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Historical Building Report
on
The Bluecoat House, Bath Clinic & Car Park, 1-2
Bridewell Lane, The Gala Bingo Hall, Regency
Garage & Delfter Krug Nightclub
The Saw Close
Bath
Part I

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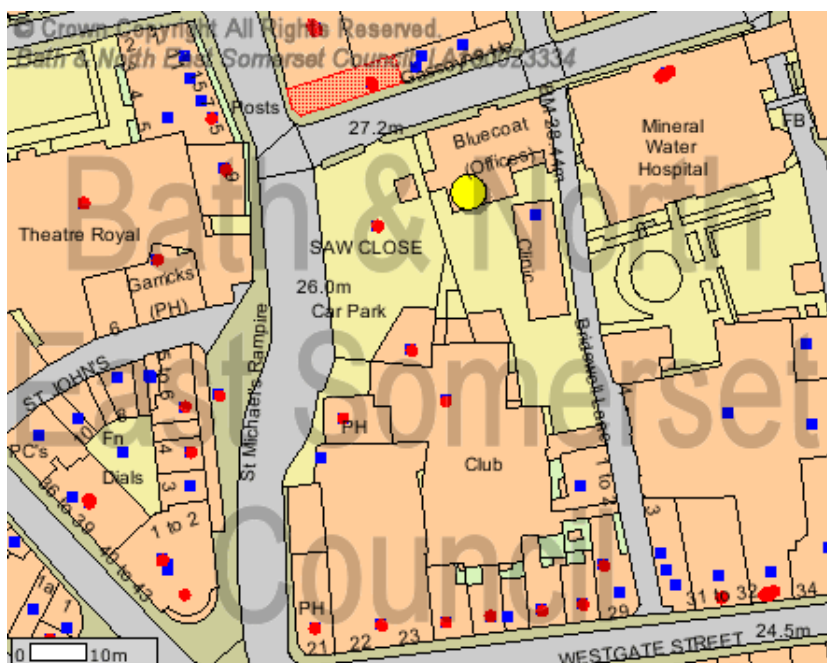
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Location



Saw Close is located in what had been the north-west corner of the old mediaeval city wall. The wall had been removed by the late 18th century and today Saw Close is the main thoroughfare from Queens Square to Westgate Street. The Close properties are bounded by Bridewell Lane to the east and Westgate Street properties to the south. To the north is the Upper Borough Walls which follow the line of the old wall. To the west, built on and around St Michael's Rampire, is the Theatre Royal and St John's Place. Much of the centre of Saw Close is currently taken up by car parking (pale yellow area) whilst the southern area is dominated by 2 major buildings; The Gala Bingo Club and The Beau Nash Cinema (22-23 Westgate Street).

Introduction

This historical report on the various Saw Close properties was commissioned by ... and carried out by Kay Ross of The House Historians. All photographs unless specified were taken by Kay Ross and the 2007 plans supplied by Aaron Evans architects. It covers the evolution of Saw Close and Bridewell Lane from mediaeval times, as well as the gardens of several Westgate Street properties.

The present Gala Bingo Hall incorporates at least 17 separate mid 19th century properties, whilst the Regency Garage and Delfter Krug nightclub both occupy what have long been single sites. Bluecoat House was built as a charity school in 1856 on the site of an earlier school built in 1722. Prior to that, the site was occupied by the City Bridewell. Many of the properties extant in Cotterell's 1852 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) disappeared when the second Bluecoat School was built 4 years later, followed in the 1880s by the Pavilion Theatre.

For purposes of clarification, the numbering up to the mid 19th century refers to Timber Close (e.g. 1 and 1a Timber Close – [TC01 & TC01A] whilst Saw Close is used for the current buildings:

No. 1 Saw Close [SC01]	The Regency Garage
No. 2 Saw Close [SC02]	The Gala Bingo Club
No. 3 Saw Close [SC03]	Delfter Krug Nightclub
No. 4 Saw Close [SC04]	the former Schwartz Brothers

All photographs in the report, unless referenced, were taken by Kay Ross February-March 2007.



Summary - Saw Close in 2007

Parts of the Saw Close and Bridewell Lane sites have been occupied since at least Roman times. Several sections of tessellated pavement have come to light in this area over the last 200 years. Saw Close, as its name suggests, was a mediaeval timber sawing area and it continued as such into the 17th century, when it began to be used as a cattle market. There was an animal pound here on various sites until 1922. By the late 18th century it had become a coal depot and later still a hay and straw market. There was a weigh engine house and 2 weighing plates at the top of the close until the early 20th century when it was replaced by the current weighbridge office, no longer functioning.

The close was always primarily a working area, though three houses are known to have existed from the early 17th century. The first was built on the site of 4 Saw Close, until recently Schwartz Brothers and the side entrance to The Beau Nash Cinema. The second house, which became known as the 'Pound House' after being rebuilt in the later 17th century, was next door at 3 Saw Close, now The Delfter Krug nightclub. The third house [TC01] was on part of the site of what is now Bluecoat House, the former 1860s Bluecoat School and the former weighbridge office. The house (dem. 1822) was west of the earlier school, built in 1722 on the site of the old Bridewell house of correction. Bridewell Lane was originally a mixture of almshouses and abattoirs, interspersed with gardens. Nearly all the properties in the lane were rebuilt around the beginning of the 18th century.

In the 18th and early 19th century the properties in Saw Close and along the west side of Bridewell Lane were a mixture of industrial and agricultural buildings, incorporating among other things stables, warehouses, smithies, a tallow chandlery and a clay pipe making factory. By the late 18th century the close was dominated by a large carrier's yard at its centre, now occupied by The Gala Bingo Club, formerly a late Victorian theatre. All but nos. 1-2 of the Bridewell Lane properties, newly built in 1813, disappeared beneath the school playgrounds or became incorporated into the theatre. In 1931 a health clinic was built on part of the former playgrounds and the rest became a car park. One other building remains; the Regency Garage, originally an 18th century coach house and later a cheese warehouse. The building became a garage in 1906 and operated until the late 20th century.

The Delfter Krug nightclub [SC03] is the earliest surviving building in Saw Close. The original 1630s house would probably have had a timber frame but it was rebuilt in c1670 in stone and renamed the 'Pound House', featured on Gilmore's 1694 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**). An 1846 engraving of the fire at the candle manufactory next door (SC04) gives a detailed view of the building when it was the Sawclose Tavern. The 3 storey building must have suffered some damage from the neighbouring fire, but it is certainly the same building that stands today. The house has been altered over the last 200 years but retains original 17th century features including the continuous drip moulding on the first and second floors and a single stone transom window with an ovolo mullion in the south wall on the top floor. It probably survived because it could not be seen directly from the street so was not deemed necessary to alter as the other windows were. Much of the interior has been modernised in the late 20th century, but the semi-circular Art Nouveau canopy above the bar is the remaining section of the original 'U' shaped bar shown on a plan of the 1890s theatre (Plate 2).

The Gala Bingo Club [SC02] adjoins a number of properties both in Saw Close, Westgate Street and Bridewell Lane. The Cotterell map of 1852 (**Error! Reference source not found.**), drawn up before the first theatre was erected in 1886, shows that over 17 properties were eventually incorporated into the present building. The façade of the first theatre is still extant, between the Regency Garage and Delfter Krug, but the

rest of the theatre was extended and rebuilt in 1896. The building has had a number of different functions, becoming a ballroom in the 1950s and a Bingo club in the 1970s. The 1942 blitz severely damaged the roof and a serious fire in 1960 also caused a lot of damage. Much of the Victorian and 1930s décor was removed in the 1950s and today little remains of the former theatre except for the first floor balcony. Though much altered, it has retained its 1930s ribbed brackets and ventilation shafts. The outer walls show a number of different building materials, together with blocked doors and windows and the scars of former buildings. Sections of 18th and 19th century buildings are embedded into the structure around the outer walls. The remaining car parking area and raised walkway to the east giving access onto Bridewell Lane are built at a much higher level than the original Bridewell Lane houses.

The Regency Garage remains little changed since it was converted into a garage in 1906, and its distinctive shape can be traced back through a number of maps and plans to at least the late 18th century. Originally a coach house built in the 1770s, the east wall has a high blocked archway which would have provided access from the carrier's yard. The angled west wall fronting the Saw Close was built in 1824 as well as the southern section of the rear east wall. The remaining walls are probably those of the 1770s building. This was a working building, and consequently not worth expending money on rebuilding if it didn't need it. Both large doorways were inserted between 1906 and 1914 and the building has probably been 3 storey since 1824.

The 1856 Bluecoat School originally had a large classroom on the ground and first floors for girls and boys respectively, each with their separate playground. The rooms have been extensively partitioned since the 1920s when it became offices and later in the 20th century a ground floor dental practice. Many of the large stone mullioned windows have been dissected by partition walls, creating a warren of smaller rooms. Most of the original features, however, are still extant. Currently much of the building is filled with Council shelving holding files, and a better idea of the partitioning and original features will be had when they are removed.

The current former weighbridge office was erected some time after 1904. In 1886 the OS map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) still shows a smaller multi sided building flanked by 2 weighing plates a little further west into the close. Cotterell's 1852 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows a much larger octagonal building on that site, probably rebuilt following the erection of the new Bluecoat School 4 years later. A 1904 map shows the it, so the current rectangular building was probably erected as a weighbridge office soon after, replacing the earlier weigh house and plates. It remained in use until the 1930s (**Error! Reference source not found.**), when it became an office for the market supervisor, the southern half converted into a public lavatory. Today it is used by the car park attendants as an office. Nos. 1-2 Bridewell Lane, rebuilt in 1813 following a fire, became printing works in the 20th century. They lost their first and second floors in 1964 and little remains of the original layout of the ground floor. They are currently being used as offices for The Big Issue.

It was not possible to gauge how well used the Bingo Club is but The Delfter Krug appears to be a very popular venue with clubbers, with a bar downstairs and a dance floor on the first floor. The whole area has been a centre for entertainment since at least the 17th century. Gilmore's map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows the Pound House (Delfter Krug) being used as a cock pit for stage cock fights. It was obviously a popular venue to be recognised as such on his map. There was also a large Fives Court to the west, just beyond the City walls. It is probable that the Cockpit resolved itself into a beer house, and eventually The Sawclose Tavern in the later 18th century. By then the Saw Close was a cattle market which would have necessitated both beer and ale houses to provide food and drink for farmers and yeomen. In 1805 the Theatre Royal opened opposite, bringing theatre goers to the Close. There was a large

public house on the corner of Westgate Street and Saw Close and 3 further public houses in Bridewell Lane, one of them no. 11 Bridewell Lane, the site of the 1930s clinic.

The Sawclose Tavern was incorporated into the 1886 Pavilion Theatre built adjacent to it, and only became a separate business in the late 20th century. The theatre was more of a music hall, providing entertainment for a larger audience than perhaps the Theatre Royal. The theatre expanded in the 1890s and remained a popular venue through World War II. In 1910 The Electric Theatre had been opened at 22 Westgate Street and in the 1920s this expanded to the south of the theatre as The Beau Nash cinema.

It had an Art deco refit in the 1930s but in the 1950s tastes had changed and the theatre became a ballroom, and in the 1970s a bingo hall. A cinema opened on the first floor of what was by now 'The Loft', in turn becoming the Delfter Krug nightclub in the early 21st century. The Theatre Royal opposite continues to be a thriving venue, with The Egg children's theatre just beyond it in St John's Place. The Close is now surrounded by a number of restaurants and pubs, some of which, including Delfter Krug, have outside seating in summer which gives the area a more European feel, especially in the evening.

As of March 2007 the Saw Close properties detailed in this report are all empty, with the exception of the Bingo Club and Delfter Krug nightclub and a counselling practice on the top floor of Bluecoat House. Nos. 1-2 Bridewell Lane are currently leased by The Big Issue magazine company as a collection point for its sellers. The clinic closed down a few years ago and The Regency Garage has been empty since the 1990s, the ground floor used as storage by Delfter Krug and the Council. The latter are also currently using the ground floor and basement of the former Bluecoat School as storage for planning documents. A large area of the Saw Close is taken up with car parking space, both in the close itself and in the car park to the south and west of the clinic. The weighbridge office is still used by car park attendants.

Whilst a lot has been done to smarten up the areas to the west of the close, the general feeling of the area between the close and Bridewell Lane is one of neglect and a lack of maintenance. The areas around the clinic car park are clearly used at night as temporary shelters for the homeless, strewn with cans and bottles. The Regency Garage has been neglected for a number of years and it is probable that it still retains its petrol storage tanks below the forecourt, which are a potential contamination issue. The clock tower of Bluecoat House which dominates the close has also been neglected but with appropriate conservation could be an attractive and much needed feature of the Saw Close, in a City with almost no public clocks. The area around Saw Close and Kingsmead Square is surrounded by restaurants, bars. The Theatre Royal is in the centre and the new Odeon cinema complex just beyond Kingsmead Square. With the restoration of the Beau Nash cinema site as a further venue, Saw Close and Seven Dials will be the main entertainment zone of the City. With the exception of the Delfter Krug building, the 1880s theatre facade and Bluecoat House, the rest of the east side of Saw Close is currently an eyesore.

The Early History of Saw Close

Saw Close is located in the north-west corner of the old mediaeval city, formerly a Roman site where a number of pieces of tessellated pavement have been discovered. The north and west sides of Saw Close were bounded by the medieval city wall with Gascoyne's Tower in the north-east corner. To the south ran Westgate Street, the main east-west route leading to the West Gate. The earliest maps of Bath show Saw Close as an open area to the west of the gardens and tofts belonging to houses lining Westgate Street and Bridewell Lane.

Immediately inside the West Gate was an open area where poor and sick travellers were received by the Almoner of Bath Priory. The Almoner held various properties at the west end of Westgate Street, one of which was on the corner site of 21 Westgate Street. St John's tithe barn, where the city's tithes of corn and grain were stored was on the opposite side of Westgate Street, surrounded by gardens.

Saville's map (**Error! Reference source not found.**), though not authenticated as an original 16th century map, shows timber lying on 'The Timber Green' with several gardens or tofts to the east with their boundaries running to Bridewell Lane. Much of the northern half of the city was still undeveloped, the houses lining the main streets whilst narrow lanes, such as Bridewell Lane, led onto further gardens and tofts.



The main activity of this open space for many years was timber sawing. In 1596 7 s. was paid to a 'pere of saweirs at Gascon's Tower'.¹ Gascoyne's Tower was built by William Gascoyne as a penance for an infringement of the City's laws. Leland wrote about it on one of his visits to Bath in the mid 16th century

[The City Wall] stondith alle, lakking but a peace about Gascoyn's-tower. In the walles at this tyme be no tourres saving over the tounne gates. One Gascoyne an inhabitante of the tounne in hominum memoria made a litle peace of the walle that was in decay, as for a fine for a faught [fault] that he had committid in the cite: wherof one part as at a corner

¹ BRO: SRS:V38, 1569 (9)

risith higher then the residew of the walle, wherby it is comunely caullid Gascoyne-tower. ²

A Mr Stile leased the 'Tymber Close' in 1576 for 6s.³ and about this time buildings, probably sheds and open workshops, started to encroach upon the gardens of the Close. In 1596 the threat of a second Armada loomed and the militia set up butts for musket practice in several of the open areas in the city. Payments were made by the Corporation for carrying stones and turfs 'to make the buttes in the tymber cloase'. ⁴

William Ford, supervisor of boundaries, was granted all the profits 'of pitching pence in faires and markets' for life and 1 penny for every load of timber laid by any man 'not free' as well as a penny a quarter 'for timber lying there'.⁵

By the late 16th century 21 Westgate Street had acquired a garden to the north, just below 4 Saw Close [SC04]. In 1614 a Mr Sherstone was granted the ground by the West Gate 'now the dung mixon' in exchange for the garden John Paviour [Biggs] leased beside the new house of Matthew Rendell, the City Chamberlain.⁶ In the summer of 1615 Messrs Wyatt and Cliffe, John Pinchin and a Mr Richardson gathered to survey the Saw Close and ascertain whether there was space for a stable to be erected for Mr Richardson who 'moveth for a stable in any place'. ⁷

In the same year a 20 foot wide property in the Timber Close just above it (4 Saw Close) was leased to paviour [paver] John Biggs in return for keeping the West Gate, at a discount of 6s 8d a year on his rent. He agreed to keep the area in front of his house (as yet unbuilt) clean and pitch the street when required for a payment of 1d a yard. ⁸ The Biggs family were prominent figures in Bath and continued to acquire property in the Saw Close until the late 18th century, by which time they owned a substantial piece of it.

The Close had an animal pound for stray animals, and owners would have to pay a fine to retrieve them. Speed's map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) of 1610 shows a rectangular area to the east of the entrance to the close, bounded on 3 sides by a wall or fence. In 1608 and on subsequent occasions the Council minutes mention repairs to the pound in the Saw Close and payments for stones and posts and 'a Locke for the pownde Dore', presumably to stop people trying to liberate their animals without paying a fine. It was located at the southern entrance to Saw Close where John Biggs had been granted the building land in 1615 (4 Saw Close). ⁹

In 1634 John Combe, a rough mason was granted 'as much ground by the Saw Close as Mr Sherstone, Mr William Chapman and Mr Robert Fisher shall think fit, next to Pavioours [John Biggs]'. The land was currently occupied by the pound and the 3 men agreed the Combe's plot should to be the same breadth as the pound.

² Toulmin Smith:1907,140

³ SRS: V38,1576 (30)

⁴ BRO: CM, 1596

⁵ BRO: CM, 16 Aug 1614

⁶ BRO: CM, 16 Aug 1614

⁷ BRO: CM, 27 Jun 1615

⁸ BRO: CM, 9 May 1615

⁹ 4 Rev C.W.Shickle, Ancient Deeds belonging to the Corporation of Bath XIII-XVI Cent. [AD], Bath Records Society (Bath, 1921), 111:2.

Combe obviously planned to build on the plot because he was to be charged 2s. annual rent and told the roof had to be tiled. Recent City legislation had deemed that all new houses were to be tiled rather than thatched as a fire precaution.¹⁰ The house with a garden was built on the site of the present Delfter Kruge nightclub [SC03].

The new house resulted in the pound being dismantled and relocated to a new site. A new timber one was built, the floor pitched with stone. John Combe was allowed 'the tumber of the Old pound if he makes another at his own charge at the end of his house, stones being brought there from the Cittie'.¹¹ The new pound was jointly built by John Biggs and John Combe, both of whom had been given land from the pound on condition that they built a new one.

Gilmore's 1694 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows the pound as a large square enclosure to the north of the 2 newly houses. The pound subsequently moved a number of times, whenever the land it was on was deemed ripe for development. It remained, in one form or another, until 1922 when it finally moved to the Walcot cattle market.

In the same year as John Combe was granted land in Saw Close, the Corporation granted further building land to carpenter George Parker, his wife Margaret and their sons George and Thomas for 8s. a year. He paid a 23s. fine 'with fees for his freedom'.¹² The land does not appear to have been large enough to build on, because the following year he was granted a further 6 feet of the Saw Close on his former lease at an additional rent of 2s. in order 'to build a house upon it'.¹³ It is probable that Parker died before he could carry out his building work, because the Survey of 1641 mentions Margaret Parker's name alone. In the 1660s the rent of Combe's 'Pound House' was raised to 10s. which now included this garden.

The Biggs family had built a house with a garden on their 20 foot plot by 1636, just south of Combe's. The minutes describe it as being next to the entrance to the close and it was this site that subsequently became 4 Saw Close [SC04]. To the north of Combe's property was an empty lot (SC03 - Regency Garage), bounded on the north by William Chapman's detached garden. This empty lot had been allocated by the committee for a new house but it was then decided there should be no further building for the time being.

The timber business in Saw Close seems to have expanded by now and a distinction had to be formally made between those sawyers and timber merchants with the status of freemen and others who were not entitled. It was agreed that anyone 'not a freeman of City' should pay 12d for every tree they cut at the Saw Close. In addition if 'any person not free shall have timber at Saw Close and is not removed by St Bartholomew's day next' they were to be fined 12.¹⁴ Later in the year the committee agreed that every 'carpenter or timber man that is free' should pay 6d per tree or load of timber there.¹⁵

¹⁰ BRO: CM, 31 Mar 1634

¹¹ BRO: CM, 14 Apr 1634

¹² BRO: CM, 14 Apr 1634

¹³ BRO: CM, 30 Mar 1635

¹⁴ BRO: CM, 29 Jun 1635

¹⁵ BRO: CM, 26 Dec 1636

It was during the 17th century that the boundaries of the properties in Saw Close, Bridewell Lane and Westgate Street really began to take the shape that they would retain into the 20th century. By the mid 17th century there were just 2 houses in the Close [3 & 4 Saw Close] and the boundaries of the sites have remained little altered until today, albeit rebuilt a number of times. Many other boundaries formed then still exist today, albeit swallowed up by much larger and more complex building structures, the Gala Bingo Hall being a prime example.

In 1641 Robert Shaa gent. acquired 27 Westgate Street and its garden (28 – 29 Westgate Street) as well as a detached garden next to the Saw Close, originally part of the Almoner's garden, and a tenement next to the Almshouse, once the Almoner's own house (5- 7 Bridewell Lane), with a door into the Saw Close.

In 1642 the Civil War began and by the following year the Corporation were carrying out measures to protect the City from marauding soldiers. In November a turnpike was ordered to be set up at the West Gate or the door 'damed up'.¹⁶ For the residents of Saw Close their proximity to the gate must have been very unnerving, especially as the West Gate led to the Bristol road where some of the heaviest fighting was carried out in the West Country. In 1646 the gate's drawbridge was ordered to be refitted.¹⁷

By 1649 life was less anxious for the residents of Saw Close and building land was again available. Benjamin or Benedict Beacon was granted the land on which the new pound had been built, adjacent to John Combe's house. As with Combe and Biggs, Beacon had to agree to relocate and build 'another pound with timber and pitched with stone', paying a 40s fine.¹⁸ John Biggs had by now moved to a more salubrious part of the City, becoming mayor by 1655. In that year Beacon died and his widow Elinor consented to a change in 2 of the lives on John Combe's house and garden 'near the Timber Yard' so it is probable that the Combes and Beacons were related by marriage.¹⁹

In 1654 William Clively was given permission to raise 'a penthouse or covering on 4 posts over his Sand Pitt in the Timber Close' for an annual rent of 11s.²⁰

By 1671 Biggs' former house had been converted to stables by yeoman Thomas Hawkins, who lived at 22 Westgate Street, with a communicating door to the house. Meanwhile Combe's 'Pound House' had by now acquired the garden on the east side, and the rent had been raised from 2s. to 10s., probably because the house had been rebuilt or extended.²¹ It seems to have been the only property in Saw Close to have been given a name, suggesting either a rise in status or its use for some commercial business.

Twenty years later the building is shown on Gilmore's map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) as a 'Cock Pit'. Cock fighting was one of the most popular sports in Georgian England, where men of all classes gambled on the outcome of a fight between 2 cockerels. Cock-fighting matches were held in a cockpit and every

¹⁶ BRO:CM,: 8 Nov 1643

¹⁷ Ibid. 11 May 1646

¹⁸ Ibid.1 Oct 1649

¹⁹ Ibid.31 Dec 1655

²⁰ Ibid.26 Jun 1654

²¹ 29 BRO, F.425, Lease 10 March 1670



town of any size would have boasted a cockpit. Fights often coincided with race meetings, though contemporary accounts show that country gentlemen sometimes held matches in their drawing rooms.²² The Saw Close, especially when the cattle market was held, would have been an ideal location for a cockpit.

At the close of the 17th century the Saw Close was developing fast, with many new buildings encroaching on the gardens to the east. Many of the Westgate Street properties have malthouses to the rear²³

which may explain the apparent overcrowding on Gilmore's map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) while the Bridewell Lane properties all still have long gardens behind them. The pound is the square open area to the north of 'The Cockpit'. Along the Upper Borough Walls is the Bridewell where local malefactors were sent, with an arched entrance from Bridewell Lane. Samuel Dawe's house is immediately to the west, one of only 3 houses in Saw Close.

The Early History of Bridewell Lane

Bridewell Lane had a number of different names throughout its history. Though a fairly insignificant thoroughfare today, it was far more utilised in mediaeval Bath. It was originally called Plumtreostwichene, later shortened to Plumtree Lane. The Saxon word twichen or twitchel meant a narrow lane. Union Passage was known as Paynestwichenen. The lane was referred to in the 1570s as 'Almos Lane' after the almshouse there, but became better known as Culverhouse Lane, after the dovecote at the top of the lane.

In 1381 the Corporation granted Sewall Fraunceys, for 2 s. a year in silver, a curtilage in Plomtroulane in which a round dovecot is to be built.²⁴

In 1410 Thomas Stansery and his wife leased the dovecot and garden in Plumtrelane for 6s. in silver.²⁵ It appears to have been on the site of the Bluecoat School [BH01]. The 'gardaine and pigeonhouse by the burwales' was rented by Alderman William Cavell in the 1590s. By the early 17th century the dovecote had been demolished to make way for a barn and stable, owned by Robert Chambers and shown on Speed's 1610 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) which refers to Bridewell Lane as 'Spurriers Lane'.

