

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING: 65 CATHERINE STREET ST ALBANS HERTFORDSHIRE

NGR: TL 1474 0769

on behalf of H & C Ltd



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September 2008

ASC: 1061/SAC/2



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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SAC	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1061
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	St Albans		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	St Albans		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 1474 0769		
<i>Present use:</i>	Former shop and associated building		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Conversion to apartments, with extensions		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Unknown		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	St Albans District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	8 th April 2008		
<i>Client:</i>	H&C Limited 168 Hillcroft Crescent Oxhey Watford Hertfordshire WD19 4NZ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Phillip Corbin		

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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In April 2008 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording of 65 Catherine Street, St Albans in order to inform proposals for the development involving buildings on the site. The building was constructed in 1904 to a design by local architect Percival Blow. It comprises a shop at the corner of St Catherine Street and Etna Street, a first floor flat and a yard, formerly used as mason's and then a builders yard, in Etna Street.

From the outside the building is an impressive example of late 19th/early 20th century commercial architecture. It was extended southwards by the early 1920s to provide an additional room on both floors that may have been used as workshop, office or store for the mason's yard. Further alterations took place when the window in the south elevation of the shop was bricked up, possibly when the conservatory was added sometime between 1939 and 1964.

These alterations have not seriously affected the architectural integrity of the building. The external details including the shop front with its ornamental pediment still provide the building and the local townscape with a great deal of character. To add to the character, the south wall contains ashlar clunch, which may have been reused from other sites in St Albans. The interior of the building is clearly in need of attention, having been largely neglected since the 1970s. The only features of interest that survive are the front staircase and the first floor fireplaces.

1 Introduction

1.1 In April 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out historic building recording of 65 Catherine Street, St Albans. The project was commissioned by Philip Corbin, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay 2008), following discussions with the St Albans District Council Archaeological Officer

1.2 *Planning Background*

This building recording project has been required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG15)*, in order to inform proposals for the development involving buildings on the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd (ASC) is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 **Management**

The assessment was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

1.5 **The Site**

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The site is located in the town and district of St Albans, at NGR TL 1474 0769 (Fig. 1). It occupies a rectangular area of c.650 square metres at the junction of Catherine Street and Etna Road, to the west of the town centre (Fig. 2). There are two linked buildings on the site, 65 Catherine Street and 2a Etna Road. Both are two-storey, of brick construction under slate roofs. No. 65 was formerly a shop, with accommodation above, and 2a appears to have been a dwelling. There is a small yard to the rear.

The site lies at an elevation of c.120m OD in an urban area, and soils are likely to have been modified or removed. Prior to development, soils in the site area were probably those of the Batcombe association, described as 'fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (Soil Survey 1983, 582a). The underlying geology comprises glacial gravel (BGS 1978, 239).

1.5.2 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises conversion of the existing buildings to apartments, including some new build.

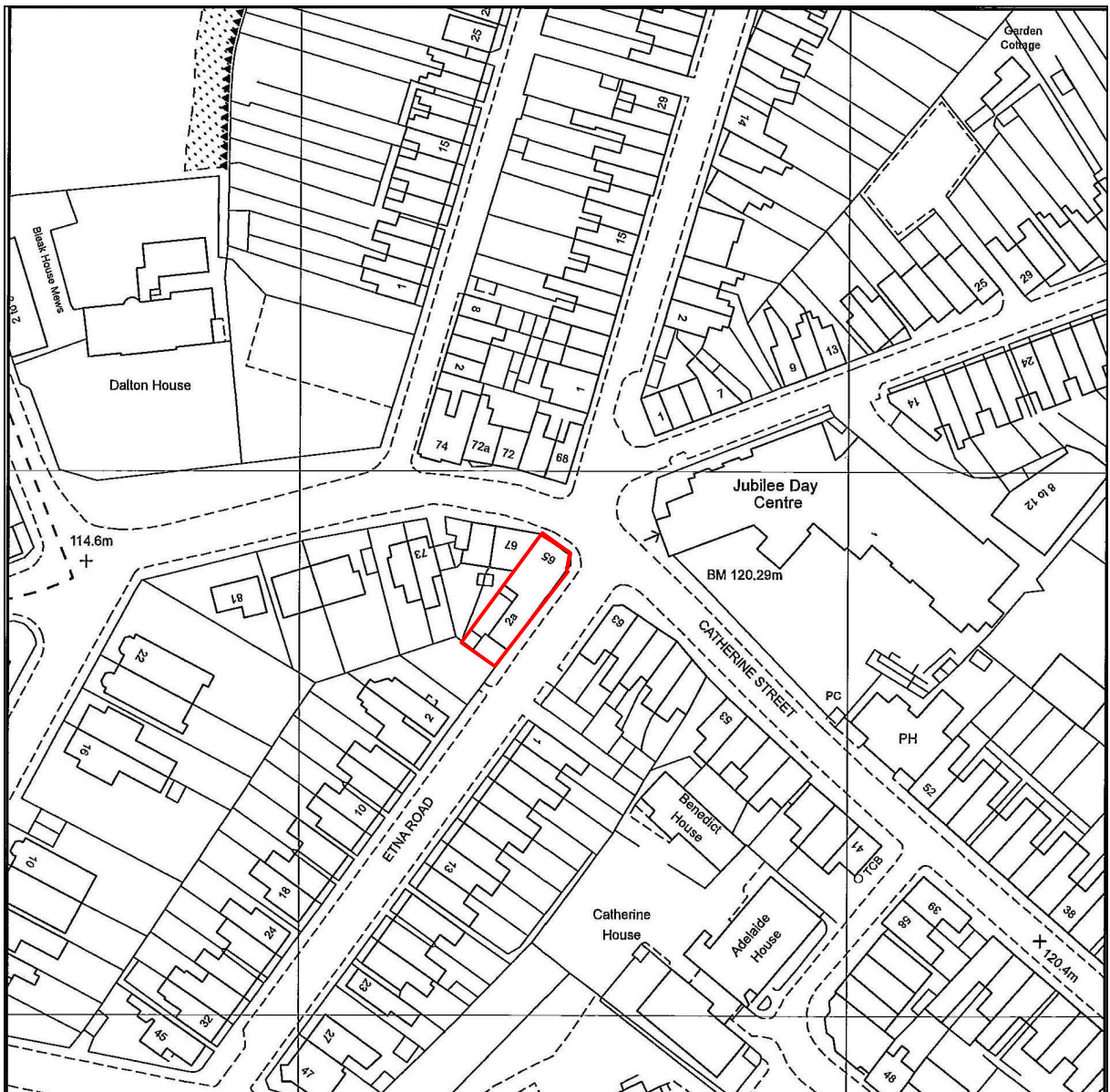


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1,250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of the project were:

Building Recording:

- To compile a detailed record of the structure(s) concerned, prior to refurbishment, conversion or demolition
- To ascertain the structural history and development of the building, within its local context
- To provide sufficient information on the historic and architectural significance of the building to inform proposals relating to its refurbishment/conversion.

2.2 Standards

The work conforms to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 2), which required:

- A historic building recording to English Heritage Level 3 (EH 2006).
- The preparation of a record of the architectural fragments in the rear boundary wall
- A watching brief on building works involving significant disturbance to the historic fabric of the building/s.

2.4 Constraints

The watching brief element of the job is currently on hold.

