

# THE HAVEN SHELTER

## GRADE II LISTED BUILDING

During the First World War (2014- 2018) many injured service personnel were returned to Bristol from the battlefields of Europe. To relieve pressure on the beleaguered Royal Infirmary and General Hospital patients not needing active medical or surgical treatment were taken to convalescent centres where they could enjoy a period of rest, healthy nutrition and as much fresh air as possible.

The unusual structure on your right is known as **The Haven (1)**. It was constructed in 1917 and paid for by public subscription. Its purpose was to offer shelter to convalescing service men and women from the nearby **Queen Victoria Jubilee Hospital (2)**. (See historical map).

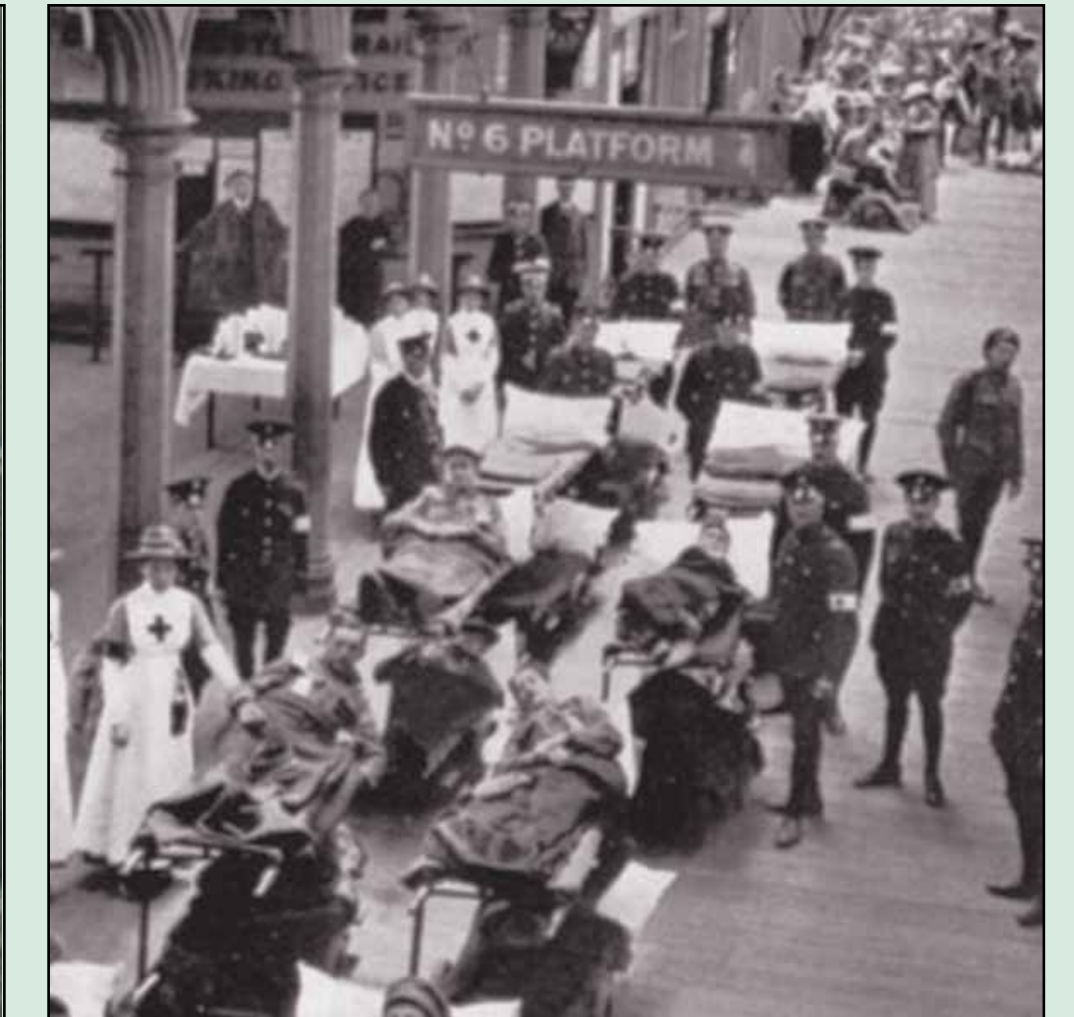
Most of what you see is the original structure. The quality of materials, cast iron metalwork and attention to detail is typical of the Victorian period. The Haven was built in three distinct sections. This was so at least one section would always be out of the strong winds that prevail on the Downs and if you were lucky faced the sun as well.



