

B.
H3/7



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

King's Head, Mercer Row, Louth, Lincs.
Archaeological Recording (*Building*)
NGR: TF 3278 8730
Planning Application No.: N/0105/01582/01
LCNCC Accn No.: 2002.452
Site Code: LKH 02

Report

for

Unique Pub Properties Ltd

Conservation
Services
16 JAN 2003
Highways & Planning
Directorate

LAS Report No. 635
January 2003

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@lasarchaeology.fsnet.co.uk

F.N.FIELD B.A. (Hons), MIFA

Contents

List of Figures and Plates

Summary 1

Introduction 1

Site Location and Description 1

Planning Background 1

Scope of Work 1

Results 2

Discussion 2

Acknowledgements 3

Contents of Site Archive 3

The Figures

The Plates

The Figures

Fig. 1 King's Head Mercer Row, Louth. Site location. Map C reproduced from the OS 1:2500 scale map with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS licence no. AL 100002165.

Fig. 2 King's Head, Louth. Ground floor plan showing location of recorded features.

Fig. 3 Part of the OS 1:500 scale map of 1888 showing the King's Head with the central passageway, later converted to the bar area.

The Plates

Pl. 1 King's Head, Louth. Front elevation, looking southwest.

Pl. 2 Blocked entrance (left) and entrance to the bar (right).

Pl. 3 Passageway showing new seat in front of blocked door, looking north.

Pl. 4 Passageway, looking south showing painted wall

Pl. 5 Passageway, showing inserted bar opening in east wall with blocking beneath (to left of shove).

Pl. 6 Bar with flanking openings, looking east

Pl. 7 Detail of RSJ and timber lintels above bar , and vertical joint in brickwork above RSJ.

Pl. 8 North wall of bar, showing entrance onto Mercer Row and window with blocking beneath.

Pl. 9 West wall of bar, looking south showing corbel supporting hearth above. Note blocked door in south wall at far end of room.

Pl. 10 West wall of bar, looking west showing corbel supporting hearth above (right) and disturbed brickwork (left) marking position of second corbel.

King's Head, Mercer Row, Louth, Lincs.
Archaeological Recording
NGR: TF 3278 8730
Planning Application No.: N/0105/01582/01
LCNCC Accn No.: 2002.452
Site Code: LKH 02

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Service was commissioned by Unique Pub Properties to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the above site in accordance with the requirements of Planning Consent granted by East Lindsey District Council, and the general requirements of the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council as set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location and Description

Louth is a country market town of late Saxon origin located on the east side of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The King's Head is an early 19th century coaching inn located south of the Market Place in the centre of Louth. It is situated on the south side of Mercer Row and occupies at least two clearly identifiable medieval burgage plots (Fig. 1). *see listing*

Planning Background

Listed Building Consent was granted by East Lindsey District Council to carry out alterations to the existing public house to remove an existing servery counter and insert a new access from the front room on the east side of the building.

Scope of Work

The aim of the survey was to record the existing fabric of the building prior to alterations and any features exposed during the works on site. The requirements of the survey were agreed with Dr Beryl Lott, Built Environment Assistant, Lincolnshire County Council and comprised

- Photographic survey of all internal elevations affected by the alterations+ detail photographs of any architectural features fixtures and fittings. No drawings were made.
- Completion of building recording form supplied by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council
- Provision of short report to include an account of the recording, circumstances of the survey and summary of work carried out.

Results

The area recorded was the ground floor room on the west side of the building fronting Mercer Row. Originally this comprised a room and access passage through to rear of building but the door to the passage was blocked (Pl. 2 and 3) to create a bar area with a seat built across the door at the north end. The intermediate passageway wall is present at ground floor level only

and is shown on the OS 1:500 map of 1888 (Fig. 3).

The east wall of the passageway, which is the load-bearing wall, was partially clad in plasterboard at its north end and the remainder was covered in several coats of paint making the brickwork difficult to distinguish. There were no visible blockings or features (Pls 3 and 4). On the west wall of the passageway a blocked doorway, 0.93m wide, was visible beneath the inserted hatch opening (Pl. 5). It is assumed that this would have been blocked when the hatch and the two flanking openings were created. This was not seen on the opposite side of the wall because the area beneath the bar hatch was not stripped of its plasterwork. (Pl. 6). However, removal of plasterwork above the hatch revealed an RSJ (supporting the bar opening) with two wood lintels above (Pl. 7). The lower of the two wood lintels, which rests on the RSJ, probably relates to the door opening, but at 1.75m long there may have been a window to one side of the door.

