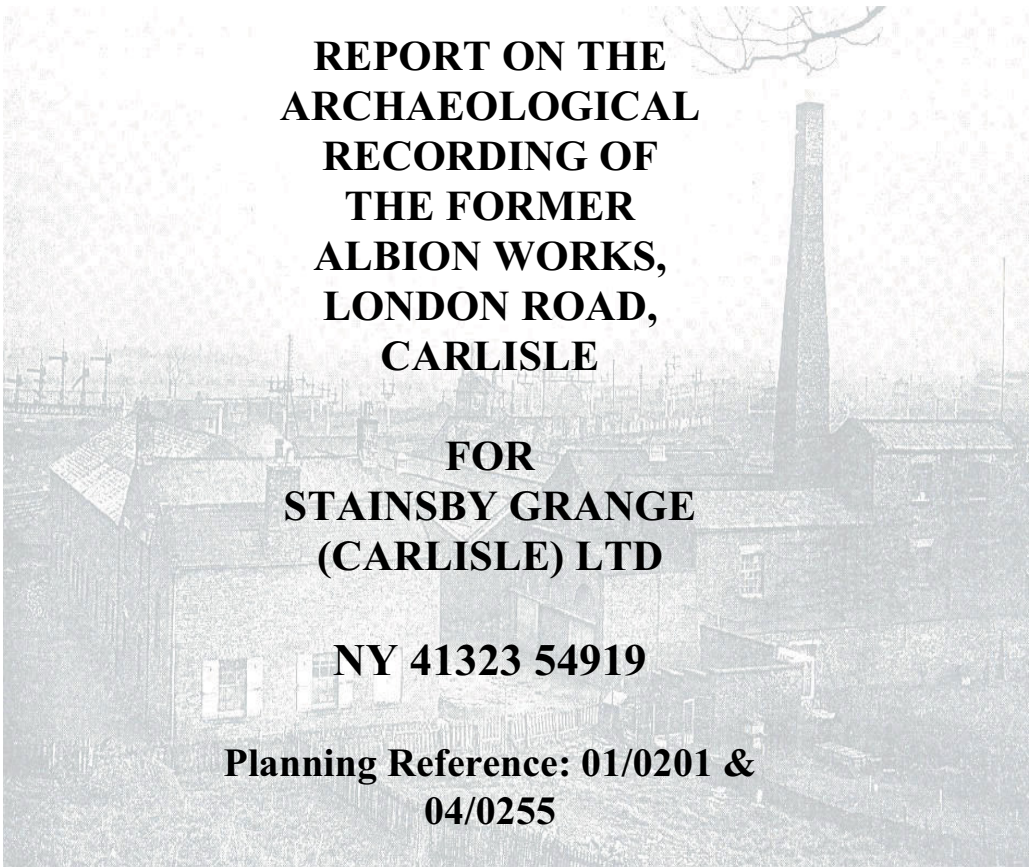

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. CP/109/04



**REPORT ON THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RECORDING OF
THE FORMER
ALBION WORKS,
LONDON ROAD,
CARLISLE**

**FOR
STAINSBY GRANGE
(CARLISLE) LTD**

NY 41323 54919

**Planning Reference: 01/0201 &
04/0255**

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29th July 2005



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between March and June 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment, field evaluation and photographic survey on land at and adjacent to the site of the Mains Cotton Mill, London Road, Carlisle. The work was requested in a brief provided by Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service, in response to a planning application for a non-food DIY retail store, car parking and access and a Fast Food Restaurant with Related Car Parking and Servicing (Planning Application Reference 01/0201 and 04/0255).

The present report is a summary of the photographic survey of the site of the Mains Cotton Mill and completes archaeological work on the site as per the brief issued on 21st July 2004.

The study involved the production of a photographic record of all significant historic features of the earliest surviving fabric on the site of the Mains Cotton Mill. There are a number of interesting remains associated with at least the late Victorian phase.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the following people and institutions who gave help and assistance during the compilation of this report: Jo Mackintosh of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record, David Williams of Stainsby Grange, Denis Perriam, Alan James and all the staff at the County Record Office, Carlisle.

The report was written by Chris Jones BA, MA, NPA Archaeologist and edited by Juliet Reeves BA. Overall responsibility for the project rested with Frank Giocco BA, Dip Arch, NPA Principal Archaeologist.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook a photographic survey of historic structures at the site of the Mains Cotton Mill, London Road, Carlisle. The work was commissioned by Stainsby Grange (Carlisle) Ltd in advance of a proposed retail development.
- 1.2 The original mill was built in the late 18th century on a site adjacent to Mains House. A piece in the Carlisle Journal of 1818 makes reference to the factory as having been in operation for 19 years (Denis Perriam, pers comm.). In 1856 a disastrous fire destroyed much of the original factory, which was rebuilt in 1857 including a new building to house power looms. The factory was taken over in late 1939 by James Bendall.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.1.1 The Assessment involved the consultation of the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest and any other, non-designated sites within the study area, which included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings And Conservation Areas.
- 2.1.2 An electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.
- 2.1.3 Further documentary study was undertaken at the County Record Office, Carlisle, which involved the collection of all relevant historical maps and documents including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps.
- 2.1.4 The desk study was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1994).

