

6-18 Scotland Road & 7-17 Leeds Road
Nelson, Lancashire:
Historic buildings record

July 2014

STEPHEN HAIGH

B u i l d i n g s A r c h a e o l o g i s t

11 Browcliff Silsden Keighley West Yorkshire BD20 9PN

Tel/Fax: 01535 658925 Mobile: 07986 612548

www.stephenhaigh.co.uk enquiries@stephenhaigh.co.uk

6-18 SCOTLAND ROAD & 7-17 LEEDS ROAD, NELSON, LANCASHIRE: HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This brief report presents the results of historic building recording at this Victorian and Edwardian town centre site at Nelson in Lancashire, and was commissioned by the Mayan Partnership Ltd, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Pendle Borough Council, for the “*demolition of 11 Leeds Road, conversion and extension at 7-9 Leeds Road to form 9 flats and external alterations to 9-17 Leeds Road and 6-18 Scotland Road including access ramp and new shop fronts*”. The recording was carried out in July 2014.
- 1.2 The relevant planning condition (no. 7) stipulates that “*No works shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of building recording and analysis for 11 Leeds Road and the arcade and atrium of 7-9 Leeds Road / 6-12 Scotland Road. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of the development*”.
- 1.3 No 11 Leeds Road is a late nineteenth century butcher’s shop with living accommodation over, and the arcade and atrium referred to above form an arcade of shops built in 1911, as part of the larger Union Bank building. Photographs of these parts of the site were taken before development commenced and are reproduced below.
- 1.4 This report will be submitted to the client, the local planning authority, Nelson local studies library and the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, and will also be published on the internet via the Oasis Project¹. The project archive will be deposited with Lancashire Archives.

2 Location and current use

- 2.1 The site stands at the heart of Nelson town centre, a few metres to the north-east of the junction of Leeds Road, Scotland Road, Manchester Road and Market Street. The main part of the Union Bank building is currently occupied by Santander bank but its outer part forms an arcade of shops on the ground floor, linking Leeds Road and Scotland Road; the first floor over this area forms a single open area which is disused. No 11 Leeds Road adjoins this arcade, on

¹ Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, ref: stephenh1-184919

the north-west side of Leeds Road, and was occupied by a butcher until the spring of 2014.

3 Statutory designation

- 3.1 None of the buildings at the site are listed as having special architectural or historic interest, but the arcade and butcher's shop lie within the Whitefield conservation area, designated in its present form in 2004. Other parts of the area granted consent for development lie outside the conservation area.

4 Historical background

- 4.1 The rapid growth of Nelson following the opening of the railway in 1849 was largely due to the success of power-loom cotton weaving in the town, and its population thereafter increased dramatically from the 1860s, with the textile industry's fortunes peaking in about 1914, before the outbreak of World War I. Much of the commercial centre was established during those boom years, particularly in the late nineteenth century: its centre was focused on the junction of Scotland Road, Manchester Road and Leeds Road, close to the present site.
- 4.2 No 11 Leeds Road appears to have been established in the late nineteenth century and was then part of a longer row of shops, which continued south-west to the junction with Scotland Road. Trade directories show that in 1908 the property was the premises of a butcher, as it seems to have remained up to 2014, and there were five other shops in the group facing Leeds Road (numbers 1 to 9). These were demolished in 1910-11, to allow the construction of the Union Bank building, a large structure in Baroque style surmounted by a tall clock tower. This edifice, "easy to mistake for a town hall", was designed by J W & S J Mould of Bury and London², and commissioned by a Mr Briarley of Bury, who bought the existing arcade of 23 shops and warehouses in 1907, to facilitate the Union Bank's new branch³.

5 The present buildings

Arcade

- 5.1 The arcade of shops occupying the rear part of the Union Bank building is accommodated between two symmetrical façades, of different scale and design but incorporating the same essential motifs of ashlar sandstone, open-bed pediments over their central entrances, and balustraded parapets (photos 1-9).

² Hartwell, C & Pevsner, N 2009 *The Buildings of England: Lancashire: North*

³ Metcalfe, M 2005 *Images of England: Nelson*, p26

Of the shop fronts along these street frontages, the only original elements which appear to survive are moulded cornices and a pair of fluted Doric columns to the Leeds Road side.

