

Figure 25, Charlton Map of Whitby, 1778

13.2.3 OS Survey of the Whitehall shipyard 1893

By the date of this survey the development of the Old Sail Loft was complete – it included an additional range, and some intervening attached buildings, along the revetted south bank of the Spital Beck (Figure 9). This range has since been demolished although it survived long enough to appear in photographs taken during the Great War. The map shows how part of the east elevation of the sail loft range also stood on land below the high water mark suggesting that the entire building was, in effect, an encroachment into the Beck.

13.3 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING

13.3.1 Phase I before the 17th century

The evidence for this phase consists of two rather different areas of masonry. The first lies in the north elevation of the long range where it comprises a panel of coursed squared rubble at ground floor level in the re-entrant angle with the later sail loft range (Plate 11 & Figure 26); the second is an area of coursed rubble, also at ground floor level, in the internal elevation of the south wall.

The date of the former is suggested by the fact that the blocks entirely lack the herringbone tooling which is such a distinctive and universal feature of Whitby masonry construction from the 17th century on. It is also clearly earlier in date than the masonry of Phase II: which *is* tooled in this way, which is toothed into it, and which is itself probably contemporary with a first floor constructed entirely in 2" brick. These Phase I blocks are small and well cut – though not of the quality of ashlar – and bonded in a pale lime mortar.

The rubble visible internally in the south wall probably forms most of the ground floor fabric in this part of the long range: a very small area can be seen externally, further to the west, where once again it underlies masonry with a herringbone tooling.

Due to the gradual rise in ground level towards the south bridge ramp much of the east end of the ground floor of the long range is actually a semi-basement, becoming a full basement at the east gable. Because of internal wall finishes no detailing can be seen but it is possible that blocked ground floor openings in this area would indicate that Phase I of the long range actually predates the bridge ramp. The masonry itself is impossible to date although a wall seen in the neighbouring excavation, which is on the same line as the north wall of the long range, and which may have belonged to it, incorporated a re-used moulded stone of late medieval date. Thus the long range may be a remnant of an early post-medieval building; it may yet turn out to incorporate masonry of the Hospital of St John the Baptist.

13.3.2 Phase II late 17th/early 18th century

In Phase II the ground floor of the long range was either extended or remodelled in stone and the whole building apparently given a new first floor in brick (Plate 11 & Figure 26). The date is suggested by the form of the windows, by the size of the bricks, and by the coarse herringbone tooling of the masonry. The evidence for this Phase is preserved chiefly in the north elevation of the range where a straight joint indicates the point at which Phase II masonry was toothed into Phase I masonry without much regard for course heights. Over both passes the brickwork of the



