

The Bath Corporation Act of 1925

by

ROBIN LAMBERT

This essay is partly drawn from research for Robin Lambert's thesis of 1998, Bath et son patrimoine architectural : étude critique de sa protection au vingtième siècle, which followed the development of the concept of heritage in Bath from the end of the nineteenth century to the present. The Bath Corporation Act of 1925 established a principle of aesthetic control in planning. What came to be known as the 'Bath Clause' influenced other local Acts. This essay explores the origins of the Act, and the practice of the law in Bath.

Several major planning events led up to the Bath Corporation Act. In 1909, a proposal to demolish the north side of Bath Street resulted in the creation of the first amenity society, the Old-Bath Preservation Society. In 1916, Robert Atkinson prepared a plan for the spa, the *Bath Improvement Scheme*, which involved new building and substantial demolition in the city centre. This was not implemented because of the First World War and by 1919, the project was relegated to a sub-committee of the Council. However, certain elements contributed to the Act. For example, Atkinson gave clear advice on the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution building in Terrace Walk:

The approach to the City by way of the Orange Grove from the Station is greatly restricted and blocked by the position of the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, and any improvements in this direction must mean the complete removal of that building.¹

After the First World War, the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act of 1919 dominated the policy of the Corporation. On the 25th September of that year, the Town Clerk, F.D. Wardle, presented a report on the new law to the Housing of the Working Classes Committee. The committee recommended the construction of 250 houses, of which 237 were to be built on a forty-acre site called Englishcombe Park, south west of the city centre. A local architect, Alfred J. Taylor, was chosen to direct the

Robin Lambert is an architectural historian living in Paris. She has worked for the Bath Preservation Trust and on the re-survey of listed buildings, 1984-87.

scheme.² The cost of the site alone was £5,475, and it was this initiative, rather than any objections to widespread demolition in the city, which caused the Atkinson plan to be set aside. In 1923, the Housing, &c., Act addressed the problem of town planning schemes in historic towns:

Where it appears to the Minister that on account of the special architectural, historic or artistic interest attaching to a locality it is expedient that with a view to preserving the existing character and to protecting the existing features of the locality a town planning scheme should be made with respect to any area comprising that locality, the Minister may, notwithstanding the fact that the land or any part thereof is already developed, authorise a town planning scheme to be made with respect to that area prescribing the space about buildings, or limiting the number of buildings to be erected, or prescribing the height or character of buildings ...³

At this point, the Corporation could have decided to prepare a town planning scheme which would define specific zones. The 1925 Town Planning Act stated in Section 1 that a town planning scheme should be made with respect to any area possessing special architectural, historic or artistic interest, with a view to protecting the existing features of the locality. Such a scheme could impose limitations on the number, height or character of new buildings, and prescribe the space around buildings. Section 3 imposed the duty to formulate a town planning scheme on every council of a borough or urban district with a population of more than twenty thousand. John Punter describes the Bath Corporation Act of 1925 as overshadowing the measures of the 1925 Town Planning Act in terms of aesthetic control.⁴ The two Acts were in preparation at the same time, the Planning Act being passed in April and the Bath Act in August. It seems that the Corporation preferred a local Act with precise objectives rather than a town planning scheme which might limit new building. From 1926, the Corporation did make use of the 1925 Housing Act to establish a series of Improvement Schemes, applied to small areas of unfit housing, but this practice was not part of a coherent policy.⁵

