

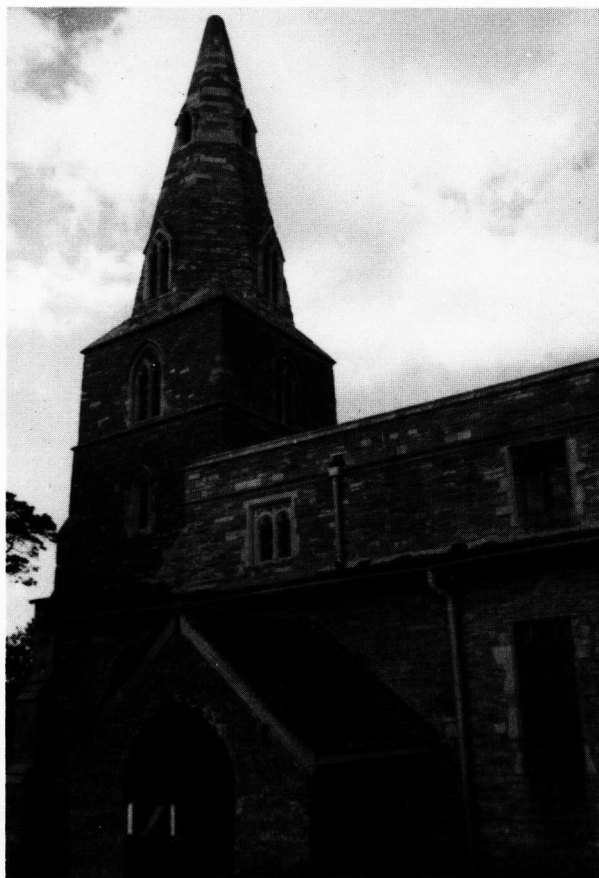
CASEWORK IN 1982

by Matthew Saunders, Secretary

Below are shown some of the many historic buildings the fate of which has concerned, either directly or indirectly, the Ancient Monuments Society in 1982.

1. **Chellington, Bedfordshire, St. Nicholas' Church**

The conversion of this redundant church to provide a diocesan youth centre had seemed to guarantee a fine mediaeval building an indefinite and constructive future. However, worry over the stability of the spire led, in 1982, to an application to demolish this prominent and original feature and threatened the whole future of the project. The AMS and others argued that repairs could be effected and the application was refused. It is to be hoped that the Historic Buildings Council can recommend a grant to assist towards the cost.



2. Manchester, St. George's, Hulme

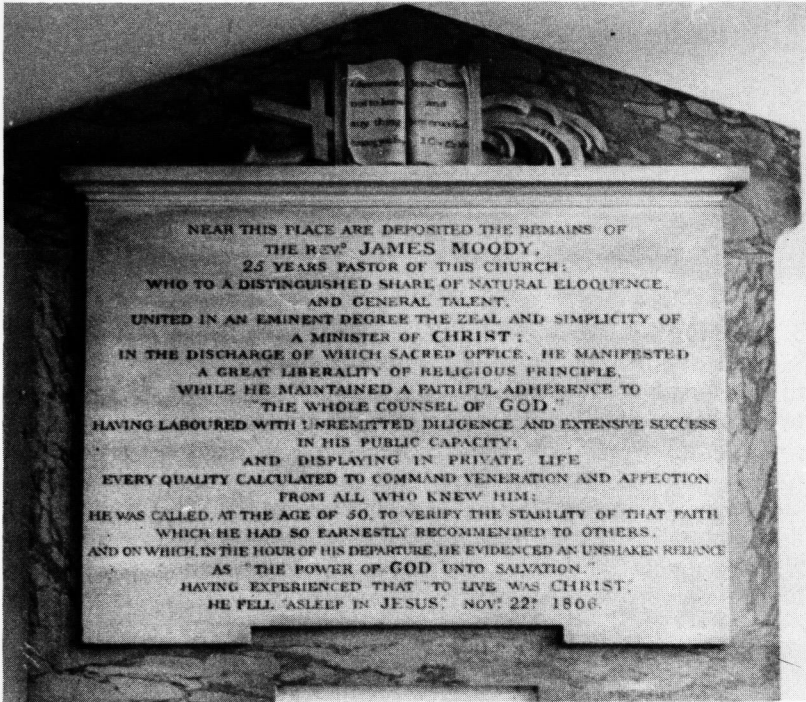
This magnificent church, designed by Francis Goodwin in 1826–28 with internal timber vaulting of 1893 by Crowther, faces a very uncertain future like so many other inner city churches. Its parish transformed by housing clearance and motorways, it now faces closure. A suggestion has been made that workshops could be formed within the bays under the internal galleries.



