

# TUDOR HOUSE SOUTHAMPTON

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE HISTORICAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLUE ANCHOR LANE AND  
GEORGIAN WINGS



by

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## 1. Introduction

At the beginning of the twentieth-century, Tudor House was restored as a wealthy sixteenth-century merchant' dwelling. In the process of restoration, evidence for alterations and additions from the seventeenth through to the nineteenth centuries was swept away. The sequence of structures that now comprise 'Tudor House' dates from the medieval period through to the twentieth-century can now only be traced through a veil of historicising reconstruction.

Listed Grade I, and Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, owned by Southampton Council, managed as a museum and currently closed to the public, Tudor House is the subject of a bid for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In the proposed campaign of works, the local council will seek to improve the visitor facilities and install a lift for disabled access disabled. Consequently, in a draft development study for the site, the conservation architects, Purcell Miller Tritton, have presented four options for consideration for the location of the lift. The first three, listed in the present report as Options 1 to 3, are sited near the main staircase at the south end of the museum. Option 4 is located in an existing staircase in the range immediately west of the hall. Since these options were presented, a fifth, Option 5, located in a small corner of the courtyard between the hall and the 'Georgian Wing' has been proposed (Figure 19).

The first three options are close to the principal staircase in the main block fronting onto Bugle Street. This range and the hall were the most heavily restored parts of the site when, at the beginning of the twentieth century, the owner, William Francis Gummer Spranger, focused his restorations on the building's Tudor appearance. The buildings to the west of the hall were by comparison, neglected. The last two options locate the lift west of the hall in parts of the building that appear to have received less attention from the restorers. In contrast with the main block, the Blue Anchor Lane Wing is now significant because it preserves features that characterise the later history of the site. Corresponding features in the main building were lost during restorations.

The historical development of the site and its buildings is complex, consisting of many sequences of building, alteration, and addition. The sequence of occupation and tenancy is certainly no less complicated.<sup>1</sup> The development of the main frontage and the hall has been studied in detail, although the analysis and interpretation of the records is incomplete. The maintenance of a thorough and up to date understanding of the site is one of the problems facing the conservation manager of the site. Although the conservation plan is designed to help in this respect, it seems that although archaeological recording has been undertaken, the analysis of the findings is far from complete.<sup>2</sup>

The following report is a preliminary attempt to place the fabric of the west range within an overall historical development of the site and provide some assessment of its significance. In this sense, it is tentative and, it is hoped will pose certain questions that may be answered through further research.

The parts of the building have been given various names and room numbers in the past. In this report, the room numbering system adopted in the 1988 survey is used. The range consisting of the Rooms 13, 15, 16, and 23 is referred to as the Blue Anchor Lane Wing.<sup>3</sup> It is built over the undercroft Room 8 and the western half of 7. The block consisting of the Rooms 14, 14a, 24, and 24a, built over the undercroft Room 9 is referred to as The Georgian Wing.

<sup>1</sup> A brief outline of the sequence of occupation, as it is understood from documentary sources is given in Russell and Smith 1997

<sup>2</sup> Information from Andy Russell, manager of the Southampton City Archaeological Unit

<sup>3</sup> This label seems to have been first adopted by Russell and Smith 1997.

## 2. *The background to the request*

### **Sources consulted and research undertaken in the preparation of this report**

The sources consulted for this report are presented here and as illustrations according to their chronological sequence.

Historic maps of Southampton show the town within its medieval walls with waterfronts to the west and south. The first detailed map showing property divisions on the site of Tudor House appears to be the first edition map prepared by the Ordnance Survey in 1848, Figure 1. The site now known as Tudor House includes, to the west and immediately inside the town wall, the twelfth century building known as King John's Palace. It also includes 59 Bugle Street, known as the Cottage.

The earliest attempt to show the internal divisions appears to be the 'Draft Plan of Premises at St Michael's Square,' 1860, Figure 2. This drawing is marked up to show tenancies but it is not clear where one tenancy ends and another begins.

Despite the area being considered a slum around the turn of the century, Tudor House appears in several photographs before Spranger stripped its external plaster and exposed its timber framing. These photographs show how the east end of Blue Anchor Lane was built over, concealing the north elevation of Tudor House from St Michael's Square, Figure 3 and Figure 4.

At first, Spranger restored only the eastern block on the present site and this formed the extent of the property that he offered to Southampton Council in 1905, Figure 7. Later, in 1912/13, the site he offered occupied the area it does today, Figure 9 and Figure 10. Southampton Council took it on and adapted it as a museum.

When the museum first opened, only the main eastern block and the hall were open to the public, the Blue Anchor Lane Wing was adapted as quarters for a caretaker. In 1918, the caretaker moved to the Cottage, the adjacent property on the south side of the site. It is assumed that the Blue Anchor Lane Wing was then used for museum display.<sup>4</sup> In the early 1950s, partition walls were removed from this wing apparently to improve the display areas although no displays appear in the photographs taken after the walls were removed, Figure 11 and Figure 12. Comparison between the 1913 first floor plan and these photographs shows that partition walls in the eastern half of Room 23 were removed and reduced to dado height at the top of the stairs.

Between 1953 and 1969, Tudor House was included in an archaeological and architectural survey of medieval buildings in Southampton by PA Faulkner.<sup>5</sup> This appears to be the most recent attempt to publish phased plans of the site, Figure 13 to Figure 15. Faulkner's interest was clearly medieval, he assigned almost everything west of the hall above basement level to the period 'post 16c.'

In 1984-5, further stripping out took place in the Blue Anchor Lane Wing as part of a four phase repair programme, under the direction of Mr Bob Thomson, Ancient Monuments Officer for Southampton Council, Figure 16 and Figure 17.<sup>6</sup>

The metric survey of the site by Southampton City Council, commissioned in 1987, provides a more accurate basis for analysis than the Faulkner plans.<sup>7</sup> Because the relationship between structural elements at different floor levels is essential to an understanding of the historical development of the site, these plans are reproduced here in colour, Figure 18 to Figure 20, and as overlay drawings, Figure 21 to Figure 23.

<sup>4</sup> Russell and Smith 1997, 8

<sup>5</sup> Faulkner 1975, 117-124

<sup>6</sup> Draft Conservation Plan 2000, section 3.5.7

<sup>7</sup> Draft Conservation Plan 2000, section 3.5.8

Soon after this survey, Peter Davies, Chief Historic Buildings Inspector for Southampton, published preliminary findings based on the archaeological investigations following further stripping out in the second floor above the hall.<sup>8</sup> The brief report included an elevation of the east front and a ground plan marked up with the outlines of the supposed medieval tenements, Figure 24 and Figure 25.

Between 1995 and 1998 the City Council's Archaeology Unit undertook a programme of investigation and recording in the main eastern range, using photogrammetry and rectified photography. Full analysis of these findings is incomplete but an interim report has been assembled.<sup>9</sup>

In 2000, Southampton Council commissioned a conservation plan for the management of the site from the architects Purcell Miller Tritton. The principal author for the architects on the historical development of the site, Ruth Gilding, synthesised the accounts of the building's developments from many sources but was especially reliant on the 1997 report by Russell and Smith. Some of the illustrations in the present report are copied from the draft conservation plan.<sup>10</sup>

In the same year, in preparation for a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for major repairs and improved visitor facilities at Tudor House Museum, Southampton Council also commissioned the architects Purcell Miller Tritton to undertake a development study. This document proposes an outline for works to the building that are designed to meet the council's needs while being mindful of the issues raised in the conservation plan.<sup>11</sup> This document contained four proposals for the siting of a lift.

Following discussion between the English Heritage Historic Buildings Inspector, David Brock, and the Conservation Manager, Kevin White, a fifth option for the siting of the lift was considered. To further explore the potential impact of the installation of a lift in or adjacent to the east half of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, the advice of the English Heritage Historical Analysis and Research Team was sought. This resulted in a day visit to the site by the present author, Richard Lea, in the company of Kevin White, during which time the photographs that illustrate this report were taken, Figure 26 onwards.

The present study is clearly not exhaustive, further research and survey is essential to a better understanding of the building. In the meantime, it is hoped that the interpretation offered here will be of value in assessing the relative significance of the historic fabric in the area of the proposed lift shaft.

### *3. The historic development of the site*

#### **The late medieval and Tudor period**

The site now known as Tudor House, including the Cottage, occupies a strip of land running east west between the city wall and Bugle Street, one of the main streets in the medieval town layout. In the medieval period, this section of the city wall stood at the back of the town wharf. On its north side, the site is bounded by Blue Anchor Lane, running between the city wall and Bugle Street. The width of the present site is determined at its west end by the twelfth-century building known as King John's Palace. The design of this substantial building clearly reflects its function as the house of a wealthy merchant, with accommodation on the first floor and warehouse space below. The western half of the site was built on a smaller scale, more typical of medieval town development, with the eastern frontage divided into four.

<sup>8</sup> Davies 1988

<sup>9</sup> Russell and Smith 1997

<sup>10</sup> Draft Conservation Plan 2000

<sup>11</sup> Draft Development Study 2000

The buildings that now comprise 'Tudor House' were built over a group of medieval undercrofts, Rooms 1 to 9, aligned east west, Figure 13 and Figure 18. Room 9, underneath the 'Georgian Wing' and aligned north south, is the one notable exception to this pattern. It is generally assumed that, with the exception of the last mentioned, each of these undercrofts represents a separate medieval property rather than buildings of two or more bays in width.

The southern undercroft, Room 1, has a low four-centred tunnel vault and is constructed with neatly coursed ashlar, Figure 29 and Figure 30. This contrasts significantly with the construction of the undercrofts lying to the north, which are built with uncoursed rubble and show no sign of any vaulting. The undercrofts contain very little datable fabric. The doorways in the southern vault, Room 7, Figure 30, and between the long north undercroft and its southern extension, Figure 32, provide the primary stylistic dating evidence. Faulkner assigns them to the early fifteenth-century.<sup>12</sup>

A possible building break in this construction is visible in the north-east corner of the northern undercroft, Room 5, Figure 31. This could perhaps relate to the reference to John Dawtreys's documented enlargement of his house seven feet 'into the Strete' in 1492-3.<sup>13</sup> A better understanding of the construction of these structures may become apparent when the drawn survey of the cellar walls is analysed.

Understanding the development of these buildings is currently hampered by at least two obstacles. The first is the sequence of alteration and subdivision of the cellars by later brick walls and chimney stacks that conceal the medieval fabric and the second is that at least one error in survey has obscured the relationship between the below and above ground structures.

Faulkner's published plan shows a kink in the alignment of the north wall of the undercroft midway across the north wall of the hall, Figure 13. Comparison with the later survey, Figure 18, however, suggests that there was no kink at this point. Instead, the north and south walls appear to be continuous through Rooms 5, 7, 8. If we ignore the modern brick walls between these rooms, it would appear as one long cellar, sixty feet in length. That this was built as such is accepted by Peter Davies, in his published plan of 'the four medieval buildings',<sup>14</sup> and in the most recent interpretation of the site by Russell and Smith, Figure 24.<sup>15</sup>

Its single alignment and uniform width strongly suggest that the northern undercroft is of one build. A cellar of this length would not have been exceptional for the period.<sup>16</sup> However, it is perhaps possible that it was built in one phase of construction but originally as two undercrofts. If so, then the most likely line for the division between the two, would probably be that of the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing. Changes in the block size of the masonry in the south wall at this point suggest that a wall on this line might have been removed, Figure 33. Furthermore, the area under the western half of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing has not been excavated. Perhaps this too was built over an undercroft that might have been a continuation of that lying to the east.

In the current analysis of the development of the site, it is generally assumed that the above and below ground structures are not contemporary. Russell and Smith suggest that the masonry parts of the hall and the underlying undercroft are contemporary but stop short of

<sup>12</sup> Faulkner 1975, phase plans only, the date is not cited in the text.

<sup>13</sup> This reference is cited by Russell and Smith 1997, 5

<sup>14</sup> Davies 1988, fig 2, reproduced in the draft conservation plan, fig. 4. It is implicit in the drawings in Davies's report, although not spelt out in the text, that the 'hall' of Tudor House was not originally built as a single structure but achieved through the throwing together of the parts of two adjacent buildings.

<sup>15</sup> Russell and Smith 1997, 4

<sup>16</sup> Faulkner 1975 illustrates several medieval undercrofts on this scale.

associating any of the timber framing directly with the below ground structures.<sup>17</sup> This assumption seems to be based on stylistic dating of the fabric. This, however, seems approximate and it might therefore be possible that at least some of the timber framing and the construction of the undercrofts could be contemporary. There are no arguments cited against contemporaneity other than style.

The documentary sources for the period indicate a succession of relatively wealthy owners.<sup>18</sup> However, it seems the relationship between the documented ownership and the building fabric is lacking in specifics, although two extensions into the streets by Dawtrey in 1491 and 1492-3 can probably be related to the present fabric.

### **The seventeenth- through to the nineteenth-century**

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1848 shows the site subdivided by simplified property boundaries, Figure 1. The east frontage, excluding the cottage, is divided into two. The northern property is shown extending along Blue Anchor Lane, beyond the 'Georgian Wing' which is shown as a separate entity.

