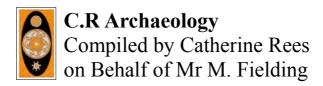
# Results of Archaeological Works at

# 21 High Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd



NGR SH4783462828

**Report Number CR13-2012** 



# Results of Archaeological Works at 21 High Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd

Planning Reference Number:C11/1087/14/CRNational Grid Reference:SH4783462828Client:Mr M. Fielding

**Report Author:** Matthew Jones & Catherine Rees

**Report Number:** CR13-2012 **Date:** 14/05/2012

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Appendix A. Sites of Archaeological Interest in the Vicinity of 21 High Street Caernarfon

Appendix B. Location of Photographic Plates

## 1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology was instructed by Mr Mike Fielding to conduct archaeological works at the above property in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (Planning Reference Number C11/1087/14/CR).

A specification was written following a discussion with Development Control Archaeologist Jenny Emmett of GAPS (1<sup>st</sup> May 2012) as a methodology for a programme of works.

21 High Street, Caernarfon (also know as Tafarn Y Werin) is a three story Eighteenth Century building (www.coflein.gov.uk). The site is situated in central Caernarfon, within the Medieval town walls (Figure 1). Planning permission is being sought to undertake repair work including a new roof, new chimney stack, rainwater goods, new windows and doors and re-rendering.

A number of designations directly affect 21 High Street. The building is within the limits of the Caernarfon Conservation Area. The Medieval walls which enclose the town together with the associated Caernarfon Castle are designated a World Heritage site. Both sites are also Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are assigned numbers Cn39 & Cn74 respectively. 21 High Street itself is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw building ID 3866) and is recorded on the RCAHMW database (NPRN 26637).

Works were conducted as an emergency response to a misunderstanding of the archaeological requirements pertaining to undertaking works on a Listed Building. Works had commenced on site but were immediately halted once the error was recognised. The photographic survey was therefore conducted after the removal of the roof from the front portion of the building. Scaffolding had been erected to the front and rear of the building and it was not possible to create a full photographic record of these elevations. Photographs of these elevations had however been taken by the client prior to the erection of the scaffolding and these were supplied for inclusion in the report.

A photographic survey of the property was conducted on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May and archival research at The RCAHMW, The National Library and Caernarfon Record Office was undertaken beginning 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

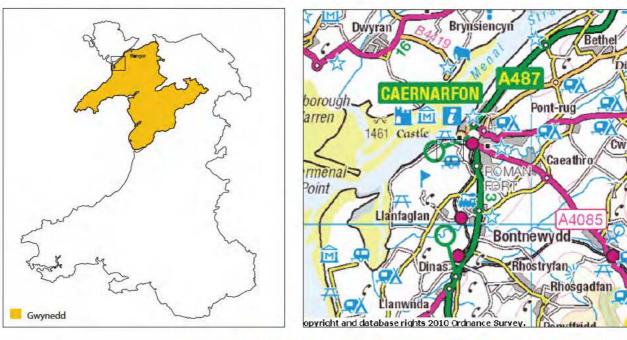




Figure 1. 21 High Street, Caernarfon Location Map (Source OS Open Data Mapping)

# 2.0 Project Aims

The programme of works conducted at 21 High Street aimed to create a Level 2/3 Historic Building Record and thus its aims were two-fold.

The first aim of this scheme of works was to undertake desk based historical research exploring the history of the dwelling. This information includes a map progression, photographic illustrations and archival research which was conducted in order to compile a coherent narrative history of the site.

The second aim of the archaeological investigation was to create a comprehensive level 2/3 photographic record of the site. The locations of the photographs taken will be added to drawings provided by the client.

This information was utilised to form an analytical record of the building at 21 High Street Caernarfon.

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The works at 21 High Street were conducted in three sections and each is detailed separately below.

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements of a level 2/3 analytical building record

as specified in Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (English

Heritage 2006) and The Institute for Archaeologists: Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological

Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (Revised 2008).

The following points are detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording* 

Practice (English Heritage 2006).

The record created for 21 High Street included:

Written Account

Points 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 18, 22

**Drawings** 

Points 1-2

Photography

Points 1-9

3.1 Desk Based Research

A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled utilising information sourced from

Caernarfon Record Office, the RCAHMW, the National Library Aberystwyth and the Gwynedd

Historic Environment Record. This search was limited to the area immediately surrounding the site

as a detailed archaeological assessment of the site was not required in the project brief. A full map

progression of the site was undertaken.

The works were carried in accordance with the IfA Standards and Guidance for historic

environment desk-based assessment (IfA 2009) and include the information required to fulfil points

1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 18 & 22 as specified in Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good

Recording Practice (English Heritage 2006).

This material forms the historical background for this archaeological report. The report includes the

results of the photographic survey and an additional compact disc containing all site images in Tiff

format.

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#### 3.2 Drawn Survey

The brief for this scheme of works did require measured plans to be produced. The client produced ground plans which were annotated and utilised in the final report.

These drawings fulfil points 1-2 as specified in "Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice" (English Heritage 2006). Location plans and historical material were produced/sourced by C.R Archaeology to fulfil criteria 8-9 in the aforementioned document.

### 3.3 Photographic Survey

A photographic survey of 21 High Street was undertaken by C.R Archaeology on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012. This work consisted of:

- 1) A photographic survey of the exterior of 21 High Street\*
- 2) A photographic survey of the interior of 21 High Street

\*It must be noted that due to client error the building was obscured by scaffolding during the site visit. Where architectural features were visible they were photographed and photographs taken of the building prior to the scaffolding being erected were supplied by the client.

#### 3.3.1 Equipment

A photographic survey of 21 High Street was undertaken using a 13 mega-pixel Sony Alpha-350 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses using a tripod where necessary. Images were captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIFF files.

Where possible all exterior and interior elevations of the building were photographed with scales from ground level. Additional photographs were taken detailing important architectural features.

The methodology employed conformed to the requirements for photographic recording to the equivalent of a level 3 survey, as specified in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2006) and will include works specified in points 1-9.

# 3.4 Staffing

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology), PgDip (Historic Environment Conservation) and Matthew Jones (BA Archaeology & Welsh History & MA Archaeology).

The project was carried out in accordance with IfA Standard and Guidance documents.

#### 3.5 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor was given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork.

## 3.6 Health and Safety

A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.

All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. This consisted of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear steel toecap and mid-sole boots (EN345-47)

All staff have passed a CITB health and safety test at operative level and carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363).

#### 3.7 The Report

The report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report includes:

- A copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- A location plan

- A plan illustrating the location and direction of photographs/drawings
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

A copy of the report in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork. A short article will be submitted to the Archaeology in Wales Journal and the site archive including copies of all photographs in RAW and Tiff format will be deposited at Bangor Museum.

# 3.7.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

# 4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

## 4.1 Topography

The site of 21 High Street, Caernarfon (Grid Reference SH 3455 3579) is located within the Parish of Llanbeblig on a fertile low-lying area overlooking the Menai Straits.

21 High Street is situated in an urban setting within the Caernarfon Edwardian Town Walls and is arranged as part of an eight block grid system. The site is an original Medieval Burgess plot.

# 4.2 Geology

The superficial geology of the site is described as "fluvial deposits" and the bedrock is not detailed. The deposit is described as "normally soft to firm consolidated, compressible silty clay, but can contain layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel. A stronger, desiccated surface zone may be present" (www.bgs.ac.uk).

# 5.0 Historical Background

21 High Street is located within the Caernarfon Conservation Area. The Medieval walls which enclose the town together with the associated Caernarfon Castle are Grade I Listed and designated a World Heritage Site. Both sites are also Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are assigned numbers Cn39 & Cn74 respectively. 21 High Street itself is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw building ID 3866) and is recorded on the RCAHMW database (NPRN 26637).

