



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

## The Old Indian Institute Conservation Plan



Building No. 164  
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**Oxford University**

**Estates Services**

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INDIAN INSTITUTE

INTRODUCTION

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Old Indian Institute was designed by Basil Champneys in 1881. It was completed in 1884 by Symm and Co. It was extended with a further three bays south down Catte Street by Parnell and Sons in 1896. It originally served as the Indian Institute library, museum, and offices. It has housed Oxford University's Modern History Faculty from 1968. It still houses the History Faculty Library on the upper floors, but, following the faculty offices' move to the Old Boys School in 2007, now houses the Oxford Martin School on the lower floors.

## 1.1 Purpose of the Conservation Plan

The University has an unrivalled portfolio of historic buildings, of which it is rightly proud. It has traditionally taken a thorough, holistic approach to building conservation, seeking to understand all the varied factors that make historic buildings significant to their diverse stakeholders, and using this to inform necessary change. It has become clear that this approach is vital to the conservation culture of an institution where so many of its historic buildings that are valued for their function also have extensive historical or architectural significance. This Conservation Plan represents the continuation of this tradition of seeking to understand what makes the University's buildings cherished assets, and of seeking ways to conserve these most important features for the enjoyment of future generations.

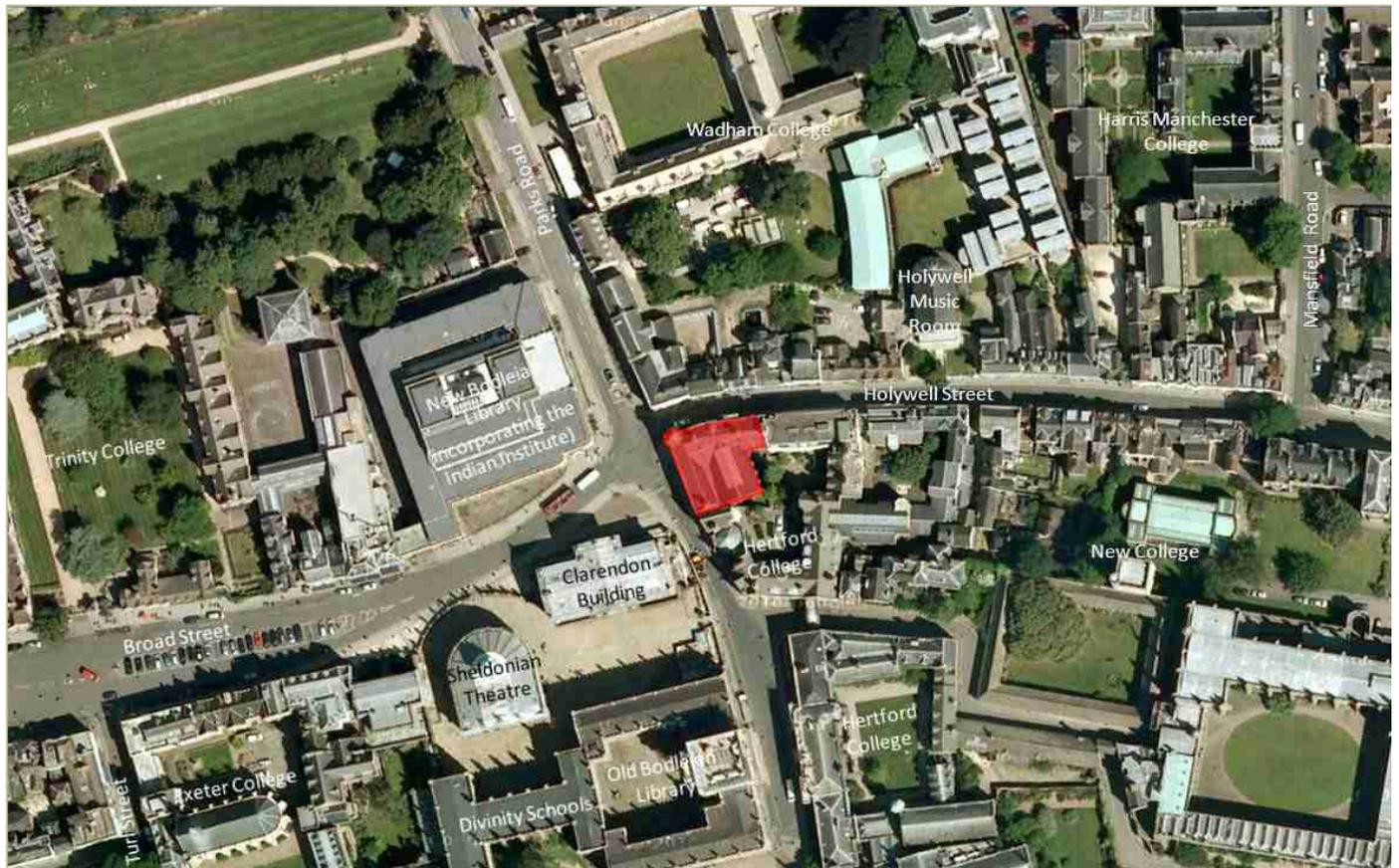
The success of this approach is such that it has now become codified in government policy: First in March 2010's *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historical Environment* then in its replacement, March 2012's *National Planning Policy Framework* (hereafter: NPPF). NPPF provides useful guidance on approaching the conservation of heritage assets, and postdates the University's existing literature. NPPF defines a heritage asset as:

*'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'*

This designation clearly applies to the Old Indian Institute.

The purpose of this Conservation Plan is to update the Old Indian Institute's conservation policy to take into account the new guidance provided by NPPF. It will be of use both for informing responsible regular maintenance and in the preparation of future planning applications, as specified in NPPF paragraph 128.

The Conservation Plan should form the basis for the Old Indian Institute's Conservation Policy and exists as part of an ongoing process. It will be renewed and updated at least every five years or following any major alterations or legislative changes.



**Figure 1. Map showing the Old Indian Institute (indicated in red) and the surrounding area, orientated with North at the top of the image**

## 1.2 Scope of the Conservation Plan

This Conservation Plan will cover the interior and the exterior of the Old Indian Institute, a single structure at the eastern of Broad Street, and on the corner of Catte Street and Hollywell Street, in central Oxford.

The plan is not a catalogue and to facilitate its practical use will concentrate only on the most vulnerable aspects of significance, suggesting how they should be approached and conserved in the future. A brief list of the most significant architectural features can be found in **Appendix 4** and should be referred to when planning any repair or alteration work.

## 1.3 Existing Information

A Conservation Plan has not previously been produced for the Old Indian Institute; however, there are various forms of existing information available:

The original 1972 listed building description (**Appendix 1**) is the logical starting point for this plan, as it lists the heritage asset's main features and briefly assesses its architectural significance.

Various planning applications have been made throughout the building's history, providing a good indication of the changes that have occurred over time.

Unfortunately the original plans for the building were destroyed when Champneys' former offices were bombed during the war; however, low-quality excerpts from the first phase were preserved in the original building consent (**Appendix 5**), and a University survey of 1953-1959 shows the floorplan prior to major alterations occurring (**Appendix 6**).

There are several published books and articles that examine the development of Victorian architecture in Oxford and the work of Champneys and his contemporaries. These publications provide an important resource for studying works of this period in Oxford.

The plan draws on statutory guidance from NPPF prepared by HM's Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2012.

## **1.4 Methodology**

The Conservation Plan is a document that assesses the current and predicted conservation needs of the Old Indian Institute and attempts to address them with a view towards maintaining or increasing the significance of the heritage asset. Its formulation to supersede any existing literature is a response to the requirements of NPPF, and it is prepared in accordance with the policies contained therein.

## **1.5 Constraints**

The Old Indian Institute and its environs are subject to various constraints imposed by Oxford City Council:

- HE.2 – Archaeology Area: Any planning applications must incorporate sufficient information to define the character and extent of potential archaeological deposits, including the results of fieldwork evaluations.
- CP.3 – Limiting the Need to Travel: New development will be limited to accessible locations on previously developed sites.
- HE.9 – High Building Areas: Planning permission will not be granted for any development within a 1,200 metre radius of Carfax which exceeds 18.2m in height, except for minor elements of no bulk.
- TR.3, TR.11, TR.12 – Car Parking Standards: The City Council will not allow any significant increase in the overall number of car-parking spaces in the Transport Central Area or development that provides an inappropriate level of car-parking spaces. It will attempt to reduce the level of non-residential car parking.
- The City of Oxford Smoke Control Order No. 2: It is an offence to emit smoke from the chimney of a building, from a furnace, or from any fixed boiler if located in a designated smoke control area.

- HE.7 – Conservation Areas: The Central (City and University) Conservation Area: Planning permission will only be granted for development that preserves or enhances the special character and appearance of the conservation areas or their setting. All trees in Conservation Areas with stem diameters greater than 75mm at 1.5m off the ground are protected.



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# UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

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## 2 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

### 2.1 History of the Site and University<sup>1</sup>

The University of Oxford has a long-standing tradition of exceptional education. Able to trace its roots to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, it is known to be the oldest university in the English-speaking world. The Old Indian Institute stands on the eastern end of Broad Street, the monumental centre of the city and the University. Broad Street has a long history and was initially peripheral to the mediaeval settlement, being known as Canditch as it was defined by houses constructed along a ditch outside the city walls. However, Henry II granted Oxford its charter in 1155, and with the formal recognition of the University, Catte Street and the eastern end of Broad Street became the centre of a small area of ‘schools’ set up in tenements, which in turn attracted scholars from across Europe. Various colleges sprang up in the area during the late middle ages, notably Balliol in 1263, and with the building of the Divinity School and Duke Humphrey’s Library in 1487, the focus of the University settled on this part of the city.

Since then the principal non-collegiate buildings of the University have been situated in a cluster around the eastern end of Broad Street, including the Sheldonian Theatre (1669), the Old Ashmolean (1678-83), the Clarendon Building (1711-13), and the New Bodleian Library (1937-40). The Old Bodleian Library (1602-1637) interacts with the space through the arch of the Clarendon Building. In 1703 Hawksmoor proposed the formation of a formal university campus at the eastern end of Broad Street. Whilst this never officially occurred, a similar effect has been achieved almost by default, with the urban space of eastern Broad Street being defined by University buildings, and being a focus for ceremonies, protests, tourism, and gatherings.

The site of the Old Indian Institute held four houses. 34 Broad Street was an 18<sup>th</sup>-century house on the corner of Broad Street and Holywell Street, for some years Seal’s Coffee Shop, and later occupied as a private house by William Fishburn Donkin (1814-69), Savilian Professor of Astronomy. 33 Broad Street was a smaller private house. The leases for 34 and 33 Broad Street expired in 1881, and so this part of the Indian Institute was constructed earlier than the southern range. 32 and 31 Broad Street were smaller houses (a chemists and an accountants respectively), comparable to 33 in size, and their leases did not expire until 1892 (see **Figure 3**).

In April 1971 Oxford City Council designated the majority of the city centre as part of the Central (City and University) Conservation area, focused on Broad Street East, the Sheldonian Theatre, and the Bodleian complex (see **Appendix 2**).

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<sup>1</sup> A short chronology of the Old Indian Institute can be found in **Appendix 3**.

## 2.2 History of the Old Indian Institute

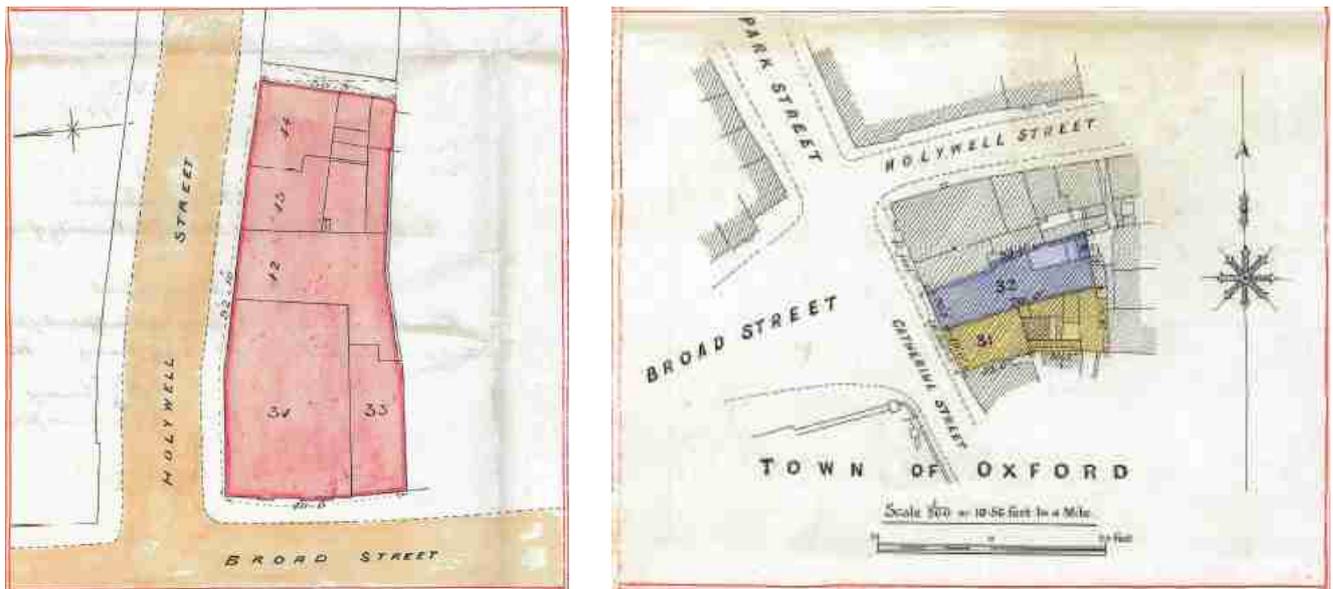
The concept of an Indian Institute at Oxford was proposed in 1875 by Monier Williams (from 1886, Sir Monier Monier-Williams), the second Boden Professor of Sanskrit (following his acrimonious and highly-publicised defeat of Max Müller in 1860). He intended it to provide a setting for the training of Indian Civil Service probationers (after the closure of the East India Company's school at Haileybury College and the formation of the British Raj following the Indian Mutiny of 1857) and for the native Indian students who were resident in Oxford. It was to hold a library, lecture spaces, and a museum. Monier Williams travelled to India in 1875, and again in 1876 and 1883-4, to gather funds for the venture. He received pledges of support from the Prince of Wales and Lord Northbrook (Viceroy of India 1872-76), as well as numerous Indian princes and nobles. Over the course of his visits, Monier Williams raised £33,869 for his proposed institute.

