

Building Recording & Analysis at 73-75 Market Street, Holyhead

NGR SH 24649 82403



Report Number: CR90-2015



C.R Archaeology

Compiled by C. Rees & M. Jones

On Behalf of Isle of Anglesey County Council

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Results of Building Recording & Analysis at 73-75 Market Street, Holyhead

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Contents

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Project Aims

3.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

3.1 Desk Based Research

3.2 Drawn Survey

3.3 Photographic Survey

3.3.1 Equipment

3.3.2 Timetable for Proposed Works

3.4 Staff

3.5 Monitoring

3.6 Health and Safety

3.7 The Report

3.7.1 Copyright

4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

4.1 Topography

4.2 Geology

5.0 Historical Background

5.1 Early Development – Prehistoric to Medieval Holyhead & Parish

5.2 The Development of the Town of Holyhead – Sixteenth to Late Eighteenth Century

5.3 The Act of Union and Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road 1801 - 1840

5.4 The Arrival of the Railway in Holyhead 1841 - 1900

5.5 Twentieth Century Holyhead

6.0 Results of Archaeological works

6.1 Drawn Record

6.2 Results of Photographic Survey

6.2.1 Building Exterior

6.2.2 Building Interior

6.2.2.1 Basement Level

6.2.2.2 Ground Floor Level

6.2.2.3 First Floor Level

6.2.2.4 Second Floor (Attic) Level

7.0 Conclusion

8.0 Bibliography

Illustrations

- Figure 1.** Site Location Map
- Figure 2.** Holyhead Conservation Area Boundary
- Figure 3.** Section of John Olilby's 1675 Strip Map
- Figure 4.** 1699 Sketch Map of Holyhead
- Figure 5.** Sketch Map of the Town Drawn by Lewis Morris in 1737
- Figure 6.** Lewis Morris Sea Chart 1748
- Figure 7.** 1769 Print of the Market Place, Holyhead
- Figure 8.** Penrhos Estate Map of Holyhead 1769
- Figure 9.** 1802 Harbour Plan
- Figure 10.** 1820 Estate Map Showing Property Belonging to Sir John Stanley
- Figure 11.** The Plan of Holyhead Harbour from Telford's Atlas 1838
- Figure 12.** 1840's Tithe Map of Holyhead
- Figure 13.** 1850 Survey of Land and Property in Holyhead
- Figure 14.** 1871 Census Extract for Market Street
- Figure 15.** 1881 Census Extract for Market Street
- Figure 16.** 1891 Census Extract for Market Street
- Figure 17.** 1888 Ordnance Survey Map Showing Market Street
- Figure 18.** 1890 Ordnance Survey Map Showing Market Street
- Figure 19.** 1900 Ordnance Survey Map Showing Market Street
- Figure 20.** 1901 Census Entry for 73-75 Market Street
- Figure 21.** 1911 Census Entry for 73-75 Market Street
- Figure 22.** 1923 Photograph of the Unveiling of the Holyhead Cenotaph in 1923 Which Shows The Rear of the Building
- Figure 23.** 1924 Ordnance Survey Map Showing Market Street
- Figure 24.** Stead & Simpson Shop c. 1928
- Figure 25.** Stead & Simpson Shop in the Early 1930's
- Figure 26.** Stead & Simpson Shop in the 1960's
- Figure 27.** The Internet Café Occupying the Ground Floor of the Property 2005 - 2010
- Figure 28.** The Internet Café Occupying the Ground Floor of the Property 2005 - 2010
- Figure 29.** The Internet Café Occupying the Ground Floor of the Property 2005 - 2010
- Figure 30.** The Internet Café Occupying the Ground Floor of the Property 2005 - 2010
- Figure 31.** Existing Elevations
- Figure 32.** Existing Basement and Ground Floor Plans
- Figure 33.** Existing First & Second Floor Plans

Appendix A. Location and Direction of Photographic Plates Included in Report

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology were instructed by Isle of Anglesey County Council to conduct an archaeological building recording and analysis at the above property. The building has stood empty since the relocation of The Internet Café to 50 Market Street in 2010 and is currently in a dilapidated state of repair.

The site is situated in an urban setting and is located at 73 - 75 Market Street (SH 24649 82403) in the centre of Holyhead, Anglesey (figure 1). The building is one of the latest additions to this part of Market Street and was built between 1841 and 1850 as a purpose built retail unit with accommodation above. The buildings are not listed but they are recorded on the RCAHMS database as part of NPRN 416088 which includes numbers 71-77 Market Street and records the block as a 19th Century Shopping Precinct. The property is located within the towns designated Conservation Area (www.holyheadforward.com). The extent of the Conservation Area is shown in figure 2.

Of particular interest to the history of Holyhead is that the property was once occupied by Richard Môn Williams, an important member of the eisteddfod committee on Anglesey who was elected as Presiding Druid (Derwydd Gweinyddol) in 1920.

The archaeological works conducted at 73 – 75 Market Street 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 by Purcell Architects.

2.0 Project Aims

The programme of works undertaken at the site aimed to create a Level 3 Historic Building Record of the buildings and to interpret this information in order to assess their historical and architectural significance. This document is to be used to inform further conservation decisions.

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 and a search for entries in historic trade directories which 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 third aim was to interpret this information and present the findings in such a manner as to inform further conservation decisions.

3.0 Scheme of Works - Methodology

The archaeological works 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

The following points are detailed in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2006).

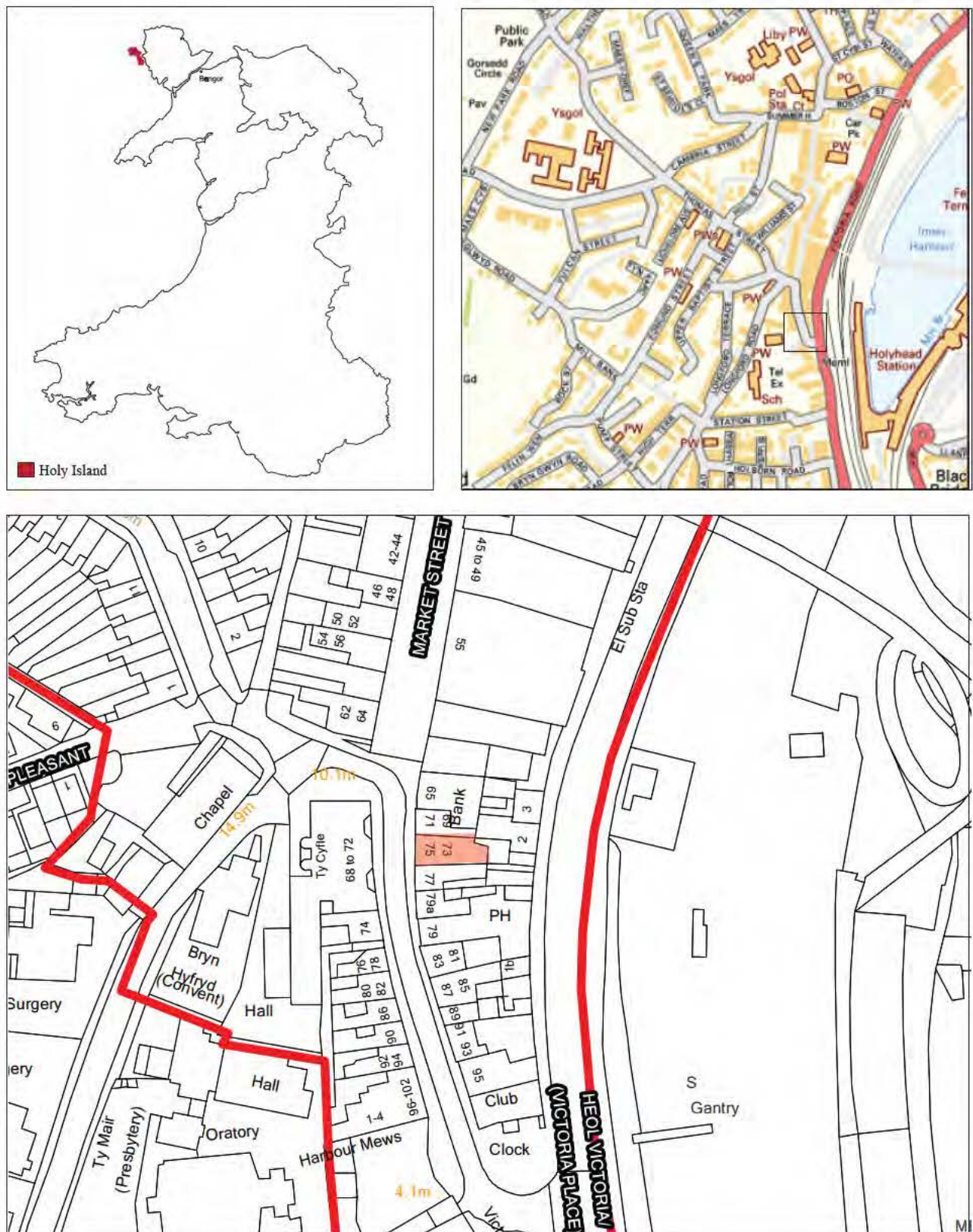


Figure 1. 73 - 75 Market Street Location Map

(Source: OS Open Data Mapping. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2015] & Isle of Anglesey County Council)