The earlier lintel may be contemporary with brickwork of the cross wall but this part of the wall was too disturbed and it is not now related to any obvious opening.

Access from the street is in the north-west corner of the room to the west of the passageway (Pl. 2 and 8). There is a four-centred arched window to the east of the door, which may originally have run to base of wall as there is a vertical joint below the window. Voussoirs above the door and window are identical in style and brick size and are presumably original.

The west wall has been cleaned of plasterwork and the brickwork bonding is five stretcher courses to one header course, the hand-made bricks are 225 x 109 x 72mm. One stone corbel probably supports the first floor fireplace/hearth (Pls 9 and 10). An area of disturbance in the brickwork marks a second corbel position (Pl. 10). A scorchmark, which runs at an angle across the wall up to first floor level, shows the flue position for the ground floor fireplace which would have projected into the room.

On the east side of the south wall, adjacent to the existing access to the rear yard, is evidence for an inserted access in the brickwork with a flat lintel of brick headers above, which has been blocked with brick (Pl. 9). There was no access to other face to corroborate the information.

Discussion

The limited work in the bar area of the King's Head caused little disturbance to existing fabric of the building. There was no evidence to suggest that there was any earlier phase of construction contained within this part of the early 19th century building.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Frank Phillipson for co-ordinating the archaeological work and Mr Chamberlain (landlord) and the site contractors for their assistance on site.

Naomi Field
January 13th 2003

Contents of Site Archive

Site Notes 2 pages

Photographs

LAS Film No. 02/110 Negs. 26-37

02/112 Negs 1-7

Correspondence

Ground plan supplied by client

Coreldraw figs. And plates as used in report

The Figures

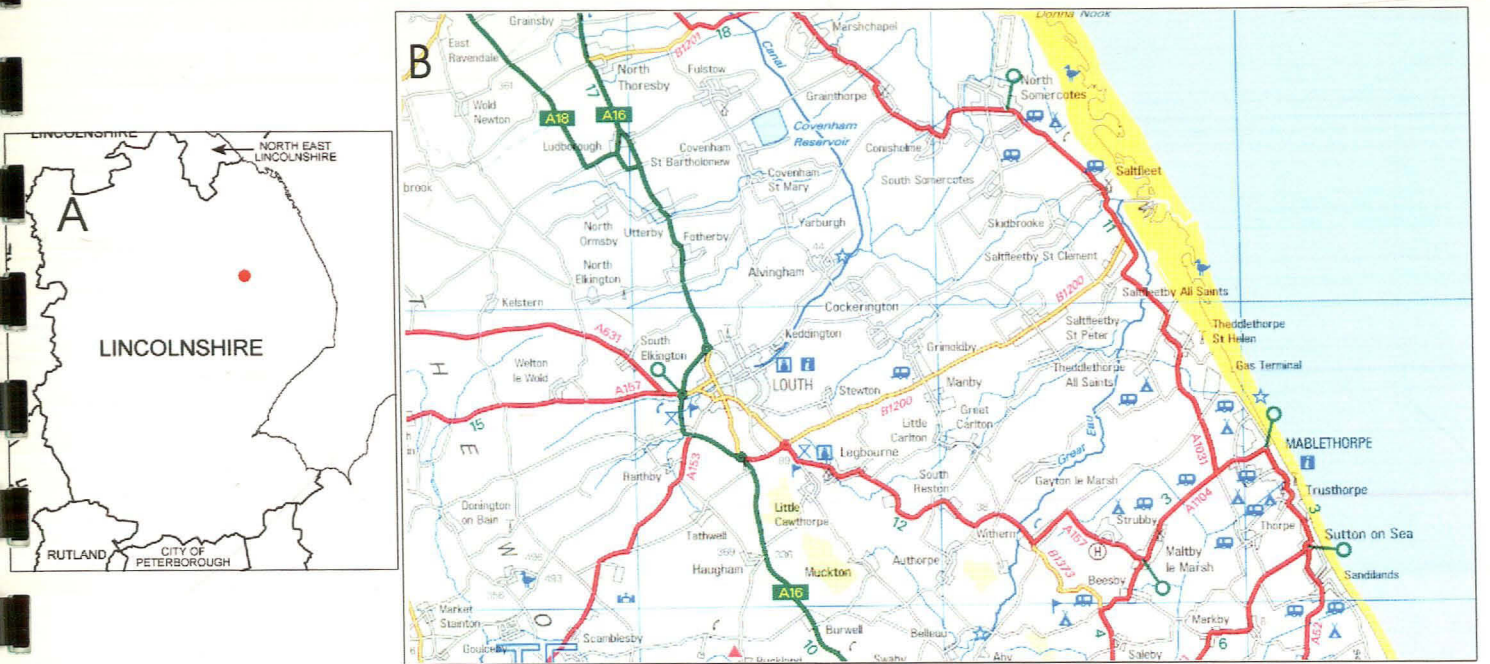


Fig. 1 King's Head Mercer Row, Louth. Site Location. Map C reproduced from the OS 1:2500 scale map with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO, Crown copyright. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165.

