

'Gandhi's Temple' Shelter and Public Lavatories  
Sea Road, South Shields

Historic Building Recording



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## Historic Building Recording

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*Solstice Heritage was commissioned by Colman's Caterers Ltd. to produce an Historic Building Recording of a shelter and public lavatory building, known local as 'Gandhi's Temple', in fulfillment of a condition of planning permission granted for the conversion of the building into a bar/restaurant. The proposed work will involve adding an extension to the existing building.*

*The shelter and public lavatory building sits on the eastern side of Sea Road, adjacent to Sandhaven Beach and Gypsies Green Stadium, South Shields. The building is on the Local List and considered to be a locally significant heritage asset.*

*'Gandhi's Temple', a locally coined, and popularly adopted, nickname with no certain provenance, clearly refers to the columned, neo-classical, design of the building, and there is no link whatsoever with the historical figure, Mohandas Gandhi. The Local List is incorrect in terming the building a bandstand, although this may reflect its latter usage; as originally constructed, the building was intended to serve as a shelter and public lavatory.*

*The building was originally constructed in 1931, with the Gazette carrying a picture of its construction well underway on 1st July 1931. On 18th September 1931 the Gazette carried a further picture of the building 'nearing completion', with a caption stating that the building would be officially opened the following day, giving Saturday 19th September 1931 as the official opening date. Almost no change has occurred to the building throughout its life, standing today almost exactly as originally built. The main alteration, and perhaps the reason for the citing within the Local List of the building as a bandstand, has been the removal of seating and partitions from within its upper storey. This partitioning presumably allowed unrestricted views, whilst at the same time providing a windbreak for users within the open-sided upper storey.*

*The building's link to James Paton Watson, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for South Shields Borough Council, and his oversight of its construction, is a historically significant one in terms of his later importance in the history of urban design in Britain, particularly with relation to the post-war revival of Plymouth in his role as Plymouth's City Engineer and Surveyor. This link adds an additional layer of significance to the building, alongside its recognised architectural contribution to the surrounding seafront.*

*Due to the level of understanding that the plans, and the study of the building, have provided it is not necessary to recommend any further work to better understand the built heritage of the structure.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This Historic Building Recording (HBR) has been commissioned by Colman's Caterers Ltd. to provide a thorough record of the built heritage resource, in fulfillment of a condition of planning permission (ST/0611/15/FUL) granted for the conversion of the building into a bar/restaurant. The proposed work will involve adding an extension to the existing building.

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The shelter and public lavatory building sits on the eastern side of Sea Road, adjacent to Sandhaven Beach and Gypsies Green Stadium, South Shields (NGR NZ 3777 6712). The building is on the Local List (ref. LSHA/44/SS) and considered to be a locally significant heritage asset (South Tyneside Council 2011b, 111-112).

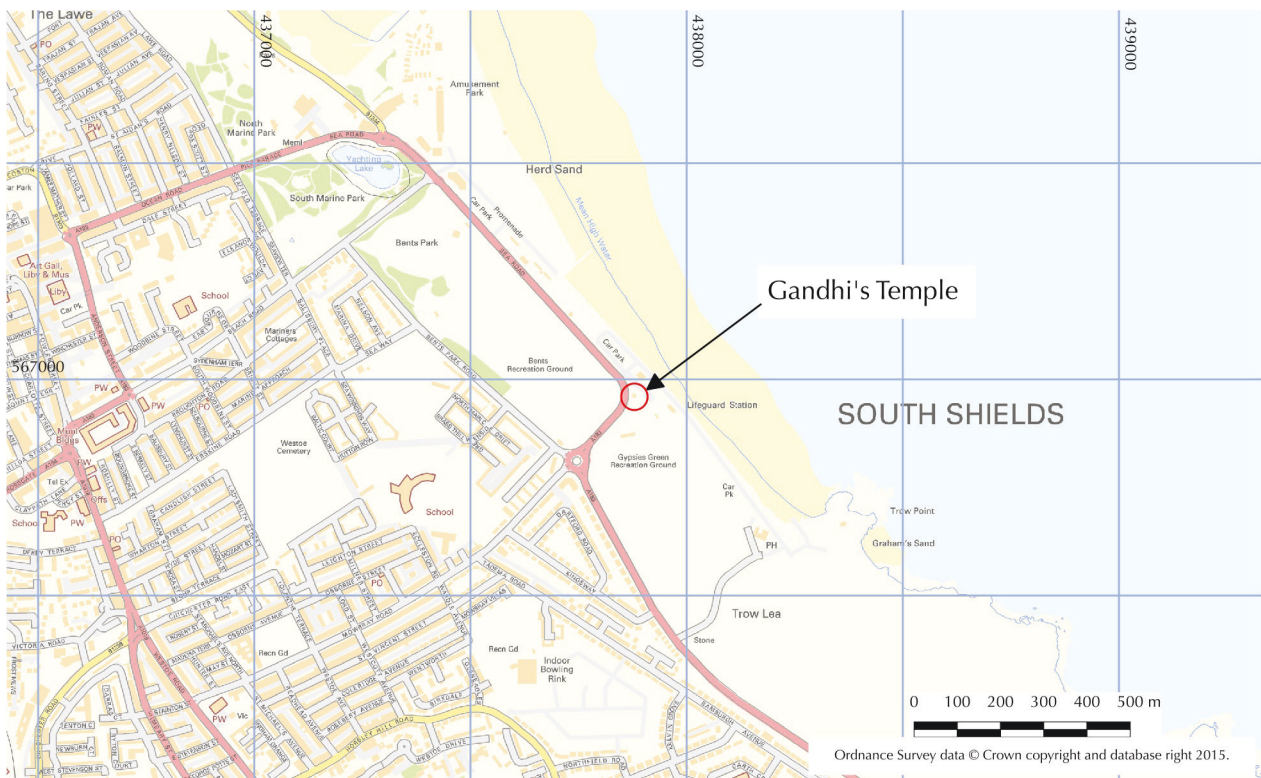


Figure 1 Location of Gandhi's Temple



## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 LEVEL 2 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

An historic building survey to Historic England Level 2 standard (Historic England 2006) was carried out by Chris Scott MCI(A) of Solstice Heritage in August 2015. This level of survey provides an introductory descriptive account of the building, together with a systematic account of its origins, development and use. The survey consisted of a written, drawn (measured) and photographic account involving the following:

- The written record comprised: the precise location of the building together with any statutory and non-statutory designations; the date of the survey and the location of the archive; a descriptive account of the form, function and phasing of the building. This element of the work also identified all features, fixtures and fittings relevant to the original and subsequent uses of the site. A cartographic analysis was also undertaken. The written record sought to place the building within its context, and also to assess the building's relationship with its current and past setting.
- The drawn record comprised: measured plans of each of the floors, together with drawings of the principal elevations and a cross-section where appropriate. Existing plans and elevations, such as architects or engineers drawings were adapted for parts of the building, and their accuracy was checked. The plans show the form and location of features such as blocked windows and doors, and evidence for fixtures of significance.
- The photographic record comprised: photographs of the building's wider aspect together with general views of the external appearance of the building. These are normally oblique, but right-angle photographs of elevations containing complex detail were taken. The overall appearance of internal rooms and circulation areas was also captured, together with detailed views of features of significance. The photographic archive consists of digital colour photography at a minimum of 12 megapixels. All detailed photographs contain a graduated photographic scale. A photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of each shot was compiled. The location and direction of each photograph was also noted on plans of the building.

### 2.2 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this report has been derived from a number of secondary sources. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of secondary information, its accuracy has been assumed in good faith. The information accessed from the relevant HER and national lists of designated heritage assets represents a record of known assets and their discovery and further investigation. Such information is not complete and does not preclude the future discovery of additional assets and the amendment of information about known assets which may affect their significance and/or sensitivity to development effects. All statements and opinions arising from the works undertaken are provided in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

### 2.3 COPYRIGHT

Solstice Heritage will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

### 3. RELEVANT HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 THE BUILDING'S PLAN, FORM, FUNCTION AND AGE

'Gandhi's Temple', a locally coined, and popularly adopted, nickname with no certain provenance, refers to the building subject to this study. The name clearly refers to the columned, neo-classical, design of the building, and there is no link whatsoever with Gandhi the historical figure. The building appears on the Local List for South Tyneside (South Tyneside Council 2011a & b), and is considered a locally significant heritage asset. The Local List is however incorrect in terming the building a bandstand, although this may reflect its latter usage (South Tyneside Council 2011b, 111-112). As originally constructed, the building was intended to serve as a shelter and public lavatory, and this is how it was described within the *The Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph* (now *The Shields Gazette*), which covered its construction.

The building was originally constructed in 1931, with the *Gazette* carrying a picture of its construction well underway on 1st July 1931 (Figure 2). On 18th September 1931 the *Gazette* carried a further picture of the building 'nearing completion' (Figure 3), with a caption stating that the building would be officially opened the following day, giving Saturday 19th September 1931 as the official opening date.

Currently the building continues to fulfil its original designed function as a public lavatory at half-basement level, with a columned, open-sided sheltered area above. Almost no change has occurred to the building throughout its life, standing today almost exactly as originally built. This very limited alteration to the building over time is evidenced by its appearance in plan on maps, which show no visible alteration, extension or removal of built fabric (see Historical Map Regression below), as well as the picture of the building shown in the *Gazette* of 18th September 1931 (Figure 3), which shows the building to be virtually unchanged in comparison to today.

The main significant alteration, and perhaps the reason for the citing within the Local List of the building as a bandstand, has been the removal of seating and partitions from within its upper storey, as shown by the *Gazette* photo on 18th September 1931 (Figure 3) and as surviving in 1982 (Figure 4). This partitioning appears to have originally been glazed within its upper portions (no longer in place, or boxed over, in 1982), presumably to allow unrestricted views, whilst at the same time providing a windbreak for users within the open-sided upper storey. The provision of this partitioning makes sense of the two square columns centrally placed within the upper storey of the building (Figure 23), which clearly would have fulfilled a function in supporting that partitioning, as well as the roof, but do not work well in creating the open space and sightlines required of a bandstand. Further to this, the provision of a shelter and public convenience at this location makes significant planning sense when considering the building's position close to the end of the developing South Beach Promenade (Figure 7), at a significant distance from comparable facilities provided closer to the centre of South Shields in and around North and South Marine Parks to the north. The provision of a bandstand at this point makes much less sense, particularly given the building's proximity to the road at its western side.

Finally of note are the pink cast concrete kerbs and low Art Deco columns which are part of the landscaping surround of the building today, and appear to be original to the finished 1931 scheme, reflecting as they do the use of cast concrete components in the building itself (Figure 4).



Figure 2 Photograph of work in progress on the new columned shelter being erected at the Mowbray Road end of the South Beach Promenade. From The Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph (The Shields Gazette), published 1st July 1931

