



November 1997

THE FIRST WHITE CLOTH HALL KIRKGATE LEEDS WEST YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Building Survey Report

White Cloth Hall, Kirkgate, Leeds West Yorkshire

Archaeological Building Survey

Report no 1997-98/(026)/7680

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SUMMARY

In the summer of 1997 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) undertook a programme of archaeological survey at the First White Cloth Hall, Leeds (SE 335306) commissioned by Speciality Shops plc. The archaeological survey programme of works incorporated a basic documentary study, a photographic survey, a watching brief during the removal of wall finishes, an instrument survey, and fabric analysis of the elevations surrounding the historic courtyard.

The building was in an unstable condition at the time of survey and the recording programme was in part constrained by health and safety requirements. Where possible a reflectorless instrument was used to record elements of plans and elevations where there was no safe access. Although the survey was able to record the ground, first and cellar floor plans, the second floor was too unsafe to enable access and could not therefore be surveyed. Part of the former White Cloth Hall is still in use as an amusement arcade ('Las Vegas'), and consequently the recording programme was limited in these areas.

The survey recorded the elevations of the east, west and south Cloth Hall arcades, including the cellar wall beneath the east arcade. Other walls recorded, as part of the survey, were the external south wall of the Cloth Hall building and the northern wall of the courtyard.

The documentary study revealed three or four major phases of construction of the Cloth Hall, and this broadly ties in with the results of the fabric analysis; this documents the change of use from a cloth hall, through use as an assembly rooms, to the partition of the building for domestic and retail use. The analysis revealed that whilst all three of the arcade walls retain arcade pillars and arches dating to the original construction (c1711), the east arcade has a higher number of architectural features relating to the original build of the White Cloth Hall than the remaining two arcade walls. The analysis indicated that there were several phases of blocking to both the arcade arches and the windows above, and at least one of these phases appears to pre-date the enclosure of the arcade courtyard (c1815). The others occur following this date, resulting in a uniform style of upper storey window.

The survey was not able to establish the precise development of the cellar, because of access restrictions and later walls. It is recommended that a programme of watching briefs be undertaken to enhance the survey and programme of analysis within this area, and in particular, the Las Vegas side of the east arcade cellar wall.

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We are very grateful to Jack Transport for providing access for the survey to his Las Vegas games arcade.

We owe thanks to John Dorrington-Ward of Ward and Co and also Giles Proctor of English Heritage for archaeological and conservation guidance.

Rebecca Smith undertook the documentary study, Johnny Godfrey undertook the watching brief and photographic recording and Ian Scott, Mark Tidmarsh and Chris Wild undertook the instrument and manual survey; the CAD work was undertaken by Mark Tidmarsh and Simon Wardle.

Alison Plummer was responsible for the fabric analysis and interpretation and for the writing of the report. The report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

The project was funded by English Heritage and Speciality Shops plc.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 The archaeological survey of the first White Cloth Hall Leeds was commissioned by Speciality Shops plc on behalf of English Heritage as a condition of English Heritage grant-aided repair works in advance of commercial redevelopment. New survey material was requested to augment existing architects' drawings and to provide an accurate record of the building as the basis for future conservation and repair strategies (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.2 The survey was carried out in accordance with the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit project design (*Appendix 2*) which was compiled following discussions with English Heritage in March 1994, a project meeting with the client in February 1996 and a project meeting with the client and Giles Proctor (English Heritage inspector) to provide an appropriate and accurate archaeological survey of the relevant parts of the building.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological work programme at the First White Cloth Hall, Leeds involved a documentary study, a photographic survey, a watching brief during the removal of wall finishes, and instrument survey and fabric analysis and interpretation.
- 1.1.4 The documentary survey was carried out in March 1997. The photographic survey and watching brief were undertaken in June 1997 and the fabric survey and analysis were undertaken in July 1997.

1.2 REPORT

- 1.2.1 This report presents the results of the overall survey and offers an interpretation of the development of the building, based on the results of the documentary study and analysis. Recommendations for further recording are also proposed.
- 1.2.2 For ease of description a site north extending perpendicular to Kirkgate has been adopted; hence the Kirkgate frontage is the north facade of the building.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted in April 1994 by LUAU in response to a request by English Heritage (*Appendix 1*) for an archaeological building survey at the First White Cloth Hall, Leeds. The project design was subsequently revised in November 1996 following discussions with Speciality Shops plc, Professional Construction Management Ltd and English Heritage.
- 2.1.2 The project design called for an archaeological fabric survey of the building, generating plans and elevations surrounding the historic courtyard area. The first stage of the programme was a documentary study to inform the fabric survey. This was followed by a photographic survey to record the wall finishes, which were then to be stripped under archaeological supervision. An instrument survey was required to generate floor plans and elevation drawings of the principal walls and arcades of the Cloth Hall and an analytical phase examined the development of the building.
- 2.1.3 The building is structurally unsound and required considerable propping to enable the implementation of the survey. Despite the structural support there were areas of the building which were unsafe to work in. In particular it was not possible to gain safe access to the second floor and it was therefore agreed with PCM, on behalf of the client, that this element be omitted from the recording programme.

2.2 DOCUMENTARY SURVEY

- 2.2.1 The objectives of the documentary study of the First White Cloth Hall were to investigate the historical development of the building and its constructional history in particular.
- 2.2.2 Investigated Sources: the main sources of documentary information investigated were held at Leeds Local History Library. They consisted of eighteenth century maps and the later Ordnance Survey series, and contained information from street directories and general histories, the most informative being Heaton's (1965) Yorkshire Woollen & Worsted Industry and Thoresby's (1715) Ducatus Leodiensis or, the Topography of the Ancient & Populous Town & Parish of Leedes.
- 2.2.3 *Other Sources:* the results of an unpublished town survey of Leeds, held by West Yorkshire Archaeological Service, were investigated, but had little information specifically relating to the first White Cloth Hall and did not merit further examination. The cloth hall minutes held at West Yorkshire Archives proved not to be relevant as they only related to the later mixed cloth hall.
- 2.2.4 It is possible that the Gott papers held in the Brotherton Special Collection at Leeds University Library may provide information pertinent to the First White Cloth Hall, but these could not be investigated within the constraints of the present study. This may elucidate the possibility that the White Cloth Hall was designed by William Etty who also built the Moot Hall, Briggate, Leeds, demolished in the nineteenth century (D Mitchelmore pers comm).

2.3 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING

2.3.1 An oblique and semi-rectified photographic survey of all internal elevations and ceiling surfaces was carried out prior to the stripping of the wall finishes. The photography was undertaken in monochrome and colour transparency, 35mm format. Internal views were taken to record the overall appearance of the principal rooms and selected internal details (structural and decorative) that are relevant to the building's design, development and use. All photographs were shown with direction, and the location in the building was recorded.

2.4 WATCHING BRIEF

2.4.1 A watching brief was maintained during the stripping of plaster finishes from the walls and any detail subsequently recorded was added to the results of the fabric survey. The elements of plaster fragments were recorded contextually, in plan and photographically.

2.5 FABRIC SURVEY

- 2.5.1 An instrument-based survey, rectified photography, and hand-measured survey as necessary, were carried out to record the fabric of the walls following stripping of the wall finishes.
- 2.5.2 *Survey Control:* a total station, linked to a portable data logger, was used to establish the survey control around and inside the building by means of a closed traverse. Coordinates were established for the rectified photograph targets, to facilitate the subsequent plotting of the photographs.
- 2.5.3 **Detail Survey:** because of the structural instability of the building there were considerable areas of the building where it was not possible to gain safe access. It was therefore considered that the most effective survey technique, in these circumstances, was to use a reflectorless total station, which is capable of measuring distances to a point of detail by reflection from the wall surface, and does not need a prism to be located against the structure.
- 2.5.4 The instrument used was a Leica T1010 theodolite coupled to a Disto electronic distance meter (EDM). The Disto emits a powerful laser beam which can be visually guided around points of detail. The digital data was stored within a portable logger attached to the theodolite and was subsequently transferred to a computer for processing and transfer to an industry standard Computer Aided Draughting (CAD) system. The final drawings were generated by enhancing the digital survey data by manual survey or with respect to detailed semi-rectified photographs of the elevations. Although the illustrations in this report have been reproduced at a scale to fit the A4 format of the report, they are held on a CAD system and can be produced at the scales stated in the project design on request. All work was produced to a professional standard in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines.

- 2.5.5 **Photographic Survey:** a general semi-rectified and rectified photographic record was produced of all the affected external and courtyard elevations. This was undertaken with both large format and 35mm cameras. Survey control was applied to the walls to enable them to be digitised into a CAD system. The digitising device (AUTOCAD) allows the elimination of oblique distortion within the base photograph to produce accurate corrected elevation drawings. The elevations generated by instrument survey were superimposed on those generated by rectified photography within a CAD environment.
- 2.5.6 *Fabric analysis and interpretation:* a pro-forma context recording sheet was completed for each structural element, defining the location, form and fabric of the individual contexts. This laid particular emphasis on the relative phasing of building alterations. The fabric analysis and interpretation of the Cloth Hall are presented as the results of this report.

2.6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.6.1 Both Lancaster University and LUAU maintain Safety Policies, the latter based on the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) *Health and Safety Manual* (1991). In keeping with current Health and Safety at Work Regulations, prior to commencing on-site work, a risk assessment for each activity was completed. Due regard was given to all Health and Safety considerations during all aspects of the project, with information having been gained from the client regarding services. The work was undertaken in accordance with a safety plan produced in conjunction with Planning Supervisors Consultancy Ltd and Laings.
- 2.6.2 Project staff were excluded from substantial areas of the building which were structurally unstable and liable to collapse. Access routes were defined as following scaffolding walkways and areas with wet floors or ceilings were avoided.
- 2.6.3 Although attempts to remove pigeons and droppings from the building were made, this proved ineffective and consequently masks and overalls were worn by project personnel to prevent infection. Clean office facilities were provided and personnel were required to wash their hands every time they left the Cloth Hall.

2.7 ARCHIVE

2.7.1 An archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*). A copy of the report, including a synopsis of the archive, will be deposited with the West Yorkshire Sites and Monuments record. Artefacts will be deposited together with a copy of the project paper archive with the West Yorkshire County Museums Service.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 CONSTRUCTION OF THE WHITE CLOTH HALL, 1710-11

- 3.1.1 The date and reasons for the construction of the first White Cloth Hall are well documented by Thoresby (1715) and Heaton (1965). Heaton states that in the seventeenth century the Leeds cloth market was held in the open air on a narrow bridge over the River Aire at the bottom of Briggate (*op cit*, 360). However, it was not only the inconvenience of such an open air market which created the impetus for the construction of a new building form, but also the intense economic rivalry between Leeds and Wakefield.
- 3.1.2 In 1710 Wakefield improved its facilities for exchange by erecting the first cloth hall in the country, and would have attracted a large number of white-cloth manufacturers from Leeds (*op cit*, 365). In response to this, Leeds set about constructing its own cloth hall. On August 14, 1710, Thoresby 'rode with the Mayor ... and others to my Lord Irwin's at Temple Newsam, about the erection of a hall for white cloths in Kirkgate ... with design to engross the woollen trade' (Thoresby's Diary, ii: 65-6, quoted in Heaton 1965, 365). Irwin gave his support and provided the site for the hall which was opened in April 1711 (Thoresby 1715).
- 3.1.3 Thoresby gives an account of the construction, form and advantages of the new white cloth hall:

'A stately hall for white cloths erected at near a thousand pounds charge by certain merchants and tradesmen in town; it is built up on pillars and arches in the form of an Exchange, with a quadrangular court within; both the higher and lower stores are replenished with that sort of goods; which until this juncture, the makers had to carry samples of to each of the merchant's houses they dealt with, and these had trouble, upon emergent occasions, to ride to the several townships or hamlets ... as they are enumerated upon the doors of the distinct repositories, where the goods are lodged until the weekly markets upon Tuesday afternoon, of which notice is given by the bell in a beautiful cupola pointed and gilt' (op cit, 249-50).

- 3.1.4 This new white cloth hall is best depicted on Cossin's map of 1725 (Fig 2). It is shown as set back a substantial distance from Kirkgate and only the south elevation is illustrated. This indicates that the south elevation consisted of five bays and two storeys, designed symmetrically, with a possible central entrance and cupola with a flag.
- 3.1.5 The only other early eighteenth century evidence of the building is on Place's map of 1715 (Fig 3). This map indicates that the new cloth hall was located between Alderman Atkinson's and Alderman Cookson's houses, but it is not clear which, if any, of the buildings depicted is the cloth hall.
- 3.1.5 It can be postulated that the design of the White Cloth Hall, arranged around a courtyard and with an open loggia on the ground floor, may possibly have been influenced by the design of the Royal Exchange in London, built 1566-71, but rebuilt

1671 (Fig 4). Although this building is more grand and on a larger scale, the use of an arcaded courtyard plan does bear some similarities.

