houses such as Oxburgh in Norfolk, which has a similar, partially enclosed, courtyard based plan and a surrounding moat. Penson's penchant for and ability to deal with the style had been exhibited before, especially at Llanrhaeadr Hall (1841-2).

This period of development for the Militia went on to influence those designing Barrack's for the permanent army. Some twenty years later designs for armouries and localization depots combined practical and symbolic functions. The combined use pioneered by these early depots was also replicated elsewhere.

3.3 ***Construction of Wrexham Barracks***

The requirements for the building were laid down by the Justices of the Peace in 1854 and stipulated, 'secure and suitable stores and an Orderly and guard room and magazine, and sufficient yard wherein the Militia may be mustered and also quarters for a Sergeant Major and six Sergeants to be provided'. In fact the depot was eventually built to house the Sergeant Major, Quarter Master, sergeants and their families.

The Quarter Session Records for Wrexham include a copy of the contract made between builders Ebenezer Thomas of Menai Bridge, John Thomas of Holyhead and Joseph Peers Clerk of the Peace of the County of Denbigh. The contract sum amounted to £7,532.[15]

3.4 ***Transcription of the Contract for building the Militia Depot at Wrexham***

Details from the contract provide valuable information on the approach directed for the construction.[16] The document appears to have been written during discussions and the order of items is arbitrary. Extracts have been re-ordered according to subject and are quoted below; the detailed drawings referred to do not appear to have survived in 2005.

3.4.1 ***Boundary Wall***

The stone wall was 'to extend sixty yards from north to south' with the frontage 'to the Turnpike Road is forty two yards from East to West'.

Foundations of boundary wall

'To be sunk to the average depth of two feet six inches below the surfaces of the several yards or areas which it incloses or three feet eight inches below the level of the floor except in the situation of Cess Pools …

The whole of the foundation walls to be the level of the Plinth or the surface level of the several yards and areas will be built three inches in thickness above that of the walls to be built upon them and this will apply to all walls throughout the work.

Form of Boundary Wall

The Boundary Wall was to be constructed eighteen inches thick and at an average of nine feet high, above the set on of the foundations. Good rubble freestone was to be used in the same manner as described for the foundation walls, without pimmers faced on both sides. The angles on the north east and north-west were to be cut of … as shown on the Black Dean and looped for defence.

[15] Denbighshire Record Office (DRO) QSD/AM/3
[16] DRO QSD/AM/3

Coping for boundary wall

The boundary wall was to be given a saddle back coping 'well tooled according to the section not in shorter lengths than three feet and six inches.

Design for walls, piers and gates.

The Walls, Piers, and Gates on the south front to be executed as shown on the Plan and Elevation. The gateways and piers were to be constructed according to the drawing. Hooks were to be let in and leaded to hang the doors.

The caps of the piers were to be 'worked according to the drawing and well tooled'.

3.4.2 ***Gates and Railings***

The Piers for the iron gates and the two halves on the north front to be worked according to the Drawings the two halves built up with the wall of the main building.

Wall to base of railings
The Curb stone to receive the iron railing as also the Parapet on each approach to the clean tooled and in one stone in length, the upper bar of the railing to pass from the Centre pier (?) on each side through the gate pier to form a secure hook for hanging the Gates and an iron brace on each side of each Gate Pier secure to the curb on the Outside and a stone block on the inside.

Ironwork
The Gates and Railings to be of wrought iron the upright rails equal to inch and an eighth square with Cast finials screwed on the lower rail bedded into the Stone as shown on the section, but the cost of the iron railing Gates and fixing does not form part of the present contract that is to be valued by the Architect.[17]

3.4.3 ***Foundations and excavations***

Excavation for sand and gravel

'The contractor will be allowed to excavate and sink for sand gravel or paving stones for the use of work or any portion pf the site clear of the Buildings with the sanction of the Architect'. The builder was expected to fill and level 'all inequality occasioned'.

[17] It does not appear these railings either to the perimeter wall were ever installed. The wall which ran between the projecting gables was never completed either – hence no railings were added here.

Foundations of outer walls

'To be sunk six feet and two inches below the level peg set down'.

All Foundations

'All foundations are to be excavated one foot wider than the walls to be built within them in order that the work may be duly faced and the spaces afterwards filled in with rough scabbings or Pebbles.

'All foundations up to the level of the Plinths of the several Buildings or the surface of the Parade, areas, and Yards, are to be built of strong well bedded freestone well hammered on the face, ends and joints, so as to be built without pimmers laid true and solid in Mortar and grouted at every levelling which must not exceed eighteen inches in height no stone being less that twelve inches on bed with headers to bind through the thickness of the Walls or taking one upon the other not more than six feet asunder in each course'.

3.4.4 Walls

Stone for walls

All the Stone to be used to be free from imperfections and good and uniform in Colour and the work over the whole extent of the building must be carried up regularly as to the height of the several portions. The Contractor in levelling the surface of the Area on which the works are to be constructed within the boundary walls will be instructed as to any precautions to be taken respecting the drainage sewerage, and Tanks or Cess Pools and he is so to carry on his work as to afford all reasonable facilities for completing the additional works.

External walls to the whole building

The external walls were to be laid 'in freestone in good rubble work, well hammer dressed set perfectly close and true on the beds and joints and entirely without pimmers'. The stone for this work was to be on average no less than ten inches in bed, tied in with headers to tail over on to each other where the walls are not lined with bricks and throughs to pass the thickness of the walls not more than seven feet asunder in each course, the whole wall laid solid in mortar and grouted as before described the dressings of the windows and doors to be tooled on the splays and a draft in front (,) the remainder in front picked and the joints irregular at the ends.

The quoins drafted at the angles and the joints also irregular not squared off but fitted to the stone rubble work without pimmers.

The walls and foundations of the Privies, Coal Bins and Ash Pits

These walls were to be of well dressed hammer faced freestone. The foundations for the above and Cess Pools were to be of rubble stone.

Cross walls for the Privies and Coal bins

These smaller walls were to be tied into the external wall and given a coping of freestone five inches thick, not more than two stones in length with a 'vion' dowel in each joint, leaded.

Outer face of the walls

These were to be built below the level of the Plinth on the exterior of the whole of the main building. The walls were to be worked 'to batter one inch in every foot perpendicular as shown by the section with the beds laid square to the battering line'.

'On the battering wall the Plinth was to be 'set leaving a projection of four inches to be chamfered on the top. The upper Plinth round the whole of the buildings is to be drafted and picked, the set on of two inches Chamfered with a drip of half an inch tooled'.

Interior Walls

'The walls of the interiors of all the buildings except where otherwise specified to be lined with hard burnt pressed bricks laid close and fine every fifth course being a heading course and every fifth brick in the stretching courses a header (.) The whole built in good mortar well tied into the external stone work and grouted'.

Walls of the Arcade

'The walls of the Arcade will be wholly of freestone rubble work with the dressings of the doors and windows worked as before specified'.

Walls of Ground Floor

'The whole of the walls of the ground floor with the exception of the Orderly room and Parlour will be cased on the inside with hard burnt pressed bricks of the best quality worked fine and close, and the joints clean pointed as the work proceeds so as to receive paint or colour'.

Walls of Regimental Store and Hospital Room

'The inside of the Walls of the Regimental Store and Hospital Rooms and Staircase to be lined with Bricks of the same kind and in the same manner as is before specified. The dwarf wall under the floors to be built of Stone or Bricks as the Contractor may select'.

Ventilation Flues

'The Ventilation of the Cells and Hospital to be effected by flues worked in the thickness of the walls upright and Cross stantions of iron five eights of an inch square to be leaded into all lower lights of all the windows on the ground floor the cross stantions to form flush with the upright ones but to clip them with a square joggle'.

3.4.5 ***Interior stone work***

Door Frames

'Wherever there are square and chamfered door frames they are to be built in as the work advances and the joggles of the iron shoes let into the door cill and where these are not cills there must be footstones …(missing).'

Window Frames

'The Area windows to the Basement to have a Curb of freestone, not less than six inches worked round them and inch bars of wrought iron inserted and leaded securely'.

Steps

'The steps into the Basement to be of freestone, clean tooled built into the wall and a proper door securely fixed upon the opening to admit the Coals'.

3.4.6 ***Floors***

The Basement

'Under the quarters of the Sergeant Major so as to have clear head room under the floor of eight feet when the flagging is laid and the foundations of the walls to be sunk one foot below this level'.

The Cess Pools

'The floors for the Cess Pools were to be covered with flags four inches thick. These were to be laid on an incline of not less than three inches a foot'.

Magazine floor

'The Course of strong flagging over the area round the Basement of the Magazine to be worked accruing to the section and clean tooled on the upper and outer face'.

Timber floors

'The naked flooring of the Orderly room and the ...as also the floor of the Sergeant Major's Parlour and entrance.
The floor of the Store room to be laid with Saint Petersburgh Battens slit through the other five floors with Mernel or Dantzic boards dry and well seasoned not more than six inches wide and inch thick, the entrance with oak'.

'The floor over the Store Room and Guard Room to have a trussed beam over each opened and secured with Cast iron truss and then bolted together one half the thickness of each beam to pass over the Arcade Wall and into the North Wall to tie the buildings as shown on the Plan of the floors framed with bridging beams and joist as shown on the Plan laid upon Oak Sleepers and Bond timber which must be placed on the centre of the Walls so that it shall be concealed by the brick casing'.

'The whole of the framing timber to be of Dantzic or Mernel Fir of the scantlings shown on the plan'.

'The floor of this room to be laid with Saint Petersburgh battens slit though and well jointed and faced and bradded'.

'The remainder of the naked flooring to be of Mernel or Dantzic Fir all laid upon oak wall plates and Bond, and of the Scantlings figured on the plans boarded with well seasoned Dantzic or Mernel boards full inch thick not wider than seven inch clear of sap well faced jointed and bradded'.

3.4.7 ***Ground Floors***

'The floors of the Arcade Passage and Staircase to be laid with the best hard York paving well tooled close jointed in sand and mortar upon a foundation of broken stones and Lime riddlings not less than six inches thick'.

'The floors of the Remainder of the rooms on the Ground floor which are not to be boarded to be laid with the best hard burnt Fire Tiles upon and bed of broken stones and lime riddling not less than six inches thick well bedded in sand and mortar and the floor of the basement of the Sergeant Majors House to be laid with frees stone or slate flagging'.

'The Soil to be removed from beneath the floor of the …(missing) to receive the flagging of the floor and the area round the magazine which is to be of York Paving'.

3.4.8 ***Windows and Doors***

'The splayed joints of the windows and doors in store room which are lined with bricks to pass through the thickness of the walls not less than twice on each side in the principal buildings, and once in the Quarters for the staff and throughs faced on the inside to the …(?)'

'Brick work to be inserted in the walls of the principal store room every five feet in height and not less than one in the intermediate piers between the windows not more than eight feet asunder in the walls above and below the windows'.

'The inside of the window heads to be worked through and returned to the brick casing.'

'The Piers of the Arcade to be firmly (?) worked on the beds not less than one course in a solid stone in addition to the Plinth on each Pier drafted and picked and the Chamfer tooled.'

'The Oriel Window to be worked according to drawing which will be furnished during the progress of the building securely tied and bound into the external walls and covered with an Arch for the thickness of the wall'.

'The whole of the external walls of the building appropriated to the Guard Room, Stores and Regimental stores to be one foot ten inches thick including the Brick casing the remaining walls of the principal buildings one foot eight inches thick and the external walls of the Quarters for the Staff twenty inches thick'.

3.4.9 ***The Principal Staircase***

'The Principal Staircase to the Regimental stores and the Hospital to be of freestone Coed poeth Rocks joggled onto each step and inserted into the wall square at that end no less than eight inches. The landing securely fixed and in one stone supported on each wall the whole clean tooled on the steps and soffit, with an iron hand rail and Balusters securely fixed and leaded into the steps the ironwork to be filled clean'.

'The Jambs , Cills and heads of the doors to the Cells to be the width of the wall and six inches thick worked clean the iron doorframe securely let into them – the hinges being attached to the frames'.

'The Corbels for the support of the principals over the Regimental store room to be of free stone clean tooled according to the drawing at large and securely built into the walls'.

3.4.10 ***Joists***

Ceiling joists

'Ceiling joist of Pine Timber to be fixed up in all the rooms on the first floor and the Staircases, as shown on the section, with proper ventilating orifices with perforated zinc in a frame in the ceilings and traps for easy access to the roves with falling shutters on hinges.'

Water closet cistern

'A Cistern to be framed inch and a half deal to contain three hundred and fifty Gallons and fixed in centre of the roof above the water closet attached to the Hospital the supporters for cistern to be framed strongly so as to be perfectly secure'.

3.4.11 ***Roofing***

'The roofing of the Passage to the flanking towers to be of Stone, tooled according to the drawings to form Weatherings on the exterior as shown on the section'.

'The roof of the Magazine to be formed of freestone and worked in weathering courses as shown on the section the space over the Brick Dome being worked solid and grouted and the freestone roof set in Hamlin's Mastick'.

Roofs of all buildings

'To be framed according to the Drawings of the Scantlings thereon, to be entirely of Mernel or …?'

'The Drawings at large with iron bolts three quarters of an inch in diameter.'.?

Roofs of Towers
'The roofs of the flanking Towers to be framed with Oak Wall plates well dove tailed with radiating rafters and properly tied together with Curbs and braces and boarded with inch Dantzig boards for lead'.

Privy Roofs
'The roofs of the Privies to be of Dantzig spars secured to oak wall plates. The fronts of the Privy seats will be formed of Llangollen Stone flag inch and a half thick and the seats of sycamore two inches thick with frame top and fall of inch Dantzig deal upon proper oak bearers. The Privy doors to be of Dantzig deal lodged and hung with strong strap hinges upon hooks leaded into stones built in and latch and lock stones with a Norfolk Thumb latch to each'.

The Arcade roof

'The roof over the Arcade to be formed with arches of half brick in thickness turned from iron beams inserted over the centre of each pier, to be very firmly worked close in courses and clean pointed the spandrels filled and grouted'.

3.4.12 ***Gutters***

'All gutters for lead to be framed with joist and boarded with dry Dantzig inch boards with a face of one inch and a half in six feet and drips of two inches and a half.'

'The valley as also boarded for lead and not to be less than five inches wide at the top and seven inches at the bottom with a feathered edge board on each side to carry the lead not less than eight inches wide no length of gutter to be greater than eight feet without a drip'.

3.4.13 ***Doors***

'The door frames for the Magazine to be of Oak rebutted and chamfered with cast iron shoes sunk onto the cill.'

'The doors to be of quarter oak in two folds with the hinges to pass through the folds and well nailed the hooks which are to be fixed in the stone work to be of copper.'

The doors on the passage under the Regimental Store room to be of dry well seasoned quarter oak framed and boarded the framing to be two inches thick and the boarding one inch hung upon scroll hinges.

'The door into the Principal Staircase and the Sergeant Majors Quarters to be also of oak framed in the same manner but hung single as also those into the Guard Room and Stores'.

'All the remainder of the doors in the principal part of the building to be of the same description but framed and boarded with Baltic deal'.

External Door Frames

'All the frames to the external doors of the Buildings to be of old oak four inches and a half by three inches and a half with the exception of the doors into the principle staircase, the Stores, Guard Room and entrance to Sergeant Majors quarters which are to be five inches by three and a half as also the frames into the Regimental Stores and sick rooms, the whole of the frames on the ground floor having cast iron shoes with dowells cast upon them to be sunk in the stone cills, and the whole rebated, chamfered and stopped'.

Outside Doors
'The Outside doors of the Quarters for the Staff to be framed of inch and a half deal when finished and boarded with three quarter inch boards, all of Baltic deal the remainder of the doors in the whole of the quarters to be framed and ledged all hung upon proper strong hinges and a best Norfolk Latch fixed on each, locks will be furnished for all of the doors but the contractor is to fix them'

3.4.14 ***Wooden Gates***

'The Entrance Gates to be formed of two inch and a half Saint Petersburgh Battons according to the drawing and boarded with inch Dantzig deal Boards close jointed and tongued to be framed in three divisions with one third portion to open as for common use a cast iron open ornament on the top the hinges framed so as to be bolted through the margins of the doors and

passing along the whole length bolted through with small iron screw pins, the large door secured with an iron rod and the smaller one to have a strong latch, locks will be supplied for the contractor but he is to fix them'.

3.4.15 ***Timber work***

Timber work for Staircase

'The Staircase and Carriage in the Sergeant Majors Quarters and the Cottages to be Dantzic Deal that in the Sergeant Major's Quarters to have square balusters with a sufficient number of iron one's with a Beech or Oak handrail.'

Timber work in dwelling rooms
'Woodbricks to be built in the walls of the old oak to receive the angle beads of skirting and casings in the orderly room and the entrance to the Sergeant Major's Quarters the Parlour adjoining and all the bedrooms as these rooms only will have plastered walls and in these rooms there will be plain casings with strong single mouldings skirtings and window boards'.

Timber work for water closets
'The framing of the Water Closets will be finished in deal with backs and elbows so as to be removed for repairs or removal of the basin'.

Timber work for roof of Store Room
'The whole of the timbers of the open roof of the Regimental store room will be wrought chamfered and stopped and coloured old oak in distemper with oil.'

Timber work for shutters
'Shutters of two folds of three quarter inch oak boards with sheet iron passed between them, securely bolted together with small screw pins to be hung upon hooks leaded into the jambs of the lower lights of the Store room, Guard room, and Regimental stores so as to for Bullet proof security to the height of the transoms to be held together when closed by a hanging shutter Bar and Clip Hooks'.

Timber work for skiritng
'The Skirting to the Regimental store room to be eight inches high well secured to wooden bricks built in the brick casing'.

Timber work for ventilation for Store Room
'A louvre to be formed in the ridge of the Regimental Store room according the Plan and Elevation to be of sound Pitch Pine and the roof covered with six pound lead with a vein fixed on the apex, the sides filled in with figured and perforated copper the value of which to be £25'.

Timber work for Store Room rafters

'The roof over the Regimental Store room to have the common rafters four and a quarter inches by three and half and to be boarded with Mernmel and Dantzic boards well seasoned not more than six inches wide and one inch thick the whole well wrought the spars to be chamfered and stopped and all stained and varnished three coats'.

Timber work for walls of store room
'The Walls of the Regimental Store room to be boarded with Elm boards perfectly seasoned full inch thick securely fixed to three tiers of oak Bond four inches and a half wide and the thickness of a course of bricks well wrought with a V joint, grooved and tongued with a moulded capping to finish level with the top of the window sill stained and varnished three coats' .

3.4.16 ***Lead work***

Gutters

'The whole of the gutters are to be laid will milled lead seven pounds to the foot with inclines and drips as before specified'.

'The Vallies to be laid with six pound lead to average eighteen inches wide and no length greater than nine feet'.

'The Lead on all gutters to pass eight inches at the least under all slating wherever any roofs abut against another wall they are to be step flashed with five pound lead, and five pound lead is to be laid on all Gables under the coping and brought down on the slating as a flashing, over which the lead from under the coping will lap'.

Lead work to Water closet
'The Reservoir or cistern in the roof to be lined with lead six pounds to the foot and from this Cistern the water for the supply of the upper water Closets is to be conveyed as service system for the lower water closets to hold ten gallons to be framed and lined with six pound lead with a supply pipe of three quarters with a Ball cock in the cistern to conduct the water from the upper cistern'.

'A best Pan Apparatus to be fixed in each closet with supply pipes, and soil pipes of lead four inches in diameter and five pounds to the foot carried down from each closet through the exterior wall. The roofs of the flanking towers and on the Oriel window to be covered with six pound lead with proper rolls, seams and hips'.

Lead flushings

'All the string courses (,) eave courses (,) copings (,) weatherings (,) drip stones and cappings of Chimney stacks to be of sound freestone, clean tooled the copings of chimneys cramped and leaded and all chimney stacks to be worked fine with a draft and picked with grooves

properly cut for lead flushings of chimneys and abutting walls where step flashings are not inserted in the stone work'.

3.4.17 ***Slate work***

'The slating must be raised up to the Gables in all cases so as to prevent the storms beating under the lead flashings'.

Slates

'The whole of the roofs of the several buildings to be covered with Pewrhyn Countess slates of the best quality with four inch lap secured to sawn ribs of Baltic Timber two inches and a half wide and three quarters of an inch thick with two zinc in each slate, the holes drilled the whole well rendered and the roves of the Privies to be slated with Ladies or small Random slates'.

3.4.18 ***Iron work***

Down pipes
'Square and moulded cast iron Landers four inches and a half wide to all the eaves properly secured with brackets, leaded into the wall and sixteen down pipes also square with proper heads in such situation as the Architect may direct to be securely fixed and kept clear of the walls one inch.'

Vanes for Towers
'A vane to be fixed on the apex of the roof of each of the flanking towers the cost of each to be four pounds and ten shillings'.

Window casements
'The whole of the Glazing including the iron frames and casements will form a separate contract and an arrangement will be made with t contractor for the other works if his tender is satisfactory when this part of the work is decided upon'.

3.4.19 ***Stone work***

Door Cills
'All door Cills for the Quarters and out buildings to be of Limestone clean tooled hooks on which to hang double doors are to be fixed n each jamb of the passage between the Store room and the Guard room' (.)

Hearths
'Free stone hearths to be fixed in the orderly room, stores and Office on the ground floor and in all rooms in the Chamber floor in which there are fire places'.

Chimney pieces

'Hooded Chimney Pieces of freestone clean worked to be fixed in the Regimental store room and orderly room to be according to detail drawings which will be furnished (.) strong plain chimney pieces of freestone to be fixed in the Store Room and Guard Room and Chimney pieces off free stone or slate in the Parlour and Living Room and in the several Bed Rooms, in the first floor Ash pits equal to three square feet and two feet deep, to be sunk and built to the fireplaces in the several Kitchens Iron Grates for them and Boilers for the Scullery will be furnished for the Contractor as also Grates for all the Building, but he is to fix them and finish the boilers with a freestone Curb'.

3.4.20 ***The Magazine***

The Walls of the Magazine

'To be sunk to the depth shown on the section' (drawing not seen)'.

Form of the Magazine

'The Magazine to be approached by free stone steps with an area(?) wall the external walls built in the same manner as is before described with a circular lining of brick, worked with a cavity for ventilation as shown on the plans and roofed with a brick dome formed in two half bricks in thickness and the spandrels filled in solid and grouted'.

'The door jambs, Cill and head to be of the thickness of the wall worked to the curve and prepared to receive the door frames in the outside and inside of the walls. The ventilating space to be carefully worked so as to form a magazine flue'.

3.4.21 ***The Towers***

Walls

'The internal walls of the flanking Towers on the angles of the building to be of well and close hammer dressed stone work and pointed'.
Wherever loops are formed in the External Walls the dressing will be splayed wide according to drawings to be furnished and worked in with the rubble on the outside'.

Floors

'The floors other flanking Towers to be laid with Fire Tiles and the upper ceiling formed with free stone flags four inches thick supported by the walls and close pointed'.

Mullions & Transoms

'All the Mullions Transoms and dressings of the windows to be worked according to the drawings or such working drawings as may be furnished during the progress of the work and the internal heads of the doors and windows to be in freestone where the rooms have brick casings worked to the proper splay and forming a Margin with the Brick Work'.

3.4.22 ***The Arcade***

'The inveils of the Arcade to be worked to the radius of the curve
and every third course to pass through the thickness of the walls in
one stone the whole worked close and truss and the intermediate stone at the junction of the springing of the arches to be in one clock, the beds of the arch stones being worked true to the radius of the arch, and truly laid and worked solid'.

The Buttresses to the Piers in the Arcade

'These were to be 'worked fine with drafted angles and tooled weatherings as shown on the plans, sections and detailed drawings'.

'The steps into the arcade, the steps of the doorways out of the Arcade and passage, the steps into the cells and the steps into the West door of the Sergeant Major's Quarters were to be made from the 'havid' flag stone from Coed Poeth well tooled.'

'The steps into the arcade were to be 'one stone in length between the piers'.

'The contractor will be at liberty to turn the invert under the arcade with hard bound Bricks (a) brick and a half deep if he prefers using brick instead of freestone'.

3.4.23 ***Interior finish***

Number of coats
'The whole of the wood work not described to be done in oak is to be painted three coats self colour the whole of the iron work four coats and all of the oak varnished three coats'.

Paint and Lime finish
'All the internal walls described to be cased with Bricks to be painted two coats, stone colour except the walls of the Magazine, Cells, Passage to the Cells and the Cleaning Room which are severally as also the walls of the flanking towers, to have three coats of Lime whitewash, as also the ceilings'.

'The ceilings of the bedrooms as also the walls are to be plastered two coats and skimmed, the ceiling of all the staircases, the orderly room, and the whole of the rooms on the Ground floor except the Cells, are also to be plastered two coats and skimmed and the walls of the Orderly Sergeant Major's Kitchen, and enhance plastered two coats and skimmed'.

'A skirting of Portland Cement to be run round the walls of the Sergeant Majors Kitchen and the Store room to be six inches high'.

3.4.25 ***The ditch***

'The excavation of the ditch and Slope to the form according to the section'.

3.4.26 ***Site rules***

Pump Well

'The builder was allowed to sink a well to be used during the Works'. [18]

Material already on site

'The materials in the present wall to be be the property of the Contractor but he will not be at liberty to dispose of Sand Gravel or other materials which may be found on the premises'.

Fencing the site

'The contractor will have to fence off the Land belonging to the County so as to prevent trespass to the adjoining lands until the boundary wall on the South and West is built'.

3.4.27 ***Conditions of Contract***

'Any deviation or alteration which it may be thought expedient to adopt during the execution of the works must be done under a written authority of the County Architect, and the value of such alteration is to be decided by the County Architect between the Clerk of the Peace and the Contractor, and the estimate of the County Architect is to be final and such alteration is not in any way to violate the Contract but the addition or deduction is to be made accordingly'.

'The whole of the several materials are to be of the best quality and the work is to be done in the most substantial and workmanlike manner under the direction and fully to the satisfaction of the Architect and according to the detail Drawings which will be furnished as the work advances'.

'The Contractor will have to satisfy himself of the several dimensions and of the works intended to be done as no extra allowance will be made on that account.'

'The Contractor to be paid by the Treasurer of the said County of Denbigh for such work the said sum of Three thousand seven hundred and sixty six pounds by such instalments during the progress of the work as may be due to him by the County Architect. The Contractor to

[18] This well was most likely the one discovered during the 1997 extension works, to the former access on the rear elevation.

commence upon the work immediately and to carry on the same with all diligence and despatch to cover in the whole of the buildings on or before the fourteenth day of February next and to complete the whole of the work on or before the first day of August next'.