In 1880 the formation of an Indian Institute was approved in Convocation, with the grant of a site in the University Parks and an annual endowment of £250. There was some opposition to the location in the Parks and Merton College was persuaded to part with the site of 34 and 33 Broad Street for £7,800. Basil Champneys, who had previously worked on the church of St. Peter-le-Bailey at Oxford (1872-4), formulated his design for the building in 1881, and the foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales in 1883. Symm and Co. completed the Holywell Street frontage (which included the sites of 42, 43, and 44 Holywell Street) and the northernmost of the Broad Street bays in 1884 (**Figure 2**), the same year in which the University statute governing the Institute was passed.



**Figure 2. The Old Indian Institute between 1884 and 1896, prior to the completion of the three-bay extension to the south**

In 1886 the short-lived Honour School of Oriental Studies was founded and Monier Williams was knighted, taking the name Sir Monier Monier-Williams. In 1892 the leases for 32 and 31 Broad Street came up for renewal, which allowed the Institute to expand southwards along Catte Street (**Figure 3**). The £1,400 needed to secure the land was acquired from Sir Bhagvat Sinhjee, Thakur of Gondal, and it was purchased from Merton in 1893. The further 3 bays were also designed by Champneys and were completed in 1896. The carvings for the building were completed by William Aumonier Sr. and the cost of the entire build was £21,772.



**Figure 3. Left, conveyance map showing plots purchased in 1882. Right, conveyance map showing plots purchased in 1893**

The amount spent on the building was such that little of the funds Monier Williams had collected remained, and the £250 annual endowment proved insufficient for the running of the Institute. Following the death of Monier Williams in 1899, the Institute experienced some troubles. The number of Indian students resident in Oxford was never particularly high and the building became the preserve of Indian Civil Service probationers, becoming something of a government club. In 1909, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, then Chancellor of Oxford University, recommended that the museum be disbanded, having become a curiosity for sight-seers rather than serious academics (and to his dismay, patronised by more women than men).<sup>2</sup> The museum was not immediately closed, but in 1926 the stuffed animals were disposed of (due to the smell) and some choice items (notably Jaipur arms and armour) were transferred to the Pitt Rivers Museum.

<sup>2</sup> Evison, G., *The Orientalist, his Institute and the Empire: the rise and subsequent decline of Oxford University's Indian Institute* (seminar paper, 2004): [http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/27774/indianinstitutehistory.pdf](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/27774/indianinstitutehistory.pdf), accessed 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

In 1923, the New Quadrangle at Hertford was extended northwards to abut the southern boundary of the Old Indian Institute, becoming its semi-detached neighbour and altering the free-standing character of the building. In 1926-7 the Bodleian Library took over the management of the Old Indian Institute for a fee of £275 a year, which rapid complaints show did not even begin to cover the running costs. In 1939 the Indian Institute Museum was closed for the War. It was not opened again until 1949 when it was reopened as the Museum of Eastern Art, incorporating the Ashmolean's Chinese ceramic collection. Meanwhile, the University Land Agent had occupied three rooms on the ground floor of the Institute in 1947.

The ground floor and basement seminar spaces were originally part of a double-height seminar room (the Malan Room) with a mezzanine balcony at ground-floor level. The space was subdivided with a prestressed concrete floor and partition walls to form offices in 1954.

Indian independence precluded much of the activity of the Indian Institute, which by this point was largely concerned with the training of civil servants for the colonial administration. The Indian Institute had come under pressure since its formation, and in 1955 the Hebdomadal Council passed a decree to form the Oriental Institute, incorporating the Indian Institute. There was, of course, a great deal of opposition from indologists. The influence of the Bodleian administration was such that the library was to remain at the Broad Street site despite the loss of the Indian Institute. Due to strident opposition, the University was forced to obtain a High Court order in 1956 to allow it to utilise the Indian Institute as general University property, providing that a £20,000 fund was set up as a permanent endowment for the promotion of Indian studies. Even so, there was continued opposition from the Curators of the Indian Institute when the University sought to occupy the lecture room in 1958.



**Figure 4. The Old Indian Institute in 2010, orientated with East at the top of the image**

The Indian Institute's travails were compounded when it was threatened with demolition to make way for purpose-built University offices in 1960, something that would have permanently changed the character of the eastern end of Broad Street. This plan never went ahead, but in 1964 the Hebdomadal Council discussed proposals to relocate the Indian Institute Library to a roof extension on the New Bodleian Library and to assign the Champneys building to the University Central Offices. This proposal was passed in Congregation in 1965 by 55 votes, to a violent reaction from the press and the student body. The Indian press were particularly scathing, noting that the building was constructed with donations from Indian nationals under the impression that it would remain a centre for Indian studies. These issues were compounded in 1968 when the Indian Institute moved to its extension atop the New Bodleian and it was announced that the University Offices would be moving to a purpose-built building on Wellington Square, and that instead the Old Indian Institute building would now be occupied by the Modern History Faculty. The relegation of the Indian Institute to an extension, and its replacement with a department dedicated to European history was met with further press antipathy and even accusations of racism on the part of the University from the Oxford University Student Union.

This move involved the reconfiguration of the main entrance, with the main internal doors being moved from directly within the lobby space to their present location in the entrance hall, retaining the original joinery. A partition wall was also constructed within the entrance hall to create a lobby area that differentiated the faculty and library spaces (**Appendix 6**). The current rear stairwell was also constructed at this time, involving the reconfiguration of the rear offices at all levels and the removal of some original joinery, some of which was immediately reused within the building and some of which was held in storage. The museum was converted to use as the Maitland Reading Room.

The History Faculty moved from its location on Merton Street, with the library taking over the upper floors and the faculty offices the lower. In 2007 the History Faculty Offices relocated to the Old Boys High School on George Street and their previous accommodation was occupied by the Oxford Martin School (previously the James Martin 21<sup>st</sup> Century School at the University of Oxford). The occupation of the Oxford Martin School involved the further division of the ground-floor seminar space (previously the Malan Room) into three spaces in 2007 (**Appendix 6**). At the same time one of the Holywell street offices on the ground floor was converted into two separate lavatories and the ground-floor hallway was renovated. In 2008 a moveable partition was inserted in the ground-floor rear seminar space to allow it to be used as one or two rooms as required. In 2009 minor reconfiguration occurred in the basement to allow the installation of an MDX room. The History Faculty Library continues to occupy the upper floors.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

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### 3 SIGNIFICANCE

NPPF paragraph 128 specifies that in assessing planning applications:

*‘Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected including any contribution made by their setting.’*

The significance of the Old Indian Institute has been publically recognised by its designation as a Grade II listed building in 1972 (see **Appendix 1**); and it was included in Oxford City Council’s designation of its Central (City and University) Conservation Area in 1971, and in its subsequent revisions in 1974, 1981, 1985, and 1998 (see **Appendix 2**).

#### 3.1 Significance as part of Broad Street East, the City Centre, and the Central (City and University) Conservation Area



**Figure 5. The view eastwards from the corner of Broad Street and Cornmarket**

Broad Street East forms the monumental core of the city of Oxford, and is the city’s major civic meeting space. It is one of the most renowned and beautiful streets in Europe, with an architectural and cultural heritage that deserves world status. The character of the area is one of monumental grandiosity; of a unified ceremonial centre for the city and University. It has substantial aesthetic value, but also social value as the focal point for University (and, due to the nature of the city, by extension civic) ceremony in Oxford.

The Old Indian Institute is an integral aspect of the primary view from western end of Broad Street. The Old Indian Institute is barely visible from the western junction of Broad Street (around Mary Magdalen church), as the view is dominated by the western elevation and the northerly-projecting arcade of the Clarendon Building (**Figure 5**). From this point only the southernmost bay of the Broad Street elevation of the Old Indian Institute is visible.

By the time one has travelled as far east as Turl Street (**Figure 6**), the entirety of the Old Indian Institute’s western elevation is visible, dominating the terminus of Broad Street East. From this point eastward, the Old Indian Institute dominates the view, its tower providing a focal point and drawing the eye.

As one gets closer to the eastern end of Broad Street, as far east as the Old Ashmolean Museum (Museum of the History of Science), walking along the southern edge, some of the Old Indian Institute’s eastern elevation is



**Figure 6. The view eastwards from the corner of Broad Street and Turl Street**

once again obscured by the curve of the Sheldonian's boundary wall and the projecting arcade of the Clarendon building (**Figure 7**). From outside the Old Ashmolean Museum, only the original northernmost two bays and the corner tower (remaining a focal point) are visible. By this point, the southern façade of the New Bodleian Library and the corner position of the King's Arm public house (with its prominent pink colouring) take on some significance to the character of the setting.



**Figure 7. The view eastwards from outside the Old Ashmolean Museum**

Once again, as one gets as far east as the Clarendon Building, the Old Indian Institute dominates the eye.

It forms part of a prominent group of monumental buildings, including the Old Ashmolean Museum, the Sheldonian Theatre, the Clarendon Building, and the New Bodleian Library. The yellow colouring of the stone of these buildings (Clipsham facing on the Old Ashmolean Museum, the Sheldonian, and the Clarendon Building. Bladon and Clipsham on the New Bodleian. Milton on the Old Indian Institute) draws together and demarks the buildings as a group. These, along with the adjacent Old Bodleian Library and Radcliffe Square, form the monumental core of Oxford as a city and university. Whilst design has gone into the integrity of this space at Broad Street East (Wren developed a specific but unexecuted design in the 17<sup>th</sup> century for a monumental centre in this space), there is also accidental aesthetic value through the fortunate development of this space into an almost default monumental centre for the University.

The King's Arms continues to have some prominence at this point (**Figure 8**), and certainly has some relevance to the character of the space, but is overshadowed by the surrounding monumental buildings. Hertford makes little impact until one moves round onto Catte Street, where it becomes a deciding factor along with the Old Bodleian Library and the Old Indian Institute, and the promise of Radcliffe Square to the south. Wadham College, equally, has little prominence until one moves north onto Parks Road itself, providing little more than an appropriate background from Broad Street.



**Figure 8. The view eastwards from outside the New Bodleian Library**



**Figure 9. The view northwards from outside Hertford College**

Approaching from the south along Catte Street (**Figure**

**9**), the western façade of the Old Indian Institute is not prominent until one stands immediately in front of it, obscured by the curve of Hertford's New Quadrangle buildings, though the tower remains a focal point.

Whilst the bay windows of the Old Indian Institute project outwards slightly over the street, Hertford's New Quadrangle buildings dominate the view from the south. Hertford's MCR, which abuts the Old Indian Institute from the south, is of smaller cut blocks than the older buildings either side of it, though the sympathetic colouring and the use of ashlar quoins means that, whilst it certainly feels out of place, the contrast is not jarring.

From Holywell Street the tower of the Old Indian Institute is not visible from further east than the rear point of the building itself. Despite this, the yellowed Milton stone of the building continues to influence the character of the corner of Holywell Street/Broad Street; however, it is really the eastern corner of the New Bodleian Library, barring the vista at the junction, which dominates the view from here (**Figure 10**). The highly-ornamented northern elevation of the Old Indian Institute contrasts with the simpler façades at the western end of Holywell Street. It retains the ornamentation removed from the Broad Street elevation (the carved pediments above the first-floor oriel windows), though, despite its less-prominent location, it was always the far more elaborate elevation.

The Holywell Street elevation can best be enjoyed from the approach southwards along Parks Road, where from an oblique angle it forms an impressive sight along with the prominent corner tower and the Broad Street elevation (**Figure 11**).

