

Archaeological Building Survey
of buildings at
**THE WEST GATE, NEWPORT CATTLE MARKET SITE,
NEWPORT.**
for
ISG Pearce



Report No. 2056B/2009

By John Bryant



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

St. Nicholas Church, St. Nicholas Street, Bristol, BS1 1UE. Tel: (0117) 903 9010 Fax: (0117) 903 9011



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Centred on
N.G.R. ST 31578 87477

Client: ISG Pearce

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	m	Metre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	NGR	National Grid Reference
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
Km	Kilometre		

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

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SUMMARY

Two small blocks on the west side of the mid-19th century Cattle Market at Newport were recorded to level 3 standard before their removal as part of a redevelopment of the site. Part of the building south of the west gate had been recorded in 2004. Other structures on the site will also be recorded, to be the subject of a further report at a later date.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Building recording was undertaken of two small blocks on the west side of the former Cattle Market in Newport, one to either side of the west gate (**Figs. 1 & 2**). The work was required prior to removal as part of a scheme to redevelop the site as an Asda store (planning application 05/1268 & 1269), and followed on from the earlier recording of a block in the north-east corner. Site work was undertaken on 29th January and 11th March 2009 by John Bryant and Simon Roper of BaRAS (Bristol and Region Archaeological Services) and the report written by John Bryant. The client is ISG Pearce. This survey was made to English Heritage Level 3 standard. Notes were made and the existing 1:50 Ironbridge Institute elevation drawing checked. Ground plans of the 'Cottage' (at 1:50 scale) and the block north of the gate (at 1:100 scale) were made; 35mm black and white and digital colour photographs were taken.
- 1.2 This site is located on the southern side of central Newport, in the Pillgwenlly Community, and this building is positioned on the west corner of Ruperra Street and East Market Street. It is centred upon NGR ST 31578 87477. The site lies within the Lower Dock Street Conservation Area.
- 1.3 These blocks are mostly parts of the original western range of single-storey structures placed around three sides of the cattle market, the central block of the southern range being a Grade II Listed Building (No. 18183), with these particular blocks being listed by association. There was previously a survey of the site undertaken by students of the Ironbridge Institute in 2004 with a Level 3 report produced in January 2005 (NMR NPRN 31957). Staff members of the RCAHMW and Birmingham Archaeology were also involved.
- 1.4 The archive will be deposited with National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) at the RCAHMW at Aberystwyth. This work will be given an Historic Environmental Record Sites and Monuments Record (HER) number after submission of the report. A copy of the report will be submitted to the Newport Museums and Heritage Service.
- 1.5 This report will be complemented by a watching brief during demolition of the structure, at which point any additional information will be recorded. Some of the ironwork from buildings being demolished is to be salvaged and stored, with the intention that it is reused on site.

2. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Newport Cattle Market was built by the Tredegar Wharf Company, opened in 1844. It was purpose-built to replace the livestock markets that had been held in High Street. It is now one of the best-known surviving examples of a mid-19th century market. A 4½-acre area of marshland was chosen, the site being made up by about 9 feet (almost 3m) by the dumping of ships' ballast and material produced during excavation for the Town Dock.
- 2.2 The site was rectangular, slightly longer in the N-S dimension than E-W. Entrances were positioned slightly north of midway along the sides, opposite the ends of Tredegar Street and John Street; a third entrance, in Ruperra Street, appears not to have been fully used (the OS 1883 plan shows no break in the kerb: **Fig. 2**). Ranges were placed in a U-plan around the southern half of the site, with the surviving listed building forming the centrepiece. Further ranges were erected along both sides to the north of the gates, right up as far as Ruperra Street. These were open-fronted along their entire lengths, whereas the U-plan blocks were a mixture of walled and open-fronted structures. No buildings were erected along the fourth side of the quadrangle, which was fenced with low walling and railings and remained open until after the Second World War.

3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological work involved recording the surviving historic building in this corner of the site, including remaining fixtures and fittings, and looked for any evidence of phasing. Floor plans at scales of 1:50 (The Cottage) and 1:100 (block north of gate) were produced. A drawing of the east elevation of the Cottage, reproduced in the 2005 report (illustration 14), was checked.
- 3.2 The building recording was undertaken to Level 3 standard (English Heritage 2006, 14). Evidence for the construction, evolution and alteration of the structure was recorded.
- 3.3 Photographs were taken in 35mm monochrome print and also using a Ricoh 8megapixel digital camera. They included general photographs of the interior and exterior as well as details.
- 3.4 This work will be followed later by a watching brief during removal of the structure.