3.5 Completion

The article below describes the building following completion in June 1857. The fear of insurgence must have diminished as the proposals for a 'fosse' and bullet proof shutters were apparently not completed.

Wrexham Advertiser June 13th 1857

'This large building is now pretty nearly emptied in every respect, and its resident officers, one sergeant major and six sergeants have taken formal possession of it. The large room in the centre facing the road leading to the railway is the armoury or store room and is an exceedingly lofty and spacious compartment. Within it neatly arranged on three iron racks occupying the centre of the room, as deposited 408 stands of arms; and in three corners are placed three other smaller ones holding 42 stand of arms, this number, a total of 450 , are nearly sufficient for the full complement of the regiment. The arms & c are kept in a proper state of cleanliness by a person on the spot whose duty it is to attend to them for a short time daily. The racks which are very unique and substantial were obtained by Mr. Penson the County Surveyor and the whole arrangement …(?) to Captain McCoy who supervised it. The room of the offices are very snug and commodious, and are fitted up with every convenience for use and comfort, especially those occupied by the Sergeant Major Mr. Wright. Sir J. Ramsden has recently stated that it is the intention of the Government to call out one third of the militia regiment some time during the present year for exercise, a step caused no doubt by our very unsatisfactory relationship with China. The band continues to play two or three times a week in the large open area in front of the depot, and attracts large numbers to listen to it. Should the Crimean cannon be obtained, the Depot will be the chief object of attraction in this the west end of Wrexham'.

3.6 ***Living conditions in Militia Barracks***

Although the Wrexham Depot was built prior to the Royal Commission on the sanitary conditions in barracks of 1861, the quality of the building was evidently reasonable in comparison to those built earlier in the nineteenth century. Improvements following the commission included 17 cubic metres of air space and 5.6 cubic metres of floor space per man, improvements to bath houses and privies and better recreational facilities (May 2002).

Daily routine in barracks

One of the biggest problems faced by solders was boredom. May quotes The Quarterly Review in 1859; 'Perhaps no living individual suffers more than the soldier from *ennui.* He has no employment save the drill and its duties ; these are of a most monotonous and uninteresting description, so much so that you cannot increase their amount without wearying and disgusting

him. All he has to do is under restraint: he is not like a working man or an artisan; a working man will dig and his mind is his own; an artisan is interested in the work on which he is engaged: but a soldier has to give you all his attention, and he has nothing to show for the work done. He gets up at six; there is no drill before he makes up his bed and cleans up his things: he gets his breakfast at seven; he turns out for drill and half past seven or eight; his drill may last half an hour. If it be guard-day there is no drill except for defaulters. The men for duty are paraded at ten o'clock; that finishes his day drill altogether. There is evening parade, which takes half an hour and the his time is his own until tattoo, which is at nine in winter and ten in summer. That is the day of a soldier not on guard or not belonging to a company which is out for Minié (rifle) practice'. [19]

Rations were dull, between 1813 and 1900 the men were given a daily ration of ¾ lb of meat and 1lb of bread. The cooking facilities were limited to boiling food. It was not until 1857 that an allowance for vegetables was added.

Each man was given a basin which would be used for shaving, food, beverages and the pipe-clay which they used to cleaning and polishing kit.

Drill served as training for battle and Major General Sir Henry Torrens' regulations devised in 1792 were used throughout the nineteenth century.

Married quarters were unusual and couples were often expected to share rooms. This was a marginal improvement on sleeping in a curtained cubicle in the men's dormitory. Women were expected to wash and sew the men's clothing.[20]

[19] May, Trevor, Military Barracks, Shire Books, 2002.
[20] Ibid.



Plate 6 The earliest known surviving view of the Militia Barracks. Certainly prior to 1878 this must be after 1862 when St. Mark's spire was completed. A possible date is the marriage of the Prince of Wales (and Earl of Chester – future Edward VII) to Alexandra of Denmark in March 1863 – an 'A' is clearly visible in the decorations present on the building.

3.7 *The Development of the County Buildings*

In 1877 the County Brigades underwent re-organisation and were given permanent locations. At this point more spacious headquarters were required and the Royal Denbighshire Militia were moved to new barracks at Hightown where they were enrolled as third battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Proposals for Conversion

The Shirehall, which housed the county court in Wrexham, was sold off by the Crown at nearly the same time that the militia depot became vacant. The Shirehall building was converted to a public house and

although limited accommodation was available to the court leet Wrexham Regis it was deemed inadequate in 1877.[21]

The Michaelmas County Quarter Session discussed options for the conversion of the militia depot. It was decided that the buildings could either be sold off or converted to County Buildings (Wrexham Advertiser 20.10.1877).

The existing building was discussed in some detail and suggestions were made for the conversion of the large store room to a court, small store room to the jury room, Sergeants reading room to the Magistrates retiring room, the orderly's room to an office. The requirement for several cells was acknowledged. The Superintendent was deemed to require a stable and coach house, quarters for the Inspector, Sergeant and two married constables were needed. Quarters were also to include a guard room and dormitory for two single constables. The second option was for the large store room and two adjacent rooms to be made into a larger court room, the cells and most accommodation as above but with a dormitory and sitting room for 4 constables and accommodation for only one married constable. The Yeomanry and Volunteers requested that they would be able to continue to keep their arms and cannon on the site.

A meeting was held to discuss the potential for conversion of the depot. Sir W.W. Wynn said the barracks were unacceptable for magistrates and the County Court Judge was not happy with the status quo. However, Mr. T.L.L Fitzhugh agreed that the Militia Building would be equally well adapted for all magisterial business and for carrying on the business of the county court judge.

By the following Easter it was proposed 'That part of the Militia Barracks at Wrexham be converted to a fit and proper place for holding the said Petty Sessions of the Peace'. 'Proposed Alterations for Converting Militia Depot Wrexham into Police Barracks' were prepared in 1878 by R. Lloyd Williams County Surveyor of Denbighshire.

The plans were altered following observations from the Chief Constable. The County Surveyor reported to the Easter Quarter Session in April 1879 that an increase had been made to the dwelling accommodation for the police officers, improvements were made to the Superintendents Quarters and additional cells were added. Plans for new stables, weights and measures offices and outbuildings were drawn up in February of 1879.[22] These replaced those of 1857 which were constructed and are evidenced by their presence in the Ordnance Survey maps of 1873 and 1875.

The County Treasurer's Accounts disclose which Wrexham craftsmen won contracts to alter the Barracks, renamed the County Buildings; [23]

Messrs. Walking & Davis balance for painting New County Buildings at Wrexham £5.7.0

[21] Dodd, A.H. 'A History of Wrexham'
[22] DRO QSD/AE/9/11
[23] DRO QSD/SR/659

The Wrexham Gas Light Company for work done and materials supplied to New County Buildings, Wrexham £35.11.00

- Messrs. Charles Bayley & Co. for Chamber service for new County Buildings at Wrexham £.1.0.0.
- Messrs. Garnett & Co. for furniture supplied £26.17.0
- Mr. William Barrett 2nd contract for painting new County Buildings Wrexham £54.8.0
- Contract for heating apparatus for Mr. John Griffiths on account of contract and extracts for new County Buildings at Wrexham £500.0.0
- RJ Lisson Esq. For searching Episcopal Acts in conjunction with new County Buildings at Wrexham 11s.0.

The primary aspects of the 1878 conversion works were to extend the armoury (or Regimental Store) to create a larger court room. This involved extensive alteration to the former Sergeant Major's quarters and the elevation on that side with the creation of a new gable with two large windows into the Court Room. The other major changes involved the enclosure of the courtyard to the front and rear.

To the front the Store Room and the Guard Room were combined, the passage enclosed and a cross passage created to access the cells. The cells were not constructed as shown on the initial plan, as the loggia was not enclosed, these changes to the plan are presumably those referred to in the Easter Quarter Session Minutes and resulted in the cells being arranged much as they are in 1896 (refer to the drawing of this date). To the rear additional accommodation was created by enclosing the courtyard. (refer also to the elemental gazetteer).



Plate 7 Gable created during 1879 extension.



Plate 8 The difference in boarding sizes illustrates the original extent of the Regimental Store. The 1857 boarding being much wider

The Wrexham and Denbigh Advertiser reported that the County Magistrates met on 6th January 1879 at the 'new County Hall, late military barracks, the court room being a most commodious and comfortable one'.[24] It is apparent from the dates and references that the court was in use whilst the police station and associated accommodation was still being completed. A state of affairs which probably did nothing to endear the building to its users in the early days!

The conversion was not a popular facility and within a month of opening a complaint was made by one of the solicitors who 'alluded to the exceedingly uncomfortable condition of the hall. There was no heat in the pipes, no fire in the solicitor's room, no tables and no chairs!'.[25]

Things didn't improve, as the April edition of the Wrexham *Argus* noted in 1886 'In a recent number of the *Argus* we alluded to the Borough and County Police Courts as "two of the most draughty and badly-ventilated Police Courts in the country". This condemnation has been corroborated over and over again – in fact at every sitting of the magistrates, at both places, somebody has something to say either about the draught or the ventilation'. The article discussed the Borough Court, then returned to the vexed matter of the County Buildings. 'As for the Court at the County Buildings, we suppose it is hopeless to expect anything being done there to make it less of a death trap. A long, long time ago, it was proposed that there should be a strip of matting laid from the entrance door to the bench, with a view to lessening the noise made by people walking in and out during the sitting of the Court. As that cheap improvement has not been carried out, we can hardly expect that the more costly one of lessening the draughty properties of the room will be'.

'We live in hope, however, as we notice a new desk has been provided for the Chairman of the Bench and for his Honour, Judge Lloyd, and perhaps in time we may see a screen or two , or some sort of partition erected, to cut off some of the portion of the pitiless, neuralgic-producing wind which at this inclement season of the year rushes up the tunnel-like staircase, in at the open doorway , and charges full tilt at the unhappy, shivering mortals whose business compels their attendance at the sittings of the County Justices and Judge Lloyd'.

Addition of a Second Courtroom

It became apparent that the single court room was unable to cope with the increasing number of cases being brought and as a consequence proposals were put forward to enlarge the building in 1895 to incorporate an additional court room and improve access. Part of the discussions also centred on the possibility of demolishing the building altogether and relocating elsewhere. Happily this did not occur and the extension work proceeded.

Initially proposals were approved for the addition of extensions which would have retained the two towers, prepared by R Lloyd Williams the then County Surveyor.[26] This proposal had the framework of

[24] Wrexham and Denbigh Advertiser 11.1.1879
[25] Wrexham County Court February 12th 1879
[26] DRO QSD/AM/5 and Wilson, W.E. Dissertation, History of Architecture and Design. Sadly some drawings appear to have been lost since the dissertation was prepared. The 1896 plan contained within this document draws on the evidence of the

that undertaken with the addition of a new smaller court room, provision of an exercise yard and modifications to provide two public entrances.

This proposal was superceded in 1896 when the revised scheme was prepared (refer to plan). This scheme gave the building much of its current appearance. The scheme included the extension of the building to the North East with the addition of a second court room, the exercise yard and associated spaces and the new public stair which was surmounted with an octagonal turret which has a slightly 'baronial' air. The extension resulted in the loss of the towers to both corners of the front elevation. To the North West a new public stair was added with an entrance simpler in detail - a slightly odd arrangement given the hierarchy of the spaces upstairs. Into this entrance was also incorporated the access to the basement. Internally the most interesting addition was the glazed screen to the top of the main staircase (refer to F06 in the elemental Gazetteer).

The building continued largely in this form for much of its working life. Alterations were undertaken gradually as the need for the provision of accommodation receded and the requirement for additional office and mess accommodation increased. The most prominent change to occur during this transition was the conversion of part of the Bridewell Sergeant's Quarters into a parade room and a canteen or recreation room. These alterations were in place by 1930 and there stylistically there is no reason to question W.E. Wilson's assertion that the work was undertaken c.1917.

Plate 9 Dormer window added c.1917



Plate 10 Overall view of the c.1917 changes.



In 1940 the old weights and measures offices were demolished and a two storey flat-roofed extension was erected to provide war-time accommodation for the ARP, and additional garaging and equipment storage. Upon the cessation of hostilities in 1945 this building was converted to CID offices with

dissertation cross-referenced as far as possible to the existing fabric and documentary evidence. Plans of the building in the 1930's survive (DRO/CD/A/15), which provide much evidence of the extent of the 1896 alterations.

garaging for police vehicles. By 1967 further temporary accommodation had been added to the front yard.

The changes following the departure of the police and the magistrates are discussed in more detail within the elemental gazetteer. The key changes were to construct a roof over the courtyard, and the addition of a new staircase at the rear of the building.

3.8 Chronology of the Development of Wrexham and the County Buildings

1833 Plan of Wrexham by John Wood showing the area where Wrexham Barracks were subsequently built belonging to Sir W.W. Wynn Bart. Regent Street is not shown and was described as the 'road from Mold'. The town was populated by 5,500 people at this time.

1852 The Militia Act came into force with improvements to conditions of service including voluntary recruitment, a cash bounty for a five year contract and 21 days training a year.

1854 Michaelmas Quarter Sessions for the County of Denbigh record notice from Robert Myddelton Biddulph Esquire, Lord Lieutenant of the County and Colonel Commandant of the Militia stating plans for new barracks to be submitted to the Clerk of the Peace. Land was purchased adjacent to Regent Street from Thomas Bury. The plans were drawn up by Thomas Penson, the County Surveyor of Denbighshire (QSD/SR/562).

1855 Artillery Barracks built at Ipswich to fortified plan by R M Phipson- Illustrated London News 17.2.1855

1855 Contract signed 3rd September between Joseph Peers, Clerk of the Peace for the County of Denbighshire and builders Ebenezer Thomas and John Thomas (QSD/AM/3).

1856 140 troops from Wrexham deployed in quelling rioting miners from Wrexham area.

1857 Wrexham and Denbighshire Advertiser 13th June, reported that the new Militia Barracks was almost complete. The building, constructed in Cefn Mawr sandstone, had the appearance of a fort. The towers at each corner, proposed bullet proof shutters and moat (not executed) give some indication of the desire for the building to appear commanding, given nervousness regarding the war with Russia, political insurgency from the Chartists aims for 'one man one vote' and industrial unrest at local collieries.

1857 A canon from Russia was presented to Wrexham by the Secretary of State for War to commemorate those who fought in the Crimean War (although residents had to fund transportation from Woolwich Arsenal to Wrexham).

1857 St. Mary's Cathedral, The Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows was built as a Parish Church adjacent to the site of Wrexham Militia Depot. The church was founded by Richard Thompson and built by Edward Welby Pugin the son of the celebrated architect Augustus Welby Pugin.

Wrexham was given Borough status.

1863 The canon was fired to salute the marriage of Prince Edward (King Edward VII).

1868 Wrexham granted its own Commission of the Peace

1873 OS 25" scale In contrast to the fields shown on Woods plan, 'Regent Street' is shown with buildings on either side. The Militia Barracks stand adjacent to St. Mary's R.C. Chapel and almost opposite 'King Street', a residential road. Gardens lie across the side street east of the barracks.

1874 The 50" scale edition of the OS shows greater detail of the barrack layout. The entrance from Regent Street is at an angle with the wall angled in towards the gates. The barracks are divided into Sergeant Major's quarter and Sergeant's Quarters on the west wing, a store and general room in the central wing, Orderly Room, cells and Quarter Master Sergeant's Quarters in the east wing. A second entrance to the barracks is located at the south end of the east boundary. A number of small service buildings range along the south boundary wall.

1876 Wrexham Art and Industry Exhibition. At the time of the exhibition there were many thriving industries in the town including, machinery manufacturers, leather works and tanneries.

1877 The Militia were moved to new barracks in Wrexham at Hightown where they joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The old barracks were converted for the Court of Petty Sessions and Police Headquarters and renamed County Buildings. The buildings also provided accommodation for married police officers and families.

1879 First session of the Magistrates Court was held in January. County Buildings, Wrexham. Design for New Stables, Weights and Measures Office and Outbuildings. R. Lloyd Williams. February 1879.

1882 The miners in Moss Valley went on strike. The Police Constables were issued with cutlasses and eventually the militia were drafted in to help

1885 The canon was removed to Hightown Depot. (It was evidently returned as post 1896 photographs reveal it in-situ).

1885 - 1890 The Tithe Wars took place when the Church of England caused great anger when they forced sales of farm goods belonging to non-conformists who objected to paying taxes to the Church.

1897 Proposal to demolish the County Building prior to building new Guildhall. Instead alterations were made including a second court and new public entrances. This changed the north façade of the building considerably as the pair of towers were removed and the east wing was added.

1899 OS 25" scale. The barracks had undergone alterations by this time and were called 'County Buildings'. Both turrets at the north end are squared off. The survey shows an extension to the north end of the east wing that abuts the east boundary wall. A smaller extension is shown west of the west wing. The inner court of the barracks is enclosed at the south end by new structure which links the east and west wing. The inner court has a wall forming a corridor along the north and east sides. The service buildings along the south wall are also linked by a new structure which extends north towards the barrack complex. Walls are also shown linking the south west of the barracks to the service buildings and the east of the complex to the boundary wall.

1900 The population of Wrexham was over 15,000.

1912 OS 25" scale. The survey shows the introduction of a small structure linking the south-east turret to the boundary wall. Church House was built across the road to the east of the County Buildings.

1914 Upon the outbreak of the First World War the forecourt of the County Buildings was used for military parades.

1934 The greatest coal mining disaster in North Wales occurred at Gresford Colliery with the loss of 266 men.

1937 OS 25" scale. The site has changed little since 1912 except from the addition of two small buildings in the north west corner of the courtyard.

1940 A two story flat roofed building was added to the rear of the building to accommodate an ARP store. After the war the extension was divided for use by the CID and police garage facilities. This was demolished in 1997.

1960 The last resident, the Bridewell Sergeant, moved out of County Buildings
The OS shows changes to the footprint of the buildings. A structure has been introduced between the service buildings and the main County Building. Two small buildings have been added to the west corner of the courtyard.

1976 The police moved to the new Police Divisional Headquarters at Bodhyfryd.
1977 The Magistrates court was moved to new Magistrates Courts at Bodhyfryd.

c.1978 The County Buildings were used by Wrexham Citizens Advice Bureau and subsequently taken over by Aston College Art Department .

1995 Wrexham Maelor Borough Council took over the County Buildings.
1996 Wrexham County Borough Museum was opened at the County Buildings on 30th September.
1997 The Satellite building was added to the Museum partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

3.9 Wrexham townscape in the region of the County Buildings

The urban townscape of the area immediately surrounding the buildings was established during the same era.



Plate 11 View of the building c.1900, before the construction of Church House. The canon was still in situ at this time.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, now St. Mary's Cathedral, was built in 1857 as a parish church for Richard Thompson in memory of his wife. The architect, Edward Welby Pugin, was well known for his approach to designing Gothic Revival buildings. However, although his practice was responsible for the church, the degree of his involvement with the design is not fully understood. .

The Infirmary, north of St. Mary's Cathedral, was built in 1837 and was used until 1926 as Wrexham Hospital. The Neo Classical façade adds elegance and dignity to this part of Regent Road. The Infirmary was used as part of Wrexham Art College from 1953 and is now NEWI's School of Art & Design.

The quality of buildings has been degraded east of the County Buildings following the demolition of Church House and St. Mark's Church (now the site of the multi storey car park), which was designed by Thomas Penson's son Richard Kyrke Penson, and erected by the same contractors as the museum. The public inquiry into the 1934 Gresford Colliery Disaster was held in Church House.

4.0 An Elemental Gazetteer and Spatial Assessment

Read also in conjunction with the Historical Development Plan and Dated Plans

Ground Floor

G01 Loggia

The Loggia was originally an open colonnade described in the original contract document as an 'arcaded passage'. This has been enclosed by modern timber screens of poor quality, sat on exposed concrete footings

(these appear to have been laid directly on the original york stone flags). It seems these were installed when the building was in use as an art college.

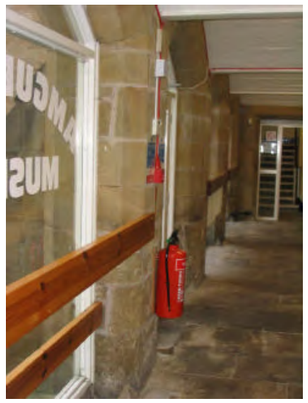




Plate 12 & Plate 13 General view of Loggia, modern screens are clearly visible. On the right the plinth detail has been largely lost as the level of the flags has been raised.

The junction of the flags against the plinth suggests that the floor level has been raised, which has created level access into the adjacent office areas. The flags appear to be the originals re-used. The contract provides evidence for this also as it discusses 'stairs into the arcade' and the 'steps out of the doorways into the arcade' (including the sergeant major's quarters) suggesting the original level was probably significantly different.[27]

The roof of the loggia consists of a series of five barrel vaults. These are formed by brick arches springing from iron beams built into each pier. Cracking has occurred where the stone has retained moisture causing the beams to corrode.

The stone openings at each end are the originals, providing access to the stairs and the Sergeant Major's quarters. To the stair entrance a flush door with modern screen to the side has been inserted. The door leading into G33 (formerly part of the charge room) may well be from the 1857 phase[28]. To the side of this door a call bell is still in situ, and what are, presumably, boot scrapers exist to the external side of both doors.

The openings created when Guard Room and Store were converted into cells and then a passage in 1879, have been much altered, almost in every phase of the buildings life. A new doorway has been installed (college era) to create toilet facilities. The central bay which originally provided access to the passage through to the courtyard was infilled in 1879 and re-opened, presumably during college occupation.

[27] Refer to Section 3.3

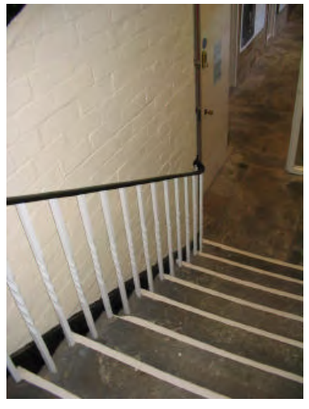
[28] Its description fits that contained in the specification and there is no evidence of alteration to the opening.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of primary significance as it retains the 'feel' of the original loggia.*
- *The stone flagged floor and barrel vaults should be retained, the floor could be re-levelled if required for access provision – given that it has been altered already*
- *The original door into G33 should be retained as should the call bell and other ironwork which remains.*
- *The college-era joinery to the windows should be removed. If the loggia is to remain enclosed a frameless glazing system would be more appropriate.*
- *The openings into the former cell/passage need to be re-considered. The central opening references the original layout but needs re-working with better quality detailing.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized.*

G02 Primary Staircase

The Staircase is the original for the Militia Barracks, installed when the building was first constructed in 1857. The floor between the staircase and the loggia entrance is flagged in york stone and these appear to be of the same date (some alterations having been undertaken). The iron balustrade to the centre of the staircase also would appear contemporary with the stair, there is no visible evidence of change where the balusters are cored into the treads and secured with lead. The balustrade, made entirely of iron with simple twist-turn balusters and newel cast to match the chamfered stone detailing, has the slightly robust, utilitarian feel of the original Militia building which sits as an interesting contrast with the later, more elaborate, court alterations.



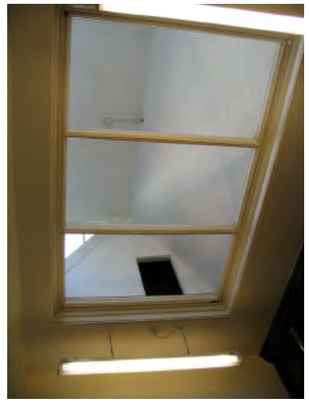


Plate 14 Stair and Original balustrade

Plate 15 Lay-light showing framing for glass panels.

The stone staircase appears to have be cantilevered to the centre of the far wall, this is particularly apparent when inspecting G13 beneath the stair which reveals that the stairs are not built into, or onto the dividing wall to their innermost edge. This is borne out by inspection of the historical plans which do not show room G13 in evidence until the second set of major alterations in the 1890's.

The walls are brick faced and painted, there is no evidence of them having been plastered, and this was certainly not the intention in the original specification. The original window which faced St. Mark's Road is still visible and has simply been bricked up.

Above the stair is a laylight which provides light from a dormer rooflight above (this appears, from ground level to be a relatively modern alteration – the original may have been a patent glazed light?). The glazing is missing but the original etched glass is held in storage, although one pane is damaged. This was presumably installed during the 1890's alterations when the window was infilled.

The room beneath the stairs has a glazed roof, which was installed as part of the 1890's works. The glazing, which appears to be the original cast glass, is still in situ but has been coated. This was certainly containing heating apparatus by the 1930's and some of the pipework remains running under the ceiling level (Ground Floor), but has been partially cut away.

The opening into G02A is in the original position (access to the W.C. in 1857) but has undergone alterations (a door and frame being introduced by 1939). There is a modern doorway leading from here into the side of the current temporary exhibition gallery. The flushwork moulding of the door into G03A seems original.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of primary significance for both the original militia and second phase of court use, alterations should be kept to a minimum and respect the narrative of the alterations of each phase as well as the original structure. Modifications to the stair and balustrade should be avoided.*
- *There is a modern balustrade to the perimeter, and, if required for access purposes, this should be replaced in sympathy with the original iron balustrade.*
- *The modern boxing which was recently installed to house a re-routed downpipe (part of the recent remedial works due to the presence of dry-rot) should be removed from this space if possible when the rain water disposal is reviewed.*
- *Reinstate glazing to the laylight – have damaged section repaired or re-cast.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized.*

Refer to F06 for Upper landing area.

G03 and G03A Front Office (Former Orderly Room)

This room was the Orderly Room of the Militia Barracks. The room has recently been sub-divided to form an office and a corridor with the installation of a stud partition.

There are two original windows, with chamfered timber surrounds and the moulding to the bases, a motif which runs through the original militia work and was replicated in the court alterations. There are slots in the reveals which probably relate to war-time shutters rather than the security shutters of 1857. The hopper lights are probably inter-war. The windows were initially diamond pattern iron casements with a top hung opening light as can be seen in the photograph which is dated c1900 (but must be earlier). Interestingly this photograph also reveals that security bars were in situ at this time.



Plate 16 Wrexham Police, probably pre-1896. Diamond pattern casement visible in the background.

The room is panelled to 1.2m height with 6" wainscot type tongue and groove panelling in moulded panels a stone chimney piece to the N.E. wall. The chimney piece is almost certainly of 1890's[29] date as the position of the chimney was originally on the South-West wall in 1857 and the specification refers to a 'hooded' chimney piece for the orderly room. The panelling may be of Militia date but this seems unlikely, as there is no evidence of the removal of the chimney piece and stack from the South wall which would date the panelling to the 1890's, unless it was moved from elsewhere, the arrangement also ties in to the store which was incorporated into the South corner in 1896.