2.2 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 2.2.1 A photographic assessment was undertaken of the area formerly occupied by the Mains Cotton Mill. The aim of the survey was to identify and record all significant historical features in order to ensure their preservation by record. The survey involved the production of a photographic archive, which comprised digital colour and 35mm Colour Print, Colour Slide and Monochrome film.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In c.1799, Mains Mill was constructed on land granted to a William Halton of Carlisle by William Taylor, a surgeon at Greenwich Hospital. William Halton had gone into partnership with Edward Rothwell, who had been in business on English Damside¹, and it would appear that Halton provided the capital for the mill's construction. Jollie's *'Guide to Carlisle'* (1811) lists William Halton as a partner in the Mains Cotton Mill and Edward Rothwell and Co at the cotton twist mill, Mains.
- 3.2 There appears to be very little documentary evidence for this early mill, although there is a drawing in the collection at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery which gives a good indication as the size of the building. Carmichael's drawing of 1835 shows the mill as seen from the east, prior to the construction of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway (figure 1). This mill would have dominated the landscape when approaching Carlisle from the south, and from this early drawing it would appear that Mains Mill would have been comparable with the later Shaddon Mill on Shaddongate, Carlisle.



Figure 1 – Mains Cotton Mill as seen from the east, with the mill owner's house visible to the far left. J Carmichael 1835, Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Collection

¹ Perriam, D, Cumberland News, 29th December 2000

- 3.3 There is a detailed description of the mill given in an article dated December 5th 1856 in the Carlisle Journal, sadly after the mills destruction by fire: -
‘The Mains cotton mill was situated about a mile from the town on the London road and was one of the oldest monuments on the neighbourhood of that cotton trade which has now become the staple manufacture of Carlisle. It was a large brick built building, running from east to west – the western end being some thirty or forty yards from the highway, and the opposite extremity abutting upon the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway’.
- 3.4 The use of brick as a building material for a mill of such a large scale at the end of the 18th century seems rather unusual as comparative mills such as Langthwaite Mill at Warwick Bridge (built in 1790 by the Ferguson family) and Shaddon Mill (built by the Dixon family in 1836) were both of squared sandstone masonry. Bricks were certainly being manufactured in Carlisle and surrounding areas from at least the 17th century with no doubt some kilns in operation prior to that. Known sites for brick manufacture in Carlisle include Murrell Hill (Dalston Road), Etterby, Gosling Sike (Stanwix) and Botcherby, where a brick-built house has a date of 1700 in its gable end². Given the vicinity of the brick works at Botcherby to The Mains mill site, it was presumably seen as a cheaper option to use brick in the mills construction.
‘The factory consisted of a large six storey building in the centre, at the west end of which, and next the military road, stood the engine house, and at the other end was a five storey building, having at its eastern end a lesser structure, which was used as a mechanics shop. This portion of the building was called the ‘old part’, although from what we can hear, the main division was built along with it, with the exception of the uppermost storey, which was added to the original pile about 20 years ago [c.1836]. Some years before that, the old water-wheel, which formerly drove the machinery, was replaced by a steam engine’. Carlisle Journal 1856.
- 3.5 A note in the Dean and Chapter’s Court Books of 1819 reports how *‘Admiral Wm Taylor had erected a steam engine and had ceased to use the water’*³. The use of steam power for driving machinery in cotton mills began towards the end of the 18th century after James Watt perfected a rotative engine in 1782, the first use of this type of engine appears to have been at Papplewick Mill in Nottinghamshire in 1786⁴. Nevertheless, water-power remained the dominant source of energy in manufacturing well into the 1820’s, so the utilisation of steam at The Mains was at a fairly early date; steam-power was not used at Langthwaite Cotton Mill at Warwick Bridge until 1832⁵. Prior to the change to steam-power, the machinery would have been driven by water, although little is known about the size of the water-wheel itself. A report in the Cumberland Pacquet of 7th February 1809 describes how after floods on the River Petteril *‘part of the stone weir and sluice of the cotton mill belonging to Messrs Rothwell & Co was carried away by the floods’*. Whether this event was the impetus for the conversion to steam-power is difficult to say.

² Jones, B.C., 1983, Page 128

³ Dean and Chapter Lease Account/11, Page 9, item 7, 1819 – Carlisle Record Office

⁴ Stratton, M and Trinder, B, *Industrial England*, 1997, Page 27

⁵ Towill, S, 1996, Page 29

- 3.6 The interior of the mill was also well described by the report in the Carlisle Journal in 1856; -

'The ground floor of the old part of the factory was the cotton – room, which extended the full length of that section. This was the room in which the cotton, after being brought from the out-house, was 'drubbed' or 'teased', the machinery which performed this operation being technically celled 'the devil'. Above this department of the factory was a reeling shop, having at one end the manager's room. The third storey contained three pairs of bobbin frames and a pair of spinning wheels, two of them being arranged crosswise of the building and the other two lengthwise. In the fourth storey were four pairs of bobbin frames, all standing across the building. The fifth storey was a spinning shop'.

- 3.7 The report then goes on to describe the main section of the mill, which had, at ground and first floor levels, carding rooms where the raw cotton would have been straightened on machines such as that illustrated in figure 2. On the second floor there was a room that contained two and a half pairs of self-acting spinning wheels arranged east and west along the building, which had only just been installed nine months prior to the fire. These spinning wheels would have spun the cotton into a strong thread ready for use in textiles. On the fourth, fifth and sixth floors were 'mule' spinning wheels, which would have been operated by hand.

