

HISTORIC BUILDING
RECORDING
AT THE CRESCENT WORKS,
MOUNT PLEASANT, REDDITCH

Paul Williams

Illustrated by Steve Rigby

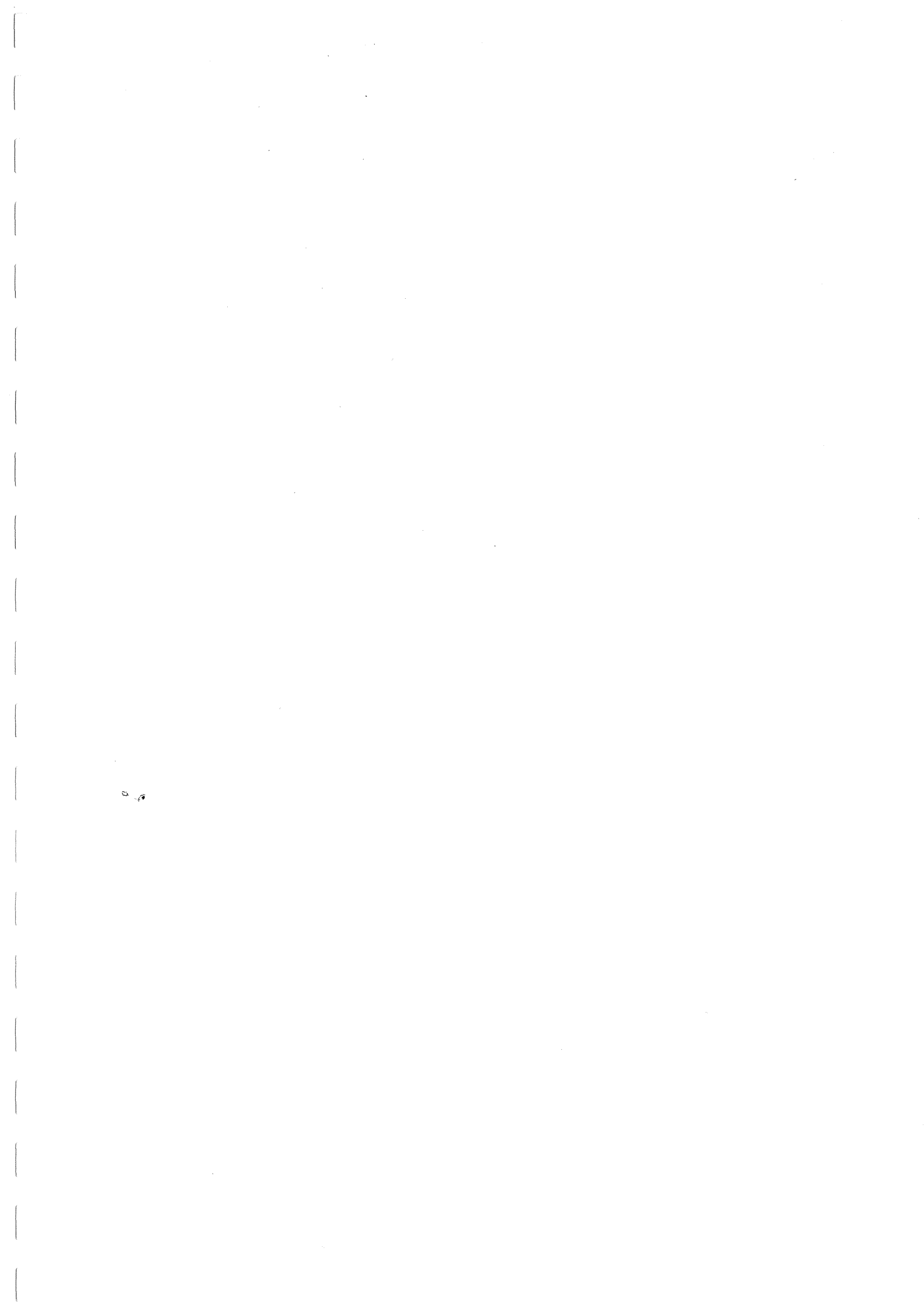
11th September 2002

© Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council

Archaeological Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury Hall,
University College Worcester,
Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ



Project 2237
Report 1004
WSM 31931



Contents

1.	Background	2
1.1	Reasons for the project.....	2
1.2	Project parameters.....	2
1.3	Aims.....	2
2.	Methods	2
2.1	Documentary search.....	2
2.2	Fieldwork.....	3
2.2.1	Fieldwork strategy.....	3
2.2.2	Structural analysis.....	3
2.3	Building recording.....	3
2.4	The methods in retrospect.....	3
3.	Topographical and archaeological context	3
4.	Building recording	5
4.1	The western range.....	5
4.2	Northern range.....	6
4.3	Eastern range.....	7
4.4	Western range.....	7
5.	Phasing	8
6.	Discussion	8
7.	Publication summary	9
8.	The archive	9
9.	Acknowledgements	9
10.	Personnel	10
11.	Bibliography	10
12.	Abbreviations	10



Historic building recording at the former Crescent Works, Mount Pleasant, Redditch, Worcestershire

Paul Williams

Part 1 Project summary

Recording of an historic building was carried out at the former Crescent Works factory complex, Mount Pleasant, Redditch, Worcestershire (SP 039668). It was undertaken on behalf of Steve Dodd Property Management Ltd, who intend to convert the former mill buildings into modern apartments, for which a planning application has been approved. The building recording aimed to identify the original form and function of the buildings and any subsequent phases of development or alterations to the structures.

The earliest parts of the building probably dated from the 1860's or 1870's with later extensions and alterations from the 1880's into the 20th century. As it stands the building complex forms an almost complete rectangle with a central yard. It comprises the 19th century 'L' shaped mill building with the three-storey frontage adjoining Mount Pleasant to the west and a two-storey range at right angles to the north. There is a lower floor built into the bank at the eastern end. The southern range is a wider two-storey 20th century factory unit with a lean to extension on the southern side. The northern range is also a 20th century two-storey structure. The building complex is of brick below a slate tile roof with embellishments to the frontage. There is evidence for recently demolished buildings, likely to be 20th century date, having been removed from within the central courtyard area and to the rear on the north-east and eastern sides.

P. Williams

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

Building recording was undertaken at the former Crescent Works, Mount Pleasant, Redditch, Worcestershire (SP 039 668), on behalf of Steve Dodd Property Management Ltd who intend to convert the building to form 21 apartments. A planning application for the proposed works has been approved by Redditch Borough Council (reference R/02/0110), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (WSM 00034).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IFA 1999).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire County Council (AS 2002a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (AS 2002b).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the building recording were to compile a written and photographic archive of the building complex within its topographical setting and to record any phases of development that may be noted within the construction of the buildings. The function and date of construction and/or development were also to be ascertained where possible.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- Ordnance Survey 1st edition [Worcestershire sheet XXIII.7], 1:2500. (1886) Redditch Public Library
- Ordnance Survey 2nd edition [Worcestershire sheet XXIII.NE], 1:10,000 (1905) Redditch Public Library
- Ordnance Survey [Worcestershire plan SP 0366N], 1:2500 (1967) Redditch Public Library
- Architects plans supplied by BLB Architects, Redditch

Other Sources consulted at Redditch Public Library

- The Needle District Almanac and Trades Directory for Redditch and its Neighbourhood, 1879, 1881, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, Redditch Indicator

Sources consulted at WRO

- History of Redditch needlemaking, BA 9159/13, 899:794, parcel 13, number 291
- Redditch the metropolis of needlemaking, BA 9159/13, 899:794, parcel 1, number 16

Other sources consulted

- Partridge of Redditch, the history of Partridge, <http://partridge-of-redditch.co.uk>

2.2 **Fieldwork**

2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (AS 2002a).

Fieldwork was undertaken on 22nd and 23rd July 2002.

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 **Building recording**

The project conformed to the specification for a photographic/level 1 survey as defined by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996). There were a few obstructions and unsafe areas within the buildings but these did not affect the results.

The buildings proposed for development comprise a 19th century former needle mill in an 'L' shape with ranges to the west fronting Mount Pleasant and to the north. There are additional later ranges to the south and east. A series of modern buildings within the central yard and to the east have recently been demolished.