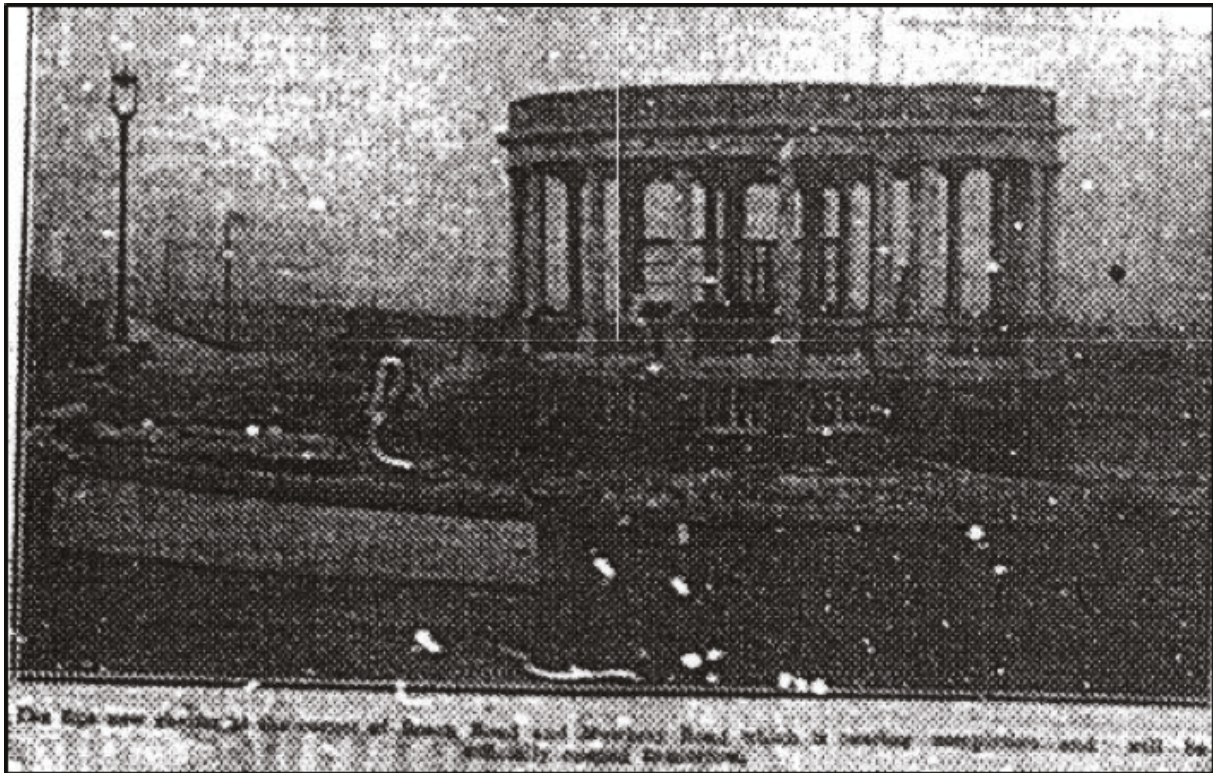


Figure 3 A photograph from The Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph (The Shields Gazette), published 18th September 1931, shows the building almost complete and ready to be officially opened the following day



Figure 4 Photograph taken in 1982, showing internal T-shaped partitions for seating still in place. (South Tyneside Libraries)



Figure 5 James Paton Watson CBE, MICE, MI.Mun.E., Borough Engineer for South Shields Borough Council, photograph taken between 1928 and 1933 (South Tyneside Libraries)

### 3.2 ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, PATRONS AND OWNERS

The building was constructed in 1931 by South Shields Borough Council and would presumably have been designed jointly by the Borough Architect and Engineer, as was common at this period and for such works. It is possible, however, that the works may have been completely designed by the Borough Engineer. The name of the Borough Architect is not known, however the Borough Engineer was Mr. James Paton Watson (The Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph (The Shields Gazette), 19/9/1931, p.7).

James Paton Watson (Figure 5) CBE, MICE, MI.Mun.E., was Borough Engineer for South Shields Borough Council between 1928 and 1933 (<http://www.southtynesideimages.org.uk>). In this capacity, he described the works to build the shelter and public convenience in a paper given to the Conference of Municipal and County Engineers, at the Town Hall in South Shields, in the week of the completion of the building, which was reported in the Gazette (The Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph (The Shields Gazette), 19/9/1931, p.7). The date or location of the conference does not seem in any way connected to the building, although it is a remarkable coincidence. Within his paper Paton Watson describes a variety of projects undertaken within the borough throughout his tenure from 1928, including road widening, and 'miscellaneous' schemes, within which section the description of the shelter and lavatory appears. He describes the building as having 'walls of multi-coloured, sand-faced bricks'... 'with cream joints'... a 'cavity filled with Portland cement concrete' and 'all artificial stonework to columns, cornice etc. ... is with cream snowflake mixture'. The sewage from the building was 'pumped by a 6 B.H.P. sarcophagus pump to the nearest sewer, which is at a higher level than the conveniences'. Paton Watson gave the estimated total cost of the shelter and lay-out as £404, and the cost of the conveniences and pump-house as £1182. This indicates that the convenience was obviously completed first, and that the figure for the shelter was not completely known, it having literally just been completed. This appears to have been well received by the audience as Paton Watson was applauded and recognised by the Mayor and the Institute as being highly competent (The Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph (The Shields Gazette), 19/9/1931, p.7). As a further point of interest, a clear subtext to the paper appears to be the proclaiming of municipal works carried out by the Borough Council in spite of the straitened economic situation of the early 1930s, extending to their ability to retain a workforce to carry out such works.

The building's link to Paton Watson (c.1898-1979) (e.g. *Charles Church Plymouth* n.d), and his oversight of its construction, is a historically significant one in terms of his later importance in the history of urban design in Britain, particularly with relation to the post-war revival of Plymouth (Gould 2011), in his role as Plymouth's City Engineer and Surveyor.

Prior to his appointment as Plymouth's City Engineer and Surveyor in 1936, a role he held until 1958 (Cherry and Pevsner 2002, 640), James Paton Watson had been deputy engineer in Dundee, Borough Engineer and Surveyor in South Shields and Borough and Water Engineer for Scarborough (Plymouth City and Museum Art Gallery 2013). On coming to Plymouth in 1936 his chief tasks included turning Plymouth into a holiday resort and clearing slum housing. Unfortunately, World War II broke out before he had chance to implement his ideas, and Paton Watson became involved in one of the biggest reconstruction plans the country had ever seen: *A Plan for Plymouth* (Paton Watson and Abercrombie 1943).

*A Plan for Plymouth* was a report prepared for the City Council by James Paton Watson, City Engineer and Surveyor, and Patrick Abercrombie, Consultant Architect, published in 1943. It is essentially a document used to outline the proposed changes to the city centre and outlying neighbourhoods of Plymouth, written at a time when the city was in ruins following heavy bombing in World War II. Planning reports usually detail the impact of change upon the people and infrastructure of a local area when changes to existing buildings are made – in the case of *A Plan for Plymouth*, the report had to detail these changes on the entire city centre, the areas of the city where people were already living, proposed new areas of housing, and the areas around the city. As the plan states:

"Planning is not merely the plotting of the streets of a town; its fundamental essence is the conscious co-relation of the various uses of the land to the best advantage of all inhabitants. Good planning therefore, presupposes a knowledge and understanding of the people, their relationship to their work, their play, and to each other, so that in the shaping of the urban pattern, the uses to which the land is put are so arranged as to secure an efficient, well balanced and harmonious whole" (Paton Watson and Abercrombie 1943, 28).

An integral part of devising the Plan, Watson's ideas are apparent throughout, and indeed he was lead author in what was widely known at the time as the 'Watson and Abercrombie Plan'. It was at the implementation stage of the Plan, from 1944 onwards, that Watson became the major player. Watson had to overcome many frustrations and barriers, including securing the necessary finances to counter its many critics. Abercrombie once described him as 'terribly stiff and uncompromising' and it is perhaps these traits that enabled *The Plan for Plymouth* to come to fruition (Plymouth City and Museum Art Gallery 2013).