A search was conducted of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER) and this together with a search of the RCAHMW records was used to ascertain as to whether any material specifically related to 21 High Street or neighbouring properties was held. The search identified a number of sites of archaeological interest in the vicinity of property and these are listed in Appendix A. It must be noted that, due to the non-intrusive nature of works, this section is intended as a brief overview rather than a detailed synopsis of the locality and thus only properties on High Street and neighbouring Market Street were included in the search.

### 5.1 A Brief Introduction to the Development of the Town of Caernarfon

The earliest major settlement within the Caernarfon area was the establishment of the Roman fort of Segontium on a small plateaux above the Seiont River in A.D 77. The fort was occupied until A.D 393 and following the Roman withdrawal this area of Caernarfon continued to be occupied on a limited scale with the foundation of Llanbeblig church in A.D 433 (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009: 280).

It is recorded that as part of the Norman incursions into Wales after 1066 Earl Hugh of Chester built a 'castle' within the area of the later Edwardian castle (Williams-Jones 1978: 75). This site and the surrounding area was later reclaimed by the Welsh leader Gruffydd ap Cynan (Maund 2004: 38).

The earliest reference to a recognisable name of Caernarfon comes from Gerald of Wales in 1188 when they passed the town on the way to Bangor (Thorpe 1978: 183-185). Variations of the Caernarfon name appear in the official documents of Llywelyn the Great and Llywelyn the Last dating from 1221 to 1272 (Williams-Jones 1978: 74).

It is clear that there was a major 13<sup>th</sup> century Welsh settlement in this area up until the Edwardian conquest in 1282 (Jones Pierce & Griffiths 1937-9: 237-8). Documents record the demolishing of the Welsh settlement in 1283 to make way for the building of the English Castle, town and town

which were crossed half way along their length to create a grid system of eight sections. This encompassed sixty-five to seventy Burgess plots with each plot measuring approximately 24 by 18 meters (Williams-Jones 1978: 75-78).

The town suffered greatly throughout the Owain Glyndwr rebellion of 1400 - 1415 but following this period of tension and destruction the town underwent a revival with many of the major local families buying property within the town walls. An exchequer commission in 1613 states that the greater gentry of the area were in possession of much property in Caernarfon (Williams-Jones 1978: 92).

In his travel writings Pennant observed that Caernarfon was a place of lawyers and was rich in timber buildings. The town became a centre for administration in the North Wales area and formed a focus for cultural life and early tourism following the end of the Napoleonic Wars (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009: 281).

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century The Cambrian tourist guide states that there where new buildings being put up within the town walls and these new market houses were being constructed with over and under warerooms (Cambrian Tourist Guide and Companion 1813). The growth of Caernarfon continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century was a thriving industrial town and seaport with railways from Snowdonia bringing slate and metals down to quays round the estuary, and to the new Victoria Dock (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009: 281).

#### 5.2 A History of 21 High Street, Caernarfon

High Street, Caernarfon is orientated east-west within the centre of the Town Walls and runs from Porth Mawr to the East Gate. This gate is the main entrance into the Medieval town (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009: 307).

The plot of land occupied by 21 High Street roughly corresponds with the size and shape of Burgess Plots detailed in Section 5.1 and it is likely that the plot rather than the structure has Medieval origins. It is however possible, although this has yet to be proven, that the cellars of 21 High Street are of a late Medieval/ Early Post Medieval date. This cannot however be confirmed in the absence of excavation.

The earliest map showing the complete plan of Caernarfon was produced in 1610 by John Speed (figure 2). This map clearly shows the area within the town walls is divided into eight sections with the northern side of High Street visible. Number 21 is within the central section of this grid and Speed's map shows there to be six tall (possibly two storey) buildings facing the street. Open yards are visible to the rear of these properties corresponding with the Medieval Burgess Plot descriptions.

The next map produced which detailed this area of the town was the Vaynol Survey of estate lands in 1777 (figure 3). The portion including Caernarfon Town Walls appears to show 21 High Street as either Plot 43 or 44. Plot 43 is described as 'shop and houses' being held by a William Thomas. This plot consisted of two street facing rectangular plots with a plot at the rear which covered one and half of the frontage plots. Plot 44 is described as a 'house' being held by Mr Hughes of "Beaumaries" and consisted of a single rectangular street front property with a plot to the rear which is shared with Plot 43.

A survey of the Glynllifon Estate Land belonging Lord Newborough was completed in 1790 (figure 4). This map does not show the plot occupied by Number 21 but it does show plots to the west occupying the same side of the street. Once again this map shows the typical Burgess lay out with a street frontage and a rectangular plot to the rear. It is thought likely that 21 High Street had a similar ground plan.

A survey conducted in the late 18<sup>th</sup>/ early 19<sup>th</sup> Century lists thirty seven households as resident on High street with a total of hundred and seventy-seven recorded occupants. The article goes on to state that little can be said about High Street due to the extensive rebuilding early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Evans 1972: 133-134).

Some information can be inferred through the examination of neighbouring buildings of known dates as 21 High Street is situated very close to the junction with Market Street. From the Listed Building information for this street (see Appendix A) it is evident that this area was a centre for trade with both meat and corn markets/market halls described. The Conservative Club (NPRN 25900) which is two buildings to the west of 21 High Street was originally a meat market built in 1820 on the site of an earlier market.



**Figure 2.** (Above) John Speed's 1610 Map of Caernarfon Town (Copyright National Library of Wales)

**Figure 3.** 1777 Vaynol Estate Map (Copyright Caernarfon Record Office)



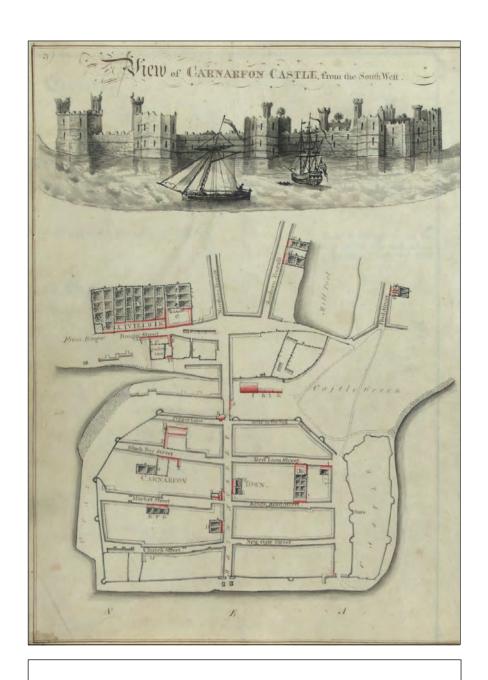


Figure 4. 1790 Glynllifon Estate Map of Caernarfon

John Wood produced two maps of Caernarfon, the first in 1834 (figure 5) and the second in 1848 (figure 6). The section of the High Street relating to the current location of building 21 shows no change in the twelve years between the two maps. The street plan shows four plots and 21 appears to be part of a large rectangular plot with a back annex. It is likely that these maps show an individual plot rather than separate buildings.

This period overlaps with the production of the Tithe Maps and the Census in 1841. The Tithe map simply shows the enclosing walls with no internal detail and there is no tithe return for the area of Caernarfon within the Town Walls. It is possible that occupants were exempt from paying tithes. The larger scale schedule map (figure 7) does show some details of the street layout within the walls and the familiar gridded street pattern is shown. It is not possible to identify individual properties from this map.

