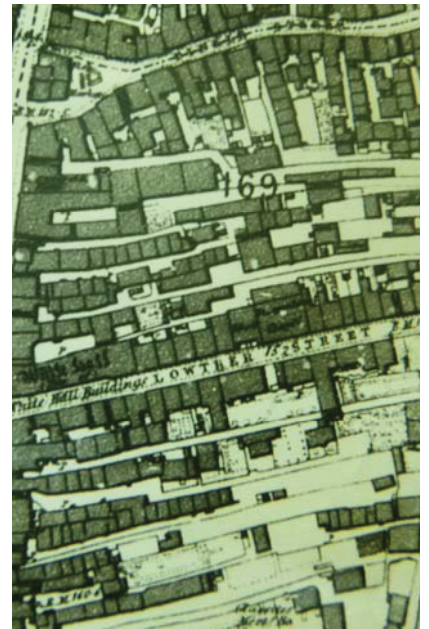


# FORMER SNUFF WORKS, LOWTHER STREET, KENDAL, CUMBRIA

## Heritage Assessment



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NGR: 351592 492622

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May 2018



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## Non-Technical Summary

In preparation for the submission of a change of use planning application for the former snuff works, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a heritage assessment, comprising a desk-based assessment and archaeological building recording. The work was undertaken in April and May 2018.

The tobacco and snuff industry in Kendal has its origins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, shortly after tobacco became widely popular in Britain, with the first water-powered snuff mill established in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The premises on Lowther Street are thought to have been acquired by Harrison and Brocklebank in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century but were under the ownership of the Gawith family from the 1860s. The works initially comprised what is now 27 Lowther Street, but by the 1860s the company had acquired the adjoining former dispensary building, built in 1782, and afterwards expanded the works with a purpose-built workshop to the rear of this. The business was later split between two of the sons of Samuel Gawith, but it was later reunited and a company using the Gawith name continued to operate from Lowther Street into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the site was only part of a much larger enterprise.

The building recording revealed that much of the original dispensary building survives and this forms the earliest part of the complex, in the north-west corner of the site. A purpose-built workshop was clearly built adjoining this, to the east, evidently that established by Harrison and Brocklebank in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the purpose-built workshop was added to the rear of the former dispensary by 1878. This is likely to have triggered range of improvements corresponding with an increased use of mechanisation, originally presumably steam powered. More recent changes too are primarily related to improvements in machinery, undoubtedly due to the introduction of electricity.

The site represents an important aspect of Kendal's history and part of a relatively understudied industry at a national level, with previous consideration largely concerned with the mills in which the snuff was produced, rather than the places where the raw tobacco and snuff were finished, packaged, and distributed.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Chris Gawith for commissioning the project and for providing copies of the paintings of the building by Michael Bottomley; and his architects, Roger Haigh and Angela Cade, for their help during the project. Special thanks are also due to Graham Brooks of the Cumbria Industrial History Society for providing a valuable reference.

The project was managed by Dan Elsworth, who also carried out the building recording and wrote the report with Ric Buckle. Tom Mace produced the illustrations, and the final report was edited by Jo Dawson.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 In preparation for the submission of an application for change of use planning permission for the Former Snuff Works, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria (NGR 351592 492622), a heritage assessment report was required. The heritage assessment was to comprise a Level 2 building recording, and Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned by Chris Gawith (hereafter 'the client') to carry out the work.

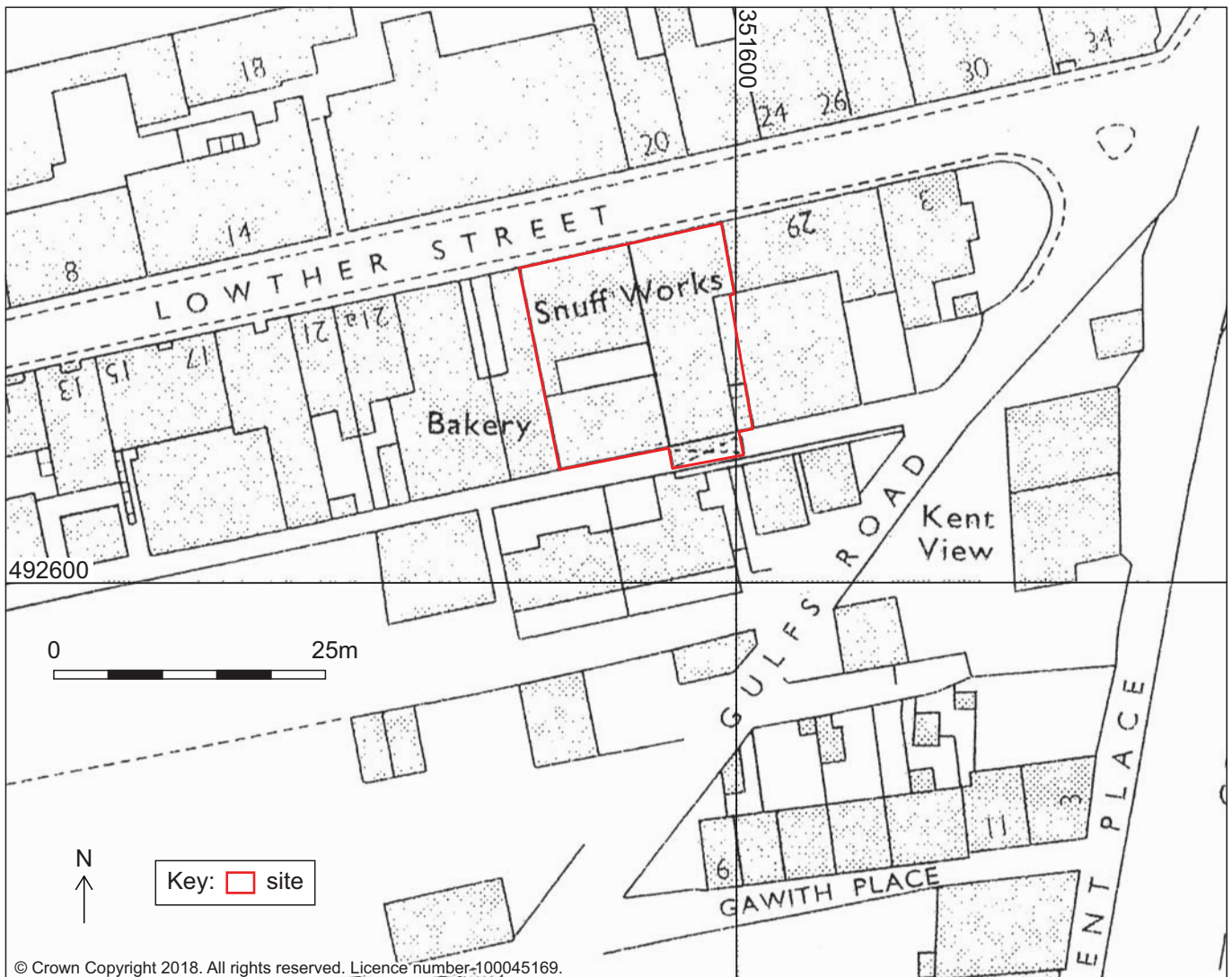
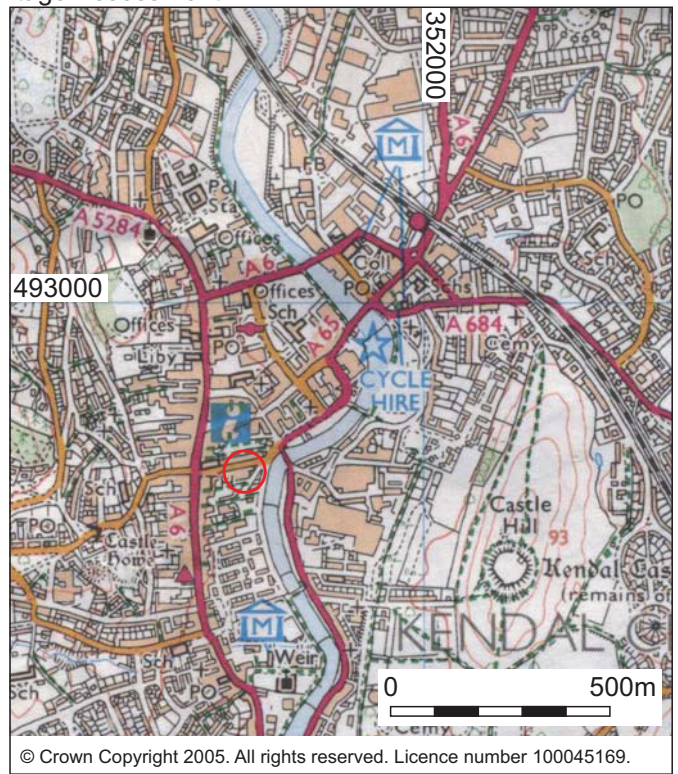
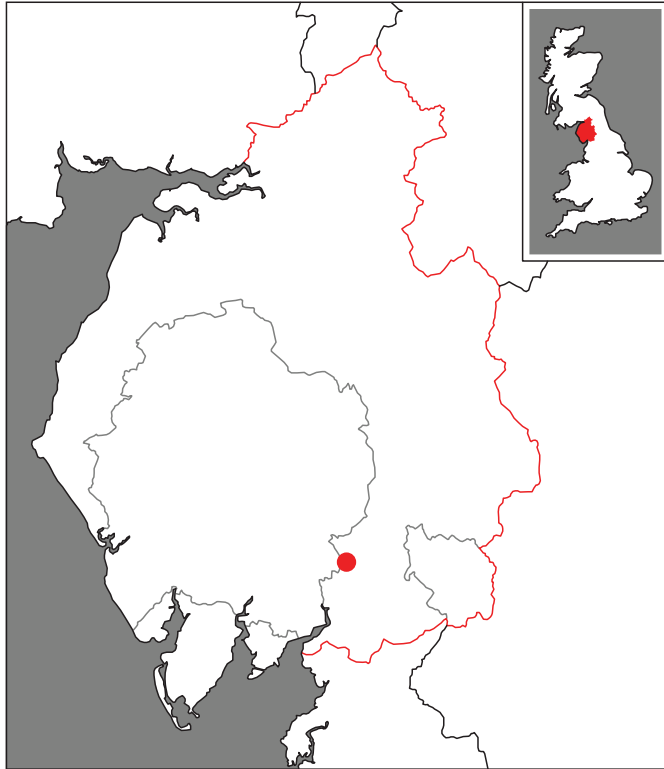
1.1.2 The Former Snuff Works is a Grade II Listed Building (see *Appendix 1*) and is believed to date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The Former Snuff Works is situated at the east end of Lowther Street, on the south side, at around 50m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2011; Figure 1). Lowther Street runs east and downhill from Highgate, which, together with Stricklandgate, forms the central thoroughfare in Kendal.

1.2.2 The river Kent is located approximately 50m to the east and drains the higher ground to the north-west of Kendal into Morecambe Bay. The solid geology comprises Bannisdale slates but is situated on the edge of a large area of Carboniferous limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1), with overlying drift deposits of glacial gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 66).





Client: Chris Gawith

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Figure 1: Site location

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The heritage assessment is intended to provide a suitable record of the structure equivalent to Level 2 survey as defined by Historic England (Historic England 2016). The building recording and associated desk-based assessment were carried out according to the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b). A suitable archive has also been compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results, also in accordance with CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal (CAC(K))**: this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site and relevant primary and secondary sources;
- **Client**: copies of paintings of the building by Michael Bottomley were obtained from the client;
- **Greenlane Archaeology**: additional primary and secondary sources held in Greenlane Archaeology's library were also examined to provide information for the site background and map regression.

### 2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to Historic England Level-2 type standards (Historic England 2016), which provides a relatively detailed record of the building, but does not discuss its development in detail in terms of its historical context. The recording comprised the following elements:

- **Written record**: descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs**: photographs in colour digital format (as both 12meg jpegs and RAW files) were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are in the project archive;
- **Drawings**: the building had been subject to an earlier instrument survey, by James Brennan Associates, Chartered Surveyors, and a set of the principal floor plans and elevations were available for use during the building recording. These were plotted at a scale of 1:100 and annotated by hand with additional detail. A single cross-section was produced by hand on site including both of the two safely accessible roof trusses. The drawings produced ultimately comprised:
  - i. external elevations at 1:100 (Figure 2 to Figure 4);
  - ii. floor plans at 1:100 (Figure 5 to Figure 9);
  - iii. a cross-section at a scale of 1:50 (Figure 5).

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the building, will be deposited with the Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c). A copy of this report will be supplied to the client, a digital copy will be supplied to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), and one will be

retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, a digital record of the project will be made on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) scheme.

### 3. Desk-Based Assessment

#### 3.1 Map and Image Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** Kendal is fortunate in having several early town plans, prior to the Ordnance Survey mapping. It is therefore possible to trace the development of the relevant properties on Lowther Street from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It should be noted that the buildings being recorded are now No. 25 and 27 Lowther Street, from east to west, but that originally they were 23 and 25 and that the neighbouring property (now No. 29) was originally also part of the snuff works but is now separate from it and is not included as part of this project.

3.1.2 **Todd 1787:** Todd's map shows the end of a building to the east, and the Dispensary building on the west of the site (Plate 1). There is a property boundary through the middle of the site.

3.1.3 **Wood 1833:** Wood's map shows an almost identical arrangement of buildings to that shown on Todd's map 46 years previously. The property boundary is shown in a slightly different place, and the extension/outshut on the east building is larger, but the building in the west is still marked as a Dispensary (Plate 2).