Atodiad XIV

Appendix XIV

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

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

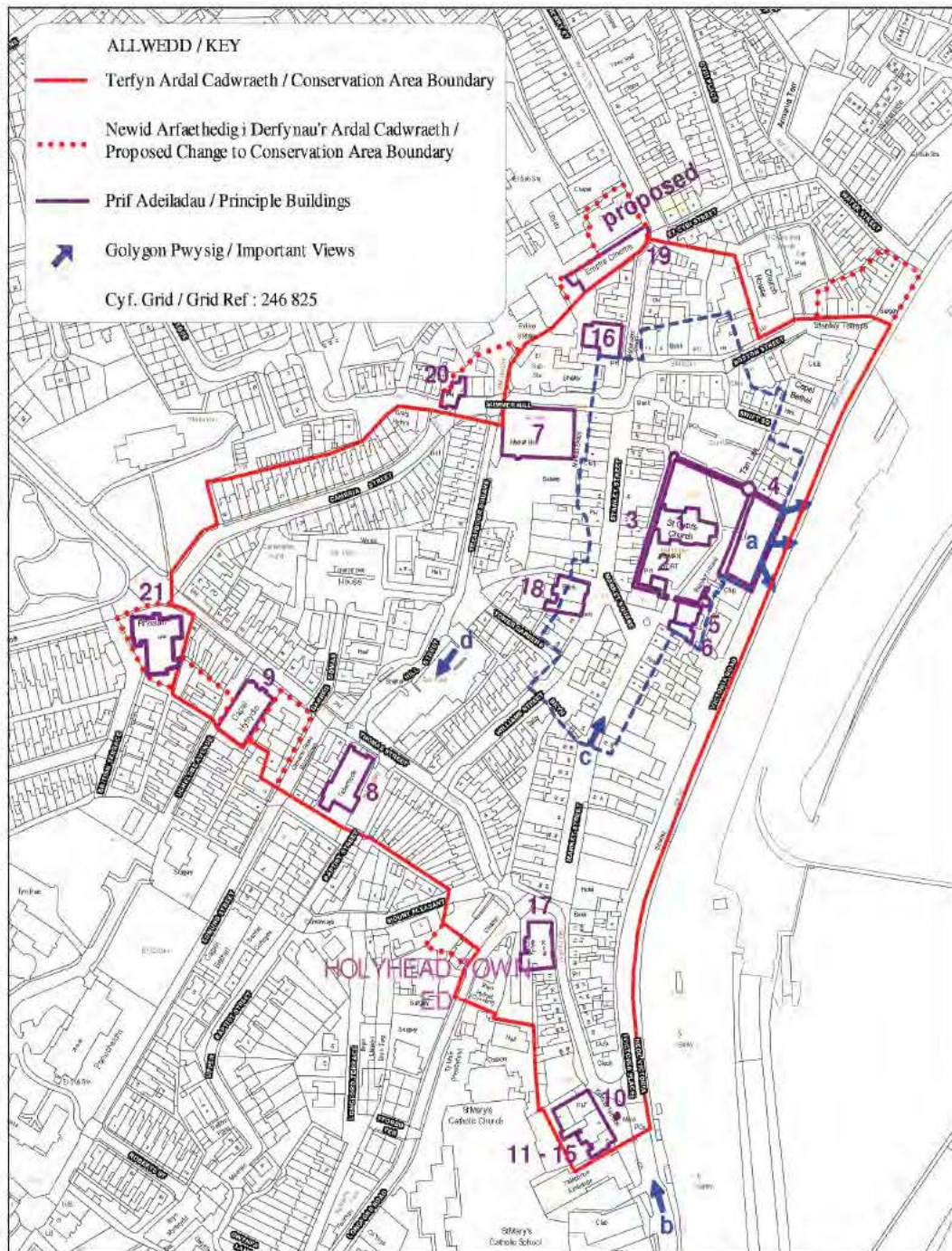


Figure 2. Holyhead Conservation Area Boundary (Source: www.anglesey.gov.uk)

The record created for 73-75 Market Street 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 tithe records, trade directories and census returns. Web resources including the Old Holyhead Facebook page were also utilised.

The works were carried in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 2014) 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

Floor plans and elevations of the site (to scale) were produced by Purcell Architects in 2014. 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.

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 property was undertaken by Catherine Rees of C.R Archaeology on the 26th January 2015. This work consisted of:

- 1) A photographic survey of the building exterior (views of the building rear were limited due to the restricted size of the yard area and the presence of neighbouring structures)
- 2) A photographic survey of the building interior

Certain areas of the building could not be safely accessed. Where this was the case it has been noted in the descriptive/results section.

3.3.1 Equipment

A photographic survey of the building was undertaken using a 14.2 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 73-75 Market Street were conducted on the 26th July 2015. A further 4 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 Catherine Rees.

All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

3.5 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services. A draft copy of the report will be submitted to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services prior to submission of the final report. Hard copies of the report will be lodged with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and at Anglesey Archives, Llangefni. A CD containing the photographic archive and a PDF version of the report will also be submitted to the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

A short article on the findings of the work will be submitted to the Archaeology in Wales Journal.

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 in the text
- 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, RCAHMW 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.

A short article on the findings of the work will be submitted to the Archaeology in Wales Journal.

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.

The copyright for the floor plans/elevations is retained by Purcell Architects.

4.0 Geographical and Geological Context

4.1 Topography

The properties to be recorded are located on Market Street in the commercial centre of Holyhead, a sea port in the north-western part of the Isle of Anglesey.

The site falls within 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).

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).

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).

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).

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 but it does show houses occupying the approximate position of what would later become the upper portion of Market 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.

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



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

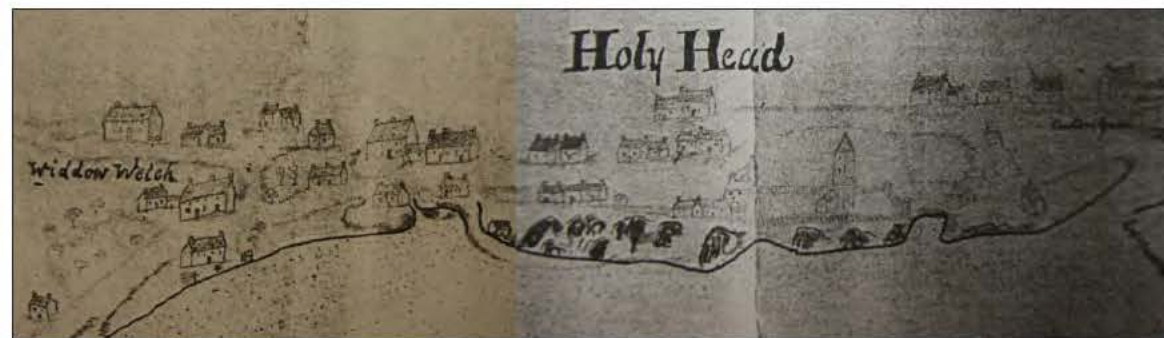


Figure 4 (Above). 1699 Sketch Map of Holyhead (Source: Williams 1950: 65)



Figure 5. 1737 Sketch Map of Holyhead Drawn by Lewis Morris (Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps 53)

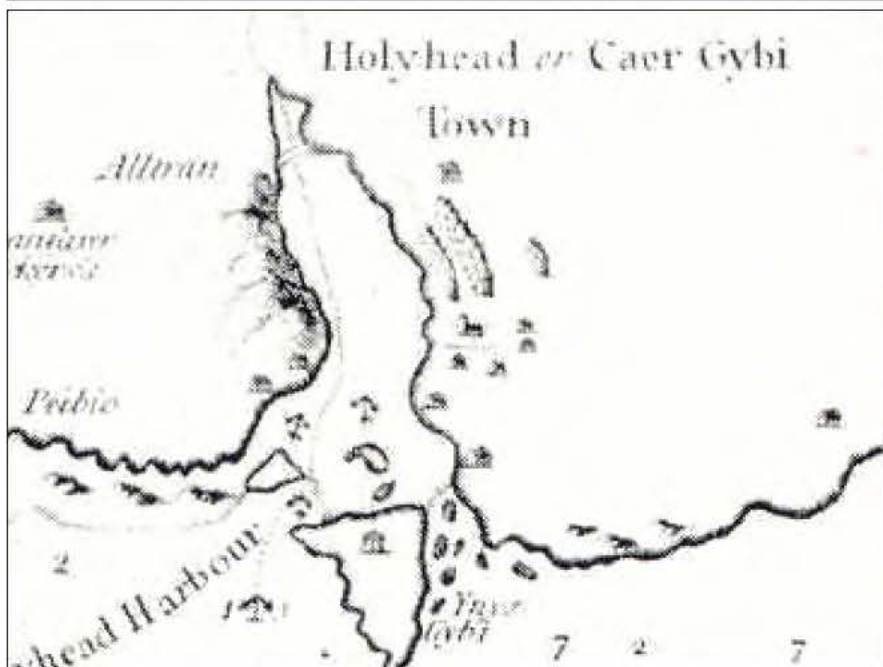


Figure 6. Lewis Morris Sea Chart 1748 (Source: www.anglesey.gov.uk)



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

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).

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).

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 seaward side of the upper portion 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) shows a number of properties have been erected along Market Street, predominantly concentrated on the upper, seaward part of the street. There are individual buildings shown on the opposite side of the street and a few scattered properties have also begun to be built at the lower end of the street. The area now occupied by 73 – 75 Market Street has yet to be developed.



Figure 8. Penrhos Estate Map of Holyhead 1769
(Source: Bangor University Archives Penrhos Manuscripts 772-3)

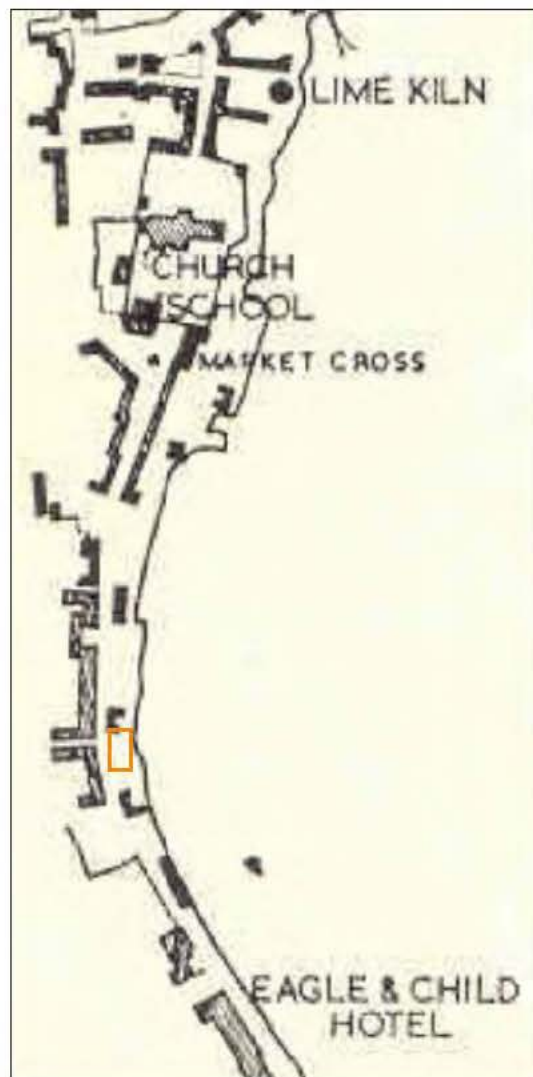


Figure 9. 1802 Harbour Plan
(Source: www.anglesey.gov.uk)



Figure 10. 1820 Estate Map Showing Property Belonging to Sir John Stanley (Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps/52/1)

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 1st 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 the town. A map dated 1802 (figure 9) shows that some further development has taken place on lower Market Street, and a block of buildings can be seen in the approximate location of properties 91 - 95 (The Crown Inn). There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of properties along Market Street and the majority of the gaps in the upper area shown on the 1769 Penrhos Estate Map have been filled. There are no buildings shown at the site now occupied by numbers 73 – 75 Market Street.

Between 1810 and 1824 the government spent £150,000 improving harbour facilities. 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).

An estate map produced for the Stanley family in 1820 (figure 10) shows a continued increase in housing density and the layout of the upper end of Market Street is firmly established. The lower segment of the street is still more fragmentary and many of the gaps between buildings have yet to be in-filled. This document does appear to show that there is a building in the position currently occupied by 73-75 Market Street but this is thought to be the result of inaccuracies in the survey – a point which will be discussed in detail below.

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).