3 Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available historical background to the site and its environs. This section has been compiled with information from Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies (HALS) and ASC's own library.

3.2 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

The area was of considerable importance during the late Iron Age and it is thought that occupation was dominated by a settlement at Prae Wood (Wheeler & Wheeler 1936). Settlement of this period has been found at a variety of locations in this area, such as Gorhambury (Neal *et al* 1990) and Folly Lane, where an important Late Iron Age high-status burial has been recorded (Niblett 1999).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Following the Roman conquest there was a shift in settlement and a Roman town, known as *Verulamium*, was laid out on the south side of the river Ver. It developed into the third largest town in Roman Britain and the remains are now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Niblett 2001; Wheeler & Wheeler 1936). Communication in the area was dominated by a major Roman road, now known as *Watling Street*, which ran from *Londinium* (London) through *Verulamium* to the Midlands.

The early phase of buildings in the town was constructed of timber, and many were destroyed during the Boudiccan Revolt in AD60-61 (Frere 1972). The town was subsequently rebuilt and expanded and was later encircled by gated walls (Niblett 2001). A number of cemeteries are recorded outside the town walls, notably on King Harry Lane to the south west of the town (Stead & Rigby 1989). St Alban, the first British Christian martyr, was executed in AD209 within the town walls (Niblett 2001, 137-139).

St Albans began to decline after the departure of the Roman army, with many of its buildings falling into disuse. By the 5th century much of the population had relocated (Niblett 2001, 127-146).

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

The focus of the settlement shifted to the north side of the river during the Saxon period, where a new site known as Kingsbury developed (Niblett 2001, fig 75). King Offa of Mercia founded an Abbey dedicated to St Alban and the present cathedral, occupies the site of the Saxon abbey. A market was established in the town during the 10th century.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey entry records the Abbot as being the major landholder in St Albans in 1086. The 46 burgesses held half a hide and there were 3 mills, woodland for 1,000 pigs, a park for wild beasts and a fishpond (Williams & Martin 2002, 376). The medieval core of the present town dates from the mid 12th century, when a

settlement was laid out around the market place. The extent of the 12th century town is unclear but it is likely that the Tonman Ditch, which has been identified to the east and west of the town, may be part of this phase of occupation (Niblett & Thompson 2005). Catherine Street and Cock Lane were probably the northern limits of the town before the revision of 1327.

A market was held by the monastery every Wednesday and Saturday and we are told that Abbot Wulsin enlarged the market place in the tenth century. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the market was granted to mayor and burgesses under the charter of incorporation by Edward VI (VCH online).

Burgage plots are known to have existed between St Peters Street and Tonman Ditch to the west (Fig. 3), although when these were first established is also unclear (*ibid.*). The town probably outgrew its original boundaries and a new borough boundary was established in 1327, which is shown on Hare's map of St Albans dated 1634 (Fig.3).

The Catherine Street/ St Peters Street area was the centre of the first Battle of St Albans in 1455. The second battle took place in February 1461 and centred around Bernards Heath immediately north of the town. In both cases the town was plundered and the victims buried in St Peter's church (Niblett & Thompson 2005).

3.6 **Post-Medieval** (1500-1900)

Before the arrival of railways, as many as seventy coaches passed daily through the town as this was the first stage out of London on the way to and from the midlands, the north-west counties, and on one route to Ireland (VCH online). Although some roads had been rerouted, St Albans retained its medieval layout and failed to grow until the arrival of the railways. The parliamentary borough boundary was redefined in the 1830s and enlarged in 1879 under the St Albans Extension Act (VCH online).

Three railway stations were constructed in the town in the 19th century. The London and North-Western Railway opened theirs in 1858, the Great Northern Railway Company opened their branch from Hatfield to St. Albans on 16 October, 1865 and the Midland Railway opened their station for the Bedford to London line in 1868 (*ibid.*)

The late 19th century expansion included the development of Etna Road in 1899 on the same alignment as the Tonman Ditch (Billings 2006; Niblett & Thompson 2005). The present site is located on the corner of Catherine Street and Etna Road on land that may previously have been just outside Tonman Ditch and therefore beyond the medieval town boundary.

3.7 **Modern** (1900- present)

According to Kellys Directory, the shop was a grocery store run by William Lupton in 1923. The house number had changed in 1934 and Etna Road is recorded as a separate entity for the first time. William Lupton still occupied the Catherine Street end of the property and there are two entries for number 2 Etna Road; a Charles Anderton is

recorded as having the yard as a monumental mason and Mrs Anderton presumably occupied the house.

William Lupton and Mrs Anderton are still registered for the same in 1937-8, but a Bernard Oakley had by this time taken over the use of the yard (Kelly's Directory 1937-8). The following year Arthur Lupton had taken over number 2a. It became a builders yard in 1939-40 and is registered to Arthur Lupton and William Bowers. Mrs Anderton had been reinstated in number 2a and stayed there until 1946.

In 1949 William Lupton was still in number 65, but by this time it is owned by Bernard Oakley, who also owned number 2a. William Bowers was still recorded as using the yard as a builders yard (Kelly's Directory 1949).

The entries remain the same until 1967, when number 65 was not recorded at all and William Bowers was registered for the yard (Kelly's Directory 1967). Between 1968 and 1971 number 65 Catherine Street was registered in the Kelly's Directories as being A1 Motor Accessories, and they were also at numbers 69/71. Number 2a Etna Road was occupied by Tony Deamer and the yard was still in the hands of William Bowers.

A1 motors carried on trading at numbers 65 and 69 Catherine Street between 1972 and 1975 and had also extended into the yard. Tony Deamer was still living at number 2a (Kelly's Directories).

3.8 ***Percival Blow RIBA***

The following is based on material kindly provided by St Albans Museums.

Percival Blow was the son of the Treasurer of St Albans, George Walter Blow. He was educated at St Albans Grammar School and Kings College London, where he was awarded the silver medal for architectural design. He was also an exhibitor at the Royal Academy. Having been articled to C.P. Ayres of Watford and later studying under Hassall Tiltman, Stanley Peach and Ernest Runtz, Blow set up his own practice in 1897. He married Elizabeth Ell, whose father was County Councillor for Bedfordshire, and had a daughter named Constance Marjorie.

The first known building of his in St Albans is a house called Linacre in Clarence Road, which he designed for Mr T.G. Hale. From 1904 he was responsible for Parkbury House and York Lodge and a number of houses in the Hall Place Gardens estate. Between 1907 and 1910 he built a school house and classroom at St Albans School (now Grade II listed).

Following this he was commissioned by a number of institutions and corporations to design a number of public buildings including the church hall at St Paul's in Hatfield Road, a shop for Sainsbury's in St Peters Street and the locally listed Odeon Cinema on London Road. His work for Sainsbury's produced more contracts and another of his shops was constructed in Cambridge. He also worked in London, Luton and Hatfield.

