

## **Building Recording & Analysis**

# **Caernarfon Castle Public House Holyhead**

NGR SH 24582 82690



**Report Number: CR48-2013**



**C.R Archaeology**

Compiled by C. Rees & M. Jones

On Behalf of Isle of Anglesey County Council

### **Acknowledgements**

C.R Archaeology wish to thank the staff at Anglesey and Bangor University Archives for their all their assistance with our research

### **Summary**

*Documentary research has shown that the Caernarfon Castle public house was built between 1769 and 1820 and is therefore one of, if not the oldest surviving building on Summer Hill. The property is believed to have been built as a*

*Georgian period town house and was converted for use as a public house in 1823. The façade retains its original proportions and despite minor modifications appears largely unchanged from when it was built. The Caernarfon Castle is the original name for the premises and it is named thus throughout its history. Around this time two extensions were added to the building.*

*The property appears to have been a thriving business and around the mid-late nineteenth century the Caernarfon Castle appears to have undergone a refurbishment and the windows, door and interior doors were replaced. It is not known whether this was carried out in a piecemeal fashion or as a single episode.*

*The Market Hill Shops were built in 1896. The ground floor elevations of all four properties have been altered and the original shop frontages have all been removed.*

*The Caernarfon Castle appears to have survived relatively unchanged until the later 1970's when the interior was drastically altered. The ground and first floor levels were remodelled and the majority of original or early architectural features were lost. As part of these works the adjacent Market Hill Shop was amalgamated in the Caernarfon Castle suite of buildings. The Victorian shop frontage was removed and a new door and window inserted. The door was later blocked. Further remodelling in the 1990's – 2000's removed further internal divisions and provided an open plan bar area.*

*The attic level of the Caernarfon Castle is the most intact area of the building and original wooden panelling and lathe and plaster dividing walls survive. Unfortunately these features are currently under threat due to a leaking roof and dormer window which has already caused damage to this floor and the floor below.*

## **Results of Building Recording & Analysis at Caernarfon Castle, Summer Hill, Holyhead**

<b>Planning Reference Number:</b>	N/A
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<b>Clients:</b>	Isle of Anglesey County Council
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Catherine Rees & Matthew Jones
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## **1.0 Introduction**

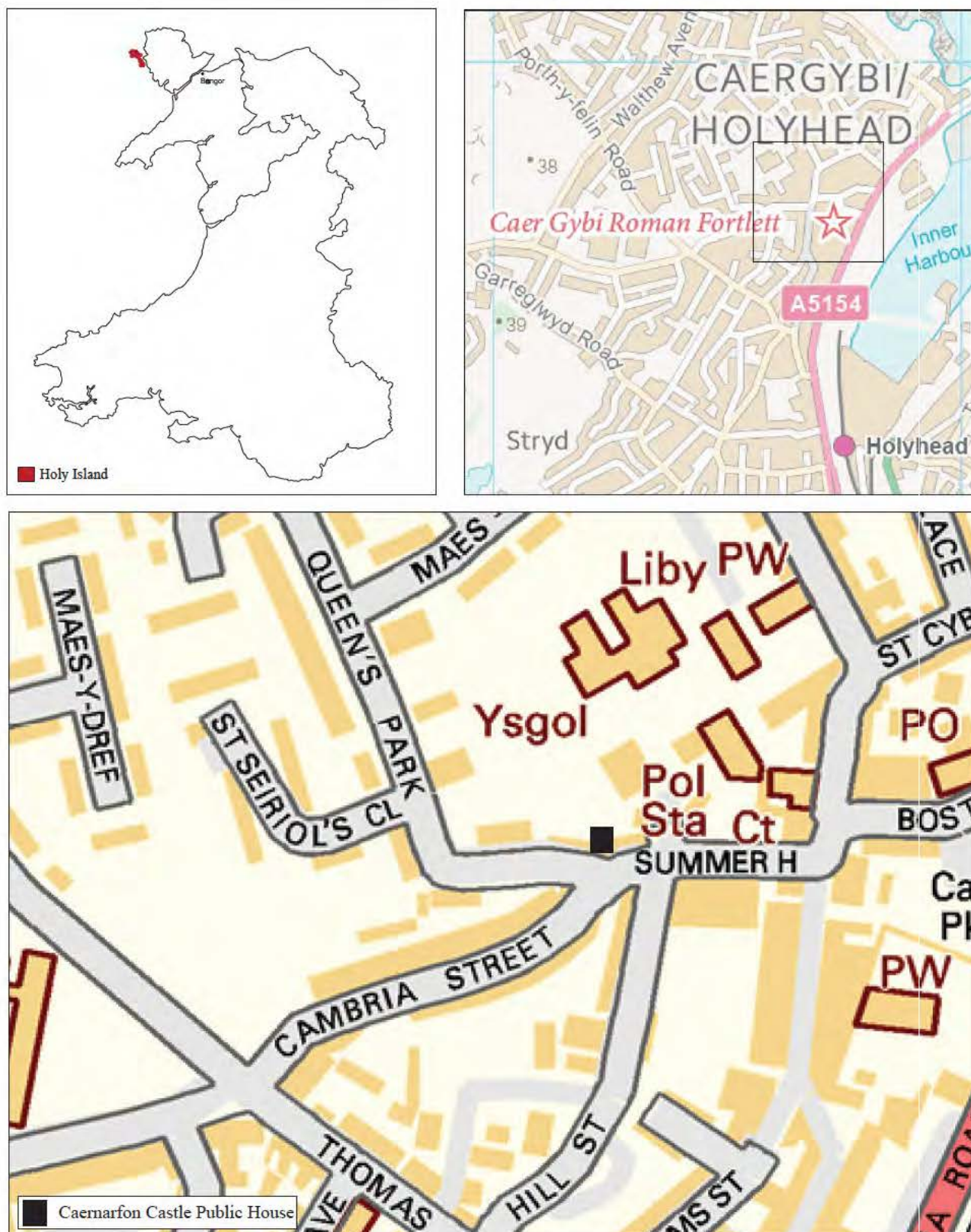
C.R Archaeology have been instructed by Isle of Anglesey County Council to conduct archaeological building recording and analysis at the above property. The site is being developed as part of the Holyhead Townscape Heritage Initiative.

The site is situated in an urban setting and is located at the junction of Summer Hill street and Cambria Street (SH 24582 82690) in the centre of Holyhead, Anglesey (figure 1). The building is first shown on an early 19<sup>th</sup> century Penrhos Estate Map. This document does not record the buildings use but it is believed to have originally been built as a private house. The building is registered as the Caernarfon Castle for an ale licence in 1823 and continues to trade under this name to the present day.

The building is Grade II listed (listing description is included as Appendix A) and is recorded under PRN 415991 on the RCAHMW database. It is located outside the towns designated Conservation Area (see figure 2).

The archaeological works conducted at the Caernarfon Castle Public House site created a Level 3 Building Record. This included the collection of archive material which forms the historical background section of this report and the compilation of a photographic record of the site. A drawn survey of the property was produced when the building interior was heavily modified during the 1970's and this was redrawn and included in this document.





**Figure 1.** Caernarfon Castle Public House Location Map  
 (Source: OS Open Data Mapping Contains Ordnance Survey data  
 © Crown copyright and database right 2013)

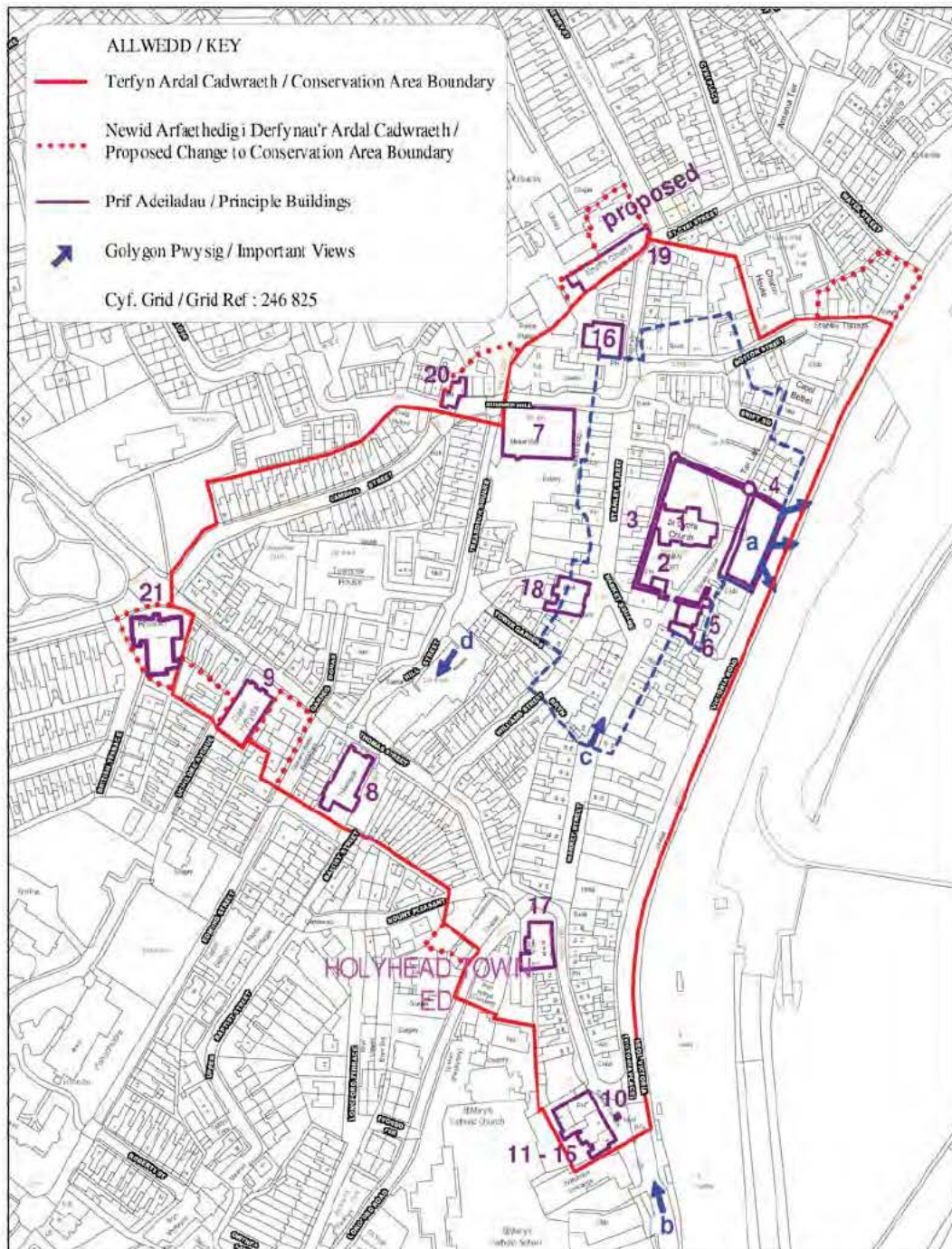


## Atodiad XIV

Cynllun yn dangos terfyn presennol yr ardal gadwraeth, lleoliad y prif adeiladau a cyfeiriad golygfeydd

## Appendix XIV

Existing conservation area boundary,  
location of principle buildings  
and direction of views plan



**Figure 2.** Holyhead Conservation Area Boundary (Source: [www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk))



## **2.0 Project Aims**

The programme of works undertaken at the site aimed to create a Level 3 Historic Building Record and thus its aims were two-fold.

The first aim of the scheme of works was to undertake desk based historical research exploring the history of the property. This information included a map progression, photographic illustrations, archival research, an examination of tithe and census records a search for entries in historic trade directories and estate records were utilised to compile a coherent narrative history of the site.

The second aim of this archaeological investigation was to create a comprehensive level 3 photographic and drawn record of the site. The photographic record was compiled by C.R Archaeology. The drawn record included in this report was originally produced to support a 1970's planning application and has been digitised by C.R Archaeology.

