The Octagon Chapel and Moon and Sixpence Yard Milsom Street Bath



An Architectural and Archaeological Assessment



Client: L & R Group

Issue N^O: 1 NGR: ST 750 650

The Octagon Chapel and Moon and Sixpence Yard, Bath. An Architectural and Archaeological Assessment

Contents	
1. Introduction	
2. Archaeological Background	
3. The Octagon Chapel	5
AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY	11
	12
	13
	14
	15
100 miles	15
List of Illustrations	
	The Octagon Chapel as designed, 1766
	Location map Basement demolitions
	Ground floor demolitions
	First floor demolitions
	The lease of 1856 (Corporation and Dr Magee)
	Lease of 1901 (Corporation and Mallett & Son)
Figure 5.	
	Savile's Map of <i>c</i> .1600
	Gilmore's map of 1694
-	Wood's map of 1734
Figure 11	The 1886 OS 1:500

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Code BATOC 05

Site address The Octagon, Milsom Street, Bath

OS NGR ST 750650
Project Type Assessment
Museum Accession No: N/A

SMR Event Code:

Client L&R Group

Date of Fieldwork February-August 2005
Date of Report September 2005
Author Peter Davenport

Summary

This report presents the revision after extra work of results of an archaeological assessment carried out by Bath Archaeology in February 2005 at The Octagon Chapel, Bath and contiguous areas and buildings. The revision was carried out by the same author working now for Oxford Archaeology. The Desk-Based Assessment incorporates a study of both the known archaeological and historical records covering the site and the immediate vicinity. It also includes the result of an on site appraisal of the standing buildings. There is no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity, although the site is close to areas of intensive Roman urban activity. The area was largely open space, pasture and gardens, through the middle ages and remained so until development in the 1760s. The east side of the site was the Broad Street frontage and was part of the medieval suburb of Bath that spread along Broad Street and Walcot Street. Broad Street frontage was built up but the backlots of the properties spread across the eastern part of the study area. Nothing is known to survive of medieval structures on or near the site, but medieval deposits may well exist in uncellared areas. The area is shown as gardens in the earliest maps and began to be built up in the early 18th century when Green Street was laid out. Milsom Street followed in 1761 and the Octagon Chapel was built on land leased from the Corporation to serve the new district. The buildings now on and around the site are nearly all of 18th date, however much altered. The main exception is the entrance fover and associated rooms and structures built to provide a new access to the Octagon Chapel in 1978 in amongst the buildings north of the chapel. Shire's Yard to the north has incorporated some older buildings, but many have been rebuilt on the older ground plans. Moon and Sixpence Yard was developed with workshops in the later 18th century at least, and by 1818 was hardly any different in plan to the state in 1976, being densely packed with workshops and sheds. The yard was cleared in 1978 or 9 and only the present Moon and Sixpence restaurant survives. 3, Broad Street may well have early 16th century origins and certainly dates from at least the late 16th. Two plain additions to 3, Broad Street and the east of the Chapel were built in the 1980s, but the yard is now essentially open. The Octagon was a fashionable rendezvous from its opening until the mid 19th century. Its interior detail reflected its aspirations and, despite the attrition of the centuries, fully justifies its Grade I listing. However, it ceased to be a chapel in 1895 and conversion to a showroom in 1901 quickly resulted in the loss of most of its ground floor features, even structural ones. The impact of the change of use in 1978-9 on the main chapel is more muted, but as much of the interior has been boarded out, it is impossible to be sure of the condition or existence of features known to have existed then. Proposals to incorporate the chapel and the Moon and Sixpence Yard into the retail ambience of Shire's Yard and Milsom Street, require minor demolitions of older fabric and removal and/or gutting of the post 1978 structures. These proposals are commented upon in the light of the importance of the structures and spaces.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The site in the centre of Bath is in the centre of a block which is fringed with intense retail use, but which is not itself currently in retail use (fig 1).
- 1.2 The proposals are intended to provide a retail space within the Octagon Chapel on both floors and open up access from Green Street and Broad Street across the properties. Access from the Shires Yard shops immediately on the north is also envisaged (Fig 15).
- 1.3 These proposals will have an impact on the standing structures on site and may affect buried archaeological deposits. However, in the yard in front of the Moon and Sixpence the deposits are believed to consist largely of recently deposited material.
- 1.4 The client has asked for an assessment of the significance of these impacts. This document is that assessment.

2 Archaeological Background

2.1 This section summarises the results of searches done through the Bath and North East Somerset Sites and Monuments Register (SMR), the Urban Archaeology Database for Bath (UAD), and the Roman Baths Museum archaeology database (RBD). Many of these entries are duplicated in more than one database; in the paragraphs below the reference given will be to the first database consulted in the order given above. The results of the actual SMR trawls are presented in an appendix.

2.1 Prehistoric Activity

2.1.1 There is no record of prehistoric activity on or near the site. However, Mesolithic flints have been found across the city centre where buried prehistoric soils have been investigated in recent times (Bell 1998).

2.2 Romano-British Activity

- 2.2.1. None is recorded on the site. The area has not been investigated nor have chance finds been made. Only in one direction, the south east, is there any activity in this period known. The traffic island south of St Michael's Church has had archaeological remains recorded during drainage works in 1912 (B&NES SMR BN1893 see appendix). These were paved and cobbled surfaces and drains at about three metres down.
- 2.2.2. There is evidence that Walcot Street was a Roman settlement and the supposed line of the Roman city wall runs along Upper Borough Walls some 75 or so metres to the south. The line of Walcot Street seems to follow a major thoroughfare of the Roman period and important evidence of Roman settlement, in the form of intensive urban use is known from several sites along its east side (Tramsheds BN2538 and BN2547-58, St Swithun's Yard UAD669, Hat and Feather Yard, Beaton in prep. inter alia). Watching briefs along the western side, though limited, have produced no evidence of such occupation.

2.2.3. The SMR lists MBN10172 on the west side of Milsom Street just north of Jolly's store as the line of the "Fossway Bypass". This is the line proposed by Keevil (see reference in SMR print out, appendix 1) for the line of the Roman road which he discovered south of the river as it might have continued towards Guinea Lane. It bypasses the walled area of Bath, thus the nickname. Excavations in 2002 (Davenport 2004) showed that this is very unlikely and the road continues on a completely different alignment further to the west.

2.3 Medieval Activity

- 2.3.1 In the middle ages, the site seems to have been rural, or what might now be called urban fringe. Land use is unclear but was probably a mix of pasture, orchards and market gardens, but will have changed in various ways. Earlier 17th century maps (Speed and Savile, fig. 6) suggest that the present boundaries were in place, broadly by then. However, Gilmore (Gilmore map 1694, fig 7) seems to show that the tenements running back from Broad Street extended further west. He may be less reliable, although he shows more of Broad Street than Savile.
- 2.3.2 Archaeological traces of medieval Bath are rare and valuable. Broad Street is one area where they might be found.

2.4 Post-medieval

- 2.4.1 Broad Street was first laid out in the middle ages, perhaps when the cathedral close was extended in the 1090s and properties in the walled area were taken for it. However, the oldest known buildings are 16th century, possibly early in that century.
- 2.4.2 At no 3, the north gable wall is timber framed in a late style and the upper floors rest on a masonry ground floor wall. Decorated timber ceiling beams in the shop are stylistically 17th century. The building was extensively altered in the late 1970s and the original late 17th century timber roof is now on show suspended from the modern steel roof. The rear part of the building was gutted during the same period but retains a traditional stone fireplace, of indeterminate traditional style (and with a stylistic date range of 1500-1800) in its west wall. Beyond this is the 1980 western outshut.
- 2.4.3 Mrs E. H. D. Williams of the Vernacular Architecture Group provided a detailed analysis of no 3 in 1979 (her report is now in the B&NES archives). She concluded that the rear portion of no 3 was probably of early 16th century date with the upper floor added or rebuilt in the late 16th or early 17th. The front portion of the building is of later 17th or early 18th century date.
- 2.4.4 The building has been very much degraded by 20th century work and, for example, the entire south wall was rebuilt in 1921 in brick and concrete. However, important interior details survive on the ground floor, and parts of the first floor, especially on the north elevation. At the rear, next to the 1980 outshut, there is a loading door with a concrete lintel at ground floor level. This is mid to late 20th century but predates 1979. The stonework above it and the cill of the late Georgian window above that were replaced when the lintel was inserted.