The 1841 Census for Caernarfon does however give us an impression of the use of this area of the town and the occupations of the residents are predominantly mercantile in character. As is to be expected in a port town there are also sailors and mariners listed. Numerous servants are listed so we can assume that at least some of these houses were owned/occupied by relatively wealthy individuals. Unfortunately this census does not give house numbers and without knowing in what order the records are arranged it is not possible to identify the occupants of 21 High Street.

The 1851 Census also only gives the street name and does not include the house number. In this instance High Street is the first street surveyed but once more it is not possible to identify house 21 as there are only 20 residences listed. Without knowing if there were empty structures and where these were located this situation cannot be resolved. As with the 1841 Census the occupants of High Street were predominantly merchant families and their servants, and mariners.

Once more the 1861 Census does not list house numbers but in this instance we can trace the occupants listed in the 1871 Census back to the same address in 1861. Grocer John Owen Griffiths and his family are resident at 21 High Street in the 1861, 1871 and 1881 Census' (figures 8, 9 & 10). It is therefore likely that the ground floor was utilised as a shop and the cellar possibly along with the building to the rear used for goods storage. The family and servants would have resided in the upper floors.



Figure 5. John Wood's 1834 Map of Caernarfon



Figure 6. John Wood's 1848 Map of Caernarfon

# Copyright © CR Archaeology



**Figure 7.** 1841 Large Scale Tithe Schedule (Source Cassini Historical Map Old Series 1840 - 1841

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Figure 8. 1861 Census Return for 21 High Street

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Figure 9. 1871 Census Return for 21 High Street

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Figure 10. 1881 Census Return for 21 High Street

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Figure 11. 1891 Census Return for 21 High Street

The Suttons directory for 1889-1890 lists John O Griffiths as a grocer living and working from 21 High street but by the time of the 1891 Census a butcher named Richard Pritchard and his family have taken over the occupancy of the shop and living quarters (figure 11).

In 1888 the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Caernarfon (figure 12) was produced but as with many of the earlier maps this map along with the Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1902 does not mark individual buildings but rather indicates the area occupied by blocks of buildings.

The 1901 Census records a sailor and porter Robert Williams and his wife Elizabeth as living in the house (figure 13). It may be the case that the building is subdivided and that part of it is unoccupied.

The 1911 Census records for 21 High Street list the building as an unoccupied house and office. The character of the area appears to be changing around this time and a number of hotels and boarding houses are recorded. It is not clear exactly when 21 High Street became a public house but it is though to have been at some point in the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. An image of the property with the Tafarn Y Werin sign is included as figure 14.

### 5.3 Archaeological Excavations on High Street and Market Street

During 1995 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust monitored a scheme of town improvements in and around the High Street area (Report Numbers 164 & 174). The results of this works revealed that little had survived the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century remodelling of the street, although the remains of a cobbled street surface were recorded. A number of brick barrelled cellars dating from around this period were also noted but of particular interest in relation to the cellar remains observed at 21 High Street is the description of a "tunnel" discovered associated with the Conservative Club which is located only 2 buildings to the west. The relevant passages are included below.

"The main area of interest in Market Street is in the vicinity of the Conservative Club, on the corner of Market Street and High Street. This is the site of both the Medieval Town Hall and later an Eighteenth Century meat market. Speed's map of 1610 portrays the Town Hall as extending southwards across much of the width of Market Street while the location is marked as "The Conduite". The Medieval Town Hall fell into disuse after a new Guild Hall was built above the East Gate, Porth Mawr in 1767 (Jones 1889: 77) and was replaced at the end of the Eighteenth, beginning of the Nineteenth Century, by a Meat Market, the entrances of the cellars of which were reportedly left open to allow the refuse of the streets to be swept into them (Jones 1889: 77). This

building was replaced by another meat market c.1828 with the upper floors being used as a schoolhouse, an arms depot, a savings bank and as a reading and billiards room by members of the Conservative Party (GAT Report No. 118)" (GAT Report 174:6).

"The second feature in the area of the old Market Hall was two parallel stone walls outside No. 1 Market Street, running across the street to within 1.4m of the north-west side of The Crown Public House. They were 1.3m to 1.5m apart, between 0.2m to 0.4m wide and at a depth of 2.2m there was a slate floor. Large slate slabs at a depth of 0.5m from the modern street surface, roofed the structure which was partially backfilled. Approximately 1.25m from the east end of the 'tunnel' was a brick partition wall dividing the 'tunnel' into two compartments (west and east ones). The western side of the the 'tunnel' had been disturbed and partially destroyed by the installation of modern service pipes cutting through. There was no doorway on the east side, but the walls terminated neatly 1.4m from The Crown Public House. The west of the 'tunnel' was subsequently disturbed by the installation of the culvert and a manhole entrance, while the west side was backfilled with concrete.

The location of the 'tunnel' in the probable position of the old Town Hall marked on Speed's map and the reference on the same map of the 'conduite' suggest that this feature may relate either to the structure of the Town Hall, possibly a cellar, or it may represent the 'conduite' some sort of street drain for refuse similar to that referred to by Jones (Jones 1889: 77). Jones may indeed be referring to the older 'conduite' when he talks about the cellars of the old Market Hall being left open for refuge" (GAT Report 174:6).

The significance of these paragraphs will be discussed in section 6.0, Results of Archaeological Works, when the records of the cellars beneath 21 High Street are analysed.



**Figure 12.** 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Source & Copyright Caernarfon Record Office)



Figure 13. 1901 Census Return for 21 High Street



Figure 14. Photograph of Tafarn Y Werin Following
The Closure of the Public House
(Source: www.geograph.org.uk)

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# 6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

Plans of the building were provided by the client and these are included as figures 15 - 17.

A photographic survey of 21 High Street was conducted on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The results of this survey have been subdivided by elevation, floor and room for ease of interpretation. The position of each plate is marked the plans provided by the client. These are included as Appendix B.

# **6.1 Front Elevation (Plates 1-12)**

As previously explained, when the site visit was conducted scaffolding had already been erected. It was therefore not possible for the elevation to be photographed in full with scales. Photographs of the building prior to the commencement of works were provided by the client.

The building façade is brick which has been rendered to give a faux ashlar stone effect. The façade is thought to have been added in the late 18th/ early 19<sup>th</sup> Century when this area of Caernarfon was extensively remodelled. It is clear from an examination of the building interior that the façade is later than the sides and rear of the structure.

The building is divided into three floors. At ground floor level there are two doorways, one which leads into the building and a second larger doorway which allows access via a passageway to structures at the rear of 23 High Street. The main door is a modern replacement replicating an earlier style whilst the passageway door appears to be somewhat older and on examination of the rear of the door (see plates 68 - 69) it is evident that the door has either been reused and was originally part of a different structure, or it has been reversed at some point.

There are two large sash windows flanking the main entrance. The openings appear to be contemporary with the Georgian façade and together with the fascia board form part of the shop frontage. Both are constructed from two large glass panes arranged in a 1 over 1 arrangement. These windows are believed to be of a later date than the façade itself. This is evidenced by the horns detailed in the photographic survey. Prior to the Victorian period plate glass was much smaller and glazing bars were used to strengthen the windows. The innovation of using horns to redistribute the window weight allowed glazing bars to be reduced or done away with as seen at 21 High Street. It is never used before the mid-Nineteenth Century (www.tewkesbury.gov) allowing us to place the windows in the Victorian era - presumably added when the building was used as a shop.

At first floor level there are two sash windows which are believed to be original. Each window has 12 panes of glass arranged 6 over 6 and no window horns were observed. A fascia board is evidenced below these windows and the internal brick arrangement observed is indicative of this having been incorporated into the original building of the façade.

