

Marches Archaeology

7 Tipton Road
Sedgley
Dudley
West Midlands

Project Proposal for Building Recording

Introduction

A detailed planning application has been submitted by Wentworth Land and Property Ltd to the Local Planning Authority for the erection of 18 apartments and associated parking (ref.: P04/0219).

The site is situated at NGR: SO 921 934. The site comprises buildings which are locally listed and is registered on the local Sites and Monuments Record (ref.: SMR 7520) as a site of archaeological interest. The Local Planning Authority's Historic Environment Adviser has recommended that a programme of archaeological work be carried out, consisting of recording of the building stock prior to demolition.

The Local Planning Authority's Advisor has not produced a "Brief for building recording" and has requested that the client's archaeological contractor prepare a written scheme of investigation. Wentworth Land and Property Ltd (the client) has commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services.

This project proposal is based on another Brief prepared by the Local Planning Authority's advisor. It forms a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works. Any subsequent alterations to this document will be agreed in writing between Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authority's Historic Environment Adviser .

Scope and aims of the project

The archaeological recording will consist of preparation of a record of the main frontage building and the house to the rear of the site. This record will include plans and external elevations of the buildings, external and internal photographs and a written description of the building stock, together with adequate basic research to place the results within their context. In discussion with the planning authority it was agreed that it is intended that the work equate to a level 2/3 record, as defined in the RCHM(E) publication *Recording Historic Buildings - A Descriptive Specification*, 3rd edn.

The Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA) defines Building Investigation and Recording as "a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, or structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater".

The purpose of Building Investigation and Recording is defined by the IFA as “to examine a specified building, structure, or complex, and its setting, in order to inform [either] the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting [or] to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results”.

Methodology

Building Recording

It is assumed that full and free access to all areas will be made available by the client. Examples of what this could include are: scaffolding with safe working platforms; clearance of vegetation from walls.

Before the project commences two full sets of any existing relevant drawings (plans, elevations, sections etc.) including the development site and any building(s) as existing and as proposed will be provided to Marches Archaeology by the client. Two copies of any amendments or revisions to such drawings and of any additional drawings will be provided as the project continues. Copies will also be provided to Marches Archaeology of any additional relevant historical, archaeological, structural or other information is held by the client.

The survey will record the form and structure of the building together with all architectural detailing and other features relevant to an understanding of its past use and development. Additional documentary research to elucidate the history and development of the building should be undertaken as necessary.

The standing building survey should be carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by the former RCHME (RCHME, 1996). The survey should be in general accordance with their recommendations for a Level 2/3 survey.

A full ornamental audit will also be undertaken as part of the survey and a detailed photographic survey will accompany this audit. The photographic survey will also include more general views of the setting of the building as described in the RCHME guidelines. The photographs will be in digital format or 35mm monochrome print and colour transparencies. Drawings of each elevation will be produced at a scale of either 1:50 or 1:100. These drawings should be carefully annotated, illustrating the architectural details. The survey will be based on a reflectorless EDM survey.

Office work

Documentary study will be undertaken to set the results of the survey in an appropriate context. On completion of fieldwork a site archive will be prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data will be catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. Analysis will be based on the site archive.

An illustrated client report will be produced. The report will be in A4 format with foldouts no bigger than A3 using colour where appropriate. Two copies of the report will be sent, either by the client or by Marches Archaeology to the Local Planning Authority. A further copy

will be sent to the Black Country Sites and Monuments Record in Wolverhampton. One copy will be deposited with the National Monuments Record. Copyright of any reports is vested in Marches Archaeology.

The report will include:

- Aims of the work and a summary of the results;
- Details of sources consulted;
- Historical outline of the site;
- Historical development of the building and a description of the surviving architectural features.
- Plans, Photographs and other illustrations to support the text of the report.

The client will be provided with two copies of the report.

A full copy of the archive, to include all notes made on site, as well as the negatives of the photographs and the photographs themselves should be deposited with Dudley Historic Building Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR). An appropriate HBSMR number should be obtained prior to the commencement of the project and placed on the back of all photographs.

Digital copies of the report, photographs, plans and elevations created during the fieldwork should be deposited with the Dudley HBSMR on CD ROM. Submission on other digital media should be agreed in advance. Photographs taken during the survey fieldwork should be delivered as JPEG or uncompressed TIFF format files, each image forming a discrete file. All digital submissions should include adequate documentation of metadata.

If the project reveals that the quality and potential of the information resulting from the fieldwork is such that further analysis and/or formal publication is required the level of such work will be determined in discussions between the client, Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authority's Historic Environment Advisor. Such works would be subject to a further Project Proposal which would be separately costed.

Management of the Project

Marches Archaeology recognises the Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, By-Laws, Standards and other documents produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will be managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The Safety Policy and General Risk Assessment operated by Marches Archaeology will be implemented. Copies of these documents are available on request. A risk assessment specific to this project will be carried out before commencement of fieldwork to identify any risks not noted in the General Risk Assessment. If another body is responsible for Health and Safety on the site Marches Archaeology will conform to any policy which may be in force. If costs accrue due to Health and Safety issues not made apparent to Marches Archaeology by the time of submission of this Project Proposal these costs will be additional to any costs identified in the estimate. The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are deemed to

take precedence over archaeological requirements. Appropriate insurance cover will be held throughout the project.