3.2 MID EIGHTEENTH CENTURY HISTORY

3.2.1 By the middle of the eighteenth century the accommodation provided by the first White Cloth Hall was to prove inadequate. In 1755 a new and larger white cloth hall was constructed south of Leeds bridge, between Hunslet and Meadow Lane (Heaton 1965, 366). Thus, after only forty-four years, the display and sale of cloth at the first White Cloth Hall was ended. Its subsequent history is indicated by Jeffrey's map of 1770 which depicts the building in use as assembly rooms with its successor located to the south, off Meadow Lane (Fig 5). This map indicates that apparently only the south range of the building was in use as assembly rooms, and no indication is given as to the use of the other ranges; the courtyard was still apparently open to the street. Thus, it is probable that although structural changes related to this change in use may have occurred, they were probably minimal and restricted to the south range.

3.3 LATE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURY HISTORY

- 3.3.1 The late eighteenth century was a period of economic growth and larger premises became necessary for the trade in white cloths (Heaton 1965, 366). A third white cloth hall was built in 1775 on a plot known as Tenter Ground in the Calls, immediately to the south of the first White Cloth Hall (*ibid*). This hall was much larger than its predecessors and, as it incorporated grander assembly rooms, it is probable that after 1775 this function ceased at the first White Cloth Hall.
- 3.3.2 It is clear that by the early nineteenth century the building had been converted to domestic/retail residences. Giles's map of 1815 is the first to illustrate these changes (Fig 6). It depicts houses built across the street frontage, thus reducing the courtyard to a light well and the east and west ranges were extended to the rear; the western extension was later to be known as Crown Court. The depiction of the third White Cloth Hall, located immediately to the south, graphically illustrates the transferral of the original function of the building to a more commodious site.
- 3.3.4 The exact construction date of the buildings on the street frontage is not clear from the documentary evidence. The street directory of 1790 (White) is not helpful as it lists the residents of Kirkgate by profession, but does not give any indication of the street numbering. The map evidence indicates that the development of the site occurred at some time between 1770 and 1815, although it is probable that this date range can be narrowed down to 1775-1815 judging by the date when the building's function as assembly rooms probably ceased. Thus, at some time between 1775-1815, the building underwent substantial structural alterations which probably concealed its original form and function.
- 3.3.5 The occupants of these houses are indicated in the trade directories. The trade directory of 1822 (Baines) indicates that Anne Atkinson, a confectioner, was living at No. 30 Kirkgate. This property was probably located in the west range of the original building, as the directory of 1826 (Parson) indicates that Atkinson was living at No. 100 Kirkgate, the numbering of the street having been reversed between 1822

- and 1826; this reversed numbering has survived through to the present day. The occupants in 1826 of No. 98 and No. 99 Kirkgate, representing the original east wing and the central house, were Robert Thomas and David Cox respectively. The directory of 1839 indicates that by this date all three houses had changed ownership: J W Nicholson was living at No. 98, James Asquith at No. 99 and William Holyday at No. 100 (see Fig 8 for numbering).
- 3.3.6 The OS map of 1850 is the first actually to depict property divisions (Fig 7). It is clear that the east range of the original building (No. 98) comprised one property (now Las Vegas Arcade), with an adjacent house built across the courtyard (No. 99), the west range was a single property with additional street frontage achieved by an extension across the courtyard (No. 100). The south range was divided into four with a possible access point in the south-east corner of the courtyard. The west wall of the south range appears to be set back from the alignment of the west range; this could be an original feature or possibly the wall was re-aligned to accommodate the adjacent terrace of Crown Court.
- 3.3.7 The trade directory of 1851 (Slade and Roebuck) indicates that J Walker, a cabinet maker, was living at No. 98 Kirkgate, J Steel, a shoemaker, was at No. 99 and Berry & Eastwood, linen drapers, were at No. 100. The use of part of the structure as linen drapers marks a reinstatement of the link between the building and the textile industry, after one hundred years. This link was continued in 1861 (White's trade directory) when Benjamin Berry continued the drapery business, R Dickinson, a shop keeper, was located at No. 99 and Dale Benson, a tailor, was the tenant at No. 98 Kirkgate.
- 3.3.8 In 1870, White's trade directory indicates that Robert Dickinson, a provision merchant, was located at No. 98 Kirkgate, Henry Llewellyn Pollard, a grocer, was at No. 99 and George Gelder took over the drapery business at No. 100 Kirkgate. In 1878 (Mocorouodale's trade directory) the tenants of No. 99 and No. 100 Kirkgate remained the same and Christopher Barret, a provision dealer, was the new occupier of No. 98. All tenants remained the same in 1881 (Kelly's trade directory).
- 3.3.9 The insurance map of 1886 (Fig 8) confirms that the three street frontage properties were numbered from 98-100 Kirkgate and illustrates the construction of a further two properties abutting the south range of the original building. This map also provides information on the function of the buildings which is confirmed by Kelly's trade directory of 1889. The Warwickshire Furnishing company was located at No. 98, and Gelders, wholesale and retail drapers, had expanded from No. 100 Kirkgate to include the two properties next door. The owners of No. 99 Kirkgate are not clear but, judging from the map, it was probably a shop or domestic residence.
- 3.3.10 The OS map of 1891 (Fig 9) indicates that the property division between Nos. 100 and 101 Kirkgate had been removed, probably relating to the expansion of Gelders. Kelly's trade directory of 1899 indicates that W and G Scott, provision merchants, were located at No. 98, Burgon and Co, grocers, were at No. 99 and Gelders remained at Nos. 100-2 Kirkgate. Kelly's directories of 1905, 1910 and 1912 indicate that the same occupants remained, the only change being that in 1910 Gelders expanded further, incorporating No. 99 Kirkgate.

3.4 CONCLUSION

- 3.4.1 From the documentary survey, the main events in the constructional history of the White Cloth Hall appear to be: in 1711 when the building was constructed; in 1755 when the Cloth Hall went out of use and the building was adapted as assembly rooms; in 1775-1815 when it was hidden from view by houses built across the courtyard and by the reconstruction of the three ranges; and finally in the nineteenth century when modifications were undertaken.
- 3.4.2 *1711:* the first White Cloth Hall consisted of two storeys with an open loggia on the ground floor and it was arranged around three sides of a courtyard with a cupola on the south range. The only illustration found of this building is Cossins' map of 1725 (Fig 2) which possibly provides evidence of an entrance in the south range. No information has been found concerning structural changes to the building during its life as a cloth hall.
- 3.4.3 *1755:* in 1755 the building went out of use as a cloth Hall, and at least the south range was used for assembly rooms, as indicated on Jeffrey's map of 1770 (Fig 5). Structural changes related to this change of use are difficult to ascertain, but were possibly minimal.
- 3.4.4 1775-1815: the main changes to the building occurred at a date between 1775 and 1815 with the construction of houses blocking the courtyard and the rear extension of the east and west ranges. The first maps to indicate these changes is Giles' map of 1815 (Fig 6) and the OS map of 1850 (Fig 7) which illustrates the property divisions. The east range comprised one property, with an adjacent house blocking the courtyard; the west range was a single property with additional street frontage achieved by an extension across the courtyard; the south range was divided into four with a possible access point in the south-east corner of the courtyard. The west wall of the south range is set back from the alignment of the west range which could be an original feature, or possibly represents a re-alignment to accommodate the adjacent terrace.
- 3.4.5 **1880-1900:** late nineteenth century structural changes include the possible refacing of the south elevation, which may have related to the construction of two properties abutting the south range as depicted on the insurance map of 1886 (Fig 8). This map also illustrates that the three properties on the street frontage were numbered 98-100. The OS map of 1891 (Fig 9) indicates a possible removal of the property division between Nos. 100 and 101 Kirkgate, probably relating to the expansion of Gelders' drapery business.

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 In its original form the White Cloth Hall comprised east and west ranges running in a northerly direction towards Kirkgate from a southern range. These three arcaded ranges would have created an open courtyard, the elevations of which have been recorded as the east, west and south arcade walls.
- 4.1.2 It will be shown that in its current form the arcade courtyard is a result of enclosure created by the construction of a domestic building on the main Kirkgate frontage, filling the open side of the Cloth Hall courtyard. The southernmost wall of this structure is the east/west aligned north external wall of the courtyard. The building survey recorded two further areas of the Cloth Hall; the external south wall located at the rear of the building and the east arcade cellar wall.
- 4.1.3 The programme of analysis examined the phasing of these individual walls, which is presented below. The development of the overall building is examined in the discussion (*Section 5*).

4.2 EXTERNAL SOUTH WALL

- 4.2.1 The land immediately surrounding the external south wall of the Cloth Hall has been converted into a car parking facility. The gable end of the wall exhibits evidence for having once had structures attached to it, none of which now remain. Temporary boarding indicates a recent demolition process.
- 4.2.2 The south wall (Fig 19) comprises two major phases of work represented by a distinct change in the architectural style of the windows within the elevation. The majority of the brick wall [183] is constructed of close jointed, pale reddish orange brick laid in block bond. The pointing of the joints is very neat and well finished here, by comparison to that seen elsewhere within the Cloth Hall.
- 4.2.3 Within the upper storey of the elevation are two windows [184 and 185] under flat arch brick voussoir heads, rising from sandstone sills. There are three rectangular openings at ground floor level [190, 191, and 192] which are also dressed with brick flat arch heads, the most centrally located of which is a doorway that has been blocked internally. The remaining two appear to have been windows of differing sizes.
- 4.2.4 A further sandstone sill [188] can be seen situated on the same alignment as that of the two upper storey windows. The brickwork [193] and mortar immediately above this differs from that seen elsewhere within the elevation suggesting some alteration to the face here. This arrangement of door and windows are suggestive of a domestic rather than retail use.
- 4.2.5 Two very large window openings [186 and 187] at the limits of the east end, at both ground floor and the upper storey level, represent a second phase of the back wall of the Cloth Hall. The window, at ground floor level, extends northwards into the gable

- end of the range, the complete extent of which has been lost quite recently. Both windows have metal lintels and their casement style suggests a very late date for their insertion into this elevation. Unlike the arrangement of smaller windows these very large openings would have been unsuited to domestic use.
- 4.2.6 The eaves of the shallow pitched gable roof, which has been stripped of its covering, rest upon stepped brick corbels [189] running at regular intervals along the length of the wall face. There is no change between the brick of the first phase and that of the corbels.
- 4.2.7 Both the Insurance map of Leeds of 1886 and the 1891 OS map show an external, centrally located, rear extension to the Cloth Hall. In its present state this elevation shows no evidence for having had an extension or outshut attached on this alignment. Although the presence of plaster suggests the possibility of a small lean to at ground floor level and to the east, it is reasonable to suggest that this wall post-dates 1891.

4.3 NORTH EXTERNAL WALL OF THE COURTYARD

- 4.3.1 The north wall [172] of the existing courtyard (not to be confused with the original courtyard created by the arcade of the Cloth Hall) butts both the west and the east arcade walls. No substantial elements of the wall are to be seen within the interior of the ground floor of the building. It is constructed from brick laid in block bond. The bricks are less orange than seen elsewhere and have suffered heavily from the effects of weathering.
- 4.3.2 Within the elevation are four rectangular windows, dressed with brick voussoir segmentally arched heads. The upper two lie directly above the lower pair and are smaller in size and positioned close to eaves level.
- 4.3.3 The construction date for this wall and the associated 'filling in' of the courtyard occurred before 1815, because this element is shown on the Giles town plan of Leeds (Section 3.3.3). The 'filling in' phase of construction will not have been undertaken while it was still in use as assembly rooms. Therefore it is probable that this domestic construction work took place after its assembly room function had been lost to the third cloth hall, which was constructed in c1775 (Section 3.3.4). It is reasonable to assume that the north courtyard wall, which created the enclosure of the arcade courtyard, may be dated to between 1775 and 1815.

4.4 WEST ARCADE

4.4.1 *Ground floor:* the west wall [160] of the arcade courtyard (Fig 16) is constructed from the same brickwork as the west arcade walling [102]. Internally and at ground floor level the original alignment of the west arcade wall of the Cloth Hall has been replaced with an arrangement of columns lending support to bressumer beams. This arrangement comprises a series of ornate metal columns [166, 167, and 168] on which rest a number of timber bressumer beams in turn giving support to the internal dividing walls above. The columns have moulded capitals with metal base plates resting beneath the current floor boards.