At second floor level there are two smaller sash windows which are also believed to be original. The windows were arranged directly above the first floor windows. This height of this storey is less than the first floor and the windows were not as tall. Each window has 9 panes of glass arranged 3 over 6 and once more no window horns were recorded.

21 High Street has a gable roof structure and slate was used as a covering material. The surviving slates are believed to have come from a local quarry and are of a relatively early date given their small size and irregular dressing. It also appears that some were held in place by wooden rather than iron pegs.

There is a single chimney stack associated with the building which is built within to the western gable end. The chimney pots are a red ceramic "horned can" design dating to the late nineteenth century and are clearly a later replacement. The chimney stack and pots to the eastern end of the building belonging to 23 High Street differed and are thought to be of a slightly earlier date. They are made of yellow ceramic in a "Bishops style".

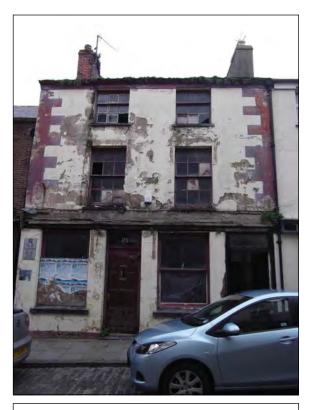


Plate 1. 21 High Street Front Elevation Prior to Commencement of Work. Photograph Supplied by Client



**Plate 3.** 21 High Street Front Entrance Door is a Modern Reproduction



Plate 2. 21 High Street Front Elevation Prior to Commencement of Work. Photograph Supplied by Client



**Plate 4.** 21 High Street Passage Entrance



**Plate 5.** 21 High Street Front Elevation Photographed on 7th May 2012



Plate 7. 21 High Street Front Elevation
Detailing Left Hand Ground
Floor Window



**Plate 6.** 21 High Street Front Elevation Detailing Right Hand Ground Floor Window



Plate 8. 21 High Street Front Elevation
Detailing Left Hand Ground
Floor Window Horn

Plate 9. (Top Left) Right Hand Chimney and Ceramic Chimney

Plate 10. (Top Right) Detailed Shot of Stucco Render With Faux Stone Effect Plate 11. (Bottom Left) Left Hand Chimney and Ceramic Chimney

Plate 12. (Below) Facia Board at First Floor Level. Internal Details Show Change in Brick Coursing

Pots







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#### 6.2 Second Floor Level (Plates 13 - 37)

There are four small rooms at second floor level which are accessed by a hallway which was offset slightly to the left. The division between Rooms 1 and 2/ Room 2 and the hallway was of rope and plaster construction. It was not possible to see whether this material was used in the lower partition sections or the division between Room 1 and 4 as they were covered by plaster.

The rooms have been numbered 1-4 and are described separately.

#### 6.2.1 Second Floor Level Room 1 (Plates 13 - 22)

Room 1 is a bedroom and it is likely to have been used as such since the house was built. The room has a single central window which faces out onto the High Street. The walls were visible where plaster had been removed and the eastern gable wall was built of brick as was the building façade. These walls are not contemporary and the façade does not appear to have been keyed into the existing structure. An attic space is visible above the room and the dividing wall between rooms 1 and 2 is made of rope and plaster at least at the roof level. It was not possible to see whether this material was used in the lower partition sections as they were covered by plaster.

A large scaffolding support was placed in the room in order to support the roof making it difficult to photograph the room.

#### 6.2.2 Second Floor Level Room 2 (Plates 23 - 26)

In many respects Room 2 mirrors Room 1 and has an identical central window. The façade is also coming away from the gable wall in this room. The western gable wall is of brick and lime mortar construction.

Dominating the room is a large brick chimney breast with a small fireplace. The size of this chimney would suggest a large fireplace at ground level. The structure is beautifully made and the over-designing of it would indicate that it was intended to be seen. The family are likely to have had bedrooms at this level and it is unlikely that such care would have been taken in rooms intended for servants use

A large scaffolding support was placed in the room in order to support the roof making it difficult to photograph the room.

#### 6.2.3 Second Floor Level Room 3 (Plates 27 – 31)

Room 3 is at the rear of the second floor. Like room 2 it is dominated by the large brick chimney breast. A single wooden casement window overlooks the rear yard area. The stripped effect visible on the floorboards in Plates 29-31 is a modern paint effect.

#### 6.2.4 Second Floor Level Room 4 (Plates 32 – 33)

Room 4 is a small room located opposite room 3. It has a roof light and a small window. It was not safe to enter this room to take photographs/notes as the floor was rotten. Photographs were therefore taken from the doorway.

# 6.2.5 Second Floor Hallway/ Stairs (Plates 34 – 37)

The stairway to the second floor is thought to be part of the early 1800's building remodelling and has a small landing between the first and second floor levels. There is a large doorway on this landing and the wall can be seen to be of stone construction. This doorway may indicate that this building was originally built as a warehouse and the rear portion of the building was retained when the front was remodelled. This theory is supported by the existence of a second opening of a similar size at first floor level although this has been partially blocked and a window inserted. It is however also possible that this a more modern modification added to allow safe egress in the event of a fire.

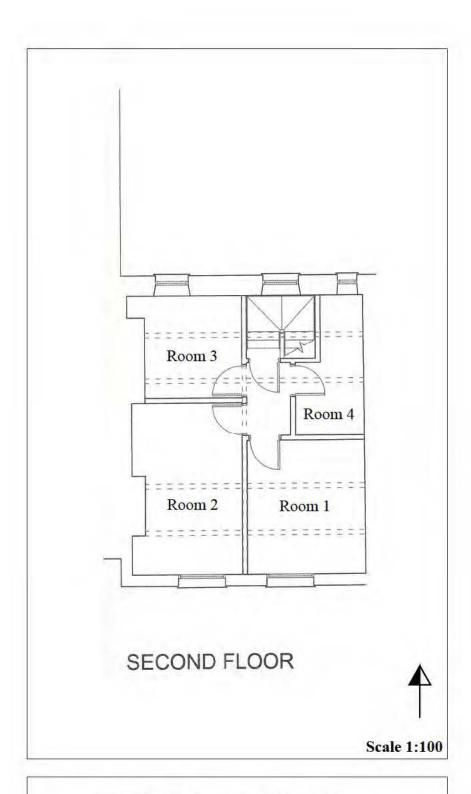


Figure 15. Architects Plan of 21 High Street Second Floor Level. Plan Supplied by Client

# Copyright © CR Archaeology



**Plate 13.** Roof Space Above Room 1. Divides Level in Half. Constructed of Twisted Rope and Plaster. Shows Attic Space



**Plate 16.** Brick Gable Above Room 1. Dividing Wall Between 21 & 23 High Street



Plate 15. Detailed Shot of Slate Roof Above Room 4. Note the Small Size and Irregular Shape Of the Tiles Used. View From Room 1

Plate 14. Slate Roof Above Room 4.

