

Magnificent Portland Rotunda



A magnificent rotunda constructed of Portland Stone dated 1907, in very good condition with wonderful patination. This piece was originally a Victorian folly to disguise Gosport Water Company's pumping station at Soberton, Hampshire, England.

Constructed in Portland Stone, the rusticated or boasted face stonework and planted colonnade support the domed roof. Carved text around the Rotunda reads 'Gosport Waterworks Company Reservoir, Shedfield, 1907'. Ideal for a grand garden vista or simple folly. As a wedding chapel such as in Stourbridge's landscaped gardens. Alternatively the rotunda could be converted as a camera obscura or viewing point.

The local authorities initially tried to prevent removal by obtaining listed status on the building. The process failed and it is now available. It has been reconstructed for viewing at MASCo Walcot's Minchinhampton yard. The name and title could be dressed out if required.

Our stock code: QPO001-AD
Price: £85,000.00 + VAT

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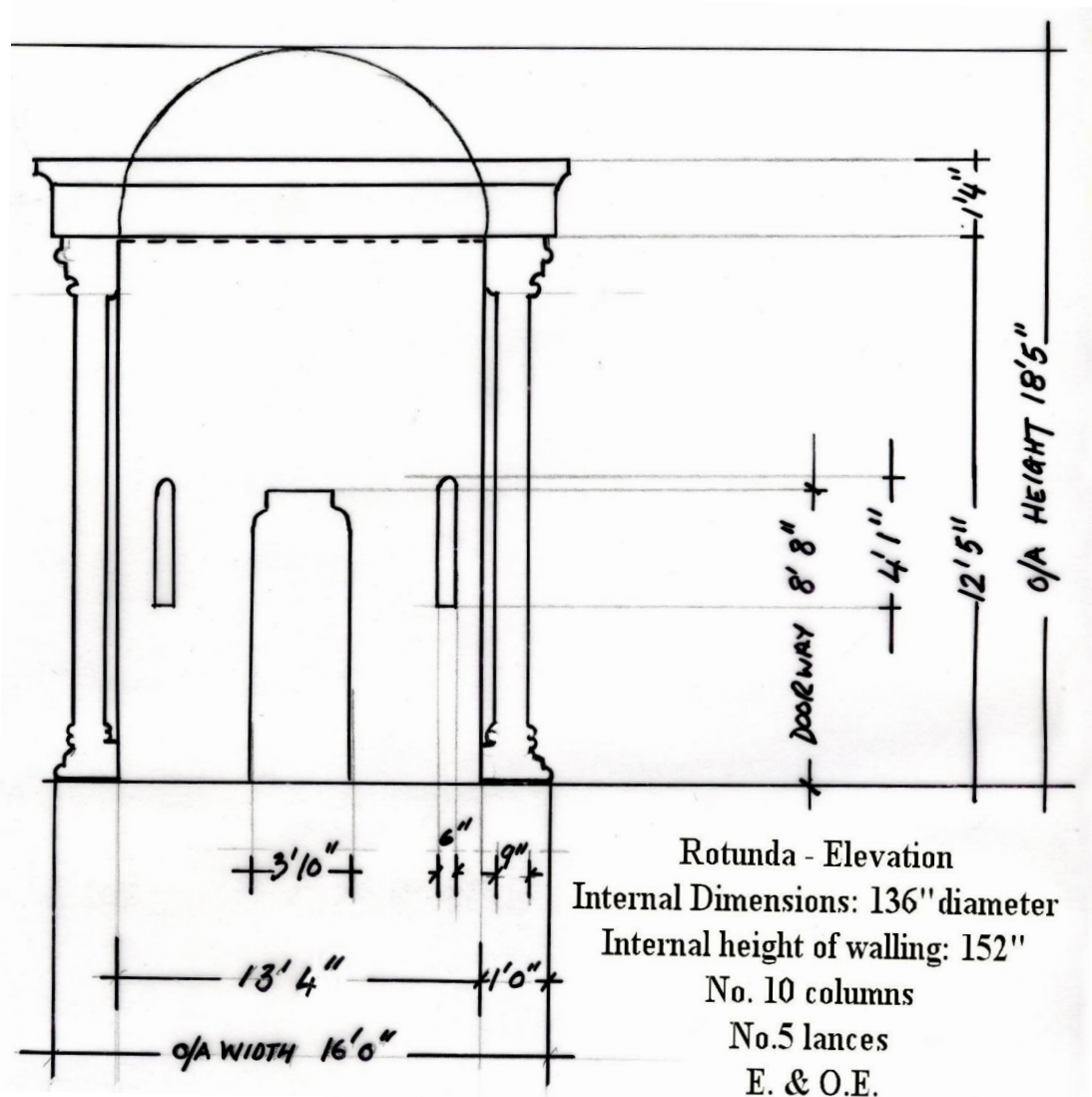
wood flooring / bathrooms & radiators / reclaimed building materials / original fireplaces & interior features / garden ornaments / architectural features