The Corporation started preparing the Bath Corporation Bill in 1924. The principal promoters of the Bill were two city councillors, Sir Harry Hatt, chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee and the Electricity Committee, and Alfred Wills.⁶ Others involved were Alfred J. Taylor, J. Basil Ogden (who had replaced F.D. Wardle as Town Clerk) and Frank Pugh Sissons (City Engineer from 1924 until his death in 1940), who prepared all the technical evidence for the Bill.⁷ The principal objective of the Bill was not the protection of the architectural heritage of Bath; there were eighteen major projects for street works (mainly street widening and the creation of new streets) estimated at a cost of £150,000, the acquisition of bridges over the Avon, and provision of water and electricity supplies. The only serious opposition came from the local branch of the National Citizens' Union, who claimed that the slum clearance proposals were used to justify grandiose commercial projects rather than promoting re-housing schemes. They were pilloried as residents of Lansdown, the upper part of the city, who were not prepared to accept an increase in rates for the benefit of poorer residents.⁸ On the 9th December, 1924, the Bill was passed in Council by thirty-eight votes to three. Wills declared that the street widening measures 'would necessarily destroy a good deal of property,

but it would be old properties, which would give place to fine buildings with excellent frontages.⁹ There seems to have been no controversy over Clause 118 of the Bill, which simply said that all new building 'shall be erected according to such elevation as the Corporation approve'. On the 25th January, 1925, the Bath ratepayers voted in favour of the Bill by 6,185 to 4,191, a relatively low turn-out in a city with a population of about 68,000.

The Ministry of Health prepared a report on the Bath Corporation Bill.¹⁰ This regarded Clause 118 as a serious matter, because it would enable the Corporation to determine from the artistic point of view the general design and height of new building. In 1918, the RIBA had given evidence to the Ministry of Health Departmental Committee on Building Byelaws; they had welcomed measures to stop the construction of 'outrages', but were not in favour of vesting power in local authorities.¹¹ The Ministry recognised the need to control such 'outrages' but suggested the creation of an independent committee to advise the Corporation. The committee could be made up of a Fellow of the RIBA, a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution and a Justice of the Peace. Even more serious, Clauses 120, 122 and 123 proposed limitations on height and on additions to buildings. The Ministry report stated that these proposals interfered in an exceptional degree with private development, and could only be justified on strong evidence of the interests of the public at large. In his proof of evidence given before the Local Legislation Committee of the House of Commons in June 1925, Alfred Wills revealed the underlying motive to Clause 118. He stated that in December 1918, the Corporation had approved a report recommending powers to control the front and back elevations to 'maintain the traditional beauty of Bath architecture', but went on to say that 'these powers should be given not only in the interests of the City as a whole but also of the owners of property, for their premises might be depreciated by the erection of an unsuitable building on an adjacent site'. Describing himself as a 'large builder in the City', Wills declared that he did not think the proposals would interfere unduly with private interests.¹² Counsel for the Bath Corporation, Mr F.T. Villiers Bayly, argued that the appearance of the city was central to Bath's success; the only industry was making cranes (the Stothert and Pitt company) and furniture, and the income from visitors was essential. The Local Legislation Committee finally agreed to a compromise: Clause 128 of the Act set up the Advisory Committee as proposed by the Ministry of Health.

Clause 128 first described the constitution of the Advisory Committee, which excluded members of the City Council. Then Section 157 of the Public Health Act of 1875 was extended to enable the Corporation to make byelaws controlling building, additions to an existing building or the construction of chimneys exceeding forty-five feet in height; these byelaws could control building materials. If the Corporation did not approve the elevations of a proposal, they should refer the matter to the Advisory Committee. The grounds for referral were:

... if they shall consider that having regard to the general character of the buildings in the city or of the buildings proposed therein to be erected or of the building upon or to which the addition is to be constructed or reconstructed the building or addition

or chimney to which the elevations relate would seriously disfigure the city whether by reason of the height of the building or addition or chimney or its design or the materials proposed ...

The applicant could make a representation to the Advisory Committee, who had one month to make their decision. There was no system of appeal against their decision. The fine for building without permission was not to exceed five pounds, with a daily penalty not exceeding two pounds. Clause 130 extended this control to alterations to old buildings, whether or not they complied with the byelaws, as was often the case with Georgian buildings.