Bridewell Lane always had a number of almshouses and poor houses on it. The first was the former Almoner's House, on the site of nos.3 to 4 Bridewell Lane. Speed's map shows just 3 houses in the lane in 1611. The lower one was presumably the former Almoner's House. John Sacheild, alderman and mayor, who leased a garden

²² www.georgianindex.net/Sport/Cock/cock.html

²³ Chapman: Bath History Volume 8, 2000, 62-3

²⁴ Shickle:V:56 5 April 1381

²⁵ Ibid. V:58 26 September 1410

behind nos.28 and 29 Westgate Street from at least 1587, had extended it northward by 1609, taking some of the Almoner 's garden.²⁶

By 1581 there were more almshouses and 'one of the almshouse in Culverhouse Lane' was mended at a cost of 3s. 6d plus 8d for 4 'crests' and 10d for 'sacks of lyme'.²⁷ Two years later wood was provided for the 'almes folks ...and the bellman' at a cost of 4s 2d. The same year Richard Becon and his brother were paid 10s 6d 'for saks of lime and 4 ½ days work pointing masonry in Culverhouse Lane'.²⁸ In 1585 Thomas Phelps built a chimney in one of the almshouses in Culverhouse Lane for 12s. A workman had carried stone there for 4d, with a further 20d. paid for lime and 12d for tiling.²⁹

In 1590 William Ford was paying 16d rent for a house in Culverhouse Lane and a further 2s 8d for 2 years rent of another tenement.³⁰ In 1632 the lane became known by its most enduring name, Bridewell Lane, which it retains to this day. It was named after the workhouse or house of correction 'for the settinge of poore people on worke' built there in 1632 at the top of the lane, now the Bluecoat School. Robert Chambers received £5 in compensation for the loss of his barn and stable and

the long passage on the Barne stable and backside belonging to Robert Chambers to be made into a House of Correction for putting the poor of the city to work

Payments were also made by the Corporation for window bars, glazing, and the digging of a well in the back garden.³¹

In 1646 Henry Chapman leased the Bridewell for a year³² and by 1650 there seem to have been so few inmates that the Corporation agreed it should be let as a tenement. They granted it to carpenter Samuel Dawe at a yearly rent of £4 provided he kept it in repair and allowed the widow Holder and her children to remain there. He was given an annual allowance of 10s for her being there.³³

The building appears to have become dilapidated by 1664 when a new Bridewell was built, presumably on the same site, 'to set the poor of the city to work and should be put to that use'.³⁴ Two years later the Bridewell was again let to Samuel Dawe.³⁵ The Bridewell continued to house inmates for a while until 1669 when the last one, Thomas Short, was to 'be put out of the Bridewell' so that it could be let 'for the most rent'. The committee agreed to let it to Samuel Dawe for £5 5s.³⁶ In 1685 the Bridewell house and garden were let out at a yearly rent of £5 to joiner Thomas Rosewell, who had to repair it.³⁷ It was then described as a 'messenger and backside in Culverhouse Lane'.³⁸

²⁶ SRS:V38, 1587 [93]

²⁷ Ibid., 1581 (56)

²⁸ Ibid., 1583 (72)

²⁹ Ibid., 1585 (84)

³⁰ Ibid. 1590 (115)

³¹ BRO:CM, 23 May 1632

³² Ibid.,15 February 1646

³³ Ibid.CM,30 Sep 1650

³⁴ Ibid. CM, 26 December 1664

³⁵ Ibid. CM, 28 February 1666

³⁶ Ibid. CM, 22 Feb 1669

³⁷ BRO: CM, 5 October 1685

³⁸ BRO: F.718 LEASE 10 April 1686

Following the close of the Bridewell the lane became known for a while as Slaughterhouse Lane, probably because there were now abattoirs being erected by the butchers of the City. In 1661 Alice Martin paid 10s for a licence for her tenement in Slaughterhouse Lane.³⁹ There were at least 3 butchers who had premises in Stall Street and leased a garden in Bridewell Lane, either for keeping animals or for using as a slaughterhouse. The area was away from the central shopping area of the city, where there was more room to keep animals and despatch of them, the lane providing access for carts to return them to the butcher's shop.

In 1626 butcher John Hancock leased a garden with a slaughterhouse 'in Plumtree Lane' for 10s. The rental included his messuage in Stall Street, no doubt his house with a shop to the front.⁴⁰ In 1685 butcher George Thorne leased the slaughterhouse, renewing the lease in 1699.⁴¹ In 1631, Dr Edward Jordan had observed that 'the butchers dressed their meat at their own doors, while pigs wallow in the mire'. By-laws attempted to tackle the whole question of hygiene in the preparation of food, aiming to prevent butchers from adding to the filthy state of the streets and to ensure that only meat in good condition reached the market. Part of the problem was that cattle and sheep were often brought into Bath 'on the hoof' for slaughter by butchers in the spaces behind and around their shops. This practice not only contributed to the general stench, but also added to the whole question of waste disposal.

It was stipulated in the new by-laws that 'no butcher should kill any calf, sheep, swine or any other cattle in any of the open streets, nor hang out any flesh newly killed so as to soil or annoy the said streets'. Pig owners were strictly banned from allowing their animals to wander around the streets in search of discarded waste.⁴²

Nearly all the properties in Bridewell Lane were rebuilt around the beginning of the 18th century. Despite this, John Wood in 1747 described the lane, which by then according to him had 20 houses, as 'of the meaner sort'. He saw its potential as a prestigious thoroughfare, though few others did.

SPURRIERS LANE, mark'd with the Letter 'Q' is almost in the Shape of a crooked Billet; it is ten Feet six Inches broad, contains twenty Houses, of the meaner Sort, and seems to have had its Name from its being, in former Times, the Habitation of Spurriers. This Lane leads from West Gate Street to Trim Bridge; and the Situation of it makes it worth rebuilding, if the Citizens, within the Walls, had any Regard to their own Interest, and to the Publick Utility of the City.⁴³

³⁹ 30 Dec 1661

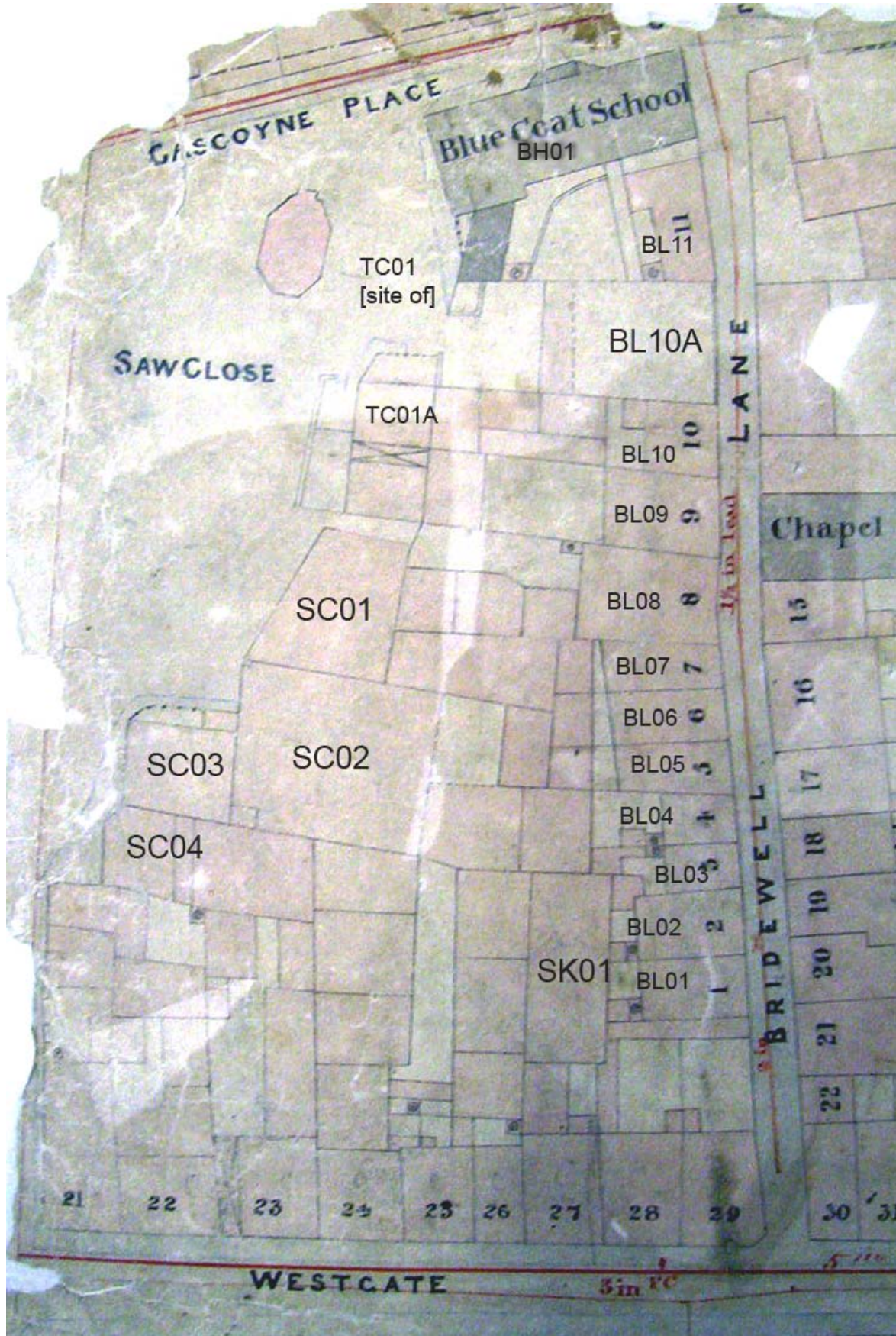
⁴⁰ BRO: F.65 13 October 1626

⁴¹ BRO: F.709 1 June 1685 & F.958 2 October 1699

⁴² J Wroughton, Bath History Volumel 10, 2005 p.35

⁴³ Wood:1747,328

19th Century Numbered Plan of Saw Close and Bridewell Lane



18th Century Saw Close and Bridewell Lane

The 1725 plan of Saw Close (**Error! Reference source not found.**) taken from the Kingston Map, shows the jagged outline of the Saw Close properties, much as it is today, dominated by the newly built Charity School on the site of today's Bluecoat House. By 1759 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) Saw Close was 'a Market for Cattle' rather than a timber yard. Most of the City Walls were still intact in this area, though Westgate Buildings had replaced the section of wall to the north of the West Gate and the area that lay outside the gate was rapidly becoming developed as Kingsmead Square. Further north was Queen Square which had further opened up the area to the north and west of the City, whilst the building of Trim Street had resulted in the Upper Borough Walls being breached near the Bridewell. The Saw Close was no longer isolated in the corner of the City walls but was becoming a main thoroughfare for both people and traffic. By 1763 the Corporation had erected a weighing machine 'for weighing hay, straw, coals and other things'.⁴⁴

In 1746, despite the failure of a similar initiative in 1736, the Corporation gave notice of a Wednesday cattle mart to be held in Sawclose, urging farmers to deliver livestock on the hoof and sell to local grazier-butchers direct. At first they were free from paying tolls, but initial enthusiasm soon evaporated and by 1749 the cattle market was said to be under-used.⁴⁵

By 1765 when John Wood wrote his Description of Bath, there were still just three houses in Saw Close. He surveyed it and gave the measurements as 169 feet by 83 feet and described it as

formerly a common Place for the use of the Citizens to saw their Timber and Boards in; and was therefore called the Saw Close: But now it is defined for the Sale of live Cattle, tho' little Use is made of it for that Purpose. This open Area contains three Houses; and Time will, perhaps, establish its Use.⁴⁶

In 1777 a new Act of Parliament allowed a number of alterations to Bath's congested traffic system, specifically banning some thoroughfares to traffic and fining those who flouted the law a hefty 20 shillings. Following the completion of 'the new way from the lower end of Stall Street to the New Square', no vehicles were allowed through Bridewell Lane, which was thereafter to be used as 'a Foot Way' only.⁴⁷ It has remained as one ever since.

In c1782 the property near the Charity School (10 Bridewell Lane) had been converted to a clay pipe manufactory by pipemaker Joseph Smith with several kilns on the site. In 1810 the business was sold to James Clarke, another pipe maker and continued until the new Bluecoat School [BH01] was built in 1856.⁴⁸ By the end of the 18th century the remaining city walls had been demolished and the entire Saw Close, Kingsmead and Westgate Street areas opened up. Harcourt Master's 1787 turnpike map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows the area lined with buildings, with several long gardens behind the Westgate Street and Bridewell Lane properties.

⁴⁴ Forsyth: Buildings of England: Bath, 2003, p.116

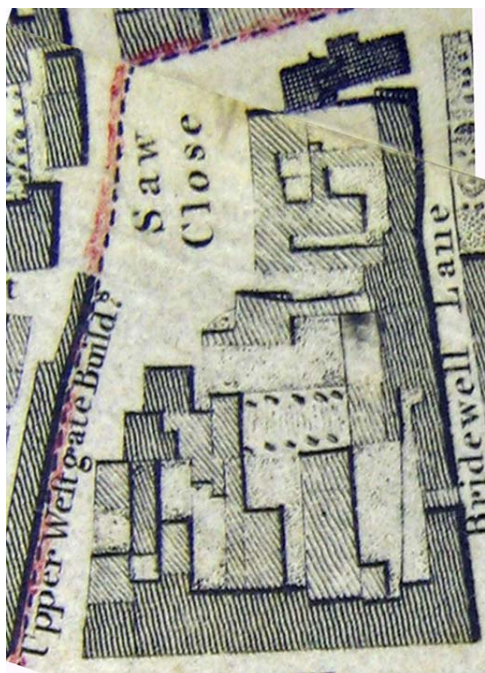
⁴⁵ T Fawcett, Bath Commercialis'd, 2002 18

⁴⁶ Wood: 1765,340

⁴⁷ Act of Parliament George III 1777 23

⁴⁸ Marek Lewcun, 'The Clay Tobacco Pipe Making Industry of Bath', Bath History, Vol.V (Bath, 1994), pp.133-141

In 1795 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) a map was produced which showed the individual properties in far greater detail for perhaps the first time since Gilmore, 100 years before. Whilst it shows the various properties lining Westgate Street and Bridewell Lane as a single area, the properties behind the houses and within Saw Close are all delineated as either buildings or open yards, with an interesting open yard in the centre [SC02], now part of The Bingo Hall, which appears to be lined with trees in what is still a garden. Three properties; The Pound House [SC03] to the south and a building to the rear of 22 Westgate Street (now part of The Beau Nash Cinema) are delineated as residential, with darker hatching, the others with paler hatching for the commercial buildings. The Bluecoat School [BH01] to the north is shown cross-hatched, as are other public buildings such as the Mineral Water Hospital and the Cross Bath.



1795 Map of Saw Close showing passages, yards and gardens in Saw Close

The house on the corner of Bridewell Lane and Westgate Street with the gardens incorporating 27-29 Westgate Street had been owned by Miss Fanny Mortiboys of Stratford-on-Avon from 1784. The house burnt down in 1813. The poor house for the Parish of St Peter and St Paul (1-2 Bridewell Lane) still occupied the north-east corner by Miss Mortiboys' garden. By 1785 the properties built on the Bridewell garden to the east of the Charity School had been rebuilt as a public house 'The Prince Frederick' (11 Bridewell Lane) with a narrow passageway which was a shared right of way with the school leading from the lane to Saw Close.

The Theatre Royal on the west side of Saw Close was built in 1805 and the area took on a new lease of life, becoming known as The Seven Dials. The playbill produced for the opening performance announced

The Carriage entrance to the Boxes is in the Sawclose, and Ladies and Gentlemen are particularly requested to order their servants to set down with their horses' heads towards Westgate-Street, and to take up with their heads towards Queen Square, to prevent confusion. The Entrance for chairs is in Beaufort Square. ⁴⁹

Richard Morgan's malthouse to the rear of 25-26 Westgate Street had become disused by 1800 when they were acquired by carrier John Parsons for his yard in the Saw Close.⁵⁰ The 1801 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows similar properties with yards and open spaces, though not in as much detail as the 1795 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The carrier's business expanded, being taken over by Edward Mitchell in c1817. In 1829 the rear of no.24 Westgate Street was incorporated into the yard as stables. Mitchell also acquired the malthouse to the rear of nos.25 and 26 Westgate Street and converted into commercial stables with hay lofts and a gig house attached. All these buildings were

⁴⁹ Chapman: Chapman: Bath History Volume 8, 2000, 69

⁵⁰ BRO: DP2854, 25 August 1800

attached to the yard which was later roofed over. There was a farriery as well along the north and east the perimeter of the yard.⁵¹

Saw Close became full of activity again in the 1820s as it developed as a delivery area for road haulage, especially the large horse driven coal wagons from the nearby North Somerset coalfields. A coal market was established on the east side of the Close, requiring a second engine plate to be installed on the east side of the weigh-office, seen on the OS map of 1886 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). By 1822 trade in the Close had expanded to the point where Samuel Dawe's former house to the west of the Charity School [TC01] was demolished to provide more space. The former garden of the house became the site of yet another pound and a urinal. The previous pound further down the close had become a traffic hazard. The cattle market continued, though less popular as the outlying City areas became more built up. The shared pump remained under a small shelter against the north wall of Atwood's house [TC01A] to which the owner retained right of use.⁵²

Since the 1790s this house had acquired a partly sunken courtyard along the front with steps at one end, perhaps as a result of the level of the Saw Close being raised during that time. In 1812 the property to the south of Dawe's house, Harry Atwood's old premises [TC01A] and now Elizabeth Sherborne's, backed onto the pipe factory in Bridewell Lane [BL10] to the east. That year Elizabeth Sherborne had been refused insurance because of the dangerous state of the factory next door.⁵³ By the mid-nineteenth century, the property had become derelict.

By 1852 the detailed Cotterell map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows the old Charity School still at the north end of the Saw Close with the weigh-house to the west. This features in some of the earlier photographs of the Close. South of the school grounds was an open area, part of the school playground. The old pipe factory [BL10] was still in operation to the south of this and must have filled the area with smoke from its kilns and soot.

To the west of the factory, fronting the Close, was Harry Atwood's old premises [TC01A] with the pound still to the west of it. To the south was the old carrier's yard [SC02], now built over, leaving a small yard to the rear. On the opposite side of the yard entrance was Butcher's cheese store [SC01], originally a stables and coach house and later the Regency Garage. To the south of this was the former Pound House [SC03], by now a Public House, and a tallow chandlery [SC04], rebuilt after a serious fire in 1842. Behind these buildings and in the rear yards of Westgate Street shops were a mass of smaller buildings and yards incorporating smaller businesses.

In contrast, the Bridewell Lane properties continued to decline, the census records showing large numbers of the poorer classes living cheek by jowl in tenement buildings and lodging houses. Many of the inhabitants worked for the local clay pipe factory, both husbands and wives, as well as older children listed as pipe makers.

In 1865 the old school was demolished and the new Bluecoat School built. In 1886 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) the new Bluecoat School [BH01] dominated

⁵¹ Chapman: ,69

⁵² Chapman: ,69

⁵³ BRO: CM,10 Nov 1812

the north end of Saw Close, with large separate playgrounds for boys and girls to the south. An extensive area of the Saw Close and Bridewell Lane had been demolished to provide them, including the clay pipe factory [BL10] and 5-9 Bridewell Lane [BL05-BL09]. The public house to the east of the school [BL11] had also been demolished, replaced with a long shed. The pound was now a small area to the east of a stone drinking fountain, which lay to the north of the cheese store [SC01]. No. 3 Saw Close [SC03] was still a Public House and 4 Saw Close [SC04] a chandlery.

The whole culture of Saw Close had changed, however, with the opening at Christmas 1886 of The Pavilion Music Hall on part of the carrier's yard, though too late to be shown on the OS map of that year (**Error! Reference source not found.**),. The focus was now increasingly on entertainment rather than commerce, with both 21 Westgate Street and 3 Saw Close public houses and The Theatre Royal opposite the music hall. The market continued in a smaller way, the weigh-house still flanked by the 2 weighing plates.

In 1896 the theatre was rebuilt, incorporating the rest of the carrier's yard among other properties. It re-opened as The Lyric Theatre of Varieties'. Chaplin is said to have performed there before he sailed for America. In 1902, the Goad Insurance map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows the Lyric Theatre dominating the centre of Saw Close. It incorporated the rear yards of 24-25 Westgate Street all the way up through the old carrier's yard to the school playgrounds. No. 3 Bridewell Lane was now a dressing room with a private passage for the artiste's onto Bridewell Lane. The theatre bars and toilets incorporated the rest of the carrier's yard and the former buildings fronting Saw Close, including the Public House [SC04], now the theatre bar. The north end of the theatre had also been converted to an additional bar area and toilets. The Corporation had relocated the urinal to the north end of the old cheese store, which had a stable and small yard immediately to the east, adjoining the school playground.

In 1903 The Lyric was renamed The Palace Theatre. The following year the cheese store [SC01] was converted into a commercial garage, The Regency Garage, the urinal still adjoining the north wall. In 1924 The west side of the stage end of the theatre adjoined the Beau Nash Picture House, which had been built on the site of 22 Westgate Street in 1910 and enlarged to incorporate 23 Westgate Street in 1920. The cinema backed onto the old candle factory [SC04] which was now a motor body workshop and bottling factory. The old soup kitchen behind 1-2 Bridewell Lane had by now been incorporated into the theatre as the scenery store together with the passage to the south of 1 Bridewell Lane.

In 1927 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) the school became offices with a Child Welfare Centre [HC01] built on the site of the playground (8-10 Bridewell Lane). The remaining playground area remained undeveloped except for a small area to the south where the garage had expanded, taking up the old stable and yard to the east. Nos. 5-7 Bridewell Lane had been demolished but 1-4 remained as tenements for the time being. The Palace Theatre [SC02] was modernised in the 1930s and had expanded further to the east, taking up the narrow yard to the rear of 7-9 Bridewell Lane. The Beau Nash Cinema had also expanded in 1929, incorporating the motor body workshop and bottling factory [SC04]. In 1955 the theatre was converted to 'The Regency Ballroom', remaining in use until 1968, despite a serious fire in 1960. It then became Zettlers Bingo and Social Club, a function it still serves today. 1-2 Bridewell Lane had become offices and 3-4 part of the printing works. The former

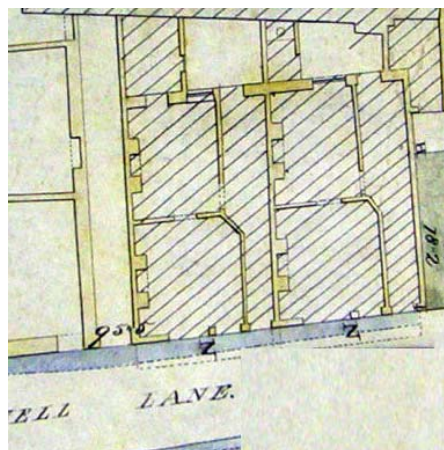
Pavilion Bar is now a separate property again, operating as The Delfter Krug nightclub [SC03], though half the size it had been, the eastern half of the building still incorporated into the Bingo Hall. The Regency Garage closed in the 1990s but remains as a storage place for the nightclub and the Council. The Bluecoat School, until recently a counselling centre and dentists, is now almost entirely empty and the Clinic has closed. 1-2 Bridewell Lane are currently being used as offices by The Big Issue.

2007 Numbered Plan of Saw Close and Bridewell Lane



The Building History of Bridewell Lane and Saw Close

1 and 2 Bridewell Lane [BL01 & BL02]



1 and 2 Bridewell Lane were built on the site of the garden of 28 and 29 Westgate Street, which came to be known as Miss Mortiboy's garden in the late 18th century. It ran up the side of Bridewell Lane and at some point it was extended northward to take in some of the ground which previously belonged to the medieval Almoner 's House in Bridewell Lane. In 1609 it was leased separately from the Westgate Street property to the alderman and mayor, John Sacheild.

1818 Plan of 1-2 Bridewell Lane ⁵⁴

The 2 houses were built by pawnbroker John Allen on the north side of the former Mortiboys property after a fire in 1813 destroyed the house on the corner of Westgate Street previously owned by Miss Fanny Mortiboys. The lease contained an agreement to rebuild nos.27- 29 Westgate Street with ' three new messuages' along the street frontage within five years. He was also required to set back the boundaries of all his Bridewell Lane properties on both sides in order to widen the lane. The new plans included a passage from the lane along the south wall of no.1 to provide access into the rear of 27 Westgate Street, where a butchery had been established. This passage now forms one of the emergency exits from the Bingo Hall. The lease on the 2 properties as well as those on 3-4 Bridewell Lane and 27-29 Westgate Street amounted to £35 per annum.⁵⁵

In 1828 the lease on 1-2 Bridewell Lane was renewed by Allen for an annual rent of £2 15s. ⁵⁶ By 1841 the pair were lodging houses, no. 1 run by Eliza Batt, 60, and her son Henry, 35, a labourer. The census ran from 1 tenement to the next, but it is not clear where the lodgers were housed. Eliza appears to have had a number of lodgers, whilst Elizabeth Jones had 1 family, but they may have been spread more evenly between the two. The lodgers included an elderly lady and 3 single women between 20 and 40 and 4 male labourers, one of them married. In addition there was Samuel Guy, 45, a smith, and his wife Ann and son George, 20. They, too, appear to have had lodgers; printer James Davis, 25, George West, 15, a carpenter as well as a young girl, possibly an apprentice and 75 year old Hannah Lee. Elizabeth Jones, 35, the other lodging house keeper, had a servant to help her. Living with her were a couple called Emmanuel and Hester and their son William, 20, a shoemaker.