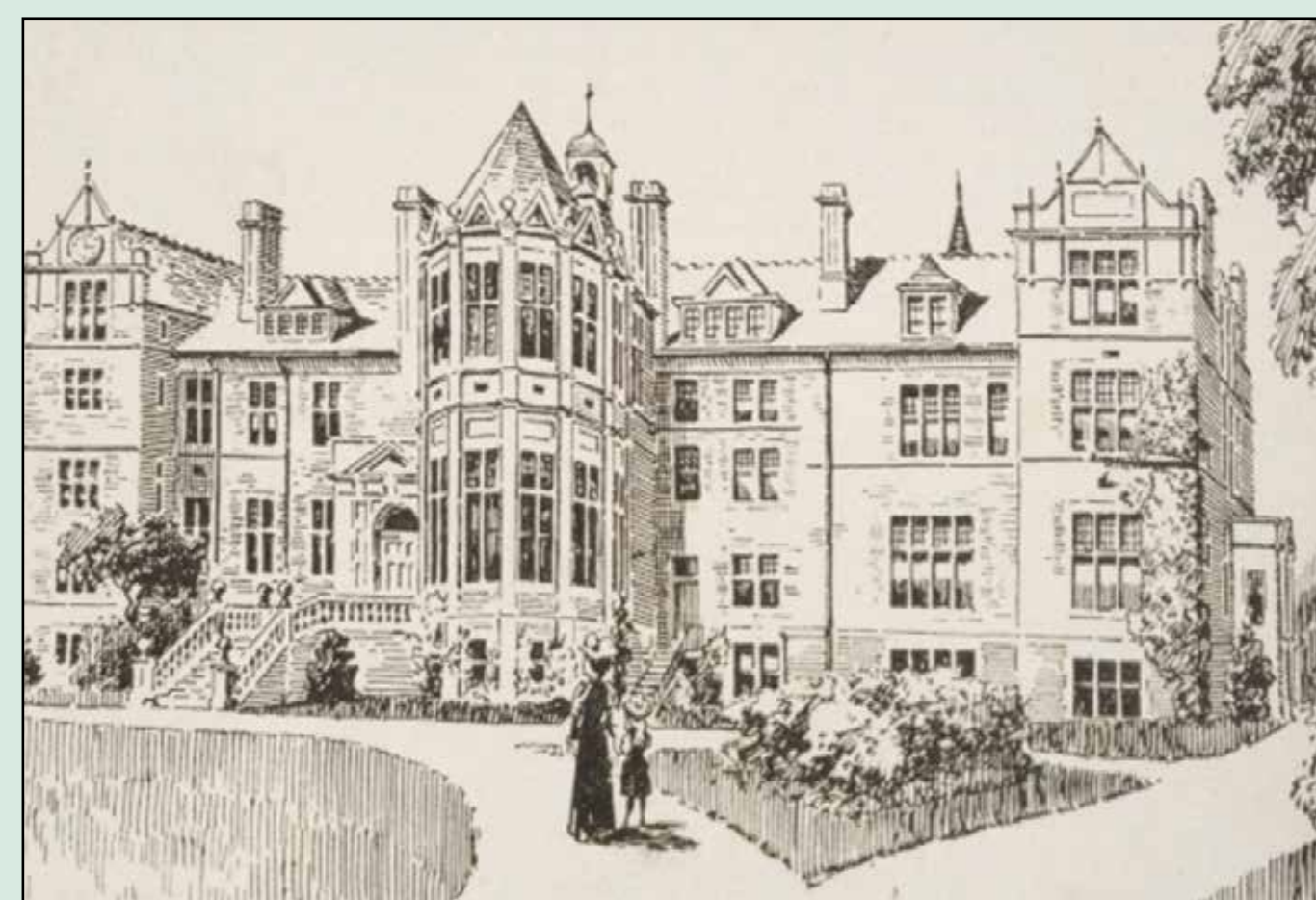
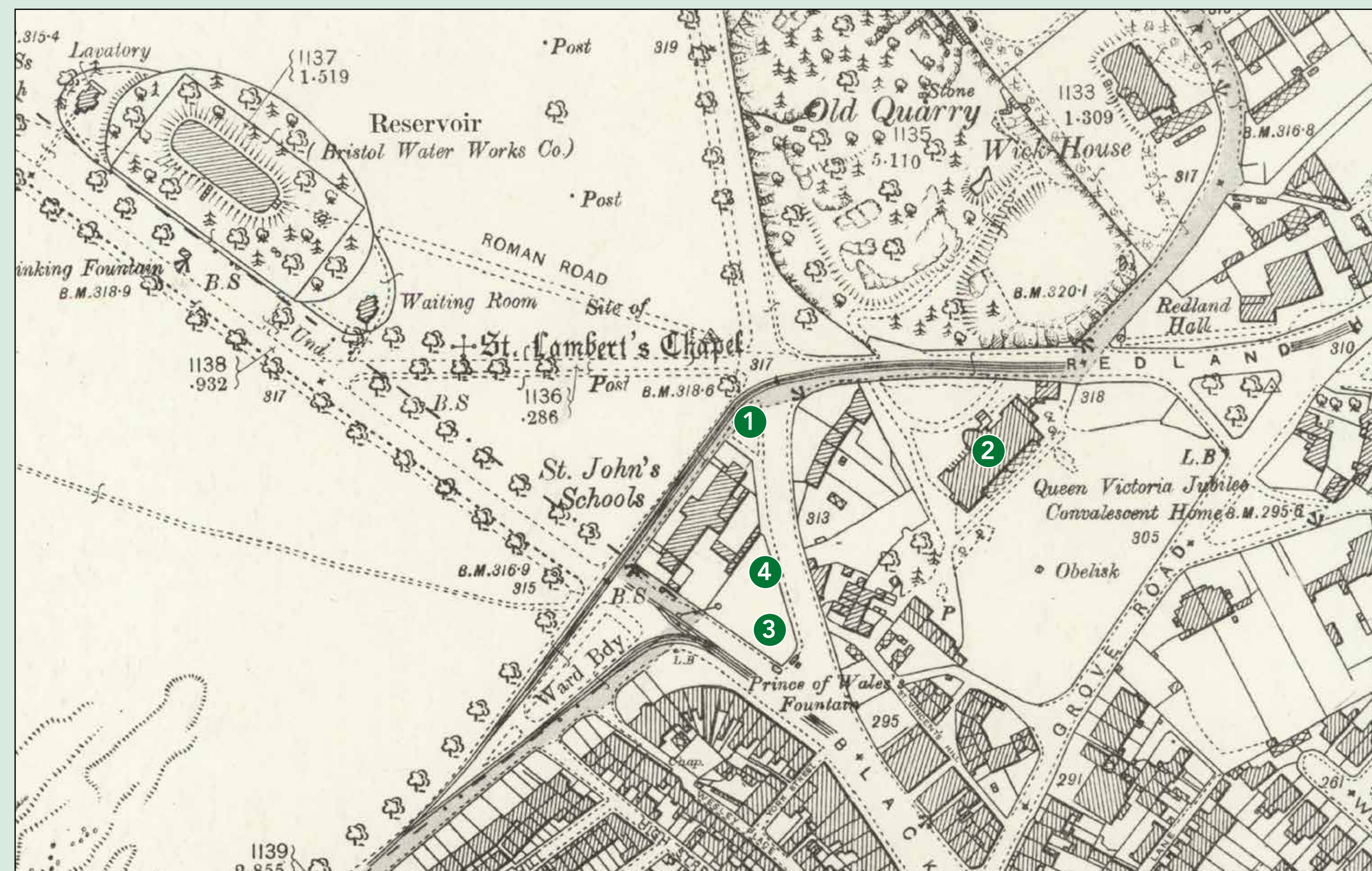
The Haven Shelter ①