Clause 132 referred to the 'purpose of preserving the amenities of the city'; it imposed restrictions on advertising hoardings and forbade the installation of flashing illuminated advertisements on any building in any street without the permission of the Corporation. In 1926, the Corporation decided not to permit flashing signs on its own buildings (the Corporation was the major landowner in central Bath). In 1935, the Surveying Committee created a new sub-committee: the Illuminated Signs Joint Sub-committee. The reports of this sub-committee show a flood of applications for the installation of electric shop-signs. Applications were judged according to the importance of the street: in Great Pulteney Street or Abbey Churchyard they were refused, but allowed in Southgate Street or for the new Forum Cinema.¹³ This was a double-edged weapon; the 'historic' nature of certain streets was recognised while others were apparently excluded from this category. There was a tendency to establish clear demarcation lines between historic streets or areas and those streets which were not considered important.

The Act also contained innovations regarding traffic control: Clause 186 gave the Corporation the right to declare certain streets one-way within a radius of half a mile of the Guildhall and Clause 189 gave them the right to create off-street car-parks and charge for their use. They were not allowed to charge for on-street parking as the Local Legislation Committee of the House of Lords maintained that streets were for the public convenience and were not to become a source of revenue for the Corporation.¹⁴ These measures were as much in the interest of visitors as the residents of Bath and were part of the campaign to attract tourism.

The Bath Corporation Act made no provision for listing or for any active conservation measures. In 1925, the only positive action on the part of the Corporation was the installation of plaques on buildings recording historic occupants. This scheme had been started in 1899 by Thomas Sturge Cotterell (1865-1950), a city councillor who later became chairman of the Bath Preservation Trust. The Roman Baths were not scheduled as an Ancient Monument until 1927. Even then, when the Baths Management Committee presented a report to the full council meeting on 25th May, describing the action of the Office of Works, they noted that the new classification would make no difference to their administration of the baths.¹⁵ Pulteney Bridge was scheduled even later, in January 1936.¹⁶ In 1927, the Corporation participated in celebrating the bicentenary of John Wood, but no restoration project was proposed to mark the event. Indeed, in 1929, one of the reasons for the re-creation of the Old-Bath Preservation Society was the

Corporation's proposal to demolish Chandos House, one of Wood's early works in Bath.¹⁷ In practice, alterations to buildings were only considered harmful if they affected the value of adjacent property. This lack of commitment is reflected by the fact that it took more than two years to set up the Advisory Committee.

In July 1927 the members of the Advisory Committee were chosen. The architect was Alfred J. Taylor, regularly employed by the Corporation until his death. The Justice of the Peace was Benjamin John, a former City Councillor who had been Mayor in 1904; John was also the son-in-law of Jacob Long, founder of a well-known local building firm, Jacob Long and Sons Ltd., and he had declared himself in favour of the original Bill (including all of the street works) at a public meeting in January 1925. The surveyor was W.E. Underwood, who lived and worked in Bath.¹⁸ This can hardly be considered to be the 'independent committee' recommended by the Ministry of Health.

No plans were referred to the Advisory Committee until 1929, when there were two referrals: applications for additions to the Bath Spa Hotel (Fig. 1) and to no. 5 Wood Street (Fig. 2). Wood Street was part of John Wood the Elder's development of Queen Square, no. 5 being occupied by a 'high class footwear'



Fig. 1
Bath Spa Hotel
Robin Lambert



Fig. 2
No. 5 Wood Street
Robin Lambert

shop. Unfortunately, the minutes of the Surveying Committee do not give details of the proposals, which were presumably for the installation of a new shop front; no changes were made to the front façade. The Bath Spa Hotel was east of Sydney Gardens, outside the main 'historic area'. The *Register of Plans Deposited* for 1929 shows that the hotel's architect, H.W. Matthews, proposed the addition of a third storey to the original building, which had been built as a private house in about 1830.¹⁹ Although the Corporation had raised objections to the proposal, these were not upheld by the Advisory Committee, but the work was not carried out.²⁰

