

Former Police Building and Magistrates Court, Civic Centre, Southampton Hampshire

Building Record





**FORMER POLICE BUILDING AND MAGISTRATES COURTS,
CIVIC CENTRE, SOUTHAMPTON
HAMPSHIRE**

Historic Building Record

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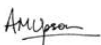
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kier Southern to carry out a programme of historic building recording during re-development works at Southampton Civic Centre. The works focused on the conversion of the former Police Building and Magistrate's Courts into the city's Heritage Centre and new Sea City Museum.

The former Police Building and Magistrates Court forms the westernmost of four interlinked contemporary buildings which together comprise the Southampton Civic Centre, on Civic Centre Road, Southampton. The buildings are listed, Grade II*.

The building recording was undertaken during the period from October 2010 to October 2011. A combination of research in the Southampton City Archive, and site survey has shown that a dynamic design process continued until the last moment before the building was opened in 1933. The most significant findings concern the east side of the lower ground floor. Early plans were found which included original design drawings for integrated stables within the lower ground floor cell complex. This was subsequently changed to the present as-built arrangement of separate stable block and court room above.

The building recording was carried out in two phases, the first was a record of the building prior to site works commencing and the second was carried out as a watching brief during development works. Records were made of significant areas due for alteration mainly centred within the two principal court rooms 1 and 3. This included a full photographic database record of all parts of the building and drawn records of court room 3. A laser scan of the effected exterior and interior was also made. Window types were also part of the detailed study. The Watching brief recorded the front main steps prior to their removal and various interventions were monitored to assess and record the original built fabric.

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The site survey was undertaken by Bob Davis, Grace Flood and Matt Rous. The laser scan survey was undertaken by Warner Land Survey Ltd. The main body of this report was researched and compiled by Bob Davis and the window report section was written by Grace Flood. CAD drawings were created by Grace Flood and Bob Davis; other report illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Anne Upson.

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Historic Building Record

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kier Southern to carry out a programme of historic building recording during re-development works at Southampton Civic Centre. The works focused on the conversion of the former Police Building and Magistrate's Courts into the city's Heritage Centre and new Sea City Museum.
- 1.1.2 The former Police Building and Magistrates Court forms the westernmost of four interlinked contemporary buildings which together comprise the Southampton Civic Centre, on Civic Centre Road, Southampton. The buildings are listed, Grade II*.
- 1.1.3 The conversion of the building necessitated a modest degree of internal demolition, mostly affecting the police offices and circulation spaces in the northern half of the building, but also removing some of the architectural detail from four of the five courtrooms. The principal impact in areas considered to be of High Heritage Merit were:
- The removal of sections of the panelling and magistrates bench in Courtroom 3; the closure of the two existing doors and the creation of a new central opening in the south wall
 - The removal of the defendant's dock in Courtroom 3
 - The removal of the witness box and alterations to the north-east corner of Courtroom One
 - The removal of the magistrates benches from Courtrooms 4 & 5
- 1.1.4 In order to mitigate the loss of these elements of architectural detail, and to provide a record of the original form, scale and detail of the areas of the building to be affected, the Planning Archaeologist at Southampton City Council had determined that a programme of historic building recording be carried out to record the information that would be lost, or affected by the development works.
- 1.1.5 A Brief had been prepared and issued by the Planning Archaeologist, for the recording work to be carried out both in the Police Building and Magistrates Courts, and in other parts of the Civic Centre which are to be developed within a separate project. The Brief required that areas considered by the Conservation Management Plan to have High Heritage Merit should be

recorded to Level 4 (comprehensive analytical record), as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage, 2006). This included the Grand Hall, three principal courtrooms and the bridge linking this western building with the Municipal offices to the east. The Brief additionally required those areas considered to have Medium to Low Heritage Merit should also be subject to a minimal amount of recording work.

- 1.1.6 Although not assessed in terms of Heritage Merit by the Conservation Plan, the steps providing the principal access to the building from the Havelock Road frontage were considered to be of considerable significance to the original architectural scheme, and were also be recorded to Level 4.
- 1.1.7 The recording work as discussed with the Planning Archaeologist comprised two distinct phases: a main phase of recording prior to the commencement of development works, and a programme of archaeological monitoring to record additional constructional detail during the progress of the development.
- 1.1.8 The building recording was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology doc. ref. T13993, 2010) which was approved in advance of the work by the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist. The work was also carried out in accordance with guidance given in the document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006), and the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation of standing buildings or structures* (IFA, 2008).

1.2 The Site, Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The Civic Centre site is situated in the Marlands area and the approximate modern centre of Southampton centred on NGR 441828 112228. The complex of buildings that make up the Civic Centre is bounded on its west side by Havelock Road and by Commercial Road and Watts Park to the north. To the east, the site is bounded by West Marlands Road and to the south by Civic Centre Road. The former Police building and Magistrates Court form the west wing of the complex with its main entrance facing onto Havelock Road.
- 1.2.2 This west wing is rectangular in plan with its main axis orientated north-south. The building is probably best known, and dominated, by the tall central feature of the clock tower.
- 1.2.3 The buildings date to the early 20th century and were built following a competition for the design for a new civic centre which was held in 1928. The competition was won by the architect Ernest Berry Webber. Construction began in 1930, when the construction of the south (Municipal Offices) block was laid, and completed with the opening of the Art Gallery in 1939. The former Police Building and Magistrates Court was the second building to be constructed, and was opened for use in November 1933.
- 1.2.4 The building comprises two main floors; the lower ground floor is largely sub-divided into a series of small spaces providing police offices and custody suites, with internal courtyards providing prisoner's exercise yards.

The upper ground floor, accessed via a flight of steps at the centre of the west elevation leading to a large central hall, houses three large and two small courtrooms, and further police offices.

- 1.2.5 The Magistrates Courts vacated the building in 2001, and the police station and offices were vacated in 2010.

1.3 Historical Background

- 1.3.1 The historical concept, architectural competition and building of Southampton Civic Centre has been accurately described in detail in the Conservation Management Plan and Strategy Volume 1 document produced in 2009. The following historical background has been based largely on this document's findings.

1.4 The Concept

- 1.4.1 By the late 1800s, there was a growing recognition amongst the entire community of Southampton of the inadequacies of having various local government departments scattered throughout the town. Not only were many of these departments accommodated in buildings that were old and far too small, but co-ordination of municipal activities was also almost impossible at the time. Furthermore there had been a nation-wide swell – almost a fashion – for the building or rebuilding of municipal offices from the middle of the 19th century onwards. The cramped and often widely dispersed nature of existing accommodation tended to be one issue, but there was also a strong and burgeoning feeling that new buildings would be a concrete expression of civic pride. New buildings, whether on existing and confined spaces as in Oxford (1893-7), or on new sites as in Southampton, also offered the potential for combining several major facilities within their walls as well as the accoutrements and departments of civic administration. There was an almost inevitable downside, though – money. Substantial new buildings were all but inevitably expensive, and pressure on local authority finances is by no means a new phenomenon.
- 1.4.2 Proposals for a new town hall at Southampton began as far back as 1878, with further proposals in 1895. These were for the provision of a new town hall to replace the old Guildhall over the Bargate and the Municipal Offices in the Audit House. Ongoing reluctance to commit to such a large capital expenditure meant that the Council repeatedly deferred the subject, not least because there was already an urgent need to direct expenditure towards improved housing for the urban poor. Eventually, however, the decision was taken to proceed in 1914, when the Council finally passed a resolution:

That the Council take immediate steps towards the provision of a town hall and municipal building suitable and adequate for the growing needs and requirements of the Borough

- 1.4.3 Alderman Sidney Kimber was responsible for putting the resolution forward, and in recognition of his vision for the project, he was appointed chairman of a Town Hall Committee to co-ordinate the project. It was a position that he was re-elected to twenty-eight times throughout the life of the Committee.
- 1.4.4 The timing was scarcely auspicious. The intervention of World War I inevitably hampered the early progress of the project, as did the

identification of an ideal site for the new building. After due consideration of various sites, it was decided that West Marlands be selected as the site for the new Town Hall, and the scheme was revived in the 1920s.

1.5 The Site

- 1.5.1 The West Marlands site may have been identified as the preferred location for a new Town Hall and other municipal buildings, long before construction actually started – but it proved to be a controversial choice. This was common land, held communally and for the public good. Indeed the Common stretching out along the main north road out of Southampton is still one of the city's great features today. West Marlands was an adjunct to it, and it is not surprising that the loss of this substantial area of public recreation ground close to the city centre led to opposition both before and after the architectural competition for the design of the Civic Centre. In order to overcome opposition between Council members of different political parties it was agreed that two thousand new homes would be constructed to compensate for the loss of land. The passing of the Bill in Parliament for the appropriation of the site in early 1929 also encumbered the Council with the need to provide nine acres of land in substitution of the West Marlands. The recreational grounds at Weston Park and Shirley Warren were thus created.

1.6 The Architectural Competition

- 1.6.1 Preliminary discussions regarding the calling of an architectural competition commenced in early 1924. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London was invited to appoint an assessor to confer with the Civic Centre Committee to draw up conditions and regulations for the invitation for a competitive design, suggest the premiums to be offered, and to adjudicate upon the designs received. The President of the RIBA nominated a London architect, Mr Austen Hall as the assessor. He was regarded as an architect experienced in the design of public buildings, having designed the Metropolitan Water Board offices, Lambeth Town Hall, and several other town and county halls.
- 1.6.2 The Council adopted the conditions and particulars of the competition, as prepared by the Civic Centre Committee, on 17 September 1924. Several of these conditions influenced the final design of the proposed building. These included:
- The principal civic entrance should face south and the Art Galleries should be on the northern side of the building.
 - The entrances and exits should be separate from the main entrance, and there should be internal communication with other parts of the building.
 - Elevations should be treated in a dignified and suitable manner, having regard to the maritime importance of Southampton and the historical associations of the town.
 - Portland stone should be used for all external elevations.
 - The Town Hall must be considered an important feature.
- 1.6.3 An acute housing shortage delayed the calling of the architectural competition until early 1928. Forty-seven competition entries were received

and displayed in the old Hartley buildings in High Street. Mr Hall examined the designs submitted and awarded the following places:

First: No. 40 Mr E. Berry Webber, ARIBA
Second: No. 6 Messrs. Crouch, Butler and Savage
Third: No. 3 Messrs. E. Lyons and T.E. North

1.7 The architect

1.7.1 The architect E. Berry Webber worked from his offices in London and was only 32 years old when he won the competition to design the new municipal building for Southampton. This was not, however, the first competition he had won. Amongst his other successes were the Manchester Art Gallery, the Town Hall at Peterborough, the Liverpool College School and a new department store for Daniel Neal in London.

1.7.2 His success in Southampton was responsible for raising Berry Webber's prominence as a specialist in local government buildings. In 1936 he designed the Dagenham Civic Centre, a Grade 2 listed Art Deco style building in mulberry stock brick with imposing Portland stone entrance and portico. Its interior has excellent Art Deco ceilings and Botticino marble stairs and foyer.

Other public buildings that Berry Webber completed include:

- Hammersmith Town Hall (1930s);
- King Edward VI School (1938) in Shirley, one of Southampton's developing residential suburbs;
- Portsmouth Guildhall (1956) – external reconstruction and interior refurbishment after World War I bomb damage;
- the Pearl Buildings, Commercial Road, Portsmouth (1951-1960);
- and a barrack block (c 1960) at HMS Victory Barracks in Portsmouth's royal naval dockyard.

He was also responsible for extending Parliament House in Harare, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1936-7. The building had started its life as a hotel at the end of the 19th century, but had failed and been purchased by the government.

1.8 The Winning Plan

1.8.1 Berry Webber's winning design for Southampton was for four independent but interconnecting blocks, constructed using the latest techniques of a steel framework clad with Portland stone. It did not originally include the clock tower because of the strict guidelines of the competition. Berry Webber later advocated to the Town Hall Committee that a tower was critical to his design and the Committee agreed to its addition.

1.8.2 The development of the Southampton Civic Centre as four distinct blocks is another characteristic of building that is unquestionably reflective of the Town Hall Committee requirements, rather than a creative decision. Even the departments to be housed in each block were predetermined by the committee. A similar requirement for the inclusion of specific elements within a new civic building occurred at Oxford, where a new Town Hall was built in

1893-7 to the design of Henry T Hare. The city centre site here was much more constrained and awkward, but Hare still had to incorporate a main hall (equivalent of the Civic's Guildhall), Law Court and Police Station with all attendant chambers, the Public Library, and of course the Council Chamber and other civic offices. The facilities included are remarkably similar to those at Southampton, but the constrictions of the site mean that the design solutions could scarcely have been more different at the two sites.

- 1.8.3 Neo-Classicism initially evolved on the international architectural scene as a reaction against the French Rococo style that was considered to be "an excess of gay and charming frivolities". Similarly the early twentieth century classical revival in continental Europe was seen as a universal rejection of the swirls and curls of Art Nouveau. Changes in architectural styles were marked by buildings such as J.M. Olbrich's Tietz store in Düsseldorf of 1906-1908 and the crematorium near Hagen designed by Peter Behren's in 1900 -1907.
- 1.8.4 In Britain the aesthetic ambitions of Art Nouveau were subsumed into the Arts and Crafts Movement and the florid High Baroque style that dominated public architecture. Rapid changes in the European architectural styles were slow to take effect in this country and it was not until 1911 that a reaction against excessive decoration occurred. Southampton Civic Centre is particularly noteworthy for its restrained use of decoration.
- 1.8.5 It was also around this same time that the first, large-scale building with a steel frame was built in London. Attempts to adapt the popular Baroque style to the demands of a steel frame almost immediately led to a change of architectural style that used stone dressings to hide the underlying framework. The results were the beginnings of the Neo-Classical Modern Style in Britain.
- 1.8.6 During the 1920s and 1930s architectural schools throughout Britain actively promoted the academic 'Georgian' style as 'new', 'modern' and 'energetic' and were responsible for this classical style remaining popular in this country long after Europe and other parts of the world had come to regard it as 'old-fashioned' and 'outworn'. Several features such as the doors and light fittings of the Southampton Civic Centre clearly demonstrate this academic training.
- 1.8.7 For civic buildings the Neo-Classical Modern Style was thought to epitomise the ideals of Public Service such as stability, control and power. Prominent examples of this style of architecture include:
- Nottingham council house, designed by T. Cecil Howitt, 1928
 - Norwich city hall, designed by James and Pierce, 1932
 - Senate house, London University
 - BBC Broadcasting House, Langham Place
 - London underground headquarters, St. James
 - Imperial Airways Building, Victoria
 - Royal Institute of British Architects building, Portland Place

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aim of the building recording was to record the main areas listed in 1.1.3 above, prior to any destructive work taking place. This would provide a lasting record of the various areas affected by the works. The aim of the subsequent watching brief recording was to allow for comparison to be made with original site plans and engineering drawings.

2.2 Documentary research

- 2.2.1 A study was made of the drawn and documentary archive for the Civic Centre, held at the Southampton City Archives. From this study, a selection was made of the relevant drawings and written evidence referring to the former Police Building and Magistrates Courts; a selection of which is reproduced in this report.

2.3 On-site recording

- 2.3.1 Preliminary photographic recording included general views of the exterior of the building, interior spaces and areas of significance. This was undertaken using a Canon EOS 5D Mark II full-frame digital camera and a Canon EOS 300 black and white film camera. Watching brief photography was carried out in digital format only.
- 2.3.2 The locations of the photographic views were recorded onto a handheld HP iPAQ. They were recorded as point shape files related to the site survey plans on pocket GIS with the following attributes: floor number, direction of view and brief description. This has generated a photo gazetteer database. The matching black and white photographs were also referenced on the Ipaq and referenced to identical digital images with film number and frame attributes.
- 2.3.3 Rectified photographic survey was employed as the principal recording medium in court room three. Survey was carried out using a Leica TCR 1205 reflectorless TST (Total Station). This was connected via Bluetooth wireless to a tablet PC running AutoCAD 2004 and TheoLT release 6 Pro software. Rectified photography was processed on computer using PhotoPlan and AutoCAD 2004 software. This enabled the production of scaled, rectified images of the panelled elevation which were then digitised into AutoCAD drawings.
- 2.3.4 Watching brief recording was carried out in a variety of methods. Individual architectural details and features were either hand drawn onto tracing film or entered directly onto Tablet PC AutoCAD as appropriate.
- 2.3.5 The panelling behind the Magistrates bench in courtroom 3 would be significantly impacted by the alterations, and, in accordance with Policy B8 of the Conservation Plan, cited in paragraph 1.4 of the Brief, it was proposed that this would be subject to a rectified photographic record. However, due to the close proximity of the magistrate's bench, it was not possible to record the lower part of the wall in this way, and it was therefore drawn by a combination of rectified images and hand measurement.

- 2.3.6 Detail drawings at a scale of 1:10 (1:20 for large windows) were made of two examples of each window type, using examples from different elevations where possible. In the main stage of recording, the detailed internal elevations were recorded. Constructional details of each example, showing the relationship between the window and wall fabric, was recorded during/following their removal for replacement/refurbishment as part of the watching brief, by completion of the horizontal sections.
- 2.3.7 Detailed profile drawings at a scale of 1:5 were made of all types of coving, including at column, window and door heads. Similarly, detailed drawings in both elevation and profile were made of representative sections of all types of corridor moulding.
- 2.3.8 A laser scan survey was undertaken prior to the commencement of site work. This was targeted at the west and north facades and the interiors of the main entrance hall and the three court rooms. From the laser scan two drawings were produced to display the level of detail gathered by the scan, these are presented in the appendix.
- 2.3.9 Areas of graffiti were digitally photographed and their locations marked on the photographic gazetteer data base.

3 HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION

- 3.1.1 Records found of the initial concept and design plans of the Civic Centre appear to show that the Police Building and Magistrates Court as-built differ from what was initially planned. Undated, but pre-build, plans of the lower and ground floors of the west wing of the Civic Centre show that this preliminary design did not incorporate the present arrangement of projecting stable block and Coroners Court Room Two to the east (**Figures 2-3**). The earlier plans show that the original intention was to incorporate the stables and garaging within the lower ground floor east side rectangular footprint of the building.
- 3.1.2 Comparison with a later design drawing dated 1930 (**Figure 4**) shows that by this time the original design had been altered into what became the existing arrangement of stables, which included harness room and food store to the south of a dividing wall and two loose boxes and five stalls to the north. The Coroners Court Number Two was located above.
- 3.1.3 There is also some discrepancy between the earlier design drawings and the 1930 plan along the west frontage. The earlier drawing shows a slight perpendicular projection along the centre section of the west front. This was apparently never built as the present west front forms a continuous facade with only the entrance steps and side piers projecting beyond the main plane.
- 3.1.4 The internal arrangement of the various police rooms, stores, cell layout and associated rooms on the lower ground floor appears to have been largely followed with only the central east area originally intended for garages, bicycles, coal and prison van and the stabling area to the north not built.
- 3.1.5 The original design of the ground floor also differs significantly from the built layout. The design drawing indicates that along the west side of the building

were to be housed services including Hackney Carriage Dept, Registration of Aliens, general offices, chief clerk, chief constables office, female witnesses, male witnesses and grand jury room. The present layout has divided the west rooms differently and it can be assumed that the final committee decision was to accommodate the present layout.

- 3.1.6 The rooms to the north and south ends of the two main courts also appear to have been built to a different plan than the original design. The most significant difference however, is in the central east side of the building. The 'pre-built' drawing only indicates three rooms including 'solicitor's office, General consultation room and Barristers office'. The later, 1933 built projection, allowed for the solicitors and barristers offices to be placed to the north and south sides of the Coroners Court number 2 and on top of the stables below.
- 3.1.7 Whatever drove the design committee to change the original concept is not known but, the plans were finally agreed and the building was opened in November 1933 by The Lord Chancellor, The Right Honourable Viscount Sankey, P.C G.B.E. At the same time a '*Description of the Law Courts Section of the Civic Centre*' was published by the County Borough of Southampton. In this booklet the new building is accurately described with all the separate areas mentioned including The Quarter Sessions Court, The Justices' Court and The Coroners Court. There is detailed description of both the clocks and bells in the tower and even a section on the heating system.
- 3.1.8 Extracts form 'The Builder' magazine dated February 1931 also give an insight, not just into the design process of the Civic Centre but, also how it was built and who was contracted to build it. Although the article was concerned with the then recently opened Civic Centre main building, it can be assumed that much of the information provided by this article would relate to the Police and Magistrates building. It appears that, by this time, the design for the Magistrates Court (although not built) had been finalised as a block plan and various views of models are shown of the building in its present built form (**Figure 5**).
- 3.1.9 An isometric constructional view of a lower part of front wall to the Municipal Block (**Figure 6**), which appeared in the 1931 edition of The Builder and was prepared by Mr. E. G. Warland, shows how the Internal steel frame was encased with masonry and faced with stone. It also shows the floor construction detail which in this case employs a 'Diespekers Big-Span Floor' which incorporates a system of hollow terracotta bricks, steel reinforcing bars and poured concrete to form wide span floors between the steel framing.
- 3.1.10 The article also tells us that the quantity surveyor was F. j. Cleverly, F. S. I., and the clerk of works was Mr. H. W. Willis. It also gives a list of the main contractors, these include;
 - Excavation and Foundations: Henry Osman & Sons,
 - Steel Reinforcement: The British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Company,

- Steelwork: Edward Wood & Co Ltd,
- Plumbing: Norman & Underwood,
- Heating and Ventilation: G. N. Haden & Sons, Electrical Work: Grierson Limited,
- “Big Span” Floors: Diespeker Limited,
- “Blue Circle” Cement: Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Limited,
- Asphalt: The Limmer & Trinidad Lake-Asphalt Co,
- Metal Windows: Luxfer Limited,
- Roof Glazing: Mellowes Limited,
- “Bimol” Partition Blocks: The Building & Insulation Material Co,
- Lifts: Smith, Major & Stevens Ltd.

3.1.11 It is not known if these contractors were employed on the Magistrates building but as many of the features and build styles are identical it is assumed that they were contracted for the whole build. Indeed, study of both the constructional method and materials including the steel framing and wall construction and the ‘Diespeker Big Span’ flooring strongly suggest that this is the case.

4 MAIN PHASE RECORDING

4.1 Exterior

4.1.1 The exterior of the building retains its original modernist appearance with little change to the original design (**Front cover**). The description of the building provided in the ‘*Description of the Law Courts Section of the Civic Centre*’ (Southampton 1933) articulates the buildings appearance and the civic pride the structure gave as it stood brand new and is worthy of repetition here ..’*The Law Courts building has a long low frontage, rising above which is the cruciform mass, enclosing the Entrance Hall and the Courts. Growing out of the crossing of the higher structure is the Clock Tower. The whole exterior is a striking example of how a monumental composition can be obtained by the correct expression of the component parts of a building. There are no artificial features introduced merely for effect. The building-up and the buttressing to the base of the Tower is entirely provided by the way in which the more important units of the scheme are grouped.*

4.1.2 The simple yet balanced facades provide both a symmetry and design that has stood the test of time, giving the building the ability to be absorbed easily into the modern context. The building retains its practical purpose behind these facades, whilst implying the due respect and importance to the law.

