

08001 – Lidl UK Wavertree – Former Abbey Cinema

Heritage Statement

Phil Lloyd

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Issue 02



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01	First Issue to client	16.03.2021
02	Issue for planning application	18.03.2021

Plate 01 (Front Cover) Former Abbey Cinema view of Entrance June 1939 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The building in question is situated on the corner of Church Road North and Childwall Road overlooking the Picton Clock roundabout.

The proposed development will provide a new purpose built (Class A1) Lidl supermarket with associated delivery area, car parking and landscaping.

The existing former cinema building has previously been converted (and extended) for use as a supermarket at ground floor and a bingo/snooker hall at the upper levels.

The building is not designated but is located within the Wavertree Village Conservation Area (WVCA).

The objectives of this Heritage Statement are:

- To present an outline breakdown of the values of the building and the site, focusing on archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest (NPPG 2019).*
- To identify each aspect of the 'special interest' or significance of the buildings and their setting.*
- To identify the impact of the proposed works on the significance and any mitigation required.*

A summary of the assessment in the Statement of Significance above is as follows:

<i>Architectural Value:</i>	<i>'Some'</i>	<i>at a Local Level only</i>
<i>Historic Value:</i>	<i>"Limited"</i>	<i>at a Local and National Level</i>
<i>Archaeological Value:</i>		
<i>Belowground:</i>	<i>Limited</i>	<i>at a Local Level only</i>
<i>Aboveground:</i>	<i>'Some'</i>	<i>at a Local Level only</i>
<i>Artistic Value:</i>	<i>Limited</i>	<i>at a Local Level only</i>
<i>Communal Value:</i>	<i>'Some'</i>	<i>at a Local Level only</i>

CONCLUSION

The Heritage Impact Assessment in section 3.0 concludes that the demolition of the former cinema will cause 'less than substantial harm' to the character of the conservation area and the setting of the neighbouring listed buildings but that it will also cause the total loss of much of the significance of the building itself.

The HIA also concludes that the new development proposals, i.e. the proposed new supermarket, will not harm the conservation area or the neighbouring listed buildings but will diminish some communal value attributed to the former cinema.

The proposed scheme would offer several aspects of public benefit, principally providing an economic benefit to the area both in investment, jobs and in value to customers. It would also ensure the provision of a busy commercial operation that would aid footfall in the conservation area, bolstering its appreciation, and likely increased visits to Wavertree High Street locations.

The scheme would also support social objectives by supporting and providing key accessible services to the local community within a safe, modern, built environment.

Further benefits and positive contributions in relation to the NPPF are set out in the accompanying planning statement. Coupled with the Structural Appraisal, Design and Access Statement and the

points put forward above, it is applicants view that the public benefits provided by the proposal outweigh the less than substantial harm set out in section 3.0

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to acknowledge and thank staff at Liverpool Record Office during the Covid-19 Lockdown and Library/Archive closure for searching and digitising records, Lidl UK for their assistance and access to reports by other surveyors and consultants.

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NB. On 1st April 2015 the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England changed its common name from English Heritage to Historic England. This document references both names as some documents were published prior to the name change but remain relevant until they are republished with the new branding or revised.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	9
1.1 THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT	10
1.2 SCHEME OVERVIEW	15
1.3 THE WIDER HISTORICAL CONTEXT	16
1.4 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BUILDINGS	17
2.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	19
2.1 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SETTING	19
2.2 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUILDINGS	20
2.2.1 ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST	21
2.2.2 HISTORICAL INTEREST	29
2.2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST	30
2.2.4 ARTISTIC INTEREST	33
2.2.5 COMMUNAL VALUE	34
2.2.6 SUMMARY AND COMMENTARY	35
3.0 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT	36
3.1 IMPACT ON THE SETTING (Conservation Area)	37
3.2 IMPACT ON THE SETTING OF NEIGHBOURING LISTED BUILDINGS.	37
3.3 IMPACT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FORMER CINEMA.	38
4.0 JUSTIFICATION & CONCLUSION	39

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A DESIGNATION DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX B MERSEYSIDE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SEARCH
RESULTS

APPENDIX C LIVERPOOL RECORD OFFICE INFORMATION

APPENDIX D MARKED UP DRAWINGS SHOWING CHANGES

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig 01 Extract of Site Plan with development site shown in red

Fig 02 Plan of area adjacent to the Former cinema showing listed buildings.

Fig 03 Wavertree Village Conservation Area plan with development site shown in red

Fig 04 3D views

Fig 05 six-inch OS map published 1928

Fig 06 1:10,000 OS map published 1956

Fig 07 Partial 'As Built' ground floor plan of the current co-op supermarket

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 01 (Front Cover) Former Abbey Cinema view of Entrance June 1939

Plate 02 Former Abbey Cinema

Plate 03 Image of the Forum Cinema designed by Shennan and Glen (Source: <https://www.skyscrapercity.com>)

Plate 04 Image of the Curzon Cinema designed by Shennan prior to its conversion to a supermarket and then subsequent demolition (Source: <https://confidentials.com>)

Plate 05 Image of a site plan layout showing the proposed cinema and 66 houses.

Plate 06 Image of proposed ground floor plan dated January 1937

Plate 07 Image of proposed first floor plan dated January 1937

Plate 08 Image of proposed second floor/circle plan dated January 1937

Plate 09 Image of proposed westerly elevation dated January 1937

Plate 10 Image of proposed northerly elevation dated January 1937

Plate 11 Image of proposed southerly elevation dated January 1937

Plate 12 Image of easterly elevation dated January 1937

Plate 13 Image of Front cover and selected pages of the souvenir brochure

Plate 14 Image of early draft verses for *In My Life* by John Lennon

Plate 15 Image of extant scalloped plaster recesses in the ceiling above the suspended ceiling of the bingo/snooker hall

Plate 16 Image showing the interior of the Abbey Cinema before conversion to Cinerama

Plate 17 Image of existing western corridor at first floor with existing plasterwork and later metal windows

Plate 18 Image of extant original fibrous plaster ceiling on metal laths with the curved shape seen in plate 13 evident

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The building in question is situated on the corner of Church Road North and Childwall Road overlooking the Picton Clock roundabout.



Plate 02 Former Abbey Cinema (Source: Space Architects June 2020)

The proposed development will provide a new purpose built (Class A1) Lidl supermarket with associated delivery area, car parking and landscaping.

The existing former cinema building has previously been converted (and extended) for use as a supermarket at ground floor and a bingo/snooker hall at the upper levels.

The building is not designated, and the author has found no documentary evidence of the building being declared a 'non-designated heritage Asset' but it is located within the Wavertree Village Conservation Area (WVCA).

The site has semi-detached housing on its immediate boundaries to the south and east with the grade II designated Picton Clock Tower located immediately to the north east behind a purpose built public convenience building. A grade II designated 'Lock Up' is located on the opposite side of Childwall Road to the North.

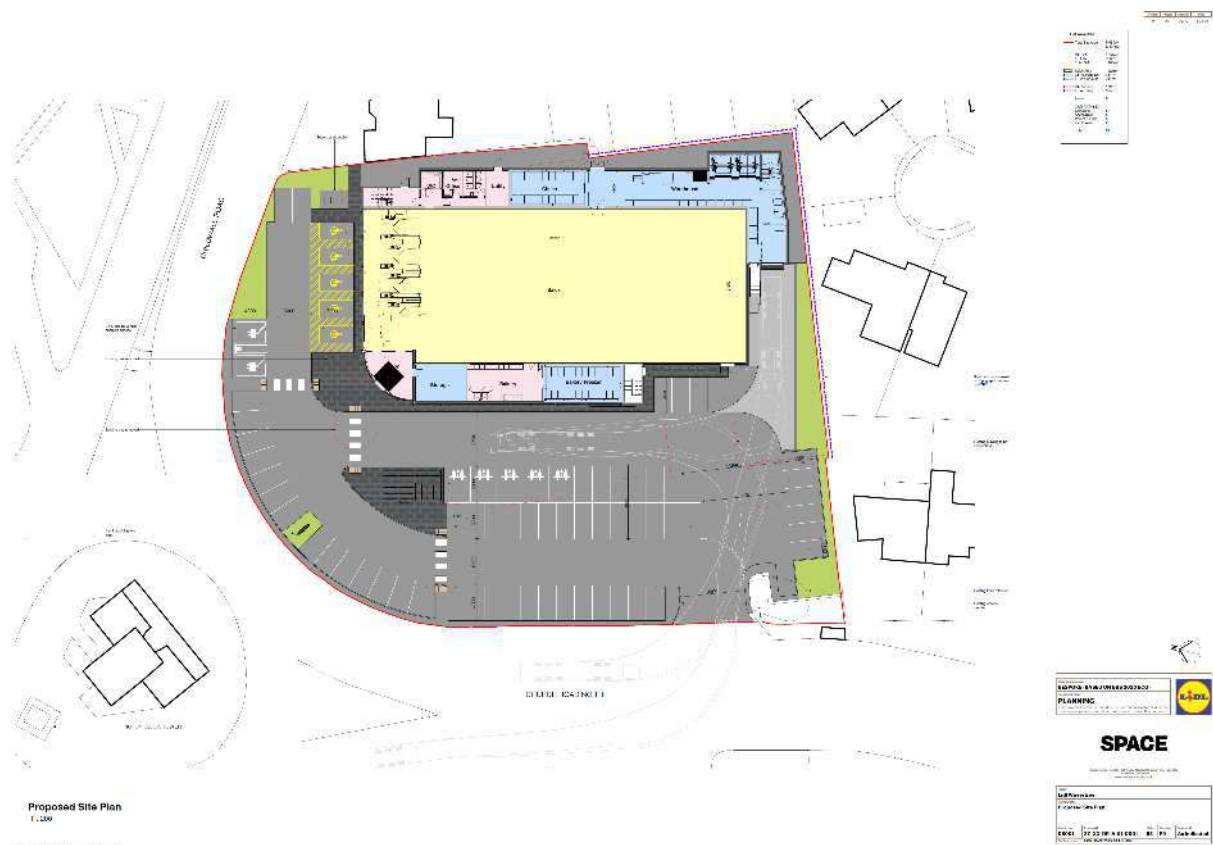


Fig 01 Extract of Site Plan with development site shown in red (Source: Space Architects 2020)

1.1 THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Heritage Statement has been prepared by Space Architects on behalf of Lidl UK to accompany the Full Planning Application for the proposed development of a Lidl supermarket.

This statement should be read in conjunction with the application forms and the accompanying or appended technical documents, drawings and associated reports.

In several places this statement relies upon and summarises the findings and contents of a number of other previously and concurrently prepared documents, which are submitted with this application. A site visit has also been made by Space Architects in June 2020. The aforementioned documents are:

- Beam Consulting (Feb 2021) Structural Appraisal Report for Proposed Retail Store referenced hereafter as 'Beam Consulting 2021' or 'Structural Appraisal'
- Design & Access Statement by Space Architects; March 2021 referenced hereafter as 'Space D&A 2020'
- Planning Statement by Plan-A Ltd

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Heritage Statement are:

- To present an outline breakdown of the values of the building and the site, focusing on archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest (NPPG 2019).

- To identify each aspect of the 'special interest' or significance of the buildings and their setting.
- To identify the impact of the proposed works on the significance and any mitigation required.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

In March 2012 the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published and replaced all the previous Planning Policy Statements and Guidance, including PPS 5 - Planning for The Historic Environment. The first full revision to this document was issued last year (NPPF 2018) and minor amendments published in February 2019. The section on Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, along with other statements throughout the document outlines a significance led approach to decision making in relation to carrying out works that affect heritage assets.

The guidance document published by English Heritage alongside PPS 5 was replaced in March 2014 by Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 2014) published online. The online guidance has been updated periodically with the guidance for NPPF section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (now section 16 of NPPF 2019). Being born out of the earlier guidance the new PPG's principles of guidance are broadly similar and it is common practice to follow the approach laid out in that guidance when assessing significance.

DESIGNATED AND NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

The development site contains the following building which is not listed and not documented as a non-designated heritage asset. It is however listed in the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) results:

- Former Abbey Cinema, opened in 1939

There are several other listed buildings, structures and parks in close proximity to the development site. The closest of these are:

- Picton Clock – Grade II (List entry number 1206131)
- Lock Up – Grade II (List entry number 1068320)
- Lamb Hotel, High Street – Grade II* (List entry number 1207497)
- 28A & 28 Church Road North – Grade II (List entry number 1068326)
- 102A High Street – Grade II* (List entry number 1075181)
- Wavertree Town Hall – Grade II (List entry number 1075219)



Fig 02 Plan of area adjacent to the Former cinema showing listed buildings. (Source: Space Architects 2020)

Search results from the MHER are located in Appendix B. A search of the Liverpool archives has been undertaken by Liverpool record office and Libraries staff. This information is reproduced at various points within this report but is collected together in Appendix C

As noted above, the existing building on the development site, other than being within the conservation area, is not designated however there is currently an application for listing being assessed by Historic England.

The listed buildings in the immediate vicinity of the development are described in official list entries (Appendix A) and legally include all structures physically attached to them.

The listed status of these building (the two nearest are both grade II) means that they are considered to be of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them. Any harm to their significance or loss of grade II buildings is considered to be 'exceptional' (NPPF 2018 paragraph 194(a)). Listed building consent is required to alter the character of the buildings, their boundary features or their setting or to carry out any form of demolition.

When a Council considers whether to grant or to refuse an application (for any designated or non-designated heritage asset or a building within a conservation area), it must have special regard to the

desirability of preserving the building or buildings, its setting and those features which make it special.

This report aims to set out what aspects of the building's setting are important and what features make it special, so that consideration can be given to these things when planning proposed changes to the building, the site and the surrounding setting.

CONSERVATION AREAS

The former cinema building and surrounding (development) site is located within the WVCA. Conservation Areas are considered to be designated heritage assets and are dealt with in the National Planning Policy Framework in a similar way to listed buildings, World Heritage Sites and scheduled monuments (NPPF annexe 2, p51), although there is an implicit acknowledgement that they vary in significance.

The Conservation Area is one of 36 in the City of Liverpool and was designated in 1980 following an appeal and application by the local community, just after the building had been altered to become a Lennons Supermarket.

Conservation Areas are places where buildings and the spaces around them interact to form distinctly recognisable areas of special quality and interest. These places are protected under the provision of section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which defines them as 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.

Due to the NPPF's recognition of the Conservation Area as a designated heritage asset and as such a nationally important area it states that 'great weight' should be given to its significance (para 193) and the need to conserve the highest levels of significance, as defined in this report, in any development proposal.

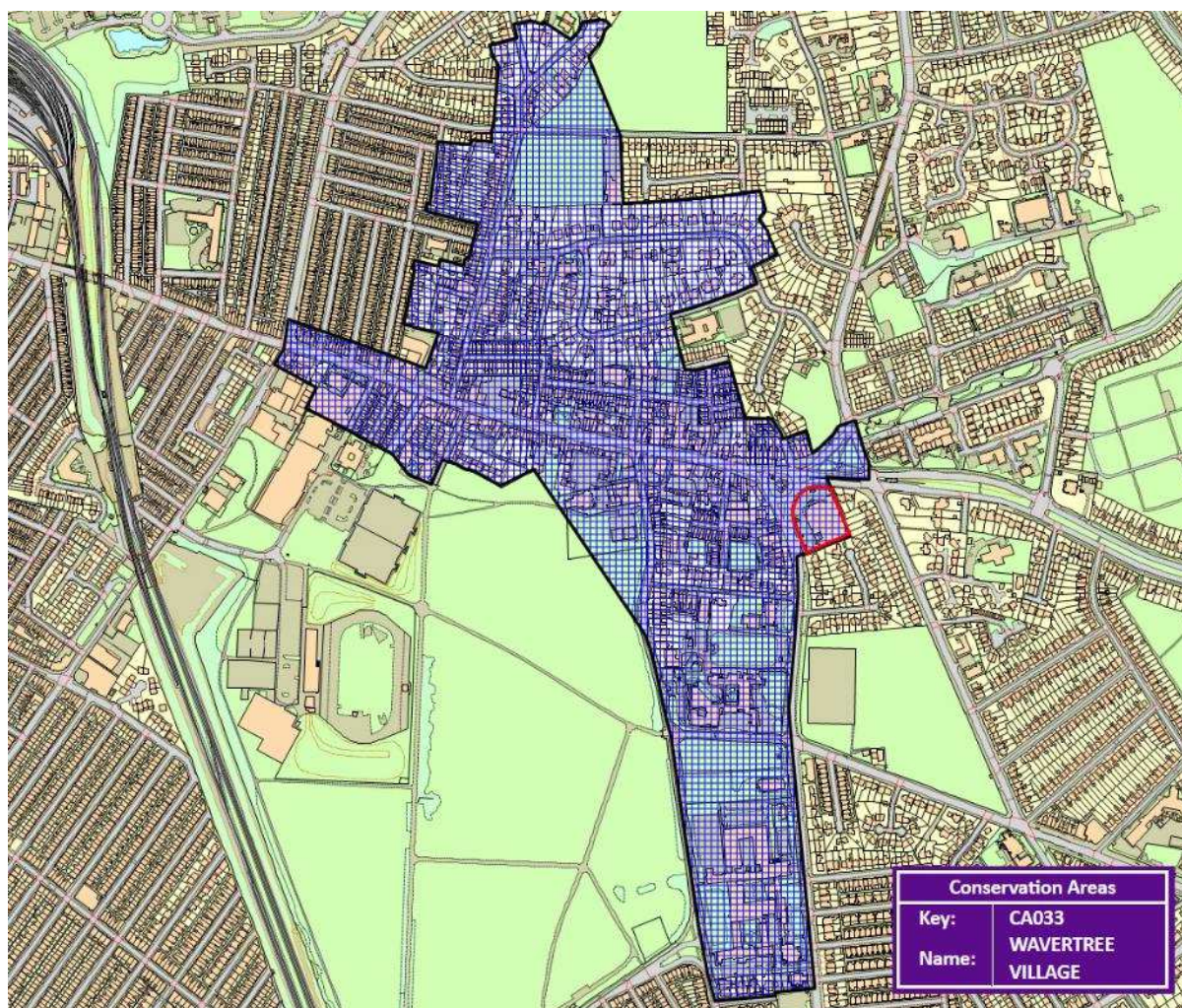


Fig 03 Wavertree Village Conservation Area plan with development site shown in red (Source: Space Architects 2020)

No character appraisal or management plan has been prepared for the WVCA but an advisory leaflet, prepared by Liverpool City Council, exists from 2008 and is available on the Wavertree Society Website (The web link is provided in the bibliography) . As it predates the NPPF and NPPG this document does not highlight 'non-designated Heritage assets' (NPPF 2018, 197) and only provides a very brief summary of the special interest of the Conservation Area. It does however list several buildings of importance and character but makes no mention of the former Abbey Cinema, its art deco detailing, location or any contribution they may make to the character of the conservation area.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Whilst normally we would include a narrative on local planning policies and how the proposals sit in line with those policies, in this case it is included in the design and access statement and the planning statement submitted with this application and therefore this document should be read in conjunction with these documents.