MASCo Architectural Salvage

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Rotunda Elevation and Dimensions

- Overall height including dome: 18'8"
- Overall width including base of columns: 15'5"
- Internal diameter: 11'4"
- Internal height of walling: 12'8"
- Number of columns – x10 No.
- Number of lances – x5 No.

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Gosport Water Company in Soberton – Original Site of the Rotunda

Top Left Image shows the Rotunda on location prior to deconstruction.



Top right image shows a detail of the carved text that runs around the Rotunda reading **'Gosport Waterworks Company Reservoir, Shedfield'**.

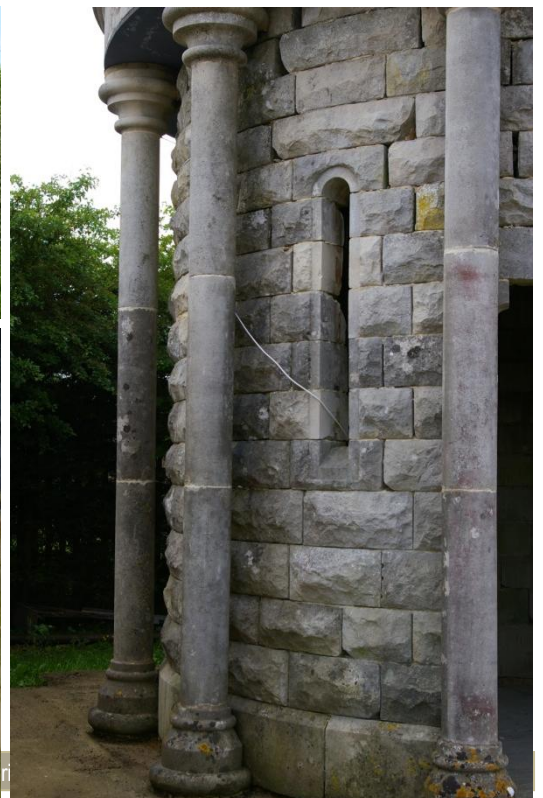
There is also a date on the structure of **'1907'**.

According to Dr LFW White in his booklet, the Story of Gosport (1947), the first water supplies to Gosport were laid through hollowed-out elm tree pipes sometime after 1698. Evidence of this supply was provided by the discovery of wooden pipes, which were dug up in what is now the High Street in the 1930s.

In 1858 the Gosport Waterworks Company was formed.

In the early 1900's the Gosport Company decided to develop a new well and pumping station much further inland at Soberton in the Meon Valley. A service reservoir was constructed at Shedfield to the north of Wickham and a 15" main laid from there through Fareham to join up with the existing mains at Foxbury which supplied the town of Gosport. The supply from Soberton was finally brought into use in May 1907.

Magnificent Portland Rotunda – Reconstructed at our Cotswold Yard



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The Rotunda – A wedding chapel in landscaped gardens

The Rotunda would make a stunning architectural feature in any gardens.



At Stourhead they have a similar temple used as a wedding chapel, as you can see from the two images on the right above.

The temple has been situated within landscaped gardens and provides an idyllic venue for such an occasion. The temple, with its graceful stone work and intimate location provides a serene setting for beautiful, classic ceremonies.

