



## 76 St Mary Street St Mary's, Southampton

Historic Building Record





**76, ST MARY STREET  
ST MARY'S  
SOUTHAMPTON**

**Historic Building Record**

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Report reference: 75460.01  
Southampton Museum No.: SOU 1542

**October 2010**



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**76, ST MARY STREET  
ST MARY'S  
SOUTHAMPTON****Historic Building Record****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Mr Costa Adamou to carry out a programme of historic building recording at 76, St Mary Street, Southampton centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 442502 111949. The building comprises a well preserved Victorian hall (St Mary's Hall) with second floor gallery within the St Mary's area of Southampton to the north-east of the city centre. The new development will involve internal alterations to St Mary's Hall in addition to a programme of refurbishment. It is proposed that the building will become a venue for the staging of public events and a conference centre.

Listed building consent for the proposed development has been granted by Southampton City Council (Ref: 10/00231/LBC), subject to conditions, which included securing a programme of historic building recording commensurate with an English Heritage Level 2 survey. This work was duly undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which was submitted to and approved by the Southampton City Council Planning Archaeologist (Stephen Appleby).

The building appears to have had a number of different uses over the years. A study of the available sources indicates that St Mary's Hall was opened as a lodge hall of the adjoining Kingsland Tavern in 1884. The newly constructed lodge hall functioned as a meeting place for a variety of Friendly Societies, which had formerly met in the tavern.

Despite the popularity of the new facility, by 1886 the landlord decided to expel the societies in favour of opening a music hall named *St Mary's Hall of Varieties*. It is likely that a stage and the present second floor gallery were added at this time. This venture also seems to have been short-lived and after lying empty for a short time the building re-opened in January 1889 as Southampton's first public library.

Following a soaring demand for books it was quickly realised that the building was not large enough to fulfil its function adequately. In addition, the noxious fumes coming from the stables, manure pits and fried fish shop on the ground floor hastened the move to more suitable accommodation in 1893 leaving the hall empty once again. The trade directories of the time indicate that the building remained vacant for the next ten years, with the exception of a brief period in 1899 when it was occupied by the Social Democratic Federation - an early socialist political party.



By 1905, it is likely that the building operated as a Temperance Hall before becoming (in 1908) the home of the *Southampton Holiness Mission*, the first branch of this charismatic religious organisation outside of London. Perhaps, in relation to the building being regularly used for large volumes of people once more, a new staircase and access onto Johnson Street was created at this time, establishing the arrangement of St Mary's Hall that can be seen today. St Mary's Hall appears to have remained as a church of the Holiness Mission until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Following a brief period in use as a martial arts venue the building has lain empty for the last two decades.

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>75460</b>	ACCESSION CODE		CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>10/00231/LBC</b>	NGR	<b>442502 111949</b>		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
1	D	MJR	AU		17/09/10	X:\PROJECTS\75460\REPORT\DOC 1 VERSION 1 17-09-10.DOC
1	F	MJR	AU		01/10/10	X:\PROJECTS\75460\REPORT\DOC 1 VERSION 1 01-10-10.DOC

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Mr Costa Adamou for commissioning this project. Thanks are also due to Stephen Appleby - Planning Archaeologist for Southampton City Council and the staff of the Southampton City Archives for their assistance.

Documentary research, on site analysis and reporting was carried out by Matt Rous MfA. The drawings were produced by Ken Lymer and Matt Rous. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Anne Upson MfA.

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**76 ST MARY STREET  
ST MARY'S  
SOUTHAMPTON****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Mr Costa Adamou to carry out a programme of historic building recording of the first and second floors at 76, St Mary Street, Southampton, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 442502 111949 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development involves a programme of refurbishment and repair of the upper floors of the property to provide a venue for private hire and the staging of public events and a conference centre. Historic uses of the building are believed to have included a Masonic Hall, Public Library and Temperance Hall. The building is grade II listed although not situated within a Conservation Area.

1.1.3 Listed building consent for the proposed development was granted by Southampton City Council in April 2010 (Ref: 10/00231/LBC) subject to certain conditions.

1.1.4 Condition 06 – Archaeological work programme [Performance Condition] attached to the listed building consent states that:

*The developer will secure the completion of a programme of archaeological building recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that the archaeological investigation is completed*

While condition 07 – Archaeological Building Recording [Pre-commencement Condition] states that:

*No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological building recording has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority*

*Reason: To ensure that the recording of a significant structure is initiated at an appropriate point in the development procedure.*

1.1.5 Discussions with the Planning Archaeologist at Southampton City Council identified that the building should be recorded to a level of detail commensurate with a Level 2 (descriptive) record as defined by the English Heritage guidance document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006).

1.1.6 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2010), which was submitted to and approved by the Planning Archaeologist of Southampton City Council.



## 1.2 Site location

1.2.1 The building is situated on the western side of the north - south orientated St Mary Street on the corner of Johnson Street in St Marys, Southampton (**Figure 1**). The building is bounded by 77, St Mary Street and Johnson Street to the north, the Kingsland Tavern public house to the south, St Mary Street to the east and a private car park to the west. Number 76 occupies an irregular shaped plot which, with the exception of ground floor entrances on St Mary Street and Johnson Street, comprises the first and second floors only.

## 2 METHODS

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The purpose of the building record was to provide a better understanding of the early form and function of the building, and to provide a long-term archive record of the building as it currently survives. This would serve to mitigate any negative effects of redevelopment by recording any original internal and external features.

2.1.2 Measured plans of the building were supplied in advance by the client. Hard copies of these drawings were annotated on Site and then enhanced to produce the finished record drawings which, in addition, show the location and direction of view for the photographs reproduced within the report (**Figure 8**).

### 2.2 Documentary research

2.2.1 A search of relevant primary and secondary sources was carried out in Southampton City Archives (SCA), in Wessex Archaeology's own library and via the internet. All sources examined are referenced in Section 6.

2.2.2 A search of surviving maps was undertaken in the archives listed above, but principally in the Southampton City Archives. Early maps and associated documents may indicate changes in the use of buildings, ownership and property boundaries, and can also provide information on the sequence of buildings on a site.

2.2.3 A list of relevant maps and plans consulted is provided in Section 6.

### 2.3 Site visit

2.3.1 A single site visit was carried out on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010 by a specialist buildings archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology during which the building was subject to investigation, analysis and photography.

2.3.2 The building was recorded to Level 2, as described in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage, 2006) and carried out in accordance with guidance given in the document by the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures* (IFA 1996, revised 2001 and 2008).

### 2.4 Photography

2.4.1 During the site visit, some 36 black & white and colour slide photographs were taken using Canon EOS 500 and Canon EOS 600 film cameras. In addition 129 high quality digital images were taken using a Canon 5D digital

camera (with 12 megapixel capability). These mainly concentrated on the principal external and internal elevations but also included all relevant details. The building was also photographed within its setting to achieve a general impression of the Site at the time of recording.

- 2.4.2 A selection of photographs from the full photographic archive has been reproduced in this report (**Plates 1 - 18**).

### **3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 The earliest detailed map showing St Mary Street and its environs dates to 1845 with the present Site occupied by an open yard between the Kingsland Tavern to the south and a building on the corner of St Mary Street and John Street to the north (**Figure 2**).

- 3.1.2 The area around the pub is shown in greater detail in the 1870 Ordnance Survey map, although revealing little apparent change from 1845 (**Figure 2**).

- 3.1.3 The Kingsland Tavern was (and remains) a public house which dates back to the 1820s where it is listed in Pigot's Directory of Southampton for 1823-24 with George Dean as landlord (Port cities website). By the early 1880s, the owners of the Kingsland Tavern were William and Thomas Forder who were long-established wine and spirit merchants and brewers of High Street, Southampton (Preston 2009).

#### **3.2 1884 - 1886: Lodge Hall and St Mary's Palace of Varieties**

- 3.2.1 Plans dating to 1884 (**Figures 3-4**) show the Forder brothers' initial development of the Site. This involved the demolition and adaptation of the northern part of the Kingsland Tavern with additional changes to the building on the corner of St Mary Street and John Street. The space between was to be occupied by a new building with first floor 'Lodge Room' for the meeting of Friendly Societies (SCA ref: SC/BI/8/1030 a and b).

