QUADRANGLE HEATING PROJECT 2026 WORKS for THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER HERITAGE STATEMENT: EDDIE NEWCOMB BUILDING

Date: July 2026

Listed Building Consent was granted by Manchester City Planning (Listed Building & Conservation Area) Act 1990 111733/LO/2016/C1 – this work to the John Owens Building completes the upgrading of existing single pipe heating systems.

Contents

Purpose	**2**
Methods of Research & Investigation	**3**
Site Location	**3**
Heritage Assets	**5**
Listed Buildings	**5**
Site description and brief history	**5**
Eddie Newcomb Building: History	**5**
Internal inspection	**6**
Building description and proposed works	**6**
Heritage Appraisal	
Introduction	**7**
Heritage Values	**7**
Evidential Value	**7**
Historical Value	**7**
Communal Value	**8**
Aesthetic Value	**8**
Statement of significance	**8**
Analysis of the Proposals	**8**
General Principles	**8**
Summary of Proposals	**9**
Effect of Proposals	**9**
Policy assessment	**10**
Summary and Conclusion	**11**
Appendices	

Purpose

This report was originally produced by Bowker Sadler to accompany the application for Listed Building Consent for the addition of heating controls within the Christie and Whitworth buildings which form part of the Quad ('Quadrangle' buildings.). This report is for the final phase of works which encompasses the Student Services area in the Eddie Newcomb Building and the John Owens Building. Following a request from the MCC Conservation Team two separate Heritage Statements are being prepared and submitted to respect each individual building.
.
This Heritage Statement assesses the heritage significance of the Eddie Newcomb building to guide proposals for change in a manner that conserves areas and items of significance as detailed in the listing description reproduced in full below. This approach adheres to the principle of 'managing change' which is the basis of the national planning policy for conservation of the historic built environment.

This Statement has been prepared in accordance with the general guidelines set out in the Historic England publications 'Informed Conservation' and 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance' and in particular responds to heritage policies outlined in Chapter 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012). The legal context is set by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990.

Methods of Research & Investigation

Inspections of the site were carried out periodically over a period of time from October 2015 to October 2018 and again in 2020 to assess the impact of the proposed works on the built fabric and to develop and modify the design to minimise such impact.

Background research has also been conducted to ascertain contextual matters relating to the proposals. The scope of this research has, in accordance with the NPPF, been proportionate to the nature of the proposed works with emphasis placed upon the special architectural and historic interest of the site and those planning policies that affect control / change.

Pre Application Advice
With reference to this latest phase of the project, an inspection was undertaken with members of the Conservation and Planning Team in April 2026. At this point the scope of the works was reviewed which involves the improvement of the existing water-based radiator system. Comments made by the Conservation Officer, Paul Mason at that time have been incorporated within the proposed works namely:

1: Delay in the introduction of any destratification fans until the new heating improvements have taken effect. This is excluded from this application and would be subject to a subsequent application if necessary.
2. The replacement of the existing modern panel radiators with new radiators that are more in keeping with the original system i.e. new column style radiators to be sympathetic to the original column radiators.
3. The retention of the existing modern architectural radiators where these have been previously replaced.
4. The conservation, repair and retention of the original radiators.

Items 3 and 4 had formed part of the originally proposed scope of works.

Site Location

The university Student Services is situated in the Eddie Newcomb Building. This is located between the Schunk Lab and the John Owens Building (c1890) within the south campus of the University

and bounded by Coupland Street to the north and Burlington Street to the south. This is known as the Eddie Newcomb Building.

The Eddie Newcomb Building abuts an extension building that was constructed between 1951-63 and joins the Edie Newcomb to the John Owens Building.

The site is not within a conservation area.



Heritage Assets

Listed Buildings

The Eddie Newcomb Building is listed as part of a group of buildings. A summary of the listing is provided below:

Heritage Category:
Listed Building
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1402638
Date first listed: 19-Oct-2011
List Entry Name: Manchester University Laboratories
Statutory Address 1: Manchester University Laboratories, Burlington Street, Manchester Location
Statutory Address: Manchester University Laboratories, Burlington Street, Manchester
District: Manchester (Metropolitan Authority) Parish: Non-Civil Parish
National Grid Reference: SJ8450196490

Summary
University science laboratories, now partially administrative offices (Chemical Laboratories), and café (west part of polygonal laboratory building). Chemical Laboratories 1871-3, Schorlemmer Laboratory 1895, both by Alfred Waterhouse, polygonal laboratory 1904 and John Morley Laboratories 1909, both by Paul Waterhouse. Buff brick, red brick, stone dressings, and red tiles.

A copy of the full listing is provided within the appendices.

Site description and Brief history

The site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the Manchester city centre in the suburb formerly known as Chorlton-on–Medlock on the west side of Oxford Road. These buildings when first constructed were in a residential area of terraced housing and larger detached dwellings.

The Victoria University of Manchester began as Owens College in 1880 in the John Owens building which opened in 1873 following relocation from Quay Street. Between 1880 and 1902 the main quadrangle was completed, including the building for the Manchester Museum and for the council chamber of the Victoria University, the Beyer Building (1887) for geology, zoology and botany, the Christie Library (1898), and the Whitworth Hall (1902).The buildings bearing the name of their benefactors were all designed by Alfred Waterhouse; the hall being completed by his son Paul.

The University quickly expanded to the north beyond Coupland Street and south beyond Burlington Street and while still centred on Oxford Road the University has subsequently grown to fill a larger area roughly bounded by Booth Street East / Booth Street West to the north, Upper Brook Street to the east, Grafton Street / Dilworth Street to the south and Higher Cambridge Street / Lloyd Street North to the west. Once mixed residential, this not insignificant area comprising some 48 Hectares is now almost exclusively given over to the academic institutions which form the constituent parts of the University.

Eddie Newcomb Building: History

Given that the proposed scope of works only relates to the Eddie Newcomb Building, which forms one of the three buildings listed under the above notice, our description focusses on the Eddie Newcomb building only, which was originally known as the Chemical Laboratories. None of the works affect other parts of the Listing.

The building was constructed in 1873 following the earlier completion of the John Owens Building. Both buildings were designed by Alfred Waterhouse in 1870.

An extract of the Heritage Statement provided by Paul Butler Associates for the building is included in the Appendix for ease of reference. This supported the approved listed building application 143916/LO/2025 which has been reviewed as part of this application.

Internal Inspection
Given that the works do not affect the external elevations of the building this description focusses on the internal condition of the building.

Lower Ground Floor
The Lower Ground Floor is a mixture of plant and office spaces accessed off a main corridor. The fitout across much of the floor is modern with floor, wall and ceiling finishes generally being later alterations or additions. Some rooms to Burlington Street show the jack arch ceiling construction supported on iron columns (see fig 2.3) with exposed brick walls, however the majority of other spaces have few visible historic features.

The existing heating system has no original features at this level. All radiators and pipework have been replaced.

Lower Ground Mezzanine
This floor is largely in use as offices with a similar floorplan as below with rooms accessed off a main corridor. Historic features include patterned encaustic tiles and terrazzo flooring which can be seen along the corridor. The corridor has a modern suspended ceiling although a plaster.
cornice is visible behind this in some locations.

The existing heating system has no original features at this level. All radiators and pipework have been replaced.

