

EXCAVATION OF AN EARLY-MODERN SITE AT THE GERMAN HOSPITAL, DALSTON, LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

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SUMMARY

The physical remains of the earliest building yet recorded in Dalston were revealed during excavation. A continuous sequence of occupation in the form of brick buildings dating from the mid to late 16th century was recorded. Other, later, buildings which appear in the historic and cartographic record were observed. These include a mansion dated to the early 18th century that subsequently housed the Infant Orphan Asylum and then the German Hospital. Dwellings which appear on a plan of 1796 were recorded. One building on this plan, identified on site, is thought to have been owned by George II.

INTRODUCTION

The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) undertook an evaluation of the site occupied by the German Hospital, Dalston in the London Borough of Hackney between 1 and 11 June 1993 (Fig 1). The site code was GMN93. The Ordnance Survey grid reference for the site is TQ 3420 8490. The work was commissioned by the New Islington and Hackney Housing Association and the City and East London Family Health Services Authority in anticipation of their redevelopment of the site.

For the evaluation, seven trenches were machine excavated to assess the nature, date, extent and condition of any archaeological remains (Fig 2). Masonry features and stratified occupation material extending back to the 16th

century were recorded. These deposits were confined to the area north of the railway line which bisected the site. The material was threatened with disturbance or destruction in the proposed redevelopment, and further assessment of its extent outside the trench areas was

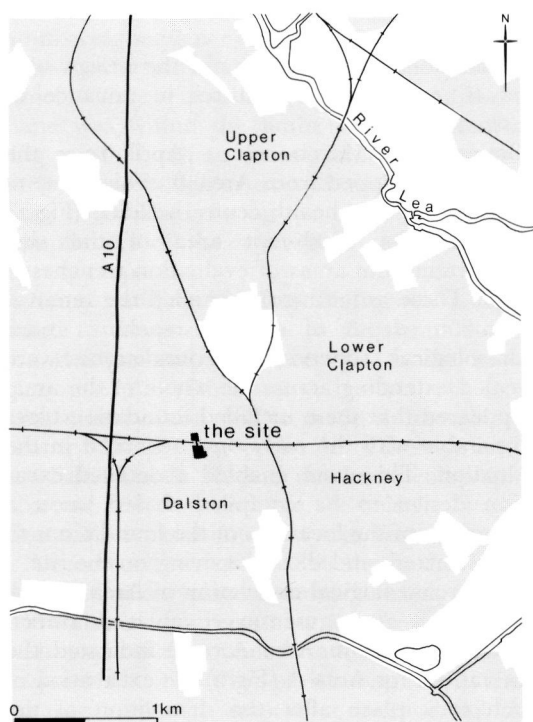


Fig 1. Site location

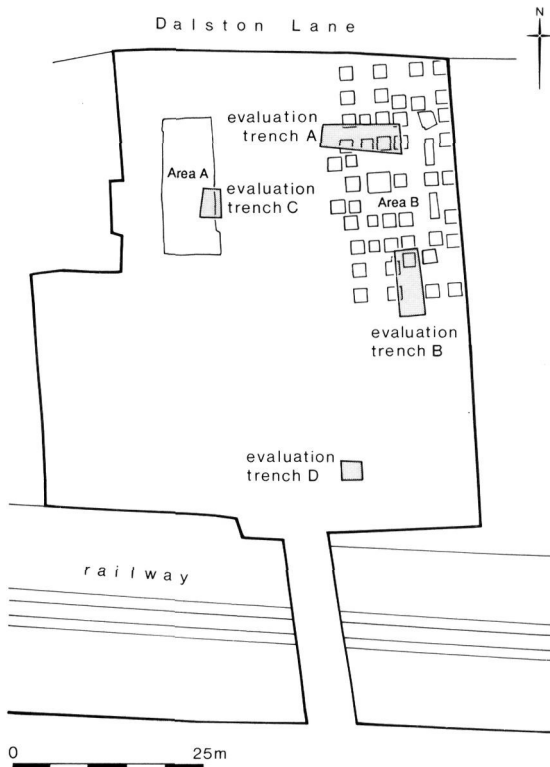


Fig 2. Trench and area location

recommended. This was to aid the design of a brief to record these features in advance of construction.

Between 21 March and 1 April 1994 the topsoil was stripped from Area B, which was to be developed as a health centre building (Fig 2). This was the north-east area of the site, incorporating the areas of evaluation trenches A and B. These groundworks entailed the removal of c.0.60m depth of soil by machine under archaeological supervision. Foundations were revealed extending across the whole of the area. It appeared that these included foundation types comparable with the early ones recorded in the evaluation. This work enabled a detailed excavation design to be compiled, based upon a comparison of the locations of the foundations to be constructed, and those surviving on the site.

The archaeological excavation of Area A took place from 8–20 August 1994. Evaluation Trench C had been within Area A, and indicated the expectations for Area A (Fig 2) the excavation of which took place after the demolition of the adjacent hospital block. The excavation area, roughly rectangular in plan, measured some 7m

east-west \times 18m north-south overall, and partially overlapped with evaluation Trench C. Immediately before the excavation of Area A a watching brief was undertaken on the excavation of a north-south drain trench which was excavated between Areas A and B.

Between 12 and 23 September 1994 the final archaeological work on Area B was completed. This entailed the excavation by machine under archaeological supervision of the location of each future foundation base hole in the areas where archaeological survival had been anticipated.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DALSTON

The early hamlet of Dalston was situated some 600m east of Ermine Street, the Roman road to Lincoln, which followed the route of the current Kingsland Road and Kingsland High Street (Margary 1955, 195). Dalston developed between the villages of Kingsland and Hackney about halfway along a lane between the two which is known to have existed by 1553.¹ Dalston may have been settled by this date, its earliest firm reference. The settlement at Kingsland was centred around the current junction of Balls Pond Road and Kingsland Road. The main development in Hackney had grown up along what is now Mare Street (Church Street on the 1745 Rocque map), c.850 m to the east of Dalston.

It has been suggested that Dalston derives from *Deolef's Farm* (EPNS 1942, 106). The same source cites *Derleston* in 1294,² *Dorleston* in 1388 (Hardy & Page 1892–3, 23), *Derleston* in 1443,³ and *Dorleston* in 1581 (Simpson 1884). The 1388 reference from Hardy is 'William Dorleston, and Katherine his wife', where no linkage is implied or given to Dalston in Hackney. When examined, the 1581 date from Simpson was found to include no reference to Dalston. Simpson (Simpson 1889vi) does note that 1581 is the date of the first book of Vestry minutes for the church of St. John at Hackney.⁴ The other early dates given by the English Place Names Society may also be etymological speculation which do not necessarily apply to Dalston in Hackney.

Rating records give some indication of the population of Dalston. In 1605 33 leaseholders were assessed for church rates;⁵ 1720, 17 were assessed for poor law rate.⁶ These figures do not necessarily imply a drop in population, as the definition of what constituted Dalston is unknown

and different types of rates were applied at different periods.

