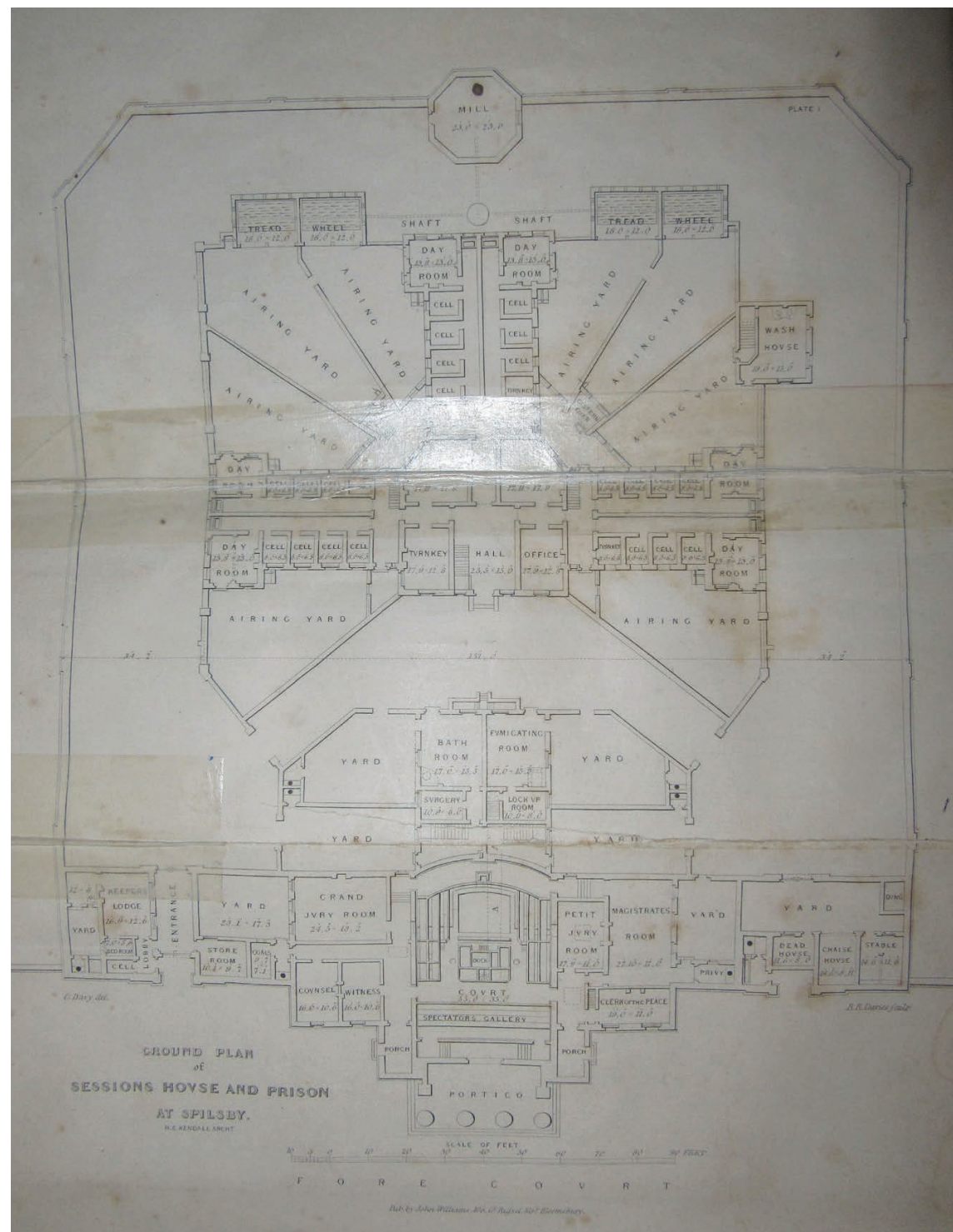


# Existing Building Development



1820s ground floor plan

The "Old Sessions House" was originally constructed in 1827 as a court and gaol (House of Correction) to serve Lindsey, one of three administrative Parts of Lincolnshire at the time. The architect was H. E. Kendall (1776–1875). The building was rigorously specified and executed to a robust and high standard. The drawings and specifications were included as one of eight case studies in C. Davy's 1841 publication *Architectural Precedents*.

