MG Building, University of Wolverhampton Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Historic Building Record

FINAL REPORT

August 2011

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Project Data

Project Number:	2011-008
Project Name:	**MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands**
NGR:	NGR SO 9150 9890
Planning Reference:	11/00466/CON; condition 3
Document Title:	Historic Building Record
Issue No.:	**v.**02 **FINAL**
Client Name:	Tweedale Ltd. 265 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton
Prepared by:	Ric Tyler AI*f*A
Date:	11/08/2011
Document Location:	C:/RIC WORK/2. Projects /2011/2011-008 – Wolverhampton MG Building/4. Report/4.4 PDF/FINAL REPORT 12.08.11/2011-008_ Full Doc v.2 FINAL.pdf

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Historic Building Record

Summary

A programme of Historic Building Recording was undertaken in July/August 2011 in respect of the MG Building at the University of Wolverhampton, Wulfruna Street Campus, Wolverhampton, West Midlands (NGR SO 9150 9890). The survey was required as a condition of Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of the building.

The MG Building dates to c.1950 when it was built as part of a three stage extension of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College, the original buildings of which date to 1926/33, occupying the site of the former Deanery of c.1667. Though of limited inherent interest or architectural merit, the building was nonetheless adjudged to be of sufficient significance to warrant 'preservation by record', representing as it does an integral part of the development of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College, a specialist education facility within the town later subsumed into the Wolverhampton Polytechnic, the latter establishment attaining University status in 1992.

Original design drawings of 1949 by ACH Stillman FRIBA, architect to the County Education Committee, demonstrate that the building was originally built as a gymnasium with related changing room, observation gallery, toilet and shower facilities, and basement boiler room/fuel store and cycle store. Pressure on classroom accommodation however, led to the early conversion/subdivision of the gymnasium hall of the building to form additional classroom accommodation, the building having essentially taken on its current form by the time of the opening of the National Foundry College in Stafford Street in 1954.

The current project has allowed for a detailed visual and interpretive record of the building to be made in advance of demolition.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Project

1.1.1 The MG Building is located to the eastern end of the University of Wolverhampton's Wulfruna Street campus in Wolverhampton city centre (NGR: SO 9150 9890; Figure 1). The building was originally constructed in *c.*1950 for the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College; renamed in 1951 as the College of Technology the institution was amalgamated with the College of Art in 1968 to form Wolverhampton Polytechnic which was itself granted university status in 1992. The building is not statutorily listed, nor indeed is it locally listed, though it is located within the Wolverhampton City Centre Conservation Area (WCC, 2007).

1.1.2 An application (ref. 11/00466/CON) has been made to Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) for the 'demolition of the MG Building and the removal of surplus materials from the site, leaving a surface suitable for temporary car parking'. As a condition of Conservation Area Consent, and in line with WCC UDP policy

HE6 (Demolition of Buildings or Structures in a Conservation Area),[1] a programme of historic building recording was required by the City Archaeologist; specifically, Condition 3 of consent stated that:

> *'No demolitions or alterations shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of building assessment and structural recording in accordance with a brief written by the council's archaeologist',*

1.1.3 The current report was commissioned by Tweedale Ltd of 265 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton acting on behalf of the University of Wolverhampton.

1.2 Scope of Report

1.2.1 The project was undertaken in accordance with a brief dated 21st July 2011, prepared by Mr Mike Shaw, City Archaeologist at Wolverhampton City Council; a copy of the project brief is included below as **Appendix A**.

1.2.2 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* (I*f*A, 2008) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings* (ALGAO, 1997).

1.2.3 This report has been prepared based upon information current and available as of July / August 2011. Site survey work was undertaken on 26th July 2011.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The general aim of the project, as stated at section §.3.1-2 of the brief, was to make a detailed record of the structure prior to demolition by means of a rapid desk-based assessment (DBA) and a programme of historic building recording.

2.2 The historic building record, as specified at section §.3.4 of the project brief, was to correspond to a Level 1/2 record as defined by English Heritage in '*Recording Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (EH 2006, 14), comprising a physical examination of the building fabric and a drawn, photographic and written descriptive/analytical record thereof.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Documentary Research

3.1.1 A rapid programme of documentary research into the historical background, origins and development of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College and the MG Building in particular was undertaken. A search was made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps, early photographs and drawings, written descriptions, and primary and secondary sources related to the building held by the Wolverhampton Archives and at the University of Wolverhampton. A full list of sources consulted is included below at Section §.8.

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

3.1.2 Mr Duncan Nimmo of the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society was also consulted and kindly made available the results of his personal research into the origins and development of the college.

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 drawn, photographic and written records as follows:

The Drawn Record

3.2.2 Pre-existing survey plans at basement, ground and first floor levels, supplied by Tweedale Ltd., were checked on site and annotated with relevant significant architectural and archaeological detail. These form the basis of the figures included below.

The Photographic Record

3.2.3 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 photo location plans; digital copies of photographs in *.jpg format are included on CD appended to the rear cover of the report.

The Written Record

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

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

General histories of Wolverhampton have been published elsewhere (eg. Mander, 1960; Upton, 1998) and will not be repeated here; likewise a literature exists covering the development of technical education at a local level (Forster, 1985; Henderson, 1948), a subject beyond the scope of the current recording action.

4.1 The Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College

4.1.1 The Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College[2] was founded under an agreement concluded in July 1914 between the County Borough of Wolverhampton and the County of Stafford, whereby the formation of a single, purpose-built institution to centralise technical and commercial classes, previously scattered over a number of sites in Garrick Street, Dunkley Street, Old Hall Street and elsewhere, would be jointly financed by the Borough and the County (proportionally two thirds/ one third). The Wolverhampton Corporation had previously purchased the Old Deanery site on the north side of Wulfruna Street (formerly Horse Fair; Figure 2a) in 1912 for a sum of £6,000, together with a site extending to some 7,472 sq. yds.

4.1.2 The college scheme was, however, long delayed, first by the years of the First World War, and then by a protracted controversy over the demolition of the Old Deanery building itself (Figure 2b), a fine 17th-century domestic structure, sometimes attributed to Christopher Wren (Upton 1998, 15). Strenuous efforts were made to preserve the building *in-situ* within the proposed college development, perhaps in an adapted form as administrative offices (Henderson 1948, 6) though eventually, on grounds of economy, the Deanery was

[2] http://www.localhistory.scit.wlv.ac.uk/listed/localist/uni.htm

demolished in 1921 to clear the site for an entirely purpose-built, new-build establishment. The first building to be erected at the Deanery site was the Engineering Block, begun in 1924 and opened on 21st May 1926 by HRH Princess Mary (see Figure 11). While construction of the Engineering Block was still under way, however, the Authority embarked upon works related to completion of the scheme, to the designs of County Education Committee architect Colonel G.C. Lowbridge LRIBA and Messrs. Fleeming and Son of Wolverhampton; the foundation stone was laid by HRH Prince George KG in October 1931 and the principal Wulfruna Street range was opened two years later in June 1933 by Lord Irwin, President of the Board of Education (Figure 4).[3] The cost of the new College, (complete with equipment) was approximately £163,000.[4] The remit of the college maintained not only that commerce and women's studies be addressed in addition to science and technology, but also that the college should provide for the humanities and for the students' 'corporate life' (Anon. 1948, 5). Thus the college was built with a library, assembly hall, a semi-public lecture room, a gymnasium, students' common room and refectory (*ibid*.); a detailed account of the college buildings as built is given in the brochure accompanying the official opening on June 30th 1933. The Technical College is first illustrated on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Edition of 1938 (Figure 3c).

4.2 The Extension Scheme

4.2.1 The college as originally envisaged under the 1914 agreement made provision for *c*.1,100 students though this number was revised even before initial works were complete; a report on the accommodation in 1931 estimated a capacity of 1,530 with an increase to 1,760 being achievable 'without difficulty'. Even these higher numbers, however, were almost immediately exceeded and from the full opening of the college in 1933, evening classes in engineering and ancillary subjects in particular were 'unduly large' and workshop periods had to be rationed between students (*ibid*., 6). Thus, an extension scheme for the college was put forward in 1938, envisaging a 3-storey facade along the full length of Stafford Street as far as the George Hotel, connecting with the Wulfruna Street facade via a single storey range behind the back of the latter building; progress was halted once more, however, by the outbreak of war. The proposals were resubmitted to the Ministry of Education in 1944 and a public enquiry held in November 1946, resulting in the necessary authority being secured for the acquisition of the several sites and properties thereon, with the exception of the George Hotel.

4.2.2 The extensions were proposed to be undertaken in three stages, firstly a three-storey 'production engineering' wing to the north of the MG building, aligned SW-NE with a narrow frontage onto Stafford Street; secondly the MG Building itself together with an eastwards extension of the Wulfruna Street frontage and thirdly, the National Foundry School block, aligned along Stafford Street running northwards from the George Hotel to abut the Stage I engineering wing (see Figure 6/11). Construction of Stages I and II were subject to a single contract, won by McKeand Smith and Son Ltd of Showell Road, Wolverhampton; the original contract, dated 15th March 1950 and including plans and bills of quantities, is listed in the holdings of the Wolverhampton Archives[5] though at the time of preparation of the current report, the document was not locatable in the store. Fortunately, copies of the original design drawings (see §.4.3; Figures 7-10) by ACH Stillman, FRIBA, successor to Lowbridge as architect to the Education Committee, were also included within a related contract for the installation of heating and hot water services in the Stage II extension (MG Building),[6] undertaken by D Wiseman and Bros. Ltd., also of Showell Road. A photograph of *c*.1950 shows the engineering block and eastern extension of the Wulfruna Street frontage underway (Figure 5a), though the site of the future MG Building would appear to have been in use as a yard at that time. The MG building itself is first depicted in the cartographic record on the Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:2500 Edition of 1956-7 (Figure 3d).

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3 See *Official Opening of The Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College, June 30th 1933*. Wolverhampton Archives, shelfmark L374.

4 See fn.3.

5 Wolverhampton Archives; D-LEG/1950/4-1.

6 Wolverhampton Archives; D-LEG1950/1950/7-3.

4.3 The MG Building

4.3.1 Copies of original design drawings for the MG Building (Figures 7-10) were included within the contract, dated 28th March 1950, for the installation of hot water and heating systems within the building (see above) and give a detailed insight into the arrangements of the block as constructed. The building was designed as a full-height gymnasium[7] to the north with associated changing room, toilet, shower and drying facilities, storage areas and upper viewing gallery to the south and included a large basement with boiler room/fuel store and bicycle store, the latter accessed via longitudinal ramps flanking the block to east and west. Details of the original design will be discussed in more detail in the building description below (§.5).

4.3.2 The third stage of the college extension was undertaken in 1952, namely the construction of the National Foundry College range along Stafford Street.[8] An oblique aerial photograph of 1954 (Figure 5b), included within the brochure commemorating the Official Opening of the National Foundry College and Post-War Extensions to the Technical College,[9] illustrates the college buildings as completed. A series of plans of the college complex was also included in the official opening brochure, the lower ground floor being of particular interest. The plan (reproduced at Figure 11) clearly indicates that the northern ground floor area of the building, only recently completed, had already by this early date been subdivided to form an axial corridor opening onto a series of small lecture rooms/offices; this is perhaps related to Smith's remark that '*in 1952 the Stage III building development was approved and during the same year one of the gymnasia was converted into classrooms*' (Smith 1985, 45).

4.4 Later Developments

4.4.1 The Technical College was combined with the College of Art in 1968 to form the Wolverhampton Polytechnic which went on to attain University status in 1992; the later developments of the college as a whole are beyond the scope of the current study though it is evident that further, limited alterations were undertaken within the MG Building during this period, the most significant being the introduction of an internal stair and service lift between lower ground floor and basement level.

4.4.2 A fairly comprehensive collection of college prospectuses are held by Wolverhampton Archives[10] though these relate primarily to the courses offered and make no particular reference to the college accommodation.

5 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The MG Building occupies a rectangular ground plan, 31.4m (103ft) N/S x 12.5m (41ft) E/W, aligned approximately north-south, located within an enclosed area (Plate 3) to the north of the Wulfruna Street range of the former Technical College (Plate 1) and to the west of the former National Foundry College. It is accessed from Wulfruna Street via a narrow entranceway leading between Lowbridge's 1930s range and the 1950 Phase II extension block (Plate 2). The building is brick-built, arranged over two storeys to the south and a single, tall storey to the north, all over a semi-basement and with a flat roof hidden behind a short parapet.

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7 The original college building was designed with an integral gymnasium (Room 15, Figure 4a) though the assessment of future requirements accompanying the approved 1949 extension programme (Anon. 1948, 8) stipulated that 'a second gymnasium should form part of a long range building scheme'.

8 The National Foundry College was a separate institution with its own head, but with the College Principal as Director.

9 Wolverhampton Archives; DX-577/3/1

10 Wolverhampton Archives; DX-221.

5.2 The Exterior

5.2.1 The **west elevation** (Figure Plates 4 and 5) is brick-built in pale orange/red brick (8 x 4 x 2½in.) laid to stretcher bond (cavity construction) above an English bond plinth, the top of which equates to the interior ground floor level, rising to a horizontal parapet wall with at a maximum height of 7.9m (*c*.26ft). The top of the plinth stands 14 courses high to the south-east corner and a maximum of 19 courses to the north-west, reflecting a drop away in the level of the surrounding ground surface. The northern two thirds of the elevation comprise a full-height range of seven structural bays lit by six tall steel-framed windows (the northern bay being blind). A primary doorway (double doors) serves the raised ground floor level at the north end of the range, accessed via a short flight of steps rising north to south against the elevation (Plate 6). Full-height windows are of tri-partite design (Plate 7) with a centre-hinged, 6-pane upper light, a 6-pane fixed central section and a lower, 3-pane bottom-hinged hopper (the lower hopper section is absent from the window above the doorway); lintels and cills are of concrete. The lower part of the northern section of the elevation is obscured by the brick-built flanking wall of a primary access ramp, descending from south to north to serve the basement area (Plate 4); the ramp is covered by a glazed pent-roof with a ridge directly below cill level of the full height windows.

5.2.2 The northern third of the elevation is of two storeys, clearly expressed by superimposed fenestration (Plate 8). Windows are here square and of bi-partite form, with 3-pane, centre-hinged upper light over 3-pane hopper (Plate 19), two to ground floor and three to first floor level; a further narrow window to the far south end of first floor level lights a lavatory internally. Two low windows light the basement level which is accessed via a central, part glazed doorway.[11]

5.2.3 Rainwater goods are of iron, with four downpipes fed by plain hoppers set just above the head of the upper windows, where the flat roof drains via voids within the parapet wall.

5.2.4 The **east elevation** (Figure 13; Plates 9/10) mirrors to a great extent the arrangements to the west, though lacking both the northern and southern doorways of the latter elevation (serving gymnasium and basement respectively). The southern section of the range displays a simpler pattern of fenestration of superimposed square windows to ground and first floors over low windows (partly blocked) serving the basement; a tall, square brick-stack (in English bond) rises 13.75m (*c*.45ft) towards the south end of the elevation (Plate 9) serving the basement boiler and pump rooms. A second basement access ramp descends from north to south against the northern part of the elevation (Plate 10).

