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The Market Keeper's House, Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

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SUMMARY

The Market Keeper's House was designed by John Dobson in 1839, and built in 1840 on open ground north of the Infirmary. For part of the nineteenth century it housed two families and the offices needed to administer the Cattle Market. When a much larger market was developed in 1860 this building lost some of its original functions and eventually was leased by Barclays Bank. Major internal alterations were executed for the bank. In later years it had various commercial tenants, and after being empty for many years it is being restored and will be part of the Centre for Life.

THE CATTLE MARKET, SCOTSWOOD ROAD

The former Cattle Market on Scotswood Road is in the centre of modern Newcastle, just west of the Central Station (fig. 1). The site was formerly open ground outside the town wall. The changes to the layout of the market and the surrounding streets are seen in maps.

The land on which the Market Keeper's House was built was then open ground; to the south, the Infirmary had been built in the eighteenth century, as shown on Charles Hutton's survey published in 1771. On Thomas Oliver's map of Newcastle published in 1831 an area beside the Forth Walk and north of the Infirmary is shown as a strip of pens marked "Cattle Market", but there are no buildings.

In 1831, in rivalry with the market at Morpeth, the Corporation of Newcastle set up a

market for the sale of cattle on land north of the Infirmary, but made no provision for a market keeper's lodge. M. A. Richardson's map of 1838 shows the area which was then allocated to the market as a single enclosure, bounded by Marlborough Crescent on the west, Derwent Place on the north, and by unnamed streets on east and south (fig. 2). It was ten years after the establishment of the market that the present Market Keeper's House was built. Corporation Minutes of 1840 detail the tenders for the work (see below).

As early as 1842 it was clear that there was insufficient space for the numbers of animals being brought to market.¹ While that problem does not have a direct bearing upon the structure of the Market Keeper's House, it was the need to expand which eventually changed the character of the market. Collard in 1841 wrote that a "neat market house" had recently been built and gave an illustration of it (fig. 3).² Thomas Oliver wrote in 1844 that the market had gradually improved since it was opened, and that the space was enlarged in 1843.³ Oliver's survey of 1844 marks the new market house, and south of it is the continuation of Neville Street, the new street put through to link Collingwood Street with Marlborough Street (later Scotswood Road). On the south side of the continuation of Neville Street is the Infirmary. His 1851 plan of Newcastle shows a wider Neville Street on a different alignment because the Central Railway Station has been built, and a new road north of the market house; this is now Scotswood Road. South of the Cattle Market is the Infirmary, and south of that is the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company line.

Demand for meat increased as the popu-

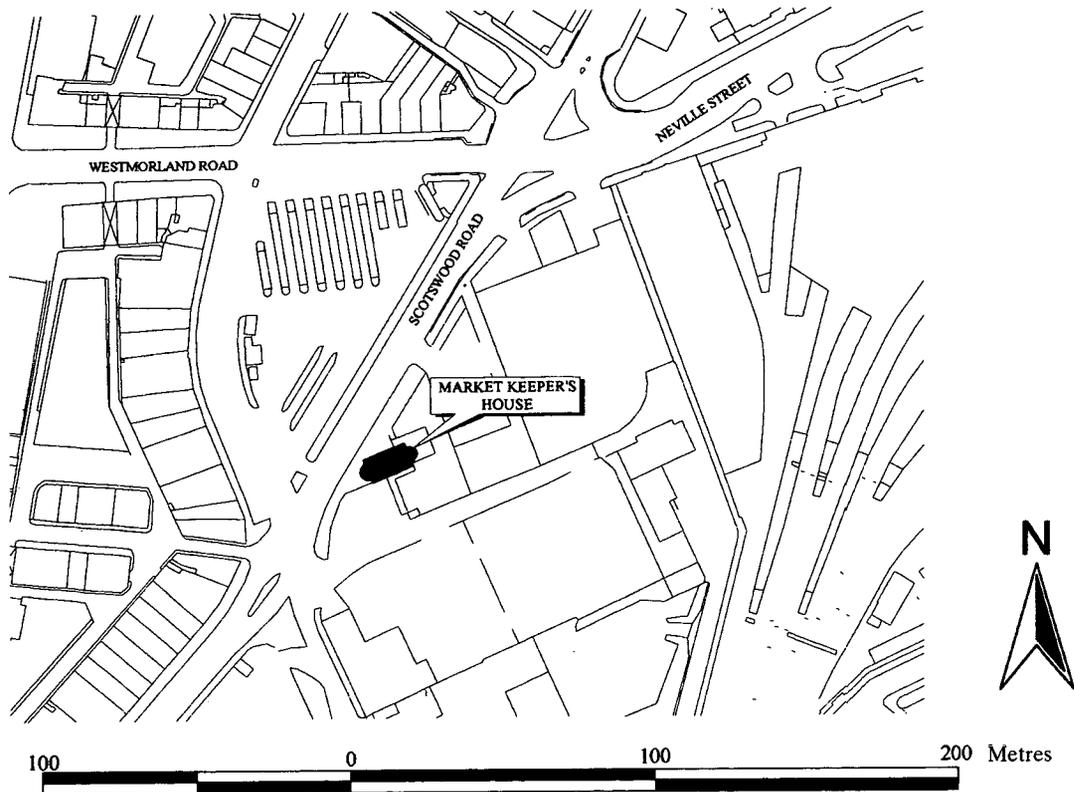


Fig. 1 1995 Location map.

lation of Newcastle and Tyneside grew rapidly in the middle of the nineteenth century. The Ordnance Survey at a scale of 1:500, surveyed in 1859 and published in 1862, shows the layout of the market by then, with a new street, Marlborough Street, running diagonally north of the house (fig. 4). Marlborough Crescent enclosed the west side of the market while Forth Banks formed the east boundary and a narrow road north of the Infirmary grounds ran along the south side. The 1:2500 survey of about the same date shows that there was a large area of uneven ground, Knox's Field, south west of the Infirmary, and that the new railway lines ran along the south of Knox's Field, past the Infirmary, and curved north past the east end of the Cattle Market to enter the Central Station.

