

THE MAPS OF LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE BY HARRISON AND HALL AND BY GORTON

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Abstract

Harrison and Hall, surveyors in Lancaster, produced maps of Lancaster and Morecambe in the 1870s. These are important documents because they fill the cartographic gap between the Ordnance Survey maps in the 1840s and 1890s. Gorton's 1864 map of Morecambe is also described in this paper.

Introduction

Michael Mattinson Harrison (1842–1931) was a surveyor and land agent who started work around 1866 on Castle Hill and around 1872 formed a partnership with Richard Inglis Hall (1851/2–1920). Their premises moved to Townley's Yard (off Market Street) and later principally at 73 Church Street in Lancaster. Isaac Moore joined the firm in 1889 (Lancashire Archives DDHH). Given their professions, the firm needed an accurate map of their area of operation that showed the streets, houses and other properties in sufficient detail for conveyancing and lettings. By the early 1870s such accurate maps of Lancaster and Morecambe were lacking, given the rapid expansion of both towns.

The problem

There were two, mid-nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps: the 6-inch map surveyed in 1844–5 at a scale of 1:10,560, which covered built-up Lancaster and Morecambe; and the 60-inch map at a scale of 1:1065 surveyed as 20 sheets in 1845 for Lancaster only. There was no sign of these maps being updated: this did not happen until the early 1890s. By the 1870s the 1840s maps were seriously out of date, lacking three decades of development and expansion (Figure 1).

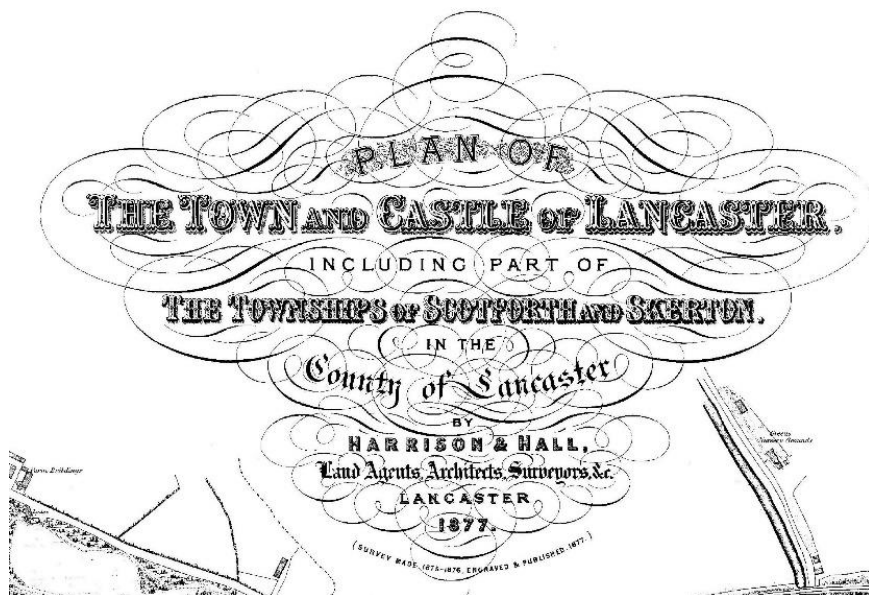


Fig. 1 The title of Harrison and Hall's map of Lancaster, 1877

Among the developments in Lancaster that these 1840s maps did not show were the following: the Freehold development; Bowerham Barracks; houses on South Road; extensive expansion of canal-side mills; the smaller houses along Greaves Road; Ripley School; Portland Street and Regent Street; the new buildings on Meeting House Lane west of the railway line; and the new housing on Long Marsh Lane and Willow Lane. Within the core of Lancaster there had been many smaller changes – demolitions, additions and in-filling. The 20 sheets of the 60-inch map (1:1056) of Lancaster provided

much more detail than the 6-inch map, but this had been surveyed at the same time as the 6-inch map and so was equally out of date by the 1870s (Boulton 1991, 230).

