



# Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

Modern living in an historic environment

**Level 3 Building Recording at the former Unity Works  
and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham, 2016**

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## Contents

	<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction and Background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Metalworking in the factories of the Jewellery Quarter</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Historic Maps and documents</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>The Building Record for Unity Works</b>	<b>25</b>
	• <i>Frontage range (1865)</i>	25
	• <i>Southern (Principal) Rear Range of shopping (1865 with additions)</i>	41
	• <i>Northern Rear Range of shopping (1897-8)</i>	53
	• <i>Engine and boiler house (c1865-87)</i>	57
	• <i>The Polishing shop (20<sup>th</sup> century)</i>	60
	• <i>Electro-plating</i>	63
<b>6</b>	<b>The Building Record for Vittoria Works</b>	<b>65</b>
	• <i>General</i>	65
	• <i>The frontage (1866)</i>	66
	• <i>Southern range of shopping (1895-6)</i>	75
	• <i>Northern range of shopping (?1902-3)</i>	80
<b>7</b>	<b>Significance and Conclusions</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Artefacts</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Appendix (Oasis data)</b>	<b>90</b>

Phased and dated drawings (A3) by floor (Basements, Ground, First, Second) by Andy Isham, with grateful acknowledgement to Enabling Works Survey by PCPT Architects. Measurements verified for archaeological purposes on site.

Phased and dated sectional elevations at AA and BB (Andy Isham/PCPT Architects)

## Level 3 Building Recording at the former Unity Works and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham, 2016

Iain Soden BA MCI(A)

### Summary

Two Grade-II listed metal-working factories in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, Unity Works and Vittoria Works, were recorded to Level 3 in line with Historic England prescriptive documents, as a condition of their conversion and subdivision into apartments. Although in architectural terms their imposing facades are not matched by the relatively simple, workaday structures behind them, those many rooms and working spaces behind the frontage are on a similarly large scale and retain valuable evidence of many of the trades and professions which research already highlights once characterised the Jewellery Quarter. The factories benefit from considerable documentary background evidence. It has been possible to reconstruct a great deal of how the factories functioned, with the help of almost unrestricted access on site and consultation of both published and unpublished documents in public ownership and some found within the buildings.

### 1 Introduction and Background

The Unity Works and the smaller, neighbouring Vittoria Works lie at 36-46 and 30-34 Vittoria Street, Birmingham B1, on its west side, in the heart of the city's Jewellery Quarter, a Conservation Area (NGR: SP 06138 87510; Fig 1). The former Victorian factories are now derelict and mostly abandoned but contain some of the detritus of their former uses, which in the case of Unity Works, ended around 1988 as indicated by the last commercial insurance certificates still displayed in the building. None of the buildings have been extensively looked after since then and some interior spaces have a number of windows missing and a few doors. Damp is getting in, drainage is failing and pigeons infest the upper floors.

# Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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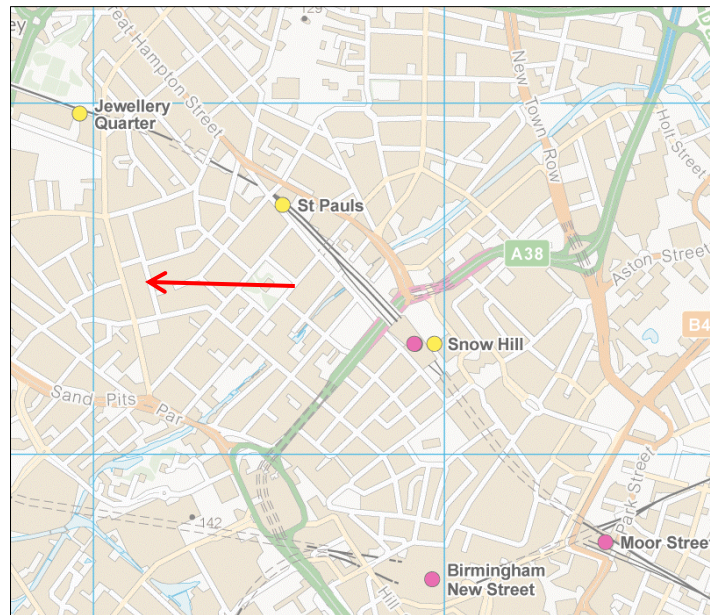


Fig 1: Site location on Vittoria Street (arrowed).

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2016

Both buildings are the subject of a planning application for conversion to urban apartments by Stonehurst Estates of Sussex, to designs created by PCPT Architects of 84 Spencer Street, Birmingham.

This report has been commissioned by Stonehurst Estates via PCPT Architects following receipt of a planning condition (no 2) for Level 3 Buildings Recording by Birmingham City Council, the planning authority in respect of Listed Building Consent 2015/07979/PA.

The work has been carried out by Iain Soden Heritage Services in accordance with the precepts of the Historic England 2016 prescriptive document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, in accordance with Level 3 recording as set out therein. The undertaking was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation dated 10 October 2016 and submitted to PCPT Architects for agreement with Birmingham City Council.

The fieldwork was carried out between 24 October and 4 November 2016 by Iain Soden BA MCI(A), Joe Prentice and Tom Soden, in good weather and lighting conditions (given that there is no artificial lighting in the building). A 20W 1600 lumen LED portable work-lamp was available for use in basements and other darkened areas as appropriate, together with head-torches as required.

- The drawn record comprised scale plans and elevations and x-sections provided by PCPT Architects from their existing Enabling Works survey. The accuracy of these for archaeological purposes was verified on site by a random selection of measurements with a Leica hand-held Disto-Pro laser and traditional hand-tape. These have been used to phase the buildings, and the plans and a sectional elevation are presented at the end of this report.
- Written records were made in free-text form and by annotation of architects' drawings for later inclusion in this report.
- Digital photographic records were created using a Nikon D40 SLR fitted with an 18-70mm zoom lens and integral flash. All photographs were logged in detail for archive purposes.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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- Room numbering throughout follows that used in the existing PCPT Architect's survey for Enabling Works.
- Room nomenclature, where known, generally follows both that seen in a 1940s Broadcast Plan (see below), which was found in the Unity Works building, together with a number of deposited Building Plans in Birmingham Archives, principally from the 1890s.
- Other room uses are to some extent conjectural but based upon observations on site and a broader understanding of how early manufactories and engineering works (with their broad distinction) functioned, as described in summary by Palmer et al (2013, 161-5) and by Cattell et al (2002).

The Unity Works is a Grade II Listed Building, listed in 1982. Its unique identifier on Historic England's National Heritage List is 217715.

The National Heritage List entry for the premises is as follows:

*VITTORIA STREET 1. 5104 (west side) Hockley B1 Nos 36 to 46 (even) (Unity Works) SP 0687 NW 24/26 SP 0687 SW 28/22 II GV 2. C1865 built as a toolmakers works and originally a symmetrical 12 bay front with narrower 3 bay shallow end breaks, extended in similar style with 5 slightly broader bays in 1898; architect J P Osborne for the same firm Henry Jenkins and Son. Three tall storeys red brick with effectively painted plain stone dressings. Impressively scaled functional design with plinth and sill bands linking close set sills with consoles. Projecting dentil eaves cornice. The south end break contains waggon archway on ground floor with keystone whilst the north break has 3 close set round headed windows with keys and lintel impost blocks. Ground floor openings otherwise arcaded down to plinth with linked impost blocks and keystones; apron panels below window sills. First floor windows segmental arched and plain frieze carried across heads of second floor windows; consistent use of iron frame small pane windows.*

*Listing NGR: SP0613887510*

For the neighbouring Vittoria Works the Historic England National Heritage List unique identifier is 217714. The relevant entry is as follows:

*VITTORIA STREET 1. 5104 (west side) Hockley B1 Nos 30, 32 and 34 SP 0687 SW 28/21 II GV 2. 1866, a 3 storey painted brick jewellery works of 6 bays with 2 bays to left hand for showroom - office and probably residential use. Round headed ground floor windows and doorways with linked stucco impost blocks and keystones to 6 bays of works with segmental arched iron glazing bar workshop windows to upper floors, all with block stucco scrolls on consoles. The left hand 2 bays are more ornate in detail. On the ground floor the window has been replaced by modern goods entrance but the doorway retains its richly modelled architrave and rounded head enhanced by pilaster strips with ornate consoles to deeply moulded archivolt arch with keystone. The first floor windows have console brackets to sections of entablature carrying the moulded cornices, revealed sashes with round headed marginal glazing. Plain section floor segmental arched windows. All have sills identical with works windows. Moulded dentil eaves cornice overall with flanking console brackets.*

*Listing NGR: SP0615787475*

## 2 Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Iain Soden BA MCI(A), Joe Prentice and Tom Soden in October-November 2016. Illustrations were generated by Andy Isham, Illustrator, from field drawings and, where in respect of survey, they are based upon the verified measured survey by PCPT Architects.

Iain Soden Heritage Services would like to thank Stonehurst Estates for their commission and to David Willetts and Brian Tefula of PCPT Architects for affording access to the buildings and making their measured survey available for use in the recording. Gratitude also goes to the staff of The Library of Birmingham, and in particular those in Birmingham Archives, for their help in finding long-forgotten records and their ongoing curation and conservation of them.

Many thanks to Chris Butterworth, Creative Director of Omobono, for his assessment of the Beverley Hall Ltd sign.

## 3 Metalworking in the factories of the Jewellery Quarter

The principal work of Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter has been characterised in Cattel *et al* (2002) as comprising six main components:

- i. **Casting** (For casting metal items from molten metal in casting sand)
- ii. **Stamping** (For stamping metal items out of pre-prepared sheet, using pre-cast moulds and drop stamps driven by steam, gas or electricity)
- iii. **Pressing** (Similar to stamping but using hand-worked fly-presses)
- iv. **Spinning** (for moulding blank malleable metal discs around a pre-formed wooden mould)
- v. **Electro-plating** (for plating base metals with higher-quality materials by steeping in 'pickling tanks' and solutions with the action of electrical currents)
- vi. **Polishing** (including 'barrelling', to use abrasive materials to achieve a desired shiny finish on a newly made item)

To which one might also add:

- vii. **Soldering** (fixing two items together with heat and solder/flux)

As will be seen there is either physical or documentary evidence for all of these in the Unity Works, and to a lesser extent the adjacent Vittoria Works.

## 4 Historic Maps and documents

The First Edition Ordnance Survey (1:500 scale of 1887) is the best map of the site which shows the layout of all the buildings at that time in some detail (sheet XIII.8.5).

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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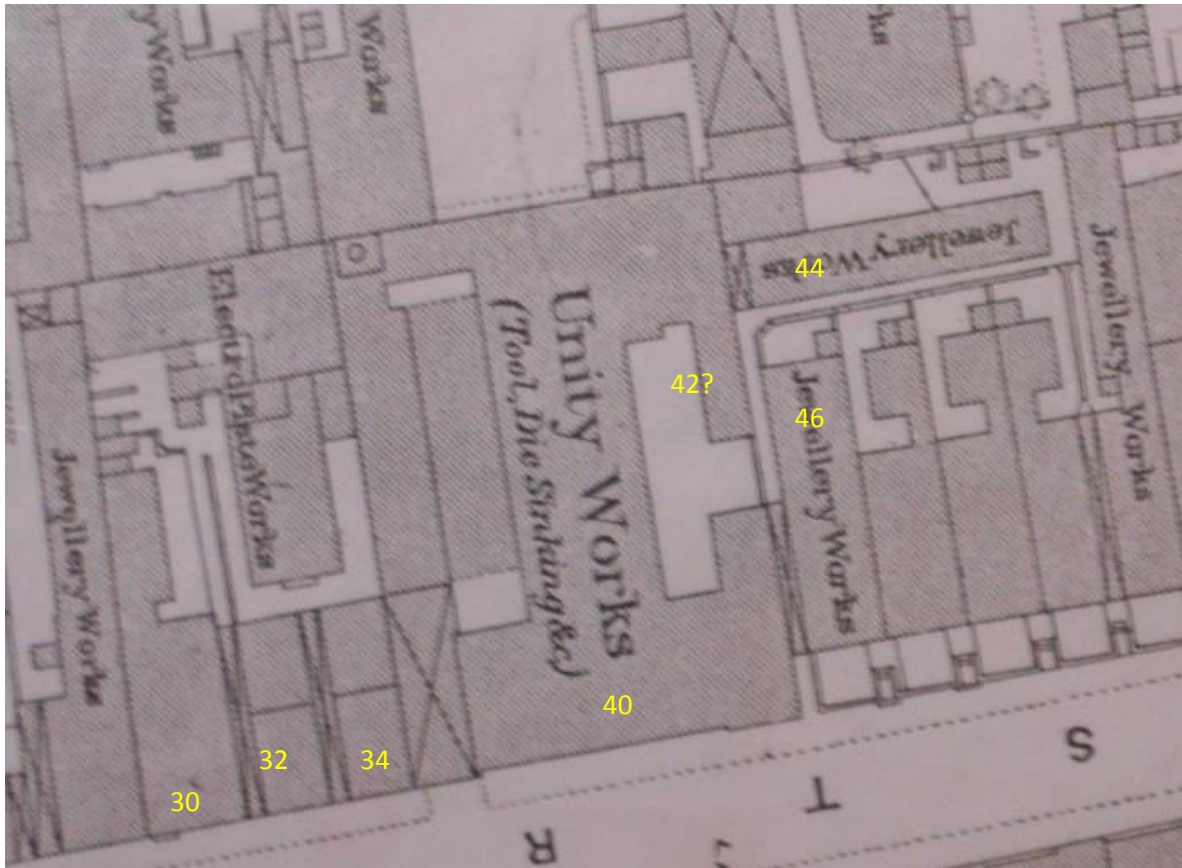


Fig 2: First edition OS map (1887) at 1:500 scale. New 1884 street numbering superimposed.

Sadly the subsequent OS editions – 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1904, 3<sup>rd</sup> of 1918 and subsequent issues, have all been at 1:1250 scale and are insufficiently instructive to show the development of the buildings. Even the 1955 editions, slightly larger at 1:1250 scale (sheets SP 0687 NW & SW), add little.

No Goad Insurance Plans exist for the Jewellery Quarter (Birmingham Archives and British Library), while the relevant sheets of the Birmingham City Council rating plans for the plot of land bounded by Vittoria Street, Frederick Street and Regent Street (from 1870 onwards) either do not survive or at least cannot now be found (BA: K Maps Box 1; Sheets S10, 10A, S11C, 273).

### Unity Works

A series of Birmingham City Council deposited building plans relate to the Unity Works. Unfortunately *some no longer survive or cannot now be found* (BA: BBP 2772 (1881), BBP 2817 (1881), BBP 13507). This can only be ascertained on application to Birmingham Archives.

The one which does survive is from 1897 and details the new work proposed in that year, which was carried out within a short time (BA: BBP 13597 (1897)). It sets out the new work in great detail, while also showing some of what existed already.

Cattell *et al* (2002, 87), say of these plans:

*At the Unity Works..., the proposed addition of 1897 included two basement 'stores', in which there were also two 'scrap bins' for collecting waste metals, and two ground floor 'stock rooms'. At the*

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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Unity Works these rooms were all intended to augment the capacity of rooms with matching functions located in the earlier part of the works. The requirement for good lighting is also inferred from the positioning of the stock rooms on the ground floor, where they could receive better natural light and were nearer to the main areas of production.

Also noted on the same plans was:

..John Osborne, Architect, proposed a casting shop at basement level, set beneath an open rear yard. The casting shop was to be reached from the basement of the street range and top-lit from the yard. A small room was positioned alongside for the coke and the four furnaces were to be connected to a long underground flue leading to a chimney at the rear of the works (ibid 2002, 94).

As will be seen below, much of the 1897 proposals were carried out, although the furnaces and flues cannot currently be confirmed due to the restrictions of the existing access.

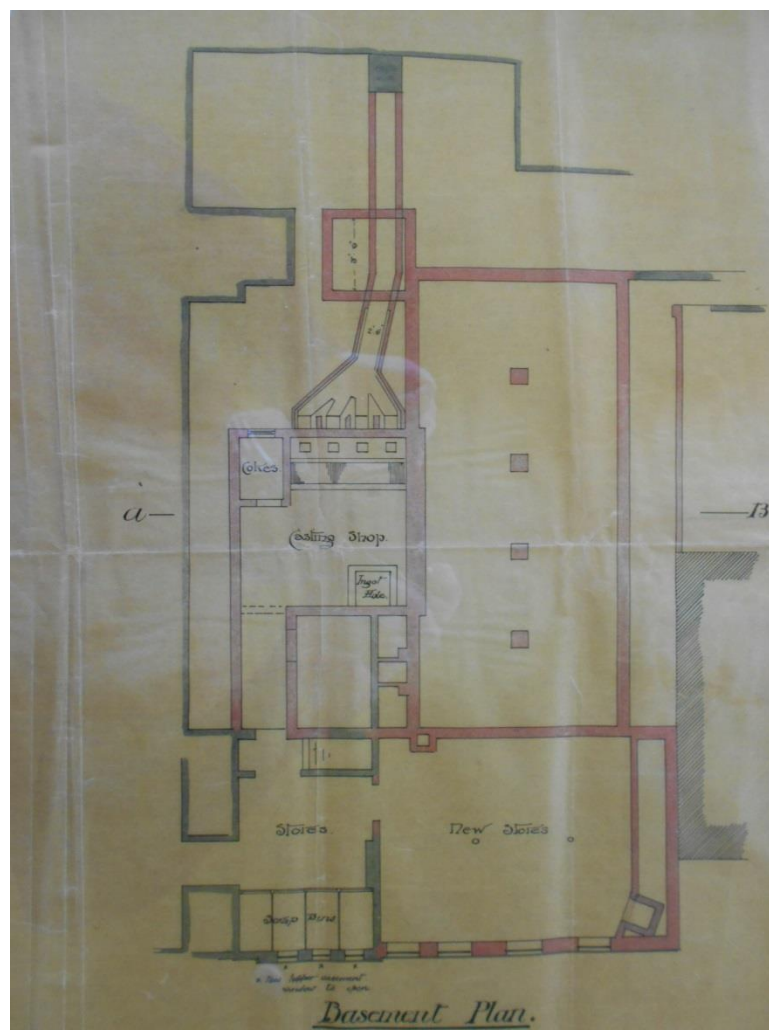


Fig 3: The new Unity Works basements of 1897 and the foundations of the new three-storey shopping (BA: BBP 13597). Cattell *et al*'s (2002) comments relate mainly to this plan.



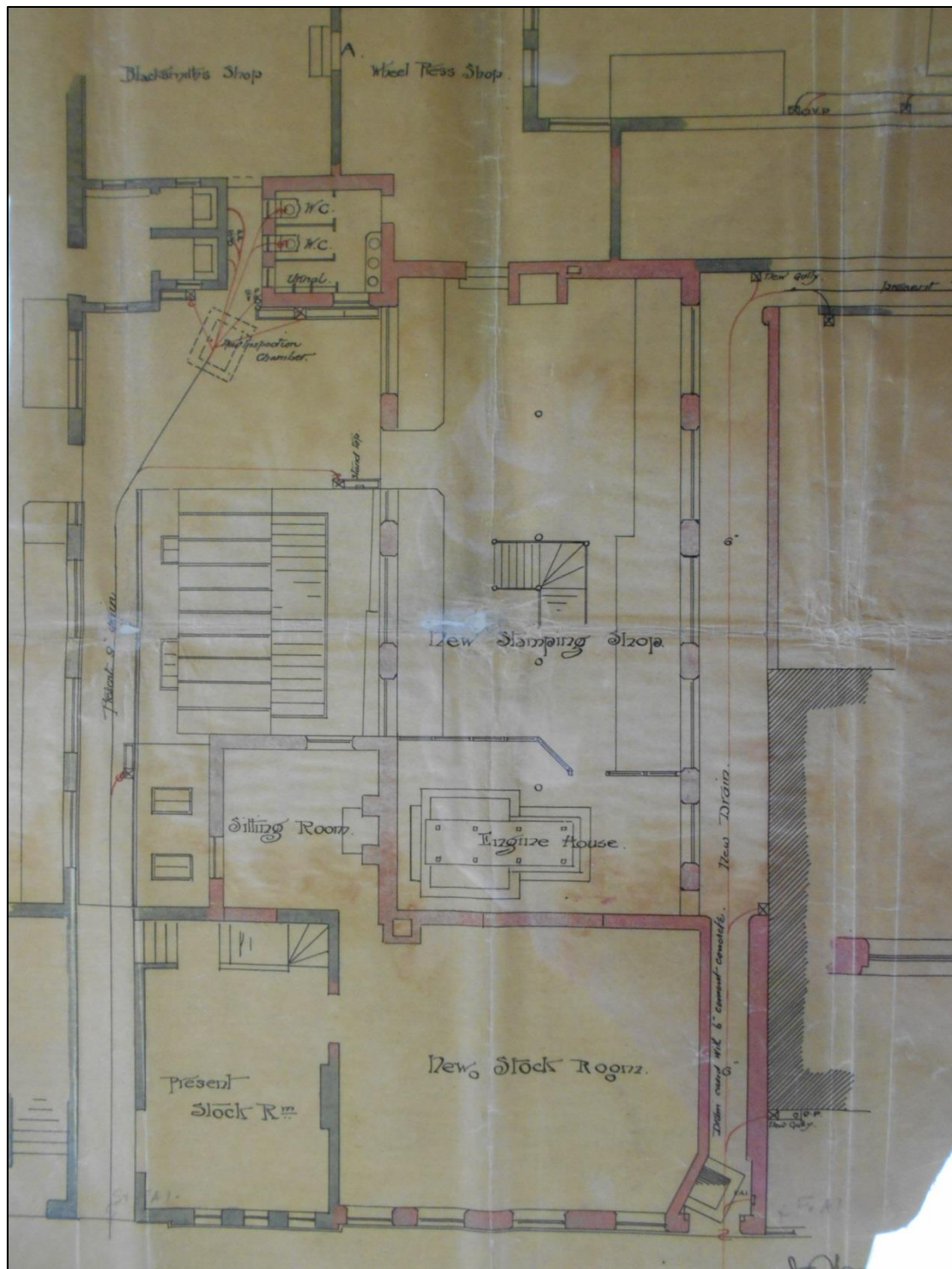


Fig 4: The ground floor of the new Unity Works shopping of 1897. Note the new engine house and other intended room uses, together with existing room uses adjacent. Intended structures in red, pre-existing in blue (BA: BBP 13597). Cattell *et al's* (2002) comments relate partly to this plan.

