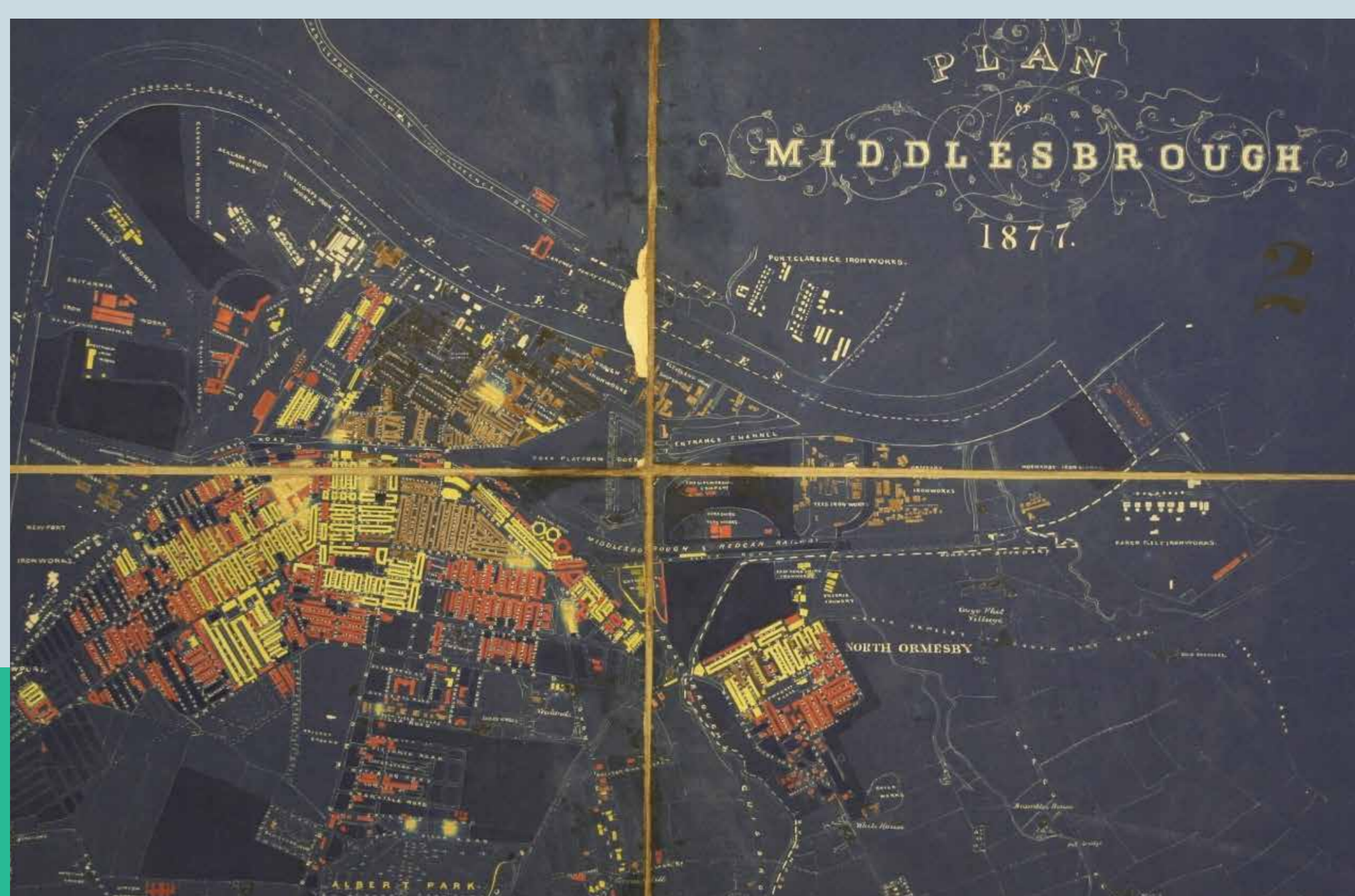


Gresham, Middlesbrough: A timeline



Plan of Middlesbrough, 1877 (Teesside Archives)

1801-1877

Middlesbrough is recorded as a hamlet of only 25 people (although areas now part of the town including Marton, Acklam etc had communities).