For the purposes of this report and ease of reference the buildings and individual rooms of the earliest phases have been labelled 1-22 (Figs 2, 3 and 4).

2.4 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved despite the minor obstructions and unsafe areas. The architects drawings were detailed enough to be satisfactorily used as the base plan for the phase drawing.

The phase plan of the structures is based on the existing architect's plan kindly supplied by BLB Architects of Redditch.

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

Mount Pleasant lies on southern edge of Redditch Town Centre (Fig 1). The road connects Redditch New Town with the outlying village of Astwood Bank and then on toward Evesham. Mount Pleasant appears to have developed as a residential street during the mid to late 19th century, the eastern side of the road was developed first with a wooded area

remaining on the opposite western side. Today both sides of Mount Pleasant are fronted by substantial three storey late Victorian houses with infilled areas of more modern development.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1886) shows the eastern side of Mount Pleasant to be fronted by groups of houses laid out with uniform property boundaries. These are split by blank areas that have similar boundaries, suggesting these were, at this time, building plots. Set back from the frontage were two distinctly larger properties, The Mayfields, possibly a farm and Prospect House, part of the formal gardens of which, would later make way for the new extensions at the Crescent Works (see below). Around 100m to the north of the study area stood the building known as The Round House. The building, which was demolished around 1900, was designed by Charles Avery and built by the Quaker entrepreneur William Sheward around 100 years earlier. Sheward intended to utilise the narrow window slits around the circumference of the wall to harness wind power that would drive internal sails in order to power machinery for his needle making business. Needless to say this scheme failed (Rollins 1984, 58) and needle making manufactories continued to use steam power to drive machinery.

The 1886 Ordnance Survey sheet was the earliest available detailed map of the area. It also depicts a needle and fishing tackle factory on the site of the Crescent Works, this was named the Walton Works. The map shows the factory as an L shaped plan, similar to the Crescent Works plan, but with a smaller frontage. There appears to be a small pond within the factory grounds, this would have provided the steam engine(s) used in the manufacturing process with a water supply.

The second edition map (1905) shows that by this time the eastern side of Mount Pleasant had been developed. The frontage of the Crescent Works had now been extended and had the inner northern range projection.

By the 1960's the Crescent Works had taken on its present form, with extensions to the north-east and south. The access route to Prospect House, which no longer stands has been fossilised in the site boundary as it curves round on the southern perimeter of the factory complex.

Redditch and needle manufacture

The introduction of coal and cheaper sources of iron-ore during the early part of the 18th century meant that many Redditch area mills ceased to operate. Diversification into the needle industry was one way in which mills could be put back to work. Consequently a localised needle scouring cottage industry developed (Rollins 1984, 48) this was to prove to be the catalyst for larger scale needle, pin, fishing hook and surgical needle industries, which developed into the 20th century. It was estimated that by 1824 over 5 million needles were being produced in the Redditch area every week (Rollins 1984, 63).

The Crescent Works

The map evidence suggests that the Crescent Works was formerly the site of the Walton Works, which was engaged in the manufacture of needles and fishing hooks. This suggests that the owners of the Crescent Company bought out the Walton Works, although no documentary evidence for this was found.

Consultation of the various trade directories for the Redditch area noted that the first mention of the Crescent Works was in 1888. This may suggest that the proposed take over took place in 1887, however, there was no mention of The Walton Works in any of the trade directories consulted.

The early history of the Crescent Works is unclear, but by the early 20th century the site was owned by London haberdashers Olney Amsden and Sons. The company made 'quality' hand and fancy needles, pins, crochet hooks and hat pins, manufactured under the Crescent Brand. There were sister factories in London, Manchester, Glasgow, Australia, Canada and New Zealand (Redditch Business Review, 1923).

The Crescent Works were taken over around 1927 by Henry Milward and Sons (Lee 1986, 35), as part of the long and complex amalgamation schedule of local companies. Sometime between 1933 and 1939 the Crescent Works were taken over by the already established A.E Partridge and Son, fishing tackle manufacturers, who moved from their base in Headless Cross, Redditch (pers comm Ole A.Bjerke). In 1970 the firm was bought out by the Pickering and Bramley families, but still retained the Partridge name. In 1983 the name was changed to Partridge of Redditch (Land 1977, 40-1). The company still exist and now trade from premises in Alvechurch.

The needle manufacturing process

1. The raw product for needle manufacture was a carefully gauged wire roll, each roll would produce around 50,000 needles. The wire was usually produced in nearby Birmingham.
2. The wire was sheared to the length required for two needles to be produced.
3. The short lengths were then straightened by manipulation in an oven.
4. Highly skilled hand 'pointers' would then sharpen both ends of several strands of wire at once on a grindstone. This process left clouds of dust of steel and stone particles, which meant that the life expectancy of a needle pointer was comparatively short. It wasn't until 1846 that extractor fans were introduced to reduce the risk to health. Ironically, it was the pointers themselves who did not encourage change, fearing their unusually high wages would be cut if they had to slow down the needle making process.
5. The wire was stamped centrally to form two 'eye' positions, one for each needle.
6. Eyes were then pierced with a double pointed punch.
7. The needles were then split and the burrs filed off, a process known as 'spitting'.
8. The individual needles were next hardened and tempered.
9. The needles were then scoured to give them a shine.
10. The eyes were then drilled out to give a standard aperture and the eyelet burnished.
11. Counting and packaging was then carried out prior to supply to customers.

(WRO, BA9159; 899:794, parcel 1 number 16)

4. Building recording

4.1 The western range

The western range of the complex is the original 19th century frontage of the Crescent Works fronting Mount Pleasant. This was the part of the building visible from the road and would have been the first point of contact for customers, therefore, this part of the building made a statement about the prestige of the company. The range is three storied with a pair of multi-

storey porches fronting the road. Each has a wagon entrance now enclosed by pairs of timber gates. The front (western) elevation is not quite symmetrical with sets of three windows between the porches and to the south, with only two columns of windows to the north (Plate 1). The windows are typically Victorian balanced four light sashes. The lower two rows of windows are below segmental brick arched lintels with contrasting blue roll moulded narrow brick pediments above. The upper tier of windows has plain segmental arched lintels. There are decorative cornices at lintel and sill level of each of the upper two floors and a decorative plinth, although this was largely obscured by stacked building materials. The eaves, north and porch gables are embellished with dogtooth brickwork with a moulded supporting course. The upper windows here are below gothic style brick arches with rolled mouldings. The tympanums below the arches are carved with a 'crescent' moon and laurels (Plate 2), the emblem of the Crescent Works. The arch above the main entrance in the southernmost porch is carved with a pair of crescent moons and the words 'Crescent Manufacturing Co' (Plate 3).

The elaborate decoration to the frontage and north-west corner of the range is clearly made to be seen. In contrast, the southern gable and the rear (east facing) elevations are plain, the only elaboration being a dentilated stringcourse at eaves level. There is one internal porch, at the northern end of the range. The top of this has been rebuilt recently. The central building (now demolished) within the central yard, of late 20th century date was tied into this elevation. There was also a lean to porch over the southernmost (main) entrance (Plate 4).

Visitors would have entered the complex through the main cart entrance (Room 1) and reported to the adjacent office (Room 2). The room may have originally been smaller with stud partition divides, there was no evidence noted for this during the survey. On the opposite side of the cart entrance is the hall and main staircase (Room 3), which elevates to floors 1 and 2. There are further rooms to the north (Rooms 4 and 5) and a second staircase, now removed, originally elevated to the upper floor of the factory range to the north (northern range).

At first floor level there was a single large room to either side of the central staircase (Rooms 13 and 14), with an additional smaller room on the southern side (Room 12). The southern most room (Room 13) originally had a fireplace, this had been stripped out prior to recording. The adjacent smaller room (Room 12) also had a fireplace (stripped out) and there were 'viewing' holes in the walls to allow clear vision from the small room along the complete range. This suggests that the smaller room was a foreman's office and that the adjacent room was possibly used for packaging the finished produce. The northern most room protruded out into the courtyard porch, which included the secondary staircase. This would allow a clear view down into the yard so that staff movement could be monitored. The gable above eaves height of this porch had been rebuilt fairly recently (Plate 5).

