

3-7 Albert St  
Nelson, Lancashire:  
Photographic Record



July 2010

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# 3-7 Albert St Nelson, Lancashire: Photographic Record

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Photographs

## SUMMARY

Nos 3-7 Albert Street was built as a warehouse and stables *circa* 1887, in the Whitefield district of Nelson (NGR: SD 8576137737). It is a brick-built structure three bays long, much altered in the 20th century, when it was used by a fruit and vegetable merchant and a corn dealer, among other occupants. Photographic recording was carried out in July 2010 for Pendle Borough Council before the demolition of the building (which lies within the Whitefield Conservation Area), and is summarised in this report.

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**3 – 7 ALBERT STREET, NELSON, LANCASHIRE:**

**PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

<b>Photo</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	General view of Albert Street, from the south-east
2	General view of the site, from the south-east
3	General view of the site, from the north
4	The Albert Street frontage, from the east
5	The Albert Street frontage, from the north
6	The Albert Street frontage, from the north
7	The Albert Street frontage, from the east
8	The south-east elevation
9	The south part of the rear, south-west elevation
10	The rear, south-west elevation
11	The rear of the building, from the north-west

## 3-7 ALBERT STREET, NELSON, LANCASHIRE: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of photographic recording at a disused warehouse, at 3-7 Albert Street, in the Whitefield district of Nelson, Lancashire. The work was commissioned by Pendle Borough Council and carried out in July 2010, to fulfil a condition of conservation area consent for the demolition of the building.
- 1.2 The warehouse is believed to have been built *circa* 1887 by Chadwick Horsfall, a local brewer, and is of brick with a blue slate roof. Alterations in the 20th century mean the integrity of its original facade has been lost and the interior is of no interest, but it does form a significant part of what is otherwise essentially a late 19th century street frontage.
- 1.3 The recording work was carried out in accordance with a method statement previously agreed with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, and included an external photographic record and a brief study of historical sources. This report will be submitted to Pendle Borough Council (both the client and the local planning authority), the Lancashire County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record, and published on the internet via the Oasis Project. The project archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office.

### 2 Location and current use

- 2.1 The site lies in the Whitefield district to the west of Nelson town centre, on the west side of Albert Street, close to its junction with Manchester Road. It occupies the first building plot on the street, beyond the Manchester Road frontage, from which it is separated by an alley (Figure 1; NGR: SD 8576137737).
- 2.2 The building is currently vacant and appears to have been so for a number of years. Its condition has deteriorated and it appears structurally unstable, and the interior suspended timber floors are unsafe.

### 3 Planning background

- 3.1 The building lies within the Whitefield Conservation Area but is not listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Pendle Borough Council were granted conservation area consent for its demolition, by the Government Office for the West Midlands, on 25 May 2010, with a condition requiring a detailed

record of the building to be made before demolition (application number 13/10/0002P). The Lancashire Archaeology Service, as the council's archaeological advisor, has undertaken to oversee the recording and is to be a principal recipient of the report.

## 4 Historical background

- 4.1 Nelson grew rapidly during the second half of the 19th century, from a minor rural settlement near a public house (known as the Lord Nelson Inn), to a large industrial town, thanks to the success of the cotton weaving industry which thrived there. Factors which contributed to this success were (among others) the area's communications (including the Leeds-Liverpool Canal), the availability of undeveloped, level land on which to build large weaving sheds and housing for employees, and the damp climate.<sup>1</sup> The first edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile map (surveyed in 1844; Figure 2) shows the town before its rapid growth, the site to be occupied by the present building then being only fields.
- 4.2 The Nelson Local Board was established in 1864 at an early stage in the growth of the town and one of its primary roles was to regulate planning and development, a function which it undertook conscientiously and thoroughly, and the Board was largely responsible for creating the form of the town, much of which is laid out in a grid pattern. The earliest town buildings in Whitefield are of the late 1860s, but the majority of the terraces of workers' houses were built during the 1870s and 1880s, particularly in small groups by local entrepreneurs, although urban development continued into the first decade of the 20th century. Interspersed within the housing were institutional buildings such as schools and chapels, and commercial properties such as shops and small industrial premises.
- 4.3 The building at 3-7 Albert Street is believed to have been built *circa* 1887, when Chadwick Horsfall obtained consent from the local board for storerooms and a stable, and the proposed plans for the building are believed to be held at the Lancashire Record Office, although they have not been seen by this author.<sup>2</sup> The street list of building control plans for the borough appears to record the proposal as number 787, described as "covering for yard, stables etc".<sup>3</sup> Horsfall is thought to have been a local brewer, but was also the builder of several houses on nearby Appleby and Portland Streets. The building was certainly in existence by 1890 when recorded by the Ordnance Survey, its 1:500 map of that