### 3.2 Architectural Significance

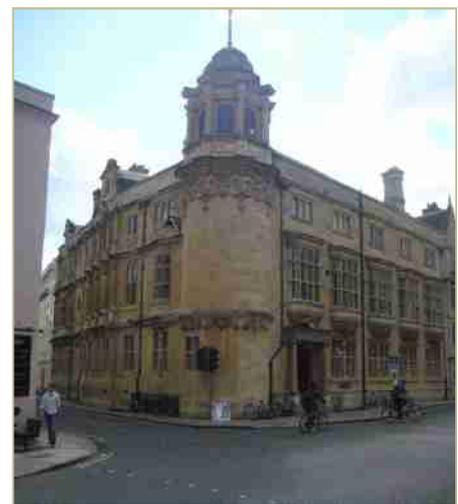
The Old Indian Institute was by no means a cutting-edge architectural work. Champneys was a proponent of the Gothic, but here exhibited the free style:

*'The rooms are arranged around a rather clumsily detailed top-lit museum space, but in the façade Champneys out-Jacksoned Jackson with an array of neo-Jacobean oriel windows and a Baroque dome-capped turret which memorably closes the eastward vista from Broad Street. From here it is only a short step to the extravagances of much fin de siècle architecture.'*<sup>3</sup>

It seems clear that Champneys decision to move away from Gothic was influenced by the recent acceptance of T.G. Jackson's design for the Examination Schools; his Tudor-inspired



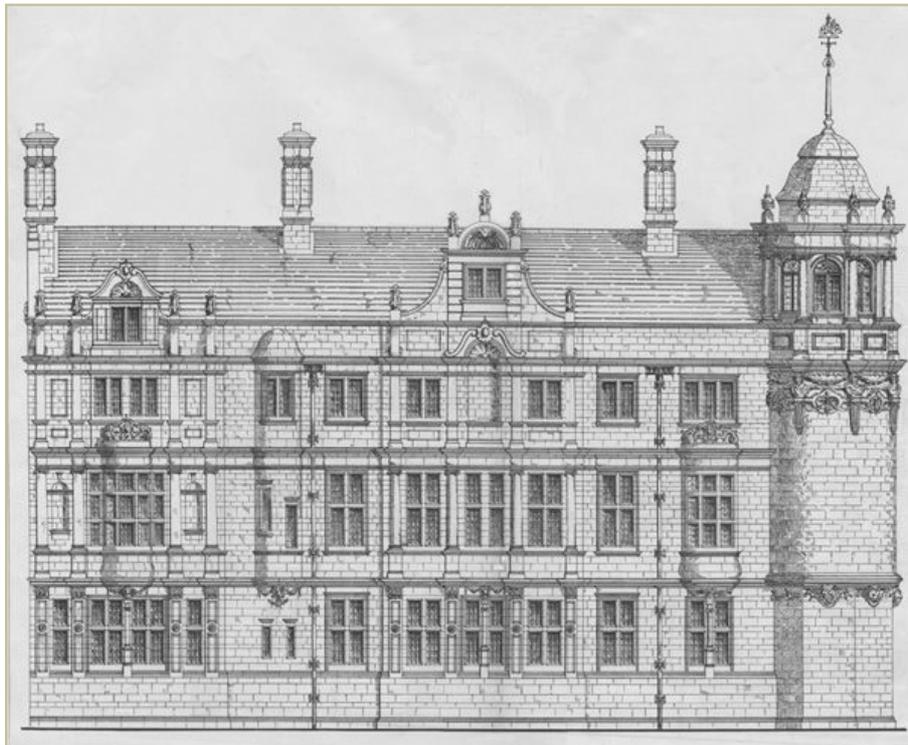
**Figure 10. westwards along Holywell Street**



**Figure 11. View to the southeast from the southern corner of Parks Road**

<sup>3</sup> Tyack, G., *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (Oxford, 1998) 256-7.

design won the design competition in 1876 and was completed in 1882 as the first major commission in a non-gothic style in Oxford for perhaps 30 years. The use of the yellowed Milton stone on the Old Indian Institute references the use of Clipsham on the Examination Schools, the first use of Oxford's most popular stone. The subsequent Clipsham facings on the Old Ashmolean, the Sheldonian Theatre, the Clarendon Building, and the New Bodleian Library, follow this same trend and Oxford has since become a city characterised by the yellow tone of its monumental buildings. The Old Indian Institute has illustrative value as an early indication of this trend after the success of Jackson's design for the Examination Schools.



**Figure 12. Champneys original drawing of the Holywell elevation**

The exterior elevations of the Old Indian Institute contribute substantial aesthetic value. The Holywell Street elevation consists of four bays (**Figure 12**). On the ground-floor level there are four-light mullion and transom windows, in most places spaced with pilasters topped with modillions. On the second bay from the east there is a pair of slit windows instead to demarcate the rear staircase.

On the first-floor level there are four-light mullion and transom windows interspaced with engaged Ionic columns. The first bay from the west has a six-light mullion and transom oriel window with a carved pediment. The first bay from the east has a similar oriel, framed on either side with matching three-light windows and bare niches between engaged Ionic columns. The second bay from the east contains an oriel marked with offset slit windows lighting the rear spiral stairwell.

On the second-floor level the mullioned windows follow the same pattern as on the first floor, but only have two lights (three on the westernmost bay and four on the easternmost bay). The centre of the second bay from the west contains a pedimented niche (providing an introduction to the elaborately-set dormer above) framed by two-light windows rather than a line of three four-light windows as on the lower floors. The second bay from the east continues the oriel along the line of the rear spiral stairwell. The windows are interspersed with Doric pilasters. There is a pedimented (less elaborately so than the one over the second bay from the west) two-light dormer over the easternmost bay.



**Figure 13. Left, elephant on the ground-floor level of the tower. Right, demigod at the second-floor level of the tower**

From the Holywell Street elevation the tower is relatively bare, decorated with banding and elephant, bull, lion, and tiger heads at ground-floor level (**Figure 13**). At second-floor level there is further banding and elaborately-carved demigods in a cruciform stance (these have suffered from extensive weathering, for instance the loss of most of the face of the southernmost figure on the Broad Street elevation). There were originally decorative finials at the parapet level (since removed)<sup>4</sup> of the tower, which itself extends as a cupola onto and above the roof level. The cupola has three-light, apsidal mullioned and transomed windows interspaced with Doric columns supporting a ribbed dome. This is topped with a spire and a weathervane with an elephant complete with rider and howdah (**Figure 14**).



**Figure 14. Elephant weathervane atop the cupola**

The Broad Street elevation (**Figure 15**) is less elaborate than the Holywell Street façade and consists of five bays. At ground-floor level each bay has a pair of four-light mullion and transom windows topped with cartouches, except the northernmost bay which holds the main entrance: a porch with unfluted Ionic columns and a projecting architrave. At the first-floor level each bay contains a fifteen-light (five-light

<sup>4</sup> Many thanks to Peter Howell for pointing this out.

mullion with two transoms) oriel window. These were each originally capped with elaborate strapwork, which has since been removed. At second-floor level, each bay contains a three-light mullioned window. There is a blank frieze above, which runs round the corner tower and onto the Holywell Street elevation. The southern boundary of the building has been lost, feeling somewhat at odds with the rough-hewn gable end of Hertford College's four-storeyed 1923 building which now abuts it.



**Figure 15. Broad Street elevation**

The rear elevations, facing onto Hertford College's New Quadrangle, are completed simply in red brick, as befits these less prominent aspects.

The Old Indian Institute remains a significant building with substantial aesthetic value. It has illustrative value as a good example of the work of Champneys, one of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Oxford's more significant architects (see **Section 3.2.1**), and of his use of the English free style as opposed to his usual gothic.

### **3.2.1 Basil Champneys**

Basil Champneys was one of the more important architects operating in Oxford in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was not as prolific as T.G. Jackson, having less of an impact on the city



**Figure 16. Basil Champneys**

and certainly less of a profile as an architectural writer and theorist, yet his works within the city remain of some significance. He also produced works of some significance outside of Oxford, notably the Victorian gothic John Rylands Memorial Library in Manchester (1900).

His work was prized by colleges and the University. He completed work at: Lady Margaret Hall (a new block in 1880-4); New College (tutor's house in 1885-6 and the Robinson tower in 1896-8); the lauded Shelley Memorial at University College (1892-3); the excellent library at Somerville College (1903-4); and Merton College (St. Alban's Quadrangle and the Warden's Lodgings in 1904-10). He made his mark on High Street with the rather brash Rhodes Building for Oriel College (1909-11), which is much more appreciated now than when built. His most significant contribution to Oxford comes in the form of Mansfield College, which he designed in 1887-9 (with the lodge added in 1902); a Tudor-Gothic construction of some merit: "...the air of undemanding charm which Champneys so effectively captured at Mansfield College was to pervade much of the architecture of Oxford down to the 1960s."<sup>5</sup>

### **3.3 Archaeological Significance**

Oxford has a rich archaeological record, with relatively-continuous occupation from the Bronze Age onwards. The Old Indian Institute is built on the site of four 18<sup>th</sup>-century houses and in an area that is known to have been inhabited in the mediaeval period (when it was just outside the city walls). The city ditch, infilled after the Civil War, ran through the site of the Old Indian Institute and was recorded in excavations in the courtyard in 1895. The building has substantial cellars which may have destroyed later archaeological material; however, the long history of occupation makes it likely that some significant material, with potential evidential value, may be extant at lower stratigraphic layers.

### **3.4 Historical Significance**

The heritage asset has some illustrative value as an example of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century British attitudes towards Indian culture. The use of orientalising decorative themes upon a 17<sup>th</sup>-century-inspired English freestyle façade suggests an ethnographic exercise on the part of the designer rather than creolisation; they represent very much a colonial British view of Indian culture rather than having any native legitimacy, unsurprising in a building always designed with the training of colonial authorities in mind.

The building remains controversial following the removal of the Indian Institute in 1968 and still elicits strong opinions on these grounds, especially from descendants of the original donors, for whom it holds some social value.

### **3.5 Significance as a library and office space**

The History Faculty Library has occupied the upper floors of the Old Indian Institute since 1968. The Oxford Martin School has occupied the office spaces of the building since 2007. The History Faculty Library remains an important resource for undergraduate and

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<sup>5</sup> Tyack, G., *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (Oxford, 1998) 257.

postgraduate students of history, classical archaeology, late antique and Byzantine studies, and many other courses. The Old Indian Institute provides an appropriately grand setting, as well as a pleasant, well-lit, and practical library space. It is somewhat under provisioned in terms of desk space during busy periods but remains a popular location with users.

The Oxford Martin School occupies the majority of the ground floor and the rear offices of the upper floors. This gives the school access to seminar spaces (vital to its role as a multidisciplinary forum for the discussion of the problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century) as well as necessary office and administrative space. The high-profile, central location is appropriate for the nascent institution's high aspirations and high-impact goals.

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VULNERABILITIES

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## 4 VULNERABILITIES

### The ability of the Old Indian Institute to fulfil a contemporary function

The Old Indian Institute's original design makes it well suited to its current uses. The library spaces are being used much as originally designed and the office and seminar spaces are equally appropriate for their current utility. There has been some limited subdivision since the original construction but the major areas have retained their characters and the original floor plan is largely discernable. The continued use of the building (whoever the occupants are) in a manner that respects its historic character is important to its ongoing maintenance and conservation; this may not always be a library usage but its continued use in some sympathetic manner is central to its continued appreciation and significance. The areas of the building that have retained their character and significance, notably the library spaces and the external façades, have done so because the building has remained in use, and has been maintained and cared for.

The current usage funds the upkeep and conservation of the heritage asset and ensures its continued existence and significance. The significant areas are not threatened and its listed status ensures that any further alterations operate within the constraints of an accepted understanding of the building's significance as a heritage asset. It is important that the building retains a contemporary and relevant use into the future. Whilst some change is inevitable in order to retain the relevance of the space, the historical character of the building should be respected in any future plans.

#### 4.1 Access

The ability of the building to be accessed and enjoyed by as wide an audience as possible is central to its significance. The significance of the heritage asset is lessened if any person who wishes to legitimately use and enjoy the buildings is hampered in doing so by inadequate access. The accessibility of the building is hampered by its original design. The public access to the building is via six steps (with a handrail) and heavy doors (**Figure 17**). Wheelchair access is not by the main doors but must be prearranged, with an escort, through Hertford College.<sup>6</sup> As the ground floor is no longer occupied by the History Faculty this will not be a long-term option for those wishing to use the History Faculty Library. The nature of the main entrance makes it



**Figure 17. Broad Street entrance**

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/building-access/>, accessed 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

challenging to provide an accessible approach without affecting the character of the heritage asset.

The interior of the building is traversed via a spiral staircase (24 narrow steps) or, by arrangement, the wider staff staircase at the rear. There is no lift access. The only accessible lavatory is located on the ground floor, and unadapted lavatories are available in the basement.<sup>7</sup> This situation poses obvious difficulties for users with mobility problems.

In order to meet accepted standards of accessibility all users should be able to enter the building through the same points and move freely around the building without disadvantage.

## 4.2 Maintenance

### 4.2.1 Exterior Elevations and Setting

The external façades of the Old Indian Institute are its most significant architectural features, generating substantial aesthetic value. The Broad Street elevation and tower are important to the vista along the eastern edge of Broad Street, one of Oxford's most iconic views. The Hollywell Street elevation is elaborate and attractive, and contributes to the oblique view from the southern corner of South Parks Road (**Cover** and **Figure 11**), which is perhaps the finest angle to view the building from. It is these elevations which make the building such a significant element of the monumental precinct at Broad Street East.



**Figure 18. Weathering to head of demigod statue on tower**

The elevations contribute extensively to their settings. They have aged well and remain in excellent condition (minor alterations have been made to the decoration on the Broad Street elevation) but they are open to weathering, erosion, potential vandalism, and pollution: damage which could detract from the significance of the heritage asset. Some of the carved elements have lost detail due to weathering; in particular the carvings on the tower have suffered some damage over time (**Figure 18**).

The landscape setting of the heritage asset has changed somewhat since its construction. The major alterations are: the encroachment of Hertford College into the area directly south of the building; the construction of the New Bodleian Library to the west; the preponderance of motor traffic and parking on Broad Street, necessitating pedestrian crossings outside the heritage asset; and the Clipsham facing on the older buildings in the vicinity. These changes have affected the physical approach to the building, though the views remain relatively undiminished.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/history/services/disabled>, accessed 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

## 4.2.2 Interior Layout, Fixtures, and Fittings

Due to the subdivision and opening up of some spaces, the interior layout is somewhat different from the original design, though the original plan is still widely discernable (**Appendix 6**). The bright interior palette lifts the character of the interior and, whilst no doubt not original, does not detract from it. Various attractive original details are intact throughout the building. A great deal of original joinery remains throughout the building, notably the doors and door cases, these being of a universally high quality. Cornice moulding is extant even in less significant spaces, such as the ground-floor porter's lodge.

