Officers and Committee - Trust Annual Report 1963

President	Admiral Sir William Andrewes K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.	Sparkford House, St Cross Road, Winchester
Vice President	The Very Reverend O.H. Gibbs-Smith, C.B.E.	Dean of Winchester
Vice President	Lady Charlotte Bonham-Carter	
Vice President	Ralph Dutton, Esq., F.S.A.	
Chairman	Mr F.D.E. Pare, D.F.A.(LOND.)	Abbey Mill House, Colebrook Street, Winchester
Hon. Treasurer	Mr G.S. Course	Barlclays Bank, Winchester
Hon. Secretary	Mr W.D.R. Weller	25 St Thomas Street, Winchester
Hon. Membership Secretary	Mr W.H. Rendell	Sunnyside, Twyford
Committee Members	Mr J. Barrow Simmonds	Abbotts Barton Farm, Worthy Road, Winchester
	Mrs W.J. Carpenter-Turner, J.P.	10 The Close, Winchester
	Mr W.J. Carpenter-Turner, A.R.I.B.A.	10 The Close, Winchester
	Mr M.C. Gardener	Kingsland House, Chesil Street, Winchester
	Mr G. Gore-Langton	60 Hyde Street, Winchester
	Mr R.L.P. Jowitt	Gore Grange, New Milton, Hants
	Miss C.A. Kingsmill, J.P.	2 Ranelagh Road, Winchester
	Sir John McNee, M.D., D.S.C., F.R.C.P.	Headbourne Worthy House, Winchester
	Mrs Nowell Salmon	Hyde Cottage, Winchester
	Mr R. Sawyer, F.R.I.C.S.	44 St Cross Road, Winchester
	Mr D.J. Smith, F.R.I.C.S.	78 Parchment Street, Winchester
	Mr R.D. Utting, A.R.I.B.A.	Chalk Hills, Crawley, Nr Winchester
	Miss Margaret Wells	St Olafs, Cheriton Road, Winchester

Two Buildings - Trust Annual Report 1963

It is a pleasure to report that two buildings which have been completed since the publication of the last Annual Report are decidedly better than the ones they replace. One is the City Council's development to Sir Hugh Casson's design of lower St. George's Street, an attractive lay-out with a good sense of scale for the vicinity, and the other is the new Supermarket, a dignified and restrained design, admirably suited for its purpose. Unfortunately it is too often disfigured by brightly coloured window stickers. If only the same could have been said about the rebuilt 102 High Street. The knowledge that it would be well nigh impossible to get a better building, prompted the Preservation Trust to protest, but without avail. What has happened on this site clearly demonstrates that a well intentioned compromise does not provide a satisfactory solution to the rebuilding of an ancient city.

The shape of the new building follows closely the dimensions of its predecessor and the roof line at the front must be at about the level at which it originally existed. But alas, the new steel framework has destroyed the character which the building until recently possessed. It now appears as the Manor of God Begot in a straight jacket, lacking the robust form, which it once derived from the living timber.

This is one of the few buildings in central Winchester which commands a position where three sides are successively revealed to the passer-by. There is in the new version no harmony between any two of them, each seems to have been conceived independently on the drawing board. At the front, yellow brick and metal windows are an unfriendly intrusion in the High Street, and clash with the brickwork of the St. Peter Street elevation which is in quite a different style. Finally some of the original timbers rather shame¬facedly try to shield the new work from observers in St. Peter Street. Here the removal of the barge board and fancy window is to be welcomed, but it is regrettable that necessary repairs were not effected by small pieces of wood saved from the tons of sound timber removed from the main structure. It would have looked better than the newly inserted sawn timber, which has been gouged out with some unnatural looking cracks and daubed with paint to give it the desired colour.

All this points to an important principle in Preservation. The more worthwhile a building, the greater the care which should be taken of its maintenance. If, however, preservation should become impossible for any reason, then it must either be replaced by something better, or a facsimile reproduction must be made.

The Last Example - Trust Annual Report 1963

Fortunately the period of bogus Tudor timber work is almost at an end, though unbelievably another example has arrived in Winchester during the year. The local planning authority seems to have been caught napping on this occasion. There is still a great danger however of a brick wall with sash windows, passing itself off as Georgian. Far too many of these have appeared during the last few years and a strong protest must be made about them. On the other hand, Martin's Bank, a

newcomer to Winchester, is to be congratulated on the frontage they have presented in the High Street.

The Worst Offenders - Trust Annual Report 1963

We started our report by drawing attention to two successful examples of new building. They are unfortunately outnumbered by several visually unsuccessful examples of building construction. They are the type of building justly stigmatised by John Betjeman as rent collecting slabs. As some of the accommodation in them is still standing empty; after a considerable period, they do not even seem to be performing that function properly. Very little consideration seems to have been given to scale, proportion, texture or colour.