The second floor was reached via the central staircase. The room pattern mirrored that of the first floor except that the projecting porch was below this level. The access between rooms was at the rear (east) and consequently there were more windows to the western elevation. The rooms on this floor (Rooms 19-22) were unheated.

4.2 Northern range

The northern range was part of the original build. This two-storey wing has a lower third floor room (Room 11) at the eastern end cut into the sloping ground on this side, the floor joists and boards had been removed between this room and the room above prior to the survey. The basement room had a large central brick lined pit, which was full of debris at the time of the survey. The room was originally an engine house, the pit designed to take the drive-wheel of a steam engine. The boiler and chimney would also have been at this end. The upper storey would have been used as the main workshop for lighter finishing work and consequently has a large proportion of glazing with no less than twelve windows. These are mainly balanced four light sashes identical to those on the front (Plate 6). There is a mixture

of window types on the ground floor and evidence of inserted and blocked windows (Fig 2). Notably, there are many less windows than the upper workshop area, where good light would have been imperative for the more intricate manufacturing processes.

The ground floor of the northern range is rectangular with twin projections (Plate 7) turning into the yard, one at the northern end and one around 4m further to the south (Fig 2). The northern projection is a later 20th century addition. The other projection appeared to be partly contemporary with the first phase of the site but with a small 19th century extension added on the inner side during the late 19th or very early 20th century. There were two bricked up window apertures where the later door had been punched through into the extended area indicating that this was the case (Plate 8).

The central ground floor room (Room 7) was most likely lately used as a canteen, it has a fireplace at the eastern end and the floor is covered in linoleum tiles. The door between this room and the adjacent room to the east (Room 8) is blocked. This must have originally been access to an under-stairs storeroom, as originally a staircase (now removed) rose to the first floor on the other side of the blocking.

The first floor would have been the needle workshops (Plate 9), and would have looked similar to the print depicted in Plate 15. Around 50% of the wall area was taken up by glazing, highlighting the importance of good light to the manufacturing processes. The space is split into 3 areas (Rooms 5-17) by brick piers and partitions with central access. The two western rooms are of similar proportions at around 8m in length, whilst the eastern room (Room 17) is longer at around 12.50m. There is a blocked in fireplace on the wall between this range and the frontage. The access to the returning eastern range has punched through one of the original window apertures on this wall. A door has also been made to connect this range with the westernmost internal projection and the former window aperture, not affected by the door insertion, has been bricked up.

4.3 **Eastern range**

The eastern range is set on two floors at right angles to the northern range. It is a later 20th century addition to the complex (Plate 10), briefly comprising a two-storey brick extension below a slate roof. It has the maximum possible glazed area with a total of 15 large iron framed windows sitting between brick piers, the pattern is finished with a pair of double doors facing into the yard. The upper and lower internal spaces are open with an RSJ frame supporting the upper floor.

4.4 **Western range**

The western range is also a 20th century addition to the complex (Plate 11). It extends at right angles from the frontage along the complete length of the internal yard. It is two storied, again of brick below a slate roof with large expanses of glazing. The lower windows to the internal elevation are large square 16 light timber units, those on the upper floor are aluminium replacements. There are two pairs of double doors to the yard and a large door (boarded) to the driveway on the eastern perimeter of the site, which is now private. The windows of the inner elevation of the frontage (now inside the newer western range) are visible as bricked up apertures. It is probable that this range is early 20th century and that the eastern range is later.

A single storey angular extension has been added to the eastern side of this build (Fig 2). A sign to the front elevation shows that this was once a carpet traders premises (Plate 1).

5. Phasing

Phase 1

The original form of the building most likely dating from the late 19th century, was 'L' shaped with a small porch projection across the main entrance, another projection in the apex between the two ranges and another similar porch projection midway along the northern range yard facing elevation (Fig 5).

Phase 2

Between 1886 and 1905, a new frontage was added to the existing building to represent the image of the new Crescent Works and the front range was extended to the south with a new main entrance added. The evidence for the extension is based on comparison of the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps and the physical evidence as highlighted in plates 12 and 13. The projection midway along the northern range yard facing elevation was also extended by this time (Plate 7).

Phase 3

The western range was probably added sometime during the early 20th century.

Phase 4

The eastern range was added sometime later, prior to the 1960's, as was the single storey lean to butting its southern elevation. The demolished toilet/washroom blocks to the east of this range were likely to have been added at the same time. The Ordnance Survey map of 1967 shows a large area of factory floor-space to the north-east corner of the surveyed site. This had been demolished and developed prior to this recording and can only be dated to before 1967.

Phase 5

Buildings were erected within the courtyard after 1967. These were also demolished prior to the building recording.

6. Discussion

With the absence of an historic plan of a building showing the function of individual rooms, the use of space can only be based on educated guesswork and comparative analysis. The process of needle making is briefly outlined above but is by no means exhaustive. The manufactory would have relied on a combination of mechanised steam power and hand turned machines. The processes would have changed little over perhaps half a century.

An early artists impression of the Crescent Works (Plate 16), which using a certain amount of artistic licence, is useful in that it shows the position of the chimney at the rear of the northern range. This ties in with the location of the engine room (1.1.1) in this area. This would have housed a small steam engine, which would have run machinery used in the manufacturing processes.

The control of raw materials and distribution of finished products would be controlled from the main office (Room 2) located at the main entrance, although it is likely that the northern cart-way would receive incoming raw materials and the main entrance would be for finished products exiting and customers visiting. The rolls of wire used in the needle making process were bulky and heavy and so would be stored on the ground floor, probably in the northern range. The cutting would have been done in an adjacent room. Other processes such as

stamping and piercing would also have been undertaken on the ground floor. The 'lighter' work would then have been carried out on the upper floors, the most detailed and intricate jobs would make advantage of the copious light from the large amount of windows on the upper floor.

The brief for this project did not require an in depth description of the needle industry. A useful starting point for those with an interest in the subject would be a visit to the Forge Mill Needle Museum in Redditch.

7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

A building recording was undertaken on behalf of Steve Dodd Property Management Ltd at the Crescent Works, Mount Pleasant, Redditch, Worcestershire (SP 039 668, WSM 00034). The building recording determined that the original building known as the Walton Works was incorporated into a remodelled building around 1888, which became the Crescent Works. The original chimneystack has disappeared, but the buildings remain generally in tact and in good condition. The economic requirements of the 20th century meant that additional floorspace was added to the works and the site was taken over by the fishing tackle manufacturer, Partridge of Redditch. Fishing tackle manufacture has always run alongside the needle industry in Redditch and it is interesting to note that the Walton Works also manufactured fishing hooks from the same premises that Partridges' still made similar items around a century later.

8. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

3	Photographic records AS3
3	Colour transparency film
3	Black and white photographic films
1	Site drawings and notes
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Steve Dodd and the staff of Steve Dodd Property Management

Ltd, Jo-Ann Gloger, Keeper of Collections at Forge Mill Needle Museum and Ole A. Bjerke of Partridge of Redditch.

10. **Personnel**

Paul Williams led the fieldwork and report preparation. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss, the illustration was by Steve Rigby.

11. **Bibliography**

AS, 2002a *Brief for recording of an historic building at The Crescent Works, Mount Pleasant, Redditch, Worcestershire*, Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 9 April 2002

AS, 2002b *Proposal for recording of an historic building at The Crescent Works, Mount Pleasant, Redditch*, Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 11 June 2002

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Land, N, 1977 *The history of Redditch and the locality*, Worcester Record Office

Lee, B T, 1986, *The personal reminiscences of a Needlemaker*, Merlin Books Ltd

RCHME, 1996 *Recording historic buildings: a descriptive specification (3rd edition)*, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

Redditch and District illustrated Business review, 1923 *Reviews of leading manufacturers and commercial enterprises*, Cape Hill Press, Smethwick

Rollins, J G, 1984 *A History of Redditch*, Phillimore, Chichester

12. **Abbreviations**

WSM Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record.

SMR Sites and Monuments Record.