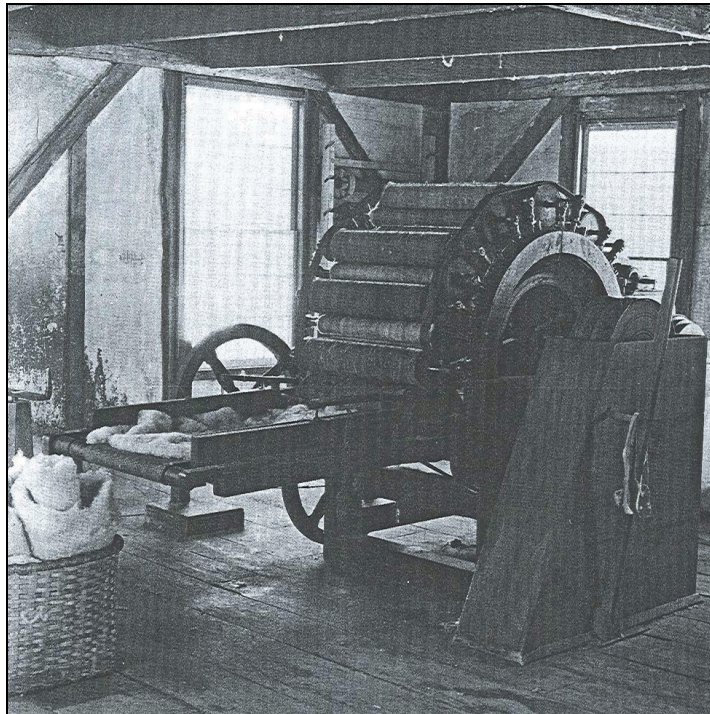


Figure 2 - An example of a carding machine which straightened the cotton fibres ready for spinning, this device replaced the hand held carding combs used in domestic cotton preparation

- 3.8 Other buildings on the mill site can be observed on the Tithe Map of 1847 (figure 3) and are also referred to in the Journal report. The structures to the south-west of the main mill building on Figure 3 was the mill owners house; this house was still standing in 1946 as it is present on the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map of that date.
- 3.9 The detached out-buildings to the north-west of the main building were used as an office, and for the storage of cotton.
- 3.10 The Tithe Map also provides information on the ownership and tenure of the land around Mains Mill. Plot 63, which is the area of land to the south-east of the mill site shown on Figure 3, was owned by the Trustees of Admiral Taylor and was occupied by a James Robinson and is described as 'Holme' pasture of 4 acres, 3 roods and 20 perches. Plots 67 and 68, the two fields to the west of the main mill were also owned by the Trustees of Admiral Taylor and were occupied by Rothwell & Co, these fields of 1 acre each were known as Gallows Hill Field.



Figure 3 – Tithe Map of 1847 ‘Botchardgate Township’ in the Parish of St Cuthbert

- 3.11 Parts of the steam engine for the mill, which was installed some time around 1819, appear not to have been capable of producing the amount of power required for the operation of the mill by 1834. An article in the Carlisle Journal of 15th November 1834 contains the following sales notice: -

By private contract (having been taken out and replaced with those of greater power) a steam cased cylinder, 24 ½ in. diameter, 5 feet stroke, with polished cover bottom piston rod, side pipes, with brass seats, lifting rods etc, complete A1-pump, bucket and rod, made by Messrs Rothwell Hick & Co, Bolton-le-Moors’.

- 3.12 The steam engine would have required coal as fuel and it is likely that this resource came from the Gilsland area. Slater's Directory of Cumberland 1876 describes how the Barony of Gilsland '*abounds with excellent coal and from this district it is that Carlisle is chiefly supplied*'. The transportation of the coal was greatly aided by the construction of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, with the section of line between Carlisle and Blenkinsopp Colliery Greenhead completed in 1836⁶. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 (showing the later mill) shows a 'Coal and Lime Depot' located off the railway sidings to the north-west of the mill site (figure 4).
- 3.13 According to Parson and White writing in 1829⁷, nearly all the raw material for cotton spinning mills in the north was brought into Britain through the ports of Liverpool and Glasgow. Most of the cotton goods manufactured in Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Cumberland were, again according to Parson and White, sold in the 'great emporium' of Manchester.

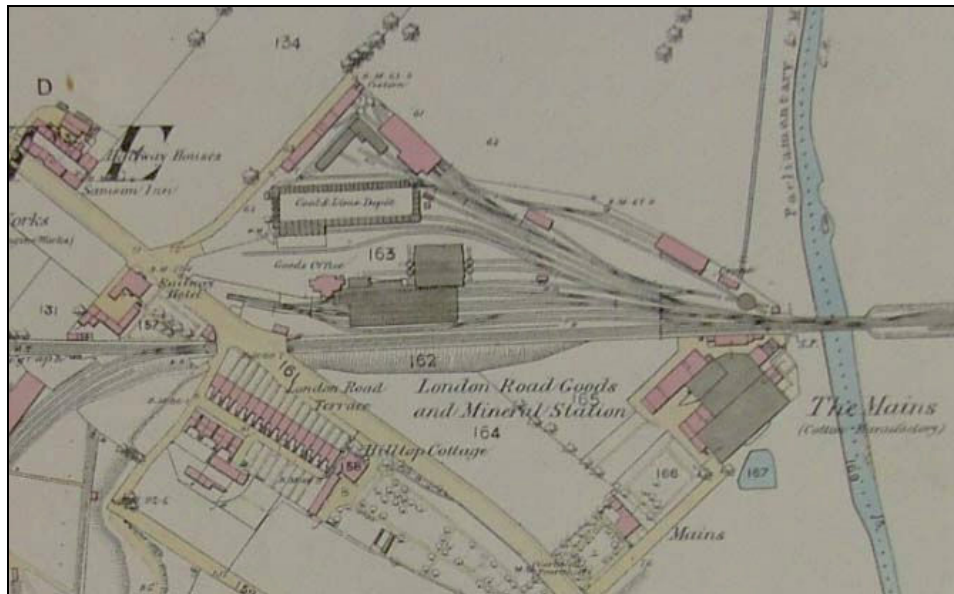


Figure 4 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 (25" to 1 mile), showing the rebuilt mill in relation to the railway and coal depot

- 3.14 Prior to the devastating fire in 1856, it would appear that Mains Mill, still operated by Rothwell & Co, was up for sale. The Carlisle Journal of 12th October 1855 carried an advertisement: -

'To be sold by private contract, all those very valuable premises consisting of the cotton mill, managers house, garden and close of land called Mains Mill, near Carlisle...The mill contains upwards of 11,000 spindles, nearly one fourth of which are self-acting, with all necessary preparation of carding, drawing, slubbing and roving frames, driven by a steam engine of 26 horse power, all in excellent working order and now in full operation'.