As the interior features are in regular use and of less permanent construction than the external structure of the building, they are vulnerable to vandalism, accidents, and general wear and tear. Some of these issues should be mitigated assuming adequate security and maintenance regimes are in place, but ultimately these significant elements will have limited lifespans. These lives can be lengthened as much as possible through regular, adequate monitoring and maintenance.

As a Grade II listed building any alterations, or repairs made with non-original materials, will require listed building consent.

### 4.2.2.1 The Entrance Hall

The ground-floor entrance hall is a fine space. Like the majority of the interior, it has a groin-vaulted ceiling, the arches supported by Doric columns. There is an original bare stone arch (which has suffered some damage to its edges) leading to the spiral stairwell. The joinery on the first entrance from Broad Street and to the Oxford Martin School and even the porter's lodge is conducted on a grand, even monumental scale; the door cases remain attractive original features (though moved inwards from their original location, **Appendix 6**) with

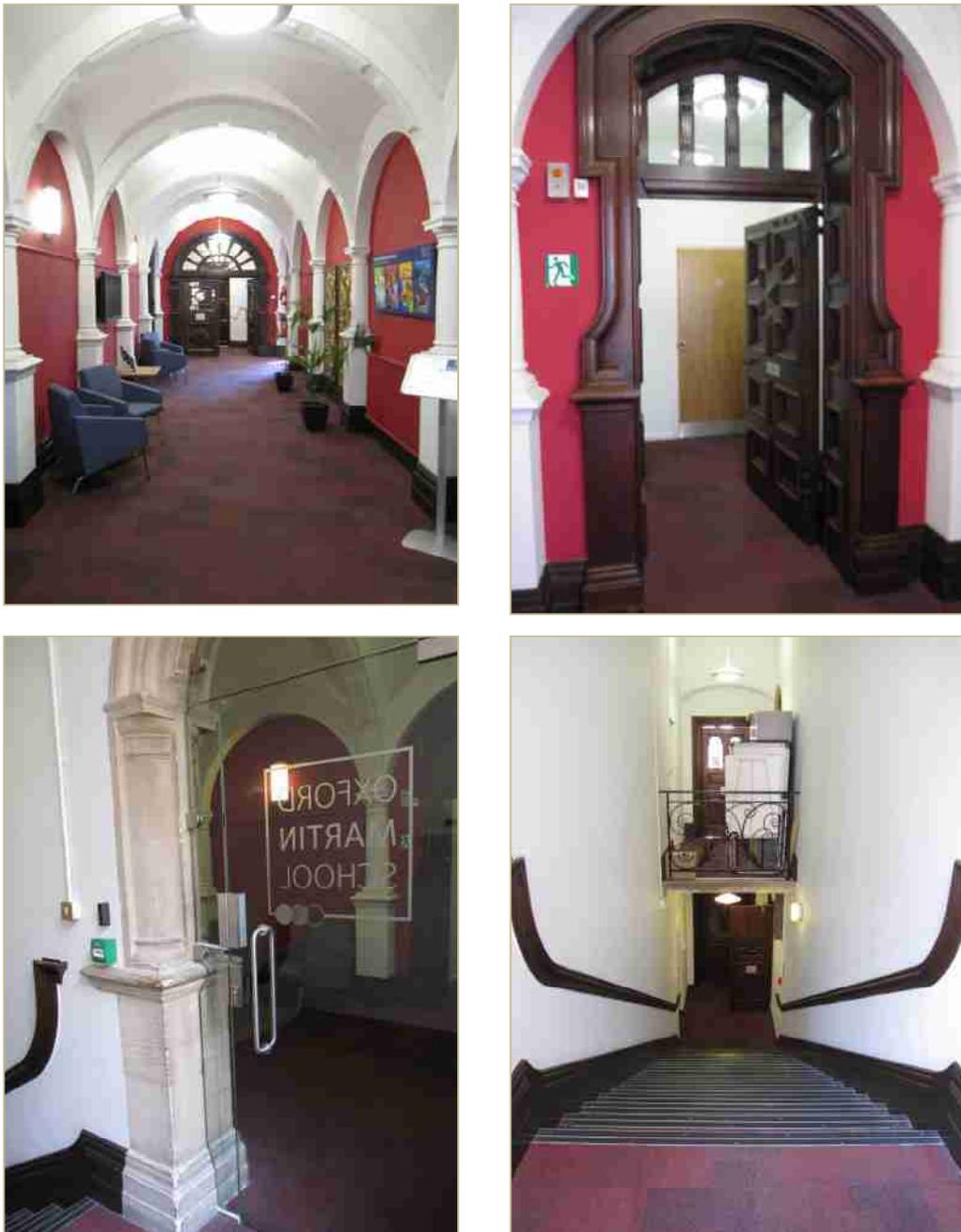


**Figure 19. The entrance hall. Left, the entrance to the Oxford Martin School. Right, entrance to the porter's lodge**

significant aesthetic value. The bland, white paint palette works in what could otherwise be a rather dark space. The impact of the space is in keeping with the significance and character of the building. The amount of *ad hoc* signage in the space does detract from the character slightly (**Figure 19**), and this could be rationalised to more fully realise its potential character.

#### 4.2.2.2 Ground-floor Hall

The ground-floor hallway of the Oxford Martin School is a significant space of some character. It consists of a series of groin vaults supported by a series of engaged Doric

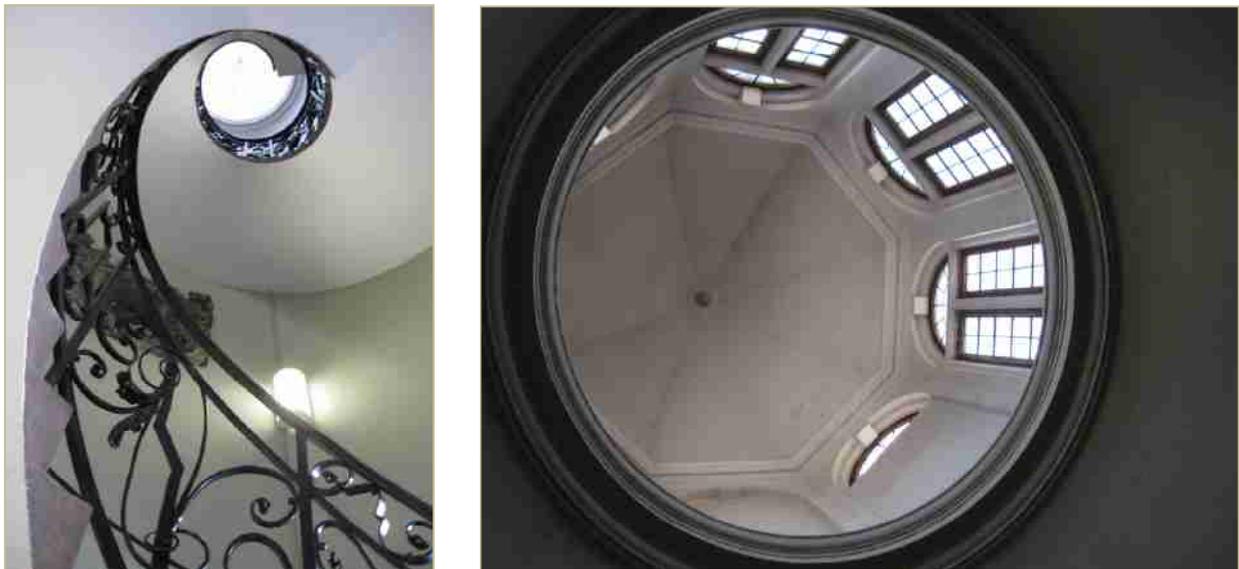


**Figure 20. Top left, view eastwards along ground-floor corridor. Top right, fine joinery on less prominent door cases (now lavatory entrance). Bottom left, glass barrier to basement stairs. Bottom right, stair to basement**

columns. It originally had a terrazzo floor. It is a well-lit space and benefits from the first-rate joinery displayed elsewhere, even on less prominent doorways. There are also two bare stone arches of some aesthetic value. Access to the basement staircase is controlled through a glass barrier, which provides an appropriate level of security whilst minimising any impact on the character of the space.

#### 4.2.3.3 Stairwell

The spiral staircase that runs through the tower of the Old Indian Institute is a significant space with some character. The stairway is the main form of access to the reading rooms. It is accessed via stone arches decorated with cartouches. The ironmongery is of a high standard and there is an attractive cartouche marking the stone laid by the Prince of Wales in 1883. The stair ultimately leads to the interior of the cupola, which is a plain octagonal dome.



**Figure 21. Left, ironmongery on the stairwell. Right, interior of the cupola**

#### 4.2.3.4 West Reading Room and Gallery

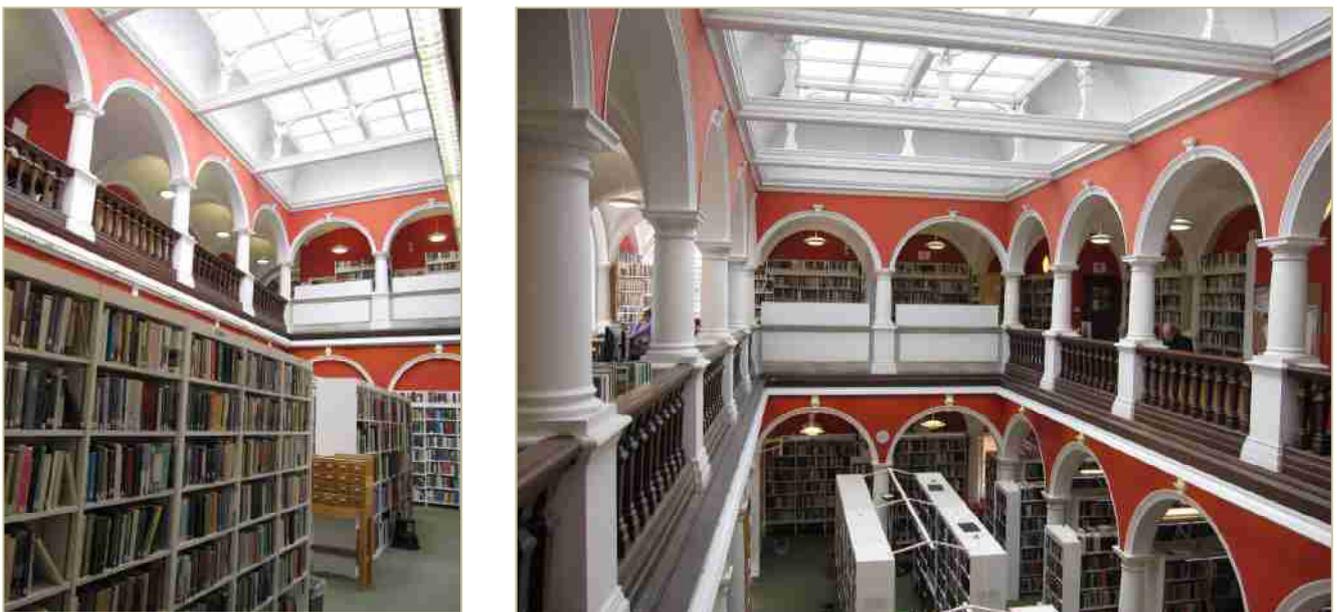
The West Reading Room on the first floor is one of the finest spaces in the building. It is accessed through a stone arch from the stairwell which leads onto a small landing fitted with carved wooden arches. The entrance to the reading room is flanked by necessary but intrusive security barriers. The reading room consists of a large, double-height, linear barrel-vaulted (there is some superficial cracking on the ceiling) space excellently lit by the six 15-light oriel windows facing westwards onto Broad Street. There is a gallery at second-floor level, supported by carved wooden modillions (**Figure 22**). The original fireplace on the southern wall of the room is an attractive feature which adds significantly to the character of the space, though it is currently partially obscured by a bookcase. There is an original narrow stone arch between the West and Maitland reading rooms at the southern end of the room, which is repeated at the gallery level.



**Figure 22. Left, view of the West Reading Room from the northern entrance. Centre, original fireplace at southern end of reading room. Right, view of the West Reading Room from the gallery level facing south**

#### **4.2.3.5 Maitland Reading Room and Gallery**

The Maitland Reading Room is as equally a significant space as the West Reading Room. It is also a linear space, lent verticality by its gallery and rooflights. The gallery is supported by a series of groin vaults sprung from an arcade of Doric columns. There is a matching arcade at gallery level. The ceiling consists of a cut-off barrel vault topped with 26 original wired-glass roof lights. This is supported by tie beams which themselves support bracketed wooden piers supporting the tie beams of the roof lights. The fine joinery found elsewhere is repeated in this room. The extensive roof lights make a well-lit and functional work space.



**Figure 23. Left, view southwards from Maitland Reading Room. Right, view northwards from gallery**



5

CONSERVATION  
POLICY

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## 5 CONSERVATION POLICY

Having established the significance of the Old Indian Institute as a heritage asset, and having identified ways in which the significance of the Old Indian Institute is vulnerable to harm, it is necessary to recommend policies to reduce the probability of such harm occurring, and thereby conserve the significance of the site. In essence, these policies set parameters for managing the fabric of the site.

The Conservation Plan is intended as an active tool for the regular maintenance and long-term management of the Old Indian Institute. It needs to be reviewed regularly, and revised as appropriate to take account of additional knowledge and changing priorities.