4. THE 'COTTAGE' (Fig. 3; Plates 1-12)

- 4.1 This was constructed as part of the original 1844 group of structures, and was apparently matched by a similar building on the opposite side of the site, each being sited adjacent to one of the main entrances. Latterly this particular building was occupied by the Cattle Market caretaker and has been known as 'The Cottage'. It sits on the south side of the west gate, which was approached from Commercial Road by way of Tredegar Street. Abutting on its southern end is a former open-fronted shed.
- 4.2 Rectangular in plan, 12.41m (north-south) by 7.75m, this is a single-storey building with a pitched roof and end stacks (**Plates 1 & 2**). Its rear (west) elevation incorporates the main cattle market boundary wall. The north and west exteriors are rendered, as also is the outside of the south wall, but the east elevation shows no indication of ever having been so treated. Pennant Sandstone ashlar has been used for the quoins and also for general walling above cill level, the remainder being coursed rubble. The use of more basic stonework in the lower part of the wall may have been justified by its ability to better withstand damage from animal hooves and other wear. The front and rear walls are 2 feet (610mm) in thickness, but the end walls are thinner to either side of the chimney breasts.
- 4.3 Facing east into the market is a symmetrical façade of two windows either side of a central entrance door (**Plate 1**). Lintels are one-piece cast-iron, all of the one design, flat with a slightly enlarged 'keystone' and incised 'voussoirs', that above the doorway being set lower than for the windows (**Plate 8**). Cills are also one-piece cast-iron items, the northernmost being partly broken at its right-hand end (**Plate 9**). The current windows are modern timber-framed examples. At present there is a 1950s-style front door with a glazed upper panel, but this is in a narrowed entrance: the original, wider iron door frame survives behind the modern door. A pair of bolt-holes at the rear of the lintel indicate that there were a pair of inward-opening doors: the outer side of the frame is decorated with a scroll moulding.
- 4.4 Two windows in the rear wall may have been inserted later. Both have been provided with timber lintels and cills, unlike the cast-iron examples on the east elevation. However, they do have cast-iron window frames with small lugs along their top and bottom edges (**Plate 10**).
- 4.5 The pitched roof is supported by a series of iron trusses of the same design as seen elsewhere in this half of the market (but not seen north of the gates), thought to be six or seven in number. Present roof covering is corrugated asbestos sheeting, but slate was probably used when first built. There is a parapet above the north gable end. Each of the end stacks served a single fireplace only, and only the northern example retains a chimney pot.
- 4.6 Built beyond the rear wall, and therefore apparently on next door's property, is a small extension containing a bathroom and w.c. (**Plate 3**: n.b. not fully measured). Rendered externally with no windows but a small skylight, this has a slate-covered roof that is a continuation of the main roof pitch on this side of the building. Due to being fully rendered inside and out, the building material has not been identified. The doorway from the main building is splayed outwards on the bathroom side of the wall.
- 4.7 The entrance opens into a small hallway, off which are three rooms, each entered by way of a six-panel door (two of which have decorative fingerplates, **Plates 11 & 12**). To the left is the principal room, the only one with a ceiling cornice, although that feature now stops short of the rear wall (**Plate 4**); other rooms have plain ceilings, one lined with tiles. Although the fireplace has been blocked up and the chimney-piece removed, the location is indicated by changes in the skirting. The recess to the left of the chimney breast has been boarded over to make it flush, but a narrow, full-height cupboard with tall two-panel door has been retained to the right of the breast. Behind the principal room is a narrow room or passage that connects with the bathroom/w.c in the rear extension, the kitchen (in one end of the former open-fronted shed immediately to the south of this building) and also the central room.

- 4.8 Opposite the front door is a second large room, lit by a window in the rear elevation, and with a small ceiling hatch (**Plate 5**). The floor in this room consists of boards laid east-west on timber joists that appear to sit on a stone floor, although this cannot yet be confirmed. Although this suggests that the floor inside the building may have been raised since construction, the levels of the present door lintels argue otherwise, as they look to be at normal height. To the right of the hallway is the third large room, again with a boarded floor; the ceiling is lined with polystyrene tiles (**Plate 6**). The original fireplace has been blocked and the right-hand recess boarded over. A doorway through a possibly later partition wall leads into a small room at the rear, lit by a window in the back wall (**Plate 7**); a closet has been formed in the recess beside the chimney breast at the west end of the north wall.

