

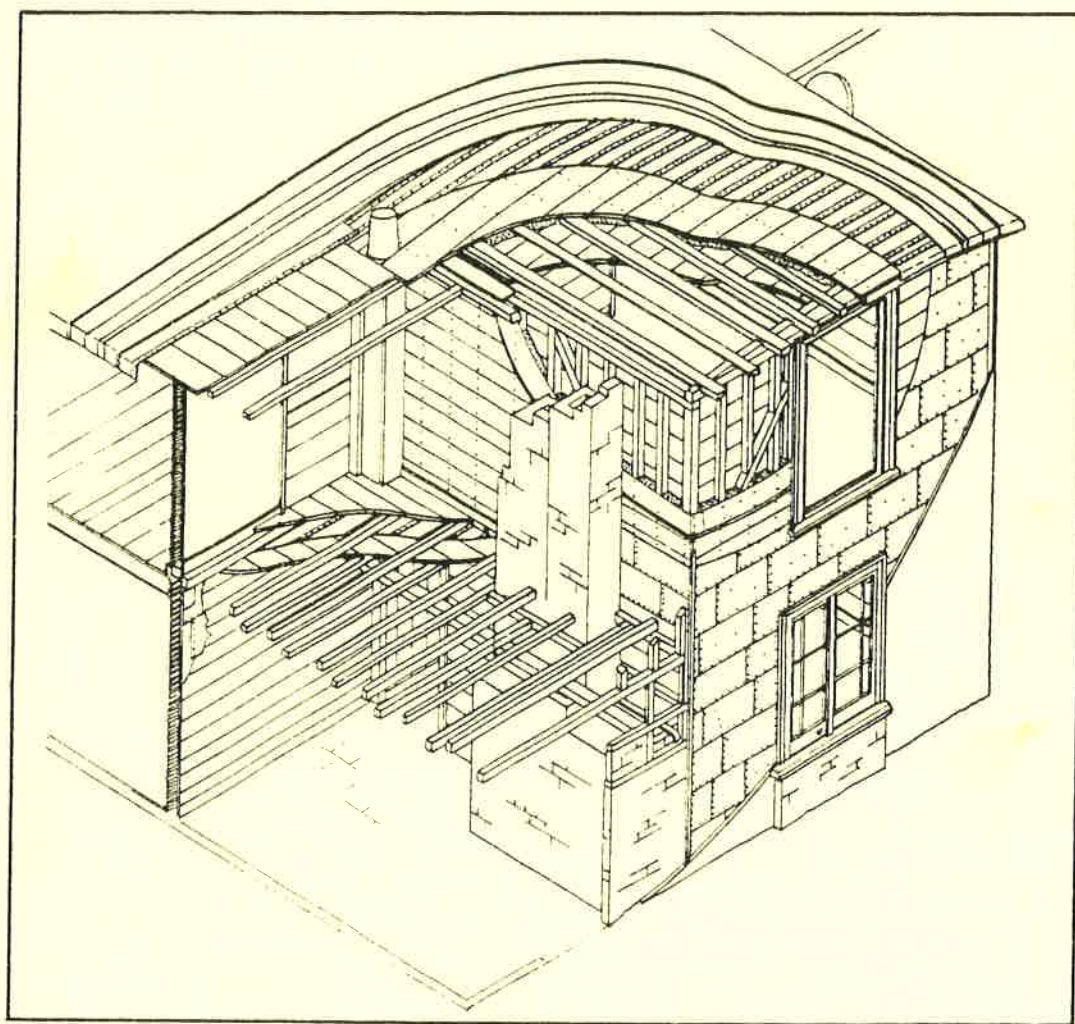
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UNIGATE DAIRIES LTD.

PAISLEY HOUSE, 436 ABINGDON ROAD, OXFORD

AN INVESTIGATION OF A VICTORIAN PAPER HOUSE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD IN ADVANCE OF DEMOLITION



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
JUNE 1998

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NMR DATA	
SITE NAME	PAISLEY HOUSE
ADDRESS	436 ABINGDON ROAD, REDBRIDGE, NR. COLD HARBOUR
TOWN	OXFORD
PARISH	SOUTH HINKSEY
COUNTY	OXON
NGR	SP 5172 0380
LISTED STATUS	GRADE II
VISIT/SURVEY DATE	APRIL-MAY 1996
OAU SITE CODE	OXABPH 96

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PAISLEY HOUSE, 436 ABINGDON ROAD, OXFORD

AN INVESTIGATION OF A VICTORIAN PAPER HOUSE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN ADVANCE OF DEMOLITION

Summary

As a condition of consent to demolish this unique mid 19th century Grade II listed building, the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) was commissioned by Unigate Dairies to carry out a full survey of the building fabric. This survey revealed the building to have been constructed in at least nine separate phases, all of which dated between 1844 and 1875. The first phase was formed by a two-storey building with two rooms either side of a central stairwell. This primary phase was roofed with cardboard and asphalt whilst its walls were clad externally with tarred fibreboard. Plain fibreboard was used for the internal cladding and interior partitions. Close study and analysis of the secondary phases revealed a fascinating sequence of further experiments using paper and card and in total the building contained two distinct types of paper roof and five different types of paper or card wall cladding. These are summarised in section 5. It has emerged that the house was constructed by Oxford's first non-conformist Alderman and second dissenting Mayor, the eccentric paper-maker John Towle (1796-1885) and during the process of detailed survey and background documentary research, a superb story of mid-19th century experimental building technology has unfolded, set against a background non-conformism, radical politics, 'town versus gown' disputes and the building of Brunel's broad-gauge railway to Oxford.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) was commissioned by Unigate Dairies Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological recording at Paisley House (NGR SP 5172 0380) in advance of the demolition of this Grade II listed building. The archaeological record was required as a condition of listed building consent and carried out following a brief agreed with Oxford City Council.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 *The life of John Towle (See plate 1)*

- 2.1.1 Paisley house was built by a man named John Towle. The building he produced was so extraordinary that it is felt that no analysis of the house itself would be complete without at least some attempt at try to sketch an outline of this man's life and the influences which may have contributed to his decision to build such a structure. Fortunately, Towle's life has been recently researched by Robert S. Sephton, and this section is almost exclusively based on his unpublished manuscript.¹

1 Robert S. Sephton's draft text 'John Towle 1796-1885' as received by OAU, dated 25/11/96)

- 2.1.2 John Towle was born in the village of Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire, in 1796² and he came to Oxford about 1818,³ working initially as servant to a Mr Wells of Christ Church college. He supplemented his income by clandestinely hawking items of hosiery and mercery to members of the college, using Well's apartment as a warehouse. This trade led Towle into his first conflict with the City authorities as he had not paid his fee to trade as a freeman. this he circumvented by gaining permission of the University to trade instead as a 'matriculated tradesman' however, as soon as he had gained the right to trade thus he changed his vocation to that of tailor, a profession only open to freemen and was immediately thrust back into conflict with the city authorities and went on record as referring to the Corporation as 'a family clique and tyrants'.⁴ Towle reluctantly bought his freedom and, following the Municipal Reform Act of 1835, Towle obtained a seat on the new Council (for the South Ward) as an independent radical. He was almost immediately deprived of his seat by the Mayor and Clerk as his name was not on the burgess list and it was not until 1839 that he was re-elected, again for the South Ward, this time as a Liberal.⁵ Towle was elected as one of the first non-conformist Alderman in 1853 and in 1857 he became the second only dissenting Mayor of the City, characteristically refusing the custom upon taking office of swearing the oath of loyalty to the Vice-Chancellor of the University.⁶ Towle was a known opponent of the Corn Laws and in the 1840s he was a supporter of the Chartists and is known to have helped to organise a meeting in the Town Hall to further their cause.⁷ Towle's political life appears to reveal him to have been somewhat mercurial, if not downright eccentric however, he remained true to working people and on his death a local paper described him as 'distinguished by his kind heatedness and exceedingly popular with the working classes who for many years looked upon him as a champion of public rights'.⁸
- 2.1.3 After his early dabbling in the haberdashery and tailoring trades, Towle's business life came to revolve around the making of card, and it is this which brought him to the mill site at Hinksey and his experimenting with card and paper as building materials. He appears to have entered this activity through his marriage in 1828 to Mary Ann Drewitt.⁹ It seems likely that Mary Ann was the daughter of William Drewitt (or Drewett) who had been at Hinksey paper mill since 1816.¹⁰ Drewitt used the mill to produce cardboard or mill board and the mill, perhaps under Towle's direction, was one of the first to produce boards for portmanteaux.¹¹

2 Ibid., 1, cit. International Genealogical Index; 1881 Census

3 Ibid., 1, cit. OC 10.1.57 speech at re-opening of Oxford Girl's British School Room

4 Ibid., 2, cit. *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 12.10.33 and *Oxford University (City and County) Herald*, 12.10.33

5 Ibid., 2-3

6 Ibid., 4-5 and Airs, M., 1998, 49, cit. VCH Oxon, IV, 258, 184, 230 and 246

7 Ibid., 5-6

8 Ibid., 1, cit. *Oxford University (City and County) Herald*, 28.2.85

9 Ibid., 1, cit. South Hinksey Parish Register

10 Sephton, R.S., un-published MS. 'Additional Notes on John Towle' cit. H.Carter 'Wolvercote Mill'

11 Sephton, R.S., 3, cit. VCH, Vol 2, 242

Exactly when Towle took over the Drewitt's enterprise is unclear although the 1851 census shows only Towle and an unmarried niece living there and it is presumed that both Drewitt and his daughter were both dead by that date. Between 1846 to 1854 Towle had premises in Blackfriars Road which he called Pasley Hut, at first described as a shop and later as a warehouse and from 1848 he is listed among 'out of town' freemen, with a papermaking business at Hinksey Mill, then in Berkshire.¹² The business clearly prospered under Towle's management as during 1859-60 he took over Weir's Mill (a paper mill since 1825),¹³ situated between the present Donnington Bridge and Iffley Lock (see fig 3) and converted it for cardboard production and to accommodate his workers he built three pairs of semi-detached cottages in Weirs Lane. Although un-proven, from the manner in which these buildings were roofed, it seems likely that these cottages were constructed in a similar manner to Paisley House (see plate 2). In 1860 Towle also obtained a 75 year lease on the redundant City waterworks and machinery at Folly Bridge although he apparently never utilised the latter site for industrial purposes.¹⁴

- 2.2.1 *The history of Paisley House* It is not clear when Towle first started living at Hinksey Mill although the likelihood is that he was living there from the time of his marriage in 1828. He clearly was taking a keen proprietorial interest in the site when the Great Western proposed to build a railway from Oxford to Didcot. Towle was united with the City Council in their opposition to the railway and in 1837 Towle spent several days in London waiting to give evidence on the first, unsuccessful Bill. Towle appears not to have been anti-railway, and indeed, in 1845 he supported the line proposed by Robert Stephenson to connect Oxford to Banbury and Rugby as it would enable coal to be brought more cheaply to the benefit of the poorer people of Oxford.¹⁵ Towle appears to have seen no such redeeming feature in the GWR line to Didcot and it seems that since the line as authorised by its second, successful Bill of 1843, was to pass Hinksey Mill, Towle perceived the possibility of direct obstruction.
- 2.2.2 The whole branch was completed by early June 1844 and Major-General Pasley (Inspector-General from the Board of Trade), with Brunel and several directors, came down to inspect it. The inspector found only one fault in the construction of the railway. This was the insecure state of the bridge carrying the Oxford-Abingdon turnpike over the railway. According to Pasley's report 'Mr Brunel explained...that the haste with which the arch was built was caused by the conduct of an individual in possession of a part of the ground over which the (road) embankment was carried, who after the site of the bridge had been decided on, erected what he called a "house", which I saw but should never have guessed the use of, being a small hut of timber framework covered with *brown paper*, with a fireplace in it, for the purpose of claiming compensation from the Railway Company for having diminished the value of his property; and the work was delayed as this person's unexpected claim could not be settled until near the period of the entire completion of all other parts of the railway.' It is clear that this move of Towle's did not delay the opening of the railway which proceeded as planned on the 12th of June as Pasley had directed that the old course of the road, crossing the railway on the level, should

12 Sephton, R.S., John Towle 1796-1885, 3, cit. Various Burgess Lists and Poll Books, 1846-57

13 Airs, M., 1998, 49

14 Ibid., cit. Hester G.P. Letters from the Town Clerk on the inundations of the Thames, 1.12.58 & 26.6.60 and Minutes of Oxford City Council, 15.3.69

15 Sephton, R.S., 'Additional Notes on John Towle' cit. *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, reporting on a meeting in the Town Hall 17.1.45

be maintained till the bridge and its approaches had been made good.¹⁶

- 2.2.3 Whether or not Towle got his compensation is less clear however, Sephton is of the opinion that Towle's naming of his warehouse in Blackfriars Road as '*Pasley Hut*' and of his house at Hinksey Mill as *Paisley (or Pasley) House* is indication that Major-General Pasley was influential in obtaining generous compensation for Towle. It seems equally probable, given Towle's background, that the name was a jibe and it is possible that the building in Blackfriars Road was the actual 'hut' which obstructed the railway, re-sited.
- 2.2.4 The survey of Paisley House carried out before its demolition clearly shows that Towle was interested in the possibilities of card and paper as permanent building materials and that Brunel was incorrect in his presumption that Towle had built his "house" solely to spite or cheat the railway. Towle apparently lived comfortably in his paper-built house at Hinksey Mill until his death in 1885.¹⁷ Following his death, the house was purchased (c.1898) by George Hambridge Turner and his wife Rosa (poss. née Hannah) who lived there with their two children, George Andrew and Lucy. The Turners and their descendants were smallholders and who kept dairy-cows on land to the south of the old Abingdon Road as well as on the island on which the mill and house sat. Their daughter-in-law, Victoria 'Queeny' Turner (née Bumpstead) lived in the house until 1987 and her daughter, Rosemary Johnson (née Turner) remembers the House always being warm in winter and cool in summer. The building also survived occasional flooding.¹⁸ Dr Malcolm Airs has drawn attention to the three semi-detached pairs of similar cottages built in Wiers Lane by Towle, probably for his workers at Wiers Mill (plate 2) which were demolished to make way for the large council estate on the site sometime shortly after 1923.¹⁹ These are thought to have also been built of paper and were apparently still warm and dry when demolished. Thus, for purportedly insubstantial structures, Towle's houses were surprisingly long-lived.
- 2.3.1 *A short history of paper building* The history of building using paper and cardboard in Britain has recently been well covered by Dr Malcolm Airs of the University of Oxford Department of Continuing Education.²⁰ His work has revealed that prior to the introduction of roofing felt, corrugated iron and the chemically treated Willesden paper, the use of tarred card and paper was reasonably widespread. The most comprehensive, and possibly best-known account on the use of tarred paper as a waterproof covering for buildings in Britain, is the pamphlet entitled *An account of the Paper Roofs Used at Tew Lodge, Oxon.*²¹ published in 1811 by the agricultural reformer and self-publicist, John Claudius Loudon. This pamphlet (and a subsequent book on *Observations on Laying out Farms in the Scotch*

16 MacDermot, E.T., *History of the Great Western Railway*, Vol. 1 - 1833-1863, (London), 1964, 87

17 Sephton, R.S., *Additional Notes on John Towle*, cit. Towle's obituary in the *Oxford Chronicle*, 1885

18 Interview with Rosemary Johnson carried out by OAU, May 1996

19 Airs, M., *Paper Roofs in the Nineteenth Century: Theory and Practice in Oxfordshire* (un-published MS), 17

20 Airs, M.R., *The Strange History of Paper Roofs* (Offprint from *Trans. Ancient Monuments Society*, Vol. 42, (1998), 35-62

21 The copy of the pamphlet located by Dr Airs in the Bodleian Library is the 2nd edition but Dr. Airs surmises that as the farmhouse at Tew was not completed until 1809-early 1810, the 1st ed. is unlikely to date to before 1810

Style, Adapted to England)²² describes Loudon's use of tarred paper roofs in both the farmhouse and the enormous range of buildings known as 'the farmery' at Great Tew. Loudon advocated laying the tarred paper over a shallow-sloping common-purlin roof clad with thin roof-boards of Scotch fir running from ridge to eaves. The common-purlins described were of elm or halved larch poles. Extra protection from sun and fire was achieved by 'strewing sand, forge dust, or smithy ashes over the pitch as soon as laid on, by a large dredge box'. For the paper, Loudon thought that 'Any strong course paper will do. That used by button-makers is perhaps the best, unless a sort made on purpose by Mr Swann, of Ensham (sic.), Oxfordshire, who is thoroughly conversant in the business of paper roof'. Loudon used Swann's paper tiles, which measured about two feet by twenty inches.²³

