# WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMPTON ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

# **Redundant Fives Courts and Store Building**

# Historic Building Record

Planning Reference: 11/00836/FUL (condition 5)



FINAL REPORT March 2012





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# **WOLVERHAPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL**Compton Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

# **Old Fives Court and Store**

# Historic Building Record

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# WOLVERHAPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL Compton Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

# **Old Fives Court and Store**

Historic Building Record

#### Summary

A programme of Historic Building Recording was undertaken in March 2012 in respect of a redundant fives court and associated store/ workshop building at the Wolverhampton Grammar School, Compton Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands (NGR SO 9150 9890). The survey was required as a condition of Planning Consent (ref. 11/00836/FUL) for the demolition of the building.

The Wolverhampton Grammar School moved to its Compton Road site in 1875 from an earlier site in the town centre. The structures currently under consideration are located to the west of the historic core of the school buildings, to the west of the Hallmark Building of 1969 and north of a sixth-from block built in 1996, in the general area of a former residence (known as 'Riddles' after the former owner) purchased by the school in 1911 and converted to use as a primary school, though subsequently demolished in 1968. The store and fives courts represent 20<sup>th</sup>-century additions to the school facilities, both being built up against a relic garden wall related to this residence. The courts have their origins in two courts introduced by Gerald Poynton Mander in the early 1930s, backing onto the wall to the east; the extant courts were added to the north of these in the late 1950s or 1960s, thus forming a range of four units. Originally of the 'Rugby' type, the courts were converted to the more complex 'Eton' plan in 1982 while the earlier, southern pair were demolished in 1996 for the construction of the sixth-form block. The surviving store/ workshop represents the northern part of a former longer range first evident on mapping of 1956, though possibly existing as an open range before that date, and incorporates stonework from the former garden wall within its eastern and northern elevations. It was historically used as a firing range, later being converted to a woodworking shop and subsequently partially demolished, again in 1996 for the construction of the sixth-form block.

The earliest element of the recorded structures is the stonework wall forming the eastern and northern walls of the store room/ workshop, originating as a garden boundary wall of the Riddles residence though the loss of the associated house has had the effect of removing any historical context for the surviving wall. The surviving fives courts are of limited significance, being of no great antiquity and of a form easily paralleled elsewhere, conforming as they do to the standard pattern for courts of this type while the store is purely utilitarian in nature and retains no evidence for its former functions.

The current project has allowed for a detailed visual and interpretive record of the building to be made in advance of demolition in line with Policy HE13 of Wolverhampton City Council's Unitary Development Plan.



# WOLVERHAPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL Compton Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

# **Old Fives Court and Store**

Historic Building Record

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the Project

- 1.1.1 The Wolverhampton Grammar School is located to the south side of the A343 Compton Road, c.1.5km due west of Wolverhampton city centre as represented by the medieval Collegiate Church of St. Peter (NGR: SO 9150 9890; Figure 1). The school occupies an extended site bounded to the north by Compton Road, to the east by Merridale Lane and to the south and west by properties opening off the northern side of Richmond Road. The structures currently under consideration are located to the west of the historic core of the school site, dating to 1875, west of the Hallmark Building of 1969 and north of the sixth-form block of 1996 (Figure 2).
- 1.1.2 An application (refs. 11/00836/FUL & 11/00837/LBC) was made to Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) for the 'demolition of a redundant Fives Court and store, formation of additional play area and improved access, alterations to window and replacement fencing'. As a condition of planning consent, and in line with WCC UDP policy HE13 (Development affecting a Listed Building), a programme of historic building recording was required; specifically, Condition 5 of consent stated that:

'No demolition works shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording (photographic survey) and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved by the local planning authority',

1.1.3 The current report was commissioned by Mr Paul Hancox, ICT and Projects Manager at Wolverhampton Grammar School on behalf of the school Governors.

## 1.2 Designations

1.2.1 The principal early buildings of the Compton Road School are included on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest, as follows:

http://www.cartoplus.co.uk/wolverhampton/text/06hist.htm#he6



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#### WOLVERHAMPTON

SO89NE COMPTON ROAD 895-1/4/76 (South side)

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#### **Wolverhampton Grammar School**

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School. 1875 with additions of 1890. By Giles and Gough. Brick with ashlar dressings; tile roofs. Victorian Tudor Revival style. Single-storey 8-window hall range; 4-storey entrance tower with small 2-storey connecting bay to left and 4-window range to right, formerly accommodation wing; former headmaster's residence to right of 2 storeys; 3-window range with 2-window return. Hall has weathered buttresses, end angle buttresses with pinnacles; brick parapet and stone-coped gables; architraved double-chamfered-mullioned windows with Tudor heads to lights and 2 transoms; ventilation lantern to ridge; return 5-light window with 4-centred head. Tower has higher octagonal turret to left; Tudor-arched entrance with label mould raised over shields and sidelight; sill courses to 1st and 2nd floors; frieze of shields above 2nd floor; top embattled parapets; mullioned and transomed windows with leaded glazing; top blocked roundel; right return has C18 cartouche; mullioned and transomed windows to block to left and range to right, gableted to 1st floor; large canted bay window to right end and gable-end stack. Headmaster's residence has gabled projection to right; central entrance in gabled porch with pointed arch; casemented windows; 1st floor gablets; cross-axial stack; return similar. Rear similar, with gabled single-storey and canted organ loft to hall; some later wings. INTERIOR: hall has hammer-beam roof; some fielded panelling; C20 balcony and panelling below; 2 hooded fireplaces with armorial bearings; C20 stained glass and some panels from St Andrew's, Undershaft, London; memorial plaques from old school building. School was founded by Stephen Jenyns of the Merchant Taylors' Guild, 1515, and was later moved from C18 building (dem.) in town centre.

#### Wolverhampton Grammar School: Statutory List Entry

#### 1.3 Scope of Report

- 1.3.1 The project was undertaken in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Tyler 2012) submitted to and approved by WCC in advance of works; a copy of the WSI is included below as **Appendix**
- 1.3.2 This report outlines the results of the building survey, and has been prepared in accordance with English Heritage guidelines as published in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (EH, 2006), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (IfA, 2008) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings* (ALGAO, 1997).
- 1.3.3 This report has been prepared based upon information current and available as of March 2012. Site survey work was undertaken on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

# 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The general aim of the project, as stated at section §.2 of the WSI, was to generate a readable narrative report, led by drawings and (principally) photographic images, to provide a record of the building as stands in advance of demolition.
- 2.2 The historic building record was to comprise a physical examination of the building fabric and a drawn, photographic and written descriptive/analytical record thereof, as detailed in section §.3.2 below.

E-mail: J Beesley (WCC) – R. Tyler, 08.03.12.



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#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Documentary Research

3.1.1 A rapid search was made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps, early photographs, drawings and written descriptions, and primary and secondary sources related to the site held by the Wolverhampton City Archives, and by Wolverhampton Grammar School itself, so as to allow the recorded structure to be assessed and interpreted within a historical context. On-line sources including the web-sites of Eton College and the UK Fives Federation were also consulted for background information. A full list of sources is included below at section §.8.

### 3.2 Historic Building Record

3.2.1 The Historic Building Record comprised an exterior and interior examination of the structure and the compilation of photographic, drawn and written records as follows:

The Photographic Record

3.2.2 The photographic record comprised high resolution digital photography using a Nikon D3000 digital single lens reflex camera (10MP) and was commensurate with a 'Level 1/2' record as defined by English Heritage (2006, 14), extending to include both general and detail shots, contextual views and accessible exterior elevations, visible structural and decorative details (interior and exterior), and general interior views of principal rooms and circulation areas. Where possible, photographs included graded photographic scales. A register of project photographs is included below as **Appendix B** together with a photo location plan; digital copies of photographs in \*.jpg format are included on CD appended to the rear cover of the report.