- 3.2.2 The plans reveal that the new lodge comprised a first floor *Hall* accessed by a front entrance on the ground floor and a dog-leg staircase situated in the south-east corner (**Figure 4**). The remaining ground floor appears to have been given up to storage and stabling associated with the Kingsland Tavern (**Figure 3**). The first floor *Hall* is shown as a large rectangular open space illuminated by a glazed lantern above and heated by two fireplaces situated on the north wall. The plans shows that to the north of the *Hall* was a *Storeroom* and to the south a *Bar* and *Toilet* with connecting passageway into the Kingsland Tavern to the south. To the north of the staircase and *Landing* was a small *Ante Room* heated by a fireplace on the north wall.

- 3.2.3 In addition to the plans, a proposed elevation and cross-section of this building survive revealing a decorative Italianate façade (**Figure 5**). Originally, framed panels were situated either side the front entrance on the ground floor in place of the present shopfronts. The new building was designed by William Borough Hill, surveyor and agent to the Forders, and built by John Crook of Northam (Preston 2009).

- 3.2.4 Kelly's trade directory for 1884 (**Appendix**) reveals that 76, St Mary Street was listed as the *Kingsland Hotel* run by George Parsons. Also at number 76 was William Haysom, a *cab proprietor* who was likely operating out of the stables shown on the 1884 plans (**Figure 3**). The *Kingsland Tavern Tap* is



likely to be the building situated on the corner of St Mary Street and John Street.

- 3.2.5 When the new hall was opened by the Mayor on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1885, it held approximately 400 people functioning as the lodge room for those Friendly Societies which met at the adjoining Kingsland Tavern, including the highly influential 'Princess Royal' and 'Hope' Lodges of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, with a combined membership of over 1,000, and 'Court Albion' of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers and Southampton Secular Society also met here (Preston 2009).
- 3.2.6 Adaptations to the new building appear to have begun early with planning permission sought in May 1886 for the insertion of a window and a pair of doors (with fanlights over) on the St Mary Street frontage (SCA ref: SC/BI/8/1506 a) for the creation of a new shop. From an examination of later plans it appears that this shop was positioned to the south of the ground floor entrance leading up to St Mary's Hall. The creation of this shop would have led to the repositioning of the staircase to its present central location from an original position in the south-east corner of the ground floor.
- 3.2.7 Hopes that the lodge members had found a settled home ended in December 1886 when the landlord of the Kingsland Tavern, George Parsons, ejected them in order to open a music hall, renaming the building *St Mary's Palace of Varieties* (*ibid*). The building is listed as such in the 1887 Kelly's Directory (**Appendix**) however, by April 1887 it seems that the hall was either defunct or very nearly so, for two adverts appeared in the local press, one for the lease of the Kingsland Tavern with or without the music hall and the second to let the Hall of Varieties alone for concert or other purposes (Preston 2009).
- 3.2.8 During the conversion of St Mary's Hall into a musical hall venue, in addition to a stage it is likely that the present upper floor gallery and staircase were inserted in 1886.

### **3.3 1889 - 1893: Public Library**

- 3.3.1 St Mary's Hall has been recognised as the first public library in Southampton, although it can be argued that the earlier Audit House Library (1831-63), conformed to the accepted criteria of a public library, i.e. owned by the burgesses with the Corporation as trustee and responsible to the Town Council through a Library Committee. In addition, the Audit House Library had a Corporation-appointed librarian, supported out of the borough rate and was available to all free of charge (Preston 2008).
- 3.3.2 Following a search of suitable premises and wrangling over costs, an initial agreement was made in April 1888 for the Library Committee to lease St Mary's Hall for three years at £75 *per annum*. As part of the conditions, the landlords were to remove all stage fittings and to stop all communications with the tavern, which most likely included the blocking up the doorway leading from the *Bar* into the Kingsland Tavern. Thus sanitised, the new library opened on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1889 (*ibid*).
- 3.3.3 Unfortunately, from the very start the relatively small size of the building in relation to popular demand and its location appear to have been far from ideal, ensuring that the library was a short-lived venture. The librarian, a Mr Hopwood, had at times to be escorted home by the police as many of the locals considered the library a joke and harassed the staff (SCC 1989). An indication of the type of borrower visiting St Mary's Hall can be obtained as

for a number of years the occupations of borrowers were listed, the largest categories in 1889 being clerks (244), scholars and students (115) and carpenters and joiners (89). It is estimated that the library had 7,563 books in stock with 2,417 registered readers (*ibid*).

- 3.3.4 The library departments were located on the first floor with the former lodge hall serving as lending library, book stack and reading room. The closed access book shelves extended on two sides of the hall, reaching from floor to ceiling. In front of the shelves, stretching the whole length of the library, was a raised platform and counter, set at a convenient height for the titles to be seen and easily accessible by the attendants. Books could be read around a single long table, with supplemental seating in the gallery. A smaller adjoining apartment was used as a newsroom, fitted with large desks for the display of daily papers. An anteroom (possibly the former bar) became the librarian's office (Preston 2009).
- 3.3.5 Unfortunately, the library environment was dominated by what lay directly underneath the hall, behind the shops fronting St Mary Street, and in the enclosed yard directly at the rear. This comprised commercial stabling for the Kingsland Tavern, replete with loose boxes and manure pit. Given a poorly-ventilated, gas-lit and frequently overcrowded library, the stench could be overwhelming, particularly in summer. For George Parker, in a semi-satirical letter to the *Hampshire Independent* in February 1891, to go to the library was 'to read ourselves into graves and swallow one another's filth'. In September 1893, the same newspaper remembered the unsanitary and insalubrious building 'with feelings akin to horror', rivalled only by the notoriously vitiated atmosphere of the police court in the Bargate. The exhibition of a whale in the stables for rather too long entered local folklore (*ibid*).
- 3.3.6 The St Mary's Hall library was unable to withstand the pressures put upon it, with standing room only in the reading room and issues often of over 100 books per hour. Within four months, the committee had begun looking for another site following the expiry of the lease in June 1892 (*ibid*).
- 3.3.7 In 1893 the public library was relocated to a purpose-built building on the site of New Place House on the corner of London Road and Bedford Place (SCC 1989). St Mary's Hall appears to have lain empty for a few years, not appearing in the trade directories for 1895-8 where the ground floor shops either side of the ground floor entrance are listed as a tobacconist and newsagent at number 76½ and a boot and shoe warehouse at number 77 (**Appendix**). The directories show that the hall was occupied in 1899 by the Social Democratic Federation (**Appendix**), an early socialist political party established by H. M. Hyndman, which eventually merged with other groups to establish the British Socialist party in 1911 (Wikipedia website).
- 3.3.8 The 1897 Ordnance Survey map gives an overall plan of the site in the vicinity of the Kingsland Tavern showing the development and consolidation of the buildings fronting onto St Mary Street since 1870 (**Figure 2**).

### 3.4 1905 - late 20<sup>th</sup> century: Temperance Hall and Church

- 3.4.1 It is not clear when St Mary's Hall was first used by the temperance movement. A letter to the Works Committee at Southampton City Council (SCA ref: SC/BI/8A/553) dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1905 from Mrs Annie Yorke indicates that the hall was to be used in connection with temperance work (for committee meetings and concerts) with small amounts of money needed to spent on alterations in order to satisfy the needs of the Borough Engineer.

However, no mention of a temperance hall can be found in the trade directories of the time suggesting that if it did perform this function then it was only for a very brief period.