### 3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The works at the Caernarfon Castle Public House were conducted in three sections, each of which is detailed separately below. The methodology employed conformed to the requirements of a level 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 the former Caernarfon Castle Public House site consists of:

Written Account	Points 1-3, 5-13, 22
Drawings	Points 2-9
Photography	Points 1-9

#### 3.1 Desk Based Research

A complete and coherent history of the site was compiled utilising information sourced from Anglesey Archives, Bangor University Archives and local libraries. A full map progression was undertaken along with a search of Penrhos and Boston estates, tithe records, tax records, trade directories and census returns. Web resources were also utilised.

The works were carried in accordance with the IfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (IfA 2009) and will include the information required to fulfil points 1-3, 5-9, 11-13 & 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 also includes the results of the photographic survey and an additional compact disc containing all site images in Tiff format.

### **3.2 Drawn Survey**

A drawn record of the site was produced to support a 1970's planning application. This included a location plan, building elevations and floor plans. Copies of these drawings were taken to site when C.R Archaeology visited to compile a photographic record and were annotated to show the location/direction of photographs taken and to record the position of architectural features which were previously concealed.

These drawings fulfil points 2-7 as specified in “*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*” (English Heritage 2006). Location plans and historical material have been produced/sourced by C.R Archaeology to fulfil criteria 8-9 in the aforementioned document.

### **3.3 Photographic Survey**

A photographic survey of the former Caernarfon Castle Public House was undertaken by Matthew Jones of C.R Archaeology on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013. This work consisted of:

- 1) A basic photographic survey of the building exterior
- 2) A photographic survey of the building interior

#### **3.3.1 Equipment**

A photographic survey of the building was undertaken using a 13.5 mega-pixel Sony A350 digital camera with a variety of standard and other lenses. Images were captured in RAW format for 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 conforms to the requirements of 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.

#### **3.3.2 Timetable for Proposed Works**

Site works at Caernarfon Castle Public House were conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013. A further 5 days were utilised for archive research, report compilation and site archiving.

### **3.4 Staffing**

The project was managed by Catherine Rees (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology), PgDip (Historic Environment Conservation)). Site works were conducted by Matthew Jones. All staff have a skill set equivalent to the IfA AIfA level. CVs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request.

The projects are carried out in accordance with IfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

### **3.5 Monitoring**

The project was not subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services as this work was conducted outside the planning process. A draft copy of the report will be submitted to Anglesey County Council prior to submission of the final report. Copies of the report will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and at Anglesey Archives, Llangefni.

### **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 and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

All staff have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at least 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 location plan,
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of any photographs or drawings
- Full dimensional and descriptive detail,
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- An archive compact disc

A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Historic Environment Record, RCHMW Aberystwyth and Anglesey Archives on completion of the project. The site archive including copies of all photographs in RAW and Tiff format will be deposited at Anglesey Archives.

### **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 former Caernarfon Castle Public House (Grid Reference SH24582 82690) is located on the junction of Summer Hill street and Cambria Street, Holyhead, a sea port in the north-western part of the Isle of Anglesey.

The site falls outside the designated conservation area for the town. The town is characterised as dating predominately from the nineteenth century with “the terraces, chapels and other buildings mostly of the modest sub-classical type found throughout the industrial expansion in NW Wales” (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker 2009:127).

The town of Holyhead is situated in a key location along the route from London to Dublin and is the shortest crossing point between the two land masses.

### **4.2 Geology**

The superficial geology of the site is described as “Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These rocks were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters” ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

The bedrock is detailed as “New Harbour Group - Mica Schist And Psammite. Metamorphic Bedrock formed approximately 545 to 650 million years ago in the Neoproterozoic Iii Period. Originally sedimentary rocks formed in deep seas. Later altered by low-grade metamorphism. These rocks were first deposited as graded clastic sediments or turbidites in the deep sea, and then later metamorphosed, though there is evidence of their sedimentary origin.” ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

## **5.0 Historical Background**

The following section is intended to place the site in its historical context. In order to achieve this a brief history of the town of Holyhead has been compiled. Specific reference will be made to the significance of the links with Ireland, the port/harbour, the London - Dublin road and the coming of the railway.

### **5.1 Early Development – Prehistory to Medieval Holyhead and Parish**

The town and port of Holyhead lie in the area of the parish defined as Holyhead Urban. This area is described in the 1937 Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments as containing only limited structures of historic interest, namely the Roman Fort of Caer Gybi, the Parish Church of St Gybi, and the Chapel known as Eglwys-y-Bedd (RCAHMW 1937:28). The town of Holyhead originally clustered around the aforementioned fort of Caer Gybi and the sixth century church of St Cybi was founded within the fort walls. The current church was built during the thirteenth century and it is believed that Edward I stayed at the fort in 1283 ([www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)).

Within the wider area of the Holyhead Parish, defined as Holyhead Rural, there are a number of monuments of much greater antiquity and important sites from a variety of periods. The earliest of these sites is the Neolithic burial chamber at Trefignath, approximately a mile to the south-east of Holyhead town. Other prehistoric monuments include a number of cairns on Holyhead Mountain and there is a concentration of Iron Age activity in the parish which includes the hut circles at Ty Mawr, Holyhead Mountain and the hillfort at Cae Y Twr. An important early medieval chapel dedicated to St. Bride with associated cemetery is located at Towyn-Y-Capel (RCAHMW 1937:22-28).

The aforementioned site list is by no means exhaustive and the sites are not discussed in any great detail. They have been included merely to provide a context for the urban area whose earlier remains are likely to have been destroyed by later development.

### **5.2 The Development of the town of Holyhead – Sixteenth to Late Eighteenth Century**

The fortunes of the town of Holyhead are closely interwoven with those of the harbour and the route to Ireland. As the shortest sea crossing Holyhead was of key strategic importance in the governance of Ireland and in 1561 John ap Pierce of Holyhead was contracted by the Vice Treasurer of Ireland to supply a vessel for the conveyance of Government Messages ([www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)).

Holyhead continued as a centre of trade and transport, albeit on a relatively modest scale as is attested in a number of late seventeenth and eighteenth century sources. The earliest of these is part of a strip map produced by John Olilby in 1675 detailing the route from London to Holyhead (figure 3). Although schematic this source shows the church at Holyhead and two rows of houses lining the main street. Other than the church it is not possible to identify individual properties and does not show any other buildings outside of the main street.

A similar level of development is shown in a sketch of the town by Francis Place produced in 1699 (figure 4), which also shows some outlying properties. A sketch map of the town in 1737 and a Sea Chart of 1748, both drawn by Lewis Morris (figures 5 & 6) further enforce this idea of a much reduced centre of the town developing in a strip between the church and the port. Buildings are shown on the hill above the church and main street although once more it is impossible to identify individual buildings.

There are a number of interesting descriptions of Holyhead written around this time which emphasise the vernacular nature of the housing. In a discussion of this period the work of Williams (Williams 1950:53) draws on the work of Defoe in which he describes Holyhead as unpretentious and straw thatched but with “*good accommodation in lodgings and diet within*”. Rowlands work of 1989 also describes much of mid eighteenth century Holyhead as undeveloped with many greenfield areas and few houses and cottages. He includes a contemporary description which details the lack of capacity of the town to house its increasing volume of visitors and states “*there were so many Lords and Ladies in the town that the inns were full and they are compelled to put up at houses with thatched roofs*” (Rowland 1989: 11).

A watercolour of the market place produced in 1776 (figure 7) graphically illustrates this and the area of the town shown is characterised by traditional stone built houses with small windows and thatched roofs. The caption describes the town as “*small, but being the station of the Irish packet-boats is much resorted to by passengers; five of these boats, stout vessels, well found and manned, ply backwards and forwards between this port and Dublin*”. A slightly earlier source of 1770 records Holyhead as “*little more than a fishing town, rendered considerable by being the place of general passage to Ireland*” (Unknown 1783: 18). The volume of this traffic is shown in the letters of William Morris and writing in 1753 he notes that “*we had eight coaches, chariots and post chaises in the compass of 48 hours from Chester*” (Rowland 1989: 11).

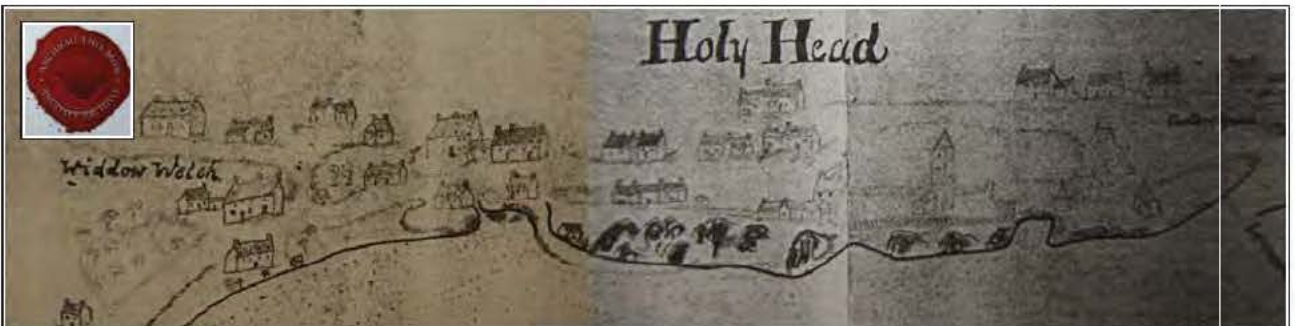




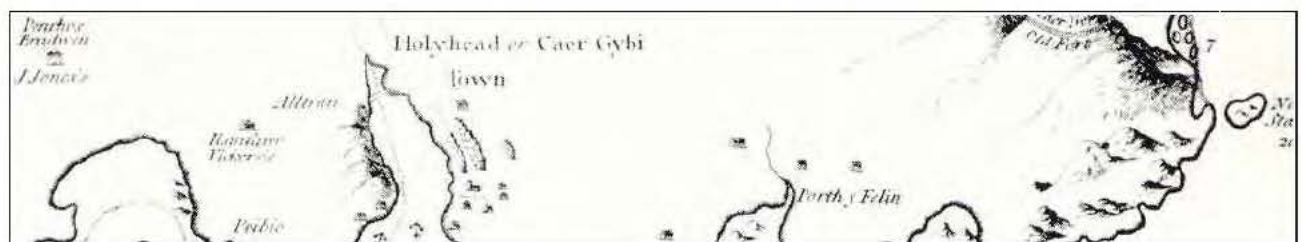
**Figure 3.** Section of John Olilby's 1675 Strip Map of the Route from London to Holyhead.  
(Source: [www.anglesey-history.co.uk](http://www.anglesey-history.co.uk))



**Figure 4.** 1699 Sketch Map of Holyhead (Source: Williams 1950: 65)



**Figure 5.** Sketch Map of the Town Drawn by Lewis Morris in 1737  
(Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps 53)



**Figure 6.** Lewis Morris Sea Chart 1748 (Source: [www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk))





**Figure 7.** 1769 Print of the Market Place, Holyhead (Source: Anglesey Archives WSD/421)

In the years leading up to the Act of Union with Ireland in 1801 Holyhead was to undergo rapid development, spurred on by improvements in transport networks notably the turnpike roads of the mid-late nineteenth century. These improvements were begun between Oswestry and Froncysyllte in 1756 and in 1765 the road across Anglesey from Porthaethwy to Holyhead was turnpiked (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 10). The success of these roads was however called into question in an account of the town written in 1770 which states that *“the turnpike road from Porthaethwy to Holyhead, 26 miles, is very ill kept for the first five miles, being pitched with great stones, but suffered to lie in great holes. The best part is that between Gwinde and Holyhead, 13 miles. The descent to the ferry-house is execrably rough and dirty; yet here are two toll-gates on this road and one would think traffic sufficient”* (Unknown 1783:19).