73-75 Market Street is located opposite the Ty Cyfle building, a rather grand structure, which is identifiable on the aforementioned 1802 and 1820 town maps, but the conclusive identification of the study building has proved a little problematic. There are clearly no structures in this location shown on the 1802 Harbour Plan but there are two terrace blocks located either side of the road opposite the Thomas Street junction on the 1820 Stanley Estate map. This would place 73-75 Market Street within the southern block but on examination the buildings on Market Street seem to show inaccuracies in the mapping. The northern terrace is formed of three uniform buildings which on the ground can be identified as the current Superdrug, Anglesey Communities First and Barclays Bank. The southern block is identified as Snips Hair Design, Jayne's Boutique and the 79 Public House. This reveals that 73-75 Market Street and the neighbouring Belsey House are later infilling and therefore the interpretation of the 1820 map is that the gap shown between the two terraces is the location of the study building and Belsey House. Architecturally this is consistent with an examination of the street with there being a strong similarity between the infilling of the aforementioned blocks and that between the Crown Inn block and 79 Public House, particularly the detailing around the first floor windows and the dormer windows.

A plan of the harbour and town produced as part of Telford's scheme in 1838 (figure 11) shows little overall change from the 1820 estate map although some additional properties have been built to fill the gap between the Crown Inn block and the 79 Public House. This map does however present a challenge to interpretation as the terrace to the north of the Thomas Street opening is not shown. The 1841 Tithe of Holyhead (figure 12) shows this block once more and stylistically the block is of a late Eighteenth – early Nineteenth century appearance. It is therefore felt that this area of the town is not accurately portrayed on the 1838 document and that 73 – 75 Market Street is not 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 12) in 1841. The main street outline as surviving today is largely established by this time although there was continued infilling within the street layout into the early twentieth century (Rowlands 1989: 16).

As mentioned above the Tithe Map shows a gap between the terraces opposite Ty Cyfle which can also be seen on the 1820 Stanley Estate Map. This map does show the gap as directly opposite the building and this map is the latest edition sourced which does not show 73 – 75 Market Street and it is therefore concluded that the property and the neighbouring Belsey House were erected sometime

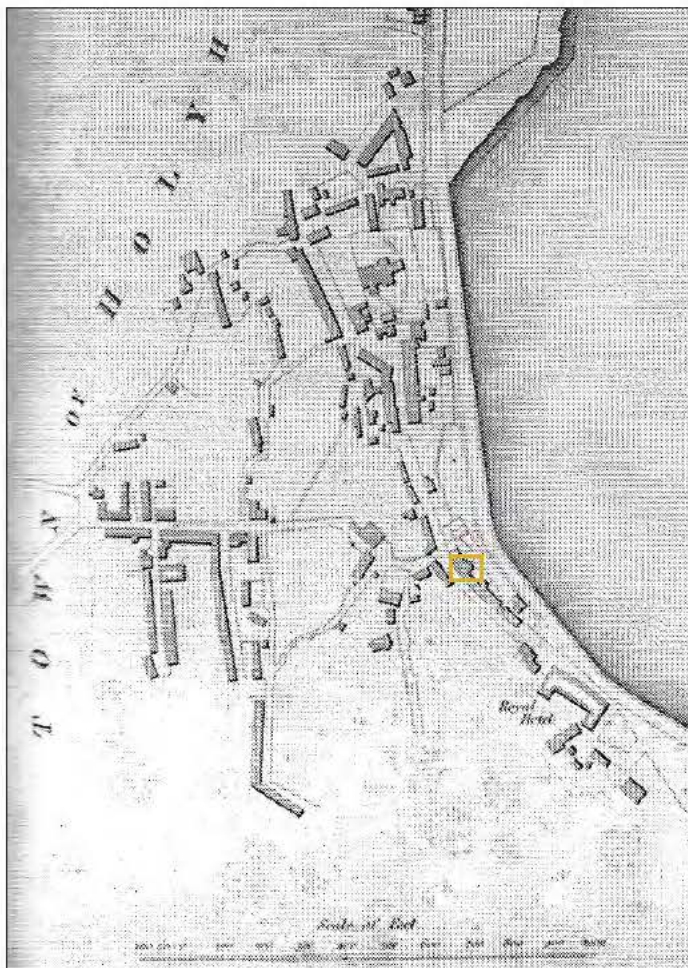


Figure 11. The Plan of Holyhead Harbour from Telford's Atlas 1838 (Source: Quartermaine, Trinder & Turner 2003: 111)



Figure 12. 1840's Tithe Map of Holyhead (Source: Anglesey Archives WMaps/53)



Figure 13. 1850 Survey of Land and Property in Holyhead (Source: Bangor University Archives Lligwy Papers 215)

between 1841 and 1850 when both properties can be seen on an 1850 Lligwy Estate Map (figure 13). An examination of the ground plan of the building would confirm this, with the property occupying a slightly tapered plot where it has had to fit between the two neighbouring structures. This would show that although Belsey House and 73 – 75 Market Street are broadly contemporary, 73 – 75 was built slightly later and was the last structure to be added to this part of Market Street.

Although only the street name and not the property number is listed, the 1850 Slater's Directory for North Wales allows us to gain information as to the general character of the properties on Market Street at this time. As would be implied by the name, Market Street is a centre for commerce and there are numerous businesses listed as trading on the street. These include a number of inns or taverns, saddlers and boot makers, grocers and provisions dealers along with flour merchants and tin plate workers. The number of shops on Market Street would indicate that new properties built at this time in this retail centre would more than likely have been purpose built with shop frontages at street level and living quarters above and this is believed to be the case with 73 – 75 Market Street.

It was not possible to identify the property on the 1851 or 1861 census as there are no addresses or property names included on the survey data although as with the information included in the Slater's Directory this is clearly a commercial area with a similar range of occupations recorded as those discussed above.

The period from the 1840's through to the 1860's was a boom time for Holyhead and this prosperity continued throughout the late nineteenth century. The focus of the towns 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). The lower end of Market Street is developed and there is a tremendous increase in workers housing.

The first occupant and use for the property is shown on the 1871 Census (figure 14), and in this instance the property was located through its relative position to the Cambrian Vaults and Queens Head public houses. The shop is a grocers occupied by Catherine Jones (a widow), her two sons Owen and Evan, a domestic servant (Margaret Roberts) and Thomas Davies, a boarder.

It is unclear as to when Catherine and family first moved into the property although she is not listed in the 1861 census or the 1868 Slater's Directory. There is one male Jones listed as a grocer on Market Street and it is a possibility that this was her spouse but it is not possible to verify this information. She is listed in the 1871 edition of Worrall's Directory as a "*Greengrocers & Fruiterers*". She remains at the property for at least a further 12 years and is recorded in the 1881 Census as a grocer and provision dealer (figure 15) with her younger son Evan is working with her as a shopman, and in the 1883 Slater's Directory she is listed in the "*Shopkeepers & Dealers in Groceries & Sundries*" section.

A examination of the trades listed in the census' and trade directories for this period continues to show that Market Street is a centre for shopping with grocers and provision stockists well represented. The town is still thriving during this period and 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,*

43	41	do	1	Catherine Jones	Head	W.	49	Crover	do ; Manufacture
				Oran do	Son	Wm.	19	Railway Clerk	do ; Holyhead
				Erin do	do		9	Scholar	do ; do
				Margaret Roberts	Servant	Wm.	14	General Servant Domestic	do ; Bodelern
				Thomas Davies	Boiler	Wm.	26	Mason	do ; Bodelern

Figure 14. 1871 Census Extract for Market Street

190	Market St	1	Catherine Jones	Head	W.	59	Crover & Provision Dealer	Do Manufacture
			Erin O. Jones	Son	Wm.	19	Shopman	Do Holyhead
			William R. Jones	Grandson		8	Scholar	Do do
			John O. Jones	Nephew		14	Labourer	Do Manufacture

Figure 15. 1881 Census Extract for Market Street

194	50 Market	1	Richard Williams	Head	Single	40	Shackleshire Dealer	Wm.
			Jackson Williams	Sister	Single	23	Housekeeper	Wm.
			Thomas Williams	Brother	Single	28	Assistant	Wm.

Figure 16. 1891 Census Extract for Market Street

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. 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).

By 1889 Catherine Jones and her family have moved on from Market Street and it is taken over by Richard Môn Williams who was to run the property initially as a saddler's and shoe shop, and later as the use of horses declined, a boot dealership until 1927 when the property was taken over by Stead & Simpsons shoe shop. This information was recorded in the 1889-1890 Sutton's Directory which records Williams as a boot maker. Figure 16 shows the 1891 census entry for Richard Williams recording him occupying the property along with his sister and brother. The saddler element of the work carried out by Williams has ceased to be advertised as a service by 1899 when the Bennett's Business Directory entry records that R. M Williams has a boot warehouse on Market Street.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries provide a number of visual sources which greatly enhance the record of the property at this time. Ordnance Survey produced their first map of the area in 1888 (figure 17) which shows the property in detail for the first time. This map is of particular interest as it shows the small building to the rear of the property although there is no reason to believe that this is a later addition rather than an original feature.

Anglesey Archives hold two further Ordnance Survey editions from this period – a first edition dated 1890 (figure 18), a second edition in 1900 (figure 19). These maps show the urban density reached in the centre of Holyhead by this time remains largely unchanged. No changes to the property are noted within the map progression.



Figure 17. 1888 Ordnance Survey Map
Showing Market Street

Figure 18. 1890 Ordnance Survey Map
Showing Market Street

Figure 19. 1900 Ordnance Survey Map
Showing Market Street

5.5 Twentieth Century Holyhead

Following this date there were two further census' produced – the first in 1901 (figure 20) and the second in 1911 (figure 21). The 1911 census is the most recent census document which is publicly accessible. As mentioned above Richard Môn Williams occupies the property until 1927 and this is shown through the census and trade directory entries. The census provides us with additional information about the property and its occupants and we can see from the 1901 census that Richard has married, and now occupies the property with his new wife Jane and a domestic servant, Catherine Hughes. From the data contained within the 1911 census we can date this union to 1897 and we can see that there is a different domestic servant, Elizabeth Jane Roberts, living with the Williams'. The 1901 census entry names the building for the first time and it is called “Leicester House”. This name is also used in the 1911 census. It is not known whether, as with many other properties on Market Street, this name was once prominently displayed on the front of the building.

The trade directory entries show that this shop remains as a boot shop and entries which record it as a boot and shoe maker were found in the 1910 Bennett's Directory, 1911 MacDonalds English Directory & Gazetteer and the 1917 – 1927 editions of the Wales Trades Directory. These trade directories allow the close dating of when Williams leaves 73 Market Street as the entry for 1928 records that Stead & Simpsons, a chain store shoe retailer has taken on the shop and it is one of at least two properties which it was trading from at this time, with another located on Old Market Place.

We are able to gain a little further information about Richard Williams from records held in the Anglesey County Archives, Llangefni. The first piece of evidence is in the form of an oral history transcript in which G. Evans mentions cobblers and boot makers in the 1930's. They also recall Williams, which was a little earlier than this, the comments are as follows “there was Armon Williams, where the first Stead and Simpson's is now, Armon he was a big eisteddfodwr; and of course the Armon was the bardic name he had, and he had a bootshop, and I think he used to do repairs” (Llangefni Archives WM/T/36/25). It is thought that the Armon is likely to be a misremembering of R. Môn but following up on the eisteddfod connection a number of sources were found which detailed his important involvement within the movement.