Upper Ground Floor
This area is generally uninhabited and derelict with the exception of two rooms at the top of the staircase which are used as a porter's kitchen and overspill office which is used infrequently. The derelict area is not generally accessible and has not been used for a number of decades. There are proposals to bring this back into use but the timescales for this or funding are not clear at the present time.

The heating system has not been replaced recently and all radiators at this level that are original or are of historic significance would be repaired and retained.

Building description: Proposed works.

This is confined to a review of the works internally as the works do not have an effect on the external appearance of the building.

The proposed works in this application are concerned with the improvement of heating temperatures within the building. The system has been subject to several adaptations and modernisations over the years. The existing period radiators shall be retained but flushed and repaired as necessary. The existing panel radiators that are modern interventions shall be replaced with new units of similar size but with an improved appearance that is akin to the age of the building, simulating the original column style radiators. Modern radiators that are of architectural merit in the main hall areas of the Student Services building will be retained. Localised alterations to the pipework will be undertaken where necessary. A number of pipework routes and interventions have been added over the years in an attempt to improve heating flows, but these have caused interference. All pipework on the primary floors at lower ground and

ground floor mezzanine have been previously replaced and there are no original components that we have been able to identify.

New controls including space temperature sensors, zone control valves and circulation pumps controls shall also be provided.

Some new surface mounted wiring is required to link the new heating controls to the existing Building Management System (BMS).

Heritage Appraisal

Introduction

The following appraisal adheres to guidance published by Historic England English Heritage (2008) and relates specifically to the requirement contained in clause 128 of the NPPF as follows:

'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary'

The appraisal begins by identifying the potential range of heritage values attributed to the building, before evaluating these values and expressing them concisely within a 'statement of significance.' This statement is then used as a basis for developing and critically assessing the design of new proposals, making sure to prioritise conservation of significance where possible and appropriate.

Heritage values

The following appraisal of the heritage values devotes particular interest to how these values might be affected by emerging proposals for development. The values are distilled under the following headings: evidential values; historic value; communal value and aesthetic value.

Evidential Value

Historic England suggests: "Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity."

The building, by Alfred Waterhouse architect, is regarded as a significant example of its type, which is recognised by its Grade II Listed status.

Minor alterations have taken place to the accommodation layout throughout the mid-to-late-20th Century and have concealed or impacted its evidential heritage values but have not significantly impacted on its architectural merit. It is no longer used as laboratories, but the spaces will still be actively used by the University.

Historic Value

Historic England suggests: "The historical value derives from the ways in which past people events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative.'

The building continues to represent the University of Manchester as it is actively being refurbished by others through existing Listed Building Consent Ref;143916/LO/2025 to house another department.

Although minor changes have taken place within the building, the ability to interpret the former use, functions and wider historical significance of the building has not been diminished. The building is considered to have high historical value.

Communal Value

Historic England suggests: ‘Communal value, derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory".

The building was designed as a meeting, teaching and research place for an educational college and yields good communal value owing to its continued use as a key building by the University. It continues to be enjoyed externally by the Manchester community.

It has been at the centre of the University of Manchester since 1902 and together with other surrounding buildings in the Main and rear Quadrangles forms a significant landmark and is a positive contributor, yielding a high communal value.

Aesthetic Value

Historic England suggests: "Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place".

The building, by Alfred Waterhouse, yields a high level of architectural decoration and design, forming a good example of its type and period.

The building was purpose designed as a place of education with research areas, laboratories meeting rooms and ancillary rooms. These precise original building uses governed the layout and had a clearly defined hierarchy through the floors.

The building retains its overall plan form and circulation routes organised about the main staircase and although the use of the building has changed, key components and finishes have been retained, such as its door openings and mosaic tiling, despite several earlier phases of refurbishment and remodelling that were far more invasive than we would consider today. In particular all of the original radiator system to the ground floor mezzanine and the lower ground floor have been previously removed and replaced with modern interventions

The buildings former use as late Victorian laboratories and supporting spaces, presents a positive contributor to the university and the building’s high-quality decorations and design therefore yields high aesthetic value.

Statement of Significance and assessment of impact

Having assessed the heritage values associated with the site it is possible to take a more informed approach to the assessment of site significance, giving specific consideration of plans to implement change. In this context a statement of significance is given below with the potential impact on the proposed development.

Analysis of the Proposals

General Principles

General guidance on assessing proposed changes to heritage assets is given in chapter 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). This establishes that conserving significance should

be a guiding principle when developing proposals for any new scheme. In order to satisfactorily do this, it is first necessary to conduct an appraisal of heritage values and identify the significance(s) of heritage assets before commencing with design work. This heritage statement fulfils this need, and the findings have informed the development of the new scheme. There follows an objective review of the finalised scheme to verify to what extent conservation of significance has either been secured or compromised. The review is guided by local and national policy.

The proposal makes no alterations to the building fabric or the existing plan form of the building.

Summary of Proposals

DSSR have carried out assessments of the existing heating system and thermal performance of the fabric of Student Services in the Eddie Newcomb Building.

Having determined the heating requirements of each space and how the heating zones are configured DSSR have re-engineered the system to deliver the required level of heat output to each zone and to each room within each zone.

This will require the introduction of controls to the existing heating systems including thermostatic valves to radiators, zone control valves (ZCV), commissioning sets and room sensors linked to the ZCV's via the BMS system.

In addition to this, modern radiators that have been previously installed will be replaced with new radiators that are more thermally efficient that can improve heating within these areas. Original radiators will be retained and flushed out. Modern radiators that are of architectural merit within the Student Services primary areas will be retained.

These interventions are essential to improve the energy performance of this building and can be achieved with minimal impact on the heritage assets.

The location of room sensors is now flexible as they will be linked by Wi-Fi which will minimise intrusive works to the fabric. Where hard wiring is necessary this will utilise existing service ducts or conduits to minimise the impact of necessary services.

The scheme designed basis is to use of Wi-Fi for data, but when power is needed MICC cabling surface mounted is to be used to connect ZCV's etc. to the BMS system and this will.

- utilise the existing containment infrastructure was fully first and
- new containment will be kept to the minimum and used as a last resort

This mitigates the impact to the heritage assets.

It should be noted that these interventions are generally in areas of lower significance. There will be no impact on any features within the building and any alterations to pipework necessary to accommodate these works would be via the existing service routes which on the primary floors are contained within existing boxing out.

Effect of Proposals on the building

This proposal is for the replacement of modern radiators with new units that provide greater heat outputs but that will be more sympathetic to the building, being a modern column style radiator that seeks to represent the original radiators but as a modern interpretation of them. The radiators that are to be replaced are modern interventions that are incongruous to the building. In addition, heating controls will be added to the existing heating system throughout all floors of the building. The proposed scheme seeks to have minimal impact on the heritage assets.

- the scheme is for minor alterations and additions to the existing heating system only to provide adequate controls both locally and zonally. All existing heating routes will be maintained and there will be no impact on the building fabric.

- the use of Wi-Fi reduces impact on the fabric.

- where existing conduits or ducts are unavailable for use, surface mounted MICC cabling will be used to connect ZCV's etc. to the BMS system. New containment will be kept to the minimum and used as a last resort and where necessary will be painted out to the colour of the wall to which it will be fixed.