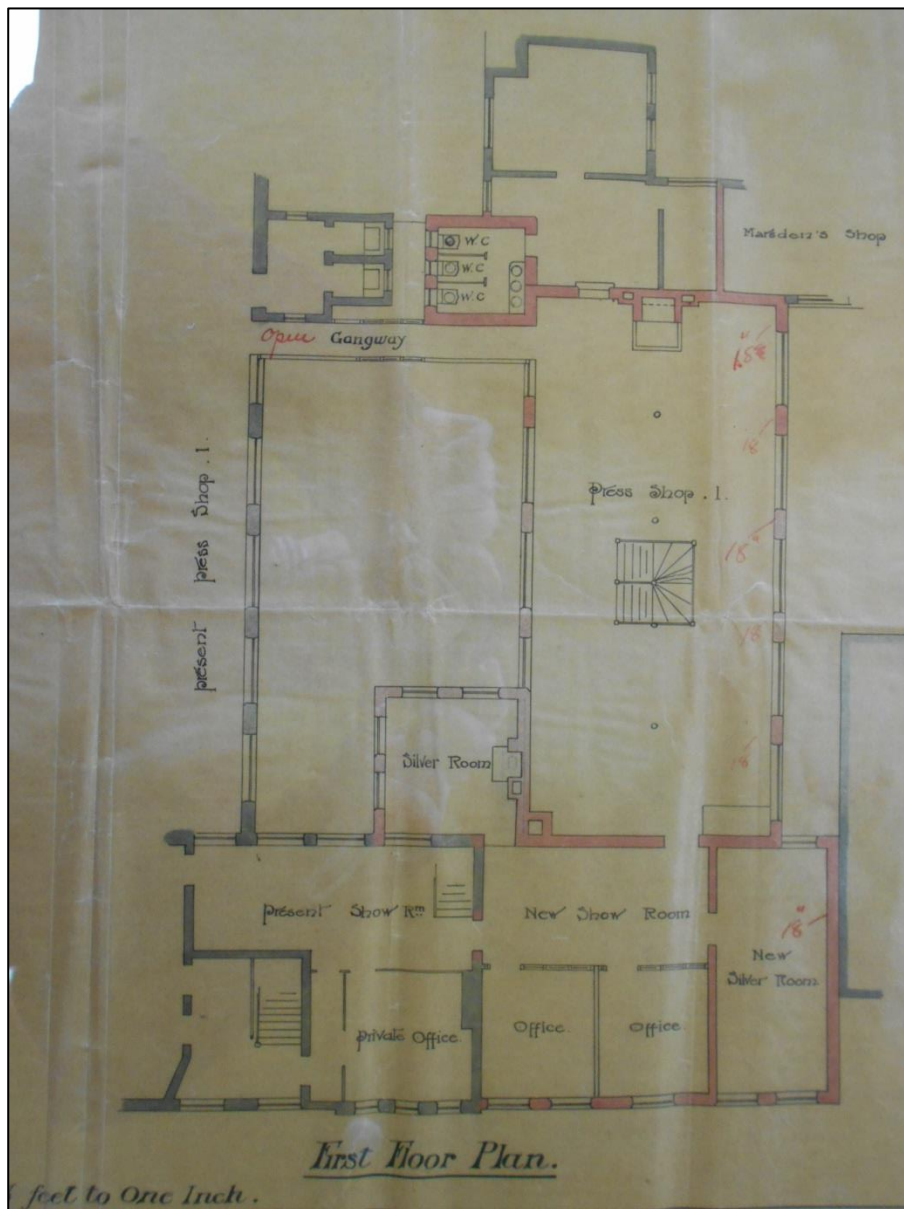


Fig 5: The first floor of the new Unity Works shopping of 1897 (in red). Existing structures are in blue. Note room uses (BA: BBP 13597). The label 'Marsden's Shop' gives away the location of no 44 Vittoria Street

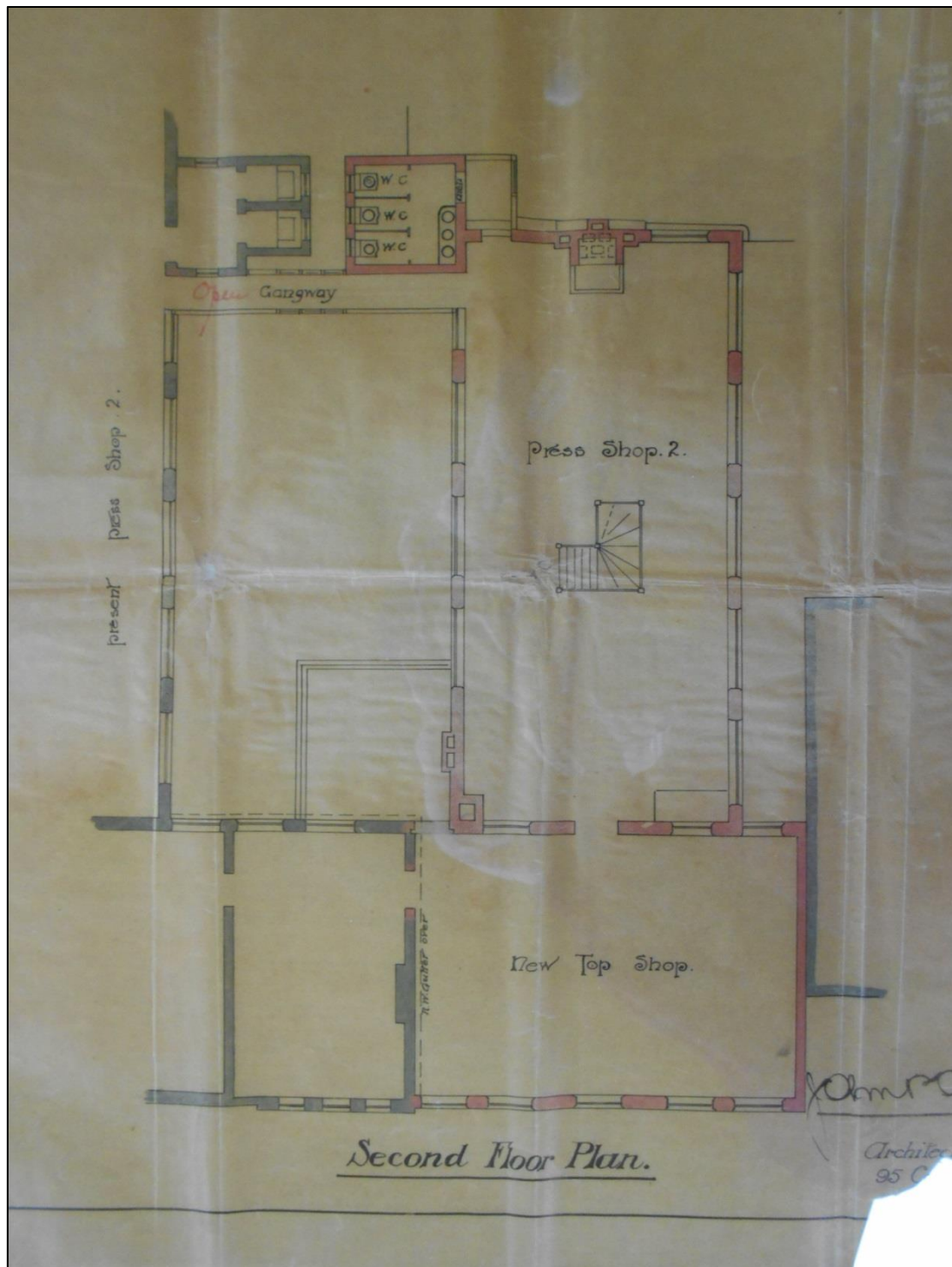


Fig 6: The second floor of the new Unity Works shopping of 1897 (in red). Existing structures are in blue. Note room uses (BA: BBP 13597). The high-level gangways between the ranges of shopping are noted here for the first time.

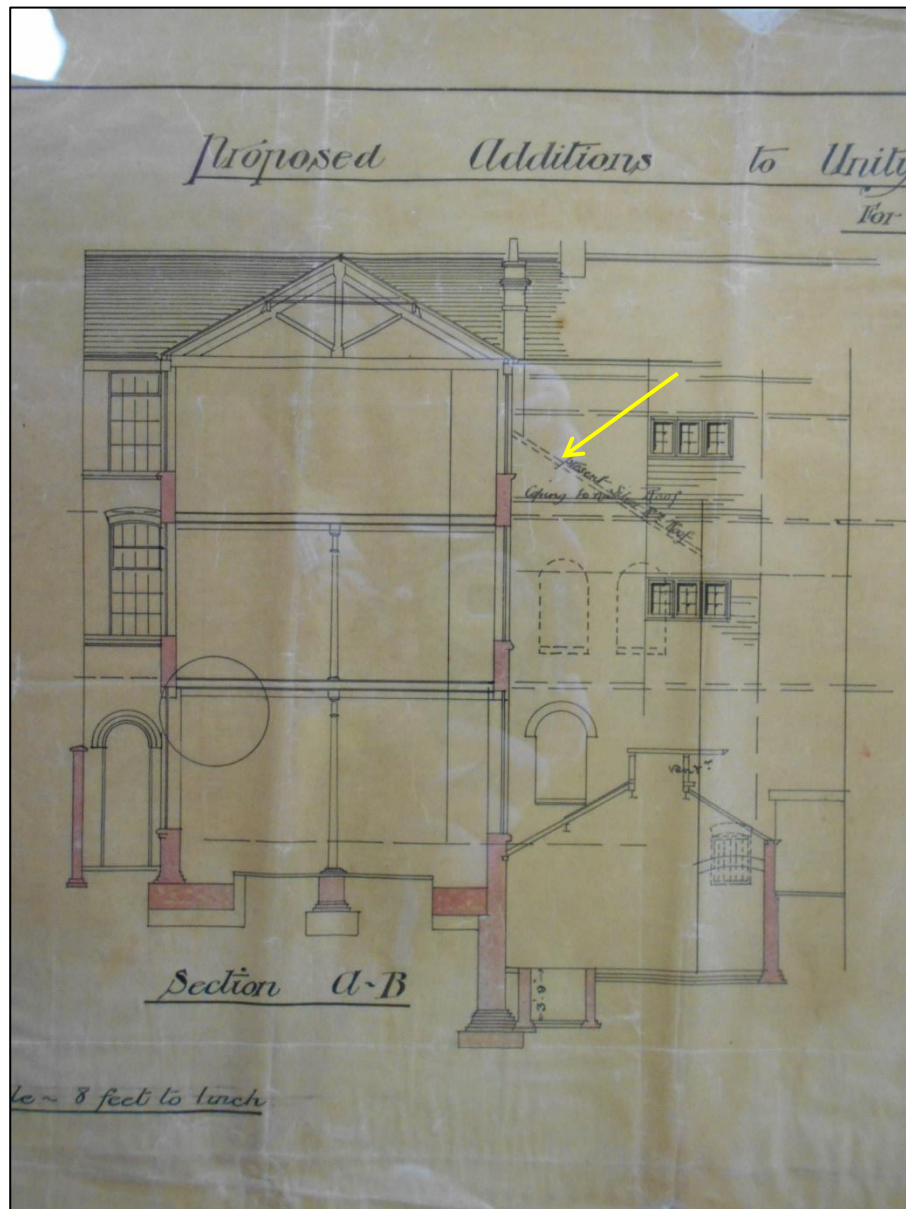


Fig 7: Sectional elevation of the new 1897 Unity Works shopping, looking east, with detail beyond the cutting plane. Note the basement-level casting shop, but also the location of the roof-line of a pre-existing two-storey short range of shopping, which was lost in this construction programme (arrowed). That was shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map.

### Air Raid Precautions

In 1940 the Home Office negotiated with Birmingham City Council for the creation of scores of Air Raid Shelters across the city. One such shelter was planned and carried out to hold 200 persons at the Unity Works (BA: BCC Civil Defense/T4-Sheet 312). The works were specified in great detail and the plans still survive. Existing walls were strengthened and buttressed, with toilets and drainage put in. A reinforced ceiling was put in below the existing ground floor. Further drawings show design alterations, but the final design was approved 20 March 1940 and implemented apparently in full.

# Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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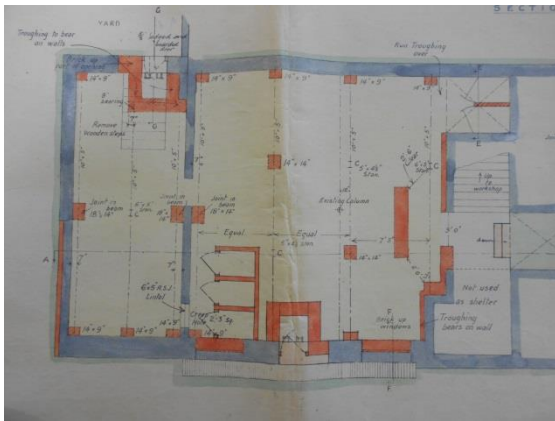
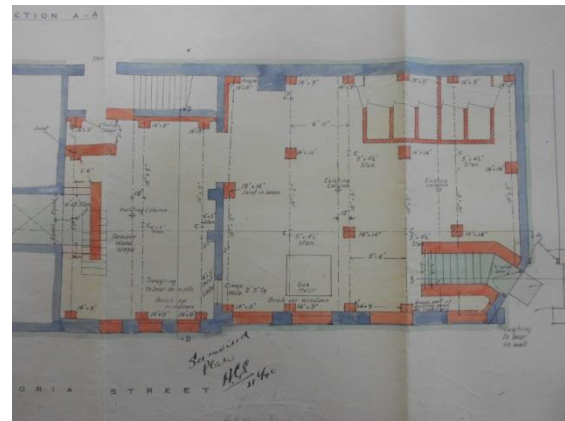


Fig 8: 1940 Basement Air Raid Shelter – south part



1940 Basement Air Raid Shelter – north part

## Published works

The building of the Unity Works is summarised in the selective gazetteer of the Historical sites of the Jewellery Quarter in the existing English Heritage architectural survey (Cattell et al 2002, p188 and fig 206; gazetteer entry 116- p272). This entry sets out a summary architectural development of the site. The plan BBP 2772, potentially of 1865, is alluded to, but this cannot now be found in Birmingham Archives.

The Vittoria Works is not mentioned in the gazetteer.

## The Broadcast Plan (B/Cast Plan)

Found within the Unity Works building was a folder containing telephone maintenance sheets from the 1980s (not retained). However, at the back was bound in a single quarto sheet of Henty Jenkins headed notepaper with three hand-drawn plans on the rear. These depict the building at Ground, First and Second Floors with some of the buildings and rooms noted by name together with the power and electrical feeds to supply the 'tannoy' system inserted into the factory. The paper is known for the purposes of this report as the **B/cast Plan** (a heading it bears). Paper, ink and handwriting are all indicative of the 1940s and it is suggested here that it depicts the buildings on their conversion to war-work during World War II.

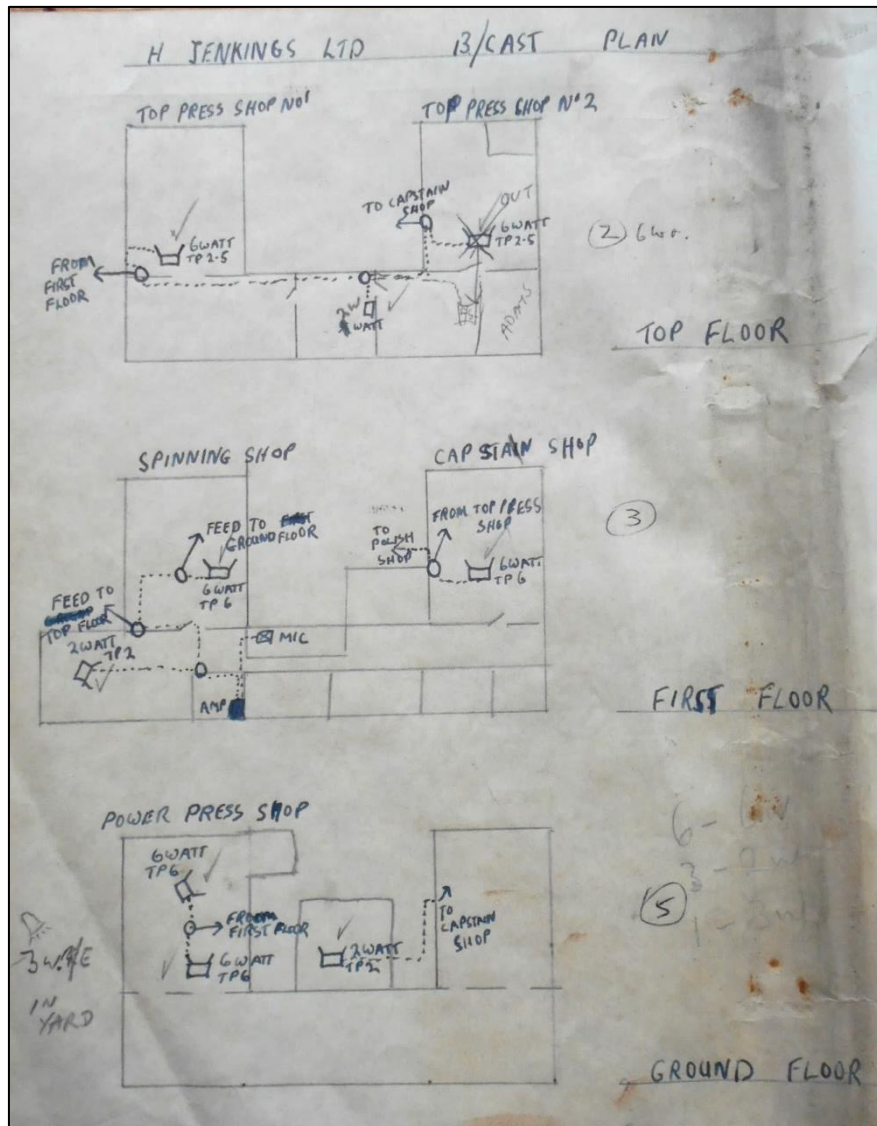


Fig 9: The 1940s Broadcast plan, on the rear of a Quarto page of headed Henry Jenkins notepaper

## Personnel records

Within the building was found a revolving alphabetical card-index of probably 1950s vintage, which contains cards with names and basic employment details of employees from c1955 to 1971. It is not known whether the record is exhaustive for that period, and in furtherance of privacy, no personal details are cited here. However, basic names, job titles and numbers do give a seemingly broad idea of the complement and jobs found in Henry Jenkins and Sons during the last decades of its existence.

The cards were searched from A-D inclusive as a sample and guide to the whole. A total of 131 individuals were covered by this sample of workers who lived and came in from postal areas B1, B3-8, B10-14, B16, B18-22, B26, B28, B31, B38 and B44. The furthest-flung worker was perhaps from Solihull (B92). Ages were given on only a few, but ranged between 15 and 22 at the start of their employment. As one might expect in an industry with distinctive working conditions, some stayed a long time, while others moved on very quickly.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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The following job-titles or works destinations within the factory were noted: Hand Press Tool-setter, Jay's Press Shop, No 42 Tool Shop, Lacquering, Press Machinist, Power Press, Metal Cutter, Hand and Power Press, Spinning shop, Labourer, Jay's Press and Assembly, Polisher, Hand Press, Capstan Trimming, Soldering shop, Press machinist, Metal warehouse, Stamper, and Prep worker.

Thanks to Tom Soden for working through all the 131 entries A-D, from which these data were synthesised.

### Catalogues of products

Henry Jenkins and Sons appears to have printed and published extensive catalogues of its products. While none have been sourced, the buildings contain a number of caches containing many hundreds of printing blocks in copper engravings, depicting every type of plated, stamped or pressed wares that might have passed out of the buildings. These constitute an unusual collection of artefacts, a few of which have been extracted and re-presented here as a guide to the rest. Many are Victorian in style and it is highly likely that these go back to the earliest years of the factory. The latest are probably just post-World War II.


The following advert from 1876 advertises the firm in the manner of the day (also see [www.gracesguide.co.uk](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk)). Since the advert notes that the firm had moved from Spencer Street, it is perhaps the earliest extant advertisement for Henry Jenkins and Sons factory in Vittoria Street. It had already acquired the name 'Unity Works'.

**GUNS,**  
**PISTOLS, RIFLES,**  
**AND OF THE MOST IMPROVED BREECH-LOADERS,**  
ALSO  
Guns for the African and other Foreign Markets.

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MILITARY ARMS CONTRACTOR TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1830.  ESTABLISHED A.D. 1830.

**HENRY JENKINS & SONS,**  
PATENTEES,  
Die Sinkers, Tool Makers,  
**STAMPERS & PIERCERS,**  
MANUFACTURERS of the Stamped and Pierced parts of  
**ELECTRO-PLATED WARES,**  
For Crest, Liquor, Soy, and Egg Frames, Waiters, Card, Cake, and Sugar Baskets; Butter Coolers, Marmalade and Sweet Dishes, Sals, Toilet Racks, Vases, Flower Holders, &c., Round and Oval Bells, all sizes. Also, of  
**BROOCHES, ORNAMENTS, BEADS, &c., FOR**  
**GILT & PLATED JEWELLERY,**  
Dealers in Fancy Metals and Wires; Jewellers' Composition, of excellent quality;  
Manufacturers of Checks, Labels, Paper-Fasteners, &c.,  
**UNITY WORKS, VITTORIA STREET, BIRMINGHAM,**  
REMOVED FROM SPENCER STREET.