The North Wales Chronicle dated June 5th 1914 records how R. Môn Williams was called upon to act as Alderman at the Holyhead Eisteddfod and to conduct the proceedings when illness forced the absence of his predecessor. An online article celebrating the centenary of the the Eisteddfod in Anglesey written in 2007 further details the importance of Williams and states that “*At Llannerch-y-Medd in 1920 it was decided to establish Gorsedd Beirdd Ynys Môn, with R Mon Williams, Holyhead, elected as Presiding Druid (Derwydd Gweinyddol)*” (www.thefreelibrary.com). Anglesey Archives also hold a set of newspaper cuttings which report further details of his role (Llangefni Archives WM/1897/3). Williams is buried in St Seiriol's churchyard along with his wife Jane and his stepson Captain G G Roberts (A. L Jones, Old Holyhead Facebook comment).

There is a single photograph of the property which was sourced for the time when it was occupied by Williams, but unfortunately it is of the rear rather than the front of the building. It was taken in 1923 during the unveiling of the Holyhead Cenotaph. The photograph (figure 22) shows the rear bay window. A third edition of the Ordnance Survey Map for Holyhead was produced in 1924 (figure 23) which shows no changes to the building.

The twentieth century was less kind to Holyhead than the nineteenth and following the First World War it must be seen as a time of great decline and hardship for Holyhead and its inhabitants. This decline was to begin in the 1920's when 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 town's 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 its greatest strength. In fact as events turned out the fact that Holyhead was a one company town was its greatest weakness in the 1930's*" (1989: 29-30).

As mentioned above Williams had left the property by the recession of the 1930's when it was taken over by the chain shoe store Stead & Simpsons. The recession 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 town's 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 its late nineteenth century heyday (Rowlands 1989: 25 – 34).

It is not clear as to why the Stead & Simpson's branch came through this time relatively unscathed, but trade directories of the era show that they had two branches in Holyhead at this time. It is possible that their success was down to the lower cost, mass produced product that was sold. The shop was successful to the extent that they were actually able to have the surplus monies to remodel the shop frontage in the early 1930's.

Figure 24 (source: Anglesey Archives WM1783/4) shows the shop just after it was taken over by the company, and with the exception of new signage appears to be the of original Victorian design. The entrance to the shop is located to the northern side and the wooden fascia (just visible) has been painted in a relatively small size with a simple font. There is a lobby on entering the building and the design exploits the advances in glass making of the era, with new techniques in the 1830's making it possible to produce large panes of glass and the lifting of the Glass tax in 1845 making them more affordable for commercial usage (Historic Scotland 2010:4). The design scheme is relatively plain with a glass tile stallraiser to allow light into the basement work room and a simple sub-classical style to the wooden door surround, pilaster and capital.



Figure 24 (Top). Stead & Simpson Shop c. 1928
Figure 25 (Centre). Stead & Simpson Shop in the Early 1930's
Figure 26 (Bottom). Stead & Simpson Shop in the 1960's

The changes to the shop frontage in the early 1930's are very much in-keeping with the general trends in shopfront design of the inter-war period. As can be seen from figure 25 (source: Anglesey Archives WM1783/5) the entrance to the shop has been moved to the centre and a wide funnel design draws shoppers into the shop, with the arcaded design allowing a much larger area within which products could be displayed. This was possible due to significant improvements in indoor electrical lighting which allowed doors to be heavily recessed to accommodate additional viewing areas as they were no longer as reliant on natural light. The large shop windows have art deco inspired slim structural columns of cast iron, and a geometric pattern can just be glimpsed in the tiles in the entrance lobby. The tiled stallraiser has been replaced with a sleek polished granite or similar stone, and cast iron light and/or air vents to the basement have been added. The Stead & Simpson sign is much more prominent and now reaches down to cover the pilaster capital and appears to tilt forward. To the rear of the shop display glass tiles have been used to allow light into the shop although it is not possible to identify whether these were coloured or not.

On the rear of photograph WM1783/5 the individuals shown in the photograph are listed. From left to right stand Tommy Griffith, Miss Evans (1st sales), D.J Roberts (manager), Eric Higgins, Miss Bethy Hughes and to the right Ted Humphries (errand boy). D.J Roberts and Miss Evans also appear in the previous photograph.

By the 1960's (figure 26 – source Old Holyhead Facebook page) the shop front had once more been updated. This photograph shows the full front elevation of the building for the first time and the original sash windows can be seen. The oriel window at first floor level can be seen to match the window at the rear of the building, and the presence of window horns, the size of the glass panels and the glazing bars would be indicative of a date of around the middle of the nineteenth century and were therefore presumably the original windows.

This photograph also shows the cornice above the fascia board and it appears that it is an integrated element with the pilasters and capitals shown in figure 24 and are an element of the earlier Victorian shopfront. The fascia board has been updated to reflect more modern tastes and a three dimensional signage of glass or UPVC has been added. Although the door position has remained in the central area of the shop, it appears that the tapering arcade has been lost as can be seen when one compares the single fortuitously located pedestrian with the five shop workers standing abreast in the previous photograph. At least one of the cast iron glazing supports has however survived as have the stone stallrisers.

As is often the case there is less information available for the later periods of the premises history and it is not clear as to whether when Stead & Simpson took over the retail element of the building they also took ownership of the upstairs living area. It is also unclear as to exactly how long Mr Roberts remained as the manager of the store.

What has however been possible thanks to the users and administrators of the Old Holyhead Facebook site is to put forward a basic outline for the more recent history of 73 – 75 Market Street. Stead & Simpson ceased to trade from the property in the late 1970's or early 1980's and it was taken over for a time by Iona Gahni and her husband who ran a clothes shop, and following their departure it appears that it was taken over by a Hughes & son who ran a hardware store and undertakers.

The shop portion of the property was in use as an internet café (named The Internet Café) from 2005 to 2010 when it moved to 50 Market Street, and where it continues to thrive today. Many thanks to the proprietors for all their help and for allowing us to use their photographs of the premises that were taken at this time (see figures 27 - 30). They were also able to tell us that prior to them taking over the shop it was a baby clothing store.



Figures 27 - 30. The Internet Cafe Occupying the Ground Floor of the Property 2005 - 2010

It is unclear as to when the windows in the front elevation of the building were replaced and the oriel window removed but judging by the UPVC double glazing it was presumably sometime in the 1980's or 1990's. Further modifications to the building interior are likely to be contemporary with these changes and will be discussed in the results section. Following the completion of the archaeological building recording the property is to be renovated and it will be returned to its intended use with a retail outlet at ground floor level and living accommodation on the first and second floor.

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works

A site visit to 73 - 75, Market Street was conducted on 26th January 2015. The property has undergone a number of changes since it was built in the mid nineteenth century, including the remodelling of the shop frontage on at least four occasions, the removal of an oriel window at first floor level and the replacement of all original windows in the front elevation with modern UPVC double glazing. The building is currently empty and although the majority of original/historic interior features have been removed from the ground floor level there is a reasonable level of survival on other floors – particularly in the basement.

A photographic survey was made of all accessible interior and exterior spaces and surviving original/ early interior and exterior features will be discussed by floor level.

6.1 Drawn Record

Architects drawings (plans and elevations) of the site were produced by Purcell Architects in 2014. 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.

These drawings are included as figures 31 - 33.

6.2 Results of Photographic Survey (Plates 1 - 86)

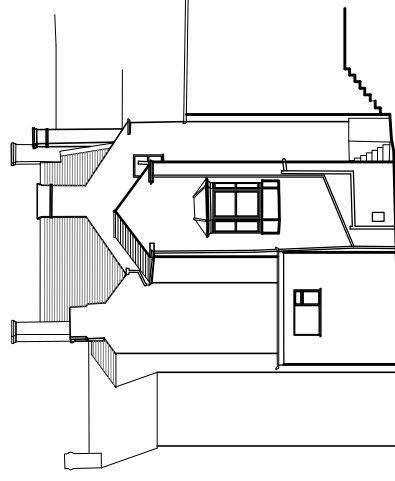
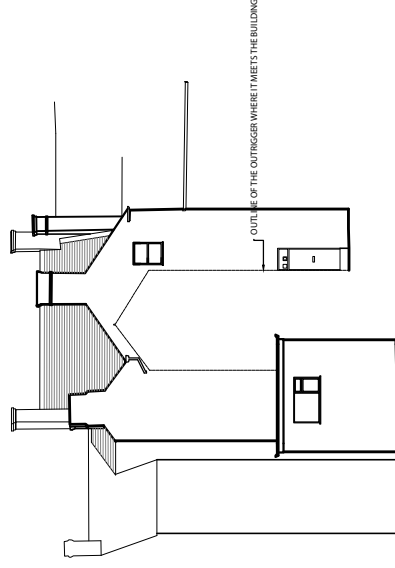
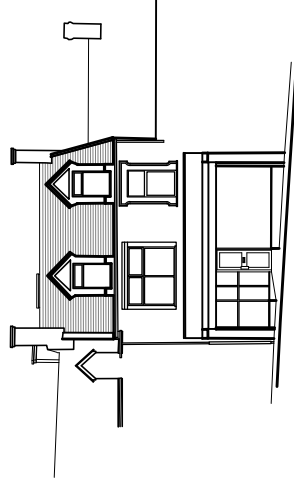
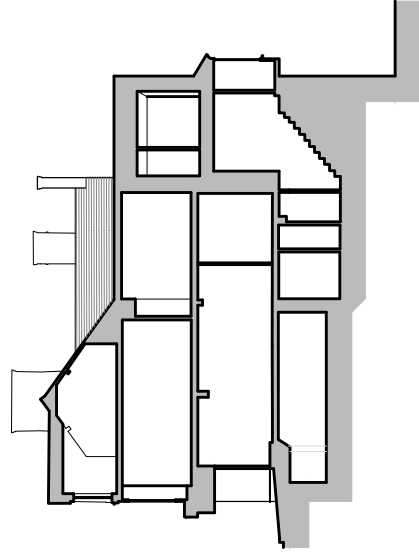
A comprehensive photographic survey was conducted and the full photographic archive has been included in TIFF format on an accompanying disc at the back of this report. These photographs are subdivided by interior and exterior and internally by floor. Relevant photographs are incorporated into the main text as numbered plates and the positions of these are marked in appendix a.

6.2.1 Building Exterior (Plates 1 – 16 & Figure 31)

The front elevation of the building was photographed with a 2m photographic scale from a variety of positions creating a comprehensive record of the structure and placing the building in its local setting – it must however be noted that this work was limited by roadworks on Market Street. The wide range of property roof lines and architectural details evidence the piecemeal development of Market Street.

Due to the confined size and shape of the building plot occupied by 73 – 75 Market Street the building has a slightly off-square ground plan. It is possible that the rear of the building is a later addition but given the similarity between the oriel window in this elevation and that in the front shown on historic photographs it is believed that the whole build is broadly if not entirely contemporary. This is corroborated by the cartographic evidence which shows that the rear is of the current configuration within 40 years of the building's erection.

