

## Other Cardwell Keeps

### Dorchester Cardwell Keep

<https://www.keepmilitarymuseum.org/info/the+keep>



**Dorchester Cardwell Keep – Now a Military Museum**

Today the Keep Military Museum is a striking landmark in the heart of Dorchester. Completed in 1879, it was designed to resemble a Norman Castle, and is built of Portland stone which gives it a white appearance. In 'British Barracks 1600-1914', James Douet explains that:

'The 'keep' or armoury at Dorchester was an unusually realistic interpretation of a mediieval castle, by the army's standards, which must have been in response to local sensibilities over the historic character of the town.'

The design did not find favour with everyone. Pevsner, in 'The Buildings of England' describes it thus:

'The monumental gatehouse is a knock-down affair. Two round towers to the front, the archway between. Three storeys of long slit windows. Rock faced with a vengeance. Today it is a grade 2 listed building. The designer was probably Major AC Seddon R.E, head of the War Office Design branch at this time...The barracks behind were humble by comparison.'

A contemporary report in the Dorset County Chronicle and Somerset Gazette, 27 Mar 1879 was more complimentary:

'...a gateway of random rockwork in Ridgeway stone, with round and massive towers and battlemented surrounding...The Keep is to rise to a height of 65 feet...At the basement of the ponderous and formidable structure are guardhouse and prisoners cells, with all the necessary accessories. A range is provided for the supply of hot water to warm the three cells. At the rear of the cells is a yard for the exercise of prisoners.'

### **The Function of The Keep**

The Keep was originally the gatehouse for the Depot Barracks of the Dorsetshire Regiment as well as the County Armoury. It was completed in 1879, in time for the amalgamation of 39th and 54th Regiments of Foot who become the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Dorsetshire Regiment in 1881.

The Depot Barracks were the administrative centre for the Dorsetshire Regiment and its centre for recruitment and training. The Depot carried out this function between 1879 and 1958 with only one break. This was during World War Two when the barracks was used by the 701st Ordnance Light Maintenance Company and the 1st Quartermaster Company of the American Armed Forces.

### **Fulwood Barracks, Preston**



**The Keep at Fulwood Barracks, Preston** (image Wikipedia)

The barracks were built between 1842 and 1848 as a base, initially at least, for the 2nd Battalion 60th Rifles following the chartist riots. In 1861 an unfortunate incident took place when Private Patrick McCaffery shot both the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant of the base: he was hanged for the offence.

In 1873 a system of recruiting areas based on counties was instituted under the Cardwell Reforms and the barracks became the depot for the 47th (Lancashire) Regiment of Foot and the 81st Regiment of Foot (Loyal Lincoln Volunteers). Following the Childers Reforms, the 47th and 81st Regiments amalgamated as the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment with its depot at the barracks in 1881.

The barracks also served as the depot of the East Lancashire Regiment from 1898, when the regiment re-located from Burnley Barracks, until 1939. The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and the East Lancashire Regiment both returned to the barracks shortly after the Second World War.

The barracks, which went on to become the regional centre for infantry training as the Lancastrian Brigade Depot in 1960, became the depot of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment in 1970 as well as Headquarters North West District in 1977 and then the headquarters of 42 (North West) Brigade in 1991. The keep, and 15 other buildings and structures in the barracks, are Grade II listed buildings.

In November 2016 the Ministry of Defence announced that the site would close in 2022; however, in February 2019 it was announced that the closure date had been put back to 2027.

#### **Heritage England Listing Details:**

Armoury and store. 1870-1880. Sandstone ashlar with asphalt flat roof. Single-depth plan with front projecting corner stair towers.

EXTERIOR: 3 storey; 3:4:3-window range. Taller left-hand and level right-hand stair towers, plinth and dentil parapet, with flat-headed doorway and C20 door to the inner side of the right-hand tower; central section with 6/6-pane sashes, stairs have stepped glazed loops in 2 storeys to the left and 1 to the right, and 3 loops to the top floor. 3-window side ranges, and rear with 4 pairs of late C20 4/4-pane casements.

INTERIOR: has cast-iron columns and rolled metal joists, stair towers have dogleg stairs with metal balusters and moulded newels.

HISTORY: not shown on c1850 maps of the barracks, and similar to 1870s Cardwell armoury designs. Although the south-east barrack range has been lost, the original plan of 2 parade squares within a defensible perimeter wall is substantially intact, making Fulwood the most complete surviving example in England of the late C18 concept of barracks design.

#### **Wellesley Barracks, Halifax**



**The Keep at Wellesley Barracks, Halifax (Wikipedia)**

The barracks was built in the Fortress Gothic Revival Style as a depot for the 33rd and 76th Regiment's. On 1 April 1873 the depot was established, with construction completed in 1877. On 1 September the Depot Companies of the 33rd and 76th Regiments marched in. Their creation took place as part of the Cardwell Reforms which encouraged the localisation of British military forces. Following the Childers Reforms, the 33rd and 76th Regiments amalgamated to form the Duke of Wellington's Regiment with its depot at the barracks in 1881.

A Regimental Museum was established at the barracks in 1921. The barracks was demoted to the status of out-station to the Yorkshire Brigade depot at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall in 1958 and the regimental museum collection was rehoused in the Bankfield Textile Museum in 1961, with the regimental archives and library remaining onsite.

Although many of the buildings on the site were subsequently demolished, the keep was retained and is owned by Calderdale Council, with no public access. In 2005 the barracks became the site of the new Halifax High School (now The Halifax Academy).

### **Stoughton Barracks, Guildford**



**The Keep at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford (Wikipedia)**

The barracks were built in the Fortress Gothic Revival Style and completed in 1876. Their creation took place as part of the Cardwell Reforms which encouraged the localisation of British military forces. The barracks became the depot for the two battalions of the 2nd (West Surrey) Regiment of Foot. Following the Childers Reforms, the regiment evolved to become the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) with its depot in the barracks in 1881.

The barracks ceased to be a regimental depot in 1959 when the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) was amalgamated with the East Surrey Regiment, although the keep was still used as a pay office and a record office until 1983 when it was sold to Countryside Properties. The building is now known as "Cardwell's Keep".

## Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes



**The Keep at Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes** (Wikipedia)

The barracks were built in the Fortress Gothic Revival style and named after Sir John Gaspard Le Marchant in 1878 (1766-1812, *one of the finest British cavalry commanders of his generation. He was also an intellectual soldier who had a great influence on the efficient functioning of the army he served in. He was instrumental in the process which produced the first British military academy and staff college and he saw active service in the French Revolutionary Wars and the Peninsular War until his death at the Battle of Salamanca*).

Their creation took place as part of the Cardwell Reforms which encouraged the localisation of British military forces. The barracks became the depot for the 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment of Foot and the 99th (Lanarkshire) Regiment of Foot. Following the Childers Reforms, the 62nd and 99th Regiments amalgamated to form the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) with its depot in the barracks in 1881.

During the First World War 5,000 soldiers were processed there and over 3,000 reservists were called up there. Between the Wars the barracks were the local infantry training centre and during the Second World War the barracks became a Prisoner of war camp. The barracks remained the home of the Wiltshire Regiment until 1959 after which time they were used as a secondary location by the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment until about 1967.

Part of the site was still used as a Territorial Army Centre for the 1st Battalion the Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) after the main barracks closed. The keep was sold by the Ministry of Defence in the 1980s and was subsequently used as a warehouse. It was sold again in 2012 and converted for residential use in 2013. The keep and gatehouse are Grade II listed.