- 4.4.2 The centrally located column [168] is wider in girth and taller in height than the others and has a metal plate above the capital bolted to the bressumer beam [164] running above. This is one of three bressumer beams [162, 163, and 164] arranged end to end, all of with have a north/south alignment. The most southerly [162] has been inserted into the brick of the rear elevation [183] of the Cloth Hall at one end and the south arcade wall [144] at the other. There is surviving evidence indicating that a ceiling was attached to the lower face of this beam.
- 4.4.3 One pillar [143] is all that remains of the Cloth Hall's west arcade at ground floor level. This pillar created the junction with what would have been the south arcade. It no longer supports an arch for the west arcade, but the start of the springing of this arch has survived, the remainder having been replaced by a bressumer beam [163]. This beam has been constructed from two timbers, laid side by side, and is held up and supported at a slightly higher level than the others.
- 4.4.4 The third section of bressumer [164], reaching towards the north of the Cloth Hall, has a chamfered south end and its north end is contained within a brick pier [165]. The pier creates a junction with the east/west aligned dividing wall that supports the sloping roof above.
- 4.4.5 The repeated but staggered alignment of bressumer beams suggest that this later arcade arrangement was a replacement phase of building for pre-existing structures. The arrangement of columns and bressumer beams both follows and runs beyond the alignment of the original arcade. It has been shown by the survival of an arcade pillar [143] that the west arcade has been replaced by timbers, and the extended alignment beneath the *c*1815 Kirkgate range, would certainly suggest that internal dividing walls relating to that particular phase of building have been removed.
- 4.4.6 The 1850 OS map (Fig 7) shows that the Cloth Hall, at that time, had three divisions at the front. As the resulting use of the most northerly columns has been to provide a large open space within the front area of the Cloth Hall, it is probable that the insertion of the whole arrangement took place later than 1850 and possibly corresponded with the construction of the roof over the courtyard in 1886. The tall, open spaces provided by the insertion of the columns lend themselves well to retail use.
- 4.4.7 *First floor:* the only substantial remains of the original west arcade of the White Cloth Hall are the first floor wall and windows as exposed externally, in what has now become the courtyard. The windows [169, 170, and 171], dressed with semicircular brick voussoir heads, are located at the first floor level of the west arcade. The brick voussoirs spring from sandstone blocks, and also have keystones of the same material. Two of the windows, those at the north and south ends [169 and 171], have sandstone sills which have suffered some erosion from the effects of weathering and physical damage. The remains of a fourth window can be seen within the junction of the arcade and the later northern wall which effectively truncated the arcade and enclosed the courtyard; this is illustrated for the first time on the 1815 town plan of Leeds (Fig 6).
- 4.4.8 The central window [170] has been entirely blocked by later brickwork [174]. This blocking is possibly contemporary with the insertion of an internal dividing wall and

- doorway running east from the location of the window. The two windows at the end of the facade have single rectangular lights utilising the whole width of the opening; this was created by the brick infilling [173 and 175] of the semi-circular heads and is of a brick type that appears to be the same as that blocking the central window.
- 4.4.9 The blocking of windows in the west arcade is clearly part of a first phase of alterations to the Cloth Hall and seems to be contemporary in style and materials with the first phase of blocking in the east arcade. Given the restricted size of the rooms that these windows would have brought light to, it is unlikely that they relate to the use of the Cloth Hall as assembly rooms; therefore the windows are likely to post-date this period of use (ie after 1775).
- 4.4.10 A moulded sandstone string course [138] tops the arcade wall and is of the same design as that upon the east arcade. The arcade wall itself is keyed into the south arcade [144] and is butted by the north courtyard wall [172].
- 4.4.11 The west arcade wall carries on in its north/south alignment beyond the north courtyard wall as an internal feature. Immediately inside the junction with the north courtyard wall, and partially within the depth of this structure, can be seen the outline remains [195] of a fourth window; the keystone of the brick voussoirs survive *in situ*. The window has been blocked by brickwork [194] which is partially obscured by the remains of a plaster finish.
- 4.4.12 An elevation of coarsely laid brick, showing patches of plaster, abuts the north end of the west arcade wall. Some of this brickwork appears to have been re-used and has wide joints with extruded mortar. It is similar in form to that within the facade of the Cloth Hall. This elevation contains three doorways [179, 180, and 181] which lead into first floor rooms of the Kirkgate range.

4.5 SOUTH ARCADE

- 4.5.1 What was originally the south arcade wall of the White Cloth Hall (Fig 18) has undergone substantial change since its construction in 1711. Its north face is no longer exposed to is full height as an external elevation; it has effectively been truncated by the insertion of a late sloping roof leaving only the upper level exposed in what is now an enclosed rather than open courtyard. Externally, the most obvious change is the replacement of the original windows; however, what is not clear is the sequence of events from the period of use of these windows to the rebuilding of the wall and the change in position and shape of the windows.
- 4.5.2 *Ground floor:* the ground floor (Fig 18 and 10) of the south arcade, located internally beneath the confines of the sloping roof, retains four sandstone pillars [140, 141, 142, and 143] from the 1711 arcade. The east/west alignment of the pillars, each with moulded capital and base, exist in varying states of repair. All the pillars have suffered some damage to their faces and decoration; one in particular [143] has been extensively cut back. The bases of the pillars are hidden beneath the present timber floor level.
- 4.5.3 The relatively recent sloping roof has been constructed such that it butts up against the arcade wall. The most westerly of the pillars [140] is outside the confines of the

- roof, being part of an open passageway providing access from the front to the back of the building. This pillar serves to create a junction with the standing remains of the east arcade [102]
- 4.5.4 Springing from the capitals of the pillars are semi-circular brick voussoir arches [145, 146 and 147], dressed with sandstone keystones. The most easterly arch [145] is partially located within the open space of the enclosed courtyard and creates the entranceway into the access passage. The head of the next [146] also rises above the line of the sloping roof to be seen externally. The line of the roof also truncates the third arch [147] which springs at its western end from a pillar [143] shared with the west arcade (Section 4.4).
- 4.5.5 The sandstone pillars (Fig 18) and their corresponding arches represent the first phase of the Cloth Hall and are the remnants of the south arcade which created the end of the arcaded courtyard, facing across it to Kirkgate.
- 4.5.6 The pillar [143], shared between the south and west arcades, is aligned with its widest face running north/south and is butted to the west by a timber-encased metal column. This, and a second metal column [151] which has a moulded capital, support a timber bressumer beam [150]. The arrangement of the bressumer beam and the columns gives support to a first floor, brick partition wall [155]. This arrangement extends beyond the limits of the 1711 south arcade wall, but is part of a later phase of the south range that post-dates the use of the original phase of the Cloth Hall.
- 4.5.7 *First Floor Courtyard External:* the sandstone pillars and associated brick arches provide support for the brick wall [144] that can be seen rising from these features to reach above the confines of the sloping roof, to the main roof line of the Cloth Hall. This wall is keyed into the east and west arcades and is of a similar brick type. The keyed jointing at both ends of the elevation are contemporary with the construction of the adjoining walls and as such are a remaining section of 1711 brickwork. However, not all of this brickwork remains intact, this elevation has largely been replaced by a later section of brickwork [156]. Only the east and west extremities of the arcade wall remain, where it can be seen to contain sandstone blocks positioned at equal heights.
- 4.5.8 Two rectangular sandstone-silled windows, under brick voussoir segmentally arched heads, form part of the alteration to the arcade wall. Located between these two windows is a protruding chimney flue which rises from sandstone corbels on a stepped base of brick. Both the windows and the flue are contemporary with the second phase of this arcade wall.
- 4.5.9 The two sandstone blocks, mentioned above (Section 4.5.7), are located adjacent to the junction of the two phases of brickwork, but are part of the earlier brickwork. These blocks are typical of those used as springers for the architectural dressing to the windows in both the east and west arcading and their alignment would confirm this. The spacing of the blocks and the architectural design of the east and west elevations would further suggest that there had once been a third, centrally located, window as part of this build.

- 4.5.10 In its present form all the windows around the enclosed courtyard are of a uniform shape and of similar size, although those within the north and south elevations are set on a higher alignment and within the limits of the 1711 Cloth Hall windows. Evidence suggests that the north wall was inserted *c*1815 and there is no reason to believe that the windows within it are of a later period. The windows in the west elevation belong to a second or third phase of construction. Those within the east are part of the third phase of that wall but not necessarily a third phase of window.
- 4.5.11 In place of the upper three to four courses of brick is a very large timber beam that, at both ends, has been cut into the remaining first phase brickwork [144]. Bolted to this beam are metal brackets supporting the guttering above. This style of bracket has also been noted within the east arcade. The wall is finished with a moulded sandstone string course [138] into which the brackets are cut.
- 4.5.12 *First floor internal:* although neither type of brickwork, as seen externally in this elevation [156, 144], carries on beyond the junction with the west arcade, there is an internal wall on this alignment [155]; the brick of this is similar in type to that which forms the blocking of the windows in the west arcade wall. The entire extent of this wall (Fig 18) is located within the space of one room. It contains an open doorway adjacent to the west arcade and a blocked central doorway beneath a Tudor-style arch. The extreme western end of the wall has been cut away to the extent of its full height for a width of approximately one metre.
- 4.5.13 This internal extension to the alignment of the south arcade has been created to subdivide the first floor into small rooms. A similar dividing wall can be see opposite and to the north and in this case the insertion of the wall has necessitated the blocking of a window that was part of the 1711 Cloth Hall build. Documentary sources suggest that the Cloth Hall was re-used as the Assembly Rooms with little alteration to the structure of the ranges. This, and the small size of the rooms and their associated doorways, would suggest that the current arrangement of dividing walls post-dates the Assembly Room period (ie later than 1775).
- 4.5.14 An interesting feature, associated with the dividing wall, can be seen in the roof space of the room it creates (Fig 11). This is a square shaped structure with gable ends facing north and south, and is constructed from lathe and plaster. It rises vertically from the upper edges of plaster coving [152] and is suspended from the roof purlins by a braced timber frame; the gable ends extend upwards to the ridge plate. It is contained within the space of the roof and in this form gives extra depth to the ceiling and corresponding height to the room below. Interpretation suggests that this was a lantern-type arrangement, which has subsequently been enclosed by the renewal of the roof above. The timbers of the lantern are machine cut and considerably more recent than those of the plaster coving ceiling which it is set into. It is clearly a later insertion but it is not possible to establish a precise date for it.

4.6 EAST ARCADE

4.6.1 The east arcade of the Cloth Hall exists both as an internal and external wall. It contains a larger percentage of features original to the 1711 construction than either the west or south arcades. This, presumably, is because the arcade facade became a

- dividing wall between two properties, No. 99 and No. 98, the amusement arcade (Fig 21), to the east.
- 4.6.2 The brickwork [102] of which the wall is built is constructed with hand-made red brick laid in stretcher bond with a soft white mortar. Four courses of bricks each measure 0.25m to 0.28m and a typical brick measures 0.24 x 0.10 x 0.06m.
- 4.6.3 Of the overall north/south alignment, the northern end retains the majority of the arcade pillars [121, 122 and 123]. The bases of two of the pillars are not visible (121 and 122), but that of column 123 is exposed through a gap in the floor. Foundations of all three pillars are visible in the east wall of the cellar and comprise roughly hewn sandstone blocks (see *Section 4.6.13*). The capitals are exposed throughout and incorporate some decorative moulding. A fourth pillar [109] is located several metres to the north of these in the external section of the wall.
- 4.6.4 Brick voussoirs spring from the capitals of the pillars to form semi-circular shaped arches [113, 114, and 115] dressed with sandstone keystones. The arch [115] springing from pillars [123 and 122] is complete. That to the south [114] has been truncated and is partially replaced by brickwork. The third [113] has also been partly lost, being butted by a later east/west aligned wall, which was constructed during the filling in of the original courtyard (*c* 1815), The fourth arch [111], which is located within the external courtyard space, has lost its southern voussoirs to a later flat brick arch [112]. The final arch [110] within this wall, and the one that creates a keyed junction with south arcade of the Cloth Hall courtyard, is fully intact.
- 4.6.5 The arcade created by the arches and pillars is no longer open, as originally intended, each arch having one or more phases of brick blocking. As viewed from the west, the first [115], second [114], third [113], and fifth [110] existing arches have brick blocking that is stepped back into the soffit of the arches. In the northernmost arch [115] one phase of brickwork [120] entirely fills the arch. The infill [124] of arch 114 also blocks an early window. Within the next arch [113], the brickwork [116] creates a semi-circular headed doorway [117] that also has a single phase of blocking [118]. The fourth arch has been blocked but in this instance the blocking is flush with the surrounding wall suggesting that the intention behind the blocking did not serve the same purpose as that of the other infilled arches. The blocking of the fifth and final arch is stepped back, which itself has been truncated to house a doorway with late concrete block infill.
- 4.6.6 The arcade has undergone several phases of blocking, the most interesting of which is the infilling [116 & 117] of the third arch [113] from the Kirkgate frontage of the building, to create a doorway [117]. This appears to have taken place prior to the 1815 enclosing wall which butts up against this feature. This arch has also been readapted with the insertion of a segmental brick arch continuing northwards to cut into the blocking of the following section of arcading. The segmental arch [112] corresponds with the alteration of the first floor windows in both material and style and is therefore a third phase of blocking within the arcade. What is not clear is how this relates to the courtyard enclosing wall (dated *c*1815) as it is only visible within the courtyard area.

