

Historic Building Record

For The Fleece, 8-10 Northgate,

Hartlepool



TEES ARCHAEOLOGY
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE FOR TEESIDE

TA06/07

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For The Fleece, 8-10 Northgate,

Hartlepool

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(University of Bradford work placement)

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Contents

1. Summary - Page 1
2. Introduction - Page 2
3. Location and Geology - Page 2
4. Methodology - Page 2
5. Historical and Archaeological Background - Page 3
6. Description - Page 4
7. Conclusion - Page 7
8. Bibliography and sources - Page 8

Illustrations.

- Figure 1. 1856 Ordnance Survey Map
- Figure 2. 1841 plan of Hartlepool
- Figure 3. External view of structures
- Figure 4. Detail of door columns
- Figure 5. Entrance of no. 10 with original cupboard under the stairs, banister and skirting board
- Figure 6 Moulded ceiling of no.8 entrance
- Figure 7. The “Long Bar”
- Figure 8. Glass roof above the bar
- Figure 9. View from lounge into bar, including stained glass in divide
- Figure 10. Skylight in men’s toilette
- Figure 11. Moulded ceiling in Women’s toilette
- Figure 12. First room in cellar including entrance hatch
- Figure 13. Wall of cellar showing construction technique
- Figure 14. East wall of cellar showing beer pumps
- Figure 15. West wall of cellar showing the sink and drain
- Figure 16. East wall in south end of cellar showing fuse board
- Figure 17. Original ceiling rose in east room on first floor
- Figure 18. Original build in cupboard in east room on the first floor
- Figure 19. Gas light fitment on stairwell to back yard
- Figure 20. North face of washhouse
- Figure 21. Boiler within washhouse
- Figure 22. Out buildings
- Figure 23. Drain cover in yard
- Figure 24. No. 8 interior shot
- Figure 25. The Ferguslie toilette
- Figure 26. Ferguslie high level flush and pipes

1. Summary

The recording of a historic building and its subsequent analysis was undertaken after a planning application was granted consent for the demolition of the New Fleece Public House and its replacement with new apartments (Planning Application Ref: H/2005/5668).

The site is situated on the corner of Nun Street and Northgate Street on Hartlepool Headland (NZ 526 339). It is located next to the site of a former timber mill, parts of which were excavated in September 2005 by Tees Archaeology (Goode & Grahame, 2006).

The public house itself has been identified on several Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps as far back as 1857. There is also the possibility of this building being present on the 1841 OS Map, and there is evidence of a building predating that of the New Fleece in 1816. The construction process of the current building however, has most likely destroyed physical evidence of earlier buildings.

There has been at least one name change in its history as OS Maps from the nineteen twenties list the building as the New Cleveland Arms, as does all earlier documentary evidence.

The area around Northgate Street is particularly sensitive, as earlier excavations have established that it was the principle road entering medieval Hartlepool. However the excavation of the Timber Yard has shown that little evidence remains of this period due to the extensive redevelopments of the nineteenth century. The basements of the New Fleece are also likely to have caused considerable damage to archaeological deposits.

2. Introduction

The Historic Building Survey and corresponding desk top assessment was undertaken by Tees Archaeology on the 7th September 2006, and was carried out by Peter Rowe and Joanne Lathan (University of Bradford). At the time of survey the ground floor and second floor had been out of use for several years with the first floor used as flats with shared kitchen and bathroom.

The survey and assessment was in direct response to an application for planning permission (H/2005/5668) for residential development. These actions were taken as to provide a permanent record of the public house prior to its demolition.

This document provides the information collected as a result of the survey.

3. Locations and Geology

The site is comprised of two interlinked buildings, number eight and number ten, Northgate Street. Number eight measures approximately 24m in length by 11.5m at its widest point. Number ten measure 22.5m by 5.5m, also at the longest and widest points. The grid reference for the two-buildings is NZ 526 339.

The geology consists of an outcrop of Magnesian Limestone protruding in to the North Sea. At its northeasterly edge it forms high cliffs, however it slopes down gently towards the west. This particular site is in the lower westerly region close to the main street and the harbour and is approximately 5.00m above sea level. (Goode, A. & Grahame, R. 2006)

4. Methodology

The objectives of the project were to: -

- Provide a permanent record of the structure prior to its demolition that will be made available for future public use.
- Identify and record any features of interest within the structures.