The former entrance to the tower seems to have been made into a cupboard, which would explain why the panelling is missing to the doorway and can be seen in the plasterwork above the panelling. The specification refers to the Orderly room being plastered as part of the original scope, one of few rooms to be so treated.

The door from the stairs (G02) is in the original position, the door from the G04 was has an 1890's style frame (G08 side) but does not appear on the plan of 1939, It is likely it was in position by this date however. The store was removed entirely to create the W.C. off G04 probably during the occupation of the area by the County Architect's department. The position of the entrance to the store is evidenced by the missing section of panelling to this area.

Conservation Policy

[29] The chimney piece in situ is not hooded and is more ornate than the Militia detailing.

- *This space is of considerable significance due to the remaining Militia and Court features.*
- *The panelling, fire surround, window reveals and other joinery should be retained and protected.*
- *Consideration should be given to whether the modern partition can be removed to reinstate the original proportions of the room as part of the wider scheme.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized and extract fans through windows should be removed as part of the overall strategy.*

G04, G05 and F03 Staircase and Entrance to Court No. 2.

This entrance and staircase formed part of the 1896 alterations to increase the capacity of the building by adding a second court.

The double entrance doors from the front courtyard are the originals and retain decorative leaded lights with original stained glass and floral motif's to the upper panels. The entrance door to the under stairs cupboard is of contemporary date although there have been alterations with provision of ventilation and the frame has been renewed and altered.

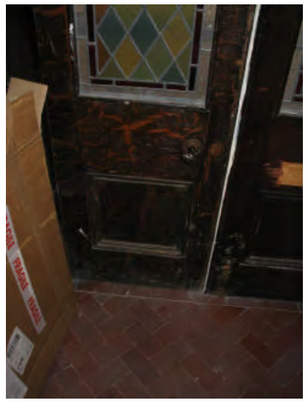




Plate 17 & Plate 18 Entrance doors to Court 2 Entrance, showing the original finish, leaded lights and stained glass.

The floor finish is of glazed tiles of terracotta colour laid in a herringbone pattern, the staircase itself is in york stone. Up to dado level the walls are finished in a glazed brick which follows the alignment of each step, with a moulded capping. The original iron handrail is also still in situ. The walls are plastered above. Window surrounds are stone with a lightly banded tooled finish to match the risers of the stair.

The upper doors are also original and are plain with chamfered stiles and boarded panels, modern vents and ironmongery spoil the appearance of these doors. The original brass floor springs are mounted in the stonework and still operate.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of primary significance for second phase of court use, alterations should be kept to a minimum especially as the space has seen little alteration and is in excellent condition.*
- *If required for access purposes, a second handrail could be provided, this should be designed to match the original iron handrail.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized.*

G08 Corridor to former Witness Rooms.

This space originally served as the corridor to the Male and Female witness rooms (G09 and G10).

The corridor retains the Glazed brick to Dado height and original (1896) door frames to the witnesses rooms. Unfortunately the doors have been replaced. The far end of the corridor was altered from a store to form a W.C., probably during the period when the area served as the County Architect's department. The glazed brick stops where the corridor used to splay to form the store.

The door from G04 has been inserted into what would have been an open arch.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary importance because of its links to the court room above.*
- *The Glazed brickwork and original joinery should be retained.*
- *The door from G04 should be removed and, if necessary, a more suitable door and frame introduced.*
- *Careful alteration could be countenanced to improve circulation.*

G06, 07 and G09 Former Male Witness Room and W.C.

G06 formed an outside urinal from the courtyard, with a cubicle (G07) to the rear. This is part of the 1896 extension work. G07 has since been re-arranged to form a Female W.C. off the G09, which is now the staff room.

The original glazed brick up to dado level survives but has unfortunately been over-coated with a heavily textured paint finish. There was a small fireplace between the window jambs, the opening for which can still be seen behind the modern gas fire. The flue for this chimney and the similar one in G10 were cleverly built into the wall depth, swan-necking together in the court wall above.

The ceiling is nicely constructed of 3 barrel vaults springing from intermediate iron beams.

A modern opening and lobby has been formed through to G07.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of secondary importance. As they have already been much altered. Further alteration work could therefore be considered.*
- *The exterior urinal could be considered for enclosure as storage (for signage or exterior furniture perhaps) or retained for interpretation purposes.*
- *The barrel vaults should be retained.*
- *Trials to ascertain whether the glazed brickwork could be cleaned and repaired should be considered as part of the overall scheme.*

G10 Former Female Witness Room and W.C.

G10 formed the female witnesses room with its own W.C.

The original glazed brick up to dado level survives but has, as G09, unfortunately been over-coated with a heavily textured paint finish. There was a small fireplace between the window jambs, the opening for which can also still be seen behind the modern gas fire. The store room in the corner was a W.C. for the Witnesses' room.

The ceiling is also constructed of 3 barrel vaults springing from intermediate iron beams.

A modern partition and opening through has been formed to construct G11 and 12, the modern Male W.C.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of secondary importance as they have already been much altered. Further alteration work could therefore be considered.*
- *The barrel vaults should be retained.*
- *Trials to ascertain whether the glazed brickwork could be cleaned and repaired should be considered as part of the overall scheme.*

G13 Store (former Heating/Washroom)

This room was created in 1896 and retains its original layout and some interesting fittings. The door appears to be an original but some repair work has been undertaken (during dry-rot treatment work). The 'copper' a heated pan with grate beneath used for washing remains in situ. The room is identified as being in use for 'heating apparatus' from 1896, but was evidently in dual use as a laundry room also. The glazing to the ceiling appears to be of contemporary date.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary importance due to the association with the exercise yard and the original fittings. Alterations should therefore be kept to a minimum.*
- *Original doors should be conserved and retained.*
- *'copper' and other equipment should be retained and conserved.*
- *Area which has recently been replaced should be tidied to tie in with the existing substrates.*

G14 Corridor to Exercise Yard

Originally this space was probably occupied by a W.C. from the main staircase. Following the extension and conversion of 1896 which saw the exercise yard added, this formed the route through to this area.

The door into the Exercise yard probably date from the 1896 alterations as does the door into the area below the stairs, the primary structure of this wall is likely to date from the earliest phase in 1857. The area above this door has been renewed during recent dry-rot treatment works. The remainder of the walls have been whitewashed.

The floor is stone flagged, which are probably contemporary with the yard also.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary importance due to the association with the exercise yard and must be considered as part of that space alterations should therefore be kept to a minimum.*
- *Original doors should be conserved and retained.*
- *Area which has recently been replaced should be tidied to tie in with the existing substrates.*
- *There are many surface fixed services which should be reconsidered.*

G15 and 16 The Exercise Yard

This was added in 1896 to form an exercise yard for the prisoners detained in the adjacent cells. It consists of an open yard to one end with a tall perimeter wall, partially covered by the end of court 2 at the other.

The wall facing the yard is part of the original exterior wall of the building. The original cells incorporated as part of the Militia building were located on this wall. The windows of these cells (which may have been introduced later) can be seen on this wall, these were infilled in relatively recent times. The window into the temporary exhibition gallery has been altered with a concrete surround, probably during the College's occupation of the building. Further round on the perimeter wall a new opening onto St. Mark's Road has been installed with a concrete lintel above.

The junction between the building and the enclosure wall is nicely detailed with a curved return, showing excellent workmanship. Adjacent to this the downpipe was originally recessed into the wall, presumably to stop prisoners climbing it. The pipe is now surface mounted adjacent.

The soffit below the court consists of barrel vaults as elsewhere. The former W.C. is located on the St. Mark's Road side, there is no evidence that this ever had a door.

The surface of the yard has been lost beneath a concrete finish. This is evidently higher than the original level and is effecting the stonework of the plinth.

A small window allows light into G13 which is interestingly detailed to prevent damage or access by prisoners, with a cast frame internally and flush glazing externally.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of Primary Importance for the 1896 alterations.*
- *If it is considered beneficial for the project a lightweight, glazed roof could be added to enable the space to be used. This should be detailed for minimum impact on the appearance of the space.*
- *The downpipe should be returned to its recessed position to enable interpretation of this feature.*
- *The modern window should be reconsidered, and a more appropriate surround provided.*
- *There are many surface mounted services and pipes which impact upon the understanding of the area and should be reconsidered and re-routed where possible.*
- *The concrete surface should be removed, testing to ascertain if original surfacing survives. This should be replaced with a more appropriate finish to limit damage to the stone, internal damp problems and improve the appearance of the yard.*
- *The external door to St. Mark's Road should be infilled if possible.*
- *The barrel vaults should be retained.*

G17 Temporary Exhibition Gallery

The temporary exhibition gallery is formed from spaces which once were cells and part of the Married Sergeant's quarters. It is understood most of the changes took place when the building was in College ownership, but a recent programme of upgrading the security has been undertaken.

The area bears little relationship to the arrangement which certainly lasted until at least the 1970's. The whole space is lined in modern finishes and a temporary ceiling at relatively low level has been inserted. The possibility of features remaining behind the panelling cannot be ruled out, but seems unlikely.

The window into the exercise yard has already been described (refer to G15 and 16). The only other external window faces St. Mark's street. This would seem to date from the 1896 alterations when a stair was removed from this area and the window enlarged. The windows into the former courtyard are probably in old openings, but have been changed beyond recognition. The door from G25 is modern. The doors have recently been renewed.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required. Observation when removing the modern linings should be undertaken to avoid damaging any features which may remain beneath.*

G18 & 19 Temporary Exhibition Preparation Area

This space is divided from the Temporary Exhibition Gallery by a modern partition and concealed door. Again these areas have undergone much alteration and were formed from the original Quarter Master Sergeant's Quarters. In 1896 an access was formed from St. Mark's Road, which has since been blocked up (probably since 1967). The wall separating the room from the modern (College occupation) stair is not in its original position and was presumably constructed at the same time as the stair.

There is one cast iron, diamond pattern window casement in a small window facing the satellite building (probably dating from the first phase), between this and the tower, a modern doorway has been inserted.

The tower has had a door added (post 1939), but little other alteration. The adjacent window once served the scullery.

College occupation partitioning has recently been removed as part of the works to the satellite building (1997) and a new door inserted to corridor G22.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*
- *The tower room should be retained with exposed stonework these tower rooms should be considered of importance as they remain little altered.*
- *The two 1857 phase windows should be retained and conserved.*

G21 & 22 College Staircase.

This modern staircase was inserted during the college's occupation. The wall between the stair and G18 was repositioned, a new corridor created to create G22, a new doorway formed through the rear wall and a window infilled (presumably using the stone from the adjacent door, hence it is difficult to see on the elevation). This area was initially occupied as part of the original Quarter Master Sergeant's Quarters. The Eastern wall was the external wall adjacent to the cart entrance in 1857.

The original bedroom window survives to the first floor.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*

G23 and 24 Lift Lobby and Female W.C's.

This area was originally the cart entrance and hence external in the 1857 building. The gap was closed in 1879 to form further accommodation. Subsequently this area has undergone extensive alteration during the 1997 extension to accommodate a lift and entrance to the glazed link. The female W.C.'s would appear to date from the college's occupation. The pier of masonry central to this space is part of the 1879 chimney stack.

During the construction of the extension in 1997 a well was discovered in this area, this was probably the contractor's well referred to in the documents of the original construction.

The windows which overlook the original courtyard are probably in 1857 and 1879 openings, but may have been altered – refer to exterior notes for this elevation.

One window from the accommodation created in 1879 has survived in the female W.C.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*

G25 Exhibition Space, Reception and Shop

Originally the Inner Courtyard of the Militia Building, this area was exterior space in a variety of guises until it was roofed during the college's occupation. The space has undergone radical alteration, the windows into G17 and the back areas have already been described (see above). The stonework has also been plastered. The openings into G41 and 42 are probably in openings created for the cells, but have been much altered.

There are a series of openings into G30 the two southerly openings probably date from the transition of this area from living into service accommodation c.1917.[30] The door was formed from a window opening when the courtyard was roofed over. The window nearest the former cells is probably a survivor from the original Militia building when it served a scullery.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*
- *The 1917/Militia windows into G30 should be retained.*
- *A more appropriate roof should be considered as part of the wider scheme. There is an opportunity to create a space which returns the feel of the open courtyard.*
- *If extensive works are undertaken trial holes should be considered to ascertain if any evidence of the magazine survives.*

G26 Archive (former Kitchen)

This space originally formed the Kitchen for the Sergeant's Quarter's. The space still follows the same footprint but is principally devoid of historic features having been replastered. Modern ductwork has been introduced to two walls.

The door from G27 is a modern fire door and frame in the position of the original opening. The original entrance was on the South Eastern wall, which was external until 1879. The other opening on this wall, into G23, was created probably during the college occupation. The opening to the Northern corner originally provided access to the cupboard beneath the stairs according to the earliest plan (refer to G27).

[30] Wilson, W.E. Dissertation

The window is the original Militia surround with renewed casements as elsewhere.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains essentially its original configuration, and forms the part of the most complete group of the original living accommodation. Modifications should be considered within this context.*
- *The Militia phase window should be conserved and retained.*

G27 Corridor (originally stair and cupboard)

Originally the staircase for the Sergeant's Quarter's, the staircase was removed during the college's occupation, and its alignment is clearly visible on the exposed, painted, brickwork of the walls.

The door from G30 is something of a conundrum. The door and frame appear to be of an early date, possibly from the Militia period, yet appear on no plans until the latter stages of the police occupation. A possible solution is that they were relocated from the cupboard opening in G26, when the reconfiguration was undertaken, but this opening has been subsequently altered or from the porch.

The stone porch out to the rear of the building probably dates from the 1879 alterations when the accommodation was extended resulting in the loss of the original entrance. This is interestingly formed with a solid stone 'hood' tying it together with the roof of the adjacent tower. The door has been renewed with a modern door.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains essentially its original configuration, and forms the part of the most complete group of the original living accommodation. Modifications should be considered within this context.*
- *The door should be retained in situ. Further research and investigation of the opening below the modern plaster adjacent may yield interesting information.*
- *The porch should be retained and conserved. A more appropriate door would benefit the appearance of the area.*

G28 & 29 Archive (former Scullery and Pantry).

Originally the scullery and pantry for the Sergeant's Quarter's, the dividing wall was removed as part of the 1896 alterations. The room, save the addition of the storage racks, remains some of its original detail.

The entrance door is modern but set in an early frame (modified to the corridor side). There are two windows, both of which date from the Militia phase. The room has retained some original detail including 1896 cornicing. Unfortunately the fire place and skirtings have been replaced.

The tower has had a door added (since 1939). The tower room retains its original stone flag floor, the stone to the walls has been painted.



Plate 19 Original (c.1896) cornicing and moulding to chimney breast. The modern ductwork can be seen in the rear of the photograph.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains essentially its original (from 1896) configuration and details. It also forms the part of the most complete group of the original living accommodation. Modifications should be considered within this context.*
- *The ductwork should be removed and the cornice reinstated to match the adjacent.*
- *The tower room should be retained with exposed stonework and floor - these tower rooms should be considered of importance as they remain little altered.*

G30 Palmer Centre and Archive (formerly Married Sergeant's/Bridewell Sergeant's Quarter's)

This area originally formed the Kitchen and scullery of the Married sergeant's quarters. In 1896 this was converted to form the quarters of the Bridewell sergeant. The room has been modified to provide the local archive and A.N. Palmer centre. The boiler cupboard, equipment and associated ductwork were installed during the college's occupation.

The room was originally subdivided into several smaller spaces. In 1879 the wall was inserted to support the newly extended courtroom above, a doorway introduced and the area modified to form unmarried sergeant's quarters (nearest the front – NE end) and Bridewell Sergeant's quarters to the rear. The spaces combined c.1917 to form a larger space which probably initially served as a parade room[31]. The chimney was incorporated to the NE during these alterations.

[31] During this period the trend for officers to live 'on-site' was reducing and there was a requirement for additional space.

The door opening from the outside (inserted c. 1879) was been infilled between 1939 and 1967, with a concrete surround. Centrally on the outer wall a militia phase slit window survives, which would have allowed light onto the staircase. The final window on this wall appears to date from the c.1917 alterations.

Generally the room has been re-plastered in modern times and no evidence of early joinery remains.

Refer to G25 for notes concerning windows and doors between these spaces.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*
- *The 1917/Militia windows into G25 and externally should be retained.*
- *A more appropriate treatment of the window inserted into the former external door opening should be considered as part of the overall project.*

G31 Office (former charge room)

Originally part of the Sergeant Major's quarters, the area was modified to form unmarried constable's quarters in 1879 then in 1896 into the charge room. Subsequently modern partitioning has been added to form a lobby, and separate store. A downstand beam indicates the positions of the wall which separated the scullery from the charge room (post 1896), which was removed after 1967. A second downstand beam nearer the North Eastern end of the room seems to relate to the position of the wall of the 1857 stair, this also appears much older.

To the outer wall a stoned mullioned window (south) survives, which must have been formed as part of the 1896 alterations. Adjacent to this is a modern window which must have been inserted after 1967 as it aligns with the former wall position.

There is little original joinery surviving, however a terracotta skirting is visible, although over-painted. It can be seen where the wall was removed where the skirting has been patch repaired.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*
- *The 1896 window should be retained.*
- *A more appropriate treatment of the modern window opening should be considered as part of the overall project.*

G32 W.C's (formerly cell and corridor)

Originally a store, the area was converted to cells and a corridor in 1879. The room has been altered to form a W.C. as part of the college alterations and since upgraded.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*

G33 Lobby

Originally the entrance into the Sergeant' Major's quarters, the room became the entrance to the charge room after 1896, then the public entrance for enquiries some time after 1939.

The entrance door from the Loggia may well be the original militia door and is extremely substantial. To the central panel, remnants of a large door chain are still in-situ. Other ironmongery is modern.

To the right hand side an enquiries window remains in situ. This probably dates from after 1939.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary importance, primarily due to the existence of the door and enquiries window. These should be retained and conserved.*

G34 and 34A Store and lobby (formerly part of charge room)

This room formed the Northern end of the charge room. It has been created in recent times with modern partitioning. The window in corridor G34A may be a survivor of the 1857 building (or re-used in the 1879 alterations). It appears to align with the window that existed before 1879 when this entire area was reconstructed to accommodate the extended court room above. To the jambs evidence of the operating system for the hopper light remains.

Conservation Policy

- *These spaces are of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*
- *The window should be conserved and remain unaltered.*

G37 Office (formerly Sergeant Major's parlour and Deputy CC's office)

Originally the parlour for the Sergeant Major, this room retains its original proportions. The room was converted into the Chief Constable's 'private room' in 1879 (when the current entrance door was inserted), then the Deputy Chief Constable's office in 1896. The door from the exterior into the lobby was inserted in 1896 and the original door remains in situ, along with the enquiries window (refer to G33). The cupboard now contains computer equipment (this cupboard may have contained a stair between 1879 and 1896).

The two windows remain in situ to the front and side elevations, both of which date from the Militia phase. As elsewhere the glazing is recent but the surround and internal joinery appear to have survived.

The entrance door is a modern door in a new frame. The original opening and frame survive into the outside lobby but the door itself is modern. There is some evidence of there having been a further partition to this area.

The opening to the former tower room remains visible (infilled) to the Northern corner, unfortunately the fire surround has been lost as have the skirtings.

Damp and salination are much in evidence, probably due to the basement below which has been infilled with concrete, encasing the original boiler.

The plans from 1896 show a spiral stair from the office to the room above, installed, presumably to avoid the need to go through the court room. There is no evidence of this remaining.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary importance, as it retains largely its original layout and original windows.*
- *The access door, enquiries window and lobby should be conserved as should the two militia phase windows.*

G38, 39, 40 and F22 Staircase Access to Court 1

This entrance and staircase formed part of the 1896 alterations to increase the capacity of the building by adding a second court and increased capacity. The access to the basement (originally part of the 1857 building) was created also in 1896. The basement was infilled during the college's occupation.

The double entrance doors from the front courtyard are the originals but have lost the leaded lights (as the Court 2 entrance) to upper panels and have been painted white. The door to the internal lobby G38 is of contemporary date as are the doors to the former basement stair (G39) and to G36. Some early ironmongery remains also to these doors (early 20th c.), with probably original ironmongery to the door to the basement stair. A gothic arched opening supports the stair and wall above.



Plate 20 Glazed brickwork, original and modern handrails to G40.

The floor finish is of glazed tiles of terracotta colour laid in a herringbone pattern, the staircase itself is in york stone. Up to dado level the walls are finished in a glazed brick which follows the alignment of each step, with a moulded capping. The original iron handrail is also still in situ, with a modern handrail installed to the outer perimeter. The walls are plastered above. Window surrounds are stone with a lightly banded tooled finish to match the risers of the stair.

The upper door into the court room is missing and the opening has been boarded up. A modern opening has been formed through to the former cupboard and through to F21. The floor has been re-modelled in concrete and chipboard within the former cupboard and F21.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of primary significance for second phase of court use, alterations should be kept to a minimum especially as the space has seen little alteration.*
- *There is a modern balustrade to the perimeter, and, if required for access purposes, this should be replaced in sympathy with the original iron balustrade.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized.*
- *The door to the courtroom should be reinstated and the alterations through to F21 should be removed or more appropriate joinery incorporated.*

First Floor

F01 Former Court Room No.1 (former Armoury).

Originally the armoury of the Militia Building, the armoury was extended to form a Court Room in 1879. The room largely retains this form.

According to the specification the walls were to be lined with tongue and groove elm boards. These remain largely in situ, although some are missing, with a capping strip which appears to be oak. The extended section of the court is readily identified by the change in width of boarding both in the elm to dado height and the boarding to the roof. In both cases the boarding being narrower.



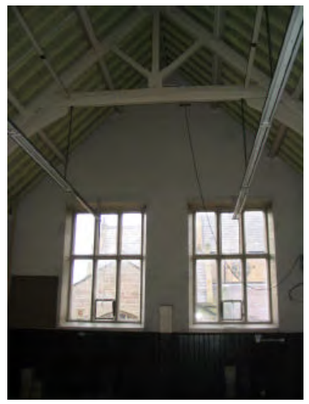


Plate 21 & Plate 22 Looking towards former bench position, the panelling behind the bench is of 1896, other panelling of 1857. On the right, the 1878 extension.

The roof consist of timber trusses, supported on simple stone corbels with oak boarding above, these were originally oiled, but appear to have been in a painted finish for some time, perhaps since the hall was extended.

Originally the roof had a large ventilator located centrally to the room as described in the specification. This was replaced in 1879 with two ventilators of simpler design, these still operate, but appear to have undergone changes internally.

The windows to the original armoury remain in place, including the stone oriel window to the front elevation. All these windows are of stone mullions, transoms and reveals, set into the painted brickwork of the main walls (which were never plastered). The two large windows to the N.E. elevations are the originals installed in 1879.

There are no original doors remaining, the entrance door, magistrate's door, door through to office F23 (formerly the Deputy Chief Constables office) are all flush doors and the door through to the staircase F22 has been removed and boarded over.

The panelling to the rear of the judge's bench area replaced more elm boarding and a fire place in 1879.

Much of the original courtroom furniture is still resident in the building which should be tagged, labelled and stored, or perhaps partially returned to the room if appropriate to the scheme. It is understood however that the ownership of the furniture does not reside with the museum. Every effort should be made to ensure that the furniture is retained in its original context.





Plate 23 & Plate 24 Court room furniture stored in Court 1. To the right, 19th century heating pipes to the oriel window.

There are a series of ventilators to the perimeter in the form of ducts with hinged lids, which probably date from a series of improvements to the building undertaken around 1900.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is the primary space of the building as such it should be retained largely in its current form. A light-weight mezzanine could be introduced as long as it does not compromise the impression of the space and is reversible.*
- *The elm boarding and the court related panelling should be retained and conserved. Missing sections should be reinstated.*
- *The access door from the landing should be renewed with a more appropriate design.*
- *Consideration should be given to the doors from the magistrate's room and from the public stairs which are missing (flush door in the case of the magistrate's room). These should be reinstated if possible.*

- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized. The heating of the space should be considered as part of the overall scheme and the modern heater removed.*
- *The 19th century radiator should be retained in the oriel window.*
- *All courtroom furniture should be labelled and stored or returned to the room if this be applicable to the overall scheme.*

F02 and F04 Office and corridor (former Small Armoury and Jury Room)

This room started life as an armoury, then became the jury room from 1879. In 1896 a corridor was introduced linking the jury room to both Court Rooms.

The door from F06 seems to have been altered on a number of occasions. Initially this was a straightforward door and frame into the small armoury. Then in 1896 when the corridor was introduced it seems an open arch was created through to this corridor. This is still in evidence with its moulded bricks. Subsequently the arch has been infilled with a relatively modern door and frame.

The door from F04 into room F02 dates from the 1896 alterations. The door into the court (F05) also dates from this period but the frame was renewed during recent works to address dry rot problems.

The two windows to F02 are from the militia phase, with renewed/modified casements as elsewhere. The window into the corridor F04 was presumably introduced to let light into this corridor as part of the 1896 modifications. This window appears to have metal panels to the reveals, at present the reason for this is unclear, unless these are a war time addition.

The office (F02) has exposed truss ends which break through the ceiling, this is rather strange visually but there is no evidence to suggest this is not how the ceiling was arranged in 1857. The fireplace in this instance probably dates from 1857, but was originally located on the wall in the corridor, the arrangement of chimney stacks being modified in 1896, when this was relocated to its present position.

The skirtings are quite substantial and may be contemporary with the 1896 alteration work.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains essentially its 1896 configuration and features of this and earlier periods. It is also of importance given its association to the two court rooms.*
- *The Militia phase and 1896 windows should be retained. The 1896 window appears to retain its original cast glass this should be protected during any works.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized. The heating of the space should be considered as part of the overall scheme and the modern heater to the fireplace removed.*
- *The modern infill to the archway should be replaced with more appropriate joinery – it is assumed this will need to be retained for protection of the stair. If not this should ideally be removed and the arch opened up.*

F05 Education Room (Court Room No.2)

Created in 1896 to provide additional capacity, this room forms the major part of the Southerly extension added at this time.



Plate 25 Roof of Court 2, which remains largely as constructed in 1896. Panelling to the far wall (rear of the bench) has been lost.

The room remains little altered from its original form, it is assumed that the ceiling would not originally have been whitewashed and paint analysis would be beneficial to establish the original decorative scheme.

The perimeter of the room is, as the staircase, lined in glazed brick to 1.2m height. This is damaged in a number of areas and there is also some staining which shows the locations of some of the timberwork (this should be retained or recorded). Above this the walls are plastered. The timberwork to the rear of the judge's bench was removed during recent remedial works to address dry rot (as were part of one truss and the door frame into F04).

