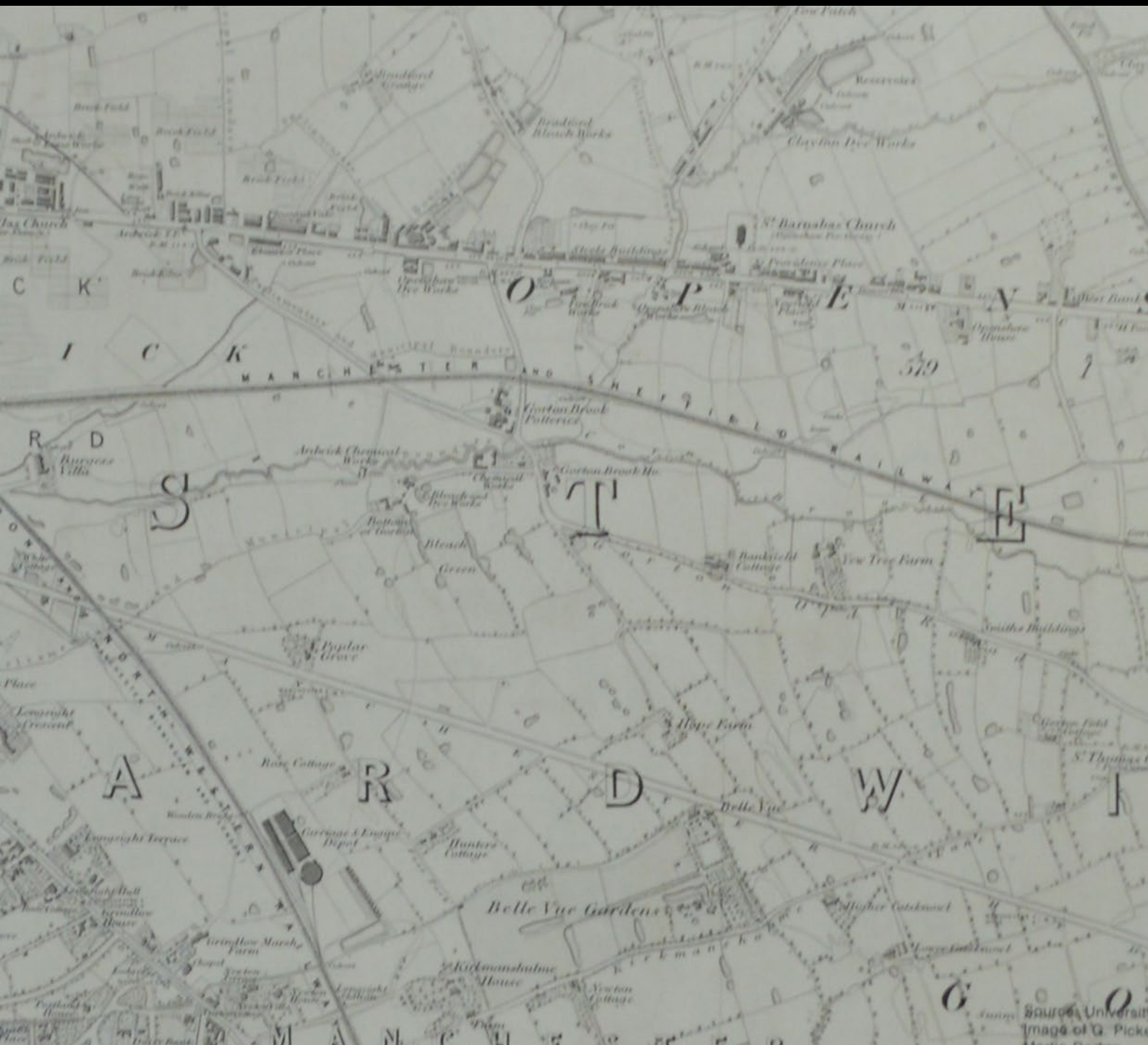
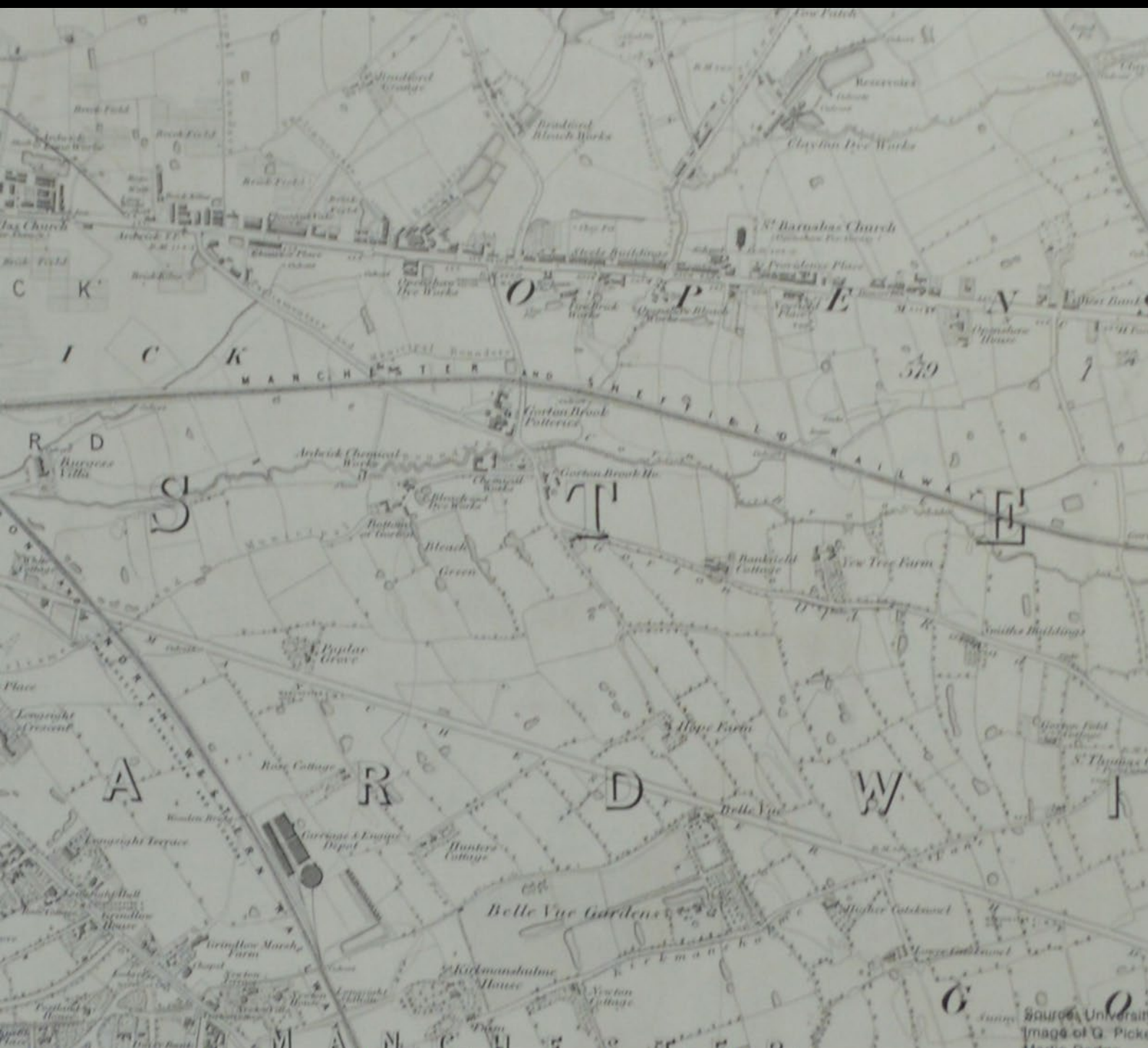