- 2.4.5 The other building is the rear part of no 7a. This has masonry of at least three building phases. The oldest and most extensive, despite a moved date stone of 1640, seems be of around 1680 (Forsyth 2003, 132), a period of prosperity in Bath. The frontage of this building is late 18th century as is much of the street, although older fabric may lurk behind other, unexplored, buildings. The internal boundaries of nos 3-7 and the building history of 3 and 7 indicate, as Mrs Williams pointed out, the original street frontage of Broad Street encroached upon, probably during the 17th or early 18th centuries.
- 2.4.6 No 2 was rebuilt in Georgian style in1921 as part of a rationalisation of the long strip of property including the Octagon extending from Milsom Street to Broad Street in the ownership of Mallet Fine Art Dealers. The ground floor was the goods despatch and vehicle garage, in two sections each with garage doors. This is reflected in the present two part shop front, of late 20th century date. The access passage to the vaults was placed behind the garage behind the northern door and is now reached via a door replacing the garage door entering a passage once more extended to the street frontage.
- 2.4.7 The site was first developed outside the Broad Street frontage in the early 18th century when Green Street was laid out (a bowling green had been laid out after 1677 on the site and this gave its name to the new street (Wroughton 2004, 197 and our fig 7). The original leases for the houses are all 1718-22 (Jane Root pers comm.) and the properties were all laid out along the new street, the plots sharing a common northern boundary. The street provides the southern limit of the area under consideration (fig 1).
- 2.4.8 Broad Street and Walcot Street were both small but significant suburbs running along the roads from the north city gate. The property boundaries of the present buildings took their origins in the middle ages but will have changed within the framework set then.
- 2.4.9 The northern side of Green Street only had two houses at first. The westernmost (no. 2) has been rebuilt as part of the Baldwin building on the corner of Milsom Street (see below) but no 3, although it has a modern shop front, is perhaps the one of the best examples of early Georgian, pre-Palladian design in the city. It dates from the first laying out of the street. Next to it was a malthouse, but this was demolished and replaced by the three houses, 4-6, in 1769. East again, the frontage seems to have been low service buildings for the Broad Street properties (Manners' map of 1818, and a bakers and an undertakers on the same plan on 1886, figs. 9 & 11), and the present purpose built lock up shops were built in 1908, interesting and well-preserved early examples of the genre (Forsyth 2004, 132).
- 2.4.10 Milsom Street was laid out in 1761-8, on ground leased by Mr Milsom and called Milsom's Garden. The houses were probably designed or at least overseen by Thomas Jelly and his associates and are the usual Wood pattern. Exceptions are no. 47, now Lloyds Bank, a neoclassical design by Baldwin of the 1780s, which had its ground floor restored in 1908 and now includes the older house next door in Green

- Street. This was refaced in two campaigns in 1930 and 1959 and is now indistinguishable from the bank (Forsyth 2004, 156-57).
- 2.4.11 No 46 has been refronted (in 1900-1) and the shop front altered again in 1907 and 1911. The interior was much altered in 1901 to provide the present shop, which is a rare example of an early 20th century grand shop interior (BRO building control applications 518, 1072, 1117). Slight work was done in 1951 (BRO building control application 9007). The north side of this building has always contained the entrance passage to the Octagon chapel, but 20th century work has reduced the width of the approach by half.
- 2.4.12 The rest of the Georgian house was also heavily modified in 1901. As well as the refronting, the front gambrel roof was replaced with a flat and although the plain mouldings in the rooms fronting on to Milsom Street are all Georgian style, they are of Edwardian date. The mouldings at the rear of the main block are however, Georgian: e.g. the dentilled cornice in the room with the truncated Venetian window and the similar in the staircase at this level (the staircase from the first floor is original 1760s). It is not clear what date the door cases etc are as they are of Georgian type. Some doorways are in untypical positions and may therefore be later insertions. Skirtings and dadoes all follow Edwardian and later alterations such as removed fireplaces and added lobbies so are, at least in part, 20th century.
- 2.4.13 In the attic level the doors and door cases are all original. The subdivisions of rooms to provide kitchens and WCs cut across cornice mouldings and are probably post 1978.
- 2.4.14 The pseudo Venetian window in the rear first floor room has had its cills raised simply to allow the positioning of the flat roof of the rear showroom in 1901. It would originally have been of a normal depth. The blocking is probably partially visible on the exterior, but access to the flat roof here was not possible.
- 2.4.15 45 to 43 are standard mid-century Bath town houses. 43 was gutted in 1978 at ground and basement level to act as the foyer to the new RPS gallery and centre. The outer elements and side door of the shop front to 43 is late 19th or early 20th in a classicizing style, but the actual glass and cill date from 1978. The shop window glass could, indeed, be Edwardian or later, as at no 46, but, if so, has been reset in a 1970s framework.
- 2.4.16 42 to 38 are a tour de force by Baldwin on a piece of land that was not available for building during the first phase of development and released in 1776 (Peach 1893, 95). The richly worked columnar facades are not like other Bath buildings, being not at all restrained, although the basic inspiration is the palace front idea of Wood's Queen's Square. Shop front development damaged the design in the 19th century but all but no. 42 have been restored. No 41's ground floor facade was restored in 1988 to act as the entrance to Shire's Yard shopping precinct. However, the ground floor and basement of this building was gutted to make the western part of the Shire's Yard development.
- 2.4.17 Shires Yard, developed in 1988, forms the northern limit of the assessment area.

3. The Octagon Chapel

3.1 Description

- 3.1.1 In the centre of the buildings described now stands the Octagon Chapel, a structure that almost has no exterior, so tightly packed is it into the space between its neighbours.
- 3.1.2 Its origin is well known, a private propriety chapel built on land leased from the Corporation in 1765 by banker, William Street, and the Rev. Dr Dechair, who saw an opportunity for spiritual and financial advantage.
- 3.1.3 The chapel was a great success, well placed to pick up fashionable custom from Upper and Lower towns, and with valuable and profitable vaults let out for storage. The emphasis from the beginning was on comfort, with fireplaces and, famously, pauses in the services to allow their banking up and refuelling.
- 3.1.4 The chapel was designed by Lightoler (Thomas or Timothy, sources differ) in 1765-6, the foundation stone being laid in April 1766. The building was open for divine service in October 1767. Lightoler was one of the Bath builder-architects working in a late Palladian, but almost neoclassical style. At the same time he was involved in producing designs for a new Bath Guildhall. He described himself as a carver and was also active in producing architectural pattern books.
- 3.1.5 The building is simple but elegantly designed as a comfortable and appealing preaching box. The pulpit was the centre of attention and easily visible and audible from all parts, unlike the altar. The chapel was famous for its preaching throughout most of its life.
- 3.1.6 The building is a large square block approached by a corridor from Milsom Street. Only the very east end of this is now visible in anything like its original form as it was narrowed in 1901 for most of its length. A square anteroom with restrained, but good quality plaster decoration joined this to the interior of the building which, unsurprisingly enough, is octagonal, with a continuous gallery on ionic columns, the whole covered by an octagonal dome of wood and plaster. The galleries were reached via curving stairs from a lobby just inside the anteroom.
- 3.1.7 The anteroom or vestibule originally had shallow niches to north and south with moulded jambs. One of these, blocked up, is visible on the south. The northern one is invisible but there is a square, cupboard-like recess in its place. The plaster work decoration is elegant and high quality, with swags in the frieze and scrolls and tendrils surrounding oval panels with figures in the corners of the ceiling. The opening to the corridor still has its original architrave, but the door and frame to the Octagon are Edwardian.
- 3.1.8 The corners of the square at ground level were filled with semicircular apses flanked by attached columns and separated from the main body by two more columns, where the infamous fireplaces warmed private pews or indeed easy chairs.
- 3.1.9 The altar was housed in a square recess on the east with apses on either side.

