



Former St. Probus School, now converted into residential accommodation

St. Probus School occupied several large buildings in Manor Road, Salisbury.

It was founded not long after WWI in the early part of the 1920s by the Reverend Leonard T. Hoare, M.A. with the Deputy Head being J. Desmond Anderson.

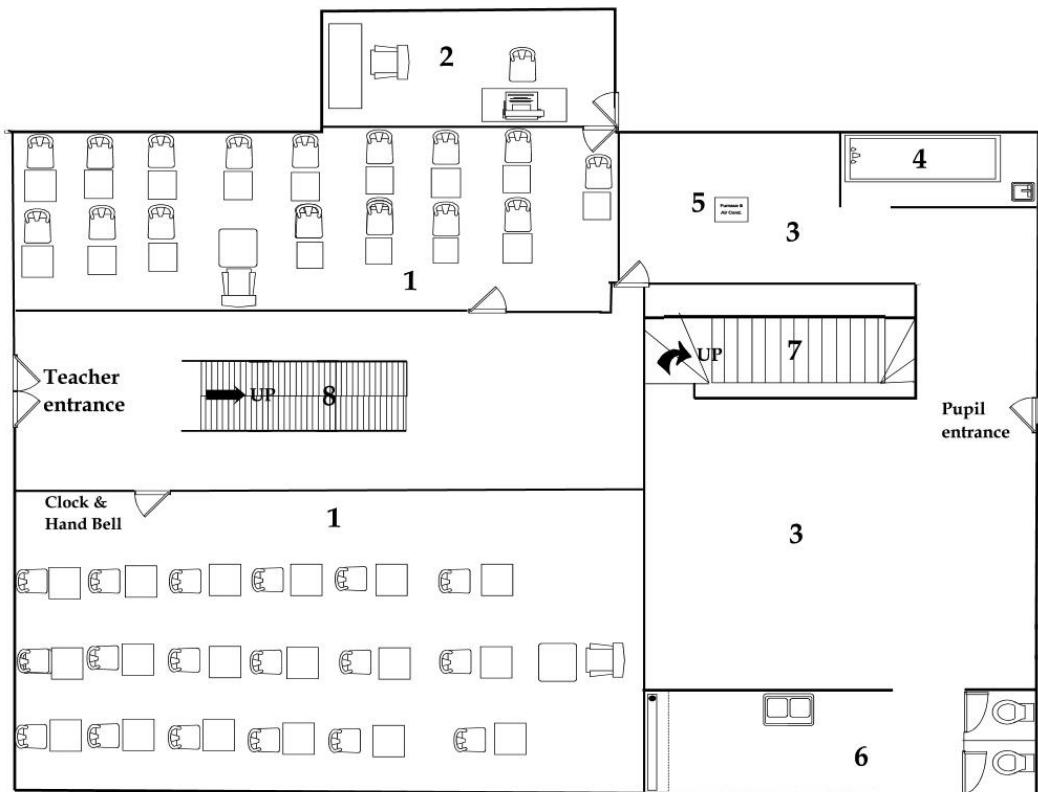
It expanded and in the 1930's and by 1932 J. D. Anderson became Head, with his wife teaching Kindergarten/Juniors.

Anderson was advertising the school in the press as having fully qualified university graduates as teachers but, surprisingly, doesn't appear to have any qualifications himself