View From Room 1



Plate 17. Room 1 Sash Window



Plate 18. Room 1 General Shot



**Plate 19.** Room 1 Later Brick Facade. The Facade Has Not Been Keyed into the Gable Wall and is Causing Structural Problems



Plate 21. Room 1 Detailed Shot of Door



**Plate 20.** Room 1 General Shot Showing Doorway and Rope and Plaster Room Division



**Plate 22.** Top Floor Hallway. View From Room 1



**Plate 23.** Room 2 Later Brick Facade. The Facade Has Not Been Keyed into the Gable Wall and is Causing Structural Problems



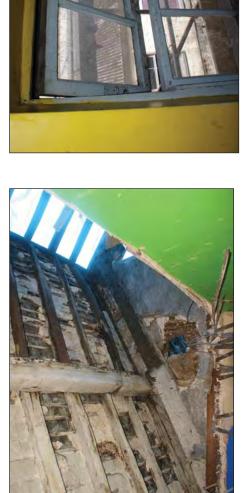
Plate 25. Room 2 Fireplace Detailed Shot



**Plate 24.** Room 2 Large Brick Chimney Breast. Also Spans Room 3



Plate 26. Room 2 Door Detailed Shot











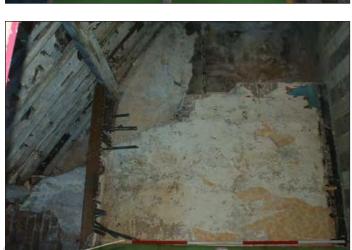


Plate 27. (Above Left) Room 3 Roof Space Showing Rope and Plaster Division

**Plate 28.** (Above Right) Window Detail Room 3

Plate 29. (Below Left) Room 3 Large Brick Chimney Breast. Also Spans Room 2 Plate 30. (Below Centre) Room 3 Large Brick Chimney Breast. Also Spans Room 2 **Plate 31.** (Below Right) Window Detail Room 3





Plate 32. (Above) Roof/ Window Detail Room 4.

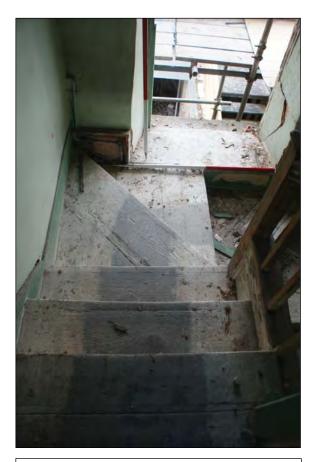
**Plate 33.** (Right) General Shot Room 4. Floor in this Room was Unsafe and Photograph was Taken From Doorway Without Scale



**Plate 34.** Second Floor Stairway and Opening at Rear of Building



Plate 36. Wall Thickness on Second Floor Stairway Landing



**Plate 35.** Second Floor Stairway and Opening at Rear of Building



Plate 37. Second Floor Stairway

#### 6.3. First Floor Level (Plates 38 – 66)

There are three rooms at first floor level which are accessed by a hallway which was offset slightly to the left. The rooms have been numbered 5-7 and are described separately.

#### 6.3.1 First Floor Level Room 5 (Plates 38 – 50)

Room 5 spans the full building width and encompasses two large Georgian sash windows. Below the windows there is a change in the brickwork corresponding with the position of the fascia board. Room 5 has a small fireplace in the western gable end.

The most interesting feature in this room is the partition between this room and rooms 6 & 7. Rather than being constructed of the conventional lath and plaster it is made of woven rope which appears to be twisted marram grass. This rope may have been produced in Newborough, Anglesey as the area was famous for its grass weaving. This rope was used to pack goods (Jenkins 1967: 54-60) and if this building was once a warehouse then this material would have been readily accessible and represents reuse of a waste material.

The partitions are located either side of the door with 5 panels to the left and four to the right. These panels are being protected from the elements and building debris with plastic sheeting which was removed to allow the panels to be photographed.

#### 6.3.2 First Floor Level Room 6 (Plates 51 – 57)

Room 6 is located against the western gable wall at the rear of the building. Interestingly the gable wall in this room is constructed of stone rather than brick and pre-dates the brick chimney breast. A blocking/ modification of this wall can seen in plate 51 and it may be the case that, rather than simply representing the choice of a cheaper material being used to construct parts of the building which are not visible, the stone wall belongs to an earlier two story construction phase.

The rear building wall is constructed using stone and as with the gable wall it is thought that this could represent an earlier building phase rather than a use of less expensive building materials in the rear elevation

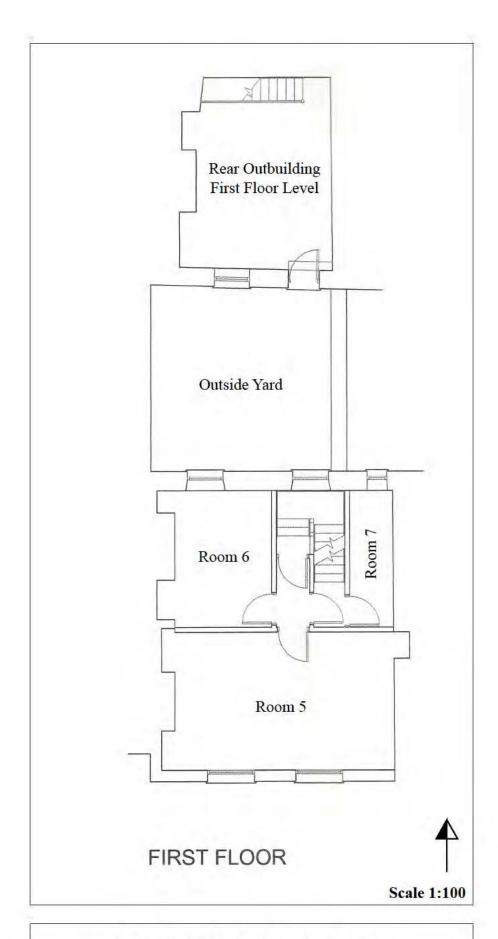
The chimney in this room has a simple brick surround and a slate hearth. It has been blocked with modern brick. The window is a 6 over 6 casement window.

#### 6.3.3 First Floor Level Room 7 (Plate 60)

Room 7 is a small room located opposite room 6. It has a small window. It was not safe to enter this room to take photographs/notes as the floor was rotten. Photographs were therefore taken from the doorway.

#### 6.3.4 First Floor Hallway/ Stairs (Plates 58-59, 61 - 66)

The stairway to the first floor is thought to be part of the early 1800's building remodelling and has a small landing between the first and ground floor levels. There is a large opening on this landing and the wall can be seen to be of stone construction. The opening has been blocked and a later window inserted. It is unclear if the original opening was a larger window or a opening for goods as suggested in Section 6.2.5.



**Figure 16.** Architects Plan of 21 High Street First Floor Level. Plan Supplied by Client



Facing Towards Dividing Wall With 23 High Street Plate 39. Room 5 First Floor. General View Plate 38. Room 5 First Floor. General View



Note the Facia Brickwork Below the Windows Plate 41. Room 5 First Floor. Sash Windows Facing The Street.

Plate 43. (Centre) Sash Weight Plate 44. (Bottom) Right Hand Sash Window Detail

Plate 42. (Top) Left Hand Sash Window Detail





Facing Towards Dividing Wall With 23 High Street Plate 40. Room 5 First Floor. General View





Floor. Rope and Plaster Partition Detailed Shot Plate 47. Room 5 First

Rope and Plaster Partition Detailed Shot of Four Panels

Plate 46. Room 5 First Floor.



**Plate 50.** Room 5 First Floor. Rope and Plaster Partition Detailed Shot



Plaster Partition Located to the Left of Door Plate 49. Room 5 First Floor. Rope and Detailed Shot of the Five Panels



**Plate 48.** Room 5 First Floor. Rope and Plaster Partitions Surviving Either of Door

Plate 45. Room 5 First Floor. Rope and Plaster

Partition to the Right Hand Side of Door



Plate 54. Room 6 First Floor. Rear Wall Showing Join With Hallway Partition





Plate 53. Room 6 First Floor. Gable Wall Showing Join With Rear Wall and Edge Of Fireplace

Plate 52. Room 5 First Floor. Fireplace Detail



Plate 57. Room 5 First Floor. Fireplace Detail Showing Slate Hearth Slab







Plate 56. Room 6 First Floor.