- 3.1.10 The building was lit from the lantern and eight circular lights, or *oculi*, in the plaster dome, now blocked.
- 3.1.11 The apses however must always have been dark, well back beneath the gallery. At the west end this was remedied to some extent by borrowed light from an internal light well lit from neighbouring yards. The eastern apses may have had some sort of top lighting but this is now irrecoverable.
- 3.1.12 The interior decoration is restrained, and the plasterwork survives in extremely good condition in the dome and lantern. It is believed to survive on the gallery walls, but these were all panelled over in 1979. It is the work of Lightoler and is of good quality, both in design and execution. Ison particularly notices the woodwork, especially the mahogany doors (1948, 56). These have gone, and only the original architraves to the stairs remain.
- 3.1.13 The organ recess has been turned into a grand approach from the Edwardian, Jacobean style corridor above the entrance passage. The very ornate architrave and door are Edwardian.
- 3.1.14 The upper floor over the entrance corridor (the gallery) is Edwardian, constructed in 1901 when no. 46, Milsom Street was heavily refurbished by Mallett's. There is no clear documentary evidence of this, but the south wall clearly butts up to the Octagon wall and is of lateVictorian/Edwardian style masonry, with shallow coursing. In doing so, it seems to obscure scars of the organ recess on the Octagon wall, removed to allow access from the gallery. The door was recognised in the original report to be of Edwardian date. The gallery has a fine Jacobean revival ceiling dating to the works of 1901 and the entire interior treatment is certainly early 20th century. The windows are blocked in brick and this could be as late as the 1970s work, which is certainly when the present dry lining was set in place.
- 3.1.15 Alterations to the lantern design seem to have been made during the building period, the present upright lantern being built rather than the glass-domed skylight of Lightoler's published engraving.

3.2 The Vaults

- 3.2.1 "Below the Octagon itself are six large Vaults, dry and of even temperature. They are admirably suited for any kind of storage, and have, in fact, been used for the storage of valuable furniture for the past 35 years" (Particulars 1936).
- 3.2.2 These vaults were used for the storage of wines and spirits in the late 18th century. The leasing arrangements were complicated, with the south west corner, for example, belonging to 46 Milsom Street in 1860 (BRO 2595B).
- 3.2.2 Because of the differences in the surrounding streets' levels, the vaults had a level access from Broad Street which led to a door below the chancel. The original access was carefully marked out in lease plans, for example the one between Dr Magee and the Corporation in 1856 (BRO). This led from an entrance north of 2, Broad Street and dog legged through a long narrow open yard. It widened as it reached the chapel,

- giving access also to doors into the vaults under the south east apse. The route is shown clearly on the Cotterell and Spackman survey of 1853 (fig 10 and fig 15).
- 3.2.3 By 1886 (OS map that year fig 11 and fig 15) this access was completely reorganized and straightened out. It appears that 2 Broad Street was rebuilt completely by that year and the rear yard built over south of the new access route. The details are shown differently in the 1886 map and the 1901 lease. The former bends the alignments a little too much. The building shown is not the present one. However, the masonry ashlar wall which forms the north wall of the ground floor of the cinema, behind the concrete screen wall, has blocked windows, and must be part of the rear north wall of the building shown in 1886. Fragments of this wall probably also still form part of the south wall of the staircase in 2, Broad Street. The rest of this wall dating from 1921 is built of brick.
- 3.2.4 The vaults are aligned either side of a central corridor and some were blocked off from it at an early date, rough ashlar being employed for the dividing walls. This subdivision is undated but is probably mid-19th century or earlier. A few subdivisions clearly date from the 1978 alterations for the RPS, for example the south east vault still marked "RPS dark room"...
- 3.2.5 An interesting feature of this central corridor is a light tramway set into a concrete floor that runs from the west end under Milsom Street to the door from the Broad Street access passage. This has all the hallmarks of a late 19th century arrangement to move wine barrels and crates. It certainly predates any 20th century use and is not mentioned in the 1936 particulars of sale.

3.3 Later 19th century changes

- 3.3.1 The building was re-ordered during the 19th century but I have not been able to discover when. The lease plan of 1856 (BRO 2595A) shows only a very slight difference from Lightoler's plan for the pews etc, and the position of the pulpit(s), but it is not clear in any case how the finished building might have differed from the published engraving of 1767.
- 3.3.2 One change that must belong to this phase, the period between 1856 and 1895, was the installation of a very high quality wrought iron screen to the chancel, presumably of mid 19th century date, by Messrs Singer of Frome and modelled on one in Amiens cathedral (Particulars 1936).
- 3.3.3 The chapel ceased to be a chapel in 1895, stood empty for a few years, and by 1901 was in the hands of the Fine Art dealers Mallett and Sons (BRO bundle 2595). They proceeded to make major changes to fit the building to its new purposes.

3.4 Early 20th century

3.4.1 The 1901 lease plan of the ground floor shows that the curved gallery stairs had been removed and replaced by a new wooden stair on the site of the south west apse and light well, which have been removed (this stair is no longer extant and seems to have been demolished during the alterations in 1978 pror to the RPS moving in (Forsyth 2004, 158).

- 3.4.2 The other semicircular apses were removed in 1901 (though they survived to be shown on a building reg plan of 1901), cut back into the corners of the square. A plan of 1936 show these triangular spaces were lit via skylights, and their provision may well have been the reason for taking out the apses, dating the skylights to 1901 (particulars 1936). The screen columns were left in place. Of course, all the pews and related fittings were removed at this time.
- 3.4.3 The relief detail on the gallery fronts is early 20th century (Forsyth 2004, 158) and most likely therefore to be of the 1901 changes.
- 3.4.4 That these alterations took place at this time or shortly before is supported by a plan of 1901 for building regulation approval to major changes in no 46, all part of the same property (BRO 518). This shows the south west corner of the chapel before the removal of the stairs, apse and light well here. Such removal perhaps makes sense as the proposed extended show room in no 46 would block the light well.
- 3.4.5 The detail changes in no 46 Milsom Street have been outlined above (2.4.11-14). The Georgian building was given a new facade and major alterations internally and at the rear, but the carcase remained. In 1907 and 1911 further changes were made to the shop front, leaving it as it is today.
- 3.4.6 It was in 1901 that it acquired another corridor above the entrance passage from Milsom Street which led from the first floor show rooms in 46 to the gallery, via what had been the organ alcove. It was finished with a Jacobean-style, coved, plaster-ribbed ceiling and a new grand doorway into the chapel gallery.
- 3.4.7 In 1921, 2, Broad Street was completely rebuilt to provide more showroom space and despatch and loading space for Malletts. The passage to the chapel vaults was incorporated in the north side of the new building and led off from the despatch room. There was no longer direct access from Broad Street. This obviously made sense as the stock was stored in the vaults (para 3.2.1).
- 3.4.8 It seems that the whole of the south wall of no. 3, Broad Street was rebuilt at this time in brick and concrete to allow the continuation upward of the new north wall of no 2.
- 3.4.9 Access from the new showrooms to the main floor of the chapel was via a stair inserted in the rear of the 1921 rebuild against the south side of the altar recess. A door giving access from the south east recess is described here in the sale particulars of 1936 and can only date to the 1921 alterations. The door is shown in a 1951 building regs drawing (BRO 10669).
- 3.4.10 The stair appears to have been rebuilt in 1978 (see below) and the wall and doorway west of it removed completely. A new screen wall and double door was added across the chord of the apse.
- 3.4.11 A stair was also built in 2, Broad Street to provide access between the ground and first floor showrooms here (fig. 5) (and to the offices above). The connection (now the main access) from the corridor to the north seems not to be original and is not

shown on the 1936 plan (fig. 5). In keeping with the generally classical image that Mallett's were obviously keen to convey (as in 46, Milsom Street and the treatment of the Octagon) this is in Georgian style. Indeed it is a very close replica of a mid 18th century Bath stair in hardwood, and must have been very expensive. Only the slightly expansive proportions and the doric influenced double newel posts indicate that something is not quite right, and the relative lack of wear and use damage. Again, the whole point of this expenditure was to reassure wealthy prospective clients.

3.4.12 The chapel remained in use as a showroom until 1938, and during the second world war was used as a Food Office, by the government.

