

**7 SPENCER STREET,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**



HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

CP. No: 10341

DATE: 08/10/2012



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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Limited were commissioned by the Croftlands Trust to undertake a historic building survey of No. 7 Spencer Street, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 071 384) prior to the conversion of the property into six flats (Planning Application No. 12/0515).

No. 7 Spencer Street forms part of a terrace of houses that are Grade II Listed, and date to the late 1840s. As a consequence of the building being designated a Grade II Listed Building, and due to the historic nature of the property, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service have requested that a Level 2 building survey be undertaken prior to conversion works.

Prior to the survey work on site, a rapid desk-based study was undertaken in order to set the building into its historical context. The study involved the consultation of historical mapping and documents housed in the local studies section at Carlisle Library and Carlisle Archive Centre.

The rapid desk-based assessment has revealed that the first phase of construction on Spencer Street, of which No. 7 formed a part, was at some point between 1847 and 1851, and can possibly be narrowed down to 1849, the date on which leases of some of the houses on Spencer Street are referred to. A map of Carlisle dating to 1853 shows that the east side of Spencer Street (the first to be built) were of the same form with their main elevations facing onto the street, and with rear extensions and out buildings served by a back lane.

Census Returns, trade directories and other documentary sources have provided a chronological list of the occupants of 7 Spencer Street from 1851 up until the late 1960s, during which time it appears to have been in use as a dwelling, occupied by families and servants. The earliest recorded occupant was Mr Christopher Park, who was a draper, with his business operating on Scotch Street in the city. The property appears to have been occupied by middle class families, who could afford to have one or two servants.

The historic building survey has revealed that 7 Spencer Street was one of 16 two-storey properties which were constructed on the east side of Spencer Street from the same materials and in the same plan form and frontage. The main body of the house faces to the west onto Spencer Street, and consists of a two-bay property, with a two-storey extension and small yard to the rear.

Internally, the original floor plans largely survive, with evidence for two possible sitting rooms, and a possible kitchen and scullery at ground level; five bedrooms at first floor level and a further two rooms in the attic space, possibly utilised by the servants. The two rooms within the basement may have also been used for domestic

activities such as meat preparation or washing, although the latter may have been undertaken in one of the outbuildings to the rear.

The property retains some apparent original fixtures and fittings, for example the staircase, some coving, ceiling rose, and possibly some skirting (although it would appear that some has been added, particularly where fireplaces have been removed). The basement still retains one of its fireplaces, with evidence for a second, and a nice example of a sandstone 'trough' which may have been used for salting or preparing meat, which may indicate that the basement may have also been used for food storage. Of particular interest with regards to the basement is the evidence for two blocked doorways, which suggests some form of communication between the properties to the north and south.

No. 7 Spencer Street is a nice example of a mid-19th century middle class dwelling, constructed as part of the expansion of the city of Carlisle beyond the boundaries of its medieval city walls. It forms part of a terrace of properties seemingly constructed in the same materials and to the same floor plan. The importance of the building has already been highlighted by its listed building status (for group value), and the designation of the streets around Spencer Street as a Conservation Area, indicates the architectural and historical significance of the mid to late 19th century properties of which No.7 forms a part.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Limited would like to offer thanks to Nadra Sawirous for commissioning the project on behalf of the Croftlands Trust, and for providing access into the building.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to staff at Carlisle Archive Centre; Stephen White, Carlisle Library Local Studies; Denis Perriam for providing historical documentary references; Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, Cumbria County Council, and Graeme Rae of GR Architects for providing the drawings of the building.

The rapid desk-based study and historic building survey was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The report was written by Fiona Wooler and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Nadra Sawirous, on behalf of the Croftlands Trust, to undertake an historic building survey of No. 7 Spencer Street, Carlisle, Cumbria (NY 4040 5599), prior to conversion works relating to change of use of the property to six flats. The property forms part of a terrace of houses which are Grade II Listed and date to the late 1840s. As the proposed works will alter the character and appearance of the building, a condition has been placed on planning consent requiring the structure to be recorded prior to the proposed development taking place, in accordance with Policy LE12 of the Carlisle District Local Plan 2001-2016 (Planning Application Ref: 12/0515).
- 1.2 A Brief for the historic building recording project was produced by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, requesting a Level 2 Building Survey, as described by English Heritage, to be undertaken of the building prior to alteration works¹.
- 1.3 No. 7 Spencer Street forms part of an L-shaped terrace of 16 houses on the east side of Spencer Street with a further two on Chiswick Street. The listed building description for the terrace reads: *'Grade II, Group Value. Late 1840s, Flemish bond brickwork with light headers on chamfered plinth (all dressings of calciferous sandstone, but mostly painted); stone eaves cornice. Common Welsh slate roof, hipped at end of terrace, some with skylights and No. 17 with gabled roof dormer. Original shared ridge brick chimney stacks, 2 storeys, 2 bays each. Each house has a left panelled door and overlight in Tuscan porch. Sash windows, some with glazing bars in brick reveals with stone sills and flat brick arches. No's 9 and 25 have canted bay windows and No. 21 has a full height red sandstone squared bay window. No's 1 and 3 Chiswick Street are of similar details but of 3 bays with central doorway. No. 1 with partly mansard roof and gabled dormers. Window over archway beyond No. 3 belongs to No. 5. No. 1 Spencer Street was demolished in the late 1960s to allow for road widening. Interiors not inspected. This terrace appears on Asquith's Survey of 1853'*.
- 1.4 Spencer Street is located within the Chatsworth Square/Portland Square Conservation Area which was designated in September 1992. This part of the city was laid out with large Victorian villas, terraces and open squares. Many of the houses are listed buildings and architecturally it is one of the most attractive parts of Carlisle².

¹ Parsons, J, 2012

² Carlisle City Council, 1992

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The historic building survey consisted of two phases, a rapid desk-based assessment, and a programme of building recording to assess and photograph the exterior and interior of the building prior to the commencement of alteration works, as per the Brief issued by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service³.

2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 Prior to the commencement of the survey on site, a rapid desk-based study was undertaken in order to establish the historical context of the building on the site, and to provide details, where known, on the buildings' architects, builders, patrons and owners.

2.2.2 The rapid desk-based study involved the consultation of historical maps, unpublished material and published sources housed within the local studies section of Carlisle Library and Carlisle Archives Centre.

2.2.3 The rapid desk-based study was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*⁴.

2.3 BUILDING SURVEY

2.3.1 A Level 2 building survey of 7 Spencer Street was undertaken according to the standard and guidance set out by the Institute for Archaeologists⁵ and English Heritage. A Level 2 survey is a descriptive record where the exterior and interior of the building(s) will be viewed, described and photographed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based⁶.

2.3.2 The survey includes:

- a written description of the building, including its plan, form, function, age, development sequence and construction material.

³ Parsons, J, 2012

⁴ IfA 2011

⁵ IfA 2008

⁶ English Heritage 2006, Page 14

The landscape and historical context of the building will also be considered.

