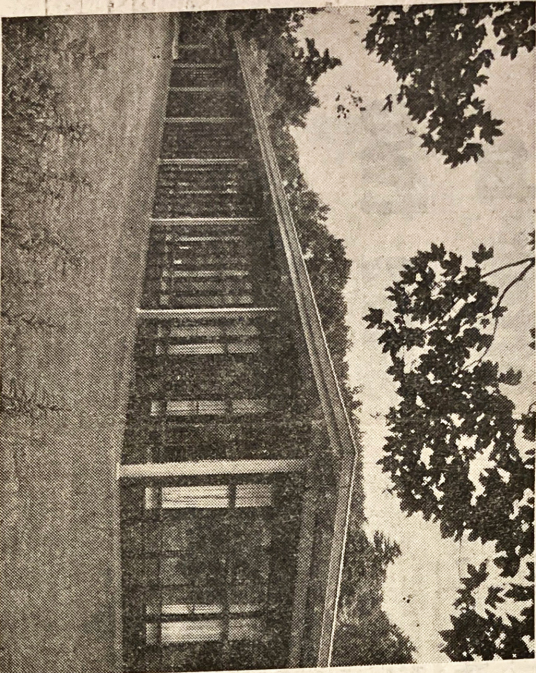


# New Town in hall switch

DDX (S901) 7/6



Querden Pavilion — The development corporation offices in the hall's grounds.

GOOD news for lovers of historic buildings. A Government - inspired reshuffle has secured the future of one of Central Lancashire's most outstanding architectural prizes.

The Army has been moved out of the 160-year-old Regency mansion, Querden Hall at Banner Bridge and the New Town development corporation moved in.

The transfer, which has taken several months to complete, has seen the headquarters of the Army's North - West District and the home of its commanding general moved to Fulwood, and the corporation's own Pavilion offices in the spacious grounds reduced to annexe status.

Five-year-old plans for a new multi-storey office block to house the new Town's growing staff on the picturesque Lostock Valley slopes have been abandoned, and the tenancy of a Bow Lane, Leyland, office block relinquished.

The move will ensure that the Hall — classed as second only to Chorley's Ashey Hall in the New Town area — will remain in public use and Government care for another decade or more.

Its release by the Army will also bring it more into the public gaze than it has

By  
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ever been in its existence, for it was previously the private residence of one of the district's big land-owning families.

Querden Hall was built by a famous architect of the period Lewis Wyatt for a former Higher Sheriff of Lancashire and Town MP, Mr Robert Townley.

Wyatt's other noted work included the completion of Tattou Park, Cheshire, the re-building of Stockport Parish Church and the design of Lyme Hall, Cheshire.

## HOSPITAL

He began his three-year commission for Mr Townley in 1816 incorporating into it part of an earlier hall built by Mr Barnastre Parker in 1717, and still seen as part of the south front of the present hall.

The hall and its estates passed into the ownership of Mr Reginald Tattou in 1906, and the following year extensive alterations and

additions were undertaken.

During World War I the house was used as a private hospital for wounded soldiers organised by the Tattou family, but it reverted to a private residence with the return of peace.

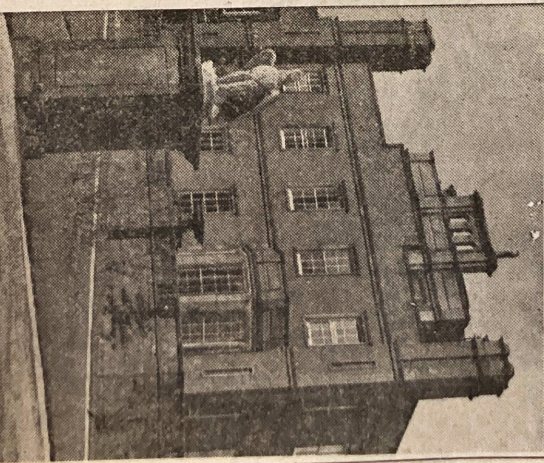
The military had a use for it again in World War II when the Hall was requisitioned as an Army education centre.

Later, it became the headquarters of No 4 Anti-Aircraft Group of Anti-Aircraft Command.

In 1968 Querden Hall was bought from the Tattou family for permanent Army use and it has been with North - West District until a few months ago when the transfer to Fulwood Barracks was completed.

The hall, which is surprisingly only Grade III listing among historic and architectural buildings, has since had a minimum of alteration, the most significant being the conversion of the old kitchens into a new reception area, with a new public entrance in keeping with the original.

A New Town spokesman said it would be the corporation's objective throughout its existence to act as a sympathetic and understanding tenant of buildings which were a significant part of Central Lancashire's architectural heritage.



The stately exterior of Querden Hall.