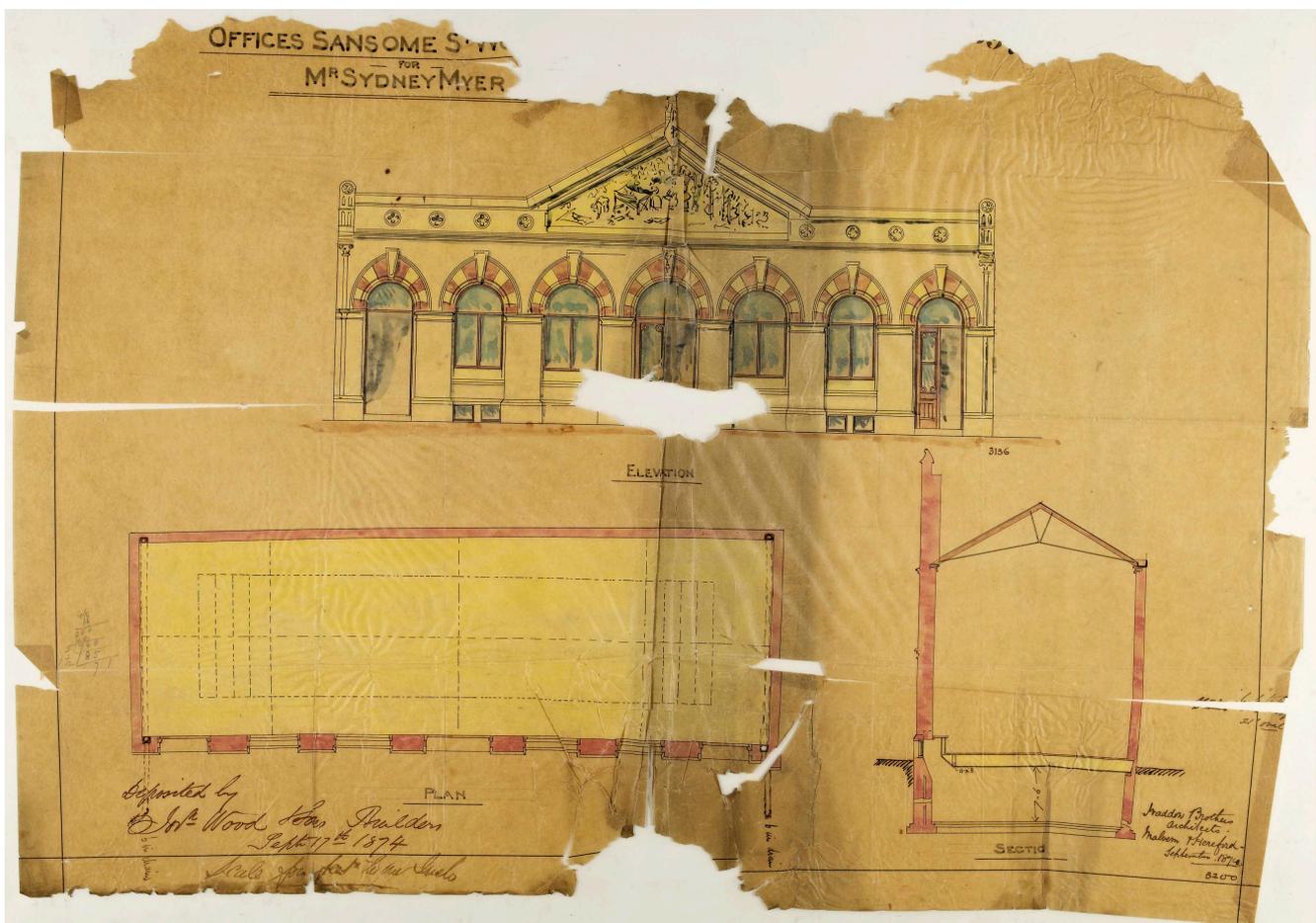


## Worcester City Council HER Monument Full Report: WCM98982

Additional Information (David Patten 18.11.2013)

