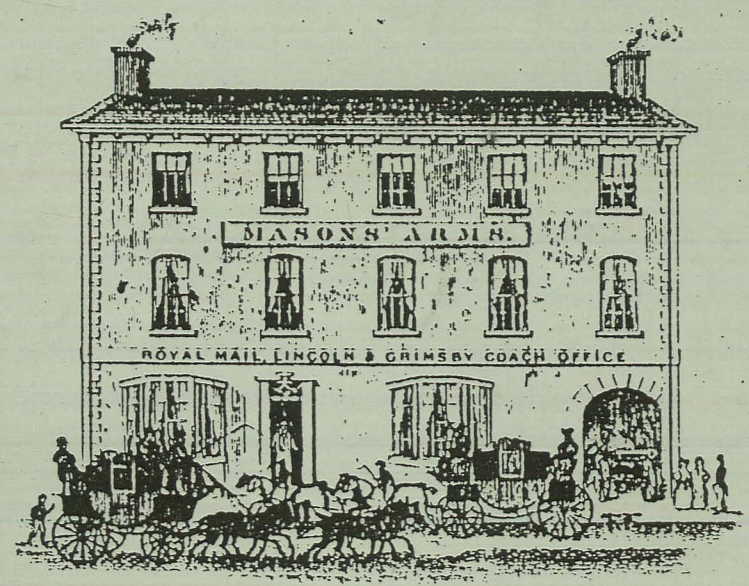


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4335

LOUTH  
MARKET HALL  
PROJECT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
BUILDING SURVEY



Event 41366  
Source 413182

7 new st 45611  
crown + wood pack 43358  
Mason's crms 45578

LOUTH  
MARKET HALL  
PROJECT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
BUILDING SURVEY

Text by Naomi Field  
with Michael Clark

Drawings by Michael Clark

LINDSEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

August 1989



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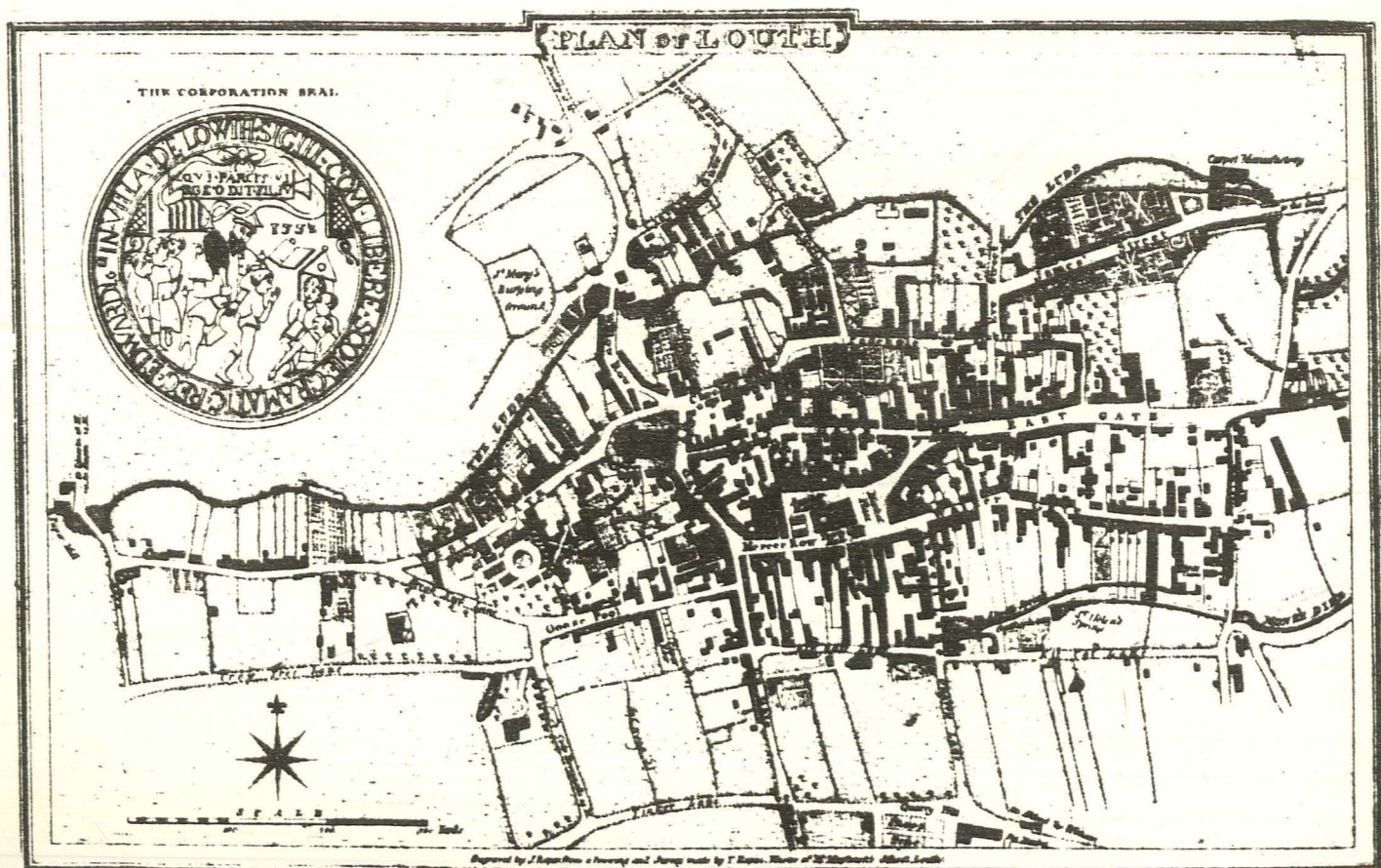
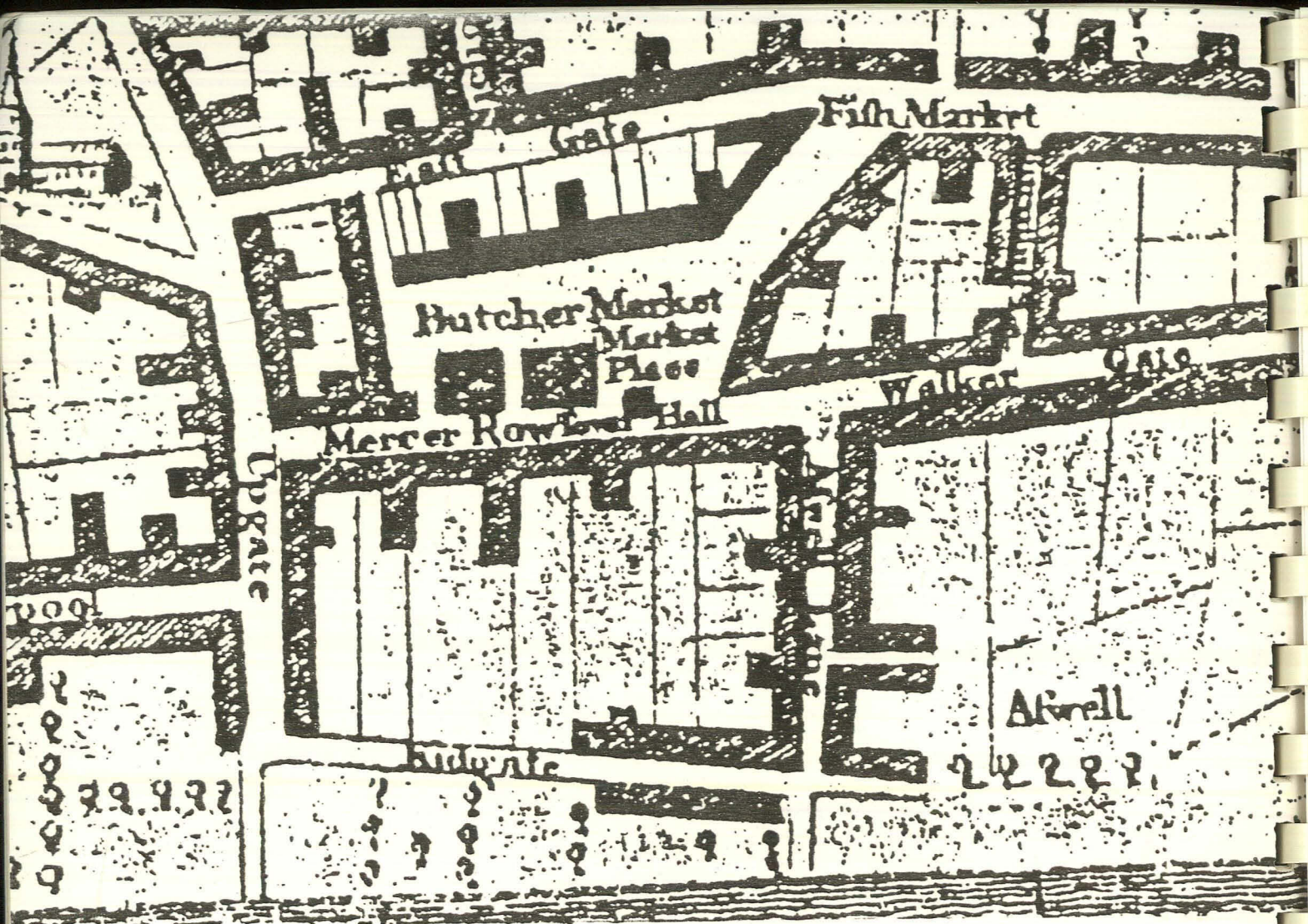


Fig 1b

Fig. 1(a) 1776 map of Louth (Armstrong) 1(b) 1808 map by Espin



## INTRODUCTION

An archaeological appraisal of the fabric of buildings to be affected by the Market Hall Project was carried out in advance of building work. The area of investigation comprised the complex of buildings known as the Masons' Arms and the Crown and Woolpack, both of which lie between Cornmarket and Eastgate.

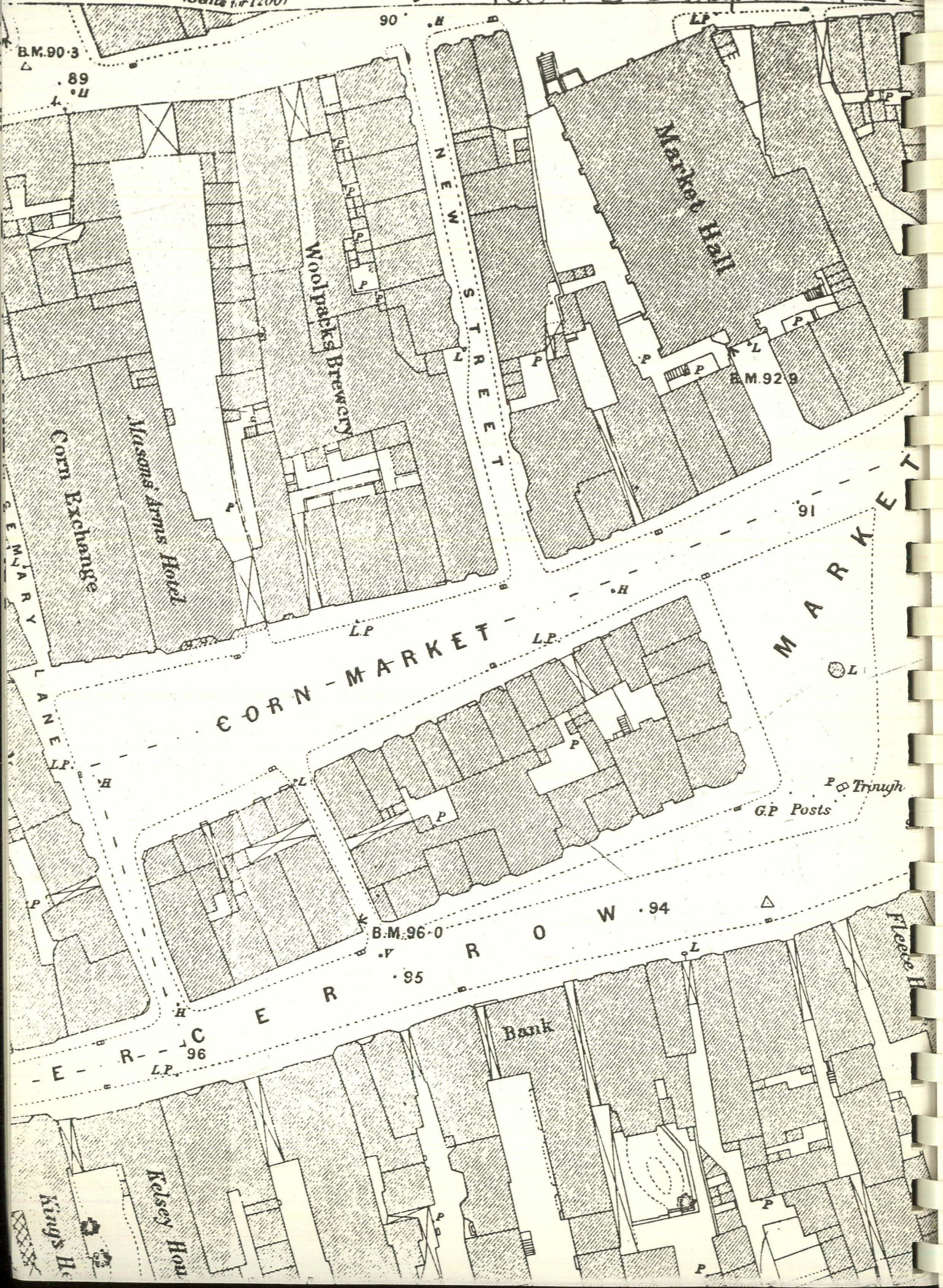
The aim of the survey was to establish the age of the buildings and to record features of historic and architectural interest. There was a possibility that earlier, perhaps medieval, buildings would be found behind later facades. However, whilst there was extensive refurbishment at both the Masons' Arms and the Crown and Woolpack in the mid-19th century this work concealed buildings which were, in the main, less than 100 years older. One part of the Masons' Arms (MA2) probably dates from the 17th century. Nevertheless, the sequence of construction and alterations carried out at these two inns provides a fascinating insight into the fortunes of Louth from the end of the 18th century.

There is every reason to believe that the area between Cornmarket and Eastgate lay at the heart of the medieval town. Research into the history and archaeological potential of the town was carried out in 1978 (Field 1978) and is summarised in the archaeological report prepared for this project (Merrony and Moth 1989). Although no evidence for medieval buildings was found there is no doubt that the properties investigated were built within and respected boundaries of considerable age. The street pattern is often one of the oldest surviving elements in a town and may antedate by many centuries the oldest of the buildings which survive within it. Medieval plots of land in towns were known as burgage plots and were characteristically long with narrow frontages. Louth's charm derives from the fact that its medieval layout has been so little altered.

The Crown and Woolpack extends behind four properties fronting onto Cornmarket with street access on Eastgate probably comprising two burgage plot widths. The Masons' Arms has street access onto both Cornmarket and Eastgate and appears to occupy at least three plots. It is of interest to note that there is only one continuous north-south property boundary running from Cornmarket to Eastgate, and it separates the Masons' Arms complex from the Crown and Woolpack.

Examination of early maps of the town show that this area has changed little since the end of the 18th century. The earliest map is by Armstrong and dates from 1776 (Fig.1a). Although it is representational rather than accurately drawn to scale it







shows two points of particular interest. Firstly, there are no buildings depicted fronting onto Eastgate. This does not of course mean that buildings did not exist at an earlier date. Secondly, New Street is not shown on his map. By 1808 a much more accurate survey of the town had been made by a local artist and schoolmaster, Thomas Espin (Fig.1b). New Street is present on this map, and further enquiry has established that the road was probably constructed in 1790. It provided vehicular access from the Cornmarket through to Eastgate and was probably the width of a single burgage plot. There is a definite kink in the road at the point where 7 New Street meets the Crown and Woolpack. This probably marks the point where the rear boundaries between the burgage plots of Cornmarket and Eastgate met. The buildings in this survey which lie in New Street must have been constructed at the same time as the street or very soon afterwards. (The development along the north half of New Street consists of buildings which face the road with very small rear yards because they are built within the confines of a single burgage plot width.)

The Ordnance Survey made a very detailed map of Louth which was to a scale of 1:1250 and published in 1889 (Fig.2). This has proved very useful in dating more closely some of the later building additions.

#### METHODS

A photographic record in colour and black and white was made of all features of historic and or architectural interest. This included a full record of all the external elevations.

Record forms, designed especially for the survey, were completed for each room recording details of fireplaces, floorboards, mouldings etc. Separate forms were used for the roofs and external elevations .

Full use was made of the survey drawings, kindly supplied through Fitch Benoy Architects and annotations were made where appropriate. In addition detailed drawings were made of features of special interest (mainly roof constructions). Brick dimensions from all the buildings were obtained and examples are summarised in Table 1 (see Appendix II).

A few of the readily available secondary written sources were consulted for background history but no detailed research was carried out.

A copy of the report, together with a full set of photographs and plans will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln (Sites and Monuments section).

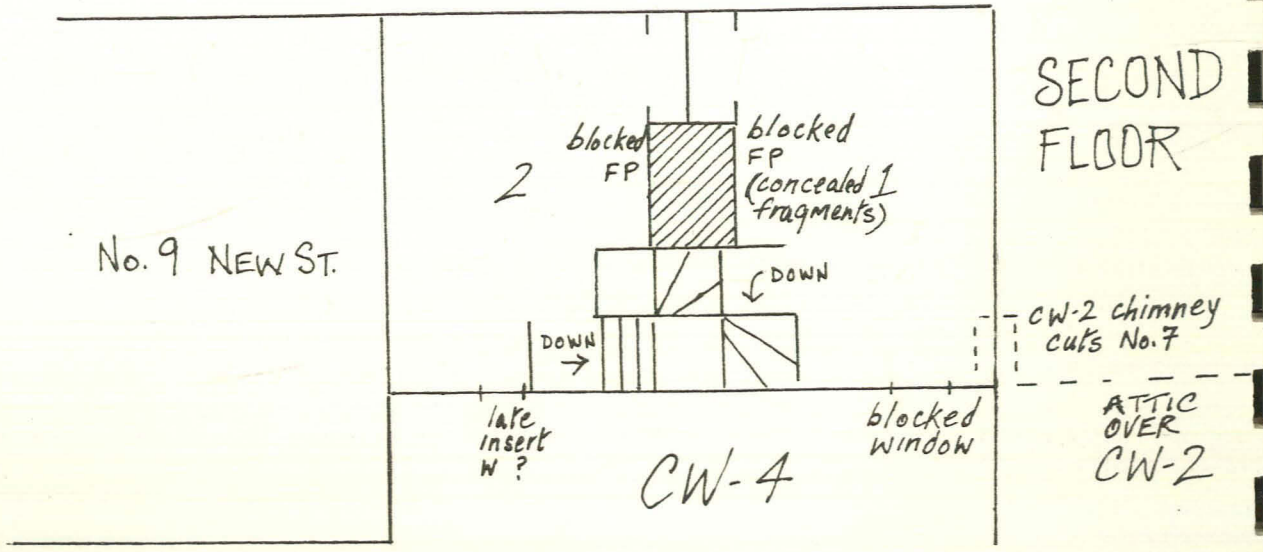
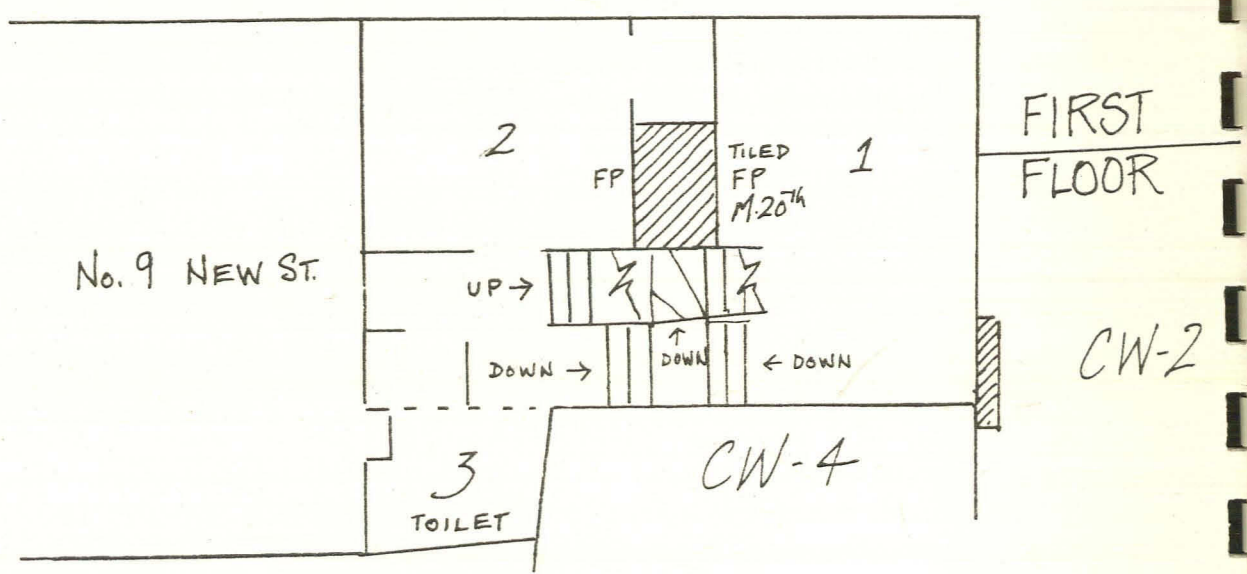
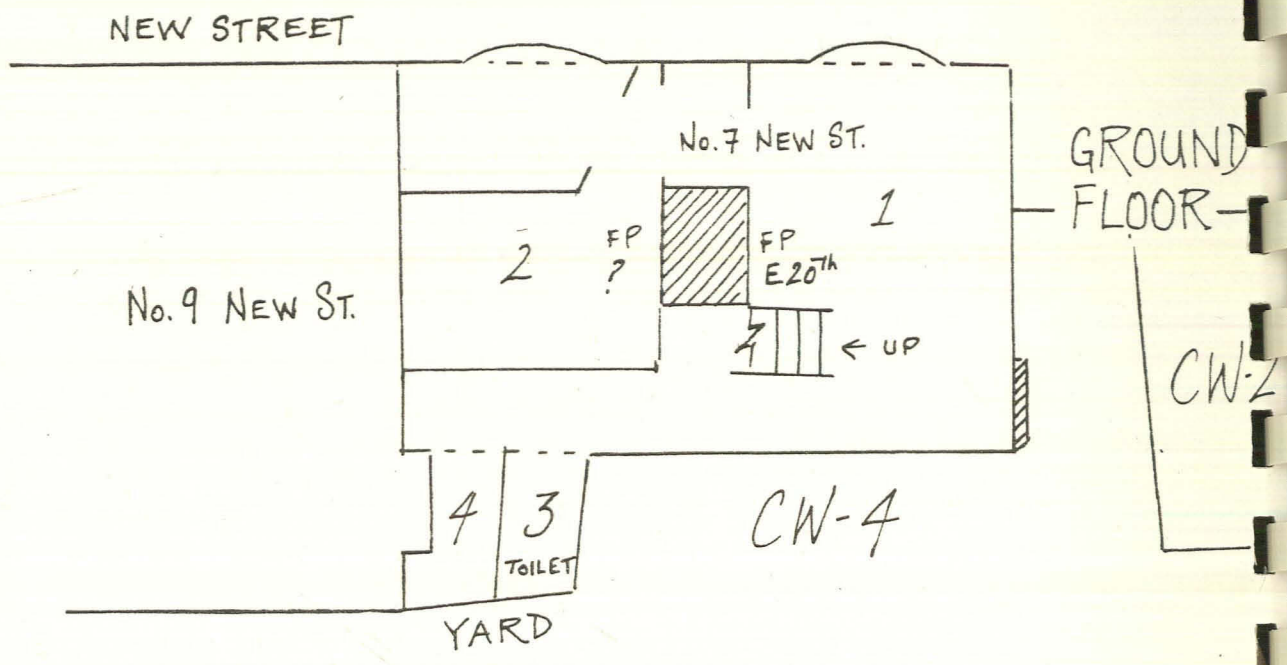
The buildings are described in detail below and a short section of conclusions and recommendations follows. Please refer to the



FIG 3

SCALE 1/100

No. 7 NEW ST.



pull-out sketch location plan at the end of the report whilst reading the text.