- a 35mm monochrome and digital photographic record of the building and its relationship with other structures in the immediate area. A selection of the digital photographs are included within this report for illustrative purposes.

2.3.3 The results of the building survey have been combined with the findings of the rapid desk-based study in this report, in order to provide a narrative on the origin, form, use and development of the building, where known.

2.4 THE ARCHIVE

2.4.1 An archive will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in *'Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation'*⁷. The archive will be deposited with Carlisle Archive Centre.

2.4.2 A final bound copy of the report will be deposited with the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) at Kendal, where viewing will be made available on request.

2.4.3 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd and Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service support the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this study will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, as a part of this national project.

⁷ Brown, D.H, 2011

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Spencer Street is located to the east side of the city of Carlisle, and forms the south end of the modern A7 trunk road which heads in a northerly direction towards Scotland (Figure 1).
- 3.2 No. 7 is located on the east side of Spencer Street, with No's 3 and 5 located to its north side (No. 1 having been demolished as part of a road widening scheme). The main elevation faces onto Spencer Street, and a back lane runs behind the properties between Victoria Place and Chiswick Street (Figure 2).

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 Prior to the survey work on site, a rapid desk-based study was undertaken in order to place the site of 7 Spencer Street into its historical context. This assessment involved the consultation of historical mapping, and published and unpublished material housed in the local studies section of Carlisle Library and Carlisle Archive Centre.

4.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.2.1 Up until the end of the 18th century, Carlisle was essentially a walled town, but by 1803 the walls had become a hindrance to a developing city. The Carlisle Journal contended on the 8th October of that year: *'so long as the old walls remain standing the city can never properly extend itself. The population increases rapidly yet we can number no new streets; every little corner is built upon, to the great discomfort of the inhabitants, whereas it all obstructions were removed the town would rapidly extend itself'*⁸.

4.2.2 A major transformation occurred in 1813, when the city walls were finally demolished, and Lowther Street was built on the line of the east curtain wall. Although the city had already extended into extra-mural industrial areas, the demolition symbolised the final transition of Carlisle from: *'an insular enclosed community to a fully-fledged modern city, dependent upon and willing to embrace the outside world'*⁹.

4.2.3 Wood's Map of Carlisle dating to 1821 still, however, shows the city as largely within the boundaries, physical or not, of the city walls although the area of Rickergate, located to the north, was seemingly heavily populated at this date. The land on which Spencer Street would eventually be laid out is shown as open to the east side of the town, located to the east of an area which was labelled as 'Lord Lonsdale's Property' (Figure 3).

4.2.4 The exact date of construction of the first phase of dwellings on the newly laid-out Spencer Street has not been established from a rapid assessment of documentary sources. Mannix and Whellan's Directory of 1847 does not include Spencer Street in a list of the town's streets, suggesting it may not have been laid out at that date. The 1851 Census Returns (see table below), however, does include Spencer Street

⁸ Towill, S, 1991, Page 104

⁹ *Ibid*

(although the houses are not numbered), indicating a date range for construction of the first phase as between 1847 and 1851. There are documents housed at Carlisle Archive Centre which relate to No's 1 to 3 Spencer Street, one of which (relating to No. 3) relates to particulars and conditions of sale dated May 1876. This document includes the paragraph: *'The premises are held under a lease dated the 29th day of September 1849 for the term of 200 years to be computed from the 2nd day of August 1849 and is subject to the payment of the apportioned ground rent of £2 18 6 and to the covenants and conditions affecting the said premises and on the lessees part to be observed and performed'*. Further reference is made to the Duke of Devonshire issuing the original lease in 1849¹⁰. This information may indicate that the first phase of properties on Spencer Street were in existence or were being constructed ready for occupancy in 1849, and that the land on which there were built (or planned to be built) was owned by the Duke of Devonshire.

- 4.2.5 It must be noted that Building Control Plans, which were consulted as part of this desk-based assessment, did not commence until the 1860s therefore original plans for the construction of Spencer Street in the late 1840s would not have been compiled. A Building Control document does exist for No. 7 dating to 1893 which will be referred to below (see 4.2.8).
- 4.2.6 The Listed Building description indicates that the earliest phase of Spencer Street, which includes No. 7, dates to the late 1840s, and this would appear to fit with the documentary sources noted above. The recently updated *Buildings of England* series publication for Cumbria also suggests that this terrace dates to the late 1840s and notes: *'two-storey terrace of the late 1840s onwards. Doric porches in pairs. Few original railings'*¹¹.
- 4.2.7 Asquith's large-scale map of Carlisle (compiled for the Board of Health) dating to 1853 clearly shows that the east side of the street, including No. 7, had been constructed by this date with the west side still undeveloped. The plan form of the houses appears to have been the same, with the main frontage facing on to Spencer Street with a small plot separating the building from the pavement, and apparent outbuildings to the rear. The small circles shown in one of the small buildings at the back of the properties may represent either privies or 'set pots' which were brick-built features which contained a metal pot heated from below for washing clothes and bedding. At this date,

¹⁰ Carlisle Archive Centre Ref: DX1415

¹¹ Hyde, M and Pevsner, N, 2010, Page 259

Spencer Street consisted of (what would be later numbered) No's 1 to 33, and No's 1 and 3 Chiswick Street (Figure 4).

- 4.2.8 In the 19th century, much of the old township of Rickergate was owned by the Duke of Devonshire and other major landowners, including the Earl of Lonsdale and the Corporation of Carlisle (see Figure 3). A consequence of this ownership pattern was that development of this part of the city was much more controlled. Whereas tightly knit communities of terraced and back-to-back housing had appeared in Botchergate and Caldewgate, the street pattern of Rickergate was laid out in much more generous fashion. The large and finely decorated terraced houses which now line Portland Square and Chatsworth Square, together with the enlightened approach to providing tree-lined streets and gardens, have given this area of Carlisle the 'air of a new town' which now makes it of interest both architecturally and historically. Portland Square was laid out by 1853 on land owned by the Corporation but most of the houses were not built until the 1860s and 1870s. Chatsworth Square was laid out for the Duke of Devonshire in 1875 and Warwick Square West in 1876¹².
- 4.2.9 The First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping for the area around Spencer Street, which was surveyed in 1861 and 1865, was published on two separate sheets, hence the join between the maps on Figure 5. By this date the eastern side of Spencer Street had been fully laid out, although the west side remained vacant, however clearly new roads were being planned as shown by the straight lines drawn on the map reproduced as Figure 5. This map, as with the earlier Board of Health example, shows the plan form of the properties along Spencer Street as being the same, with apparent out houses to the rear and a back lane servicing that side of the houses.
- 4.2.10 There is only one Building Control Plan housed at Carlisle Archive Centre which relates to No. 7 Spencer Street, and this relates to the proposed construction of a new greenhouse in the yard dating to February 1893. Plate 1 is a reproduction of the original drawing submitted with the planning application, and provides interesting information on the uses of the rooms as they were at the end of the 19th century, and which may have been their original functions when first constructed. The plans indicate that the main entrance was from Spencer Street, leading into a hallway where the stairs were located. At ground level, the two western rooms are labelled 'sitting rooms', whilst those to the east (rear) of the property were used as a kitchen, scullery

¹² Carlisle City Council 1992

and coal house, with a yard to the south side and rear entrance gate. No plan was submitted for the first floor, as it was presumably not relevant to the proposed application; however the cross section and elevation drawing shows the locations of doors, windows and chimney stack (Plate 1). Notes at the bottom of this plan suggest that the occupier of the property at this date was Mr A M Bristow, a name which has been identified through a search of Census Returns and trade directories (see table below).