Ten years later the names had all changed, and part of the properties were poor houses for those who were receiving parish aid. William Aberfield, a 50 year old Chelsea Pensioner from Lambeth lived at no. 1 with his Irish wife Mary, 60. Edwin Somers, 35, a grocer and his wife Sarah, 33 and children Edwin, 3, Edward, 9, and Anne, 13. Sophia Dennis, 67, a former nurse, also lived at no. 1 as well as Josias

⁵⁴ BRO: BC153/2856/2 18 Mar 1818

⁵⁵ BRO: Lease 18 Mar 1813

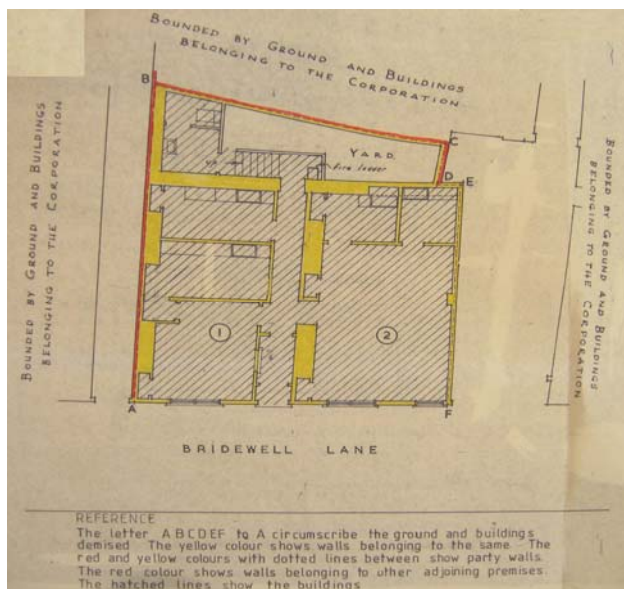
⁵⁶ CWS: Lease And Counterpart 27 May 1828

Churchhouse, 67, and his wife Hester 60 and son Edward 24, all 3 claiming relief from the parish.

At no. 2 was Charles Taylor, 37, a tinsmith worker and gas fitter, his wife Anne, 26, and children William 10, Harriet, 7, Eleanor, 5 and Charles, 9 months. William Phipps, 27, a pipe maker and his wife Mary, 34 also lived in rooms there with their 3 children, Samuel, 13, Emma, 8 and Ellen, 9 months. A third family also lived at no. 3; William James, 22, a drapers porter, his wife Sarah, 24, an upholsterer and their daughter Rosa, 4 months.

Ten years later little had changed. There were 20 people at no. 1 on census night 1861, including a straw bonnet maker, wood turner, boot closers, stay makers, a wood turner, mason's labourer and seamstress. Some of the younger inmates were errand boys and girls for a surgeon, dyer and straw bonnet maker. The main family there was that of cloth dyer Henry Godfrey and his wife Mary, a stay maker who had 14 children, 7 of them aged 15 or under. Francis Goodson, a woodturner and his wife, a stay maker, had a baby son Francis, 1. At 2 Bridewell Lane there were 25 people, the majority children. Charles Taylor, now a gasfitter and zinc maker and his wife Anne now had 8 children. Henry Ellis, a painter and journeyman and his wife Amelia, both in their 30s, had 7 children. Charles Pool, an ironmonger's porter and his wife Ann, both in their 30s, had 3 children. The widowed Ann Burt, a 66 year old tailoress, also lodged there.

By 1881 there were just 7 people at no. 1 including a shoemaker, stone cutter, charwoman, French polisher and a cook. No. 2 Bridewell Lane was unoccupied, as was no. 4. The building to the rear was by now used as a soup kitchen by the church (WCS: DP 2486) See also the Soup Kitchen:18 Feb 1904 no. 2486, deed packet out (CWS)



1973 Plan of 1-2 Bridewell Lane (CWS)

In 1912 the Corporation leased the 2 cottages to the Reverend. Thomas Tyers on a yearly tenancy for £12 for use as a soup kitchen for the poor and homeless of the City.⁵⁷ They continued to be used as a soup kitchen, together with the building to the rear of the yard, until 1916 when the premises were leased to MacNaghten Vaudeville Circuit Ltd. as part of the theatre.⁵⁸ In September 1939 following the outbreak of World War II the Wessex Associated News Ltd. leased the ground floor of No.1 Bridewell Lane for £10 a year⁵⁹ and remained there for the duration. By 1954 they occupied both no. 1 and 2 Bridewell Lane for £160 per annum.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ WCS: 21 October 1912

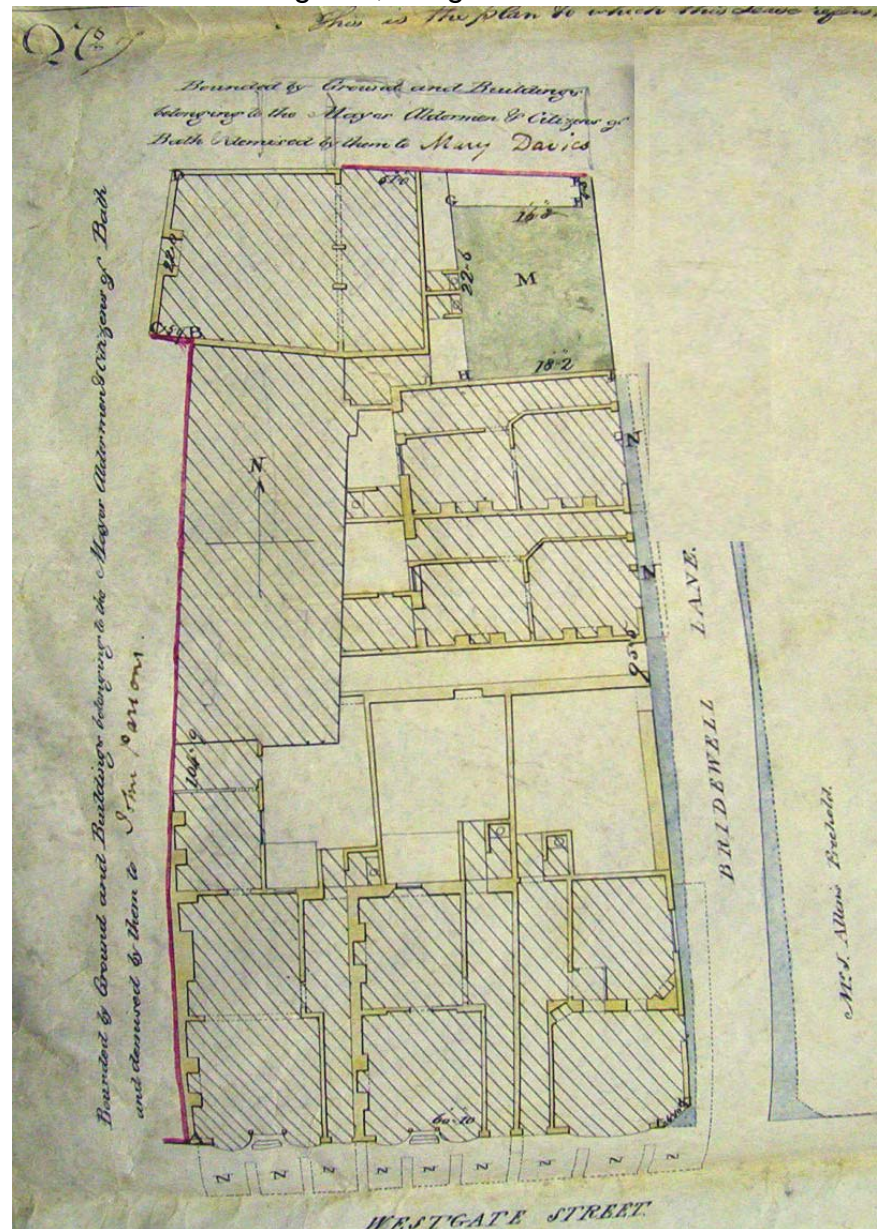
⁵⁸ WCS: 1st July 1916

⁵⁹ CWS: Bath. Quarterly Tenancy Agreement 21 December 1940

⁶⁰ WCS: LEASE 26 January 1956

In 1964 planning approval was given to demolish the first and second floors of the 2 buildings and convert the ground floor into a photographic department for The Bath Chronicle.⁶¹ In 1973, now The Westminster Press Ltd, the rent for the 2 properties was £400 p.a.⁶² They remained there until c1988 when they finally moved out.⁶³ In 1989 Bath Area Drugs Advisory Service leased the 2 properties for £3,500⁶⁴, using the premises as offices and consulting rooms for drug advice. They remained there until 1995 when it was transferred to The Aled Richards Trust, Old Market, Bristol for £6,500, still used as offices and consulting rooms for people living with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS.⁶⁵ Today the majority of the premises is being used by The Big Issue as offices and a liaison centre for their magazine sellers.

The 1818 Plan shows the sites of 1-4 Bridewell Lane. 1-2 is shown with the passage running to the south of no. 1 and 3-4 is coloured green, the gate to the rear of no. 4 still extant. Beyond is no. 5 Bridewell Lane, belonging to Mary Davies (BRO: BC153/2856/2 18 Mar 1818)



⁶¹ B&NES: Planning Approval 31 Mar 1964
⁶² WCS: Lease 25 Mar 1973
⁶³ WCS: LEASE 25 December 1982
⁶⁴ WCS: Lease 22 Aug 1989
⁶⁵ WCS: Lease 11 July 1995 & 7 May 1998

3 and 4 Bridewell Lane [BL03 & BL04]

Nos. 3 and 4 Bridewell Lane were built on the site of the medieval Almoner's House, shown on Saville's map (**Error! Reference source not found.**). By the late 16th century it had become an almshouse, featuring on Speed's 1611 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) and Gilmore's 1694 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Bridewell Lane was referred to in the 1570s as 'Almos [almshouse] Lane. The building projected into the garden behind nos. 28 and 29 Westgate Street and its back window looked out onto the garden. In 1651 Dr.Graves, who lived in the house occupying 27-29 Westgate Street, was given permission to alter the troublesome almshouse windows at his own expense.⁶⁶

In 1804 the joint properties of nos. 3 and 4 Bridewell Lane were described as having been parish poor houses 'for a great number of years let ...to the Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Saint Peter and Paul...used by them as a poorhouse under the yearly rent of two pounds.⁶⁷

By 1803 nos. 3 and 4 Bridewell Lane were treated as a joint property when carrier John Parsons and his business partner pawnbroker John Allen paid a £28 fine and 10s per annum for the lease of '2 small messuages ...formerly a Poor House'. They demolished the cottages and rebuilt them⁶⁸, renewing the lease the following year at a further cost of £30 and an increased rent of £1 15s.⁶⁹

In 1813 Allen renewed the lease on the 2 properties as well as those on 1-2 Bridewell Lane and on 27-29 Westgate Street for £35 per annum.⁷⁰ In 1839 he renewed the lease on the 2 properties for the lives of himself, Robert Cook and John Allen junior. The 2 younger men were trustees during the minority of Robert Allen Cook and Charlotte Cook.⁷¹

In 1845 it was leased to butcher John Biss⁷² but in 1851 John Gibbs, 40, a comb maker, lived there with his wife Amelia, 35, a shop assistant and their 4 children; Amelia, 16, who was employed with her mother, Thomas, 14, assistant to his father, William, 14 and Fred, 5 months.

By 1859 the two Cook heirs had both reached 21 and Robert Allen Cook conveyed his share to his sister Charlotte.⁷³ In 1860 'several messuages in Bridewell Lane' were leased by Cook from his sister for a 75 year term at an annual rent of £4 10s.

2 adjoining messuages measuring 85' 6" onto Bridewell Lane, 22' 10" on the west , 16' 6" on the north and 18' 1" on the south.

They were bounded on the north and west by Edward Strange's property, on the south by John Allen's property (1-2 Bridewell Lane). The vaults running below Bridewell Lane were 23' 2" wide, on the north 3' 3" and on the south 4'.⁷⁴

⁶⁶ BRO, DP2486 1651

⁶⁷ BRO: Lease And Counterpart January 1804

⁶⁸ BRO:3 October 1803

⁶⁹ CWS: 6 January 1804 Lease And Counterpart

⁷⁰ BRO: Lease 18 Mar 1813

⁷¹ BRO: Lease 2 Apr 1839

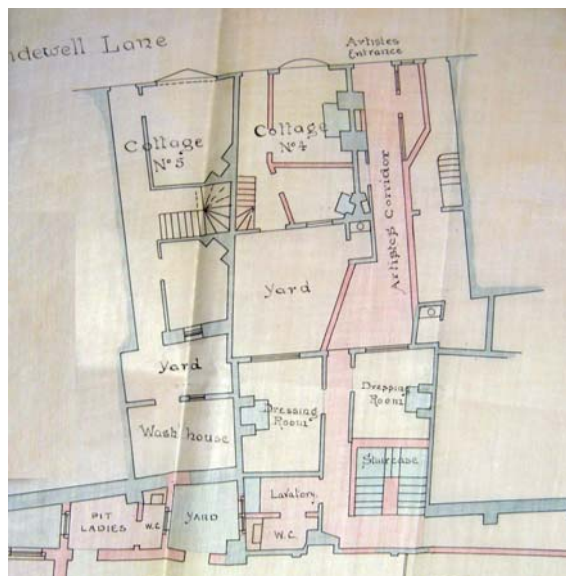
⁷² CWS: Lease 29 Mar 1845

⁷³ BRO: 30 Oct 1859

⁷⁴ CWS: Lease 15 Aug 1860

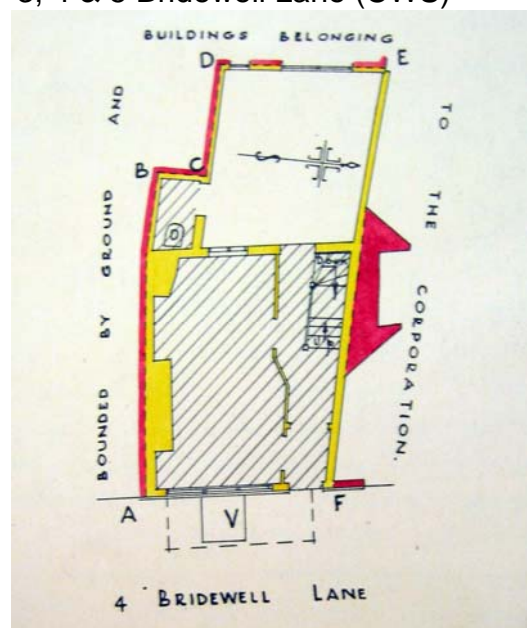
The 1861 census shows James Radhead, a soda water maker and his wife Elizabeth living at no. 3. Both in their early 40s, they had 2 young children. John Bethel, a tobacconist and his wife Anne, also in their 40s, lived at no. 4 with their 3 children.

The following year Charlotte assigned all her property to Thomas Gill and her brother Robert,⁷⁵ shortly before her marriage to John Marshall in 1863. In 1870 the property was reconveyed to George Cook⁷⁶ who then leased the premises for 75 years with his wife Eliza. He died on 15 Jul 1877, leaving it to Eliza with his brother Colonel Alfred Cook as executor. Eliza died in 1886, leaving it to Charles Lanyon Owen, a retired Colonel in the Army. In 1887 Charles Owen conveyed the property to Robert Cook, who died the following year, as did Charlotte.⁷⁷ Owen then sold the property to John Welch.⁷⁸



In 1881 No. 4 Bridewell Lane was unoccupied but no. 3 had 3 families lodging there. In 1893 the lease for no. 3, described as 'a plot of ground and buildings in Bridewell Lane' was sold by Louisa Cook to the Pavilion Company Ltd.⁷⁹ No. 3 later became the artistes' entrance for the theatre, though the upper floor appears to have remained as a dwelling.

1894 3, 4 & 5 Bridewell Lane (CWS)



By 1924 no. 3 was a dwelling whilst no. 4 was a shop. The latter, together with no. 5 Bridewell Lane, had become a photographers shop by the 1930s. In September 1946 Wessex Associated News Ltd took over no. 4 for 5 years at a lease of £15 a year.⁸⁰

In 1951 for use as photographic and blockmaking department, the firm operated from 33 Westgate Street – surrendered lease Renewal 7 Nov 1951 PHOTO 1951

4 Bridewell Lane 1946

⁷⁵ BRO: Assignment 22 Aug 1862

⁷⁶ BRO: Reconveyance 15 Sep 1870

⁷⁷ CWS: 18 Oct 1887

⁷⁸ CWS: 12 Jan 1888

⁷⁹ CWS: Assignment 1 March 1893

⁸⁰ CWS: Lease 26 Mar 1947

5 Bridewell Lane [BL05]

In 1619 Thomas Cotterell leased the 'messuage and backside' in Culverhouse Lane, with a door into the Sawclose for 35 years at a rent of 2s.; 1s. 4d for the tenement and 8d. for the door.⁸¹ By 1641 the property was assigned to Robert Shaa, gent. and in 1649 Robert Randall, another gentleman, leased the property. The garden was described as having a door onto a passage leading into the Timber Yard through the pound.⁸² In 1673 Randall's widow Joane renewed the lease.⁸³

The deeds for the house begin in 1845 when Edward Strange leased no. 5 for £3 14s 8d. It measured 15' 3" along Bridewell Lane, 12' 3" on the west, 43' 6" on the north and 44' 6" on the south. It was bounded on the west by no. 6, formerly belonging to Mary Davis and now also leased by Strange. Thomas Parkin was Strange's tenant, both running a business there and probably sub-letting to lodgers.⁸⁴

The 1851 census shows Thomas Parkin, 62, and his wife Elizabeth, 52, at 5 Bridewell Lane. They were both tailors, running their business with the help of an 18 year old servant, an apprentice Jasper Hill, 13 and J Hutchins, Parkin's step son-in-law. Henry Melluish, 41, a shoemaker and Anne McDonough, a 47 year old widow, also rented rooms there.

In 1861 Edwin Somers, 39, a baker and his wife Sarah, 45 lived there with their 2 children, one of them a French polisher. Another couple, Charles and Sarah Bishop, were also tenants. Both in their 60s, he was a shoemaker and his wife a charwoman. They shared their lodgings with James Chorley, 73, a tailor's journeyman.

In 1873 George Clapp Cooper, the surviving executor of Strange's will, sold the premises to John Goodingham for £60 10s.⁸⁵ In 1882 Goodingham died and Thomas Inman inherited the property. He sold the remainder of the 1845 75 year lease to bootmaker John Swanborough, and grocer Edward Hunt for £41 and an annual rent of £3 14s 8d.⁸⁶

6 Bridewell Lane [BL06]

In 1626 butcher John Hancock leased the garden with a slaughterhouse 'in Plumtree Lane' property for the lives of himself, his wife Mary and son John for 10s. The rental included his messuage in Stall Street, no doubt his house with a shop to the front.⁸⁷

In 1637 Hancock had died and his widow Mary renewed the lease for the lives of herself and her son John.⁸⁸ Two years later the properties were leased to Mary and Thomas and Grace James, the son and daughter of glover Thomas James.⁸⁹ In 1675 cloth worker Edward Bayly and his son Edward leased the properties and

⁸¹ BRO: CM,25 January 1619

⁸² BRO: F.198 19 March 1649

⁸³ BRO: F.484 10 March 1673

⁸⁴ CWS: Lease 29 Mar 1845

⁸⁵ CWS: 8 Aug 1873

⁸⁶ CWS: 11 Oct 1882

⁸⁷ BRO: F.65 13 October 1626

⁸⁸ BRO: F.131 12 October 1637

⁸⁹ BRO: F.227 12 October 1649

shortly afterwards split the properties in Stall Street and Bridewell Lane ().⁹⁰ The following year the slaughterhouse was leased separately by Edward Bayley for 3s 4d⁹¹ and in 1685 by butcher George Thorne⁹² who renewed the lease in 1699.⁹³

In 1701 William Webb, gent. leased the property for 42 years⁹⁴ but 2 years later maltster John Dyer took it over⁹⁵, converting the slaughterhouse into a dwelling house. He renewed the lease 2 years later for the same rent.⁹⁶ Three years later Thomas Biggs gent. leased the house and garden for 21 years.⁹⁷ Shortly before the lease expired, the property was leased to John Dyer, a yeoman of St Catherine near Batheaston. The garden had recently been converted into a yard.⁹⁸ In 1740 another maltster, George Kidd of Marshfield, leased the building and yard.⁹⁹

By 1720 when Thomas Biggs acquired the lease there were 3 tenements [5-7] on the site, the adjoining garden still with the door onto the passage and right of way into the Timber Yard.¹⁰⁰ In 1733 Thomas' son Anthony inherited it¹⁰¹ and renewed the lease in 1766.¹⁰² In 1808 carrier John Parsons leased the property on the surrender by the Biggs family, now described as 'three messuages adjoining a court or yard with adjoining premises'. The rent had been raised to £1 2s. on 3 lives, one of them Mary Davies.¹⁰³ In 1817 Miss Mary Davies leased the property, John Parsons having surrendered the lease.¹⁰⁴

7 Bridewell Lane [BL07]

In the mid 1770s Charles Biggs owned the house and garden and his coach house, now The Regency Garage [SC01] was built to the rear, across the back of no. 8. By 1776, however, he had died and the lease inherited by his son, Charles.¹⁰⁵ In 1801 he was named as lessee in the lease for no. 8.¹⁰⁶ By 1827 the property, including the coach house, belonged to Mary Davies.

6-7 Bridewell Lane

In 1845 Edward Strange surrendered 6-7 Bridewell Lane to the Corporation, after which they were leased to John Biss, a pork butcher, for the annual rent of £7.9s.4d.¹⁰⁷ He paid an annual rent of £7.9s.4d for all his properties.¹⁰⁸

⁹⁰ BRO: F.517 17 May 1675

⁹¹ BRO: F.544 26 June 1676

⁹² BRO: F.709 1 June 1685

⁹³ BRO: F.958 2 October 1699

⁹⁴ BRO: F.1002 29 December 1701

⁹⁵ BRO: F. 1035 1 October 1703

⁹⁶ BRO: F.1075 27 June 1705

⁹⁷ BRO: F.1147 20 October 1708

⁹⁸ BRO: F.1528 30 December 1727

⁹⁹ BRO: F.1809 1 April 1740

¹⁰⁰ BRO: F.1378 13 December 1720

¹⁰¹ BRO: F.1661 2 January 1733

¹⁰² BRO: F.2357 1 April 1766

¹⁰³ BRO: DP 2486 Lease And Counterpart 4 November 1808

¹⁰⁴ BRO: Lease And Counterpart 26 May 1817

¹⁰⁵ BRO: BC153/2796/1, Lease 23 Sep 1776

¹⁰⁶ BC1 53/2796/12 23 Nov 1801 Lease with counterpart

¹⁰⁷ BRO: Surrender 28 March 1845/ Lease 29 March 1845

¹⁰⁸ BRO: LEASE 1845 29 March

The 1851 census shows 6 Bridewell Lane had a number of rooms rented out to lodgers, many of them widows. Thomas Pitt, 62, a shoemaker leased rooms and Thomas Bartlett, 74, a widowed carpenter also rented rooms with his daughter Rebecca, 43, a servant, and her children Joseph, 9, and Emma, 4. Matilda Meadment, a 58 year old widowed charwoman was lodging there, as was Ann Freeth, 43, a servant, and Sally Simmons, 50, another widow who made a living as a seamstress. Widow Anne Burt, 56, was a tailoress, living there with her children Maria, 19, an errand girl and her brother James, 17, an errand boy. Finally William James, 31, and his wife Esther, 31, both pipe makers and their son William, 10, and young daughter Maryanna, 1.

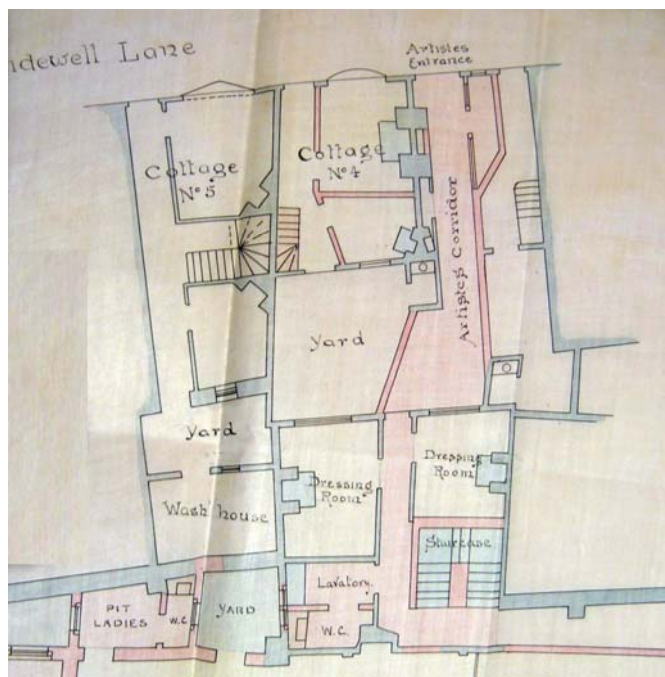
Seven families lodged at no. 7, comprising 23 people; James Charly, 62, a master tailor and his wife Sarah, 61; George Somers, 31, a porter at the tallow chandlers with his wife Ann, 32, a dressmaker and their daughters Susanna, 8, Hannah, 4 and Sophia 2; labourer Daniel Sidnele, 55 and his wife Sarah, 55; widow Elizabeth Coombes, 49, a nurse; another widow Anne Davis, 61, an upholstress; James Bright, 53, a groom and his wife Elizabeth, 45, a laundress and daughter Elizabeth, 24, who worked with her mother; Thomas Paddy, 37, a warehouse porter and his wife Elizabeth, 34, a dressmaker and children Robert, 13, an errand boy, Thomas, 11, Alfred, 9, Anne, 7, Fanny, 5, Elizabeth, 3 and Sarah, 2.

Altogether, 47 people were listed as living at 5-7 Bridewell Lane on the night of the 1851 census, and this would not have included anyone working away at the time. In 1861 John Abbott, 64, a boot and shoemaker lived at no. 6. A widower, he lived with his 3 children and his daughter was a shoe binder. Ann Deacon, 63, a charwoman and her son Charles a masons labourer also lived at no. 6 together with Ambrose Hilliard, 30, a labourer at the gasworks and his wife Mary, a charwoman. They had 4 children. Matilda Sidwell, 73, another charwoman was also a lodger, as was John Dyer, 40, a masons labourer, his wife Sarah, a charwoman and their 3 children.