#### 7 NEW STREET (Figs. 3 and 4)

This is a three storey brick building, at the south end of a terrace of six houses which extend north along the west side of New Street towards Eastgate. The north and south end properties have a hipped roof creating a symmetrical picture at the front. However, No. 7 is narrower than the other five properties being only one room deep which means that the roof apex is in a different place to the rest of the terrace. This is because when the building was constructed it had to avoid an existing building to its rear (see CW3 below).

Much of the original detail of the terrace facade has been lost particularly at ground floor level because of adaptation to commercial use. The basic design for each unit comprises a central doorway with flanking windows and pairs of windows at first and second floor level. The building is constructed in Old English bond with a simple skew dentil decoration below the eaves which runs around the entire building. The window voussoir and jamb dressings are in a fine orange/red brick. The same bricks are used to decorative effect as quoin facers on the south east corner of no. 7.

The ground floor windows on the south and east face are inserted and there is a modern door in the original opening. A blocked up foot scraper can be seen on the north side of the door.

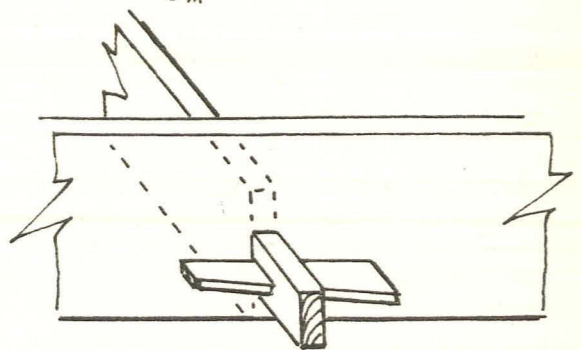
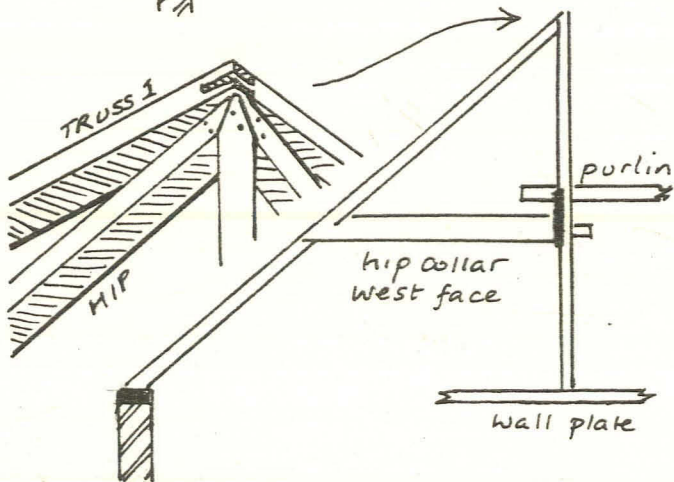
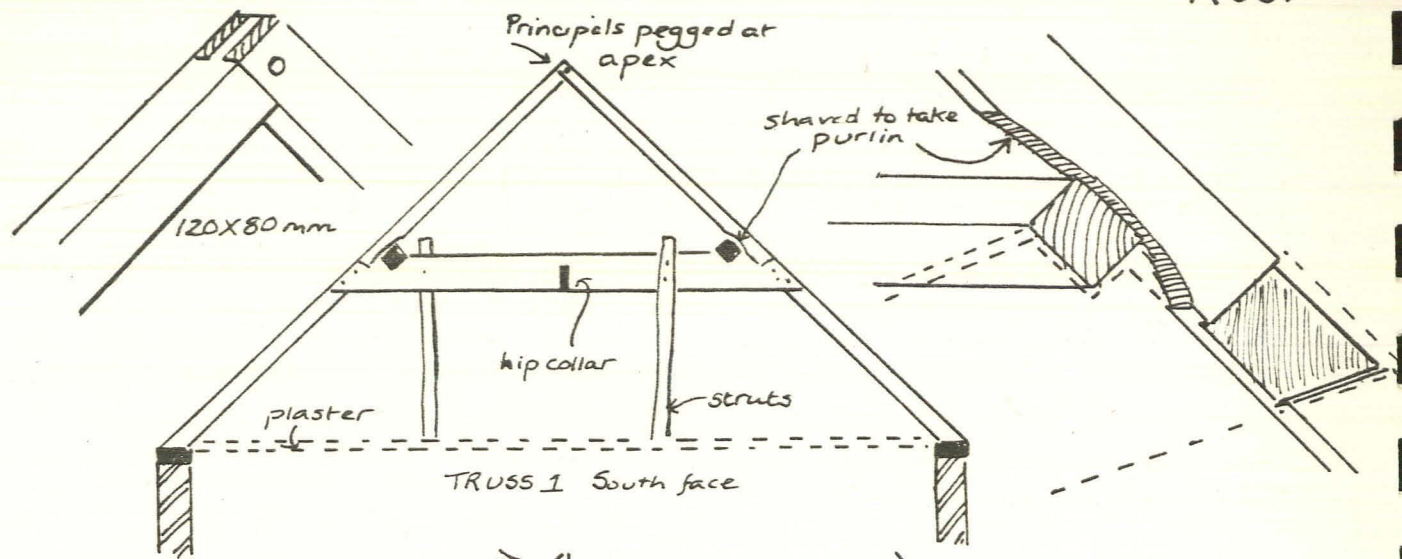
There is a central chimney stack originally serving fireplaces in each of the six rooms although the fireplaces on the second floor have long since been blocked up.

The south elevation is partially obscured by the extension of no 5 Cornmarket which attaches to no.7 at first floor level (see CW2 below). The combined door and shop window are late insertions and the whole of the south east corner of the building has been reconstructed up to first floor level, losing the decorative quoins.

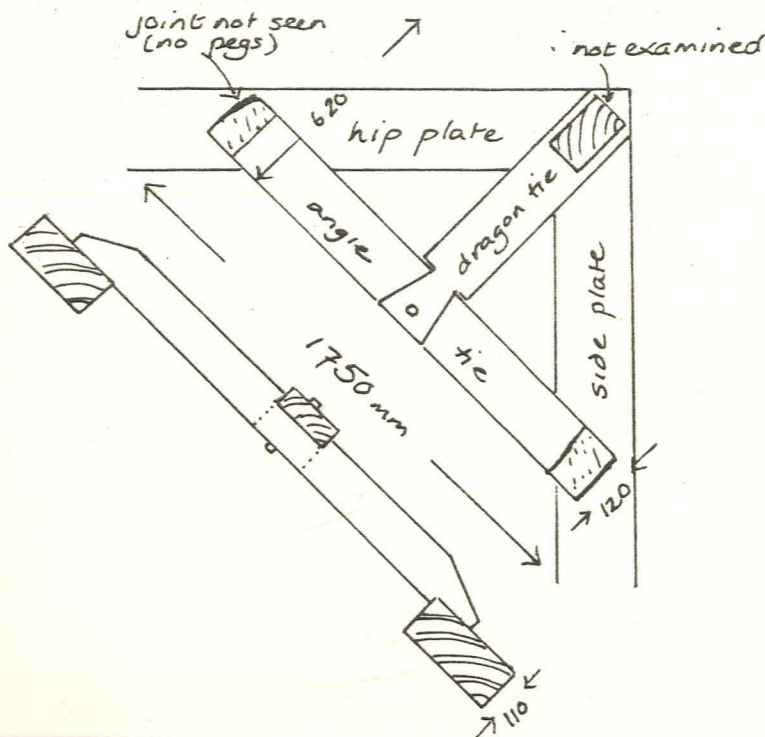
The west elevation of no. 7 is also obscured partly due to the construction of a two storey extension which houses toilets on both floors. Subsequent to the construction of this extension the narrow gap lying between no.7 and the Crown and Woolpack (CW4) was filled in and a staircase providing access to CW3 was constructed.

Internally there is a simple layout on each storey (Fig.3). There is a central firestack with a room to north and south. The staircase runs behind the firestack at the rear of the building, giving access to split landings at both first and

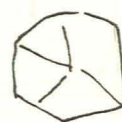




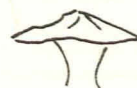
Hip collar to truss 1 collar  
tusk-knot and key.  
150mm projection  
270 mm key



West purlin YV (4 or 6 tag)  
East purlin II (3)  
Hip principal IK (2 tag?)



nail head.





second floor levels. The stair newels are not original and were probably replaced early in the 20th century. The alterations to the rear of the building provided toilet facilities as described above. A window on the west side of the second floor south room was blocked up probably when the infilling (CW4) described above was carried out.

Little survives of any decorative interest. The ground floor fireplace in Room 1 is cast iron with attractive multi-coloured tiles probably dating to c.1900 and should not be destroyed. Whilst the window casements on the first and second floors may be original all the glazing bars have been removed. A deep moulded skirting survives in the south room on the first floor.

It is the roof of this property which provides the main architectural interest (Fig.4). The roof space comprises three bays and at the north end is a brick partition wall, just within the fourth bay, which separates the roof of no.7 from that of the adjacent property. The roof is of a clasped-purlin construction, probably without ties other than ceiling joists. There are two bays of tie and collar truss with continuous side purlins, the second bay accommodating the chimney stack. The southernmost bay is hipped, having conventional hip principals springing from an angle tie in the south-east corner and a dragon-tie in the south-west corner, and converging at the principal apex of Truss 1.

The overall carpentry is very basic. It is of note that the collars are only 30-45mm thick and the tension struts between collar and floor joists are merely slips of riven boards, often less than 10mm thick, having all the appearance of rustic fence palings. Except for the principal rafter apex and hip angle tie/dragon dovetails which have single, substantial pegs, all joints are nailed. Three or four nails are used at each collar dovetail, two at each hip principal convergence and, in most cases, one to each end of a tension strut.

Only three carpenters' marks were observed, one on the west purlin, 43cm north of Truss 2 - "IV" or "VI", one on the east purlin, 70cm south of Truss 2 - "III" and one on a hip principal. As the roof timbers in the rest of the New Street row were not inspected it is impossible to say whether these marks were part of the original sequence. It is possible that they represent a numbering from the south end of the row and that tagged numbers were used on the east half of the roof. There are no obvious signs of timber re-use in no.7 and it is possible that by the late 18th century assembly marks were used only to indicate main elements or divisions.

In the roof space the chimney stack is slightly cranked to the east and appears to be contemporary with the rest of the building. It has six flues. The stack and wall brick dimensions



of no.7 probably fall within a date range of 1770-1800 which coincides well with the proposed date of the building from the documentary evidence.

#### CROWN AND WOOLPACK

The address of the Crown and Woolpacks is listed in Whites Directory of 1842 as being on New St and this was the front of the pub. Perhaps buildings further west were acquired at different times as they became vacant and the necessary alterations were made to connect all the buildings. The inn was originally called the Old Kings Head. It was partially demolished in 1788 and incorporated into the Crown and Sceptre. This eventually became known as the Crown and Woolpacks. (N.B. the plural of Woolpack which was used until well into this century.) The Whites Directory of 1826 refers to the Crown and Woolpacks Inn but lists it as being in Post Office Lane. It was beyond the scope of this survey to investigate this further. (There is no such place in Louth!)

The Crown and Woolpack pub comprises several buildings which straddle four property boundaries behind nos. 5-11 Cornmarket. The earliest buildings are CW1, CW3 and CW10 which probably date to the 18th century. Because this is such an extensive property each of its component parts is described separately and has been allocated the codes CW1-10.

In summary the main elements are as follows-

CW1 The rear of 5 Cornmarket, converted to create an inn fronting onto New

Street, with accomodation above.

CW2a,b Extensions to CW1

CW3,3a An early building with no street frontage which was extended at the same

3b time as the construction of CW2 to become part of the inn

complex.

CW4 Infill between CW3 and 7 New Street, comprising a stairwell.

CW5 Single storey lean-to against south end of CW3

CW6 Single storey building west of and later than CW3

CW7 Two storey building incorporating CW6. Function rooms for the inn.

CW8 built at same time as CW7, providing covered storage for carts. Part of

the brewery complex

CW9 Brewery building fronting onto Eastgate

CW10 Brewery building fronting onto Eastgate east of CW9

34/36 Eastgate Mid-Victorian conversion of the buildings CW9 and 10. Part of

improvement to the brewery complex.



GROUND FLOOR

No. 7  
NEW ST.

CW-2

CW-1

No. 5 CORNMARK

CW-4

BAR

CW-3

CW-5

OUT-BUILDING

YARD

No. 7 CORNMAR

CW-2  $\longleftrightarrow$  CW-1

FIRST FLOOR

No. 7  
NEW ST.

CW-2

FP 1

2

original end of building

binders

CW-1

3

FP  
10th

No. 5 CORNMARKE

blocked  
door

blocked  
stair  $\rightarrow$  down

CW-3

old staircase projects

door removed

No. 7 CORNMARI

SECOND FLOOR

No 7  
NEW ST.

CW-2 ROOF

BATH-  
ROOM

binder

binder

1/9<sup>th</sup>19<sup>th</sup>

binder

attic over CW-2 roof

TOILET

DOWN  
→

UP ↑

- blocked

STAIR

CW-3

No. 7 CORNMARKET



CW1 and CW2 i.e. rear of 5 Cornmarket (Figs.5 and 6)

CW1 was in fact part of a large property fronting on to Cornmarket. The three storey building is one room wide and five rooms deep. The Crown and Woolpack comprises the two rear rooms on the ground and first floors and three rooms on the second floor. Attic accommodation (with access from the Crown and Woolpack) extended to the front of the building over the second floor rooms belonging to 5 Cornmarket.

Not long after its construction an extension (CW2a) was built onto the rear, at first floor level only, joining the gap between 5 Cornmarket and 7 New Street. This extension may have been constructed at the same time as the division of the building into two properties. Two doorways were inserted half way along the building, one giving access to the front of the building (5 Cornmarket) and the other giving access to the public bar of the Crown and Woolpack. At a later date a ground floor room (CW2b) was inserted beneath the first floor, leaving a narrow east-west passage at street level which gave direct access to CW3 and CW4 (see below). The brickwork is identical to that used in the construction of CW4.

The east facade is rendered at ground floor level along the whole length of the original building but does not extend along the ground floor extension. This work is probably contemporary with the south elevation (5 Cornmarket) which was faced with a mock Dutch gable at some time in the mid-19th century, concealing the original hipped roof (see below)

The west facade is plain brickwork with no consistent bond throughout but comprises variations of Old English bond. Below the eaves is a single course of straight dentil decoration. There are three tiny windows, one above the other, at the south end of the visible wall, giving light to the original staircase. (The Cornmarket frontage butts up to and masks the south end of the building. The north-west corner of CW1 is concealed by building CW3 (see below) and a late single storey extension (CW5). At first floor level a 'buttress' straddles this angle. There is also a vertical wall scar near to the 'buttress' and several sawn-off horizontal timbers. This may be the remains of an external stair turret which was removed when CW3 was constructed. Internal examination at this point revealed a void in the wall which could have been part of the stairwell. The buttress was probably constructed to strengthen the junction between the two buildings but the whole area is a mess and difficult to interpret with certainty.

The north elevation of CW1 is totally missing at ground and first floor levels having been removed when CW2 was constructed. There is a small window in the gable end on the second floor overlooking the roof of CW2.

Internally CW1 has been much altered and few of the partition



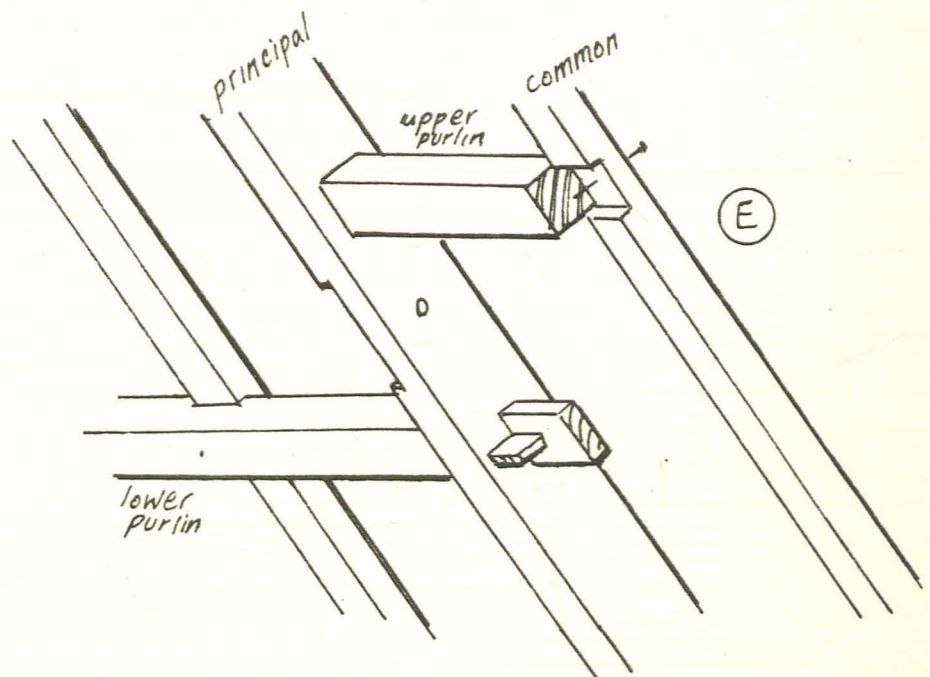
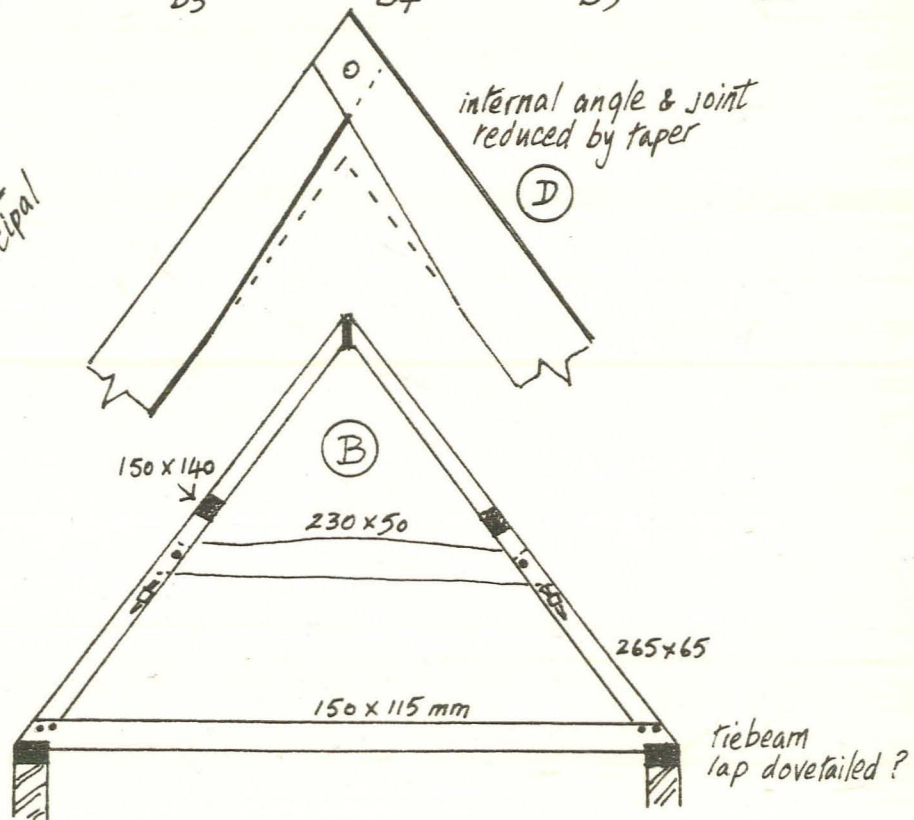
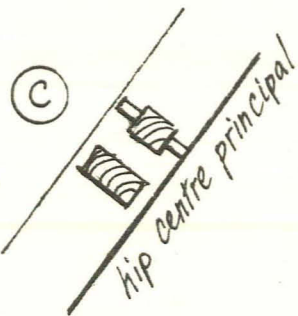
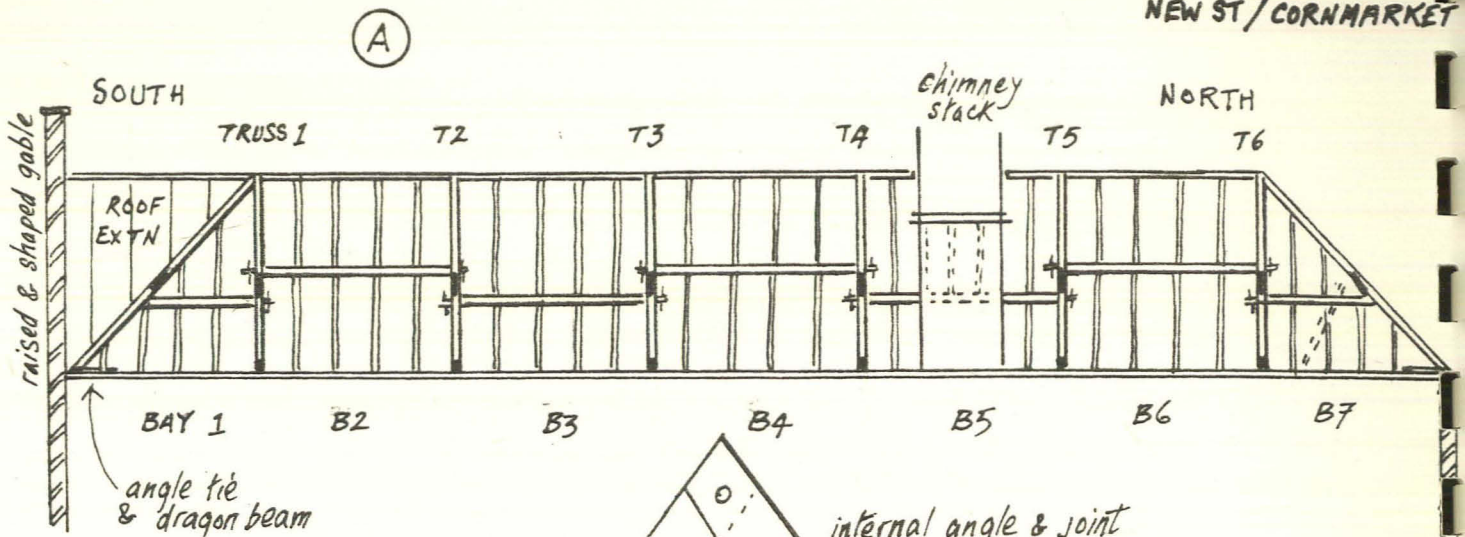
walls at any level are original (Fig. 5). The ground floor has suffered badly at the hands of the pub interior decorator with vulgar mock beams and tyrolean plasterwork everywhere. CW1 and CW2 form one large room with a bar at the south west corner. At first floor level there are three bedrooms with a corridor along the west side of the building which leads to a stair at the south end. The middle room actually straddles the original end of CW1 and the extension CW2. Evidence for the original layout of the rooms, prior to the construction of the extension and the separation from 5 Cornmarket, has gone.

