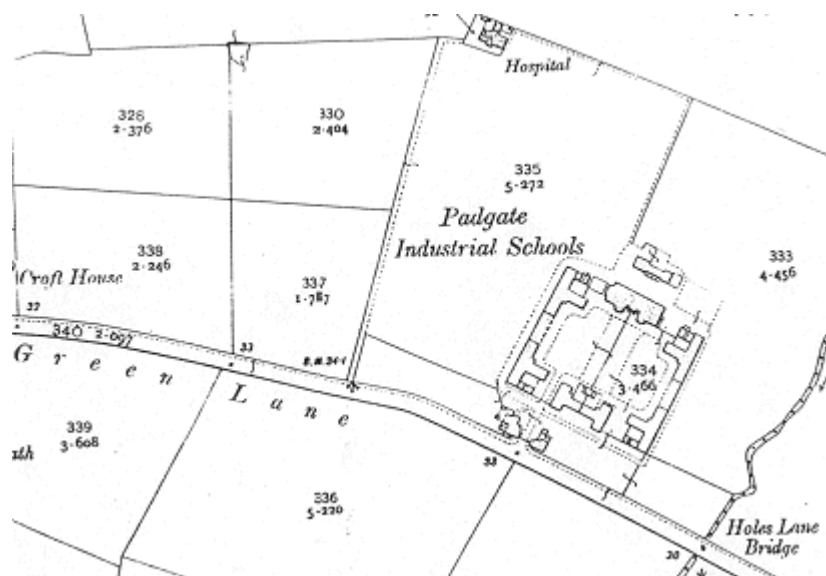




Padgate Industrial Schools

In 1880-1, Warrington Union erected an Industrial School complex at Padgate. The site provided accommodation and training for pauper children away from the main workhouse site. The buildings included two boys' houses, two girls' houses, a school, Superintendent's house, and Porter's lodge. Play sheds were added in 1885. The site location and layout are shown on the 1905 map below.



Warrington Padgate schools site, 1905.



*Padgate Superintendent's house (left) and Porter's lodge from the south, 2001.
© Peter Higginbotham.*

The children's accommodation comprised two T-shaped houses for each sex. The homes could eventually accommodate 200 children.



*Padgate boys' houses from the south, 2001.
© Peter Higginbotham.*

The school, to the north-east of the Porter's lodge, has a foundation stone laid by WE Winstanley on 7th October 1880.



Padgate school block from the south, 2001.
© Peter Higginbotham.

The Industrial Schools later became Padgate Cottage Homes. The surviving buildings have now been converted for business use.

Staff

- [1881 Census](#)

Inmates

- [1881 Census](#)

Records

- [Lancashire Record Office](#), Bow Lane, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 2RE. Few records survive — main holdings are Guardians' minutes (1837-1900).

Bibliography

- Forrest, D (2001) *Warrington's Poor and the Workhouse, 1725-1851*.
- Hitchcock, T.V. (1985) *The English workhouse: a study in institutional poor relief in selected counties. 1695-1750*. (DPhil thesis. University of Oxford.)

Padgate Cottage Homes

Warrington Union opened what was known as the Padgate Industrial Schools in 1881.

The initial site was based on a quadrangle with, at each corner a home for 50 children - the two on the west for boys and the two on the east for girls.

On the south side was the school and classrooms and on the northside was the surgery, stores, offices laundry, piggeriers, stable and outbuildings.

Each of the four two-storey homes has, on the ground floor a kitchen, dining room, workroom, pantries, bathroom and toilet and two sitting rooms for the officers. Upstairs were three dormitories for the children, and bedrooms for the officers.

The school later became known as Padgate Cottage Homes. In 1911, 200 children were living there .

In 1950, the cottage homes had another name change and became known as Padgate Hall but in 1953, the homes closed.

A Memory of Padgate

Padgate Cottage Homes. I first went in there in 1948 as a 6 year old and finally left in 1953 as a 12 year old. The events that happened in there over those years were to shape the rest of my life. Although life in there was quite tough, you have to remember that it was tough for most folk at that time. The good memories vastly outweigh the bad memories. Good memories, including the annual 4 week camp at Knott-End-on-Sea, trips out to places like the Lakes and even as far as London to the Festival of Britain. But Christmas times were fantastic, apart from the in-house celebrations, we were invited to parties given by the RAF and also the Americans at Burtonwood. The thing is, when you live in a home with upwards of 130 children there is always someone to play with. The house straight across from the gates was my first call on bob-a-job day, they were great people who always found us some little job or other, whether it be a bit of weeding or polishing the silver, anything just so we could earn our shilling. The view up the lane reminds me of walking excitedly up to the bus stop at Paddington post office to meet visiting relatives, though that was a pretty rare thing.