- 5.2 The passageway linking the two street entrances is flanked by shop units on both sides, and contains an atrium over the point where there is a change of direction. Most of these internal shop fronts appear to be entirely modern, but there are some historic timber mullions and panels in the south-west side, in the unit currently occupied by Super Fruit, and there is coffering and a dentilled cornice to the ceiling overhead (photos 10-19).
- 5.3 The atrium is octagonal in plan, which accommodates the approximately 45° angle between the Leeds and Scotland Roads. On the first floor level it has seven panels which incorporate a variety of decorative plaster mouldings, including dentils, ribbons, egg-and-dart, guilloche and bead-and-reel (photos 20-28). A borrowed light within the ceiling, constructed with steel frame, allows daylight down into the arcade but only that derived from within the current first floor: it is not a roof light (photo 29).
- 5.4 A staircase to the upper floor is now outside the public area and it is not clear whether or not it was ever intended to give access to an upper trading floor, or if its use was confined to the building's occupiers, but it is of robust, masonry construction with a steel balustrade, and is also lit by a borrowed light within the ceiling (photos 30-32).

11 Leeds Road

- 5.5 The butcher's shop occupied by Hanson's is a remnant of the earlier shops which occupied this part of Leeds Road and comprises a two storey, stone-fronted but otherwise brick-built shop with blue slate roof, adjoining the taller Union Bank building (photos 33-34). The timber pilasters from an historic shop front remain at the sides but the window and door are modern, with aluminium frame and large panes. A two-light window with stone mullion lights the first floor living accommodation, but otherwise the façade lacks features of interest, while the gable elevation is plain brick. A modern butcher's shop occupies the main ground floor space; its interior was not inspected.

Appendix 1: Written scheme of investigation

11 LEEDS ROAD ETC, NELSON (PBC APPLICATION 13/14/0183P):

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR BUILDING RECORDING AND ANALYSIS

- 1** A programme of building recording and analysis at 11 Leeds Road and the arcade and atrium of 7-9 Leeds Road/6-12 Scotland Road is required to discharge Condition 7 of the above planning consent.

- 2** On the advice of Rosemary Lyons, Principal Conservation Officer, this work will entail photography of the street frontages of the properties, together with the interior of the arcade, in particular at upper floor level and of the atrium, where there is some significant plasterwork and detailing. Research into the buildings' history and development will also be undertaken locally and a written report will be produced to present all the information produced. This will be deposited with Pendle Borough Council, Nelson local studies library, Lancashire Historic Environment Record and Lancashire Archives.

© Stephen Haigh, 7 July 2014
11 Browcliff, Silsden, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 9PN
<mailto:enquiries@stephenhaigh.co.uk>
Tel: 01535 658925