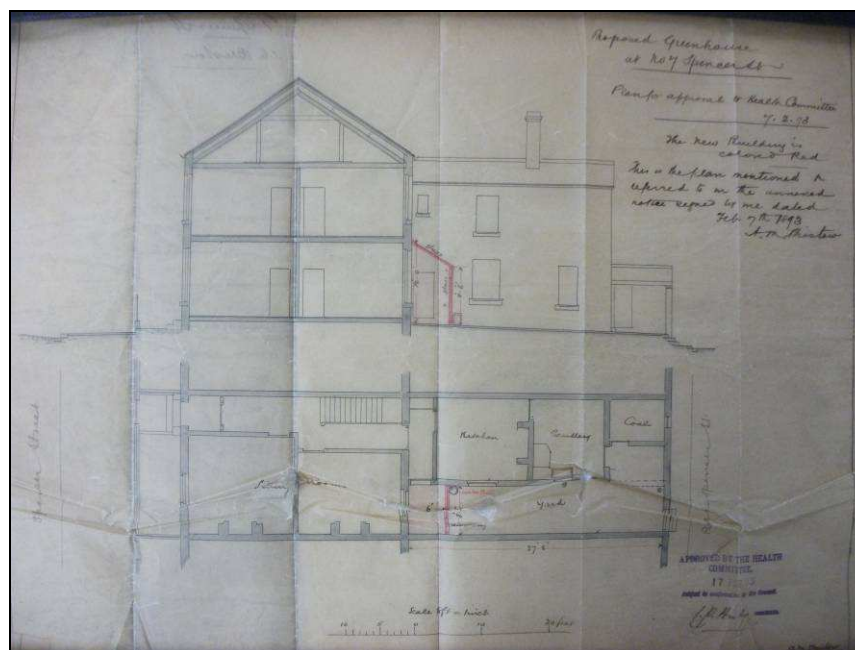


Plate 1: Building Control Plan for Proposed Greenhouse at 7 Spencer Street dated 17 Feb 1893 (CAC Ref: CAE4/12/124)

- 4.2.11 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map, which was published in 1901, shows that the west side of Spencer Street had been developed by this date, St Paul's Church had been constructed, and properties had been erected on Chatsworth Square. No. 7 Spencer Street remains the same plan form as on earlier mapping (Figure 6).
- 4.2.12 In the middle of the 20th century plans for Carlisle relief roads were first published, and then modified in the 1960s into a ring road scheme. The outer ring road progressed no further than Stage 1 with the section between Warwick Road and London Road, built in 1969, and the scheme was scrapped in 1981. The inner ring road was to be constructed in four stages, with Stages 1 and 2 (Castle Way and Georgian Way, including Hardwick Circus) completed by 1974. These stages had seen the demolition of properties on the north side of what had formerly been known as Burlington Place, but which had been renamed Victoria Place. Figure 7 shows these properties still extant in 1965, located

immediately opposite the north end of Spencer Street. Stage 3 of the inner ring road scheme was effectively prevented by growing opposition to the demolition of properties, particularly by the Carlisle Preservation Society, which led to the listing of buildings on Spencer Street¹³. No. 1 Spencer Street and No. 25 Victoria Place have, however, been removed as part of road widening schemes (compare Figures 2 and 7).

- 4.2.13 No's 5 to 33 Spencer Street and No's 1 and 3 Chiswick Street, were designated as Grade II listed buildings (group value) in November 1972. The Chatsworth Square/Portland Square Conservation Area, which includes the majority of Spencer Street apart from the modern buildings on the west side, on the corner of Spencer Street and Warwick Road, was designated in September 1992.
- 4.2.14 The Design and Access Statement which accompanied the Planning Application for the conversion of 7 Spencer Street into six flats indicates that the Croftlands Trust, which is a registered charity which provides support services to vulnerable adults in Cumbria, has used the building for the past 20 years as a day care centre in line with Adult Social Services Commissioning (ASCC). Recently, however, the ASCC changed the service provision from activities based in the premises, to community based. This change has resulted in the day care centre's being underused, resulting in 7 Spencer Street being vacated and available for alternative uses¹⁴. The property had been empty for approximately seven months at the time of the site visit in October 2012.
- 4.2.15 A consultation of 19th and early 20th century trade directories, 19th century Census Returns, and other sources has provided some information on the occupants of 7 Spencer Street throughout its history. The earliest recorded occupant was Christopher Park, who was resident in the property in 1851. The table below lists all the relevant entries from these sources (where there is a '?' indicates that the Census entry was illegible):

Source	Entry
History, Gazetteer and Directory 1847, Mannix & Whellan	Does not include Spencer Street in a list of Carlisle streets, which may suggest it had not been constructed at this date
Census Returns 1851	The houses are not numbered in this source, however Christopher Park is listed under 'Spencer Street'; as he is listed at that property in later sources it

¹³ Perriam, D.R, 1992, Page 94

¹⁴ GR Architects, June 2012

Source	Entry
	<p>is suggested he was occupying the building in 1851:</p> <p>Christopher Park, 39, draper (employing 2 men and 5 boys), born Carlisle; Hannah, wife, 36, born Carlisle; Mary, daughter, 12, scholar, born Carlisle; Christopher, son, 10, scholar, born Carlisle; Margaret, daughter, 6, scholar, born Carlisle; Hannah, daughter, 4; Eliza, daughter, 1; Alexander ?, visitor, 43, Wesleyan Minister, born Scotland; Elizabeth ?, 23, house servant, born Warwick (Cumberland); Frances Gibson, 18, nurse, born Warwick; John Lattimer, 15, drapers apprentice, born Westlinton</p>
Post Office Directory of Westmorland and Cumberland 1858, Kelly & Co.	<p>Mr Christopher Park, 7 Spencer Street (listed under Private Residents)</p> <p>Mr C Park is listed under 'Commercial' as a linen and woollen draper, silk mercer, carpet & straw bonnet warehouse, 13 Scotch Street</p>
Census Returns 1861	<p>Christopher Park, head, married, aged 49, linen and woollen draper, born Carlisle; Hannah, wife, 46, born Carlisle; Christopher, son, 20, draper, born Carlisle; Mary, daughter, 22, born Carlisle; Margaret, daughter, 16, scholar, born Carlisle; Hannah, daughter, 14, scholar, born Carlisle; Eliza, daughter, 11, scholar, born Carlisle; Emily, daughter, 9, scholar, born Carlisle; ?, daughter, 8, scholar, born Carlisle; Mary ?Rome, visitor, 22, born Bowness; Mary Anne Lawson, servant, 20, house servant, born Burgh by Sands</p>
Slater's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1869	<p>Mr C Park, 7 Spencer Street [listed under Nobility, Gentry and Clergy]</p>
Census Returns 1871	<p>John Robinson, head, aged 42, auctioneer; Esther, wife, aged 31, born Hesket New Market; Abraham, son, 13, born Carlisle; John, son, aged 7, born Carlisle; ?, son, aged 5, born Carlisle; William, son, aged 4, born Carlisle; ? Foster, servant, aged ?19, 'general</p>

