

Vault at Corner of St. Michael's Square and Castle Way (St Michael's Prison Vault)



Graffiti Survey summary

A team from Southampton Archaeology Society visited the vault on 27th November, 2018. The team consisted of K. Wardley, S. Hanna, M. Dowell, J. Porter and G&R James.

The vault is situated on the north corner of St. Michael's Square (below numbers 15 and 16) and Castle Way and on the site of what was St. Michael's Prison. It was probably built during the 14th Century and was used for storage. During World War Two it was used as an air raid shelter and blast walls fitted at this time can still be seen. All of the graffiti found appeared to be of the 20th century.



Fig. 1 Cylindrical brick built entrance to the vault via a concrete spiral staircase



Fig. 2 Black painted letters on north wall of furthest vault



Fig. 3 A pencil drawn plan on the south door jamb of the entrance to the furthest vault



Fig.4 Incised "H.B." at the foot of the spiral staircase



Fig. 5 Scratched "T H S D" at the foot of the spiral staircase