This enlarged market was opened in December 1860.⁴ It accommodated 3000 head of cattle, compared with 900 at the former market. The old market was adapted as a stand for sheep, and it was expected that there would be facilities for loading and unloading cattle at the former Newcastle and Carlisle passenger station once the merger with the North East Railway had been completed and the Central Station was used for all passengers.

The "Market House" is marked on the first edition OS maps at both 1:500 and 1:2500 scales, as it is on the second edition at a scale of 1:500, published in 1894. However, by 1894 the surrounding area has changed: the adjacent pens are the Sheep and Pig Market; there are tramlines along the road to the north continuing along Scotswood Road; the cattle

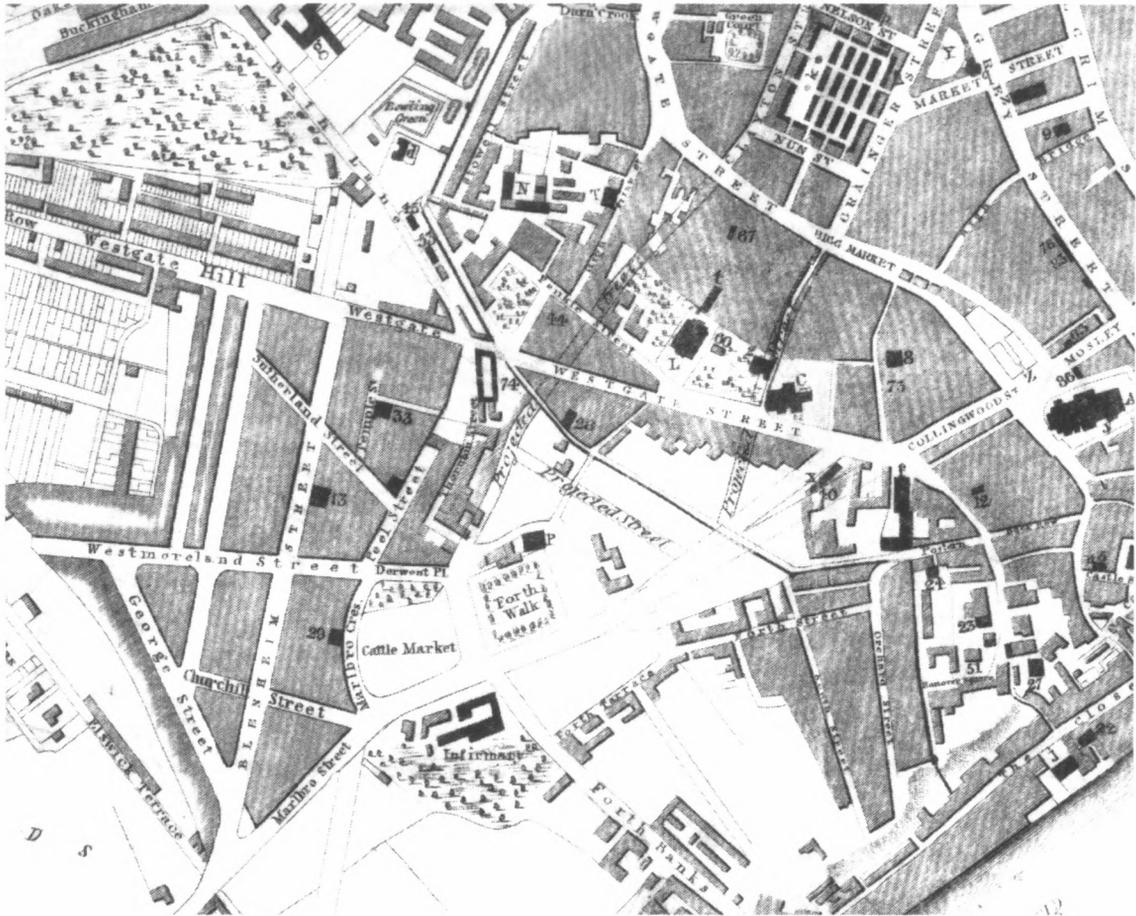


Fig. 2 1838 survey M. A. Richardson.

market has been moved to the area that was Knox's Field; and many more ancillary buildings are shown in the new market.

The development of the east-west streets, Neville Street, Marlborough Street and Scotswood Road, and of the land to the south with the Infirmary and Forth Banks, and the westward expansion of the market along Scotswood Road, have not been dealt with here; nor have any questions relating to the change in the livestock trade in Newcastle and the eventual revolution in cattle-handling brought about by the building of a cattle sanatorium and new abattoirs.

THE ORIGINAL BUILDING

The first edition OS at 1:500, the 1841 engraving, the 1906 photograph, drawings discussed below which were submitted in 1910 to the City Engineer, and the records of the Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne all contribute to an understanding of the original building.

Collard's engraving of the Market House shows no street along the north side, which has an open arcade. There is a fence on the south of the building, and the Infirmary is just seen beyond that, sheltered by trees. The roof has a central tower with four square, corniced, chimney pots.



Fig. 3 1841 Market Keeper's House engr. Collard.