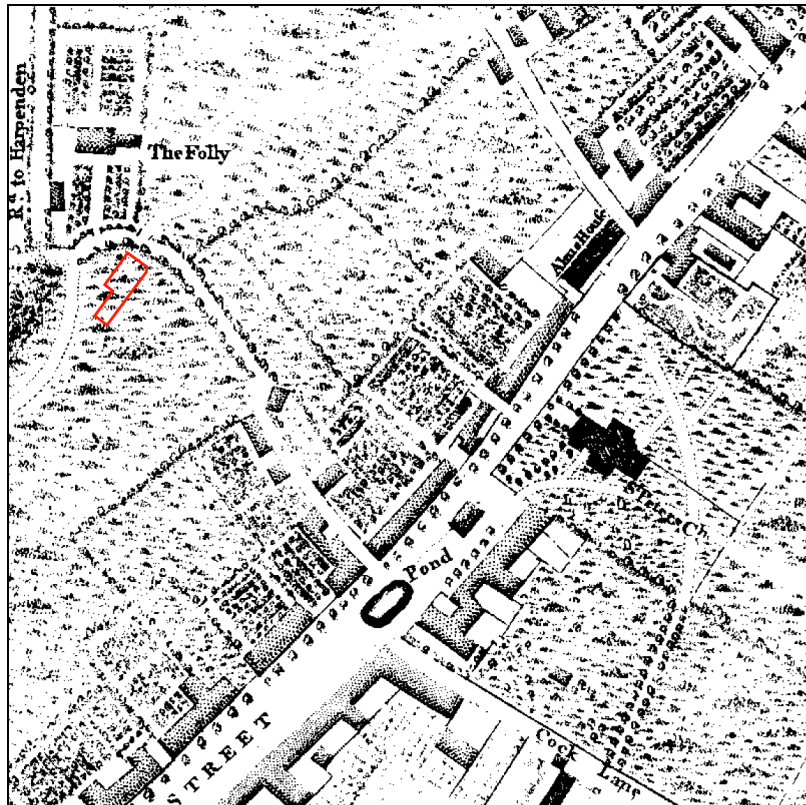


Figure 4: Andrews & Wren's map of 1766 (not to scale)

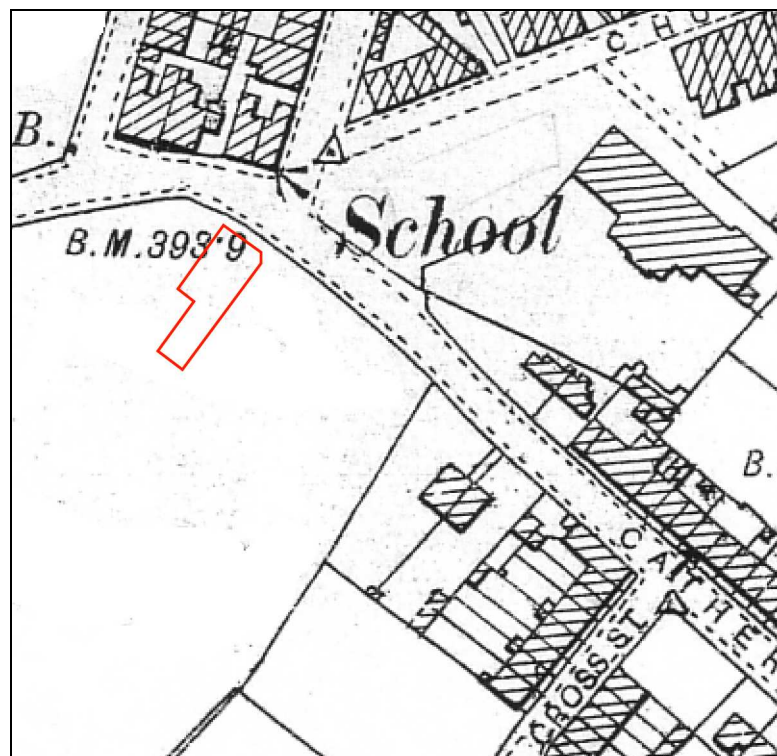


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey plan of 1898 (not to scale)



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey plan of 1939 (*not to scale*)

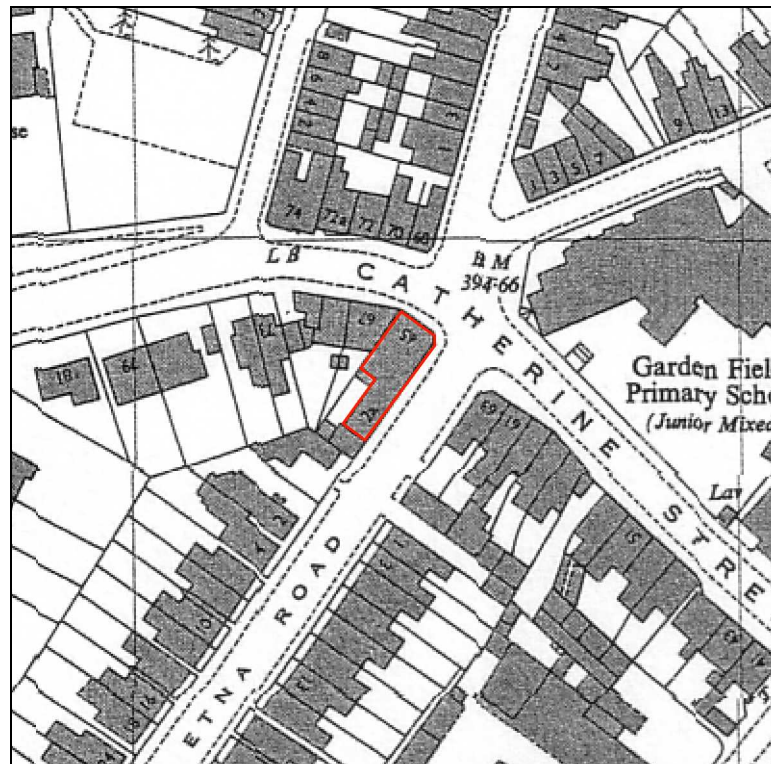


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey plan of 1964 (*not to scale*)

4 Description

4.1 *General*

The building was constructed in 1904 to a design by local architect Percival Blow. It comprises a shop with accommodation above in the corner of St Catherine Street and Etna Street and a 2-storey dwelling with a yard to the rear of this in Etna Street. It is orientated northeast – southwest. For the purposes of this report northeast is considered to be site north.

The building is entirely of purple bricks with red brick dressings under a slate roof. The purple bricks, which have shell inclusions, measure 21.5 x 10.5 x 6.5 cm (8½ x 4 x 2½ inches) and are set in a Flemish Bond using lime mortar. The red bricks measure 22 x 10.5 x 6.5cm.

The remaining chimney stacks are in the southwest corner of 2a Etna Street and in the southeast corner of the shop. Both have egg and dart decoration beneath the plinth.

4.2 *North Elevation* (Fig. 8, Plates 1-2)

The shop front encompasses a recessed door within the northeast corner of the building and large shop windows in both sides above a tiled wall. The shop has a modillioned cornice that terminates with a brick and stone pillar inscribed with the initials CAS and the date 1904.

Above the door is a blank panel under a brick built pediment with the date 1904 in the centre and egg and dart decoration in the surround. There are garlands in the frieze below the pediment, which is flanked by pillars surmounted by small pediments.

The windows above the shop are 2 over 2 sash windows with margin lights under cambered brick relieving arches with brick keystones and stone sills. There are brick pillars to either side of the windows in the north elevation.

4.3 *East Elevation* (Fig. 9, Plates 3-5)

The northern end of the east elevation is also taken up by the shop front with a 2 over 2 sash window with margin lights above the shop window and another without margin lights to the south of it. Both of these are similar in style to those in the north elevation.