- 2.3.2 Loudon was not alone in his use of paper for the roofs of buildings. The area of Britain where such roofs appear to have been most widespread was Scotland where it appears that such roofs were not regarded as an uncommon feature and their use is mentioned in several reports on agricultural practice from the first fifteen years of the 19th century. Some commentators reported their use not only for domestic buildings, but also for store houses, factories, 'sheds attached to bleachfields', cart sheds and pigstyes.²⁴ Some pamphleteers advocated the extension of the practice to the British colonies²⁵ but it was in the United States where the rapid growth on the frontiers and the availability of naturally-occurring bitumen led to the use of such roofs becoming part of the accepted vernacular in some areas, a tradition which has led to tarred felt 'composition' shingles becoming the dominant roofing material for American houses in the 20th century.²⁶
- 2.3.3 Airs' research seems to show that whilst paper was much more commonly used as a building material in England than has hitherto been thought, its use appears to have occurred in geographically-separated clusters. Three years before Loudon's pamphlet, Charles Vancouver had reported to the Board of Agriculture on the state of farming in Devon where he described how the technology of protecting ship's hulls with tar and sheathing paper was 'getting very much into use' for constructing roofs in the area around Exeter.²⁷ Roofing paper was one of the specialist products offered by the paper mills at Thornton le Dale in Yorkshire in 1775 and, not surprisingly, Loudon noted 'numerous manufactures' roofed with paper on a visit

22 Published in 1812

23 Airs, M., 1998, 36-9

24 Ibid., 43. cit. Whyte, A. & Macfarlan, D., *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Dumbarton*, (Glasgow, 1811), 36. Also Ibid., 39-40, cit., Graham, J., 'On Farm Buildings, With an account of a New Species of Roof', *The Farmer's Magazine*, vol ix (1808), 75; Sinclair, J., *Appendix to the General Report of the Agricultural and Political Circumstances of Scotland*, vol. 1. (Edinburgh, 1814), 266; Whyte, A. & Macfarlan, D., *op. cit.*, 75 & Graham, P., *General View on the Agriculture of Stirlingshire*, (1812). See also Ibid., 42-3

25 Airs (1998, 54-5) notes the use of tarred paper for the roofs of several buildings in Cape Colony and one case of a complete papier-maché village sent to Australia in 1853

26 McAlester, V. & L., *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York, 1991), 48

27 Ibid., 39, cit. Vancouver, C., *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Devon*, (London, 1808), 90-1

to that county in 1811.²⁸ Similarly, Loudon mentions clusters of paper-roofed buildings in England, particularly warehouses at Deal, Dover and Canterbury and on factories in Hertfordshire where paper-making was an important industry.²⁹ Airs makes the point that Kent also had a strong paper-making tradition and that the Dover examples occurred near six papermills on the River Dour. The potential of paper as a lightweight cladding for wide-span roofs was taken to its limits at the Royal Dockyard at Chatham, Kent (and probably other royal dockyards also) where from 1814 to as late as 1837, the Royal Navy used paper (as an alternative to expensive copper) to clad the immense wooden roofs then being erected to cover its shipbuilding slips.³⁰

- 2.3.4 The greatest concentration of identified buildings with paper-covered roofs occurs in Oxfordshire, again a paper-making county. Airs has identified a tarred cardboard roof on the former vicarage at Mapledurham, built by Lewis Wyatt for Lord Augustus Fitz-Clarence, the natural son of William IV and just over the historic county boundary in Abingdon, two of the buildings of Stevens Boatyard were originally roofed in paper.³¹ Probably more important are the groups of buildings built by the paper-making enterprises of John Towle and the Swann family. John Swann appears to have been the pioneer of the technique in the county. It is not known when he commenced the production of materials made specifically for the purpose but his first practical paper roof appears to have been at his mill at Wolvercote where he roofed part of the structure with paper as part of improvements he made in 1799.³² In 1804 he bought the mill at Eynsham and again used paper to roof the new buildings.³³ The business was taken over by James Swann (from whom Loudon purchased his roofing paper) in 1806.³⁴ James continued the family tradition and c.1820 he constructed a malthouse and a row of cottages in Eynsham, all with paper-covered roofs which survive to this day. In 1823 James Swann acquired the corn mill at Sandford on Thames and again constructed paper-roofed structures, namely a range of drying lofts and a terrace of six houses called Mill Row, the latter building again retaining their original roofs until being refurbished after the closure of the paper mill in 1981.³⁵ The mills and cottages of John Towle must therefore be seen as part this fashion of paper-roofed buildings amongst Oxfordshire paper mill owners. Where Towle's buildings appear to be almost unique was in their use of paper and cardboard for walls as well as for roofs.

28 Ibid., 43 and 41, cit., *York Courant*, 18th July 1775, quoted in Shorter, A.H., *Paper Mills and Paper Makers in England, 1495-1800*, (Hilversum, 1957), 61 and Loudon, ...*Paper Roofs...*, 9 & 12

29 Ibid., cit. Loudon, J.C., ...*Paper Roofs...*, 9 & 12

30 Ibid., 45, cit. Knowles, J., *An Inquiry into the Means which have been taken to Preserve the British Navy, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time Particularly from the Species of Decay now Denominated Dry-Rot*, (London, 1821), 78

31 Ibid., 55

32 Ibid., cit. Carter, H., *Wolvercote Mill, A study in Paper-Making at Oxford*, (Oxford, 1974), 26

33 It appears that Airs identifies the roof construction from an illustration by Buckler drawn in 1824 (BL, Add. MS 36, 377, f.175)

34 Ibid., 45

35 Ibid., 45-7. The roofs of Sandford terrace were recorded prior to replacement by Dr Airs

- 2.3.5 Paper-built buildings seem therefore to have brief period of popularity from about 1775 to c.1840. Buildings of this type of construction also appear to have had a much wider distribution than has hitherto been thought. The fashion seems to have declined rapidly thereafter in Britain. The reasons for this appear to have been twofold. Firstly, Airs has established that many exponents of the technology highlighted the 'picturesque' applications of the low-pitched roofs, and he concludes that the vogue for paper roofs declined along with that style of architecture. The second, and probably more important reason is technological change. Having established the potential of light-weight roofs using paper and card, specialised materials soon appeared, notably roofing-felt and chemically treated Willesden paper. These, and the new material corrugated iron, came to be widely used for colonial, light-industrial and temporary buildings. For wide-span industrial roofs, the fire-risk associated with tarred paper coupled with the increasing availability of light-weight, wide-span trusses fabricated from mass-produced rolled iron sections, rendered the technology obsolete.

3 RECORDING STRATEGY

- 3.1 When the O.A.U. was contracted to record Paisley House prior to its demolition, the building was in a very poor state as a result of many years of total neglect not to mention architectural theft, squatting and storm damage caused by a large bough removing one corner. As a result Unigate Dairies organised the removal of the large quantities of accumulated rubbish and the shoring up of the building. Due to the fact that it was often difficult to distinguish the genuine detritus from vestiges of the house, this preparatory work was carried out under archaeological supervision. Once the preparatory work was complete archaeological work was commenced, full recording being greatly eased by it being possible to remove later phases of work at will. A full photographic record was made using colour transparency and B/W print film and a full written and sketch record was made of each wall, floor and ceiling on pro-forma sheets. Annotated measured floor plans and cross sections were drawn on site at 1:20 as were a full set of 1:50 elevations. Several measured axonometric and sectional detail drawings were also prepared on site at scales between 1:20 and 1:1.
- 3.2 During stripping and subsequent demolition over 100 separate samples of building materials and wallpaper were removed for further study and preservation. The majority of these are to be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service whilst some duplicate samples have already gone to the Chiltern Open-Air Museum. Several large sections of wall are to be deposited with the Science Museum.

4 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (SEE FIGS 4-9)

4.1 *Phase I (Figs 7-8 & plates 10-21) The Central Core - Rooms C/E/L/O-D/P-F/M* (fibreboard walls - timber, paper and asphalt roof)

The primary structure would appear to have been constructed as a flat-roofed, two-storey rectangular block with a central passage/hall/landing and steep narrow staircase ascending from south to north. There would have been one or perhaps two rooms either side of this staircase on each floor making a symmetrical two up-two down workers-type dwelling, 8.3 m long by 4.3 m deep by 5.07 - 5.14 m high. Essentially this part of the house experimented with the concept of a timber framework clad with large butted tarred fibreboard panels and roofed with asphalt laid over card and elm boarding. No clear evidence was discovered of any primary fireplaces and it is possible that the original building was un-heated.

- 4.1.1 *Framework* The external walls of this initial structure were constructed on minimal brick footings supporting large softwood sole-plates which in turn supported additional horizontal plates c75x80mm. Off this base were erected vertical studs of reused sawn softwood set at c350mm centres. These were of varying random sizes e.g. 72x42mm, 60x60mm, 100x65mm. Some of these studs, principally those at the corners, rose through two storeys to a bressumer plate just below the wall plates but generally the ground floor studs stopped at a 80x50mm-75x145mm bressumer at first floor level (plate 13). On the north and south walls these bressumers supported the ends of the first floor joists. The end walls and each of the three bays of the north and south walls were braced by a pair of diagonals (plate 10). The walls of the first floor were similar to those of the ground floor but stopped at another set of 85x80mm bressumer plates set 220mm below the wall plates (which measured 100x60-75mm). These two sets of horizontal plates were linked by a series of vertical and occasional diagonal braces (plates 11 & 12). The separation of the upper bressumer and the wall plate markedly reduced the structural integrity of the building and would appear to represent a design change at a very early stage. The bressumer had clearly never served as a wall plate since there was no sign of any rafter fixings on its upper face and the wall cladding showed no sign of having been extended upward. All joints were nailed only, with occasional iron straps on principal joints.
- 4.1.2 *Wall Cladding* Externally the east, south and west walls would appear to have been clad with c10mm thick tar-impregnated panels 1100x720mm (43.3x28.35in) made of felted woodpulp with textile fibre inclusions ('fibreboard'). These panels were butted (on nogginns where necessary) as opposed to being lapped and were fixed at c 125mm intervals with special square-cut clouts c40mm long with flat round heads of c20mm dia. The resultant flat wall surface was weather-proofed with a further coating of pitch and fine sand followed by further coats of light stone coloured paint (plate 14). Internally the walls were lined with similar but non-impregnated fibreboard panels, fixed as before but without the luxury of extra nogginns on joints. Wallpaper decoration was applied directly onto these panels, joints being scrimmed with hessian (plate 15). Although the older part of the south wall of room F was the only section of primary external wall retaining fibreboard on both faces, it would appear from this small section and the surviving section of primary internal wall between rooms E & D (plate 21) that both the internal and external walls were insulated from the start by filling the wall-cavities with sawdust. (This practice was a feature also of phase II.) The north and east walls of the original building had been largely obliterated by the northward extension of rooms D and P, the eastern extension of rooms F and M as well as by later alterations within rooms M and K. Some well preserved fragments were however discovered in the course of investigation and during demolition, particularly the original south-east corner and a large section of primary north wall preserved on the first floor by the phase II extension (rooms B and K). From these and a small section which had survived complete within the cupboard leading off room K, it is clear that the primary north and east walls were of more conventional construction. Their studs were set at slightly wider (430mm) centres and, at least on the north wall, each bay had only a single diagonal on each storey (plate 11). Although clad internally with fibreboard panels and filled with sawdust, both walls had clearly been clad externally with reused feather-edge boarding painted with pitch, that on the upper portion of the north wall remaining in situ (plate 17). From fragmentary remains on the north wall and more substantial vestiges on the former south-east corner it was apparent that these timber-clad walls were originally overlain with c4mm thick tar impregnated card tiles 620-770mm (24-30.3in) deep and of unknown length.
- 4.1.3 *Roof* The flat roof structure of the original building had remained largely intact apart from that part over room D which had been replaced with a phase II type 'vaulted' roof (plate 12).

All of the remaining sections had been preserved beneath later wood, paper and pitch coverings which had been laid when the house was extended (plate 44). The original eaves were visible incorporated into the ceilings of rooms **B**, **D**, **F** and **T** (plates 17, 33 & 34) as well as on the exterior at the two points where the primary structure had not been abutted by later extensions. By measuring the distances from the upper bressumer plates to the wall plates (thereby eliminating the effects of subsidence) it was determined that the primary flat roof would have had a fall of only 70mm from north to south. The softwood rafters, which measured 100x160-170mm, were set at c436mm centres and projected c300mm beyond the wall-plates, the resultant projecting rafter ends being relieved by being cut into a decorative reverse-curve ogee profile. Similarly shaped stub-rafters continued this motif round the east and west faces of the building (see fig 8). Marks on the underside of the primary roof boards which overlay the rafters indicated that the ends of the rafters originally butted c30mm thick barge-boards of unknown depth, making the total overhang of the eaves c330mm. The rafters supported c9mm thick elm roof boards of random widths varying from 160-320mm. These ran east-west, across the direction of fall of the roof.³⁶ The waterproof roof covering of phase I was found to have consisted of a c50mm thick layer of an asphalt apparently composed of pitch and a high proportion of small gravel up to 5mm in diameter. This was not in direct contact with the roof boards as large sheets of 3.25mm thick, apparently untreated, brown card had first been laid over the roof boards, probably to stop the pitch leaking into the house below and to allow the asphalt to freely expand and contract. Unlike the later phases of roof, the phase I roof was only single-skin and no insulation was provided (see 4.1.5 below).

- 4.1.4 *Windows and Doors* There was definite evidence of what were probably four sash windows in the south wall the phase I building. That in the south wall of room **F** was blocked with lath and plaster/render (plate 19), that within room **D** was blocked with horizontal softwood boarding and the lath and plaster of room **H** (plate 20) whilst that in room **M** was hidden behind later horizontal internal softwood wall cladding and blocked externally with horizontal softwood boarding and pitched paper. There was also evidence of further windows in the south walls of **E** (later opened out into a doorway) and room **P** (obscured by later horizontal softwood wall-boarding internally and blocked with offcuts of pitched fibreboard fixed with small clouts externally). The blocked windows of **F**, **M** & **P** were also overlain by small phase IV type oiled cardboard 'ashlar' tiles on the exterior. Any evidence for a front door on the southern facade of the phase I structure had been lost in later reconstruction. The surviving section of the phase I north wall on the first floor (butted by room **B**) and the corresponding surviving phase I studding on the ground floor (butted by room **K**) contained no evidence of any primary north windows but there was some evidence of a narrow back door roughly coinciding with the extant doorway between rooms **L** and **K**. It is possible that there was also a window in the original east wall of room **F** but the only evidence of this was a pair of slightly staggered noggins in the ceiling of that room (plate 33). This evidence might equally well point to the former presence of a lost chimney-breast as there is no evidence of any phase I fireplace elsewhere.

36 It is of interest to note that Towle's use of a common rafter roof with roof boards running across the pitch of the roof is contrary to the advice of Loudon who advocated the use of a common purlin roof in which the boards ran from ridge to eaves. Loudon's advocacy of this type of roof was on account of the propensity of thin boards to curl, inhibiting the ability of water to run off on a shallow pitch roof with boards running across the fall of the roof. It is likely that Towle used the common rafter design in his phase I roof as it was to be covered with not only paper but also with a thick layer of asphalt. In his phase II and subsequent roofs Towle used a paper-covered common purlin design as recommended by Loudon.

