

# FORMER 'SHIP AGROUND' PUBLIC HOUSE 142 LEA BRIDGE ROAD, HACKNEY, LONDON, E5 9RB

(NGR: 535544 186545)

## HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD



Commissioned by Singh Sabha Gurdwara Nel

**ASE Report No. 2013154** 

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(English Heritage Level 2)

Commissioned by Singh Sabha Gurdwara North East London

Site Code: LSA13

Project No. E2668

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#### SUMMARY

In June 2013 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL) carried out a programme of historic building recording of a former public house, the 'Ship Aground', off Lea Bridge Road, Hackney. The work was commissioned by Singh Sabha Gurdwara North East London, prior to the alteration and refurbishment of the building as a Gurdwara, or Sikh temple.

Suggestions that either the current building or a predecessor on the same site acted as an entrance building to Lea Bridge Dock have not been substantiated by a review of the available documentary evidence. The current building seems to have been purpose built as a public house, replacing a row of cottages which in their later history had served the same function. It would appear, however, that the boundary walls to the rear of the property retain elements of previous structures on the site.

Based on cartographic evidence the current structure was erected sometime between 1872 and 1894. Some structural changes were made in the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the pub appears to have retained its form thereafter. It is understood to have closed in 2009, since which time the structure has suffered significant deterioration and partial removal of some of its outbuildings and part of the rear wall. Despite this, an adequate record was made of its form, though almost all of its interior fixtures and fixings had been removed.

As a public house serving the workers of the adjacent industrial works and the surrounding community for over a century it has both local importance and historic significance.

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#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2013 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL) carried out a programme of historic building recording of a single building, formerly a public house known as the 'Ship Aground', located off Lea Bridge Road, Hackney (NGR site centre: 535544 186545; Figure 1 and Figure 2). The work was commissioned by Singh Sabha Gurdwara North East London, prior to the alteration and refurbishment of the building as a Gurdwara.
- 1.2 The London Borough of Hackney has granted planning consent for the redevelopment of the site (Ref: 2012/0325), a condition of that consent being that the building is recorded prior to conversion. The requirement for the work was made in accordance with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF took effect on the 27th March 2012.

#### 2.0 SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Following discussion with the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), it was decided that the building be subject to recording at English Heritage Level 2. A Level 2 record is essentially a descriptive record, and is defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006). In addition to this, a requirement was made for a cartographic and documentary survey of the pub to better understand its relationship with the neighbouring dock and former industrial buildings.
- 2.2 The recording was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced for the work by Archaeology South-East, dated June 2013, as well as the IfA's Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (IfA, last updated 2008).
- 2.3 The site was visited by Guy Hopkinson on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in order to carry out the recording work. This entailed the compilation of written notes and the production of a photographic record. The drawn record comprises floor plans and elevations of the building and its immediate area, produced by Pulse Architects, which have been annotated to illustrate photograph location points and included within the report as Figure 2 and Figures 13 to 15. The elevations were provided as AutoCAD files which have been edited to account for any inaccuracies.
- 2.4 The photographic record was made using digital photography, storing both jpeg and raw files. Within the report selected images have been reproduced as plates, together with a full index of the digital photography and location plots (Appendix 2 and Figure 13 to Figure 18). A full catalogue of all the photographs is included in the archive.

2.5 At the time of recording some alteration works had already commenced, involving the stripping out of the first floor, demolition of most of the single storeyed outbuildings, and demolition of the two storeyed wing to the rear of the building which had previously held the stairwell. Access to the first floor was therefore not possible due to both lack of stairs and to health and safety concerns regarding the state of the first floor timbers. Photographs of the upper floor and roof are therefore limited to those taken through a window from the flat roof of the only remaining outbuilding.

#### 3.0 SITE LOCATION

3.1 The site, centred at NGR: 535544 186545, comprises a rectangular area, and is bounded by Hillstowe Street to the northwest and School Nook to the northeast. Lea Bridge Road runs parallel just beyond Hillstowe Street. To the southeast the site is bounded by an alley between the site and modern flats immediately behind it, and to the southwest by access to underground parking for the modern flats (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The former public house itself occupies the southeast (rear) half of this plot, facing northwest onto Hillstowe Street, and is aligned on a northwest to southeast axis (Figure 2).

#### 4.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND & CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

- 4.1 Research was undertaken at the Hackney Archives at the CLR James Library, Dalson, to better understand the history and development of the public house within its local context. Both primary documentary and cartographic sources were studied along with 19th and early 20th century trades directories and available published sources. On the whole this has produced a better understanding of the local environment as a hybrid mixture of houses, shops industry and open spaces, but has not added any further information on any greater links between the public house and surrounding industrial areas other than that of providing a service to their workers.
- 4.2 The current building is reputed to be of late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction, built to serve the local community and workers of the nearby docks. By the end of the century it was also serving several industrial works that had established themselves around the existing docks. It has been suggested that it may have originated as an entrance building to the 1830s docks, or perhaps replaced an earlier entrance building (<a href="https://www.leabridge.org.uk">www.leabridge.org.uk</a>).
- 4.3 It is located in an area that historically saw significant industrial and manufacturing development in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, which in the immediate vicinity included a carbonic acid gas factory, glass factory and India rubber works alongside more traditional industries such as boat building.
- 4.4 Early wharfs of the River Lea were located at Hackney Wick, High Hill Ferry and Spring Hill. Essex Wharf and Middlesex Wharf, on the north-east side of Lea Bridge, were operating by 1815, when a lease was renewed to Thomas

Saunders, a coal merchant. Paradise Dock (later renamed Ashpital Dock and Lea Bridge Dock), immediately to the south-west of the Ship Aground, and Lea Dock on the north-west side of Lea Bridge, date from before 1831 (VCH vol.10).

- 4.5 Early maps of the area (Rocque 1745, Lee 1776, Hackney turnpike roads 1799, Werrington 1823, Lea Bridge Mills 1829) do not show any buildings on the site, the earlier maps depicting the local area as one of open fields. The Tyssen Estate map, dated 1834, shows Ashpital Dock, but again there is no building shown on the site, and it is not until the Hackney Tithe Map of 1843 that a building is shown here (parcel number 512). The apportionment for that map, listing the owners and land use of each land parcel, describes the plot as belonging to William Hurst Ashpitel (*sic*, both Ashpitel and Ashpital are used in archive documents), comprising houses and gardens with 'several' tenants.
- 4.6 Hackney Trade Directories from 1847 and 1851 record the only pub in the vicinity as 'The Jolly Anglers' on Middlesex Wharf. Surrounding trades tend to be artisans and small independent businesses such as boat builders. Grockott (1915) describes the strong link between the River Lea and leisure interests, including fishing and boating. Teas were served at the Jolly Anglers and the Lea Regatta was one of the highlights of the year for the local community. The areas to the north and south of Lea Bridge Road are fields at this time.
- 4.7 The Ordnance Survey of 1870 shows buildings on the site, and a boundary running through the site suggests there were at least two separate properties, if not three (Figure 3). The building at the southwest boundary of the site, adjacent to Ashpitals Dock, appears to have an outshot to the rear. It also depicts a further linked building to the rear of the site, its south-eastern wall on the line of the current rear boundary wall of the Ship Aground.
- 4.8 The first recorded mention of the Ship Aground is in the 1871 census (www.pubshistory.com/LondonPubs), where Thomas Marvell is recorded as a 'Beer House Keeper'.
- 4.9 A drainage application drawing of 1872, prepared in respect of a proposed new cottage within the current site boundary and butting its rear wall, labels the main building as "Ship Aground", (Figure 4, unfortunately the printout from Hackney Archives is not of sufficient quality to read the labelling). The same drawing does not illustrate the linked building to the rear as shown on the 1870 Ordnance Survey, this being the location of the proposed new building, but does show a stable in the southern corner of the site. It also labels the two buildings immediately to the southeast as 'Cottages'. The Hackney Trade Directory of 1872 mentions the Ship Aground, St James Infant School (mentioned as a building of townscape merit in the Conservation Area Appraisal), C. Day, boat-builder, a slate and marble merchant at Middlesex Wharf and a lime and cement merchant at Victoria Wharf. This map pre-dates the establishment of larger, chemical-based industries, in the vicinity.

- 4.10 The first of the larger industries to be established was the 'India Rubber Works' to the south-west of the pub at 122 Lea Bridge Road, which is mentioned in Kelly's Directory of 1888-89 and evidenced on the 1896 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7). Kelly's mentions it under the proprietorship of Isaac Livermore. The area has since been redeveloped for housing.
- 4.11 The 'Carbonic Acid Gas Works' first appears in Kelly's Directory of 1896-97, managed by Herman Steinem. It is first shown on the 1896 Ordnance Survey map between Lea Bridge Dock and Otley Terrace (Figure 7).
- 4.12 The two available subsequent depictions of the site, a drainage application dated 1894 (Figure 5) and the Ordnance Survey of 1896 (Figure 7) give a somewhat confusing picture of the site development. The 1896 Ordnance Survey suggests that the proposed cottage mentioned above (see 0) had been constructed, as it depicts the site layout exactly as shown in the previous drainage application, with a block matching the stables in the south and a block matching the proposed cottage in the east. The drainage application drawing dated 1894, however, does not illustrate the stable block or the proposed cottage, instead showing outbuildings connected to the main building. It can only be assumed that this discrepancy is due to a delay between preparatory surveying for the 1896 Ordnance Survey and its eventual issue, which given that the difference in dates between the two drawings is only two years is not inconceivable.
- 4.13 The 1894 drainage application also provides sketch sections of the building, reproduced here as Figure 6.
- 4.14 Between 1896 and 1905 the Eclipse Glass Works Ltd was established to the south-east of the pub and the former Infants School (Labelled as a mission room in Figure 8 from 1915), to manufacture glass bottles. The leases to the Ship Aground, Carbolic Acid works, glass factory and Radley's boat-builders yard on the south side of the glass works were auctioned off in 1905 (M3550 auction catalogue).
- 4.15 The establishment of the glassworks concludes the extent of industrial development around the Ship Aground and dock area. In addition, to these, the Trades Directory for 1904-5 lists number 132 Lea Bridge Road as dining rooms, 134-138 as artisan's houses and number 140 as a hairdresser's shop.
- 4.16 The 1915 Ordnance Survey (Figure 8) shows a single structure on the site, apparently with outbuildings to the rear. It appears to have been extended backwards when compared to the previous Ordnance Survey, and correlates well with the 1894 drainage application, though still not precisely.
- 4.17 The next available site depiction is another drainage application, dated 1931 (Figure 9 and Figure 10). This provides details of the internal layout and outbuildings at that date and their proposed alterations, and is in greater detail

than the previous application. The proposed layout illustrated here (Figure 9) is closely matched by the Ordnance Survey map of 1936 (Figure 11). By this time the former Carbonic Acid factory has become a furniture works, including a new workshop constructed to the south-east, replacing a group of pre-1870 terraced houses. According to the Post Office London Directory of 1940, the works are occupied by S. Shaven & Son, furniture manufacturers.