Photo 1: Union Bank building: Leeds Road frontage



Photo 2: Union Bank building: Leeds Road frontage



Photo 3: Union Bank building: Leeds Road frontage to arcade



Photo 4: Union Bank building: Leeds Road frontage to arcade, and 11 Leeds Road

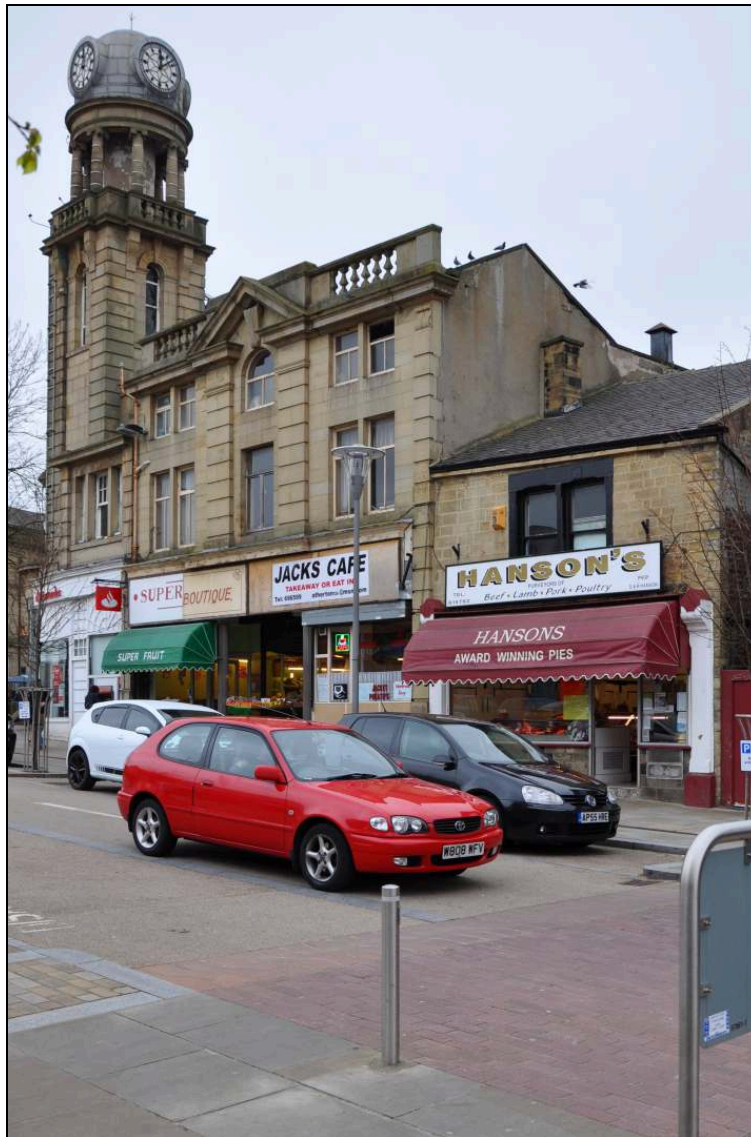


Photo 5: Union Bank building: Leeds Road frontage to arcade, and 11 Leeds Road



Photo 6: Union Bank building: Scotland Road frontage to arcade



Photo 8: Union Bank building: Scotland Road frontage to arcade



Photo 7: Panel on Scotland Road frontage



