



MUSEUM OF LANCASHIRE, PRESTON

Lancashire

Conservation Statement



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SUMMARY

The Museum of Lancashire has devised proposals to update and improve facilities within the museum, which is situated on Stanley Street, Preston (NGR SD 5474 2965). The aim is to improve physical and intellectual access to the building and collections of the museum. This will include renewal of displays and the upgrading of the disabled access and visitor facilities, as well as redecorating. To aid the work proposed at the Museum of Lancashire, a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant is being applied for. This report takes the form of a Conservation Statement, prepared to accompany the application.

The Museum of Lancashire is housed within a Grade II listed building that was originally Preston Court House, with many original features still retained. However, the lack of investment in the past twenty years has resulted in the museum displays and decoration becoming outdated and appearing tired. The current visitor facilities are inadequate, affecting the overall visitor experience. The redevelopment scheme therefore includes proposals to: create a new multi-functional Welcome Gallery, with displays presenting an overview of the County of Lancashire and other heritage sites across the County; redisplay the Queens Lancashire Regimental galleries to create World War One, and War and Peace galleries; redisplay other gallery and corridor areas to tell new stories relating to the County Palatine, Archaeology, History of the building, and Law and Order; improve signage and orientation around the building; provide drop-in IT facilities for research purposes; and make improvements to DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance.

The Conservation Statement includes a section on the historical background of Preston and of the Court House building. This comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Preston, the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston, and the archives and library held at the Harris Library and at OA North. A visual assessment was also made of the historic fabric of the building, comprising both a written and photographic survey of the building. This was to provide a lasting record of the museum, prior to the intended programme of alterations and renovations.

The statement identified a number of issues that need to be addressed, ranging from the condition of the building, to the collections exhibited at the museum. These issues have been developed into outline policies, which should inform and integrate with the future management of the museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Chris Coxhead and John Bellwood, of the Lancashire County Property Group within Lancashire County Council, and Charlotte Steels and Stephen Bull at the Museum of Lancashire, for commissioning and supporting the project. Thanks are also expressed to the staff of the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, and the Harris Museum library. OA North is especially grateful to David Prowse, for sharing his considerable knowledge of the museum building.

The Conservation Statement was undertaken by Kathryn Blythe and Chris Ridings, and the drawings were produced by Marie Rowland. The project was managed by Ian Miller, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 The Museum of Lancashire has devised proposals to update and improve facilities within the museum, which is situated on Stanley Street in Preston (NGR SD 5474 2965). The aim is to improve physical and intellectual access to the building and collections of the museum, which will include renewal of displays and the upgrading of the disabled access and visitor facilities, as well as redecorating. The regeneration of the museum would represent an important element of several schemes that are presently being considered to improve the cultural status of Preston, including the Preston Tithebarn Regeneration Project, which lies a short distance to the west of the Museum of Lancashire. It is envisaged that the proposed improvements to the museum will enable it to provide a gateway to heritage sites and information across the county.
- 1.1.2 The Museum of Lancashire is housed within a Grade II listed building that was originally Preston Court House, with many original features still retained. However, the lack of investment in the past 20 years has resulted in the museum displays and decoration becoming out-dated. The current visitor facilities are inadequate, affecting the overall visitor experience. The improvement scheme is intended to:
- create a new multi-functional Welcome Gallery, which will serve as a retail, café and information point for visitors, with displays presenting an overview of the history of Lancashire, and which signposts visitors to other heritage sites across the county;
 - redisplay the Queen's Lancashire Regimental galleries to create World War One, and War and Peace galleries;
 - redisplay gallery and corridor areas to tell new stories relating to the County Palatine, archaeology, history of the building, and law and order;
 - improve signage and orientation around the building;
 - provide drop-in IT facilities for research purposes; and
 - make improvements to Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliancy including: reorganisation of the toilet block to create a new DDA compliant disabled persons WC; installation of electronic doors to the main entrance; and creation of a ramp to enable access between ground floor levels.
- 1.1.3 To aid the work proposed at the Museum of Lancashire, a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant is being applied for. This Conservation Statement is intended to inform and support that funding application.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The aim of this Conservation Statement is to provide information to the HLF to help assess the significance of the heritage asset of the Museum of Lancashire and to determine the impact of the proposed works. The Conservation Statement also seeks to demonstrate that any funding granted for the proposed refurbishment and redevelopment works will benefit the conservation of the museum for both the short and long term. The principal aim of the Conservation Statement is to ensure that the significance of the Museum of Lancashire is retained in any redevelopment and refurbishment of the building. The objectives of the Conservation Statement are:

- to provide information to HLF with regards to the significance of the heritage assets;
- to carry out an impact assessment of the proposed redevelopment scheme and advise as appropriate on suitability;
- to demonstrate that the proposed refurbishment and redevelopment work will benefit the conservation of the museum in both the short and long term;
- to demonstrate that the proposed redevelopment work will contribute towards work relating to access, learning and enjoyment; and
- to inform future management and care of the museum building.

2.1.2 Due to the nature of the monument and the proposed work, the Conservation Statement will address the following issues:

- the preservation and promotion of the Grade II building, and its development from Sessions House to museum;
- the assessment and development of the recreational and research potential of the museum;
- the management of the conservation of the building, and any problems not yet perceived;
- the management of the preservation of the historic fabric over recreational demands; and
- the physical condition, public access, orientation, interpretation and display of the building and contents.

2.1.3 In particular, the Conservation Statement will address two main issues: the historical background and significance of the site; and an assessment of the historic fabric of the building.

2.2 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 2.2.1 **Listed Buildings:** under Section I of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 the Secretary of State for National Heritage is required to compile lists of special architectural or historic interest on advice from English Heritage (EH). Listed buildings are classified in Grades according to their importance and are afforded protection as a means of planning control. Therefore, such buildings cannot be demolished, altered or extended in a way that would affect its architectural or historic character unless listed building consent has been obtained from the local planning authority. Similarly, unlisted buildings in conservation areas are also protected from demolition without consent. The local planning authority would consult EH prior to granting permission for listed building consent or conservation area consent. The Museum of Lancashire is a Grade II Listed building (392166); the listing is provided in full in *Appendix 1*. The listing states that the building forms a group with the prison annexe, also Grade II Listed (392165), therefore the listing for this building is also provided. St Mary's Church (392154) is also part of the museum site, although outwith the refurbishment area, and the listing for this building is also included in *Appendix 1*.
- 2.2.2 **Planning Policy Context:** in order to be able to consider the restrictions or requirements for the proposed development, it is necessary to understand the relevant policies, both at a national and local level. Planning policy at a national level is provided by *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG15): Planning and the Historic Environment* (Department of Environment 1994). The local planning policy is provided by the development plan, in this case, the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Lancashire Structure Plan and the Preston Local Plan.
- 2.2.3 **National Planning Policy:** PPG15 was formally issued in September 1994. It contains guidance on the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other elements of the historic environment. Its overall aim is to balance the need for development with the protection of the historic environment. Accordingly, new development should be considered in relation to its impact upon any features of historic importance. Developers are encouraged to consult with the local planning authority and other statutory bodies at any early stage for development proposals that may affect historic sites, particularly those affecting Statutory Designated sites (conservation areas and listed buildings). PPG15 includes a range of considerations, which should be taken into account when a proposed development has the potential to affect a listed building.
- 2.2.4 **Regional Spatial Strategy:** The North West Regional Assembly submitted the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West of England (*The North West Plan*) in January 2006. An independent panel held an Examination in Public (EiP), regarding the draft plan. The EiP's report was published in May 2007, and provided recommendations for changes to the draft plan. The Secretary of State has now considered the EiP's report and, in March 2008, published the *Proposed Changes to the North West of England's Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)*, for further consultation. Policy EM1

(C), Integrated Enhancement and Protection of the Region's Environmental Assets, deals with the historic environment, and states that plans, strategies, proposals and schemes should protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, supporting conservation-led regeneration areas rich in historic interest.

2.2.5 *Joint Lancashire Structure Plan (Lancashire County Council, 2006b):*

Policy 21: Lancashire's Natural and Man-made Heritage section of the Structure Plan sets out a hierarchy of designations of international, national, regional, county and local importance. The strongest level of protection will be afforded to heritage resources of international and national importance (listed buildings are considered to be of national importance). Sites, areas and features of heritage importance will be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced by taking account of:

- their rarity, vulnerability, antiquity or complexity;
- their contribution to the county network of sites and features, to the character of their location and setting, and to national and county biodiversity; and
- positive opportunities afforded by development for the conservation, management or enhancement of heritage resources.

2.2.6 The underlying principle of this policy is that, as a minimum, there should be 'no net loss' of environmental value arising from any development. The policy also looks to harness the development process as a force for positive conservation of heritage assets.

2.2.7 *Preston Local Plan (Kuit 2004):* Policy C6: Alteration of Listed Buildings - states that consent will be given for alterations or extensions to listed buildings provided that they:

- preserve the special character of the building;
- are appropriate in design, siting, scale, materials and colours to the rest of the building and its setting;
- retain the special features of the building, both internal and external; and
- minimise any adverse effects on the layout of the building and its associated spaces, or its historic or architectural interest.

2.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND - SOURCES

- 2.3.1 The principal sources of information consulted during the compilation of the historical background were primary documents relating to the Museum of Lancashire building, historical maps of the site and its immediate vicinity, together with published and unpublished secondary sources.
- 2.3.2 **Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER):** the Lancashire County Historic Environment Record (HER) held in Preston, was consulted for the listed designation of the Museum of Lancashire building, the former Governor's House at the prison, and St Mary's Church to the east of the former Court House.
- 2.3.3 **Lancashire County Record Office, Preston (LRO):** Lancashire County Record Office in Preston was visited to examine published and manuscript maps relating to the location of the Museum of Lancashire. Primary documents and secondary published sources were also consulted.
- 2.3.4 **Harris Museum:** the Local Studies library in the Harris Museum was consulted to examine secondary published sources and photographs. The museum's photo collection was also searched for historic photographs of the former Court House.
- 2.3.5 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.4 HISTORIC FABRIC ASSESSMENT

- 2.4.1 **Descriptive Record:** written records using OA North *pro-forma* record sheets were made of all principal building elements, both internal and external, as well as any features of historical or architectural significance. Particular attention was also paid to the relationship between the earliest and latest parts of the building, especially those that would show their development and any alterations. These records are essentially descriptive, although interpretation is carried out on site as required.
- 2.4.2 **Photographs:** photographs were taken using a high resolution digital format (10MP) camera. The photographic archive consists of both general shots of the former Court House, as well as shots of specific architectural details.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1.1 The Museum of Lancashire is situated to the north-east of Stanley Street, which lies on the east side of Preston city centre, Lancashire (NGR SD 5474 2965). The former Court House, in which the public area of the museum is located, is bounded to the north by Preston Prison. A short distance to the south is Pennine House, a modern 'T'-shaped office block. To the east, the former Court House is joined by an elevated glass corridor to a former TA Centre, now used as offices and stores. St Mary's church, also part of the museum complex and used currently as Lancashire County Council's Conservation Centre, is located to the east of these buildings.



Plate 1: Aerial view showing the former Court House outlined in red, with the Museum Headquarters and St Mary's church to the east, and the prison to the north

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Medieval Period:** the regional significance of Preston at the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 is attested by its position as the head of the Amounderness Hundred (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 99ff). The Hundred (the territorial delimitation that preceded the borough) is first recorded in King Aethelstan's gift of land to St Peter's Church in York, dated *c* 930 (Fishwick 1900, 10). At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, the Hundred was registered as part of Yorkshire, a legacy of its Northumbrian heritage, being held prior to the Conquest by the ill-fated Earl Tosti. William the Conqueror bestowed the territory upon Roger de Poitou. Preston's part in the resistance

against Norman rule and its subsequent suppression may be suggested by the Domesday record of 'few inhabitants' and 'wasted towns' (*op cit*, 11).

- 3.2.2 The early settlement at Preston appears to have been centred around the church of St John the Divine, which was not recorded in the Domesday survey but may predate the Norman Conquest (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). The first reference to the church was in 1094, at which time it was dedicated to St Wilfred; the name 'St John' may only have become associated with the church in the late sixteenth century following the reformation, although there are suggestions that the current name may date to as early as the thirteenth century (Hewitson 1883). Although the medieval church appears to have been replaced by a later building in the sixteenth century, the south-eastern side of the original church enclosure may have been preserved by the line of Shepherd Street (Lancashire County Council 2006a, 18).
- 3.2.3 Preston was granted borough status in a charter of the early twelfth century, issued by Roger de Poitou (Knight 1986), and was a free borough that was governed by an elected body drawn from the Burgesses, rather than falling under manorial control (Fishwick 1900). This borough would have been contrived as a planned settlement consisting of a double row of burgage plots and dwellings extending from the co-axial frontage of Fishergate and Church Street (Lancashire County Council 2006a, 19). The eastern town barr, or gate, stood approximately at the junction of the current Church Street and Manchester Road, and survived until the seventeenth century (Hardwick 1857). Following Roger de Poitou's part in the rebellion against Henry I, the borough, part of the Honour of Lancaster, was forfeited to the Crown. The Honour remained under royal control until its alienation during the Wars of the Roses in the fifteenth century.
- 3.2.4 One of the earliest market places in Preston, possibly dating to the twelfth century, may have been situated in the area where Fishergate and Church Street merge, before being relocated to the north of Fishergate, to the south end of the current Market Place (Fishwick 1900). The town hall stood at the southern side of the market place until at least 1377, and a row of butcher's shops stood below the hall, while the Market Place contained the Buttercross and Market Cross (Hewitson 1883). Documentary evidence shows that in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the town hosted numerous traders and craftsmen, such as chaloners, millers, saddlers, spicers, wrights, tailors, smiths, and tavern-keepers (Hunt 1992). The wealthy status of the borough was also supported by the import and export of goods that was enabled by the growth of the port on the River Ribble, which appears to have been a recognised asset in the fourteenth century (Lancashire County Council 2006a, 19).
- 3.2.5 In the early fourteenth century, the town was subject to sporadic Scottish raids and was razed in 1322. Preston later fell to the ravages of the bubonic plague, with outbreaks recorded in the town and its environs in 1349-50, 1361 and 1369 (Hunt 2003, 31-2). Towards the end of the medieval period the textile trade in wool and linen had become established in the town and, by 1720, cloth production was the largest profession in the locality (Hunt 2003, 49). This legacy was to have a profound effect upon Preston's development as it entered the era of the Industrial Revolution.

- 3.2.6 **Post-medieval Period:** Preston emerged as a prosperous legal and administrative centre in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, attracting the residences of local aristocracy and professionals (Morgan 1990, 27). It was also a focus for conflict; during the English Civil War, battles were fought in and around the town. During the First Civil War, Preston was taken by the Parliamentarians in February 1643, to be recaptured by the Cavaliers in June of that year (Hunt 2003, 35-6). Following the first engagement, the Parliamentary forces strengthened the defences of Preston, which had reputedly comprised brick wall fortifications, although no evidence of these walls has been found (Lancashire County Council 2006a, 22). A second confrontation took place during the Second Civil War, when the Battle of Preston was fought on 17th August 1648. A Royalist force, commanded by the Marquis of Langdale, was stationed on Ribblesdale Moor, in the vicinity of the later Fulwood Barracks, to protect the east flank of a larger army of Scots raised by the Duke of Hamilton. At the time of the battle, Hamilton's force, marching south to meet the King, was dispersed across a wide swathe of Lancashire. Cromwell's Parliamentary forces approached from Wetherby and attacked the Scots at a vulnerable crossing point on the River Ribble. Fighting was widespread across the region, and the Royalists were driven back through Preston. In the night and day manoeuvres that followed, the Royalist cause was destroyed and dispersed across the Midlands: Hamilton and Langdale were both captured and eventually beheaded (Hardwick 1882). A hoard of sixteenth and seventeenth century silver coins found on Fulwood Moor in 1812 may be considered a reflection of the economic and political insecurity felt in the region in the period (Taylor 1966, 47-8).
- 3.2.7 Another conflict was fought around the Preston environs during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715. A Scottish force took the town in September 1715, and proclaimed for 'James III' on 9th November. Following the intervention of an English army there was house-to-house fighting in the town before the Jacobites surrendered (Hunt 2003, 36-7).
- 3.2.8 Although the town did not expand far beyond the medieval boundaries in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, development within the town altered its medieval character (Lancashire County Council 2006a, 22). The medieval burgh plots were subdivided and poorer dwellings were often situated behind the facade that fronted Fishergate and Church Street (*ibid*); this development would have been restricted to the Fishergate, Church Street, and Friargate area of the town. The limited expansion beyond the medieval town footprint comprised ribbon-development at the eastern end of Church Street, on Tithebarn Street and Lord Street (OA North 2007). The development of Preston during the seventeenth century included the erection of well-built and fashionable brick and stone houses to cater for wealthy occupants, such as the earl of Derby who owned Patten House (located approximately on the east side of the modern day Pole Street) from 1688 (Hunt 1992).
- 3.2.9 The Industrial Revolution brought dramatic change to Preston. The town had become a principal corn-milling centre by the late eighteenth century, but by 1857 was a centre for cotton production, with 75 textile mills having been constructed in the vicinity (Dickinson 2002). Many burgesses were also

involved with other aspects of the textile industry, beyond the cotton industry, through their interests in wool, flax, and linen, and the trade in Irish linen had been a factor in the local economy since at least 1543 (*ibid*). Cloth merchants began to build weaving cottages in the late eighteenth century, including houses with cellar loomshops in Mount Pleasant and higher quality accommodation, featuring separate loomshops, was built by the Horrockses at New Hall Lane (*ibid*). Powered mills were first built in Preston from 1777 (*ibid*) although, as they predated the widespread introduction of mechanical looms (Jones 1996, 233), hand weaving remained a valued and skilled occupation, as demonstrated by the investment in weaver's cottages.