The Drawn Record

3.2.3 Sufficient drawn records were made on site, in the form of plans, elevations and cross-sections, to enable an understanding of the form and function of the buildings concerned and to allow for the location of the photographic images forming the principal element of the recording exercise. All drawings were prepared in pencil on archivally stable drafting film. A register of project drawings is included below as **Appendix C**.

The Written Record

3.2.4 To accompany the photographic and drawn records, a written account of the buildings was made as free text; this forms the basis of the following description.

RIC TYLER AIFA

#### 4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

General histories of Wolverhampton have been published elsewhere (eg. Mander and Tildesley, 1960; Upton, 1998); likewise a literature exists covering the history of the Grammar School itself (see Mander 1913; Cheeseright 2010) which will therefore not be repeated in detail here, though a summary is included for reasons of completeness with developments pertinent to the current project highlighted.

#### 4.1 The Wolverhampton Grammar School

4.1.1 The Wolverhampton Grammar School traces its origins back to a foundation on the southern limit of the town, in what was to become John Street, endowed in 1512 by Sir Stephen Jenyns, a native of the town, a successful merchant of the staple who had moved to London, being twice elected Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company, becoming Sheriff of London in 1499 and Lord Mayor in 1508. Jenyns also gave over the Manor of Rushock near Chaddesley Corbett in Worcestershire to the Merchant Taylors' to provide an income for them, both to maintain the buildings and to pay for two masters (Linton, 2000). The Merchant Taylors governed the school for over 200 years, though the relationship with the town was intermittently strained and finally, in 1784, responsibility passed to a local trust. Upton records that Jenyns' original schoolhouse burned down in 1590 (Upton 1998, 26) and its rebuilding was funded by the Merchant Taylors'; the latter building in John Street survived until the 1960s<sup>4</sup> when it was cleared for the construction of the Mander shopping centre which opened on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1968 (Upton 1998, 157).

#### 4.2 The Compton Road Site

- 4.2.1 Concern was expressed as early as the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century regarding to the increasingly insalubrious site of the old grammar school building (Cheeseright 2010, 27) though it was not until 1875 that the school moved to a new site away from the industrial centre of the town.<sup>5</sup> The chosen site on Compton Road, a 6½ acre, openfield plot in the western suburbs of the town formerly part of Old Merridale Farm was purchased from one Henry Wright Owen, merchant, for the sum of £3,027 16s 8d in April 1874 (Mander 1913, 155). The design for the new school buildings was put out to competition with the London firm of J. Giles and Gough securing the contract with a winning design in the Victorian Tudor Revival style (Figure 5a); the contractor was Mr. Henry Lovatt, a former pupil at the school. The foundation stone was laid on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1874 and the inauguration ceremony held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1875 (*ibid.*, 256).
- 4.2.2 It is beyond the scope of the current report to present a full history of the development of the school buildings at the Compton Road site, though major developments can be summarised as follows (see Figure 2):
  - Erection of science block, 1897.
  - Purchase of neighbouring property ('Riddles') and conversion to form Junior School, 1911 (see §.4.2.3 below).
  - Erection of Gymnasium, 1914.<sup>6</sup>
  - Erection of Merridale Building, 1930.
  - Erection of 'Derry' Building, 1960.

Wolverhampton Archives ref. WP/5932.



http://www.wolverhamptongrammarschool.com/Home/History/

Wolverhampton Archives P/6806.

The Old Grammar School premises in John Street were put up for sale by auction in April 1875 though they were not eventually sold until January 1877, when they were purchased by one Edwin Easthope (Mander 1913, 255).

- Demolition of 'Riddles', 1968.
- Erection of 'Hallmark' Building, 1970.
- Erection of Sports Hall, 1993.
- Erection of sixth-form block, 1996 (see §.4.2.4 below).

#### Riddles

4.2.3 Significant expansion occurred in 1911 when five acres of land and an adjacent property to the west, a substantial residence of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in the Victorian Gothic style (Figure 5b) formerly the home of one Mr Riddle,<sup>7</sup> was purchased by the school and converted to use as junior school, thus extending the frontage of the school along Compton Road (Cheeseright 2010, 46). Reference to historic plans (Figures 3/4a) indicates a series of garden walls associated with Riddle's house, those to the east being later incorporated into the structure of the fives courts and store building currently under consideration (see §.4.4.1/4.5.1).

#### Sixth-form block

4.2.4 The sixth-form block (see Figure 2) was erected immediately south of the extant fives courts in 1996 and the construction of this building necessitated the demolition of a further two courts, previously forming the southern part of a range of four units (see §.4.4.1), and the southern section of the store which formerly extended to twice its current length (see §.4.5.1).

## 4.3 The Game of Fives<sup>8</sup>

- 4.3.1 Fives is a hand-ball game sharing a number of characteristics with, and deriving from the same origins as, many racket sports (eg. squash) where a ball is propelled against the walls of a specially designed court, though in the case of fives gloved hands are used in place of rackets. A number of variations of fives exist, the two main forms played today being 'Eton' fives and 'Rugby' fives, named after the educational establishments where they were respectively developed. The game remains popular at a number of English private schools while the first public courts are located at the Westway sports centre in White City, London; the game is little known and played outside the UK though, unusually, it enjoys popularity in Nigeria. Nigeria.
- 4.3.2 The 'Eton' game was traditionally first played in one of the bays of the College Chapel, by the steps rising to the north entrance (see inset overleaf), 12 and the modern court is modelled on this location retaining a number of the features of the chapel site. It is enclosed on three sides and divided into two parts, separated by a 'step', which is positioned about 1/3 of the length of the court from the 'front' wall. The front part of the court is variously known as the front, upper or top court and is set a few inches higher than the rear part, known as the back, lower or bottom court. The end of the back court is defined by a further small step. A sloping ledge runs around the all three walls, about four-and-a-half feet above floor level; the lower angle of this ledge is the 'playline', on or above which the ball must be played to be 'in'. The walls of

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The building was to become known colloquially as 'Riddles'.

www.fivesonline.net/oldefasite/about.fives/brief.history.html and ---/brief.introduction.html.

The origin of the name is obscure, though it probably refers to the fingers ('bunch of fives'), and has been used since the 17th century.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Eccentric Sport Moves into the Inner City' (http://www.fivesonline.net/oldefasite/articles/reuters.2003.html).

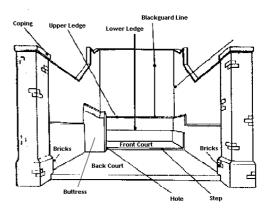
See http://www.fivesonline.net/oldefasite/about.fives/nigeria.html

www.etoncollege.com/Fives.aspx

the front court have an additional square ledge about 2 feet from the floor. The front wall of the court is generally higher than the side walls, which themselves slope from the front to the rear of the court; the upper limit of the three walls is defined by a coping. The most obvious and characteristic feature of an Eton Fives court is a large projection on the left-hand side - called the 'buttress' or, less commonly , the 'pepper-box'/ 'pepper-pot' or simply 'pepper', modelled on the lower flanking wall of the upper chapel stair. Roughly L-shaped in plan and shoulder high, it is located at the step and extends into both the upper and lower courts; where the buttress meets the step a small three-sided niche or trap is formed, known as the 'dead man's hole' or just 'the hole'/ 'box', a natural target for players wishing to play an unreturnable shot.