5. SMALL BLOCK NORTH OF WEST GATE (Fig. 4; Plates 13-15)

- 5.1 This block sits immediately north of the west gate and backs onto West Market Street, incorporating the market boundary wall at its rear. Rectangular in plan, its dimensions are 9.33m (north-south) by 7.16m (7.76m if the west market boundary wall is included); height to the apex of the roof is about 4.60m.
- 5.2 The building comprises two parts: the older, northern 60%, and the southern remainder of later 20th century date (**Plate 14**). Although most of the exterior is modern, the northern part is a survival from the original 1844 cattle market. Three roof bays survive from an estimated original number of 36; this was a long open-fronted shed facing eastwards into the main market area. The southern end is a much later extension infilling the angle between the original west range and the west gate (**Plates 13 & 14**).
- 5.3 Forming the west wall of both parts is the original market boundary wall, largely constructed of Carboniferous Limestone rubble laid in six broad bands (possibly 'daywork' layers), but with squared, coursed Pennant Sandstone rubble near the southern end. This latter is laid differently and appears to be a rebuild; it abuts the square gate pier beside the west gate. The wall is two feet (600-610mm) thick; the pier, which projects 70mm from the outside face of the wall, is 760mm square.
- 5.4 The southern end of the block is built from concrete blockwork, the south end wall itself set back very slightly (20mm) from the southern face of the gate pier. Blockwork has been used for the south and east exterior walls as well as internal partitions. Three doors in the south elevation provide direct access into the three rooms into which this part is divided; the easternmost room is self-contained, but the others interconnect and the central one has access into the older part of the building. There is a hatch in the gable end above the central doorway.
- 5.5 In the east elevation is a square stone pier, its eastern side flush with the main wall face (**Plate 15**). A brick wall runs westwards as far as the boundary wall, with the access through to the southern area of the building off-centre and up two steps. However, the pier has every appearance of having been built as a free-standing feature, unconnected to any walls. The north wall and northern half of the east wall are also built from blockwork, with a large sliding door closing off the remainder of the latter. A flagstone floor survives in this part of the building, at the original lower level (hence the steps up into the southern end). For most of its length the west wall was obscured behind a later false wall. Four scissor trusses survived from the roof of the original, and much longer, building, a structure that had once reached as far as Ruperra Street at the north-west corner of the site. Beneath the trusses is a modern suspended ceiling.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The 'Cottage' was constructed as part of the original 1844 cattle market complex, and may well have served the same function throughout its entire life, i.e. residential accommodation for the market caretaker. A small rear extension was added on adjoining property at a later date, but certainly before the survey for the large-scale Ordnance Survey plan in the early 1880s. North of the west gate, the southern end (3 roof bays) of the original open-fronted shed have survived, complete with scissor trusses, but was extended towards the gate in more recent times.

7. SOURCES CONSULTED

English Heritage	2006	Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice
Ironbridge Institute	2005	<i>Archaeological Survey of Newport Cattle Market (Level Three Report)</i>
Jackson, R	2003	<i>Archaeological Desktop Study of land at Lower Dock Street, Pillgwenlly, Newport, Gwent</i> (BaRAS report no. 1072/2002)
Ordnance Survey	1883	1:500 plan
Ordnance Survey	1917	1:2500 map
RCAHMW		NPRN entry for the cattle market (31957)
RCAHMW	2004	Colour digital photographic survey, by Stephen Hughes (RCAHMW cat. No. C414124)

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Steve Irvine of HGP Architects for providing a copy of the 2005 report and Lawrence Booth of ISG Pearce for arranging access to the site.

APPENDIX 1: Extracts from Planning Policies Relating to Archaeology

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work which would affect a SAM.

ODPM PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

CE17

IN CASES OF THE DEMOLITION OR SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION OF A LISTED OR OTHER HISTORIC BUILDING, THERE SHOULD BE PROPER SPECIALIST RECORDING AND ARCHIVING OF FEATURES OF THE BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED OR ALTERED BEFORE DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE.

