

HENRY MOSES WOOD 1788-1867

This account by Ken Brand of Wood's life and works was published in two parts in Newsletters 151 (April 2013) and 152 (September 2013). Some revisions were made in 2018 before inclusion in this archive.

For a man prominent in the town of Nottingham for well over forty years there is surprisingly little written about Henry Moses Wood, architect, cartographer, Borough Surveyor with a private practice, commercial agent and, for a time, politician. A short appreciation was printed in the *Nottingham Daily Guardian* of 30 September 1867 following his death, and on the same day a brief obituary appeared in the *Nottingham Journal*. The present account of Wood's career has entailed a trawl through, among other sources, Nottingham's Borough Records. There is less documentary evidence than for later architects because he died before legislation was in place to submit building plans to the Council for approval.



Illustration 1: Forest Lodge

Wood's most distinctive surviving building is The Lodge at the Mansfield Road end of the Forest. Every day this building is passed by hundreds of people, but perhaps not 'seen'. In a rather sad state over 25 years ago, it was renovated by C R Crane and Son Ltd at a cost of some £20,000. The work was prepared and supervised by the late John Severn, architect and a former Chair of Nottingham Civic Society. Now once again, in 2012-13, the building is being renovated as part of the overall refurbishment of The Forest made possible by the award of a Heritage Lottery Grant.

It has always been regarded as something of a friendly oddity; quaint, rather ill-proportioned, yet interesting. It was designed as a Police Station and shown as such on Salmon's plan of Nottingham (1861). There was hope for its future as a desirable dwelling after that earlier restoration, but it is in the wrong place for most people. In the intervening years it has been badly neglected and has from time to time attracted squatters, been tidied up, then neglected – a repeating cycle.

The building was completed early in 1857; Henry Moses Wood was then the Borough Surveyor and quite a respected figure in the town. In Pevsner's *Buildings of Nottinghamshire* (1979 edition) the observation of the building is succinct: '...cruciform,

stucco, and of the Greek Revival type. It has a Greek Doric portico on one side and Tuscan porticoes on the others, the whole only the size of a cottage.'

Rather more pointed criticism can be found in the diary of a local stock and share broker Samuel Collinson (1812-90), who recorded events between the years 1846-70:

'1857, Friday, 21 February. Afternoon up to top of Mansfield Road, looked in at the church cemetery - then to view Moses Wood's last absurdity in the architectural line, this is a Lodge for a keeper of the ground about the race course, it is a cruciform Grecian Temple built of brick and will be all columns and stucco - the Town Council ought to be ashamed of spending the Town money in such a manner.'

Henry Moses Wood was born in Basford in 1788, but much of his childhood was spent in a house on Trentside. He later recalled the great flood of 1795, when his family had to live for some time in the upper storey of their house. Although he was educated at the Grammar School to the age of 12 years, he felt indebted to a Mr Harris, 'the private tutor of some of the best families in Nottingham', for the education he possessed. On leaving school he was placed in the drapery business of Worthington and Co in the Market Place. Probably because of his undoubted drawing skills he moved to the offices of Edward Staveley, the Corporation Surveyor, where he remained for several years. He left, possibly in 1812, in order to set up his own practice.

In 1811 he married Miss Wilson of Shelford Manor; they were to have eleven children. Hodson's Nottingham Directory of 1814 lists H M Wood as a 'Surveyor, Parliament Street' and also as agent for the Eagle Fire Office. This suggests he had left Staveley's office and now had his own practice. By the mid-1820s he had moved to Park Street (now Upper Friar Lane), which was to be his home and business address for the rest of his working life. Like many men of his time, Wood was involved in various commercial activities. In Pigot's 1819 Directory, he had become 'Land Surveyor' and additionally agent to the Commercial Wine Company; by 1822 he was listed as 'Architect'; later still, in 1828, he was a Brick-maker of New Snenton (*sic*) as well as 'Architect and Land Surveyor'. In time one of his sons, Henry Walter, joined his practice.