<u>The original fives court at Eton College Chapel</u> (image: http://www.preposity.com)



<u>Diagram showing salient features of an Eton Fives court</u> (image: http://www.fivesonline.net)

- 4.3.3 The first purpose built-courts at Eton were erected in 1840 based on, but not an exact replica of, the chapel court; the walls were built of sandstone to reproduce the effect of the chapel walls, but the distance between the front wall and the 'buttress' was increased and the slope of the upper court floor reduced, making the game both easier and faster. The side walls were extended while the buttress was increased in both height and width but reduced in depth. The step at the back of the court was formed by raising the court by a few inches to avoid flooding.
- 4.3.4 'Rugby' fives is played in a simpler, four-walled court similar to a squash court and containing none of the obstacles or 'hazards' of the Eton court. The floor is rectangular in plan measuring 28ft. long by 18ft. wide; the front wall is 16ft. tall, sloping down about half way along to 6ft. at the back. Rugby fives courts tend to be somewhat idiosyncratic, however, and the dimensions may vary.

#### 4.4 The Wolverhampton Grammar School Courts

4.4.1 The first reference to a fives court at the school relates to a court added in 1907 (Mander 1913, 271), this presumably being that structure shown of the plan of c.1909 (Figure 3), while a 'guide' to the school of 1925<sup>13</sup> records that 'all boys (and especially those who are not good at 'field' games) should be encouraged to play Fives at odd times; whilst it is not a 'team' game, it promotes promptness of action and is a most valuable exercise'. Reference to historic mapping (Figure 4) indicates that the courts currently under consideration are later, formerly forming part of a range of four conjoined courts erected in two distinct phases, two courts per phase, backing onto a garden wall related to the property of the late Mr Riddle, acquired by the school in 1911. The earlier phase of two courts were formerly located to the immediate south of the extant block and would appear to have been erected in 1934, evidenced by a surviving dedication plaque (Plates 5/6), <sup>14</sup> these presumably being the additional courts funded by Gerald Poynton Mander (Cheeseright 2010, 57), an 'old boy' and Governor of the school from 1914 to 1951. The Ordnance

Wolverhampton Archives ref. LS/0134.

Inscription reads 'I.M / J.T.(?) / DEDICAVIT / G.P.M. / 1934', G.P.M. being Gerald Mander.

Survey editions of both 1938 and 1956 clearly show only two courts in existence with the extant courts first being evident, as an in-line extension of the earlier structure, only on the edition of 1971. Interestingly, the courts as depicted in the 1971 edition (Figure 4d) would appear to be of two different plan-types; the southern two courts are enclosed on three sides only in the form of 'Eton' courts while those to the north (the extant courts) are shown fully enclosed, suggesting a 'Rugby' plan at that time. A 1969 photograph of the Hallmark Building (Figure 7a) shows the longer, four-unit range of courts, though the roof alone is visible and it is not possible to extrapolate details of the court layout itself at that time. The courts were converted from the 'Rugby' to the 'Eton' plan in 1982 (Plate 3, inset), while the two 1930s courts to the south were demolished in 1996, together with the southern section of the former rifle range to make way for the new 6<sup>th</sup>-form block.

#### 4.5 The Store / Firing Range

- 4.5.1 The store building (former firing range) *per se* is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey edition of 1956 (Figure 4c), aligned north-south and again backing, to the east, onto the garden wall of the former Riddle residence, at which time it extended further south to almost twice its current length. The earlier edition of 1938 (Figure 4b) does however indicate an enclosed, though unroofed, space on the same ground plan, with walls to both east and west and a small, square structure to the south; this may represent pre-cursor of the fully roofed range. Mander (1913, 271) records that a rifle club was inaugurated at the school in 1906 (predating the establishment of an Officer's Training Corps or OTC in 1911, later to become the Combined Cadet Force, or CCF) with a butts 'adjoining the school pitch' which accords well with this location.
- 4.5.2 It is unclear how long the building functioned as a firing range, though by the early 1980s at the latest, it was in use as a woodworking shop (Figure 7b), formerly housed in the Merridale Building, and subsequently used to house the design technology department and latterly as a store/ workshop. The southern section of the range was demolished, and the southern gable rebuilt, in 1996 coincident with the construction of the sixth-form block. A photograph of an open day concert of 1993 (Figure 6b) shows the southern end of the range prior to these demolitions and it is clear from the form of the arched doorway surviving at that time that the eastern wall incorporated fabric related to the Riddle residence (compare with the details visible on Figure 6a).

### 5 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

#### **5.1** The Five Courts (Figures 9 and 10)

5.1.1 The fives courts (Plates 1/2) are located to the west of the main, historic school buildings, immediately west of the Hallmark building of 1969 and to the north of the sixth-form block of 1996 (Figure 2). The surviving building (Plate 3) comprises two adjacent courts, similarly arranged on the 'Eton' plan, though previously of the simpler 'Rugby' type, being modified only in 1982, recorded in a plaque of the east wall of the range (see Plate 3, inset). Each court is enclosed on three sides, being open to the east, and roofed over with a mono-pitch roof of corrugated sheeting sloping down from west to east. The inner shell of the extant courts is of brick and breeze-block construction, exposed within a small store to the north (Plates 7/9), though this represents the secondary 'lining' of the former, slightly larger, 'Rugby' plan courts (see §. 4.3.4); the earlier, outer brickwork is of mid-orange/red brick laid to regular English bond. The playing surface of the inner walls is rendered throughout in a hard cementacious plaster.

Planning ref. 96/0145/FP ('Demolition of 2 No. existing Fives Courts, Maintenance Building and Garages and the erection of New Classroom Block' etc.).



Wolverhampton Archives hold no mapping for the area covering the period 1956-1971.

Presumably only the northern courts if the evidence of the 1971 OS map is interpreted correctly.

- 5.1.2 The layout of the courts is identical in most respects and thus only one (Court No.2; Plate 10) will be described in detail here, with variations noted where relevant. The court has overall measurements of 7.65m/ 25ft. long (E/W) x 4.25m/ 14ft. wide (N/S), being open to the east; the 'front' playing wall to the west stands 5.5m/ 18ft. tall to a projecting brick coping, the apex of the mono-pitch roof being set some 0.85m above this level. The court is split into two playing fields, divided by a shallow step set 3.1m/ 10ft 2in. back from the front wall, the 'upper' or front court to the west being 10cm/ 4in. higher than the 'lower' or back court to the east; the floors of both courts slope marginally from west to east, while the back of the playing area is defined by a further 4 in. step. The upper court is bounded to all three sides by two off-sets or 'ledges', both c.2% in. deep; the upper ledge stands c.1.4m/ 4% ft. high with an angled top while the lower ledge is flat-topped, standing 0.8m/ 2ft. 8in. tall. The lower court has a single ledge to the left and right hand walls, standing 1.22m/4ft tall with an angled top. 18 The defining characteristic of the 'Eton' plan court is the 'buttress' or 'pepper-pot', located against the left hand wall at the junction of the upper and lower courts (Plates 11/12). The buttress stands 1.6m/ 5ft. 3 in. tall from the floor of the court, with moulded coping, rising upwards to meet the left hand wall to the south; a further block with sloping coping fills the angle to the west, extending over both upper and lower courts and forming a small trap at its base (against the 'step'), known as the 'dead man's hole', (Plate 11). The 'front' wall to the west has a vertical painted line (known as the 'blackguard line') extending from upper ledge to the level of the coping, offset 1.07m/ 3½ ft from the right hand wall (Plate 13); this line is related to the 'cut' or second shot of a rally during play. The back of the playing area is open, the flanking walls terminating in square, brick-built piers 2.85m/ 9ft 4in. tall which project slightly into the playing area forming a small angle known as the 'bricks' (see inset diagram, p.7). 19 The courts are covered over by a mono-pitch roof of corrugated sheeting supported on a total of 8 angle-section steel joists, aligned north-south, with clear plastic sections forming top lights for the courts (Figure 10).
- 5.1.3 A scar within the right hand (northern) wall, visible behind the coping and rendered playing surface of the present court (Plate 14), presumably relates to the arrangements of the former 'Rugby' plan courts; this detail is also visible within the southern or left-hand wall of Court No. 1 to the north.
- 5.1.4 The southern exterior wall of the courts as extant (Plate 4) retains a rendered playing surface with ledges related to the former southern continuation of the range of courts, which was formerly of four units (see §.4.4.1).

