



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**HISTORIC BUILDING ASSESSMENT**

**AND WATCHING BRIEF**

**ON**

**150 FISHPOOL STREET,**

**ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**NGR TL 14006 07414**

*On behalf of*

*Mr Steven Taylor*

**JANUARY 2018**

**REPORT FOR** Mr S Taylor  
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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
SUMMARY	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Origins of the Report	1
1.2 Location	1
1.3 Description	1
1.4 Geology and Topography	1
1.5 Proposed Development	1
<b>2 BACKGROUND</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Designation	3
2.2 History of Development	3
<b>3 DESCRIPTION OF 150 FISHPOOL STREET</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 General Description of fireplace and chimneystack	5
<b>4 WATCHING BRIEF</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5 ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>20</b>
5.1 Historic and Architectural Assessment	20
<b>6 CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>OASIS Report Form</b>	<b>28</b>

## FIGURES AND PLATES

	<b>Page</b>
Figure 1: Site location	2
Figure 2: Chimney	6
Figure 3: Chimney elevations, sections and plan	7
Figure 4: West inglenook, elevations, sections and plan	12
Figure 5: Probable location of oven	24
Plate 1: Front façade	5
Plate 2: Chimney from front	5
Plate 3: Rear of building	8
Plate 4: Rear of chimney	9
Plate 5: Northeast side of chimney	10
Plate 6: Northwest side of chimney	10
Plate 7: East fireplace	11
Plate 8: West fireplace	11
Plate 9: Claimed salt or spice box	13
Plate 10: Remains of bread oven	13
Plate 11: Reworked left-hand wall	14
Plate 12: Chimneybreast from stairwell	14
Plate 13: Chimney from north in attic	15
Plate 14: Chimney from west in attic	15
Plate 15: Chimney from east in attic	16
Plate 16: Top of chimneystack removed from the northeast	16
Plate 17: Top of chimneystack removed from the north	17
Plate 18: Rear wall of fireplace	17
Plate 19: Salt or spice box, with bricks removed	18
Plate 20: Opening to bread oven	18
Plate 21: Line of rebuild above bread oven entrance	19
Plate 22: Area of rebuild left-hand wall	19
Plate 23: Internal division of chimney flue	20
Plate 24: Former first floor fireplace	21
Plate 25: Passage with sill beam	22
Plate 26: Passage with sill beam	23
Plate 27: Dells Farmhouse chimney system	25
Plate 28: Dells Farmhouse, bread oven alongside chimney stack	25

# 150 Fishpool Street, St Albans

## *Building Recording*

### SUMMARY

*John Moore Heritage Services were requested to monitor the alterations being made to a chimney and inglenook fireplace at 150 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14006 07414). In the proposal dated 2015 it was argued that later alterations be reversed. It can be agreed that this would have been the case with the chimney stack, but that this argument was not accurate with the inglenook, due to the present arrangement of a further inglenook attached to the rear of this one.*

*The building was constructed in the parish of St Michael, a church that was established by St Albans Abbey, in its earlier parochia. The site lies on the southern edge of an area that was interpreted as part of a denuded fortification in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (RCHME 1910, 192).*

*Occupation is known along Fishpool Street from the high medieval period, but when exactly it started at this location is not known. This house (150) is known to have a timber structure that is dated to 1681, and thus gives a period in which this section of Fishpool Street was occupied in the later part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The proposals covered alterations to the west inglenook fireplace and the chimneystack. It was apparent that the chimneystack had been altered on a number of occasions in the past. The upper water tablet had been removed, which meant that the chimney stack no longer reduced rainwater penetration.*

*The west inglenook had been altered in the past, and had what was thought to be a spice or salt box, and a bread oven. The owner had speculated that the bread oven lay behind the inglenook, but now agrees that this place was occupied by the east inglenook. Instead the line of the entrance into the bread oven is indicative of this structure previously being located to the north of the east inglenook in a current passageway. The feature thought to be a salt box turned out to have its own flue, but its use is unknown, possibly a heating duct for the room above, which has no fireplace or part of a glimpse window.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Origins of the Report**

This report was requested by Mr Steven Taylor of 150 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, due to a condition of listed building permission requiring a watching brief during works affecting the historic fabric of that grade II listed building.

### **1.2 Location**

The site is located at 150 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14006 07414). The site is located in the parish of St Michael near the boundary of the parish of St Albans and that of St Michael. The part of St Michael's parish that the site was in became part of St Michael's Ward or Urban. Thus it was technically the case that this was part of an external parish to St Albans, but was eventually located in the town or city. Historically this was located in Cashio Hundred and the county of Hertfordshire. It is now located in St Albans City and District in the modern county of Hertfordshire.

### **1.3 Description**

The proposal site is bounded by those of domestic properties on the west, north and east. On the west and east it is joined directly to properties, thus creating a terrace. To the south is a raised pathway above Fishpool Street.

### **1.4 Geology and Topography**

Topographically the site is located on a southwest facing slope on the northeast side of the Ver valley. The Ordnance Datum is located at about 85m.

The underlying geology ([mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html](http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)) is the sedimentary rock Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk formation that are undifferentiated. This was laid down 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous period. There are no superficial deposits.

### **1.5 Proposed Development**

The proposal was set out on a number of plans supplied to JMHS that included PS120-01 (existing inglenook), and PS120-02 (existing chimney), both dated June 2015, and PS120-03 (proposed inglenook), and PS120-04 and PS120-05 (proposed chimney) that are all dated July 2015.