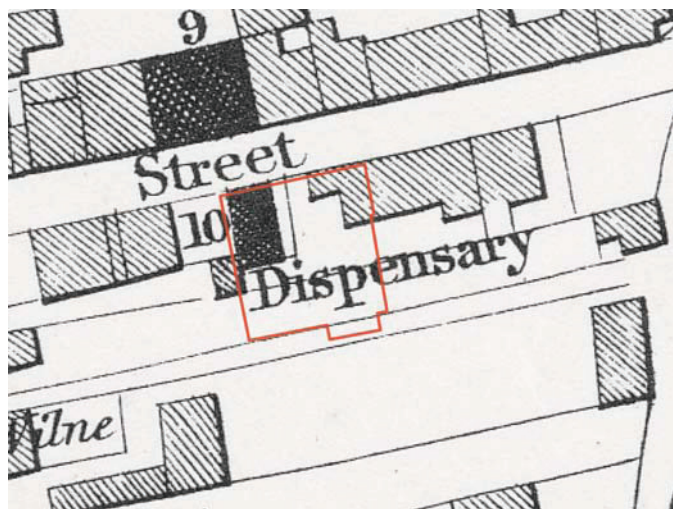


Plate 1 (left): Extract from Todd's map of 1787

Plate 2 (right): Extract from Wood's map of 1833

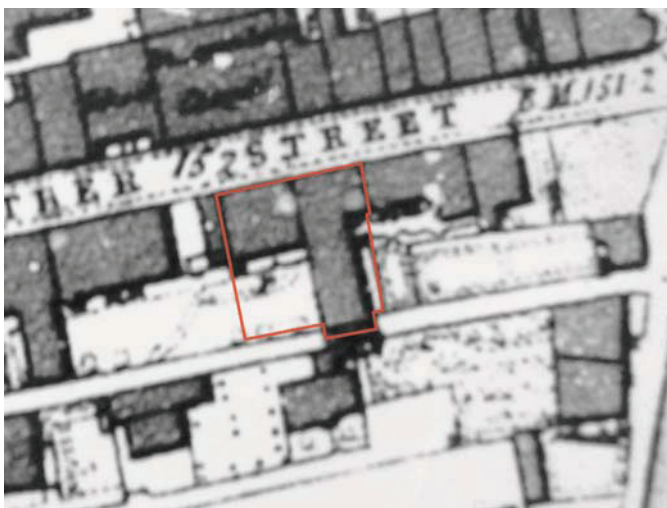
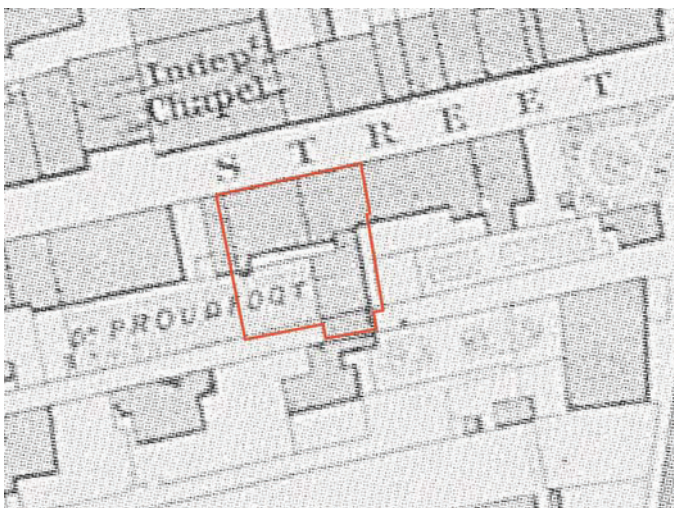


Plate 3 (left): Extract from Hoggarth's map of 1853

Plate 4 (right): Extract from undated Ordnance Survey map, c1861

3.1.4 **Hoggarth 1853:** Hoggarth's map shows that there is now no gap between the buildings in the east and the west of the site (Plate 3). The plot of land to the rear, running off to the west, is marked as being owned by Dr Proudfoot. Buildings have now also been constructed in the south-east of the site, extending across the back alley.

3.1.5 **Ordnance Survey, c1861:** this undated first edition 1:2,500 scale map (Plate 4) shows the same arrangement of building as that shown on Hoggarth's map of 1853.

3.1.6 **Sales particulars, 1878:** the sales particulars of 1878 include a plan of the properties in Lowther Street (Plate 5). This shows that Lots 2, 3, and 4 formed the current site. The accompanying descriptive text shows that Lot 2 (at that time No. 25 Lowther Street) was the retail shop and office, with the packing rooms and warehouse adjoining; Lot 3 (at that time No. 23 Lowther Street) was the factory and warehouse formerly used as a dwelling-house and dispensary; and Lot 4 was the recently-erected shed or factory immediately behind Lot 3, and approached from the Yard to the rear (CAC(K) WDB/35/SP77 1878; see Section 3.2.6 below).

3.1.7 **Photograph, post-1893:** this, probably early 20<sup>th</sup> century, photograph of the frontage of 27 Lowther Street (Plate 6) shows the painted sign for the firm 'GAWITH HOGGARTH & C<sup>o</sup>', which took over the Lowther Street premises in 1893. The figure of 'The Turk' is visible, and another painted sign below this possibly reads 'GAWITH HOGGARTH / & CO / TOBACCO & SNUFF / MANUFACTURERS'.

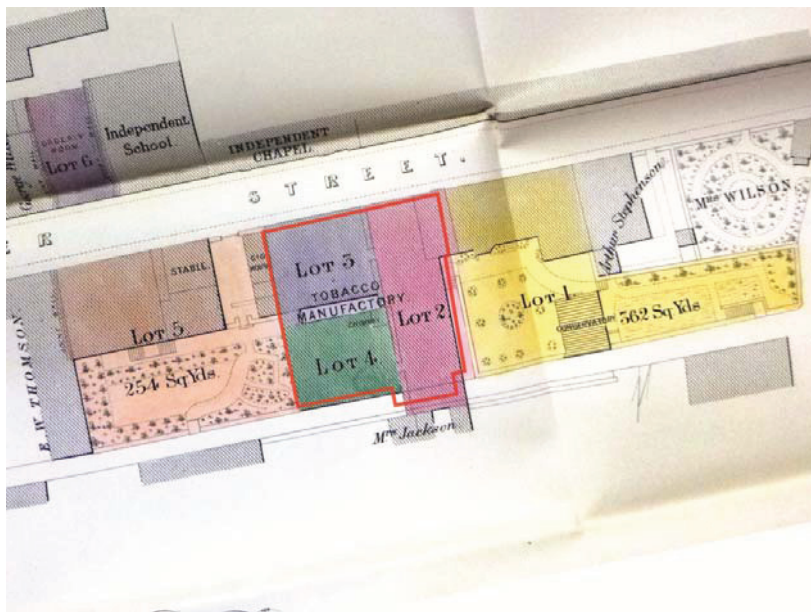


Plate 5 (left): Extract from plan in estate sales particulars (CAC(K) WDB/35/SP/77 1878)

Plate 6 (right): Photograph of the frontage of 27 Lowther Street, post-1893 (Dunderdale 2003, 121)

3.1.8 **Ordnance Survey 1898:** this map (Plate 7) shows the same arrangement of buildings as that shown 20 years earlier on the sales particulars of 1878 (cf. Plate 5).

3.1.9 **Photograph, post 1905:** this photograph shows the east elevation of 27 Lowther Street, and again shows the painted sign for 'GAWITH, HOGGARTH & C<sup>o</sup>' (Plate 8). The firm became a limited company in 1923 (Dunderdale 2003, 138), but it is unlikely that they changed their signage to include this, so it is not straightforward to suggest a latest possible date for this photograph. It can, however, be dated to post-1905 by the datestone on the building to the right.

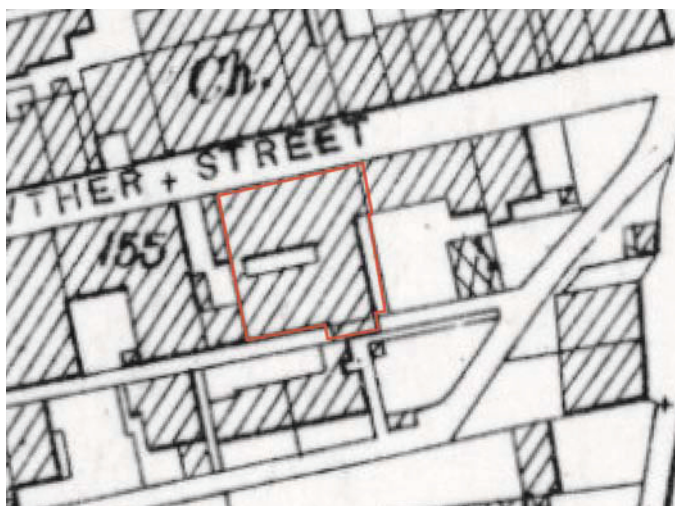


Plate 7 (left): Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1898

Plate 8 (right): Photograph of the east elevation of 27 Lowther Street, post 1905 (Dunderdale 2003, 141)

3.1.10 **Ordnance Survey 1914**: this map (Plate 9) shows the same arrangement of buildings as the previous Ordnance Survey map of 1898, with one difference – the small building to the south-east is shown as a glass structure.

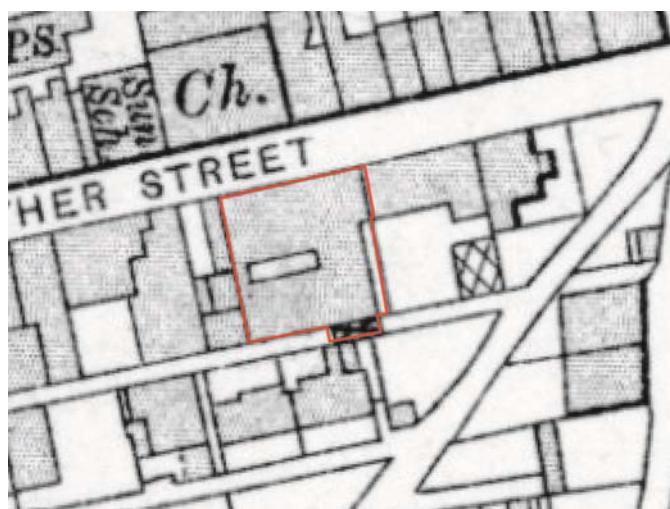


Plate 9: Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1914

3.1.11 **Headed paper, post 1929**: the headed notepaper of the firm Gawith, Hoggarth & Co Ltd shows a line illustration of the frontage of 25 to 29 Lowther Street (Plate 10 and Plate 11). The notepaper can be dated by the name of the firm (it was incorporated as a limited company in 1923 (Dunderdale 2003, 138), and more accurately by the list of company directors shown in the bottom left-hand corner: Samuel H. Gawith, Frank D. Hoggarth, and Charles E. Hoggarth. Charles E. Hoggarth was the last of the three to become a director of the firm, and did so in 1929 (*op cit*, 142). It shows the two buildings on the street frontage that were used by the firm (numbers 25 and 27 Lowther Street, running east/west) and three buildings to the rear (the most easterly of which has six roof lights on its east side) running north/south, as well as a tall chimney.

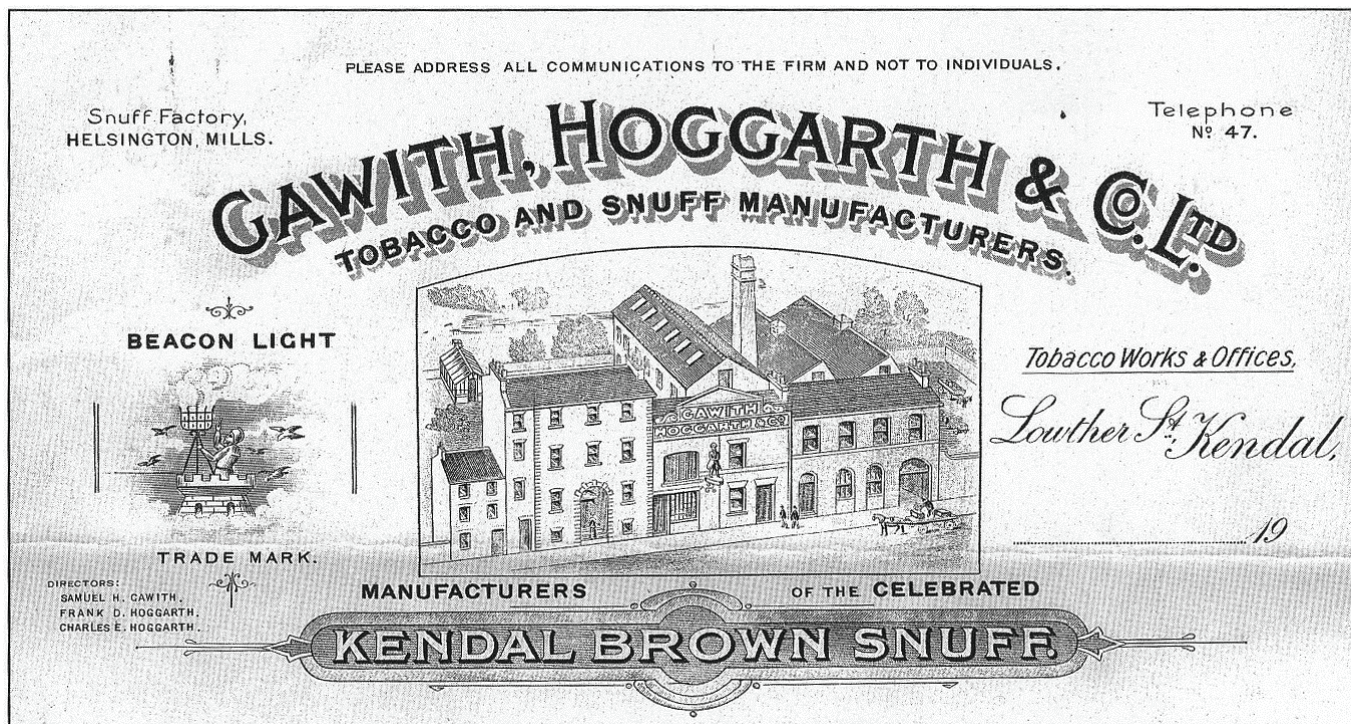


Plate 10: Headed notepaper, post 1929 (Dunderdale 2003, 142)

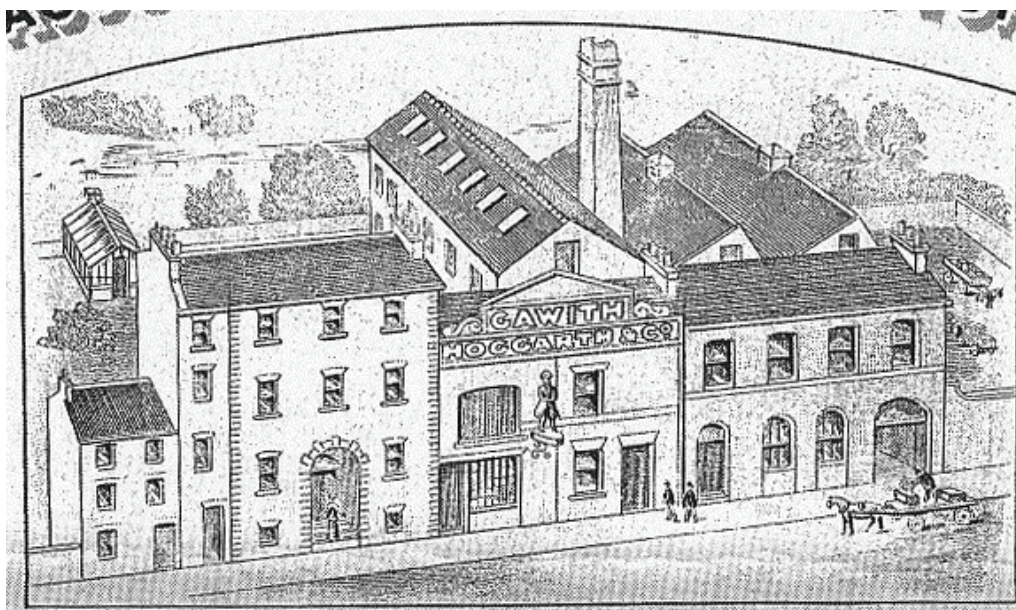


Plate 11: Detail of headed notepaper post 1929, showing the frontage of 25 to 29 Lowther Street

3.1.12 **Ordnance Survey 1945**: this map (Plate 12) shows the same arrangement of buildings as the previous Ordnance Survey map from 1914.