## 5.2 The Store/ Workshop (Figure 11)

5.2.1 The store/ workshop comprises a simple rectangular range of a single storey, aligned north-south with a pitched roof clad in corrugated sheeting, gabled to north and south; it has overall external dimensions of 16m/52½ ft. long (N/S) x 6.85m/22½ ft. wide (E/W), standing 2.3m / 7½ ft. to eaves and 3.55m/11ft. 8in. to the ridge. The most part of the east wall forms a party wall with the fives courts to the east though, where exposed at the north end (Plate 15), it is seen to be of stone construction, of roughly dressed, rusticated blocks laid to irregular, geometrical courses. The stonework returns onto the north elevation (Plate 16), though the gable and parapet have here been raised in English bond brickwork capped by stone copings, the north-east angle of the range being defined by a raised, stone pier with moulded capstone (Plate 17). At the south-west angle, the stonework of the north wall has clearly been truncated (Plate 18) signifying that the wall formerly continued further to the west. The western wall is of orange brick, laid to stretcher bond, with a 3-light casement window off-centre towards the north of the range and a doorway with adjacent window to the south end. The southern gable is blind, in red brick laid to stretcher bond (Plate

This ledge is normally furnished with a flat top – see http://www.fivesonline.net/oldefasite/about.fives/glossary.html

Together with the 'dead man's hole', the 'bricks' forms a useful niche to be utilised during play (see 'Some Reflections on the Game of Fives' by JM Peterson, reproduced at http://www.fivesonline.net/etonfives/491-qsome-reflections-on-the-game-of-eton-fivesq-by-jack-peterson.html

- 19), dating to the 1996 rebuild associated with the erection of the sixth-form building and the shortening of the range.
- 5.2.2 An inserted double-door at the north end of the east wall (Plates 15/22) opens onto the interior (Plates 20/21). The range is of five structural bays (here numbered 1 to 5 from north to south see Figure 11) defined by four steel roof trusses of 'fink' pattern with tri-partite, slightly cambered lower cords (Plate 24); trusses are supported to the east on concrete pads let in to the stonework of the former garden wall and to the west on projecting piers of brickwork. To the east and north, the stonework of the former garden wall is again exposed (Plate 23), otherwise little of significance survives. The range has been sub-divided by a series of ephemeral partitions (at Bays 3/4 and 4/5) to form a workshop [GF01] to the north, office [GF02] and store [GF03]; it retains no features related to its historic use as a firing range.

#### 6 ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Assessment

- 6.1.1 The earliest element of the recorded structures is the stonework wall forming the eastern and northern walls of the store room/ workshop. Reference to historic mapping indicates that this wall originated as a garden boundary related to the former residence of Mr Riddle, itself dating to the middle years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, purchased by the school in 1911 and demolished in 1968; the loss of the associated house has had the effect of removing any historical context for the surviving wall.
- 6.1.2 The store and fives courts represent 20<sup>th</sup>-century additions to the school facilities, both being built up against the relic garden wall. The courts have their origins in two courts introduced by Gerald Poynton Mander in the early 1930s backing onto the wall. Two further courts (those currently under consideration) were added to the north of these in the late 1950s or 1960s forming a range of four units. The courts were converted from 'Rugby' to 'Eton' plan in 1982 while the earlier, southern pair were demolished in 1996 for the construction of the extant sixth-form block. The surviving store/ workshop represents the northern part of a former longer range, first evident in its roofed form and maximum extent on Ordnance Survey mapping of 1956, though possibly existing as an open range before that date. It was historically used as a firing range, later being converted to a woodworking shop and subsequently partially demolished in 1996; a review of the readily available archival sources has, however, failed to produce any detailed chronology of this development of use.
- 6.1.3 The surviving fives courts are of limited significance, being of no great antiquity and of a form easily paralleled elsewhere, conforming as they do to the standard pattern for courts of this type; the surviving commemorative plaque is of interest however and should be retained if possible.<sup>20</sup> The store is of purely utilitarian nature and retains no evidence for its former functions.

#### 6.2 Conclusion

6.2.1 The current project has allowed for a detailed visual and interpretive record of the fabric of the fives courts and store to be made in advance of demolition as required by WCC, while a brief assessment of documentary sources has allowed that record to be placed within a broad historical context.

A further commemorative block is currently stored at the school library; inscribed 'C.A.M & G.P.M / ETONENSES / D.D. / MCMXXVIII', though of unknown provenance.



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## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The project was commissioned by Mr Paul Hancox, ICT and Projects Manager at Wolverhampton Grammar School on behalf of the School Governors to whom thanks are extended for help and co-operation throughout, also to Ms Lynne Johnson, the school librarian. Thanks also go to Mr Jon Beesley, Conservation and Urban Design Officer at Wolverhampton City Council and to the staff of the Wolverhampton City Archives, Molineux House.
- 7.3 Site recording and assessment were undertaken by Mr Ric Tyler AlfA who also wrote, collated and illustrated the current report.



#### 8 SOURCES

- (a) <u>Cartographic Sources</u> (in chronological order)
- Ordnance Survey County Series 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:2500 map on 1889.
- Map of Wolverhampton Grammar School c.1909 (http://www.wolverhamptongrammarschool.com/Home/History)
- Ordnance Survey County Series 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision 1:2500 map on 1938.
- Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:2500 map on 1956.
- Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:1250 map on 1971.

#### (b) <u>Primary Sources</u> (Wolverhampton Archives)

• LS/0134: Guide to Wolverhampton Grammar School (1925).

WTON/A-200: Merridale Lane, The Grammar School – extension for Governors (Dec 1929).

WP/7071: Compton Road, The Grammar School – extension and additions for the Governors (July

1920).

LS/L07CUT/27: Press Cuttings: Education folder 12 – Wolverhampton Grammar School (1940s – 1990s).

#### (c) <u>Secondary Sources</u>

ALGAO, 1997. Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings.

Cheeseright P, 2010. WGS: A History of Wolverhampton's Grammar School. James and James

English Heritage, 2006. Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice.

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological recording of Standing Buildings and Structures*. University of Reading, IfA.

Mander GP, 1913. History of the Wolverhampton Grammar School. Old Grammar School Press.

Mander GP, 1960. A History of Wolverhampton to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Wolverhampton Corporation.

Tyler, 2012. 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Historic Building Record of a redundant fives court and store at Wolverhampton Grammar School, Compton Road, Wolverhampton. Planning Reference: 11/00836/FUL (condition 5).'

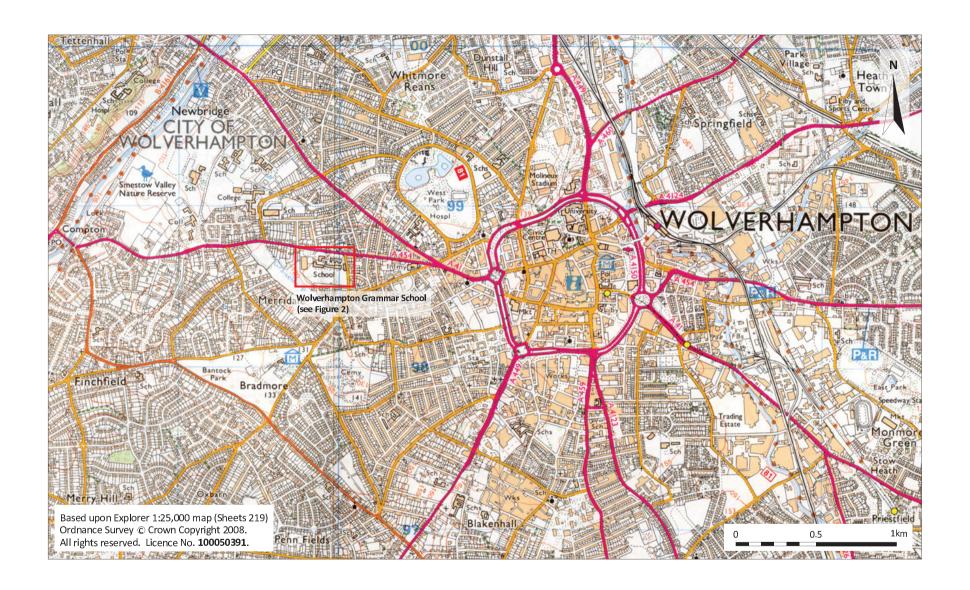
Upton C, 1998. A History of Wolverhampton. Chichester, Phillimore.