Commissions from the years before Wood's employment by Nottingham Corporation include St Peter's Radford (1812), when he was only 24 years old, and probably The Grange, Bramcote (circa 1830). Further afield: 'The largest house I have been engaged for was Sir William Welby's, which cost £18,000.' He was also the architect for buildings at Darley Abbey, Derby. (*See Editor's endnote*)

Wood's early talent as a cartographer can be seen in a series of manuscript maps he prepared for Lord Manvers in 1810-11, beautiful and meticulous; in his Book of Plans

(1801-59) for Nottingham Corporation; in his Map of the Estate of Gregory Gregor Esq of Lenton (1818-23); and in his Map of the Nottingham-Derby Turnpike (1826). In 1825 he produced a Plan of Nottingham, a plain forerunner of the important and very impressive Map of Nottingham undertaken with his mentor Edward Staveley, surveyed during 1827-29 and published at two scales in 1830 and 1831. The maps prepared for William Dearden's Directories of Nottingham in 1834 and 1844 were largely based on these reliable maps of Staveley and Wood. As will be seen, after his appointment as Borough Surveyor in 1837 he prepared several plans of the town for specific purposes.

By the late 1820s Henry Moses Wood, was the Surveyor to the Trustees of Collin's Hospital. On 21 August 1828 it was reported to the Council that Wood had put forward on behalf of the Trustees a plan of land in Greyfriar Gate belonging to the Trust, upon which they intended to erect a second Hospital and to lay out diverse streets. One, 50 feet wide, to be called Carrington Street, would go from the River Leen to the point where Broad Marsh, Greyfriar Gate and Lister Gate met. The submission included details of a small culvert. Thus Wood set out Carrington Street in 1828-29; in addition he asked the Corporation to make a bridge over the Leen to link Canal Street to these street works. In reply the Corporation declined to build a bridge but indicated their consent for the Trustees to erect such a bridge, provided its construction was approved by the Corporation. It was ten years before the matter was raised again, on this occasion by the Midland Counties Railway, keen to link up with their station which had opened in May 1839.

A glimpse of Wood's early career comes from the supplement to *The History of Nottingham Castle* by J Hicklin, published in 1836. At the Spring Assizes in Leicester in 1832, the 4th Duke of Newcastle sought compensation for the destruction of his castle at Nottingham. Henry Moses Wood together with James Nicholson, a builder and surveyor of Southwell, and William Cubitt, a noted London builder, appeared for the defendants, the Hundred of Broxtowe. Edward Staveley and Peter Frederick Robinson, then the Duke's architect, appeared for the Duke. Wood introduced himself: 'I am an architect; I have been in practice 20 years, living in Nottingham the whole time. I have been frequently in the Castle during that time...I have examined the state of the Castle, since the fire, and estimated the injury done... My calculations have been made from actual measurement... I have not been in the habit of calculating upon so large a scale; but I have been engaged in Nottingham, and in various other places.'

In 1833 Wood, together with James Nicholson, carried out alterations and extensions to the recently purchased County House, opposite Shire Hall on High Pavement; the purpose of the commission was the remodelling of the house as the Judge's Lodging. The squat cast-iron neo-Greek Doric columns are an unusual feature. To the rear of the vista of County House, next to Shire Hall, they had erected a new men's gaol the previous year.



In 1834 Wood was one of the promoters of the Nottingham and Notts Banking Company; he served as a director for several years. The company's first premises were on Pelham Street; the relief decoration over the doorway of the bank's later Head Office on Thurland Street (now altered to make two shops) refers to this time. In 1836 he was one of the founders of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Insurance Company; he was elected a director and served as life-time company secretary.

Illustration 2: 23 High Pavement - County House, The Judge's Lodging

On 1 January 1836 Henry Moses Wood was appointed the first Sheriff of the reformed Corporation following the 'shake-up' resulting from the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835; he had in fact been the last Chamberlain of the old Charter Corporation. He does not appear to have been an elected Councillor. Later, on 17 March, he became an Alderman of the Borough, in the place of Mr C L Morley, deceased. On 4 April 1837 Edward Staveley, now designated Accountant-Surveyor to the Corporation, died, and on 1 May Wood, as a surveyor with a private practice, relinquished the title Alderman when given the post of Surveyor as a part-time appointment at £100 per annum. There was some opposition to his election to this office. Messrs Hawksley and Jalland were nominated by Mr J Mills and supported by a section of the Liberal party. As both Hawksley and Jalland had served in Staveley's office and subsequently formed the architectural partnership of Staveley, Hawksley and Jalland, there was some sense in this proposal. However, on a division Wood was elected by a majority of twenty to twelve.