Policy Assessment

National Planning Policy Framework

As discussed earlier, section 12 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment) of the NPPF 2012 considers heritage planning and identifies the following key drivers in the decision-making process:

1. *the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.*

2. *the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring.*

3. *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*

4. *opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.*

In essence the NPPF unifies the overall approach to planning in a way that previous guidance, such as PPS's and PPG's did not. This ensures that deliberations over decisions relating to heritage assets are made in the full planning context, where factors other than the heritage conservation play a crucial role. Securing sustainable development is the primary driver, and in the heritage context this relies on maintaining active use (long term) in a manner that seeks to limit potential harm to significance.

In order to establish a clearer, objective assessment of the proposals in the context of the NPPF, the following commentary considers how the proposed scheme aligns itself to the four principle NPPF heritage policy drivers list above.

1. *The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation (NPPF)*

The Eddie Newcomb Building is at the heart of the UoM and an important feature to the campus particularly along Burlington Street. The works are internal and there are no alterations to the street scape. The internal changes are minimal and largely in areas of low significance and will secure an improved energy performance for the building, by providing heating that will enable the spaces to be used and enjoyed. Currently the building has been found to be too cold in too many areas leading to a reduction in its usage.

2. *The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring* **(***NPPF)*

By improving its energy performance this will sustain the building in the long term while improving the working environment for staff and ensuring that it continues as a viable workplace.

3. *The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (NPPF); and*

Improving the building's energy efficiency protects the building and its life expectancy. Protecting the building will ensure that it continues to make a positive contribution to the University's estate, character and history.

4. *Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place. (NPPF)*

This policy driver is relevant to the extant use of the heritage assets and will not be affected by the proposed works, which have no impact on its external appearance.

Summary & Conclusion

The Statement of Significance sets out the key features of importance in the building and its setting and identifies the values, in accordance with the guidance, that should be given the utmost priority.

The Eddie Newcomb Building (of which Student Services forms a part) has been a place of research and assembly since its opening in 1873.

The accommodation most recently provided part of the University's student services function. The building is currently being refurbished in line with a separate project that has received Listed Building Consent and will house the IT Services department. The building needs to be functionally suitable to remain in use. Its external fabric will not be affected by this work.

The radiators that are modern interventions will be replaced with ones that are more sympathetic to a style that reflects the older radiators that can be seen in some areas of the Building (Upper ground – derelict areas). These will be more in keeping and improve the aesthetic and appeal of the spaces.

It is deemed that there is no significant harm to the heritage asset as a result of these interventions, and on balance they are offset by ensuring this listed building continues to provide facilities for the University and general public: therefore, securing its longer-term future.

These minimal alterations will secure the optimum viable use of the building in a way that respects the historic assets. This ensures it accords with both local and national policy.

It is therefore the conclusion of this assessment that the works being proposed are appropriate and respect the significance of the building.

Bibliography

www.historicengland.co.uk

DCLG National Planning Policy Framework (2012) HMSO London

English Heritage, Conservation Principles: Policies & Guidance (2000) English Heritage

Eddie Newcomb Heritage Statement – Prepared by Paul Butler Associates in support of Listed Building Application 143916/LO 2025 - - Dated 5th September 2025

Appendices

Listing

Heritage Category:
Listed Building
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1402638
Date first listed: 19-Oct-2011
List Entry Name: Manchester University Laboratories
Statutory Address 1: Manchester University Laboratories, Burlington Street, Manchester Location
Statutory Address: Manchester University Laboratories, Burlington Street, Manchester
District: Manchester (Metropolitan Authority) Parish: Non Civil Parish
National Grid Reference: SJ8450196490

Summary
University science laboratories, now partially administrative offices (Chemical Laboratories) and café (west part of polygonal laboratory building). Chemical Laboratories 1871-3, Schorlemmer Laboratory 1895, both by Alfred Waterhouse, polygonal laboratory 1904 and John Morley Laboratories 1909, both by Paul Waterhouse. Buff brick, red brick, stone dressings, and red tiles.

Reasons for Designation
The 1871-3 Chemical Laboratories and 1895 Schorlemmer Laboratory by Alfred Waterhouse, and the 1904 polygonal laboratory and 1909 John Morley Laboratories by Paul Waterhouse, at the University of Manchester, are designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons: ° Architect: Two of these four purpose-built science laboratories were designed by the eminent architect, Alfred Waterhouse, and two were designed by his son, Paul Waterhouse. Father and son both designed a number of university buildings at Oxford, Cambridge (Alfred), and various provincial universities, many of which are listed. ° Historic interest: These four buildings are all bespoke science laboratories, providing facilities to ensure that the university was at the forefront of scientific research, and attracted the best professors in the later C19 and into the C20. The two C19 buildings are significant as relatively early examples and the Chemistry Laboratories building actually pre-dates the Cavendish Laboratory, built in 1874 at the University of Cambridge. ° Design: Practical input into the design of the Chemistry Laboratories was provided by the Professor of Chemistry, Henry Enfield Roscoe, who firmly believed in the primacy of practical teaching as evidenced by the provision of large, well-lit and ventilated laboratories with overlooking observation posts, and similar large laboratories were present in the subsequent buildings also. ° Interiors: the Chemistry Laboratories retains the original lecture room, with demonstration bench, raked benching and writing slopes; other survivals in the four buildings include original flooring, doors, staircases, high-level observation posts, and stone sinks (Schorlemmer Laboratory). ° Architectural interest: Both the Chemistry Laboratories and the John Morley Laboratories are designed in a picturesque Gothic idiom to complement the Grade II* main quadrangle of the university. ° Group Value: The buildings all interconnect, and clearly demonstrate the integrated development of the science faculty at the University of Manchester. As a group they are immediately to the west of the main quadrangle (Grade II*), attached by a later link block, and are attached to the Schunck Building (Grade II) and the Pharmacy Department [formerly Medical School] (Grade II). ° Date: The Chemistry Laboratories building was built by Alfred Waterhouse in 1871-3, and was one of three buildings initially designed by him as the core of Owens College when moved to its present Oxford Road location, the other two being the west range of the Main Quadrangle and the Medical School. The establishment subsequently became a university in 1880.

History

The buildings being assessed for possible designation are a group of science laboratories located to the rear of the main Oxford Road quadrangle of the University of Manchester. They are: the Chemical Laboratories, 1871-3 by Alfred Waterhouse; the Schorlemmer Laboratory, 1895 by Alfred Waterhouse; a polygonal laboratory, 1904 by Paul Waterhouse; and the John Morley Laboratories, 1909 by Paul Waterhouse. The University of Manchester had originated as Owens College in 1851. It moved to the present Oxford Road location in 1873, having appointed the architect Alfred Waterhouse to design the new buildings in 1869, with work beginning in 1870. The first phase of construction included the rear, west range of the main quadrangle, the Chemical Laboratories, and the Medical School, all of which were completed by 1874. The west range, with the Chemical Laboratories to the left and Burlington Street in the foreground, are shown on a contemporary engraving (Pevsner, 2001, 107). In 1880 the establishment became the first college of the new Victoria University, with Liverpool joining in 1884 and Leeds in 1887. The 1893 Ordnance Survey map shows a narrow link block attaching the Chemical Laboratories to the west range of the main quadrangle. Waterhouse had also built the north side and part of the east side of the main quadrangle, fronting Oxford Road, between 1883-7, the latter section in a grander style befitting the main elevation of a new university. The Professor of Chemistry at this time was Henry Enfield Roscoe, whose quality and methods of teaching meant he was primarily responsible for Manchester being the leading school of chemistry in the country. He also spread an appreciation of the national importance of chemistry through his writings and public lectures. Roscoe had studied in Germany under Robert Bunsen and worked with him on photo-chemical reactions. His experience of Bunsen's laboratory influenced his subsequent teaching methods which were firmly based in the belief that the teaching of chemistry must take place in the laboratory rather than in the lecture room. He encouraged this approach both by example and by the provision of facilities for its undertaking, resulting in many more original investigations being published from his laboratories than any other laboratory in the country during his 30 years of professorship. In 1877 he wrote the 'Systematic Treatise on Chemistry' with Carl Schorlemmer, which became a standard textbook. He was awarded many honours including being elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1863, honorary member of the German Chemical Society in 1879, President of the Chemical Society, the Society of Chemical Industry, and the British Association, and was knighted in 1884. He also served as a Carnegie trustee from 1901.