⁶ Towill, S, 1996, Page 113

⁷ Parson and White, 1829, Page 152

- 3.15 The advertisement goes on to promote the convenient location of the mill in relation to the railway, as well as the potential for expansion. It would appear that no buyers came forward and the mill was again advertised for sale, this time by auction, in the Carlisle Journal 4th April 1856. What the reason for the sale was is presently unknown; perhaps future documentary research may uncover an answer, although the Journal reports that it was bought several months prior to the fire by Richard Rothwell (son of the former owner) and Mr Arthur Parker. But by December of the same year the mill's fate was sealed.
- 3.16 The cause of the fire which totally destroyed The Mains was speculated in the Carlisle Journal on the 5th December 1856:-
'On Wednesday morning, the hands [workers] commenced work at the usual hour, when not the least presentiment of the impending calamity was entertained. Breakfasts house arrived, and all went on smoothly again. During the forenoon the usual weekly supply of oil was delivered amongst the different departments – several gallons of highly inflammable matter being thus unwittingly applied as fuel to feed the conflagration. The first indication of fire presented itself in the cotton room at about half-past eleven, but what really generated the flame is yet wrapt in mystery'.
- 3.17 The Carlisle Journal suggested that the cause of the fire may have been that a stone or a piece of metal, which had been in amongst the cotton, had come into contact with the teeth a piece of machinery called the 'Devil', creating sparks due to the high speed at which the machinery revolved. Cotton and textile mills were notorious for the potential hazard of fire due to flammable dust. In an attempt to reduce the risk of fire, many mill owners constructed iron-framed buildings, the first of which was Ditherington Flax Mill in Shrewsbury (built 1796-7). The Journal report does not give any indication as to whether iron beams and columns had been used in the construction of the cotton mill, though the speed with which the fire is reported to have spread suggests otherwise. Textile and cotton mills were never immune to fire; the use of iron was more for damage limitation but if future documentary evidence does indicate that the mill had used iron within its structure, it would have been one of the earliest examples in the country.
- 3.18 The Journal goes on to report that delays in attending to the fire also exacerbated the fire. It seems that an overlooker proceeded into the city to alert the fire engines, without attempting to put out any of the flames, consequently by 12.30pm the roof had fallen in. What remained of the mill was the engine-house, the mechanics shop and just the fire-cracked walls of the main mill building. The Journal reported that, luckily, there had been no casualties.
- 3.19 The owners of Mains Mill undoubtedly had insurance, although no documentation relating to the mill appears to survive at Carlisle Record Office. By March of 1857, tenders were being requested for the erection of a building at the Mains⁸. By 1858, the Carlisle Directory lists Wm Parker & Co as being cotton manufacturers at The Mains, which suggests that at least some of the buildings at the Bendall's site dates from this time.

⁸ Carlisle Journal, 6th March 1857

- 3.20 By 1861, Mains Mill appears to have begun manufacturing textiles. Additions to power loom sheds are recorded in this year⁹, and the Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland of the same year lists Wm Parker & Co as gingham manufacturers, although the mill is also marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 as a cotton manufactory (figure 4).
- 3.21 In 1866 Mains Mill is up for sale, an advertisement in the Carlisle Journal of 5th January 1866 describes the mill as a power-loom factory: -
'The looms and manufacturing utensils are constructed for the production of coloured goods of from 1 – 5 colours in the weft. The works are at present continued in operation, a large business has been carried in for many years and there are facilities for considerable extension. The vacant ground is amply sufficient for the erection of a cotton spinning mill'.
- 3.22 It does not appear to have taken long to find a buyer, a week later the Carlisle Journal reported that the works had transferred from Messrs Parker & Co to John A Thomlinson (late of that firm) and Mr Buck of Dalston, who had entered into partnership¹⁰. This is presumably the same Mr Buck who was operating a cotton spinning and manufacturing business at Low Green Mill, Dalston in 1876¹¹.
- 3.23 Slater's Directory of Cumberland 1876 describes how Carlisle manufacturers embraced the weaving of checks, ginghams, other cotton and woollen cloth fabrics, calico printing and the manufacture of cotton twist. Two mills in the city appear to have been involved in both the spinning of cotton and the manufacture of check and gingham; the first is Thomlinson and Buck of The Mains Factory and the other was Ferguson Brothers at Holme Head Works, Denton Holme.
- 3.24 By November 1900, the mill had been purchased by Brown, Tran & Co (a firm that had been established in Wigton in 1889) which at the time was occupied by Cumberland Hosiery Co Ltd¹². A letterhead of Brown, Tran & Co, is kept at Carlisle Record Office, and it gives a good indication of the size of the mill (figures 5a and 5b). A photograph of c.1907 kept at Carlisle Library also provides us with information about the mill site (figure 6). A comparison of the two images, which are of a similar date, suggests however that there was some degree of artistic licence in the letterhead representation.