Sally Symonds 61, a monthly nurse, lodged at no. 7 along with Mr Mulshannuck, 36, an auctioneer's porter, his wife Emma, another charwoman and their 2 children. Ann Jones, 62, a pinmaker, also lodged there, as did washer woman Sarah Parker, 39 and her sons Thomas, a cabinet maker's assistant and Philip who worked at the Saw Close candle factory. Also in the tenement was William Frith, 52, a footman and William Packhouse, 20, a furniture broker.

In 1871 no. 5 comprised 4 lodgings with a variety of occupants including a carpenter, needlewoman and grocer. No. 6 had 5 lodgings with 19 people, including a stableman, charwoman, billiard maker, auctioneer's porter and a 'Japanner'. Bootmaker William Bruce and his family were lodgers at the rear of 23 Westgate Street and at no. 7 Bridewell Lane there were 6 different lodgings housing 14 people in all. The census records nos. 8-14 Bridewell Lane as being allocated as 'space for hospital'.

In 1886 no. 5 was sold to John Welch for £60.¹⁰⁹ Welch, however, was an agent acting for A Moger, on whose behalf he had purchased the properties as an investment.¹¹⁰ The following year Moger leased the property to Robert Herman for £3 14s 8d.¹¹¹ By September Herman had succeeded in leasing a number of properties including 6-7 Bridewell Lane.¹¹² In 1896 the 3 properties were leased by Oswald Cane Wylson, an architect and surveyor with a practice in The Strand in London for £5 a year.¹¹³ In 1924 Wylson surrendered the properties to the Corporation.¹¹⁴ and shortly afterwards nos. 5-7 Bridewell Lane were demolished.

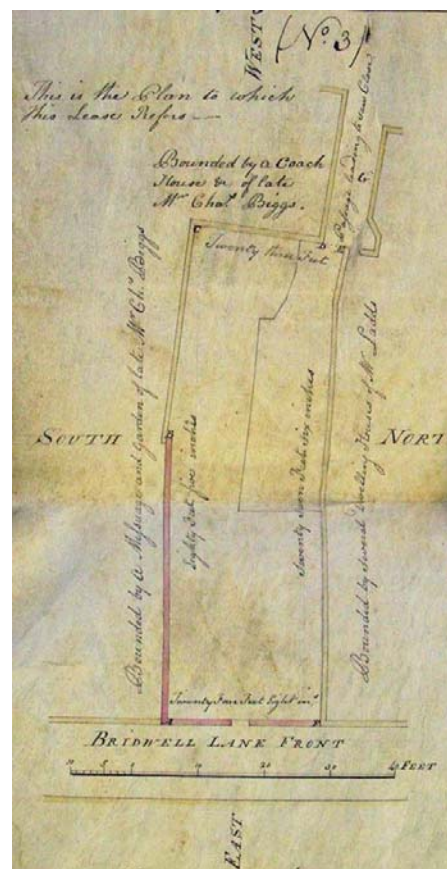


1894 3, 4 & 5 Bridewell Lane (CWS)

No. 8 Bridewell Lane [BL08]

This property had a shared passage with no. 9 to Saw Close which was bounded by the coach house which was built across the rear of no. 8. In 1776 27 year old carpenter James Beale leased the premises for the lives of himself, Ann, the daughter of baker James and John Bush, son of the late Batheaston maltster, Thomas Bush. Beale and his brother Joseph were involved in a number of building developments at the time, including a number of Somerset place properties.

The fine for no. 8 was a substantial £250 and the rent £3 4s, suggesting the property formed part of a number of properties. To the north was no. 9, consisting of 'several dwelling houses belonging to Mr Ladds' whilst on the south was the house and garden of the late Charles Biggs and his coach house to the west.¹¹⁵



¹⁰⁹ CWS:15 March 1886

¹¹⁰ CWS: 28 Feb 1887

¹¹¹ CWS: 31 Mar 1888

¹¹² CWS: 21 Sep 1888

¹¹³ CWS:6 March 1896 Lease

¹¹⁴ CWS:20 May 1924 Surrender

¹¹⁵ BRO: BC153/2796/1, Lease 23 Sep 1776

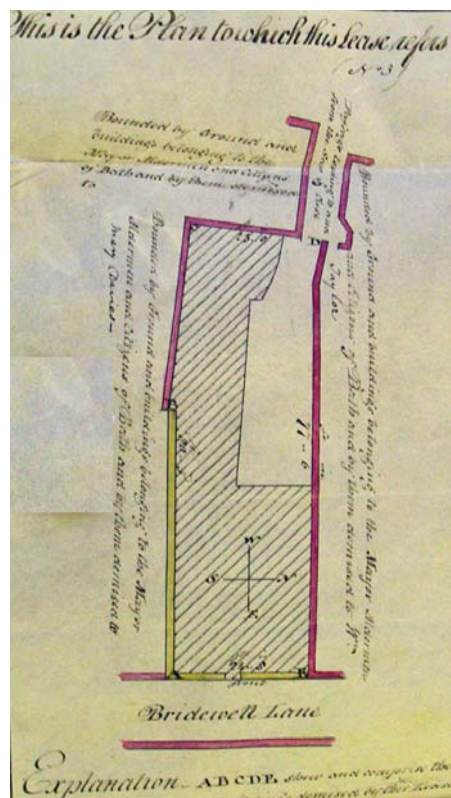
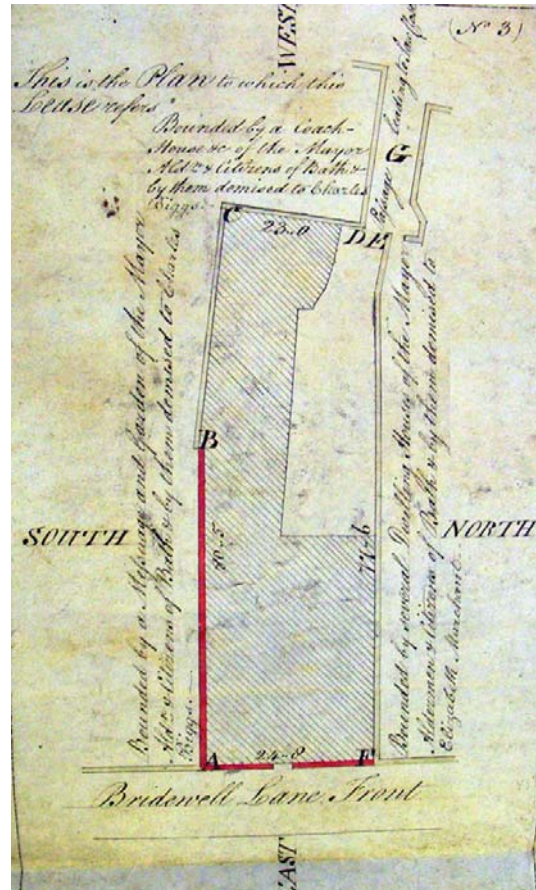
The 1776 plan shows an 'L' shaped building with an open yard in the north-west corner with a gate opening onto a passage leading to Saw Close. In 1795 Beale renewed the lease of what was now described as a 'court and buildings' for himself, maltster Thomas Sartain of Biddeston, 42, and his daughter Mary Sartain, 5.¹¹⁶

Three years later Thomas Sartain had died and Beale acted as executor of his will, together with yeoman John Young of Sheldon and William Cozens of Biddeston gent. The lease on the property was renewed for the lives of Beale, now 50, Mary Sartain and her mother Ann, 38.¹¹⁷

The 1796 plan shows the plan of the property unaltered

In 1801 the lease was renewed for the Sartain family and Thomas, 25, son of farmer Aaron Little of Biddeston by the 2 remaining executors John Young and William Cozens. 9 Bridewell Lane to the north was owned by Elizabeth Marchant and to the south and west was the property and coach house of Charles Biggs junior.¹¹⁸

The 1827 plan shows the plan of the property unaltered



Mary Sartain married widower William Gale of Biddeston, a maltster. In 1827 he took over the lease for the lives of his wife, his son Thomas, 18 and Thomas Little, 50 for the higher rent of £1 3s 4d. The property to the south and west were now leased by Mary Davies, and to the north by William Taylor.¹¹⁹

William and Mary provided a £300 mortgage for Thomas Young for the remainder of the 99 year

¹¹⁶ BC153/2796/9 Lease with counterpart. 17 Nov 1795

¹¹⁷ BC1 53/2796/11 10/12 Nov 1798 Surrender and lease with counterpart

¹¹⁸ BC 153/2796/12 23 Nov 1801 Lease with counterpart

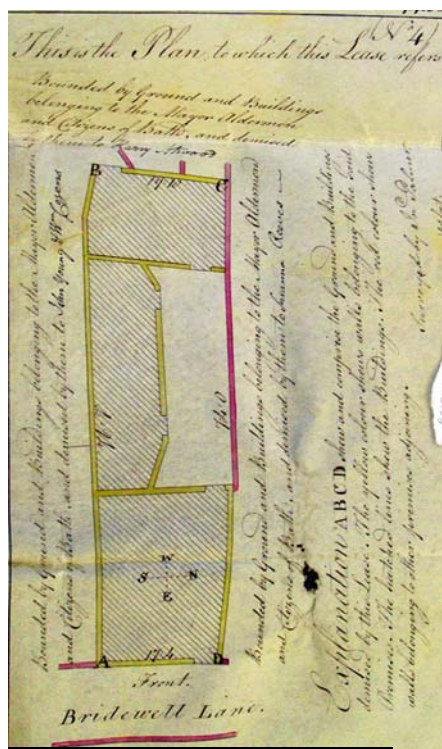
¹¹⁹ BRO: BC153/2796/21 Lease with counterpart 10 May 1827

lease¹²⁰ but William Gale died later that year, followed shortly afterwards by Thomas Young.¹²¹

The lease for the remaining 99 years was assigned to widow Jemima Millard Mulford.¹²² The property seemed to have been bad luck, because Jemima herself had died within the year.¹²³ By 1840 the properties in Bridewell Lane were numbered, and for the first time this property was described as no.8 Bridewell Lane. Jemima's and William Gale's trustees; Charlotte Millard Mulford, Mary Gale and innholder William Clark of Malmesbury, assigned the property to baker James Hussey of Bath for the remainder of the 99 year lease for £280.¹²⁴ In November James leased the property for the lives of Mary Gale, Thomas Gale and mealman Alfred Saunders, 20, of Bath for £42 10s.¹²⁵

In 1851 master baker James Hussy, 39, ran his business from no. 8 with his wife Anne, 42, and children Laura, 8, Jane, 6, James, 4 and Edward, 3. James employed a baker as well as a 14 year old servant. Widow Sarah Gage, 73, lodged there with the aid of the Parish, as did widow Mary Glover, 67 and her 70 year old nurse. In 1859 no.8 Bridewell Lane became incorporated into the southern point of the Blue Coat premises [BH01] when James Hussey leased the property to the Rev.Edmund Crawley and the trustees of the Bluecoat Charity School.¹²⁶ It was demolished shortly afterwards to provide a playground for the schoolchildren.

9 Bridewell Lane [BL09]



In 1625 the property, described as a 'tenement and garden in Culverhouse Lane' was leased by John Clement for the lives of himself, his wife Elizabeth and their son Simon for the annual rent of 1s 4d.¹²⁷

In 1667 Thomas Bush leased the property for the lives of himself, his wife Elizabeth and daughter Anne.¹²⁸

In 1706 yeoman Samuel Teart of Widcombe leased it, renewing the lease in 1720.¹²⁹ By 1762 several buildings had been erected on the site, now leased by Elizabeth Teart, the executor of Paul Teart's will. In 1768 Elizabeth Marchant, as mortgagor, became legal tenant of the property.¹³⁰ There was a gate at the end of the property which led onto a shared passage with no. 8 leading to Saw Close. By 1800 the passage was accessed directly from the rear building.

¹²⁰ BRO: BC153/2796/23Mortgage 4 Jun 1827

¹²¹ BRO: BC153/2796/22Abstract of title of Gale and Clarke 1827

¹²² BRO: BC153/2796/24Assignment 15 Sep 1828

¹²³ BRO:BC153/2796/25Copy will of Jemima Millard Mulford 12 Nov 1828

¹²⁴ BRO: BC153/2796/28Assignment 1 Aug 1840

¹²⁵ BRO:BC153/2796/30Lease with counterpart5 Nov 1840

¹²⁶ BRO: DP2796A/3 ASSIGNMENT 23 February 1859

¹²⁷ BRO: CM,15 October 1625

¹²⁸ BRO: CM, 8 October 1667

¹²⁹ BRO: F. 1092 21 June 1706 & BRO: F.1362 3 October 1720

¹³⁰ BRO: F.2402 4 April 1768

The c1800? plan shows the southern property consisting of 3 buildings with a central. To the north is what became the other half of the property
Yeoman William Taylor of Weston, 24, leased the property in 1810 at an increased rent of £1 1s 4d for the lives of himself, his brother George, 17 and shoe maker Matthew Parker, 67 'subject to rent of several messuages in Bridewell'.¹³¹

In 1851 some of the factory workforce lived here, next door to the factory. Thomas Allen, 33 and his wife Maria, 31, were both pipe makers. They lived there with their young children Thomas, 6, William, 2 and Mary, 1 month. John Irwin, 30, and his wife Catharine, 25, also lived and worked there with their son John, 4, and daughters Elizabeth, 2 and Mary Anne, 4 months. Miss Ann Griffiths, 44, a staymaker, also lodged there with her 17 year old servant. She was probably the sister of Sarah Griffiths who had married Joseph Sants, the clay pipe maker next door, in 1835. Then their mother Elizabeth was living at no. 9

In early 1859 the property was demolished along with its neighbours to the north and south in order to make way for the new Bluecoat School playground.

10 Bridewell Lane – the Clay Pipe Making Factory [BL10]

This property, consisting of 2 buildings, which was a clay pipe making factory for the first half of the 19th century, was directly south of no. 10A Bridewell Lane [BL10A]. It backed onto Harry Atwood's property, 1a Saw Close [TC01A] to the rear and on the north-west boundary was the Bluecoat School [BH01].

In 1631 butcher John Masters leased the garden in what had become known by now as Slaughterhouse Lane. The lease included a property in Stall Street, which would probably have been his shop with living accommodation. Masters leased the property for the lives of himself and of another butcher John Masters Keynsham and his wife Susan.¹³² Six years later The Corporation leased the joint property to Mary Hancock, the wife of another butcher, John Hancock and his sister Elizabeth.¹³³ In 1653 Alderman John Atwood leased the 2 properties for 42 years.¹³⁴

By 1744 the properties had been separated from the Stall Street premises and woollen draper Richard Collins leased a newly built messuage on the garden for 5s.¹³⁵ In 1773 Susannah Reeves was granted a 99 years lease for the lives of ...¹³⁶

The 1810 plan shows the property consisting of 2 buildings with a yard between them.



¹³¹ BRO: BC1 53/2796/15 lease 5 Feb 1810

¹³² BRO: F.85 10 October 1631

¹³³ BRO: F.134 23 October 1637

¹³⁴ BRO: F.254 20 March 1653

¹³⁵ BRO: F.1861 8 October 1744

¹³⁶ BRO: F.2531 18 October 1773

In 1780 Joseph Smith, a baker, purchased the remainder of the lease on 10 Bridewell Lane from William Reeve.¹³⁷ He came from a family of clay pipe makers, and he built a new pipe factory on the site. Two years later he took on his first apprentice, Mary Ann Drew, to learn the art of pipemaking for seven years. Bath was in the throes of speculative building and Joseph took 3 building leases on properties in Great Pulteney Street. He over reached himself and was declared bankrupt in 1799. Despite this, the pipe making business remained and in 1805 there is a record of him taking on James Harris as an apprentice.

Five year later on 30 October 1810 he sold the business to James Harris with

all the Household Goods & furniture, Stock in Trade, with the several Implements Instruments & Utensils belonging to being in & used by the sd Jos. Smith in his Business of a pipe maker.

James agreed to pay Joseph an annuity of £60 for life whilst Joseph, in turn, agreed not to trade as a pipe maker within 20 miles of the Guildhall

without the Consent in Writing first had and attained under the hand of the sd Jas Clarke.. and will do his best & utmost Endeavour to recommend & establish the sd Jas Clarke in the sd Business and promote his interest and welfare therein

Joseph seems to have worked as a journeyman pipemaker, probably for James Clarke. Clay pipes with the date 1812 and bearing Joseph's initials and those of James Clarke have been found amongst builders' debris below a cellar floor in Johnstone Street.¹³⁸

James Clarke served in several Council positions until his resignation in September 1829 after being forced to choose between the Council and his business. He continued making pipes at Bridewell Lane until at least March 1832 when his house and factory with all its contents were auctioned. The business was taken over by James's son-in-law William Needes, a master chimney sweep, and his wife Mary, James' daughter. The couple remained there for 2 years, after which the factory lay idle for a further year.

In early 1836 the factory was taken over by Joseph Sants, son of a former Portuguese wine merchant, Joseph Antonio Dos Santos, who had become a pipe maker when he arrived in England. Joseph junior married Sarah Griffiths in 1835, probably the daughter of Elizabeth Griffiths of 9 Bridewell Lane. By June 1841 he was employing at least 8 people and by March 1851 at least 10 if not more. The Sants were living on borrowed time by then, after their applications to renew the lease had been turned down several times. In 1846 a renewal was refused on the grounds of 'the noisome nature of the industry', not least because of its close proximity to the Blue Coat School and the Mineral Water Hospital. Two years later renewal of the lease was again turned down again.

In 1851 the census records Joseph Sants, 40, a Master pipe maker, running the business with his wife Sarah, 37. Their son Joseph, 15, was a potter, his siblings still too young to join the family business; Eliza was 14, Emma, 12, Maryanne, 11, Sarah, 7, Louisa, 6 and Alfred, 11 months. Mrs Sants was bringing up her 7 children with the help of just one servant. In July 1851 Joseph requested the Corporation to either agree to him continuing the lease

¹³⁷ BRO:Lease, 25 March 1780

¹³⁸ Lewcum, M 'The Clay Tobacco Pipe Making Industry, Bath History Vol. 5 1994, 133-141

So that compensation might be made to him for the removal of the kilns which he has erected at a Cost of £200.

The Corporation had no choice but to order him to quit the premises after numerous complaints about the smoke from the factory and its dilapidated state. The Council minutes record the removal of the kilns later that year.¹³⁹

In January 1859 both the house and factory were demolished to make way for the school playground. Joseph Sants had taken a lease on premises in Milk Street in January 1847 and he built a new factory on that site, which was still operating at his death in December 1877.¹⁴⁰

10A Bridewell Lane (The Boys' Yard of The Blue Coat School) [BL10A]

In the 1641 Survey Richard Hayward of 'Stalls Street' held this garden. In 1659 apothecary Samuel Whitehead leased a Stalls Street property together with 'one moyety of a Garden...the other [east] moyety of the said garden now in possession of Walter Symons, who leased it from Whitehead. The combined rent for the 2 properties was 15s.¹⁴¹ In December Simons renewed his lease on 'one moiety of the garden in possession of Samuel Whitehead' for a fine of £50 and an annual rent of 8d.¹⁴² In the 1685 survey Mathew Reeve held his garden 'by the lease of his tenement in Staulls Street'. The garden seems at times to have been divided into two and for a time the western part belonged to Samuel Dawes' property west of the Bridewell.

By 1703 there was a stable attached to the garden 'in Culverhouse Lane' which was leased by mercer Edward Bushell for 17s.8d. The lease still included the Stall Street property.¹⁴³ By 1714, when Bushell renewed the lease, the stable had been converted into a tenement and garden at 'the backside of the Bridewell' to the north.¹⁴⁴ In 1757 his descendant Edward Bushell Collibee and Samuel Purlewent, paid 17s 8d for what were by now 3 tenements in Stall street and a tenement and garden in Culverhouse Lane with what was now the Charity School to the north.¹⁴⁵ Collibee and Purlewent erected 2 buildings on the garden, now separated from the Stall Street properties.

¹³⁹ BRO: CM, 12 September 1851

¹⁴⁰ Lewcum, M 'The Clay Tobacco Pipe Making Industry, Bath History Vol. 5 1994, 133-141

¹⁴¹ BRO: F.314 LEASE 29 August 1659

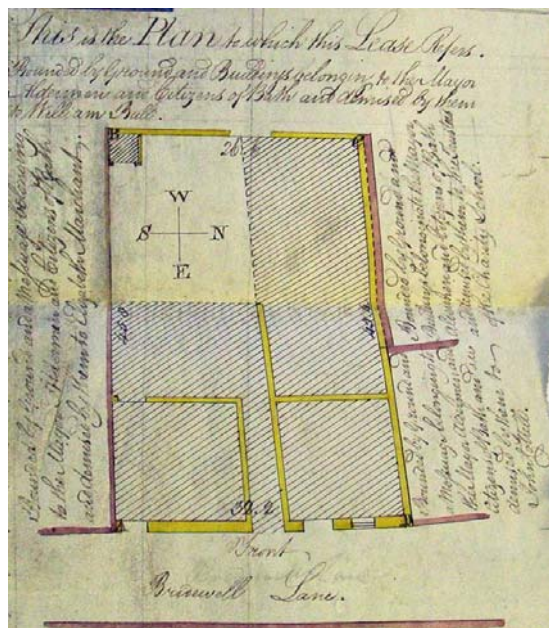
¹⁴² BRO: CM, 26 December 1659

¹⁴³ BRO: F.1030 LEASE 29 June 1703

¹⁴⁴ BRO: FI253 LEASE 6 October 1714

¹⁴⁵ BRO: CM, 26 December 1757

The 1791 plan shows the property consisting of 2 buildings with a passage between leading to a rear yard



In 1791 Collibee leased the Bridewell Lane property for the revised rent of 8s.¹⁴⁶ Four years later the 2 messuages in Bridewell Lane were leased to John Horton 'and another'.¹⁴⁷ In the early 18th century Edward Bushell's stable stood on the site. By 1731 he had died but the family retained the property and in 1764 Alderman Collibee and the Rev William Clarke leased the stable.¹⁴⁸ In 1784 Alderman Collibee still leased the property¹⁴⁹ but in 1791 it was leased from The Corporation by his son, another Alderman, Edward Bushell Collibee of the parish of Lyncombe and Widcombe Somerset.

The lease was for the lives of Alderman Leonard Coward, 73, tailor William Cottell, 46 and Richard Atwood junior, 13, son of the plumber Richard Atwood for 12 guineas and a rent of 8s. To the north-east, 11 Bridewell Lane was leased to John Cottell and to the west, 1a Saw Close was leased to William Bull. The property to the south, 10 Bridewell Lane, was leased to Elizabeth Marchant, who was probably the mortgager for the factory.¹⁵⁰

Alderman Collibee had died c1775 because the property to the north was by now leased to apothecary John Horton and Ann Collibee..¹⁵¹ In 1795 Horton had married his wife Elizabeth and the lease on the '2 messuages' was renewed for John and Elizabeth and for Ann Collibee, a spinster. The lease was for the lives of his son apothecary John Collibee Horton of London, 27, Edward Horton, 24, of Crane Court Fleet Street, London, gent. and John Bayly of Devizes gent., 20, subject to rent of 2 messuages in Bridewell Lane. The fee was £44:15 and the rent 8s.¹⁵²

Samuel Bletchley leased it for £1 5s in 1811¹⁵³. He was described as a yeoman and presumably without a wife or children because the lease was for the lives of Betty Reeves of the parish of Wedmore Somerset, spinster, 40; Mary Clarke, 8, daughter of James Clarke, the Mayor's Officer and John Parsons, 7, son of Richard Parsons, also a Mayor's Officer). The lease was subject to rent of several messuages in Bridewell Lane. The fine was £34 4s. and the annual rent £1 5s.

¹⁴⁶ BRO: DP 2796A/1 LEASE AND COUNTERPART, 14 February 1791

¹⁴⁷ BRO:DP 2796A/1 LEASE 17 November 1795

¹⁴⁸ BRO: F.2332 1 July 1764

¹⁴⁹ BRO: BC153/2796/5 Lease with counterpart 18 Oct 1784

¹⁵⁰ BRO: BC153/2796/8 Lease with counterpart 14 Feb 1791

¹⁵¹ BRO: BC153/2796/6 Lease 25 Aug 1785

¹⁵² BRO: BC1 53/2796/10 Counterpart lease 17 Nov 1795

¹⁵³ BRO:DP 2796A/2 LEASE 28 January 1811

In 1842 John Horton and Ann Collibee owned the property to the south.¹⁵⁴ It is shown on the 1852 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) as mainly undeveloped land, between nos. 10 and 11 Bridewell Lane. The buildings appear to have been demolished by this time.

Nos. 11 Bridewell Lane [BL11]

The property was immediately to the south of the Bluecoat School [BH01] and was bounded on the west by the school garden. It had been the Bridewell garden. To the north was a passage (marked blue [L] on the plan) which was shared with the school, with a side entrance onto it and to the south was no.10 Bridewell Lane.

Initially the site was 2 separate properties. In 1685 John Pocock was granted the northern plot of ground on which to build a stable at a rent of 1s.¹⁵⁵ The plot was 15 yards (45 feet) long by 5 ½ (16 feet 6 inches) yards wide. John Bush's garden lay on the east and The Timber Close was on the north and west side. The stable was in the process of being built when the lease was drawn up.¹⁵⁶ In 1703 William Bush, a mercer, leased the southern 16 foot square plot for 5s a year. It was between Edward Bushell's stable to the south and the rest of the Bridewell garden to the west.¹⁵⁷ Bush built himself a stable on the plot, renewing the lease in 1711, though the rent remained unchanged.¹⁵⁸ In 1714 Jacob Smith took out a 42 year lease on the stable¹⁵⁹ renewing it in 1731.