The Schorlemmer Laboratory, also designed by Alfred Waterhouse, was set back from Burlington Street and attached to the west side of the Chemical Laboratories. It was funded by public subscription, and was built as a memorial laboratory to Carl Schorlemmer (1834-1892), the first professor of organic chemistry in England. The building opened in May 1895. Schorlemmer had initially been employed as Roscoe's private assistant in 1859, having previously studied in Germany and attended lectures by Bunsen, which had resulted in his adopting chemistry as a profession. He was subsequently appointed lab assistant, lecturer, and then professor in 1874. Schorlemmer's work on hydrocarbons resulted in a hypothesis which became one of the fundamental concepts of modern organic structural theory. He also worked on aniline dyes. He was friends with Friedrich Engels and also knew Karl Marx, whose views he shared, using his scientific ideas in his political philosophy. Schorlemmer's influence in Communist ideologies (though he was never a practising communist) was acknowledged in the Soviet Union and much of eastern Europe until the end of the 1980s.

In 1895 Henry Edward Schunck (1820-1903) donated his entire personal laboratory, built in 1871, to the university. He was a chemist who undertook research into natural dyes, training in Germany before returning to Manchester to become chemical manager of the family calico printing firm, Schunck, Souchay & Co. In 1904 the university achieved independence and autonomy and in this year the laboratory building was moved from Kersal in Salford and re-erected by Paul Waterhouse, son of Alfred Waterhouse, on the west side of the Chemical Laboratories and Schorlemmer Laboratory as a mirror-image of the original building. At the same time Paul Waterhouse in-filled the area between this and the pre-existing buildings by building a polygonal laboratory attached to the south gable wall of the Schorlemmer Laboratory and abutting the west wall of the Chemical Laboratories, with a wing to the left attached to the Schunck Laboratory.

In 1909 the John Morley Laboratories were built by Paul Waterhouse in the space between the Schorlemmer Laboratory and Medical School to the north. A contemporary account of the building's official opening on 4th October 1909 states that the new laboratories were built through the munificence of Andrew Carnegie, who had presented £10,000 to the university for the purpose and requested that they be known as the John Morley Chemical Laboratories. The building included a large laboratory for organic chemistry; research rooms; private laboratories; other accommodation for the professors; a large laboratory for third-year students; new service and store rooms; and cold-storage and ice-making machinery. Sir Henry Roscoe declared the new laboratories open and stated that he was glad that Mr Carnegie, who had endowed libraries throughout the English-speaking world, should now have established a scientific laboratory, he hoped not for the last time. It is not known whether there are any other laboratories in England funded by Carnegie. John Morley, in honour of whom the building was named, was 1st Viscount Morley of Blackburn, Liberal MP and Minister, including Secretary of State for India, and Chancellor of the University of Manchester from 1908. The 1922 OS map shows the completed group of laboratories, with the John Morley Laboratories in its present form as an L-shaped building. This replaced a smaller rectangular building shown on the 1908 OS map running north-south along the western boundary of the group. It is, however, apparent upon inspection that the shorter south arm of the L-shaped building has differences in appearance and construction which suggests that it was not all one phase and this section was probably a later extension built between 1909 and 1922.

Details

PLAN: Chemical Laboratories: square with three ranges with double-pitched roofs running east-west, containing two large parallel former science labs with basement labs beneath, the northern range housing individual rooms opening off a corridor on each floor, with a lecture hall at the east end of the first floor, and a range to the east side with steep double-pitched roof running north-south with gables to Burlington Street and rear courtyard elevations, containing individual rooms with a former science lab on the first floor to the Burlington Street side. Schorlemmer Laboratory: rectangular building built against the west side of the Chemical Laboratories. Large science lab on the ground floor and another in the basement. Polygonal Laboratory: Built against south wall of Schorlemmer Laboratory and west wall of the Chemical Laboratories, with polygonal science lab on ground floor and workshop in basement. West wing separated by a cross wall and attached to east wall of Schunk Building; formerly additional laboratories.

John Morley Laboratories: rectangular building running east-west attached to north side of Chemical Laboratories and Schorlemmer Laboratory. Original building contains two large laboratories, research rooms, private laboratories, and offices. Short south arm at west end is later and not of special interest. All four buildings abut at least one of the other laboratory buildings and interconnects with them.

EXTERIOR: Chemical Laboratories: Pale buff brick of similar tone to stone of main quadrangle, with stone dressings and red tile roofs. One and two storeys over a raised basement. Burlington Street elevation; from left a range of six bays separated by stepped buttresses with tumbled brickwork, with rebuilt brick parapet. Ground floor has tall rectangular windows with timber casements, relating to a science lab. High basement lit by similar large windows opening into an area. Tall industrial square stack with Italianate detailing set back at west end. At east end is slightly projecting three-bay gable. Flat-headed doorway with flanking window to each side in basement, three pointed-arch windows to raised ground floor and first floor, with circular window in gable apex with quatrefoil plate tracery. Arched windows have alternating brick and stone voussoirs forming polychrome effect with stone hoodmoulds over. Tall, square campanile tower with pyramidal roof set back at east end. Rear courtyard elevation; from left a three-bay gable, a second adjoining three-bay gable, with a three-bay range to the right. First gable has similar pointed-arch windows on ground and first floors, with circular window at the apex. Second gable has two pairs of segmental arched windows to the basement and ground floor, with three tall, pointed-arch windows on the first floor, relating to the lecture hall. To right are three pairs of segmental-arched windows to basement and ground floor, with paired flat-headed windows above on first floor. Schorlemmer Laboratory: Red brick. Single storey over a basement. Only the six-bay west elevation is visible facing into a small courtyard. Slightly projecting basement level with stone coping and square windows. At right-hand end is a segmental-arched doorway. Raised ground floor has tall, rectangular windows and a stepped-brick eaves level with parapet. Windows have stone sills and lintels and wooden casements, those on the ground floor with centre-pivoting top lights. Above the second to fifth bay windows are metal wall straps.

Polygonal laboratory: Pale buff brick. Single storey over a basement facing Burlington Street. From left (abutting Schunk Building), two bays with double-pitched red tile roof, canted bay with pyramidal roof, narrow bay abutting Chemical Laboratories. Two left bays and left and centre face of canted bay have wide rectangular six-light casement windows, the two left with small panes to the upper lights. Two-light rectangular casement windows to right face of canted bay and right bay. Moulded stone sill band with deep rendered band over basement windows, which are similar to those on ground floor. Brick buttresses to canted bay, lantern ventilator to roof.

