

Archaeological
Building
Recording
Services

**An Archaeological Standing Building Survey.
14 Dean Street,
Brewood
Staffordshire.**

(NGR SJ 88346 08587)

On Behalf of Mr M. Marks



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January – July 2015

**Planning Permission No
14/00257/LBC**

ABRS Project No 2015-DSBS

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Gerwyn Richards

Summary

This document is an archaeological standing building survey of 14 Dean Street, Brewood, Staffordshire (SJ 88346 08587), commissioned from Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) by Mr M. Marks in advance of the proposed re-development of the building.

14 Dean Street is a largely brick-built two storey domestic house within the historic settlement core of the village and is Grade II listed. There are a number of elements of timber framing remaining, most notably the gables and the rear elevation. Framing exposed on the rear elevation appears to be close studding and is likely to be 16th century in date. Later extensions and re-building work has seriously impacted upon this historic fabric.

An examination of the timbers recovered from the demolition of the later extensions revealed extensive evidence of re-use from at least two separate buildings, or phases of building. These timbers may have come from the earlier building on the site, which cartographic sources indicate was originally much larger.

The archive will be deposited with The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number 2015.LH.1.

1. Introduction

Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) were commissioned by Mr M. Marks to undertake an archaeological standing building survey of 14 Dean Street, Brewood, Staffordshire (SJ 88346 08587 (*Figures 1 & 19*)). Planning permission to extend and remodel the building has been granted by South Staffordshire Council (Planning Application No 14/00257/LBC). The building is a traditionally built timber frame building, with later, brick-built extensions, believed to date from the 17th to the 19th century. The Landscape Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council, as advisor to South Staffordshire Council has recommended that an archaeological standing building survey to English Heritage Level 2 as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and a photographic survey of the extension be carried out prior to the commencement of the proposed works. The building is Grade II listed and located within the Brewood Conservation Area.

A Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Building Recording has been issued by the Landscape Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted by ABRS and approved. The project was completed in accordance with and following the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct*, and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2008).