Plate 12: Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1945

3.1.13 **Paintings by Michael Bottomley, 1948-1959:** a series of paintings were produced by Michael Bottomley in the late 1940s and 1950s showing both the exterior and, more significantly, the interior of parts of the building. These demonstrate that the front elevation was much as it is now, although the first floor loading door was still in place on the east side (Plate 13) and that the chimney to the rear was originally much taller (Plate 16), as also shown in the earlier illustration (Plate 11). Internally it shows the position of some of the tobacco presses (Plate 14) and the arrangement of the packing room (Plate 15).



Plate 13 (left): 'No. 27 Lowther Street' by Michael Bottomley, 1948 (private collection, reproduced in Bottomley 2008, 29)



Plate 14 (right): 'Tobacco Presses' by Michael Bottomley, 1951 (private collection, reproduced in Bottomley 2011, 31)



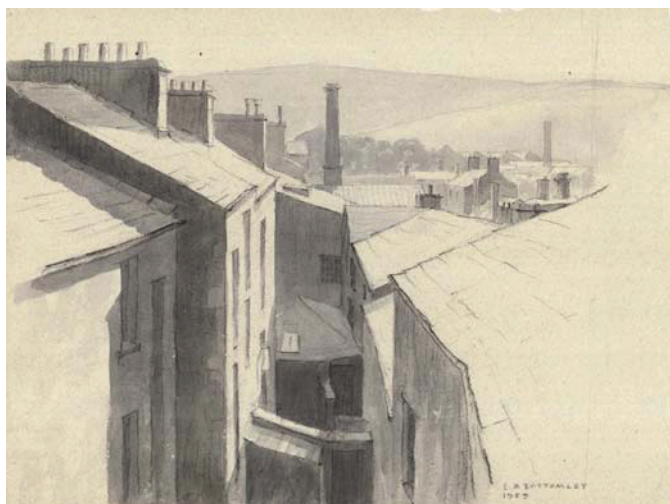


Plate 15 (left): 'Packing Room, Snuff Factory' by Michael Bottomley, 1957 (private collection, reproduced in Bottomley 2011, 30)

Plate 16 (right): 'Kendal Roofscape' by Michael Bottomley, 1959 (private collection, reproduced in Bottomley 2008, 31)

3.1.14 **Plans recovered from site, late 20<sup>th</sup> century:** a set of basic plans of the building were recovered amongst other documents on site. While lacking in detail and undated (although they are presumably of late 20<sup>th</sup> century date) they are of interest because they describe how each room was used (Plate 17 to Plate 19).

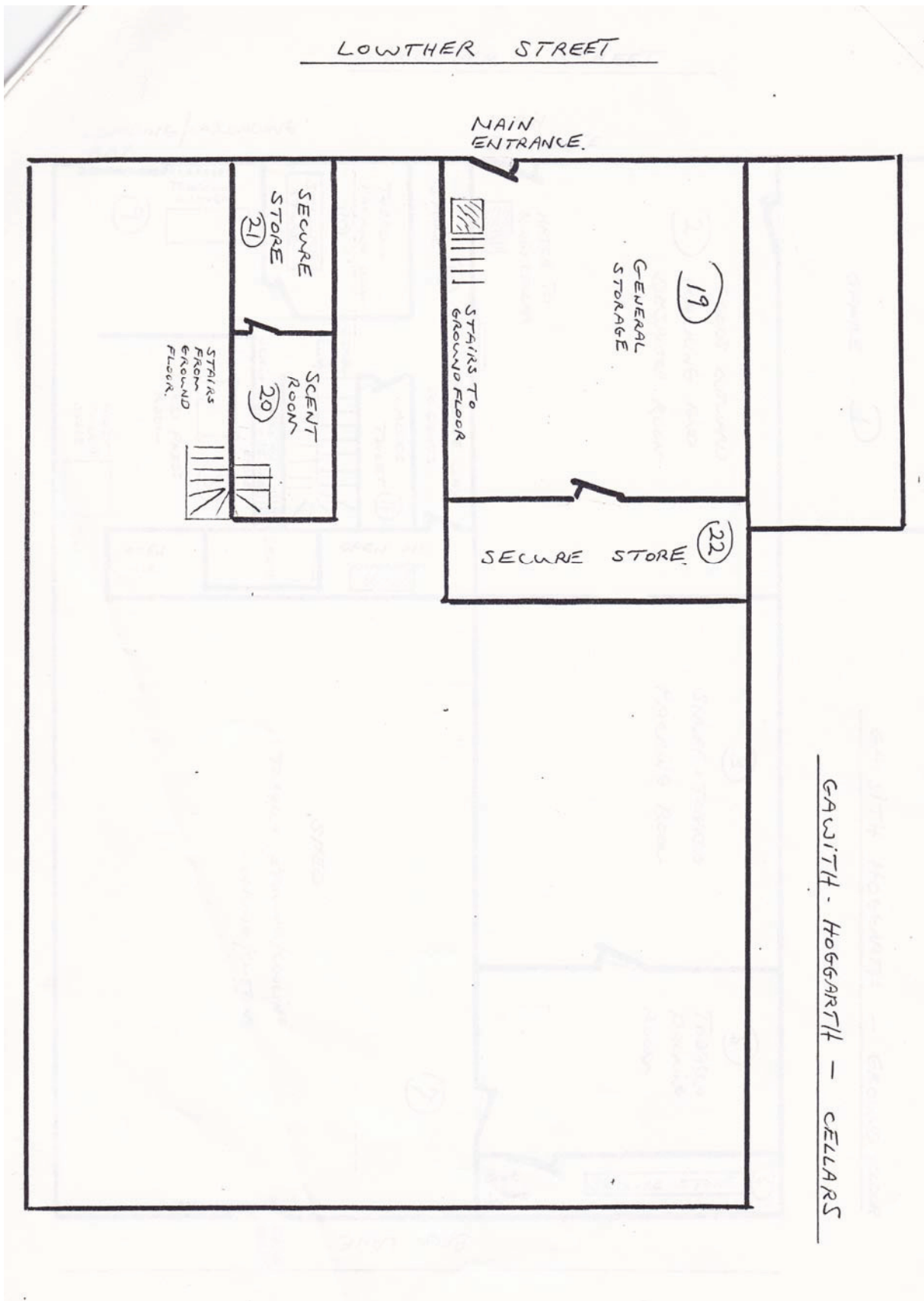


Plate 17: Cellar plan recovered from site

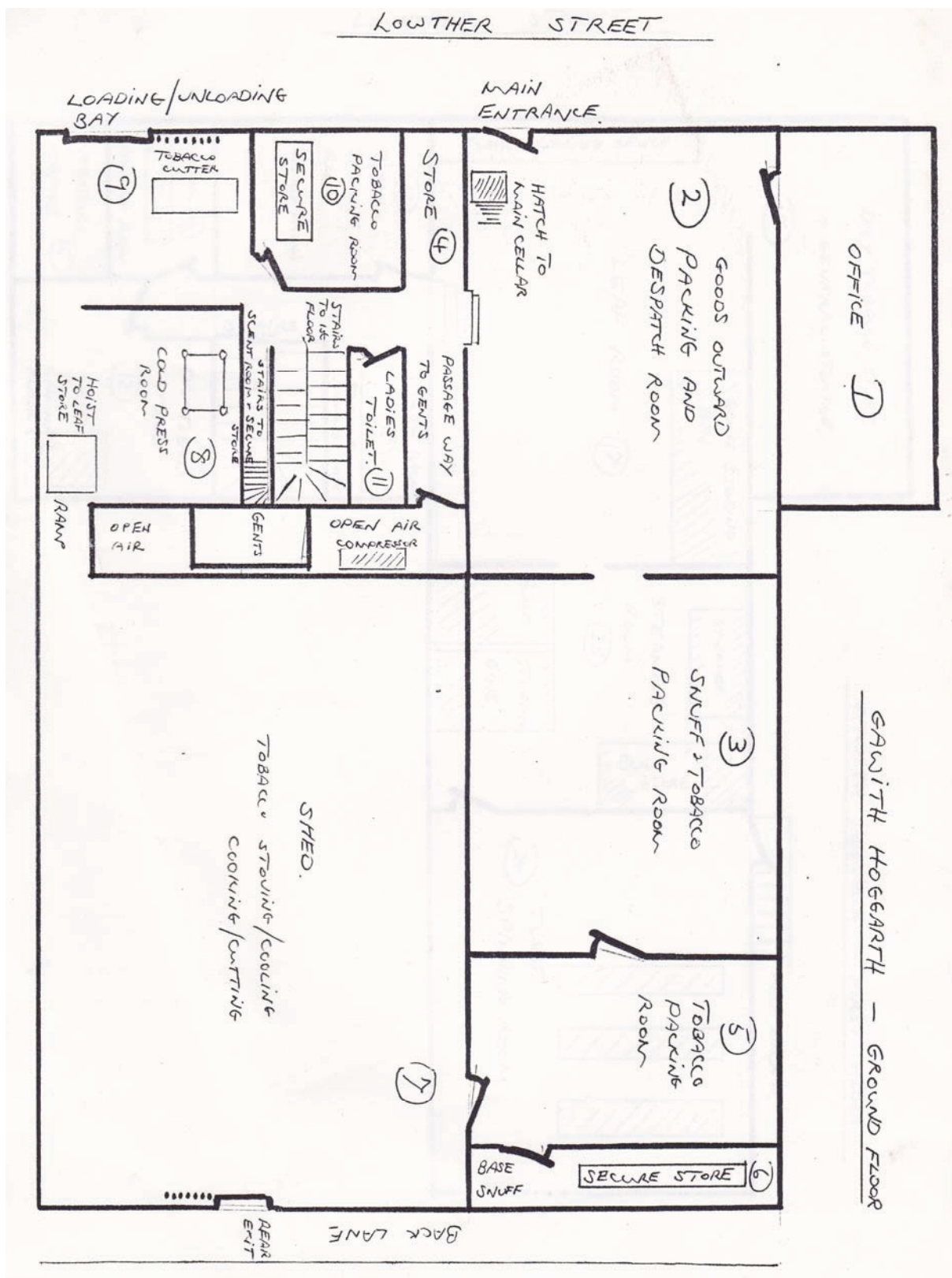


Plate 18: Ground floor plan recovered from site

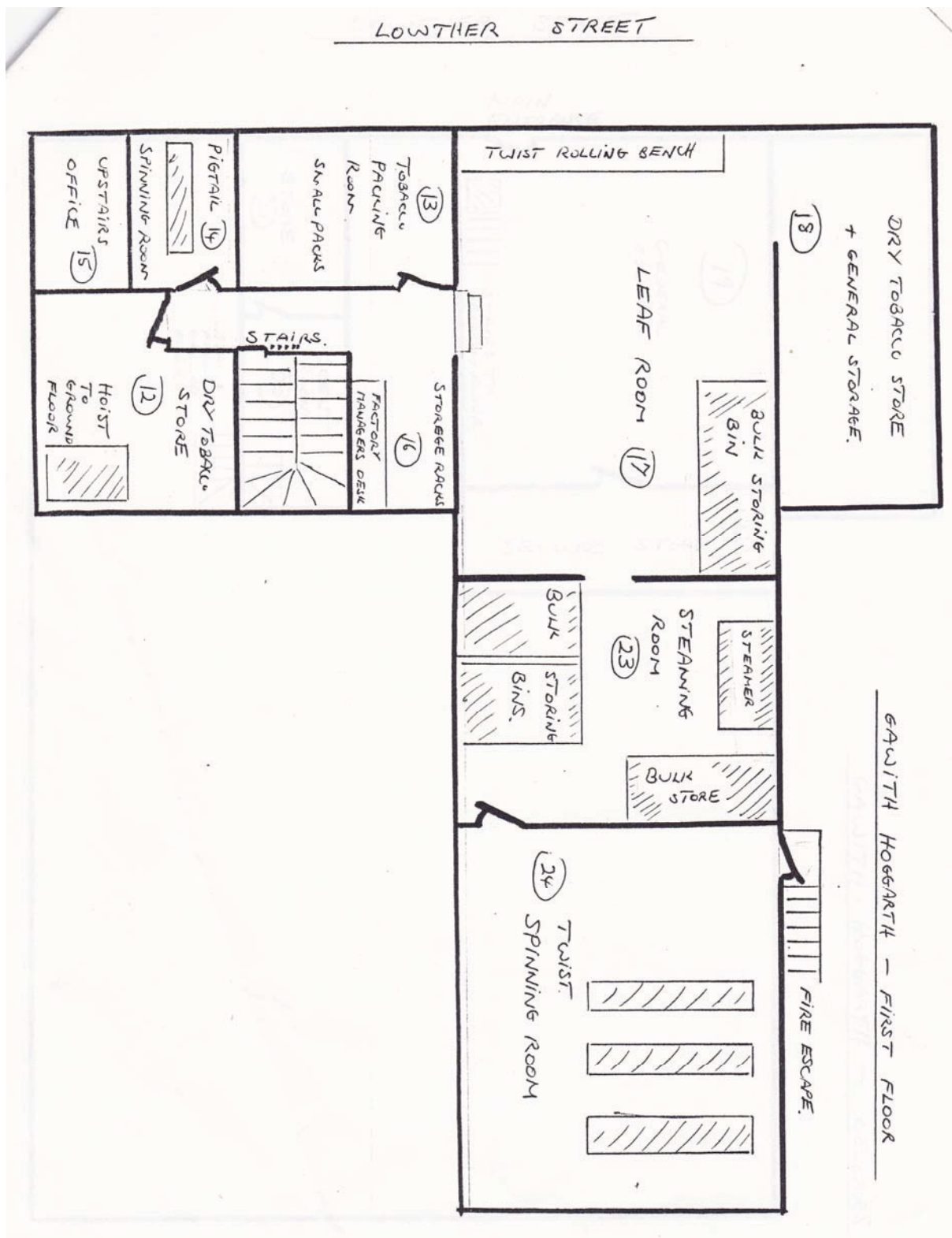


Plate 19: First floor plan recovered from site

3.1.15 **Summary:** the buildings shown on the site in 1787 and 1833 are substantially different from those shown from 1853 onwards, and it is not clear if the former buildings were demolished or modified. The factory or shed to the rear of number 23 Lowther Street was constructed between 1853 and 1878, and there are no changes shown on the mapping relating to the arrangement of buildings after that date.