"NEW HOP-WAREHOUSES - The hop-warehouses erected by Mr. Sidney Myer in Sansome-street form a handsome structure, several features of which are exceptionally attractive. The building is in the Venetian Gothic style of architecture, and is surmounted by a Bath stone parapet and central pediment, containing a sculptured representation of a hop-yard in picking season. In the foreground are two male figures pole-pulling, one on either side of a group of female hop-pickers. In the background appear luxuriant clusters of the bine. The building was erected according to the plans of Messrs. Haddon, of Malvern and Hereford, by Messrs. J. Wood and Sons. The carving was entrusted to Mr. Forsyth, sculptor, of this city."

- Worcester Journal 13.05.1875



### NOTES ON DRAWING:

Drawing for 'Offices Sansome Street for Mr Sydney Myer'

Plan, elevation and section by Haddon Brothers, Architects, Malvern & Hereford, September 1874. Deposited by Joseph Wood & Sons, Builders, 17th September 1874.

### Design:

The site was purchased by Sidney Myer on 16.05.1874 (details below), and the plans were deposited by the builder on 17.09.1874. The elevation shows a sketch of the composition for the 'Hop Pickers' sculptural relief, indicating that its general arrangement had been agreed by artist and architect before the drawing was

made. Although there is some variation between the sketch and the final work, both make use of a crouching figure to the left and vertical divisions (hop frames) throughout. The obvious similarities between the sketch and the final work suggest that the artist and architect worked closely together through the design process (rather than the architect leaving a blank area for the artist to fill post-Planning/construction).

In a letter to Alderman Brotherton dated 21.02.1961 (ref: Worcestershire Record Office, ref. 4965 BA9360/C15/Box 4b/7/1-7), George Edward Sprague (1880 – 1861), a later apprentice to the sculptor William Forsyth, remembers that in about 1895 there were “scattered about the studio parts of the plaster model for the above piece of sculpture [the ‘Hop Pickers’]. The old stone sawyer who had been with William Forsyth all his working life was proud to recall how he has posed for the lefthand figure of the group.”

It is likely that the “old stone sawyer” seen crouching at the left of the ‘Hop Pickers’ was William Pritchard (1846 – u/k) who was working for William Forsyth from at least 1868, and is listed in the 1911 Census as a “Stone Mason’s Labourer.”

The ‘Hop Pickers’ sculptural relief is ‘all of a piece’ with the other Bath stone detailing and sunflower terracottas of 1 to 7a Sansome Street, and are most likely all the work of William Forsyth’s Monumental Studio.

#### Artist & Architect:

William Forsyth was working with both Haddon brothers on separate projects in the late 1860s/early 1870s: with George C. Haddon on Warwick House in Malvern for Cox and Painters (department store) in 1867; and Malvern College for Henry R. Haddon in 1870. By 1871, though, William Forsyth’s connection with the Haddon Brothers was via Henry R. Haddon only, and they worked together on numerous projects until at least 1887.

In the same year that the ‘Hop Pickers’ was conceived (1874), William Forsyth and Henry R. Haddon were working on Priory Park Mansion, now Malvern Hills District Council. On this basis, and despite the client (Sydney Myer) being based in Hereford, it is likely that the architect for the new offices at Sansome Street was Henry R. Haddon (Malvern) rather than his elder brother, George C. Haddon (Hereford).

#### Artist & Builder:

William Forsyth worked with the builder Joseph Wood & Son from at least 1865 until at least 1890. Their first project together was probably Davenham Bank for the Perrins family, on which they were both still working in 1890.

#### Material:

The ‘Hop Pickers’ is in Bath stone, a material that Forsyth used on numerous occasions. His supplier for Bath stone in the early 1870s was Messrs Randall Sauders & Co Ltd, Quarrymen & Stone Merchants, of Corsham, Wiltshire.

### **SUMMARY NOTES ON CHARACTERS:**

#### **SYDNEY MYER & SANSOME STREET**

Hop Merchant and Brewer (trading as Sydney Myer junior “doing business” in London, Hereford and Worcester), born Hereford 1841 and living 24 Richmond Place, Hereford (1871 Census). Died London 1911.