The 'Draft Plan of the Premises at St Michael Square' of 1860 shows more internal detail and attaches names of occupiers to the properties but it is difficult to determine the extent of any one tenancy, Figure 2. This plan, however, clearly shows a 'passage' running within the building beside Blue Anchor Lane, from the east front through to the west range. It shows the north bay in the east front tenanted as a shop and the bays to the south with a central door tenanted by W Poole. The buildings to the west of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing are shown used as a dye house.

Of the two names shown occupying the shop, that which is crossed out and presumably earlier, is the name of a dyer, G Pope. The name 'Pope & Co., Dyers,' appears in one of the earliest photographs of Tudor House painted on the front of the room above the porch at the north end of the building, Figure 3. This shows that, at this date at least, the passage running along the north side of the building served to provide a street frontage for the buildings to the west of the site.

### **The late nineteenth- and twentieth-century restorations**

Spranger purchased the buildings now known as Tudor House in 1886. At first, it seems he tidied up the façade by removing the signs for Pope & Co., Figure 4. Later, *c* 1900, when the adjacent building to the north was demolished, the close studding of the north elevation was revealed, Figure 5. This probably stimulated his interest in exposing the timber framing for the rest of the building. At first, progress was piecemeal and only the north porch was restored, Figure 6, but by the time he offered the building to the council, in 1905, it seems the framing of the whole of the east façade had either been stripped or reconstructed, Figure 7 and Figure 8.

The plan of the premises Spranger offered the council in 1905 does not include the Blue Anchor Lane Wing or any of the other buildings to the west, Figure 7. It seems from this that his restoration work was generally limited to the main frontage on Bugle Street and the hall. The Blue Anchor Lane Wing therefore appears to have been left unaltered during this period. The correspondence between the plans of 1913, made when Spranger made his second offer to the council, and the plan of 1860 suggests that this was the case. The plans of the ground and first floors show passages running along the north side of the house corresponding with those on the 1860 plan, Figure 9 and Figure 10.

<sup>17</sup> Russell and Smith 1997, 4

<sup>18</sup> Russell and Smith 1997, 4

#### *4. The Blue Anchor Lane Wing in the late medieval period*

The west range of Tudor House is a two storied timber frame building aligned east west with a jettied frontage onto Blue Anchor lane, Figure 27. In plan, it corresponds with the rooms now identified as Rooms 13, 15, 16 on the ground floor, Figure 19, and Room 23 on the first floor, Figure 20. It has been much altered since its construction and many of the internal partition walls have been removed. Because attention has in the past focussed so much on the Tudor House as a town house of a Tudor merchant, this range has been seen as a service wing. However, although it may have acquired this function during the Tudor period, it would seem from the design of its jettied timber frame construction that it was probably not originally built for this purpose.

Its relationship to the undercroft beneath the eastern half the range is now confused by the presence of brick walls in the basement space on lines that do not correspond with the structures above. The cells created by these subdividing walls are those identified by the room numbers used in recent surveys. The eastern half of the west range now overlies the undercroft Room 8 and the western half of Room 7. The terminal wall of the range, also the west wall of the hall, is supported by a substantial beam at ground floor level. There is a possible building break in the masonry south wall of the undercroft on this line. It is quite possible that the western half of the range also sits above an undercroft, but this has not been excavated.

From the uniformity of the framing of the north elevation, the range was built as a single development of two units of approximately equal size. The break between the two units is marked in the centre of the jettied façade by a step in the ground floor level and two closely spaced vertical timbers, denoting trusses, each with an arched brace supporting the jetty. Internally, roof trusses divide each of the two units into approximately two equal sized bays. In the exterior elevation, arched brackets below the jetty mark the positions of the roof trusses. The framing of the first floor elevation above the jetty is simple, consisting of close studding with a window opening in each bay. To the east, there is a single arch brace between the end post and the wall plate. Internally, evidence for wall partitions is provided by mortices in the soffits of the first floor beams, Figure 34. The evidence suggests that each of the two units was originally divided in two by partition walls on the lines of the roof trusses. The south wall of the range is probably concealed behind a thin skin of stretcher bond brickwork, Figure 28.

It seems there were also partitions running east-west but of a less substantial nature, probably wattle and daub infill between uprights. Preserved under the stairs, are at least two oak timbers that formed the bottom rails of medieval or late medieval stud framed walls. Set within the east wall just above the floor level is an oak timber with a peg in its exposed face, Figure 35. This suggests that it formed part of a wall frame. Jointed to it and running east-west is a similar timber which, in its upper face, is morticed to receive an upright and grooved to receive wattle infill, Figure 36. This timber appears to be aligned with a bridging beam in the floor above, Figure 37.

The presence of the remains of a smoke hood in the roof at the east end of the wing shows that one if not both floors were originally heated. The lining of the smoke hood suggests that the smoke originally exited through the east gable wall of the wing. This suggests that the wing predates the upper floor, at least, of the hall

The arrangement of these partition walls, the fenestration, the jetty and the repetition of bays suggest that this structure was originally designed to provide domestic accommodation in the form of tenements, rather than services for a larger house.

#### *5. The 'Georgian Wing' in the seventeenth-century*

The 'Georgian Wing' is so called because of the mid-Georgian fireplaces and joinery in the two principal rooms, Figure 39 and Figure 40. Externally, the building is covered with a

mixture of finishes, tile, painted render and a thick layer of modern cement roughcast, all of which conceal the brick construction, Figure 42. Not surprisingly, removal of a small area of this render has shown the building has been altered. The exposed section of brick wall contains vertical joints that suggest a return wall that might relate to a stack that would predate the Georgian arrangement in the wing of one large fireplace for each floor. The base of this stack is visible in the south wall of the undercroft, Room 9.

The general form of the structure, a rather tall rectangular block aligned north south, with a polygonal bay facing west, seems to date from the eighteenth-century but this does not take into account the presence of a large staircase that must surely date from the seventeenth-, Figure 43. This staircase, geometrical, with square section newels and turned finials, closed string construction with thick turned balusters, is formal between the ground and first floor but also links through to the basement as a service stair. The surrounding plain wall panelling appears contemporary. Such a grand feature implies a reasonably substantial dwelling house, larger than the Georgian Wing alone. When first constructed, it must have been designed to serve the Blue Anchor Lane and Georgian Wings, combined as one house.

Access to this house must have been problematic. Although there is now a substantial door in the east wall of the stair hall, there is nothing in the history of the site to suggest that there was independent access through the gardens and courtyards to the south, Figure 44. The door itself appears to date from Spranger's work, but the frame may be more historic. It probably only ever served as a door to the gardens: the principal point of entry into the house was probably located elsewhere. It might have been the door in the north wall of Blue Anchor Lane approximately in the centre of the jettied façade, but throughout its history, this lane appears to have been a minor thoroughfare. It probably did not have sufficient status for entry to a house with such a grand staircase, Figure 45. It therefore seems reasonable to suppose that formal access to this house was obtained via the passage shown on the 1860 plan, running along the north side of Tudor House from the porch at the north-east corner, Figure 2. The north-south corridor aligned with the secondary door onto Blue Anchor Lane, shown in the 1913 plan probably led to the grand seventeenth-century staircase, Figure 9. The construction of this last corridor would have incurred the disuse of any fireplace that might have formed part of the east face of the stack in the middle of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing.

## *6. The Blue Anchor Lane Wing and the Georgian Wing in the eighteenth-century*

A timber staircase, which appears to date on stylistic grounds to the first half of the eighteenth-century, links the ground to the first floor at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, Figure 46. A second stair, shown at the west end of the wing on the plans 1913, was perhaps contemporary but it has been removed since that date, Figure 9 and Figure 10. The introduction of a staircase into the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing marks the removal of the partition wall implied by the bottom rail and ceiling beam discussed above. This removal probably occurred in the seventeenth-century or earlier, depending on the date of the creation of the through passage along the north side of Tudor House.

The stair and the panelled staircase walls are of pine construction, which suggests a seventeenth-century date or later. All exposed timber details but not those under the stairs, are stripped of historic paint and coated with a brown stained varnish. This appears to have been applied in at least two stages because, where the central section of each riser was left bare for a stair carpet, it has since been coated with a slightly darker brown stain varnish. The treads are currently carpeted with a beige carpet and the nosing of each tread is covered with protective rubber. The understair area is rough finished and clearly not designed to be seen, Figure 48. The absence of traces of plaster and lath applied to the underside of the stairs suggests that the space under the stairs has always been contained. The paper and limewash applied to the underside of the stairs appears to date from the 1830s, see below.



Because, the underside of the stairs is left rough it appears there was no communication with the undercroft below.

Three of the staircase walls are of plain panelling that consists solely of upright boards and bead moulded stiles. This is a form of muntin and plank panelling which was commonly used in the medieval period but its light weight and the use of pine in place of oak suggests a seventeenth- or eighteenth-century date. Furthermore, there is no attempt at framing the panelling with rails at top or bottom. On the east wall of the staircase, the panelling appears only above the rising flight of stairs. On the west staircase wall, the panelling now survives above the return flight of stairs and for a short distance below each step, Figure 48. Originally, it was probably like the east wall and only fitted above the stairs, Figure 35. This is probably because the return flight appears to have been raised in height. The south wall is of single thickness and does not appear to incorporate any substantial structural elements although it supports the quarter landing and winders of the stair. Its original appearance, before being stripped of paint and coated in brown stained varnish, is preserved in the small annexe/cupboard east of the chimney stack in Room 13, Figure 49. The staircase walls are now cut down to the level of the hand rail at first floor level, Figure 50. They were probably cut down in the early 1950s when the partition walls were removed from the wing. Originally, the staircase walls probably rose to a first floor ceiling, which probably survived until the same time.

The west and the north walls of the staircase have stud frames of rough-cut oak with plaster and lath applied to their outer faces, Figure 48. The faces internal to the stairwell show no traces of plaster and lath. Part of the west wall is infilled with relatively dust free machine sawn pine and fresh plaster and lath, which appears to be a recent intervention, probably from within the last ten years. The size of the infill suggests a door opening which may represent the removal of a historic door that gave better access to the area under the stairs. If so, it was probably removed in the interest of fire protection: such a door would probably have been very insubstantial. Its proximity to the door between Rooms 13 and 13A probably also caused problems, Figure 51.

The stairs are geometrical, that is, they are built around an open well: the newels are not common to the two flights of stairs. Although the well is blocked off with a board, this feature alone indicates a degree of formality that is consistent with domestic rather than industrial or service use. The turn in the stairs is now achieved with a quarter-landing and two winders but this was not always the case. In its original form, it appears to have had two quarter-landings and the upper flight was two steps lower than it is now. The stairs are of closed string construction. For polite staircases, this alone suggests a date in the seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century before exposed tread ends became much more common. This staircase therefore has several characteristics in common with the larger staircase in the Georgian Wing. Both are geometric, of closed string construction, and were built with quarter-landings. They therefore appear broadly contemporary.

The alteration to the quarter landing and the raising of the upper flight appears to have occurred in the 1830s and is discussed below. The alterations probably did not include the lower set of balusters, since they fit with this form of staircase. The simpler turned balusters at first floor level are however of a different design and probably date from the alteration, Figure 50.

For the lower flight of stairs, the top moulding of the string next to the well is now one piece with the two boards that infill the stairwell. These boards are relatively thin and insubstantial, with an applied bead moulding on the exposed edge and a bead moulding on the tongue and groove joint between the two boards. The use of bead moulded tongue and groove boards and an applied bead moulding suggest a nineteenth- or twentieth century date. The string itself, however, and a more substantial board beneath the tongue and groove boards appear to be original.

The newels are plain, square in section, without finials. The handrail consists of a plain rectangular section with a simple moulded section on top. The moulding has lost its

original crispness through wear and, probably, the paint stripping process. The turned balusters in the lower flight and that in the short return for the landings appear to be original. Those on the first floor landing probably date from the alterations of c 1840. The original balusters suggest a date in the first half of the eighteenth -century.

Overall, this staircase, in its original form would appear to date from c 1700. It is possible that it is contemporary with the larger staircase in the Georgian Wing and functioned within the large house consisting of the Georgian Wing and Blue Anchor Lane Wing. However, it may also date from an alteration to the implied house that adapted it for subdivision and shared occupancy.

### *7. Alterations to the Georgian Wing c 1770*

The two fireplaces in the Georgian Wing appear to date from c 1770, Figure 39 and Figure 40. They are probably contemporary with the joinery of the bay windows and the plaster cornices. The construction of the bay itself may well date from this period. They may also correspond with alterations to the main façade onto Bugle Street which is shown in early photographs with a round headed entrance door and sash windows on the ground floor, Figure 3. These features suggest that the house was in the hands of a wealthy owner c 1770. The date corresponds with the occupancy of George Rogers, artist, who, it seems, returned the house to single occupancy.<sup>19</sup>

### *8. Alterations in the Blue Anchor Lane Wing c 1840*

The fireplace in Room 13 of grey veined marble with reeded and fluted mouldings and paterae at the corners must on stylistic grounds date from c 1840 and the stack must therefore have been functional at this date. Its position in the plan, however, is curious because it is set a short distance from the end wall of the wing, which is also the side wall of the hall. The intervening space was probably used as a cupboard. The stack, however, does not pass through to the first floor as might be expected. Instead, the flue rises outside the south wall of the wing to join the main stack of the hall, Figure 42. The quality of the brickwork suggests that this arrangement is probably contemporary with the both the facing of the south wall of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing at this point and with the marble fireplace. If so, then Room 23 was probably heated in this period by the fireplace on the east side of the stack in the centre of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, Figure 12.