## 3.2 Snuff-Making in Kendal

3.2.1 The manufacture of tobacco products, of which snuff formed an important part, has a long history in Kendal, which became one of the main national sites of snuff production (Marshall and Davies-Shiel 1969, 101-102). It is thought to have begun there in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, at which time tobacco was considered to have a range of medicinal benefits and was becoming widely imported into the country (Dunderdale 2003, 13). During the 18<sup>th</sup> century this trade increased and Kendal's convenient location, between the major ports at Lancaster and Whitehaven and on the route south from Glasgow, which became a major national tobacco importer at this time allowed it to flourish (*op cit*, 14-15). The first water-powered snuff mill is recorded in Kendal in 1740 and more were soon to follow (*op cit*, 19) and by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century several snuff manufacturers and dealers in tobacco were listed in the town (*op cit*, 21).

## 3.3 25-27 Lowther Street

3.3.1 **Dispensary, 1782-1848:** it is clear from the sales particulars of 1878 that what is now No. 25 (originally No. 23) Lowther Street was formerly the dispensary for Kendal (CAC(K) WDB/35/SP77 1878). Nicholls, writing in 2010, states more ambiguously that '*The Dispensary building was adjacent to Gawith's Snuff factory and offices, later number 23 Lowther Street*' (CAC(K) WDY 610/8 2010). Nicholson, writing in 1861, states that '*The Dispensary was established by voluntary subscription in 1782* (Nicholson 1861, 230); although Nicholls states that building work began on it on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1783 (CAC(K) WDY 610/8 2010). Nicholson states that it '*was supported in like manner, together with 8-1 per annum as an allowance from the township of Kendal, the interest of a legacy of 100l left by Mrs Dorothy Dowker, in 1831, Mrs Knott's annuity of 1l 1s 0d and the interest of Mr James Gandy's donation of 500l. It was closed in 1848*' (Nicholson 1861, 230). It is recorded that average attendance of the dispensary was 50-60 people per day (DKK 1890, 146). '*The Dispensary buildings were right in front of the Independent Chapel in New Street, and consisted of the Doctor's residence, the Surgery, and the Dispensary Room. The door into the latter was at the upper end of the building, and that to the Doctor's residence at the lower end of it. The way into the Surgery or Consulting Room was through the waiting room, the door into it being opposite the one from the street. The place where the drugs were compounded and handed out, was separated from the waiting room by a wooden screen, which reached up to the ceiling, and at the further end of it was a recess in which the patient stood, and handed in his or her ticket through a little aperture in it and received articles in return*' (*ibid*). The doctor was '*old Dr Proudfoot. His residence was a little higher up the street, and separated from the waiting room of the dispensary by the large doors into this coachhouse and offices*' (*op cit*, 148). Further details are available from White's much more recent publication on the history of Kendal: '*The Kendal dispensary was open between 10 and 12 each morning, and again between 6 and 7 in the evening in the days of Dr Gawthorp in the 1820s and 1830s. It consisted of a waiting room, a consulting room, and a place for making up the medicines. Apart from the numbers of people who attended, and this was the only source of medical help available to the poor, it must have recognisably resembled a modern GP's Surgery, like most dispensaries this also had a small hospital for fever cases.*' (White 2013, 167). White also states that the dispensary was operating between 1783 and 1848, when it failed through lack of funds. It was paid for by wealthy local donations (*ibid*). Information taken from the 1851 census lists Thomas Proudfoot, aged 59, physician from Edinburgh, living at 21 Lowther Street; Jane Cowherd, annuitant, living at the old Dispensary premises (23 Lowther Street); and Samuel Gawith, aged 35, tobacco manufacturer, at the snuff factory at 25 Lowther Street (CAC(K) WDY 610/8 2010).

3.3.2 **Harrison and Brocklebank (at 27 Lowther Street 1830-1865):** the company that became based at Lowther Street was started by Thomas Harrison, who in 1792 went to Glasgow, at that time the national centre of snuff manufacture, acquired the necessary skills and plant to establish a snuff mill, brought it back to Kendal and set it up at Mealbank on the River Mint (Dunderdale 2003, 25-29). Harrison was soon joined in the business by Thomas Brocklebank (*op cit*, 29-30), and Thomas Harrison II (son of the first) is thought to have bought 27 Lowther Street in 1822 (CAC(K) WDB 14/9 1968) or 1830 (*op cit*, 30) '*for use as a residence and as a tobacco and snuff factory*'. Thomas Harrison II's daughter, Jane, married Samuel Gawith in 1838 (*op cit*, 30-31), and when Thomas Harrison II died in 1841, he left '*the premises at 27 Lowther Street and his share in the firm of Harrison and Brocklebank to*

*his two daughters...Jane and her husband moved into Lowther Street to occupy the home there, with Samuel forsaking his old trade [of plumber and glazier (op cit, 31)] to take up the place in the tobacco and snuff business vacated by the deceased" (op cit, 32). The two individuals then running the firm would have been Thomas Brocklebank and Samuel Gawith, and this is what is recorded in the 1849 directory entry under the heading of 'Tobacco Manufacturers' – 'Brocklebank and Gawith, Lowther Street and Finkle Street' (Mannex 1849, 325). Following Thomas Brocklebank's death, thought to have been in 1850 (CAC(K) WDB 14/7 1935), Samuel Gawith continued with the business, and in 1858 a trade directory entry records 'Samuel Gawith, tobacco and snuff manufacturer, Lowther Street and Finkle Street' (Kelly & Co 1858, 30). Nicholls states that in 1862 he 'bought the premise next door for £300 from the owners, the defunct Kendal Dispensary' (CAC(K) WDY 610/7 2010).*

**3.3.3 *Petition of Samuel Gawith, Henry Hoggarth, and John Illingworth, 1865:*** when the business was inherited by Samuel Gawith the second, aged 21, and John Edward Gawith, aged 18, '*a petition to the Lord Chancellor was necessary as John Edward was a minor*' (CAC(K) WDB 14/9 1968). Within this petition, the will, dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 1864, states that Samuel Gawith the second, and the other executors, were bequeathed '*All the machinery, implements, utensils plant stock in trade and effects, which shall be used and employed by me, in my trade or business of a Tobacco and Snuff Manufacturer...*', also trade, good will, debts, etc. The documents also talk about the valuation of the Estate and money going to his sons '*as capital to enable them to purchase carry on my said business and stock in trade*'.

**3.3.4 *Samuel and John Edward Gawith (1865-1878):*** '*Following the death of their father, in 1865, the family business was taken over and run by the two elder sons, Samuel the Second and John Edward, as 'Samuel and John Edward Gawith, Tobacco and Snuff Manufacturers' (op cit, 35-6). During this period, in the 1870s, 'the carved, life size figure of 'The Turk' was erected over the entrance to 27 Lowther Street. This original 'snuff shop sign' finally collapsed in 1973 and was replaced by a copy in 1975.'* (op cit, 36). A directory entry from 1873 records '*Samuel and John Edward Gawith, wholesale and retail tobacco and snuff manufacturers, cigar merchants; a fine selection of British and foreign cigars always on hand, Lowther Street* (Kelly (ed) 1873, 924). Nicholls records that '*At some point the Greek letters for "SG" (Samuel Gawith) were carved into an archway close to 27 Lowther Street*' (CAC(K) WDY 610/7 2010).

**3.3.5 *Dissolution of partnership (1877-1878):*** in 1877 the two brothers, Samuel and John Edward Gawith, had a gentleman's agreement drawn up, coming into force in 1878, dissolving their shared business and allowing them to form separate businesses from the constituent parts (op cit, 37). The agreement included a clause stating that '*The shop and hereditaments situated in Lowther Street... shall be taken by one partner, and the snuff mill situated at Mealbank ... shall be taken by the other*' and another clause saying that the '*partner taking Lowther Street property shall also take machinery and utensils therein (except presses mentioned hereafter) and partner taking snuff mill shall take the two hydraulic presses and two large multiplying screw presses*' (CAC(K) WDB 14/2 1877).

**3.3.6 *Sale of estate, 1878:*** following the deaths of Thomas Harrison (said to have been around 1838 (CAC(K) WDB 14/9 1968), and Samuel Gawith (in 1865 (CAC(K) WDB 14/7 1935)), and the dissolution of partnership of Samuel Gawith the first's sons, Harrison and Gawith's trustees put the property they had owned up for sale (CAC(K) WDB/35/SP77 1878). As this was just after the dissolution of partnership came into effect (and presumably related to it), the part of the estate comprising the site was occupied by John E. Gawith (*ibid*). The estate was divided into Lots, with Lots 2, 3, and 4 being the ones that formed the site:

*'LOT 2: The retail SHOP and OFFICE, with the Packing Rooms and Warehouse adjoining, being No. 25, Lowther Street.*

*LOT 3: The FACTORY and WAREHOUSE formerly used as a Dwelling-House and Dispensary, being No. 23, Lowther Street.*

*LOT 4: The recently-erected SHED or FACTORY immediately behind Lot 3, and approached from the Yard in rear thereof.*

*... Lots 2, 3, and 4 comprise the extensive Manufacturing Premises now in the occupation of Mr. J. E. GAWITH, Tobacco and Snuff Manufacturer, and contain a Floorage Area of 874 superficial square yards, or thereabouts. The substantially built Steam Chimney will go with these Lots, but the Boiler, Engine, Machinery, and Shafting are reserved.'* (*ibid*).

**3.3.7 John E. Gawith (1878-1885):** following this, the site became 'John E. Gawith, tobacco manufacturer, Lowther Street' (*op cit*, 38). John E. Gawith initially manufactured tobacco, before deciding to manufacture snuff (*op cit*, 38). He 'may have installed a small snuff grinding mill at Lowther Street, but soon he acquired a larger, water-driven grinding plant at Low Mills, just south of Kendal' (*op cit*, 41). The immediate source for the installation of the snuff grinding machine are some notes from 1968 (CAC(K) WDB 14/9 1968).

**3.3.8 Rental by Samuel Gawith & Co (1885-1887):** John Edward became bankrupt in 1885, after just seven years, and all previously shared goodwill, trademarks, and recipes for snuff were bought back by Samuel (*ibid*). Samuel used 27 Lowther Street for another two years (*ibid*), and Bulmer (1885) lists 'Samuel Gawith & Co Tobacco & Snuff Manufacturers, Great Aynam (Kendal Brown House) and Lowther Street' (*op cit*, 124). 'John Edward Gawith probably still owned some tobacco and snuff producing plant left in 27 Lowther Street, and ... William Henry Gawith was probably by now the main owner of the property... and in these circumstances the short term hire arrangement ... would be, at the time a mutually advantageous one for all parties.'

**3.3.9 Gawith, Hoggarth (1887-2009):** in 1887, William Henry Gawith, youngest son of Samuel Gawith the First (*op cit*, 119), and Henry Hoggarth junior (*op cit*, 117), founded their own firm, Gawith, Hoggarth (*op cit*, 123). 'In 1892, John Edward Gawith died... This left the old Gawith factory and home empty of all occupancy, and, importantly, by this time the major owner of the property was undoubtedly... William Henry Gawith. Also, by this time, the latter's firm had become established and had outgrown the Woolpack Yard accommodation, it was almost inevitable that by the start of the year 1893 the Gawith, Hoggarth partnership would take over and occupy number 27 Lowther Street. This they did, and leaving the Woolpack Yard works empty, they occupied the whole of the old Gawith house as their factory and office premises, something which the building is still today.' (*op cit*, 132). A trade directory entry from 1894 records 'Gawith, Hoggart & Co, tobacco and snuff manufacturers and cigar importers; manufacturers of the celebrated Kendal Brown Snuff, Lowther Street' (Kelly & Co Ltd 1894, 83). Nicholls records that 'Snuff making continued in Lowther Street until 2009 when the firm moved to a new premises off Shap Road' (CAC(K) WDY 610/7 2010).

## 3.4 The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Operation of the Site

**3.4.1** Dunderdale's earlier work on the snuff industry in Kendal provides a considerable amount of information about the manner in which site premises at 25-27 were used. A number of useful extracts from this are presented below:

**3.4.2** 'Alan Powley the last miller is now retired but happily recounts of his days working at 27 Lowther Street when he started straight from school at fourteen years old. He began as an errand boy in 1940 with Samuel Gawith as his boss' (Dunderdale 2003, 157).