- 4.18 The immediate environs of the Ship Aground are depicted on a drainage application of 1957, reproduced here as Figure 12. Little change to the building is evident on subsequent mapping.
- 4.19 The Lea Bridge Conservation Area was established in 2005, two years in advance of the 'Paradise Dock' redevelopment, which concentrated on the area around the Ship Aground but not on the pub itself, which was still functioning at the time. An archaeological evaluation in 2004 at 142 Lea Bridge Road, behind the Carbonic Gas Works, found 19<sup>th</sup> century brick footings to three buildings, two of which were located to the north of the former terraces (GLHER MLO100513). The identity of these buildings is unknown from historic mapping. A historic building record was made of the former carbonic acid works in 2008, prior to its refurbishment (GLHER MLO100515). Neither of these reports is currently available on the Archaeological Data Service website (<a href="https://www.archaeologicaldateservice.ac.uk">www.archaeologicaldateservice.ac.uk</a>)
- 4.20 The Ship Aground continued to function as a public house until its closure in 2009.

#### 5.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

- 5.1 GENERAL
- 5.1.1 In plan the building previously formed a two storey rectangular unit with a central projecting wing at the rear, the wing being surrounded by single storey outbuildings and a courtyard to the back. At the time of recording, however, the wing and all but one outbuilding had been demolished (Figure 14, demolished parts shown greyed out). The main body of the building measures 13.70m by 9.90m, and the rear wing 6.10m by 4.30m.
- 5.1.2 The structure is built of yellow-brown brick in English bond, with detail work in red brick and Staffordshire Blue engineering bricks. The northwest and northeast façades of the main building are painted, while part of the southeast façade is rendered. The wall to the rear of the building holding the cellar access (northeast elevation) is also in English bond, but that to the southwest is of Flemish bond. The rear property boundary also seems to be in (somewhat erratic) Flemish bond, though little was visible at the time of survey.

- 5.1.3 All elevations have parapets to the roof, which was inaccessible during the site visit, but is known to be formed of two hipped roofs running the width of the building with a valley between them. Drainage of the roof is achieved through outlets pierced through the parapets on the northeast and southwest elevations.
- 5.1.4 The damp proof course is of unknown material, not being visible in any of the elevations.
- 5.2 NORTHWEST ELEVATION
- 5.2.1 The northwest elevation (Figure 17), approximately 13.70m in length, forms the principle façade of the building, and is set back from Hillstowe Street with a forecourt/'beer garden' between it and the road. It is two storeyed over its full length (Plate 1).
- 5.2.2 At ground floor level the façade is divided into two sections by pilasters, one at either end and one in the centre of the elevation. These pilasters have slightly recessed central panels, the lower edge being formed by a chamfered sill. The brickwork beneath the sill is, like the rest of the building, in English bond, while that to the sides of the panel is formed by a course of two stretchers followed by a course of three headers with queen closers between (Plate 2).
- 5.2.3 The pilasters rise to capitals beneath a full width fascia, with a decorative narrow moulded band two courses below the capitals (Plate 2). The fascia is plain apart from decorative brackets with moulded arch above at either end (Plate 2).
- 5.2.4 Between the pilasters are large openings, each holding a central double door with large windows to both sides and leaded lights above. At the time of recording these openings were boarded, and their descriptions are therefore included in the interior section of this report (see 5.6.9).
- 5.2.5 Above the facia panel the façade is divided into seven sections by projecting pilasters which start five courses above the fascia, rising from moulded corbels to capitals below the cornice (Plate 1). The pilasters have two string courses of moulding, one near the base which extends across all the sections and forms window sills, the other five courses from the top and extending only across the blind sections, being broken in those that contain windows (Plate 3).
- 5.2.6 The central section is the largest and contains a window opening, flanked by narrower blind sections (Plate 1). These in turn are flanked by sections containing window openings, and finally by further blind sections. The central window is larger than the two flanking ones, comprising a central sash window of 12 lights with narrower fixed windows to either side. The two side windows are simple 12 light sashes (Plate 3). All the windows have arched heads of

stretchers on edge, the tops of which are horizontal and flush with the coping above.

#### 5.3 SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

- 5.3.1 The southwest elevation (Figure 18) overlooks the previous location of Lea Bridge Dock, now infilled and forming the access to underground car parking. The northern part of the elevation is of two storeys, while the southern part is single storeyed, relating to the outbuildings at the rear of the building (Plate 4). Its overall length is approximately 18.80m.
- 5.3.2 The elevation of the main building is divided into upper and lower sections by a string course of red brick, the lower course being of headers and the upper of stretchers. The string course is flush with the wall (Plate 5).
- 5.3.3 The corner of this and the principle elevation is also decorated in different coloured bricks to give a quoin effect (Plate 5). At the lower level this decoration takes the form of four courses of headers followed by four courses of two headers or a stretcher, repeated to the height of the capitals of the pilasters on the principle elevation. This is picked out in Staffordshire Blue engineering bricks below window sill height, and red brick above. Above the red brick string course the corner decoration is more subtle, with alternating courses of a single stretcher and above that a header and queen closer.
- 5.3.4 The lower level of this elevation holds two openings, both large windows with sills formed by tiles laid at an angle and arched heads. The heads are of repeated stretcher and header on edge, their orientation alternating with each course (Plate 5). Queen closers have been used in the brickwork to either side of both windows. The windows were boarded at the time of survey, and are therefore described in the internal section of this report (see 5.6.11).
- 5.3.5 The upper level holds a single window towards the rear of the building, fitted with a 12 light wooden sash window (Plate 6). The sill of this window is of concrete, the head is arched at the opening but horizontal at the top, flush with a cornice running the length of the façade. The head, like the lower windows, is constructed from rows of header and stretcher on edge.
- 5.3.6 The cornice is of moulded red brick, and is continued from the principle elevation (Plate 5). Above this is a painted parapet to the roof, pierced by drainage channels at either end and in the middle where the roof valley is located. The parapet has a narrow string course, presumably of tile, overlain by a coping of header bricks. The string course and coping are broken in two places where the vestiges of chimney stacks rise above the parapet. These only survive to a single course (Plate 5).
- 5.3.7 Three cast iron drains run down the elevation, positioned below the drainage channels in the parapet. These, however, emerge from the wall two courses

- below the cornice, approximately nine courses below the drainage channels (Plate 4).
- 5.3.8 To the south of the main building the single storeyed part of the elevation is plain, without openings apart from a single air vent. It is constructed in three sections, all of different heights, with a coping of tile followed by a course of headers on edge. The two lower sections have an additional concrete slab coping over the headers (Plate 4).
- 5.4 NORTHEAST ELEVATION
- 5.4.1 The northeast elevation (Figure 17) is again in two parts, the two storeyed main building and single storeyed section to the rear (Plate 7). The main building elevation is almost identical to the southwest elevation, the principal difference being that one of the ground floor openings is for a door rather than a window.
- 5.4.2 Although painted, the same string course of red brick is evident dividing the upper and lower sections of the façade. The ground floor holds two openings; a window towards the rear of the building and door towards the front. The window is of identical form to those in the southwest elevation. The door extends to the same height and has a similar arched head of stretchers and headers on edge. It has a concrete sill above a stone step to the door (Plate 8).
- 5.4.3 The upper section of the elevation holds a single window towards the rear, identical to that in the northeast elevation, and the cornice is again continued from the principle elevation directly above. The parapet to the roof extends six courses above the cornice, capped with a string course of tile and headers on edge. As with the northeast elevation, the tile string course is interrupted where two chimney stacks rise above the parapet, which on this elevation survive to their full height. They have a string course near the top and are fitted with clay pots (Plate 9).
- 5.4.4 The parapet is again pierced by three drainage gullies, although only two downpipes emerge from the wall beneath the cornice.
- 5.4.5 The single storeyed part of the elevation is again in three sections of different heights, stepping down towards the rear of the property (Plate 10). It holds six openings, a small window adjacent to the main building, a larger window and access to the cellar, a door, a blocked door, and a small circular opening at ground level (now blocked). The small window is wooden framed with a single light of frosted glass, and has integral bars (Plate 11). The sill is of concrete, as is the head. The larger window, directly above the cellar access, is a 12 light wooden sash window with wooden sill and arched brick head. The head is formed by two courses of headers on edge, closed at either side by a stretcher on edge (Plate 11). The cellar opening also has an arched head of

- two courses of on edge headers closed by on edge stretchers to each side, with wooden double doors leading to brick steps into the cellar (Plate 11).
- 5.4.6 Moving towards the rear of the property, the wall steps down by three courses, with two door openings (one blocked) in this section. The extant door has a concrete sill and concrete lintel above, the brickwork to the internal sides of the doorway having been rendered. This appears to be a latter addition, the brickwork to the north of the door showing slight indications of it having been cut in. To the south is the blocked door, which has an arched head of two courses of on edge headers closed by on edge stretchers at either side the same design as the cellar access and window above it (Plate 12).
- 5.4.7 The wall again steps down towards the rear of the property, this time by seven courses. This section holds one opening at ground level, though this is now blocked. It is defined by a circle of headers on edge with an internal diameter of 0.55m, the inner edge marked by a circular iron band (Plate 13).
- 5.5 SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
- 5.5.1 The rear elevation had already been partially demolished at the time of survey, only the side sections surviving (Plate 1). The drawings provided, however, show the central projecting wing extending to approximately the same height as the surviving window heads (Figure 18). This is depicted having a doorway at ground floor level with small flanking windows, and a larger window to the north. At first floor level two openings are illustrated, a large window to the south, lighting the stairs, and a smaller window to the north.
- 5.5.2 The southern part of the elevation is rendered above the line of the previous outbuildings, and holds a window at first floor level (Plate 14). The current window is a casement of four lights with a vertically hinged light above. Given that all the other equivalent windows are 12 light sashes, this is most likely a replacement.
- 5.5.3 The demolition of the outbuildings has exposed joist sockets below the render line. These appear to have been cut into the brickwork rather than being integral to the wall construction, suggesting that the outbuilding at this location was a later addition.
- 5.5.4 Below this the lower section of original wall has been removed, a large reinforced steel joist supporting the structure above. This alteration relates to the proposed changes in layout of 1931 (Figure 9 and Figure 10), when the wall between the Public Bar and Tap Room was earmarked for removal to create a slightly larger bar area, the Tap Room being converted to a bottle store.
- 5.5.5 The northern part of the elevation also holds a single opening at first floor level, having a concrete sill and an arched head formed by three courses of on

