

Archaeological Building Recording
of the
**NORTH-EAST BUILDING AT
NEWPORT CATTLE MARKET SITE,
NEWPORT.**
for
ISG Pearce



Report No. 2058/2009

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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

The surviving part of one range of the mid-19th century Cattle Market at Newport, in the north-east corner, was recorded to Level 3 standard before its removal as part of a scheme to redevelop the site as a supermarket. Some of the building had already been recorded in 2004. The remainder of buildings on the site will be recorded later.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Building recording was undertaken of a small block in the north-east corner of the former Cattle Market in Newport (**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). Site work was undertaken on 22nd December 2008 by Simon Roper and Richard Coe 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 and section drawings checked; a ground plan at 1:100 scale was 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.
- 1.3 Now truncated, this originally formed part of the eastern 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 this particular block 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. The iron columns and lintels are to be salvaged and stored, with the intention that they are reused at Big Pit at Blaenavon.

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.
- 2.3 An aerial photograph taken in 1982 showed the range north of the east entrance to still be intact, with a long pitched roof (Ironbridge Institute 2005, illustration 020).

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. Drawings reproduced in the 2005 report (illustrations 16 & 17) were checked, and amended where necessary. A floor plan at a scale of 1:100 was produced.
- 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 BUILDING (Fig. 3; Cover & Plates 1-9)

- 4.1 This is a 3-bay structure, the surviving northern end, or quarter, of what was once a much longer, 12-bay, range, approximately 56m in length. Today's building is 15.1m in length (N-S) by 8m wide, 14.1m long internally. It is 5m high to the crest of the roof, 2.80m to the eaves, although appears lower from outside the site due to being cut into the slope.
- 4.2 Both of the north and east external walls, to Ruperra Street and East Market Street respectively, are constructed of limestone rubble and about 650mm thick, and are rendered externally (**Plates 1 & 2**). There are ashlar quoins at the junction of the two walls. The exterior of the north end wall is rendered below eaves level, above which the exterior face is brick-built with a single ashlar block at the bottom of the western pitch of the gable and another near the bottom of the eastern pitch: the eastern eaves of this building are lower than along the western side. A rendered chimney stack finishes the top of the gable end, with coping stones along the angles down to the eaves. Inside the north wall is a central fireplace with a shallow brick arch supported by a shaped wrought iron plate, the opening now infilled with blockwork; there is brickwork visible in the wall above (**Plate 7**). To the west is a narrow arched recess, now also blocked in (**Plate 8**).
- 4.3 Each bay along the western side is defined by a cast-iron column (**Plate 9**), similar to those found elsewhere on site that date from the 1840s. Spanning each bay is a perforated cast-iron girder, or lintel, as also seen in other buildings on the site. The roof structure comprises a series of wrought iron scissor trusses complete with tie rods, with three trusses per bay. On its east side the roof sits directly on the top of the wall. Modern corrugated metal sheets have been used for roofing, with two clear panels in the southern part of the west pitch.
- 4.4 Flagstone flooring has been provided, each slab measuring approximately 870mm x 450mm. A modern gas burner of unidentified use has been placed inside the building, close to the north wall, with a flue emerging through the roof.
- 4.5 It is clear that the building was open-fronted from the beginning, but modern usage has dictated enclosure, achieved by the addition of two walls of concrete blockwork, one including double doors (**Plates 3-5**). Two external buttresses and one internal were built into the south wall. The west wall is unbuttressed for the north and south bays with large metal double doors closing the central bay (one leaf including a smaller wicket door).
- 4.6 The roof is slightly asymmetrical in shape, due to the eastern eaves being at a lower level. Scissor trusses are placed at approximate 1.55m centres, with three to each bay of the building. They are described and drawn in the 2005 report (pages 40 and 42-3). They are unlike the roof trusses found elsewhere on site. There are three purlins to each pitch of the roof. Covering the roof is modern pressed metal sheeting.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This block represents the last remaining part, in this case a quarter, of a long open-fronted range that originally ran from the north-east corner southwards as far as the eastern gate of the cattle market; a similar range once stood on the opposite side of the market. Other open-fronted ranges of similar dimensions stood around three sides of the southern half of the site (although interspersed with fully walled structures): some of those still survive, but this is the only remaining block anywhere in the market that has a scissor truss roof. Iron columns and lintels also survive along the west, formerly open, side: they are to be salvaged for reuse elsewhere (Big Pit, Blaenavon), as they form part of the Listed Buildings on site. The original limestone rubble end and rear walls have survived, the latter continuing southwards as what is now a boundary wall only but was once the back of the remainder of the range.
- 5.2 Open-fronted ranges, or sheds, were usually provided around the edges of purpose-built cattle markets, although, unlike Newport, this seems to have normally meant all four sides. Animal pens occupied the majority of the remaining area on this and other sites. Where space permitted, planned cattle markets were square in shape. Many older cattle markets in England and Wales have gone out of use in recent decades and their sites have been redeveloped.
- 5.3 In modern times the range has been truncated, leaving only three bays, and a new south end wall of blockwork erected. Blockwork has also been used to infill two of the formerly open bays of the west side, with double doors installed in the third, central, bay. There is a modern roof covering of pressed metal sheeting.