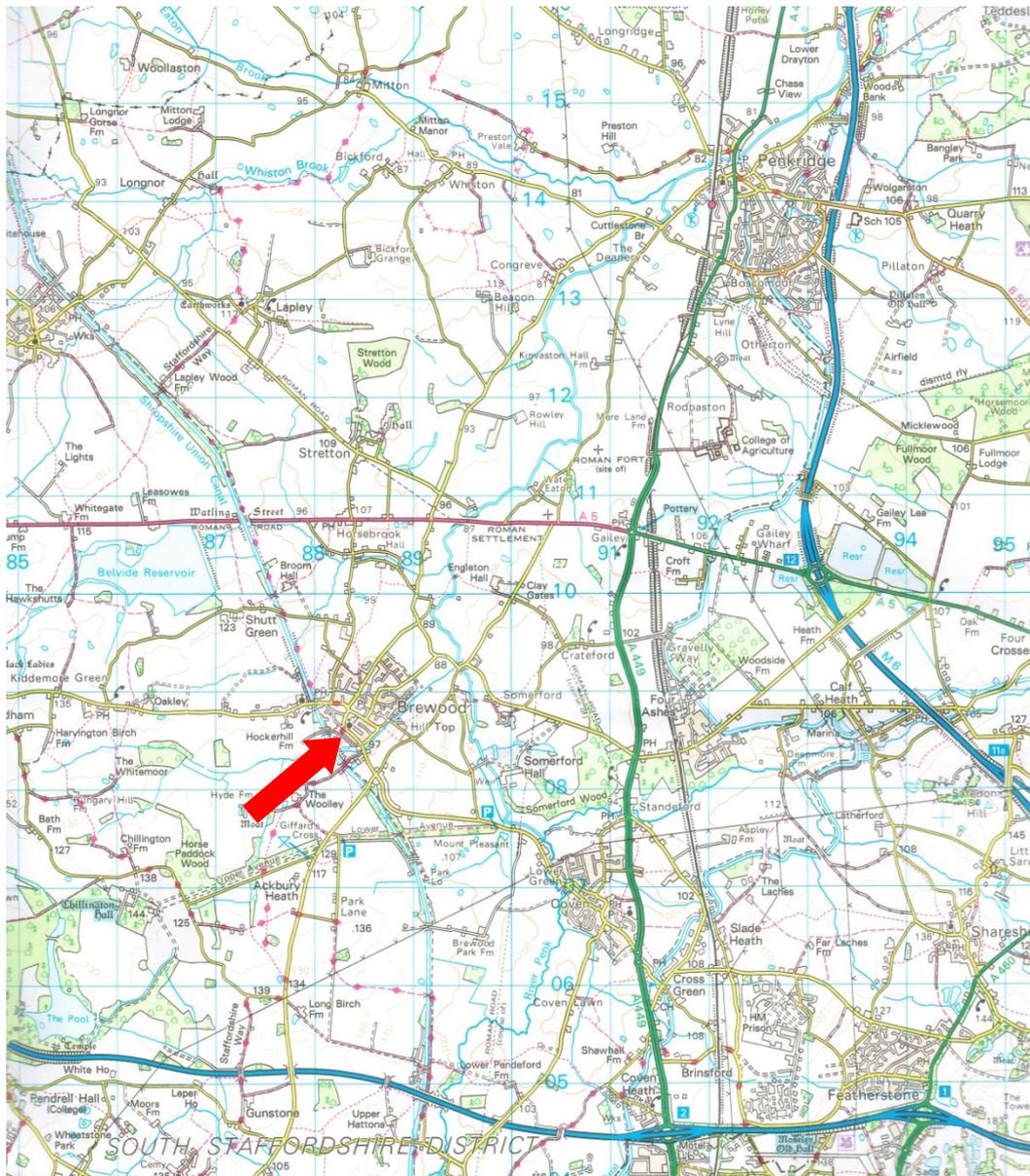


Figure 1
Site Location

Reproduced from 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.
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Brewood is likely to have Saxon origins having been recorded in the Domesday Book as Breude. At Domesday, Brewood was listed within the Cuttlestone Hundred and held by the Bishop of Chester, later becoming the property of the Diocese of Lichfield and in the 12th century the Diocese of Coventry. Brewood remained essentially agricultural throughout the medieval period and well in to the modern era and prospered. By 1680, the township had some 60 houses and by 1811, this had risen to some 210 inhabited houses and a population of 919. It was described in 1834 as 'a small but well-built market town, with several good streets and a spacious market-place' (Whites Dir Staff's 1834).

The main road to Wolverhampton, to the east of Brewood was turnpiked in 1760 and soon after the first mail coaches between Birmingham and Liverpool and Bristol and Manchester passed nearby to the village. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal was completed in 1772 and crosses the south-eastern part of the parish, and the Birmingham and Liverpool

Junction Canal runs northward through the middle of the parish opened in 1843 and by 1851 was described as having 'commodious wharves and warehouses' in Brewood. The railway between Birmingham and Stafford runs through the eastern part of the parish with a station at Four Ashes.

Staffordshire was well documented by early cartographers, both Kips (1607-10) and John Speed (again 1610) record Brewood, but in no significant detail, only the town's location and the presence of the church are recorded. Yates's county map of 1798 (*Figure 2*) is the first to record the town in detail and the probable alignment of Dean Street or a predecessor.



Figure 2

William Yates's County Map of Staffordshire (1798)
Probable Alignment of Dean Street in Red.

The earliest detailed map of Brewood is that drawn by Josiah Robbins and James Sherriff in 1808 (SRO Ref D590/375 (*Figure 3*)). The map shows a property occupying the location of 14 Dean Street, identified as parcel 1298, however, the building itself differs in both plan form and location, most significantly by occupying the whole of the plot frontage. The current building occupies the north westernmost part of the plot alone; it is difficult, therefore to state categorically that the building recorded in 1808 is that which stands today. Interestingly the recorded building, along with other buildings to the south east is shown projecting into the street, the exact reason for this is unclear, but may suggest the buildings had "jettys".

The Brewood Tithe Map of 1838 (SRO Ref D/880/5/5 (*Figure 4*)) again records the village in significant detail as well as the proposed development area. The accompanying apportionment records the owners of the two properties which now make up 14 Dean Street, identified as 102 and 102a on the map as the Trustees of Brewood School, 102 is described as "House and Garden" and occupied by a William Daw and 102a is described as "Stone Yard

and Shop” and occupied Thomas Taylor. At the time the term “shop” would refer to a workshop, rather than a commercial, retail shop as we would recognise today. Later Trade Directories list a Dorothy Daw (Mrs) & Sons Blacksmiths, although without an address and a Harry Edward Daw, a boot and shoe dealer on Bargate Street, potential relatives William Daw. The school is thought to have 17th century origins, an Abraham Barwicke was recorded as a schoolmaster in Brewood in 1641. A charity school is also said to have existed in the village in 1724, possibly for Somerford liberty. By the 19th century national schools had been established, but it is most likely that one of the earlier schools were the owners of 14 Dean Street at the time of the map.



Figure 3
Robbins & Sheriff’s Map of Brewood Parish (1808).

Although there is a significant difference in plan between the building recorded in 1808 and that recorded in 1838, it is likely that the bay labelled as 102 and that labelled as 102a are remnants of the earlier building and significant demolition and re-building has occurred in the intervening years. The plan form of the current house is identifiable, however there are again significant differences visible.