The aforementioned 1770 account records three good inns – *“The Eagle and Child or English House, The Welsh Head or Irish House, kept by the widow Arthur; and remarkably neat, and Lord Boston's Arms or the Welsh House. These houses, although by the names they seem to be appropriated to particular people, divide the business between them, especially the two first”* (Unknown 1783: 18). These inns are by no means the earliest recorded with the Black Lion dating back to at least 1727 and the house named Widow Welch on Morris' 1737 map of the town has been identified as a boarding house (Williams 1950: 64).

A number of prominent landowning families in the area had foreseen the rising market for land in the parish and they seized upon the opportunities to add to their wealth through the increased number of visitors the improved road links brought into the town. The Eagle and Child, an imposing English style inn bearing the Stanley crest, was built by Margaret Owen (Penrhos Estate) just before 1770. The Eagle and Child was the principle terminus for coaches and the erection of the nearby Hibernia Inn with a pleasure house on Salt Island and a tidal bathing pool was a direct challenge to the family by the Llanfawr Estate. Both places were run by lessees rather than family members and represent a change in the traditions of the town (Williams 1950: 63).

Penrhos estate lands were leased for periods of three-lifetimes a row of three-storey houses were built on the on the seaward side of Market Street by the Parrys and Taylors in 1774. (It is noted that these houses were likely built on the footings of earlier structures). The ordered development of the street was however frustrated by the sale of Lligwy, Swift, Llanfawr and Treaddur lands which allowed a more piecemeal development despite attempts by the Stanley family to buy up all land appearing on the market (Williams 1950: 64-5).

An estate map of Penrhos lands commissioned by Sir John Thomas Stanley in 1769 (figure 8) names the land as being owned by a Mr Morris but but no properties are shown in the location of the Caernarfon Castle. Summer Hill road is shown leading up from Stanley street. In her work Lucy Williams (1944: 55) provides an interesting description of the Morris Gardens.

*“No trace of this building now remains, but it covered the site of William Morris's abode, and he (and later his daughter Jane) owned the strip of land from the Caernarfon Castle as far as the present Empire Cinema, and the row of cottages now on it is called Summer Hill Terrace. The Morris gardens covered (1) the land under the “Caernarfon Castle”, Market Hill shops, Summer Hill Terrace, and the Empire Theatre, (2) the site of Harp St. “Llain y Delyn” still called “Llain Ddrain” after Morris's famous sheep proof hedge, (3) two small fields close by inherited from Swift, (4) the ground between the National Provincial Bank and Lands' End along the north of the Roman Wall and surrounding Swift Court. These were freeholds inherited by William Morris's wife, Jane Hughes, from her ancestor Major Thomas Swift, Parliamentary Postmaster of Holyhead”.*

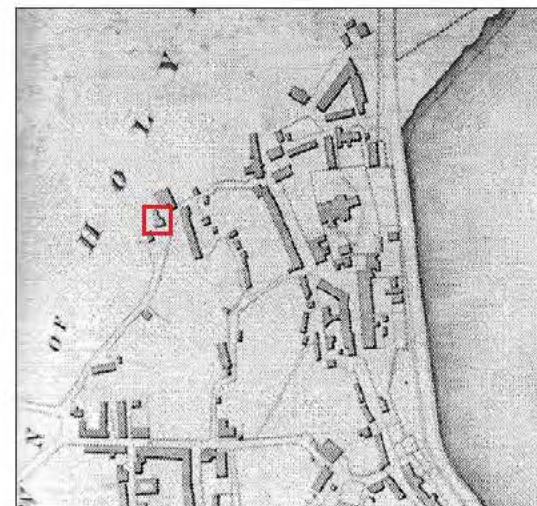




**Figure 8.** 1769 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead. Approximate Position Later Occupied by The Caernarfon Castle is Marked in Red (Source: Bangor University Archives Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3)



**Figure 9.** 1820 Stanley Estate Map of Holyhead. The Caernarfon Castle is Marked in Red (Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps/52/1)



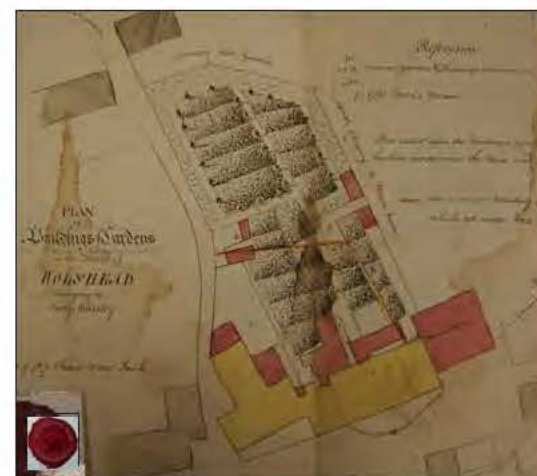
**Figure 10.** The Plan of Holyhead Harbour from Telford's Atlas 1838. The Caernarfon Castle is Marked in Red (Source: Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 111)



**Figure 11.** 1841 Tithe Map of Holyhead. The Caernarfon Castle is Marked in Red (Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps/53)



**Figure 12.** 1850 Lligwy Estate Map of Holyhead. Position of The Caernarfon Castle is Marked in Red (Source: Bangor University Archives Lligwy Papers 214)



**Figure 13.** 1850 Plan of Lady Stanley's Garden, Holyhead (Source: Anglesey Archives WDO/94)



William Morris was a keen naturalist, botanist and gardener and it is believed that his interest was aroused by his mothers knowledge of medicinal herbs. Botany was to become a lifetime passion for Morris and he would write a number of books on the subject. He was an avid collector of exotic plants and had various family members and friends send him specimens from around the world (Ramage 1987:128 - 135).

Lucy Williams (1940 & 1944) has identified the area near to where the Caernarfon Castle now stands as being the location of William Morris's house but had stated that in 1944 no trace of the building had survived (Williams 1944: 55). She describes the plot thus “Bryn yr Haf is the steep slope now called Market Hill. William Morris's house was close to the spot where the “*Caernarfon Castle*” now stands. Against the Caernarfon Castle on the site covered by Market Hill shops, formerly stood “*Parlyrau*” later called “*Market Tavern*”. This consisted of a frontage facing east with a long annexe at the back which was used by theatrical companies passing through Holyhead as a theatre, and as a place of meetings by the Wesleyans and Congregationalists before they erected chapels” (Williams 1944: 55). In an earlier paper she adds that “*In 1770 the larger “Parlyrau” on Summer Hill was built, where players en route for Dublin performed, and where in 1817 the Congregationalists had their services. It was a public bakehouse before its demolition*” (Williams 1940: 95). There is however a degree of confusion as to the accuracy of this description as cartographic and later documentary sources do appear to contradict this account. This point will be discussed further in forthcoming passages.

### **5.3 The Act of Union and Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road – 1801 to 1840**

The Act of Union between the Irish and British parliaments was passed on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1801 and from this point Irish MPs and peers sat in the parliament of the United Kingdom. It was therefore necessary that there was a fast and reliable communication route between London and Dublin for the transportation of mail, members of parliament, officials and when necessary troops. The current turnpike system, although much improved, was not sufficient to allow this particularly around the dangerous crossings of the Afon Conwy and Menai Straits (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 1-2).

The first elements along this route to be improved were the two ports of Dublin and Holyhead and works were begun on John Rennie's massive Admiralty Pier which protected the ports inner harbour. Works on this ambitious project were completed in 1821 (ibid: 3). A number of maps and

plans from this development survive and although most do not detail the town as a whole they do show the seaward side of Holyhead. The plot of land on which the Caernarfon Castle is built is not shown on these maps although this does not mean that it was not erected during this period.

The period of 1800 to 1824 was period of development and expansion for Holyhead. This included the building of a pier at Salt Island and the creation of a “graving dock” which allowed ships to be floated for cleaning and repair. The improvements allowed the Post Office to use paddle steamers rather than the traditional sailing packets to take mail between Holyhead and Dublin. The early nineteenth century was a time of great hardship for the working classes of the United Kingdom with unemployment, social unrest and rising food prices and these works provided employment for local people and the prospect of work attracted a large number of incomers to the area. (Rowlands 1989: 15-16).

The employment and trading opportunities offered by the harbour development in Holyhead were very attractive and the town was to benefit from the influx of money and, perhaps of greater importance, an optimism in the assured future of the town. The increase in the status of the town was exemplified in 1821 when George IV visited Holyhead. The new-found confidence in the town is reflected in the population numbers and between 1801 and 1841 the number of inhabitants increased from 2,132 to 3,869 (Rowlands 1989: 15-16). 1801 was a key year for the population of Holyhead as, for the first time, it overtakes that of the Island's previous principle town of Beumaris ([www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)).

An estate map produced for the Stanley family in 1820 (figure 9) shows the continued increase of housing density. It is the earliest map to clearly show the Caernarfon Castle which is shown as a single square building at the top of Summer Hill. In the location of “Y Parlyrau” described by Lucy Williams there is a building marked.

The increasing population required an expansion of recreational facilities and an 1823 list of Ale Licenses granted for Holyhead (WQD/LIC/215) records thirty-nine different public houses and inns trading. This had increased from thirty-four such establishments recorded just four years earlier (WQD/LIC/205). The 1823 Ale Licenses is the first to document to record the Caernarfon Castle in use as a public house with Owen Davies holding the licenses for 1823 and 1824. The Ale Licenses from 1819 - 1822 were checked and the property does not appear so presumably it was a private house prior to this.

Telford's Holyhead road was completed in 1826 with the opening of the Menai Suspension Bridge (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 3) and by 1828 the coach journey from London to Holyhead had shortened to 29 hours and 17 minutes (Rowlands 1989: 24). This road, although intended primarily to take mail coaches and their passengers, generated a considerable volume of stage coach, posting and private travel along with a more limited amount of freight transport (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 5).

Despite being the first major civilian, state-funded infrastructure scheme of modern times the heyday of this route was limited to a relatively short period between the late 1820's and 1830's. Technological advances of the era were to rapidly supersede this great achievement and between 1837 and 1850 the successive opening of railways between London and Holyhead caused a steep decline in the traffic using the road. In 1851 Parliamentary funding for the maintenance of the road was stopped (Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 3-4). A plan of the harbour and town produced as part of Telford's scheme in 1838 (figure 10) shows little change in the general town layout from the 1820 estate map.

The 1838 map shows that the Caernarfon Castle public house has been extended and it is shown on this document as an T-shaped structure. The building which occupies the area that will later become the Market Hill Shops is also shown.

#### **5.4 The Arrival of the Railway in Holyhead 1841 - 1900**

The next great phase of development in the history of Holyhead was to be heralded by the advent of the railway. Throughout the 1840's there was a programme to construct a railway across Anglesey and in 1848 the first train arrived in Holyhead (Rowlands 1989: 24).

The momentum of the preceding period was continued and further port improvements, in particular the building of the breakwater, attracted national attention due to the sheer magnitude of the operation (Rowlands 1989: 24). The population increase between 1801 and 1841 was eclipsed by that which occurred between 1841 and 1851 when it increased by a further 4,994 to reach 8,863 – a figure which shows a more than doubling of the population in ten years (Rowlands 1989: 16).

These new inhabitants had to be accommodated and the remaining rural characteristics of the town which had survived the earlier part of the century were rapidly lost by the time of the production of the Tithe Map of the town (figure 11). The area of the Caernarfon Castle public house is not listed on the schedule but a building is shown in this area although this document does not correspond with the buildings on the earlier plans or the building described as 'Y Parlyrau'. The main street outline as surviving today is largely established, although there was continued infilling within the street layout into the early twentieth century (Rowlands 1989: 16).

