

**ALTERATION AND REPAIR
OF
EXISTING IRONMONGERY AND DECAYING
TIMBER
TO
THE BODLEY AND GARNER GATE
AT
MAGDALEN COLLEGE, HIGH STREET
OXFORD
OX1 4AU**

**HERITAGE STATEMENT COMPRISING THE DESIGN AND
ACCESS STATEMENT AND OUTLINE SCHEDULE OF WORKS
AND NOTES IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR LISTED
BUILDING CONSENT**

Ref: D/6/1174

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Appendix A: Copy of the Listing for Magdalen College

1.00 **GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Drawing List

1.01 The following notes are to be read in conjunction with the Listed Building Consent application and drawings:-

Photographic Schedule

6-1174-01-S : Bodley and Garner Gate as existing
6-1174-02-P : Bodley and Garner Gate proposals
6-1174-BP-01 : Block Plan.
6-1174-LP-01 : Location Plan.
Oxford Railings Method Statement

The statement “do not scale from the drawing” is included in accordance with our quality policy and is aimed at the contractor, as we do not wish the contractor to scale from drawings, as this can lead to problems in the construction phase. You will note that on the left-hand side of the drawing there are 11 graduation marks. These form “the metric reference graduation” This is required as paper is a natural product and may have some degree of dimensional instability. Subject to you using the graduation marks we confirm that you may scale from the drawing submitted. An additional scale bar has been added to the drawings submitted for Listed Building Consent.

Listing

1.02 This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest. The Gateway has a Grade II listing. A copy of the Listing details are included in Appendix A of this document.

2.00 **Use**

2.01 The gate is currently used as vehicular access to St John’s Quad. This includes access for maintenance, repair, deliveries etc. Given its close proximity to the College Lodge the requirement for access through the gate to make deliveries has increased significantly in recent years. As the lodge opens directly on to the High Street and with the heavy traffic on that road it means that deliveries must be made through the gate. This is managed by the Head Porter.

3.00 **Amount of Development and Scope of Works**

3.01 The proposed works are detailed on the documents submitted in item 1.01 of this document.

3.02 The amount of development is the minimum required to achieve the users requirements. The proposal is, as far as is practicable, reversible with minimal intervention into the building fabric.

3.03 The existing timber is showing signs of decay which requires immediate attention. The proposal shall be to undertake a series of splice repairs in a traditional manner using materials to match existing. Locations of the repairs can be seen on drawing 02-P.

3.04 The existing brace arrangement has caused a number of serious accidents, including broken bones. The College has reduced the amount of people allowed to open the gates and has provided training to those that are allowed to use it. Despite this, accidents are still occurring and the College is concerned that the current brace arrangement poses a significant health and safety risk to those operating the gate. Due to the requirement for frequent operation of this gate, as detailed under section 2.01, the College have identified the need for alterations to the existing ironmongery to make it safer to operate.

3.05 A copy of Oxford Railings Method Statement is appended to this application and shall be read in conjunction with the Photographic Schedule and drawings. The proposed works identified in the Method Statement aims to retain the majority of the original metal mechanisms and repurpose some of them so that they perform different functions, but ones that do not disguise their original purpose. For example, it is proposed that the metal brace is fixed in a vertical position and a boss installed to the rear of the brace plate with a notch to receive a proposed new sliding arm that is required to prevent the doors distorting. The original brace fixed in an upright position will also function as a handle and enable the left-hand door leaf to be opened more easily. Despite being fixed in place, the original function of the brace will be easily legible, aided by the scarring on the door.

3.06 In order to undertake these works to the standard required, the gates must be removed and taken off site. Whilst off-site the College would like to take the opportunity to overhaul the hinges and pins. This shall include the extraction of pins from the stonework by a stonemason including the reinstallation and making good adjacent to match existing. A temporary independent hoarding gate will be installed while the original gates are off site to retain College security.

4.00 **Layout and Scale**

4.01 The proposed layout and scale of the alterations are detailed on the drawings submitted with the application. The proposed alterations fall within the existing building envelope.

5.00 **Access**

5.01 Access to the building will remain as existing.

6.00 **Appearance**

6.01 It is proposed that the south face of the gateway, to the High Street, will not be affected. To the north facing side of the gateway the ironmongery will be overhauled and adjusted to make operation safer. The ironmongery changes are detailed on drawing 02-P submitted with this application.

7.00 **Heritage Statement** **(Referenced from Alex Wenham Ltd report dated 13 January 2018)**

7.01 The gateway opens directly onto Oxford High Street and forms vehicular access into St John's Quad, next to the porters' lodge. The current Bodley and Garner gate was completed in 1885 replacing Pugin's gate of 1844. Early evidence suggest that Magdalen College always had an entrance gateway on to the High Street with reference in the founders statutes of 1480/1481 containing regulations about the nightly closing of the gates. [Cited in H.A. Wilson, University of Oxford College Histories, 1899, p.43] Previous locations of the gate are a matter of speculation.