The early edition Ordnance Survey showing Brewood records the proposed development area largely as it currently stands. There is no re-producible first edition available, but viewing online versions confirm that the first edition is identical to the second edition (*Figure 5*).



Figure 4
Detail inset to Tithe Map 1838.

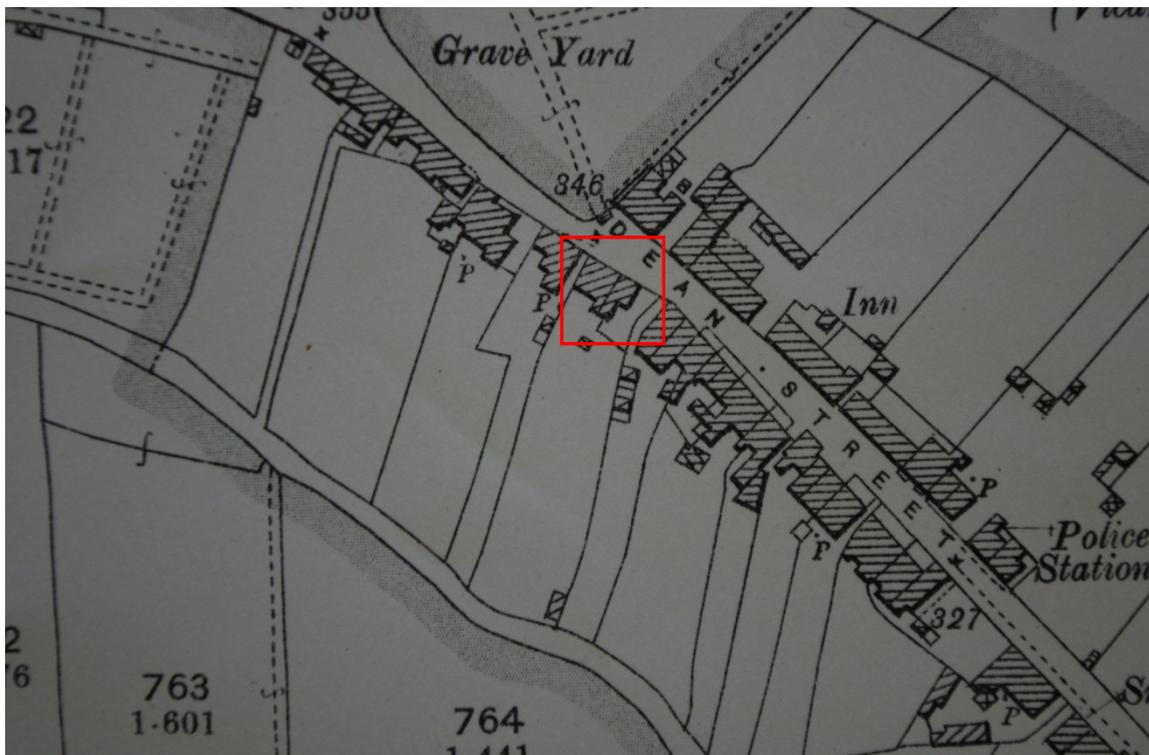


Figure 5
Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1902).
(Sheet L.13)

In the late 19th and early 20th century 14 Dean Street operated as a true retail shop, “*Recollections of Brewood*” published by Brewood Civic Society in 2010 records that “*Roger Spencer sold bacon and corned beef from the house where Charles Spencer lives now. In the same house in Dean Street, Mr and Mrs Rogers had a confectionery shop. They sold everything and even put an extension on in order to sell more things including shoes*”. Both the names Spencer and Rogers make a number of appearances as shopkeepers in numerous Trade Directories of the era, suggesting the shop was well established, a number of other shop keepers are listed on Dean Street as well, suggesting the street was originally commercial and only recently became residential. *Recollections of Brewood* also includes a photograph of the shop (*Figure 6*).