- 4.6.7 In its original state the east arcade wall was an external elevation facing into an open courtyard, mirrored by a western arcade and attached to this by a shorter south arcade. All that now remains exposed are the first and second arches and the upper areas of the fourth and fifth arches; at first floor level there are also three semi-circular headed windows [103, 104 and 105] positioned above the arches. This positioning is repeated in the east arcade but the windows have, since the original building of the Cloth Hall, been treated in a different manner, possibly indicating that the alterations took place after the building was divided into separate properties.
- 4.6.8 All three windows in this elevation retain their brick voussoir semi-circular arch heads with sandstone keystone dressings. Likewise, all three have sandstone lintels in varying states of damage and decay. The window heads have in all cases been filled with a light orange-red brick, that has a finer finish than the brickwork of the elevation. The in-fill ends in a segmental, almost flat arch [106, 107 and 108] comprising brick voussoirs, which effectively reduces the height of the windows.
- 4.6.9 The nearest window [105] to the north enclosing wall of the courtyard has the same light orange-red brick creating its northern edge and running for the depth of one course beneath the line of the lintel. This lintel appears to be on a slightly higher alignment than the remaining two. Restricted access did not allow for an investigation into the relationship between the brickwork of the window re-shaping and that of the southern enclosing wall. Information from such an investigation would potentially determine the order of phasing of the window blocking. Above the windows, at the head of the wall, runs a moulded sandstone string course [137] that can also be seen above the south and west arcade walls.
- 4.6.10 The east arcade wall is keyed into the brickwork of the north arcade wall [144]. The keyed joint is demonstrably a contemporary construction.
- 4.6.11 Beyond the line of the south wall the west wall has been replaced by a later wall [100] to create the end wall of a southern range of rooms at first floor level. The brick used in the construction here is much larger in size than seen elsewhere throughout the building, a typical dimension being 0.25 x 0.12 x 0.09m; its uniformity suggests that it has been machine pressed rather than hand made. This brickwork contains a flue and fireplace [101] and has been sub-divided by timber partition walls, the size which suggests a domestic rather than retail use. At ground floor level, beneath these alterations, the 1711 wall [102] remains, serving as the west wall to a north/south aligned passageway that provided access from the rear of the building into the enclosed courtyard. There is some suggestion of blocked windows within this passage but again, access restricted the survey of this area.
- 4.6.12 *Cellar:* there is an extensive network of cellars beneath the Cloth Hall (Fig 12), the majority of which lie beneath the Kirkgate frontage. The fabric survey recorded just one cellar wall, that which lies beneath the line of the east arcade wall.
- 4.6.13 This wall comprises a series of brick sections [127 and 134] that either relate to the adjacent section by butting against it or in turn is butted by its neighbour (Fig 13). Two of the sections contain sandstone blocks [136 and 137] that are positioned beneath the arcade pillars [122 and 121] above. The coarsely hewn blocks are not flush with the face of the brickwork in either case, rather they are seen to be within

- the core of it. It is possible that they represent the footings for the arcade pillars. Their exposure, near the top of the cellar wall, demonstrates that at least this section of the cellar was built subsequent to the 1711 construction.
- 4.6.14 It has proved to be extremely difficult to interpret the sequence of events within the cellar level from the evidence of only one elevation. The brick panels, being constructed from the same type of bricks and mortar, have been interpreted as separate elements of the same construction phase. If the cellar post-dates the 1711 arcade, it is possible that it was excavated by section, each section being lined in turn with brickwork before the excavation of the next. In this way the footings of the individual pillars would be reinforced before exposing the next. However, the possibility that some structural elements of the cellar pre-date the Cloth Hall cannot be ruled out.
- 4.6.15 An east/west aligned ashlar sandstone wall is butted by the brick sections at their southern end which would suggest an earlier construction date for the stonework. The sandstone is coursed and rises from a moulded plinth. It can be seen on the same alignment further to the west in areas beyond the limits of this survey. It is also present at the base of the facade of the Cloth Hall. Documentary evidence states that the Cloth Hall was built between two existing properties, and one possibility is that this stone walling represents the standing remains of a third undocumented building, which was utilised within the construction of the Cloth Hall. However, it has already been demonstrated that the section of cellar adjacent to the eastern arcade wall post-dated the 1711 build and either the cellar in this area post-dated the construction of the White Cloth Hall or there was a wall supporting the columns which has since been removed.
- 4.6.16 Without investigation into the remaining unrecorded areas of the cellar and without access into the cellar beneath the amusement arcade, evidence for the construction sequence is inconclusive.
- 4.6.17 Sitting directly upon the brick sections are a few courses of a much later brickwork [135]. This appears to be of the same type as that recorded in the wall at the extreme south of the arcade above [100]. These courses house timber cross beams that lend support to the floor joists sitting upon them.
- 4.6.18 *Summary:* within the east arcade there appear to be at least four phases of construction and use. The east arcade pillars [121,122,123 & 109], associated arches [113,114,115] and semi-circular headed windows [103,104,105] date to the 1711 construction of the White Cloth Hall. This was then filled forming a wall, which incorporated an arched doorway [117]. Subsequent to this the enclosing wall [172] of the courtyard was constructed (*c* 1815) and following this were the insertion of flat headed windows at ground floor level.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The findings of the building recording survey and of the documentary study into the First White Cloth Hall of Leeds, would agree in a sequence of events ranging from the construction of the Cloth Hall, in 1710-11, to its re-development in the early and mid eighteenth century, through to further development and re-use in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

5.2 1711 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

- 5.2.1 In its original state the White Cloth Hall comprised three brick-built ranges: south, east and west, positioned around a courtyard that opened onto Kirkgate. It was a two-storey structure, the ground floor constructed from a series of brick semi-circular headed arches springing from stone pillars with moulded bases and capitals. The arches created an arcade within each range, that in the south, which was of three arches, was slightly shorter in length than those of the east and west, each of which were made up of five arches. There is no evidence for internal partitions within the arcaded space, likewise, there is no evidence to confirm that the street frontage of the east and west arcades housed one arch each within their facades. However, the dimensions of the building would suggest that the latter was likely to be the case.
- 5.2.2 The windows of the first floor of the Cloth Hall repeated the architectural style of the arcade below, being dressed with brick, and having semi-circular heads. The south elevation comprised three windows, located centrally above the arches, but on a smaller scale. Each of the windows of the remaining two courtyard elevations were centred above the keystone of the arch beneath it. To date, there is no archaeological evidence for the form of the external elevations, neither do we have any clear evidence for the internal partitioning of the first floor. The existing partitions appear to be of a later date than the original White Cloth Hall construction.
- 5.2.3 Two questions remain to be answered with regard to the original form of the Cloth Hall, one of decorative detail, the other of structural significance. Historical accounts make reference to a cupola having been centrally positioned above the south wing but, due to the replacement of the roof of that wing, it is impossible to ascertain whether or not these references are correct. The cellar beneath the Cloth Hall offers evidence in the form of dressed stonework that tempts one to suggest that the Cloth Hall was in part built upon masonry, cellared foundations, which were clearly of an early date. However, the precise relationship with respect to the 1711 construction of the White Cloth Hall could not be established and it is indeed possible that the foundation walls pre-date the White Cloth Hall. The restricted nature of the building survey raised more questions than it managed to answer on this subject.

5.3 ASSEMBLY ROOM PHASE

5.3.1 Both the documentary and fabric studies are in agreement that little alteration occurred to the Cloth Hall during its period of re-use as an assembly rooms following the construction of a second cloth hall in Leeds in 1770. Archaeological evidence would confirm that the courtyard was still open to the street until at least 1775, it would also suggest that not all of the east arcade remained open to the courtyard. Brick blocking to the arches can be seen to house the remains of an inserted doorway. The need for a doorway would suggest some alteration to the layout of the east arcade, which may be represented by some, but not necessarily all, of the brick infill of the arcade arches within this elevation. It is not possible to tie in the alteration of the original windows to the blocking of the arcade arches, but it can be established that the windows of all the original elevations around the courtyard underwent at least two phases of alteration; this resulted in a reduction of their size to a uniform rectangular shape. One of the phases of alterations may have occurred during the assembly phase. These alterations are not necessarily however a direct result of re-use as assembly rooms, particularly since historical sources suggest that only the south range was used as such.

5.4 CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTH RANGE

- 5.4.1 The beginnings of significant structural alterations to the building can be linked to the further construction in Leeds of a third, larger cloth hall in 1775, incorporating grander assembly rooms. The most apparent alteration to the Cloth Hall, after its ceased in its function as assembly rooms, is the insertion of the north wall across the open end of the Cloth Hall courtyard, effectively enclosing the courtyard. This was part of the Kirkgate development which comprised the addition of the north range for domestic and retail purposes aligned to meet the Kirkgate street frontage.
- 5.4.2 It is possible to date this additional range to somewhere between 1775, when the new assembly rooms were constructed, and 1815, when the range appears on the Giles map (1815). This map also shows the east and west ranges as being extended to the rear, although no standing remains of this survive. The functions of the building at this time appear to vary in use from the occupation of the extension of the west range as a crown court to a row of houses making up the north range which almost certainly combined domestic with retail use. The internal brick dividing walls within this range are related to a later phase, although the back wall of the range contains a blocked doorway under a Tudor-style head that is very possibly associated with this phase of adaptation.
- 5.4.3 The general appearance of the Cloth Hall, up until 1886, would have been a square arrangement of internally sub-divided ranges about an enclosed courtyard, with an access way in the south-east corner to the rear east and west additions. The windows about the courtyard underwent several phases of blocking resulting in a uniform reduction of size beneath segmentally arched heads.
- 5.4.4 The 1850 ordnance survey map depicts several property divisions within the Cloth Hall. The east range (No. 98) is shown as being one property and has remained as a separate unit until the present time although there appear to have been several areas of access into the building which have utilised the arcade arches. The West range is also shown as one property and extended out beyond the courtyard. The extension to

the west arcade wall, approaching the Kirkgate facade of the building, has several doorways leading into first floor accommodation which overlies what would have been the Cloth Hall courtyard prior to its enclosure (c1815). The roughly-laid brick wall replaces the original northern extent of the west arcade, which still partly exists beyond the line of the original fourth window. This window itself has been hidden by the western end of courtyard enclosing wall. These features can be seen to comply with the 1850 depiction of this range.

5.4.5 The back range appears to have been divided into four properties. As seen today the first floor has internal partitions, of which two are on the line of 1850 divisions. However, the dividing wall at the eastern side, between properties Nos. 98 and 99, appears relatively recent upon examination of the building material.

5.5 LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY ALTERATIONS

- 5.5.1 The reduced remains of the Cloth Hall courtyard were further enclosed in 1886 by the addition of a sloping roof to provide an outshut to the West range. The documentary study has suggested the presence of two properties abutting the south range at this time. No evidence for these remains exists within the external elevation suggesting that it was refaced at a later period, subsequent to 1891, as the 2nd edition OS map of that date also shows the extension.
- 5.5.2 The large open spaces within the ground floor, incorporating arrangements of columns to provide support for the first floor dividing walls, are amongst the final alterations to the Cloth Hall and relate to a continuing retail use. The fabric survey identified only one original arcade pillar from the columns along the line of the western arcade, although several more remain from the south and east arcades. The arches themselves were truncated by the partial enclosure of the 1886 sloping roof.
- 5.5.3 The fabric survey has demonstrated that although the White Cloth Hall underwent several phases of structural change and adaptive re-use a substantial proportion of the arcades remain intact as do remains of the first floor windows and the elevations themselves.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Although the present survey has substantially improved our understanding of the buildings development, there are still significant aspects which remain uncertain; in particular the relationship between the masonry cellar walls and the 1711 construction phase needs to be established. It is therefore recommended that an experienced archaeologist undertake a watching brief of the demolition works to the Cloth Hall in order to identify, record and analyse any fabric exposed as a result of the proposed development.
- 6.1 This information should be digitally incorporated with the other material collected during the main fabric survey. The extent and duration of the proposed watching brief is dependent on the extent and design of the main construction contract. It should exclude the recording of the fabric as conserved, but would include the recording of any elements of the amusement arcade that could not be recorded as part of the present phase, particularly the ground floor.
- 6.2 It is further suggested that an investigation is undertaken of the cellar beneath the amusement arcade (if such exists) with an aim of clarifying the relationship of the east arcade wall with the cellar wall beneath it, and of investigating the possibility of an earlier stone building on the site of the Cloth Hall.
- 6.3 A view of the external face of the east elevation of the White Cloth Hall would be possible following any stripping of wall finishes from the west wall of the present, disused furniture shop. A watching brief is recommended for any such package of works or demolition work in this area.

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APPENDIX 1 PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2 PROJECT DESIGN

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit

Revised November 1996

FIRST WHITE CLOTH HALL KIRKGATE, LEEDS

PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND INTERPRETATION

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to the requirement by English Heritage for an archaeological survey and interpretation of the First White Cloth Hall, Kirkgate, Leeds, in advance of grant-aided repairworks.