Photo 9: Entrance to arcade, Scotland Road



Photo 10: Existing shop fronts within arcade, Leeds Road end



Photo 11: Existing shop fronts within arcade, Leeds Road end



Photo 12: Existing shop fronts within arcade, Leeds Road end



Photo 13: Existing shop fronts within arcade, Leeds Road end

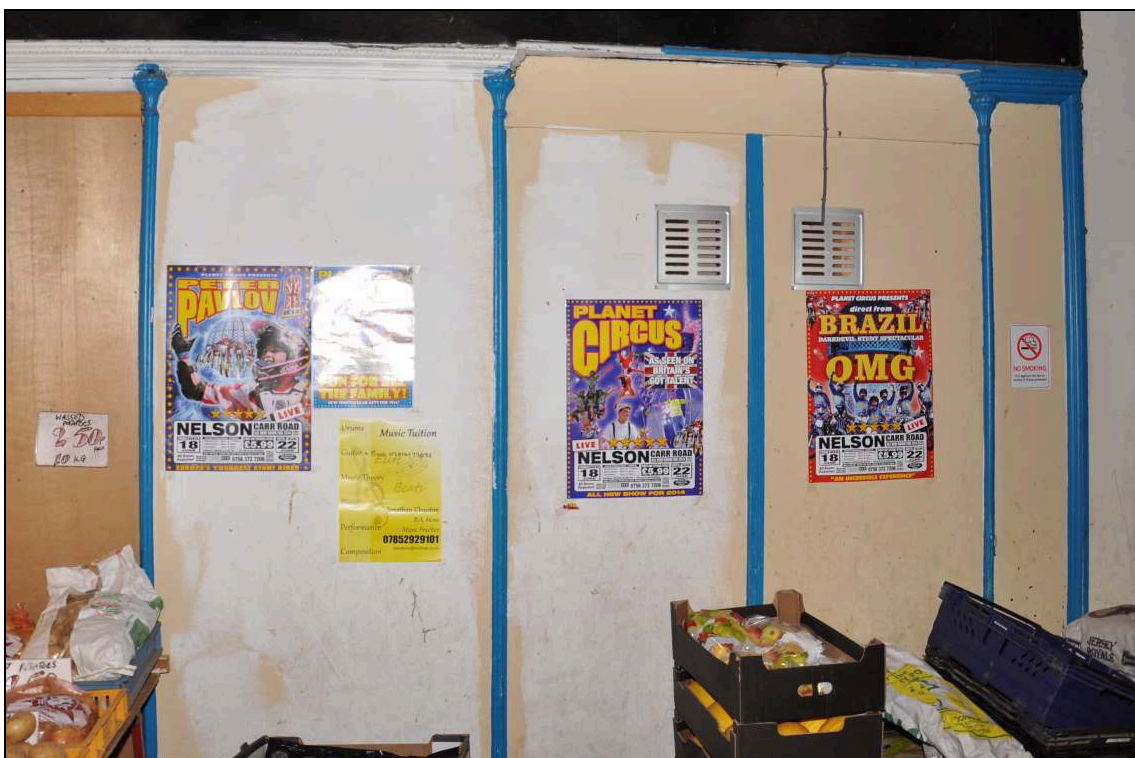


Photo 14: Existing shop fronts within arcade, Leeds Road end



Photo 15: Existing shop fronts within arcade, Leeds Road end



Photo 16: Atrium within arcade, from Scotland Road end



Photo 17: Atrium within arcade, from Leeds Road end