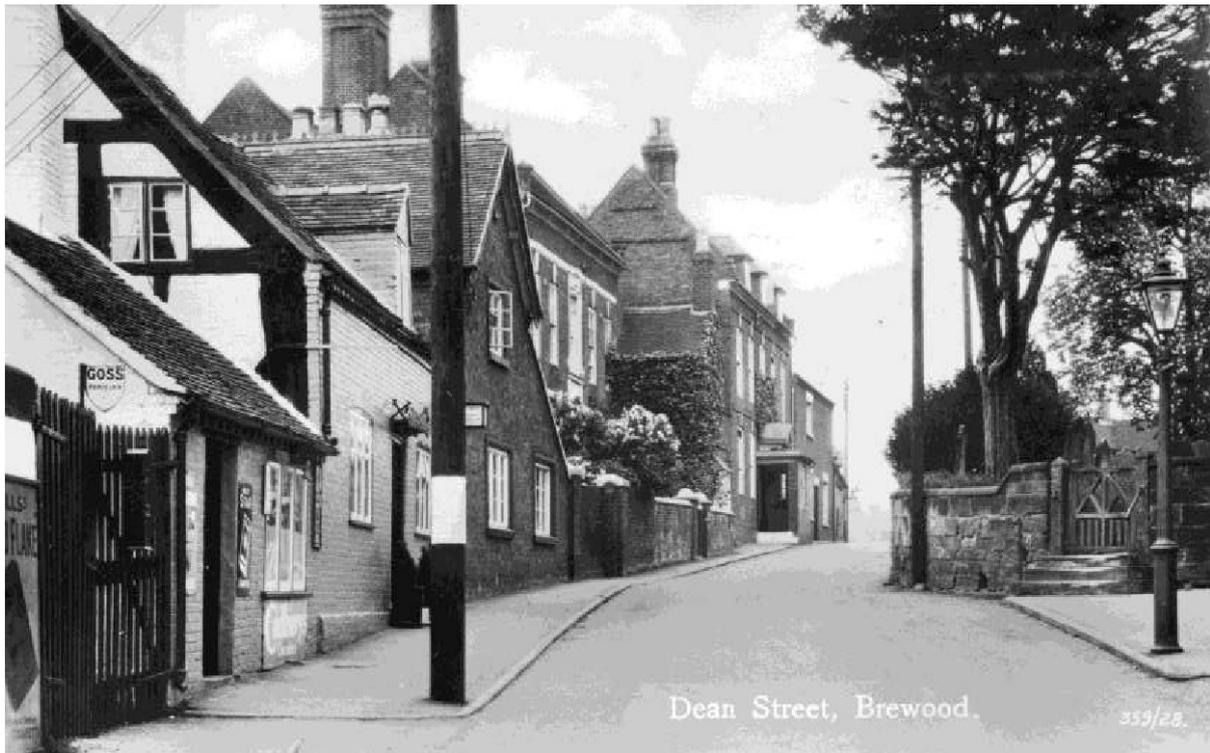


Figure 6

Mid 20th Century Photograph of Dean Street, 14 Dean Street to Left.

The photograph is likely to be mid 20th century in date and shows the building in some detail; the gable timber frame is visible as is the brick frontage. The south easternmost single storey extension can also be seen. Unlike the current layout, there is a door on the Dean Street frontage as well as a single window, it is likely, therefore than significant re-building of the extension has occurred since the photograph was taken.

2. Aims and Methodology

The specific objectives of the standing building survey were as follows:

- To provide a written, drawn and photographic record of the building prior to its permitted demolition.
- To ensure the long term preservation of the information through deposition of the record and a summary written report with an appropriate depository.

- The site based element of the Historic Building Recording programme involved the production of measured survey drawings and the completion of photographic and written records.
- Desk-based research included the analysis of readily available documentary and cartographic sources including Staffordshire Records Office (SRO).



Figure 7
Plan of the proposed development area & Recorded Building in Green.
(Provided by client. Not to Scale).

Orientation: The building subject to this historic building recording is approximately “L” shape in plan, the long axis is orientated north west – south east and the short axis is orientated north east – south west (*Figures 7 & 22*), the principal elevation is that facing Dean Street to the north east. Where the terms ‘left’, ‘right’, ‘front’ and ‘back’ etc are used in the report, this is in relation to this principal elevation as viewed from the north east. For the purposes of this historic building recording a letter prefix is added for significant partitions where required.

All historic maps are reproduced with north to the top of the page, following Ordnance Survey standards unless indicated otherwise with appropriate north arrow and key.

As far as is known, no previous historic building recording has been undertaken of the building.

The site visit was carried out by Gerwyn Richards on January 28th, April 30th, May 13th and July 14th 2015.

3. Description of the Building

3.1 Historic Fabric

14 Dean Street consists of single, two storey largely brick-built building, there are some limited remains of timber framing, most notably the south easternmost gable. There are two clearly distinct phases visible. The earliest being the two north westernmost bays fronting Dean Street, forming the historic core of the building. To the south east and south west (rear) are a number of later, almost certainly 19th and 20th century extensions.

The historic core of the building was only recorded externally as part of this historic building recording, concentrating on those areas exposed by the demolition of the later extensions. The historic building is largely brick-built with limited remains of timber framing, most notably on the south east facing elevation. The principal elevation has a late 19th or early 20th century brick skin and will be un-affected by the proposed works. Demolition of the rear extensions exposed a number of sections of concealed timber framing (*Figures 15, 22 & 23*). The exposed sections consisted of two complete studs, a further three partial studs and a single rail. Part of the south easternmost corner post was also exposed. Three floor joists were also exposed sat atop the rail (*Figure 22*). The brick-nogging is mixed, but the brick dimensions indicate it is likely to be late in date.