4.1.3 The main entrance to the west is suitably presented as an imposing grand staircase flanked by crenellated lanterns topped with Lady Justice Figures (**Plate 1**). The main west door itself is steel framed with glazed panels and above the entrance is a plaque with scales, book and blindfolded Lady

Justice indicating, by symbolic reference, the objective and impartial approach to the law (**Plate 2**).

- 4.1.4 To the north and south ends of the building are the entrances into the police offices (**Plate 3**) with decorative owl motifs carved from limestone on the side of the door head (**Plate 4**). The meaning of these motifs is not known but perhaps refer to either wisdom or 'night owls', the station originally being open 24 hours a day.
- 4.1.5 The redevelopment proposals include a new extension to the north end of the building. As a result, the north façade will become abutted by new building, and the various window openings altered for access between the two sections of building. The typical design (which is reflected in the south elevation) incorporated rusticated Portland stone cladding along the lower ground floor with stone string courses separating this from the plainer but taller-proportioned ground floor (**Plate 5**). The fenestration of this north elevation has a uniform appearance with metal framed windows on the lower ground floor consisting of multi-light casements with vents above, while on the ground floor they are taller metal framed casements with single hinged vents over.
- 4.1.6 The rear, or eastern police yard is accessed from the north and south via narrow roads each passing through heavy wooden gates hung on stone piers (**Plate 6**). The south entrance to the yard passes under the connecting 'bridge' between the south of the police building and the main Civic Centre building (**Plate 7**).
- 4.1.7 The east projection housing the original stables and Coroners Court is much plainer in comparison with the rest of the building and may indicate a certain haste in its design. At lower ground floor level this part of the building appears functional, with only the wide tunnel accesses into the covered area below the Coroners Court to the north and south sides (**Plate 8**). The original north and south stable doors are also present to the east side of the access tunnel. In the lower ground floor east elevation are a series of high level metal framed windows, which originally served to light and ventilate the stables along this side of the building (**Plate 9**). The upper ground floor level is very plain with no apparent decoration at all. The only punctuation in the stone cladding being a stark series of window openings with recessed metal framed windows providing light to the Coroners Court offices.

4.2 Interior

- 4.2.1 The original design proposals for the location of the two main courts differs from the arrangement as built. The un-dated pre-build plan of the Magistrates Courts (**Figure 3**) suggests that the original intention was to have the two main court rooms located opposite each other. As indicated on the plan, the northern court room was to be the Justices Court (Court 1) with a single large 'Justices Room' and 'Justices Clerks' rooms to the north. The southern court room was the Quarter Sessions Court (Court 3) with two separate rooms to the south, one called 'The Records Room' and one called 'Jury Room'.
- 4.2.2 It would appear that this early design plan was not followed, as the established court layout has Court number 1 as the Quarter Sessions Court

complete with jury box and Court number 3 as the Justices or Magistrates Court with only the Magistrates bench. The '*Description of the Law Courts Section of the Civic Centre*' (Southampton 1933) clearly states that '*..to the north is the Recorders court (or Quarter Sessions Court), to the south the Magistrates Court, and to the east the Coroners Court..*' It is therefore possible that the use of each court was 'swapped' around but the plan layout of large single room to the north of Court number 1 and, the two separate rooms to the south of Court 3, was retained.

- 4.2.3 A design drawing dated March 1933 shows the plans and elevations as well as cross sections of the panelling around the dais of 'Justices Court' (**Figure 7**). The drawing shows some revisions dated to 18th April 1933 but crucially indicates that the original intention was to create a single central door leading from the rear of the dais and into the Justices room to the north. This arrangement is also shown on the pre-build plan (**Figure 3**).
 - 4.2.4 Clearly, this design was not followed as the published booklet Law Courts Section (County Borough of Southampton 1933) describes the 'Quarter Sessions Court' in detail. In this booklet, referring to the court room, it clearly states that '*Immediately opposite, at the other extremity of the room (north end), is a raised dais for the accommodation of the Recorder with seats for the Mayor, Sheriff and Magistrates, the walls around forming a suitable recess, panelled in walnut and surmounted by the Royal Arms. To the left and right can be discerned two doors, one leading to the Recorder's private room and one to the jury's retiring room.*' This indicates that the original single large 'Justices Room' had been divided into two rooms by the time the building was opened in November 1933.
 - 4.2.5 A later drawing, dated April 1951 (**Figure 8**), shows a design for both the dais and balcony panelling again for 'Justices Court'. It is not clear as to why this drawing was made or exactly where it refers to, but probably shows the established Justices Court number 3. It is titled 'Details of Panelling' and is produced by the same architectural firm, E. Berry Webber. The drawing is identical in most respects except for one slight discrepancy. The steps leading from the Magistrates bench and into the rooms to the rear are shown to turn inwards on the drawing, where as, the existing three steps lead straight down into the rooms.
 - 4.2.6 The main hall of the Magistrates courts is characterised by a central, cruciform plan space with square columns with decorated capitals supporting vaulted side aisles and centrally domed ceiling (**Plates 10-12**). The ceiling is painted light blue to the vaulting and dark blue to the dome. Moulded and brightly painted bands incorporating a Tudor rose highlight the edging to the ceiling. Wide access, created by this impressive space, provides imposing entrances into the three principal courts (**Plates 13-15**).
- ### 4.3 Court Room 1 Quarter Session Court
- 4.3.1 Court Room 1 retained much of the original fixtures and fittings from the 1930's. The court room consisted of Magistrates bench with jury box to the west and witness box facing the jury box to the east (**Plate 19**). In the centre was the dock with a row of bench seating upholstered in dark blue leather in front. Over all of these features was the original coffered ceiling with plaster Tudor rose motifs and original square hanging light fittings (**Plate 20**). The

original acoustic tiles were still attached to the walls and, according to the published booklet 'Description of the Law Courts Section (Southampton 1933) referring to the wall tiles. *'These tiles, having a highly cellular structure, absorb the sound vibrations, prevent echo, and enable conversation and pleadings to be carried out in comfort.'*

4.3.2 The court room naturally lit by a series of clerestory metal framed windows set just below the ceiling level in the east and west walls.

4.3.3 All of the original walnut panelling was retained throughout the courtroom and there was no evidence of change from the original design. Entrance to the courtroom was via double doors and under a projecting public gallery. The gallery was supported on six columns clad with walnut and topped with carved Corinthian capitals (**Plate 21**). The gallery was accessed via a separate side staircase and had capacity to seat 45 people on fold-down metal framed seating (**Plate 22**).

4.4 Court room 2 Coroners Court

4.4.1 The Coroners Court is much simpler in design than either of the other two courts. There is a dais at the east end on which sat the Coroner and his assistants (**Plate 23**). To the north of the Coroners bench is a witness box and it faces the jury box opposite. The original layout suggests that there were benches for the public at one end of the court (Southampton 1933) but at the time of the survey these were not present. The ceiling over the court was also different. The ceiling consists of waxed oak bridging beams supported on carved wall brackets. Ceiling joists span between each pair of bridging beams (**Plate 24**).

4.5 Court room 3 Justices Court

4.5.1 This court room was the subject of major alteration as part of the Sea City Museum Scheme. The alterations involved the removal of the Bench, the creation of a central opening in the south wall, the removal of the witness box and the removal of the dock. This necessitated the detailed recording of, in particular, the dais end of the court. It was not possible to record in detail the surrounding panelling along the east and west walls as asbestos was discovered in the heating system behind and this required specialist removal. This prevented archaeological access due to Health and Safety Regulations. However, it was possible to accurately survey the dais end of the court room (**Figure 9**).

4.5.2 This court room is similar in size and fittings to the Quarter Sessions Court (Court 1). Overall, this court room was very similar to Court number 1 with public gallery at the north, built to a similar design (**Plate 25**). There was no jury box to this court as it was not needed for the courts proceedings, the Magistrate dealing with judgement. The witness box had already been removed from this court and was in temporary storage elsewhere (**Plate 26**).

4.5.3 The public gallery is identical to that in Court number 1 with three rows of fold-down seating supported by an arcade of columns surmounted by Corinthian capitals (**Plate 27**). The dais end of the court consisted of the Magistrates bench with a raised platform in the centre for the Magistrates chair. This platform is sat below a modest clock set into the walnut panelling and above this the Royal Coat of Arms. There are two doors at either end of

the dais and the whole dais end is framed by two walnut panelled side wings finished with pilasters topped by Corinthian capitals (**Plate 28**). Within these side panels are vented and hinged grills covering the radiators set into each wall providing heat to the dais end (**Figure 10**).

- 4.5.4 The coffered ceiling of Court 3 is distinctly different to that in Court 1. Brightly painted in blue and white borders and panels and set with octagonal recesses which are decorated with red and white floral designs with gold flower central motives (**Plate 29**). Similar to Court number 1, natural light is provided by a series of metal framed windows at high level.

4.6 Court rooms 4 and 5

- 4.6.1 These two court rooms were adapted to hold domestic legal hearings such as those related to divorce. They were located on the south side of the main west entrance with room number 5 located to the north of room 4. Similar in design, they each consisted of a plainly decorated rectangular room with an 'L' shaped bench at the north and south ends respectively (**Plates 30-31**). Although the space appeared to be largely given over to lawyers desks Court room 5 had a short row of 8 fold-down seats along the south wall presumably for either witnesses or relatives (**Plate 32**).

4.7 Recorded Windows

- 4.7.1 Individual window types were recorded at ground and lower ground floor levels detailing internal elevations, external elevations, and where accessible, vertical and horizontal sections. Sections detailing the windows' construction within the wall fabric were obtained, where possible, as window types were removed during construction work. Two examples of each window type were recorded; from different elevations. This was carried out in accordance with the WSI utilising digital rectified photography and hand-drawn metric survey. The recorded windows are labelled Types **A-J** to differentiate them and their location marked on **Figure 11** for the lower ground floor and **Figure 12** for the ground floor.
- 4.7.2 Window **Type A** visible on the lower ground floor and identified as typical throughout large areas of this floor level is a metal-framed double casement window with two horizontal central-pivoted vented casements above (**Figure 13, Plate 33**). The double casements pivot off centre at the top and base, each divided into six lights; the vented windows vertically divided in two. The lower twelve panes are frosted while the upper twelve are clear glazing. The panes are held in position by secondary glazing bars fixed to the main frame with screws. It is likely putty was used to secure the panes however none was visible during survey. The external face of the frame has a curved projecting sill beneath the top vented windows. The window is 1.525m high; the window opening is splayed measuring 1.22m at the frame and 1.54m at the interior wall face. The frame is 0.37m deep with an external masonry sill 0.20m deep. The internal sill is 0.29m deep projecting into the room by 0.04m. The frame is made of iron and is heavily painted to delay corrosion. The clear and frosted panes are both single glazed, held in position by wooden glazing bars screwed to the main frame. The plan view shows how the window is set into the wall. The wall itself consists of an external face of ashlar masonry abutted by an internal face of brick. The window frame extends into a groove cut in the masonry and is fixed with metal lugs spaced

at regular intervals and set in the bed joints of the masonry (**Plate 34**). This form of fixing was found to be consistent with all windows. Locking and opening mechanisms, where original, are all made of brass. Hook catches lock the top vented windows whereas the double casement has a mortise plate fastener mounted on a D-shaped plate cast as part of the main frame. Original handles are curved while later replacements are straight. There are two outward opening sliding stays fixed to the base of the frame with an adjustable brass knob to lock the window in position. In many cases these have buckled or been removed. In addition Type A windows on the North, South and West external elevations have modern security bolts and vertical blinds fixed to the internal wall. A number of the windows have radiators fitted beneath and hinged brass three hinged brass grills are fitted in the interior sill for ventilation and access to the heating system.

- 4.7.3 **Type B** windows are located on the lower ground floor East external elevation (**Figure 14**). The window frame is identical in dimensions, materials, construction and appearance to Type A windows found elsewhere on the ground floor however the window opening is internally barred for added security as this external window type is located close to the cells (**Plate 35**). There are ten iron cylindrical bars 0.02m in diameter 1.325m in length and spaced 0.14m apart and centrally located within the window opening. They are fixed to the wall at their base centre and top by flat horizontal bars that project out from the widest point of the window opening forming a trapezoid shape in plan. The base horizontal bar is fixed to the sill by a curved iron loop secured with a single hexagonal bolt.
- 4.7.4 **Type C** windows are located on the lower ground floor, east internal elevation of the east (cell) corridor (**Figure 15**). There are twenty-six windows of this type, three have been blocked and all except eight act as light-wells between internal spaces. They consist of a fixed metal frame divided into ten lights in two rows (**Plate 36**). The central six lights are square while the outer four have chamfered corners. Circular bolts are visible at each corner of the window opening however the exact structural detail is unknown as this type of window has not yet been removed during the course of construction work. The iron frame is 0.90m long, 0.39m high and 0.05m deep. The east elevation window opening is splayed at the base 0.215m deep, 0.60m high while the tiled west elevation opening is 0.04m deep and bull-nosed at top and base. The clear glazing is 0.01m thick.
- 4.7.5 **Type D** windows are found within the west wall of the cells looking onto the internal prisoners' exercise yard (**Figure 16**). These windows are similar to Type C windows but differ in size with twenty-four lights set in four rows (**Plate 37**). Chamfered lights are set at each corner centrally top and bottom. The upper four central lights are grated ventilation all other lights have thick glazing identical to window Type C. Circular bolts are located at all four corners and two centrally. The window frame is 1.365m by 0.695m and 0.05m deep with each light measuring 0.145 square. The west facing opening is 0.07m deep and the east facing opening within the cell is 0.23m deep and bull-nosed on the lower three sides. The cell wall is tiled to a height 0.10 below the window top edge. As with Type C windows the structural setting cannot be ascertained until further construction work necessitates a removal.

- 4.7.6 Window **Type E (Figure 17)** is unique to the padded cell but similar in form to window Types C and D. It is a metal framed fixed window with thick glazing set within 24 lights set in two rows set above the padding in the West wall of the padded cell (**Plate 38**). The first, fourth fifth, eighth, ninth and twelfth lights in each row have chamfered corners. The window is secured by four circular bolts along the top and bottom edge set at regular intervals. It is likely the structural setting of the frame into the wall is identical to that of window types C and D. The iron frame measures 2.05 by 0.37 by 0.05m; the glazing is 0.01m thick set on the same alignment as window type D. Unlike windows C and D the window opening is straight rather than bull-nosed.
- 4.7.7 **Type F** is found in the west corridor lower ground floor and look onto the prisoners' exercise yard (**Figure 18**). Each opening consists of three bottom hinged metal framed vent windows with single panes of frosted glass (**Plate 39**). Glazing bars secured with screws hold the panes in position as seen in window types A and B. The frame is 2.40m by 0.53m and 0.043m deep but the interior opening is splayed at the base to a height of 0.765m. Again the frame is iron with wooden glazing bars all heavily painted. The external elevation facing the prisoners' exercise yard is secured with 14 evenly spaced vertical iron bars that project out from the frame a distance of 0.09m. Each light is hinged at two points with a single metal hook catch at the top to lock it and four metal roller stays set between the lights screwed to the wall and main window frame allow the windows to be opened inwards to a greater or lesser degree. The central stays are hammer shaped so that the lights to either side may rest on them whereas the outer stays are L-shaped and flush with the window opening. Grooves in the ceiling above the stays indicate where they were pushed upwards to allow the windows to be opened to their full extent.
- 4.7.8 There are only two examples of **Type G** window within the building. They are internal windows between the lower ground floor North corridor and toilets (**Figure 19**). A metal framed single light window with single pane frosted glazing fixed by mitred glazing bars on all sides (**Plate 40**). The window opening is splayed at the base ranging in height from 0.60-0.765m on the North elevation and bull-nosed to the south. The frame is 1.35m long and 0.07m deep with total wall thickness of 0.39m. The structural setting of the window type is unknown as it has not yet been targeted for removal.
- 4.7.9 **Type H** window is located in the West wall of the former stables and is now blocked however it matches the form of windows in the stables' East wall although they differ in size (**Figure 20**). The metal framed window consists of three vented windows that pivot on a horizontal central axis (**Plate 41**). Each vented window is divided into six lights in rows of three. Each pane is held in place by internal mitred glazing bars secured with screws. The external opening has been blocked with brick while internally the opening is splayed at the base. The window is 2.73m long, 0.715m high at the frame increasing to 0.92m at the internal wall face; frame depth is 0.028m and the internal wall opening 0.22m deep. The materials used in construction match other window types with an iron frame heavily painted, wooden glazing bars, a single glazed pane for each light (now painted over) and brass hook catches centrally placed at the top of each vented window as a locking mechanism.

4.7.10 Window **Type I** is typical for North West and South elevations on the ground floor (**Figure 21**). It is similar in materials and construction to window types A and B on the lower ground floor. Type I consists of a metal frame double casement surmounted by a single horizontally and centrally pivoted vented window, and unlike A and B types the double casement is not subdivided by glazing bars into multiple lights (**Plate 42**). Window I is larger than its lower ground floor counterparts 1.29m by 2.40m, the frame is 0.06m deep and 0.54m from internal to external sill; the opening is not splayed. The brass stays are identical to the type A and B ones, as is the hook catch closing the vented window and the handle fastening the double casement although the locking mechanism is different. The curved brass handle is mounted on a D-shaped plate identical to window type A but is attached to a vertical rod that pivots up and down when the handle is turned. The exterior frame does not have the curved sill below the vented window visible on A and B window types; instead the double casements have sloping lower sills cast as part of the main frame to keep water away from the frame interior. The structural setting of the window is identical to type A and B windows, the frame is situated within a rebate in the masonry and fixed with metal lugs. Radiator vents where they exist are also identical to those found on the lower ground floor. Type I windows on the south and west elevations have a secondary metal frame fitted flush with the internal wall. These later phase internal frames are metal framed sliding single glazed, one light windows that provide an extra level of insulation.

4.7.11 **Type J** ground floor windows overlook the prisoners exercise yard from the west corridor (**Figure 22**). Double metal framed casements with hinged vent over. Fitted with frosted glass and two square key catches for additional security as these windows face onto the exercise yard. An extra layer of security had been added to these windows in the form of short steel cables screwed to the upper casements (**Plate 43**).

4.8 Coving

4.8.1 The coving recorded throughout the building is somewhat restrained. Along the corridors of the ground floor a simple design of shallow projecting pilasters with rectangular recessed centre spanned from floor to ceiling (**Figure 23**). At the base of the pilaster the terrazzo flooring had been extended up to the base of a skirting bead formed within the wall plaster (**Plate 44**). At the top, the coving formed a simple cavetto profile which had been stepped to accommodate the shallow depth of the projecting pilaster (**Plate 45**).

5 WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A number of items of recording work were undertaken as required during the development programme. The principal areas recorded included the main west entrance steps which were due for complete removal, the east stable block, an example of the floor construction and the entrance and interior of the clock tower.

5.2 Main steps

- 5.2.1 The removal of the main front steps located on the west side of the building enabled a full profile to be drawn (**Figure 24**). The recording was carried out in two phases, before and after the removal of asbestos from the interior. The 1933 design plan (**Figure 4**) shows the plan arrangement below the centre west section of the building. The central room is labelled 'Reserve men's store and first aid' but at the time of survey it was used as a store. The two long flanking rooms either side of the central room consisted of a strong room to the north and an electric lamp store to the south. This design was followed as the north side room was still a strong room with heavy door and Chubb locks (**Plate 46**).
- 5.2.2 The constructional sequence through this part of the building consisted of a sloping internal profile which supported the main hall entrance stairs above. The support was provided by two steel beams encased in concrete which bear on the west wall of the lower ground floor corridor and on the lower brick wall on the west side of the room (**Plate 47**). On top of this slope was cast the concrete base of the steps. In turn, the polished steps were set on top.
- 5.2.3 Underneath the threshold, the foundations were somewhat unusual. A sealed void with solid brick walls was created directly underneath the threshold with similar encased steel beams supporting both the threshold and part of the slope of the external steps. The beams were set into the brick wall to the west side of the internal store room and into a low brick wall to the external west (**Plate 48**). The void had no apparent use and to prevent water ingress the cast concrete base of the steps and the outside face of the west supporting wall were covered in a thick layer of bitumen. This in turn was covered in a finer concrete base layer and the limestone steps bedded directly onto this surface (**Plate 49**).
- 5.2.4 To the west of the exterior supporting wall, the flight of steps was founded on poured mass concrete which was set onto the natural underlying soils.

5.3 Stables

- 5.3.1 The original configuration of the stables on the 1933 design plan (**Figure 4**) appears to have been followed. But subsequent change of use (most recently lost property office) has removed most of the internal fixtures and fittings. All of the small partitions have been removed including the division between the harness room and food store at the south end, and the partitions between the stalls and loose boxes at the north end.
- 5.3.2 The only remaining features recorded that clearly relate to the stables, apart from the windows, were the two entrance doors at the north and south ends and exposed sections of groove-patterned Staffordshire blue stable paviers (**Plate 50**).
- 5.3.3 An unusual feature was recorded sealed under the floor of the stables, which consisted of reinforced concrete with stable paviers. A feature comprising two parallel brick walls c.40cm apart was seen to run in a north-south direction, parallel to the alignment of the building, and with curved ends turning to the west (**Plate 51**). This feature, which had a flat concrete base, had no obvious signs of being used either as a drainage gully for

storm water or horse waste. The location of the feature, and its orientation (although not the slightly anomalous width between the two lines of brickwork) suggests that it may represent the foundation for the offset central part of the building shown on the pre-construction plan (**Figure 2**), indicating that the amendment to the layout was made after the construction of the foundations.

5.4 Diespeker floor

- 5.4.1 The various floor/ceiling sections that were exposed during development works verified that the 'Diespeker' system had been employed throughout the building. As specified in **Figure 6**, when it was shown used within the main Civic Centre building, it consisted of hollow terracotta bricks with recessed profiles laid in rows onto a timber former. Between each row of bricks were laid steel rods and then concrete was poured over, sealing all of the constituent parts together, creating a rigid surface on which was formed the floor surface of Parquet blocks set on screed. Where the wall beam met the outside-most terracotta brick, concrete formed between the recess of the steel RSJ (Rolled Steel Joist) and the brick, locking them together.
- 5.4.2 The Diespeker floor was exposed in several areas of the ground floor during the course of the works and it followed the same design wherever it was observed (**Plates 52-3**).