These two cases were not chosen because they were the only applications related to historic buildings. The minutes of the Surveying Committee during the late 1920s show that nearly every month there was at least one application for the installation of a new shop front, often in the town centre. Other applications included the proposal to remove the obelisk from the Orange Grove to provide space for a cab stand, which was approved by the Surveying Committee in November 1926. This project was never carried out. Little by little, the Surveying Committee began to refer more applications to the Advisory Committee, but not for proposals for alterations to historic buildings. It was new private development in the suburbs which proved to be the principal object of aesthetic control. In 1930, eight applications were referred, of which four were for the construction of houses and garages in the suburbs. The other four referred to alterations to nos. 20 and 20a St James' Parade, an addition to a building in Henry Street, the construction of a motor showroom in Darlington Street and alterations to no. 5 Wood Street (unresolved in 1929). In 1931, only two applications were referred, for the construction of a pair of shops in Bloomfield Road and for a detached house in Midford Road, both in suburban Bath.²¹ By 1933, the Surveying Committee had established a formula for referral based on the wording of the Bath Clause:

having regard to the general character of the buildings proposed to be erected, a serious disfigurement to the City would result by reason of the design of the proposed buildings.²²

This formula effectively directed the interest of the Surveying Committee towards new building, while the real threat to the character of Bath came from successive alterations to buildings in the historic area. At the meeting of the Surveying Committee on the 19th November 1934, an application for the construction of five houses at Horsecombe Quarries, Southstoke Road was referred to the Advisory Committee; this site was so far from the city centre that it was practically outside Bath. At the same meeting, permission was granted for the conversion into flats of no. 10 Camden Crescent and no. 13 Marlborough Buildings, for alterations to no. 1 Sion Hill Place, and for new shopfronts at no. 29 Milsom Street and no. 26 Union Street.²³ Another example shows that the Advisory Committee was taking a conciliatory approach rather than laying down standards of practice. At the Surveying Committee meeting of 19th October 1936, the Town Clerk reported on the case of no. 60 Great Pulteney Street (Figs 3 and 4). The owner wished to remove the parapet to give better lighting to the attic rooms. The Advisory Committee had said that the parapet could only be removed if the owner of the house on the other side of the pediment agreed to do the same. If he did not agree, then the owner of no. 60 would be allowed to remove part of the balustrade in front of each window. By 21st November, the Surveying Committee was still waiting for plans for the proposed alterations.²⁴

In June 1928, an editorial in *The Architects' Journal* discussed the application of the Bath Clause and the Advisory Committee.²⁵ It raised several problems in the application of the law. First, that the Surveying Committee of the Corporation was not bound to refer contentious plans to the Advisory Committee; decisions could