Room 1 lies entirely within the CW2 extension. There is a fireplace on the north wall with a 1930s tile surround. The chimney stack cuts into the roof of No.7 New St. When CW4 was constructed access was made into Room 1 on this floor and subsequently blocked up.

Room 2 straddles the buildings CW1 and 2 indicating that the layout on this floor is not original. The partitions in Room 3 are constructed entirely in plasterboard and probably date from the time when a stair giving access to the second floor, was inserted in the south west corner. A door in the corridor (now gone) gave access to Room 3 prior to the staircase construction. The room which originally spanned the full width of the building, was only 1.70m from the end wall of CW1. This too must have been a secondary layout. There is a fireplace at the south end of room 3 which is original to CW1 and the wall behind it is an original internal division. The rooms to the south are now part of 5 Cornmarket.

Stairs lead from the ground up to the second floor at this point but the two flights are of different date. The lower flight which rises from south to north originates in 5 Cornmarket. It has been blocked up and can only be seen in a cupboard below the stairs on the first floor. This blocking must have been done when the property was split and a new access cut through from the building to the west (CW3). The stair leading to the second floor winds back on itself and respects the internal partition wall, lying entirely to the north of it. However, at second floor level this wall division has been removed and the rooms extend further south over the top of first floor rooms in 5 Cornmarket. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom on this floor with a corridor on the west side, all within the building CW1. (CW2 does not have a third storey.) A toilet has been added at the north end of the floor which sits over the roof space of CW2 and intrudes into CW3 (see below). As on the first floor internal partition walls are almost all secondary. Only the wall which separates Room 3 from Room 4 is original.







Each bedroom has a fireplace with a cast iron, early Victorian surround. These are of particularly high quality and should be retained.

At the south end of the second floor is a blocked door access to 5 Cornmarket and to its side is a boarded area which may conceal a staircase giving access to the second floor in no.5. The stair in CW1 is early 20th century in date so the original staircase must be that in no.5.

Removal of floorboards for structural inspection has revealed joist binders running west-east. The original floor joists are half dovetailed into the binders in a style reminiscent of carpentry in the roof of 7 New St. Additional joists have been nailed down in between the earlier joists, equally spaced between themselves.

There is a steep stair built against the west side of the firestack which gives access to an attic lying wholly to the south of the chimney. This runs right through to the Cornmarket frontage. The attic was created within the roof space and comprises three rooms which were probably used as servants' sleeping quarters. There is one roof light on the west side in the first room, opposing roof lights in the second and no windows in the southernmost room. This last room was created in the area of the roof extended when the mock Dutch gable was added to the south elevation of the building. This hides a hipped roof construction and the end room is divided down the middle where the hip rafter lies. The walls are lined with newspaper (The Times of 1851 and 1871) Some parts still retain wallpaper over the newspapers but the whole area shows evidence of having been very wet prior to recent roof repairs.

The roof has staggered butt purlins, with collar rafters and tie beam trusses (Fig.6). There are six trusses plus hips at both north and south ends, making a total of seven bays. Bay 1 at the south end of the building was originally hipped with conventional hip principals and staggered collars. (The term collar, rather than purlin, is used to describe this type of structure as the timbers are of basic collar form and scantling c.230 x 500mm section). The angle ties and dragon beam construction are the same as in No.7 New St (Fig. 4). The hip at this end of the building was altered to a simple ridge and rafter construction, extending to the added brick gable (see above) and the previous hip elements were re-used. The hip principals, truss principals, collars and tie beams are all pegged. The hip collars have a tusk tenon and square key. The staggered, square-section purlins have a tenon keying projection of 170 x 40mm and a flat tapered key. The north hip cross-purlin has raking struts to a common joist. These struts are of similar scantling and quality to those in 7 New Street.



All the common rafters are two-stage, being tapered and slot-fitted into the purlin; those ends examined were nailed. No nail samples were taken. The common rafters in Bay 5 are partly ledged or bonded into the chimney stack. Most of the common rafters are re-used, some being rotated for counter-warp or surface alignment; some are half-round and rough-adzed. No assembly marks were found.

It is possible that there was a chimney stack in Bay 3 between trusses 2 and 3 which would lend a more symmetrical logic to the existing plan but this remains conjecture as the floor joists and ridge exit point were not examined in this bay.

The brick sizes of 7 New St and CW1 are very similar as is the style of the roof construction. However, the overall structural quality of CW1 is superior. It is tempting to suggest that this building was earlier but without further documentary research it is not certain whether this building was constructed before the creation of New Street. It is almost certain that the row to the north was contemporary with the street.

The roof space of CW2 was almost inaccessible because of two alterations. An attic was inserted at the apex, where the roof originally met CW3. This led to a raising of the rafters and an alteration in the roof pitch to allow for headroom. Although the attic overlies CW2 access was from CW4 (see below). At the south end of CW2 is a toilet, originally Victorian in date (it sits on a dais), with access from CW1 second floor (see above and CW3 below). The whole of CW2 has been retiled and felted very recently.

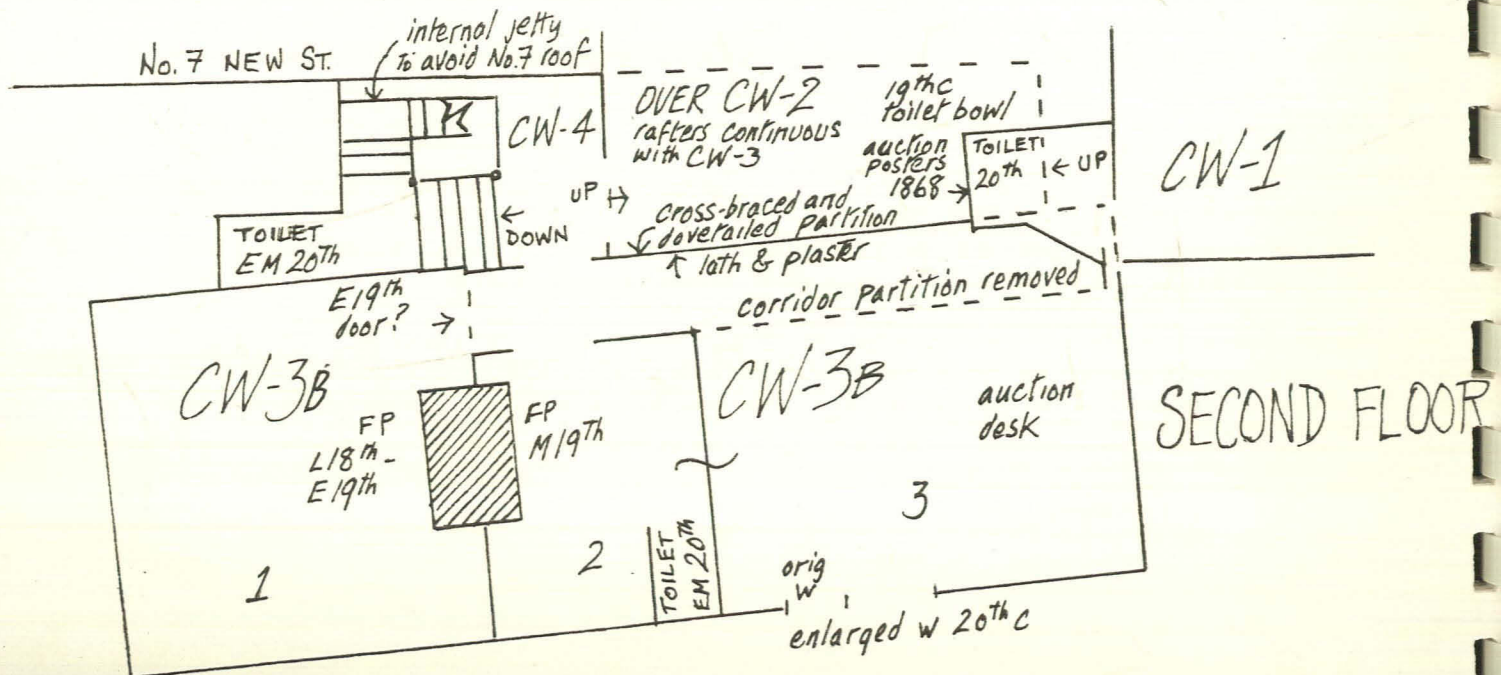
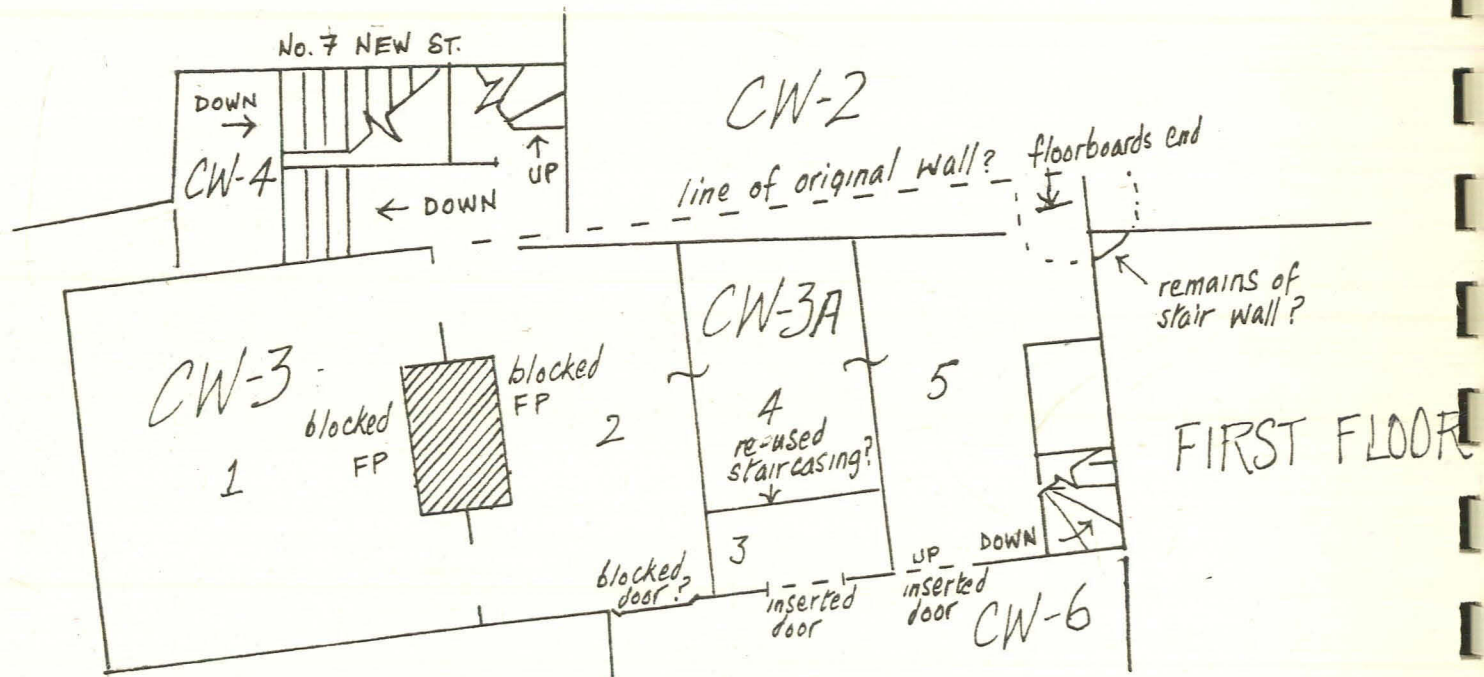
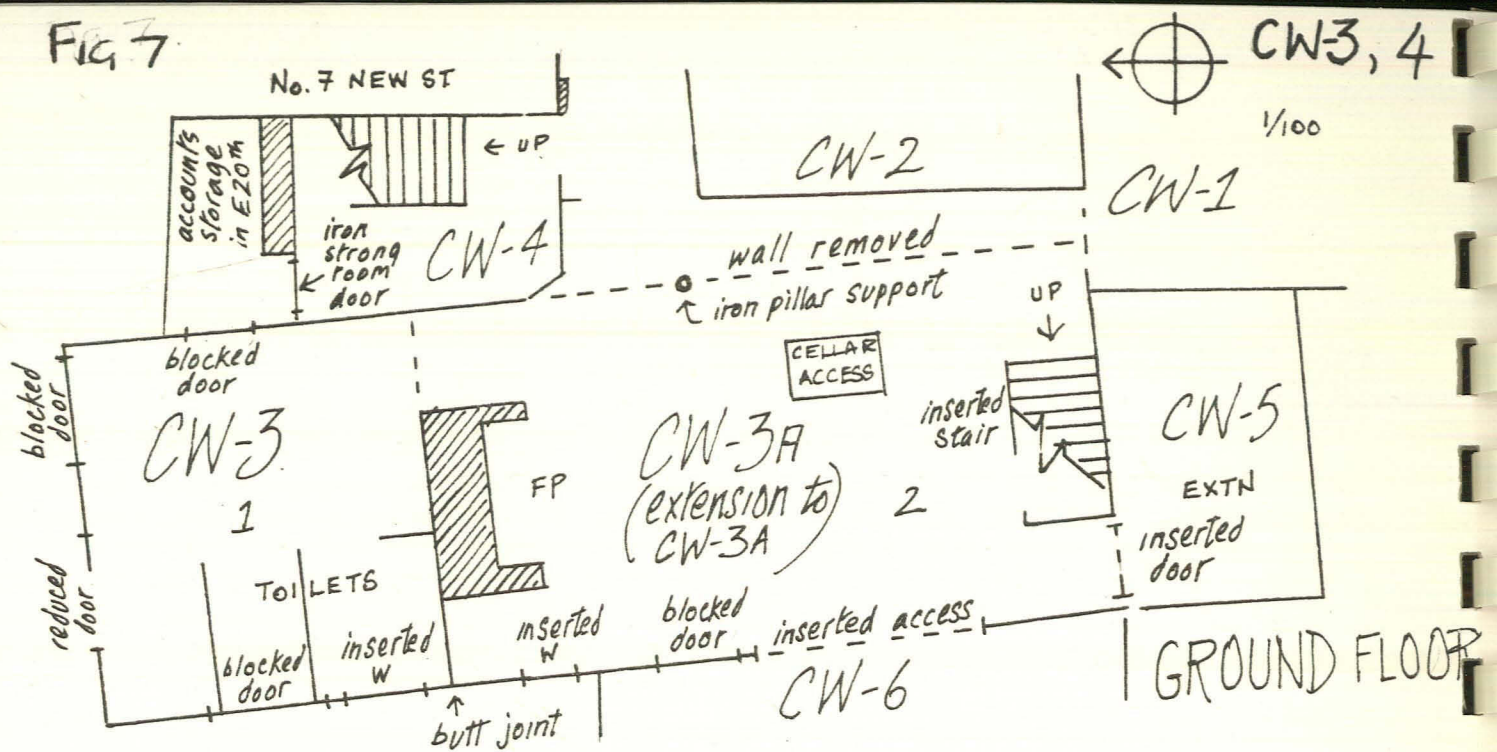
#### **CW3(Figs 7 and 8)**

CW3 lies at the centre of the Crown and Woolpack and has a complex building history. It is a three storey brick building with a new pantile roof which lies behind 7 Cornmarket. It has no street frontage and access is from New Street or the rear yard entrance through 36 Eastgate.

Inspection of the external elevations shows that this building was constructed in three phases ( CW3,CW3a and CW3b). The southern gable end faces onto the courtyard behind nos 7-11 Cornmarket. The whole apex (and that of the north gable) has been rebuilt fairly recently but prior to the very recent re-roofing programme which used a different coloured mortar. Another change in the brickwork can be seen below the second floor window especially on the southwest corner of the building. At first it was thought that this was a repair but the evidence is clearer on the north gable where a similar change in the brickwork indicates an earlier roof line. The western elevation confirms this view. Not only has it been enlarged by raising the roof by one storey but the north end of the building is older than the southern part. Towards the north



FIG 7





end of the building is a vertical join in the brickwork which is very clear at ground and first floor levels but is not present at second floor level. Original windows at ground and first floor level have proper relieving arches of vertical headers. Those on the second floor do not.

The surviving part of the original building CW3 comprises the northernmost room on the ground and first floors (Fig.7). (The building may have been larger and partially demolished when alterations were made.)

When CW3 was extended the southeast corner of CW3a enclosed the existing northwest corner of CW1. It is constructed off-alignment from CW1 and CW2 and all other buildings which surround but do not abutt it. The relationship of CW2 to CW3a and b is problematical. Much of the presumed east wall of CW3a and b does not exist because it is joined to CW2. The internal walls on both the first and second floors at this point are aligned to CW2. (There was an east wall at ground floor level because CW2 was originally constructed at first floor level only.) If the southern part of CW3 had existed prior to the construction of CW2 why should it have been partially demolished to create new partition walls only a short distance away? This does not make sense in practical or structural terms. It is therefore suggested that CW3 and CW1 were extended at the same time and that CW2 is of the same date as CW3a. CW2 must be later than 7 New Street because it butts against its south wall.

The internal arrangements of CW3 have also been much altered. The original CW3 building was two storeys high comprising a single room at ground and first floor level. There were large doorways for vehicular access on the west and east sides of the building, almost but not quite opposite one another in the area which is presently the gents' toilets. Both are now blocked. The eastern door was probably blocked when 7 New Street was constructed because there would have been no room after that time in which to manoeuvre a cart and horse or similar. (This area was later infilled with CW4 (see below).) The door was replaced with an access on the north east corner of CW3. This in turn was blocked up and replaced with a modern door to its west which cuts through the only visible original ground floor window. Clearly the large doors are not those of a domestic building and it is suggested that CW3 was a warehouse or other industrial building. As noted above no.7 New Street was built around this building and is therefore later in date. In fact CW3 may well be the earliest surviving building in the Crown and Woolpack yard.

When CW3 was extended southwards and upwards it created a large property linking up with CW1 at first and second floor level. A firestack was constructed at the end of the old CW3 serving



five fireplaces, one on the ground floor and two back-to-back on the upper storeys.

The original ground floor arrangements have been obliterated by modern pub decor (see CW1 above) and the toilets. Room 2 has a staircase at the south end which gives access to the first floor but this is a late insertion. The east wall of Room 2 would originally have been an external wall facing onto New Street but it was removed when the ground floor extension beneath CW2 was constructed. A beam, propped up by a cast iron pillar, supports the floor above and is probably mid-Victorian in date. In addition to access into CW2 access was cut through at a later date into CW5 to the south and CW6 to the west (see below). There is also a trapdoor leading to the cellars (see below).

The first floor internal layout has been altered and access is split between CW3 and CW4 (see below). The inserted stair at the south end of the ground floor leads only to a landing area in CW3. A window on the south wall overlooks the yard to the rear of 7-11 Cornmarket. The west wall has an inserted access to the later building CW6 (see below). The north wall is a plasterboard partition wall which was inserted to divide a much larger room. This sealed off the northern part of CW3 with access from CW4 (see below). The east wall has access through to CW2 and CW1 which appears to be original although the floor boards in the threshold area have been much repaired and levels appear to be slightly different. It is at this junction between CW1 and CW3 that the 'buttress' may be seen. Removal of plaster on the wall revealed a cavity which may have been part of a stair access but too much had been disturbed to be absolutely sure.