5.2.5 The **south elevation** (Figure 14a; Plates 11/12) is of two storeys, brick-built in stretcher bond above an English bond plinth. Fenestration matches the southern section of the eastern and western elevations with superimposed steel-framed windows of bi-partite form with 3-pane centre-hinged upper lights over 3-pane bottom hinged hoppers; low windows again light the basement level. The principal access door is offset slightly to west of centre and is approached via a short flight of concrete stairs (Plate 12); double doors are of stout, timber construction with 8 glazed panes to each door (Plate 16).

5.2.6 The **north elevation** (Figure 14b; Plate 13) is plain, lit by two full-height windows matching the northern section of the eastern and western elevations; two low windows within the offset plinth light the basement level.

5.3 The Interior

Ground Floor (Figure 15, see also Figure 7)

5.3.1 The **ground floor** of the range is accessed principally via the main door of the south elevation (Plate 12/16) which opens onto a longitudinal corridor, floored in 6in. red quarry tiles, serving the southern third of the

[11] No access at time of survey due to presence of asbestos.

building (Plates 14/15). Doorways (mainly renewed) open to east and west onto rooms [MG008] (Plate 18)/[MG008a-c] and [MG001]/[MG001a] respectively, while Stair A opens off the west side of the corridor rising to the first floor. Room [MG008a-c] was not accessible at the time of survey due to the presence of asbestos; it would appear that a number of the partition walls here are later insertions, though reference to Stillman's design drawing (Figure 7) indicates that the essentials of the plan remain unaltered, with original room functions as follows:

Room No.	Function	Room No.	Function
[MG001]	Kit and Towel Store	[MG008a]	Toilets (WC x 2 + urinal)
[MG001a]	Store	[MG008b]	Drying Room
[MG008]	Changing Room	[MG008c]	Showers

Table 1: Original room functions; ground floor, south end.

5.3.2 To the north end of the southern corridor, primary double doors open onto a further corridor (Plate 20), the axis of which is set central to the range, formed by a series of stud and plasterboard partitions and with suspended ceiling, serving a number of rooms to east and west ([MG002-[MG007], eg. Plate 21). At the north end of the corridor, secondary Stair B descends to basement level. Reference to Stillman's design drawing illustrates that these partitions represent secondary insertions and that the full seven structural bays of the northern end of the range was originally a single, open gymnasium hall, though a block plan of 1954 (Figure 11) shows at least some of the extant partitions in place at that date and they thus represent an early adaptation.[12] Iron column radiators are located beneath each of the tall steel-framed windows of the long elevations (Plate 21), the upper opening lights of which were operated by mechanisms supplied by Arens Controls Ltd. of Croydon (Plate 22). Primary flooring of 2¼ in. s/w boards over concrete slabs was exposed within rooms [MG004 (Plate 23), 006 and 003a], being elsewhere obscured by carpet. Groups of six steel 'hangers' (Plate 24) were noted in the soffit of the transverse ceiling beams within [MG002/003a], [MG003] [MG005] and [MG006], presumably for the support of primary gym equipment (frames/ropes etc.).

First Floor (Figure 16, see also Figure 8)

5.3.3 The **first floor** level extends only to the southern end of the range and is accessed via Stair A, opening off the west side of the southern corridor (Plate 25) and rising on a dog-leg plan with ½ landing (Plate 26) to a first floor landing aligned transversely across the building (Plate 27). Paired doorways (one inserted) open off the north side of the landing onto a series of three rooms ([MG110, 110a and 110b]); reference to Stillman's design drawing (Figure 8) indicates that these rooms were formerly one space extending across the full width of the range, open to the north to form an observation gallery with balustrade overlooking the hall and furnished with timber staging (see Figure 10). To the east end of the landing a primary room [MG111] fronts onto the east elevation while opening off the south side of the landing, via an inserted door, is room [MG112]. An original door at the east end of the south side of the landing opens onto an axial corridor (Plate 28), extending to the southern exterior wall, where an inserted door opens onto a raised walkway connecting with the first floor of the Phase II Wulfruna Street extension. Two rooms, [MG109a and b] open off the northern side of this corridor though the partitions are clearly inserted, extending over the original herring-bone woodblock flooring of a single room (Plate 29). Reference to Stillman's design drawing (Figure 8) reveals the original room functions as follows:

Room No.	Function	Room No.	Function
[MG109a]	Changing room (*together with corridor*)	[MG111]	Instructor
[MG109b]		[MG112]	Showers and drying area
[MG110]	Viewing gallery to hall with balustrade and staging	[MG112a]	Toilets (WC x 2 + urinal)
[MG110a]			
[MG110b]			

Table 2: Original room functions; first floor, south end.

[12] Other partitions would appear to represent tertiary adaptations added after the 1954 block plan, thus two phases of inserted wall are illustrated in Figure 15.

Basement (Figure 17, see also Figure 9)

5.3.4 The **basement** level is accessed from the exterior via doorways at the base of access ramps flanking the eastern and western elevations and internally via an inserted stair (Stair B; Plates 30/31) at the north end of the range, within the area of the former gymnasium hall. Stillman's design drawing (Figure 9) indicates a primary division into two spaces, that below the gymnasium forming an extensive cycle store (for 2 banks of 112 cycles) while that below the storeyed south end housed pump/boiler room [MGb06], fuel store [MGb06a] and laundry [MGb07-10]. The southern section of the building was not accessible at the time of survey due to the presence of asbestos, while the northern section was noted to be subdivided to form two larger, open-plan areas [MGb01] and [MGb01a] (Plate 32) and a series of smaller enclosed rooms; the date of the partitions is not clear, likewise Stair B the insertion of which post-dates the introduction of the ground floor partitions (Figure see 11).

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Development

6.1.1 A search of the archival material held at Wolverhampton Archives has allowed for the origins and early development of the MG Building to be traced with some degree of certainty. Three principal phases of development are apparent as follows:

- **PHASE I** (*c*.1950): original construction as gymnasium to designs of ACH Stillman FRIBA, *c*.1950.
- **PHASE II** (pre-1954): early subdivision of gymnasium hall to provide additional classroom accommodation.
- **PHASE III** (undated): further sub-division/alterations to internal accommodation; insertion of internal stair and service lift between ground floor and basement.

6.1.2 It has not been possible to trace the later (PHASE III) developments and alterations to the building with any degree of certainty, no records would appear to be held in the archives at the University prior to *c*.2000, when the range was in use by the School of Applied Sciences (SAS), possibly the result of the multiple changes in status of the establishment which would presumably have resulted in changes to the maintenance regime of any building archive materials.

6.2 Assessment and Conclusion

6.2.1 Though of limited inherent interest or architectural merit, and of a form easily paralleled elsewhere, the MG Building is nonetheless of some significance in representing an integral part of the development of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College, a specialist education facility within the town later subsumed into the Wolverhampton Polytechnic, the latter establishment attaining University status in 1992.

6.2.2 The current project has allowed for a detailed visual and interpretive record of the fabric of the MG Building to be made in advance of demolition as required within the project brief while documentary research has allowed that record to be placed within a broad historical context.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 The project was commissioned by Tweedale Ltd of 265 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, working on behalf of the University of Wolverhampton; thanks are extended to Mr Terry Reynolds of Tweedale for help and cooperation throughout. Thanks are also extended to Mr Steve Rogers and Ms Clare Wilkins of the

University of Wolverhampton (Estates and Facilities) for arranging safe access to the building during the site survey and for background information related to the more recent history of the MG Building.

7.2 Thanks also go to Mr Mike Shaw, Wolverhampton City Archaeologist and to the staff of the Wolverhampton City Archives, Molineux House. Special thanks go to Mr Duncan Nimmo of the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society for making available a summary of his own researches into the history and development of the Technical College buildings.

7.3 Site recording and assessment were undertaken by Mr Ric Tyler AI*f*A who also wrote, collated and illustrated the current report.

8 SOURCES

(a) Cartographic Sources (in chronological order)

- 1871 Steen and Blackett's 1:528 town plan (Wolverhampton Archives ref. DX-673, sheet 44).
- 1886-7 Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 map, 1st Edition.
- 1903 Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 map, 1st Revision.

(b) Primary Sources (Wolverhampton Archives)

- D-LEG/1949/5-7: *Contract for alterations and extensions to technical college, T Wellings and Sons Ltd*, dated 28th April 1949.
- D-LEG/1950/4-1: *Contract for the construction of extensions, known as stages 1 and 2, to the Technical College, Wulfruna Street, McKeand Smith and Co.*, dated 15th March 1950. (**NB**: Document not located).
- D-LEG/1950/7-3: *Contract for the installation of heating and hot water services in Stage 2 of the Technical College extension, Wulfruna Street, D Wiseman and Bros. Ltd*, dated 28th March 1950.
- D-LEG/1952/16-7: *Contract for erection of Stage 3 of the Technical College extension*, dated 3rd November 1952.
- L374: *Official Opening Brochure, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College*, dated 30th June 1933
- DX-577/3/1: *Official Opening Brochure, National Foundry College and the Post-War Extensions of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College*, dated 3rd February 1954.
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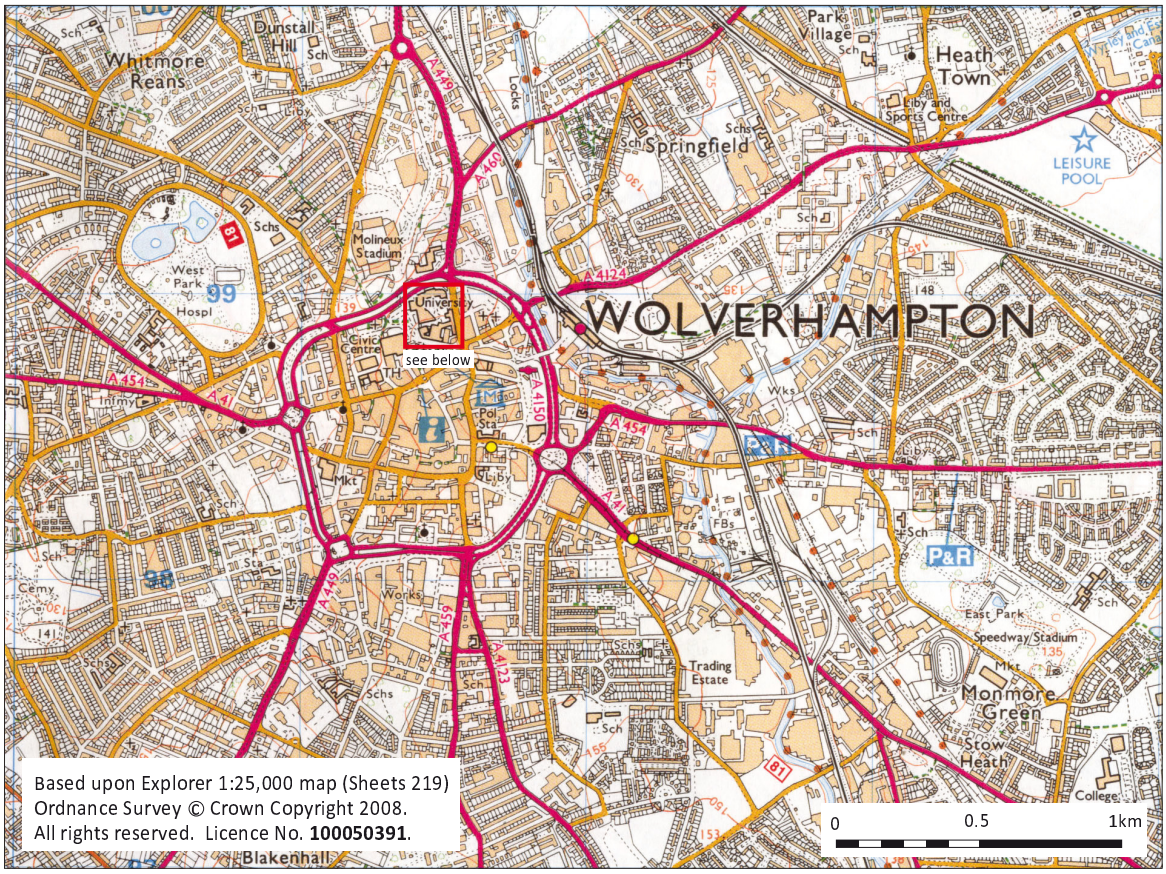
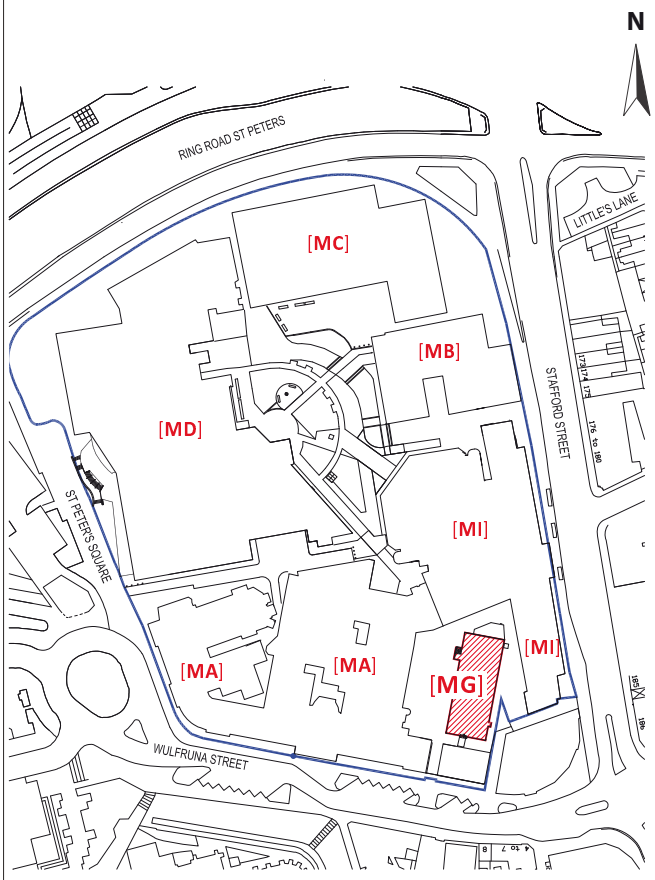
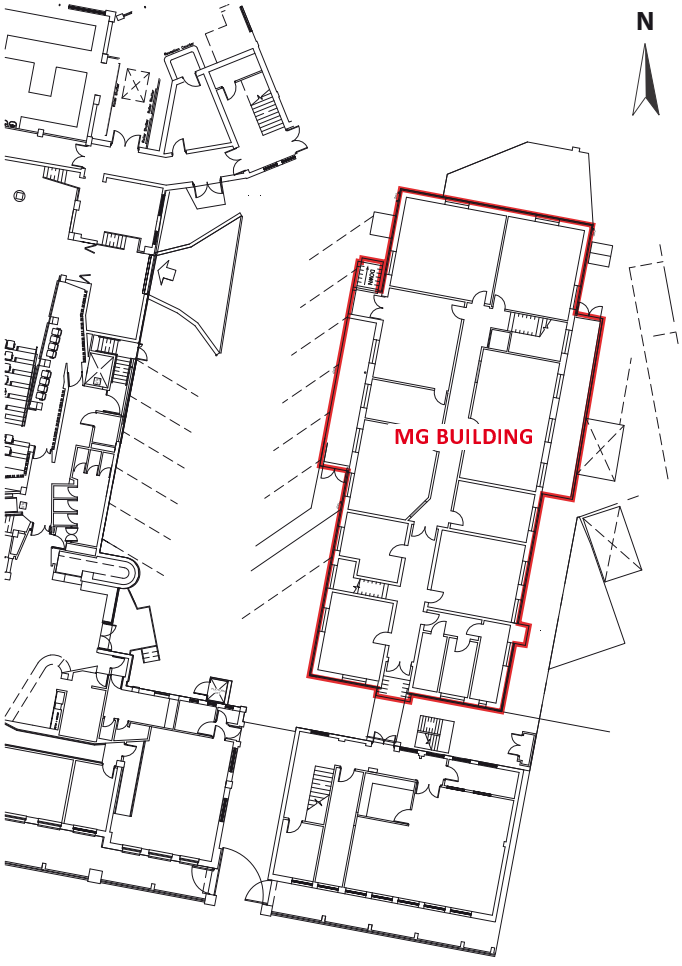
Wolverhampton City Council, 2007. *Wolverhampton City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals.* WCC.





