

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Buildings in Bristol of Architectural or Historic Interest  
damaged or destroyed by Enemy Action, 1940-42**

1944, Vol. 65, 167-174

© The Society and the Author(s)

BUILDINGS IN BRISTOL OF ARCHITECTURAL  
OR HISTORIC INTEREST DAMAGED OR  
DESTROYED BY ENEMY ACTION, 1940-42

IN 1938 the Council for the Preservation of Ancient Bristol prepared and issued two schedules of buildings in the City of archaeological or architectural interest. The first of these dealt with buildings in the centre of the city, Redcliffe, Kingsdown, St. Michael's, Old Market, etc., and the second, Hotwells, Clifton and Redland. The outbreak of war prevented the scheduling of similar buildings in the outer areas of the City. Many of the buildings which were noted in the printed schedules were already suffering from decay and neglect, but the severe bombing attacks which the City suffered in the autumn of 1940 and spring of 1941 caused destruction more sudden and complete than centuries of apathy and mutilation. Although sporadic enemy attacks had caused a small amount of damage, notably a solitary bomb on the morning of the 7th September 1940 which fell on the Cathedral precincts, severely damaging ancient buildings used for the purposes of the Cathedral School, it was not until the evening of Sunday, 24 November, of the same year, that a concentrated attack lasting several hours brought irreparable ruin to the whole area of the City, formerly the site of the Castle and extending westward over the earliest portion of the ancient City to the line formed by High Street and Broad Street. In this attack many of the old churches, including St. Peter's, Mary-le-Port, St. Nicholas, and Temple church, were destroyed by fire, although the towers still stood and the 15th century crypt of St. Nicholas survived. Fire also consumed the old shops and houses in Mary-le-Port street, and St. Peter's hospital—the finest examples of half-timbered work still remaining in the City. No. 6 Peter street, a still earlier domestic survival, also perished,

and while the small remains of Bristol castle, incorporated in Messrs Boot's premises in Castle street, survived amidst the complete destruction of the modern buildings surrounding them, they were in a badly calcined state. Successive night attacks of varying violence carried on the tale of destruction until 7th May 1941, while the last building included in the Council's schedules to be destroyed was Messrs Taylor's printing works in Broad Weir—a half-timbered elevation of some merit—which was destroyed by a solitary raider on 28 August 1942.

With such continuous and widespread destruction and damage, the Council's lists have been of the greatest value to those engaged on the work of salvage and clearing; and the Council wishes to express its appreciation of the sympathetic consideration at all times shown by the City Officials and others engaged on this work. It is now possible to assess the damage which has been sustained, and schedules have been prepared listing the damaged and destroyed buildings. These schedules, prepared by the City Architect, Mr J. Nelson Meredith, F.R.I.B.A., correspond to the original lists and indicate whether the buildings referred to have been slightly or seriously damaged, burnt out, or totally destroyed. A third and similar list has been added of ecclesiastical and some modern and other buildings of architectural merit which were not included in the earlier schedules.

#### I. THE CENTRE OF THE CITY, REDCLIFFE, KINGSDOWN, ST. MICHAELS, OLD MARKET, ETC.

- REFERENCES : (1) Slightly damaged ;  
 (2) Seriously damaged ;  
 (3) Burnt out ;  
 (4) Totally destroyed.

All Saints Lane : Rummer Hotel (3) 24 Nov. 1940.

Broadmead :

Arcade (upper) (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Arcade (lower) (1), 7 May 1941.

Broadweir : Taylor's printing works (2), partially demolished, 24 Nov. 1940 and 28 Aug. 1942.

Broad Street : Guildhall (2), roof destroyed, 3 Jan. and 20 Nov. 1941.

Brunswick Square :

No. 9 (2), 24 Nov. 1940 and 16 Mar. 1941.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 12, 8, 14, 15 (1), 16 Mar. 1941.

No. 16 (3), 24 Nov. 1940.

Castle Green :

Remains of Bristol castle under Boot's Chemist shop,  
Tower Lane (2), by fire, 24 Nov. 1940.