The windows elsewhere in the east elevation have no keystones but otherwise are similarly dressed.

To the south of the shop is a door with a rectangular fanlight and a window to the northern side all under a single relieving arch. This is a private access to the shop and the flat above. Another door at the southern end of the building opens into 2a Etna Street, which at one time was a separate building.

Although the southernmost bay is built in exactly the same style as the rest of the building, it is clear from the brickwork that it is a later addition. It has a door in the first floor above a 2 over 2 sash window.

4.4 **South Elevation** (Fig. 10, Plate 6)

The first floor of the south elevation of 65 Catherine Street is rendered and has a 2 over 2 sash window with margin lights. The render on the wall below this has been removed revealing Fletton brickwork and the remains of an earlier arch. A conservatory has been added to this elevation.

The south elevation of 2a Etna Street is completely rendered. It has a 2 over 2 sash window in the first floor and a lean to outshut on the ground floor with a ledge and braced door opening into a store.

4.5 **West Elevation** (Fig. 11, Plate 7)

There are three doors in the west elevation; one to the outside WC and the others to Rooms G2 and G4. Most of the windows are 1 over 1 sash windows under a brick relieving arch and with a stone cill. There is, however a pair of Crittall type windows under a concrete lintel and with a tiled sill in the first floor of the southern bay.

The wall is largely of Fletton brick set in a Flemish Bond with cement mortar and has been rendered at the bottom.

4.6 **Cellar** (Fig. 12)

Room C1 (Plates 8-9)

Size: 6.95 × 4.78m, height 2.09m

Location: Below the shop

Description: The cellar has painted brick walls, a brick floor and a plasterboard ceiling. There is a window in the northwest corner of the room that lights the 12 tread wooden stairs leading to the ground floor. A bench runs along the south wall.

4.7 **Ground Floor** (Fig. 13)

Room G1 (Plates 10-15)

Size: 10.87 × 6.08m, height 2.74m

Location: Northern end of the building

Description: This is the shop itself, which has painted walls, a concrete floor and a plasterboard ceiling covering the matchboarding that was originally installed. The fully glazed shop door is in the northeast recess and there are large shop windows in the north and east walls. There is a cupboard below the eastern staircase housing the shop safe.

The original closed string staircase is located in the northwest corner, which has moulding beneath the treads and finely carved newel posts.

Room G2 (Plates 16-20)

Size: 3.65 × 3.47m, height 2.77m

Location: South of G1

Description: This room has a butler sink in the southern end of the west wall with tiles around and a single course of quarry tiles at the base of the wall below. The window above the sink is a 1 over 1 sash window with frosted glass in the lower pane and modern horizontal bars set on the inside. The window in the east wall is a 2 over 2 sash with frosted glass throughout. An unusual feature on both windows is the horns on the lower sash window when generally they are on the upper sash and, therefore, on the outside.

There is an opening in the north wall to Room G1, a 4-panel door in the south wall to room G3 and another in the west wall to the conservatory (G6). The west door has different to the others in that it has matchboard panelling on its external face. Shelves have been added along the north and south walls.

The remains of a fireplace are in the northeast corner of the room. The mantel is still *in situ*, but the main body and rear wall have been removed.

The walls of this room are painted above the skirting board, the floor consists of timber boards orientated east to west and the ceiling is of lath and plaster.

Room G3 (Plates 21-22)

Size: 3.70 × 0.88m, height 2.77m

Location: South of G2

Description: This is an entrance hall with a walk in pantry in the west end. The front door is half glazed with a fanlight above. The external face has been boarded. There is a 4-panel door in the north wall to G2 and an opening to Room G4 to the south and the pantry.

The walls are painted above the skirting boards and there are traces of early 19th century wallpaper on the north wall. The ceiling is lath and plaster and the floor is of 12cm wide timber boards orientated east to west.

The pantry, which has painted brick walls and a quarry tile floor, is lit by a 1 over 1 sash window with frosted glass.

Room G4 (Plates 23-25)

Size: 3.71 × 3.43m, height 2.84m

Location: Southern end of the building

Description: This room has painted brick walls, a quarry tile floor and a boarded ceiling. The door in the west wall is ledged and braced and there is an opening in the north wall to G3. There is a 2 over 2 sash window within a heavy frame in the east and west walls, but neither of these have horns on the lower sashes. Both windows have horizontal bars set into the interior of the frame.

In the south wall is a brick built fireplace with an arched alcove to the west of it.

Room G5 (Plates 26-27)

Size: 5.57 × 0.95m, height 2.72m

Location: East of Room G1

Description: This is a small entrance hall with a modern staircase leading to the floor above the shop. It has a modern door and window configuration in the east wall and a door in the west wall to the shop (G1). The walls are papered over the skirting board, the floor is concrete with carpet on top and the ceiling is also papered.

Room G6 (Plate 28)

Size: 3.63 × 1.40m

Location: West of G2

Description: This is a small lean-to conservatory/store with a corrugated plastic ceiling and brick floor. The south wall is set on a supporting dwarf wall approximately 59cm high. The north wall and door to G2 have been described above.

Room G7

Size: 1.71 × 0.91m, height 2.55m

Location: South of G4

Description: This is an external WC within a brick built outshot. The walls are painted brick and the floor quarry tiled. The rafters are exposed and the door in the west wall is ledged and braced. There is a single light casement window with frosted glass in the south wall. To the east of this is an open fronted storage area that was not recorded during this survey.

4.8 **First Floor** (Fig. 14)

Room F1 (Plates 29-31)

Size: 5.03 × 3.77m, height 2.61m

Location: Northeast corner of the building

Description: This was formerly a living room with a fireplace in the southeast corner of the room, a door in the southwest corner to a passage (F7) and another in the northwest corner to the main landing (F2). Both doors have a single large panel but the southern one is set within an elaborate architrave and the northern one in a simpler frame. The windows in the north and east walls are 2 over 2 sash windows with margin lights with horns on the upper sash, not as Room G2.

The walls are plastered and papered with a skirting board and picture rail. The ceiling, which is lath and plaster, is also papered. The floorboards, which are 12cm wide, are set east to west.

The fireplace is completely tiled and typical of the 1930s.

Room F2 (Plates 32-34)

Size: 5.85 × 3.33m, height 2.61m

Location: Northwest corner of the building

Description: This is the main landing for the building with the original staircase from the ground floor along the west wall. There is a fireplace in the southwest corner of the room, which, like the north east corner is angled. The fireplace is entirely of cast iron and typical of the late 19th / early 20th century. The window in the north wall is the same as that in Room F1.

Room F3 (Plates 35-37)

Size: 4.75 × 2.74m, height 2.61m

Location: South of F2

Description: This is similar to Rooms F1 and F2 with the exception of the floorboards, which here are orientated north – south. There is a fireplace in the west wall with a timber surround that has foliate decoration at the base, an iron grate and tiled insets. There is an arched alcove to the north of the fireplace. The door in the north east corner of the room is similar to that in F1.

Room F4 (Plates 38-39)

Size: 3.79 × 2.84m, height not measured

Location: East of F3

Description: This bedroom has skirting boards, painted walls and a timber floor. The orientation of the floorboards could not be established as the ceiling had been pulled down and obscured the floor. The window in the east wall and the door in the north wall are the same as in Room F1.