1.2 SCHEME OVERVIEW

In summary this project comprises the following:

- Demolition of existing Co-op supermarket (former Abbey Cinema and later warehouse extension)
- Erection of a purpose-built Lidl UK supermarket with associated, loading dock, car parking and landscaping

Refer to the Space Architects D&A Statement for more detail.



Fig 04 3D views (Source: Space Architects)

1.3 THE WIDER HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Wavertree emerged around a junction as many early villages and future suburbs do. The site of the Picton Clock, adjacent to which the development site is located, is the historic junction on the road from Liverpool to Childwall, Gateacre and Old Swan.

The village had rural beginnings and gradually expanded. Eventually, as Liverpool grew during the 19th and 20th Centuries it became an important neighbouring town but eventually becoming a suburb.

A further summary of the history can be found on historic-liverpool.co.uk and much more detail within the Wavertree society website. It is interesting to note that the historic-liverpool website notes that a windmill stood nearby and that a late C18th ban on walls enclosing common land over 4'6" (so as not to deflect wind from the windmill) was invoked, unsuccessfully, in the 1930s to try and stop the cinema building being built even though the windmill had been lost at the turn of the century.

Historic Map Regression

It appears from mapping data from the development site and surrounding area between 1850-1967 that the earliest building on the site was a pavilion building associated with a large Sports Ground to its immediate south (six-inch OS map published 1928)



Fig 05 six-inch OS map published 1928 (Source: <https://maps.nls.uk> Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

We know that the Abbey Cinema was opened in 1939 and this is confirmed by the pavilion still being shown on the 1946 six-inch OS map which was surveyed in 1938. The first OS map that the cinema appears on is the 1956 1:10,000 (six inch to 1 mile) OS plan which was surveyed between 1950-55.

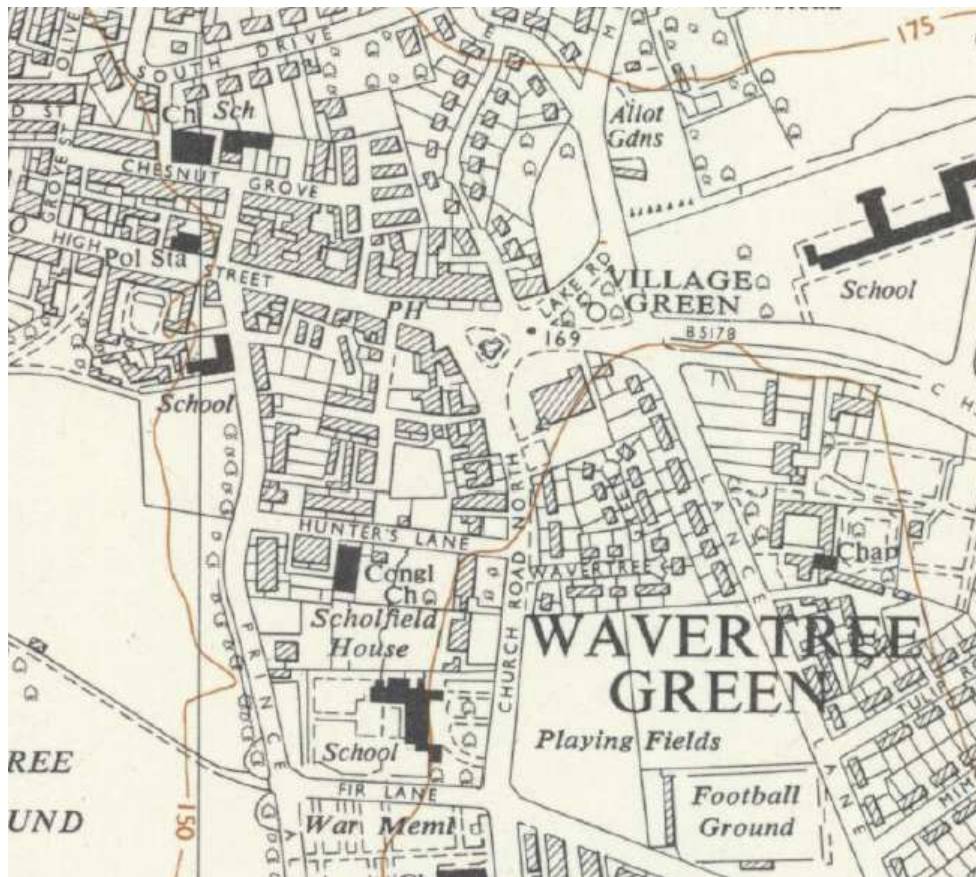


Fig 06 1:10,000 OS map published 1956 (Source: <https://maps.nls.uk> Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

1.4 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

The Abbey Cinema was designed by Alderman Alfred Ernest Shennan between 1937-8 and was opened on 4th March 1939. Upon opening the cinema seated 1870 with 1,126 in the stalls and 744 in the circle.

Drawings of a presumably earlier design by Shennan show a very similar footprint and layout with separate entrances and exits for the stalls and the lounge and circle. See section 2.2.1 for more information on the Architectural Interest of the building.

The Abbey cinema was built for the Regal Cinemas company and was later sold to Bedford Cinemas (1928) Ltd. In January 1964 the cinema was closed to enable its conversion into a Cinerama Theatre which included reducing the seating to 1,260, fitting a giant curved screen and a new projection suite with 3 Cinerama projectors. The Abbey Cinerama Theatre opened in March of 1964 but 13 months later the 3 projector system was removed and replaced with a single 70mm projector. (cinematreasures.org)

Cinerama screenings ceased in 1971 but the building continued to show films until it finally closed in 1979.(ibid)

Following its closure the ground floor was converted into a Lennon's Supermarket and 5 years later, in 1984, the unused circle area was converted and opened as a Coral bingo.

Since then the Bingo Club has been used as a Snooker club and the supermarket has changed hands, first to become a Somerfield and then later to become a Co-op, who were the last owner and operator until they closed in April 2020, when the building was purchased by the applicant.

2.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The glossary within Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 defines Significance as:

The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

The building within the development site is not listed but appears in the search results of the MHER. Despite its lack of designation its inclusion within the boundary of the Conservation Area (see fig. 03) indicates that it has already been credited with having special architectural or historic interest (significance) at a local level. The MHER entry does not include a statement on the reasoning for the listing (an outline of the significance). .

It is therefore necessary for an application of this type to provide a more detailed assessment of the significance of the building, its site and setting, to be carried out using particular parameters and methods. As the building is not designated on a national level but is within a Conservation Area its setting is considered primarily, followed by an analysis of the buildings significance in a similar way to a fully listed building would be assessed under the criteria set out in the NPPF and Historic England's Conservation Principles.

2.1 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SETTING

The National Planning Policy Framework seeks to protect those elements of an asset's setting which are considered to be significant. The English Heritage definition of setting is very wide:

'The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.' (English Heritage 2012).

The roundabout onto which the development site overlooks is an important and prominent location, signalling the start of High Street, the main commercial hub for Wavetree. The roundabout is also the location of the grade II listed Picton Clock, a prominent and important landmark albeit visually marred and partially blocked from the east and south east by the public toilets which are also located on the roundabout.

It can be argued that the former Abbey cinema is much more prominent than the Picton Clock given its height and size. It is certainly the highest building for a considerable distance and very visible as you approach the roundabout from the south and the east. Unfortunately it is the poorer quality elevations, made more so by their poor condition, that are seen from these approaches with the more richly decorated and designed entrance corner, albeit still in very poor condition, only being presented to the junction between Church Road North, Childwall Road and High Street. The Picton clock is certainly the main focus as you approach from High Street with the cinema only being revealed fully as you slow for the roundabout.

Opposite the former cinema to the north is also an important listed 'lock-up' dating from 1796 sitting in a protected stand of well established trees and within the only parcel of common land left in Liverpool. This lock-up was 'beautified' by Picton, the Architect and Historian who erected and gifted the town with the Picton clock in memory of his wife.

The list descriptions for the Picton Clock and Lock up are included in appendix A for ease of reference but there are also other listed buildings in the immediate area. Whilst these other heritage assets do not necessarily form part of the immediate setting of the former cinema they obviously contribute to the significance of the Conservation Area.

The former cinema building itself contributes to the character of the conservation area and elements that factor into this contribution will be discussed in section 2.2. However, in terms of summarising its contribution, its design, detailing, prominence and communal value all make a limited positive contribution but the changes to the façade both at ground level, the rotunda and the windows, the low quality extension to the south and its exceptionally poor condition, particularly the rotunda element on the corner, all have a negative impact on the conservation area.

The Picton Clock and the Lock-up could also be described as having a group value, particularly as they can both be related back to James Picton however the art deco cinema is alien to and detracts from this group value.

The significance of the setting of the development site and the conservation area is therefore assessed to be of a high level due to its position, the buildings and the character but that currently the cinema building has both positive and negative factors that balance to a neutral contribution at best.

2.2 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUILDING

This section should be read in conjunction with the accompanying reports and the submitted plans. The Architectural Significance of the former cinema buildings is assessed first, followed by Historical, Archaeological and Artistic Interest as set out in the NPPF. The Communal value, as set out in English Heritage's Conservation Principles (2008) is then assessed.

The broad divisions of national, regional or local importance convey an indication of overall importance, but such broad divisions need to be refined in order to provide a basis for decisions about intervention and management, not only articulating the key values, but relating them to specific elements of the site. Any historic asset, designated or undesignated, has a unique cultural significance derived from a wide range of varying interests and perspectives encompassing not just the physical fabric of the site but also its setting, use, history, traditions, local distinctiveness and community value (Kerr 2000). Successful management or development of a site is based on protecting these various elements, foreseeing any potential conflicts of interest within them, and minimising any potential threats arising in the future.

The following sections look at just what it is that contributes to the significance of the building based on the information outlined above and interpretation of the existing buildings via site visit. This is to help assess the acceptability of the proposals within this application and the impact on the significance of the Conservation Area and the neighbouring listed buildings as outlined in the National Planning Policy Guidance (March 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and revised version of 2018.

The assessment of significance includes an assessment of the nature, extent and level of significance of the building. The nature of the significance is divided into archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic interest (NPPG 2014/19 Annex 2: Glossary).

The level of significance is important as the loss of a feature of high significance is worse than losing one of low significance. The level of significance is based on to what extent a particular element contributes to the asset's heritage significance.

Within this report the following terms are used to define significance and are designed to aid informed management and the need to balance heritage significance with any wider public benefit of the proposal which is the spirit of the National Planning Policy Framework:

Considerable: aspects of the site considered as seminal to the archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic significance of the site, the alteration or development of which would destroy or significantly compromise the integrity of the site.

Some: aspects that help to define the archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance of the site, without which the character and understanding of place would be diminished but not destroyed.

Limited: aspects which may contribute to, or complement, the archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic significance of the site but are not intrinsic to it or may only have a minor connection to it, and the removal or alteration of which may have a degree of impact on the understanding and interpretation of the place.

Unknown: aspects where the significance is not clearly understood possibly because it is masked or obscured and where further research may be required to clarify its significance.

None: aspects which may make a negative contribution or a neutral contribution where its loss would make no difference to our understanding and interpretation of the place.

2.2.1 ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST

Architectural interest is not directly defined within the NPPF or NPPG (neither are Historic, Archaeological or Artistic Significance but the first two could be said to be relatively clear and self-explanatory). Architectural significance can therefore take on several aspects; A highly regarded architectural composition or design perhaps by a highly appreciated Architect or designer, an architectural typology or style that has become or is becoming a rare example of its kind or simply a building that holds aesthetic merit not necessarily linked to its Architectural style.

For an assessment of the 'fabric' of the buildings and that which remains refer to 2.2.3 Archaeological Interest below.

The former Abbey Cinema was designed between 1937-8 by Alfred Ernhest Shennan F.R.I.B.A. (1887-1859). Shennan is credited with designing a number of Liverpool's Art Deco cinemas as well as other buildings in a similar style including the Grade II* Greenbank Synagogue (Greenbank Drive, Liverpool). He was later made an Alderman and Freeman of the City of Liverpool and a Knight of the Realm and co-authored a book in 1948 on behalf of Liverpool City Council entitled *Liverpool; Past Present Future* which as well as presenting a history of the city offered a vision of what a future Liverpool could look like (<https://asenseofplace.com>).

There are a number of online sources that suggest that the Abbey was one of Shennan's best cinemas or the best Art Deco cinema in Liverpool however to say this would be to dismiss the existence of the former Forum and later ABC cinema on Lime Street (plate 03) which Shennan did in the early 1930s with William Glen, another renowned cinema designer. This is more grand, more refined, and largely intact despite being unused for many years. Its own significance is also recognised in a grade II designation although this does state it is for the interior which is by Glen (and therefore not for the architecture of Shennan). There have also been other art deco buildings

(including cinemas) by Shennan, some arguably better examples of the Style e.g. Curzon Theatre, than the former Abbey and none of these have been listed and many have been demolished.



Plate 03 Image of the Forum Cinema designed by Shennan and Glen (Source: <https://www.skyscrapercity.com>)



Plate 04 Image of the Curzon Cinema designed by Shennan prior to its conversion to a supermarket and then subsequent demolition (Source: <https://confidentials.com>)

No drawings exist of the former cinema as built, however a set of plans and elevations by Shennan is located in the Liverpool Record Office. There similarity in footprint, plan layout and style indicate that it represents an earlier proposed design that was, for some reason reworked, perhaps more than once as a proposed site plan showing the proposed cinema and 66 proposed houses also has a fractionally different footprint.

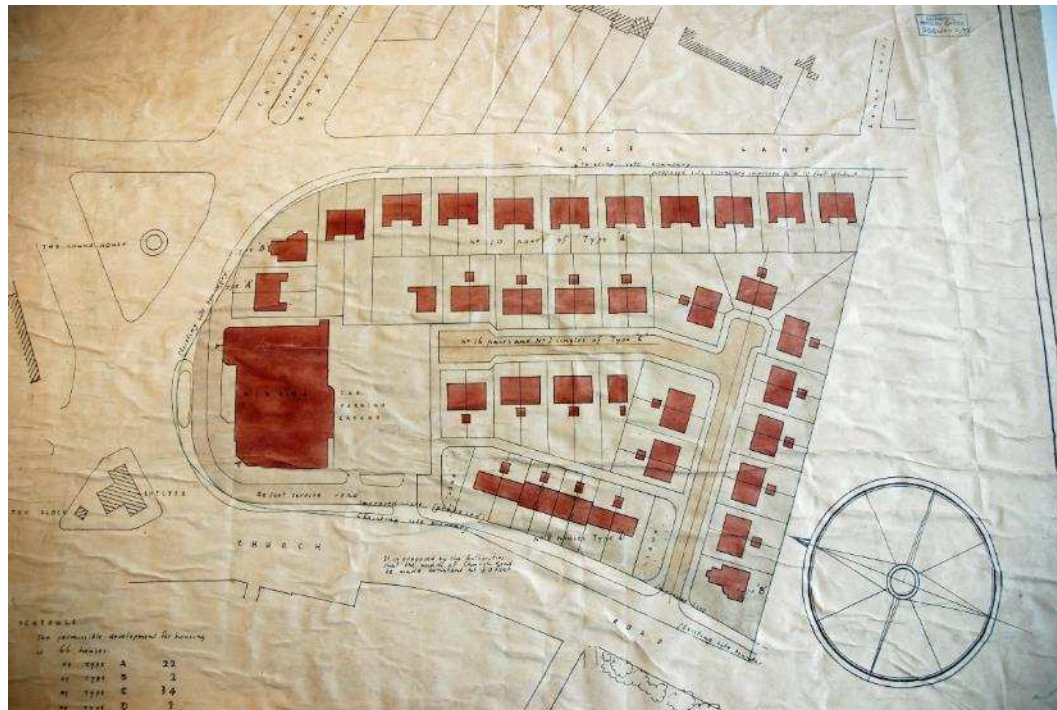


Plate 05 Image of a site plan layout showing the proposed cinema and 66 houses, laid out in a very similar manner to the existing housing. (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

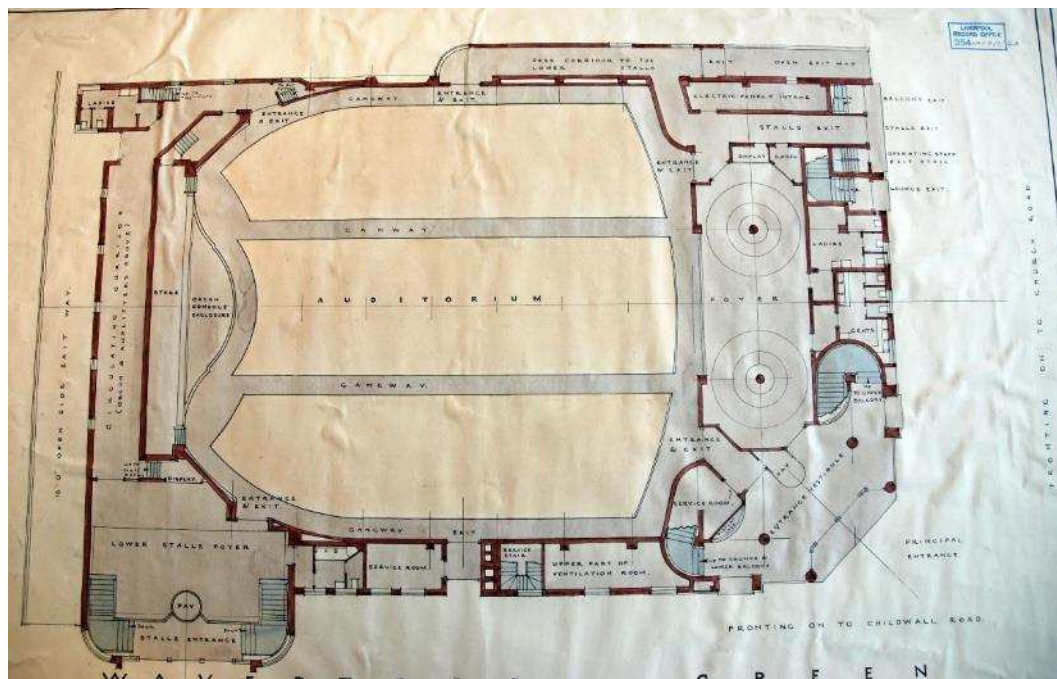


Plate 06 Image of proposed ground floor plan dated January 1937 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

