1 CABLE STREET, LANCASTER, LANCASHIRE



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SUMMARY

An archaeological building survey of Number One Cable Street, Lancaster (SD 4761 6198) was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in response to the request of the Lancaster City Archaeologist. A level III-type survey was carried out which consisted of a physical inspection of the building combined with written and photographic records, detailed floor plans, and drawings of the principal elevations.

The building is known to have been owned by Captain Henry Fell, and partially built in c1759 by Richard Gillow. It was constructed in an area of Lancaster that was rapidly expanded during the growth of the city in the eighteenth century, and was connected to the quay at this point.

The investigation of the structure identified three principal phases of construction. The earliest of these related to the north end of the building, and consisted of a relatively small, two-storey house divided into small rooms. A datestone of 1701 and the initials H and A F might suggest that an ancestor of Captain Henry Fell who shared the same name built this early house. The second phase comprised the construction of the ornate, south front; which was a three storey, classically inspired block, and also probably incorporated all of Number Three. The third phase relates to the modern use of the building, in particular the reduction of the front (south) end to $1\frac{1}{2}$ storeys and the removal of internal walls.

Number One Cable Street is an extremely significant building in terms of the development and expansion of Lancaster. If the datestone of 1701 does relate to the initial phase of construction it demonstrates how Green Ayre was beginning to be developed at a very early date. Seventeenth century maps show the area as open marsh, while the earliest maps of the eighteenth century show Cable Street to be well developed. Number One Cable Street is therefore important as a pioneer of this new phase of expansion to the east.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Daniel Elsworth and Andy Bates carried out the building investigation. The report was written by Daniel Elsworth, with the drawings produced by Adam Parsons, and was edited by Alison Plummer and Carol Allen. Alison Plummer managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following the proposed redevelopment of Number One Cable Street, Lancaster (SD 4761 6198) by Cable Street Developments, which would involve the partial demolition and rebuilding of the rear of the structure and reconstruction of the three storeys at the front, a programme of archaeological investigation was recommended by Lancashire County Council Archaeology Services (LCCAS). This was to consist of a Level III type survey (RCHME 1996).
- 1.1.2 The buildings making up Numbers One and Three Cable Street are listed Grade II (Ref. 1685), and are thought to have been built in *c*1759 for Captain Henry Fell and Mr Samuel Simpson, after designs by Richard Gillow, including an ornate double entrance below a Doric pediment with three engaged columns. It is because of these historic connections and architecturally valuable features that a Level III type survey was recommended.
- 1.1.3 Due to the requirements of the client for work to begin as soon as possible to enable the development to continue no brief for the work had been issued by LCCAS, and no design was prepared by OA North. The work was carried out in accordance with briefs for similar projects in Lancaster and the surrounding area.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 2.1.1 *Introduction:* although part of a single structure, Number One and Number Three Cable street are separate buildings, which share a single, essentially symmetrical, frontage onto Cable Street (Fig 1). Number Three has recently been renovated and was not included in the survey. The two properties will, however, often be referred to together as parts are of the same build.
- 2.1.2 *Site Survey*: written records were made of all parts of the building using OA North pro-forma record sheets. These consisted of a relatively brief written description of each room, elevation and other structural details. Context numbers for features were also issued, and again recorded on pro-forma sheets. Plans of the ground and first floors supplied by the client were hand-annotated on site to show the form and location of structural features and the relationships between them, and the relevant contexts were added. External elevations of the front (south) and left (west) sides of the building were also supplied by the client, and annotated in a similar fashion.
- 2.1.3 **Photographic Archive**: a photographic archive was produced, utilising both black and white and colour slide 35mm prints. Colour digital photographs were also produced. These consisted of general shots of the building, as well as more specific shots of architectural details, fittings and so forth.
- 2.1.4 *Interpretation and Analysis:* the written record is essentially descriptive, although at Level III the context records add further detail to individual features. Analysis of the development and use of the building is considered, but in a wider context at this level of recording.

2.2 ARCHIVE

2.2.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with project designs for similar types of project and in accordance with current Institute of Field Archaeologists and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the County Record Office on completion of the project, with a copy of the report deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The occupation of Lancaster is thought to have begun in the late Neolithic, and although the evidence consists of only a few discoveries of pottery and flint, many of these have come from stratified deposits within the city (Penney 1981, 9). Bronze Age burials and other stray objects of this period have also been discovered in Lancaster (*ibid*), although they do not give a full picture of the extent of occupation within Lancaster at that time.
- 3.1.2 The development of the town probably did not begin in earnest until the Roman occupation, with a fort probably being established during the late first century AD, although the exact form and extent of this is as yet unknown (Shotter 2001, 7). This fort was possibly abandoned for a short time at the end of the first century, before being extended and then rebuilt in stone at the beginning of the second (*ibid*, 9-10). The surrounding civilian settlement was probably not extensive, and 'perhaps concentrated on what is now China Street, Penny Street and the area between Church Street and the river which, in the Roman period, came much closer to the area presently occupied by the bus station' (*ibid*, 16). The area that is now Cable Street (Fig 1) would, at that time have therefore been much closer to the Rive Lune, essentially on its south bank.
- 3.1.3 The later years of the Roman Empire, the third and fourth centuries, were a period of conflict and political strife, from which Lancaster was not excluded (*ibid*, 23). A large new defensive work was constructed, parts of which still survive, now known as the Wery Wall, forming an outer defence around the fort and making, in effect, a defended settlement rather than a stronghold (*ibid*, 25). This appears to have remained in use, presumably acting as a safe haven for the local populace and the harbour at this time of great instability, until the fifth century (*ibid*, 27).
- 3.1.4 Following the decline of Roman administration it is likely that Lancaster continued in use as a settlement, and that the position of Roman buildings and streets affected the layout of the medieval town (White 2001, 33). Unfortunately, archaeological evidence for this period is lacking, and it is not until the seventh centuries and later that physical remains begin to appear (*ibid*, 34). These suggest that Lancaster was influenced by both the Anglian Kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia, and that an early monastic site may have existed in the vicinity of the castle (*ibid*). Later still the town is likely to have come under some degree of Norse influence, although this is only identified in a few place-names and cross fragments in the wider area (Penney 1981, 13).
- 3.1.5 In the early eleventh century the area was probably part of the Manor of Halton, controlled by Lord Tosti, which was granted to Roger de Poitou following the Norman Conquest (White 2001, 43). He was banished in 1102 and the manor passed to Stephen of Blois, before finding its way to John,

brother of Richard I (*ibid*, 43-44). The first records of expenditure on Lancaster Castle relate to this period, although its origins are almost certainly earlier (*ibid*, 44). Closer to the site, a mill is known to have existed from at least 1193 on what is now Damside, the course of the mill race following Damside Street to the west and North Road to the east (Penney 1981, 19). Excavations along Damside have identified Roman and medieval deposits, separated by silt deposits probably left by the changing course of the river or a rise in sea level (LUAU 1991). Cable Street may have been within an area of marshy wasteland known as Green Ayre during the earlier part of the medieval period (Penney 1981, 19).