6. 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> |
| 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) |

7. 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.

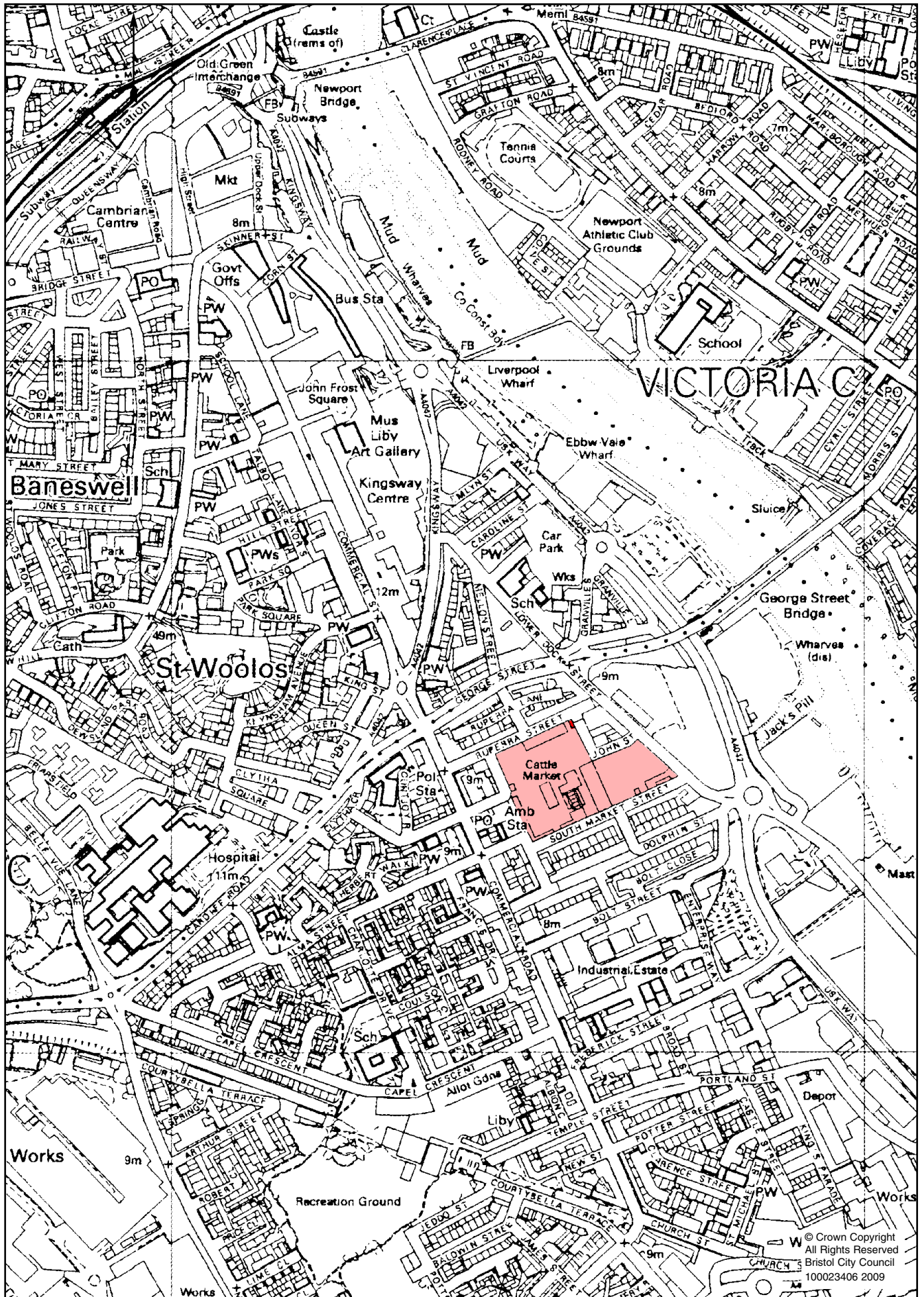


Fig.1 Site location, not to scale

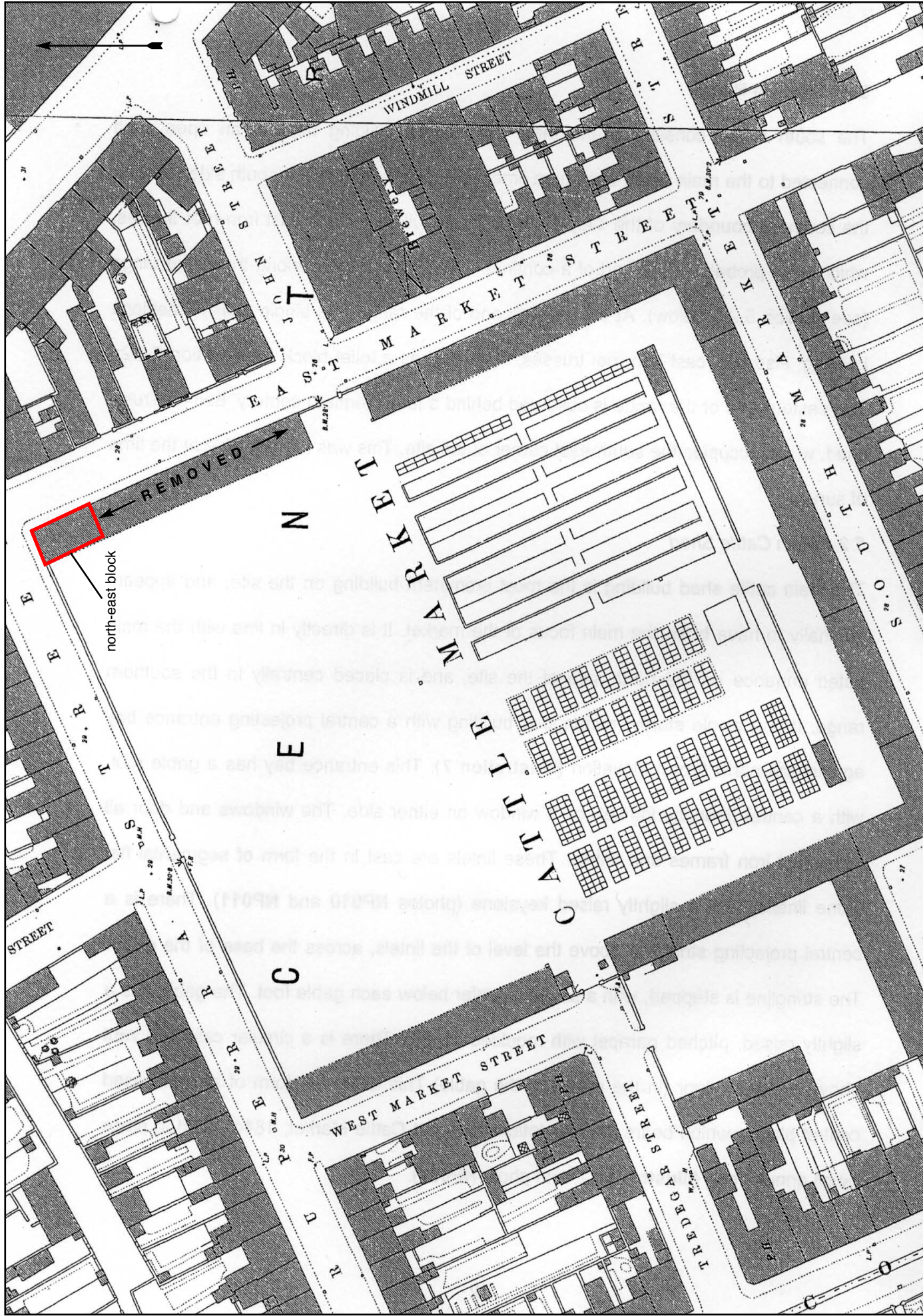