3.5 Later 20th century.

- 3.5.1 A new access from Green Street was made in 1951 by adapting the ground floor of 5, Green Street where a deeply recessed shop front had already provided half the space required. The rear yard was roofed and a covered concrete stair was inserted leading up to double doors cut in the south wall of the chapel. The door opening was provided with steel lintels. The difference in level between Green Street and Milsom Street is about 6 ft here. Incidentally, the present guard rails in the gallery are shown as to be fitted in this plan. This seems to belong to works intended to make the building safe for envisaged public access such as the architectural exhibition of that year's Bath Assembly.
- 3.5.2 In 1978 it was converted as offices and an exhibition space for the Royal Photographic Society (to designs by Roy Worskett). In 2000 the RPS left the premises. It has been used for a variety of temporary purposes, and none, since then and is currently in use a performance arts studio by Bath Spa University College.
- 3.5.3 The conversion in 1978 involved the creation of a new building north of the chapel, providing a cafe, offices and access through a foyer using the shop of no 43 Milsom Street. This involved the demolition of the rear outbuildings of no 43 and behind 44 and of a range of ramshackle sheds and workshops in what is now Moon and Sixpence Yard. In plan most of these buildings were in existence at least by 1818 (Manners' map) though certainly some had been rebuilt in the 20th century (Chedburn 2002, fig. 5).
- 3.5.4 The new building is of no great interest except as an example of what was considered sympathetic conversion of old buildings in 1978. However, it did have more impacts on the chapel.
- 3.5.5 A new access was made to the vaults from the basements of the new building on the north side. The stairs in no. 2 Broad Street by the south east corner of the chapel were rebuilt and reorganized and the apse partitioned off from the main space. These stairs seem to have replaced function of the 1901 set in the south west corner, which were removed after 1978.
- 3.5.6 The chancel recess seems not to have had access to no. 2, Broad Street until 1978 when a door was inserted to make communication with a new block built partly over the vaults passage (still existing) and partly north of it. Dashed lines are shown on the plans of fig. 5 and fig. 4 (1901 and 1936) which might at first suggest an opening here, but refer instead to the access to the vaults below the apse. The plans are all open to ambiguity because they show two levels at once, but the 1936 plan is also not

clear on its use of coded lines.

- 3.5.7 The lower of the two showrooms at the rear of 2, Broad Street was turned into a small cinema in 1978. An interior shell or screen wall was fitted to provide the present shape. Behind the northern screen wall the original north wall of the showroom is apparent. This is partly of ashlar with clear evidence of thre blocked windows at ground floor level. The ashlar is cut into by concrete piers which are clearly those that rise into the upper show room and roof.
- 3.5.8 As these piers are secondary to the ashlar walling, the latter must belong to the building shown on the 1886 OS (fig. 11) that post-dates 1853. The ashlar and its blocked windows must therefore be of mid Victorian date.
- 3.5.9 The windows would have opened into the passage to the vaults, and lit the rooms to its south. Whether they remained in use when the wall was re-used in 1921 is unknown. They are the only possible source of natural light for the showroom.

3.6 Importance

- 3.6.1 The chapel, although it has lost much detail, especially on the ground floor, remains an important interior, and is the only surviving chapel of ease built for fashionable Bath (The Countess of Huntingdon's chapel being a more particular case and not C of E). The main losses, apart from the organ and the internal fittings, have been the apses, the stairs to the gallery and the broad corridor entry from Milsom Street. Otherwise the building is in good and largely original condition.
- 3.6.2 This does not apply to the paint finishes. There are no records extant, but the 1760s finishes are likely to have been variations of stone white. By 1936 the walls are "Wedgwood Green" with the plaster enrichments in white, and the blocking of the *oculi* and the panels in the gallery walls are painted "Wedgwood Mauve". Although certainly Edwardian, these reflect possible later neoclassical colours. The gallery fronts and columns appear white or stone-coloured in the photograph in the 1936 "particulars of sale" (whence the colour details are taken).
- 3.6.3 The building fully justifies its listing at Grade I even though it is badly degraded at ground floor level. It is a fine piece of work by a second rate, but good architect. It is also has very important historical associations, appearing in comment, and even fiction at the time, and illustrating social life in Georgian Bath and later. All surviving detail from the 18th and 19th century should be preserved.
- 3.6.4 The alterations to no 46 are of considerable interest, as the building is a largely intact Edwardian high status shop and offices contrived within a heavily modified late Georgian building. The changes due to retail pressure between 1901 and 1911 are well documented and the resultant building a valuable example of this important era in retail history. In its current form it should be seen as a whole with the Octagon and 2, Broad Street, which between 1921 and 1938, were one retail design.
- 3.6.5 Nonetheless the building is of of more local than national importance.
- 3.6.6 Changes made in 1978 and later are largely superficial and reversible.

4. Moon and Sixpence Yard

- 4.1 The spaces between Broad Street and Milsom Street were soon developed after the establishment of the latter street, and by 1818 if not before were covered in service buildings and workshops etc. The basic building plan did not vary until 1978, although individual buildings were altered and replaced on the same sites. This is particularly well illustrated in the aerial photograph taken in 1947 (fig. 14). The only non-frontage building surviving from that period is the main block of the Moon and Sixpence, otherwise, 6a, Broad Street. This seems to have been a workshop ever since the late 19th century and probably before (Chedburn 2002). It is quite clear that the present courtyard is a modern creation, postdating 1978.
- 4.2 The buildings behind 4, 5 and 6 Broad Street were demolished in 1980 and replaced by the extension now attached to the rear of no 3 (Chedburn 2002).
- 4.3 No 3 Broad Street is one of the oldest buildings in Bath and has a complex history. In principle, its fabric must take with it an assumption that it will not be damaged or altered without very careful consideration and mitigation. However, it is clear that the current proposals do not impact on any fabric older than the mid 20th century.
- 4.4 Otherwise, the only buildings affected by the proposals that predate 1978 are the original block of no 6a, the Moon and Sixpence, and the small ashlar bay or block attached to its west end. The photograph in Chedburn 2002, fig 4, is unclear but suggests that this block had a wide barn type door on the ground floor and a loading door above. In other words it was a wagon store (and stable?) with hayloft over.
- 4.5 The building now has a 1990s shed obscuring much of the ground floor, but the central part of this south elevation has clearly been extensively rebuilt, with most of the elevation actually being new or reused ashlar. The western corner of this elevation (part of the original stonework) is canted on the ground floor, suggesting a way past this corner was at least intended. While no such way is evident on any map, the cant is explained by the presence of an open fronted shed immediately west of the bay on the 1886 OS map. Turning wagons in this restricted space would demand it.
- 4.6 Once past the north side of no 6, leaving Broad Street, the southern side of the Moon and Sixpence Yard is mostly modern, post 1987 structure. The only exception is the original rear block of no 3 Broad Street and the chancel projection of the Octagon Chapel. The west side is partly the chapel and partly the 1978 northern block of the RPS. This meets (or strictly, passes very close to the west of) the refronted face of the block described in the preceding paragraph. The north side is occupied by the Moon and Sixpence restaurant (extended in 1991) and the south side of 7a Broad Street, along with no. 3, the most important architectural and archaeological element in the space. In 1988 an opening was made in the wall next to this element to provide access to the newly developed Shire's Yard.
- 4.7 The open space itself is at several levels which seem to be the result of landscaping building rubble in the 1980s. It is hard paved.
- 5. Map Regression
- 5.1 The earliest map to show the area is the Savile map of about 1603-10 (fig. 6). This seems to be the original of the better known Speed map, published in 1610, although some have doubted its authenticity.

- 5.2 It shows a bird's-eye view of the city from the south, still largely contained within its walls. However, suburbs are shown running south towards the river: Southgate and from the Northgate along Walcot Street and Broad Street.
- 5.3 The site was on the northern fringes of the suburb, on largely open ground. Only the very southernmost part actually appears on the map. The western side was built up but little else.
- 5.4 The next map does not appear until 1694 when Gilmore produced a detailed map for Dr.Guidot (fig 7). This shows that much open space within the walls has been built up, but growth beyond them was limited. Broad Street was developed as far as what is now George Street on the west side but not so far on the east. Like the earlier maps, Gilmore's was a bird's eye view, but he also attempted to show land divisions accurately. The plots that can be identified as 2-6, Broad Street have gardens and orchards that run back almost to the future line of Milsom Street (partly marked by a back lane).
- 5.5 He showed the buildings of note as vignettes around the border frame but only one house in Broad Street, that of Sir Thomas Escourt, the position of which is unknown, is illustrated. It appears to have been of Elizabethan date.
- 5.6 Wood's map of 1730 (fig. 8) shows much the same as Gilmore but in modern plan form. Green Street is shown fully developed (Wood simply blocks in properties, lumping open space in with buildings other than churches and other public buildings).
- 5.7 Harcourt Mastersmap of 1794, second edition 1808 was not available due to closure of the reference library.
- 5.8 In 1818, George Manners surveyed the parish of St Michael Without (fig. 9). This is a clear large scale map that distinguishes between the main house and its ancillary buildings roughly between multi and single storey buildings. 6a appears on this map, supporting its stylistic attribution to the later 18th or early 19th century.
- 5.9 Everything on the map is identically recorded on the Cotterell and Spackman survey of 1853, but this very large scale survey shows the access to the vaults of the chapel from Broad Street clearly. This enters by the alley north of 2, Broad Street and wends it way around outbuildings at the rear (fig. 10)
- 5.10 By 1886, the large scale 25" OS map shows that no.2, Broad Street has been rebuilt, or at least all the rear buildings, and the passage to the chapel vaults straightened (fig 11, and fig 15 showing the two layouts superimposed). The open fronted shed has been added west of no 6a. One small building west of no 5 has been demolished (or incorrectly coloured in on the 1853 map).
- 5.10 The 1902 OS map is small scale, only 1:2500, but indicates a large glass roofed area at the rear of no 2, Broad Street. As this building was demolished in 1921 it is not clear whether this was a large greenhouse of conservatory or merely a mistaken use of symbol.