The future Bishop of Exeter lived in Dalston at some point between 1654 and 1688, and possibly later. In 1795 Lysons stated 'Offspring Blackall ... resided in the early part of his life, with his father at Dalston, in an ancient brick house, now let as lodgings' (Lysons 1795, 463). Offspring Blackall (born in 1654) was Bishop of Exeter 1707–16. Robinson (published 1824) states 'his father Thomas Blackall (Alderman of London, died 1688, *ibid*) had a house which stood next to the Red Cow public house ... nearly opposite Smiths Nursery' (Lysons 1795, 263–4). This 'ancient' house would have been north of Dalston Lane towards the corner with Wayland Avenue within 180m of the site. Both the Red Cow and Smiths Nursery appear on Greenwood's 1826 map.

During 1992 MoLAS undertook archaeological work at The Samuel Lewis Trust Dwellings, c. 75m east of the site on the opposite side of Dalston Lane to the east of the centre of the hamlet of Dalston and the orchard noted above. Blackall's house (see above) was known to have been in this area. Evidence for agricultural activity dating to the 17th and 18th centuries was recovered (Phillpotts 1992, 9).

A survey of 1692 described springs and wells in two fields near Dalston as being the source of the water for a piped conduit which led to Aldgate. Clarke has stated that this was in the area of Navarino Road, some 200m to the east of the site (Clarke 1986, 239).

Further early contemporary sources do not reveal much beyond noting the existence of a settlement at Dalston. Messuages⁷ in Darlston are referred to in court rolls dated 29 March 1695⁸ and surrender and admission documents dated 22 April 1699.⁹ In *A Tour Through London About the Year 1725* Daniel Defoe included Dalston in the section on Hackney: 'Hackney is of great extent containing no less than twelve hamlets of separate villages ... (including) ... Dalstone. All these, though some of them are very large villages make up but one Parish of Hackney. The town is remarkable for the retreat of wealthy citizens, that there is at this time near a Hundred Coaches kept in ...' (Defoe 1929, 81). It is known that by 1733 there were two inns at Dalston (VCH 1995, 28).

The first indication of the character of early Dalston is John Rocque's map of 1745. A group of at least 15 or so buildings is situated on both

sides of Dalston Lane, with a pond towards the east of the centre of the settlement area.¹⁰ To the east of the centre of the hamlet, north of Dalston Lane, is what appears to be an orchard with related buildings fronting onto the road. This is the site later known to be occupied by the Red Cow public house. A plan of 1796 includes further detail of the area around the site (Fig 3). The surrounding land is largely rural, with orchards and field boundaries visible. Hackney Brook (Dalston Brook on the Rocque map) crossed Dalston Lane to the east of the hamlet at Dalston Bridge. The rustic nature of the area is confirmed by the presence of cress beds along Hackney Brook (Barton 1962, 109).

Dalston found itself in favour during the reign of George II (1727–60). Clarke notes that George II was 'visiting his lady love, The Baroness de Bode, at a residence he took for her in old Dalston ... which is still standing. I refer to the houses Nos 152 and 154 Dalston Lane, now occupied by Mr Arnold and Mr R. P. and the Misses Atkins. It has been called a "shooting box" I know not why. The central part is the original house – almost intact; but it has been added to in front, bringing it nearer the road. It was then divided as is now seen, into two dwelling houses' (Clarke 1986, 245). The current numbering sequence of this part of Dalston Lane remains the same as that during the period in which Clarke was writing (1892–3).¹¹ 154 Dalston Lane was within the limits of the present site (Fig 3; the Graham Estate building within the site). These buildings at 152–154 Dalston Lane were demolished during the period between the compilation of the 1912 and 1938 Ordnance Survey maps.

Some standing buildings in Dalston Lane are dated to the period close to the compilation of the Rocque map; number 160 to the second quarter of the 18th century, 162 and 164 to the 18th century, and 168 to the early to mid 18th century (DOE 1989, 35–6). All of these structures are listed Grade II, and the basement plans to 160 and 168 Dalston Lane are held by Hackney Council Environmental Services Department.¹²

Greenwood's map of 1826 shows that expansion had taken place around Dalston, with the surrounding area remaining largely undeveloped with expansion confined to the alignments of major roads. The 1831 parish map (Fig 4) shows the site area with somewhat more detail than Greenwood's map. By the time of the 1873 Ordnance Survey map the area was fully built

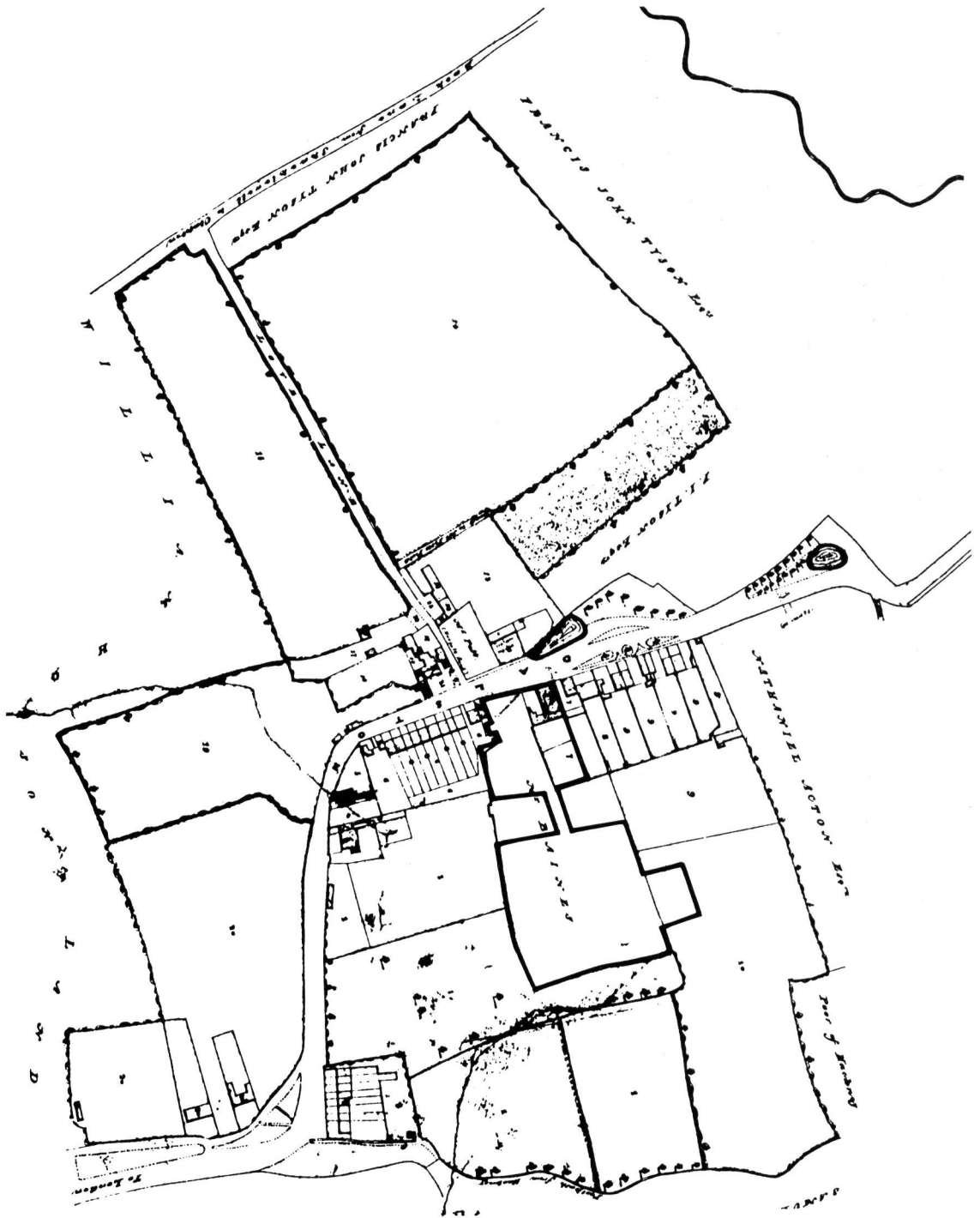


Fig 3. Plan of Graham Estate, 1796 (courtesy Hackney Archives Department)