The two complete studs, as well as the partial studs (*Figures 15 & 22*) are interesting, as they appear to be the remains of a close stud timber frame. Close studding became fashionable in the early 15th century, becoming the most desirable and expensive building style from the 16th century onwards. Although fragmentary, the studs revealed on the rear elevation suggest the building was originally close studded, the studs then being lost during successive phases of re-building as indicated by the cartographic sources. Close studding fell out of favour in the late 16th century as a result of both the change in styles and tastes and a shortage of suitable building oak. It is possible; therefore that the close studs give tentative support to the listing date. Further evidence of the 16th century date are the exposed joists at the southern end of the elevation. The dimensions of the joists, the width being slightly greater than the depth, suggests an earlier 16th century date rather than late, as from the late 16th century it became more common for joists to be laid on edge.

The demolition of the south easternmost extensions revealed the timber frame of the south easternmost gable (*Figures 16 & 24*). Unfortunately, a very large, late 19th century brick-built chimney, along with two inserted doorways have had a significant impact upon the gable frame, leaving little of diagnostic value. The gable frame consists of two corner posts, both badly degraded, what is possibly an early or original sill, a tie beam, a collar beam and two down braces, one of which is slightly concave (*Figures 17 & 18*). There is also a single stud, although this is likely to be later.

Both of the corner posts are jowled and the south easternmost post has an open mortice (*Figure 21*), suggesting there may have been further framing attached here, there was no evidence of motices on the other corner post.

The tie beam is partially truncated by two inserted windows each side of the chimney breast. The southernmost window has been in-filled with brick, the northernmost has a modern casement window. Both down braces have also been truncated by the inserted doors.

3.2 Later Extensions

The later extensions, approved for demolition were recorded by photographic survey and demolition of the south easternmost extension was monitored. The extensive modern decor meant that establishing a chronology was extremely difficult. The majority of the exposed brickwork was late 19th century in date. The quality of the brickwork as well as visible straight joints would seem to suggest that C may be the earliest element of the extensions (*Figure 13*).

The single storey frontage bay consisted of a single room open to the roof level with access to the historic bay via an inserted door and stair, the floor being approximately 500mm lower. The roof was carried on purlins, extensive paint coverage concealed any detail and again modern decor concealed any historical features. Demolition of this bay was monitored and two cigarette packets dating to the 1950s or '60s recovered from within the cavity of the principal elevation (*Figure 8*). The packets, along with the straight joint visible on the south east gable (*Figure 12*) confirmed that the principal elevation was re-built in the latter half of the 20th century.

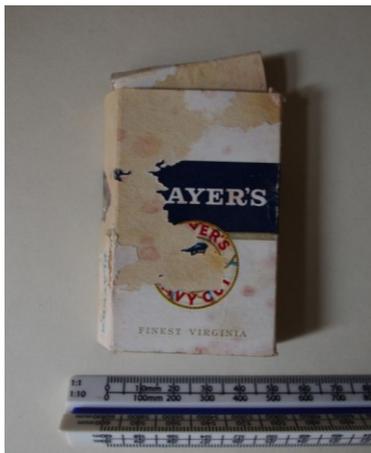


Figure 8

Cigarette Packet Recovered from Cavity on Principal Elevation, c. 1950-60s.



Figure 9

Moulded Stone on Principal Elevation, Unknown Date.

A moulded stone, most likely a rose or leaf motif was also recovered from the principal elevation (*Figure 9*). There is no evidence of the stone apparent in *Figure 6*, so it is likely that the stone was inserted during the later 1950-60s re-building of this elevation. It is possible that the stone is a relic of the site's past as a stone yard.

Following the removal of the roof tiles and felt the rafters were exposed, the front slope was made up of two sets of rafters, the shallower rafters being the later reflecting the change in roof line seen in historic photographs (*Figure 6*). The rafters themselves were mixed and showed evidence of re-use. A closer examination of the rafters revealed at least two separate styles of incised Roman numeral carpenters marks (*Figure 19*). This clear stylistic difference would suggest that the rafters have come either from two separate sources or from two

different phases of building at the same source, possibly salvaged from the demolition of the earlier 14 Dean Street building seen on cartographic sources.

The upper faces of the purlins were also examined and recorded following removal. The frontage purlin contained an extensive series of inscribed carpenters marks (*Figure 20*). The location of the marks, adjacent to open peg holes suggests the purlin was originally a bridging beam. The numbers 3 to 12 in Roman numerals are inscribed on the beam, suggesting it may have originated from a large building. Interestingly the ghost outlines of the joists visible on the beam do not align with the open peg holes, suggesting the beam has been re-used on at least two occasions before being its current use as a purlin.