John Morley Laboratories: Pale buff brick with dark brown stone dressings to rear courtyard elevations. Small-pane glazing to all windows. Red brick elsewhere. Two storeys over a raised basement. East elevation from left has a narrow bay abutting the Chemical Laboratories, a polygonal stair turret, and two wider bays to the right. Doorway in left bay with large stone mullion and transom window above and a smaller mullion window on first floor. Two right bays have wide six-light mullion and transom windows to the basement and ground floor and three-light mullion windows on the first floor. Stair turret has round-headed

windows to lowest level. The upper windows are separated by decorative stone panels and have tracery heads. Moulded modillion cornice with plain gargoyles, a blind arcade stone parapet, and a steep polygonal spire. Large, projecting angled gable to outer corner. Stone mullion and transom windows to basement, ground and first floors. Between the ground and first floors and to the gable apex are decorative stone panels. North elevation from left is of three bays with similar mullion and transom windows to the basement and ground floor and mullion windows to the first floor. Original basement doorway in right-hand bay inscribed CHEMISTRY DEPT on the stone lintel. Left-hand window on the ground floor altered to form a doorway with a flight of metal steps, flat-roofed canopy and hoist arm on the left side. Brick ridge stack.

INTERIOR: Chemical Laboratories: Main entrance in link block (not of special interest) opens into entrance hall with open well staircase with turned timber balusters, moulded handrail, and newel posts with ball finials, now painted grey. Stair treads are concrete sections with chamfered undersides slotted together. The two parallel former science labs are separated by a single wall pierced by large, segmental arched openings. Both have arched braced timber trusses rising from corbels supporting the timber-lined roofs. Southern lab has roof lights to north slope, northern lab has roof lights to both slopes. Each lab also has an angled observation post with a window set high up in the inner corner on the east side. High basement is fire-proofed with iron columns (probably using Dennet system of wrought-iron bars and concrete arches used by Waterhouse both in Manchester Town Hall (1868) and the west range of the main quadrangle). Lecture hall on first floor retains original demonstration bench, raked wooden benching with flip-up leather-covered seats, and writing slopes. Other features of note include patterned encaustic tiles to ground-floor corridor, terrazzo flooring to other corridors, four and six-panelled doors, and moulded cornices.

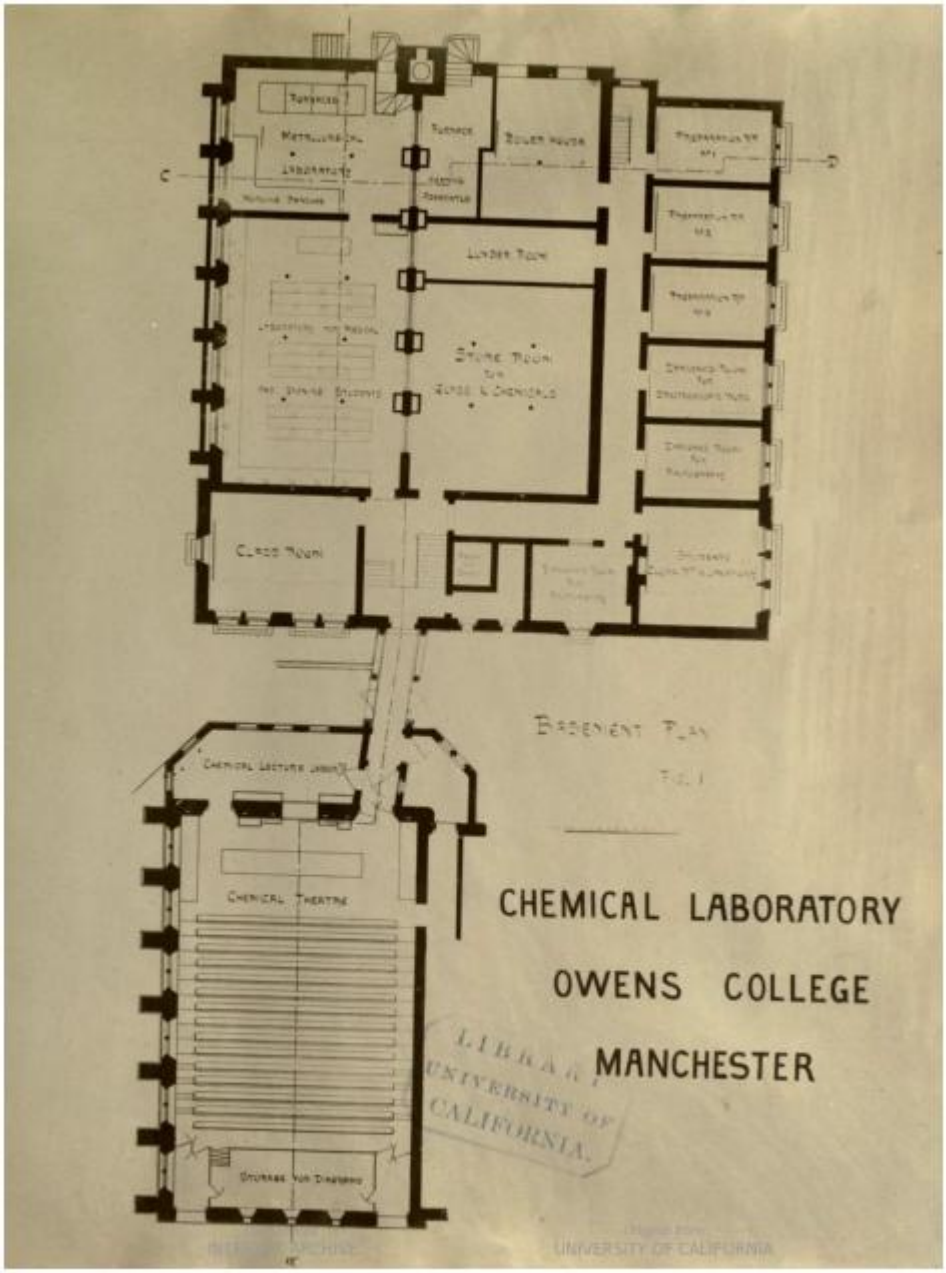
Schorlemmer Laboratory: Tall laboratory on ground floor has arched braced timber trusses rising from corbels to support timber-lined roof with central ventilation grilles and five skylights to the east slope. Features of note include the wooden parquet floor and shallow stone sinks (now cased in laminated wood) on iron brackets beneath the windows. Beneath each sink is a cast-iron radiator. Across the south gable wall is a possible former balcony above the windows supported on iron brackets. Basement laboratory has series of iron columns, now boxed-in, supporting cross beams.

Polygonal laboratory: Parquet flooring, fire-proofed basement with iron beams and concrete arches running east-west. Set in the original south external wall of the Schorlemmer Laboratory, now the internal north wall of the polygonal laboratory, is a granite plaque dated 1903 commemorating the centenary of Dalton's Atomic theory.