Plate 11. Old Sail Loft – north elevation of west end of long range



Plate 12. Old Sail Loft – south elevation of east end of long range



Plate 13. Old Sail Loft – east end of long range from north-east

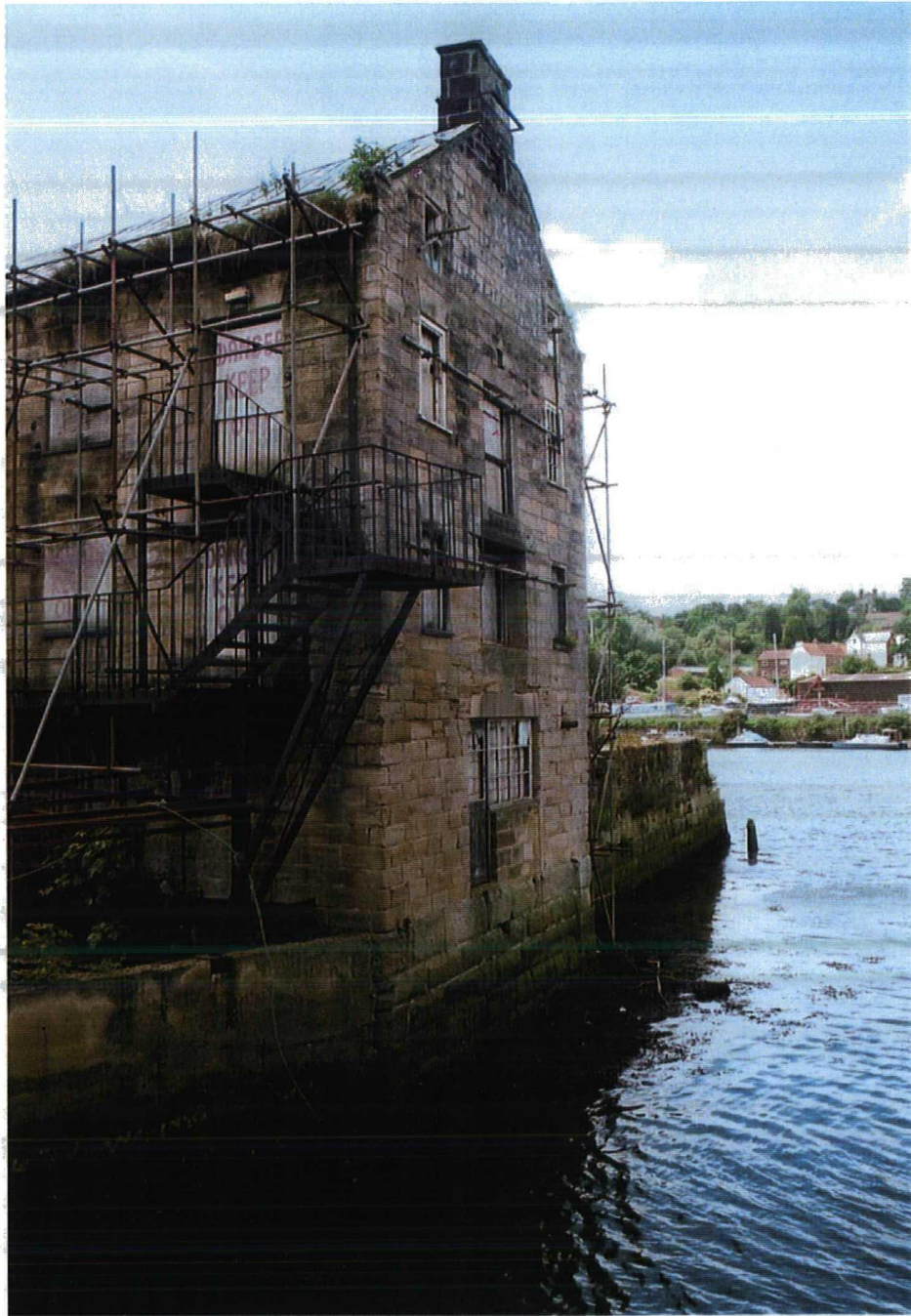


Plate 14. Old Sail Loft – Sail Loft range from north-east



Plate 15. Old Sail Loft – Sail Loft range, detail of herringbone masonry with margined block visible to right