Photo 18: Ceiling details within arcade, Leeds Road end



Photo 19: Ceiling details within arcade, Leeds Road end



Photo 20: Ceiling light within atrium



Photo 21: Panelling within upper part of atrium



Photo 22: Panelling within upper part of atrium



Photo 23: Panelling within upper part of atrium



Photo 24: Detail of panelling within upper part of atrium



Photo 25: Detail of panelling within upper part of atrium



Photo 26: Detail of panelling within upper part of atrium

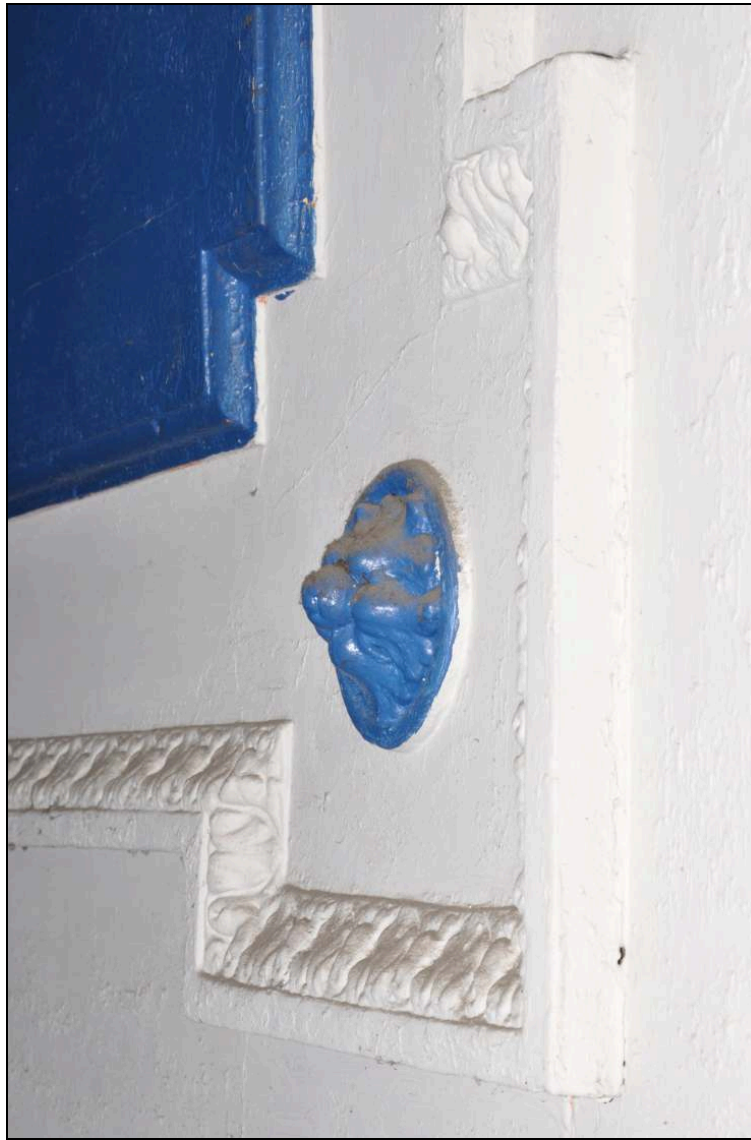