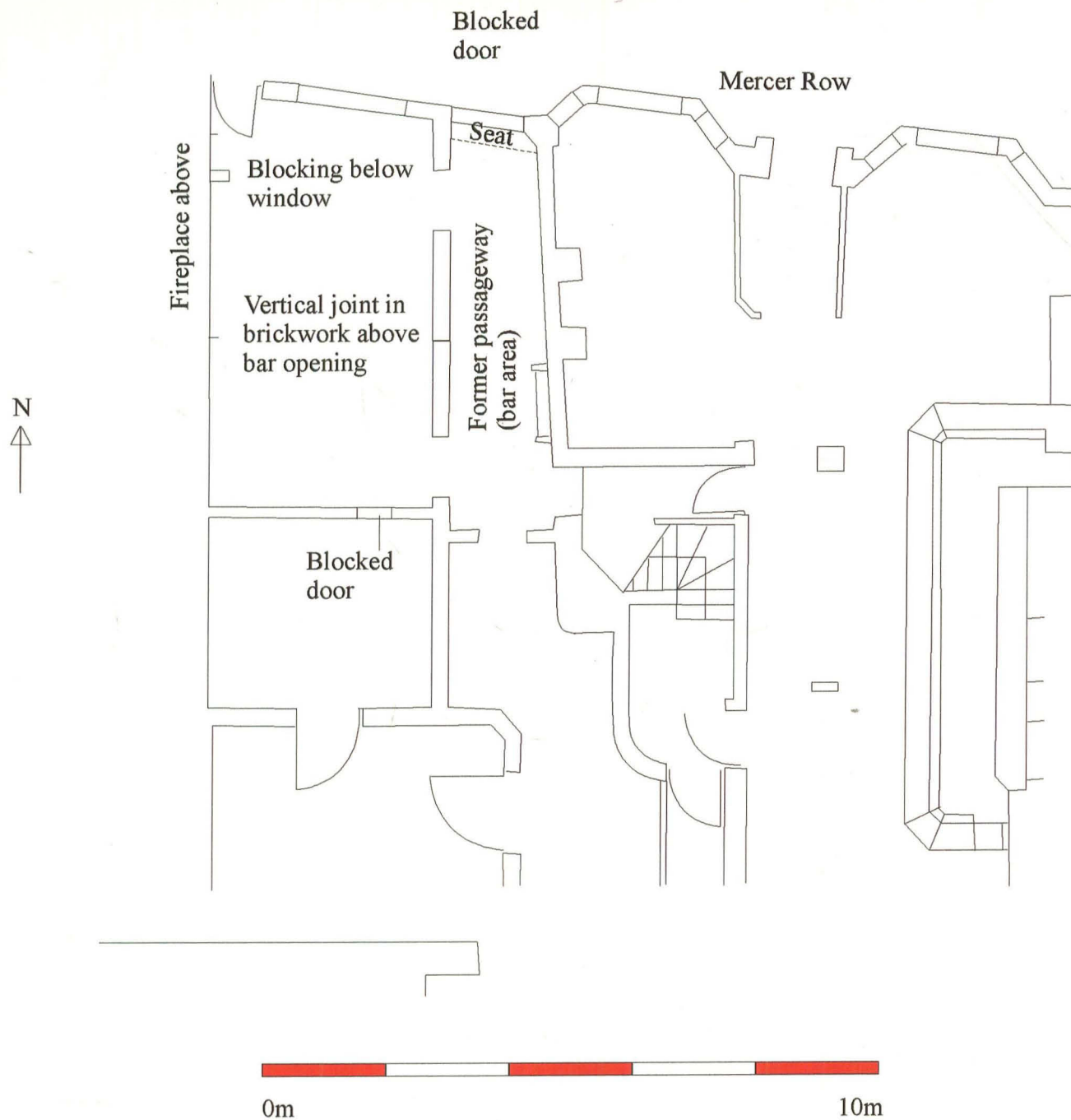


Fig. 2 Kings Head, Louth. Ground floor plan showing location of recorded features.