A Lligwy Estate Map dated 1850 (figure 12) shows the Caernarfon Castle much as it appears on the 1838 Telford plan. It is not owned by Lord Boston and is therefore not listed on the map schedule.

The setting of the Caernarfon Castle at this time would have been very different than is seen today and the land to the front of the building would have been an open garden. An 1850 plan of Lady Stanley's garden on Summer Hill (figure 13) shows the layout of the area and the building shown at the top of the document is believed to be the adjacent building to the Caernarfon Castle where the Market Hill shops would later be located. It is possible that this plot is at least in part the gardens which were created by William Morris.

The National Census from 1841 and 1851 does not list specific property names and the Caernarfon Castle could not be located in these documents. Trade directories were examined and Slater's Business Directories from 1858 to 1868 list the Caernarfon Castle, Summer Hill under taverns. The licensee is Mr David Griffith and a search of the 1851 census did not show him as resident on



Summer Hill at this time so we can deduce that he takes ownership of the premises between 1851 and 1858. The 1861 census (figure 14) provides a little more information about the Griffith household and David (aged 42) is listed as an innkeeper who resides at the property with his wife Elizabeth (46), their daughter Anne (21) and a lodger named Ellis Hughes (29). Hughes' occupation is listed as helper and he is presumably employed to assist Anne as both Anne and Ellis are blind.

The tenure of the Griffith family was not without incident and three court cases associated with their time at the Caernarfon Castle were uncovered during archival research (Reference: WQ5/1866/16). The first document was dated August 1855 and records a payment of fifteen pounds to the Crown in relation to a theft and embezzlement case against a Julia Murphy. It is unclear how Griffith was involved but Julia Murphy paid £20 and a Patrick Murphy paid £15 in the same case. The second document details an accusation against Elizabeth Griffith in July 1860 when she was charged with the theft of a shawl. She denied this charge claiming the item to belong to her and was identified as such by a particular hole in the item. The third case was in October 1865 when David Griffith is convicted and fined for the sale of alcohol on a Sunday which is contrary to his license.

It is unknown when the Griffith family leave the Caernarfon Castle public house but it is under new ownership by 1871 when it is listed in the Worrell's Directory. The proprietor is listed as Joseph Jones and the property is once more listed as a tavern. The 1871 census for the Caernarfon Castle (figure 15) lists a different occupant/licensee and records Mr Hugh Jones (age 46) as the publican. He lives at the Caernarfon Castle along with his wife Mary (44) and two unmarried daughters Margaret and Jane Pritchard who given their surname are presumably from Mary's previous marriage.

The prosperity of Holyhead continued throughout the late nineteenth century and the focus of the town's wealth was still largely reliant on the crossing to Ireland and the associated rail and harbour industries, both of which continued to develop apace during this period (Haslam, Orbach & Voelecker 2009: 132-134).

A description of the town of Holyhead written in 1878 conveys the spirit of the time and reflects on general and population trends during this period. *“Holyhead, on the islet of Holyhead, which is separated from Anglesey by fordable sandy strait, is the most important town in the county. From the large amount of trade carried on with the sister island, Ireland it has become a port of great*

*importance. It places London and Dublin in direct and ready communication; the principle railway, the road, and the telegraph having each their terminus here. Great improvements have been effected during the last twenty years, and a fine harbour made, which affords a safe retreat for distressed ships sailing from Liverpool, Dublin, Whitehaven, and other ports, to all parts of the world. There is a fine breakwater, constructed at the expense of the Government, the pier extending outwards 900 feet, and having a depth of 14 feet at the pier head during low water. Upon its extremity is a monster lighthouse, exhibiting a powerful light 200 feet above the level of the sea; a marble arch commemorating the visit of George IV in 1821, on his visit to Ireland, stands upon the pier. The mail steamers plying between Holyhead and Dublin are some of the finest built boats in the world, and run in all weathers. Passengers may be now conveyed from London to Dublin, a distance of 260 miles, in 11 and a quarter hours. The inhabitants are principally employed in the coasting trade, ship building and repairing, improving of the harbour, fishing, and assisting in the transport of cattle and goods from Ireland (The Wales Register & Guide 1878: 9-10).*

The register describes further features of Holyhead in a later passage where it details the building of a new harbour in 1873 at a cost of almost two million sterling, and a town hall in 1875. Of interest in a discussion of the inns and public houses of Holyhead it describes the town as “*neat and well built, possessing some good inns and hotels*”. The population figures given for Holyhead show a slight trend towards a decline in numbers to 8,773 in 1861 and 8,131 in 1871 (*ibid*: 106).

The 1880 edition of Slater's Directory reinforces the optimism and praise for the town's railway and harbour of the previous account and further details the recreational opportunities open to visitors to Holyhead. “*The town also has visitors during the bathing season, during which period many families make it their residence. Bathing machines are established, which contribute materially to the comfort of visitors. There are several objects of interest; among these are, the venerable remains of a hermitage, two chapels, and the remains of a Roman wall, or as some antiquaries assert, built by the British prince Cassibelaunus; these with the lighthouse, and the suspension bridge, at the South Stack, and the storm guns at the North Stack, attract the attention of the stranger. There are several good inns in the town, the principle of which are the Marine, The Royal (London and North-Western Railway Company's) and the King's Head*” (Slater's Directory 1880: 87).

30	1	David Griffiths	Head	Mar	62	John Hughes	Publican	St David's Church
		Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	46		Do	Do
		Ann	Da	Mar	21		Do	Do
		William Hughes	Son	Mar	24	Thomas Hughes	Publican	St David's Church

Figure 14. 1861 Census Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House

25	1	David Griffiths	Head	Mar	60	John Hughes	Publican	St David's Church
		Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	46		Do	Do
		Ann	Da	Mar	21		Do	Do
		William Hughes	Son	Mar	24	Thomas Hughes	Publican	St David's Church

Figure 15. 1871 Census Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House

78	1	Mary Jones	Head	Wid	55	William Jones	Publican	St David's Church
		Ann Jones	Wife	Mar	17		Do	Do

Figure 16. 1881 Census Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House

Schedule	NO. OF HOUSES	NAME OF HOUSE	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN		
79	3	David Jones	Head	Mar 36	Labourer	Ampleforth Head
		Elizabeth	Wife	Mar 29	Do	Do
		William	Son	Mar 6	Scholar	Ampleforth Head
		Richard	Son	Mar 4	Do	Ampleforth Head
		Ann	Son	Mar 2	Child	Do
80	4	Thomas Hughes	Head	Mar 37	Labourer	Ampleforth Head
		Elizabeth	Wife	Mar 46	Do	Do
P.2	1	Amel. Cam	Head	Mar 40	General Dealer	Ampleforth Head
		Mary	Wife	Mar 41	Do	Do

Figure 17. 1881 Census Showing the Bakehouse



Figure 18. Sketch of "Y Parlyrau" Based on an 1881 Photograph (Source: Y Rhwyd 2006: Issue 299)

Mary Jones remains at the Caernarfon Castle until at least 1891 although she is widowed between the 1871 and 1881 census. In this document (figure 16) Mary is recorded as living with her niece Jane on Summer Hill. Her occupation is given as widow rather than publican but we can be certain that she is the proprietor of the Caernarfon Castle at this time as she is recorded as such in Slater's Directory of 1883 and Sutton's Directory 1889-1890.

In the 1881 census is an entry for a bakehouse located between Summer Hill and Cambria Street (figure 17). The bakehouse is mentioned in Lucy Williams' work of 1940 (p.95) as having been the final use of “Y Parlyrau” although its position in the census would imply that the building was on the opposite side of the street to the Caernarfon Castle. It also differs from her later account which states that the building became the “Market Tavern” (1944:55).

A record for the Market Tavern was sourced in the “*Return Public Houses, Beer Houses and Grocers Licenses*” dated 1891. Of interest in this instance are the distances between public houses and the nearest public house to the Caernarfon Castle is the Freemason Inn which is recorded as being 150 yards away. This building is shown on later maps as being opposite the Caernarfon Castle and the Market Tavern is marked as 15 yards from the Freemason Inn. Although the distances on this document are a little out to say the least given that the Market Tavern was believed to adjoin the Caernarfon Castle there would seem to be a degree of confusion as to where exactly “Y Parlyrau” was and which side of the street it was on.

An article in the Welsh religious newspaper “Y Rhwyd” (Issue 299: July 2006) also details the story that the Caernarfon Castle public house adjoined an abandoned building called “Y Parlyrau”. This building was recorded as a theatre and later a school house before becoming derelict. In 1817 the building was taken over by preacher John Davies as a chapel for Independent worship until 1824 when a new chapel was built on Thomas Street. It records that the structure was demolished in 1896 leaving only the part of the building which is now called the Caernarfon Castle public house. A sketch based on a photograph dated 1881 was used to illustrate the article and has been included as figure 18. The description of the building is as follows “*At the bottom of Cambria Street there is a public house called the Caernarfon Castle and on its furthest side there was once a large house. Behind this was a single storey cross-shaped building, which was Y Parlyrau*”. However maps from between the dates of when the picture is believed to be set and the demolition of “Y Parlyrau” do not correspond with this building description (see below).





**Figure 19.** 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House



**Figure 20.** 1890 Large Scale Ordnance Survey Map Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House

79	Summer, Feb. 1891	1	166	Mary Jones	Neat	Anders	65	Public House, Castle	x	Do Penryn Road
80	1st	20		Rae Jones	Neat	Sample	25	Assistant Do	x	Caernarvon
81	Caernarvon Castle	1								

**Figure 21.** 1891 Census Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House



**Figure 22 (Left).** 1900 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House

**Figure 23 (Below).** 1901 Census Showing Caernarfon Castle Public House and Market Hill Shop

16	Market Hill, Caernarfon	1		Richard Price	Head	M	32	Public House, Caernarfon	own	at home	Richard Price	1	Caernarfon
				Jane Price	Wife	M	30				Richard Price		
				Richard G. Price	Son	B	5				do		
				Edw. Hardy Price	Son	B	3				do		
17	Market Hill, Caernarfon	1		Margaret May Roberts	Head	F	42	Public House, Caernarfon	own	at home	Pendrina Glynne	1	Caernarfon

The “*Return Public Houses, Beer Houses and Grocers Licenses*” dated 1891 provides us with additional information about the Caernarfon Castle. It gives the rateable value of the property as £7 5”, records that the establishment is licensed for opening 6 days a week and has no accommodation or dining facilities at this time. There are no rear premises for stabling, coaching or garages for automobiles.

Ordnance Survey produced their first map of Holyhead in 1888 (figure 19) and a larger scale edition of 1890 (figure 20) which show the property in detail for the first time. The Caernarfon Castle is marked as a public house and the houses to the east which are later demolished to build the Market Hill Shops are shown in detail. The positions of the buildings do not correspond with those shown on the sketch if the Caernarfon Castle is the end building with the two windows as was suggested. There is however a greater correlation if Lucy Williams' description of the building location as under the Market Hill Shops is correct. Were this the case then rather than the end building being the Caernarfon Castle it would have been the southern end of the building running along Summer Hill and the Caernarfon Castle would actually be the building in the left foreground of the picture. The building with the figures in front would be the building shown on the 1890 Ordnance Survey as being between the Caernarfon Castle northern extension and the Summer Hill building. This interpretation is also flawed however as looking at the picture the “Parlurau” element is much narrower than the adjoining building and this is not shown on the Ordnance Survey Maps. In the absence of the original photograph and without knowing the sources from which earlier authors have worked this is as far as the story can be corroborated and it is by no means a definitive explanation.

The main Caernarfon Castle building is shown with a number of extensions/outbuildings to the north and west. The larger rear (western) and side (northern) extensions are also marked on the 1838 town plan and appear therefore to have been built within the first 50 years of the buildings life. There two additional later structures built onto the side extension which are demolished when the Market Hill Shops are built in 1896. A second structure is also shown to the rear of the building and it is unclear as to whether this was demolished and rebuilt or whether the existing structure was incorporated into the rear extension.