5.5 Cells

- 5.5.1 The plan layout of the cells in the lower ground floor forms a continuous alignment of side-by-side rooms down the central axis of the building (**Plate 54**). The present arrangement differs from the pre-build design plan (**Figure 2**) although the basic provision for separate male and female cells plus a single padded cell has been retained. The female cells numbering four in-all are located at the south end and are complete with toilet and shower area and also access to a separate exercise yard.
- 5.5.2 Each cell had been specifically designed with white glazed tiles on the walls and single heavily built metal framed windows and thickened glass (**Plate 55**). The benches and toilets in each of the cells was a modern addition. The cell doors were original and were designed by James Gibbons Ltd. A document was found in Southampton archives showing the design of the cell doors complete with peep hole, standard ration flap and prison lock with patent indicating handle (**Figure 25**) and dated to 1928. The doors remain as designed but the door locks have been upgraded and draw bolts have been added to the tops and bottoms of the doors (**Plate 56**).
- 5.5.3 A design drawing for a padded cell was also found in the archives (**Figure 26**). The document is undated but may be original to the cell layout as it was always intended to have one such cell within the complex. It was designed by 'Messrs Pocock Brothers, Specialists in Padded Rooms'. Pocock Brothers were providers of both padded cells and restraining equipment, not only for police cells, but also for mental hospitals since the 19th century. An advert placed in trade directories proudly invites enquiries into their wares for, among other things, waterproof sheeting, rubber beds, pillows and restraint clothing (**Figure 27**).

- 5.5.4 The drawing gives dimensioned plan and cross sections including the window. The padded cell was covered in a thick layer of soft vinyl panels with a drainage gulley running around the base of the walls for when the room needed to be washed down (**Plate 57**). The wooden framed door was original with two draw bolts and a peep hole carrying the makers name (**Plate 58**).

5.6 Clock Tower

- 5.6.1 A proposal was made to alter the west entrance at the base of the clock tower to aid access into the tower. In order that safe public access could potentially be made to this iconic feature in the future, consideration was being given to its being upgraded to provide adequate fire protection. Although these proposals were not yet defined, a record was made of the features of the tower as currently surviving.

- 5.6.2 The original internal access into the base of the tower was gained through a rather tortuous route which began at first floor level and through the small doors located opposite the entrance to the court galleries (**Plate 59**). This entrance led to a cast iron spiral staircase and up to a small landing (**Plate 60**) where a small door gave access onto the external iron framed steps at the base of the west tower (**Plate 61**). As there were two access doors from the north and south, stair turrets to the court galleries, the external iron staircase was symmetrical.

- 5.6.3 At the top of the steps was an arched metal framed window, the centre of which was a door (**Plate 62**). At this level, the centre dome over the main entrance hall could be viewed from above (**Plate 63**) and the base of the internal tower steps could be accessed. The top of the tower was accessed via a cast iron spiral staircase offset and set between the concrete floors of the tower (**Plate 64**).

5.7 Graffiti

- 5.7.1 Throughout the building, areas of graffiti were recorded. These were mainly centred on public areas such as the waiting areas at lower ground floor level, the main entrance hall, and entrances to the various courts at ground floor level. The type and method of graffiti varied from scratches and drawings on the surface of stone walling to soot or burnt residue markings to ceilings and scratches into door frames.

- 5.7.2 At the lower ground floor level the graffiti was mainly restricted to the south-west corner of the building. and at the foot of the south-west stairwell (**Figure 11**). This area was most recently used as a waiting area or smoking area for people attending the Youth and Family Proceedings Court on the ground floor. This was reflected in the type and style of the graffiti seen at the foot of the stairwell. There was some indelible marker used on the wall but the graffiti was mostly applied to the ceiling with what appeared to be cigarette lighters or cigarettes (**Plates 65-66**).

- 5.7.3 Graffiti was also recorded scratched into the upper stair well door frame at ground floor level. This was the access into the smaller Family Courts and the graffiti traces the path taken by people attending them.

- 5.7.4 The majority of graffiti was found in the entrance hall and significant amounts were to be found on the stone faced pillars and particularly behind the waiting benches to the main courts (**Figure 12**). This, again, took the form of names and some dates scratched into the wall surface (**Plates 67-68**). This, together with stains created by both the seating and people's heads against the walls, provides a social comment on the building fabric.
- 5.7.5 The nature of the graffiti was generally relatively banal, comprising names, nicknames, dates, and rather crude remarks about friends and enemies. There were also some unflattering comments about the police and legal system, and a few noting allegiance to far right political movements, such as 'NF' and the occasional swastika. Notably, the majority of the graffiti dated to the late 20th century, with little appearing to pre-date 1980, demonstrating an increasingly open lack of respect for authority.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 The construction of the Magistrates Courts and Police Building as part of a new Civic Centre for Southampton has provided a lasting symbol of the civic pride felt by the Borough between the wars. A purpose-designed and built complex housing both police station and law courts, it has been used for some 77 years. Every effort was made to accommodate the function and circulation through the building on its different levels.
- 6.1.2 From the impressive entrance with its symbols of law, to the hall, with its grand elevated designs, the building demonstrates a proportion and functionality of design well suited to its purpose. Because of this well defined purpose the building has had to be little altered during its lifetime. Only now, when modern needs and technological advances in policing have moved away from the traditional aspects of law and order, has the building become surplus to requirements.
- 6.1.3 The research and survey work undertaken throughout the building's redevelopment has shown that, even though the architectural competition had been won and a design scheme basically agreed, the Southampton Borough Committee continued to alter or change the earliest designs. Perhaps the most striking of these late changes is seen in the creation of external stables and Coroners Court above. The internal functioning of the various court rooms also appears to have changed at a late date as the formal layout of Courts 1 and 2 appear to have been swapped around. No documentary evidence was found to explain this change of mind but it suggests a fundamental need to do so.
- 6.1.4 Evidence was also found within the lower ground floor of significant change to the original design plans. Perhaps stabling horses so close to the cells was seen as an unhygienic plan form. It does appear however, that the siting of the stable block to the east of the main block provided an opportunity to expand the ground floor to provide a third large court; a Coroners Court.
- 6.1.5 Although there was significant change at this time, original features and circulation was retained within the lower ground floor. These included provisions for female cells, separate to the male areas, secure exercise yards and even a padded cell provided and designed by the prominent

makers of such items. The cell doors also were purpose-made and have only been updated recently with new locks.

- 6.1.6 The principal Court rooms 1 and 3 were simply designed with walnut panelling fixed to a softwood frame. This simple approach does not detract from the impact of these spaces which, at the time of the survey, retained their imposing atmosphere.
- 6.1.7 All of this was capped with an architectural statement symbolic of the certainty of both the law and time. The central clock tower completes the form of the building in a striking way.
- 6.1.8 The many people that have passed through the doors, both as a servant, accused and witness to the law have, in more ways than one, left their mark. Countless areas of graffiti recorded throughout the building bear testimony to the age old contradiction of appearing to be individualistic while actually conforming to social stereotypes. Rather than pass through 'the system' unrecognised and anonymous, there appears to be a driving factor of leaving a mark of attendance.
- 6.1.9 The new lease of life for the building will preserve the city's civic heritage for future generations whilst providing an informative and educational environment.

7 REFERENCES

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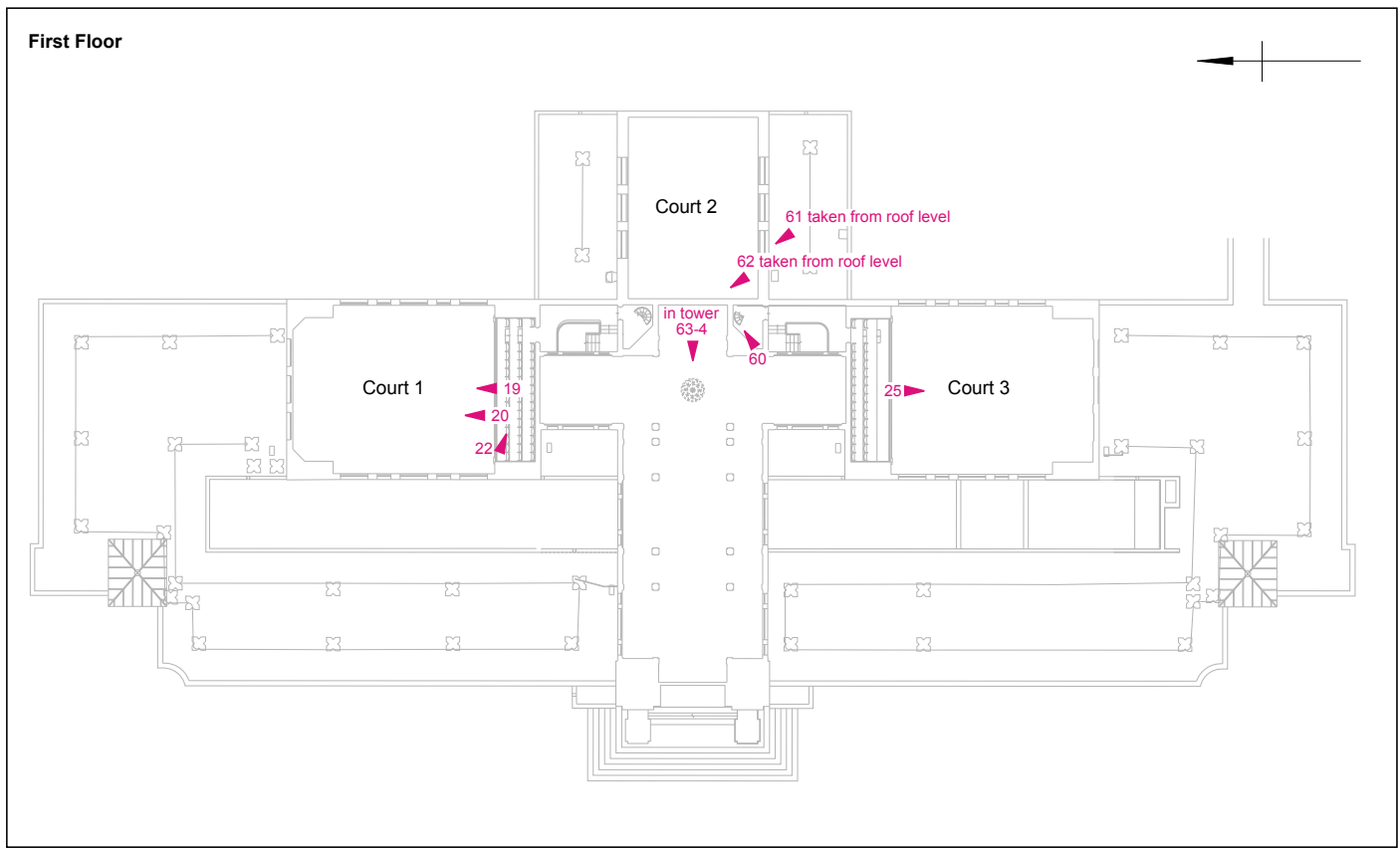
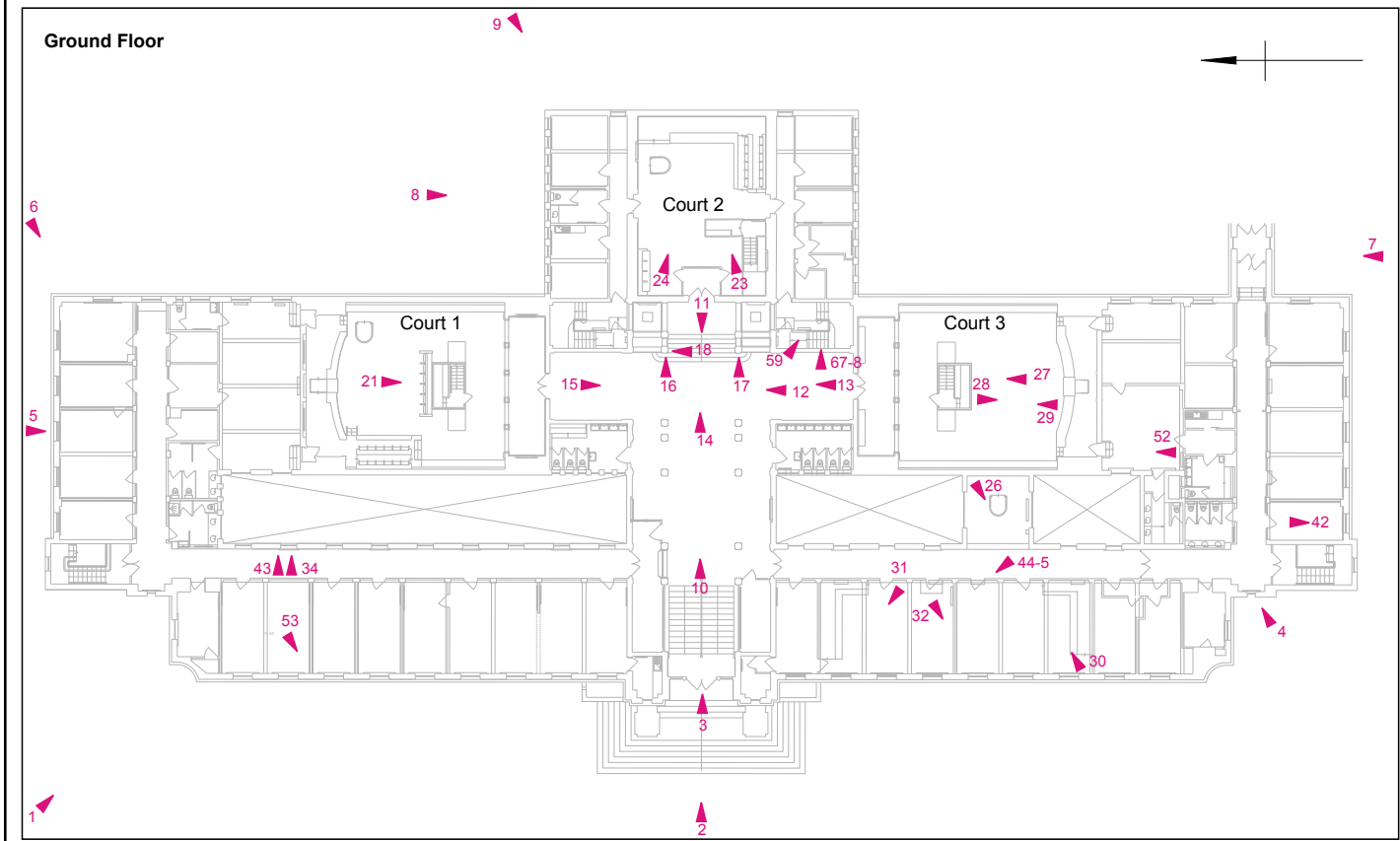
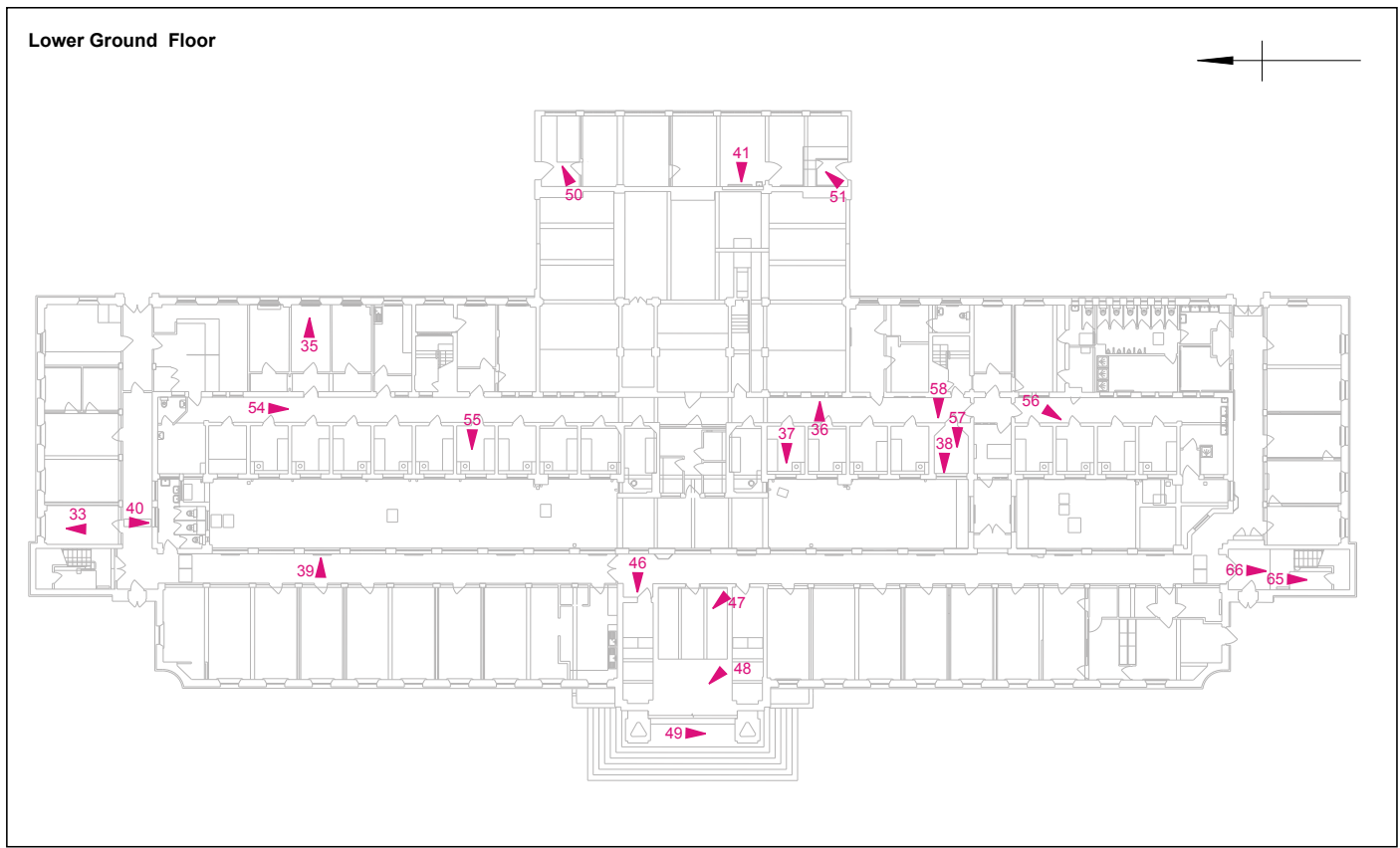
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SC/EN 2/19/3a (i)
SC/EN 2/19/5a (v0
SC/EN 2/19/4a (iv)
Police block structural drawings SC/EN/4/2/2 Q
Civic Centre Tower steelwork drawings SC/EN/4/2/2 5
ACC 6027 Structural plans
Photos
Acc 6924-1
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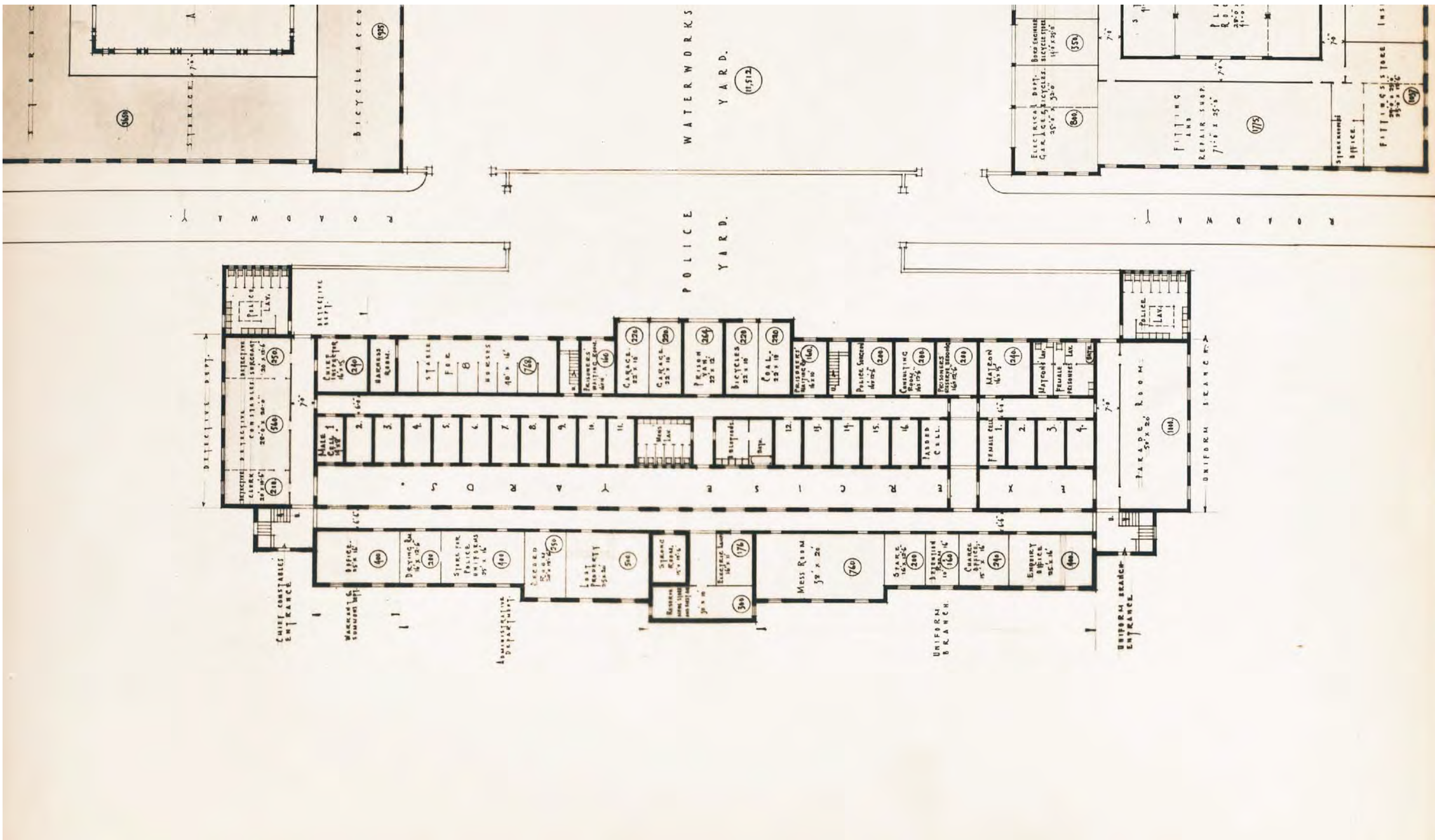
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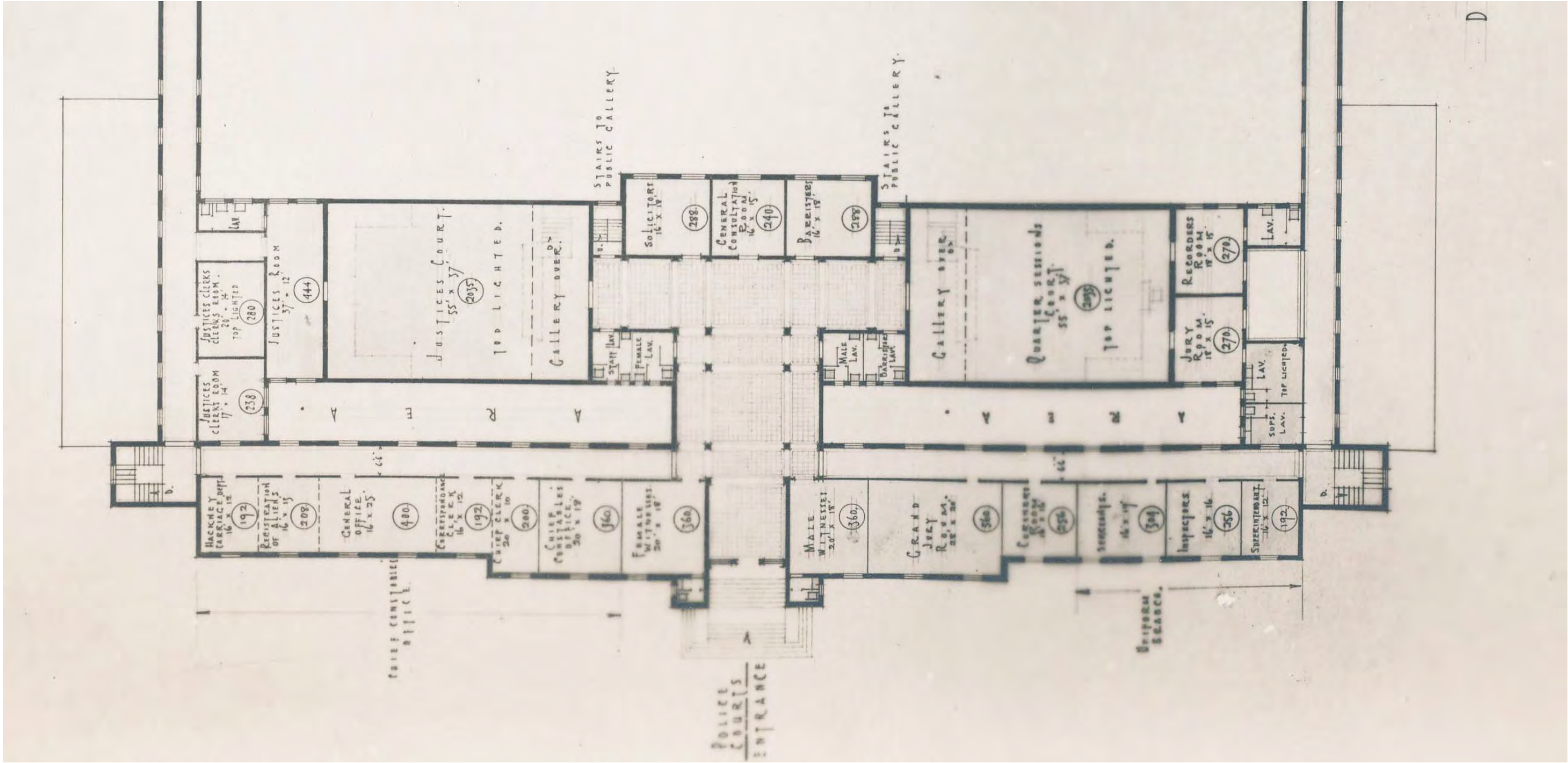
Site location also showing direction and number of plates