Alterations to the staircase at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing appear to be contemporary: they are dated by newspapers glued to the underside of the stairs, Figure 54. The clearest sign of alteration is the scarf joint in the newel at the start of the upper flight. The next is the double height string of the upper flight next to the well. The joint between the two strings, the original and that of the raised flight, is concealed by an applied moulding. Underneath the stairs, the clumsy arrangement of supports for the two winders is indicative of alteration.<sup>20</sup> After the alteration, the whole of the underside of the stairs appears to have been papered with newspapers that date from the 1830s and painted with limewash. The last coat to be applied was pink. At the top of the stairs along the landing balustrade was probably introduced at this date. The simple turned balusters are fitted below a mid-eighteenth-century handrail that differs from that on the two rising flights. Some the landing balusters are fitted upside down, Figure 55.

### *9. Spranger's restorations in the Blue Anchor Lane and Georgian Wings, c 1900*

The west range appears to have been little altered by Spranger. However, the door to the garden from the Georgian Wing stair hall and the door between this and the Blue Anchor Lane Wing may date from this period, although the frames are probably earlier.

<sup>19</sup> Russell and Smith 1997, 6

<sup>20</sup> The winders are shown on the 1913 plans of the ground floor plan but not of the first floor.

The paint stripping and brown varnish applied to the staircase at the east end of the Georgian Wing probably also date from this period. The layout of the partition walls in the first floor plan of 1913 suggests that the staircase walls were still full height and probably rose to a ceiling above the first floor.

### *10. The removal of the partition walls from the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, c 1953*

The removal of the internal partitions from the Blue Anchor Lane Wing significantly affects the visitor's ability to interpret the development of this range. Their removal was not, it seems, accompanied by a serious attempt to study or present the historic fabric of the building. Instead, the priority was to allow for improvements in the displays.

The partitions were probably not those that were first installed in the building. These would have been on the lines of the trusses, with cross walls probably located on the major floor beams. What was removed, probably dated from the seventeenth- or eighteenth-century. The staircase shown on the 1913 plan at the west end of the wing was probably also removed at this time, while the upper parts of the staircase at the east end of the wing were cut down to handrail level in an attempt to produce open plan display areas.

### *11. Repairs to the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, 1984-5*

The photographs taken in 1984/5 show the floorboards removed and some of the roof covering at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, Figure 16 and Figure 17. It seems that in Room 23, during these works, the wall plate, the roof truss tiebeam and the window were replaced, Figure 55, Figure 56 and Figure 57.

If a lift were to be installed in this part of the site, then entry through the south wall would require the removal of this window, and probably alterations to the wall plate. Perhaps more significantly it would also necessitate the removal of some the external brickwork which is probably little more than a skin concealing original close studding. If an entry were to be cut through the wall at this point, it is essential that the earlier fabric is recorded and analysed.

### *12. Conclusion*

Despite the relatively recent removal of historic partition walling, the Blue Anchor Lane and Georgian Wings preserve significant fabric from the medieval period onwards. In some senses, it is easier to interpret this combined range than the main block to the east, which is now complicated by a veneer of restoration. However, a more detailed understanding of the physical development of the range than that presented here, is essential to the interpretation of the documentary evidence for the site. The documented history clearly indicates a complex succession of ownership and multiple tenancies and this is reflected in the fabric but it deserves closer study. Dendrochronology could perhaps provide some important dates for the study of this site, especially for the west range.

The installation of a lift shaft in the staircase at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing would destroy an important survival from this middle period. It is important not just for the quality of its build that indicates domestic use but it also hints at the scale of the domestic room spaces it served. Its location off the narrow passage from the porch at the front of Tudor House preserves a labyrinthine quality that must have been much more evident when the missing partition walls were intact.

The installation of a lift shaft adjacent to the short length of external wall on the south side of Rooms 13 and 23 would also have a significant impact on the historic fabric. It would probably require the removal of the short length of flue, probably from the first half of the nineteenth-century that links the fireplace in Room 13 to the main hall stack, the blocking

off, although not necessarily the removal of the ground floor window in the south wall of Room 13, and the cutting of an opening through the south wall of Room 23. This section of wall, below the present modern window probably contains Tudor timber framing although externally it appears as a brick wall. The principal advantage of this proposed site however, is that it is tucked away in a small corner of the site that generally attracts little attention, Figure 58.

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Figure 1, a detail from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Ordnance Survey map of Hampshire, 1848. Reproduced here with east at the top (Southampton Record Office).



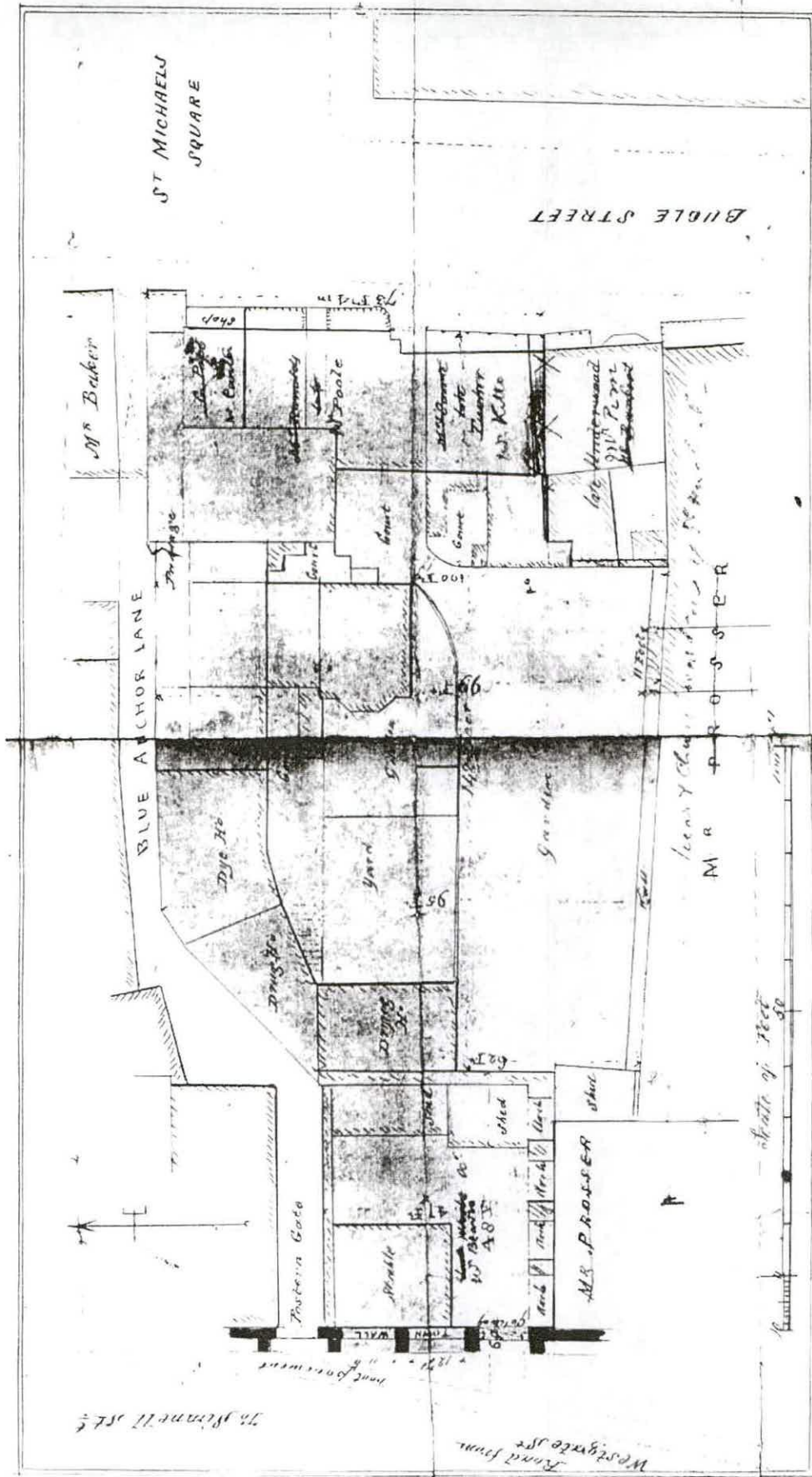


Figure 2, a 'Draft Plan of Premises at St Michael's Square,' 1860 (SC4/4/1437, SRO)



Figure 3, 'Old Palace House', Tudor House photographed prior to 1890, with shopfronts. Note that the dyers Pope and Co. who occupied the Blue Anchor Lane Wing and buildings further west on the site had their main entrance on St Michael's Square (P/V 613, SRO).





Figure 4, an early photograph, probably *c* 1900, showing the buildings fronting Bugle Street and St Michael's Square before Spranger's restorations. A building to the north spans the entrance to Blue Anchor Lane (from a photograph reproduced in Hinton 1988).



Figure 5, Tudor House from the north-east, after the demolition of the house to the north, c 1900 (M3834, Curator of Local Collections, Southampton City Council)





Figure 6, Tudor House, partially restored by Spranger, c 1900. The north elevation and the porch are shown stripped of plaster but the façade to the south remains unaltered (*Southampton Annual*, 1901, Southampton, Local Studies Library).

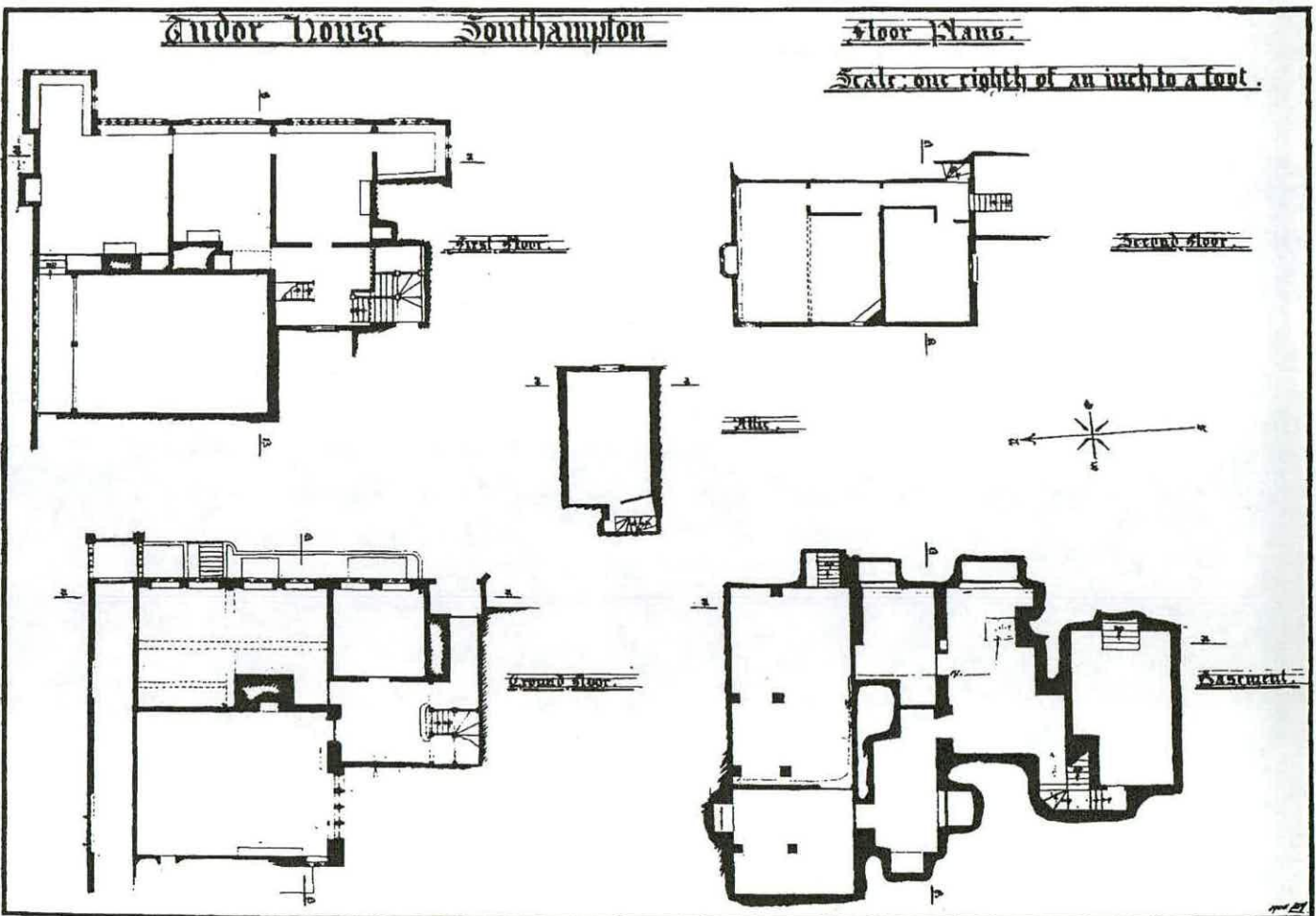


Figure 7, Tudor House, Southampton, floor plans, scale: one eighth of an inch to a foot, 1905 (SC/EN4/24/19A, 1269, SRO)