- 3.4.2 The 1910 Ordnance Survey map shows a more detailed picture of the development around the Kingsland Tavern than the homogenised block depicted in the map of 1897 (**Figure 2**). A small open bay present on the St Mary Street frontage and visible on the 1897 map had been infilled with another small shop by 1910. This concurs with the trade directories of the time which list the frontages in 1907 (from south-north) as *Kingsland Tavern* followed by *Southampton Rubber Company* at number 76a, a *beef and ham dealer* at number 76b and a *confectioner* at 76c (**Appendix**). There is no mention of an occupant of St Mary's Hall.
- 3.4.3 In 1908, St Mary's Hall became the home of the *Southampton Holiness Mission*, the first branch of this charismatic religious organisation which had been founded in Battersea in 1901 by David Thomas. The movement was initially very successful with twenty Holiness Missions established in Britain by 1907. Following the opening of a branch in South Africa in 1911 the *Holiness Mission* was renamed the *International Holiness Mission* in January 1917 (History of the Holiness Movement in Great Britain website).
- 3.4.4 Proposed plans for a new exit staircase for St Mary's Hall and access onto Johnson Street (formerly John Street) survive dating to 18<sup>th</sup> February 1908 (SCA ref: SC/BI/8A/835) and are likely to be related to the hall's change of use as a church (**Figures 6-7**). It is possible that due to the anticipated congregation the provision of an extra staircase was required as a fire precaution. The drawings primarily depict the new outshot staircase arrangement, although plans of the entire building are also included revealing the ground floor shops either side of the front entrance. Behind the ground floor shops the area below the hall is described as 'Stabling & Offices belonging to The Kingsland Tavern (Mr T. Nichol, Lessee)'. The first floor plan of St Mary's Hall shows a very similar picture to the present arrangement. In addition, the second floor *Gallery* and its open-well access staircase are depicted for the first time. The *Loft* to the north of the *Ante Room* has been subsequently removed following later adaptations to the rear of 76c, St Mary Street.
- 3.4.5 The trade directories for much of the remaining 20<sup>th</sup> century show that St Mary's Hall housed the Southampton/International Holiness Mission until 1970 when the hall was occupied by the *Church of the Nazarene* - an evangelical Christian denomination that emerged from the Holiness movement. The Church of the Nazarene appear to have left the building during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (**Appendix**).
- 3.4.6 The 1933 Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 2**) and subsequent post-WWII mapping shows little change in the footprint of the building during this period.
- 3.4.7 During the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the building was used as a martial arts club. For the last two decades the building has lain empty.

## 4 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Number 76, St Mary Street comprises a first floor property which is accessed from two ground floor entrances located on St Mary Street to the east and Johnson Street to the north. The building comprises an irregular

plot orientated east - west with first floor occupied by a large rectangular Hall with ancillary rooms to the north, south and east. An upper floor Gallery extends partially over the east side of the hall (**Figure 8**).

## 4.2 Exterior

- 4.2.1 The front elevation of 76, St Mary Street comprises a three-bay façade on the first floor with modern shopfronts either side of a central ground floor entrance (**Figure 8, Plate 1**). The façade is Italianate in design comprising stucco over red brick and featuring a low parapet and plain string course above three large window openings. The present plain parapet is in marked contrast to the decorative bracketed cornice depicted in the architect's drawings of 1884 (**Figure 5**) indicating that this was either never built or that the cornice was replaced at a later date. The original sash windows are absent although the openings are decorated with aediculed and pedimented surrounds with plain sills supported by console brackets. The central window features a full pediment above keystones whereas the flanking windows have segmental arches. The ground floor entrance is also highly decorative with pedimented doorcase above keystones supported by elaborate scrolled brackets (**Plate 2**). Either side of the entrance are modern shopfronts above which can be seen remnant cement banding for two original framed panels which feature in the elevation drawing of 1884 (**Figure 5**).
- 4.2.2 The rear (west) elevation is plain comprising a red brick wall in Flemish bond with numerous burnt headers and one blocked high-level window opening on the ground floor. The elevation overlooks a private car park (**Plate 3**). The north elevation bordering onto the rear of number 77, St Mary Street is also plain and of similar construction to the rear elevation. The lean-to Storeroom to the north of St Mary's Hall is constructed from red brick in Flemish bond with later outshot staircase of 1908 leading to a double-door modern entrance on Johnson Street (**Plate 4**). The roof of the outshot staircase appears to have recently been renewed.

## 4.3 Interior - First floor

- 4.3.1 Access through the ground floor entrance on St Mary Street leads into a narrow Lobby with original features comprising an encaustic tile floor, original doorbell on the south wall and dog-leg staircase leading to the first floor (**Figure 8**). Despite missing some original balusters and displaying an unsympathetic paint scheme, the staircase inserted c.1886 is a fine late Victorian example featuring decorative turned balusters, carved pendants and newel posts topped with ball finials with a broad hardwood handrail (**Plate 5**).
- 4.3.2 The staircase leads up to a narrow Landing with six-panel door on the west wall which enters into the Hall (**Figure 8**). Originally the 'Lodge Room', the Hall comprises a reasonably large open space measuring approximately 13m in length and 8m in width (**Plates 6 - 7**). The room is richly decorated throughout; a moulded skirting measuring approximately 0.3m in height sits below panels of oblique tongue and groove below dado height. At the top of the walls is a plain picture rail set beneath an elaborate moulded plaster cornice and frieze (**Plate 8**). Formerly the room would have been heated by two fireplaces situated on the north wall, although these have subsequently been removed and the openings blocked. A reeded doorway situated in the south wall and topped with a pediment features a pair of panelled doors, although displaying later door furniture. Similarly reeded panels without



- pediments decorate the remaining doorways, all of which contain six panel doors.
- 4.3.3 The Hall is illuminated by a large central glazed lantern of frosted and Georgian wired glass panels with timber surrounds and featuring dentils moulded in the form of triglyphs (**Plate 9**). The floor of the hall (and of the entire first floor) is made up of machine-cut softwood boards of six - eight inches in width with no coverings.
- 4.3.4 To the east of the Hall and south of the Landing is a small empty Office with plain decoration comprising painted plaster and high moulded skirting board (**Figure 8**). A window opening is present on the east wall with reeded architrave. The original double-hung sashes have recently been removed for refurbishment. Originally this small room was occupied by a stairwell on the 1884 plans (**Figure 4**) although the staircase was moved to the present central position in 1886. The room is recorded as a *Retiring Room* in the 1908 plans (**Figure 6**).
- 4.3.5 On the northern side of the Landing is a small room which has been subdivided in two. An open well staircase leads up to the second floor Gallery leaving the remaining space occupied by a small Store (**Figure 8**, **Plate 10**), which features a late 19th century cast iron hearth with decorative tile inserts on the north wall (**Plate 11**). This room was originally denoted *Ante Room* in the plans, although the later insertion of the staircase leading to the gallery most likely occurred in 1886 following the conversion of the building into a music hall. Unlike the earlier described staircase, this is much more utilitarian in style comprising chamfered square newels stick balusters and moulded handrail of all softwood construction.
- 4.3.6 To the south of the Hall is a Storeroom with toilet cubicles to the west lit by original two-light pivot windows. The Storeroom is illuminated by a large replacement uPVC double glazed unit situated within the east wall. Remnant decorative features within the Storeroom include high moulded skirting boards, a picture rail and evidence for a former cornice (**Plate 12**). Original plans dating from 1884 show that the main part of this room operated as a *Bar* with toilet facilities to the west. A doorway in the south wall originally lead into the Kingsland Tavern (**Figure 4**). The 1908 plans show the room divided between a *Retiring Room* to the east with *Lobby* and *W.C.* to the west (**Figure 6**).
- 4.3.7 A doorway in the north wall of the Hall leads into a narrow passage with the later (1908) added staircase to the immediate north via a pair of gold painted bespoke steel security gates (**Plate 13**). Above the gates on the north side is the lettering 'ACADEMY', indicating that the gates date from the later 20<sup>th</sup> century when the building was used as a martial arts venue. Beyond the gates a straight flight of concrete steps leads down to a ground floor entrance on Johnson Street.
- 4.3.8 Immediately before the gates on the east wall is a doorway leading into the lean-to Storeroom (**Figure 8**). The Storeroom comprises a long narrow plain room illuminated by a uPVC double-glazed replacement window on the north wall and a window opening (minus the sashes) on the east wall (**Plate 14**). The room is devoid of features with the exception of a long former coat rail, minus the pegs, on the south wall, indicating that this room once functioned as a cloak room. The 1884 plans show that this room was originally denoted as a *Store Room* (**Figure 4**) whereas the 1908 plans described it as an *Ante Room* (**Figure 6**).



#### 4.4 Interior - Second floor

- 4.4.1 The open-well staircase situated adjacent to the small Store leads up to the second floor Gallery (**Plate 15**) which consists of six broad steps sloping down from east - west with a narrow passageway at the front adjacent to a solid curved timber balustrade. The Gallery, which does not appear on the original 1884 plan of the hall, but is featured in the 1908 plans, appears to have been constructed to support six rows of seats or benches and most likely was created in 1886 when the building was converted in a music hall.
- 4.4.2 The structure is supported by an arrangement of four narrow steel stanchions, two of which are concealed within the Landing wall at first floor level. In addition, a series of small wall brackets below the floor of the balcony help to spread the load (**Plate 16**). The bare iron supporting stanchions and utilitarian staircase, contrasts sharply with the richly decorated surroundings of St Mary's Hall.