Figure 1



Pre 1933 design plan of lower ground floor

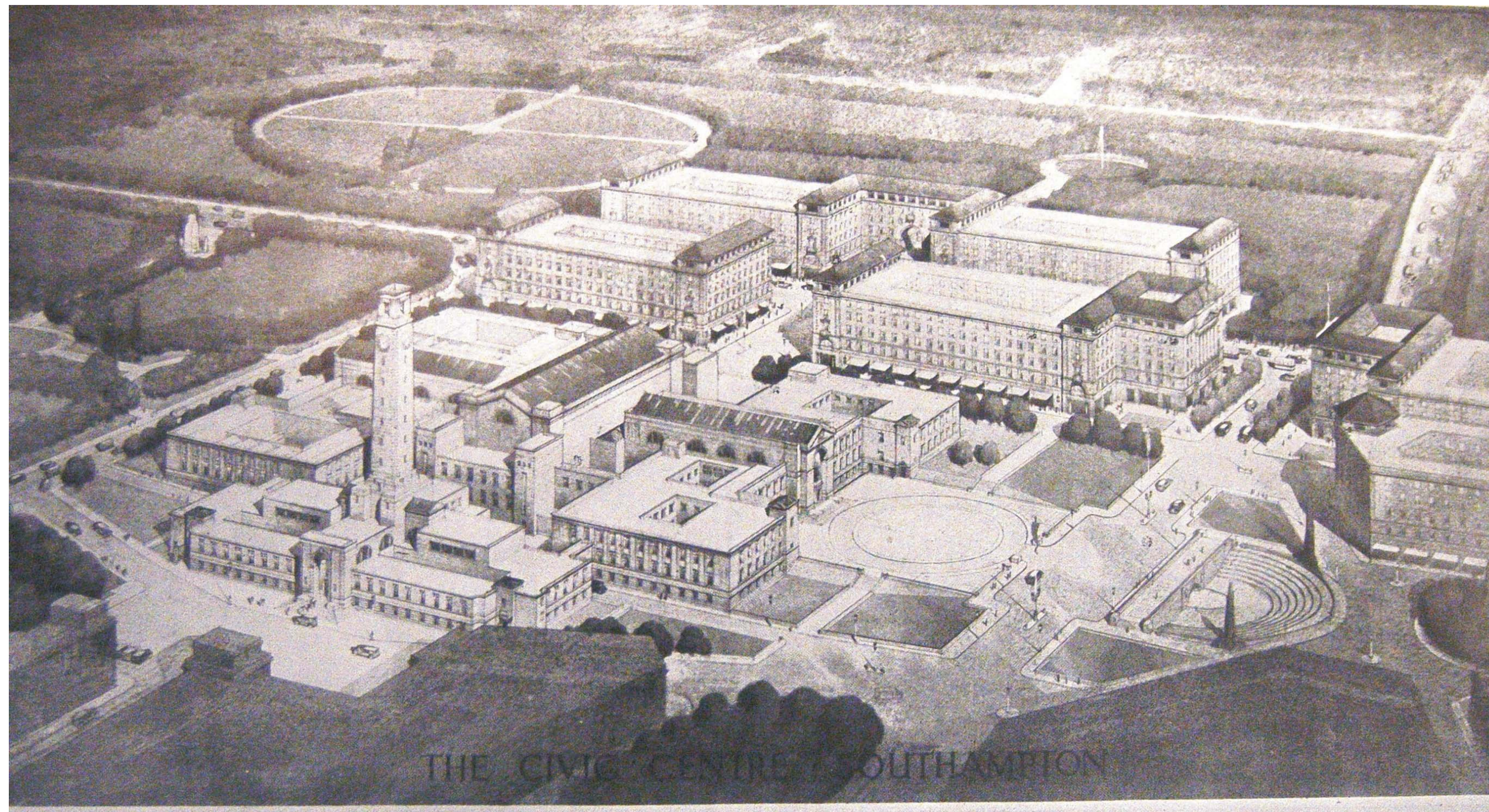
Figure 2



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Pre 1933 design plan of ground floor

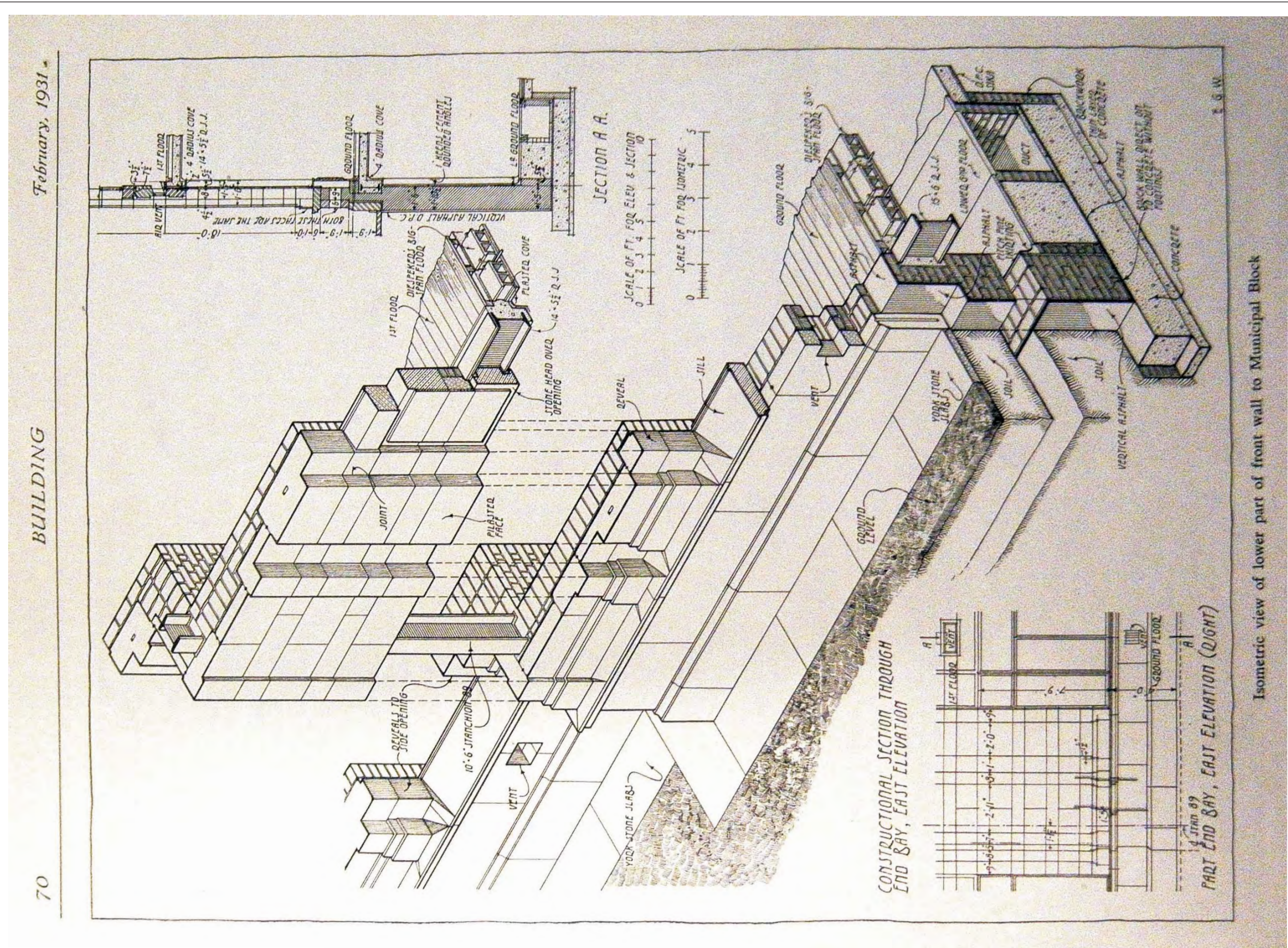
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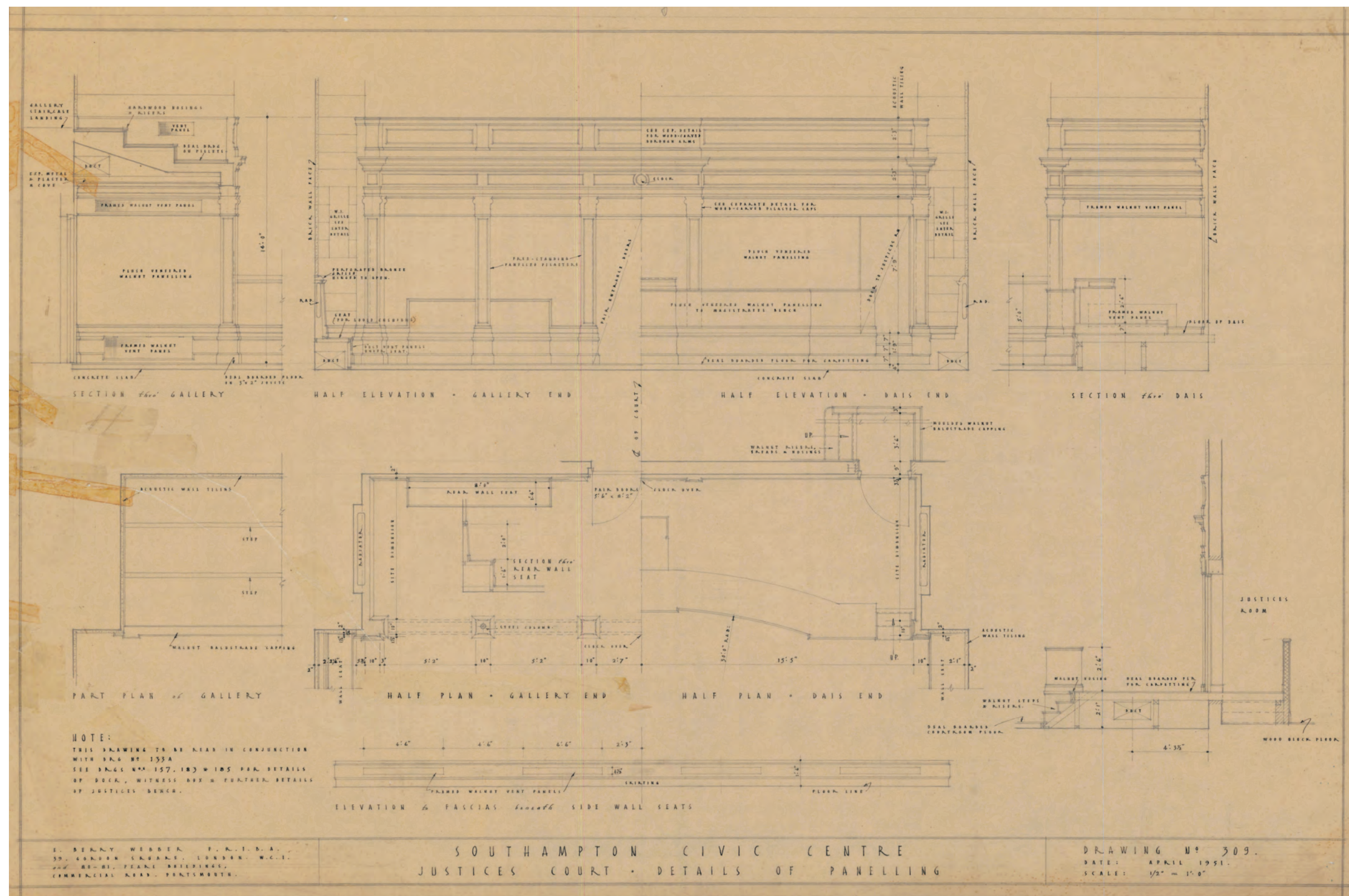


SOUTHAMPTON: THE NEW CIVIC CENTRE

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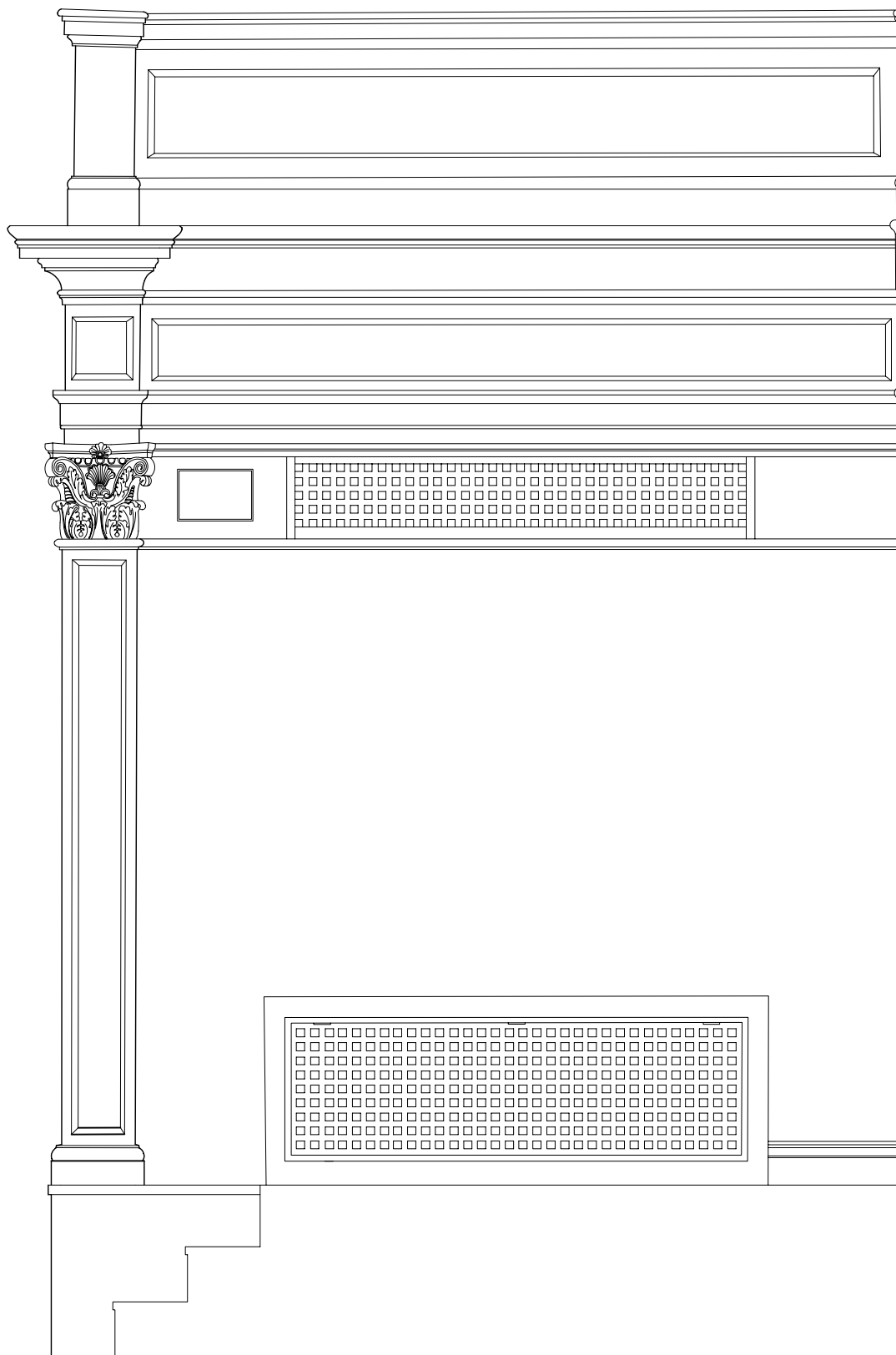
Drawn by Cyril A. Farey, A.R.I.B.A.