- edge headers, closed at either end by a stretcher and header. This is fitted with a 12 light wooden sash window.
- 5.5.6 The cornice below the parapet on the other three elevations is not continued on this façade, which instead rises directly to the parapet, again capped by a coping of tile and headers on edge.
- 5.6 INTERIOR
- 5.6.1 Cellar (Figure 13)
- 5.6.2 The cellar is accessed externally via a combination of low door and trap door in the northeast elevation (see 5.4.5, Plate 11) and internally via wooden steps in the now demolished rear wing of the building (Plate 24). It measures approximately 7.20m by 4.00m, with buttressed walls, but access was restricted by flooding (Plate 25).
- 5.6.3 Ground Floor (Figure 14)
- 5.6.4 The ground floor interior of the main building forms one large open space, the floor above being supported by a transverse beam resting on two cast iron pillars with moulded capitals (Plate 26).
- 5.6.5 Internal fittings had been stripped, fireplaces removed from the northern corner and eastern part of the rear wall, and most walls rough rendered. The surviving sections of the rear wall, however, had not been rendered.
- 5.6.6 Although now entirely stripped of its pub-related fixtures and fittings, historic plans serve to show that it was formerly occupied by a 3-sided bar counter positioned centrally against the rear wall and in front of the door to kitchen, scullery and stair (Figure 5, Figure 9 and Figure 10). In the 1930s the bar area was subdivided with thin partition walls or panel screens (Figure 9).
- 5.6.7 The eastern part of the rear wall holds a blocked door to the remaining outbuilding (see 5.8.8), next to which is a fireplace back with clear evidence for a flue rising through an opening in the floor above and continuing to an opening in the roof (Plate 28). The fireplace is not illustrated on the 1894 drainage application (Figure 5), but is shown on that of 1931 (Figure 9) heating the Private Bar. The blocked door would seem to be a fairly recent alteration, as it is not shown on the proposed alterations of 1931, and this section of wall ends at the doorway which existed between the bar area and kitchen/scullery.
- 5.6.8 The proposed alterations dated 1931 (Figure 10) suggest that a doorway was to be inserted to the north of the fireplace, but no evidence for this was visible in the remaining brickwork (Plate 27).

- 5.6.9 The front wall (northwest elevation) features two identical openings, both holding double doors with flanking two light windows (Plate 29). The doors are wooden with a recessed panel to the bottom and safety glass window to the top, and above them is a panel of leaded lights spanning both doors. The windows to either side are fixed, comprising two lights divided by a wooden mullion, and extend higher than the doors. Again panels of leaded lights are situated above, finishing flush with the top of the panel above the door.
- 5.6.10 The side walls hold two openings each. In the case of the southwest elevation these are both windows, while the northeast elevation holds a window to the south and a door to the north.
- 5.6.11 The windows are all identical, comprising a large fixed central section with narrower flanking hinged casements to either side (Plate 30). These all contain leaded frosted glass lights with a narrow inset border of green glass. Above are three sections with a spanning moulded arch head. These three sections match the widths of the windows below, and are hinged along their lower edge, opening inwards from the top, and fitted with clear glass. The top of the opening is supported by a reinforced steel joist which would previously have been screened by panelling.
- 5.6.12 The door in the northeast elevation is of the same width as the windows, and has a similar spanning arch above. The opening is divided into two unequal sections, with double doors to the south and a large fixed light to the side, extending slightly higher than the doors, to the north (Plate 31). The doors are of wood, with small recessed panels to the bottom and large safety glass windows to the top. The side light is also of safety glass. As with the windows, the top of the opening is bridged by a reinforced steel joist.
- 5.6.13 The joists to the floor above have two transverse bands of cross strutting to provide extra rigidity, one either side of the central transverse beam (Plate 28 and Plate 27). Above the side door and windows the first two joists are broken by hearths for four fire places in the first floor (Plate 32), the two bands of cross strutting being flush with the outer edges of these hearths.
- 5.6.14 First Floor (Figure 15)
- 5.6.15 The first floor was inaccessible at the time of survey, and only a limited view could be obtained through a window above the flat roof of the remaining outbuilding (see 5.8.7). Internal fixtures had been stripped, fireplaces removed and the walls rough rendered (Plate 33). A cast iron fireplace surround was visible and, although not *in situ*, is presumed to be original.
- 5.6.16 While extensively stripped by the time of the survey, the architect's drawings provide the recent layout of first floor rooms. It is presumed that the basic historic layout would not have been too dissimilar in essence the living

quarters of the publican – though the bathroom and toilet will have been a later insertion.

#### 5.7 Roof

- 5.7.1 The roof is of twin hipped construction with central valley between (Figure 16). The exterior was not visible at the time of survey, being hidden by the parapet, but records suggest that it was slate covered with red clay ridge tiles. The interior of the roof was not directly visible, but it was possible to obtain a photograph by pushing a camera through a broken window at first floor level.
- 5.7.2 The trusses are a variant of a king post construction; the central 'post' being an iron bar rising from a timber block resting on the tie beam. Raking struts rise from either end of the timber block to the principle rafters, which are held together at the apex by a metal clasp. The purlins are seated in notches to the principle rafters, the common rafters riding over them.
- 5.8 REAR COURTYARD & OUTBUILDINGS
- 5.8.1 Due to the demolition of the majority of outbuildings there is little that can be said regarding their form, though the outbuilding above the cellar on the northeast side of the site was extant, and features of the boundary walls were revealed by the demolition of the other structures.
- 5.8.2 The available drainage plans, however, give details of the layout and function of the outbuildings, which in 1894 comprised kitchen, dining room, toilets, and a coal shed a scullery was attached to the kitchen, but this was within the rear wing of the building (Figure 5). Subsequent changes to their layout and function are shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10.
- 5.8.3 The southwest boundary wall, which previously had a flat roofed structure against it, gives an intriguing picture of previous structures on the site, though it is difficult to make sense of the remaining evidence (Plate 16). A roof scar is evident descending from the rear of the main building, presumably relating to a previous outshot, possibly that shown on the 1870 Ordnance Survey (Figure 3).
- 5.8.4 A broad scar is also apparent, with signs of burning at the base (Plate 16). This corresponds with the location of a fireplace illustrated on a drainage application drawing dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 1931 in what was, at that date, the pub's Tap Room (Figure 9).
- 5.8.5 The junction of the southwest boundary wall and main building includes the remains of a brick structure at the top of the boundary wall, comprising an arch springing from the main building and a flue-like structure above (Plate 16). Unfortunately little of this remains, and is not currently possible to offer a coherent interpretation.

- 5.8.6 The southeast boundary wall, at the rear of the property, holds a blocked fireplace towards its eastern end, the flue of which rises to the height of the wall after which it is capped by tiles (Plate 17). The fireplace opening is topped by an arch of stretchers on edge, above which a single course of bricks, both headers and stretchers, follow the arch with the brickwork above having been cut to accommodate them (Plate 18). The location of this fireplace makes little sense in relation to any of the features of the existing building, and it is presumably a remnant of an earlier structure on the site. It is unclear if the proposed cottage on the 1872 drainage application was ever constructed (see 4.6), but if so the fireplace could be part of that building (see Figure 4 and Figure 7), or possibly part of the building depicted on the 1870 Ordnance Survey (see 4.6 and Figure 3).
- 5.8.7 Of the previous outbuildings on site only the block in the northern corner remains (Plate 19). This is a single storeyed structure with sloping flat roof, located above the external cellar access (obscured at the time of recording, see 5.4.5). It was initially built as a kitchen (Figure 5) and continued in this role, with modifications, until the building fell out of use.
- 5.8.8 The main internal space has a doorway in the southeast wall giving access to a corridor with an external door to School Nook, a second door leading to the rear courtyard (Plate 20), and a third which would have given access to the now demolished store immediately to the southeast (Plate 21). The courtyard door has an arched head comprising two courses of headers on edge. A blocked door in the northwest wall would previously have given access to the bar area of the main building (Plate 28). A partition wall illustrated on the recent survey drawings had been removed at the time of recording (Figure 14), and immediately to the north a small cantilevered window looks onto School Nook (Plate 22, see also 5.4.5).
- 5.8.9 The southeast wall of the main outbuilding chamber holds a blocked fireplace with an iron plate acting as lintel above, the chimney breast above using queen closers at its northern edge. This is a replacement of a previous corner fireplace shown on the drainage application of 1931 (Figure 9), necessitated by the removal of the wall between the kitchen and scullery (Figure 10).

#### 6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Although there have been suggestions that the building, or at least its predecessor, initially served as an entrance building to the adjacent dock (variously referred to as Paradise, Ashpital or Lea Bridge Dock), no substantiating documentary evidence for this has been found, and the Tithe Map of 1844, produced after the construction of the dock, lists buildings on the site as 'Cottages and Gardens'.
- 6.2 Instead, it would appear that the cottages shown on the Tithe Map of 1844 were perhaps later used as a public house before being either thoroughly re-

worked or replaced by a purpose-built construction sometime between 1872 and 1894.

- 6.3 The existing fabric of the current building and its boundary walls to the rear suggest that the southwest and southeast boundaries are relics of earlier structures on the site, both holding remnant scars of earlier buildings (see 5.8.3 to 5.8.6). This hypothesis is given added weight by the fact that the southwest boundary wall is of Flemish bond, while the southwest elevation of the main building is in English bond. The northeast boundary wall might also relate to earlier structures, but no evidence for this was visible at the time of survey.
- 6.4 There is no evidence to suggest other than that the main part of the extant strucure was purpose-built as a public house in the late Victorian period. The similarity in design of the external arches above the large window, cellar access and blocked doorway would suggest that these components are contemporary, and the cellar access would suggest that they are also contemporary with the building functioning as a public house. It also seems likely that the northeast boundary wall is contemporary with the build of the current building.
- 6.5 The detail provided by the drainage application drawings of 1894 and 1931 (Figure 5, Figure 9 and Figure 10) clearly indicates that the internal layout of the main building has witnessed a degree of re-working over the years, the biggest structural alteration being the knocking through of the wall between the main building and outbuilding at its southwest corner, as shown on the proposed alterations dated 1931 (Figure 10).
- 6.6 Only the basic structure of the historic building survives, some of this being recently demolished. No significant fixtures and fixings indicative of its function as a public house or indicative of its more than 100 years of use. It is likely that much of the internal historic features were removed through the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the pub was periodically altered and refurbished.
- 6.7 The building itself is therefore of only local significance and of relatively low architectural merit. It is, however, of some historical importance as a focal point in its community it, or its predecessor cottages, perhaps initially serving the docks and surrounding trades and later developing association towards the end of the 19th century with the expanding industrial works and residential population.