WRO Worcester Record Office

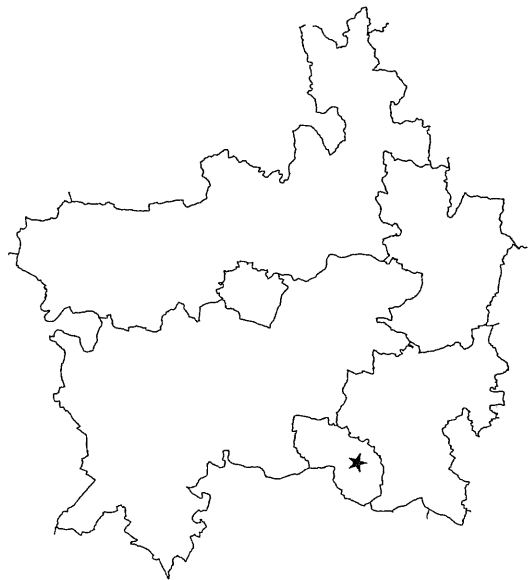


Figure 1: Location of Site

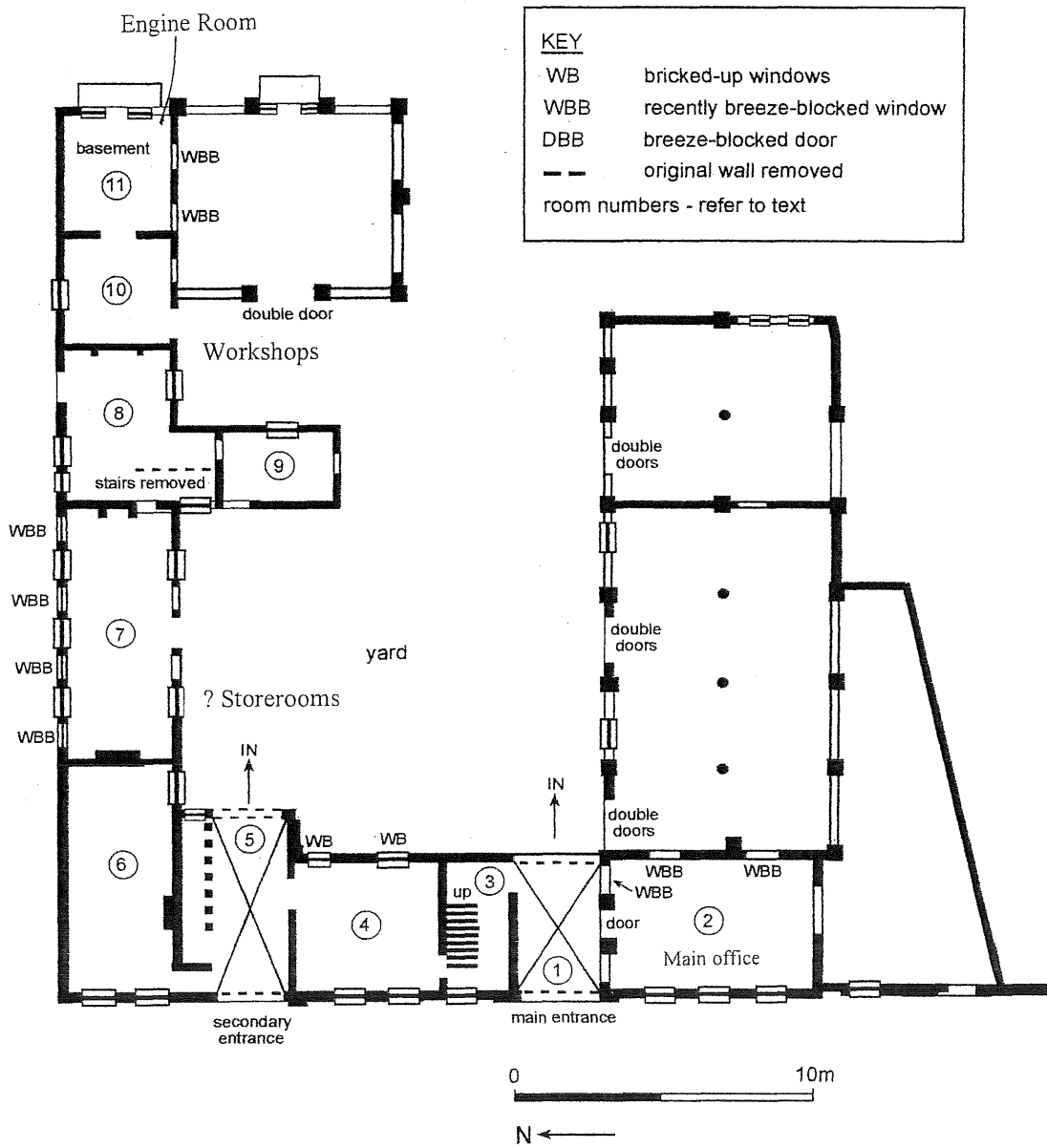


Figure 2: Ground floor plan (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)

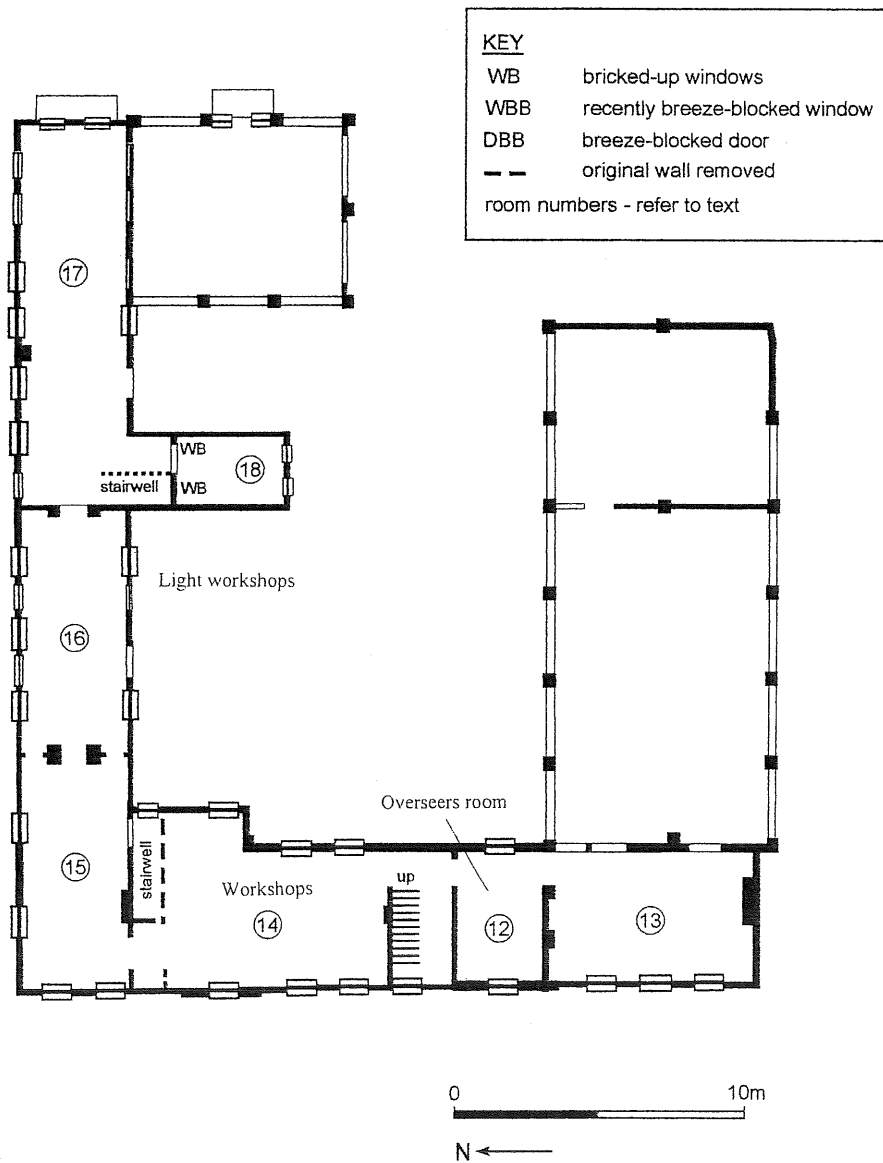


Figure 3: First floor plan (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)