Plymouth was the first British city to begin reconstruction after the war, in April 1947, with the first new buildings opened in 1951 (*Council Housing in Plymouth before 1914: 'the merry homes of England'* 2015). Paton Watson and Abercrombie's plan was visionary, owing most to the designs of Lutyens' New Delhi, Burley Griffin's Canberra and the 19th century Beaux-Arts ideals which shaped L'Enfant's Washington DC (Gould 2013). The city centre itself would be divided into functional precincts reflecting varied urban roles including retail, offices, culture and civic government. This larger vision was also influenced by more modest elements, not least the garden city movement, which sought to separate homes from industry and recreation from commerce. The Plan envisaged suburbs formed into 'neighbourhood units,' each with a centre including schools, a church, a library, swimming pool, cinema and other community facilities. Although, it was the design of the city centre which was most radical. The war had destroyed old street patterns, previously strained by modern demands, and these were replaced by an orderly grid centred on one grand axis running north-south from the railway station to the grand open space of the Hoe, surrounded by a ring road connecting the major transit arteries.

The execution of the plan used some of the foremost architects of the day, such as Thomas Tait and William Crabtree. They were employed by private developers but worked within the controlling vision of the City Architect and Engineer who designated width, height, form and materials, and the city retained the freehold (Gould 2013).

*A Plan for Plymouth* is significant in terms of its place in the history of urban design and planning in Britain, both at the time of its inception, and since. Indeed, such was its recognised vision at the time, it inspired the pioneering female filmmaker Jill Craigie to create a documentary film, *The Way we Live*, in order to document its impact and the wider social situation to which it responded (Easen n.d.). Paton Watson appeared in the film, alongside Plymouth's Lord Mayor, Lord Waldorf Astor, and Patrick Abercrombie, being later described by Craigie, echoing Abercrombie's comments, as an efficient 'dictator' (Rollyson 2004, 47).

Latterly, *A Plan for Plymouth* has been seen as one of the most important post-war revival projects nationally, as an exemplar of, particularly, Abercrombie's important body of work (Plymouth City and Museum Art Gallery 2013) and as significant in its fostering of a significant contribution to Britain's stock of modernist architecture, much of which is only recently becoming appreciated (*Council Housing in Plymouth before 1914: 'the merry homes of England'* 2015).

### 3.3 HISTORICAL MAP REGRESSION

The shelter and lavatory building is known to have been built in 1931 and so only one earlier map is reproduced here for context (1910-1920 Ordnance Survey Map). This map (Figure 6) shows the site of the building as part of Mowbray Road with the undeveloped pasture of The Bents to both sides. A fence-line or sea wall is shown beyond, with the beach and sea beyond that. A drinking fountain is shown as present slightly to the south-east of the location of the building. Also shown is a groyne extending over the beach, immediately to the north-east of the location of the building.