#### 7.0 Sources Consulted

7.1 CARTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

1745 Rocque – Map of the Parish of Hackney

- 1776 Lee Map of Hackney
- 1799 Hackney Turnpike Road Map, Anon, Hackney Archives
- 1823 Werrington Map of Hackney
- 1829 Plan of Lea Bridge Mills, Anon, Hackney Archives
- 1834 Tyssen Estate Map, Anon, Hackney Archives
- 1843 Hackney Tithe Map, Anon, Hackney Archives
- 1870 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map
- 1872 Drainage application (Hackney Archives 17/96)
- 1880 Map of Hackney, Anon, Hackney Archives
- 1886 Map of Hackney, Anon, Hackney Archives
- 1894 Drainage application (Hackney Archives 39/90)
- 1896 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map
- 1905 Sale Catalogue (Hackney Archives M3550)
- 1915 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map
- 1931 Drainage application (Hackney Archives 39/90)
- 1936 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map
- 1957 Drainage application (Hackney Archives 175/105)
- 1957 Drainage application (Hackney Archives 178/111)

#### 7.2 TRADE DIRECTORIES

Hackney Trade Directories from 1847, 1853 & 1872

Kelly's Street Directory of Highbury, Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill, Upper and Lower Clapton, 1888-89

Kelly's Street Directory of Stoke Newington, 1896-97 & 1904-05

Post Office London Directory of 1940

## 8.0 Deposition of the Archive

A full archive has been prepared in accordance with the principals of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) for deposition with the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). The archive has been assigned the site code LSA13, and comprises a hard copy of the full report, a pdf version of the report on CD, the full photographic record with registers, field notes and drawings.

#### 9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Singh Sabha Gurdwara North East London for commissioning this historic building record and Eaton Strevens Associates for supplying the survey drawings of the building. The GLAAS officer, Adam Single, is also thanked for guidance on the level of recording required.

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www.heritagegateway.org.uk

www.leabridge.org.uk

WWW.pubshistory.com/LondonPubs/



Plate 1. Northwest elevation. Facing southeast (06)



Plate 2. Northwest elevation, pilaster. Facing southeast (16)



Plate 3. Northwest elevation, pilasters and side window at first floor level. Facing southeast (51)



Plate 4. Southwest elevation, general view. Facing northeast (01)



Plate 5. Southwest elevation, window & decorative string course. Facing northeast (04)



Plate 6. Southwest elevation, first floor window. Facing northeast (62)



Plate 7. Northeast elevation, general view. Facing west (14)



Plate 8. Northeast elevation, door. Facing southwest (55)



Plate 9. Northeast elevation, cornice, parapet & chimney stacks. Facing southwest (59)



Plate 10. Northeast elevation, oblique view of rear section. Facing south (09)



Plate 11. Northeast elevation, windows and cellar access. Facing southwest (10)



Plate 12. Northeast elevation, blocked doorway. Facing southwest (12)



Plate 13. Northeast elevation, blocked circular opening. Facing southwest (11)



Plate 14. Southeast elevation, general view. Facing north-northwest (17)



Plate 15. Southeast elevation, first floor window. Facing north (30)



Plate 16. Southwest boundary wall. Facing southwest (20)



Plate 17. Rear boundary wall, showing capped flue at left. Facing southeast (25)



Plate 18. Rear boundary wall, blocked fireplace. Facing southeast (29)



Plate 19. Outbuilding in northern corner. Facing northwest (18)



Plate 20. Doorway of extant outbuilding to rear courtyard. Facing northeast (26)



Plate 21. Doorway between demolished store and extant outbuilding. Facing north (27)



Plate 22. Window in outbuilding. Facing northeast (21)



Plate 23. Blocked fireplace in outbuilding. Facing southeast (22)



Plate 24. Cellar access at rear of building. Facing northwest (31)



Plate 25. Cellar, general view. Facing east-northeast (33)



Plate 26. Interior, ground floor, general view. Facing north (40)



Plate 27. Interior, ground floor, eastern part of rear wall. Facing southwest (44)



Plate 28. Interior, ground floor, fireplace and blocked door, rear wall. Facing southwest (45)



Plate 29. Interior, ground floor, door and flanking windows in front wall. Facing northeast (39)



Plate 30. Interior, ground floor, window in side wall. Facing southwest (37)



Plate 31. Interior, ground floor, door in side wall. Facing northeast (42)

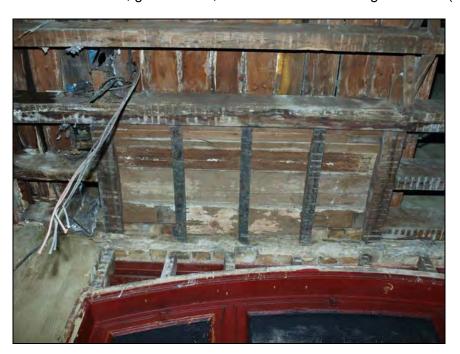


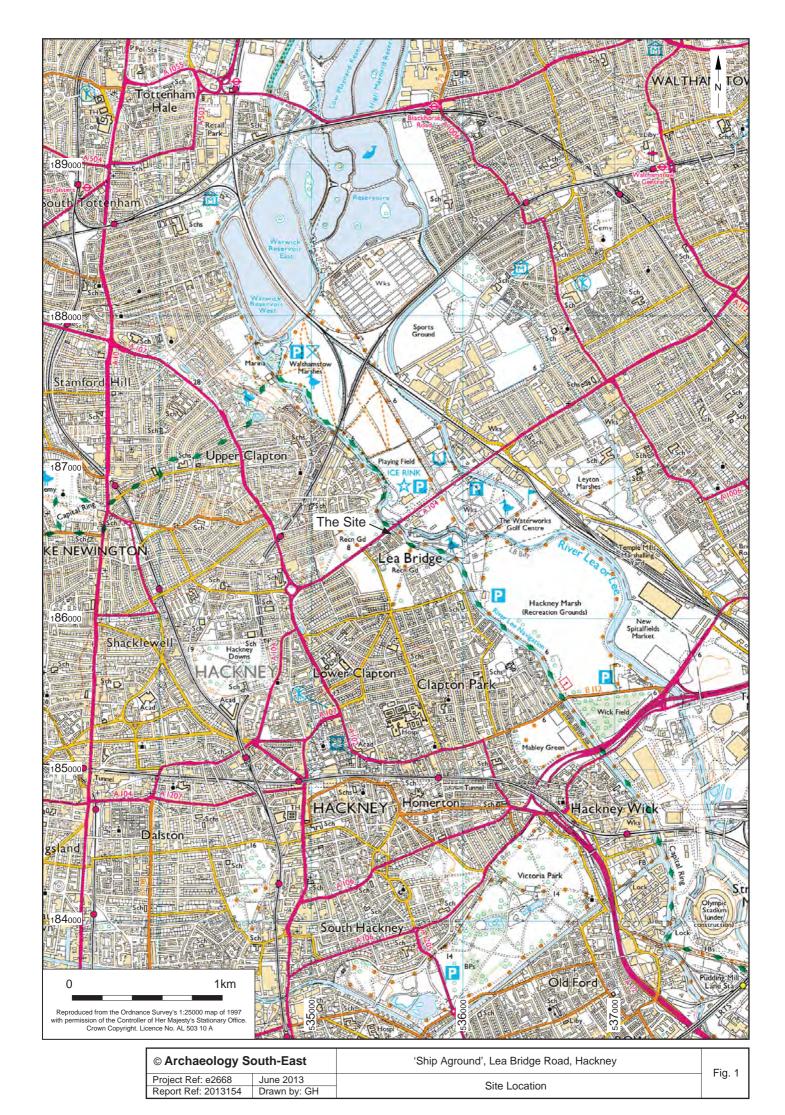
Plate 32. Interior, ground floor, hearth in floor above. Facing southwest (66)