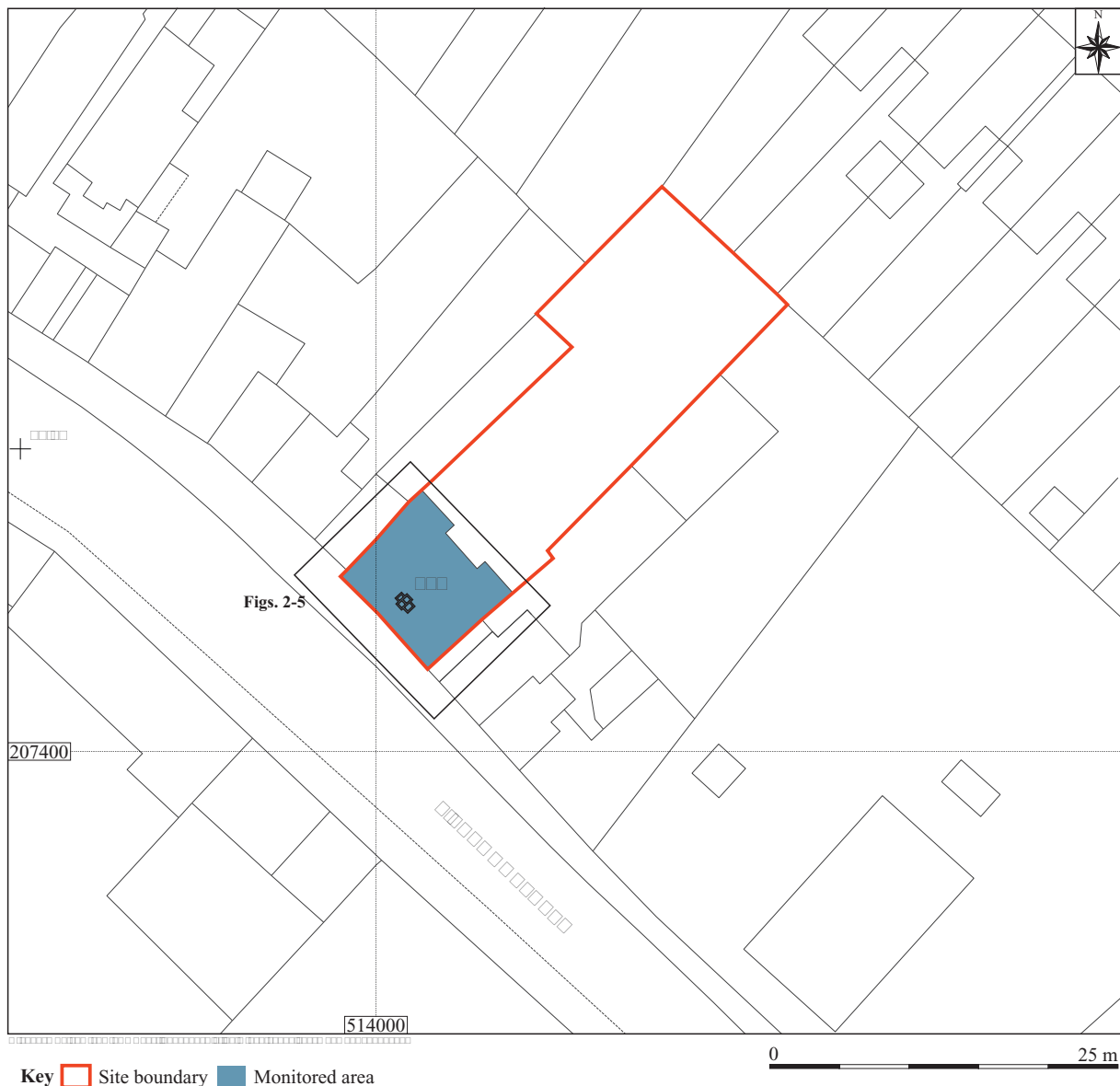
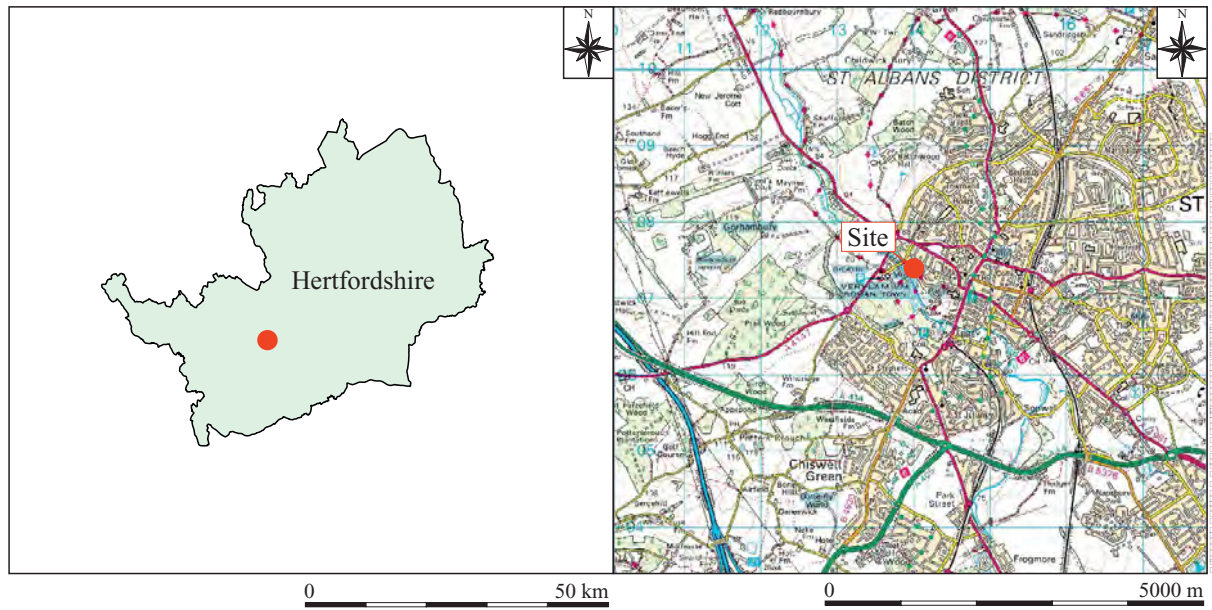


Figure 1: Site location

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Designation

The building 150 Fishpool Street is a grade II listed building (ID 1172908: LID 163255: NGR TL 14006 207414). Its national listing is as followed:

*Late C18 front to C17 house. 2 storeys, 3 windows. Centre, 1st floor window blocked. High pitched, swept, tiled roof with central chimney (renewed). Red brick with brick eaves cornice. 3-light casement windows, those on ground floor under gauged, segmental, brick arches. Similar arch over central door of 2 glass and 4 flat panels, with detached, cornice hood over. 3 steps to door. Rendered plinth.*

The building is not included in the RCHME volume for Hertfordshire, which has four houses recorded on Fishpool Street (RCHME 1910, 189).

The building is located in the Fishpool Street and St Michael's Village Conservation Area (Area 4c), which has medieval origins and some medieval structures surviving. The Conservation Area was established in 1969 and was one of the earliest created using the Civic Amenities Act of 1967. The character of the Street was protected by the use of compulsory purchase orders by St Albans Council in the 1960s.

### 2.2 History of Development

The site is located on an area of ground claimed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to be the location of a denuded fortification (RCHME 1910, 192), which was claimed to be bounded by Fishpool Street to the south, Branch Road to the west, Verulam Road to the north and New England Street to the east. It was suggested by the RCHME that this was the site of Kingsbury, though the veracity of these claims have been questioned by Simon West, who has suggested that Verulamium was the site of Kingsbury.