- 3.1.6 A bridge was certainly in place across the River Lune by 1215 (*ibid*, 18) although the present structure was a later construction (OA North 2002a, 8), but by the time of Speed's map of Lancaster (Speed 1610, reproduced in Penney 1981) the area immediately around Cable Street is still undeveloped. There is, however, a rough path marked, crossing Green Ayre northeast/south-west, and bridging the millrace on both sides, which may correspond to the position of Cable Street (Plate 9). By 1684 (Plate 10) the situation appears to have changed relatively little, with little development in the vicinity of what is now Cable Street.
- 3.1.7 By this period Lancaster was beginning to grow and develop, at first due to the influence of the priory church and castle, and then the development of the harbour (Mullett 2001, 73-74). There was a gradual move towards building in stone at the end of the seventeenth century, intended to prevent fire (OA North 2002b, 25), out of which essentially pragmatic act modern Lancaster began to grow. It was during the eighteenth century, however, that Lancaster began to develop on a large and rapid scale, having been relatively unchanged from its medieval form prior to this (Dalziel 2001, 117). Agricultural improvements and greatly increased trade lead to a growth in population and increased prosperity (*ibid*, 118), and this in turn lead to increased investment in shipping and trade (*ibid*, 119). Lancaster inevitably expanded as a result of this prosperity, one of the first developments near what was to become Cable Street was a shipyard established by George Brockbank on Green Ayre, which reached its peak by the end of the eighteenth century (*ibid*, 123-4).
- 3.1.8 The Development of Cable Street: the majority of Green Ayre was developed in the later part of the seventeenth century, and early to mid-eighteenth, part of a city-wide modernising trend using ashlar sandstone and slate in 'polite' architectural styles (*ibid*, 136). Cable Street itself came about as a result of the construction of Skerton Bridge in 1788, which required a wide new road into town, plans for which were in place as early as 1770, but were not drawn up until 1783-4 (*ibid*, 146). The organised layout of the streets presumably mostly applied to the east end of Cable Street (Plate 13), while at least some buildings at the west end must have already been in place. Indeed Buck and Buck's print of 1728 (Plate 11) shows buildings beginning to encroach onto Green Ayre, although the distortion in the scale makes it difficult to say exactly which these were. Numbers One and Three Cable Street are thought to have been built in 1759-60 (Listing information, Appendix 1; Harrison 1982; White 2000, 41), earlier than the more general development to the east (Dalziel 2001,

146), and they certainly appear on Mackreth's plan of 1778 (Plate 12) in much the same arrangement as they are today. They were reputedly built by Richard Gillow for Captain Henry Fell and Mr Samuel Simpson (White 2000, 41), on what was then known as Fleet Square (Docton 1989). Henry Fell was a port commissioner and may have been a relative of Gillow (Listing information, *Appendix 1*), and this is perhaps why the buildings were so early compared to the larger developments to the east.

3.1.9 Number One Cable Street seems to have changed hands several times following this. There is no record of Henry Fell by 1824 (Baines 1824), and by 1881 it was the home of Joseph Smith, a corn merchant, of the company Walmsley and Smith (Mannex and Co 1881, 107). In 1899 it was the home of a Mr JW Wearing (Watson and Co 1899,100). It was evidently a home of some standing at this time as Mr Wearing, who was resident, is described as a Borough Magistrate in 1905 (Kelly's Directories Ltd 1905). By 1913, however, it is the home of a Mr John Jackson (Kelly's Directories Ltd 1913, 595), before changing hands again by 1934, becoming the home of Mr William B Horsfield (Frank N Shire Ltd 1934, 61). It is not until the late 1950s that it ceased being used for residential purposes, becoming the offices of the Lunesdale Farmers Ltd (County Publicity Ltd 1959, 50). More recently the building has been used as a restaurant (see Appendix 1) and it was evident during the survey that it most recently acted as some form of mechanics workshop.

4. RESULTS

4.1 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 4.1.1 *Introduction:* for the purposes of the survey the building was divided into 12 rooms, six on the ground floor (Fig 2), four on the first (Fig 3), and two in the cellar (Fig 2). The front (south) end of the building consists of a roughly square block, now consisting of 1½ storeys, but originally of three and forming part of a block with number 3. The back (north) of the building is long and narrow, orientated north/south, running away from Cable Street, and is of two storeys.
- 4.1.2 *Fabric:* the majority of the building is constructed in dark yellow sandstone, with some smaller details and repairs in brick or concrete blocks. The roof is slate, over timber, floors consist of concrete, timber or flagstones, and ceilings and partition walls consist of lathe and plaster over a timber stud frame.
- **External Elevation, South:** this forms the front of the building (Plate 1) It is now effectively 1½ storeys tall, reduced from three, originally forming the left side of a larger, roughly symmetrical block (Fig 4). The build consists of large ashlar sandstone blocks (101), incorporating a narrow, square, sill band, with chamfered rusticated quoins and a tall, square, projecting plinth course. There are two windows on the ground floor with two corresponding cellar windows below (102). Each of the upper windows has moulded architraves, with triple key stones and a 2-light sliding sash frame, while the cellar windows are very plain, with heavy stone lintels, the right one being blocked by brick (105). The doorway on the right side, 103, is part of an ornate double entrance, below a Doric pediment with an entablature decorated with fluted pilasters, supported by three engaged Doric columns. On the left hand side the sill course and plinth have been cut to fit a downpipe, 106, the scars of which are visible on the stonework. Along the base of the wall is a skim of rerendering, on average 0.1m tall (107). Although only apparent externally because of the slight irregularity in block sizes, the top of the wall, above the sill band, has been entirely rebuilt in the same ashlar sandstone as the rest of the wall, which corresponds to the rebuilding (148) seen internally. This is capped with a row of thin concrete slabs acting as coping (104).
- 4.1.4 External Elevation, West: the right hand side is, like the front, only 1½ storeys high (Fig 5), and consists of courses of much smaller sandstone blocks, only roughly finished (108) (Plate 3). There are four tall windows on the ground floor (109), each with quoined jambs, thick lintels and projecting sills. Below the two left-hand windows are smaller cellar windows, both of which have been blocked with a mix of concrete and brick (111), although the left hand example evidently extended into a larger aperture at one point, before being blocked with stone (110), reducing the height of the window. Attached to the wall top is a modern gutter (117), and on the left side the gable top is finished with further concrete coping (112). On the lower right hand side the rusticated quoins have been cut flat and there is an area of repointing associated with an iron gate hook (123). The wall returns to the east on the left

- side, where there is a further window (109), above which is what appears to be a sill left *in situ* in the wall (113), while the top of the wall has been finished in brick (114).
- The remainder of the west elevation, left of the projecting right side, is very 4.1.5 different in character. It is entirely painted pale yellow/off-white, and finished with a render covering scored to look like ashlar blocks (115). There are several windows within it, in a variety of sizes and shapes (116), the majority of which are tall, with thick, square stone surrounds. Some of the others are in the same style but consist of a single large aperture divided by a central square mullion, while the rest are small and plain, with no surround and only a narrow projecting sill. The extensive wall finish makes it impossible to tell whether any of these are later additions, although the varying styles might suggest this. The two large windows divided by square mullions have both apparently been blocked with brick (119), and the right hand example has a sill made out of bull-nosed bricks rather than stone. There are two doors within this elevation (118), both of which have square stone surrounds and lintels. The left-hand door has a date of 1701 carved into the lintel, with the initials H and A, F, and has chamfered jambs (Fig 5). This doorway, and the window to its right, is within a slightly recessed area within the render, although this does not appear to be a structural detail. The more central doorway has a short flight of steps leading up to it (125), constructed from a mix of brick and stone. There are three cast iron downpipes attached to the wall, with another short water pipe projecting through it to a drain (124). The slate roof (120) includes five chimneystacks, the south examples being predominantly brick (122), while the northern ones are mostly stone (123), making a total of eight pots. The base of the wall is met by a concrete floor forming a yard or parking space to the west (126), and the far north end there is a low outshoot wall butting the north elevation, constructed of concrete blocks with a randomly coursed sandstone facing (127).
- 4.1.6 *External Elevation, North:* only a small part of the gable end of the building is visible in this elevation (Fig 6). It consists of rock-faced finished sandstone blocks in courses, with large roughly dressed quoins (128). There is a plain doorway on the ground floor, with a machine cut timber lintel (129), which has been filled by concrete blocks (130). The right side is butted by the outshoot wall, 127, and the scar of a single pitch roof is visible on the wall coming to meet it.
- 4.1.7 *Internal Detail, Room 1:* this is a large open room, of 1½ floors open to the ceiling and with no internal divisions. It has evidently been heavily altered, and therefore consists of several building materials (Fig 2). The north elevation principally consists of sandstone in coursed, roughly finished blocks, which is almost entirely finished with off white paint (131) (Plate 4). The upper left corner has been rebuilt in brick, visible through a dark grey render (132). There is a tall 4-light window on the left side (137, part of 109), covered by horizontal iron bars, the left jamb of which has been rebuilt in brick (133), the lower part of the right jamb is also rebuilt in brick (136), and below which has possibly been rebuilt in stone (134). There is also a low concrete 'step' in the base of this window (135). In the centre of the elevation

there is a tall, roughly round-headed, arched doorway (139), which is partially blocked to form a smaller doorway (143). Three concrete steps, 138, lead up into the smaller entrance and onto a larger concrete platform within 139 built out of brick (140). Above the arched entrance is a blocked window (145), to the right of which is a doorway (142) with no surround but the remains of a set of timber stairs coming down into the room below. The right jamb of this doorway has been entirely rebuilt in brick (141). On the ground floor, below this doorway is another, 144, with a set of timber steps down to the ground proper. Electrical service cables are attached to the wall (147), and water pipes run around the room on low brick pillars (146).