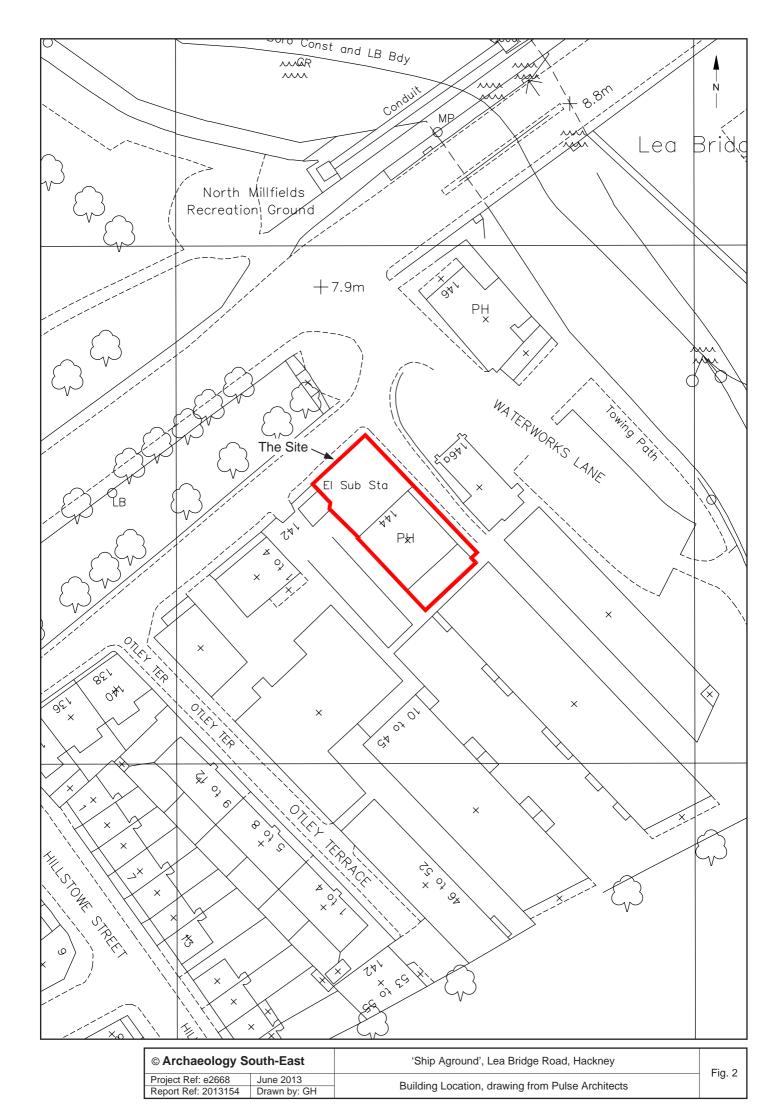


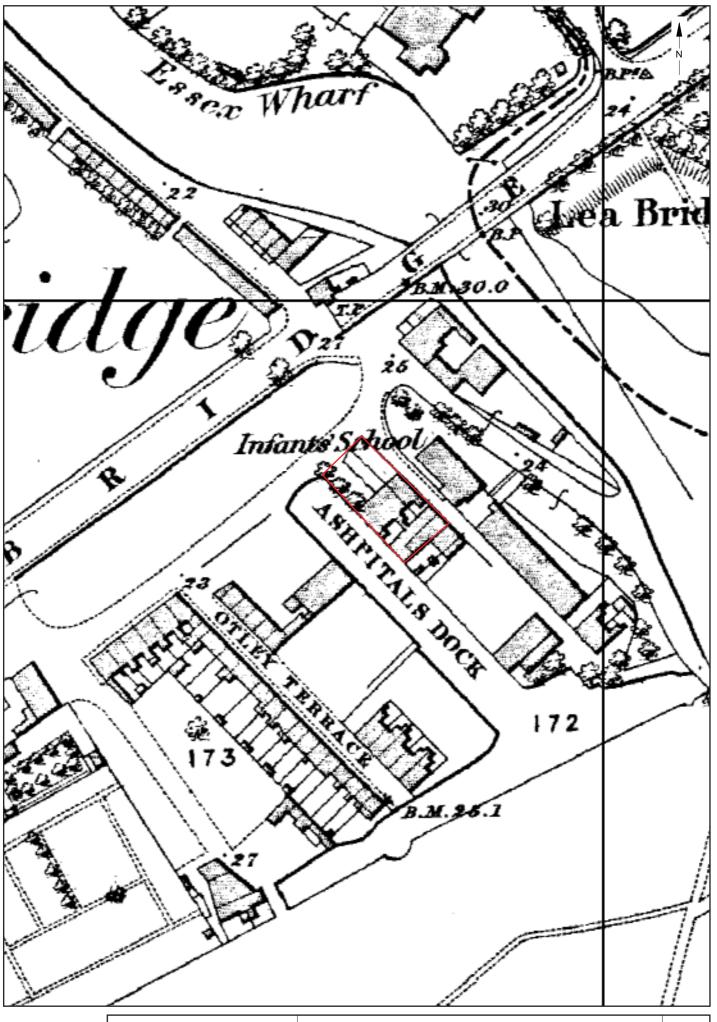
Plate 33. Interior, first floor, general view. Facing west (65)



Plate 34. Roof, view of internal structure. Facing west (64)

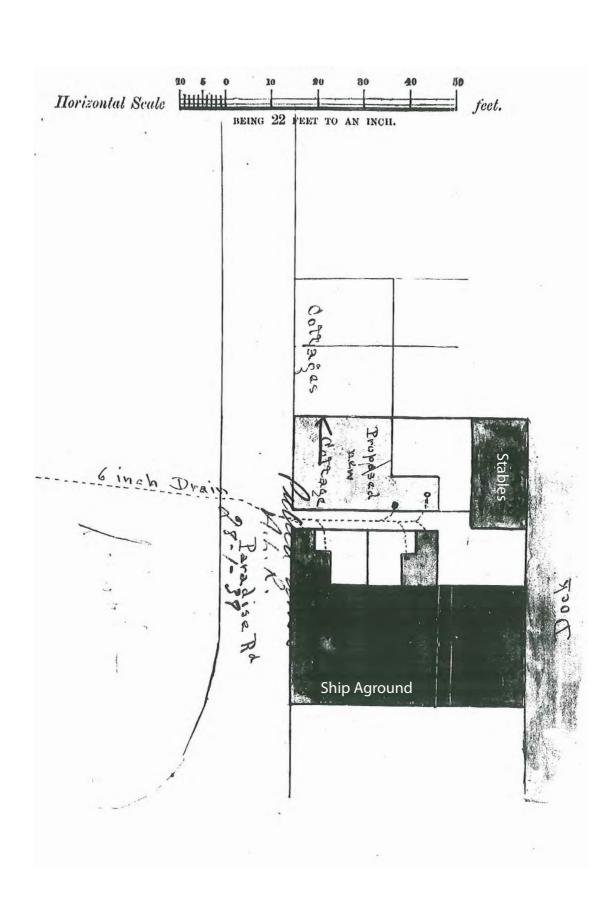




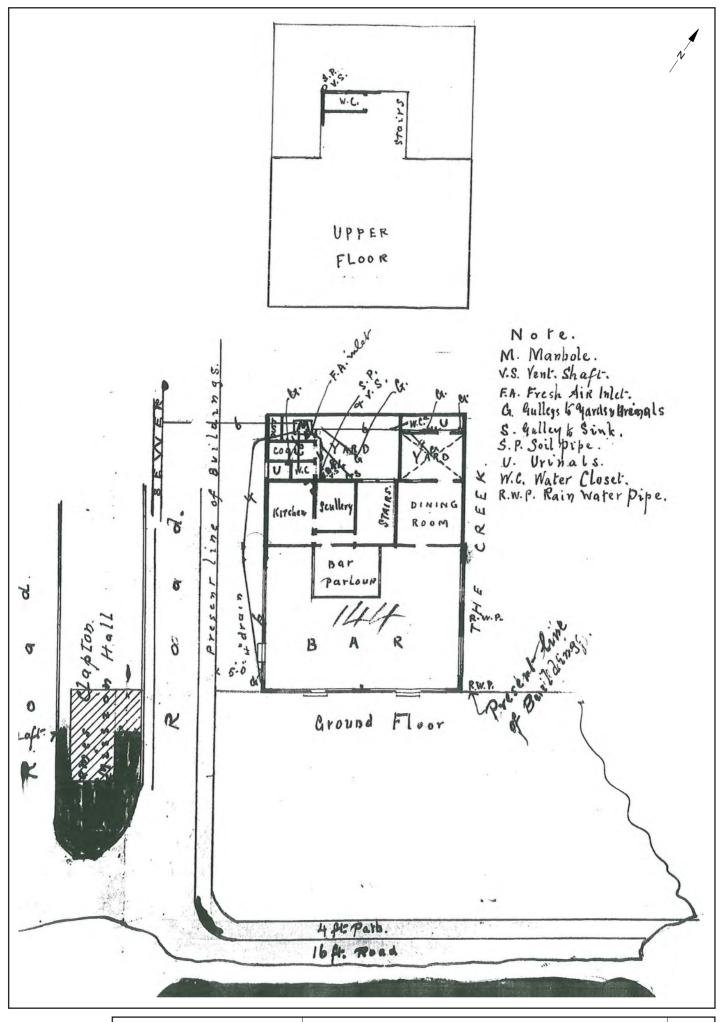


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Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	1870 Ordnance Survey (1:2,500). Approximate site area in red.		I

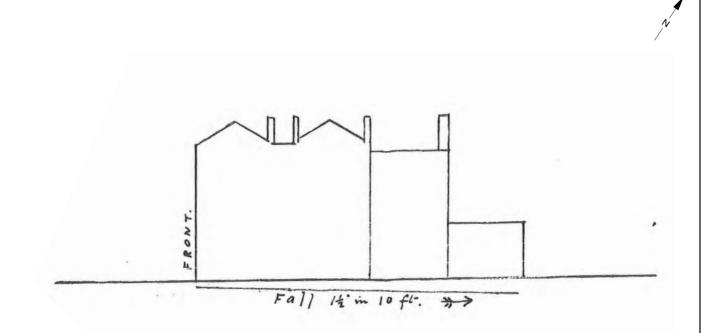




© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 4
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Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	Drainage Application, 1672. Proposed new cottage.	

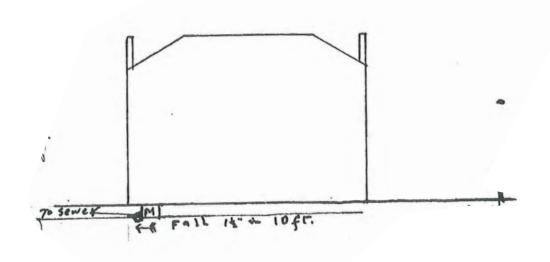


© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 5	l
Project Ref: e2668	June 2013	Drainage Application 1901 Chip Agreemed plan of new drains	rig. 5	ı
Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	Drainage Application, 1894. Ship Aground, plan of new drains.		ı

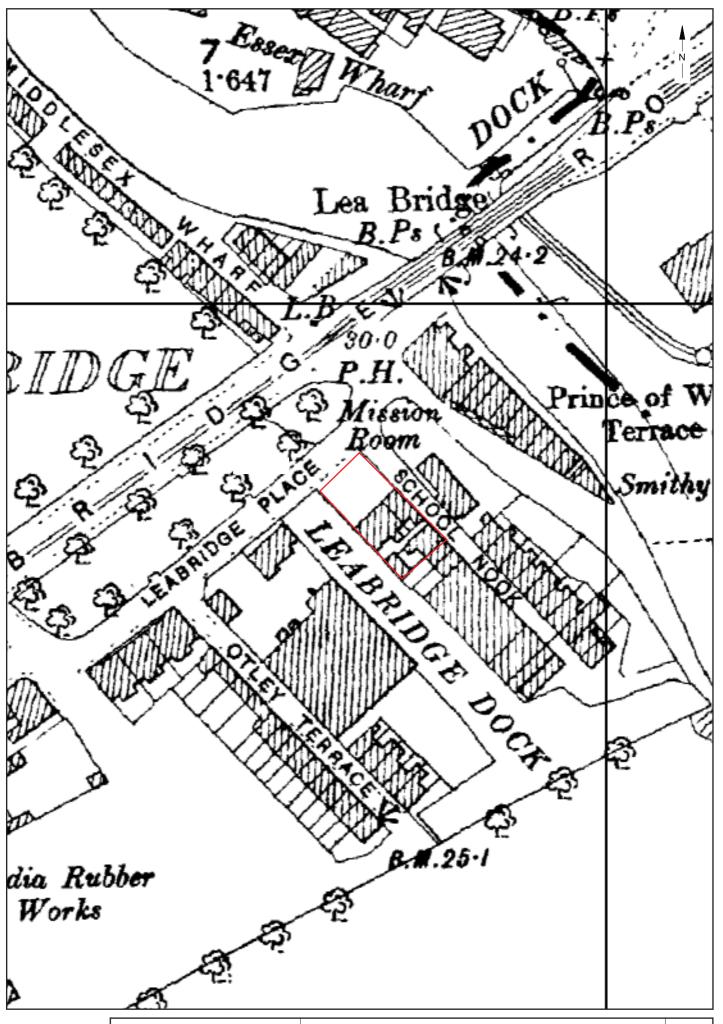


Lea Bridge.