4. Conclusion

14 Dean Street is an interesting building, in which elements dating to the 16th century remain. The building, however has undergone significant structural alteration, possibly to the extent of having been completely re-built at some point in the past re-using salvaged material from the earlier phases. There has also been extensive 19th and 20th century work which has, again had a significant impact upon the historic fabric. However, the revealing of areas of potential close studding on the rear elevation suggests that some 16th century structure remains.

Of the demolished 19th century extensions, there is little of historical or architectural significance to comment upon. Structural elements including rafters and purlins showed evidence of at least two episodes of re-use prior to being used on the extension. Two sets of carpenters marks suggest the timber may have also come from two separate sources.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

- 1 A3 permagraph sheet containing plan, profile & notes
- 2 DVDs containing 111 digital images
- 4 A4 contact sheets
- 111 Black & White negatives and contact prints 2 A4 photo record sheets
- 4 A4 photo index sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report

The accession number 2015.LH.1 has been issued by Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent. The archive will be deposited in due course.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition.

6. References & Sources

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Staffordshire Records Office Feb 2015

Whites History and Gazetteer of Staffordshire – Staffordshire Records Office

7. Colour Plates



Figure 10
Principal Elevation (looking West - North West).



Figure 11
Principal Elevation of 19th Century Extension (looking West - South South).



Figure 12 Straight Joint Visible in Brickwork at South East Corner Showing Evidence of Re-building.



Figure 13
Rear Elevation Showing C (Right of Centre with Small Window), Potentially the Earliest Extension.



Figure 14
Rear Elevation, Most Recent Extensions, General View (looking East).



Figure 15
Rear Elevation Following Demolition Showing Close Studding.



Figure 16 South East Facing Gable Following Demolition (looking North West).



Figure 17 Rearmost Down Brace on South East Facing Gable.



Figure 18 Front Down Brace on South East Facing Gable.



Figure 19
Inscribed Carpenters Marks Showing Different Styles on Rafters Recovered from 19th Century Extension.



Figure 20

Inscribed Carpenters Marks, Peg Holes and Ghost Joists on Purlin Recovered from 19th Century Extension.



Figure 21

Open Mortice on South Easternmost Corner Post.