Figure 8, Tudor House from the north east, after Spranger's restoration (P275/257(B), SRO)



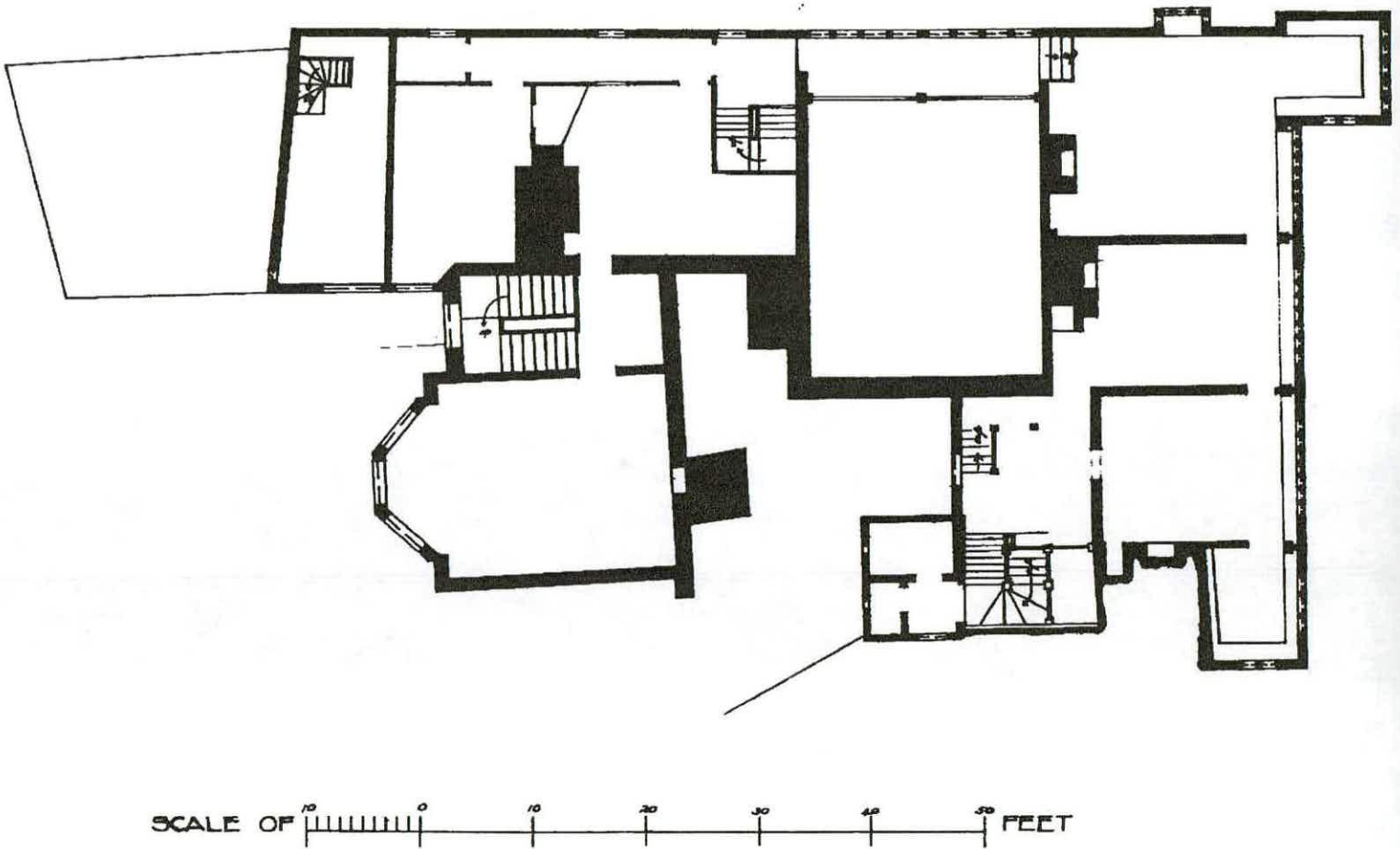


Figure 10, County Borough of Southampton, "Tudor House", Sketch Plan of First Floor,  
dated 5 May 1913 (SC/EN/4/24/19A, 1269, SRO)



Figure 11, Room 23 looking east, after removal of partition walls, 1953 (Southern Newspapers Ltd. Curator of Local Collections).

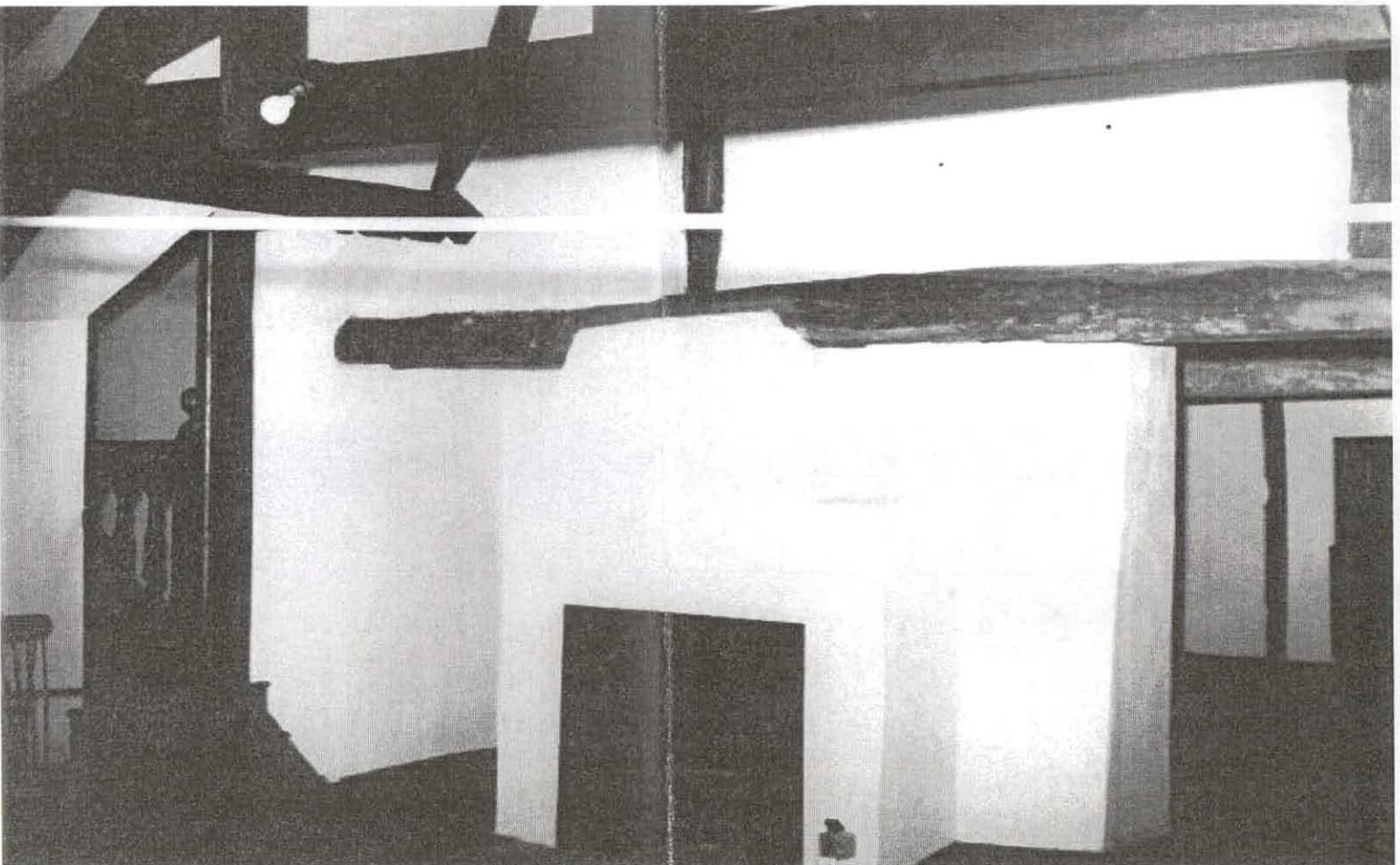


Figure 12, Room 23, looking west, after the removal of the partition walls, 1953 (Southern Newspapers Ltd, Curator of Local Collections)



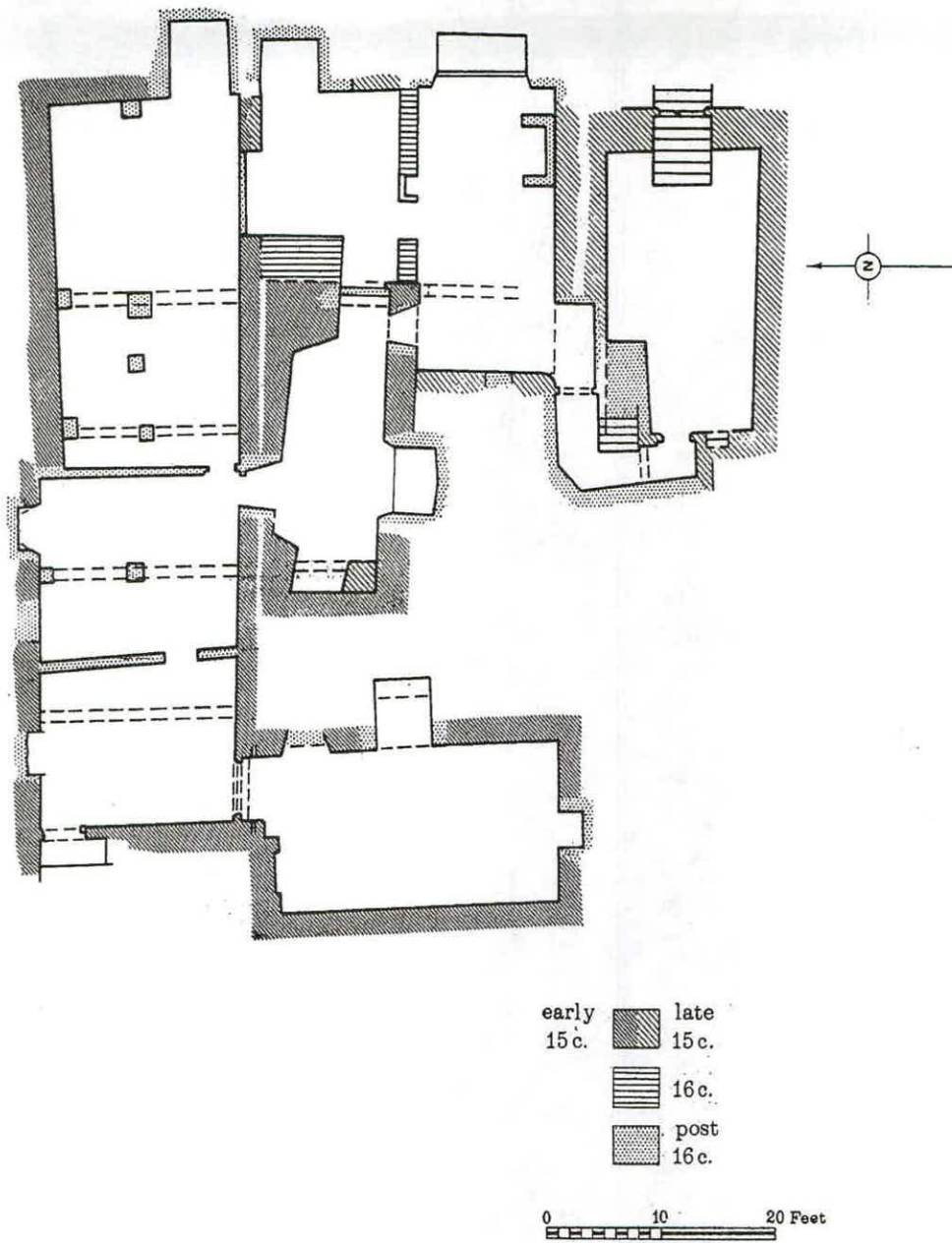


Figure 13, the plan of the undercrofts beneath Tudor House (Faulkner, 1975, fig. 30)