The windows are all contemporary with the space, there are two substantial stone mullioned and transomed windows facing St. Mark's Road and a small window which allowed light to the judges bench.

The doors from the staircase are covered under the notes for rooms G05/F03, the door accessing F04 is covered under the notes for this area, save to say that these doors also retain their original floor springs. The narrow door which provides access to the magistrates retiring room appears of contemporary date but has been modified and an infill panel has been introduced at high level. It is not entirely clear whether the panel has replaced a fanlight or whether the door has been altered.

The floor retains its original finish of pine wood blocks, although these have been re-finished in recent times. The floor to the bench is covered in carpet and not visible on inspection. There are three steps which remain in situ to the North Eastern end of the room which formed part of the public gallery. Visible in the floor are brass sockets which held the screen dividing the court from the public areas in place.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of primary interest for the 1896 alterations and as such it should be retained largely in its current form.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized. The heating of the space should be considered as part of the overall scheme. The modern ventilation/heating grilles to the ceiling, windows and doors should be removed.*
- *The damaged areas of glazed brickwork should be repaired to match existing.*
- *Consideration should be given to reinstating the timberwork to the rear of the judge's bench, the loss of this has effected the visual hierarchy of the room.*
- *Crude secondary glazing to the large windows should be removed.*
- *Trials should be undertaken to ascertain the original layout of the magistrate's door and reinstated to the original pattern.*
- *All courtroom furniture should be labelled and stored or returned to the room if this be applicable to the overall scheme.*

F06 Upper landing to staircase

Originally the upper landing of the Militia Stair, this space was much altered in the 1896 conversion with the addition of a timber screen with bench and double doors at the top of the stairs.

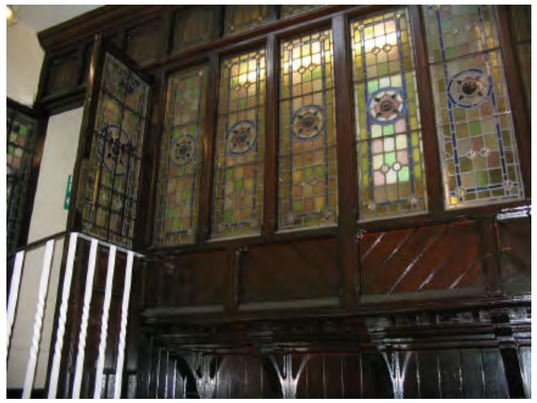


Plate 26 Screen to the top of the staircase. The hand-rail is of militia date and the screen of 1896.

The screen is an exercise in high Victorian design, with 9 bays containing leaded lights and stained glass. The doors have decorative iron fretwork to protect the leaded panels. The bench itself is of relatively simple design with boarded panels to the back and below the seat. The doors retain their original door springs (labelled 'smiths patent') and the original handles and push plates.[32]

[32] These could be used as a pattern for casting new for the other 1896 doors as they appear to be of the same design

The doorway through to F04 has gone through a series of changes (refer to F02/F04 for notes). The door from the landing through to the former Magistrate's Retiring Room appears to be in its original position, and the 1857 frame and lining are still in-situ but some boxing in has taken place. A new flush door and frame have been inserted in the old lining.

The walls, as per the staircase, are simple painted brick, which is an interesting contrast with the ornate screen. Careful examination has produced no evidence of the space ever having been plastered. Paint analysis should be undertaken of both the screen and the walls to these areas.

The entrance to the main court room is almost entirely modern (refer to F01). It seems probable that the opening is of 1857 date, but no evidence survives of the original joinery. The 1857 plans indicate that there was no door on this opening, but they are not entirely consistent in this regard.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of primary significance especially for the second phase of court use, alterations should be kept to a minimum and respect the narrative of the alterations of each phase as well as the original structure. Modifications to the screen and doors should be avoided.*
- *There are many surface mounted services which need to be rationalized.*
- *The modern infill to the archway should be replaced with more appropriate joinery – it is assumed this will need to be retained for protection of the stair. If not this should ideally be removed and the arch opened up.*

F07 and F08 Prep Room and Corridor (former Magistrates Retiring Room)

This space originally formed the hospital, then the Reading Room for the Militia Building.[33] This was converted to the Magistrates Retiring Room in 1879. Retaining this use until the Courts moved elsewhere in the 1970's.

The door from the stair landing is a modern door and frame within the original lining as noted above. The corridor was created, probably during the college's occupation, to provide a route through to the rear of the building. The doorway opposite originally provided access for a W.C. from the Hospital, although this opening has since been, infilled (1896) and re-opened (c.1950's). In the opposite corner of the room a doorway was created in 1896 through to a W.C. (refer to F09). This was removed in the 1940's when the W.C's were created adjacent. The door through to the bench of court 1 is modern, but the opening is original. This was boarded over in recent times.

[33] The use of the room varies from the specification and the oldest surviving first floor plan.



Plate 27 Militia fireplace (from the reading room/hospital) to the Magistrate's Retiring Room.

The simple gothic fireplace is probably original militia of 1857. It is a slate surround which ties in well to the reference in the specification, backing up the assertion that it is of the original phase. The fireplace retains its grate and has not been boarded over as elsewhere. The simple skirtings may also be of the militia phase.

The walls, again, are of brickwork with a painted finish, and there is no evidence of them having been plastered. Hip rafters project through the ceiling, which mirrors details elsewhere.

The window is again of the Militia phase, and is of the three pane stone mullion pattern seen elsewhere. The casements have been much altered and an extract fan inserted.

When the second court was added in 1896 a new opening was created through to Court 2, this appears to be original joinery but has undergone some alteration (refer to F05).

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary significance especially for the remaining militia features and the importance of the relation to the court spaces. Alterations should be kept to a minimum.*
- *The modern partitioning should be removed.*
- *The modern infill to the archway should be replaced with more appropriate joinery – it is assumed this will need to be retained for protection of the stair. If not this should ideally be removed and the arch opened up.*
- *Trials should be undertaken to ascertain the original layout of the magistrates door (to the court room No 2) and reinstated to the original pattern.*

- *The modern door and frame to the original lining should be removed and a door of a more appropriate pattern inserted.*

F09 and F09A W.C. and Corridor (Formerly part of Married Sergeant's Quarters).

In 1857 these spaces formed a bedroom in the married sergeant's quarters. Subsequently they have undergone much alteration. In 1896 they were converted to form a bathroom and a W.C. for the Magistrate's room. The through corridor was created and the area converted to W.C's when the residential accommodation was being converted to office space and other uses in the 1940's and 50's. The opening which formed the doorway to the 1896 bathroom has been altered.

The opening from F08 was re-opened in the 1950's. and the step incorporated to overcome the change in level. The window overlooking the courtyard is of the Militia phase and retains its original iron, diamond pattern casement, it is apparent that this would have been a pivoted window (about the centre), but the operating hinges and catch are missing. The window in the W.C. cubicle is also of the Militia phase and retains its original surround and joinery, but the casement has been altered.

The glazed screen of the W.C. is of 1940's appearance and the subdued joinery and simple panelling is typical of this period. At ceiling level the water cistern from 1896 remains in situ in its original timber panelled casing. The chimney stack which forms part of the South West wall is of 1857. The W.C. to the rear of F09 retains its original fittings and cistern from when it was accessed from the Magistrate's Retiring Room, this was simply incorporated into the W.C's when these were created.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of relatively little significance given the level of alterations, however efforts should be made to retain the 1896 cistern and W.C. fittings.*
- *The original militia phase windows and casement should be retained and conserved.*
- *Consideration could be given to retaining or re-using the glazed partitioning, which is not without merit, and provides another layer of history to the building in this area.*

F10 W.C. (formerly part of Married Sergeant's Quarters).

This room was originally a bedroom and staircase of the Married Sergeant's Quarters. In 1896 the stair (in the position of the cubicle to the rear) was removed and the whole space became a bedroom. At this point the room was incorporated into the living accommodation at the corner of the building and an opening created from what is now the corridor. This door appears to be the original from the time of this alteration.

The window into the W.C. is probably of 1896 as it would appear to have been a smaller window to the stair during the Militia phase.

The W.C.s were created in the 1940's and the glazed screen introduced similar to that in F09.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of little significance given the level of alteration.*
- *The original militia phase windows should be retained and conserved.*
- *The door into G13A should be retained and conserved.*
- *Consideration could be given to retaining or re-using the glazed partitioning, which is not without merit, and provides another layer of history to the building in this area.*

F11 and F12 Former Bedroom and Chief Superintendent's Office (and Tower Room)

This room was extensively modified during the occupation by Aston College. The modern staircase adjacent was inserted during this period and this altered the proportion of the room slightly. Originally a staircase descended opposite the small window and a chimney stack rose either side of this stair, separating the two bedrooms.

The lobby into the room is contemporary with the staircase and dates from the College's occupation.

The window which allowed light onto the original staircase (now in the room proper) is of the militia phase and retains its original iron diamond pattern casement. The window to the St Mark's Road elevation is also of the militia phase.

Early skirtings are retained to two sides of the room.

The tower room contains a Water cylinder and heating fittings, the stonework is generally retained. This is accessed via a modern door.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of little significance given the level of alteration and can be adapted or altered as required..*
- *Access to and the general finishes of the tower room should be retained.*
- *The original militia phase windows and casement should be retained and conserved.*

F13 and 13A Staircase and corridor,

This staircase was introduced by the college during their occupation, probably in the late 1970's. The entirety is of new construction including a new wall as noted under F11. Originally the space was a bedroom and part of the staircase for the Quarter Master Sergeant, the window in the stair is an original from this period.

The window to corridor F13A is another original Militia feature and retains its original iron, diamond pattern casement. The wall between F13A and F14 was the original external wall until the additional accommodation filling the rear entrance to the courtyard was built in 1879.

Refer also to G21.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*
- *The original militia window should be retained and conserved.*

F14 Lift Lobby

Originally external this section formed additional accommodation in 1879. The area has recently been much modified to provide access through to the satellite building. The window dates from the 1879 construction work.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of little importance historically given the level of alterations and can be adapted and altered as required.*
- *The 1879 window should be retained and conserved.*

F15 Former Classroom.

This room was combined with its neighbour to form a classroom during the Aston College period. Originally the space was partially external and partially a bedroom for the Sergeant's Quarters. The South Eastern part of the room was constructed in 1879.

The window to the 1879 portion is original to this phase as is the window to the militia side which retains its diamond pattern iron casement. The window to the opposite side of the room is also of the militia phase.

The entrance door from F14 probably dates to the latter part of the police occupation when this formed a corridor. The doors from the room into F17 and 18 are of great interest as these are probably original militia joinery. The fireplaces to both rooms are of slate and the slight variance in pattern suggests these are both original to the 1879 and militia phases respectively.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains much of its original configuration and details. It also forms the part of the most complete group of the original living accommodation. Modifications should be considered within this context.*
- *Reinstatement of the dividing wall would be beneficial to the understanding and appearance of the rooms if this could be accommodated with the wider scheme.*
- *The original militia phase and 1879 windows and casements should be retained and conserved.*
- *The original doors should be carefully conserved, and have paint analysis undertaken.*

F16 W.C created during 1997 works.

A modern room, the window is probably of the early 20thc (c.1917). and should be retained.

F17 Former Staircase.

Unfortunately removed during the college's occupation, this was the staircase up to the Sergeant's sleeping quarters. The doors as noted elsewhere are original militia doors to F15 and F18. The door into F20 was probably added in the 1940's when these spaces ceased to become residential, a step leads up into this room. The joinery to the laylight window has the appearance of this period also. It may have been a banister prior to this.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains the original doors to F15 and 18 and must be considered as part of the most complete section of former residential accommodation.*
- *If these spaces could be arranged to architecturally interpret the living accommodation it would be beneficial to reinstate the staircase. This could also serve as an escape stair for this area.*

F18 and F19 Former bedroom and Property Office.

Originally two bedrooms for the Sergeant (one accessed across the landing the other from the top of the stair) the rooms were combined by 1896. The position of the former partition can still clearly be seen where the window cill and skirtings have been pieced in. The typical 3 pane stone mullioned window must have had the central pane blanked out to accommodate this partition and this is evidenced by the earliest surviving first floor plan.

As noted above the door from the stair is of the militia phase, unfortunately the second door is missing. There is a relatively modern door providing access to the tower.



Plate 28 Evidence of former position of partition to F18.

Two cast iron air vents are set into the walls, these are very nice castings, although when they were installed is something of a mystery, it is almost certain they are not from the militia phase, but in style are pre 1900.

The lino has come away revealing the original boards below, these are softwood, presumably either 'Mernel or Dantzic Fir' as referred to in the specification. The skirting boards are simple and evidently 1857 as the partitioning position is clearly visible where the boards have been pieced in.

The tower room has had a modern door added but generally retains its original appearance.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains much of its original configuration and details. It also forms the part of the most complete group of the original living accommodation. Modifications should be considered within this context.*
- *Sink to corner of room should be removed.*
- *The original militia phase window should be retained and conserved.*
- *The original doors should be carefully conserved, and have paint analysis undertaken.*

F20 Store (former parade room).

This room was created from the Married Sergeant's Quarters c.1917 as the first of the areas of living accommodation to be converted. The chimney and central walls were removed and new dormer windows added to the Cathedral Elevation. The roof was supported by a new truss at the central point of the room.

The windows to the Courtyard elevation are of the militia phase, one of these is now used to gain access to the flat roof over the courtyard.

The door from F17 is a recent addition as referenced above. The original access seems to have been via a spiral stair from below. The door into the Court may have been inserted at this time but does not appear on the 1939 plan.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of relatively little interest as it has been much altered. The volume has assumed pleasant proportions and would be best retained as a single room however.*
- *The c.1917 windows should be retained as they relate to an important chapter in the development of the building, i.e. the transition from living accommodation.*
- *The original militia phase windows should be retained and conserved.*

F21, 23 and 24 Office, Lobby and W.C. (Former Deputy CC's office).

This room originally formed a bedroom and tower room of the Sergeant Major's Quarters. The space was much altered in the 1896 alterations when the room was connected to the new court room via a lobby (F21) the tower removed and the W.C. added as part of the new entrance to the No. 1 Court.

The lobby has been altered as noted under G40 and F22, but retains a small window, perhaps of militia phase to allow light into the staircase (although not indicated on the plan). The office itself retains its 1896 proportions. The window overlooking the entrance was blocked internally at this time (presumably using stone salvaged from the demolition of the tower as there is tooling evident behind the glass), although the reason for this can only be speculated about (privacy perhaps?).

The 3 pane window to the front elevation is of the militia phase, this retains some cast glass, probably of 1896. The windows to the W.C.'s are of 1896 also, when they were installed.

The door and frame from F21 are modern. The W.C. and cubicle doors are original to their installation (1896), as are the fittings of the W.C.'s. The walls of the W.C. are lined in glazed brick to dado level which matches the staircase entrance.

Conservation Policy

- *This space is of secondary interest as it retains much of its original configuration and details and because it is integral to the entrance stair to Court 1.*
- *The original W.C. fittings should be retained.*
- *The original militia phase window should be retained and conserved. The blocked window should be retained in its current form.*

The Basement

The basement formed part of the building when first built in 1857, and was solely confined to the area beneath the Sergeant Major's parlour. The access was initially external for the delivery of coals. This was incorporated into the new entrance created in 1896. The basement was subsequently used to house a boiler the fumes and smoke from which, according to reminiscences, used to choke the duty sergeant above!

The basement was infilled entirely with concrete during the occupation of the building by the college as it was found the boiler was lagged in asbestos. Presumably it was considered cheaper to encase the boiler in concrete rather than remove the asbestos.

The Exterior

Notes and Policies should be read in conjunction with relevant internal spaces.

The Entrance (North West) Elevation

The central portion of the front elevation retains the flavour of the 1857 building. The oriel window dates from this period as is noted in the specification, the carved monogram 'County Buildings' was probably added in 1879. The render which sits either side of the corbelled stonework is also visible on the photograph of 1914. It is not entirely clear whether this was an original detail or whether it resulted from the later modifications. The original return of the Regimental Store (pre-1879) is visible on the elevation as some of the original quoins remain in the elevation.

It is assumed that the windows would have originally all been of diamond pattern in iron casements as survive elsewhere and can be seen on the photograph of c.1879. The other windows appear much as they did in the photograph of 1914.

The loggia has had modern joinery inserted (refer to G01), the floor level has been modified and consequently any steps lost.




Plate 29 & Plate 30 Loggia, with poor quality modern joinery and Oriel Window.

The gables either side of the main entrance area were constructed in 1857, these have undergone some alteration with the addition of two small windows at first floor level during the later alterations (the small slit window to the Western gable, may be phase 1, but no evidence exists to substantiate this). The window to F23 was also blocked internally at this time, presumably using salvaged stone as tooling is visible on the inside of the window casements. The Western gable also shows much evidence of salination and damp, probably as a result of the basement being back filled with concrete.

Both gables have piers which seem intended to have carried a wall and railings across between then, an intention underlined by an examination of the earliest plan. There is no evidence that this was constructed.

The entrances to the courts were added in 1896 and again remain generally as they were built. The splendidly eccentric Court 2 entrance retains its original fenestration, doors etc (refer to G04). The slating, vent and weathervane also appear to be original. The entrance to the side (into G06) was originally access into the Male W.C. The entrance to Court 1 is more restrained. There is a rather intrusive vent pipe on the original gable adjacent and there have clearly been problems with leaking pipes, which, probably also evidences some odd detailing originally. Again the fenestration is the original as are the doors (refer to G40).




Plate 31 & Plate 32 Entrance to Court 2 (1896) and blank window to F23. Tooling is visible behind the central pane as noted in the text.




Plate 33 & Plate 34 Entrance to Court No.1 showing the more restrained detailing. To the right, the piers which were to form a boundary with railings to the front of the building, but there is no evidence it was installed beyond these piers.

The main roof originally had a large cowell centrally. This was removed and two smaller ones installed during the 1879 alterations. These have since been capped.

Conservation Policy

- *This elevation is the primary façade of the building and is a palimpsest of the buildings history. As such alterations should be avoided where possible and the narrative of each phase respected.*
- *Modern downpipes and guttering (a mix of plastic and aluminium) should be replaced with cast iron.*
- *The college-era joinery to the loggia openings should be removed. If the loggia is to remain enclosed a frameless glazing system would be more appropriate and restore the appearance of the open loggia.*
- *Area of render below oriel window should be retained.*
- *Generally the windows should be retained as existing with the exception of those where removal of fans and other modern services is required. Cast glass should be retained and protected during works.*
- *There are a number of soil stacks and vent pipes which should be rationalized as part of the scheme if there is an opportunity as part of the overall scheme.*
- *Consideration should be given to reinstating the ventilation cowells to the main roof.*
- *The chimneys are a mix of 1857 and 1879 in date (refer to internal notes) and should be retained and conserved. Many retain original or reasonable pots and these should be retained.*



Plate 35 The entrance front c.1914, This view has changed remarkably little. The diamond pattern casements have been replaced largely in single panes and many of the hopper and pivot lights still survive today.

St. Mark's Road (South East) Elevation

Refer to G15 and 16 for notes regarding the external elevation in the exercise yard.

This elevation has seen much alteration since it's originally construction. The 1896 alterations have brought the elevation forward which runs through to form the perimeter of the exercise yard. Originally the corner was turned with a tower (as the rear). The upper floor was altered to form the second court and the series of small windows below provide light into the witnesses rooms, these have had modern ventilation introduced. The three small windows above the external W.C. open onto the staircase. The detail to the loop top window which illuminates the bench in the courtroom is interestingly detailed, but seems to have caused some water ingress problems! The fenestration of the 1896 alterations is largely as it was built, a door was added into the exercise yard during the college's alterations.

The downpipe to this part of the elevation was originally let into the wall, but has since been surface fixed and the recess bricked up. Cast Iron ventilators are housed into the wall, these may have provided ventilation for the courtroom above.

The wall between the tower and the exercise yard is largely as it was built in 1857. The window between the yard and the rear gable replaced a smaller window in 1896.



Plate 36 & Plate 37 Original Militia Tower and 1997 extension. The 'dead' space between the two and this area generally requires reconsidering.

In 1896 an access was formed into the rear area of accommodation, which has since been blocked up (probably since 1967). This is clearly visible in the stonework and replaced an 1857 window.

The Satellite building was erected in 1997, providing a new collections entrance, storage and other facilities. A result of this has been to create some 'dead space' around this area, resulting in the need for ugly security gates and fences.

Conservation Policy

- *This elevation has been much altered. The 1896 extension retains largely its original format and should be retained as such. The area adjacent to the satellite building could be considered for extension or alteration if required, as long as the tower and other features are retained. The setting in this area has been seriously compromised by adjacent development and parking and consideration should be given as to how the area is used and addressed. The 'dead spaces' also need to be reconsidered.*
- *Modern downpipes and guttering (a mix of plastic and aluminium) should be replaced with cast iron.*
- *Generally the windows should be retained as existing with the exception of those where removal of fans and other modern services is required. Cast glass should be retained and protected during works.*
- *There are a number of soil stacks, vent pipes and untidy drainage which should be rationalized as part of the scheme if there is an opportunity as part of the overall scheme.*
- *The downpipe should be returned to its recessed position to enable interpretation of this feature.*
- *The chimneys are a mix of 1857 and 1896 in date (refer to internal notes) and should be retained and conserved. Many retain original or reasonable pots and these should be retained. One has had pots replaced with inappropriate modern ventilators. These should be replaced to match the other pots.*

Rear (South-West) Elevation

Much modified in recent times, this elevation was originally split into two sections with an access way to the central yard through the centre. This was infilled to provide additional accommodation in 1879.

The towers to each end of the elevation were constructed in 1857 and retain their original form and fenestration, their solid stone roofs are of particular note. Originally the towers were finished with iron weather vanes. (refer to 3.3.18). The tower facing St. Mark's Road has had ventilators introduced into the openings.

Between the tower and the glazed link two modern (probably college occupation) doors have been inserted, one into the staircase, and one into G18. There is a single small casement window which retains its 1857 diamond pattern casement. To the first floor the windows are of 1857 and another single iron casement remains.

To the Western side of the glazed link the fenestration has been altered less. The position where the wall returned to into the yard is visible in the stonework. In the Militia section the windows retain their original positions. The porch with its stone roof was probably added in 1879. The first floor window in the 1879 section appear similar in detail to the c.1917 work elsewhere and may be contemporary with this, the window has been let into the moulding behind the gutter. The ground floor window is probably of c.1879 but the detailing is similar to the one above. There was a window in this position by 1879 however. The doorway which has been infilled was incorporated in 1896 and infilled during the college's occupation when the W.C.'s were created behind.

Conservation Policy

- *This elevation has been much altered. The 1857 windows should be retained and as should the porch of 1879. The area adjacent to the satellite building (St. Mark's side) could be considered for extension or alteration if required, as long as the tower and other features are retained. The 'dead spaces' also need to be reconsidered.*
- *The towers should be retained as free-standing elements if possible. Certainly this applies to the Western tower which has retained a better setting.*
- *Modern downpipes and guttering (a mix of plastic and aluminium) should be replaced with cast iron.*
- *Generally the windows should be retained as existing with the exception of those where removal of fans and other modern services is required. Cast glass should be retained and protected during works.*
- *There are a number of soil stacks, vent pipes and untidy drainage which should be rationalized as part of the scheme if there is an opportunity as part of the overall scheme.*
- *The chimneys are a mix of 1857 and 1879 in date (refer to internal notes) and should be retained and conserved. Many retain original or reasonable pots and these should be retained.*

Cathedral (North-West) Elevation

This elevation reveals a number of phases within the development of the building. Originally simple and relatively domestic in scale with towers to each corner, the elevation was much altered in 1896 and again c.1917. Originally the access to the basement was external on this elevation, this was enclosed in 1896.

The extension to the Northern end of the elevation was added in 1896 to create the new entrance to Court 1. Visible, partially submerged at this point is a window into the basement which has been infilled, presumably at the same time as the basement. Adjacent to this a downpipe was recessed into the wall and has since been surface fixed. Two small windows to the Southerly return let light into the lobby and basement stair entrance. The 1896 elevation generally retains its original fenestration pattern and has been little altered since construction.

The gable adjacent which forms the end of Court No.1 was constructed in 1879 when the court was extended to abut this wall. The two large windows on the first floor are contemporary with this reconstruction. To the top of the gable a rare survivor is the World War II air-raid siren, which still operates. The ground floor of the gable may retain some 1857 stonework and the 3 casement window to the Northern side is of 1857 appearance. It may well have been re-used. The window adjacent is modern and post 1967, this has a poor quality concrete surround. Adjacent to this is a stone mullioned window which may by again of 1857 date re-used, or inserted in 1879.

To the side of the gable is a former door opening created in 1879 to access the modified accommodation (unmarried constables quarter's as indicated on the first drawing of 1879). This has been crudely infilled (c.1967).

The section of elevation between the gables was much altered c.1917 when the area was converted from domestic use to a parade room and canteen. The dormer windows were inserted during these alterations and the 1857 openings blocked-up. The small, slit opening can still clearly be seen adjacent to the Northern window. On the ground floor the slit window remains along with a stone mullioned and transomed window of c.1917.

The gable adjacent to the tower is largely as it was in 1857. There were originally two windows to the ground floor, the Southerly of which, it seems, was always a blank, added to provide symmetry. This appears to have been removed completely in 1896.[34]

Conservation Policy

- *This elevation has been much altered but again provides a palimpsest of the phases of the buildings history. As such alterations should be avoided where possible (save the situations noted) and the narrative of each phase respected.*
- *The tower should be retained as existing.*
- *The modern concrete framed opening should be renewed in stone to a more appropriate pattern as should the infilled door opening adjacent.*
- *Modern downpipes and guttering (a mix of plastic and aluminium) should be replaced with cast iron.*
- *The cast iron air bricks should be retained.*
- *Generally the windows should be retained as existing with the exception of those where removal of fans and other modern services is required. Cast glass should be retained and protected during works.*
- *There are a number of soil stacks, vent pipes and untidy drainage which should be rationalized as part of the scheme if there is an opportunity as part of the overall scheme.*
- *There are a number of modern vents mounted on the wall which should be removed and more appropriate measures undertaken as part of the services scheme.*
- *The chimneys are a mix of 1857, 1879 and 1896 in date (refer to internal notes) and should be retained and conserved. Many retain original or reasonable pots and these should be retained.*
- *The air-raid siren is an important piece of social history and should be retained.*

Perimeter Wall and Setting

The wall to the front and cathedral elevations was, according to the specification, to be constructed 'an average of 9' high'. The perimeter wall was modified on a number of occasions due to road modifications and the extension of the building. The current extents date from the 1970's when Regent Street was altered. The stone appears to have been re-used, although the wall was reduced in height at this period, which is evidenced by the 'shadow' on the wall near the entrance to Court no. 2. The various guises of the perimeter wall are best appreciated on the Ordnance Survey maps (refer to section 3.6).