Local Planning Authority's Historic Environment Advisor shall at any reasonable time be granted access to the site, with prior notice, for the purpose of monitoring the fieldwork.

Timetable

The site work will commence in early January 2005, with a target date of January 21st for submission of the report. This document will be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

The report will be presented to the client within one month of the completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed. The results will be reported to the Local Planning Authority and the local Sites and Monuments Record within one month of presentation, unless otherwise agreed. A summary report will be submitted for publication in an appropriate medium within one year of completion of all fieldwork.

21 December 2004

Marches Archaeology

**7 Tipton Street
Sedgley
Dudley
West Midlands**

Report on archaeological building recording

January 2005

Marches Archaeology Series 367

This report is produced by

Marches Archaeology

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Marches Archaeology is the trading name of Marches Archaeology Limited (Registered in England and Wales: 4095678). The directors are Nic Appleton-Fox and Richard Stone, who have worked in close association since 1991. All principal members of staff are members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and abide by its code of practice and other regulations. *Marches Archaeology* provides a full range of archaeological services to a client base of architects, local authorities, national bodies and private individuals. Our standard services include; excavation, watching briefs, building survey, building analysis, planning advice, landscape survey, photographic recording and historical research. Specialist consultants are available to provide environmental, geophysical and finds advice and analysis.

VAT Reg. No. 656 0767 15

**7 Tipton Street
Sedgley
Dudley
West Midlands**

A report on building recording

NGR: SO 920 935

SMR: 7520

**Report by
Susan Fielding
&
Jo Wainwright**

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7 Tipton Street
Sedgley
Dudley
West Midlands

NGR: SO 920 935

A report on building recording

Summary

Marches Archaeology were commissioned by Wentworth Land and Property Ltd to undertake a building survey of buildings on the site of 7 Tipton Street, Sedgley, Dudley. The site included a late 19th century house and a large workshop. Documentary research dated the construction of the buildings to between 1861 and 1871, while the survey revealed a number of later alterations of a minor scale.

1 Introduction

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2 Aims and objectives

The archaeological recording consisted of the preparation of a record of the main frontage building and the house to the rear of the site. This record includes plans and external elevations of the buildings, external and internal photographs and a written description of the building stock, together with adequate basic research to place the results within their context. In discussion with the planning authority it was agreed that the work equate to a level 2/3 record, as defined in the RCHM(E) publication *Recording Historic Buildings - A Descriptive Specification*, 3rd edn.

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3 Methodology

Building Recording

The survey recorded the form and structure of the building together with all architectural detailing and other features relevant to an understanding of its past use and development. Additional documentary research to elucidate the history and development of the building was undertaken.

The standing building survey was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by the former RCHME (RCHME, 1996). The survey was in general accordance with their recommendations for a Level 2/3 survey.

A full ornamental audit was also undertaken as part of the survey and a detailed photographic survey accompanied this audit. The photographic survey included more general views of the setting of the building as described in the RCHME guidelines. The photographs are in digital format. Floor plans and external elevations were recorded using a Reflectorless EDM and TheoLT, producing a real-time wire-frame model from which drawings were produced at a scale of either 1:50 or 1:100.

Office work

Documentary study was undertaken to set the results of the survey in an appropriate context. On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. Analysis was based on the site archive.

4 Site description

The site at 7 Tipton Street is located on the eastern side of Tipton Street at NGR SO 920 935. The site is bounded to the south by an alleyway and a late 19th century brick chapel, to the east by the grounds of another business, and to the north by playing fields and a late 19th century brick workshop which also fronts onto Tipton Street..

The site includes a large frontage building used as a timber merchants and builders supplier, and a house sited in the north-east corner (Figure 1). Attached to the east side of the house is

an open fronted shed used for timber storage. The house is currently used for the storage of machinery on the ground floor, limiting access to the rooms. The basement of the workshop is used for storing large quantities of timber, and this factor, together with machinery for cutting timber on the basement and ground floor levels limited the site inspection.

The area of the site not occupied by buildings is concreted over to form hardstanding for storage and parking with boundaries comprising of brick walls..

5 Archaeological and historical background

Sedgley

There are no prehistoric finds or sites in the vicinity of Sedgley. However, part of a road running through Sedgley is believed to be a ridgeway (John Hemingway, pers comm.). The ridgeway ran north to south and is believed to have run along High Holborn until the junction with Tipton Street where it continued north along what is now a path between Dormaston school and houses (Fig. 1). Ridgeways are thought to have prehistoric origins and be major routeways before the medieval period.

Although no evidence for Roman occupation has been uncovered in Sedgley a Roman coin was found just to the north of the site at Dormaston School (Fig. 1, SMR 7044). The exact location of the find within the complex has unfortunately been lost. However, a recent rebuilding project in the area of the car park and school buildings revealed no archaeological remains (John Hemingway, pers comm).

Before the Norman Conquest Sedgley was an estate and part of the Kingdom of Mercia. There are two entries for Sedgley in the Domesday Book which are as follows:

*William son of Ansculf holds Sedgley from the King. Earl Algar held it.
6 hides. Land for 12 ploughs. In Lordship 1 plough; 3 slaves.
45 villagers with a priest and 2 smallholders have 18 ploughs.
Meadow, 16 acres; woodland 2 leagues long and 1 wide.
Value before 1066 £10; now the same.
The priests of Wolverhampton claim part of the woodland of this manor.*

*In Sedgley 2 hides. Geoffrey holds from him. He has 1 plough in lordship;
9 villagers with 2 ploughs.
Meadow, 4 acres.
Value 20s.*

The Domesday entry reveals that the estate of Sedgley was a large entity and was valued at over £10 which was a substantial sum of money in the 11th century.