Front cover

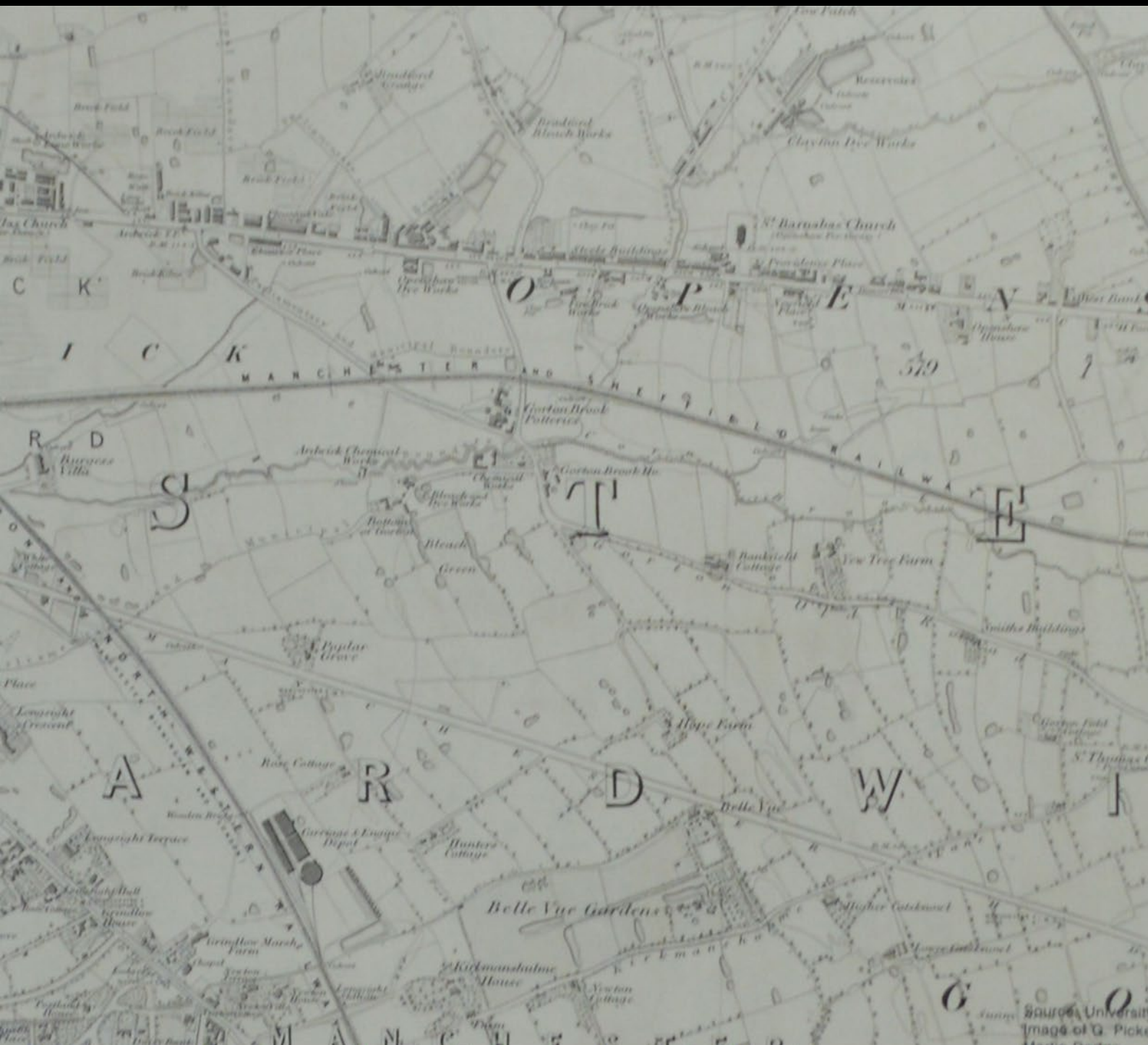


1840s

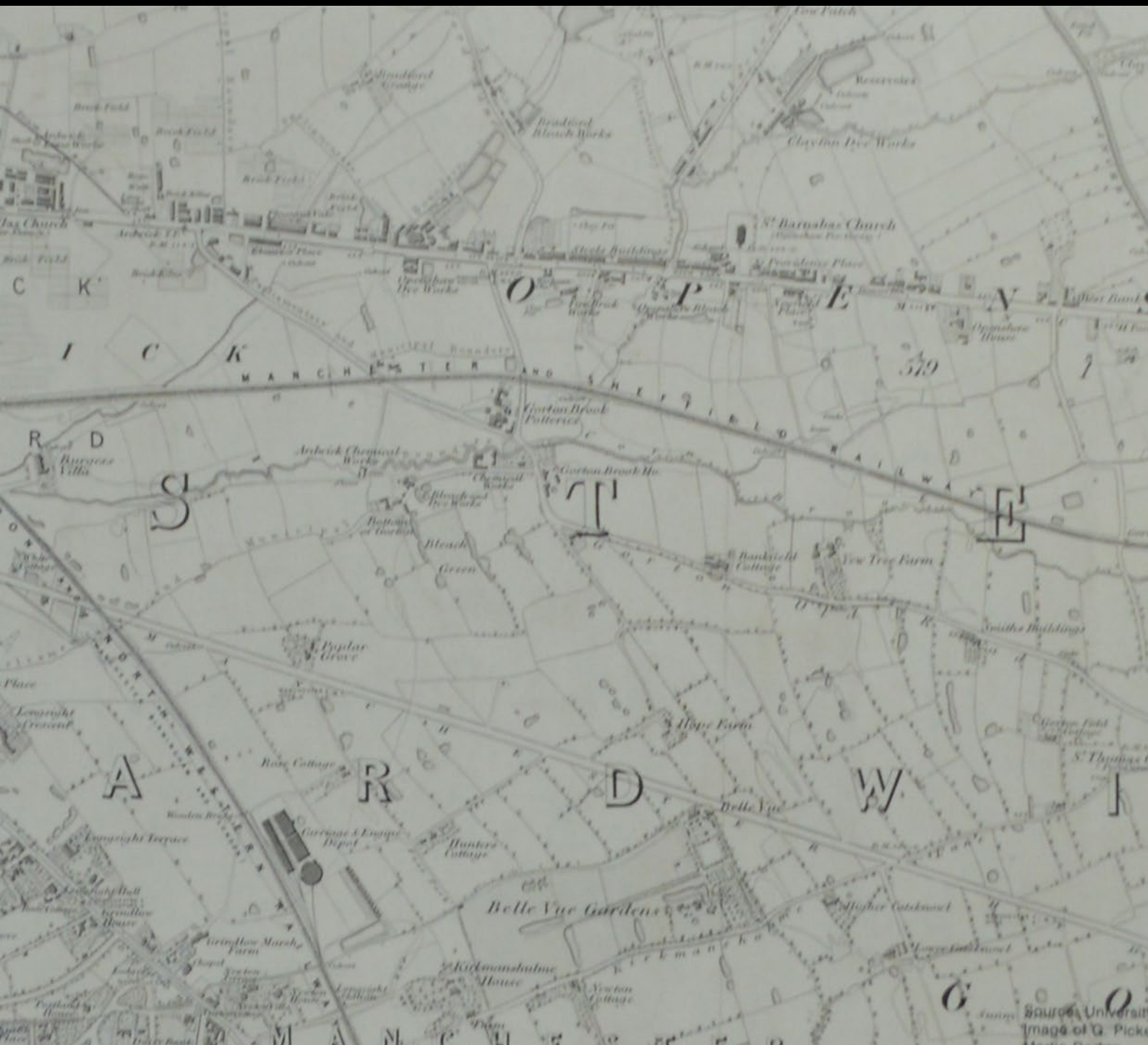
Gorton was still mainly rural in the 1840s.



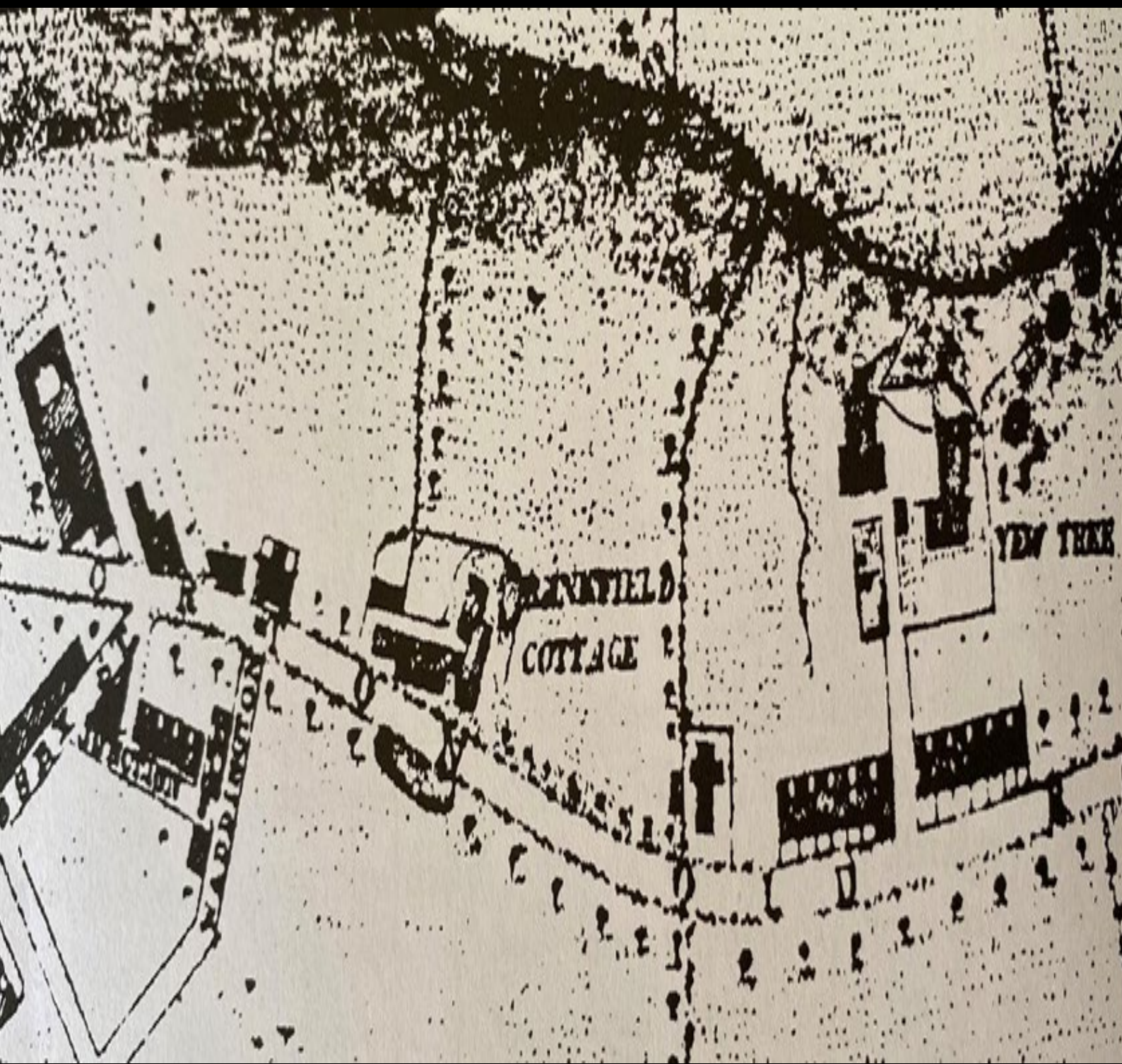
There were chemical works and potteries (like those clustered around the brooks near Gorton Brook House) and new railway lines had cut through the historic field systems.