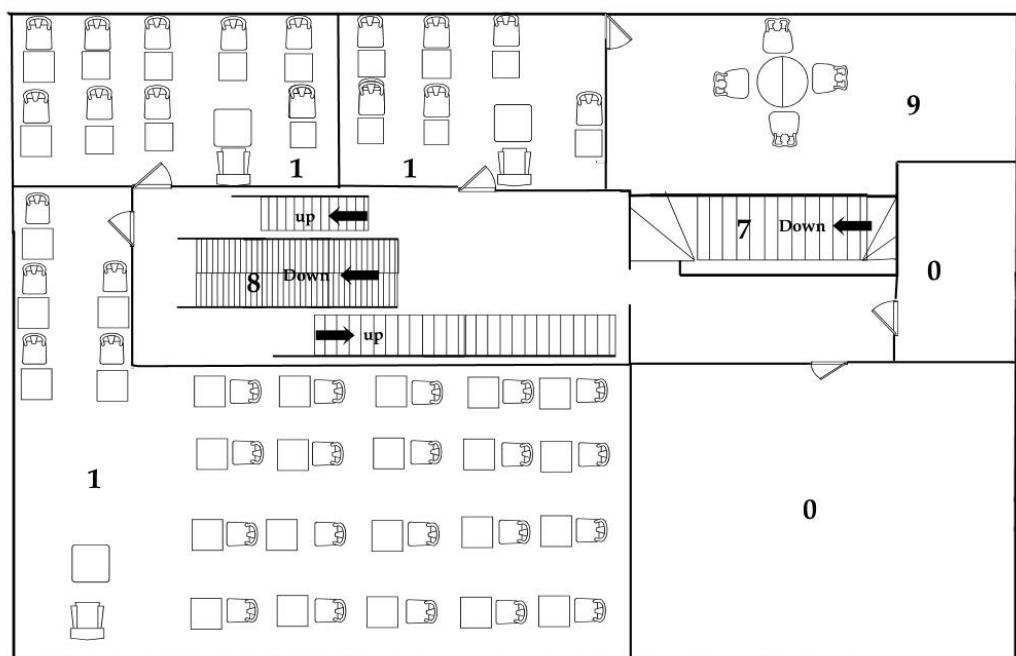
By the 1940's there were both day and boarding pupils, aged from 8 to 18, and a Pre-Preparatory department for those aged from 4 to 8 years.

At its height in the early 1950's the school occupied four large houses, three in Manor Road and a house on London Road which could be accessed by a pathway from opposite the main class rooms house at number 20 Manor Road. This London Road housed a teacher and his wife and had just one classroom with the cloakroom being what was the old coal cellar. The school house (nearest the St. Marks Church end) housed teachers and families plus the Carpentry and allied subjects classrooms. The large house further on towards Kelsey Hill housed the Headmasters family, boarders, dining room, and in wooden buildings, the science room and gym. During WWII it was here that the deep cellar was used by pupils when there was an air raid under the supervision of the Headmasters wife, Mrs. Anderson. Next there was number 20 Manor Road, photographed above, which housed the main classrooms, Headmasters Office and Secretary, play areas and bicycle shed. The floor plan of 20 Manor Road has been reproduced below.

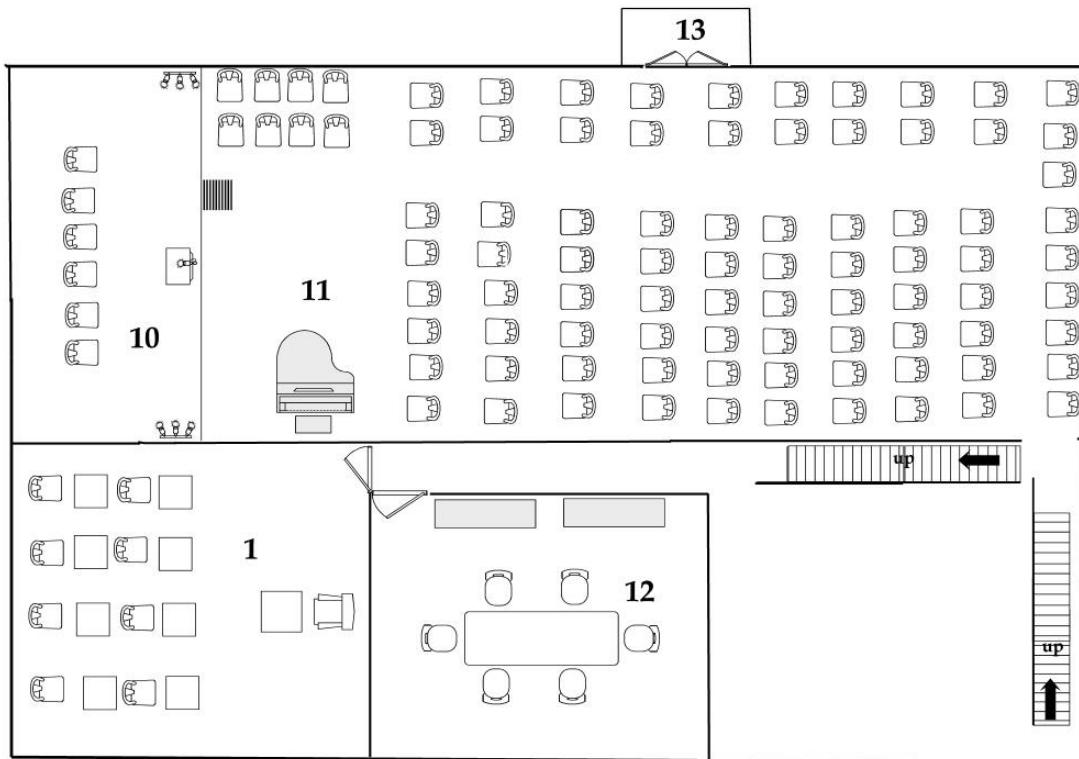
<p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATIONAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ST. PROBUS SCHOOL, MANOR ROAD, SALISBURY. DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS 8—18. Pre-Preparatory Department for Boys aged 4—8. Headmaster: D. O. FRENCH, B.A. Prospectus from the School Secretary. Visitors are welcome at the School at any time.</p>