By 1720 a passage had been built on the north side of Pocock's property giving access to the garden belonging to Thomas Biggs, which lay to the east of the property, formerly Bush's. The stables adjoined the garden and property belonging to Anthony Biggs to the south. Thomas Biggs leased the stable for the lives of himself, his wife and son Anthony.¹⁶⁰ In 1733 Biggs renewed the lease and appears to have been rebuilding the stable, because it was a stipulation that he tile the roof rather than thatch.¹⁶¹

By now there was John Sherstone's brewhouse in the north part of the plot and the late Edward Bushell's stable still to the south (no. 10a). The lease now mentions the garden on the west side as belonging to the newly built Charity school.¹⁶² In 1764 John Cottle Taylor leased the stable. The brewhouse to the north appears to have gone by now.¹⁶³ By 1766 the 2 sites had been amalgamated to form 11 Bridewell Lane on which the inn was later built. In 1784 The Corporation leased the property 'a messuage in Bridewell Lane' to tailor John Cottell of Bath for the lives of his children; linen draper George Cottell, 30, coach maker James Cottell, 28 and Mary Cottell, 17 for £44 2s at a rent of £2.¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁴ BRO: BC153/2796/32 Lease with counterpart 22 Mar 1842

¹⁵⁵ BRO: CM 30 March 1685

¹⁵⁶ BRO: F.704 I June 1685

¹⁵⁷ BRO: F.1043 3 January 1703

¹⁵⁸ BRO: F. 1202 1 February 1711

¹⁵⁹ BRO: F.1250 20 September 1714

¹⁶⁰ BRO: F.1354 30 March 1720

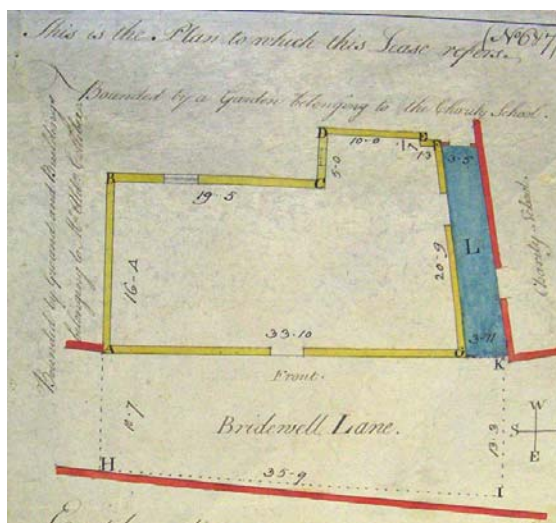
¹⁶¹ BRO: F.1660 2 January 1733

¹⁶² BRO: F.1624 28 December 1731

¹⁶³ BRO: F.2332 1 July 1764

¹⁶⁴ BRO: BC153/2796/5 Lease with counterpart 18 Oct 1784

The 1784 plan shows the shared passage [L] with the Charity School with a gate opening onto it and a window overlooking the school garden. The dotted lines indicate vaults running beneath Bridewell Lane.

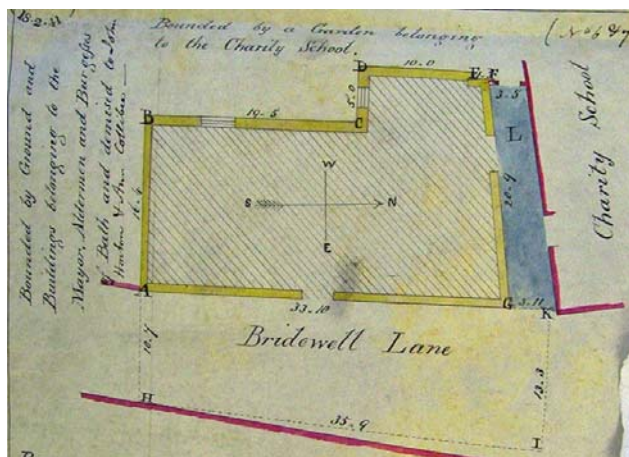


John Cottell died soon afterwards and the following year the lease was renewed for his trustees Charles Phillott of Bath, banker, Benjamin Axford of Bath, a brazier and Cottell's widow Jane, still for the lives of the Cottell children.¹⁶⁵

In 1806 the property was leased to William Clark Esquire of Walcot parish for the lives of former linen draper George Cottell, 51, now clerk to a London bankers, Mary Cottell, still unmarried at 38 and Frances Clark, 11, daughter of William Clark for £59 11s 6d and a rent of £3.¹⁶⁶ This suggests he had built a new property on the site.

By 1837 it had become The Prince of Wales public house, rebuilt on the site of the 2 former properties. Brewers George Simms, George Pinchin and Edward Richard Gardiner of Bath leased the property for the lives of widow Mary Ames of Honiton Devon, 69, formerly Mary Cottell, Frances Goldstone, 42, wife of William Goldstone of Bath, and formerly Frances Clark and George Pinchin, 8, the younger son of George Pinchin for £4315s and a rent of £3.¹⁶⁷

In 1841 The Reverend Gainsborough Gardiner of Worcester; Robert William Carpenter of Bath, Esquire and Thomas Netherton Harward of Worcester, Esquire trustees and executors of the will of Thomas Harward Gardiner of Bath, common brewer, deceased and George Pinchin of Bath, common brewer to George Hornblower Simms of Bath, common brewer. The fine this time was £148 and the rent £1:3:4.¹⁶⁸



The following year the pub was renamed The Prince Frederick, now leased by brewers George Pinchin and George Hornblower Simms of Bath for the lives of Frances Goldstone, George Pinchin junior, 12 and Joseph Popham, 7, son of brewer John Sainsbury of Bath for £47:18:6.¹⁶⁹

The 1842 plan shows the ground plan unaltered after 100 years, but with a second window overlooking the school

¹⁶⁵ BRO: BC153/2796/6 Lease 25 Aug 1785

¹⁶⁶ BRO:BC153/2796/13 Lease with counterpart 4 Aug 1806

¹⁶⁷ BRO: BC153/2796/27 Lease with counterpart 20 Nov 1837

¹⁶⁸ BRO: BC153/2796/31 Assignment 1 Sep 1841

¹⁶⁹ BRO: BC153/2796/32 Lease with counterpart 22 Mar 1842

garden

Two years later, it is probable that George Junior had died, because the lease was renewed by the 2 brewers for the lives of Frances Goldstone, Joseph Popham Sainsbury and Amelia Pinchin, of George Pinchin's daughter, 14 for £43:15.¹⁷⁰ They renamed it The Victoria Tavern, which it remained until 1856 when the public house was demolished along with 7-9 Bridewell Lane and the clay pipe factory at no. 10 and merged with the former boys' yard into two much bigger playgrounds for the new school.

The site remained as such until 10 years after the school closed in 1921, when a single storey Infant Welfare Clinic [HC01] was built on the site of the former public house. A repair and maintenance notice issued in 1931 describes some of this building

Wash and repair all ceilings, wash and paint walls and heating pipes, internal paintwork and wash all floors –'must be washed and left in a clean condition'¹⁷¹

It is still extant today, though it has been closed for some time.

The Bluecoat School [BH01]

The Bluecoat site is probably one of the earliest inhabited sites to be built on in the Saw Close. In 1859 whilst building the new Bluecoat School part of a tessellated pavement was found, depicting 'a pattern of dolphins and sea-horses and ... composed of red, blue, brown and white tesserae'.¹⁷² It was later relocated to the Roman Museum.

In 1381 Sewall Fraunceys was granted a plot of land on which to build a dovecote on what appears to be this site.¹⁷³ The 'gardaine and pigeonhouse by the burwales' was being rented by Alderman William Cavell in the 1590s.¹⁷⁴ By the early 17th century the dovecote had been replaced by Robert Chambers' barn and stable shown on Speed's 1611 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**). In 1632 the barn was in turn demolished to make way for the Bridewell house of correction. This gradually became a Parish poor house, housing a mixture of families until 1722 when a mixed Charity School was built on the site.

In 1859 the school was replaced by the present building by Manners and Gill and the school yard was extended southward. In 1921 the school was sold and in 1924 became offices for Bath Health Department with a health clinic (now closed) in the school yard. The rest of the playground area has become a parking and delivery area. The 1859 building and playground incorporated what had been 8-11 Bridewell Lane, including the demolished clay pipe factory (10 Bridewell Lane) and several brick kilns. In 1924 5-7 Bridewell Lane were also demolished as additional car parking space for the clinic.

¹⁷⁰ BRO: BC153/2796/33 Lease with counterpart 8 Oct 1844

¹⁷¹ BRO: Ken Biggs Collection, Infant Welfare Centre , Bluecoat House, June 1931

¹⁷² B&NES SMR No. MBN1872

¹⁷³ Shickle:V:56 5 April 1381

¹⁷⁴ Greening: 1971

In 1632 Robert Chambers received £5 in compensation for the loss of his barn and stable when it was demolished to make way for the new Bridewell or house of correction. The council minutes mention window bars which may have been the wooden mullions which held the glazing also mentioned. The Corporation also paid men to dig a well in the back garden.¹⁷⁵ Despite its apparent need, it does not seem to have been heavily subscribed. By 1650 there were so few inmates that the Corporation agreed it should be let as a tenement. Carpenter Samuel Dawe became the tenant at a yearly rent of £4, promising to keep it in repair and allow the present inmates, widow Holder and her children, to remain there. Dawes received an annual allowance of 10s for the Holders.¹⁷⁶

In 1664 a new Bridewell was built¹⁷⁷, presumably on the same site, and the lease renewed for Samuel Dawe.¹⁷⁸ Again, it seems to have been underutilised and 5 years later the last inmate, Thomas Short, was 'put out of the Bridewell' in order to let it 'for the most rent'. The committee agreed to let it to Samuel Dawe for £5 5s.¹⁷⁹ In 1685 the former Bridewell house and yard were leased at an annual rent of £5 to joiner Thomas Rosewell, who had to repair it.¹⁸⁰

In 1711 moves were made to erect a new charity school in the City. The new school and gardens were to be built on the site of the old Bridewell at the north end of Saw Close, just south of the lane along the inside of the Upper Borough walls. To the east was Bridewell Lane and Saw Close to the west, with buildings and gardens along its southern boundaries. The money was raised by public subscription for 'The Education of poor children in the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion as professed and taught in the Church of England', such children to be 'living in or near the City of Bath'.

Beau Nash is recorded as having been present at one of the annual meetings and assisted at the church collections. John Wood described the raising of the £700 subscription for the building work.¹⁸¹

The second of 4 charities... is a school for the education of the citizen's children in the English Tongue, in Writing and in Accompts: It is called the Charity-School; and it had its Rise in the Year 1711. For in that Year Robert Nelson, Esq; and Dean Willis, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, with divers other Persons of Distinction, raised a Subscription and opened the School upon the 11th Day of July; by whose Institution fifty Boys and fifty Girls are to be Cloathed and Instructed: But the present School House, designed by the above-mentioned Mr. Kelligrew, was not erected till the Year 1722.

This Edifice is sixty Feet three Inches in Length, twenty two Feet three Inches in Breadth at the East End, by twenty eight Feet six Inches in Breadth at the West End, and cost about £1000. toward which General Wade contributed £100 Mr. Bell of London £100 Mr. Scrine of Warley £100 with Ten Tun of Timber, Mrs. Bushel £138 Mr. Hoare £20 and several other Benefactors gave smaller Sums, which made in the whole about £700. The rest was defray'd, by Order of the Trustees, out of the School Stock.

¹⁷⁵ BRO:CM, 23 May 1632

¹⁷⁶ BRO:CM,30 Sep 1650

¹⁷⁷ BRO: CM, 26 December 1664

¹⁷⁸ BRO: CM, 28 February 1666

¹⁷⁹ BRO: CM, 22 Feb 1669

¹⁸⁰ BRO: CM, 5 October 1685

¹⁸¹ Wood: 1747 ,320-1

The first Stone of this Edifice was laid by Mr. Hoare, with great Solemnity, upon the twelfth Day of October 1721, who gave the Workmen Five Guineas to Drink, and entertained the Contributors and Trustees afterwards, in a handsome Manner, at his own Lodgings. The First Stone thus laid was placed under the North East Corner of the Building, with the following Inscription upon it

**God's Providence
is our
Inheritance**

Killigrew was chosen as the architect and the building, which eventually cost £1000, was opened on 12 October 1722, 11 years after the idea was first mooted by Robert Nelson (right)¹⁸², the prime instigator of the school. Sadly he did not live to see the building open, dying in 1714. The 'Charity School or Schools for poor Boys and Girls' was opened after the completed building was transferred to the School Trustees on 2 August 1722. The new 'Blue Coat School' (named after the colour of the children's uniform) was an impressive 3 ½ storey building, with a central clock tower and pedimented entrance flanked by a pair of classical niches. There were high windows to either side in order to provide well lit classrooms. On the first floor were further high windows and a series of garrett rooms on the floor above that, probably consisting of a pair of dormitories, one for girls, the other for boys. Below was a semi-basement with wooden shutters on the windows which were raised above pavement level.



Later plans show that the rest of the Bridewell garden on the south side of the premises was converted to two schoolyards, one each for boys and girls, with a wash-house and privy at the western end.

In 1722 the Corporation leased 'a messuage and garden at Culverhouse or Bridewell Lane' to the Trustees of the Charity School for 99 years at a peppercorn rent.¹⁸³

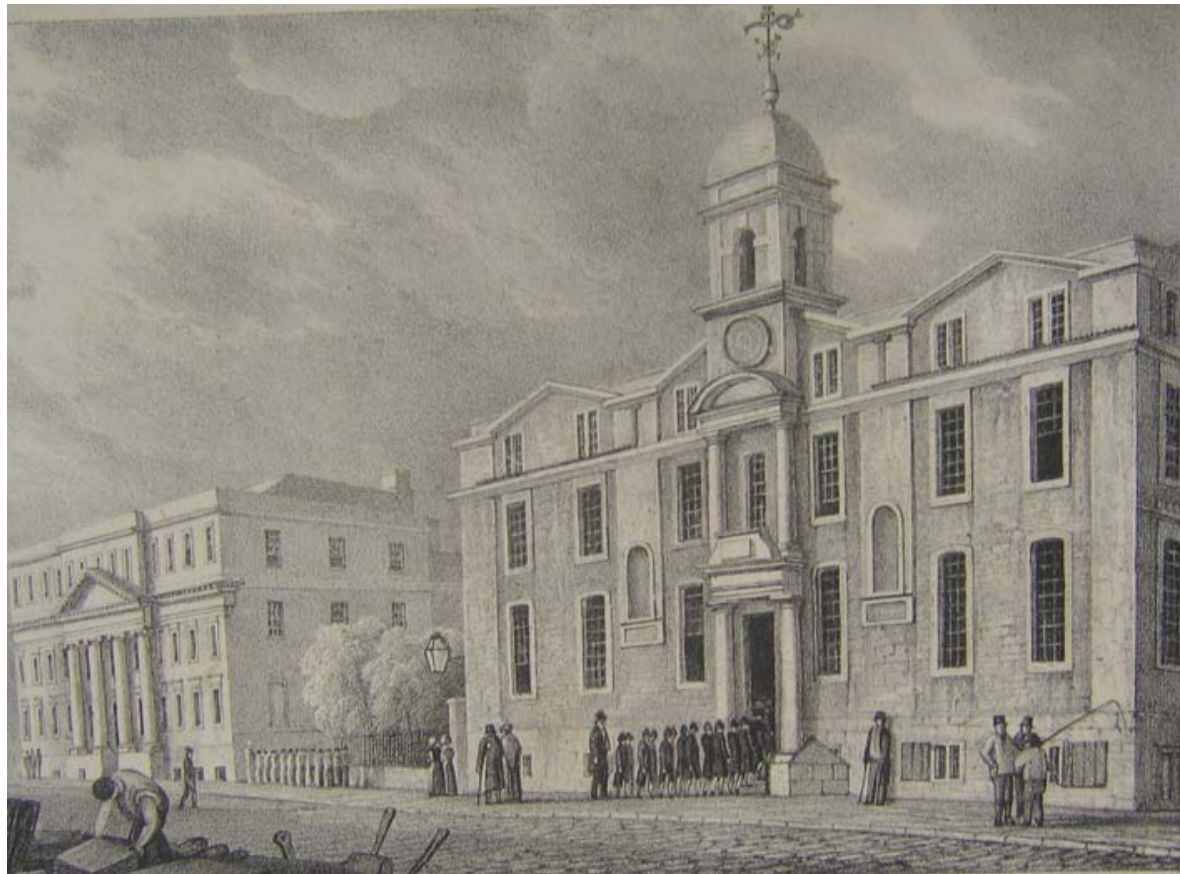
¹⁸² BRL: Sydenham p.201

¹⁸³ BRO: LEASE 2 August 1722



The 1722 Charity School ¹⁸⁴

¹⁸⁴ BRL:SYD 201/1911 L



The 1722 Charity School c1830s ¹⁸⁵

¹⁸⁵ BRL: SYD 201/1911 M

The Minutes for the 1722 Bluecoat School ¹⁸⁶

The school admitted children on the recommendation of the trustees or of other worthies who were able to vouch for the children. They were generally the children of the rising middle class businessmen in Bath and both the boys and girls were expected to be apprenticed at 14. Parents were often required to find masters, i.e. business men prepared to take on an apprentice, for their children. The masters were often the fathers or relations of the children, in a variety of different businesses. The parents could not afford to have their children educated, but this way they got both an education and an apprenticeship which, if completed, would guarantee them as qualified craftsmen and hopefully later as freemen of the city. The school rules were rigorous, however, and bad behaviour, absence and loss of uniform were treated as grave misdemeanours, sometimes resulting in dismissal.

9 Aug 1722 - The workmen at the new School not having been allowed the Breakfasts etc as usual in other places, that the Treasurer lay out for a Dinner as he shall think most proper. And that Mr Killigrew for his attendance and directing the Workmen at the new school have 2 Guineas more for his services

10 May 1723 – Trustees William Chapman, Ralph Allen, Alderman Biggs and Ford, Mr Sparrow, Smith and Gibbs ere all in attendance.

Walter Beams admitted into the school on the recommendation of Mr Allen and Betty, daughter of Richard Lansdown be admitted on recommendation of Mr Hooker

25 July 1723 - Joseph son of Richard Rudman and Robert son of John Hurn admitted

5 Sep 1723 - Richard Wade expelled for 'notorious truanting'

15th Sep 1723 - Charity sermons on Sunday

6 Jan 1723 - Anthony Gifford to go on trial to Thomas Wilton and bound apprentice if both parties agree. Singers to be bound apprentice to Mr Greenaway, free mason. Edward Whittick to go on liking to Mr Brown, carpenter. Admitted - 7 boys and 3 girls.

6 Aug 1724 - Joseph Godwin and Sam Blanch have leave to find masters for their sons

4 Feb 1724 - Mary Parker expelled for 'notorious truanting'

By 1726 the school was taking in a lot more children; 13 on 7 September. If the child came from another parish they had to get a written discharge from the parish officer. 10 more children were admitted on 23 March 1726 and a further 14 in 1727.

4 Dec 1730 - no children to be admitted for the future without a certificate (of their age) from the parish.

2 Apr 1731 - Stephen Bave apprenticed to his brother Thomas Bave.

By 1732 there had been a steady reduction in the number of girls applying for the school.

16 March 1732 - The Girls school being of late reduced on account of the number of children the trustees present are unanimously agreed that Mrs Bells salary in future no more than £20 a year

¹⁸⁶ BRO: Acc 0103/1/2/1

6 Apr 1733 - Mrs Blunden of Hampstead gave a chamber organ to the school. Collections for the children on Sundays

25 Sep 1733 - Thomas Attwood took over as treasurer from Alderman Ford dcd. Richard Nash collected at the church door for the children. John Ford became trustee in place of his father

17 Dec 1733 - Motion to annexe a workhouse to the building on the waste ground belonging to it.

21 Dec 1733 – It was decided that the ground desired is not sufficient and ‘will no way suit with the present circumstances of the school to part with it.

5 Apr 1734 - The Boys School only made use of for the future for the more solemn exercises and instructions of the school and the master and mistress obliged to keep it neat and clean for the reception of strangers and the little garret on the mistresses side of the house to be made use of for keeping the children’s clothes.

6 Sep 1734 – parents given occasional leave to take their children out of school in the clothes they arrived in. Children absenting themselves without permission to be expelled.

Of the 3 meetings in 1737, nobody attended the one in April and in July and December only the treasurer turned up.

17 Feb 1737-8 - Mr Dixon apply to the trustees for their approval to revive the girls school for 20 children

4 June 1738 - agreed to 52 boys be reduced to 30 and masters salary £30 pa and mistresses £20 including expense of coals, candles

4 Aug - couldn’t find a mistress following death of Mrs Bell

12 Jan 1738 - Edward West bound apprentice to his grandfather Wm Hedges, a Peruke maker and the Treasurer to pay him £3 and a further £3 after his 3 years of service

19 Apr 1739 - schoolmaster Mr Dixon’s ill health continues. He agreed not to leave until they find a replacement – they never did and he died in office in 1760. Have 3 candidates for the new mistress – Mrs Sugar chosen.

Following the last meeting none of the trustees turned up for meetings during the following year.

27 Apr 1753 - Dixon had for some years past voluntarily reduced his salary from £40 - £30 the boys school being at that time in no condition to support the expense of both schools – he was praised for his encouragement of retaining the Girls school when it looked as if it would have to be ‘quite set aside’ . The committee raised the salary again to £40 for Dixon with coals and candles supplied. Mrs Sugar be allowed 2 guineas to pay the debts to the collier and in future be allowed 2 guineas for coals. She was ordered to keep the school and its rooms clean and mend the children’s clothes. A strong oak box to put books and writings in

8 Nov 1754 - parents to get their children there on time, not to keep them away without leave. All children now to be given bibles and apprenticed out afterwards, these children to be given preference over other apprentices.

6 Dec 1754 - Christopher Marvin expelled for ‘Notorious Crimes and Misdemeanours

10 Jan 1755 - Mr Dixon requires a trustee to visit monthly to examine good behaviour and expel where necessary and encourage good behaviour

7 Feb – waistcoats, breeches and stockings to be allowed the children at their next ‘Cloathing’ and that they all appear cloathed with the same cloathing at the next collection-William Bally and Rob Evans to make the clothes and not to exceed 4s 5d per sute [sic]

23 May 1760 - agreed to remove the wall in front of the school in order to make the public road more commodious

5 Dec 1760 - Mr Tyler to continue in the apartment Mr Dixon died in until the Trustees consider further of it and deliver to Mr Bally every room that belongs to him – This was reiterated in the January meeting

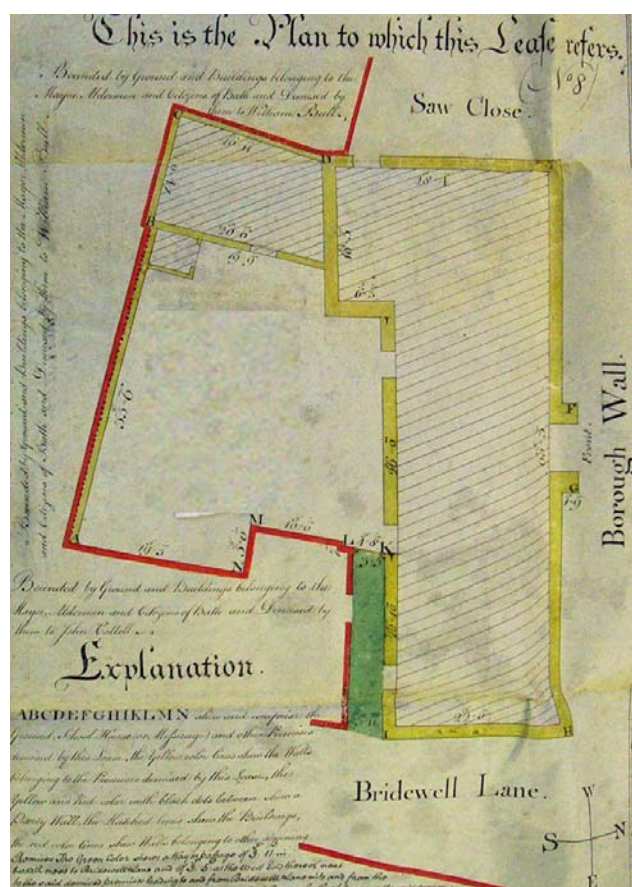
4 Dec 1765 Mr Tyler has leave to make a way out of Mrs Sugar's stair case into the room over the brew house

3 June 1763 children forbidden to sell their clothes or give them away

5 Aug 1763 the roof and the weather cock thoroughly repaired

2 Aug 1775 no-one for the future to be admitted to the necessary or garden belonging to the school but those who belong to it-and the hedge be repaired and a door put to the garden

10 Aug 1773 the repair of the brewhouse chimney by the mason



The 1783 plan of the school (yellow hatching) and garden with the passage (green) to the north of 11 Bridewell Lane.

In June 1783 a group of worthy local Bath gentlemen; Francis Bennett, Henry Wright, surgeon, apothecaries Thomas West and Simon Crook and banker William Street leased 'a messuage with land and buildings' previously the Bridewell 'now known as the Charity School in Borough Walls' for a peppercorn rent of 1s.