The 1891 census (figure 21) records Mary and Jane Jones at the Caernarfon Castle. Mary is listed as a public house keeper and Jane as an assistant.





## 5.5 Twentieth Century Holyhead

During the earliest part of the twentieth century life in Holyhead continued much as it had during the nineteenth century.

The Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition dated 1900 (figure 22) shows that the neighbouring properties discussed above have been demolished and been replaced by a terrace of four properties – The Market Hill Shops. Although originally built as individual units the neighbouring property to the Caernarfon Castle was later amalgamated into the public house. When these buildings were erected the two smaller northern outbuildings associated with the Caernarfon Castle were demolished. The porch on the front elevation of the Caernarfon Castle is first shown on this document.

The 1901 Census (figure 23) records Margaret Mary Roberts as the Public House Keeper at the Caernarfon Castle. She is recorded as a wife but her husband is not listed on this document. The census return for the Market Hill property which would later become part of the public house shows that the shop is called “Cheshire Stores” and is a grocers. It is run by Richard Price who occupies the property along with his wife Jane and their two sons.

Margaret Roberts is also recorded at the Caernarfon Castle Inn in 1911 (figure 24). She continues to live alone and is widowed by the time of this census. The neighbouring shop is now a fishmongers and is occupied by George Moody and family (figure 25).

Following the end of the First World War in 1918 a number of episodes which were to prove disastrous for the town occurred. The first came in 1920 when the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company withdrew from the port ending 70 years of unbroken service and resulting in the loss of 350 jobs. This loss was compounded by the loss of the Royal Mail service contract to the London and North-Western Railway Company which led to the towns reliance on a single company. The dangers of this became evident when the LNWR merged with a number of other rail companies to form the much larger London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company and introduced scathing economies resulting in further job loss.

At this time relations with Ireland were changing and in 1922 Southern Ireland achieved home rule. Following this separation the diplomatic links between Britain and Ireland became strained and in 1932 a six year tariff war began which was to further feed into the precarious position of the town.

In his work on the period John Rowlands records that *“The Trade War with Ireland was disastrous for Holyhead, because had it not happened the town's dependence on the LMS and the railway company's monopoly of the trade with Ireland, would have made them both relatively immune to the economic recession of the 1930's. Without those six long years of the Tariff War, Holyhead's limitations as a one company town could have been it's greatest strength. In fact as events turned out the fact that Holyhead was a one company town was it's greatest weakness in the 1930's”* (1989: 29-30).

An Ordnance Survey Map of 1924 (figure 26) shows that a glass structure was erected on the northern elevation of the Caernarfon Castle public house. No other changes were noted.

The recession of the 1930's was on a global scale and unemployment was high throughout the country but for reasons detailed above Holyhead was particularly harshly hit leading Megan Lloyd George (MP for Anglesey) to claim in 1937 that Holyhead was suffering higher unemployment than all but the very worst areas of South Wales and Durham. Statistics record that unemployment in Holyhead was only to fall below 30% once during the 1930's and in December 1936 it hit the record level of 47.7%. Many families left the town in search of work elsewhere and during the 1930's the population fell by over one thousand. Contemporary observer accounts paint a bleak picture and stated that *“the town is in crisis – the most serious in its history”* (1931), *“there are hundred of men, women and children practically destitute”* (1933), *“anyone walking through the town would at once notice that Holyhead was a dead town; there was nothing there at all”* (1938) and *“we are worse off in Holyhead today than we have been in the whole history of the town. The town is poverty stricken”* (1939). It was only with the advent of the Second World War in 1939 that there was any improvement in the towns fortune – a fact that was bitterly noted at the time by the town clerk who remarked that *“apparently you cannot get anything for Holyhead unless you get a war”*. The war did however bring employment and government contracts to the area although Holyhead was never to return to it's late nineteenth century heyday (Rowlands 1989: 25 – 34).

The Caernarfon Castle survived this difficult time and remained as a public house and is listed on a compilation of licensed premises dated 1938. This list is greatly reduced from the 58 licensed premises of 1897 and the number of public houses and inns in Holyhead has almost halved to just thirty – less than it had in 1823. The property is listed in a number of trade directories from this period including The Wales Trade Directory from 1933 to 1942 although no information as to the proprietor is listed.

An aerial photograph of this area of Holyhead dated c.1960 shows no change to the front elevation of the property (figure 27).

The Caernarfon Castle was closed for a period in the 1970's (Randall 1977) and the interior was heavily modified. The architects drawings for these works have survived and it was at this time that the neighbouring shop was integrated into the public house. These drawings have been digitised and are included as figures 28-30. The plans will be discussed in Section *6.0 Results of Archaeological Works*.

The elevations of the main public house show that there was no change to this during the works. The shop elevation was however heavily modified and the late Victorian wood and glass frontage was removed in favour of a smaller window and door. This was later replaced with UPVC faux leaded glass windows and the doorway was blocked.

The Caernarfon Castle remains in use as a public house and the current landlord is a Mr Ivor Thomas.



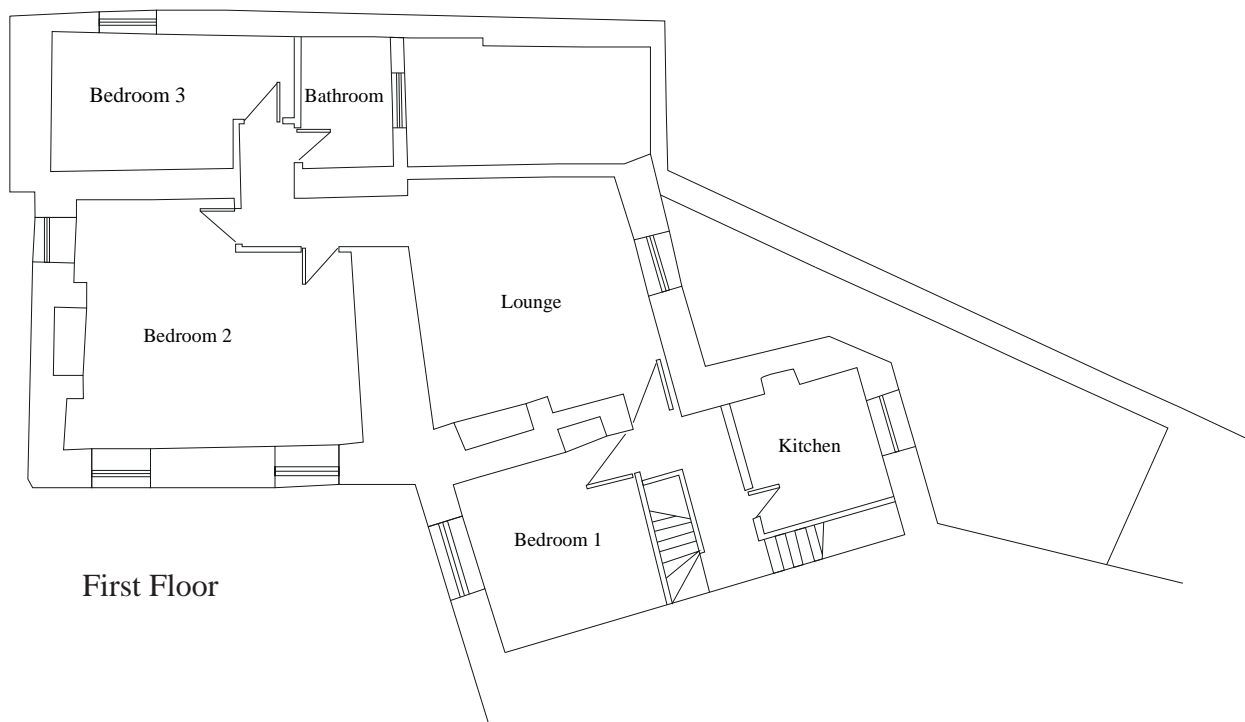
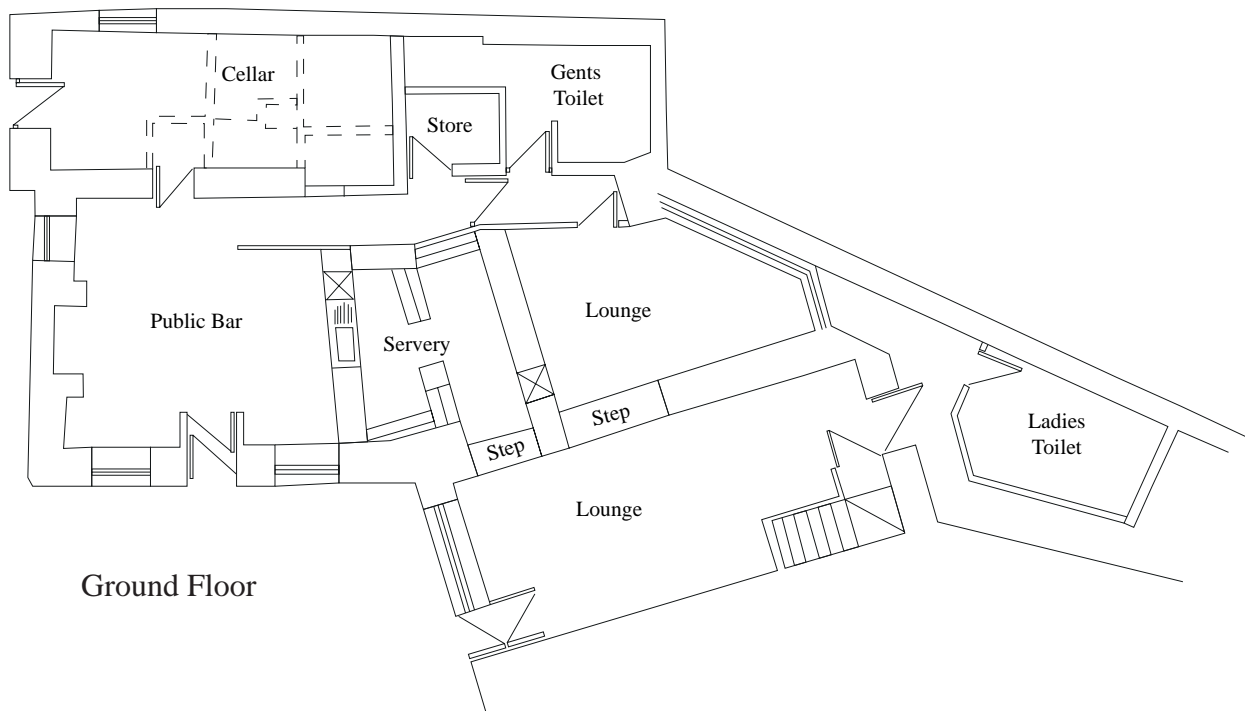
**Figure 28.** Caernarfon Castle Public House Elevations - Copied From 1970's Originals. Scale Given 8'0" to 1 Inch





**Figure 29.** Caernarfon Castle Public House Existing Floor Floor Plans in 1976  
Copied From 1970's Originals. Scale Given 8'0" to 1 Inch





**Figure 30.** Caernarfon Castle Public House Floor Plans for Works Carried Out in 1976  
Copied From 1970's Originals. Scale Given 8'0" to 1 Inch

## **6.0 Results of Archaeological Works**

A site visit to the Caernarfon Castle public house was conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. Existing drawings were annotated and a full photographic record of all accessible interior and exterior spaces was made. Surviving original/ early interior and exterior features will be discussed by floor level. Window details are described in the building exterior section.

### **6.1 Drawn Record**

A basic drawn record of the site was made as part of a 1976 Planning Application. These plans and elevations were digitised and were annotated during the site visit. The annotated drawings were used to produce floor plans showing the current layout and are included as figure 31.