- 4.1.5 *Floors and Ceilings* The ground floor, though latterly suspended, would appear to have originally been solid, perhaps only of beaten earth. The first floor, carried by the horizontal bressumers of the north and south walls (plate 13 & fig 8) was composed of c100-115x60-82mm softwood joists set at c400-415mm centres carrying 13mm softwood floorboards of random widths from 220-270mm. These ran east-west right across the upper floor and under all internal walls. There was clear evidence that initially the ground floor and first floor ceilings were originally clad simply with hessian and lining paper stretched over the joists or rafters. No attempt would appear to have been made at insulating the roof, the 60mm sandwich of asphalt card and wood probably being thought adequate. The first floor joists in room **P** were supported at mid-span with a joist of used 'bridge rail' (plate 16). This was the type of rail employed by Brunel on the G.W.R. and this was no doubt its source. There was no evidence that this was a primary feature and it was probably inserted when the north wall of rooms **D/P** were removed and replaced with an identical piece of rail (see phase IV).
- 4.1.6 *Internal Partitions* Only one small section of unaltered phase I internal partitioning remained in-situ, at the northern end of the wall dividing rooms **D** and **E**. This was composed of braced studding, clad with plain fibreboard panels both sides. The wall cavity was filled with sawdust insulation. Though disturbed during later rebuilding, it was clear that the rest of the wall dividing rooms **D** from **E** as well as that separating **P** from **L/O** were also primary walls although the latter had been reclad with horizontal softwood boards. The evidence of in-situ ceiling noggins and surviving wallpaper stratigraphy indicated clearly that the walls dividing rooms **F** and **M** from the central passage/stair/landing (**E/L/O**) were initially set c300mm further west. A blocked primary doorway was discovered at the south end of the primary wall between rooms **D** and **E** (plate 21) and the later northern door in this wall also appeared to almost coincide with the site of a further primary door. Ceiling noggin and wall paper evidence indicated that the primary passage/stair/landing area was smaller and restricted to the northern half of **E** allowing a small room associated with **D** to have existed over an early, narrower staircase which would have risen from south to north (plate 16).³⁷ The primary staircase was replaced at a later date by the wider staircase extant at the time of survey which rose from north to south.
- 4.1.7 *Below Ground* Excavation of the later floor of room **Q** revealed a slightly inclined smooth tarmacadamised surface (shown on fig 6, section B-B'). Although this surface was not discovered beneath the floor of room **R** it has been speculated that this represents the surface of the Abingdon turnpike dating to before the construction of the approach embankment of the railway bridge. Although historically feasible, this would seem to be an unusually early application, especially outside of a built-up area.

4.2 *Phase II (Figs 7 & 9; plates 22-26) Rooms B & K and roof over room D* (timber & tarred card tile walls - timber & paper arc roof)

The second building phase represents the start of the transformation of Paisley House from a simple worker's cottage into the rambling five bedroom villa it became. The first additions would appear to have been the arc-roofed, two-storey north wing comprising rooms B and K and a similar replacement roof over room D. Generally the design of the extension and new roof continue the theme of experiment with the paper house concept; however, from this point on, paper was used more as a waterproof sheathing material, either in the form of small overlapping tarred card wall tiles or large thick paper sheets on the (curved) roof. In both

37 The positions of these phase I wall are shown as dashed lines on fig 4

cases softwood boarding was used as the substrate. Strangely, no evidence was discovered of any fireplaces associated with this phase.

- 4.2.1 *Framework* The walls of the northward extension Paisley House were of stud construction. The studs themselves, which were square-sawn and set at c320mm centres, were of varying dimensions (e.g. 75x52,60,70,80&85mm) although most measured 75x52mm. Each wall had two diagonal braces per storey, each measuring between 75x60-72mm. The corner posts, which rose through both storeys, measured c100x75mm and, as with phase I, there were bressumer plates within the studwork which carried the joists of the first floor. The wall-plates measured 72x85-80x85mm. All joints were morticed and tenoned, apart from where the studs met the braces where nails were employed.
- 4.2.2 *Wall Cladding* The walls were clad internally and externally with loosely butted 230x9mm softwood boards laid horizontally. A coarse brown/grey paper was interposed between the studs and the outer boarding and the cavities between the studs were filled with sawdust (plate 23). The boarded walls were weather-proofed with c4mm thick pitched card tiles which measured 600x420mm (23.6x16.5in) and overlapped each other by c25mm (1in) (plates 22 & 24). The card tiles appeared to have been treated by dipping in hot tar or pitch before use and all had a few lengths of dry grass adhering to the reverse as if the production process was quite rustic and executed out of doors. These tiles were nailed in place with equal proportions of 30-35mm cut nails and 20mm clouts, the latter having 12mm round heads. An area of these tiles was discovered behind the phase III chimney-breast in room A (see plate 28). These had received no further treatment apart from a coat of light stone coloured paint matching that on the pitched fibreboard panels of phase I. As none of this paint was evident on the phase I tarred card tiles where the west wall of B/K butted the north wall of phase I, it appeared that the stone coloured paint on the rest of the phase I exterior post-dated the construction of phase II. This layer of paint probably represented an attempt to unify the exterior appearance of the house when phase II was added. The only exception to the use of softwood cladding on the phase II walls was on the interior on the ground floor where, in the vicinity of the later fireplace, the eastern half of the northern wall and the southern half of the eastern wall were clad with 595x415mm (23.4x16.3in) plain card tiles which overlapped one another by c25mm (1in). The earliest wallpaper on these tiles indicated that they were contemporary with the rest of the inner boarding of this phase and the likely explanation for their presence is that they were a temporary wallcovering anticipating the later fireplace and kitchen-range (phase III). It is likely that the horizontal internal softwood wall cladding in phase I rooms M and P dates to this construction phase.
- 4.2.3 *Roof* The wall-plate of the north wall carried a 75mm thick shaped segmental plate which increased in height from 0mm at either end to 100mm at the centre. This, and a corresponding plate set on the eaves of the phase I roof, carried the 90x75-155x90mm quarter and half scantling poles set at c465mm centres which made up the common purlins of the 'vaulted' roof structure. This roof structure was clad internally and externally with 230x9mm softwood boards. The same coarse brown/grey paper as was used in the wall structures was found interposed between the common purlins and the inner boarding and the roof cavities were again filled with sawdust (plate 25). The roof was weather-proofed by covering it with large sheets of 2.35mm thick treated coarse paper whose black colour but matt appearance suggests a chemical rather than hot pitch treatment (possibly some form of creosote). This substantially overlapped on joints (200+mm) and was held in place with similar treated 20-30mm card strips running east-west at c400mm intervals, fixed in place with 20mm clouts with 12mm heads at c100mm centres. This paper covering had then been covered with a coarse c5mm thick layer of pitch and small (5-10mm) gravel (plate 26). At a later date the

card strips had been augmented with further strips of c3mm treated card, similarly fixed and overlying the pitch/gravel mixture (also visible on plate 26).

- 4.2.4 *Windows and Doors* The upper room of this phase (room **B**) had been fenestrated with a large balanced sash in the north wall. This was clearly primary. The lower room (room **K**) was lit by a casement window in the north wall (plate 22). This window had clearly originally been a pair of french doors, the bottom part of which had been cut off and replaced with brick. It could not be conclusively determined whether these were original although their similarity to those found in the later rooms **Q** and **S** (phases VIII & X) indicate that they were not. It could not be determined whether the ground floor doorway between rooms **J** and **K** was primary. The likelihood is that this doorway was original and that it would have been the phase II back door to the house, the (somewhat altered) phase I back door now forming the access between the new extension and the phase I house.
- 4.2.5 *Floors and Ceilings* The upstairs floor was formed by nailing 150-210x13mm softwood floorboards to 170x70mm joists laid at 390mm centres which were supported by the bresummer plates within the stud walls. The ground floor was made up of boards measuring 170x20mm, fixed to 125x50mm joists laid at 390mm centres direct onto the earth. The ceiling of the ground floor room **K** was of lath and plaster but this was clearly secondary. The inner skin of softwood boards which made up the ceiling of the upper room (room **B**) retained evidence of hessian and paper beneath later cardboard panels and embossed paper.
- 4.2.6 *Internal Partitions* There were no internal partitions. Upstairs the wall and ceiling boards were decorated with wallpapers laid over a hessian backing whilst downstairs the primary wallpaper (ironically an rusticated stone design) was pasted directly onto the softwood wall cladding boards. The idea of papering directly onto the boards was clearly not a success and the paper was soon overlain with vertical reeded tongued-and-grooved boarding, grained with a dark oak scumble glaze.
- 4.2.7 *Other Phase II Alterations* It would appear likely that it was at this point that the western end of the phase I roof over room **D** was removed (apart from the eaves) and substituted with a 'vaulted' common purlin roof similar to that of **B/K** thereby increasing the floor to ceiling height by 100-200mm (plate 12). Apart from the most western, all of the primary rafters within this part of the roof had been removed, leaving only some sawn off stumps encased within the south wall. As with the phase II roof, the curved roof shape was derived from a pair of profiled segmental plates supporting common purlins running east-west. The eastern profiled plate had been laid directly on the phase I stud partition between rooms **E** and **P** whilst the eastern plate sat on a the one surviving primary rafter encased in the west wall (plates 12 & 34). Unlike the phase II roof over room **B**, the new common purlins running east - west which measured c100x50-60mm. The resulting framework was clad inside and out with 230x9mm softwood boards and the void between filled with sawdust. Unlike the roof of **B/K**, there was no paper membrane to help contain the sawdust in the roof void. Whether this roof was an experimental precursor to, or contemporary with that of **B/K** could not be determined.

4.3 *Phases IIIa and IIIb (Figs 7 & 9, plates 27 & 28) B/K chimneys*

The construction of two chimneys onto the east wall of phase II

- 4.3.1 Soon after the erection of the north wing (rooms **B** and **K**), a chimney and a large brick

fireplace (probably to contain a kitchen range) were added onto the outside of its eastern wall overlying the painted, and apparently somewhat weathered, painted pitched card tiles. Though later augmented by an additional flue and fireplace, the first arrangement clearly served only the ground floor (room **K**) at first and had already been painted light stone by the time the adjacent flue and fireplace was clumsily inserted to serve the upper room (room **B**). Both flues clearly predated the construction of room **A** and both also appeared to predate room **J** beneath which was originally built as a single storey lean-to (phases V and VI).

4.4 Phase IV (Fig 7, plates 29-31) *East extension of rooms F/M, enlargement of rooms D/E/P and canopy*
(timber, tarred paper & un-tarred card tile walls - timber & paper roof)

*John Towle's next project would appear to have been to enlarge several of the original rooms within Paisley House by an eastward extension to rooms **F** and **M** as well as with a northward extension of rooms **D** and **P**. Both of these extensions appear to have been much altered later but enough survives to indicate that they were constructed as softwood frameworks clad with horizontal boarding overlain by large sheets of tarred paper and painted plain card tiles. It would appear that it was at this time that the orientation of the house changed so that it faced south rather than north. Strangely the chimney breasts and fireplaces in rooms **D**, **P**, **F** and **M** appear to post-date this phase.*

Rooms F/M

4.4.1 Framework The surviving walls of the east extension to rooms **F** and **M** were found to have been built using a mixture of reused squared softwood members with wall-plates varying between 110x60-100x70, bressumers from 125x80-140x70 and studs ranging between 70x50-80x110mm at c450mm centres. There was a single diagonal in the south wall at first floor level and one remaining apparently primary diagonal in the southern end of the east wall on the ground floor which appeared to have been cut by the large sash window. The majority of the eastern wall and large parts of the northern wall appeared to have been very largely rebuilt when room **A** was added (phase VI).

4.4.2 Wall Cladding The northern and southern walls of the extension were clad internally with lath and plaster which appeared to be overlain by the chimney breast on the south wall. Externally both walls were clad with 210-260x9mm softwood boards. The initial weather-proofing overlying the boarding of the south wall appeared rather temporary, being of large sheets of treated paper 0.75mm thick overpainted with pitch but not painted, overlain, probably immediately, with apparently untreated plain card tiles which measured 590x395mm (plates 30-32). These tiles were very weathered and damaged and somewhat shrunk but possibly were originally oiled or shellacked. In the main they appeared to abut one another but in some instances they might have originally overlapped by c5mm. They seemed to have been an attempt at *faux* ashlar. The same 'ashlar effect' tiles were found overlying earlier walling on the rest of the south and west walls of phase I (including over the phase I windows of the south walls) and the west wall of phase II. These cardboard 'ashlar' tiles were probably another attempt to unify the various building phases. Where the former exterior boarding of the ground floor northern wall was abutted by room **J** (phase VII), some scraps of oiled or shellacked card tiles 400mm deep were noted in-situ following the removal of later tongued-and-grooved boarding (plate 29). These tiles had been neither tarred nor painted although they were overlain by the remains of a tarpaulin-like material which bore traces of both.

- 4.4.3 *Roof* The roof of the extension was flat and composed of 70x55mm rafters. Dummy stub-rafters were built into the south wall. These were shaped to match the ogee profile of the phase I soffit detail (plate 7). The rafters were clad on the exterior with 275-300x10mm softwood boards covered with thin treated paper, card strips, pitch and a gravel. The new section of roof abutted and incorporated the rafter ends and soffit of the phase I roof (plate 35).
- 4.4.4 *Doors and Windows* This phase contained no doors. There were few traces of any original fenestration which could be dated to this phase as little of the east wall had survived later rebuilding (phase VII) although it is likely that there would have been some windows in the new east wall as the original phase I windows in the south wall appear to have been blocked before or during this construction phase. Traces of a probable window were found in the north wall of the ground floor although the evidence was not conclusive.
- 4.4.5 *Floors and Ceilings* The original first floor joists of this construction phase were discovered beneath a later unified floor in room **F**. They measured 125x60-80mm and sat on bressumer plates within the stud walls. The ground floor appeared to be primary and was composed of softwood boards measuring 160-230x20mm fixed to various joists of reused softwood measuring 110x70mm and 80x70-85mm laid on narrow brick supporting walls. The primary ceiling on the ground floor (room **M**) had been replaced with plasterboard and that in the upper room (**F**) had been replaced with lath and plaster. Both had originally been of paper over hessian.
- 4.4.6 *Internal Wall Coverings* The lath and plaster walls were wallpapered in the conventional manner whereas the timber-clad walls were papered over hessian. It seems probable that the upper storey of this extension was not immediately incorporated into the primary room **F** as the corridor **C** had a straight joint in its south wall in line with the original phase I east wall. The only conceivable explanation for this is that the original east wall was retained for a short while as an internal partition and the new room was accessed via the corridor. Whenever the primary wall was removed, its function of supporting the ends of the rafters of the extension was taken by an inserted joist of wrought iron 'bridge rail' of the type used on the G.W.R. in broad gauge days (plate 33).

Rooms D/E/P

- 4.4.7 The other feature of which is attributed to phase IV is the first northward extension of rooms **D/E/P** (plates 12 & 34). Remains of this were found on the first floor and encased behind the upper part of the bay of room **P**. These earlier sections consisted of c70x50mm studwork clad with lath and plaster internally and lath and scribed render externally. The former north wall had been replaced with a joist formed of a length of 'bridge rail'. This was very worn and from the way it was de-laminating, clearly of wrought iron. The arched window in the north wall of room **E** appeared to belong to this phase and originally contained decorative stained-glass. The detailing of the casement window in the north wall of room **D** implied that it was a later insertion, though clearly replacing an earlier window. It is presumed that this wall was initially clad with the butting 'ashlar' type card tiles however any clear evidence of this had been destroyed by later lathwork. The attribution of this part of Paisley House to this phase was fairly clearly demonstrated by the way in which the secondary 'ashlar' card tiles on the west wall of **B/K** clearly predated this extension.
- 4.4.8 It would seem logical that the attractive canopy over the bay might also date to this phase of work although definite phasing proved impossible here. The skeleton of this canopy was formed of a series of curved chamfered ribs supporting thin softwood boards. The resultant

roof structure was covered over with a weather-proof cladding of tarred hessian overlain with roofing felt. This covering appeared to have been a later replacement for a probable paper roof covering. The dating of this feature to this phase rather than phase IX is based upon the fact that all the ribs were chamfered, even where hidden by the ceiling of the phase IX bay window.

4.5 Phase V (Figs 7 & 9) Infill in N.E. corner with single storey lean-to J (timber & paper roof)

The existence of this phase was not suspected until during demolition when a paper roof structure was revealed between the ceiling of room J and the floor of room A. Little else of this phase appeared to have survived the subsequent construction of room A above.

- 4.5.1 Nothing of this phase survived the construction of room A but during demolition it was discovered that the ceiling of room J had in fact once been the roof structure of a flat-roofed single storey lean-to abutting phases II and IV. This roof structure was composed of softwood boards 230x10mm overlain by large sheets of black coarse paper, card strips, pitch and gravel, similar to that of the phase II and phase IV roofs. The underside of the roof boards and the supporting joists had been limewashed.

4.6 Phase VI (Fig 7 and plates 10, 12 & 35) D/P chimney

This phase marks an increasing in comfort levels within Paisley house as room D of the original core received a higher 'vaulted' paper roof and a fireplace. The various disparate roofs were united with a homogenous roof covering.

- 4.6.1 A three-flue chimney was added to the western end of the original core, clumsily cutting the studwork in some places (plates 10 & 12) and overlying the painted card 'ashlar' tiles in others (plate 35). The chimney had been rendered and scribed to resemble ashlar prior to the building of the tower rooms T/T' (phase VIII).

4.7 Phase VII (Figs 7 & 9, plates 36 & 37) Addition of Room A over room J (Lath & scribed render walls - timber & paper roof)

The next phase marks the increasing 'embourgeoisement' of Paisley House and the visual and structural consolidation of the walls with render scribed to resemble ashlar. It also marks the end of the paper wall experiment.