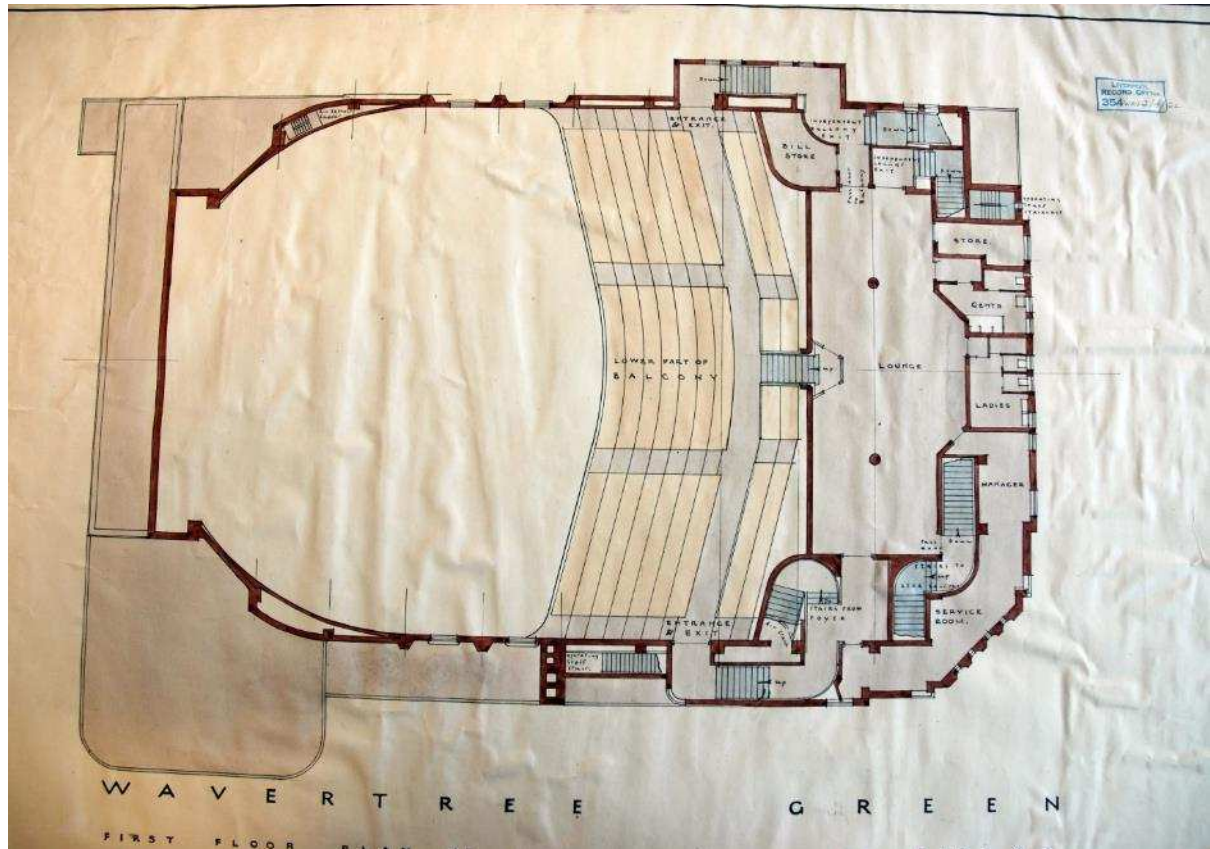


Plate 07 Image of proposed first floor plan dated January 1937 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

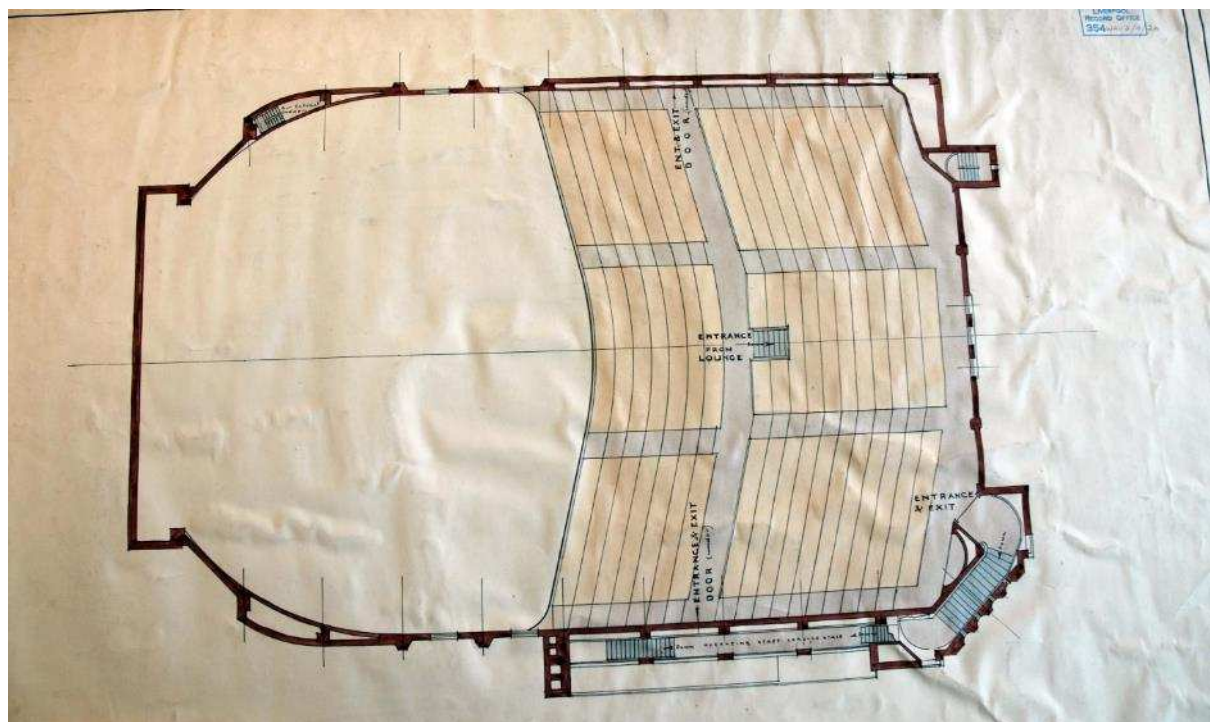


Plate 08 Image of proposed second floor/circle plan dated January 1937 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

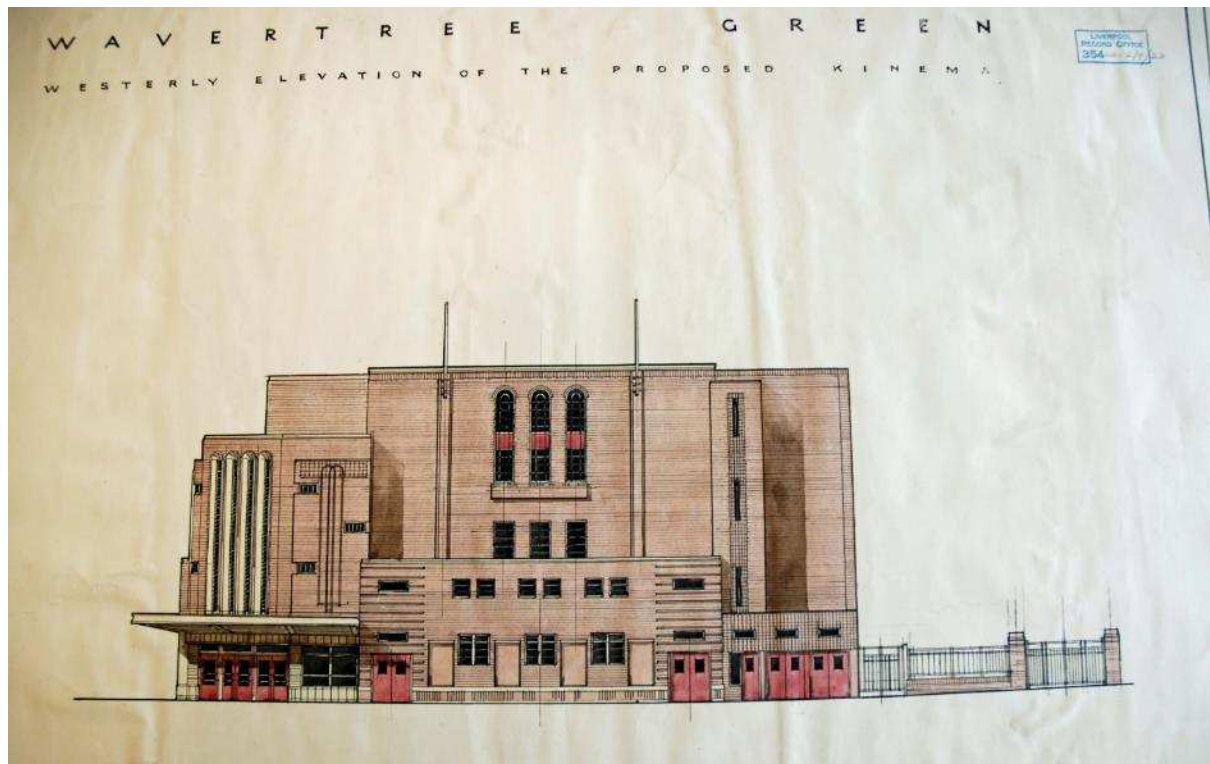


Plate 09 Image of proposed westerly elevation dated January 1937 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

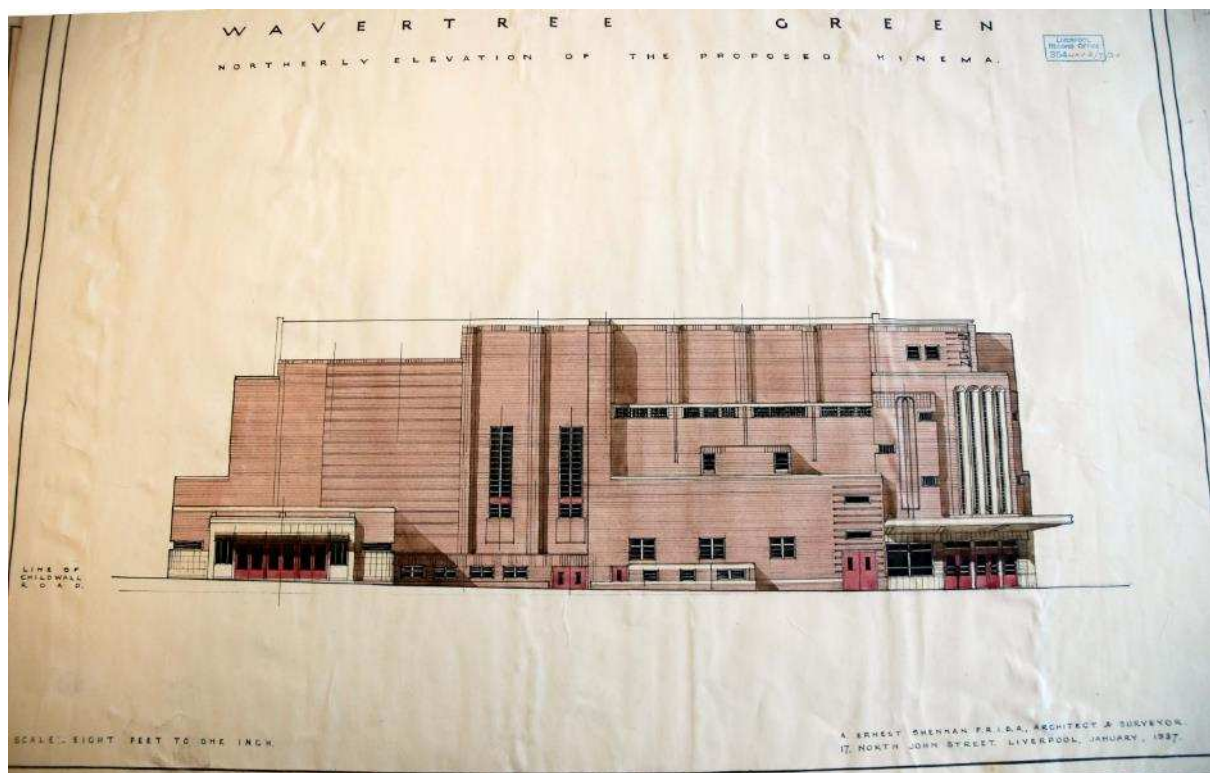


Plate 10 Image of proposed northerly elevation dated January 1937 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

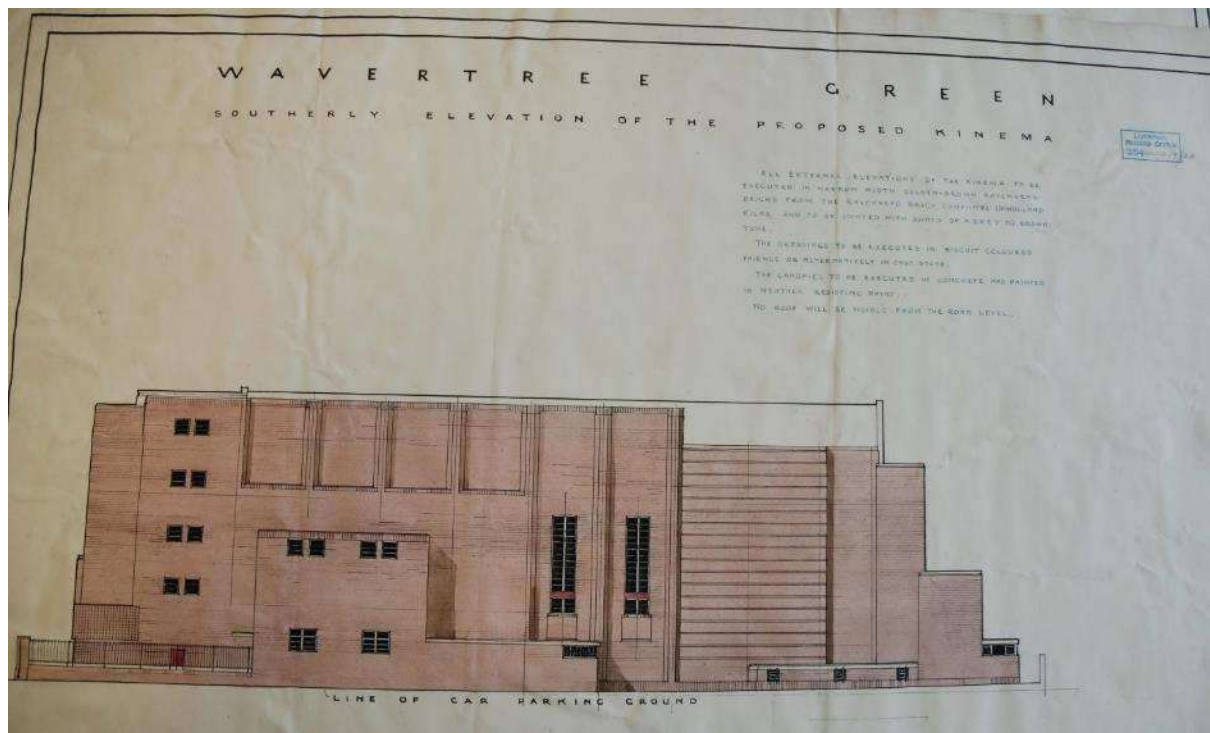


Plate 11 Image of proposed southerly elevation dated January 1937 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

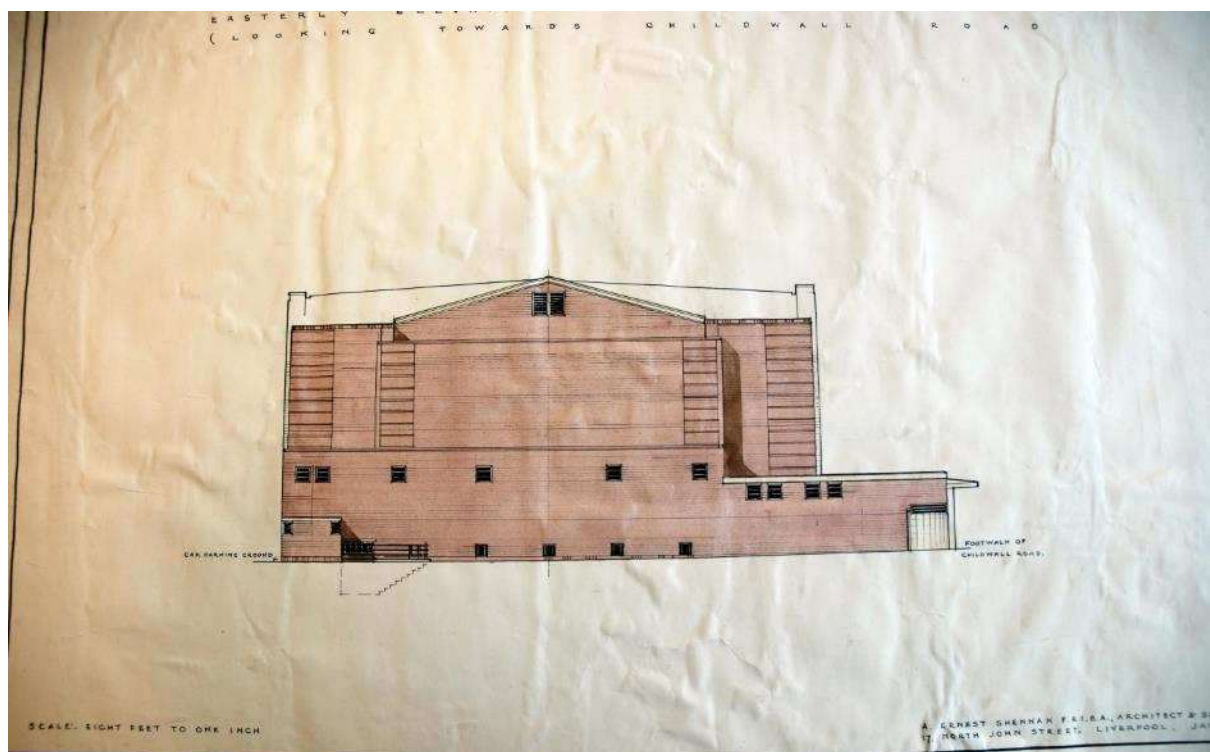


Plate 12 Image of easterly elevation dated January 1937 (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

Interestingly, even the souvenir brochure produced for the opening night in 1939, held an image entitled 'The Abbey Cinema' which clearly shows, with no explanation, a drawing of the new cinema that did not match the one that was actually complete and opening.