Fig 10: Advert for Henry Jenkins and Sons 1876

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

It is notable that the 1876 advert mentions 'paper-fasteners', since in 1864 the firm at its outset registered a patent (no 1600) for its own specific paper-clip/fastener/staple type in the London Gazette as follows:

*1600. To Henry Jenkins, James Jenkins, Fredrick Jenkins, and Samuel Jenkins, trading under the style or firm of Henry Jenkins and Sons, General. Stampers and Piercers, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, for the invention of " certain improvements in metallic clips for permanently or temporarily binding or holding together manuscripts, papers, pamphlets, or for other like purposes." ( [www.gracesguide.co.uk](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk) ).*

In another advert, from The Watchmaker, Jeweller and Silversmith on 1/8/1889, we read: *Henry Jenkins & Sons, die sinkers, medallists, stampers, &c, of Unity Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham, will exhibit a medal press, striking medals to commemorate the Exhibition: also stamps and presses at work showing the processes of stamping and piercing, &c. Patterns framed, showing designs of checks, tokens, labels, &c.; also ornaments manufactured by the firm. Show cases, exhibiting stars, badges, ornaments, decorations, war and naval officers' miniature medals made by them; also a valuable collection of war medals from 1799 to 1887.*

Around the building was found odd pieces of paperwork related to former dispatch of goods, and acknowledgement of receipt of orders. One of each has been retained (below). The dispatch here was to US Industries, Burtonwood, Warrington. Between 1942 and 1958 RAF Burtonwood became the biggest US Airbase in Europe and even today is the home of an industrial estate. The use of BRS for dispatch dates this card to 1948-69, when the company was in existence. The card therefore is likely to date between 1948 and 1958, between the creation of BRS and the closure of the US airbase.

The blank postcard acknowledgement dates probably between c1940 and c1945, since it carries the tiny letters W.D. with a numerical code. These letters probably stand for War Department.

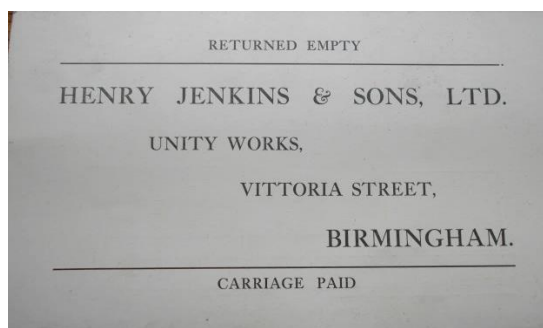


Fig 11: Dispatch 21cm x12.5cm, package return

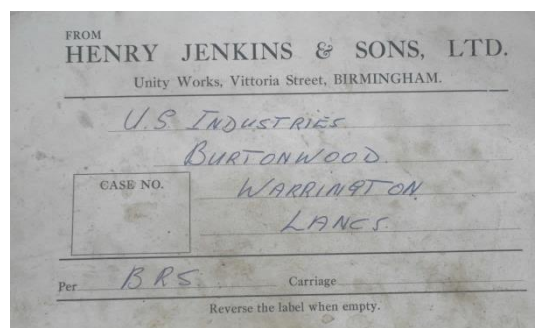


Fig 12: Dispatch 21cm x 12.5cm, address side



## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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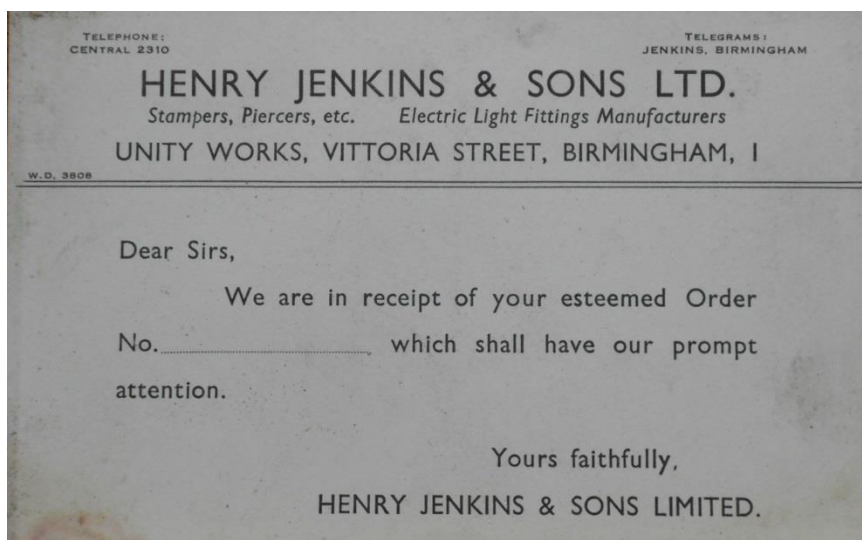


Fig 13: Postcard acknowledgement of order 14cm x9cm

In 1971 Henry Jenkins & Sons Ltd issued a catalogue, some of which still survives in the Birmingham Archives (**BA:LS10/A/7/1**). The following pages are extracted as typical:

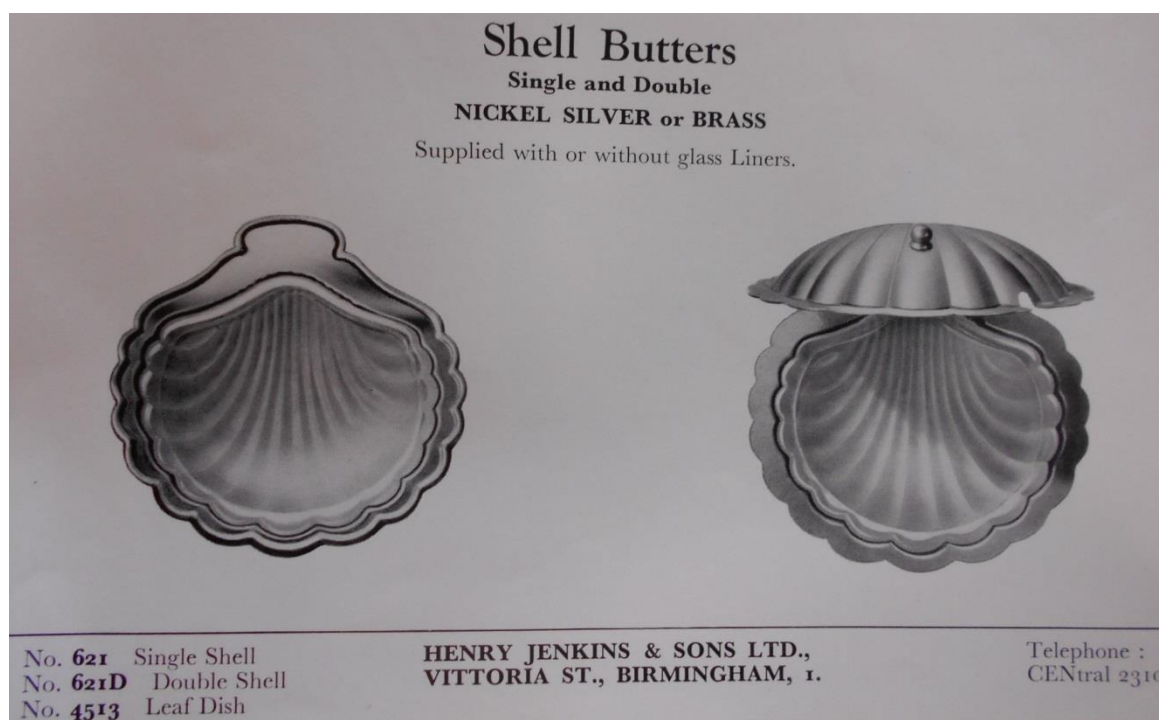


Fig 14: Shell Butters (butter dishes), available from at least 1958- c1971 (**BA: LS10/A/7/1**). Henry Jenkins and Son Ltd could supply replacement glass liners at a price of 97 pence (19s 6d) per dozen in 1971. Already 13 years old in 1971, clearly even then there was dwindling call for either new butter dishes or their liners, since hundreds still lie in 1958 East Lancashire newspaper wrappings in Room EG31.



Fig 15: Adverts for a condiment set c1971 (BA: LS10/A/7/1). Individual parts of these were found within the buildings (see section 8, at end of this report)

In another example from the catalogue an advert portrayed copper or nickel silver section trays or dinner plates in sizes of 6½", 8", 10", 12" or 14". The stamp for one of the 10" examples is still in position in one of the rooms, with one of the last examples ever produced lying beside the press.



Fig 16: The 10" copper or nickel silver tray and its die stamp, still set for production; scale 30cm

### Tenants and subsidiary companies

The Unity works has also housed a number of tenant companies or those subsidiary to Henry Jenkins and Sons Ltd. Depicted on a variety of name-plates on the frontage, these are listed as follows:

*Beverley Hall Ltd.* The company was formed in 1913 out of an earlier partnership. It was an exhibitor at the 1929 British Industries Fair, as a manufacturer of electro-plated table wares. It also had its own premises at 2 Regent Place nearby, now a listed building in its own right, containing apartments. A variety of First Floor rooms in Unity works were denoted as used by Beverley Hall Ltd by their distinctive pillar-box red decor and these rooms are listed as (EF59-64). They also held the small strong-room off room EF61, marked by a large steel door, if the décor is to be relied upon.

Their former warehouse (room EF64) is marked by a distinctively-painted sign. Christopher Butterworth, Creative Director of Omobono Ltd, Cambridge, contributes the following to say about the sign, and with it the likely date of Beverley Hall's tenancy:

*'Signs like this one were likely to be hand-painted by a sign-writer. They didn't tend to use specific fonts (which were really the preserve of printers' lead type). They mainly just followed the fashion of the day.*

*The TD ligature is probably just a flourish that the sign painter threw in as a decorative item. It's certainly not a standard one like you might get with an 'st' or an 'fj'.*

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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*That said one of the most interesting features of the typeface is vertical stroke on the U in Warehouse. It has a stem at the bottom which not many fonts do. It's reminiscent of the font [Albertus](#). This dates from the early thirties. It also has a late Arts & Crafts feel like Eric Gill's [Perpetua](#). That was late 20s. It is plausible therefore that the sign dates from the early 1930s.'*



Fig 17: The Beverley Hall Ltd offices EF62 and EF63, looking south-east across EF61



Fig 18: The first floor production space EF59 in the bright Beverley Hall Ltd livery



Fig19: The door to EF64, the Beverley Hall Ltd warehouse; scale 1m



Fig 20: The strong-room door in EF61; scale 1m



Fig 21: The sign on the door to EF64 in Fig 19 (above). The distinctive lettering face suggests it was created in the early 1930s.

Beverley Hall Ltd of course was not mentioned in the 1897 plans for the construction of this part of the building. Therefore it may be plausible that their tenancy coincided with the Great Depression, at a time when Jenkins' own order book was flagging and the economical use of its space was paramount to keep the works going. They do not appear to have made any difference to the layout of the building, and continued with it as designed in 1897, with the exception that EF64, their warehouse, was originally designed as a 'New Silver Room'.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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William Adams, Silversmiths is noted on the building exterior. However, their involvement in the complex was relatively late in the building's history. They are first noted in the Kelly's Trade Directories in 1973-4 at no 40 Vittoria Street (The Jenkins address throughout). That late addition is confirmed by Jones (1981) who noted in that year that they had been 'recently purchased' by Henry Jenkins and Sons Ltd. A later hand (presumably 1970s-80s) has noted in pencil on the Broadcast Plan that Adams occupied the top-floor frontage room ES42. This was described when designed in 1897 as a 'New Top Shop'.

In 1883-4 the numbering along Vittoria Street changed. Before 1884, Henry Jenkins and Sons was listed in Kelly's Directories at no 62. From 1884 inclusive, this was changed to no 40, which then remained consistent to the present day. This new numbering affected the neighbouring Vittoria Works far more but briefly in the period 1884-90, Jenkins seems to have enjoyed neighbours as follows:

Address/Date	40	42A	44	44 (back of)	46
1884	Henry Jenkins and Sons Tool Makers (Unity Works)	Wm Hodgekiss, Jeweller/Gilt Jewellery maker	George Lowe, Mercurial gilder		Thos Howard, Optician
1886			George Lowe, Mercurial gilder		Thos Howard, Optician
1890			Henry Marsden, metal chain manufacturer; Berry & Co Mercurial gilder; Alfred Pardoe Electro-gilder and plater; Frederick Lowe, Enameller	Arthur Bernard Reeves (die sinker)	
<i>1897-8</i>	<i>New Shopping built, ending adjacent occupancies</i>				
1900			Henry Marsden & Co, metal chain manufacturer		
1901	Same, die sinkers		Henry Marsden & Co, metal chain manufacturer		
1903	Same, die sinkers		Henry Marsden & Co, metal chain manufacturer		
1904	Same, die sinkers		Henry Marsden & Co, metal chain manufacturer		

The rather isolated no 44 is confirmed on deposited 1897 building plans in Birmingham Archives as being the small pre-existing rear building which lies to the back of no 50. There it is labelled as 'Marsden's Shop' (BA: BBP 13597). Nos 42 A and 46 make no other appearances, although it is noted that in the personnel records sample, one worker was sent to the No 42 Tool Shop as late as 1960-62, possibly a remnant of the former property numbering in corporate memory. Alternatively, it may just be a reference to a Fly-press type (graded by numbers).

At no 40, some sub-letting seems to have taken place between 1913 and 1919, when James Price and Co (Metal Spinners) was in residence alongside Jenkins. It may be that during that period Henry Jenkins and Sons invited this second company in to either work under license on their products, or to extend their production capacity. This may have been in connection with War Work. Throughout

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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World War 1 (1914-18) Henry Jenkins and Sons produced millions of oilers and oiler bottles for Lee Enfield rifles <http://picclick.co.uk/Lee-Enfield-Rifle-Oil-Bottle-Oiler-Hjs-152307955356.html>. (Thanks to David Willetts of PCPT for drawing my attention to this web-page. The rifles were made in Birmingham by BSA (**BA**: MS321/F/1).

Otherwise, no other tenants appear in Trade Directories from 1880 until 1974 for nos 40, 42 or 44 Vittoria Street. Henry Jenkins appears otherwise to be the only company advertising.

The Commercial Trade Directories are not exhaustive, but at their height, during this period, they did act as almost a complete directory of businesses who wished to expand and thrive. Advertising cost a small fee, but coverage is often so good, and can be cross-referenced with the likes of Census Records, that it is clear that few chose not to pay up and be included.

The loss of no 42A and space which allowed tradesmen to work independently from nos 44 and 46, may have been swallowed up by the new shopping built for Henry Jenkins and Sons from the designs deposited in 1897 (**BA**: BBP 13597). Marsdens survived a while since their building was unaffected, right at the far end, with its own access from Vittoria Street. The others vacated and never reappeared, their premises perhaps destroyed in the new buildings.

### Vittoria Works

Just as has been found for Unity Works, there have been Architects Plans deposited for Vittoria Works which do survive, although not as many. These are **BA**: BBP 11271 (30 Vittoria Street, 1895; covered yard for Mr Hall by Frederick Urry, Architect) and **BA**: BBP 11584 (30 and 32 Vittoria Street, 1896). These are presented later in this report as they are more readily juxtaposed with individual site recording rather than in a section of their own.

The Vittoria Works does not figure in the Cattell *et al* gazetteer (2002).

As for Unity Works, a full run of Commercial Trade Directories was consulted in The Library of Birmingham from 1880 -1974. These are more instructive for the Vittoria Works than for Unity Works since they are simply more varied and reflect the disparate nature of tenancies or ownerships over a long period and the fluctuations of the state of the Jewellery and metalworking trades in Birmingham.

The entries, and more particularly the absence of entries, may be instructive in identifying those periods when major construction work was taking place.

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map at its helpful 1:500 rendering is helpful since it shows that in 1887 there remained two pedestrian entries from the street to the rear yards. This strongly suggests that the frontage at that date still contained the fully domestic property numbers 30-36 Vittoria Street. It also strongly suggests that the elaborate frontage we see today is not of 1866 but of c1887. Certainly the line of the second (northerly) entry is clearly recognisable through the southern side of EG07, EG08 and the passageway through to EG27. It is possible that the buildings were re-fronted and substantially reordered inside at that late c1887 date (date of map publication not the survey), and not in 1866, but perhaps to 1866 designs. The evidence is equivocal.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

Date	30	32	32½	34	34 (back of)
1880	Not recognisable			Leopold Cohen, merchant (no 64)	
1881	Not recognisable			Leopold Cohen, merchant (no 64)	
1883	Thos Cully, Gold cutter (no 65)	Not recognisable		Leopold Cohen, merchant (no 64)	
		? Major Rebuild?			
1884	Thos Cully, Gold cutter; Flint & Son, electro-platers	John Pearsall, Electro-plate ware manufacturer		Leopold Cohen, merchant	
1886	Thos Cully, Gold cutter; Flint & Son, electro-platers	John Pearsall, Electro-plate ware manufacturer		Leopold Cohen, merchant	
1890		Flint & Sons		Hancock Bros (Whip ornament manufacturers)	
New southern range of shopping built and quickly expanded 1895-6					
1901		Alfred Deakin & Sons, Brooch tong manufacturers	Henry Wm Taylor, Stamper and piercer	Edw Thos Robinson, Jeweller	Cudd & Co Stampers
1902	Alfred Kent, Gold Ring Manufacturer	Alfred Deakin & Sons, Brooch tong manufacturers	Henry Wm Taylor, Stamper and piercer	Northern range of shopping re-built?	T Green & Co, Stampers
1903	Alfred Kent, Edward Jenks, Jewellers	Alfred Deakin & Sons, Brooch tong manufacturers	Henry Wm Taylor, Stamper and piercer		T Green & Co, Stampers
1904	Alfred Kent, Edward Jenks, Sam L. Levi, Jewellers	Alfred Deakin & Sons, Brooch tong manufacturers	Henry Wm Taylor, Stamper and piercer	Edw Thos Robinson, Jeweller	T Green & Co, Stampers
1913	Frank J Hall, Leather goods manufacturer	Alfred Deakin & Sons, Brooch tong manufacturers	Henry Wm Taylor, Stamper and piercer	Frank J Hall, Leather goods manufacturer	
1914	Frank J Hall, Leather goods manufacturer			Frank J Hall, Leather goods manufacturer	
1917	James Walter Arnott, electro-plate manufacturer			Clements and Unitt, manufacturing jewellers; Charles Usher, medallist	
1919	James Walter Arnott, electro-plate manufacturer			Clements and Unitt, manufacturing jewellers	
1930				Clements and Unitt, manufacturing jewellers	
1937	Labro upholstery Ltd			The Usher Manufacturing Co Ltd, medallists	
1940	Warstone Gauge and Tool Co, Toolmakers			The Usher Manufacturing Co Ltd, medallists	
Thereafter unchanged					



## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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until					
1964				Colborne Trophies Ltd; H G Coull, Screen process printer	
1967-8				Colborne Trophies Ltd; W J Henson, Engraver;	
1968-9				Colborne Trophies Ltd; W J Henson, Engraver;	
1973-4	Tre-Glow Pressings Ltd, sheet metal pressers		Y & E (1968) Ltd, Jewellery manufacturers	F M Ltd, manufacturing jewellers; W J Henson, Engraver	

The list for Vittoria Works is far more diverse than that for the adjacent Unity Works. Not only are there far more tenant companies, but many clearly stayed for only a short time. Others were not companies at all but skilled sole traders, which is part of a much wider characteristic of Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter.

One surprise is the appearance of a fairly dominant leather goods manufacturer just before and during the first year of the First World War. Their industry one presumes required not only a different set of skills (and therefore different staff), but also different machinery, although they presumably both needed the excellent natural lighting that ranges of industrial shopping offered. Hall had been associated with the premises for some time since in 1895 'Mr Hall' commissioned a covered yard at no 30. It may be coincidence, but equally, Frank J Hall may at least have been related, if not the same person.

As will be seen, the bigger (northerly) range of rear shopping at Vittoria Works was in existence before 1896. However, there is much to suggest in the structure that the pre-1896 rear shopping was substantially rebuilt later on. Given that there is no documentary evidence for the date of that rebuild, it may be that some indication is present in the above dataset. The two years with no entry for no 34 (1902-3), with the same user both before and after, may suggest that those were the years of the rebuild, perhaps with considerable expansion of space. This became shopping EG25, EF32 and ES14, 17 and 18, with its distinctive concrete flat roof, a characteristic which gained wider usage from the 1890s and was commonplace during the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, the range has steel-framing, which was apparently scarcely used in the Jewellery Quarter until just before World War 1 (Cattell et al, 2002).

The presence of no's 32½ and 34 (back of) are quirky perhaps, but do represent a genuine attempt to make addresses out of what are probably just sub-tenancies, in which the tenants needed a clear trading address for their clients.

From the outset the accommodation of the Vittoria Works was, and remained, suited to sole traders, few of whom needed much space and could work in the domestic-scale surroundings offered by the frontage rooms which had begun as domestic houses and still retain their domestic-scale fireplaces, skirting boards and cosy family-scale rooms.