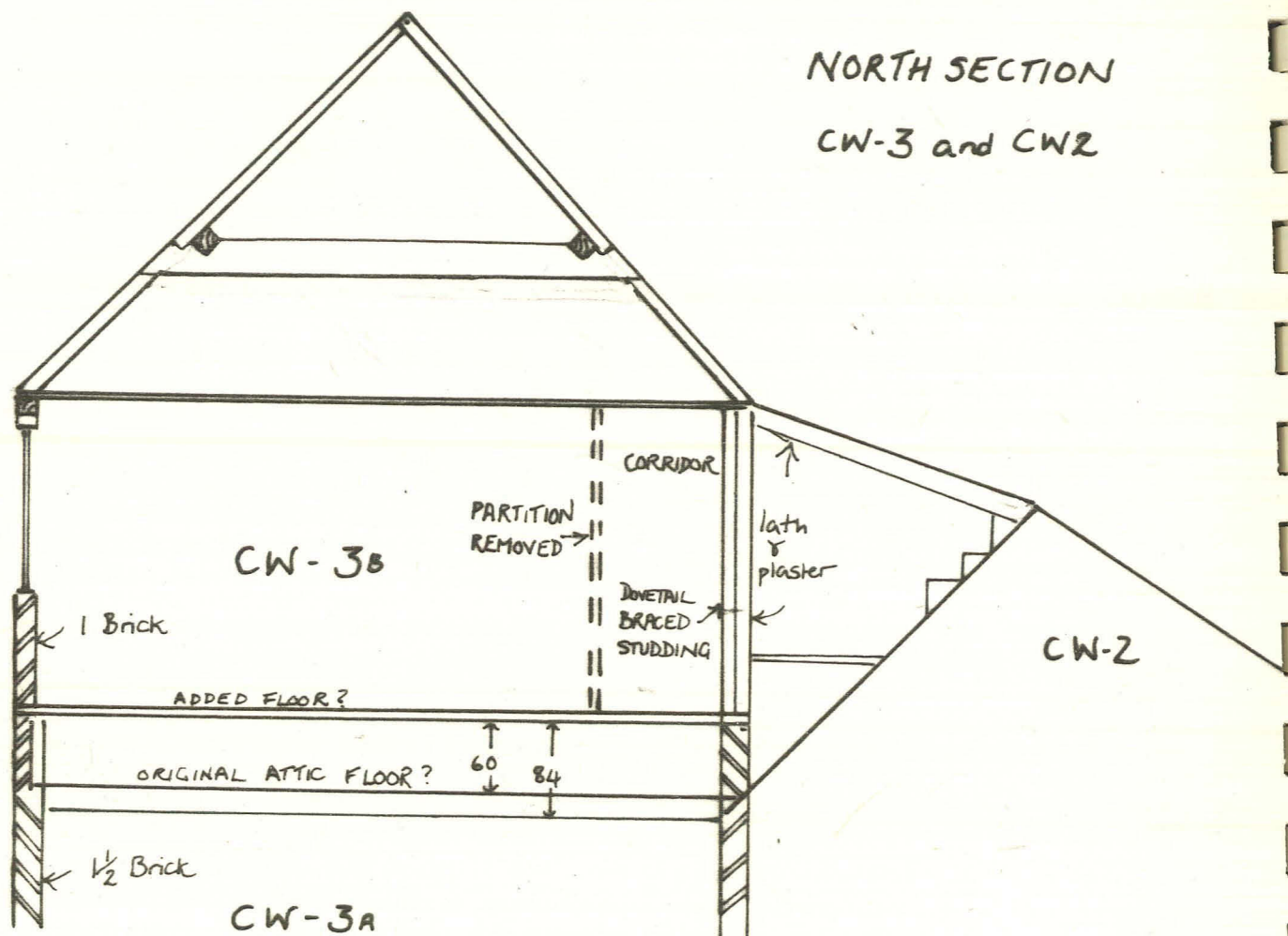
The remaining first floor accommodation comprised two main rooms with stair access from CW4 which lies to the east. One large room lay to the north (in the original CW3) with an inserted fireplace on the south wall (now bricked up). Room 2 had a fireplace (also bricked up) on its north wall backing onto that in Room 1. This room originally ran to the south end of the building but the southern part was partitioned off as described above. In addition, further internal partitions provided a washing area, with a sink in one corner and a walk-in cupboard (with access from CW6 only see below).

On the west wall in Room 2 is a blocked-up doorway overlooking the yard. Any evidence of external access to this door has been lost because its blocking probably coincided with the construction of an extension for a toilet in the adjacent building CW6 and the external wall face is plastered over at the critical point.



Fig 8

NORTH SECTION  
CW-3 and CW2





The second floor belongs to the third phase of the building, CW3b, when the whole building was raised by a storey. It is now divided into three rooms which run the full length of the building and are only accessible from CW4. Room 1 is above the original part of the building. There is a fine cast iron fireplace which is Georgian in style but may in fact be later. This fireplace should be retained.

The middle room, Room 2 was probably created out of Room 3. The fireplace on the north wall backs onto that in Room 1. There is a standard Victorian cast-iron fire surround and grate. A toilet, in filthy condition, has been inserted into the south-west corner of this room.

Room 3 was used as an auction room at some point. There are rows of pegs along the north and east walls and an auctioneer's desk was found amongst the debris. The south east corner of this room is panelled off and behind is the toilet which was inserted over the roof space of CW2 (see above). There is evidence for a corridor in Room 3 providing through access to CW1 which must have been removed when the toilet was constructed. Perhaps this coincided with the blocking of the access into CW2 from CW4 and the creation of the landing at the south end of CW3 on the first floor, resulting in the present arrangement which completely isolates the two upper floors of CW3 from the rest of the pub. There is a cavity between the floor of Rooms 2 and 3 and the ceilings of the first floor, further indicating alterations to the building (Fig.8).

The panelling which formed the toilet walls was partially concealed in the attic space and has posters dating to 1868 pasted onto the boards, advertising various auctions and sales organised by Masons Auctioneers, who had offices in Bridge Street, Louth at that time. This firm is now known as Mawer, Mason and Bell and still has an office in Louth. In recent years Masons did use the Masons' Arms for auctions and although no one who is still employed there has any knowledge of the firm's history there is no reason why they shouldn't have held sales at the Crown and Woolpack.

The roof construction provides further evidence that the building is not of one build. The ridge heights north and south of the chimney stack are slightly different. There are seven surviving roof trusses six of which retain their collars. On the east side of Truss 6 there is a collar seat but no collar because the chimney stack is in the way. In addition two pairs of rafters between trusses 5 and 6 are different in character. One pair are thin boards, another pair are 1/4 round pieces of timber. The third pair between these trusses is standard i.e. sawn and rectangular in cross-section. There are rafter trimmers around the chimney. This aperture has been blocked and the chimney lowered below the roof-line during recent



reroofing. Since the roof has been raised on two occasions, prior to the modern repairs it is not possible to draw firm conclusions about the roof construction. Some timbers will undoubtedly have been reused.

#### CW4 (Fig.7)

Two cross-walls were constructed to infill the dead space between CW3 and 7 New Street. The resulting 'building' is really no more than a stair well giving access to the first and second floors of CW3.

At ground floor level there is a strong room under the stair which still contains the accounts of the brewery. Bundles of papers can be seen on the shelves. Unfortunately these are so badly decayed that they disintegrate when handled but one or two pieces were examined which dated to 1908. These papers should be examined to establish if any can be saved for deposit at the Lincolnshire Archives Office or other appropriate archive.

The stairs giving access to the half landing and first floor have been removed because it was in a dangerous condition. The first floor landing gives exclusive access into the first floor rooms 1,2 and 4 of CW3. There was also access into CW2 which was subsequently blocked (see above). The second flight of stairs has moulded features indicating a late Victorian date. The 1889 O.S map shows this extension in place and it may have been quite new at that date. The second floor half landing has a toilet added to its north side, constructed entirely from timber oddments and which looks like a shack. On the south side of the main landing is a door leading to the attic constructed over CW2 and access to the west leads into CW3.

The wall plate on the east side of CW4 is jettied in from the wall to avoid the eaves of 7 New St. The roof is of simple pent construction and leans against CW3 and CW2.

#### CW5 (Fig.5)

CW5 is a single storey brick lean-to constructed on the south side of CW3. It encroaches upon the back yard area belonging to 7 Cornmarket but access is from CW3 and CW1. Its most recent function was as a kitchen for the bar. It is present on the 1889 O.S. map. (A second lean-to was constructed against CW5 which functions as an outbuilding for 7 Cornmarket!)

#### CW6 (Fig.9)

CW6 was built after CW3, butting up to its west side. It was a two storey brick building with a pantile roof, probably with two rooms on each floor. The south elevation of this building overlooks the rear yard belonging to 7-11 Cornmarket. Its west gable can be seen from the Masons Arms yard. This is all that survives of the western half of the building which was



FIG 9



CW-6, 7, 8

CW-3A  
blocked door

CW-3B  
blocked door

inserted  
outbuilding  
(demolished)

inserted  
outbuilding  
(demolished)

1  
KITCHEN

CW-6  
2

FP

outbuilding

original  
access

inserted  
door

← UP

inserted  
wall  
↓

CW-8

inserted  
chimney

CW-7

one room

1

1

GROUND  
FLOOR

CORNMARKET  
YARD

MASONS ARMS YARD

CW-3

blocked  
door?

inserted  
door

inserted  
door

TOILET  
1

← UP

CW-6  
KITCHEN  
3

blocked  
door

2  
STORE

CW-8

inserted  
chimney

↑  
DOWN

CW-7

one room

1

1

original line of CW-6

FIRST  
FLOOR



demolished and incorporated into CW7. The eastern half of CW6 is sandwiched between CW3 and CW7, looking like infill rather than a proper building.

Internally CW6 comprises one room on the ground floor which was part of the public bar. A 20th century outshut on the north side of CW6 provided a store which overlooks the Crown and Woolpack yard. There is through access from CW3a to CW7. A fireplace on the south wall is a modern insertion.

On the first floor there is access only from CW3a leading into a large kitchen. The present casement window on the south wall has been inserted into an earlier, partially blocked, window space. The area over the northern extension has no windows and was recently used as a larder. A separate, later, extension to the north was made to provide a toilet. The west wall of CW3a was cut through to create a walk-in cupboard which actually lies in CW3a but is only accessible from CW6. The dividing wall boarding in the cupboard has the appearance of re-used staircase panelling.

The roof over CW6 was briefly inspected but not recorded as access was too high to be reached.

#### **CW7 (Fig.9)**

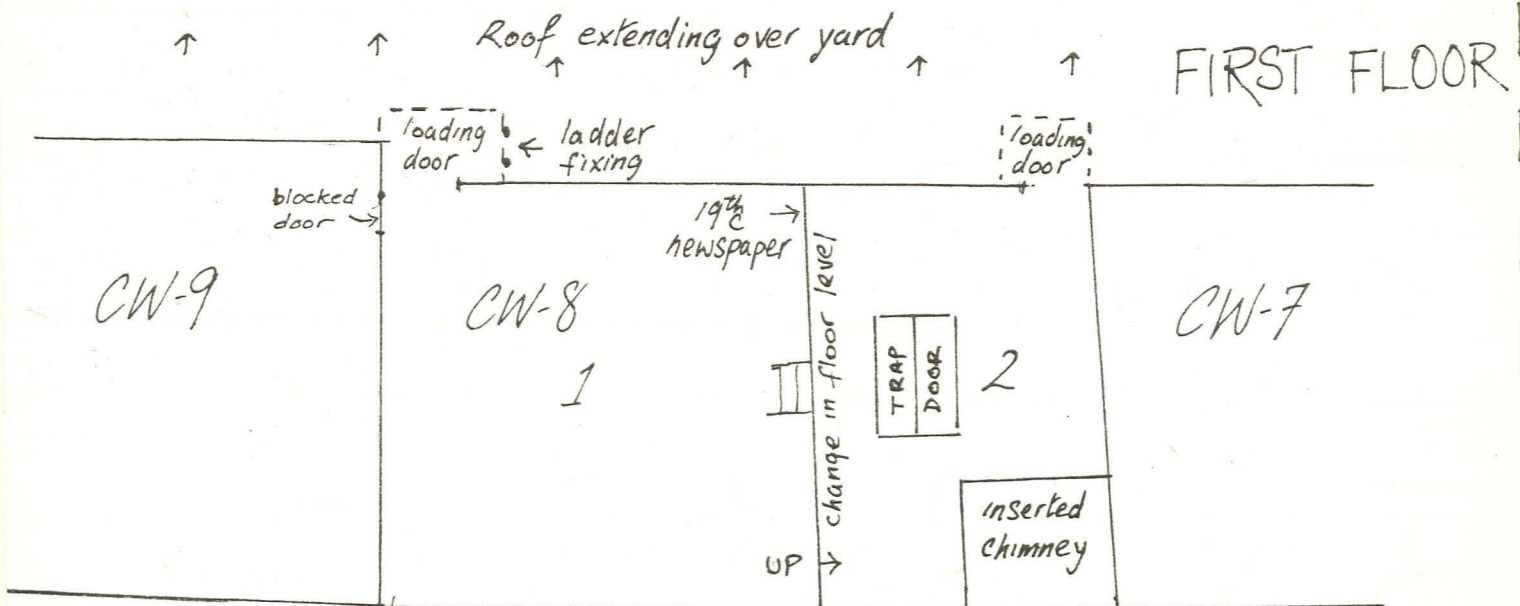
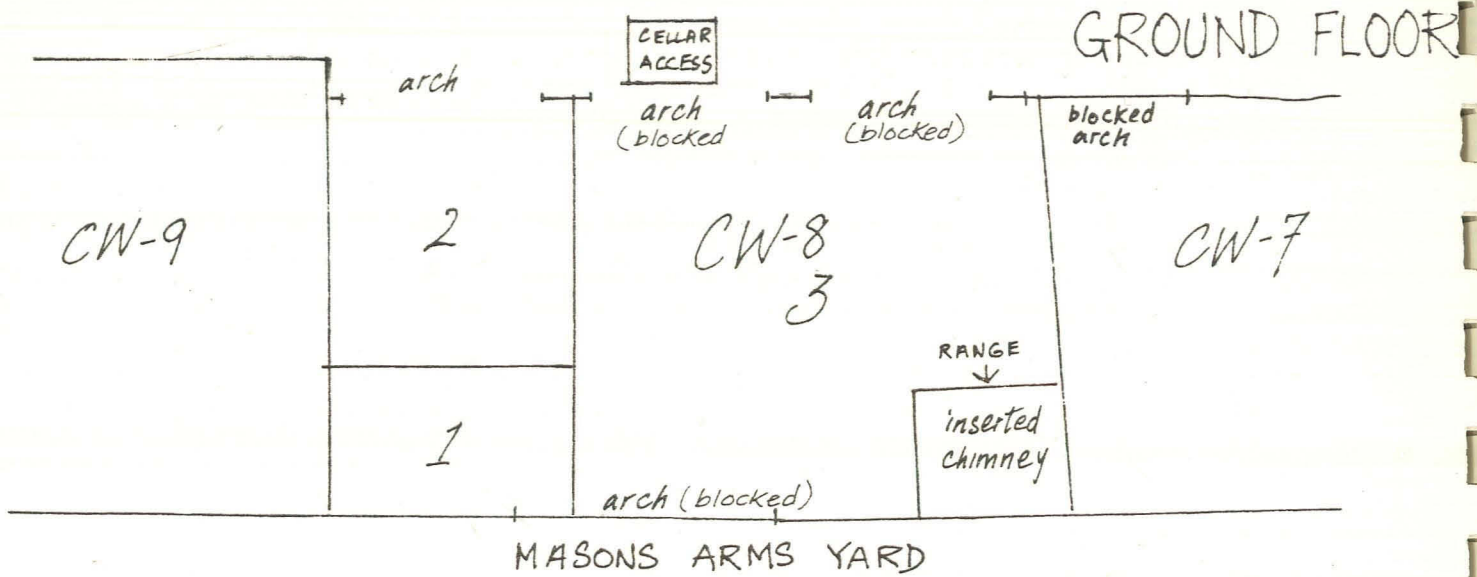
The southern half of CW7 incorporates the west half of CW6. The building was constructed perpendicular to CW6 and the gable of CW6 may still be seen in its west wall (see above). The southern elevation which faces onto the yard behind 7-11 Cornmarket is the old wall of CW6. The north side is masked by the later building CW8. The east side of CW7 faces onto the Crown and Woolpack yard. The ground floor arrangements have been altered. There is a door giving access to the yard which has cut through an earlier window. The present window has been inserted into a filled-in archway which is identical to the three in CW8 which lies to the north (see below).

Internally the ground floor mainly comprises a large function room with a small area screened off to the north with stair access to the first floor and a cubby hole/cloakroom below the stairs. The room has been clad in plasterboard but behind the board one can see where the west and east walls of CW6 have been extended northwards, creating the present CW7. The stairway leads to a large first floor room, used for functions. There is a built in cupboard over the stairwell. On the east wall is a blocked doorway overlooking the Crown and Woolpack yard. There is no surviving evidence of any external access. The south wall, which is really the remains of CW6 has a blocked window identical in size to that in the kitchen next door (see CW6 above)





SCALE  
1/100





There is a false ceiling in which conceals a second storey at the north end of the building. This was not examined as there was no easy access.

#### **CW8 (Figs. 10 and 11)**

CW8 lies between CW7 and CW9. At ground floor level there was access through three open arches with bull-nose brick surrounds on the east face providing covered storage for carts. The arches are identical to that in CW7 and there is no vertical join in the brickwork at ground floor level between the buildings. CW8 was originally just a covered area constructed at the same time as CW7 to fill in the gap between CW7 and CW9. (The brickwork detail is the same as that used for the cellar access in the yard leading into Cellar 7 and Cellar 1 (see below). There was a wide through access on the west side into the Masons' Arms yard. Alterations were made not long after construction when a first floor was built. The windows on the west side of the building are identical to those in CW9 and this enlargement is contemporary with the raising of CW9 (see below). Further alterations were made when the brewery chimney was inserted into the southwest corner of CW8. It must have been at this time that two of the arches and access to the Masons' Arms yard were bricked up to provide an enclosed brewing area. (This part of CW8 was locked up and inspection was made only through a trapdoor in the floor above.) There is an indented panel on the north and east faces of the chimney identical in detail to those found on 34/36 Eastgate suggesting that the two were contemporary (see below).

The first floor of CW8 was probably used for storage. It has two bays with an open partition, the southern half having a raised floor. There is a trapdoor at the south end with direct access to the brewery below. On the west wall are three small windows which overlook the Masons' Arms yard; the southernmost one was partially blocked when the chimney was inserted. On the east side are two doors, one at each end of the building, which gave access to an external gallery which ran the full length of CW8 and CW9 (see below). This gallery was of secondary construction and must have been constructed after the blocking of the archways.

The roof is of standard clasped purlin construction with a tie beam sitting on the wall plate, tied to it with iron stays. There is a ridge collar and ridge piece. The whole construction is nailed. The area where the chimney was inserted has been rebuilt, confirming the later date for the chimney.

#### **CW9 and CW10/34-36 EASTGATE (Figs. 11 and 12)**

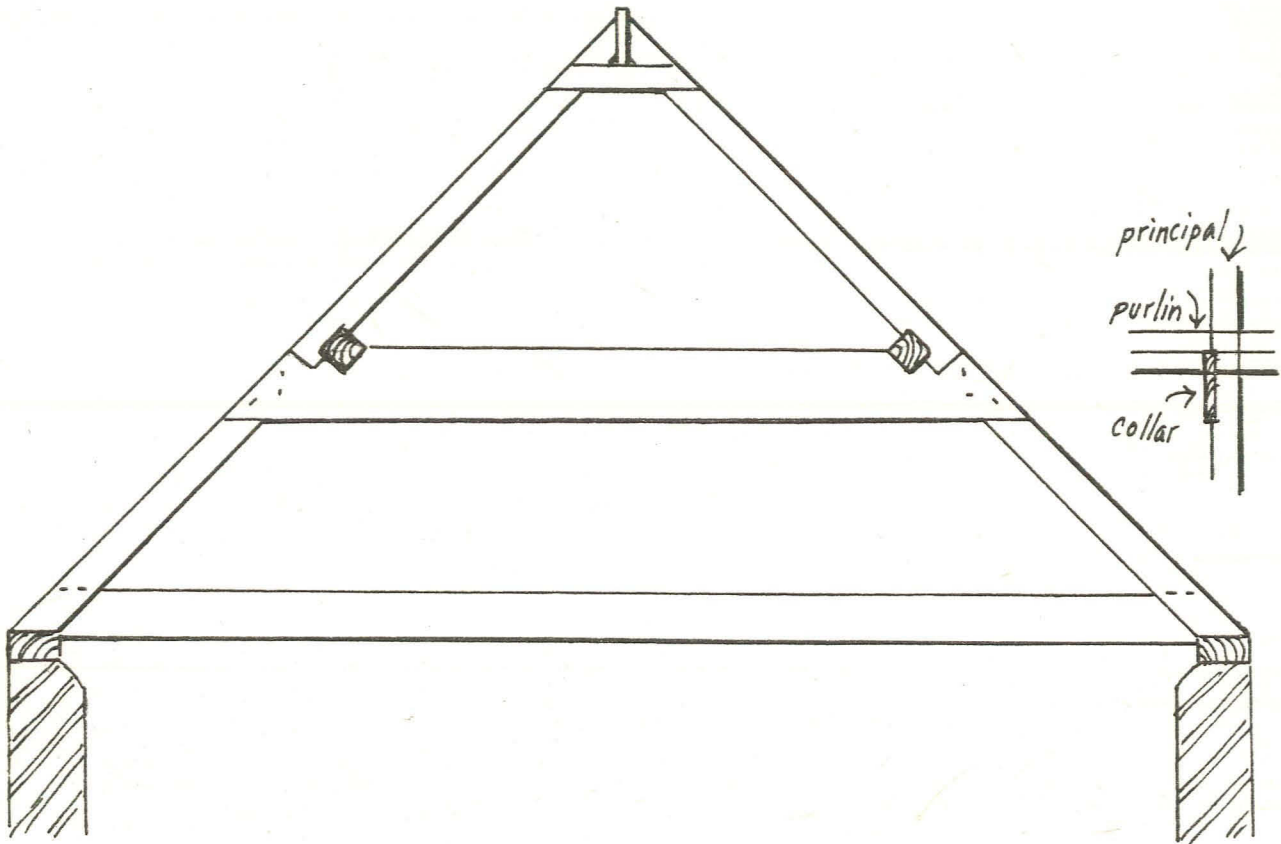
CW9 lies north of CW8 on the west side of the yard and originally fronted onto Eastgate. It was a single storey brick building of non-domestic function. There was a door at its south end. The west wall of CW9 survives its whole length



Fig 11

CW-8 + CW-9  
(34 EASTGATE)

not to scale





through to the front of the building and has no openings but the east wall was rebuilt at its north end, in the area which is now under the covered arch. There is a blocked door in this part of the wall which was superceded by one to its south when an internal staircase was constructed.

