

BIRKENHEAD: THE LAIRD ENTERPRISE TRUST

The Birkenhead School of Art

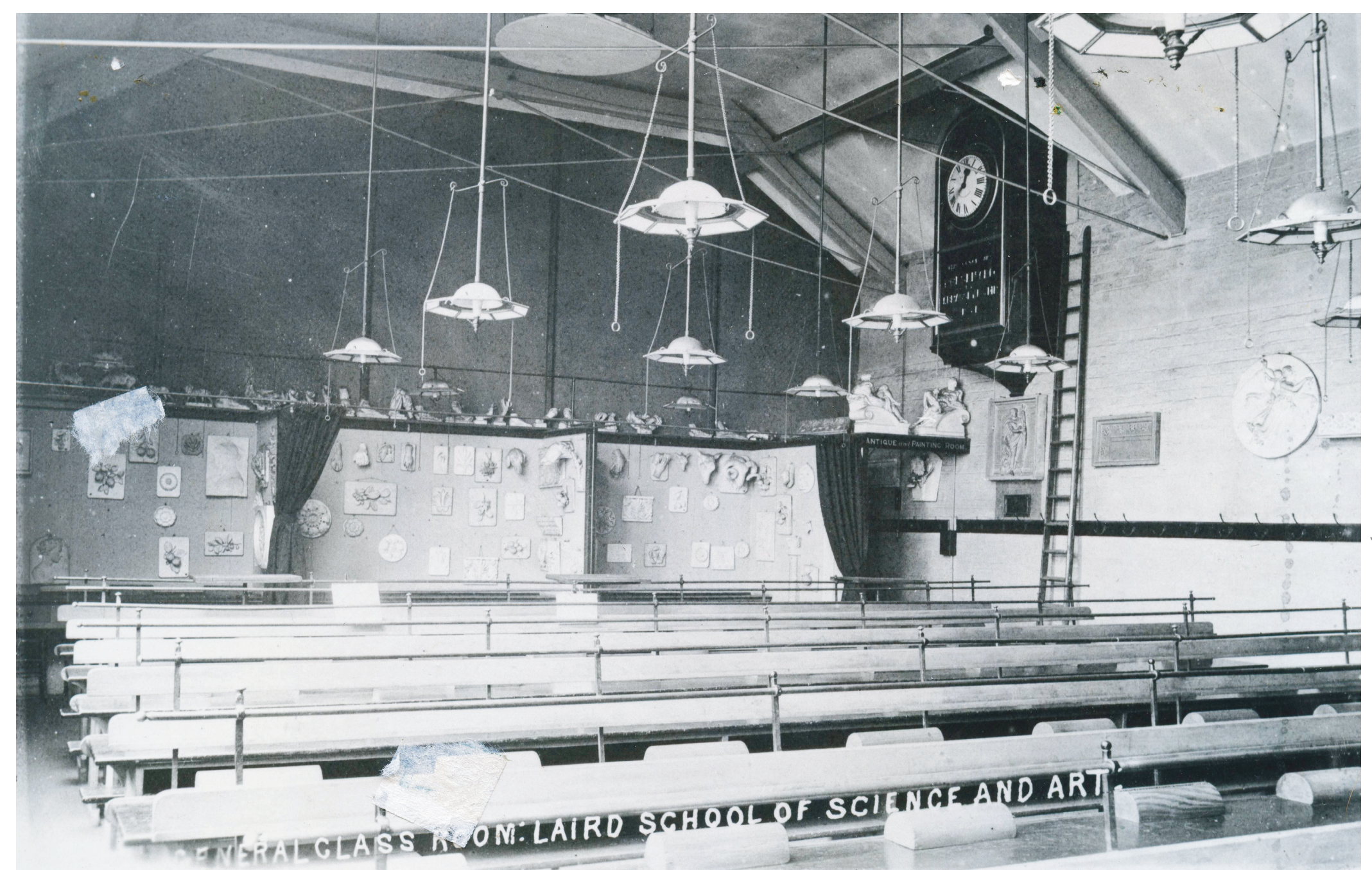
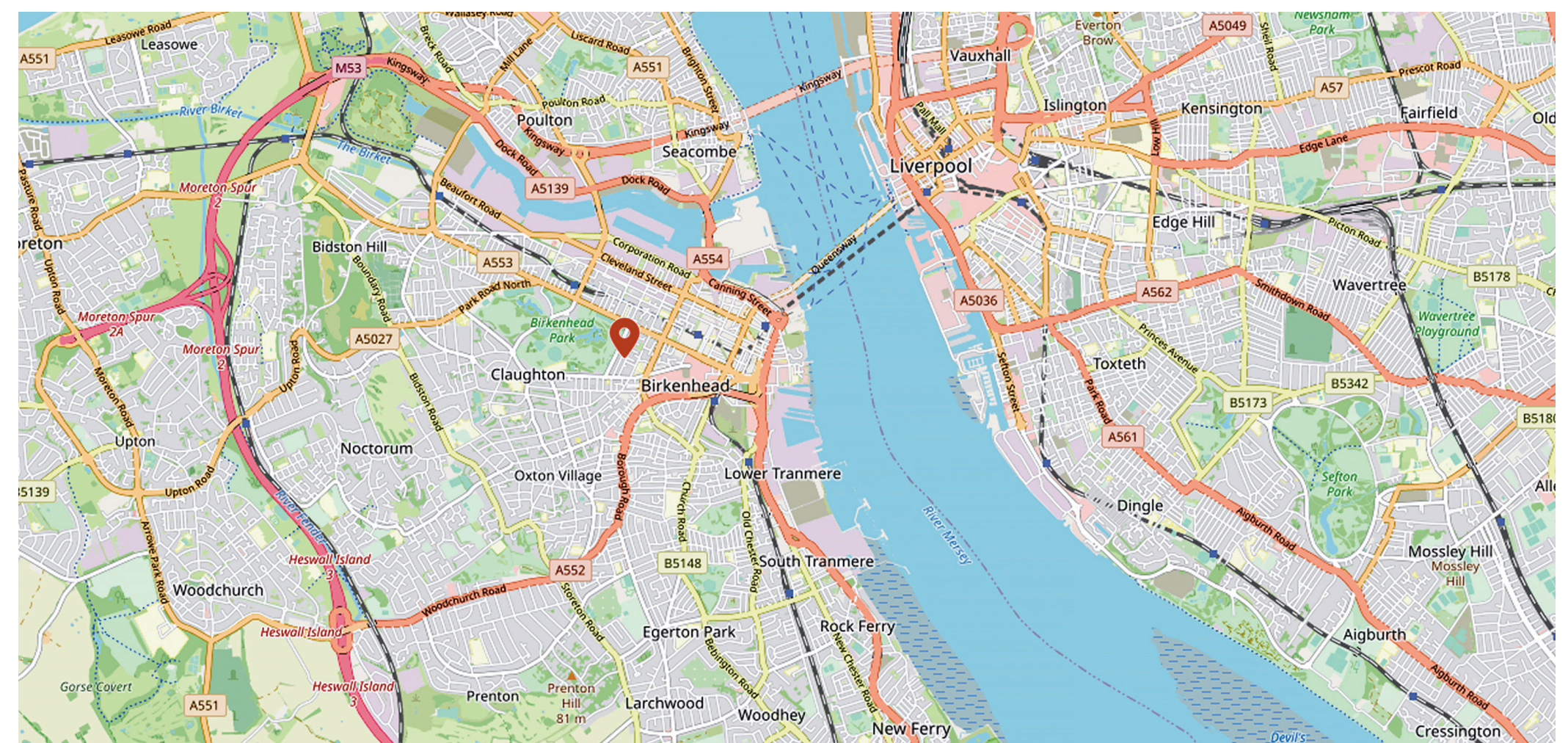


Situated on Park Road North, Birkenhead, the grand building overlooks Birkenhead Park. The first public school of art outside London, it was given to the town by John

Laird, a British shipbuilder and key figure in Birkenhead's development. The school opened in 1871 and was closed in 1980. Prior to the Laird Enterprise Trust leasing the building, it had become derelict and a site of vandalism.



School of Art interior from the collection of Philly Latters.



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“We were all exposed to the elements, and if it was raining, the rain would go right down to about three floors. On the second and third floor, I don't think there was any floors. It was just joists.”

SPACES OF HOPE RESEARCH PARTICIPANT.



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