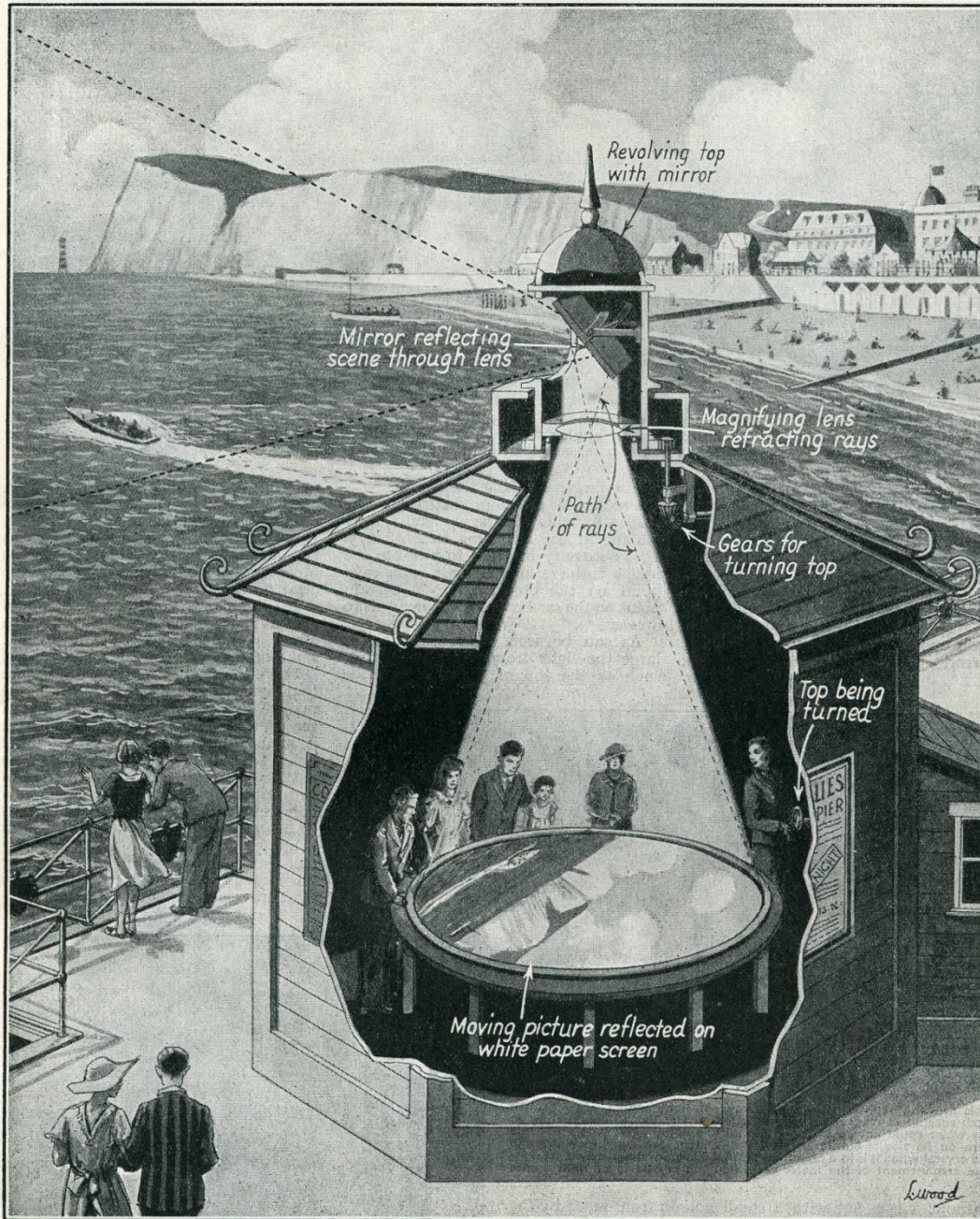
The temple would provide a stunning backdrop for wedding photographs.

The carved stone text to the top of the Rotunda can of course be dressed out if required.

For more information on the National Trust Stourhead Temple see the National Trust website.

The Rotunda – possible conversion to a Camera Obscura

HOW THE CAMERA OBSCURA REFLECTS THE LIGHT



The Camera Obscura, which is seen at many seaside places, is a striking example of how rays of light can be reflected in a different direction by a mirror placed at a slant. In the roof is a mirror at an angle of 45°, and this catches a reflection of the scene outside. The rays are directed upon a magnifying lens, placed in the right position to focus them, and the magnified view is cast upon a white table below. The top containing the mirror can be rotated by means of a handle turning a series of gear wheels, so that an image of the view all round can be reflected upon the table. The Camera Obscura was invented by a Neapolitan physician named Porta who found that by passing light through a double-convex lens he obtained a brighter image

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