### 5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 Number 76, St Mary Street is a rare example of a well preserved and complete Victorian hall, which retains the majority of its original features and has changed little since 1908. Despite the unsightly shopfronts either side of the ground floor entrance and unsympathetic paint scheme, the first floor Italianate façade, with its large windows and decorative ground floor entrance, projects a sense of grandeur and quality of construction, which stands it apart from other buildings in this part of St Mary Street.
- 5.1.2 Historical sources indicate that the building was constructed in 1884 as a lodge hall for the meeting of Friendly Societies before rapidly changing hands five times in twenty-two years to become a music hall, public library, socialist meeting place, temperance hall and finally church in 1908. Since 1908 the building operated as a church until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when it briefly became a martial arts academy before laying empty for the last twenty years.
- 5.1.3 The building remains remarkably little changed from its original 1884 construction with the main differences being the present central staircase leading up from the St Mary Street entrance and second floor gallery, both added in 1886, and the staircase and entrance onto Johnson Street, added in 1908. Since then there has been very little noticeable change to the building visible today.
- 5.1.4 The redevelopment of St Mary's Hall as a venue and conference centre will ensure the long term survival of the structure, which is currently in a state of gradual decline.

## 6 REFERENCES

### 6.1 Primary sources

*Obtained from Southampton City Archives, Civic Centre, Southampton*

- SC/BI/8/1030 a and b Plans and notice to pull down part of building and erect a new lodge room and offices at Kingsland Tavern, St Mary Street.  
29<sup>th</sup> April 1884
- SC/BI/8/1506 a Letter from G. Parsons – put in the front of the half adjoining Kingsland Tavern and facing St Mary Street, 1 bar window and a pair of bar doors with fan light.  
18<sup>th</sup> May 1886
- SC/BI/8/2519 a and b Notice and plans from H J Weston architect. New shop fronts and alterations to houses in St Mary's Street adjoining the free library.  
25<sup>th</sup> August 1892
- SC/BI/8A/553 Request for any necessary alterations for St Mary's Hall, St Mary Street (for use for Committee purposes). Letter from A. Yorke.  
11<sup>th</sup> November 1905
- SC/BI/8A/835 Notice and plans for alterations at St Mary's Hall, St Mary Street. Owner: Messrs Forder & Co.  
18<sup>th</sup> February 1908

### 6.2 Secondary sources

English Heritage, 2006: *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage

Preston, R, 2008: 'Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties': the Audit House Library, Southampton 1831-63 and Winchester Library and Museum, 1851-63' in *Journal of the Southampton Local History Forum*, No 14, Winter 2008

Preston, R, 2009: 'The Development of Public Libraries in Southampton, 1887-1921' in *Journal of Southampton Local History Forum*, No. 15, Summer 2009

Southampton City Council, 1989: *Public Libraries, 100 Years in Southampton, The Centenary of the Public Library Service in Southampton 1889 - 1989*

Wessex Archaeology, 2010: *76 St Mary Street, Southampton, Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Building Recording*, August 2010, Reference: T13987.01

### 6.3 Cartographic Sources

*Obtained from Southampton Archives, Civic Centre, Southampton*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Seen</b>	<b>Reproduced</b>
1845	Plan of Borough of Southampton by Captain Yollande R.E.	Unknown	Yes	Yes
1865-8	Ordnance Survey Hants LXV. 11	25" : 1 mile	Yes	No
1870	Ordnance Survey Hants LXV. 11. 12 and LXV.11.7	50" : 1 mile	Yes	Yes
1897	Ordnance Survey Hants LXV. 11	25" : 1 mile	Yes	Yes
1910	Ordnance Survey Hants LXV. 11	25" : 1 mile	Yes	Yes
1933	Ordnance Survey Hants LXV. 11	25" : 1 mile	Yes	Yes
1952	Ordnance Survey SU 4211 NE	1:1250	Yes	No
1960	Ordnance Survey SU 4211 NW	1:1250	Yes	No
1967	Ordnance Survey SU 4211 NE and NW	1:1250	Yes	No
1978	Ordnance Survey SU 4211 NW	1:1250	Yes	No

### 6.4 Online resources

A History of the Holiness Movement in Great Britain

[http://www.regal-network.com/chm/files/pdf/british\\_holiness\\_movement.pdf](http://www.regal-network.com/chm/files/pdf/british_holiness_movement.pdf)

Date accessed: September 2010

Multi-Agency Geographic Initiative for the Countryside

<http://www.magic.gov.uk>

Date accessed: September 2010

Port cities - Southampton website

<http://www.plimsoll.org/resources/SCCLibraries/3921.asp>

Date accessed: September 2010

Social Democratic Federation history website

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_Democratic\\_Federation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Democratic_Federation)

Date accessed: September 2010

Southampton City Archives

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/s-leisure/artsheritage/history/archives/>

Date accessed: September 2010

Southampton City Council Planning website

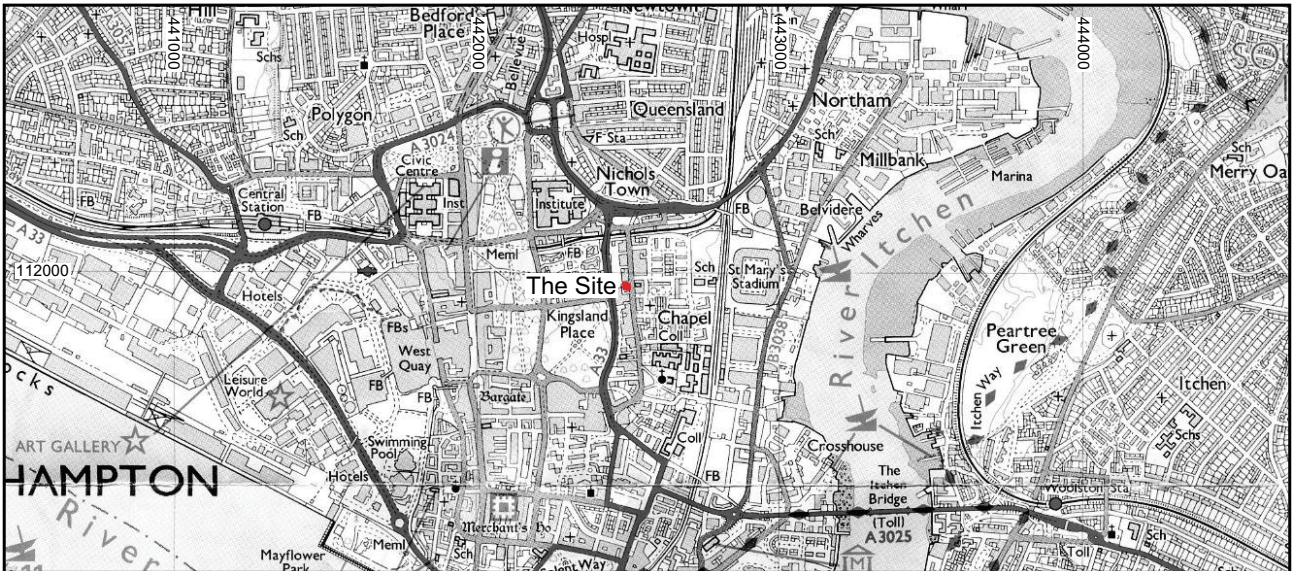
<http://publicaccess.southampton.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/DcApplication/app>

Date accessed: September 2010

**7 APPENDIX: SOUTHAMPTON TRADE DIRECTORIES 1883-1970**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Address in St Mary Street and occupier</b>
1883	75-76 George Parsons 77 William Hayson
1884	76 Kingsland hotel, George Parsons 76 Haysom William, fiy proprietor and Kingsland Tavern Tap
1887	75 Kingsland Hotel, George Parsons 76 Haysom William, cab propr 76 & 77 St Mary's Hall of Varieties (Geo. Parsons, proprietor)
1890	76 & 77 Thomas Fisk, Kingsland Tavern and <i>Kingsland Tap</i>
1895	76 Kingsland Hotel, Job King 76½ H. Stockley, tobacconist 77 George Oliver, boot & shoe warehouse (L. R. Allen - manager)
1898	76 Kingsland Hotel, Job King 76½ Frank Green, tobacconist & newsagent 77 George Oliver, boot & shoe warehouse
1899	Kingsland Hotel, Thomas Nicol, Social Democratic Federation, Thomas Lewis (Secretary) 76 Frank Green, tobacconist 77 George Oliver, bootmaker
1907	Kingsland Tavern, Thomas Nicol 76a Southampton Rubber Co. 76b Dacre Daniel Knight, beef and ham dealer 76c Cosens Henry, confectioner
1921	Kingsland Tavern, George F South 76b Green & Co, newsagents Southampton Holiness Mission 76 Price Brothers, bakers
1931	Kingsland Tavern, Fredk. Wm. Harwood 76a Cox, William James, wholesale tobacconist 76b Green Frank, newsagent International Holiness Mission 76 Price Brothers, bakers
1940	76 Kingsland Tavern, Frederick Bartholomew 76a Public Benefit Cigarette Supply Co. tobacconists 76b Stratton Hy. J. newsagent International Holiness Mission 76c Winter Archbl. Cecil, Greengrocer
1954	76 Kingsland Tavern, Frederick Bartholomew 76a Lavells Ltd. confectioners 76b Stratton Hy. J. newsagent International Holiness Mission 76c Winter A. C. & Sons, Greengrocer
1970	76 Kingsland Tavern 76a Lavells Ltd. Confectioners Church of The Nazarene 76c Winter A. C. & Sons, Greengrocer