The gradual transition from domestic to skilled-industrial was probably accompanied by the re-numbering of the properties on the street. This took place between the issue of the 1883 Kelly's Directory and that of 1884. Continuity is provided only by the tenancy of Leopold Cohen, a

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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merchant, and possibly the man behind the conversion. He lived at no 64 Vittoria Street, which one may surmise became no 32. Thos Cully, Gold Cutter, was the only other element of continuity, at no 65 in 1883 (which then became no 30). Next door in the Unity Works were Henry Jenkins and Sons at no 62 (which became no 40). It is far from clear how the numbering was configured before 1884, since the same side of the street seems to have included both odd and even numbers. The lack of continuity either side of 1884 suggests that it is at about that date that the Vittoria Works lost its domestic frontage and acquired the present ornate factory frontage, and with it the new numbering which has pertained throughout. It is likely that the first range of industrial shopping was built at the same time (the original EG25, EF32 and ES14, 17 and 18) and which is noted (but not in detail in 1895 and 1896; **BA**: BBP 11271 and 11584).

One of the final listed tenants, Colborne Trophies, seems (from remaining debris) to have been ensconced on the first floor of no 34, but there is no indication of where any of the previous tenants plied their trades, and the division of the factory, with numerous sets of stairs serving different parts of the building, presents a bewildering array of accesses, all on a domestic scale. Colborne Trophies Ltd was incorporated in 1945 still exists in Trowbridge, Wiltshire where it moved in 1986-7, taking out a mortgage against the sale of its interests at 30, 32 and 34 Vittoria Street, Birmingham. Its catalogue from 1939 to 1986 is deposited with the Swindon History Centre.

# Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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## 5 The Building Record for Unity Works

*Frontage range (1865)*

### Exterior

The Listing description of the Unity Works has already been cited above. This is a particularly detailed description of what is actually a repetitive if stately façade of some substance. It conveys the intended imposing nature of the building within the street frontage and the architectural order it employed, together with the phased nature of the development.



Fig 22: Unity Works street frontage with surviving street numbering

Some considerable alterations have been carried out to the frontage at street level. The plinth of Staffordshire Blue Engineering Brick is largely either a full replacement at its northern half or a major alteration at the southern half. This was to block up (and in the northern half externally at least almost visually remove) the row of basement windows, possibly with integral pavement light-wells. These brick blockings are all visible on the inside. Externally the blue brick plinth would have been totally rebuilt along its northern half, leaving only the stone lintel chamfers of the plinth offset. Along the southern portion the former openings remained visibly blocked, all but one, which retained a timber door (arrowed yellow in Fig 22).



Fig 23: Basement view, looking north in room EB16, with blocked basement light (yellow) on right, with lintel *in situ*. Note the original ground floor timbers supported on a cast-iron column (arrowed) and almost hidden behind the extensive whitewashed (probably 1940s) Fletton inserts (see below)

The rear of the buildings on the exterior was not specifically covered by the Listing description. Essentially the rear face is substantially solid, comprising brick walls of at least two bricks thickness (9"), often three (13 ½") at the base, with the majority in red brick but with an exterior offset skin of Staffordshire Blue Engineering bricks (common across the Midlands from the arrival of the railways onwards). Window and door openings are generally finished in the same blue engineering brick, to form minimally-decorative arches and lintels for the windows, chamfered jambs and sills of bricks laid on edge. There are minor stylistic variations in this from one building to another. Windows are for the most part metal-framed with multiple small panes, with an opening ventilation panel of one or more panes. Many of the windows fit their openings quite poorly and a fillet of a bonding material, possibly lime mortar, but sometimes probably cementitious, has had to be used to fix them into position. This widespread poor fit suggests that the window frames may have been bought as a job-lot, left over from another order.

Roofs are generally of Welsh slate, over timber laths and rafters, with principal timber trusses of machine-sawn pine, erected in queen-post configuration (where seen).

The solid ground floors were constructed principally of brick, often the hard-wearing Staffordshire blues, but where alterations or strengthening has occurred, it has mostly been in patches of concrete screed of uncertain thickness.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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Rainwater goods are generally traditional, of cast iron, but with some modern plastic additions or replacements. Drainage is poor with pooling in the yards and patches of slime forming; this has not been investigated further.

Upper floors and those over basements are constructed of tall, narrow pine joists spaced variously between 14" and 18" apart, regularly braced by raking struts between. Joists span between composite pine principal beams paired around a steel flitch and coach-bolted right through the entire assembly. Through the entire front and rear ranges, the principal beams are mostly further supported on a series of cast iron columns (although not consistently on every level) with integral cast 'gusset plates' clasp the beams and coach-bolted through.

The buildings contain a mass of redundant pipework and conduits. These generally either carried former electrical cables from bottom to top, with others related to compressed air supplies. One main iron pipe run relates to the former major gas supply which probably used to power a late Victorian gas engine (running on town gas) which delivered the power to the principal presses. This pipe has been traced from the frontage to the boiler house where the boiler still survives, from a time when it probably did no more than heat parts of the building (see below). There appear to have been two successive engine/boiler houses, and both have had to be partly demolished and rebuilt to get their redundant apparatus out and a replacement in (see below).



Fig 24: View from EF59 doorway to EF52 east across across roof of the Polishing shop and toilets (flat roofs) showing rear of frontage range and north face of EF47 and ES29



Fig 25: View from south window in EF47 looking east across covered yard showing rear window of EF37 and second floor windows of ES27.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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Fig 26: View up over the Polishing shop to the exterior of EF59 and ES39 (top left)



Fig 27: View west over Polishing shop of the two-floor timber link walkways between the two principal workshop ranges. EF59 and ES39 to right

### Interior

#### Basement

The frontage basements of Unity Works were built in two distinct parts of about half each. One of the 1860s, the other of 1897-8.

The two separate basements were joined together from the moment the later one was constructed. However, current clear views of either the original or the later conjoined basements were prevented by the immense amount of dumping which has occurred within them, with both waste and unused material having been tipped or disposed of down there for many decades. Some unused components from the firms' products have never been opened, such as ceramic light-fittings bundled in thousands in natural coir fibre packaging and stacked in scores of collapsing un-labelled cardboard boxes.

The whole basement along the frontage at its greatest extent has been extensively fitted out with a lavishly-buttressed inner skin of Fletton brick in the relatively-strong English Bond (alternate courses of headers and stretchers). This represents the well-documented creation of an extensive Air Raid Shelter from March 1940, even before the Midlands (or any other English urban centres) had been targeted.



Fig 28: Dividing wall in basement room EB10 (looking East) entirely of Flettons in English Bond with corrugations denoting former inserted roof line under the ground floor joists of EG31

A further rear basement was discovered leading off basement EB14, down a long corridor and underneath room EG42, the former polishing shop. The corridor had been blocked off some time ago by the collapse of a ceiling and other apparatus which prevented access, probably for many decades. This was drawn by hand and its detail added to the existing architects' survey plan.

This rear basement is littered with early debris, including drive-wheels, belts and shaft-apparatus, while the walls are lined with hundreds of steel former die-stamps on shelves. This basement space, still largely inaccessible, contains a considerable body of production material and the awkward access created by the insertion of the Fletton Air Raid Shelter suggests it may have been largely undisturbed since c1940. It was designed as a new Casting Shop in 1897 and contained furnaces and flues.



Fig 29: Dumped debris



Fig 30: Stored stamps



Fig 31: A laminated (and delaminating) wooden drive wheel in corridor



Fig 32: Stored stamps, rotting shelves buckling under their weight

It was noted that a hatchway in the upper part of the east wall of this basement leads into a further room, which appears to be part-filled with sand. The room may be as much as 4m x 4m in plan. It is not clear how it might be accessed, or what else it might contain. It is shown on the 1897 plan but is unlabelled. This room too lies beneath the former polishing shop (EG42) and formerly beneath a 'sitting room' which may have preceded it, probably an early mess room.

None of the basements were included in the B/cast Plan (Fig 9). Many other parts of the basements are littered with discarded packaging debris, notably tea chests and crates, which make access difficult in complete darkness or lit only by a work-lamp. The main basements appear only perhaps minimally-damp, but where Victorian brickwork is visible, some is spalling and fragile. It is not an environment given over to good preservation of either structural elements or stored/discarded debris, especially anything organic, such as packaging.





Fig 33: Arched alcove in north-west corner of EB11, containing a collection of cast-iron wheels from a drive-shaft. The arch supported the stairs above, while to both left and right stand two World-War II Fletton-brick buttresses. Most of the basements are highly cluttered like this.

### Ground Floor

None of the Ground Floor frontage was included in the B/cast Plan (Fig 9). The 1897-8 plans show how the northern portion was used at that particular time.

At ground floor level the frontage range as it survives appears to be little-changed on both the northern and southern thirds (rooms EG40 and EG31, respectively) although the rooms are little more than shells containing few clues as to their former uses, while the middle third has undergone considerable alteration, as will be seen.

Entrance directly to the ground floor is, and has probably always been, via a pair of high timber doors into a wide corridor (EG35), which today terminates in a relatively modern toilet. Exit is only by a short flight of timber stairs to the right (north) to a plain office fitted out probably in the 1960s (EG37) and which contains no historic features, although it almost certainly contains a domestic-scale blocked fireplace in its north wall. The frontage windows number three, each of eight panes with lunette, all metal-framed. The partitions to west and south are modern. The height-discrepancy of the floor from the corridor is because of the need to carry the office and areas beyond above the basement.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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The corridor, perhaps bizarrely now terminating in a toilet, formerly extended through to the rear of the range, and was originally intended to link to the now somewhat hemmed-in rear yard (EG43) and the workshops of the Unity Works. It provided the workers' entrance for staff arriving for the dirty end of the business, production. The corridor was blocked at the back wall of the building when the building was subsequently divided up.



Fig 34: The former main corridor entrance from Vittoria Street to the rear yard and workshops (marked yellow). The small window above once lit a stair quarter-landing

The former brick stair access to the basements lay at this point too, but straightforward access has been almost lost in the creation of a concrete raft which has blanked off the top of the staircase, with at least three treads and risers lost. It is only accessible via a short iron ladder which bypasses the lost steps.

Meanwhile an adjacent pair of timber doors leads directly to a set of stairs (EG32) to the first floor and the office-frontage where cleaner trades were traditionally plied, notably the clerical end of the business, along with drawing offices and in the case of this factory, printing.

The two entrances also served to segregate the sexes, since up until the First World War, the few women employed were likely to have been deployed in clerical trades, and they would be dissuaded from mixing with the workshops, an almost exclusively male preserve. This distinction became muddled with the onset of the First World War and increasingly gender-segregation was lost as part of 20<sup>th</sup>-century advances in working conditions.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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In a lobby to the rear of the office stands a winding set of blanked-off stairs (EG39). Their *raison d'être* has been entirely lost as they have been severed both above and below (EF42 and EB14, respectively). These form the former stairs serving the northern half of the frontage range.



Fig 35: Blanked off and boxed-in stairs in EG 39, looking north towards the winding flight up, once to EF42. The arrow shows the location of the winder downwards in the side-face, once to EB14; Scale 1m

To the north of the central entrance lies room EG40, a large (9m x 7.2m) open space not readily identifiable with any former uses, but for its label in 1897 as 'New Stock Shop'. However, here the modern gas supply enters the building and a floor-hatch and doorway in the north-east corner lead directly down to the basement and former probable air raid shelter at their northern end. There are possible former compressed air lines within the room. A blocked doorway in the south-west corner of the room once either communicated with the Polishing Shop or alternatively, led into the yard and was blocked when the polishing shop prevented direct yard-access.

The room is spanned with two principal beams above, dividing it into three (unequal) portions, which are supported upon cast-iron columns. In turn these stand above similar column positions in the basements below.

A loading-door in the east wall leads directly on to the street from this elevated position (lorry-height) so it is plausible that the room was intended for packaging and dispatch of goods. There is otherwise nothing present which might indicate any former uses.



Fig 36: Room EG40, possibly formerly dispatch but built in 1897 as a 'New Stock Shop'. View north from in front of the pavement loading doors, looking north; scale 1m. Note the low-level doorway and hatch to the basement stairs; a second, vertical hatch lies nearby.

While the northern half of the range was once served by the above-mentioned stairs, the whole range has also lost a second set. When the former corridor through from the street was blocked up and the modern offices created, a former ground-floor landing was also taken out, since previously-different floor-levels needed to be equalised. This was the same move which took out the top of the basement stairs. Today a simple domestic scale door stands well of the ground floor, nailed shut, but which was once the location of a landing, lit by a single rear-facing window (Fig 34, above).

The southern room on the ground floor frontage (EG31) is today a place of storage for hundreds of rusty stamps and dies from the former workshops. These litter the room and some are also more sensibly placed on modern Dexion-type shelving. This storage function is probably a relatively recent introduction, since the room is unusually provided with a plastered ceiling, suggesting it may once have housed workers whose comparatively sedentary jobs required warmer surroundings. The single principal beam runs north-south, in contrast to EG40. The benches along the east wall also contain settings for fly-presses, so some production has also gone on here.

At its southern end the room contains a pair of high-level double doors which open into an un-numbered cart-width road-side passageway leading to the rear yard EG29. These are loading/unloading doors and if EG40 was for dispatch, then surely this room, with its elevated position, was intended for unloading good and raw materials for use in the factory. Such an entrance would have taken in the hundreds of crates of pre-cut metal sheeting which the premises would need to order in to keep its presses working.



Fig 37: Room EG31, looking south, with the shelf-stored array of dies and stamps. Note the double doors in the far, south wall which open at chest-level in the adjacent road-access.



Fig 38: Room EG31, looking North-east. Note the covered-in ceiling. Both the bench and the shelves are full of stamps and dies. The turquoise coloured cellar hoist through an open floor-hatch can also be seen from below in Fig 28 (above). Another closed hatch is marked in yellow. Scale 1m.

The room also contained a collection of tea-chests with items connected to production in the post-World War II period. A number of cartons contained (still packed) unused glass inserts for ashtrays, while a tea-chest contained hundreds of scallop-shaped glass inserts for butter-dishes. These remain wrapped in their newspaper packaging, which is dominated by East Lancashire local newspapers of 1958. Nearby are a selection of matching scallop-shell stamps and dies for the related dishes.



Fig 39: Room EG 31 -Stamps, glass scallop-insert, the same wrapped, two of hundreds; scale 30cm

A number of assorted tea-chests contain thousands of 1960s-70s EPNS pieces of cutlery sent back perhaps for re-plating. They bear monograms of disparate hotels, airlines and other corporate identities.



Fig 40: Tea-chests full of EPNS cutlery, possibly sent in for re-plating



Fig 41: Stamps and dies stored on benches in EG31, a frontage window onto Vittoria Street behind. The stamp to the far right is one half of a pair of tea-pot spouts. The gouges in the bench-top at bottom right show that in a former room-use fly-presses were formerly located here; scale 30cm.

### First Floor

On the B/Cast Plan the entire frontage range is un-labelled, although it was partly divided into small rooms as it is today. What is currently a mess-kitchen (EF42) appears to have held the Microphone for the public address system. Room EF38 held the more modern telephone exchange for the building, and is where the B/cast plan was found.

The northern half of the frontage range appears to be former offices, and most of the timber partitions seem to date from around 1900, as evidenced by the distinctive carpentry, which includes the likes of multiple chamfers on door rails and muntins. This is typical of treatment of carpentry in non-conformist chapels of the late Victorian and Edwardian periods. More on these rooms can be seen in the section dealing with Beverley Hall Ltd (above).

Of particular note, however, is the truncated end of a former drive shaft in EF64, which once ran the length of an adjacent workshop (EF59). When the drive shaft was taken out, leaving just the cradle and bearings in the walls, the far end -with a single wheel- in EF64 was left in situ. The wheel may suggest that there was at one time a driven machine in EF64, but latterly this function was dispensed with. Instead the wheel and shaft-stump were boxed in, presumably to lessen and noise through the wall with the workshop, but also to stop any spray of grease and oil from the bearings. This may have been done when the room became the Beverly Hall Warehouse as the distinctive sign indicates, perhaps around 1930.



Fig 42: High in the west wall of room EF64, the Beverley Hall Ltd Warehouse, but built as a 'New Silver Room' in 1897. The boxed-in wheel and drive shaft, cut off on the far side of the wall in EF59

The southern portion of the frontage is almost a single undivided room (EF37) (but for the modern telephony room (EF38) divided off). It contains nothing which might indicate former uses, except there is a blocked fireplace in the end (south) wall while the southernmost windows in the east street-facing frontage differ considerably from the rest. It is another room with a plastered ceiling, which suggests office-accommodation. A former stair remains (EF48) rising to the second floor. An ex-situ safe stood in the centre of the room, while the room also contained trays of dozens of copper printing blocks for trade catalogues. It is possible that the room was once a print-shop.

The plaster ceilings above and also below would also be evidence that any floor in this range would not in the first instance be fitted out with presses, since their weight and repetitive action might damage the plaster.



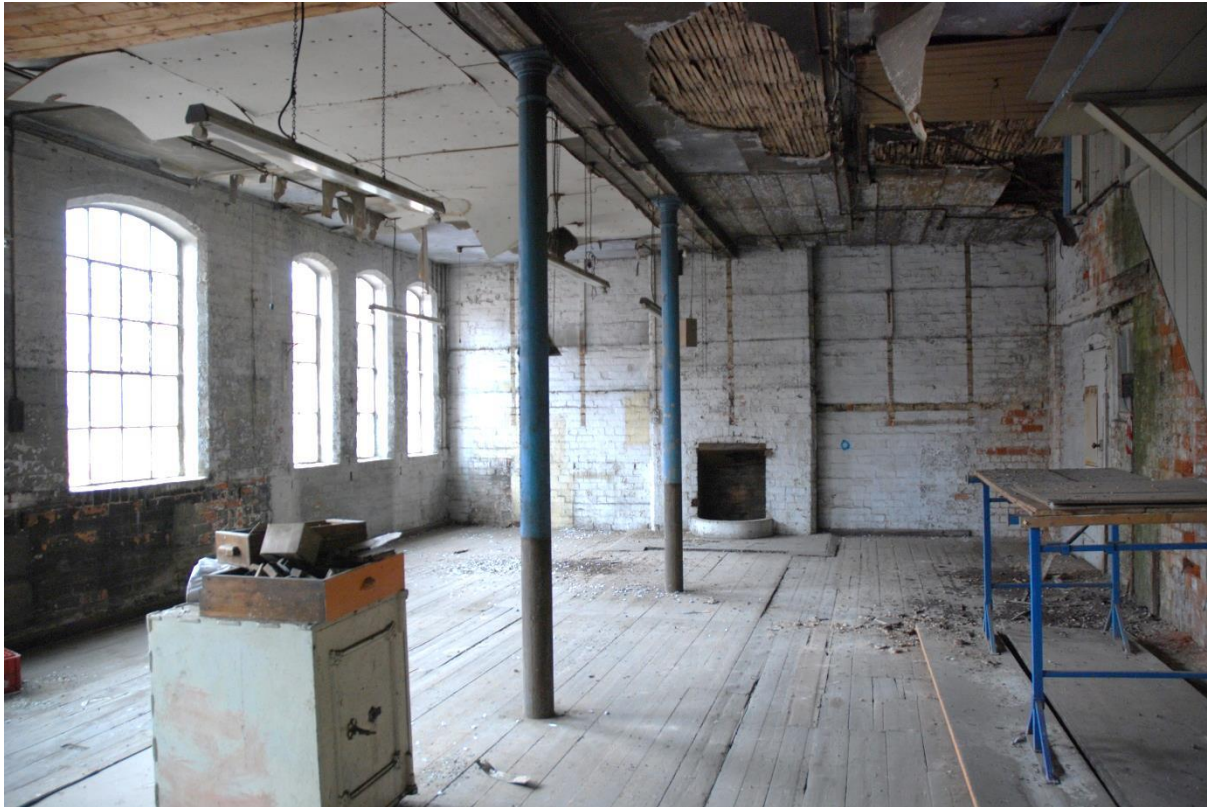


Fig 43: Room EF37 looking south. Note the fireplace in the end gable (with 1m scale adjacent), and the trio of tall, narrow windows in contrast to the bigger frontage aspect windows. The corporate livery is a notable light blue. Stair at far right.

### Second Floor

On the B/Cast Plan (Fig 9) the most northerly room was shown occupied by Adams, but the name has only been added in a later hand (in pencil), so is not of the 1940s. William Adams Ltd was established in 1865 and was later wholly acquired by Henry Jenkins in the early 1970s. Its products are traceable from c1900-55, and it was in business until the 1980s ([www.925-1000.com](http://www.925-1000.com); Jones, 1981). Otherwise, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is unmarked on the B/Cast Plan. On the 1897 plan the northernmost room (ES42) is noted as 'New Top Shop'.

The second, top floor at the street frontage comprises three bare rooms (ES27, ES41, ES42). There is little to indicate how any of them were used, although office-space seems likely for at least some of the building's life. This set of rooms is among the plainest in the building.



Fig 44: Room ES41. The grease mark from a wall-mounted drive shaft bearing (one of a set of four) the only room at second floor level to contain them. It is unclear where the drive came from, although a discrete electric motor mounted on the second floor seems likely. Note the blocked fireplace and hearth with kerb in the gable.



Fig 45: Room ES27, looking north, with boxed-in stair to left. At this level all the windows are square-headed to both front and rear, unlike the arched examples further down the building. The queen-post trusses of the frontage roof are exposed and there is evidence in a number of fitch-plates that the roof trusses have previously had to be extensively-repaired. A variety of side and centre-line benches and work-stations may be inferred from wear patterns on the floor. Any early lighting has been lost to post-war strip lights. Tannoy-type speakers are arrowed.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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### *Southern (Principal) Rear Range of shopping (1865 with additions)*

#### Ground Floor

On the B/Cast Plan (Fig 9) the principal room on the ground floor was known as the Power Press Shop (EG49). In the 1897 plans it was called the 'Stamping Shop'. Given its proximity to the power source, this is likely to have been a long-lived name and may be original, its shafts driven directly from the original engine-house.