In the Roman period the site on which 150 Fishpool Street lay would have been located in the immediate territory of Verulamium, a Roman civitas (city) or munucipium located to the south of the River Ver. The names of that site have been variously known as Verulamio from AD 50, and Wæclingaceaster from c. 900 (Gover, Mawer et al. 1938, 86-87).

The name *Cyngesbyrig* recorded from 996-1006 (Gover, Mawer et al. 1938, 89-90), refers to a fortification which was previously held by the West Saxon kings, being bought by Alfric, later abbot of St Albans, from King Edward. The surviving data is probably inconclusive to show exactly where Kingsbury was, though a current suggestion is that it refers to Verulamium. However, analysis of Saint's Lives or Vitae (Yeates 2012) has noted that it is often the case that Roman cities and towns were given to church fathers and that the lay lords abandoned these sites to establish new settlements in a series of events from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> centuries. The basis of this tradition is set out in the Vitae of St Tatheus who was awarded the city of Caerwent in the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century with the King of the Silures establishing a new settlement, a trading settlement at Portskewett, both settlements appear to be established in the immediate former territory of the Roman city (which formed Caerwent's parochia). A



similar Vitae survives for St Dochdwy or Douchau at Cardiff, who was awarded the Roman fort and settlement, but who decided not to establish his church there and instead built one on the cliff tops to the west of the fort at Llandough or Llandouchau Fach. The lay lord also abandoned the fortification, locating to a new site probably at Roath. A number of Roman colonies, cities, towns and forts are identified as being given to religious leaders, such as those at York, Worcester, Gloucester, Caeleon, Dorchester-upon-Thames, and Bradwell-on-Sea to name but a few from the chronicles and charters. In the case of Dorchester-upon-Thames it can be recognised that to the west of the Roman town there is a large spread of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century material indicating that a new settlement was established outside the walls when the town was given to St Birinus in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. It would seem unusual that the King's settlement survived in Verulamium in consideration of the Vitae and other associated data, yet it may be plausible that the traditions at Verulamium may digress from a national norm.

At St Albans a new settlement grew up around a church located in a Roman cemetery from at least the 8<sup>th</sup> century, which was known by the name *æcclesia Sancti Albani* AD 792 (Gover, Mawer et al. 1938, 86-87). The church of St Michael was along with St Peter and St Stephens established by Abbot Wulsin in the 10<sup>th</sup> century (VCH 1908, 392-405). St Andrew (VCH 1908, 510-515) and Sandridge (VCH 1908, 432-438) were chapels of St Peter; while Redbourn and its chapel of Flamstead were also possessions of the abbey (VCH 1908, 364-371). The territories of these churches probably represent the extent of St Alban's original *parochia* and thus the immediate territory of Verulamium.

The hundred boundary between that of Cashio (that contains St Albans) and Dacorum (that contains Windridge) probably runs along the parish boundary between St Albans parish and St Michael's parish. The name Windridge applied to two manors believed later to be called Gorhambury and Childwick Bury (VCH 1908, 392-405). Windridge was described as being difficult to explain in *The Place-names of Hertfordshire* (Gover, Mawer et al. 1938, 92), but is used as the major manor name in 1086. Early forms often contain a second *-n-* as in *Windringe*. It is possible the *-ring-* was the bank or wall of *Verulamium*. One of the manors was held by Geoffrey of Bec from the abbot and contained 1 ½ hides (Morris 1976, 10.12), while the other was a further manor of 1 ½ hides held by Geoffrey of Bec, which was held from him by Ralph (Morris 1976, 34.1). In 1066 the abbey held the first of these manors through the monk Osbern and his man Goding. The second was held by Aelmer from Earl Leofwin.

The name Fishpool Street is known from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Gover, Mawer et al. 1938, 87-88), where it is recorded as *Fisspalesstrate* in c. 1250, which takes its name from the Abbey Fish-pool. An alternative name for the lower part of the street, presumably that in St Michael's parish, was *vico de Salipathe* in c. 1250, which refers to the *sealh* or willows.

When settlement was established along Fishpool Street is more difficult to determine. Certain parts of it, from the structures that survive are medieval in origin, while other buildings are of a 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

Dendrochronological dating of the timbers at 150 Fishpool Street have indicated that the structure dates from 1681, and that the house was established as a lobby entry

house. The chimney is considered to date from about this period. The house was originally recorded as a beer house known by the name of The Woodman. In about 1851 the name was changed to 'The Blocker's Arms'. The remnants of the old public house sign are still visible.

### **3 DESCRIPTION OF 150 FISHPOOL STREET**

#### **3.1 General Description of Fireplace and Chimneystack**

The following description is not a full account of the building, but will describe the fireplaces and chimneystacks, located on fig. 2.