3.2.10 The application of steam power to textile manufacturing in Preston in the late eighteenth century was enabled by the supply of coal from Wigan, which had become available with the opening of the River Douglas Navigation in 1742 (Clarke 1994, 43). The first power looms were introduced in 1824 and, by 1856, 37 of the 75 mills in Preston were engaged in both spinning and weaving, with a further 23 being used solely for weaving (Dickinson 2002). In addition to cotton mills, flax mills were also present in Preston, although by 1856 only two flax mills and one worsted manufacturer remained (*ibid*). John Horrocks was one of the most successful mill owners in Preston, with the company owning ten mills by 1862, having become the largest textile manufacturer in the town, and one of the most important in Lancashire (OA North forthcoming).

3.2.11 To meet the new demand for labour instigated by this industrial growth in the nineteenth century, the population of Preston expanded from 10,000 in 1800, to 70,000 in 1850, and 110,000 in 1900 (Hunt 2003, 50). Such population trends necessitated unprecedented urban expansion in England's new industrial centres (Plate 2), with terraced housing built to accommodate the workers and their families. Quality of life deteriorated as disease manifested in the densely packed working-class residential areas, and infant mortality increased (Morgan 1990). This was matched by hazards in the factory, emanating from dangerous machinery, long working hours and irregular employment. Social deprivation and resentment against such conditions resulted in sporadic revolts amongst the workers. A Chartist movement was formed in Preston in the 1830s, and organised strikes followed in 1838 (Hunt 1992, 184). In the Preston region, gatherings were frequently centred on the Moor, with demands for increased wages and improved working conditions. The military and police were frequently employed to disperse such uprisings, which occasionally turned violent and forced the closure of mills (*ibid*). Martello towers were built on the corners of the prison walls in 1832 to prevent attacks (Pollard 1882, 133). In 1842, 12 Chartist protestors were shot in Preston by the military that invoked the Riot Act (Hunt 1992, 184). The following year, work was begun on the construction of Fulwood Barracks on the Moor: its siting is unlikely to have been coincidental. The barracks housed a regiment of infantry, two troops of cavalry and 46 artillerymen, equating to approximately 1200 men in total (Douet 1998).



Plate 2: Extract of the Ordnance Survey first edition 6" map, surveyed in 1844-7, showing the extent of urban development by the mid-nineteenth century

3.3 HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM OF LANCASHIRE BUILDING

- 3.3.1 In the seventeenth century the mayor, ex-mayor, senior alderman and recorder, were designated by the Second Charter of Charles II as Justices of the Peace for Preston Borough, and constituted the Court of Quarter Sessions (Clemesha 1912, 235). Quarter sessions were held in January, April, July and October each year, and were held to try criminal cases from the Hundreds of Leyland, Blackburn and Amounderness (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). This court dealt with petty offences, whereas capital and serious offences were dealt with at the Court of Assize at Lancaster Castle. This court also granted licences for inns, appointed the supervisors of the highways, and dealt with appeals to rate assessments. Resolutions regarding county financial matters were also periodically heard at the court (Hewitson 1883, 265; Clemesha 1912, 235).
- 3.3.2 Preston Prison, or House of Correction, was designed by William Blackburn in 1784, and built subsequently on a plot of land named 'Garlick Fields' to the east of Church Street (Fig 3; LRO QGB/2/5), and opened in 1789 (Pollard 1882, 132). The Court House for the Preston Quarter Sessions was located within the House of Correction. Prior to this, Preston Friary, located towards the north-west of the town had been used as a House of Correction (Hardwick 1857, 211), and is named as such on Lieutenant General Carpenter and Major General Wills' map (building labelled 'R') of 1715 (Fig 2). It is thought that the friary, having been a private house since the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, was a prison from 1680 until 1789, when it reverted to being a private house (OA North 2008).

- 3.3.3 In 1824, it was decided that the Court House within the House of Correction was too small and the justices decided to spend £10,000 on new premises, which was to be located outside of the prison walls. Whilst it appears that several firms were invited to submit proposals for the building, the Birmingham-based architects Rickman and Hutchinson were ultimately commissioned to design and build the new Court House, which opened in 1828, although it was not fully completed until 1829 (Hunt 1992). The LRO holds plans and the specification for the Court House, including those devised by Rickman and Hutchinson and other architects (LRO QSV/12), as well as the accounts for the construction of the building (LRO QSV/9).
- 3.3.4 Thomas Rickman (1776-1841) was one of the most prominent architects of the time, and also designed other buildings in Preston, including the former St Paul's Church on the Ringway, and St Peter's Church, which is now the University Arts Centre. Rickman is noted for his classification of the gothic architectural style, and his classification system, including the terms 'Early English', 'Decorated' and 'Perpendicular', is still used today (Sartin 1988, 77). His style was frequently influenced by the architecture of medieval buildings. Henry Hutchinson (1800-1831) studied under Rickman, and then became his business partner; works of Rickman and Hutchinson include the gothic screen at St John's College, Cambridge (1825-31), and Hutchinson is also famous for designing The Bridge of Sighs at St John's in 1831 (http://www.e-architect.co.uk/cambridge/st_johns_college_cambridge.htm).
- 3.3.5 The Court House was constructed in Longridge Sandstone and was Neo-Classical in style, a departure from Rickman's usual style. The main entrance is in the style of a Roman triumphal arch (Plate 3) and the Stanley Street entrance, labelled as 'magistrate's side entrance' on the plans, has a porch of Tuscan columns (Plate 4). The current main hall was the original court room, above which was a glass dome. The magistrate would have sat at the far end of the main hall facing the main entrance, and spectators would have sat in a public balcony directly opposite. The magistrate's rooms were located on the west side of the building, which meant that the magistrate could enter the building through his own entrance and reside in his own rooms before entering the court room (Plate 5). These rooms are vaulted, paved with flagstones, and once had walls lined with mahogany (<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues/mol>). On the east side of the building were the 'Grand Jury Room', and a room for witnesses (Plate 6). There are several variations of the proposed ground floor plan of the building, which include an entrance from the prison into the court and cells. The titles of these plans '*Proposed plan of court for Preston House of Correction*' (Plate 6) and '*Ground plan of entrance for Preston Sessions House*' (Plates 7 and 8), suggests that they were produced at different times, with Plate 6 possibly representing the earliest of the three. It should be noted that these are proposed plans, some of which were devised by architects other than Rickman and Hutchinson, and thus do not necessarily reflect the final internal layout of the building in all areas. For instance, the ground floor plans (Plates 7 and 8) show a central corridor named 'carriage entrance into gaol', whilst the building was actually connected to the prison yard by foot through a narrow passage; these two plans are signed by a Thomas Wright.

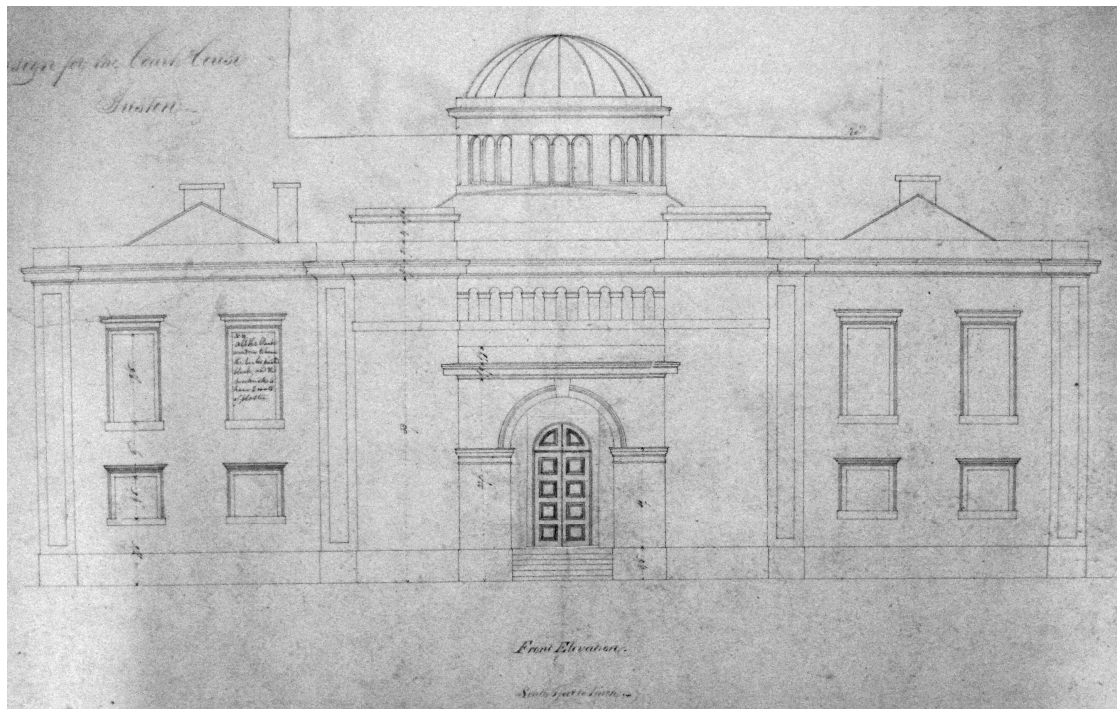


Plate 3: Proposed front elevation for Preston Sessions House, Rickman and Hutchinson, 1825 (LRO QSV/12)

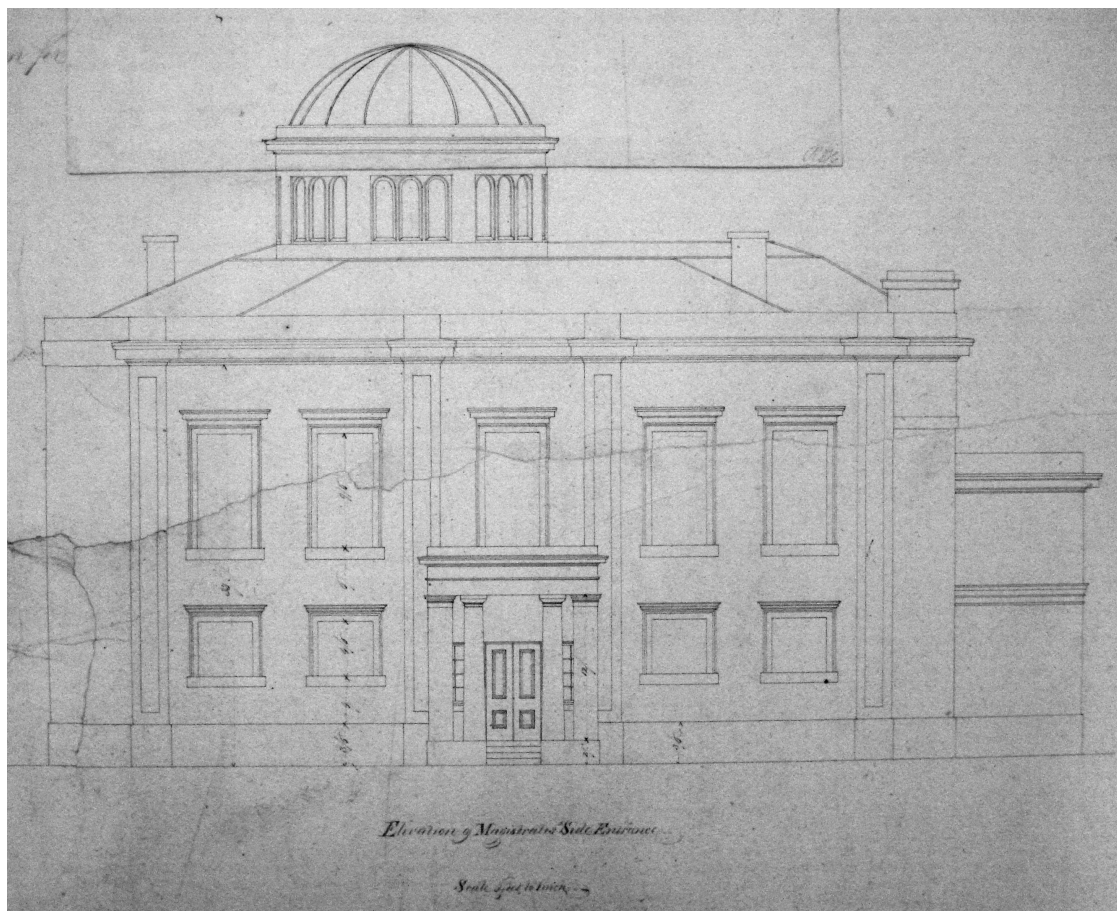


Plate 4: Proposed elevation of magistrate's side entrance for Preston Sessions House, Rickman and Hutchinson, 1825 (LRO QSV/12)

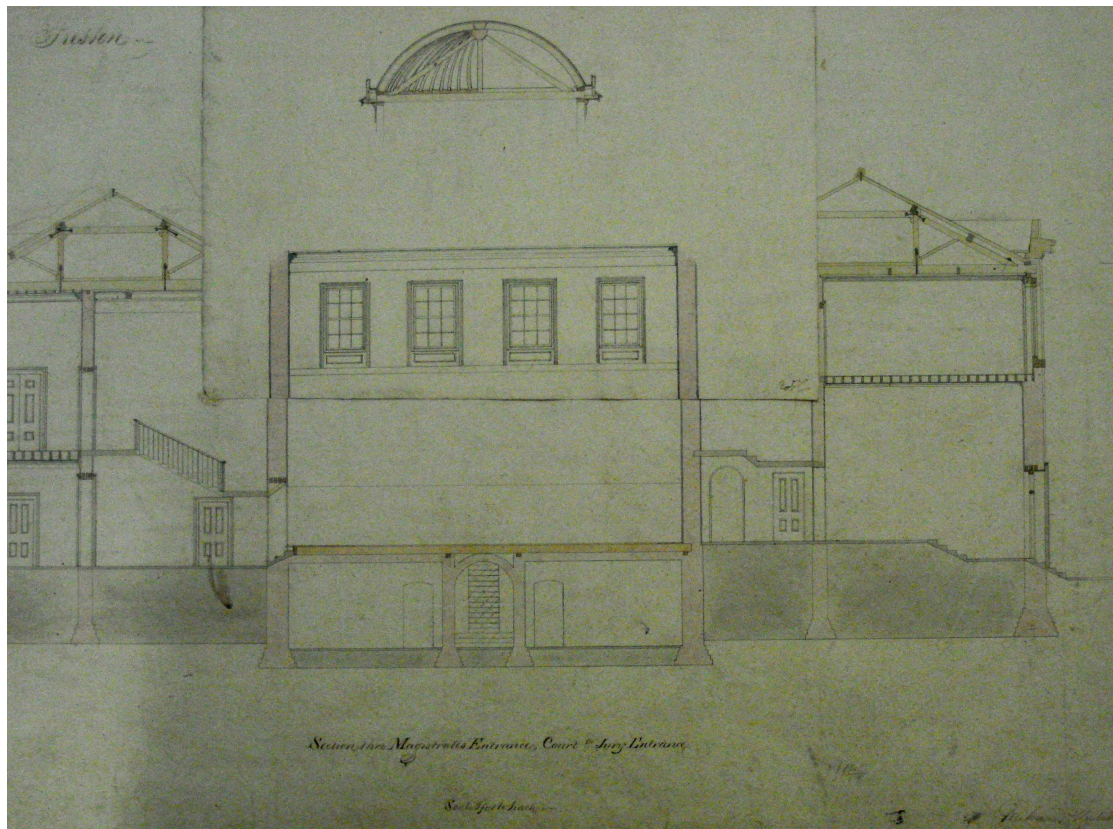


Plate 5: Proposed section of magistrate's entrance, court and jury entrance for Preston Sessions House, Rickman and Hutchinson, 1825 (LRO QSV/12)