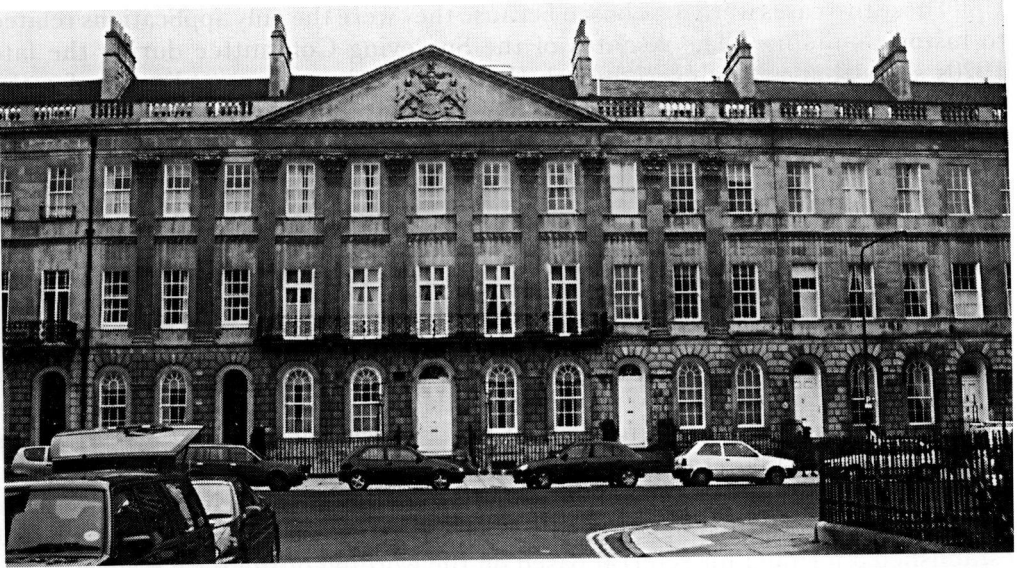


Fig. 3

60 Great Pulteney Street. The last remaining block with balustrade
Robin Lambert



Fig. 4

27-30 Great Pulteney Street. Houses without balustrade
Robin Lambert

still be taken by 'a council of tradesmen, too vain to be frightened by aesthetics'. Secondly, the Advisory Committee had only one architect, who might either be voted down by the other members or take advantage of his position to gain contracts. The purpose of the Bath Clause was to control the appearance of new building in historic streets, but it was likely that questions of architecture would remain in the hands of the City Engineer. The writer also raised the question of the effect of the Bath Clause on new building in the suburbs of Bath. In November of the same year, Percy Hurd also discussed the Bath clause in *The Architects' Journal*.²⁶ Hurd was informed by 'one in Bath who speaks with authority'.²⁷ He pointed out another weakness of the Bath Clause: it did not apply to any work proposed by the Corporation. This fear was justified. While the Corporation sought to control aesthetic aspects of some private development, it was their own houses at Englishcombe Park and the later estate at Southdown which were the subject of a vociferous attack in the pages of *The Times* by Charles Reilly in 1933.²⁸ Reilly went so far as to accuse the Corporation of corruption, since several councillors were local builders; Alfred Wills threatened to sue for libel. The main target of Reilly's criticism was the roofing materials of the new houses, red tiles which were clearly visible from the rest of the city. The Town Clerk maintained that budget restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Health had obliged the Corporation to use these tiles. The results of the lack of a town planning scheme, the municipal housing and inadequate use of the Bath Clause were criticised by the *Architects' Journal* in 1942, in a report on bomb damage in Bath:

From these upper crescents and terraces the modern prospect of Bath is wonderfully depressing. The city reveals itself as being, like Oxford, merely an inner core surrounded by a chaos of industrial development and bye-law housing.²⁹

While the Surveying Committee dealt with applications for new building, the Housing Committee was campaigning against unfit housing – during the late twenties Bath Corporation employed four Medical Officers of Health. Under the terms of the Housing Act of 1925, Part I, every local authority had the duty to inspect housing conditions; where the Medical Officer reported that a house was unfit for human habitation, the Corporation had a duty to impose a Closing Order, followed by a Demolition Order if appropriate repairs were not carried out. According to Section 18, a Closing Order could refer to a single room, but the effect on the whole house would hardly be beneficial. Sections 19-22 dealt with obstructive buildings: the Medical Officer could not only close those buildings which were unfit, but order the demolition of buildings in reasonable condition, but which stopped or impeded ventilation or caused other buildings to be in a condition unfit for human habitation. In April 1926, a special sub-committee of the Housing Committee was set up, to inspect houses which might be closed under the Act. Few houses were the subject of Closing Orders during the 1920s, the problem being that the Corporation had to provide housing for the displaced occupants. The Englishcombe Park houses were intended for families but after the construction of the Kingsmead Flats in 1932 the activities of the Medical Officer of Health were stepped up and not only for minor buildings.