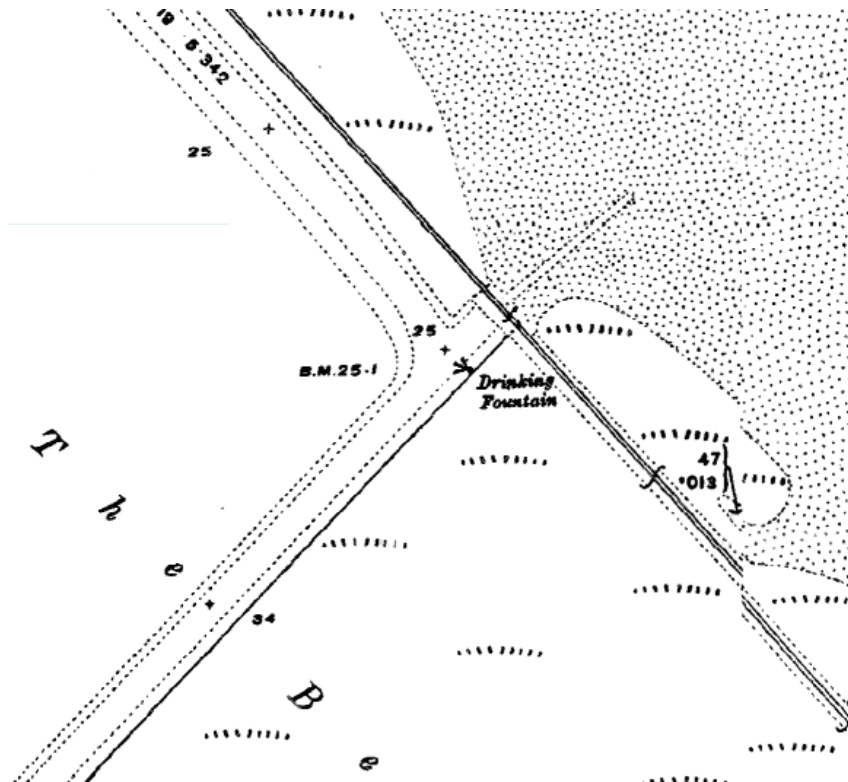


Figure 6 Ordnance Survey Map 1910-1920

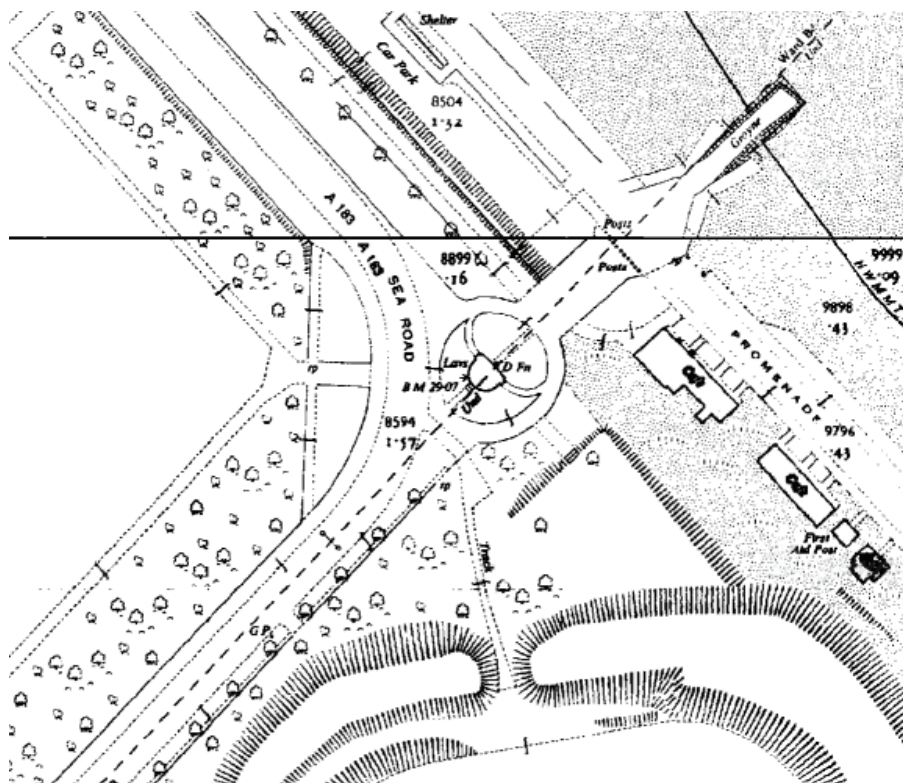


Figure 7 Ordnance Survey Map 1940-1950

By 1940 (Figure 7) Building A is clearly shown. The outline of the building aligns with the existing plan (see Appendix 2), providing further evidence that the building currently stands almost entirely unaltered from its originally constructed state. The previously mapped drinking fountain has been relocated, or replaced, to the centre of the north-eastern elevation of the new building, presumably sitting within the blank arch at this point. Curving ramped accesses to the toilets, along with centrally-aligned accesses to the drinking fountain and the steps to the shelter are all shown as in place. These all match the current existing accesses, as do much of the wider arrangements of Gypsies Green stadium to the south and the promenade and car parking fronting the beach to the east. No longer extant is the pre-existing groyne, shown on both maps, which the building seems to have been partly aligned towards. Later maps have been investigated, but show no significant alterations from the situation shown on this map.



## 4. RESULTS OF THE HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

The results of the photographic survey are presented with exterior elevations described first, followed by interior rooms. This account identifies all features, fixtures and fittings relevant to the original and subsequent uses of the site. Phased construction plans have also been produced (see Appendix 2). These plans should be read in conjunction with the descriptive account.

### 4.1 BUILDING A

Building A is a brick and cast-concrete pavilion structure, referred to locally as 'Gandhi's Temple'. The building consists of a single, original, two-storey range, with a half-basement toilet storey, beneath a raised-ground-floor open-sided pavilion storey. There is no evidence for previous extensions or significant internal or external alterations. Some minor internal alteration was noted during the survey for this study, however the building was mainly unaltered and continues to serve as a public beach-side shelter and convenience/lavatory, as originally designed.

#### 4.1.1 EXTERNAL SOUTH-EAST-FACING ELEVATION

This elevation is one of two, symmetrical, side elevations of the building. This elevation comprises four windows to the lower ground floor, all of which have original wooden frames, with replaced concrete sills where the original woodwork has apparently rotted (Figure 8). To the east of this, is a lower doorway with flat arch constructed in decorative tile, accessed by a curving, ramped entranceway with later brick retaining walls and steel balustrade. The doorway, giving access to the gents' toilets within is contained within a two-storey projecting square bay. The brickwork of the structure is of red textured bricks, arranged with horizontal stepped detailing. The first floor comprises a colonnade of Doric columns carried on square dies over a stepped plinth. Above this is a simple plain frieze below a square cornice with plain attic parapet in brick. Between the columns is a low wall with inset brick panels topped by a moulded coping. The copings, as with the columns, frieze, cornice, dies and plinth, are all cast concrete. These have all been painted cream, but show Paton Watson's 'snowflake' finish beneath the paint, with white flecks in a buff concrete.



Figure 8 South-east elevation of Building A, facing north-west. Scale 1x2m

#### 4.1.2 EXTERNAL NORTH-WEST-FACING ELEVATION

This elevation is one of two, symmetrical, side elevations of the building, matching that at the south-east side of the building. This elevation comprises four windows to the lower ground floor, all of which have original wooden frames, with replaced concrete sills where the original woodwork has apparently rotted (Figure 9). To the west of this, is a lower doorway with flat arch constructed in decorative tile, accessed by a curving, ramped entrance-way with later brick retaining walls and steel balustrade. The doorway, giving access to the ladies' toilets within, is contained within a two-storey projecting square bay, formed with coupled columns above. The brickwork of the structure is of red textured bricks, arranged with horizontal stepped detailing. The first floor comprises a colonnade of Doric columns carried on square dies over a stepped plinth. Above this is a simple plain frieze below a square cornice with plain attic parapet in brick. Between the columns is a low wall with inset brick panels topped by a moulded coping. The copings, as with the columns, frieze, cornice, dies and plinth, are all cast concrete. These have all been painted cream, but show Paton Watson's 'snowflake' finish beneath the paint, with white flecks in a buff concrete.



Figure 9 North-west elevation of Building A, facing south-east. Scale 1x2m

#### 4.1.3 EXTERNAL NORTH-EAST-FACING ELEVATION

This flat elevation comprises four windows to the lower ground floor, all of which have original wooden frames, with replaced concrete sills where the original woodwork has apparently rotted (Figure 10). The two central windows are of four lights, with the two flanking windows each having two lights. Centrally a blind rounded arch is present constructed in decorative tile (Figure 11). The recessed archway presumably gave access to the drinking fountain marked on the Ordnance Survey map of the building in the 1940s, and the centrally located scars within the recessed brickwork presumably show where supports for this drinking fountain were located (Figure 11). The brickwork of the structure is of red textured bricks, arranged with horizontal stepped detailing. The first floor comprises a colonnade of six Doric columns carried on square dies over a stepped plinth. Above this is a simple plain frieze below a square cornice with plain attic parapet in brick. Between the columns is a low wall with inset brick panels topped by a moulded coping. The copings, as with the columns, frieze, cornice, dies and plinth, are all cast concrete. These have all been painted cream, but show Paton Watson's 'snowflake' finish beneath the paint, with white flecks in a buff concrete. At the corners of the building, the brickwork design gives the impression of rusticated quoins.