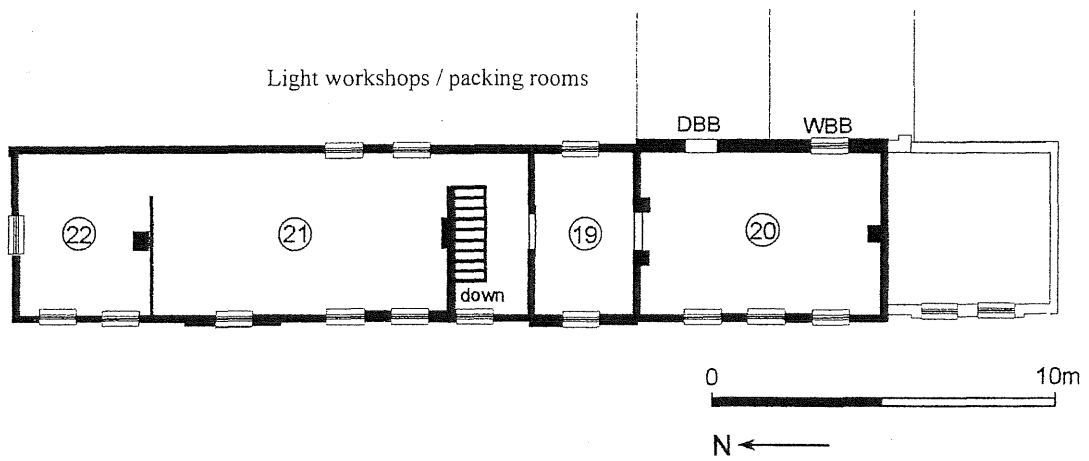


Figure 4: Second floor plan (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)

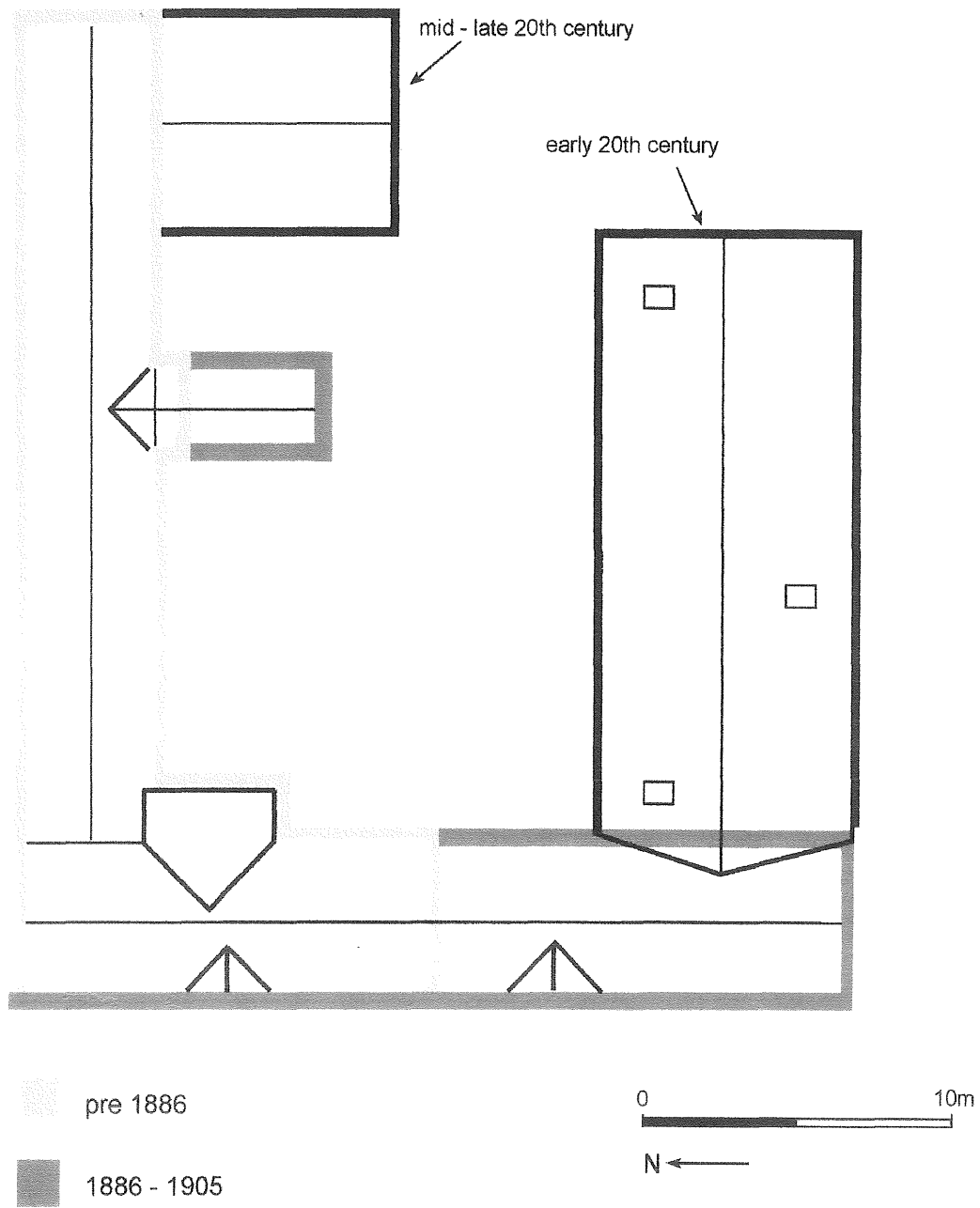


Figure 5: Phase plan (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)

