

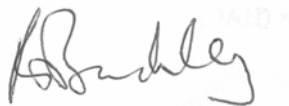
**Former Norman Underwood
Showrooms and Warehouse,
42 –44 St Peters Lane, Leicester
Photographic Survey
NGR SK 584 046**

Claire Strachan

For Shires GP Ltd.

Checked by Project Manager

Signed: .



Date: 11/07/2005

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Photographic Survey of the Former Norman Underwood Showrooms and Warehouse, 42 – 44 St Peters Lane, Leicester (NGR SK 584 046).

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A Photographic Survey of the Former Norman Underwood Showrooms and Warehouse, 42 – 44 St Peters Lane, Leicester (NGR SK 584 046).

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services undertook a photographic survey of the former Norman Underwood Showrooms and Warehouse, 42 – 44 St Peters Lane, Leicester. The early 20th-century red brick building incorporates a ‘northern lights’ roof, the skylights of which have since been replaced. The survey was commissioned by Shires GP Ltd.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services undertook a photographic survey of the former Norman Underwood Showrooms and Warehouse, 42 – 44 St Peters Lane, Leicester, a building scheduled for demolition in advance of the construction of the Shires West development. Although neither statutorily nor locally-listed, the building was identified in an appraisal of the historic built environment of the application area as being of some interest in relation to the industrial development of the City, and therefore worthy of record (Ripper 2003). It was therefore agreed that the building would be subject to a photographic survey to the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME) level 1.

All work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*. In addition, Leicestershire County Council’s *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire* was adhered to. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) *Recording Historic Buildings: a Descriptive Specification* (3rd edition, 1996) has been used as a basis for defining levels of recording.

2. Methodology

The aim of the photographic survey is to record the building to a standard that will allow future interpretation of the building within its original context and any subsequent use, made to Level 1 of the RCHME ‘Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification’ (RCHME, *Third Edition*, 1996). All accessible areas of the building were photographed as well as general views of the exterior of the buildings.

Photographs were taken in 35mm format using a digital Canon A300 Powershot camera.

3. The Building

The building currently occupying the site probably relates to the early 20th century, and comprises of two buildings identified in this report as the north building, and the south building. Without further research into historic map evidence it is difficult to

determine whether the buildings are contemporary. The buildings consist almost exclusively of brick with steel framing, and incorporate a northern lights roof. The internal roof construction is of timber. On the east facing elevation at the rear of the north building is some raking brickwork, introduced to assist vehicle movement throughout the site.

All the original windows have since been replaced including the roof skylights. The interior structure has been largely altered with the addition of interior partitions, lift shafts, and fixtures and fittings. The windows, again, have all been replaced.

4. Index

This index refers to the archive created for the Norman Underwood building on St Peters Lane. It comprises of 14 digital colour plates, and a site plan illustrating the location of the building.

Photo Number	Description	Facing
001	Exterior elevation (north building)	East facing elevation
002	Exterior elevation (north building)	East facing elevation
003	Exterior elevation (south building)	West facing elevation
004	Detail of steel trusses (south building)	
005	Detail of steel trusses (north building)	
006	North lights roof (north building)	
007	North lights roof detail (north building)	
008	North lights roof detail (north building)	
009	General shot of north building interior	
010	North lights roof detail (north building)	
011	North lights roof detail (south building)	
012	Detail of brickwork raking on exterior	East facing elevation
013	Exterior elevation (south building)	East facing elevation
014	Exterior elevation (north building)	North facing elevation

5. Site Location

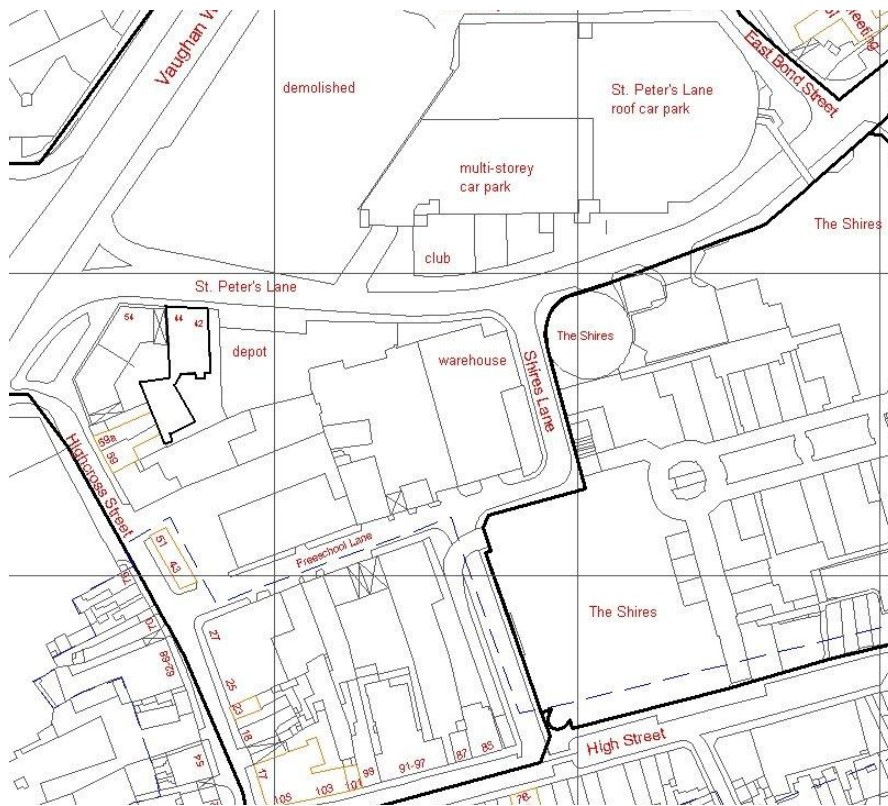


Figure 1. Site location Scale 1:1250

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6. Photographs



Figure 2: St Peter's Lane Elevation (north facing) of the Norman Underwood Building (Ripper, 2003)



Figure 3: East facing elevation illustrating raking brickwork (Ripper, 2003)



Figure 4: Close up of raking brickwork



Figure 5: Interior of the Norman Underwood building illustrating northern light windows



Figure 6: Details of roof structure in north building



Figure 7: Details of roof structure in south building

7. Sources

- RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings; A Descriptive Specification Third Edition*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
- Meek, J, 2003 *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of the Proposed Shires West Development, Highcross St/St Peters Lane, Abbey Ward, Leicester (NGR SK 58 04NW and NE)*, ULAS Report No. 2003-058
- Ripper, S, 2003 *Shires West, Leicester, Appraisal of the Historic Built Environment (NGR SK 58 04NW and NE)*, ULAS Report No. 2003-059.

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