- The east elevation has also been heavily rebuilt, the original build of coursed 4.1.8 rough sandstone blocks (149, same as 101) is augmented by two large buttresses 0.71m wide (164), probably in brick. The entire elevation is, however, finished with a thick coat of off white paint, which makes inspection of details difficult. The same electrical and water services (147 and 146) continue across this elevation. On the right side the wall is butted by a set of timber steps with a banister (163). The south elevation continues the sandstone build (149), although the wall top has evidently been rebuilt in brick finished with a grey render (148). A staircase (163) obscures a large part of the lower left side, and leads to a doorway decorated with panelling and overlight with tracery (162, same as 103). There are two windows within this elevation (161, same as 102), both 2-light sliding sash although boarded up on the inside, and the electrical and water pipes (147 and 146) continue across this elevation. The west elevation consists of the same original build (149) and upper rebuild (148), with electrical and water pipes (147 and 146), and includes three tall, 2light sliding sash windows each with horizontal iron bars (150, same as 109). There is a further window on the right side, 151, which has been reduced in height with stone or brick blocking (159), which also partially infills the window to the left. Below the right and left window, and the right of centre window there are lower apertures, presumably originally windows into the cellar (155, 156 and 160 from right to left), with timber lintels visible above the right two of these (157 and 158). On the left side, between the two lefthand windows is a fireplace with a large sandstone lintel (154), blocked with brick (153). The floor of Room 1 consists of a thick concrete skim (165) evidently poured in regular blocks approximately 2.09m long by 0.84m wide, beneath which is apparently an infilled cellar (Sanderson pers com). The ceiling (166) is made up of machine cut timber beams orientated east/west supporting timber joists covered by painted chipboard.
- 4.1.9 *Internal Detail, Room 2:* a small room to the north-west of Room 1 which is irregularly shaped, with a low ceiling and raised floor level compared to Room 1. The walls (170), except the east, are all finished with plaster and off-white paint, and decorated with an ogee moulded cornice and dado rail, as well as a moulded skirting board. The north elevation is recessed on the left side, with a blocked fireplace on the right (173) only recognisable as a hollow sounding area approximately 1m tall by 0.9m wide. The east elevation consists of a timber partition (174), with a central doorway, made up of five panels divided by plain muntins, with moulded rails and frosted glass panels in the upper part. There are water pipes attached above (175), coming to the position of a former

radiator. The south elevation is recessed on the left side where it meets 174, with a doorway on the right side (143). The area between the recess and the doorway (177) appears to be hollow, and gives the impression of being a blocked fireplace, although it is very thin and may instead be a short section of partition wall. The west elevation has a long window (178, same as 116) divided by a central mullion into two 2-lights covered by horizontal iron bars, with hing-opening top panes. The jambs are slightly splayed to the ground, although the dado rail, cornice and skirting boards are cut by water pipes (175), which are also attached to this wall. The floor of Room 2 (171) probably consists of timber boards covered by large sheets of vinyl, while the ceiling (172) consists of lathe and plaster, painted, and supported by a beam orientated north/south covered by beaded boxing.

- 4.1.10 *Internal Detail, Room 3:* this is a short corridor linking Rooms 1, 2 and 4. The floor (184) is the same as 171, consisting of timber boards covered by vinyl sheets, while the ceiling (183) is the same as in Room 2 (172), and the same cornice is present in both rooms, continuing above the panel wall 174. The north elevation essentially consists of just a doorway (180) into Room 4, with only a slight wall on the left side. The east elevation (179) is of sandstone build, finished with plaster and paint, with a dado rail, cornice and moulded skirting board. There is a built-in cupboard within this wall (181), consisting of a lower level of deep open shelves, below narrower shelves with glass fronted double doors, flanked by timber pilasters (Plate 5). The south elevation, like the north essentially consists of a doorway into Room 1 (182), incorporating 144, forming a 'porch' with a lower, panelled ceiling, returns for a second door and heavy iron gate hooks for the outer door. The west elevation essentially consists of the timber partition wall (174), although the south end is incorporated into 182.
- 4.1.11 Internal Detail, Room 4: this comprises a dog-leg corridor connecting the ground floor to the first floor and cellar, and Room 3 to Room 5. The ceiling (186) is lathe and plaster, rising up on the west side, following the stairs, while the floor (187) is concrete, finished with brown and black tiles. The staircase (188), in the south-west corner, is timber, with a panelled north side, the partial remains of a turned newel post and banister, and a doorway into the cellar in the west end (Plate 6). The walls (185) are typically finished with plaster, and painted two shades of dark green with a painted dado strip. The north elevation is recessed on the right side, returning to the left, with a door at the left end (189), and there are modern electric cables in aluminium housing (191) attached across the wall. The east elevation is unremarkable except that there is a timber board attached to it, below the ceiling, with brass fittings screwed on, forming the remains of a row of service bells (192). Within this wall there is also evidence for some sort of blocked aperture of unknown function (193), recognisable as a mark in the plaster. The staircase mostly obscures the south elevation, with a doorway (180) leading into Room 3 to the left and a rail of coat hooks to the right. The west elevation is unremarkable, except for a doorway leading outside (190, same as 118) with splayed and beaded jambs.

- 4.1.12 *Internal Detail, Room 5:* this is another low room, with a floor made up of stone flags (195) to the south, and concrete finished with tiles (196) to the north. The ceiling (199) is lathe and plaster, supported by a massive beam orientated east/west, which is in turn supported by two smaller beams orientated north/south, one of which sits on a chamfered timber post (169). The walls (194) are typically finished with decaying plaster and paint, further decorated by a moulded skirting board. The north elevation has a door on the right hand side (197) into Room 6, with a large fireplace to the left of this (198). The fireplace consists of a plain chimneybreast, with a thin timber mantel with a wide beaded rail below. The jambs of the aperture are not clearly visible, but appear to consist of chamfered sandstone quoins. On the left side of the fireplace are a series of cupboards built into the gap between the chimneybreast and the west wall (part of 198). These consist of three levels, the lowest incorporating a pair of small doors. The fireplace is blocked by an unknown material (198a), the extent of which is only discernible as a mark in the plaster. The east elevation is very plain, with modern water pipes (200) and other services attached to it, before it returns on the right side into a large alcove.
- 4.1.13 The south elevation too is unremarkable, with a slight return on the left side forming part of the alcove, and a doorway on the right side (189). The west elevation has a built in cupboard (201) on the far left side consisting of five levels, with tall, panelled double doors. Immediately to the right of this is a window (202, part of 116) with splayed jambs, a timber sill, and a 4-light sliding sash frame covered by an iron mesh. To the right of this is another window (203, part of 116) consisting of two 3-light panes divided by a thick mullion, with a single night-vent opening in each, the jambs of which have been repaired with concrete (204). Several timber battens (205), of unknown function, are also attached to the wall around the window. North of this window is a short section of partition wall, which projects into the room (208); this is probably built of brick but is finished with plaster and paint. It forms what is effectively a small room in the northwest corner, within which is another small window (206, part of 116) with a 2-light frame incorporating a night-vent opening, and with a timber sill. Below this a modern sink is attached to the wall (207).
- 4.1.14 *Internal Detail, Room 6:* the floor level is considerably lowered in this room, making it seem larger than Room 5 to the south, although the ceiling levels are the same. The floor consists of flagstones (215), while the ceiling is lathe and plaster supported by crossing beams (216). The walls (209) are finished with plaster and painted two shades of dark green with a painted dado strip. The north elevation has a doorway on the left side (210), with plain surrounds, which has been filled with concrete blocks (211). To the right is a cupboard built-in to the wall (212), with a moulded timber surround, hinges for double doors and six levels of shelving. A section of water pipe is attached along the wall top (213), which also continues across the west and east elevations. The east elevation is largely obscured by modern shelving, but appears to have no notable features. The south elevation has a doorway on the left side (197), with three steps leading up to it made of a mix of brick and stone (214). An inserted toilet block mostly obscures the right side, 217, which consists of two cubicles

formed by partition walls (perhaps brick) orientated east/west, and a timber front containing two doorways orientated north/south. It is built around the north/south beam in the ceiling (216), butts the south and west elevations (209), and is cut by the water pipe (213). Within each cubicle is a toilet attached to the west elevation. The left side of the west elevation is also largely covered by this toilet block, which incorporates two windows (219), both 2-light with night-vent lower panes. To the right of these, beyond the toilet cubicles, is a small sink unit (218) attached to the wall, constructed out of brick with a timber frame. This is below a further 4-light window with a sliding sash frame (220), and north of this is a further doorway (221) with slightly splayed jambs and a plain surround.