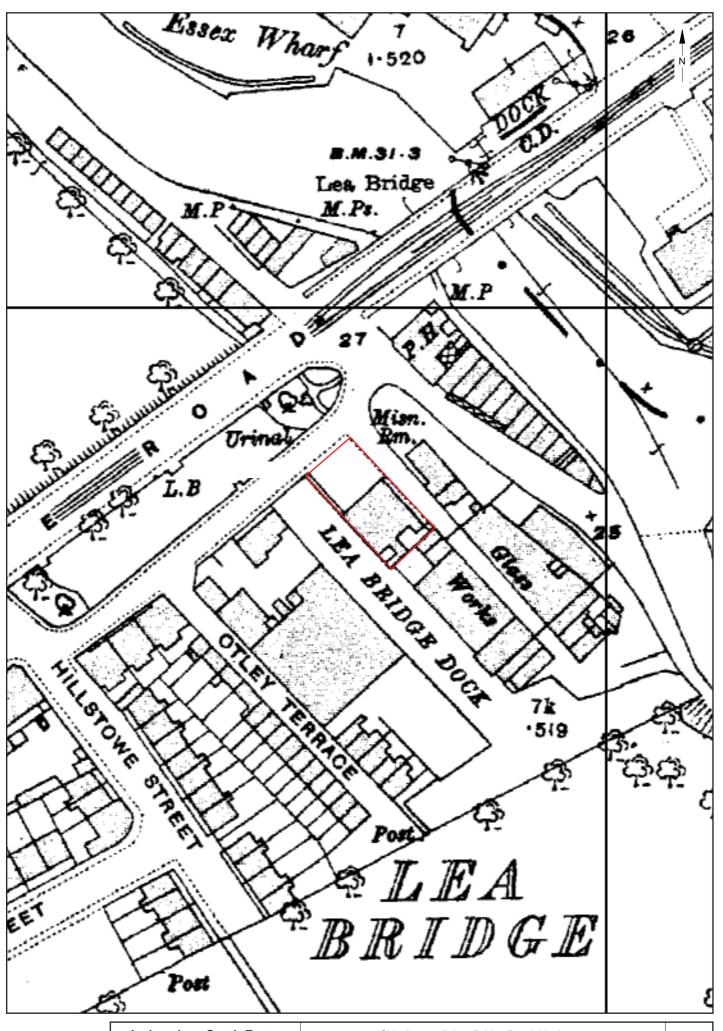
Plan of New Drains.



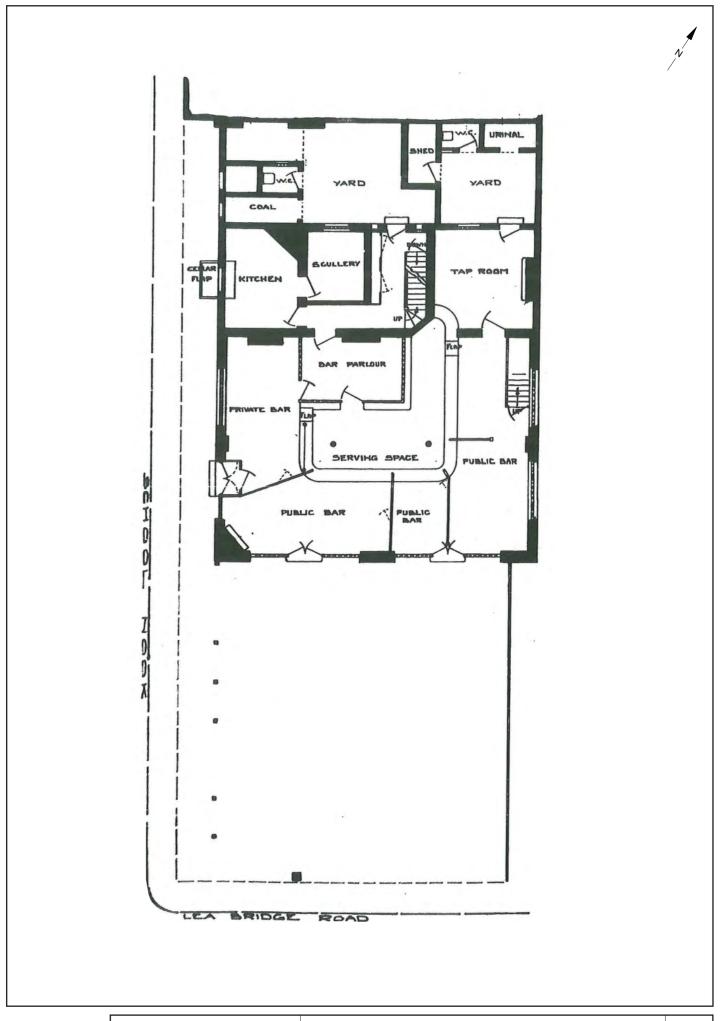
© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 6	l
Project Ref: e2668	June 2013	Drainage Application 1904 Chip Agraund sections	i ig. o	l
Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	Drainage Application, 1894. Ship Aground, sections.		I



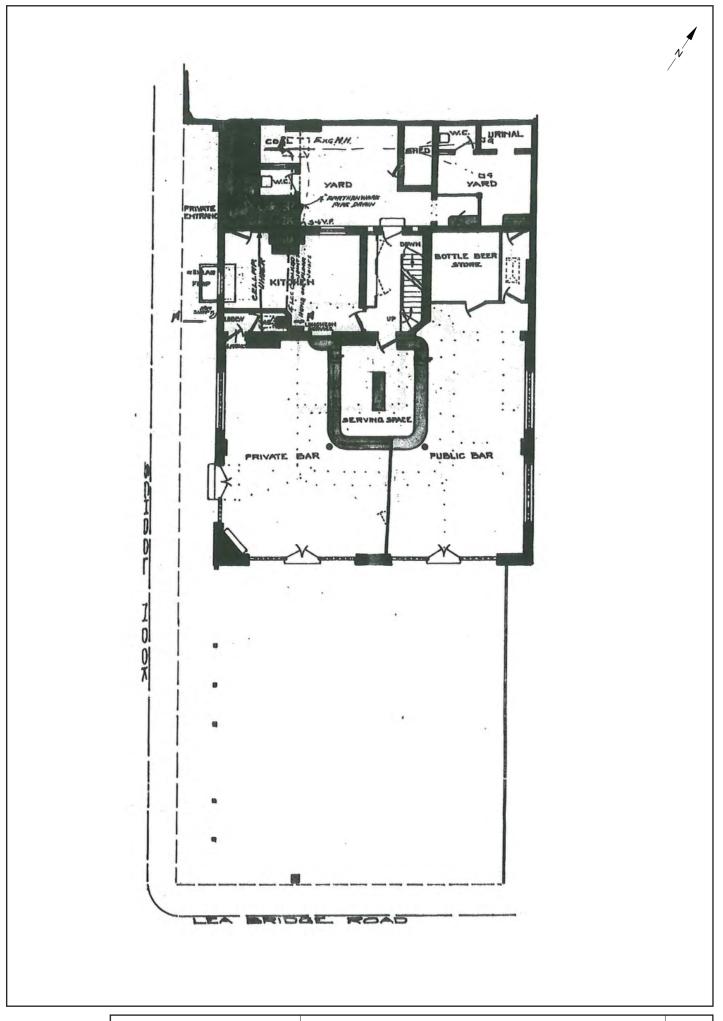
© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 7	l
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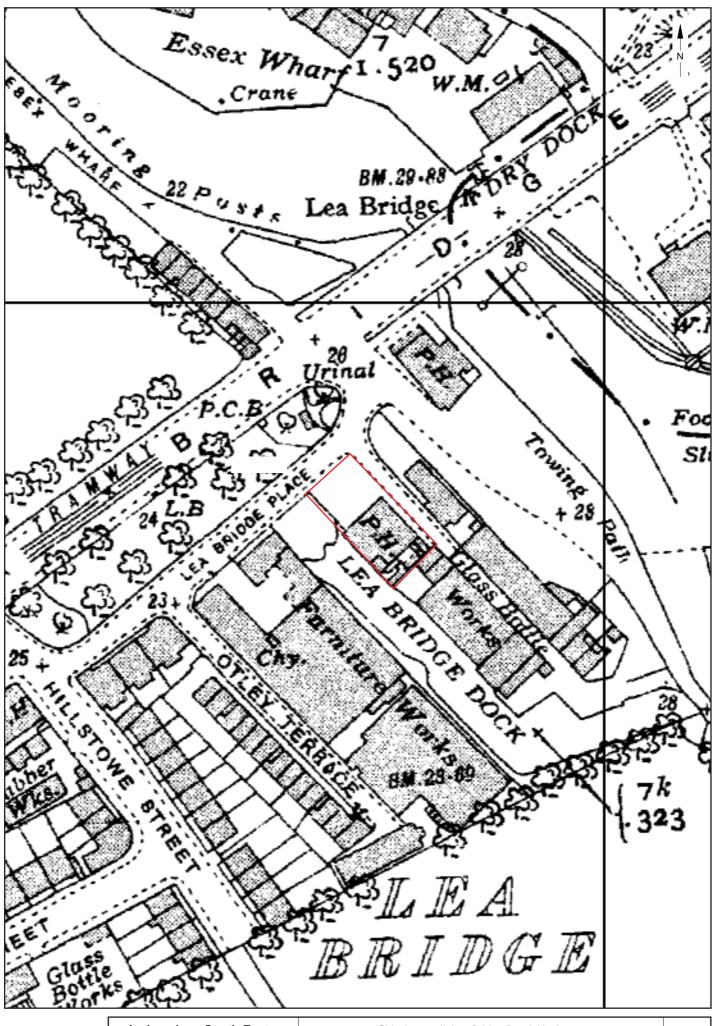
© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 8
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Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	1915 Ordnance Survey (1:2,500). Approximate site area in red.	