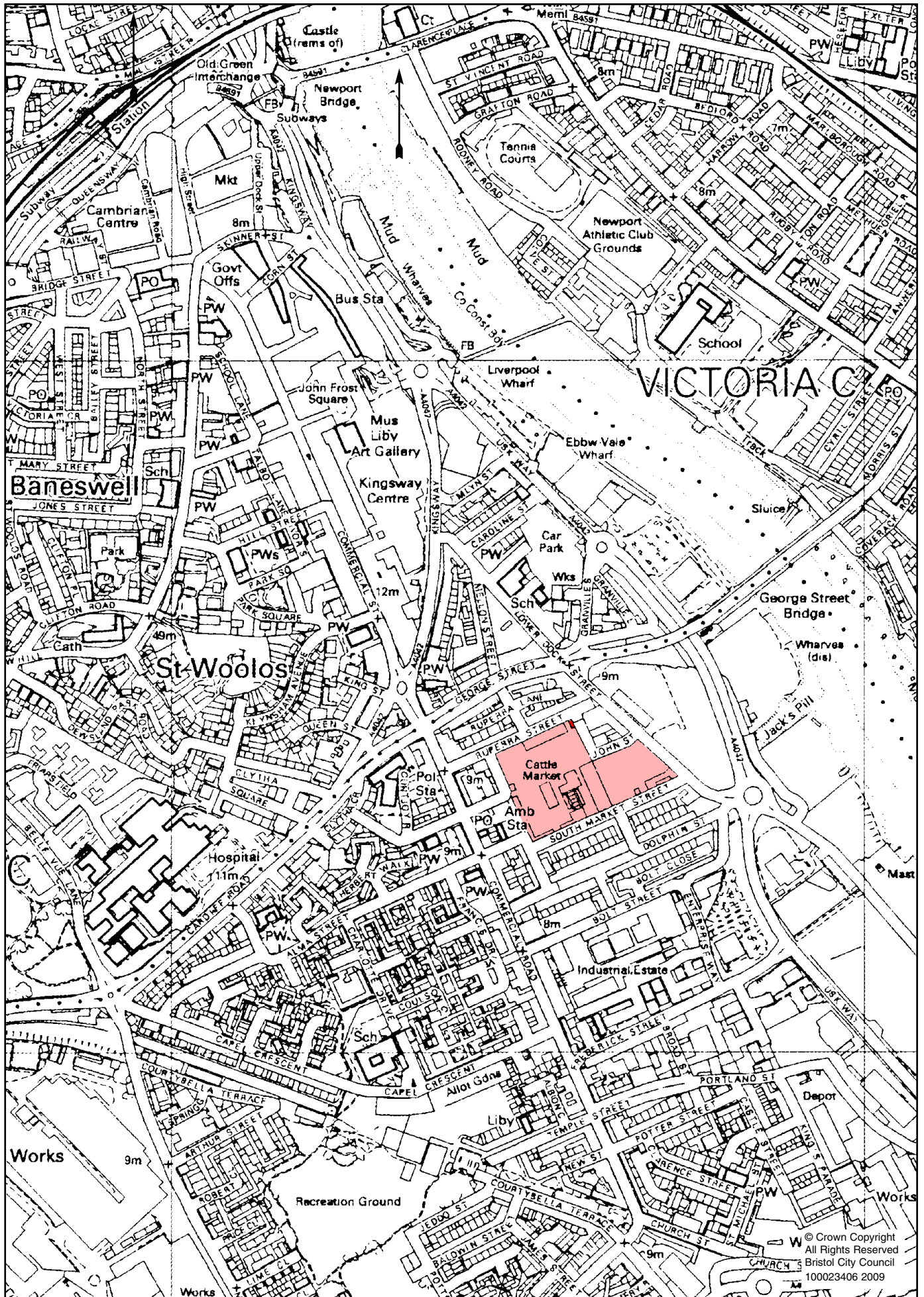


Fig.1 Site location

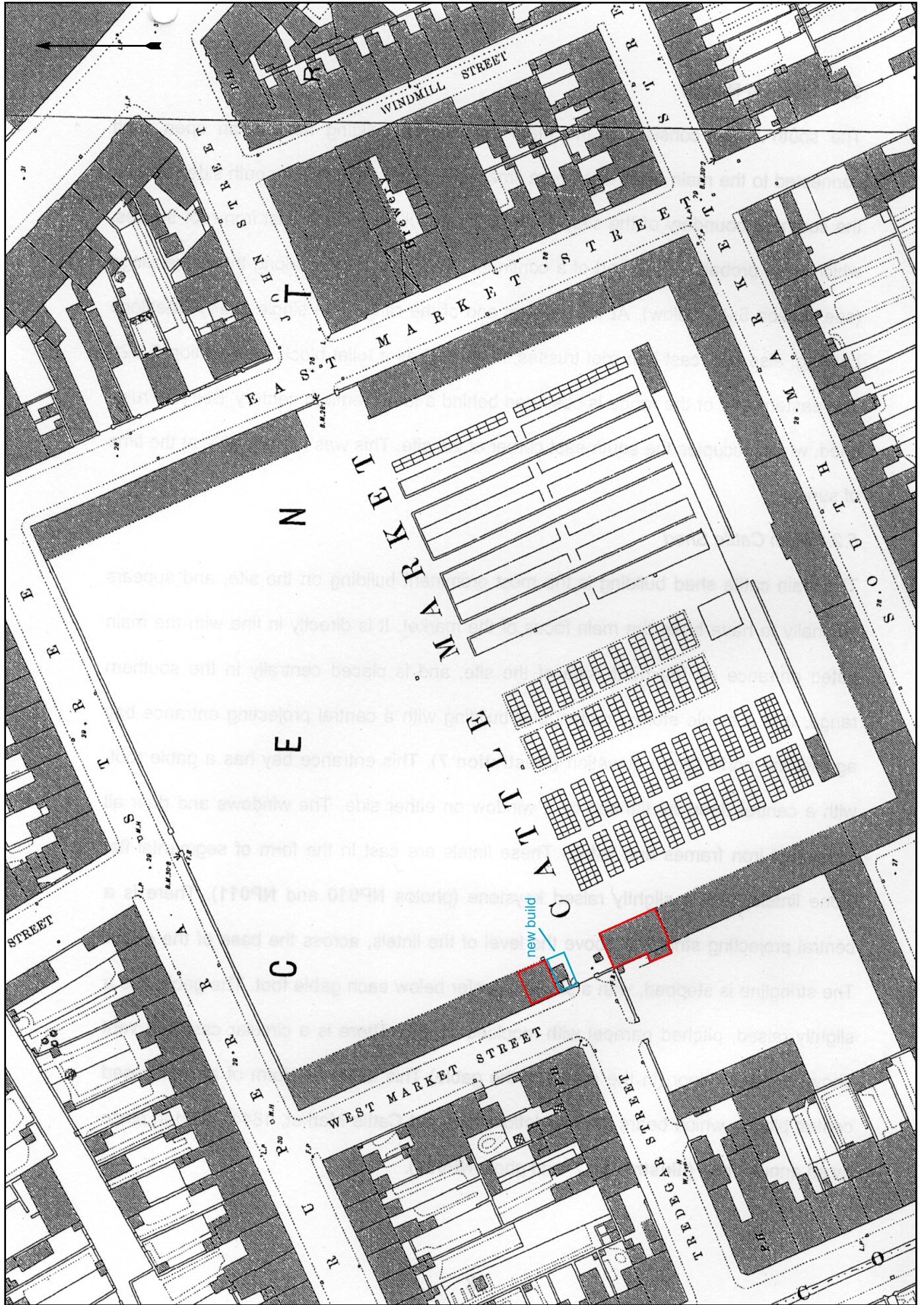


Fig.2 Extract from OS 1:500 plan, 1880s, showing extent of current blocks

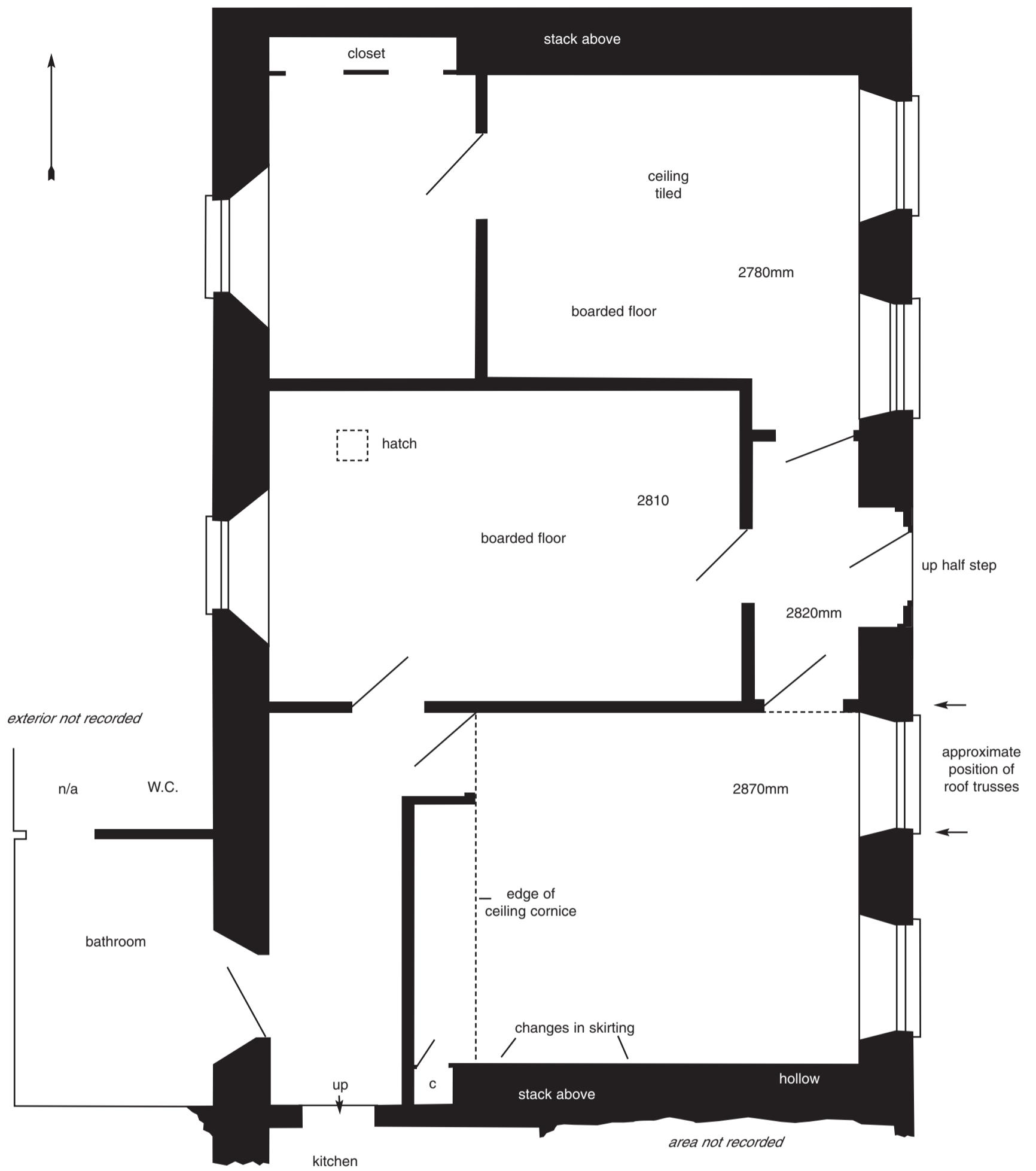