The medieval settlement of Sedgley grew up to the west of the ridgeway and was surrounded by open fields (Fig. 1, SMR 5844). The extent of this settlement and the open field system is surmised and based on information from early maps (John Hemingway, pers comm.).

In 1272 an inquest held upon the death of Roger de Somery, a lord of the manor, recorded that the rents of the Sedgley freeholders were worth £9 2s. 9½d a year (SUDC, 1958). The

manor had two watermills, five large shops and four pits of sea coal. Presumably coal was being mined during the 13th century.

A few remains of late medieval Sedgley can be seen, including the base of the 15th century churchyard cross and a fragment of the medieval church which survives in the fabric of the current church. There have been no archaeological excavations in the town itself but occasionally fragments of medieval Sedgley have come to light (John Hemingway, pers comm.).

By the late 16th and 17th centuries nail making and coal mining were the main industries of the parish of Sedgley (*op cit*). In the 19th century Sedgley became famous for the manufacture of pens.

The site

The 1824 Parish Map of Sedgley shows the site as a field called Cooper's Piece (Fig. 2). Tipton Street and Turls Street do not exist at this date. Cooper's Field is presumably associated with barrel makers. The strips of the medieval open field system can be seen fossilised in the fields to the north of Cooper's piece as can the route of the ridgeway.

By the time of the 1843 Plan of the Parish of Sedgley the road which was eventually known as Tipton Street had been constructed (Fig. 3) although the area of the site was still part of a field. However, in 1853 the Methodist Chapel, which stands directly to the south of the site, was constructed.

There is no mention of Tipton Street in the census returns for 1851 and 1861, or in the trade directories for 1861 and 1871. However, it is possible though unlikely that the street was known by another name. Tipton Street and No. 7 Tipton Street are included in the 1871 census, indicating that the development had occurred sometime between 1861 and 1871. The census returns for 1871, 1881 and 1891 are as follows:

Date of census	Name and surname of each person	Relation to head of family	Age male	Age female	Occupation
1871	Thomas Brittle	Head	52		Wood sawyer
1871	Rebecca Cox	Not married cohabit		54	Not his wife but wife of Henry Port of Gospel end Street
1871	Thomas		22		Illegible entry
1881	Thomas Brittle	Head	63		Sawyer
1881	Rebecca Brittle	Wife		65	
1881	Elizabeth Brittle	Daughter in-law		25	
1881	Linda G Brittle	Grand daughter		3	

1891	William Smith	Head	41		Labourer at steelworks
1891	Charlotte Smith	Wife		37	
1891	William Smith	Son	13		Labourer at steelworks
1891	Susan Smith	Daughter		12	
1891	John Smith	Son	8		Scholar
1891	Carina	Daughter		7	Scholar
1891	?Emmanuel	Son	3		Scholar
1891	Illegible entry	Son	2		
1891	Lily	Daughter		2 months	

The census returns for 1901 are for number 7 Tipton Street as well as 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e and 7f.

At the time of the 1871 census the building fronting onto the street was presumably the workshop for the timber yard where Thomas Brittle and his ?son Thomas worked and the cottage at the back was where the family lived. However, it could be the case that Thomas and his ?son worked elsewhere and the workshop was being utilised for other industrial practices. Interestingly Thomas and Rebecca were not married but cohabiting, with the census return stating that Rebecca was the wife of Henry Port of Gospel End Street! By the time of the 1881 census Thomas and Rebecca were married and their daughter-in-law and granddaughter lived with them. However, by 1891 they were no longer at number 7 Tipton Street and another family, the Smith's, were in residence. However, the occupations of William Smith and his son are stated as labourers at steelworks so their place of work must have been elsewhere. Therefore it is not clear what the workshop was being used for in 1891, although it may have been at this date that it was converted into a malthouse.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan of 1887 shows the site as it is today (Fig. 4). Further surveys by the Ordnance Survey show no change to the buildings on the site except that the 1919 edition labels the building fronting onto the street as a malthouse (not illustrated).

There are several 19th century buildings in the vicinity of the site that are listed. Directly to the north is a two storey, brick built workshop with cast iron windows (Fig. 1, SMR 7170). Across the street is the Grand Junction public house which is constructed of local stone (Fig. 1, SMR 7143). There are also two semi-detached cottages situated to the south-east of the site on Turls Street (Fig. 1, SMR 7146).

In conclusion it is unlikely that the area of the site was utilised for anything but agricultural purposes until the buildings on the site were erected probably between 1861 and 1871. From the documentary research it is not clear what the building fronting onto Tipton Street was used for. Although the 1871 census returns record a wood Sawyer in residence it may be that Thomas Brittle worked elsewhere. Indeed the Ordnance Survey Plan of 1919 records that this building was a malthouse.

6 The building recording

The House (Figures 5 & 6)

Phase I (1861-1871)

In the second half of the 19th century, a two storey, two-and-a-half bay house was built in the north-east corner of the site. It was constructed of brick laid in Flemish Stretcher bond with a pitched roof probably of slate tiles and stone copings. The eastern and western gable end walls were plain brickwork, with the northern and southern elevations topped by a stepped, three-course, brick cornice, the central course of which is laid in a dog-tooth pattern (Plate 1).