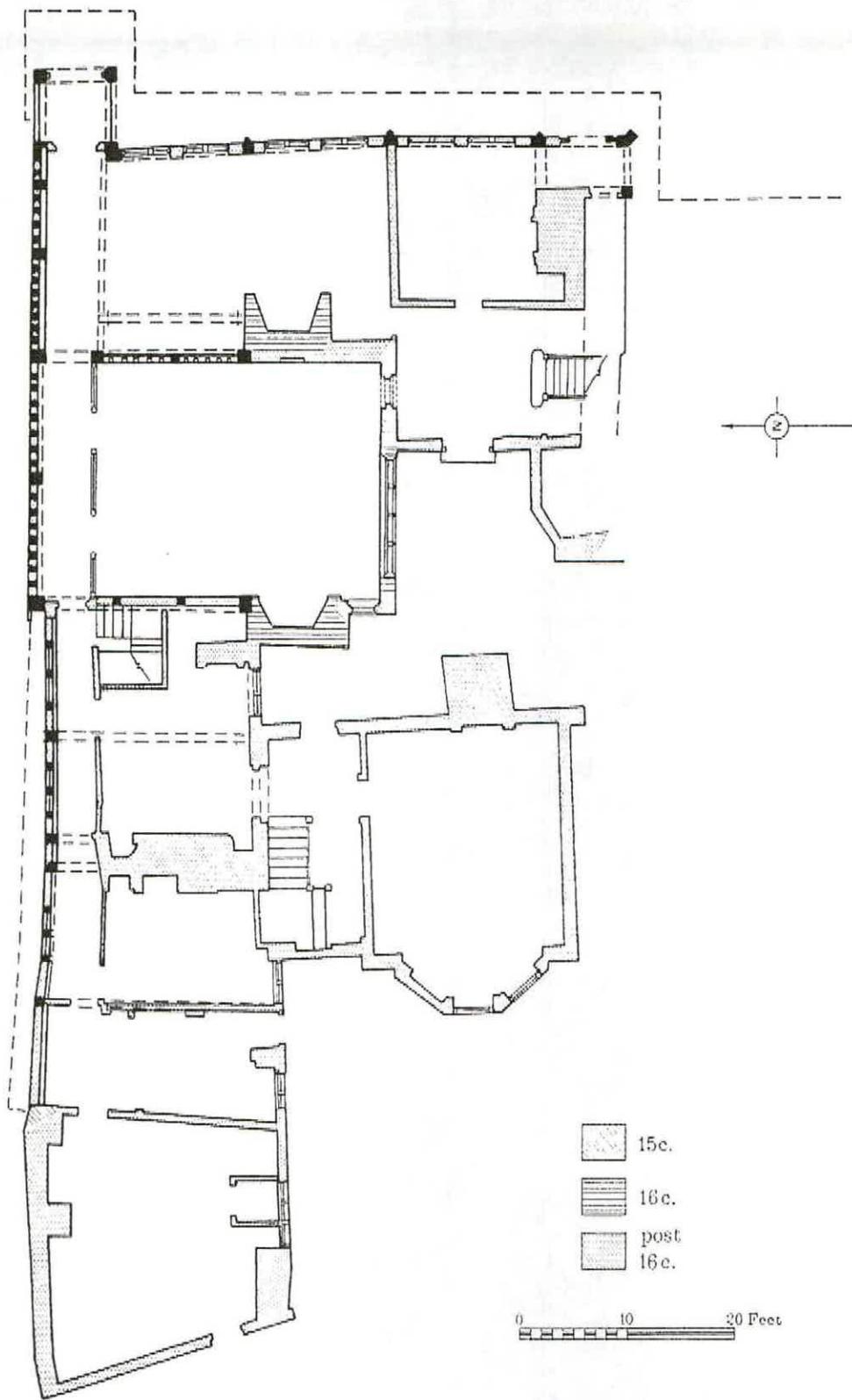


Figure 14, the plan of the ground floor of Tudor House (Faulkner, 1975, fig. 31)

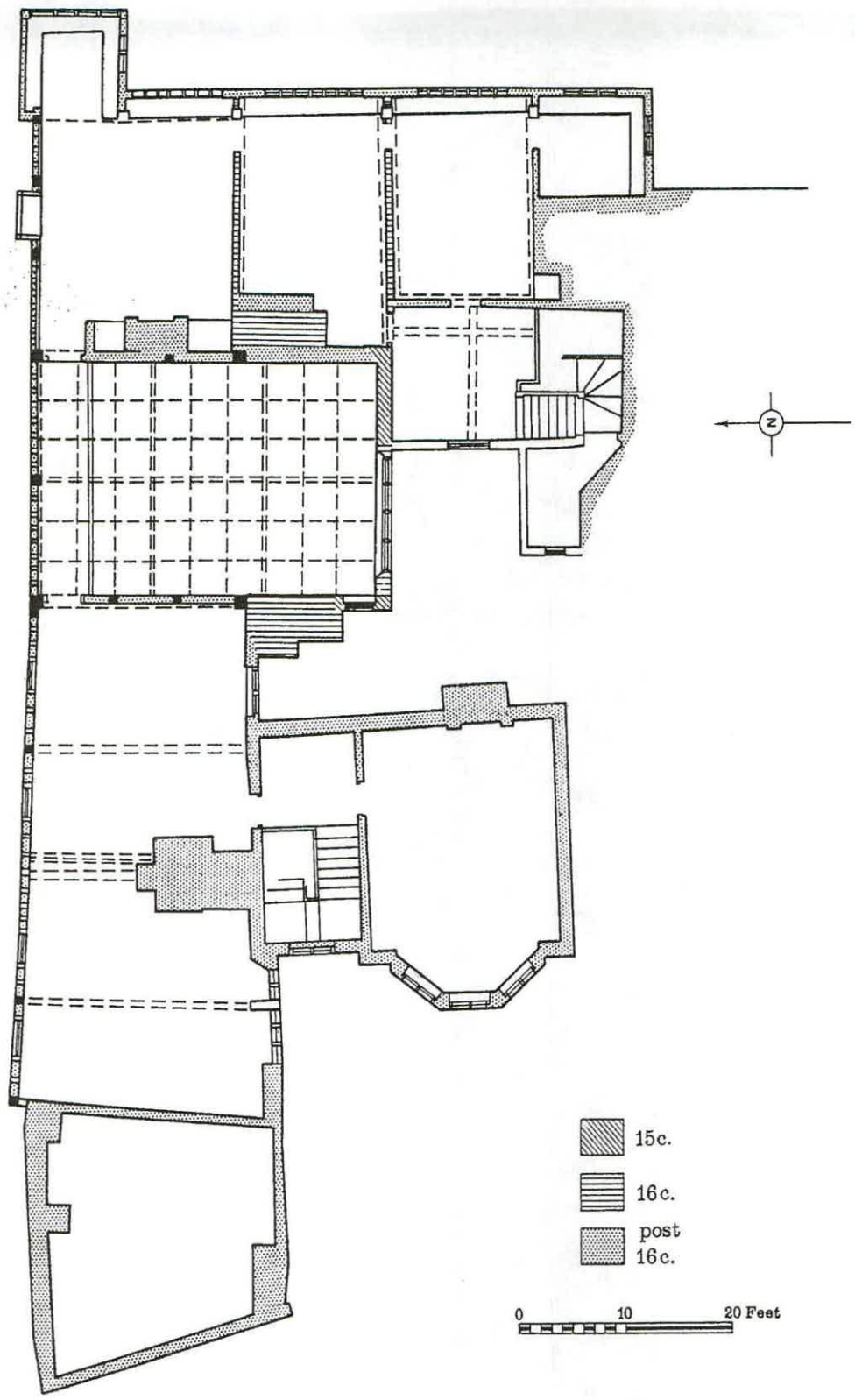


Figure 15, the plan of the first floor of Tudor House (Faulkner, 1975, fig. 32)



Figure 16, Room 23, east of central stack, looking south, during restoration works of 1984-5 (Conservation Manager, Southampton Council).





Figure 17, Room 23, west of the central stack, looking south during restoration works of 1984-5 (Conservation Manager, Southampton Council).

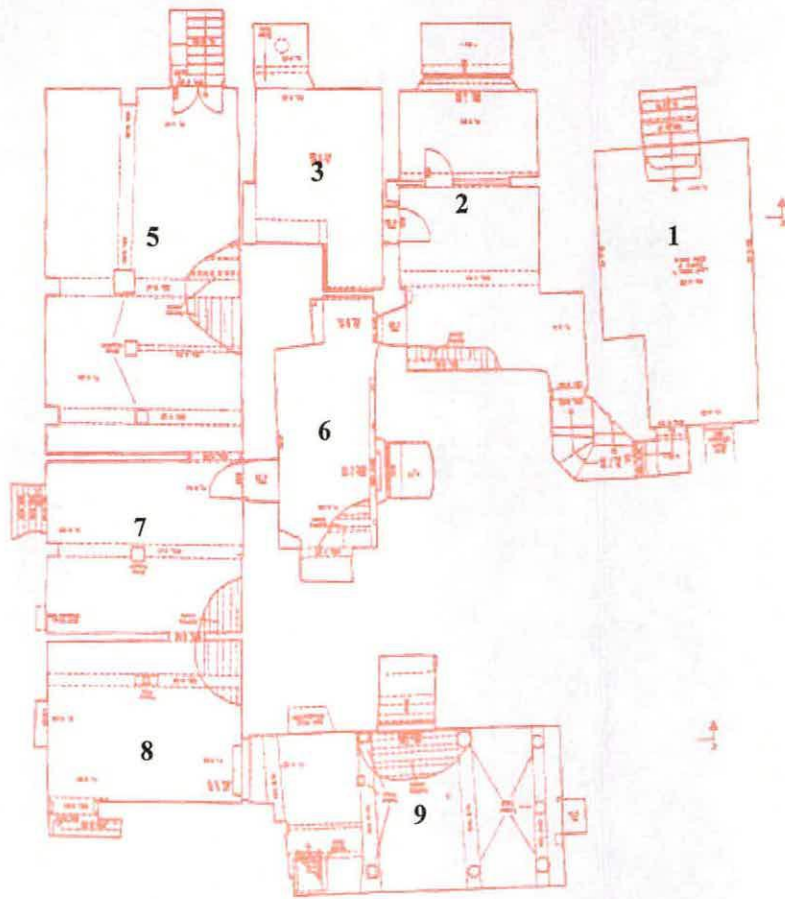


Figure 18, plan of the basement from the copy of the Southampton City Council survey of c 1987. Room numbers have been added.

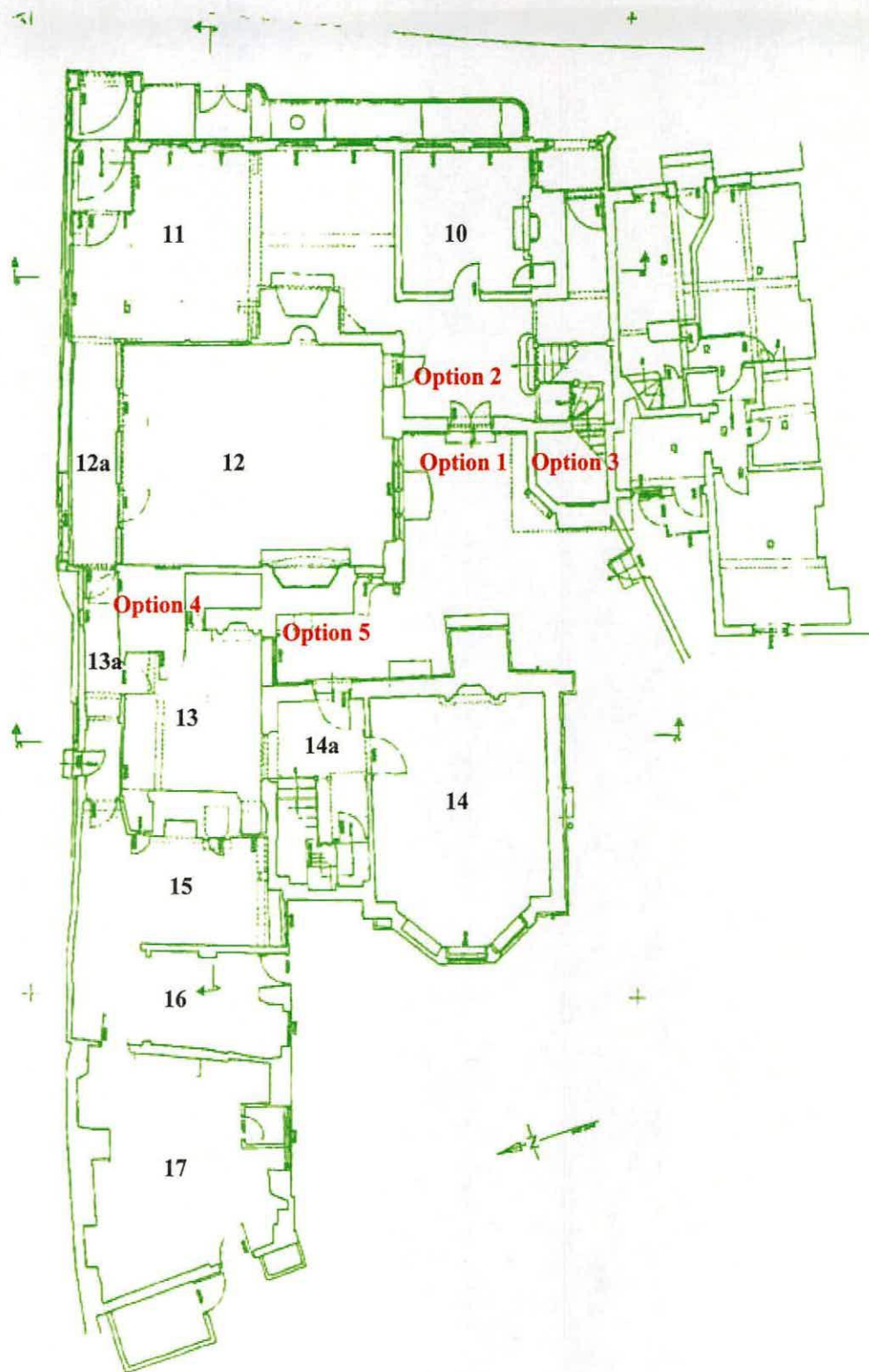


Figure 19, plan of the ground floor, from the copy of the Southampton City Council survey of c 1987. Room numbers and the approximate locations for the lift options under consideration have been added.