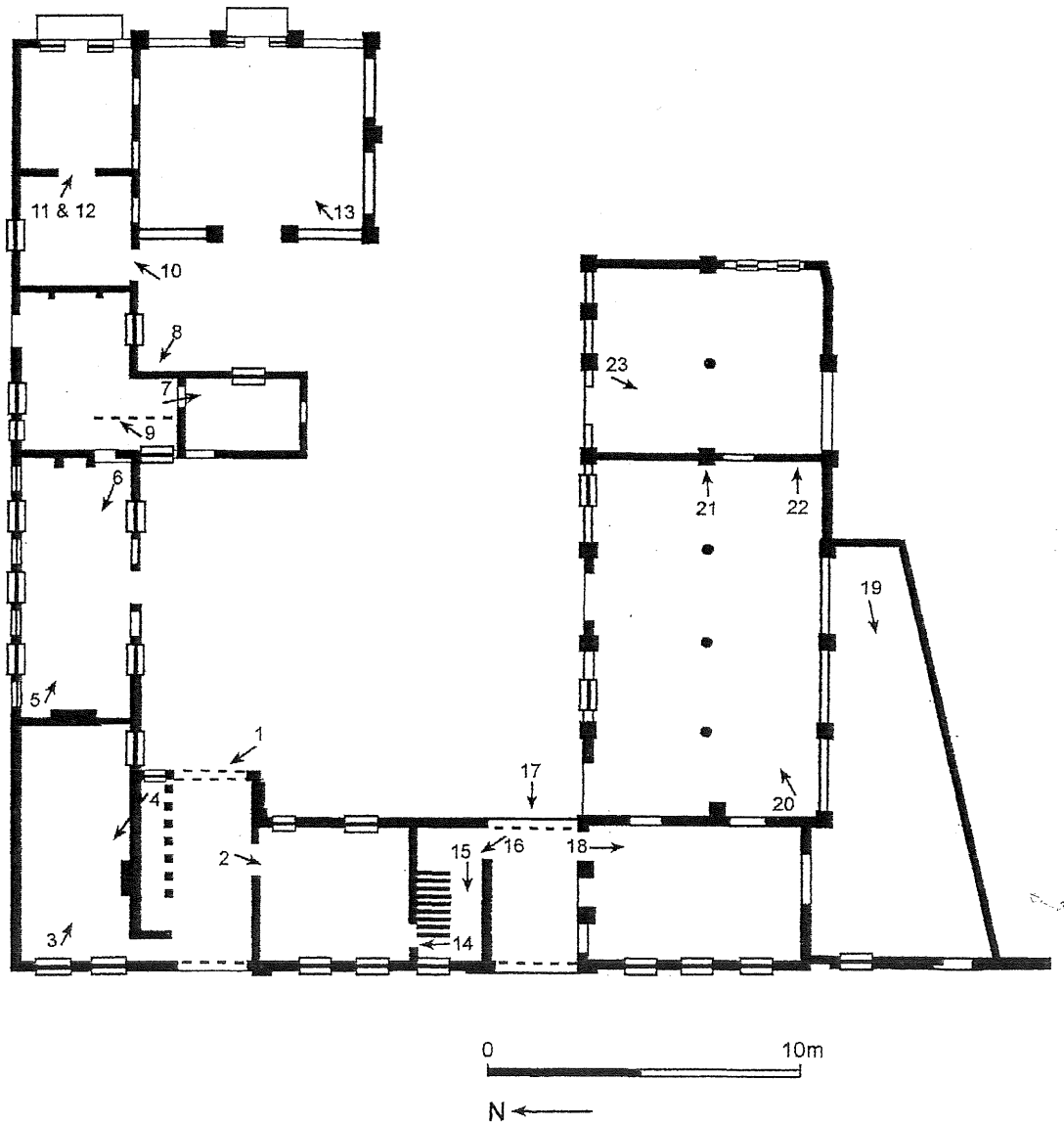


Figure 6: Direction of ground floor photos (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)

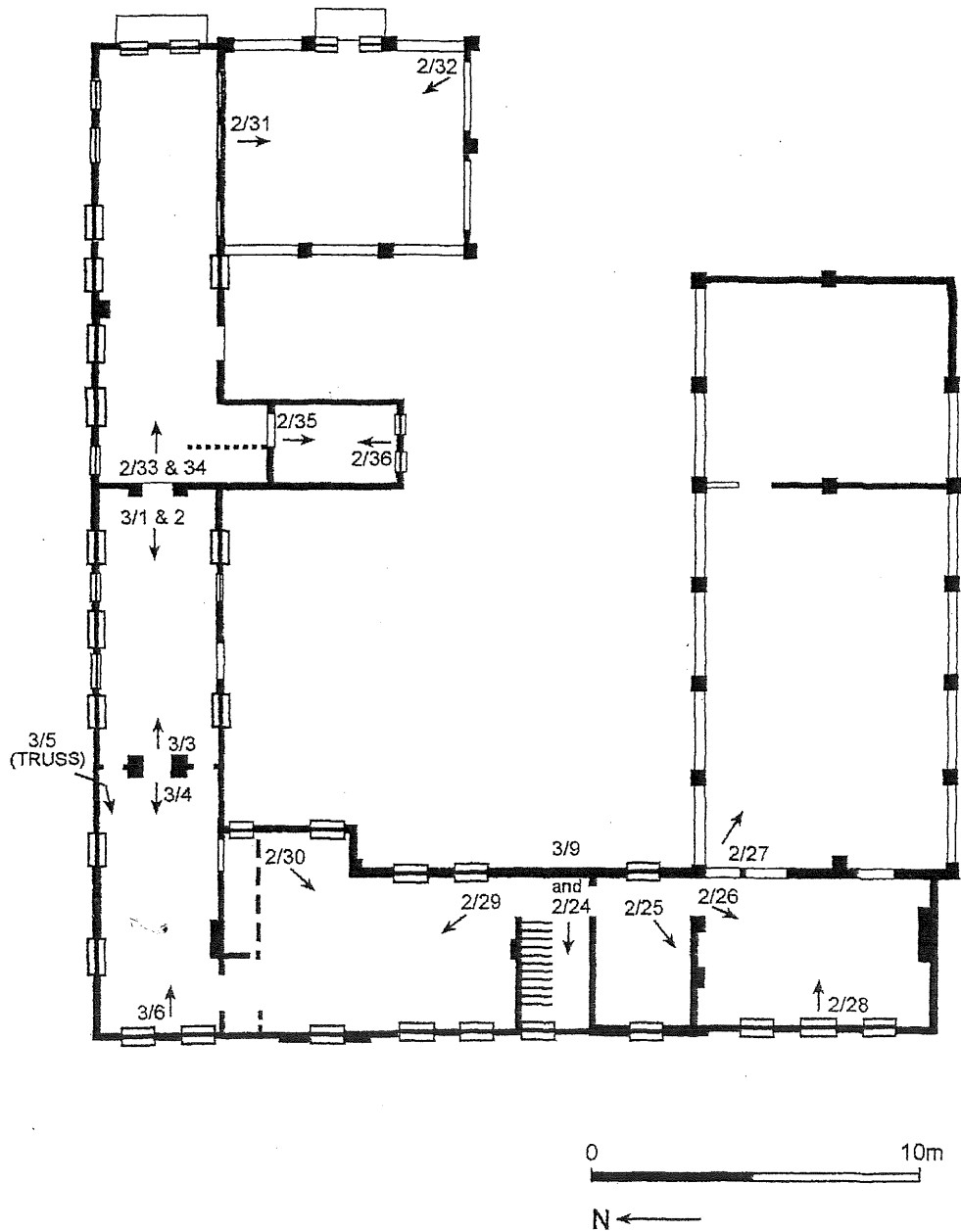


Figure 7: Direction of first floor photos (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)

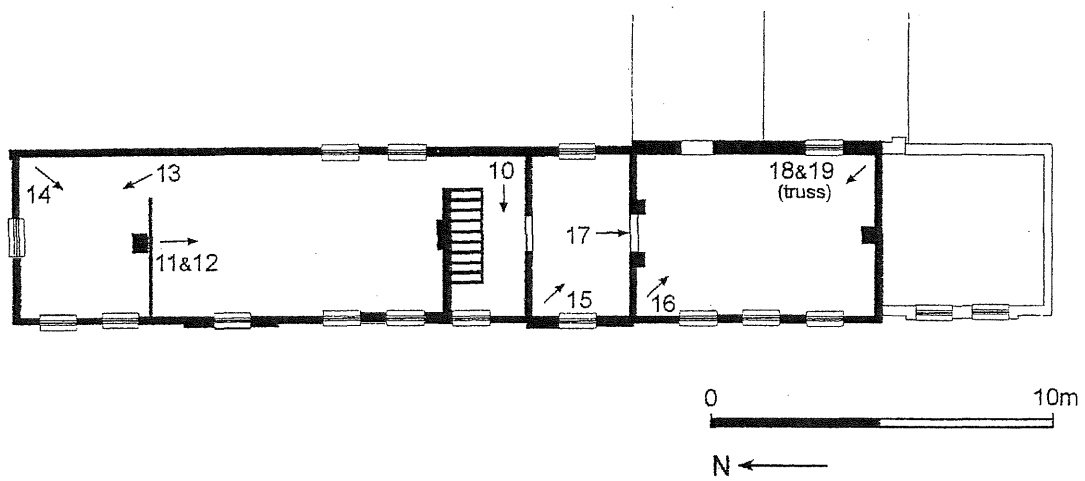


Figure 8: Direction of second floor photos (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)