The piers to the entrance date from at least 1896 and probably earlier, although these have been reduced in height also. There is evidence of gate fixings to these piers.

The gates to the side of the building were designed by college students for the museum after 1996 and represent the different facets of Wrexham's history.

The rear wall adjacent to the satellite building was constructed in 1997.

The setting of the building was re-landscaped in the late 1990's.

[34] The window is shown as a blank on the original drawing of 1857 and again on the proposal of 1878.



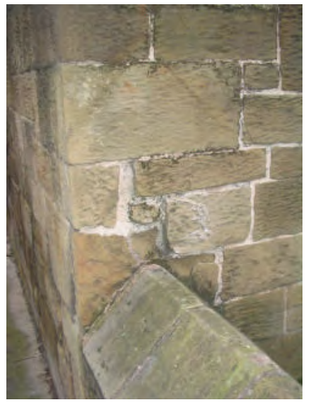


Plate 38 & Plate 39 Entrance Pillar, which has been reduced in height. Evidence of the original (1896) wall height on the Court No. 2 Entrance.

Conservation Policy

- *The wall is an integral part of the building and should be retained, if possible, within the context of the redevelopment proposals. New openings and alterations should respect the detail of the existing openings and historical evidence as applicable.*

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND HERITAGE MERIT.

5.1 Rarity of the Building Nationally

The Wrexham County Borough Museum is a fine example of the 1850's period of Militia Barrack's building following the act of 1853 and, as such, is important in a British context as many of these buildings have been lost. This period of activity is closely linked to an important period of British Military history and to the design of Military Architecture, upon which the influence of these buildings must not be underestimated. The importance of the building for Wales and Welsh Military History must also be recognized, a significance underlined since the loss of the Flintshire Militia Building.

The buildings second use as Magistrate's Courts enhance the buildings significance, especially in a Welsh context. The retention, largely intact of the alterations and many of the fittings, albeit in storage, mean this is an interesting and relatively complete example of a provincial court.[35]

Architecturally the building is a fascinating blend of picturesque intent, pragmatic spatial planning, Military functionality, and the contrast of this functionality with the later Court alterations. Influences vary from the Tudor houses of the 16th century to the early pioneers of the picturesque such as Miller through to more contemporary influences from Salvin and the other 'Barrack builders' of the period.

The building is currently listed Grade II, the description being contained in the appendices, this does not reflect the significance of the building, consideration and discussion with the relevant authority with a view to achieving higher status for the building would be worthwhile. Upgrading building to II* status may also facilitate qualification for additional grant monies, and raise the profile of the building and hence the museum also.

The importance of the building to the townscape of Wrexham must also be considered. Regent Street is one of the primary arterial routes into the town and the Museum, in conjunction with the adjacent cathedral and neo-classical infirmary, defines the approach to the town - a role that could be greatly enhanced with careful improvement of the frontage and foreground. This importance is further underlined by the buildings presence within the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area.

The building is well known locally, often referred to still as the police station. It has played a significant role in the local community both in this role and subsequently as the Aston College Art Department. The use of the building as the Wrexham County Borough Museum can both draw upon and enhance this familiarity with the people and communities of Wrexham.

The County Buildings have demonstrable importance nationally (in a British as opposed to purely Welsh context) as a key example of the development of a system of Barracks for Militiamen and regionally as other examples (notably at Chester and Flint) have been lost. The significance of the building in a Welsh context is further enhanced by its second incarnation as Courts and a Police Station, a task it undertook for almost exactly 100 years. The future of the building as a museum should ensure that its legacy and importance is protected and enhanced.

6.0 DEFINING THE ISSUES

The following summarised issues can be identified and defined when considering the conservation of the heritage asset in the context of the statements of significance above. These are issues of either vulnerability and risk of loss to the heritage value of the asset, or opportunity for enhancement of the historic understanding and character of the asset.

[35] The retention of the fittings, which are not part of the Museum Collection, should be a priority.

- Retention of the form of the building to the principal elevation and the 1896 entrances. The narrative told by this elevation reveals each phase of the buildings development. The elevation facing the Cathedral, save the modern alterations, should be retained, as this charts the four most clearly defined periods of construction and reconstruction.
- Public access to the spaces of primary historical importance within the building, which is severely limited at present. The requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act mean a delicate balance must be struck between fully inclusive physical and intellectual access and the importance of elements of the historic fabric.
- Conservation of stonework, especially where suffering from salination and damp. Addressing the primary causes, i.e. the basement, leaking rain water goods and increases in ground levels.
- A number of poor quality modern door openings and cement based window surrounds have been installed to the elevations.
- Rainwater and drainage disposal is piecemeal and some pipes have been moved from their original positions, impacting upon the appearance of the external elevations. (also applies elsewhere, especially within the Exercise Yard).
- Integration of services and the environmental requirements of fragile collections into a historic building.
- The installation of the flat roof to the former open courtyard, the consequent loss of understanding of the historical framework of the building and the poor quality of the space generally.
- The Upper Rooms, including both Court Rooms are not accessible and physical alterations to make them so could be damaging, however these upper spaces are the primary spaces of the museum and creating universal access should be a key priority.
- There are surface mounted services all over the building attached to historic finishes and seriously impacting upon the visual quality of the spaces.
- Conservation of the towers and the uses of the rooms therein.
- Poor quality glazing installed to the arches of the Loggia.
- Poor and spasmodic alterations to the wall on the internal side of the Loggia.
- Utilisation of the Exercise yard and the retention of the historical impact of the space.

- Retention of interior finishes and roof detailing to both Court Rooms and replacement of poor quality modern alterations, especially applicable to the doors in Court No. 1.
- Removal of furniture and partitioning from both Court Rooms.
- Loss of panelling to the rear of the Judges bench in Court No.2.
- Loss of the cowells to the roof above Court No.1
- Removal of the cast, decorative, glazing to the rooflight above the main staircase.
- The South West corner of the building retains sufficient structure and detail to appreciate the former domestic arrangement of most of the rear of the building. Elsewhere this has been lost.
- The loss of the staircase to the South Western accommodation.
- Use and conservation of the existing staircases. Only the 1857 stair is in regular use. The other staircases are important in their own right.
- The original finishes have been overcoated in inappropriate modern paint finishes and in some cases wallpaper (a full programme of analysis should be undertaken).
- The modern partitioning and doors to the former Magistrate's Room and the former Orderly Room are detrimental to these spaces and should be removed if possible.
- The disabled parking bays are located remote from the entrance, are constantly in use by non-museum visitors and are detrimental to the setting of the building to the rear.
- There are Health and Safety issues and requirements which impact upon public buildings such as this. These relate to access, egress, circulation and escape in the event of fire. Partially covered by the Building Regulations, achieving acceptable safety standards whilst respecting the historic fabric is a key challenge especially where children are likely to be a key visitor group.
- Meeting modern Building Regulations requirements within a historic context. Especially the new requirements of part 'L' Conservation of fuel and power. The needs of the building regulations need to be offset against the sensitivity of the context.

7.0 CONSERVATION GUIDANCE

Having established the building's significance, heritage value and the risks to the building, the conservation issues have been identified and defined above. These are embodied in the Conservation

Policies below which have been recommended to the owners and building management and which are statements of general approach. Guidance that is more specific to a particular place or element within the building or a particular issue is included within the paragraphs following each policy. This specific guidance refers back to the historical analysis and can be altered as circumstances change but the policy is to be considered as a constant.

The guidance originates from a number of sources, the philosophy owes much to the ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Charters, and the Burra Charter in particular which established the principles of significance and action planning, which underlies the development of modern Conservation Planning.[36]

Technical and philosophical principles draw upon the guidance laid down by CADW (and English Heritage). Much of which echoes the principles of the work of the SPAB (The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), whose objectives for repair rather than restoration, reversibility, and informed alteration underpin much contemporary conservation philosophy. The guidance provided by the SPAB technical pamphlets and information sheets provides invaluable practical knowledge which is reflected in the conservation principles and guidance outlined below.

In the context of a mid-nineteenth century building such as this the advice and publications of special interest groups such as the Victorian Society also influence the policies.[37]

Access principles relating to historic buildings under the DDA legislation draw upon the CADW document '*Overcoming the barriers – providing physical access to historic buildings'*, and the work of the Access consultant, Cassie Herschel-Shorland, whose Audit and Plan should be read in conjunction with this document.

The building is listed and also stands within a Conservation Area (Grosvenor Road). As such it is subject to the statutory requirements of The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This has implications for the both the building and its setting and any alterations will require formal consent. Refer to 'Evaluation of Proposed Change'. In this instance the Conservation Area is not, we understand, subject to any Article 4 directions (these are applied when an area is of particular interest for a specific feature, for example, windows), which can further restrict alteration and other works.

The Conservation Plan therefore provides a multi-level framework of understanding within which any proposals for development can be evaluated and the maintenance and repair of the building fabric can be appropriately planned. The Statement is not there to prevent development but to help guide the form it will take.

Some of the detailed conservation guidance may appear to be prescriptive and prohibitive, and at face value may argue against development from taking place. However, any alteration to an historic building

[36] www.international.icomos.org and the ICOMOS International Charters for Conservation and Restoration 2nd Edition, 2004.
[37] The Victorian Society Publish a Series of Advice Notes, see: www.victorian-society.org.uk/adv0.html

will be a balance of gains and losses, and demonstrably the gains to this building of having a sustainable use would outweigh some degree of minor loss and alteration necessary, especially if it provides an opportunity to repair the fabric and reverse inappropriate change that has occurred previously, and as long as the essential elements that give the building it's significance are retained and protected.

The same balanced judgment needs to be made right down to the smallest decisions affecting the building so that any change and its consequences can be valued within the wider context. The Conservation Plan is therefore an essential tool in formulating and directing any proposals for change within the building.

The following general conservation aims and opportunities have been identified :-

- Do not allow alteration or accretion to the main elevation or to the primary spaces of the building that cause any further loss of the architectural integrity.
- Careful repair of the exterior stonework where necessary and addressing the deterioration being caused by salination, especially to the area above the former basement.
- Reverse inappropriate alterations. Examples of which would be the poor quality roof to the courtyard, the addition of the college era staircase and a number of the modern window and door openings.
- Provide fully inclusive access as far as possible including lift access and access to the primary spaces. Minor alterations to achieve this should be considered desirable, provided they are reversible and do not adversely impact upon the architectural integrity of the spaces.
- The primary entrance should be retained through the loggia, respecting the Militia Layout.
- Retention of the remaining elements of the Militia layout should be conserved.
- Restore lost features where sufficient evidence exists. An example would be the timber panelling to the rear of the judges bench in Court 2.
- Undertake paint analysis, especially to the primary spaces, as understanding of the original finishes for each phase is very limited. Take the opportunity to reinstate these finishes where this does not compromise the use of the spaces.
- Consider reinstating some of the original furniture to one or both of the Court Rooms, as long as suitable interpretation can be provided. Conserve and repair the original fittings.
- Consider utilizing the South West corner of the building, where the fabric of the Militia/police accommodation survives largely intact, to interpret this aspect of the buildings history.

- Conserve and repair the original Militia and Court Staircases, provide appropriate handrails to the perimeter to facilitate access. Incorporation of public access to at least one of the Court entrance staircases.
- Reinstate the sense of an external space to the central courtyard, this might be by means of incorporation of a glazed roof at a higher level and more appropriate surface treatments. This should not be allowed to adversely impact upon the integrity of the upper spaces.
- Remove poor quality modern glazing from the Loggia. Either retain as open or, most practically, incorporate a frameless glazing system to reinstate the historical importance of the Loggia.
- Incorporate a landscape and paving scheme which better reflects the historical uses of the building.
- Modern extensions to the rear, adjacent to the satellite building, and to the rear of the exercise yard may be acceptable as long as the choice of material and roof profile address the adjacent buildings.
- Better links to the town and to the approach from Regent Street could be established and modifications to the wall (considering the conservation policies given previously) could be considered to achieve this.
- Achieve better compliance with the Building Regulations whilst retaining historic fabric, an example would be the use of energy efficient heating to offset the retention of historically important windows or other features.

Conservation Policies

The following conservation policies are recommended so as to ensure the appropriate conservation and development of the building when considering and implementing the aims and opportunities identified above.

MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL OF THE BUILDING FABRIC

Maintain and repair the building so as to retain as much of their early fabric in their original form as possible, both externally and internally right down to the smallest details.

All building materials ultimately have a limited life which will depend upon various factors such as the quality of the materials, the degree of wear, the regularity of maintenance, or the exposure to the elements.

There is normally a range of choices available in such cases from complete renewal on the one hand to strengthening or patching on the other. In the case of historic materials there should be a presumption

against total or blanket renewal if at least some of the material is of acceptable standard. Examples would include:

- Stonework, facing brickwork, mortar pointing
- Facing brick internally, stone window and door jambs.
- Plasterwork
- Stone flag floor finishes
- Boarded floor finishes
- Doors, windows, cases, panelling and other joinery and ironwork
- Glazing, especially original cast glass.
- Door and window ironmongery and glazing

In cases such as these we would expect any sound material to be retained and only damaged material to be replaced by jointing, scarfing, piecing-in, or by the replacement of worn components.

Where possible retain in-situ at least one representative sample of the elements being renewed if an individual example (or examples) can be found which is not so badly decayed or worn as the others.

Areas stonework that have been lost should be reinstated as accurately as possible from photographs and physical evidence.

RESPECTING THE HISTORIC CHARACTER

Respect the historic evolution of the building, retain wherever possible all significant clues relating to its development, and record all evidence exposed in the course of carrying out inspections or alterations.

As an historic building of value and significance which has developed and changed over its life The County Buildings have become themselves a complex archaeological artefact in which all the clues relating to its history remain imprinted in its structure, in many cases concealed by changes over the intervening years.

There is a temptation when carrying out alterations to a building to 'tidy up' by removing redundant installations or structures. If these are of historic significance they should if possible be left unaltered and in-situ, even if they are to be covered over again. Examples would include:

- Structure within floors or ceilings
- Bricked up doors, windows or other former openings
- Floor paving or boarding concealed by later floor coverings
- Outlines of former structures

If such surviving features are discovered during opening up, they should be appropriately recorded irrespective of whether they are to be removed or not. The procedure for recording is the subject of another policy.

RENEWAL OF MATERIALS

Where original, early or significant materials or elements have to be renewed they should wherever possible be replaced like for like to retain the building's historic and aesthetic integrity.

Notwithstanding previous policy materials have from time to time to be renewed. All significant materials should wherever possible be replaced with materials either from the same source or with ones which match as closely as possible both their physical properties and their visual characteristics.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSED CHANGE

Before considering any change to the fabric of the building carry out a thorough investigation to establish the significance of that particular part of the building affected, and evaluate the proposals accordingly, taking into account the Conservation Guidance stated in this plan.

The Museum is a Grade II Listed Building. Listed Building Consent is required for any works of demolition, alteration or extension which would affect the character of the building. The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to give both the owners and the Planning Authority a yardstick against which to measure any proposed changes.

Some changes will have greater impact than others. On the one hand will be the particular qualities of the part of the building affected:

- Its historical or architectural significance
- The significance of its surroundings
- Its visual or physical vulnerability
- Its scale

Weighed against this will be:

- The relative scale and impact of the proposed alteration
- The significance of the proposal in relation to the building's future use

Any proposal for change, however insignificant it may seem, should be subjected to the same process of scrutiny, understanding and evaluation.

The aim of this Conservation Policy should be to channel these changes in a way which allows the significant aspects of the existing building to be retained whilst the new is also accommodated, to the mutual benefit of both. An impact assessment should be made taking into account any relevant

information on the history and significance of the affected areas included in the Conservation Plan, and a mitigation strategy evaluation carried out.

DESIGN OF NEW ELEMENTS

Any proposal to introduce changes into an historic building or space should take into account the effect of the changes on its character.

The vulnerability of a building will depend on its significance and its setting. The existing primary spaces should, for instance, remain unaffected externally by any significant alteration.

Internally the character of a space and its relationship to neighbouring spaces needs to be taken into account.

A new doorway into a space may best be integrated by giving it a location and details which match the character of the space, but a new staircase or lift within the space might best be introduced in contemporary materials and style. The first approach may confuse the archaeology of the building but it will maintain the 'spirit' of the space; the latter is more 'honest' but may be visually discordant and should therefore be carried out with the utmost care and design quality to ensure the minimum of impact upon the historic fabric.

INTERVENTIONS IN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SPACES

In spaces of high architectural significance any essential interventions must be subservient, discreet and reversible.

Changing approaches to the comfort and performance of the space and to the provision of environmental services for that purpose is just one of the many and varied pressures on the historic fabric to introduce alterations. Other examples are the needs for universal access and IT equipment provision.

INTERVENTIONS IN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SPACES IN AREAS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE

Structure which is of architectural or historic interest in areas of secondary importance shall be awarded the same level of respect as structure in the principal spaces.

In areas such as the floor and roof voids the building structure has often survived substantially as built. This forms a significant component of the building's history.

It should be respected as such, and careful thought needs to be given to service routes and other interventions which may disturb it.

First and foremost is the need to retain the integrity of arches, vaults, lintels, the ironwork and other structural features.

It should be remembered that services are ephemeral and are likely to be replaced every thirty years or so. An opening, once formed, is a permanent alteration to the historic fabric. It should therefore only be altered having given due consideration to any alternative which would avoid damage. Could the service be re-routed to involve less intervention to the early structure, for instance, or could it be routed instead through an area of previously damaged brickwork?

INTERVENTIONS IN SPACES OF LESSER SIGNIFICANCE

In spaces of lesser architectural or historic significance interventions may be acceptable, but the wider effect on adjacent significant spaces must be taken fully into account.

Any works to the building fabric which involves demolition, alteration or extension will be subject to Listed Building Consent, no matter how marginal or insignificant the fabric may seem to be.

THE VALUE OF LATER ALTERATIONS

Any proposal to remove a later building phase and to reinstate an earlier phase as a facsimile should be adopted only after giving a thorough evaluation of the existing as regards its rarity, its quality, and its historical significance.

There is currently a fashion for returning historic buildings or spaces to their former or original state by the removal of later accretions. In terms of visual continuity and consistency this may well be a justifiable course of action. There are nevertheless several examples of relatively recent inappropriate features in this building that are clearly of little value and could be easily removed to the benefit of and with no damage to the valuable historic fabric. Conversely, the major changes to the plan are probably irreversible and the reinstatement of the likely former layout may be considered to be too conjectural.

However, the fact that what exists is more recent and perhaps now considered visually inappropriate is not in itself sufficient justification for its removal. An alteration of quality in a contemporary style may be considered of greater value than a hypothetical recreation of an earlier style. It is certainly more 'honest' in terms of historical interpretation.

In such circumstances the two options should be thoroughly evaluated and debated before the decision is taken to remove the existing.

SPACE WITHIN A SPACE

In spaces of architectural or historic significance there should be a presumption against concealing the form of the architecture by constructing a false space within.

The main spaces of the building retain their scale and spatial integrity. Any intervention or insertion should respect this and not detract from the historic character of the space. Smoke lobbies, lift enclosures or toilets are classic examples of such interventions. There is a description of the floor

construction of the Regimental Store in the specification which is somewhat unusual and modifications in this void should be avoided where possible and record photographs taken when any opening up has been undertaken.

BELOW GROUND ARCHAEOLOGY

Any excavations below external ground level or beneath basement floors may affect archaeological evidence of previous built fabric which should be investigated and recorded as necessary by a building archaeologist.

There is little likelihood of discovery of buildings of archaeological significance, but if schemes involve reconstruction in the central courtyard care should be taken to ascertain whether the magazine was ever constructed and any remnants retained if possible.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The Building's Management should establish procedures for the scrutiny of any proposal for change, however minor, by persons who are knowledgeable in and sensitive to the historic fabric and who can evaluate the vulnerability of the fabric which will be affected.

Any proposals for change should be evaluated by means of an impact assessment related to the conservation Plan and mitigation proposals put forward where change is unavoidable or considered of greater benefit.

RECORDING HISTORIC FEATURES

The Building's Management should establish procedures for suitably qualified persons to investigate and record any previously concealed features relating to the historic evolution of the building.

This will be particularly important during any future alteration works so that the understanding of how the building has changed can be enhanced and verified.

A STORE FOR SALVAGED BUILDING ARTIFACTS

A store will be established and maintained as a permanent and safe repository for salvaged architectural features or fittings.

As stated in previous policy the aim should be to retain as much as possible of its early fabric in its original form in situ. The above would apply particularly in this case to items of Court Room furniture or similar.

There will however be situations in which representative, rare or otherwise, significant artefacts are removed, either because they are worn out or as a result of approved alterations. These should be

deposited in an on site store in a form in which they will remain accessible for research and reference, each duly labelled with provenance, date of removal and significance, and catalogued for reference.

Examples might include:-

Court Room furniture, window frames or glazing, door frames, cases, stone, brick, mortar or plaster samples, decorative plasterwork, mouldings or samples, ironmongery and ironwork

STAFF AND CONTRACTOR INDUCTION

The Building's Management shall introduce procedures for providing an induction for staff and contractors to explain the merits and the duties of working in a Listed Building

Awareness and care are keynotes for anyone who will be working in or on the fabric of the building. The special qualities and the significance of the building will be unknown to many who are employed to work in or on it, and the need for understanding stated in these policies needs to be communicated to those into whose care the building is being entrusted.

APPROPRIATE USES AND FEATURES

The Building's Management should arrange and monitor its accommodation so as to ensure appropriate uses and features are allocated to the historic areas.

Features which detract from the character of the building should be avoided.

REVIEW OF THE CONSERVATION POLICIES

The Building's Management should review the Conservation Policies from time to time and to adapt them, or to add new policies, as the case may be, so as to ensure that they remain comprehensive and relevant.

ROOFS

New roof coverings should respect the design and materials of the original roof to reinstate and protect the visual formal integrity of the building.

INTERNAL WALLS - BRICKWORK

Where historic brickwork survives with its original mortar joints this should wherever possible be retained including any surface finish.

Previous blocked openings or repairs and other features should be retained.

EXTERNAL WALLS – STONEWORK

Sandstone walls, tooling and carved details shall be properly maintained and repaired.

The stonework shall be maintained and repaired using traditional and reversible techniques of conservation allowing as much of the original fabric to remain as possible, preserving intact throatings and weatherings to prevent staining and erosion. Where soiling is damaging the stonework this should be removed but otherwise stone cleaning should only be carried out if it can be done without causing any damage to the existing surface finish. Careful consideration should be given to proposals for sacrificial and reversible surface coatings.

EXTERNAL PAVING

External paving steps and other original or early hard landscaping features should be retained and conserved. New surface accretions should respect the character of the original.

The Museum has little by way of original external landscape features, but detailed consideration should be given as to the design of new features and surface finishes around the building to ensure they are complimentary and of appropriate quality. Alterations to the boundary wall should be considered in this context.

HISTORIC DOORS, DOOR FRAMES AND IRONMONGERY

Historic doors and their frames of particular quality or significance should be retained in use as far as is practicable and any modifications or upgrading shall be discreet and where possible reversible.

All the original doors (of any of the primary phases) and frames, where extant, should be retained and conserved.

HISTORIC WINDOWS

Historic windows and their associated architectural details of particular significance should be retained wherever possible.

Original diamond pattern iron casements to match the original patterns could be reinstated where sufficient evidence exists to substantiate its design and no ironwork is retained from the major phases of redevelopment. Where it does not it may be appropriate to introduce modern designs created using traditional techniques which would lend an honesty to these new windows whilst respecting the adjacent fabric.

Cylinder glass adds character and ‘sparkle’ to the windows both from inside and outside. All new glazing within original frames should use this type of glass.

Proposals for double or secondary glazing must be particularly closely scrutinised because this will alter the character of the window, not only because of the additional frame or the alterations required to the window, but also because of the double reflection which results when viewed from the outside. Secondary glazing of historic windows wherever possible should therefore be avoided, but where this is necessary, it should be designed to be reversible and to have a minimum impact upon the historic building fabric and character. Fixings should not cause permanent damage and the glazing design should reduce any double reflection to a minimum.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

In providing for universal access to all parts of the Building ensure that equipment or modification is integrated sensitively into the architecture.

Legislation now requires convenient access to be provided for all to most parts of the building, for visitors and staff alike. In areas of architectural significance, and in all public areas, this must be achieved sensitively.

Any installation to aid mobility of disabled persons, from wheelchair users to those with walking difficulties and the partially sighted may involve a permanent change to the building, and care must be taken to integrate the alterations with sensitivity. Wherever possible the new equipment should be installed in such a way as to avoid compromising the architectural fabric.

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Further Research and Investigation

The internal finishes of the building are not well understood, any project should allow for a full programme of paint analysis, especially to those areas noted of being of particular historical interest in the plan.

It is not known whether the magazine was constructed, any work should allow time for investigation into the area where it may have stood.

Project objectives and Programme

The objectives of the planned conservation and redevelopment project should take full account of the policy guidance given in this plan. The programme for any works to the building should allow for review and reconsideration of the guidance if further research and investigation results in a change in conservation philosophy.

Adoption

The Wrexham County Borough Council should formally adopt the conservation policy in the plan.

Funding

Any planned funding for works to the building should allow for carrying out the aims and objectives of the conservation plan and for a review of the conservation plan.