WULFRUNA STREET CAMPUS

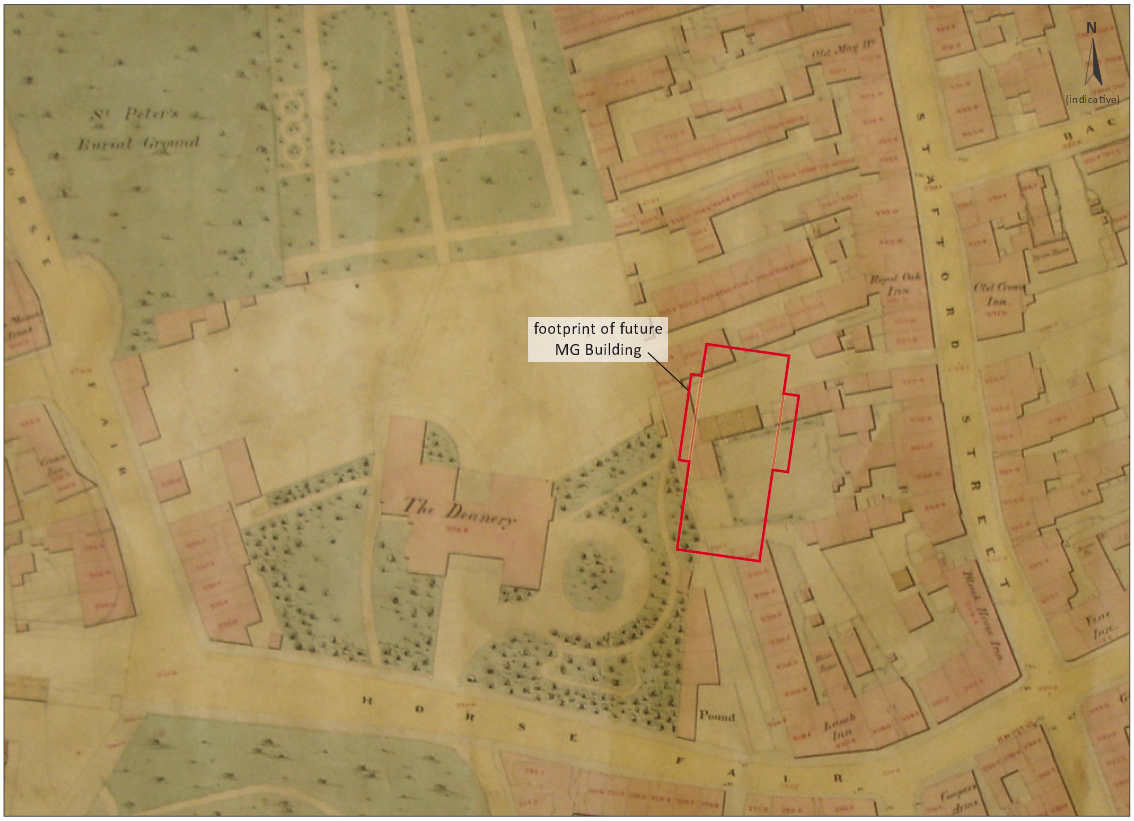
(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-001 of May 2011)



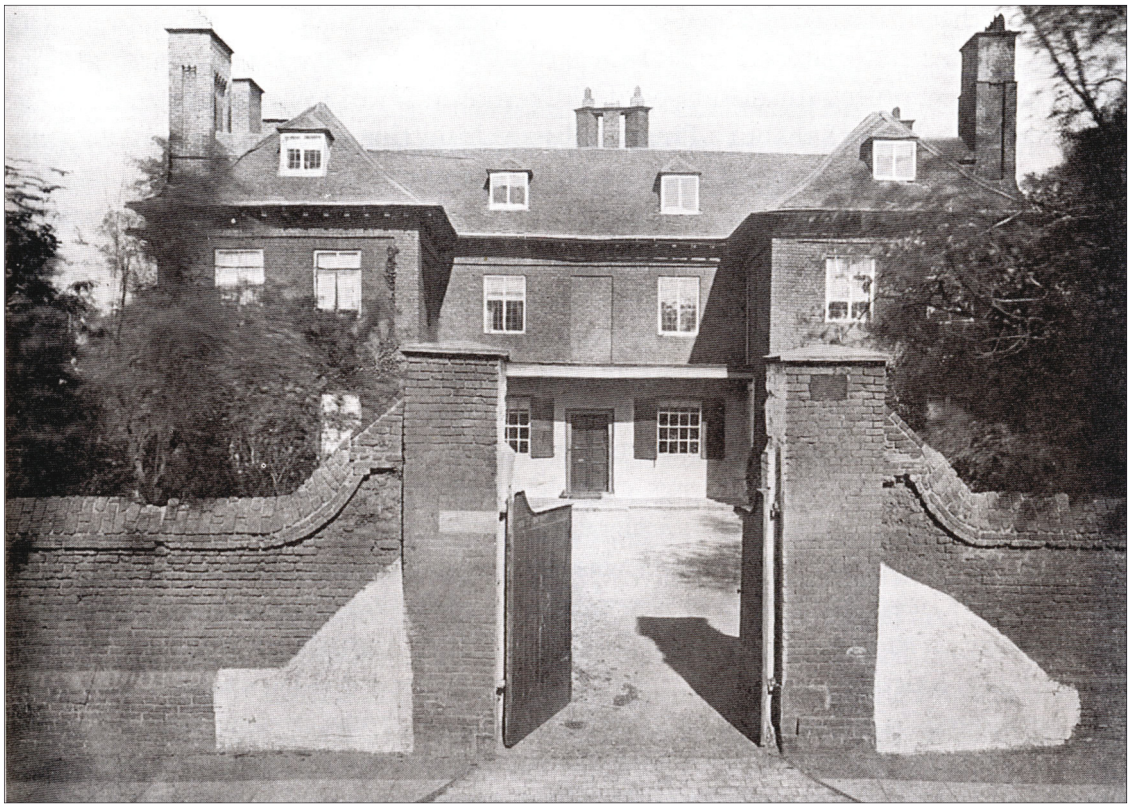
(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-002 of April 2011)

RIC TYLER
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

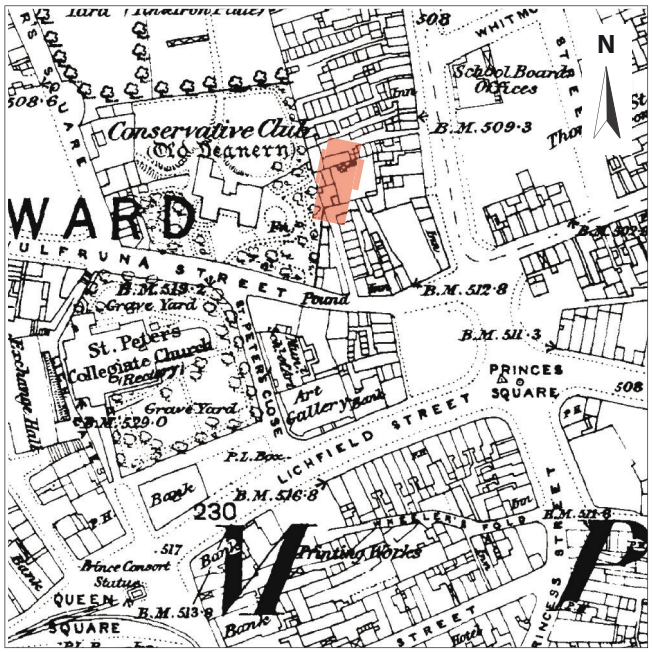
MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands
Figure 1: Site Location



(a) Site of Old Deanery on Steen and Blackett's 1:528 town plan of 1871 (sheet 44) (MG Bulding superimposed)

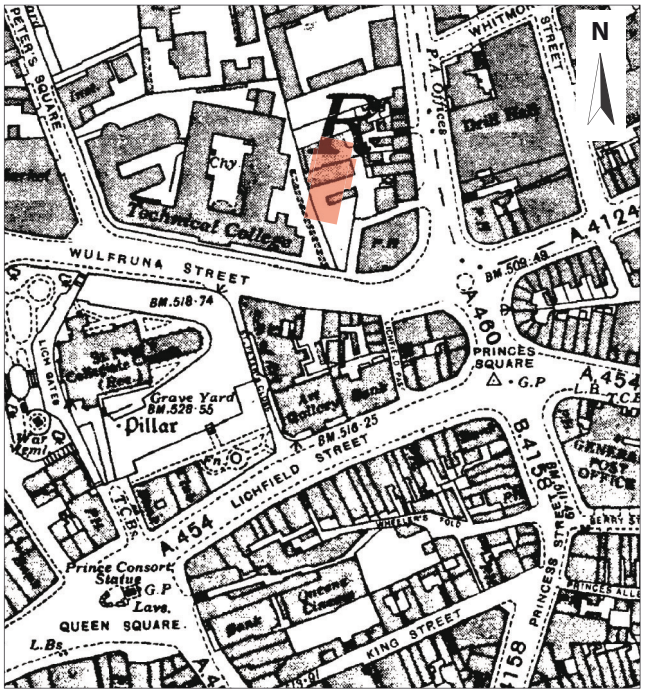


(b) The Deanery of *c.*1667, demolished for the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College, 1921 (from Upton 1998, 15).