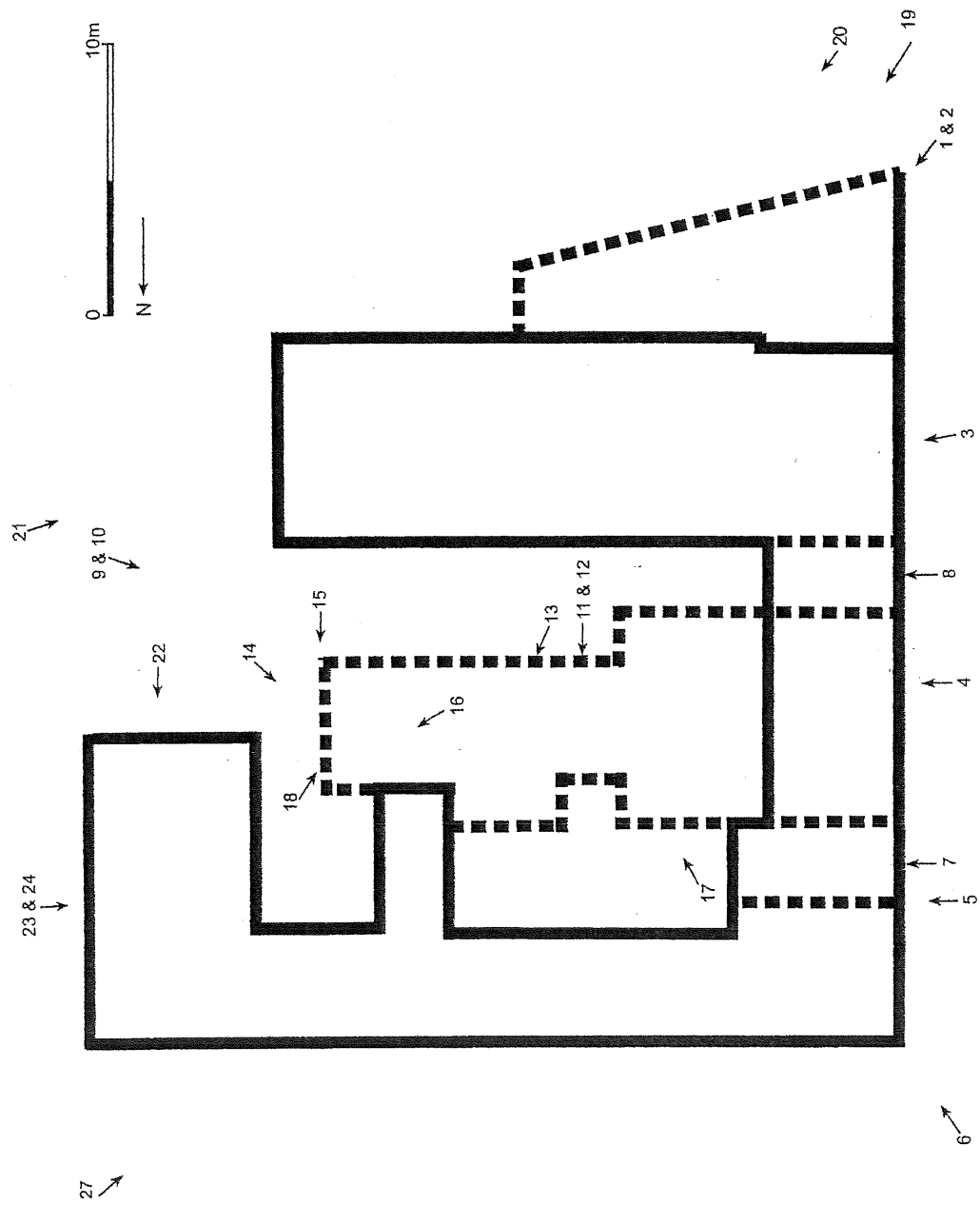


Figure 9: Direction of external photos (Based on original drawings by BLB Architects of Redditch)



Plate 1: The Crescent Works frontage on Mount Pleasant



Plate 2: Detail of the Crescent Moon emblem on the northern porch.

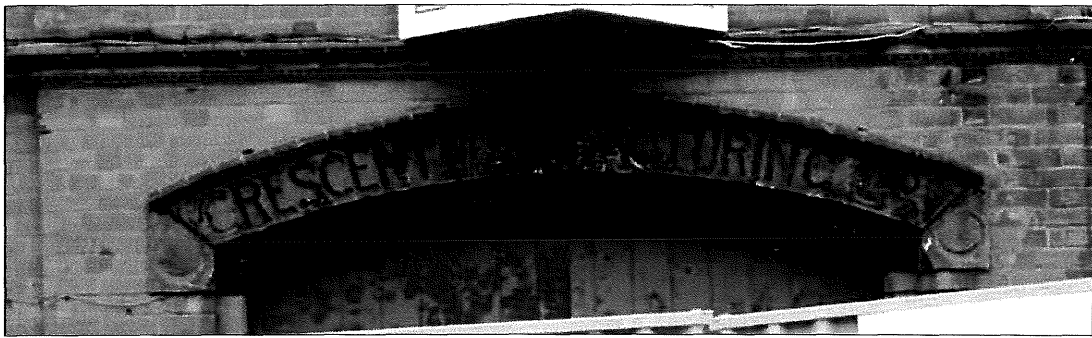


Plate 3: The Crescent Works logo over the main entrance



Plate 4: West facing elevation from Mount Pleasant



Plate 5: Western range courtyard facing elevation



Plate 6: Northern range north facing elevation



Plate 7: Northern range courtyard facing elevation

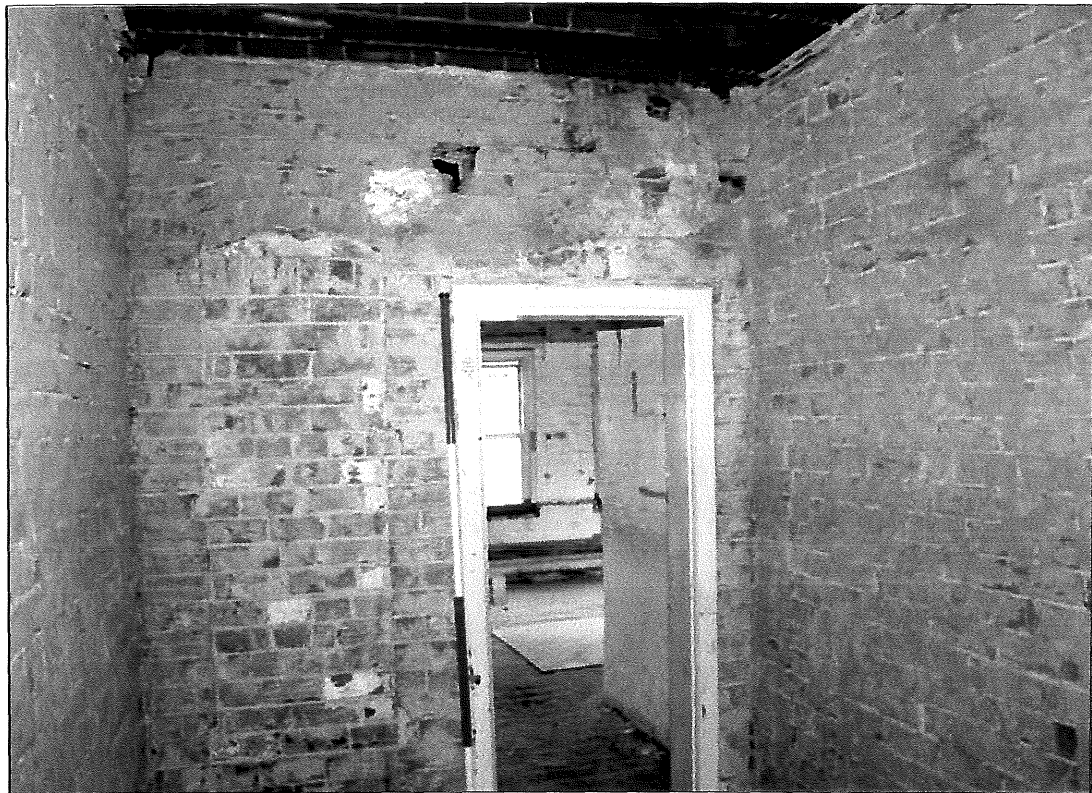


Plate 8: Internal view of the projection off the northern range, showing blocked-up windows from the first phase of building, with a later second phase door punched through.