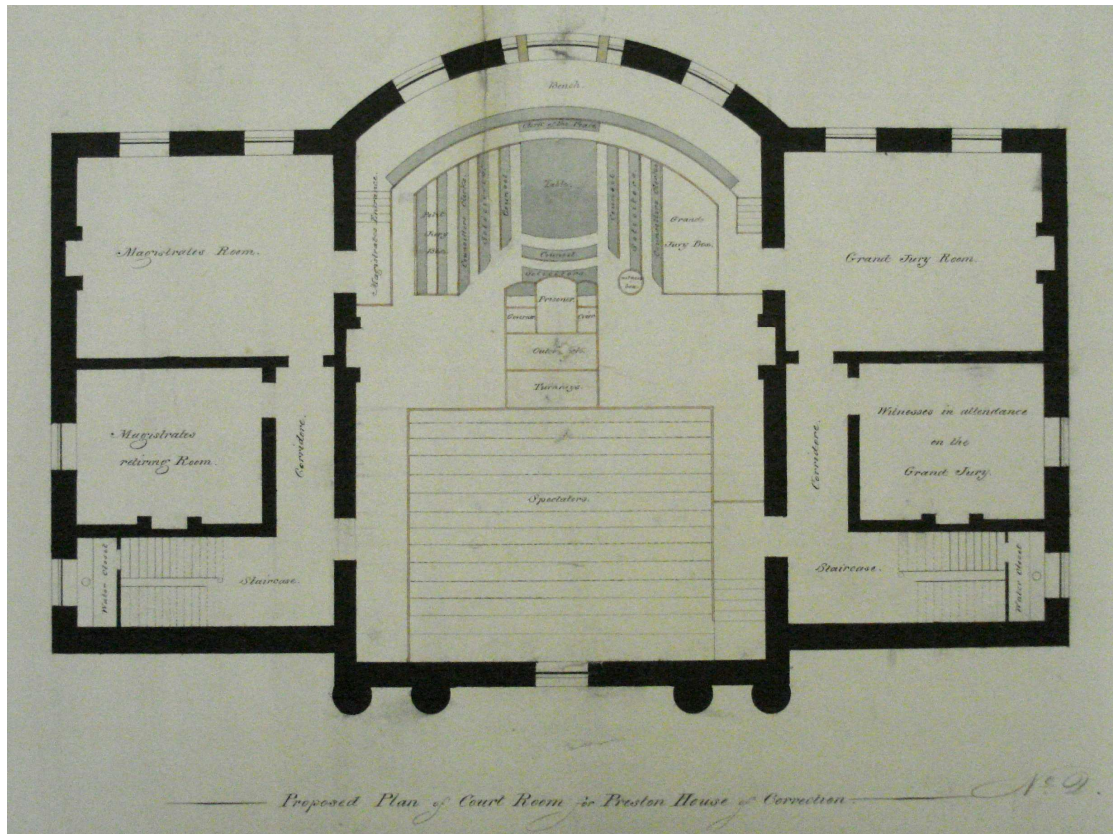


Plate 6: Proposed plan of court room in Preston House of Correction, Thomas Wright, June 1824 (LRO QSV/12)

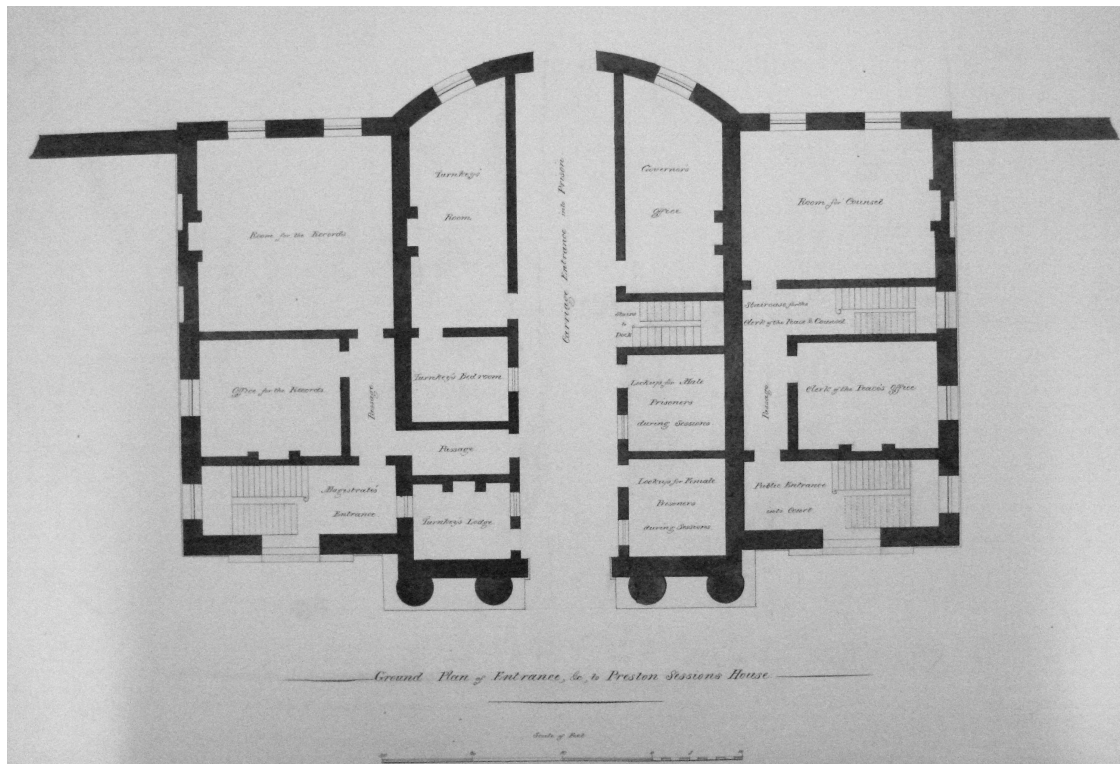


Plate 7: Proposed ground plan of entrance etc. for Preston Sessions House, Thomas Wright, June 1824 (LRO QSV/12)

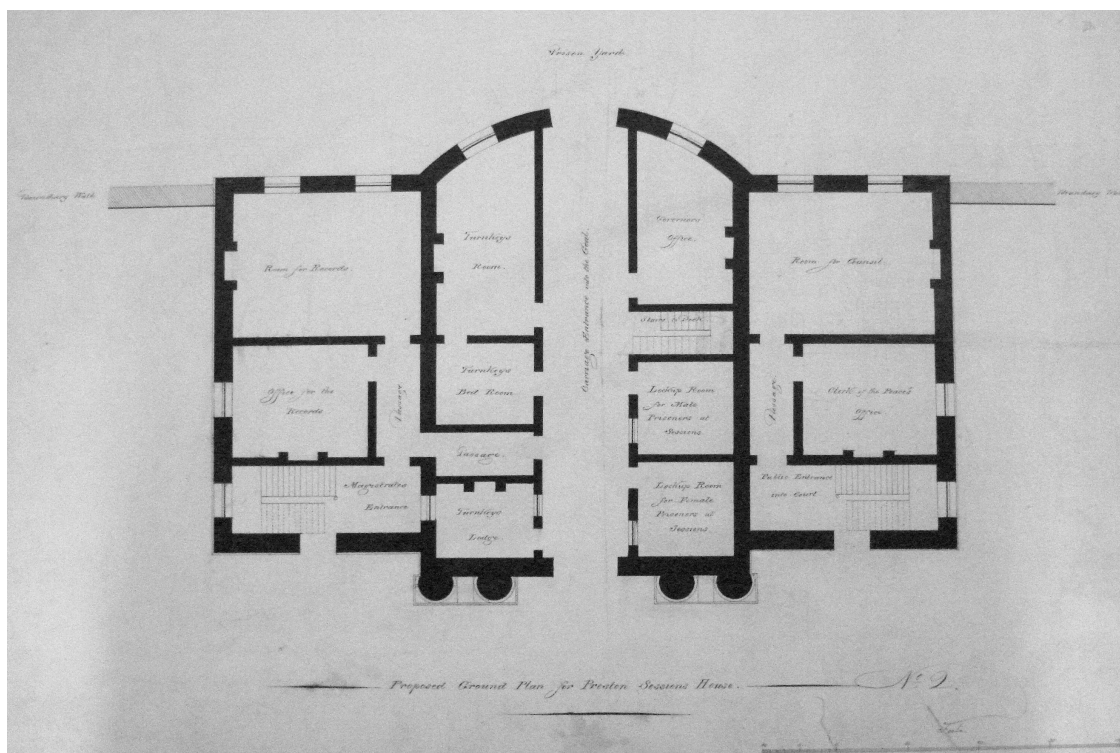


Plate 8: Proposed ground plan for Preston Sessions House, Thomas Wright, June 1824 (LRO QSV/12)

- 3.3.6 The glass dome on top of the building became unsafe and was removed in 1849 and replaced by the current rectangular ceiling light designed by George Latham (Sartin 1988, 77-8; Sartin 2002, 25). According to Hewitson (1883, 265), the dome removed in 1849 was replaced with a new dome, which was finally replaced by the rectangular ceiling light in 1870.
- 3.3.7 In 1834, the Governor's House was built outside the west wall of the prison, facing Church Street. A Militia Stores was built to the south of the Court House 20 years later. This was a quadrangular building of brick, with square towers at its corners (Plate 9), and incorporated apartments for the commanding officer and various staff, as well as stores and stables (Hardwick 1857, 441; Pevsner 1969, 197).



Plate 9: Engraving from 1856, showing the Governor's House at the prison and the court house (Hardwick 1857, 434)

- 3.3.8 In 1857, Hardwick in his *History of the Borough of Preston*, explained that in addition to the quarter sessions, four intermediate sessions took place annually 'for the greater dispatch of business' (Hardwick 1857, 499). The county magistrates met at the Court House annually, where the general business of the court was transacted (*ibid*). Mr Thomas Batty Addison was Chairman of the principal court from its opening until 1874. He was known as 'The Terror of the Criminal' and was a prominent Preston man, who also was a key founder and president of the Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge, which later became the University of Central Lancashire (Hewitson 1883, 265).
- 3.3.9 A great deal of business was done at the Court House, and in 1861 the building was extended to the east to create a second, smaller, court room to deal with the demand (Hewitson 1883, 265). A corridor (Plate 10) was also constructed on the south side of this new building, although this was removed in the 1960s ([http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues/mol](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues/mol;);

Hardwick 1857, 441). This building also has a basement (Plate 11), which connects to the original building and included rooms used as cells.



Plate 10: Photograph from 1938 showing the old Court House (Harris Library photo 3/072438199)

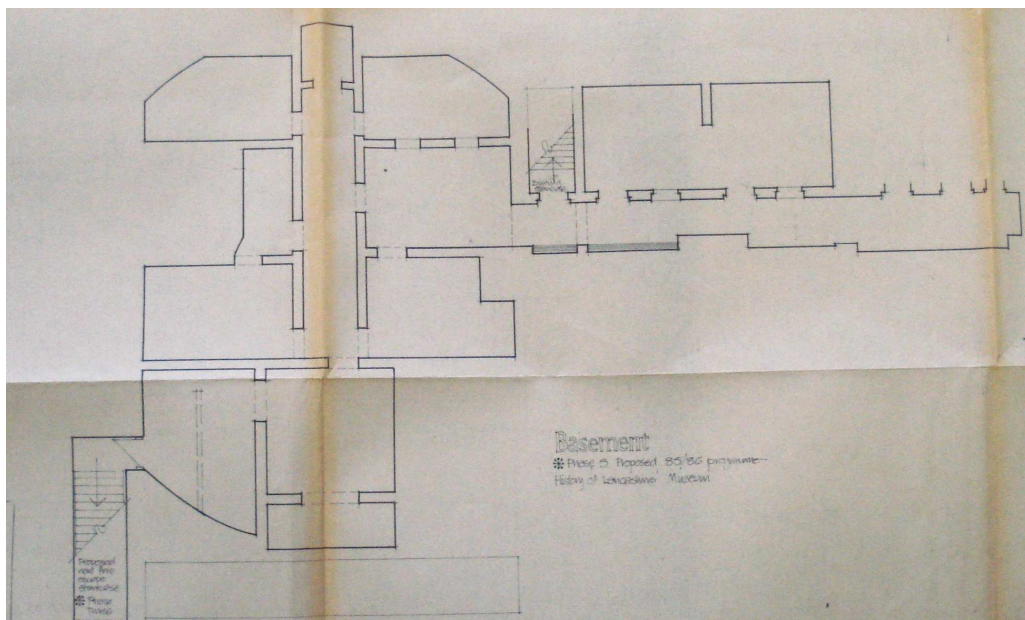


Plate 11: Plan of basement made during proposed conversion of Old Sessions House to Museum, 1982 (LRO LAU 6/4/11750)

3.3.10 In 1883, Hewitson wrote that in addition to the quarter and intermediate sessions, the County Court, which opened in 1847, was held at the Court House every fortnight (Hewitson 1883, 264-5). The general jurisdiction of the County Court was limited to 40 shillings (£2), whilst a writ, called a 'justices', was issued for the recovery of larger amounts, generally up to £10; more serious cases were heard at the Assize Court in Lancaster (Clemesha 1912, 37). In 1883, portraits of Thomas Clayton and Thomas Addison hung in

the main court, both men having been county magistrates at the court (Hewitson 1883, 265). At this time, however, it was felt that the Court House was located too far from the town centre and, consequently, a new sessions house was opened in 1900 on Lancaster Road, all court business was carried out at this new building from then on (<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues/mol>).

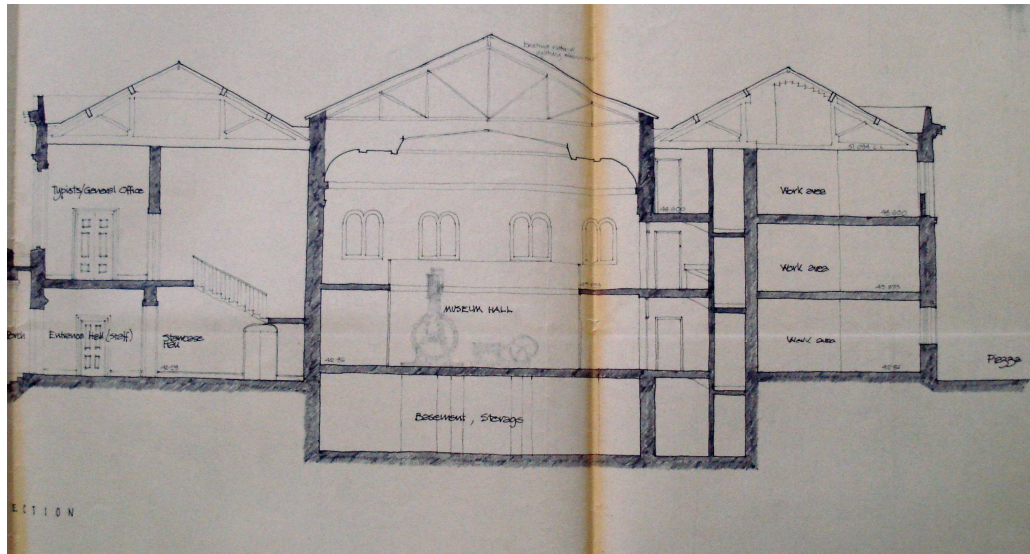
- 3.3.11 Between 1911 and 1958, the Court House building became the headquarters of the Territorial Unit of the Royal Artillery (<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues/mol>). A photograph taken on August 18th 1914 shows the Second West Lancashire Royal Field Artillery in front of the old Court House (Plate 12). An aerial photograph from 1938 also shows the old Court House at this time, and radial layout of the prison buildings (www.lantern.lancashire.gov.uk - record number 642).



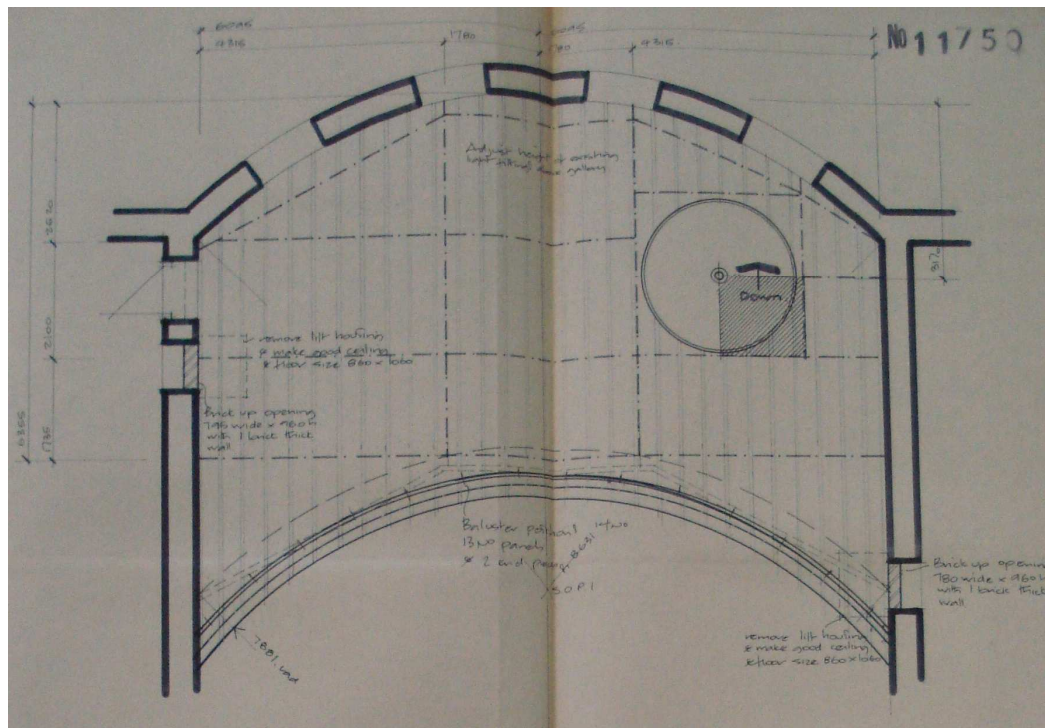
Plate 12: View of the Court House in 1914

- 3.3.12 Between 1958 and 1961 the building was converted into offices, which were used by the Vehicle Taxation Department. Two documents held by the LRO list in detail the repair work carried out at this time, together with its cost (LRO CCGJ/20; LRO CCGJ/21). This also includes an account of how the basement had been used as a dump for the Royal Artillery, and was full of items such as unwanted furniture, old muskets and Mills Practice Grenades (LRO CCGJ/20). It was at this time that the 1861 corridor on the east end of the south face of the building was replaced with the current corridor.
- 3.3.13 Plans for the conversion of the building into a museum were drawn up between 1979 and 1983 (LRO LAU 6/4/11750; Plates 13-15). This included the construction of the display gallery and spiral staircase in the main hall, opposite the main entrance. The former TA centre was also refurbished at this

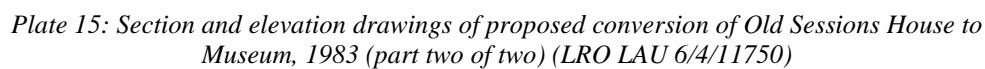
time to provide rooms for storage, conservation and other museum offices (LRO LAU 6/4/4293). In 1987, after extensive renovations by Lancashire County Council, the building opened as the Museum of Lancashire.