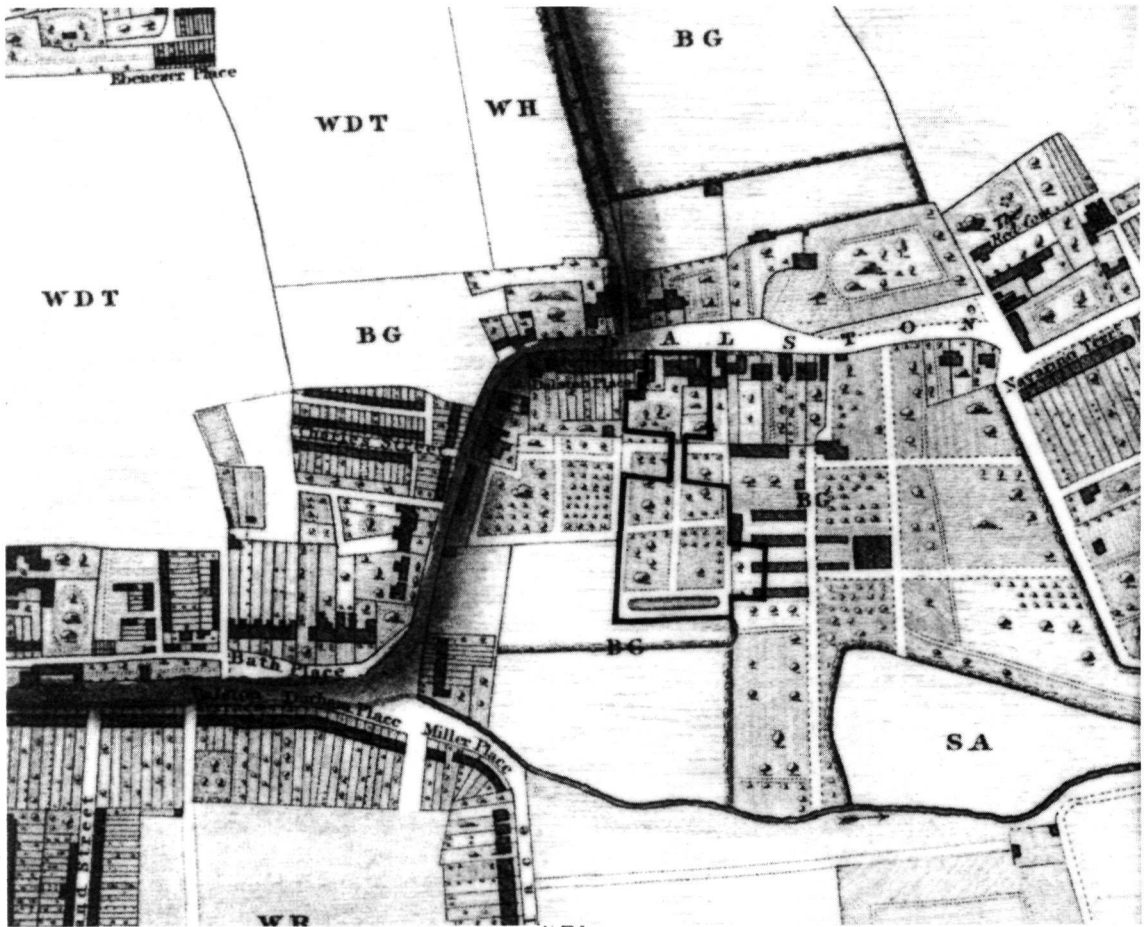


Fig 4. Map of the parish of St John Hackney, 1831 (courtesy Hackney Archives Department)

up, with new streets laid out. The former hamlet was indivisible from the rest of Hackney.

OWNERSHIP OF THE SITE

It is clear from Rocque's map that the frontage onto Dalston Lane was built up by 1745, with the remainder of the site area being open land.

By 1773 the bulk of the site was owned by John Burdon (this area corresponds to 'Mr. Baines' on the 1796 plan; Fig 3). In 1773 John Burdon died and left the house and grounds to his wife Mary. The property was then granted in trust to Daniel Mildred, John Roberts, and Richard Chester in trust for Mary's daughter Priscilla, wife of John Baynes (*sic*). Priscilla Baynes's oldest son Burdon promised to Thomas Hankey and Thomas Mole that they would have

possession of the land and property after his admission to the manorial court of Hackney. Baynes received £6,000 for this deed of covenant on 1 September 1812.¹³

The area of the site outside the Baynes land was, by 1796, owned by Robert Graham. A 1796 plan of the Graham Estate details the outline of the buildings on this land (Fig 3).¹⁴ It is known from later maps and plans that Robert Graham was, by 1831, 'Baron Graham'¹⁵ and died by 1843.¹⁶ The residence visited by George II was located within this part of the site. The 1873 Ordnance Survey map names the large (still standing) building opposite the Dalston Lane entrance to the site as 'Graham House'; a Grade II listed building dated to c.1800 (DOE 1989, 34). This was probably the residence of Robert Graham. Clarke stated that 'Graham House seems to occupy the site of a much older

building' (Clarke 1986, 242). No supporting evidence is given for this statement. The 1800 'Land Use Map of London and its Environs' by Thomas Milne concurs with other maps in depicting the north of the site, fronting onto Dalston Lane, as built up and the remainder as 'meadow and pasture'.¹⁷

By 1827 the land owned by Baynes was sold to the Infant Orphan Asylum which opened on 3 July 1827 (Robinson 1824, 141). It is conceivable that the Infant Orphan Asylum moved into the house and grounds formerly owned by John Burdon. By 1841 it was realised that the Infant Orphan Asylum required larger premises and in 1843 it moved to Wanstead. Subsequent to this the property was sold at auction by Shuttleworth and Sons on Friday 7 April 1843 (for £3,000) to the committee which had been set up to establish a hospital for 'the reception of all poor Germans and others speaking the German language' (McKellar 1991, 6). The sale plan represented the site in some detail (Fig 5).¹⁸ To the north-east, the site area within the adjacent property was not drawn, but annotated as 'The Executors of Baron Graham'. The 1831 parish map represents the land owned by Graham as *BG*. Unfortunately, during the preparation of this article no archive relating to Robert Graham or his estate has been located.