The southern elevation forms the frontage of the house and was symmetrically planned with a central doorway flanked by two windows on the ground floor and three equally spaced wooden sash windows on the first floor. The doorway had a moulded round-headed architrave incorporating an arched fanlight, now boarded over, and an outer stone arch with central decorative keystone (Plate 3). The windows were four-pane wooden sashes with stone cills, the ground floor windows having lintels of rusticated ashlar stone containing a keystone with incised decoration (Plate 4). The first floor windows had flat arch brick lintels.

The house was provided by two chimneys, one at each end of the roofline. These were constructed of brick with stone dressings and with plain chimney pots of yellow clay.

The central doorway accessed a small ground floor hall (Room 1) (Figure 4), from which a wooden staircase rose to the first floor. To the rear of the hall was a small, unlit pantry or larder (Room 2), with the two main rooms (Rooms 3 & 4) were located off each side of the hall. A doorway leading left off the hall immediately inside the front door led to the main reception room (Room 3), furnished with a fireplace (later replaced), and lit by a four-paned sash window with a moulded surround. Other than this window, no original features remain within the room.

Off the hall to the right, a third doorway led directly into Room 4, which would have functioned as the kitchen. This was provided with a larger open fireplace (Plate 6), which could have accommodated a range, although the current model is a later replacement. There are no other original features within this room, it having been updated in the 20th century.

The first floor was accessed via the staircase in the hall. This had simple square balusters, a plain wooden hand rail and newel post with a stepped pyramidal cap (Plate 7). The stairs turned 180° onto the first floor landing (Room 5), the balustrade of which has been removed (the stub of the handrail is visible next to the door into the second bedroom) but which probably mirrored that of the stairs. The landing was lit by a four-paned, wooden framed sash window with moulded surround and plain wooden sill, and had skirting with a simple roll moulding along the top.

Two bedrooms opened off the landing. Room 6 to the west has a chimney breast in which there would have been a fireplace, although this has been blocked up and covered over at a later date. The room was lit by a four-paned sash with moulded frame, and cill with a moulded underside, and the laths of the lath and plastered ceiling are exposed. The eastern bedroom (Room 7) was similar with a chimneybreast that would have provided a fireplace, which has again been subsequently blocked up and covered over.

The architectural elements of the house indicate a date of the later 19th century, confirmed by the documentary research which places the construction of the house between 1861 and 1871.

Phase II (Pre 1871)

Very soon after the construction of the house an extension was constructed on the east side of the house (Figure 4 & 5). This was a single storey extension, again of brick laid in Flemish Stretcher bond, and with a common pitched roof of slate tiles (Plate 2).

A doorway was inserted into the alcove to the left of the kitchen fireplace, allowing direct access between the extension and the house, while external access was provided by a doorway in the south elevation. This was a simple square headed door with plain wooden frame, accessing a short corridor into which the doorway from the house also opened (Room 8). Two rooms opened west off the corridor, the southern one of which (Room 9) was unlit, the northern one of which (Room 10) has a later window which probably replaces the Phase II one. There are no remaining datable features within this part of the property, but the historic map evidence indicates that the extension was in place by 1871.

At the west end of the house a large shed, open to the south, was constructed. This was also of brick laid in Flemish Stretcher bond, and with a gable-end roof of slate tiles. Completely open to the south, it appears that this was built purely for storage, and again can be dated to pre-1871 by the map evidence.

Phase III (20th century)

During the course of the 20th century the house was updated, although no major alterations were carried out.

In the mid 20th century (late 1940s-1960s) skirtings and doorframes throughout the house were replaced, only the skirting on the first floor landing surviving from Phase I. The Phase III skirting has no moulding, and the door architraves are similarly plain. In the main reception room (Room 3) the Phase I fireplace was replaced with a tiled surround and hearth of brown and cream marble effect tiles and wave moulding decoration (Plate 5), while in the kitchen (Room 4) yellow tiles were used to line the interior of the fireplace as well as an area of the wall below the window. The current range was also installed (Owner, *pers comm.*) The Phase I sash window was replaced with a larger metal framed window of six panes of reinforced glass, the lower three panes being fixed and the upper three being casements (Figure 5).

In the extension, a bathroom suite was installed in Room 10, possibly indicating its earlier function and the reason for the Phase II build.

Later in the 20th century the storage shed at the west end of the building had a small lean-to roof extension added onto the south side. This consisted of a flat timber roof, supported at the front by a series of metal poles and at the rear by the slate roof at the eaves (Figure 5). In the extension a uPVC window was inserted into the east wall of Room 10, probably replacing a Phase II window.

The Workshop (Figure 7 & 8)

Phase I (1861-1871)

Contemporary with the construction of the house, the workshop was a rectangular brick building, measuring 38.50m by 9m (Figure 7) and orientated north-east south-west. It was constructed of brick laid in English Garden bond, with a stepped three course cornice on the north-west and south-east elevations in the same style as present on the house. The common pitched roof is currently covered with clay pantiles, but probably originally comprised slate tiles, and had stone coping at each end.

It was two storeyed, comprising of a basement level and a ground floor, with the two north-western bays at a higher level than the main body of the building (Figure 8). Approximately 11.50m from the south-west end of the building was a small gable-ended extension, also with a common pitch roof. Both the basement and ground floor rooms were lit by segmental arch headed windows, with header brick lintels and stone cills, having moulded cast iron glazing bars with 16 or 25 panes (Plate 8).