- 5.11 There are only very minor variations in the 1:2500 1930 map, suggesting that the 1921 rebuild did not affect the map making. However, it repeats the mapping of the large glass roof 1902, indicating this property, at least, was not re-surveyed. (fig 12).
- 5.12 The 1951 map was resurveyed and at 1:1250. It clearly shows the 1921 building in its two parts (office building to front, show room to rear) with no major glass roofing. The other parts of the site have not changed.
- 5.13 The last map in this sequence is the 1966 to 1976 1:2500. This again shows no difference from the previous one (fig 13)
- 5.14 Various aerial photographs were taken of Bath in the 1940s and some earlier. One from 1947 is the most useful (fig. 14). It gives some flesh to the later 19th and 20th century mapping and gives an idea of the site for most of the last two hundred years. Flat roofing, as opposed to double and mansard pitch type, gives a clue to replacement or rebuild in the 20th century.
- 6. Proposals and Implications
- 6.1 The current proposals have two main elements: the conversion of the Octagon into retail space and the provision of other retail spaces and their integration into the Shires Yard: the provision of routeways into it and Shire's Yard from Broad Street and Green Street (fig 2).
- 6.2 At basement level the demolitions are shown in fig 2a. The western part of 20th century southern party wall of 3, Broad Street is to be removed, along with the 1978 rear block of the RPS, currently forming the southern side of the Moon and Sixpence Yard, and the 1980 rear extension to no. 3. This is to allow the provision of access from Broad Street along the line of the old Octagon vaults passage. The loss of no fabric older than the 1920s would be required here. A window at first floor level in the west wall of no. 3 would be extended down to make a doorway. The cill and the removed masonry are of post WW2 vintage, replaced when the lintel to the door below was inserted prior to 1979.
- 6.3 Elsewhere, the demolitions at this level involve the removal of the 1978 cinema screen walls, the partial demolition of the ashlar between the concrete piers at the west end of the north wall proper and the removal of the inserted partition walls in the Octagon basements (para 3.2.5).
- 6.4 The RPS building of 1978 west of the Moon and Sixpence would be gutted at this and the level above, and will have various new opening cut through the east wall. The building is all new, only the lateral or party walls being of any antiquity and these will remain.
- 6.5 The early 19th century block at the west end of the Moon and Sixpence would have an opening made though its south elevation at its first floor level and its northern wall removed or cut through. This is to allow the creation of a walkway leading from the lower level of Moon and Sixpence Yard to the lower level of the Shires Yard. All of the surviving older fabric will remain, only post 1980 walls being removed (fig 2b). However, the exact age and status of the north wall has not been clarified. It is part of

the boundary wall between Moon and Sixpence and Shires Yard and is probably late 18th century fabric, much altered and repaired when Shires yard was developed in its present form.

- 6.6 This same wall is also scheduled to have a length removed at this level just west of the latter point, opening up the 1978 RPS building to Shires Yard. This again is of uncertain status, but does follow the original boundary between the two yards (fig 2b).
- 6.7 All other demolitions at this level are of late 20th century fabric, with one exception. This is the north wall of the upper showroom at the rear of no 2. Its removal would entail the loss of the 1921 plasterwork and presumably the roof structure. This is not a loss of any architectural significance, but should be mitigated by record.
- 6.8 The gallery across Moon and Sixpence Yard itself is intended to be light and minimalist. To some extent its volume may echo memories of the low buildings that occupied the area until recently. Its footings may disturb archaeological deposits, about which little is known. Medieval deposits may survive here. 18th and early 19th century floors and walls probably occur under the paving but the very limited area of the footings mean that little that is meaningful would be exposed.
- 6.9 The Green Street fire escape through no 6, for that is what it is, would be made into an entrance to the new retail space in the chapel to draw people in from the south. Any alterations to fabric are likely only to affect the 1951 work.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The proposals will have substantial impact on the fabric of the study area in places, but most of this is on buildings of the late 1970s and 1980s, that have little intrinsic or historic interest. Some loss of fabric in the boundary wall between the Moon and Sixpence Yard and Shires Yard at planned and there is still some uncertainty as to its status. However, nearly all the fabric under threat of demolition is 1980s or later modification, very different in effect from the original.
- 7.2 In the chapel and no 46, Milsom Street no significant demolitions are planned and the removal of the 1980s dry lining can only be a good thing.
- 7.3 Below ground archaeological deposits may occur and may be of local importance. Disturbance should be kept limited, as it is intended to be, and mitigated.

8 Acknowledgements

8.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Charlotte Matthews of B&NES for her assistance with the SMR search, The Bath Record Office for their help in searching the documentary archive, and help and co-operation throughout the project. Mr. K. Elliott of L&R Group provided plans of the site and information and research already carried out. Discussions with Dan Liston of DLG Architects has also been helpful and he has also supplied plans of proposals.

9.References

B&NES Archives Bundles on Milsom Street and Broad Street including leases and

lease plans and building regulation submissions.

Chedworth 2002 Listed building report by Chedburn Design and Conservation

(unpublished client report)

Forsyth, M. 2004 Bath (Pevsner Architectural Guides)

Ison, W. 1948 The Georgian Buildings of Bath

Particulars 1936 Particulars of Sale with Plans of the important and historic

leasehold business premises now occupied by Mallet and Son.

Peach, R.E.M. 1893 Street Lore of Bath

Appendix 1 The reports from the SMR Bath and North East Somerset Council Monument Full Report

22/02/2005Number of records: 7

SMR Number Site Name **Record Type**

BN6693 - MBN6693 1-15 Green Street Monument

Record missing There is a malfunction on the database and this record, referring to the

houses on Green Street, contains no data.

MonFullRpt Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd

SMR Number BN10172 -Site Fossway bypass

SMR Number Site Name **Record Type** Monument

BN10172 - MBN10172 Fossway bypass

Monument Types and Dates

ROAD (Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)

Description and Sources

Description

A bypass route for the fosseway has been noted in {1}.

Sources

(1): Keevil A J. 1989. The Fosseway at Bath.

Location

National Grid Reference

Centroid ST 749 651 (MBR: 100m by 100m) ST76NW

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References - None recorded

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

MonFullRpt Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd

SMR Number BN10213 - Site Postal Museum

SMR Number Site Name Record Type
BN10213 - MBN10213 Postal Museum Monument

Monument Types and Dates

BUILDING (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)

Description and Sources

Description

Not the first Post Office which was located in Sally Lunn's House (ASMR10212)but an early example with many early features. {1}

Sources

(1) SMR interpretation: Evans, D.R. SMR Officer. 1994.

Location

National Grid Reference

Centroid ST 750 650 (MBR: 100m by 100m) ST76NE

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Address/Historic Names

Designations, Statuses and

Associated Legal Designations

DBN217 Listed Building Broad Street Title not entered

Other Statuses and Cross-References - None recorded

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

MonFullRpt Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd

SMR Number BN11602 -

SMR Number Site Name Record Type

BN11602 - MBN11602 Octagon Chapel Building

17

Site

Monument Types and Dates

CHAPEL (Post Medieval - 1765 AD)

Description and Sources

Description

The second proprietory chapel to be built in Bath, it was designed by Thomas Lightoler in the newly laid out Milsom Street. William Herschel was its first organist. The chapel soon became very fashionable, but by the end of the 19th century was acquired as an antiques showroom and was subsequently used as a hall for public events. For the last 20 years it has been the home of the Royal Photographic Society. (1)

Sources

(1) Bibliographic reference: B.G. Stone. 1973. Bath Millenium. pp. 53-55

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 74994 65012 (point) ST76NW Point

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Address/Historic Names

Octagon Chapel, Milsom Street, Bath

Designations, Statuses and

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References - None recorded

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

MonFullRpt Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd

SMR Number BN11603 - Site Bowling Green (site of)

SMR Number Site Name Record Type

Monument

BN11603 - MBN11603 Bowling Green (site of)

Monument Types and Dates

BOWLING GREEN (Post Medieval - 1600 AD to 1700 AD)

Description and Sources

18

Description

A large bowling green is shown on this site in the late 17th century, (1) but by the early years of the 18th century it had been acquired for the building of Green Street.