3. Warwick, United Reformed Church, Brook Street

The AMS opposed an application, in 1982, to demolish the former Warwick Congregational Chapel, of 1825, and the application was refused. There is now hope that a public use will be found for it.

Because so many nonconformist chapels are kept locked other than during services, their merit cannot always be appreciated. When interiors can be penetrated there are often features of interest to be found. The main find at Warwick was the tablet pictured below. Although by no means outstanding, it is now clear that it was the work of the distinguished Neo-Classical sculptor, Francis Bacon, junior.



4. Boston, Lincolnshire, former Union Workhouse, Skirbeck Road

Workhouses, however grim their function, were often adventurous in terms of design and the better examples do deserve retention. One young architect who specialised in this building type was (Sir) Gilbert Scott, and an attractive example of one of his designs survives, in part, at Boston. Whilst the central and rear blocks and courtyards were levelled in 1978, the low forebuilding shown in the photograph was kept, pending the search for a new use. It could perhaps be mistaken for the stables of a Palladian country house and certainly the proportions and the quality of the ashlar stone show great care.

Having failed to find a user, Boston Council applied to

demolish in 1982. The Secretary of State called a public inquiry and the AMS prepared evidence for submission to the Inspector. The inquiry, however, was cancelled at the last moment and negotiations are in progress with a potential purchaser.



5. Edmonton, Middlesex, 183 Angel Place, Fore Street, N.18

This sequence of late Georgian houses unfortunately lies next to the North Circular Road, a principal arterial route that has been progressively widened in the last two decades. The latest proposal of the Ministry of Transport is to demolish No. 183, which is shown on the left of the photograph. The terrace is composed of paired houses united by common detailing to the doors and the double-pile mansard roofs. The loss of No. 183 would mutilate the composition, scar its neighbour and seems quite unnecessary.



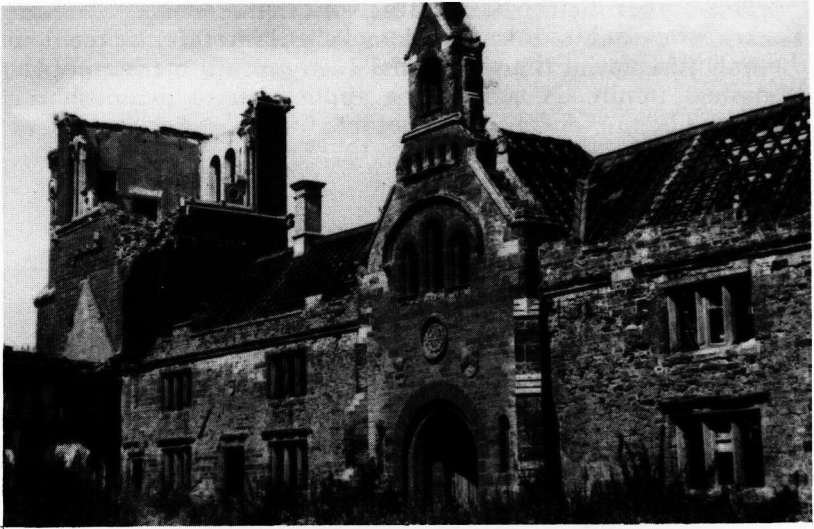
6. Ipswich, Suffolk, wing to the rear of 15—17 Tacket Street

This rather battered structure, previously concealed from Tacket Street by buildings now demolished, was recently listed, as the only remains of the substantial 16th century mansion of the Wingfield family. A subsequent application to demolish was refused. The timber framing is notable for the serpentine braces.