 The Site

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Illustrator: KL

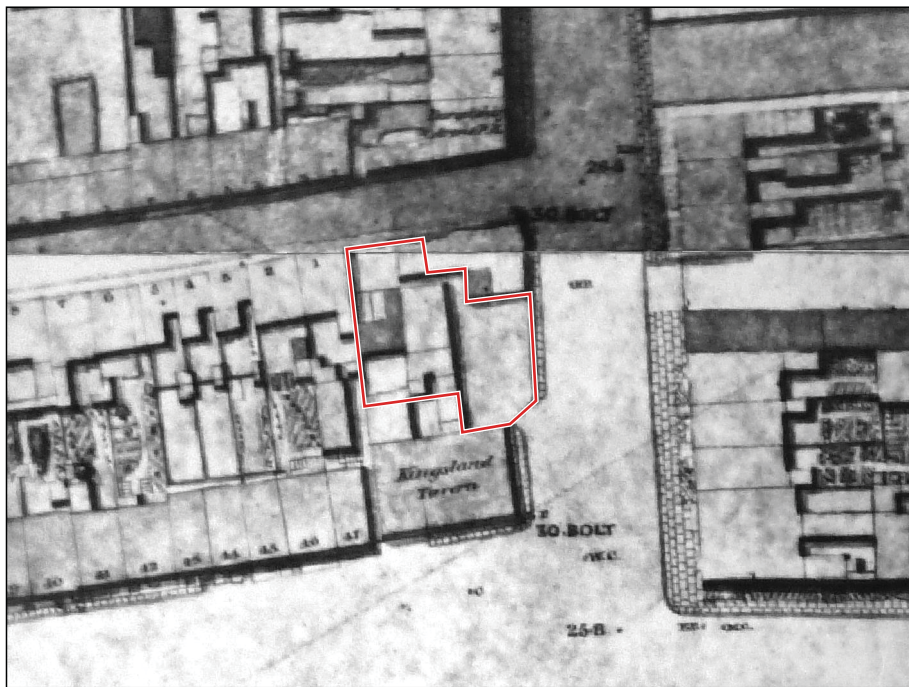
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Site location