The majority of the original prison, which was considerably larger than the parts that now remain, was demolished, but the building retains its imposing sandstone Greek Doric portico and sandstone-dressed adjoining buildings, with further brick buildings to the rear dating from the 1870s.

## Outline Chronology

1824-1827: Construction of courthouse and prison, host to the Lindsey quarter sessions from 1827 to 1872.

1870s: Demolition of the majority of the prison, retaining the courtroom and side buildings, with alterations and new construction to form magistrates' court and police station with police house and a few cells.

1880s: Adjacent streets and houses built over the site of the prison.

1970s: End of use as a court and police station.

1984: Purchase and conversion to a theatre, with the majority of the building's features retained intact.

2000s: Decline in condition and maintenance of the building.

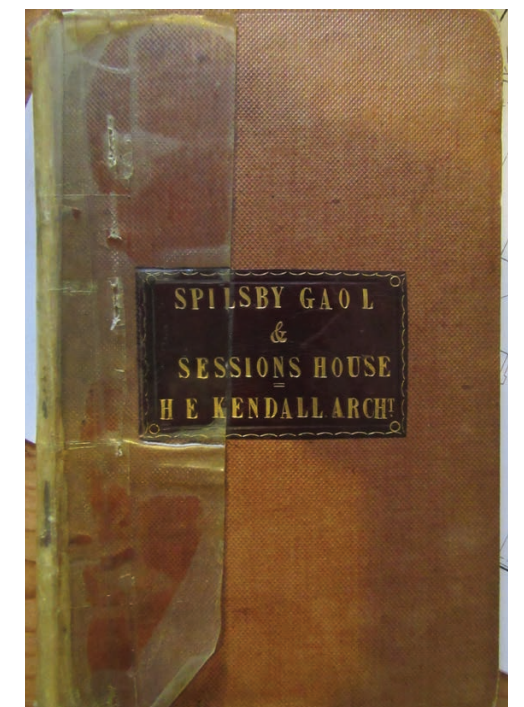
2017: Operation of the building taken on by The Sessions House CIC and the Sessions House project initiated.