The programme goes on to describe, rather grandly, the new cinema as "*ultra modern... notice, for instance, with what ease the façade carried its pleasing dignity – its simple lines, in rustic brick, tower upwards, free from pompous ornamentation, reaching its peak of appeal at night under the bravery of Neon Lighting.*"



Plate 13 Image of Front cover and selected pages of the souvenir brochure (Source: Liverpool Record Office CE7726)

The Neon lighting was certainly used to show off the tall building and the Art Deco detailing of the entrance rotunda and an image can be found of this on the Chestercinemas.co.uk website (link in the bibliography)

Whilst the general external footprint of the cinema is still obvious, key elements of the internal plan layout of the ground floor have been lost. The stalls, entrance foyer and access to one of the stairs to the circle are gone as can be seen on an 'As Built' plan of the current co-op supermarket.

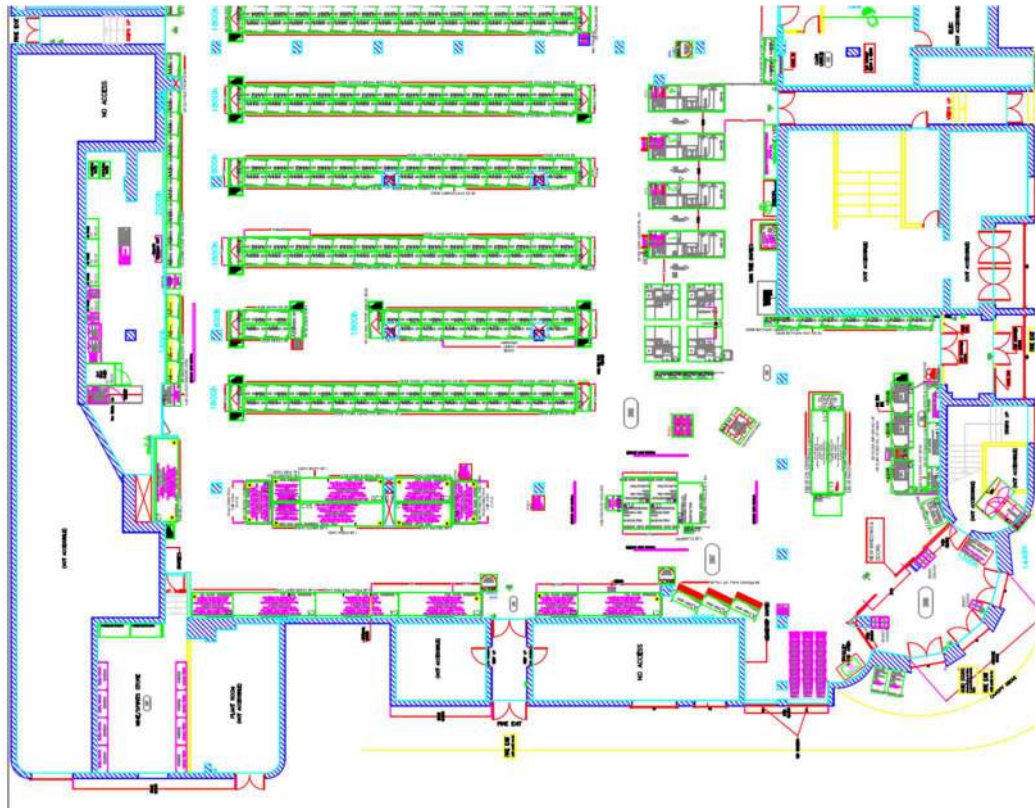


Fig 07 Partial 'As Built' ground floor plan of the current co-op supermarket (Source: [Lidl UK/Space Architects](#))

Similarly, on the upper floors the arrangement of the former circle balcony is masked by a number of tiered floors and access stairs which are built off the original circle tiering.

When considering the elevations, the design and style is still clear. However, there are exceptions to this with original fabric, which held key original design features, having been changed or lost in a good number of locations:

- The façade at low level has been overlaid in modern brick at the same time that the rear supermarket warehouse was added (c1979-80)
- The distinctive thin cantilever canopy has been subsumed within a deep fascia.
- The Rotunda above the canopy may have had the dark vertical tiles replaced to the main vertical feature pillasters. The condition of these tiles and the concrete façade system behind it is extremely poor.
- The windows have all been changed with the originals having many more horizontal transoms than the existing. This is most noticeable when looking between historic and current images of the building.

Please also refer to drawings within appendix D showing the elements and details that have been changed since the buildings construction, the majority of which would have been in 1980 when the building was altered to become a supermarket and later when it became a co-op and the bingo/snooker hall was inserted.

These incremental losses of fabric and detailing and the current poor condition detract and compromise what was originally a fair Art Deco composition.

Due to its architectural composition and the regional recognition of Shennan, but taking into account the changes and loss of fabric and condition over time, it is therefore reasonable to assess the **Architectural Interest of the former cinema building as 'Some' but certainly only at a local level.**

2.2.2 HISTORICAL INTEREST

To hold historic interest the building(s) or site must have some historical association with regionally or nationally important people or events and/or illustrate aspects of regional or national history.

Associative Historical Interest

Over and above the association with the regionally recognised Architect, described above, the Abbey Cinema can also be associated with a number of regionally, nationally and internationally recognised people.

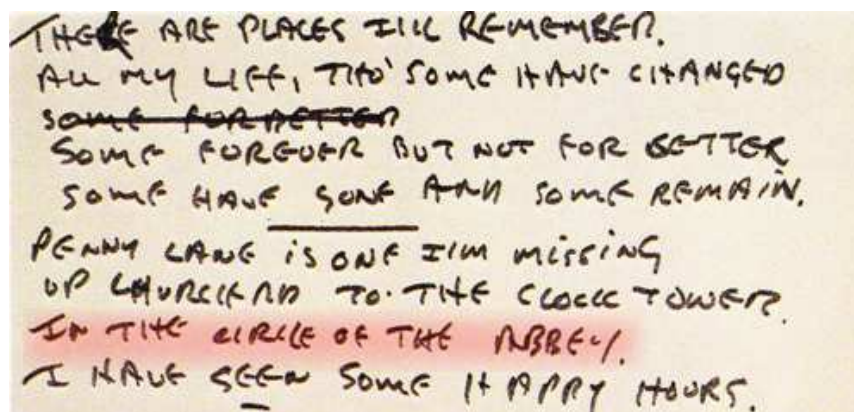
On a local and national level the comedian Ken Dodd is known to have opened the new Gala Bingo Hall above the supermarket in 1984 and photographs also exist online of actress Sue Johnston visiting the same bingo hall.

More significantly, the cinema has links John Lennon and George Harrison albeit for a short period of time before they were in the Quarrymen and becoming famous as The Beatles.

Both Lennon and Harrison are known to have lived in the area and visited the Abbey, with the former living in Wavertree until he was 5, his family then moving to Woolton and the latter moving to Speke when he was 6.

Two pieces of evidence support this association

The first evidence is within an early draft of the Beatles song *In My life*, John Lennon included a verse that described memorable places from his past. The verse however, never made it into the final song but the draft exists and proves a direct association. The verse in the draft reads:



THERE ARE PLACES I'LL REMEMBER.
ALL MY LIFE, THO' SOME HAVE CHANGED
SOME FORGOTTEN
SOME FORGOTTEN BUT NOT FORGETTER
SOME HAVE GONE AND SOME REMAIN.
PENNY LANE IS ONE I'M MISSING
UP LAURICAN TO THE CLOCK TOWER.
IN THE CIRCLE OF THE ABBEY.
I HAVE SEEN SOME HAPPY HOURS.

Plate 14 Image of early draft verses for *In My Life* by John Lennon (Source: Shotton & Schaffner 1983 via <https://beatlesliverpool-locations.blogspot.com>)

The full narrative is provided on <https://beatlesliverpool-locations.blogspot.com> which itself quotes a 1983 book entitled *John Lennon In My Life* by Pete Shotton and Nicholas Schaffner, friends of Lennon.

The evidence of Harrison's links to the building is from the same website where a blog recounts that both Harrison and Lennon recall watching films together and that both the Rock n Roll or Elvis films and the way that women reacted to the stars of these films was an early influence for them getting a 'job in Rock n Roll'. (Ibid)

It must also be said however, that a considerable number of locations and buildings in Liverpool and particularly in the Mosley Hill, Wavertree and Woolton areas have similar or stronger links to some or all members of The Beatles and even those with the strongest links are not designated directly because of these associations. Three examples would be:

- The gate posts and (replica) gate at Strawberry fields to which Beatles fans often visit as a sort of 'pilgrimage' (not designated???)
- The Woolton Picture House (Conservation Area but not listed), a cinema built in 1927 and still operating (albeit closed due to the Covid pandemic). This building was reported by the Liverpool Echo (March 2009), when it was used as a set for a film about his childhood, as having Lennon as a frequent visitor in his teenage years.
- Penny Lane signage is not designated and outside the Mossley Hill Conservation Area boundary.

Illustrative Historical Interest

On an illustrative level the former Abbey Cinema is notable for being the first in Liverpool to present the Cinerama format of projection where a film would be produced on three 'strips' and projected from three separate projectors onto a large curved screen. The format was however short lived due to being uneconomic.

From the above it is reasonable to assess the former Abbey Cinema as having at least **'Limited' Historic Interest on a national level.**

2.2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

BS 7913:2013 'Guide to the conservation of historic buildings' defines Archaeology as:

"study and interpretation of the past, based on uncovering, retrieving, recording and interpreting information from physical evidence"

Furthermore, The Glossary in Annex 2 to the NPPF states:

"There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point."

Archaeological Interest can be strongly associated with 'Evidential Value' as set out in English Heritage's 2008 Conservation Principles. Evidential Value is defined as being 'derived from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity'. Below ground archaeology is widely understood for its potential to inform us of how people lived but above ground archaeology in the form of buildings can be equally as informative. In order to yield that evidence, original fabric and for example plan layout are required. Extant original Teller positions and counters, consultation offices,

waiting areas etc would, for example, provide evidence of how a particular bank or insurance office of the C 19th – early C20th would have presented itself and operated.

The following assesses the buildings within the development site for Archaeological interest. Please note that the extent of external fabric and architectural composition has been discussed to a degree in section 2.2.1 Architectural Interest, above and is therefore only touched upon here.

An examination of the record office plans, whilst not the final scheme, together with a site visit indicate there have been distinct later changes at most levels but in some places, where changes have been made, evidence of the previous layout can be seen on site.

There are also a number of original features, albeit hidden by later interventions mostly within the upper floors. These range from original plasterwork and decorative scalloped recesses for light fittings, internal faces of the art deco rotunda and many of the original window openings (if not the actual windows) The tiering for the original circle seating is also largely intact and it currently supports a series of floors that were installed when the Bingo hall was converted to a Rileys Snooker Club. (refer also to the structural appraisal report (Beam Consulting 2021)

Drawings have been included in Appendix D showing a summary of areas of loss or change from the original fabric



Plate 15 Image of extant scalloped plaster recesses in the ceiling above the modern suspended ceiling of the bingo/snooker hall (Source: Space Architects June 2020)



Plate 16 Image showing the interior of the Abbey Cinema before conversion to Cinerama showing the scalloped plaster recesses shown in plate 12(Source: <https://beatlesliverpool-locations.blogspot.com>)



Plate 17 Image of existing western corridor at first floor with existing plasterwork and later metal windows (Source: Space Architects June 2020)



Plate 18 Image of extant original fibrous plaster ceiling on metal laths with the curved shape seen in plate 13 evident (Source: Space Architects June 2020)

Based on the search results from the MHER, the map regression showing that the site had no development prior to the Sport pavilion in the late 19th Century and the fact that the foundations for the former cinema and the later supermarket warehouse extension will have likely destroyed any belowground archaeological remains the potential for further belowground archaeological remains is thought to be low.

It is assessed that the development site and former cinema building has **'limited' belowground archaeological interest and 'some' local level above ground Archaeological Interest.**

2.2.4 ARTISTIC INTEREST

Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) now superseded by the NPPF held the following definition of Artistic interest:

"Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture" (HM Government: DCaLG 2010)

Other aspects of Artistic Interest could be the building as part of a particular historic view or the subject of historic works of art.

It should be noted that the aesthetics of a building is closely linked to its conscious and/or unconscious form derived by its design and consequentially would relate more with Architectural significance (see section 2.2.1.).

Where such an interest exists it is possible to look at to what extent the historic view would be affected by any new development.

A trawl of the internet and various web based depositories of pictures of Wavertree found only a few images of the development site, reproduced on multiple sites and this included the 'modern online library of images' that appears in a 'Google Images' search. The Wavertree Society do however have a repository of historic images some available online and others in a published book. (link provided in the bibliography).

See also the front cover image (plate 01)

These are excellent primary sources of information to support other aspects of the assessment of significance but perhaps only possess a small amount of artistic interest.

At this time, the development site can therefore be assessed as having **'limited' Artistic Interest at a local level.**

2.2.5 COMMUNAL VALUE

English Heritage's Conservation Principles (now Historic England) defines Communal value as "the meaning of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory" (English Heritage 2008 pp 31)

Conservation Principles goes on to explain Commemorative, Symbolic, Social and Spiritual values as being different forms of Communal Value

Loosely this means that anyone may hold a Communal Value with the former cinema as they are either interested in:

- the history of the building,
- the history of cinema in Liverpool, in the region or indeed nationally
- the history of its designers, owners, operators and/or performers
- the history of those people that visited the cinema

Or in some way form part of the following list:

- dedicated regular visitors
- visitors that perhaps experienced singular memorable moment(s) within the theatre
- groups that considers the theatre as their 'home'
- past employees e.g. projectionists or usherettes

It is difficult to measure communal value but it is appropriate to note that some of those constituent values listed above will fluctuate in strength over time and may not even be directly dependent on the physical form of the theatre remaining the same.

An independent application by Save Britain's Heritage and the Wavertree Society has been made to Historic England to have the cinema listed. Alongside this, a petition has been circulated online and this provides a level of uncontrolled measurement of some of the public's perceptions of the cinema and their thoughts on the existing theatre and the proposed development. There is therefore evidence of interest in the history of the cinema and the memories they have of it.

There are also groups of people that exhibit, record and support this interest in others e.g. Chestercinemas.co.uk and The Wavertree Society.

With the above in mind it would be appropriate at this time to say **that the former cinema has at least 'some' Communal value at a local level.**

2.2.6 SUMMARY AND COMMENTARY

A summary of the assessment in the Statement of Significance above is as follows:

Architectural Value:	'Some'	at a Local Level only
Historic Value:	'Limited'	at a Local and National Level
Archaeological Value:		
Belowground:	Limited	at a Local Level only
Aboveground:	'Some'	at a Local Level only
Artistic Value:	Limited	at a Local Level only
Communal Value:	'Some'	at a Local Level only

Finally it is worth noting that many cinemas were lost in the middle of the C20th due to the rise of the television but many were saved in the 1960s by the popularity of Bingo. Many were then listed in the 1970s to combat the rising number of those good examples being demolished as they lay empty and unused.

Historic England, then English Heritage, also undertook a national assessment of cinemas in the late 1990's resulting in 30 further cinemas either being listed or having their existing designations amended. The above summary would suggest that if the former Abbey Cinema and other Art Deco Cinemas by Shennan and his contemporaries were assessed at that time then they would perhaps not have met the relevant tests for national designation.

3.0 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The HIA is the process of establishing the impact of a specific proposal on the significance of a heritage asset (as described in Section 2.0) and identifies ways to mitigate any adverse impacts/harm.

Paragraphs 193 - 196 of the NPPF considers the potential impacts on heritage assets. They specify three levels of impact that a proposed development may have on heritage assets; 'Total loss', 'substantial harm' or 'less than substantial harm' and furthermore states that dependent on the level of significance this harm should be 'Wholly Exceptional' (for the highest levels of designation e.g. Grade I and II* buildings) or 'Exceptional' (e.g. Grade II buildings). (HM Government: MHCaLG 2019)

Paragraph 195 sets out that the public benefit must outweigh 'substantial harm' or alternatively must comply with specified criteria. (Ibid)

In the cases of 'less than substantial harm' it can be acceptable if the public benefit of the proposals can again be proven to outweigh that harm including securing its optimum use, (of a building). (Ibid)

The Abbey Cinema is not documented as a 'Non-Designated Heritage Asset and planning practice guidance (2019) suggests that "only a minority [of buildings] have enough heritage significance". Nevertheless, if the Local Authority consider it to be such an asset, through its deliberate inclusion in the conservation area, paragraph 197 may be relevant:

197. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

However, Paragraph 200 & 201 are more likely to be relevant to this development as they state:

200. Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

201. Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 195 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 196, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.