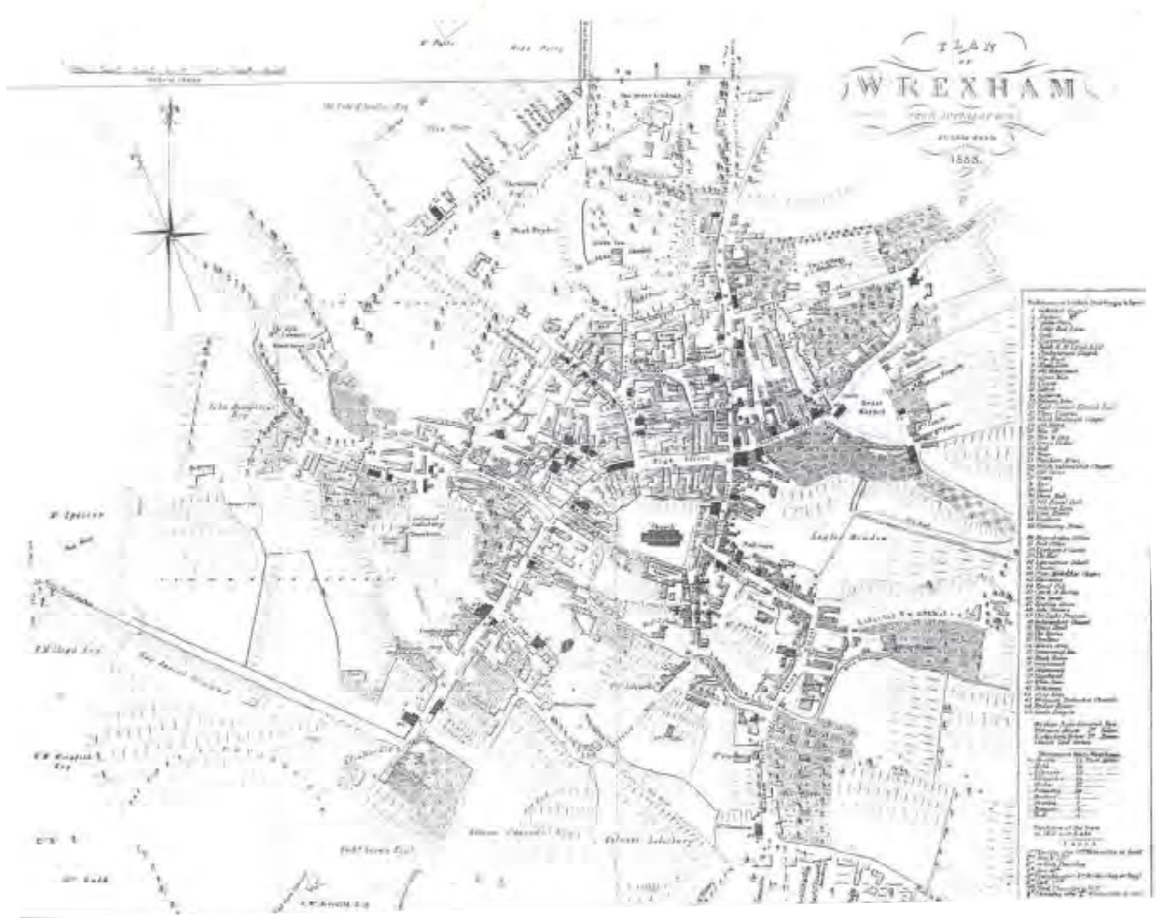
Monitoring and Review

The conservation plan is a living document and there should be regular monitoring and review of its aims and objectives. The period for such review shall be agreed by the owners and management of the building.

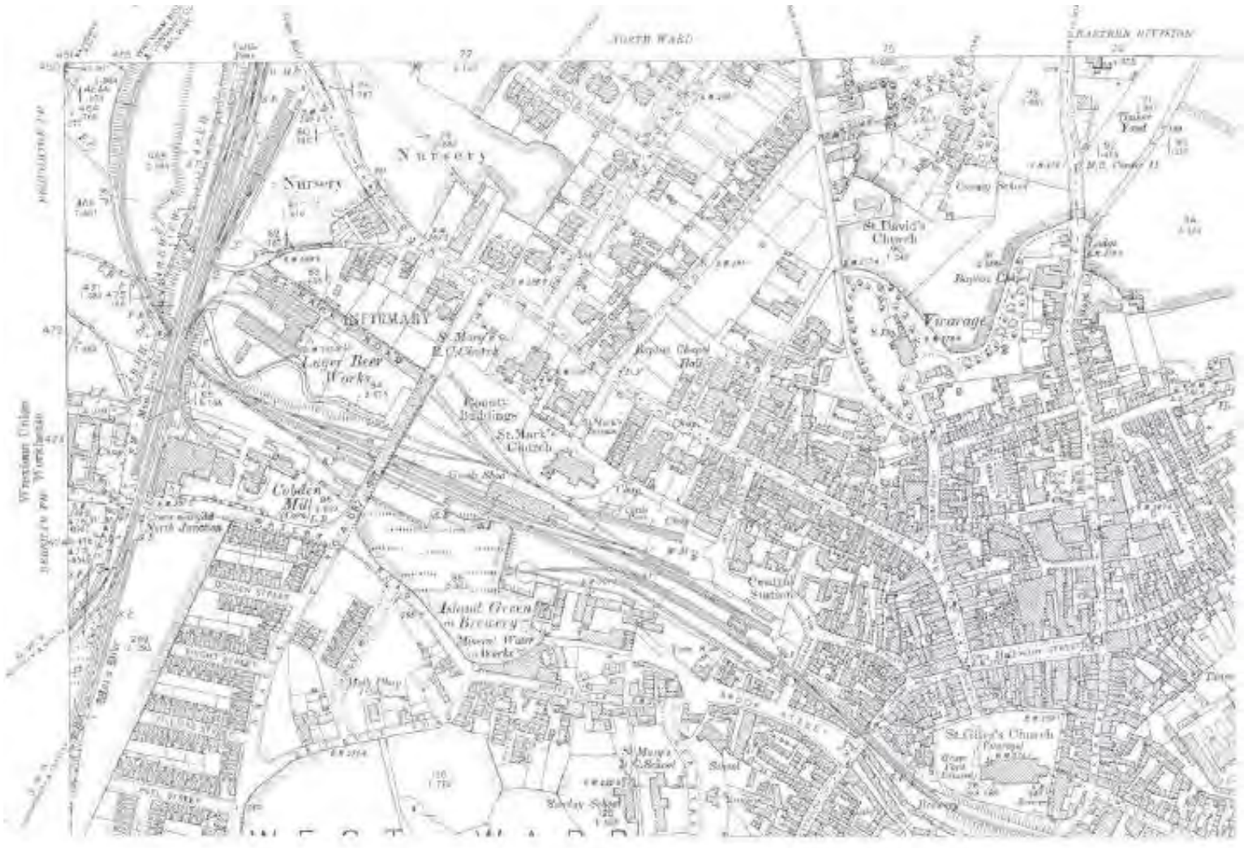
Wrexham County Borough Museum
Conservation Plan

A. Historic Maps

i. 1833
ii. 1873
iii. 1875
iv. 1899
v. 1912
vi. 1937



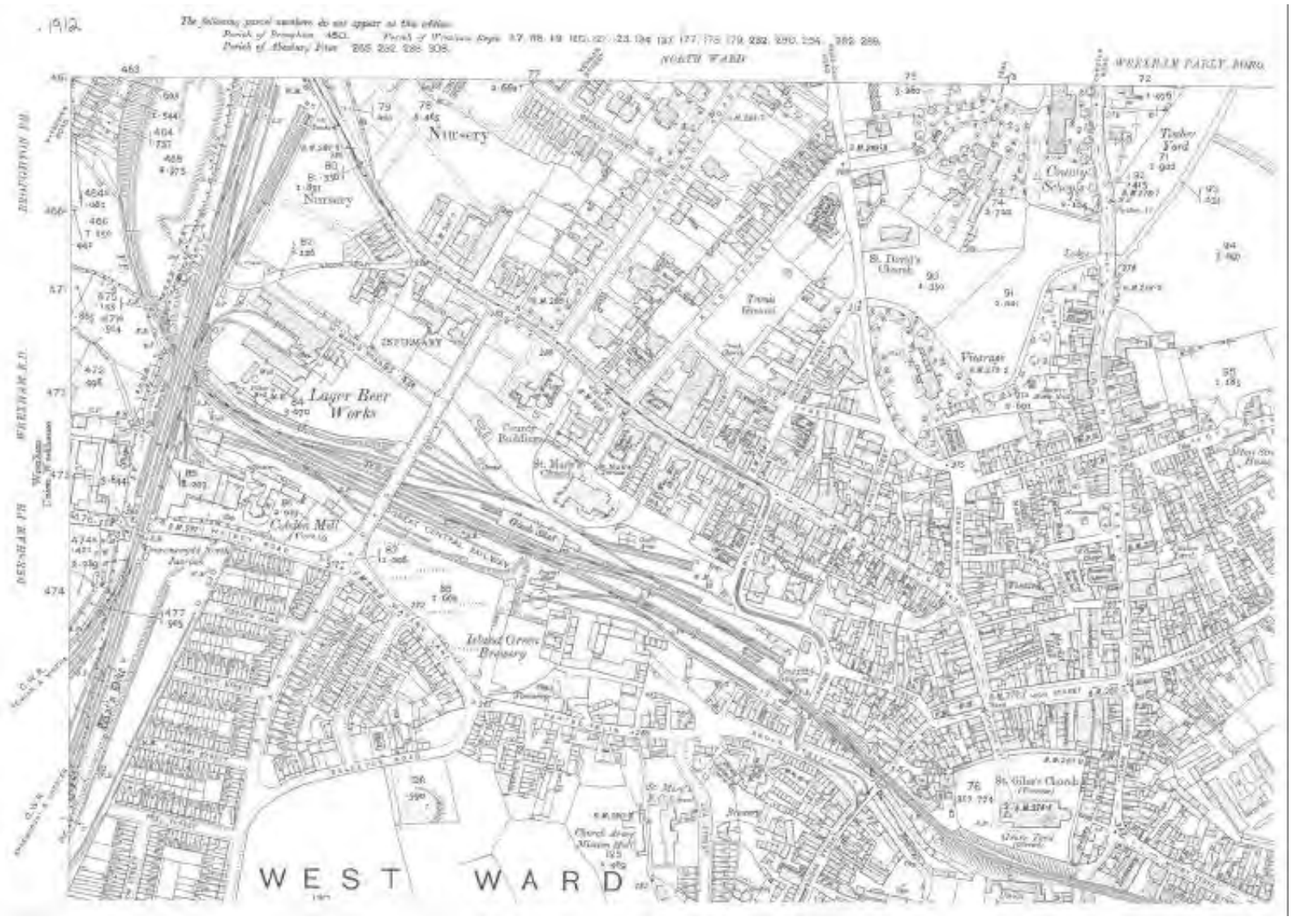
Map 01 - Wrexham 1833



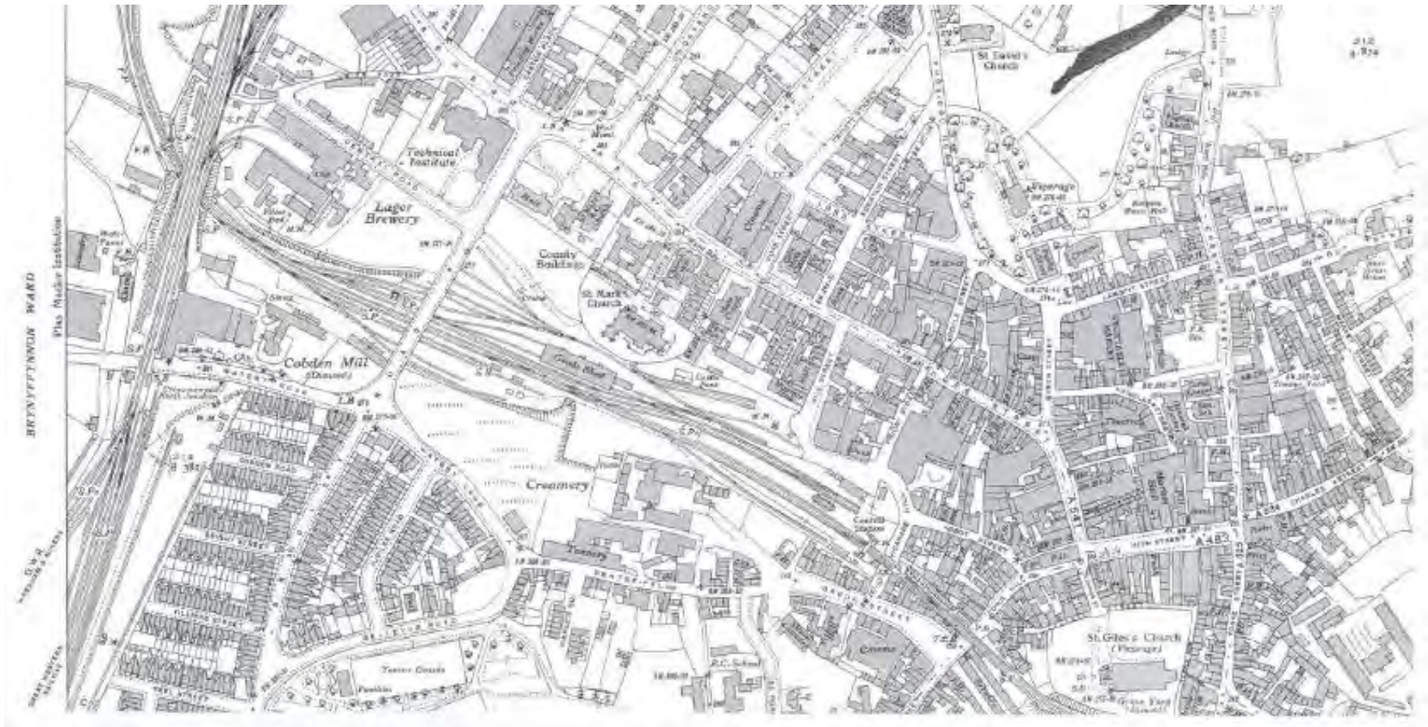
Map 02 – Wrexham 1899



Map 03 - Wrexham 1873



Map 04 - Wrexham 1912



Map 05 - Wrexham 1937

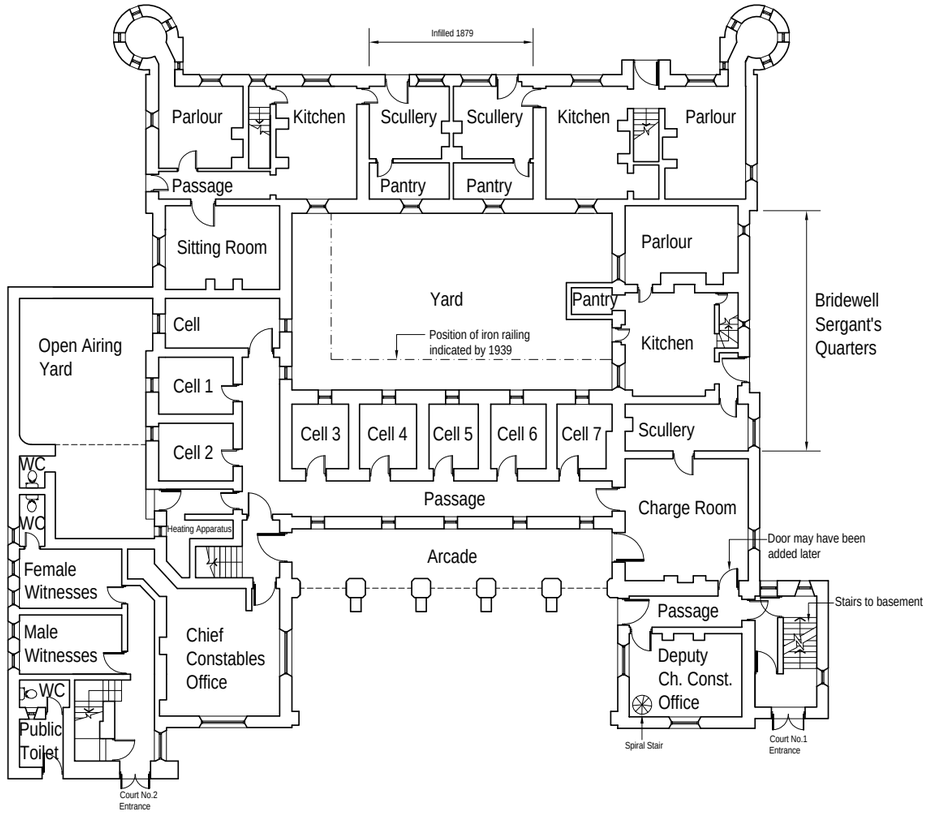


Map 06 - Extract from 1875

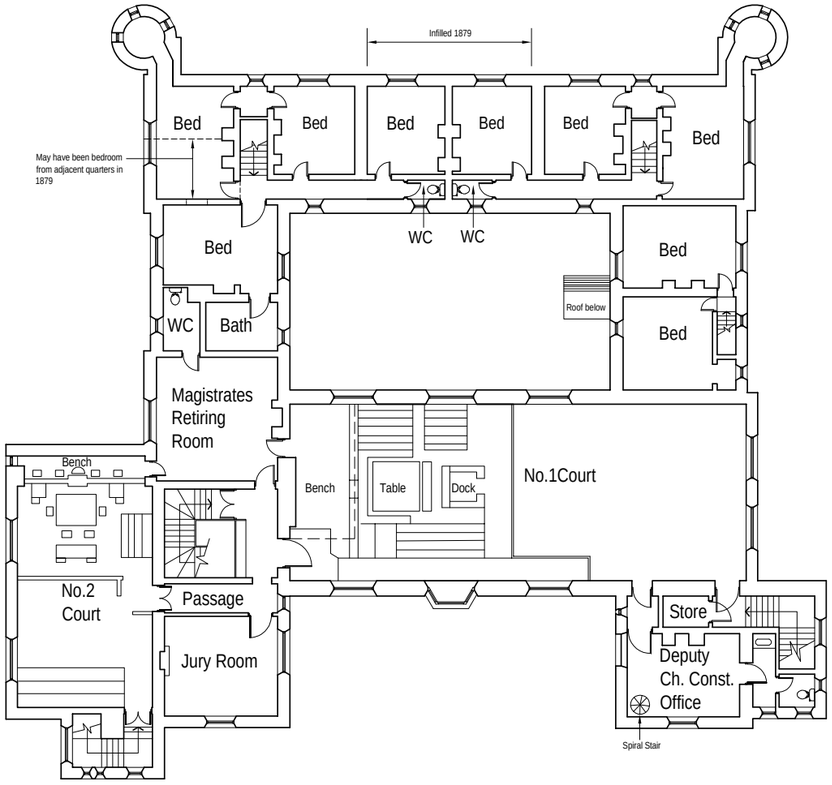
Wrexham County Borough Museum
Conservation Plan

B. Historic Floor Plans

i. 1857
ii. 1896
iii. 1967
iv. 2005
v. Construction Dates of Existing Fabric.



1896 Ground Floor Plan



1896 First Floor Plan

WORK IN PROGRESS

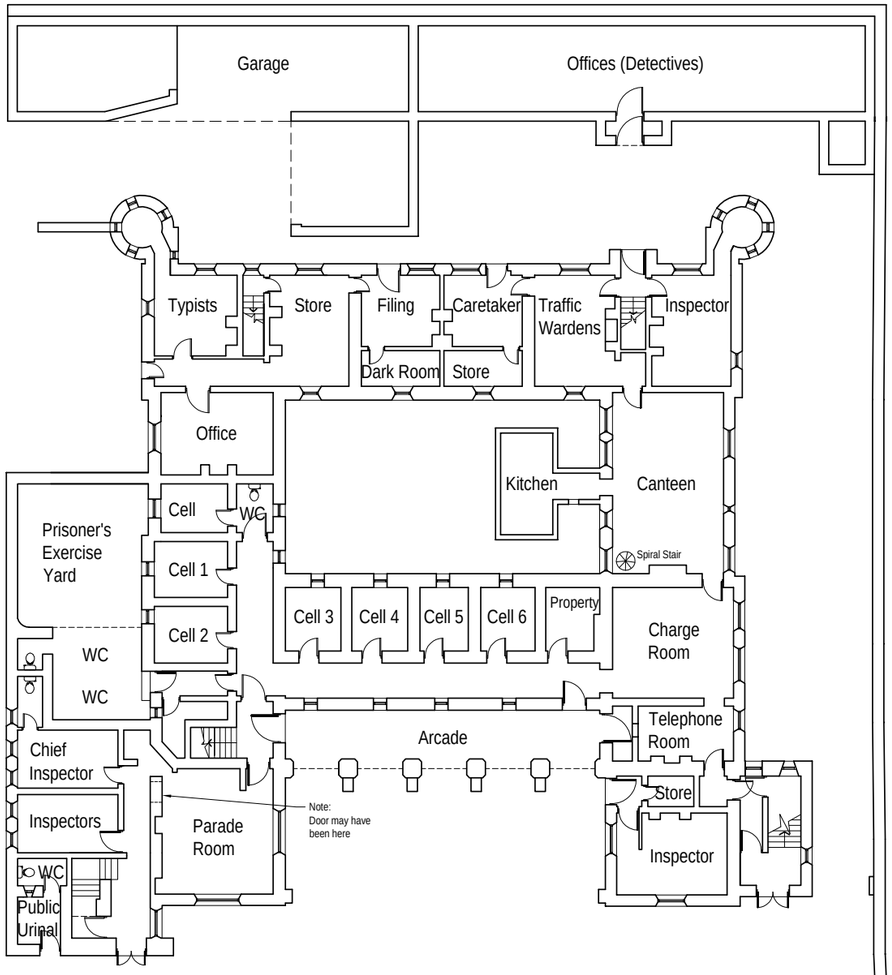
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PROJECT: Wrexham Museum	DRAWN: MM	CHECKED: RC
DRAWING TITLE: 1896 Ground and First Floor Plans	JOB NUMBER: **230503**	DRAWING NO.: **002** REVISION

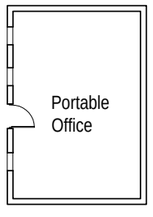
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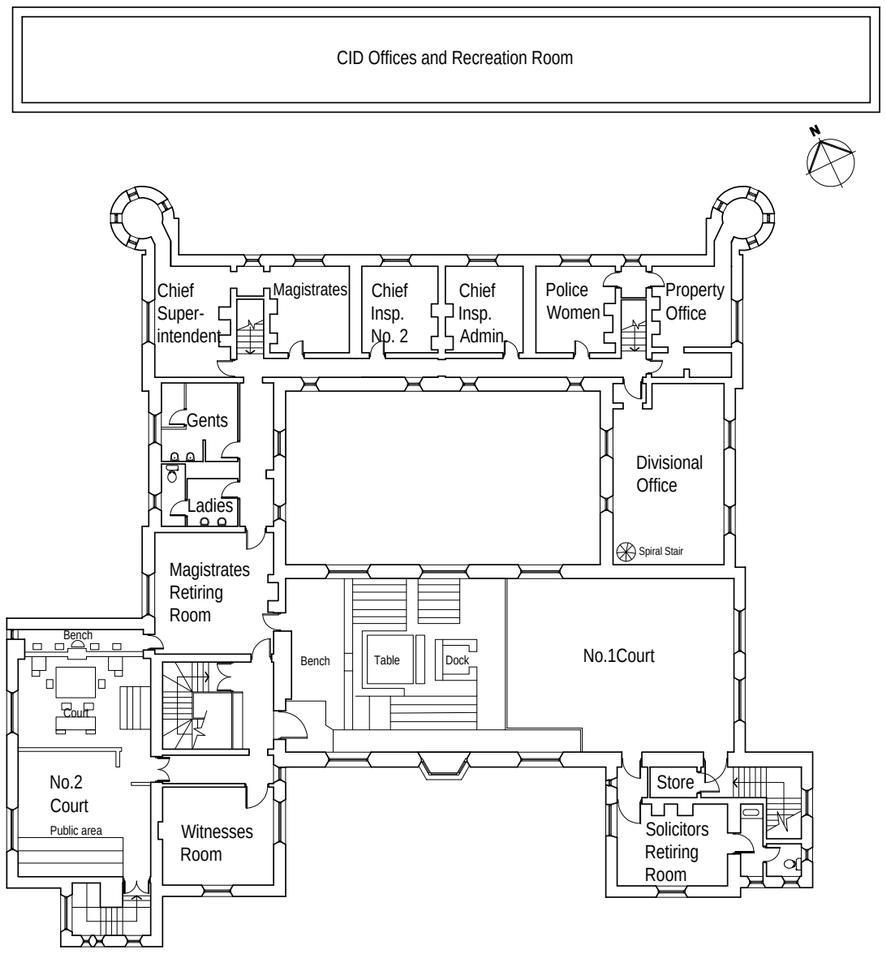
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PURCELL MILLER TRITTON



1967 Ground Floor Plan





1967 First Floor Plan

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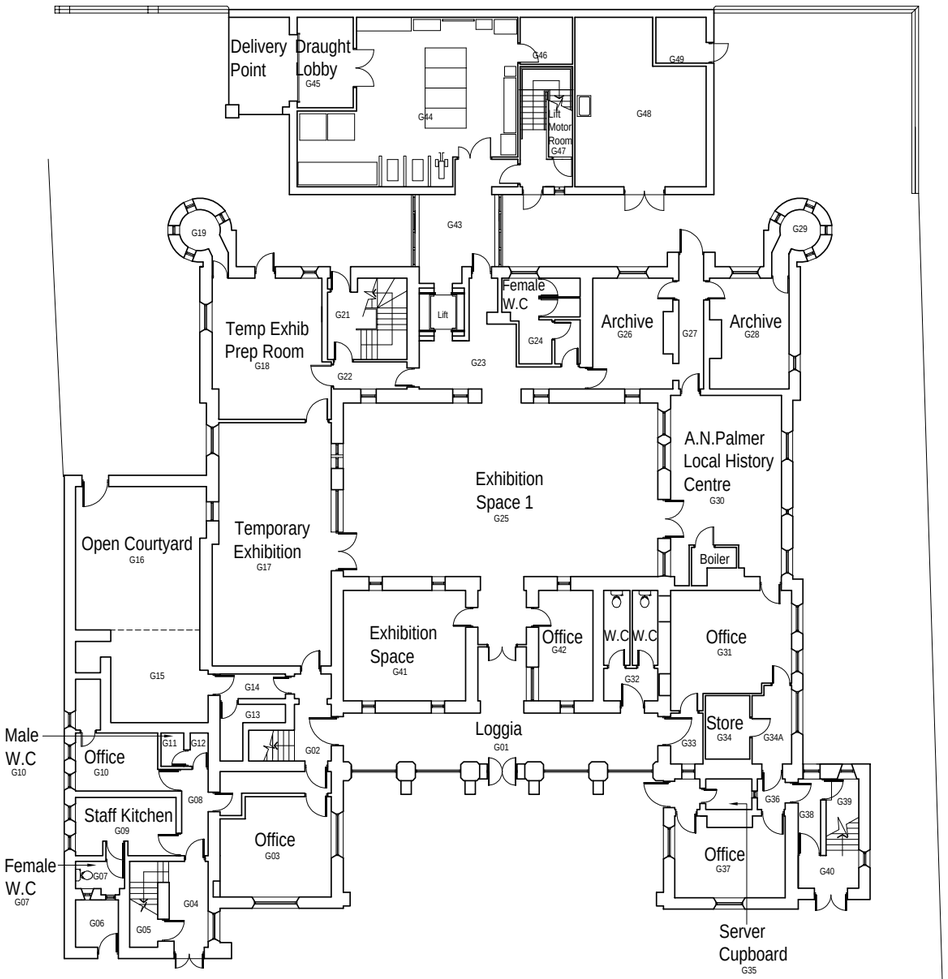
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DRAWING TITLE: 1967 Ground and First Floor Plans	JOB NUMBER: 230503	DRAWING NO.: 003
		REVISION: -