### 5.1 **The Old Indian Institute's continued use in a contemporary and relevant function is important to its continued significance. Permit, in line with NPPF paragraphs 131, 132, 133, and 134, alterations intended to facilitate its continued use in this way**

The continued use of the Old Indian Institute in a relevant function represents an important aspect of its overall significance. It was designed to be used and enjoyed rather than as a static monument. Limited alterations will inevitably be required to allow it to retain this significance in line with modern standards and requirements. If alteration is required in the future it should be permitted with the following provisos:

- Any alterations must be sympathetic to the Old Indian Institute's significance as a heritage asset and, in line with NPPF paragraph 134, any proposals that involve 'less than substantial harm to the significance' should deliver 'substantial public benefits.' In line with NPPF paragraph 132, any proposals that involve 'substantial harm or loss' should be 'exceptional.'
- Any changes should: '...preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset' (NPPF paragraph 137).

#### 5.1.1 **In order to ensure that the Old Indian Institute can operate to modern standards, and that its significance can be maintained by making access as wide as possible, special concern should be applied to ensuring that disabled access is adequate**

Ensuring that the heritage asset can be enjoyed as widely as possible will have a major positive impact on its significance. As noted in **Section 4.1** the building design does present some difficulty in terms of improving access. Access will remain a major concern in any plans developed for the site; a vigorous effort should be made to improve access to the site, with the University seeking to exceed its statutory obligations and always viewing this as part of an ongoing process.

**5.2 Note that the Old Indian Institute is a Grade II listed building and ensure that appropriate consents are obtained for works to the interior or exterior of the building**

In order to ensure the heritage asset's significance, alterations may be required in the future, and due to the listed status of the building, even minor routine repairs in significant spaces may need consent. Caution should be applied in order to ensure that any statutory duties are fulfilled. In cases of doubt **Estates Services should be contacted in the first instance**, and if necessary they will refer queries on to Oxford City Council.

**5.3 Ensure proper consultation in advance of any work to the building with the Local Authority Conservation Officer (through Estates Services) and any other interested parties**

It is important to guarantee that the best advice is obtained at an early stage of any proposal to alter any part of the building in order to ensure that the significance of the building is respected.

**5.4 Refer to this Conservation Plan when considering repairs or alterations in any space**

The Conservation Plan gives an overview of which aspects of the building are significant or vulnerable. Where original or significant material is extant, repairs should be carried out using the same materials and techniques and should not affect the significance of the asset without providing substantial public benefits in line with NPPF paragraph 134.

**5.5 Any redevelopment needs to respect the character of the surrounding area and the Old Indian Institute's setting adjacent to listed buildings (e.g. the New Bodleian Library, the Clarendon Building, the Old Bodleian Library, the Sheldonian Theatre, and the Old Ashmolean Museum)**

The Old Indian Institute is significant to the character of Broad Street East and the Central (City and University) Conservation Area (**Section 3.1**), interacting well with both the older and newer buildings around it and providing a focal point for the eastwards vista. Any future alteration should be sympathetic to this fact, and should not diminish its rôle.

**5.6 Items of particular concern**

**5.6.1 Signage**

The entrance hall in particular suffers from a profusion of *ad hoc* signage which detracts from the character of the space. Such signage should be rationalised and minimised in the future.

**5.7 Conservation of specific factors contributing to overall significance**

The Old Indian Institute possesses various internal and external features of special significance (**Section 3.2** and **4.2**). An effort should be made to identify and conserve original architectural features, and keep them in use where possible in line with **Section 5.1**; however, it is accepted that all materials have a natural life span and some degree of change must be permitted to keep the building safe, usable, and generally fit for function. Some materials,

such as the external stonework, will have a very long life expectancy if given routine maintenance; others are impermanent and may need periodic replacement. Within the framework of understanding and valuing what is present in the building a degree of ongoing change is inevitable.

**5.7.1 Any alterations made to the exterior elevations will respect their significance and contribution to the character of the surrounding area**

The exterior elevations are integral to the significance of the Old Indian Institute. Any alterations to these could significantly affect the character of the building and its impact on the surrounding area. Any alterations that affect the elevations will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this significance and character in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

**5.7.2 Any alterations to the entrance hall will respect the significant character of this space**

This is one of the most attractive and significant spaces in the building. It is important to the building's significance as a heritage asset and contributes substantial aesthetic value. It retains a great deal of its original fabric, though the level of signage does detract from the space and the carpet does little to add to its character. Any alterations planned in this area will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for its character in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

**5.7.3 Any alterations to the ground-floor hall will respect the significant character of the space**

The ground-floor hall has been recently refurbished and remains a significant space with important historic character and substantial aesthetic value. Any alterations planned in this area will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this character in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

**5.7.4 Any alterations to the main stairwell will respect the significant character of this space**

The main stairwell is a significant space within the building with important historic character and substantial aesthetic value. Any alterations planned in this area will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this character in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

**5.7.5 Any alterations to the West Reading Room and gallery will the respect the significant character of this space**

The West Reading Room and gallery is a significant space within the building with important historic character and substantial aesthetic value. Any alterations planned in this area will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this character in line with **Section 5.1** and **5.1.1**.

**5.7.6 Any alterations to the Maitland Reading Room and gallery will respect the significant character of this space**

The Maitland Reading Room and gallery is a significant space within the building with important historic character and substantial aesthetic value. Any alterations planned in this area will be undertaken with a full understanding of and respect for this character in line with **Section 5.1 and 5.1.1.**

**5.8 In the vein of NPPF paragraph 110, efforts should be made to ensure that the Old Indian Institute's contribution to climate change is as minimal as is feasible for a building of its age, size, materials, and use. Any proposals for alterations should assess the feasibility of incorporating low and zero carbon technologies**

Ensuring that the building is sustainable will be crucial to its long-term survival and significance. As stated in NPPF paragraph 110, development should seek to 'minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment.'

**5.9 A disaster recovery plan will be prepared for the building and will be regularly reviewed to keep it up to date**

This is an architecturally significant space with internal contents of particular value and academic significance. It is imperative for the safety of the building that a clear and up-to-date disaster recovery plan exists.

**5.10 If during subsequent renovations or alterations any excavation work is carried out beneath the Old Indian Institute or surrounding area, an archaeological assessment will be made of the potential for significant finds, and if appropriate an archaeologist will be given a watching brief as the excavation takes place**

There is the potential for significant archaeological material across the site (**Section 3.3**), and should any excavation work be carried out, an assessment of the archaeological potential should be made. This should include at least a desk-based assessment, but possibly geophysics and trial trenching. A watching brief will almost certainly be required for any excavation.

**5.11 A good practice of routine recording, investigation, and maintenance will be enacted and sustained. Such an approach will minimise the need for larger repairs or other interventions and will usually represent the most economical way of retaining an asset**

**5.11.1 Estates Services (or its agents) will ensure that a senior member of staff has responsibility for the administration and recording of a routine maintenance programme for the building**

All buildings need to be routinely maintained if they are to stay in good condition. This requires a detailed maintenance programme and, critically, someone who is responsible for ensuring that routine operations are carried out. A proper record of the repair and

maintenance work in a maintenance log is a useful management tool. Such information will be recorded in the Estates Management software package *Planon*.

**5.11.2 A detailed routine maintenance programme will be prepared for the building**

Maintenance is best carried out as a series of planned operations. A well thought-out and properly-administered maintenance programme may appear to be time consuming but will result in a better-functioning building with less need for emergency repairs.

**5.11.3 The Conservation Plan will be circulated to all senior staff who work in the Old Indian Institute and to all other members of the University who have responsibility for the building or its contents**

The value of the building needs to be appreciated by all senior staff managing or working in the building. Only in this way will the heritage asset be properly treated, repaired, and maintained.

**5.11.4 The Conservation Plan will be made available to Oxford City Council, English Heritage, and any other party with a legitimate interest in the building**

The Conservation Plan is intended to be a useful document to inform all parties with a legitimate interest in the building.

**5.12 The Conservation Plan will be reviewed and updated from time to time as work is carried out on the building or as circumstances change. The recommendations should be reviewed at least at five-year intervals**

Policy changes, building alterations, or other changes of circumstance, will affect the conservation duties and requirements of the building. The policy recommendations in the Conservation Plan will inform the future of the building and should be a useful tool for people carrying out maintenance work or where more significant alterations are being considered. The recommendations need to be kept up to date if they are to remain relevant.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Planning applications available from [http://uniformpublicaccess.oxford.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/tdc\\_home.aspx](http://uniformpublicaccess.oxford.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/tdc_home.aspx), accessed 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

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### 6.4 Other Documents

- Listed building description courtesy of English Heritage (see **Section 6.5**).
- Historical plans (Ref: ET 2/2/1-206) and lease documents (Ref: NW/16/13/1-21) courtesy of Oxford University Archives.
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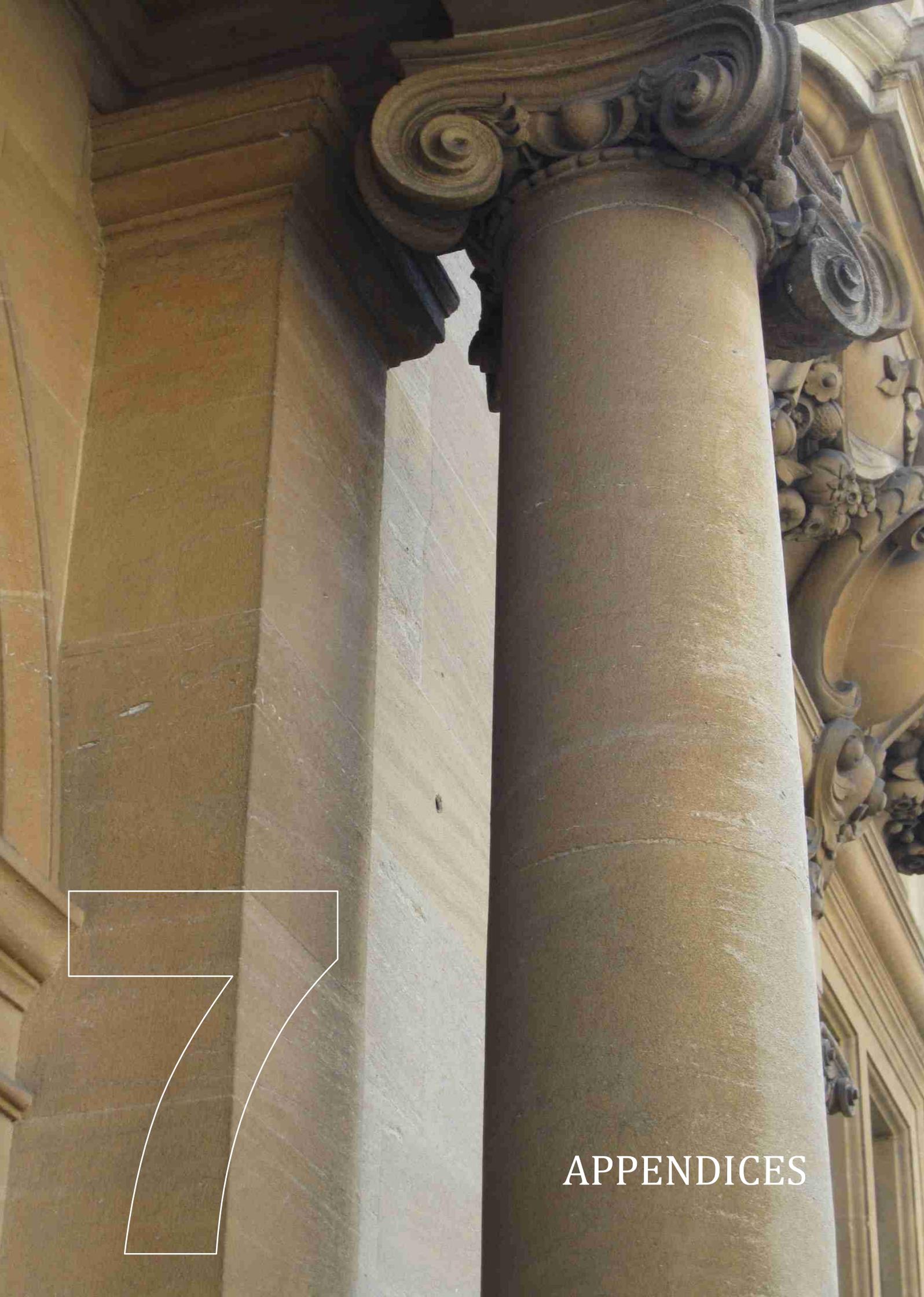
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- Heritage Search (HER Records):  
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## 6.6 Image Credits

- Cover: Estates Services photograph.
- Figure 1: Adapted from Google Maps (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 2: From English Heritage Heritage Gateway (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 3: Adapted from original deeds.
- Figure 4: Adapted from Bing Maps (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figures 5-11: Estates Services photographs.
- Figures 12: From Headington.org website (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figures 13-14: Estates Services photographs.
- Figure 15: From Headington.org website (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figure 16: From National Portrait Gallery website (see **Section 6.5**).
- Figures 17-23: Estates Services photographs.
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APPENDICES

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7 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Listed Building Description

## List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

**Name:** THE INDIAN INSTITUTE

**List Entry Number:** 1369355

### Location

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE, CATTE STREET  
THE INDIAN INSTITUTE, HOLYWELL STREET

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

**County:** Oxfordshire

**District:** Oxford

**District**

**Type:** District

Authority

**Parish:**

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** II

**Date first listed:** 28-Jun-1972

**Date of most recent amendment:** Not applicable to this List entry.

---

## Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** LBS

**UID:** 245371

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# Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

---

## List Entry Description

### Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Details

CATTE STREET

1.