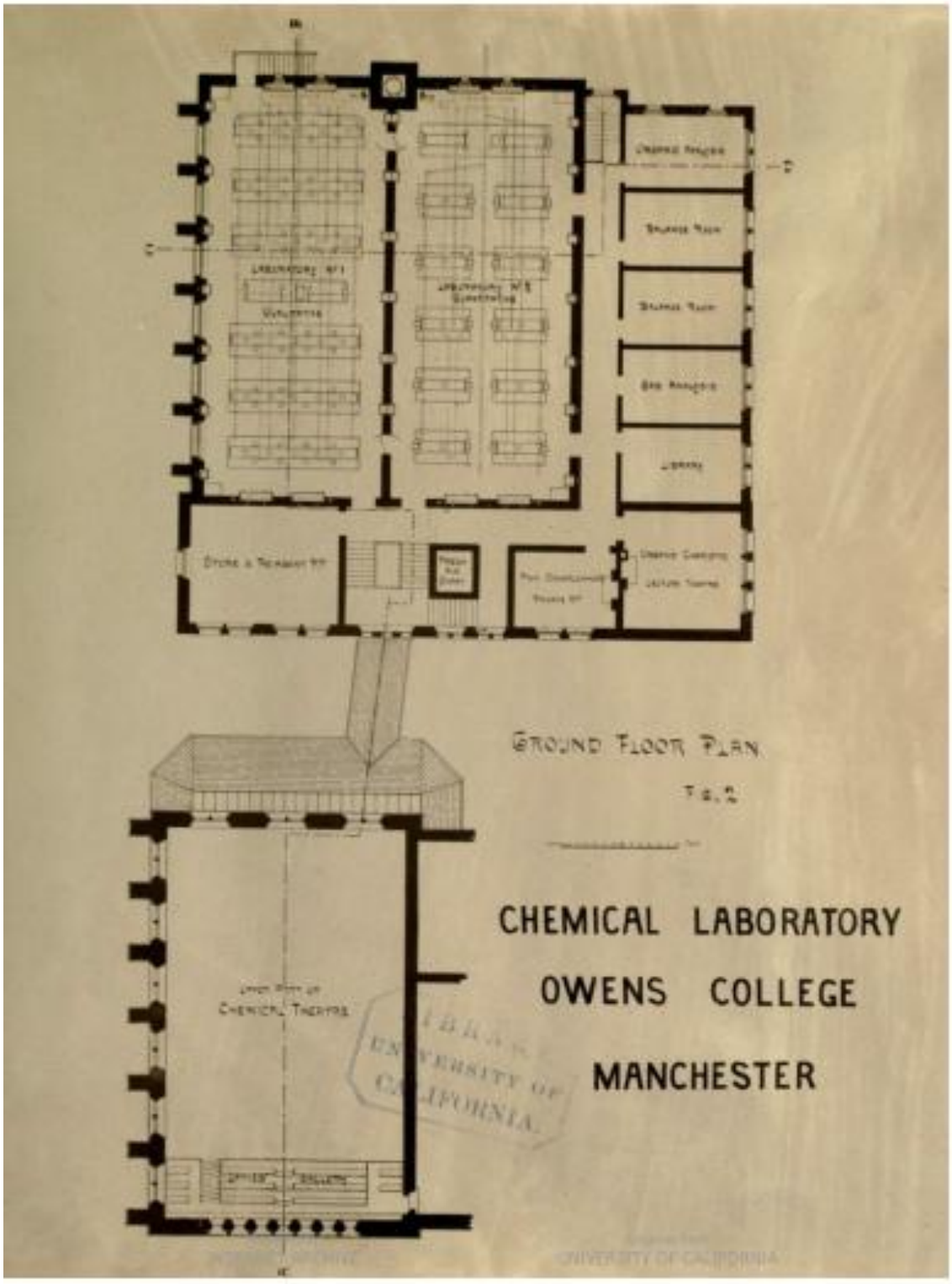
John Morley Laboratories: Features of note include the cantilevered stone spiral stair with swept handrail in the stair turret, terrazzo flooring to the corridors, original panelled doors with partial small-pane glazing. The large ground-floor former science lab, to the rear of smaller offices and personal labs, has five timber queen-post roof trusses with decorative pierced arcading to the spandrels. Six large skylights to both roof slopes. A modern first floor has been inserted. On the ground floor, close to the entrance into the Schorlemmer Laboratory is a bronze medallion to William Henry Perkin, Waynflete Professor of Organic Chemistry 1892-1912. There is also a plaque over the adjacent double doors with raised

lettering stating THE JOHN MORLEY LABORATORIES 1909.

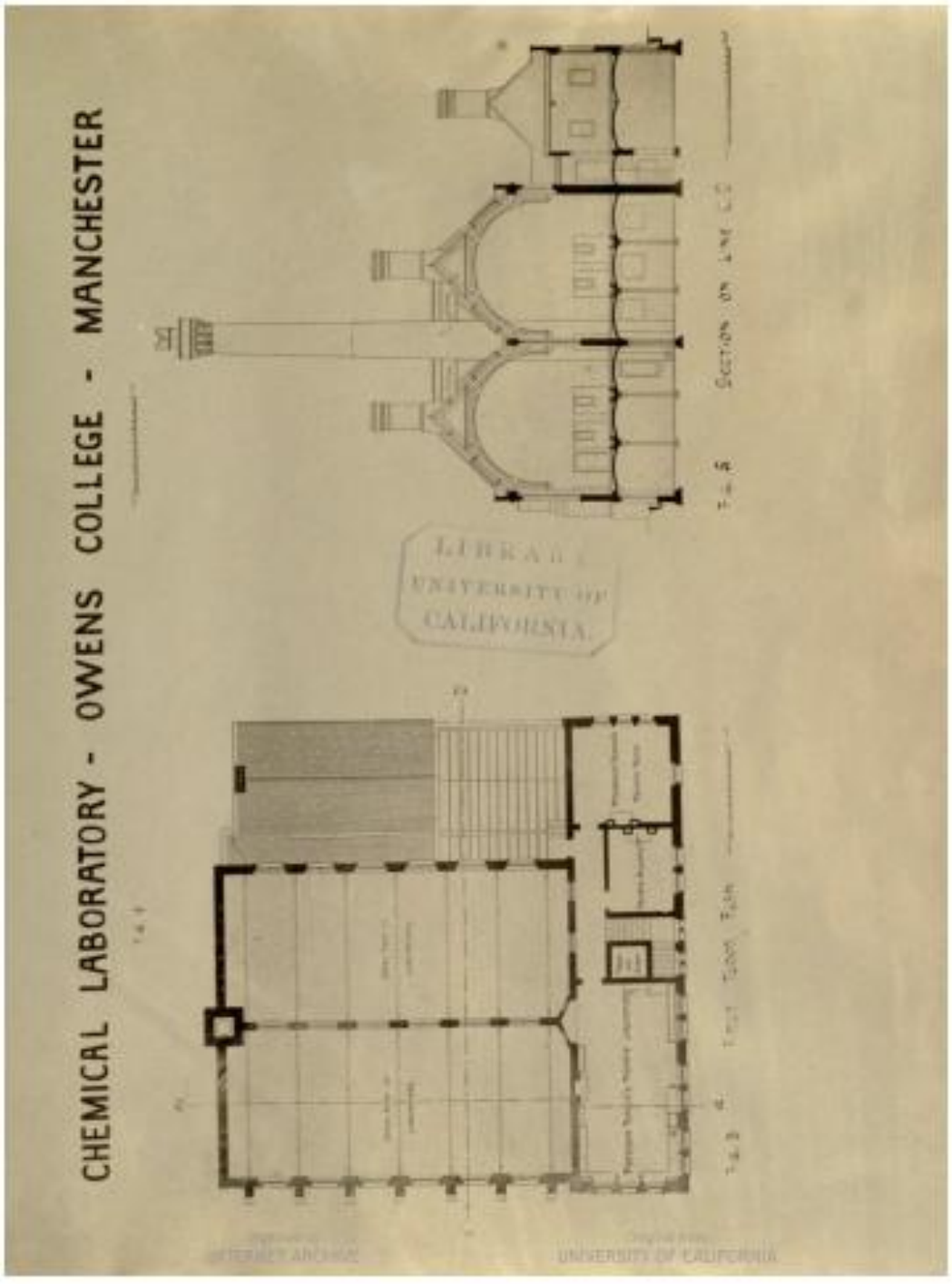
SUBSIDIARY ITEMS: Low stepped brick wall with chamfered stone coping and decorative iron railings in front of areas on Burlington Street. Continues on from similar fencing in front of south elevation of west range of main quadrangle, which runs between two shaped stone piers.