The 1783 plan shows the premises hatched yellow, with a large garden to the south and south-east. The building to the rear is probably the brewhouse and laundry A passage (coloured green) shows a passage leading from the garden to Bridewell Lane 3'11" wide at the east end and 3' 5" at the west end.
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In December of that year a Declaration of trust was drawn up in order to hold the Charity School in trust for use as a school between the original leasees and Sir John Miller of Batheaston, the Reverend John Chapman, Rector and Archdeacon of Bath, the Reverend John Sibley, Rector of Walcot parish, Daniel Lysons, 'doctor of physick', Samuel Bush, Joseph Phillott and banker Charles Phillott. The members of both parties were all trustees of the Free School Charity of Bath.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁷ BRO: BC153/2796/3 24 Jun 1783

¹⁸⁸ BRO:BC153/2796/4 Declaration of trust 16 Dec 1783

In 1851 Charles Crowden, 44, was Headmaster of the school, running it with the help of his wife Sarah, 45 mistress. They had 3 children; Charles, 14, Clara, 12, and Emma 7. Charles' cousin Julia, 24, was employed as a servant

By the 1850s the school had become completely inadequate, and a new school was advocated. Architects Manners and Gill were commissioned to design the new building on the site of the existing one. In January 1857 a plan (**Error! Reference source not found.**) of the school and north end of Saw Close was drawn up to show how much Corporation land the new school would require and how existing amenities could be re-located. The school was to lose some of its frontage along the Borough Walls to facilitate road widening, whilst nos. 8-11 Bridewell Lane were to be demolished for the school playgrounds.

A plan drawn up in 1857 (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows the layout of the school (left) shortly before it was demolished. The school ran across the north of the property, with a long narrow building across its western end. To the rear was the passage into the school yard along the side of the Prince Frederick public house, with the boy's playground on the other side of the pub (10a Bridewell Lane). A partitioned passage along the side of the girl's playground at the rear of the school led to the boy's yard. To the west of the girl's yard was the wash house (brewhouse). To the south of this was the Saw Close pound and urinal.

The Trustees proposed the Corporation gave up a portion of the Coal Market (purple area) containing '807 superficial feet in exchange for the ground of a house in Saw Close lately purchased by them (yellow area), by pulling down which an area of 1265 superficial feet will be added to the market... being 458 more than the ground asked for in exchange.' They also proposed that the Corporation give them the ground currently occupied by the pound and urinal (brown area) of 473 feet in exchange for other ground of 516 feet (pink area) for erecting new ones near the cheese store [SC01].

The old building was duly demolished in 1859 along with 8-11 Bridewell Lane, including the clay pipe factory and The Prince Frederick and rebuilt the following year by Manners & Gill.¹⁸⁹ An agreement was drawn up between Thomas Harper King, James Brymer and Rev Edmund Crawley, 3 of the Trustees, and builder George Charmbury Mann, John Vaughan, gent and John Keslake, a plumber

for the pulling down and rebuilding of the bluecoat school and its appendages and for pulling down the adjoining dwelling house, formerly a public house, the premises no. 8 Bridewell Lane, a dwelling house in the Saw Close lately belonging to Mr Cottle and the pound and urinal in the Saw Close for £2448 and in accordance with the plans, drawings and specifications of Manners & Gill will execute all the works required.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁹ ASSIGNMENT Message in Sawclose - Mary Cottle and others to the Rev. Edmund J.Crawley trustees of the Bluecoat Charity School 3 February 1859

¹⁹⁰ CWS: Building Contact for the Bluecoat School 23 Aug 1859

No. 1 Timber Close - Land West of The Bridewell/Blue Coat School [TC01]

In 1665 Samuel Dawe, who had taken over the lease on the Bridewell, was granted the plot of land to the west, described as 'much of a plot of waste ground called the Timber Close' measuring 60 foot by 20 foot and 18 foot wide at the southern end. The plot was located 'under the Court Wall of the Bridewell' and Dawe had permission to build a house for himself adjacent to the Bridewell, 16 foot square. He also had permission to convert the remaining plot to the south of it into a garden for himself and his wife Margaret and son William. The annual rent was 4s and part of the agreement was that the grounds should be 'sealed' or enclosed. The gardens belonging to George Reeve and widow Eleanor Attwood were to the east. Gilmore's map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows what appears to be a substantial house on the site.¹⁹¹

The dimensions of this plot appear to vary between 60 and 65 feet long, and between 20 and 16 feet in breadth, so it is possible part of it may have been either surveyed or written down incorrectly. In 1684 goldsmith Mathew Reeve leased the plot, which now appeared to measure 60 feet in length and 16 feet in breadth, for the same 4s. rent. He also leased the adjacent garden to the east.¹⁹² The following year William Matthews seems to have been leasing it from Reeve, and still held it in 1692. Matthews had built a house on the plot by 1694, though still paying just 4s.¹⁹³ In 1710 Matthews' new house in the Saw Close' was sub let to Mrs.Davnet for 4s.¹⁹⁴

By 1713 saddler Charles Stone leased the property and in 1719 he renewed the lease for himself, his son John and daughter Jean for just 2s. 6d. The property had by now been divided, hence the lower rent. Saddler Walter Chapman had a tenement in the southern half. Beside the house and garden there was now a brewhouse with adjacent yards, one of which had a pump.¹⁹⁵

In 1745 Charles Stone, now an alderman, renewed the lease for the 'brewhouse or wash house' for 42 years. The dimensions of the plot were given as 24' 5" on the north, 22' 4" on the south, 46' on the west and 45' 4" on the east. Edward Bushell's widow still leased the garden to the east, whilst the property to the south was leased by Mrs Skeyler, a widow.¹⁹⁶ In 1760 Stone's widow Hester leased the property, now described as just a plot of ground, to William Bull, a smith and farrier, for the remainder of the 42 year term for £157 10s.¹⁹⁷

In 1775, after Hester Stone had died, William Bull renewed the lease for 99 years for the lives of himself, Richard, the 13 year old son of farrier Richard Collins and Thomas, 6, the son of farrier John Tucker. The property's dimensions were unchanged, still containing the brewhouse or washhouse.¹⁹⁸ It seems probable that Bull was operating a smithy on the site with Richard Collins and John Tucker.

Bath's growth generated a constant demand for metalwork...Over at the rebuilt Hot Bath, tenders were simultaneously being invited for brass hinges, latches, bolts, rails, and iron

¹⁹¹ 27 March 1665 & BRO:F377 24 July 1665

¹⁹² BRO: F.685 10 March 1684

¹⁹³ BRO: CM: 1690-94

¹⁹⁴ BRO: CM,1710-11

¹⁹⁵ BRO: F.1324 30 March 1719

¹⁹⁶ F.1880, 7 October 1745

¹⁹⁷ BRO: P 2714A ASSIGNMENT 25 March 1760

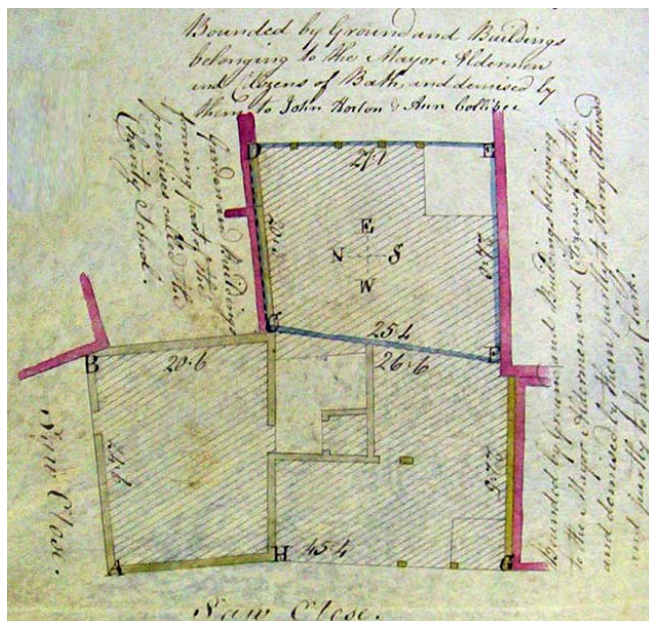
¹⁹⁸ BRO: F.2568 LEASE 9 November 1775

stoves. Builders and householders were forever wanting coal grates, area railings, kitchen gear, fire dogs, polished fenders, locks and keys, or brass doorknobs. At night the streets were lit with standard oil lamps fitted out by local tinmen and hung from brackets wrought by local smiths. No wonder so many artisans in small workshops across the city could be seen forging iron, running liquid metal into moulds, hammering, soldering, filing, polishing, mending locks, patching kettles. Bath Commercialis'd p.11

In 1794 William Bull, now 70, renewed the lease once more for £42.17s.9d and the unaltered annual rent of 2s. 6d for the lives of himself, shoe maker Richard Collins, 31, and Robert Whittington, 24, of Hamsell, Gloucestershire, gent.¹⁹⁹ The property, which consisted of 3 buildings, opened on the west and north-west onto Saw Close. The 1824 described the rear third of the property as being used in tandem with the front buildings, but not actually part of the property.

In 1810, however, he transferred the lease to Moses Maggs. The property was now described simply as a 'messuage', with no reference to a brewhouse. It must have been a profitable business, however, because the fine was £100 and the rent now £1 5s.²⁰⁰ The plan with the lease shows that the property now had the western part of the Bridewell garden, of which the eastern part was now the Boy's Yard of the school. A note on the back of the lease reports that the pump has been omitted, but must be shared with the tenement south. Bull had probably died in 1814, when the Corporation renewed the lease to Moses Maggs²⁰¹ for the lives of himself, 38, Robert Whittington and Moses Maggs junior, 17. The rent was now £1 5s.

Later the same year Maggs mortgaged the property to farmer James Powney of Weston Somerset.²⁰² Maggs died 4 years later and his widow Mary and James Powney leased the property to stable keeper Harry Roberts for £334²⁰³, before surrendering the lease 2 years later to the Corporation.²⁰⁴



The 1814 Plan shows 3 buildings, the largest open fronted onto Saw Close. The rear of the property is also open along the east side, with a row of posts or pillars. The square in the south-east corner was possibly an open area. The north wall belongs to the property and possibly the east wall. *The letters CDEF and the blue colour circumscribe a piece of ground which has for many years past been occupied and enjoyed with the front buildings in the Saw Close but not devised with it.*

¹⁹⁹ BRO: DP 2714/6 LEASE 3 February 1794

²⁰⁰ BRO: BRO: BC153/2714/8 Assignment 26 Mar 1810

²⁰¹ BRO BC153/2714/9 Lease with counterpart 7 Feb 1814

²⁰² BRO: BC153/2714/10 Mortgage 18 Jun 1814

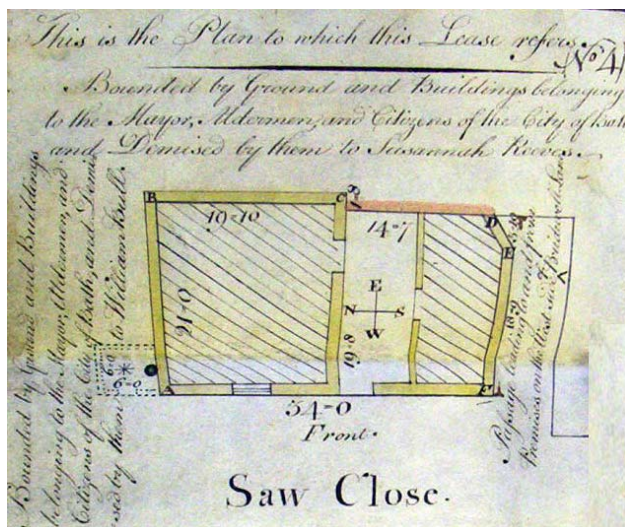
²⁰³ BRO: BC153/2714/11 Mortgage 28 Jul 1820

²⁰⁴ BRO: BC153/2714/13 Assignment and surrender 15 Feb 1822

1A Timber Close – Harry Atwood’s property [TC01A]

This property was immediately to the south of 1 Saw Close [TC01] and measured approximately 54 feet north-south and 16 feet to the east. There was a passage way from 10 Bridewell Lane which gave the occupant access to the shared pump. It had originally been 2 separate properties; a northern plot at 1s. 6d and a southern plot at 2s 6d. The two properties were combined in Harry Atwood’s later leases. The northern part of this property originally formed the southern part of Samuel Dawe’s holding to the west of the Bridewell [TC01]. In 1713 saddler Walter Chapman senior leased the ‘messuage, late in possession of William Mathews’ for 1s. 6d. It had a right of way ‘on the west leading from the yard north to the pump in the Timber Close’. and the yard or garden of widow Mary Fisher to the east, with the Timber Close to the south and west of the property.²⁰⁵

Twenty years later baker Harry Atwood leased the property and built what was probably a bakehouse, the roof to be tiled and not thatched. The right of way to the pump continued, property to the north now belonging to Charles Stone and the yard or garden to the east (10 Bridewell Lane) now belonging to Samuel Jones, still with the right of way to the pump.²⁰⁶ The southern plot of ground was now also leased to saddler Walter Chapman in 1720 for 2s. 6d. Chapman’s two adjacent properties now ran from Saw Close to the rear garden gates of nos. 8 and 9 Bridewell Lane which shared a passage through to Saw Close which ran to the south. The southern property was bounded by a 20 foot wall running east-west and another 15 foot wall running north-south.²⁰⁷ In 1727 Chapman renewed his leases, his tenement to the south leased to widow Elizabeth Sheyler.²⁰⁸ Walter Chapman, Elizabeth Sheyler and the Atwoods were all related and in 1733 Harry Atwood inherited the lease on the properties.²⁰⁹



By 1766 the 2 properties had been combined at an annual rent of 3s. 6d. Harry Atwood junior was a surgeon, and leased the property with his unmarried sister Elizabeth for 99 years. There was still had ‘free passage’ from Bull’s yard to the pump, and Chapman’s two walls remained part of the property.²¹⁰ In 1782 Harry Atwood, now 41, leased the property for the lives of himself, his widowed sister Elizabeth Power, 46, and Frances Chapman, 9, daughter of linen draper George Chapman of Bath for an annual rent of 3s 6d.²¹¹

²⁰⁵ BRO: F.1224 30 March 1713

²⁰⁶ BRO: F.1653 2 October 1733

²⁰⁷ BRO: F. 1366 3 October 1720

²⁰⁸ BRO: F. 1518, 20 October 1727

²⁰⁹ BRO: F.1650 26 June 1733

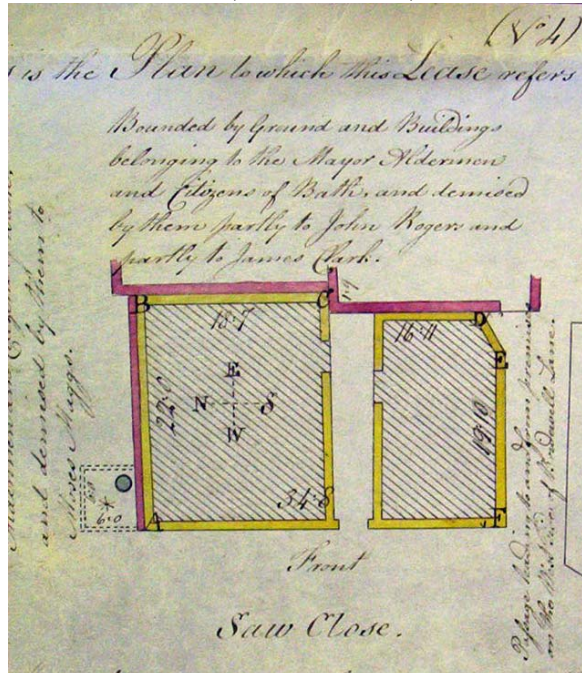
²¹⁰ BRO: F.2362 27 June 1766

²¹¹ BRO: BC153/2796/2Counterpart lease, 14 Oct 1782

The 1782 plan – the area with the dotted line and * in the north-west corner show a piece of ground with a pump which was shared with the occupiers of the premises in this lease and William Bull to the north.

In 1790 Harry Atwood renewed the lease for himself, Frances Chapman and William Downes Phillott, 12, son of Joseph Phillott of Bath, gent for the same fine and rent as in 1782.²¹² The property remained unchanged, with 2 separate buildings separated by a yard, the south-east corner shaved off at an angle. The main building had a door off the yard and a window facing Saw Close. The southern building just had a single door in the north wall.

In 1808 Atwood, now retired, leased the property to widow Elizabeth Sherborne of



Bath for the remainder of the 99 year lease for £210, at the same rent. It is probable that this was his sister Elizabeth, who had remarried.²¹³ The 1808 plan shows that the site had been rebuilt. A narrower central yard now separated the new buildings on either side. Building work appears to have been carried out on both the north and eastern boundaries, with 3 buildings now edging the property (1 Saw Close and 9-10 Bridewell Lane). The rear entrance from 9 Bridewell Lane still opened onto the passage it shared with no. 8, leading into Saw Close.

The 1808 plan

In 1812 Mrs Sherborne was refused insurance on her house by the Bath Sun

Fire Office because of the dangerous state of the adjacent house in Bridewell Lane in the possession of James Clarke. This was the pipe factory. Mt Clarke had responded to the charge by stating that the premises had recently been repaired and were now perfectly safe.²¹⁴ By 1815 Atwood had died and The Corporation renewed the lease to Elizabeth Sherborne for the full 99 years for the lives of Frances Chapman, 41, William Downes Phillott, 36 and James, 6, son of the late tailor James Drewett of Bath and his widow Elizabeth. John Rogers and James Clark now leased the property to the east and Moses Maggs to the north, sharing the use of the pump.²¹⁵ Three years later Elizabeth Sherborne leased the property to Francis Maule, a Major in the Army for the remainder of the 99 year lease for £350, the 3s 6d rent unchanged.²¹⁶ In July Maule sub-let the property, described as '2 messuages', to The Reverend Matthew Mapletoft of Bath for the same rent, for a consideration of £356 5s.²¹⁷ In 1822 Elizabeth Sherborne and The Reverend Matthew Mapletoft mortgaged the property to widow Roseanna Rideout of Bath.²¹⁸ The property was later demolished to form part of the new school playground.

²¹² BRP: BC153/2796/7 Lease with counterpart 8 Nov 1790

²¹³ BRO: BC153/2796/14 Assignment 8 Sep 1808

²¹⁴ BRO: CM: 10 November 1812

²¹⁵ BRO: BC153/2796/17 Lease with counterpart 23 Jan 1815

²¹⁶ BRO: BC153/2796/18 Assignment 6 Mar 1819

²¹⁷ BRO: BC153/2796/19 Assignment 15 Jul 1819

²¹⁸ BRO: BC153/2796/20 Mortgage 9 May 1822

2 Timber Close - Merrick's Coach House (The Regency Garage) [SC01]

This site does not appear to have been developed until 1706, and may have been the site of the pound for a while before. It was originally a 20 foot square plot was on the south side of the passage from nos. 8 and 9 Bridewell Lane, opposite Harry Atwood's property. It became a coach house and stable in the early 18th century and was partially rebuilt as a cheese store in the early 19th century with the public urinal built against its north wall. In 1904 it was converted into a commercial garage, The Regency Garage, which it remained until its closure in the late 20th century, since when it has been used for storage.

In 1706 Thomas Merrick Esq leased the 20 foot square plot at an annual rent of 5s. on which he had built a coach house. The plot at that time formed part of the Timber Yard, the west end opening onto Saw Close and the adjoining walls on the east side (7 and 8 Bridewell Lane) belonged to gardens leased by Thomas Biggs and John Dyer.²¹⁹ Meyrick later built a stable beside the coach house, mentioned in the 1720 lease granted to Anthony Biggs, Thomas Bigg's son, after Meyrick's death. Biggs paid £30 for the coach house and stable for the lives of himself, his wife Florence and son Anthony. He also leased the plot to the south which contained the stable attached to the Pound House garden.

In 1713 Biggs acquired The Pound House and by 1733 when his son Anthony Biggs junior renewed the lease on his late father's property, the Biggs family owned much of the southern part of Saw Close. They now owned both the gardens bordering the eastern boundary (7-8 Bridewell Lane) which incorporated the yard now leased to John Dyer.²²⁰ Thirty three years later it all still belonged to the Biggs family, who had by now expanded the coach house to include a room, possibly a second storey above it, though still paying 5s rent. Dyer's yard to the south-east, however, was now leased to James Allen.²²¹

The Carrier's Yard [SC02]

Following Charles Bigg's death at the end of the 1770s, a number of his properties were combined into a single lease running on the remainder of the 99 years. It combined the coach house and stable with the Pound House and its garden, as well as 5-7 Bridewell Lane and their gardens. In 1779 Charles' widow Eleanor, 'administratrix of the goods, chattels and effects' of her late husband, leased the 'messuage with garden, stable and coachhouse' to hairdresser John Copner, together with 3 other remaining 99 year leases on properties in Bridewell Lane (5-7) for the considerable sum £1200.²²²

Eleanor provided John Copner with a mortgage for the 3 leases of a messuage with garden, stable and coachhouse in Timber Close, and 3 tenements in Bridewell Lane for £800.²²³ Eleanor had died by 1786, and Copner, now described as a gentleman, and her executor Carey Bayly, leased the properties to John Brooke of Box, gent. 'for the remainder of three 99 year leases of a messuage with garden, stable and coachhouse in Timber Close, and 3 tenements in Culverhouse Lane' for £800.²²⁴

²¹⁹ BRO:F1.1091 21 June 1706

²²⁰ F.1659 2 January 1733

²²¹ BRO: F.2359 1 April 1766

²²² BC153/2714/2,Assignment 22 Jun 1779

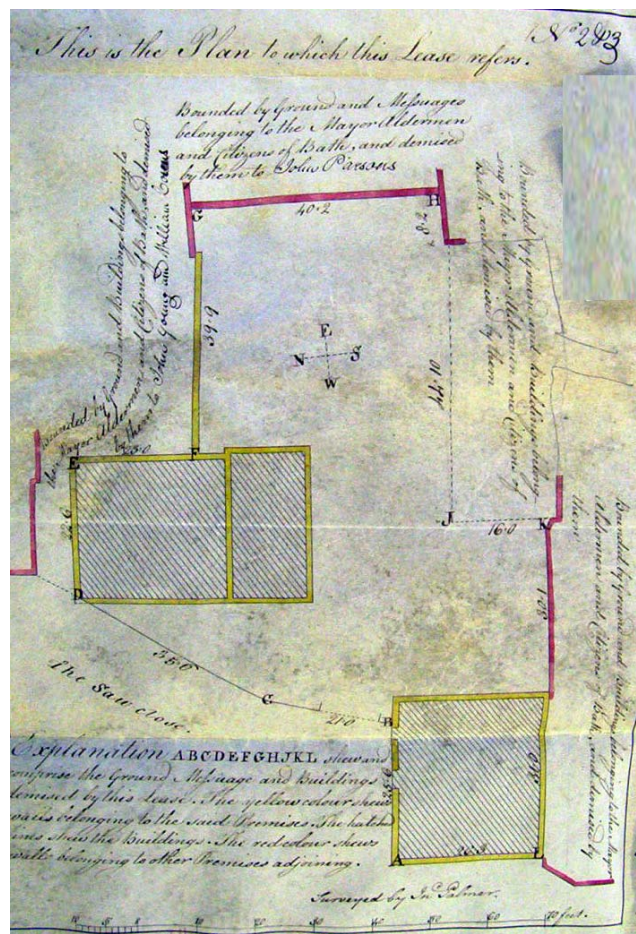
²²³ BRO: BC153/2714/3 Mortgage 24 Jun 1779

²²⁴ BRO: BC153/2714/4,Assignment 29 Sep 1786

Brooke and Copner leased the properties to Walter Dallamore in 1793, again for £800²²⁵ and in 1808 to Thomas and John Parsons, partners in a carrier business.²²⁶

The 1808 plan shows the coach house and stable to the north of the entrance [SC01] and The Pound House [SC03] to the south-west of the entrance. The red boundary to the east is the rear of 5-7 Bridewell Lane and that to the south the candle factory [SC04]. The landlocked rear yards of 25-26 Westgate Street are pencilled in as dotted lines with their open yard. Whilst not part of Parsons' property, it appears to have been incorporated into the yard in order to provide access for the businesses from Saw Close. One of the lives on the 1848 lease for no. 25 was 58 year old George Parsons of Long Acre, London, a 'coach varnish' manufacturer.²²⁷ It is probable that he was related to John and Thomas, perhaps their brother.

The yard and its various buildings now form a large part of The Gala Bingo Hall, and during its occupation the buildings to either side of the entrance (The Regency Garage and Delfter Krug) became established as the buildings which, for the most part, they remain today.



Parsons carrier business dominated the centre of Saw Close for almost half a century, and the entrance can be seen in an engraving of the candle factory fire [SC04] in 1846.

The 1808 plan of Parsons' Yard John Parsons leased the 'messuage with court, stables and buildings' for the lives of Elizabeth Lax (formerly Biggs), 56, the wife of George Lax of Wells, gent., William Anderdon of Newton St. Loe, 75, and Miss Mary Davies, 26, daughter of William Davies. Davies was the former Register at the General Hospital for an annual rent of £1 16s.²²⁸

Parsons died in 1817 and Mary Davies was granted the lease by carriers Cyrus Symes and Edward Mitchell for the lives of herself, Elizabeth Lax and George Stallard.²²⁹ In 1824 Mary Davies' lease was renewed by Edward Mitchell for the lives of herself, George Stallard and Edward Mitchell, 23, the younger son of brewer Edward Mitchell.²³⁰

The 1824 plan shows that the yard had been expanded since 1808 and the coach house rebuilt to form the building recognizable today as The Regency Garage.