Figure 10 North-east elevation of Building A, facing south-west. Scale 1x2m



Figure 11 North-east elevation of Building A, detail of central blank arch, facing south-west. Scale 1x2m

#### 4.1.4 EXTERNAL SOUTH-WEST-FACING ELEVATION

This principal, apsidal, elevation comprises windows (already described as part of other elevations) to the lower ground floor, all of which have original wooden frames, with replaced concrete sills where the original woodwork has apparently rotted (Figure 12). Centrally a stairway of five steps gives access to the upper storey. The brickwork of the structure is of red textured bricks, arranged with horizontal stepped detailing. The first floor comprises a colonnade of Doric columns carried on square dies over a stepped plinth. Above this is a simple plain frieze below a square cornice with plain attic parapet in brick. Between the columns is a low wall with inset brick panels topped by a moulded coping. The copings, as with the columns, frieze, cornice, dies and plinth, are all cast concrete. These have all been painted cream, but show Paton Watson's "snowflake" finish beneath the paint, with white flecks in a buff concrete.



Figure 12 South-west elevation of Building A. Scale 1x 2m

## 4.2 INTERIOR- GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor of Building A comprises two principal rooms (Rooms G1 and G3), each with a small additional room accessed from the main space (Rooms G2 and G4). The layout of the rooms is symmetrical, with access doors to the female (north side of building) and male (south side of building) toilets via ramped entranceways at opposing sides of the building.

### 4.2.1 ROOM G1

Room G1 includes an entrance at its south-eastern extent, leading to a curved corridor (Figure 14), which in turn gives access to a main space with porcelain urinals arranged against the curved south-west and straight north-west walls (Figure 13). To the east of this, and north of the entrance corridor, two internal masonry walls define an area enclosing three w.c. stalls with two hand-basins opposite (Figure 15). The stalls have two-panel doors, as original, with moulded wooden surrounds. At the north-east extent of this area a partially inserted wooden partition, incorporating the wooden partition of the eastern-most stall, separates Room G2. The door to Room G2 would appear to be a re-used stall door, as noted from the position of rebates to take the hinges of a door in the western wall of Room G2 (Figure 17). The urinals, windows and doors all appear to be original to the building, whilst the pipework, cisterns and sinks have been replaced. The ceiling and floor are of concrete and are original.

To the east of the main entrance doorway is a small cupboard, with a single window and inserted plywood shelving at its north side. The cupboard is accessed by a door with moulded wooden surround and transom light over (Figure 14)

The interior of Room G1 also contains a row of three cast iron columns at its north-western side (Figure 29). These are shown on the 1907 plans of the building but are not indicated on the 1895 plans, which may well suggest they were not present at that time. These may have replaced a putative earlier (but removed by 1895) partition on this line, suggested by the position of the original door, later a window, at the north west corner of Room G1, which seems unlikely to have opened directly onto such a large room from the exterior. It appears much more likely that a partition would have been in place on the same line as that shown forming a passage inside the original entrance door at the eastern side of the building on the 1895 plans. It is also possible, however, that these columns are original to the building and no partition was in place here, as suggested by the internal door shown to the passage's western end on the 1895 plans.

Also present within Room G1 are a number of different floor finishes (quarry tiles to the western side, timber boards to the centre and south-east corner, and linoleum floor tiles to the north-east corner). These floor finishes broadly reflect the layout of the rooms at this level as shown on the 1907 and 1933 plans, confirming the general layout of the space as designed.



Figure 13 Room G1, detail of urinals, facing north-east. Scale 1x2m



Figure 14 Entranceway with cupboard. Room G1, facing south-east. Scale 1x2m



Figure 15 Stalls area with door to Room G2. Room G1, facing north-east. Scale 1x2m

#### 4.2.2 ROOM G2

Room G2 includes an inserted entrance doorway at its western side, re-using a door from a w.c. stall, which previously hung in line with the other stalls in Room G1 (Figure 17). This suggests that this room has been inserted, by the creation of the timber partition at its western side, and the stalls in Room G1 would originally have been five in number, based on the space available. The room appears to have been inserted for the storage of cleaning supplies, and includes modern plywood shelving against its south wall (Figure 16).





Figure 16 Room G2, facing south-east. Scale 1x2m



Figure 17 Room G2, facing south-west. Note location of previous hinges to right of current door. Scale 1x2m

#### 4.2.3 ROOM G3

Room G3 is a perfect mirror image of Room G1 in plan, however the internal arrangement of features includes only stalls, located in a single row against the south-east wall of the room, without urinals, given its use as a female toilet. The room is accessed via an entrance at its north-eastern extent, leading to a curved corridor (Figure 18), which in turn gives access to a main space with w.c. stalls arranged against the straight south-east wall. An internal masonry wall defines an area enclosing two hand-basins opposite the stalls (Figure 19). The stalls have two-panel doors, as original, with moulded wooden surrounds. At the south-east extent of this area a partially inserted wooden partition, incorporating the wooden partition of the eastern-most stall, separates Room G4. The door to Room G4 would appear to be a re-used stall door, as noted from the position of rebates to take the hinges of a door in the western wall of Room G4, as in Room G2 (Figure 17). The stalls, windows and doors all appear to be original to the building, whilst the pipework, cisterns and sinks have been replaced. The ceiling and floor are of concrete and are original.

To the east of the main entrance doorway is a small cupboard, with a single window and inserted plywood shelving at its north and south sides. The cupboard is accessed by a door with moulded wooden surround and transom light over (Figure 18).



Figure 18 Room G3, facing north-east. Entranceway with cupboard. Scale 1x2m



Figure 19 W.C. stalls within Room G3, facing south-west. Scale 1x2m



Figure 20 W.C. stalls and hand-basins within Room G3, facing north-east. Scale 1x2m

#### 4.2.4 ROOM G4

Room G4 includes an inserted entrance doorway at its western side, re-using a door from a w.c. stall, which previously hung in line with the other stalls in Room G3 (Figure 20). This suggests that this room has been inserted, by the creation of the timber partition at its western side, and the stalls in Room G3 would originally have been ten in number, based on the space available. The room appears to have been inserted for the storage of cleaning supplies, and includes modern plywood shelving against its south wall (Figure 21).



Figure 21 Room G4, facing south. Scale 1x2m

### 4.3 INTERIOR - FIRST FLOOR - ROOM G1

The first floor of Building A comprises a single open-sided space (Room F1), accessed from a set of steps at its south-east side. The layout of the space is symmetrical, with matching square bays with pairs of coupled columns at each rear corner and two central square columns aligned on its central east-west axis (Figures 22 and 23). There is little evidence of the previous partitions once present within the space, suggesting the floor has been resurfaced at least. The roof of the building can be seen to be shuttered concrete and the surrounding columns are painted cream. On the ceiling the building appears to have been latterly fitted with strip lighting, which has been subsequently removed (Figure 22).