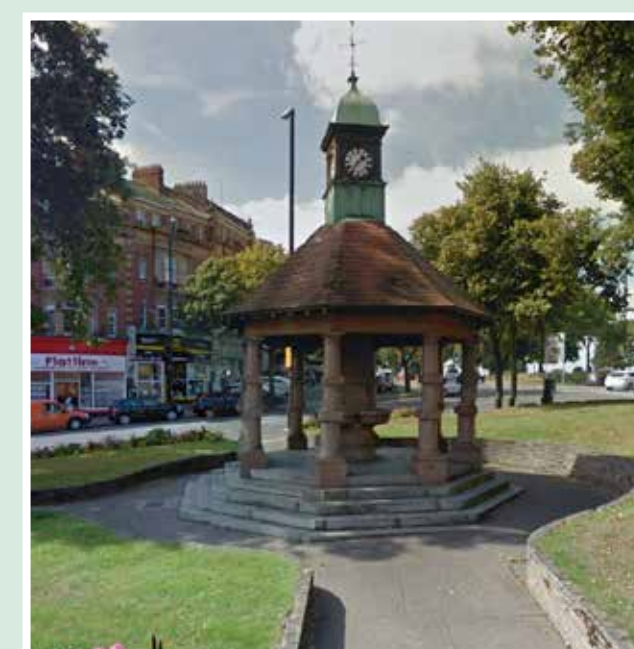
Convalescing service men and women at Queen Victoria Jubilee Hospital  
16 January 1919



Receiving wounded at Temple Meads station. Photo from: *Bristol and the Great War 1914-1919*.



Queen Victoria Jubilee Convalescent Home ②



Memorial drinking fountain ③



Rare cast iron urinal ④

**The Haven** still sits on its original site, perfectly positioned to enjoy the wide open spaces of the Downs. Close by two further Grade II Listed Buildings can be seen. (See historical map). One is a **memorial drinking fountain (3)** built in 1904 and celebrates the life of the Reverend Urijah Rees Thomas. The second is an increasingly **rare cast iron urinal (4)**, which too has recently undergone much needed restoration and is situated close to the drinking fountain.

During the Great War hospitals in the area came under the control of Southern Command. Many of the patients who would have come to use the Haven were from the Gloucester's.

In 1917, still a year from the Cease Fire Councillor S. J. King gifted a Roll of Honour for the Haven to commemorate the 281 men of the 4th Gloucester's who had died in the service of their country.

To recognise its importance the Haven has been granted Grade II Listed Building status and was completely renovated in 2017 by local volunteers.