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<sup>1</sup> Wray, N 2001 *"By Industry and Integrity": Nelson, a late 19th century town* (unpublished English Heritage report)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, p44, figure 40

<sup>3</sup> *Corporation of Nelson: Borough Engineer's Office Building Plans Street List* (photocopy held by Nelson library)

date showing it as “Warehouse”. Subsequent maps show the outline of the building not to have changed since then (Figures 3-6).

- 4.4 Quite what the purpose of the 1887 warehouse was is not known, but local directories record that in 1893 it was occupied by J Crossley & Sons, fruiterers, so it seems likely that Horsfall built it speculatively, or perhaps used part of the property himself and let the rest to a local trader. The subsequent occupiers at various dates are shown in the table below:<sup>4</sup>

1896	J Crossley & Sons, fruiterers
1899	J Crossley & Sons, fruiterers
1902	E Crossley, fruiterer
1906	M Crossley, potato merchant
1908	Crossley & Smith, fruit merchants
1911	Barnes & Walker, fruit merchants
1914	D E Barnes, potato dealer
1923	D E Barnes, fruiterer
1927	D E Barnes
1933	<i>not listed – vacant?</i>
1937	A Bennett & Son, corn dealers
1941	A Bennett & Son, corn dealers
1945	A Bennett & Son, corn dealers
1949	A Bennett & Son, corn dealers
1953	A Bennett & Son, corn dealers

## 5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The photographic recording was carried out on 1 July 2010, and was restricted to the outside of the building, with views being taken from a variety of angles to cover all elevations. A medium format camera with perspective control and other lenses was used, and black and white film for its archival qualities, and a 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations was included as a scale. All the photographs have been printed to a size of 7” x 5”, and form part of the project archive; they are also copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in **bold**. The locations of the photographs are shown on a site plan (Figure 7).
- 5.2 The interior of the building was inspected but is entirely modern in character, so no internal photographs were taken.

<sup>4</sup> Barrett’s General & Commercial Directory of Burnley & District, years as noted

## 6 Brief description of the building

- 6.1 The building forms part of a continuous frontage along the west side of Albert Street (1), with a terrace of houses running beyond it, which were probably built around five years before the warehouse. The warehouse is of brick with sandstone dressings and blue slate roofs, and is divided into three unequal bays, set out end-on to the street, perhaps because the site originally comprised three plots each the size of a house, or because it was intended to divide the building into three units (2-5). It occupies the full extent of the plot, which is otherwise bounded by rear alleys, on the south-east and south-west sides.
- 6.2 At ground floor level the front of the building has been much altered, but at first floor level the pattern of openings may well be original. The left-hand unit has a wide opening beneath a steel lintel, with entrances beneath, but this is likely to be a mid 20th century arrangement: there is a single, large window to the first floor (6). The wider, central unit appears to have had a wide, vehicular entrance to the street, as suggested by the 1891 map, but this has been partly bricked up and its original extent and appearance are not known. Above this is a taking-in door (lacking any evidence for an external hoist), which is flanked by a pair of windows. Meanwhile, the right-hand unit has a low opening below a central doorway and first floor window (which may also have been a taking-in door at one time): this arrangement suggests storage on the ground and first floors, and perhaps further storage below the former (7).
- 6.3 There is little of interest to the sides and rear, where the south-east side has three small windows (8), and the partly rendered south-west, rear elevation has a pair of windows beneath a steel lintel, probably inserted, which may be a former vehicle entrance. There are also various other windows to ground and first floor (9-11).
- 6.4 It would therefore appear from its current appearance, and the evidence of historic maps and trade directories, that the building was built and used as a warehouse for and by a local trader, possibly with some stabling, although there is no clear evidence for the latter use within the present building.