In 1929, the Old-Bath Preservation Society was re-formed, in response to proposed changes in the city. At the inaugural meeting on 10th June, Archdeacon Boyd was chairman. The Mayor, Aubrey Bateman, was present, with three city councillors: Thomas Sturge Cotterell, Edward Knox and George Hughes. Mowbray Green pointed out that the Bath Clause was not being used effectively, especially to protect shopfronts and the façades of important buildings. Hughes reported a conversation with F.P. Sissons, the City Engineer. Sissons had explained that the mere threat of imposing the Bath Clause was often enough to make an applicant revise his plans, although this behind-the-scenes negotiation probably did not entail professional architectural advice.³⁰ In spite of protests in January 1925 from a deputation from the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, the demolition of this building was included in Part II of the Act, as Work No. 2, the construction of a new street from Terrace Walk to North Parade. The Old-Bath Preservation Society started protests against the proposal in 1930, to no avail. F.P. Sissons prepared a plan for the site, a 'magnificent boulevard' with public conveniences on a central island; the space created would be wide enough for trams as well as other traffic. This plan was approved by the City Improvements Committee in November 1932, and the demolition was carried out the following month. During the work, the City Council discussed the possibility of saving the portico but Alfred Wills rejected this, on the grounds that it would create a precedent for saving façades and would slow down the demolition programme.³¹ This failure of the conservation movement was one of the factors which led to the creation of the Bath Preservation Trust, a splinter group from the Old-Bath Preservation Society; it held its first meeting on 1st December, 1934.

The fundamental problem with Bath, as pointed out in 1916 by Robert Atkinson, was that there were too many good buildings. He warned of the danger of allowing demolition or alteration:

There is no greater enemy of old buildings than their gradual demolition under the excuse that better or other examples exist in plenty, and there comes a day when it becomes necessary to choose between the last remains.³²

If the Corporation was to impose a measure of aesthetic control, their first consideration was to which parts of the city this would apply – the idea that the whole urban fabric was essential to the character of the city was not accepted.³³ The fact that an area deemed unfit might be adjacent to another area of recognised quality was not taken into account, particularly not by the Medical Officer of Health. This divisive tendency showed up later in the establishment of the Comprehensive Development Areas following the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act and in the establishment of the first Conservation Areas in 1968. In the years following the Bath Corporation Act, new building in the city centre was in Bath stone, and generally in a neo-Georgian style, some of it of high quality. Even if the Bath Clause was rarely used as intended, the Corporation succeeded in promoting a certain uniformity of design, and succeeded in provoking the formation of what was to become a highly active amenity society.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

References to Bath City Archives are abbreviated to BCA throughout.