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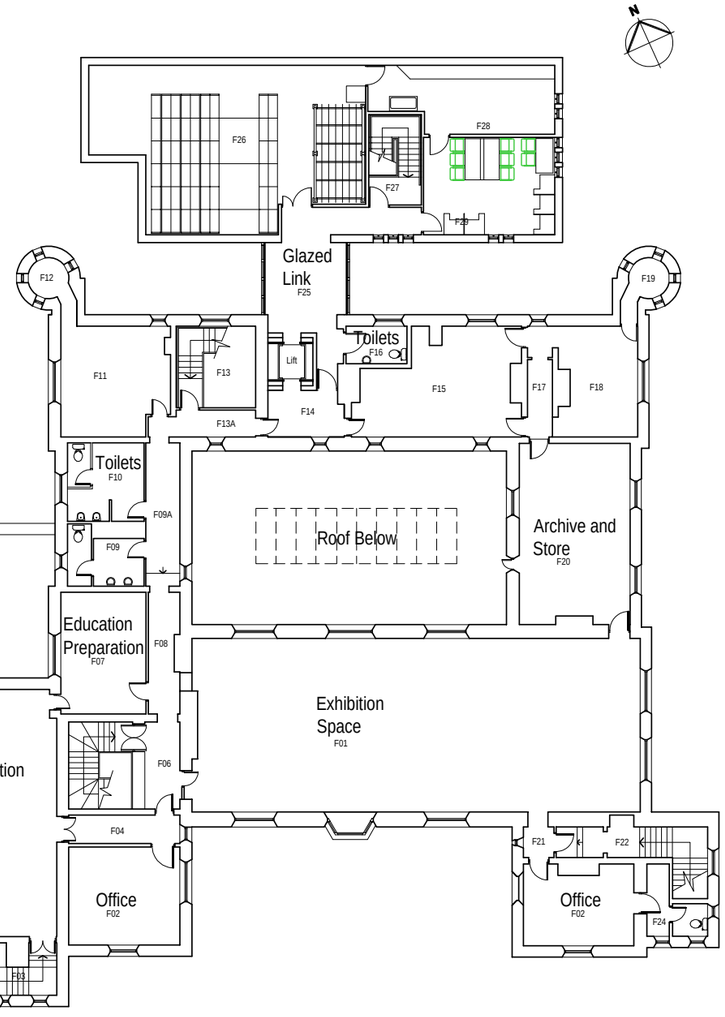
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PURCELL MILLER TRITTON



Ground Floor Plan 2005



First Floor Plan 2005

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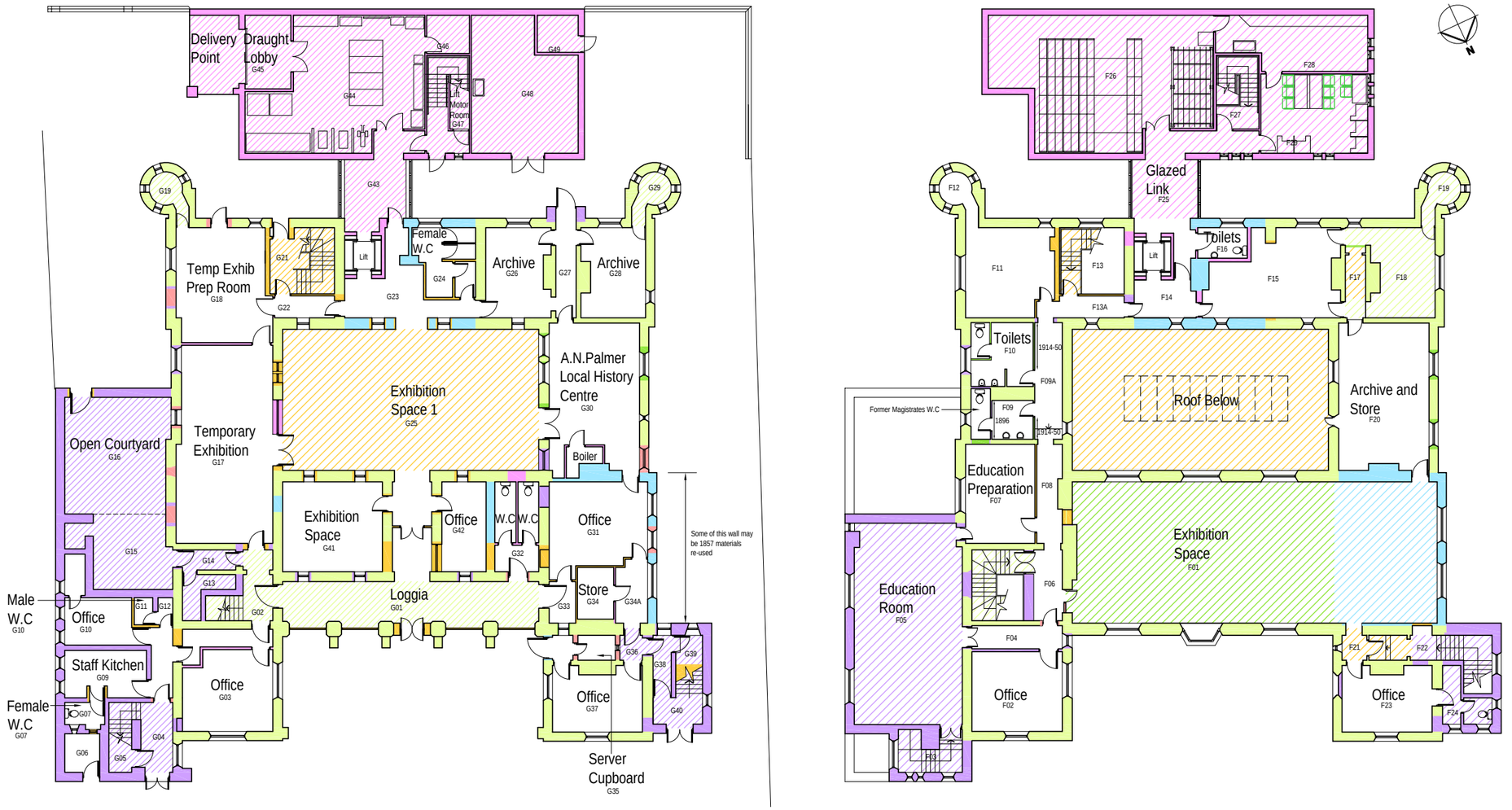
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DATE: 16/02/2005
PROJECT: Wrexham Museum
DRAWN: MM
CHECKED:
DRAWING TITLE: Ground and First Floor Plans as Existing
JOB NUMBER: 230503
DRAWING NO.: 004
REVISION: -

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PURCELL MILLER TRITTON



Key

- Militia 1857 - 1878
- Court (1) 1879 - 1896
- Court (2) 1896 - 1914
- Police I 1914 - 1950
- Police II 1950 - 1978
- Aston College 1978 - 1995 (including immediately subsequent uses)
- Wrexham Museum 1996 - 2005

Note:
Hatching colour to floor refers to an original (as hatched) date finish being in situ and visible

WORK IN PROGRESS

REVISION	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION

CLIENT: Wrexham CBC
PROJECT: Wrexham Museum
DRAWING TITLE: Historical Plan
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DRAWN: MM
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Wrexham County Borough Museum
Conservation Plan

C. Photographic Schedule

WREXHAM MUSEUM APPENDIX C - General Views

NO.	TITLE Wrexham Exterior'	PROVENANCE	DATE ISSUED
1	Satellite and Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
2	Satellite and Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
3	Satellite and Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
4	Elevation of Ct. 1	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
5	Gate Pier	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
6	Overview from Car Park	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
7	Central Roof Area	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
8	Central Roof Area	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
9	External of Exercise Yd.	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
10	Satellite and Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
11	Satellite and Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
12	External of Exercise Yd.	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
13	Satellite Building	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
14	East Elevation - Ct 2.	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
15	East Elevation - Ct 2.	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
16	External of Exercise Yd.	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
17	Wall Junction	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
18	Entrance Front	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
19	Court 2 Entrance	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
20	Court 1 Entrance	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
21	Entrance Front	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
22	Entrance Front	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
23	Entrance Front	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
24	Entrance Front	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
25	Court 1 Entrance	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
26	Court 1 Entrance	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
27	Former Basement Entrance	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
28	Air-raid Siren	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
29	West Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
30	Satellite and Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
31	West Elevation - detail	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
32	Tower	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
33	Tower - detail	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
34	Tower and Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
35	Satellite Building	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
36	South East corner	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
37	Court 2 Entrance	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05

WREXHAM MUSEUM APPENDIX C - General Views

NO.	TITLE	PROVENANCE	DATE ISSUED
38	Former W.C.	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
39	Loggia	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
40	Front Courtyard	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
41	Side Gate	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
42	Porch to Rear Elevation	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
43	Rear Elevation/Glazed Link	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05

WREXHAM MUSEUM APPENDIX C - Historic Views.

Historic Views

NO.	TITLE Archive'	PROVENANCE	DATE ISSUED
1	Police outside c.1910	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
2	Cutaway drawing 1896	Wrexham Museum	May-05
3	Cutaway drawing 1857	Wrexham Museum	May-05
4	Recruits c.1914	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
5	County Buildings c.1900	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
6	Police outside c.1950	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
7	Police outside c. 1878	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
8	View from Regent Street c.1910	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
9	Police outside c.1910	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
10	Police outside c.1900	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
11	View c.1863	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
12	View from Regent Street c.1910	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05
13	Wide view looking South c. 1870	Wrexham Museum/Denighshire R.O.	May-05

APPENDIX C : SPACE BY SPACE - GROUND FLOOR

NO.	TITLE Ground Floor	PROVENANCE	DATE ISSUED
1	Step into G39	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
2	Beam Above G15	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
3	Staircase G21	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
4	Window G34A	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
5	Arch between G04/08	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
6	Ceiling G09	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
7	G01	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
8	Fireplace G03	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
9	Panelling G03	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
10	Ceiling/Soffit G15	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
11	External G16	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
12	Copper' G13	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
13	Glass Roof G13	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
14	Staircase G02	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
15	Staircase G02	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
16	Entrance Doors to G04	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
17	Arch to G04	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
18	Entrance Doors to G04	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
19	Window G04	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
20	Dry-rot treatment G13	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
21	Staircase Detail G02	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
22	Temp Exhibition Gallery G17	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
23	Door between G30/27	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
24	Entrance Doors to G40	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
25	Staircase to G40	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
26	Bell to G01	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
27	Door between G01/33	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
28	Door between G01/02	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
29	Former Landing to G27	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
30	Line of staircase to G27	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
31	Damp staining to G18	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
32	Office G31	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05

APPENDIX C : SPACE BY SPACE - FIRST FLOOR

NO.	TITLE First Floor'	PROVENANCE	DATE ISSUED
1	F15	Purcell Miller and Tritton	Oct-03
2	F17	Purcell Miller and Tritton	Oct-03
3	Roof to F01	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
4	F01 General View	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
5	F01 General View	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
6	Corbel to F01	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
7	Heating Pipes to F01	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
8	Cistern above F08	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
9	Corridor F09A	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
10	Cast Iron Casment to F09	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
11	Cistern above F09	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
12	Fireplace to F02	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
13	Truss to F02	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
14	Education Prep F07	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
15	Window to F18	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
16	Window to F18	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
17	Roof void above F11	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
18	Roof void above F11	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
19	Roof void above F11	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
20	Screen to F06	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
21	Educ (Ct 2) F05	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
22	F07	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05
23	Fireplace to F15	Purcell Miller and Tritton	May-05


Wrexham Ground (1)


Wrexham Ground (10)


Wrexham Ground (11)


Wrexham Ground (12)


Wrexham Ground (13)


Wrexham Ground (14)


Wrexham Ground (15)


Wrexham Ground (16)


Wrexham Ground (17)


Wrexham Ground (18)


Wrexham Ground (19)


Wrexham Ground (2)


Wrexham Ground (20)


Wrexham Ground (21)


Wrexham Ground (22)


Wrexham Ground (23)


Wrexham Ground (24)


Wrexham Ground (25)


Wrexham Ground (26)


Wrexham Ground (27)


Wrexham Ground (28)


Wrexham Ground (29)


Wrexham Ground (3)


Wrexham Ground (30)


Wrexham Ground (31)


Wrexham Ground (32)


Wrexham Ground (4)


Wrexham Ground (5)


Wrexham Ground (6)


Wrexham Ground (7)


Wrexham Ground (8)



Wrexham Ground (9)


Wrexham First (1)


Wrexham First (10)


Wrexham First (11)


Wrexham First (12)


Wrexham First (13)

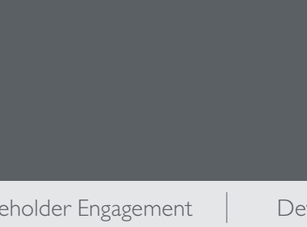

Wrexham First (14)

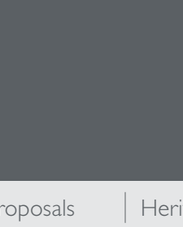

Wrexham First (15)


Wrexham First (16)


Wrexham First (17)


Wrexham First (18)


Wrexham First (19)


Wrexham First (2)


Wrexham First (20)


Wrexham First (21)


Wrexham First (22)


Wrexham First (23)


Wrexham First (3)


Wrexham First (4)


Wrexham First (5)


Wrexham First (6)


Wrexham First (7)


Wrexham First (8)


Wrexham First (9)


Wrexham Exterior (1)


Wrexham Exterior (10)


Wrexham Exterior (11)


Wrexham Exterior (12)


Wrexham Exterior (13)


Wrexham Exterior (14)


Wrexham Exterior (15)


Wrexham Exterior (16)


Wrexham Exterior (17)


Wrexham Exterior (18)


Wrexham Exterior (19)


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Wrexham Exterior (39)


Wrexham Exterior (4)


Wrexham Exterior (40)


Wrexham Exterior (41)


Wrexham Exterior (42)


Wrexham Exterior (43)


Wrexham Exterior (5)


Wrexham Exterior (6)


Wrexham Exterior (7)


Wrexham Exterior (8)


Wrexham Exterior (9)


Archive (1)


Archive (10)


Archive (11)


Archive (2)


Archive (3)


Archive (4)


Archive (5)


Archive (6)


Archive (7)


Archive (8)


Archive (9)


Archive

D. References and Bibliography

Wrexham County Borough Museum
Conservation Plan

Select Bibliography & Archival Sources

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D/NH/1111- 1114	Miscellaneous papers re: militia in Denbighshire
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QSD/AM/1	Mortgage
QSD/AM/2	Tenders for contract to building Militia Depot
QSD/AM/3	Contract for building depot
QSD/AM/4	First Floor Plan – Militia Depot Wrexham 1877 R. Lloyd Williams. Arch. Denbigh 1877
QSD/AM/4 (ii)	Elevation A.B. Military Depot Wrexham. Ground plan. (no date, no artist).
QSD/AM/5	Plans for conversion to Police Barracks R. Lloyd Williams Denbigh Jan. 1878
	Proposed Alterations for converting Militia Depot, Wrexham to Police Barracks 1878 – 9. First floor plan

DRO/CD/A/15 Denbighshire County Council, Wrexham County Buildings. Ground Floor, First Floor. Walter D. Wiles, County Architect.. April 1939.

QSD/SR/562	Michaelmas Quarter Sessions 1854
DD/2/6	Letter re:use of cutlass
DD/9A/1095	no ref. to content
DD/9A/1090	no ref. to content

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Mainwaring	(1899) Notes on the Militia of North Wales Bye-Gones Relating to Col. CS Wales and the Border Counties 1899 – 1900 April p.75
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UK Fortifications Club Military Structures Database

Consultees

Jonathan Gammond - Wrexham County Borough Museum
Denbigh Record Office, Ruthin
Conservation Officer, Anna Irwin - Wrexham County Borough Council

Wrexham County Borough Museum
Conservation Plan

Wrexham County Borough Museum
Conservation Plan

E. Listing Description.

Community: Offa — Grade: II

Street: Regent Street (S side) — Date First Listed: 15/06/90

Name/Number: Former County Buildings — Cadw Ref: 16/A/73(3)

NG Ref: SJ 3318 5045

Occupying a large site between Saint Mark's Road and Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral on W side of town centre. Set to rear of extensive forecourt.

History: Built as militia barracks 1857-8 to the designs of the younger Tomas Penson, architect and surveyor. Converted c1879 to a divisional police station and magistrates court, and extended in the 1890's. Latterly used as council offices and art college annexe.

Exterior: Roughly coursed and squared stone with freestone dressings and steep slate roofs, with coped gables and axial and end wall stacks with chamfered shafts. Tudor gothic style, a courtyard plan with 2 storey, 5-bay entrance front flanked by advanced gabled ranges to either side. Central gable over main entrance in loggia (now glazed) comprising 5 bays of chamfered depressed gothic arches sprung between dwarf buttresses. 4-light oriel window with leaded roof over entrance, flanked by 3-light windows each side, all with mullions and transoms. Lower gabled wings similarly detailed: the right hand gable is advanced from the main range and houses entrance to No 1 court in its own gabled rear wing. Left hand range clasps the outer angle of the main front, and has a further rear wing, parallel to the main range. Projecting stair tower to No. 2 court at angle of the 2 ranges: Chamfered buttressed tower, with deep moulded arched doorway, the staircase expressed under a sloping, embattled roofline with stepped windows, to the left; the tower terminates in octagonal turret with miniature crenellations around slate spirelet with openwork crown and weather vane. Wide gabled returns each side, then rear wings and lower gabled rear cross range. Circular turrets at rear angles with window loops and conical roofs.

Interior: Original layout modified since 1980 by the enlargement of some rooms, the creation of circulation space, and the enclosing of the courtyard.

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WREXHAM MUSEUM
ADDENDUM TO CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

ISSUE 02

NOVEMBER 2021

PURCELL

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WREXHAM MUSEUM: ADDENDUM TO CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION 04
1.1 Authorship 04
1.2 Aim of this Report 04

2.0 SUMMARY OF HISTORIC BACKGROUND 05

3.0 SIGNIFICANCE 08
3.1 Statement of Significance 10

4.0 LEGISLATIVE GUIDANCE 13
4.1 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) and the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (2013) 13
4.2 National Planning Policy 13
4.3 Local Planning Policy 13

5.0 CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK 14
5.1 The Conservation Philosophy for Managing Change at Wrexham Museum 14
5.2 Issues and Opportunities 14
5.3 Preserving and Enhancing Setting 14
5.4 Maximising Usable Space 16
5.5 History of the Site 17
5.6 Circulation, Access and Entrances 18
5.7 Condition and Maintenance 20
5.8 Ensuring a Heritage Approach 20
5.9 Adoption and Review 21
5.10 Summary of Policies 21

APPENDICES 26
Appendix A: Listing Description 26

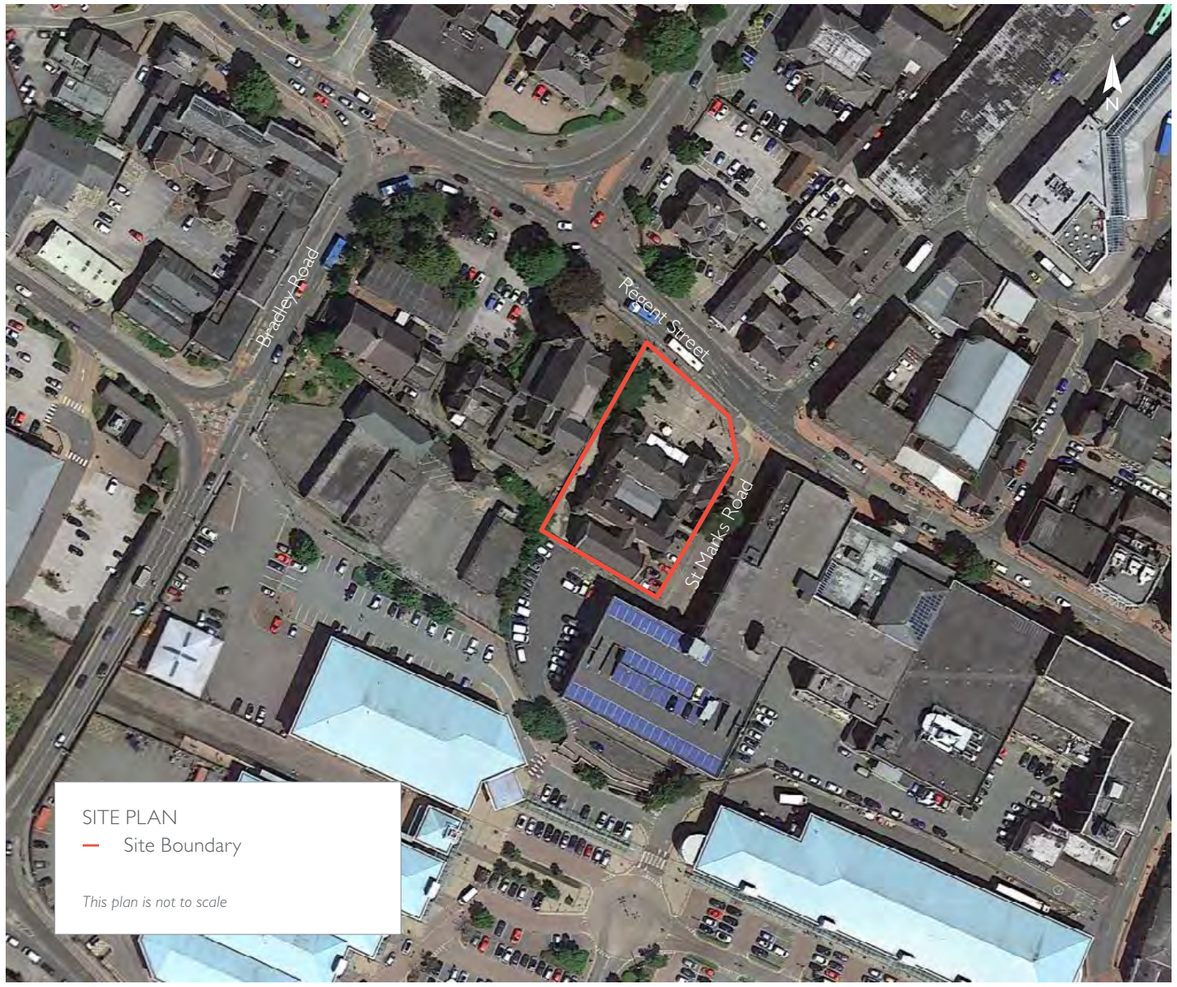
SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION

1.1 AUTHORSHIP

This document has been prepared by Purcell, a firm of conservation architects and heritage consultants, specialising in the conservation of the historic environment. Specifically, it has been prepared by Mark Clifford (Bsc. (Hons), MA, IHBC).

1.2 AIM OF THIS REPORT

This report is intended as an addendum and in support of the existing conservation plan (2005). It provides a review and update on significance, local and national planning policy and an update to the conservation framework.



SECTION 2.0
SUMMARY OF HISTORIC BACKGROUND

For a detailed historic background to the building see the conservation plan dated 2005

The majority of what are now known as the County Buildings were built as a depot for Denbighshire Militia in 1857. In 1879 the militia moved to a new barracks at Hightown, Wrexham and the building was converted to a county court and a police station. A second court and new entrances were added in 1896.

The police moved to a new Divisional Headquarters at Bodhyfryd in 1976 and the Magistrates court was moved to new premises at Bodhyfryd in 1977. The County Buildings were then used by Wrexham Citizens Advice Bureau and subsequently taken over by Aston College Art Department.

In 1995 Wrexham Maelor Borough Council took over the building and in 1996 the Wrexham County Borough Museum was opened. Subsequently the building has undergone a programme of repair and in 1997 the satellite building was added to the Museum partially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

1833
Plan of Wrexham by John Wood showing the area where Wrexham Barracks were subsequently built belonging to Sir W.W. Wynn Bart. Regent Street is not shown and was described as the 'road from Mold'. The town was populated by 5,500 people at this time.

1852
The Militia Act came into force with improvements to conditions of service including voluntary recruitment, a cash bounty for a five year contract and 21 days training a year.

1854
Michaelmas Quarter Sessions for the County of Denbigh record notice from Robert Myddelton Biddulph Esquire, Lord Lieutenant of the County and Colonel Commandant of the Militia stating plans for new barracks to be submitted to the Clerk of the Peace. Land was purchased adjacent to Regent Street from Thomas Bury. The plans were drawn up by Thomas Penson, the County Surveyor of Denbighshire (QSD/SR/562). The schedule of works and materials brief for the building are very detailed covering the exact timbers, tiling, brickworks and paintwork used for doors, panelling and floors.

1855
Artillery Barracks built at Ipswich to fortified plan by R M Phipson- Illustrated London News 17.2.1855

1855
Contract signed 3rd September between Joseph Peers, Clerk of the Peace for the County of Denbighshire and builders Ebenezer Thomas and John Thomas (QSD/AM/3).

1856
140 troops from Wrexham deployed in quelling rioting miners from Wrexham area.

1857
Wrexham and Denbighshire Advertiser 13th June, reported that the new Militia Barracks was almost complete. The building, constructed in Cefn Mawr sandstone, had the appearance of a fort. The towers at each corner, proposed bullet proof shutters and moat (not executed) give some indication of the desire for the building to appear commanding, given nervousness regarding the war with Russia, political insurgency from the Chartists aims for 'one man one vote' and industrial unrest at local collieries. The forecourt was also used by the Denbighshire Militia band as a venue for public entertainment. The Denbighshire Yeomanry Cavalry used one of the towers as a store.

1857
A canon from Russia was presented to Wrexham by the Secretary of State for War to commemorate those who fought in the Crimean War (although residents had to fund transportation from Woolwich Arsenal to Wrexham).

1857
St. Mary's Cathedral, The Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows was built as a Parish Church adjacent to the site of Wrexham Militia Depot. The church was founded by Richard Thompson and built by Edward Welby Pugin the son of the celebrated architect Augustus Welby Pugin.

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC BACKGROUND

1863
The canon was fired to salute the marriage of Prince Edward (King Edward VII). The earliest photograph of the building shows it decorated to mark the wedding of Prince Edward to Princess Alexandra - the full details are provided in the Wrexham Advertiser.

1868
Wrexham granted its own Commission of the Peace

1873
OS 25'' scale In contrast to the fields shown on Woods plan, 'Regent Street' is shown with buildings on either side. The Militia Barracks stand adjacent to St. Mary's R.C. Chapel and almost opposite 'King Street', a residential road. Gardens lie across the side street east of the barracks.