It is interesting to note that the fourth resolution passed at the general meeting of the Association for the Improvement of the Town on 5 December 1839 requested 'That Mr Hawksley be instructed to lay out the (earlier agreed) Streets forty-five (feet) wide and to take property to the extent of fifty feet at least on each side...' The setting out of one of

the proposed new streets was accepted by the Council but later postponed.

Almost immediately after his appointment as Surveyor, Wood was involved with preparing the layout of the intended enclosure of the Derby Road-Lammas Fields area: the Park Row-Derby Road-Ropewalk triangle (1837-39). At least three different designs were considered, the third being accepted. There is a suspicion that he supplied details to the 4th Duke of Newcastle, who was then seriously contemplating the development of his adjoining Park Estate. The Enclosure Commissioners' final award map of the area shows that Wood had acquired 'by purchase' 3,000 square yards of land stretching from Derby Road to West Circus Street immediately north of the site of the Church of St Barnabas.

After completing his work on the layout of the Lammas Fields enclosed by the 1839 Act, Wood prepared several maps or plans of Nottingham for the Council. In 1839 came a 'Plan of the Town of Nottingham and of the Fields, Meadows, Forest and other lands within the Parish of St. Mary's.' Two years later he produced a 'Map of the Town and County of the Town of Nottingham sought to be lighted by gas under the authority of the Bill now pending in Parliament.'

Mention was made earlier in this account of 'the next occasion when the Carrington Street Bridge was raised again'. This came after a letter from the Midland Counties Railway was read before the Council on 21 October 1839, which urged the building of a bridge over the canal for which the Company had already subscribed £3,000. A Committee was appointed to ensure it was built - to the design of H M Wood, now the Borough Surveyor. On 9 November 1842 the Carrington Street Bridge Committee reported the completion of the work: 'The first stone was laid in October 1841; and the last in October 1842.'

Wood was surveyor to the Flood Road, now London Road, which was built as a toll road in 1796 and was not absorbed by the Corporation until 1867. As Borough Surveyor he was in the civic party which greeted Queen Victoria when she arrived in Nottingham by train on her way to Belvoir Castle on 4 December 1843. Her Majesty's onward journey to Belvoir was by road as no railway line then existed in that direction. A new road from the railway station to the Flood (London) Road had to be constructed, which was later named The Queen's Road. Wood's presence suggests he was responsible for setting out this link road.

The move to form a new street from the north end of Lister Gate to St Peter's Square in order to provide better direct access to the station from the Market Place started on 24 November 1842. Perhaps Wood's estimate of the cost (£3,600) made the newly appointed Street Improvement Committee consider instead the widening of existing streets. Nothing happened until on 18 January 1844 the Council decided to promote a private Act to make a street from Carrington Street to St Peter's Square at a cost of

£6,000, to be raised by public subscription. Wood prepared the plan for the work and a Committee was set up to implement the Act. As the subscriptions raised were less than the sum needed, a slight deviation was suggested and agreed. The entirely new portion, from St Peter's Square to Lister Gate was called Albert Street; the whole length opened in 1846. On 21 February 1848, after the enclosure of the Meadows, the Council recommended that the Enclosure Commissioners 'set out a road from Carrington Bridge across the Meadows to the Trent Bridge.' This would be the future Arkwright Street.

Reference has already been made to Wood's 1843 map showing the design for an improved approach to the Market Place from the Midland Counties Railway Station. The 'Plan of the Chamber and Bridge Estates, Surveyed and Drawn by H M Wood' was published in 1848 and was his last major map work. As a new set of Commissioners set about implementing the 1845 Enclosure Act they turned to another local architect/surveyor, Frederick Jackson, for their cartographic work.