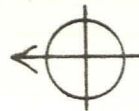
CW10 also fronted onto Eastgate and lay east of CW9 with a carriageway lying between the two. Externally the west, south and east elevations survive of CW10. The gable end of the building may be seen in the east wall which means that it was orientated east-west. This building may have been an earlier carriage arch whose west half was removed when CW9 was constructed. The west wall facing the carriageway has a narrow, very tall central doorway (now blocked) reaching to the full height of the present carriageway ceiling. The iron pintles (hinge hangers) and hasp still survive as does the stone threshold which is well-worn. The brickwork has two courses of timber lacing, a feature of 18th-century buildings.

Little is known of the original layouts of CW9 and 10 because at some point in the mid-19th century a new facade was constructed on the Eastgate frontage creating the properties known as 34 and 36 Eastgate. This involved raising both CW9 and CW10 in height to become two-storey structures. The change in brickwork is clearly visible on the east elevation of CW10 both internally and externally (although the outbuilding belonging to 17 New St masks the lower courses.) The west elevation of CW9 which looks onto the Masons Arms yard shows a clean brick line at the sill level of the first floor windows. This line extends south along the CW8 range which also has the same style first floor windows and must have been raised at the same time. (There is also a first floor window on the south side of CW10 in the same style).

The improvements also involved the construction of a timber gallery which ran the full length of the east side of CW9 and CW8, overhanging the yard. Five stone corbels may be seen in the wall and excavations by the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology revealed postholes which originally held supports for the west side of the gallery (Merrony and Moth 1989, 15). Access to the gallery from the yard was at the south and north ends of CW8. Ladder fixings for a moveable ladder were seen at both accesses. The gallery served two first floor doors in CW8. The gallery continued along CW9 to reach a door over the carriageway giving access to the first floor of 36 Eastgate. The roof scar of this gallery may be seen on the south wall of this building. There was also access from the yard via a moveable ladder at this end of the gallery. The gallery was in place when the 1889 O.S. map of Louth was drawn. The whole of this range of buildings must have been used for the storage of beer, prior to transportation.

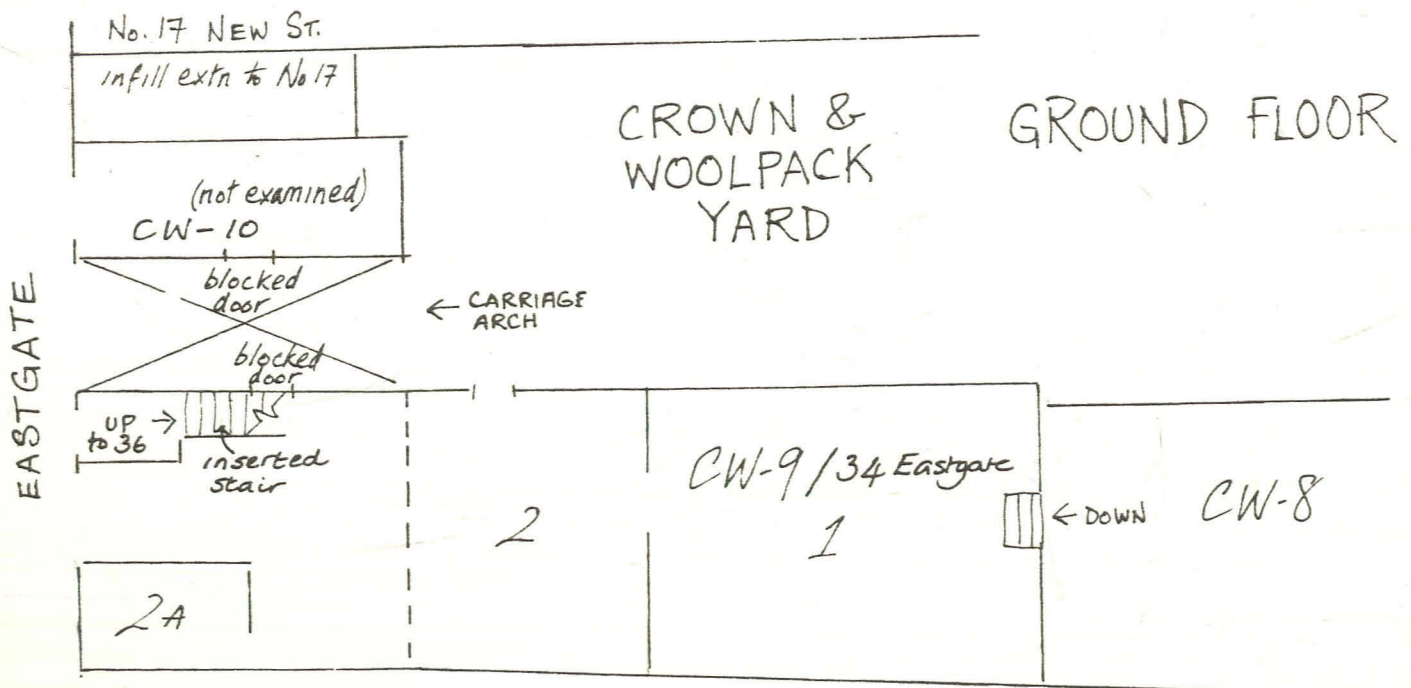
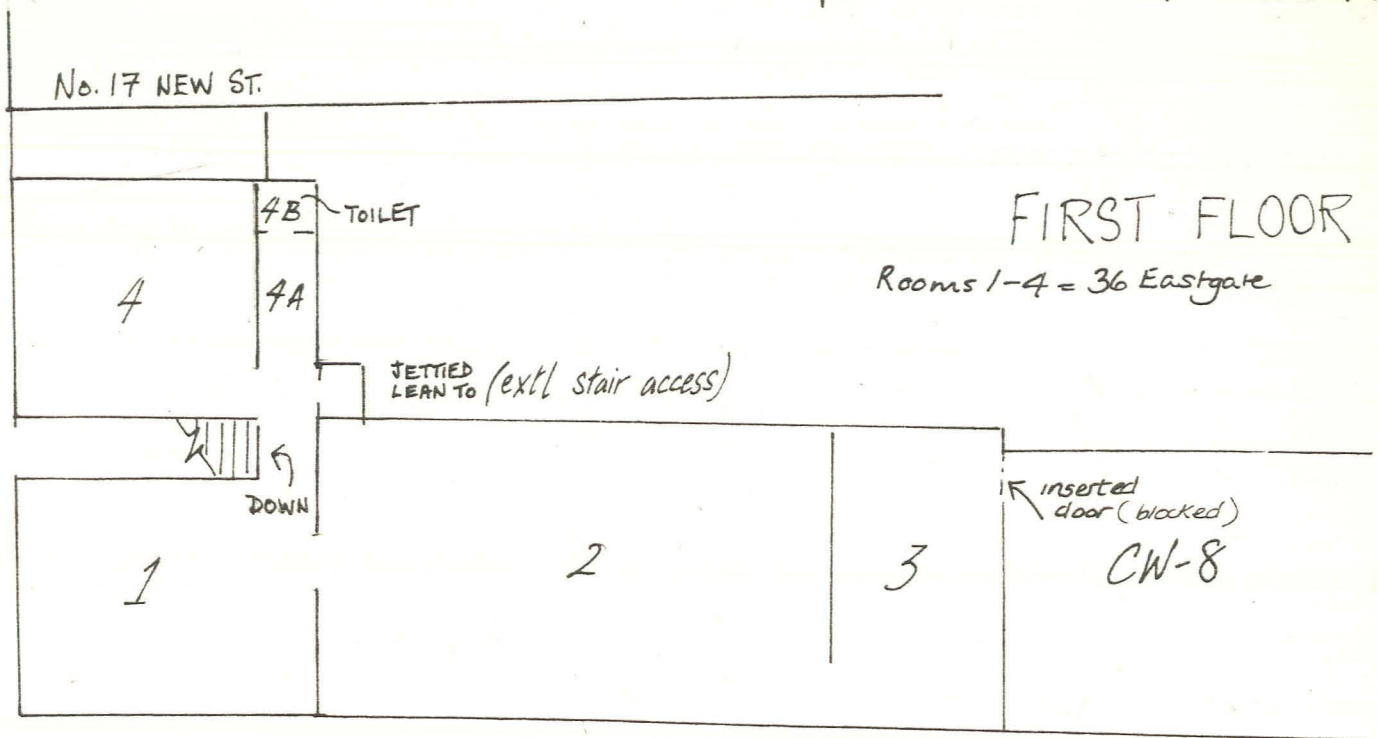


FIG. 12



SCALE  
1/150

CW-9 + CW-10  
(34 - 36 EASTGATE)





The Eastgate frontage lies between 32 Eastgate to its west and an outbuilding in the back yard of 17 New Street. It is of superior red brick with yellow brick details over the openings and is early-mid Victorian in style. It has a hipped pantile roof with no visible chimneys.

The arrangement of openings is not symmetrical and must have been made to fit the existing buildings onto which the facing was built. On the west side is a double door with a high threshold for ease of loading vehicles leading into no.34 (the old CW9).

Between the double door and the covered arch is a normal size door giving access to a stair and the whole of the first floor (no.36). This staircase has been inserted as it blocks a doorway overlooking the covered archway (part of the arrangements of the earlier building). On the other side of the covered arch is a third door leading into a single ground floor room (formerly CW10 and not currently numbered). This room was locked and not examined but it has no windows and must have been used as a store. There are two indented labels in the brickwork, originally designed to accommodate signs which are the same as the two seen in the brewery chimney (see CW8 above). Above these are three round-arched windows of the same design but different sizes. The largest, on the west side intrudes into the oversail below the eaves. It is hard to imagine that it could be an insertion because the bricks used are the same as for all the other openings so perhaps there was a miscalculation in construction.

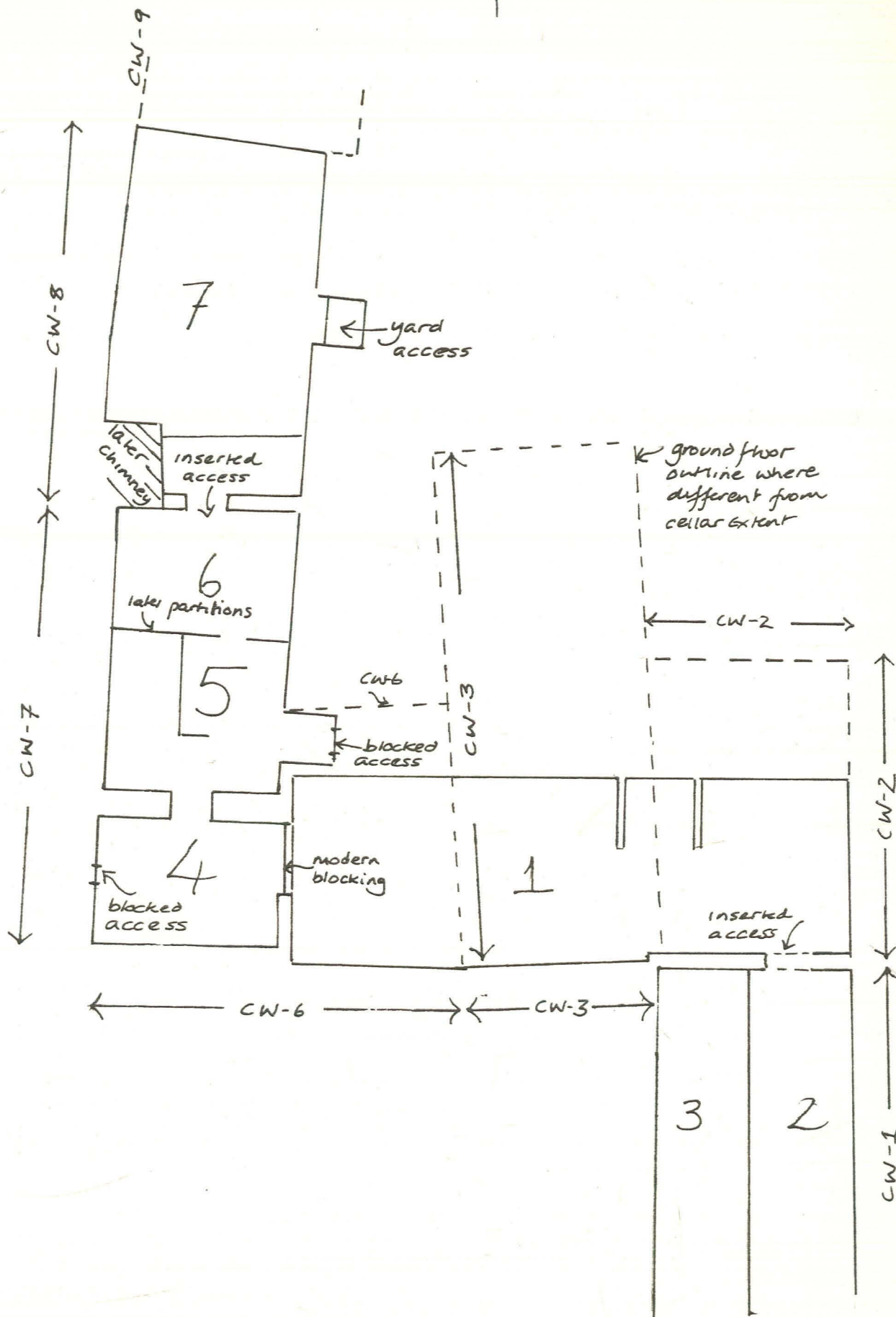
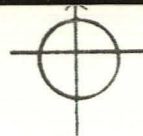
Internally little alteration appears to have been made at ground floor level. CW9/ no. 34 was used for storage for the brewery and a small partitioned area at the north end adjacent to the main doors was probably a small office.

The first floor (no. 36) was most recently used as a Christian Science meeting room. Perhaps it was originally used for further storage and office space. To the west of the stairs is access above the full length of CW9. The area is partitioned into three rooms. At the south end, in Room 3, is an inserted doorway, now blocked, which originally led into the CW8.

The roof is of simple clasped purlin construction with ridge and collar pieces. All the main collars lie on the south side of the rafters and all the ties on the north side. All the purlins are half-trenched into the principals and all the timbers are nailed, not pegged.

A narrow passageway at the top of the stairs leads east to the room over CW10. The brickwork has not been plastered and the raising of the roof level is clearly visible on both the west and east walls of Room 4. The passage also gives access to the door leading along the first floor gallery, described above.







### THE CROWN AND WOOLPACK CELLARS (Fig. 13)

Investigation of the cellars beneath the Crown and Woolpacks revealed a number of blocked doorways showing that what survives is but a part of a more extensive network. The surviving cellars comprise three interconnecting blocks which subdivide into seven cellars, all of which served the Crown and Woolpack brewery. All the cellars were constructed entirely in brick with simple barrel vaulted ceilings and brick floors.

**Cellar 1** lies west-east beneath CW2, the south end of CW3 and CW6. Access is gained through a trap door in the ground floor of CW3a. The use of bull-nose bricks at this access ties in with the construction of CW7 and 8 and cellar 7. Original access may originally have been from CW6. Raised benches ran along the north and south walls of the cellar and also part of the east wall but only the remnants survive.

At the southeast corner of Cellar 1 is access to **Cellars 2 and 3** which run north-south beneath CW1. These cellars are earlier than Cellar 1 and access has been cut through. Originally access was gained from steps in 5 Cornmarket but the southern part of Cellar 2 has been bricked up. Apart from a stone, slabbed shelf at the present south end of Cellar 2 there were no structural features of any note in these cellars. A free-standing timber barrel rack of crude construction survives in Cellar 3 but is probably of fairly recent date.

At the west end of Cellar 1 is access to **Cellar 4** which underlies CW6. This area of Cellar 1 has been rebuilt perhaps indicating that Cellar 4 was of later construction. The access to Cellar 4 was blocked in recent years.

Cellar 4 is subdivided into a series of two-tiered storage units which are built in brick with stone shelves laid on iron cross bars. Each unit has a brick with a moulded number incorporated into its wall. The numbers run from 86-93 (8 units). The bricks are different in size to those used in the cellar construction and they are a later insertion.

There is a blocked access at the west end of Cellar 4 which would have led into the area beneath the rear of 13 Cornmarket. On the north side of Cellar 4 is access through to **Cellar 5** which underlies CW7. This cellar was partitioned in the same manner as Cellar 4 with numbered units 101-110. (Again these units are an addition.) Perhaps Units 94-100 lay beyond the blocked door in Cellar 4.

Cellar 5 is now quite small with a cross wall dividing it in two. There were two doorways in this later wall giving access from Cellar 6 to the partitioned units on the west and east walls. The western access was blocked when further units were constructed down the middle of the cellar.



Cellar 6 is really part of Cellar 5 and is empty. A doorway in the north wall of Cellar 6 gives access to steps down into Cellar 7 which underlies CW8. The doorway is finished in bull-nose bricks and has been inserted. The bricks are identical to those used in the archways of CW7 and CW8 and the buildings and cellar were probably built in one operation.

Access to Cellar 7 is gained through a trapdoor in the Crown and Woolpack courtyard. There are no surviving structural features in this cellar although in the southwest corner the foundations of the brewery chimney have been inserted and the repair to the vault and west wall of the cellar can clearly be seen. The cellar is now flooded to a height of c.20cm.

#### THE YARD

There is access to the Crown and Woolpack yard from the pub buildings CW3 and CW7 described above. The extension CW6 also overlooks the yard. Vehicular access is gained through the gateway in 36 Eastgate. Back yard boundaries of the properties on New Street define the eastern limit of the yard. To the west is a range of buildings which have all been incorporated into the brewery and at one time there was vehicular access from CW8 into the Masons' Arms yard.

#### THE MASON'S ARMS

The Masons' Arms is one of the older inns in Louth. It was one of 25 establishments named in a list dating to 1782. It was then called the Butchers Arms but changed its name in 1801 (Swaby 1953) and the minutes of the Louth Corporation record that they met at the Butchers Arms in 1784 (Goulding 1927). The Masons' Arms was probably a much smarter establishment than the Crown and Woolpack with an attractive building fronting onto Cornmarket. In many ways however, their development was similar in that several buildings became incorporated into a single premises as the business expanded, culminating in extensive refurbishment in the mid- and late 19th century. Whilst the Crown and Woolpack developed as a brewery the Masons' Arms was primarily a coaching inn with extensive stabling.

The separate buildings which comprise the rabbit warren at the Masons' Arms have been coded in a similar manner to those of the Crown and Woolpack and are described separately below (MA1-9).

In summary the main elements are as follows-

MA1 Front range overlooking Cornmarket 18th century

MA2 remains of earlier range behind MA1

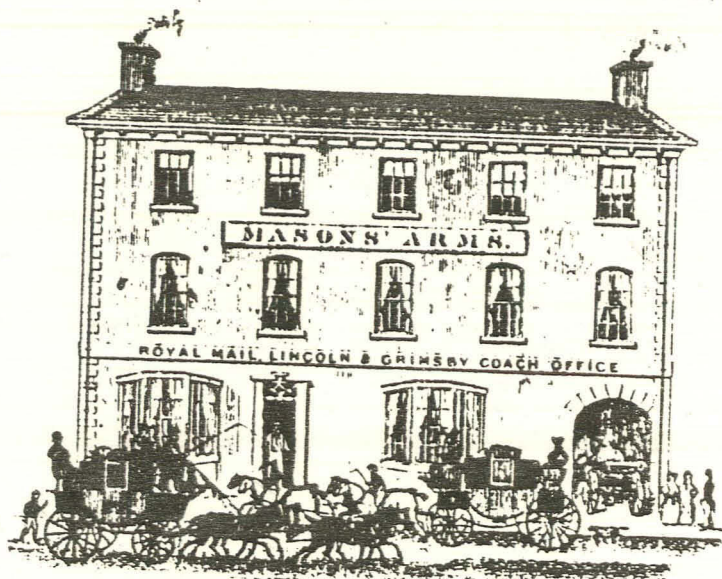
MA3 infill behind MA1 linking MA1, MA2 and MA4

MA4 kitchen range running along west side of courtyard with ballroom and

accommodation above.



FIG 14



(R. MITCHELL)  
Masons Arms

Commercial and Coaching House.

(LOUTH.)

Post Chaise, Gigs, Saddle Horses.

Hearse and Mourning Coaches.

*Oct 3*

*1838*

*W. Mason Esq.*

*Pair of Horses*

*to Louth 14-*

*Toll Bar*

*10 8*

*1 11*

*- 19 0*



MA5 stable block north of and later than MA4 and MA7 . Late 19th century

MA6 early building incorporated into stable block

MA7 lean to extension on west side of MA7

MA8 building north of MA5, originally covered storage for carriages.