*Plate 13: Section drawing of proposed conversion of Old Sessions House to Museum, 1979
(LRO LAU 6/4/11750)*



*Plate 14: Section drawing of proposed conversion of Old Sessions House to Museum, 1983
(part one of two) (LRO LAU 6/4/11750)*



3.4 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.4.1 ***Kuerdan 1684 (LRO DDX/194/1):*** Dr Richard Kuerdan's plan of the historic core of Preston is the earliest available map of the central Preston area. It is significant, not only because of its early date, but because it almost certainly records what was essentially the medieval layout of the town. In the late seventeenth century the town comprised Church Street, Friargate, Back Lane, the Market Place, St John's Street/Tithebarn Street and Lord Street. The presence of a Back Lane (later known as Market Street) might indicate that this was the earlier medieval core of the industrial settlement of Preston. Linear plots are recorded emanating from many of the streets and the buildings fronting the streets. This is a recognisable pattern of medieval development of towns with burgage plots following ribbon development along the main streets. Although it is somewhat schematic in appearance, the plan shows the relative shape of the buildings, the extent of developed area and the compiler's objective of recording the names of the burgage plot holders. It is, therefore, important evidence documenting the late medieval and post-medieval core of the town.
- 3.4.2 The eastern extent of the map shows the junction between Stanley Street and Ribbleton Lane, although the land on which the Museum of Lancashire building was later located is not shown. This area was clearly outside the core of the town at this time, although there are a few buildings depicted at the east end of Church Street, and to the north of Ribbleton Lane.
- 3.4.3 ***Lieutenant General Carpenter and Major General Wills' plan of 1715 (LRO DDPR 141/1) (Fig 2):*** this map portrays the battle that took place around Preston during the first Jacobite Rebellion of 1715, making the town centre a battle site. The plan depicts the town, not dissimilar to that shown on Kuerdan's plan of 1684, although there is less detailed depiction of buildings. Fields are depicted in some detail, showing them as either under cultivation or pasture, although it is arguable how accurate a portrayal this is. The site of the later Museum of Lancashire building is depicted as under cultivation at the eastern extent of the map. This map also shows the location of the House of Correction, which in 1715 was at Preston Friary at the western side of the town (labelled as 'R' on the map).
- 3.4.4 ***George Lang's map of 1774 (Fig 3):*** Lang's map was mostly concerned with the tenancy and ownership of fields surrounding Preston. The site of the later Museum of Lancashire building is named 'Garlick Fields', this area has been subdivided into smaller fields and two buildings are depicted on it, as well as a building at the junction of Stanley Street and Ribbleton Lane.
- 3.4.5 ***Yates' map of 1786 (Fig 4):*** although produced at a much smaller scale than Lang's map, Yates' map is useful as it depicts the extent of Preston at this time. Stanley Street and Ribbleton Lane are clearly depicted on the map, and a building is marked on Garlick Fields.
- 3.4.6 ***William Shakeshaft's map of 1808 (LRO DX 2044/147; Fig 5):*** this is the first map to depict the Prison, located within a triangular plot bounded to the south-west by Stanley Street, to the north-west by Ribbleton Lane, and to the

east by a new north/south-aligned track, which divides it from the fields further east. The small buildings shown on the earlier maps in this area appear to have been removed by the time of this mapping, and may have been cleared when the prison was constructed.

- 3.4.7 ***Baines' map of 1824 (Fig 6):*** this map is very similar to the earlier mapping, although the prison is now labelled as 'House of Correction'. Areas of formal gardens are shown in the north/south plots to the east of the building, and a formal garden is also depicted to the north of the prison in a triangular area, bounded to the north-west by Ribbleton Lane. New housing is depicted to the east of the prison, on the north side of New Hall Lane, which runs south of, and parallel with, Ribbleton Lane.
- 3.4.8 ***Myres, JJ, Map of the Town of Preston, 1836 (Fig 7):*** this is the first map to show the Court House, which is clearly incorporated within the southern boundary of the prison. A path heads southwards from it to Stanley Street, and another path from the Court House curves around the south-west corner of the prison and branches east to the prison and west to Church Street. On the west side of the prison the Governor's House is clearly depicted as a rectangular building outside of the prison walls. The Martello towers built on the corners of the prison walls in 1832 are shown for the first time on this mapping. Buildings are now shown along New Hall Lane, continuing west from the new rows of housing shown on the 1824 map to reach the junction of New Hall Lane with Stanley Street. St Mary's Church is also depicted a short distance to the south-east of the Court House, set back from the north side of New Hall Lane, and with a new road named Blacow Street running north/south, to its east.
- 3.4.9 ***Preston Tithe, 1840 (LRO DRB 1/157; Fig 8):*** this mapping is very similar to the 1836 mapping, although the depiction of individual buildings is much clearer.
- 3.4.10 ***Myres, JJ, Map of the Town of Preston, 1846 (LRO DDH 1045; Fig 9):*** the depiction of the layout of the Court House and Governor's House has not changed from that on the 1836 and 1840 mapping. However, the layout of the prison buildings has changed, most notably with a new north/south-aligned rectangular building shown to the north of the Court House.
- 3.4.11 ***Ordnance Survey map 5':1 mile, 1849 (Fig 10):*** this mapping is very detailed, showing the internal layout of the prison buildings and the Court House. Labelled areas of the prison include: men's workhouses, women's workrooms; men's and women's hospitals, wash houses, cells, the Matron's house, a store room, the chapel, the cookhouse and offices. The rectangular building to the north of the Court House comprises two rows of cells off a central corridor. None of the internal features of the Court House is labelled, but the roof dome, features within the court and internal divisions of the rooms on either side of it are depicted. This plan of the Court House is very similar to one of Rickman and Hutchinson's plans (Plate 16).

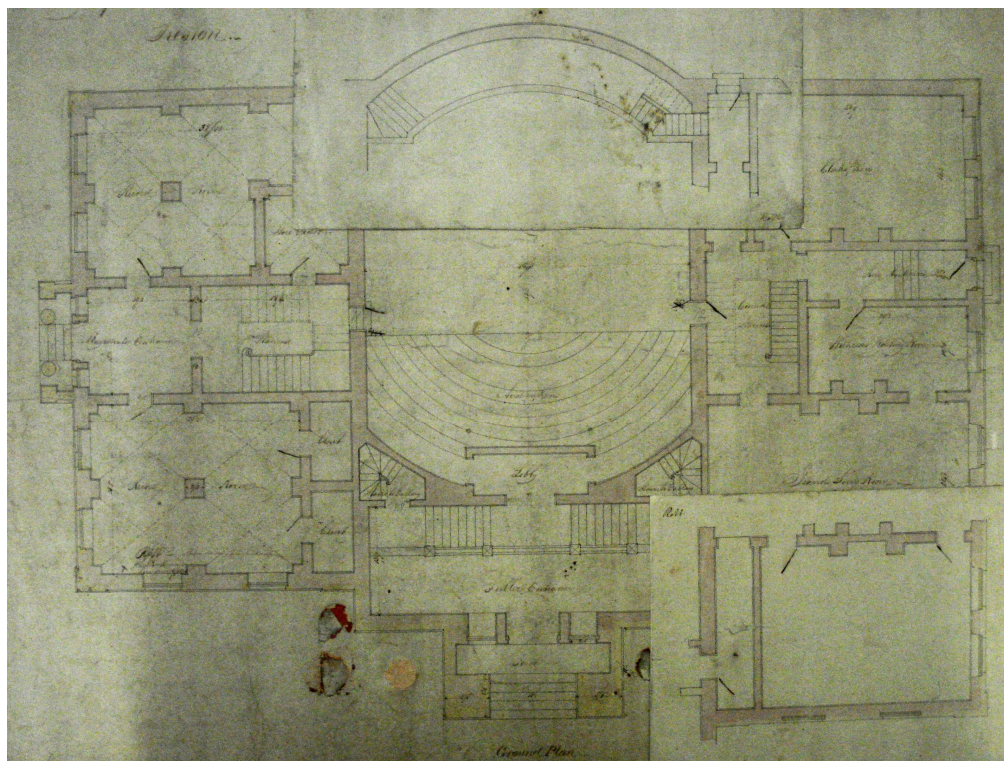


Plate 16: Proposed ground plan for Preston Sessions House, Rickman and Hutchinson, 1825 (LRO QSV/12)

- 3.4.12 **Brown's map of 1889 (Fig 11):** the Court House had been extended to the east by the time of this mapping, and the layout of the prison had also altered. The Martello towers on the corners of the prison walls were taken down in 1876 (Pollard 1882, 134), and these do not therefore appear on the map. The east side of the prison area now has three rectangular buildings in a radial layout, including the building to the immediate north of the Court House. This east side has therefore seen some demolition and rebuilding. The changes on the west side of the prison are less clear, some buildings appear to be the same ones as shown on earlier mapping, but others, particularly in the south-west corner, appear to be no longer extant. However, this mapping is less detailed than the OS mapping and should therefore be treated with caution. The Militia Stores, with a tower on each corner, is now shown to the south-west of St Mary's Church.
- 3.4.13 **Ordnance Survey map 10':1 mile, 1892 (Fig 12):** this map shows much more clearly the newly extended Court House. However, no detail of the prison is shown, the area is blank, and labelled 'Her Majesty's Prison'.
- 3.4.14 **Ordnance Survey map First Edition, 25":1 mile, 1893 (Fig 13):** this mapping is very similar to the 1889 mapping, although no detail within the prison walls is shown. A tramway is now shown running along Ribbleton Lane, Stanley Street and New Hall Lane.
- 3.4.15 **Ordnance Survey map 1912, 25":1 mile (Fig 14):** this is the first map after the building had gone out of use as a Court House and in 1911 it had become the headquarters of the Territorial Unit of the Royal Artillery. A small square building is now depicted to the south-east of the former Court House. To the

east of the former Court House a bowling green is marked. To the north of St Mary's Church, a small rectangular building labelled 'club' is depicted. A grave yard is marked on the south side of the church, and rectangular buildings are marked along its south and west sides. The Militia Stores has seen some alterations to its layout, particularly to its north-east corner. No detail is shown within the prison, now labelled as 'His Majesty's Prison'.

- 3.4.16 **Ordnance Survey map 1928-9, 6":1 mile (Fig 15):** the former Court House is labelled as a drill hall on this map. A new building is depicted to the east, overlying the area labelled as a bowling green on the 1912 map. The rectangular building alongside the southern boundary of St Mary's graveyard is not depicted on this map. The Militia Stores appears to have an extension to its west side, and two new buildings fronting Stanley Street are shown to the south-west of this.
- 3.4.17 **Ordnance Survey map 1931, 25":1 mile (Fig 16):** the former Court House building is not labelled on this map. The building to its east, is labelled as a riding school. A war memorial is marked in the graveyard of St Mary's Church. The northernmost of the two buildings to the south-west of the Militia Stores, is labelled as a club. To the north-west of this and to the north of the Militia Stores, two bowling greens are marked.
- 3.4.18 **Ordnance Survey map 1938, 25":1 mile (Fig 17):** both the former Court House and the building to its east are marked as 'drill hall' on this mapping. The Militia Stores has been altered on its north side, and this part of the building is labelled 'club'. The prison is labelled 'disused' and 'Preston Corporation'. The buildings within the prison walls are depicted on this mapping, and there have clearly been some changes since the buildings were previously depicted on the 1889 map (Fig 11).
- 3.4.19 **Ordnance Survey map 1955, 1:10,000 (Fig 18):** this is a small scale building, and, therefore, none of the buildings are labelled. The area appears much as it was on the 1938 mapping, although the bowling green to the south of the former Court House appears to have a structure built on it. The prison buildings are shown on this mapping, much as they were on the 1938 map.
- 3.4.20 **Ordnance Survey map 1974, 1:10,000 (Fig 19):** the prison is labelled 'HM Prison' on this mapping and no detail of it is shown. The Governor's House is labelled 'Police Station', the former Court House is labelled 'offices' and the building to its east is now labelled as 'TA Centre'. The area to the south of these two buildings, which comprised the two bowling greens, the Militia Stores and the smaller buildings to its south-west have all been cleared from this area. In their place a 'T'-shaped building is now depicted.
- 3.4.21 **Current mapping (<http://mario.gov.uk>):** the former Court House is labelled as 'Museum' on this mapping, and the first floor level corridor linking this building to the former TA Centre to its east is shown. The 'T'-shaped building to the south of the museum is now labelled Pennine House. A reverse 'L'-shaped building is shown to the east of Pennine House, and is labelled St Mary's House.

4. HISTORIC FABRIC ASSESSMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The Museum of Lancashire was built as Preston Court House in 1825 from a design by Thomas Rickman, and originally resembled an American State capitol, with a substantial dome crowning the original design (Pevsner 1969). At least three successive phases of development may be identified in the historic fabric of the main building, whilst another pair of buildings to the east has been incorporated during the final phase.
- 4.1.2 The following comprises a brief description of the exterior of the building, in a manner comparable with a Level I standard building investigation (English Heritage 2006). As the interior has little of its original character remaining, it has received a less comprehensive account. To that end, only the ceiling within the Court House, as well as the adjoining court record rooms have been included within this summary.

4.2 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

- 4.2.1 The original phase (early nineteenth century) of the building is a handsome two-storey structure, built in a restrained Classical style, using ashlar sandstone and some red brick, and which features panelled pilasters, a string-course, cornice and blocking course (Plates 17-18). The front façade (south elevation) is tripartite with a projecting central section that features a monumental porch housing the formal entrance to the building. The roof is typically Georgian, with a concealed roof of slate and a substantial ceiling light. A second phase was added to the east side of the Court House during the mid-nineteenth century, and this is clearly more elaborately designed. This two-storey extension features both rusticated and ashlar stonework, as well as more formally styled pilasters, cartouches, roundels, a cornice, plain pediments, and a blocking course, whilst the roof is hipped and laid with slate. In the post-war period, a modern single-storey extension was added to the south-east end of the building (David Prowse pers comm). This is a rather utilitarian structure comprising rendered brick or breeze block and glazing, topped with a flat, asphalt and felt roof.
- 4.2.2 Access to the original phase of the building is via the square porch on the front facade (south elevation), which has a substantial round arch with impost bands, a keyed, moulded head, and also a panelled soffit. In addition, there is a blocking course and cornice. In contrast, the central porch on the west elevation features Classical columns distyle in antis. These columns, like the restrained entablature, are very much Tuscan in style, although the absence of column bases also reflects a Doric influence. The ground floor exterior of the second phase is mainly obscured by the modern extension, but a doorway is still visible at the north end of the east elevation, which comprises a substantial hood mould overlying a modern ventilation door and an iron gate. The single storey extension is also accessible through a glazed panel door.



Plate 17: East-facing view of the west elevation of the Museum



Plate 18: North-east-facing view of the south elevation of the museum

4.2.3 The windows on the original phase of the building are, for the most part, sash windows between six and twelve lights (Plate 19), which have neat stone surrounds and moulded lintels/labels. In addition, there are a pair of single light casements on either side of the main porch (south elevation), whilst an arcade of round arch casements sit above the blocking course of this porch. On the mid-nineteenth century extension to the east, the windows have been more elaborately styled, with pilasters and impost bands, stepped round arches and foliated keystones. In addition, the two flanking windows of the east elevation

are similar, but have foliated embellishments, mascarón keystones, and stylised rose medallions adorned with label moulds and foliated stops (Plate 20). The original sashes within all of these have been replaced with later casements, whilst the tympanum of each has been boarded with timber panels. In contrast to the ornamentation of the earlier phases, the windows of the modern extension are simple single light casements, arranged as a continuous panel.



Plate 19: Detail of the taller sash windows on the original phase of the building



Plate 20: Detail of the head on one of the elaborate windows

4.2.4 The stonework of the building's exterior elevations has evidently experienced some exfoliation in recent years. The principal cause of this problem can be

traced to 1963, when the exterior of the building was treated with a silicone water repellent in an attempt to protect the ashlar surface. It seems, however, that this treatment actually locked moisture in the stonework, resulting in the localised exfoliation of the ashlar surface (David Prowse pers comm). Whilst this problem does not present an immediate threat to the building, its remediation will require consideration in the long term.