Fig.3 Floor plan of the 'Cottage', scale 1:50

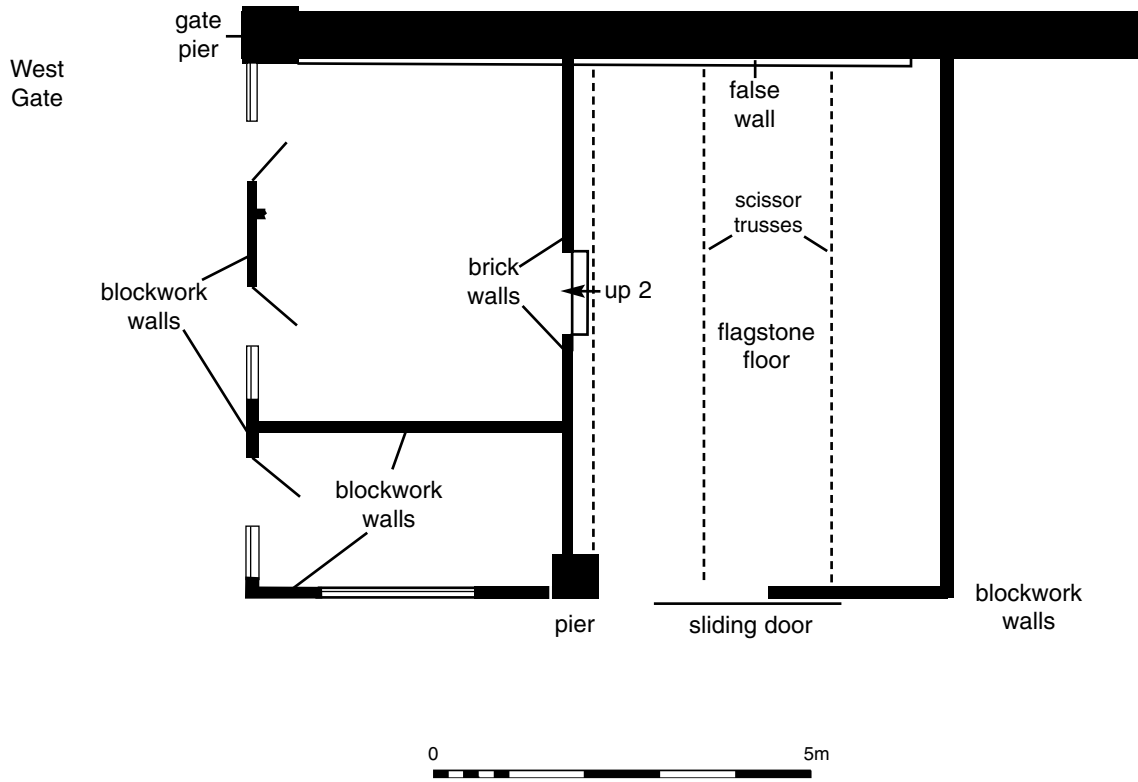


Fig.4 Floor plan of the block north of the west gate, scale 1:100



Plate 1
Cottage façade (east
elevation)



Plate 2
Cottage north elevation



Plate 3
Cottage west elevation,