Wolverhampton City Council, 2007. Wolverhampton City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals. WCC.

#### (d) <u>On-line Sources</u>

- www.cartoplus.co.uk/wolverhampton
- www.etoncollege.com
- www.fivesonline.net
- www.imagesofengland.org.uk
- www.preposity.com
- www.wolverhamptongrammarschool.com

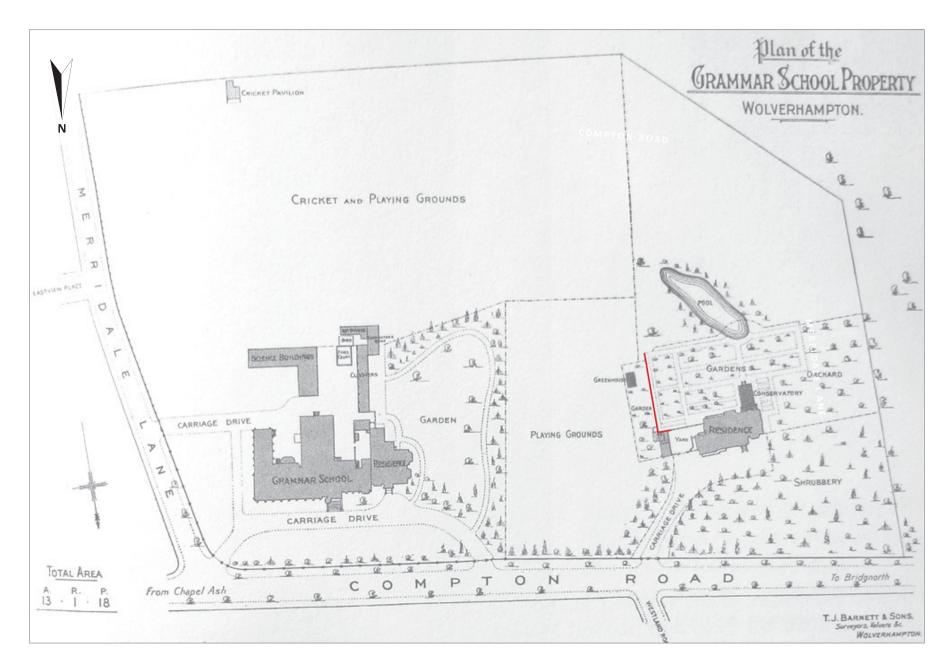






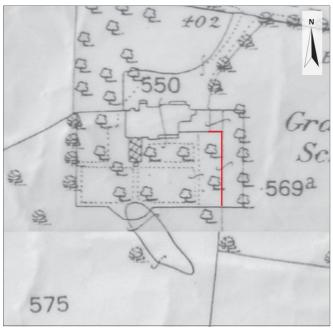




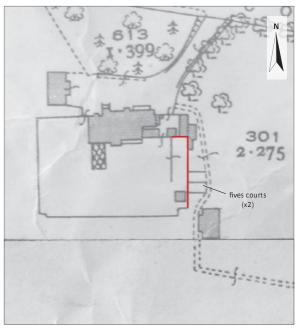




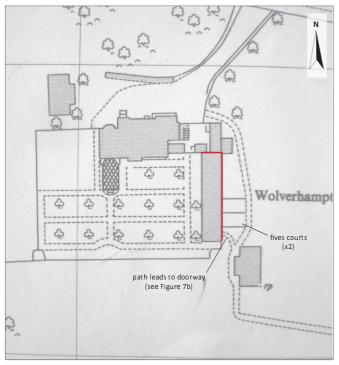




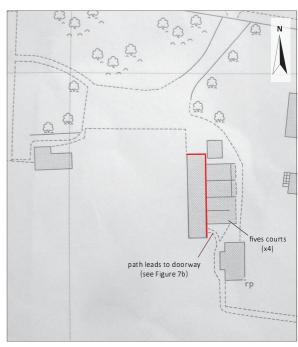
(a) Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st Edition of 1889



(b) Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 2nd Revision of 1938



(c) Ordnance Survey National Grid Series Edition of 1956



(d) Ordnance Survey National Grid Series Edition of 1971

KEY

relic garden wall from the late Mr Riddle's residence retained in later structures and forming north and east walls of extant store



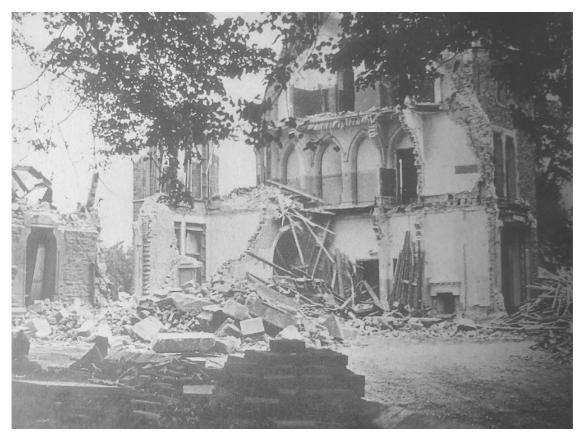


(a) Giles and Gough's main range of 1875 to Compton Road (image from Mander, 1913).



(b) 'Riddles': purchased by school in 1911 and converted to use as Junior School. Sections of related boundary wall were incorporated into the fabric of the store (former rifle range) adjoining the fives courts (image from Mander 1913).



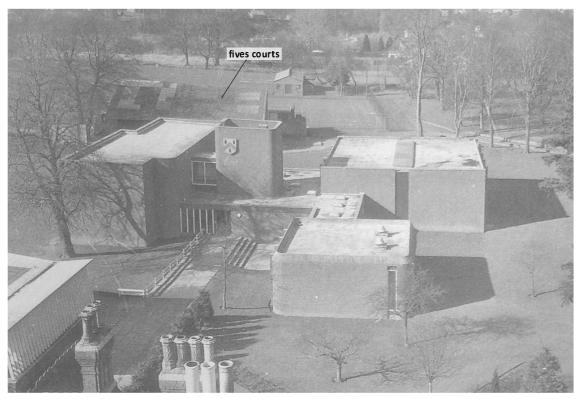


(a) Junior School building (formerly 'Riddles') during demolition 1968 (image from Linton, 2000).



(b) 1993 concert in angle of fives courts and store building, **NB** compare form of doorway in stone wall with (a) above (image from Linton 2000).