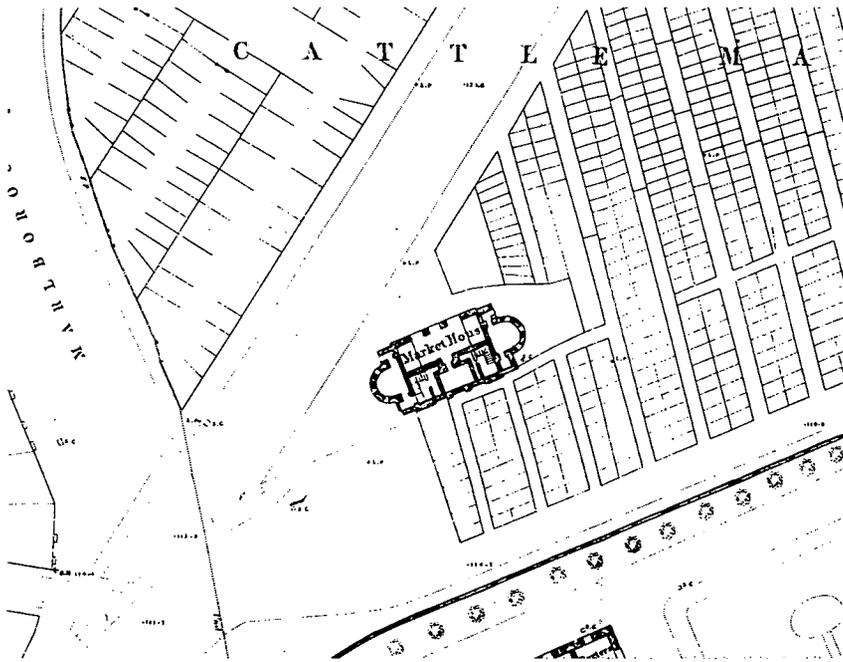


Fig. 4 1862 1st OS 1:500 (enlarged).

Two distinct functions were housed in the building: the collection of tolls, and the management of the cattle market. The 1851 census enumerator's books record that in April of that year there were two families living in what was described as the Market Toll House: Reed Taylor, the Toll Contractor, with his wife, son, niece and servant; and Francis Sinton, Cattle Market Keeper, a widower, whose daughter lived with him.

The construction

Council minutes record the decision to build, but give few details about the house, which is variously referred to as the Market Keeper's House and the Toll House. Advertisements were placed in the local newspapers:

To Masons, Carpenters, Slaters &c.

Plans and specifications of an intended MARKET and TOLL HOUSE, to be built at the Cattle Market, will be ready for inspection at the Town Surveyor's Office, in the Guildhall, Newcastle, on Monday the 23rd September.

Estimates will be received in the Town Surveyor's Office, addressed to the Town Improvement Committee, up to Eleven o'clock on Wednesday, 9th October.⁵

On March 26th, 1840, it was recorded that Richard Cail, bricklayer, was paid on account for building the Cattle Market House. In May, Robert McAllister, joiner, was paid on account for work to the Toll House at the Cattle Market. On June 2nd Richard Cail had been paid for mason work to the Cattle Market House; on September 23rd, Ralph Dodds was paid

£78.10.— "for plastering New Cattle Market House per estimate", and on October 10, Robert McAllister joiner for carpenter work at the New Market House, Cattle Market, was paid £121.13.11 on account towards the £221.13.11 due to him.⁶

Another payment in the same accounts is to Richard Grainger for making the common sewer through the cattle market—£237.16.0 (in October). In November, Richard Cail is owed, for

mason work carried out according to contract at the New Tolls & Market House, £501.17.4. Of this £400 had already been paid to him.

The house was nearing completion. By November 20th, Mr. Dixon had been paid £24.0.0 for painting and glazing the Cattle Market New or Toll House, and John Dobson architect, £41.10.5 for planning and superintending the building of the new toll house at 5 per cent on the total cost of £830.9.3.⁷ The house was finished, and it is established beyond doubt that John Dobson designed it, as his obituary was to claim in 1863. (The obituary, however, gave a date of 1831 for the house and so could not be relied upon.) On 16 June 1841 Francis Sinton was appointed keeper of the Cattle Market at an annual salary of £40 plus house.⁸ On 18th June he attended the meeting of the Finance Committee and was given his instructions—which unfortunately were not minuted—and on July 16th he again attended and received full authority to exercise his own discretion in conducting the business of the market.

The Treasurer's Department minute books record expenditure on the Cattle Market from 1836 to July 1842, and list the tradesmen employed for building the Toll House, together with the architect:⁹

Richard Cail	stone mason	501.17.4
Robt McAllister	joiner	221.13.11
Ralph Dodds	plasterer	78.10.—
John Dixon	painter & glazier	24.—.—
B Plummer	plumber work	7.10.—
John Stephenson	smith for iron gates	21.—.—
John Dobson	architect	41.10.5
J Gee	joiner	152.10.11

Only one further item of expenditure is recorded for work to the house in the expenses of the Cattle Market: the Town Improvement Committee records show that there was a clock needed. In 1842 the Committee decided that rather than paying Mark Young for a new clock, which would have cost £120, they would have him repair the old one at a total cost of £64.¹⁰

The ground floor

The evidence of the 1841 engraving by Collard is reinforced by that of the first edition OS at 1:500, which gives plan details of the building and shows open arches on the north and windows on the south. The OS map also shows that there were originally two staircases which were not identical, the western stair having a wider lobby and the eastern stair having no communication with the rest of the ground floor, an oddity which is discussed below in the context of changes to floor levels. There was a spine wall on the ground floor, in the centre of which an opening led through the thick core of the central tower to a room between the two stair wells. There was no access from the long north room to the wings, in each of which there was a north door (of which one is now blocked). The east wing was entirely self-contained, and being only one storey high, had no communication with the main building. The west wing had a door to the west stair. No windows are shown on the south wall, three are shown in each bow as at present, and one is shown in the south part of the west wall.

Soon after the house was built, some small alterations were made. The Town Surveyor, Mr. Wallace, inspected the house and reported on January 14th, 1842 that he agreed that it would be useful to fix iron gates at the Market House as Mr. Sinton had suggested. In 1843 Mr. Sinton suggested an alteration, which is unspecified, should be made to a window at the house and this also was done.¹¹ The gates may have been to close the open arcade; the window alteration may have been to make a small opening through which money could have been passed.