1873 Littlebury’s Directory & Gazetteer

Myer, Sydney, hop merchant, 1 Sansome Street; and at Hereford.

Worcestershire Chronicle 18.04.1874

Sales by Auction

FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND

MR. BENTLEY

Is instructed to sell by the CORPORATION OF WORCESTER  
TO SELL BY AUCTION

...

A PIECE OF FREEHOLD LAND,  
containing 51 Square Yards, situate on the North side of SANSOME STREET, opposite the Hop Market Hotel,  
and offering a most eligible site for the erection of Offices for the business of a Hop Merchant.

Worcester Journal 16.05.1874

PROPERTY SALES - On Monday evening last Messrs. Hobbs held an auction at the saracen's Head; there was a very large attendance and the bidding was exceedingly spirited.

...

A piece of freehold building land, lying on the north side of Sansome-street, containing 51 square yards, was knocked down to Mr. Sydney Myer for £605, the highest price per yard (nearly £12), we believe ever obtained in this city.

Worcester Journal 13.05.1875

NEW HOP-WAREHOUSES - The hop-warehouses erected by Mr. Sidney Myer in Sansome-street form a handsome structure, several features of which are exceptionally attractive. The building is in the Venetian Gothic style of architecture, and is surmounted by a Bath stone parapet and central pediment, containing a sculptured representation of a hop-yard in picking season. In the foreground are two male figures pole-pulling, one on either side of a group of female hop-pickers. In the background appear luxuriant clusters of the bine. The building was erected according to the plans of Messrs. Haddon, of Malvern and Hereford, by Messrs. J. Wood and Sons. The carving was entrusted to Mr. Forsyth, sculptor, of this city.

1884 & 1888 Kelly's Directory

Myer Sidney (sic), hop merchant, 1 Sansome Place.

Huddersfield Chronicle 08.10.1890

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883

RECEIVING ORDERS

SYNEY MYER, lately trading as Sydney Myer, jun., Hereford, hop merchant.

London Gazette 20.03.1891

APPLICATIONS FOR DEBTORS' DISCHARGE

Myer, Sydney (lately trading as Sydney Myer the younger), Hereford, Hop Merchant.

1892 Kelly's Directory

Hey Thomas & Sons, hop & seed factors, 1 Sansome Street.

1900 Kelly's Directory

Collett, Clegg & Co, hop merchants, 1 Sansome Street.

#### **HADDON BROTHERS**, architects

George Cowley Haddon (1839 - 1885), occ. Architect, of 36 Bridge Street, Hereford (1879 Post Office Directory), and Illustrator of Francis Tibbs Hevergal's 'Fasti Herefordenses: And Other Antiquarian Memorials of Hereford' (1869). Partner in the practice of Elmslie, Franey & Haddon until 1865, and then in partnership with his brother, Henry R. Haddon (1823 - 1893), as Haddon Brothers, Architects of Malvern and Hereford. "Of local architects, E. W. Elmslie...was especially busy. His partners and successors, the brothers George C. and Henry Haddon, were yet busier, the latter running their Malvern office c. 1863-93 (with George based in Hereford)" [Brooks & Pevsner, 2007].

Henry R. Haddon (1823 - 1893), occ. Architect & Surveyor, of 38 Lansdowne Court (1871 Census) and Rockcliffe Church Street (1891 Census), s/o William Haddon 1794-1865, occ. Joiner, and brother of George C. Haddon (1839 - 1885).

#### **JOSEPH WOOD & SON**, builder

Joseph Wood (1796 - 1887), occ. Builder Employing 139 Men (1851 Census) and Mayor of Worcester (1861 Census) & son Joseph Sharman Wood (1833 - 1921), occ. Builder, of 31 Lower Butts (1871 Census). Joseph Wood & Sons, The Butts, & at Diglis & Grimley, Worcester (1870 Kelly's Directory).