Fig.2 Extract from OS 1:500 plan, 1880s, showing extent of removed portion

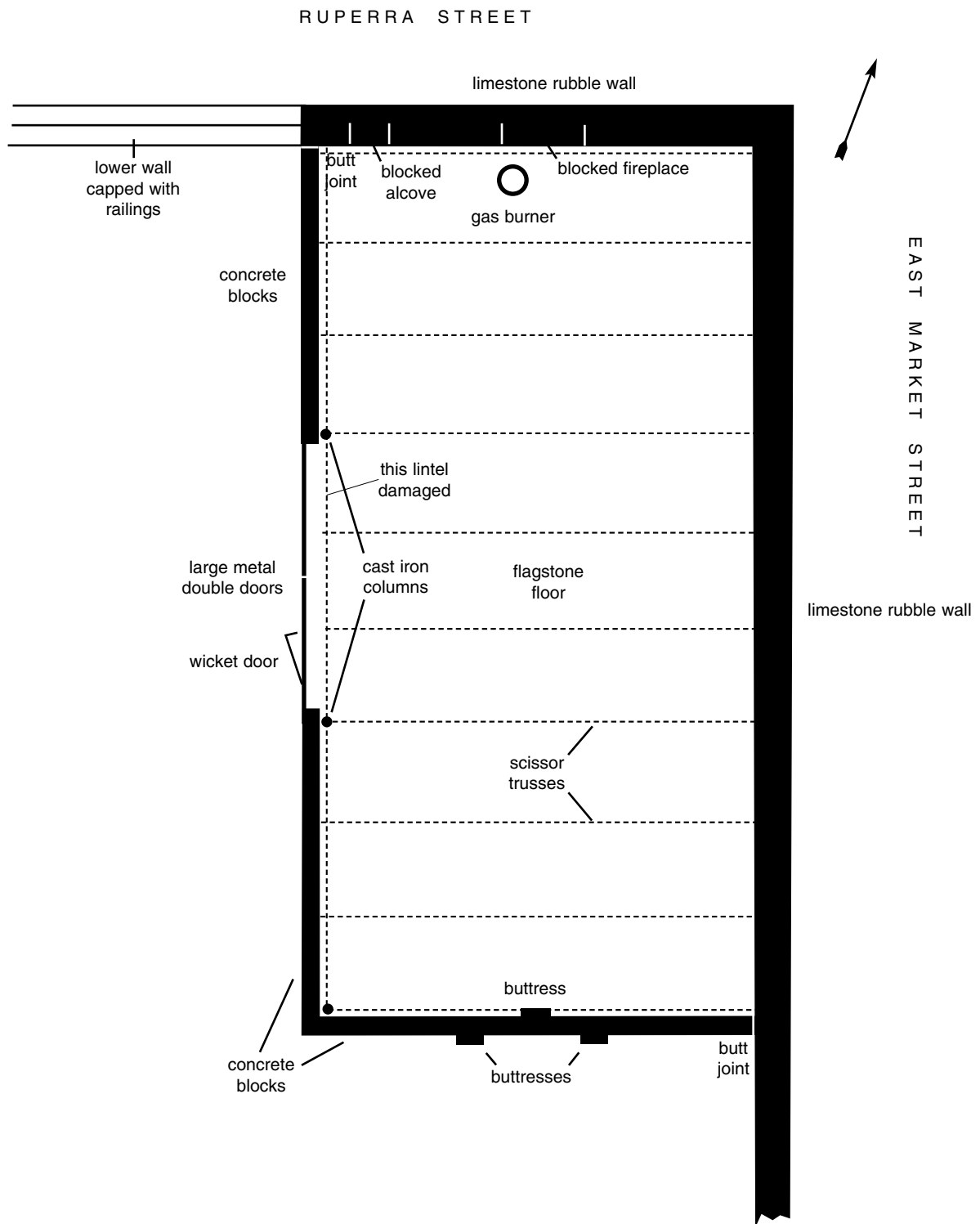


Fig.3 Ground floor plan, scale 1:100



Plate 1
North elevation



Plate 2
East elevation



Plate 3
South elevation



Plate 4
West elevation (N)



Plate 5
West elevation (S)



Plate 6
General view of interior,
looking north-east



Plate 7
Inside of north wall:
centre, showing blocked
fireplace, also gas
burner



Plate 8
Inside of north wall: west
end with blocked alcove



Plate 9
Iron column and portions of perforated lintel