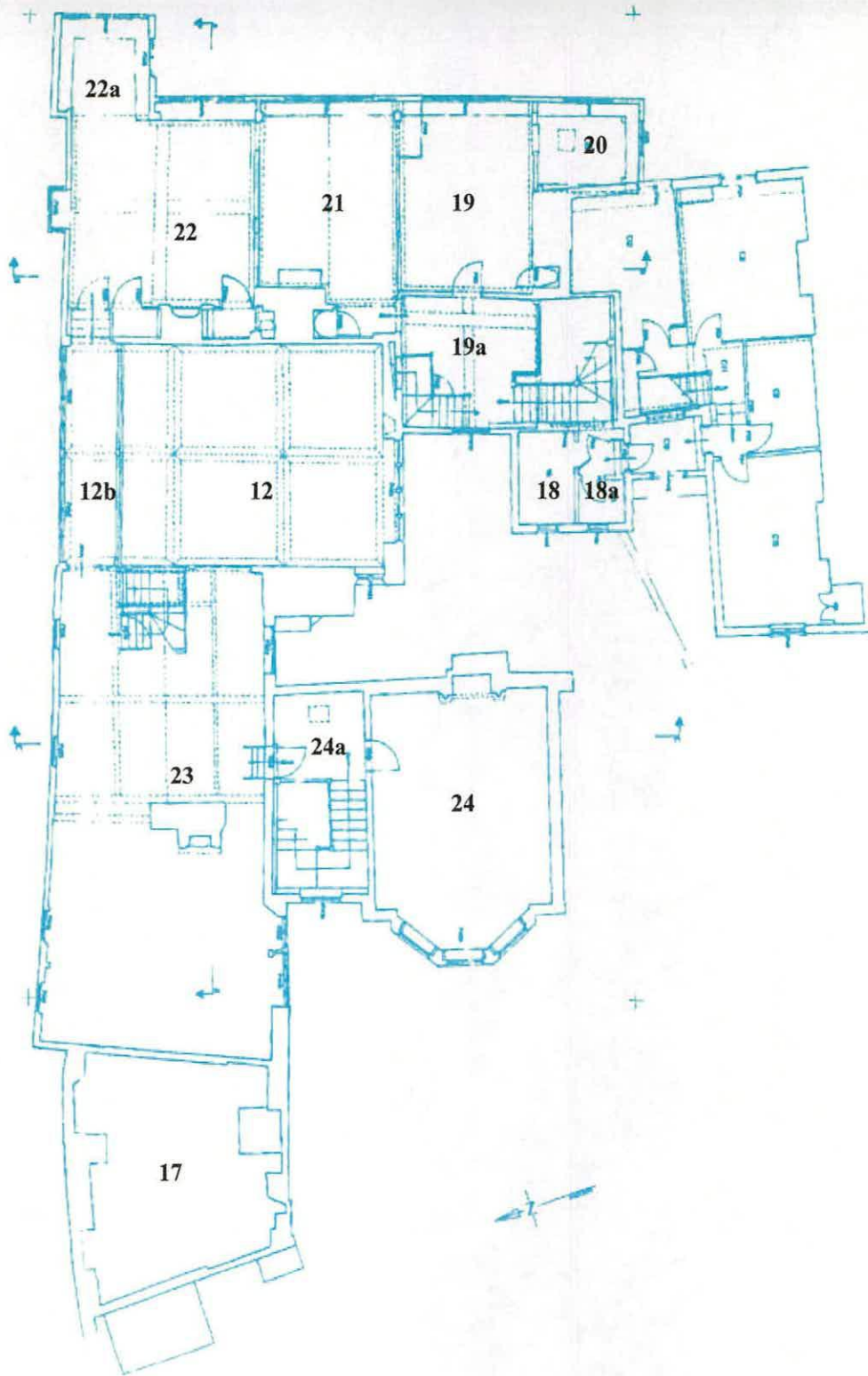


Figure 20, plans of the first floor from the copy of the Southampton City Council survey of c 1987. Room numbers have been added.





Figure 21, plans of the basement, *red*, and ground floor, *green*, superimposed. Compiled from copies of the Southampton City Council survey of c 1987.

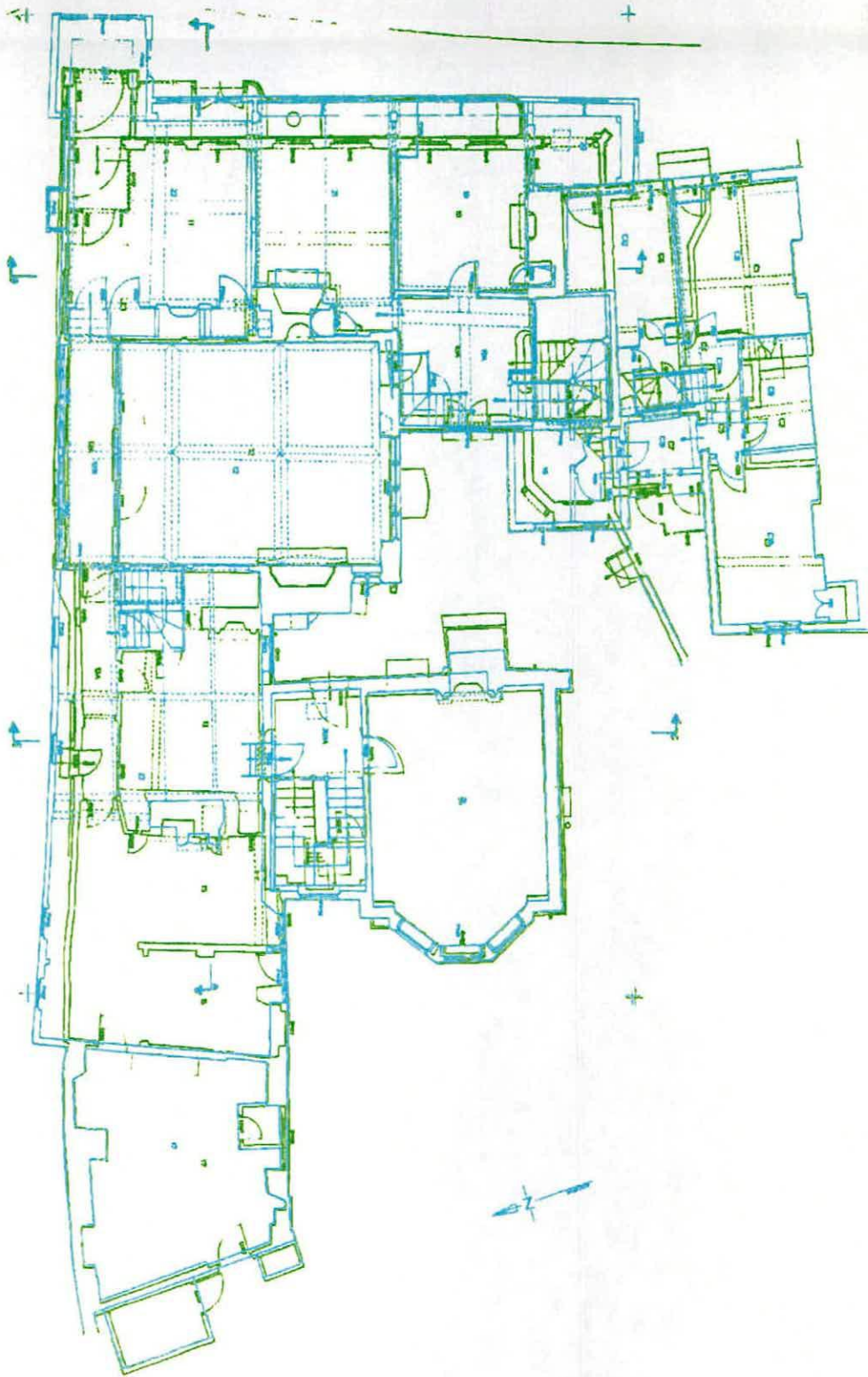


Figure 22, plans of the ground, *green*, and first, *blue*, floors superimposed. Compiled from copies of the Southampton City Council survey of c 1987.

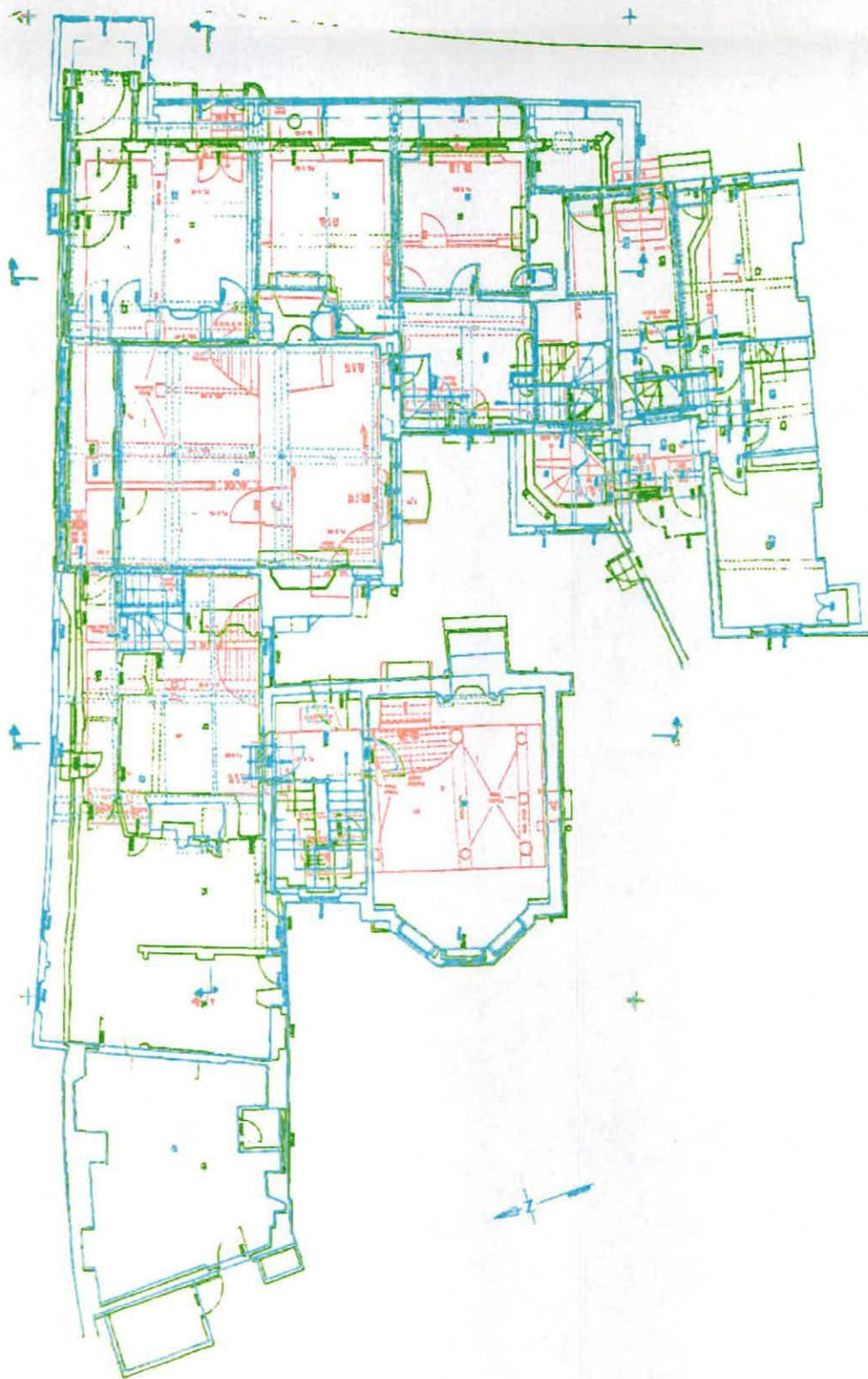


Figure 23, plans of the basement, *red*, ground, *green*, and first floor, *blue*, superimposed. Compiled from copies of the Southampton City Council survey of c 1987