1830: The first coal is exported from staiths at Port Darlington with the extension of the railway to Middlesbrough. This sees the town develop as effectively a coal export town with Middlesbrough Pottery also being established as the town's first industry in c.1834.

1842: Middlesbrough Dock opens as the River Tees export and import industries expand.

1850s: Major iron manufacture commences, led by Bolckow Vaughan, and expands rapidly along the Tees. From 7,631 population in 1851, the population rises to 18,892 in 1861 and 39,284 a decade later.

1873: Fleetham Street Board School opened 3rd November 1873 (extended 1881) catering for up to 800 children (Lillie, 1968: 113)

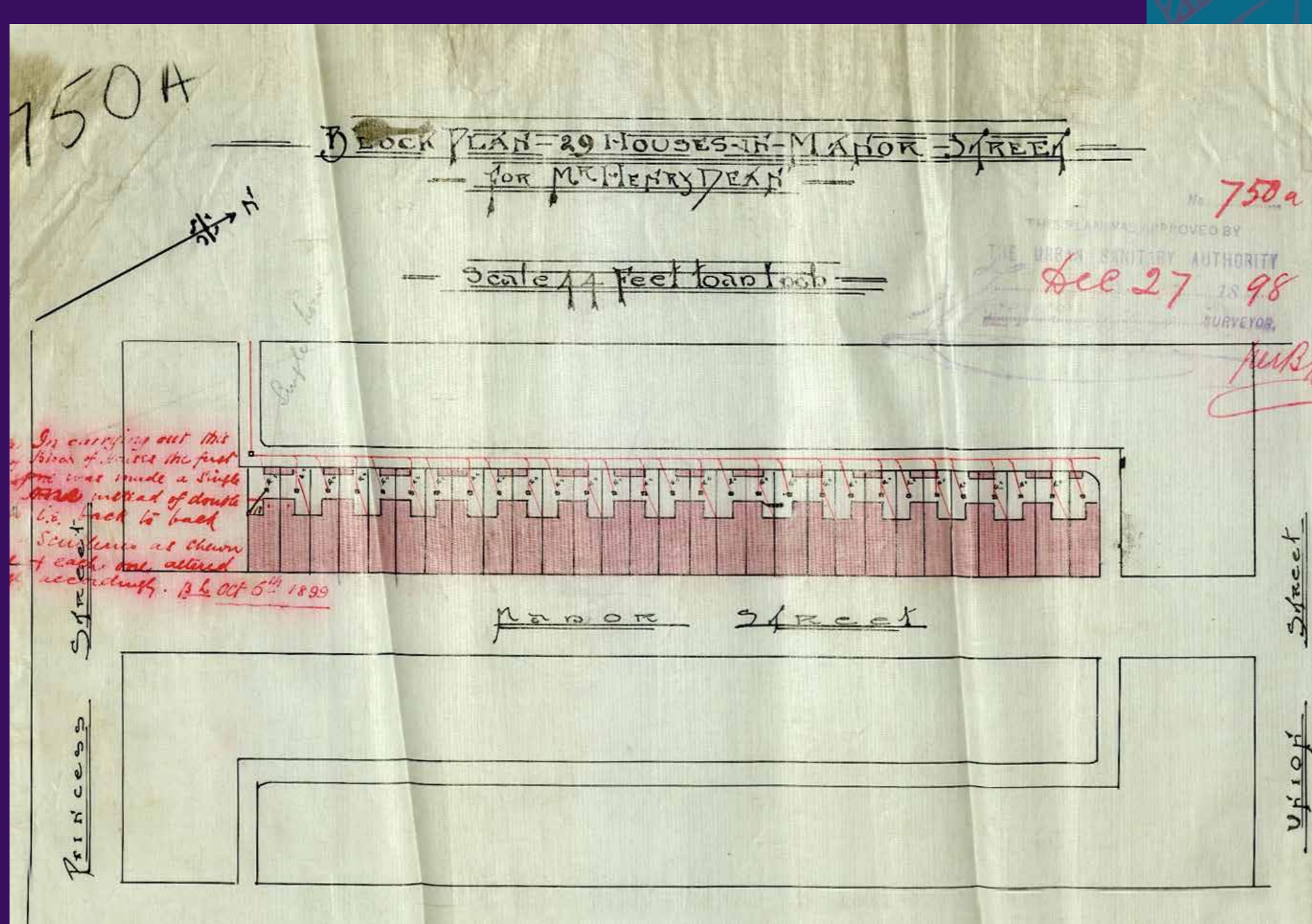
1877: There was considerable urban expansion closer to the industrial Tees with the population estimated at 45,000 three years earlier. Union Street on the south side (the location of the Thirteen Gresham Development) remained relatively untouched although new housing was profiled and in the same decade a slaughterhouse, laundry and public washhouse were amongst the building plans submitted to the corporation.