No reference is anywhere made to the construction and covering of the roof. The joiner, Mr. Robert McAllister, made the trusses, and that is probably the carpenter's work mentioned in the minutes. It is possible that Mr. Cail, as the principal contractor, covered the roof, since while the advertisement for tenders addresses masons and slaters, there is no mention in any of the documents of slaters being employed. It is possible that the plumber's bill for £7.10sh. was for fixing lead flashings to the

roof, the lead itself being supplied from the Corporation's general fund and so not specified. Similarly, there may have been tiles or slate supplied from the general stock.

In the absence of documentary references to the roof covering, the evidence of the structure must stand alone. Messrs Matthew Charlton have reported that the slates on the main roof are the original roof covering since no part of the structure has any of the marks which would have been made by an earlier covering. The slates are identified as being from Bangor. Roofing nails bearing the letter B have been found in many slates, but in Newcastle trade directories for 1840 there are no slaters with the initial B. However, William Burnup appears by 1847. Newspaper advertisements show that Welsh slates were certainly being sold in Newcastle throughout the early years of the nineteenth century, so that material would have been available.

CHANGES TO THE BUILDING

Domestic accommodation

The Census Enumerators' books for 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 indicate some changes in the building. In 1851, 1861 and 1871, there were two families living there, those of the Toll Collector and of the Cattle Market Keeper. The toll collector's family numbered 5 and 6 people in 1851 and 1861. Reed Taylor, the Toll contractor in 1851, had his wife, son, niece and a servant with him. In 1861 the Corporation Toll Collector was Thomas Newton, whose wife and four adult children lived with him. In 1871 James Crewther, clerk to the Borough Engineer, lived in the house with his wife, two young children and a servant. In 1881 the only inhabitants were the Market Keeper and his family. In 1851 and 1861 the Market Keeper was Francis Sinton, and his daughter Elizabeth was his housekeeper; in 1871 John Bell was the keeper and with him were his wife and three children. In 1881 they were still there, but with two children and a lodger.

It is possible that the house was altered in

some way when the market was enlarged in December 1860.¹² There may have been provision for collecting tolls in buildings in the new market. The newspaper reported that when the new market was opened, "In Mr. Sinton's hospitable residence . . . there was open house throughout the day." Mr. Sinton was able to contribute to the design of the new markets and may have asked for changes to his own house at the same time—"It should be mentioned that no professional aid, either of architect or any other gentleman, was obtained beyond that of the Corporation officials; assisted by the judgment of Mr. Sinton, the indefatigable superintendent of the market . . . for about 20 years." Council records, however, specify no payments for work to the house at this time. In September 1881 the Keeper's House was in need of repairs estimated to cost £16 but not specified, and it was painted inside and out. In December the market clock was repaired and three dials were "fitted complete" for £46.15s.¹³

The census information shows clearly that the domestic accommodation in the building had been changed from what was needed for two families to a house for one family. At most, two families with a total of ten people had lived there in 1871. One of those families had a lodger, so probably three rooms were needed for sleeping. The space available, however, was greater than it seems now, for until 1910 there was a mezzanine floor. In that year plans were submitted to the City Engineer by Messrs Barclays Bank, and given the reference A241 in the notebook registers, known as the Parish Books by the Building Inspectors of the City Engineer's Department, now in the County archives.¹⁴ The plans themselves have not survived, but they are included in a group of plans recorded on microfilm by the City Engineer's department. Neither register entries nor plans have been found for any other alterations to the building.

The 1910 plans for Barclays Bank show the existing structure and the proposed alterations (figs 5 and 6). The survival of this film of the drawings is fortunate for it is only from these that any conclusions may be reached about the

upper part of the building in the nineteenth century.

The building in 1910 and proposed alterations for Barclays Bank

In April, 1910, it was reported to the Markets Sub-Committee that negotiations had been undertaken with Mr. Arthur Stockwell, architect, of 11 Pilgrim Street. He was acting on behalf of Messrs Barclays Bank in applying for alterations to the Market Keeper's House, which they wished to lease in addition to the premises they already had. Mrs. Harrison, widow of the late Market Keeper, was to be allowed to remain in the house until the transaction was settled. On May 26 the Town Surveyor reported that Mr. Mosley represented Barclays in negotiations for the lease. It was decided that the bank's rent would be £80 per annum for the premises, except for a part of the yard which they did not need, on a 21 years' lease. They proposed to spend about £500 to £600 on alterations and improvements, but certain roof work needed to be done which would be the Corporation's responsibility and would cost about £50.¹⁵

The drawings by Stockwell in 1910 show a mezzanine floor in the southern half of the building. In the ground floor of this date there is shown a stair at the east, in the position shown in the first edition OS, but no stair in the former stair well in the western part of the building. From the Market Keeper's office in the east wing there is access to the stair well, and down three steps from that there is a door to a wash house which occupies two bays, with a water closet in the narrow space between it and the stair. In the centre of the building, against the wall of the banking hall and below the tower, is the coal house; in the recess to the west of it is the set pot, where the water was heated for washing the clothes.

Section drawings show that the mezzanine floor was at the level of the transoms in the south windows, some way below the springing of the arches. These transoms can be seen in a photograph taken in 1906 (fig. 7). On that floor there was a scullery in the former stair well at