1. Introduction

Detailed archaeological survey, recording, analysis, and interpretation of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century fabric of the First White Cloth Hall, Kirkgate, Leeds is required. The archaeological work is to be a condition of English Heritage grant-aided repairworks in advance of commercial redevelopment. New survey is required to augment existing architects' drawings and to provide an accurate record of the building as the basis for future conservation and repair strategies.

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 15 years. LUAU has particular experience in the recording and analysis of standing ancient monuments and historic buildings. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. LUAU has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency.

The initial version of this project design was to provide an 'as is' record of the building fabric; the present revision provides for the recording of an 'as is' record and presents options for recording following the majority removal of plaster surfaces as required by the client and English Heritage.

2. OBJECTIVES

The following programme has been designed, in accordance with the discussions held with English Heritage in March 1994, a project meeting with the client and John Dorrington-Ward in February 1996 and a project meeting with the client and Giles Brandon (English Heritage inspector) to provide an appropriate and accurate archaeological survey of the relevant parts of the building. The required stages to achieve this are as follows:

2.1 Project preparation

To organise the appropriate data to undertake the proposed survey, including documentary research.

2.2 Photographic recording and plaster removal

To undertake a preliminary photographic survey of the elevation surfaces, prior to removal of any plaster and to maintain a watching brief during the removal of the plaster.

2.3 Primary Analysis

An initial summary programme of fabric analysis will be undertaken to establish the main construction sequence and highlight significant structural components, and is intended to inform the design of the new-build.

2.4 Fabric survey and recording

Execute instrument-based survey, rectified photography, and hand-measured survey as necessary. Format and manipulate data for use in an industry standard CAD system.

2.5 Fabric analysis and interpretation

Analyse and interpret data.

2. 6 Interim report

Prepare and submit an interim report on the results of the survey programme.

2.7 Watching Brief during the main phase of development.

To provide a watching brief during the development of the building to record structural elements obscured during the main phase of the project.

2.8 Archive and Report

Prepare and submit archive and final report, including interpretation of the buildings' phases of development.

3. METHODS STATEMENT

In line with the objectives and stages of the archaeological work stated above, the following work programme is submitted.

3.1 Project preparation

Establish pre-contract timetable and meetings with relevant parties.

The office-based organisation of appropriate data to undertake the project will include limited documentary research. Every effort will be made to consult and assimilate existing information without duplication of previous research effort. Particular attention will be given to the collation of pictorial sources, including records dealing with past works of repair. Where necessary, documents from local, regional, and national archives should be examined and copied.

3.2 Photographic recording and plaster removal

Execute an oblique and semi-rectified photographic survey of all internal elevation and ceiling surfaces. This element would need to be undertaken prior to any works on the building. Following the photographic record the majority of the wall plaster and ceilings would be removed under archaeological supervision. However, significant plaster surfaces and decorative ceilings will be preserved intact. It will be necessary for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during this element of the programme, which will identify and record the character and phasing of the plaster surfaces. The implication of undertaking a majority strip of the plaster is that there will be more elevation detail to record and therefore will require more field-work time and post-excavation time by comparison with the previously proposed sample removal of plaster. The cost implications for this are defined in *Section 6*.

3.3 Primary Analysis

A programme of initial analysis is required to inform the new-build design and will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to prevent any delays to the overall programme. This will involve undertaking a brief analysis of the exposed structural remains, following removal of the plaster, to establish the structural development of the building. This will highlight any significant architectural detail and will assess the archaeological potential and survival of respective elements of the building. The results will be presented as a brief interim report, coupled with annotated plans and photographs to illustrate significant detail.

3.4 Fabric survey and recording

Execute the survey fieldwork as the basis for detailed and accurate recording of the building.

3.4.1 Survey methodology

Survey Control

LUAU propose to conduct survey control for the building by means of its in-house total station facility, linked to a portable data logger with full micro-computer data transfer capability. In conjunction with the computer software used by LUAU, the use of total station instrumentation allows very rapid and accurate survey to be carried out and, if necessary, printed out on-site.

The aim of the survey is to provide accurate, three-dimensional co-ordinates, with respect to the OS National Grid and altitude datum. It is proposed that survey control be established by closed traverse to an accuracy of +/-0.05m in plan and 0.02m in height. The survey control will be tied into Ordnance Datum by means of the nearest OS Bench Mark.

Permanent control stations will be left over the site to enable the precise superimposition of subsequent recording onto the primary survey digital drawings.

Survey Detail

The detail survey will be undertaken by use of a Leica reflectorless total station, which generates a laser beam and is able to extract a distance measurement by reflection from wall surfaces. The distance measurement is accurate to +-6mm and the recording methodology involves tracing the laser beam around architectural features. The method is both economic in that it requires only one member of staff, but also enables the recording of detail that is inaccessible, because of unsafe floors. The digital information is transferred from a data logger into a CAD system and paper plots are output to enable the enhancement of the digital record by hand survey techniques. The survey hand amendments are then transferred back into the CAD system to generate the final drawing.

3.4.2 Recording

The capture of as much data as possible at the instrument survey stage will facilitate the manipulation of the data set, for analytical purposes. LUAU possesses the facility to generate the drawings in CAD format, which offers the flexibility to enhance, manipulate, and model the graphical data output.

It is recommended that an intensive and comprehensive drawn record of the plans, sections, and elevations of the building be undertaken. Drawings should delineate each individual component of the timber roof and floors with certain detail and areas of particular interest illustrated at larger scale. Selective recording in outline of the external brickwork features is considered sufficient, with no requirement to depict each individual brick. Recording of these areas should be supplemented by the provision of scaled rectified photographs. Photographic records and a pro-forma recording system should be maintained.

The drawn records for the building should include:

- i) detailed basement, ground, first and second floor plans, including plans of the roof structure (trusses, rafters and purlins) and ground floor ceiling. This would be undertaken commensurate with a 1:20 plotting scale but presented as a 1:50 drawing.
- ii) long sections of the three wings, and cross-sections corresponding to the bay divisions in line with the courtyard elevations (commensurate with a 1:20 plotting scale but presented as a 1:50 drawing)
- iii) elevations of the courtyard walls and north and south exteriors (commensurate with a 1:20 plotting scale but presented as a 1:50 drawing)
- iv) representative architectural, decorative, and ornamental details such as plaster moulding profiles and joints (1:2; 1:1 scale).

Photographic recording of the building should include:

- i) general external and internal coverage
- ii) close-up views of architectural details (structural, decorative, and ornamental)
- iii) rectified photography of the exterior brickwork.

Pro forma written record forms will be employed and a numerical system devised for detailed descriptions and provisional interpretation of the buildings' individual contexts, architectural components, room designations, and contents.

3.5 Fabric analysis and interpretation

It should be recognised that the choice of survey methodology forms the basis of the recording scheme, and determines the potential for deriving an analysis and interpretation of the historic fabric.

3.5.1 Analysis

Analytical plans, sections, and elevation drawings will depict the boundaries between identifiable building periods, phases of construction, and repair, including the positions of any reused material or colour shadows indicating removed components (1:50 scale).

3.5.2 Interpretation

An interpretation of the fabric history will be offered in the light of the evidence generated during the field survey and desk-based documentary research. Attention will be focused on the original plan form and the late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century conversion of the Cloth Hall to other uses.

Reconstruction drawings and/or three-dimensional projections will illustrate the probable sequence of construction/alteration and any specific architectural features.

3.6 Interim report

An interim report will summarise the results of the main survey programme. It will incorporate the production of selected plans It will define the areas which will require further examination as part of the watching brief stage.

3.7 Watching Brief

3.8 Archive and report

3.8.1 Archive

The results of Stages 3.1-3.7 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of archaeological projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly quantified, ordered, and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in that organisation's Code of Conduct. The expense of preparing such an archive is part of the project's cost, but only represents a very small proportion of the total.

All drawings will be produced on dimensionally stable drafting film on standard `A' size sheets and in metric format. Each sheet will be fully titled. Line thicknesses will be chosen to allow for ease of duplication and/or reduction. Particular attention will be paid to achieving drawings of the highest quality and accuracy. Where appropriate, drawing conventions for plans and sections will follow the general guidelines as issued by the RCHME's *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification* (2nd edition, 1991). The archive will also include contact prints of the rectified photographs produced as part of the fabric survey.

The textual archive will be provided both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files. As well as hard copy drawings, the graphical data will also be supplied in digital form, formatted and layered for use in an industry standard CAD system.

3.8.2 Report

Two copies of a written synthetic report will be submitted to English Heritage within eight weeks of the end of the watching brief stage. The report will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed in Stages 3.1-3.7, and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, together with appropriate illustrations, including copies of the buildings' plans, sections, and elevation drawings reduced to an appropriate scale. The report will summarise the history of the site, and include a full text recording the significance of the archaeological and architectural evidence. It will also make an assessment and statement of the actual and potential significance of the structure, as well as recommendations for further work. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design. A copy of the report will be provided on 3.5" disk IBM compatible format.

3.8.3 Confidentiality

The report is designed as a document for the specific use of English Heritage, for the particular purpose as defined in this project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for

submission or presentation to third parties or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

3.9 Other Matters

3.9.1 Project monitoring

Any proposed changes to this project design will be agreed with English Heritage and the client. A preliminary meeting with a representative of English Heritage and the client may be arranged at the outset of the project. Further meetings to review the progress of work, and at least one meeting prior to the submission of the report will also be required.

LUAU will inform the client and English Heritage of all significant developments and recommendations as required, and any potential departures from the agreed programme will be discussed and agreed with him prior to implementation.

3.9.2 Health and safety

Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services) during the excavation, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. The Unit Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual, as well as the Lancaster University Health and Safety Statement. Risk assessments are undertaken as a matter of course for all projects. The Unit Safety Policy Statement will be provided to the client, if required. LUAU will be the lead contractor on site during the works programme and under CDM regulations is required to operate under an appropriate health and safety plan; this will be produced by PCM in conjunction with LUAU.

LUAU reserves the right to omit the recording of architectural detail, if safe access can not be provided for the survey of that detail.

There would need to be provision of boarding and safety rails to ground and upper floors and staircases to cover holes and rotten flooring.

3.9.3 Insurance

The insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of LUAU in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of LUAU or any of its employees. there applies the insurance cover of £ 1m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

3.9.4 Access

The site is owned by Speciality Shops plc and it is understood that access for the main building will be provided. It is understood that access will be negotiated by PCM for survey of the adjacent amusement arcade.

Those areas of the building which require structural support to enable the execution of the survey, should be undertaken in advance of archaeological works. It is understood that a structural engineer will mark on the ground the limits of areas for which there is no safe access.

The archaeological contractor should be provided with unrestricted access to the building for the duration of the main archaeological programme.

Prior to the recording works there would need to be the removal of twentieth-century cladding at present obscuring details of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century fabric.

It is understood that electricity and temporary lighting will be provided for the duration of the survey. It is also understood that office accommodation will be provided for the computerised draughting of the survey.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

It is envisaged that the various stages of the project outlined above will fall into seven distinct phases, which would follow on consecutively, where appropriate.

The phases of work would comprise:

i Project preparation

4 days (desk-based)

ii Photographic survey and plaster removal

4 days (on site)

iii Primary Analysis

2 days (on site)
3 days (desk based)

iv Fabric survey and recording

3.5 weeks (on site)

v Fabric analysis and interpretation

2.5 days (on site)

vi Interim Report

2 days (desk based)

vii Watching Brief

15 days (on site)

viii Archive and report

5 days (desk-based).

It is understood that the White Cloth Hall is to be incorporated into a commercial development scheme and that consequently the time scale for archaeological work is fairly tight. The building has been semi-derelict for c15 years and the courtyard area and south and west wings are in a state of total disrepair. The east wing is currently occupied by an amusement arcade. It has been assumed that the amusement arcade will be vacated at a late stage in the development, necessitating further recording as part of the watching brief phase.

5. OUTLINE RESOURCES

The following resource base will be necessary to achieve the proposals detailed above. The total cost quoted on the accompanying sheet, is a fixed price, inclusive of all management, secretarial, overheads, and disbursement costs (travel and expenses), to undertake the programme of work as defined in this project design. Any variation from this programme of work at English Heritage's direction will require recosting.