Plate 1: Front façade



Plate 2: Chimney from front

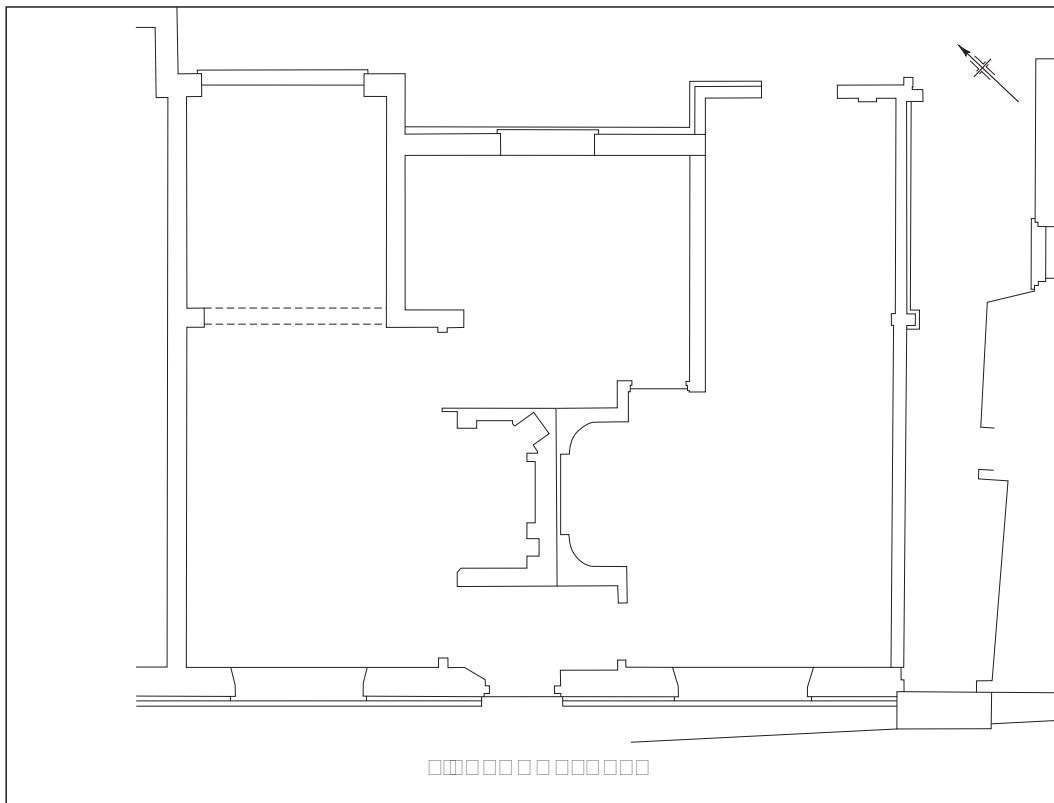
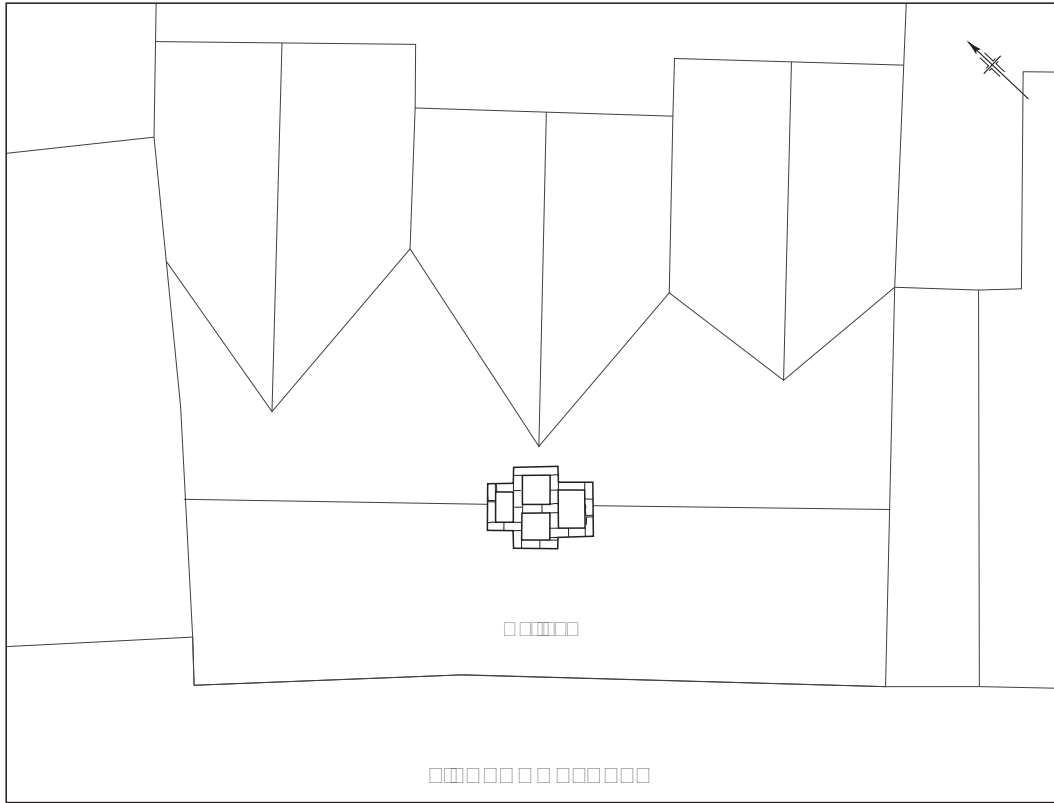


Figure 2: Chimney

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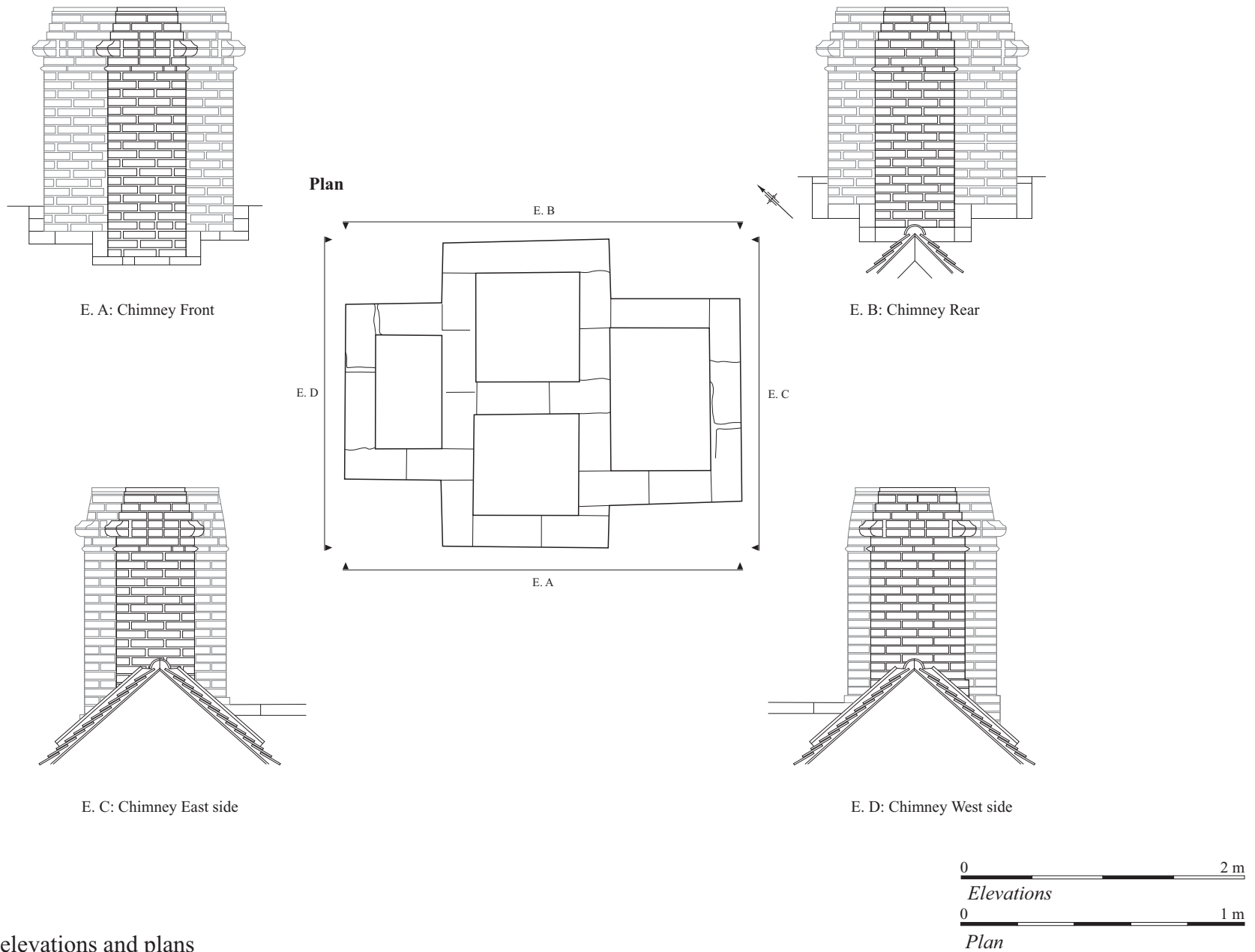