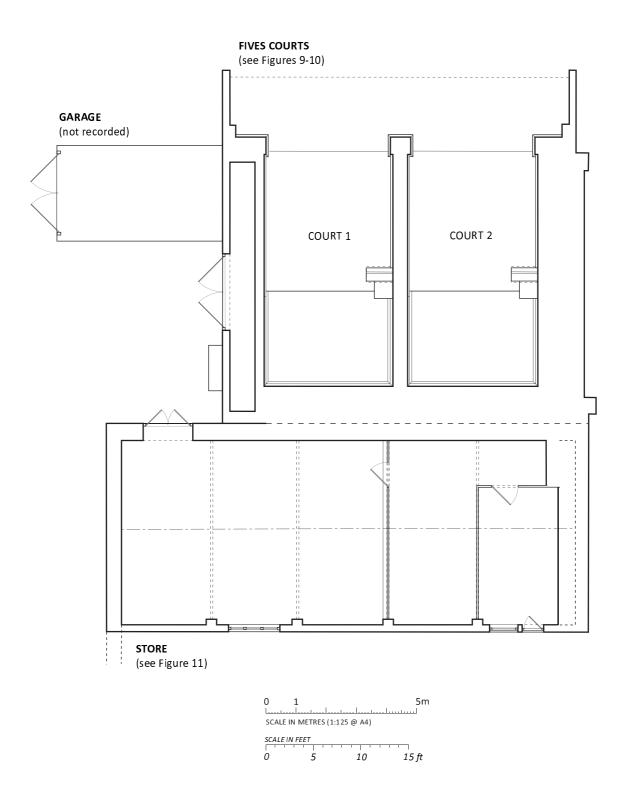
(a) Hallmark Building (opened Sept. 1969); note corrugated pent roof of extended range of fives courts in background. (image from Linton 2000).



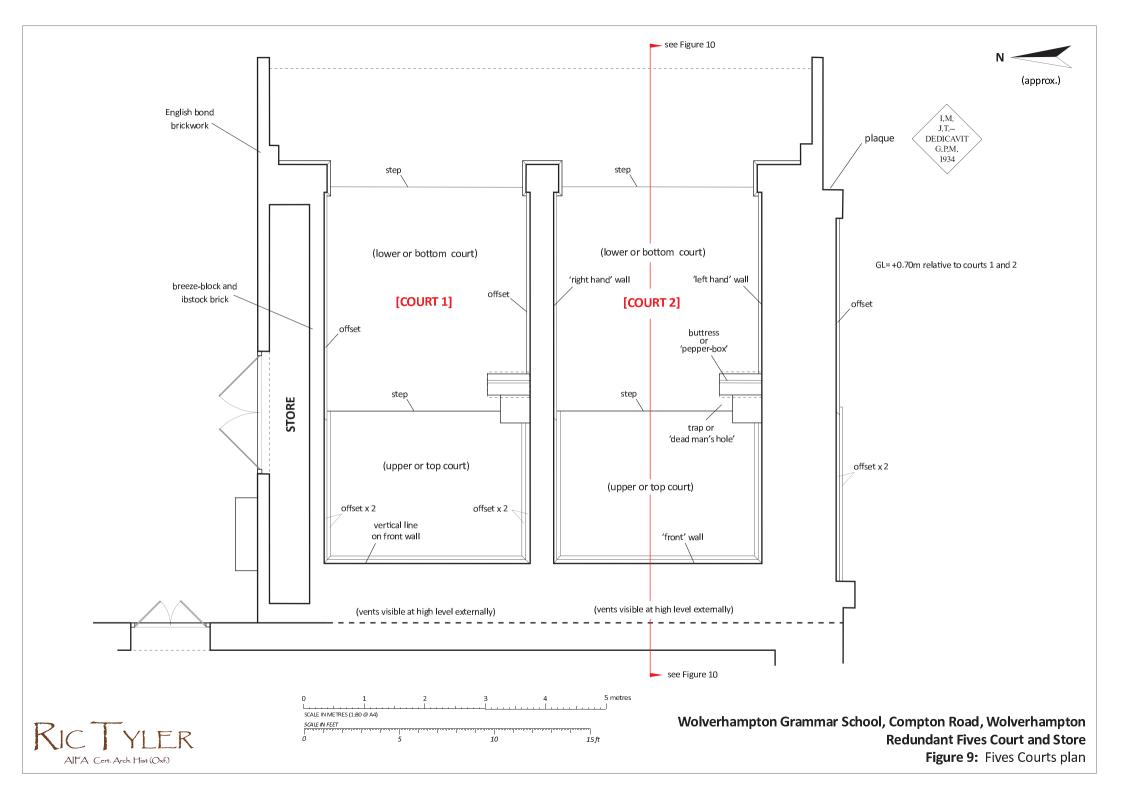
(b) Interior of store (former rifle range) in use as woodwork shop, 1982; compare Plates 20/21 (image from Linton 2000).