1485

The Indian Institute

SP 5106 NE 6/145

SP 5106 SE 9/145

II GV

2.

1883-96. By Basil Champneys. In the Jacobean style. Milton stone with red brick at the rear. 3 storeys. 5 window range on Catte Street, 4-light mullion and transom windows on the ground floor; on the 1st floor oriel windows, 5-light mullion with 2 transoms; on the 2nd floor 3-light mullioned windows. Porch with unfluted Ionic columns. Corner tower with cupola. Parapet. Holywell front similar, but with more varied fenestration. Very important position as closing the East vista along Broad Street.

The Indian Institute forms a group with Exeter College, The Sheldonian Theatre and The Old Clarendon Building Broad Street.

Listing NGR: SP5157706508

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## Selected Sources

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

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## Map

**National Grid Reference: SP 51580 06506**

The below map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - [1369355.pdf](#)



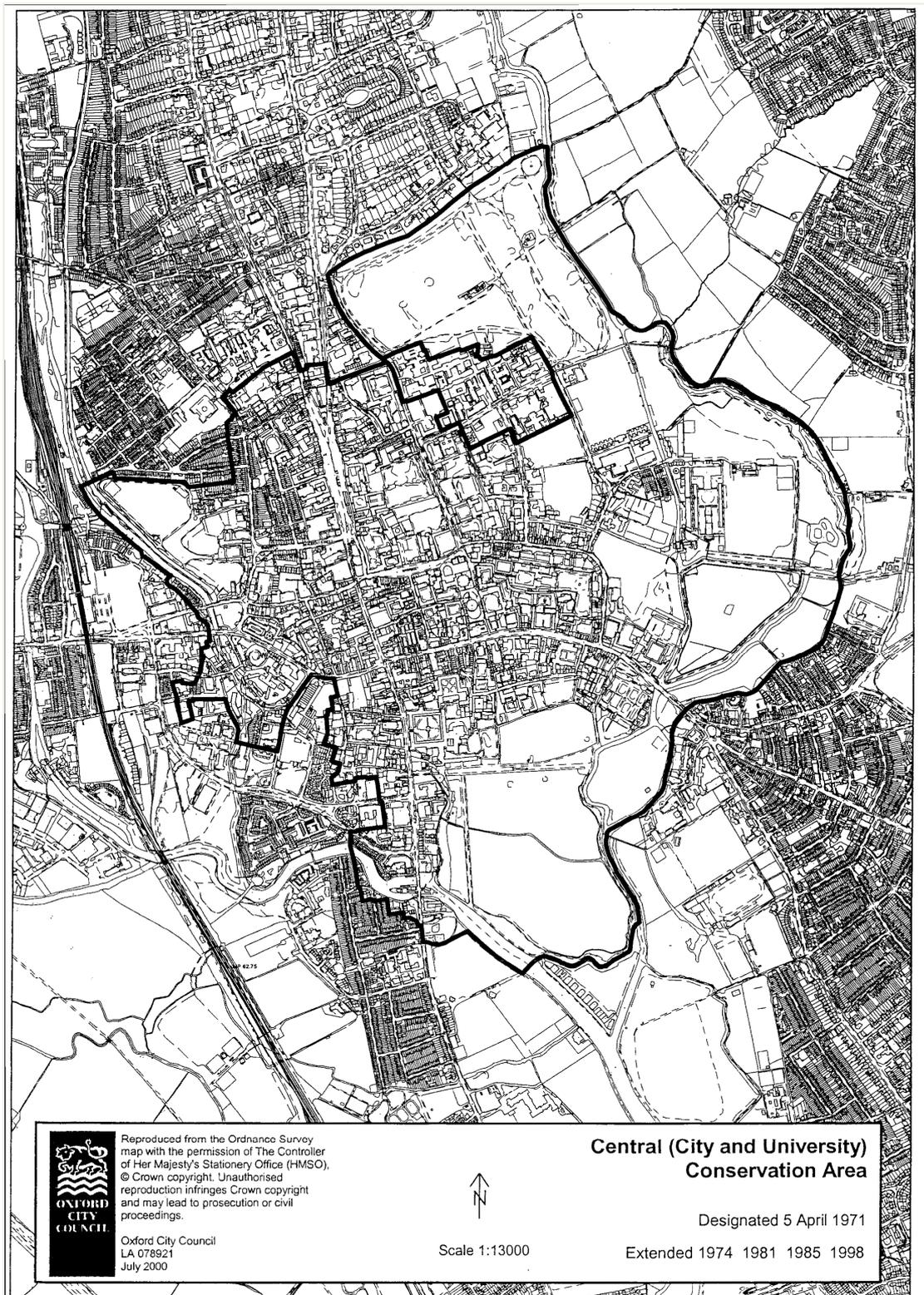
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## Appendix 2 Conservation Area Description



### Central Conservation Area, No. 5

The historic centre of Oxford forms one of the masterpieces of European architectural heritage. It is also a major regional commercial centre. Many of its historic buildings still function for the purpose for which they were built, and provide accommodation for the University of Oxford and its colleges.

From small beginnings as a settlement in the Saxon period, Oxford grew by the 11th century into one of the largest towns in England and a major trade centre. The Norman conquest brought the construction of the Castle and the establishment of major religious houses. The infant University arose in the 12th century and gradually grew into a major force in the city's life. The Saxons' rigid street layout and the fixed line of the 13th century defensive walls, together with the floodable river valleys, largely determined the plan of the historic centre as it is today. The gentle curve of the High Street, the great market place of St Giles and the older churches, together with the post-medieval timber-framed houses, belong to the town rather than the gown.

The University as it expanded, colonised the eastern half of the town with colleges and halls, building quadrangles of medieval and post-medieval gothic buildings, both within and without the walled town. The growth of the University's central institutions is well shown by the magnificent group of buildings situated between Broad Street and St Mary's Church. This group began in the 15th century with the building of the Divinity School and the Duke Humphrey's Library, a nucleus which expanded in the 17th century with the addition of the Schools' Quadrangle, Convocation House and Sheldonian Theatre. The group was further extended in the 18th century by the addition of the Old Clarendon Building and Radcliffe Camera to form a sequence of buildings and spaces of the highest architectural and historic interest, that today form the visual heart of the conservation area. Aspects of Oxford's 19th and 20th century change and growth may be illustrated by the considerable additions made to University and College buildings in Victorian and recent times, by the vigorous commercial and shopping centre, and by the welcome fact that the presence of the University ensures that many upper floors of buildings in the conservation area are in use for residential purposes, rather than unoccupied as in some historic towns.

Thomas Sharp, in his report to the City Council, published in 1948 as *Oxford Replanned*, set out and defined Oxford's special physical and architectural character and stressed its virtues and problems in a 20th century context. The Council, in its Review of the Development Plan, approved in 1967, approved much of the central area as an area of great historic value, and since 1962 the Council has protected the prospect of the city's unique skyline with its high buildings policy. The complementary views out of the city to its open country background have been similarly protected by the Green Belt and other policies.

The Council designated a large part of the central area as a conservation area in 1971. An extension taking in the Folly Bridge riverside was designated on 28th May 1974, a second extension covering part of Walton Street, Fisher Row and lower St

Aldate's was designated on 23rd February 1981, while a third covering Cornmarket and Queen Street was designated on 29th April 1985. On 9th December 1998, a fourth extension was made to the conservation area taking in part of the St Thomas' area, the University Observatory adjacent to University Parks and Magdalen College School playing field.

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### Appendix 3 Chronology of the Old Indian Institute

1860	Monier Williams becomes Boden Professor of Sanskrit
1875	Monier Williams proposes the foundation of an Indian Institute, primarily for Indian Civil Service probationers and for Indian students
1875 and 1876 and 1883-4	Monier Williams takes two trips to India to gather funds from subscriptions from the colonial authorities and various Indian princes. He raised £33,869 11s in total
1880	Convocation approved the plan for an Institute, with a site in the University Parks and an endowment of £250 per annum. There was objection to the Parks site and Merton College sold the Broad Street site for £7,800
1881	Basil Champneys formulates his design for the Old Indian Institute building
1883	The foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales
1884	The Holywell Street frontage and two of the Catte Street bays are completed by Symm and Co.
1884	The University statute governing the Institute was passed
1884	The first meeting of the Indian Institute Curators discusses the insufficiency of their endowment for the running of the establishment
1886	The Honour School of Oriental Studies is founded. Monier Williams is knighted (becoming Sir Monier Monier-Williams) in the same year
1892	The leases for the Catte Street frontages came up for renewal, allowing scope for expansion southwards. Monier Williams secured the £1,400 necessary to secure the land from Sir Bhagvat Sinhjee, Thakur of Gondal.
1893	Land is purchased from Merton for the southwards expansion of the building
1896	The Catte Street frontage is completed to a design of Champneys by Parnell and Sons with carvings by William Aumonier Sr. The total cost for the building was £21,772
1899	Monier Williams died
1909	Lord Curzon of Kedleston recommends the disbanding of the Indian Institute Museum
1923	Hertford expands northward to abut the southern boundary of the Old Indian Institute
1926	The museum's stuffed animals were disposed of
1926-7	The Bodleian took over management of the Indian Institute Library for a subscription of £275 per annum
1939-45	The Indian Institute Museum was closed for the war
1947	The University Land Agent took over three rooms on the ground floor
1949	The museum was reopened as the Museum of Eastern Art, incorporated the Ashmolean's Chinese ceramic collection
1954	Basement and ground floor spaces (Malan Library and Gondal Room) altered to form offices
1955	The Hebdomadal Council passed a decree to form the Oriental Institute, which would incorporate the Indian Institute. This was met with great opposition from Indologists. The library was allowed to remain at the Broad Street site due to the influence exerted by the Bodleian administration
1956	The University obtained a High Court order allowing it the use the site and buildings of the Indian Institute as general property of the University
1958	The University sought to occupy the lecture room and was met with opposition by the Curators of the Indian Institute

1960	There was talk of demolishing the Old Indian Institute to make way for purpose-built University offices
1964	The Hebdomadal Council discusses the proposal to relocate the Indian Institute to a roof extension off the New Bodleian and to assign the Old Indian Institute buildings to the University Central Offices
1965	The proposal was passed in Congregation by 55 votes, to a violent press reaction, especially in India
1968	University Offices decide to take up a new site on Wellington Square rather than occupying the Old Indian Institute
1968	The Indian Institute moves to its new location on the roof extension of the New Bodleian Library
1968	The Modern History Faculty moves from its location on Merton Street to occupy the Old Indian Institute
1975	Internal alterations to improve existing library accommodation together with work in connection with fire precautions. This involved the removal of some original joinery, some of which was immediately reused within the building and some of which was held by Oxford University for reuse at a later date
1991	Alterations to third floor to provide accommodation ancillary to library. Internal staircase from second to third floor. Dormer window at rear
1998	Removal of steps at rear and the erection of suspended ramped and stepped access at the rear. Enclosed bin store constructed adjoining Hertford College
2007	The History Faculty offices vacate the building and the Oxford Martin School takes up residence
2007	Internal alterations involving refurbishment of basement WC facilities, insertion of new partitions in seminar room and new doors and WC facilities on ground floor
2008	Internal alterations involving the removal of existing masonry partition wall and new partitions and installation of decorative timber arch
2009	Telecommunications room in basement, involving installations internally of cooling units and MDX equipment and, externally, installation of 3 condenser units and an inspection chamber

## Appendix 4 Checklist of Significant Features

This checklist is intended for the use of those working or planning work on the building. It highlights features of architectural significance within the Old Indian Institute; these may be original features or new additions that nevertheless contribute positively to the character of the building. As this is a Grade II listed building any repair or alteration work to factors that contribute to the significance of the building will require listed building consent in order to avoid prosecution under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. **If planned work will likely affect any of the aspects featured in the list below advice should immediately be sought from the Building Conservation Team at Estates Services.**