- 4.7.1 During this phase Paisley House was further enlarged by creating a new first floor room (A), situated over the single-storey lean-to J. Although the original roof of the lean-to was left in-situ as the basis of the floor of the new room, it would appear that completely new north and east walls were provided. In addition, the east wall of room F (ext) was completely rebuilt at the same time whilst the east wall of room M (ext) was reconstructed north of the sash window.

- 4.7.2 *Framework* The north wall of room F (ext) appeared to have also been rebuilt below wallplate level whilst the original north wall of room M (ext) appeared to have been retained. The new walls were studded in the conventional manner with square-sawn studs set at

c380mm centres. The first floor studs were of uniform dimensions (75x50mm) however those on the ground floor were more varied (e.g. 75x40, 75x60, 80x40 and 80x80mm). Each wall had one or two diagonals per storey. The north-east corner post, which rose through both storeys, measured c120x80mm. As with the other phases, there were bressumer plates (75x75 & 75x60mm) within the studwork which carried the earlier roof and the joists of the first floor. The northern wall-plate was tapered from 90mm to 60mm to give the roof some fall and the east wallplate measured 105x60mm. Generally all joints were nailed. Some parts of both north and east walls were of single skin brick construction.

- 4.7.3 *Wall Cladding* The walls were clad externally with lath and render (plate 36). The render had very largely been replaced with pebbledash but fragments remained of earlier smooth render, scribed to resemble ashlar. This lath and render appeared to have been primary. Similar render was discovered on the west and south walls of phase I (plate 14) (**E/L/O-D/P-F/M**), the north and west walls of phase II (**B/K**), the south wall of phase IV (**F/M** ext) and phase VI (**D/P** chimney) as well as the remainder of the north wall of **D/P** ext I (see below). This would indicate another attempt to unify the exterior appearance of the house as well the final abandonment of the paper wall experiment. Internally, the walls of the upper room (**A**) were lathed and plastered and this also had the appearance of being primary. The walls of room **J** were clad with tongued and grooved softwood boards however these did not appear to have been primary and nail holes in the studs implied that these walls also were initially lathed and plastered.
- 4.7.4 *Roof* As stated above, the northern wallplate, forming the northernmost rafter, was tapered by 30mm from which it is inferred that this roof originally had a fall of a similar amount. The rafters, which ran east - west uniformly measured 55x60mm. This roof structure was clad externally with 275-300mmx10mm softwood boards. Unusually, near the eastern eaves, these roof-boards had been further clad with a cloaking of reused overlapping tarred card tiles measuring 605x425mm. These had traces of stone-coloured paint and occasional pieces of dry grass and the appeared to have been salvaged from the east wall of phase II (**B/K**). These and the rest of the roof had been weather-proofed with one layer of thin tarred paper held in place with 30-45mm wide card strips running east - west and north - south, fixed in place with clouts and the whole covered with a 2mm layer of tar (plate 37). Laid over this were a further layer of two thicknesses of tarred paper held down with card strips laid at c200mm intervals and fixed with small-headed nails. This was further covered with a thin coating of tar and coarse gravel, later hessian and asphalt.
- 4.7.4 *Doors and Windows* The north wall of the new extension was pierced with a door on the ground floor and a balanced sash matching that of phase II on the first floor. A matching sash was put into the east wall of room **F** whilst room **M** received a large triple sash which appeared to have been a reused item. This latter item cut the bressumer plate which was one of the few pieces of the phase IV west wall to have survived the phase VII rebuilding.
- 4.7.5 *Floors and Ceilings* The original phase IV floors appear to have been reused within rooms **F** and **M**. The new floor of room **A** consisted of softwood boards 230x21mm laid on 75x40mm furring pieces laid on the phase V roof. The floor of room **J** was composed principally of 230x230mm red quarry tiles laid on earth with a few 150x150mm and 305x305mm red quarry tiles in patches. The ceiling of the upper room was latterly of plasterboard however there were definite signs that the primary ceiling was of lath and plaster. The phase VII ceiling of room **J** may have been the limewashed underside of the original lean-to roof. At some stage this had been overlain with limewashed reeded tongued and grooved softwood boarding however it is probable that this was contemporary with that

on the walls which appeared to have post-dated the building of the eastern wall. This boarding had been overlain in turn by lath and plaster.

- 4.7.6 *Internal Partitions* The phase VII partition between rooms **A** and **F** was built in the conventional manner of 75x50mm studs, lathed and plastered.

4.8 Phase VIII (Fig 7 & plates 38-44) Rooms G/H/I-N/Q & Tower (T)
(Lath & scribed render walls - timber & paper roof)

During this phase the house was further extended and gentrified whilst still utilising the 'vaulted' paper roof.

- 4.8.1 The last major extension to Paisley House was created by the building of rooms **G/H/I-N/Q**. The ground floor was cut into the approach embankment to the railway bridge and in a departure from previous practice, the walls of the ground floor were constructed of brick, 9" thick on the south and west and 4" thick on the eastern and partition walls. A primary brick-built chimney stack served a fireplace large enough for a kitchen range on the ground floor and a small bedroom fireplace on the second storey.
- 4.8.2 *Framework* The timber frame was confined only to the upper storey (plates 38-40). Softwood plates measuring 105x80mm were laid upon these walls. Softwood studs were set upon these plates at c300mm centres. The studding, made up of various sizes of square-sawn softwood ranging from 45-60x70-80mm, was diagonally braced. The one surviving corner post measured 50x80mm. The wall plates were of 75x70mm softwood.
- 4.8.3 *Wall Cladding* As with phase VII, the walls were clad externally with lath and render. Areas of this render had been replaced with pebbledash but some large fragments remained of the earlier smooth scribed render which appeared to have been primary and matching that of the previous phase. Internally, the walls of the upper rooms were lathed and plastered and had a decorative plaster cornice running round the north walls of rooms **G**, **H** and **I**, the east wall of **I**, the south walls of **H** and **I** and the west wall of **H**. It was thus apparent that the partitions within the upper rooms were secondary.
- 4.8.4 *Roof* The east and west wallplates each supported a profiled segmental timber (plates 38 & 40). This was much more steeply pitched than any previous 'vaulted' roof, ranging in height from ends to centre by 250mm. This in turn supported squared softwood common purlins which ran east - west. These measured c110x55mm and were set at c400mm centres. Because the span between the end walls was much greater than any previously attempted, a length of 'bridge rail' had been bent to the same segmental profile and built in to support the common purlins at mid-span. This roof structure was clad internally and externally with 280x10mm softwood boards running north - south. The resultant cavity was filled with sawdust (without paper) as per the secondary roof of room **D** (phase VI) (plate 42). The roof had been weather-proofed with large overlapping sheets of tarred paper. These were held down with thin galvanised 28mm wide iron strips and the whole covered with a 10mm thick layer of asphalt with inclusions of small gravel up to 3mm diameter. The underside (first floor ceiling) was clad with hessian and wallpapered.

- 4.8.5 *Doors and Windows* The walls of the new extension were pierced with an opening for a new (front) door, a pair of cut-down French-doors and various barred and wooden casement windows. The upper floor was fenestrated with a pair of balanced sash windows which matched the others on the earlier facades. The doorway connecting this phase to the earlier structure appeared to have utilised a wider phase I window opening on the first floor. Any trace of a phase I door on the ground floor was obliterated by the opening up of a grand wide elliptic-headed arch connecting through on the ground floor.
- 4.8.6 *Floors and Ceilings* The upper floors was constructed of fairly consistent squared softwood joists which measured c110x60mm. These ran north - south and were carried by the bressumer plate of the phase I south wall at their north ends. The load on the bressumer was relieved in part by these joists being supported mid-span by a length of used 'bridge rail'. The floor boards were of 170x20mm softwood and the underside of the ground floor ceiling was lathed and plastered. The floor of the lower storey was composed of 150mm buff and black 'Platts O P' geometric tiles laid on a mortar-rich earth.
- 4.8.7 *Internal Partitions* The only primary partitions were those on the ground floor which were made of single skin brick. The external and partition walls were left un-plastered in room N which was clearly a pantry whereas all the other brick walls were plastered. The one exception was the north wall of room Q where the scribed render of the former exterior was preserved beneath the wallpaper. On the upper storey all the earlier wall finishes were removed and the earlier studding and former window were furred up, lathed and plastered. The partitions on the first floor butted the plasterwork and cornicing and was clearly secondary. The very light studding of these partitions was clad with large pieces of a brown card which was clearly embossed with the impression of very crude sacking. The cardboard had been further covered with numerous wallpapers, possibly scraps, roll-ends or samples. According to Rosemary Johnson (nee Turner) who grew up in Paisley house, this partition was installed c1940 by Len Viner, their lodger, a painter and decorator by trade, who lived in this part of the House with his mother. Both this type of card and the wallpaper scraps were features of numerous repairs elsewhere in the house which may thus be dated to the same hand and period.

Tower Room T/T'

- 4.8.8 Another feature of which is attributed to phase VIII is the projecting 'tower' on the west facade. The presence of scribed render on the south face of the D/P chimney which this tower abutted clearly dates its construction to after the first 'scribed render' phase. The narrow connecting doors to rooms H (plates 40 & 43) and Q make it appear likely that the tower is contemporary with the phase VIII extension despite the ogee dummy stub rafter detail in the eaves of the tower which replicates the phase I detail. The tower was lathed and rendered on the exterior. Removal of its 'sack card' inner cladding revealed remains of lath and plaster on its interior also. The roof was of timber, paper, tar and gravel.

Changes to Roof

- 4.8.9 It is tentatively suggested that it was at about this time that the original roof over rooms C, E and F was furred up level with the roof over room D and that of B/K (both phase II). Once the new furring had been boarded over, the entire roof apart from that part over B/K was covered with one layer of large thin sheets of coarse treated 0.9mm thick paper fixed with 3.25mm card strips, pitch and gravel (plate 44).

4.9 *Phase IX (Plates 6 & 9) D/P (2nd extension)*
(Lath & scribed render walls)

This final phase completed Paisley house by the addition of a conservatory, bay window and a decorative paper-roofed canopy

- 4.9.1 The final alteration to the exterior of the core house was the creation of a projecting bay window on the northern facade. This appears to have been part of a major rebuilding of the phase III north wall of rooms **D** and **P** involving the re-cladding and re-fenestrating of the upper part and the complete replacement of the walls on the ground floor either side of the bay window. The new lower wall was rather insubstantial with the 94x45mm studs being set so as to give only a 45mm cavity between the 250x9mm inner horizontal softwood boarding and the laths of the outer lath and scribed render skin. Strangely this lower part of the wall was set marginally further north than the remains of the older phase IV wall which were found above the ceiling of the bay window and on the first floor. It would therefore appear likely that the older wall was removed after the construction of its replacement. As speculated above (see phase IV), the first floor fenestration might also date to this rebuilding.

4.10 *Miscellaneous additions (Plates 6 & 9) Conservatory (U) and other structures*
(Brick & timber)

- 4.9.1 It proved almost impossible to phase the conservatory. Its north and south walls mirrored those of the original house which might suggest that it pre-dated the later extensions to north and south. The degree of disruption which would have been caused to such a fragile building during the construction of the **D/P** chimney and the tower (**T**) might suggest that the conservatory post-dated these latter extensions.
- 4.9.2 The similarity of the French doors of **S** to those of room **Q** appear to indicate that this glazed lean-to was contemporary with the rest of phase VIII. Constructional similarities might suggest that this lean-to was constructed at the same time as the conservatory.
- 4.9.3 It was not established whether the room **R** was of the same phase as the rest of the south extension (phase VIII) although the presence of a window in the wall between rooms **Q** and **R** might indicate that room **R** post-dated room **Q**. The brick floor and large corner chimney indicate that this room was constructed as a wash-house.
- 4.9.4 Vestigial evidence was discovered of projecting porches over the external doors to rooms **J** and **O**. Mrs Johnson recalls that the former was constructed by Len Viner. Both clearly overlay the pebbledash render, implying that both were late additions.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 It would appear from the above site observations and from the documentary evidence that Paisley House was the result of a process of rapid evolution, growing as it did from a small worker's type of dwelling into a substantial five bedroom villa in nine distinct phases between sometime after 1844 and sometime before 1875. It is also apparent that it illustrates a series of empirical experiments in the use of paper as a construction in the Victorian era and the study of the phasing of the building and observable success or failure of these experiments provides valuable insights into the more eccentric end of 19th century research into new

lightweight building materials.

5.2 It is unclear whether the phase I house was the 'small hut of timber framework covered with brown paper, with a fireplace in it, (built) for the purpose of claiming compensation from the Railway Company' derided by Major-General Pasley in 1844. The first phase of Paisley House could possibly have been described as 'a small hut' but there was no evidence that it was ever covered in brown paper nor was there any conclusive evidence that it was built with a fireplace. Despite the very good insulation properties designed into the house, the lack of primary fireplaces is a mystifying feature, not only of the initial phase but of several of the later ones. It was also noticeable that the wallpaper stratigraphy showed very slow early change. It is therefore suggested that Paisley house may have been uninhabited during its earlier phases and was used less as a dwelling than as a test-bed for John Towle's experiments in paper construction before being adapted to latter use as a villa.

5.3 The nine constructional phases of Paisley House may be broken down into five experiments in paper as a wall cladding material and two principal experiments in the use of paper as a roof covering. The experiments into paper walls may be broken down as follows:-

Experiment 1 (Phase 1)	-	<i>Ext.</i>	Large butted tarred fibreboard panels 1120x720xc10mm (apparently reasonably successful but not repeated apart from reuse of material. Latterly overlain by phase IV then render)
	-	<i>Int.</i>	Large butted plain fibreboard panels c1120x720xc10mm (apparently reasonably successful but not repeated apart from reuse of material))
		<i>Fill</i>	Sawdust (Successful - used in later phases)
Experiment 2 (Phase I)	-	<i>Ext.</i>	Tarred shiplap boarding overlain with tarred card tiles c620-770x?x3mm (apparently reasonably successful - Similar but smaller tiles used on phase II. All areas latterly abutted by extensions)
	-	<i>Int.</i>	Large butted plain fibreboard panels c1120x720mm (apparently reasonably successful but not repeated apart from reuse of material)
		<i>Fill</i>	Sawdust (Successful - used in later phases)
Experiment 3 (Phase 2)	-	<i>Ext.</i>	Overlapping tarred card tiles c600x425x3mm fixed to softwood boarding overlying coarse paper (apparently reasonably successful but not repeated. Latterly overlain by phase IV (in places) then render)
	-	<i>Int.</i>	softwood boarding (Conventional technique. Repeated in several later phases)
		<i>Fill</i>	Sawdust (Successful - used in later phases)
Experiment 4 (Phase IV)	-	<i>Ext.</i>	Large sheets of tarred paper over-painted with tar fixed to softwood boarding (Successful as a roof covering. In this instance rapidly or immediately overlain with 'ashlar' tiles (below) and latterly overlain with render)
	-	<i>Int.</i>	Probably usually softwood boards
		<i>Fill</i>	Uncertain, probably sawdust

Experiment 5 - (Phase IV)	<i>Ext.</i>	Butted c600x400x3mm plain card tiles resembling ashlar, Overlying large sheets of tarred paper or earlier phases (Ashlar tiles very badly weathered. Clearly unsuccessful. Latterly overlain with render)
	<i>Int.</i>	Probably usually softwood boards
	<i>Fill</i>	Uncertain, probably sawdust

5.4 The experiments into paper roofs may be broken down thus:-

Experiment 1 - (Phase 1)	<i>Ext.</i>	Flat roof. 50mm asphalt overlying large (probably overlapping) sheets of 3.25mm thick, apparently untreated, brown card laid on elm boards (apparently reasonably successful but very heavy and not repeated. Latterly overlain or replaced by later type paper roof)
	<i>Int.</i>	Apparently hessian and wallpaper (Conventional construction but not repeated)
	<i>Fill</i>	Apparently none (Probable low insulation value. Almost all later roofs insulated with sawdust)
Experiment 2 - (Phase II & IV-VIII)	<i>Ext.</i>	Flat and arc roofs. Coarse c5mm layer of pitch and small gravel overlying large overlapping sheets of 2.35mm black coarse paper held in place with tarred card (sometimes galvanised iron) strips. Laid over softwood boarding. (apparently very successful and used on all subsequent phases. Later overlain by hessian, tarpaulin and thicker pitch and asphalt)
	<i>Int.</i>	Arc roofs - softwood boarding overlain by hessian and wallpaper (apparently successful although hessian often later removed and replaced with card) Flat roofs - None, hessian, lath & plaster or s/w boarding
	<i>Fill</i>	Arc roofs - sawdust, retained in ceiling in room B (phase II) with additional paper membrane (Successful - used in later phases although without additional paper resulting in sawdust accumulating behind hessian) Flat roofs - Not normally found

5.5 It is unfortunate that there are several questions remaining regarding several aspects of the history and technology of Paisley House. During the survey and subsequent demolition of Paisley House over one hundred samples were salvaged and it is hoped that in due course this material will be subjected to detailed analysis allowing several of the gaps in our knowledge of the evolution and technology of the building to be filled. The most obvious outstanding work would be a detailed analysis of the composition of the various papers, cards, fibreboards and bituminous substances. This would not only reveal much about how scientific John Towle was in his experimentation but also whether he was using the stock materials of his trade or sourcing and developing specialist products. It would also probably answer remaining questions about the phasing of the parts of the building and which materials he considered worth persevering with (i.e. which materials recur). Another valuable avenue of investigation would be a study of the eighty or so wallpaper samples recovered which should

elucidate the changes which occurred in the internal arrangement of the house as well as providing dating and social information. Finally a study ought also to be made of the relevant Census Returns and Parish Rate Books to discover who, if anybody, was occupying the evolving house and at what dates.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 It is clear that Paisley House was a remarkable survivor from a period of intense activity and experimentation in new building materials as the industrial revolution got well under way. It is also apparent that Towle's house represented much more than a sham structure built to gain compensation from the railway. Whilst it appears possible that no part of the 1844 brown paper 'hut' remained within the structure, the archaeological building survey revealed that the 'hut' was probably only the first of a series of empirical, full-scale, experiments in a new and relatively untried technology. Despite the fact that the building was later clad with pebbledash render and an asphalt roof, the survival of much of the original lightweight structure of Paisley House survived for one hundred and fifty years, despite regular flooding and the ever-present threat of fire from the adjacent railway, is a fitting testimony to the soundness of the paper as a building material. Indeed it is possible that it was largely the greatly increased loadings of the more conventional later building materials which caused the sagging and subsidence which accelerated the building's demise.