There are two aspects of the development to assess the impact of:

- Demolition of the former Abbey Cinema and associated extensions etc
- Erection of the Lidl GB bespoke store and associated development

As the proposal presented in the application is for total demolition and removal of the former cinema building and later low quality extension to the south and the fact that the building is not listed (although an application is awaiting assessment), the impact on the setting (the conservation area)

and other designated assets are assessed first. An assessment of the impact on the significance of the currently undesignated former cinema itself will then also be discussed.

3.1 IMPACT ON THE SETTING (Conservation Area)

Impact of Demolition

Section 2.1 states that the former cinema currently contributes to the special architectural and historical interest of the conservation area both in a positive and negative way, balancing to a neutral contribution. Therefore, it is assessed that the demolition of the cinema in its current very poor state would cause, at most, 'less than substantial harm' to the conservation area and should public benefit be shown (defined in PPG 2019), the demolition could be justified.

Impact of New Development

The impact of a new discount supermarket on a conservation area is grounded mostly in its design, location and arrangement but also in its ability to serve the residents of the conservation area and perhaps increase footfall and visits to the conservation area.

Following a number of design options being prepared, the applicant has opted to provide a non-standard/bespoke Lidl UK supermarket. An emphasis has been given to its external appearance, invoking the Art Deco styling of the former cinema, and the way it is located on the site addressing the road junction. Where a standard Lidl UK store and fenestration would likely not contribute or possibly impact negatively on the character of the conservation area the submitted proposal is assessed have a neutral impact on the conservation area

It's much reduced massing has also sought to greatly improve the severe overshadowing of the former cinema building on the neighbouring buildings (see also section 3.2) and not be as dominant as the former cinema. This is viewed as a positive, also allowing more appropriate focus on other more significant contributors to the character of the conservation Area.

The new development therefore would not harm the conservation area.

3.2 IMPACT ON THE SETTING OF NEIGHBOURING LISTED BUILDINGS.

As discussed in sections 1 and 2, there are several important listed buildings adjacent to the development site (see fig 02 in section 1.1) and these are directly affected by the proposals.

The impact of the proposal must be considered on:

- The Picton Clock (Grade II)
- The Lock-Up (Grade II)
- Lambs Hotel (Grade II*)
- 28A & 28 Church Road North

Impact of Demolition

The Impact on the Picton Clock and the Lock up are similar. These two assets are designated in their own right but also hold group value within the conservation area. Whilst the former cinema is judged to have 'some' architectural interest and 'limited' artistic interest, at a local level only, the large mass and dominant form of the cinema coupled with the very poor condition and later alterations currently

have a negative affect on these designated assets. The removal of the cinema would therefore not negatively affect their setting.

The Lambs Hotel, while of a greater designation, is affected less by the former cinema as it further away, behind the Picton clock, toilets and roundabout and not ever viewed together. Therefore the impact of the former cinema's demolition is less than that on the Picton Clock and the Lock Up.

The impact is similarly reduced on 28A and 28 Church Road North as these are further away again.

Impact of New Development

The impact of the new development on these listed buildings is largely the same as that set out above for the impact on the character of the conservation area.

3.3 IMPACT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FORMER CINEMA.

Impact of Demolition

Although the levels of significance set out in section 2.0 are low and are mostly only at a local level, the demolition nevertheless constitutes (with the exception of 'records' of the building being created and maintained) the total loss of the architectural interest, above ground Archaeological Interest and Artistic interest. If the building is declared by the Local Authority to be a non-designated heritage asset then its total loss will need to be balanced by the proposals and any public benefit.

Communal value is undoubtedly also linked to the fabric of a building, particularly when it is still in a similar use and during the lifetime of those that remember using it. This communal value will have been greatly reduced when the cinema was first converted to a supermarket. Demolition would reduce this still further but not remove it completely. It is therefore judged to harm that aspect of the significance and public benefits would need to outweigh that harm.

Impact of New Development

Following demolition of the former cinema the new development can only really impact on those interests that remain and that are not linked to the physical fabric of the building. These would therefore be the below ground archaeological interest and the communal value.

As the below ground archaeological interest is 'limited' the new development may cause a modicum of harm but this could easily be offset by onsite monitoring during demolition and subsequent excavation.

Although the original fabric will be gone, it could be argued that the art deco aspects of the proposed façade will still invoke the memory of the former cinema and help to keep an aspect of the communal value alive.

4.0 JUSTIFICATION & CONCLUSION

The Heritage Impact Assessment in section 3.0 concludes that the demolition of the former cinema will cause 'less than substantial harm' to the character of the conservation area and the setting of the neighbouring listed buildings but that it will also cause the total loss of much of the significance, albeit limited, of the building itself.

The HIA also concludes that the new development proposals, i.e. the proposed new supermarket, will not harm the conservation area or the neighbouring listed buildings but would diminish some communal value attributed to the former cinema.

Examining the economic viability and feasibility of the proposed application against an option to retain, repair and extensively reconfigure the existing building in order to make the lower storeys of the building usable as a Lidl UK supermarket, albeit not to their normal required specification, would conclude that the new build option is more feasible. Also, the very poor state of the building is likely to mean that any option to retain the existing building would be much higher risk, much more expensive and therefore make the site financially unviable.

A Structural Appraisal Report (Beam Consulting 2021) has been undertaken and the findings would seem to strongly support this conclusion, highlighting "The extent of repairs necessary to this building are significant" and **"now so substantial so as to potentially make it an uneconomic proposition to successfully renovate the building"**.

Therefore, if a scheme to retain the existing building was preferred by the Local Authority, then it is likely that the site will remain empty and unused for a significant amount of time, increasing the decay of the already poor building.

The applicant understands from the arguments made in an independent listing application that the local community has aspirations of other parts of the building being used for community based functions but that there are currently no proposals developed in any way for these potential other uses. Therefore, any such proposal would likely take a significant amount of time and funding to develop with further time needed to find a viable operator. This lost time would likely cause further deterioration and harm to the building, further increasing the risk and costs.

Public Benefits

Planning policy Guidance (2019 – online) states that public benefits "could be anything that delivers economic, social or environmental objectives as described in the NPPF (paragraph 8)".

A separate planning statement (Plan A 2021), setting out the public benefits, has been included within the submission documents. This section should be read in conjunction with that statement.

The proposed scheme would offer several aspects of public benefit, principally providing an economic benefit to the area both in investment, jobs and in value to customers. It would also ensure the provision of a busy commercial operation that would aid footfall in the conservation area, bolstering its appreciation, and likely increased visits to Wavertree High Street locations. (Plan A 2021).

The scheme would also support social objectives by supporting and providing key accessible services to the local community within a safe, modern, built environment.

Further benefits and positive contributions in relation to the NPPF are set out in the accompanying Planning Statement. Coupled with the Structural Appraisal Report, Design and Access Statement and the points put forward above, it is the view that the public benefits provided by the proposal outweigh the 'less than substantial' harm set out in section 3.0.

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APPENDICES

[PICTON] CLOCK TOWER, AND 4 IRON LAMPS

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1206131

Date first listed: 14-Mar-1975

Details

SJ 3989 CHILDWALL ROAD L15

31/274 Clock tower, and 4 iron lamps 14.3.75

G.V. II

Clock Tower. 1884 by Sir J.A.Picton, in memory of his wife who died in 1879. Stone. 3 stages with rusticated base on 3 steps, 1st stage has quoin strips. Plaques to 4 sides with memorial inscription and verse; band over, and round-arched recesses with roundels above; archivolts and keys. Consoled cornice over 1st stage, with urns at angles. 2nd stage has recessed, curved corners with round-headed windows, with consoled sills, flat pilasters and keyed archivolts; frieze and cornice. 3rd stage also has recessed rounded corners, 4-face clock with consoled segmental open pediments. Lead cupola with short swept spire above. 4 iron lamps at angles, with lantern tops, and dolphins entwined at base.

Listing NGR: SJ3920689428

LOCK UP

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1068320

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1952

Details

SJ 3989 CHILDWALL ROAD L15

31/273 Lock-up 28.6.52

G.V. II

Lock up. 1796. Stone with pyramidal slate roof and weather-vane added by Sir James Picton. Octagonal, of 2 storeys. Flat band over ground floor, top cornice and 4 gables. Ground floor has round-headed recesses with square blind windows. Entrances to south. 1st floor has square blind windows, that above entrance has upper part open, with diagonal iron bars.

Listing NGR: SJ3929789444

28A AND 28, CHURCH ROAD NORTH

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1068326

Date first listed: 28-Jun-1952

Details

This list entry was subject to a Minor Amendment on 23/01/2018

SJ 3989 31/284

CHURCH ROAD NORTH No 28A and No 28

(Formerly listed as Progressive Synagogue and No 28, CHURCH ROAD L15)

II Two houses, one later a synagogue, now both converted to apartments. Mid C18. Brick with stone and stucco dressings, slate roof. Two storeys, nine bays to No 28A, two bays at each end recessed and lower; three bays to No 28. Stone base and top frieze and cornice. Windows have rusticated wedge lintels and are sashed with glazing bars, those to first floor of No 28A are thicker, probably earlier. Central entrance to No 28A has architrave, complete overlight and six-panel door, in aedicule with paired panelled pilasters with consoles and pulvinated frieze. Entrance to first bay of No.28 has enclosed porch with rusticated lintel. Interior not inspected.

Listing NGR: SJ3920189246

LAMB HOTEL

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1207497

Date first listed: 14-Mar-1975

Date of most recent amendment: 19-Jun-1985

Statutory Address: LAMB HOTEL, 111, HIGH STREET

Details

SJ 3989 HIGH STREET (north side) L15

31/602 No. 111 (Lamb Hotel)

(formerly listed 14.3.75 with Nos. 113 to 127 (odd))

- II

Public House. Mid C19 with late C19 alterations. Brick with stone dressings, slate roof. 3-storey centre of 3 bays with flanking 2-storey, 3-bay wings, which break forward under pediments. 1st floor sill band (sill course to centre); top frieze, cornice and blocking course. Ground floor windows have mullions, transoms and architraves; centre has 3-light windows, right wing has bay window with round angles and pedimented centre, one light to left. 1st floor windows are sashed with glazing bars, those to centre with architraves, the central window with frieze and consoled cornice, those to wings have gauged-brick flat arches. 2nd floor windows have flat eared and shouldered architraves. Central round-headed entrance has Doric porch with granite columns. Left wing has elliptical-headed cart entrance. Architraved entrances to right cart entrance and bay window.

Listing NGR: SJ3916689466

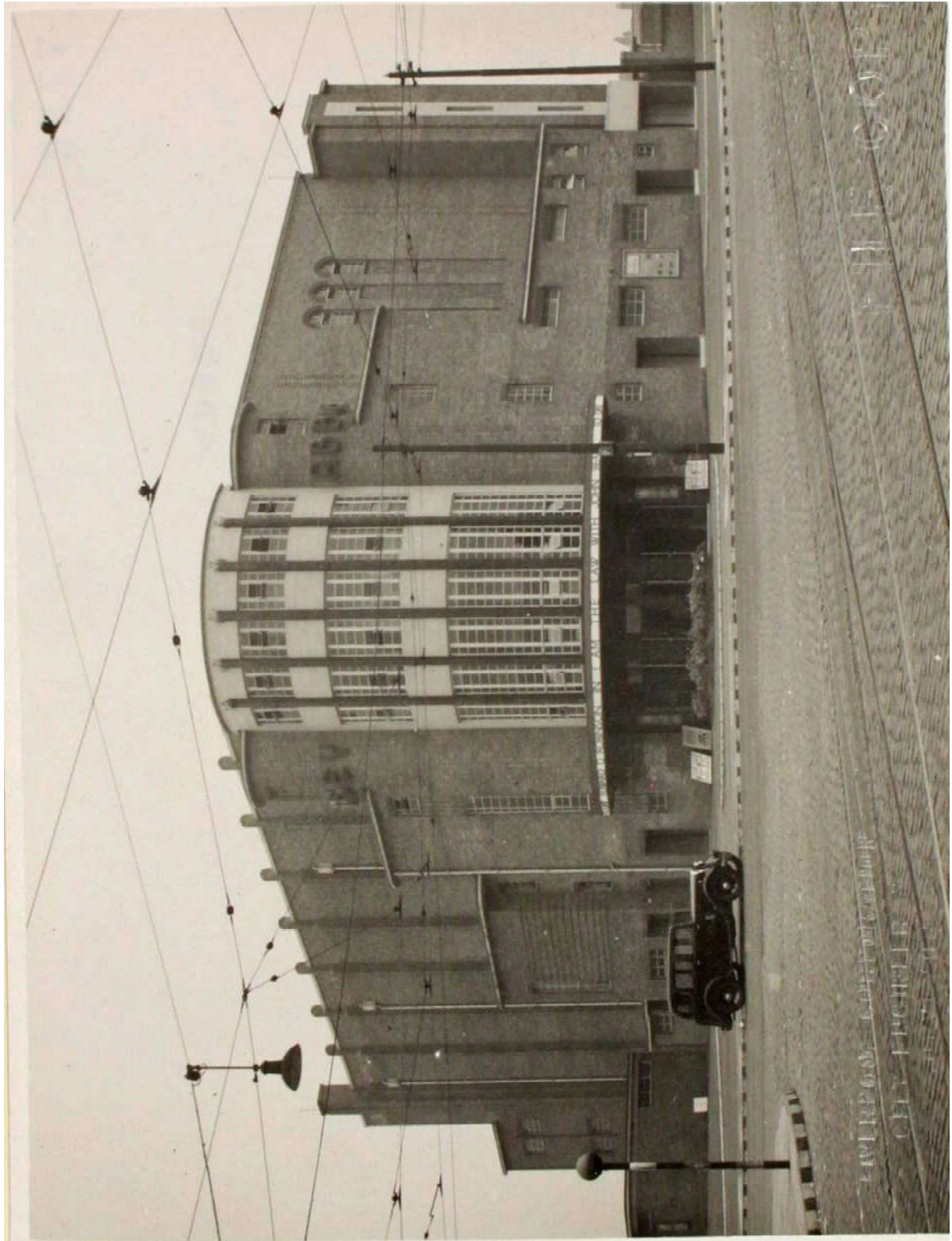
Merseyside HER Search Results

NonUID	RecordType	Name	MonType	MinDate	MaxDate	Period	When Created	When Last Edited	MI_PRIX	kgGeometryType
MM1052	LB	Nos. 27-35 Prince Alfred Road, Wavertree	HOUSE	1950	2050	VICTORIAN to 21ST CENTURY			2590	1
MM10114	LB	The Indon Clock Tower, Chilcove Road, Wavertree	CLOCK TOWER	1984	2050	VICTORIAN to 21ST CENTURY			5015	1
MM10113	BLD	The smallest house in England, new part of The Cock and Bottle pub, No. 95 High Street, Wavertree	HOUSE; PUBLIC HOUSE	1950	2050	VICTORIAN to 21ST CENTURY			6529	1
MM11049	LB	Nos. 15 and 17 Prince Alfred Road, Wavertree	HOUSE	1900	2050	GEORGIAN to 21ST CENTURY			2587	1
MM11059	LB	Nos. 19-25 Prince Alfred Road, Wavertree	HOUSE	1900	2050	GEORGIAN to 21ST CENTURY			2589	1
MM11097	LB	Nos. 9, 11 and 13 Prince Alfred Road, Liverpool	HOUSE	1900	2050	GEORGIAN to 21ST CENTURY			2649	1
MM11674	LB	Nos. 28 and 28a Church Road North, Wavertree	HOUSE; VICARAGE; SYNAGOGUE; HOUSE	1750	2050	GEORGIAN to 21ST CENTURY			3765	1
MM11946	LB	Nos. 98-102a High Street, Wavertree	HOUSE; SHOP	1775	2050	GEORGIAN to 21ST CENTURY			4352	1
MM12032	LB	Town Hall Public House, High Street, Wavertree	TOWN HALL; DATE STONE; PUBLIC HOUSE	1872	2050	VICTORIAN to 21ST CENTURY			4998	1
MM12733	LB	Thornhill, No. 1 Thornhill Road, Wavertree	HOUSE	1981	2050	VICTORIAN to 21ST CENTURY			6035	1
MM12973	SIT	Site of Monkswell, Monkswell Drive, Wavertree	HOUSE	1768	1938	GEORGIAN to MID 20TH CENTURY			6517	1

DesignID	RecordType	Name	Grade	RefRef	NationalRef	OtherRef	StatusDate	DeStatusDate	When Created	CreatedBy	When Last Edited	Last Edited By	MI_PRIX	kgGeometryType
DM254	LB	27-35, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD	II	1072563		392, 31, 926	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000						154	1
DM256	LB	Lock Up	II	1063320		392, 31, 273	1952-06-28T00:00:00.000						446	1
DM252	LB	28A AND 28, CHURCH ROAD NORTH	II	1068326		392, 31, 384	1952-06-28T00:00:00.000						462	1
DM258	LB	WAVERTREE TOWN HALL	II	1075219		392, 31, 601	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000						585	1
DM279	LB	CLOCK TOWER AND 4 IRON LAMPS	II	1265131		392, 31, 274	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000						662	1
DM280	LB	LAMB HOTEL	II	1207497		392, 31, 602	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000	1985-06-19T00:00:00.000					692	1
DM259	LB	MONK'S WELL AT CORNER OF NORTH DRIVE	II	1208270		392, 31, 270	1952-06-28T00:00:00.000						713	1
DM1275	LB	THORNHILL	II	1260366		392, 31, 270	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000						943	1
DM252	LB	15 AND 17, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD	II	1072561		392, 31, 924	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000	1985-06-19T00:00:00.000					2490	1
DM253	LB	19-25, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD	II	1072562		392, 31, 925	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000	1985-06-19T00:00:00.000					2491	1
DM292	LB	9,11,13, PRINCE ALFRED ROAD	II	1073002		392, 31, 923	1975-03-14T00:00:00.000	1985-06-19T00:00:00.000					2502	1

SPACE

Abbey Cinema June 1939 CE7726 (Photograph)



Abbey Cinema June 1939 CE7726 (Souvenir Opening Brochure)

8 Pages:



THE
ABBNEY CINEMA

WAVERTREE
LIVERPOOL 15



SOUVENIR
BROCHURE

Presented to you with the Compliments
of the Directors as a record of their
pleasure at your presence at the Opening



MARCH 4th, 1939



PROPRIETORS: THE REGAL CINEMA CO. (LIVERPOOL) LTD.