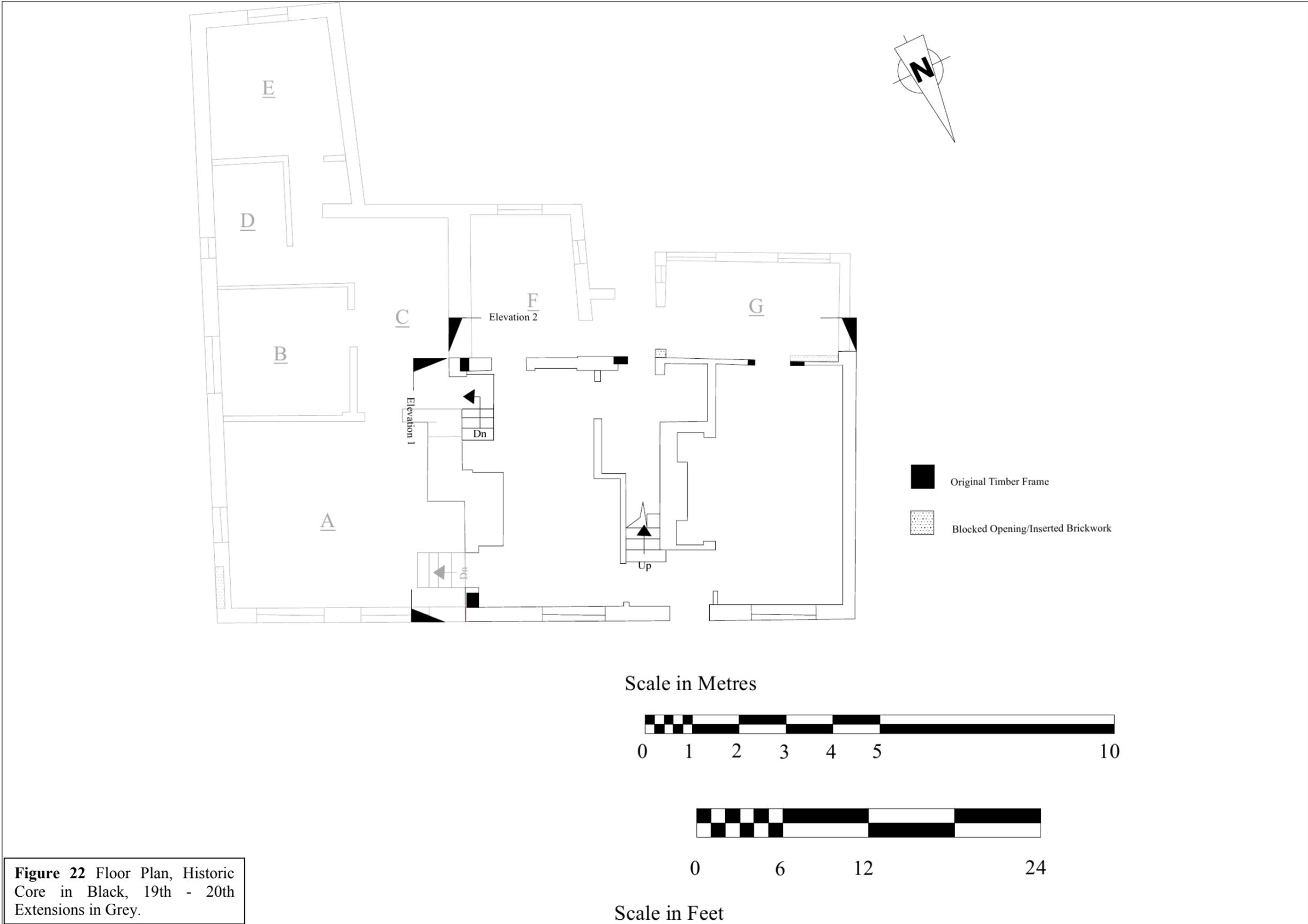
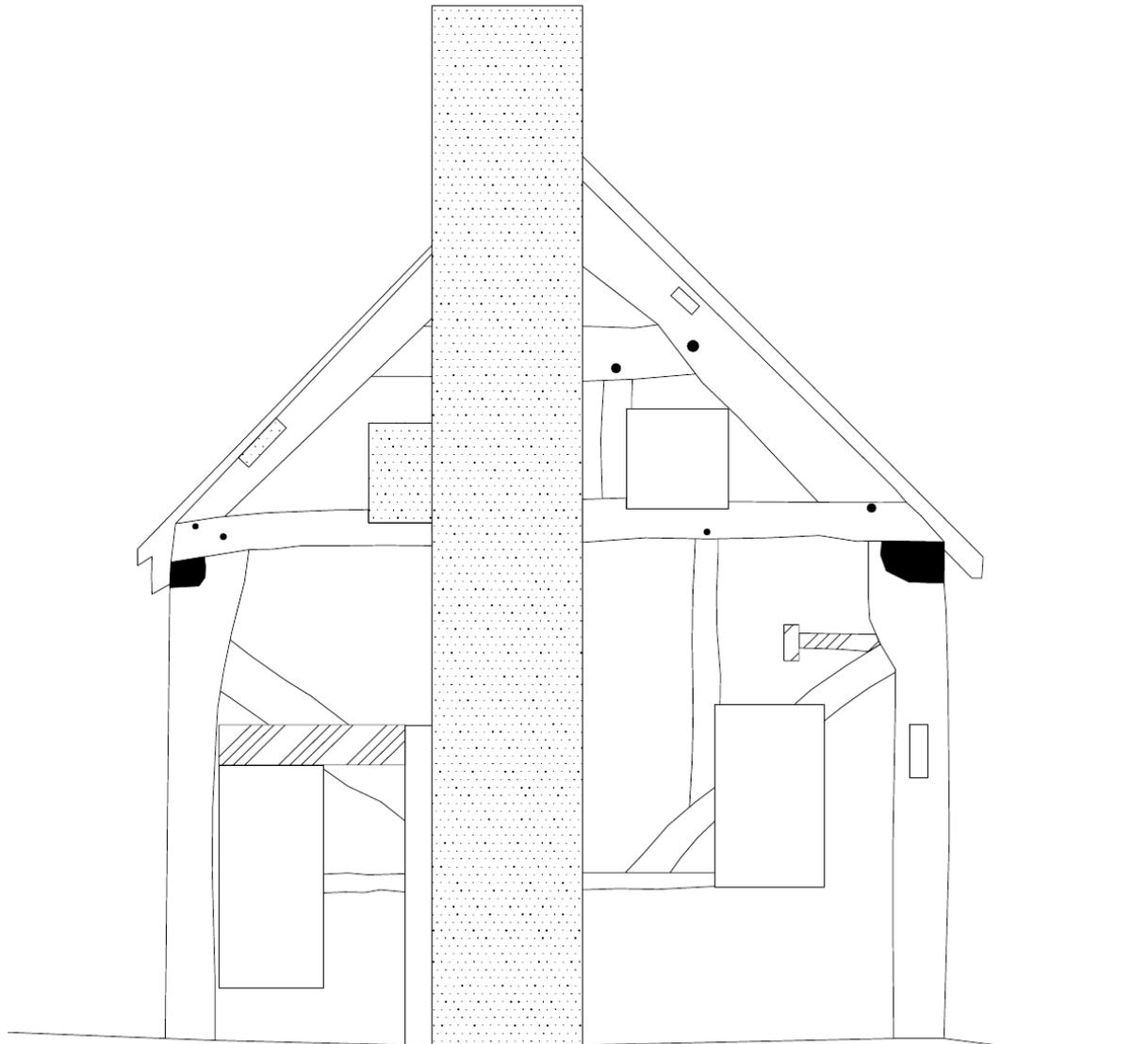


Figure 22 Floor Plan, Historic Core in Black, 19th - 20th Extensions in Grey.