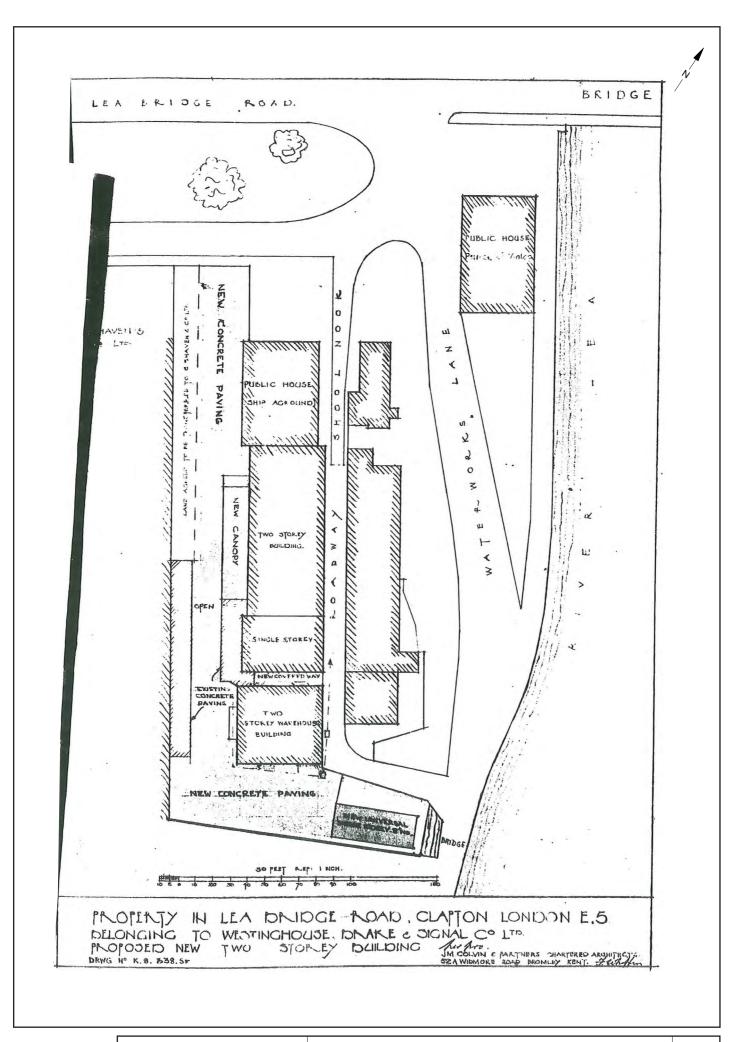
© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 9	l
Project Ref: e2668	June 2013	Drainage Application 1021 Ship Aground existing leveut	i ig. 5	ı
Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	Drainage Application, 1931. Ship Aground, existing layout.		ı



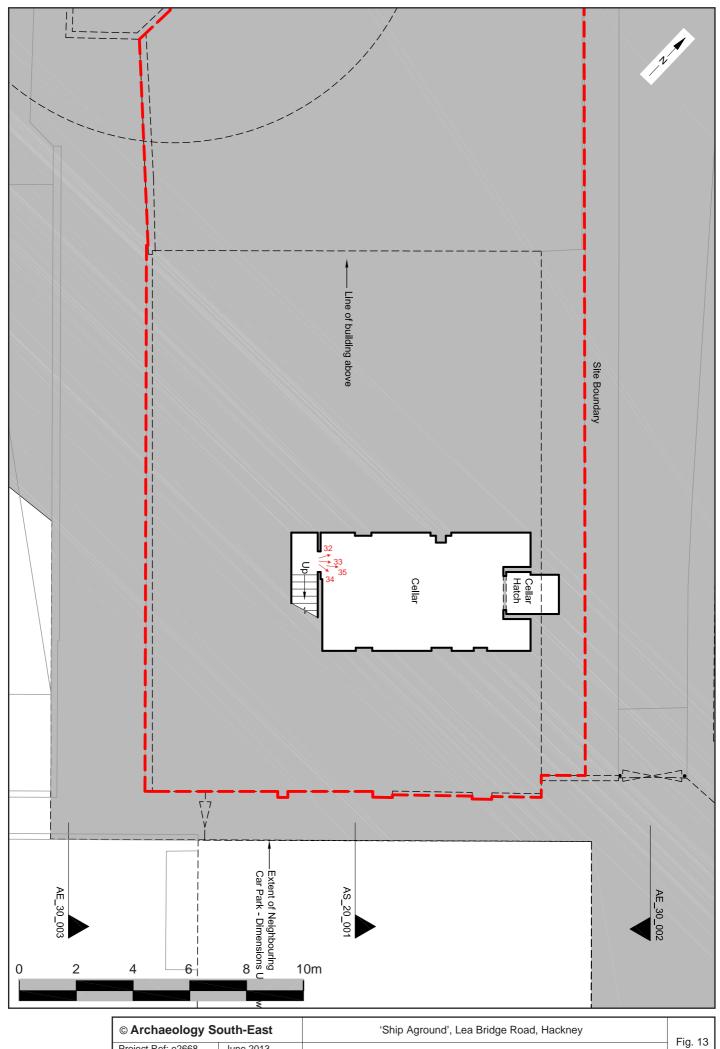
© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 10
Project Ref: e2668	June 2013	Drainage Application 1021 Chip Aground proposed alterations	1 ig. 10
Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	Drainage Application, 1931. Ship Aground, proposed alterations.	



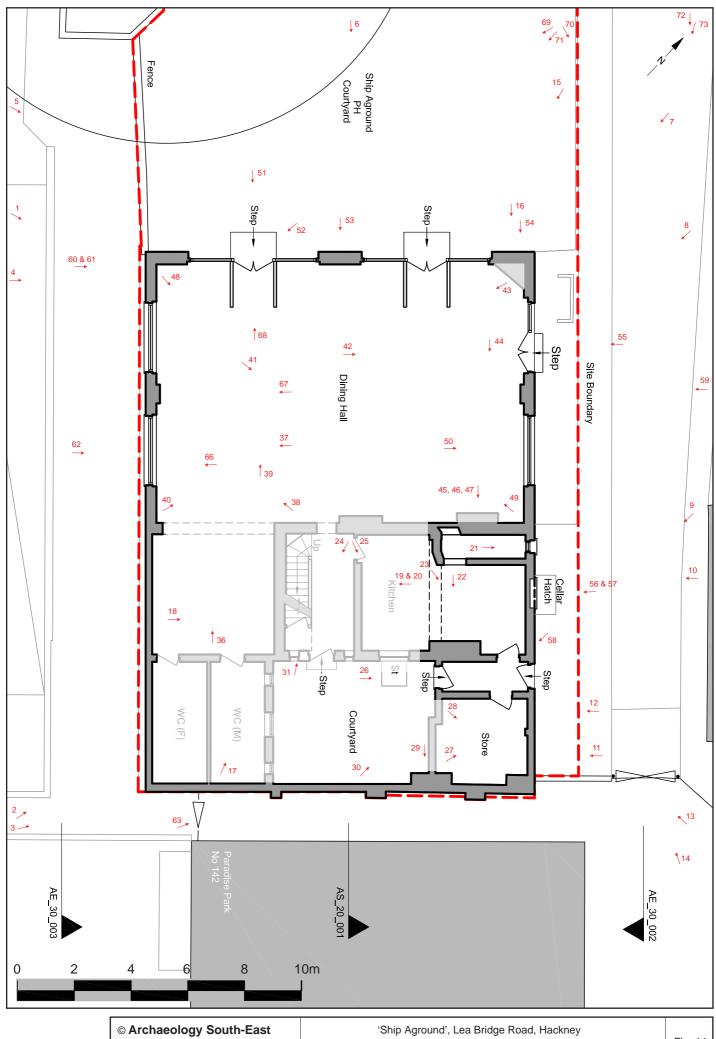
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© Archaeology S	outh-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fig. 12
Project Ref: e2668	June 2013	Drainage Application, 1957. Immediate environs of the Ship Aground.	11g. 12
Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	Drainage Application, 1957. Infinediate environs of the Ship Aground.	



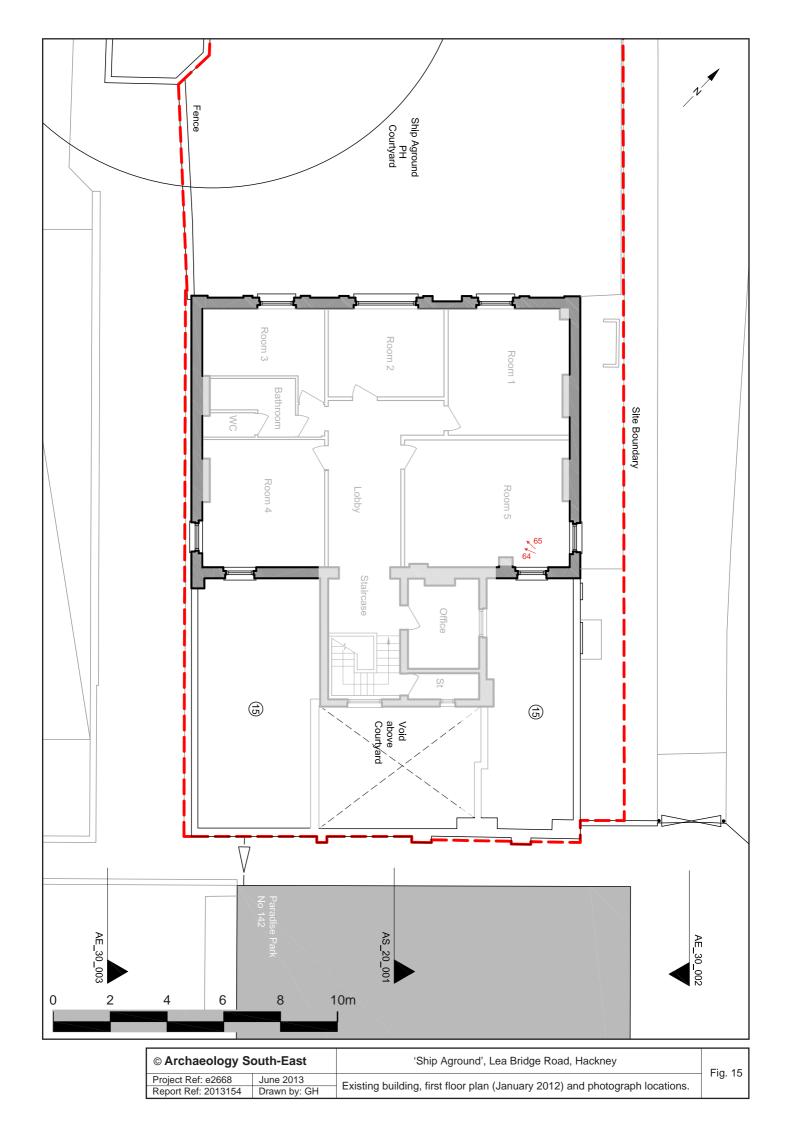
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Project Ref: e2668	June 2013	Existing building, cellar plan (January 2012) and photograph locations.	r ig.
Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: GH	Existing building, cellar plan (January 2012) and photograph locations.	