The main frontage of the building was formed by the south-west elevation which faced onto Tipton Street (Plate 8). This was a gable-end wall with brick pilasters at each corner, each topped with courses of stepped and dog-tooth brick work. A large double width doorway accessed the building at basement level, with three symmetrically placed windows at ground floor level. A brick stringcourse ran across the elevation at eaves level, above which the gable had a three course cornice as seen on the other elevations.

The north-western elevation contained at least three basement level windows and probably six ground floor windows (Figure 8). At the south-east end of the elevation, a smaller double width, segmental arch headed doorway with header brick lintel accessed the ground floor, while immediately below it was a single width doorway accessing the basement. Externally this basement door is completely hidden by later steps, and was largely obscured internally due to piles of timber so its form was impossible to determine. At the north-east end of the same elevation are the five circular scars of metal plates that would have held in place the ends of iron shafts running through the building at basement room ceiling height, corresponding scars being visible on the south-east elevation of the building. This elevation contained a further six windows at basement level, and six at ground floor level, identical in size and style to those on the north-west elevation. At the south-west end of the elevation was a smaller opening of identical form.

The scars of four further shafts are visible at the same level in the south-east elevation, together with a further window opening on each level (Plate 9).

Access into the basement level appeared to be via the two doorways in the south-west end as mentioned, although it is possible that there may have been a third door accessing Room 11 in the same position as the current doorway which is later in date. Joist holes visible in the south-east and south-west walls indicate an internal floor level in this room of approximately 0.90m above the current level, while the level of the small rectangular openings for the carrying of metal shafts corresponds to the level of the current floor level of the ground floor indicating that this is a later insertion.

There was a step down in level into Room 12 which was lit by a window in the south-west elevations, and which was served by a series of small ventilation holes in the north-east wall (Plate 13). The ceiling of the room is formed by the ground floor floor, the large cross-beam

forming the primary joist of this floor supported by a cast iron column in the centre of the room. A doorway in the south-west corner with a moulded brick jamb led through to Room 13 (Plate 15), lit by windows in both the north-east and south-west walls, and again with two cross-beams supporting the ground floor floor. Another doorway, probably of a similar form to that between Rooms 12 and 13, led into Room 14. This was a larger room, occupying the western third of the basement (Figure 7) and lit by at least three window. At the south-west end of the room were the two doorways accessing the front of the property, although as stated the smaller door in the north-west elevation could not be examined (Plate 16).

There is no surviving evidence of direct access between the basement level and the ground floor. The ground floor was entered through the doorway at the south-west end of the north-west elevation, which was probably reached by wooden steps. This floor consisted of a large open room (Room 15), which was well lit by the series of windows in the north-west, south-west and south-east walls (Plate 17). It was provided with a double purlined kingpost roof of wooden trusses, the westernmost four of which have carpenters marks I-IV from east to west.

The current doorway leading into Room 16 is of this phase, being accessed up a short flight of wooden steps which are later in date. Immediately to the south-east of this door was a second opening, now blocked and largely obscured, but which appeared to be an opening of similar proportions to the door. To the south-east of this blocked opening was a third opening covered by a wooden door with iron strap hinges and a latch (Plate 18). Due to the storage of sheet glass along this wall, this could not be accessed to open the door and inspect the inside of the opening.

The arrangement of floor levels in Room 16 at this date are unclear, with the current floor being a later insertion. This clearly cuts across the rectangular opening in the north-west, north-east and south-east walls, but obscures any evidence internally of what structure may have been in this position.

Again the form of the building and its architectural details indicate a date of the mid to later 19th century, with the historic map evidence confirming that construction of the initial building took place between 1861 and 1871.

Phase II (Late 19th/very early 20th century)

Within 30 to 40 years of construction, and probably sooner, the upper part of the extension on the north-western side of the building was rebuilt (Figure 8). The replacement brickwork was more orange than the Phase I bricks in colour and was laid in Flemish stretcher bond. The window inserted with the rebuilding, which probably replaced a Phase I segmental arch headed window, was round-headed with the cast iron glazing bars mirroring the round headed arch (Plate 11).

Phase III (Mid-late 20th century)

A number of minor alterations were made to the building throughout the second half of the 20th century.

At some point in the mid 20th century the Phase I basement level windows were bricked up with a darker greyer brick, and in the south-east elevation three larger landscape windows were inserted to light Rooms 12 and 13. These had wooden frames divided into four vertical lights, and were fitted internally with iron security bars (Plate 14). At the same time the first

floor windows in the south-east and north-west elevations of Room 15 (bar the Phase II window in the extension and one in the south-east elevation) had their metal frames removed and replaced with wooden frames identical to those seen in the basement, but with two vertical lights instead of four. The two windows in Room 16 were replaced with single pane, fixed, wooden frame windows. The current timber floor in Room 16 was also inserted.

At a similar date a small extension was constructed immediately to the north-east of the Phase I/II extension on the north-west elevation (Figure 8). This had a lean-to roof of a very shallow pitch and was built of re-used bricks laid in stretcher bond. On the north-west side was a single and a set of double doors with timber panelling between and over them (Plate 12). This extension housed machinery for the extraction and packing of sawdust from the main timber cutting floors and was probably constructed in the late 1970s or 1980s.