Pugin's gate of 1844

7.02 Many documents concerning this gateway, particularly correspondence between Pugin and Bloxam, are kept in the Magdalen College archive. Some sketches and images have been reproduced below:



AWN Pugin, street elevation and section of proposed High Street gate, MC:FAI7/3/IAD/I fol. 5

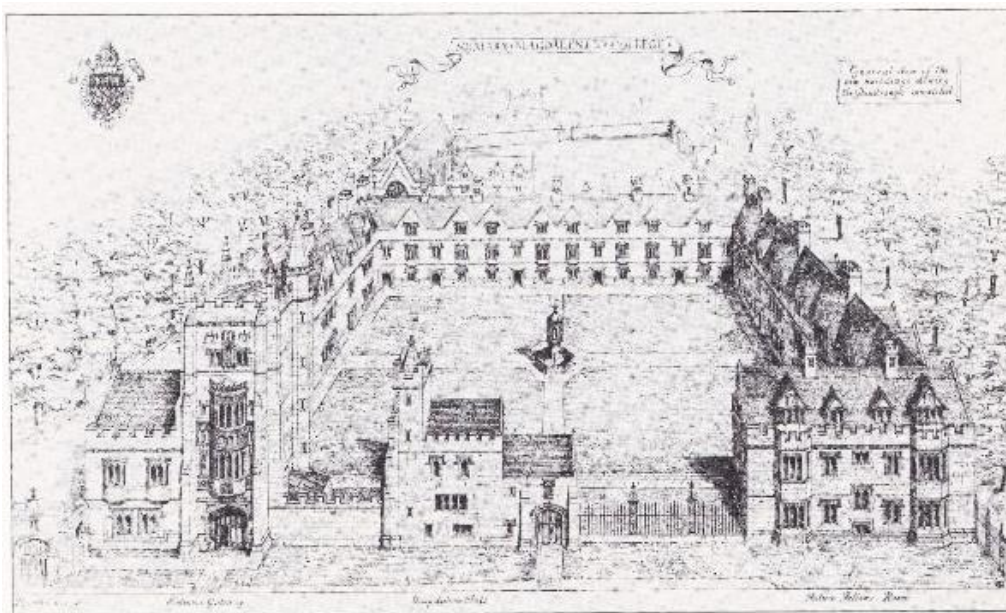


*St John's Quad elevation of the Pugin gate, with adjoining porters' 'small room' (and porter)
MC:FAI/9/4P/2*



*Street elevation of Pugin's gate shortly before its demolition in 1883 [Roger White, *The Architectural Drawings of Magdalen College Oxford: a Catalogue*, 2001]*

- 7.03 The gateway, Pugin's only executed work in Oxford, was to last only forty years before being replaced following the St Swithin's Quadrangle redevelopment.
- 7.04 In 1879, The Magdalen Hall site, acquired earlier in the century, was selected as the location for a new development. Four well-known architects were invited to compete for the work of a new Quadrangle to be named after St Swithin.



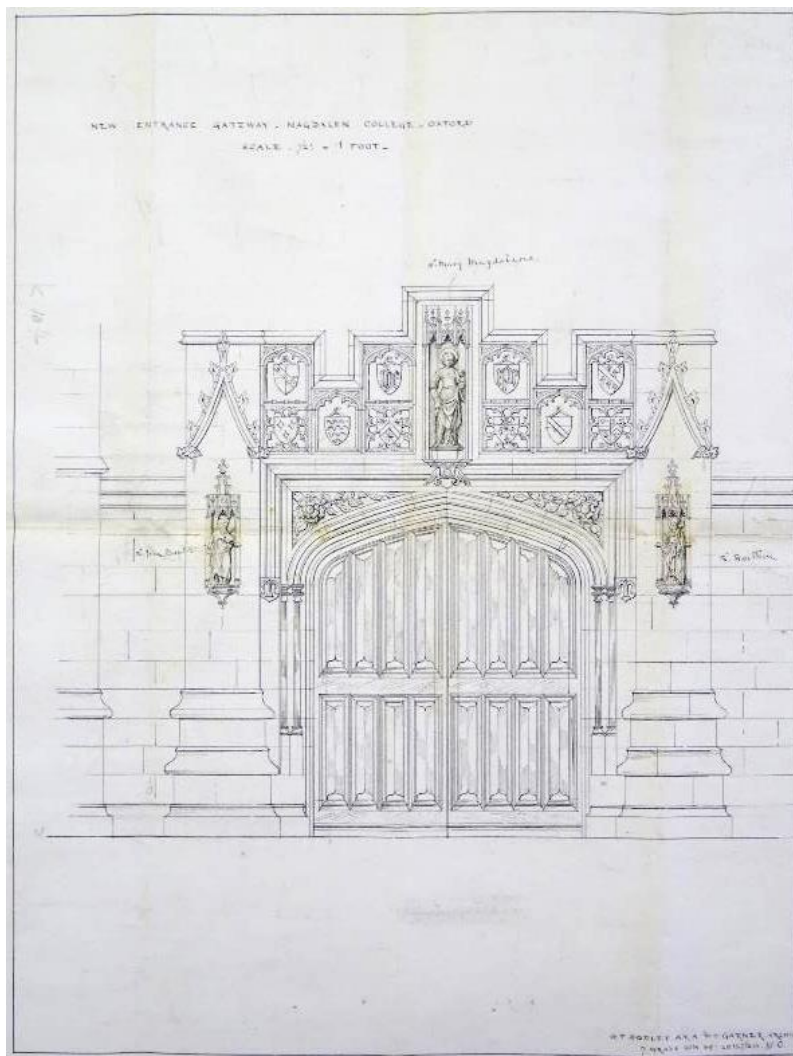
Bodley and Garner, winning design for St Swithin's Quadrangle, 1879 [Ibid. p.103]