Figure 3: Chimney elevations and plans

The building is a two storey structure with a brick frontage of an 18<sup>th</sup> century date in Flemish bond (plate 1). The building has three bays and a plinth. On the ground floor windows flank a central panel door. The heads are created by segmental arches with soldiers. The door has a porch. The first floor has three windows. The roof is of red clay tile and set more or less centrally on the ridgeline is the remains of the chimneybreast with four flues in a rough cross shaped form (fig. 3, plate 2). The upper water tablet was of a decorative form.

The rear of the house has three gables all of which contain a bay (plate 3). The two outside bays are modern extensions. The left-hand one has a timber and brick ground floor, with a rendered area above. The right hand gable is rendered on the ground and first floor. The central gable is the old gable, which would have been the rear extension that contained the stairwell. This has stud framing on both the ground and first floor. There is a window into the attic space. The roofs of all three gables are clad in red tile. These adjoin the main part of the roof which is generally orientated east to west, and runs adjacent and parallel to Fishpool Street. Placed centrally on the ridge of the main roof was the chimneystack (fig. 3, plate 4-6), which was of a cruciform shape and aligned with the ridgeline of the central rear gable projection. Some of the decoration is missing from the rear extension of the water tablet.



Plate 3: Rear of building



Plate 4: Rear of chimney

The chimney as described in ‘Proposed Restoration of the Chimney’, highlighted the fact that the central chimney had been removed. It was noted in the listing of 1970 that:

*‘... High pitched, swept, tiled roof with central chimney (renewed)...’*

The photos are indicative as is stated that the chimneystack has been reduced and altered in design. However, of the first two it is not possible to obtain a clear understanding due to the standard of the photographs. I am inclined to agree with the interpretation of Steven Taylor in this case that a series overhangs and drips have been removed and that what appear to be decorative projections were designed to support a more elaborate water tablet. The three or possibly four rows of bricks above this have replaced the upper more elaborate tablet, probably because this was all of the brickwork that could be salvaged (plates 2, 4-6). The pots have gone, but it would be possible to suggest that they were not 17<sup>th</sup> century examples surviving on the historic photographs but probably mass produced examples.

The two main ground floor rooms (the kitchen and the sitting room) both have the remains of historical inglenooks, which are located back to back below the chimneystack. The kitchen on the east side of the building contains a stud framed wall on the east side of the room, and in the west wall there is an inglenook fireplace, which is probably of a single design and date (plate 7). The rear of the fireplace is a band of protruding brick that are 230mm x 50mm. The rear bond is English Cross Bond, which is flanked by two quarter circular wall that use Header Bond, and which towards the outer part of the curve becomes an English Bond. The curving walls are undoubtedly to provide space for the spice box and the bread oven in the other (west) inglenook. The end walls contain a chamfer with stops formed by shaped bricks. Above the fireplace there is a lintel with chamfer also. This fireplace was presumably originally associated with the parlour. Either side of the fireplace there are plank doors. A mixture of monochrome tiles are laid in the base of the fireplace. The old part of the room has a ceiling with an axial beam that is roughly shaped with a chamfer.



Plate 5: Northeast side of chimney



Plate 6: Northwest side of chimney

The sitting room is in the west part of the house. In the east wall there is a large inglenook fireplace with lintel above, with a chamfer (fig. 4, plate 8). A detailed account of this fireplace was given in the ‘proposed restoration of the Inglenook’ by Steven Taylor. The fireplace is of a general rectangular plan, with narrow 17<sup>th</sup> century bricks at the rear and on the right-hand side that measure 230mm x 50mm. At the base of the rear wall are a group of bricks that are considered of a modern insertion. In the right-hand corner at the back of the fireplace was a round-headed arch arrangement that had been blocked in. The programme for alterations is correct that this feature ‘described as a salt box’ is a mockery, as it does use blue brick 235mm x 100mm x 65mm. It is possible that this could have originated as a spice or salt cupboard (plate 9). At its current angle there is very little room (with the original untouched inglenook to its rear) for a feature to have originally existed here. On the right side of the fireplace the bricks measured 230mm x 50mm, and are chamfered with a decorative quirk that divides the chamfer from the adjoining wall. This wall looks original and relatively untouched. On the left-hand corner of the fireplace there is a further arch,

but this one is set at angles between the two wall lines. This is described as the Bread Oven, and it is highly likely that there could have been one there (plate 10). The opening is blocked by blue-grey bricks that measured 220mm x 65mm. The left hand wall of the fireplace has been reworked with larger bricks measuring 235mm x 63mm, and are probably post the brick tax of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (plate 11). There is a large square-headed opening in the lower part of the left-hand side wall. Chamfered bricks occur on the right-hand side, which may be distinctive and significant. In the base of the fireplace are large flagstones. Fragments of timber framing are evident in the original north wall of the building. The ceiling has an axial chamfered beam with joists.