The German Hospital was funded by both the wealthy German colony in England and English contributors. Initially interest free loans were made by the King of Prussia, and two committee members: Mr Frederick Huth and Mr C. A. Prellor. The Hospital was officially opened on 15 October 1845 (McKellar 1991, 6; Spechte 1989, 13). The *Illustrated London News* of 18 October 1845 included a report on the opening of the German Hospital which refers to 'the healthy suburb of Dalston'.

On 6 November 1849 an east-west strip of the site was granted to the East and West India Docks and Birmingham Junction Railway.¹⁹ The North London Railway was subsequently constructed, and a bridge crossing the railway was completed, linking the northern and southern halves of the site.

By the early 1860s it had become apparent that the buildings on the north part of the site were not large enough for the hospital. Thomas Leverton Donaldson was commissioned to design a 100-bed hospital in 1862 (McKellar 1991, 11). This building was completed in 1864 on the south of the site in the area of the previous

Orchard Garden.²⁰ The *Illustrated London News* of 5 November 1864 included an article on the opening of the new hospital building which was 'erected in what was formerly the garden of the old hospital'. The new building was opened on Saturday 15 October 1864, and is still standing.

The Infant Orphan Asylum buildings were demolished by the time of the compilation of the 1873 Ordnance Survey map. The north end of the site remained clear, but by 1876, the date of the gate house, new buildings had been begun. These were added to by an outpatients block in the 1930s.

On 7 March 1944 a plan was compiled to complement the deed which conveyed the German Hospital from being a private institution, to being 'the German Hospital Trust Ltd'.²¹ This plan shows the hospital as still within the limits of the land owned by Baynes in 1796.

After 1944 the area formerly owned by Baron Graham was incorporated into the German Hospital and a garden area laid out. This development supplied the site outline which survives today.

THE BUILDINGS ON THE SITE

Three sources describe buildings on the site which had been demolished before the archaeological work began: the 1796 plan of the Graham Estate (Fig 3); the 1843 sale plan of the Infant Orphan Asylum (Fig 5); and an illustration in the *Illustrated London News* of 18 October 1845 (Fig 6).

The 1796 plan of the estate of Robert Graham includes the north-east area of the site, *ie* land adjacent to that owned by Baynes. The structures within the site limits were leased by a Mr Bord. There were three conjoined buildings fronting onto Dalston Lane with an open area to the north-west of the property. The north-south axis measured *c.*23m with the maximum east-west measurement being *c.*18 m. To the rear (south) was an open garden area.

The 1843 sale plan (Fig 5) is of the property previously occupied by the Infant Orphan Asylum and probably formerly owned by Baynes (Dalston Lane is referred to as Dalston Road).

The *Illustrated London News* article of 18 October 1845 includes an illustration of the rear of the standing Infant Orphan Asylum buildings which were subsequently taken over by the German Hospital (Fig 6). The building layout matches the 1843 plan. Certain suggestions can be made

from Kingsland

DALSTON ROAD

to Hackney

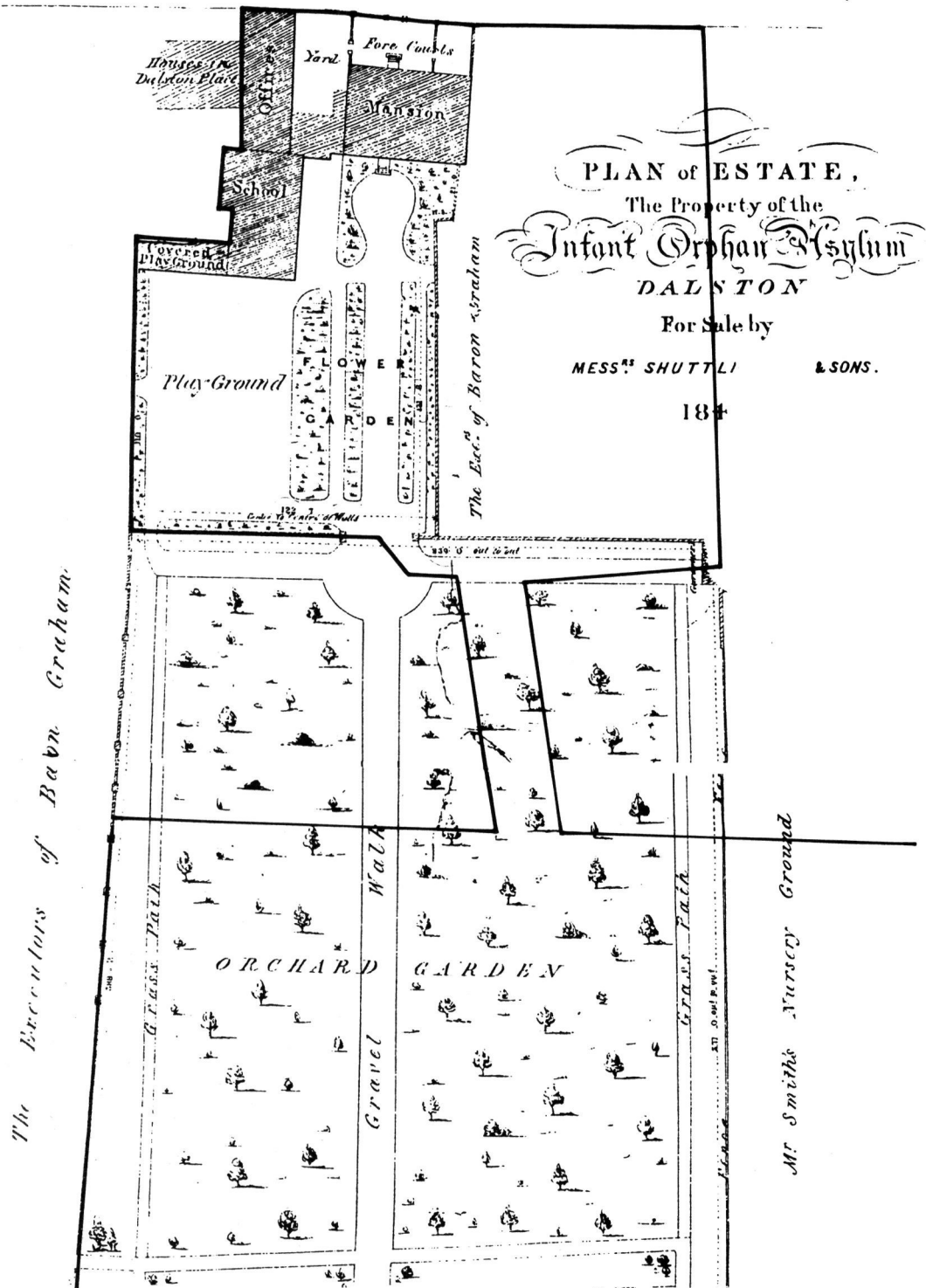


Fig 5. Sale plan of Infant Orphan Asylum, 1843 (courtesy the Archive Department St Bartholomew's Hospital, Royal Hospitals NHS Trust)



Fig 6. *The Infant Orphan Asylum, from Illustrated London News, 1845 (courtesy The Illustrated London News)*

about the architectural style of these buildings, and deductions made about their date of construction. It can be proposed that the main building (the mansion, to the right of the drawing) was constructed in the early to mid 18th century,²² contemporary with the listed buildings which still stand in Dalston Lane. The building aligned north-south at the left of the drawing (the school) was added in the early 19th century and is represented on the 1831 parish map (Fig 4).²³ The complex of buildings associated with the Infant Orphan Asylum is represented as substantially the same on both the 1831 parish map and the 1843 sale plan.