Figure 22 Room F1, facing south. Scale 1x2m



Figure 23 Room F1, facing south-west. Scale 1x2m

## 5. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 DISCUSSION

The historic building recording of 'Gandhi's Temple' has provided a complete documentary record of the building, which has been analysed through this study. Very few alterations to the original scheme have taken place over time, with only the addition of Rooms G3 and G4 on the ground floor, and the removal of the original partitions to Room F1 on the first floor of significance. In this sense, it has been straightforward to appreciate the original design and structure of the building. Of particular significance is the appreciation of the period which saw the building's construction, and the socio-economic circumstances in which it was created, perhaps as a method of job creation for the council's workforce, but also an investment in South Shields as a leisure resort. Furthermore, one of the most significant aspects revealed by this study is the building's close link to James Paton Watson, who went on to participate so centrally in a highly influential period, and project, for post-war Britain's urban and planning development. This is not to mention his own personal significance, in terms of his relationships with Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Lord Waldorf Astor and others.

With this later history of town-planning on a grand scale in mind, it is worth considering the setting of 'Gandhi's Temple', set at a prominent corner, and aligned on far-reaching views along Sea Road and Mowbray Road, as well as its strategic position close to the southern end of the South Beach Promenade. It would be interesting to consider the input that Paton Watson had in the siting of the building, and whether this could reflect some of the interests and ideas he later put into practice in Plymouth.

### 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the level of understanding that the study of the building has provided, and the lack of significant alteration noted throughout this simple structure, it is not considered necessary to recommend any further work to better understand the built heritage of the structure.

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### 6.2 ARCHIVAL SOURCES

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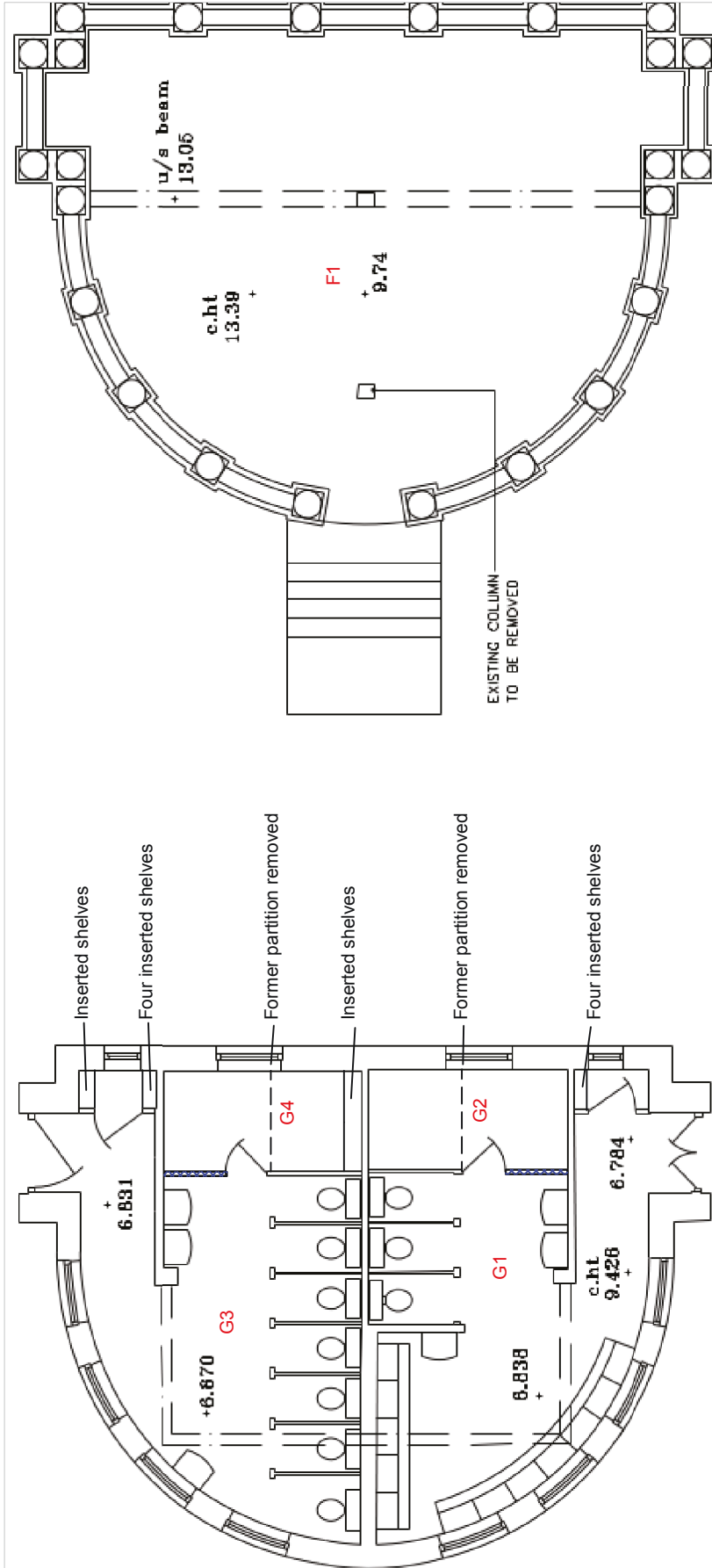


## APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Shot Number	Direction of View	Scale	Description	Taken by:
1	NW	2m	G1 North-west wall	CS
2	SE	2m	G1 Looking south-east, including cupboard by entrance	CS
3	E	2m	G1, Detail of cupboard by entrance	CS
4	E	2m	G1, Stalls	CS
5	NE	2m	G1, Stalls	CS
6	NE	2m	G1, Stalls	CS
7	NE	1m	G1, Stalls, detail of mouldings to joinery work	CS
8	N	2m	G2 North side	CS
9	S	2m	G2 South side	CS
10	W	2m	G2, West wall, inc. evidence of removed door and partition	CS
11	N	2m	G1 North-west wall	CS
12	E	2m	G3, Entrance and cupboard	CS
13	E	2m	G3, Detail of cupboard by entrance	CS
14	W	2m	G3 West wall	CS
15	SW	2m	G3, Detail of stalls	CS
16	E	2m	G3, Detail of stalls, facing east	CS
17	S	2m	G4 South wall, including inserted shelving	CS
18	N	2m	G4 North wall	CS
19	SE	2m	G4, Detail of cupboard by entrance	CS
20	N	2m	Exterior, south east elevation	CS
21	W	2m	Exterior, north east elevation	CS
22	W	2m	North east elevation, detail of archway	CS
23	W	-	North east elevation, detail of window	CS
24	S	2m	Exterior north west elevation	CS
25	E	2m	Exterior south west elevation	CS
26	S	2m	Interior View, first floor, looking south	CS
27	N	2m	Interior View, first floor, looking north	CS