On 3 March 1851 Wood duly delivered the 'very full and lengthy report' he had been detailed to prepare on the state of the Corporation's properties. Suitably impressed, the Council decided to print copies of the report for private circulation and awarded him an honorarium of £50. Much of Wood's time was taken up with essential, yet mundane routine matters. There are a number of 'planning applications' with inset plans by H M Wood deposited in the Nottinghamshire Archive Office.

Works by Wood that have now gone include the so-called Carrington Hospital already noted (Collin's Almshouses, Carrington Street, nominally 1831, demolished 1954). The Trustees spent some time reaching an agreement on the designs and the work was not completed until 1834. As the land was a quagmire - Broad Marsh indeed - the Hospital had to be built on arches. In 1844 Wood rebuilt Labray's Hospital on Derby Road; now demolished, it was apparently highly commended by the architect A W N Pugin, just completing St. Barnabas Church facing it. (St. Barnabas was granted Cathedral status in 1850).

After setting out Albert Street, Wood designed its first building, the Post Office of 1848. The ceremony of the laying of the corner stone on 14 October 1847 was later reported in the *Illustrated London News* (6 November, 1847). A description of the intended building followed: 'The architect of the new edifice is Mr H M Wood... To the north will be a portico after the Temple of Theseus at Athens into which three windows will open, here will be the receiving boxes etc... Under an adjacent piazza and immediately eastwards, opening into St Peter's Gate will be the entrance to the private dwelling of the Postmaster. Cost £4,000.' After 20 years, in 1868, it was replaced by a new building by Williams of the Government Office. The original building became Council offices and survived until 1929, when it was demolished and Marks and Spencer's store built on the site.



Illustration 3: The New Post Office

Wood was responsible for the design and construction of the first public baths and washhouses in the town, on Gedling Street from 1848. Whilst being a welcome and a necessary addition to the town's facilities, the project was not universally popular. The inefficiency of 'the last effort of the Corporation Surveyor's genius', the chimney at the Gedling Street Baths, upset the Council's Sanitary Committee, who reported to the Council on 23 November 1853.

'Your Committee regret that notwithstanding the great trouble taken and the expenditure incurred by the Baths and Washhouses Committee in altering the Boiler and Furnace of that establishment, the nuisance remains unabated. Your Committee have to deplore the circumstances of the Baths and Washhouses setting in common with other Public bodies an example so pernicious as to stop them in the threshold in their endeavours to abate these Nuisances.'



Illustration 4: The Arboretum West Gate

Although the Arboretum, which opened in 1852, was laid out by Samuel Curtis, its lodges, the castellated brick refreshment rooms and some of its walks were designed by Wood. The refreshment rooms, by then in private hands, were demolished in December 2006 after suffering extensive fire damage. In 2018 the Waverley Street lodge near the College of Art was converted into a café.

During the 1850s Wood's activities were confined to the old town, virtually detached from the progress of the new town being delivered, somewhat slowly, by the Enclosure Commissioners. On 9 October 1854 the Improvement Committee submitted to Council the report by T Hawksley and H M Wood on an intended new street from Station Street to Clumber Street at an estimated cost of £85,000. After adjourning for consideration, a week later the Council recommended abandoning the scheme because of the cost. Relying on his knowledge of the Corporation Estates, the Bridge Committee meeting on 6 August 1855, instructed Wood to superintend the erection of all new buildings on the Bridge Estate, in order to enforce the terms of the leases. (Why not check the quality of the buildings?) His fee was to be 1% of the cost of the erection of the buildings.

A Committee was appointed on 30 June 1857 to prepare an Improvement Bill; on 7 September the Town Improvement Committee presented a programme of seven street improvements to be included in this Bill. A submission was made of their estimated costs by Wood and of plans prepared by Frederick Jackson. It was resolved that the report be printed and circulated. With slight alterations four of the seven street improvements were later approved.