⁹ Ca/E4/656 Carlisle Record Office

¹⁰ Carlisle Journal 12th January 1866

¹¹ Slater's Directory of Cumberland 1876

¹² Carlisle Journal 9th November 1900



Figure 5a – Brown Tran & Co letterhead (Carlisle Record Office) (c.1900)

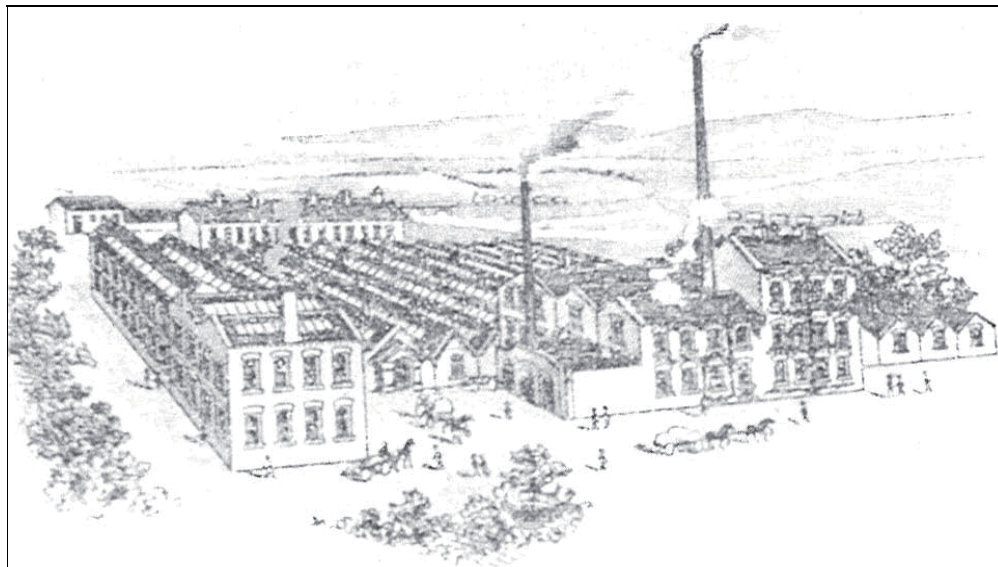


Figure 5b – An enlarged image of the mill shown on the letterhead, compare with the photograph of c.1907 (figure 6 below)



Figure 6 – Photograph of c.1907 showing the works as seen from the west

- 3.25 The letterhead above provides an approximate date of c.1900 for the change of name from Mains Mill to Albion Works, as well as a change in manufactured goods on the site, from gingham and cotton spinning to fancy flannels. The name ‘Mains’, continued on however, in the Mains Manufacturing Company which ran power-looms at Lamplugh Works in Rome Street¹³.
- 3.26 According to the Carlisle Journal Civic Week Supplement of August 1928, the company name changed in 1915 to Thomas Brown & Co (Carlisle) Ltd, and it goes on to describe additions to the mill site: -
- ‘The works are situated just off London Road, but few people realise what an enormous number of looms and weaving apparatus is contained in the buildings. The firm has been so successful in recent years that extensions have been made from time to time, and, as a matter of fact, workmen are at present engaged in building another large warehouse where additional producing plant will be installed...The extensions to the works have meant an increase in the number of employees, and now there are over 200 workers’.*
- 3.27 In her book, ‘A Suburb of Carlisle - Linton Holme’, Marie Dickens notes that the Albion Works were purchased by Mr James Bendall in November 1924, although it seems that the works were actually accommodating two businesses as the Carlisle Journal reports in 1930 that Messrs Thomas Brown & Co, Albion Works, had a successful year in 1929 with new plant machinery installed and additions made on site¹⁴.

¹³ T Bulmer & Co, History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland 1901, page 839

¹⁴ Carlisle Journal 3rd January 1930

- 3.28 The firm of Bendall's was established in Dumfries in 1884 by James Bendall as a sheet metal works and dairy utensil maker, although during the First World War the company was involved in the manufacture aeroplane petrol tanks, engine plates etc. After the war, James Bendall and his sons came to Carlisle and established the sheet metal works and motor body repair business¹⁵. The Carlisle Journal of 9th December 1949 carried an article about the firm describing how the company first had premises on Warwick Road, Carlisle (No.37). Business must have been good for the company as by 1929 new premises were built on Duke's Road. By 1939, the Duke's Road site was not large enough so Albion Works were purchased. This, however, contradicts that date of 1924 given by Dickens and therefore the Albion Works may not actually have occupied the two businesses of Bendall's and Thomas Brown & Co as mentioned above. At the date of this newspaper article the Albion Works site covered an area of 30,000 square feet, the repair shops themselves being able to accommodate a hundred cars¹⁶.
- 3.29 An air photograph taken on the 7th September 1932 shows the extent of the site, with the white mill owner's house in the centre of the shot. This building was demolished some time after 1946 (figure 7).



Figure 7 – Air photograph of 1932 shows the works centre-left, the original mill owner's house is in the centre of the photograph (now demolished)

- 3.30 In 2005, Bendall's transferred to premises at Kingstown Industrial Estate, to the north of the City of Carlisle.

¹⁵ Dickens, M, 1999, Page 11

¹⁶ Carlisle Journal 9th December 1949

4 SURVEY RESULTS

- 4.1 A photographic survey was undertaken on 10th May 2005 by Chris Jones and Alan James. This comprised the production of a photographic record of the interior and exterior of the present factory in order to record elements of the historic fabric. No evidence of the original late 18th century Mains cotton mill was observed during the survey, as the earliest surviving fabric appeared to date to the mid-late 19th century.
- 4.2 The Mains factory marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map does not correspond with the original mill marked on the 1847 tithe map. It is clear that the earliest surviving fabric dates to the factory marked on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions and illustrated in figures 5b and 6. This factory is marked as The Mains in 1865, 'hosiery works' in 1901 and Albion Works in 1925. The present Bendall's company offices, remnants of the post-1858 weaving or power loom sheds to the rear and an original two storey building to the west of the complex all closely resemble the post 1858 factory, rebuilt on the site of the earlier mill.