Source	Entry
	domestic servant, born Durdar
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1873	John Robinson, 7 Spencer Street, auctioneer and appraiser
Census Returns 1881	John Robinson, head, widower, 52, auctioneer and farmer, born Burgh by Sands; Abraham, son, 23, civil engineer, born Carlisle; John K, son, 17, scholar, born Carlisle; ?, son, 14, scholar, born Carlisle; Elizabeth Graham, ?mother, 80, born Spittal; Thos. Liddle, cousin, 20, born Scotland; Ann Holliday, servant, 38, domestic, born Plumbland; Margaret Holliday, visitor, 9, scholar, born Silloth; Mary Kirkup, visitor, 36 ? house keeper, born Plumbland; David Doughtry, servant, 19, ?groom etc, born ?
Directory of East Cumberland 1884	John Dolan, cattle dealer, 7 Spencer Street
Carlisle Archive Centre Online Catalogue 1889	Reference to Esther Robinson, married woman of 7 Spencer Street, Carlisle District Probate Registry Wills, dated 1889 Ref: PROB/1889/A75
Census Returns 1891	Alfred Muckle Bristow, head, aged 40, civil engineer and surveyor, born Crosthwaite; Mary, wife, aged 35, born Carlisle; Anne Slater Bristow, daughter, aged 1(?), born Carlisle; Martha Holywell, servant aged 24?, 'general servant domestic', born Maryport
Census Returns 1901	Alfred M Bristow, head, widower, aged 50, civil engineer and surveyor, born Crosthwaite George M, son, aged 14, born Carlisle; William M, son, aged 12, born Carlisle; Annie, daughter, aged 11, born Carlisle; Katherine, daughter, aged 9, born Carlisle; Amy ?, servant, aged 25, 'house keeper (domestic), born Scotland; Martha Pattinson, servant, aged 35, 'general servant, born Stanwix
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1910	Misses Catherine and Mary Eliz. Robinson, costumers, 7 Spencer Street

Source	Entry
Carlisle Archive Centre Online Catalogue 1920	Reference to Mary Elizabeth Robinson, spinster of 7 Spencer Street, Carlisle District Probate Registry Wills, dated 1920 Ref: PROB/1920/A90
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1925	Misses C and M A Robinson, 7 Spencer Street
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1929	Misses C and M A Robinson, 7 Spencer Street
Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1934	Miss Margaret Robinson, 7 Spencer Street, 'corsetiere'
Kelly's Cumberland Directory 1938	Misses C and M A Robinson, 7 Spencer Street (refers to Miss Margt Robinson as 'corsetiere')
Carlisle Archive Centre Online Catalogue 1941	Reference to Catherine Robinson, spinster of 7 Spencer Street, Carlisle District Probate Registry Wills, dated 1941 Ref: PROB/1941/W768
Carlisle Directory 1952	Margaret Robinson, 7 Spencer Street
Carlisle Directory 1953	Misses Robinson, 'costu'
Cumberland Directory 1954	Maud E Briggs, 7 Spencer Street
Carlisle Directory 1961-62	Thomas B Wilson, 7 Spencer Street
Carlisle Directory 1966-68	Jane Wilson, 7 Spencer Street

5 HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The historic recording survey was undertaken on the 1st October 2012. At the time of survey the building was unoccupied, having been vacant for around seven months. The building was in a good state of repair and there was plenty of natural and artificial light.

5.2 EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDINGS

5.2.1 No. 7 Spencer Street is located at the north end of the road, on the east side, and it was noted that No. 1 has been demolished, leaving No. 7 as the third property down from the north end (Plate 2). The main elevation of the survey building faces to the west onto Spencer Street, and is set back slightly from the street frontage by the provision of a small paved area which is level with the pavement, as is the case with all the other properties in this terrace along the east side (Plate 3). This paved area is defined by a low stone wall which presumably originally would have had metal railings, as filled-in holes for the railings are still evident. The original railings would have enclosed this small area in the front of the house, and given the property a degree of privacy. Many railings such as those which would have existed on Spencer Street were removed during the Second World War as part of the drive to salvage metal from the war effort, however it has been noted that they were '*never really suitable for recycling*'¹⁵. No. 7 still retains its decorative masonry gate posts, which are identical to those of No. 9 to the south; however, No's 3 and 5 no longer have such posts *in-situ* (Plates 4 and 5).

5.2.2 The un-rendered main elevation shows that the property is constructed of hand-made brick laid in Flemish bond, which consists of alternate headers (the short end of the brick) and stretchers (the long edge) used in each course. Flemish Bond was considered to be more decorative, but it was less strong than English Bond (alternate course of headers and stretchers)¹⁶. The headers on Spencer Street are of a lighter yellow-coloured brick compared to the red of the stretchers, which provides a decorative effect to the properties. It is interesting to note that there is a vertical break in the brickwork between No. 3 and No. 7, and that the bricks do not run between the two, and are in fact at slightly different

¹⁵ Yorke, T, 2005, Page 112

¹⁶ Brunskill, R.W, 1990, Page 87-88

- levels; this indicates that although this terrace is noted to date to the late 1840s, the properties may not have all been constructed at exactly the same time. The brickwork between No. 7 and No. 9 appears to be contemporary, although the mortar of No. 9 gives the appearance that the two are of different construction periods (Plates 3 and 4).
- 5.2.3 Running along the base of the west elevation is a chamfered plinth seemingly constructed of sandstone, although the majority of the plinths along the terrace are painted. Running along the top of the main elevation, at eaves level, there is a decorative stone cornice which is of the same moulding as the properties to either side, suggesting that they were constructed at, or within a short time, of each other (Plate 6). It is interesting to note that on Plate 6 the cornice is shown to extend, and form part of, the same feature on No. 5 to the north, indicating that the cornice was installed at the same time. It has already been noted that a vertical break in the brickwork of these two properties suggests different construction phases; however it is possible that the roofs were erected at the same time.
- 5.2.4 The main doorway into the property is set to the north side of the west elevation, and is accessed up two steps from the paved area in front of the building (Plate 7). It was noted that the top step has a decorative iron grill set in its vertical face (Plate 8); this appears to have provided ventilation for the basement of the house, and will be referred to below (see 5.3.21 below). The door is set within a porch consisting of decorative Tuscan columns and entablature above, and the door itself has a overlight above which would have allowed natural light to enter the hallway (Plates 7, 9 and 10).
- 5.2.5 There is a single sash window at ground level in this elevation, with a stone sill and flat brick arch head. The frame of the ground floor window appears to be a later insertion, as it consists of only four panes of glass. There are two windows at first floor level in this elevation, both of which retain their six over six sash window frames, of which other examples survive along the terrace (Plate 4).
- 5.2.6 At the base of the west elevation there is a further window set partly below the ground level which lights the basement. This window in No. 7 was difficult to photograph due to the presence of overgrowth, however Plate 11 shows the same feature in the house to the north (No. 5).
- 5.2.7 The roof of 7 Spencer Street is laid in Welsh slate and appears to be contemporary with the properties to either side. Skylights have been inserted into either side of the roof to provide light into the attic space.