Secretary: W. L. HAMPSON

<p>This Brochure has been Printed and Published by Cox Bros., 22 Bridge St. Manchester 3. (Editorial Copyright).</p>
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EACH section of the Theatre has been provided with richly decorated and furnished waiting lounges, so that an air of comfort and restfulness may be obtained prior to entering the auditorium; toilet accommodation is adequate, and the very commodious and easily accessible car park is free to patrons.

Exits are far in excess of statutory requirements, and in the remote case of emergency the whole cinema could be emptied in a few minutes.

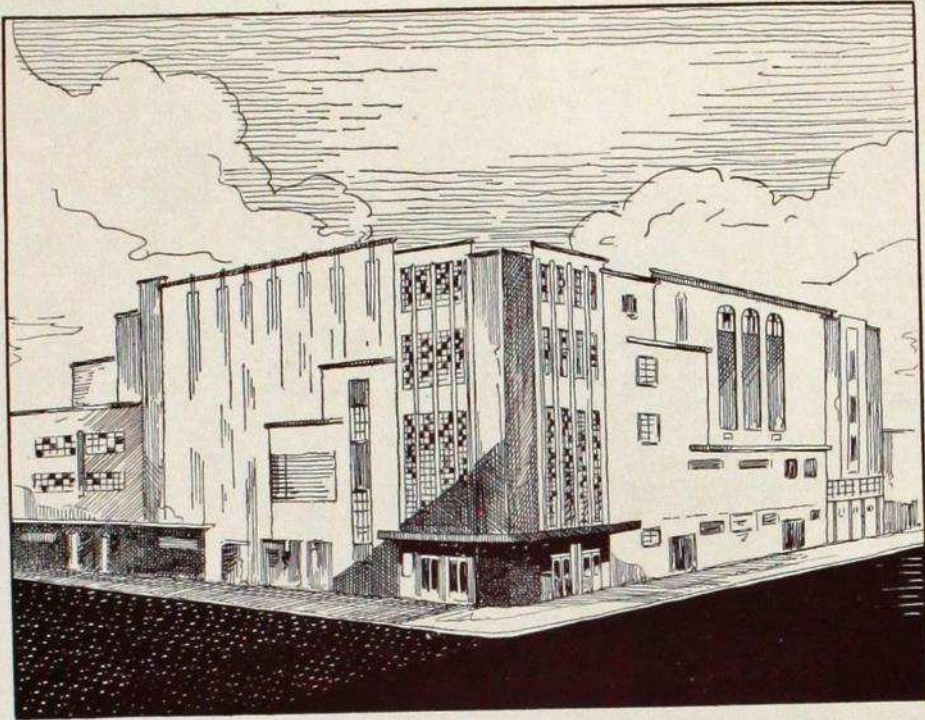
AIR CONDITIONING.

Every cubic foot of air brought into this Theatre is washed thoroughly, and then brought to suitable warmth before it is admitted, thus purity of atmosphere and evenness of temperature are ensured, draughts are entirely eliminated, and never is it too hot or too cold.

PROJECTION AND SOUND.

The products of the Gaumont British Equipments Ltd. are indisputably in the lead, but they reach a new peak of efficiency in their sound system. Patrons will be amazed by the faithful reproduction of sub-tones and over-tones, the intimacy of the human voice, and the swell of orchestral music. Projection also is complete in its steady clear image.

Testimony to qualities of all those who have been engaged on the Abbey Cinema is in visible evidence, and it is the sincere wish of the Directors that you will become a firm friend; their time and labour will then have been amply justified.



THE ABBEY CINEMA

THIS CINEMA IS YOURS

STRANGELY, you yourself are the one vital person in the audience. That is the Director's point of view. Does it surprise you or strike you as faintly absurd? Yet consider, we beg.

The Abbey Cinema exists for your entertainment, for yours personally. And if, in the matter of your entertainment, you will look upon it possessively as your own, if it adds materially to the happiness of your leisure hours, then, indeed, its purpose is served.

EACH section of the Theatre has been provided with richly decorated and furnished waiting lounges, so that an air of comfort and restfulness may be obtained prior to entering the auditorium; toilet accommodation is adequate, and the very commodious and easily accessible car park is free to patrons.

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WHAT MULTITONE TELESONIC IS !

Previously certain seats in the auditorium had to be specially wired for headphones, so that the deaf could only sit in these special seats, which might not always be available. The new device, the Multitone Telesonic Deaf Aid Instrument, is in the form of a small box about the size of a cigar-box, to which is attached a pair of earphones. This box will be presented free of charge to any persons entering the cinema, and they are then free to sit wherever they may choose; indeed, the apparatus may even be carried out into the foyer or passages and the programme still clearly be heard.

Only the sounds from the screen are picked up, and this is a notable advantage, for the ordinary deaf aid not only amplifies the speech of the film but also, alas, that of a talkative neighbour in the seat behind. At yesterday's demonstration a man in a gas mask spoke from the stage, but his words, though audible, were indistinguishable; yet with the aid of the Telesonic earphones all indistinctness vanished.

ABBEEY SERVICE.

ENQUIRIES—Ring Wavertree 2650 for any information. Courteous attention will always be given to your enquiries.

TIMES OF PERFORMANCES—

Matinees Daily at 2-30.

Evenings Continuous from 6-30.

Saturdays and Bank Holidays—

Two Performances at 6-30 and 8-45.

PRICES OF ADMISSION—

Matinees: STALLS ... 4d. CIRCLE ... 6d.

Evening: STALLS ... 6d.

BACK STALLS ... 9d.

CIRCLE ... 1/-

FRONT CIRCLE ... 1/3

Circle Seats only bookable Saturdays and Bank Holidays.

DOCTORS, NURSES and others who anticipate urgent calls, should notify the Cashier, who will make a note of the seat occupied, and advise them should a call be received.

GENERAL—The Management reserve the right to alter the programme at their discretion.

• CONSULT •

F. WILKINSON & Co

MODERN GLASS DECORATION
CALLS ON THE KNOWLEDGE
OF EXPERTS
FOR GLASS AND GLAZING
AS SEEN AT THIS THEATRE
ENQUIRE AT

1 VAUXHALL ROAD, LIVERPOOL

A N D

66 ARGYLE ST, BIRKENHEAD

THUS, simply, do you emerge as the one vital member of the audience, so far as the Directors are concerned.

THE NEW CINEMA.

In style the Abbey Cinema is ultra modern; it is therefore not over modern, for the harsh angularity has given place to pleasing balance, frowning heaviness to lightness of effect. Notice, for instance, with what ease the facade carries its pleasing dignity—its simple lines, in rustic brick, tower upwards, free from pompous ornamentation, reaching its peak of appeal at night under the bravery of the Neon Lighting. From it there blazons in glowing light a welcome as warm and cordial as that which awaits the patron within.

The unerring good taste of this is timeless, it will outlive the extravagances of the erstwhile modern.

The Auditorium will create an impression on all who enter. Its great size will amaze. Seating accommodation is provided for 1,870 persons; every seat is super sprung, giving added comfort and ease, and knee space is ample.

Although, as stated, the seating capacity is for 1,870, observe that the whole audience is in a proximity to the screen, at which the bounds of the picture are expansive. At no point does one get the impression of gazing upon a shrunken picture seemingly suspended at the end of a long shaft of light.

===== ABBEY CINEMA, Wavertree =====

GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY, MARCH 4th At 2-30 p.m.

By W. T. LANCASHIRE, Esq. C.C.

to be followed by

GALA PERFORMANCE

including

Irene Dunne

■

**Douglas
Fairbanks, Jr.**

in

JOY OF LIVING

U

Supported by

**Mrs. Wilf Hamer
and Her Band**

(by kind permission of the Graston
Rooms Directorate).



PARAMOUNT NEWS and FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

===== ABBEY CINEMA, Wavertree =====

LIST OF CONTRACTORS.

A word of warm appreciation is tendered to all who have contributed to the erection and equipment of this Cinema. Especially is it desired to commend the work of

ARCHITECT:

A. ERNEST SHENNAN, F.R.I.B.A.,
North House, 17 North John Street, Liverpool 2.

General Contractors:

ROBERTS & SLOSS LTD.,
Baker Street, Liverpool 6.

LIST OF SPECIALISTS.

STEELWORK:

W. J. DOUGLAS & CO., LTD.,
7/9 Stanhope Street, Liverpool.

ASPHALT:

ROBERTS & SLOSS LTD.,
Baker Street, Liverpool 6.

FAIENCE:

HATHERNWARE LTD., Loughborough.

ROOF LIGHTS:

LENSCRETE LTD.,
11 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION:

ECONOMIC ELECTRIC CO. (Liverpool) LTD.,
62 Dale Street, Liverpool.

PLUMBING AND PAINTING:

THOS. MURTHA & SON,
Pembroke Place, Liverpool.

WROT METALWORK:

DOODSON & BAIN LTD.,
Wilson Street Works, Manchester 11.

LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR:

H. G. RIDDELL, 27 Leyfield Road, West Derby.

INSULATING:

NEWALL'S INSULATION CO.,
Parsonage Gardens, Manchester 3.

HYRIB AND FIBROUS PLASTER:

ADAMS BROS., 56 Mason Street, Liverpool 7.

GLAZING:

F. WILKINSON & CO., Vauxhall Road, Liverpool 3.

ROOFING:

WM. BRIGGS & CO., LTD.,
East Camperdown Street, Dundee.

WOOD PANELLING:

G. H. MORTON & SON, LTD.,
7 Bold Street, Liverpool 1.

FLOOR FINISHES:

NOEL WOOD MOSAIC, Union St., London, S.E.1.

DECORATIONS AND CELLULOSE:

H. E. WILSON (1924) LTD.,
3 Titchfield Street, Liverpool.

NEON:

ECONOMIC ELECTRIC CO. (Liverpool) LTD.,
62 Dale Street, Liverpool.

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ESTABLISHED 1899

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Hot Water & Sanitary Engineers