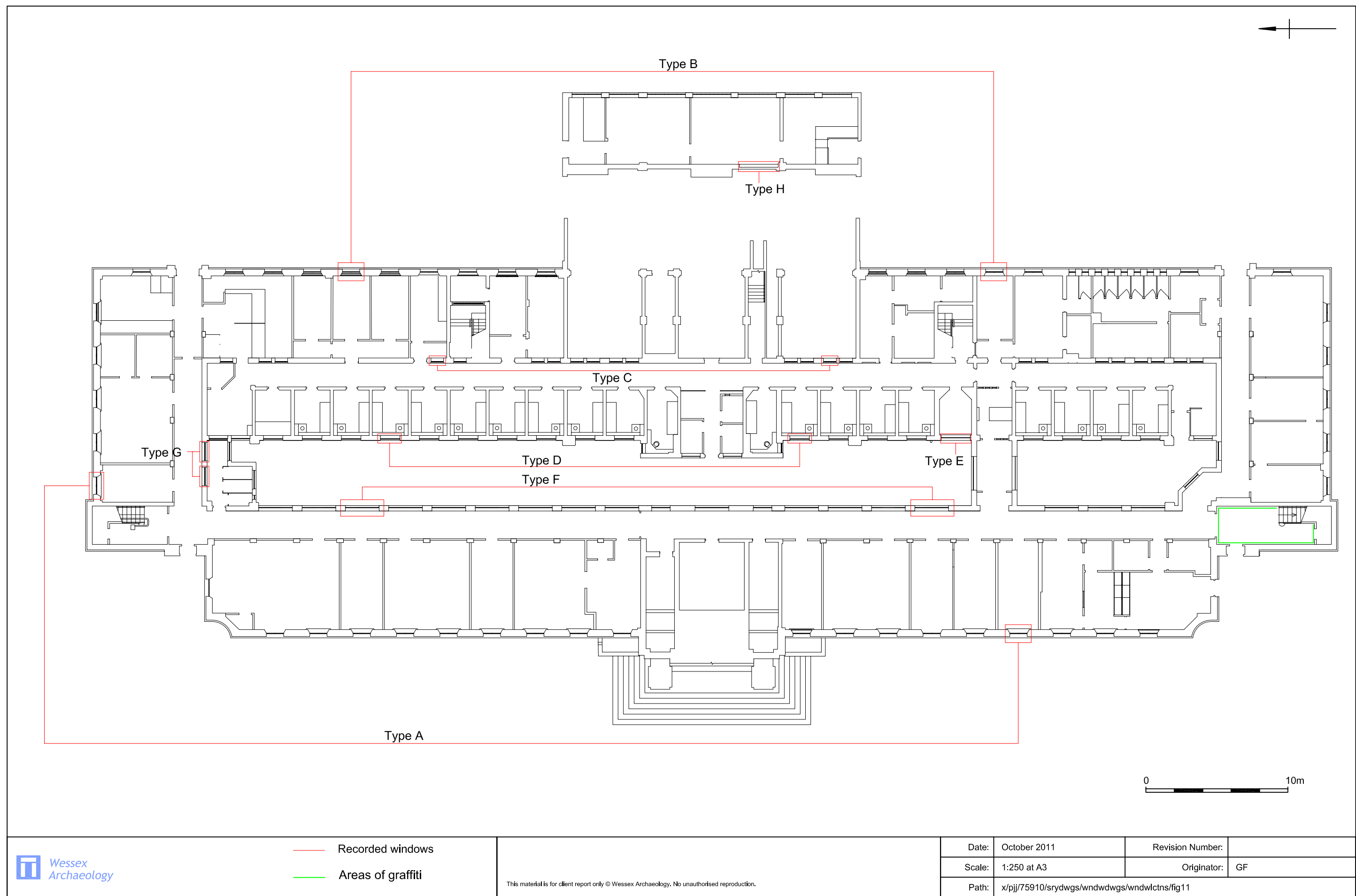




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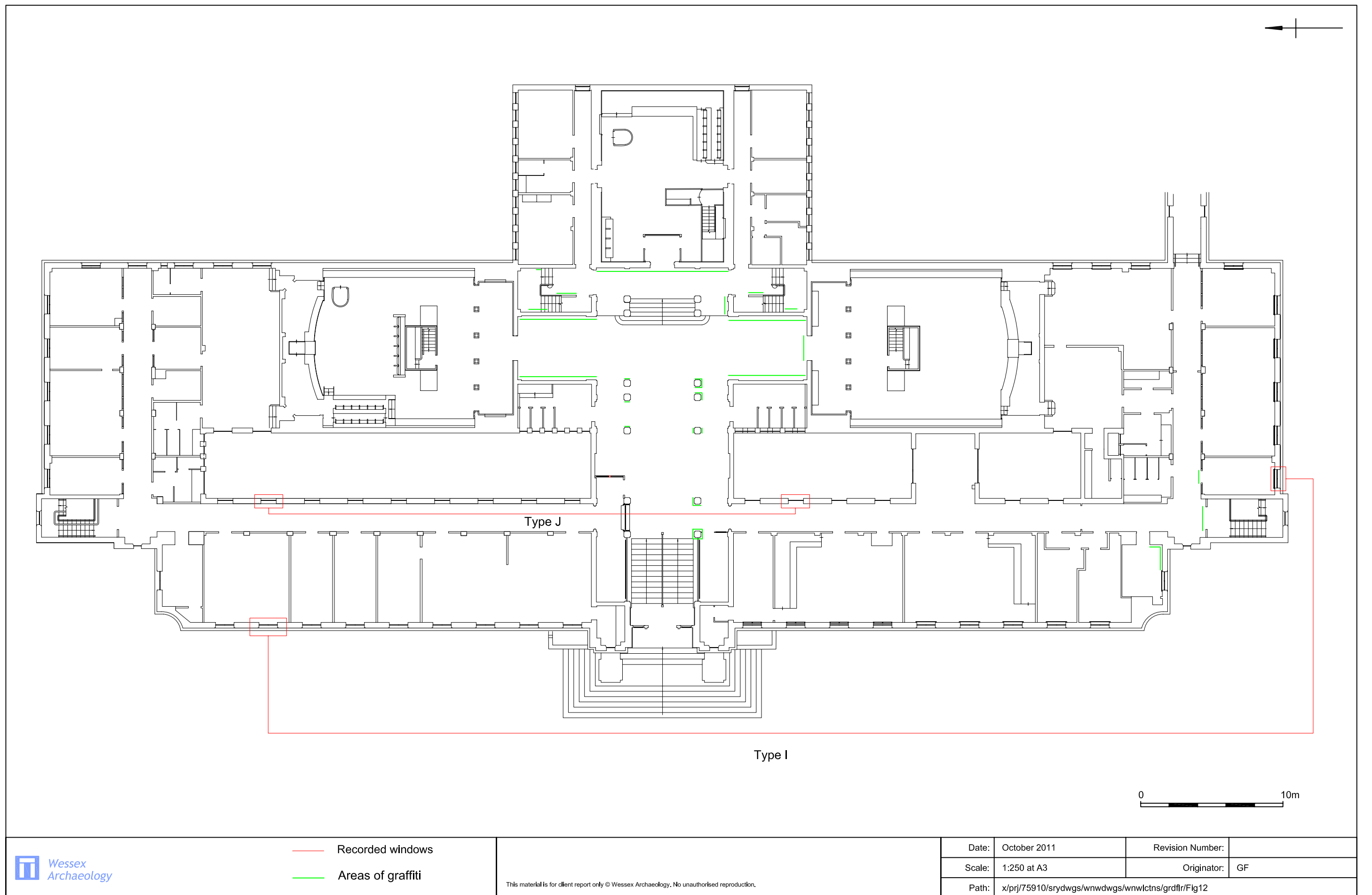


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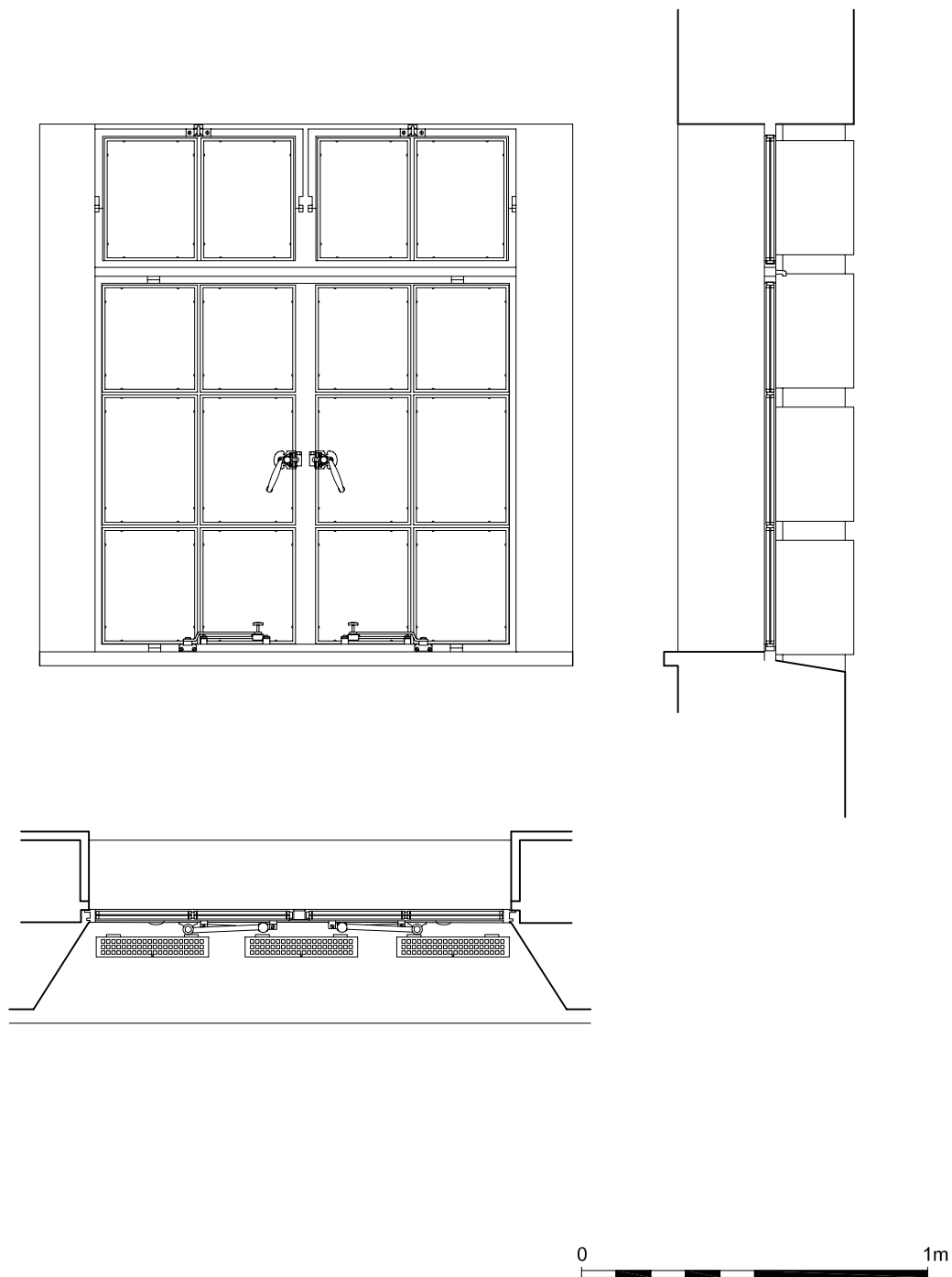
Location of window types surveyed at lower ground floor level, also areas of recorded graffiti

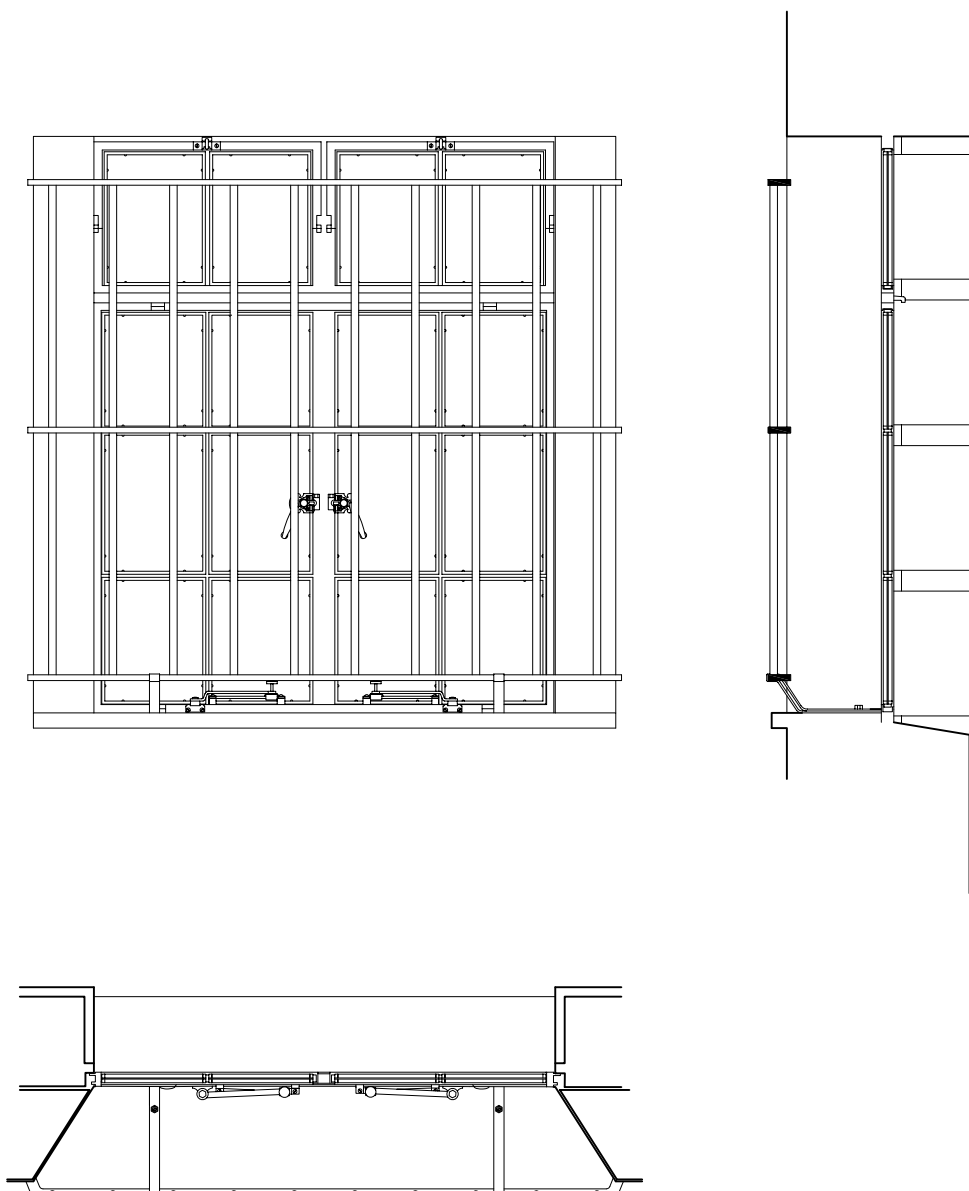
Figure 11



Location of window types surveyed at ground floor level, also areas of recorded graffiti

Figure 12



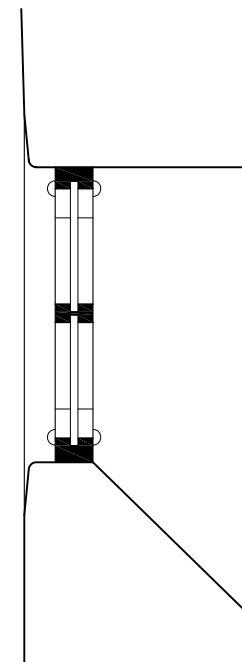
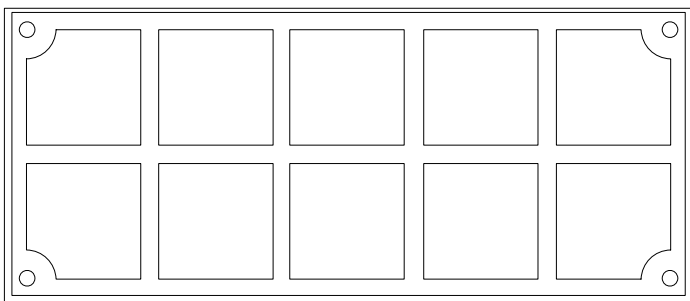


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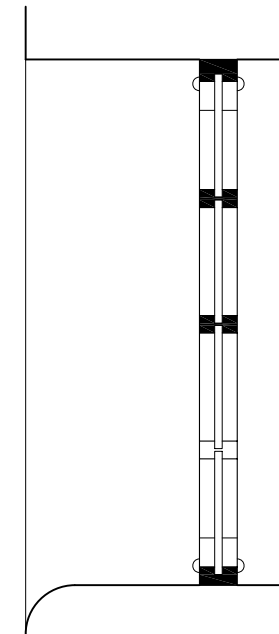
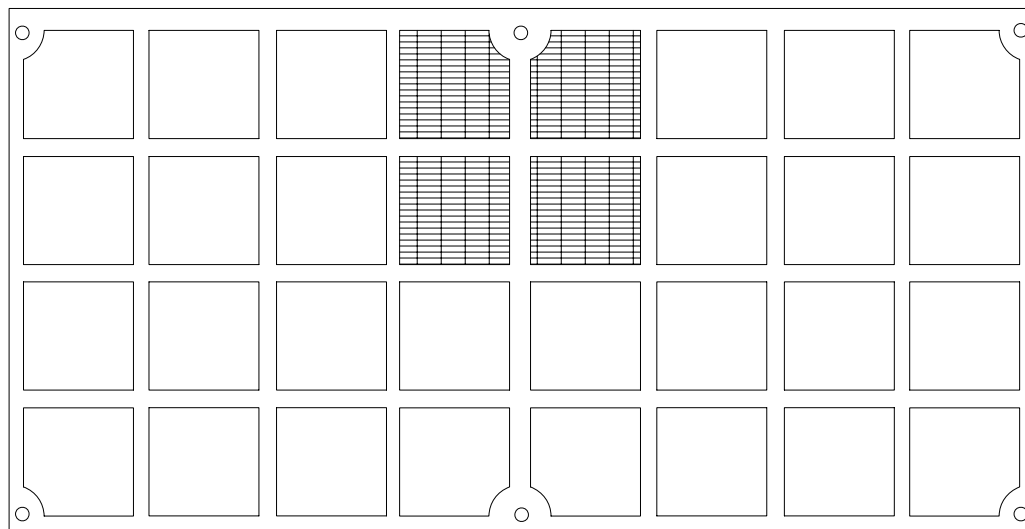
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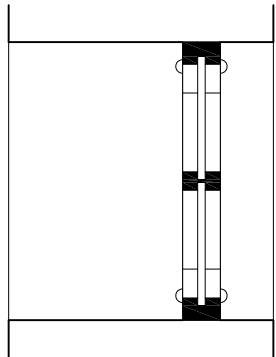
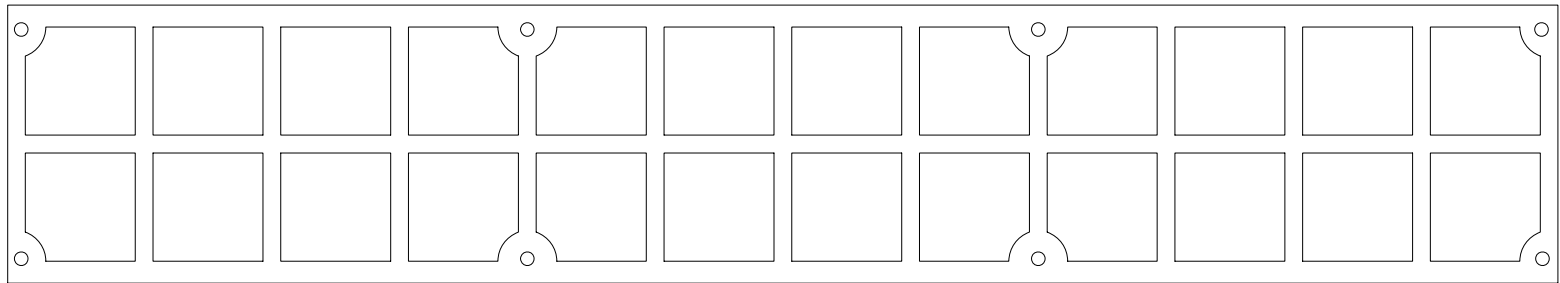
Figure 14



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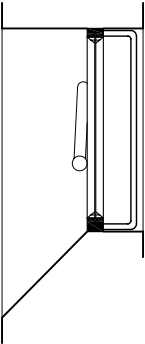
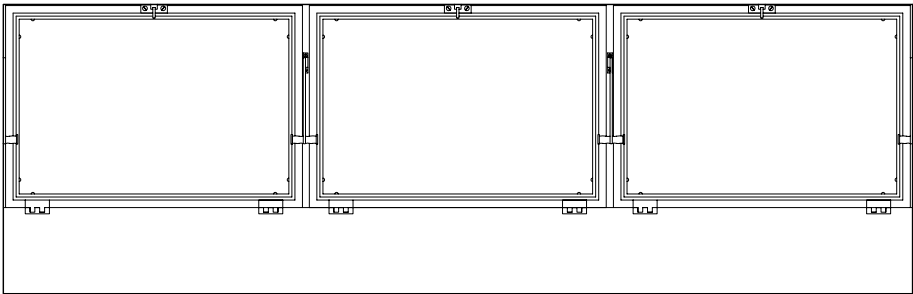
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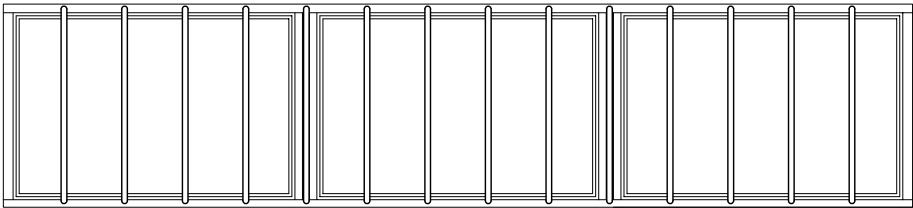
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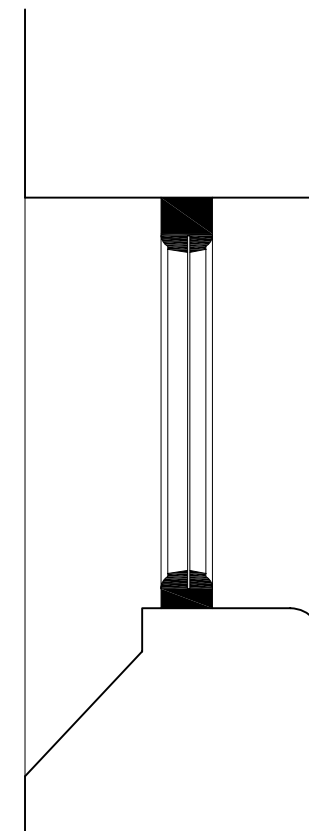
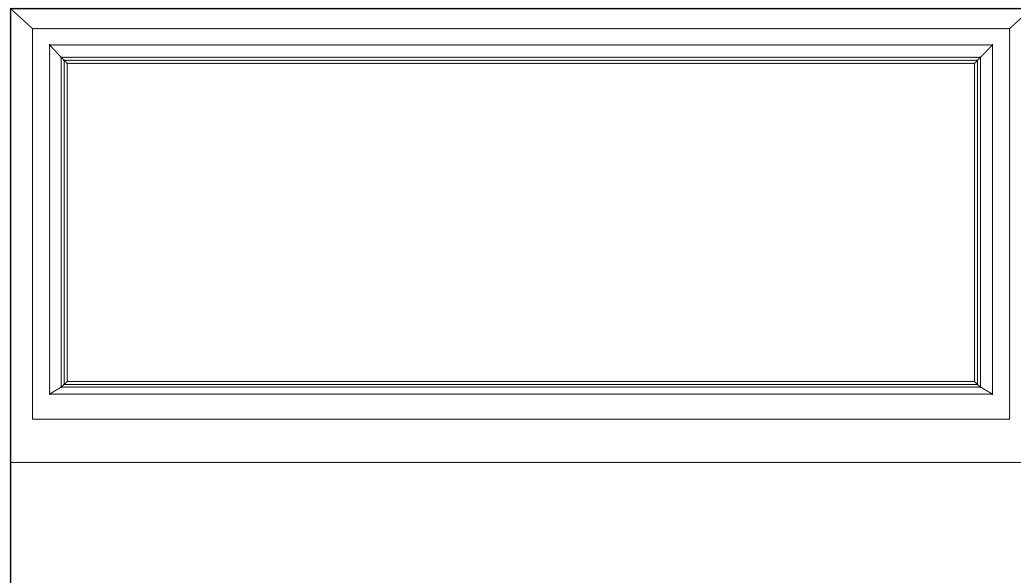
Figure 17