Rob Kinchin-Smith
Oxford Archaeological Unit
June 1998

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Appendix A

List of Sources Consulted

Archival Sources

- Centre for Oxfordshire Studies

Documentary Sources

- Victoria County History: Oxon. vol. 2
- Airs, M.R., *Paper Roofs in the Nineteenth Century: Theory and Practice* (unpub. MS),
- Airs, M.R., The Strange History of Paper Roofs (offprint from *Trans. Ancient Monuments Society*, Vol. 42, (1998)
- MacDermot, E.T., *History of the Great Western Railway; Vol 1 - 1833-1863*, 1964
- McAlester, V.& L., *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York, 1991)
- Sephton, R.S., *John Towle 1796-1885* (unpub. MS.), 1996
- Sephton, R.S., *Additional Notes on John Towle* (unpub. MS.), 1996

Cartographic Sources

- Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map (Oxon XXXIX 7)

Appendix B

Notes on Use of Rooms

Room A	Rosemary Johnson's bedroom when small then spare room. Later used by George Andrew Turner. Converted into bathroom c.1969 following George Andrew Turner's death. Cupboards formerly on both sides of chimney breast
Room B	George Andrew & 'Queeney' (Victoria) Turner's bedroom
Room C	Passage
Room D	George Hambridge & Rosa Turner's bedroom. (Commode, later portaloo, in T)
Room E	Stairs and landing
Room F	Spare room. Rosemary Turner's bedroom after A . Used as living room during floods
Room G	Passage (built c.WWII by Len Viner - See G/H/I). Originally part of H/I
Room G/H/I	Originally one bedroom, tenanted (with Q/R/S/T'/U/V) by Mr & Mrs Bulford (Mr Bulford, a gardener by trade, died here c.1935). Latterly tenanted by Len Viner & his mother. Partition constructed c.WWII by Len who was a decorator by trade
Room J	Originally shared scullery with a pump in corner and a stone (later Belfast) sink. Latterly Rosa Turner's kitchen (after K). Mains water put in c.1969 and enamel combined sink/draining board installed
Room K	George Hambridge & Rosa Turner's original kitchen. Range taken out after 1956. Mr Johnson (Rosemary Turner's husband) remembers the ceiling being of wood, insulated with sawdust
Room L	Stairs and passage
Room M	George Hambridge & Rosa Turner's parlour. Used only for best. John Towle's portrait hung in S.E. corner
Room N	Pantry - shared between George Hambridge & Rosa Turner and George Andrew & 'Queeney' (Victoria) Turner. Contained stone slab shelf
Room O	Entrance Hall
Room P	Living Room - shared between George Hambridge & Rosa Turner and George Andrew & 'Queeney' (Victoria) Turner. Contained a piano. 1950s fireplace put in by 'Queeney' (Victoria) Turner. Fire normally only lit at weekends. Sometimes used for cooking meals
Room Q	Originally kitchen, tenanted (with G/H/I/Q/R/S/T'/U/V) by Mr & Mrs Bulford. Latterly Len Viner & his mother's Living Room (kitchen moved to conservatory U). Len removed kitchen range and put in the fireplace
Room R	Pantry - tenanted by Mr & Mrs Bulford/Len Viner & his mother
Room S	Glazed passage - tenanted by Mr & Mrs Bulford/Len Viner & his mother
Room T	Tower passage (contained built-in cupboard) - tenanted by Mr & Mrs Bulford/Len Viner & his mother
Room U	Conservatory - tenanted by Len Viner & his mother. Converted to a kitchen by Len Viner
Room V	Glazed passage - tenanted by Mr & Mrs Bulford/Len Viner & his mother

It will be seen that, throughout living memory, the house was used as two almost separate dwellings, one part being shared by three generations of the Turner family, the other part being tenanted. It seems quite possible that this practice reflected the historic use of the property as John Towle (and wives) shared the house at separate times with both a nephew and a niece of Towle's. It therefore seems quite probable that Towle constructed the phase VIII extension (**G/H/I/O/N/Q/T**) as a semi-autonomous annexe.

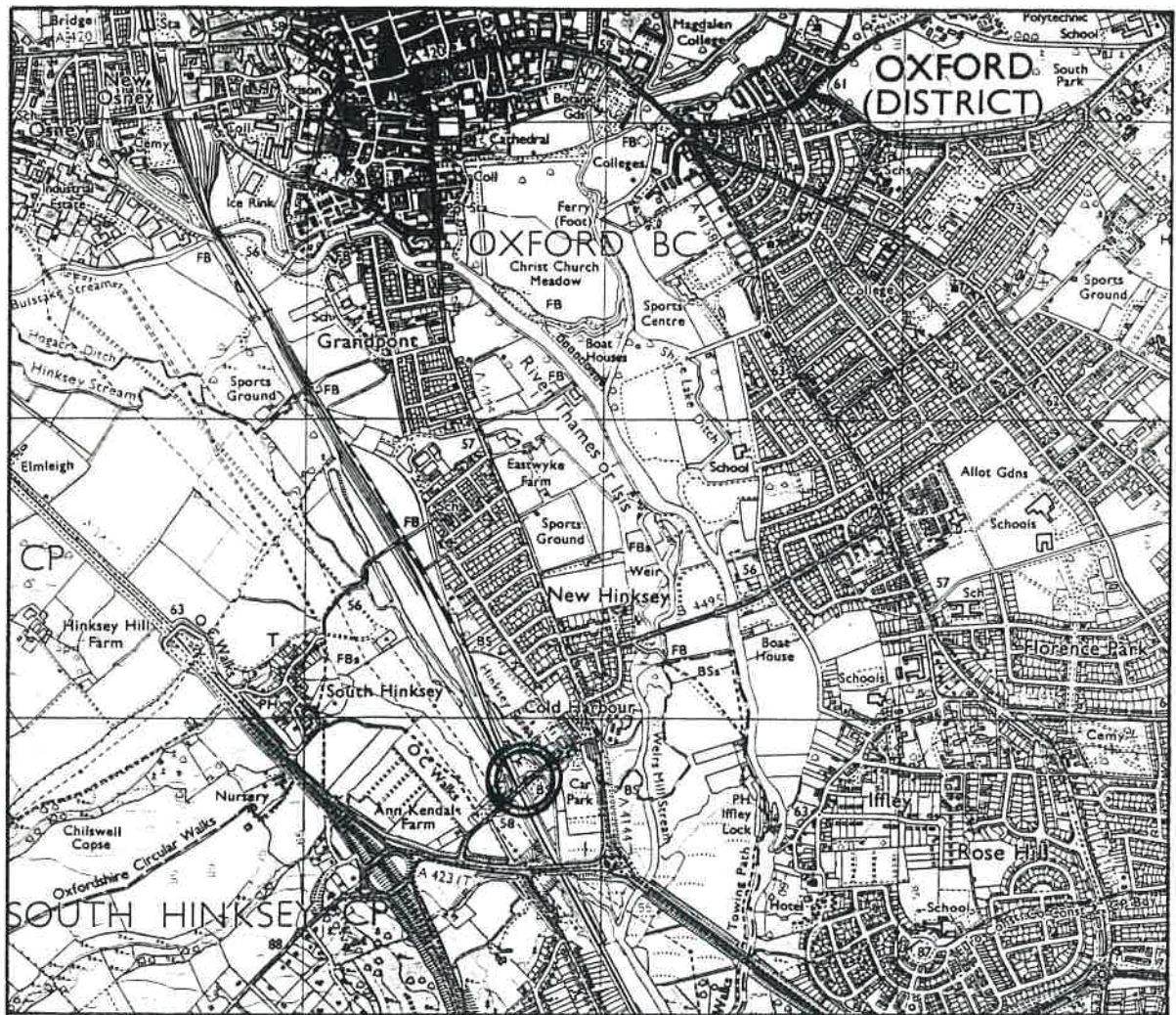


Fig 1 Location Plan

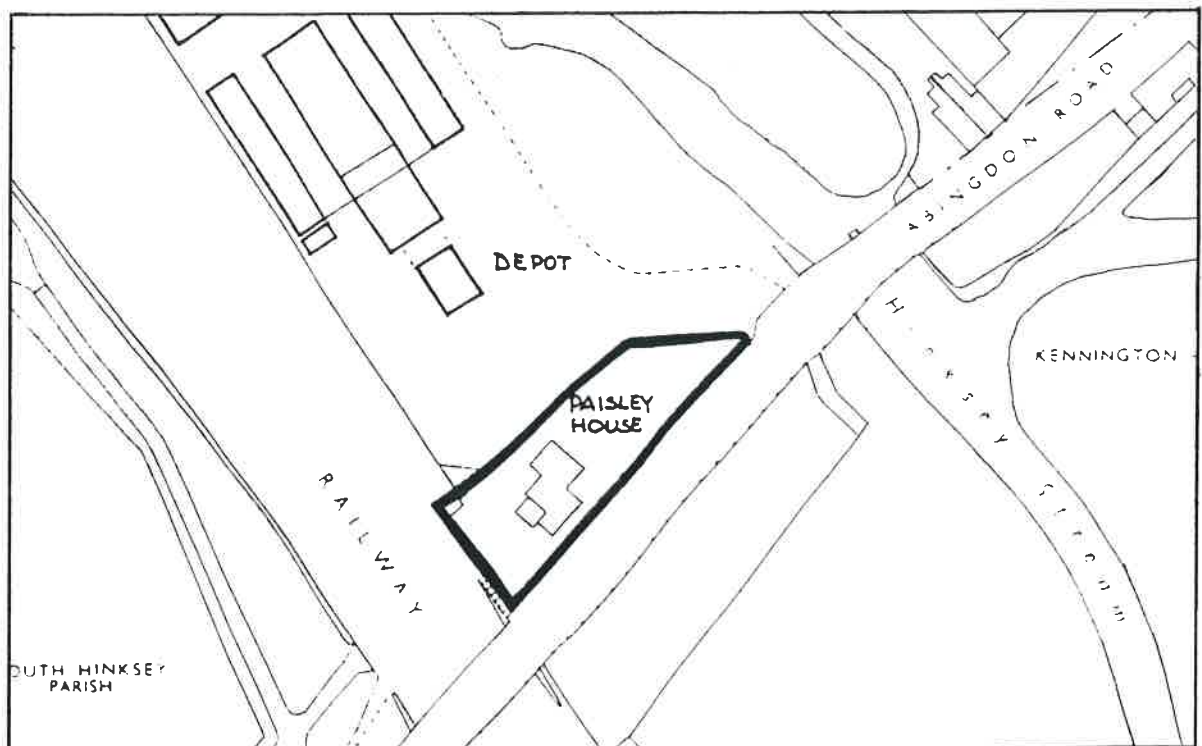


Fig 2 Site Plan

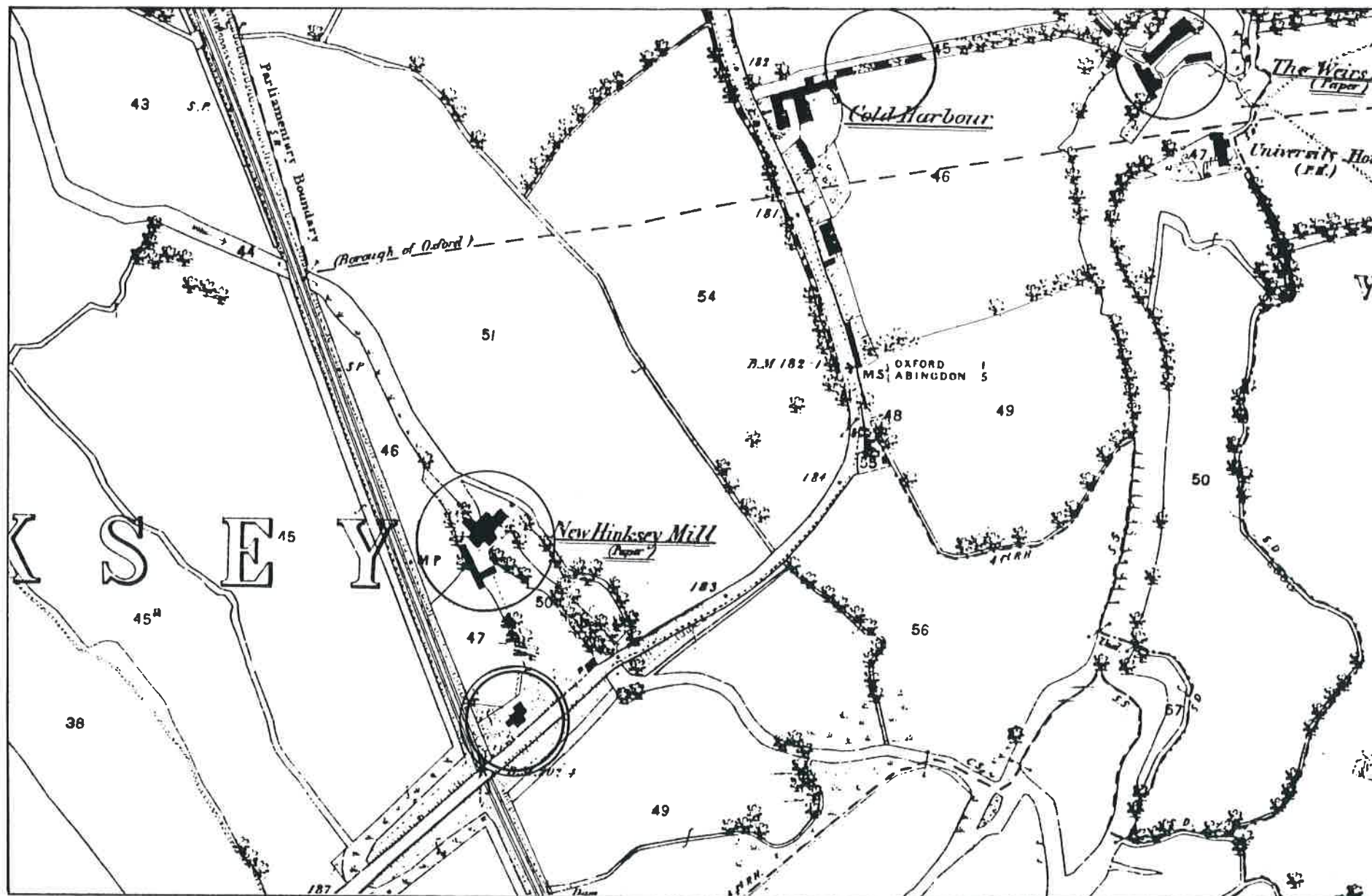


Fig 3 Detail from Ordnance Survey 25" 1st Edition (1875) showing Paisley House, John Towle's three semi-detached pairs of cottages on Weirs Lane and his two paper mills - New Hinksey Mill and Weirs Mill