MA9 Carriage arch facing onto Eastgate 18th century

#### MA1 (Figs.14 and 15)

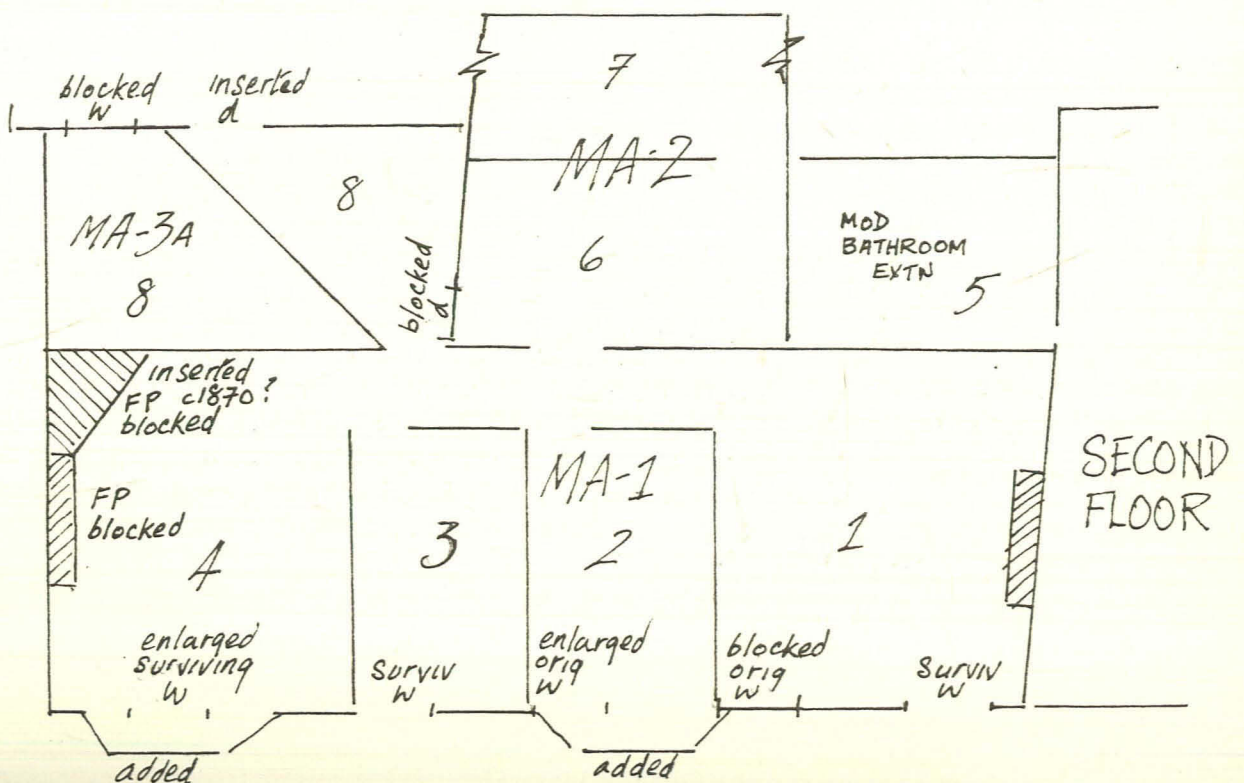
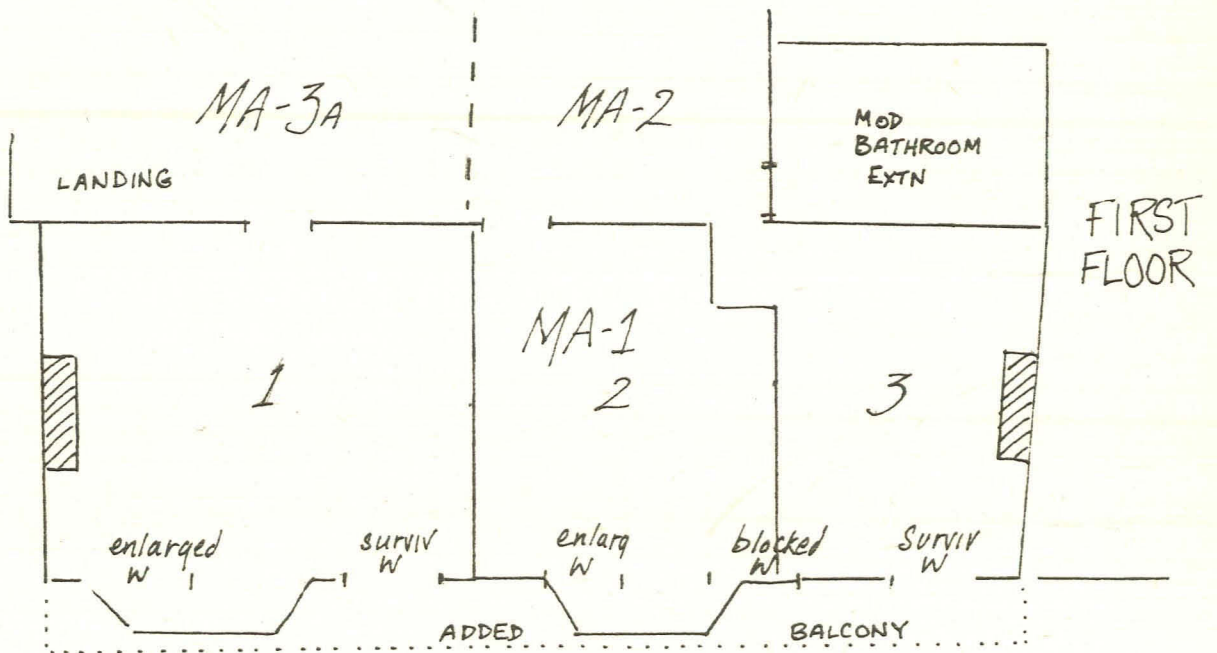
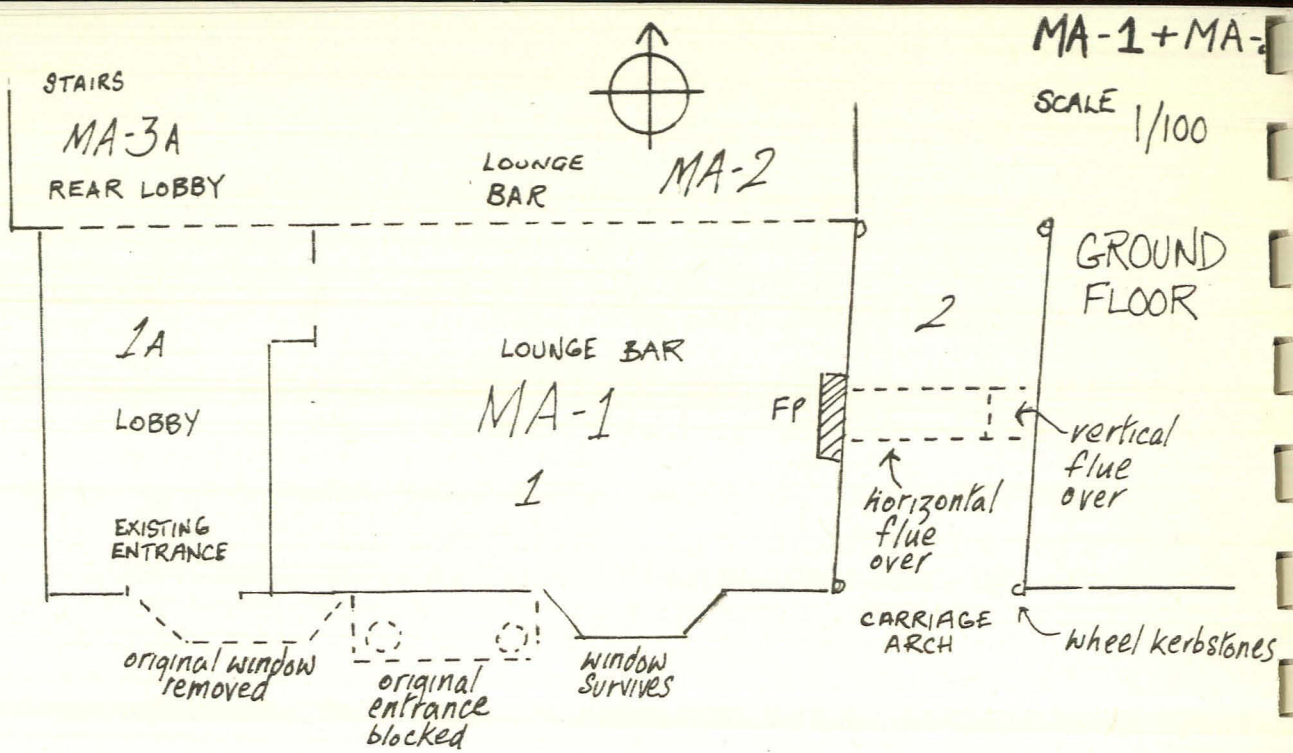
The Masons' Arms hotel fronts onto the Cornmarket (formerly known as Butcher Market). It lay between the Cornmarket building to its west and 13 Cornmarket to its east although it predated both these buildings. (The Cornmarket building was demolished in the 1970s and there is a modern building on this site.) This front range is a three-storey brick building, probably 18th century in date .

MA1 is one room deep and originally had five rooms on each of the upper floors. The building was extensively remodelled in the mid-19th century and again in about 1900. The west and east external elevations are of course masked by adjacent buildings and the north elevation is mainly blotted out by extensions to the rear including some very unsympathetic brickwork dating to the 1960s. However, an engraving dating to c.1830 (Fig. 14 , from a copy of a hotel bill, kindly loaned by Lyn Matthews) shows the original south-facing facade with its five sash windows on the first and second floors, the details of which can still be seen on close inspection of the building. There were two bay windows on the ground floor with the main entrance between them and a side arch to the east. The engraving shows a flatter arch than the one which survives today but this may be artistic licence as the present setting looks original. The carriage arch itself retains some very interesting features. A large bell still hangs on the west side, just inside the gate, and was used for calling the innkeeper. Stone wheel kerbs survive at the front and rear of the archway, which prevented traffic from getting too close to the walls. The false quoin detail and the modillions present on the engraving are still to be seen today. Although the rear of the building has been masked in recent years, inspection in the roof space over the 1960s bathroom extension revealed the original eaves height of MA1 which had a simple oversail, one course deep.

The mid-19th century alterations which were made to the facade must have reflected internal reorganisation but later alterations make it difficult to reconstruct older layouts within the building. The ground floor arrangements remained the same with two bay windows flanking the main entrance and the carriage arch to the east. On the first floor two bay windows were constructed above those on the ground floor, alternating with two French windows and wrought iron balconies,



FIG 15





reducing the number of openings to four. The five windows on the second floor were also reduced to four.

Further alterations were made c.1900. According to local accounts the ground floor room to the west of the original entrance was the 'Palm Room' decorated in Colonial style. This was swept away when the main entrance was moved to its present position at the west end of the building, removing one of the bay windows. The portico over the door incorporates part of the old window and the wooden dentil frieze has been carefully matched. The original entrance was blocked up and a small window inserted in its place. The ground floor currently comprises the entrance foyer and part of the public bar (Fig.15). There is access to the main stairs (in MA3 see below) and into the rear bar (MA2 see below). This layout can be dated by the ceiling decor in the bar which dates to c.1900.

There is a fireplace at the east end of the bar which backs on to the carriage arch. There is no fireplace at this point on the upper floors but a horizontal flue with two trapdoors (for cleaning out the soot) was discovered outside, running underneath the covered arch to join the chimney on the east side of the building which serves the two upper storeys. This arrangement, probably common to 18th-century inns with side arches, has also been observed in the carriage arch of the Red Lion at Horncastle.

Access to the first floor is from the main staircase (in MA3). It presently comprises three rooms. There are fireplaces in the rooms at each end, the east room lying over the carriage arch. The second floor comprises four bedrooms, the two end rooms having fireplaces. The west bedroom fireplace was blocked and replaced with a fireplace in the northwest angle of the room a common feature of the 1870s. A metal detector indicated a large expanse appropriate to a cast-iron fire plate but this is now hidden behind a built-in cupboard. The slate hearth can still be seen when lying on the floor! There is access to this floor from MA2 at the east end, which may be original, and from MA3a at the west end, which probably is not.

The roof is of a simple clasped purlin type with collar trusses. The principal rafters, purlins and collars are sawn but the common rafters are re-used (there is evidence of pegging and trenching for a different purlin). These re-used timbers are from a roof which is not later than the early 18th century and is more probably 17th century in date. There are brick chimneys at each end (i.e. west and east) and at the west end is the inserted chimney in the northwest corner (for the fireplace on the second floor, described above). The roof of the present building has been raised and the old roof line may be seen on the chimney stacks. This was probably done when the other later-19th century alterations were carried out. There is

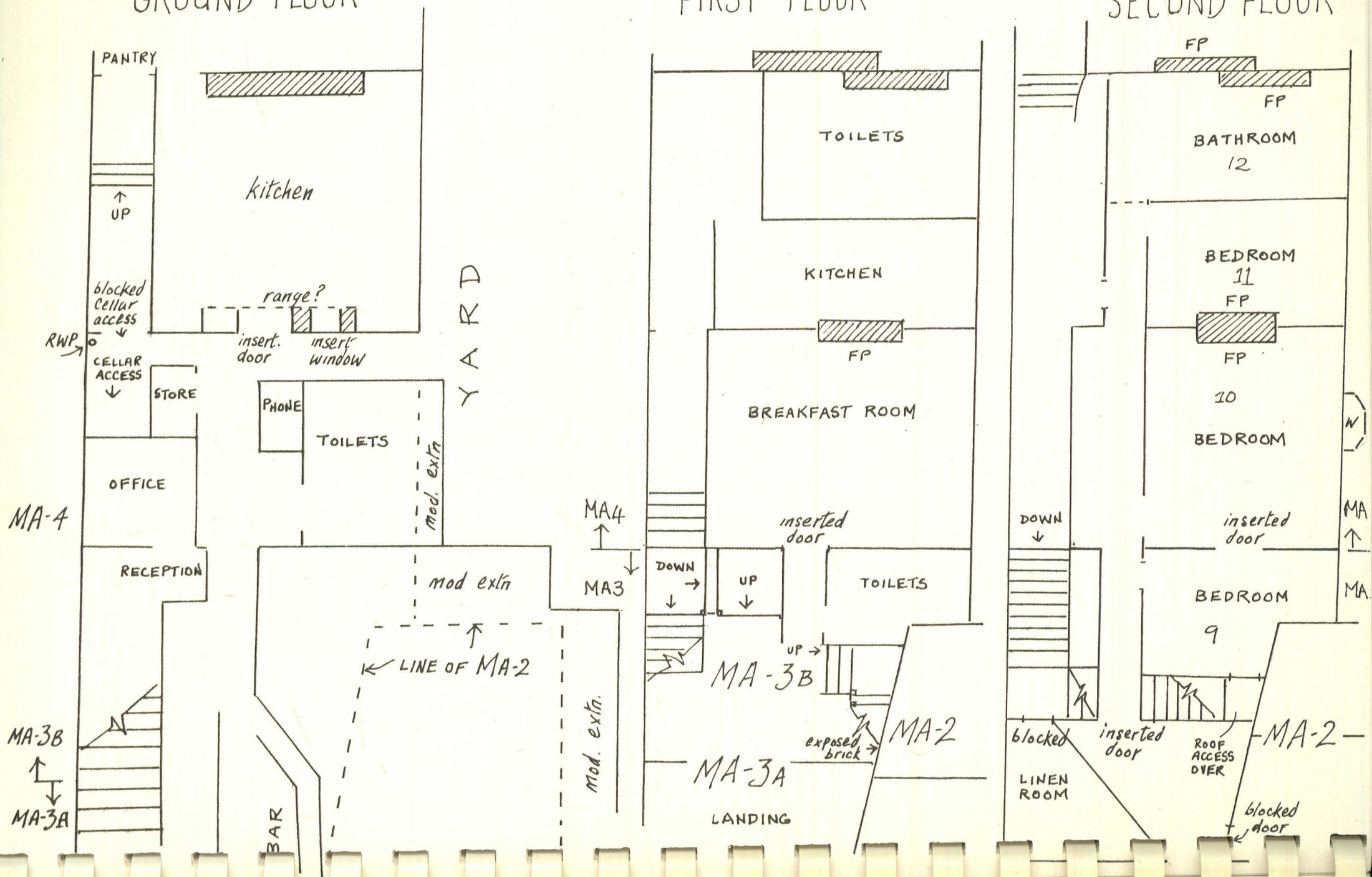


## GROUND FLOOR

MA-3B 84

FIRST FLOOR

## SECOND FLOOR





access from this roof space into MA3a and MA2 can be seen (see below).

#### **MA2 (Figs. 15 and 16)**

On the north side of MA1 is a three-storey brick building of two bays, aligned north-south. The steep pitched roof is in two sections of differing heights suggesting that the two bays are of different construction and date. Unfortunately there have been so many alterations, inside and out, that hardly any of the original fabric could be examined. However, the pitch of the roof and brick tumbling in the north gable wall suggests a 17th century date. This is all that is left of a building, or buildings which may originally have fronted onto the Cornmarket, being the width of one burgage plot, before the construction of MA1, probably in the mid-18th century. Any internal stripping of plaster at first or second floor levels this should be carefully recorded by an archaeologist.

The reason for retaining this stump of a building behind a grand new range may be to do with access. MA2's main function was to provide access to the upper floors in MA1 which has no evidence for any staircases. At ground floor level the evidence has gone because none of the walls survive. The whole area now comprises the rear portion of the public bar. These alterations were made in the 1950s or 60s when a brick extension was wrapped around the east and part of the north side of MA2, to extend the bar area and provide toilets, removing the original walls. There is open access into MA1 to the south and the west side of the bar area is really part of MA3.

At first floor level MA2 comprises a single room which overlooks the yard and a stairwell with access to the second floor only. The present bannisters are in 'Georgian' style but date to c.1900 or later. The stairs appear to be older. (There is also access into some of the first floor rooms of MA1 to the south and the bathroom to the east (1950s construction and not surveyed).

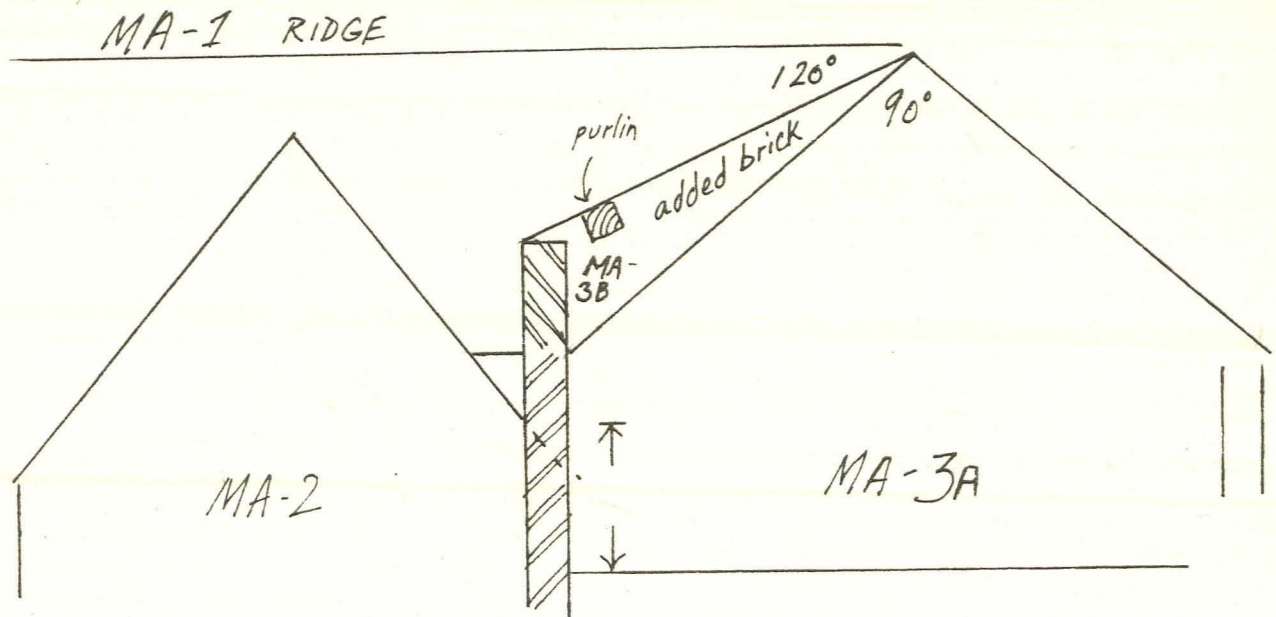
The second floor arrangement is the same with a single room to the north whose ceiling is well above eaves height, and a stair to the south. There is access to the MA1 range to the south and the modern bathrooms to the east. There is also a blocked doorway on the west wall which led to MA3. It must have cut through the roof of MA2 as it is above eaves height.

Although the roof is visible from MA1 the presence of a modern roof light at the south end makes internal access impossible. Inspection of the junction between the two roofs shows that MA2 pre-dates the rebuild of MA1. The gable end of MA2 has brick tumbling, and together with the steep pitch of the roof



NOT TO SCALE

SOUTH SECTION





suggests that it is 17th century in date. It is a great pity that more detailed recording was not possible.

#### MA3 (Fig.15, 16 and 17)

MA3 (Fig.15) is not a true building but two phases of infill, lying between MA1 to the south, MA2 to the east and MA4 to the north. MA3a, immediately behind MA1, comprises landing areas on the first and second floors. Part of the second floor has been partitioned off to create a linen store. In the north west corner of this room is a blocked door overlooking the stairwell to the north, evidence that MA3b is a second phase of infill. On the ground floor MA3a provides an inner foyer area in front of the main staircase.

Almost the whole of MA3b (Fig.16), on three storeys, is taken up by a large stairwell which is lit from a rooflight. The decorative detail on the very fine oak staircase is late Victorian at the earliest and could be as late as 1930. However, it is one of the few features of real merit remaining in the building and should be retained at all costs.

Below the staircase on the ground floor is a reception desk with access to an office in MA4. On the first floor there is a bathroom and second staircase to the east of the main stair, providing separate access for the hotel staff up to the second floor. On the second floor the area to the east of the main stair comprises a bedroom with a door cut through from MA4 in the north wall.

Access to the roof space of MA3a was through MA1. There are many re-used timbers in this roof, probably dating to the 17th century. It is of similar construction to MA1. The original apex angle was 90 but when MA3b was added to the north the roof line was altered to match that of MA3b and MA4 (Fig.17)

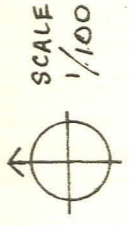
#### MA4 (Figs.16 and 18)

MA4 lies to the north of MA3 and is the southernmost building in the range which runs along the west side of the yard. Externally this range appears to be of one build with a continuous brick facade of mid 19th century date. However, internal investigation has revealed a more complex history to this part of the Masons' Arms. Nevertheless none of these buildings is of any great age and the survey was less detailed than in the Crown and Woolpack.