## APPENDIX 2 – PHASE PLANS





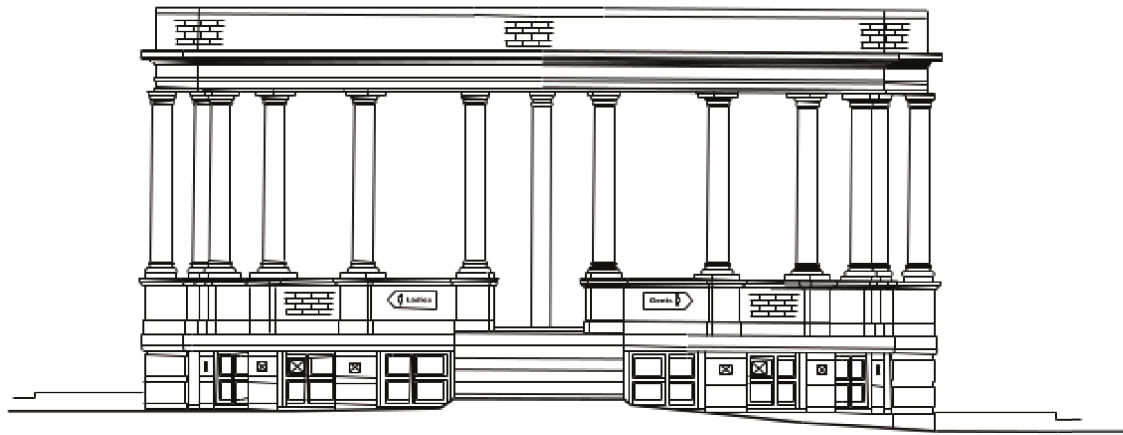
EXISTING UPPER FLOOR PLANS

EXISTING LOWER FLOOR PLANS

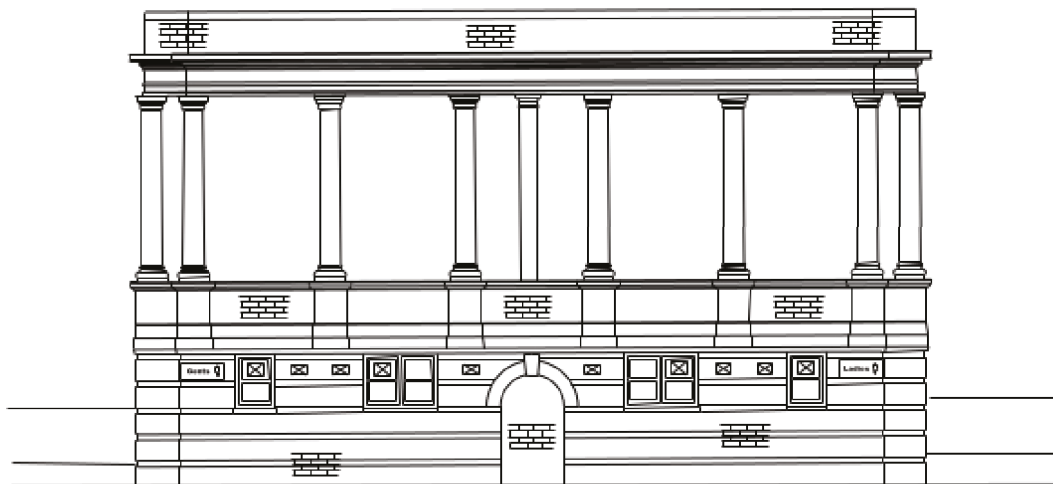
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Phase 1: 1931  
 Phase 2: unknown





*West Elevation*



*East Elevation*

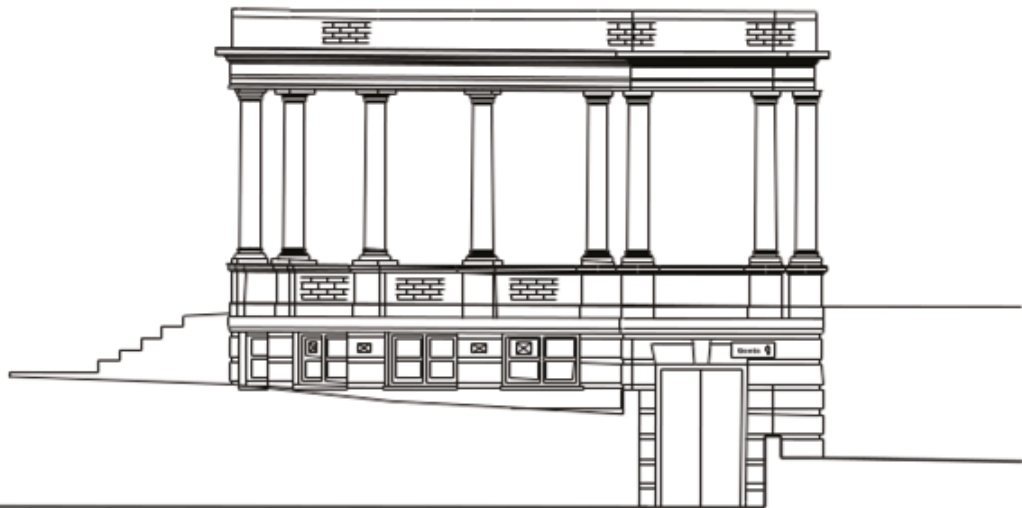


Title: Phased Elevations of Gandhi's Temple, Sea Road, South Shields

Scale: 1:100 @ A4

Phase 1: 1931





*South Elevation*



Title: Phased Elevations of Gandhi's Temple, Sea Road, South Shields

Scale: 1:100 @ A4



Phase 1: 1931