In summary, the mansion was constructed on the site by 1773 (when it was under the ownership of John Burdon), probably during the early 18th century. The school was added during the period from the early 19th century to 1843. Both of these buildings and the related structures were demolished by 1873. The land within the site

limits owned by Baron Graham was built up by 1796, when the property was leased by Mr Bord. By 1938 this building was no longer standing. As buildings dated to the 18th century survive along Dalston Lane, it is conceivable that Mr Bord's buildings may have survived in some, perhaps altered state, to that date.

THE SITE SEQUENCE

Open Area I (Natural ground – mid 16th/17th century)

The earliest deposit recorded on the site was natural brickearth (surface levels 17.265–17.86m OD), which overlay the Corbets Tey Gravel (Gibbard 1994, 43).

The earliest archaeological deposit was Open Area 1, a layer of mixed silty brickearth (surface levels 17.65m–18.10m OD). The natural brick-

earth had been levelled, and this deposit had subsequently built up. Open Area 1 was dated to 1550–1600 by pottery, and represents evidence of the earliest cultural activity on the site. Open Area 1 subsequently became the base for building activity.

Building 1 (late 16th century – early 18th century)

The earliest feature, which postdated Open Area 1, was Building 1, a brick dwelling which dated from the late 16th century (Fig 7). Within the building was a brick-lined pit. To its south was a sunken tile surface, probably a feature within a garden. This building dated to a period before the compilation of any maps, when Dalston is known to have been settled. As such, it is the earliest physical evidence for Dalston hamlet.

The foundations shared a common base level of c.17.90 m OD. The lowest seven courses of the

foundations consisted of a splayed footing, which would have spread the weight of the superstructure. Floor level would normally have been at the point where the splay met the vertical face of the wall (c.18.30 m OD in this case). This floor level is similar to that of Open Area 1: 18.10m OD. Building 1 had no basement. The bricks used in the construction of Building 1 were of types dated to the late 15th–16th centuries.

The brick-lined pit was cut directly into the natural brickearth. There was no integral base and the inside face was unstained. It was therefore not a cesspit and may have been an ice house, larder or similar storage feature.

The surviving foundations allow the following dimensions for Building 1 to be suggested: at least 8.00m east-west at the northern frontage, and between 9.90m and 16.80m north-south.

To the rear of Building 1 was a surface formed of reused peg tiles (dated to 1500–c.1800) at 17.65m OD. This level (some 0.65m below the suggested floor level of Building 1) suggests that

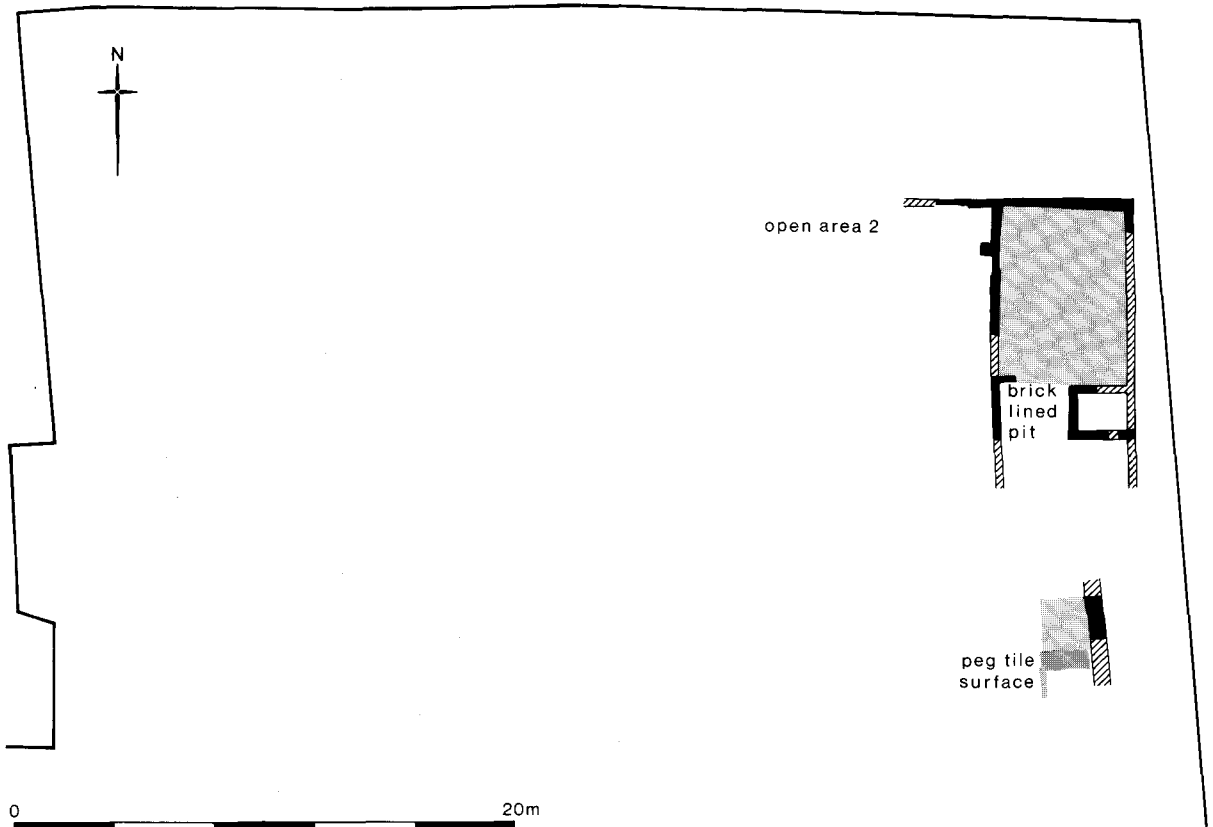


Fig 7. Building 1

it was either a basement feature, or more possibly a sunken external feature within a garden area. Fragments of brick from the underlying make-up layer were dated to the 16th century. Werra ware pottery dated to the late 16th-early 17th century was recovered from a cut feature associated with the tile surface. A north-south foundation of the Building 1 type retained the east side of the surface. Evidently this feature was contemporary with Building 1.

Some conclusion can be made as to the status of Building 1. No contemporary rubbish pits were found (as the area surrounding the building was probably a garden), therefore it would appear the status of the building was sufficiently high for the refuse to have been taken away during the life of the building.