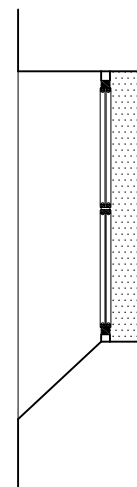
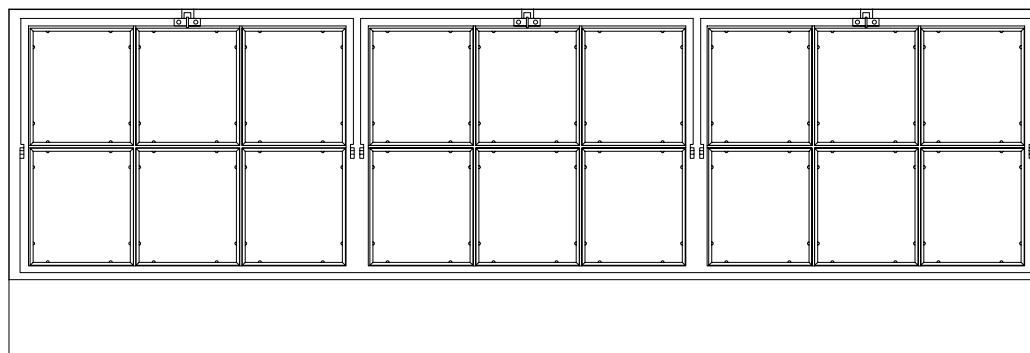
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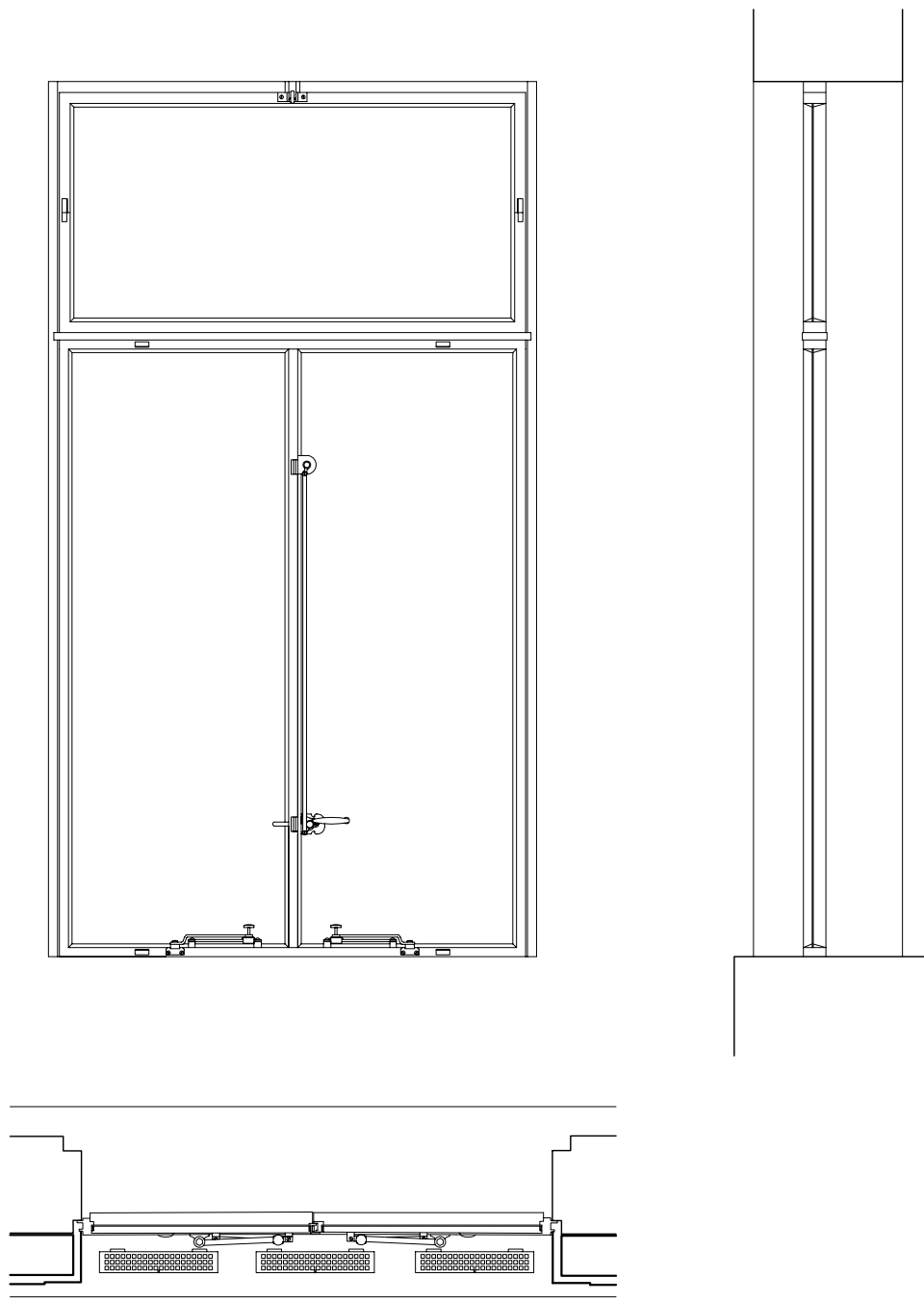


external view





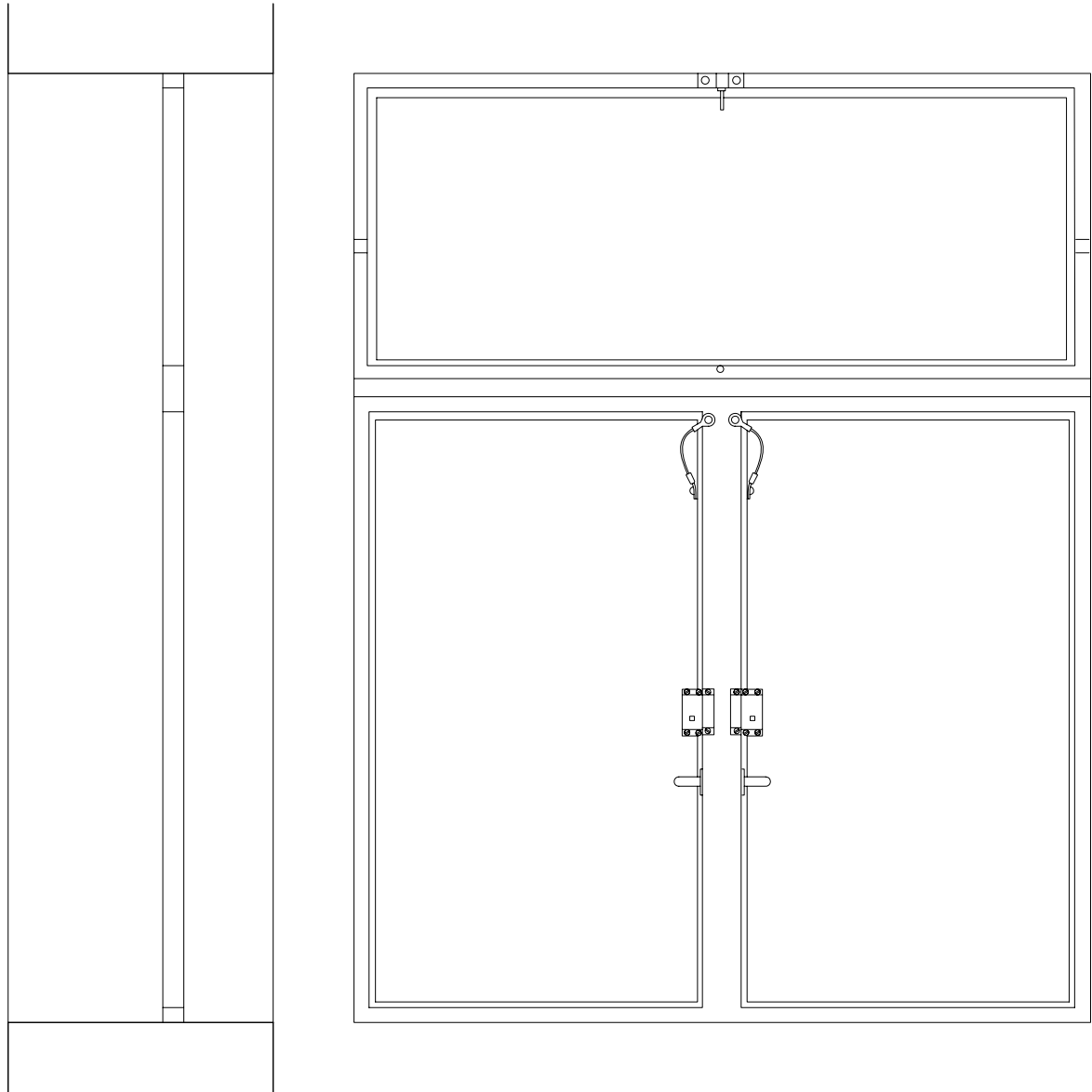




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Type I window north, west and south ground floor

Figure 21



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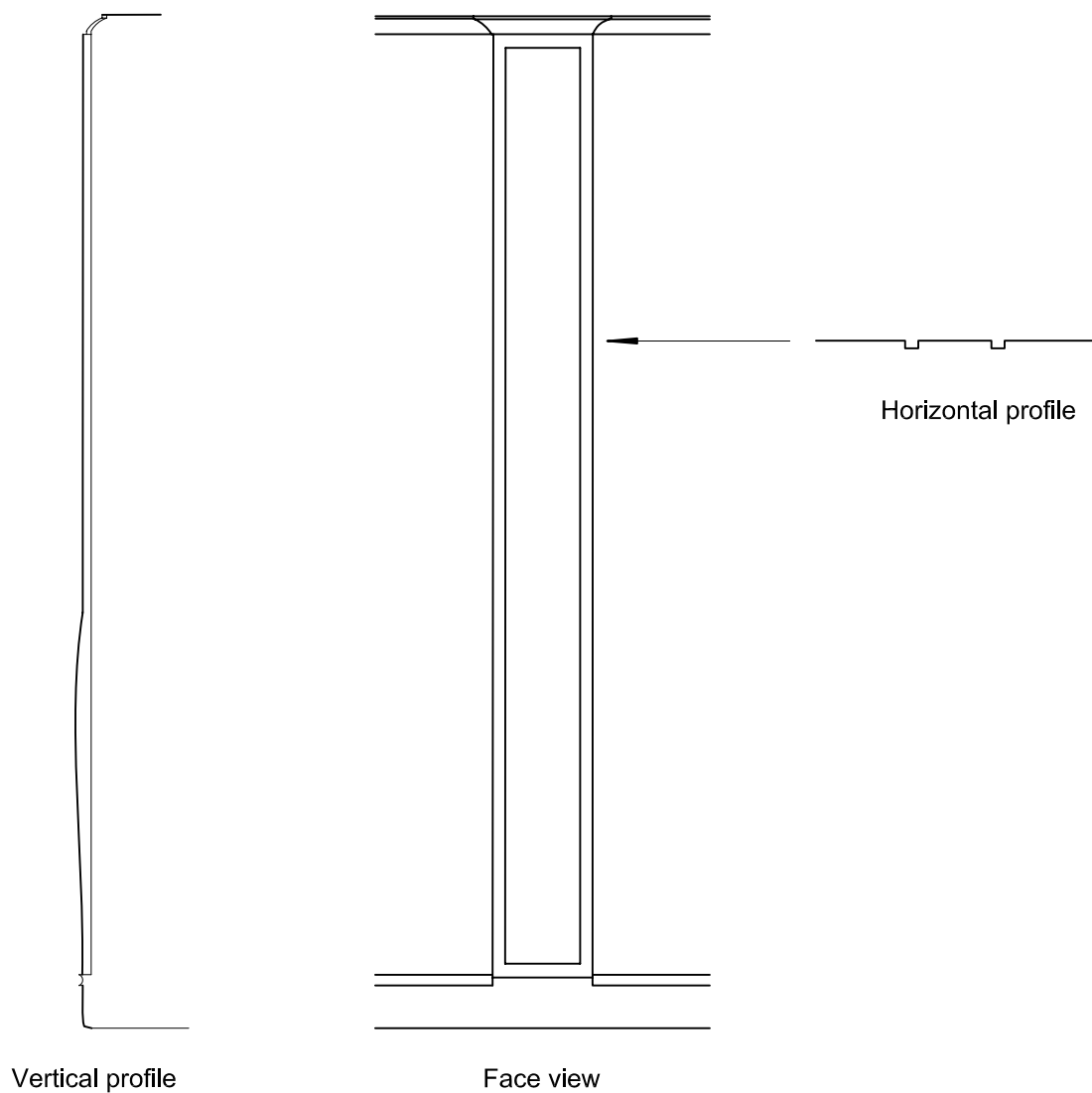
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Type J ground floor corridor secure window

Figure 22



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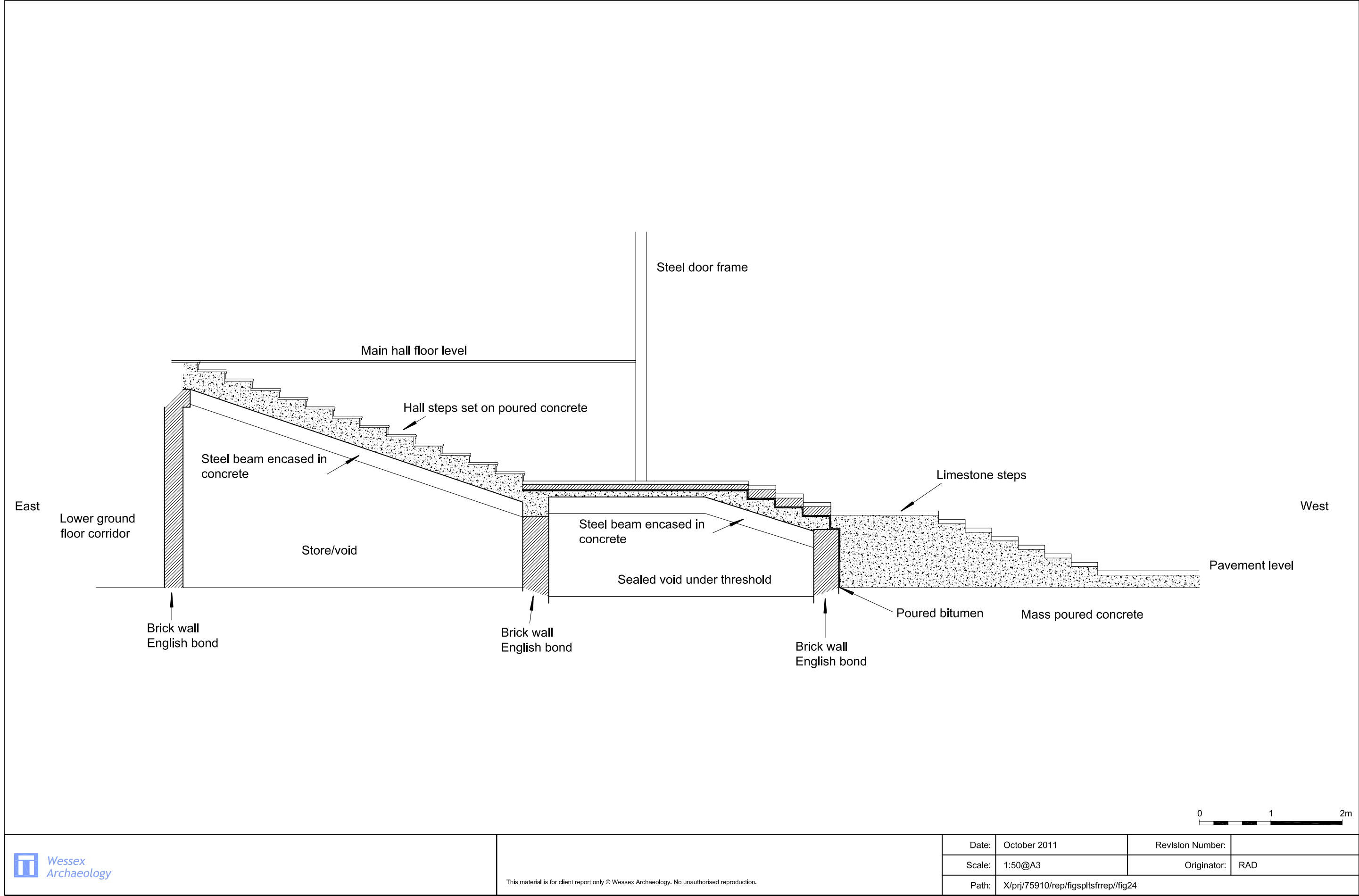
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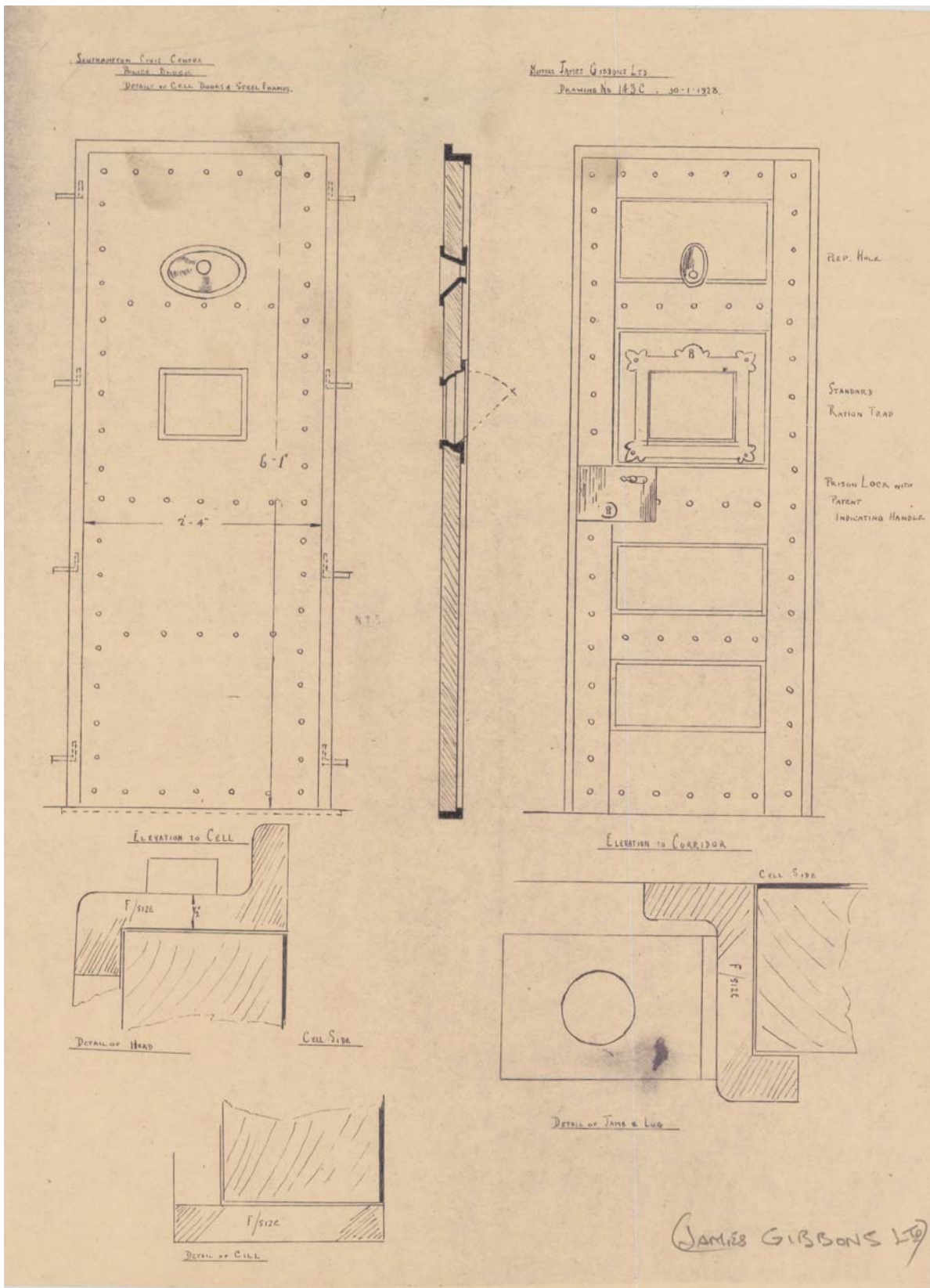
Typical coving profile and wall detail along ground floor corridors

Figure 23



North facing cross section through main west steps

Figure 24



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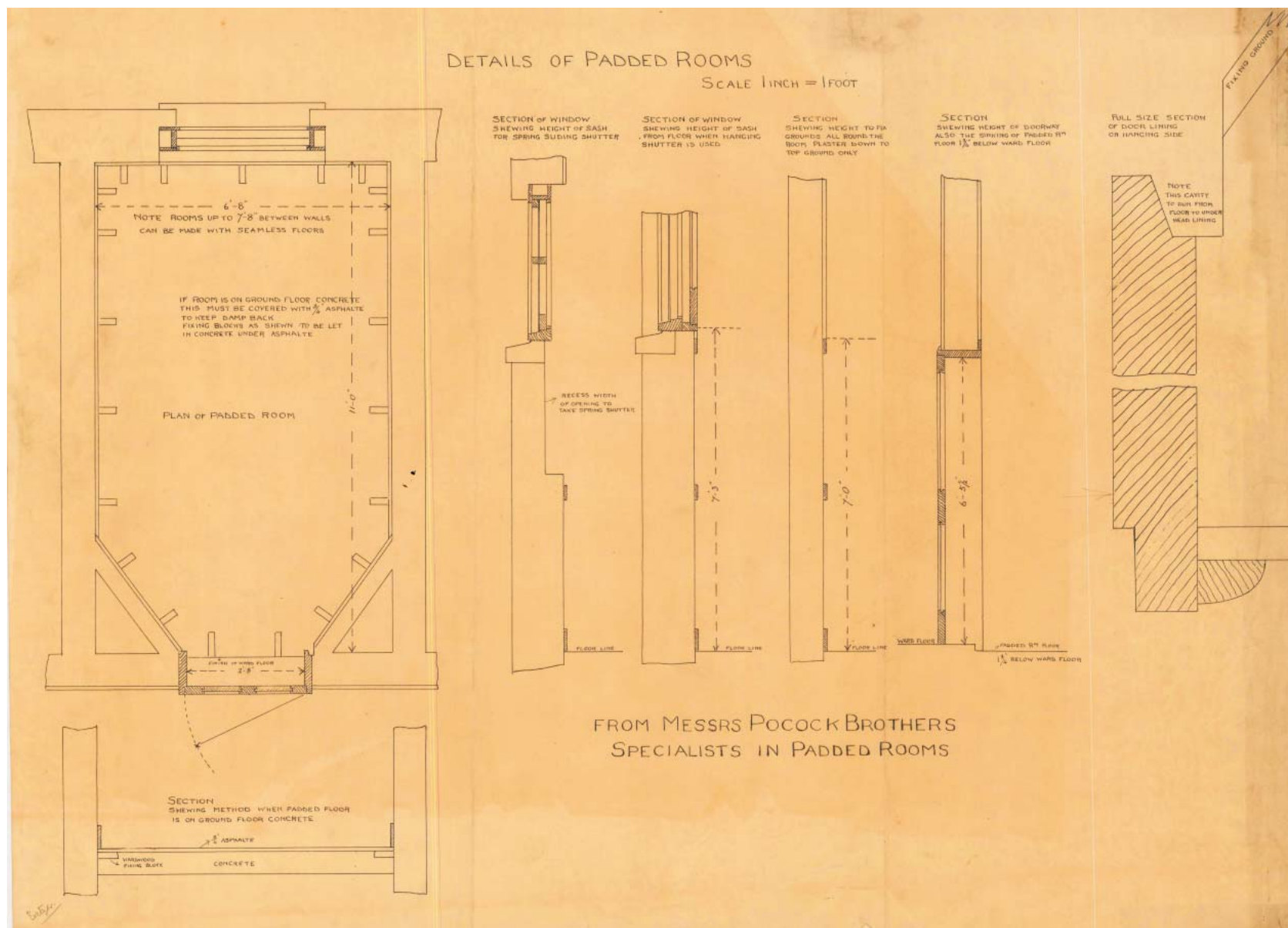
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Plate 1: Main west entrance facade