Figure 1

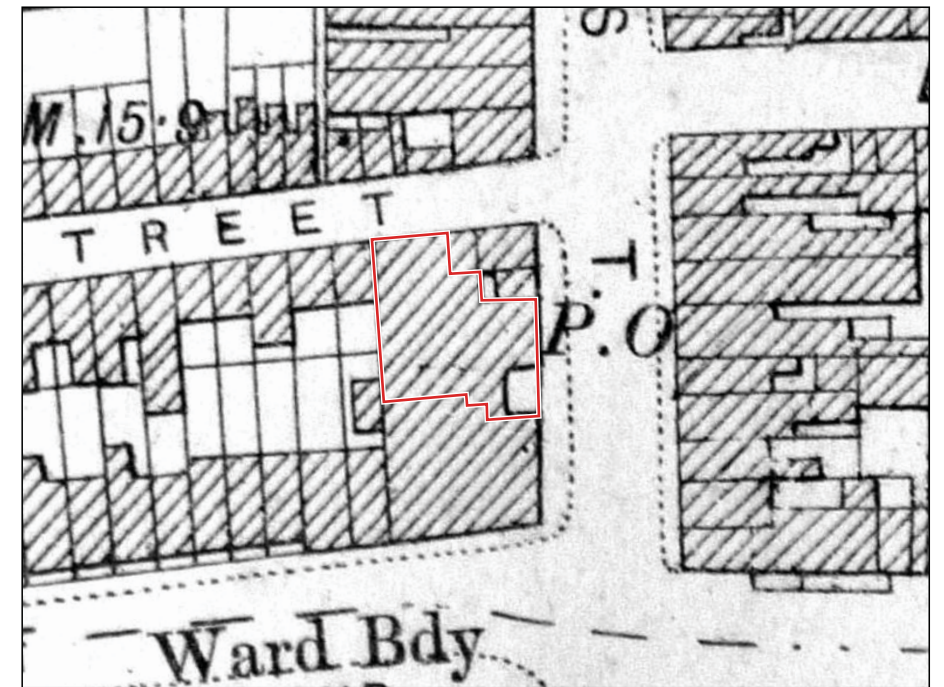




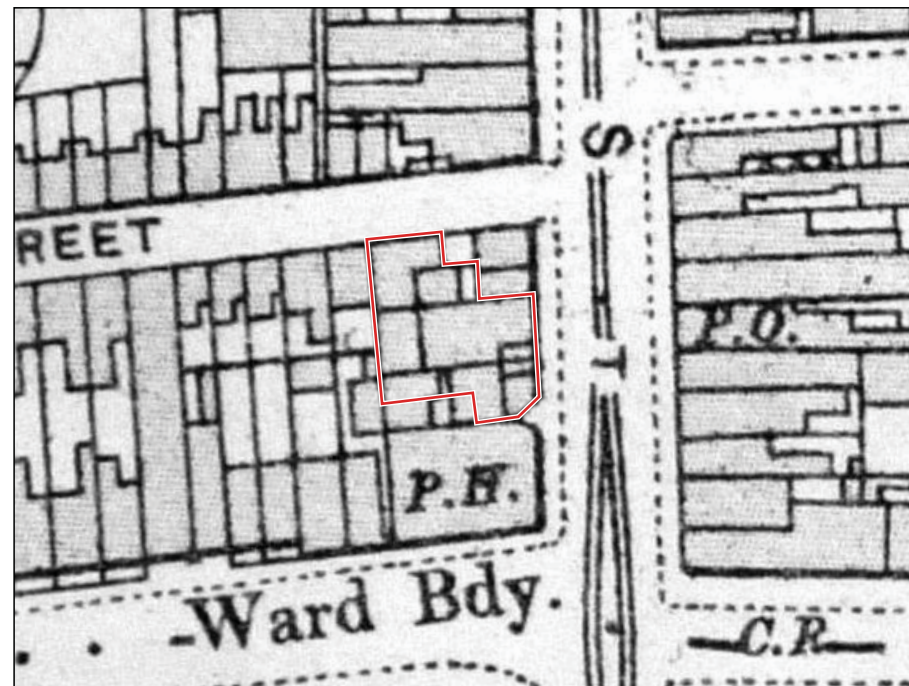
1845 Plan of the Borough of Southampton



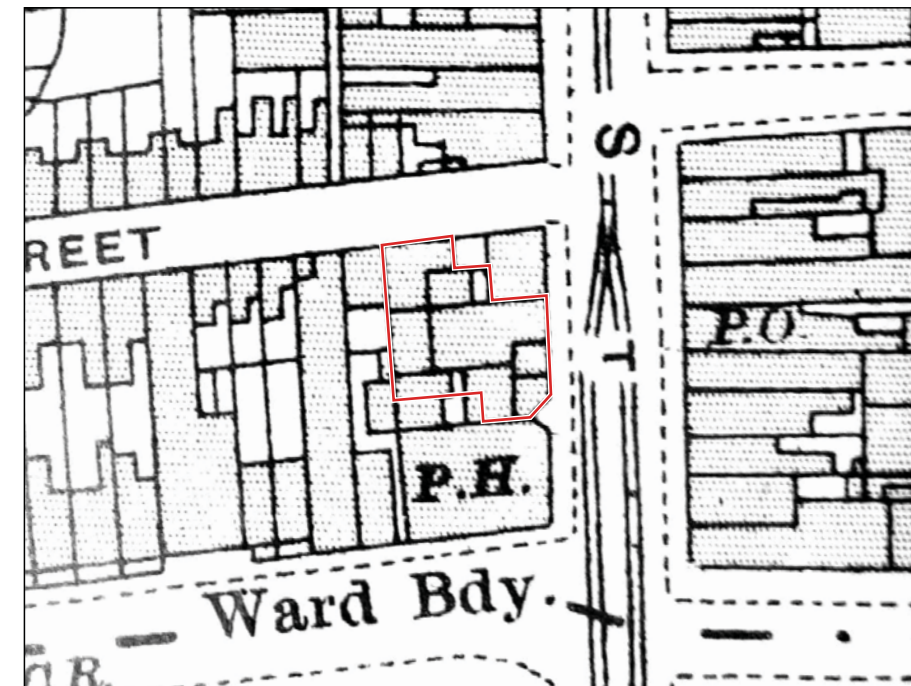
1870 Ordnance Survey map 50" : 1 mile



1897 Ordnance Survey map 25" : 1 mile



1910 Ordnance Survey map 25" : 1 mile



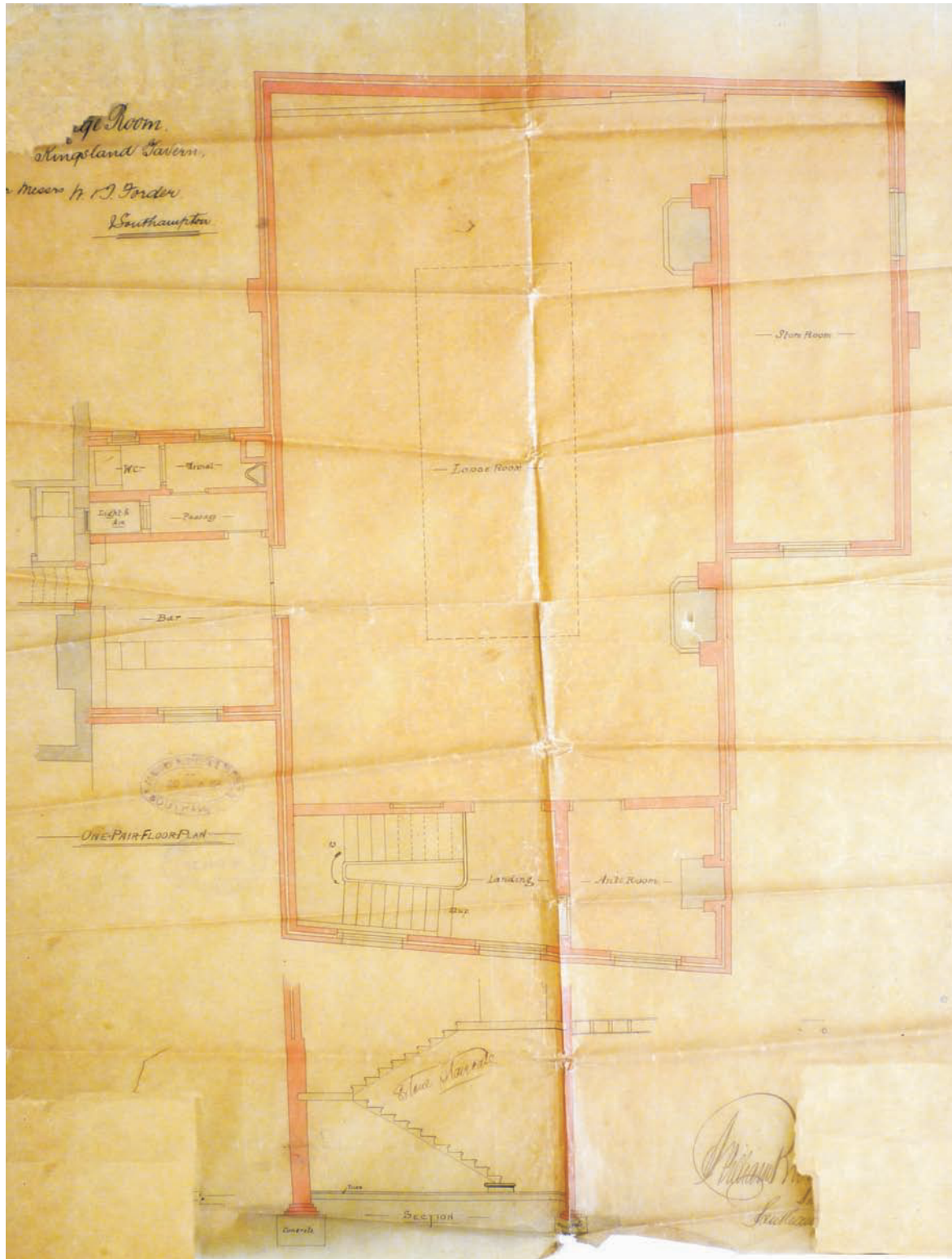