Rear Wall Showing Window Detail Plate 55. Room 6 First Floor.

General Shot Showing Blocked Fireplace



**Plate 58.** Stairway Leading to First Floor.



**Plate 60.** Room 7 First Floor. Room was too Dangerous to Enter



Plate 59. First Floor. Hallway



**Plate 61.** Landing on Stairs First Floor. Blocking of Window/Recess



**Plate 62.** Window with Blocking Below on First Floor Landing



**Plate 64.** Blocking Below Window on First Floor Landing



Plate 65. Rope and Plaster Preserved Behind Glass on First Floor Landing



**Plate 63.** Window on First Floor Landing



**Plate 66.** Doorway and Stairs Leading From Ground Floor To First Floor Landing

#### 6.4 Ground Floor Level (Plates 67 – 77)

At ground floor level there was a single large room (Room 8) which was until recently used as the bar area for the Tafarn Y Werin Public House. This area has been heavily modified and few earlier features survive. There is a passageway to the rear of 23 High Street which is reached by a fire escape in the eastern wall.

#### 6.4.1 Ground Floor Passageway (Plates 67 – 69)

At ground floor level there is a narrow passageway between 21 & 23 High Street leading to buildings at the rear of 23. It is likely that the dividing wall to the rear of the properties is relatively modern and this passageway once allowed access to both rear areas.

The flooring towards the High Street end of the passage is modern but towards the rear some earlier slate floor slabs survive.

#### 6.4.2 Ground Floor Level Room 8 (Plates 70 – 77)

The ground floor area is currently a single large room which was used as the bar area for the Tafarn Y Werin Public House and would have previously be utilised as a shop. This area has been heavily modified and plaster currently on the walls obscures the traces of earlier features. It is thought that there was once a large inglenook fireplace against the western gable wall.

The cellar entrance is located in the western rear doorway but this is not thought to be the original position.

#### 6.5 Cellar (Plates 78 - 87)

The cellar of 21 High Street is thought to be the earliest element of the building. The walls are constructed of stone and there is a roughly central division which splits the room into two. This division is of a later date and the join between the walls could be observed.

There was a large blocked entrance leading to the High Street at the southern end of the cellar which was directly below the eastern window. It is not clear exactly when this entrance was blocked or if this action took place before the current façade was added during the building remodelling of the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The steps to this blocked entrance are of stone built construction and appear to post date the construction of the main cellar walls as they are butted against rather than keyed into the cellar wall.

It is possible, although unproven, that this cellar is of a similar date to that of the old Market Hall 'tunnel' detailed in GAT Report 174. It was mentioned in 19<sup>th</sup> century records that waste was swept in the cellars of the Market Hall and, whilst I am not suggesting that the cellars of 21 High Street were used for refuse, the opening onto the street front would seem to indicate a similar construction and character to the 'tunnel'. The cellar also differs in construction from later 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century brick vaulted examples discussed in the aforementioned report.

There was no vaulting or capping of the cellar and the ground level floor boards and joists formed the cellar ceiling. The steps through which one entered the cellar are not believed to be original as they incorporate brick which is only seen in more modern repairs/blocking in the rest of the cellar. Given that these cellars are believed to be of an early date it would seem unlikely that an expensive building material such as brick would have been used in an area which would not have been visible.

#### 6.6 Rear Elevation and Yard Area (Plates 89 - 94)

The rear elevation of 21 High Street is stone built and of a far simpler design than the building façade. It is covered with a cement render on the eastern side and painted to the west. This elevation has also undergone several phases of use and it is possible that the lower elements of this wall predate the second floor. This may be evidenced by the marked change in wall thickness observed in Plate 36.

Less care has been taken with the layout of this elevation and it does not exhibit the same elegant symmetry as the building frontage. The windows are casement rather than sash and are generally smaller than those at the front. In addition to the previously mentioned partial blocking of a opening there is a further blocking episode at first floor level. This can be observed at the western corner of the building (Plate 93). Plate 94 shows what appears to be a modern surround associated with the aforementioned first floor partially blocked window but this is not evidenced in the building interior.

There was a flat roof which covered the yard area and linked the main and the rear buildings. This can be seen in Plates 89 - 90 and is thought to have added in the 1970's. This allowed the creation of more indoor space and a toilet block was inserted. This structure had been removed prior to the site visit.

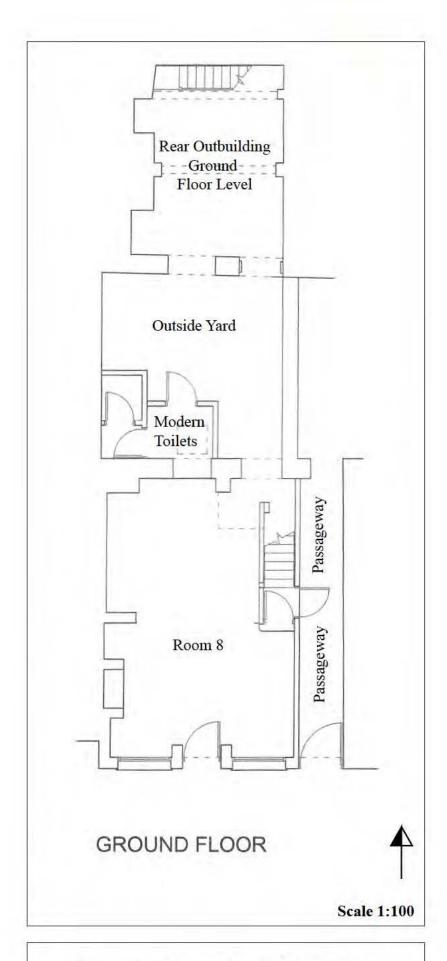


Figure 17. Architects Plan of 21 High Street Ground Floor Level. Plan Supplied by Client



Plate 69. Door to Passageway Between 21 & 23 High Street. Note Earlier Lock on Opposite Side of Door



**Plate 68.** Passageway Between 21 & 23 High Street



**Plate 67.** Slate Floor Slabs in Passageway Between 21 & 23 High Street



Facing Building Gable. Area is Thought to Once Have Plate 71. Room 8 Ground Floor. General Shot Been Utilised as a Large Inglenook Fireplace

Plate 70. Room 8 Ground Floor. General Shot Facing Street



Plate 72. Room 8 Ground Floor. General Shot Facing Building Rear. Also Shows Position of Cellar Opening



Facing Building Rear and Showing Wall Against Stairway

To First Floor Level

Plate 73. Room 8 Ground Floor. General Shot



**Plate 74.** Room 8 Ground Floor. Recess Against Gable Wall



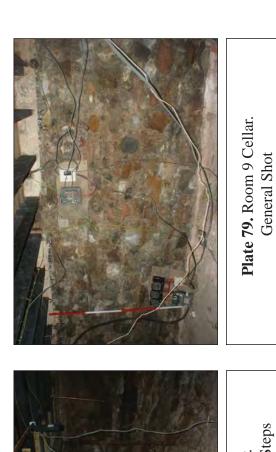
**Plate 76.** Room 8 Ground Floor. Stone Rear Wall



**Plate 75.** Room 8 Ground Floor. Cupboard/Recess Against Gable Wall



**Plate 77.** Room 8 Ground Floor. Cellar Entrance



Stone Front Wall Showing Steps Plate 78. Room 9 Cellar.



Plate 82. Room 9 Cellar. Steps Predate the Cellar Construction



Below the Right Hand Window Steps and Blocking Directly Plate 81. Room 9 Cellar.





