VEC VIRTUAL ENGINEERING CENTRE / ST GEORGE'S HALL

THE VIRTUAL ENGINEERING CENTRE CAPTURE UNIQUE IMAGERY OF SECURE STATUE OF ARCHITECT FOR PROMOTING DIGITAL HERITAGE AT ST GEORGE'S HALL

St George's Hall has given the Virtual Engineering Centre (VEC) unique access to numerous heritage assets and sites, where the teams have been able to use emerging digital tools and technologies for capturing specific imagery and data connected to such statues, rooms, and properties.

St George's Hall is a Grade I listed building and home to hundreds of unique and beautiful artefacts and rooms including the famous Great Hall, home to the decorative Minton Tiles which were manufactured in the 1890's along with the Great Organ which was built locally in Liverpool between 1851 and 1855.

The Concert Room, also known as 'The Golden Room', sits on the first floor of St George's Hall and is well recognised for previously hosting numerous public readings from Charles Dickens on the 30-foot stage.

Architects Harvey Lonsdale Elmes' and Charles Robert Cockerell completed the St George's Hall project in 1855 which included the Crown and Civil Courts and even supporting cells for holding convicted criminals.

Born in London in 1798, John Weightman had worked on large projects such as the Grand Junction Railway, connecting Liverpool with Birmingham. In 1848, as a corporation surveyor John Weightman was appointed to oversee and support the building of St George's Hall, where he worked closely with Charles Cockerell.

John Weightman's portrait bust, or statue sits firmly within St George's Hall, just outside of the Great Hall. Using light hand-held 3D image scanning devices, the Virtual Engineering Centre's Industrial Digitalisation teams managed to capture multiple unique images of the statue, building a 360-degree view over 30 minutes.

These images can then be compiled together to create a virtual and interactive model of the statue which will be able to sit within digital platforms, including websites and allow remote users to explore every detail without causing damage, giving even greater accessibility than ever before.

This scanning activity has not only enabled St George's Hall Trust the opportunity for scanning further assets and sharing unique stories of the city's history, but the teams have been able to use non-interference methods for capturing unique data and records on these assets, whilst reducing the risk of possible damage and time spent.

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