1933 Ordnance Survey map 25" : 1 mile







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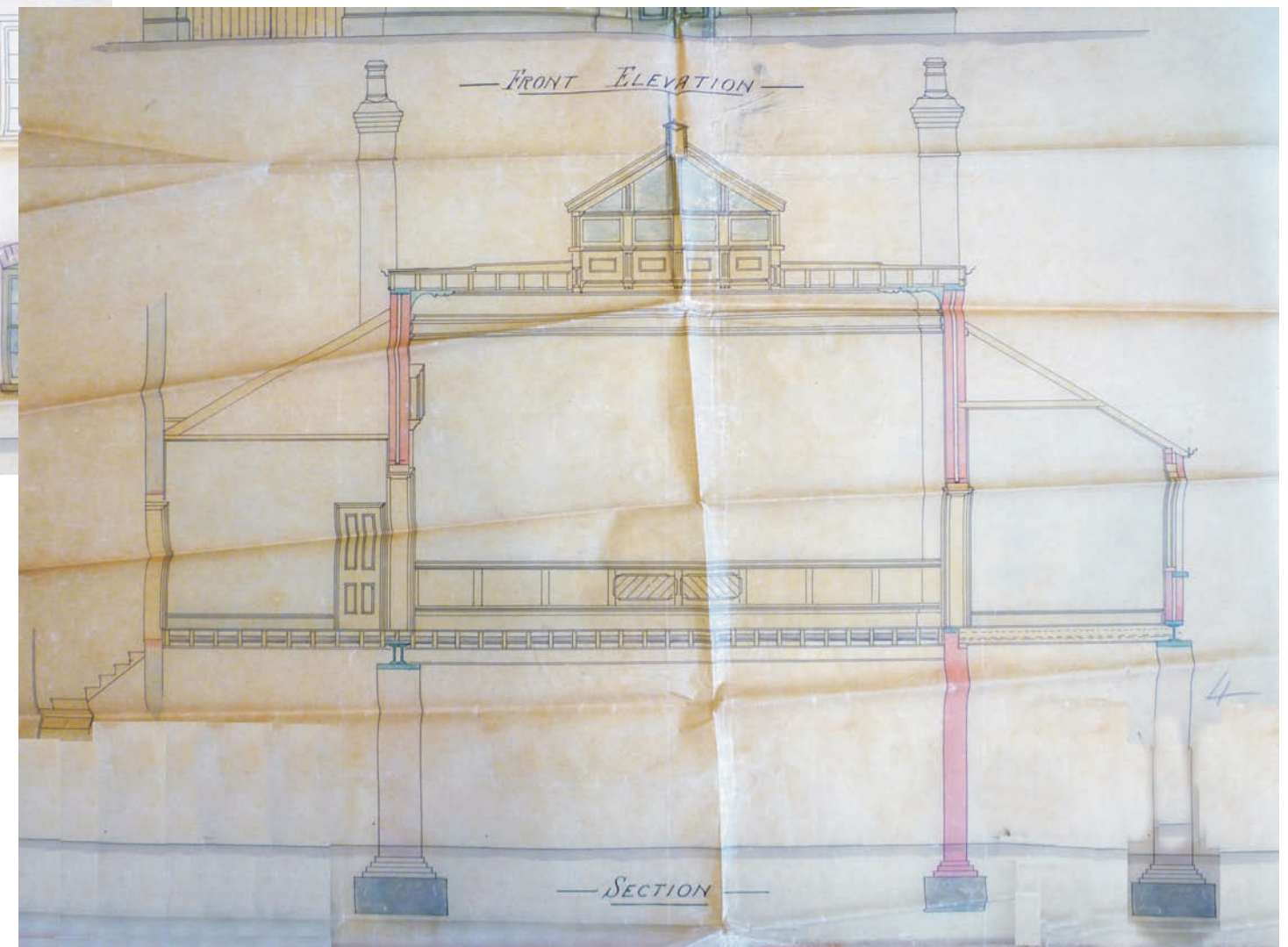
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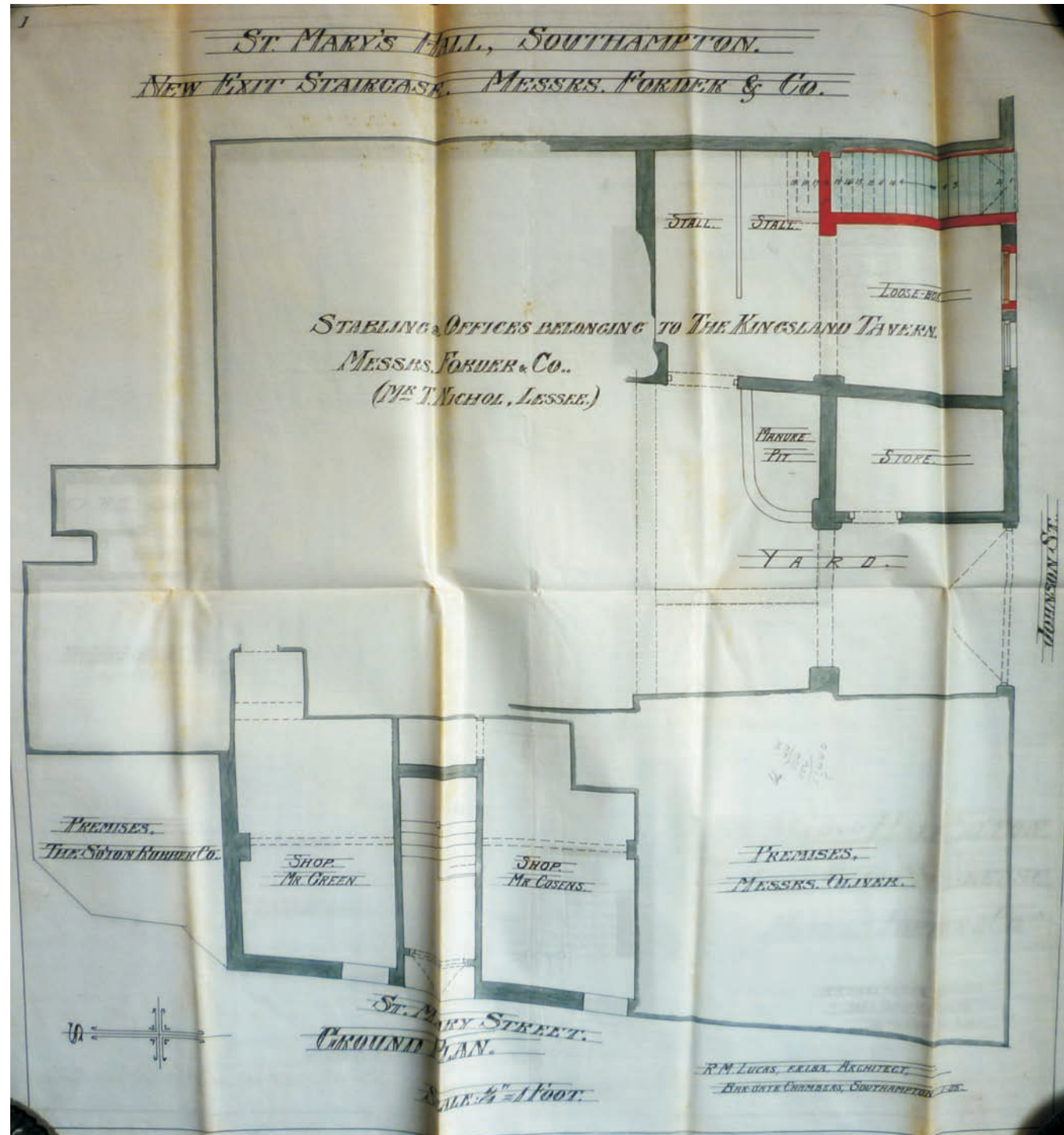
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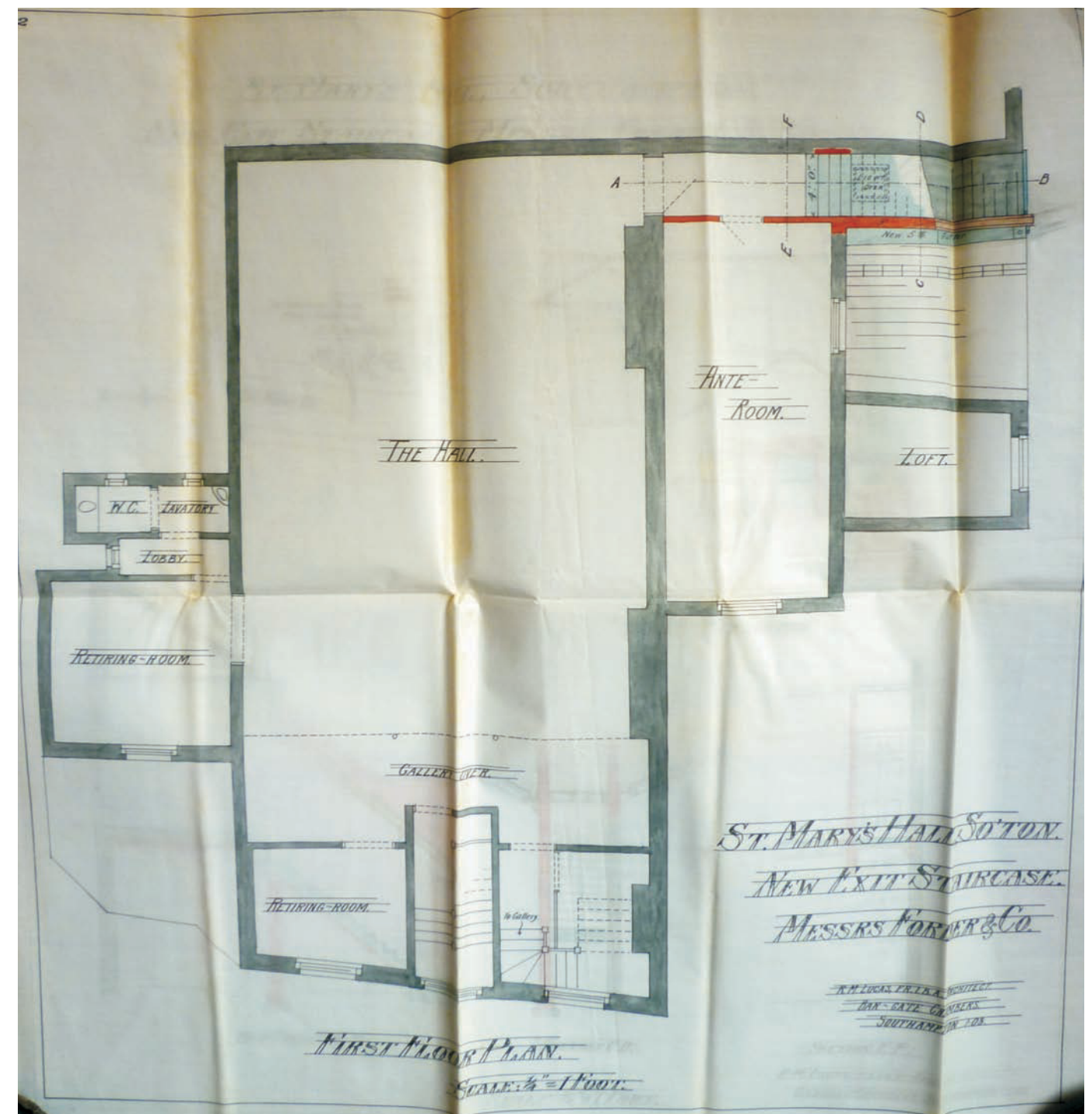
Cross-section

