

Addendum to Historical Research & Analysis at

Market Hall, Stanley Street, Holyhead

NGR SH 24630 82676 (Original Report Number CR47-2013)

1.0 Introduction

Beginning in 2013 C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Anglesey County Council to conduct historic research, analysis and building recording at the Market Hall, Stanley Street, Holyhead. The building is Grade II listed (Record Number 5763) and is located within the towns designated Conservation Area.

The Market Hall is situated in an urban setting and is located on Stanley Street in the centre of Holyhead, Anglesey. When the hall was built in 1855 it was the first public building erected in Holyhead. It was commissioned by the Hon. W. O. Stanley, designed by architect Mr. G. Edwards and built by Mr. J. Thomas. The Market Hall performed a number of roles and in addition to its function as a covered area for traders it also housed an assembly room, the Corn Exchange and a library/reading room for the Holyhead Mechanics Institute. The Holyhead Water Company operated from the Market Hall and the 1st Anglesey Artillery Volunteers were recording as having their depot at the building. The County Court sessions were held at the Market Hall every two months.

An initial report was produced by C.R Archaeology in September 2013 (CR47-2013) which detailed the history of the building and included a photographic record of the structure prior to the commencement of renovation works. This document has been produced as an addendum to the original report and adds a photographic record of features within the main body of the hall which were uncovered during the works at the site. These features are a stone built well in the south-western corner of the market building and a layer of original flagstones. As it was possible to access the front of the building via scaffolding during the site visit (carried out on 10/02/2017) additional photographs of the clock and associated inscriptions were also taken.

2.0 Results of Recording Works

During the renovations of the Market Hall a well was uncovered in the south-western corner of the building. This structure is an original feature and is mentioned in contemporary accounts of the building. In a North Wales Chronicle article dated 23rd June 1855 the newspaper reports “*At the top of the market is a well with a pump for clean water, and the rain-water from the roofs is conducted into a large iron tank to be used for common purposes, such as washing vegetable, &c*”. The well is shown in plates 1-5. It was not fully excavated and only the rubble from the top c.1m was removed. The well diameter was c. 1.7m. Figure 4 in the main report shows the pump in this area.

Also uncovered during the works was a large area of the original flagstone flooring described in the above newspaper article as “*The immense area of the Market Hall is floored with good Holywell flags*”. These are shown in plates 6-8.

Access to the upper levels of the building frontage was gained during the site visit and a more detailed record of the inscriptions made. It must however be noted that due to the positioning of the scaffolding these were only partially visible and are shown as plates 9-13. As recorded in the North Wales Chronicle 23rd June 1855 the full inscription reads: “*Erected by the Hon. W. O. Stanley, M.P., of Penrhos*” *Inscribed in scroll work on the same panel are the words “Marchnadfa Caergybi”. On the right-hand panel is the shield and arms of the Owen's of Penrhos, and on the left are carved the arms of the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley. The cornice of rich scroll work finishes with a centre pinnacle all of Stourton stone. Above the centre window is a clock encased in a circular moulded stone cornice with the following inscribed in raised letters around it: - “Designed by J. Edwards, J. Thomas, Builder”, with the year “1855” beneath*”.



Plates 1 - 4. Well Uncovered in the South-West Corner of the Market Hall



Plates 5. Sample Elevation of Well Uncovered in the South-West Corner of the Market Hall
Plates 6 - 8. Original Flagstone Floor Uncovered During Works to the Market Hall



Plates 9 - 13. Market Hall Clock Detail, Accompanying Carved Coats of Arms and Inscriptions