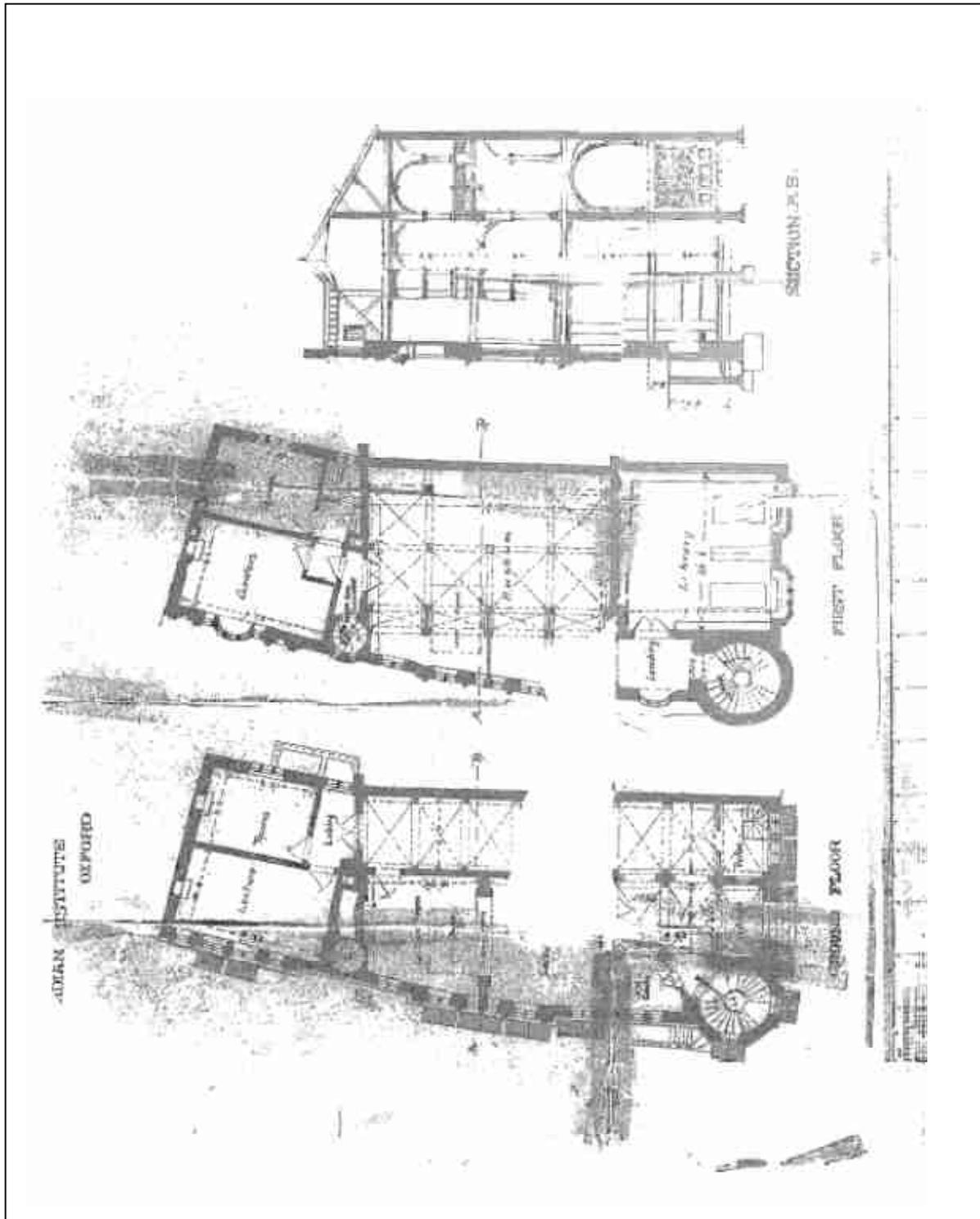
The checklist lists both general significant features that affect the building as a whole and which should be held in mind if working in any space, and specific features of particular significance that should receive special regard if working in these particular spaces. The Further Information column refers to the relevant page reference in the Conservation Plan proper.

<b>Old Indian Institute, Building # 164</b>		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FEATURE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Further Information</b>
<b>General:</b>		
External Elevations		p. 21-26, 32, 41
External and internal original stonework including decorative features and windows		p. 21-26, 32, 41
Original carved woodwork and joinery		p. 21-26, 32, 41
Roofs		p. 21-26, 32, 41
Any original fixtures or fittings		p. 21-26, 32, 41
Doors and door cases throughout		p. 21-26, 32, 41
Windows throughout		p. 21-26, 32, 41
Any carved details		p. 21-26, 32, 41
Beams, panelling, and ceilings throughout		p. 21-26, 32, 41
<b>Specific Features:</b>		
<b>External Elevations</b>		
-Stonework in general		p. 21-26, 32, 41
-Pilasters and engaged columns		p. 21-26, 32, 41
-Any carved detail or decoration		p. 21-26, 32, 41
-Windows including stone mullions, transoms, and surrounds		p. 21-26, 32, 41
-Chimneys		p. 21-26, 32, 41
-Parapet and roof slates		p. 21-26, 32, 41
-Cupola including roof and windows		p. 21-26, 32, 41
<b>Entrance Hall</b>		

-Sanskrit and English inscriptions		p. 33, 41
-Doors and door cases		p. 33, 41
-Engaged columns and arches		p. 33, 41
-Exposed stone arch and cartouche		p. 33, 41
<b>Ground-floor Hall</b>		
-Doors and door cases		p. 34, 41
-Engaged columns and arches		p. 34, 41
-Exposed stone arch and cartouche		p. 34, 41
<b>Stairwell</b>		
-Ironwork		p. 35, 41
-Stonework and arches		p. 35, 41
-Cartouche		p. 35, 41
-Interior of cupola		p. 35, 41
<b>West Reading Room and Gallery</b>		
-Windows throughout		p. 35-36, 41
-Gallery and modillions		p. 35-36, 41
-Fireplace		p. 35-36, 41
-Stone arches and doorway		p. 35-36, 41
-Doors and door cases		p. 35-36, 41
<b>Maitland Reading Room and Gallery</b>		
-Windows throughout		p. 36, 41-42
-Gallery and arches		p. 36, 41-42
-Stone arches and doorway		p. 36, 41-42
-Doors and door cases		p. 36, 41-42
-Tie beams and rooflights		p. 36, 41-42

**PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING ANY REPAIRS OR ALTERATIONS ON THE ABOVE-LISTED ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES, CONTACT THE CONSERVATION TEAM AT ESTATES SERVICES ON (01865) (2)78750**