**3.4.3** 'In those days there were over thirty staff at Lowther Street with four spinning machines in constant use making twist with three girls to a machine; preparing the leaf; dealing with the twists and snuff and packing everything... Alan's first job was packing parcels and delivery... There was a morning and night horse and lorry delivery service from the railway station delivering goods in the morning and despatching parcels and crates at night... The packers would pack up to 500lbs worth of goods into great wooden crates that would be rolled up skids onto the lorry, and these would go off to the big firms... The

office window at Lowther Street was bowed inwards as a result of a crate going against it whilst being hoisted up the outside, though this was not in Alan's day' (op cit, 159-60).

3.4.4 'Dry tobacco could ignite easily. When making a certain blend of snuff if you toasted it too far, it would go red and the next thing, pow and a puff of smoke. Alan remembered in February 1962 there was a fire at Lowther Street in the drying room on the first floor. There had been steam pipes there originally but electricity was put in, there was a fault and it overheated...The drying operation was then transferred to the mill' (op cit, 163-4).

3.4.5 '...during 1993-1994 the firm moved into three large spacious modern industrial units on the edge of town...They had outgrown their Lowther Street premises, but still carry on making twist, pipe tobacco and packing snuff there as they have done for over a hundred years and employ eight members of staff there, two of which are part-time. Customs and Excise had never been happy with their set up in Lowther Street. They had always wanted one room or place as a designated secure store but this proved rather difficult, if not impossible, and many little rooms had to be designated'.

3.4.6 'Even today the boxes of tobacco used at Lowther Street have to be taken and unloaded by hand at the front door, a hoist powered by a small motor lifts the boxes through a trap door and onto the upper floor, where it then has to be man-handled by two men to be stacked a few at a time. Prior to the new premises this was a continuous process, whereby the bulk of the leaf was stored at the Bonded Warehouse on Beeson Sidings and had to be moved frequently to restock Lowther Street' (op cit, 167-8)

3.4.7 'The Lowther Street premises remain the same... The old equipment is still producing the same high class goods, made over the same time span. The women work on the top floor... four were spinning twist, two to each machine. On the middle floor the twist is wound round wheels, the thickest and smallest, waiting to be weighed and rolled into smaller sized balls... Martin Davies, the deputy charge-hand of eighteen years, explained how the raw leaf had been hoisted up from downstairs, and put in the steamer and the different variations of timings required to make tobacco moist and pliable. This reconstituted tobacco now lay on the ago-old floor boards in heaps, with pieces of canvas covering the mounds to keep the moisture in. Dave Nightingale, who has been with the company for twenty-seven years, manufactures the flakes, helps with the twists and maintenance of the machinery. He explained that the brown twist was put into cold presses but the black had been coated in vegetable oil and cooked in the old steam presses on the ground floor and was milder when cooked and coming out black. One of his jobs was rolling the twist into baseball-sized balls ready for storing...'

3.4.8 'Downstairs, the goods are packed and wait to go out, when they will be taken back to the modern factory for storage and distribution. A room on the left as you go in at the front door is the old office, with the cupboard facing with the wood carving on the uppermost part displaying the old Beacon Light emblem. The office is sadly no longer used and has been overtaken by the new computerised office with four people in at the other site. Along the passage is Barbara Ellis who has been with the firm for nearly thirty-two years, and does the weighing and packaging. She pointed out a trap door in the packaging room, which led to the cellar where employees were to go in the event of an air raid during the Second World War. She then proudly showed me the essence room, with the rows of old bottles containing the various mixtures and the old mixing table...'

3.4.9 'Martin then showed me down into darkened rooms containing age-old black presses reaching up towards the darkened ceiling, with belts and pulleys overhead. Separately in a cold press is the brown twist that is being compressed, five rounds of 500 gm twist in each metal cylinder. He next showed me the now motorised steam press in operation – this is how it was cooked'.

3.4.10 'He demonstrated how flake was made. The tobacco goes into small boxes, pressed overnight, cooked an hour, left overnight, then back into another press and then held for a month. Finally it is put into the old cutting machine to be cut. Shag is made at the new factory.' (op cit, 170-2).



## 4. Building Recording

### 4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The site comprises two original properties that have been merged into one building, and then significantly extended to the rear. The west side of the building, as it is accessed from Lowther Street, was originally a dispensary prior to being incorporated into the tobacco factory, the earliest section of which was to the east.

### 4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North elevation:** this elevation comprised the front of the building and was originally two separate buildings, as a result of which the west side of the façade was higher than the east side. The building was made of pale ashlar limestone blocks with a square string course at the level of the first floor sills and a slate roof. The east side housed two windows, one ground floor and one first floor, with flat voussoir lintels, stone jambs, and stone sills, with a 16-light timber sliding sash casement window. A large window on the ground floor had a moulded entablature over the lintel, stone jamb and sill, all painted green, and a 20-light timber casement. Above this window was a small modern window with two-light timber casement and sill, which was within a patch of rebuilt masonry that represented an earlier doorway loading doorway. The doorway in the eastern part had a timber doorframe and timber panelled door, all painted green with a large single overlight and a stone step up into the building. The west side of the building had two ground floor windows with 12-light timber sliding sash casement under round voussoir heads and with stone sills with a decorative recess below. Two doorways were present at ground level, one being a double cart door with a round head of stone voussoirs with a projecting keystone engraved with conjoined Greek lettering (SG - 'SG' for Samuel Gawith) and a timber door behind a later iron grill. The other was a pedestrian door with similar round voussoir head with a single-light overlight, timber surround frame and door painted green and four stone steps up. To the west of this was an attached sign reading 'THE TURK Trade sign replaced by Kendal Town Council For European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 Founded on the original which hung here for about a hundred years till collapse in 1973 Copy by Arthur J.J. Ayres F.R.B.S.'. The first floor had four identical windows each with flat voussoir lintels, 12-light timber sliding-sash casements and stone sills formed of the string course.



Plate 20: North external elevation from the north-east



**Plate 21: North external elevation from the north-west**

4.2.2 **South elevation:** the south external elevation comprised rough stonework with a suspended section raised over the alleyway. Two blocked low openings with flat vousoir lintels were present beneath the raised section, to the west the the building could be accessed via an extant doorway also with a stone vousoir lintel and stone jambs housing a sliding timber door. The west end comprises two steep gable ends with scrolled purlin ends.



**Plate 22 (left): East side of the south external elevation, showing the blocked opening**

**Plate 23 (right): West side of the south external elevation**

**5.2.3 East elevation:** The east facing elevation comprised white painted concrete render with four windows on the ground floor, all with flat arched heads and 20-light timber sliding sash timber casements and five windows identical form but only 15-lights on the first floor although one had been blocked up and had a vent inserted into it while another had been enlarged to form a doorway with a modern metal fire exit and a four-light window above, although the doorway itself had been blocked with plywood.



Plate 24: East external elevation

NORTH EXTERNAL ELEVATION



Key:  blocked feature


0  5m

Figure 2: North external elevation



Figure 3: East external elevation

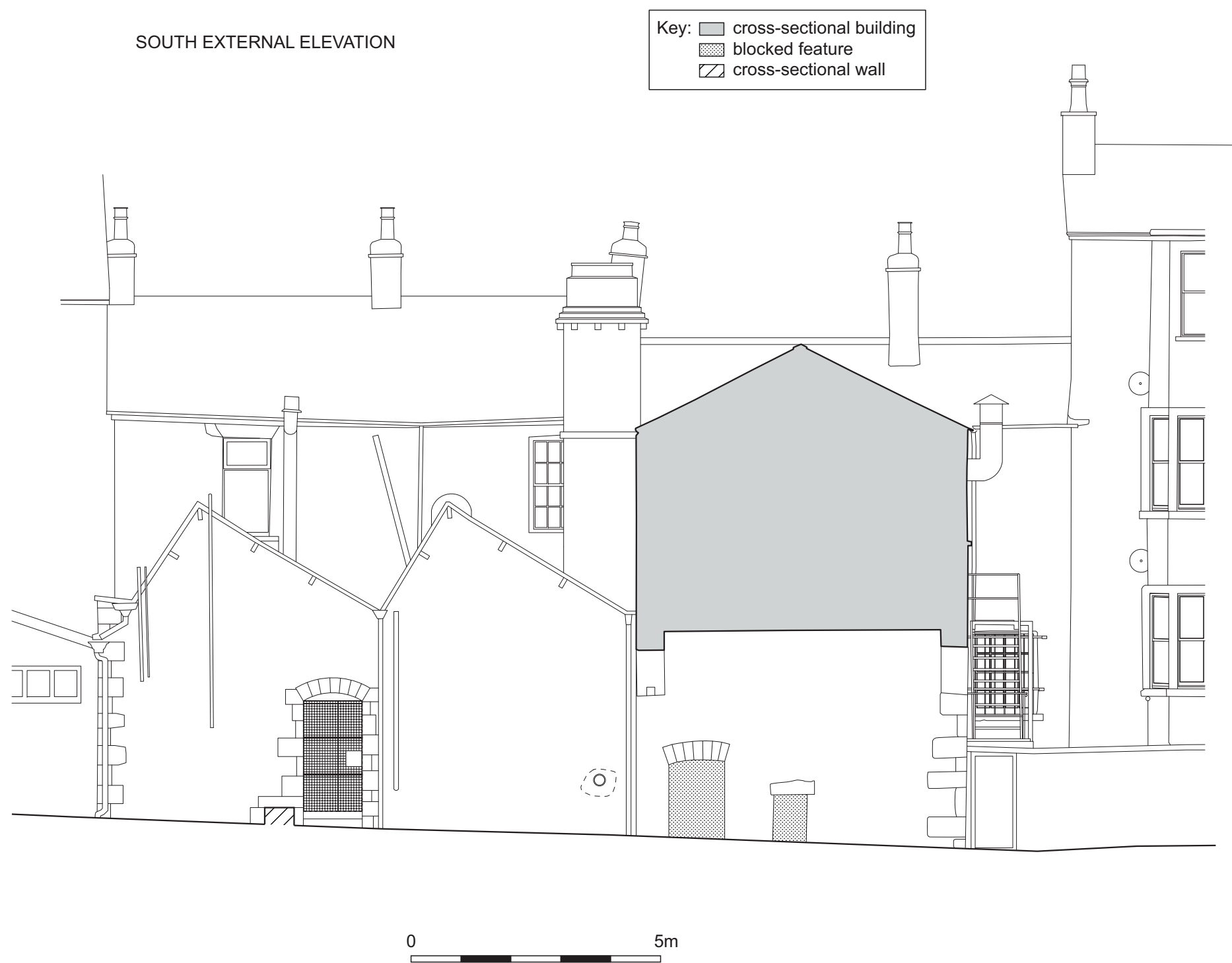


Figure 4: South external elevation

CROSS-SECTION A-A1

Key: --- continuation of line  
■ cross-sectional timber  
▨ cross-sectional wall