Plate 11: The southern range



Plate 12: Main staircase from the Crescent Works inserted against the original external wall of the Walton Works. The plinth below the stairs is an indicator that this wall was external when built

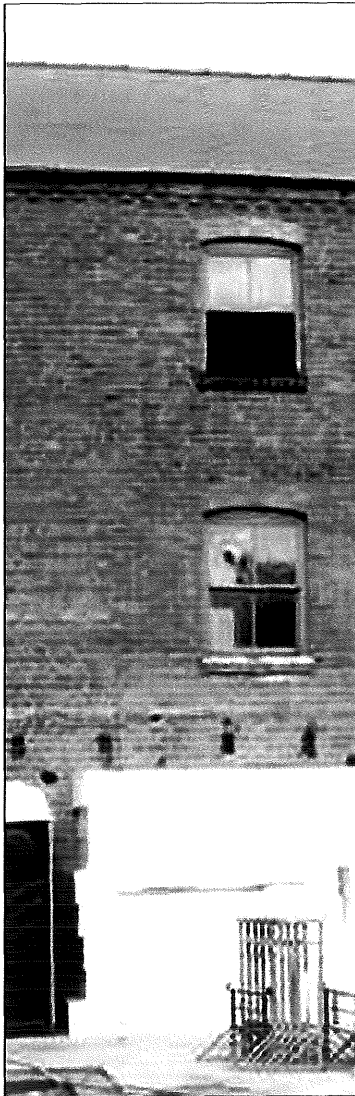


Plate 13: Brickwork of first phase Walton Works and second phase Crescent Works stitched together. The join was well constructed and not easily visible

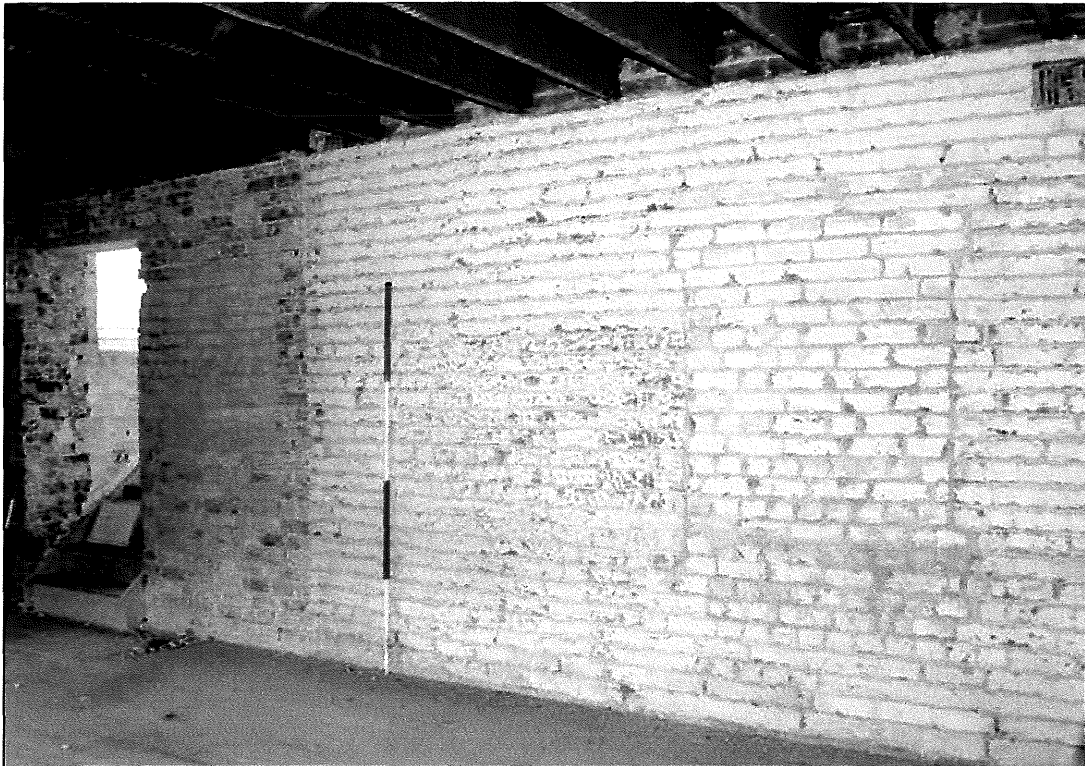


Plate 14: Original external windows (now blocked) of the western range, now inside the 20th century southern range

THE
WORKING MAN:
 A Weekly Record of Social and Industrial Progress.

ALL RIGHTS OF TRANSMISSION AND REPRODUCTION ARE RESERVED.

[REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

Vol. I.—No. 14.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1866.

PRICE 2s.
(STAMPED, 3d.)

THE WORKSHOPS OF THE WORLD.



NEEDLE-MAKING AT REDDITCH.

Needle-Making at Redditch.

...ished by savage tribes at the present time are indeed, the existence of metals becomes appa-
 ...d alike of very similar construction. That of the ... and he next to work, and soon brought

Plate 15: Contemporary depiction of needlemaking in Redditch

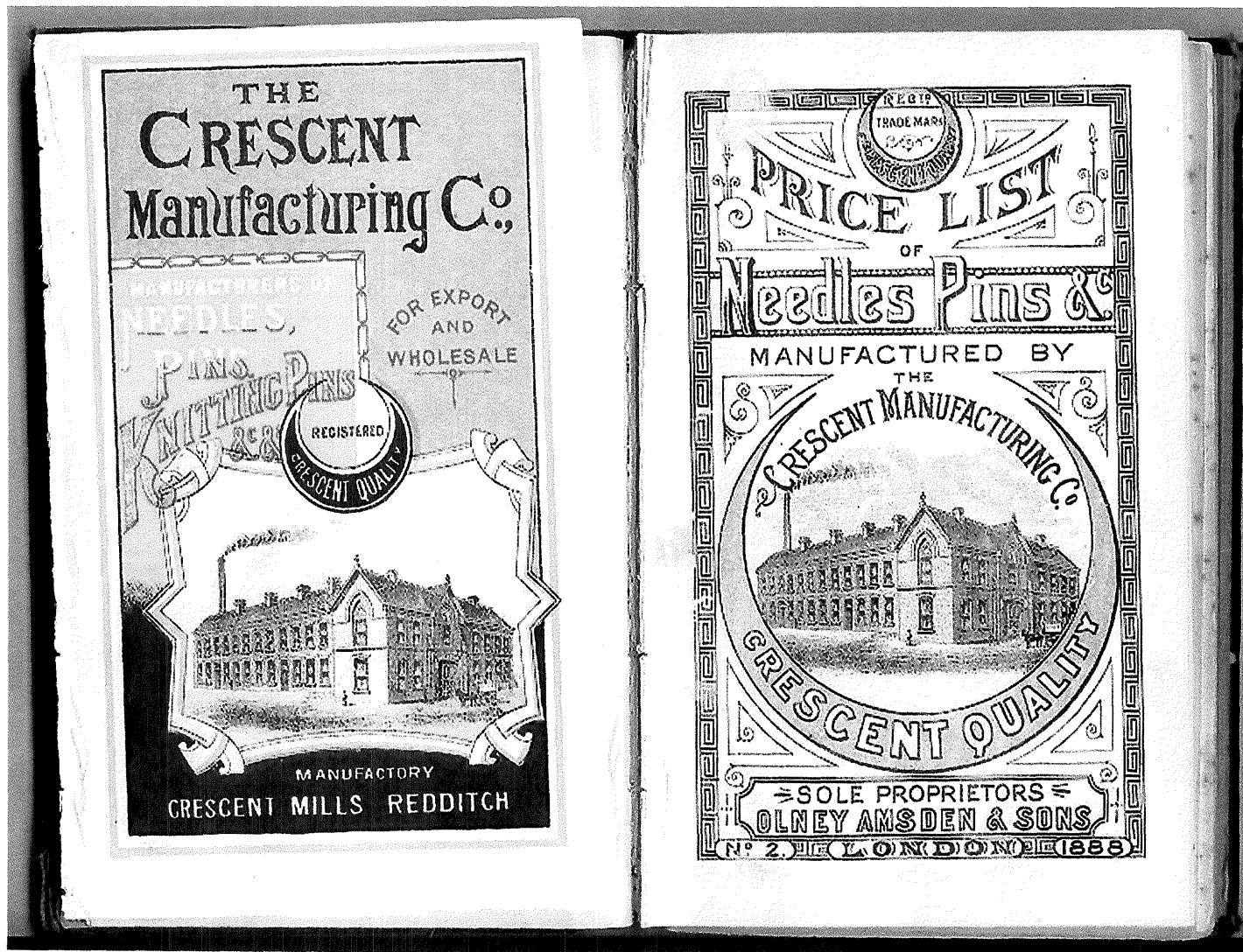


Plate 16: Contemporary advertisement for then Crescent Works (kindly supplied by The Forge Mill Needle Museum)



Plate 17: Original needle packets from the Crescent Works (kindly supplied by The Forge Mill Needle Museum)