College Green : 32 to 35 (4), 11 April 1941.

College Square :

Deanery (1), 7 Sept. 1940, 24 Nov. 1940, 3 Dec. 1940.

Cathedral School (2), 7 Sept. 1940.

The Abbot's Lodging (3), 7 Sept. 1940.

Colston Parade :

Fry's House of Mercy and adjoining houses (3), no damage to adjoining houses, 24 Nov. 1940.

Corn Street :

Council House (2), part roof destroyed, 6 Dec. 1940.

No. 56 Carwardine's (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

The Exchange (2), part roof destroyed, 6 Dec. 1940.

No. 48, Norwich Union (1), 6 Dec. 1940.

Guinea Street, Redcliffe :

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (2), 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12 (1), 11 April 1941.

High Street :

Dutch House (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 34, 35, 36 (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

King Square :

Nos. 2, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22 (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 10, 11 (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 16, 17 (2), 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 18, 19, 20 (3), 24 Nov. 1940.

## King Street :

Nos. 1 and 2 (4), 11 April 1941.

Nos. 3 and 4 (1), 11 April 1941.

Llandoger Trow, public house (1), 11 April 1941.

Merchant's Almshouse (2), part totally destroyed, 7 May 1941.

Theatre Royal (1), 3 Jan. 1941.

St. Nicholas Almshouses (2), rear portion, 11 April 1941.

## Lewin's Mead :

Matthew's paint works (2), 75 per cent destroyed, 24 Nov. 1940.

## Little Peter Street, west side :

Nos. 22, 23 (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

No. 24 (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

## Long Row, St. Thomas Street :

Burton's Almshouses (3), 24 Nov. 1940.

## Marsh Street :

Merchants Hall (2), since demolished, 24 Nov. 1940.

Mary-le-Port Street : Nos. 38, 40, 42 (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Montague Place, Kingsdown : No. 2 (1), 15 Oct. 1940.

Narrow Wine Street : as a group, 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 2, 3, 3a, 3b, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (4).

No. 10 (2).

Nos. 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26 (1).

Nos. 27, 28 (3).

Nos. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38 (4).

Old King Street : Ridley's Almshouse (2), 6 Dec. 1940.

## Old Market Street :

Stevens' Almshouse (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

## Park Place, St. Michael's :

Manor House (1), 6 Dec. 1940 and 11 April 1941.

## Peter Street :

St. Peter's Hospital (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

No. 6 Melhuish's (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Houses adjoining in Church Lane (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Pile Street : Chatterton's School (1) 24 Nov. 1940.

Portland Square :

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 15, 16, 32, 33, 34 (1), 2 Dec. 1940.

Nos. 17, 20, 21 (2), 2 Dec. 1940.

Nos. 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31 (3), 2 Dec. 1940.

No. 23 (4), 2 Dec. 1940.

Prince Street :

No. 40 (4), 16 Mar. 1941.

No. 68 Shakespeare Hotel (1), 3 Jan. 1941.

Queen Square :

No. 29 (1), 3 Jan. 1941.

Nos. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 (3), 3 Jan. 1941.

No. 63 (2), since demolished, 3 Jan. 1941.

No. 72 (3), 3 Jan. 1941.

Redcliffe Hill : Hope and Anchor Inn (3), 24 Nov. 1940.

Redcliffe Street :

No. 91 (2), roof destroyed, front standing, 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 103, 107, 138 (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

St. James Square :

Nos. 6, 8, 9 (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Nos. 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 (2), 2 Dec. 1940.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17 (4), 11 Dec. 1940.

St. Thomas Street : Three Queens Hotel (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Stokes Croft : School and Almshouse (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Union Street : Ferris's premises (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

Unity Street : No. 3 (3), 2 Dec. 1940.

Vine Row, St. Michael's Hill : No. 9 (4), 2 Dec. 1941.

Welsh Back :

The Golden Bottle and adjoining house (4) 6 Dec. 1940.