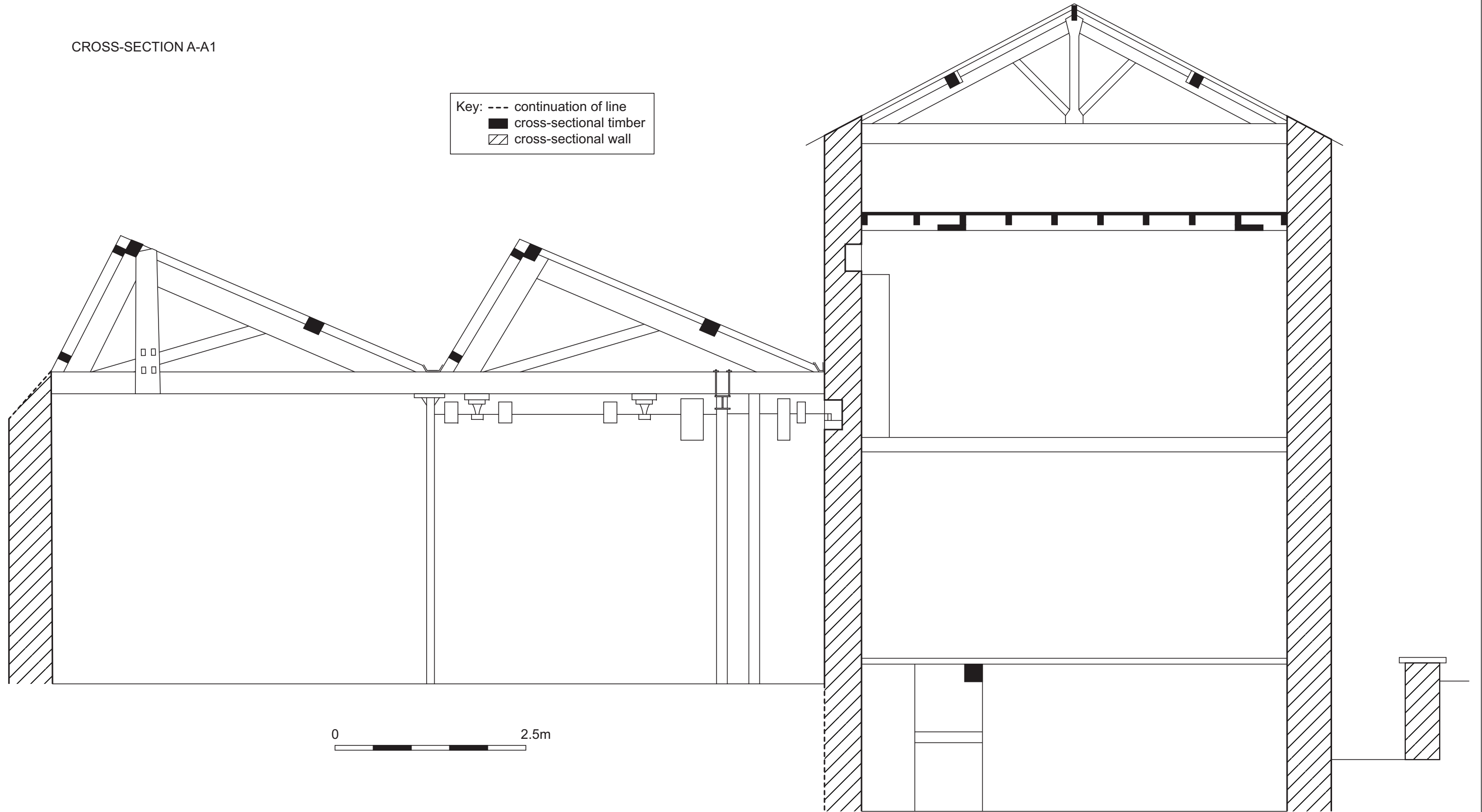


Figure 5: Cross-section A-A1



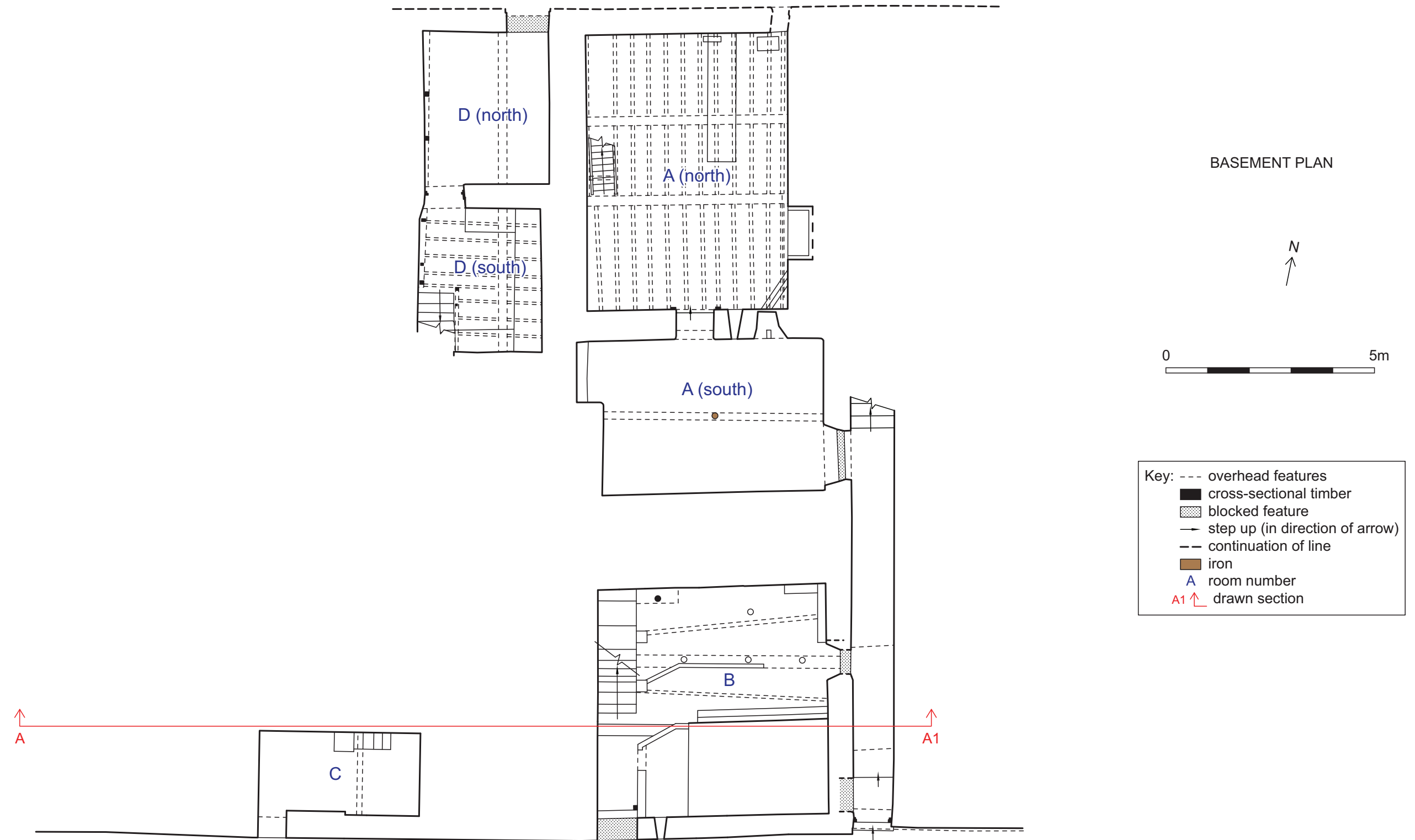


Figure 6: Basement plan

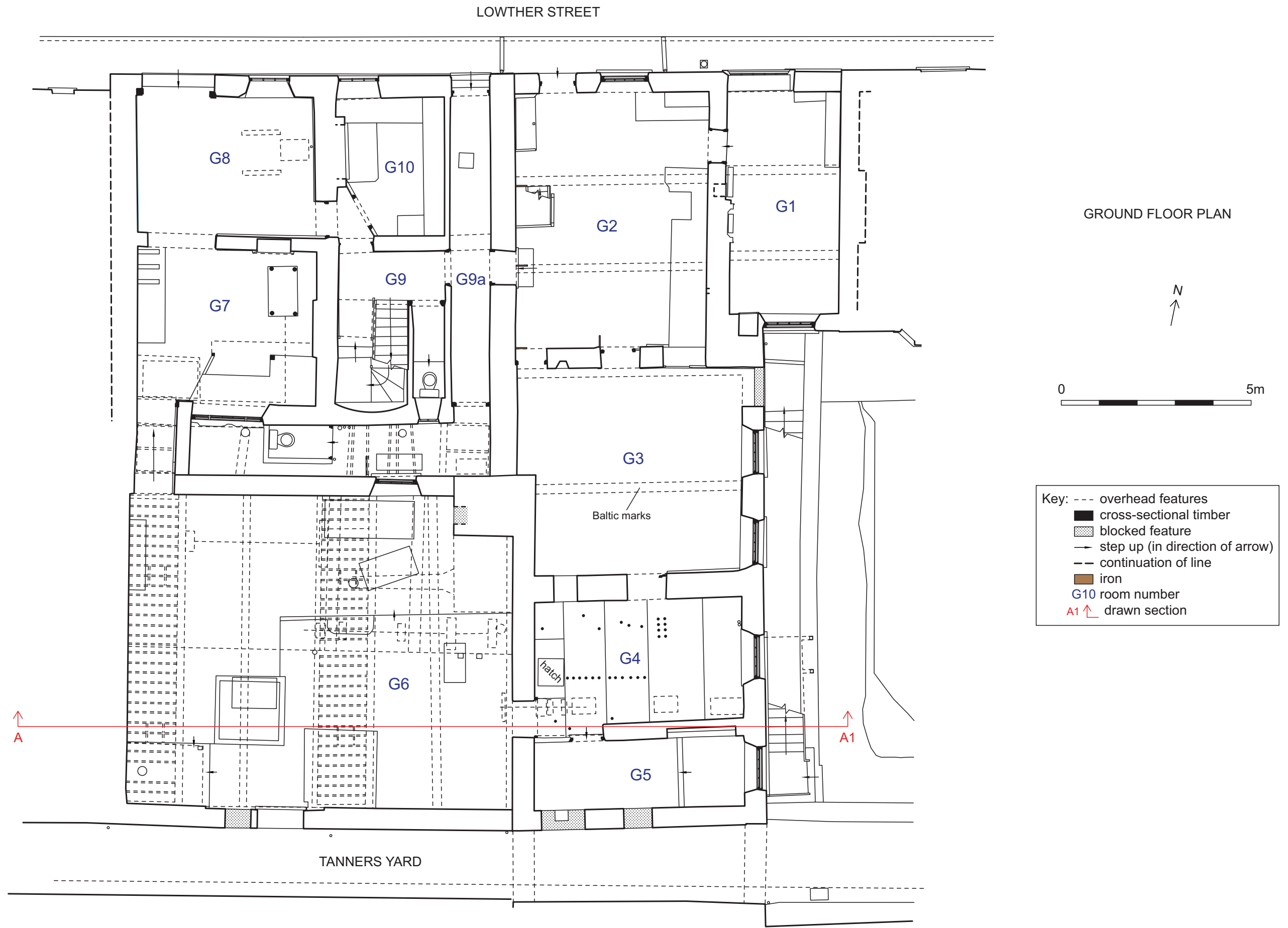


Figure 7: Ground floor plan

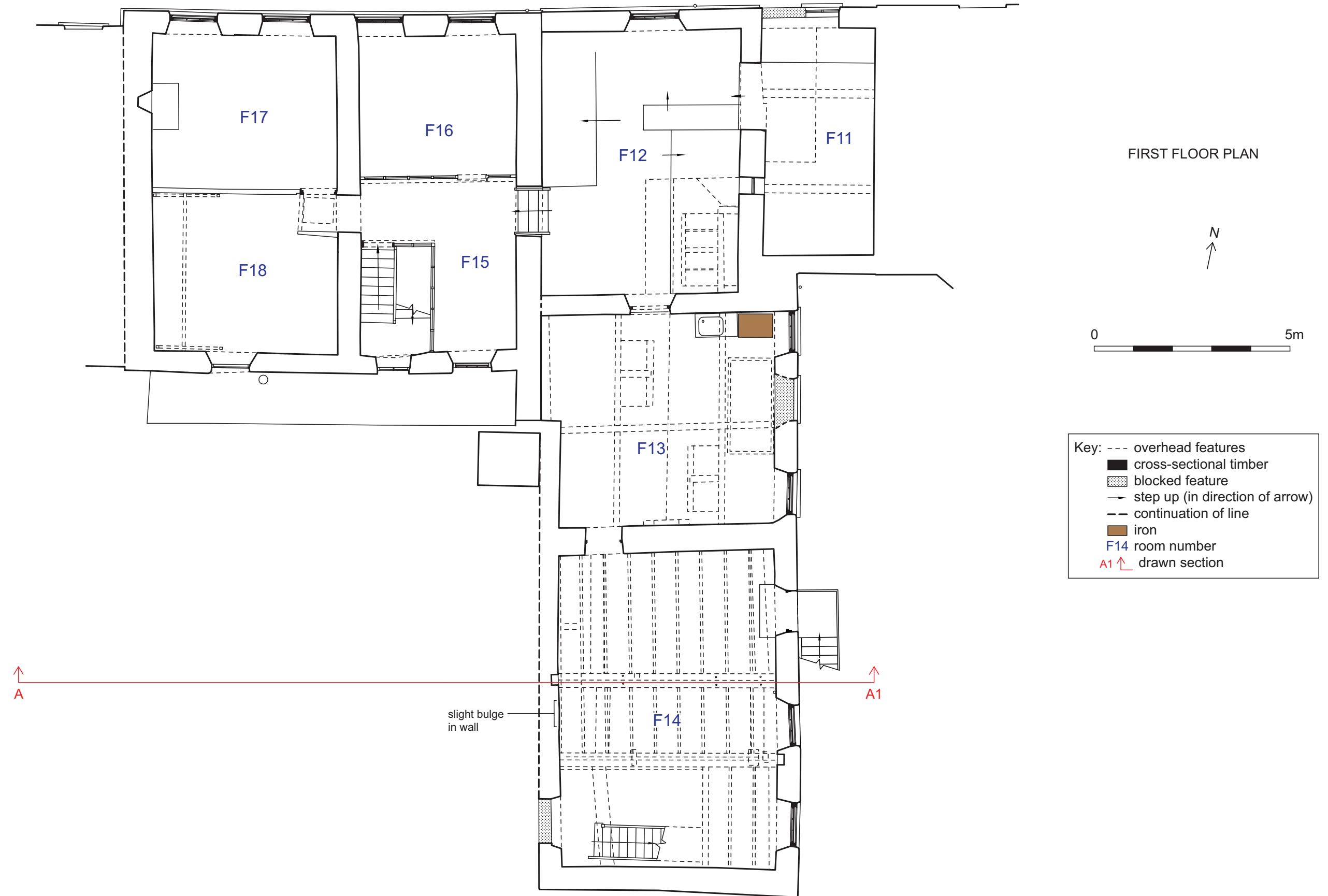


Figure 8: First floor plan

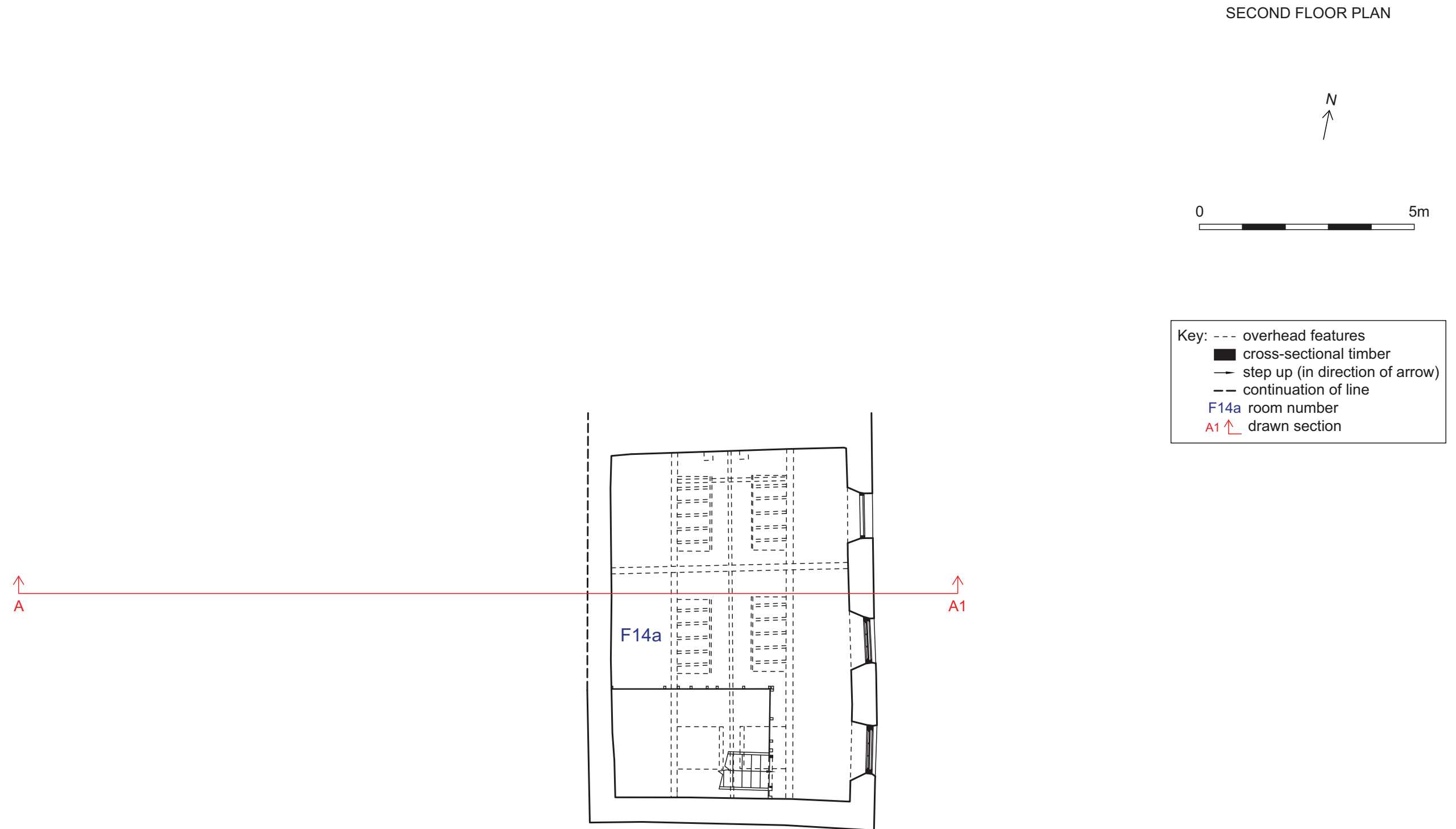


Figure 9: Second floor plan

### 4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Cellar A:** this was located beneath Rooms G1-G3. The floor was finished with modern plywood covering a stone flag floor and the ceiling was timber boards supported on joists. The space was divided into northern room and a southern room. In the northern room all the walls were whitewashed over the rough stonework and plain apart from the west elevation. This housed a large brick-lined fireplace with an iron grate, from which a horizontal flue ran into the southern room. The north elevation also had a small hatch high on the east side. The southern room had a vaulted brick ceiling with additional support from an iron beam held by an iron post. All of the walls were painted white plaster. In the east elevation there was a blocked window, in the north elevation there was an aperture or fireplace divided horizontally by a sheet of iron supported on frogged firebricks, marked 'PEASE' and 'HUDSPIT', and from the top part of this aperture a narrow flue ran into the northern room. To the west of this was a doorway into the northern part of Cellar A.