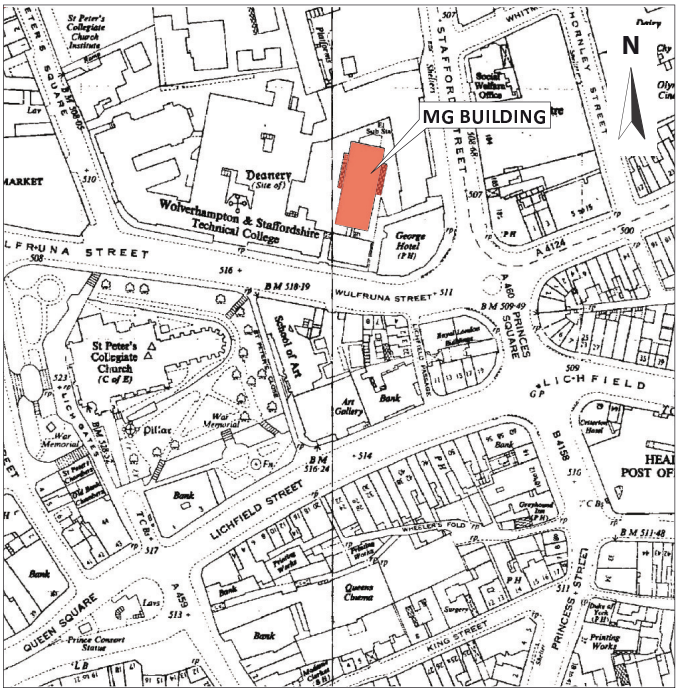


(a) County Series 1:2500 1st Edition 1887

(b) County Series 1:2500 1st Revision 1903

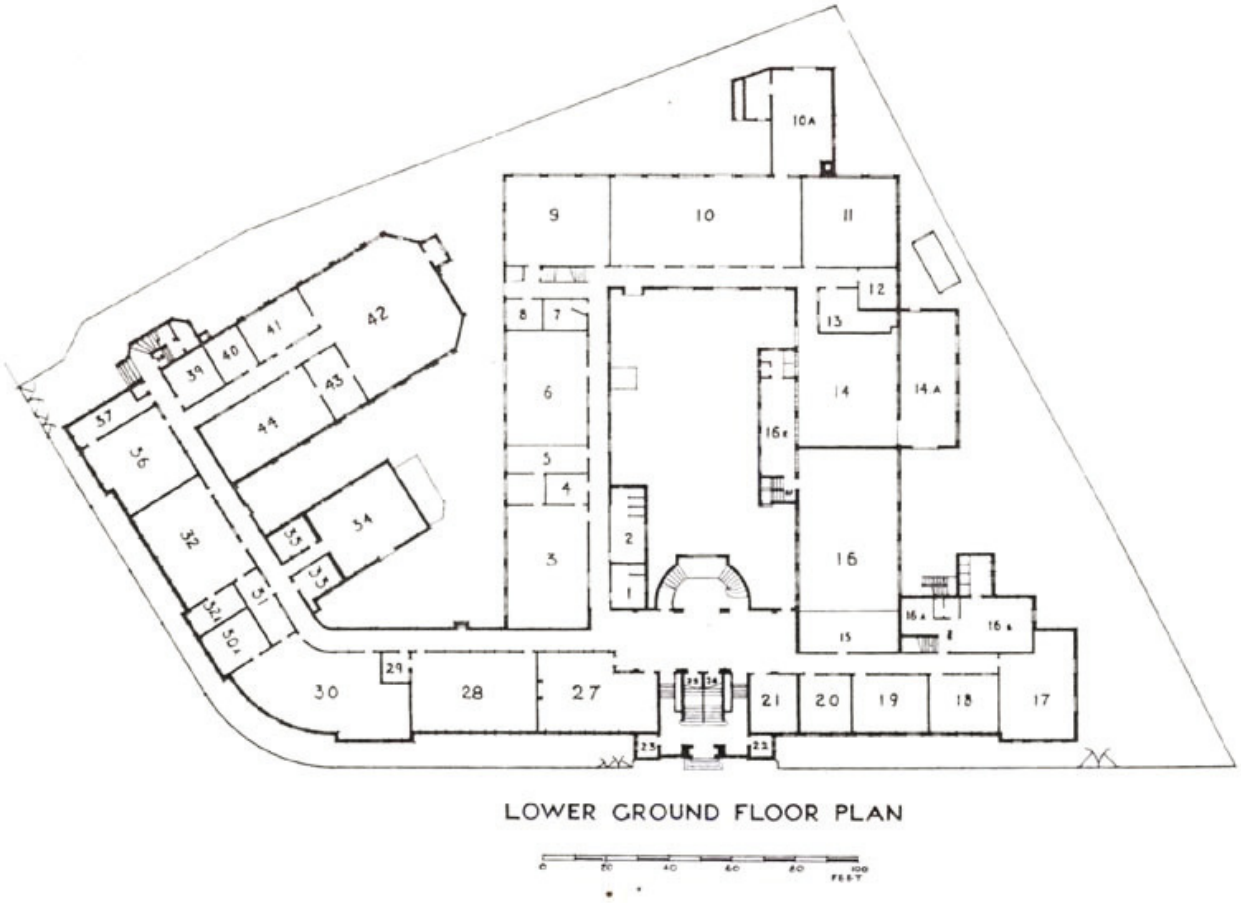


(c) County Series 1:2500 2nd Revision 1938



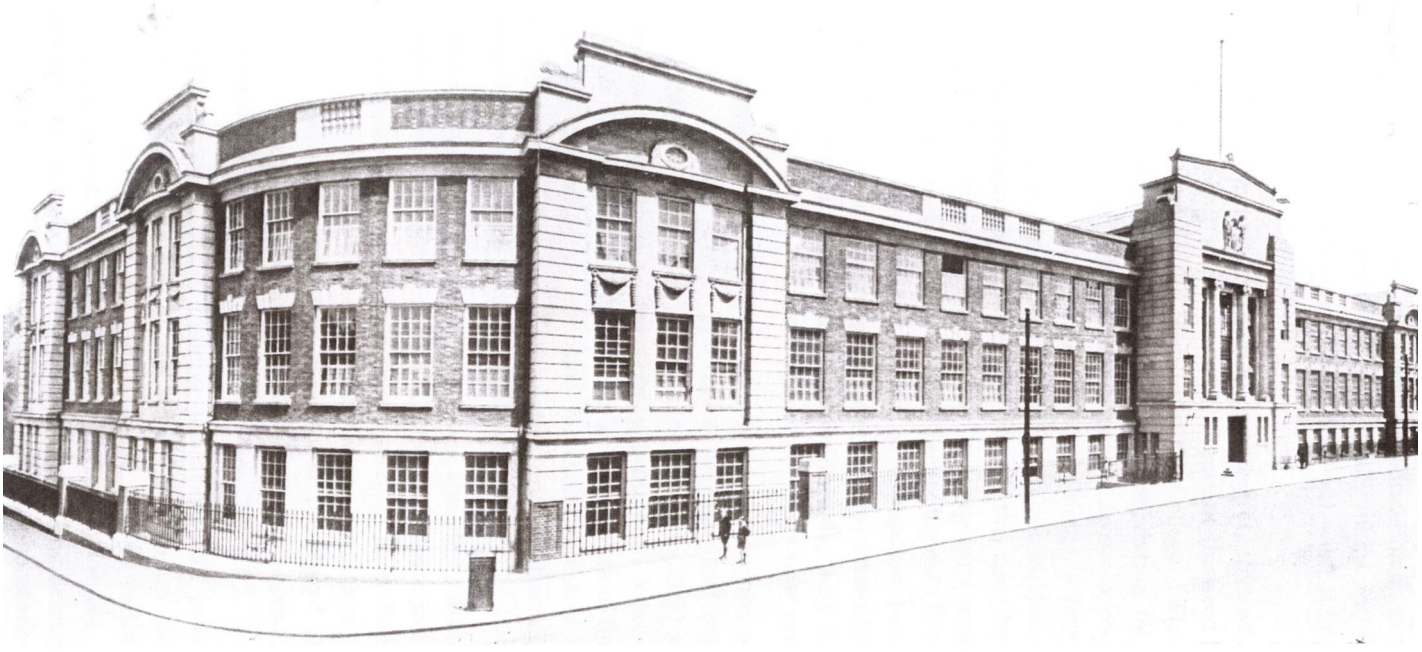
(d) National Grid Series 1:2500 edition, 1956-7

(a) - (c); footprint of future MG Building



LOWER GROUND FLOOR PLAN

(a) Lower ground floor plan



THE WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

(b) Wulfruna Street Facade

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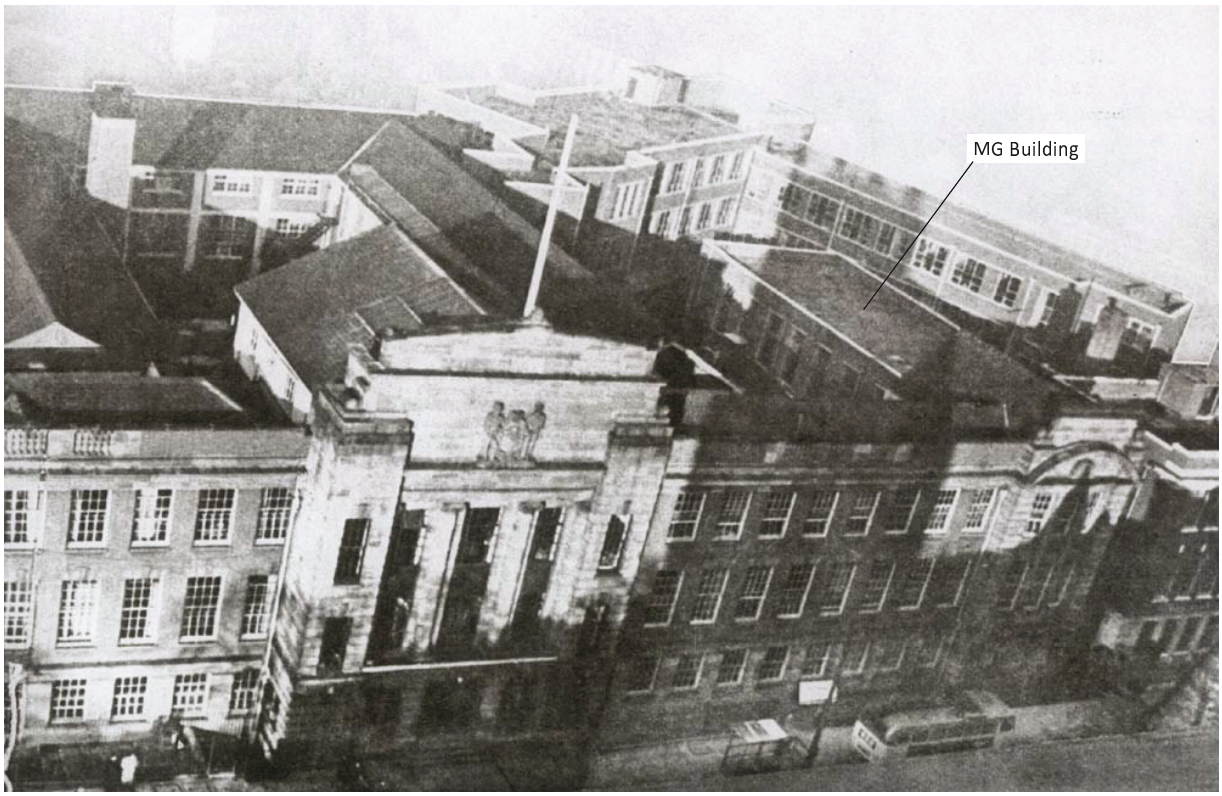
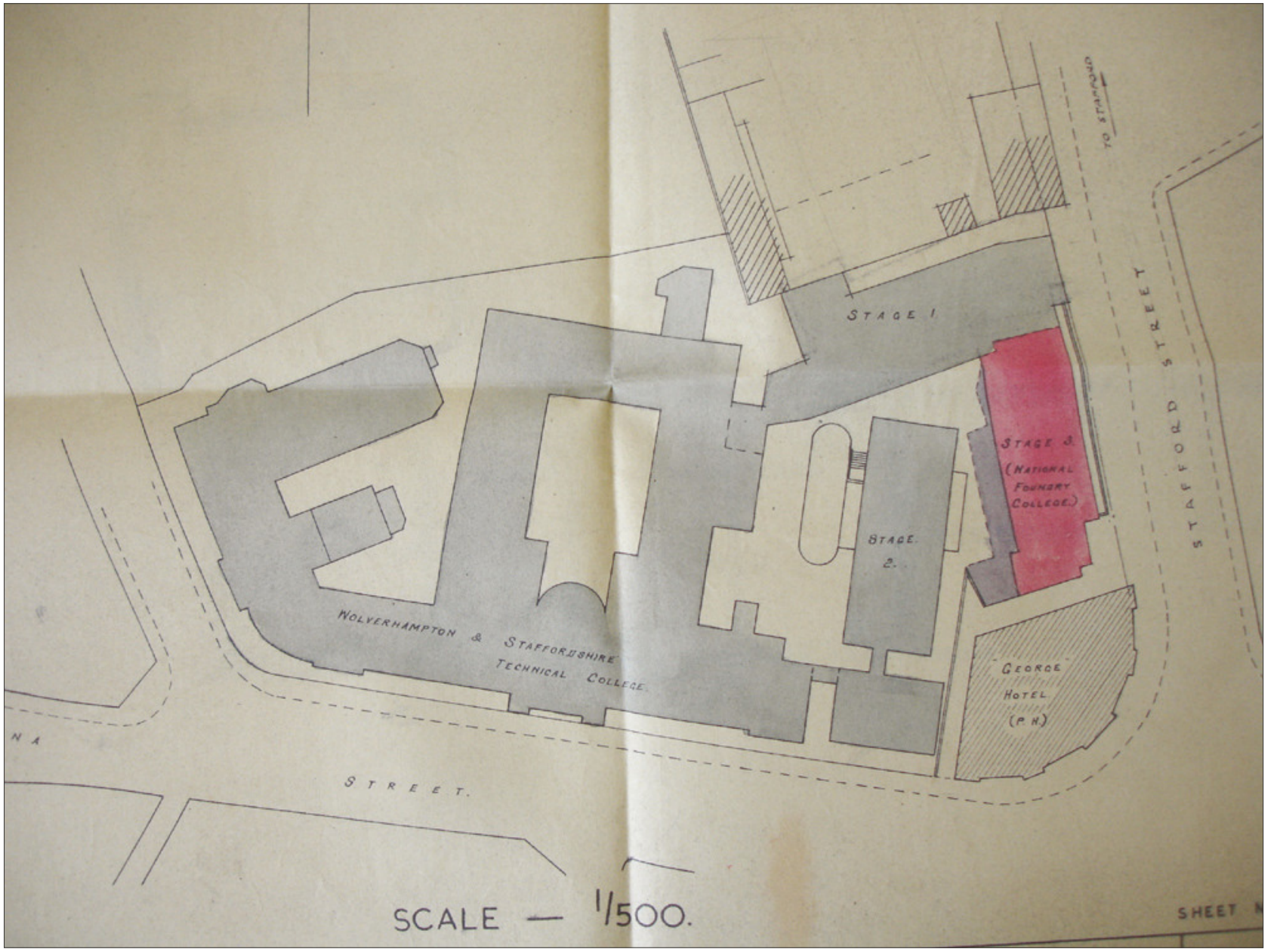
MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 4: Technical College as opened June 1933
(both images from official opening brochure)

(a) Construction of Phase I extensions to Technical College *c.*1950 (from an original photograph hanging in University of Wolverhampton Board Room).



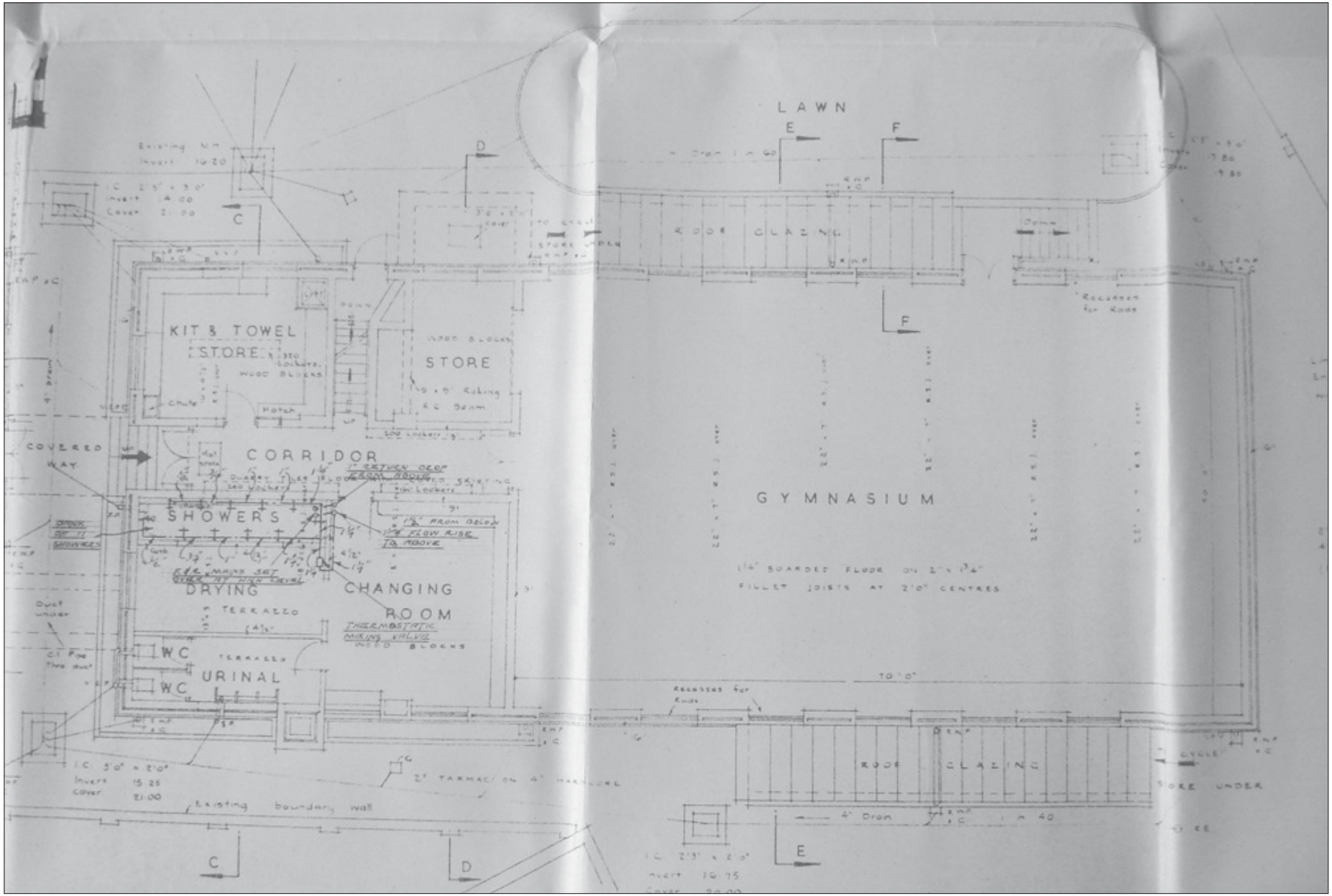
(b) Aerial view of completed buildings from 1954 Official Opening Brochure.