Open Area 2 (late 16th-18th century)

Open Area 2 was in use during and after the life of Building 1. A ploughsoil to the west of Building 1 acted as the base for a horizontal gravel metalling at 18.50m OD (Fig 7). This surface was some 0.20m higher than the proposed floor surface level of Building 1. The plough soil included a fragment of Red Border ware tripod pipkin dated to 1670-1750.

Open Area 3, Phase 1 (late 16th-mid 18th century)

Open Area 3, Phase 1 postdated the disuse of the Building 1 sunken garden feature (Fig 8). It comprised dumps of demolition debris which raised and consolidated the ground level supplying an open area to the south of Building 1 after the demolition of its superstructure (the foundations survived to be archaeologically recorded).

The external tile surface to the south of Building 1 was sealed by rubble dumps of demolition debris which included bricks and mortar of fabric types used in Building 1. The demolition of Building 1 would appear to be the source of this debris. The dumps included pottery dated to the 17th century.

Open Area 3, Phase 1 postdated the demolition of Building 1, and is therefore considered separate from Open Area 2 which was in use during and after the life of the building. In effect Open Area 3, Phase 1 was deposited in preparation for the construction of Building 2

(and its associated Open Area), and although associated with that building is phased between Buildings 1 and 2.

Open Area 3 was cut into by truncated rubbish pits with fills dated to 1670-1750 and after 1750. Therefore Open Area 3 was out of use by the mid 18th century at the latest.

Building 2 (early 18th century to between 1912 and 1938)

Building 2 was constructed on the site of Building 1 (Fig 8). The latest date by which Building 2 was constructed was 1796 (the date of a map on which it appears), and the earliest was during the early 18th century (the date of the latest brick type used in its construction). It is Building 2 which made up the western half of the house bought between 1727-60 by George II for his mistress, at 152 and 154 Dalston Lane, which was subsequently divided into two (Clarke 1986, 245). Building 2 is on the site of 152 Dalston Lane.

Building 2 was constructed after the demolition of Building 1 and reused some of the earlier party wall lines and property limits. Phase 1 represented the earliest constructional phases; make-up layers and related features which underlay the building. Phase 2 was the construction of the perimeter/external walls to the west and east sides of the structure (the south end did not survive and the north incorporated that of Building 1). Phase 3 included the internal masonry features, party walls and surfaces to the building. Phase 4 was the later extension of the building to the north (towards Dalston Lane) with the addition of a new frontage, an 'area' to the north of the building and the construction of a property boundary to the north of the area.

After the addition of Phase 4, which was described by Clarke in 1892-3, the building survived until the period between the 1912 and 1938 Ordnance Survey maps.

Phase 1 (18th century)

After the demolition of Building 1 a series of make-up layers were deposited abutting the surviving Building 1 foundations. A linear brick drain aligned south-west/north-east cut into the make-up layers. The drain had an arched profile with a brick base (at 17.495m OD). The bricks and mortar of the drain were of types dated to

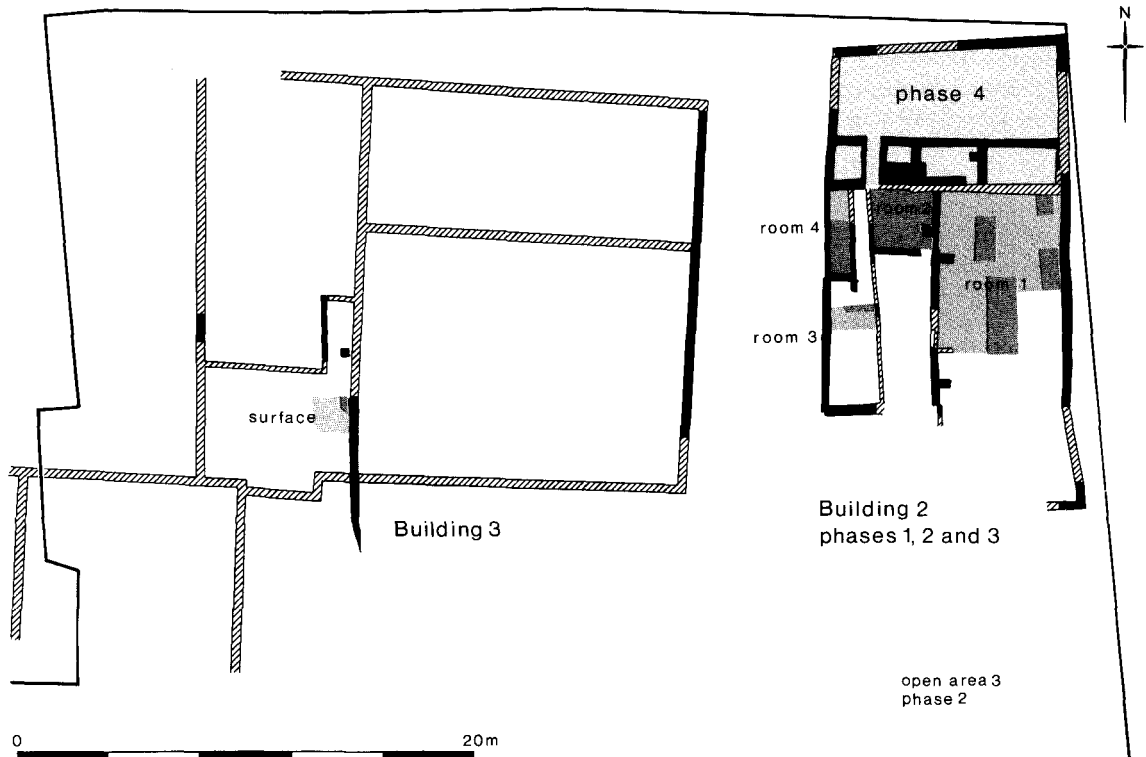


Fig 8. Building 2, Phases 1, 2, 3, 4 + Building 3 (with extent superimposed from 1843 sale plan)

the 16th to 18th centuries with evidence of reused material. This date range postdates the disuse of Building 1.

The brick drain included reused brick dated to the 16th-17th centuries, as well as bricks of an 18th-century type. The make-up layers into which the drain was cut included residual medieval pottery dated to 1270-1500. The drain can be dated to the 18th century.

Phase 2 (18th century)

The west and north sides of Building 2 were recorded. The foundations of the front of Building 1 were reused. The southern limit had been removed by later activity, and the eastern limit of the building was beyond the limit of excavation. The foundations cut into the make-up layers deposited during Phase 1 of Building 2, and therefore postdated the drain discussed above.

Bricks employed in the construction of this phase of building were dated to the late 15th-16th centuries and the 17th century. As this phase

postdated the drain noted above, these bricks were clearly reused and this phase of building was dated to the same period as the drain; the 18th century.

Phase 3 (18th century)

Building 2, Phase 3 included the internal features of the structure. Four distinct rooms with surfaces were observed.

Open Area 2, Phase 1 was in use at the same time as Building 2, Phases 1-3. West of, and contemporary with, Building 2, its surface level was 18.50m OD. The levels of the internal surfaces of Building 2 ranged from 17.875m OD to 18.22m OD. Therefore it is clear that the surviving floors were within a basement. The ground floor was above external ground and would have been walked up to from Dalston Lane.