Plate 1: Interior of former power-loom shed.

- 4.3 There were some interesting historic elements visible inside the present complex, which included two of the post 1858 weaving sheds had survived and traces of fittings for the original machinery were visible among the fabric of the buildings. These comprised a series of upright pillars and ‘beam sockets’ associated with belt-driven machinery used in a textile mill.



Plate 2: Interior of former weaving or power loom shed.

- 4.4 A number of blocked apertures also indicate how the building has been adapted for different purposes during the past 150 years. A series of blocked archways was observed between the two weaving sheds, indicating that there was an open or controlled access between the two. There was also a strong indication that a range of buildings, visible on the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd editions, had been constructed to the rear of the weaving sheds, against the northern boundary of the factory, which have since been demolished. A rectangular building in this position is marked on the 1847 tithe map and the remains to the rear of the present factory are likely to be the sole survivors from the original mill complex.



Plate 3: Remains of buildings to the rear of main complex, next to the railway line.

- 4.5 A single chimney stack (Plate 4) over a probable boiler house and engine room are clearly visible adjoining the present office unit. This is probably the tallest of two stacks visible on figure 5b, although this is clearly much reduced (see also Plate 7). No trace of the smaller stack could be identified. A probable 19th or early 20th century boiler unit was also observed inside this building, although close inspection was not possible on health and safety grounds as this had been encased in asbestos.
- 4.6 There is also evidence for an original two storey building to the west of the complex, with the first floor now removed and the building presently forms a single room open to the roof. This building has a number of blocked windows which indicate a need for natural light, not required by the present engineering firm. This is probably the two storey building shown in figure 5b (see also Plate 8).
- 4.7 The building to the rear of the main complex, clearly visible on the 1847 tithe and as shown in figure 5b, appear to have been demolished since the illustration was prepared. It is apparent that the present Bendall's Engineering either had no use for these structures or they had fallen into ruin prior to the establishment of the present factory.



Plate 4: Chimney stack adjacent to office units. The chimney is probably the remains of the tallest of two stacks shown in a drawing of 1900 and surviving in a photograph of c. 1907.



Plate 5: Evidence of at least two phases of use. East elevation of former two-storey building.



Plate 6: Former two-storey building shown on figures 5b and 6.



Plate 7 (above) and Plate 8 (below): The present-day Bendall's Engineering.



5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The earliest surviving buildings of the present Bendall's factory date no earlier than 1858 when the factory was rebuilt following the disastrous fire of December 1856. Although the name 'Mains' is shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865, this refers to the rebuilt factory complex and not the original.
- 5.2 Elements of the 1858 rebuild were observed during the photographic survey, which revealed that the fabric of the factory has been adapted for a number of different uses between 1858 and the present day. The number of subsequent uses of the building has obscured much of the 1858 factory and only a few elements had survived as blocked apertures, pillars and beam-sockets which form an integral part of a functioning 19th century textile mill.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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7 APPENDIX

Cumberland Pacquet 7th February 1809

Floods on River Petteril, ‘part of the stone weir and sluice of the cotton mill belonging to Messrs Rothwell & Co was carried away by the floods but we have not heard that any other serious damage has been done by this river’.

Jollie’s Carlisle Guide and Directory 1811

‘On crossing Harraby Bridge the first object which attracts our attention is the Cotton Mill of Messrs Rothwell & Co, called The Mains to the right’.

Edward Rothwell & Co, Cotton Twists Mill, Mains

Carlisle Journal 26th March 1814

Edward Rothwell of Mains Cotton Works

Highway robbery – very much injured about head and £14 10s stolen between gallows Hill and Botcherby Road.

Carlisle Journal 27th June 1818

‘To show the healthiness of the employment in the Cotton Mill of Messrs Rothwell & Co, Mains, near this City, we have authority to state that in the period of nineteen years during which these works have been carried on only one death has taken place and that was of a young woman, occasioned by her imprudence in bathing when heated. These works are the first that were heated by steam in this neighbourhood and are well ventilated’.

Dean and Chapter Lease Account/11 (CRO)

1819 Chapter pg9

Item 7 – Admiral Wm Taylor (Mr Halton, Harraby Bridge, Spittle Crooks) had erected a steam engine and had ceased to use the water

A History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire – Parson and White 1829

Page 152 – Manufactures

‘The wealth and population of Carlisle and its vicinity have been greatly augmented during the last sixty years by the introduction and extension of the cotton manufacture, which first existed in England about the middle of the 17th century; but it was not until 1774 that fabrics made entirely of cotton was declared by an act of parliament to have been lately introduced, and allowed to be used as a ‘lawful and laudable manufacture’ ; subject to a duty of 3d per square yard on every piece that was ‘printed, painted or stained’. In 1781, two years before Arkwright’s

machinery for carding and spinning cotton was introduced into Manchester, the quantity of cotton wool imported amounted only to 5,198,778 lbs; 'but the successive inventions of Highs, Hargrave, Arkwright, Crompton and Watt, so astonishingly facilitated the manufacture that its extent has been increased ore than thirty fold'; so that the value of cotton goods manufactured in this kingdom, is now estimated at from thirty to forty millions of pounds sterling per annum; considerably more than one half of which is received for goods sold for home consumption. Lancashire is the great seat of this important manufacture, and Manchester is its grand emporium, where most of the cotton goods made in the counties of Lancaster, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Cumberland, and other districts are sold. Nearly the whole of the raw material is imported at Liverpool and Glasgow, whence immense quantities if goods are exported; and at the latter place, as well as at some other towns in Scotland, are many large cotton manufactories'.