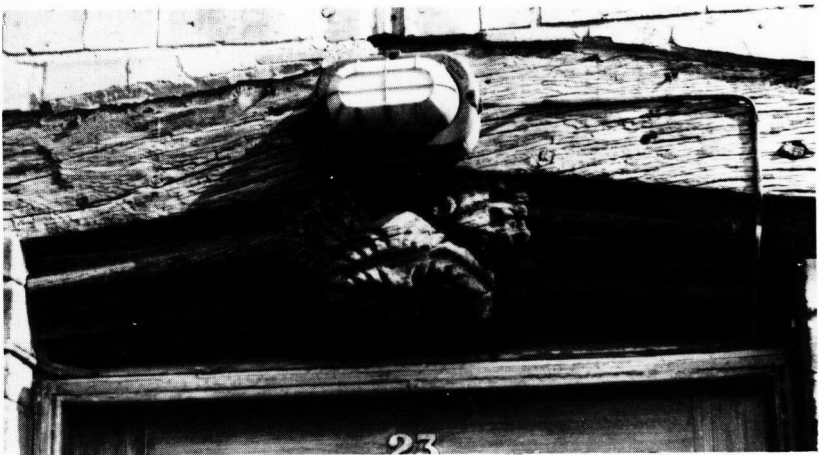
7. Finedon Hall, Northamptonshire

Finedon Hall is clearly a building in extremis. Yet it still deserves to be saved. Black and white photographs unfortunately cannot convey the attractiveness of the honey-coloured ironstone, but they do point to the exuberance of the 19th century remodelling which gave the house much of its present character. It is, in origin, 16th century and the principal range of the stable block, shown in the photograph, is probably of the 16th or 17th centuries, although the gabled centre bay and the half-demolished "Museum Tower" date from the building campaign of William Mackworth-Dolben, an amateur aided by the local architect, Edward Law. Following years of neglect, application was made to demolish the Hall in 1982. It can be said that houses in a worse condition have been saved.



8. Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, 23 Norman Street

Among the buildings threatened by proposals for an Inner Relief Road in Melton is 23 Norman Street. It seems to date from between the Wars and is architecturally undistinguished but incorporated into it as keystones and lintels there are mediaeval carvings in wood and stone. Their provenance is not recorded but the boss shown in the photograph seems to originate from a roof. The Society presented detailed evidence at the public inquiry that considered the road proposals (which threatened eight listed buildings with demolition) and the result is expected.



9. Lincoln, St. Mark's Station

Following unsuccessful applications to demolish first the Ionic portico and then the whole of St. Mark's Station, Lincoln, of 1846, British Rail has instead begun repairs.



10. Plymouth, Devon, Maristow House

Maristow House, occupying a romantic wooded site with a view of the sea to the South, incorporates remains of an earlier house but is primarily of the mid 18th century and 1909 when it was further "Georgianised" by (Sir Ernest) George and Yates. It was the family home of Lord Roberough. Following a severe fire,



which claimed most of the roof, application was made to demolish in 1982. However, we have opposed demolition as we feel sure that the building can and should be repaired, if necessary in institutional use. The application envisaged the retention of a small section of the building and the sumptuous chapel of 1877 designed by Piers St. Aubyn, but the bulk of the house would go. The application was refused.

11. Sleaford, Lincolnshire, The Maltings

(Photo: Sleaford Standard)

The Maltings at Sleaford are the largest such complex in Britain. The total frontage is nearly 1,000 ft. long. They took thirteen years to build and were complete by 1905. As Sir Nikolaus Pevsner has declared: "For sheer impressiveness little in English industrial architecture can equal the scale of this building". Application was made to demolish all the blocks in 1982. We opposed and consent was refused.