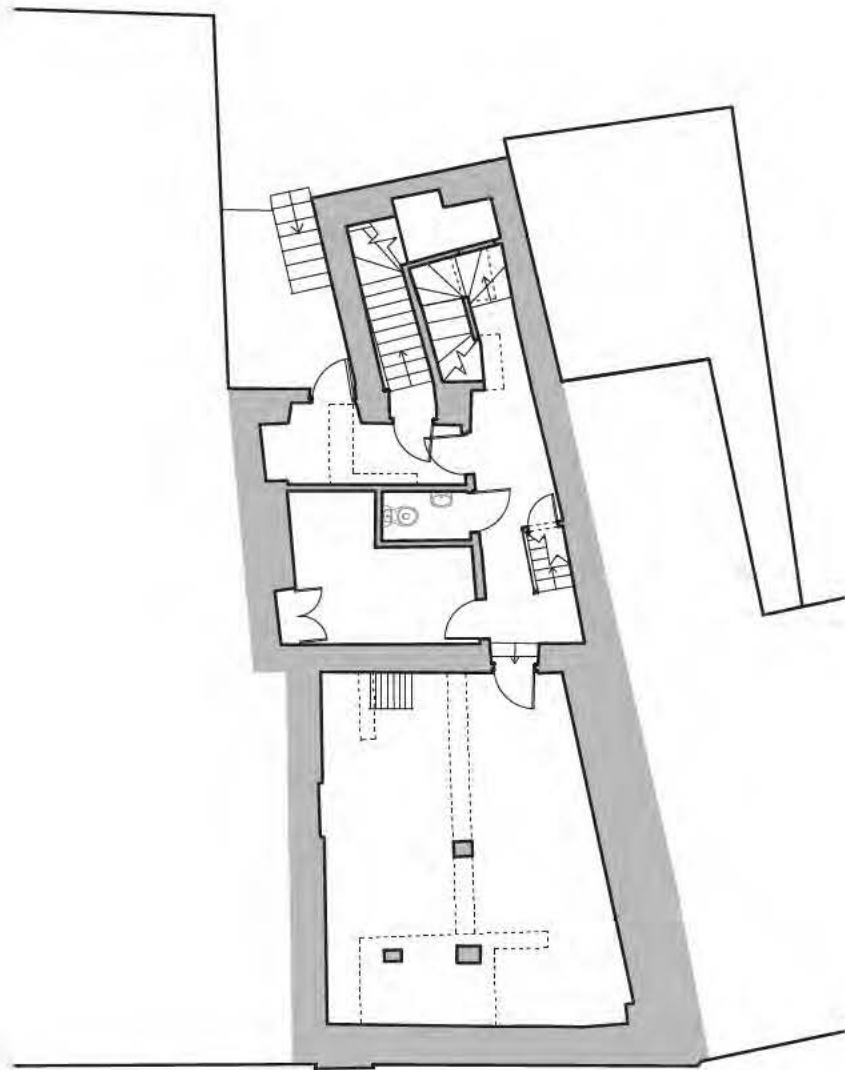
The building design is somewhat vernacular in style and the façade can be seen to have taken strong inspiration from neighbouring, slightly earlier structures. It contains hints of the modest sub-classical style which had developed to become the dominant architectural expression in the town (Haslam et al 2009: 127).



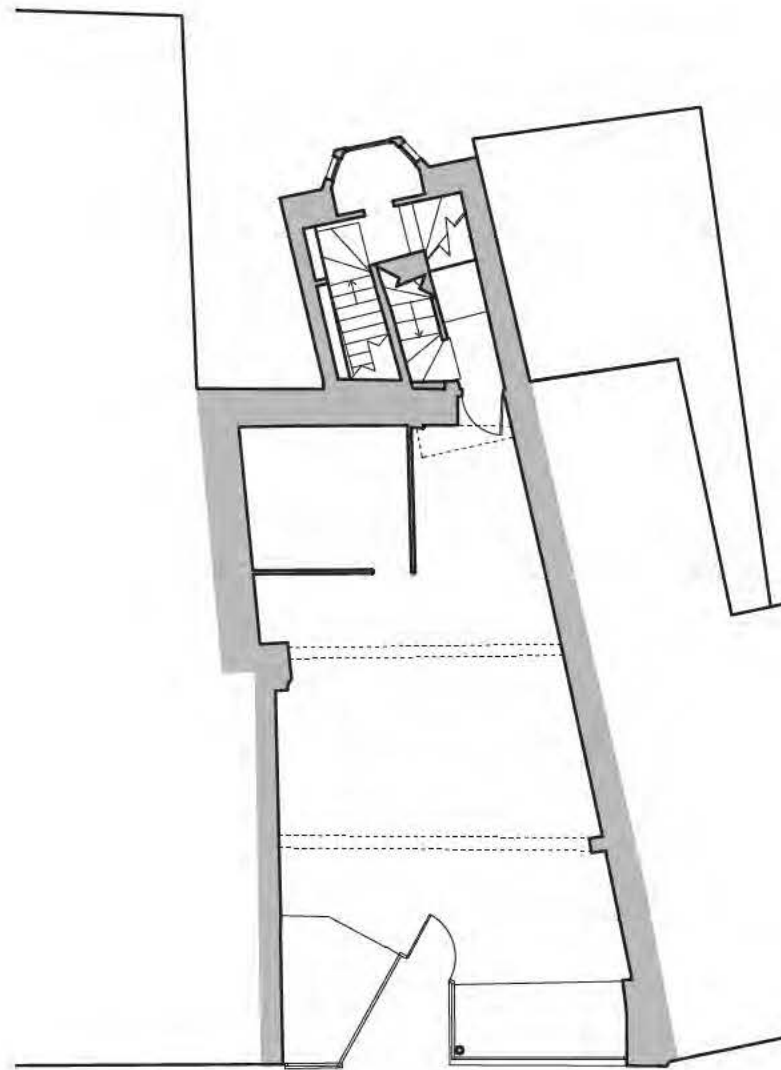
<p>Notes:</p> <p>Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent what is physically present.</p> <p>Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work.</p> <p>All dimensions are in millimeters unless noted otherwise.</p> <p>Purcell shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.</p> <p>Key Plan not to scale</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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ISSUE	DATE	ISSUED	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION
First Issue 15/02/12		SAWEN		
CLIENT			Mark Blackwell	
PROJECT			73-75 Market St, Holyhead	
DRAWING TITLE			Elevations and Section as Existing	
SCALE			A1/L 1:100	
DRAWING STATUS			WORK IN PROGRESS	

JOB NUMBER	235849
DRAWING NO.	110
REVISION	-



1 BASEMENT FLOOR
102 1:100



2 GROUND FLOOR
102 1:100

MARKET STREET




<p>Notes:</p> <p>Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent what is physically present.</p> <p>Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work.</p> <p>All dimensions are in millimeters unless noted otherwise.</p> <p>Parcel shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.</p>				
<p>Key Plan:</p> <p>not to scale</p> 				
<p>First Issue: 06/11/2014</p>				
ISSUE	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION
CLIENT		Mark Badoell		
PROJECT		73-75 Market Street, Holyhead		
DRAWING TITLE		Existing Basement and Ground Floor Plan		
SIZE & SCALE		AS1	1:100	
DRAWING STATUS		WORK IN PROGRESS		
JOB NUMBER		235849		
DRAWING NO.		102		
REVISION				

Figure 32. Existing Basement and Ground Floor Plans



Plate 1. 73 - 75 Market
Street Front Elevation
Inset. Finial Detail

Plate 2. Front Elevation
Existing Shop frontage -
Modern Addition



Plate 3. Detailing Around
First Floor Window

Plate 4. Front Elevation
First and Attic Floor
Levels. Modern Windows
In Original Openings



Plate 5. 73 - 75 Market Street and Neighbouring Belsey House



Plate 6. 73 - 75 Market Street and Neighbouring Belsey House



Plate 7. 73 - 75 Market Street and Southern Property



Plate 8. 73 - 75 Market Street and Southern Property

The roof of the street-side of the building had a pitched roof which was met by a similar pitched roof set at 90 degrees to the rear. There are two pitched roofs on the dormer windows on the front elevation. All the roofs were slate covered and it is almost certain that this material was locally sourced from one of the many quarries in north-west Wales. The front elevation has been modified since the building was erected in the late 1840's although the basic arrangement with a shop front at ground floor level, and two window openings at first and second floor levels has been retained.

The front elevation has a smooth plaster render and this is likely to be the original finish. Like the surrounding buildings, 73 – 75 Market Street is schist built and this material was not seen as a desirable to have been on view.

The ground floor of the front elevation contained no details related to the earlier building phases and the light wells to the basement level were no longer in evidence. An examination of historic photographs show that the door position has been changed from its original position and the existing shop front is a modern incarnation.

More of the original architectural details survive on the first floor of the building and the positions of the two windows are preserved although the windows are modern double glazed replacements. The northern, larger opening can be seen from historic photographs to have once housed an oriel window. The details of the surround of the southern window are an original feature and this element is a recurrent design motif and is found on a number of other properties around this area of Market Street.

The second floor or attic area also has the original dormer window openings, but again with modern replacement windows. The roof finials which top each of the projecting dormer windows are an attractive original detail. Each is a decorative cast iron which appears to be based around a stylised fleur de lis design.

Due to the confined space at the rear of the building it was difficult to photograph, particularly with scales and therefore the scope of these images is somewhat limited. The exterior of the rear is rendered using concrete which is a modern addition and having examined the window openings from the interior of the building there is a blocked sash window at basement level below the oriel window. Unfortunately it was not possible to examine some of the windows from either inside or outside the building due to access difficulties. The concrete render has also obscured the join between the the street fronted building range and a possible rear extension so it is not possible to determine with certainty whether this is a slightly later addition or a single phase building.

Visible in the rear elevation are the prominent oriel window at ground floor level and a doorway (housing a modern door) which leads into the ground floor level of the building. It is accessed via a set of slate capped steps. Above this doorway at the first floor level is a small window which could not be photographed due to the restricted space.

The oriel window is located in the east-west (possible extension) range of the building at ground floor level (it must however be noted that due to the difference in ground level between the front and rear of the building that the actual ground level at the rear is the basement). The window is of a type which is in-keeping with the build date of the property with the large glass panes and narrow glazing bars in the sash windows. The window has a splayed, three sided projection with a sloping leaded roof.