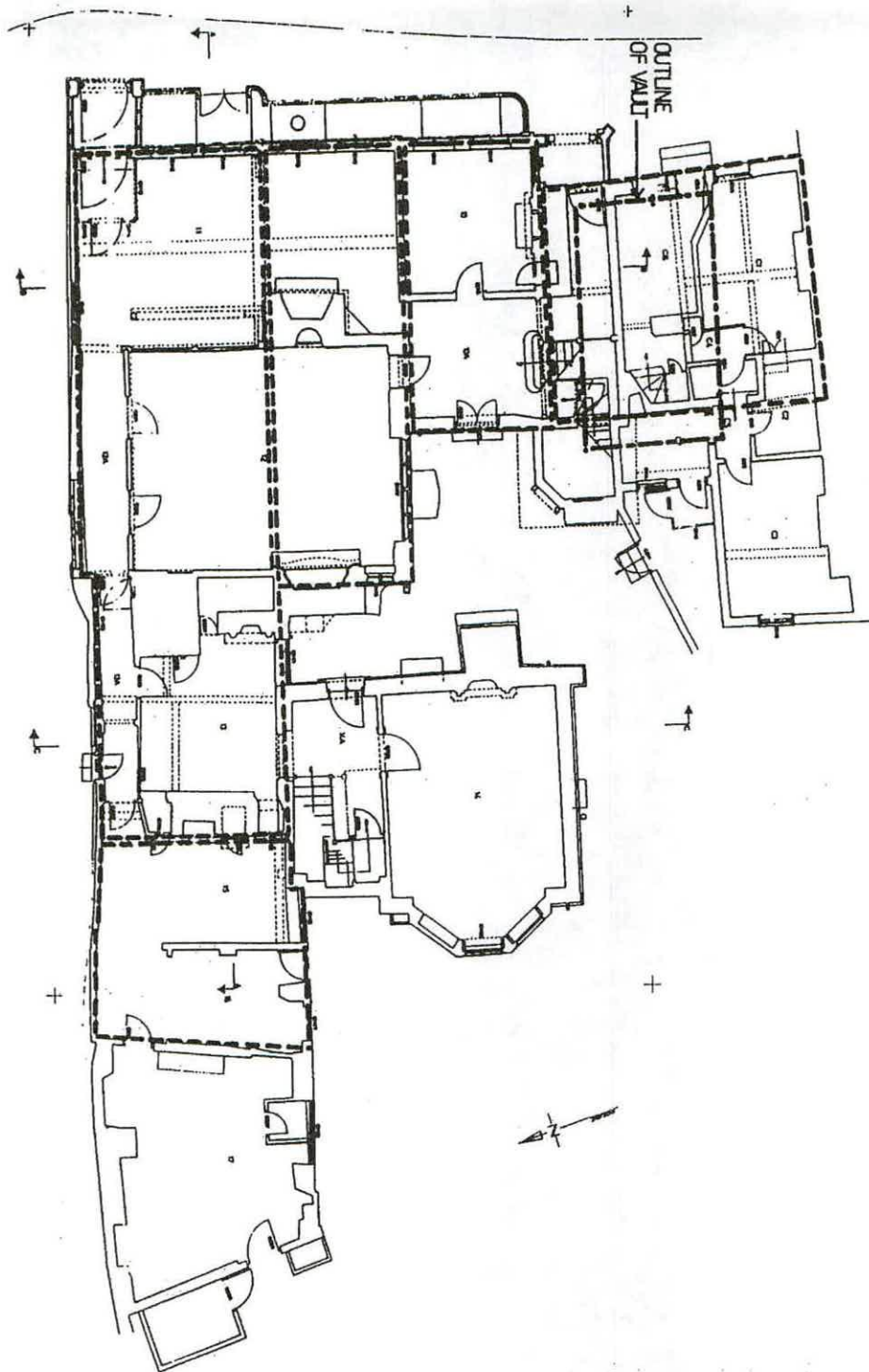


Figure 24, the ground floor plan with the outlines of 'four medieval properties' shown as heavy dashed lines, as interpreted by PN Davies, 1988



Figure 25, the elevation of the main east façade with property outlines marked in heavy dashed line by PN Davies, 1988.





Figure 26, Tudor House from the north-west, 2002.



Figure 27, the west range, viewed from the north-west, 2002.



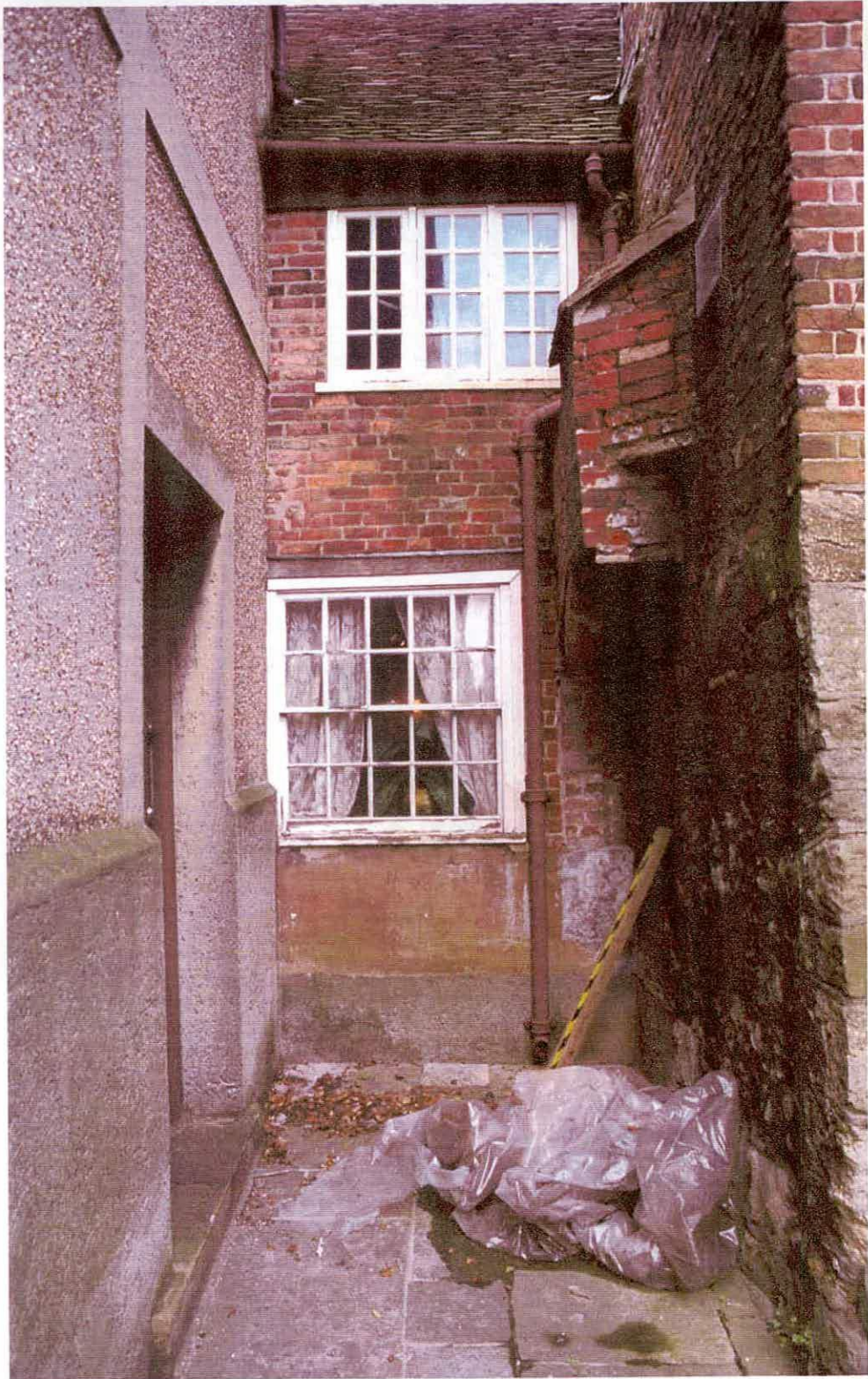


Figure 28, the south wall of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, between the hall and the Georgian Wing





Figure 29, the undercroft beneath 59 Bugle Street, known as The Cottage, Room 1, looking east.



Figure 30, the undercroft beneath 59 Bugle Street, known as The Cottage, Room 1, looking west.





Figure 31, the north-east corner of the northern undercroft, Room 5. A possible building break in the north wall appears about two meters from the north-east corner.





Figure 32, the doorway between the long northern undercroft, Room 8, and its southern extension, Room 9.





Figure 33, the south wall of the undercroft, Room 7. The larger blocks of stone above the radiator suggest an alteration or repair when compared with the blocks to the west.



Figure 34, the ceiling of Room 13 looking north. The large beam, running north south is on the line of the roof truss and is morticed for an internal partition.





Figure 35, the area under the stairs looking east. The horizontal timber at the foot of the wall has a peg set in it. The horizontal timber in the foreground is grooved to receive a wattle and daub infill.





Figure 36, the understair cupboard in Room 13 looking east. The horizontal timber set on the floor and running east west has a mortise in its upper surface for an upright and a groove for wattle and daub infill.





Figure 37, the west wall of the staircase at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, viewed from the west



Figure 38, the smoke hood in the roof at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, now in Room 23.





Figure 39, the fireplace in Room 14 on the ground floor of the Georgian Wing.



Figure 40, the fireplace in Room 24 on the first floor of the Georgian Wing.





Figure 41, the Georgian Wing viewed from the west across the garden.



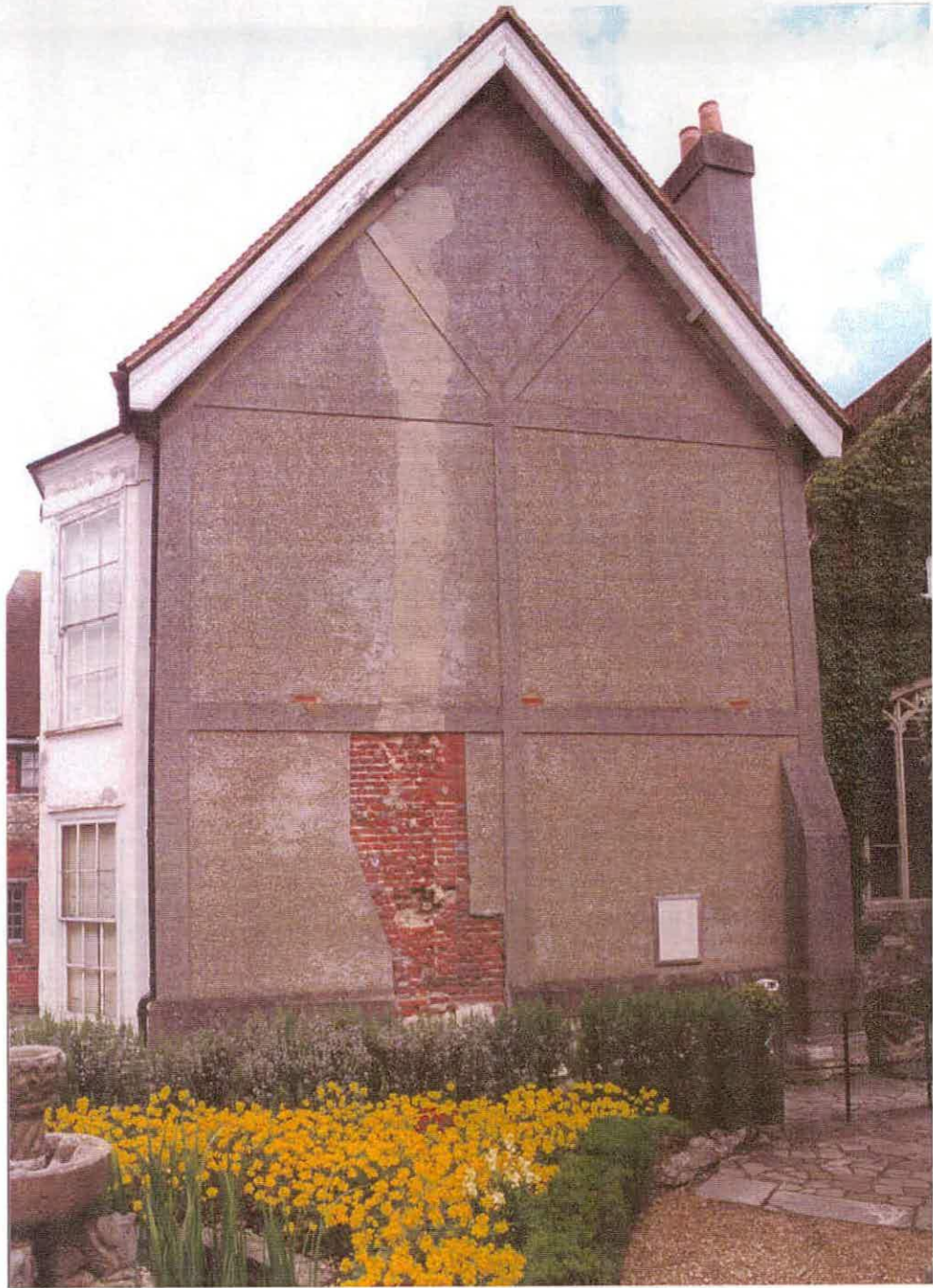


Figure 42, the south wall of the Georgian Wing partially stripped of render to reveal brick construction.