Listed under Cotton Spinners: -

Rothwell & Co, Mains

Carlisle Journal 15th November 1834

By private contract (having been taken out and replaced with those of greater power) a steam cased cylinder, 24 ½ in. diameter, 5 feet stroke, with polished cover bottom piston rod, side pipes, with brass seats, lifting rods etc complete A1- pump, bucket and rod, made by Messrs Rothwell Hick & Co., Bolton-Le-Moors. For particulars apply to Messrs Rothwell & Co., Mains Cotton Works, Carlisle; if by letter post paid'.

Carlisle Journal 6th April 1839

'A most melancholy accident occurred in the cotton mill of Messrs Rothwell & Co at Mains near this City, in which a girl by the name of Rachel Brown, aged fifteen years lost her life. She was engaged in attending a part of the machinery in the carding room, and near the place where she was at work is an upright shaft having rotary motion. This is encased in tin, to within almost six inches of the top. The case is closed with wire pins which cannot be removed by hand, and so well is the joint formed that the opening in it is scarcely sufficient to admit of the insertion of a sixpence. Against the shaft, it seems the girl had been leaning (away from her work) and by some means which appear almost unaccountable a part of her dress had been drawn through the slight opening we have named, and revolving with the shaft soon drew her dress so tight about her that she was unable to cry out for assistance. She was seen almost immediately; but before the engine could be stopped her leg had got jammed between the shaft and a pillar and it was broken in two places; and she was otherwise seriously injured. She was conveyed home, and every attention paid to her that skill could suggest or humanity devise; but not withstanding every effort she gradually sunk, and died on Sunday. A coroner's inquest was held upon the body, and a verdict returned of accidental death. The parents of the deceased are poor but industrious people, with a large family, and were found in a state of great distress. We hope their case will be enquired into by the humane and charitable, and such relief afforded them as may be required'.

Carlisle Journal 9th September 1843

Obituary

‘At Halfway Houses, London Road on the first instance, Mr James Hargreaves, mechanic aged 82 years, much respected. He was upwards of thirty years in employment of Messrs Rothwell & Co, Mains, near this City...In early life he was considered one of the most skilled mechanics in Lancashire and some of the most eminent cotton spinners in the Kingdom bear testimony to the utility and value of his inventions’.

Mannix & Whellan Cumberland Directory 1847

Rothwell & Co, Mains, one of four large spinning mills in Carlisle, the others being Ptr Dixon & Sons, Fisher Street, Jos Ferguson, Holme Head and John Slater, Water Street. There are two further mills at Dalston, one at Warwick Bridge and another at Cummersdale – collectively there are about 122,000 spindles. Messrs Peter Dixon & Sons alone give employment in the various departments of their cotton works to about 8,000 hands.

Listed under Cotton Spinners: -

Ptr Dixon & Sons, Fisher Street

Jos Ferguson, Holme Head

Lowthian & Parker (& flax), Currock Works & Dalston

Rothwell & Co, Mains

John Slater, Water Street

Listed under Manufacturers: -

(cotton, gingham etc)

Ptr Dixon & Sons, Fisher Street

Ferguson Brothers, Holme Head

J R & J Ferguson, Ferguson’s Lane

J Ferguson & Co, West Walls

J & D Hewson, Drover’s Lane and Shaddongate

Lowthian & Parker, Currock Works and Dalston

Park & Toppin, 13 Scotch Street

J Pearson, English Damside

J Slater & Co, Water Street

Story, Carruthers and McGibbon, East Tower Street

William Wright, 68 English Street (linen)

Map of Botchardgate – Township in the Parish of St Cuthbert’s, Carlisle (Tithe Map) 1848 (Carlisle Record Office)

Mains

Plot 63 – Landowner, Trustees of Admiral Taylor, Occupier, James Robinson, land described as ‘Holme’, being pasture of 4 acres 3 roods and 20 perches.

Plots 67 and 68 – Landowner, Trustees of Admiral Taylor, Occupier, Rothwell & Co, described as Gallows Hill Field, 1 acre each.

Carlisle Journal 12th October 1855

‘To be sold by private contract, all those very valuable premises consisting of the cotton mill, managers house, garden and close of land, called Mains Mill, near Carlisle, in the county of Cumberland, hitherto carried on by Messrs Rothwell & Co. The mill contains upwards of 11,000 spindles, nearly one fourth of which are self-acting, with all necessary preparation of carding, drawing, slubbing and roving frames, driven by a steam engine of 26 horse power, all in excellent working order and now in full operation’.

‘The entire premises consist of about 3A or 3F, and are most conveniently situated adjoining to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Carlisle Railway Station, and offer every facility for carrying on an extensive manufacturing business, the vacant area affording ample space for additional buildings and improvements’.

Carlisle Journal 4th April 1856

By auction hitherto carried on by Messrs Rothwell & Co upwards of 11,000 spindles ¼ self acting etc, 26hp steam engine.

Manchester Guardian 26th April 1856

‘All those very valuable premises consisting of the Cotton Mill, Dwelling-house, gardens and Close of Land at and called the Mains Mill, near Carlisle, in the County of Cumberland, hitherto carried on by Messrs Rothwell and Co.....The Dwelling-house and Garden are of a very superior character, suitable for the residence of a gentleman occupying the mill’.