7.05 It is significant to note that none of the original proposals involved the removal or alteration of the Pugin gate. The Pugin gate did not stand along the line of the present low wall with merlons and railings which now divides the south-west side of St John's Quad from the grassy area previously known as 'Gravel Walk' in front of the St Swithin's buildings. Despite its inclusion in Bodley and Garner's winning plans for St Swithin's, Pugin's gate was afterwards found to be too awkwardly situated to remain the principal entry point of the College in its new configuration. The architects and the College considered different solutions to this problem which included both the Pugin gate's relocation and its replacement. In 1883 the decision had been made and the College invited Bodley and Garner to design a new gateway for the south side of St John's Quad.

The Present Gateway of Bodley and Garner

7.06 In the Magdalen College archive two drawings exist which relate to this entrance gateway. One is the High Street elevation of the proposed gateway (below). The title reads 'New Entrance Gateway Magdalen College Oxford', and the figures in the niches are identified (l-r) as St John the Baptist, St Mary Magdalene and St Swithun.

7.07 On the reverse of the drawing is a sketch in three coloured pencil lines showing the estimated internal dimensions of the Pugin gate, those of the proposed gate, and those specified by the college. As shown by the note on the back, this design was rejected by the College as this arch was significantly lower than the College's specifications and would in fact have been an inch lower than Pugin's, while the College wanted it two feet higher.



MC:FA7/4/IAD/I

- 7.08 In architectural terms this drawing does not differ radically from the revised version of the gate as actually built. Besides the identities of the figures in the niches, the principal difference is that the central crenelated section of carved detail has been raised relative to the two buttresses (presumably to solve the problem of the arch-height). In addition the miniature pairs of capitalled engaged columns in the jambs have been eliminated, as has a portion of the proposed carved detail from the panels in the crenelated section; and the carved detail in the spandrels has been altered.
- 7.09 During the revisions there was also a re-evaluation of the identities of the personages to be honoured in the niche statues. In the final version St Mary Magdalene of course retained her place of honour in the upper central niche, but St John the Baptist was replaced by William Waynflete, the founder of the college, and St Swithin was replaced by the figure of a king, presumably Henry VI during whose reign the College was founded.
- 7.10 The new entrance was finished in 1885 and is photographed below by Henry Taunt:



Oxford University Images OHC000945-01

- 7.11 At some point in the last 138 years the iron railings have been removed from the front of the archway. Stumps of ironwork from this railing remain embedded in the buttresses, and set amongst the paving cobbles under the arch two curved lengths of smooth masonry show where its opening parts swung inwards.
- 8.00 **Conclusion**
- 8.01 The Bodley and Garner Gateway West of Range on High Street is a Grade II listed building.
- 8.02 Magdalen College have identified the need to improve the existing ironmongery arrangement and repair decaying timber.
- 8.03 Where alterations are detailed, they have been designed in such a way as to be reversible as well as being sympathetic to the existing gateway.
- 8.04 The proposed scheme meets the requirements of Magdalen College, whilst recognising the importance and historic significance of the building, with minimal intervention.

APPENDIX A – LISTING

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, GATEWAY WEST OF RANGE ON HIGH STREET

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **II**

List Entry Number: **1369635**

Date first listed: **29-Jan-1968**

List Entry Name: **MAGDALEN COLLEGE, GATEWAY WEST OF RANGE ON HIGH STREET**

Statutory Address 1: **MAGDALEN COLLEGE, GATEWAY WEST OF RANGE ON HIGH STREET**

Location

Statutory Address: **MAGDALEN COLLEGE, GATEWAY WEST OF RANGE ON HIGH STREET**

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Oxfordshire**

District: **Oxford (District Authority)**

Parish: **Non Civil Parish**

National Grid Reference: **SP 52041 06194**

Details

MAGDALEN COLLEGE 1. 1485 Gateway West of Range on High Street SP 5206 SW 10/419R 29.1.68. II 2. 1845. Designed by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin. Single stone arch with stepped gable over. Wooden doors.

Listing NGR: SP5204106195

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **244992**

Legacy System: **LBS**

Sources

Other Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, Part 34 Oxfordshire

Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.