The Industrial Revolution had led to the rapid expansion of Manchester. As the city continued to grow, Gorton continued to transform into an area of heavy industry.

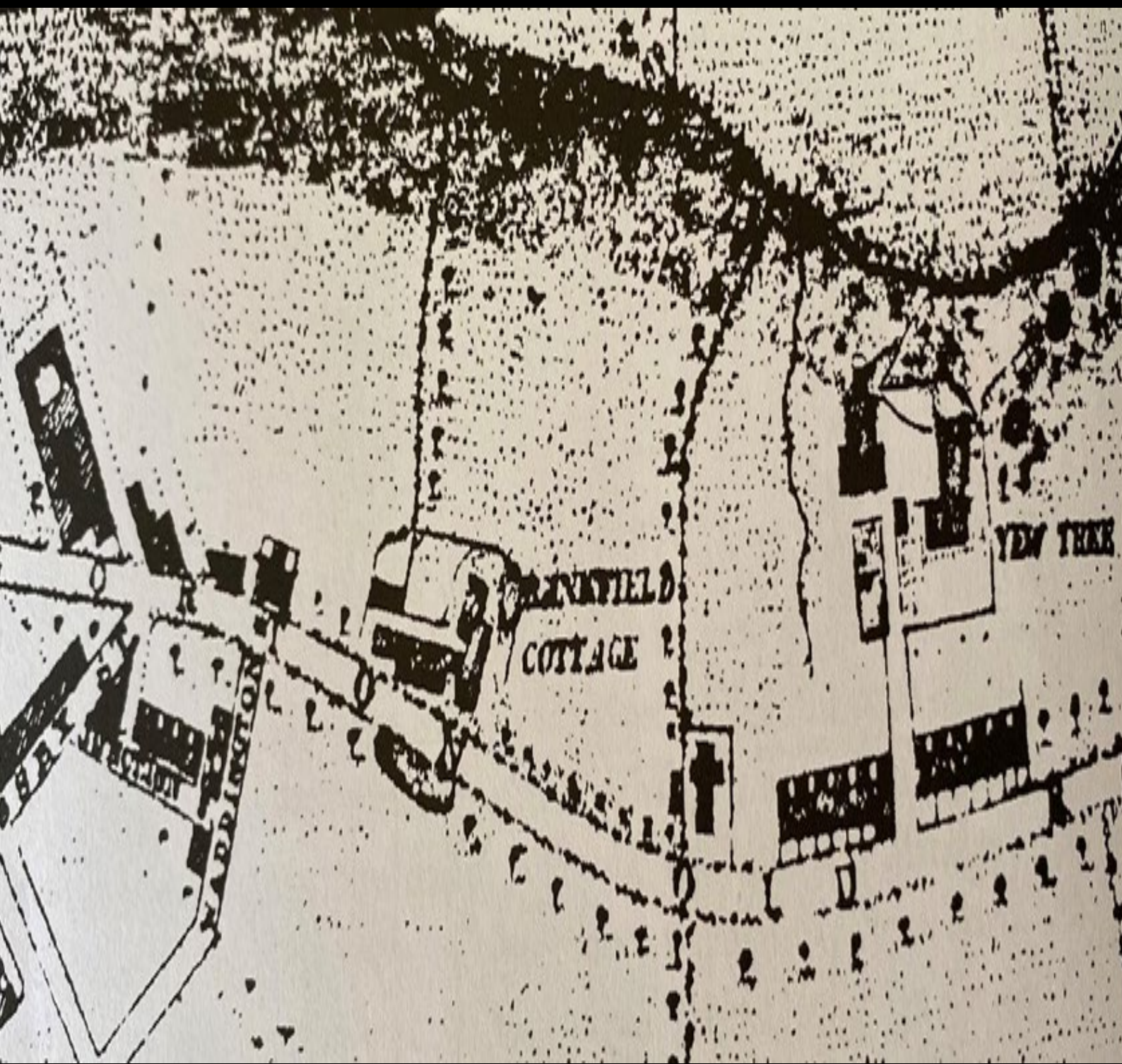


Especially when the Beyer-Peacock
Railway Works (Gorton Foundry)
opened in 1855.