A desk-based assessment was carried out, involving searches of published material held in the archives of both Tees Archaeology and Hartlepool Reference Library.

The recording of the structure was carried out on The 7th of September 2006, during which a photographic record was taken of both the exterior and the interior of the structures, using a 5.1 mega pixel digital camera alongside 35mm colour and black and white films. These and a draft description of the layout of the buildings were used to compile this report.

5. Historical and Archaeological background

In the Anglo-Saxon period a monastery was founded at Hartlepool by Abbess Hieu c.647. It later became a major medieval port. Previous archaeological excavation on land adjacent, carried out by Tees Archaeology, demonstrated that medieval and earlier deposits were removed due to substantial redevelopment in the 19th century (Goode, A. & Grahame, R. 2006).

The building is shown on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 1.) as the New Cleveland Inn. J.T.W. Bell shows an unnamed building, with a similar floor plan, on the 1841 plan of the Port and Town of Hartlepool (Figure 2).

The earliest documentary record found for the New Cleveland Arms is the 1898/99 Hartlepool Ward Directory. In this the owner is recorded as Alexander Deuchar a resident of Newcastle and owner of several other public houses in the area including The Fleece Inn at 20 Northgate Street.

The small shop adjoining the pub (now no. 8 but appears in earlier records as 52a Northgate Street) was at one point a Maynard's Ltd. confectioner. The New Cleveland Inn continued to be owned until at least 1936 by Deuchar. 52a however was sold to a Herbert Orde, a picture framer, in 1908 or 1909. In 1924-25 Herbert Orde became a joiner and the shop was sold to Miss L and Miss G Harding who turned the shop into a café.

6. Description.

The principal elevation of the public house is south facing with its large front window dominating this aspect of the building. There are three front doors all with panelled windows above them, two of which are matching with arches above the doors and columns on either side. (Figure 3.) The columns are in a Greco-Roman style, (Figure 4.) which was extremely popular in the Victorian period. Above the front façades there is a row of ten sash windows and above them in the attic there is a double sash window above The New Fleece and a single one above number 10/The Shop.

Each of the doors was double and had six panels. In the entrance to number eight there is a very small vestibule, about 8 inches deep with a second panelled window above. In the entranceway to number eight the original 8-inch skirting board still remains, as does the cupboard under the stairs and banister and rails. (Figure 5.) As there is no longer a dividing wall between number eight and number ten, there is a doorway just before the stairway of number ten that leads into the entrance hall of number eight. Here there still remains the original plaster moulded ceiling. (Figure 6.)

When entering the bar there is a small area to the south where box seating has been arranged around the front window. To the north is the main bar area, known as the long bar by locals (Figure 7.). Above this there is a leaded glass roof with a floral decoration. (Figure 8.) This decoration is carried on throughout the bar area as the doors, seating alcoves and the dividing doors into the lounge area have stained glass windows of a similar, if not more elaborate design incorporated into them. (Figure 9.). The entire bar is thought to have been refit in the past 20 years.

Directly behind the bar area, accessed by both the entrance way and by a door on the far side of the bar, is a thin room and corridor. In the corridor that joins this room to the rear customer toilets there are another three original sash windows providing light from the rear yard.

Original features of the toilets include a central skylight in the men's (Figure 10.) and the original ceiling mouldings in the ladies (Figure 11).

The next room, north of the bar is the lounge, little of interest remains in this room, however there is a second matching glass roof just at the entrance to the room.

From this room there is a small corridor that leads to the stairs to the cellar. The cellar consists of four distinct rooms, three of which are in a line, progressing to the south and the pavement. In the first room there still remains the hatch from the beer casks to be unloaded into the cellar. (Figure 12.) The walls are typically made of rough limestone and some brick. (Figure 13.) On the west wall of the cellar there are the remains of the pipes for the beer pumps (Figure 14.) and on the east wall there is a sink and drain. (Figure 15) To the east of the central room/area there is a small basement room for under number ten, however only accessible from The Fleece's cellar. At the very front of the property there is a smaller room and this is where the fuse boxes are kept. (Figure 16.)