Plate 2: Detail over main door

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Plate 3: Police station entrance south end

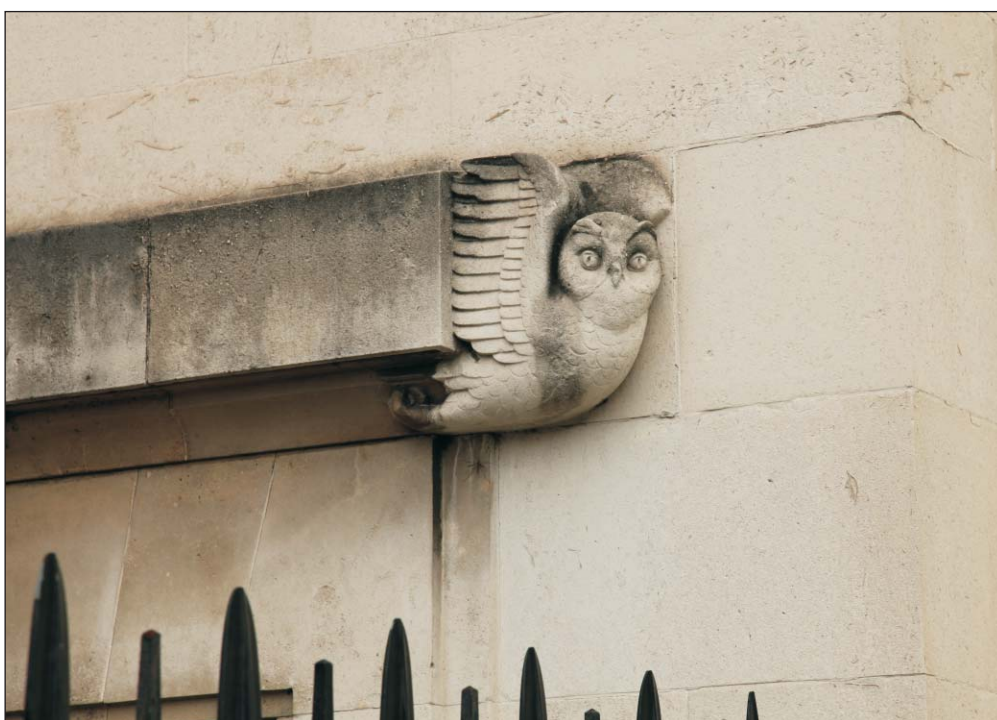


Plate 4: Detail of carved stone owl motif over police station entrance south end



Plate 5: North elevation prior to alteration



Plate 6: North entrance into police yard

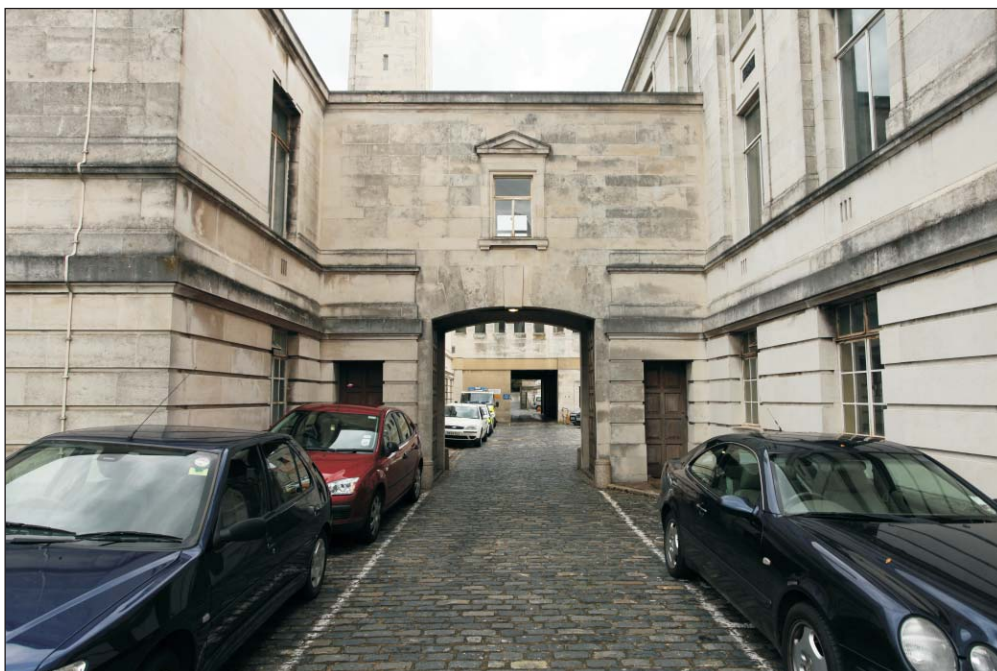


Plate 7: South entrance into police yard showing connecting bridge and yard



Plate 8: North entrance into covered yard and stable block



Plate 9: Stable block and Coroners court east elevation

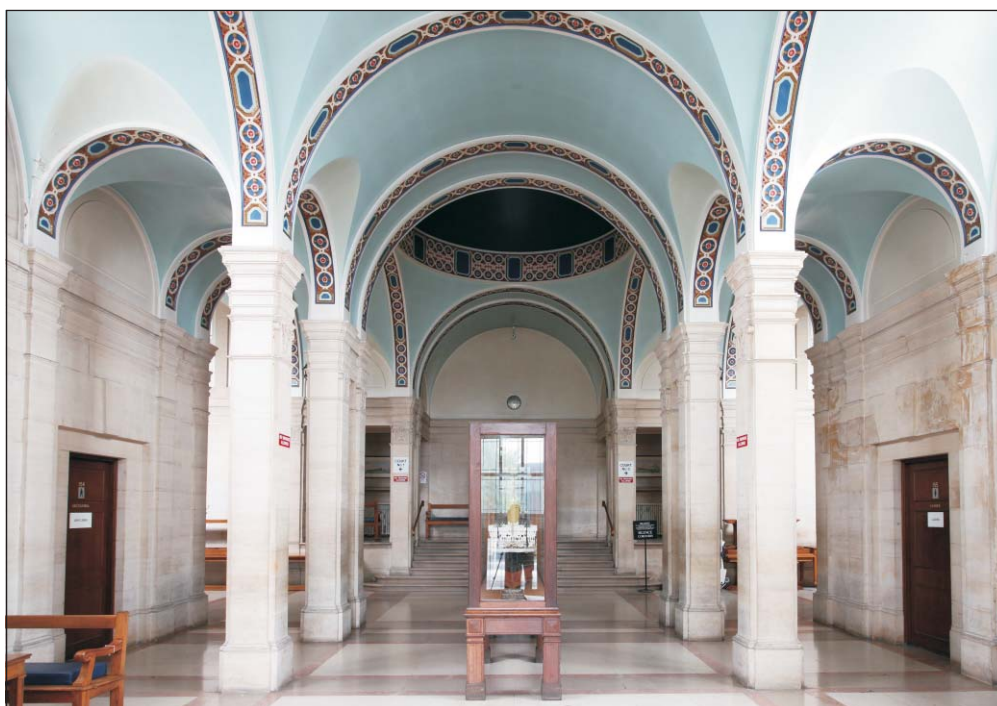


Plate 10: Interior of entrance hall viewed from west

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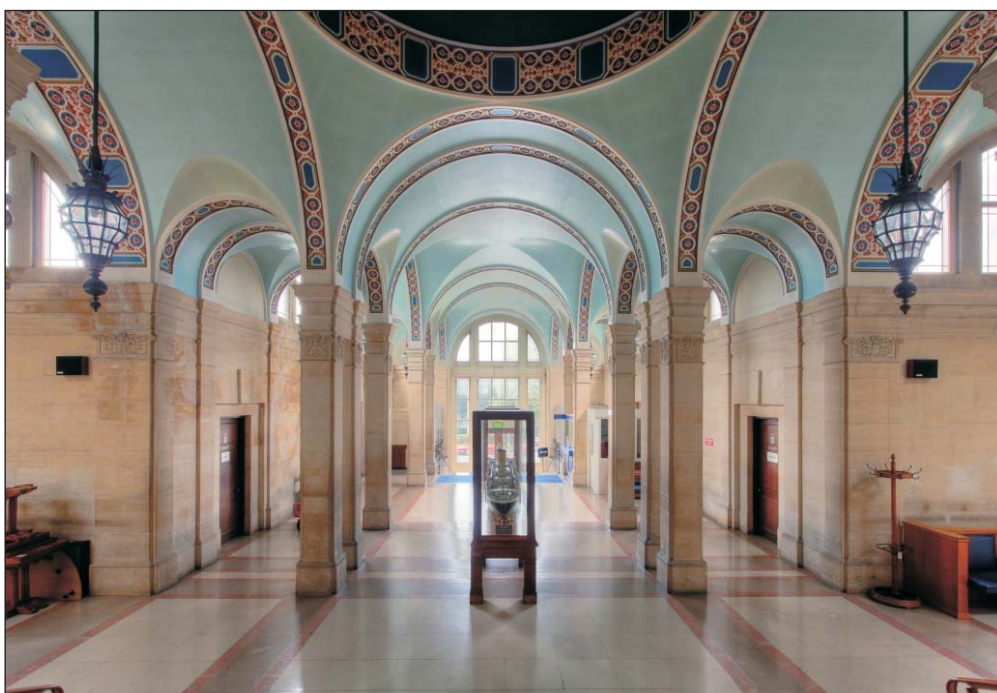


Plate 11: Interior of entrance hall viewed from east

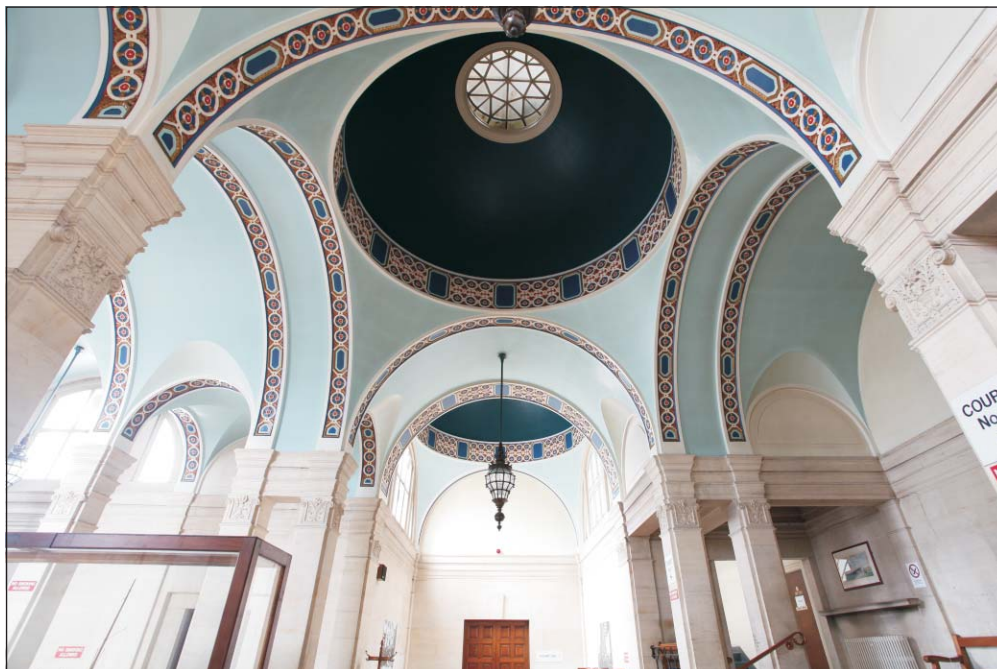


Plate 12: Central domed ceiling

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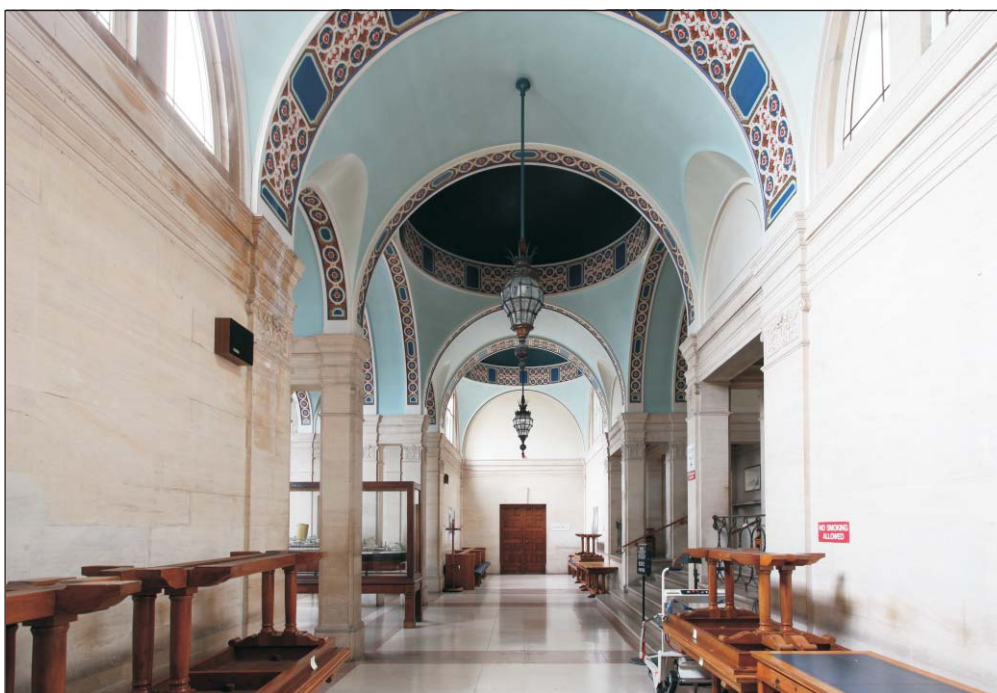


Plate 13: View looking toward entrance to court 1

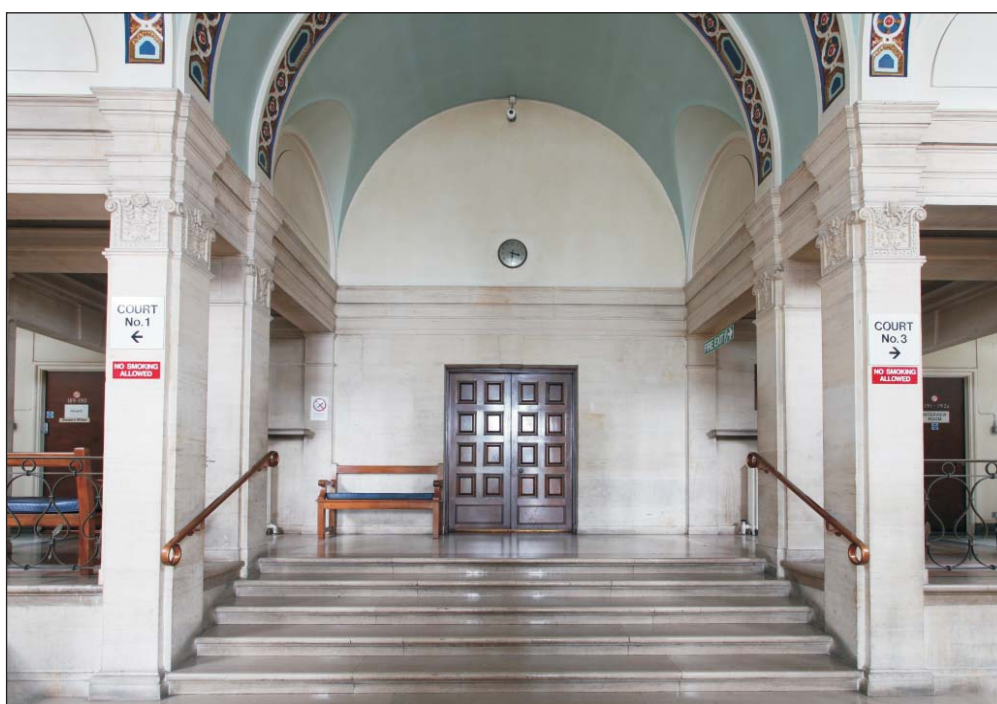


Plate 14: Entrance to court 2

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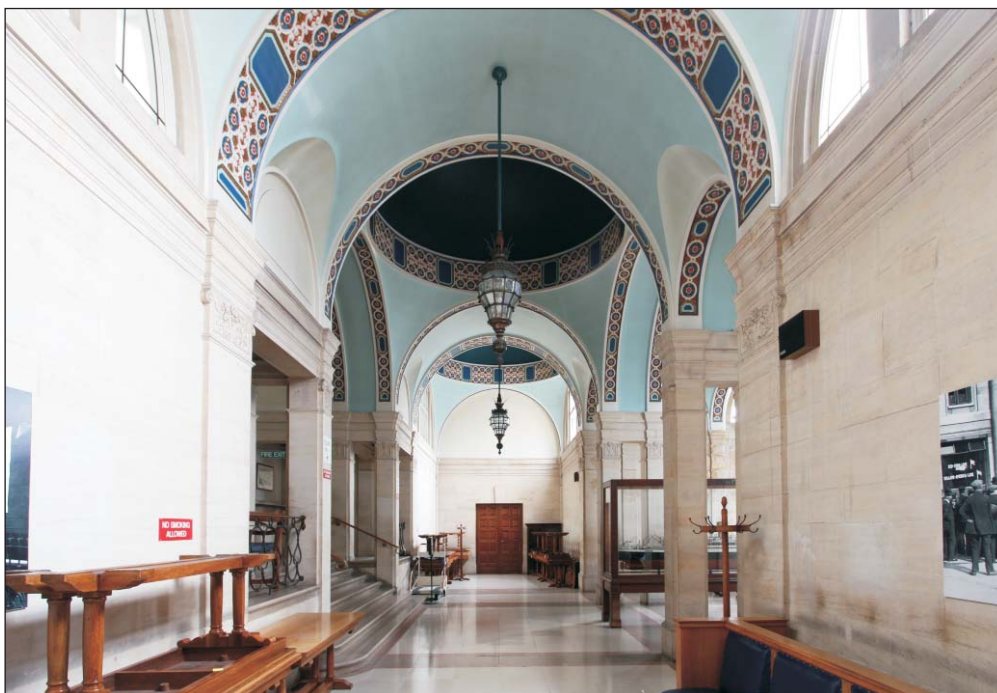


Plate 15: View looking toward entrance to court 3



Plate 16: Hall column detail to capital

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Plate 17: Hall column detail to capital



Plate 18: Hall column detail to capital



Plate 19: Overview of court 1



Plate 20: Court room 1 ceiling

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Plate 21: Gallery to court 1



Plate 22: Gallery seating to court 1



Plate 23: Court room 2

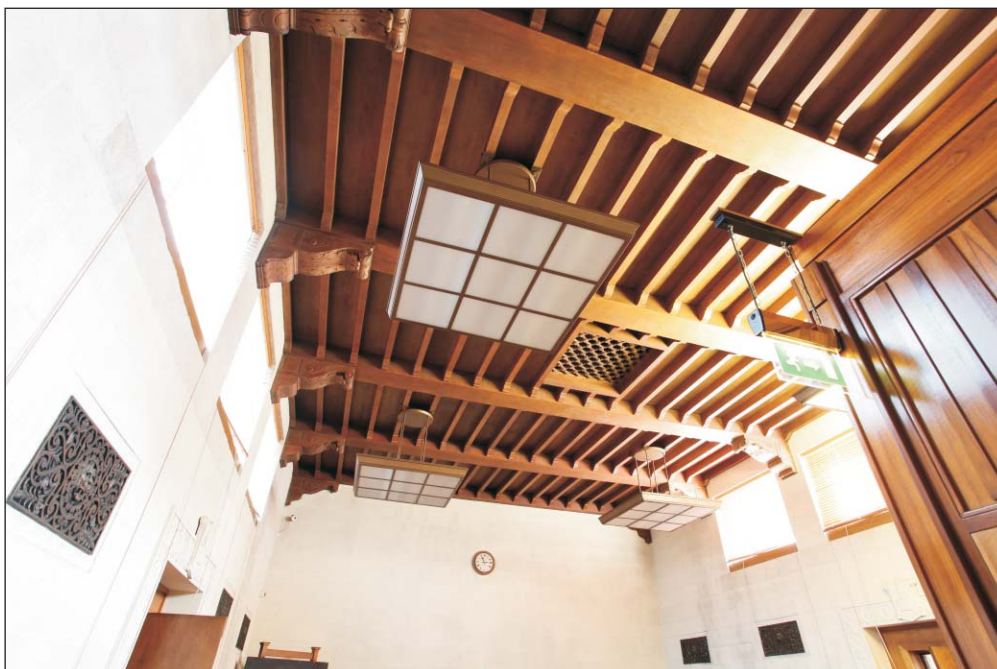


Plate 24: Court room 2 ceiling



Plate 25: Overview of court 3



Plate 26: Relocated witness box from court 3



Plate 27: Gallery to court 3



Plate 28: Dais and bench to court 3 before alterations

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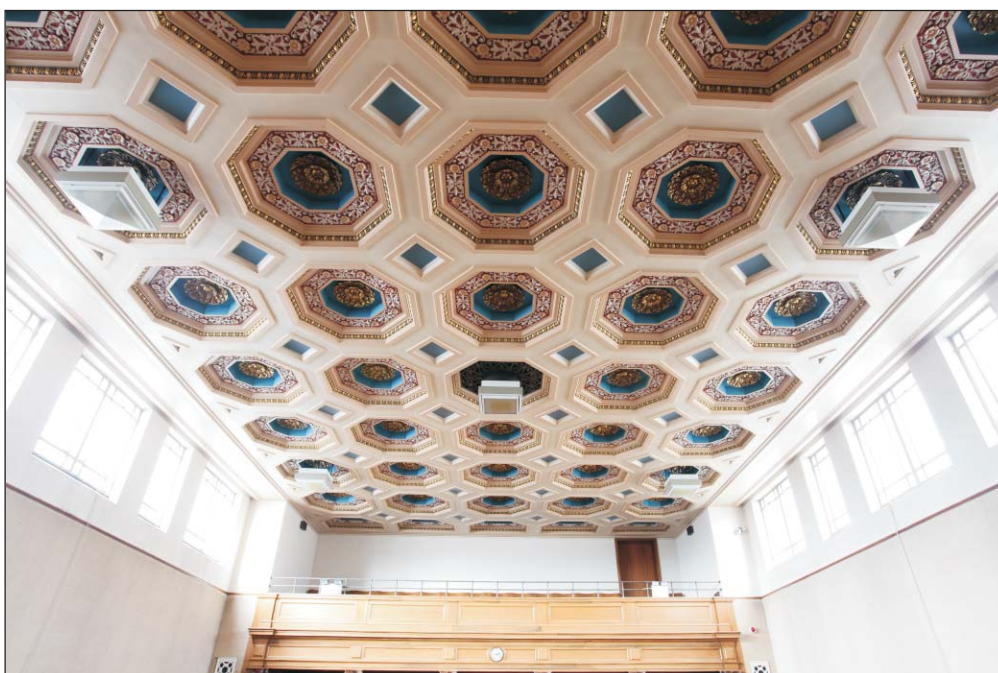