Room F5 (Plates 40-41)

Size: 4.50 × 3.66m, height 2.63m

Location: South of F4

Description: This has previously functioned as a kitchen as it has a tiled area along the south wall and in the southwest corner where a sink had been plumbed in. At the bottom of these areas is a single course of quarry tiles on the walls. There is evidence for a stove or boiler in the northeast corner of the room where the floor is of concrete rather than timber as elsewhere.

There is a 1 over 1 sash window in the west wall with frosted glass and horns on the lower sash. The window in the east wall is a 2 over 2 sash window. The door in the north wall is the same as the others on the first floor, but that in the south wall has a pane of glass set into it.

Other than in the tiled areas the walls are generally papered above the skirting boards with remnants of early 20th century paper exposed beneath the later covering. The ceiling may be lath and plaster beneath the paper.

Room F6 (Plates 42-44)

Size: 3.44 × 2.20m, height 2.61m

Location: Southern end of the building

Description: This has been subdivided to create a separate bathroom and WC in the western part of the room. The walls are painted brick, the ceiling has timber boards running north to south and the floor may also be of timber.

There is a 2 over 2 sash window with frosted glass in the south wall, two 4-panel doors in the west wall to the bathroom and WC and a partially glazed door in the north wall to Room F5. There is also a ledge and braced door in the east wall. Of particular interest is the relieving arch over the north door. This and the queen closers to the west of the door suggest that there was a window here prior to the extension being added.

Room F7 (Plate 47)

Size: not measured

Location: Between Rooms F3 and F4

Description: This is an L-shaped area linking all the rooms in the first floor of the St Catherine Street building and providing access to the former dwelling in Etna Road. The walls are papered above the skirting board, the ceiling (now removed) was lath and plaster and the floorboards runs north to south.

There is a 2 over 2 sash window in the stair well lighting the modern stair described above.

Room F8

Size: 2.51 × 1.42m, height 2.59m

Location: West of F6

Description: This room is largely tiled and painted above. The ceiling is covered in polystyrene tiles and the floor is carpeted. There is a 2-light Crittal type window in the west wall.

Room F9

Size: 1.40 × 0.83m, height 2.61m

Location: North of F8

Description: This is also tiled and painted but has a painted ceiling and a vinyl floor. There is a single light Crittal type window in the west wall.

4.9 **Boundary Wall** (Plate 48)

The boundary wall at the south of the plot is partially built of ashlar clunch. Whether the stone has come from another site in St Albans or elsewhere cannot be ascertained. Its presence here, however, is not surprising as the yard was used by a stone mason in the 1920s.