Ground Floor Footprint



Second Floor Footprint



Third Floor Footprint

Floor Layout Legend at St. Probus

1. Classrooms
2. Headmasters Office & Secretary
3. Pupil changing rooms (shoes and outdoor clothing)
4. Sports bath
5. Water and Central heating boiler (Coal and Coke)
6. Toilets
7. Pupil stairs
8. Teacher and Prefects stairs
9. Teachers room
10. Stage
11. Assembly Hall
12. Pupil room
13. Balcony
0. Unknown

In the 1940's the Head Master was Mr. Anderson and later Dr. V. Moore (who later ended up in court) followed by Mr. David O. French, M.A. in the early 1950s with his wife acting as Matron. Both were well thought of and they had two children. Pupil numbers expanded during Mr. French's time, so much so that the sixth form pupils had to walk to the town centre to have lunch in a restaurant near the George Inn since the main school building facilities could not cope with the numbers. The school playing fields were in nearby Laverstock, the pavilion and workshop being two railway goods carriages.

It was Dr. Moore who introduced the new uniform which was a bright red with silver braid around the jacket edges which was very noticeable and decreed that the uniform had to be worn at all times in all situations. Wearing of red caps was mandatory. Raincoats were blue but sixth form could wear gabardine.

There were six prefects at any one time who wore a metal badge on their left lapel. Pupils were divided within the system into four school 'inter-houses', one being Anderson House, another School House.

Everyone, except prefects, had to change into indoor shoes in two large cloakrooms on the ground floor. Here, in a well to create a low point, resided a large coke boiler coaxed into life every winter morning by an old man named Tom. Pupils entered the classroom areas to the first floor upwards via a dark narrow twisting staircase, previously the servants access. Only teachers and prefects could use the wide main central staircase, a grand affair from the building's residential days.

Timothy Walker said:

I attended the school from 1944 until 1955. I remember it well. I have drawn up site plans of the main school building (remember the wide central staircase?) as it was and would be pleased to share if anyone wants a copy. Plus a lot of other points of interest. There always was a strong Canadian interest at the school. I wonder why. Main building is now a block of flats.

Nearby in Park Street was a private Girls School, playing fields at Somerset Road, and the private Modern School in Fairview Road, headmaster there for many years was Mr. Smith. This school was always considered to be some sort of rivals in sport to that of St. Probus.

St. Probus School Photograph 1953

The photograph shows staff and pupils at the school in 1953. Some names have been put forward but since it is not a clear comprehensive list it has been omitted from this document for the time being. If anyone can name the staff or pupils please let the Administrator know.

Circled in photograph number two is Tim Walker, who has kindly donated this information.





St Probus School 1953

2