*The author would welcome any relevant additional information or notice of inaccuracy in this report.*



## Appendix: Contents of the project archive

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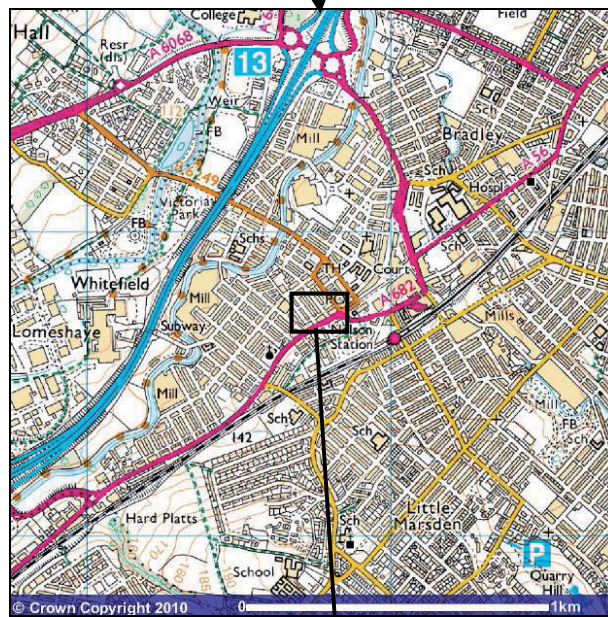
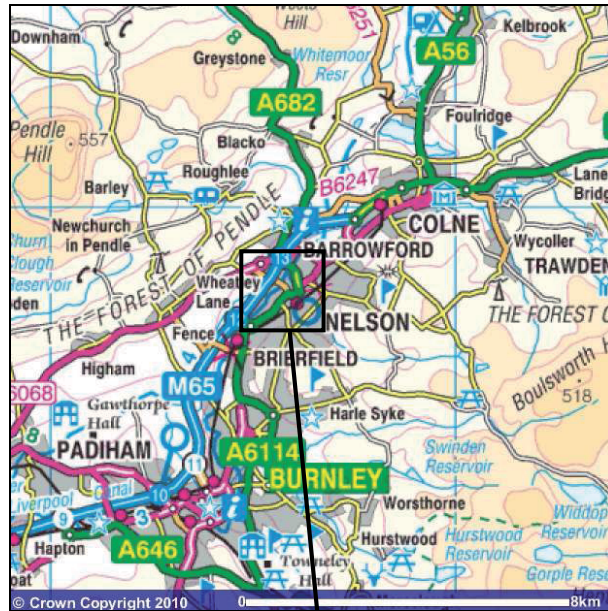
To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office, Preston.

Archive contains:

- a copy of the report
- full set of black and white photographs and negatives

### Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

Photo	Frame	Subject
4	3	The Albert Street frontage, from the east
6	4	The Albert Street frontage, from the north
5	5	The Albert Street frontage, from the north
7	9	The Albert Street frontage, from the east
3	10	General view of the site, from the north
2	11	General view of the site, from the south-east
8	12	The south-east elevation
10	13	The rear, south-west elevation
9	15	The south part of the rear, south-west elevation
11	16	The rear of the building, from the north-west
1	18	General view of Albert Street, from the south-east