Plate 25: Fireplace in east elevation of the northern room of Cellar A



**Plate 26: Aperture in the north elevation of the southern room of Cellar A**

4.3.2 **Cellar B:** this was located beneath Room G4 and had stone steps and a stone flag floor and heavy timber beams supporting the ceiling, which in turn were supported by iron columns in addition to which a brick column had been added on the west side and a timber post to the north of this. All of the walls were whitewashed stone. It had a small room possibly a former toilet cubicle, on the south-east side, with a blocked window and adjoining this, in the south-west corner, there was a blocked doorway with a step at the bottom and the remnants of a door surround. A modern cinderblock wall partition divided the, main room to the west of which was a series of apertures below the stairs. Against the north-east corner and the south elevation there were timber benches.



**Plate 27: west elevation Cellar B showing columns supporting the ceiling**



**Plate 28: Timber benches in the north-east corner of Cellar B**

4.3.3 **Cellar C:** this was effectively just a lowered area on the south side of Room G6 and was accessed by ornate cast iron steps from the west side. All of the walls, except the south, were brick and the floor was stone flagged. This cellar appears to have been used as a coal store, and there was a small blocked opening into it in the south elevation.



**Plate 29: Stairs in cellar C**

4.3.4 **Cellar D:** this was beneath Rooms G9 and G10 and was divided into two rooms to the north and south. The floor comprised modern timber and the ceiling was finished with modern boards in the northern part, although a structural beam orientated north/south was visible, while the beam and joists were exposed in the southern room. The southern room was reached by stone stairs from Room G9 and had fitted shelves and cupboards on all walls. All the walls in the north room were painted white and were plain.





Plate 30: Southern part of Cellar D showing east elevation

4.3.5 **Ground floor, Room 1 (G1):** this room was used as an office and situated at the front (north) end of the building. The floor was timber floorboards with overlying modern carpet tiles, the ceiling was painted plaster. The north elevation had a large window with a timber sill and a 20-light timber casement. The walls were finished with wallpaper over plaster and there was a fitted dark timber cupboard. The east elevation had wallpaper on the upper part and dark brown painted timber on the lower part and fitted timber cupboards and shelves. The south elevation had the same decor as the west elevation and a window with a 16-light timber casement and a timber sill within splayed jambs. Built into the wall was a large safe with a plate marked "Milners Patent Fire Resisting Strong Holdfast Safe". The west elevation had the same decor as the north and west elevations and also had fitted timber shelves and a white cabinet the doors of which each have eight lights. A small fireplace with a timber surround, green tiles, and a modern gas fire was also present beneath the cabinet. There was also another small safe with a polished steel door and a timber surround painted green. Around the top of the elevation was a decorative timber shelf painted dark brown with a bevelled edge.



**Plate 31: Room G1, west elevation, fireplace and cabinet**

4.3.6 **Ground floor, Room 2 (G2):** This room had been used as a packing and despatch room and had timber floorboards, with a plank and batten hatch into the cellar with a simple handrail around on the east side, and green painted beams supporting the ceiling, which was otherwise finished with plaster. Attached to the beams along the east side of the room were a row of three hanging square iron loops, with another against the south elevation. The north elevation was finished with white plaster had a doorway with a reinforced timber door with glass overlight and splayed jambs. A window with a 16-light timber casement and fitted timber shelves painted green were also present in the centre and fitted counter with drawers and shelves to the east of this. The east elevation was also finished with white plaster and had a doorway with a green timber and frame leading into Room G1. A large fitted counter incorporating shelves and draws ran the length of the elevation to the south of the doorway. The south elevation was finished with white painted plaster and had a single-light window looking into Room G3 there were also doorways with two timber surrounds also leading into Room G3. The west elevation was finished with painted plaster and had three timber steps up to a doorway with a timber surround painted green, and there were also fitted timber shelves painted green to the north.



**Plate 32: Iron loops attached to the beams along the east and south sides of Room G2**



**Plate 33: Counter and shelves on the east side of the north elevation of Room G2**



**Plate 34: Counter against the east elevation of Room G2**

4.3.7 **Ground floor, Room 3 (G3):** the floor was finished with linoleum floor and the ceiling with polystyrene tiles with two iron machine fittings attached to timber beams with Baltic marks. All of the walls were finished with white painted plaster. The north elevation had two doorways with timber surrounds leading into Room G2 and a window with a timber casement looking into Room G2. There was also a small aperture in the wall between the doors with splayed jambs and a small timber shelf. The east elevation had two windows with 16-light timber casements in splayed jambs. The south elevation had exposed pipework and a doorway with a timber surround leading into Room G4. The west elevation was partially timber and had a modern heater and exposed pipes attached.



**Plate 35: South elevation of Room G3**

4.3.8 **Ground floor, Room 4 (G4):** this room had a large stone flagged floor, with the majority of the floor formed by only four flags spanning the entire width of the room. Many of these have holes were

machinery has presumably been fitted, and there is a timber plank and batten hatch into the basement on the east side. The ceiling comprised timber boards, with a section near the centre orientated diagonally compared to the rest, and a short section of drive shaft with three drive wheels attached on the south-east side plus two further blocks against on the south side that probably originally also held drive shafts. There was also a hatch into the floor above on the west side. All of the walls were finished with painted plaster. The north elevation had a doorway with a timber surround leading into Room G3 and a square aperture at the top of the wall, evidently corresponding with a drive belt running from the drive shaft to the south-east. The east elevation had a window with a 20-light timber casement with splayed jambs and timber sill. The south elevation had a step on the east side immediately beyond which was a doorway with a timber surround and plank and batten door with stone step up into Room G5. The west elevation had a modern heater and modern timber fittings attached as well as doorway on the south side with a plain timber surround that ran to a timber ramp down into Room G6.



**Plate 36: Stone flag floor in Room G4**



**Plate 37: Drive shaft and adjacent hatch on the south-west side of the ceiling of Room G4**

**4.3.9 Ground floor, Room 5 (G5):** this was a small room with a stone flagged floor and a roughly plastered ceiling and all of the elevations were plain white paint over plaster. There was a doorway with a timber surround in the south elevation and an arched window a timber casement, partially blocked, in the west elevation and a small air vent in the north elevation, although the east end of this elevation stepped back to form a wide alcove.



**Plate 38: Room 5 west facing elevation**

**3.3.10 Ground floor Room 6 (G6):** this room was a purpose built industrial workroom and contained heavy machinery and would have once contained the steam boiler as a replacement oil powered engine was still present. The room was partially stone flagged with concrete also present including some raised areas, on which were relatively late pieces of machinery, although a regulator, marked 'Budenburg Steel Tube Pressure Gauge Broadheath Manchester' in the north-west side, and a steam press of largely timber construction to the south appeared to be earlier and was marked 'Brook Motors Huddersfield'. The roof was of a steep pitch, glazed on the west side and otherwise painted timber with a complex truss comprising a pair of steeply angled tie-beam types each with a single angled brace, the west with an additional vertical post attached. Various drive shafts with associated belt drive wheels remain *in situ* as well as other associated fittings. The north elevation comprised rough stone, painted white, with exposed metal pipes, with a wide doorway into Room G7 on the west side and a window looking into Room G7, with splayed jambs and a timber casement with bars over to the east. In the north-east corner there was a large brick chimney, presumably for the original steam engine, with a small blocked opening evident in its east face. The east elevation was rough stone painted white with a doorway into Room G5 up a timber ramp. A modern timber platform protruded from the south end of this wall and there were a number of bearing boxes relating to the extant drive shafts as well as a green painted ornate drive wheel. The south elevation was rough stone painted white with the projecting modern timber platform across the east side. A large sliding door with timber lintel was present to the west of this and provided access to the alleyway to the exterior. The west elevation comprised rough stonework painted white with exposed metal pipes.



Plate 39: Trusses in Room G6



**Plate 40: Extant drive shafts and wheels in Room G6**



**Plate 41: Extant pressure gauge on the north-west side of Room G6**





**Plate 42: Extant steam press in Room G7**

3.3.11 **Ground floor, Room 7 (G7):** this room had a concrete floor with remnants of metal fittings and a timber ceiling with a double doored hatch to the upper floor. A large iron steam press with a marker's plate marked 'J Crowther Co Huddersfield' was still *in situ* on the east side of the room, and there are timber fittings on the west side for others that are now missing. The north elevation was rough stonework painted white and had a large opening on the west side and a large metal safe built into the wall to the east of this with metal shelving. The east elevation wall was rough stonework painted white with a modern electric heater attached. The south elevation had a heavy timber workbench and storage platform above below which was a very large window with splayed jambs, a 20-light timber casement and timber sill looking into the yard adjoining Room 6. To the west of this was a plain doorway leading to a concrete ramp into Room G6. The west elevation had rough stone walls painted white with scars in corresponding to the fittings for former steam presses below.



**Plate 43 (left): Extant steam press in Room G7, with safe built into the wall to the north**  
**Plate 44 (right): Scar and fittings of former steam press against the west elevation of Room G7**



**Plate 45: South elevation of Room G7**

3.3.12 **Ground Floor, Room 8 (G8):** the floor comprised timber boards with the ceiling painted plaster with some attached brackets and bolts projecting through from the floor above. The north elevation comprised white painted walls over lower timber planking, with a large double doorway on the west side with a timber plank and batten door to the exterior with round head containing a single light. To the east was a single window with a round head, splayed jambs and a timber casement and sill. The lower part of the east elevation was also finished with timber planks and the upper half painted plaster, with a doorway on the south side with a plain timber surround. The south elevation also had timber planks over the lower part and white painted plaster on the upper half and a large doorway into Room G7 with a timber surround. The west elevation was plain but the lower half was finished with much heavier planks than the rest, laid horizontally.



**Plate 46: Room 8 south facing elevation**

3.3.13 **Ground floor Room 9 (G9)**: this room comprised an internal hall way connecting to the stairs and an outer hallway running north/south connecting a door onto Lowther Street to the north with a passageway leading to a yard in the centre of the complex. The internal hall had a timber board floor while the linking passage was stone flagged and part concrete floor. The ceilings throughout were finished with painted plaster and the stairs very plain with a plain hand rail, with a doorway to the east of them leading into a small toilet and access behind them, to the south, to the cellar. The walls were typically finished with plaster and paint and were relatively unremarkable, with the exception of there being doorways to the north and south of early plank and batten type.



Plate 47(left): Stairs in Room G9

Plate 48(right): Doorway leading onto Lowther Street in the north/south passageway forming part of Room G9

3.3.14 **Ground Floor, Room 10 (G10)**: this had a timber floor and a plaster ceiling, and a timber workbench ran around the north, east and south elevations but all off the walls are otherwise painted plaster. The north elevation had a window with a timber 12-light casement and a timber sill. The east elevation had a fitted timber cupboard and white plastered walls. The south elevation had white plastered walls and had a timber stud wall of plank construction set at an angle across it housing a doorway with a six-panel door. The west elevation had white plastered walls and a blocked fireplace with a plain stone surround and projecting mantel.



**Plate 49: Oblique view of the east and south elevations of Room G10**



**Plate 50 (left): Panelled door in the south-west corner of Room G10**



**Plate 51 (right): Blocked fireplace on the west side of Room G10**

3.3.15 **First floor Room 11 (F11)**: this room had been used as a storeroom and had a timber floor and a plastered ceiling and a timber mezzanine floor on the south side and part of the east. The north elevation had green painted timber planks over the lower half and white painted plaster upper part and a small window with a modern timber surround. All of the other walls were finished in the same way, the west also housing a large doorway on its north side.



Plate 52: North elevation, Room 11

3.3.16 **First floor Room 12 (F12)**: This room had heavy timber floorboards with a slightly raised platform abutting the east and west elevations. The ceiling comprised white painted timber and had a skylight with a metal casement. The north elevation had painted timber panelling on the lower half and was painted white on the upper half and had a window with a 16-light timber casement and splayed jambs and a long fitted workbench below. The east elevation had a green painted timber lower half and a white painted upper half and a large opening into Room 11 with a blocked rectangular aperture to the south that could have once been a hatch. The south elevation had green painted timber on the lower half and white painted plaster on the upper half and a tall doorway into Room 13 with splayed jambs and a two-light overlight. The west elevation had a green painted timber over the lower part and a white painted upper half, with central doorway accessed by three timber steps and a fitted set of timber shelving to the north extending around the north-west corner.