²²⁵ BRO: BC153/2714/5, Assignment 23 Mar 1793

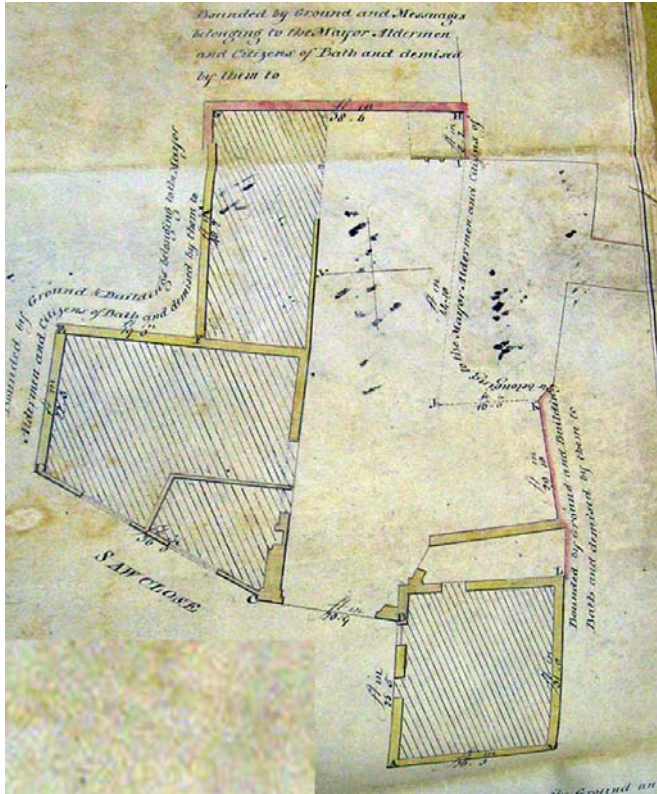
²²⁶ BC153/2714/7, Assignment 24 Jun 1807

²²⁷ CWS: Box 6 Lease for 25 Westgate Street 21 April 1855 & 10 May 1848

²²⁸ BRO: BC153/2713/1 Lease And Counterpart 4 November 1808

²²⁹ BRO: BC153/2713/2, Lease with counterpart 26 May 1817

²³⁰ BRO: BC153/2713/3, Lease with counterpart 10 May 1824



The 1824 plan

Mary Davis died soon after and in 1830 carrier Edward Mitchell, who had undoubtedly been running the yard since Parsons' death, became the new tenant. The two men were probably related because the lease is for the lives of James Parson, 42 and George Parson, 40, the sons of the late John Parson and of William Mitchell, 21, a linen draper for £1 6s a year.²³¹ Edward Mitchell probably mortgaged the property in order to expand the business because nine years later widow Rebecca Boucher, 82, of Braywick in Berkshire, was granted the lease for the lives of herself, George Salisbury Williams, 19, son of apothecary John Williams and Adrian Seymour, 19, son of attorney William Seymour for £1 6s a

year.²³²

In 1844 the property was 127' 5" on the east, 83' 3" on the west, 62' 10" on the north and 52' 11" on the south. It was described as

Tenement and dwelling house with a warehouse, farriery, courtyard, stables and other buildings and premises on east of Saw Close and certain dwelling houses on north of Westgate Street

On 5 September 1846 the 3 storey candle factory at 4 Saw Close [SC04] went up in flames, fed by the highly flammable tallow. In 1780 George Clarke had leased the site in order to build a cheese manufactory.²³³ The business was taken over in 1815 by William Butcher, a tallow chandler, who converted the factory to a tallow chandlery or candle factory.²³⁴ By 1841 his son Thomas Butcher, described as a wholesale and retail grocer and tallow chandler was running the business. The newspaper engraving²³⁵ shows the local fire brigade tackling the flames in Saw Close and some of the buildings in the lower part of Saw Close.

²³¹ CWS: Box 7 lease 12 Jan 1830

²³² CWS: Box 7 lease 22 Oct 1839

²³³ BRO: BC153/2851/1 Counterpart lease, 10 Mar 1780

²³⁴ SMR Number MBN11565

²³⁵ BRL: Pictorial Times, 12 September 1846



1846 Fire at the tallow chandlery, 4 Saw Close ²³⁶

The fire appears to be ferocious, fuelled by the large amount of animal fats and candles on the premises. The 3 storey Saw Close Tavern (Delfter Krug), formerly the Pound House, is immediately to the north and the large arched entrance to the Mitchell's yard [SC02] is on the left of the picture, by now run by W Lawes & Co. The side of the cheese manufactory [SC01] at an angle to the yard has an advert on the side for Lawes Vans. The front of the pub has 'Williams' advertised and people can be seen handing chairs and tables down to watchers below, whilst the yard is hastily emptied of its contents in case the fire spreads. The pub has a large hooded entrance on the north side with 6/6 sash windows on the upper floors, whilst the ground floor appears to have older 12/12 sashes.

The candle factory was rebuilt, but there were continuing complaints about the smell and the factory was forced to install new apparatus in 1859 to prevent the offensive smoke and smells. Meanwhile Rebecca Boucher had died in 1845 and her trustees, Charles Vining of Bristol and William Sheppard, a Marlborough inn holder, together with Edward Mitchell, leased the yard and properties to courier Edward Strange for £24 8s 6d. The property was described as 'tenement with warehouse, farriers, courtyard, stables and other buildings'. ²³⁷ It also included Saw Close Tavern [SC03]. The various properties were sub-let to the Butcher family as well as a John Turk, landlord of The Saw Close Tavern and others, including W Lawes & Co.

Edward Strange died on 3 Oct 1850, leaving the property to his wife Anne as joint executor with Edward's brother Thomas Strange. By 1854, Thomas Butcher's sons, Thomas and George, had taken over the family business and become cheese factors. They acquired the warehouse [SC01] beside the entrance to the carrier's yard as a

²³⁶ BRL: Pictorial Times, 12 September 1846

²³⁷ CWS: Box 7 lease 30 Sep 1844 & BRO: BC153/2713/4 Surrender with lease and counterpart lease, 24/25 Mar 1845

cheese store. In the 1861 Bath directory they are described as 'wholesale & retail grocers, tallow chandlers and cheese factors, 3-4 Burton Place and 4 Saw Close'.²³⁸

The various businesses continued to operate throughout much of the 19th century, whilst the main lease passed to various members of the Strange family. Anne Strange died 5 years later, leaving the leasehold warehouses, yards and premises to executors Thomas and his wife Eliza, in trust for her late son Edward's wife Amelia and daughters Emma and Ellen, as well as an annuity of £7 10s charged on 5 Bridewell Lane to John Maidment for life.²³⁹ Thomas died on 11 Oct 1858, and Eliza left the property as equal shares to George Clapp and John Strange after her death in 1863. In the same year, Amelia's daughter Emma married William Fanning and her sister Ellen married Henry Hooper.

In 1861 John Turk, 39, was both landlord of The Saw Close Tavern and a van proprietor. His widowed mother Ann, 62, was housekeeper and his niece Lucretia, 18, the barmaid. Jubal Cain, a 66 year old widower and stage coachman lodged there. Ten years later Francis Stoade, 38 and a licensed brewer, was landlord, running the pub with his wife Mary. They had a son Walter, 3, and Francis' widowed mother Maria, 66, lived with them. The Butchers continued to run their saw Close empire in 1871, described in the local directory as Butchers Cheese Stores.²⁴⁰

Following John Strange's death and then Amelia Strange's death in 1882, George Clapp and Fred Purchase inherited equal shares in the property. In 1882 Fred Purchase died and presumably Clapp as well, because the following year James Lee, a carpenter from Worthing, Thomas Wilton, gent and bank manager Robert Herman took over the lease.²⁴¹

²³⁸ BRO: 1860-61 Kellys Directory

²³⁹ CWS: Box 7 Lease 27 Nov 1855

²⁴⁰ BRO: Kellys Directory 1870-71

²⁴¹ CWS: Box 7 Lease 26 July 1883

3 The Sawclose - The Pound House (The Sawclose Tavern now Delfter Krug)[SC03]

In 1634 John Combe the elder, a rough mason, was granted 'as much ground by the Saw Close as Mr Sherstone, Mr William Chapman and Mr Robert Fisher shall think fit next to Pavours'. The land was currently occupied by the pound and the 3 men agreed the plot should be the same breadth as the pound. Combe obviously planned to build on the plot because he was to be charged 2s. annual rent and told the roof had to be tiled. Recent legislation had deemed that all new houses were to be tiled rather than thatched as a fire precaution.²⁴²

The lease of the plot of land resulted in the pound being dismantled. A new timber one was built, the floor pitched with stone. It was built by John Bigg and John Combe, both of whom had been given land from the pound on condition that they built a new one jointly. John Combe was allowed 'the tumber of the Old pound if he makes another at his own charge at the end of his house, Stones being brought there from the Cittie' .²⁴³

In the same year the Corporation granted the adjacent garden to the east as building land to carpenter George Parker, his wife Margaret and their sons George and Thomas for 8s. a year. This property was bounded by the 'wall of John Combe' to the west and the 'half a wall of Robert Shaa' to the east' (the garden of 27-29 Westgate Street with the house of John Biggs junior to the south (4 Saw Close). Parker paid a 23s. fine 'with fees for his freedom'.²⁴⁴

The land does not appear to have been large enough to build on, because the following year he was granted a further '6 feet of the Saw Close' on his former lease at an additional rent of 2s in order 'to build a house upon it'.²⁴⁵ Parker does not seem to have built on this land and it is probable that he died before he could carry out the building work, because the 1641 Survey mentions his wife Margaret Parker only.

Meanwhile, by 1636, Combe had built a house fronting Saw Close on part of the property with a garden to the rear. The new pound was directly to the west of the property and the plot of undeveloped ground to the east in the tenure of George Parker. The new house adjoined that of John Biggs junior to the south. Combe leased the property for the lives of himself, his wife Edith and son John for 2s.²⁴⁶

In 1655 John Combe junior, a rough mason like his father, leased the property for the lives of himself, his wife Joyce and son Thomas. Margaret Parker still leased the garden to the east and the Bigg's house was now leased by Thomas Hopkins.²⁴⁷ Combe seems to have sublet the property to Benedict Beacon because when he died in the same year his widow Eleanor consented to a change in 2 of the lives on John Combe's house and garden 'near the Timber Yard'.²⁴⁸ In 1662 John Combes was granted a licence to assign his house in Timber Close to Richard Pitcher, a feltmaker.²⁴⁹

²⁴² BRO: CM, 31 Mar 1634

²⁴³ BRO: CM, 14 Apr 1634

²⁴⁴ BRO: F.104 10 October 1634

²⁴⁵ BRO:CM, 30 Mar 1635

²⁴⁶ BRO:F.123 15 October 1636

²⁴⁷ BRO:F.275 17 March 1655

²⁴⁸ BRO: CM, 31 Dec 1655

²⁴⁹ Ibid.30 June 1662

By 1670 Pitcher's rent was now 10s, an increase of 8s, because the property now included George Parker's former garden to the east.²⁵⁰ It seems probable that Pitcher had enlarged the house when he acquired the additional garden. The pound was still situated to the west of the property, and the house itself had become known as 'The Pound House' in 1670, when the Chamberlain's accounts refer to it as such. Pitcher was still there in 1677²⁵¹ but 2 years later Edward Snailum was tenant. John Pocock leased the property for a short while, together with a stable in Saw Close, but Edward Snailum was leasing it again between 1690 and 1694, still for 10s. with an additional shilling for the stable.²⁵²

By 1696 the surgeon John Arney was leasing 'The Pound House' property, though not the stable, for the lives of his sons Robert, Edmund and John Arney. The 'common pound' was still to the west and the garden of Mr Toop to the east (27-29 Westgate Street). Wm Chapman now leased Biggs house on the south side.²⁵³ In 1713 the Biggs family, no longer paviours but gentlemen, leased this property. Anthony Biggs leased it for himself, his wife Florence and son Anthony junior. The garden to the east now belonged to Mr Toop's widow.²⁵⁴ Twenty years later Chapman's house [SC04] had been replaced by stables, though the garden to the east remained, now leased by Richard Morgan.²⁵⁵ In 1766 the stables belonged to John Carew.

The Pound House remained in the Biggs family, Charles Biggs leasing it in 1766 for the lives of his daughter Elizabeth, 14, apothecary William Anderson and Richard Attwood, son of Alderman Thomas Attwood. The garden to the east, later part of Parson's Yard, was now owned by Miss Morgan. By now Biggs had acquired stables in Saw Close built on a small plot measuring 5 yards by 5 ½ yards which may be the stables to the south of the coach house, which Biggs also owned. He had a further garden to the south of the stables, which opened onto Saw Close on the west. The property was now leased for 11 s.²⁵⁶

The Garden North Of 25/26 Westgate Street - Now part of the Gala Bingo Club [TC02A]

The Pavilion Theatre [SC02] was built on part of what had been a garden to the rear of 25-26 Westgate Street. Both these properties had yards to the rear, no. 25 with a passage into Parson's yard. By the 1740s 25 and 26 Westgate Street had been leased by the maltster Richard Morgan for some time for 8s a year rent. Between 1714 and 1725 he erected a large malthouse and associated buildings to the rear and it seems to have been this site upon which some of the theatre was later built. In 1740 it consisted of a malthouse and other buildings, a backside and garden adjoining Anthony Biggs' Pound garden to the rear.²⁵⁷

²⁵⁰ BRO: F. 10 March 1670

²⁵¹ BRO:CM 1677

²⁵² Ibid.1677-1694

²⁵³ BRO: F.951 2 October 1699

²⁵⁴ BRO: F.1226 30 June 1713

²⁵⁵ BRO: F.1662 2 January 1733

²⁵⁶ BRO: F.2358 1 April 1766

²⁵⁷ BRO: F.1780 1740

Images of Saw Close



1846 Fire at The Candle Factory 4 Saw Close ²⁵⁸

²⁵⁸ BRL: U69 SEP 1846



Saw Close 1912 Copyright Bath in Time - Bath Central Library ²⁵⁹

²⁵⁹ Bath in Time : BRL-11071 1912



Saw Close 1936 Copyright Bath in Time - Bath Central Library²⁶⁰

²⁶⁰ Bath in Time : BRL-11070 1936

Saw Close March 2007



Saw Close looking south-east



Regency Garage west and north front



Regency Garage & Galal Bingo Hall from east
Park from north

Galal Bingo Hall & Car



Galal Bingo Hall from north-east & side of 1-2 Bridewell Lane
Bridewell Lane from north



Side of 1-2



Galal Bingo Hall from Bridewell Lane
from south



Bluecoat House and Clinic



Bluecoat House and Clinic from Bridewell Lane





Clinic from Bridewell Lane from south-west



Bluecoat House



Bluecoat House from north-west and south





Saw Close 1852 Cotterell Map -1958 Goad Map Comparison



1852 Cotterell Map - 1894 Theatre Plan Comparison

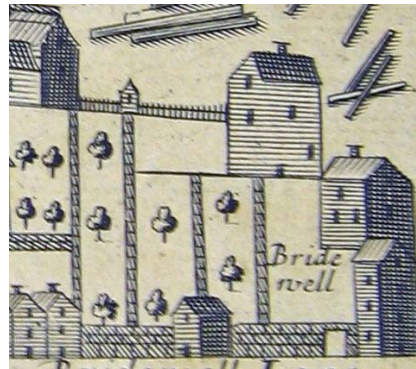
The Blue Coat House & Sawclose Clinic Building Chronology



Late 15th century



1610



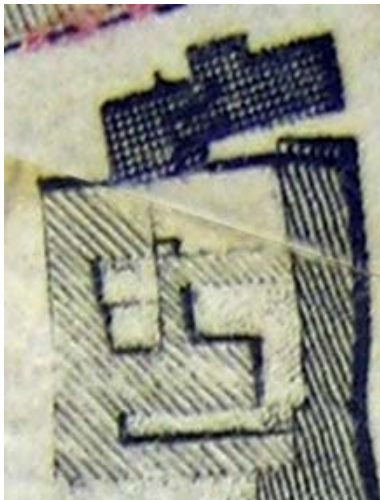
1694



1735



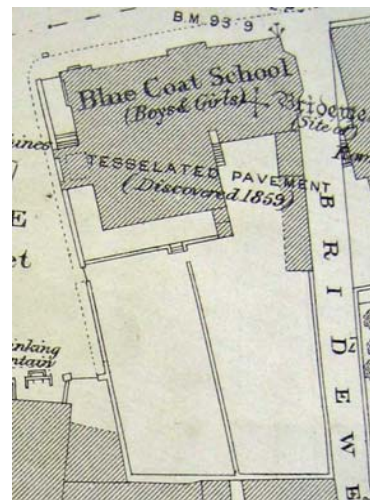
1755



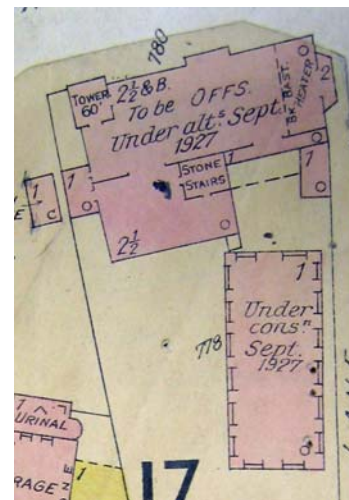
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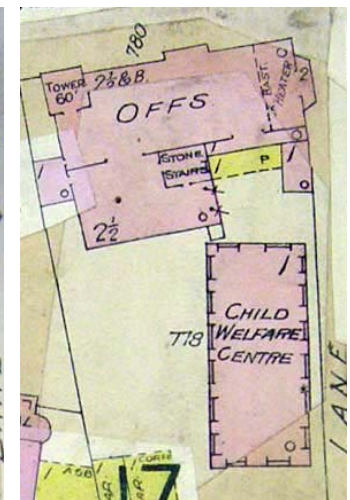
1852



1886



1927



1958

Blue Coat House List Description

ST7464NE SAW CLOSE (East side) Grade II

656-1/40/1462

Listed 05/08/75

Former school, now used as local government offices. 1859-1860 by G.P. Manners and J. Elkington Gill. MATERIALS: coursed and squared dressed stone, slate roofs with terracotta cresting to ridges.

EXTERIOR: prominent free standing building in eclectic Northern Renaissance style, with corner turret in 5 stages, main block, including hall, facing Upper Borough Walls, with 2 deep connected gabled wings. Two storeys, attic and basement. Entrance front to Saw Close of four bays: square turret to left, with engaged columns flanking arced openings to lowest two stages; third stage with two light mullioned window to each face, fourth stage with clock dial, fifth stage with slatted belfry-like ventilation opening, under leaded spire with concave sides. Tall curved gable elides with tower: six light mullion and transom windows to ground and first floors, four light within gable to attic, with strapwork enrichment. Projecting entrance porch, more classical in style, with square columns to corners, arched openings to each face with imposts, shield with strapwork surround over west side; entrance on north side with panelled door and Fanlight, set in arch with deep keystone on short flight of steps with ornate cast iron railings. Two further bays to right with mullioned windows, smaller gable with oculus and finial to right, south-facing gabled roof with stack; sloping site permits insertion of a lower ground floor level at south-west corner. Long front to Upper Borough Walls has 3 large gables, each with large ornamental octagonal stack on square base over 2-light casements, to ground and first floors, each side of large 4-light with transom, under rich open strapwork to the projecting centre bay. Plinth contains 7 recessed lights. Centre band of middle bay has embellished strapwork panel, including letters R and N (for Richard Nelson, founder of the school). Turret, to right, repeats front detail, but with blocked doorway on steps to ground floor. Return to Bridewell Lane has wide central canted bay under Flemish gable, with 4-light casements, with transom to lower levels, to left. Rear has broad eaves stack to outer wing, and high gables with 3-light and transom windows in simpler detail than remainder, gutter with crenellated leadwork detail runs across part of rear face.

INTERIOR: mainly consist of large classrooms, rather plainer in character than the exterior. Central staircase with concrete treads.

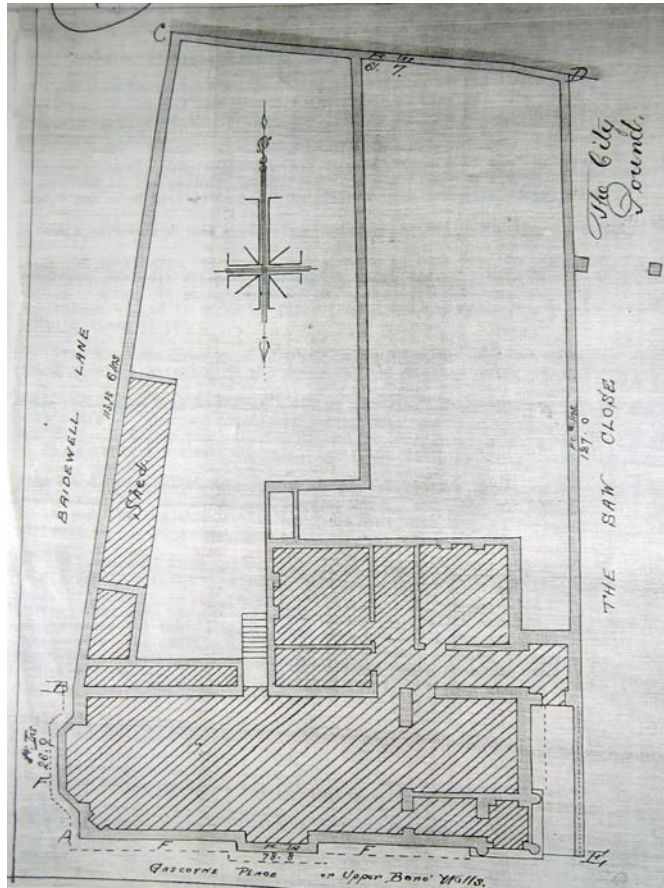
HISTORY: A subscription for a charity school was opened by Robert Nelson, a prominent Low Church Anglican (d.1714) in 1711; work began on a school building, designed by William Killigrew, in 1722. This was demolished in 1859. A Roman tessellated pavement, discovered during building, works, is reputed to be preserved within this building. An assertive and highly characteristic High Victorian public building, challenging the dominant classicism of the city. The rebuilding, together with the westward expansion of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, formed part of a major programme of civic improvements in this area of Bath. The school was sold in 1921, bought by the Bath Health Dept. in 1924, and opened as offices; an infant welfare centre was built to the rear in 1927. It is now used as local government offices.

[R.E.M. Peach, 'Bath: Old and New' (1891), 139-42; Neil Jackson, 'Nineteenth Century Bath. Architects and Architecture' (1991), 201; Mike Chapman & Elizabeth Holland, 'The Development of Saw Close from the Middle Ages', Bath History VIII (2000), 71 ff].

The Blue Coat School

In 1861 the school, now called 'The Blue Coat Schools', re-opened. The school was officially leased by The Corporation to the Rev. Charles Kemble and others for a term of 75 years at a rent of £13.a year.²⁶¹

1856 Plan of the new Bluecoat School opened in 1861 (CWS)



c1856 Drawing of the new Bluecoat School ²⁶²

²⁶¹ BRO: Draft Lease 28 February 1861



Bluecoat boys with head Mr Kay 1890s ²⁶³



The Bluecoat girls c1860s. Mrs Crowden is probably the woman on the left and the younger woman on the right with her small son is possibly her daughter Clara.

²⁶² BRL: SYD 201- 19114

²⁶³ BRL Bluecoat Boys 1890s F29/411



1911 Bicentenary of the founding of Bath's Bluecoat School – The old and new uniforms ²⁶⁴

The school was still under the tutelage of the Crowdens. By now their daughter Emma, 17, was a school assistant. They had a single servant, Julia Crowden, possibly Crowden's niece who was Emma's age. Each boy was given an oak box and the girls an oak pincushion made from the beams of the old building. The girls wore a blue serge dress, white apron and blue cloak with a straw bonnet trimmed with royal blue. Black boots were provided. The boys had white cravats, stockings and tassels on their caps. The girls had to take turns in sweeping and dusting the school room before lessons, clean the grates and light the fires, using only 6 sticks-a lesson in economy. If the children met a governor the girls had to curtsy and the boys bow. The Crowdens lived on Lansdown and the boys were sent up to garden and clean out the pig styes and fowl house according to an ex-pupil of the 1870s. She also claimed that in a heavy storm the master caught pneumonia and died, being unable to change out of his wet clothes.



19th century Head Boy Edwin Say



1913 Alice Price

Bluecoat girl ²⁶⁵

²⁶⁴ BRL: SYD 201 1911

The school had only a small number of teachers, the classrooms divided into 2 large classrooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. The classrooms, partitioned in the 1930s, were on the ground and first floor. In 1871 Charles, Sarah and Emma Crowden were still teachers there. Mr Crowden died in 1882 after 54 years at the school. He had been appointed in 1828 and Mrs Crowden was appointed 5 years later. She resigned after her husband's death and the drawing master took over the headmastership for a while until another couple could be appointed. In 1883 Mr and Mrs Kay took over the role of headmaster and mistress, and Mr Kay appears in a couple of photographs in the late 190s with the boys.²⁶⁶ Annie Upton, a former pupil then in her 80s remembered 'we had to wash the 'Roman pavement' inside the front entrance' just before World War I²⁶⁷



The Bluecoat School c1900 ²⁶⁸

In 1921 the school was closed by order of the Board of Education and put up for sale by the Trustees of the school (10 June 1921) for £1,300. There appears to have been little interest and the property was leased to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital next door to use as additional hospital space.²⁶⁹ In 1923 Ray Farmer rented a large ground floor room with a smaller room to the rear for £2 a week.²⁷⁰

In 1924 the Charity Commissioners authorised the hospital to surrender the lease, after which it was sold back to the Corporation for £1,150, with 2 sitting tenants. Ray Farmer was one, and Fred Cooke, known as 'Uncle Fred', leased the whole of the upper floor and a front room and ante room on the ground floor, by

'verbal agreement'.²⁷¹ The premises subsequently became offices for Bath Health Department and were occupied continuously until 1983 by what became the Environmental Health department. When they moved out, the school building was once more put on the market.²⁷²

An application was made to use the school for workshop light-industry, but that was turned down after opposition from Bath Preservation Trust. Instead, the building remained as offices and in 1984 4 rooms on the 2nd floor were leased to Bath Counselling and Psychotherapy Practitioners.²⁷³ In June a 1st floor room was leased

²⁶⁵ Bath Evening Chronicle 18 May 1983 p.5

²⁶⁶ Bath Weekly Chronicle 1 April 1911.