Sources

(1) Map: J. Gilmore. 1694. The City of Bath.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 75007 64990 (point) ST76SE Point

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Address/Historic Names

Bowling Green (site of), Green Street, Bath

Designations, Statuses and

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References - None recorded

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

MonFullRpt Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd

SMR Number BN11607 - Site King Edward's School (site of)

SMR Number Site Name Record Type

BN11607 - MBN11607 King Edward's School (site of)

Monument

Monument Types and Dates

SCHOOL (Post Medieval - 1752 AD - [actually 1755])

Description and Sources

Description

A purpose built establishment for the Bath Free (Grammar) School was erected by Thomas Jolly (1) It remained in use until the early 1990s when the school moved to a new site in North Road. The old building is still awaiting re-occupation.[1]

Sources

(1) Bibliographic reference: J. Wroughton. 1982. King Edward's School at Bath 1552-1982.

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 74980 65078 (point) ST76NW **Point**

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Address/Historic Names

King Edward's School (site of), Broad Street, Bath

Designations, Statuses and

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References - None recorded

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

MonFullRpt Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd

SMR Number BN11609 -Site St. Michael's School (site of)

SMR Number Site Name **Record Type** Monument

BN11609 - MBN11609 St. Michael's School (site of)

Monument Types and Dates

SCHOOL (Post Medieval - 1841 AD)

Description and Sources

Description

St Michael's National (Parochial) School was built in one of the Courtyards at the rear of Broad Street by G.P. Manners in Jacobean style. (1) It appears to have been demolished in the 1950s to provide extra space for the Broad Street public car park.

Sources

(1) Graphic material: J. Lees-Milne and D. Ford. 1982. Images of Bath. no. 831

Location

National Grid Reference

ST 74984 65118 (point) ST76NW **Point**

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

20

Address/Historic Names

St. Michael's School (site of), Broad Street, Bath

Designations, Statuses and

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References - None recorded

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes - None recorded

Related Monuments - None Recorded

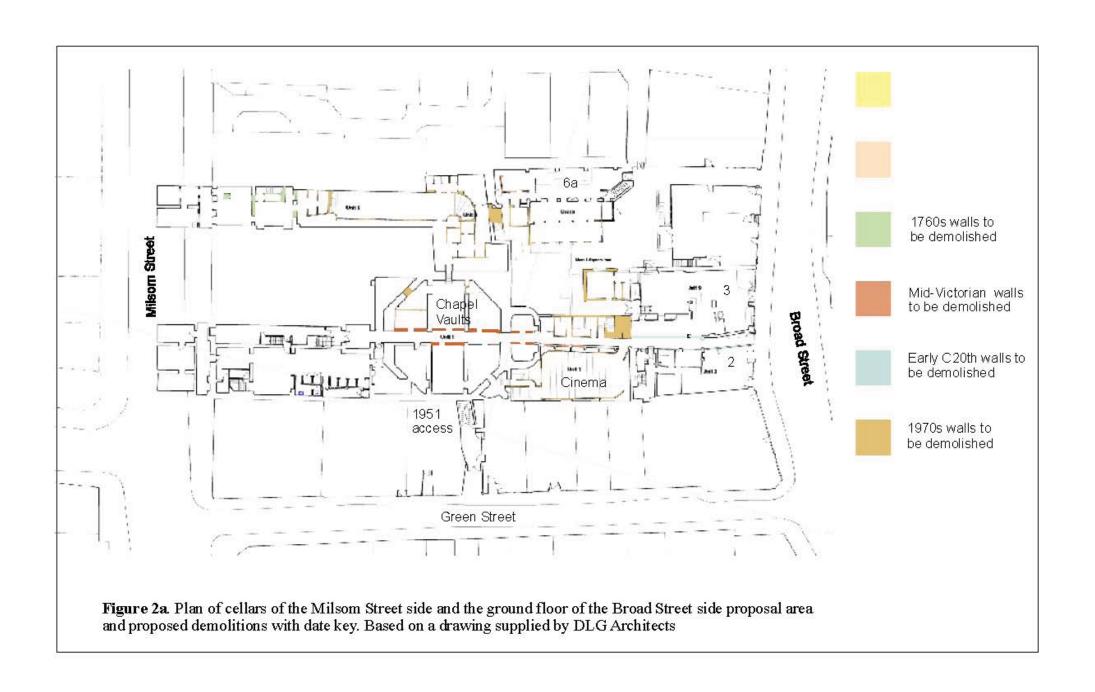
Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

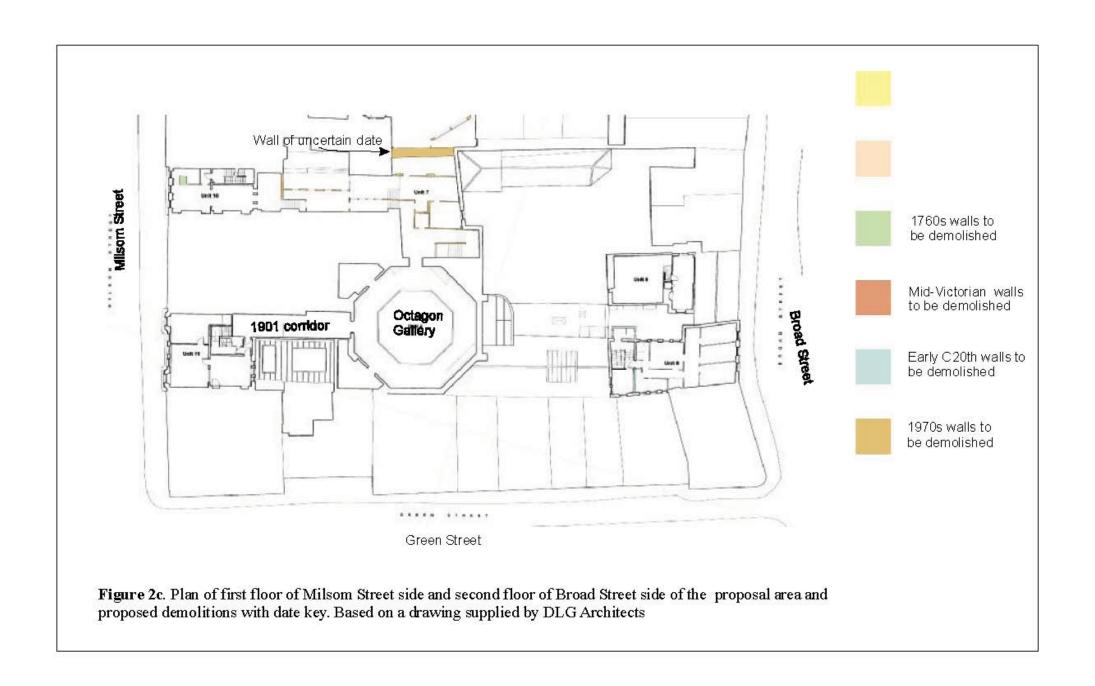
Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

MonFullRpt Report generated by HBSMR from exeGesIS SDM Ltd









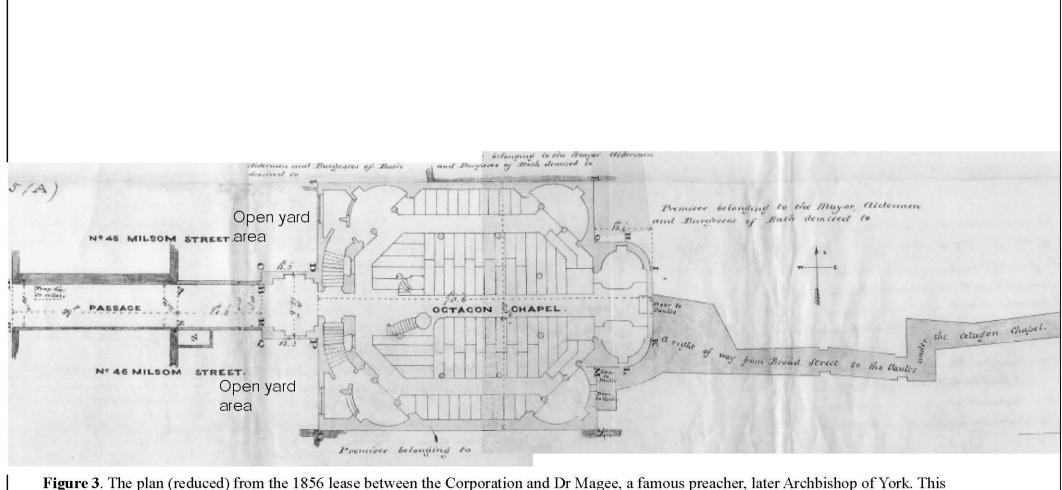


Figure 3. The plan (reduced) from the 1856 lease between the Corporation and Dr Magee, a famous preacher, later Archbishop of York. This shows the chapel in very nearly, if not actually, its original condition. Note the vestibule (CDPQ), the full width passage from Milsom Street, the columned apses and the curving stairs to the gallery. The dog leg original passage to the vaults is shown on the right side, shaded in and at basement level.