Plate 7: East fireplace



Plate 8: West fireplace



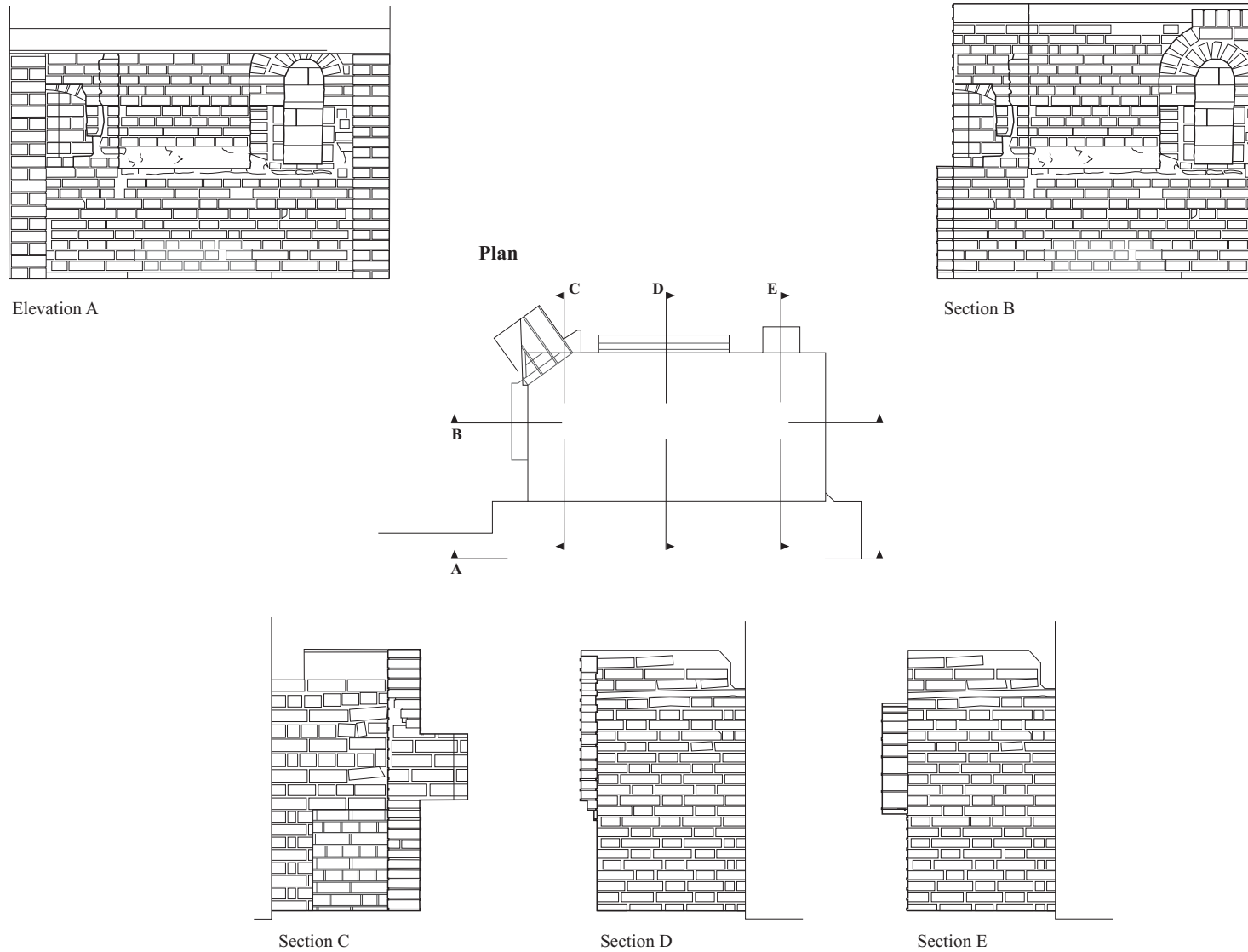


Figure 4: West Inglebrook elevations, sections and plan



Plate 9: Claimed salt or spice box



Plate 10: Remains of bread oven



Plate 11: Reworked left-hand wall



Plate 12: Chimneybreast from stairwell

On the first floor there is a section of the chimney evident from the stairwell (plate 12). In this build there is evidence of the chimneybreast tapering in, and a butt joint towards the ceiling. This part of the chimney is constructed of the smaller 17<sup>th</sup> century bricks.



Plate 13: Chimney from north in attic

The chimney must in some form take on its above roof shape in the attic space (plates 13-15). Externally one can recognise a type of cruciform arrangement but internally to the attic the chimney appears to be a rectangular shape with a rear projection, a form that reflects the older part of the house with its Front Range and middle gable extension. Internally to one of the chimneys it is apparent that one of the chimneys had an internal wall, meaning that a ground floor fireplace and a first floor fireplace used the same parts of the chimneys.



Plate 14: Chimney from west in attic



Plate 15: Chimney from east in attic

#### 4 WATCHING BRIEF

An archaeologist was sent to site while various parts of the chimneybreast and west fireplace were being removed.



Plate 16: Top of chimneystack removed from northeast



Plate 17: Top of chimneystack removed from north

There was little that was revealed by the removal of the upper part of the chimneystack (plates 16-17).

The removal of the later bricks in the area of the fireplace revealed very little to what was already evident structurally without their removal (plate 18). The new bricks inserted in the salt or spice box were removed (plate 19). Bricks that would have extended into the area of the passageway, have been broken off for the insertion of the breeze block walling. The line of the flue to the bread oven was noted as running back to a space adjacent to the north of the eastern inglenook (plate 20). The chamfered bricks in the left hand wall appear to be broken off, indicating that this was not an original chamfer. In the passage to the north of the current fireplaces it is apparent in the new staircase arrangement that part of the original sill beam is missing. The ceiling timbers have heavy saw marks so are not 17<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 18: Rear wall of west fireplace



Plate 19: Salt or spice box, with bricks removed



Plate 20: Opening to bread oven



Plate 21: Line of rebuild above bread oven entrance



Plate 22: Area of rebuild left-hand wall

A photograph also shows an unusual line on the timber produced by smoke blackening indicating a different wall line previously (plate 11), which could only have been produced by a different wall arrangement. There was a brick joint above the opening for the mouth to the bread oven, which may also be a result of the removal of a spiral staircase (plate 21). These are possible indications that a spiral staircase existed on the north side of the west fireplace, and that its removal led to the reworking of the left hand wall. The rebuilding of this left-hand wall is indicative of a feature being removed (plate 22).



The Lammas Cottage construction is an example of a 17<sup>th</sup> century vernacular fireplace that relies on English traditions. However, there is no evidence for the existence of a Lammas Cottage style fireplace, as this proposal is clearly problematic. The problem here is that the fireplace at 150 Fishpool Street has two historic inglenook fireplaces that are constructed back to back at the base of the chimney. The possibility from the surviving data is that the arch located at an angle in the corner, though messed around with was in the correct place, and the original oven was located adjacent to the east fireplace, with the stoke hole operating as a fireplace to the ground floor room of the old central extension.

## 5 ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Historic and Architectural Assessment

Historically one can see that the inglenook fireplace fronting onto the east room (now used as the kitchen) is a relatively untouched fireplace. The west fireplace, however, has evidence of the original wall line to the back, the right hand side wall and possibly the lower right hand part of the left wall. The discussion of Lammas House in the 'Proposed Restoration of the Inglenook' and the inference in that the access to the oven went straight back is problematic spatially in the case of 150 Fishpool Street. If this suggestion was correct this would mean that the oven would be located in the space that is now occupied by the east inglenook, which is probably original and untouched. One has to conclude from this that there was either no original oven or that it was located on the side, in what is now the passageway (an idea that was originally dismissed by Taylor but now accepted following the investigation). To comprehend this latter part one has to consider the nature of the original build, a two-unit lobby entrance building, and consider the four chimneystack arrangement.