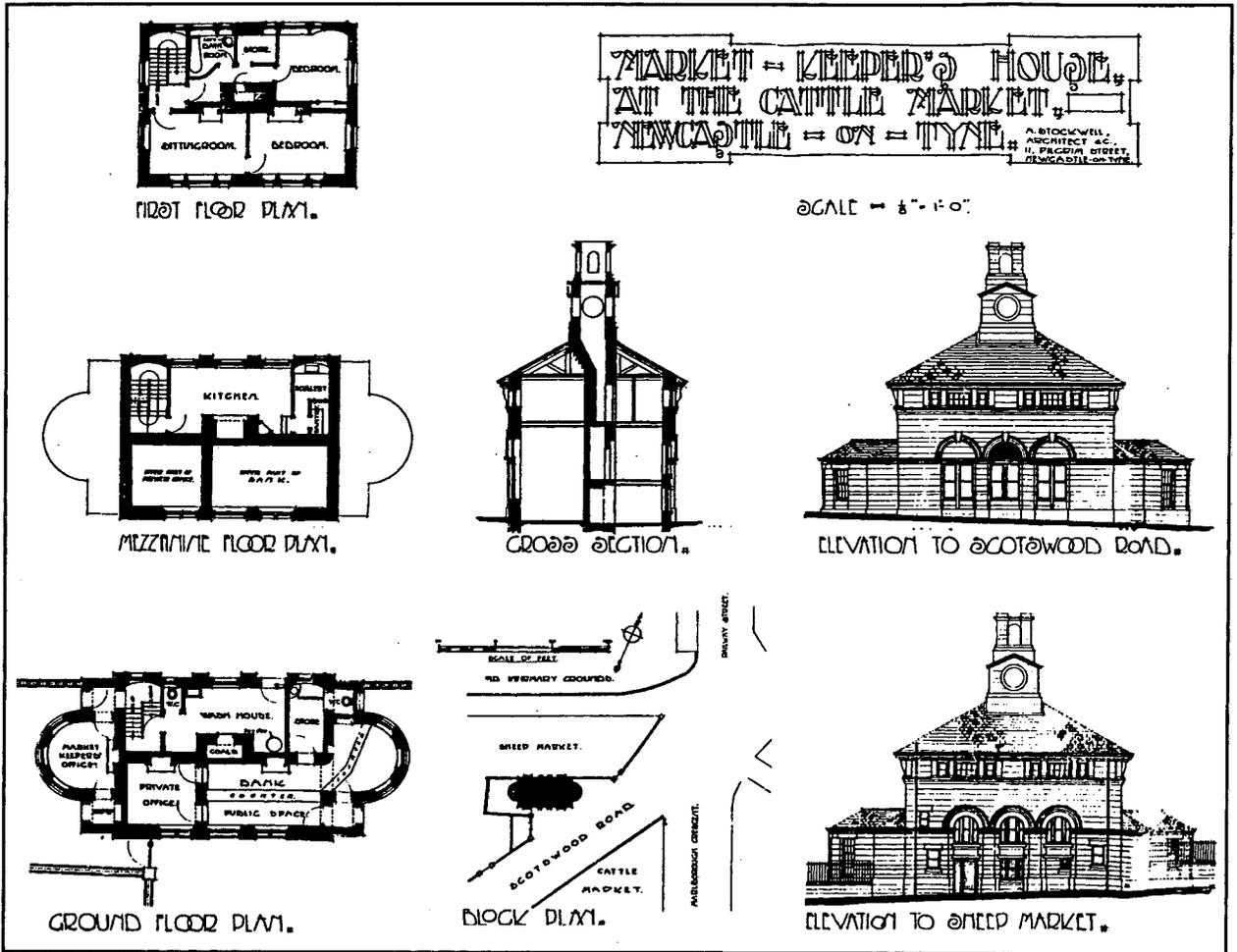


Fig. 5 1910 City Engineer's microfilm A241; plans by A. Stockwell of existing building.

the west which was reached from the kitchen, which occupied the whole three bays between stair and scullery. In the kitchen the range was set in the structure which supported the turret, and which contained the coal house on the floor below. The northern part of the building at this level was the upper part of the banking hall and the bank office. The section drawing shows that the top-floor level is unchanged, the mezzanine having been entirely below it. The south-east door is labelled "caretaker's entrance" in the proposals, and from the porch there are doors to the bank private office and

to the stair well.

The top floor was entirely domestic accommodation, with the north part split into sitting-room (at the east) and bedroom. In the south part there was a bedroom at the west, and a store and a bathroom in the centre, reached from the central passage. The changes proposed in 1910 resulted in the present division of the first floor space. The store room on the south side was to be subdivided to form a store room and a room for a water closet, so that another door was needed in the passage wall. The former sitting room at the north-east cor-