Plate 16. Old Sail Loft – Sail Loft range from east

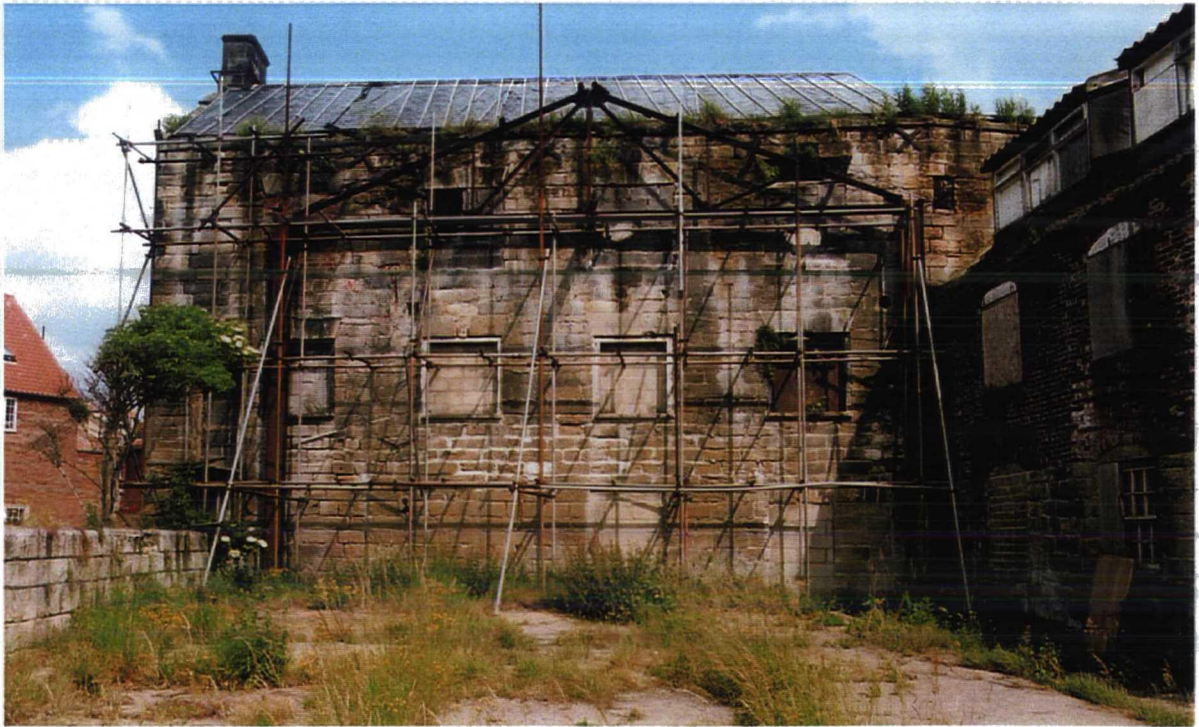


Plate 17. Old Sail Loft – Sail Loft range from west



Plate 18. Old Sail Loft – long range and Sail Loft range from north-west

first floor: the bricks measure 240 x 120 x 50mm and are laid in a fairly accurate 5+1 English Garden Wall bond.

Although the first floor brickwork is not certainly of the same date as the ground floor masonry it seems very probable that the work is in fact all of one build. This type of brick-over-stone construction is common in Whitby; for fairly obvious reasons it is usually found close to the water's edge but it may well be a survival from an older tradition of timber-framed building. There is certainly no discrepancy or contradiction in the use of the two materials. Some of the brickwork in the central area of the *south* wall of the long range may also be of Phase II date since it is similar in character and it is oversailed by the masonry of the second floor of the Phase III sail loft range, described below (Plate 12).

Two complete windows survive from this Phase along with the damaged west reveals of two more; the latter were both blocked in Phase III. The ground floor windows are insertions into the panel of Phase I masonry described above and all four window-openings have cambered brick heads with covering-boards to the windows: although the present examples are probably Phase III replacements. There is one surviving principal rafter roof truss with double trenched purlins which probably belongs to this phase.

13.3.3 Phase III before 1778

In this Phase the building achieved its present form. The two major operations were the construction of the sail loft range and the extension westward of the long range. Masonry detailing, the surviving windows, and the form of the roof suggest that all this work was carried out shortly before the date of the Charlton survey of 1778.

The Sail Loft Range This impressive masonry structure was laid out to meet the older long range at an obtuse angle. The awkward junction remains unexplained. It may be that the builders' aim was to place the north gable conveniently parallel to the channel of the Spital Beck; or there may be some other, earlier, controlling feature. Where the west wall of the sail loft range meets the north wall of the long range two window embrasures in the earlier building were partly removed and the altered openings infilled with Phase III masonry. On the east side the junction of the new range with the older fabric is inaccessible but what can be seen suggests that on this side of the building the long range north wall was rebuilt (Plate 13). Because of the angle at which the new three-storey sail loft range met the two-storey long range re-roofing the former must have been awkward; this may account for the use of a hip at its south end.

The base of the range consists of several courses of well-cut rock-faced and margined masonry; let into this masonry are a number of mooring rings on iron pins (Plate 14). Above this level the fabric consists of coursed squared rubble with good herringbone tooling; in some areas the blocks are also delicately margined (Plate 15). Part of the west wall of the sail loft range was concealed behind the older roof of the long range; here the wall is roughly built of brick. The original roofing material, since lost, was probably slate. The building is four bays long and has three storeys and an attic. There is a square eaves cornice.

Much of the joinery was destroyed in the fire and many of the openings are now blocked or sealed. There seems originally to have been a tier of three taking-in doors to the centre of the north gable all of which have since been altered: these were probably used to serve ships' boats which would be able to use the Spital Beck around high water (Plate 14).