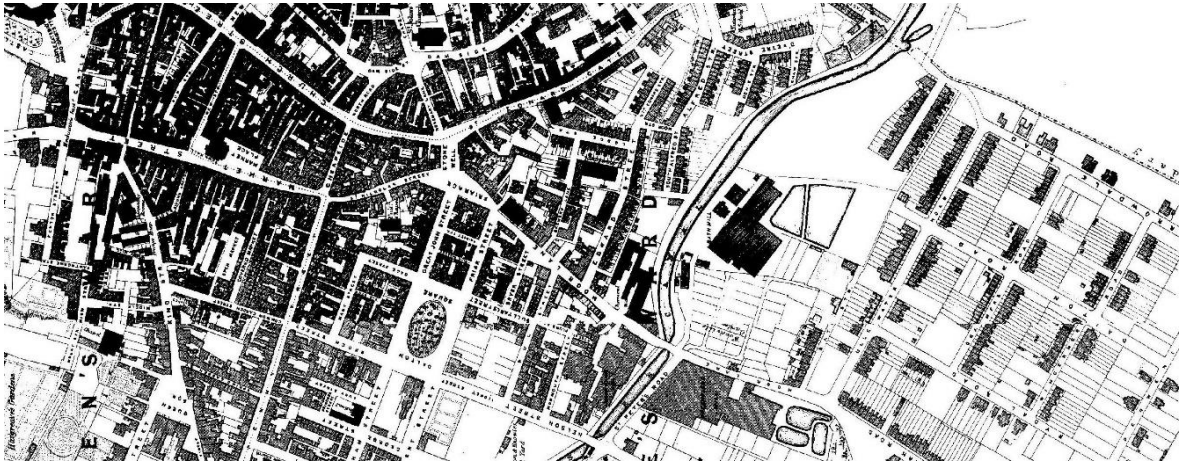


Fig. 2 Transect of Lancaster on Harrison and Hall's map, 1877 (Source: Andrew White)

The solution

The Harrison and Hall solution was to survey and print new maps, first of Lancaster and then of Morecambe. These maps were a promotional publication as well as documents for the firm to use.

The Lancaster map

They surveyed Lancaster in 1875–6, and had it engraved and published in 1877 (its cartouche is shown in Figure 1). The map's full title is: 'Plan of the Town and Castle of Lancaster including part of the Townships of Scotforth and Skerton in the County of Lancaster'. It was printed as four sheets, oriented with approximately west-southwest at the top. The size of the map is 1092mm wide by 936mm high. The scale is 1:3380. There are engravings of Lancaster Castle's John O'Gaunt Gate (Figure 5) and a view of the Castle and Priory. There are tables with the numbers of burgesses by ward, and the names of notable buildings, places of worship and public buildings. A table gives the 1871 census population of Lancaster, Scotforth and Skerton – 19,360. The map was surveyed by Harrison and Hall's staff and engraved by Alexander Macgregor of Liverpool and Manchester, Lithographer to the Queen. It extends south to the former Royal Albert Hospital and St Paul's Church, west to Cannon Hill, north to Skerton and east to the County Asylum. A transect of the town centre is in Figure 2. The quality of the engraving is high. Stippling shows pastures; trees and hedges are symbolised. Individual buildings and property boundaries can be seen, even in the crowded town centre (Figure 3). Figure 4 shows the west side of town with hachuring to indicate slopes.

The Morecambe maps

The cartographic gap between OS surveys is not quite so long in Morecambe because of H Gorton's street map of 1864 – he too was a house and land agent. It is around 510mm wide by 378mm high (the various copies differ slightly), with east at the top. It covers an area of one mile north to south and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east to west. The engraving was by E & J L Milner of Lancaster. The railway and Northumberland Street Station was the easternmost part of Morecambe shown: the Harbour and North Western Hotel the southernmost (Fig. 6); and Lord Street and the Parish Church the northernmost. The map, which shows individual properties, is a valuable historical source, being around 20 years more up to date than the OS maps of the mid-1840s.

The existence of Gorton's map of 1864 meant that a re-survey of Morecambe was less pressing than Lancaster's re-survey. Nonetheless Harrison, Hall & Moore did produce a Morecambe map in 1889 (Figure 7), only a few years before the OS's Second Survey. The map is 895mm wide by 597mm

high and has NNW at the top. The printer was Armitage & Ibbetson of Bradford. The map's scale is 1:3017, based on the copy in Lancaster City Museum. The firm had an office at 329 Marine Road Central in Morecambe.



Fig. 3 The town centre of Lancaster, 1877

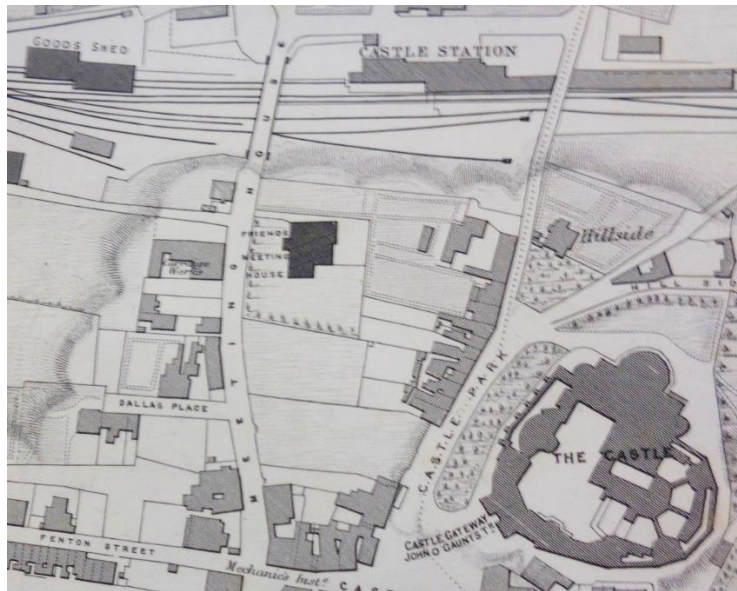


Fig. 4 The west of Lancaster, 1877

The map's creation

More details about the creation of the Harrison and Hall maps may exist at Lancashire Archives but they are not in the parts of that firm's extensive archive that have been catalogued (collections DDHH 1 and DDHH 2) but are in the 500 boxes of uncatalogued material not yet open for researchers.