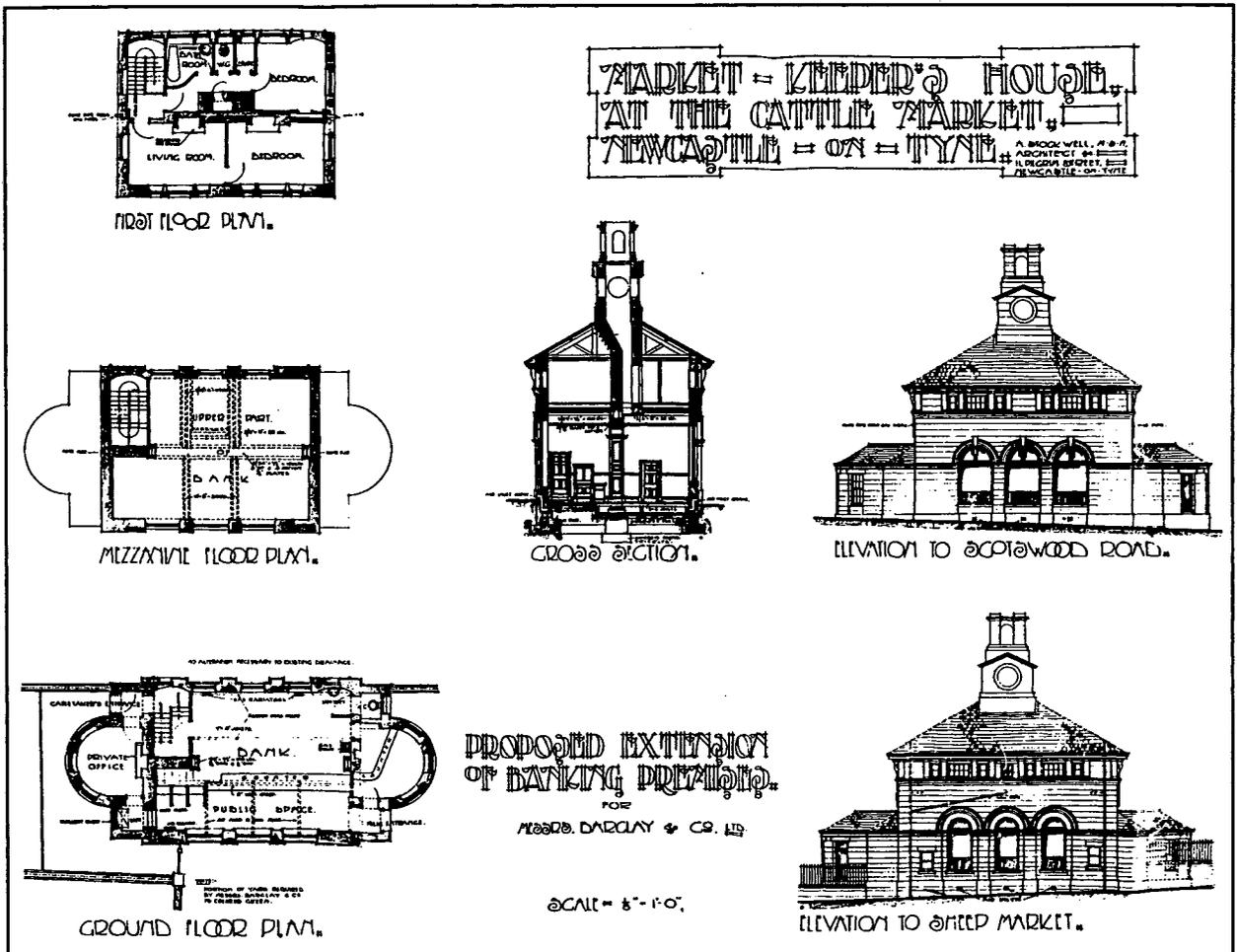


Fig. 6 1910 City Engineer's microfilm A241; plans by A. Stockwell of proposed changes.

ner was to become a living-room, and was to have its fire opening widened to take a kitchen range, the cast-iron range which is there now, and which was probably transferred from the mezzanine floor.

Office accommodation

When first built, the house was to accommodate the Toll Collector's office and the Cattle Market Keeper's office, the one-storey wings being used for these purposes. There was eventually also a need for bank premises at the market: by 1895 the street directories show that

Lambton's Bank had an office which may have been in this building but may equally have been elsewhere in the Cattle Market. What is certain is that by 1910 Barclays Bank, the successors of Lambton's, were occupying the former Keeper's House, as will be seen below.

In 1910, the existing structure had two separate rooms on the north side of the ground floor, the eastern bay being used as a private bank office and the other two bays and the west wing as the banking hall, with a counter along the centre from east to west and then diagonally across the wing. The western stair

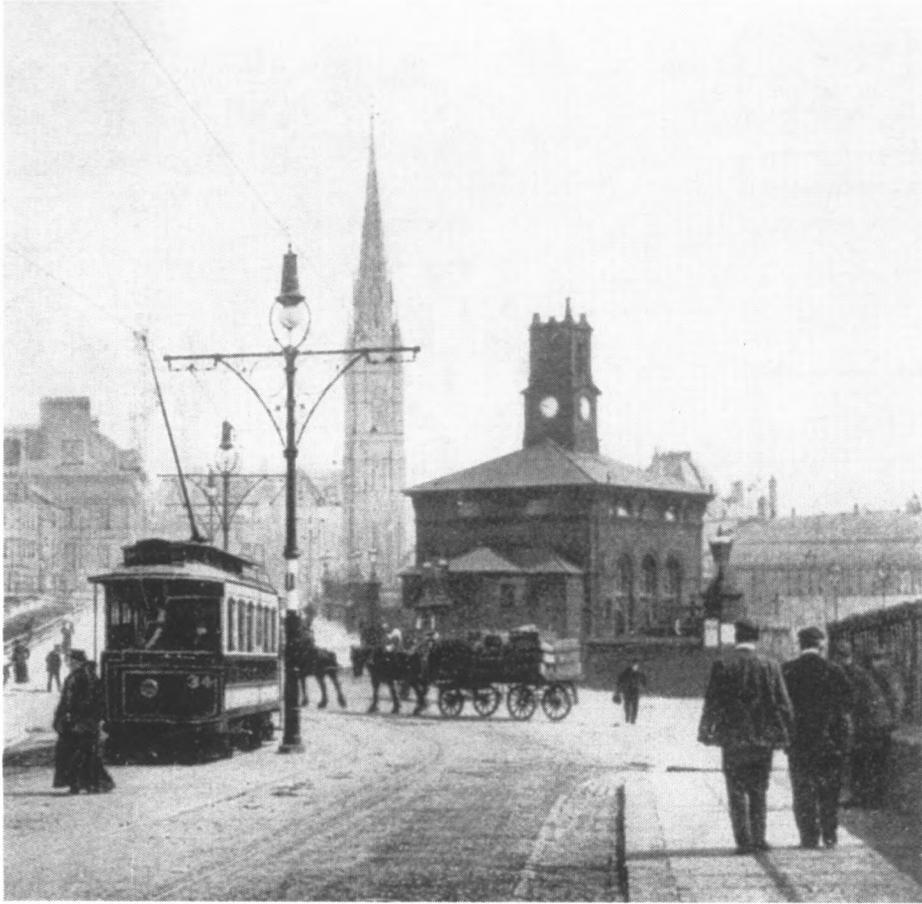


Fig. 7 1906 Market Keeper's House from Scotswood Road. © Newcastle upon Tyne Libraries.

well had lost its flight of stairs and on the ground floor was being used as a store room for the bank, with a hand-basin in the south-east corner and a water closet in the south end of the lower extension. The east wing was the market keeper's office, with the former north door opening partly blocked, and a window inserted which lit a cupboard. The door to the office was in the south part of the east wall, where the porch also gave access to the eastern stair, by then the only stair. The bank had no access to this stair and so must have occupied only the ground floor until Stockwell's alterations were carried out.