To either side of the roof of No. 7 there are brick chimney stacks which straddle the ridge line; it would appear that only the southern of these two stacks was utilised by this property, as no fireplaces were observed against the north wall (see Figure 11).

- 5.2.8 The rear of No. 7 Spencer Street backs onto an alley which, at the time of survey, could be accessed from the yard at the back of the property; from Victoria Place, or through an archway in the terrace of houses on the north side of Chiswick Street (see Figure 2). This back lane to the rear of the properties on the east side of Spencer Street appears, from historical mapping, to have been an original feature (see Figure 4), and would presumably have been used for access for the delivery of coal and the collection of ashes created by the fires in the house, which according to Yorke *'could run into many tons a year'*¹⁷.
- 5.2.9 The eastern boundary of 7 Spencer Street, which runs along this rear alley, consists of a brick wall which contains an access door (Plate 12). This boundary wall has clearly undergone some degree of reconstruction and alteration as suggested by the presence of modern bricks along its base, and the vertical breaks in the brickwork. It would appear that originally there was a single-storey outbuilding to the rear of the house, possibly with pitched roof as was noted behind some of the other properties along the rear of Spencer Street, which did not extend the full width of the plot. At some point there has been some alteration work, possibly when a flat-roofed extension was added, and it would appear that some of the original bricks may have been utilised in reconstruction (Plate 13). The two square features which are defined by sandstone surrounds, and are now blocked-up, appear to have been utilised originally as 'coal holes' to allow the coal merchant to drop coal into an outside shed (Plate 14). It is interesting to note that the brickwork visible at the rear of the building is laid in English Garden Wall Bond (one course of headers to five courses of stretchers), compared to the more decorative Flemish Bond of the main elevation which faces onto Spencer Street.
- 5.2.10 The rear of 7 Spencer Street has a small yard created by the void between the rear wing of the house (which is orientated east to west along the north side of the yard), and the north wall of No. 9 Spencer Street to the south (Plate 15). It was possible to note that the ground and first floor windows of the main body of the house were of the same form as those noted in the west elevation (Plate 16). The presence of a small yard to the rear of this property, rather than a garden, was a

¹⁷ Yorke, T, 2005, Page 116

common feature of Victorian houses in urban areas. It was not until the second half of the 19th century that there was a growing demand for more private space to the rear of dwellings, especially for larger houses¹⁸.

- 5.2.11 A two-storey rear range extends in an easterly direction from the main section of the house, which was noted not to extend to the same height (see Figure 10). There are three windows at ground level in this rear wing, two appear to be the original openings (although the frames are later insertions), but the present kitchen window is a later addition as suggested by the disturbance in the brickwork above and below (Plate 17). This window, however, appears to be in the location of an earlier or original opening (see Plate 1).
- 5.2.12 There are three windows at first floor level in the rear wing; the two to the west of the south elevation appear to be original, however the easterly window was not easily observed from the yard due to the confined space. There were no windows observed in the north wall of the rear wing; this is unsurprising as this wall faces into the yard of the property to the north.



Plate 2: North end of Spencer Street showing No's 3 to 7

¹⁸ Yorke, T, 2005, Page 113



Plate 3: View looking east showing 7 Spencer Street central to the photograph



Plate 4: No. 7 Spencer Street, west elevation



Plate 5: View looking north showing a surviving gate post for 7 Spencer Street (Scale = 1m)



Plate 6: Detail of decorative stone cornice, west elevation



Plate 7: Detail of main entrance into 7 Spencer Street (Scale = 2m)



Plate 8: Detail of stone steps to main doorway and ventilation grill for the basement (Scale = 1m)



Plate 9: Detail of door surround, main elevation of 7 Spencer Street



Plate 10: Detail of column top, main doorway surround, west elevation



Plate 11: Detail of window which lights the basement of No. 5 Spencer Street (Scale = 1m)



Plate 12: Rear (east) of 7 Spencer Street showing access door to yard and rear boundary wall (Scale = 2m)



Plate 13: Rear of 7 Spencer Street showing the varying brickwork of periods of reconstruction and alteration



Plate 14: Detail of blocked up 'coal holes', rear of 7 Spencer Street (Scale = 2m)



Plate 15: View looking west showing the small yard to the rear of 7 Spencer Street



Plate 16: Detail of first floor window (lights Room F1), east elevation as seen from yard to rear of 7 Spencer Street



Plate 17: Detail of inserted kitchen window, south elevation

5.3 INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING

- 5.3.1 The interior of the building could be accessed through either the main doorway in the west elevation facing onto Spencer Street, or through a rear access from the yard to the east (Figure 11). Upon entering the property from the main door in the west elevation, there is a small lobby which is separated from the hallway by a timber and glazed partition which contains a centrally-placed doorway (Plate 18). The lobby leads into the hallway from which the stairs provide access to the upper floors. There some original decorative elements surviving in the hallway including the moulded coving around the joint between the wall and the ceiling; a dado rail, and consoles which are set below a beam across the width of the hallway (Plates 20 and 21). Architectural features such as these are common in Victorian and Edwardian hallways; the main role of the hall was to impress upon the visitor the wealth and aspirations of the owner¹⁹.
- 5.3.2 The stairs to the upper floors are located to the north side of the property (Plate 19 and Figure 11). The staircase is constructed of wood, and is relatively plain, with the only real detailing being on the side (the open string) and the spiral end of the handrail. The vertical balusters, which are set between the treads and the handrail, are of plain, square form, although there is a decorative turned baluster set within the circle of the spiral end (Plates 19 and 22 to 24).
- 5.3.3 The dado rail which runs horizontally along the walls of the hallway continues up the north side of the staircase, and it was noted that it is intersected in several places by a square wooden panel which has a flower decoration (Plate 25).
- 5.3.4 Leading off from the south side of the hallway there are two doorways which provide access into Rooms G1 and G2 (Figure 11). Room G1 has a large window with splayed reveals in its west wall. Panelling survives on the top and below the base of the window, and the reveals contain wooden shutters which would have folded out from the cases, although due to paintwork, these shutters could not be opened at the time of survey (Plates 26 and 27).
- 5.3.5 This room still appears to retain its original coving, picture rail and ceiling rose (Plates 28 and 29). Ceiling roses were generally fitted above central chandeliers and gas lights, not only as a decorative element, but also to catch soot rising from the flames. It is possible that when first constructed, the houses on the east side may have had access to gas lighting. The provision of gas in the home took off in the mid-19th