Basement Plan, 1878.



Ground Floor Plan, 1878.



First Floor Plans, 1878.

Historical Development - Extracted from Paul Butler Heritage Statement for the Eddie Newcomb Building in support of Application No 143916/LO/2025

The University of Manchester

In the 19th century Manchester was at the centre of the industrial revolution; particularly that of the textile industry which was most prominent within the north-west. The importance of the city's involvement is evidenced by the now famous, 'The Condition of the Working Class in England' written by Frederich Engels. He describes the poor working and living conditions of industrial life in Manchester and Salford in 1844[1]. It specifically mentions the slums on Oxford Road (then known as Oxford Street) in roughly the location of where Manchester University is now, and where the Chemistry laboratories (the site), were built in the early 1870s.

The origins of the chemistry department at the University of Manchester began when in 1846 John Owens left over £96,000 in his will for the creation of an education centre. In 1851, the John Owens College opened in a house in central Manchester. From the 1860s the professors looked to German universities for guidance on how it should operate, following their example of being research focussed, which allowed students to be at the forefront of new developments across a range of different topics.

It wasn't until 1870 that the College was moved to the Oxford Road site, after it was decided that more space was needed. The first building to be completed was the John Owens building in 1870 designed by Alfred Waterhouse, who started his practice in Manchester. This was shortly followed by the completion of the Chemistry Laboratories on Burlington Street (the site) in 1873, and a new medical school on Coupland Street.

In the years following the move to the College's new site on Oxford Road, it struggled to establish a good reputation and there were fears that it might have to close. However, thanks in part to Henry Roscoe the College was saved, after he championed the chemistry department along with his increasing reputation in the field.[2]

Henry Roscoe was a leading chemist in his field. After graduating from University College London, he went to study at the university in Heidelberg, an institution that was at the

forefront of modern chemistry. In 1857, Roscoe returned to Manchester and was made a professor of Chemistry at John Owens College at the age of just 24. During his time at the college, he increased the number of students studying chemistry from 15 to 120[3]. Roscoe's legacy was preserved, when his paper 'Letters in elementary Chemistry' became a standard text in the teaching of the subject.

In 1880 the Owens College became the first part of the federal Victoria University, which would go on to become the University of Manchester in later years. Initially the Victoria University had branches in Liverpool and Leeds, however by 1903, it was just Manchester, becoming known as the Victoria University of Manchester.

The years between 1890 and 1914 were a time of great expansion and growth for the University, with it slowly expanding in the place of nearby industry and residential areas. This continued post-World War Two, with the opening of the Robinson undergraduate Laboratory and the Arthur Lapworth Laboratories.

By the 1950s the chemistry department had moved on even further with 'radical' new plans in place to develop a science area to the east of Oxford Road. The chemistry department promptly moved here in the early 1960s. Together with the UMIST university, the two chemistry departments worked side by side, officially joining together to create the University of Manchester, as we know it today, in 2004[4].

The Site

Prior to the chemistry laboratories, in the mid-19th century the site was occupied by terraces and what appears to be a communal garden space. Surrounding the site there are further terraces and larger, detached villas with designed landscaping.

By the 1891 OS Map, the site had begun to change, with the villas from Oxford Place replaced with 'Owens College.' This is the first map where the chemistry laboratories are shown, with them being built between 1871-3. The building is identifiable by its buttresses

along its south facing wall and small adjoining link to the building to the east of the site with which it shares a similar architectural style.

The Chemistry Laboratories were built by Alfred Waterhouse, who was advised by Henry Roscoe on what facilities a research-based chemistry laboratory required.

Waterhouse's historic plans for the building are shown within a document titled *'Description of the Chemical Laboratories at the Owens College, Manchester'* by Henry Roscoe (1878). The plans, noted as by Waterhouse, show a floorplan largely recognisable today based around a pair of large chemistry laboratories with smaller offices separated by the corridor. The large chimney, mentioned by Roscoe in the supporting text as being essential for good ventilation is also still visible on the exterior of the building.

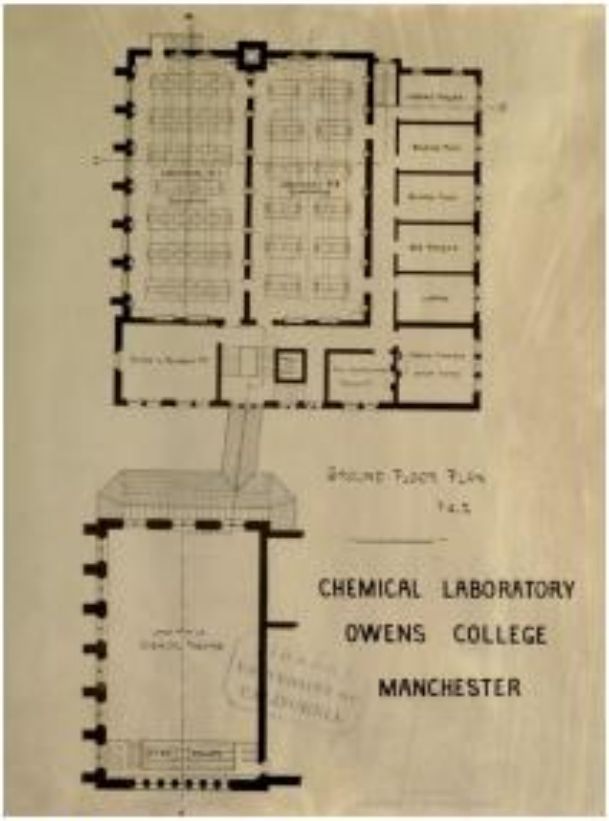


Fig. 3.1 *Waterhouse's Ground Floor Plan as seen from 'Description of the Chemical Laboratories at the Owens College, Manchester' by Henry Roscoe (1878)*

Roscoe's supporting notes specifically mentions the capacity for pupils, the capacity of the labs and extra details such as the specific uses of the smaller rooms for activities such as 'balance room', 'organic analysis room' and 'demonstrator room.'; all of these are shown on the plans.

Alfred Waterhouse started out as an apprentice architect in Manchester, making his name when he won a competition to design the Manchester Assize Courts, in 1859. In 1868 Waterhouse won another design competition, to design Manchester Town Hall. Thus began an association with designing public buildings, specialising in universities as he progressed through his career. Waterhouse's most famous work is probably the Natural History Museum

in London, which he designed in the 1870s. At the University of Manchester, he designed not only the chemistry laboratories but the John Owens Building, and later the Schorlemmer Lab. Waterhouse's style was distinctly Gothic Revival, a key architectural movement during the Victorian period.