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Project Ref: e2668 June 2013
Report Ref: 2013154 Drawn by: GH

Existing building, ground floor plan (January 2012) and photograph locations.



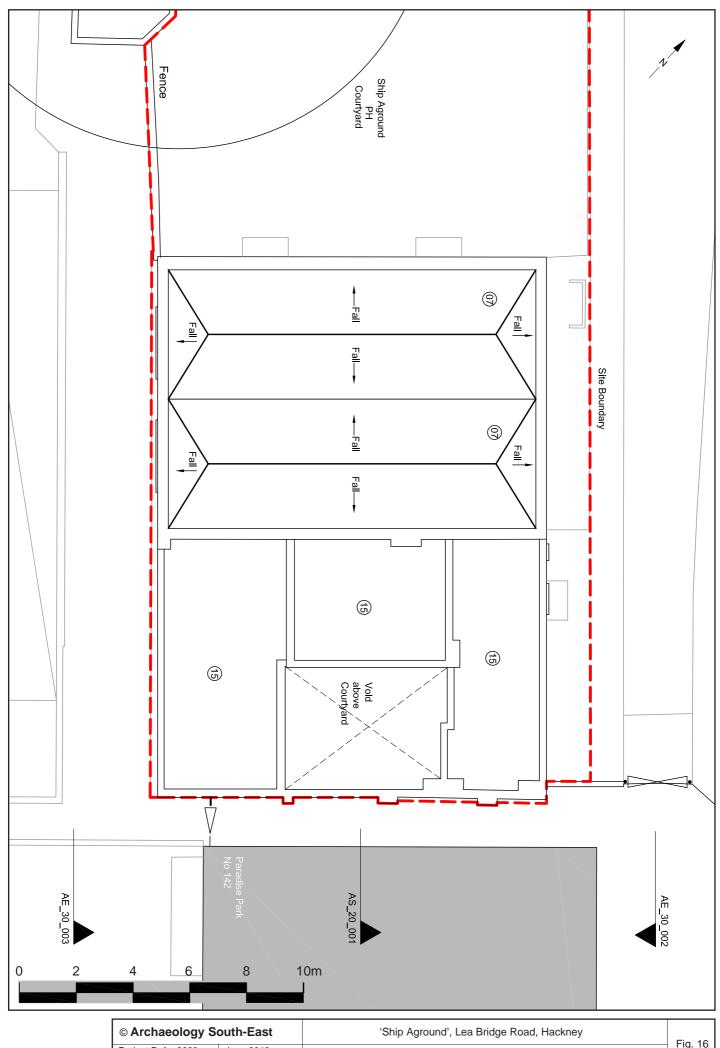


Fig. 16 Project Ref: e2668 Report Ref: 2013154 June 2013 Drawn by: GH Existing building, roof plan (January 2012) and photograph locations.



© Archaeology S	South-East	'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney	Fia. 17
Project Ref: E2668	July 2013	Northwest and northeast elevations	1 19. 17
Report Ref: 2013154	Drawn by: APL	Nothiwest and nothiedst elevations	

# Southeast elevation Southwest elevation 10m © Archaeology South-East 'Ship Aground', Lea Bridge Road, Hackney

Project Ref: E2668 July 2013
Report Ref: 2013154 Drawn by: APL

Fig. 18

Southeast and southwest elevations

# **APPENDIX 1. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM**

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-154140

### **Project details**

Project name Former 'Ship Aground' Public House, Hackney

Short description of the project In June 2013 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied

Archaeology, UCL) carried out a programme of historic building recording of a former public house, the 'Ship Aground', off Lea Bridge Road, Hackney. The work was commissioned by Singh Sabha Gurdwara Nel, prior to the alteration and refurbishment of the building as a Gurdwara, or Sikh temple. Suggestions that either the current building or a predecessor on the same site acted as an entrance building to Lea Bridge Dock have not been substantiated by a review of the available documentary evidence. The current building seems to have been purpose built as a public house, replacing a row of cottages which in their later history served the same function. It would appear, however, that the boundary walls to the rear of the property retain elements of previous structures on the site. Based on cartographic evidence the current structure was

erected sometime between 1872 and 1894.

Project dates Start: 24-06-2013 End: 24-06-2013

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference

codes

LSA13 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference

codes

e2668 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Building Recording

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 2 - In use as a building

Monument type PUBLIC HOUSE Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Annotated Sketch", "Photographic Survey", "Survey/Recording Of

Fabric/Structure

Prompt Planning condition

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HACKNEY HACKNEY Former 'Ship Aground' Public

House

Postcode E5 9RB

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 35544 86545 51 0 51 33 39 N 000 02 39 W Point

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Archaeology South-East

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Ron Humphrey

Project supervisor Guy Hopkinson

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Singh Sabha Gurdwara Nel

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID LSA13

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID LSA13

Paper Media available "Report"

**Project bibliography 1** 

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Former 'Ship Aground' Public House, Lea Bridge Road, Hackney, London,

E5 9RB

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hopkinson, G.

Other bibliographic details 2013154

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

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Entered on 9 July 2013

### **APPENDIX 2. INDEX OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS**



e2668-01 Southwest elevation. Facing northeast



e2668-02 Southwest elevation. Facing north



e2668-03 Southwest and southeast elevations. Facing north



e2668-04 Southwest elevation, ground floor window. Facing northeast



e2668-05 Northwest and southwest elevations. Facing west



e2668-06 Northwest elevation. Facing southeast



e2668-07 Northwest and northeast elevations. Facing south



e2668-08 Northeast elevation, openings. Facing



e2668-09 Northeast elevation, rear extension. Facing south



e2668-10 Northeast elevation, windows and cellar access. Facing southwest



e2668-11 Northeast elevation, circular opening. Facing southwest



e2668-12 Northeast elevation, blocked door. Facing southwest



e2668-13 Northeast elevation, rear extension. Facing west-southwest



e2668-14 Northeast elevation. Facing west



e2668-15 Northwest elevation. Facing southsoutheast



e2668-16 Northwest elevation, pilaster. Facing southeast



e2668-17 Southeast elevation. Facing northnorthwest



e2668-18 Remaining structure, rear of building. Facing northwest



e2668-19 Internal face of southwest boundary wall. Facing southwest



e2668-20 Detail, internal face of southwest boundary wall showing roof scar. Facing southwest



e2668-21 Internal view, window in northeast wall. Facing northeast



e2668-22 Blocked fireplace in outbuilding. Facing southeast



e2668-23 Interior of remaining structure, rear of building. Facing east



e2668-24 Internal face of southeast boundary wall. Facing southeast



e2668-25 Internal face of southeast boundary wall. Facing southeast



e2668-26 Doorway in remaining structure, rear of building. Facing northeast



e2668-27 Doorway and blocked doorway, rear of building. Facing north



e2668-28 Corner buttress, junction of northeast and southeast boundary walls. Facing east



e2668-29 Blocked fireplace, southeast boundary wall. Facing southeast



e2668-30 Southeast elevation, first floor window. Facing north



e2668-31 Cellar steps. Facing northwest



e2668-32 Cellar, interior. Facing northeast



e2668-33 Cellar, interior. Facing east-northeast



e2668-34 Cellar, interior. Facing east



e2668-35 Cellar, access to street. Facing eastnortheast



e2668-36 Southeast elevation, first floor window. Facing northwest



e2668-37 Interior, ground floor window in southwest elevation. Facing southwest



e2668-38 Interior, ground floor windows in southwest elevation. Facing west



e2668-39 Interior, doorway in northwest elevation. Facing northwest



e2668-40 Interior, general view. Facing north



e2668-41 Interior, detail of pillar. Facing east



e2668-42 Interior, doorway in northeast elevation. Facing northeast



e2668-43 Interior, general view. Facing south



e2668-44 Interior, blocked door and former fireplace. Facing southwest



e2668-45 Interior, former fireplace. Facing southwest



e2668-46 Interior, flue opening in ground floor ceiling. Facing southwest



e2668-47 Interior, flue opening in roof. Facing southwest



e2668-48 Interior, general shot showing confition of first floor timbers and cross strutted joists. Facing east



e2668-49 Interior, general view. Facing west



e2668-50 Interior, window in northeast elevation. Facing northeast



e2668-51 Northwest elevation, first floor window. Facing southeast



e2668-52 Northwest elevation, detail of first floor window sill. Facing south



e2668-53 Northwest elevation, central pilaster. Facing southeast



e2668-54 Northwest elevation, pilaster decoration. Facing southeast



e2668-55 Northeast elevation, doorway. Facing southwest



e2668-56 Northeast elevation, detail of cellar access. Facing southwest



e2668-57 Northeast elevation, window. Facing southwest



e2668-58 Northeast elevation, pointing. Facing south



e2668-59 Northeast elevation, chimney stacks rising from parapet. Facing southwest



e2668-60 Southwest elevation, detail to corner, ground floor. Facing northeast



e2668-61 Southwest elevation, detail to corner, first floor. Facing northeast



e2668-62 Southwest elevation, first floor window. Facing northeast



e2668-63 Rear of southeast boundary wall. Facing north



e2668-64 Roof, truss formation. Facing west



e2668-65 Interior, general view of first floor. Facing west



e2668-66 Interior, hearth for fireplace in first floor, viewed from below. Facing southwest



e2668-67 Interior, hearths for fireplaces in first floor. Facing southwest



e2668-68 Interior, door in northwest elevation. Facing northwest



e2668-69 General shot showing relationship to carbolic acid works. Facing south



e2668-70 General shot showing relationship with old school. Facing east



e2668-71 Northwest elevation. Facing southeast



e2668-72 General location. Facing southeast



e2668-73 General location. Facing south

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