Figure 43, the seventeenth-century closed string geometric staircase in the Georgian Wing, looking west.





Figure 44, a panoramic photomontage of the two doors in the stair hall, Room 14a, of the Georgian Wing.

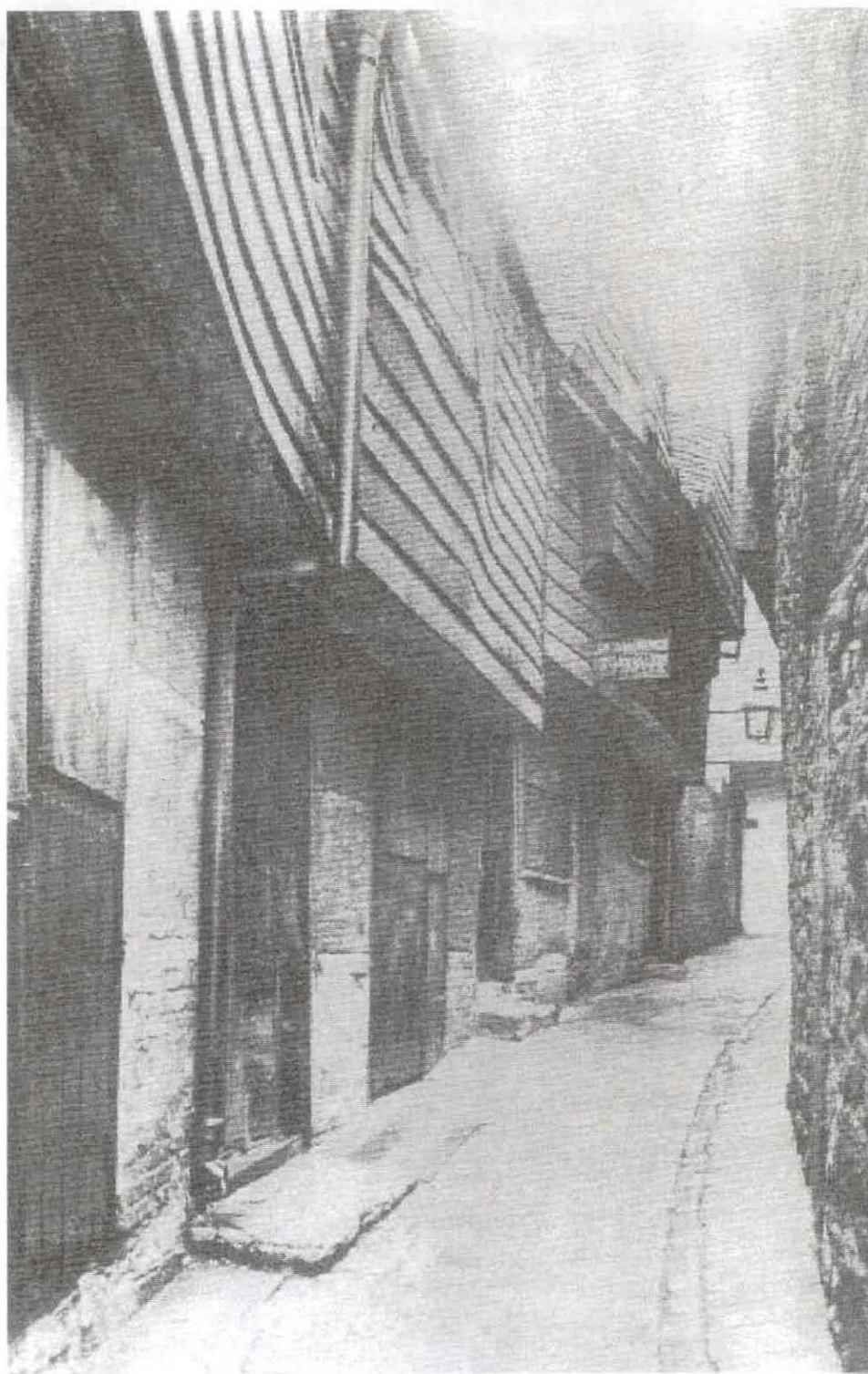


Figure 45, a view along Blue Anchor Lane, c 1890, looking east, with Tudor House on the right (Southampton City Council).





Figure 46, the staircase at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing viewed from the passage on the north side of the hall.





Figure 47, the stairs at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, viewed from Room 13.





Figure 48, under the stairs at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, looking north-west. Note the recently blocked door sized opening to the left and the staircase panelling extending for a short distance below the treads of the upper flight.

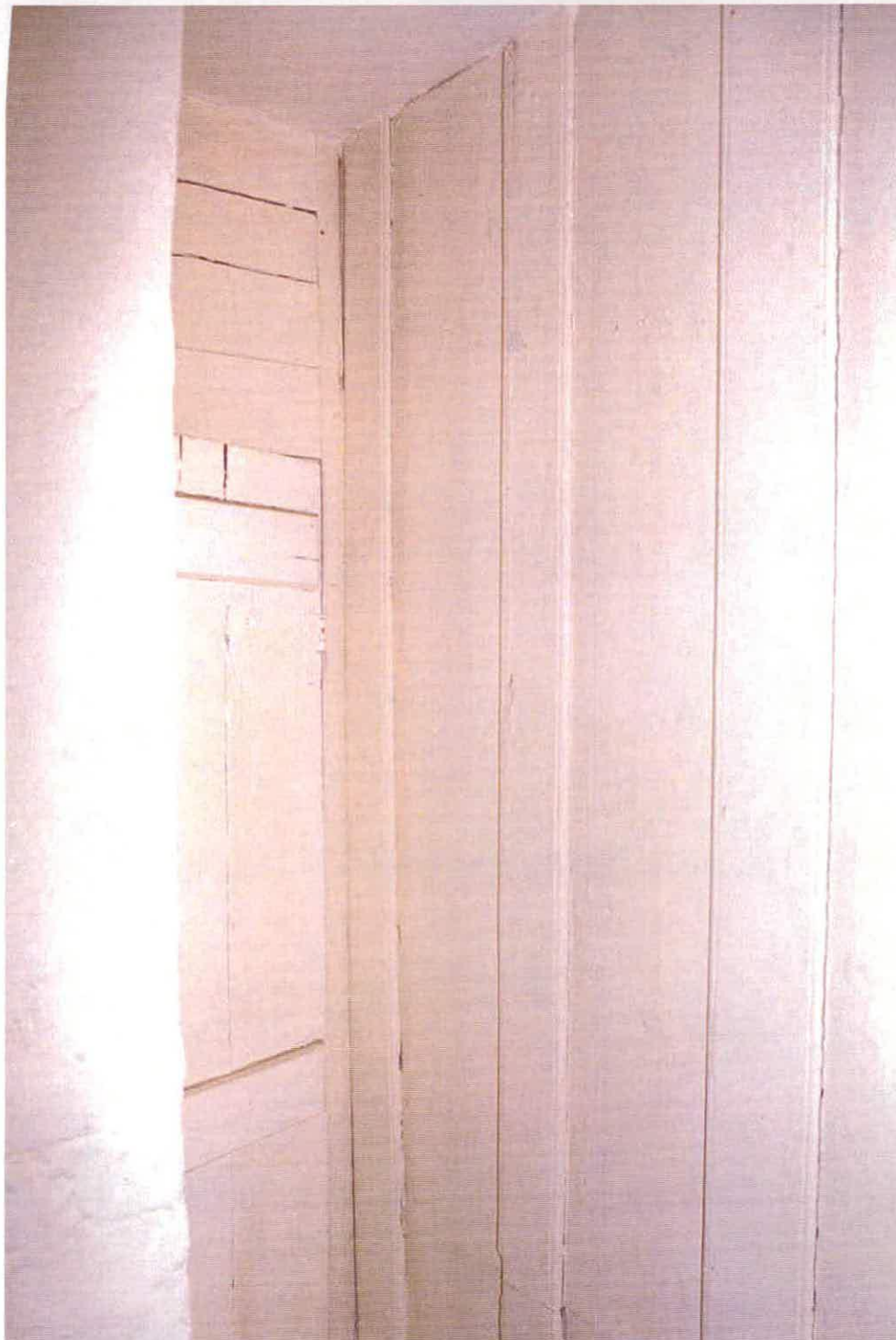


Figure 49, the south face of the plain panelled south wall of the staircase viewed from within the cupboard behind the chimney stack in Room 13. The door to the left of the panelling leads back into Room 13.





Figure 50, the top of the stairs in Room 23, looking south-east.



Figure 51, a panoramic photomontage of Room 13, looking east and south.





Figure 52, the fireplace in Room 13 and the door leading to the cupboard behind the stack.





Figure 53, a panoramic photomontage of the underside of the winders and the upper flight of the stairs at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing, looking up. Note the newspapers glued to the soffit of the winders.





Figure 54, a detail of the newspaper, dated 1836, glued to the panelled south wall of the staircase, underneath the stairs at the east end of the Blue Anchor Lane Wing.





Figure 55, Room 23, looking south, with the staircase in the foreground, and the replaced window, wall plate and tie beam beyond.





Figure 56, the new window in the south wall of Room 23.





Figure 57, Room 23 looking east with the replaced tie beam in the foreground.



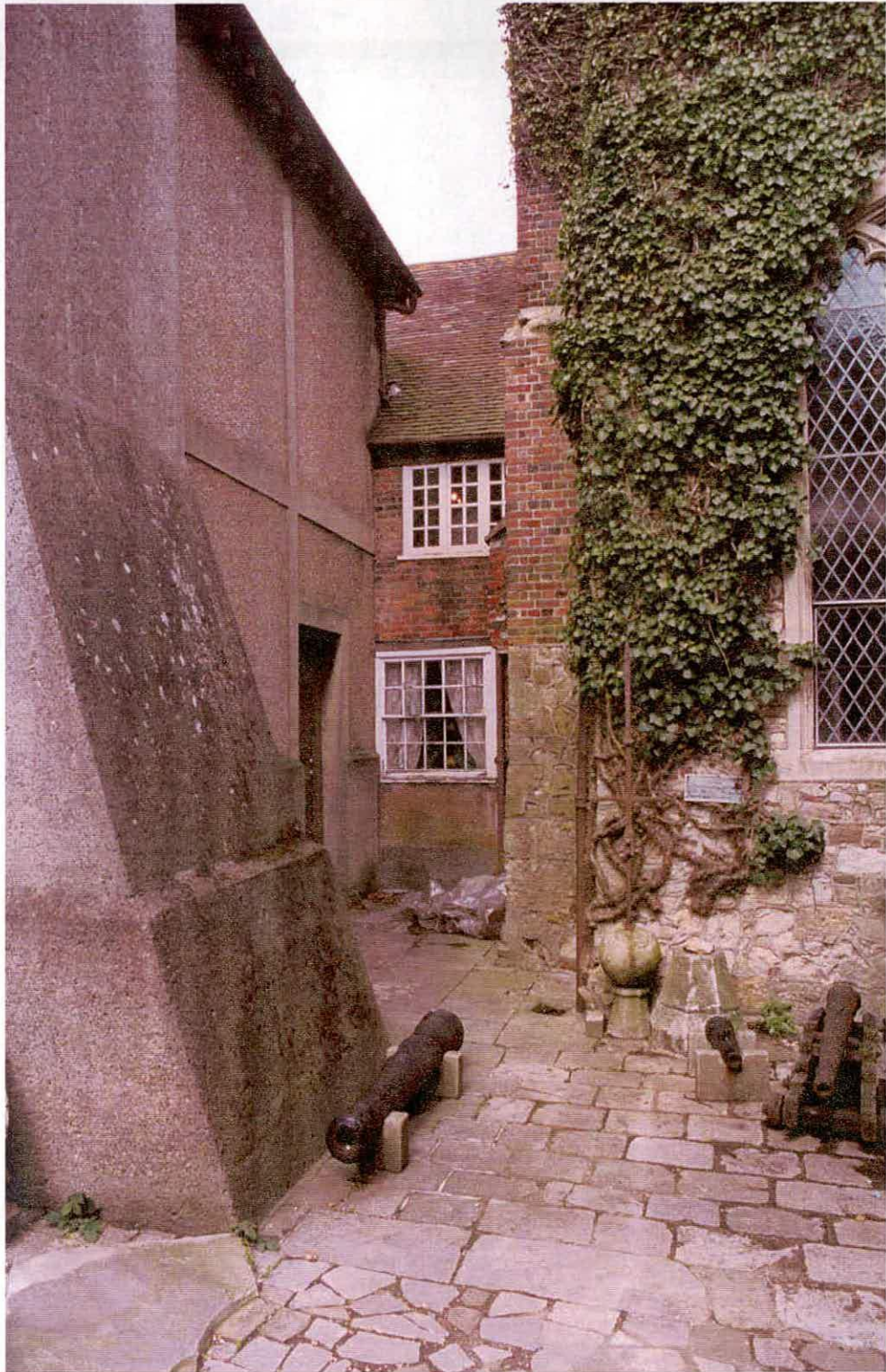


Figure 58, the small corner of the courtyard that is the site of the proposed lift shaft.