PO = Project Officer (documentary research, survey team leader, analysis and interpretation, archive, report text)

PS = Project Supervisor (field drawing, photography, archive, CAD operator, report production)

PA = Project Assistant (Site drawing, Gazetteer production)

i Project preparation

Pre-contract
PO = 2 day
Documentary research
PO = 2.5 days

ii Photographic survey and plaster removal

Survey PS = 1.5 Watching Brief PS = 2

iii Primary Analysis

Survey

PO = 2 days

Post-survey

PO = 3 days

iv Fabric survey and recording

Survey

PO = 16 days

PS = 15 days

Drawn records (including CAD)

PS = 12.5 days

Written records (pro formae)

PO = 3 days

v Fabric analysis and interpretation

Analysis

PO = 2 days

Interpretation

PO = 2 days

vi Interim Report

PO = 1.5 days

vii Watching Brief

PS = 15 days

PA = 3 days

Drawn records

PS = 4 days

viii Archive and report

Archive

PO = 1 day

PA = 1 days

Report

PO = 4 days

PA = 2 day

Totals

PO =35 days

PS = 50 days (including watching brief)

PA = 6 days

The project will be under the project management of **Jamie Quartermaine BA Surv Dip MIFA** (LUAU Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig 1: White Cloth Hall Location Plan
- Fig 2: 'A new and Exact plan of the Town of Leedes', Cossins, 1725, 36" 1 mile
- Fig 3: 'The Prospect of Leeds from Knostrop Road', Place, 1715
- Fig 4: The Royal Exchange, London, 1566-71 (burnt 1666), (reproduced from Summerson, 1953, plate 66A)
- Fig 5: 'A Plan of Leeds', Jeffrey, 1770, 1" 132 yards
- Fig 6: 'Plan of the Town of Leeds and Environs', Giles, 1815, 1" 90 yards
- Fig 7: 1850 1st edition OS map, 5" 1 mile
- Fig 8: Insurance map of Leeds, sheet No 12, 1886, 1" 40'
- Fig 9: 1891 2nd edition OS map, 1:500
- Fig 10: Ground Floor Plan
- Fig 11: First floor Plan
- Fig 12: Cellar Plan
- Fig 13: Roof Plan
- Fig 14: Ground Floor Ceiling Plan
- Fig 15: Elevation and Cross-Section Location Diagram
- Fig 16: West Arcade Elevation
- Fig 17: East Arcade Elevation
- Fig 18: South Arcade Elevation
- Fig 19: South External Elevation
- Fig 20: North/South Cross Section through West Range
- Fig 21: East/West Cross Section through South Range
- Fig 22: Column detail
- Fig 23: Ground Floor Phase Plan
- Fig 24: First Floor Phase Plan
- Fig 25: East Arcade Phase Elevation

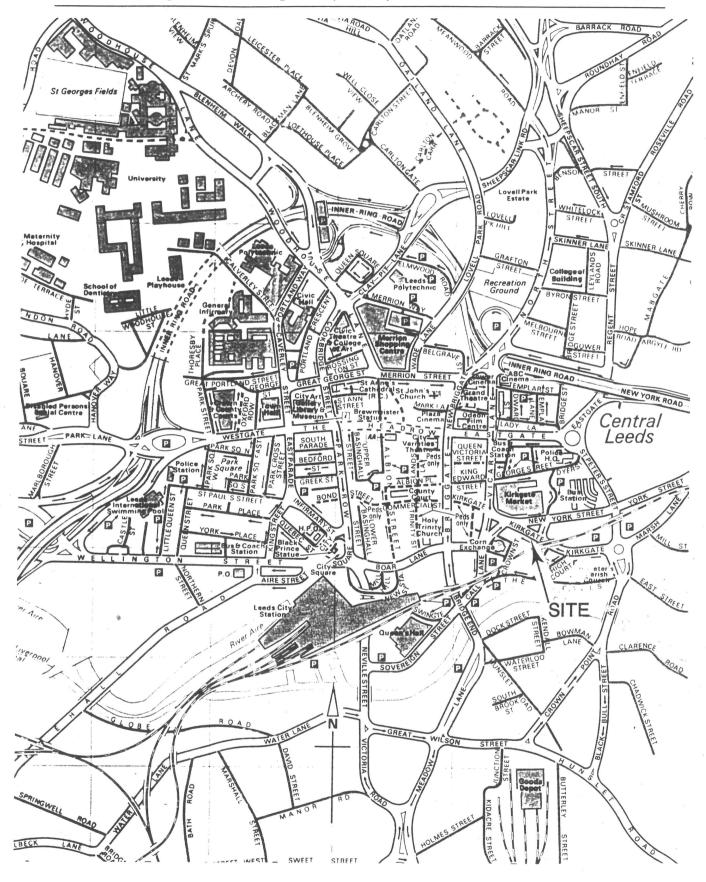


Fig 1: White Cloth Hall Location Plan

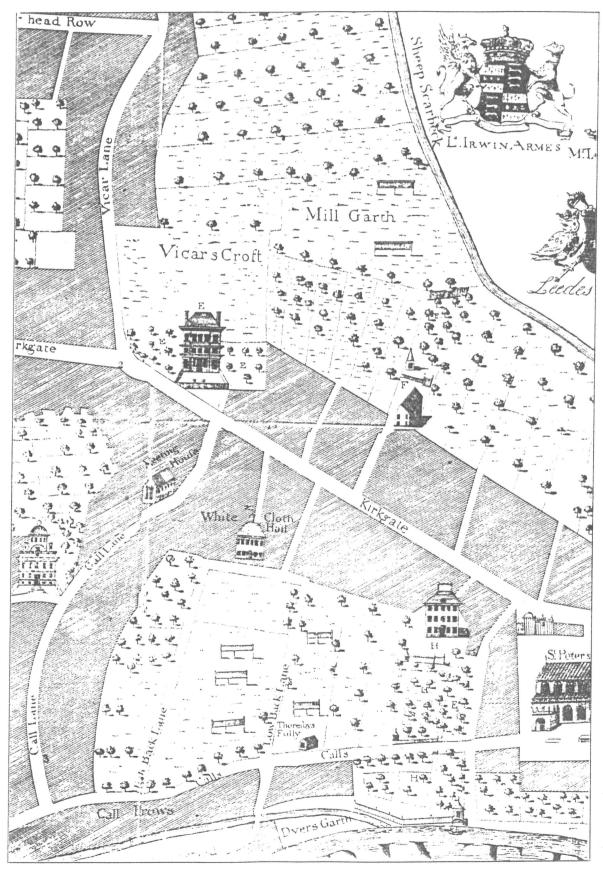


Figure 2: 'A new and Exact plan of the Town of Leedes'. Cossins, J. 1725, 36" - 1 mile

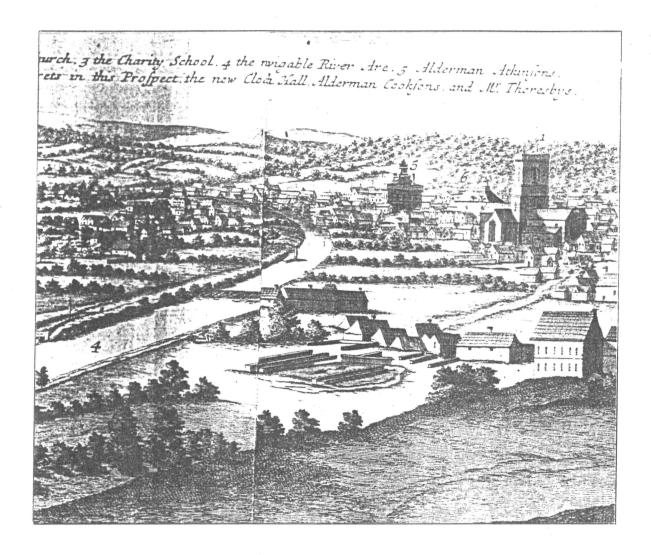


Figure 3: 'The Prospect of Leeds from Knostrop Road', Place, F. 1715 (reproduced from Thoresby, R. 1715 *Ducatus Leodiensis:1*)

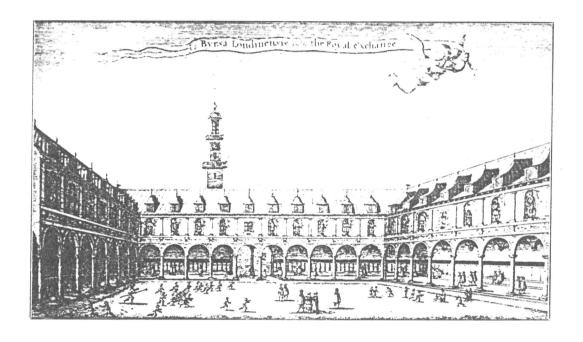


Figure 4: The Royal Exchange, London, 1566-71 (burnt 1666), (reproduced from Summerson, J. 1953. *Architecture in Britain*: plate 66A)

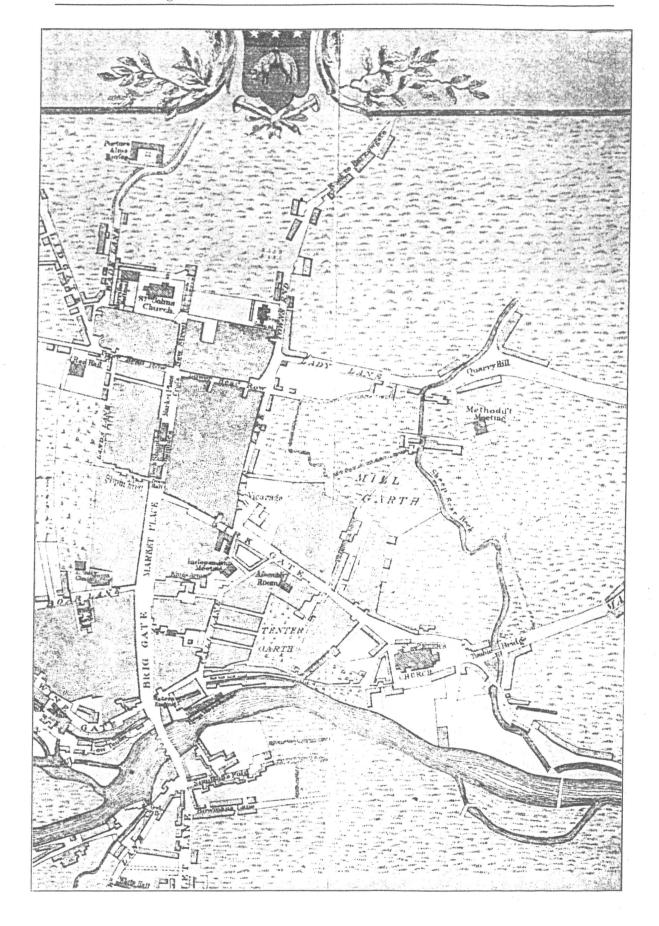


Figure 5: 'A plan of Leeds', Jeffrey, Y. 1770, 1" - 132 yards

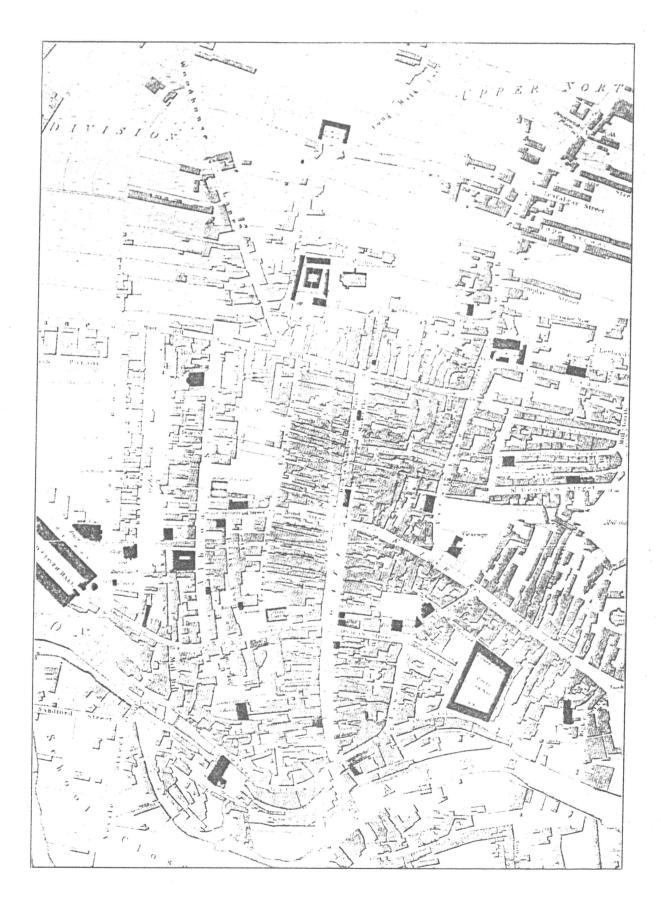


Figure 6: 'Plan of the Town of Leeds and Environs', Giles, N.& F. 1815, 1" - 90 yards