- 4.2.5 The character of the interior is not as striking as the exterior of the building. Much of the detail appears to have either been removed and replaced by modern minimalist decoration, or is masked by the museum displays. However, the ceiling within the original courtroom is still intact and features an impressive rectangular ceiling light to the centre. This is not the original dome, but an addition from 1849, based on a design by George Latham (<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues/mol>). This ceiling light is surrounded by a richly decorated panelled ceiling of fielded panels, a moulding of alternating oval and foliate/ round and floral medallions, a stepped cornice, ceiling roses, mascarons, and corbels decorated with fruit and scroll motifs (Plate 21). In addition, there are a series of ventilation holes, decorated with a foliated strapwork design. In addition, there are several vaulted rooms to the west of the courtroom (Plate 22), each with Yorkstone flag floors. These rooms, which were lined with mahogany wainscotting, were used originally as the court record rooms.



Plate 21: Decoration on the ceiling of the former court room



Plate 22: Detail of the vaulted arch ceiling in one of the record rooms

- 4.2.6 To the east of the museum's main building, there are a further pair of structures, which have been incorporated into the museum complex following the extension of the 1960s. The first is a two-storey rectangular building, which is built in red and plum brick laid in stretcher bond, which is topped by a hipped roof laid with slate (Plate 23). The windows are six-over-six and four-over-eight horned sashes with narrow, stepped keystones and protruding sills. Access to the building is provided by a glazed timber door, acting as the main entrance on the west elevation, whilst a modern door stands towards the east extent of the north elevation. At the rear of the building (east elevation), a patch of modern brick blocking, consistent in size with a pair of sliding doors, is visible. Within this blocking, four small casements fitted with frosted glass have been inserted.



Plate 23: Two-storey building to the east of the museum

4.2.7 Adjoining this is a second brick building, which is built in red brick laid in an English garden wall bond. The west elevation is heavily rendered, but the east suggests that these bricks have been re-used from elsewhere. From first floor height, both of the gables are overlaid with horizontal timber siding, whilst the steeply pitched roof is overlaid with asphalt and felt. The main access to the building is on the west front façade, which has a plain modern doorway and a heavy, concertina folding door (Plate 24). At the rear (east elevation), there is a fire door, whilst a further door appears to have been blocked in brick. The only windows comprise a horizontal 12-light panel on the front of the building, and a handful of small casements to the rear.



Plate 24: Former drill hall

5. UNDERSTANDING THE MUSEUM

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 Extensive renovations took place on the former Court House and the former TA Centre in the late 1970s to convert them into a museum. The association of these buildings with the Territorial Unit of the Royal Artillery between 1911 and 1958, including the use of both buildings as drill halls, meant that they were an obvious choice for the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Museum, under which name the museum originally opened in 1984. As a result, some of the renovations to the building, including the display gallery in the main hall, were paid for by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Some ten years ago the museum changed its name and became the Museum of Lancashire. However the MoD still pay for a member of staff at the museum and in 2008, the 100 year anniversary of the TA, £10,000 was spent by the TA on minor refurbishments to the museum.
- 5.1.2 The museum, as it is now, opened in 1987 and attained Accredited status with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) in 2006. The museum is owned by Lancashire County Council and is managed by Lancashire Museums, who manage a total of 13 museums across Lancashire. In addition to the Museum of Lancashire, there are four other museums/heritage attractions in Preston.
- 5.1.3 The Museum's core collections on display include the regimental collections of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, the 14th /20th Kings Hussars, a gallery on the history of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, and material relating to the 88th Field Regiment of the Territorial Unit of the Royal Artillery. The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry collection, opened in 1984 by Colonel Simon Towneley, and the 14th /20th Kings Hussars collection, opened in 1988 by Princess Anne, are in the care of the trustees of their own regimental bodies, and also have Accredited Museum status (attained in 2007) in their own right.
- 5.1.4 The museum also has access to the wider collections of Lancashire County Museums Service which include archaeological and social history material, and fine and decorative art. Additional collections which could be called on include maritime, industrial history, and agricultural collections.
- 5.1.5 The museum has a temporary exhibitions programme, which includes fine art, community-based art, local art and crafts, and photography. The number of temporary exhibitions varies annually depending on the scale of particular exhibitions. There have been seven exhibitions planned across four exhibition galleries for 2008. Exhibitions held in recent years include: 'From Cooler Woodlands' - an exhibition showcasing furniture and objects constructed from wood, and discussing this industry in Lancashire together with raising future woodland sustainability issues; 'Living with the Romans' (loaned from Liverpool Museums); 'Viva Mexico' - authentic Mexican artworks; an

exhibition by the Royal Photographic Society; 'Natural Curiosity' - examining the natural history of the Lancashire region; and 'stART' - an exhibition of literature and artworks produced by young offenders.

- 5.1.6 Numbers of visitors to the museum over the last nine financial years are given in Table 1. School visits account for approximately one third of the visitors to the museum. In the financial year 2007-8, 3618 school children visited the museum out of a total of 9956 visitors.

Year	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08
Visitor numbers	13316	16120	12374	9485	12211	12747	13642	8765	9956

Table 1: Numbers of visitors to the museum for the past nine financial years

- 5.1.7 The museum predominantly attracts school groups from Key Stage 2 groups, with a small number of Key Stage 1 and occasional Key Stage 3 and 4 visits. The museum currently offers a number of different activities for schools, including sessions where pupils can experience life as a Second World War evacuee, or the lives' of children from different social backgrounds during the Victorian period. The museum includes a 'Victorian School Room' in which the visiting school children experience Victorian school-style lessons. In November 2008 the museum plans to run 'We'll Meet Again' - sessions on the Second World War home front, including looking at the lives of women in the Land Army and blitz policemen.
- 5.1.8 The museum is currently working as part of the Hub funded Preston Museums Group to improve family friendliness at the five museums across Preston. The aim of this project has been to target families through focus groups to test new activities, orientation, etc. Other strands of this project have included working with Children's Centres to create resource boxes to attract non attending/unconfident families into the museum, and work with schools and creative practitioners to enhance the museum's current educational sessions to cater to the literacy strategy.

5.2 MANAGEMENT OF THE MUSEUM OF LANCASHIRE

- 5.2.1 The Museum is managed on a daily basis by a full time museum qualified Assistant Keeper, who reports to the Museums Manager North (who is also responsible for overseeing activity at the Lancashire Museums sites at Lancaster and Fleetwood). The Assistant Keeper is supported by a part-time Clerical Assistant. Front of house is managed by a full time Visits Supervisor and a team of five part-time Visitor Services Assistants. Buildings maintenance is supported by the Site Services Officer (who is also responsible for the Headquarters Building and Conservation Studios which share the site).
- 5.2.2 The Curator of Military and Archaeology is predominantly responsible for the appropriate Museum collections, with the Social History collections being the remit of the Social History Curator. Care of the collections is supported by a named Conservator and the wider conservation team.

- 5.2.3 Educational activity on site is the remit of the Lifelong Learning and Outreach Officer North, based in Lancaster, who is also responsible for the other museums in the north of the county.
- 5.2.4 Other staff who may be involved with the museum on some level include the service marketing team and collections documentation team. In addition, the museum has a Friends group consisting of 64 members. The Friends organise a small number of annual fundraising events and a talks programme on the museums behalf.

6. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 Significance can be defined in several ways, all of which are relevant here. The first is importance, suggesting that there is something about the site that is valuable, has status and should not be ignored. The next is the idea of conveying meaning, implying that the site is a source of knowledge. There is also the concept of a sign, that the museum building is symbolic and acts as a pointer to something beyond itself.
- 6.1.2 The significance of any building is encapsulated in its fabric, and this can be expressed in several ways: analysis of the surviving fabric can allow its chronological development to be discerned; the building acts as a reminder of people, events and activities that cannot be seen today; and the setting of the museum adjacent to the prison and former military buildings can stir senses and imagination.
- 6.1.3 Most elements of the museum site are valuable, although some are more significant than others. There are a few features that actually detract from the appearance of the museum, and make it more difficult to appreciate its significance; such features have a negative value. It is possible to identify three broad categories of significance, based on the age, completeness and other interest of the building fabric, although it should be noted that the categories suggested below are purely for guidance:
- **Great Significance:** intact buildings or fabric of local or national significance. Later work that now forms an integral part of an early building;
 - **Some Significance:** buildings or fabric of local interest. Badly damaged remains of features that would have been of great significance had they survived. Later features of little intrinsic value, but which form part of a more important building;
 - **Negative elements:** features of little or no intrinsic interest that damage or obscure buildings or features of significance.
- 6.1.4 For the purposes of the Conservation Statement, it is perhaps useful to consider the significance of the building in terms of its historical background, its architecture, and its role as a museum; detailed consideration of the individual buildings on the site is beyond the remit of a Conservation Statement, but would form a key element of a Conservation Plan.

6.2 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.2.1 The Museum of Lancashire was designed by the architects Rickman and Hutchinson in 1825. Thomas Rickman was a leading architect at this time, responsible for the design of numerous important buildings in England, including several in Preston. Rickman was particularly influenced by medieval churches and gothic architecture, and the Neo-classical style of the Court House was an unusual design for him.
- 6.2.2 The building is of Great Significance to Preston in its origin as a nineteenth-century Court House. The building played an important role in both local and county law and order at this time, the physical manifestation of which is provided vividly by the numerous former cells that survive in the basement of the museum (Plate 25). Some of these cells retain original features, such as window bars and door fittings, representing the rare survival in Lancashire of detention rooms associated with a court house.



Plate 25: One of the numerous former cells in the basement of the museum

- 6.2.3 As the Headquarters Building of the Territorial Unit of the Royal Artillery between 1911 and 1958, the structure, and associated drill hall to its east are of Some Significance to the Queen's Lancashire Regiment; the significance of the building to the Regiment has continued to the present day. The museum originally opened as a military museum, which was developed in partnership with the Regiment and the MoD. Despite a change of name approximately ten years ago, the museum's main collections are still military, and the MoD continues to support the museum financially.

6.3 ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.3.1 The former Court House was designated as a Grade II listed building in 1979 and, as such, is of Great Significance, whilst the listing notes the group value of the building with the Governor's House at the front of the Prison. The building is a fascinating composite of restrained Georgian Classicism and a more elaborate Victorian design. What emerges is a very handsome public building, which is not out of place amongst the fine examples of late Georgian and Victorian architecture that grace Preston, such as those in the area to the south of Fishergate.
- 6.3.2 Although the exterior of the building remains unchanged, albeit with a rather unsympathetic modern extension added, only some of the original internal features of the Court House building have been retained. Certainly, the court room ceiling has been unaltered since 1849, whilst the vaulted ceilings and Yorkstone flag floors of the court record rooms are still visible. Furthermore, all of the sash windows, complete with their timber shutters and iron security bars, appear to be original, as do the balustrades of the staircases. However, the public balcony has been removed and replaced with modern balconies housing some of the museum's displays. Additionally, the mahogany wainscoting that originally graced the walls of the record rooms has been removed, whilst the minimalist decoration in the first floor rooms betrays the likely removal of cornices, picture rails, dados and similar decorative features.
- 6.3.3 The extension to the Court House, built in 1861, played a similar role to the 1825 building in local and county law and order. However, it obscures the east elevation of the original building, and has been modified with the removal of a corridor on its south side, and the insertion of an elevated link to the former Headquarters Building to the east (Plate 26). The 1861 extension is thus considered to be of Some Significance. The former corridor along the south side of the 1861 extension, moreover, has been replaced with a single-storey structure. This is of rendered brick or breeze block construction, with a flat roof, and dates to the second half of the twentieth century (Plate 27). This structure detracts from the historic fabric of the Court House, and is considered to be a Negative Element.



Plate 26: The 1861 extension and modern additions



Plate 27: The original Court House building and the modern single-storey structure

6.4 SIGNIFICANCE AS A MUSEUM

- 6.4.1 As the Museum of Lancashire, the museum has considerable potential to be of county-wide significance. In particular, it highlights the military history of the county. The museum is open five days a week, and offers a range of temporary exhibitions, as well as the museum collections.
- 6.4.2 It is of local significance as an educational resource, and offers sessions to school groups including a session on life as a Victorian child and sessions on life in the war, for example as an evacuee. The work of the museum is supported by the Friends of the Museum group.

7. VULNERABILITY AND ISSUES

7.1.1 The museum has a number of issues, which include the following:

- The building has remained unchanged for the last 20 years, and as such is appearing ‘tired’, which impacts on the visitor experience;
- The main hall has damage and dirt marks to its walls, which make it unattractive to visitors;
- Current visitor facilities, such as catering, retail and toilets are inadequate. The museum only offers basic refreshment facilities and the shop is unable to cope with groups, particularly school groups who make up approximately one third of the museums visitors;
- The current disabled facilities are not fully DDA compliant, in particular, access to the building needs to be improved by the installation of an access control door at the main entrance;
- The history of the county is not currently presented in a full or logical way;
- The museum does not provide information on other museums in the county;
- The history of the building as a Court House, and its contribution to local and regional law and order is not included in the museum’s exhibitions;
- The layout of the building is confusing, and there is a lack of signage between different areas of the museum;
- There is currently a lack of research facilities for visitors wishing to research the collections;
- Since the Queens Lancashire Regimental galleries were built in the late 1980s the regiment has amalgamated with two other regiments. This area has therefore been identified as requiring re-display;
- The current World War One trench area has deteriorated over time and some elements of it are becoming a potential health and safety hazard. Similarly, the existing carpet is 20 years old and is now a potential trip hazard;
- Any renovation and refurbishment of the building should be sympathetic to the history of the building and needs to be carried out in line with its listed status;
- The museum is located to the east of Preston town centre and appears removed from the town; and
- The exterior masonry requires serious attention. In the first instance, professional advice should be sought from an historic masonry specialist.

8. POLICIES

8.1.1 This section aims to outline policies for protecting and making accessible the significance identified in *Section 6*, and for addressing the issues outlined in *Section 7*. Some policies are for long-term development, others aim to meet more immediate needs. The objective overall is to ensure that what is significant and valuable about the museum survives into the future as well as serving the uses and enjoyment of the present. In applying the policies it is desirable that a sustainable balance is achieved between conservation, interpretation, and public expectations. Current policies are:

- The museum should seek to present an overview of the history of Lancashire, as well as acting as an information gateway to other heritage sites across Lancashire;
- The museum should present the collections with reference to the history of the building. The museum should highlight the contribution of the Court House to local and regional law and order, and explain the use of the building in the twentieth century by the Queens Lancashire Regiment;
- The Queens Lancashire Regimental galleries need to be re-displayed. This should include information on the role of the county and its soldiers in World War One;
- Orientation and signage around the museum needs to be improved;
- A drop-in suite for visitors to research the collections and the regimental history should be provided;
- Retail, café and toilet facilities within the museum need to be improved;
- Improvements to DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance should be made including: reorganisation of the toilet block to create a new DDA compliant disabled persons WC; installation of electronic doors to the main entrance; and creation of a ramp to enable access between ground floor levels;
- Following the refurbishment and renovation of the building, the long term maintenance of the building should be addressed so that it remains in good working order and galleries continue to look up to date; and
- Public awareness of the museum needs to be improved and the museum should seek to increase visitor numbers.

8.1.2 It is recommended that consultation is made with English Heritage and the Preston District Conservation Officer at Lancashire County Council at the earliest opportunity, with regards to the proposed renovation and refurbishment of the listed building. Consent for the proposed work should be sought from the local planning authority.

- 8.1.3 It is recommended that this Conservation Statement is reviewed by all relevant parties and then taken forward and integrated into the current management policies.