The second storey formed the living areas above both of the businesses. The main living room is the first room accessed by the stairs and is on the west hand side of the house. It has three sash windows and 9-inch skirting boards. This was presumably the main 'receiving room' for guests. The small central room to the front of the building had been completely refurbished and no original features remain. The room to the far east of the building has a single and a double set of sash windows, the original ceiling rose (Figure 17.) and the original built in cupboard. This cupboard has the original carpentry on the doorframe, however the door itself is not original. (Figure 18.)

On this floor but towards the back of the building are the kitchen, bathroom and the staircase to allow entry in to the back yard. On the stairs down to the yard there is a singular remaining gas light fitting (Figure 19.) and the evidence of where another just by the door had been removed.

At the bottom of the stairs there is a toilet and outside there is a washhouse with a boiler attached to the back of The Fleece, (Figures 20 & 21.) but accessible only through the yard. Built against the limestone boundary wall and the back of the down stairs toilet there are three further small out houses. The first is approximately 2m wide and 3m long, the second is approximately 1.5m square with surviving shelving and is a mirror of the final out house, however this out house has lost all of the shelves. (Figure 22)

In this yard there is a drain cover, just by the entrance to both the shop and the stairway into the main house. (Figure 23.). This drain cover reads, 'Joseph Howe, Contractor, West Hartlepool'. Hartlepool (the headland) and West Hartlepool were separate political entities until the end of the 1960s.

The ground floor of the shop at number 10 has been completely refurbished (Figure 24.) and the only remains of interest inside are the original, but rotted door to the toilet and the unusual fixtures within. (Figure 25 & 26.) This toilet is a 'Ferguslie' and the flush runs towards the front of the bowl rather than the back.

Finally the attic of the two buildings has the original windows, two in the east half and one in the west half. However nothing else of interest remains due to extensive modern refurbishment.

7 Conclusion

The New Fleece, originally the New Cleveland Inn, stood at the site from at least 1857 and possibly 1841. The survey of the building demonstrated that it had been heavily altered but retained some elements of its original carpentry and plasterwork. The building gives the impression of being a well-used working public house throughout its life with the majority of improvements invested in the main bar and lounge areas. The principal feature of interest proved to be the main frontage onto Northgate Street with its classically influenced columns and door cases. This report stands as a public document of the building prior to its demolition.

8. Bibliography and Sources.

Goode, A. & Grahame, R. *Archaeological Evaluation at Nun Street*.
Tees Archaeology. 2006

Bell, J.T.W, 1841. Plan of the Port and Town of Hartlepool in the
County of Durham.

Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1856

Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1896

Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1914

Illustrations.

Figure 1.



Figure 2.