DECORATORS & PAINTERS

Pembroke House,
Pembroke Place,
LIVERPOOL, 3

Telephone: ROYAL 1936

THE ARCHITECTS
FOR THE
ABBAY CINEMA

ENTRUSTED
T H E

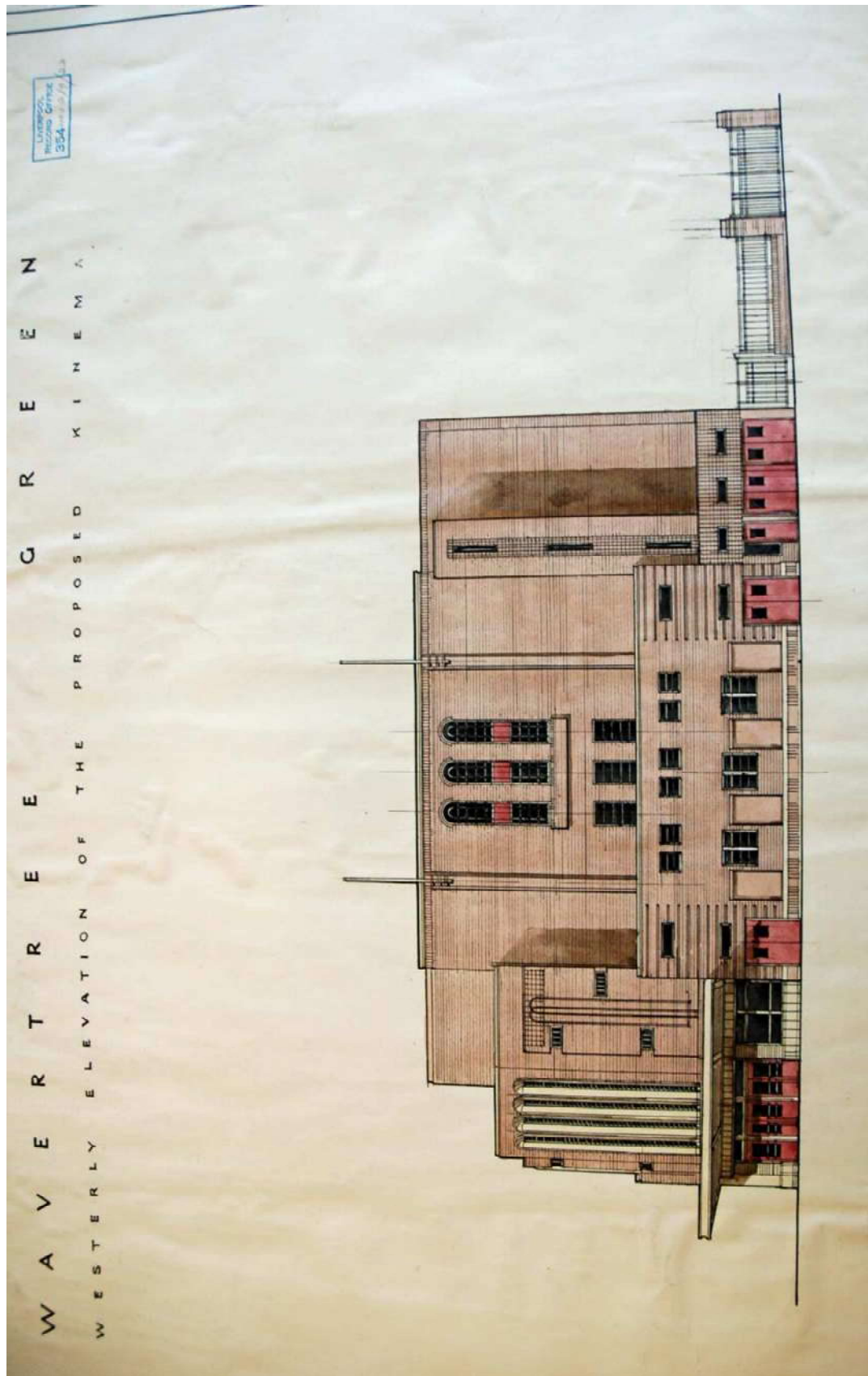
ARCHITECTURAL
METALWORK TO

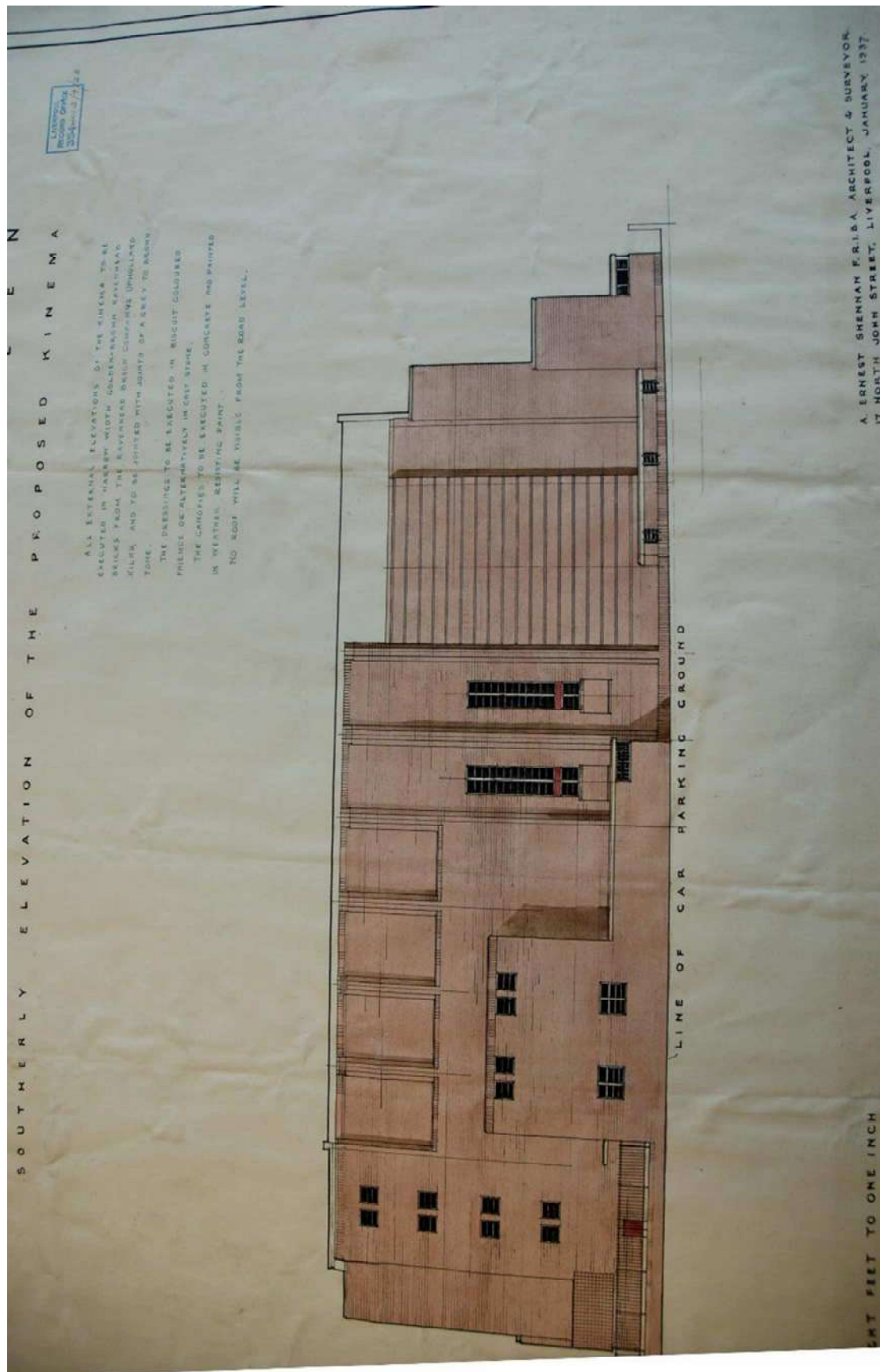
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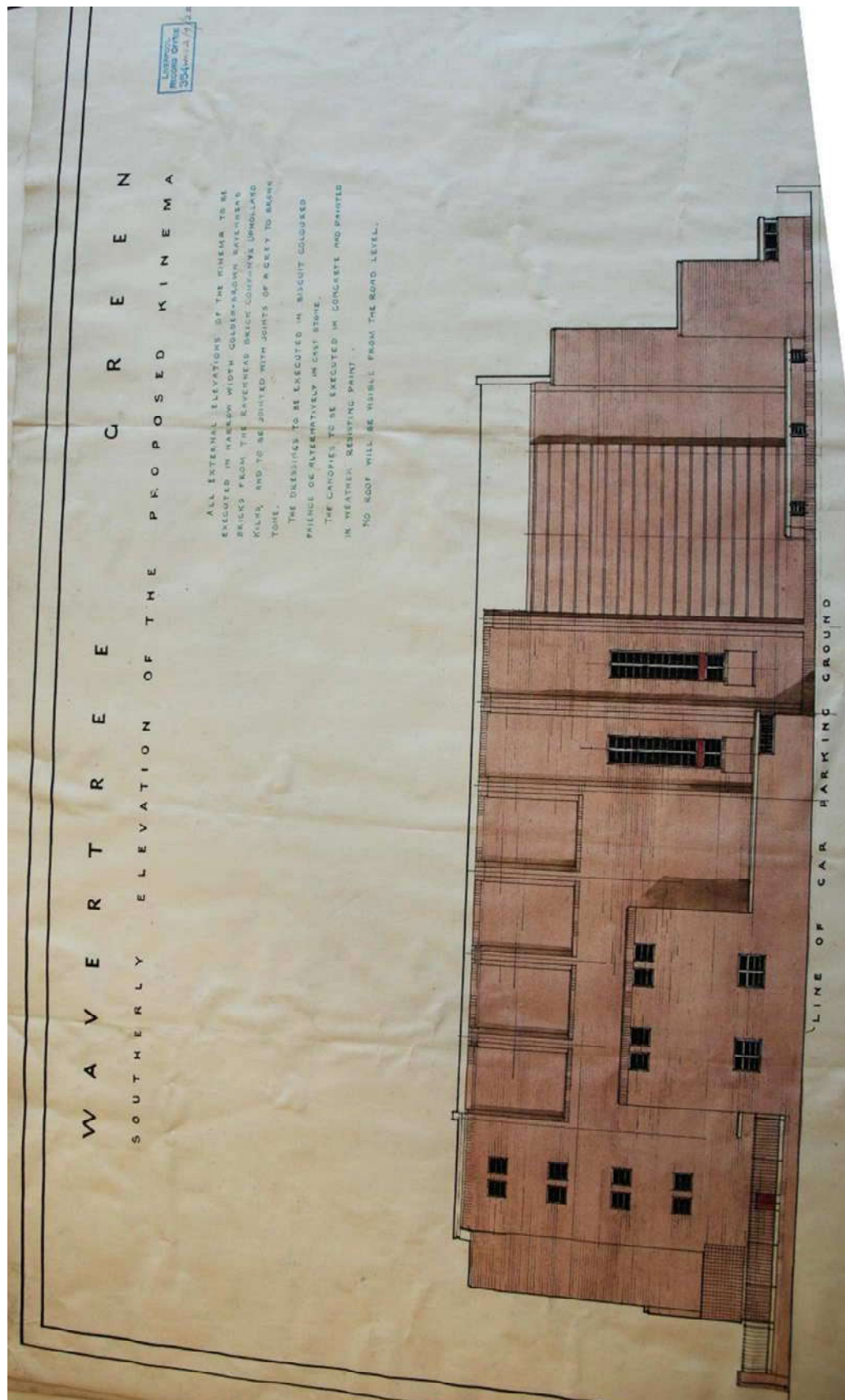
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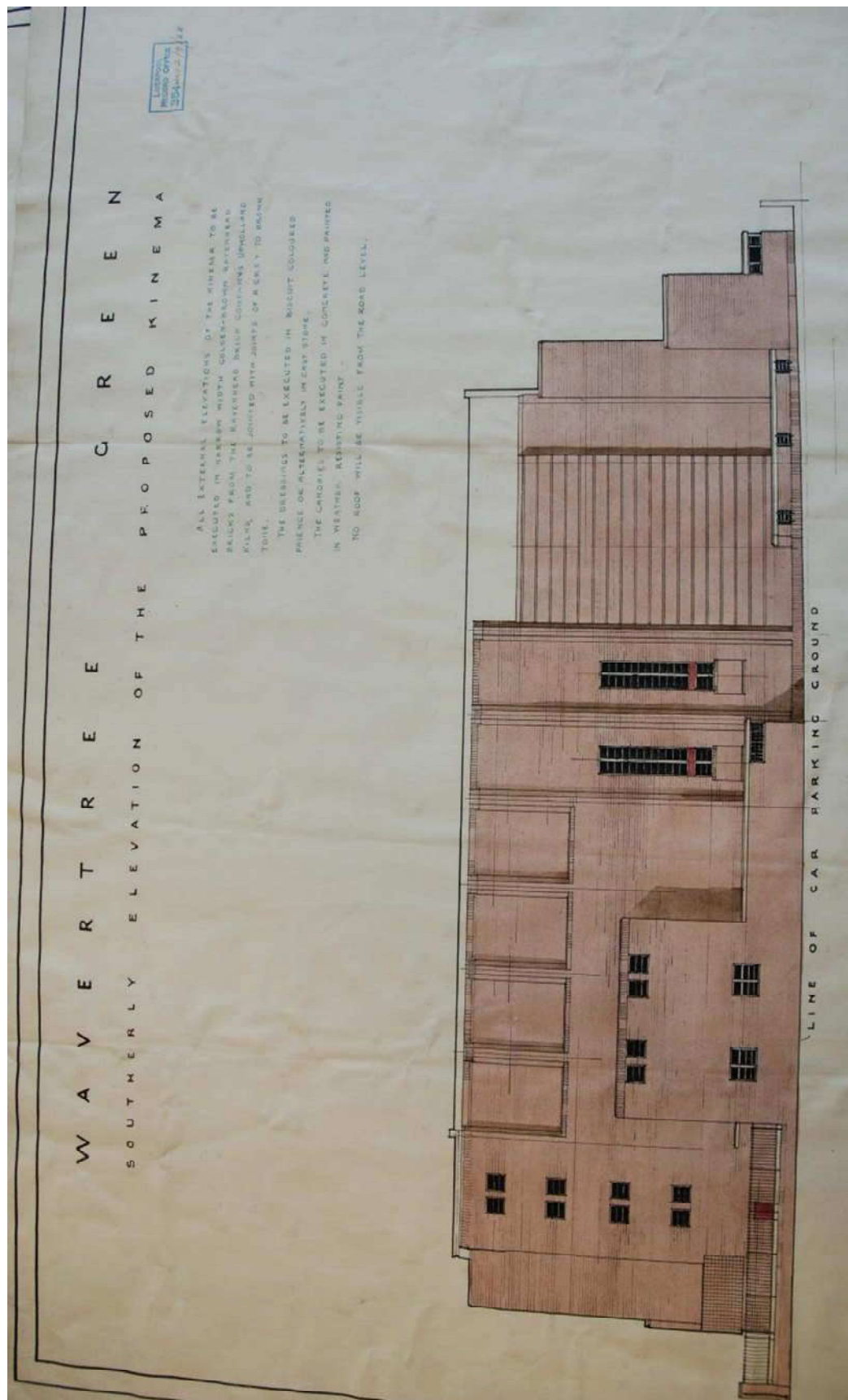
Drawings

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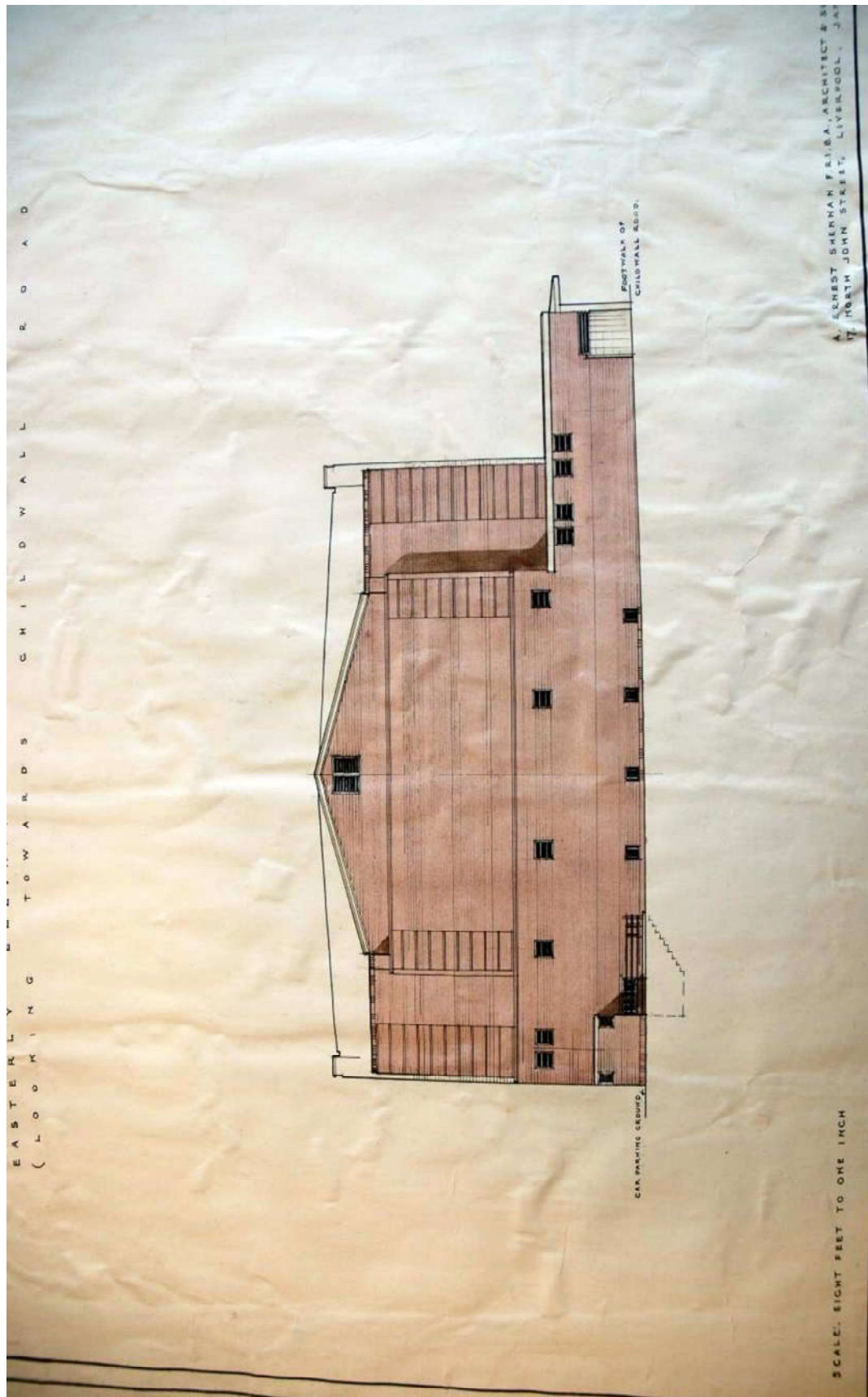