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10. ILLUSTRATIONS

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Figure 11: Brown's map of 1889

Figure 12: Ordnance Survey (10':1 mile), 1892

Figure 13: Ordnance Survey first edition map (25'':1 mile), 1893

Figure 14: Ordnance Survey map (25'':1 mile), 1912

Figure 15: Ordnance Survey map (6'':1 mile), 1928-9

Figure 16: Ordnance Survey map (25'':1 mile), 1931

Figure 17: Ordnance Survey map (25'':1 mile), 1938

Figure 18: Ordnance Survey map (1:10,000), 1955

Figure 19: Ordnance Survey map (1:10,000), 1974

APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDING DESIGNATIONS

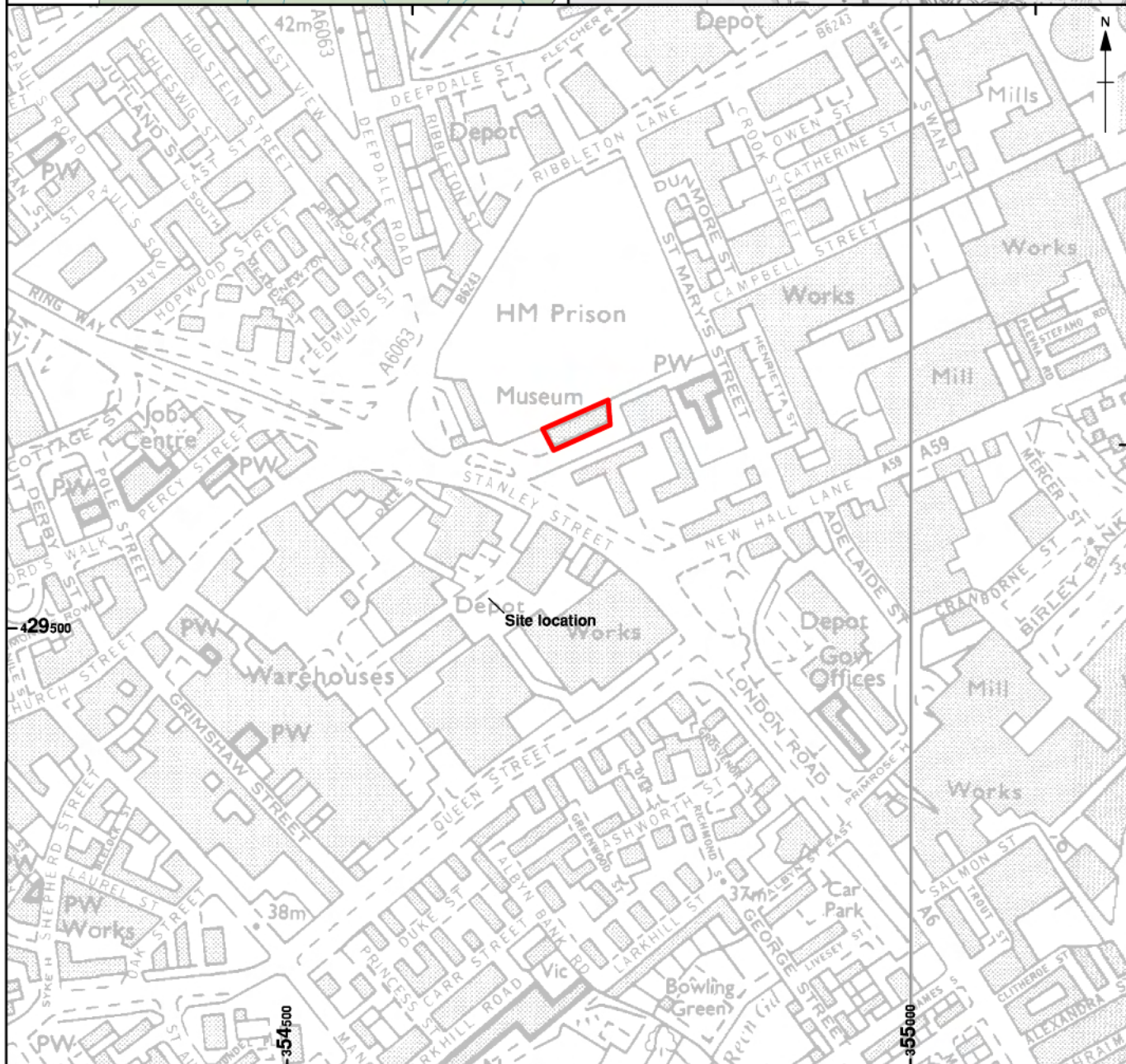
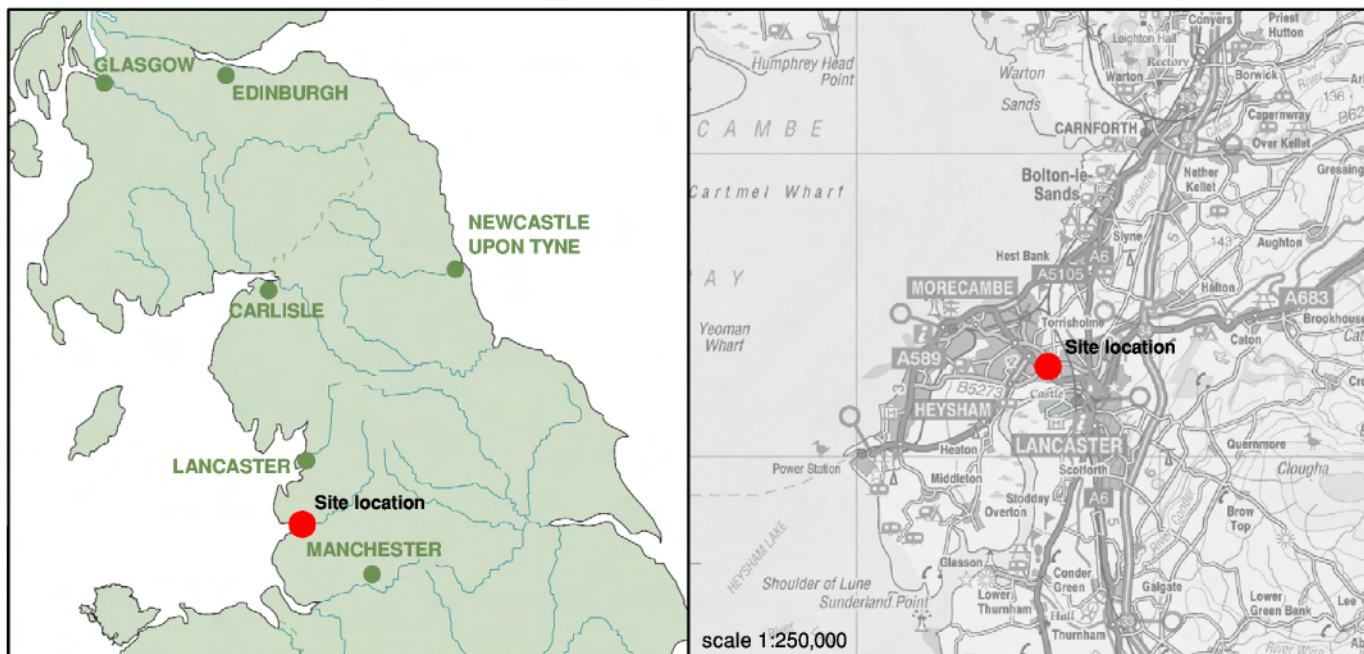
Site number	392166
Site Name	The Old Sessions House, Stanley Street, Preston
NGR	354720 429660
Designation	Grade II Listed Building
Description	Court House, now County Museum. 1825, by Thomas Rickman, altered. Sandstone ashlar, with brick rear wall, roof mostly concealed but has large glazed lantern. Rectangular plan with porch projecting to front and bow to rear. Classical style. Two storeys, with plinth, panelled pilasters, cornice and blocking course. The south front is tripartite, symmetrical, the centre wider and breaking forwards; this has a monumental square porch which has a round-headed archway with impost-bands and keyed moulded head, and a cornice and blocking course, an arcade of small round-headed windows above the porch, and a parapet with corniced upstands to the corners. The set-back 2-window side ranges both formerly had square 6-pane sashes at ground floor and tall 12-pane sashes above, but the ground floor to the right has been replaced by a C20 corridor. Roof with large glazed lantern in centre (replacing dome). The west front, a symmetrical 3-bay 5-window facade, has matching windows (2:1:2) except those at ground floor to the right which are slightly larger and 9-paned, and a central porch with unfluted Greek Doric columns distyle in antis. Additions to east end; rear wall projects into prison yard. INTERIOR: large central courtroom hall (details concealed at time of survey). Forms group with Prison and Prison Annexe.

Site number	392165
Site Name	Prison Annexe (formerly the Governor's House) Stanley Street, Preston
NGR	354647 429684
Designation	Grade II Listed Building
Description	Prison governor's house, now annexe to prison. 1834, probably by John Dewhurst. Large rock-faced sandstone blocks, slate roof. Central block with site wings. Castellated Gothic style. Three-storey 3-window entrance block with octagonal corner turrets, heavy roll cornice on blocks in imitation of machicolation, and embattled parapet with shield on central upstand; square embattled porch with panelled door; transomed one-light windows in the centre and cross-windows on each side, all with deep chamfered reveals. Small single-storey wing to left, with chamfered corner and one 2-light window; 2- storey wing to right with central archway now containing window; both these wings altered but in similar style, with embattled parapets. Forms group with Prison and Old Sessions House.

Site number	392154
Site Name	St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Preston
NGR	354830 429689
Designation	Grade II Listed Building
Description	Church. 1836-8 by John Latham, with transepts and chancel added 1852-3 by E H Shellard. Punch-dressed sandstone ashlar, slate roof. Nave on north-south axis with south tower flanked by square wings, east and west transepts, chancel. Romanesque style, with round-headed windows throughout. Tripartite south front formed by four-stage tower with three-storeyed first stage flanked by wings to the same height and gabled to west and east respectively, each element with clasping pilasters and those of the wings finished with squat pinnacles, each with a round-headed doorway at ground floor, all in Norman style but that in the centre larger and with three orders of unorthodox moulding, the centre with three-light windows on two levels (the lower with blind outer lights), the date "MDCCCXXXVI" in raised Gothic lettering between them and a corbel table above, and the wings with one small window to the front, a similar window in the side and a two-light window in the gable. Above this level the tower proceeds in

three stages successively set back, the second and third with two-light windows which have cushion capitals to the shafts, and the third (originally replicating turrets at west end of Tewkesbury Abbey) carrying a needle spire with lucarnes mounted on a drum with corner cylinders (from which the pinnacles have been removed). The five-bay nave has pilaster strips and tall round-headed windows set in blank arches. The transepts have clasping buttresses finished as square two-stage turrets with blind arcading to the upper and pyramidal caps, the east transept has a round-headed doorway in the centre, and both have round-headed lancets. The chancel, lower than the north gable of the nave, has three round-headed lancets and a circular window above.

Site number	392155
Site Name	St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Preston
NGR	354860 429660
Designation	Grade II Listed Building
Description	Gate piers, gates and boundary wall to St Mary's Churchyard. Probably <i>c</i> 1840. Sandstone. The gate piers are square in section and approx. three metres high, with panelled sides and shallow pyramidal tops. The low boundary wall on the east and south sides of the churchyard is of two courses of large sandstone blocks with chamfered coping, and has seven widely spaced piers on the east side and five on the south, all matching the gate piers. The gates are ramped and have spearheaded bar railings; matching railings on the wall survive in the northernmost section only (the others replaced with C20 railings). Included for group value.



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Lieutenant General Carpenter and Major General Wills' plan of 1715