The proposed alterations to the ground floor in 1910 were drastic. New concrete foundations were to be inserted and there were to be air inlet grates in the long walls, air ducts in the under-floor space, and pipes set in the end walls to take gas-fire fumes. The east-west wall, recorded in the first OS survey, was to be entirely removed, the stone structure of the central tower being supported on a steel beam at first floor level; other beams were to be inserted between it and the north and south walls. The west extension was to be the bank's private office. There was no provision made for a market keeper's office, probably because

the market had been extended in 1860, with new office buildings. Lesser alterations included the fixing of a hand-basin (labelled "lavatory") at the west end of the south wall. The water closet was to remain in the small south-west room. The sashes were to be removed from the west wing and replaced with what seem to be fixed lights with opening transoms; the east wing was to retain its sashes.

The mezzanine floor was to be removed and the space used to provide higher ceilings for the banking hall, the window transoms at mezzanine level also being removed and the glazing arranged to a different pattern. The reduced domestic accommodation, to be only on the upper floor, was to be the caretaker's flat.

After Barclays Bank

Later use of the house was as an office for the Tyneside Fat Trading Co., as a depot for the sale of Advanco garden sheds, garages and greenhouses, and as the Homebuilt timber depot. It was listed as a Grade II Building of Historic or Architectural Interest on 17th December 1971 and retained on the seventh list issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment on March 30th, 1987.

THE PRESENT STRUCTURE

The building was investigated in 1996 in order that a programme of repair and restoration might be carried out. It is here described as it was then, and many of the anomalous features of the 1996 structure have been removed in the course of the restoration.

Exterior

The house is built of finest ashlar sandstone, although with some weathering, and in 1996 the main roof was covered in Welsh slate and those of the wings in roofing felt. Windows were all boarded up.

The main block of the house is two storeys high. The ground floor has three tall arches on the north and south sides, all with keyed archi-

volts and an impost string. The north arches are larger than those on the south, and there are plain double doors in the western arch on the north side. The upper floor has two groups of tripartite windows under the eaves and resting on a sill string which is an Ionic architrave. The eaves brackets define the sections, and between the two groups is a single light slightly wider than the outer sections of the tripartite groups. The east and west sides have two windows flanked by console brackets, and there is a broad, square-section cornice. There is no gutter visible, and there are no rainwater pipes from the eaves. A vent pipe rose through the centre of the eaves on the south, from a long lateral waste pipe.

Narrow one-storey wings at east and west are one bay wide, with one opening each side of semi-circular east and west projections which each have three windows. Above the east bow there was a wrought iron bracket which might have held a flag or sign, and the silhouette of the word "BANK" is clear on the main eaves above the west wing, which has the silhouette of the words CATTLE MARKET EXCHANGE above the central window.

The roof is curved over the bowed projections to reach the eaves of the one-storey wings, over which it is hipped so that it rises almost to the eaves of the higher part, which has a hipped roof rising to a central square-plan stone tower. The tower has open arches to a bell stage above a gabled clock stage. Corner pilasters support a cornice over the bell stage. There are tapered square yellow chimney pots on the four corners of the tower.

As has been shown above, there is no documentary information about the original roof covering. Slaters were addressed in the advertisement for tenders but no payments for slater's work could be found. The evidence of the structure itself suggests that the present Welsh slates on the main roof are the original covering. The Collard engraving of 1841 shows ribbed lines running down the roof but while these may represent lead or pantiles, neither material is mentioned in the documents.

The style is Italianate. There is a plain

square-topped plinth to the whole building and finely carved elongated console brackets support the eaves. The impost string has a central cyma recta moulding, and it supports the archivolts which have conventional Ionic stepped moulding with a cyma reversa projecting to the outermost plain. The keystones are plain blocks which rise a short way above the archivolts.

Windows, although boarded up at the time the building was surveyed, could be seen from the interior. The arcaded windows on the south side had transoms at impost level and the semicircular lights above were split by central wood mullions, thus forming two quadrant lights; these were alterations made in 1910 when the mezzanine floor was removed. The external faces of the new transoms were moulded in imitation of the impost string. A similar detail was found in the outer arches on the north. All other windows on the ground floor of the main building probably belong to a second or third construction phase. The two small windows on the south side are not symmetrical and may not have been part of Dobson's design; their detail is certainly considerably later than 1841.

The pivoting windows of the top floor are all original except that at the centre of the south side, which dates from 1910 and is slightly wider than the outer windows of each of the tripartite groups which flank it; it was inserted, in what had probably been a blind window, when the small room next to the bathroom was subdivided to accommodate a water closet. Where the fittings can be seen, the glazing bars are of delicate lamb's-tongue section which is consistent with a date of early nineteenth century. It is worth noting that Dobson used pivoting lights in the clerestory windows of the New Markets, the present Grainger Market, completed only a few years earlier.

The north arcade, originally open, was blocked by 1910.

In 1996 the west bow had curved, renewed sashes with shutters; in the east were twentieth-century fixed lights with transoms. It is most likely that these bows originally had curved slashes with fine glazing bars and curved glass,

an interpretation supported by the evidence of curved dark lines on some sills. There was a blocked door in the south of the east elevation and a boarded door in the north of the west elevation.

The door in the north end of the west elevation is in the original place but the door itself is not original. The door in the south end of the east elevation is inserted, perhaps in 1880. The original doorway at the north end of the east elevation was blocked in 1910.

Interior

The internal arrangements surviving in 1996 were at least the third stage of alteration to the building.

The ground floor had very little original detail, even the ceiling height having changed. Doors and sashes were all twentieth century. The main structure was one large space, a spine beam separating two ceilings of different heights. In the southern half, a hole in the ceiling revealed laths of an earlier ceiling apparently half a metre above. Egg and dart and dentil mouldings ran around all wall/ceiling junctions and the tops of the pilasters supporting the spine beam. A short section of high skirting beside the door at the north end of the west wall was topped by an intricate moulding, which reappeared next to the north-west door. There were no fittings, but there was a high tongue-and-groove boarded dado on a curved projection in the main wall of the west wing, and a small blocked fire opening within the dado. The east wing had a concrete floor. The only access to the below-floor space was in the west wing, where it could be seen that brick sleeper walls ran east-west.