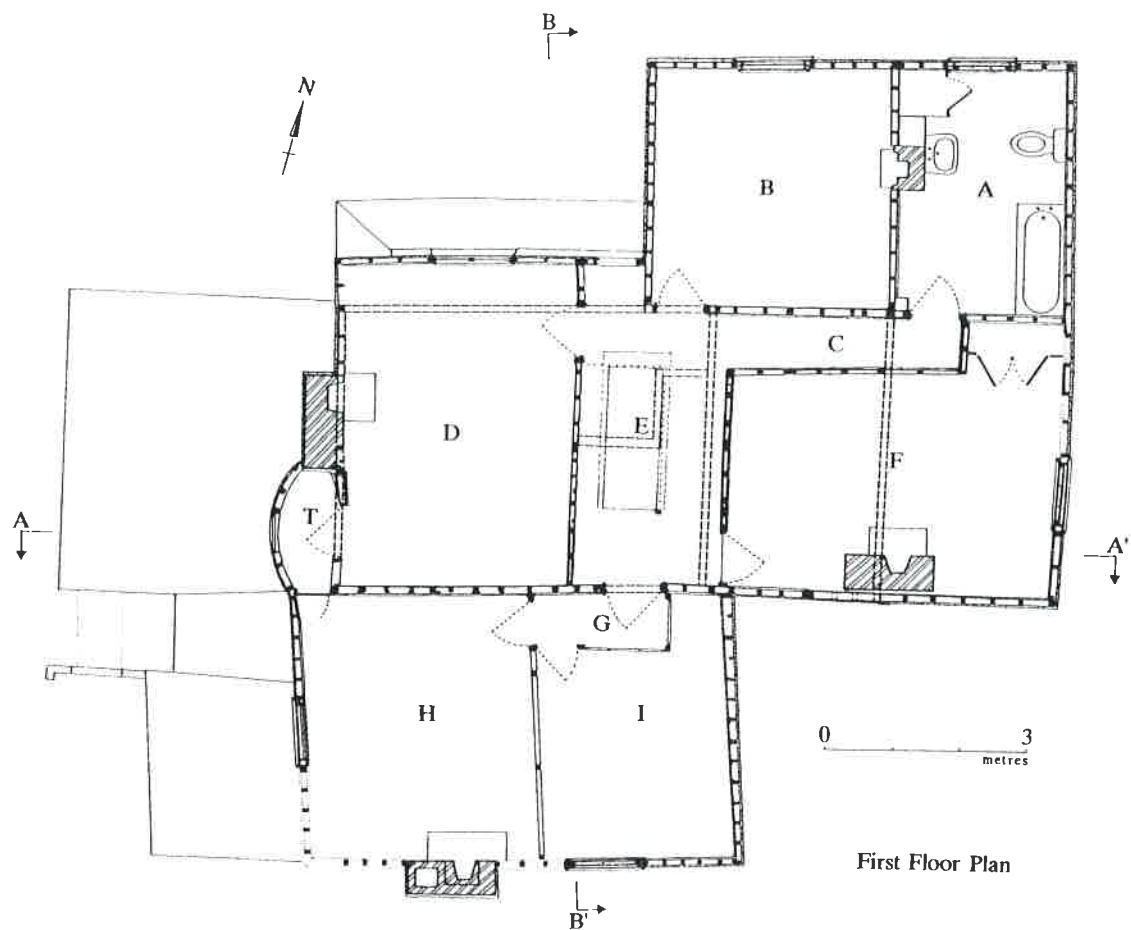
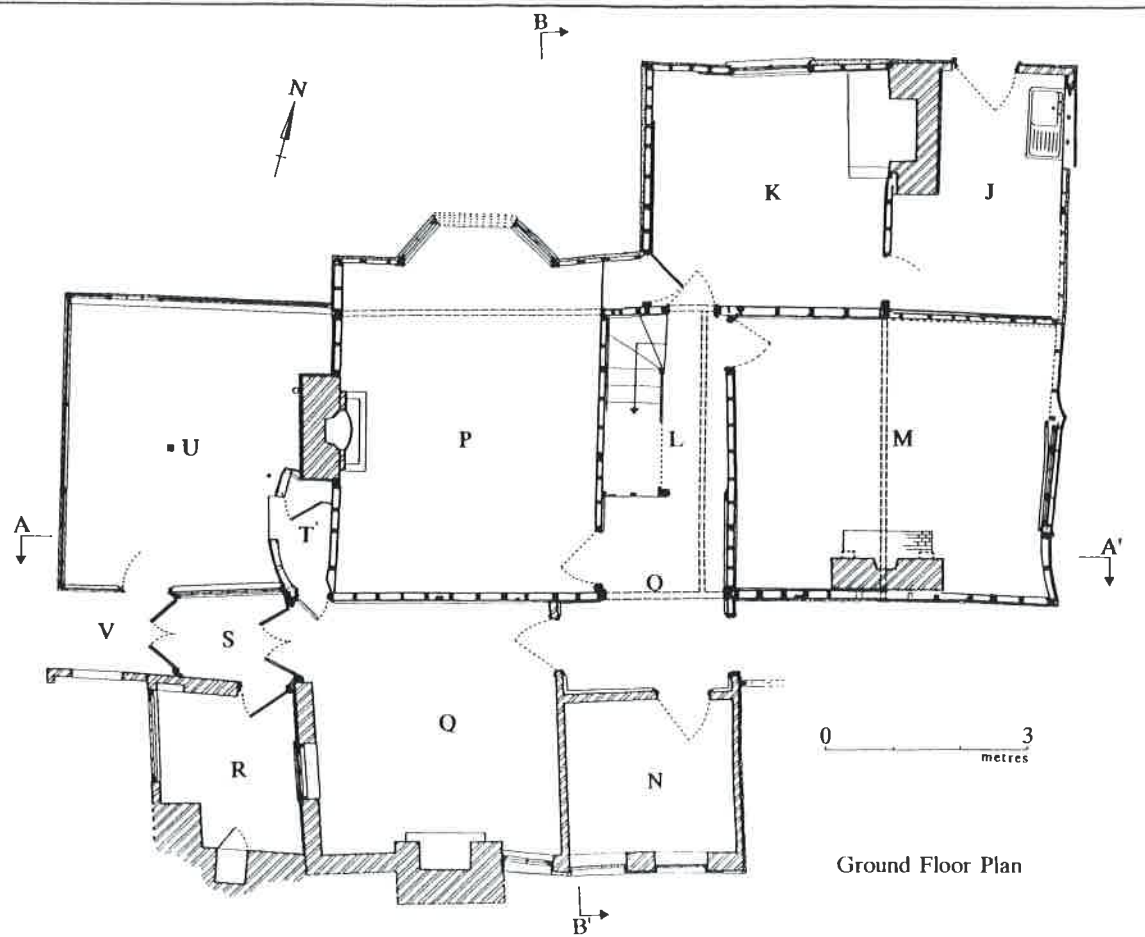
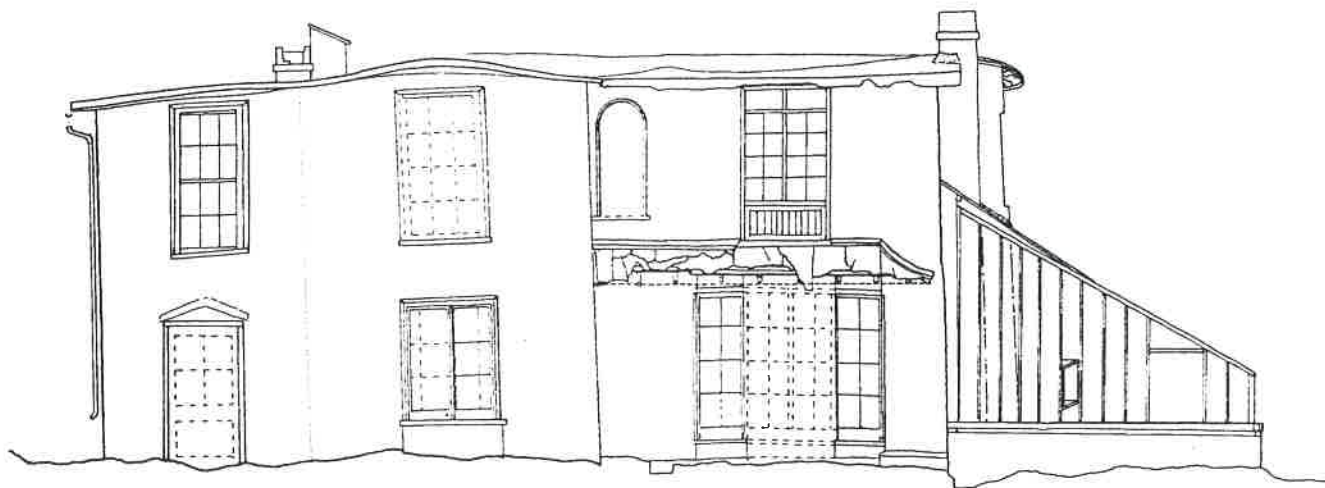
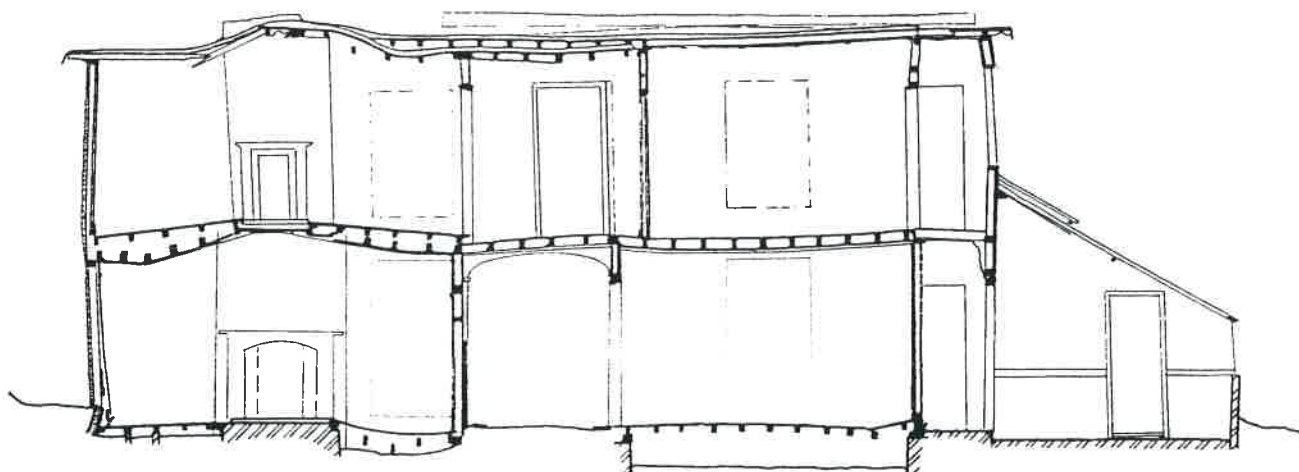


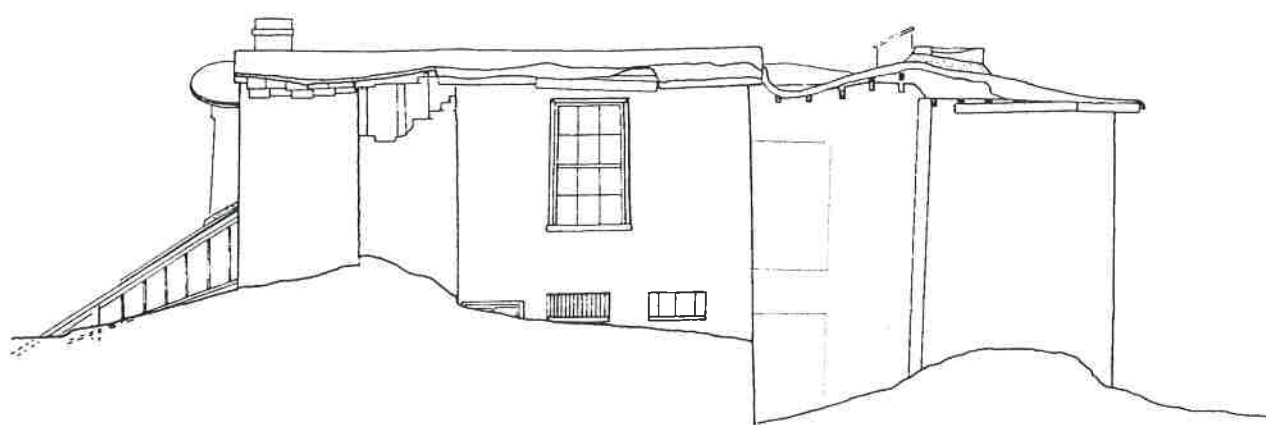
Fig 4 Paisley House: ground and first floor plans



North Elevation



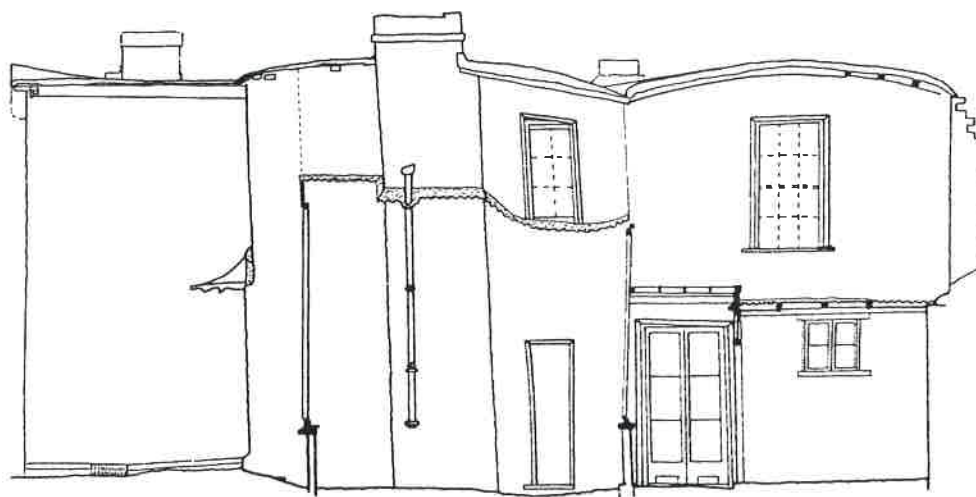
Section at A-A'



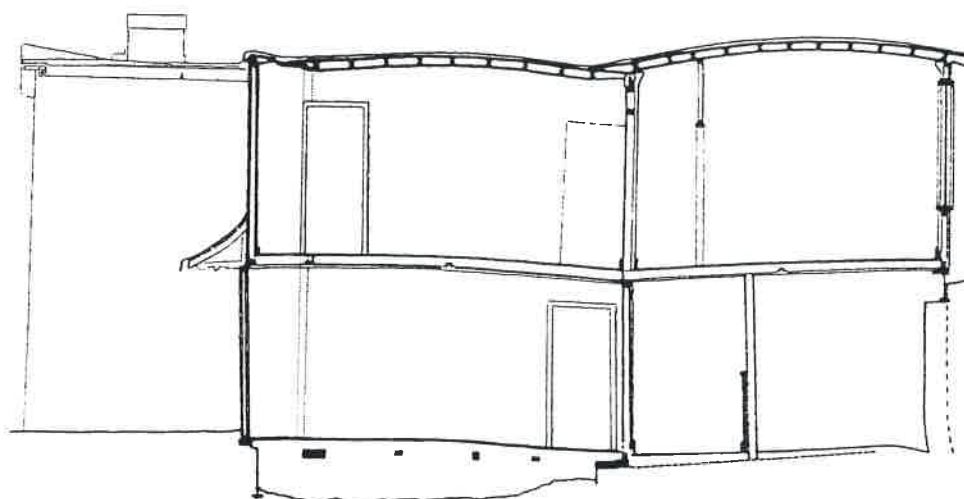
South Elevation

0 5
metres

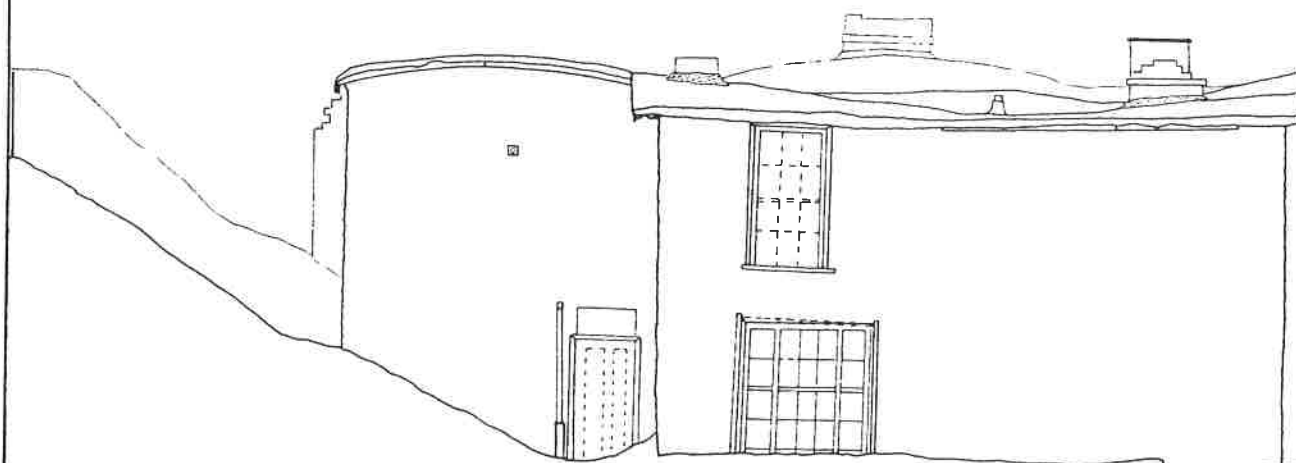
Fig 5 Paisley House: longitudinal section and north and south elevations