Plate 1: North elevation



Plate 2: Shop entrance



Plate 3: East elevation



Plate 4: East elevation of shop



Plate 5: East elevation of dwelling



Plate 6: South elevation of shop



Plate 7: West elevation



Plate 8: Cellar: southeast corner



Plate 9: Cellar: northwest corner



Plate 10: Room G1: looking south



Plate 11: Room G1: northeast corner



Plate 12: Room G1: north wall



Plate 13: Room G1: west wall

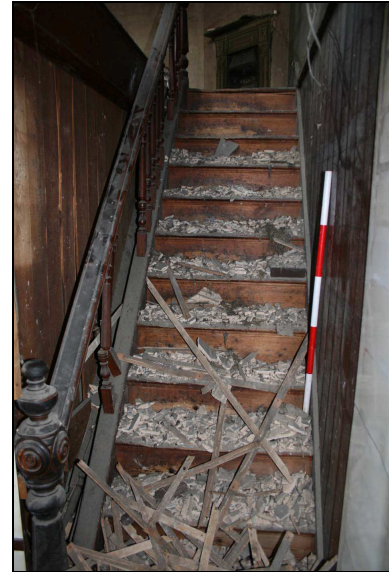


Plate 14: Room G1: staircase

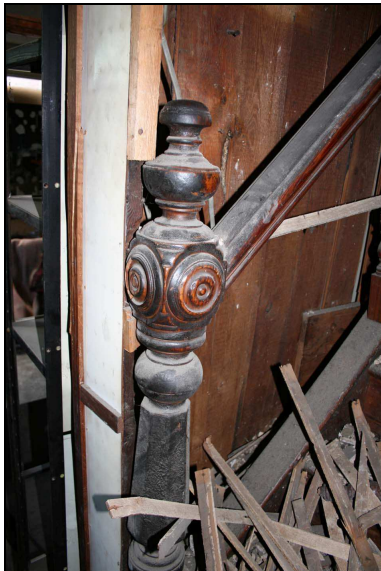


Plate 15: Newel post detail



Plate 16: Room G2: southeast corner

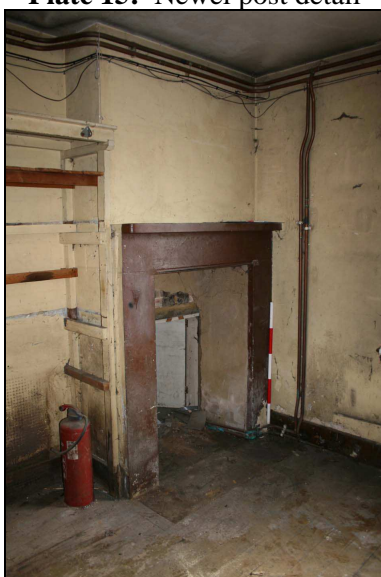


Plate 17: Room G2: northeast corner



Plate 18: Room G2: southwest corner



Plate 19: Room G2: northwest corner

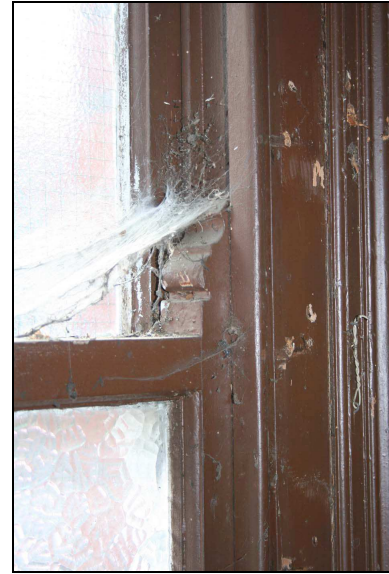


Plate 20: Room G2: horn detail



Plate 21: Room G3: east wall

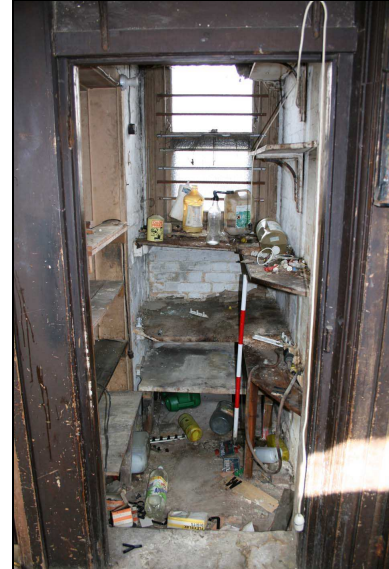


Plate 22: Room G3: pantry end



Plate 23: Room G4: south wall

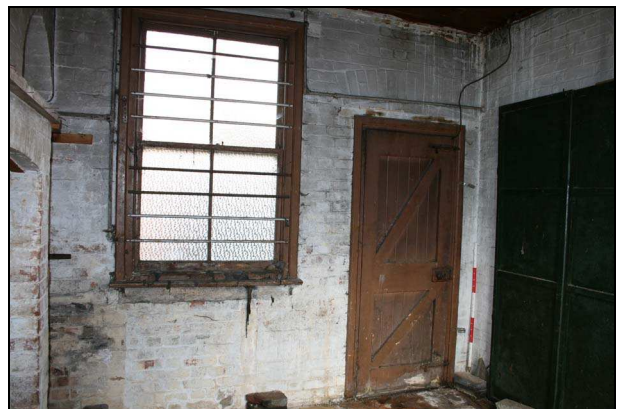


Plate 24: Room G4: west wall



Plate 25: Room G4: northeast corner

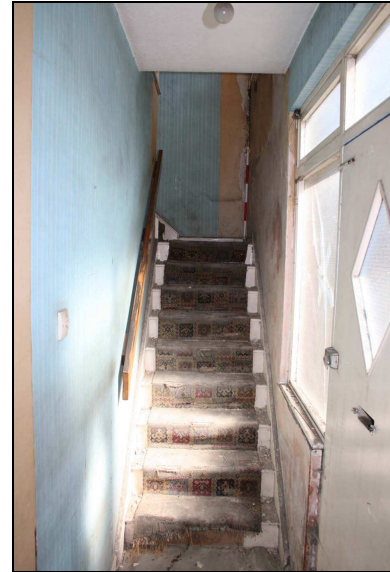


Plate 26: Room G5: looking north



Plate 27: Room G5: looking south



Plate 28: Room G6: north wall detail showing relieving arch, later brickwork & render



Plate 29: Room F1: north wall



Plate 30: Room F1: southeast corner



Plate 31: Room F1: fireplace detail



Plate 32: Room F2: southwest corner



Plate 33: Room F2: northwest corner



Plate 34: Room F2: fireplace detail



Plate 35: Room F3: northwest corner



Plate 36: Room F3: northeast corner



Plate 37: Room F3: fireplace detail



Plate 38: Room F4: southeast corner



Plate 39: Room F4: northwest corner



Plate 40: Room F5: southwest corner



Plate 41: Room F5: north wall



Plate 42: Room F6: looking south



Plate 43: Room F6: northwest corner



Plate 44: Room F6: northeast corner



Plate 45: Room F7: looking south



Plate 46: South boundary wall



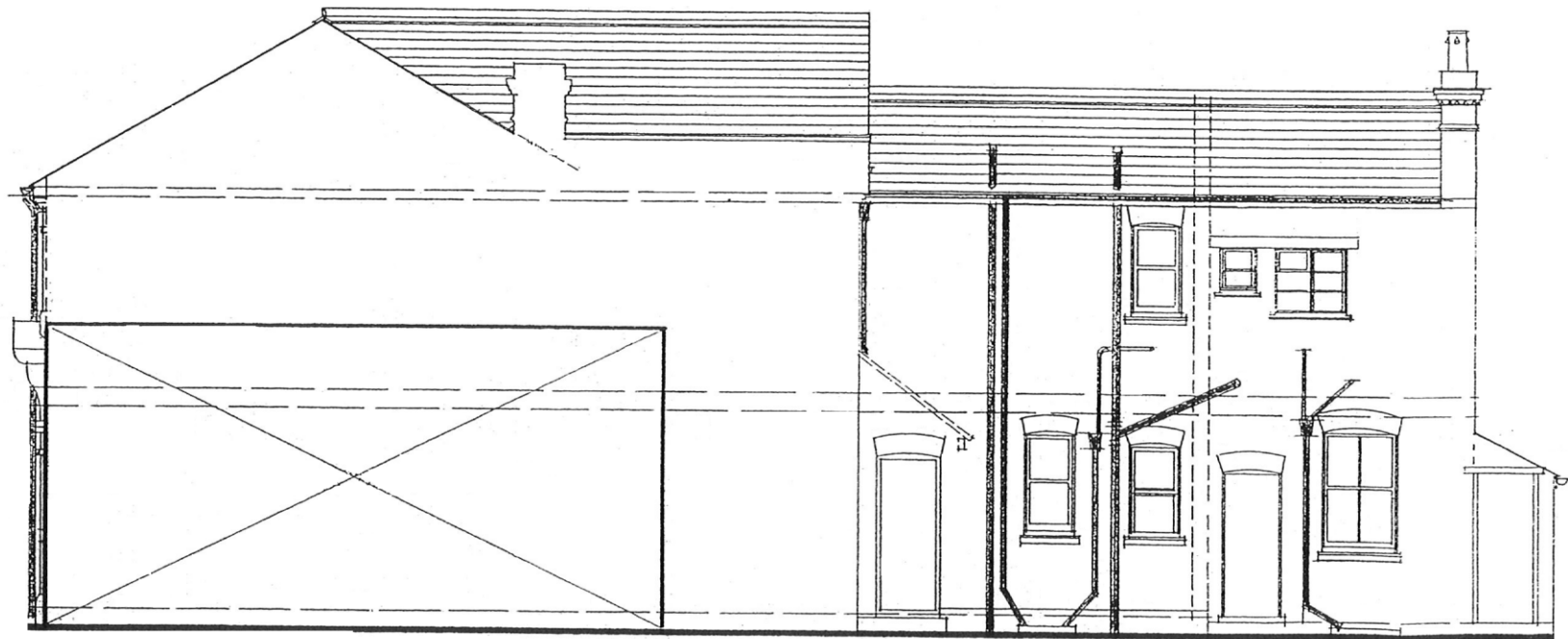
North elevation



East elevation



South elevation



West elevation

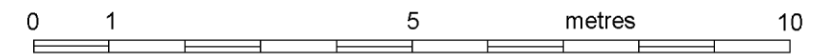


Figure 8: Elevations (scale 1:100)

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 From the outside the building is an impressive example of late 19th/early 20th century commercial architecture, which was extended southwards by the early 1920s to provide an additional room on both floors. Further alterations took place after World War II when the conservatory was added and the back window of the shop bricked up.
- 5.2 Despite later alterations, the building has retained the shop front with its ornamental pediment and much of the original fenestration. The sash windows are certainly of the type commonly used at the time the building was erected, but those with the horn in the lower sashes are of particular interest, as they are less commonly seen than horns in the upper sashes.
- 5.3 Other historical features include the main staircase in the shop (Room G1) and the fireplaces in Rooms F1, F2 and F3. That in Room F2 is almost certainly an original feature as the style is that of the late 19th / early 20th century. The fireplace in Room F1, which is in a 1930s style, is a later insertion. The 1920s style mantle in Room F3 surrounds an early 20th century grate and tiles.
- 5.4 The original layout of the building is unclear, although it is known that by 1934 it consisted of a shop at the Catherine Street end and a dwelling and monumental masons yard at the Etna Road end. The yard became a builders yard by 1939 and the shop, dwelling and yard, stayed registered as three separate until about 1972 when the shop made use of the yard.
- 5.5 The interior of the building still reflects the original usage and characteristics to some degree, particularly on the ground floor. Here the shop (G1) and kitchen area behind it (G2) are largely un-modernised. The rear room, which lies in the later addition, appears to have been uninhabited as the walls are not plastered and the fireplace is without any evidence for a grate. This may have been a workshop/store or office for the mason's/builders yard. The door in the first floor room above this (F6) clearly indicates that it was associated with the yard, but the lack of obvious stairs to it would have limited its use. It appears to have been incorporated into the rest of the house in the later 20th century when it was also subdivided to provide a bathroom and WC.
- 5.6 The rest of the first floor appears to have been the residence associated from the 1920s with the masons/builders yard and in the 1970s as a separate entity. All that is apart from Room F2, which is accessible by the staircase from the shop. This was until recently subdivided. The northern end of the room was integral to the flat and the southern end was a store for the shop. The fine staircase and fireplace in this room, however, suggests that it was originally an important part of the shop, perhaps another sales floor or possibly an office.
- 5.7 The alterations to the building have not seriously affected the architectural integrity of the building. The external details still provide the building and the local townscape with a great deal of character, as does the south yard wall with its ashlar clunch. The interior, however, is clearly in need of attention, having been largely neglected since the 1970s.