In the centre of the long range stand the boxed-in stairs, with a half-landing at the mid-point of each flight. These are probably original but probably once terminated at what is now first floor level when the range was only of two storeys, later heightened. A row of cast-iron columns support the centre of the floor above, between which lie at least two former locations of large presses

At each gable end, there is an annealing hearth or furnace (for softening more malleable metals, and particularly to form the 'force' – the softer, positive part of a die); some of these hearths have been blocked up, others not. Along each wall, lit by maximum natural light, is a secondary brick bench with integral concrete, shock-absorbing 'anvils' built in. The benches are now discontinuous and most lost or very damaged, but one length is substantially complete, standing against the south wall, with a battery of four intact presses. Its work-top is formed by wide, thick baulks of timber into which have been coach-screwed or coach-bolted the fixings for the dies and the poppets (inclined bolts) for holding the stamps.



Fig 46: View of EG49, from EG30, looking west. Along both sides lay the brick and concrete benches on which stood the presses, and of which a battery still survives. Heated channels in the floor were intended to provide the working position for the press-setter and operators, while drive was provided through the shafts and belt-driven wheels mounted on substantial timber cradles suspended from the ceiling. The central stair runs up through the whole building.



Fig 47: View showing the bench, surviving battery of presses, and timber cradle with driven wheels on a spindle or shaft. The nearest press (also shown in the figure below) has been left with a manual pull-belt for individual stamps for engaging the power, carefully and slowly.

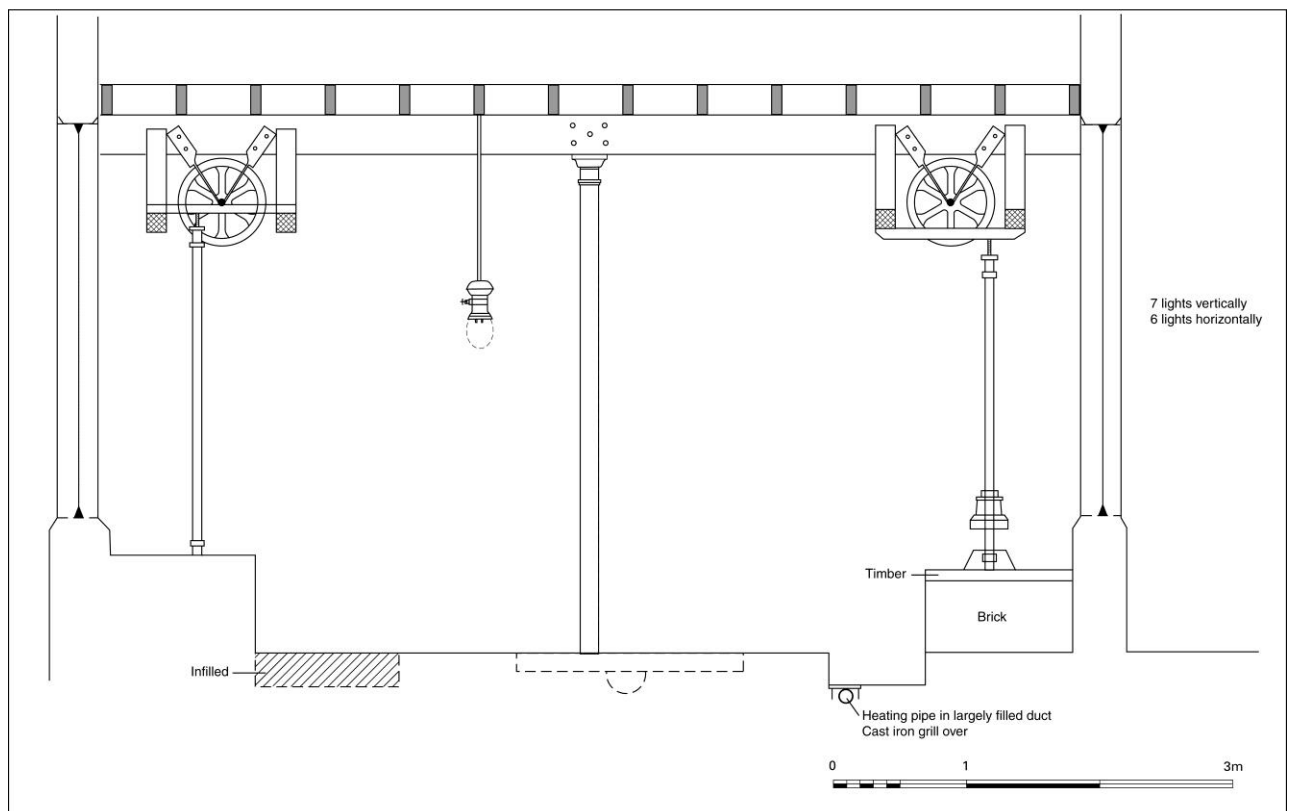


Fig 48: Cross-section of Room EG49 across the remaining stamping battery. Note the slight variation in the mounting of the timber cradle for the line shafting. Gas lantern on conduit from ceiling joist (Andy Isham).

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

Above the presses are the vertical iron guide-rails, each with a manual brake or lock. At the bottom these are fixed into the bench, while at the top they are fixed to the same timber cradle which supports or from which hangs the drive-shaft and wheels for each press. A number of redundant wheels make it clear how many pieces of machinery are missing which once stood here too.

Pull-straps remain, either for hand-control, or foot-controlled stirrups, which once acted as clutches and allowed the press operators to engage briefly for each stamp a burst of lifting power which was delivered constantly through the drive shaft. This engagement (rather than disengagement) made accidents less likely.

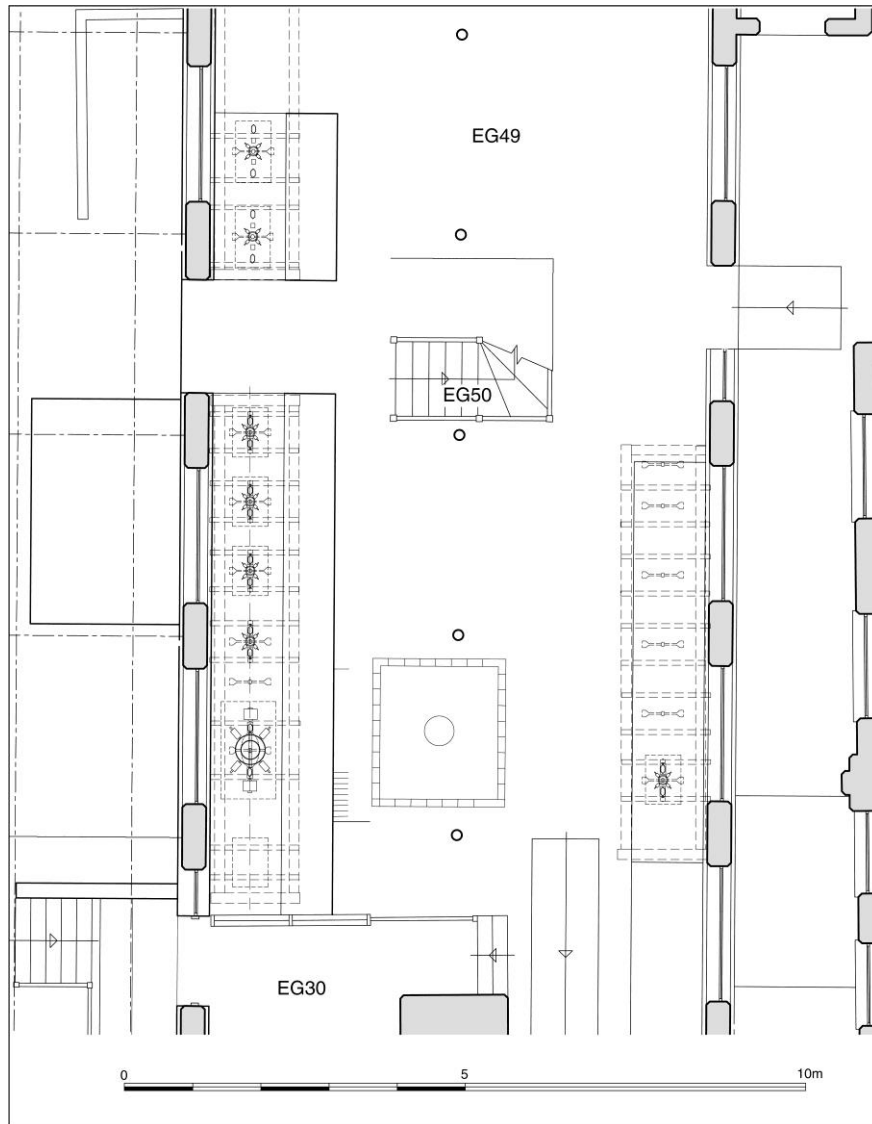


Fig 49: The surviving stamp battery in EG49

The timber cradles vary only in detail and are of a size to hold the drive-shafts solidly between the wall-mounted iron bearing-boxes and prevent any lateral movement. The shafts are braced both by horizontal bearing-mountings below and by iron straps slung from above (Fig 48).

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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Behind the benches lie shallow channels in which the press-setters and press-operators would stand to work. At the back of the channel was an iron grille covering a cast iron pipe along which was pumped hot water to heat the work-space. All but two of the lengths of channel have been filled with concrete.

Within EG49 there is a single gas lamp, fixed rigidly from the joists above by its gas-conduit (Figs 48 and 53). This would have been the only artificial lighting from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the introduction of electricity.

Discarded motors and a ½-ton chain-hoist present here may relate directly to this room or this floor, but may have come from elsewhere in the buildings (Figs 54-5).



Fig 50: The biggest surviving press with stamp for a hollow-ware 10" plate or tray, held in place by a ring of four inclined bolts, called 'poppets'. Note the polygonal shock-absorbing iron 'anvil' within the brick and timber-topped bench. This prevented the bricks in the bench from shattering under repeated impacts. Note the manual brake lever on the left



Fig 51: View around the western end of EG49 looking north-west into what was originally the Blacksmith's Shop until at least c1897. The bearing-ends and grease-marks on the wall of three former driven shafts can be seen (with one left in situ). Above the RSJ in the ceiling can be seen a series of slots, through which the drive and relay-belts passed unhindered.



Fig 52: A former drive shaft and drive wheel, *ex situ*; scale 1m. The drive wheels are in laminated wood to prevent the belts slipping. Secondary, iron wheels were often grooved for rubber belts (that in the foreground for four) or flanged to prevent slack or angled belts from sliding off.

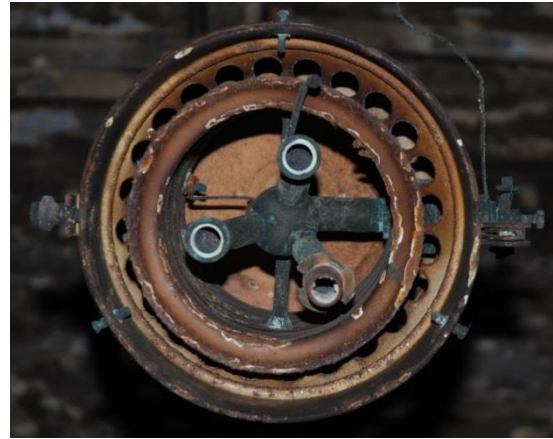


Fig 53: Two views of surviving 19<sup>th</sup>-century gas lamp on a rigid suspension from the ceiling in EG49.

The principal room extends at its western end to the north in a very dark workshop cluttered with debris but which in its own right contained two more individual drive shafts. In 1897 this room was The Blacksmith's Shop and once connected directly to EG53 beyond via a now-blocked doorway. Also on the north is another original, but blocked doorway, which once led into the yard on the north, but which was then used as access to a block of WCs added to the side of the building. While these still exist (just), including a slate-sided urinal, the biggest downstairs room has subsequently been used to house a compressor feeding air to one of the former benches on the north side of the Power Press Shop.



Fig 54: Discarded early electric motor with drive wheel fitted with a belt-groove



Fig 55: Half-ton chain hoist by Yale 'Triple geared block'

### First Floor

On the B/Cast Plan this floor was known as the Spinning Shop (Fig 9). In 1897 it was Present Press Shop 1.



## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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This may suggest that the process going on in the 1940s involved the production of wares made by moulding softer, more malleable metals onto wooden stocks or moulds by the action of an operator working a spinning press. The change of use from 1897 suggests this may have been a 20<sup>th</sup>-century expansion of the company's range of wares.

At first floor level room EF47 is one of the two largest undivided spaces in the complex, which stretches from the back of the frontage range all the way to the rear plot boundary. It is lit by two opposed sets of multiple-pane metal framed windows, while the gable-ends are without feature except for a hearth or furnace in the centre. The timber stairs (EF48) wind up from the Power Press Shop below and on upwards to the second floor.

Construction at this level is identical to that below. A two-part stable-type doorway on the south side opens out onto the yard roof, but may be an original opening which allowed a belt drive in from the possible engine house across the yard.

On the north side a blocked doorway once led into a pair of WCs added to the side of the building, almost identical to the floor below.

The floor of the shop shows differential construction where benches once stood, as opposed to walkways (which were reinforced by timber-thickening), but no other evidence survives as to the layout of the room. It is the best-lit room in the complex in terms of natural lighting.



Fig 56: Room EF47 (Spinning Shop) looking west. Note a bearing grease mark on the end wall.



Fig 57: Room EF47 (Spinning Shop) looking east. Note the slightly raised walkways with thickened reinforced timber.



Fig 58: EF47 Drive shaft cradle remains (arrowed) showing how the inner ends of the shafts must have terminated either side of the stairs.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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### Second Floor

On the B/Cast Plan this floor was known as the 'Top Press Shop no 1'. In the 1897 plans it was referred to as 'Present Press Shop 2'. It still contains a number of redundant fly-presses which have been dismantled from their benches but not removed from the building. Like EF47, ES29 is a massive space with opposed rows of identical windows lining the sides to north and south. The 8-bay roof, of Queen-strut construction, is hipped at the east where it meets the frontage range, creating a hidden gutter.

In fact this second floor is clearly secondary to the front range and a butt joint can be seen where its side walls join the back of the front range and make a former rear-facing window redundant. It seems therefore that the rear shopping of c1865 was different and only of two storeys height, with its original roof being at the level of this second floor. Since the floor is referred to on the 1897 plans, it must have been added before that date.

The bench-configuration in the room is almost identical to that which once pertained in the floor below. Here the benches survive to confirm and complement the reinforced walkways, where on the first floor only the floor changes give an impression.

Benches surviving along one side of the room are littered with an assortment of dies and stamps which were presumably related to the items once produced in the room. Also present are hundreds of copper printing blocks for the production of trade catalogues. A collection of Second World War ammunition boxes also suggest some of the items which may have been put together here, although it may also be the case that the crates were bought for general workshop use as War-Surplus; the evidence is equivocal. The crate labels here and elsewhere in the building are as follows:



Fig 59: Ammunition crate labels throughout the building - shells, fuse caps; evidence of war work?

As with the floor below there is a north doorway into the tower containing WCs.

At both first and second floor levels a timber and steel walkway has been built to allow passage between the two rear ranges without having to go to the frontage and walk around or go downstairs and up again the other side. However, these are now totally unsafe and were not accessed as a result. They were noted in the 1897 plans when references were made to 'Open gangway' with alterations to create the doorway out from ES29. This indicates that, while the second floor is not of the same date as the original shopping, and was an upwards extension, it had reached its current extent by 1897.



Fig 60: ES29 west end looking east to the stair. The centre benches all have fly-press fixing holes. All work-stations along the walls and the centre benches were provided with electricity and a fixing for an angle-poise lamp, style icon of the 1940s and uniform at a date when war work meant national investment at the end of a decade of economic depression.



Fig 61: ES29 – a collection of dismantled fly-presses of different types and sizes, such as the Denbigh or the Norton no1, no 38 and no 58, mostly by Sweeney and Blocksidge, Saltley, Birmingham, but some by Hazelwood and Dent, Birmingham. The latter company was established in 1885, but its premises were severely damaged by fire in 1928.



Fig 62: ES29 looking east. Stacked press fittings.

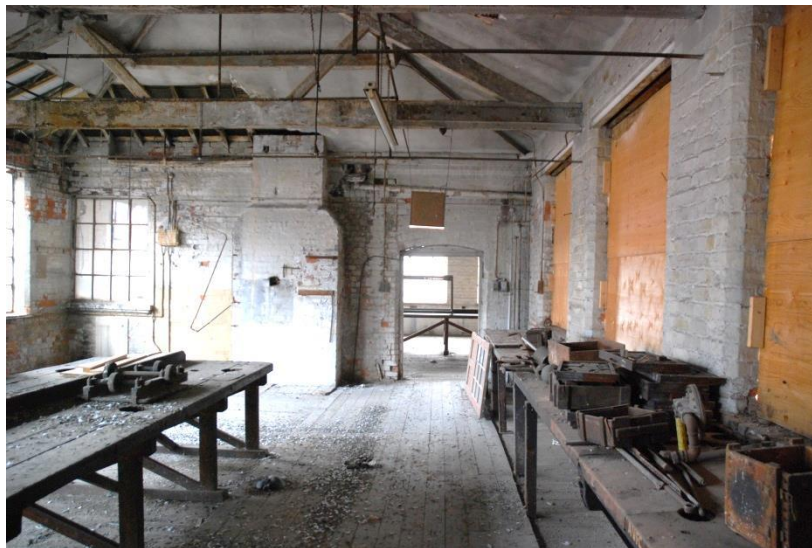


Fig 63: ES29 east end looking east. Note the roof hip. The range makes a butt-joint with the frontage range, and leaves a blind external window on the left, indicating that it is secondary. The doorway has been substantially altered and is a creation in what had been an original external wall.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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### *Northern Rear Range of shopping (1897-8)*

This is one of the main parts of the building set out in detail on the 1897 plans in Birmingham Archives (**BA**: BBP 13597).

#### Ground Floor

This floor was unnamed on the B/Cast Plan, but in 1897 was conceived as 'New Stamping Shop'. At its southern, front end, it was provided with a new engine as a power source. This would have been a gas engine and the plan shows where it was designed to stand, in its own pit, partitioned off from the rest of the room (EG 41). Here the room is uniquely tiled in white-glazed bricks, above a band of heavy-duty tongue and groove panelling to waist-level, the only survival of the engine house, although a filled-in engine pit probably still survives below the floor.

A modern notice next to the east door in this range also shows that in the last years of the use of the building, this room may have been used for soldering.

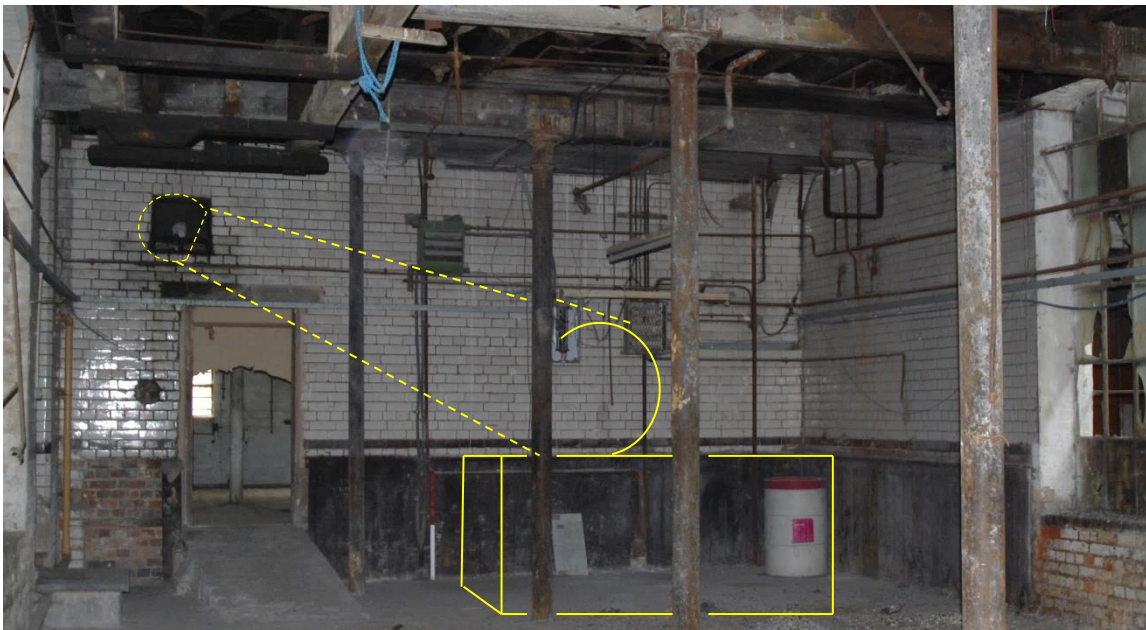


Fig 64: The distinctive wall-finish of the 1897 Engine House at the east end of EG41. The engine location is marked, while the bearing housing for the main drive shaft is at top left with the hangers for the shafting cradle spaced towards the camera. The chimney elbow is at the top right hand corner of the room.

Beyond the west end of the room, with its gable-mounted annealing hearth, lies a small room which before 1897 had been the Wheel-Press Shop, in modern times subdivided into EG53, 54, 55 and 56. It predates the 1897 works but its functions may have been superseded by the new shopping range.

A former doorway into no 44 (Marsden's Shop) was blocked up. A cast iron stair in the former Wheel-Press Shop is likely to date to 1897 and may have replaced an earlier one lost when the new shopping was built or most likely was intended as the principal stair in this new range when built. A later stair at first floor level (EF59 and ES40) at the east end could not have extended right from the ground floor in this way since the location of the new Engine House prevented it.

At the west end of the range stands an annealing hearth.



Fig 65: The steep cast iron stair in EG54. Probably the prime staircase in the 1897 rear shopping

### First Floor

On the B/Cast Plan this floor was known as the Capstan Shop. A capstan is a multi-headed tool for metal-working. This is principally the floor which has been overpainted with the pillar-box red of Beverley Hall Ltd, and the photograph of the main room can be seen above.