- 4.1.15 *Internal Detail, Room 7:* this is the southernmost room of the first floor (Fig 3). The walls (222) are finished with plaster and painted two shades of brown, with a painted dado rail, originally covered by a paper strip. The ceiling (224) curves to meet the east elevation, and consists of lathe and plaster; it has been replastered in the south-east corner (233), and a small square hole has also been cut through it in the centre of the east side (235). The floor (223) is almost certainly made up of timber boards, covered by vinyl sheeting. The north elevation has a doorway on the left side (226) leading to Room 4A. In the centre there is a large fireplace (225), still with its relatively plain marble surround and iron, round-headed grate surviving (Plate 7). The left-hand side of the chimneybreast incorporates a tall, narrow cupboard (part of 225) consisting of six shelves behind a two panelled door, and three shelves behind a single panelled door. To the right of the fireplace is a round-headed arched doorway leading into a toilet cubicle (Room 7A). The east elevation is very plain, curving up to the ceiling. Although difficult to fully examine it was evident that this wall was a stud partition (222a), and not of the same build as the other walls. On the south side it meets a doorway/porch (228), mostly contained in the south elevation.
- 4.1.16 Within the south elevation, doorway 228, enters a small 'porch' (234) leading to Room 1 via an incomplete timber staircase (see 142 and 141). There is a further aperture on the east side of this, although its exact form cannot be ascertained, as it has been boarded shut. Within the ceiling of 234 there is a small section of a possibly octagonal glazed ceiling, with delicate tracery, now covered, which suggests it may have originally been open to the roof. In the centre of the elevation is a window (229) filled with concrete blocks (230, see 145). The west elevation has two windows; the left hand one (231) is slightly smaller, 4-light, sliding sash, while the right one (232) is a larger, 12-light, sliding sash with a narrow moulded surround.
- 4.1.17 *Internal Detail, Room 7A:* this is a small former toilet cubicle attached to the north-east corner of Room 7. It consists of the same floor and ceiling (223 and 224), although there is a skylight in the ceiling and a hole for the toilet in the floor. The walls consist entirely of stud partitions (the same as 222a), finished with lathe and plaster, and some beaded boarding on the north side.
- 4.1.18 **Room** 4A: although between Rooms 7 and 8 on the first floor, this is a continuation of Room 4 on the ground floor. The ceiling is as Room 4 (186), while the floor is the same as Room 8 (247). The north elevation contains a

doorway into Room 8 (243), while the east leads onto the stairs (188). The south elevation has a door into Room 7 (226). The west elevation is the same as 241 in Room 8, with a window (237). This window is a 12-light sliding sash covered by a wire mesh grill. It has a narrow moulded surround and some beaded panelling above a low window seat. Below this is a row of five moulded, raised panels, each 0.13m wide by 0.26m tall.

- 4.1.19 *Internal Detail, Room 8:* this is a very plain room, the walls are finished with brown 'wood effect' wallpaper and a beaded skirting board. The ceiling (246) is lathe and plaster, while the floor (247) is timber covered by vinyl sheeting. There is a rectangular access hole within the ceiling (248), partially revealing the roof structure (249), which consists of relatively modern machine cut rafters covered by roofing felt. The north elevation (238) is unremarkable, although there is a doorway (244) on the west side with a plain moulded surround, and the east side has a large patch of repaired plaster (245). The east elevation (240) is a stud partition wall constructed of machine cut posts, the occasional diagonal brace, and narrow lathes, finished with plaster. It is badly damaged, with a large hole on the north side allowing limited access to the space behind, within which can be seen the wall proper (279). It was impossible to properly inspect this however, although it is certainly of rough sandstone construction, with a possible return to the west at the south end. The south elevation (239) consists of another stud partition wall the same as 240, with a large hole beginning to appear on the east side and a doorway into Room 4A on the west side (243), the surround of which has been removed. The west elevation (241) is stone, with the same general finish, and a window (242), the same as 237. The panelling below the window is arranged sideways by comparison with 237, however, and continues across a greater part of the elevation.
- 4.1.20 *Internal Detail, Room 9:* a further small and plain room to the north of Room 8. The floor (250) is, as per the rest; timber finished with rough vinyl sheeting, while the ceiling (251) is lathe and plaster, curving up from the walls. The walls (252) are typically finished with plaster and paint, with a paper dado strip dividing the top and bottom halves, and a skirting board. The north, east and south elevations are unremarkable, apart from a doorway in the left side of the north elevation (254). This has a narrow a moulded surround, and leads into a deep opening which is panelled with plain boards throughout. There is a slight column in the south-east corner projecting from the wall, the function of which is unknown. The west elevation has a large, 12-light window (253) with splayed jambs within it, and a low seat or sill, and a limited amount of panelling.
- 4.1.21 *Internal Detail, Room 10:* this lies at the far north end of the first floor. The lathe and plaster ceiling (257) curves up from the wall tops, while the floor (256) consists of uncovered timber boards each around 0.21m wide. The walls (258) are all finished with wall paper over plaster, the lower part being 'timber panel' effect, the upper a more rusticated wood effect, with a dado strip near the top and painted above, and a skirting board along the ground. There are three windows in the west elevation (259), in almost a Palladian style arrangement (Plate 8). The central one comprises a 12-light sliding sash,

covered by a metal mesh, with splayed jambs to the ground with narrow moulding, and some plain panelling. The two flanking are much smaller, with plain surrounds, 2-lights, and only slightly splayed. In the south elevation there is a small fireplace (260), now surrounded by mid-twentieth century tiles, and with a small opening. Attached to the north elevation, and cut through the floor, is a collection of copper water pipes (261), evidently once attached to a radiator.

- 4.1.22 *Internal Detail, Room 11:* this is the northern room of the cellar, lying beneath Rooms 4 and 5 (Fig 2 and 7). The build is the same throughout, comprising rough stone courses finished with decayed plaster and the walls continue into the low vaulted ceiling (262). The floor (263) consists of stone flags, some of which have recently been removed and holes excavated below. There are small, machine cut timber battens (264) nailed to the north and east elevations, some with the remains of metal pipe clips still attached. Iron water pipes (265) are attached to the ceiling, cutting through it in places. Within the west elevation there is a small cellar light (266), 0.7m wide and 0.8m tall, which is blocked with brick on the outside (280). The staircase (267) is on the south side of the room, against the south elevation, and consists of a series of neatly tooled sandstone steps, each 0.25m tall, and 0.25m deep, with a handrail along the north side.
- 4.1.23 *Internal Detail, Room 12:* this is the southern room of the cellar, lying beneath Room 2 (Figs 2 and 7). The build is very similar to that of Room 11, with a low vaulted ceiling and walls made of rough stone courses (268). The floor (269) is also stone flags, again with the occasional one removed. Again there are small timber battens (270) fixed to the east and south walls, with electrical cables attached, and there are water pipes (271) attached to all parts of the room, coming to a lead water tank on the north side. There is a small patch of concrete render repair within the north elevation (278). In the south elevation there is a narrow doorway (275), only 0.7m wide, with a chamfered left jamb, which has been blocked with brick (276). To the right of this a fuse box and other electrical fittings (277) are attached to the wall. Within the west elevation there is a large aperture (272), the majority of which is only 0.25m deep. Within this there is a low stone seat or shelf consisting of a stone slab on a brick plinth (274), and on the right side there is a deeper recess, presumably forming a window, now blocked with brick (273).