Scale in Metres



Scale in Feet



Historic Brick Infill



Modern Timber

Figure 24 Elevation 1.

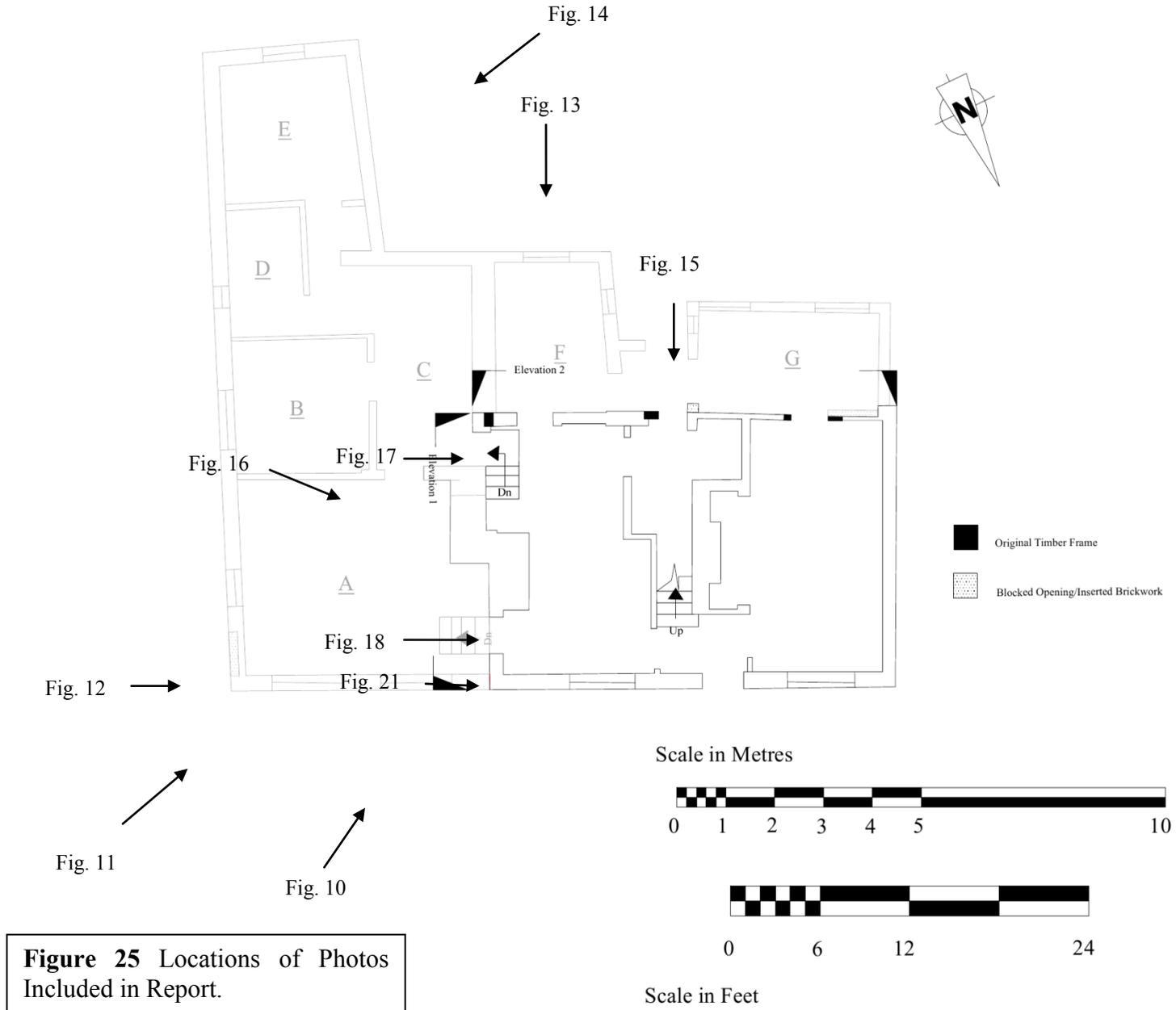


Figure 25 Locations of Photos Included in Report.

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