The design of the laboratories were based on those in Heidelberg, where Henry Roscoe had studied extensively[5]. This design then became a blueprint for other chemistry laboratories and was replicated extensively throughout the world. The Schorlemmer Laboratory, built in 1895, also designed by Waterhouse, was based on this Manchester-Heidelberg model and was built to the west of the existing Chemical Laboratories.

'The Manchester-Heidelberg model returned to Manchester in the shape of the Schorlemmer laboratory in 1895, which was based by the tireless Waterhouse and William Henry Perkin, Jnr on Baeyer's laboratory in Munich; this in turn was based on the Owens' college laboratory of 1873[6].'



Fig 3.2 *Owens College Chemistry Theatre, 1895.*



Fig 3.3 *Victoria University, Chemistry Laboratory, 1900.*

By the 1909 OS Map, Owens College had become Victoria University, the Quadrangle had also been built and slowly the residential and industrial landscape was starting to visibly change. The decades between this map and the 1891 were a time of real growth for the university. The addition of the Schorlemmer Laboratory in 1895 can also be seen.

By the 1922 OS Map, the Schunck Laboratory can be seen, also designed by Alfred Waterhouse, the laboratory was moved from Kersal in Salford where it was the private lab of Dr Schunk but was re-erected at the University by Paul Waterhouse. Paul Waterhouse, son of Alfred, designed the later laboratories at the University, including the Polygonal Laboratory and the John Morley Laboratories (1909).

Between 1951-63 the linking building was added (noted within the listing as not being of special interest) joining the building to its neighbour to the east.

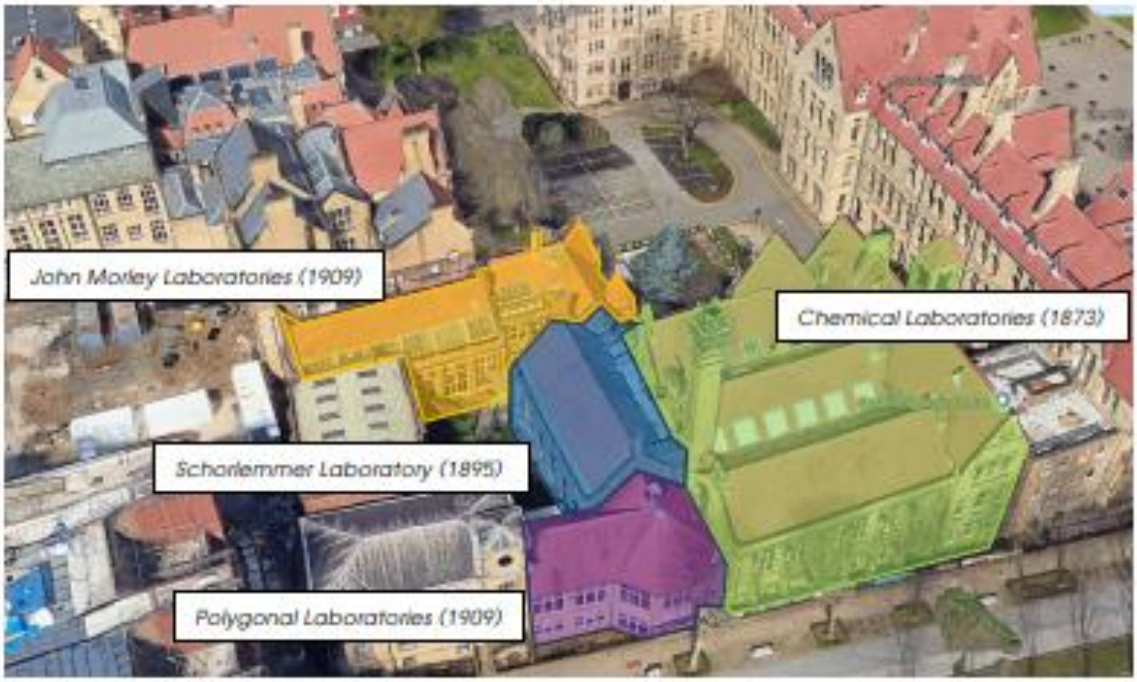


Fig 3.4 The Site's Phasing (Google Earth Base Map)

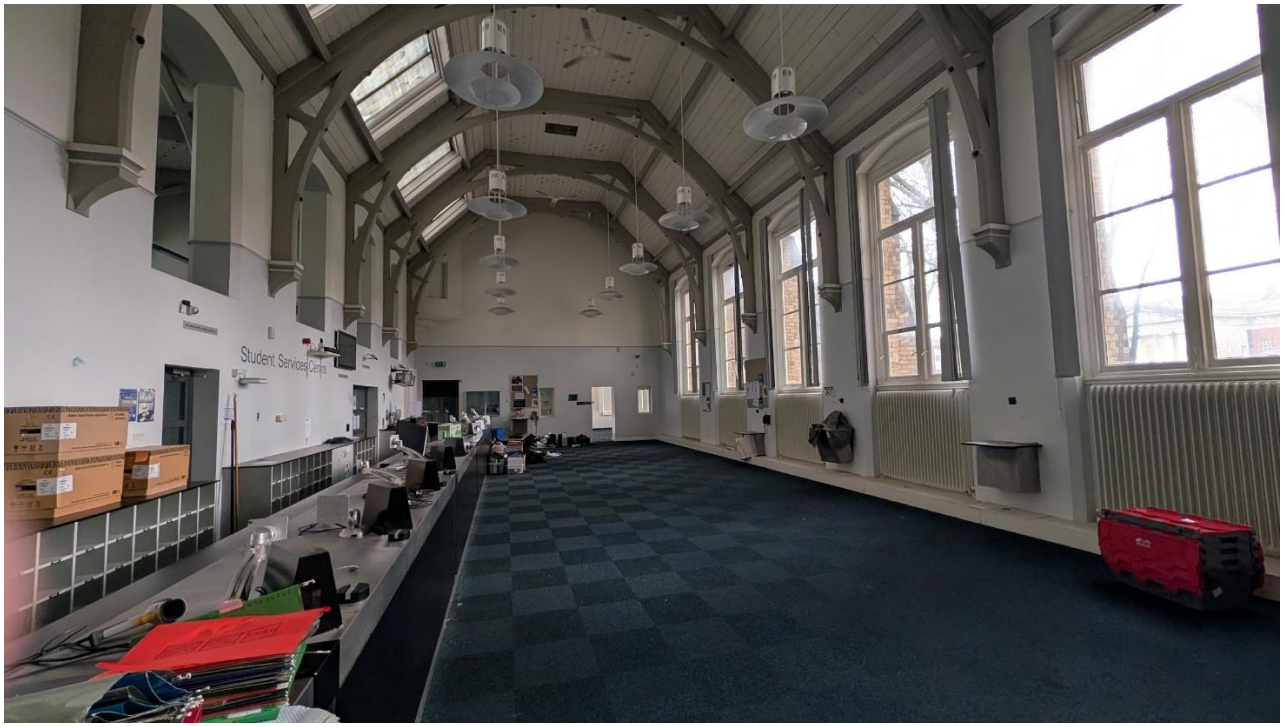
In more recent years the site has been used as offices by the University, for student services.

Typical Photos inside Eddie Newcomb








Student Services Centre