1:25,000



3-7 Albert Street

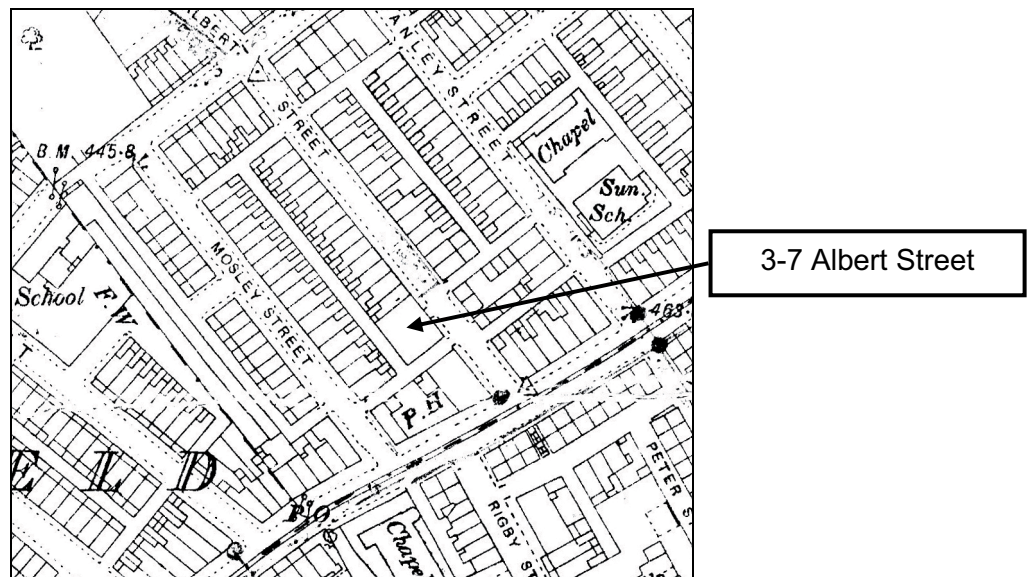
1:2500

**Figure 1: Location maps**

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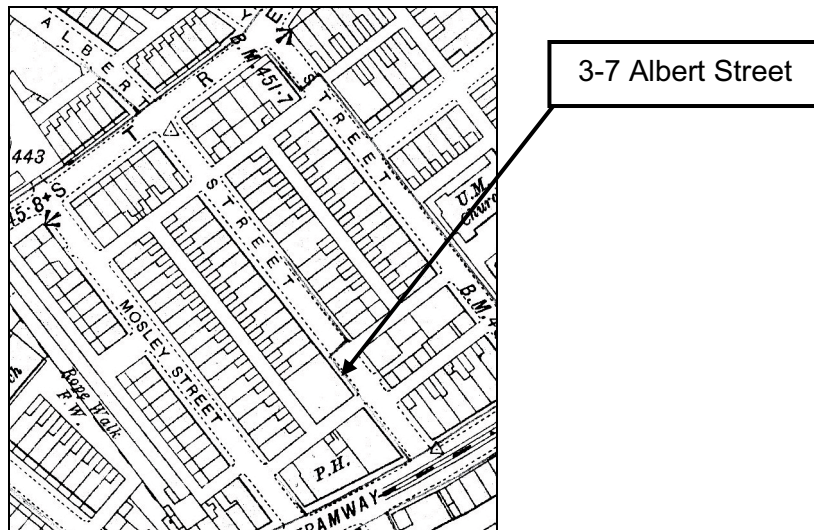
**Figure 2:** Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 (6" to the mile) map of 1848, showing the Whitefield area before urban development. The asterisk marks the approximate location of the present site. (Sheet no: Lancashire, 56, surveyed 1844; here enlarged to 1:2500)