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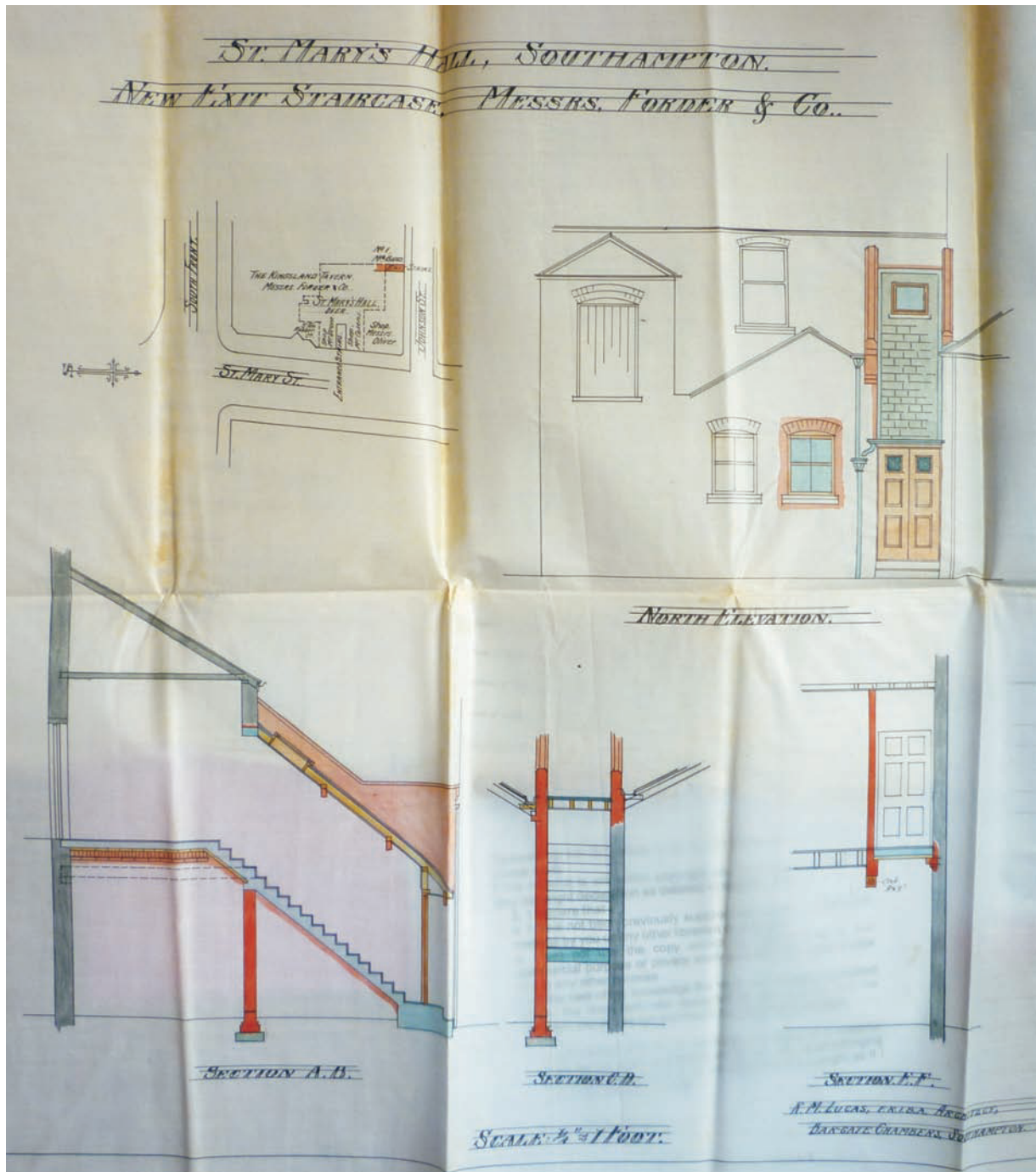


Ground floor



First floor





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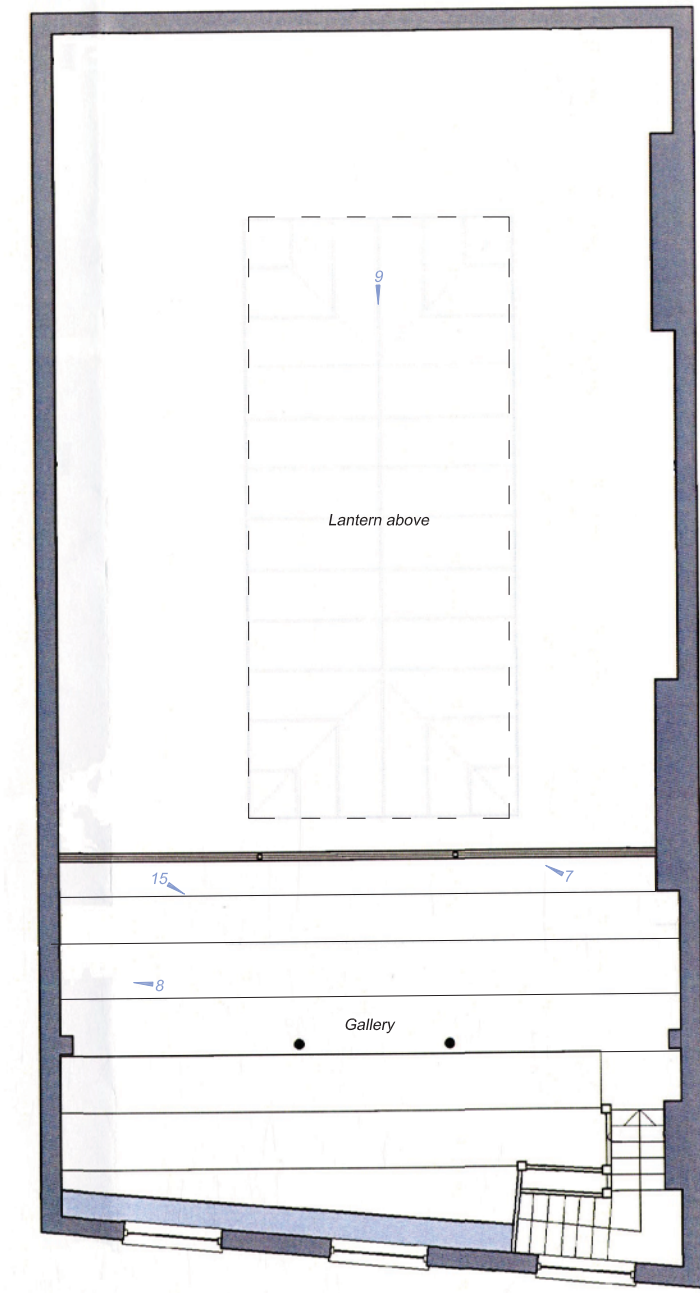
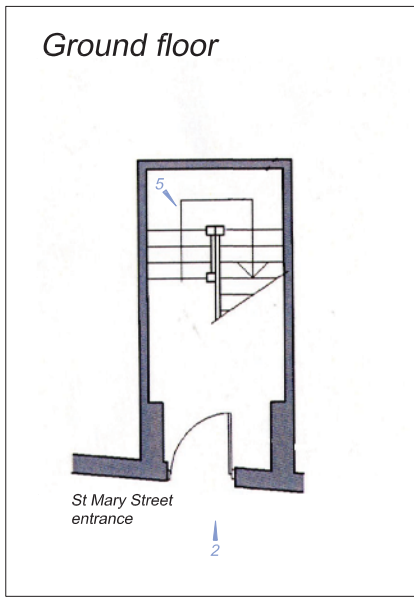
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First floor

Second floor



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Plate 1: Front elevation of 76, St Mary Street



Plate 2: Decorative doorway leading into 76, St Mary Street

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Plate 3: Rear elevation of 76, St Mary Street



Plate 4: North elevation of 76, St Mary Street with entrance on Johnson Street

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Plate 5: Ground floor staircase leading to St Mary's Hall



Plate 6: St Mary's Hall – viewed from the north-west

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Plate 7: St Mary's Hall – viewed from the Gallery



Plate 8: Elaborate moulded plasterwork

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Plate 9: Glass lantern above St Mary's Hall



Plate 10: Store adjacent to staircase leading to the Gallery

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Plate 11: Store with cast iron fireplace on the north wall



Plate 12: Storeroom showing residual decorative elements on the south and east walls

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Plate 13: Access to back staircase to the north of St Mary's Hall



Plate 14: Storeroom to the north of St Mary's Hall

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Plate 15: Second floor Gallery viewed from the south-west



Plate 16: Second floor Gallery viewed from the west

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