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 THE BUILDING

- 5.1.1 *Introduction*: the building shows three major phases of development, each of which has had important consequences for the form and function of the building. Many of these are evident in the physical remains of the building; others are shown by reference to historical sources.
- 5.1.2 **Methodology**: during the building survey context numbers were distributed, out of convenience, to features room by room or elevation by elevation. Inevitably, therefore, some of these are duplications and form part of the same feature. In order to simplify this group context numbers have been assigned to blocks of contexts numbers which are essentially the same, or part of the same feature (*Appendix 2*). These will be used during the discussion.
- 5.1.3 *Discussion*: the thick finish of plaster, paint and render throughout the building has made detailed interpretation of the phasing of the building difficult, and the dated parts of the structure are difficult to reconcile. Three major phases of building or alteration are clearly discernible however.
- 5.1.4 **Phase 1**: the earliest phase consisted of the construction of the north end of the building, certainly everything beyond Room 1. This is essentially represented by group context **1002**, and would have formed a relatively large, long, two-storey house. This would perhaps have originally been divided into two separate, and relatively small dwellings, probably along the centre of Room 5. The large beam (**199**) replaced the original wall which would have probably included a fireplace linked to the chimney above (**122**) (Fig 7). The two halves may have been connected on the first floor, suggesting that one was perhaps the service wing for the other, but this relationship is unclear. The cellar seems to have only been accessible to the more southerly of the two buildings, which suggests that, along with its generally larger size, it was the part of the building with a higher status.
- 5.1.5 **Phase 2**: the front, south, end of the building has clearly been added onto the original Phase 1 construction and essentially consists of group context **1001**. This formed the ornate frontage onto Cable Street, which incorporated Number Three as well (although the relationship between the back and front parts of Number Three were not established during this assessment). This may well have resulted in substantial alterations to the rear part of the building, perhaps including the opening up of Room 5 into a single room (see 5.1.4 above). On the first floor this may also have involved the construction of new partition walls such as **222a**, **239**, **240** and possibly **238**, as the internal space was re-organised to fit with the new layout of the extended building. Access between the old and the new parts was provided by two doorways **143** and **182**, the larger of which (**143**) appears to be a later insertion, and window **145** was probably blocked at this stage having become unnecessary.

- 5.1.6 It seems likely that the earlier structure at the north end became the service 'wing' for the newly extended house; certainly features such as the cupboards 181, 201 and 212, and those within fireplaces 198 and 225 suggest functional rather than polite rooms. It is not clear whether all of these features are contemporary, but it is likely that they were all in use during the lifetime of the enlarged house. Similarly it is not clear whether all of the windows in the west elevation were in place before Phase 2 or whether more were added at a later date, although the large number of apertures might suggest that the latter suggestion is more likely.
- 5.1.7 **Phase 3**: the enlarged house seems to have lasted in this form for some time, as seen on the OS map of 1893 (Plate 14), with perhaps only minor alterations being made. The latest phase of major rebuilding is most evident in the south end, when the 'new' extension was reduced to only 1½ storeys and all the internal partitions in the south end were removed. The wall top was rebuilt in brick (148) with concrete coping (104), the floor of Room 1 was replaced with a thick concrete skim (165) (the cellars below Room 1 must have also been filled by this time), and the roof was replaced with a flat timber construction (166). The east wall of Room 1 was supported by a pair of brick buttresses (164) to hold the three storeys surviving to the east. Several further minor repairs and rebuilds probably also relate to this remodelling such as the rebuilt jamb of doorway 142 (141), and additional stairs were added to fit the change in floor level (138, 163, and within 144).

5.2 HISTORICAL SETTING AND SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

- The datestone (Fig 5; Plate 2) gives some vital evidence about the 5.2.1 development of Number One Cable Street. The year 1701 is considerably earlier than the supposed date of construction of the building, c1759, (White 2000, 41). However, the initials H and A F would appear to fit with the name of Captain Henry Fell for whom part of the house was built (ibid). It seems entirely plausible, therefore, that the HF of 1701 was an ancestor of the Captain Henry Fell of c1759 (A White pers comm). Captain Henry Fell was a port commissioner and possibly a relative of Richard Gillow (Appendix 1), who built the house and made use of the experience when constructing the new Custom House in 1762 (White 2000, 8). This datestone fits well with the evidence from the building itself, in that the northern part (incorporating the datestone) is earlier than the southern part. Investigations (Garnett 1999, 100) has not been able to trace the potential ancestor, and has suggested that the date may have been recut from 1761, but considers the earlier date more likely. It would seem therefore that the building date of c1759 refers to the front of the building and that this was built onto an existing structure.
- 5.2.2 Some details are known about Captain Henry Fell but it was not possible to discover the identity of the possible ancestor. An examination of the parish registers for Lancaster covering 1701 did not identify any suitable marriages to fit the initials (Brierly 1920), no directories cover such an early period, and no other sources were immediately available. It is conceivable with the name Fell that the earlier of the two may be a Quaker, and hence there is no entry in the parish registers. It has been stated that a growth in business and prosperity

during the later seventeenth century was in part led by Nonconformists and Quakers (Morrison c1975), which would fit with the evidence from the datestone. It is equally possible, however, that the datestone was moved from another house, a characteristic which is not uncommon (ibid, 1). The original H and A may, of course, never have been married in Lancaster, which would also explain why there was no evidence for them. Further research may elucidate the matter.

- 5.2.3 The history of the building after 1759 is far less difficult to follow and it seems to have remained a high status town house into the middle of the twentieth century (Plate 15). It is not until it changed in use to commercial premises that further alterations were made. Its use as the offices of the Lunesdale Farmers Ltd (County Publicity Ltd 1959, 50) seems to have been the beginning of the end of the survival of the building, and its subsequent use as a restaurant and workshop led to large-scale remodelling and virtual demolition of the front of the structure.
- 5.2.4 Number One Cable Street is an extremely significant building in terms of the development of post-medieval Lancaster. Not only was the earliest part of the structure probably one of the earliest built on the reclaimed area known as Green Ayre or Area, it was constructed before Cable Street as it now appears even existed. In that sense it helped to shape the development of this part of the town, and undoubtedly had strong links to the growth in maritime trade as its position next to part of the early quayside shows on Mackreth's plan of 1778 (Plate 12) and on the 1792 sale plan of the Green Area (Plate 13). Buck and Buck in 1728 (Plate 11) quite possibly depict the earlier part of the building, which demonstrates how it was part of an expansion of the city in this direction. It is known that the first developments in this direction were associated with private quays and warehouses for merchants during the late seventeenth century (White 2000, 26).
- The use of brick identified in the listed building information (Appendix 1) is 5.2.5 not readily apparent in this part of the building, which would suggest that it is either used in Number Three, or the listing is mistaken. It is also clear that Champness's assertion that the rear wing of the building was a later addition is mistaken (Champness n.d., n. p.), and that this almost certainly would have acted as the services or offices, which he also notes are missing from the specifications of 1759-60 (ibid). The issue of the windows in the west elevation (Section 5.1.6) is also partially clarified by the fact that in 1766 Captain Henry Fell paid window tax on 22 windows (*ibid*), far less than would have been present in the complete building. Assuming it is the same house this would suggest that some windows were added at a later date. The attribution of the later addition of c1759 to Richard Gillow, a famous Lancaster furniture maker and architect makes its extreme remodelling in the late twentieth century particularly unfortunate, especially as it survived virtually untouched until that point (Plate 15).