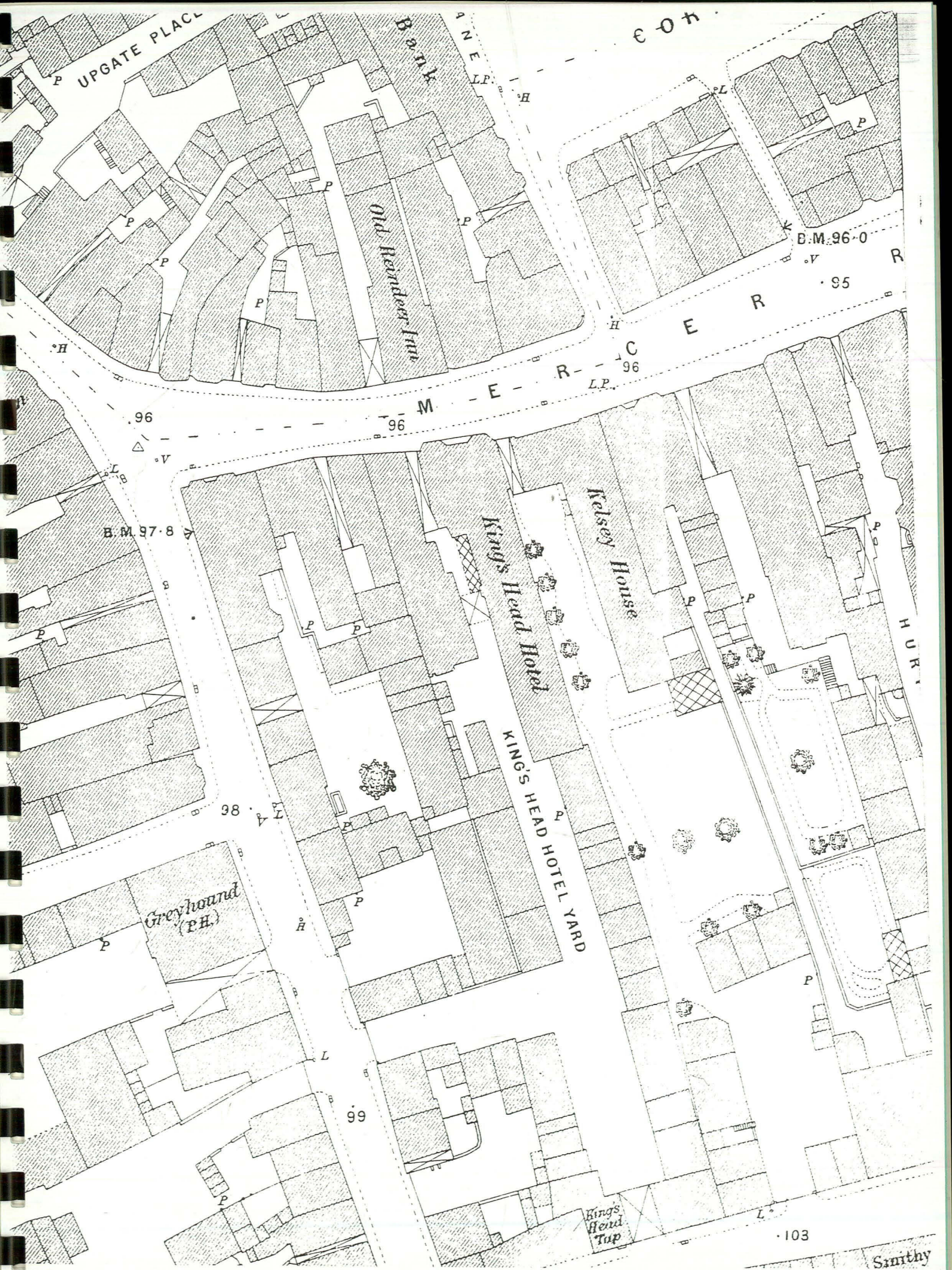


Fig. 3 Part of the OS 1:500 scale map of 1888 showing the King's Head with the central passageway, later converted to the bar area.