The toilet block which stands at the angle of the main range and the frontage is the former strong room, with its reinforced steel door connecting to EF61. It was described as the 'Silver Room' when designed in 1897 and has thicker brick walls than anywhere else in the building. It once had a 'Sitting Room' below it but this was lost when the Polishing Shop was created. The east wall of the silver room still retains a chimney breast which served a fireplace in the sitting room. The conversion into toilets and washrooms in recent decades reflects the growing need for greater welfare for staff. These were also separated from the dirtier rear range of shopping and were probably directed to the more clerical staff working exclusively in the frontage.

Toilets were provided in the 1897 works but these were housed in the square turret-like block at the west end of the new shopping range (EF54). These are to be found on each floor.



## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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### Second Floor

On the B/Cast Plan this floor was known as the Top Press Shop no 2. It is accessed from a flight of stairs at the east end although the cast iron stair beyond the west end probably originally rose to this level.



Fig 66: Room ES39 looking west, the end partitioned in modern times to provide an office space. A chain-hoist is fixed next to the supporting post.

There was once a second floor to a building above EF57, but this building has been lost, possibly by fire, or maybe bomb-damage during World War 2. It is unclear how but this has been made good and the stump of the connection has been rebuilt - but only in timber, forming a short dead-end passageway. This is not accessible from the buildings and can only be viewed from windows at the end of ES29.



Fig 67: The truncated building end between the second floor rear shopping (ES39) and the earlier buildings to the rear, looking north out of ES29. A scar up the end wall of the plot shows that these were once taller, while the brickwork above the cast iron stair has clearly been truncated and made good, if rather haphazardly. The blank end wall and blue brick coping over the end of the toilet block may indicate a massive brick sticking-plaster.



Fig 68: The interior of the dead end passageway in timber (ES36), looking west. It was constructed after the loss of the second floor at the rear, since it remained the only way to access the toilet block (ES35) at this level.

### *Engine and boiler house (c1865-87)*

The surviving gas boiler stands adjacent to the huge chimney in room EG52. It is a gas-fired boiler on mains gas and contains an integral brick-lined firebox. It contains an electrical burner marked Radiant Superjet Ltd, Clapgate Lane, Woodgate Birmingham. The motor is French with an address: SNM Seplec, Rue Charles Michels 93, St Denis, France. The boiler itself is by Ronald Trist & Co, Slough England, named as 'Britannia', and is also marked 'Mobrey'. A blow-down valve is linked to a gauge which indicates a maximum pressure of only 20psi. This is the last boiler on the premises. However, it is far from the first.

### Steam

The massive square brick chimney in the corner of the premises dates to the earlier phases of the factory. When works began on the site, power would have been provided by a steam engine, driven by steam from a boiler, possibly a long cylindrical boiler on the Lancashire model. The ground floor building aligned east-west (EG51) seems ideal except that it is a long way from all but one of the known drive-shaft locations (there is one in the room above). There is an iron-lined belt slot in the north wall but this necessarily looks across an open yard to the row of workshop windows without an obvious deliberate inlet for the belt on that side. While EG51 is made of a fire-proof vault construction, known as 'jack-arching' in brick, making it exceptionally strong (in the case of an accidental boiler blow-out). Cattell et al (2002) note that jack-arching was short lived in the

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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Jewellery Quarter and that few examples date after 1880. This building was certainly in position on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (published 1887, but probably surveyed c1884). The room above (EF34), although latterly known as the Pattern Store, formerly had a production function, very close potentially to the original power-source, and it contains wall-mounted bearing housings for line-shafting, but (barely seen) low down in the wall so these would have been belts running below the benches, probably unique in the factory.



Fig 69: Room EF34 Pattern/Stock Store, looking west. The end gable walls retain line-shaft bearings.

The first floor room EF34 was formerly gable-ended at the east, but the end wall has had a doorway put through and a link-room (EF36) built high across the yard access to join to the frontage room at first floor level (EF37). This has here been called the kiln shop. It contains the collapsed, rusted remains of a finishing kiln and lacquering cupboard with fume extractor. It was not constructed before 1887.



Fig 70: Kiln room EF36, possibly for enamelling (centre) and lacquering (right). The doorway at the end connects directly into EF37 and is secondary.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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The end wall of EG51 has been much altered. It originally had a large double doorway, which opened onto the yard behind the frontage; ideal for coal deliveries. This had later been almost destroyed when it was widened massively, with the gash being part blocked up. Such damage occurs when engines and boilers are inserted and ripped out. The room also has a blocked window and doorway, suggesting a change of use. Sadly, with no further fixtures or fittings, the evidence must remain equivocal.

### Gas

Following the use of steam, an intermediate engine was probably driven by town gas, from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. The location for this engine was the unnumbered space to the north of the chimney and last boiler, and here the evidence is clearer. The room was divided up in the period 1930-60 by the insertion of a wall of Fletton bricks, which would protect the workshops from a boiler blow-out of the last (current) gas-fired boiler. Before its insertion, however, the space was continuous at ground floor level, and a concrete-filled slot in the floor, close to the east wall, may be a filled-in fly-wheel pit.



Fig 71: A typical (large) Crossley Gas Engine (Kelham Island Industrial Museum) - pre-First World War

High in the space between here and the workshop is a massive wall-supporting RSJ. Just above this is a large slot in the brickwork it supports, presumably put in to allow the course of the principal drive-belt to the first drive-shaft. The huge bearing which would have taken this shaft-end is the only one which has been lost from the building, possibly because it actually did shake loose at the end of its life.

The engine has gone, but its loss, just like its steam-driven predecessor, meant the wholesale dismantling of one wall (east) of the space in which it stood, which was also re-roofed, losing a former first floor area entirely. That wall was substantially taken down and rebuilt, probably in the 1940s, due to the extensive use of Flettons and plain concrete lintels. A door and window were subsequently blocked; the door would have given independent access to the fly-wheel and engine generally, without the operator having to sidle up dangerously close to moving parts.



Fig 72: Two boiler houses and engine locations (steam to left (1), gas (2) at the end). Note the large drive-belt slot (arrowed).

It is likely that the second engine in the complex, noted in the 1897 plans for the new shopping, was of similar type and would have been in position until the wide availability of small, discrete electric motors on mains electricity, which eventually were used for all driven shafts, probably just before or soon after the First World War.

### *The Polishing shop (20<sup>th</sup> century)*

This building is named on the B/cast Plan only (Fig 9) and as a late addition to the buildings ensemble it may have been built as such (Room EG42) although its single-storey construction and extractors may also be redolent of a plating function. It is of single storey brick, with concrete lintels and sills of Staffordshire blue engineering brick laid at an angle on edge, and is provided with numerous electrical points inside. In the former yard it stands off-centre in order to retain for the time-being the street-entry through the building (EG35/EG34) [although this was later lost]. Its concrete-screeded floor overlies a partially-collapsed rear basement which was entered and recorded by lamplight (see above). The building was added to the side of the most northerly range of 1897-8, from which it stole three bays of natural lighting, and with which it was forced to share an internal gutter as a result. Those blinded windows were left *in situ*, and were provided with only a flimsy rail for protection. While it had metal-framed windows to the south and the west, natural light was limited in these areas so the building was provided with extensive skylights. The roof is of timber combined with RSJs to form a part-flat, with no central ridge, although this may be a haphazard modification as the end gable appears to contain two truncated parapets. Two extractors were fitted in the gable end.



Fig 73: The interior of EG42, what was the polishing shop from the 1940s



Fig 74: Polishing shop from the yard. To the bottom right of the picture (arrowed) is the former access through to and from the street.



Fig 75: Another view of the polishing shop with its peculiar roofline. Note the truncated parapets surmounting the gable, which possibly indicate a former ridge and fully pitched roof.

Separate from this polishing shop is a piece of apparatus which once did a similar job. It is a belt-driven (and therefore powered) tumbler, probably one of many, for polishing items amongst sand or other abrasive dust. The drive was delivered low-down from near the floor, so perhaps originated from Room EF34 (where the only under-bench shafting is known). This might suggest that EF34 was once a polishing shop. Commonly known in the industry as 'barrelling', the apparatus is a polygonal drum of metal-reinforced wood, with a separate, fastening door. It was filled with abrasive sands, sawdust etc and used for buffing up and polishing rudimentary finishes. This was discarded in the covered yard and dates from a time before powered polishing wheels. It had presumably been long superseded but never discarded.





Fig 76: belt-driven tumbler drum for polishing, so called 'barrelling', discarded in the covered yard; note the belt and drive low down to the left; scale 1m

### *Electro-plating*

There is scant evidence left around the buildings for electro-plating provision, but this clearly went on, not least on the evidence of documents cited. At Unity Works, the process seems to have been confined to the covered yard. Here there are the brick or cement bases of at least two vats of the chemical solutions necessary, although the vats are long-gone and they are today strewn with stacked debris.

Perhaps the best evidence of the former process are firstly the wooden shell of a somewhat rudimentary fume-hood or extractor, with a piped exit out through the canopy-roof of the yard, and secondly the collection of basket-contained carboys for acids stored nearby. There is copious drainage provided to the yard, despite being covered-in.



Fig 77: The covered yard EG29, looking west towards the rebuilt gas-engine house. Note the mains gas pipe crossing the yard from right to left. This was traced back all the way to the frontage.



Fig 78: The shaped wooden fume-hood at shoulder-height; an exit pipe to the roof is missing.



Fig 79: A group of carboys for acid storage in Yard EG29, beneath the exterior stairs to EF34.

## 6 The Building Record for Vittoria Works

### *General*

Vittoria Works occupies a much narrower plot than its neighbour, Unity Works, yet it contains as many former properties. The frontage began as two-properties deep and these can still be discerned best at basement level. The shopping to the rear may have been separately owned or separately tenanted, and the addition of some strange addresses such as no 32½, do suggest some confusion over who was trading from where.

The buildings of the Vittoria Complex are far less instructive than those of the Unity Works. This is generally because, with one exception (a battery of stamps on the ground floor in EG25), the contents have long since been cleared out, and many of the interiors have been redecorated, and divided up as modern offices. It does, however, retain some of its intimate qualities of shopping on a domestic scale.



Fig 80: The Vittoria Works frontage of the Listing Description, with street-numbering

### *The frontage (1866)*

The frontage façade has been very succinctly described in its Listing Description (see above). However, the monumentality of the façade gives no hint at the domestic scale and intimate surroundings of the Vittoria Works frontage buildings inside. They are a relative warren of small, interconnecting rooms and a collection of short flights of stairs, many of which have long since been blanked off or truncated as redundant. There is every suggestion that the buildings which formerly occupied the frontage here (and which presumably enjoyed the early, defunct street numbering before 1884) were as much domestic houses as domestic-scale workshops for skilled craftsmen.

Brick is used throughout and the rear is relatively plain (what little of it is not covered by the rear shopping). Plain red brick is embellished only by lintels and sills of Staffordshire Blue engineering brick, with a string course at both first and second floor levels. Windows are iron-framed with multiple-lights although while first floor windows have flat-arched heads, the second floor examples are all square-headed.



Fig 81: The tiny visible portion of the frontage visible from the rear yard. Note how the southern range of shopping (right) cuts across the edge of a rear-facing window.

### Basements

The basements occupy almost all the Vittoria Works frontage, but where they differ from Unity Works is that six, formerly separate basements stretch back some way and indicate a total of six former houses, two deep from the street. Only nos 30 and 34 can be related to the original numbering, and it is possible that the original no 30 basement has been lost, when room EG01 was created, and the floor dropped to allow unloading access from the street. It is now noted only from a blocked doorway in basement EB03.

The rear basement of no 30 (EB03) is accessible only from the rear shopping and comprises a simple square room with a narrow room-cum-passageway alongside. Its only feature internally is a blocked goods-chute up to the pedestrian entryway which once ran up above along its north side. Its (presumably identical) counterpart at the frontage was formerly reached through a doorway in the east wall. This was blocked however, in recent decades, when the floor of the room above (EG01) was lowered. That counterpart basement presumably still exists, merely filled with rubble and lacking its former ceiling.

Beneath nos 32 and 34 lie four individual basements in two nearly-identical pairs (EB04/EB06 and EB07/EB08). Each was originally served by its own set of brick steps, which were subsequently truncated at the foot and blanked off at Ground Floor level. A glance at the 1887 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map shows that there was formerly an entryway between the ground floor rooms

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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which stood over these basements (which was still in existence in 1896 as seen on (BA: BBP 11584). The rear two may once have had chutes down from the entryway, where subsequently the wall has been removed between them, allowing a permanent connection across from one pair to the other. Originally all four would have been discrete basements, divided by the entryway spine and a single-thick brick wall between the two pairs of steps.



Fig 82: A pair of truncated brick steps (EB05), the lowest two treads and risers removed. 1m scale stands on a bund wall, built to keep an oil spillage in from an adjacent tank.

Each of the basements was provided with a window in a light well which connected with either the street or the rear yard. All have since been blocked either from inside or outside (or both), although the timberwork of one still survives intact (EB04).

Basement (EB06) contains a large oil tank with bund/safety-wall alongside in case of a spillage, while the opposite one (EB07) contains the remnants of a partly-dismantled boiler.

The most interesting basement is EB04 which is partitioned off in timber (which unfortunately has what looks like dry-rot). It contains a deep working pit with a large wheel-turned press made by Taylor and Challen of Birmingham ([http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Taylor and Challen](http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Taylor_and_Challen)). It dates no earlier than 1875/80. The screw remains intact but the immensely heavy wheel lies to one side, having been removed by an acetylene cutter or similar.

A small early 20<sup>th</sup>-century electric motor lies in one corner, opposite an *in-situ* drive shaft which once transferred power to a room above. The belt is still attached to the drive-wheel. Access to the four basements is now only by an inserted common timber stair down into EB08.



Fig 83: The pit emptied to show the press-operator's working position



Fig 84: The press; scale 1m. Note the small electric motor behind



Fig 85: The cut-off press-wheel in EB04; scale 1m



Fig 86: The surviving basement light well in west wall of EB04, with drive shaft and drive-wheel (top left), with belt still attached

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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### Ground Floor

The ground floor of the frontage is perhaps the most denuded portion of the entire works and lacks most historic features.

The ornate entranceway of no 30 actually leads directly to a set of stairs and has no connection with the ground floor whatsoever. This once ensured that visitors were guided to upstairs offices and show rooms, while the business of the works went on with separate access via the entryway. Despite its floor having been lowered to create direct access to the street via a modern roller-shutter, room EG01 retains a high and now slightly bizarre-looking plaster cornice and picture rail, suggesting this was once a principal reception room or office. In the north wall is a blocked fireplace.



Fig 87: Room EG01, north wall with blocked fireplace; scale 1m

Rooms EG04 and EG06 have been extensively stripped out, while EG07 and EG13 were re-ordered as offices in the 1970s or 1980s, leaving no historic fabric visible. A somewhat impromptu kitchenette/welfare arrangement has been shoe-horned in to fill EG09-10, while EG11 and EG12 are 20<sup>th</sup>-century stairs up and down. Rear facing windows, which once looked into a yard, have been blocked up.

Room EG27 is the only room in the building to retain shelves put up for storing metal stamps, such as are found in numerous places through the adjacent Unity works. However all are empty. This and the adjacent EG28 were probably used as office space serving the rear shopping (EG25)





Fig 88: Room EG27 with stamp-shelves on east wall; scale 1m

The ground floor was probably extensively re-ordered when the present northern range of shopping was built, sometime in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Part of the re-ordering involved the loss of the entryway between 32 and 34, which was still in existence in 1896, below (BA: BBP 11584).

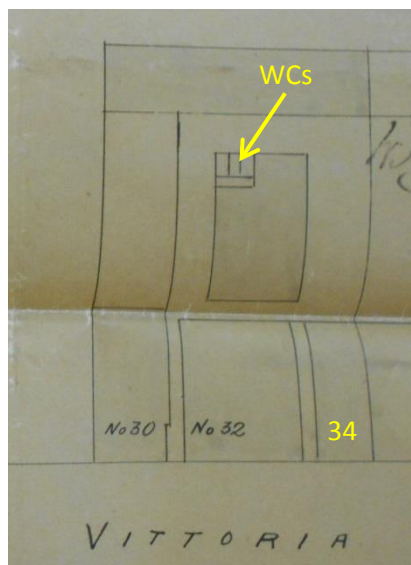


Fig 89: The basic plot layout in 1896 (BA: BBP 11584). Note the now lost entryway which ran straight through rooms EG 07, EG08 and out the back to a yard surrounding a free-standing building.

Meanwhile in no 30 the rear rooms (EG14-16) the original or even old layout has not survived. The floor level has not been reduced but the space has the windowless feel of a basement space. In fact the rear wall, which would once have sported west-facing windows, has simply not survived, but has been joined to the 1896 shopping to become room EG17. The back of the building was slightly offset back from its neighbour at no 32, and this can be seen on the 1887 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map. On the ground the former corner can be discerned where the entryway emerges into the back yard. There

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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lies a clear but competently-handled major change in the brickwork can be seen where the 1896 range was fitted to the back (north-west) corner of the frontage.



Fig 90: The major change in brickwork from no 30's frontage (Left) to the rear shopping (Right)

### First Floor

Principal access to the First Floor seems in latter years to have been via no 30, but it is notable that the presence of numerous stairs is suggestive of a previous set of subdivisions. The floor includes a number of former domestic-scale fireplaces, some blocked, some with their cast-iron grates intact. This floor seems to have been tenanted by Colborne Trophies, in occupation from at least 1964, and the interior of the First Floor in no 30 has been fitted out by them in the modern period, complete with closed hoist/dumb-waiter from the ground floor.

Room EF03 is a room with the vestiges of early 20<sup>th</sup> century décor, comprising, four-panel door with deep mouldings, tongue-and-groove panelling and anaglypta-type wall-covering to chair-rail height, with the focus of a Victorian or Edwardian fire-grate. The adjacent room (EF07), opened up to form another office with kitchen/welfare.

It appears to have taken the place of a 'back room' with fireplace, but it is unclear where the original wall would have lain which divided the front from the back (although a simple half-way division is likely).

Through a doorway lies Room EF09, which is panelled throughout in vertical pine tongue and groove. It has a focal cast-iron fire-grate. A notice-board suggests this may have been used as a sitting room

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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or mess room for staff. It is the only rear-facing room which has (relatively) unimpeded natural light as it looks out into the yard.



Fig 91: Room EF03 fireplace; scale 1m



Fig 92: Room EF03 view of panelling and anaglypta wall-covering; scale 1m



Fig 93: Room EF07, looking north-west;  
scale 1m



Fig 94: Room EF09 fireplace and panelling;  
scale 1m



Fig 95: Staircase from Room EF04, is part of the Victorian/Edwardian ensemble and the door matches the one in EF03; scale 1m.

### Second Floor

The Second Floor is unremarkable.

No 30 (comprising Rooms ES01-ES07) has been fully re-ordered in recent decades (probably the 1970s or early 80s). The subdividing partitions are modern, and there is a uniform set of architraves, skirting boards and modern features such as built-in desks and units which have entirely superseded any historic features.

In the central block (?no 32, although attributions all the way up the building are uncertain), there are only two rooms with the central winding stair. The rear-facing portion (EF25-26) has been partitioned off to form a WC at the end of a short corridor. This is a modern insertion since it takes all of the natural light from the former rear room ES24.

In the northern block a single room (ES21) has a long, west-facing roof-light, which affords a good source of natural lighting. This is probably designed as a drawing office but there is nothing to confirm it. The room is otherwise devoid of historic features.



Fig 96: Rom ES21. Note the natural light from above.

### *Southern range of shopping (1895-6)*

Documents show that a single-storey range was planned in 1895 by architect Frederick Urry to cover in an open yard (**BA: BBP 11271**), but no sooner had construction taken place, than the provision was altered massively, for reasons unknown, and the range was extended to three floors, although was not as long as it now is (**BA: BBP 11584**).