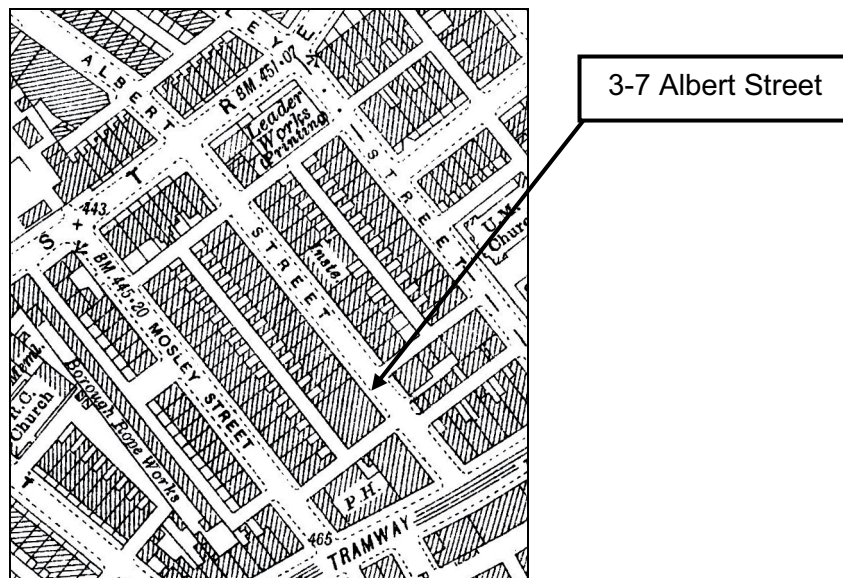
**Figure 3:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1893, showing the densely settled area of Whitefield. (Sheet no: Lancashire, 56.7, surveyed 1890)



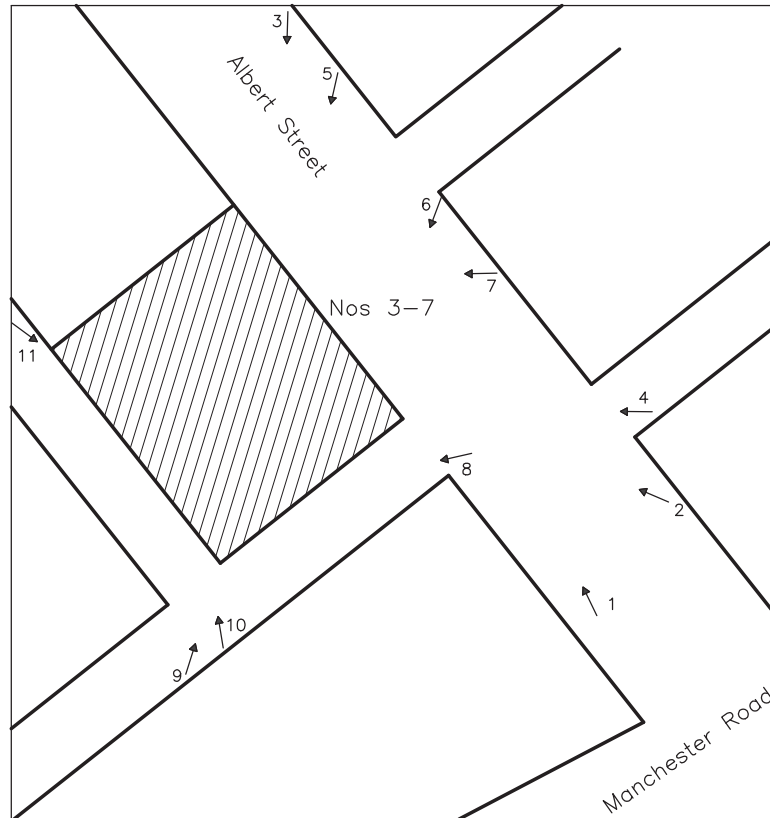
**Figure 4:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1891, showing the site at a larger scale (Sheet no: Lancashire, 56.7.13, surveyed 1890)