Wolverhampton Archives: D-LEG/1952/16-7

RIC TYLER
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

Figure 6: Block plan of Phase I-III extensions, dated November 1952



Wolverhampton Archives: D-LEG/1950/7-3

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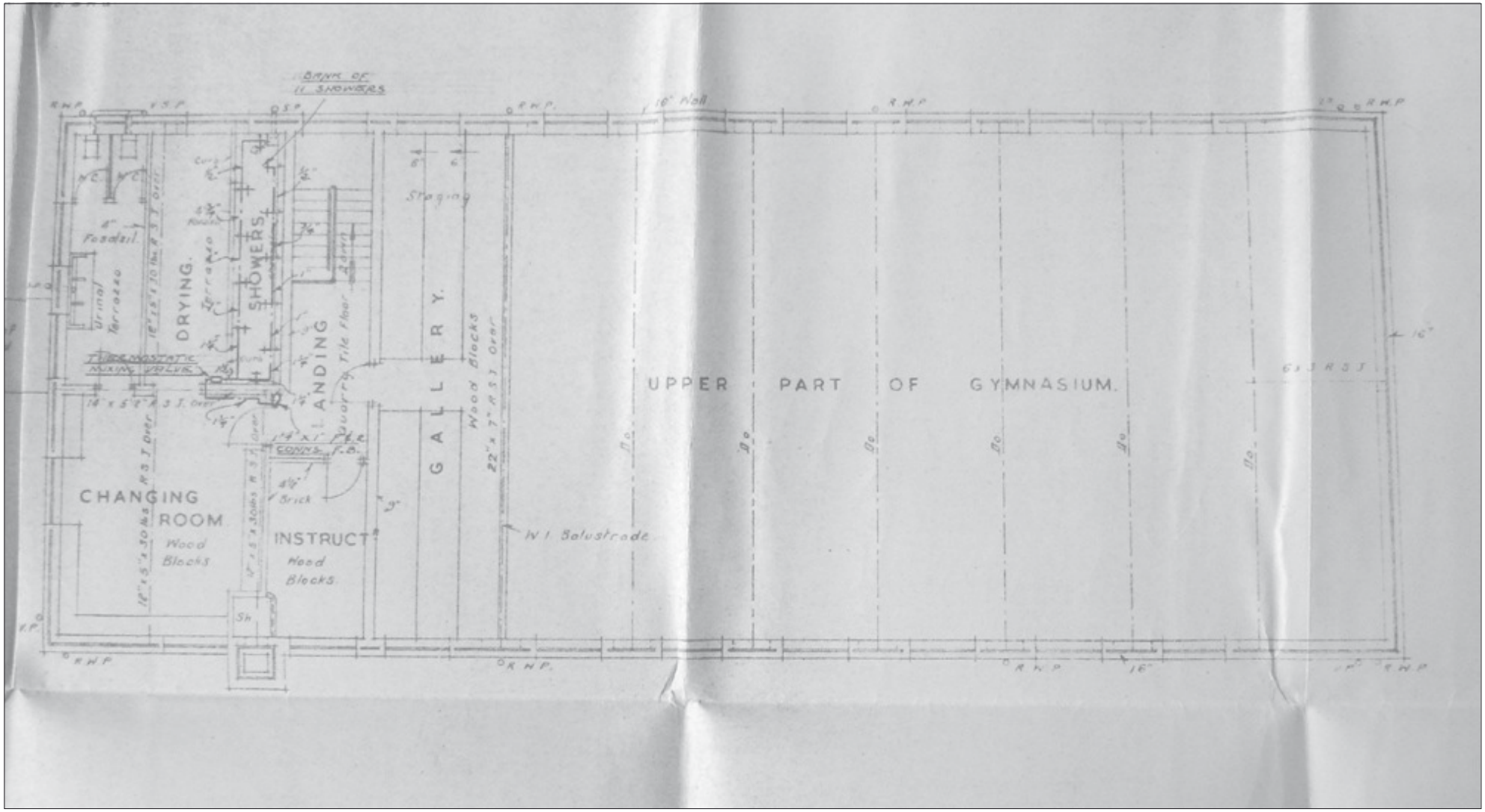
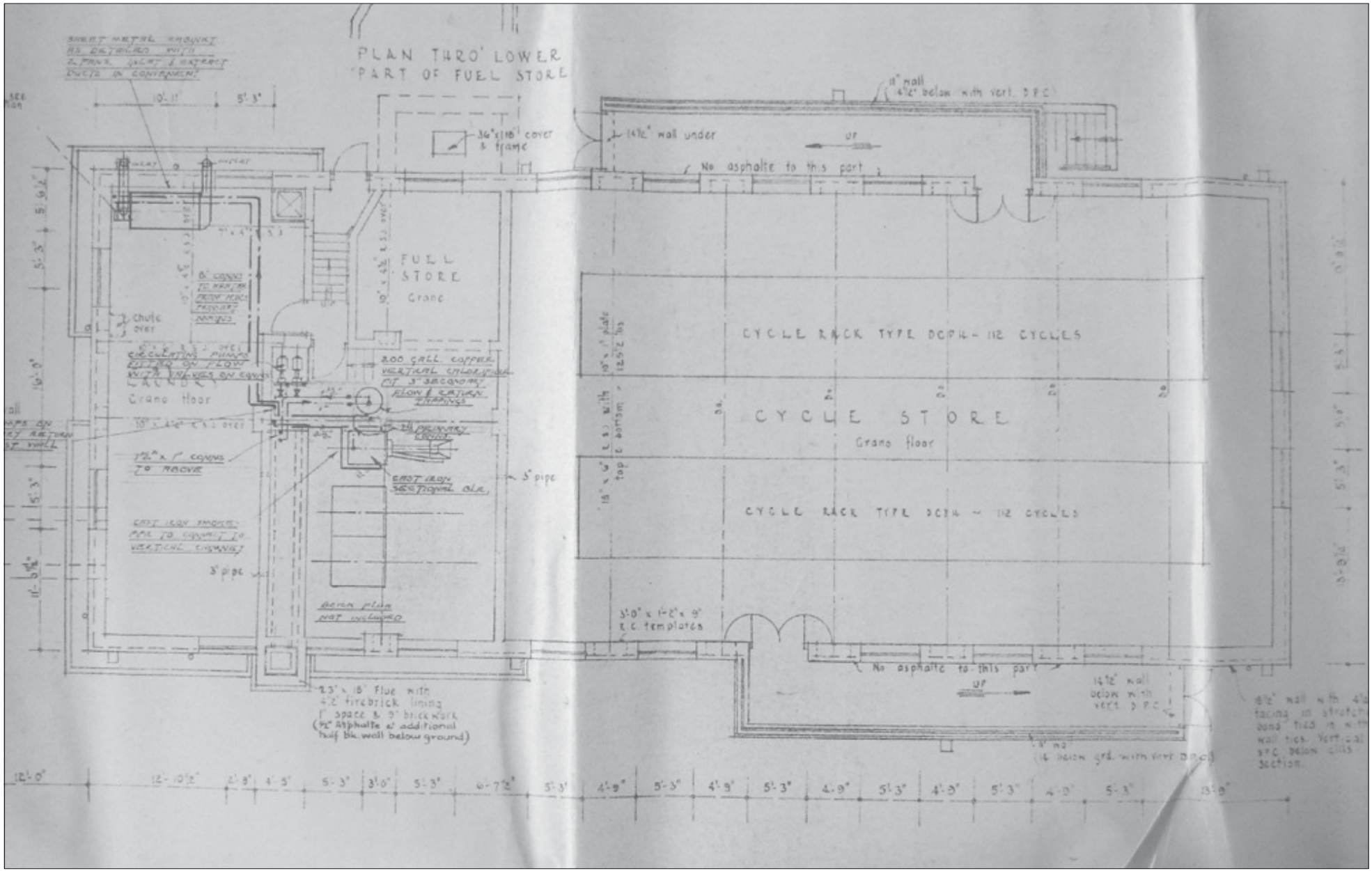
MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands
Figure 7: Stillman's design drawing of 1949; Ground floor level



Wolverhampton Archives: D-LEG/1950/7-3

RIC TYLER
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands
Figure 8: Stillman's design drawing of 1949; First floor level

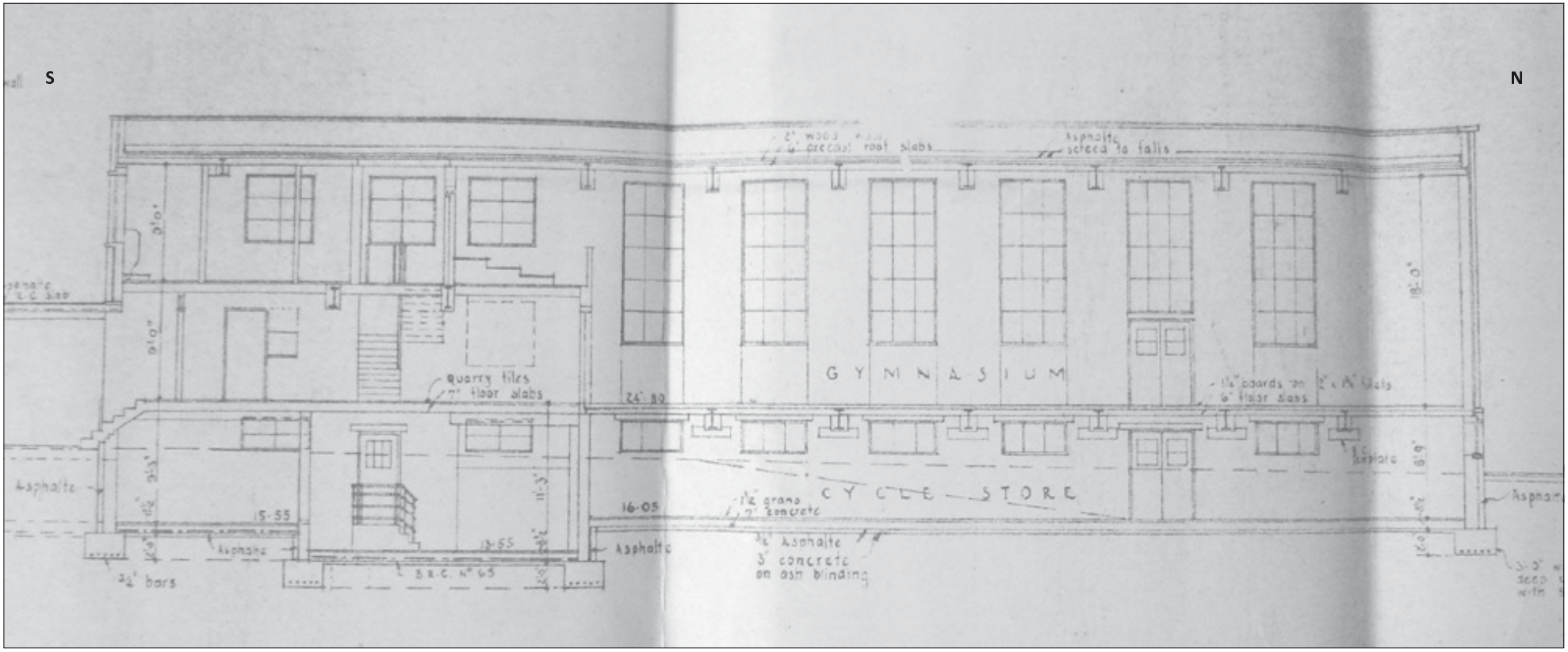


Wolverhampton Archives: D-LEG/1950/7-3

RIC TYLER
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

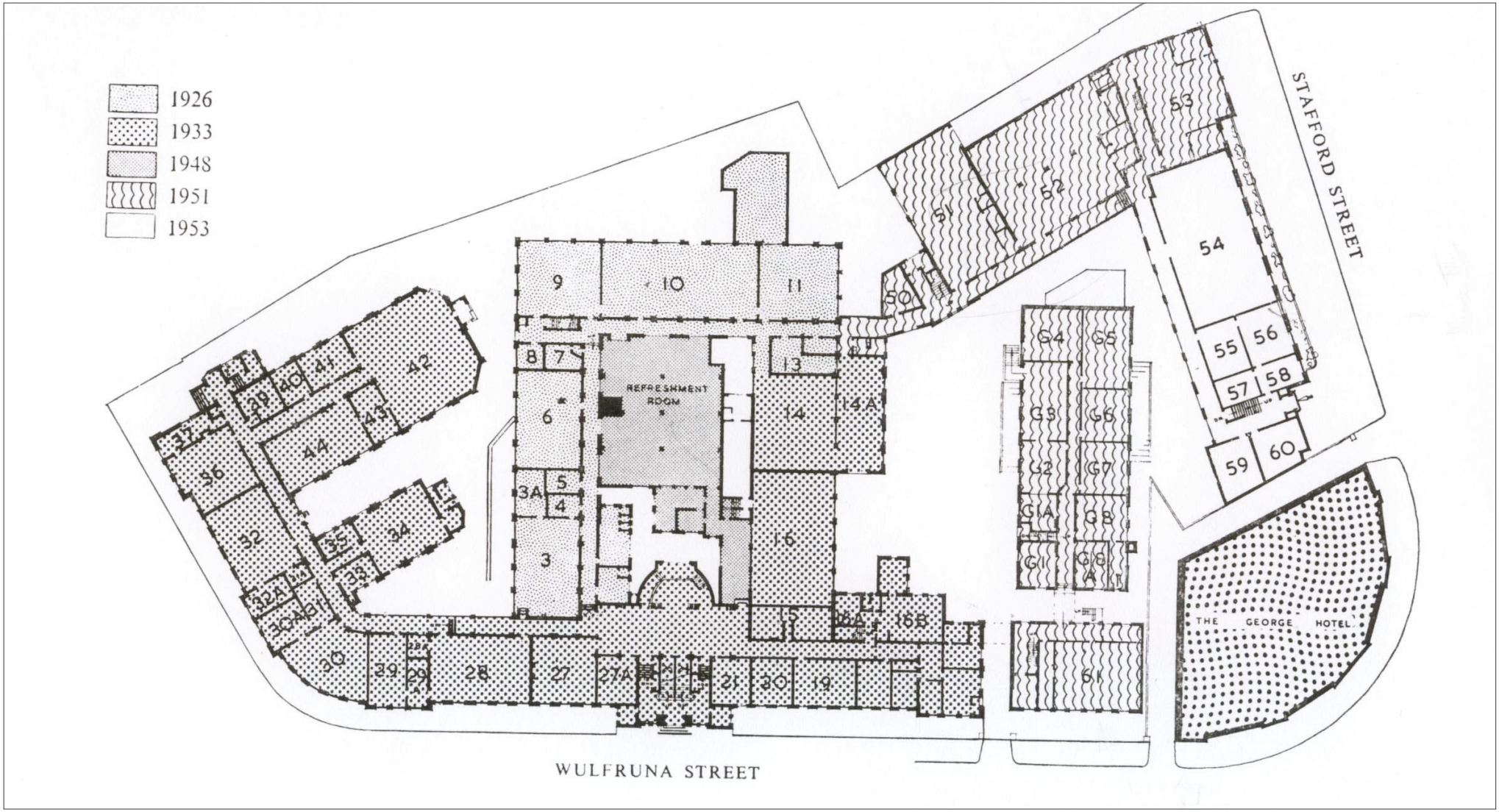
MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 9: Stillman's design drawing of 1949; Basement level