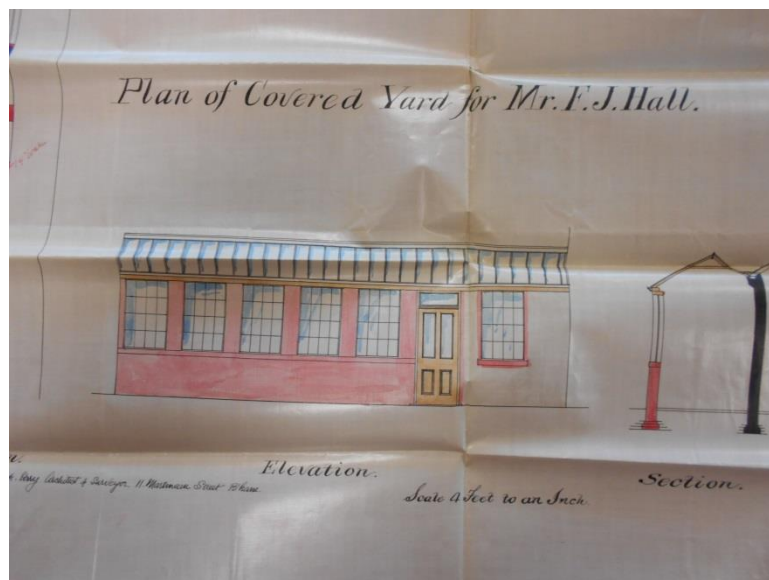


Fig 97: The short-lived covered-yard building of 1895-6 (**BA: BBP 11271**). Much of its yard-facing wall was retained when it was expanded a year later

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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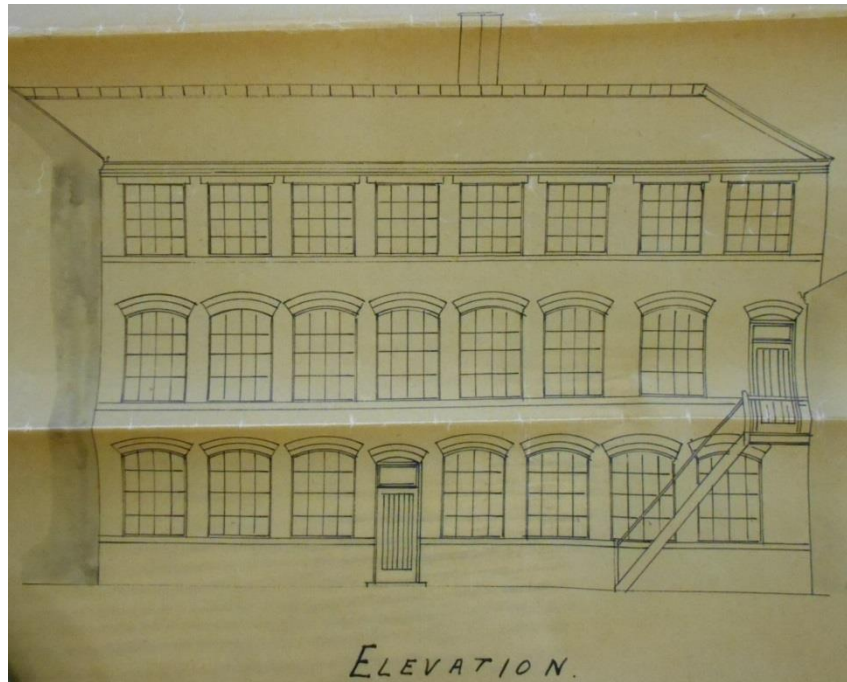


Fig 98: The range in its extended and elevated form of 1896 (BA: BBP 11584). It is substantially what survives, with alterations and a little of the earlier design.

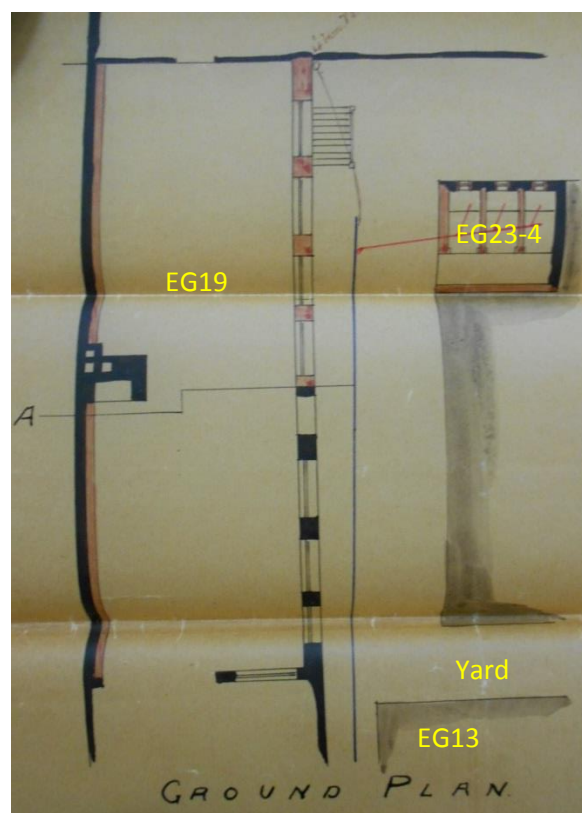


Fig 99: The 1896 plan. Note the outlines on the right which show the back corner of the frontage (EG13) and on the right (north) a foregoing range of buildings preceding the present shopping, with the yard into which rear-facing frontage windows once looked.

# Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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## Ground floor

The brickwork joint between the 1896 new work and the back of the no 30 frontage has been noted above. At ground floor the shopping retains the location (and in all probability some fabric) of the 1895 covered yard and its immediate successor. The main room at ground floor was EG19, and there have been few basic alterations, other than cosmetic, since it was built. Although no interior detail survives, and it has lost an annealing hearth and three-flue chimney about half-way along its south wall, the window configuration has been largely left unchanged, but for the loss of one window to a door, a doorway to a window, and the subsequent extension of the range westwards (EG20) when a western building was removed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although it is impossible to step far enough back to appreciate the range from the yard, the three floors externally are little altered from their 1896 architect's elevation.

The change in brickwork prompted a record of the different brickwork of the range in case it differed considerably from the northern range, for which no comparable records survive. The result was as follows:

### Southern Range

Bricks 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ " (230mm x 110mm x 80mm). Alternate courses of stretchers and headers (English Bond – a relatively expensive but strong bond with few weak-points). 4 courses rise 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (340mm)

### Northern Range (for which see below)

Bricks 9" x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" (225mm x 112mm x 75mm). 3 courses of stretchers and 1 course of headers (English Garden Wall Bond). 4 courses rise 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (340mm)

Direct comparison suggests that a potential 5-10 years difference in date made no appreciable difference to the brick size adopted for ranges serving (probably) similar shopping functions, and any differences in size were evened out in the coursing adopted which is identical. However the choice in the northern range of the cheaper brick bond may have been a sign of more difficult times as the 20<sup>th</sup>-century dawned.

The interior at Ground Floor level retains nothing of its former use and it has been fitted out with benches under the windows and a suspended ceiling. The range includes a modern partition at its mid-point. A WC has been added to the outside wall when the range was extended westwards.



Fig 100: Room EG19 looking west. There was formerly probably an annealing hearth on the left against the wall

### First floor

The First Floor of the range is almost identical to the Ground Floor, with the exception that in modern times it has been even more divided up with partitions and a suspended ceiling. The interior is unremarkable and there is little instructive historic fabric to be seen.

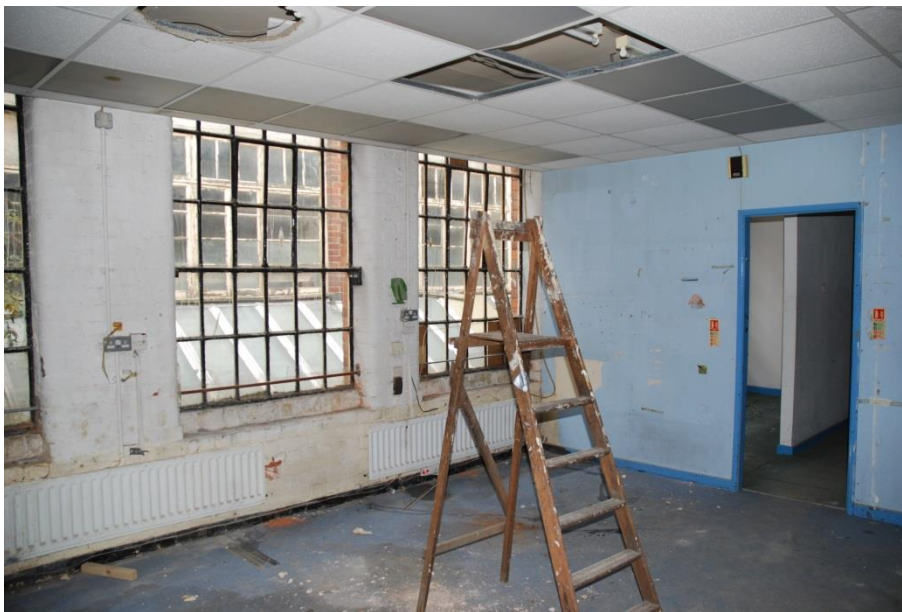


Fig 101: First floor room EF19 looking north-east into the yard (through the iron-framed windows) and room EF18 beyond the partition

### Second floor

Similar to the floors below, the second floor is devoid of historic features, but access is afforded to the roof structure via a ceiling hatch. At this level the former chimney in the south wall is probably without alteration, being the collector-flue for the rooms below.





Fig 102: Room ES09 looking west into ES10. The roof is glimpsed through the ceiling hatch (note ladder for location).



Fig 103: The roof space and truss structure above ES09. A plastered pitch and underside to the rafters show that the present second floor ceiling is an afterthought.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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### *Northern range of shopping (?1902-3)*

Two successive ranges of shopping have stood on this site. The first is depicted incidentally on the 1896 plan and related block plan of that year, but which was lost when the present range was built, perhaps around 1902-3.

The surviving range is of brick with concrete formed lintels and a steel RSJ frame, indicative of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. It is surmounted by a shuttered flat concrete roof, typical of its day.

The south-facing window frames are all timber, unlike every other array of windows in the Vittoria Works (or Unity Works for that matter). All others are metal-framed.

On the yard-facing façade, the ground floor has been extended outwards to form a long verandah which would both admit a little more light than flush windows would, while also adding a little more heat on a sunny day.

### Ground floor

This lowest level of rear shopping is dark and cramped because it lies up against the dividing wall of the two factories, so there could be no windows on the north side until second-floor level. There is a possible annealing hearth in the long dividing wall, and definitely one in the end gable, which has been successively narrowed and adapted.

The south side has been opened up, between brick support pillars aligned on the building's steel frame, probably in a sub-phase of adaptation, to create a long, south-facing verandah through which some light could be borrowed from the long narrow yard outside; in the process narrowing the yard even further. The toilet block which stands two thirds of the way along the shopping is on the 1896 plan, so may in part relate to the earlier (no longer extant) range, but has been retained for this one.

At the far, west end of the space is an intact stamping battery, actually more complete than that in the Unity Works, and comprising six drop-stamps with line shafting in cradles overhead, and a small electric motor for power. Their overall condition suggests they are not as old as the ones in Unity, and they are certainly somewhat smaller.



Fig 104: Room EG25 looking west towards a stamp battery in far left behind the WC block, verandah to far left; scale 1m



Fig 105: Surviving stamp battery in Room EG25, looking south; scale 1m. The only surviving historic features in the entire works. The blue painted areas are the brick and concrete anvil-benches.



Fig 106: The timber cradle for the line-shafting of the stamp battery in EG25. The drive wheel and belt is at the top left corner (motor out of picture). Note the cast iron brackets to which are fixed the drop-press guide runners.

### First floor

The simple open space of the first floor contains no detail, other than to note the angled boards placed so as to protect the windows from feet, probably when workers were sat at benches along the wall. Feet and debris would otherwise compromise the lower portion of the windows. The use of overly deep windows in this way was not an oversight in ordering materials, but rather this lower portion could shed its light from second floor level, to the darker first floor, which (like the ground floor) could take no benefit of light through the dividing wall with Unity. An attempt had been made to do the same above the verandah from first- to ground-floor on the south side, but it may have been insufficient, requiring the verandah as belt-and braces.

Against the rear wall is the scar of a former stair which once led up to the second floor. Since there is no similar stair from Ground to First floor, it is reasonable to suggest that the range was divided in such a way that the ground floor was differently tenanted from the top two floors, or that the processes differed between the two so markedly that communication was discouraged.



Fig 107: Room EF32 looking east. Note the window-protection and additional natural light afforded by the ceiling gaps and angled boards (arrowed). The steel frame is very clear. Note the bottom corner of the second-floor window (top right), which added light into the first floor from under the benches above

The range makes an awkward joint with the back of the frontage block, and a number of windows facing into EF32, EF33 and the yard, have been rendered useless by its construction. It seems that the upsurge in demand, which drove the factory expansion, was little – anticipated at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Fig 108: The scar of the former staircase, lost from the north wall of room EF32 up to the second floor



Fig 109: View from EF33. Note the loss of 1¼ rear-facing windows. An earlier range clearly left this as courtyard, as the block-plan of 1896 shows.

### Second floor

The windows of this floor were slightly smaller than their counterparts below, but here they looked out on both sides, the second floor having surmounted the dividing wall between The Vittoria Works and The Unity Works. Floors below had no opportunity for north-facing fenestration. Most of the windows on this level have the under-bench angled boards to deflect light to the floor below.

One window, north-facing, has been blocked up either side of a chimney and fireplace in ES18.

The steel and concrete frame and shuttering of the roof-concrete is distinctive, and it is noticeable that the shuttering used is narrow timber boards. The shuttering is formed on top of a timber frame.

Other than the steel frame of the building, there is little brick at this level and the windows take up the vast majority of the long walls. The block of WCs which stand against the south side of the range seem to have either predated the current range, or had a predecessor in the same place. This can be seen on the early plan of the site in 1896.

There is a 20<sup>th</sup>-century cast iron and timber gangway (ES13) which links the range at this level to the extended southern range and also connects to an external fire-escape staircase. It was not considered safe enough to traverse! The early block plan of the site shows that when the southern range of shopping was built in 1896, there was a building running along the far, west wall of the plot.

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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This was subsequently lost at an unknown date, while the southern range of shopping was extended west to fill part of its former footprint.

It is clear that the foregoing range was differently-configured, as a yard ran around it (block plan 1896), but on first and second floor levels one notes the blinded windows which once overlooked this yard but which now face into the current northern range of shopping.



Fig 110: Room ES14 looking west, with annealing hearth at the end. The angled boards protect the lower third of the blinded windows from feet and from dropped materials and tools from the benches, now gone. They also made sure the floor below benefited from their light. On the applied mid-rail are mounted numerous electrical points. Note the circular tannoy-type speaker on the ceiling.



Fig 111: The truncated end of the stair up from the First Floor where it emerges in ES14. Note the lower portion of the huge window, which sits behind the angled protective boards.

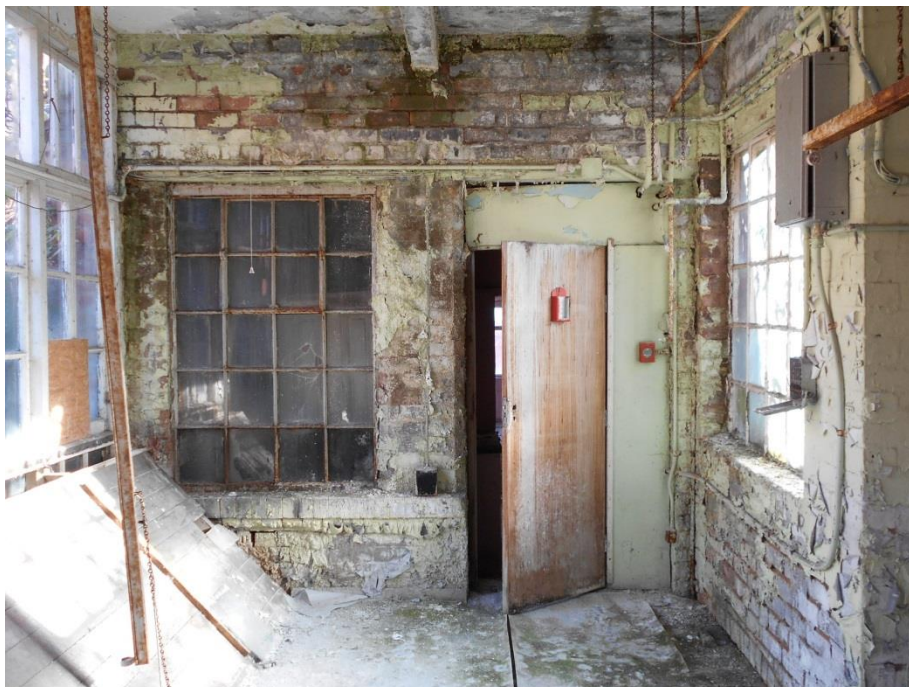


Fig 112: Room ES18, looking east into ES19 and ES20. Note the blinded rear-facing frontage windows (one subsequently converted to a doorway) which show that the earlier range was shorter, and had an open yard between it and the frontage.



## 7 Significance and Conclusions

These two factories in the Jewellery Quarter have survived in very different states, with differing degrees of upgrading, although both have similarities and basically adhere to the standard factory plan of light, airy street frontage, with production in multi-storey shopping ranges at right-angles to the rear. Despite depredations, they are worthy of a Grade II Listing as they are major landmarks within the Jewellery Quarter.

The Unity Works retains something of its grimy, industrial beginnings, with many interior spaces being little-changed from the date of its closure, potentially in 1988. It benefits from considerable surviving documentation in Birmingham Archives and its development can be traced with some certainty, including some of the intended original room-uses. These uses show that while the frontage was intended to house materials-in, stock, dispatch of goods and clerical staff, with client-showrooms, their place in this part of the building was not unchallenged and there is also evidence for some additional shopping and production in the frontage.

The principal rear shopping of The Unity Works is extensive, and some of its subdivision from the 1897 plans is clear. At times, there does appear to have been a press for space, and the apparent loss of the 1897 basement casting shop (potentially to build the single storey polishing shop (EG42)) may indicate the point at which the numbers of stamps made was considered sufficient for the ranges for which the company had become known. The former basement casting shop remains an untapped resource of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century product-range; it has probably not been added to since 1940 when the creation of a massive Air Raid Shelter under the frontage, cut off its easy access. It is not known if any of the planned basement furnaces and flues survive, or even if they were built as intended.

There is evidence for the locations of three early engines within Unity Works. Two of them stood close to the surviving chimney, one a steam engine, its successor a gas engine. The third engine, probably also a gas engine, was introduced in the 1897 works and is noted on the plans of that year. None now survive. Power was eventually transferred to a variety of discrete electric motors in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century while boilers continued to be used to heat water.

The surviving stamping shop of the Unity Works is its glory. Two rear ranges, built about 30 years apart, differ little and indicate a confidence in an industry which their operators and their architects understood through and through in a world which was little-changed before the First World War, but which began to disappear suddenly after the Second World War. The doubling of shopping in 1897-8 shows the apogee of the business and the market in a confident Britain at the head of an empire and often called 'the workshop of the world'. That both the Unity Works and the Vittoria Works reached their greatest extent, in terms of industrial stamping-space, in the period 1896-1914, is telling: Britain had reached a level of output never seen before. Time would show that in fact it had reached an historical precipice; the benefit of hindsight. An *in situ* stamping battery is a rare survival, or perhaps would be, if it were not for the survival of one in the Vittoria Works too.

The frontage interior of the Unity Works is relatively open and airy. The large spaces, whether built for clerical staff or shopping or showrooms (and all are present), have been unembellished and unadorned on the inside, but for some of the ceilings having been plastered. There is none of the

## Unity and Vittoria Works, Vittoria Street, Birmingham

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'corporate identity' which the 20<sup>th</sup> century has brought with it, except for the bright pillar-box red of the Beverley Hall Ltd sub-tenancy in a series of 1897 rooms and offices.

The Vittoria Works, although large, is very much more cramped than Unity. While its rear shopping is on a large enough scale, its frontage is altogether more domestic in its feel and this betokens premises hide-bound by Victorian factory-building traditions, which placed architectural emphasis on the public and clerical side of the works. The frontage has the feel of a slightly labyrinthine Victorian villa, not dispelled by the deliberate use of cast-iron fireplaces and plaster cornices, as if it were someone's home.

The Vittoria Works indeed is based around someone's homes, and in particular the basements here are leftovers from small, regimented properties, packed in behind the street frontage in pairs, and which may date from the middle decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were converted to the growing use of the Jewellery Quarter as private citizens moved out and industry moved in, their former basements retaining their distinctive stairs and basement-lights borrowing natural light from the street or the back yard. They were only accessible via side-entries, one of which survives at Vittoria Works. Similar properties still survive further along the street.

The conversion of the Vittoria Works to factory use involved the re-ordering of the buildings at ground level, plus the adoption of a new 'corporate' frontage. This may have been carried out in a single operation (1866), but the lingering presence (if plans are to be relied upon) of an entry between 32 and 34, until at least 1887 (1<sup>st</sup> edition OS) and then its presence again in 1896, suggests that re-ordering might have been piecemeal, perhaps due to the multiple tenancies involved in this factory. The re-numbering of the street c1884 does not make it any simpler, but it is possible that 1866 designs were still being adhered to after 1896.

Structurally the shopping ranges and the other buildings are unremarkable, except to note the single jack-arched ceiling in Unity (possibly the first engine house). Generally the shopping adopts the thickest walls at their base (3-4 bricks thick) with successively less sturdy walls the higher one goes, trying to maximise the numbers of windows in a situation where the close press of buildings cut down light. A great deal of the shopping is of course glass as a wide array of fenestration was needed to light the industrial processes inside. In Vittoria, the lack of light gave rise to borrowing it from floors above by means of windows stretching under the work benches.

None of the brickwork is remarkable, and a fairly uniform approach makes use of a restricted number of simple brick bonds with competently-made bricks, embellished with the reliable Staffordshire blue engineering brick, which came in a variety of moulded forms.

Iron window frames were used almost everywhere, with a move to timber frames in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At Unity the early iron frames are ill-fitting, relying on a mortar fillet in which they are bedded. This may suggest that a job-lot of windows was purchased, which was originally designed for somewhere else.

Where inspected, roofs appear to be unremarkable, of Welsh Slate around King-strut or Queen-strut trusses, typical of industrial and agricultural buildings in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The one exception is the concrete flat roof in Vittoria's north shopping range. It is distinctive of the decade or so before the First World War.

## 8 Artefacts



Fig 113: Finished and part-finished cast or stamped artefacts found in profusion around the ground and first floor of Unity Works (principally EG 49 and 51 and EF34): handles, spouts, salt and pepper pots (pattern as described in report above), matching mustard pot, bowls, lids, knops, stems, feet, light fittings, regimental badge (The Parachute Regiment); scale 30cm and photographed against 1cm graph-paper background.