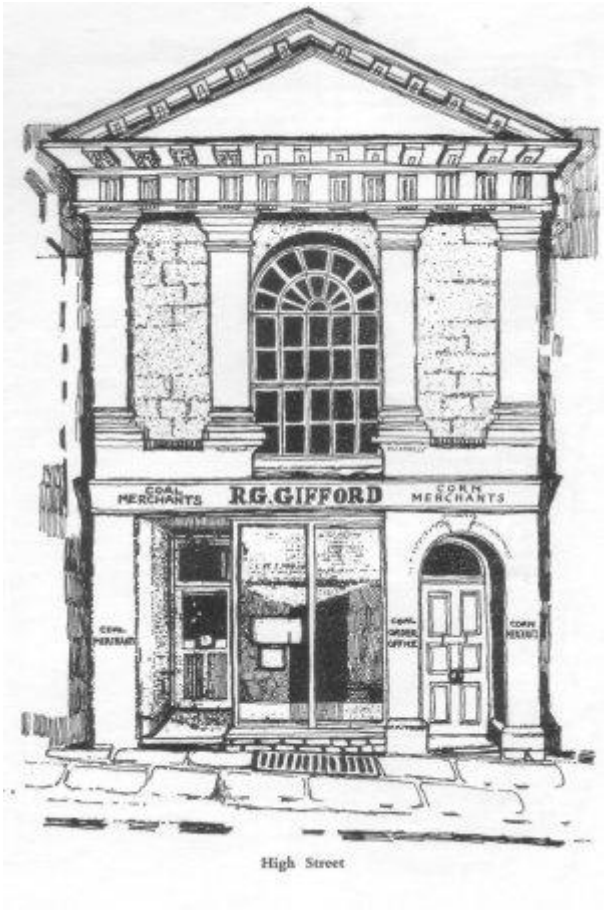
In reviewing recent years one is bound to admit that more badly designed buildings have appeared than good ones. All the marks of history have not been erased, but the patient is getting in a very bad way, and must be given thoughtful and careful treatment to come round again.

Costs - Trust Annual Report 1963

There is one problem which often deters the owner of a property from restoration, and that is the very high costs sometimes quoted for this type of work. These generally exceed the cost of demolition and a new building by quite a large margin, and are due to the large amount allowed for contingencies. It is therefore important to select a specialist for this type of work and one who understands the building of the period. It does not necessarily follow for instance that a specialist in Georgian work is equally resourceful when confronted with a timber framed restoration.

Lost - Trust Annual Report 1963

79 High Street



Giffords High Street

This year we choose for our illustrating two drawings by Colin Shoard. As is now well known 79 High Street is to be demolished. The condition of the building had made restoration impossible. The drawing is a record of disappearing Winchester.

The second drawing shows an important frontage at Giffard's the Corn Merchants in the High Street; this is one of the few remaining typical county town shops. Converted from a former chapel, it is an essential vertical accent, in the long lines of plain brickwork extending on each side. When it becomes part of the store next door, the stipulation has rightly been made that the upper part of the frontage must be retained. There will of course be changes at street level.

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78 and 79 Kingsgate Street - Trust Annual Report 1963

These two houses, the subject of our second illustration last year, are to be demolished after all. Their fate and the decision to set back the building line was decided at a recent Council meeting by only one vote.

It may be objected that these are houses of no particular significance. In theory there is no reason why they should not be replaced by something better and a building worn out will be replaced by a new one.

Much of Winchester's attraction today has been produced by the same sequence a of events.

The case for preserving these houses lies not only in the houses themselves, but in their setting. This is the only remaining City Arch which is a real gateway and is a fitting entrance to the most important centre of unspoilt architecture outside the Cathedral Close. It cannot be emphasised too often that Preservation is concerned with groups of buildings and the visual qualities of a whole area, and not necessarily with individual restorations with no thought for their neighbours. In this case the Trust feels that a suitable way of dealing with this site would have been to re-plan behind a restored facade. We can only hope that the new buildings will pass our test of being better than the ones they replace.

The New Act - Trust Annual Report 1963

The New Act An important Act of Parliament has become law during the past year giving local authorities power to make grants to assist in the restoration of important ancient buildings, where owners fmd it impossible to carry out repairs wihtout financial assistance. The Trust was asked to comment on the draft scheme and the Committee was very pleased to do so. Under this scheme the Corporation will make grants totalling £2,000 a year and this is primarily intended to favour those buildings on Mr. Garton's priority list.

St. Peter – Chesil - Trust Annual Report 1963

It is very good news to report that the first part of the work of restoration has now been completed and the second phase put in hand. So far £3,680 has been collected and the completed scheme will cost another £3,000 but £400 of this is to come from the Ministry. The Trust is very proud of this achievement in saving an ancient building which forms part of an important group. Great credit for the satisfactory state of affairs must go to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee, Mrs. Carpenter Turner. Her untiring efforts are producing a splendid amenity for the City. It is not only the Preservation Trust and Dramatic Society who should be deeply grateful, but all the citizens who are to benefit from her foresight and energy.

It has been decided that the remainder of the money should be raised by means of small events which will each raise the sum of £3. There are many sympathisers who will be able to raise this amount in their own homes. It should be possible in this way to raise the final amount within the next few months.

A joint meeting of the Preservation Trust and the Dramatic Society, was held in the Church during the summer when Mr. Richard Sawyer who has been in charge of the restoration was able to explain what has been done to put the building in good order.

Privileges of Membership - Trust Annual Report 1963

Members have again been able to attend a number of guided tours and lectures about the City and the Annual General Meeting was followed by an excellent talk on the problems of Preservation by Mr. S. J. Garton who was responsible for the report on Winchester commissioned by the City Council.

Any member who has not yet had a copy of the Report can obtain one on request from the Hon. Secretary.

Finally the membership shows a welcome increase. We hope in turn that all members will persuade others to join.

The New Law Courts - Trust Annual Report 1963

The model for the new Law Courts has been on display in the Winchester City Library and will again be on view at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust on November 28th when Mr. Fraser, the architect, will be talking about the scheme. This is a superb site and forms the largest single development in the city since Charles II commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to build a palace on a nearby site. All members of the Trust will be keenly interested in hearing about the plans for this tremendously important group of buildings at first hand.

A word of thanks and appreciation must be given to the officers of the Trust. All similar organisations depend for their success on the efficient work of their treasurers and secretaries. Our thanks are due to Mr. Weller, Mr. Course and Mr. Rendell, for carrying out their duties so admirably during the past year.

The Broadway - Trust Annual Report 1963

The Broadway As we go to press we must add that the Preservation Trust supports the City Council wholeheartedly in their endeavours to prevent the demolition of the India Arms.