6 Acknowledgements

ASC would like to thank H & C for commissioning this report, in particular Phillip Corbin for his assistance. The project was monitored by Simon West on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Brian Adams of St Albans Museums Service and the staff at Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies (HALS) for their assistance in the background research.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Bob Zeepvat and Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. The report was prepared by Karin Semmelmann and illustrated by Calli Rouse BA PIFA. It was edited by Bob Zeepvat.

7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Project Design
2. Report
3. Historical & Survey notes
4. Architect's survey drawings
5. List of photographs
6. B/W prints
7. B/W negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with HALS.

8 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- Barclay, C. 2008 *Project Design for Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief: 56 Catherine Street, St Albans* (ASC Report 1061/SAC/1)
- EH 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

Books and Historical Sources:

- Billings, T. 2006 *Victoriana: a St Alban's Streetscape* Oxford: Parchment Printers
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- Stead, I. M. & Rigby, V. 1989 *Verulamium The King Harry Lane site*. English Heritage Archaeological Report No: 12.
- VCH online 'The city of St Albans: The borough', *A History of the County of Hertford: volume 2* (1908), pp. 469-483.
URL:[http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43311&strquery=st alban](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43311&strquery=st%20alban).
- Wheeler, R. E. M. & Wheeler, T. V. 1935 *Verulamium, a Belgic and Two Roman Cities* Research Report of the Society of Antiquaries of London **11**
- Williams, A. & Martin, G. H. 2002 *Domesday Book, A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books.

Maps

Benjamin Hare's Map of 1634

Andrew & Wren's Map of 1766

1898 Ordnance Survey Map

1924 Ordnance Survey Map

1939 Ordnance Survey Map

1960 Ordnance Survey Map

1964 Ordnance Survey Map

1970 Ordnance Survey Map

XXXIV.7

XXXIV.7

XXXIV.7

TL 10 NW

TL 1407-1507

TL 10 NW

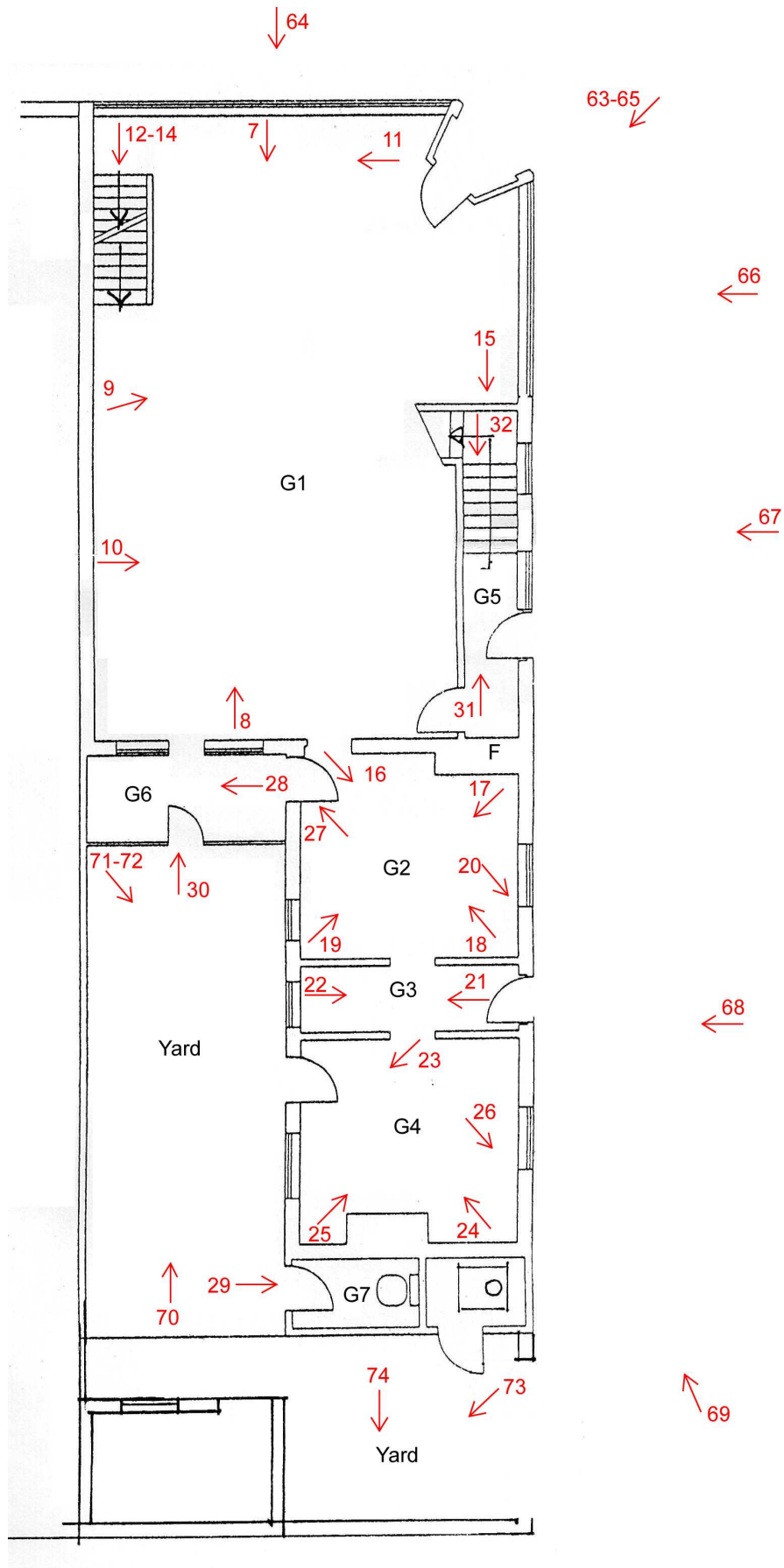


Figure 10: Ground floor photo plan (not to scale)