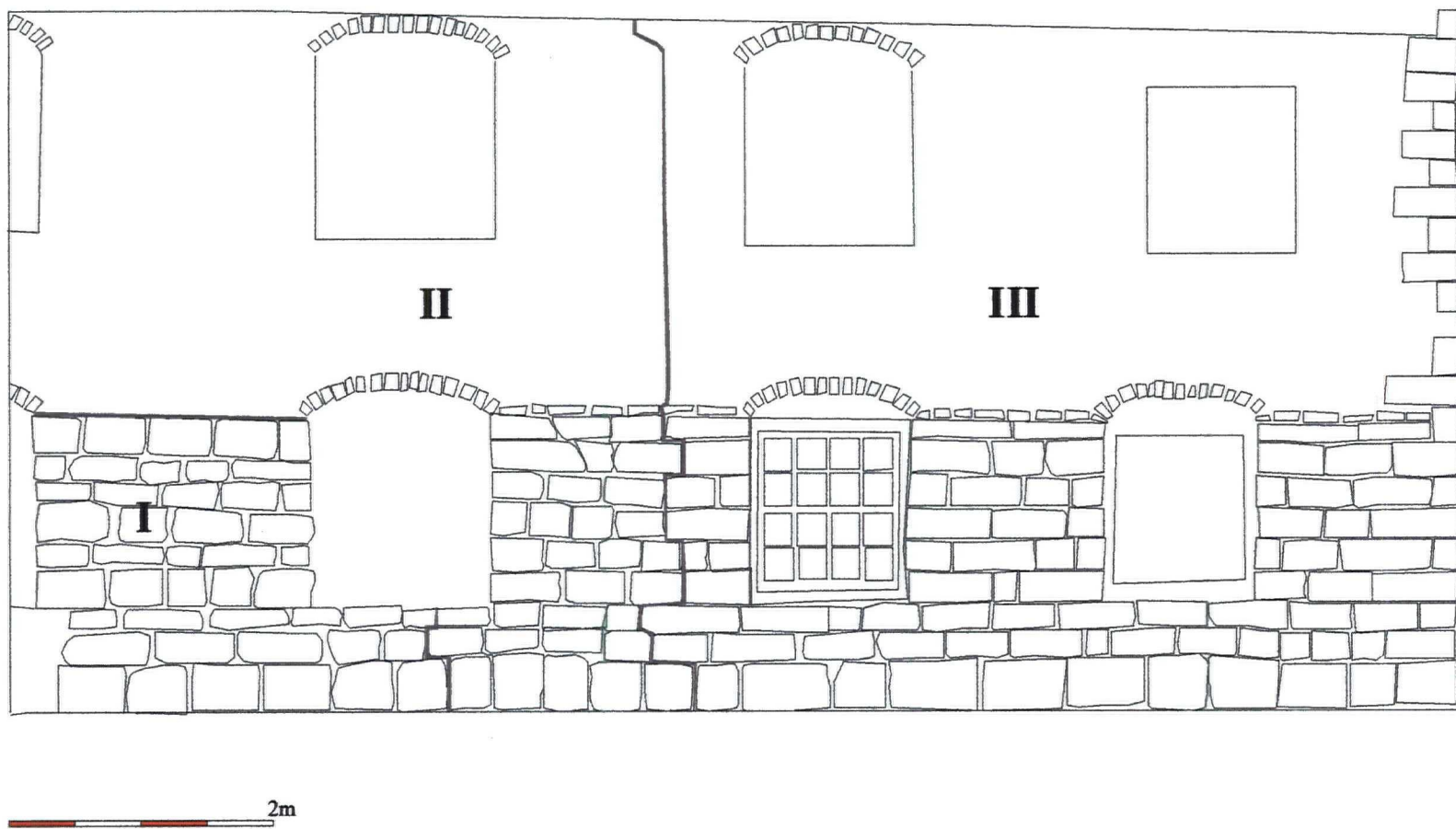


Figure 26, Sketch of north elevation of long range of the Old Sail Loft, showing phasing
Do not scale from this drawing



Figure 27, Sketch plan showing phasing of ground plan of Old Sail Loft
Do not scale from this drawing