Figure 3: Lang's plan of 1774



Figure 4: Yates' map of 1786

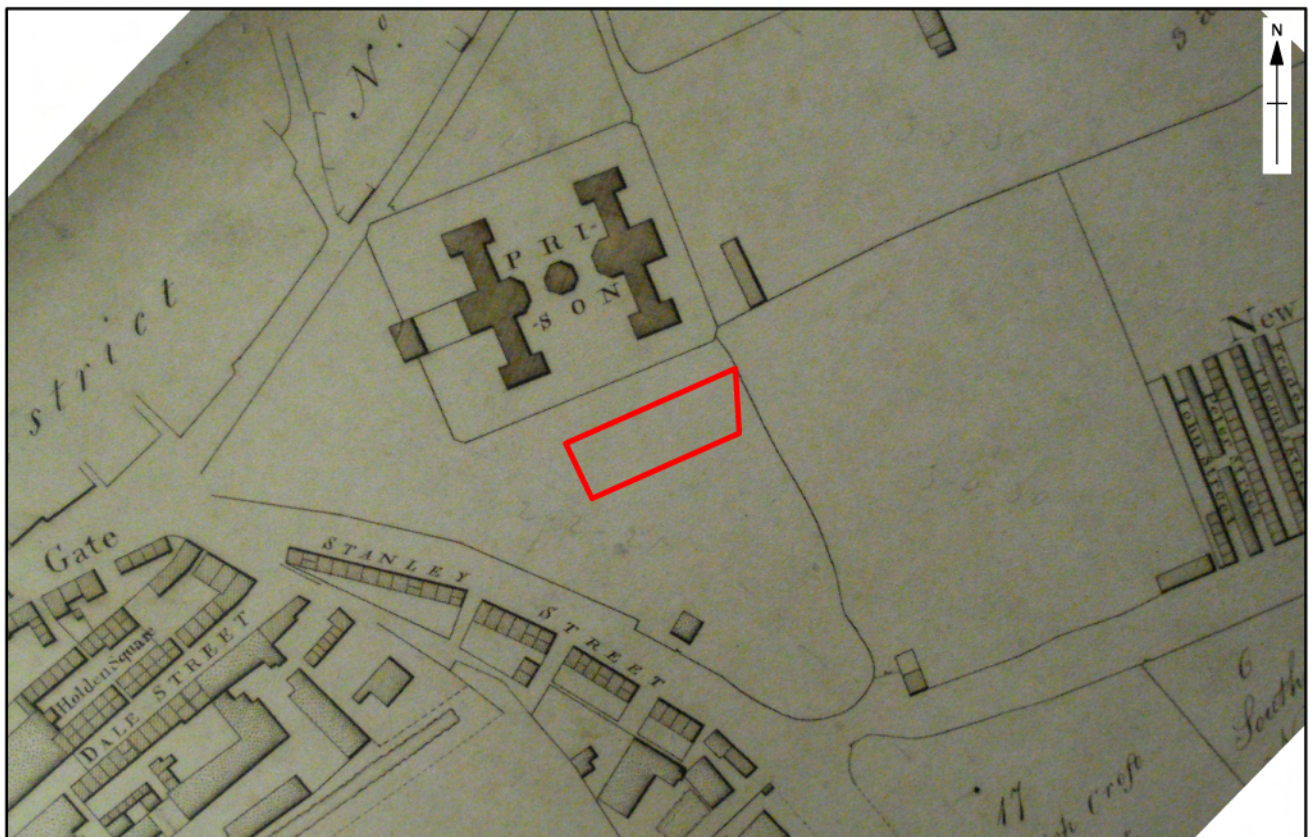


Figure 5: Shakeshaft's plan of 1808

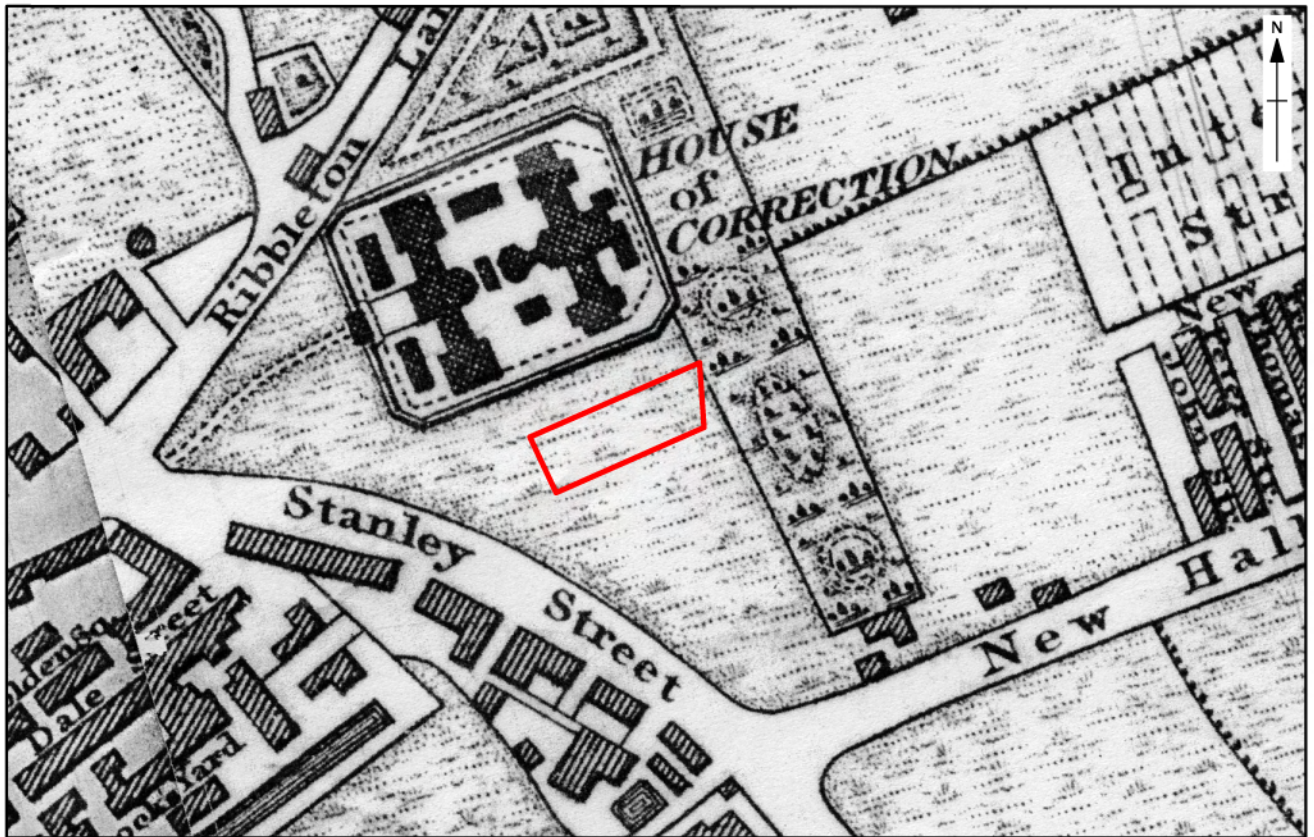


Figure 6: Baine's map of 1824

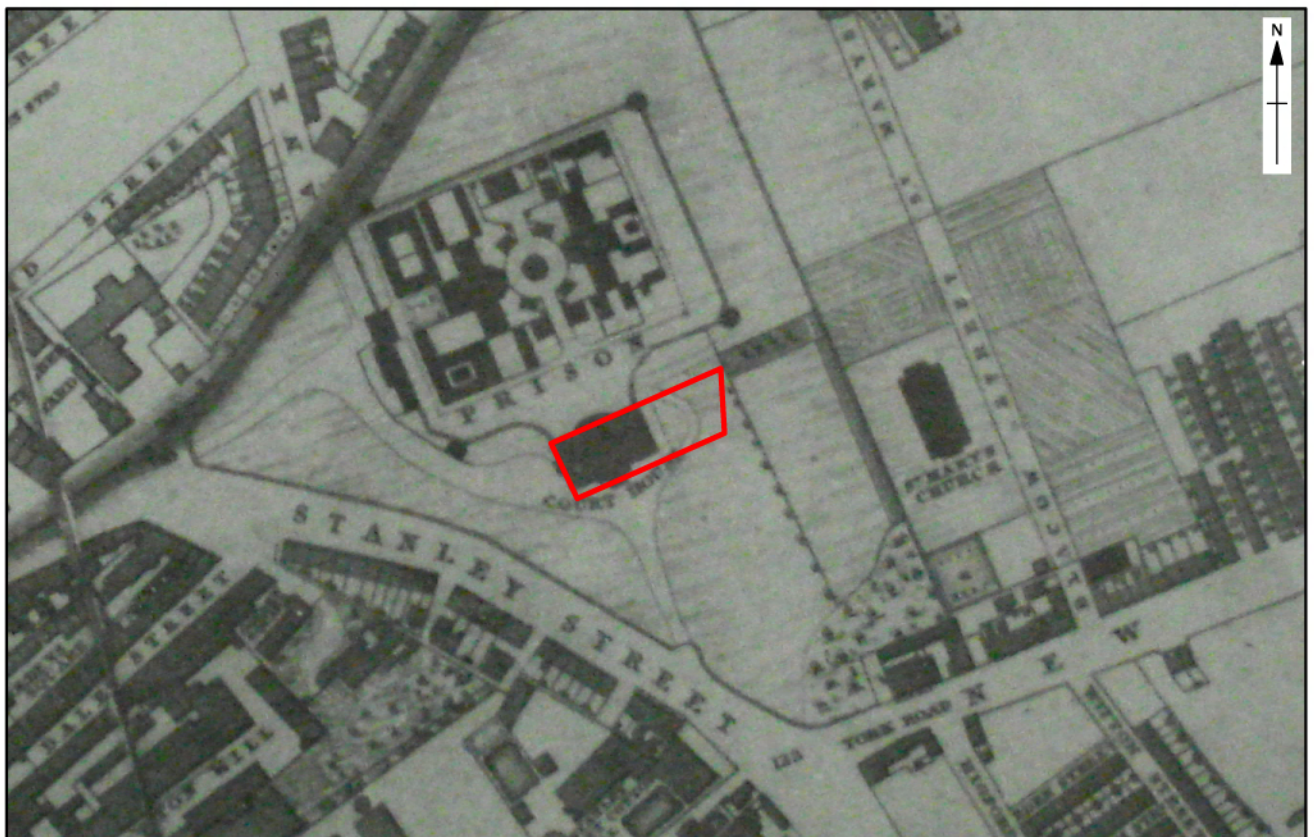


Figure 7: Myres' map of 1836

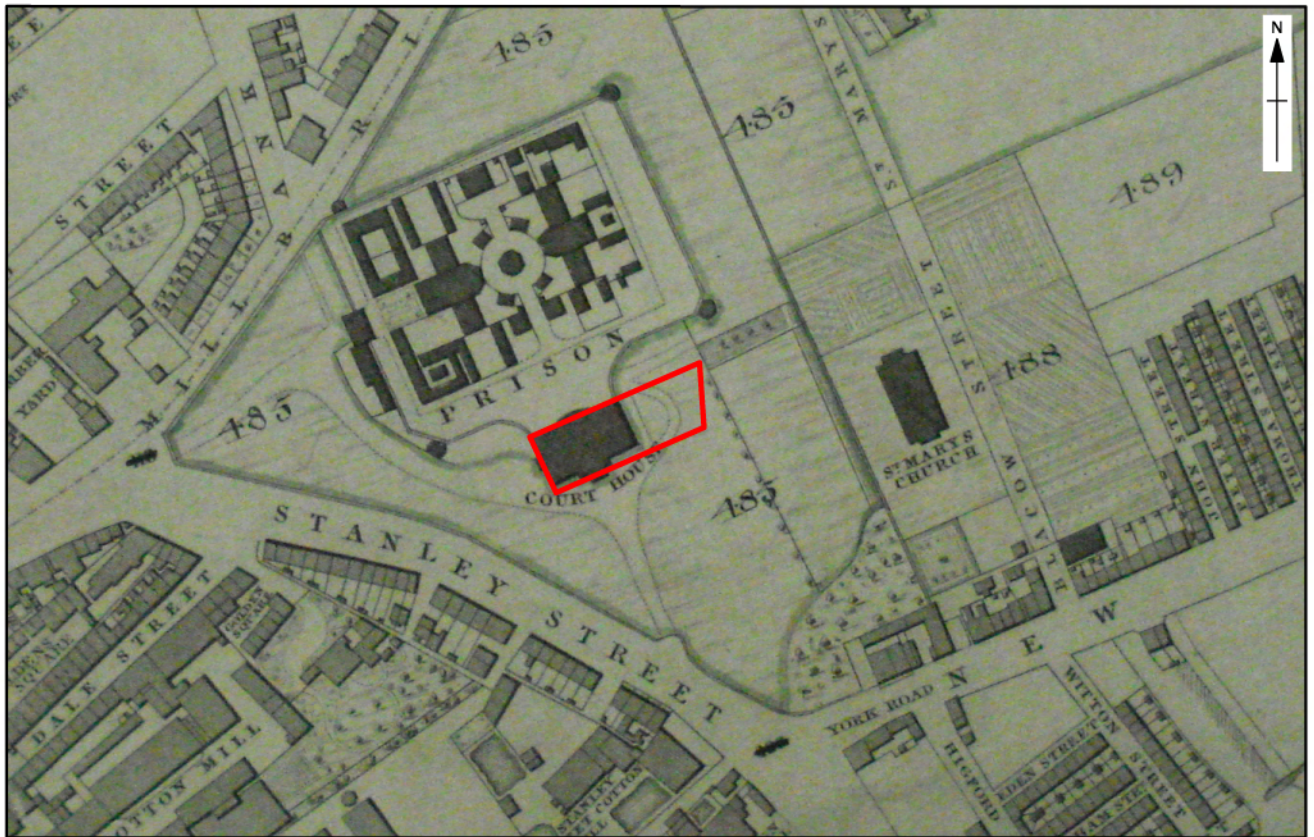


Figure 8: Tithe map of Preston, 1840



Figure 9: Myres' map of 1846

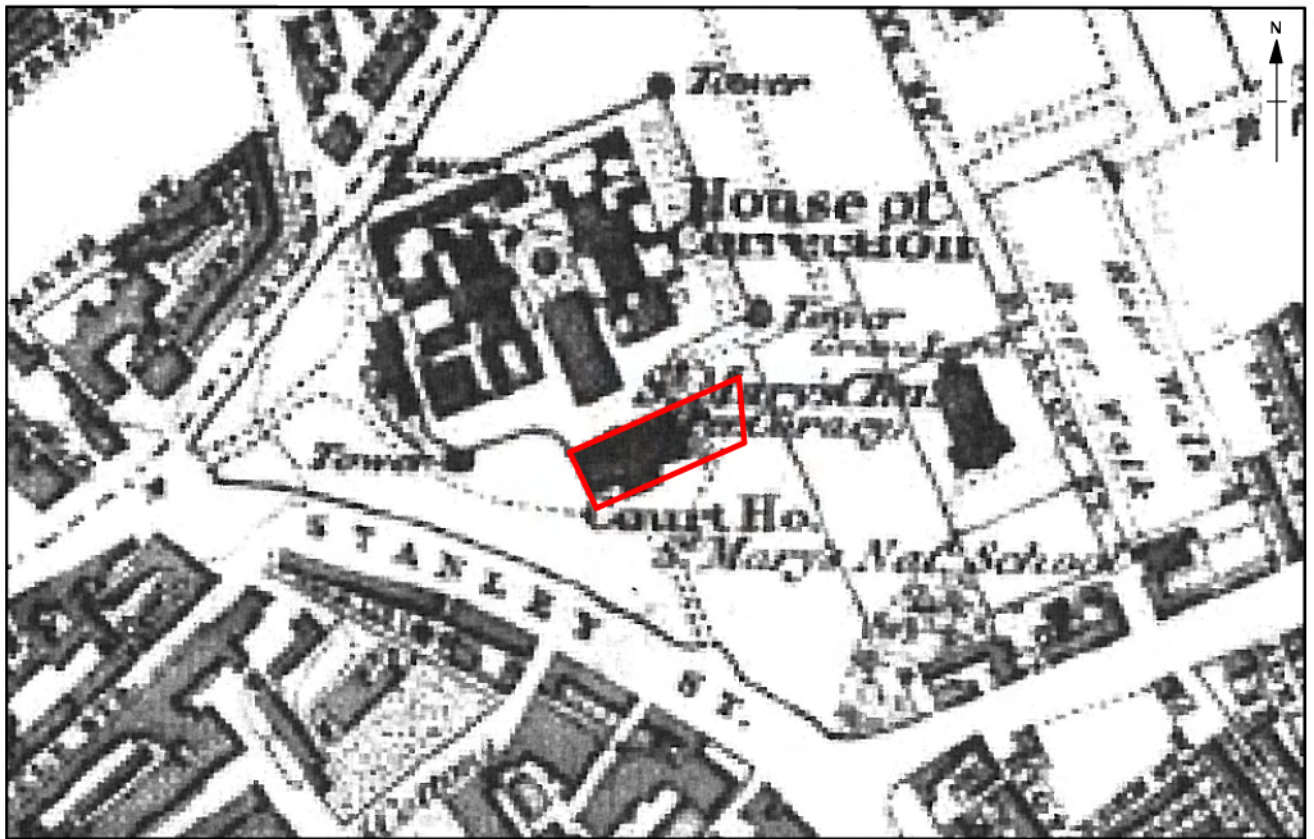


Figure 10: Ordnance Survey map (5:1 mile), 1849

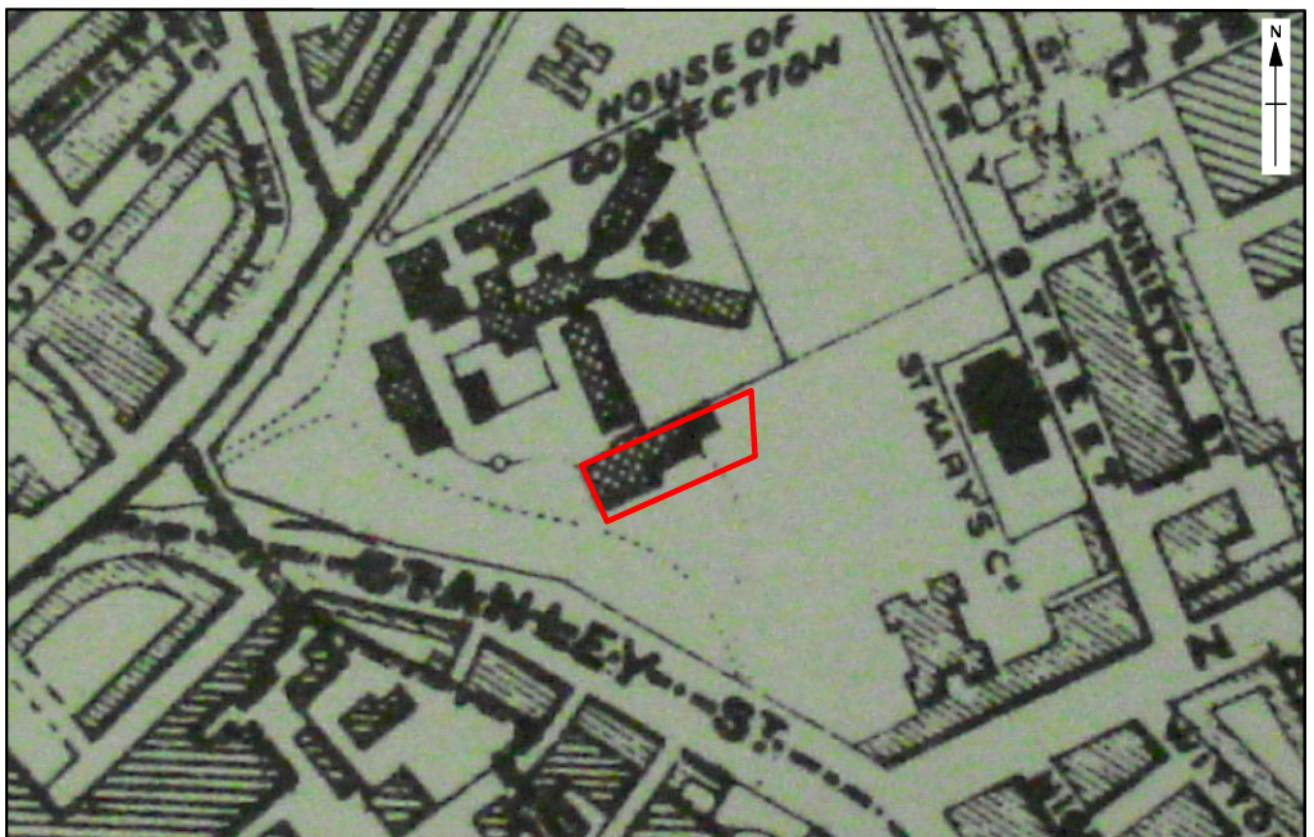


Figure 11: Brown's map of 1889

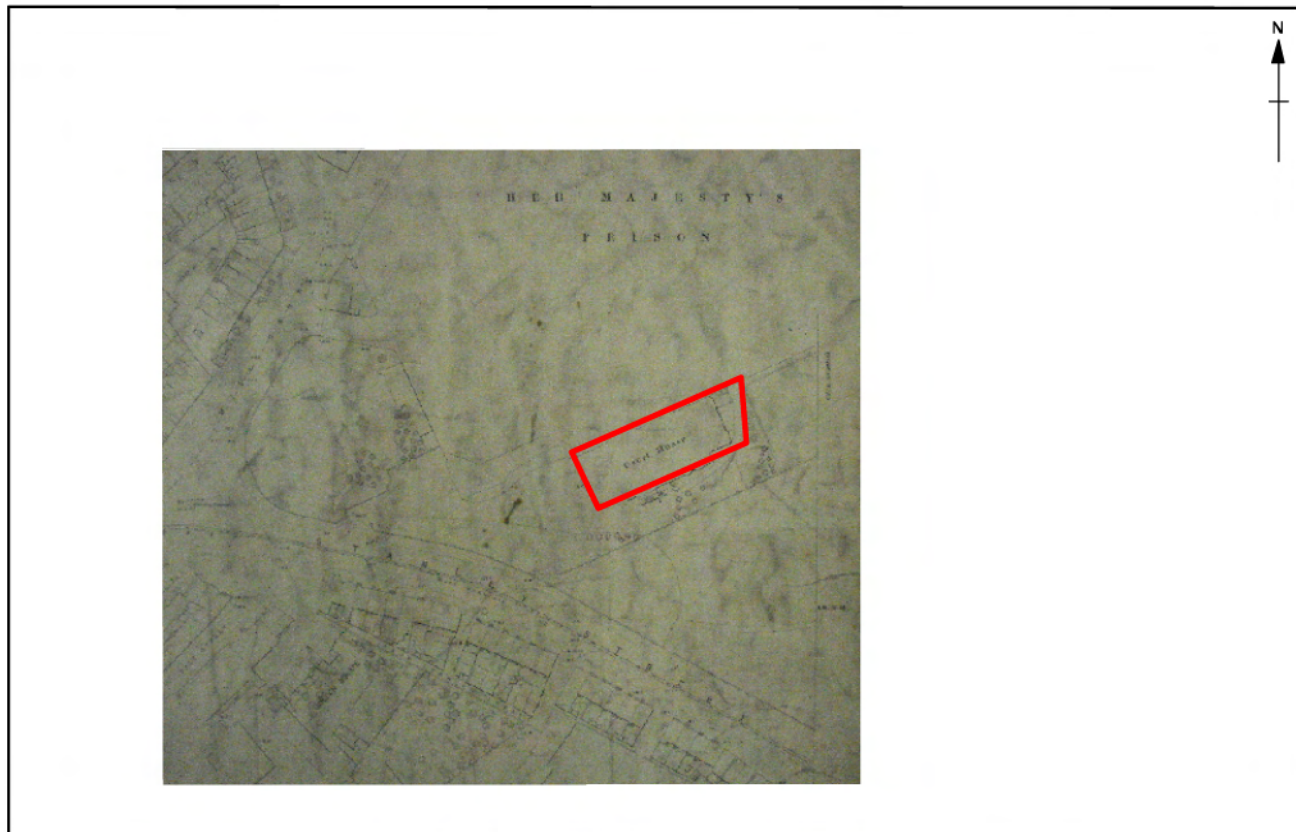