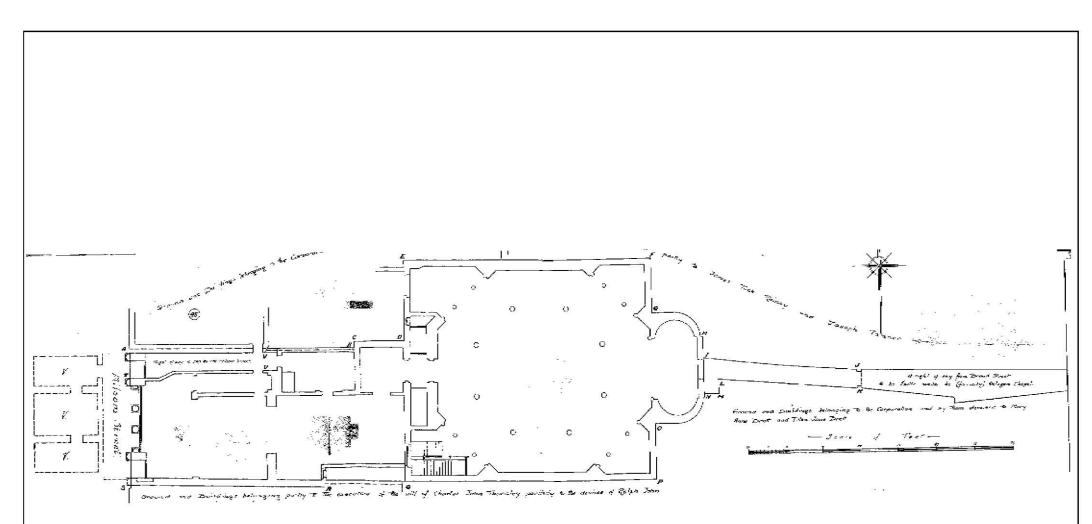


Figure 4. The lease of 1901 between the Corporation and Mallett and Sons. This shows the changes made in that year, especially the removal of the apses and the remodelling of no 46 Milsom Street, and the reduction of the approach corridor. The vaults access from Broad Street was rationalised before 1886, and may have had something to do with the narrow gauge light railway installed in the Octagon Chapel vaults.

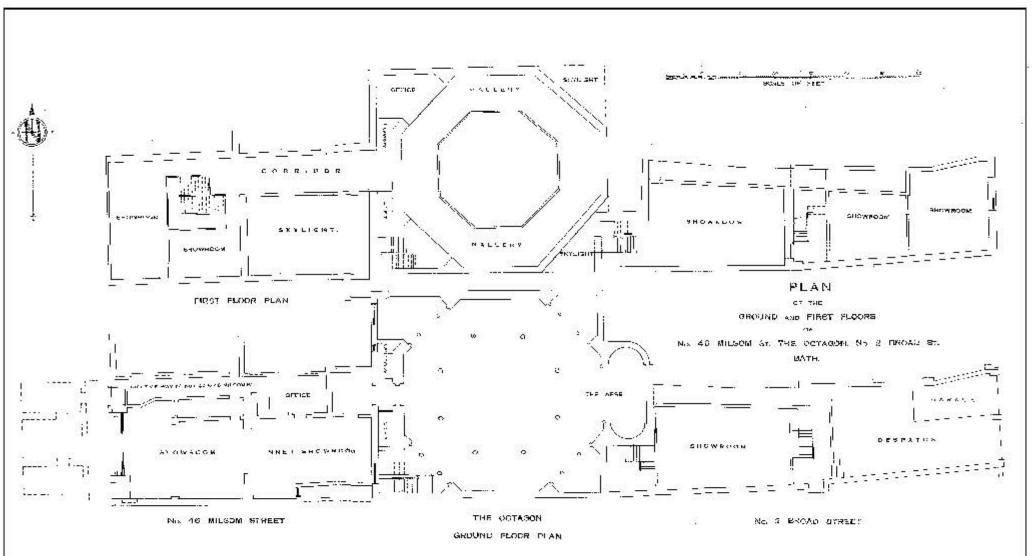


Figure 5. The plan of the ground and first floors from the 1936 particulars of sale of Mallett and Sons. The Octagon and no 46 are as shown in the 1901 lease (fig 4), but no 2 Broad Street is the building of 1921. "Despatch" and "Garage" are the current site of the opticians. The lower showroom is the site of the current cinema (note these are at Octagon basement level, Broad Street ground level).

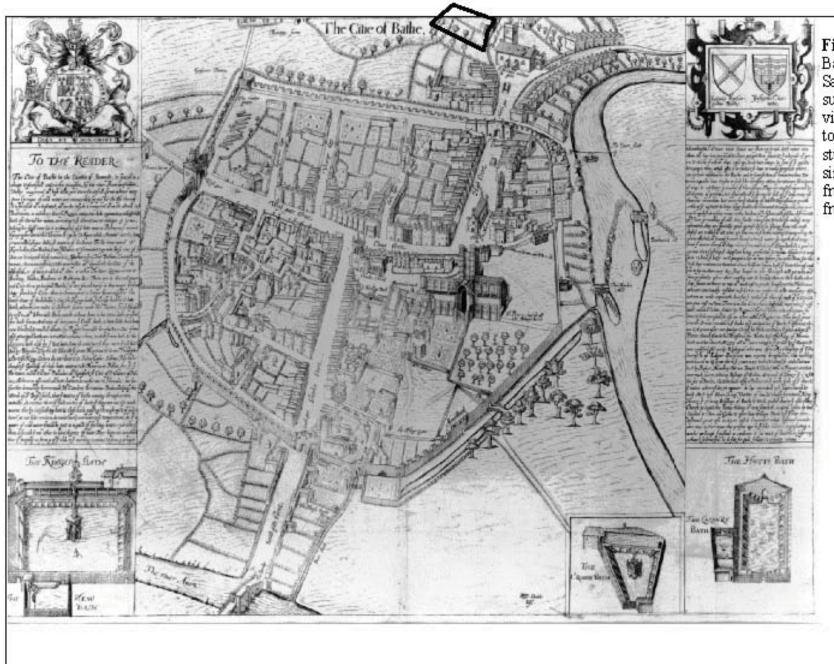


Figure 6. The map of Bath of around 1600 by Savile. The church and suburb of St Michael are visible in the extreme top right of the map. The study area is gardens or similar running back from the properties fronting Broad Street.