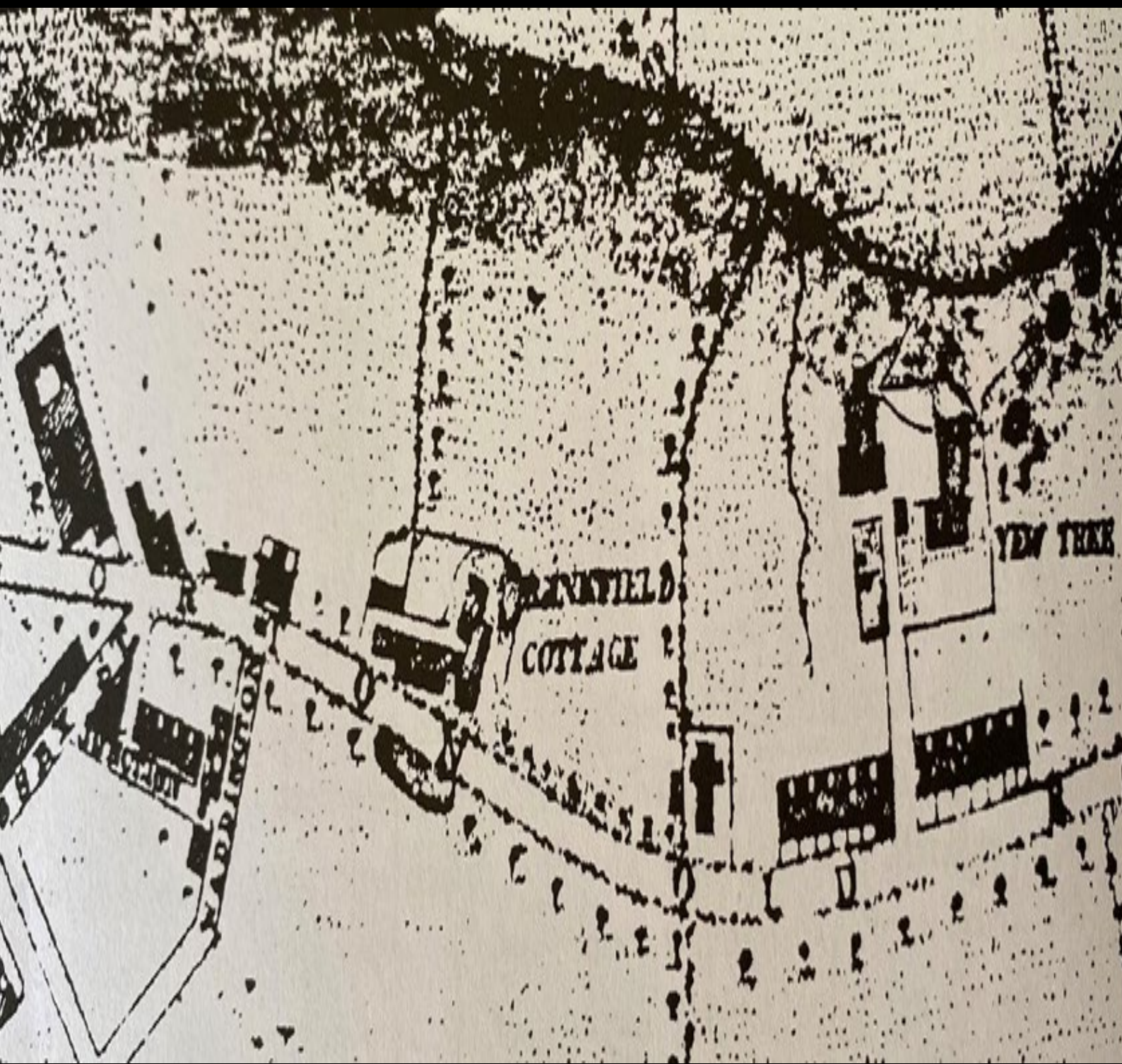


1861

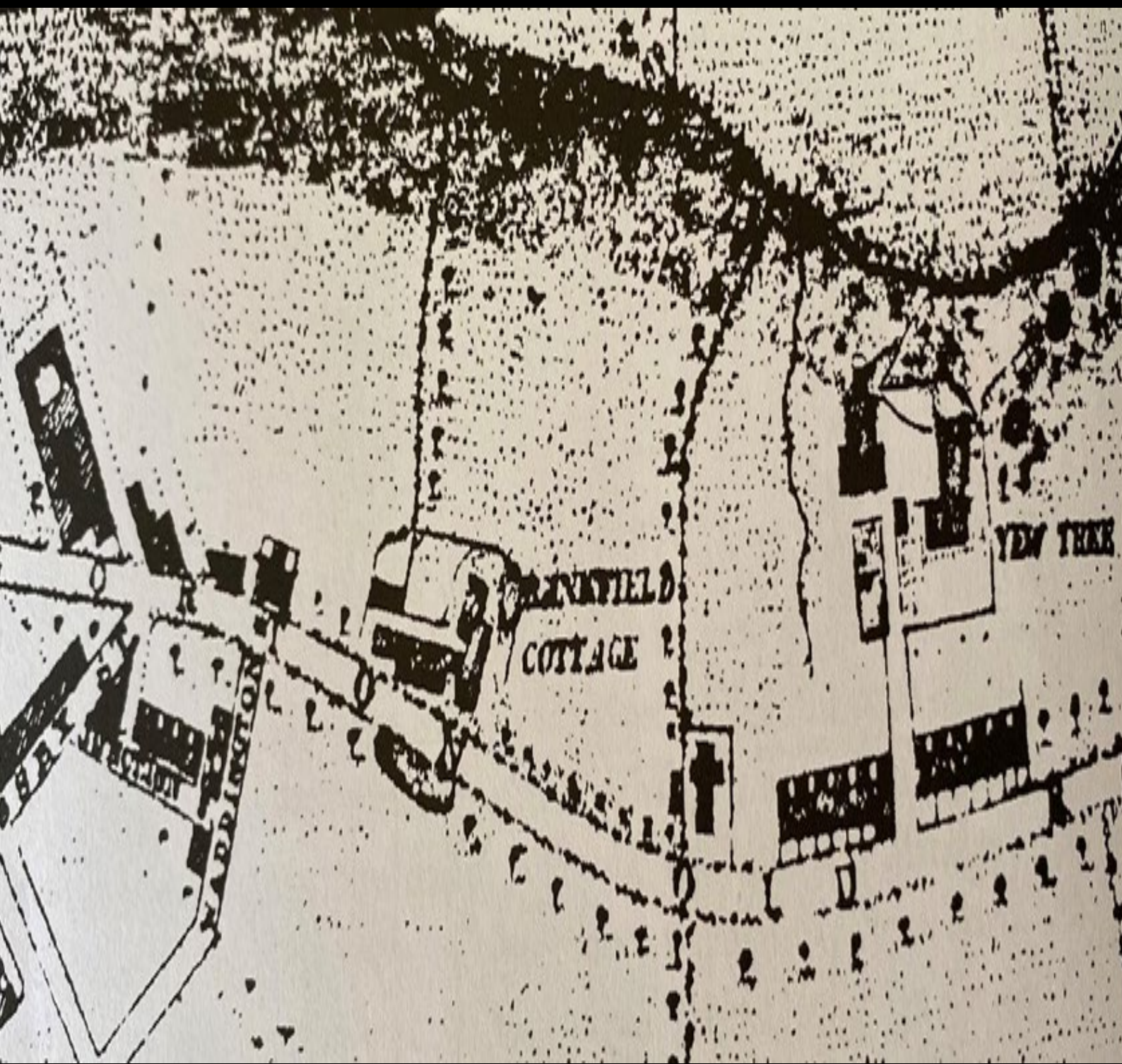
The original chapel school



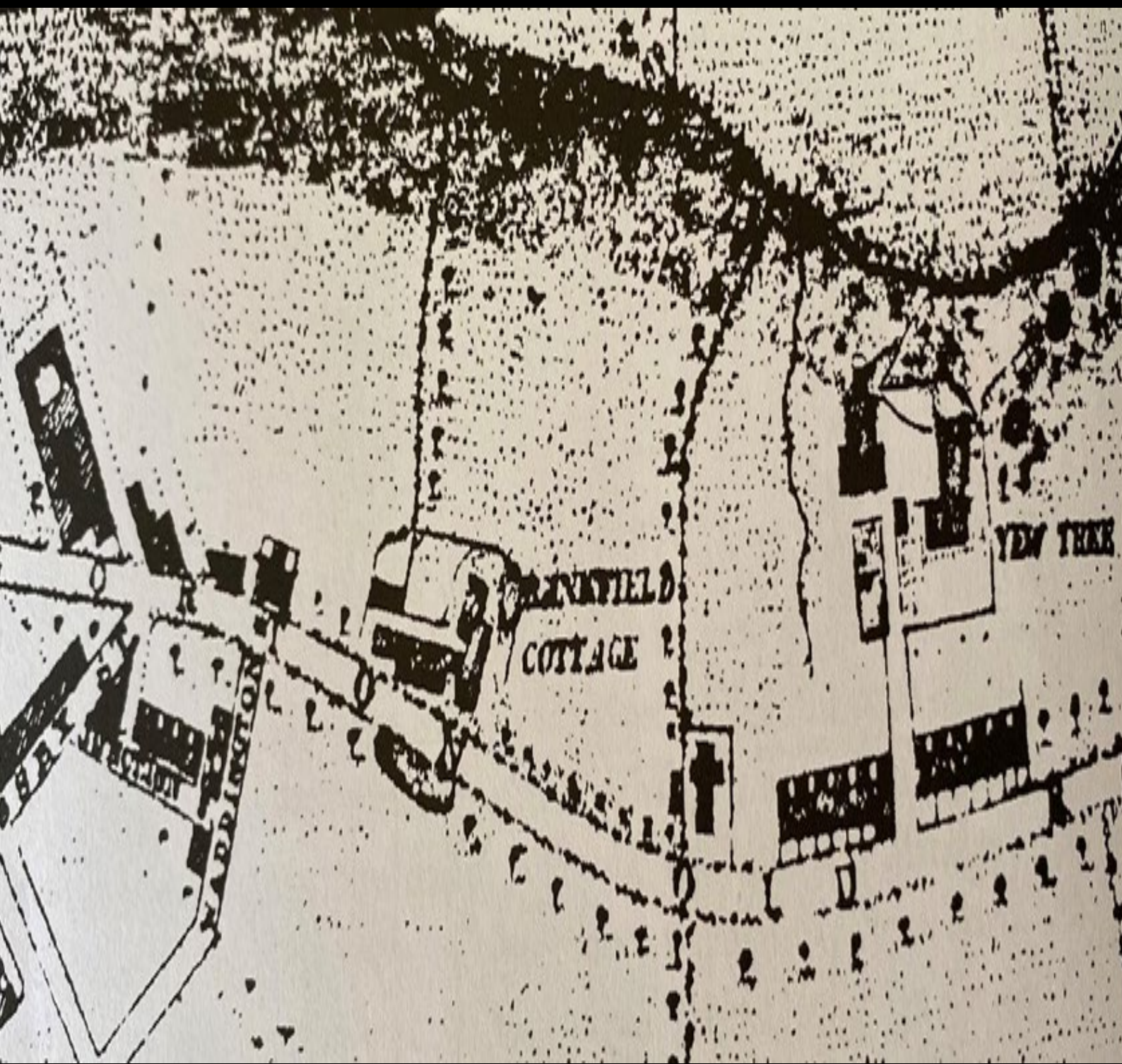
The first Franciscan friars in Gorton