**Figure 5:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1912  
(Sheet no: Lancashire, 56.7, revised 1910)



**Figure 6:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1932  
(Sheet no: Lancashire, 56.7, revised 1929-30)



50m



↗ 1: photograph direction and number

3-7 ALBERT STREET  
 NELSON  
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 8576137737):  
 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

FIGURE 7:  
 SITE PLAN  
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:500

DATE OF SURVEY: JULY 2010

STEPHEN HAIGH  
 Buildings Archaeologist



Photo 1: General view of Albert Street, from the south-east



Photo 2: General view of the site, from the south-east



Photo 3: General view of the site, from the north



Photo 4: The Albert Street frontage, from the east





Photo 5: The Albert Street frontage, from the north



Photo 6: The Albert Street frontage, from the north



Photo 7: The Albert Street frontage, from the east



Photo 8: The south-east elevation

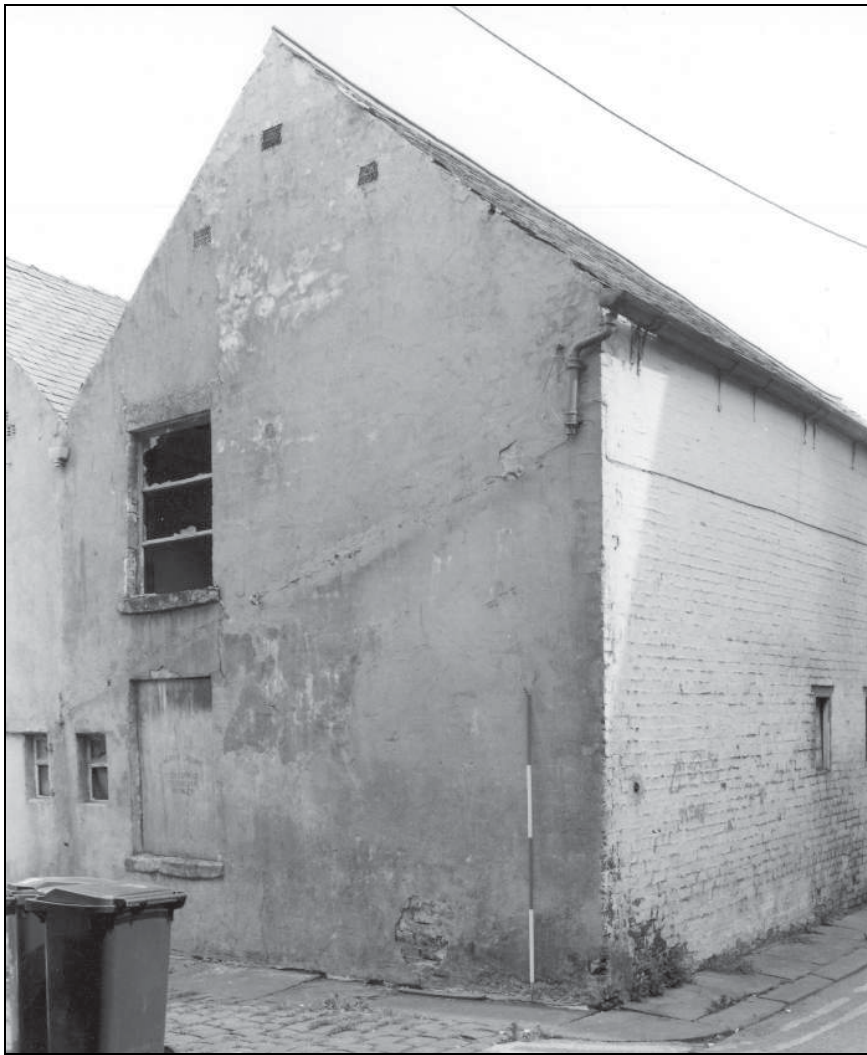


Photo 9: The south part of the rear, south-west elevation



Photo 10: The rear, south-west elevation



Photo 11: The rear of the building, from the north-west