Wolverhampton Archives: D-LEG/1950/7-3

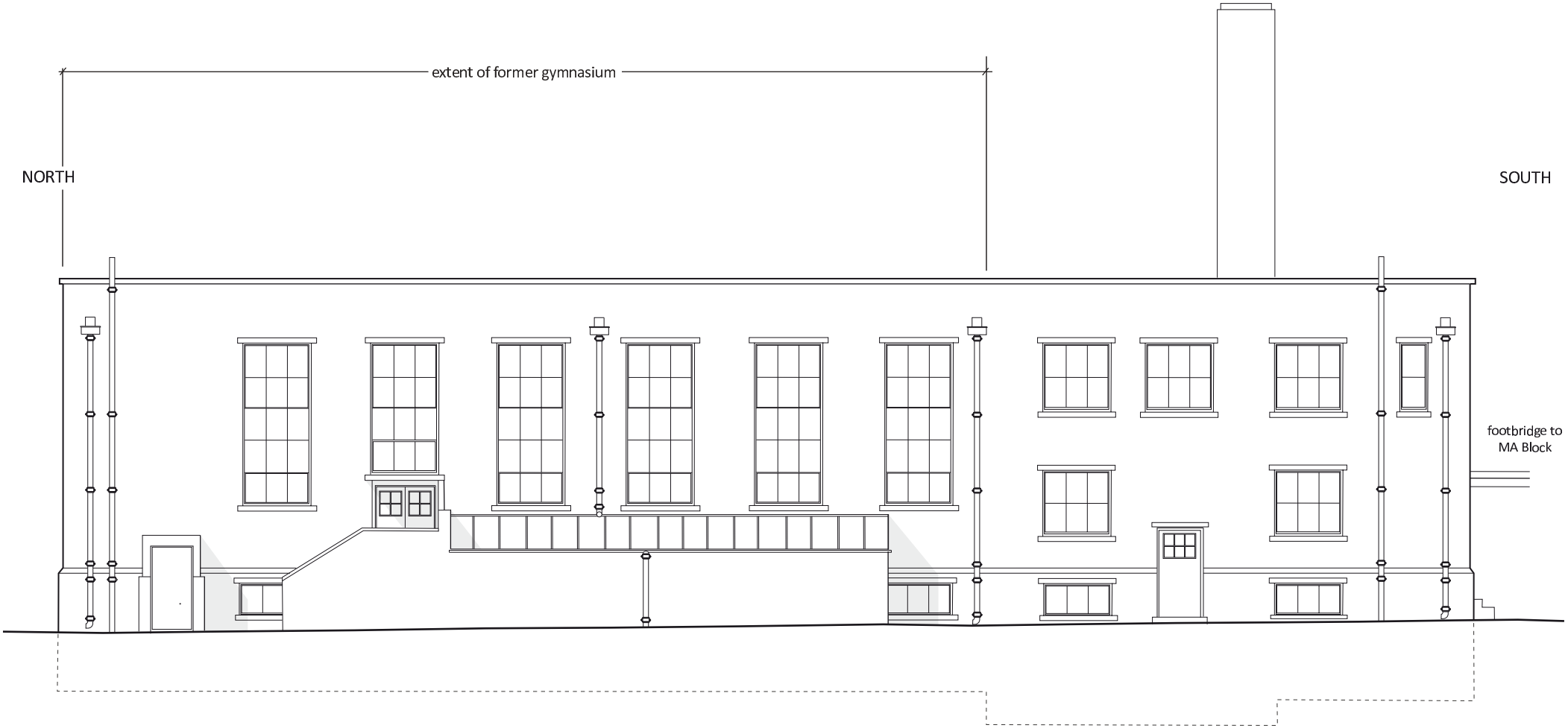
Figure 10: Stillman's design drawing of 1949; longitudinal cross-section looking west



Wolverhampton Archives: DX-854/2

MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 11: Block plan of Technical College included in official opening brochure 1954



0 1 5 10 metres

SCALE IN METRES (1:125 @ A4)

SCALE IN FEET

0 5 10 30 ft

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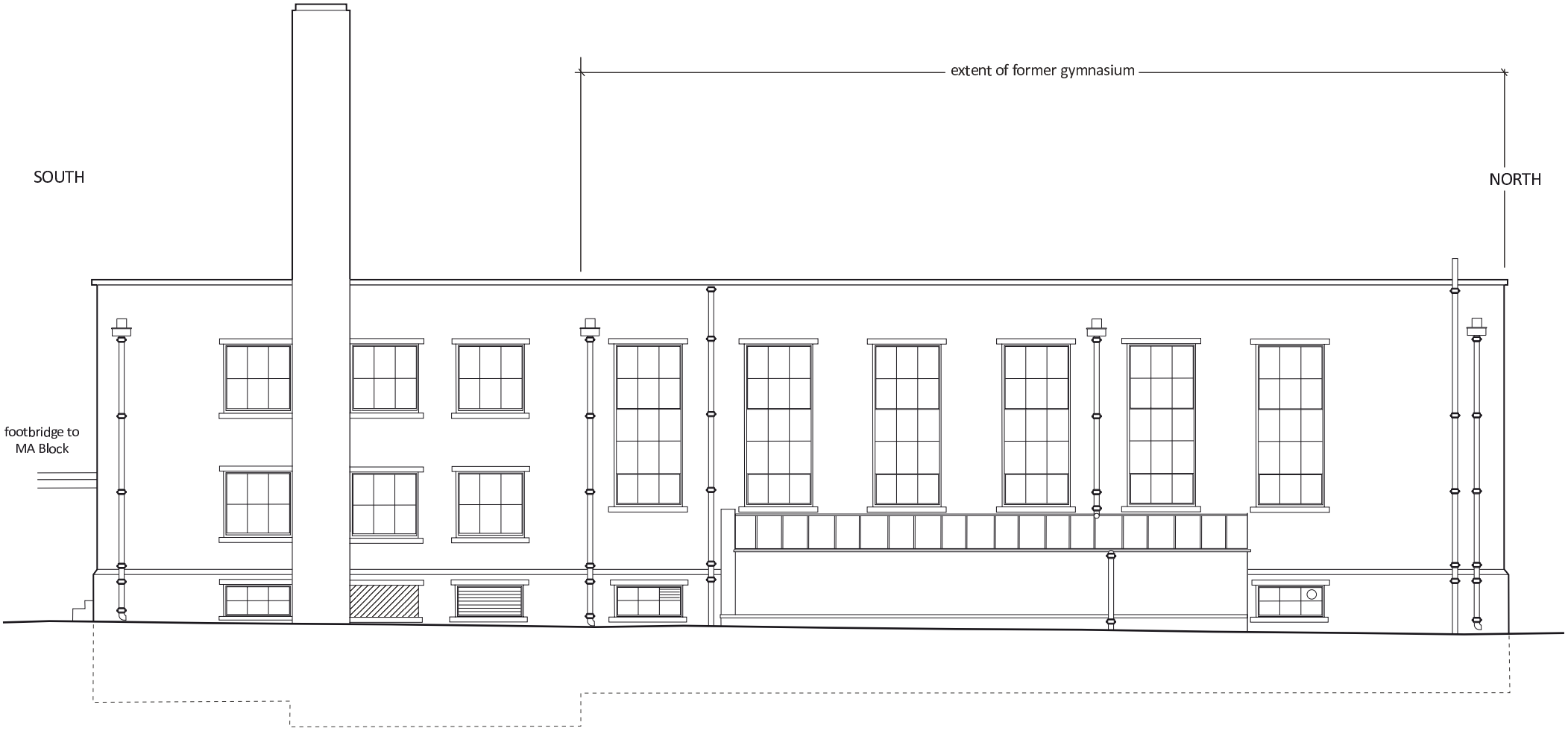
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 12: West elevation

(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-004 of April 2011 with additions)



0 1 5 10 metres

SCALE IN METRES (1:125 @ A4)

SCALE IN FEET

0 5 10 30 ft

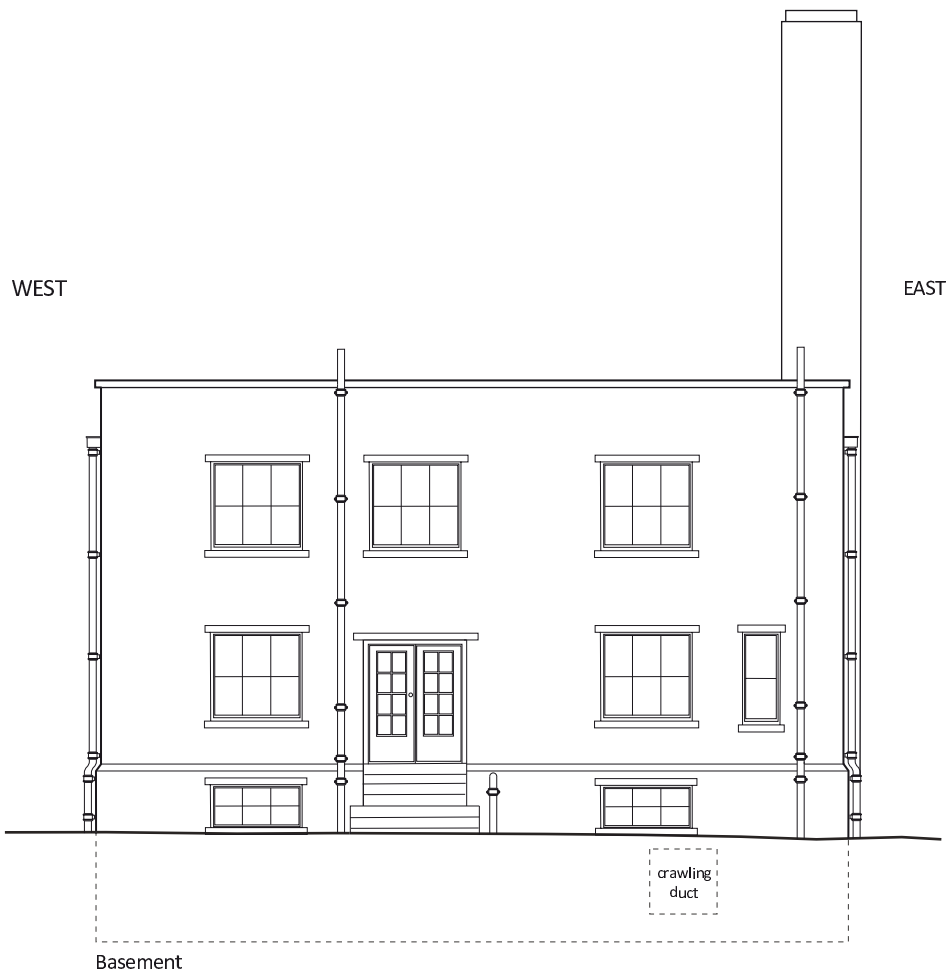
RIC TYLER

AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

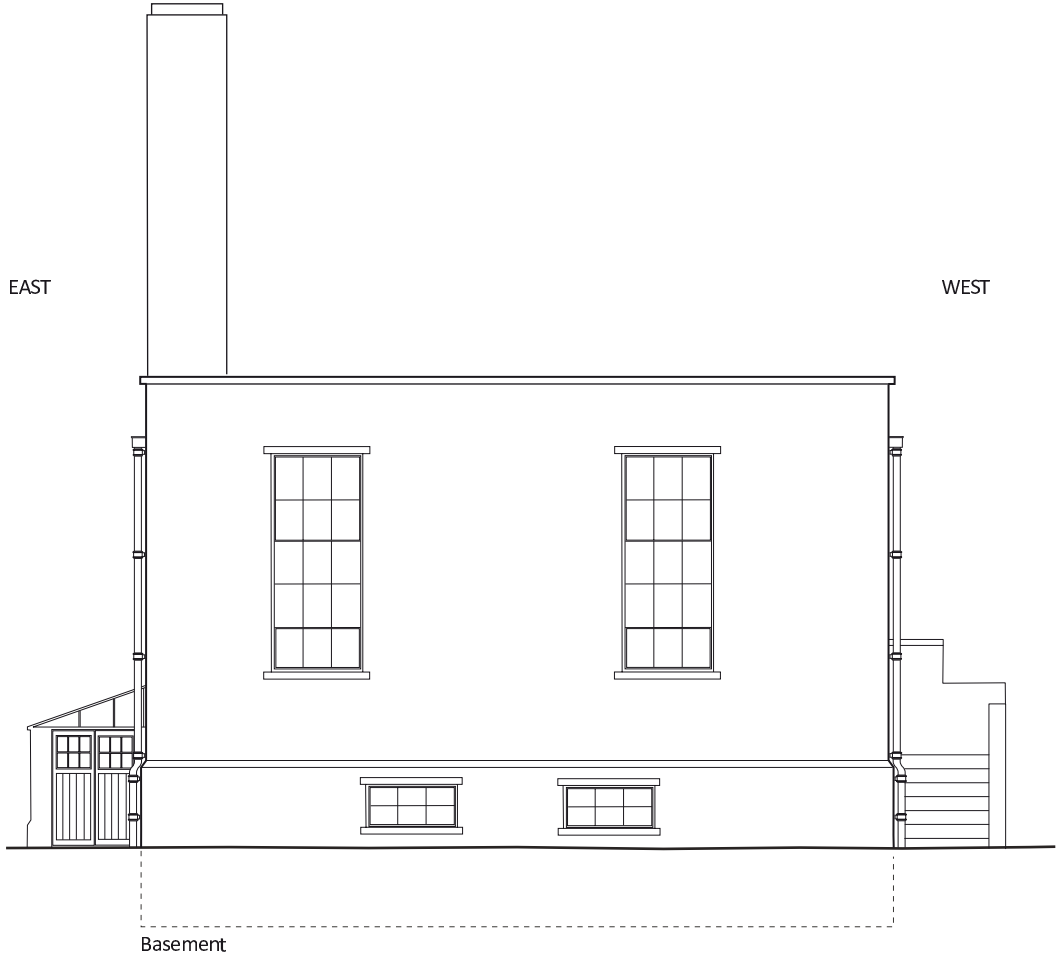
MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 13: East elevation

(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-005 of April 2011 with amendments / additions)



(a) South elevation



(b) North elevation

0 1 5 10 metres

SCALE IN METRES (1:125 @ A4)

SCALE IN FEET

0 5 10 30 ft

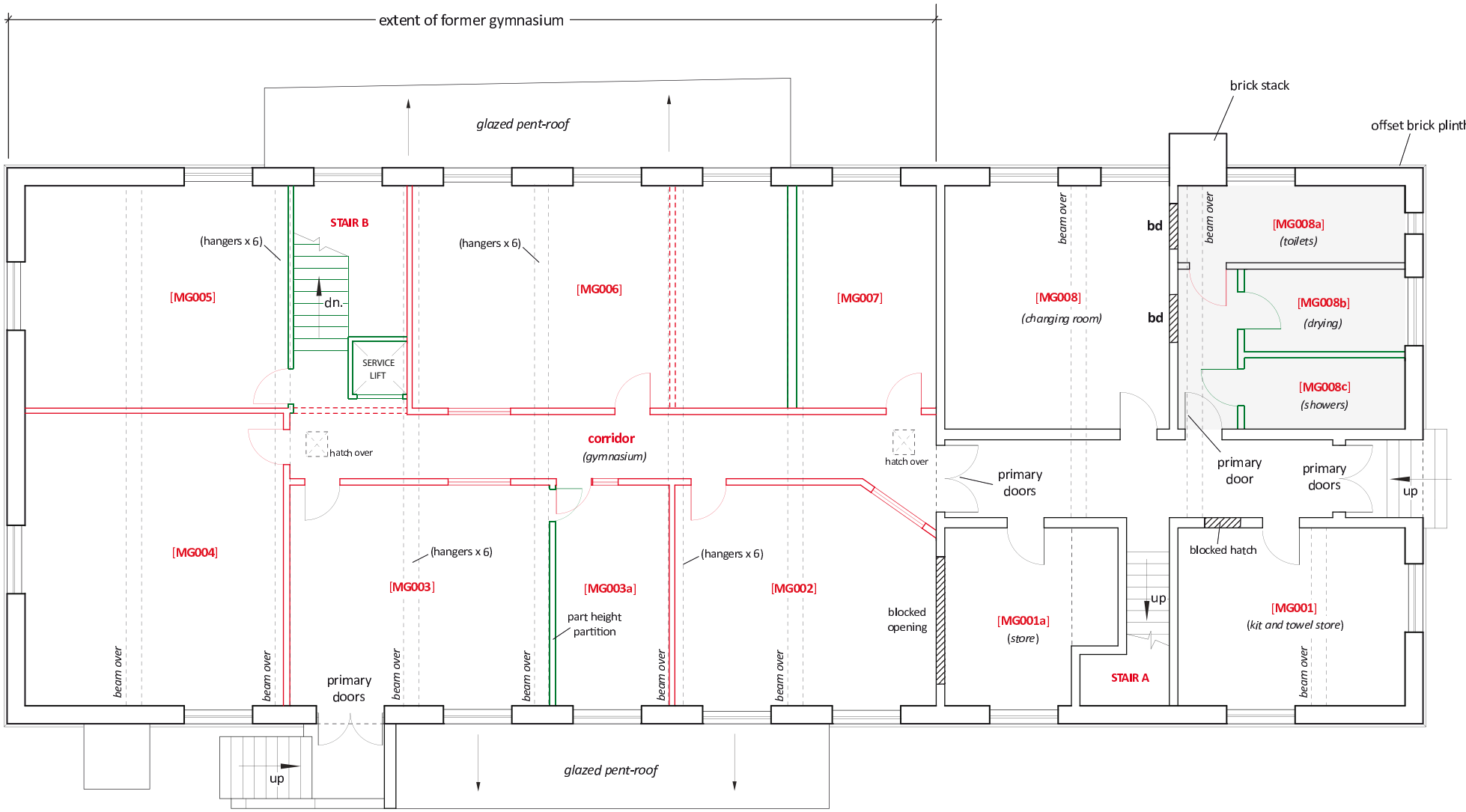
RIC TYLER

AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 14: North and south elevations