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- Figure 2: Ground floor plan and cellar plan
- Figure 3: First floor plan
- Figure 4: South external elevation
- Figure 5: West external elevation
- Figure 6: North external elevation
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- Plate 14: Ordnance Survey 1st Edn, 25": 1 mile, 1893
- Plate 15: 1 and 3 Cable Street in the 1920s (from White 200, 8)

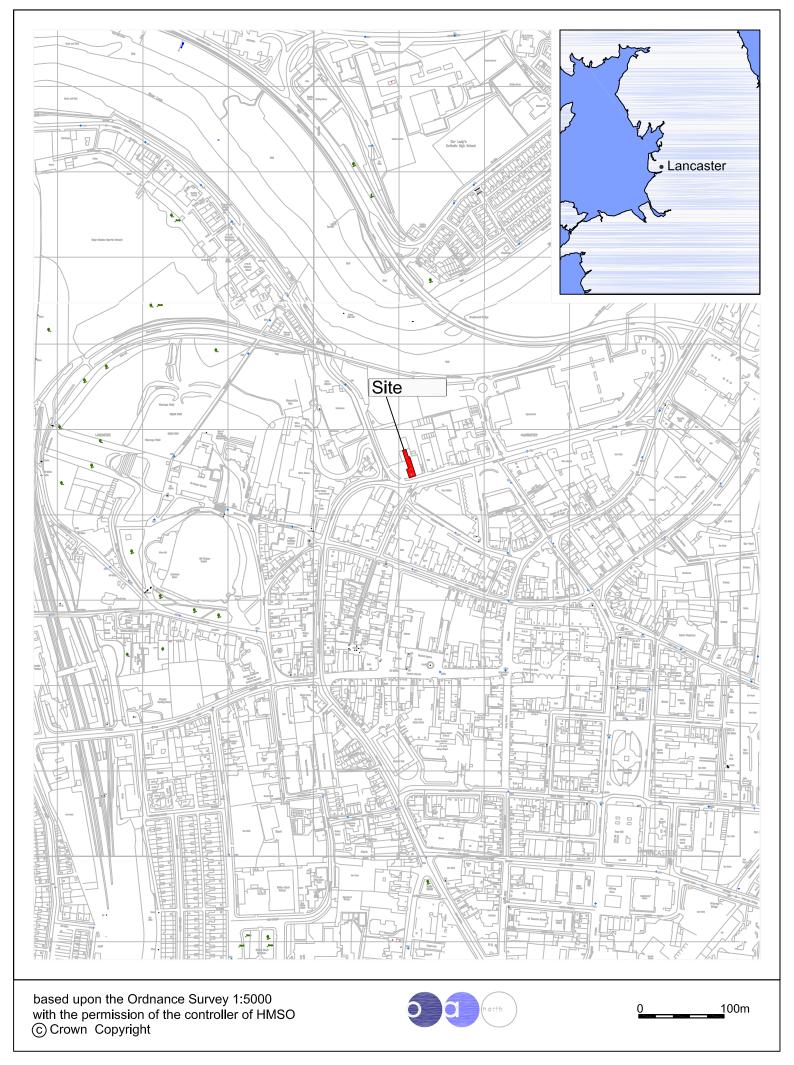


Figure 1: Site location plan

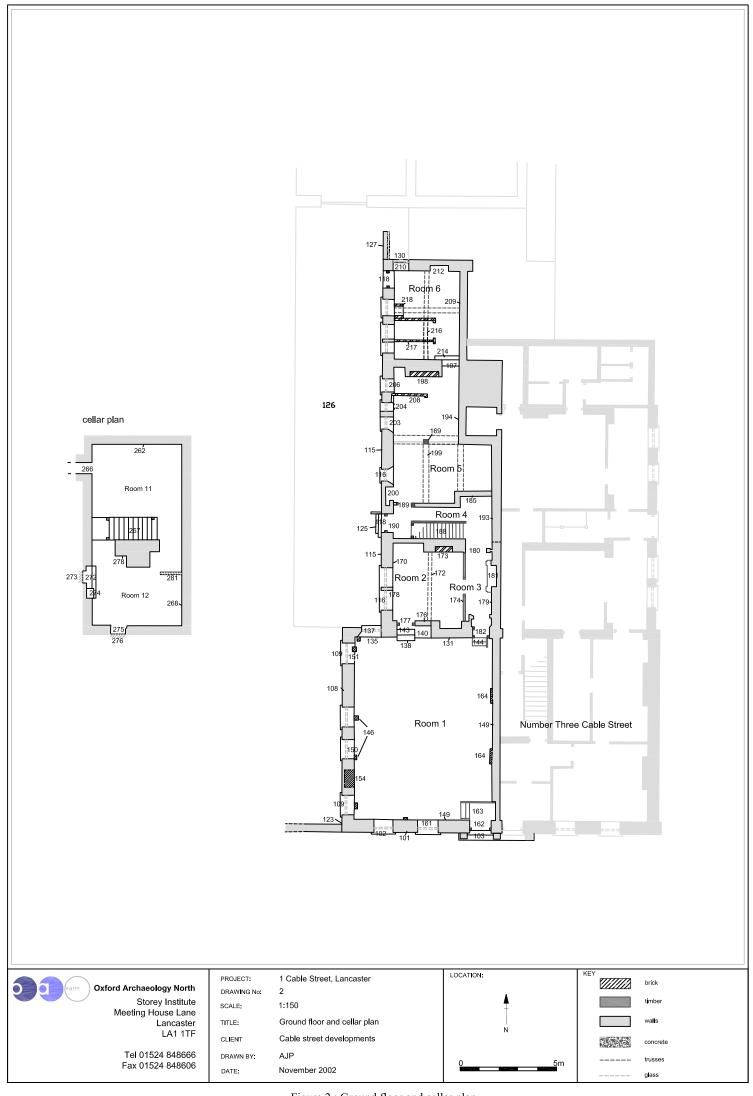


Figure 2 : Ground floor and cellar plan

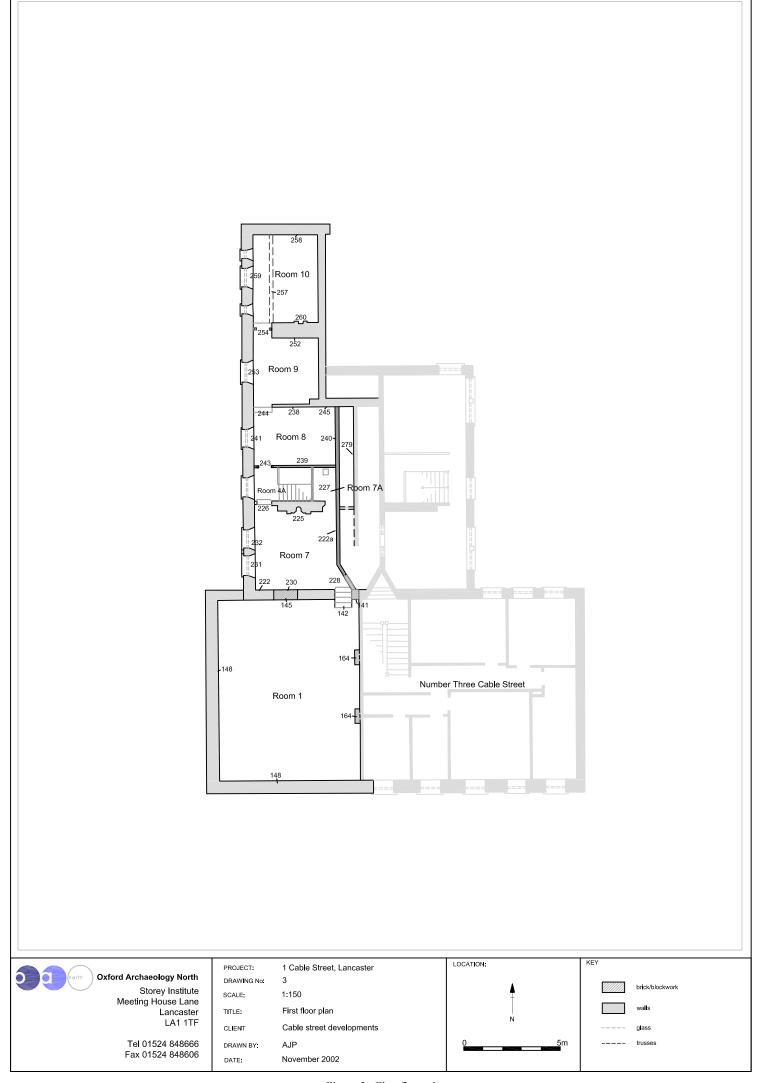


Figure 3 : First floor plan

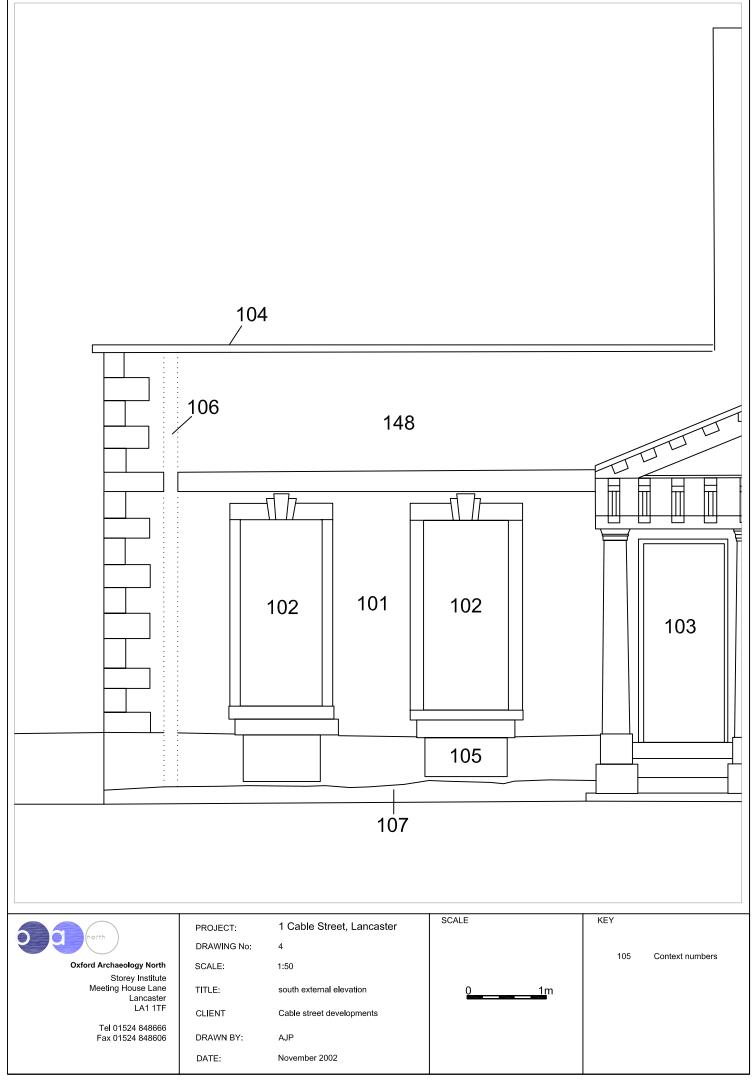


Figure 4 : South external elevation

Figure 5: West external elevation

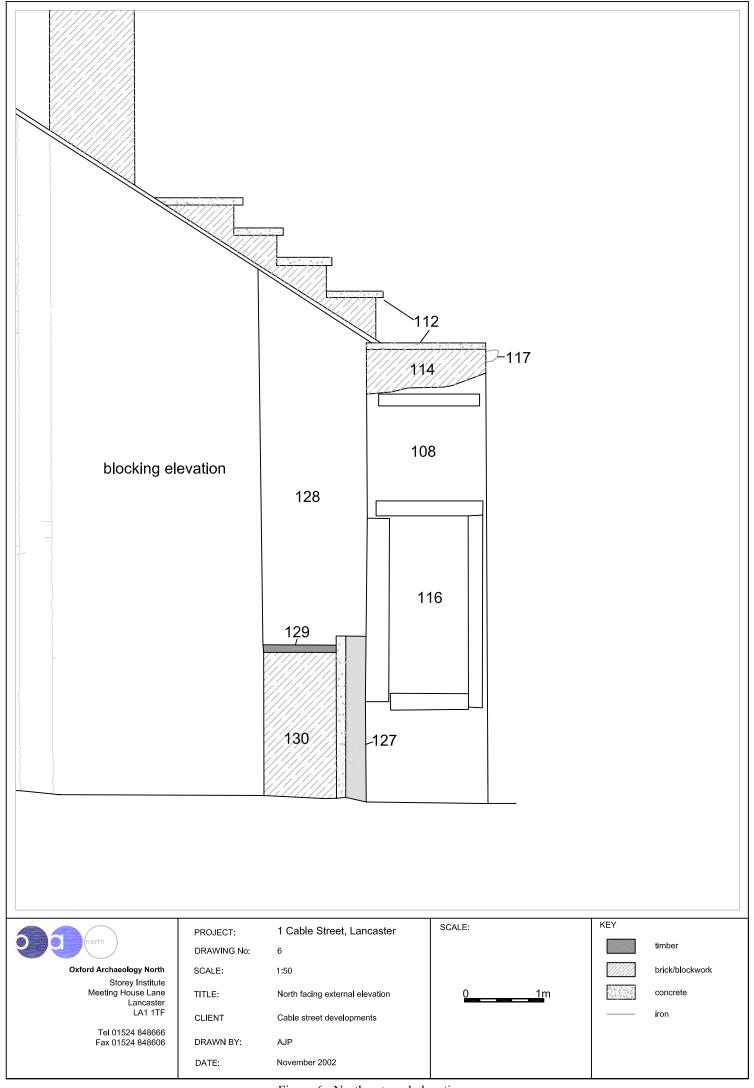


Figure 6: North external elevation

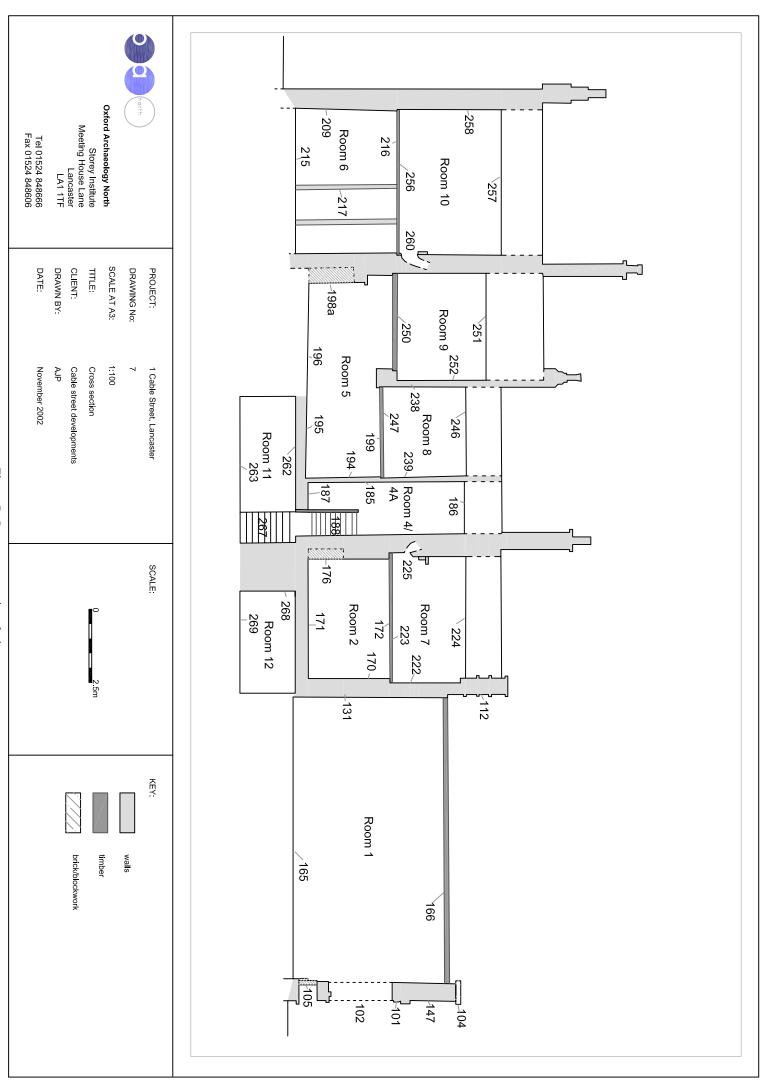


Figure 7: Long cross section, facing west



Plate 1: Front (south) external elevation



Plate 2: Datestone in west external elevation



Plate 3: West external elevation



Plate 4: North elevation, Room 1



Plate 5: Cupboard in Room 3, looking south-east

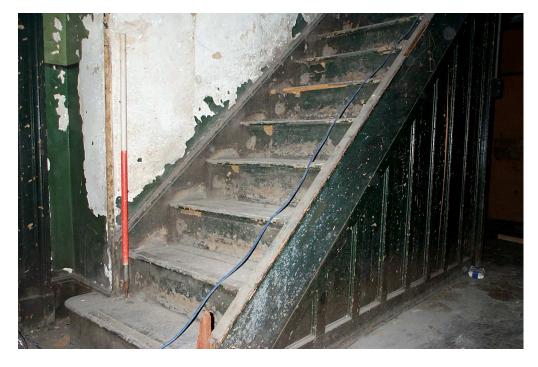


Plate 6: Staircase in Room 4, looking west



Plate 7: Fireplace in Room 7, looking north



Plate 8: Windows in Room 10, looking south-west

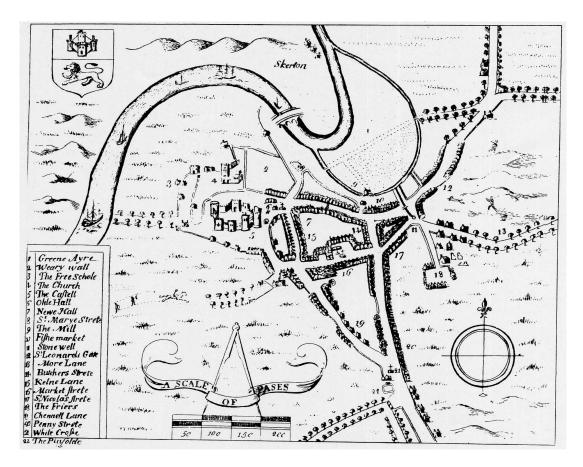


Plate 9: Speed's map of Lancaster 1610

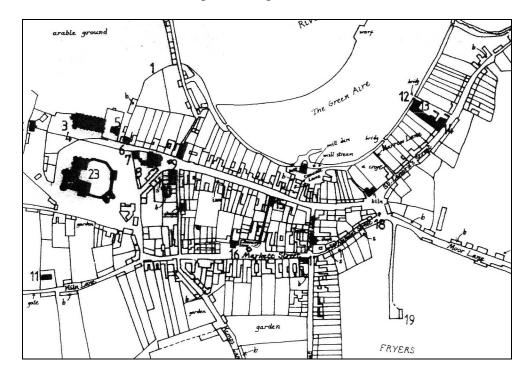


Plate 10: Plan of 1684 by Docton (1954)



Plate 11: Part of the north-east prospect of Lancaster (Buck and Buck 1728)