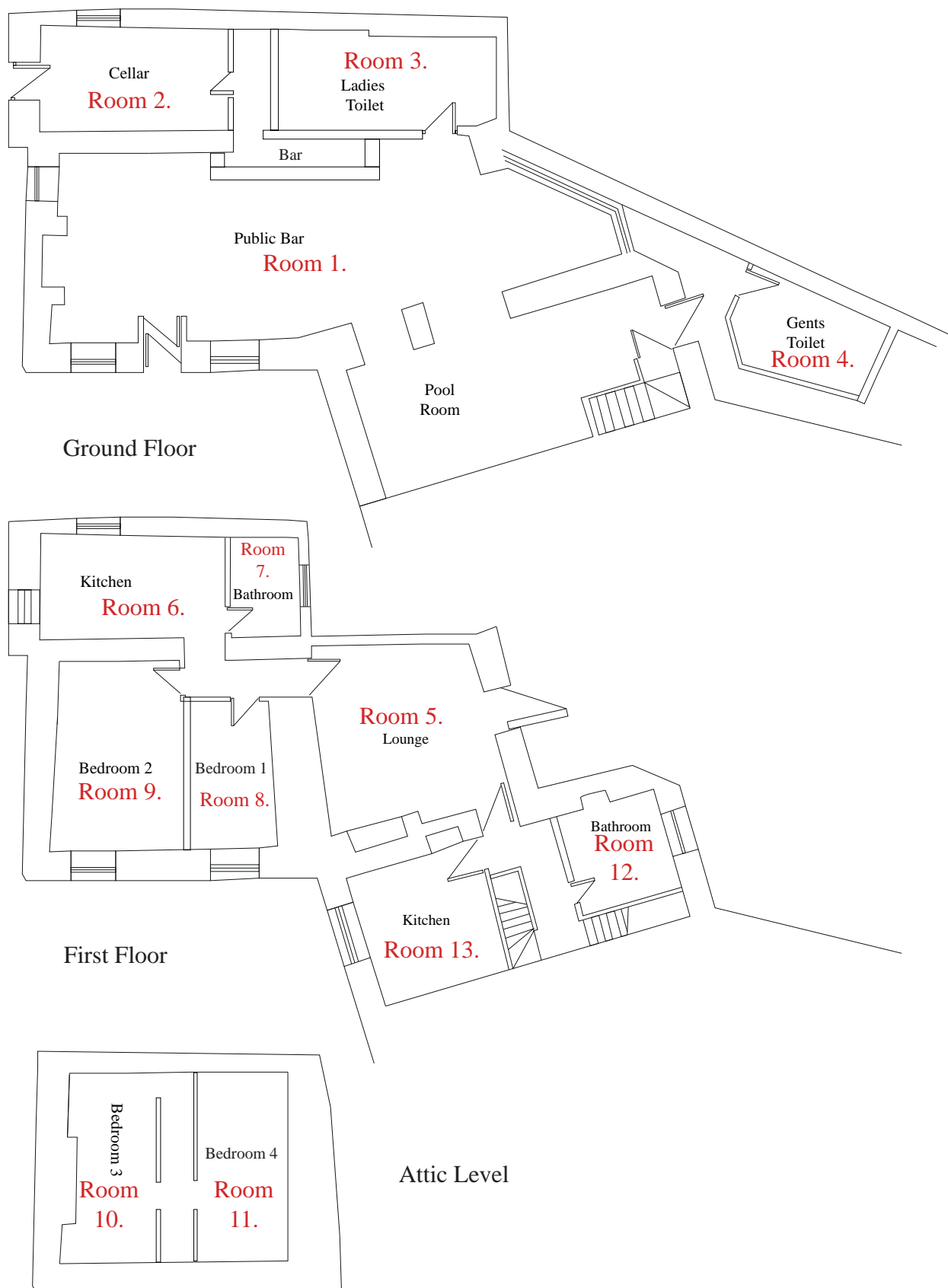
### **6.2 Results of Photographic Survey (Plates 1 - 45)**

A comprehensive photographic survey was conducted and the full photographic archive has been included in TIFF format on an accompanying disc at the back of this report. Relevant photographs are incorporated into the main text as numbered plates and the positions of these are marked in Appendix B.

#### **6.2.1 Building Exterior (Plates 1 - 12)**

The property has undergone a number of changes since it was built in the late eighteenth – early nineteenth century. The building appears to have been built as a relatively small square structure which was extended to the rear soon after its construction date. The building has also been extended to the north and this extension is again believed to have occurred early in the buildings history. In 1976 the adjoining end terrace, formerly one of the Market Hill Shops was incorporated into the Caernarfon Castle public house.

The late Georgian façade is, in common with the prevailing taste in industrial north-west Wales at this time, of a modest sub-classical design (Haslam et al 2006: 127) with four windows arranged symmetrically around a central entrance and two flat roofed dormer windows positioned in line with the lower windows. This arrangement is original but the door and windows have been replaced in the later part of the nineteenth century. The windows are two-over-two recessed box sash with window horns. The faux leaded panes at ground floor level are modern replacements. The iron porch is a later addition and cartographic research has shown that it was added between 1890 and 1900. There is a single chimney and blocked opening in the southern gable end of the building.



**Figure 31.** Caernarfon Castle Public House Existing Floor Plans  
Modified From 1970's Originals. Scale Given 8'0" to 1 Inch



**Plate 1.** Caernarfon Castle Public House  
Front & Southern Elevation



**Plate 2.** Caernarfon Castle Public House  
Front Elevation



**Plate 3.** Front Porch  
Dated c.1900



**Plate 4.** Caernarfon Castle Public House  
Southern Elevation



**Plate 5.** Caernarfon Castle Public House  
Southern Elevation & Rear Elevation



**Plate 6.** Detailed Shot of  
South-eastern Corner





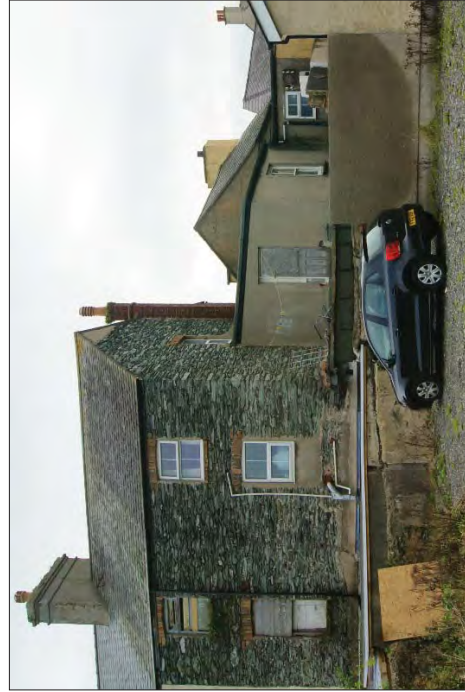
**Plate 7.** Caernarfon Castle Rear Extension



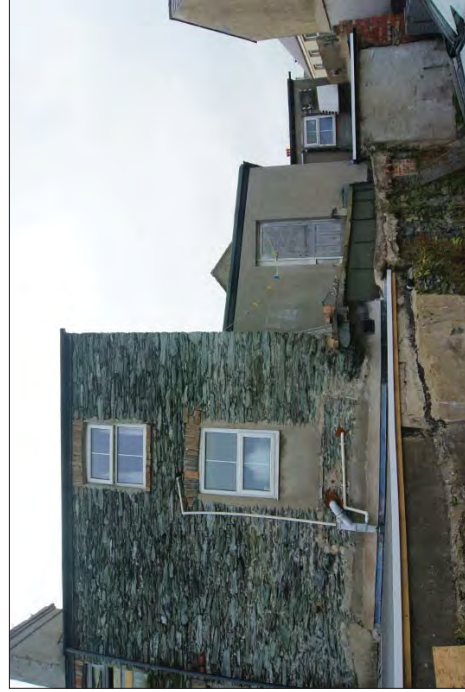
**Plate 8.** Caernarfon Castle Rear Extension & Blocked Opening



**Plate 9.** Caernarfon Castle Rear Extension



**Plate 10.** North Facing Elevation of Caernarfon Castle & Market Hill Shop



**Plate 11.** North Facing Elevation of Caernarfon Castle & Market Hill Shop

The building core has a simple slate gabled roof and the schist building material is masked by a stucco render. Of interest on this structure is the shaped lower portion of the south-eastern corner wall which has been slightly recessed and curved – presumably to prevent injury to passing persons and animals.

The rear extension can be clearly seen on the southern elevation and houses the cellar. The structure has a very shallow pitched roof which was not visible from the ground but presumably it would originally been covered using slate. This element has a wide doorway to allow barrels to be rolled into the building from the street. It does not sit flush with the southern elevation and the walls at ground floor level slope gently into the street. They are of substantial stone construction and as with the main build have a stucco render.

On the first floor of the southern elevation there is a single recessed box sash window with horns of similar date to those in the front elevation. It has glass panes in a two-over-one arrangement with the large lower pane likely to be a later replacement. A second window is located in the rear (western) elevation at first floor level but in this instance it is a modern replacement. A third window is located in the northern elevation. This window is a modern replacement and although it is likely that there was a window in this location it is believed that the original was taller and that the window opening was reduced when this room became used as a bathroom.

The northern extension is a two storey, flat roofed structure which currently serves as a link building between the Caernarfon Castle and the Market Hill Shop. Due to interior and exterior render it is not possible to examine how it was modified when the shop terrace was built although the building footprint remains the same as in shown in early sources. There are two openings in this building element, one recessed boxed sash window with horns, and a door. The door is a modern modification and this opening was previously a window. The surviving window is of a mid-late nineteenth century design and appears to be the same as was used in the other areas of the building indicating that this extension does pre-date the Market Hill Shops. The window in the western shop elevation is directly above this extension so if it ever stood above its current height it must have been reduced when this was erected.

The neighbouring Market Hill Shop which now forms part of the Caernarfon Castle was built in 1896 and became part of the public house property in 1976. It was built as part of a terrace of four buildings and prior to the 1976 amalgamation there was a late Victorian shop frontage with large glass window at ground floor level. This was removed and initially a door and smaller window was added. Later the window was replaced again and the door blocked. Despite its survival as an exterior feature this window is now also blocked from the interior of the public house. The windows in the side and rear building elevations are modern UPVC replacements. They are however the original window openings and can be seen to be the same in all the buildings in this terrace.

Like the Caernarfon Castle, the Market Hill Shops are of local schist construction. Red brick has been used for the chimney breast and window headers. All buildings in this terrace are three storeys and were designed with a shop space at ground floor level and accommodation above.

### **6.2.2 Building Interior (Plates 12- 45)**

The building interior will be discussed by floor, beginning at the ground floor level and working upwards. Where possible this will be further subdivided by room although many of the internal divisions were removed/remodelled in the 1970's and there is little of architectural note in many rooms.

#### **6.2.2.1 Ground Floor (Plates 12 – 23)**

The existing ground floor plans of the Caernarfon Castle dated 1976 show a classic Victorian public house layout with the terraced shop still a separate building. The pub area was subdivided into a number of small rooms with a separate parlour. There was no large bar area and drinks were dispensed through a serving hatch in front of the cellar. This floor plan is however not entirely original and the stairs are believed to have been positioned opposite the front doorway when the main house was built with a single room leading off either side. It is however thought that, possibly with the exception of the toilets, this arrangement is contemporary with the conversion of the building for use as a public house.

The ground floor area is currently in use as a bar with pool area, cellar and toilets. The current layout of the rooms is largely open plan and the previous internal divisions shown on the 1976 pre-modernisation plans have been removed. The fireplace is in its original position but the earlier surround has not been retained. The skirting boards and chair rails are all also modern replacements

and the bar has been moved to its current position some time after the 1970's remodelling. The ground floor has recently been modernised again with a change in the position of the bar to create a more open plan environment.

