

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

CASE STUDY

South West England

For 25 years the Architectural Heritage Fund has helped voluntary organisations regenerate historic buildings, creating community and education facilities, workspace and homes. This has often been a catalyst for further regeneration. We have supported relevant voluntary groups with grants, loans and advice on more than 700 projects to date. This is an example.

Community learning resource: Museum of Empire and Commonwealth, Temple Meads, Bristol

Designed by Brunel as the Bristol terminus of the Great Western Railway, this vast complex was opened in 1841 and is the most complete early railway terminus in the world. It was swallowed up by the 'new' station in the 1860s as traffic expanded rapidly, and was used until 1965 when services ceased.

The Museum of Empire & Commonwealth Trust was established in 1986, and a subsidiary, Empire Museum Ltd, developed the Museum within the building. The Architectural Heritage Fund had earlier assisted its forerunner, the Brunel Engineering Centre Trust.

The Museum's aim is to preserve, explore and study Britain's cultural heritage deriving from the former empire and today's commonwealth. It opened in September 2002. The first floor of the train shed houses its permanent galleries, and the second floor - Brunel's well-lit drawing office - hosts temporary exhibitions.



Organisation: *The Museum of Empire & Commonwealth Trust*

Contact: *enquiries 0117 925 4980*

Listed Grade I, nominated as a World Heritage Site.

Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: *£220,000 loan in 2000*

The Architectural Heritage Fund – Registered Charity No 266780

We provide grants, loans and advice to voluntary organisations regenerating historic buildings.

Further information is available from:

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