Nottingham adopted the Local Government Act (1858) on 20 February 1859 and appointed a special Committee to consider the best means of carrying into effect the provisions of the Act. On 15 August this Committee reported back with proposals for the adoption of certain aspects of the Act. After delivering outlines of recommendations, the Committee considered the office of Surveyor,

‘which has always been one of considerable importance but the duties and responsibilities of which will now be materially increased, and they are of opinion that it will be impossible to secure that efficient and economical management of the various properties and satisfactory discharge of the multifarious duties entrusted to the Council unless they have an Officer whose time shall be wholly devoted to the Corporation competent to make all ordinary Plans and furnish Designs for Land Sales alterations of and repairs to Buildings, Plans for Sewers, lay out Streets etc... Your Committee therefore recommend that a Surveyor be appointed at a Salary of £250 per annum who shall hold such office during the pleasure of the Council.’

Wood was not immediately cast aside:

‘Should the present Surveyor not feel at liberty to make application for the Office under the new conditions the Council may consider the propriety of granting him such compensation either annual or otherwise, that they may think his long services entitle him to.’

On 6 October Marriott Ogle Tarbotton, of Wakefield, aged 24, was appointed as a permanent surveyor of the Local Board of Health and of the Corporation Estates. He commenced his duty on the 9 November. In recognition of his long term of office, Mr Henry Moses Wood was appointed a Consulting Surveyor at a salary of £100 a year.

He does not appear to have been called upon in his role as a Consultant, except for one significant occasion. In December 1861 William Booker, Referee to the Enclosure Commissioners, died; on 6 January 1862 the Council’s Improvement Committee was recommended to bring buildings and roads in the old and new town under the Town Surveyor. This was approved and the post of Referee was left unfilled. Unfortunately Tarbotton, the Town Surveyor, would not reach the requisite age of 30 until December 1864, by which time, in fact, the 1845 Enclosure would be nearing completion. The Council’s Sanitary Committee recommended that the Consulting Surveyor (Wood) should be appointed on a temporary basis; however, a subsequent motion to appoint him was withdrawn - hardly surprising, as Wood was now well into his seventies.

During 1862 there were moves in the town to form a body representing local architects.

On 11 November 1862 the Nottingham Architectural Association was instituted; possibly because of his seniority Wood was elected as its first president. He held the post for one year and was succeeded by the younger Thomas Chambers Hine, who had just celebrated his fiftieth birthday. The Association's subscription was one guinea and 22 architects joined, becoming founder members.

No later public work of Moses Wood has been traced. Thus his professional career ended. He died at Buxton on 28 or 29 September 1867, in his eightieth year. Throughout his life he had been an enthusiastic admirer of Shakespeare and drama generally, and had encouraged the fine arts. The text of his 1851 Report to the Council, a rare survivor of his written work, is peppered with classical references. He enjoyed cricket and, whilst not a betting man, he was a keen racegoer. For many years he was well respected by many of the leading families of the county, especially Lord Manvers. He was remembered as 'tolerant and liberal, a Whig of the old school,...polite, polished in his demeanour and very genial in disposition... a gentleman.' One obituary noted: 'He was a man of genial and companionable disposition, and was remarkable in his public speeches for the florid and highly ornate style of his oratory.' The obituary in the *Nottingham Journal*, however, contained this devastating line about his work: 'The public buildings which owe their origin to Mr Wood's architectural genius are not either numerous or remarkable.'

Probate was granted in 1868; his effects were valued at under £12,000. The executors were his sons Henry Walter Wood of Nottingham, architect, and Arthur Augustus Wood of the City of Bristol, dramatic author. His gravestone in the General Cemetery is plain and simple. His full name was not inscribed, just 'H M Wood Of This Town...' There is no mention of his professional or public attainments.

Tarbotton, having reached the requisite age, was appointed Official Referee under the General Enclosure Act on 15 June 1865, just days before the enclosure award was formally completed on 29 June. The Enclosure Commissioners left many loose ends, including incomplete roads; sufficient work was needed for the Council to propose an Improvement Act in 1867, the year of Wood's death.