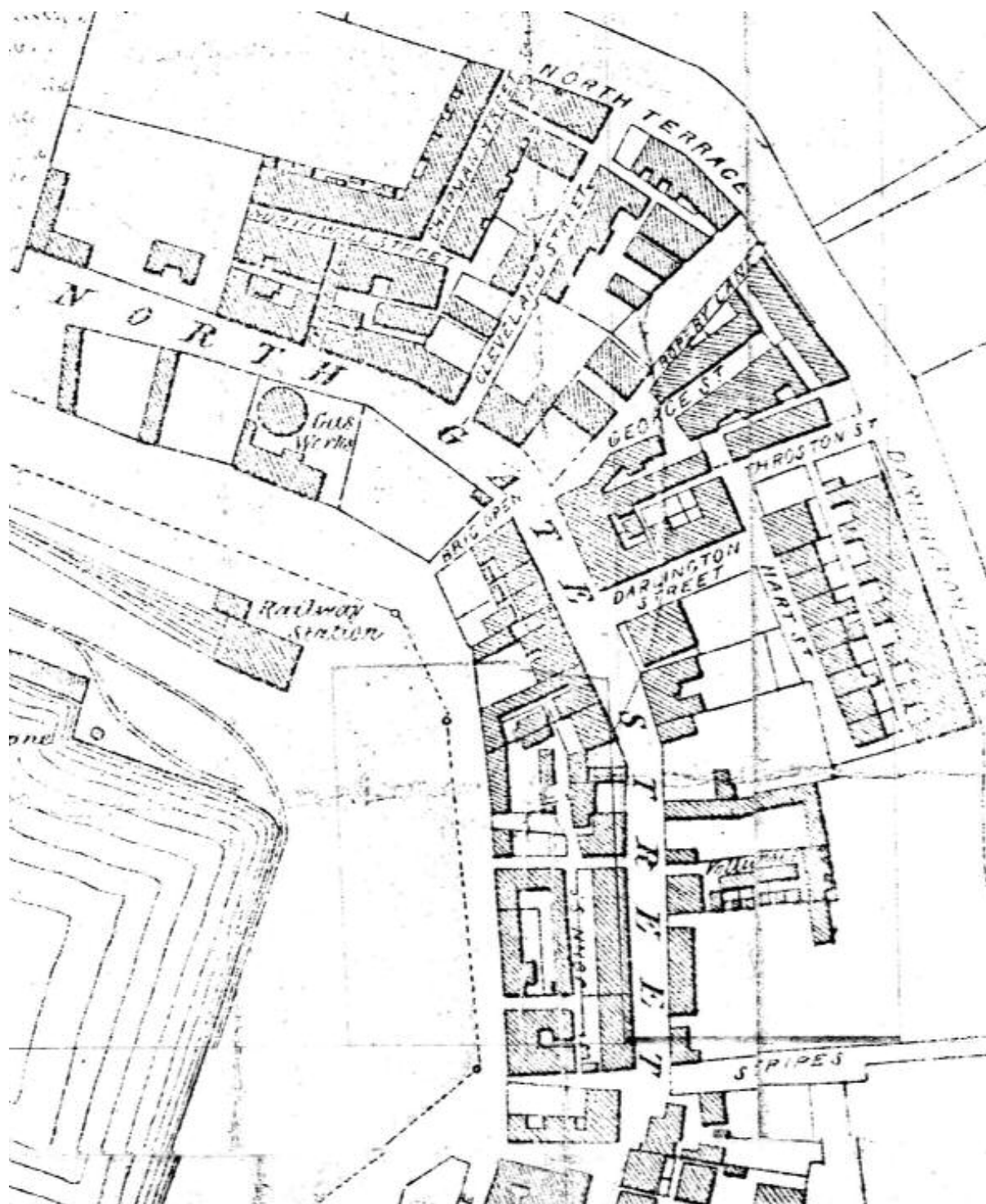


Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

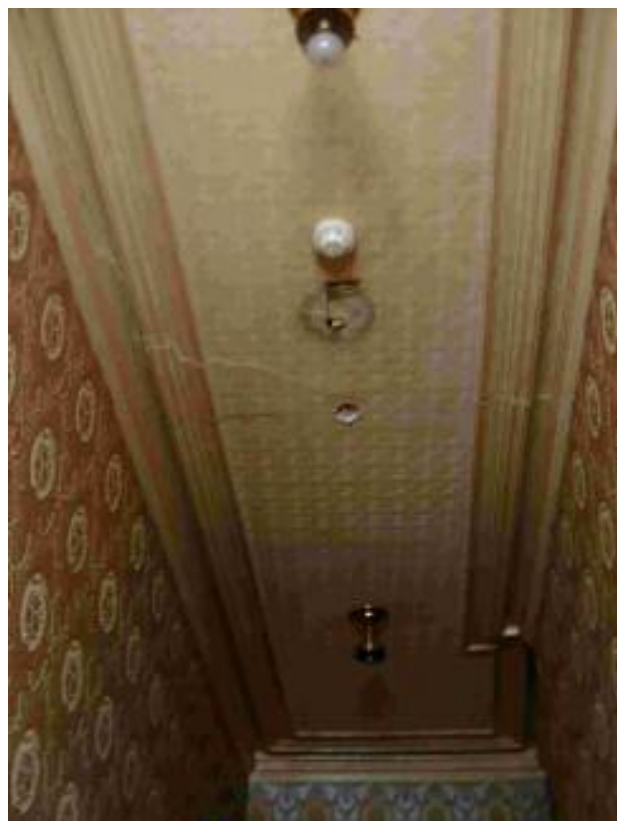


Figure 7.



Figure 8.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.



Figure 12.



Figure 13.



Figure 14.



Figure 15.



Figure 15.



Figure 16.



Figure 17.



Figure 18.



Figure 19.



Figure 20.



Figure 21.



Figure 22.



Figure 23.



Figure 24.



Figure 25.



Figure 26.