Photo 27: Detail of panelling within upper part of atrium



Photo 28: Detail of panelling and studwork within upper part of atrium



Photo 29: Outer face of atrium, at upper floor level

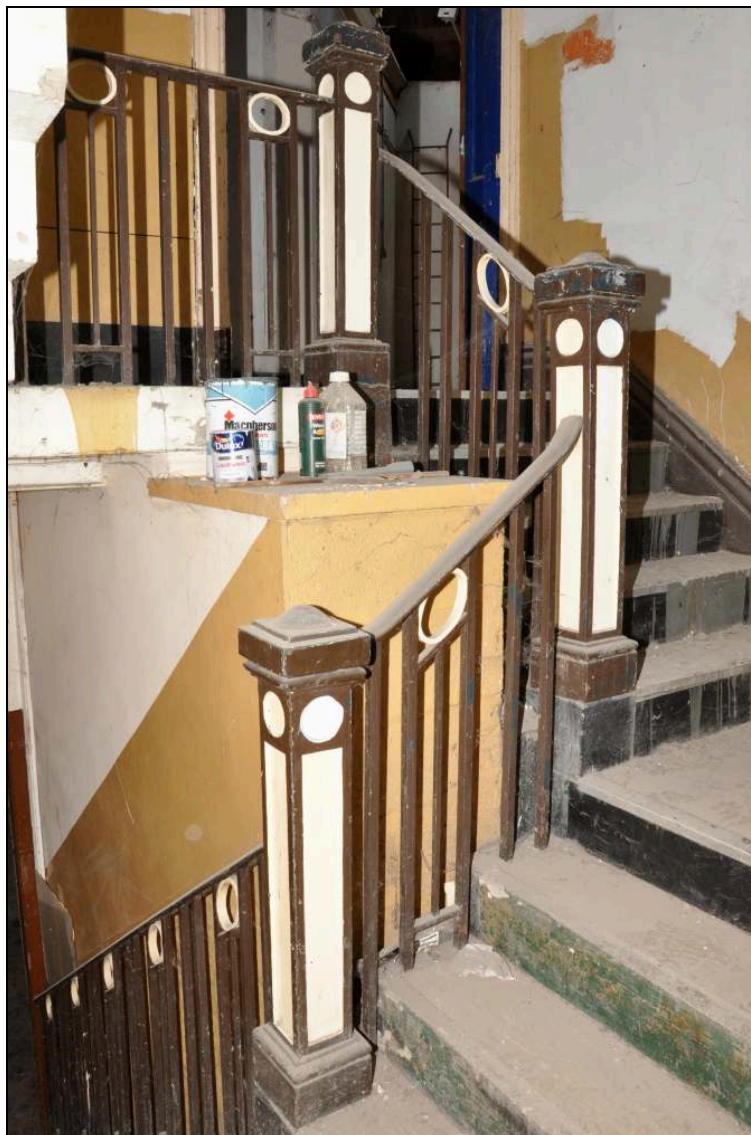


Photo 30: Detail of staircase to upper floor over arcade

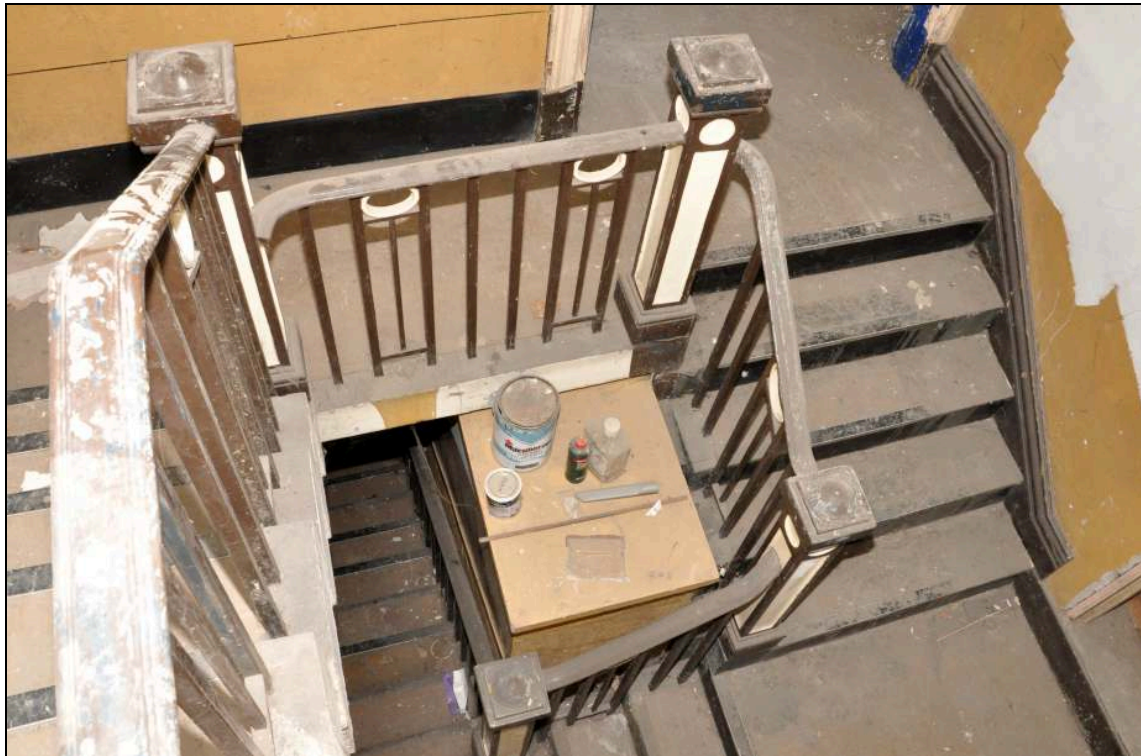


Photo 31: Detail of staircase to upper floor over arcade

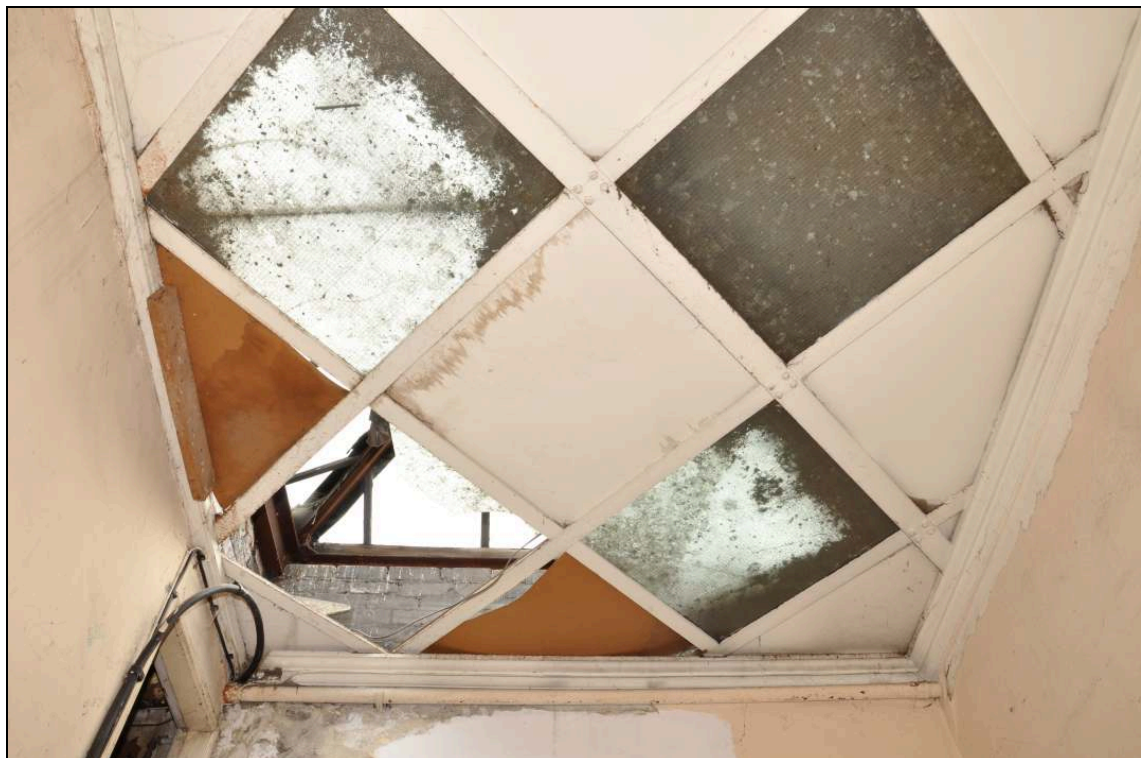


Photo 32: Ceiling light over stairwell to upper floor over arcade



Photo 34: 11 Leeds Road, from the north-east



Photo 33: 11 Leeds Road, from the south-west