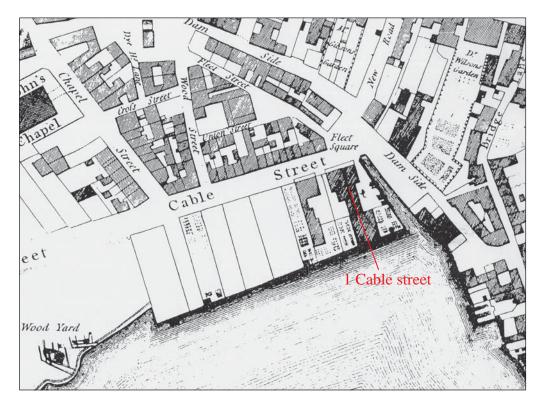


Plate 12 : Mackreth`s plan of 1778

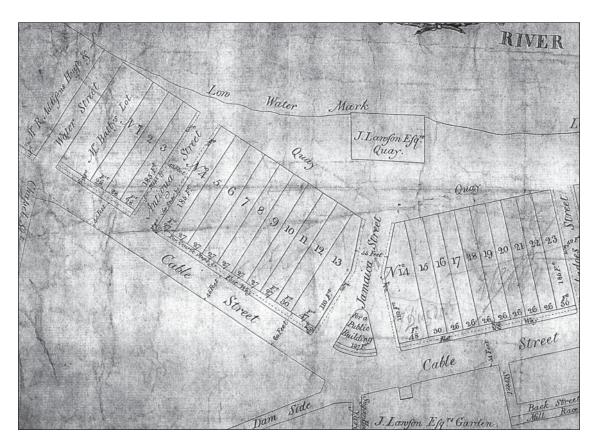


Plate 13: Plan of lots for sale in Green Area 1794

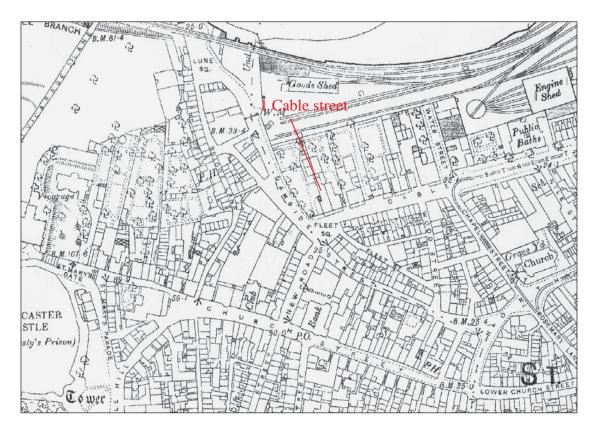


Plate 14: Ordnance survey1st Edn, 25":1 mile, 1893

APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDING INFORMATION

Lancaster

SD 4761 NE

Cable Street (North Side) Nos 1 and 3

1685-1/7/25

22/12/53

Listed Grade II

Pair of houses, now shop and office, and a restaurant. 1760, altered and part demolished c1965. Designed by Richard Gillow. For Captain Henry Fell and Mr Samuel Simpson. Sandstone ashlar facade with ashlar dressings, and coursed and squared sandstone with brick used in part of the rear wing (perhaps the earliest dated use in Lancaster). Slate roof with, to the right, a coped gable with kneelers and a tall gable chimney. T-plan: double-depth front range with a long 2-storey rear wing. Originally 3 storeys above a cellar, although No.1 now has only one storey. 8 bays, 3 to No.1 and 5 to No.3, the last 2 placed over a wagon entrance with a deep stone lintel. Chamfered quoins, a first-floor sill band, and a moulded eaves cornice. All the windows have moulded architraves with triple keystones, those in No.3 have 12-pane sashes. In third and fourth bays the doorways of both houses are combined into a central feature (apparently the first time that this was done in Lancaster) with a single Doric pediment with triglyph frieze carried on 3 engaged columns. The doors are recessed, with 4 steps leading to paneled doors