The southernmost room of MA4 at ground floor level was rebuilt in the 1960s at the same time as the alterations to the bar with a new external wall on the east overlooking the yard. The room has been subdivided into toilets, telephone booth, store and office connecting with the reception area in MA3. On the west side of the building is a stair leading to the cellar, replacing the original access from the pantry to the north (see below). In the northwest corner, against the party wall of the



MA-4



GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

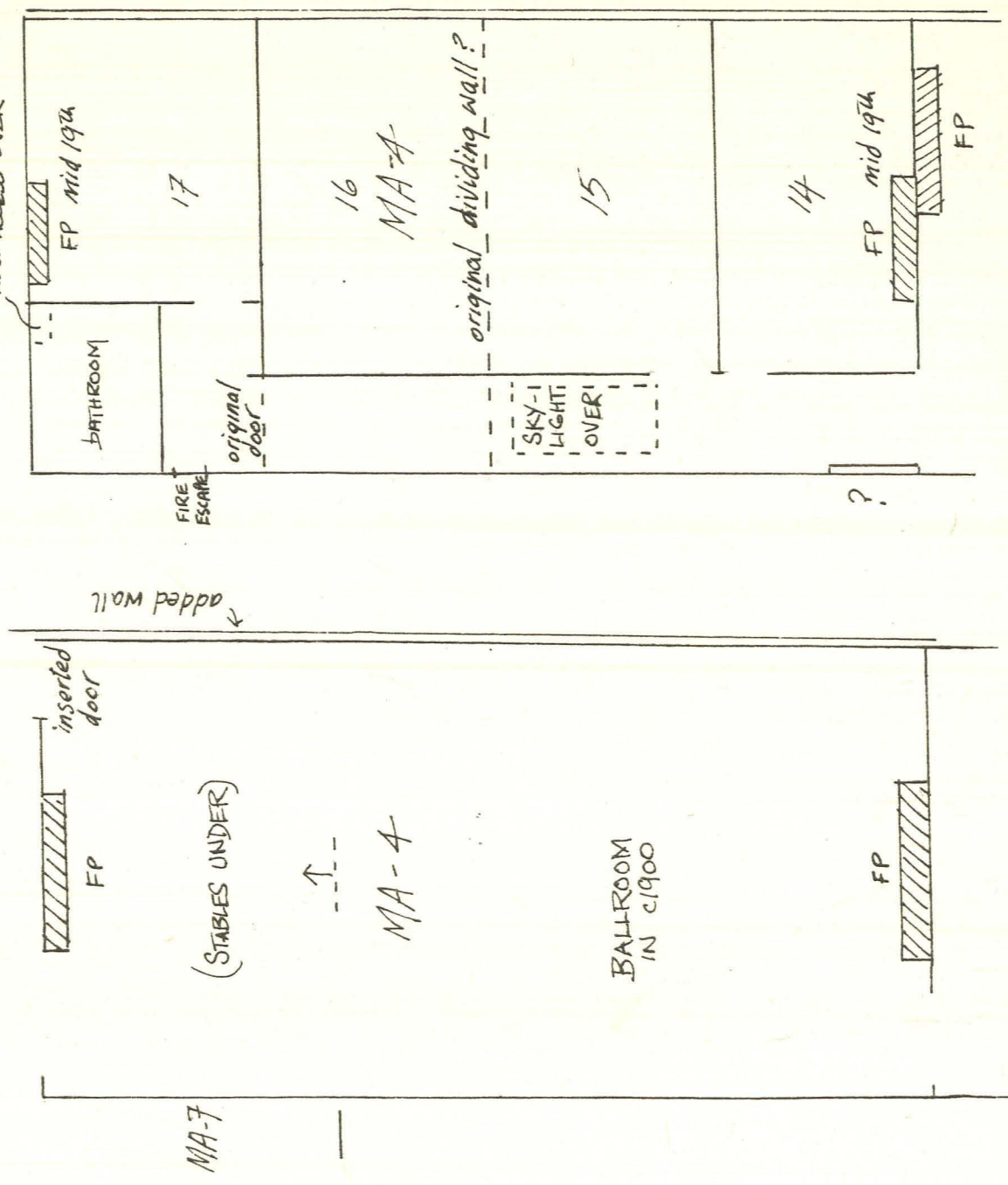
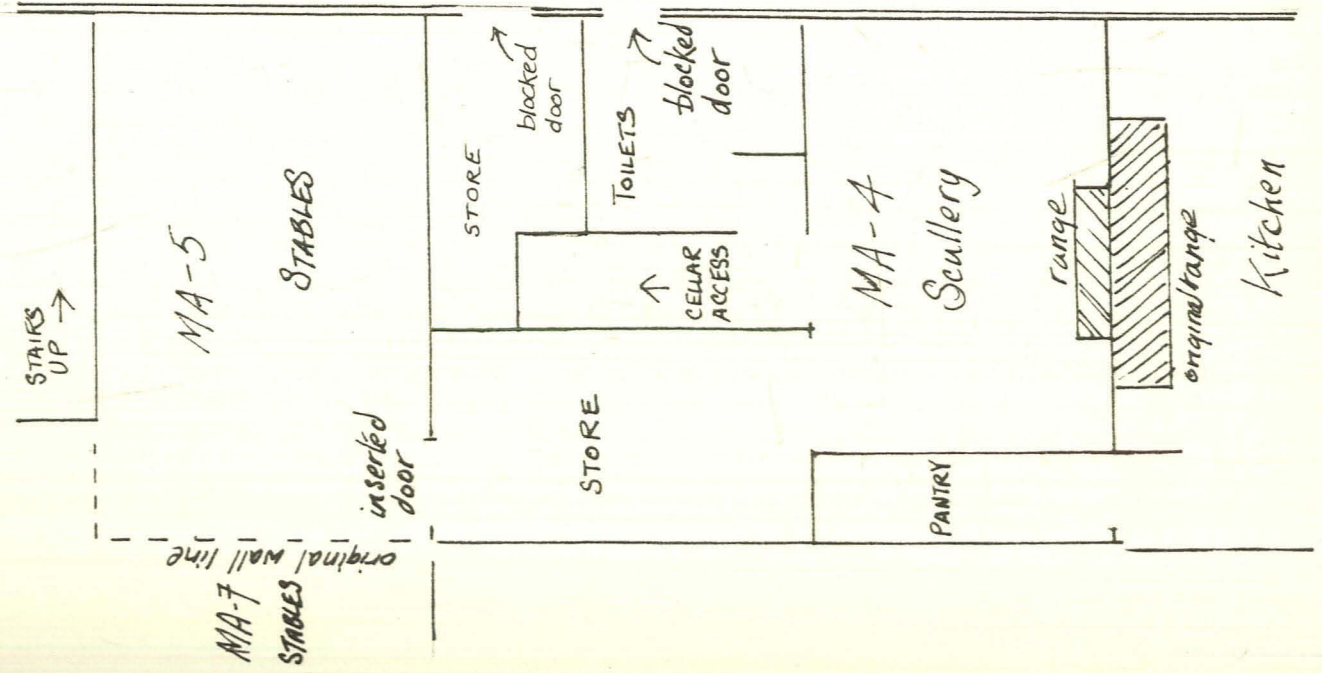


Fig 18

Fig 18



adjacent property is a drainpipe which was originally an external feature, confirming that the Masons' Arms yard was more extensive and that the range behind MA1 is relatively late.

The cellar has three interconnecting rooms but is on a small scale when compared with those recorded in the Crown and Woolpack. There is no indication of any blocked doors leading to further cellarage nor are there any particular features of note; the whole cellar was probably built at the same time as MA3 with access created from the pantry in MA4.

Room 2 of MA4 contains the kitchen with pantries on the west side. There is a large kitchen range on the north side, now concealed. There was originally a second range on the south wall with side access. This was removed and the present central access inserted from MA3. The recess on the west side of the chimney breast is now filled with a dumb waiter and that on the east side with an internal window, a feature commonly used in this part of the building. There is a walk-in pantry which runs the full length of the kitchen on the west side with access at the north to the pantry west of the scullery. Two windows high in the wall provide borrowed light from the kitchen. At the south end of the pantry is a blocked stairway which originally gave access to the cellar to the south.

To the north of the kitchen is the scullery. On the south wall is a large range and there is evidence for a copper in the southeast corner of the room. This has been replaced with a large ceramic rectangular sink. There is a walk-in pantry on the west side with access through from the kitchen. There are two windows high in the wall providing borrowed light from the scullery. A door on the east wall leads into the yard.

North of the scullery are two domestic storage areas with steps in the centre leading down to a small cellar. Originally there was also access to the cellar from the yard, through a door which is now bricked up. An internal window overlooks the stairwell allowing borrowed light in from the adjacent room. The area to the east of the cellar has been altered in modern times and is now a laundry room. To the north, with external access only is a store room which was not examined as there was no key available. On the west side of the central cellar access is a further store room. A doorway has been cut through in the north-west corner leading into the stables. At ground floor level this is the furthest extent of MA4 because its north end was removed when stabling was constructed (see MA5 below).

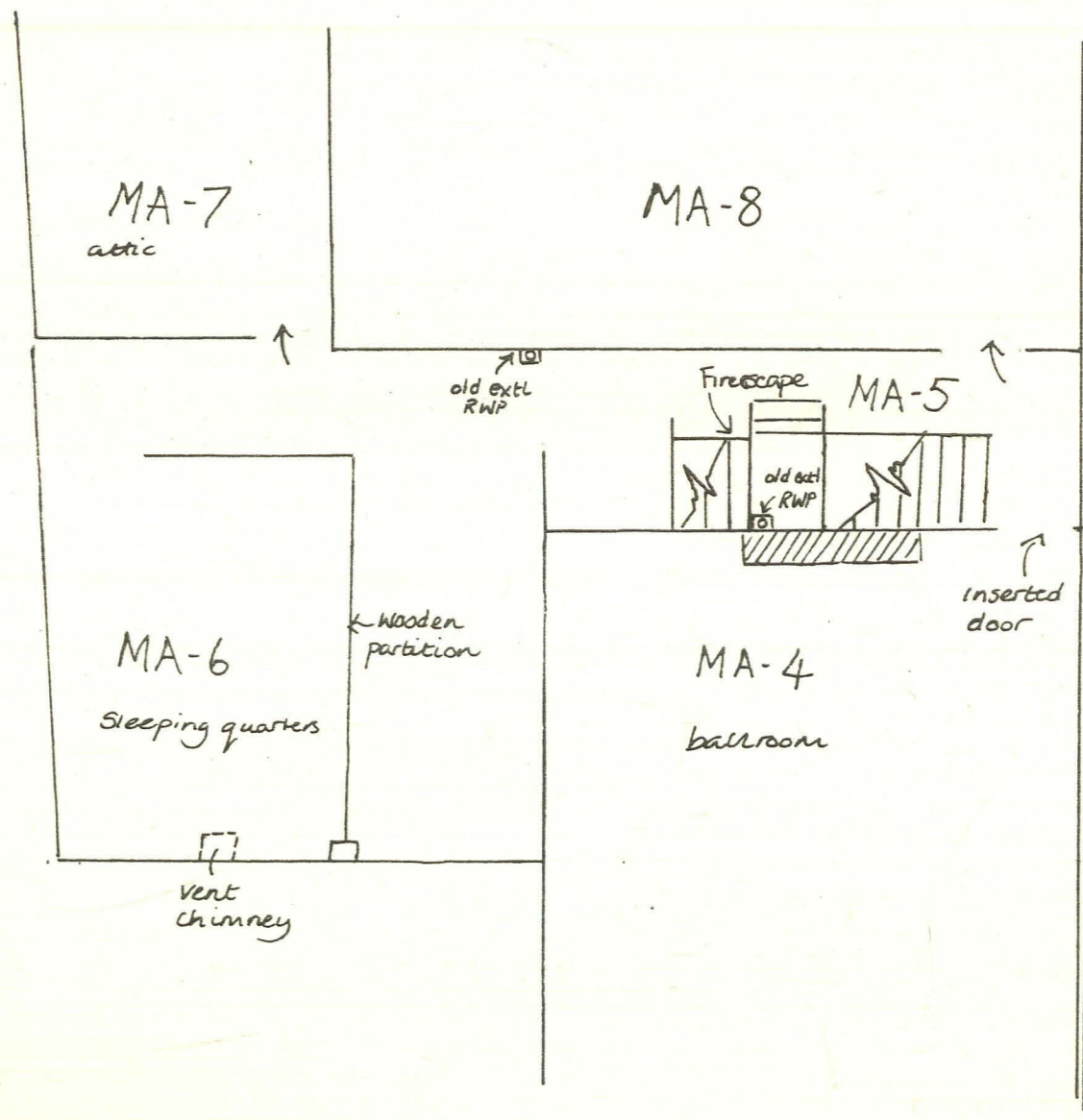
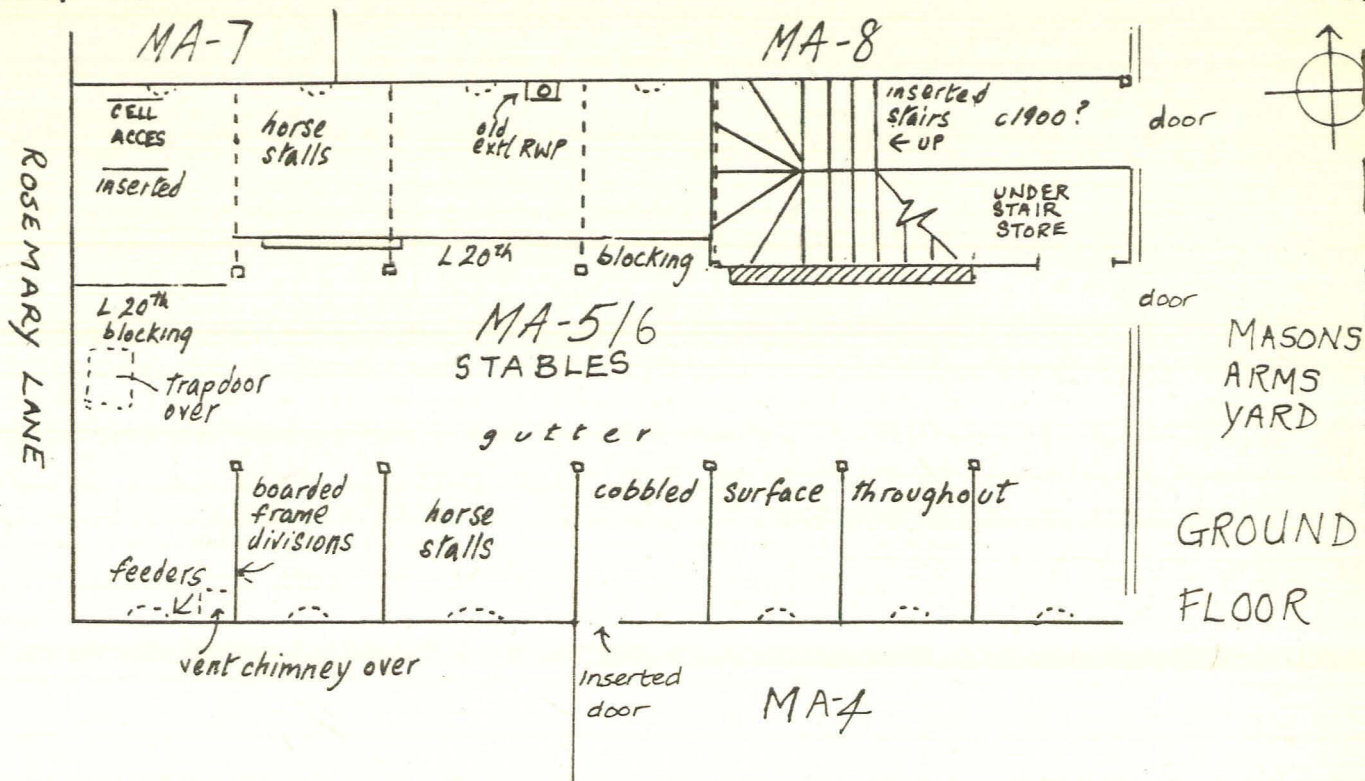
On the first floor is a corridor on the west side leading from the main staircase in MA3 to the ballroom. East of the corridor are toilets and a kitchen, originally bedrooms as they both have fireplaces (now blocked). The kitchen contains the dumb



Fig 19

SCALE 1/100

MA-5,





waiter and the blocked fireplace is on the south wall. A door in the south wall leads into the breakfast room (originally another bedroom). A fireplace on its north wall backs onto the one in the kitchen. The ceiling decor dates to c.1900.

The ballroom overlies the kitchen complex and the stabling below. Most of the decorations are of the same date as the public bar on the ground floor, i.e. c.1900. except for the bar at the south end of the room which is modern. Hidden behind the bar is a blocked fireplace. A second fireplace at the north end of the ballroom is still present and a masonic emblem is incorporated into the surround. This also probably dates to 1900 or later. In the north east corner is an inserted door which leads to the later stair (see MA5)

The second floor of MA4 comprises two series of bedrooms (rooms 10 and 11 and 14-17. Room 12 is now a bathroom but may originally have been a third bedroom as it has a fireplace on its north wall. To the south of room 10 is a further bedroom but this is in the later infill MA3b (see above).

A short flight of stairs from the south part of MA4 leads along a corridor which runs nearly the full length of the building to four further bedrooms (14-17). (The floor level is much higher because of the high ceiling in the ballroom.) There are cast-iron Victorian fireplaces in rooms 10, 11, 12, 14 and 17, all in the same style.. The stone surrounds, which are painted over are all identical and similar to the large fireplace in MA7 on the first floor. All these fireplaces are worth retaining as a feature of the building. At the north end of this floor is an inserted bathroom (originally the end room was the full width of the building). There is also a fire escape at this end of the corridor which overlooks Rosemary Lane and the roof of MA6. The buildings to the north of MA4 are all of two storeys only.

#### **MA5 and MA6 (Fig.19)**

There was originally a gap between MA4 and MA8 to the north. This was filled in when the stables were constructed. At ground floor level this involved the removal of the north end of MA4 so that the stables extend beneath the ballroom, but at first floor level the infill was only the width of a stairwell. (The northwest corner of MA4 is supported on a cast-iron pillar at ground floor level. External rainwater pipes can be seen against the south wall of MA7 and the north wall of MA4 confirming the sequence of construction.

The west end of the stable block extends beyond the main property boundary enclosing the Masons' Arms range and into the area behind 32 Eastgate, as far as Rosemary Lane. The walls of this part of the building are very thick and are part of a building, MA6, which pre-dates MA4.



The stabling has timber partitions, creating stalls to either side of a central aisle. There were seven on the south side, each originally with a hay basket on the wall (mostly missing), feeding trough and tethering ring. On the north side there were only four stalls as the east end of MA5 had a stair access to the first floor. Most of the north side of the stables was removed when a breeze-block wall was constructed in the 1970s as part of the alterations for a night club in MA8. The cobbled floor and drainage channels survive mostly intact. There was access from the yard to the east and a doorway was inserted into the north wall of the store in MA4 (see above) which meant sacrificing one of the stalls.

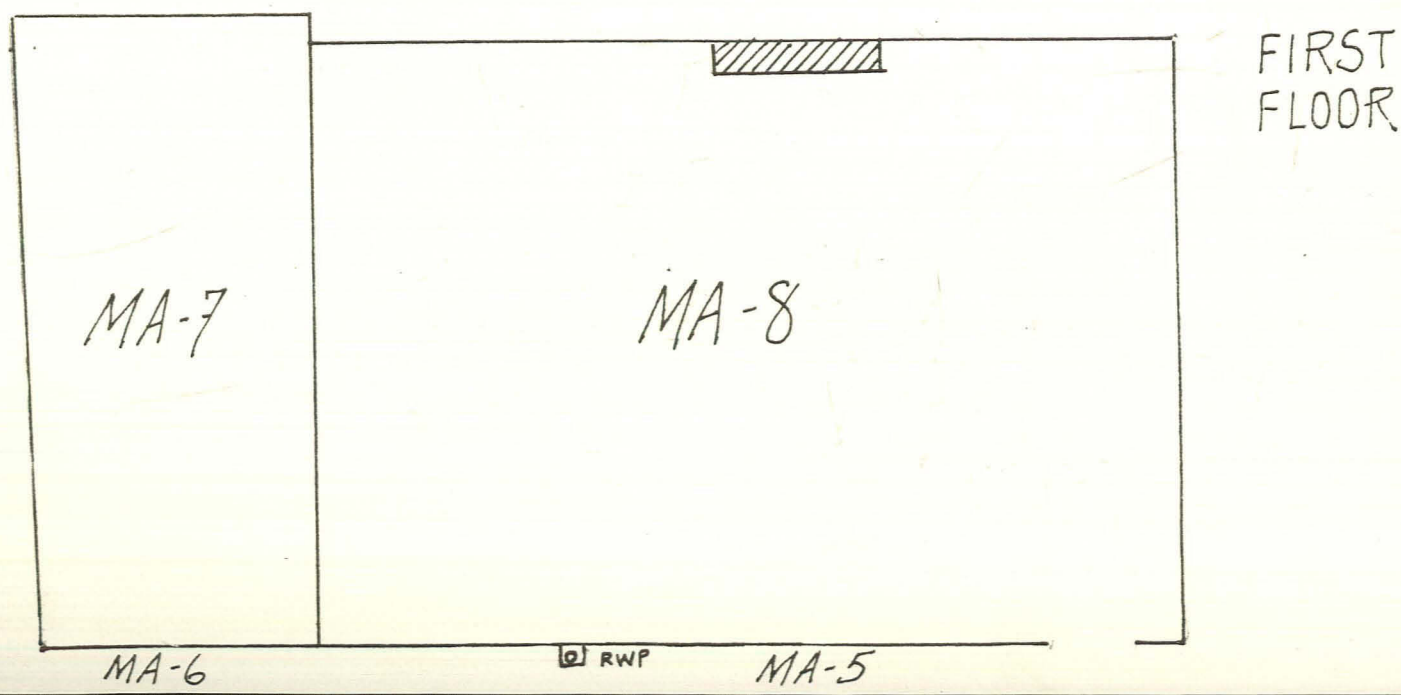
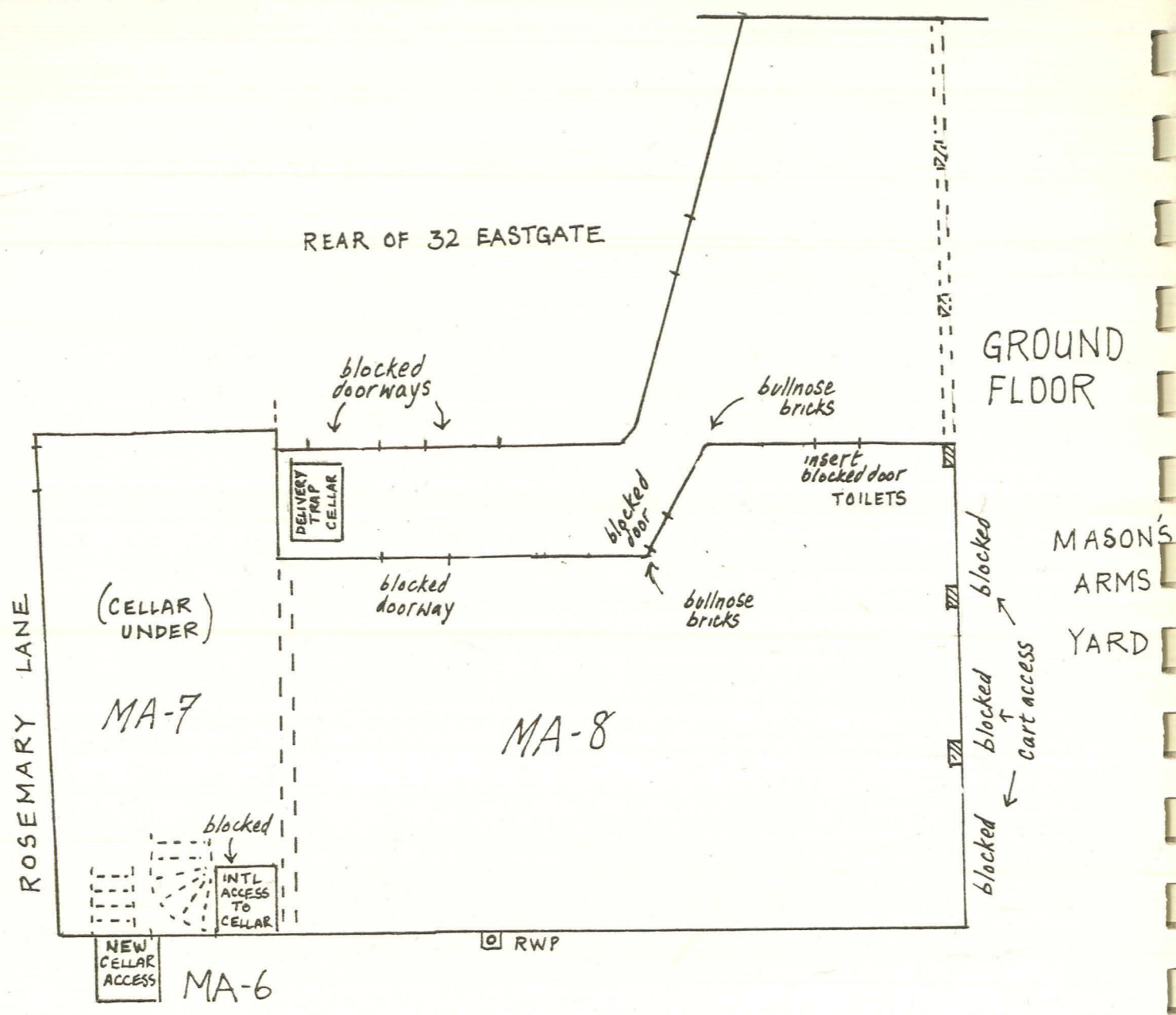
At the west end of the stables, in MA6, is an enclosed chimney/vent which exits through the roof, and was probably to assist in the removal of odours from the stables. Also at this end of the stables is trapdoor access to the first floor where there was sleeping accommodation, presumably for the grooms.