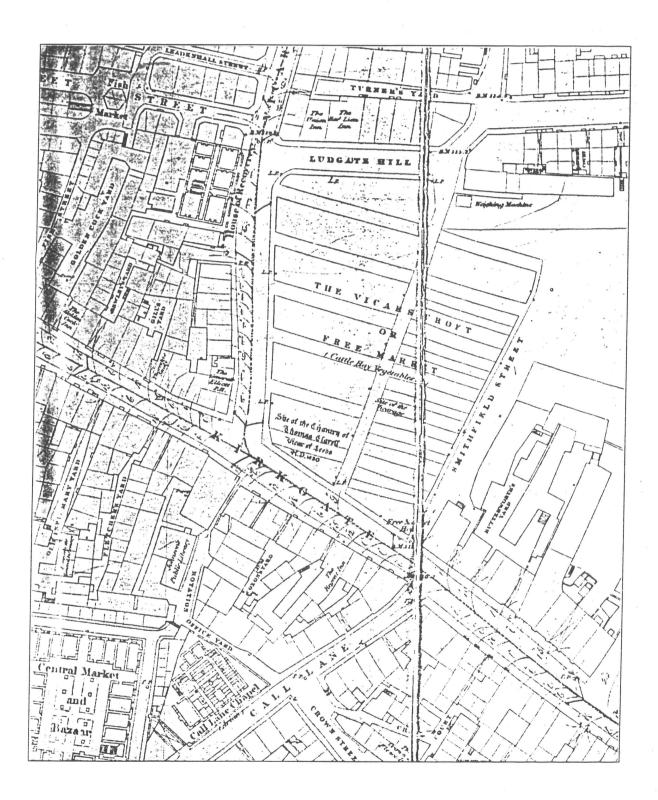


Figure 7: 1850 OS map, 5" - 1 mile

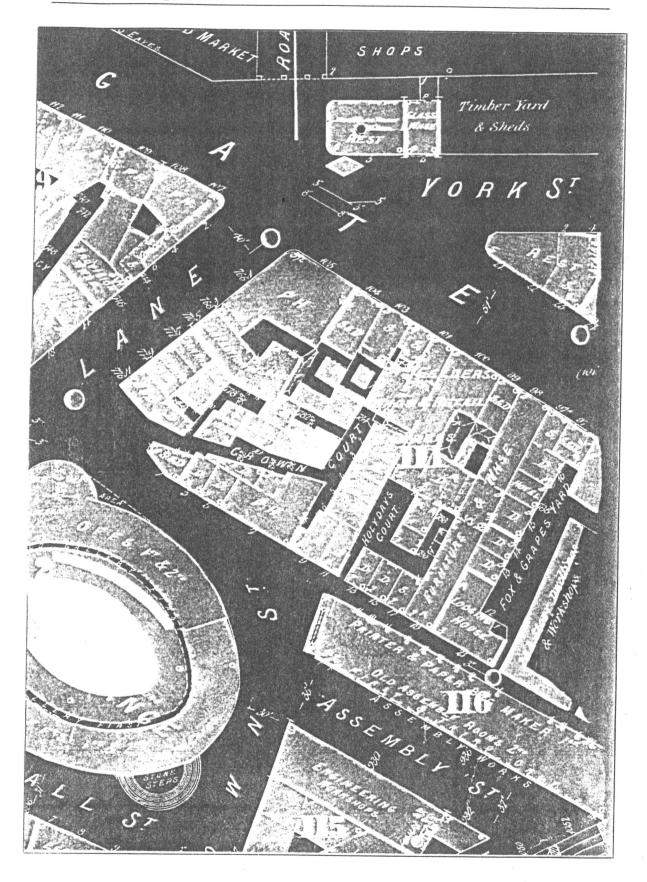


Figure 8: insurance map of Leeds, sheet No 12, 1886, 1" - 40'