As with Phase 2, there was reuse of building materials, and therefore the date assigned to the latest brick type dates this phase to the 18th century.

Room 1 was at the eastern side of Building 2. The floor surface was of brick and tile with surface levels of 18.075m OD to 18.275 m OD. The northern and western extent of this surface was constructed from stretcher bonded bricks set on bed, dated to the late 15th to 16th centuries. It is evident that there was reuse, as the surface stratigraphically postdated the drain partially constructed of 18th-century brick. The reused bricks may have derived from the demolition of Building 1. Towards the south the surface was constructed of red ceramic tiles 240mm square.

At its most southerly recorded point the surface extended across the backfilled, out of use, truncated lined storage pit (Building 1). The pit was backfilled with a compact redeposited brick earth similar to that of make-up layers of Building 2. The internal dimensions of Room 1 were 5.25m east-west by at least 8m north-south. The eastern limit of Room 1 was an internal partition, beyond which the building originally continued, on the site of 154 Dalston Lane.

Room 2 was to the west of Room 1. Between the two rooms was the central party wall, which reused foundations from Building 1. The floor of Room 2 was a brick surface (dated by brick type to the late 17th to 18th centuries) at 17.875m OD. The internal dimensions of Room 2 were 2.60m east-west by 2.70m north-south.

Room 3 was located to the south-west of the building. A York Stone surface survived at 18.22m OD. The south-west corner of this room marked the south-west corner of Building 2. The east side of Room 3 was marked by the wall line which continued north to delimit the west side of Room 2. The internal dimensions of Room 3 were 1.40m east-west by 4.70m north-south.

Room 4 was a narrow rectangular chamber some 1.40m east-west by 4.70m north-south. These restrictive dimensions imply that this was not an occupied room. It may be that Room 4 was a storage area, perhaps a coal cellar or large pantry. Within Room 4 was an unstained tile surface at 18.05m OD.

The area between Room 2 and Room 4 was an internal passageway leading into Room 3. The area between Room 3 and Room 1 revealed no surviving foundations due to truncation.

Phase 4 (19th century – 1912 to 1938)

Phase 4 of Building 2 represented the extension of the building to the north by the addition of a

new frontage, an 'area' to the north of the building and the construction of a property boundary to the north of the area (Fig 8). The bricks used were of an 18th-century type. Evidently there was reuse. The extension of the building towards the road line implies that Dalston Lane had become narrower, or that the area between Building 2 and Dalston lane had not previously been built upon.

These foundations had base levels of between 17.05m OD and 17.35m OD. They were constructed with a similar grey to off-white mortar, with some reused yellow brown mortar adhering to some bricks.

An internal passageway 0.60m wide ran through the front of the building leading to a basement at the west side. This was an entrance to the passageway noted above under Building 2, Phase 3. To the east of the passage was a foundation added as the base for the stair which would have led up to the front door.

North of the frontage was a horizontal brick surface at 17.085m OD to 17.195m OD. This represented the external 'area' between the front of the building and the property limit. This level is somewhat below (c.0.80m) that of the rooms detailed in Building 2, Phase 3.

As reused bricks were employed in the construction of Building 2, Phase 4, the brick typology is of little use in dating. The 1796 plan does not show this extension towards Dalston Lane. Therefore Phase 4 dates to after 1796, and can be assigned a 19th-century date. Clarke, published 1892, noted that the building had 'been added to in front, bringing it nearer the road'. Evidently the Phase 4 extension was quite apparent during the Victorian period.

The building appears on the 1873, 1894–6, and 1912 Ordnance Survey maps, but not on the OS map for 1938. It was therefore demolished after 1912 and before 1938.

Open Area 3, Phase 2 (18th century)

Open Area 3, Phase 2 included features to the south of Building 2 which appeared to have been in use during the life of the building (Fig 8). An east-west gravel metalling was recorded with a surface level of 18.50m OD. This had been deposited on Open Area 3, Phase 1.

An east-west linear brick drain survived to the south of Building 2. It cut through the foundation which retained the external surface to the south

of Building 1, so certainly did postdate the disuse of Building 1. The base level to which the drain was cut was 17.575m OD; below the basement level of Building 2. The off-white mortar was comparable with that used in Building 2, Phase 4.

Building 3 (early 18th century – c.1864–1873)

Building 3 represented the remains of the mansion and related structures depicted on the 1843 Infant Orphan Asylum sale plan (Fig 5). Fig 8 is the superimposition of the plan of the mansion (derived from the 1843 plan) onto the foundations recorded on site. This building was dated architecturally to the early 18th century, and was certainly occupied by 1773. The structure appears as a discrete entity to the north-west of the site on the 1745 Rocque map. It had been demolished by the time of the compilation of the 1873 Ordnance survey map, after the German Hospital moved to its new building in 1864.

The Building 3 foundations were of shared brick type, mortar type and base level and alignments (parallel or at right angles). Building 2, Phase 3 (dated to the 18th century) made use of the same type of bricks as Building 3, it is therefore apparent that both buildings were standing during the same period. The foundations of Building 3 cut into Open Area 2, Phase 1 (dated to 1670–1750). Its construction is placed in the early 18th century, as argued above.

Building 3, the mansion, and Building 2 were not parts of the same property. Building 2 was within land owned, from at least 1796–1843, by the Graham Estate, while Building 3 was separately owned from at least 1773²⁴ to the date of its demolition (between 1864 and 1873).

Elements of the mansion, forecourts, yard and the structure between the mansion and the school were recorded. For clarity in archaeological discussion the surviving foundations were split into two phases to differentiate between external walls, and internal features.

The foundations to the west and east side of the mansion were recorded. The northern extent of the eastern foundation continued as the foundation of the forecourt wall. Therefore the forecourt was integral to the construction of the mansion. The bricks were of a type which dated from the post-Great Fire period to the 18th century, and were clearly reused. The mortar was off-white. The base levels of the foundations

were within the range 17.985m OD to 18.235m OD. This is an 0.25m variation over the recorded foundations.

A brick surface that was part of the basement of the building between the mansion and the school (to the south of the yard) was recorded. This was at 18.205m OD. Bricks were dated to the late 15th century to 16th century, and were therefore reused. There were later repairs of bricks dated to the 19th century. These repairs give an indication of the length of time that the building was in use.

To the north of this surface were parallel foundations which were part of the west and east sides of the south end of the yard. These were of the same construction type as the mansion foundations.

It is clear, therefore, that the mansion, forecourts, and yard were constructed together. The unnamed part of the building to the south of the yard which linked with the school was also integral to this building. The date range suggested by the brick typology falls within the date range ascribed by the assessment of the building's architectural features; construction during the first half of the 18th century.

The school building was constructed before 1843, during the first half of the 19th century. It is reasonable to suggest that the school was constructed around, or shortly after 1827, the date the Infant Orphan Asylum took over the mansion. It appears on the 1831 parish map. Although the school was not archaeologically recorded, it can be considered an addition to Building 3.

Open Area 4 (c.1873–1876)

Open Area 4 came into use after the demolition of Building 3, the Infant Orphan Asylum building. After the completion of the 1864 Hospital building to the south of the railway line the asylum was vacated and demolished.