Plate 29: Court room 3 ceiling



Plate 30: Court 4 interior

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Plate 31: Court 5 interior



Plate 32: Fold-down seating in court 5

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Plate 33: Window type A



Plate 34: Detail of typical window frame fixing lug

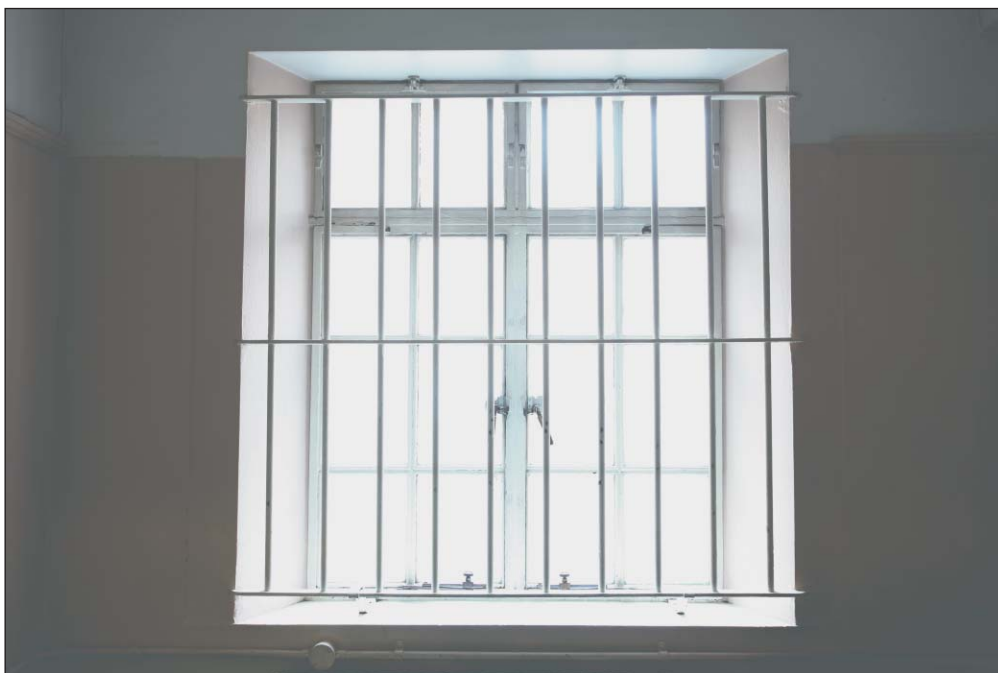


Plate 35: Window type B



Plate 36: Window type C



Plate 37: Window type D



Plate 38: Window type E



Plate 39: Window type F

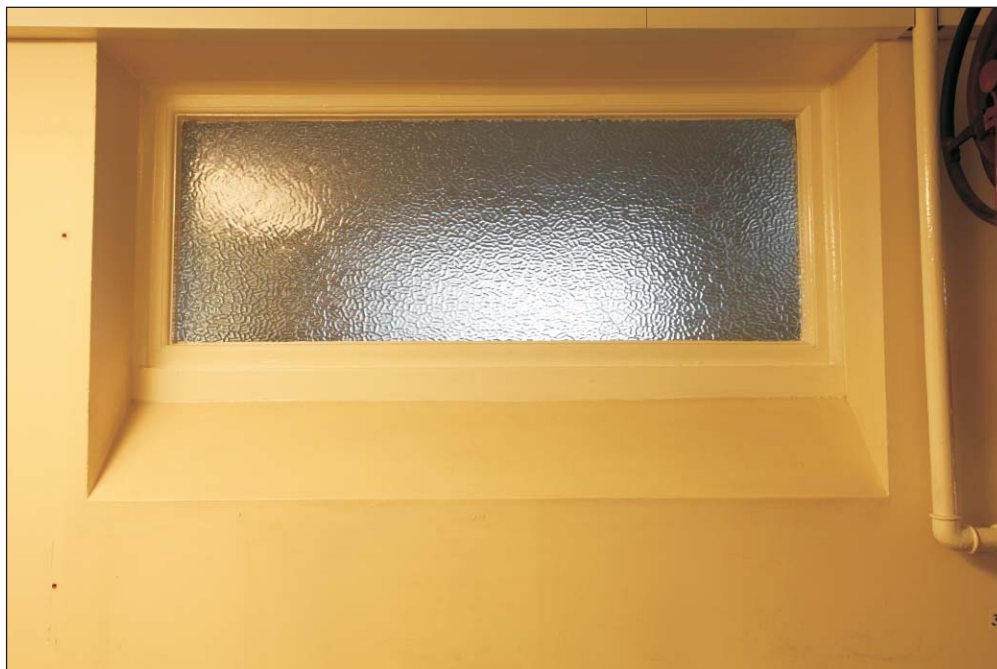


Plate 40: Window type G


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Plate 41: Window type H



Plate 42: Window type I



Plate 43: Window type J



Plate 44: Detail of typical skirting moulding along ground floor corridor



Plate 45: Detail of typical coving moulding along ground floor corridor



Plate 46: Strong room door



Plate 47: Lower ground floor room under main entrance steps



Plate 48: Void space under west entrance threshold



Plate 49: Detail of construction sequence under exterior entrance steps

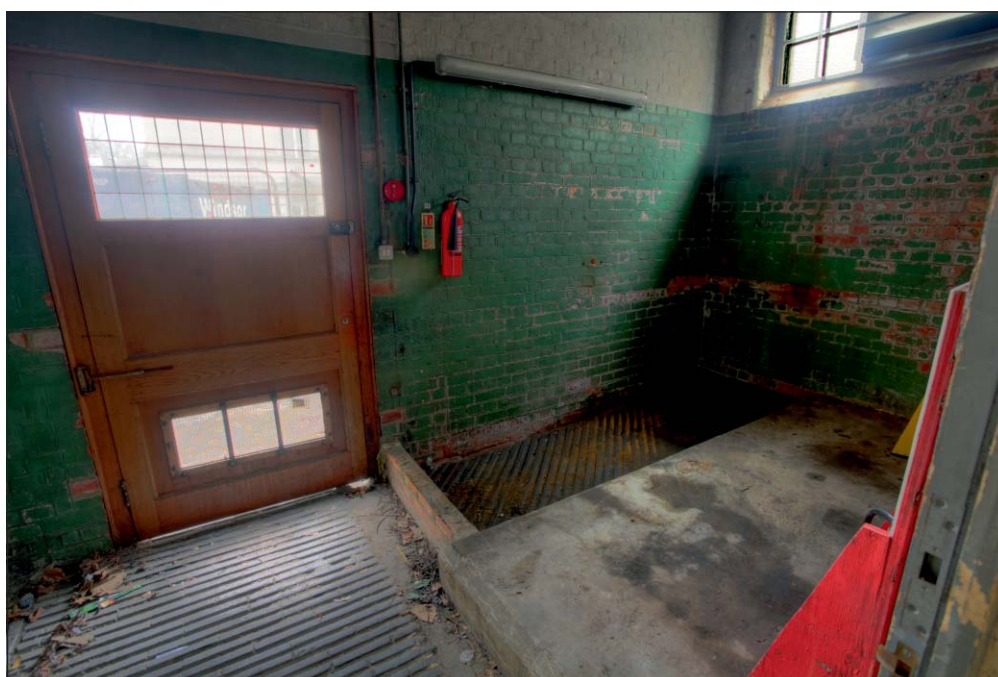


Plate 50: North interior of stable block showing original door and patterned floor tiles in corner



Plate 51: Brick feature under stable floor



Plate 52: Example of Diespeker floor underside



Plate 53: Hole cut through Diespeker floor sequen



Plate 54: View along cell corridor viewed from north

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Plate 55: Typical interior to cell



Plate 56: Original cell door by James Gibbons outside and inside faces



Plate 57: Interior of Pocock Bros padded cell



Plate 58: Door to padded cell

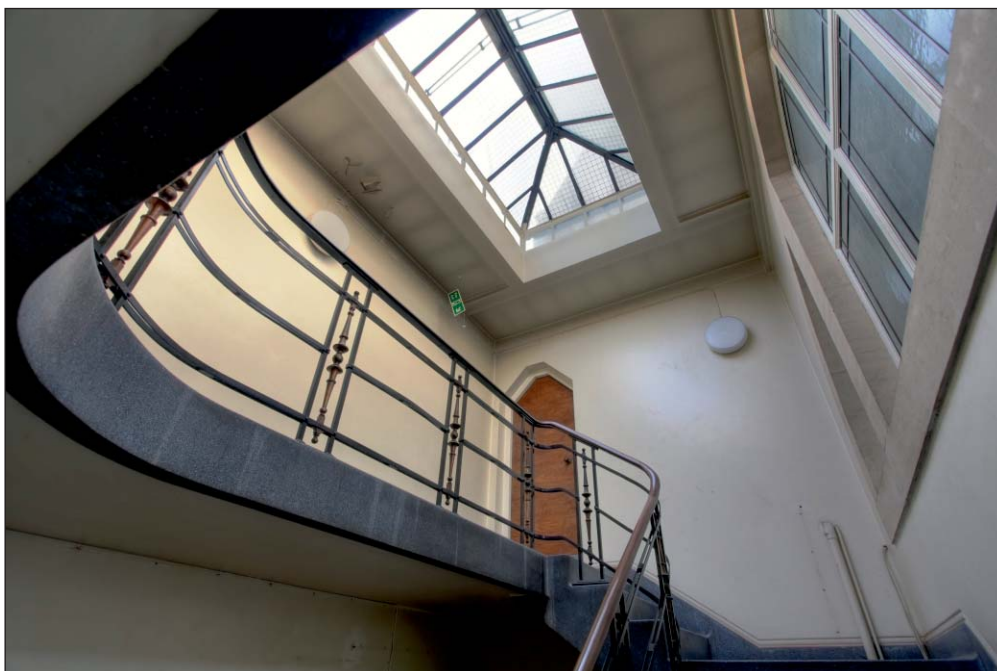


Plate 59: Looking up access door to tower stairs next to Court 3



Plate 60: Spiral stairs leading to tower access



Plate 61: Exterior tower access stairs



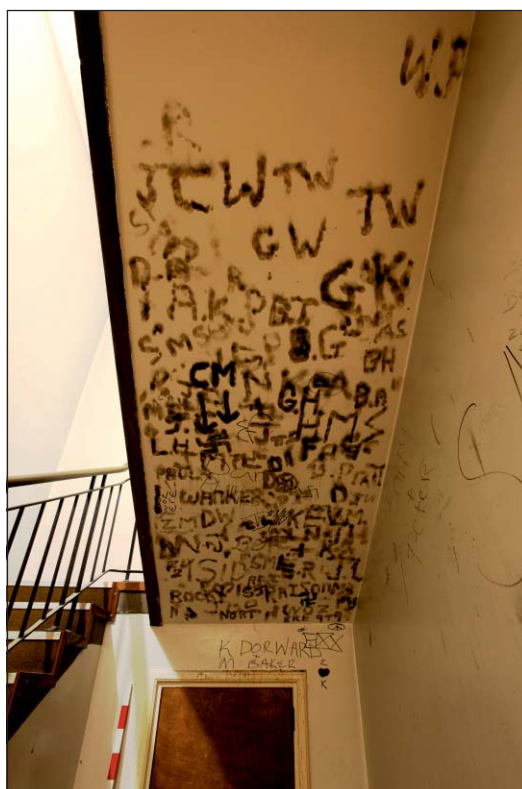
Plate 62: Access door to base of tower




Plate 63: Overlooking central dome from base of tower



Plate 64: Typical example of tower stair arrangement



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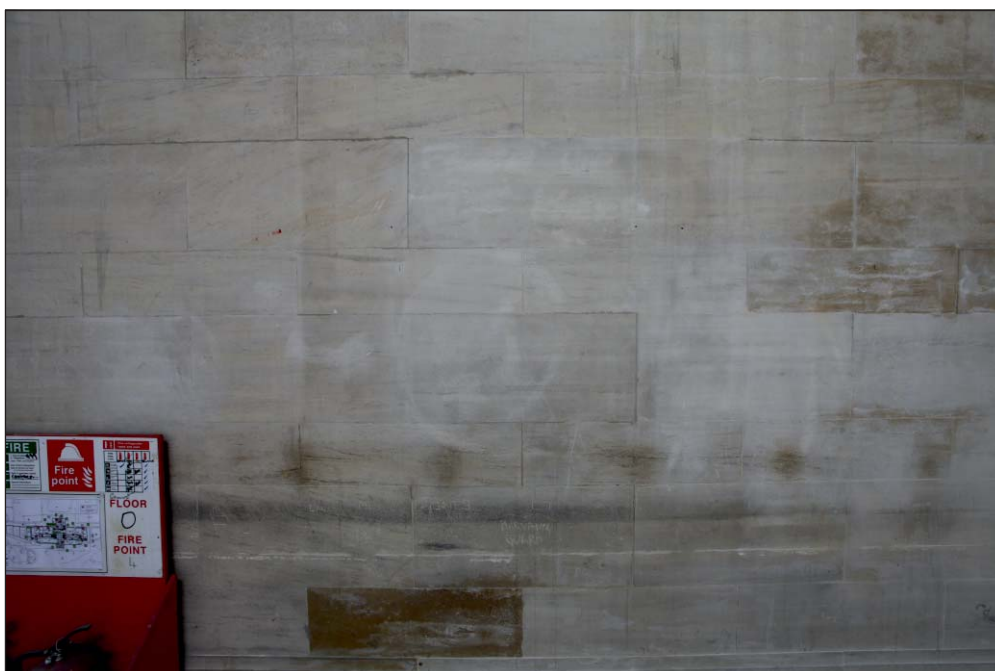



Plate 67: Wall stains and graffiti outside court room 3

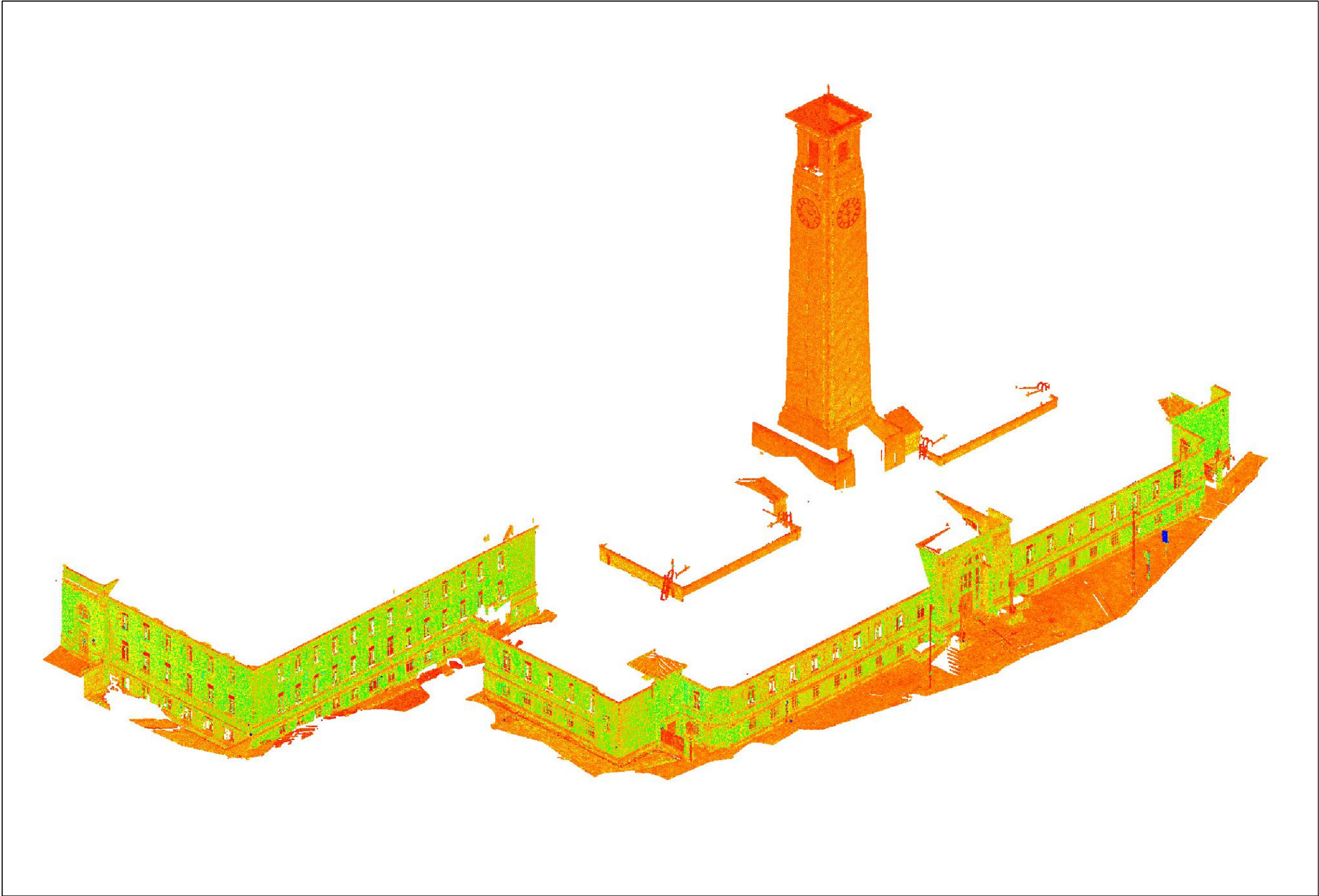


Plate 68: Detail example of graffiti outside court room 3

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	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator: LJC
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8 APPENDIX

Laser scan images of exterior and interior



Notes

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0	SGW	First Complete Issue	12/10/2010
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Rev	QA Check	Description	Date

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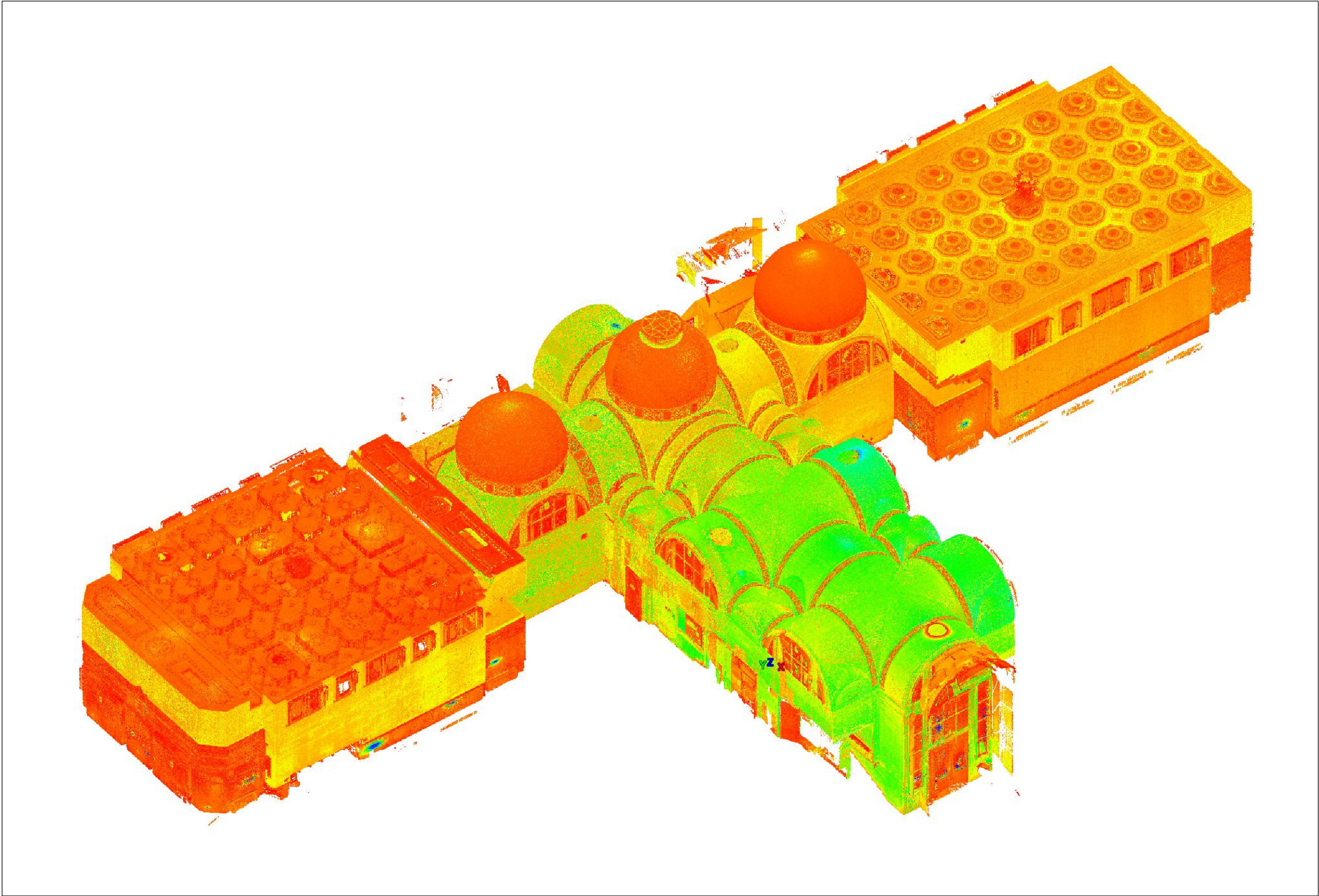


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Southampton Civic Centre External

LASER SCAN SURVEY	
JOB No	DRAWING NUMBER
T10/0149	T10/0149/P/0001
A3 Sheet - 420mm x 297mm	



Notes

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0	SGW	First Complete Issue	12/10/2010
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SCALE	NTS	

Southampton Civic Centre Internal

LASER SCAN SURVEY	
JOB No	DRAWING NUMBER
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