from north-west



Plate 4
Principal room, looking
south-west

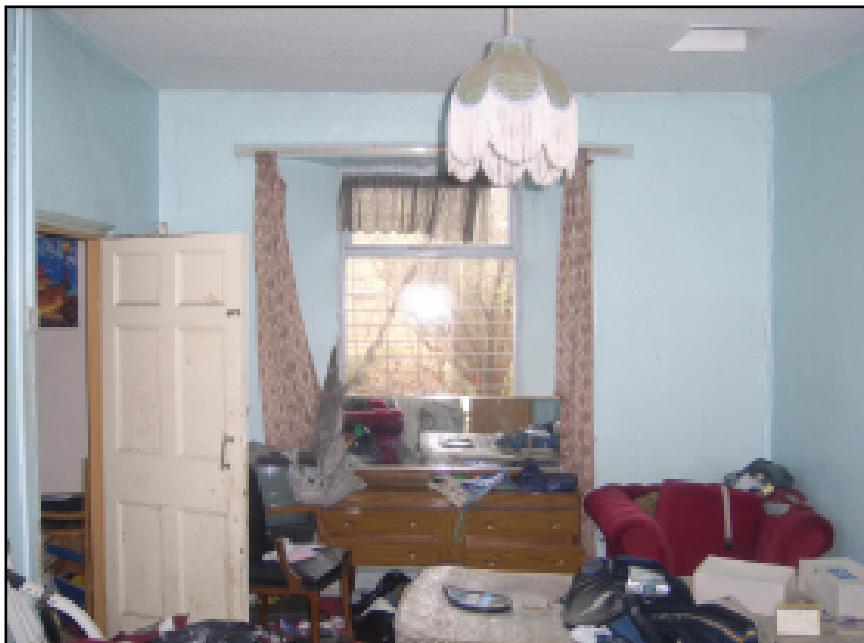


Plate 5
Central room, looking
west



Plate 6
North room, looking east



Plate 7
North-west room, looking
west



Plate 8 Entrance



Plate 9 Typical front window



Plate 10
Bottom of window in
west elevation



Plate 11
Typical 6-panel door



Plate 12
Fingerplate



Plate 13
Block north of gate, from
south-west



Plate 14 East elevation



Plate 15 Stone pier, from north-east