Editor's note: The first two of these buildings are described in the 1979 edition of The Buildings of England: Nottinghamshire. (i) St Peter's Radford: 'Still the Georgian embattled rectangle with embattled west tower. Only the windows are of a two-light minimal Gothic character'. The church was later enlarged in the Gothic style. (ii) The Grange at Bramcote, 'late Georgian, stuccoed' is 'Probably the house advertised in the Nottingham Journal of 6 March 1830 as "a newly built messuage by H M Wood of Nottingham." '

The house of the Welby family is Denton Hall near Grantham, Lincs. The house Wood built circa 1812 was demolished to make way for a grander 1883 successor (by Sir Arthur Blomfield), itself demolished in 1938 or 1939 after a serious fire in 1905.

*The Darley Abbey buildings were for mill owner Walter Evans, principally St Matthew's Church (1818-19), 'typical of the date' according to the Derbyshire volume of *The Buildings of England* (2016) and a school (1826), 'large (9 bays), of brick.'*

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HENRY MOSES WOOD OF THE 'COMPO-PECKSNIFF SCHOOL'

This article by Terry Fry first appeared in Newsletter 109 (April 1999). The 1985 article by Ken Brand mentioned in the first paragraph was incorporated in the fuller account of Wood's life written in 2013 which precedes it in this archive.

The Nottingham Corporation Surveyor H Moses Wood, who designed several buildings in the town between 1837 and 1859, seems to have annoyed certain gentlemen of the press with his creations. In the Civic Society Newsletter 67 (April 1985) Ken Brand wrote about the Lodge on the Forest (completed 1857), which the diarist Samuel Collinson referred to as 'Moses Wood's latest absurdity in the architectural line.' Six years before that, on 17 January 1851, a scribe working for the *Nottingham Journal* had been even more caustic.

Under The Baths and Washhouses Act 1846, the Nottingham Corporation decided to build baths and washhouses on two acres of land at Meadow Platts Close, which they had acquired from the Inclosure Commissioners. These baths, housed in a single storey brick building, were opened to the public on 16 December 1850. In his book *Old and New Nottingham* (1853), William Wylie wrote: 'Altogether this admirable institution is calculated to elevate both the physical and moral nature of the inhabitants.' The *Journal's* reporter did not consider the building in any way elevating. Here is what he had to say under the title *Local News: The Public Baths and Wash-houses*.

'These important institutions are now open to the public. They have been erected after plans furnished by Mr Moses Wood, the Corporation Surveyor, upon the recently enclosed fields near the end of Gedling Street. They consist of two groups of buildings, the one nearer Carlton Road comprising the baths, the other the wash-houses, boiler house etc. The swimming bath is 51 feet long. Down each side is a raised flagged walk from which the

bather who prefers the emphatic mode of initiating his ablutions, which consists of jumping into the water head foremost, may do so without the slightest fear of damaging his skull.. There were 12 hot or cold baths, six for either sex, two first class, four second class although the differences were scarcely worth mentioning. The wash-house was well liked by its customers, especially Messrs Alliotts' patent centrifugal wringing machines. However the drying stove is a complete failure; formed after no known model, it is altogether inadequate and ineffective in principle.

'We regret to add that we can give but a very unfavourable report of its architecture. We feel that every new public building is a witness to the taste of our times to succeeding generations - that is, of course, unless it be of such gimcrack character as to tumble down in our time.. We would fain leave something behind us to exhort the respect, if not the admiration, of our more brilliant descendants. Mr Wood's new baths and wash-houses will, we are afraid, do little in that way.

'Let it not be said that such erections are incapable of beauty. *Vide* the ancient baths of Italy and Greece. Nor let Mr Wood plead inadequacy of means. He could have given us a plain unsophisticated edifice. Instead he has defiled the honest brick-work of his sprawling sheds with sundry feeble attempts (in stucco) at the vague classicality of the compe-Pecksniff school. (*See Editor's endnote 1*)

'And that - we know not what to call it - that smoke ejecting thing - that marvellous illaterculation (as we suppose Mr Wood would call it) of the idea of a mushroom - what shall we say of it? Why, it looks like the illicit fruit of an *amour* between a factory chimney and a decrepit watch box! Nothing more preposterous than to see the smoke making its way from the midst of the four sham gables can be conceived, unless it were the spectacle of a man breathing on a winter's morning out of the small of his back. Really, amidst all the pigsties and other queer erections with which it used to be surrounded, we can remember nothing less pleasant to look at than this last effort of the Corporation Surveyor's genius.'