1880s:

The area around the modern day Thirteen Gresham development begins to take shape, with a number of new housing developments around the area including new houses built on Diamond Road, where a plan for 9 new houses was submitted in 1887.



Union Street shown on Yorkshire VI.SW Map 1892-93 (published 1895)



1890s:

Middlesbrough's population has increased rapidly to 75,531 by 1891 and the Gresham area shows marked signs of expansion as new housing is built in the area, including new houses at Manor Street in 1898.

Historian Linda Polley has described developments in the area as consisting of larger houses on the south side of Newport Road as homes intended for the 'families of professional men, engineers and the more successful builders' and those in the area between Newport Road as 'for the lower middle classes, the tradesman and shopkeepers'. (Polley, 1996: 162-163).

Proposed 29 Houses in Manor Street, 1898 (Teesside Archives)

1900s:

Notable developments in the area included the dedication of a new church, St. Alban's, on 28th July 1902 when freemasons marched in procession in full regalia (Lillie, 1968: 393). The following year Middlesbrough FC moved from their Linthorpe Road home (which previously bordered Princes Street and was a short walk from the current regeneration area) to Ayresome Park.



Freemasons at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the News Church of St. Alban the Martyr, 1902 (British Newspaper Archive)



1910s:

The outbreak of the war in 1914 sees many from the local community join the war effort with many from the streets on and around the new Thirteen Gresham site losing their life in the conflict.

Extract from A Street Near You of First World War casualties from the local area:

1920s-1930s:

Improved education provision is put in place at Fleetham Street Schools with extensive renovations to improve classroom, food service and play facilities. However, Middlesbrough struggles through severe depression and fluctuating fortunes in the iron and steel industries and the high concentration of residents employed in the Ironmasters' District means the Gresham and surrounding areas experiences severe economic decline (the 1945 Max Lock Survey (1945: 213) gives a figure of 54% of chief wage earners in the Newport district as working in the Ironmasters' District).

1940s:

The area is once again devastated by another global conflict, whilst today's Gresham regeneration area is identified by Max Lock's team in the Middlesbrough Survey and Plan as part of the 'A2' Newport area that would require extensive housing renovations and clearances within a 25 year period. In 1948 rearrangement of local government saw the town divided into 17 wards, with Gresham boasting a population of 6,200 and Newport 5,901.

1950s-1960s:

Further closures in the iron and steel industries in Middlesbrough (with many of the industrial operations heading eastwards at Lackenby and Redcar) results in the loss of c.3,000 jobs in Middlesbrough that had previously operated in the Ironmasters' District.

1970s:

The Newport Neighbourhood Centre opens in 1976 after significant delay but is praised as a unique facility catering for the local communities).

Miriam Khan plays in the new fully equipped adventure playground outside the new Newport Neighbourhood Centre (Evening Gazette, 19th February 1976)



Neighbourhood centre opens

THE NEWPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, which is being built on the site of the former Newport Public House, is expected to be completed in the next few months. The centre will be a unique facility for the local community, providing a wide range of services and facilities. It will include a large open-plan area, a playground, a library, a community room, and a kitchen. The centre will be managed by the Newport Neighbourhood Centre Association, which was formed in 1974. The centre is a result of the efforts of many local people, including Miriam Khan, who has been instrumental in the development of the centre. The centre is a testament to the spirit of community and the desire for a better life in Newport.

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