West Elevation



Section at B-B'



East Elevation

0 5
metres

Fig 6 Paisley House: transverse section and east and west elevations

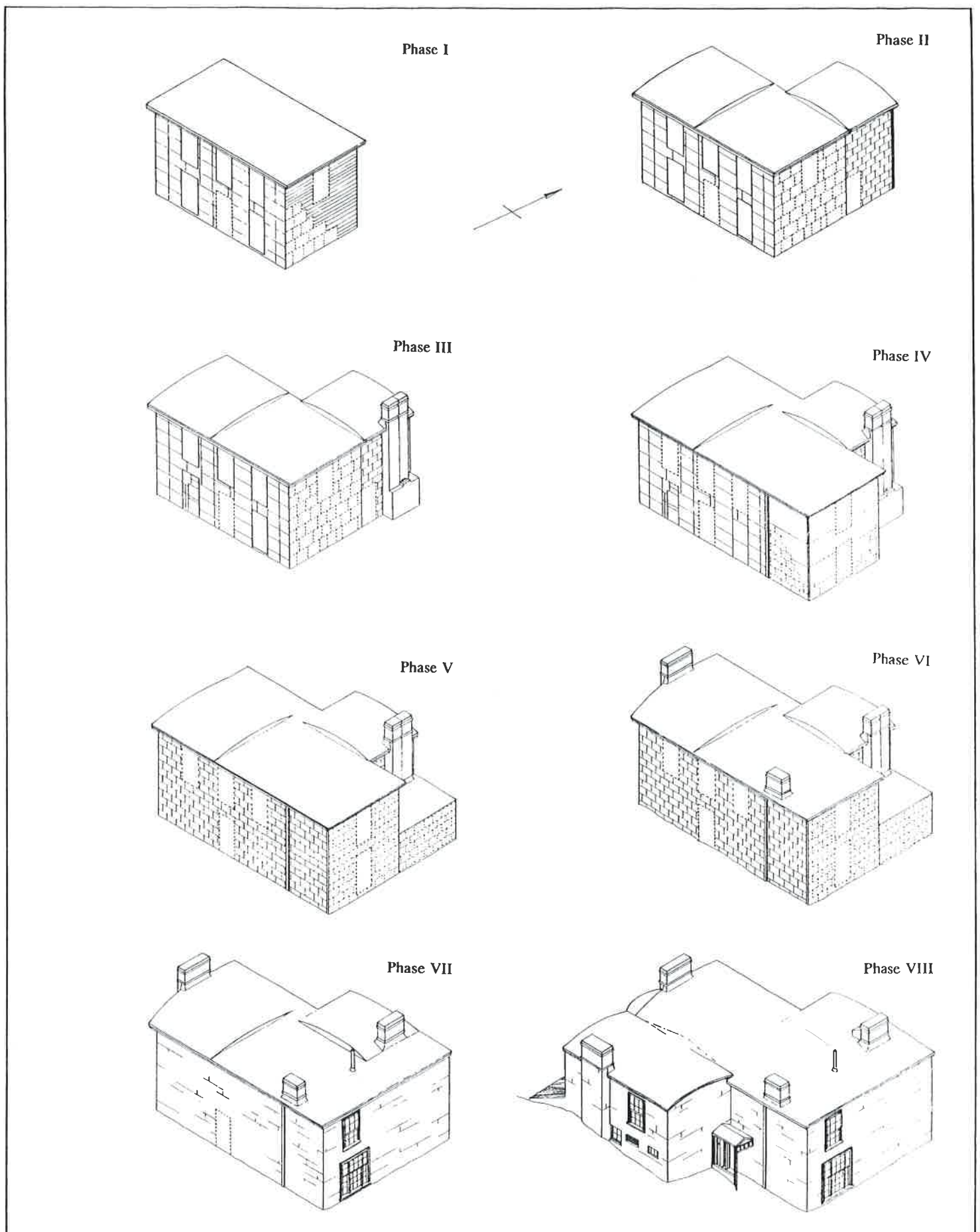


Fig 7 Paisley House: interpretative phasing - c1844-1875

Fig 8

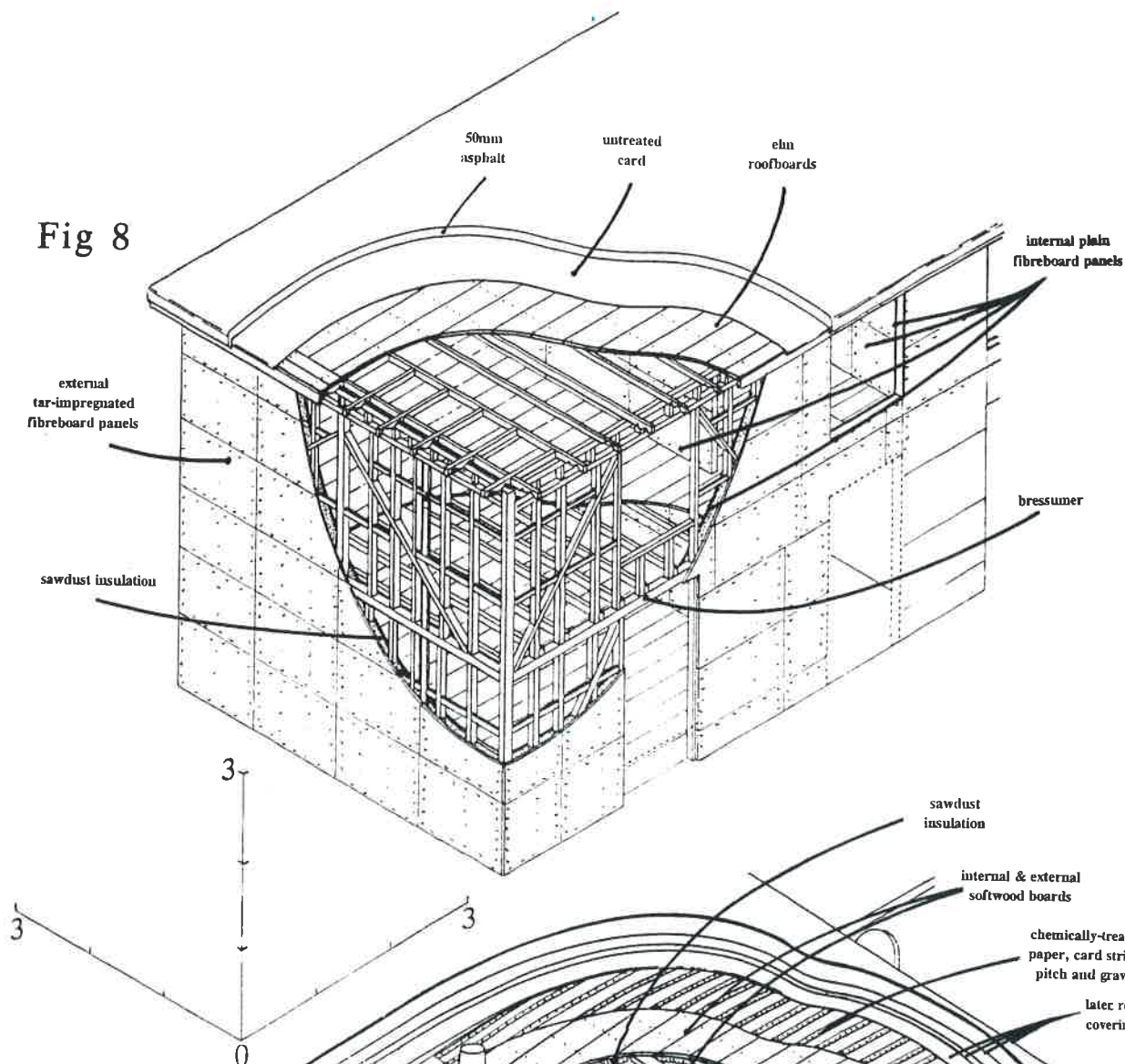


Fig 9

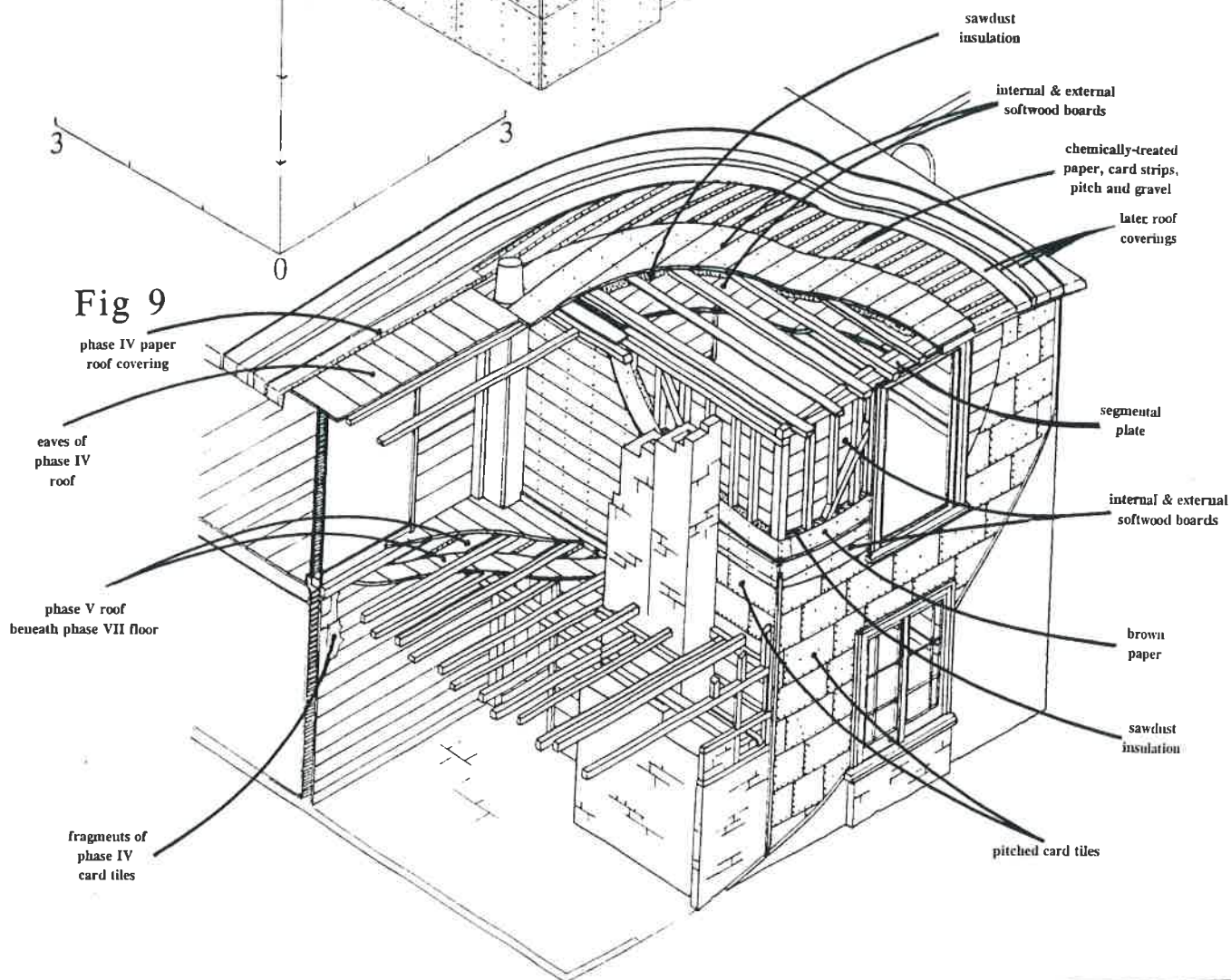


Fig 8 Paisley House: axonometric projection showing construction of phase I building from the south-west (restored)

Fig 9 Paisley House: axonometric projection showing construction of phase II extension (B/K) with later additions including phase III chimneys, phase IV extension to F/M, phase V roof over room J incorporated into the floor of phase VII extension A/J



REPRESENTATION OF LITTLEMORE.

HUTCHES MANEY,
As my advanced age precludes me from standing for The
First Division, at Eastwood, I now beg to offer myself as a Candidate for the next vacancy in the
"Wards" of Littlemore.
My habits and opinions have been well known to you all for the last forty years. I need not,
therefore, enumerate the many qualifications which render me so peculiarly fitted to represent the
Inhabitants of England in the coming Parliament.
Should you do me the honour to elect me as your Member, no exertions shall be wanting on
my part to prove that I still am—what I have always endeavored to appear—and that is
A MOST UNMITIGATED OLD MUFF!
and one who is
UTTERLY DEWIGHTED! and hopelessly OBSTINATE, CHILDIRN, & RIDICULOUS!!!
In the course of the ensuing week I shall be myself the pleasure of calling upon you
WAWNE! by WAWNE!!
and if you wish to reject the "Child" of the Tory Candidates, you cannot do better than select
the present writer,
(A wet old) "JACK TOWEL,"
Ex-Champion of "THE LIGHT WEIGHTS."