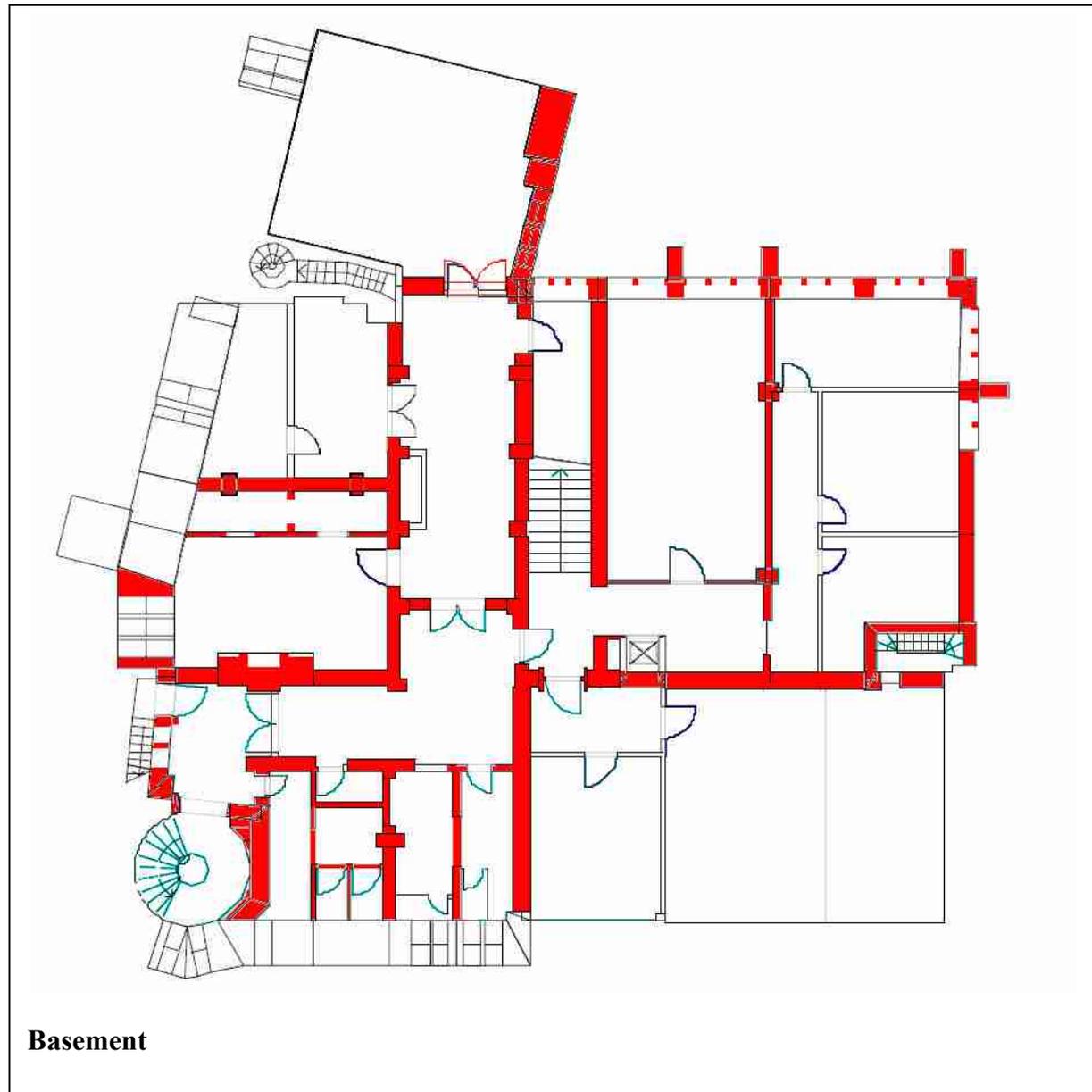
Appendix 5 Excerpts of Original Plans

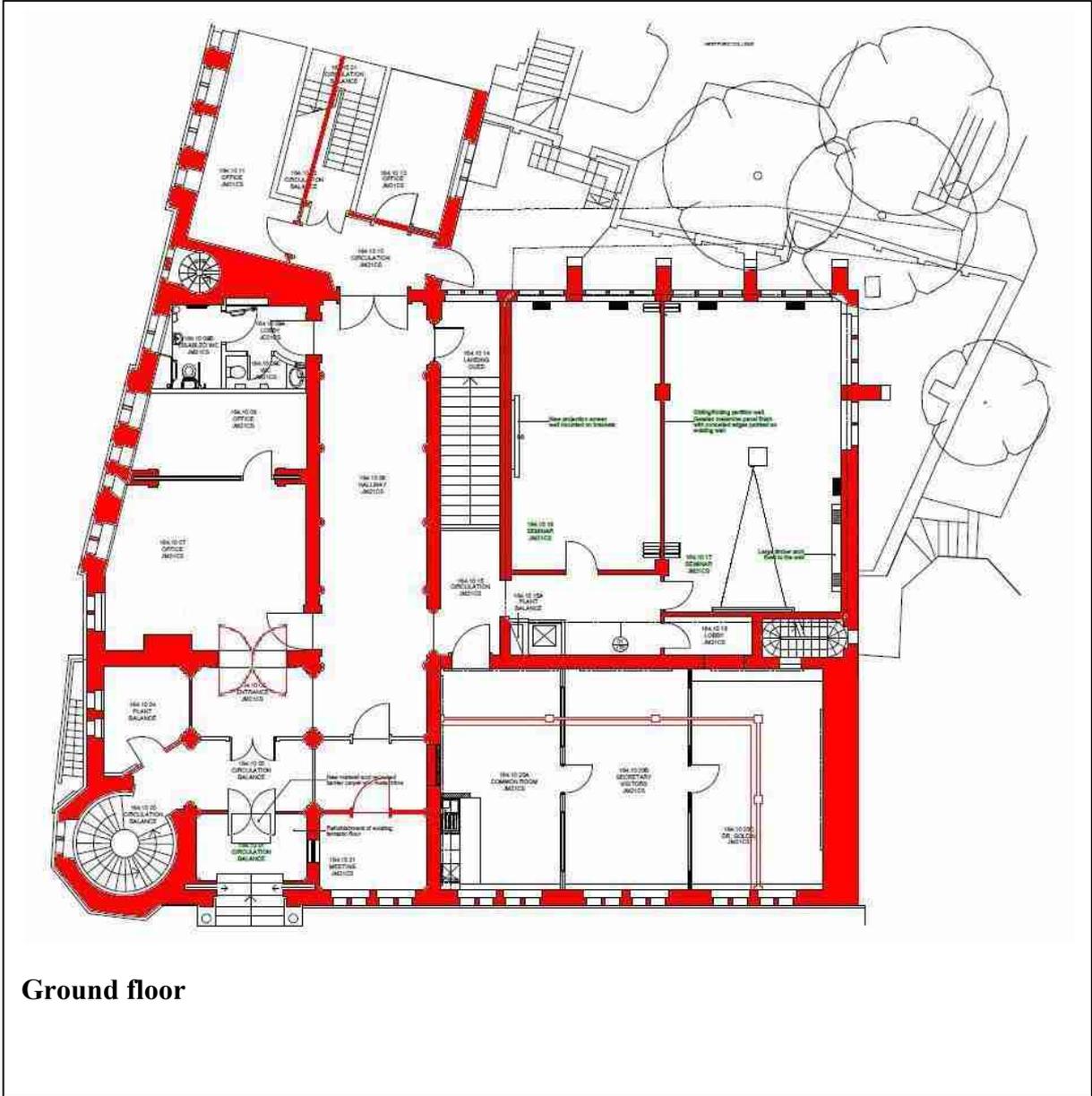


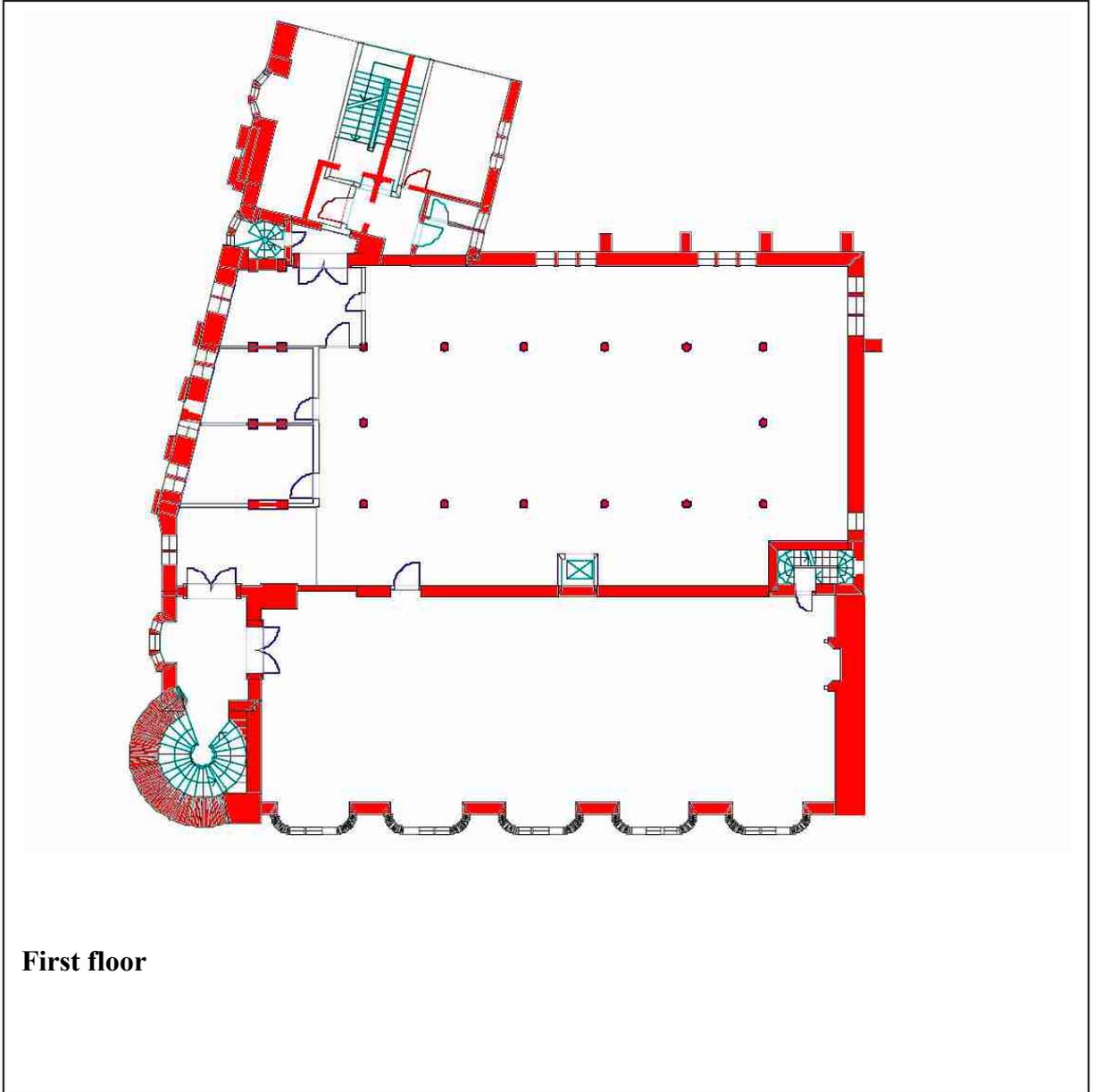
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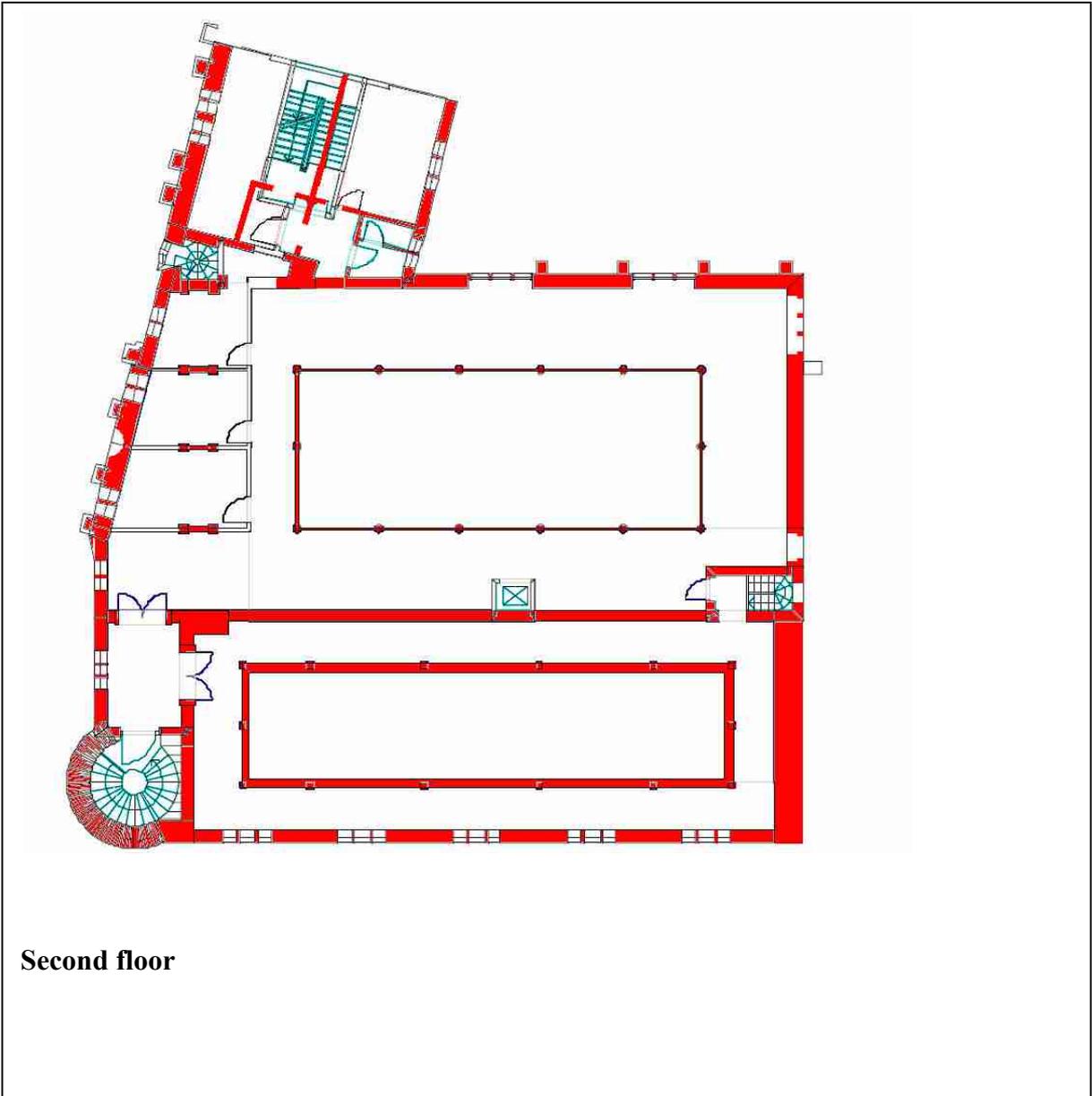
## Appendix 6 Current floor plan with 1960s floor plan overlain

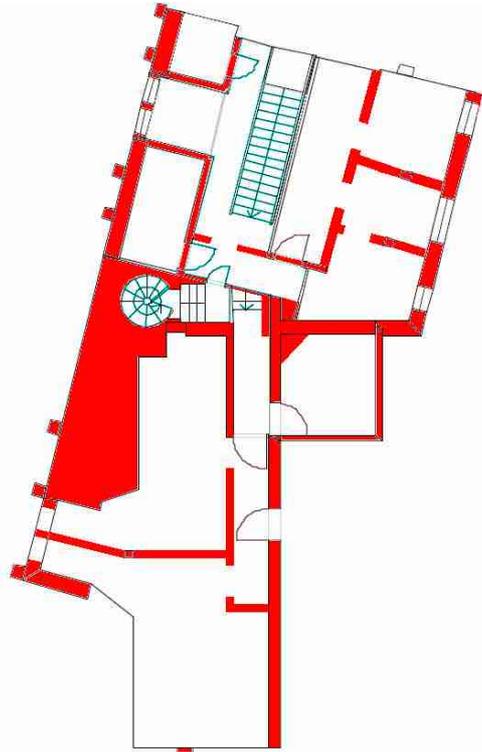
The current floor plan is demarcated by a black outline. The 1960s floor plan is demarcated by red fill. This shows the alterations that have occurred in the buildings since the early 1960s.











**Third floor**

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## Annex 1 - Assessment of Historic Photographs

### Maitland Gallery:

- The railings were originally a metal grille instead of the current wooden banisters. The grilles were still preserved at the shorts ends of the room c.1965. These ends now retain the stone settings for the grille.



**Top left, Maitland Gallery c. 1898. Right, Maitland Gallery c.1965. Bottom left, Maitland Gallery in 2011**

## Ground-floor Hall:



**Top left, the ground-floor hall in c.1898. Top right, the ground-floor hall in c.1965.  
Bottom left, the ground-floor hall in c.1965. Ground-floor hall in 2011**

- The elaborately-carved historic door that now stands as a conversation piece in the ground-floor hall is labelled appears in a c.1965 photograph, labelled on the rear as the door between the “museum library” and the “main library.” One should assume that this refers to the rooms that are now the West Reading Room (once the museum) and the Maitland Reading Room (once the library); however, it is unclear from historic photographs were this door would have been placed between these rooms. The main portal between these was an archway in the position of the current doorway and the small doorways towards the southern end were as extant. Perhaps it could

have been placed in the northern end, which is not preserved in historic photography. In the c.1965 photograph it is under a low, timber-panelled ceiling or balcony.

- A c.1965 photograph shows the western doorway (into what is now a seminar/meeting space) in its current position (as opposed to further to the west as in the 1953 plans, giving a 12-year window for its movement).
- The double doors at the eastern end of the hall are original and in their original positions. The design of the terrazzo flooring is preserved in the c.1898 photograph, at which point the corridor does not seem to have had any artificial lighting.
- C.1965 photograph shows that the door that is now the entrance to the Martin Institute was in its current position by this point (it is not in this position in the 1953 plans), as well as the two doorways immediately to the east of it.



**Left, what is now the entrance to the Oxford Martin School c.1965. Right, the entrance to the ground-floor hall c.1965.**

**Ground-floor northern offices (originally lecture room):**

- Nice image of the original sliding doors across this space from c.1965.



## West Reading Room:

- Where the modern doorway between the two reading rooms now stands there was, c.1898, an open archway which followed the line of the arches of the Maitland Reading Room's groin vaults. A second arch was immediately adjacent to it in the current location of the issue desk, so there was a double-arched entrance to the Maitland Reading Room directly from the West Reading Room. This is still the case in the c.1965 photography.
- In the c.1898 picture the gallery, doors (other than as mentioned above), and banisters are as extant.
- There is a nice c.1965 picture of the fireplace which shows the (presumably) original ironmongery.



Top left, the WRR in c.1898. Top right, the WRR in c.1965. Bottom left, WRR fireplace in c.1965. Bottom right, the WRR in 2011

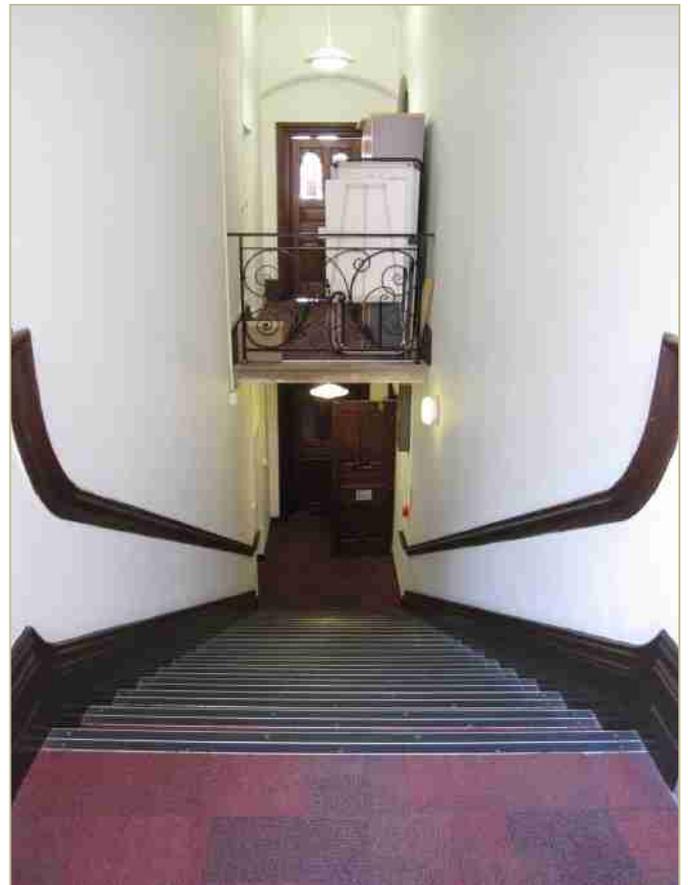
## Entrance Hall

- c.1965 photograph preserves the design of the terrazzo floor and the furthest edge of the original front door which shows it to be distinct to the extant doorway, and something more akin to the extant entrance to the Oxford Martin School.



### Gallery of downstairs corridor

- c.1965 picture shows it much as it is today, though with less clutter, some additional signage, and a fitted  $\pi$ -shaped coat rack.



Left, the gallery c.1965. Right, the gallery in 2011

### **Malan Library/Lecture Room:**

- There are photos of this space in its original form (a double-height room accessible at floor and gallery level), its subdivided form (it was original horizontally subdivided into one basement and one ground-floor room in 1954), and immediately prior to its horizontal subdivision in 2007.



**Top left, the Malan Library at some point before 1954. Top right, the Malan Library at some point before 1954. Bottom left, the Milan Library c. 1954. Bottom right, the Milan Library in 2007.**

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