General Shot Showing Later Division Plate 84. Room 8 Cellar.

Plate 83. Room 8 Cellar. General Shot



Plate 87. Room 8 Cellar. General Shot



Plate 86. Room 8 Cellar. General Shot Showing Later Division

Plate 85. Room 8 Cellar. Steps to Cellar





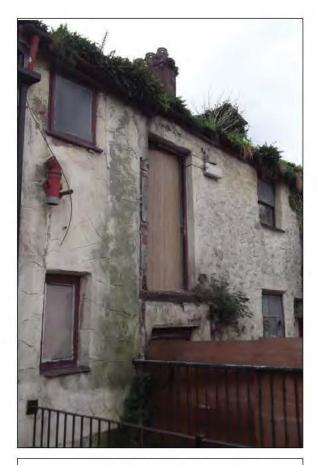


Plate 88. 21 High Street Rear Elevation (Supplied By Client)



Plate 90. 21 High Street Rear Yard Following Removal of Flat Roof From Linking Structure



Plate 89. 21 High Street Rear Elevation (Supplied By Client)



Plate 91. Dividing Wall Showing Blocking Episode



**Plate 92.** 21 High Street Rear Elevation Second Floor Openings



**Plate 93.** 21 High Street First Floor Window and Corner Feature



**Plate 94.** 21 High Street Rear Elevation First/Second Floor Openings

#### 6.7 Additional Building to the Rear of 21 High Street (Plates 95 - 101)

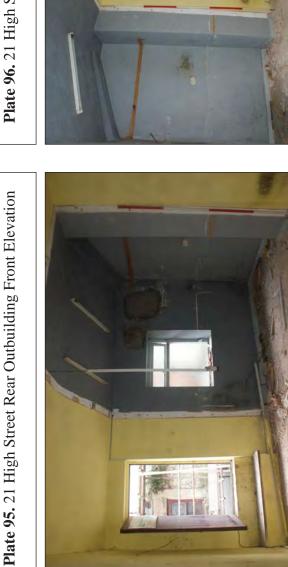
A two storey building was located to the rear of the property which was utilised as the public house kitchen when Tafarn Y Werin was operational. The structure is stone built and is believed to have functioned as a further warehouse space for the property. Due to the schematic nature of the Caernarfon Town maps it is unclear when this structure was built but it is likely to be of a later date than the earlier phases of 21 High Street and contemporary or later than the main late18<sup>th</sup>/ early 19<sup>th</sup> century remodelling during which the façade was added. The roof is currently a corrugated material, possibly asbestos and is clearly not original.



Plate 96. 21 High Street Rear Outbuilding Side Elevation



Outbuilding First Floor Plate 99. Rear



Outbuilding First Floor Plate 98. Rear



Plate 97. 21 High Street Rear Outbuilding First Floor





Plate 101. Rear Outbuilding Ground Floor Level. Photograph Showing Stone Construction



Plate 100. Rear Outbuilding Ground Floor Level.
Previously Used as Kitchen

#### 7.0 Conclusion

21 High Street occupies a Medieval Burgess plot associated with the original Edwardian town layout. No structural evidence from this period survives but this phase is evidenced by the relict plot shape. This long, thin plot layout is retained and can be traced though a map progression from Speed's 1610 town map through to the present day.

The current structures are multi-phase with the cellars constituting the earliest surviving feature of the main house. The cellars are possibly late Medieval and could be contemporary with the structures shown on Speed's map and the 'tunnel' structure discussed in GAT Report 174.

The stone built rear wall of the house pre-dates the construction of the Georgian façade and it is postulated that it is a surviving relic of an earlier 18<sup>th</sup> house/warehouse structure. This warehouse structure may itself have been a reworking of an earlier two storey stone building. This structure may have been raised to three storeys prior to the addition of the surviving Georgian façade. The brick western gable wall is of brick construction only at second floor level and the front section of the first floor level. The façade is not properly keyed into the gable walls indicative of differing dates. The brick character, size and construction method does not differ between the two walls and the phases of building are likely to be closely spaced.

The aforementioned Georgian façade was added during the late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> Century when High Street and the surrounding areas were becoming more prosperous. The sash windows at first and second floor level are contemporary with the façade as is the roof. The tiles may have been reused from the preceding building phase. It is possible that the street facing entrance to the cellar was blocked during this period. The rope and plaster divisions are also believed to belong to this building phase.

The lower sash windows in the front elevation are a Victorian addition. The chimney pots are a late Victorian addition. It is unclear exactly when the rear structure was added but it is thought to be an early Victorian addition and used as extra warehouse space.

The twentieth century conversion of 21 High Street into a public house with a dwelling above resulted in a large number of building modifications. This included the blocking of a number of fireplaces, the enlargement of the second floor opening and the partial blocking of the first floor opening to the rear of the building, extensive remodelling of the first floor to allow conversion into a bar area and the addition of a roofed structure with toilets linking the front and rear structures.

21 High Street has functioned in a number of guises throughout its history with the plot developing from a Medieval house through to a warehouse and a dwelling with a shop front at ground level. In later years the building functioned as an office and a public house.

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Appendix A. Sites of Archaeological Interest in the Vicinity of 21 High Street, Caernarfon. Includes Properties on High Street and Market Street. Table Compiled using RCAHMW Data

Site Name/ PRN or NPRN	Description	Designation
Town Walls NPRN 93527	Construction began in 1283, along with the castle (nprn 95318). First phase completed by 1285. Of coursed rubble-stone construction. Wall comprises 2 gatehouses and eight round towers and has survived almost to its original full extent.	_
		Listed Building
12 High Street NPRN 26633	Originally part of a larger, eighteenth century building, with No. 14, which was itself formerly divided into two properties. No. 12 is a three storey building with cellars. It shows a mid nineteenth century, late Georgian, brick front to High Street, two windows wide above a contemporary shop front. It has a slate gabled roof. To the rear the property takes in the back section of the house between it and No. 14. The side and rear elevations are of exposed large stone rubble, with brick dressed windows. The side wall has quoins at the forward angle. There is a spiral fire escape at the rear.	Listed
14 High Street NPRN 26634	18th Century, 3-storey, roughcast front, recessed sashes with glazing bars. 6-panel door with fan.	Grade II Listed Building
High Street 20, 22: Castle Street 1 NPRN 26638	18th Century, 3-storey, red-brick, glazing bars intact above ground floor, modern shop fronts.	
25 & 27 High Street	Early 19th century buildings, three storeys in height but taller than those to either side. They are pebbledashe with stone quoins and slate roofs. No. 25 has a shop front to the ground floor, while No. 27 has a panelled door with an overlight and a moulded architrave. A window to the right of this has a similarly moulded architrave. The upper two storeys are nearly symmetrical, with two sash windows in moulded architraves in each. There is a sill ban to each storey, thesecond floor one being almost at the eaves level of the adjacent properties.	Listed
28 High Street NPRN 26640	Early 19th Century, 3-storey brick front, recessed sashes, glazing bars, slightly bowed ground floor, shop front, 6-panel door.	
29 High Street NPRN 26641	A later nineteenth century shop with house above. It is shown on the OS 1:500 Town Plan of 1888-9 & was a grocer's shop in 1895. A two and a half storey two bay building, the upper floor lit by semi dormers. The street front is roughcast and it has a slate gabled roof. The original rear rage has been extended into a double block, two storey rear range along Northgate Street.	Listed