## 9 References

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PCPT Architects 2015 *Vittoria Works/Unity Works/48-52 Vittoria Street: Heritage Statement, Planning Statement, Design and Access Statement*

## 10 Appendix

*OASIS data*

Project Name	Unity and Vittoria Works, Birmingham
OASIS ID	iainsode1-271573
Project Type	Building Recording and Analysis
Originator	Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd
Project Manager	Iain Soden
Previous/future work	Unknown
Current land use	In use as a building
Development type	Residential conversion
Reason for investigation	Planning Condition
National grid reference	SP SP 06138 87510
Start/end dates of fieldwork	24 Oct – 4 Nov 2016
Archive recipient	BMAG
Study area	c0.25 hectares



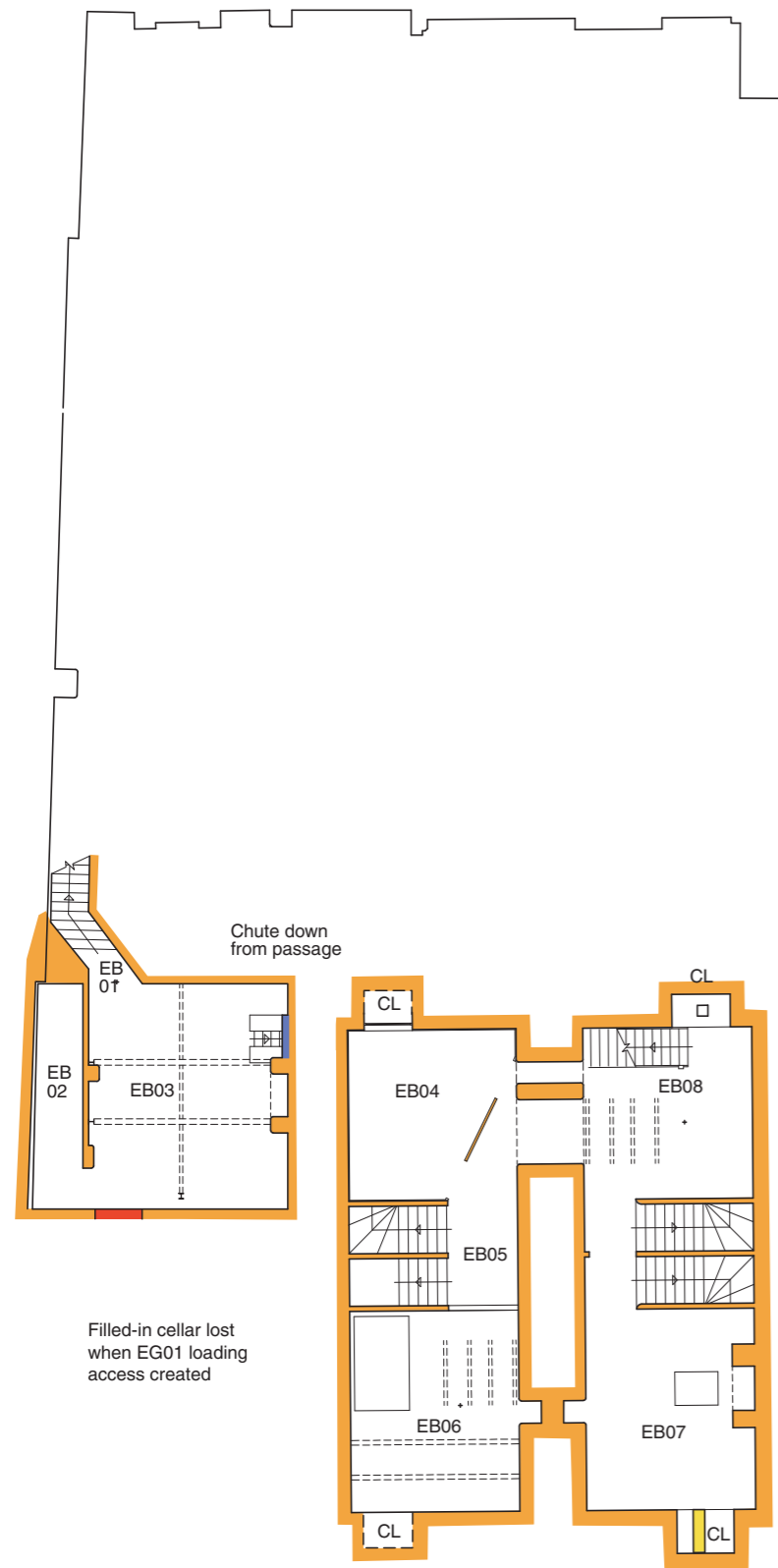
Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

16 December 2016

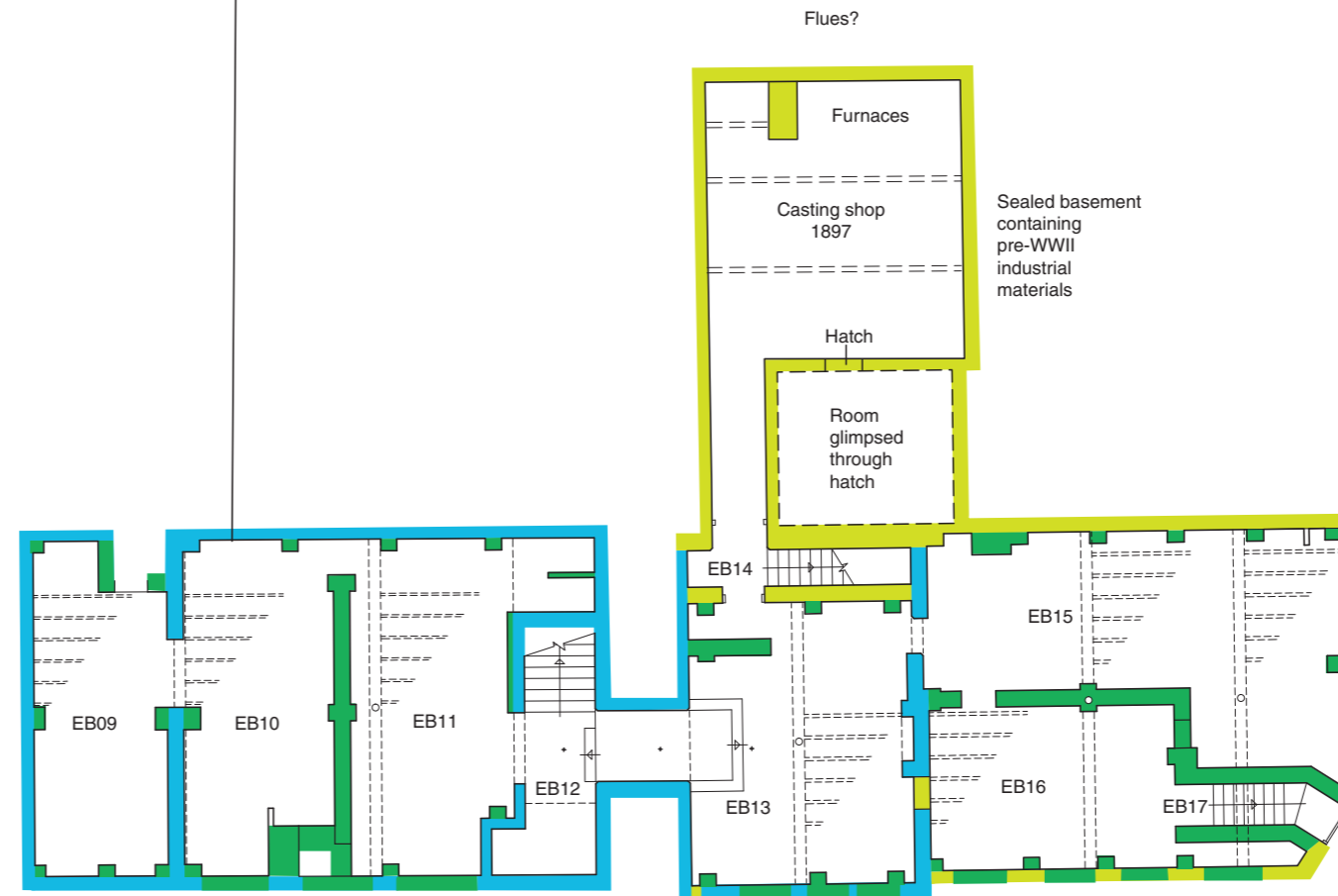
BASEMENT



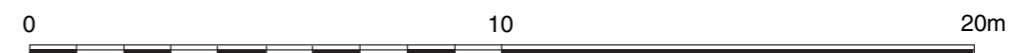
- 1865 (Unity)
- 1865-94 (Vittoria)  
Potentially from c1850 (basement only)
- 1897 (Unity)
- 1940 (ARP)
- C20th (Vittoria)
  
- Blocked door or window
- Blocking wall
- CL Blocked cellar light



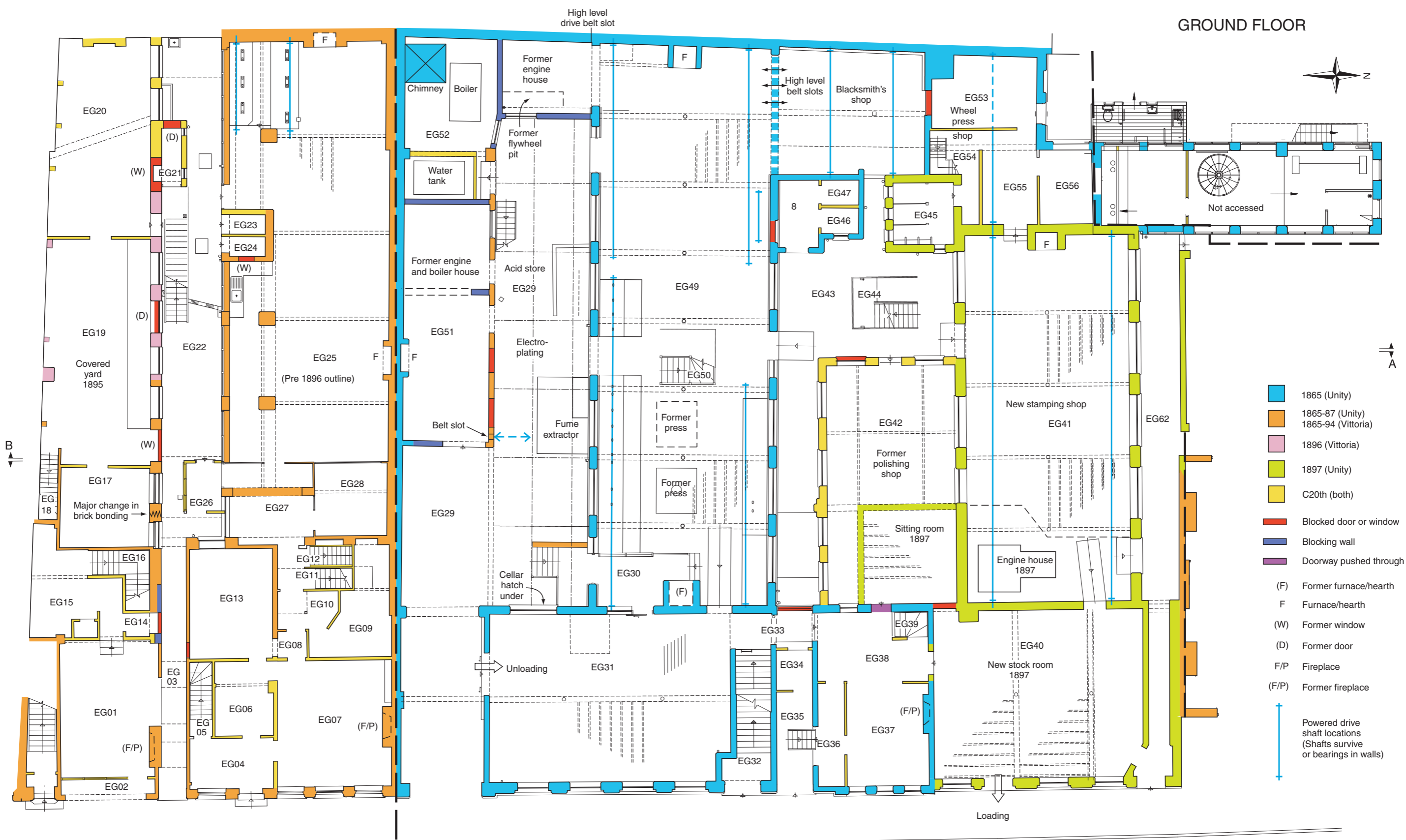
Vittoria Works



Unity Works



GROUND FLOOR

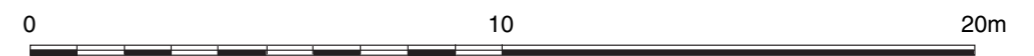


- 1865 (Unity)
- 1865-87 (Unity)  
1865-94 (Vittoria)
- 1896 (Vittoria)
- 1897 (Unity)
- C20th (both)
- Blocked door or window
- Blocking wall
- Doorway pushed through
- (F) Former furnace/hearth
- F Furnace/hearth
- (W) Former window
- (D) Former door
- F/P Fireplace
- (F/P) Former fireplace
- Powered drive shaft locations (Shafts survive or bearings in walls)

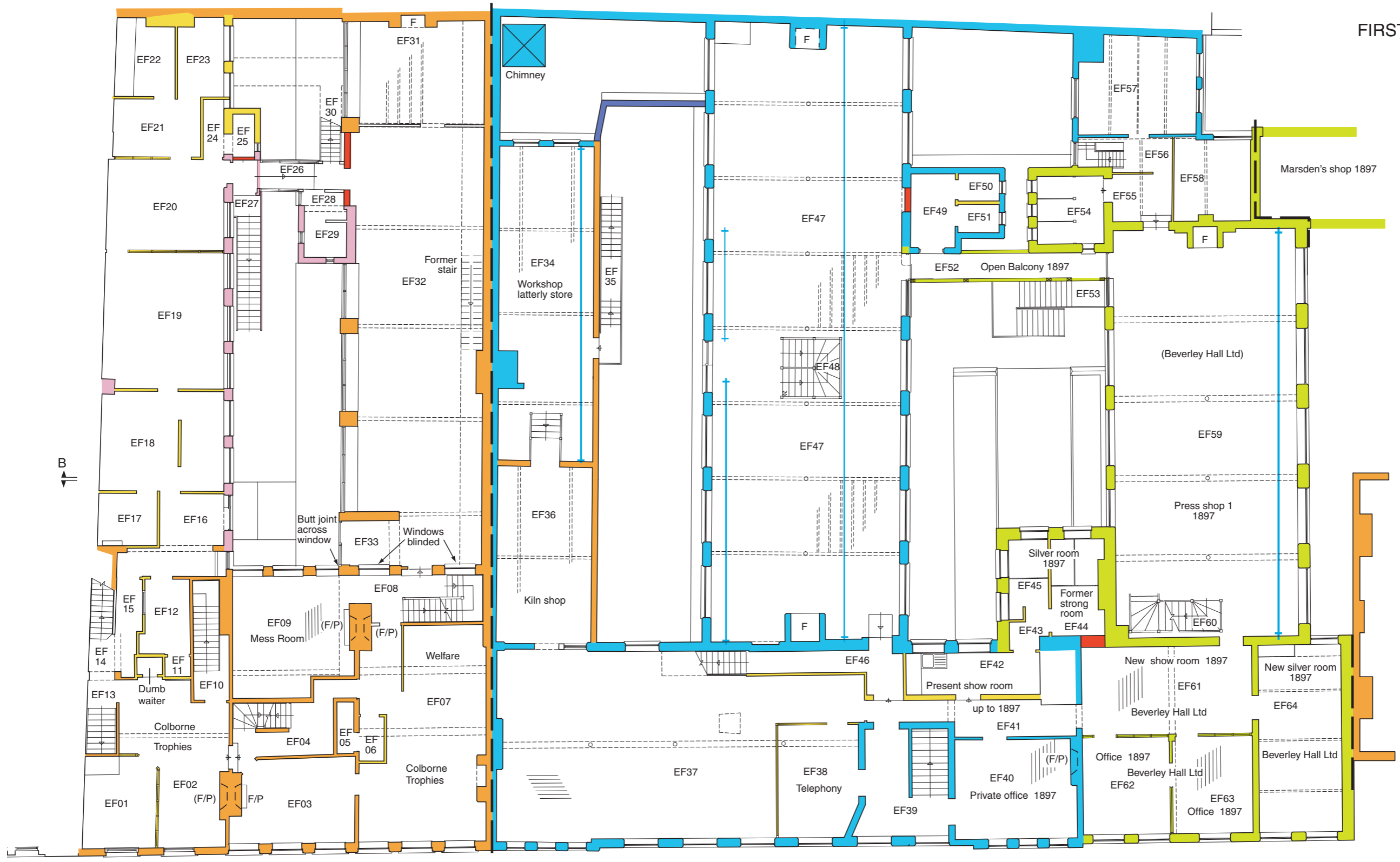
Vittoria Works

Unity Works

VITTORIA STREET



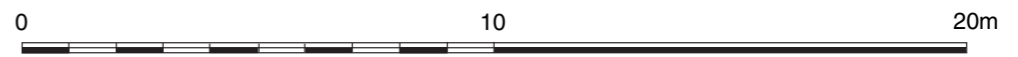
FIRST FLOOR



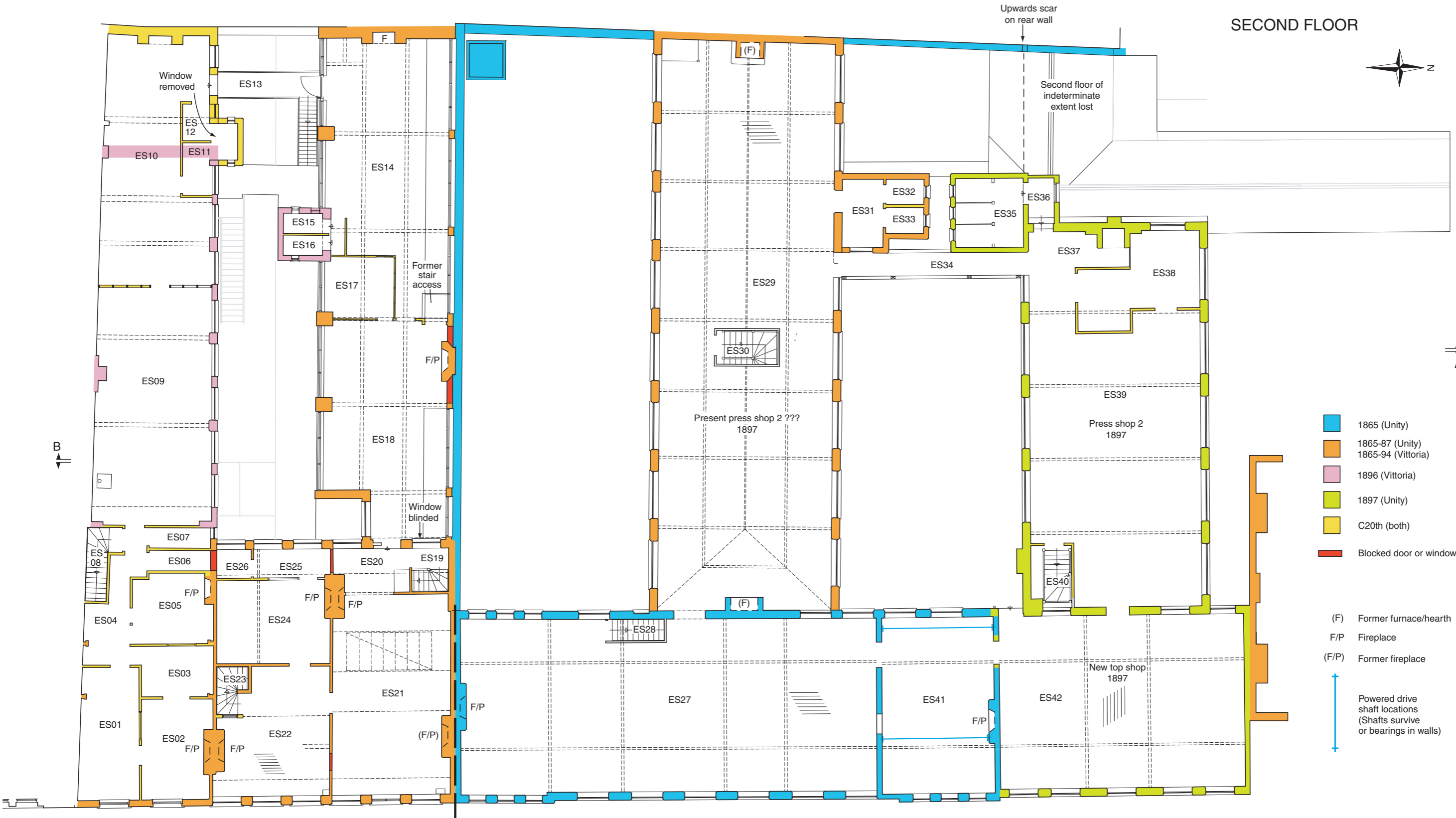
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- 1865-87 (Unity)  
1865-94 (Vittoria)
- 1896 (Vittoria)
- 1897 (Unity)
- C20th (both)
- Blocked door or window
- Blocking wall
- F Furnace/hearth
- F/P Fireplace
- (F/P) Former fireplace
- ↑ Powered drive shaft locations (Shafts survive or bearings in walls)

Vittoria Works

Unity Works



SECOND FLOOR



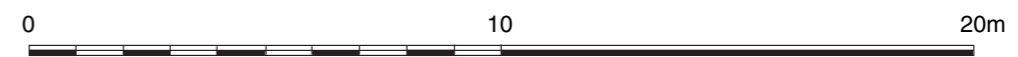
- 1865 (Unity)
- 1865-87 (Unity)  
1865-94 (Vittoria)
- 1896 (Vittoria)
- 1897 (Unity)
- C20th (both)
- Blocked door or window

- (F) Former furnace/hearth
- F/P Fireplace
- (F/P) Former fireplace

- Powered drive shaft locations (Shafts survive or bearings in walls)

Vittoria Works

Unity Works





SECTIONAL ELEVATIONS