The entire building was re-roofed with the current clay pantiles, which also appear to date to the later part of the 20th century. At the north-east end of the north-west elevation a large double width doorway with sliding doors was inserted to allow access to Room 11, with a similar door inserted into the Phase I doorway in the south-west elevation. As stated that in the north-west elevation may have replaced an earlier doorway for which all evidence has been removed

A set of brick and concrete steps were built up to the ground floor entrance, obscuring the basement level doorway below. Internally plywood partitions were erected to create the current entrance porch and a small office on the north-west side of Room 15 (Figure 7). In Room 11 the floor appears to have been lowered while the floor in Room 16 was inserted, or an earlier one replaced.

7 Discussion

The site of 7 Tipton Street was part of a rural landscape that remained largely undeveloped until the 1860s. Tipton Street, Tipton Road and Turl Street among others were constructed shortly before 1843, and after this date Sedgley expanded rapidly with domestic and commercial properties built along them.

The historical research has revealed that the complex of buildings as seen today was developed within the space of ten years, between 1861 and 1871. The onsite survey has shown that there were at least two phases of building within this time, with the construction of the house and its subsequent expansion with the extension to the east and shed to the west, and the construction of the workshops. This may have been directly contemporary with the construction of the house; details such as cornicing are shared by the two properties but the brick bonds used in each building differ.

During the 1870s and 1880s the census records that the men recorded as living at 7 Tipton Street are sawyers, but does not specify that the workshop on the same site is their place of work, and it is unclear what the building was used for at this time. By 1919 it is recorded as being a malthouse, and by the mid 20th century it was in use as a timber yard and builders merchants.

The structural remains of the workshop do little to elucidate the history of its use with there being few visible features present which indicate a specific function, and with large areas of

the building impossible to inspect due to the conditions under which the survey was carried out. Both levels of the building would have originally been very well lit, indicating that the basement was not simply used as a storage area but probably in regular use as a workshop floor.

The circular scars on the external elevations at the north-west end of the building indicate the presence of iron shafts or ties spanning the width of Rooms 11 and 16 at the level of the current ground floor floor, suggesting that this is a later insertion. Internally the sockets are obscured by the floor and it is difficult to determine what the original layout of this area would have been. It is possible that these shafts were providing support for an open drying or airing floor during the time that the building was in use as a malthouse, or were utilised in a complex of shaft and pulley systems. Unfortunately, as with many industrial buildings, without any of the original internal fittings and machinery the interpretation is limited.

8 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank John Hemingway, the Sites and Monuments Officer. The owner and employees of Job Horton building Supplies are thanked for their co-operation during the site survey.

The work was commissioned by Oliver White of Wentworth Land and Property.

9 References

Maps

1824 Parish Map of Sedgley

1843 Plan of the Parish of Sedgley by Fowler

1887 First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey Plan

Published references

Hawkins, A, and Rumble, A, *Domesday Book: Staffordshire*, 1976

(UDC) Authority of the Urban District Council, *Sedgley the Official Guide*, 1958

10 Archive

The site code is TRS 05A The archive consists of:

18 sheets of site diary and notes

6 photo record sheets

210 colour digital photographs

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Wednesbury Museum

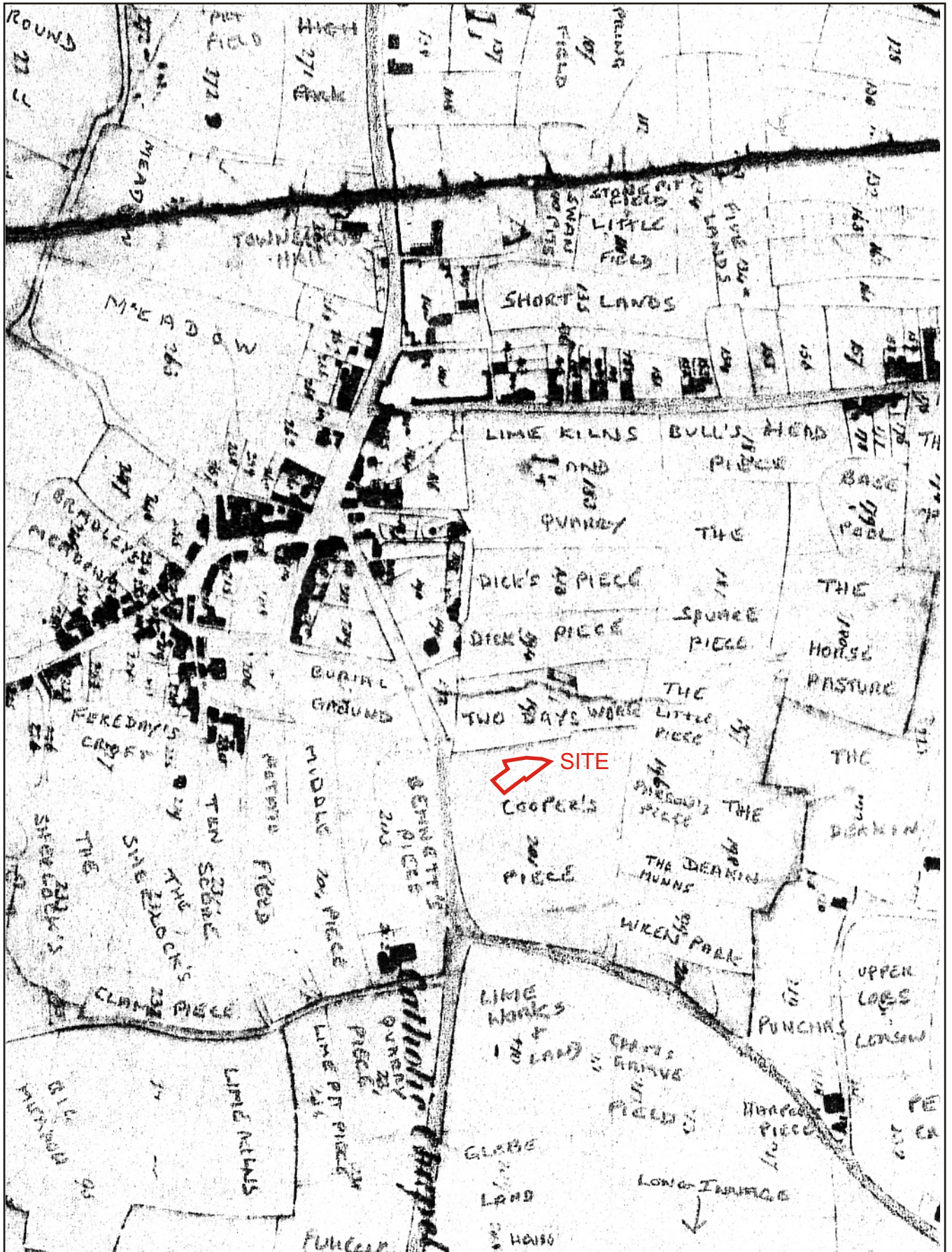


Fig. 2 Detail from the 1824 Parish Map of Sedgley

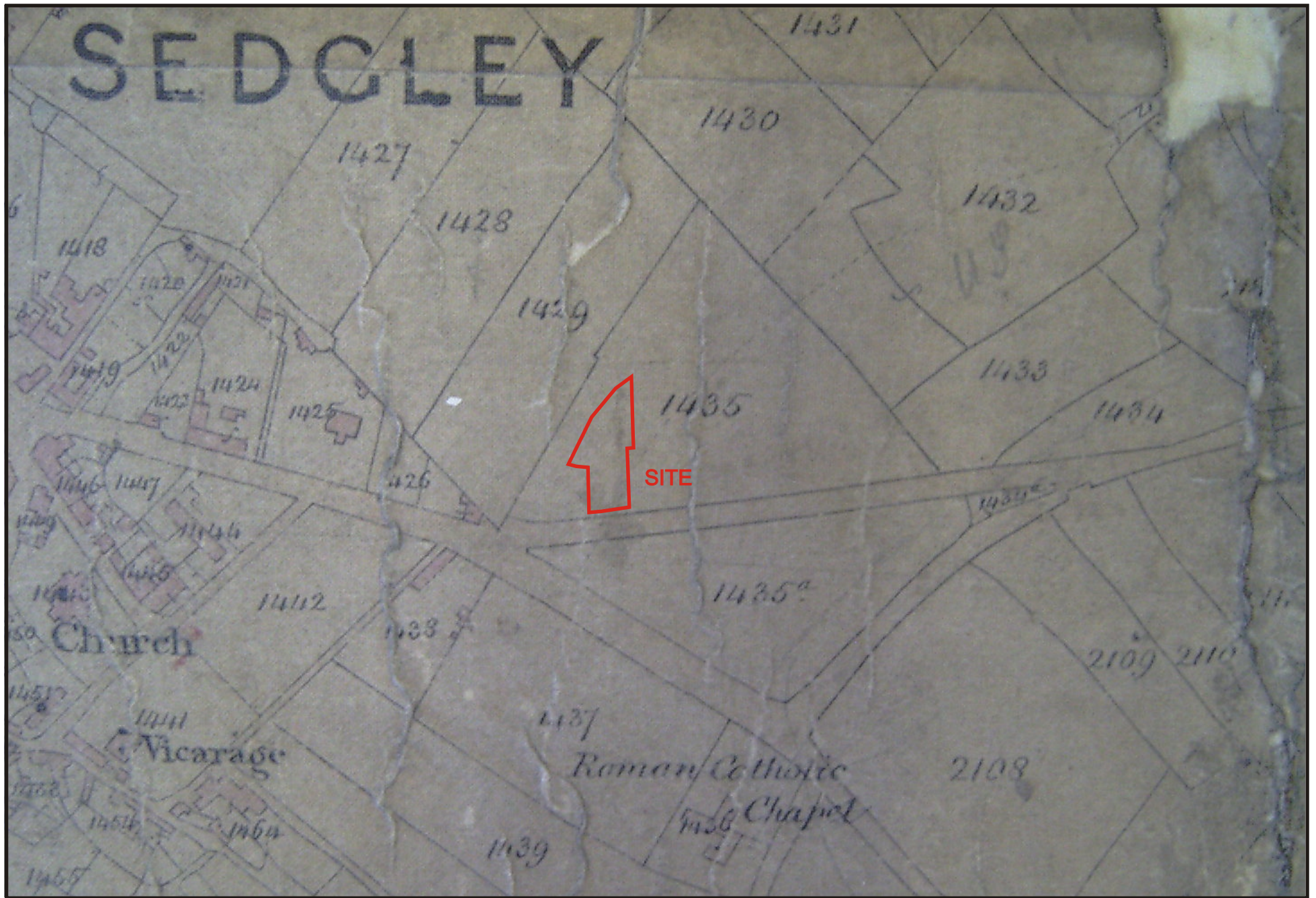
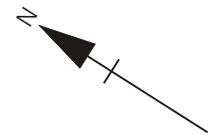