The Open Area is depicted on the 1873 Ordnance Survey map. The standing gate-house in this area is dated to 1876. Therefore Open Area 4 is dated to 1873–1876. It may date from earlier than 1873, but after 1864. Phase 1 was the layer of demolition rubble which consolidated the ground after demolition. Phase 2 was the surface subsequently laid out.

The consolidation layer included a fragment of a residual medieval mortar and a piece of an

18th–19th century copper buckle. Also found within the clearance of the consolidation layer was a tile which depicted a biblical scene of ‘The Shearing of Samson’. The scene is within a roundel and the corners have barred ox-head motifs and small pin holes. The tile is decorated using manganese which gives the design a purple colour. The tile measures 130 × ? × 8mm and has been carefully cut across the bottom and neatly chamfered so as to fit into a panel, probably in a fireplace. This tile was probably manufactured in London in the first half of the 18th century. It is likely that the tile derived from the 18th-century buildings used by the Infant Orphan Asylum and was redeposited after demolition (Tyler 1995, 48–9).

CONCLUSIONS

Dalston may have been settled by 1294, and at least by 1553 when Dalston Lane is known to have been in use. By 1605 the population numbered at least 33 households. The 1745 Rocque map depicts a hamlet within a largely rural environment, with the excavation site slightly to the west of the centre of Dalston. Standing buildings in Dalston Lane date from around the time of the compilation of this map and are shown on it.

To the north-east of the site area was Building 1 (Fig 7), a brick dwelling which dated from the late 16th century. This was a high-status free-standing building with a sunken garden area to its rear. Within the building was a brick-lined storage pit. It had no basement. No other buildings dating from this period have been recorded in Dalston.

By the 18th century Building 2 had been constructed on the site of Building 1 which had been demolished (Fig 8). Building 2 represented the western half of a larger dwelling. The recorded portion included a basement with at least four rooms; the frontage and some foundations from Building 1 remained to be incorporated into the newer structure. During this period the future Bishop of Exeter resided in Dalston in a house across Dalston Lane, north-east of the site.

Building 2 is known to have been part of a house bought by George II (1727–60) for a mistress that he kept in Dalston. This house was later known as 152 and 154 Dalston Lane and was subsequently divided. Building 2 is on the site of 152 Dalston Lane.

Building 3, a mansion, was constructed during the early to mid 18th century to the west of Building 2. There were no structures on the site of Building 3 which predated it; it was constructed on open land. The type of brick employed was in use from the late 17th century. The mansion is depicted in *The Illustrated London News* of 18 October 1845 (Fig 6). By 1773 this building was owned by John Burdon.

There are five standing buildings dating from the first half of the 18th century in Dalston Lane, and Buildings 2 and 3 were constructed during this period. It would appear that the first half of the 18th century was a period of unprecedented development in Dalston, which was expanding westwards.

Building 2 was, by 1796, within the estate owned by Robert (by 1831 Baron) Graham, who had died by 1843.

In 1827, after having passed through various hands, the mansion (Building 3) was bought by the Infant Orphan Asylum. Around this period, before 1831, an extension (the school) was added to the south-west of the mansion. It may be that this extension was added by the Infant Orphan Asylum. Building 2, at 152 Dalston Lane, remained under separate ownership.

In 1843 the Infant Orphan Asylum vacated the site, and its buildings (*ie* including Building 3, the mansion) were taken over by the German Hospital. Between 1864 and 1873 these buildings were demolished and the German Hospital moved into a newly constructed complex on the south of the site, beyond the North London Railway line.

Building 2, at 152 Dalston Lane, was extended to the north during the 19th century, and demolished between 1912 and 1938. Possibly the building was divided from 154 Dalston Lane at the time of the extension. Clarke, writing in 1892–3 (Clarke 1986), states ‘the central part is the original house, almost intact; but it has been added to in front, bringing it nearer the road. It was then divided as is now seen, into two dwelling houses’. After the Second World War the site of 154 Dalston Lane was added to the German Hospital as a grassed over recreation area.

NOTES

¹ GLRO M79/LH/85

² PRO Assize Rolls nos 536–8, 542–3, 546,9

³ Court Rolls (unpublished)

⁴ HAD D/F/TYS/A/1

⁵ HAD D/F/TYS 1 63–71

⁶ HAD P/J/P/76

⁷ OED: 'dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use'

⁸ GLRO Q/HAL/60

⁹ GLRO Q/HAL/61

¹⁰ The pond is represented in more detail on the 1796 plan (Fig 4)

¹¹ Confirmed by LCC plan 6679 20 December, 1910, the only renumbering of Dalston Lane between 1872 and the present; GLRO AR/BA/5/323

¹² File TP 7717 III DG 11/16374, File TP 7717 II DG 11/17977

¹³ The archive of the Barts NHS Trust, indexed under The German Hospital

¹⁴ HAD AP224

¹⁵ Annotated as BG on 1831 parish map

¹⁶ Annotation as 'The Executors of Baron Graham' on 1843 plan

¹⁷ Guildhall Library LTS 118/9

¹⁸ Archive Department St Bartholomew's Hospital, Royal Hospitals NHS Trust; GHC1

¹⁹ Information from The Barts NHS Trust archive

²⁰ See 1843 sale plan (Fig 7)

²¹ Information from The Barts NHS Trust archive

²² The ground floor is above external ground level, therefore there was a basement. The brick arches and string courses are typical of the late 17th-early 18th centuries (Cruikshank & Wyld 1975, 47). The segmental window arches were fashionable between 1710-1730 (*ibid* 161). During the 1730s the straight arch reappeared. The details of the sashbox and its relationship to the facade are impossible to glean from the drawing. The roof appears to be of the gambrel type; a two angled pitched roof, partially concealed behind a parapet. Therefore the construction date would appear to be the first half of the 18th century

²³ The row of arches on the east side of the building would appear to be influenced by the work of Sir John Soane (1753-1837). This type of feature is seen in early 19th century buildings (Cruikshank & Wyld 1975, 78). The roof is bounded by a long external cornice at the eaves level, a fashionable element in the early 19th century (*ibid* 168). It would appear that it was constructed between the early 19th century and 1843 (the date of the sale plan upon which it appears).

²⁴ The date of ownership by John Burdon, see above

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The New Islington and Hackney Housing Association and the City and East London Family Health Services Authority funded this project. Medical Centre Developments Ltd and the architects Jefferson Sheard acted on behalf of the latter.

The following were consulted in the preparation of this article: the Archive Department of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Hackney Archives Department, the Conservation Department of Hackney Council. Thanks are extended for the assistance given.

This project would never have reached completion without the support of Paul Falcini, the MoLAS Project Manager. John Schofield and Penny Bruce edited this article. MoLAS specialists, whose assessments are drawn upon here, are Roy Stephenson (pottery), Naomi Crowley and Jackie Keily (building materials). The illustrations in the text were compiled by Jane Sandoe of the MoLAS drawing office.

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The Society is grateful to the Museum of London Archaeology Service for a contribution towards the publication costs of this paper.