In spite of this scathing criticism the baths flourished for some years, helped by the addition of Turkish baths and hydropathic facilities. However, by the 1870s it was obvious they were in a poor physical state and eventually Moses Wood's successor, Marriott Ogle Tarbotton, drew up plans for a new building on the site. Wood's weird edifice was demolished in 1894 to make way for the Victoria Baths, which opened in 1896 and are still with us. (*See Editor's endnote 2*)

I wondered what the local Press thought of Wood's other major efforts. This is what the *Nottingham Journal* had to say on 7 July 1848:

'The new Post Office was opened yesterday. It is situated at the top of Albert Street near St

Peter's Church, and has three fronts. The box for paid letters is in Albert Street, the window for unpaid letters and stamps is under a tetra style Doric portico, facing Wheeler Gate, and the money order office is under a sort of colonnade on St. Peter's Church side. The arrangements, we are told, are on the whole convenient and the building is for Nottingham a moderately handsome one. The architect is the town surveyor, Mr H M Wood.'

Lukewarm praise, then, but nowhere near as dismissive as the *Nottingham Review* of the same date: 'The Post Office was removed yesterday from Bridlesmith Gate to the new and commodious building at the corner of Albert Street.' There is not a mention of the architect. Wood's Post Office was replaced in 1868 by a building designed by Williams of the Board of Works, London, while the former Post Office was adapted to provide municipal offices. (*See Editor's endnote 3*)

Among surviving works by Wood are the Arboretum Refreshment Rooms and Lodge (1852) and the Forest Lodge (1857). The latter was ridiculed at first and is now boarded up, but I quite like its odd charm. The *Nottingham Review's* reporter had mixed feelings about the Refreshment Rooms and Lodge when the Arboretum opened on 14 May 1852:

'The Lodge is a pretty structure in the Tudor Gothic style, designed by Mr H M Wood, Surveyor.'

However, he was not so happy with the Refreshment Rooms:

'Perhaps a severe critic would not pronounce the external appearance....as the most admirable which can be conceived....For several necessary and useful purposes, however, it is well adapted and will therefore be found a desirable adjunct to the grounds.' (*See Editor's note 4*)

Editor's Notes

1. This laboured, would-be-witty 'demolition job' by the *Journal* reviewer is very much of its time. The reference to Pecksniff, a character in Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*, would have been taken by readers as a clear suggestion of hypocrisy, while the sneer behind the 'compo' element of the phrase relies on the reader's understanding of the word as an everyday term in architecture and the decorative arts to denote 'a mixture of whiting (ground chalk), resin and glue for ornamenting walls and cornices' (Chambers 1983). The word 'stucco' is used derisively in the same sentence. Wood is being accused of dishonesty by dressing up plain, functional brick buildings with unnecessary and misleading rendering or detail. Samuel Collinson's comments on the Forest Lodge, referred to in Terry Fry's opening paragraph and quoted more fully in Ken Brand's article, are in the same vein: *Why disguise a police station or 'a lodge for a keeper of the ground about the race course' as a classical temple?*

2. Tarbotton's plans were not carried out. The Victoria Baths, now the Victoria Centre,

were built 1895-6 to the designs of Arthur Brown, Borough Engineer. A refurbishment in 2011 by Levitate Architects retained much of Brown's building.

3. In Newsletter 97 (April 1995) Ken Brand recorded that planning permission for the demolition of Wood's Post Office and the erection of sale shop and offices for Marks & Spencer Ltd was granted on 17 May 1929.

4. The Arboretum Refreshment Rooms later passed into private hands, but were demolished in December 2006 after suffering severe fire damage. The Waverley Street Lodge was converted into a café in 2018 and, as recorded by Ken Brand, the Forest Lodge was restored as part of a major overhaul of the Forest (2012-13).