Plate 23: Internal division of chimney flue

The two-unit lobby entrance building as a basic unit would have had two rooms between which are set a fireplaces and chimney, stairwell and lobby. In this case it has to be that the lobby lay to the south of the chimney and fireplaces, as it is from here

that one enters the building from Fishpool Street. Even though the design of the house can change over time, access onto Fishpool Street is a primary feature, thus the location of the lobby is maintained. In a normal lobby entrance house, the lobby would provide access to both main downstairs rooms (in this case the kitchen and the sitting room). In the central area one has two inglenook fireplaces providing heat sources to the two downstairs rooms. On the first floor, one would expect both of these rooms to also have fireplaces, which is evident from the division of one of the chimneys into two flues (plate 23), indicating the previous existence of first floor fires to heat those two rooms. Indeed Plate 24 is a photograph of a former first floor fireplace that heated the eastern room although it has been reported by Steven Taylor that there is no evidence of a fireplace having been in the western room. To the north of the two back-to-back fireplace one would expect the oven and a spiral staircase (or ladder staircase), in the area where the passage alongside the current main stairs is located. The spiral staircase is usually located in an area adjacent to the fireplace, and twists up behind it. In this case with two fireplaces back-to-back this exact arrangement is not possible. The current staircase is too large, but as a general tradition existed with the development of staircases; that the new stairwell was inserted adjacent to the old to allow little alteration in the flow of the building then, one has to assume that the original spiral staircase was located between the current stairs and the fireplace. This part of the building has been dated by dendrochronology to 1680-81 or soon after (Moir 2007), with a close grouping of five dates.



Plate 24: First floor fireplace

The surviving timbers in the attic show no real indication that the rear central part was constructed onto the front roof, and one would assume that it was constructed with the front structure. However, this is not demonstrated by the information from the dendrochronology dating (Moir 2007, 17), where a group of three samples were closely matched to a 57 year period but no positive date could be provided for the

construction. The date must be post 1681, but how much later than that is uncertain. It is noticeable that in the design of the current stairwell that part of a sill beam is missing, and that it has been filled in with a new piece of wood to match (plate 25-26). This gap appears in the ground floor plans of 1965 and 1990, which have been provided in previous documentation for Listed Building Consent on this structure.



Plate 25: Passage with sill beam

Plans of the building dating to 1965, 1974 and 1990, indicate that there are a number of alterations to the building over time that constitute the addition of other phases. The 1965 plan showed a passageway was inserted to the north of the chimneybreasts, with the stairs in a different location, the west wing was evident, and two rooms to the north. The 1974 plan is similar, while the 1990 one indicates that the stairwell has been moved and that the two northern rooms have been removed.

The passageway to the north of the two inglenook fireplaces is evidently a later creation, and associated with the movement of the stairs and the dismantling of parts of the chimney structure. In vernacular buildings passageways are used to link rooms predominantly from the later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Prior to this rooms were linked one to another. Johnson (1996) links these developments to growing concepts of personal space through the development of Capitalism. An argument that the passageway should be a reason for the non-existence of the bread oven is thus not based on the known development of English houses. The passageway was in existence by 1965, but could be part of a development from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century if not the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In trying to work through possible fireplace locations, and the heating arrangement of the original house, it is apparent that there should be some five flues venting out through the chimneystack, as opposed to the remaining four. There are certain factors that may be considered in respect to this matter. These are strongly indicative of the chimney stack as it is now being rebuilt on at least three occasions from various points. It is apparent that there is a butt joint in the upper part of the chimneybreast evident on the first floor. This feature is possibly due to a reworking of the design of the chimneystack over time. A further noticeable feature in the attic is that the shape of the chimney from the west, which shows the western component to the chimney as wider (3.5 bricks to 3 bricks). This is indicative of a rebuild of the chimney at some point also. It is possible that this wider chimney is on the 1880s photograph. This may mean alterations between 1890 and 1930. The last indication of a rebuild of this chimney is in the period 1940 to 1970. The photograph of the 1940s showed an elaborate water tablet, however, it is noted on the 1970 listing that the chimney was new. The top three or four courses are part of the rebuild. There are thus a number of alterations to the chimney system over time, the removal of the oven, the blocking of the first floor fireplaces, all of this will have an impact on design of the chimneys and potential alterations.