1. Atkinson, R., *Bath Improvement Scheme Report to the Council*, (1916), 25. This building, formerly the Lower Rooms, incorporated a Doric portico added in 1806 by William Wilkins. About 150 feet long and seventy-five feet wide, it was a dominant element in the townscape.
2. BCA; *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, (1919). A.J. Taylor (1878-1938) designed a variety of houses broadly following the advice of the Ministry of Health document of 1920, *Type Plans and Elevations: Houses designed by the Ministry of Health in connection with state-aided housing schemes*.
3. Housing &c. Act, (1923), Section 21.
4. Punter, J., 'A History of Aesthetic Control: Part 1, 1909-1953', *Town Planning Review*, 57, (1986), 351-81.
5. The first of these schemes was in the Dolemeads area which was liable to flooding. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, (1926), special meeting of the Housing Committee, 30th March.
6. Alfred W. Wills (1872-1949) had been Mayor in 1918; he was chairman of the Surveying Committee from 1915 to 1944 and chairman of the City Improvements Committee from 1927 to 1935. The son of a local plumber, he took up building work and formed his own company, Alfred Wills and Sons Ltd. He was an active member of the Argyle Street Congregationalist Church, a founder Rotarian and a Mason. BCA, *City of Bath Press Reports Civic Matters*, (1918-23) and *City of Bath Press Reports Civic Functions*, (1949).
7. There had been no City Architect in Bath since the death of C.E. Davis in 1902. F.P. Sissons (1881-1940) had previously worked in Dudley, Norwich, Stoke-on-Trent and South Shields, where he supervised the building of 600 municipal houses. He was a specialist in sewage and drainage work. BCA, *City of Bath Press Reports Civic Functions*, (1940).
8. The NCU was a right-wing, non-party organisation active in the 1920s. Their manifesto of 1925 had three main objectives: reduction in Government expenditure; the control of combines, rings and trusts; and 'the release of the British workers from the tyrannical domination of Socialist and Communist agents'. *The Times*, (3rd October, 1925), 7. Several members of the NCU later became active in the Bath Preservation Trust: Thomas Sturge Cotterell, George E. Hughes and Edward Knox.
9. BCA, untitled volume of press cuttings from 17th November, 1924 to November 1926.
10. BCA, file 182/13, 9-12.
11. Hurd, P., 'Parliament and Whitehall: What they can and cannot do' *The Architects' Journal*, 68, (1928) 684-8.
12. BCA, *Parliamentary Bill Proofs of Evidence*, file 182/17, 18, 19.
13. The Forum Cinema was built in 1934 by the architect A.S. Gray. It was part of Street Work No. 16 under the Act, which created a new street between St James' Parade and Southgate Street. The Advisory Committee participated in negotiations on its design and persuaded the cinema owners to build the south wall in Bath stone instead of Snowcrete. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, (1933), meeting of the Surveying Committee, 11th September.
14. BCA, *Parliamentary Bill Reports of Government Departments 3rd March 1925 - 3rd April 1925*, file 182/13.
15. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes* (1927).
16. Manco, J., 'Pulteney Bridge', *Architectural History*, 38, (1995), 142.
17. This was part of Street Work No. 4 in Part II of the Act, a widening and improvement of Westgate Buildings on the east side. It was not carried out. Chandos House belonged to St John's Hospital.
18. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, 1927, meetings of the Surveying Committee, 27th June and 25th July. In 1930, Benjamin John died and was replaced by Col. Egbert Lewis, JP another former City Councillor, and owner of William Lewis and Son, proprietors and publishers of the Bath Herald. In 1933, Lewis was replaced by F.D. Wardle, the former Town Clerk. Since Alfred Taylor was regularly employed by the Corporation until his death, this can hardly be

- considered the 'independent committee' recommended by the Ministry of Health.
19. Herbert William Matthews (1874-1954) had started private practice in Bath in 1898 after being articulated to Charles S. Adye, County Architect for Wiltshire. By 1929, he had an office in London, and also had carried out work at the Grand Pump Room Hotel in Stall Street, Bath. Obituary in *The Builder*, 186, (1954), 473.
 20. BCA, *Register of Plans Deposited*, (1929), 616.
 21. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, (1931).
 22. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, (1933).
 23. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, (1934).
 24. BCA, *City of Bath Council and Committee Minutes*, (1936). This block of houses in Great Pulteney Street is the only one which has retained the parapet complete with balustrade; it seems to be one of the few real successes of the Bath clause, if only by default.
 25. 'The Bath Clause', *The Architects' Journal*, 67, (1928), 853. This was the year of the RIBA conference held in Bath.
 26. *The Architects' Journal*, 68, (1928), 684-8.
 27. It seems probable that this source was Mowbray Green (1864-1945), author of *The Eighteenth Century Buildings of Bath*, published in 1904, the first serious analysis of Bath architecture.
 28. BCA, volume of press cuttings, *Surveying Committee October 1931 - November 1933*.
 29. *The Architects' Journal*, 96, (1942), 13.
 30. BCA, *City of Bath Press Reports of Council and Committees*, (1929).
 31. BCA, volume of press cuttings, *Surveying Committee October 1931 - November 1933*.
 32. Atkinson, R., *op. cit.*, (1920), 20.
 33. It would be unjust to attribute this attitude to the elected members and employees of the Bath City Council – there was a strong current of opinion in Bath, especially immediately after 1945, that accommodation in 'historic buildings', at least the more modest buildings, was inadequate. The Abercrombie plan of 1945 was widely approved, both by the public and the Bath Preservation Trust.