¹⁹ Yorke, T, 2005, Page 90

- century; however, despite the fact that it burned five times brighter than most candles, it produced excessive soot and noxious gases and was therefore often limited to downstairs rooms²⁰.
- 5.3.6 The architrave around the door in Room G1 appears to be original, as it is of a similar moulding to the architrave around the window (Plate 30). The skirting board (which runs around the base of the walls), however, does not appear to be original, this is suggested by the fact that it is present along the base of the chimney breast, and as there would originally have been a fireplace in this location, the skirting board could not have extended across this part of the room when the fire was in operation. It is therefore suggested that the skirting boards, of which the same profile is present in most of the rooms, is a later insertion (Plate 31).
- 5.3.7 The only features of note within Room G2 were the coving, picture rail, architrave around the door (the door itself is modern) and the window surround (Plates 32 and 33).
- 5.3.8 Located below the stairs in the hallway there is a plain doorway which provides access to the basement, which will be discussed below (Plate 34). At this part of the former house, there is a further doorway which provides access into the rear wing (Figure 11). Upon accessing this part of the property, there is modern WC which appears to have been created by using some of the original space of Room G3. The original function of this part of the house is unclear; it certainly appears to have been separate from Room G3 as it is served by a window in the south wall. It may have been a store or cloakroom. Immediately opposite the modern WC there is a wooden storage area which consists of a three shelf cupboard with two doors, and four drawers (Plates 35 and 36). Although this storage cupboard and drawers appears to be historic, it is possible that it is not original. It was noted when the drawers were pulled out that there were not set on well-made runners, and there appeared to be some scarring on one side of the recess in which it is set which indicates that there was an earlier shelf arrangement within the space prior to the cupboard being installed. It is therefore suggested that this cupboard and drawer arrangement did not form part of the original build, but may have been inserted at the end of the 19th or early 20th century.
- 5.3.9 Room G3 has little in the way of historical features apart from cupboard and set of drawers in the east wall (Plate 37). As with the cupboard and drawers already described, this may be a similar insertion, as the quality

²⁰ Yorke, T, 2005, Page 89

of the woodwork does not necessarily suggest that it was an original feature when considered alongside the other architectural detailing (although it is acknowledged that this area of the house may have originally been the location of the kitchen and service rooms where architectural detail would have been largely absent). The presence of a chimney breast in the east wall of this room indicates that there was formerly a fireplace or range. The Building Control Plan of 1893, shown as Plate 1 above, indicates that this room was utilised as a kitchen at that date.

- 5.3.10 There were no historical features observed within Room G4 to the east of the 'kitchen', which has itself more latterly been used as a kitchen (Plate 38). A door in the east wall provides access to a single-storey addition which contains a WC, with a store located in the area of the original coal sheds and possible privies (Figure 11).
- 5.3.11 The only feature of note within the store and WC area to the east side of the ground floor was evidence for the blocked coal holes which have already been described above, and which are shown on Plate 14 (Plate 39).
- 5.3.12 Access to the upper floors was only possible via the main staircase which is shown on Plate 19 and Figure 11. At the top of the first flight of steps, there is access straight ahead to the first floor of the rear wing, which has already been noted to extend in an easterly direction from the main body of the house (see 5.2.11 above and Figure 11).
- 5.3.13 It would appear, given the location of a chimney breast, that originally there were two rooms at first floor level of the rear wing, with a corridor from the main stairs providing access to Room F5 without going through Room F4. If this was the original arrangement, it has been altered slightly by the removal of the original corridor wall and the insertion of a modern stud wall which is angled, and the creation of a small WC room at the top of the stairs (Figure 11). No features of note survive in this section of the house apart from a cupboard against the chimney breast in Room F4, but this does not appear to be original (Plate 41).
- 5.3.14 Access to the first floor of the main body of the house was via another flight of stairs from the main stairwell (Plate 42). It was noted from this location, when looking down between the gap of the dog-leg staircase, that there were decorative iron bars set between each side (Plate 43).
- 5.3.15 It would appear that originally there were three rooms at first floor level of the main body of the house. A partition wall between Rooms F1 and F2 has been removed, however the presence of doorways into each, and

- each being served by a fireplace (as shown by the chimney breasts) indicates that there were originally separate (Figure 11 and Plate 44).
- 5.3.16 Features of note within Room F1 include a sash window with panelling below and decorative architrave; it was noted that this window does not have the splayed, panelled reveals of those in the west elevation, possibly indicating the fact that it was facing the rear of the property. The original architrave around the door appears to survive, although the door itself is modern (Plate 45). To the right-hand side of the chimney breast there is a wooden cupboard and drawers, of similar design to those noted on the ground floor (Plate 46). As has been suggested with regards to the cupboards on the ground floor, it is possible that this cupboard and drawer feature may have been a later insertion. Where one of the drawers has been removed, it was possible to observe the unpainted skirting (Plate 47); this skirting is of the same moulded profile as the rest noted throughout the property, and therefore if it is original, then an attempt has been made to use similar moulding for areas where it has been replaced. This room does not retain any decorative coving and it was noted, as has been observed on the ground floor, that the skirting board does not appear to be original as it is present along the base of the chimney breast (where the original fireplace would have been), and along the bases of the removed section of wall between this room and Room F2.
- 5.3.17 Room F2 still retains its panelled window surround, coving and picture rail (Plates 48 to 50). As with the other rooms in the property, the fireplace in this room has been removed and the opening filled in.
- 5.3.18 Room F3 has a sash window in a panelled surround with splayed reveals as noted in Room F2, and decorative coving which does not appear to be of exactly the same moulding as that present in Room F2 (Plate 51).
- 5.3.19 The second floor of the main body of the property, which occupies the roof space, was accessed by a further flight of steps from the main staircase (Figure 9 and Plates 52 and 53). The second floor consists of two rooms, with Room S2 being lit by a skylight in the roof and a window in the partition wall which separates it from the landing (Plate 54 and Figure 9). There were no features of note within Room S2.
- 5.3.20 The wall which separates Room S2 and Room S1 was noted to be constructed of lathe and plaster (Plate 55). In the south wall of Room S1 there are two metal plates with handles set at an angle; these could not be opened at the time of survey due to paintwork. It is possible that these relate to sweeping out the chimneys (Plate 56). In the west and

east walls of Room S1 there are small doors which would have provided access into the voids created by those walls of the rooms (Plate 57). From these doors it was possible to observe some of the roof detail, for example the presence of only one truss, a single purlin to each side of the roof, and the brickwork of the party walls. It was also possible to note that the east and west walls of Rooms S1 and S2 are constructed of lathe and plaster (Plates 58 to 60).