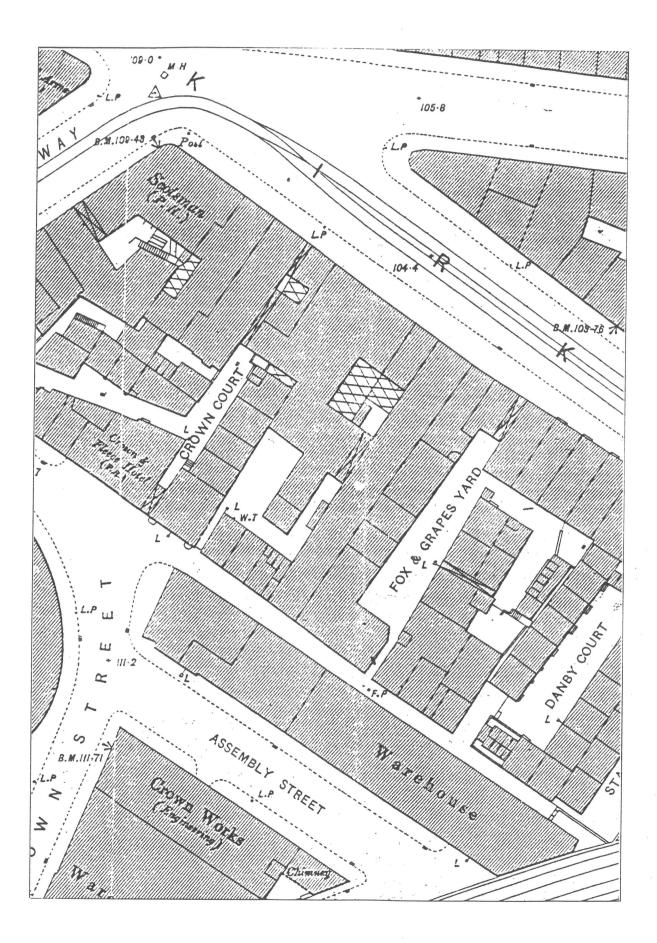


Figure 9: 1891 OS map, 1:500



Fig 10 Ground Floor Plan



Fig 11 First Floor Plan

Fig 12 Cellar Plan



Fig 13 Roof Plan

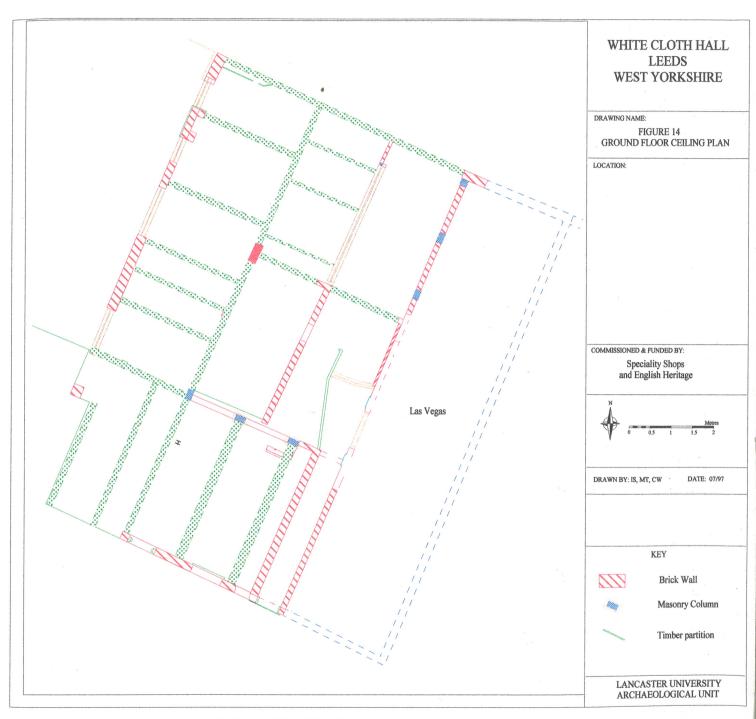


Fig 14 Ground Floor Ceiling Plan

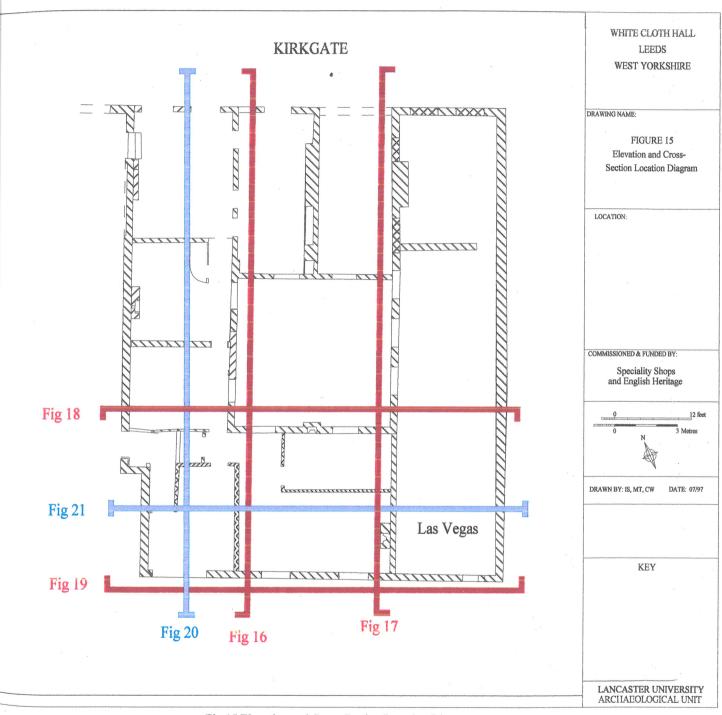


Fig 15 Elevation and Cross-Section Location Diagram

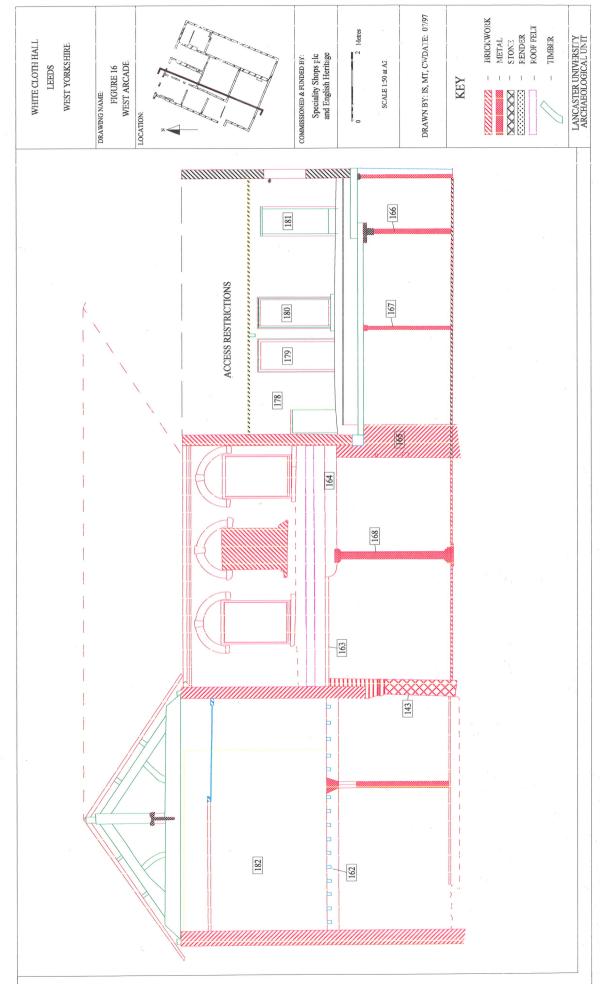


Fig 16 West Arcade Elevation

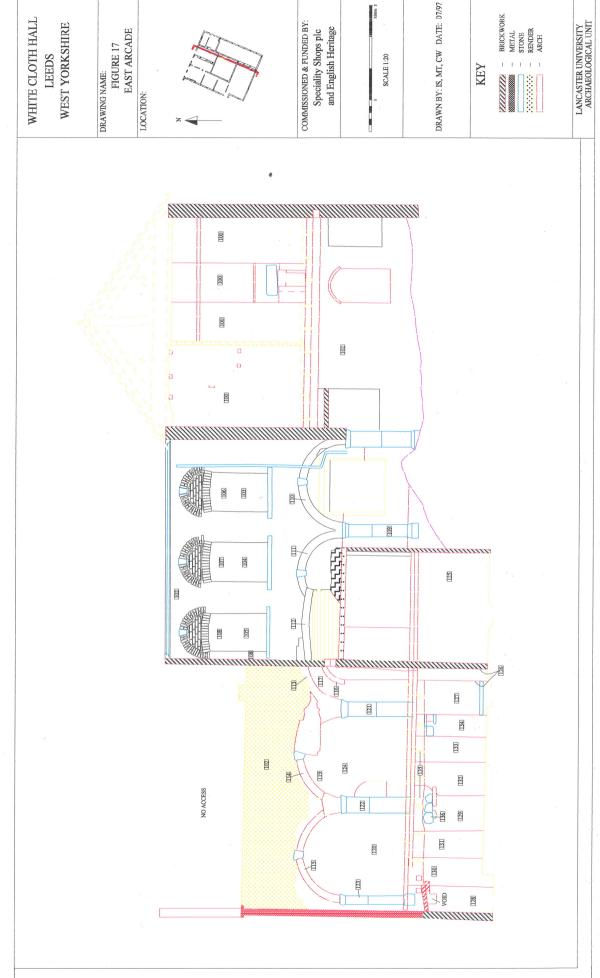


Fig 17 East Arcade Elevation

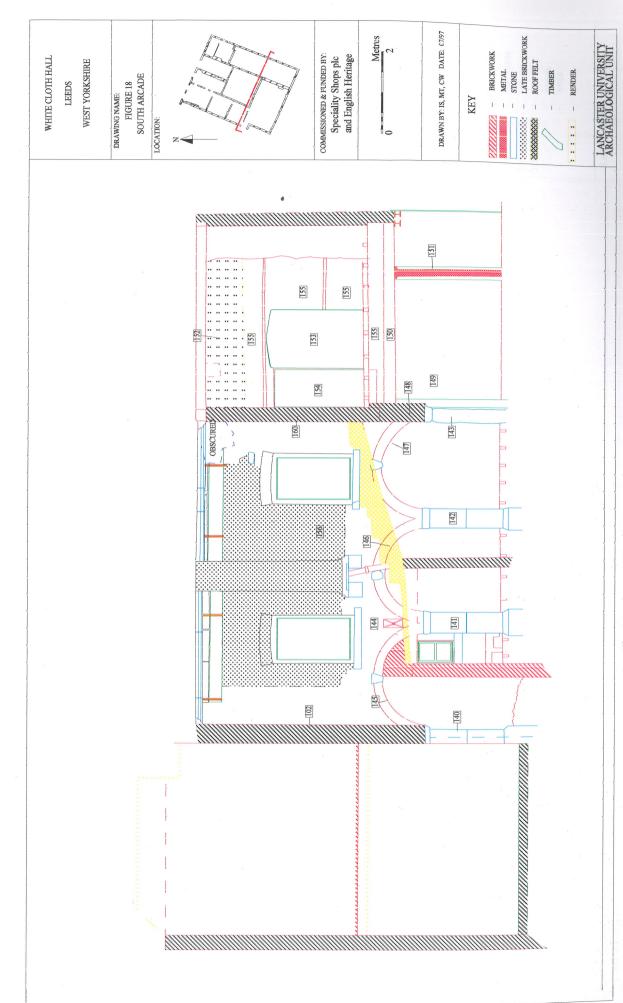


Fig 18 South Arcade Elevation

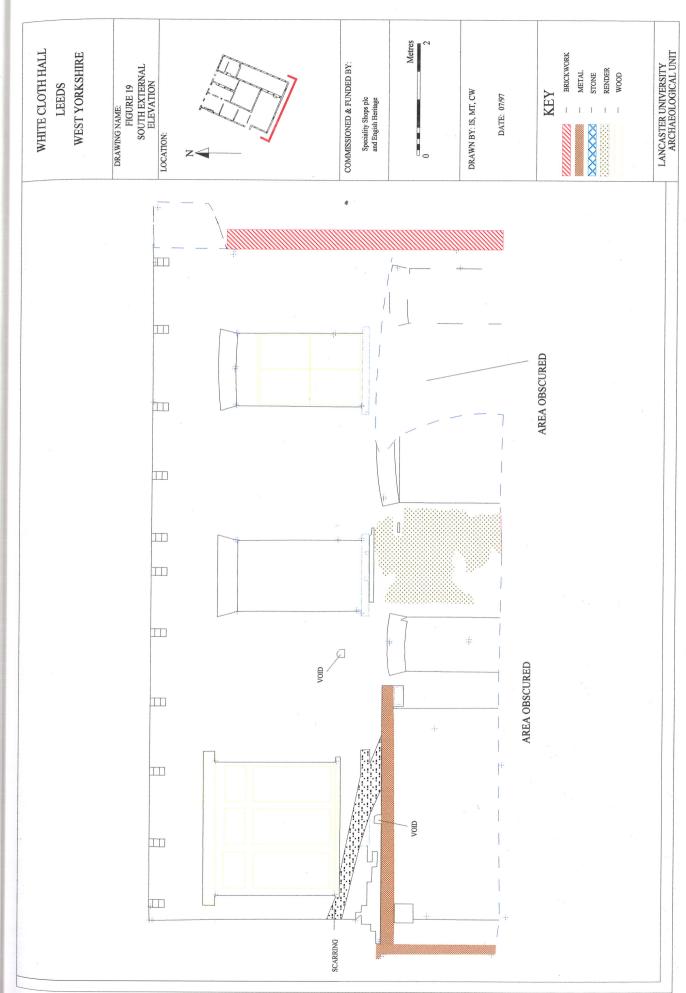


Fig 19 South External Elevation

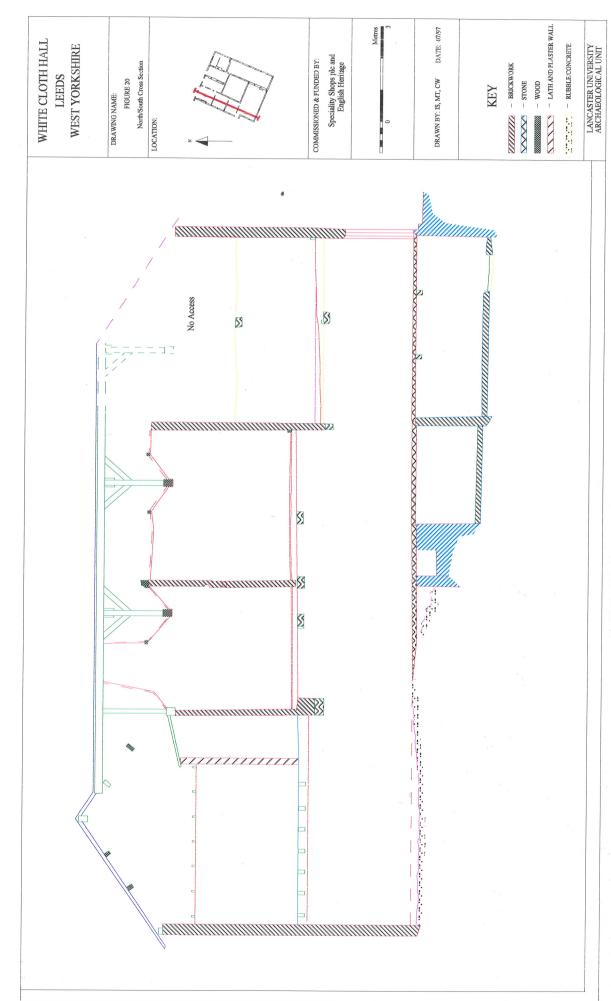


Fig 20 North/South Cross Section

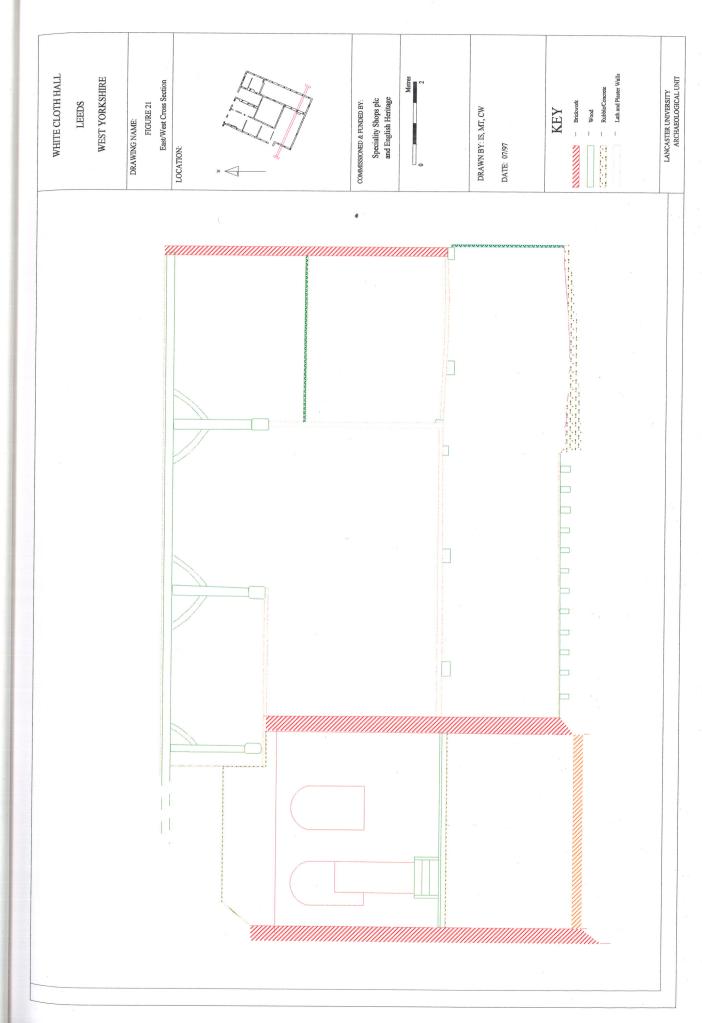


Fig 21 East/West Cross-Section Through South Range

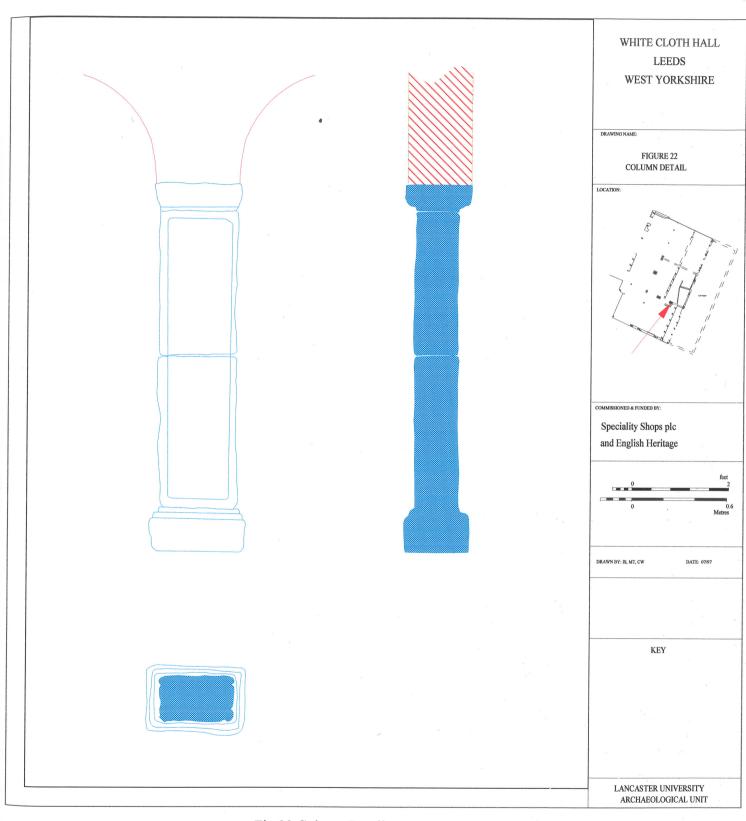


Fig 22 Column Detail

Fig 23 Crour d Floor Phase Plan



Fig 24 First Floor Phase Plan

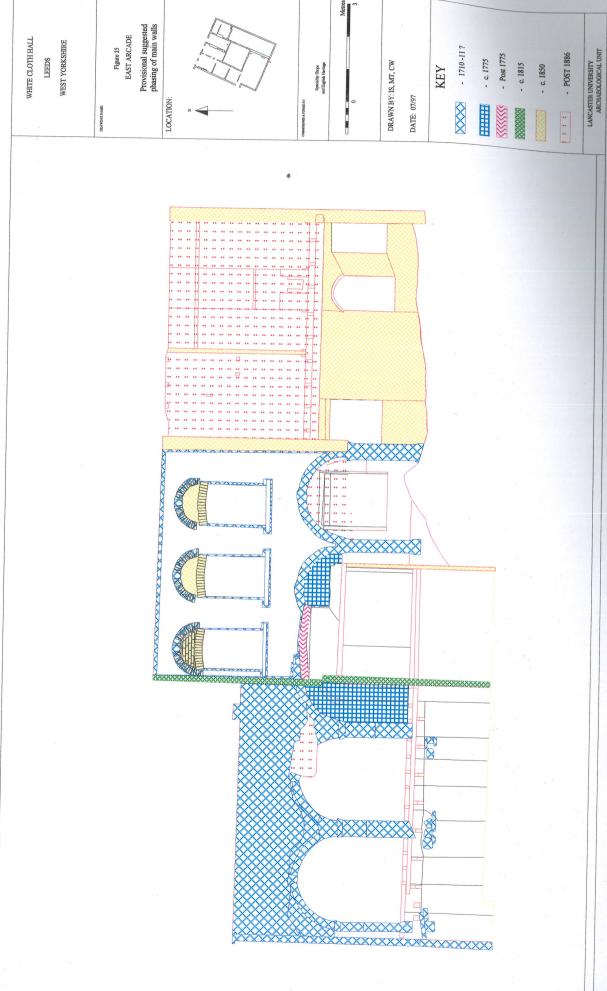


Fig 25 East Arcade Phase Elevation