Plate 9. Rear of 73 - 75 Market Street and Neighbouring Property

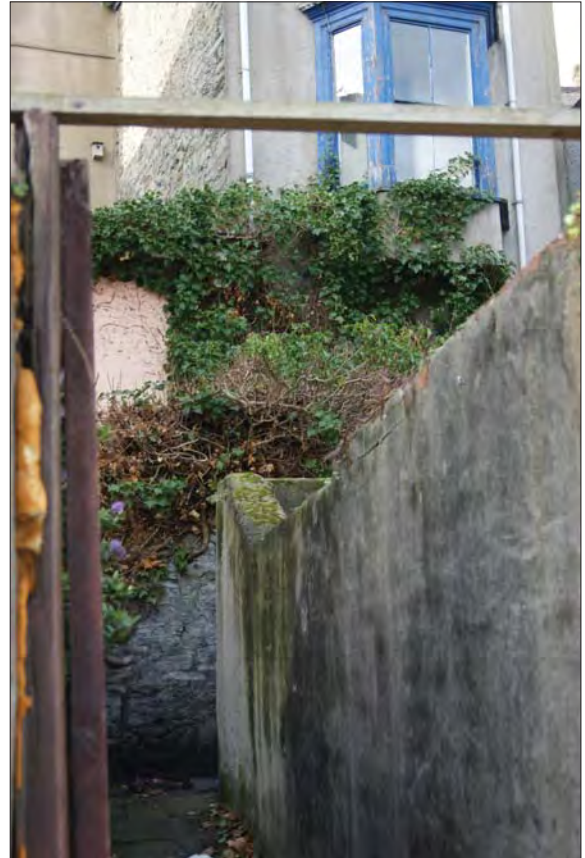


Plate 10. Rear Passageway Leading to 73 - 75 Market Street



Plate 11. Rear of 73 - 75 Market Street and Neighbouring Property



Plate 12. Detailed Shot of Original Oriel Window at Rear of Property



Plate 13. Extension at Rear of Property
Believed to Belong to Neighbouring Building



Plate 14. Doorway to Rear of Property



Plate 15. Slate Steps to Rear of Property



Plate 16. Extension at Rear of Property
Believed to Belong to Neighbouring Building

The rear door to the property is a modern replacement and it is unclear as to the precise antiquity of the steps but they are likely to be original. Given the remodelling of the interior it is perfectly plausible that this entrance has been altered although no indication as to this having been the case.

6.2.2 Building Interior (Plates 17 - 86)

The building interior will be discussed by floor, beginning at the basement level and working upwards. Where possible floor levels will be further subdivided by room although it must be noted that some of the internal divisions are modern.

6.2.2.1 Basement Level (Plates 17 – 37 & Figure 32)

The current layout of the basement of the property shows three individual rooms. The current room divisions have been subject to some modification, particularly at the rear of the property. Room 1 has remained unaltered from the original design, and room 2 has had a modern stud wall inserted to allow for the addition of a toilet (room 3).

It is my belief that the stairway at the rear of the property is an entirely modern construction and has been added to allow for the complete separation of the flat, which occupies the first and second floor, from the shop premises on the basement and first floor. The modern stairway is a somewhat misjudged addition and little attempt has been made to allow for existing architectural features. An original sash window at the basement level has simply been blocked up from the outside and the addition of stud walls has rendered a great deal of the space around the stairs unusable.

It is thought that the area now occupied by the stairs would have originally been separate rooms, possibly as a stores, workroom or servants quarters at basement level.

There are two original sets of stairs which lead up to the first floor level – one in room 1 which led directly into the shop and one in the corridor which allowed access to the private living accommodation. Both have been blocked off but neither has been removed.

Room 1 (Plates 17 - 27)

Room 1 is located beneath the main shop floor area at the front of the building. This room has survived remarkably intact and a number of interesting features have been noted. The room had been clad with pitch pine and the original pine door was also surviving. Of interest is graffiti on the rear of the door (facing into the room) dated to the 1940's during the Second World War and it would be interesting to investigate whether the names are of shop workers or whether the cellar was used as an air raid shelter at any time.

Although the original stairs from the basement into the shop floor had been blocked they had not been removed and are shown in plates 17 – 20. In contrast to those in the area of the building for habitation they are a very simple, entirely functional design with integrated shelving. The angle of these stairs is much steeper than the other examples.

Where the cladding had been removed it was possible to see the schist construction of the building.

There was a damaged wooden work bench (figures 24 – 27) found in the cellar room which appeared to be of Victorian date and there were deep cut marks on the bench top. It is quite likely that this bench was part of the furniture used by R. Williams when this would have been a workshop for boot and shoe repairs.



Plate 17. Basement Room of 73 - 75 Market Street



Plate 18. Stairway from Basement to Shop Floor



Plate 19. Basement Room of 73 - 75 Market Street Showing Wooden Panelling, Stairway & Original Door



Plate 20. Basement Room of 73 - 75 Market Street Showing Wooden Panelling, Stairway & Original Door



Plate 21. Door With 1940's Graffiti



Plate 22. Basement Room of 73 - 75 Market Street Showing Wooden Panelling

**Plate 23 (Top Left). Cellar
Wall Facing the Front
Of the Building**

**Plates 24 - 27. Remains
Of Wooden Work Bench
That May Date to the
1880's When the Shop
Was Run by Boot Maker
Richard Williams**





Plate 28. Basement Level Facing Workshop Room



Plate 29. Basement Level Showing Stairs to First Floor - Now Blocked



Plate 30. Basement Level Showing Stairs to First Floor



Plate 31. Surviving Ceramic Floor Tiles And Slate Step at Foot of Stairs



32.



33.



34.

Plate 32. Basement Corridor Facing Rear of Building

Plate 33. Basement Corridor Facing Front of Building

Plate 34. Basement Level Former Staff Room Showing Original Built-in Cupboard



35.



36.



37.

Plate 35. Basement Level Former Staff Room Showing Original Built-in Cupboard

Plate 36. Basement Level Former Staff Room

Plate 37. Basement Level Toilet

Basement Corridor (Plate 28 - 33)

The corridor runs in a dog-leg shape from the rear door, turning 90 degrees towards the front of the building. There are some very interesting features in this corridor although there has been some reworking of the rear portion of the building and the exact layout is uncertain.

The historic features were concentrated around the doorway to room 1. The most prominent feature is the stairway to the ground floor. These stairs are of a relatively simple design, although they are more elaborate than those found in room 1. The stairs were almost entirely undecorated and only the newel had been turned. As in room 1 the stairs had been blocked off at ground floor level but had not been removed. The stairs had been partially enclosed using pine cladding similar to that found in room 1. This allowed for a small cupboard to be created below the stairs.

At the base of the stairs there was an area of Victorian floor tiles which had been carefully laid in a decorative geometric pattern (plates 28 – 31). These tiles were first commonly used in public buildings, churches and expensive villas from the early 1860's and by the 1890's were incorporated into even the most modest of structures (www.buildingconservation.com) and therefore although not added when the building was constructed they are non the less of considerable antiquity.

Through a small hole in the floor it was possible to see that there is a void below the basement and there may be a sub-basement level which has been partially in-filled as has been observed in similar Holyhead properties.

At the rear of the corridor in what would previously have been a back room but is now a blocked off area under the stairs an original sash window was recorded (plate 38).

Room 2 (Plate 34 - 36)

Room 2 was located adjacent to room 1 and had been subdivided to allow the insertion of a toilet (room 3). The room had been used as a kitchen or staff room area prior to the abandonment of the building and it appears that the original use may have been as a store room. The original built in cupboard had survived. There were also wall paper fragment surviving where a plate rack had been removed although these scraps were fragmentary and badly damaged.

Room 3 (Plate 37)

Room 3 was a small toilet room inserted into room 2. No features of interest were noted in this room.

6.2.2.2 Ground Floor Level (Plates 39 – 43 & Figure 32)

The first floor of the Market Street property had been heavily modified and almost none of the original or early fabric survived. There is a single large room with an inserted kitchen area on this floor. As previously mentioned the stairs to the first floor are now located to the rear of the building but in the original design they would have been located in the area where the earlier stairs from the basement and between the first and second floors survive.

Room 4 (Plates 39 - 43)

The shop area had been stripped out and the shop front was a modern replacement. The small kitchen area at the rear of the shop floor was a modern insertion. An area of plaster cornice on the ceiling of the southern wall (plate 43) was the only early interior feature which had survived.



Plate 38. Blocked-up Sash Window in Rear Basement



Plate 39. First Floor Shop Space Facing Street Elevation



Plate 40. First Floor Shop Space Facing Building Rear



Plate 41. First Floor Shop Space Kitchen Area



Plate 42. First Floor Shop Space Showing Area Of Blocked Basement Step



Plate 43 (And Inset). First Floor Shop Space Showing Surviving Plaster Cornice Detail

Rear Stairway (Plates & 44 – 52 Figures 31 - 33)

As mentioned above the staircase at the rear of the property is an entirely modern construction (using plyboard) and has been added to allow for the complete separation of the flat which occupies the first and second floor from the shop premises on the basement and ground floor.

The modern stairway is a somewhat misjudged addition and little attempt has been made to allow for existing architectural features. The stairs block out a great deal of the natural light from entering the building and the long section of the building shows the oriel window is at ground floor level and this area would presumably have belonged to the shop area. The large amounts of light allowed by the bay window would have made this an appropriate work room.

The window bay itself has been largely untouched and the wooden panelling, along with the original large horned sash windows with 2 over 2, flanked by 1 over 1 window pane arrangement have been retained. The surround for this window that has survived on the first floor is missing and either never existed or has been removed when the stairs were added.

It is interesting to note how much plainer the panelling around this window is than that found on the floor above, reinforcing the separation between the utilitarian fixtures and fittings chosen for the basement and ground floor and the more elaborate pieces found in the accommodation rooms at first and second floor level.

6.2.2.3 First Floor Level (Plates 53 – 77 & Figure 33)

There were four rooms at first floor level and there were a number of interesting interior features surviving. This floor and the attic area above would have been purpose built as the private rooms for the family that ran the shop downstairs and as such the fixtures and fittings are more elaborate and of the fashion of the period.

Unfortunately the area has been modified and many original and historic features have been lost but there are a number which do survive in good condition.

First Floor Corridor (Plates 53 – 57, 69 & 74 - 77)

With the exception of the modifications to the rear of the building the first floor corridor has survived largely intact and the original layout has been preserved. It is positioned to the southern side of the building and the rooms are all positioned off this corridor. The original staircase to the attic level has survived and this feature has been chosen for aesthetic rather than purely practical reasons. Although the wood had been painted white in the places where it had flaked away it was possible to see that it had once been stained a dark mahogany colour. The newel, balustrades and handrail have been machine turned. There is also machine cut decorative brackets applied under the stair treads. The brackets have a repeating geometric wave shape pattern. The skirting boards around the stairs and corridor are also believed to be original and have been specially shaped in this area.

Most if not all of the doors and door frames on this floor are all believed to be contemporary with a build date of c. 1850 and are a classic Victorian four panel design. The door to the bathroom is not in an original frame and it is uncertain as to whether this door has been reused or if it is a modern replica.

Plates 44 - 48.
Surviving Sash
Windows in Oriel
Window at Rear
Of Building





Plate 49. Stairway From Basement
To First Floor Level - Modern



Plate 50. Stairway From Basement
To First Floor Level - Bay Window



Plate 51. Stairway From Basement
To First Floor Level - Modern



Plate 52. Stairway From Basement
To First Floor Level - Modern

A further interesting feature is the wall of the adjoining property (see plate 69). Where the paper has come away from the wall the stucco lines of the party walls can be seen which once again confirm that this property has been inserted in between earlier properties. This elevation would have once been visible from the street and therefore the stucco work from the front elevation had been continued around the side of the building to maintain the illusion of a cut stone construction. This detail has since been lost from the building front.