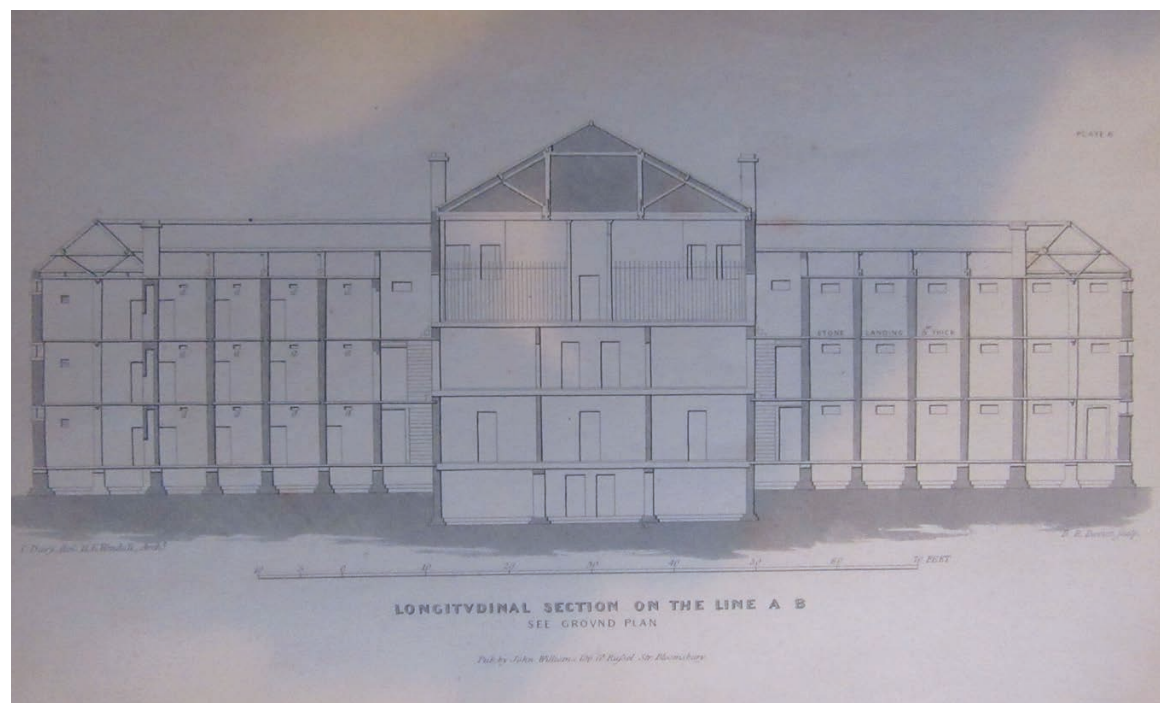
# Existing Building Development



*1820s front elevation*



*1841 publication*



*1820s prison block section*



*1820s prison block elevation*



# Existing Building Photographs



*the building front today remains largely as seen in the 1820s*



*adjoining western wing; the bay window is an 1870s addition to form a desk sergeant's office*



*courtroom; the scaffold to the left is currently supporting two failed main roof trusses*



# Existing Building Photographs



*the elegant, former magistrate's retiring room*



*rear of the courtroom*



*the magistrate's retiring room is original 1820s*



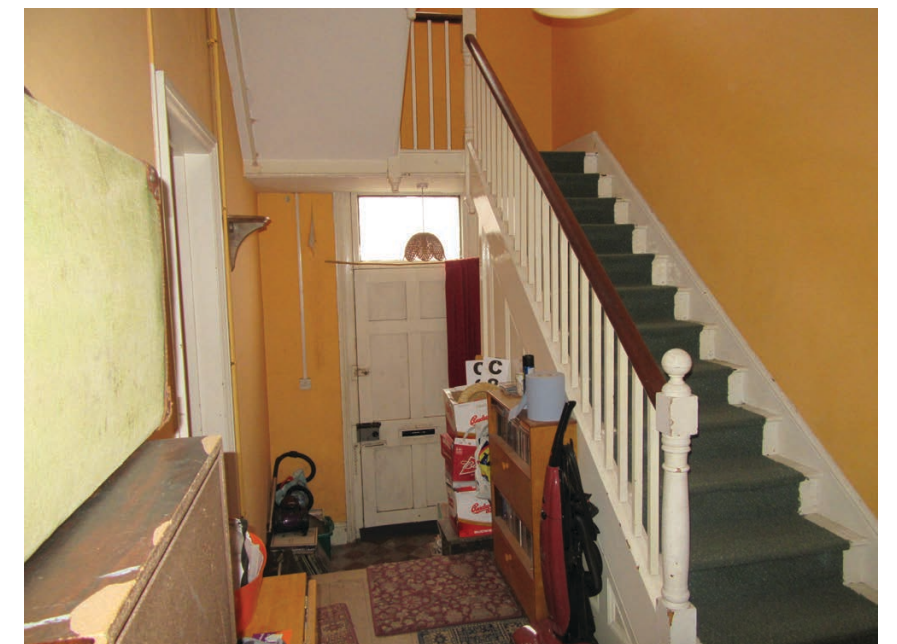
# Existing Building Photographs



*police house, 1870s; the joint in the brickwork between the 1870s and 1820s construction can be seen to the far right of the photograph*



*yard buildings, 1870s onwards*



*staircase of the police house*