Plate 26: Passage with sill beam

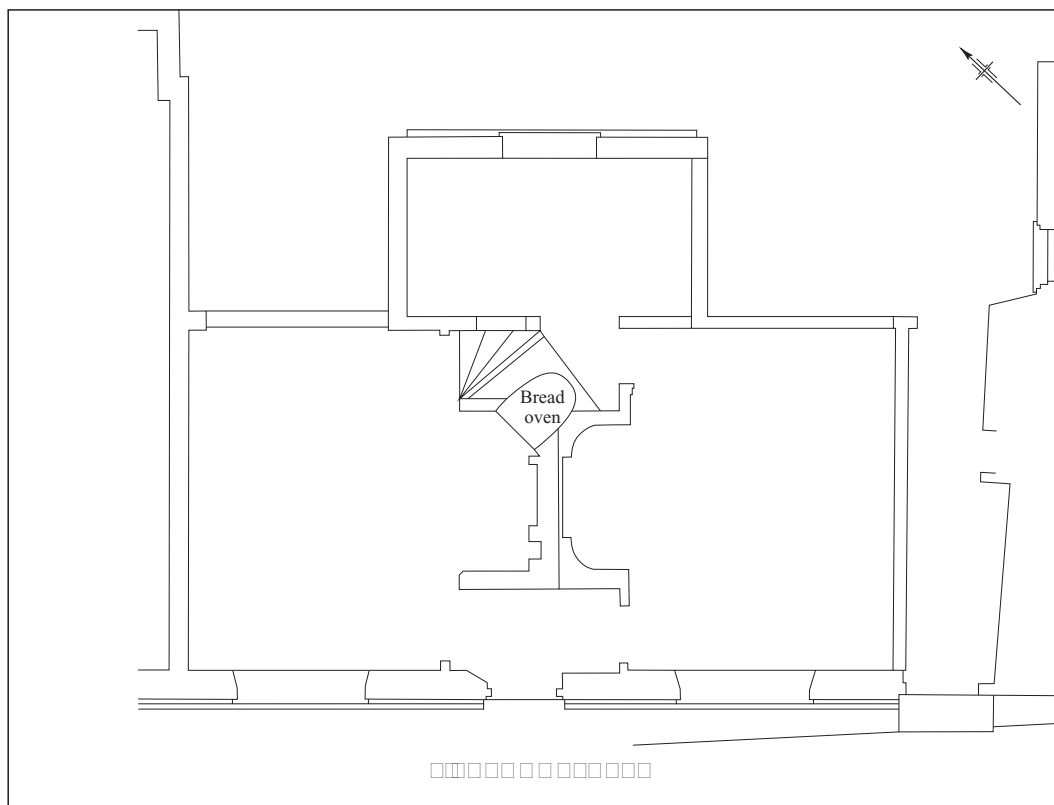
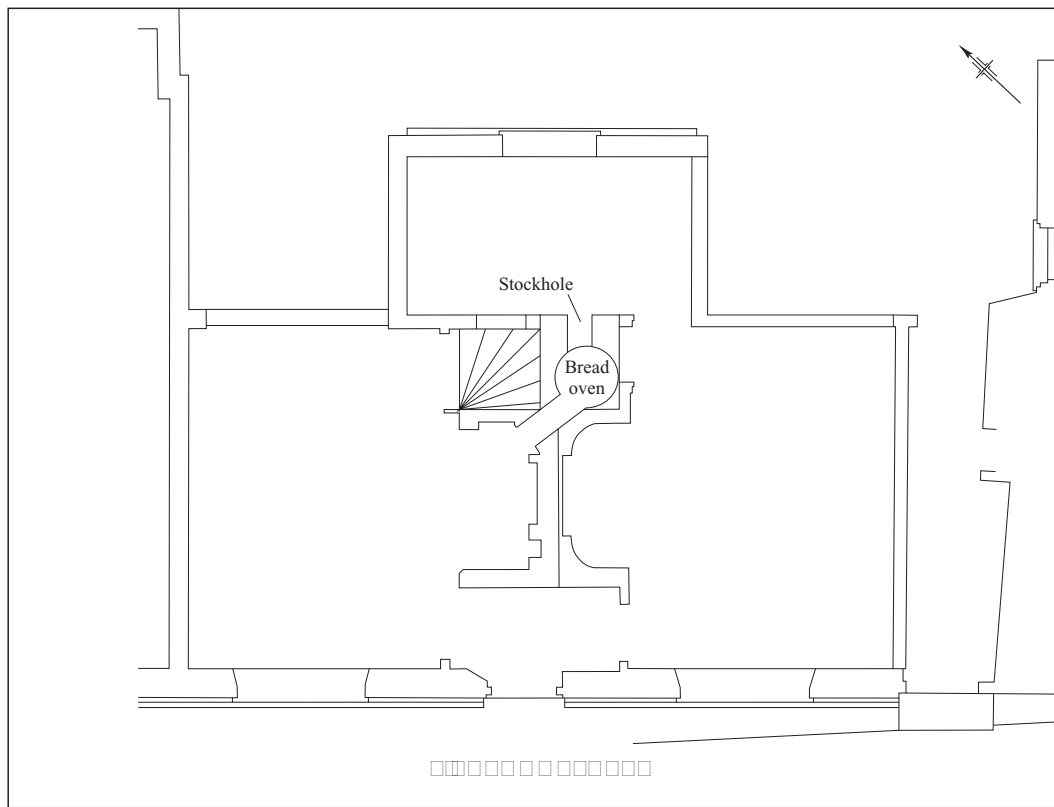


Figure 5: Possible locations of oven.

0 5 m



Plate 27: Dells Farmhouse chimney system



Plate 28: Dells Farmhouse, bread oven alongside chimneystack

A recent visit to Dells Farmhouse, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, in the Chilterns, has revealed a similar type of chimney and fireplace arrangement in design and style. Dells Farmhouse is a three unit lobby entrance house. Here the lobby unit was flanked by two fireplaces back-to-back, above which there are a group of chimneystacks that are cemented together and decrease in size towards the roof (plate 27). In this case it is apparent that the primary inglenook is of such a size that it had the kitchen fireplace and the bread oven to the rear. The bread oven has been damaged here with the insertion of the boiler (plate 28), but can be seen to occupy the place that would have

existed between the fireplaces of the two ground floor rooms and the back wall of the original house.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

Listed Building Consent was obtained for alterations to 150 Fishpool Lane, St Albans. Historically the site can be recognised as being part of the parish of St Michael, which was one of a number of sub-churches or chapels founded by the then abbey of St Albans. It is likely that this formed part of the parochia of the church of St Albans that was derived from the immediate adjacent territory of the settlement of Verulamium. How and when the settlement developed along Fishpool Street in the medieval period is difficult to determine. No evidence has been noted of a pre-17<sup>th</sup> vernacular structure on this site although this is feasible.

A full description of the house is not given as the objective here was to observe the chimney and fireplace alterations, though some additional details are also noted to contextualise this properly. Detailed descriptions were given in the proposals, although the assessment of the chimney stack was correct to a point, it was apparent that there were problems with the contextualisation of the location of the bread oven. It is impossible for the eastern fireplace (which is part of the original arrangement) to occupy the same physical and temporal space as the proposed location of the bread oven, thus the resultant alterations to the western fireplace are illusory to past reality, though it may aesthetically appear better from what was there previously.

A series of photographs and observations were taken of the site and any illustrations adapted from them.

Though very little extra features were observed it was apparent that the two inglenook fireplaces were constructed back to back and that the original bread oven was constructed to the north of the main fireplaces. This is apparent from the severed bricks and the line of the oven passage. The claims that this was the historical location of a passageway is dubious from what we understand of the historical development of houses. One must also consider that the original staircase was a small spiral or ladder example that was also located to the north of the fireplaces.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	150 Fishpool Street, St Albans	
Short description	<p>The proposals covered alterations to the west inglenook fireplace and the chimneystack. It was apparent that the chimneystack had been altered on a number of occasions in the past. The upper water tablet had been removed, which meant that the chimney stack no longer reduced rainwater penetration.</p> <p>The west inglenook had been altered in the past, and had a possible spice or salt box, and a bread oven. It was claimed previously that the bread oven lay behind the inglenook (Taylor), but this place was occupied by the east inglenook. The line of the entrance into the bread oven is indicative of this structure previously being located to the north of the inglenooks in what is currently passageway.</p>	
Project dates	10/05/17-12/07/17	
Project type	Building Recording and Watching Brief	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Not known	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	150 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 4RZ	
Study area	12m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	TL 14006 07414	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	John Moore Heritage Services	
Project Brief originator	John Moore	
Project Design (WSI)	John Moore	
Project Manager	Stephen Yeates	
Project Supervisor	Stephen Yeates	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Lobby Entrance House	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	None	None
Paper	Verulamium Museum	Site records, report, photographs
Digital	ADS, JMHS	Site records, report, photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Yeates, S, 2017 Historic Building Assessment and Watching Brief on 150 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire. John Moore Heritage Services. Unpublished client report.		