The Plates

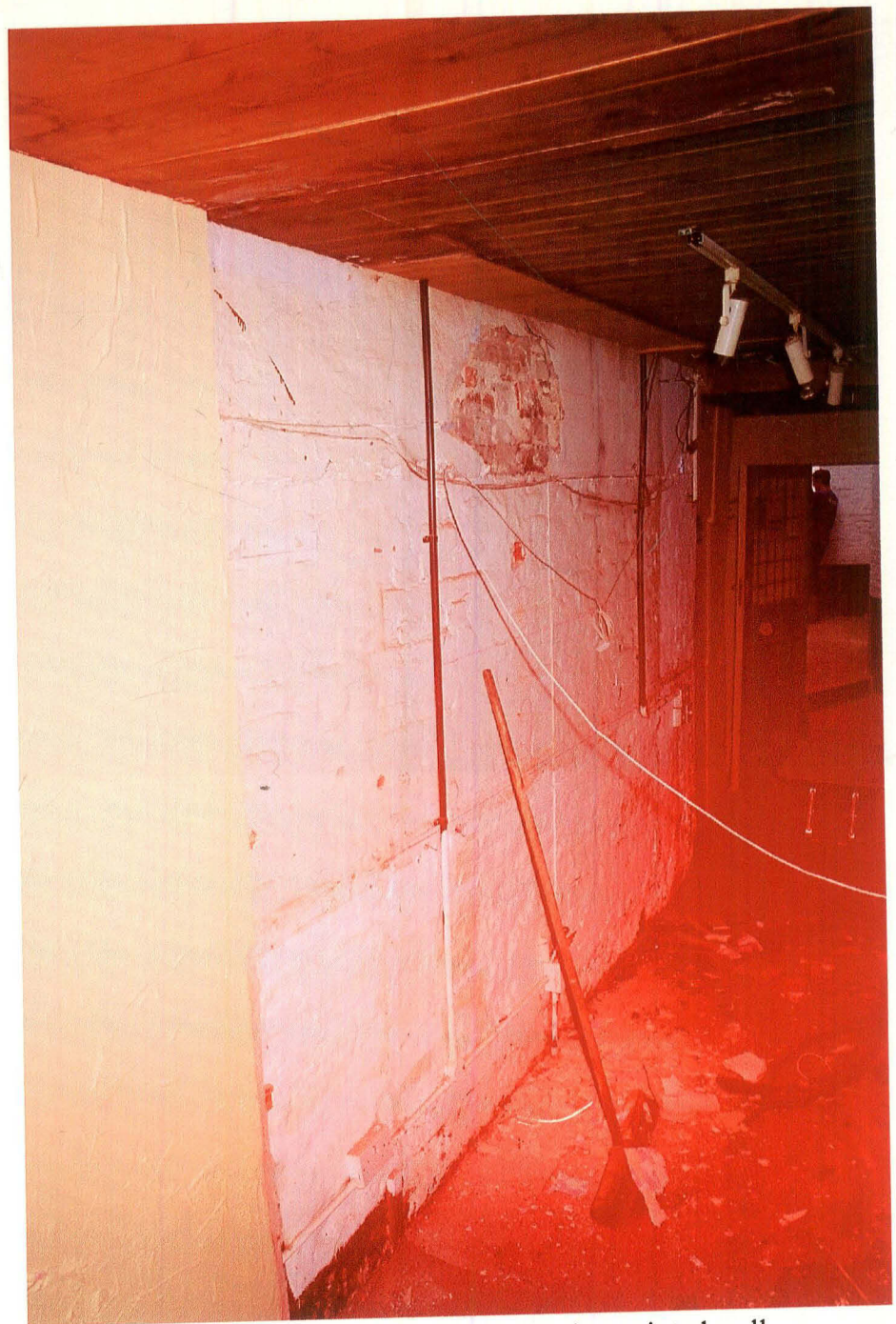
Pl. 1 Kings Head, Louth. Front elevation, looking southwest.



Pl. 2 Blocked entrance (left) and entrance to the bar (right).



Pl. 3 Passageway showing new seat in front of the blocked door, looking north



Pl. 4 Passageway, looking south showing painted wall



Pl. 5 Passageway, showing inserted bar opening in east wall with blocking beneath (to the left of shovel).



Pl. 6 Bar hatch with flanking openings, looking east.



Pl. 7 Detail of vertical joint in brickwork above RSJ.



Pl. 8 North wall of bar, showing entrance onto Mercer Row and window with blocking beneath.



Pl. 9 West wall of bar, looking south showing corbel supporting hearth above. Note blocked door in south wall at far end of room.



Pl. 10 West wall of bar, looking west showing corbel supporting hearth (right) and disturbed Brickwork (left) marking position of second corbel.