Room 5 (Plates 57 - 58)

Room 5 was located at the rear of the building and had been in use as a bathroom. It was thought to be unsafe to enter the room due to doubts as to the strength of the floor and the room was photographed from the doorway only. A visual inspection was made and there were no features of architectural interest surviving in this room. The window, although presumably the original opening had been replaced with a modern UPVC unit. As with this area of the building on other floors there has been an alteration to the layout for the insertion of the stairs and this area would have previously been a single room.

Room 6 (Plates 59 - 64)

Room 6 was located to the front of the building and was used as a sitting room. This is likely to have been the original use for this space. Although the historic sash window and fireplace have unfortunately been removed there were interesting remnants related to both features surviving.

Decorative wooden panelling was retained when the window was replaced and the design of this feature is more elaborate than is found around the ground floor oriel window at the rear of the building. The design is in-keeping with the proportions used in the neighbouring room.

When the faux laminate flooring around the fireplace was removed the hearth was found to have been preserved beneath it. Glazed tiles of an earth coloured palette of greens and browns had been laid in a geometric pattern around two more elaborate central tiles with a fruit design. The original fire surround and grate was presumably cast iron.

This decorative element once more shows the display element of this private space and guests would have been entertained in this room. This room would likely have been the most highly decorated area of the property with furniture, soft furnishings and ornamental items all laid out so as to show the wealth and taste of the occupants.

Room 7 (Plates 65 – 68)

Room 7 was located adjacent to room 6 and had been in use as a kitchen. This is once again quite likely to have been the intended use for this space although with the exception of the door no features of architectural interest had survived in this room. The window could not be examined as it had been blocked due to damage and it is unsure as to whether it is an early sash or modern replacement.

Room 8 (Plates 70 – 73)

Room 8 is located at the front of the building next to room 6. As in room 6 the windows are modern UPVC double glazing but as in room 6 the wooden panelling around the window has survived. It is of the same design as that in room 6, and had been reduced to a more modest scale for the smaller window opening. Also recorded in this room are the original doors to the room and to the cupboard which opens up under the stairs to the attic rooms. This room would seem too small to have functioned as a dining room but may have been used as a parlour, small study/sitting room or possibly as an additional bedroom.



53.



54.



55.

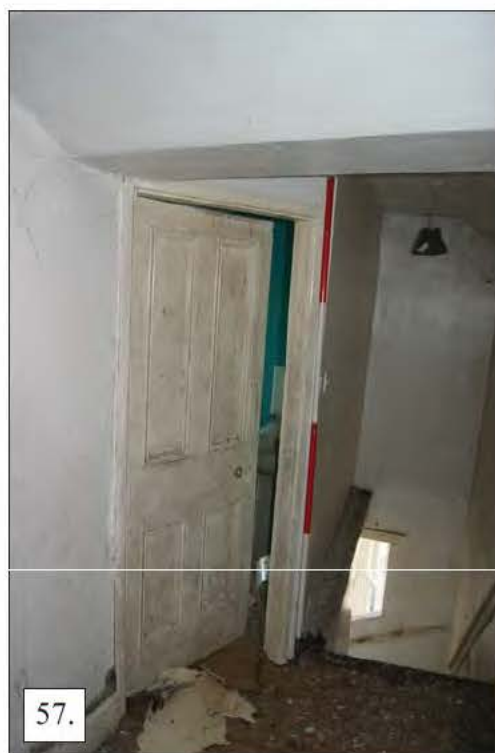
Plate 53. First Floor Corridor Facing Street Elevation

Plate 54. Original Stairway from First Floor to Attic Rooms

Plate 55. Original Stairway from First Floor to Attic Rooms



56.



57.

Plate 56. Original Stairway from First Floor to Attic Rooms

Plate 57. Later Room and Stairway At Rear of Building

Plate 58. Bathroom at Rear of Unsafe to Enter Due to Rotten Floor



58.



Plate 59. Surviving Panelling Around Modern Window



Plate 61. Surviving Panelling Around Modern Window Originally Housed a Bay Window Which has been Removed



Plate 63. Surviving Victorian Ceramic Tiles in Hearth of Destroyed Fireplace



Plate 60. Surviving Panelling Around Modern Window



Plate 62. Location of Fireplace in Northern Wall



Plate 64. View of Front Room Facing Rear of the Building



Plate 65. First Floor Kitchen



Plate 66. First Floor Kitchen Showing
Position of Blocked Window



Plate 67. First Floor Kitchen



Plate 68. Possible Original
Door With Modern Fittings



Plate 69. Stucco Detailing
On Adjacent Property Wall



Plate 70. First Floor Room Facing Street Elevation

Plate 71. First Floor Room Facing Building Rear Showing
Under Stairs Cupboard and Room Doors

Plates 72 & 73. Surviving Wooden Panelling Around Modern Window



Plate 74 (Left). Original Stairway
To Attic Rooms
Plate 75 (Above). Light Well Adjacent to
Stairs - Possible Original Opening
With Modern Window



Plates 76 - 77. Detailing on Stairway to Attic Rooms

6.2.2.4 Second Floor - Attic Rooms (Plates 78 – 86, Figure 33)

The second floor had been subdivided into two rooms with a small space on the landing area and a cupboard/storage area at the rear of the building where the roof was too low to provide living space. The staircase details have not been painted at this level and the mahogany colour stain is evident. The newel and balustrades are the same as can be seen running up the stairs and show that this feature has survived intact.

The window in the landing area had been boarded up to prevent water ingress and could not be examined. The door to room 10 was a modern ply-board replacement but the door to room 9 was original and of the same design as those found at first floor level.

The dormer windows in the two attic bedrooms are part of the original building design, although the frames/glass are modern replacements and are shown to have been sash windows in historic photographs.

Room 9 (Plates 80 – 82)

Room 9 was the smaller of the two attic rooms and had been in use as a bedroom prior to the abandonment of the building. This would have been the historic function of the room, with the smaller size and lack of fireplace making it more likely to have been a servants quarters rather than family room, although if the premises were to be occupied by a larger family presumably it would have been used thus with room being made in the basement or shop level for any live-in employees.

Room 10 (Plates 83 – 86)

Room 10 was the larger of the two attic rooms and had also been in use as a bedroom prior to the abandonment of the building. Historically this room would have functioned as the master bedroom. There is a surviving slate hearth against the northern wall which shows the contrast between the more modest detailing in the private areas in comparison with the elaborate hearth and surround which was located in the more public entertaining room on the floor below.

7.0 Conclusion

Documentary research has shown that 73 - 75 Market Street was a stone built structure, erected between 1841 and 1850. It is broadly contemporary with the neighbouring Belsey House and is of a similar, but not identical design, and it is likely the two properties were commissioned/built by different individuals. The off square ground plan of the property shows that this structure slightly post dates Belsey House and has been orientated to fill in the remaining gap in this area of Market Street.

The southern property – currently a hairdressers, can be seen on historic mapping to pre-date this building and the stucco detailing preserved within 73 – 75 Market Street clearly demonstrates that the side elevation would have once been visible.

It is possible that the rear most portion of the property is a slightly later addition, with the core of the building being the north-south aligned range along Market Street. The historic mapping and overall style of the building, windows and window openings suggest that should this be the case the extension was added not long after the original build date. It is however plausible that the odd orientation and slightly ad hoc appearance is simply the result of dealing with the necessity of the cramped building plot.



Plate 78. Attic Landing Area
With Blocked Roof Light

Plate 79. Attic Landing Area

Plate 80- 82. Attic Bedroom 1





Plate 83. Modern Replacement Window in Attic Room 2



Plate 84. Attic Room 2



Plate 85. Slate Hearth Stone in Attic Room 2



Plate 86. Attic Room 2

The property was purpose built as a shop with living quarters above rather than being converted from residential use as has been found to be the case with other properties on this street. Historic photographs show that the ground floor front elevation has been remodelled on at least four occasions, but it is thought that one of the photographs does record the original design. Historic photographs also show the original oriel and sash window designs.

There has been a considerable amount of unsympathetic work carried out to the front elevation of the building and the shop front, and all sash windows have been replaced within the last 20 or so years. The details to the rear of the building have survived a little better, but a cement render had been added and a sash window bricked up from the outside. The oriel window at the rear of the property is intact, and although they could not be accessed for examination it is possible that other original or early windows also survive.

Internally the rear portion of the building has been modified to allow for the insertion of an additional staircase to separate the shop area from the living accommodation above and evidence for the building layout has therefore been lost in this zone. The ground floor shop space has also been heavily modified and aside from the rear oriel window there is little of historic interest surviving. There are however some very interesting features at basement level, where the workshop and stairs remain and at first floor level where the staircase, details around the windows and a tiled hearth were recorded.