- 5.3.21 The basement of the property could be accessed through the doorway beneath the stairs, as shown on Plate 34. The steps down to the basement are constructed of stone rather than timber, and the floor was noted to be of stone flagstones throughout. The corner of the wall from the stairwell leading into Room B1 was noted to be chamfered to prevent a sharp corner (Plate 61). Located in the north wall, immediately upon entering the basement, there is an apparent blocked doorway (Plate 62). This is an unusual feature as this wall separates No. 5 and No.7, and such an opening would have allowed access between the two. This may indicate a shared ownership at some point. Upon entering the basement, and located in the wall immediately opposite, there is a square opening in the top of the wall with sloped base (Plate 63); this would appear to be a ventilation hole and relates to the decorative metal grill already observed from the exterior (see Plate 8).
- 5.3.22 A brick wall with a square opening separates the hallway of the basement from Room B1 (Figure 11 and Plate 64). Room B1 has the only surviving fireplace within the property, located in the south wall (Plate 65). This fireplace is plain in appearance, and does not appear to have been of sufficient size for any cooking to have been undertaken on it, although it may have been used for heating water. It is therefore possible that this room in the basement may have been used as a servants quarters, although not necessarily for sleeping. Located to the left-hand side of this fireplace there is another apparent blocked doorway, located immediately opposite that already noted in the north wall. This therefore indicates a connection between not only No. 5 and No. 7, but also between No. 7 and No. 9. In the west wall of Room B1 is the window which has already been noted from the exterior (Plate 66).
- 5.3.23 In the east wall of Room B1 there is a doorway which provides access into Room B2 (Figure 11). This room still retains a large sandstone slab with a hollowed out top, which may have been used for salting or preparing meat (Plates 67 and 68). If such a function was undertaken in this room, then it may have been a 'scullery', which was a versatile

room where tasks such as food preparation and washing dishes may have been completed²¹.

- 5.3.24 There appears to have been a fireplace in the south wall of Room B2, although this space is now occupied by a modern boiler with a brick plinth to the front (Plate 69).



Plate 18: Detail of door between the lobby and hallway, ground floor (Scale = 2m)

²¹ Yorke, T, 2005, Page 102



Plate 19: View looking east showing hallway and staircase (Scale = 2m)



Plate 20: Detail of console brackets, ceiling of hallway



Plate 21: Detail of one of the console brackets and panelling, hallway



Plate 22: Detail of the side (open string) of the staircase



Plate 23: Detail of staircase balusters and open string detailing

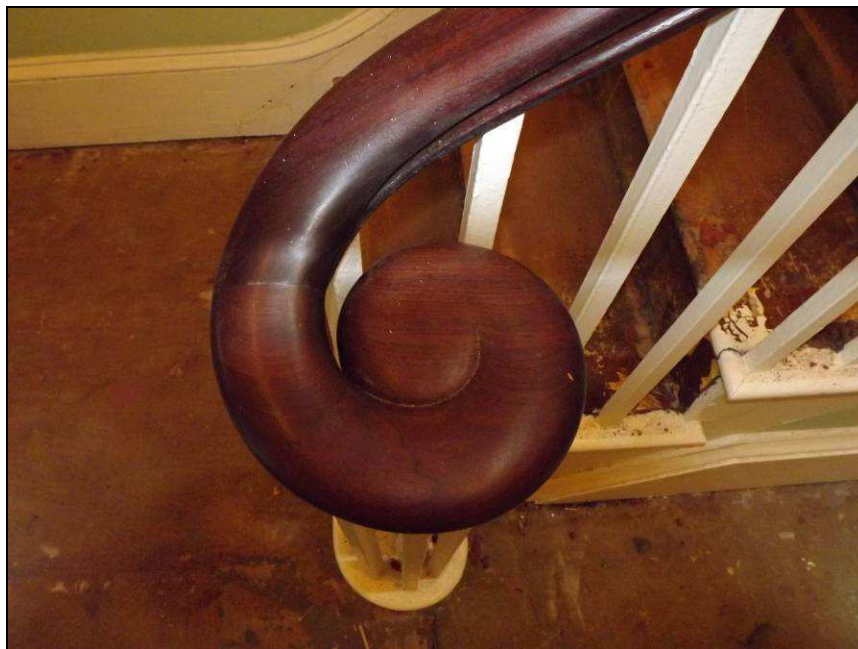


Plate 24: Detail of spiral end of the handrail, staircase in hallway



Plate 25: Detail of detailing on dado rail, ground floor hallway



Plate 26: Detail of window in west wall of Room G1, ground floor (Scale = 2m)



Plate 27: Detail of one of the shutters, window in Room G1



Plate 28: South wall of Room G1 showing coving, picture rail and chimney breast (Scale = 2m)



Plate 29: Detail of ceiling rose, Room G1 on ground floor



Plate 30: Detail of door architrave, Room G1, ground floor



Plate 31: Detail of skirting board, Room G1, ground floor



Plate 32: North wall of Room G2 (Scale = 2m)



Plate 33: Window in east wall of Room G2, ground floor



Plate 34: Door to basement to left, and door to kitchen to right, ground floor hallway



Plate 35: Detail of wooden cupboard and drawers, set between the staircase and Room G3 on the ground floor (Scale = 2m)



Plate 36: Detail of cupboard and shelving, ground floor

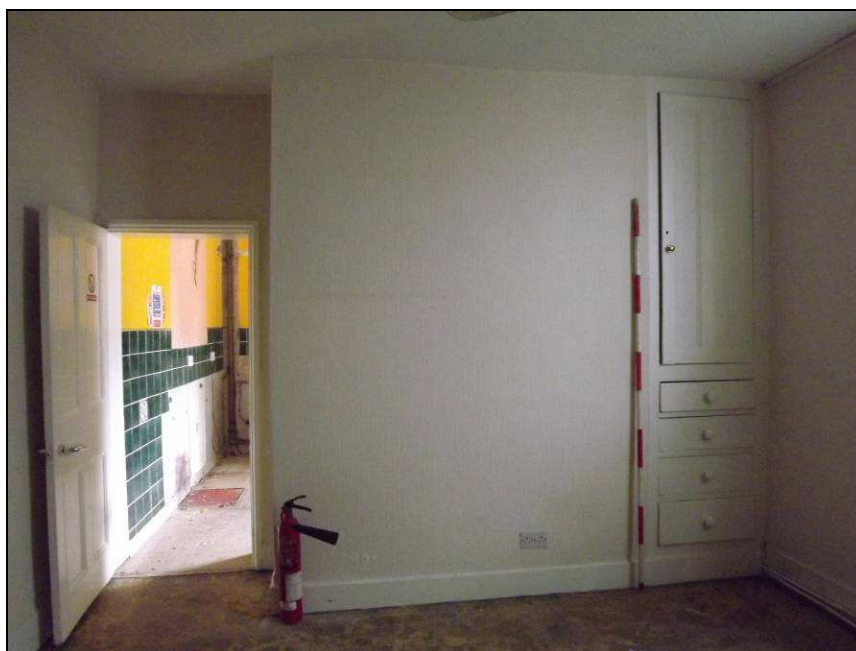


Plate 37: Detail of cupboard and drawers to one side of the chimney breast, Room G3, ground floor (Scale = 2m)