(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-005 of April 2011 with amendments / additions)



KEY

(*store*) room functions as indicated on 1949 design drawings

secondary studwork partitions, *in-situ* by 1954 (extant/removed)

tertiary studwork partitions, post-1954

no access due to asbestos

0 1 5 10 metres

SCALE IN METRES (1:125 @ A4)

SCALE IN FEET

0 5 10 30 ft

N

(indicative)

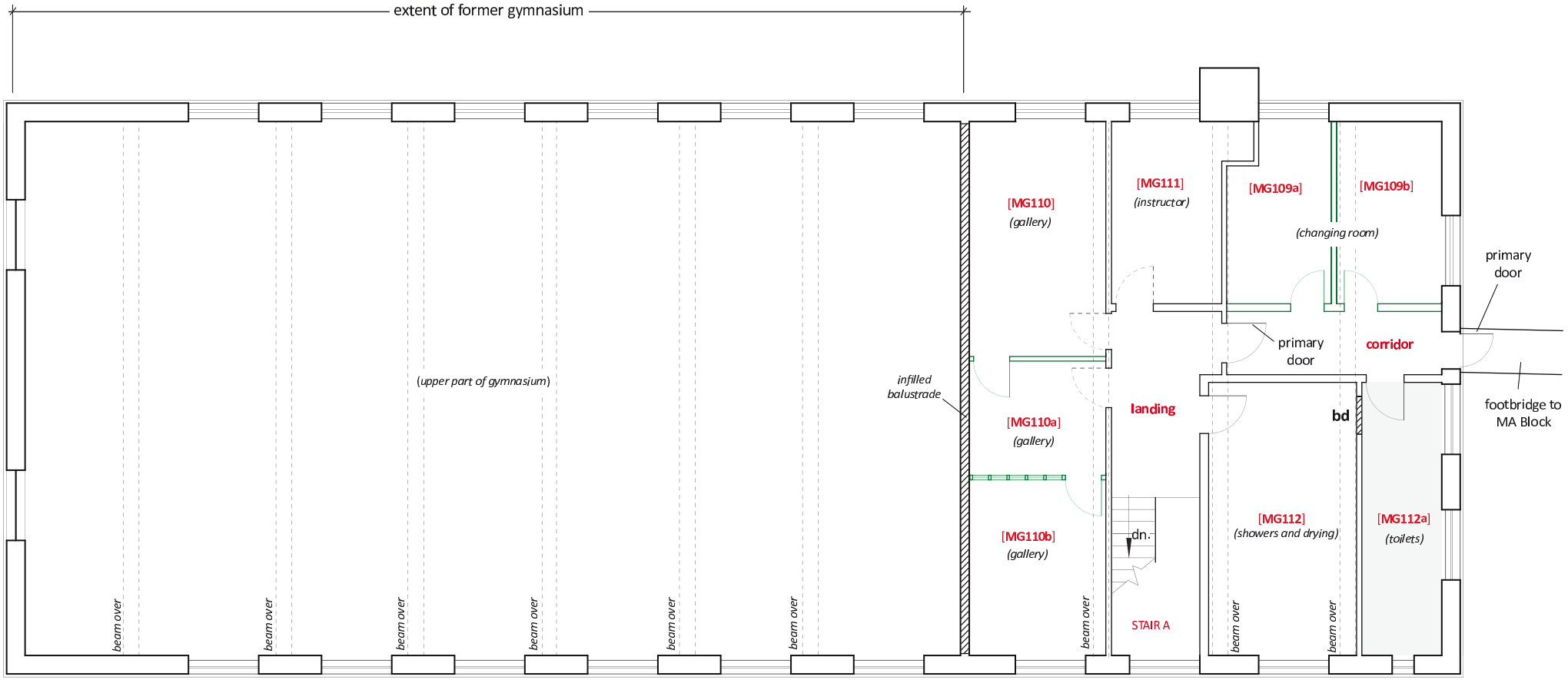
RIC TYLER

AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 15: Ground floor plan

(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-004 of April 2011 with additions)



KEY

(*store*) room functions as indicated on 1949 design drawings

secondary studwork partitions, *in-situ* by 1954 (extant/removed)

tertiary studwork partitions, post-1954

no access due to asbestos

0 1 5 10 metres

SCALE IN METRES (1:125 @ A4)

SCALE IN FEET

0 5 10 30 ft

N

(indicative)

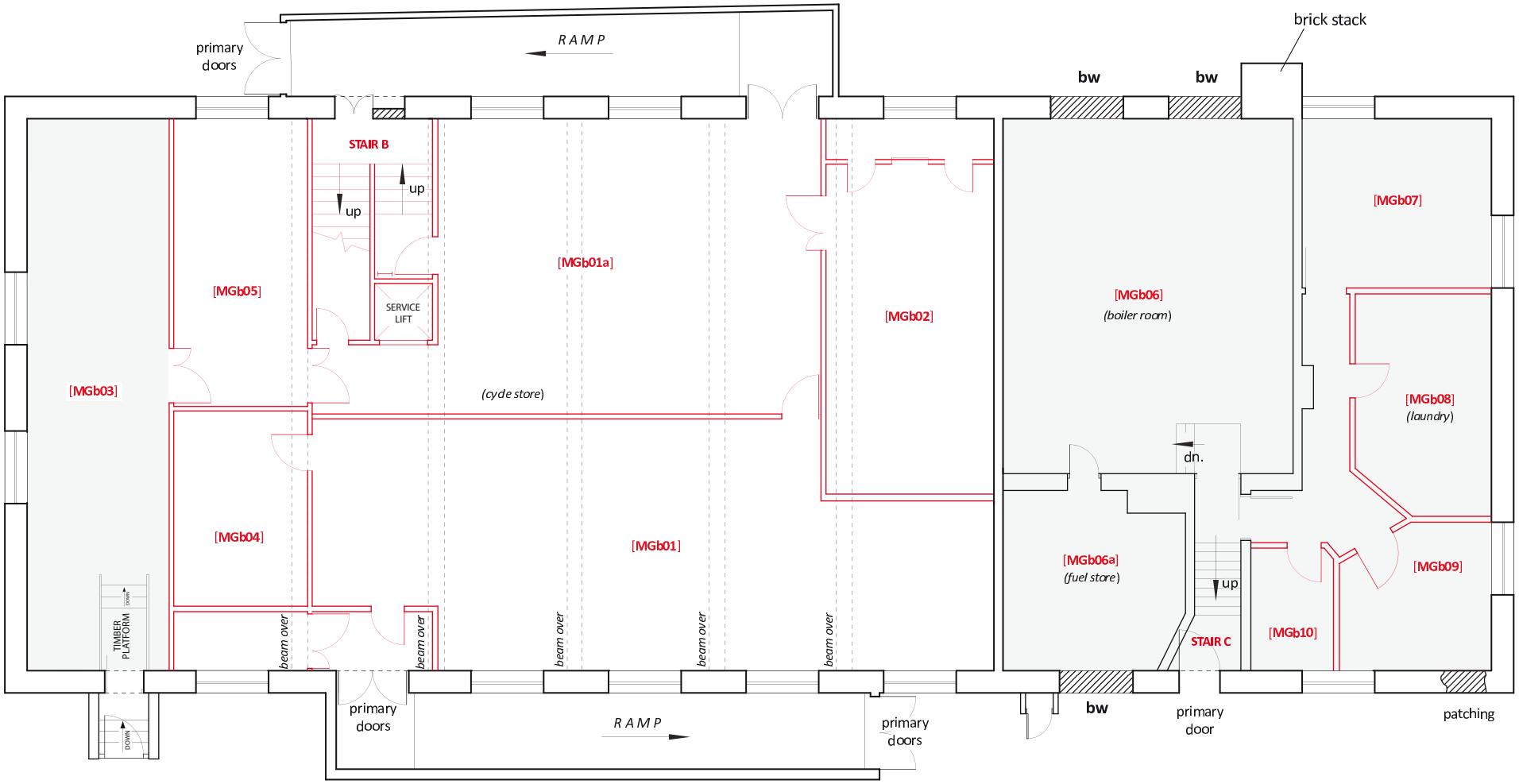
RIC TYLER

AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 16: First floor plan

(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-004 of April 2011 with additions)



KEY

(*store*) room functions as indicated on 1949 design drawings

inserted studwork partitions

no access due to asbestos

0 1 5 10 metres

SCALE IN METRES (1:125 @ A4)

SCALE IN FEET

0 5 10 30 ft

RIC TYLER
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

MG Building, University of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 17: Basement plan

(based upon Tweedale Ltd. drawing No. PM2570-004 of April 2011 with additions)

Plate 1: Block MA (former Technical College) looking east along Wulfruna Street.

Plate 2: Gateway through Block MA leading to MG Building beyond.

Plate 3: High level view of MG Building as seen from second floor of MA Block, looking north-east.

Plate 4: West elevation, oblique looking south-east.

Plate 5: West elevation oblique, looking north-east.

Plate 6: Primary entranceway to Gymnasium.

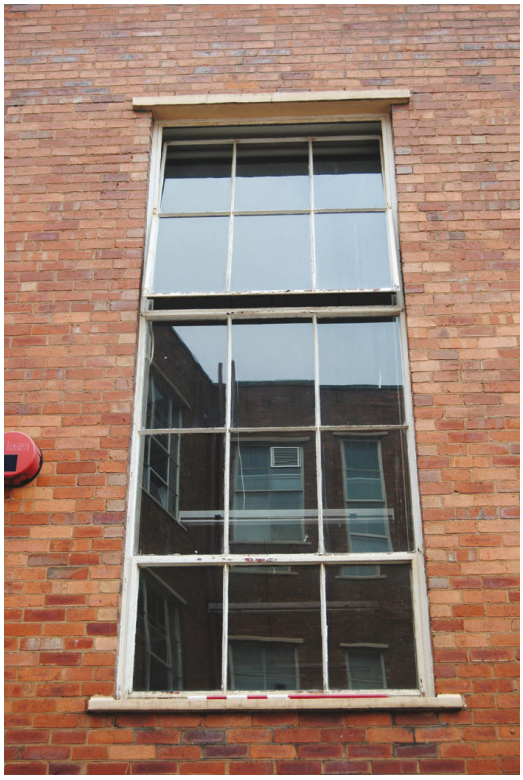


Plate 7: Full height window of Gymnasium block.

Plate 8: Two-storey section to south of range.

Plate 9: East elevation, south end oblique looking south-west.

Plate 10: East elevation, north end oblique looking south-west.

Plate 11: South elevation, oblique looking north-east.

Plate 12: South elevation, principal entrance; **NB**. walkway to MA Block over.

Plate 13: North elevation.

Plate 14: GF Corridor (S) looking north.

Plate 15: GF Corridor (S) looking south.

Plate 16: Primary doors of south elevation.

Plate 17: Primary door; detail of glazing bars.

Plate 18: Typical room of two-storey section ([**MG008**]) looking east.

Plate 19: Two-part window of two-storey section.

Plate 20: GF Corridor (N) looking north.

Plate 21: Full height window of former Gymnasium.

Plate 22: Opening mechanism for upper light by Arens Controls Ltd of Croydon.

Plate 23: Original flooring of Gymnasium exposed beneath modern carpet, **NB**: iron bars within concrete slab.

Plate 24: 'Hanger' to soffit of transverse beams.

Plate 25: Stair **A**, lower flight.

Plate 26: Stair **A**, ½ landing and upper flight.

Plate 27: First floor landing.

Plate 28: First floor corridor.

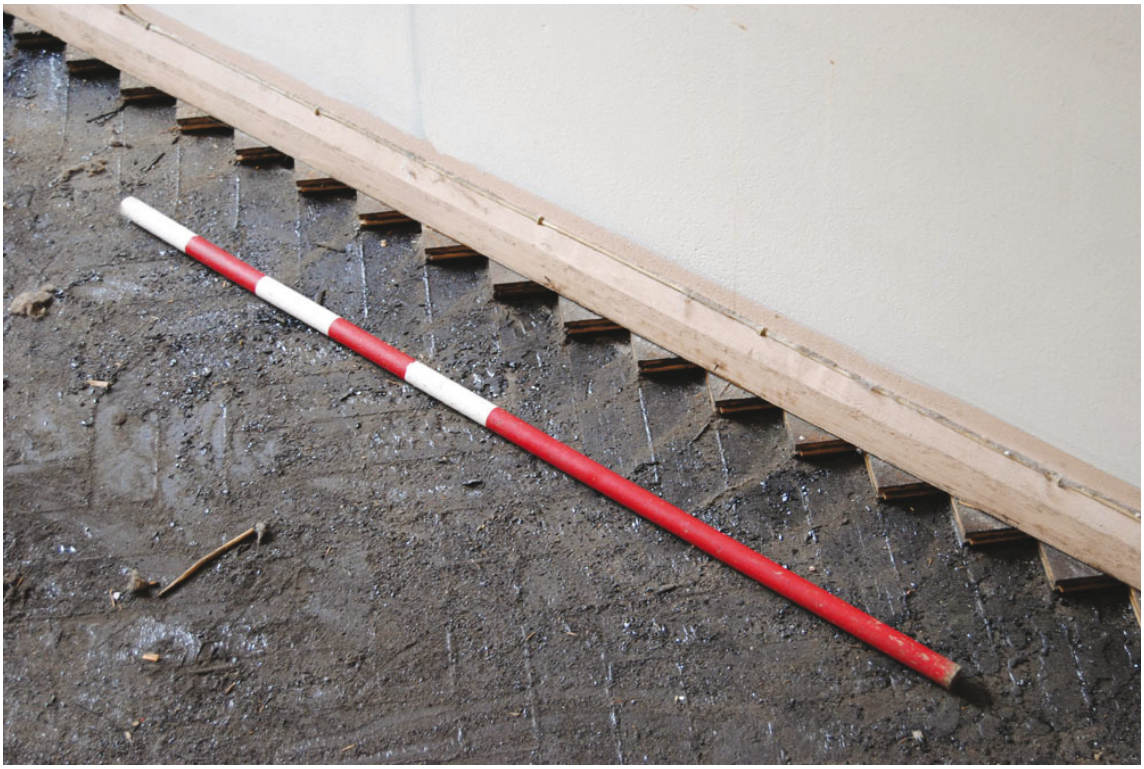


Plate 29: Stud partition inserted over primary herringbone wood-block flooring ([**MG109a/b**]).