**Plate 53: North elevation Room F12**

3.3.17 **First floor Room 13 (F13)**: this room had a timber floor and was open to the roof, which was supported by a single king post truss with angled braces, supporting a single purlin in each pitch. The rafters and ridge purlin were hidden by later boarding and there were two modern skylights. The north elevation was painted white and had a metal sink and sideboard attached with a cast iron tank set against the wall to the east of this. The east elevation had two windows each with 10-light timber casements and a large stainless-steel extractor fan attached in the centre. The south elevation was painted white and was plain. The lower part of the west elevation was finished with timber panels and stepped back on the south side. Two large stainless-steel storage bins within a timber frame construction were set against it.



**Plate 54: Truss in Room F13**



**Plate 55: Iron tank on the east side of the north elevation, Room F13**



**Plate 56: East elevation, Room F13**





**Plate 57: East elevation Room F13**

3.3.18 **First floor Room 14 (F14)**: this room had a timber floor and exposed beams with machine fittings comprising sections of drive shafts with associated drive wheels remaining on the south side and scars for others visible. A modern mezzanine room had also been created within the upper part of the south end of the room. The north elevation was painted white and plain. The east elevation had two windows housing 15 light timber casements and a doorway for a fire escape surrounded by an iron mesh. The south elevation was painted white and also plain. The west elevation was painted white and had a blocked window with splayed jambs and stone lintel and sill. A bearing box was set within the wall to the north of this below which was timber boxing, which presumably originally housed a drivebelt from the floor below ran from the floor to the ceiling. The room formed within the mezzanine (**Room 14a**) was accessed via a timber staircase. It had timber floor and a low ceiling open to the roof, which was supported by a king post truss with a pair of angled braces and a single purlin per pitch. The room was otherwise plainly decorated with no notable features, although the tops of windows visible on the east side of Room F14 were visible.



Plate 58: Drive shaft on the south side of Room F14



Plate 59: north elevation Room F14



Plate 60: Boxing for former drive belt, west side of Room F14



Plate 61: Truss in Room F14a

3.3.19 **First floor Room 15 (F15)**: this room comprised the first floor landing and incorporated the upper part of the main staircase which had a tall window with a round head and 10-light timber casement and sill to the south. The staircase to the north of this had a plain square-section newel post and balusters and simple moulded hand rail. The floor comprised heavy timber floor boards and the ceiling comprised polystyrene ceiling tiles and there was a large timber work desk in the south-east corner. The north elevation comprised a glass and timber partition wall. The east elevation was a plain, painted white, and had a wide doorway into Room F12. The south elevation had a window with a 12-light timber casement to the east of which was a timber and glass partition incorporating a doorway with a sliding door leading to the stairs. The east elevation was essentially plain, with a simple doorway into Room F18.



Plate 62 (left): Stairs and window within the stairwell, Room F15

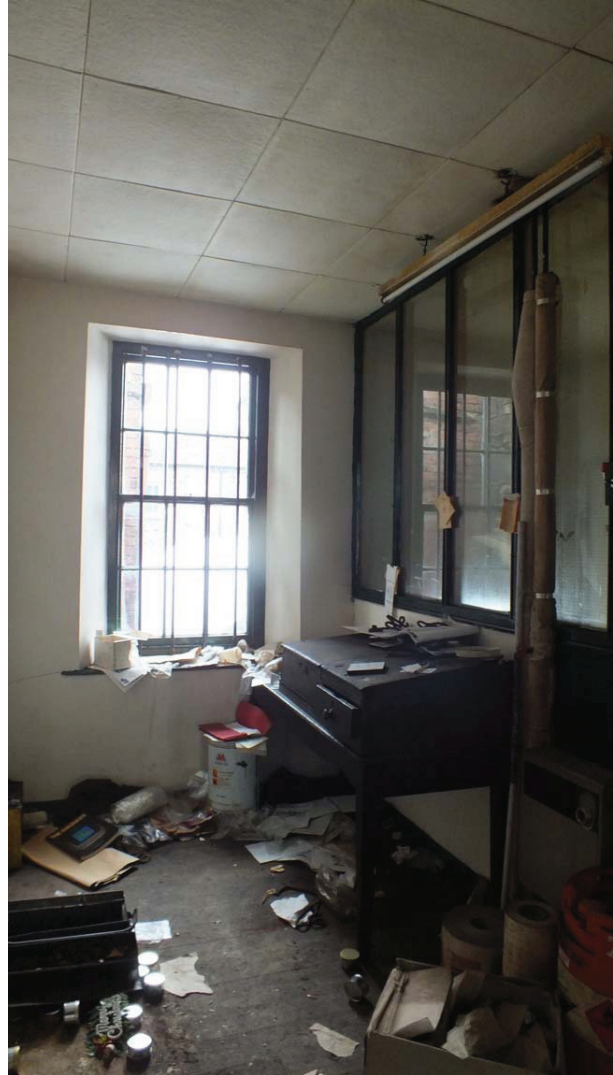


Plate 63 (right): East side of south elevation Room F15

3.3.20 **First floor Room 16 (F16)**: the floor of this room was finished with lino and it had a timber ceiling. On the west side of the centre of the room a piece of machinery was fixed to the floor with a plate marked 'CONVEYORS by P. MOORHOUSE & SON LIMITED 3 CHARLESWORTH STREET STOCKPORT phone 061-480 4578'. The north elevation was painted white and had two windows with 16-light casement timber casements with splayed jambs and timber sill seats. The east and west elevations were plain while the south comprised a timber and glass partition incorporating a doorway.



Plate 64: Machine in Room F16

3.3.21 **First floor Room 17 (F17)**: this room had a lino floor and a white painted plaster ceiling, the north elevation was painted white and had two windows with 12-light timber casement and splayed jambs. The east elevation had a timber skirting board and was painted white. The south elevation had painted timber planks on the lower half with painted plaster above and housed a doorway with timber surround and a modern plain panel door. The west elevation was also finished with planks on the south side and with plain boards to the north of this, with painted plaster above. In the centre the boards were clearly covering a fireplace.



Plate 65: West elevation Room 17

3.3.22 **First floor, Room 18 (F18)**: this had a heavy timber floor and a white painted plaster ceiling. The north and west elevations had a red painted timber lower part and a plain white upper half. The east elevation had a painted red timber lower half and housed a doorway on the north side with a plain

surround and fitted timber shelving on the upper part to the south of this. The south elevation had timber lower and plain upper halves with a window housing a modern timber casement with a low stone sill seat.



Plate 66: East elevation, Room 18

3.3.23 **Attics:** within the attics all of the walls were roughly finished with lime plaster over stone with low doorways linking the three different sections (one above rooms F17-18, one above Rooms F15-16, and one above Rooms F11-12). In the section over Rooms F17-18 the roof was supported by a very plain tie beam truss, the principals forming a lap joint, south on north, and with three purlins per pitch plus a ridge purlin. In other sections the roofs were supported by king post trusses with angled braces, with additional modern timber framing in the area over Room F12 raising a section in the south-east corner up to roof level.



Plate 67: Tie beam truss in the attic above Rooms F17-18



**Plate 68: King post truss in the attic above Room F12**

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Phasing

5.2.1 **Introduction:** the building recording and the documentary sources reveal that there are five main phases of development of the site.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (1783):** the earliest part of the site does not in fact relate to the tobacco industry at all and comprises the dispensary, which was constructed in 1783, shortly after the development of Lowther Street, which was created as a new street in 1782 between Highgate and the River Kent (Martin 2004, 63). This forms the western half of the north side of the building, probably corresponding with Rooms G7-10 and associated cellar and F15-18. The relatively detailed description of the dispensary (see Section 3.3.1 above) allows some reconstruction of which rooms were which in the present building, with G8 being the dispensary, the doctor's residence was perhaps on the first floor (accessed by the east door) although it may have been in a separate building to the west, and G7 probably containing the waiting room and surgery, which were originally divided by a timber screen. The architect for this work is not known, but it is feasible that it is the work the Websters, who are connected to other buildings on the street (Martin 2004, 66 and 70).

5.1.3 **Phase 2 (early 19<sup>th</sup> century):** the first snuff works on the site were established by Harrison and Brocklebank in the 1820s or 1830s at No. 27 Lowther Street, adjacent to the already established dispensary. This most likely corresponded with Rooms G1-5 and F11-14, although it is conceivable that the south end was a later extension but stylistically it continues the form of the rest of the building. Again the architect is uncertain, but it is clear that considerable care was taken with the finish of the front (north) elevation in particular, and it is again conceivable that this is the work of the Websters, especially given that they refurbished the adjoining No. 29 for Samuel Gawith in about the same period (Martin 2004, 70). The manner in which the building was used at this time is not clear but it is likely, based on later evidence, that it was primarily involved in the production of twist tobacco and snuff, rather than actual milling, which took place elsewhere. The nature of any processing that took place on Lowther Street is therefore uncertain, although it is likely that the large fireplace and alcove in the cellar below Rooms G2 and 3 were utilised in the drying of tobacco leaves (although the bricks used - PEASE and HUDSPITH, are both later 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, suggesting these features were relined later. PEASE bricks are from the North East and HUDSPITH bricks from Scotland; National Portrait Gallery 2018; Scottish Brick History 2018) and that these connected to a chimney at the north-east corner that is no longer present. The rooms at the front (north) end were probably offices and sales rooms, while the large rooms to the rear were undoubtedly workrooms and packing rooms.

5.1.4 **Phase 3 (mid-19<sup>th</sup> century):** the closure of the dispensary in 1848 led to an opportunity for expansion by the snuff works, but it was apparently not until 1862 that the building was acquired. It was presumably immediately incorporated into the existing business, although it is not clear what it was initially used for, but this is likely to be reflected in its later uses.

5.1.5 **Phase 4 (late 19<sup>th</sup> century – early 20<sup>th</sup> century):** the large, evidently purpose-built, workshop forming the south-west part of the site (Room G6) clearly represents that part of the building described as a 'recently erected shed or factory' in 1878. This evidently housed various pieces of machinery, presumably powered by a steam engine, which is likely to have connected to the large chimney, which was originally much taller than it is now. However, this is described as a 'steam chimney' in 1878 so was presumably used for allowing steam from the presses to escape, which indicates that this addition housed steam presses from its initial phase of construction. The drive shafts indicate that other equipment was also present, presumably precursors to the cutting and sorting machines described later. This phase most probably resulted in increased mechanisation throughout the complex, with the extant drive shafts in the adjoining areas to the east, some of which connect to Room G6, no doubt also added at this time. Some plant from this period still remains; the pressure gauge in Room G6 must date to after 1914-1918 at which time the company moved to Broadheath and became known as the Budenburg Gauge Co (Grace's Guide Ltd 2017a), while the steam press in the same room made by Brook of Huddersfield is likely to be of similar date (Grace's Guide Ltd 2017b), although that in G7 may be earlier



(Grace's Guide Ltd 2017c) on the basis of the maker's plates, although more research would be necessary to confirm this.

**5.1.6 Phase 5 (20<sup>th</sup> century):** the continued use of the site into the 20<sup>th</sup> century means that there were a considerable number of alterations well into this period. However, it is clear from the images of the interior and the form of much of the surviving plant and machinery that most of these changes related to improvements made in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, no doubt with the introduction of electricity and removal of earlier steam engines. The plans recovered from site and the first-hand accounts of the operation of the site demonstrate the manner in which it was used during this period, with the rear (south) part of the building primarily used for processing the tobacco and snuff, and the front (north) used for packing and distribution, much as it probably had done for over a century, although the upper floors seem to have become used more for processing than they were originally. More recent changes have been more superficial and primarily for practical reasons such as the installation of a first floor fire escape. However, more substantial ones include the blocking up of the original first floor loading door in the north elevation, leaving only a small window, and alterations to the ceiling to expose it to the roof in Room F12, and the replacement of the original 'Turk' statue on the front of the building.

## 5.2 Significance

**5.2.1** The building represents an important historic and industrial structure in Kendal, not only for its connection to what was one of the town's major industries, but also because of the surviving phases of evidence relating to the developing technology of the snuff and tobacco industry but the earlier dispensary too. It is unlikely that there are many surviving snuff works of such an early date in the country or many with so much surviving evidence of the early power systems and machinery. Archaeological investigations into buildings associated with the snuff and tobacco industry are relatively rare, especially in Cumbria despite the importance of Kendal and also Whitehaven to the trade; Whitehaven largely acted as a redistribution centre for tobacco but it was producing snuff by at least 1733 (Eaglesham 1979, 10). Where structures connected with snuff and tobacco manufacture have been investigated they have tended to comprise the water-powered snuff mills, where the tobacco was ground, rather than the processing areas (Marshall and Davies-Sheil 1969, 101-102; Baglee and Nolan 2009; Cumbria Industrial History Society 2017, 71-74). It is important to note, however, that the buildings at 25-27 Lowther Street only represent a relatively small part of the wider process, essentially just the finishing, packaging, and distribution of the finished products, and that the initial milling of tobacco into snuff was carried out elsewhere.

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## Appendix 1: Listed Building Details

Name: SNUFF WORKS

List entry Number: 1311904

### Location:

29, LOWTHER STREET SNUFF WORKS, 25 AND 27, LOWTHER STREET

County: Cumbria

District: South Lakeland

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Kendal

Grade: II

Date first listed: 30-Jan-1985

UID: 75437

### List entry Description

SD 5192 NE KENDAL LOWTHER STREET (South side)

8/95 Nos 25 & 27 (Snuff Works)

G.V. II

Manufactory and offices on sloping site; c1782 with later additions and alterations. Small limestone blocks on plinth with 1st floor sill band; cornice to no 27. Graduated slate roofs; stone mid and end chimneys to no 25, stone mid chimney to lower roof of no 27. 2 storeys. No 25 four bays: Panelled double door, with semicircular fanlight, on right in stone surround with projecting impost, and keystone with Greek (?) letters; 2 semicircular-headed fixed windows (with recessed aprons) and panelled door, with radiating semicircular fanlight, on left. 4 sashes above. No 27, three bays: C20 panelled door and rectangular fanlight with sash and shop window to left; sash and C20 casement above, with trade sign between. Original windows have glazing bars.

Listing NGR: SD5159292627

National Grid Reference: SD 51592 92627