stayed with Father Peter Cardinal in Fairfield.



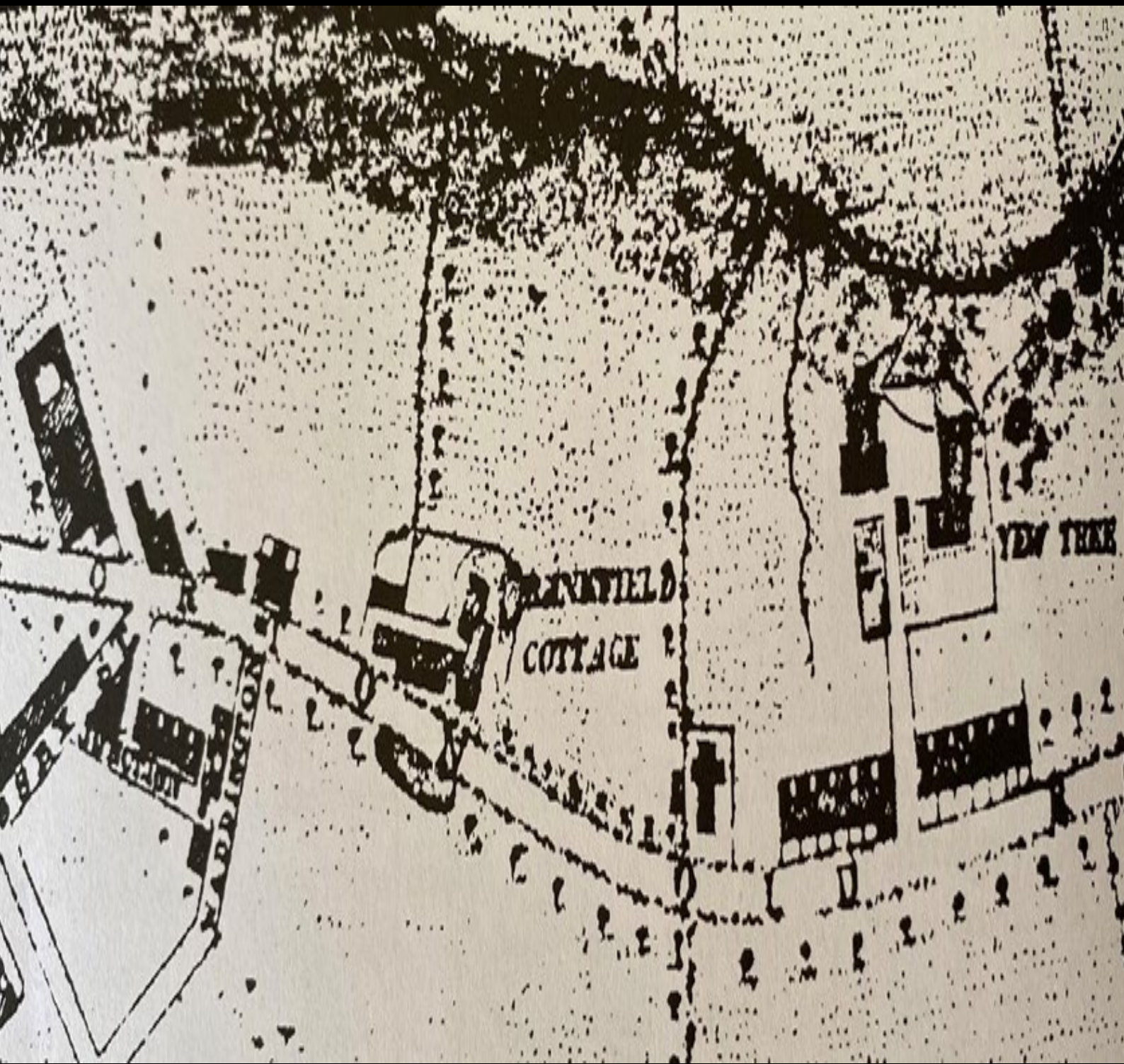
He'd recently built a chapel that was also used as a school on Gorton Lane (then called Gorton Old Road).