Plate 1 (Left) Political lampoon of John Towle
(Centre for Oxfordshire Studies)

Plate 2 (Above) Towle's cottages in Wiers Lane, shortly
before demolition, June 1923
(Bodleian Library M.S. Top. Oxon. d.493, fol.59r bottom)



Plate 3 Paisley House, east elevation c.1950
(Courtesy Rosemary Johnson)



Plate 4 Paisley House, north elevation, April 1953
(Courtesy Rosemary Johnson)



Plate 5 View from the north showing the sheds built to the east of Paisley House, probably as part of the Turner's dairy/smallholding
(Courtesy Rosemary Johnson)



Plate 6 Paisley House from the north-west, shortly before demolition



Plate 7 Paisley House, east elevation



Plate 8 Paisley House from the south-east showing the quantity of rubble latterly dumped against the building



Plate 9 Paisley House from the north-east showing the G/H/I-N/Q extension built into the embankment behind and the conservatory and lean-tos



Plate 10 The phase I south and west walls of rooms D/P during demolition showing studding, tarred fibreboard exterior cladding and inserted fireplaces



Plate 11 The former north wall of the phase I house showing single diagonal, upper brussumer plate and the eaves of the phase I roof. Prior to dismantling this wall was clad with tarred feather-edge boarding overlain by traces of tarred card



Plate 12 The interior of the phase I west wall of room D showing the inserted fireplace, the tarred fibreboard exterior cladding and later phase II roof. Note the phase IX extension on right with original rafter end incorporated



Plate 13 Studding detail within south wall of room P showing first floor brussumer supporting joists and phase I exterior tarred fibreboard behind

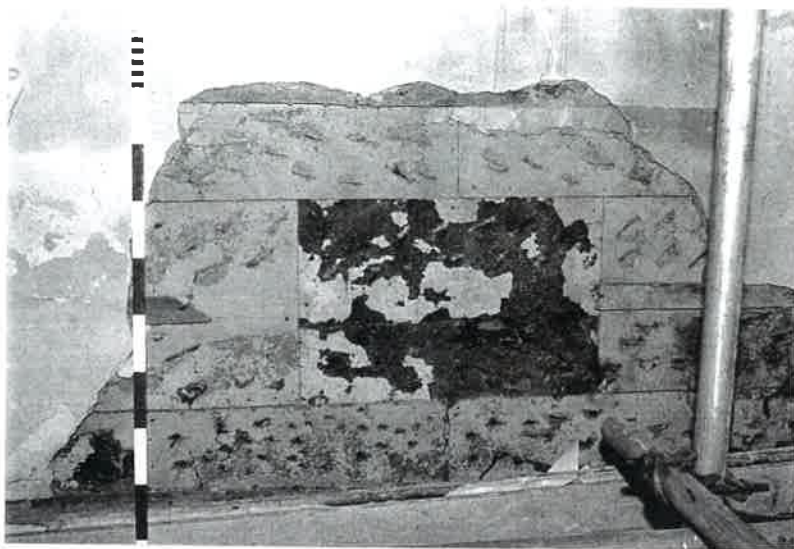


Plate 14 The former external (south) face of the south wall of room P showing phase I painted tarred fibreboard wall cladding revealed by the removal of butting *faux*-ashlar card tiles and phase VII scribed ashlar-effect plasterwork



Plate 15 The west wall of room F showing plain fibreboard panels (phase I reused) retaining primary wallpaper. Note phase I roof and blocked door to right

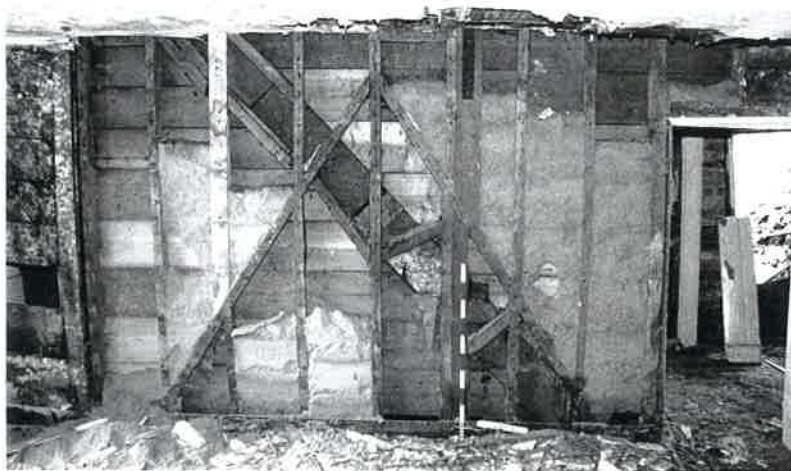


Plate 16 The east (internal) wall of room P showing Phase I studding and line of former primary staircase in room L behind rising from south to north. Note also sawdust insulation, secondary boarding and blocked phase IV doorway on left. The inserted stud in line with the scale supports the inserted bridge rail joist



Plate 17 The original eaves of the phase I roof still extant within room B of the phase II extension (B/K). Note the tarred feather-edge boarding of the phase I north wall below

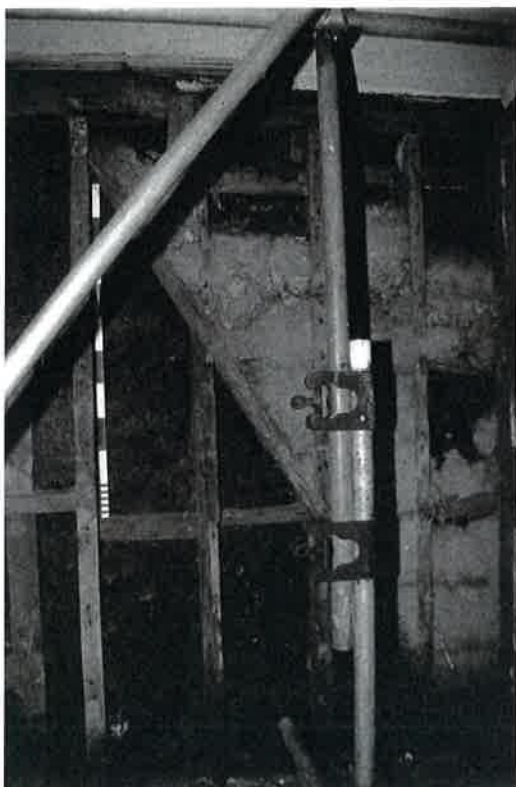


Plate 18 Detail of the north (internal) face of the phase I south wall of room P after removal of secondary boarding. Note the sawdust insulation, the internal face of the phase I exterior wall panels and primary window, blocked with reused phase I panels, on left



Plate 19 Former phase I south window in room F, blocked with lath and plaster. Note primary plain fibreboard wall panels and wallpaper overlain by phase VI chimney-breast



Plate 20 Former phase I south window of room D, blocked with boarding and lathwork of room H. Note fragments of primary wallpaper and phase I plain fibreboard internal wall panels



Plate 21 Blocked phase I door between rooms D and E. Note primary wall panels and fragments of original wall paper



Plate 22 North elevation of phase II extension (B/K), abutted to left by phase V/VII extensions J/A. Note painted tarred card wall tiles and curved roof profile.

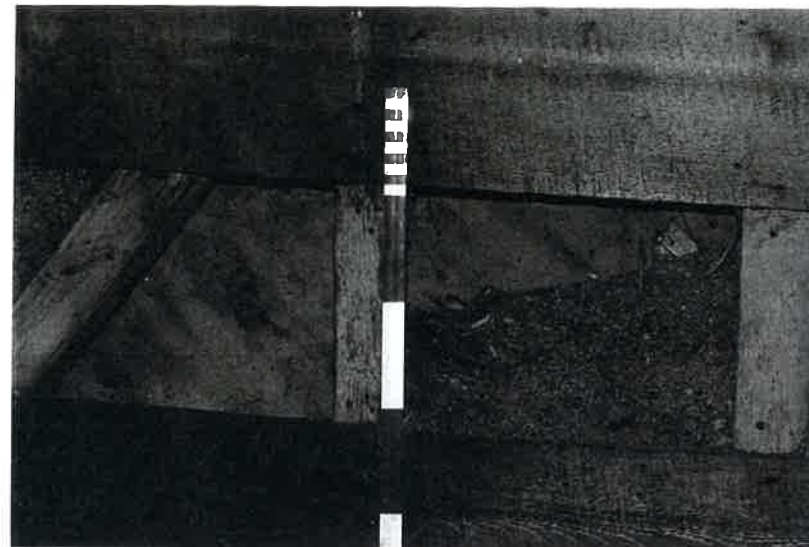


Plate 23 Detail showing phase II wall construction from the interior. Note the sawdust infill and the coarse brown paper sandwiched between the studs and the external boarding



Plate 24 Detail showing the phase II exterior tarred card wall tiles incorporated into the body of the house by the phase IV northward extension of rooms D/P/E



Plate 25 Phase II roof from the underside (room B). Note the halved log common purlins, sawdust fill. The sawdust was originally retained within the roof by a layer of coarse brown paper between the inner boards and the common purlins

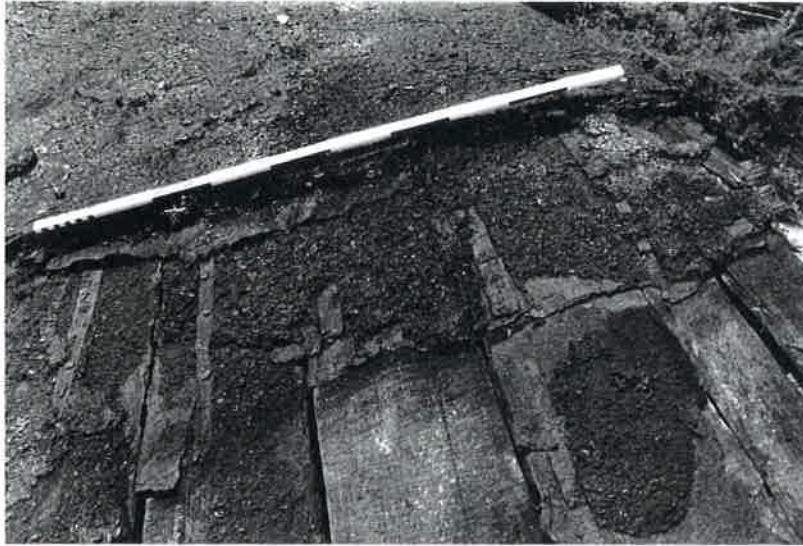


Plate 26 Phase II roof covering over room B, as exposed by removal of later layers of paper and pitch



Plate 27 Phase 3a and 3b chimneys during demolition



Plate 28 Upper portions of phase 3a and 3b chimneys within room A. Both chimneys overlay the tarred card wall tiles of the former east external wall of the phase II extension (on right). Note the remains of exterior paint on both chimneys and wall tiles



Plate 29 Vestiges of oiled card and tarpaulin on the former exterior boarding of the north wall of room M, visible after removal of later interior boarding in room J



Plate 30 Phase IV tarred paper and untreated *faux*-ashlar card tiles revealed after the removal of later scribed render and pebbledash on the south wall of F/M extension



Plate 32 View of the south wall of rooms F/M, showing how the *faux*-ashlar tiles on phase I section of the wall about those of the Phase IV extension. They also overlay the phase I south windows of both rooms (on left)

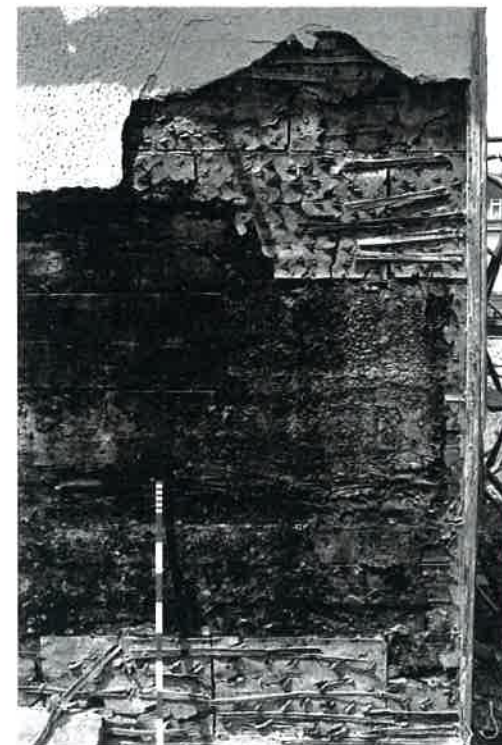


Plate 31 Detail showing phase IV exterior boarding and tarred paper after removal of *faux*-ashlar tiles



Plate 33 Ceiling/roof of room F showing phase I roof (including former rafter ends) to right and phase IV roof to left. Note length of bridge rail taking the place of the phase I east wall and slightly staggered noggins indicating the possible position of a window or chimney breast



Plate 34 Detail showing west wall of room D showing the former rafter end and eaves and the phase IV northward extension



Plate 35 View of the west wall of rooms D/P during demolition showing the primary tarred fibreboard panels and secondary un-tarred *faux*-ashlar tiles continuing behind the phase VI chimney



Plate 36 North elevation of phase VII extension (A/J) abutting the phase II extension (B/K). The floor between the ground and first floors was found to contain the paper-covered roof from the phase V single-storey building on the site however, the exterior walls, which were always of lath and render construction, appeared single-phase



Plate 37 Collapsed phase VII paper-covered roof over room A after removal of several secondary layers of tarred paper, pitch, hessian and asphalt



Plate 38 West elevation of phase VIII extension (rooms G/H/I-N/Q) showing the curved profile of the paper-covered roof and stud, lath and render wall construction



Plate 39 Upper storey of phase VIII extension (rooms G/H/I) from the south

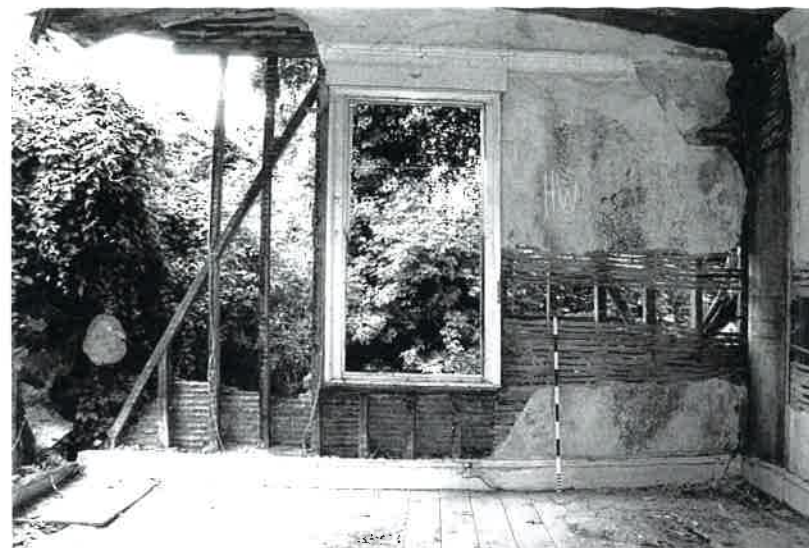


Plate 40 West wall of room H, showing construction of external walls and profiled wall plate

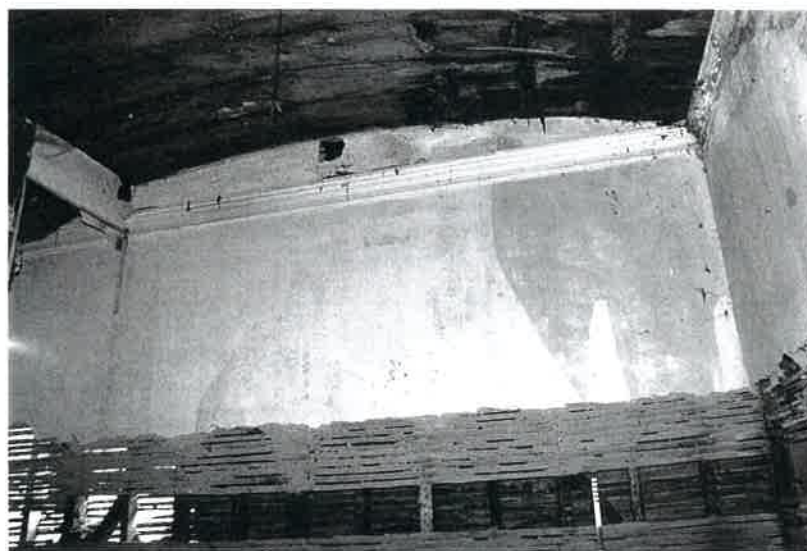


Plate 41 East wall of room I showing straight cornice and vaulted ceiling



Plate 42 Detail of phase VIII roof, showing common purlins and sawdust-filled cavity



Plate 43 Upper tower room (T), showing lathwork, door to room H and phase I eaves

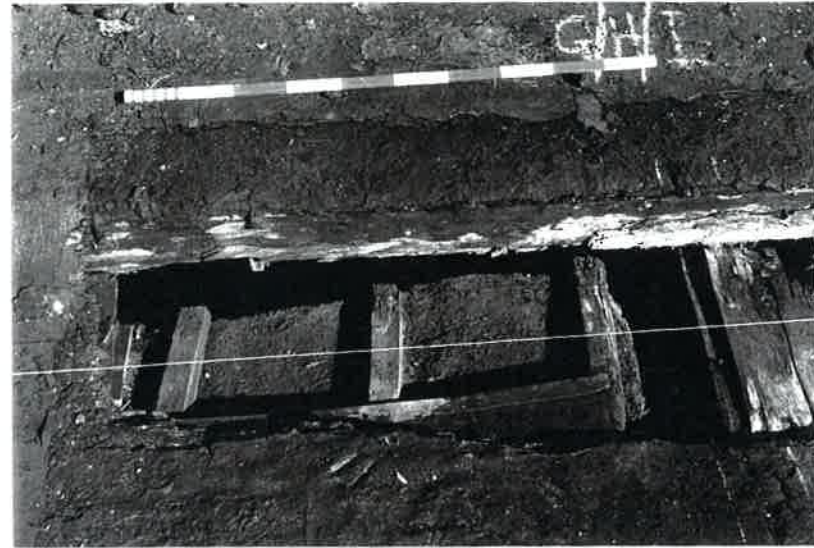


Plate 44 Section through the valley between the roofs over rooms G/H/I-N/Q, rooms D/P (to right) and E/L/O (centre). Note how the replacement vaulted phase II roof over D/P and the lower phase I roof over E/L/O are both overlain by furring, boarding and tarred paper associated with the phase VIII roof over G/H/I-N/Q



Plate 45 North elevation of the conservatory (room U)