Plate 30: Stair **B**, upper flight.

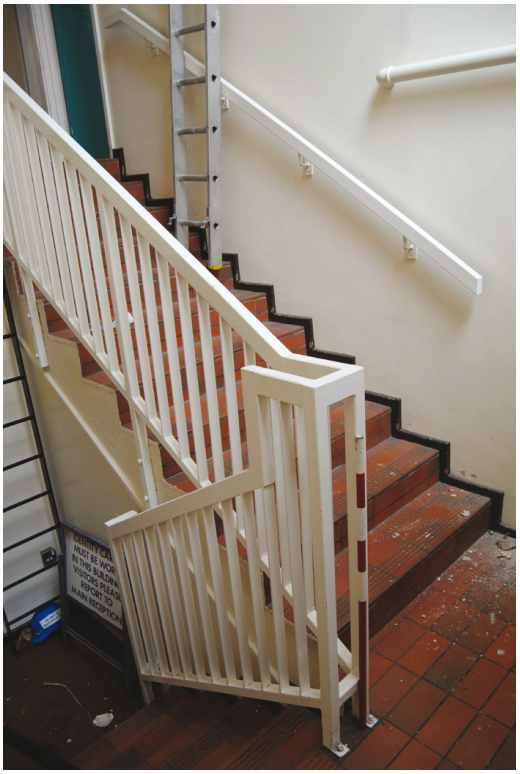


Plate 31: Stair **A**, ½ landing and upper flight.

Plate 32: Typical basement room ([**MGb01a**), looking north-west.

Plate 33: Western basement access ramp → N.

Plate 34: Eastern basement access ramp → S.

APPENDIX A: Project Brief

Brief for building recording of

The MG Building, University of Wolverhampton

1. Introduction

1.1 The MG Building at the University of Wolverhampton has been approved for demolition with a condition for building recording at Level 1/2 as defined by English Heritage. The building was constructed around 1950 and included what was originally a full height gymnasium.

1.2 The present document forms a brief for this work.

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 The site lies at the eastern end of the University of Wolverhampton campus on Wulfruna Street in Wolverhampton city centre.

2.2 The University began life as a technical college opened in 1932 (HER 13216). Before this it was the site of The Deanery (HER 2555) which was originally the Dean of Wolverhampton's residence in the town.

3. Specific requirements

3.1 The purpose of the work is to record the building ahead of demolition.

3.2 The work should comprise:

- Rapid Desk-based assessment
- Building Recording
- Report

3.3 The desk-based assessment should comprise examination of material in the Wolverhampton Archives and the University of Wolverhampton relevant to the history, purpose and form of the MG building

3.4 The building recording should comprise recording of the building to a level corresponding to Level 1/2 as defined by English Heritage (EH 2006). This should comprise examination of the interior and exterior of the building, digital photography, a written description and sketch plans to show plan (including internal arrangements) and phasing of the building. It may be possible to adapt, check and amend existing architects' plans for much of this work.

3.5 The report should include the results of the desk-based assessment and of the building recording.

4. General conditions

4.1 The work should be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced buildings recording specialists, preferably with a proven background in the analysis of 20th century structures.

4.2 An appropriate recording strategy should be used and the method and justification for this stated in the report.

4.3 The code of conduct, standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists should be adhered to. The buildings analysis should also adhere to the guidance issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (*Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings,* ALGAO 1997) and English Heritage (*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, EH 2006).

4.4 On completion of the work the site archive should be deposited with an appropriate museum/public archive. In this case archives should be deposited with the Wolverhampton Archives Service (tel: 01902 552480).

4.6 A copy of the report should be provided to the LPA, Wolverhampton Archives Service and Black Country Sites and Monuments Record as both a hardcopy and as a pdf. The report will normally become a publicly accessible part of the BCSMR within 6 months of completion.

4.7 Reports should contain the following information:

- Location, aims and methodology
- Results of documentary research
- A written summary of the findings together with appropriate illustrations, which should be related to the national grid.
- An analytical summary of features and deposits
- List of sources consulted and their full titles/reference numbers
- A copy of the brief

4.8 On completion of the work an OASIS record form should be completed and a summary report should be sent for publication in West Midlands Archaeology and any other appropriate local or national archaeological journal.

4.9 Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety regulations.

Site procedures should be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers

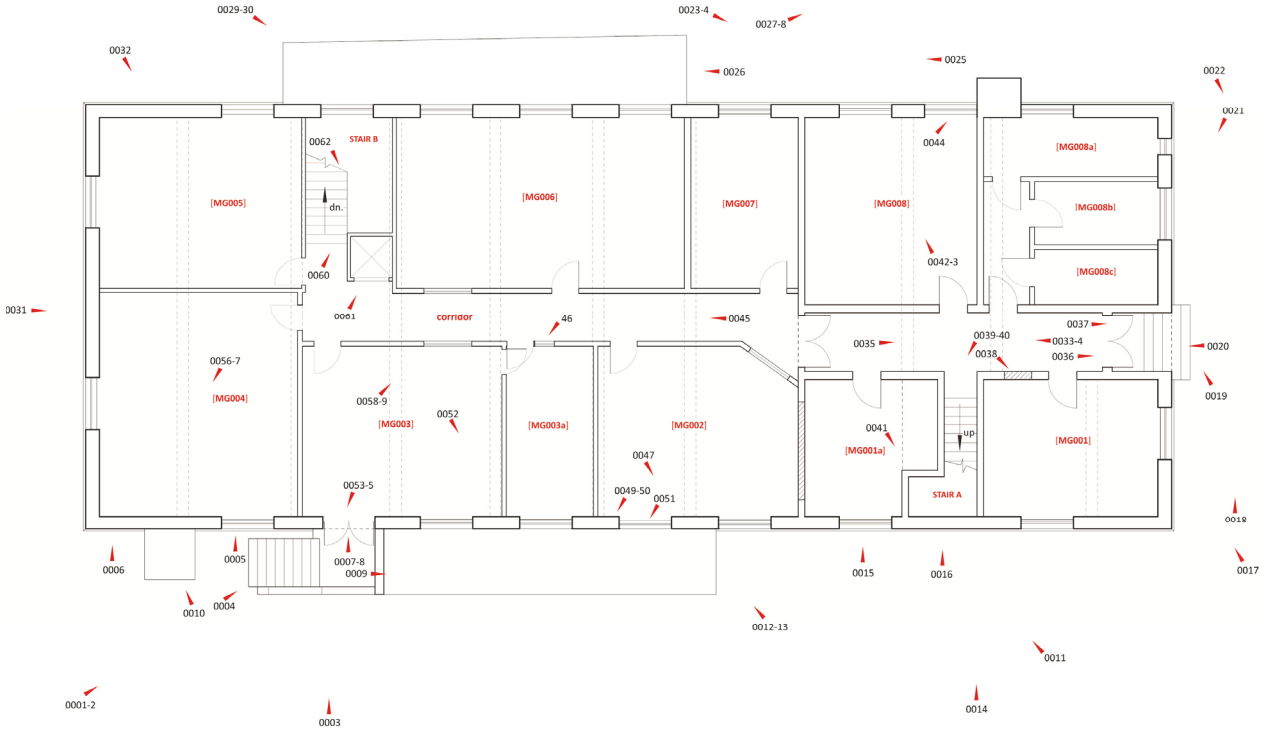
Prepared on 21st July 2011 by Mike Shaw on behalf of Wolverhampton City Council.

APPENDIX B: Register of Project Photographs

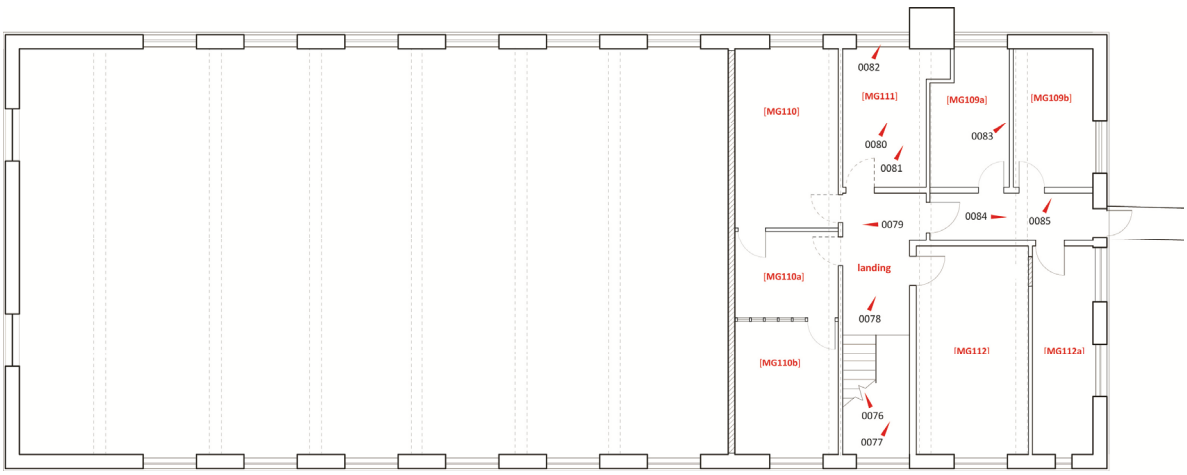
NB: All photographs taken with Nikon D3000 digital SLR camera, 10 mega-pixels. Files are included in .jpg format on the CD appended at the back of this report. Photos marked with an asterix (*) are reproduced as plates within the current document.

Photo No. (File Name)	Plate No.	Subject	Orientation	Date	Photographer
DSC_0001		West elevation, oblique view	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0002*	**4**	West elevation, oblique view	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0003		West elevation, north end	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0004*	**6**	West elevation, north end; detail of GF door	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0005*	**7**	West elevation, north end; detail of full height window	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0006		West elevation, north end; detail of brickwork	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0007		West elevation, north end; detail of GF door	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0008		West elevation, north end; detail of GF door	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0009		West elevation, north end; looking over glazed roof of western covered access ramp	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0010*	**5**	West elevation, north end; basement access	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0011		West elevation, oblique	→ NE		
DSC_0012		West elevation, oblique view; basement access ramp	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0013		West elevation, oblique view; basement access ramp with full-height windows over	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0014*	**8**	West elevation, south end (2-storey section)	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0015		West elevation, south end; detail of window	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0016		West elevation, south end; basement access door	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0017*	**9**	South elevation, oblique view	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0018		South elevation, oblique view	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0019*	**10**	South elevation; principal doorway	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0020		South elevation; principal doorway	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0021		South elevation, oblique view	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0022		Fire-escape stair to south of MG Block	→ W	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0023*	**11**	East elevation, south end, oblique view	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0024		East elevation, south end, oblique view	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0025		East elevation, oblique view	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0026		East elevation, perpendicular wall of eastern basement access ramp	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0027		Section of historic walling to east of MG Building	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0028		Section of historic walling to east of MG Building	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0029*	**12**	East elevation, north end; eastern basement access ramp	→ SW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0030		East elevation, north end; eastern basement access ramp	→ SW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0031*	**13**	North elevation	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0032		West elevation; rainwater hopper and parapet wall	↑	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0033		GF corridor, south section (primary)	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0034*	**14**	GF corridor, south section (primary)	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0035*	**15**	GF corridor, south section (primary)	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0036*	**16**	Principal southern doorway	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0037*	**17**	Principal southern doorway; detail of glazing bars	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0038		GF corridor; blocked hatch to room [**MG001**]	→ SW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0039		**Stair A**	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0040*	**25**	**Stair A**	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0041		Room [**MG001a**]	→ SW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0042*	**18**	Room [**MG008**]	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0043		Room [**MG008**]	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0044*	**19**	Room [**MG008**]; window detail	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0045*	**20**	GF corridor, north section	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0046		GF corridor, north section; window onto [**MG003a**]	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0047*	**21**	Room [**MG003**]	→ W	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0049*	**22**	Room [**MG003**]; window opening mechanism	---	27.07.11	R Tyler

Photo No. (File Name)	Plate No.	Subject	Orientation	Date	Photographer
DSC_0050		Opening mechanism; makers plate	---	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0051		Room [**MG003**]; window opening mechanism	↑	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0052		Room [**MG003a**]	→ SW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0053		Room [**MG003**]; doorway	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0054		Room [**MG003**]; doorway + window over	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0055		Room [**MG003**]; doorway	→ W	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0056		Room [**MG004**]; floor detail	↓	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0057*	**23**	Room [**MG004**]; floor detail	↓	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0058*	**24**	Room [**MG004**]; detail of hangers to ceiling beam	↑	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0059		Room [**MG004**]; detail of hangers to ceiling beam	↑	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0060*	**30**	Inserted **Stair B**	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0061		Service lift adjacent to **Stair B**	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0062		Service lift adjacent to **Stair B**	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0063		GF corridor, north section	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0064*	**31**	Inserted **Stair B**	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0065		Inserted **Stair B** + access stair to lift mechanism	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0066*	**32**	Basement room [**MGb01a**]	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0067		Basement room [**MGb01a**]; base of **Stair B**	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0068		Basement room [**MGb01**]	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0069		Doors to western basement ramp	→ W	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0071		Western basement access ramp	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0072*	**33**	Western basement access ramp	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0073*	**34**	Eastern basement access ramp	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0074		Door at head of eastern access ramp	→ NW	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0075		Doors to eastern basement access ramp	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0076		**Stair A**	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0077*	**26**	**Stair A**	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0078*	**27**	First floor landing	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0079		First floor landing	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0080		Room [**MG111**]	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0081		Room [**MG111**]; imprint of woodblock floor	↓	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0082		Room [**MG111**]; window detail	→ SE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0083*	**29**	Room [**MG111**]; detail of inserted walls over woodblock floor	↓	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0084*	**28**	1F corridor	→ S	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0085		1F corridor; detail of inserted walls over woodblock floor	↓	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0086		Contextual view from MA Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0087*	**3**	Contextual view from MA Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0088		Contextual view from MA Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0091		Contextual view from MI Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0092		Contextual view from MI Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0093		Contextual view from MI Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0094		Contextual view from MI Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0095		Contextual view from MI Block, 2nd floor	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0096*	**1**	Main MA Block Wulfruna Street frontage	→ E	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0097		Main MA Block Wulfruna Street frontage; main doorway	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0098		Main MA Block Wulfruna Street frontage	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0099		Main MA Block Wulfruna Street frontage	→ NE	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0100		Wulfruna Street frontage; passageway to MG	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0101*	**2**	Wulfruna Street frontage; passageway to MG	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler
DSC_0102		MG block seen from passage at Wulfruna Street	→ N	27.07.11	R Tyler



Appendix B.1: Ground floor photo location plan



Appendix B.2: First floor photo location plan

Appendix B.3: Basement photo location plan