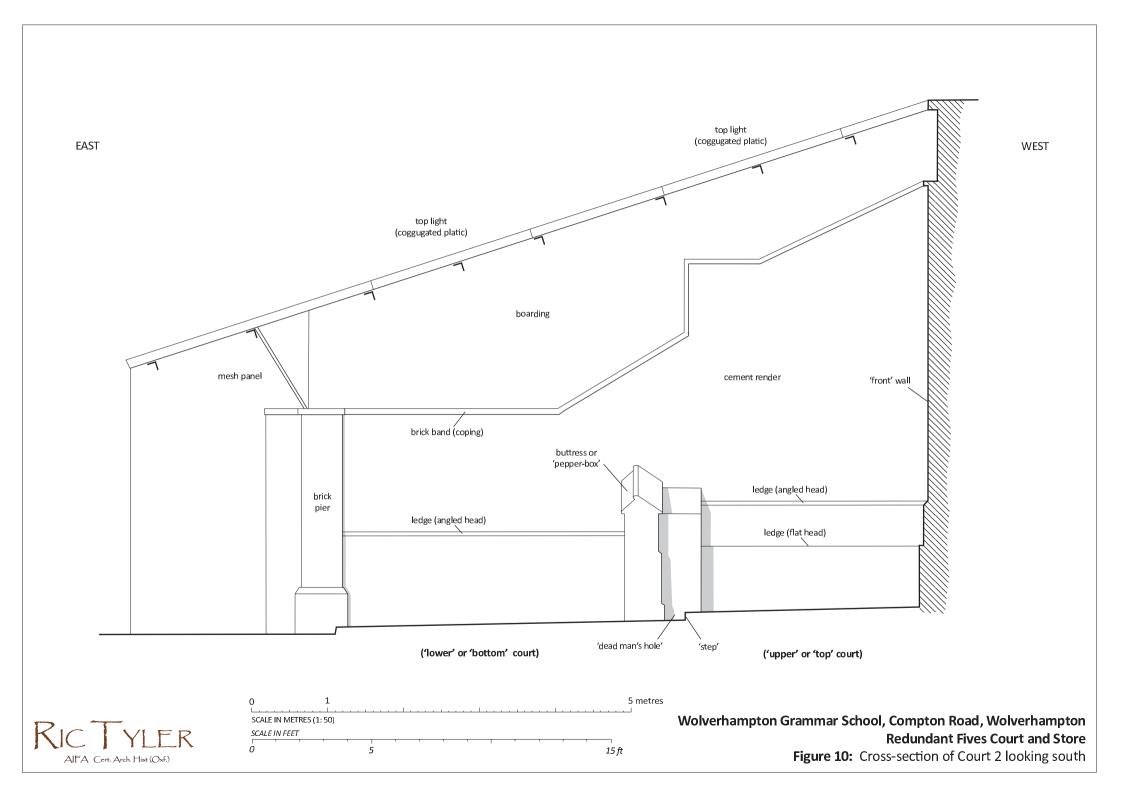


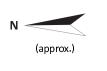






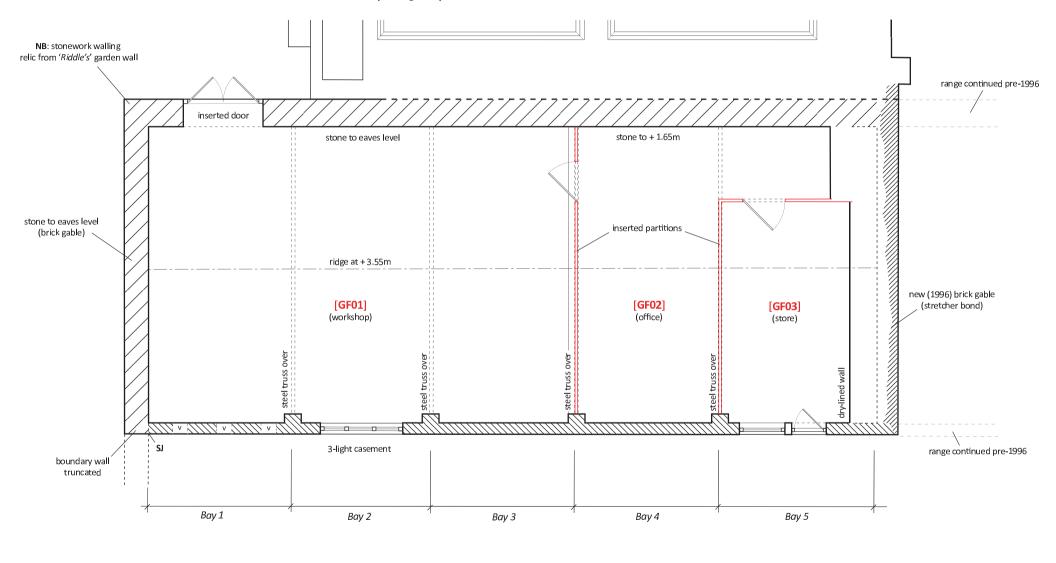






### **FIVES COURTS**

(see Figure 9)







Wolverhampton Grammar School, Compton Road, Wolverhampton Redundant Fives Court and Store

Figure 11: Store (former firing range); plan



Plate 1: Contextual view from north-east; fives courts to centre, store and garage to right and 6<sup>th</sup>-form block (1996) to left.



**Plate 2**: Contextual view from south-east; fives courts to right with 6<sup>th</sup>-form block (1996) to left, the construction of which involved the demolition of the southern section of fives original four-unit courts range.



Plate 3: General view of fives courts 1 and 2 from the north-east with (inset) plaque commemorating conversion from 'Rugby' to 'Eton' plan in 1982.



Plate 4: Oblique view of south elevation showing relic features of 'right hand' wall of former court. **NB**. plaque to brick pier (see Plates 5 and 6)



**Plate 5**: Brick pier to south elevation with inset commemorative plaque.



Plate 6: Detail of plaque: 'I.M / J.T.(?) / DEDICAVIT / G.P.M. / 1934'.



Plate 7: Fives Courts; north elevation.



Plate 8: Breeze-block constructed garage appended to north elevation.



**Plate 9:** Door to store at centre of north elevation; note breeze-block construction of inner wall, dating to 1982 conversion.



Plate 10: Court 2 looking south-west.



Plate 11: Court 2; buttress or 'pepper-box' to left hand wall, note trap or 'dead man's hole' at base.



Plate 12: Court 2; left hand wall showing 'pepper-box', 'step' between upper and lower courts and wall-offsets ('ledges').



Plate 13: Court 2, 'front' wall; note vertical 'blackguard' line, related to the 'cut' or second shot of a rally.



Plate 14: Court 2; brick coping denoting limit of play area. The angled scar over presumably relates to the former arrangements of the 'Rugby' courts, converted in 1982 (see Plate 3, inset).



**Plate 15**: Store building (former firing range); oblique view of north-east angle. Lower stonework relates to a former garden wall of 'Mr Riddle's' residence, visible on historic mapping, purchased by the school in 1911.



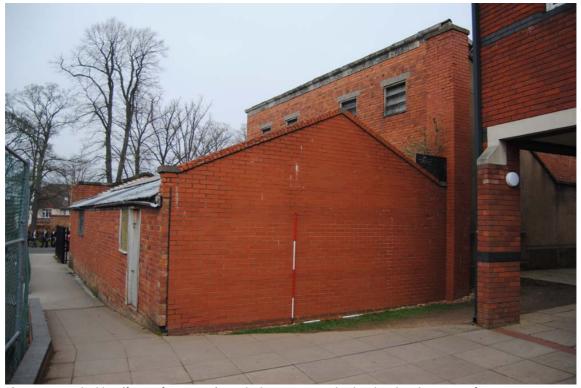
Plate 16: Store building (former firing range); north elevation.



Plate 17: Capstone of former angle pier at NE corner.



Plate 18: Truncated stonework at west end of north wall.



**Plate 19**: Store building (former firing range); south elevation in new brick, related to shortening of range in 1996. Note vent openings to upper west elevation of fives court wall (two per court).



Plate 20: Store; interior looking south-west.



Plate 21: Store; interior looking south-east.



Plate 22: Store; inserted door at north-east corner.



Plate 23: Store, interior; east wall showing stone construction surviving from garden wall of 'Mr Riddle's' residence



Plate 24: Store, interior; detail of steel roof truss.

**APPENDIX A:** Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

Written Scheme of Investigation for an

# **Historic Building Record**

of a redundant fives court and store

Planning Reference: 11/00836/FUL (condition 5)

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Historic Building Record to be undertaken in respect of a redundant fives court and store building at Wolverhampton Grammar School, Compton Road, Wolverhampton (NGR SO 8990 9865), as required by Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) as a condition of planning consent (ref. 11/00836/FUL) and in line with WCC UDP Policy HE13.
- 1.2 Planning permission was granted by WCC on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 for the demolition of the said fives court and store building, further to an application made in August 2011 by Mr Carl Myerscough of Cassidy and Ashton, Preston on behalf of the School Governors, Wolverhampton Grammar School. Condition 5 of consent states that:

No demolition works shall commence until an appropriate programme of historic building recording (photographic survey) and analysis has been secured and implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved by the local planning authority.

## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the historic building record is to create a readable narrative report, led by drawings and (principally) photographic images, to provide a record of the building as stands in advance of demolition.

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Documentary Research

3.1.1 A rapid search will be made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps, early photographs, drawings and written descriptions, and primary and secondary sources related to the site held by the Wolverhampton City Archives, and by Wolverhampton Grammar School itself, so as to allow the recorded structure to be assessed and interpreted within a historical context.

#### 3.2 <u>Historic Building Recording</u>

3.2.1 The building survey will comprise an examination of the structures under consideration and the compilation of a building record comprising photographic, drawn and written records as follows:

Photographic Record

3.2.2 The principal element of the recording programme will be the compilation of a comprehensive photographic

RIC TYLER AIFA

Appendix A: WSI

record comprising high resolution digital photography using a Nikon D3000 DSLR camera (10MP), commensurate with a Level 3 record as defined by English Heritage (2006, 14), extending to include both general and detail shots, contextual views and accessible exterior elevations, visible structural and decorative details (interior and exterior), and general interior views of principal rooms and circulation areas. Where possible, photographs will include graded photographic scales. A register of site photographs will be made recording subject, orientation, date and photographer and will be presented with photo location plans.

#### Drawn Record

3.2.3 Sufficient drawn records will be made on site, in the form of plans, elevations and/or cross-sections as appropriate, to enable an understanding of the form and function of the buildings concerned and to allow for the location of the photographic images forming the principal element of the recording exercise (§.3.2.2 above).

#### Written Record

3.3 A written record will be maintained as free text to accompany the photographic and drawn records, and will form the basis for the building description in the final report (see below).