1874
The 50'' scale edition of the OS shows greater detail of the barrack layout. The entrance from Regent Street is at an angle with the wall angled in towards the gates. The barracks are divided into Sergeant Major's quarter and Sergeant's Quarters on the west wing, a store and general room in the central wing, Orderly Room, cells and Quarter Master Sergeant's Quarters in the east wing. A second entrance to the barracks is located at the south end of the east boundary. A number of small service buildings range along the south boundary wall.

1876
Wrexham Art and Industry Exhibition. At the time of the exhibition there were many thriving industries in the town including, machinery manufacturers, leather works and tanneries.

1877
The Militia were moved to new barracks in Wrexham at Hightown where they joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The old barracks were converted for the Court of Petty Sessions and Police Headquarters and renamed County Buildings. The buildings also provided accommodation for married police officers and families.

1879
First session of the Magistrates Court was held in January. Complaints are made concerning the coldness and drafts in the court room from the very start. Reports in the Wrexham Advertiser.

1882
The miners in Moss Valley went on strike. The Police Constables were issued with cutlasses and eventually the militia were drafted in to help. The surviving cutlasses of the Denbighshire Constabulary are in the museum collection.

1885
The cannon was removed to Hightown Depot. (It was evidently returned as post 1896 photographs reveal it in-situ).

1885
The Tithe Wars took place when the Church of England caused great anger when they forced sales of farm goods belonging to non-conformists who objected to paying taxes to the Church.

1897
Proposal to demolish the County Building prior to building new Guildhall. Instead alterations were made including a second court and new public entrances. This changed the north façade of the building considerably as the pair of towers were removed and the east wing was added. The exercise yard dates from this period. The sycamore tree on St Mark's Road adjacent to the exercise wall was a specific requirement of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn.

1899
The barracks had undergone alterations by this time and were called 'County Buildings'. Both turrets at the north end are squared off. The survey shows an extension to the north end of the east wing that abuts the east boundary wall. A smaller extension is shown west of the west wing. The inner court of the barracks is enclosed at the south end by new structure which links the east and west wing. The inner court has a wall forming a corridor along the north and east sides. The service buildings along the south wall are also linked by a new structure which extends north towards the barrack complex. Walls are also shown linking the south west of the barracks to the service buildings and the east of the complex to the boundary wall.

1900
The population of Wrexham was over 15,000.

1912
The survey shows the introduction of a small structure linking the south-east turret to the boundary wall. Church House was built across the road to the east of the County Buildings.

1914
Upon the outbreak of the First World War the forecourt of

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC BACKGROUND

the County Buildings was used for military parades. All appeals against the decisions of the Military Tribunals of the Borough and Rural District of Wrexham were held at County Buildings (1916-18).

1937
The site has changed little since 1912 except from the addition of two small buildings in the north west corner of the courtyard. Coroner's inquests into the deaths of the 266 men killed in the Gresford Colliery Disaster (22.9.1934) finally held at County Buildings. Also the trial of the management for criminal negligence was heard at County Buildings attracting nationwide attention.

1940
A two story flat roofed building was added to the rear of the building to accommodate an ARP store. After the war the extension was divided for use by the CID and police garage facilities. This was demolished in 1997.

1960
The last resident, the Bridewell Sergeant, moved out of County Buildings. The OS shows changes to the footprint of the buildings. A structure has been introduced between the service buildings and the main County Building. Two small buildings have been added to the west corner of the courtyard.

1976
The police moved to the new Police Divisional Headquarters at Bodhyfryd.

1977
The Magistrates court was moved to new Magistrates Courts at Bodhyfryd.

c.1978
The County Buildings were used by Wrexham Citizens Advice Bureau and subsequently taken over by Aston College Art Department. The Art College enclosed the central courtyard to create a gallery space with the canteen facility and associated kitchen installed in Gallery 3 and Exhibition prep. The art college also installed an additional staircase on the south side of the building, which was removed in 2010 (the site of the toilets on the two floors).

1995
Wrexham Maelor Borough Council took over the County Buildings.

1996
Wrexham County Borough Museum was opened at the County Buildings on 30th September.

1997
The Satellite building was added to the Museum partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

1998
Opening of the Satellite extension

2001/02
Replacement of roof slates across County Buildings

2002-3
Conversion of disused south-west corner rooms ground floor to host Local Studies library. Modernisation of temporary gallery and conversion of disused canteen into exhibition prep space.

2005
Additional security measures to the building's windows to meet National Security Advisor's recommendations prior to hosting the Mold Cape loan, courtesy of the British Museum.

2010-11
Museum Makeover ground floor and glazed extension. Removal of former police station toilets and internal panelling on first floor.

2017
Installation of new seating, interpretation/exhibition stands, Brymbo Man sculpture and Acton Dog sculpture on museum forecourt, funded by the Landfill Tax.

SECTION 3.0
SIGNIFICANCE

Significance can be defined as the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The objective of understanding the heritage values of an historic asset and assessing its significance is to enable an authoritative statement of significance to be made, and allow for the effects of proposed changes to be evaluated. This demands the application of a systematic and consistent process, which is appropriate and proportionate in scope and depth to the decision to be made, or the purpose of the assessment. English Heritage's Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (2008) described in detail the family of heritage values and provides an extended explanation on assessing heritage significance. Cadw sees no reason to differ from this set of heritage values. The following provides a summary of these values and on managing change to historic assets.

Evidential value

This derives from those elements of an historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric. These may be visible and relatively easy to assess, or they may be buried below ground, under water or be hidden by later fabric. These remains provide the primary evidence for when and how an historic asset was made or built, what it was used for and how it has changed over time. The unrecorded loss of historic fabric represents the destruction of the primary evidence. Additional evidential values can be gained from documentary sources, pictorial records and archaeological archives or museum collections. To assess the significance of this aspect of an asset, all this evidence needs to be gathered in a systematic way and any gaps in the evidence identified.

Historical value

An historic asset might illustrate a particular aspect of past life or it might be associated with a notable family, person, event or movement. These illustrative or associative values of an historic asset may be less tangible than its evidential value but will often connect past people, events and aspects of life with the present. Of course the functions of an historic asset are likely to change over time and so the full range of changing historical values might not become clear until all the evidential values have been gathered together. Historical values are not so easily diminished by change as evidential values and are harmed only to the extent that adaptation has obliterated them or concealed them.

Aesthetic value

This derives from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from an historic asset. This might include the form of an historic asset, its external appearance and how it lies within its setting. It can be the result of conscious design or it might be a seemingly fortuitous outcome of the way in which an historic asset has evolved and been used over time, or it may be a combination of both. The form of an asset normally changes over time. Sometimes earlier pictorial records and written descriptions will be more powerful in many people's minds than what survives today. Some important viewpoints may be lost or screened, or access to them may be temporarily denied. To assess this aspect of an asset, again the evidence of the present and past form must be gathered systematically. This needs to be complemented by a thorough appreciation on site of the external appearance of an asset in its setting. Inevitably understanding the aesthetic value of an historic asset will be more subjective than the study of its evidential and historical values. Much of it will involve trying to express the aesthetic qualities or the relative value of different parts of its form or design. It is important to seek the views of others with a knowledge and appreciation of the historic asset on what they consider to be the significant aesthetic values.

Communal value

This derives from the meanings that an historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. It is closely linked to historical and aesthetic values but tends to have additional or specific aspects. Communal value might be commemorative or symbolic. For example, people might draw part of their identity or collective memory from an historic asset, or have emotional links to it. Such values often change over time and they may be important for remembering both positive and uncomfortable events, attitudes or periods in Wales's history. Historic assets can also have social value, acting as a source of social interaction, distinctiveness or coherence; economic value, providing a valuable source of income or employment; or they may have spiritual value, emanating from religious beliefs or modern perceptions of the spirit of a place.

SIGNIFICANCE

The levels of relative significance used to inform the assessment of significance in this heritage statement are as follows:

Very High Significance
Attributable to those themes, features, buildings or spaces which are the most valuable. These elements are considered to be essential to the understanding and appreciation of the place and are contributors to its overall character and setting, as well as its local, regional, national and international importance. Large scale alteration, removal or demolition should be strongly resisted.

High Significance
Attributable to a theme, feature, building or space which is has a high cultural value and forms an essential part of understanding the historic value of the site, while greatly contributing towards its character and setting, as well as its local, regional and national importance. Large scale alteration, removal or demolition should be strongly resisted.

Medium Significance
Attributable to a theme, feature, building or space which has some cultural importance and helps define the character and appearance of the site. These features are generally of local or regional value. Efforts should be made to retain features of this level if possible, though a greater degree of flexibility in terms of alteration would be possible.

Low Significance
Attributable to themes, features, buildings or spaces which have minor cultural importance and which might contribute to the character or appearance of the site. These features are generally of local value. A greater degree of alteration or removal would be possible than for items of high or medium significance, though a low value does not necessarily mean a feature is expendable.

Neutral Significance
Themes, spaces, buildings or features which have little or no cultural value and neither contribute to nor detract from the character or appearance of the site. Considerable alteration or change is likely to be possible.

Intrusive Significance
Themes, features or spaces which actually detract from the values of the site and its character and appearance. Efforts should be made to remove these features. The significance plans provide a level of significance for both the physical fabric and the spatial characteristics of internal areas.

SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wrexham County Borough Museum is a fine example of an increasingly rare building type being an 1850's militia barracks following the act of 1853. The equivalent militia depot for the Royal Flintshire Millitia in Flint was demolished. Although significantly altered in later periods, the basic plan of the 1850s barracks remains legible making the building of national importance as an example of its type. The period of construction also links the building to wider British military history and to the design of military architecture, upon which the influence of early barracks buildings such as these must not be underestimated. The militia themselves also have notable historical value having been used to quell riots and insurgence across Wales.

The buildings second use as Magistrate's Courts alters the layout and exterior design of the building as a fortified keep removing the two front turrets and building extensions that slightly unbalances the architectural design although these early alterations are themselves of high significance. Although a 19th century magistrates court is worthy of retention and is of national interest in its own right, giving the building further strong historical connections as the centre of the judicial system for the wider area. The retention, largely intact of the alterations and many of the fittings, albeit in storage, mean this is an interesting and relatively complete example of a provincial court.

Regent Street is one of the primary arterial routes into the town and the Museum, in conjunction with the adjacent cathedral and neo-classical infirmary, defines the approach to the town. Architecturally the building forms a strong addition to the streetscape of Wrexham in a prominent location in the town and an important group value comprising: the neighbouring Church of St Mary (grade II); the church boundary walls (grade II); the presbytery (grade II); numbers 1,3 and 5, 56, 58 and 60 Regent Street, King Street (grade II); and number 2 Grosvenor Road (grade II) all contributing to the combined setting. The main façade reads as an example of 19th century gothic with its turrets and castellations all surrounded by the stone boundary wall and it is an important contributor to the Grosvenor Road Conservation Area. It is one of the three surviving buildings of the mid-19th century 'west end' of Wrexham when the town expanded westwards.

The building is a fascinating blend of picturesque intent, pragmatic spatial planning, military functionality, and the contrast of this functionality with the later court alterations. Influences vary from the Tudor houses of the 16th century to the early pioneers of the picturesque such as Miller through to more contemporary influences from Salvin and the other 'barrack builders' of the period.

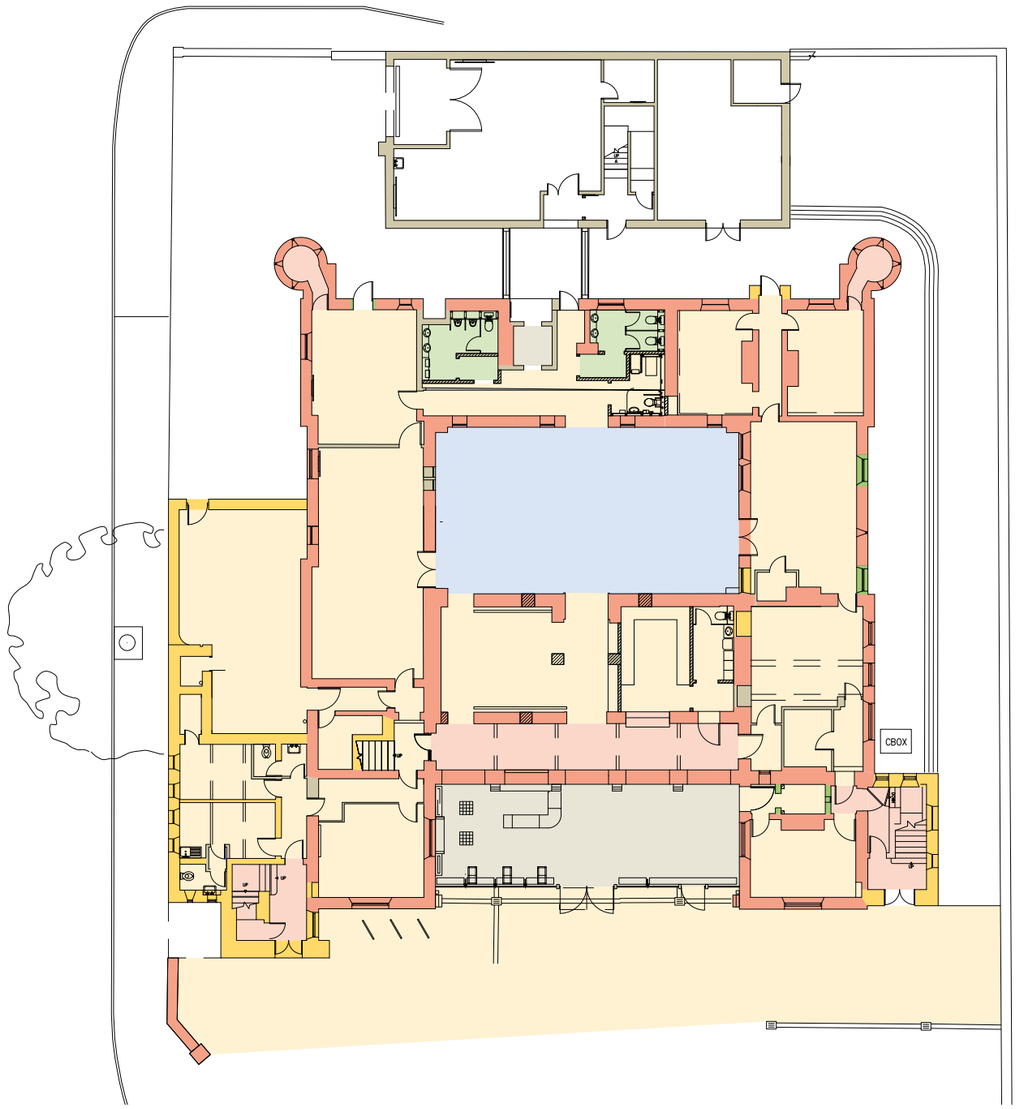
The building is well known locally, often referred to as the police station. It has played a significant role in the local community both in this role and subsequently as the Aston College Art Department. The use of the building as the Wrexham County Borough Museum can both draw upon and enhance this familiarity with the people and communities of Wrexham. In a town where many historic buildings have been demolished including the adjacent Church House, St Mary's Church and Imperial Hotel, the surviving buildings have taken on an even more important role.

Good records survive for the building including floor plans by the architect, Thomas Penson. Penson was a prominent architect with several notable projects in Wales, he was the county surveyor of Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire and was an innovative architect and designer of several masonry arch bridges over the River Severn and elsewhere. Thomas Penson designed the following buildings in Wrexham: Butchers' Market hall on High Street (1847, extant); and the British School, Brook Street (1844, demolished recently). Penson's involvement adds further historical interest to the building.

The Museum has demonstrable importance nationally (in a British as opposed to purely Welsh context) as a key example of the development of a system of barracks for militiamen. The significance of the building in a Welsh context is further enhanced by its second incarnation as courts and a police station, a task it undertook for almost 100 years.

The building is of high significance.

SIGNIFICANCE

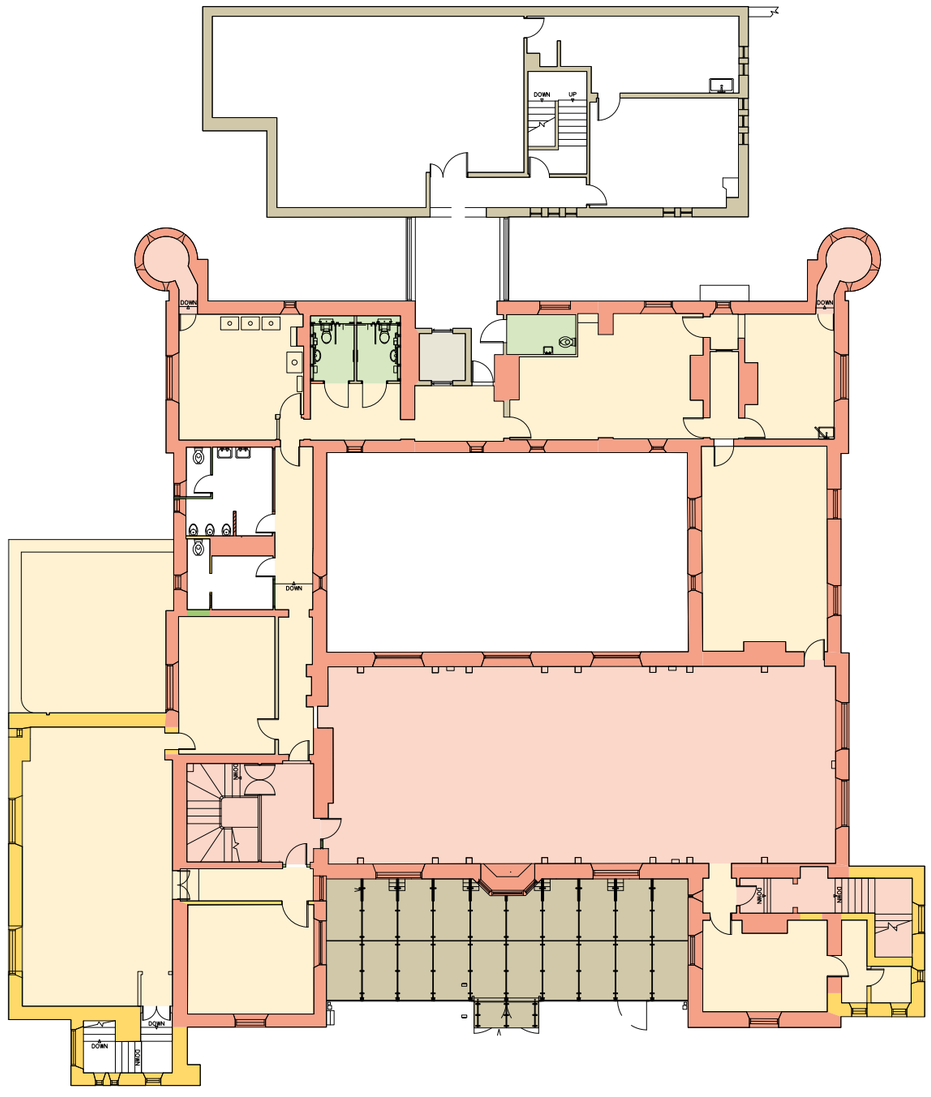


GROUND FLOOR
SIGNIFICANCE PLAN

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Neutral
- Detrimental

This plan is not to scale

SIGNIFICANCE



FIRST FLOOR
SIGNIFICANCE PLAN

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Neutral
- Detrimental

This plan is not to scale

12

SECTION 4.0
LEGISLATIVE GUIDANCE

4.1 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT (1990) AND THE ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM ACT (2013)

Listed Buildings are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for their special architectural or historic interest. Conservation Areas are also protected under Section 69 of the same act. In 2013 the government abolished the requirement for Conservation Area Consent under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013. This has been replaced with a requirement for planning permission for demolition of a building in a Conservation Area.

4.2 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

The Welsh Government's planning Policy is set out in the document *'Planning Policy Wales: Edition 11, February 2021'*. Chapter 6 sets out the planning policy in relation to heritage assets with the following key paragraphs –

6.1.5 The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales.

6.1.10 There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage. For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

6.1.11 For listed buildings, the aim should be to find the best way to protect and enhance their special qualities, retaining them in sustainable use. The continuation or reinstatement of the original use should generally be the first option, but not all original uses will now be viable or appropriate. The application of planning and listed building controls should recognise the need for flexibility where new uses have to be considered in order to secure a building's survival or provide it with a sound economic future.

6.1.12 The demolition of any listed building should be considered as exceptional and require the strongest justification.

6.1.13 Applicants for listed building consent must be able to justify their proposals, show why the alteration or demolition of a listed building is desirable or necessary and consider the impact of any change upon its significance. This must be included in a heritage impact statement, which will be proportionate both to the significance of the building and to the degree of change proposed.

4.3 LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

The local planning policy is presented within the *Wrexham Unitary Development Plan(1996-2011)* and the updated *Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) 2013 to 2028.*

Policy EC7 Within, and in close proximity to, conservation areas, the priority will be to preserve and/ or enhance those buildings, structures, streets, trees, open spaces, archaeological remains, views, and other elements which contribute to the unique character of the area. New buildings and alterations or additions to existing buildings in conservation areas, whether listed as of special architectural or historic interest or not, must reflect the design and character of the area as a whole and the form, scale, detailing and materials of existing buildings.

Policy EC9 Alterations or additions to, and development or redevelopment within the curtilage of, buildings or structures listed as of special architectural or historic interest must respect the setting and character of the listed buildings or structures.

SECTION 5.0
CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK

This section explains what is happening to the heritage of Wrexham Museum, how it might be vulnerable and what the potential threats are to its long-term survival. Each area of identified risk and opportunity is discussed over the following pages.

Collectively, the policies formed within these documents are intended to guide the on-going management, conservation and use of the site. They are not project specific and should be reviewed quinquennially, in line with the condition survey, or following any major change.

The framework is not intended to be a rigid and impractical set of rules, but will ensure that change is appropriately managed, both in the immediate and long-term future.

5.1 THE CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY FOR MANAGING CHANGE AT WREXHAM MUSEUM

Conservation relates both to built fabric and the significances linked to and associated with this. Conservation is defined as the process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and where appropriate, enhances significance[01]. As such, it is a positive process as it recognises the balance between retaining significance and the necessity for heritage assets to evolve over time.

Of utmost importance to the conservation of heritage assets is the understanding, retention and enhancement of significance; significance lies at the heart of every conservation action[02]. An informed conservation approach is to ensure significance is valued and incorporated into any changes in a way that allows the building to work sustainably in terms of performance but also responds to the evolving needs of users.

01 Historic England website: Heritage Conservation Defined
02 Clark K (2001) Informed Conservation

To adhere to the philosophy and principles set out in this Conservation Management Plan, it will be important to follow the practical policies and actions when proposing any kind of change and at any scale – whether to improve the overall performance of the building or carry out conservation repairs.

5.1.1 Guiding philosophy for change

- All change will be grounded in a robust understanding of the significance of the building.
- The impact of proposed change will be assessed to understand the benefits or harm to significance.
- Changes that impact on heritage significance will be weighed against the need to sustain the current use of the site as a museum.
- The level of intervention to historic fabric will take into account environmental conditions, the condition of built fabric, artistic/decorative intent and the risk of mechanical damage.
- The choice of repair, restoration, reinstatement or new design will be made on a case-by-case basis, dependent on the available evidence, function of the component and its significance.
- All change should respond to a clear understanding of the issues and lessons learnt from previous conservation at Wrexham Museum or sites with similar experiences, using tried and tested methods.
- Decisions taken on an individual component must also have consideration for the building as a whole and the cumulative impact of change.

5.2 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The management of future change at Wrexham Museum will be informed by a clear baseline of understanding of its significance and the impact proposals may have on this. This methodology will be employed for all decision-making, from the restoration of features to improving visitor access. Following conservation best practice in this regard will enhance significance and future sustainability.

The original fabric relating to the militia barracks and the 19th century courts are all of high significance with lower capacity for change. The later fabric is either of medium, low or intrusive significance and has a higher capacity for change.

Policies

01 The management of change at Wrexham Museum will be informed by a clear baseline of understanding of its significance and the impact proposals may have on this.

02 Works likely to affect the fabric and significance of the museum will be undertaken in accordance with the appropriate guidance and policies.

03 This Conservation Plan will be used as the basis for long-term conservation, management and development decisions.

CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK

5.3 PRESERVING AND ENHANCING SETTING

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) details the requirement to describe the significance of any heritage assets including any contribution made by their setting. 'Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset and may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.'

The significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence and historic fabric but also from its setting – the surroundings in which it is experienced. The careful management of change within the surroundings of heritage assets therefore makes an important contribution to the quality of the places in which we live.

The setting of the site incorporates several elements that are outside of the museum's control. Whilst the removal of the multi-storey car park to the rear is unlikely to occur in the short to medium term its removal would significantly improve the setting of the site.

The front courtyard is currently underused and a somewhat uninspiring space. The space could benefit from more appropriate surfacing and public realm and a reduction in clutter as this is the primary key view of the building. The lighting in the forecourt is also broken and needs replacement. Alternative uses for the space could include seating areas for visitors, a green space or an area for high quality public art relating to the museum, however, care will need to be taken that the area does not become cluttered.

The entrance porch does detract from the appearance of the building and is an intrusive feature. In the long term it's removal or replacement with an alternative that doesn't mask the main façade of the building and reveals more of the archways behind should be considered, however, the porch is still used by the museum as an important entrance for a site that is heavily constrained by its small footprint and any proposal will likely be consider intrusive due to its prominent location. Removing this feature would require extensive reconfiguration of the site and would lose valuable floorspace. Having a welcoming visitor entrance at the front of the site without harming the main façade will be a continuing challenge for the site. In the short-term, ensuring the blinds work to reduce solar glare and increased maintenance and cleaning will improve the appearance of this feature.

The rear extension is also an intrusive addition to the building, built in a style and materials that does not pay reference to the host building and in the long term its replacement or removal could be considered. Although it should be acknowledged it is at the rear of the site in a context of the multi-storey car park that dramatically alters the setting of the site and the building provides valuable 'modern' space for the constrained site. The museum could consider alternative surface treatment, cladding or painting the pebbledash render to blend with the local stone of the host building.

Policies

04 Ensure the setting of the site is maintained and enhanced and contribute to the wider masterplan for the town where there are opportunities to influence factors outside the museum's control.

05 In the medium term seek opportunities to enhance the courtyard space with new uses and surfacing.

06 Replace the failed lighting in the forecourt and consider alternative surface treatments.

07 The glazed entrance and rear extension are both detrimental to significance but both are important parts of the museum experience that would severely reduce the offer of the site if removed. Consider surface treatments for the satellite building and enhanced maintenance and cleaning of the glazed entrance.



The intrusive rear extension that would benefit from new surface treatment