The east stair well is almost unchanged in form since 1910, when the landing and door to the mezzanine floor were removed, but had in recent years been stripped bare: there was no stair. The walls of the stair well, with traces of the staircase seen in it, have been recorded by the County Archaeologist. There was evidence of the balustrade in the top landing where there were square holes into which the balusters had been set, suggesting that it was of sim-

ple construction. The gently bowed inner face of the south wall of the stair well is original. At the west end of the south wall, on the top floor a similar recess was part of the second stair well. The first edition Ordnance Survey shows the second stair well at the west end of the main block; the sloping sill of the upper window in the west wall of the south-west room is original and follows the design of the corresponding window at the east end of the building, a window which still lights the stair well. These sloping sills on the top floor are a reminder that the original function of both windows was to light the stairs.

The upper floor had four-panelled doors throughout, in roll-moulded door surrounds. All windows on this floor had glazing bars of lamb's tongue profile, slim and elegant, and plain reveals without shutters. Some narrow curved wrought iron window stays survive, with blocks fixed on the sills.

In 1910 the south part of the top floor had been divided into one main room at the west end, two cupboard-like spaces in the centre and a bathroom which has an elegantly-curved lath and plaster partition to the central passage. The passage led to the south-east stairwell. This arrangement survived in 1996. On the north side of the building there were two rooms, that at the east end containing a cast iron kitchen range. The west room on this side had lost its fire surround, and a door from it to the south-west room was crossed by the skirting board, showing that it had at one time been blocked. In the south-west room a gentle bowed recess in the south wall, mentioned above, matched the stair well recess at the east. The south wall of the bathroom had a pair of cast iron brackets which probably supported a hand basin. The bath, and the water closet in the adjacent room, were comparatively recent.

At the centre of the upper passage was a louvred door to the clock tower.

Roof

The roof turret is as it was when built apart from the chimney pots, if the evidence of the

Collard engraving published in 1841, perhaps before construction was complete, may be relied on. The present chimney pots are of nineteenth century type and could have been those which were first fitted on the tower, the engraving representing the ideal rather than the reality.

Access to the roof is through one of two hatches, one over the stair landing and one from the passage. The roof is necessarily a complex structure since it can have neither apex nor ridge and so cannot have king posts. Instead it has queen posts, the principal rafters apparently set in the stone structure of the tower, which is corbelled out on the north side. Plugs in the posts conceal bolts, the function of which is not clear. Purlins are set in shallow trenches in the trusses, of which the tie beams are visible in the upper rooms, and are more deeply set into the hip rafters. At the eaves the roof is lined with boards to varying heights; the wall head is irregular, some areas showing a stretch of rubble which interrupts the otherwise substantial wall plate. There are neat, chiselled, carpenters' marks on queen posts, beams and principal rafters.

There is no apparent provision for rainwater run-off from the main roof. In the course of recent restoration it was found that there was no internal gutter, and no evidence of there ever having been an external gutter except on the one-storey wings. The only possible method for rainwater to have drained from the main roof is for it to have run down the extensive overlap of the slates beyond the cornice. Any excessive water would have met a deep cavetto moulding at the outer edge of the cornice and this would have given an edge from which drips would have fallen. There seems to have been no provision made to direct rainwater away from the heads of people entering the building through the original open arcade on the north.

The run-off from the roofs of the one-storey wings is taken into curved cast iron gutters of almost square section which have a substantial lip moulding and are fixed on purpose-made rafter hangers. Messrs Matthew Charlton gave their opinion that these were original. People entering or leaving either of the two doors in the

wings would not have had to endure water running onto their heads. These gutters would have received rainwater from the ends of the main roof since that would have dripped on the wings.

GATE PIER, GATE AND RAILINGS ON NORTH

These ancillary structures formed the entrance to the yard of the Market Keeper's House and seem to date from around 1860.

The square stone gate pier, with plinth and concave coping, is made of the same type of masonry which is used for the structure of the house itself. In places the coping is incomplete, and this was probably where a lamp was fixed. The wrought iron gate with spike-headed railings and dog bars has a scooped top rail, and is hinged on the stone pier. Similar railings with dog bars are attached to the wall of the house at the east side of the north arcade and end in a tall, tapered iron post with conical finial.

Thomas Oliver's Survey of 1844 does not show the yard, which may not have been defined at first. Council minutes make it clear that there was a period of gradual change to the market after the Market Keeper's House was built in 1840. The first edition Ordnance Survey shows that Scotswood Road already followed the present line, and market pens abutted the north, east and south sides of the yard. It does not show the pier and yard except in so far as the yard is an open space next to the house and surrounded by pens.

In 1860 the Corporation bought Knox's Field, to the west, made a cattle market on it, and changed the earlier market to a stand for sheep. The *Newcastle Daily Courant* of December 14th gave a full account of the splendid opening proceedings, when the bells of St. Nicholas "rang very early in the day and continued at intervals ... and in Mr. Sinton's hospitable residence ... there was open house throughout the day".

The second edition Ordnance Survey at 1:500, surveyed in 1894 and published in 1896, shows the pier, walls and railings enclosing the yard and similar piers and walls forming a bar-

rier between Scotswood Road and the pens. There are lamps on top of all the piers.

RESTORATION

In 1996 plans were announced for a new development on the site: the former Marlborough Crescent bus station, the old Cattle Market, with its Keeper's House, and the site of the Infirmary, were to be used for a new development to be known as the Centre for Life. The Keeper's House was to be restored and to become part of the new complex. This latest change to the area has brought with it the opportunity to research and restore one of Newcastle's finest small buildings.

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