12. Flimby, Cumbria, Allanby House, Wedgewood Road

(Photo: National Monuments Record)

The doorway shown seems to make the job of the architectural historian easy. The wreath of grapes and a scallop shell surround a plaque clearly dated "1731". And this date does seem plausible for the house which it serves, Allanby House at Flimby on the outskirts of Maryport. However, the bolection-moulded architrave, the round-headed panels to the door itself and the pilasters, which are panelled like the reveals of an

entrance, make a curious mixture, and the doorway is almost certainly an amalgam. Nevertheless it has "curiosity value" and it was regrettable that the Secretary of State gave consent for the demolition of Allanby House (which was listed Grade II*) in 1982. It had been gutted by fire.



13. Bakewell, Derbyshire, Burton Closes

(Photo: Peak District National Park)

The building called "Burton Closes" at Bakewell was constructed c.1845–48 for John Allcard, a Quaker banker and stockbroker to the design of (Sir) Joseph Paxton, later architect of the Crystal Palace. The interior was largely fitted out by Augustus Welby Pugin, the great philosopher-architect of the Gothic Revival and the man responsible for the interior design of the Houses of Parliament. As the photo shows, Pugin's work at

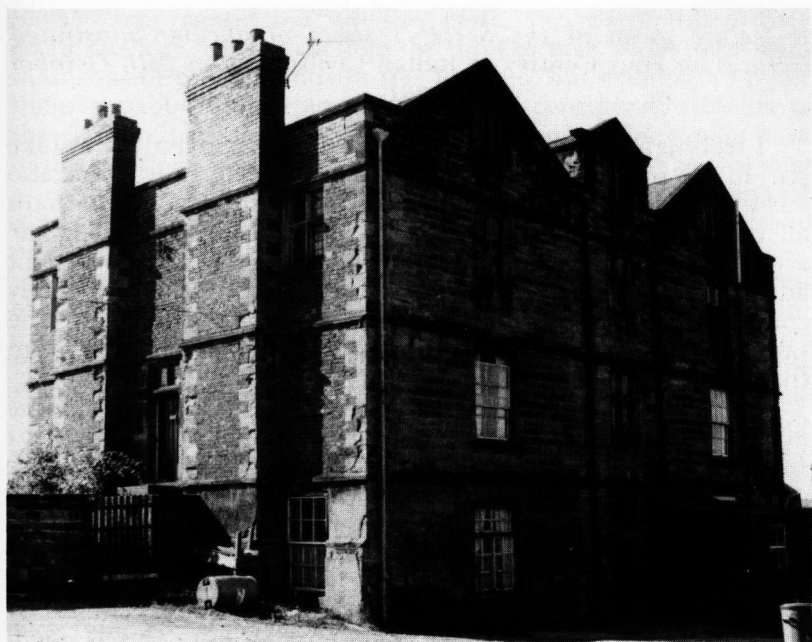


Burton Closes was of a high order. It was hard to take seriously an application, referred to the AMS in March 1982, to destroy the whole building, and it was swiftly turned down.

14. Barnsley, Yorkshire, Grimethorpe Hall

(Photos: Barnsley Council)

The two photographs would seem, at first sight, to show different buildings. In fact they show the principal elevations of the same country house, Grimethorpe Hall. The northern, gabled, façade, although altered by the insertion of 18th century sash windows, is constructed in stone and is typical of the vernacular of this area of Yorkshire. The southern elevation, however, is in brick and, although mutilated by the loss of its top floor, is a confident Baroque design, the central bay framed by giant pilasters. The Hall is firmly dated to 1669 yet it is almost as if the client, Robert Seaton, consciously commissioned a "polite" designer for the southern face and the local builder for that to the north.



A 1981 application to destroy the Hall, submitted by the National Coal Board, was rejected and the search continues for a new use.

