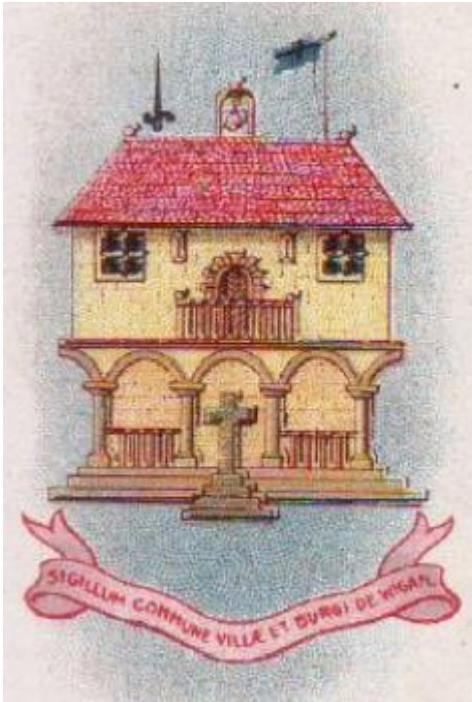


COMMON SEAL FOR THE BOROUGH OF WIGAN



From the 17th Century until 1922 the Moot Hall was the Coat of Arms/Seal for the Borough of Wigan.

The Latin insignia “Sigillum Commune Ville et Burgh de Wigan” translates to “Common Seal of the Town of Wigan”

The “old old” town hall, rebuilt in 1720 at the expense of the members for the borough and stood at the western side of the Market Place. It was pulled down and rebuilt in the first half of the 19th century. It stood on pillars, the space underneath being subsequently filled with shops. The moot-hall, a stone building in Wallgate, with meeting-rooms above and shops below, was demolished in 1869, and 'the new town hall' in 1882, this town hall and borough courts having been finished in 1867.

The Moot Hall (Common Seal) finds itself on much of Wigan’s Mayoral Regalia such was the identity of this former building of Wigan for many decades. It was always an unofficial town seal and only came to be replaced in 1922.



Town Hall built in 1867



Town Hall – 1940's

The Common Seal (MootHall) was incorporated over the Main Entrance at the junction of Rodney St and King St (see above)





When the façade became unsafe and was demolished, SAVE Wigan (now Wigan Building Preservation Trust) and the Council managed to recover the Seal and pediment(s).

This historical stonework is now safely stored in a Council facility.



Such an important piece of stonework and its historical context to the town deserves to be conserved and placed on public display at a convenient location within the town.

31st Oct 2019 – Visit (PF Notes)

Bill Varty and myself met with Louisa Attaheri (Museum), accompanied by Mark Burchall (WMBC) and Gary (Varty stonemason).

The first impression was the size!, when top and bottom section are joined the overall size would be 6ft 4 in tall and 9ft wide..... “didn’t seem that big when it resided on top of the Town Hall”

The assessment of Bill and Gary was the stonework was in very good condition for something that’s 150 years old.



Top Section



Bottom Section



Top Section



Bottom Section

There would be need to join the sections together with a more robust fixing mechanism, due to potential health and safety issues.

Also a discussion was had whether extensive cleaning was required to remove 150 years of Wigan grime or just a light clean to retain the existing ageing process.

Wherever the stonework would be placed within the town centre or another location would require extensive foundations requiring the services of a civil engineer, etc.

Additional transport costs would be required to move 1) from Ince to Varty's, Lower Ince, workshop, 2) from Lower Ince to the final destination. All moves would require a crane and lifting equipment.

The overall impression was the stonework, particularly the detail, was fine example of the stonemason's craft and the Victorians "civic pride".

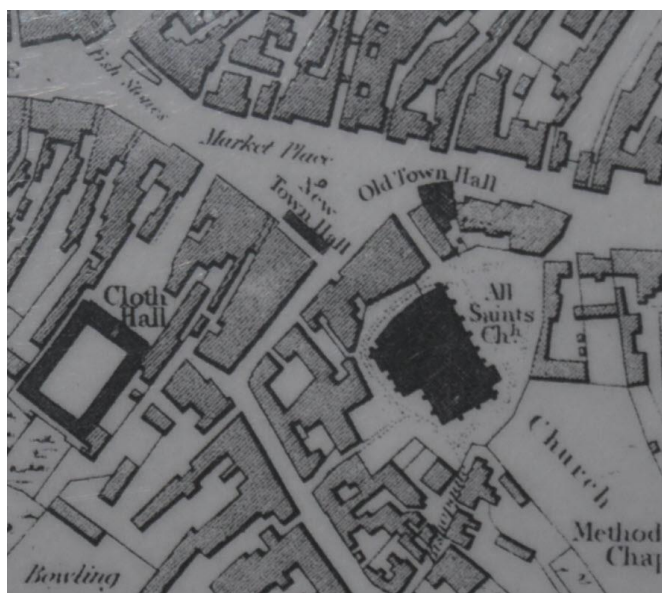
SEE NEXT PAGE (BOTHY STONEWORK)

More Moot Hall Stonework



Suggestion that this piece of stonework was recovered from a previous Town Hall a stone building in Wallgate, with meeting-rooms above and shops below, was demolished in 1869,.....

Located in "The Bothy" in the grounds of Haigh Hall.



Perhaps relocating this stonework is achievable within any financial constraints. The 1827 map above shows the location of the New Town Hall, the stonework could be placed near its original location.