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WSD/421	1769 Print of the Market Place, Holyhead
WM/T/36/25	Oral History Transcript
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WM1783/4	Stead & Simpsons, 73 Market Street Late 1920's
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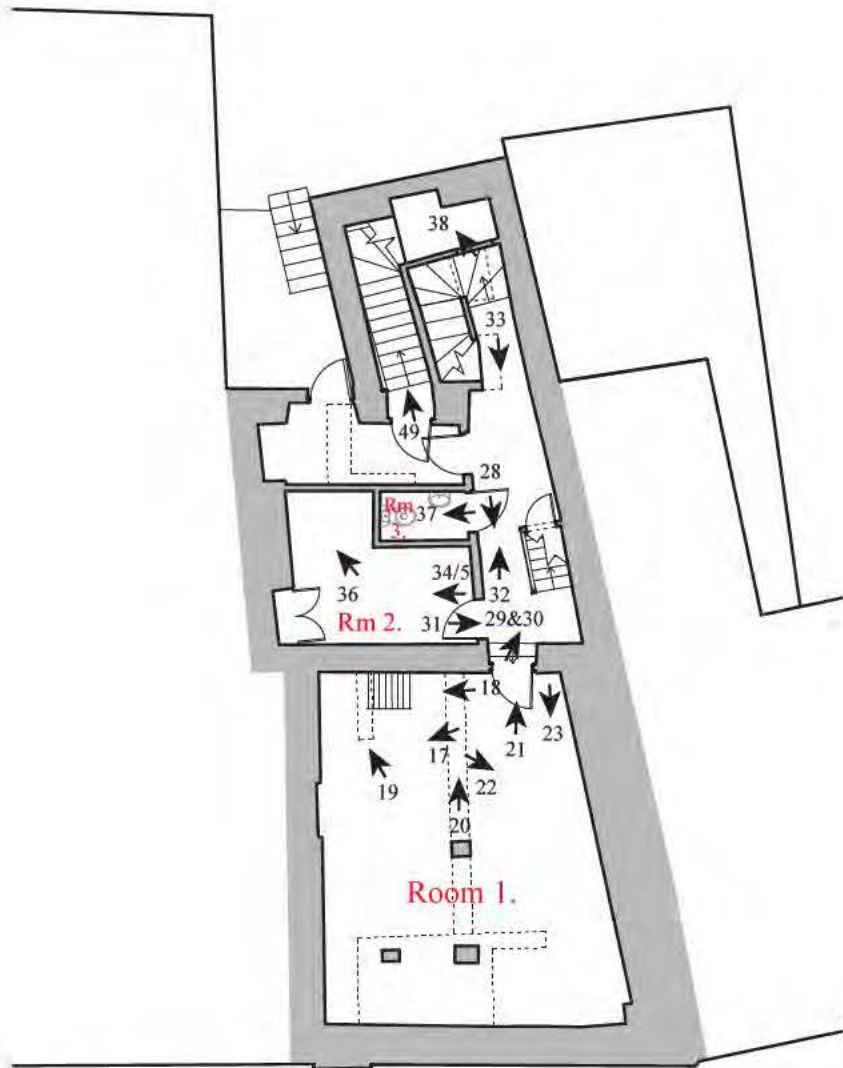
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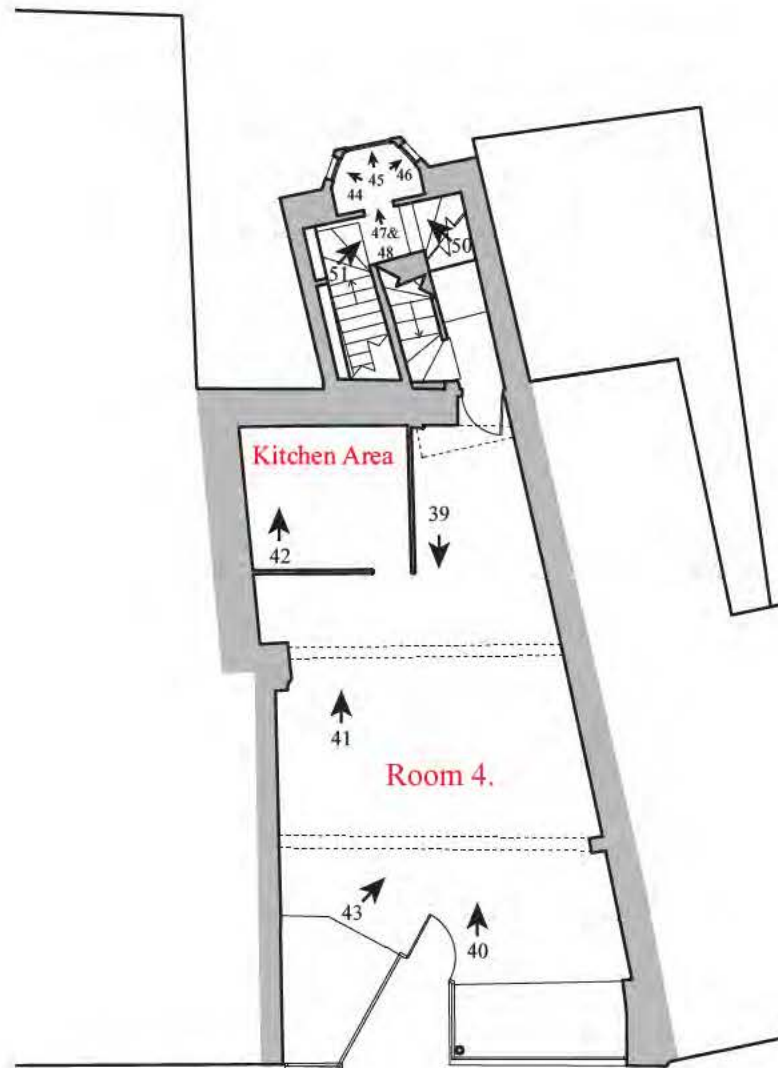
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Appendix A.

Location and Direction of Photographic Plates Included in Report

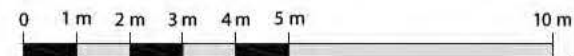



1 BASEMENT FLOOR
102 1:100



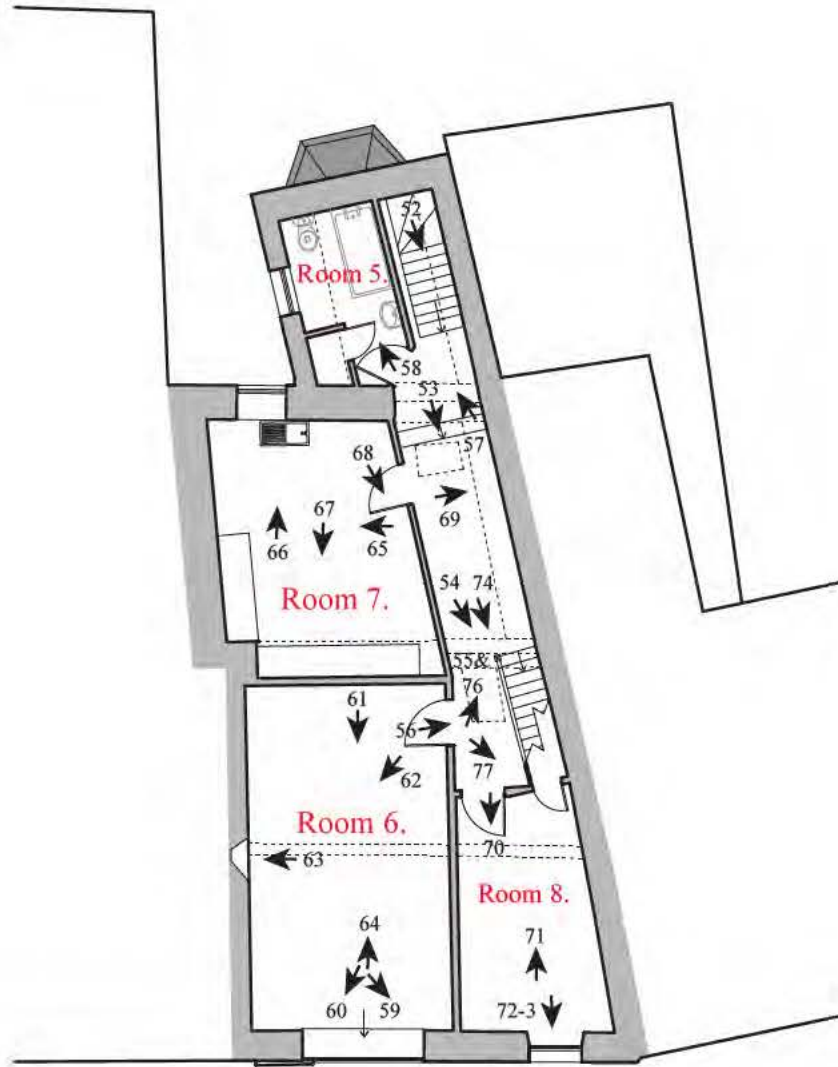
2 GROUND FLOOR
102 1:100

Location and Direction of Photographic Plates at Basement and Ground Floor Level

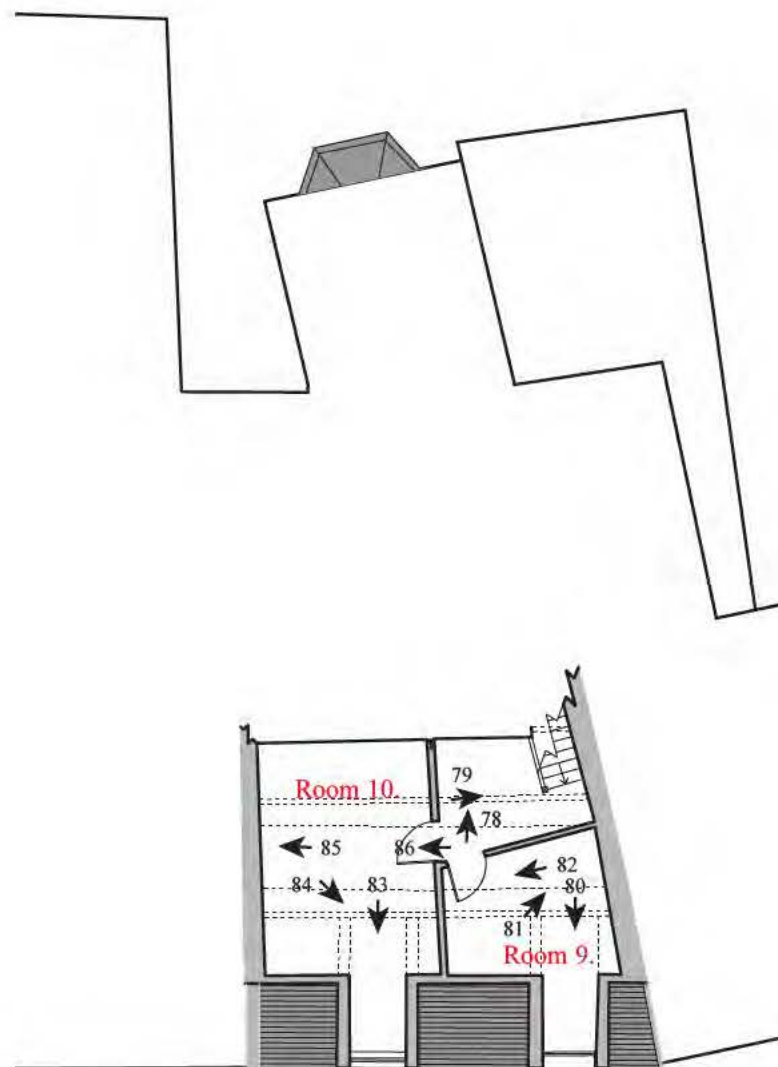


<p>Notes:</p> <p>Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent what is physically present.</p> <p>Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work.</p> <p>All dimensions are in millimeters unless noted otherwise.</p> <p>Purcell shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.</p>				
<p>Key Plan: not to scale</p> 				
<p>First Issue: 06/11/2014</p>				
ISSUE	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION
CLIENT		Mark Bicknell		
PROJECT		73-75 Market Street, Holyhead		
DRAWING TITLE		Existing Basement and Ground Floor Plan		
SIZE & SCALE		AS1	1:100	
DRAWING STATUS		WORK IN PROGRESS		
JOB NUMBER		235849		
DRAWING NO.		102		
REVISION				



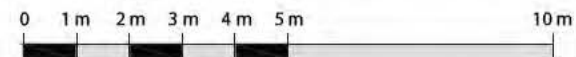


1 FIRST FLOOR
103 1:100



2 SECOND FLOOR
103 1:100

Location and Direction of Photographic Plates at First and Second Floor Level



Notes:

Drawings are based on survey data and may not accurately represent what is physically present.

Do not scale from this drawing. All dimensions are to be verified on site before proceeding with the work.

All dimensions are in millimeters unless noted otherwise.

Parcel shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.

Key Plan
not to scale

DATE	BY	CHECKED	DESCRIPTION
10/03/2023	Mark Blackwell		CLIENT
10/03/2023	73-75 Market St, Holyhead		PROJECT
10/03/2023	EXISTING FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR PLANS		DRAWING TITLE
10/03/2023	A3L 1:100		SIZE & SCALE
10/03/2023	WORK IN PROGRESS		DRAWING STATUS
10/03/2023	235849		JOB NUMBER
10/03/2023	103		DRAWING NO.
10/03/2023	-		REVISION

1. Work is for design only. It is not to be used for construction without the approval of the design team. 2. The design team is not responsible for any errors or omissions. 3. The design team is not responsible for any delays or costs incurred by the client or third parties. 4. The design team is not responsible for any legal or other consequences arising from the use of the design.