Wine Street : No. 66 (4), 24 Nov. 1940.

## II. HOTWELLS AND CLIFTON

Cornwallis Crescent, Clifton :

Nos. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 (1), 2 Dec. 1940.

Berkeley Square :

No. 11 (2), 3 Jan. 1941.

Nos. 12, 13, 14 (2), since demolished, 3 Jan. 1941.

No. 15 (2), mainly demolished, 3 Jan. 1941.

Nos. 16, 17 (1), 3 Jan. 1941.

Dowry Parade : Nos. 1 to 14 (1), 2 Dec. 1940.

Three houses between Joy Hill and Church of St. Andrew-the-Less, and 3 houses between Church and Hope Chapel Hill (Chapel Row) (1), 2 Dec. 1940.

Great George Street, Park Street :

No. 23 Diocesan Church House (1), 24 Nov. 1940, 3 Dec. 1940, 11 April 1941.

No. 25 R.W.A. School of Architecture (1), 3 Dec. 1940 and 11 April 1941.

Park Street, west side : 24 Nov. 1940.

No. 17 Freemasons Hall (3).

Nos. 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45 (4)

Nos. 47, 49, 51, 53 (1).

No. 55 (3).

Nos. 57, 59 (1).

Nos. 61, 63 (3).

No. 65 (2).

Nos. 67, 69 (1)

Nos. 71, 73 (3).

Nos. 75, 77, 79, 81 (1).

Nos. 83 (3).

Nos. 85, 87, 89 (1).

Park Street, east side : 24 Nov. 1940.

No. 22 (2).

Nos. 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 (1).

Nos. 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 (4).

No. 44 (1).

## Park Street, east side :

Nos. 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56 (4).

No. 58 (1).

Nos. 60, 62, 64, 66 (4).

Nos. 68, 70 (1).

No. 72 (4).

Nos. 74, 76 (1).

No. 78 (2).

Nos. 80, 82 (1).

No. 84 (2).

Nos. 86, 88, 90 (1).

## Royal York Crescent, Clifton :

Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (1), 6 Dec 1940.

Nos. 12a, 13, 14 (2), 6 Dec. 1940.

Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 (1), 6 Dec. 1940.

### III. RELIGIOUS EDIFICES AND BUILDINGS NOT PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED

All Saints, Corn Street (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Brunswick Chapel, Brunswick Square (2), 16 Mar. 1941.

Cathedral Church of St. Augustine (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Christ Church, Broad Street (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Counterslip Chapel (Formerly) (3), 4 April 1941.

Holy Trinity, Hotwells (3), 3 Jan. 1941.

Lewin's Mead Chapel (1), 25 June 1940.

Lord Mayor's Chapel, St. Marks, College Green (1) 24 Nov.  
1940.Portland Chapel, Portland Street, Kingsdown (1) 26 Feb.  
1941.

Pro-Cathedral, Clifton (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Redland Chapel, Redland Green (1), 16 Mar. 1941.

St. Augustine, College Green, Damage extensive but not  
serious, 3 Jan. 1941.

St. James (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

St. John the Baptist, Broad Street, and Archway (1) 7 May 1941.

St. Luke's, Brislington (1), 16 Mar. 1941.

St. Mary Redcliffe (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

St. Mary-le-Port (2 and 3), Nave and Chancel since demolished, 24 Nov. 1940.

St. Michael's, St. Michael's Hill (2), 24 Mar. 1941.

St. Nicholas, Bristol Bridge (2 and 3), Crypt undamaged, 24 Nov. 1940.

St. Peter's, Peter Street (2 and 3), 24 Nov. 1940.

St. Philip and St. Jacob, Tower Hill (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

St. Thomas (1), 11 April 1941.

Temple Church (2 and 3), 24 Nov. 1940.

University Great Hall (3), 24 Nov. 1940.

Whitefields Tabernacle, Penn St. (1), 24 Nov. 1940.

Brislington :

Brislington Hill House (2), to be demolished, 16 Mar. 1941.