On Christmas Day 1861, the friars held their first Mass for the Catholic people of Gorton at the chapel school. It later became the boys' school.



The friars bought land next to the chapel school to build their church and friary.



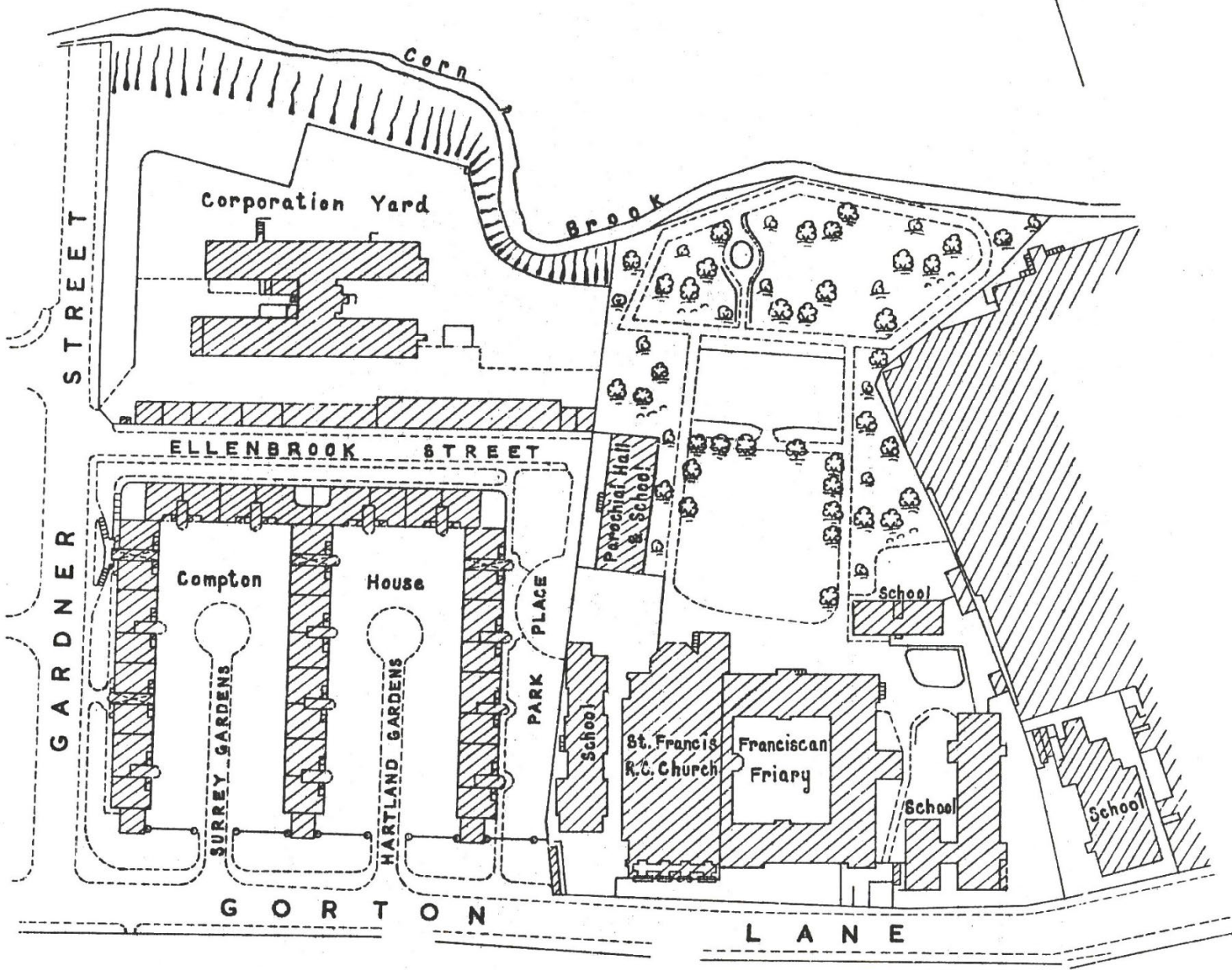
They lived in Bankfield Cottage until it was demolished to make way for the Church of St Francis.