It is not clear whether the stair in the north east corner of the stables is contemporary or a later insertion. It is constructed behind the support for the first floor fireplace in the ballroom so there never could have been stalls in this area. Access is via the yard and not the stables and the stair doorway is an integral feature of the external facade (a brick facing extending along the full range from MA8 to MA3 which masks the fact that the various buildings behind are of different dates.) The stair construction is on a massive scale with huge stone slabs being used for the steps and landing. It appears to be later in style than the stables (although dating these features is very difficult) and may be as late as 1900. Thus the refacing of the back range of the Masons' Arms which must be contemporary or even later than the stairs in MA5 is very late indeed.

The first floor of MA5 comprises a staircase and landing which lie sandwiched between the original end of MA4 to the south and MA8 to the north. A door has been inserted into the wall of MA4 providing a rear exit from the ballroom to the yard below and access into a function room on the first floor of MA8 (see below). A later wooden stair has been inserted on the landing of MA5 providing a fire exit to the roof on the west side of the building.

To the west of MA5 is the first floor of MA6 which was used as sleeping quarters above the stable. A wooden partition still survives and it is clear that privacy was minimal. The roof is of a king post construction, the only one of this type to be encountered on the survey. It is hipped at the north end and appears incomplete to the south. External evidence, a wall stump against the west wall of MA4, also suggests that MA6 has been truncated. On the north side of MA6 is access into MA7,







which at this level is just roof space which was used as further sleeping accomodation.

#### MA7 and MA8 (Fig.20)

To the north of MA5 was an earlier brick building, MA8. It originally comprised a covered store for carriages and carts (and latterly, taxis). The east wall is refaced and the present facade incorporates a single timber lintel running the full length of this wall. The chamfered label stops indicate that there were three wide openings for vehicular access. These were blocked in the 1970s during construction of the night club and the inserted windows with brick details date to this time. The north wall originally had three doorways, two of which are now blocked. They lie to the west of a wall which separates the Masons' Arms yard from the rear of 32 Eastgate and runs north of MA7 to join MA9 (see below). A pantile roof is supported by this wall providing a covered parking/loading bay shared by MA7 and MA9. There is a round arched doorway in this wall with bullnose brick surround indicating that this arrangement is at least late Victorian. The blocking of the north wall doorways must have coincided with the construction of a cellar access which comprised a ramp beneath a double-doored trap for rolling down the barrels. The cellar lies beneath MA7 which is an outshut on the west side of MA8. (At ground floor level the dividing wall has been removed.) Stair access to the cellar is at the south end and has been moved. Originally there was a spiral stir in the south east corner; this was replaced by a larger stair with access from the stable area in MA6. The night club alterations have made it impossible to make a full assessment of the original internal arrangements of MA8 at ground floor level.

Present access to the first floor is through the inserted door from the landing MA5. There is just one large room with a fireplace on the north wall. The stone fire surround has a central carved initial 'R' and dates to c.1900. Perhaps this room was turned into a function room at the time of the stair construction. (The bar in the north east corner is modern.)

The windows on the west side of the room are very high up because they are above the line of the pent roof belonging to MA7. They may have replaced earlier windows. The roof construction of MA8 was not examined as it was too high to be reached. As described above, access to MA7 at first floor level was from MA6 only and was nothing more than roof space converted into an attic.

#### MA9 (Fig.21)

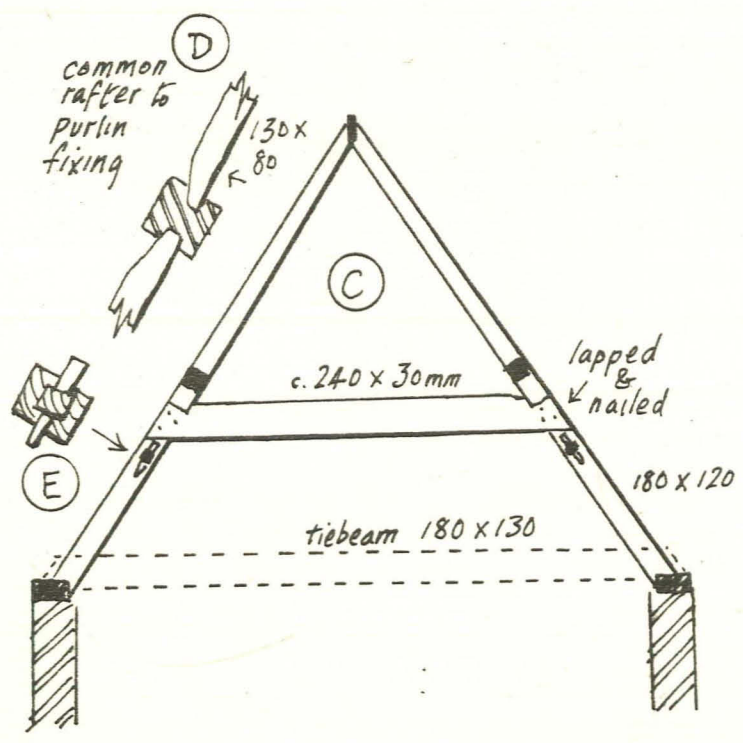
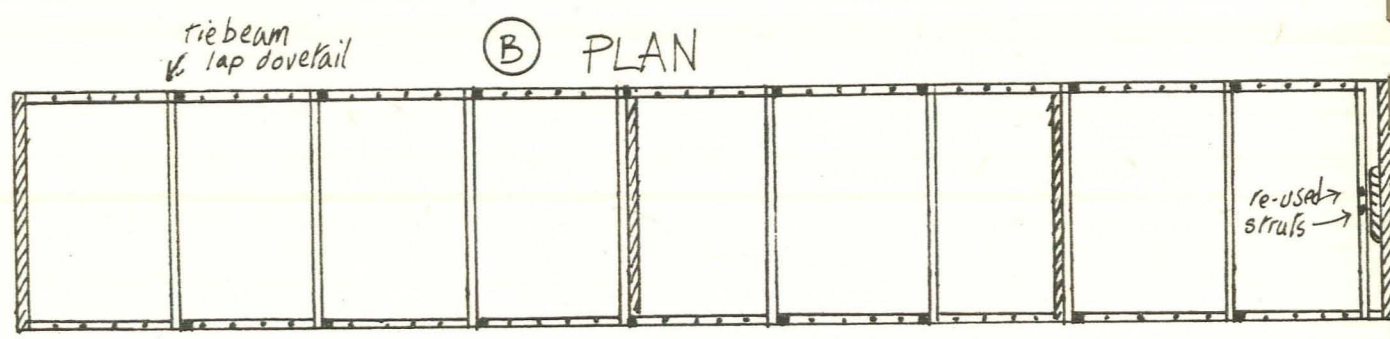
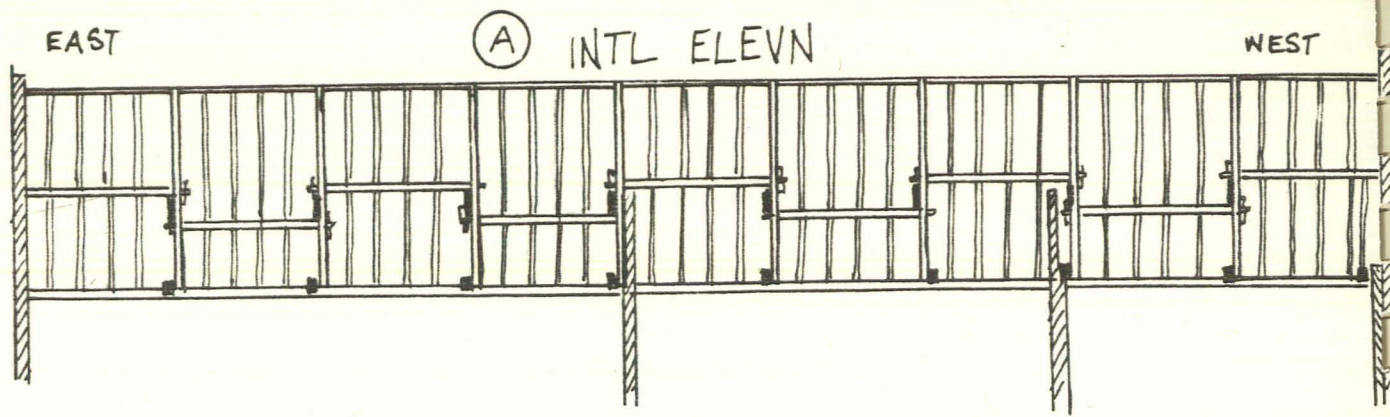
At the north end of the Masons' Arms yard, facing on to Eastgate is a carriage arch with central access into the yard. This building is to be demolished as part of the programme of refurbishment, presumably because of its poor structural



Fig 21

NOT TO SCALE

MA-9  
ROOF





condition. It is a two-storey brick building lying between nos 32 and 34 Eastgate. There are rooms on the first floor to either side of the carriageway. According to local information the west side was used for storage of hay above and tethering of horses below, (the rings are still set into the west wall). There is ladder access to the first floor through a trapdoor in the southeast corner. A door in this corner overlooks the carriageway. The east side of the carriageway was used for stabling on the ground floor and accommodation was provided for the stable boys on the first floor within living memory. The partition walls on this floor were certainly of recent date. A door in the southwest corner overlooked the carriageway but was replaced by a window. All the corners of the carriageway have been rebuilt, probably as a result of vehicles damaging the brickwork. There is some evidence to suggest that the access has been widened.

The roof contains many re-used timbers, which may have come from a 17th century building. The present building is probably 18th century in date and may have been constructed at the same time as the front range (MA1). The principal rafters, collars purlins and tie beams were new at the time of construction. It has staggered butt purlins.

#### THE YARD

The Masons' Arms yard is much larger than that of the Crown and Woolpack. It spans the width of three medieval burgage plots and there is through access from the Cornmarket to Eastgate. The buildings along the west side of the yard form part of the hotel and stabling complex. There is access from the yard into MA4, MA5 and MA8. Further outbuildings are shown on the 1889 O.S. map along the east side but these have almost all gone. 13 Cornmarket appears to intrude into the yard but in fact it has lost the rear of its property to the yard.

#### CONCLUSION

In summary the Crown and Woolpack comprised a series of buildings which became incorporated into a single complex. CW1-7 provided inn accommodation and facilities and CW8-10 were used for the brewing side of the business. The premises were smartened up at the height of the brewery's prosperity in the mid-19th century when the Eastgate facade was rebuilt together with some of the buildings in the yard. (It is ironic that this activity should have taken place opposite the newly constructed Methodist church, built in 1835.)

The Masons' Arms also developed over the years with its earliest surviving element probably dating to the 17th century. The emphasis at the Masons' Arms was in the provision of accommodation and stabling with little sign of the extensive brewing activities at the Crown and Woolpack. There was a major



refurbishment of the exterior with internal rearrangements in the mid-19th century and again c.1900 (and later).

On present evidence it would appear that whilst the medieval property boundaries were preserved (as indicated by the cartographic evidence) there was considerable redevelopment of this central part of Louth in the 18th century with continued improvements throughout the 19th. This may well reflect the general upswing in the fortunes of the town which arose as a result of the construction of the Louth Navigation (canal) in 1763 and the subsequent industrial development. Further detailed documentary studies are required before any firm conclusions can be drawn.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that before Stage 2 of the Market Hall Project is begun a similar building survey should be carried out on nos 1 and 3 Cornmarket and 7 Market Place.

During the course of the survey several features of note were recorded. It is recommended that the following should either be retained within the new development or passed on to the relevant museum and archival authorities.

1. 7 New St Ground floor tiled fireplace and cast iron surround. (c.1900)
2. CW1 Second floor . The two outstanding early Victorian cast iron fireplaces.
3. CW3 Second floor Two Victorian cast iron fireplaces, one in Georgian style.
4. CW3 Second floor Victorian auction posters on the back of timber panelling .  
Auctioneer's table, Victorian toilet bowl (remaining fragment still to be found in the builders' rubble?)
5. CW4 Ground floor Strong room contents comprising brewery bills and other papers.
6. MA2 Any internal stripping of plasterwork to be observed by archaeologist.
7. MA3 late Victorian/early 20th century staircase.
8. MA4 Second floor. All five Victorian cast iron fireplaces.

#### **Acknowledgements**

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## APPENDIX 1

### Summary of Main Types of Roof Construction

No archaeological survey of roof timbers has previously been undertaken in Louth, except for one at the Helal restaurant on the corner of Upgate and Mercer Row. This is a remarkable survival of an intact late medieval crown post construction but is at present a floating point in the chronology of local carpentry techniques because there are no recorded roofs of comparable date. It was hoped that the earliest of the roofs in the Market Hall project might provide some fragments of evidence for development of, or gradual departure from, techniques employed at the beginning of the 16th century. Although no such transitional type, or even a recognisable descendant, was found, a fairly comprehensive collection of structures dating from the mid-18th century has been found. Most of the roofs surveyed display evidence of thrifty re-use of timber from a previous roof. Continuous rebuilding and roof-raising has erased most of the main links in the chronological chain but the survey has shown that sufficient fragments from the older roofs survive that they could be reconstructed on paper, should this be desired.

All but one of the roofs encountered were of the same basic construction with clasped purlins and the variations are summarised below.

1. Continuous rafter. Staggered purlin, one to each bay, with square cross section. Through tenons and keys.  
Examples-CW1

2. Same as 1 but rafters in two sections, tapered and wedged into the purlins. In some cases common rafters have been re-used, perhaps for a second time.  
Examples-MA9

3. Continuous rafter with shallow trenching for purlin (c.10mm). Continuous purlin above collar. Tie beam.

Example-MA1,

3a. Same as 3 but no tie beams.

Example MA3a

3b. Same as 3a but with cross braces

Example-CW3,

4. As 3 but tie beam to one side of principal rafters. Ridge piece and ridge collar.

Examples-CW8/9

5. King post. This is a late roof.

Example- MA6



## APPENDIX II

### The Brick Survey

Accompanying brick dimension ratios included in the survey have substantially increased the reliability of local brick dating. They have also helped to refine the interpretation techniques used in this type of survey where there are no immediate date references.

The dimensions of a brick are taken in millimetres. Within an area of brickwork several bricks are measured to ensure that a representative average measurement has been recorded. Then the ratio of length/depth to width/depth is plotted on two vertical scales and the two points are joined by a straight line. The angle is measured between the resulting line and the vertical scale. In general those brick measurements producing the same angle come from bricks of a similar date. It should be noted that sometimes the graph angles for two separate brick groups are equal but widely spaced. In such an instance it is possible that the bricks are contemporary because although the dimensions will have been different the proportions or ratios remain the same.

Only brick dimensions from a small geographical area or village are plotted onto the same graph. The angles of bricks from buildings of a known date are used as a reference point from which to make judgements about the date of bricks from buildings of unknown date. It is not possible at the moment to relate results from one geographical area to those from another although there are broad general patterns emerging, namely, the greater the angle, the earlier the brick. The angles covering about 400 years usually fall between 65 and 120 but the same angle on bricks from different areas may mean a different date range. (It is not possible to date bricks made after about 1900 by sole use of this method.)

Obviously the style of a building will give an indication of its age but this method is very useful in identifying those parts which may have been repaired or altered at a subsequent date (or even to identify the core of an earlier building within a later rebuild). Care must always be taken to assess the likelihood of the re-use of old bricks in a structure. The date of the brick may not necessarily date the construction of the building.

The brick dimension ratios graph must not be used in isolation. The bond, texture, colour, surface characteristics and frogs, if any, must all be considered and represented on accompanying documentation together with the original dimensions. When all the data has been collated it must be compared with the visible archaeological evidence. Where there are no available dated



TABLE 1

LOUTH

1835	WESLEYAN CHAPEL, EASTGATE. (COL: MIXED REDS TO BURN'T, GRAINY, FLEM)	227-233	115	72
1872	METHODIST CHURCH, NICHOL HILL (RED, LOW SING INCIS LINE, SMOOTH, FLEM)	232	111	78
	CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM 36 EASTGATE	225-230	110	70-73
	7 NEW ST	230-232	110-105	60-62
	7A NEW ST	235	120	75
	CW 1 REAR OF CORNMKT (WEST WALL)	232	112	60
	LEAN-TO (D) SERVING 7-11 CORNMKT	232	110	68
	7-11 CORNMKT	230	111	80
	LEAN-TO (C) SERVING 7-11 CORNMKT. EXT OF (D)	225+	112	80
	LEAN-TO (E) " " " EXT TO END OF (D)	230	115	75
	CW-1 NEW ST. CHIM AT ATTIC LEVEL	225-230	112	62
	CW-1 CORNMKT SOUTH GABLE	235	115	82
1866	MARKET HALL (PALE OR/RED, FISS, LIPPED, SING HOR. INC)	225-230	110	78-82
	CW-3 F2 ROOM 3 WEST WALL INTL (VERY ROUGH, UNEVEN BADLY FIRED)	225	105	65
	CW-3 F2 ROOM 2 CHIM BREAST (EVEN, WELL FIRED, DIAG INCIS)	235	116	60
	CW-4 BANDING BETWEEN F1+F2=TOILET WEST WALL INTL PRINTED	225-230	110	62-68
	(H) MASONS ARMS YARD ELEV 5 CHIM TOWER	230	110	72-77
	(F) " " " " " "	235	115	66
	(A) " " " " " "	235	115	65
	(J) " " " " " "	230-240	115	60
	(L) " " " " " "	230	115	52
	(N) " " " " " "	240	120	60
	(W) " " " " " "	240-245	115-118	66
	(AB) " " " " " " OUTBUILDING (PAINTED)	235-240	115-120	75-80

4.50

4.40

4.30

4.20

4.10

4.00

3.90

3.80

3.70

3.60

3.50

3.40

3.30

3.20

3.10

3.00

2.90

2.80

2.70

2.60

2.50

97 3/4

(C)

MASONS ARMS YARD.

ELEV 5

1/3

90

(N)

MASONS ARMS YARD. ELEV 5 FLEM?

89

CW-3 F2 ROOM 2 CHIM BREAST STRET?

90-90 1/2

7 NEW ST. CHIMNEY

CW 1 WEST WALL

1755

89 1/4

7 NEW ST. FG EXTL

89 1/4

(W) MASONS ARMS YARD ELEV 5 1/3

84 3/4

CW-1 NEW ST CHIM AT ATTIC LEVEL

84 1/4

(A) MASONS ARMS YARD ELEV 5

84 1/4

(E) MASONS ARMS YARD ELEV 5

83 3/4

CW-4 F2 TOILET WEST WALL INTL PAINTED

83 1/4

CW3 ROOM 3 WEST WALL INTL F2 JOIST LEDGE? 1/3?

84

(D) LEAN-TO SERVING 7-11 CORNMKT.

82 1/2

(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD

82 1/2

(AB) MASONS ARMS YARD

82 1/2

(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD

82 1/2

(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD

82 1/2

(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD

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(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD

82 1/2

(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD

82 1/2

(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD

82 1/2

(H) CHIM TOWER MASONS ARMS YARD



bricks in the locality for comparison it is still possible to identify a chronological sequence of bricks within a building.

The following table shows the plots of some of the brick dimensions recorded during the Market Hall survey , together with brick dimensions from dated buildings in Louth.



Location of building codes used in the text.