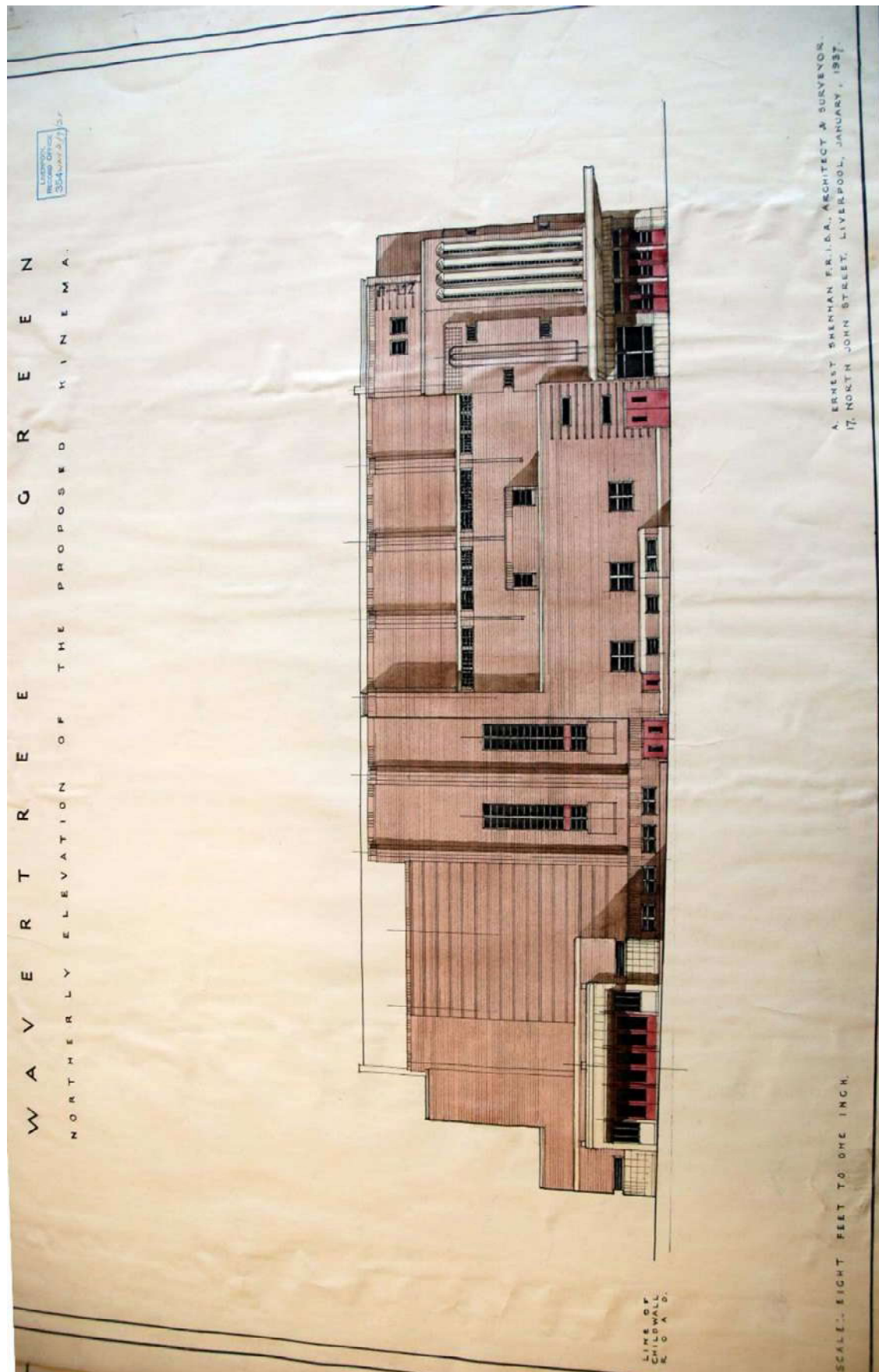


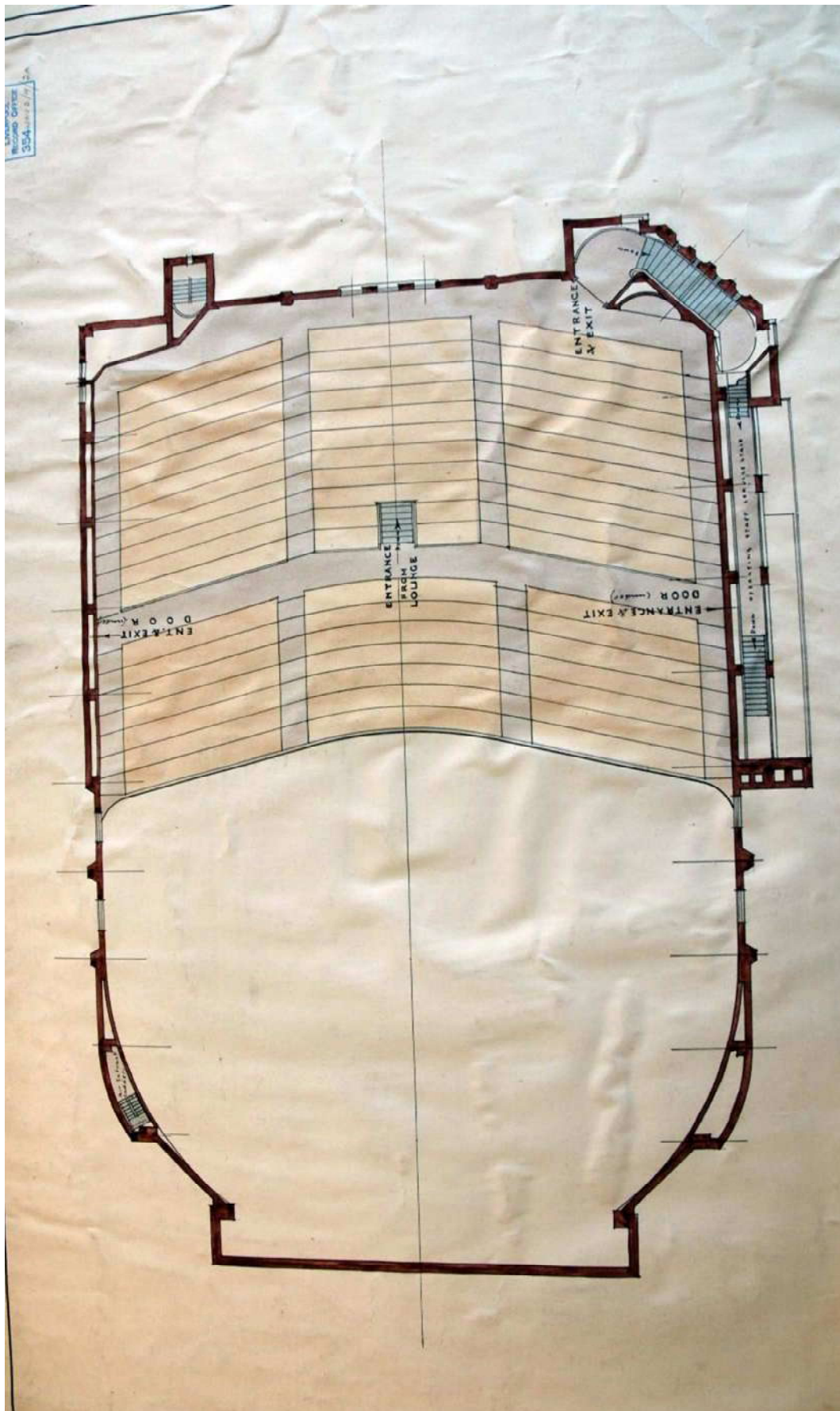


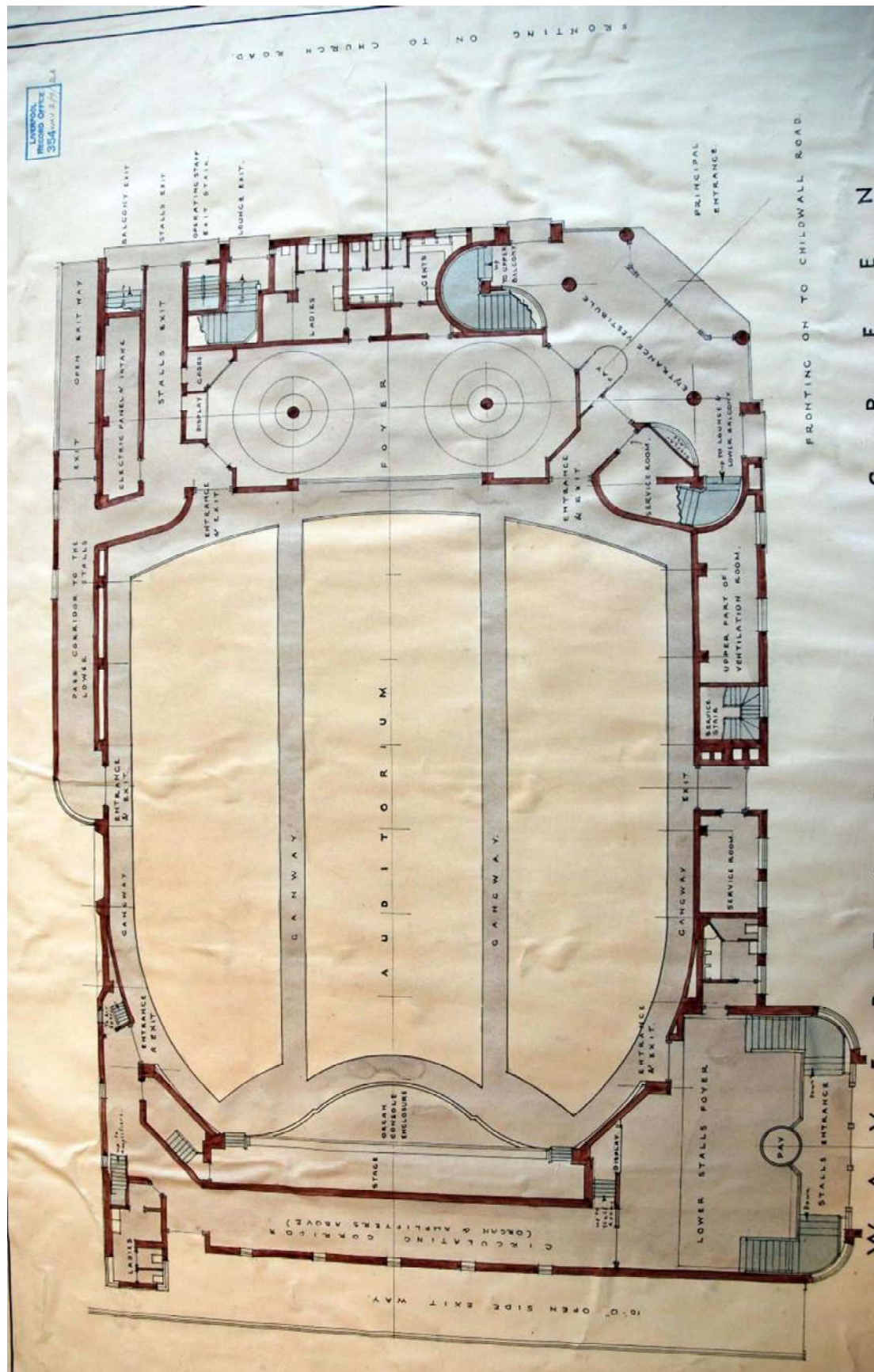


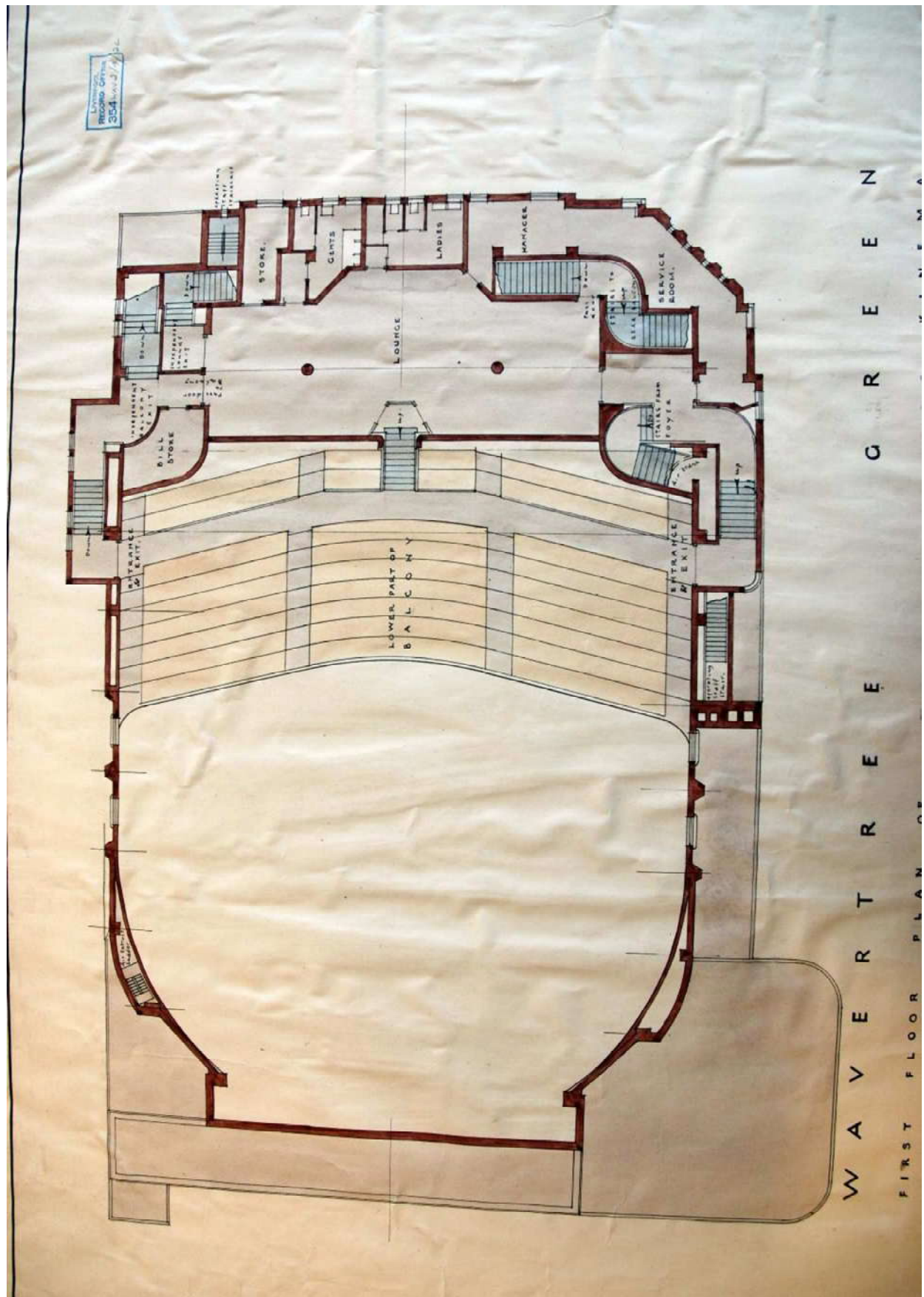
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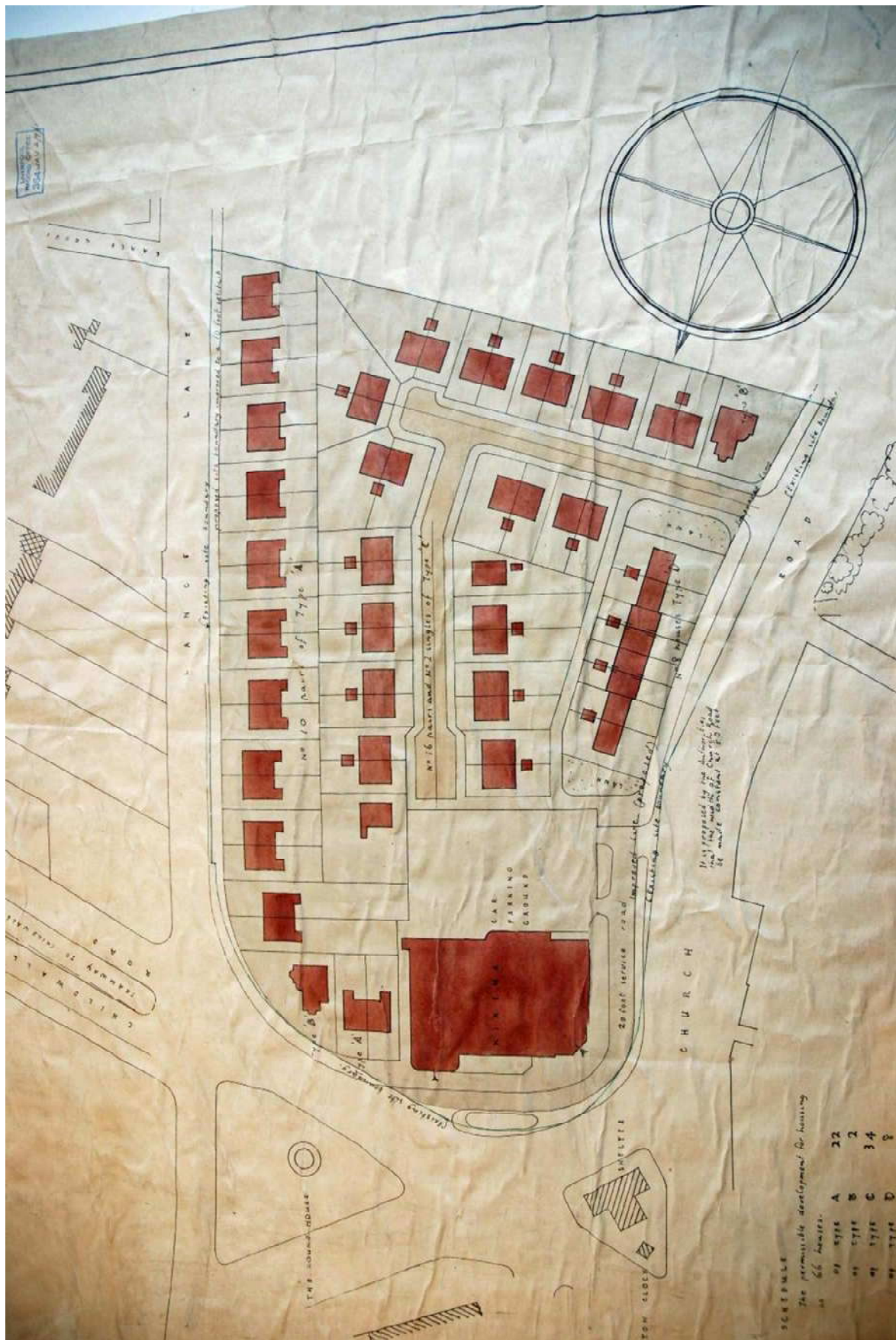


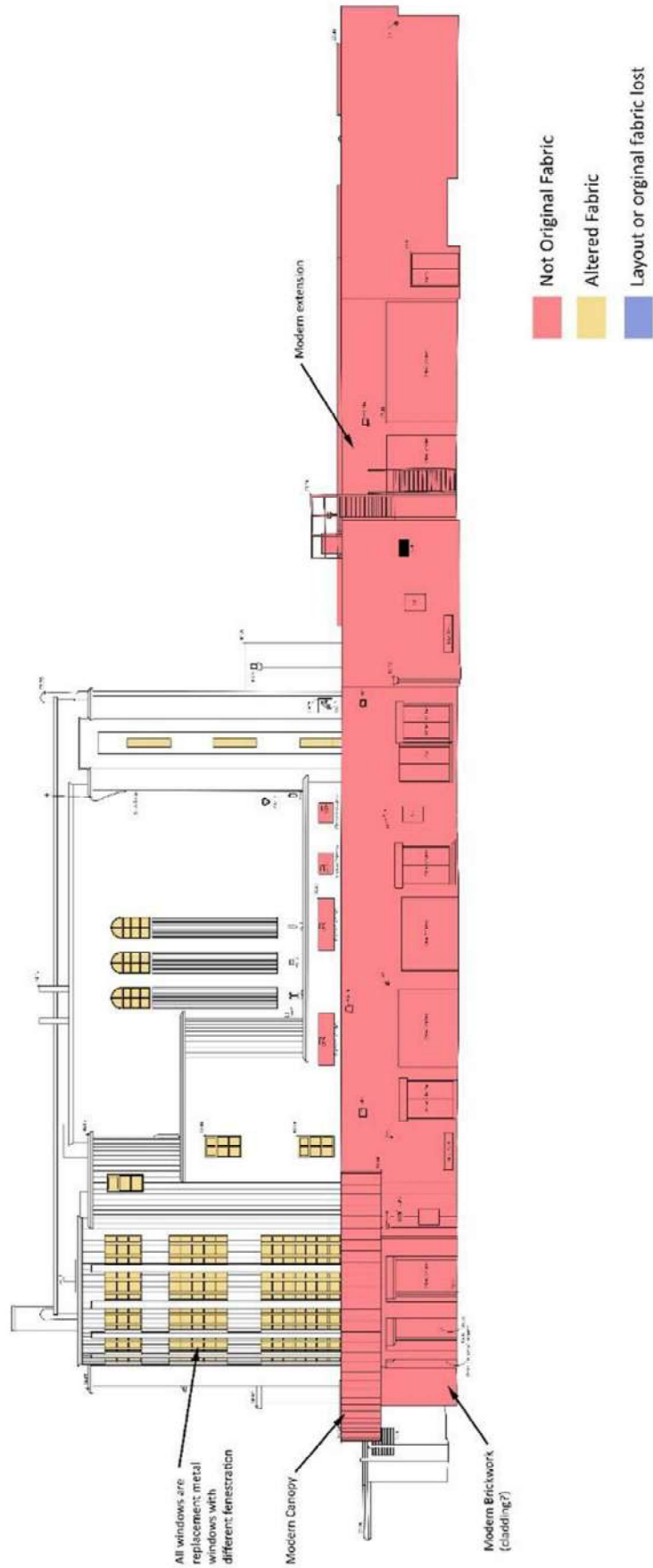




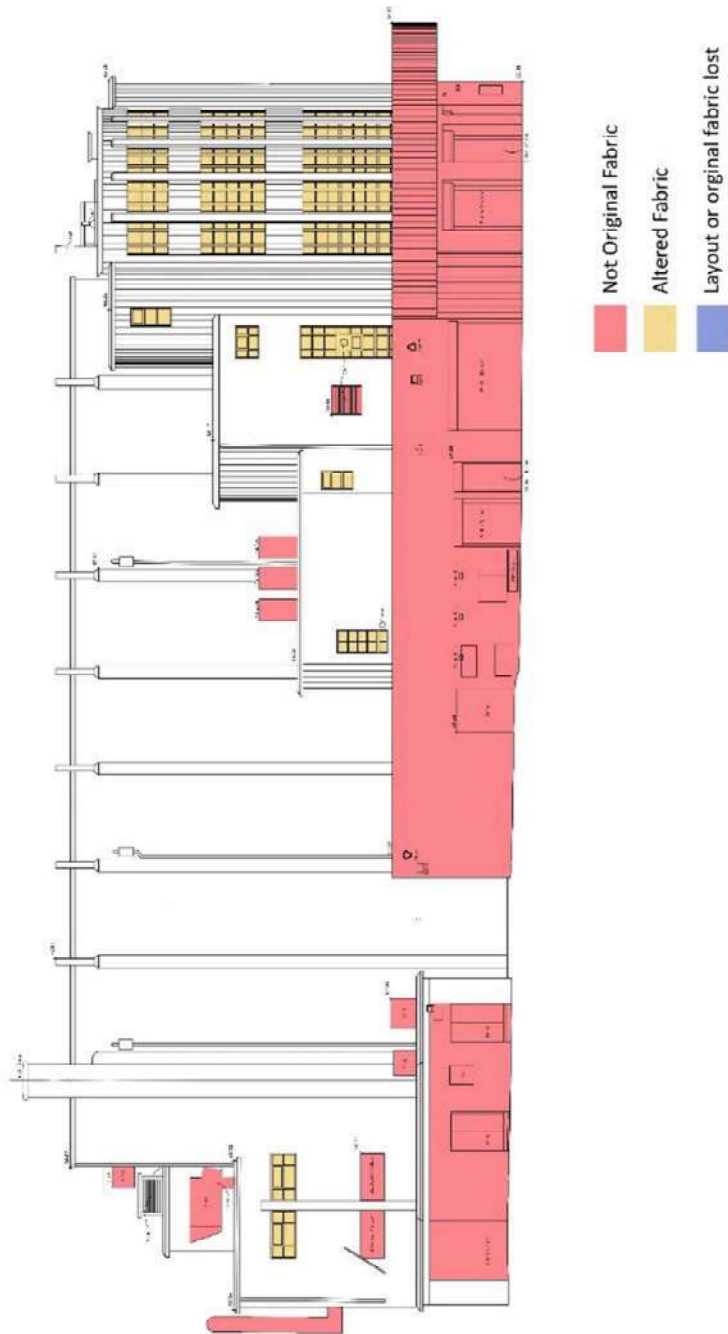








Elevation 1 @40m AoD



Elevation 2 @40m AoD