Carlisle Journal 5th December 1856

‘Destruction of the Mains Cotton Mill by fire’

Detailed report regarding the fire which also gives a history and description of the mill.

Carlisle Journal 6th March 1857

To be let by tender the erection of a building at the Mains, near Carlisle. Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of Mr James Stewart, Architect, on and after the 2nd March, where sealed Tenders must be delivered by 10 o'clock a.m., on Tuesday, the 10th. 40 Fisher Street, Carlisle, Feb 26th 1857.

Carlisle Directory 1858

Wm Parker & Co, The Mains, Cotton Manufacturers

Ca/E4/656 1861

Additions to power loom sheds for Messrs Parker & Co

Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland 1861

Wm Parker & Co, manufacturer of gingham

Carlisle Journal 5th January 1866

'To be disposed of by private contract the power-loom...factory called The Mains together with the engine, boilers, gearing, machinery, plant materials. The looms and manufacturing utensils are constructed for the production of coloured goods of from 1 – 5 colours in the weft. The works are at present continued in operation, a large business has been carried on for many years and there are facilities for considerable extension. The vacant ground is amply sufficient for the erection of a cotton spinning mill. Apply Edwin Hough Solicitor'.

Carlisle Journal 12th January 1866

Works transferred from Messrs W Parker & Co to John A Thomlinson (late of that firm) and Mr Buck of Dalston who have entered into partnership.

Carlisle Journal 24th April 1866

Strike of power loom weavers at Messrs Thomlinson & Buck at the Mains, now at an end.

Slater's Directory of Cumberland 1876

'The manufactures brought to perfection in Carlisle are of an important description – they embrace the weaving of checks, gingham, other cotton and woollen cloth fabrics, calico printing and the manufacture of cotton twist. Hats are made here; there are also extensive dye works and iron foundries in Carlisle and the immediate vicinity. The barony of Gilsland, twelve

miles to the east, abounds with excellent coal and from this district it is that Carlisle is chiefly supplied’.

Listed under Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers: -

Robert R Buck, Low Green Mill, Dalston

Jacob Cowen & Sons, Dalston

John Dalton & Sons (spinners), Cummersdale Mills

Ferguson Brothers, Holme Head Works

John Slater and Co, New Mill, Water Street

Thomlinson and Buck, The Mains Factory

Listed under Check and Gingham Manufacturers: -

Dixon & Sons Ltd, West Tower Street, Shaddongate and Warwick Bridge

Donald Brothers, Denton Hill Mill

Ferguson Brothers, Holme Head Works

Lowthian, Fairlie and Co, Carlisle

Thomlinson & Buck, The Mains Factory

Carlisle Journal 11th October 1889

Sarah Ann wife of Samuel S Rothwell formerly of the Mains aged 35 died at her residence in Australia.

Carlisle Journal 21st July 1893

27th – 28th July sale of a portion of mill plant – gives list

DB/43/210/2 – 1894-1897

Printed accounts and papers relating to the Mains Manufactory Co

Carlisle Journal 9th November 1900

Brown Tran & Co has purchased the whole of the extensive manufacturing premises etc known at Mains estate now occupied by Cumberland Hosiery Co Ltd.

DX/769/305/3

Mortgage of the Mains Factory [with plan] with adjoining building also dwelling house, garden.
Brown Tran & Co.

DX/769/332/23

Brown Tran & Co Ltd, Brookside Mills, Wigton – purchase of mills from Joseph Pattinson & Co Ltd and start of making fancy flannels.

T Bulmer & Co – History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland 1901

Page 839

‘The Mains Manufacturing Company run power-looms at Lamplugh works in Rome Street’

Page 902

Brown Tran & Co Ltd, fancy flannel manufacturers, London Road

Carlisle Journal 26th April 1901

Cumberland Hosiery Co, Mains Factory, London Road – Dismantling of the works, auction 15th May 1901.

Carlisle Journal 11th November 1913

Albion Mills – Brown Tran & Co, full description of workings

Carlisle Journal 9th February 1917

Death of J W Hewetson aged 60, manager until 2 or 3 years ago, entered service of Messrs Thomlinson & Buck at Mains factory, London Road as an office boy and on the dissolution of the partnership he remained in the employment of J R Thomlinson who continued to occupy Mains factory until a limited company formed and the business transferred to the present Lamplugh works under the Mains Manufactory Co Ltd.

Carlisle Journal 3rd August 1928, Civic Week Supplement

Albion Mills – In 1889 firm was established at Wigton [Brown Tran & Co], 3 years later premises found to be inadequate and Albion Mills taken over. In 1915 name altered to Thomas Brown & Co (Carlisle) Ltd.

‘The works are situated just off London Road, but few people realise what an enormous number of looms and weaving apparatus is contained in the buildings. The firm has been so successful in recent years that extensions have been made from time to time, and, as a matter of fact, workmen are at present engaged in building another large warehouse where additional

producing plant will be installed. The extensions to the works have meant an increase in the number of employees and now there are over 200 workers’.

Carlisle Journal 3rd January 1930

Messrs Thomas Brown & Co, Albion Works – successful year into 1930, new plant installed and additions.

Carlisle Journal 9th December 1949

Gives a description of the origins of Bendall's, as well as an insight into the goods manufactured by the firm.

Carlisle Directory 1953

131 London Road: -

S J Smith

James Brown – Mains House

Thomas Brown & Co Ltd

Cumberland News 29th December 2000

'The Mains: points of the news again' by Denis Perriam

Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Transactions, First, Second and Third Series, contain no references to The Mains, Rothwell & Co, or Albion Works.