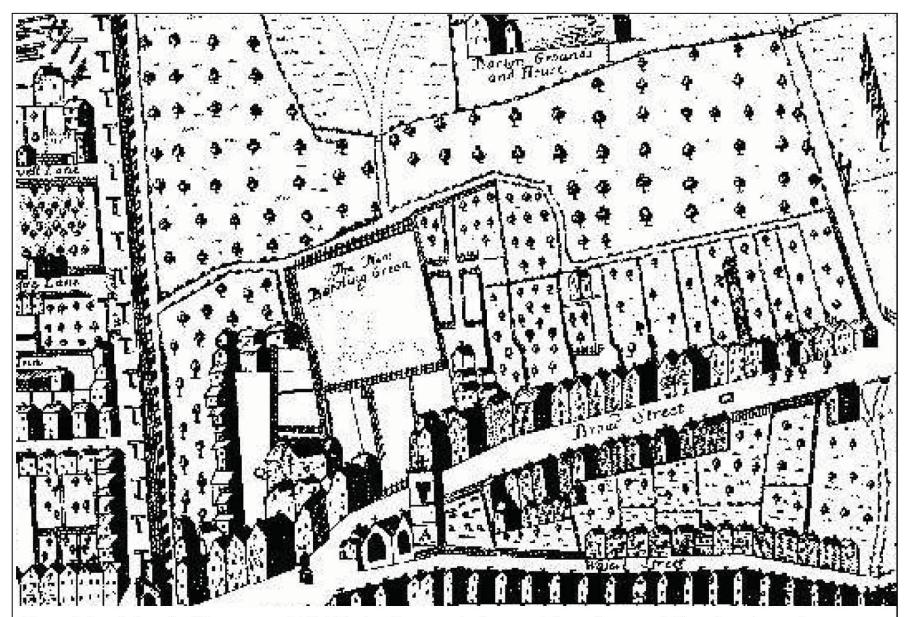


Figure 7. Detail from the Gilmore map of 1694. The bowling green is shown and Green Street was laid out from the gap between the houses opposite the church. The Octagon Chapel was built just north (right) of it. Interestingly, what appears to be the site of Moon and Sixpence Yard is built up even then (bottom right of the bowling green).

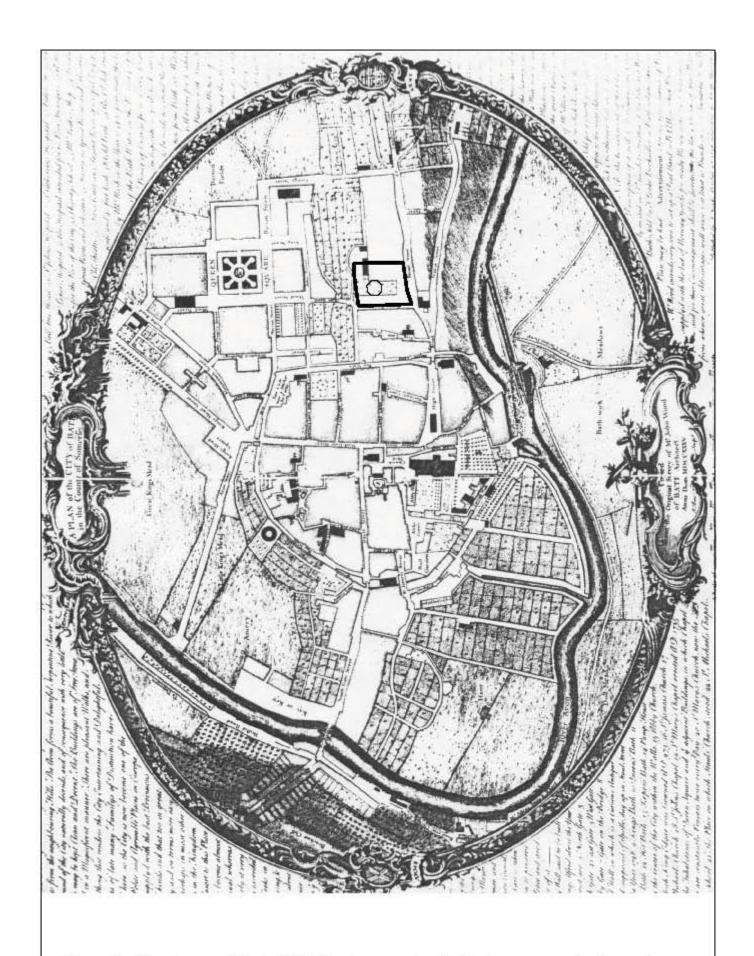


Figure 8. Wood's map of Bath 1735. He shows no detail of private properties but market gardens and open spaces are shown in detail. The study area is at the top and the approximate position of the Octagon is shown.



Figure 9. Part of the 1818 survey of the Parish of St Michael, by Manners. He distinguishes the main habitable buildings from lower outbuildings and service wings. The pattern of building shown here hardly changes until the 1970s. Note that his conventions imply that the Milsom Street corridor to the chapel was only one storey high, but that the vestibule was two, the organ recess being over it.



Figure 10. Cotterell's large scale survey of 1853. Very slight changes to the outbuildings can be seen but little else has altered in plan.



Figure 11. The Ordnance survey 1:500 map of Bath. Detail of the study area. The open fronted shed added after 1853 is visible just below the "s" of stables. Note altered vaults access and the full width approach to the chapel from Milsom Street. Moon and Sixpence Yard is full of buildings



Figure 12. The 1902-4 map shows no changes from the 1886 except for the glass roof over the rear of 2, Broad Street, which does not seem to have existed. The 1930 one reproduced here postdates the rebuilding of no 2, Broad Street in 1921, but still shows the new showroom with the glass roof of 1902. It is probably a misplanning of the glass roofed building immediately south of the plot in the 1886 map.

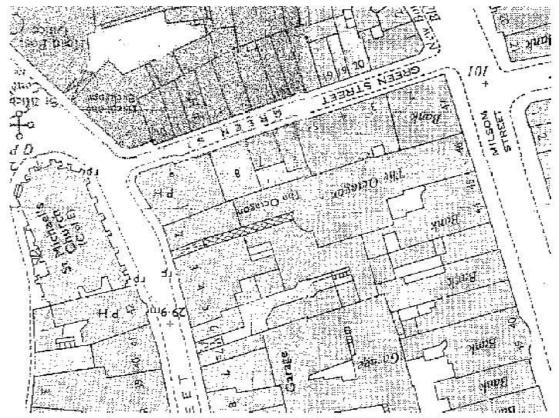


Figure 13. The OS Map of 1966-76. Compare with the 1947 AP below. North is to the south to facilitate the comparison.

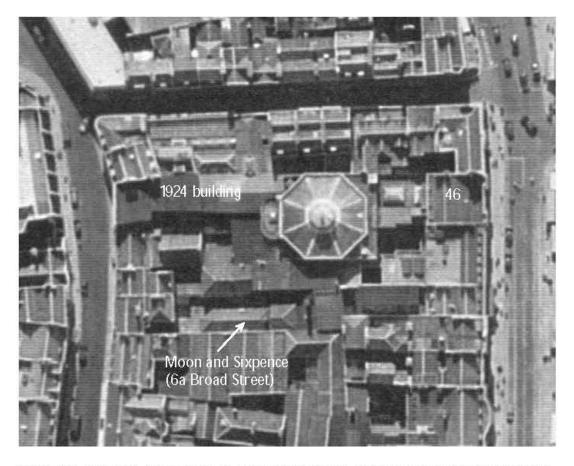


Figure 14. Enlarged detail from an aerial photograph of the area around the Octagon in 1947. It shows how packed with sheds the Moon and Sixpence Yard was. The flat-roofed ones are probably twentieth century rebuilds or alterations.

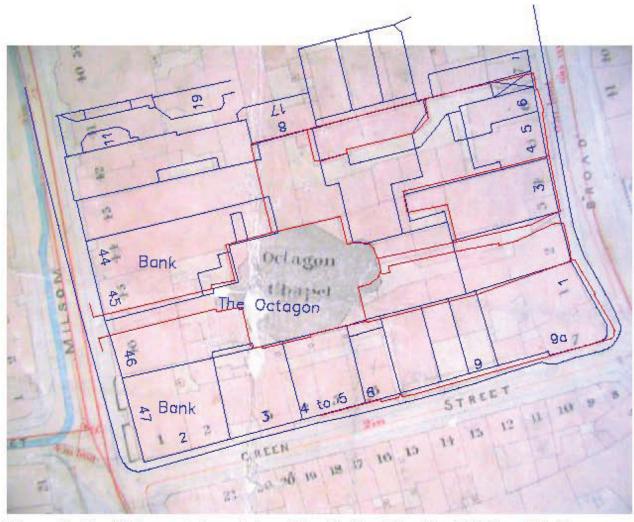


Figure 15. The 1886 property boundaries of 2 and 3, Broad Street in 1886 (in red line) superimposed on the 1853 Cotterell Survey, showing the alterations between those years, mainly the rationalisation of the vaults passage. This suggests that the southern boundary of no. 3 must have been rebuilt. While comparison with the 1901 lease plan suggests that the 1886 mapping is not quite accurate here they both show a realignment of the southern boundary of no 3, Broad Street. It was rebuilt on this new line in 1921. Curiously the modern OS, inaccurately, has reverted to Cotterell's line (blue lines).



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