Figure 12: Ordnance Survey map (10':1 mile), 1892

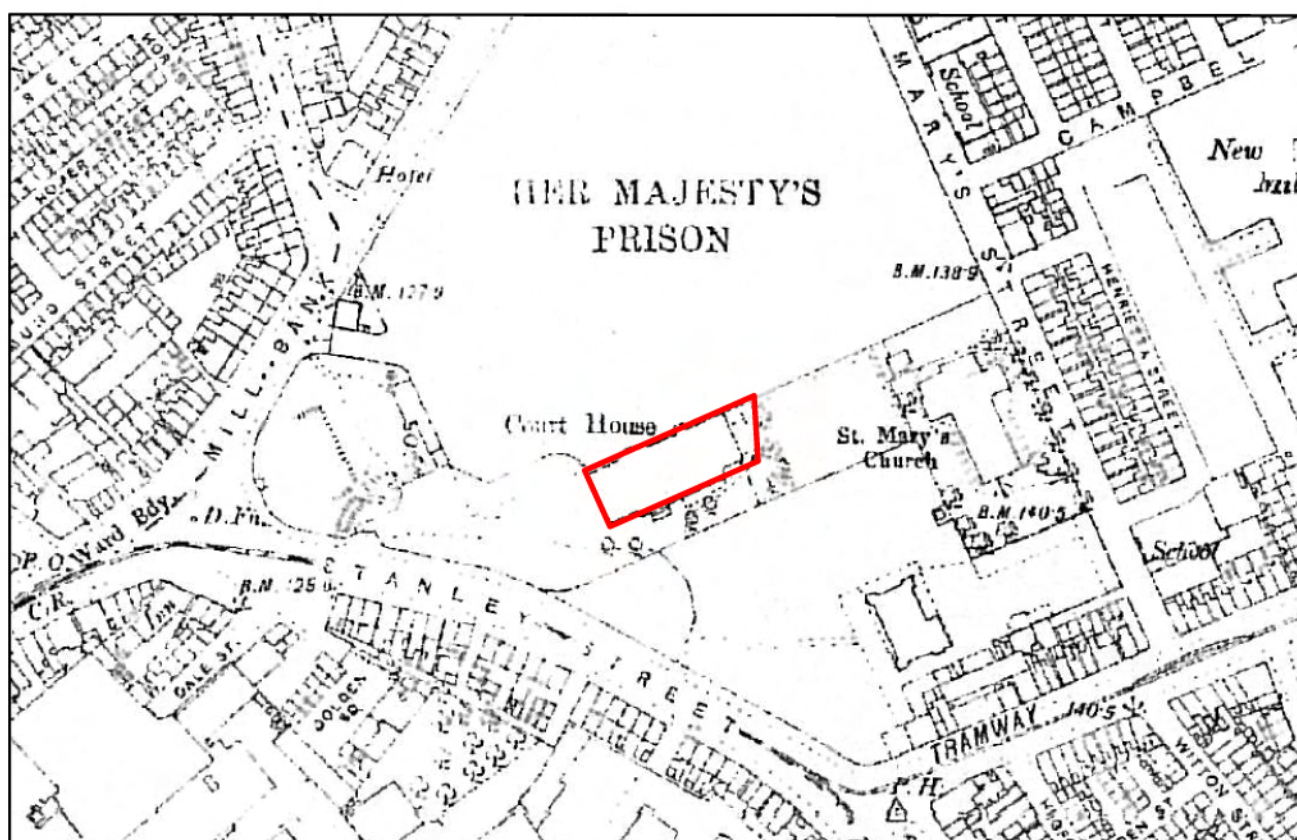


Figure 13: Ordnance Survey First Edition map (25":1 mile), 1893

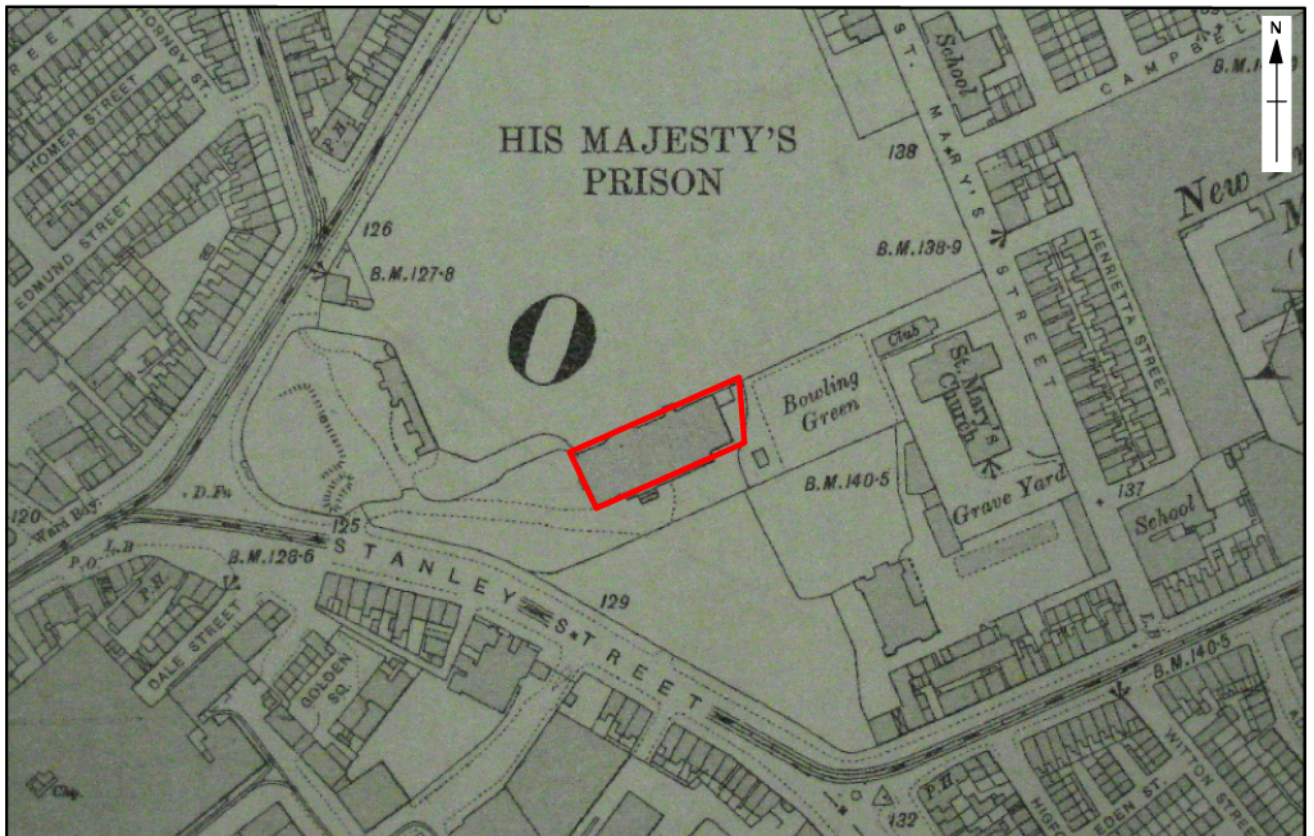


Figure 16: Ordnance Survey map (25":1 mile), 1912

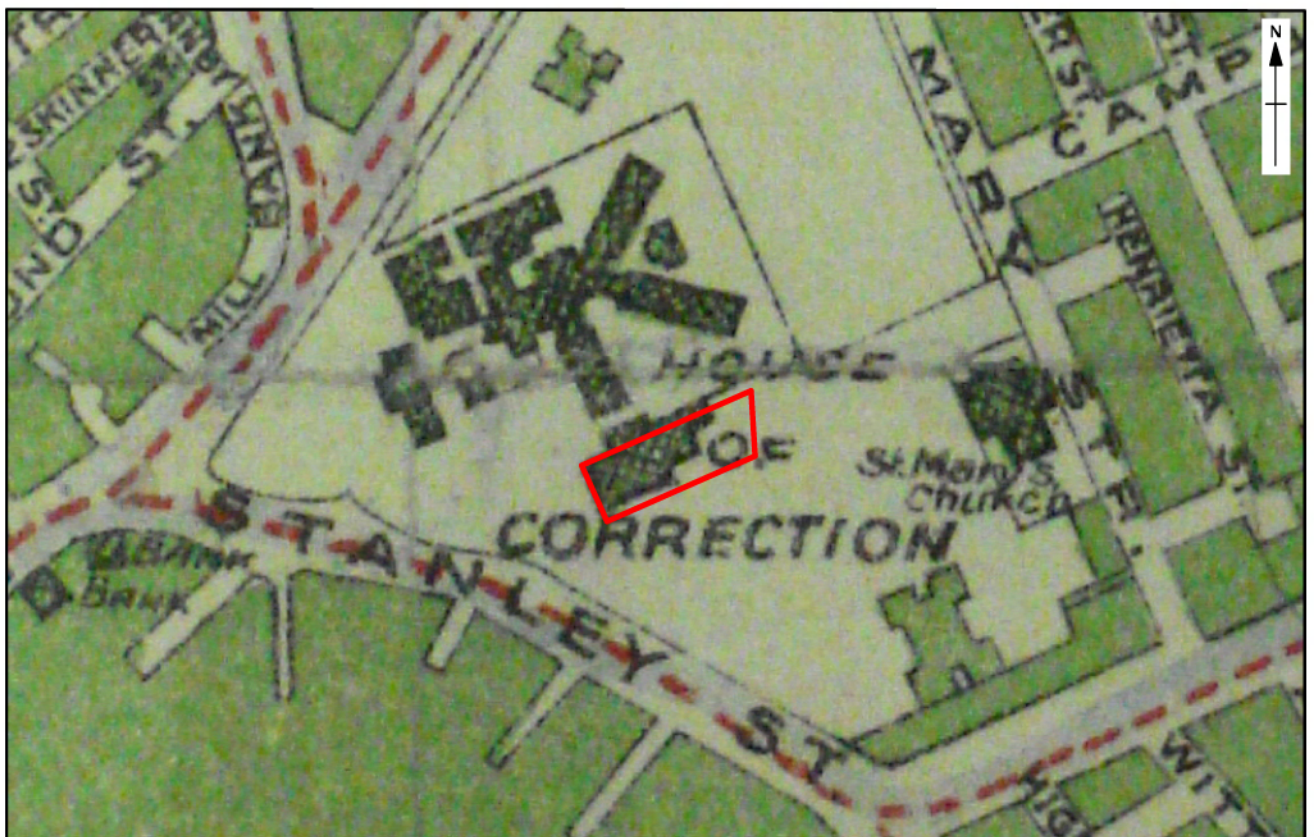


Figure 17: Ordnance Survey map (6":1 mile), 1928-9

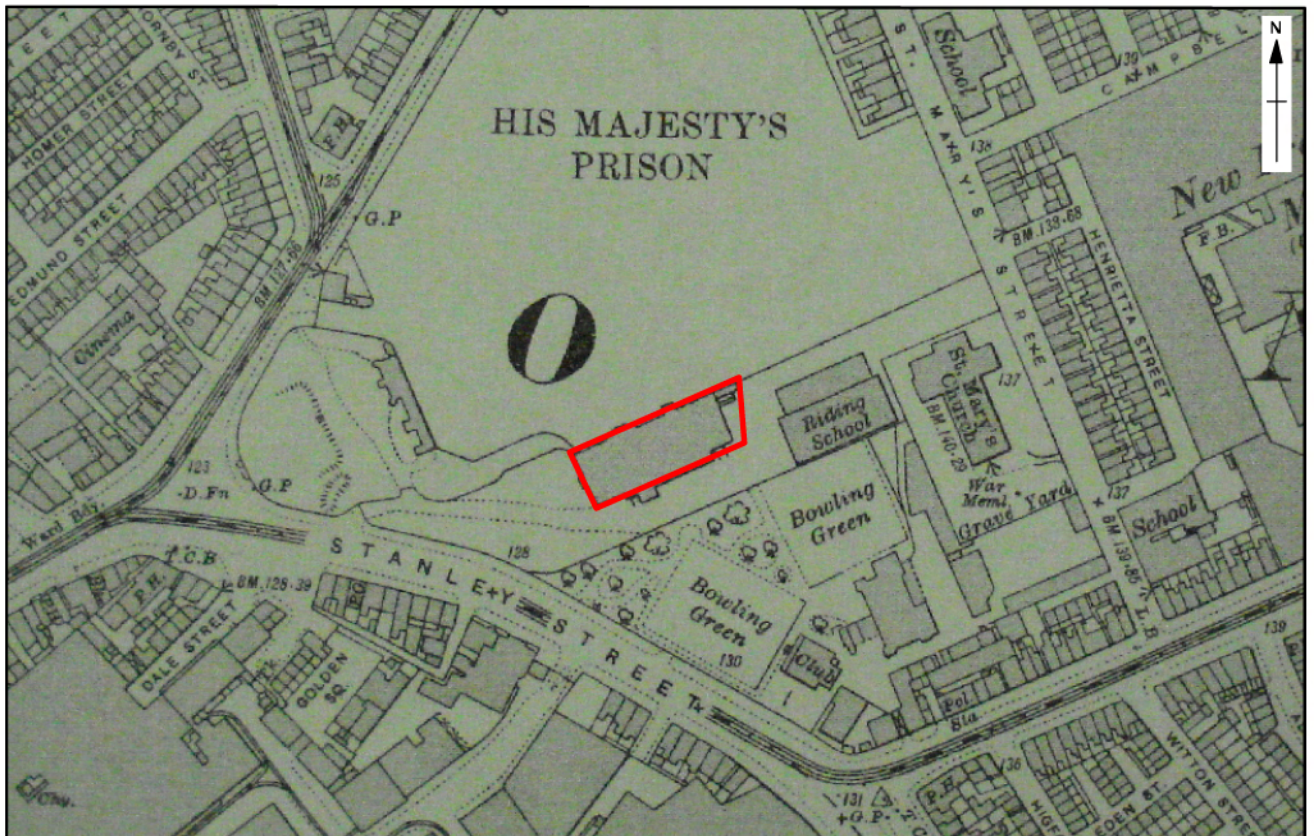


Figure 16: Ordnance Survey map (25":1 mile), 1931



Figure 17: Ordnance Survey map (25":1 mile), 1938



Figure 18: Ordnance Survey map (1:10,000), 1955

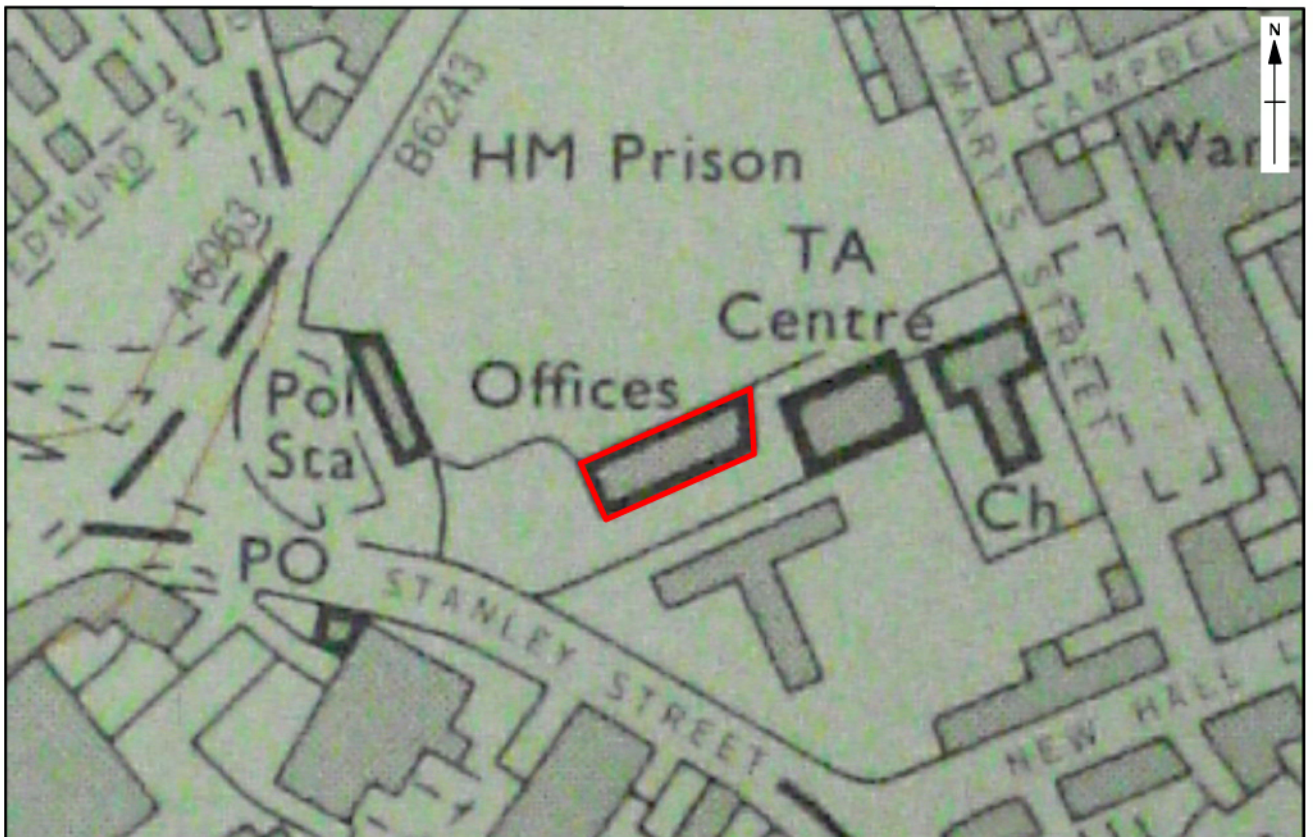


Figure 19: Ordnance Survey map (1:10,000), 1974