The ceiling has been painted and it was not possible to examine it in detail to determine whether the beams were original or a later addition to give the impression of age. It does however appear likely that the main beams are structural and therefore original.

#### **Room 1.**

Room 1 was the main bar area and pool room. There are no features which merit further discussion in this room.

#### **Room 2.**

Room 2 was in use as a cellar. This is the use shown on the earlier plan. The room has been modernised and there is little of historic interest in this room.

#### **Room 3 & 4.**

Rooms 3 & 4 were the ladies and gentlemen's toilets. These rooms had been recently renovated and there was nothing of note in either room and they were not photographed.

Access to the rear beer garden and the flat above the Market Hill Shop were through a corridor and stairs at the rear of the pool room.

#### **6.2.2.2 First Floor (Plates 24 -36)**

The first floor retains more of the original/early room divisions than the ground floor and the main change to this floor is the removal of the two stairways. the first provided access from the ground floor and was located in the rear extension. The second stairway was located in the original building core and led to the two attic rooms. Both stairways were removed during the 1970's. The removal of the stairways, although not significantly altering the layout did however result in the loss of the majority of the lathe and plaster dividing walls.



**Room 5.**

Room 5 was located in the northern extension. The room had previously been in use as a lounge but was unfortunately full of debris and could not be clearly photographed or examined in detail. Of interest in this room were a number of four panel Victorian doors which had been placed into storage in the building following the 1970's refurbishment and will be rehung when these rooms are returned to use. Original floor boards and an original door frame were also identified.

**Room 6.**

Room 6 was a kitchen in the rear extension. The room had been previously stripped out and there was nothing of note in this room.

**Room 7.**

Room 7 was a bathroom in the rear extension. The room had been previously stripped out and there was nothing of note in this room.

**Room 8.**

Room 8 was a small bedroom in the main Caernarfon Castle building. It was originally next to the stairway but this had been removed in the 1970's. Of interest in this room was the wooden window seat believed to be an original feature.

**Room 9.**

Room 9 was a small bedroom in the main Caernarfon Castle building. It was originally next to the stairway but this had been removed in the 1970's. Of interest in this room was the wooden window seat believed to be an original feature.

There was a modern aluminium ladder in this room leading into the attic. Due to damage to the roof the ceiling of this room has partially collapsed and water continues to leak through.

**Market Hill Shop (Rooms 12 & 13)**

The first and second floor of the Market Hill terrace has been converted into a flat which is currently occupied. It was therefore only possible to photograph the two rooms at first floor level which were in use as a kitchen and bathroom. Both rooms had been recently refurbished and there was nothing of note in either.

### **6.2.2.3 Second Floor/ Attic Level (Plates 37 – 45) Rooms 10 & 11**

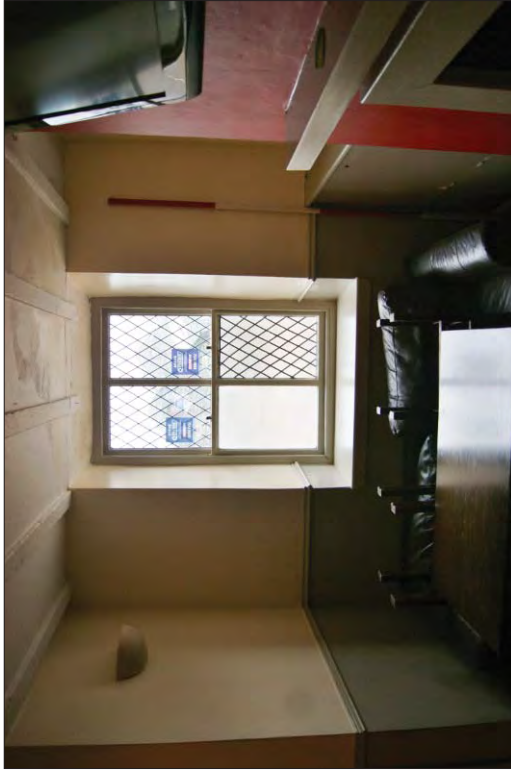
The second/attic level does not appear of the 1970's plans and with the exception of the removal of the stairway between the first and second floor it seems that there has been little if any work carried out on this floor in recent history. It is therefore the most intact of the floors and there are a number of features of interest in these rooms.

Due to the removal of the stairway the second floor (attic area) is currently accessed via a ladder from Room 9. The 1976 plans of the building prior to the removal of the stairs shows their central position and the wooden panelling which lined the southern side of the stairs has survived. The hallway between the rooms is created by two lathe and plaster walls which are once more believed to be original.

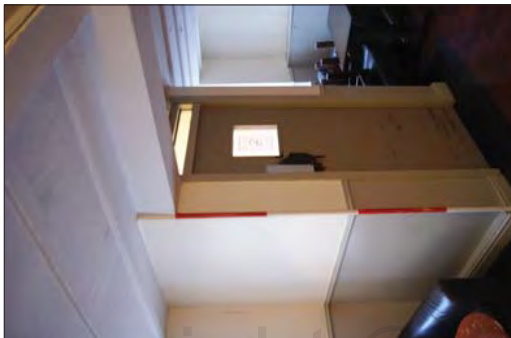
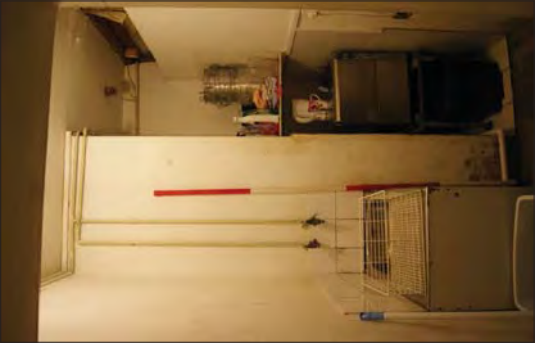
The two bedrooms on this floor are the same size and each has a single dormer window facing down Summer Hill towards the port. The wooden panelling on the ceiling of each room is also believed to be an early if not original feature. It appears that the dormer windows are an original feature and that this level was always intended to be used as a third storey for accommodation with these rooms being used as servants or children's sleeping areas.

The chimney breast survives in Room 10. It was covered in render and it was not clear whether this concealed a blocked fireplace. This would seem likely given that these rooms appear to have been part of the original building layout.

As mentioned above the roof is leaking and until it can be made watertight these rooms will deteriorate. If this process is not halted then the last remnants of the surviving original interior features will be lost.



Plates 12 - 17.  
Room 1.  
Ground Floor Bar Area







**Plate 18. Room 1 Ground Floor Bar Area**



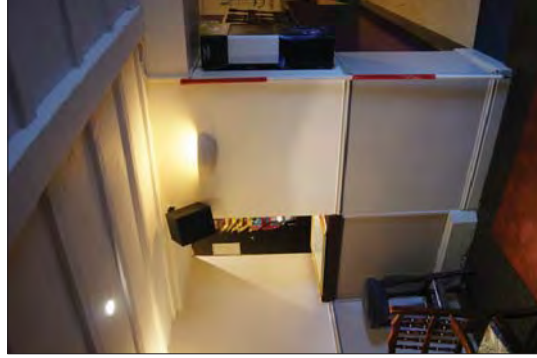
**Plate 19. Room 1 Ground Floor Bar Area**



**Plate 20. Room 1 Ground Floor Bar Area**



**Plate 21. Room 1 Ground Floor Bar Area**



**Plate 22. Room 1 Ground Floor Bar Area**

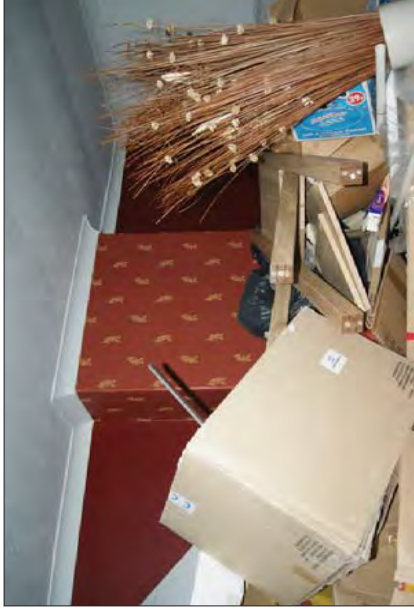


**Plate 23. Room 2 Ground Floor Cellar**





**Plate 24.** Room 5 First Floor Lounge



**Plate 25.** Room 5 First Floor Lounge



**Plate 26.** Victorian Doors to be Rehung



**Plate 27.** Early/  
Original Doorframe  
Room 5



**Plate 28.** First  
Floor Corridor



**Plate 29.** Room 6  
First Floor Kitchen



**Plate 30.** First  
Floor Window Detail



**Plate 31.** Room 7  
First Floor Bathroom



**Plate 32.** First  
Floor Window Detail



**Plate 33.** Room 8  
Window Seat



**Plate 34.** Room 8  
Small Bedroom



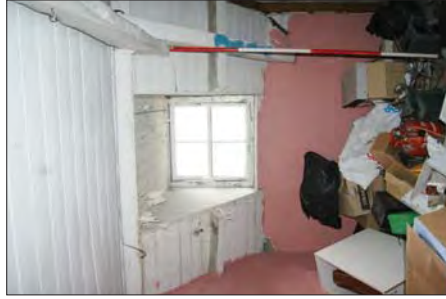
**Plate 35.** Room 9 First Floor Bedroom



**Plate 36.** Room 9 First Floor Bedroom



**Plate 37.** Room 10  
Attic Bedroom



**Plate 38.** Room 10  
Window Detail



**Plate 39.** Room 10 Detail of Wooden  
Ceiling & Roof Structure



**Plate 40.** Room 10  
Window Detail





**Plate 41.** Surviving Early Panelling Attic Hallway

**Plate 42.** Room 11 Attic Bedroom

**Plate 43.** Room 11 Attic Bedroom Showing Chimney Breast

**Plate 44.** Market Hill Shop First Floor Room 12

**Plate 45.** Market Hill Shop First Floor Room 13



## 7.0 Conclusion

Documentary research has shown that the Caernarfon Castle public house was built between 1769 and 1820 and is therefore one of, if not the oldest surviving building on Summer Hill. The property is believed to have been built as a Georgian period town house and was converted for use as a public house in 1823. The façade retains its original proportions and despite minor modifications appears largely unchanged from when it was built. The Caernarfon Castle is the original name for the premises and it is named thus throughout its history. Around this time two extensions were added to the building.

This coincides with a period of development and expansion in Holyhead which included the building of a pier at Salt Island and the creation of a “graving dock” which allowed ships to be floated for cleaning and repair. The improvements allowed the Post Office to use paddle steamers rather than the traditional sailing packets to take mail between Holyhead and Dublin. These developments dramatically increased the number of inhabitants in Holyhead and there was an increase in the number of public houses at this time to cater for their recreational needs.

The property appears to have been a thriving business and around the mid-late nineteenth century the Caernarfon Castle appears to have undergone a refurbishment and the windows, door and interior doors were replaced. It is not known whether this was carried out in a piecemeal fashion or as a single episode.

The Market Hill Shops were built in 1896. The ground floor elevations of all four properties have been altered and the original shop frontages have all been removed.

The Caernarfon Castle appears to have survived relatively unchanged until the later 1970's when the interior was drastically altered. The ground and first floor levels were remodelled and the majority of original or early architectural features were lost. As part of these works the adjacent Market Hill Shop was amalgamated in the Caernarfon Castle suite of buildings. The Victorian shop frontage was removed and a new door and window inserted. The door was later blocked. Further remodelling in the 1990's – 2000's removed further internal divisions and provided an open plan bar area.