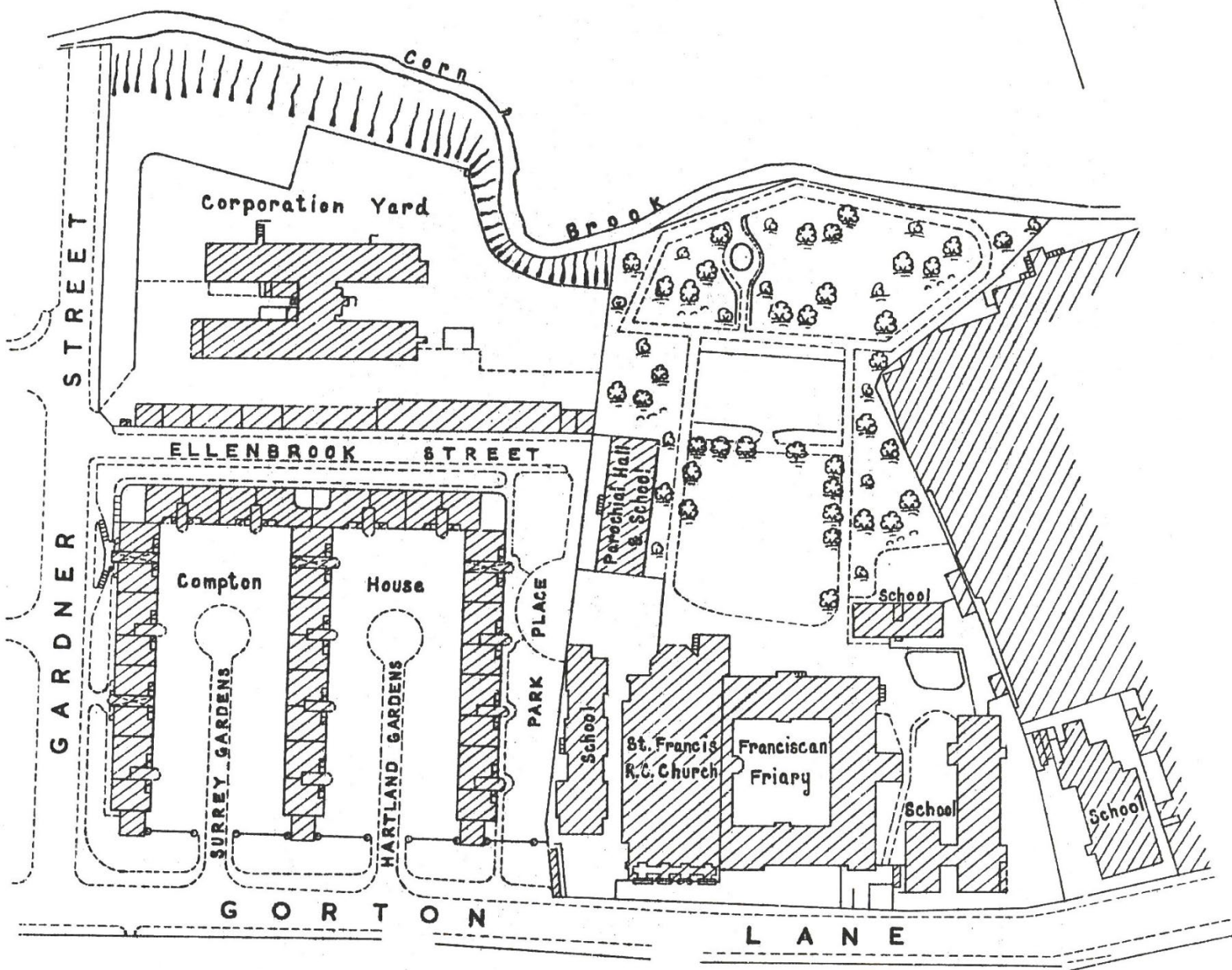
Built in a cruciform (cross) shape, it stood where we now enter the car park.

*Aerial image of industrial Gorton –
Elaine/Len providing*

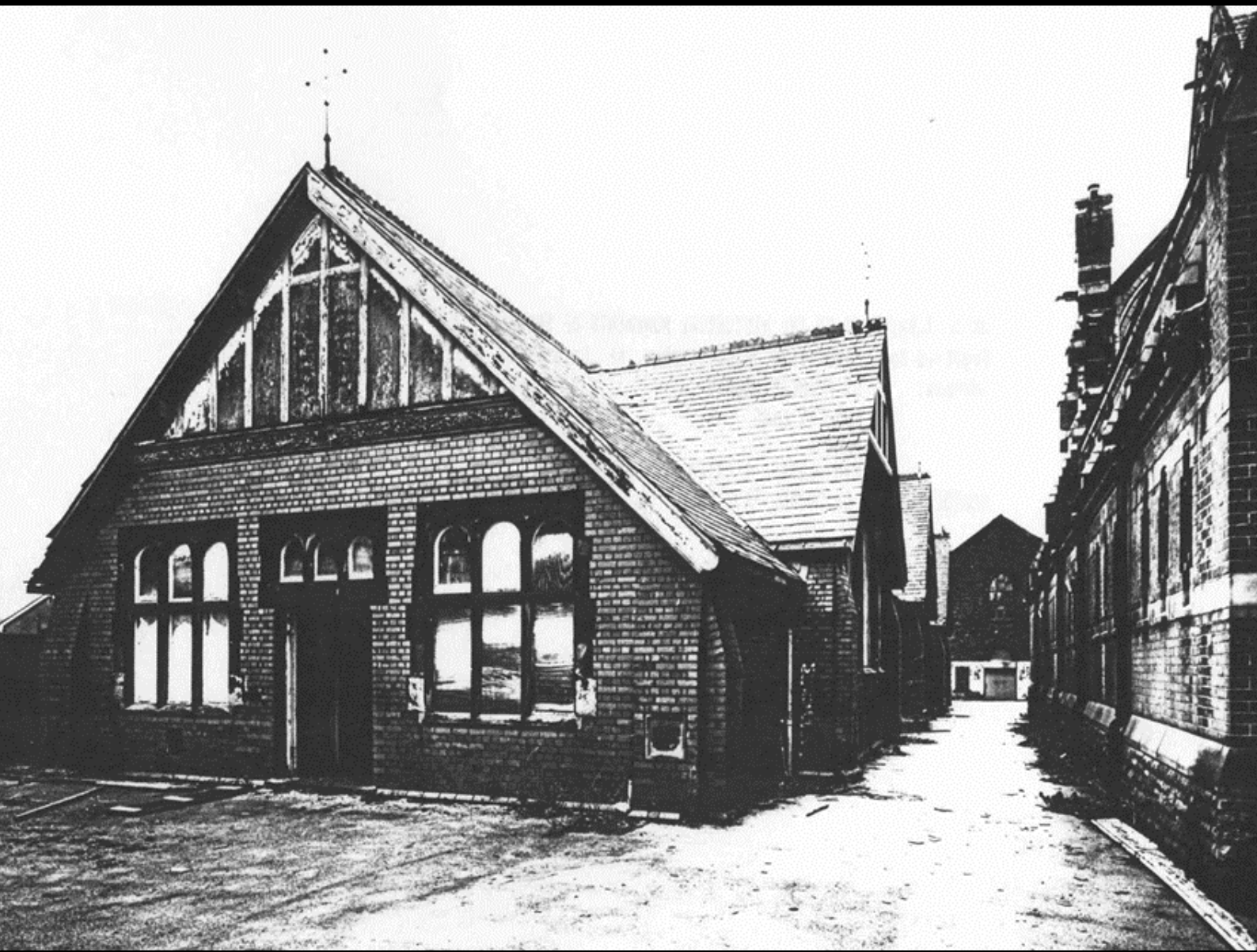
Year?



1957



There were several schools on the site. Pupils walked through the gardens to start cross-country runs along Corn Brook.



School next to the church.



1960s

How the original entrance to the church was seen from terraced housing opposite.



These shops and houses, described as 'slums', were demolished as part of the 1960s regeneration of the City of Manchester.



1970s?

This front wing of the friary was
demolished in

Is there a good aerial image over the monastery showing the gardens down to Corn Book (maybe from the 1980s)?



1991

When the building stood empty.

Back cover and
thank you
message