36 High Street NPRN 26642	Post-Medieval Dwelling	
38, 40 High Street NPRN 26643	Late 18th Century stucco, earlier fabric, 2-storey and attics, 3 large gabled dormers, late 18th Century shop front, fluted pilasters, int.staircase?	
42 High Street NPRN 26645	Mid 19th Century, 3-storey, stucco, eaves cornice, window pediments, iron balcony, contemporary shop front.	
Conservative Club NPRN 25900	A single storey arcaded market hall of about 1820 set on the corner of High Street and Market Street. Raised into a three storey political club house in 1866. The (meat) market continued to operate for a time, but its arcades are now closed. The club endures	Listed
	and has engulfed neighbouring properties.  The market hall is built of coursed squared stone rubble. Its arcades have four arches to the High Street and five to Market Street. The openings were originally fitted with iron gates. Some market furniture is preserved within.  The roughcast club above has a tall upper storey, housing a concert hall. Facing High Street this has pilasters framing the outer bays. The central bays rise to a pediment enclosing a roundel.	
Market Hall NPRN 23227	Corn market built in 1832 on the site of Plas Mawr. The roof and interior were remodelled in the later nineteenth century. A large building with a hipped slate roof, occupying a large block between Palace Street and Hole in the Wall Street, showing simple classical facades to both. Facing Palace Street is a two storey, three bay facade of dressed stone. The central bay rises to a pediment and has a single doorway. The outer bays both have two arched openings. The upper storey is lit by lunettes. The Hole in the Wall Street facade is similar, but smaller.  The interior features galleries supported on cast iron post. There is a raised central lantern.	Listed
5 Market Street NPRN 16504	A late eighteenth century three storey house, adapted for business purposes in the later nineteenth century. It presents a pebbledashed two bay facade to Market Street under a slate gabled roof framed by chimney stacks. The upper storeys both show two windows, but the ground floor is out of alignment with these, with a doorway to one side and two windows.	Listed
7, 9, 11 Market Street NPRN 16506	Odd numbers only. A group of houses (terraced with nos. 3 & 5) which are dated 1800 on both intermediate rain water heads. Four storeys and basement. Ashlared stucco. Coped parapet. Slate roof. Two windows to each house. No.9 much altered.	
13 Market Street NPRN 16508	Post-Medieval dwelling	
16-24 Market Street NPRN 16509	Post-Medieval dwelling. Even numbers only	

Appendix B. Location of Photographic Plates

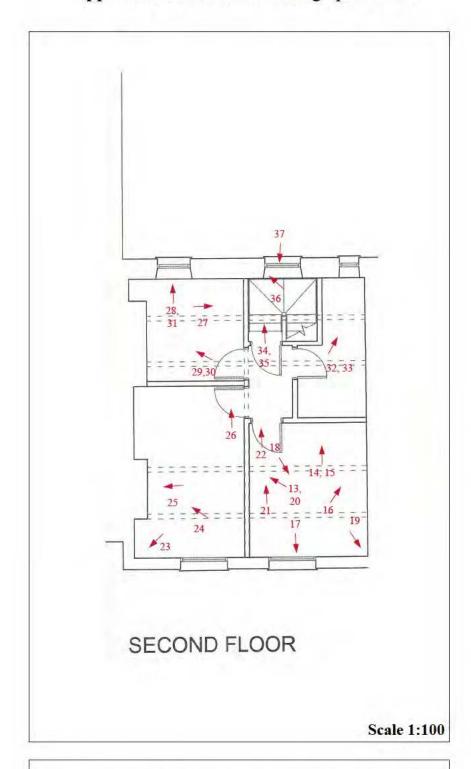


Plate Numbers Added to Architects Plan of 21 High Street Second Floor Level

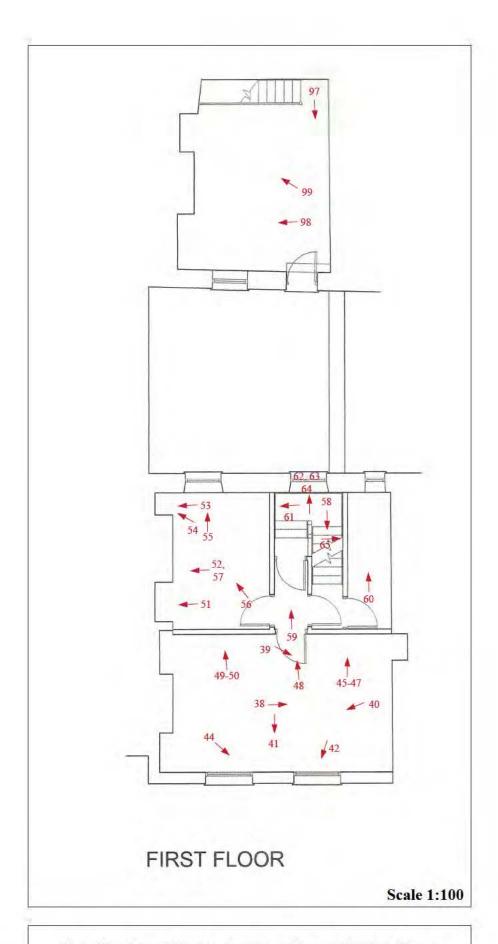


Plate Numbers Added to Architects Plan of 21 High Street First Floor Level

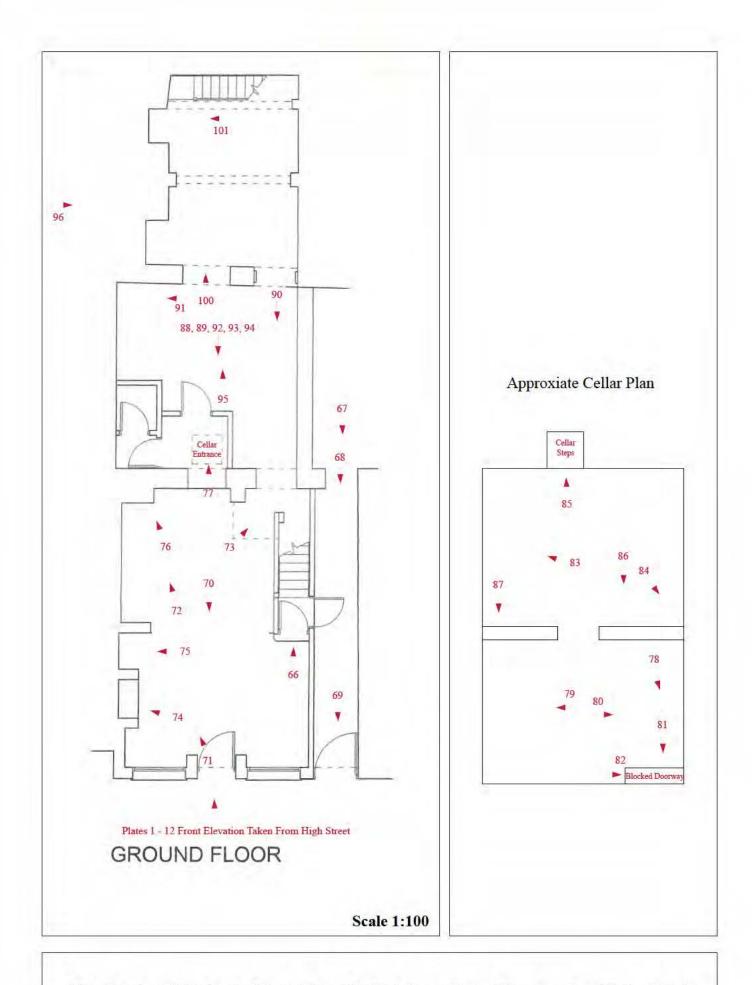


Plate Numbers Added to Architects Plan of 21 High Street Ground Floor Level and Cellar Levels