The attic level of the Caernarfon Castle is the most intact area of the building and original wooden panelling and lathe and plaster dividing walls survive. Unfortunately these features are currently under threat due to a leaking roof and dormer window which has already caused damage to this floor and the floor below.

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#### **Archive Material (Sourced from Anglesey Archives, Llangefni)**

WDO/94	1850 Plan of Lady Stanley's Garden, Holyhead
Wmaps/52/1	1820 Estate Map
WMaps53	Sketch Map of the Town Drawn by Lewis Morris in 1737
WSD/421	1769 Print of the Market Place, Holyhead
WQD/LIC/204	Ale Licenses Granted for Holyhead 1819
WQD/LIC/205	Ale Licenses Granted for Holyhead 1820

WQD/LIC/208	Ale Licenses Granted for Holyhead 1822
WQD/LIC/210	Ale Licenses Granted for Holyhead 1823
WQD/LIC/215	Ale Licenses Granted for Holyhead 1824
WQ5/1866/16	Court Case Sheet

1841 Tithe Map and Returns for Holyhead  
 1888 First Edition Large Scale Ordnance Survey Map  
 1890 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map  
 1900 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map  
 1924 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map

#### **Archive Material (Sourced from Bangor University Archives)**

Lligwy Papers 215 Survey of Land and Property in Holyhead 1850  
 Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3 Estate Maps, Holyhead 1769  
 Penrhos Manuscripts 774-6 The Book of Reference for Above Maps 1769

#### **Trade Directories**

1828-29 Pigot's & Co National Commercial Directory  
 1868 Slater's Directory  
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 1895 Slater's Directory  
 1899 Bennett's Directory  
 1910 Bennett's Directory  
 1917 Wales Trade Directory

#### **Archive Material (Sourced from Bangor University Archives)**

Lligwy Papers 215 Survey of Land and Property in Holyhead 1850  
 Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3 Estate Maps, Holyhead 1769  
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[www.holyheadforward](http://www.holyheadforward)

[www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=872&p=0](http://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=872&p=0)

## **Appendix A.**

### **Listed Building Description**

Authority	<b>Isle of Anglesey</b>	Grade	<b>II</b>
Community	<b>Holyhead</b>	Date Listed	<b>7/25/94</b>
Locality		Last Amended	<b>7/25/94</b>
Post Code		Grid Ref	<b>224580 382680</b>
		Record No.	<b>14736</b>

Name **CAERNARFON CASTLE PUBLIC HOUSE, SUMMER HILL**

Formerly Listed As

Street No, Name

Street Side

### **Location**

### **History**

### **Exterior**

At top of Summer Hill facing down towards Stanley Street.

Early C19 public house. Previous building on site associated with William Morris, naturalist, antiquarian, collector of Welsh verse, customs officer at Holyhead, one of the celebrated Morris Brothers of C18 Wales.

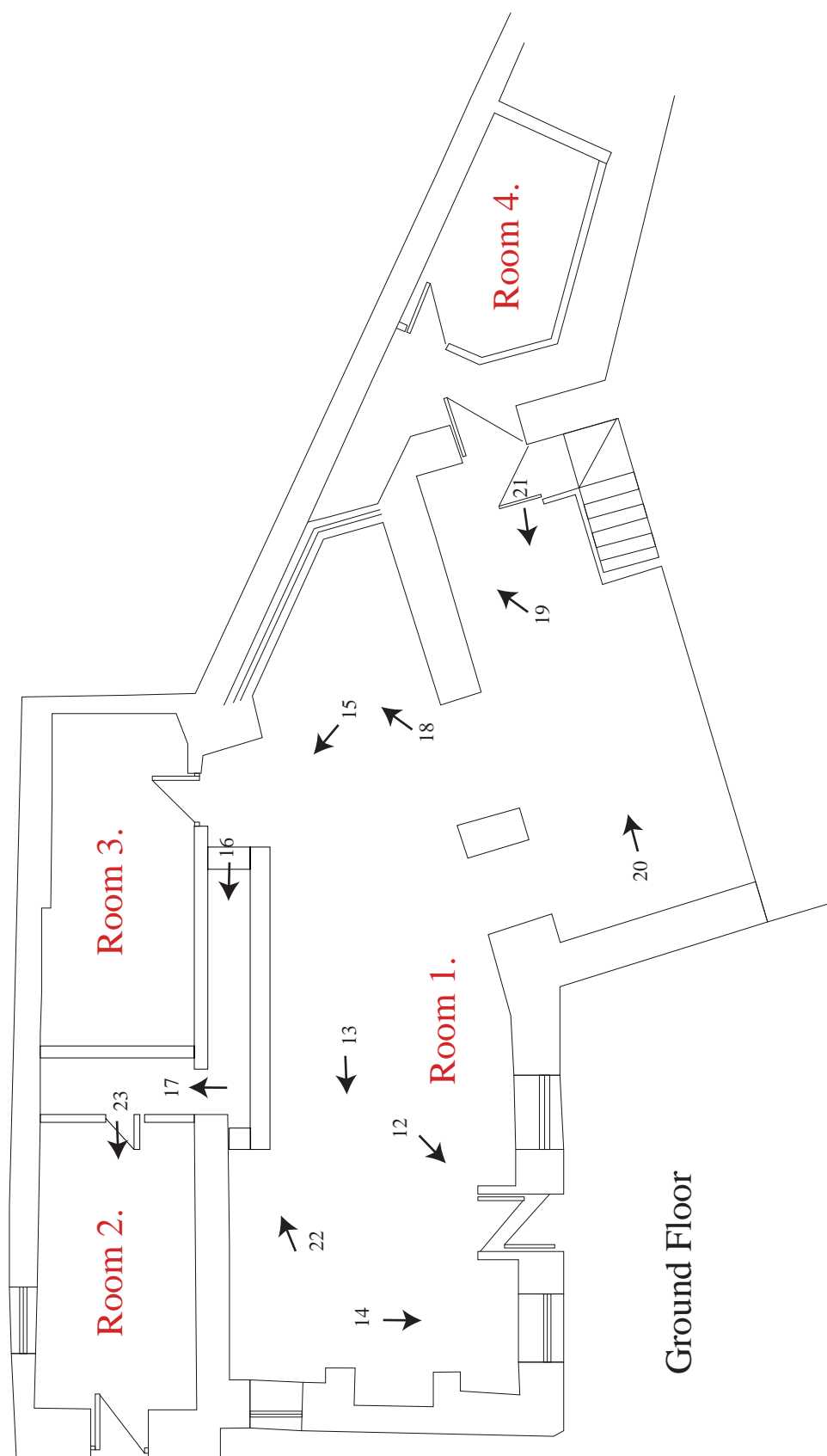
Two storeys plus attic, 2 windows, rendered walls, slate roof, chimney to L. Two dormers with flat roofs, horned sash windows. Other windows have shallow architraves; 4-paned horned sash glazing. Moulded wooden cornice hood on slender columns to doorway; 4-panelled door. Plain gable to L; flat-roofed rear extension with 4-pane horned sash window (first floor), and boarded door.

Included as early C19 building in location closing top of Summer Hill.

### **Interior**

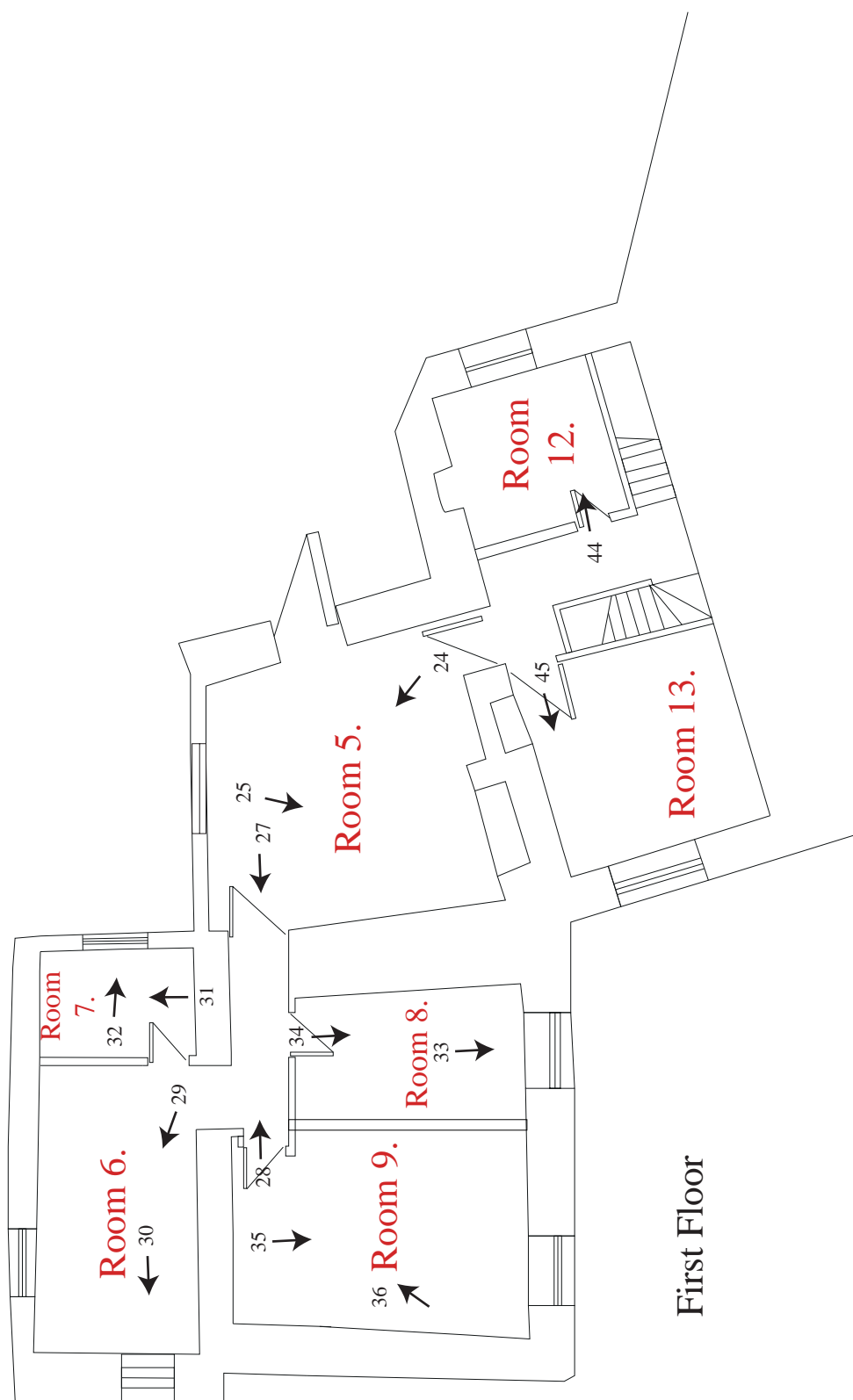
### **Listed**

### **Reference**

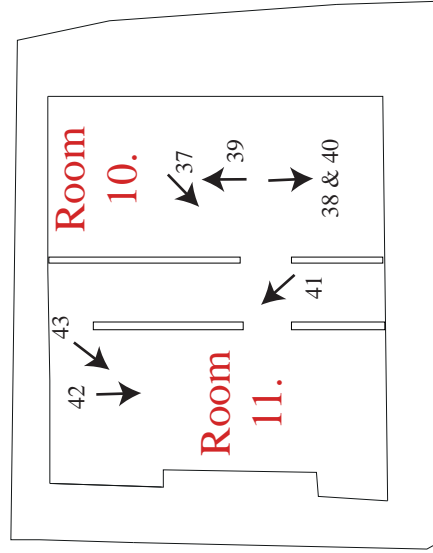


**Appendix B.** Location and Direction of Ground Floor Plates





**Appendix B.** Location and Direction of First Floor Plates



**Appendix B.** Location and Direction of Second Floor (Attic) Plates