Plate 38: East wall of Room G4, ground floor (Scale = 2m)



Plate 39: Detail of blocked 'coal hole' as seen from the store to the east of Room G4, ground floor



Plate 40: View looking east showing the stairs to the first floor of the rear wing



Plate 41: Detail of cupboard, Room F4, first floor of rear wing (Scale = 2m)



Plate 42: Second flight of stairs to first floor of main house



Plate 43: Detail of iron bars between the dog-leg staircase as seen from first floor



Plate 44: View looking east towards Room F1 from Room F2 showing area of removed wall



Plate 45: Detail of architrave around door, Room F1 on first floor (Scale = 2m)



Plate 46: Detail of cupboard, Room F1 on first floor (Scale = 2m)



Plate 47: Detail of skirting, behind cupboard and drawers in Room F1



Plate 48: Detail of window, west wall of Room F2, first floor



Plate 49: Detail of panelling below sash window, west wall of Room F2



Plate 50: Detail of coving, Room F2 on first floor



Plate 51: Window in the west wall of Room F3 (Scale = 2m)



Plate 52: Staircase to second floor (attic) (Scale = 2m)



Plate 53: Detail of staircase and landing at second floor level



Plate 54: View looking north showing the location of the second floor within the roof space (Scale = 2m)



Plate 55: Detail of lathe and plaster wall, Room S1 in attic



Plate 56: South wall of Room S1 showing metal plates for possibly cleaning chimney (Scale = 2m)



Plate 57: Detail of access door into roof void, west wall of Room S1 (Scale = 1m)



Plate 58: Detail of roof structure, west wall of building



Plate 59: Detail of roof structure and lathe and plaster wall as seen in the eastern void of the roof



Plate 60: View looking north showing the party wall between No. 7 and No. 5

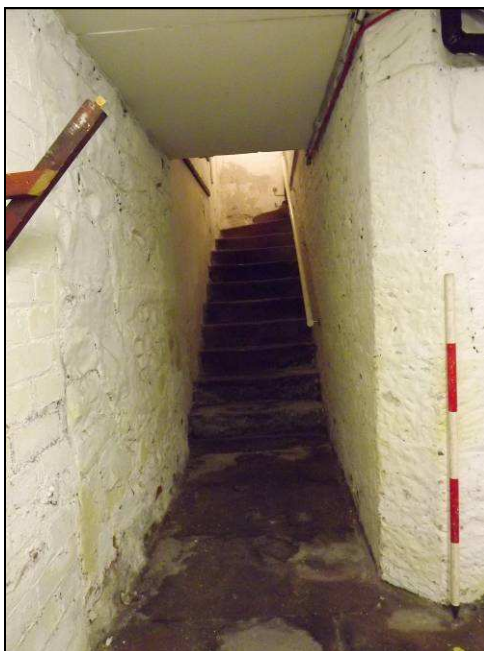


Plate 61: View looking east showing the basement stairs (Scale = 1m)



Plate 62: Detail of blocked doorway in north wall of basement (Scale = 1m)



Plate 63: View looking west showing ventilation hole for basement (Scale = 1m)



Plate 64: View looking north showing the north wall of Room B1 with square opening (Scale = 1m)



Plate 65: South wall of Room B1 in basement, showing fireplace with blocked door to left hand side (Scale = 1m)



Plate 66: Detail of window in west wall of Room B1 (Scale = 1m)



*Plate 67: View looking east showing the sandstone 'trough' in Room B2
(Scales = 1m each)*



Plate 68: View looking north showing the sandstone 'trough' in Room B2



Plate 69: Detail of former fireplace in Room B2 (Scale = 1m)

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The rapid desk-based assessment has revealed that the first phase of construction on Spencer Street, of which No. 7 formed a part, was at some point between 1847 and 1851, and can possibly be narrowed down to 1849, the date on which leases of some of the houses on Spencer Street are referred to. A map of Carlisle dating to 1853 shows that the east side of Spencer Street (the first to be built) were of the same plan form with their main elevations facing onto the street, and with rear extensions and out buildings served by a back lane.
- 6.2 Census Returns, trade directories and other documentary sources have provided a chronological list of the occupants of 7 Spencer Street from 1851 up until the late 1960s, during which time it appears to have been in use as a dwelling, occupied by families and servants. The earliest recorded occupant was Mr Christopher Park, who was a draper, with his business operating on Scotch Street in the city. The property seemingly appears to have been occupied by middle class families, who could afford to have one or two servants.
- 6.3 The historic building survey has revealed that No. 7 Spencer Street appears to have been constructed at around the same time as No. 5 located to its north side, although a vertical break between the two suggests they may not have been totally contemporary. It does appear, however, that No. 7 was one of 16 two-storey properties which were constructed on the east side of Spencer Street from the same construction materials and in the same plan form and frontage. The main body of the house faces to the west onto Spencer Street, and consists of a two-bay property, with a two-storey extension and small yard to the rear. There is evidence that the original outbuildings to the rear have been modified and added to, with the only features of note being two blocked coal holes where fuel would have been delivered to the house from the back lane.
- 6.4 Internally, the original floor plans largely survive, with evidence for two possible sitting rooms, and a possible kitchen and scullery at ground level (as suggested by a plan of 1893, see Plate 1); five bedrooms at first floor level (split over two levels between the main body of the house and the rear extension), and a further two rooms in the attic space, possibly utilised by the servants. The two rooms within the basement may have also been used for domestic activities such as meat preparation or washing, although the latter may have been undertaken in one of the outbuildings to the rear.

- 6.5 The property retains some apparent original fixtures and fittings, for example the staircase, some coving, ceiling rose, and possibly some skirting (although it would appear that some has been added, particularly where fireplaces have been removed). The basement still retains one of its fireplaces, with evidence for a second, and a nice example of a sandstone 'trough' which may have been used for salting or preparing meat, which may indicate that the basement may have also been used for food storage. Of particular interest with regards to the basement is the evidence for two blocked doorways, one in the north wall and another in the south wall, which suggests some form of communication between the properties to the north and south.
- 6.6 No. 7 Spencer Street is a nice example of a mid-19th century middle class dwelling, constructed as part of the expansion of the city of Carlisle beyond the boundaries of its medieval city walls. It forms part of a terrace of properties seemingly constructed in the same materials and to the same floor plan. The importance of the building has already been highlighted by its listed building status (for group value), and the designation of the streets around Spencer Street as a Conservation Area, indicates the architectural and historical significance of the mid to late 19th century properties of which No.7 forms a part.

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Maps

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- Ordnance Survey Map, 1964 and 1965, 1:1250 scale, Plans NY 4055NW and NY 4056SW* (Carlisle Library)

APPENDIX: FIGURES