which have integral overlights with tracery of different patterns. The rear wing (approached through the wagon entrance) is covered by modern additions on the ground floor, but otherwise has coupled windows and a central 2-stage stair window, all with glazing bars. INTERIOR: No.3 has a dogleg staircase with an open string and scrolled brackets, and reeded architraves to some doors. HISTORY: Captain Fell was a Port Commissioner and perhaps a relative of Gillow. The specification for this building survives in the Gillow archives, and the mason was William Kirby, for whose use the design of the central doorway was drawn out at a large scale. Captain Fell's new house at Fleet Bridge is referred to in the specification for mason's work at the new Custom House (flow (sic) the Maritime Museum, qv), prepared in 1762. No.3 was listed on 18.2.1970.

APPENDIX 2: GROUP CONTEXT NUMBERS

- 1001: original build of the south end of the building; including sandstone walls 101, 108, 128 and 149 with ashlar quoins and sill band, windows 102 and 109, and doorway 103. Internally this includes wall 149, windows 137, 150, 151, and 161, as well as doorway 162 and fireplace 154.
- 1002: original build of the north end of the building; including sandstone walls mostly finished with an ashlar effect render 115, windows 116, and doorways 118, 129 and 182. Internally this includes walls 170, 179, 185, 209, 222, 241, 252, 258, 262 and 268, windows 178, 202, 203, 206, 219, 229, 231, 232, 242, 253, 259, doorways 177, 182, 183, 189, 190, 197 and 210, and fireplaces 173 and 198.