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1843 Plan of the Parish of Sedgley by Fowler



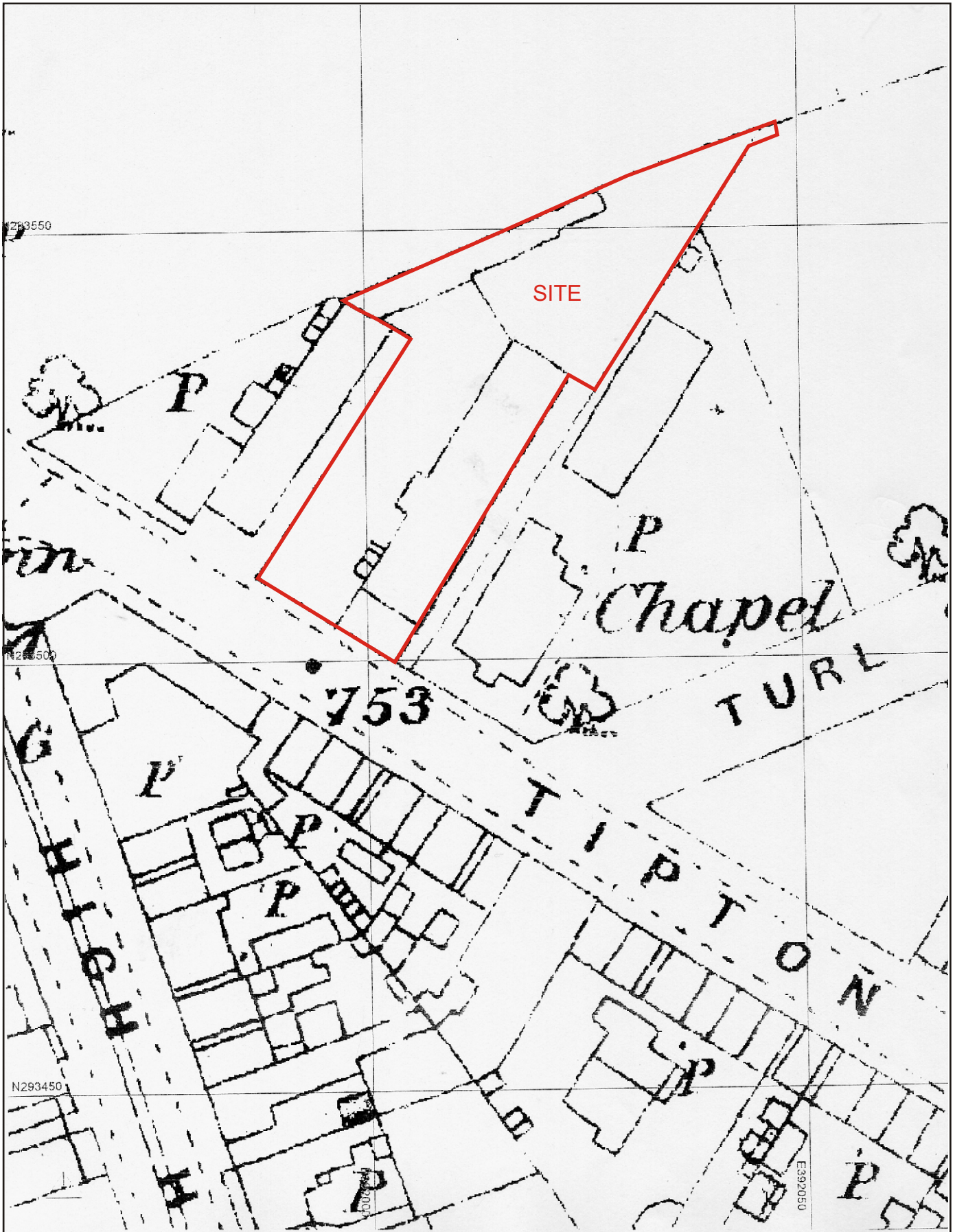


Fig. 4 Detail from the First Edition 25 inch 1887 Ordnance Survey Plan



Plate 1: House viewed from the south



Plate 2: Extension at east end of house



Plate 3: Doorway in south elevation of house



Plate 4: Ground floor sash window with rusticated stone lintel



Plate 5: Fireplace in Room 3



Plate 6: Fireplace and range in Room 4



Plate7: Staircase to first floor of house



Plate 8:South-west elevation of workshop



Plate 9: North-east elevation of workshop



Plate 10: South-east elevation of workshop



Plate 11: Extension on north-west side of building with Phase II rebuild



Plate 12: Phase III extension on north-west side of workshop



Plate 13: Room 12 in basement looking north



Plate 14: Phase III window lighting basement Rooms 12 & 13



Plate 17: Room 15 looking south-west



Plate 18: Feature in north-east wall of Room 15



Plate 15: Basement room 13 looking north



Plate 16: Basement room 14 looking north showing doorway in north-west wall



Plate 19: The site viewed from the north-west end of Tipton Street



Plate 20: The site viewed from the south-east