Fig. 5 Engraving of John O'Gaunt's Gateway on the Harrison and Hall map of Lancaster, 1877
(Source of Figures 3, 4 and 5: Lancashire Archives)

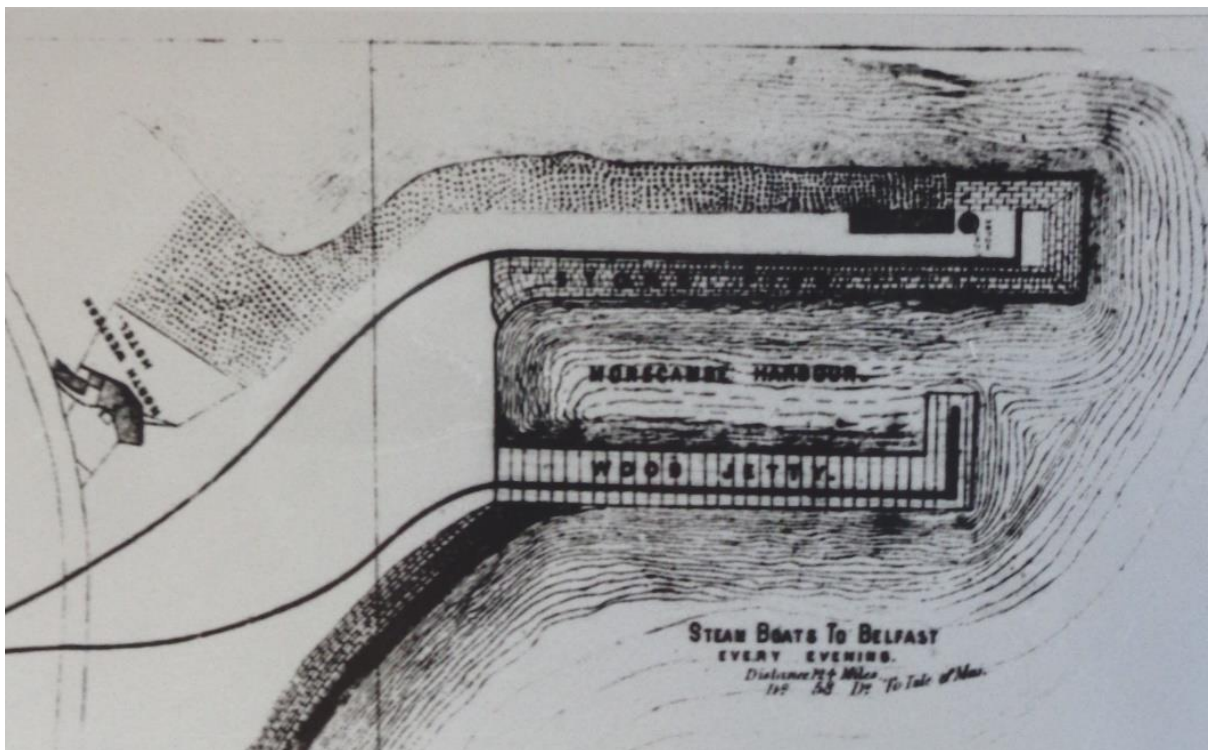


Fig. 6 The Harbour and North Western Hotel at Morecambe on Gorton's map of 1864

Viewing the Harrison and Hall map of Lancaster

The full Lancaster map – in sections mounted on fabric backing as a fold-out map – can be viewed in the Reading Room of Lancashire Archives (LC14 LANCASTER/HAR). The four printed sheets can be viewed in Morecambe Public Library – two copies, PL 1/10 to PL 1/14, and PL 1/139 to PL 1/142). A scanned copy of the Lancaster map can be viewed on the website of Lancaster Archaeological and Historical Society (lahs.archaeologyuk.org) and click on 'Contrebis'. However, this does not do justice to the detail in the town centre nor to the quality of the engraving. Portions of

the Lancaster map and most of the scanned version can be seen in White (2003) and on the historic-maps website of Lancaster University Library (<https://lancaster.libguides.com/maps>).



Fig. 7 The central part of Harrison, Hall and Moore's map of Morecambe, 1889, NNW at the top.
(Source: Lancaster City Museum)

Viewing the Morecambe maps

A reproduced copy of Gorton's map is held by Lancaster City Museum. Two photographic copies of the Gorton map of Morecambe in 1864 can be viewed in Morecambe Public Library. A reproduced copy of the whole Harrison, Hall & Moore map of 1889 is held by Lancaster City Museum. Morecambe Library has two cut-down copies of the Harrison, Hall & Moore map. A scanned copy of Harrison, Hall and Moore's Morecambe map is available on the website of Lancaster Archaeological and Historical Society (click on 'Contrebis').

Acknowledgements

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Author profile

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