#### 4 REPORT FORMAT

4.1 Upon completion of the documentary research and fieldwork, the results of the historic building record will be presented in a fully illustrated, interpretive report, conforming to Annex 2 of the IFAs Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures and containing the following information:

### Text

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction and site location
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Historical Context
- Description of the Building
- Discussion and Conclusion
- List of sources consulted

### **Figures**

- Appropriate illustrations including location plan and a selection of historic maps / views (if available)
- Plans, elevations and cross-sections of buildings as appropriate to illustrate the appearance and development of the buildings as apparent from historical sources and a non-intrusive examination of the built fabric
- A selection of colour plates with location plan

#### 5 TIMETABLE

5.1 Recording work will be undertaken during March 2012. A draft report will be submitted to WCC for approval in late March/early April, the final report being submitted soon thereafter, subject to amendments.

RIC TYLER AIFA

Appendix A: WSI

#### 6 STAFFING

6.1 Documentary research, site recording and report preparation will be undertaken by Ric Tyler AIfA.

#### 7 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- 7.1 The project will follow the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (IfA, 2008a) and Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IfA 2008b). Recording work will conform to guidelines set down by English Heritage's Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice (EH, 2006) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings, (ALGAO 1997).
- 7.2 The Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, 2010) will be adhered to at all times.

#### 8 HEALTH AND SAFTEY

8.1 All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with during the course of the project.

#### 9 REFERENCES

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), 1997. *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings.* 

English Heritage, 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice.* 

IfA, 2008a. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. University of Reading, IFA.

IfA, 2008b. Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures. University of Reading, IFA.

IfA 2010. Code of Conduct. University of Reading, IFA.

WSI prepared **07.03.12** by:

Ric Tyler AlfA 4 Friars Walk Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1NT

(Approved WCC **08.03.12**)

# **APPENDIX B:** Register of Project Photographs

**NB**: All photographs taken with Nikon D3000 digital SLR camera, 10 mega-pixels. Photo locations are illustrated on the plan overleaf while files are included in \*.jpg format on the CD appended at the back of this report. Photos marked with an asterix (\*) are reproduced as plates within the current document.

Photo No.	Plate No.	Subject	Orientation	Date	Photographer
DSC_0002*	3	Fives Courts: general view from north-east	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0003		Fives Courts: general view from east	$\rightarrow$ W	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0004		Fives Courts: general view from south-east	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0005*	10	Court 2: general view looking south-west	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0006		Court 2: general view looking south-west		14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0007*	11	Court 2: detail of buttress to left hand wall	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0008		Court 2: detail of buttress and 'dead man's hole' to left hand wall	$\rightarrow$ SE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0009		Court 2: detail of 'dead man's hole' to left hand wall	$\downarrow$	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0010		Court 2: detail of left hand wall, upper court	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0011*	13	Court 2: detail of 'front' wall with ledges and 'blackguard' line	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0012*	12	Court 2: buttress and upper court	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0013		Court 2: buttress and upper court	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0014		Court 2: roof	<b>↑</b>	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0015*	14	Court 2: scar of former 'Rugby' arrangements in right hand wall	1	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0016		Court 2: roof structure	1	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0017		Fives Courts: panel recording conversion of 1982	1	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0018		Court 1: general view looking south-west	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0019		Court 1: scar of former 'Rugby' arrangements in left hand wall	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0020		Court 1: scar of former 'Rugby' arrangements in left hand wall	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0021*	20	Store: interior looking south	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0022*	21	Store: interior looking south	$\rightarrow$ SE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0023		Store: interior – north wall	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0024		Store: interior – inserted door at north end east wall	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0025*	22	Store: interior – inserted door at north end east wall	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0026*	23	Store: interior – east wall	$\rightarrow$ SE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0027*	24	Store: interior – roof	1	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0028		Store: interior – stone/ brickwork of east wall	$\rightarrow$ E	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0029		Store: interior – detail of stonework	$\rightarrow$ E	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0030		Store: interior – detail of stonework	$\rightarrow$ N	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0031		Store: interior – vent in brickwork west wall	$\rightarrow$ W	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0032		Store: interior – vents in brickwork west wall	$\rightarrow$ W	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0033*	4	Fives Courts: south elevation (right hand wall of former court)	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0034		Fives Courts: south elevation (right hand wall of former court)	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0035		Fives Courts: south elevation (right hand wall of former court)	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0036*	6	Fives Courts: dated plaque - 1934	$\rightarrow$ W	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0037*	5	Fives Courts: dated plaque - 1934	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0038		Fives Courts: dated plaque - 1934	$\rightarrow$ W	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0039		Store: south elevation	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0040*	19	Store: south elevation	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0041		Store: south elevation + high level vents to west wall of fives courts	→ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0042		Fives Courts: south elevation	$\rightarrow$ E	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0043*	7	Fives Courts: north elevation	→ S	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0044		Fives Courts: north elevation	→ S	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0045*	9	Fives Courts: door within north elevation	→ S	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0046*	8	Breeze-block garage	→ SE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0047*	15	Store: north-east angle	→ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0048	-	Fives Courts and Store; north elevation	→ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC 0049		Store: north end of east wall; inserted door	→ W	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0049		Store: north gable (oblique)	$\rightarrow$ W	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0051*	17	Store: capstone of former angle pier	<b>1</b>	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0051*	16	Store: north gable	→ S	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0052		Store: north gable (+ fives courts)	$\rightarrow$ SE	14.03.12	R Tyler
P3C_0033		Store, north gable (+ lives courts)	→ 3E	14.03.12	n ryiei

DSC_0054*	18	Store: truncated stonework at west end of north wall	$\rightarrow$ SE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0055		Store: truncated stonework at west end of north wall	$\rightarrow$ SE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0056		Store: truncated north wall + west elevation	$\rightarrow$ S	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0057		Store: truncated north wall + west elevation	$\rightarrow$ S	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0058		Store: west elevation (oblique)	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0059		Store: south elevation	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0060		Store: south elevation	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0061		Fives Courts: high level vents to west wall	$\rightarrow$ NE	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0062*	1	Fives Courts: long view from north-east	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0063		Fives Courts: long view from north-east	$\rightarrow$ SW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0064		Fives Courts: contextual view from south-east	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler
DSC_0065*	2	Fives Courts: contextual view from south-east	$\rightarrow$ NW	14.03.12	R Tyler

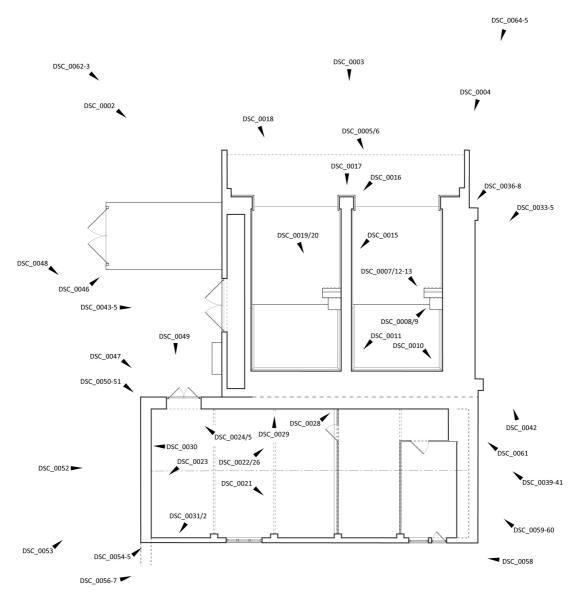


Photo location plan

# Historic Building Record

# **APPENDIX C:** Register of Project Drawings

**NB**: All site drawings were prepared in pencil on archivally stable drafting film at a scale of 1:50 and/or 1:20 as appropriate.

Drg. No.	Subject	Format	Scale	Date	Recorder
2012_004/001	Fives Courts: plan	A3	1:50	14.03.12	R Tyler
2012_004/002	Fives Courts: cross-section	A3	1:50	14.03.12	R Tyler
2012_004/003	Store: plan	A3	1:50	14.03.12	R Tyler