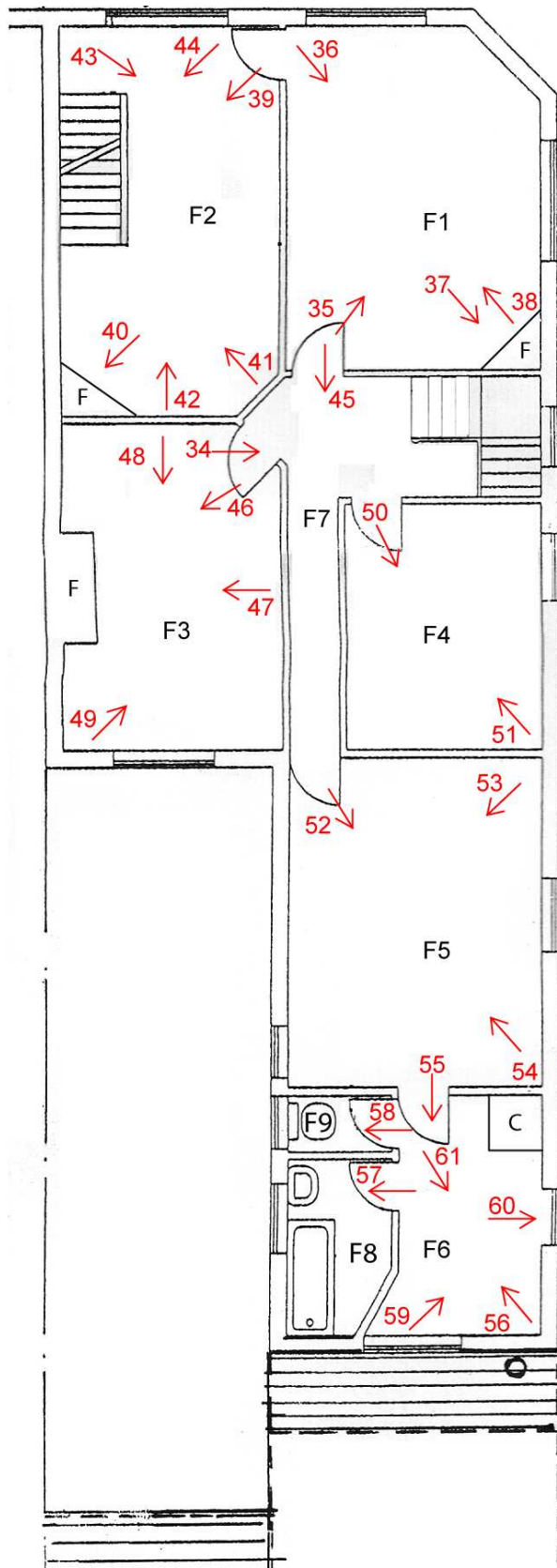


Figure 11: First floor photo plan (not to scale)

Appendix 1: List of Photographs

SITE NO/CODE: 1061/SAC			Site Name: 65 Catherine Street St Albans
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	x	x	Cellar: southeast corner
2	x	x	Cellar: southwest corner
3	x	x	Cellar: northwest corner
4	x	x	Cellar: northeast corner
5	x	x	Cellar: stairs
6	x	x	Cellar: window
7	x	x	Room G1: south wall
8	x	x	Room G1: north wall
9	x	x	Room G1: northeast corner
10	x	x	Room G1: southwest corner
11	x	x	Room G1: northwest corner
12	x	x	Room G1: stair detail
13	x	x	Room G1: newel post
14	x	x	Room G1: stair detail
15	x	x	Room G1: safe under the stairs
16	x	x	Room G2: southeast corner
17	x	x	Room G2: southwest corner
18	x	x	Room G2: northwest corner
19	x	x	Room G2: northeast corner
20	x	x	Room G2: window detail
21	x	x	Room G3 looking west
22	x	x	Room G3 looking east
23	x	x	Room G4: south wall
24	x	x	Room G4: east wall
25	x	x	Room G4: northeast corner
26	x	x	Room G4: ceiling in southeast corner
27	x	x	Room G2: door
28	x	x	Room G6 looking west
29	x	x	Room G7 looking east
30	x	x	Room G7: south wall detail
31	x	x	Room G5 looking north
32	x	x	Room G5 looking south
33	x	x	Room G5: top of stairs & landing
34	x	x	Room F7: window lighting the staircase
35	x	x	Room F1: northeast corner
36	x	x	Room F1: southeast corner
37	x	x	Room F1: fireplace detail
38	x	x	Room F1: northwest corner
39	x	x	Room F2: southwest corner
40	x	x	Room F2: fireplace detail
41	x	x	Room F2: northwest corner
42	x	x	Room F2: north wall
43	x	x	Room F2: southeast corner
44	x	x	Room F2: balustrade detail
45	x	x	Room F7 looking south
46	x	x	Room F3: west wall
47	x	x	Room F3: fireplace detail

48	x	x	Room F3: south wall
49	x	x	Room F3: northeast corner
50	x	x	Room F4: southeast corner
51	x	x	Room F4: northwest corner
52	x	x	Room F5: southeast corner
53	x	x	Room F5: southwest corner
54	x	x	Room F5: north wall
55	x	x	Room F6 looking south
56	x	x	Room F6: northwest corner
57	x	x	Room F6 view into bathroom
58	x	x	Room F6 view into WC
59	x	x	Room F6: northeast corner
60	x	x	Room F6: arch detail in east wall
61	x	x	Room F6: southeast corner
62	x	x	Building from the northeast
63	x	x	Building from the northeast
64	x	x	North elevation
65	x	x	Shop front detail
66	x	x	East elevation of the shop
67	x	x	East elevation of the shop
68	x	x	East elevation of 2a Etna Road
69	x	x	East elevation from the southeast
70	x	x	South elevation of the shop and the rear yard
71	x	x	West elevation: ground floor
72	x	x	West elevation: first floor
73	x	x	South boundary wall from the northeast
74	x	x	Detail of the south boundary wall

A CDROM containing copies of all the digital photos listed above is included in the back cover of this report

Appendix 2: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	65 Catherine Street St Albans		
Short Description:	<p>In April 2008 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out historic building recording of 65 Catherine Street, St Albans in order to inform proposals for the development involving buildings on the site. The building was constructed in 1904 to a design by local architect Percival Blow. It comprises a shop at the corner of St Catherine Street and Etna Street, a first floor flat and a yard, formerly used as mason's and then a builders yard, in Etna Street.</p> <p>From the outside the building is an impressive example of late 19th/early 20th century commercial architecture. It was extended southwards by the early 1920s to provide an additional room on both floors that may have been used as workshop, office or store for the mason's yard. Further alterations took place when the window in the south elevation of the shop was bricked up, possibly when the conservatory was added sometime between 1939 and 1964.</p> <p>These alterations have not seriously affected the architectural integrity of the building. The external details including the shop front with its ornamental pediment still provide the building and the local townscape with a great deal of character. To add to the character, the south wall contains ashlar clunch, which may have been reused from other sites in St Albans. The interior of the building is clearly in need of attention, having been largely neglected since the 1970s. The only features of interest that survive are the front staircase and the first floor fireplaces.</p>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Historic building recording		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Shop & dwelling	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	Yes
Monument type:	Building	Monument period:	Modern
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	N/A		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 1474 0769
District:	St Albans	Parish:	St Albans
Site address: (with postcode if known)	65 Catherine Street St Albans		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	N/A	Height OD: (metres)	N/A
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	N/A	Project design originator:	Barclay, C. (ASC)
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	H & C Ltd		

PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	8 th April 2008	End date:	
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	N/A	None	
Paper:	HALS	Architects drawings, field notes, photos, etc	
Digital:	HALS	1 CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Historic Building Recording & Watching Brief: 54 Catherine Street St Albans		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1061/SAC/2		
Author(s):	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA		
Page nos	41	Date:	19 th September 2008