²⁶⁷ Bath Evening Chronicle 18 May 1983 p.5

²⁶⁸ BRL: c1900 F29/767

²⁶⁹ CWS: Assignment - Trustees of Blue Coat School to Royal Mineral Water Hospital 30 July 1921

²⁷⁰ CWS: Lease 29 Oct 1923

²⁷¹ CWS: Surrender by the Royal Mineral Water Hospital 29 February 1924

²⁷² BC: 18 April 1983

²⁷³ CWS: Lease 23 Jan 1984

to the National Association of Mental Health.²⁷⁴ In October 3 rooms on the ground floor were leased to the charity CRUSE.²⁷⁵ In August 1992 the basement was leased out to Nichola Smith and Dominic Harrison²⁷⁶ Basement and in 1996 the RNHRD again leased part of ground and first floor.²⁷⁷ The rest of the ground floor housed a dental surgery. Today [March 2007] the building is empty apart from the top floor, and used as storage by the Council.



The Bluecoat School c1930²⁷⁸



The Bluecoat School c1987²⁷⁹

²⁷⁴ CWS. 1 June 1984

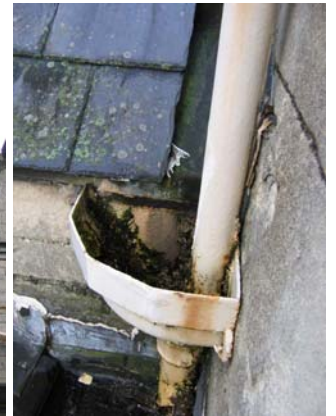
²⁷⁵ Ibid.9 Oct 1984

²⁷⁶ CWS:1 Aug 1992

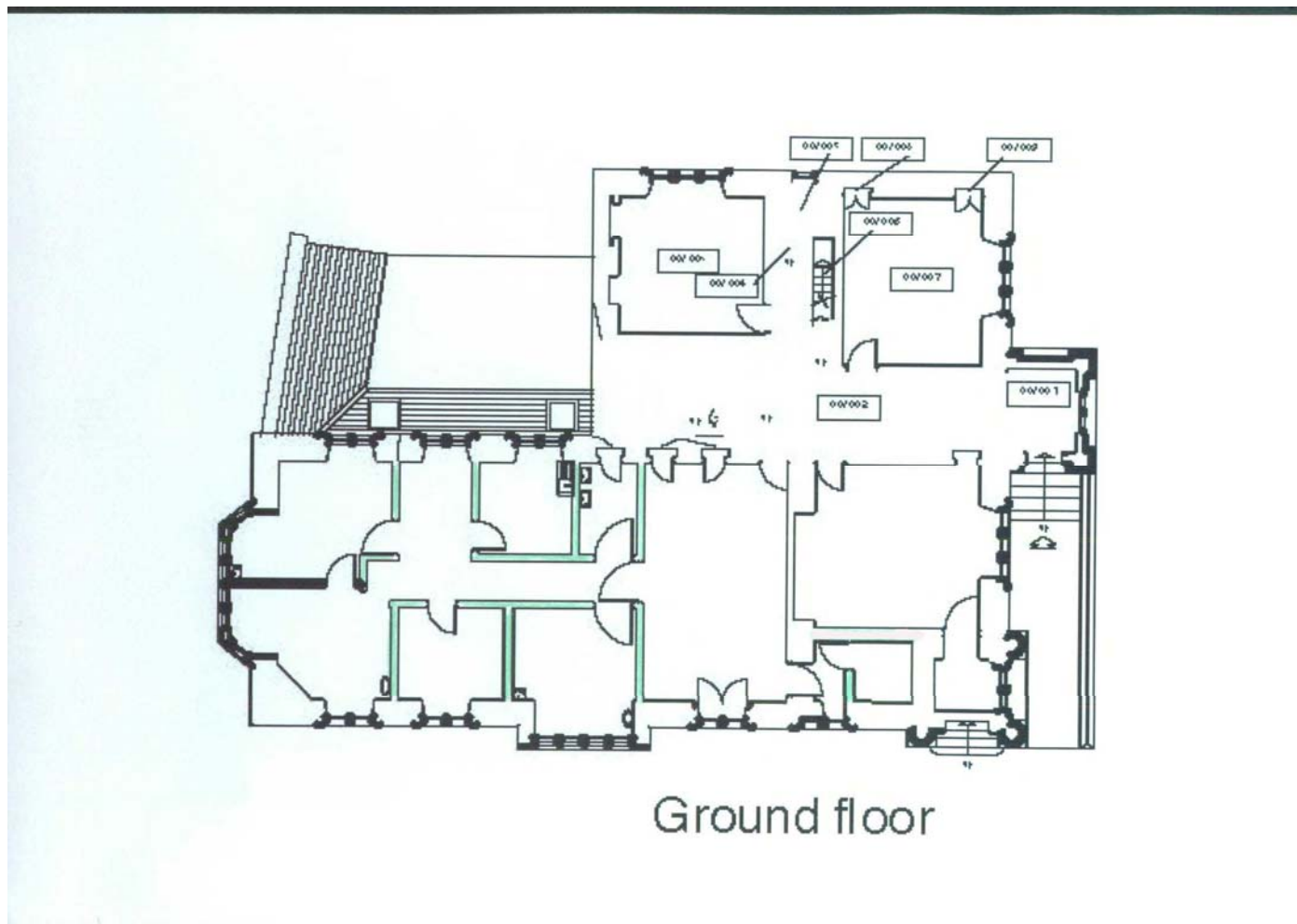
²⁷⁷ Ibid.4 March 1996

²⁷⁸ BRL: c1930 F29/768

²⁷⁹ Ibid. 1987 L67/41

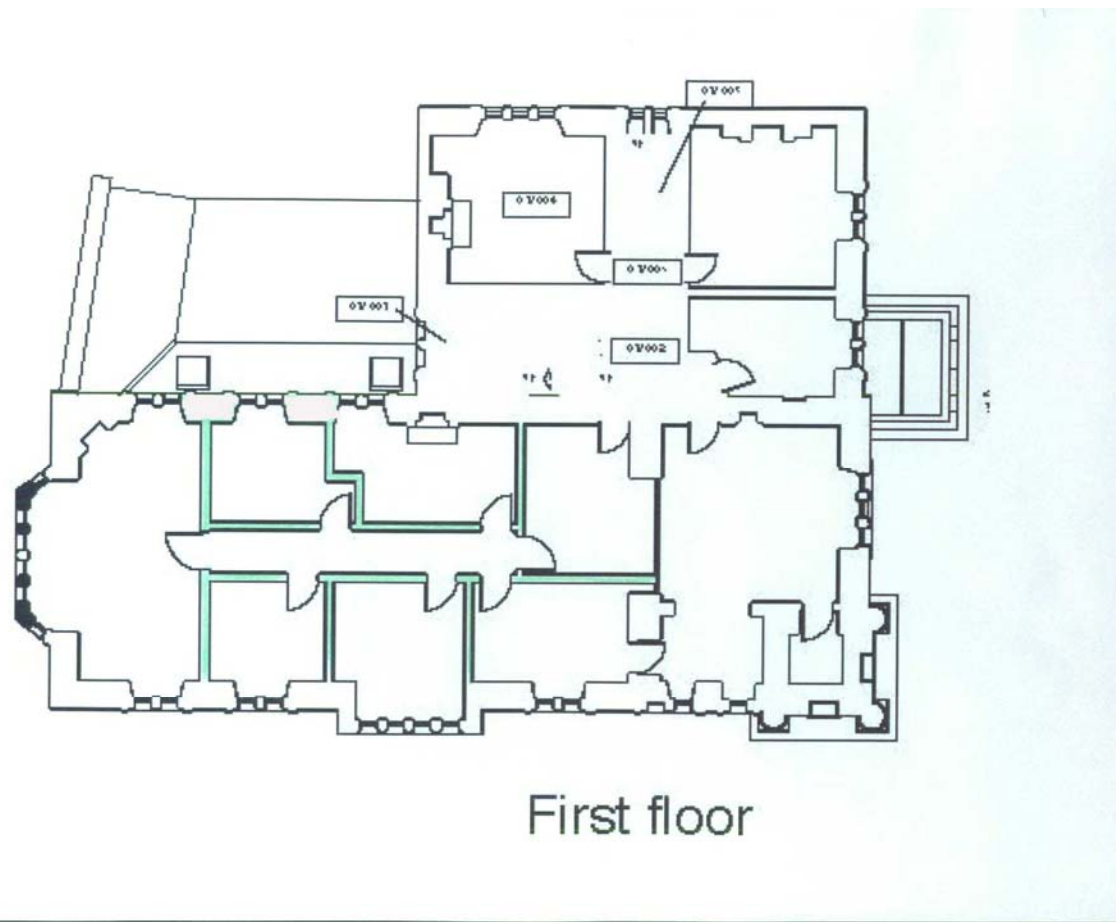


Bluecoat House – Ground Floor Plan 2007



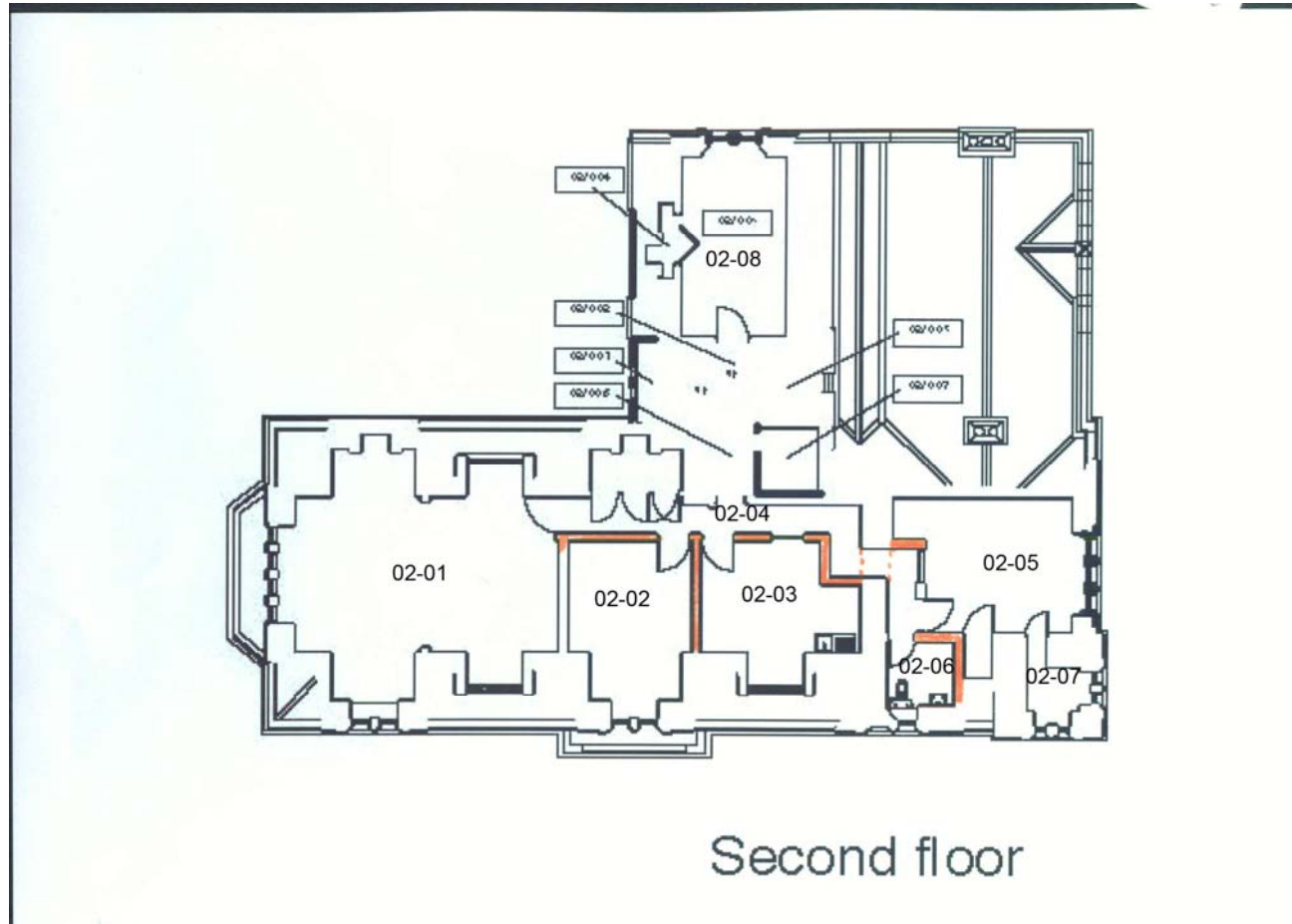
Green denotes 20th century partitions

Bluecoat House – First Floor Plan 2007



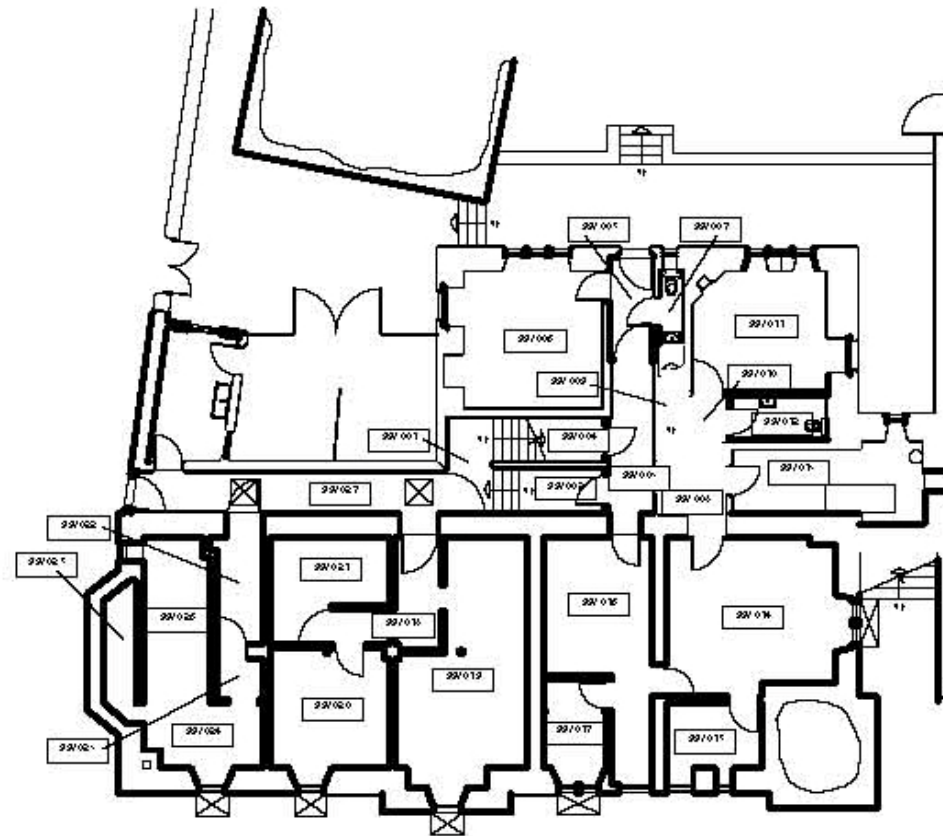
Green denotes 20th century partitions

Bluecoat House – Second Floor Plan 2007



Orange denotes 20th century partitions

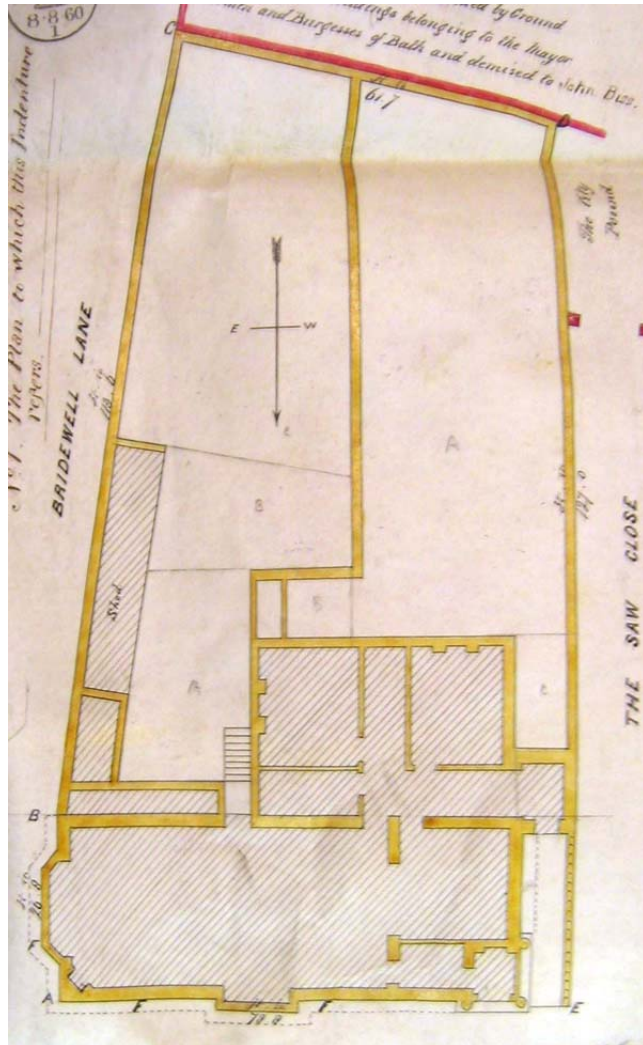
Bluecoat House – Basement Plan 2007



Basement

Bluecoat House 2007

The building is now empty, apart from a counselling service on the top floor and a number of rooms being used by the Council for storing files. It ranges over 3 above ground floors and a basement and sub-basement. The 2 large 19th century classrooms, now partitioned, were large, light and well ventilated.



An 1856 plan of the new school shows the large open classroom [00-01] with an open archway leading from the front room [00-02]. The clock tower [00-04] was originally the children's entrance, leading through what was probably a cloakroom [00-03] which led directly into the large classroom. The central window on the south side was then a doorway leading out to the playground down a flight of steps.

The main entrance was the one used today, leading into a vestibule and the main hall [00-05]. Mr Crowden's room was at the front [00-06], one of the only rooms with decoration, and there was a further room to the rear [00-07], probably that of Mrs Crowden. The 2 rooms were separated by the oak staircase leading up to the first floor and the second large classroom. Though not shown, there was probably a doorway behind the staircase leading out into the second playground. This way, the boys and girls would have been completely segregated, both in the classroom and the playground.

1856 Plan of The new Bluecoat School²⁸⁰

Most of the rooms still have the metal ventilator system below the windows. The arced handle operated a metal rod connected to a ventilator grille above the skirting board. Many of them are now behind later radiators. The classrooms were heated by fires, and a number of the bolection style moulded stone fireplaces are still extant. There is a fine Gothic stone fireplace in the headmaster's room on the ground floor.

The large transom windows are of 2 main types; ovolo mullion and flat. The schoolrooms have moulded stone mullions but the master's offices have wooden faces to the mullions. Some of the windows retain their strings which operated by pulley to open the top sections only.

²⁸⁰ CWS:1856 Plan of The new Bluecoat School

Many of the doors are 6 panelled; 3 top and 3 bottom panels, though several are copies of the originals. The two main rooms on the north side of the ground and first floor were connected by an open arch, though possibly with double doors and now filled with panelled sections. There is sparse decoration; this was a functional school, not residential. The Crowdens lived up on Lansdown and presumably though one or two of the teachers may have boarded on the top floor. There is a wooden dresser in the basement which gives one of the only clues as to where the kitchen may have been. There is no sign of a range or chimney, though there may be one behind some of the shelving units in the basement. It is possible that the children were not fed hot meals on the premises and there was no requirement for one.

The oak staircase is contemporary with the house, with carved finials on the newel posts and simple carved stops. The steps are oak and very worn, after more than 60 years as a school and then as offices. The large concrete staircase was inserted in the 1920s. The wrought iron balustrade and twisted oak banister are well designed and very similar to the staircase designed by Alfred Taylor for the Beau Nash cinema at around the same time. It is probable that he was commissioned to carry out the changes. Looking at the 1856 plan, there was almost certainly a second staircase here, possibly the main one used by the children, whilst the surviving staircase was used by the staff.

There is little decoration; the skirting is simple and there are few sections of decorated cornice, the headmaster's study [00-06] being an exception, though still very plain. The layout on the first floor is very similar to that below, with a large classroom and archway through to the front room [01-02]. The partitions in the large classroom were added later in the 20th century when the building became offices. There were 2 smaller rooms on the south side [01-06 & 01-07], probably for the use of the staff, and equipped with simple fireplaces. There was also a small room in the centre of the west front, without a fireplace.

The stairs up to the top floor were in the same location as the current stairs, replaced in the late 1920s, with a small room leading off a half landing [02-08]. Here there were either further classrooms or this was used by staff living in. There is no evidence of the children boarding, and several rules specified punishments for lateness or non attendance which further suggests it was a day school. The ceilings are high, taking advantage of the numerous gables, and the exposed timbers are simply chamfered with small carved stops. The 20th century partitioning has divided up the very generously sized schoolrooms into a series of small units.

There were originally 3 rooms, two of them with a fireplace. Later partitioning added a hallway and the fireplace for the central room, now [02-02 & 02-03] is inside a cupboard on the south wall. The stone, bolection moulded fire surround is identical to others in the building, though remaining unpainted, as the others probably once were. Room [02-03] has been further partitioned to create a passage through to the rear room [02-05] through a thick section of wall. This was partitioned in the 20th century to provide a small lobby leading to a w.c.

In the north-west corner of the building is the clock tower, with a small square room on each floor. The ground floor served as the entrance whilst the first floor [01-03] was probably a store cupboard. On the top floor room a door opens onto the clock tower itself [02-07], containing the clock mechanism. It appears to have once been enclosed,

but the windows have been broken and pigeons have got in, causing a lot of mess. The clock mechanism appears to be in fairly good order but it cannot have done it any good being exposed to the elements. It is in need of conservation and if repaired it would be an attractive and extremely useful feature for theatre goers and visitors to Saw Close in general. It could become a landmark for the area again.

The entrance hall [00-05] has a plaque to the Crowdens, the headmaster and headmistress for both schools. The arched entrance into the hall has been partitioned but would originally have been open. An elderly lady interviewed in the 1980s remembers washing the 'Roman pavement' in the entrance hall in c1912. The 1886 map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows it situated in the entrance hall. It is not clear what happened to the piece of tessellated pavement after the school closed, but there are references to it being relocated to the Roman Museum.

Whilst the rooms on the 2 upper floors were used for offices and storage, much of the former large classroom [00-01] was a dentists' practice. A number of partitions were inserted, 3/4s up the wall, leaving the ceilings untouched. One of the smallest rooms was used for taking X-rays. Much of the rest of the building is now used by Bath & North East Somerset Council as storage for its records, including the basement. It was difficult to assess where rooms in both the sub-basement and basement had been partitioned. Once all the shelving installed by the Council is removed, there will be a better idea of the original size of the rooms and the scope of this building. At the moment it is difficult to appreciate what the rooms looked like and how some were linked to each other. The basement is in a very poor state, with a warren of small rooms probably partitioned in the 20th century, many of them damp. Some of them have been used until recently and there is a reasonably modern kitchen in one room. Most of the windows are sashes, rather than mullions, and have security bars. The walls here are rubblestone. There is a passage at sub-basement level out onto Bridewell Lane, and a lean-to building against the south wall in this section.



Top Floor Clock Tower [02-07]



[

Top Floor Clock Tower

Room off clock tower
[02-05]



[02-05]



Window cut in wall [02-04]



20th century partition
[02-04]



Top floor office [02-03]



Passage [02-04]



Stone fireplace in
cupboard [02-04]



[02-04]



Main room fireplace [02-01]



Main room



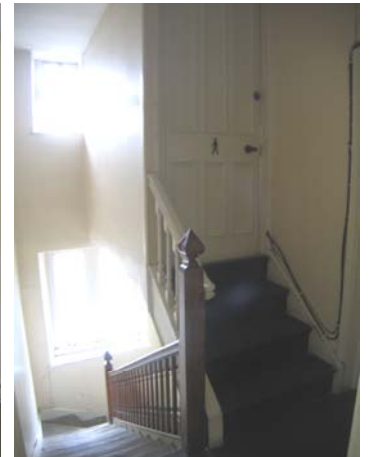
Office off top staircase [02-08]



Roof space off top staircase



First Floor Staircase





First Floor [01-01]



[01-02]





[01-06]



Oak staircase

Ground Floor



Ground Floor [01-05]

Ventilator system

Detail



Bolection moulded fireplace [01-02]



Deep doorway



Panelled archway [01-02]



Headmaster's Room [01-06]



Gothic fireplace [01-06]



Alcove cupboard [01-06]



Basement 19th century kitchen





Basement 19th century kitchen



Basement 20th century kitchen



Basement





Stone passage

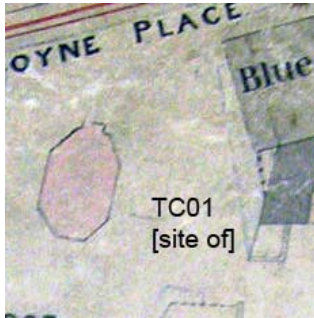


Barred window



Boiler Room

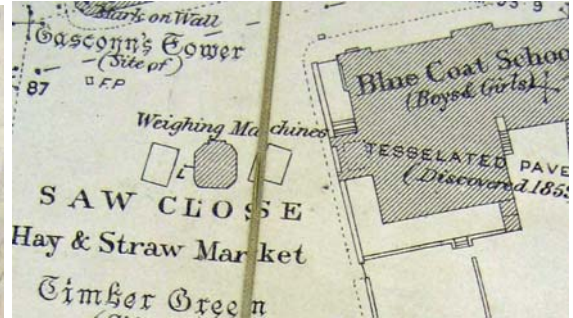
The c1890s Weighbridge Office [TC01]



1852



1859



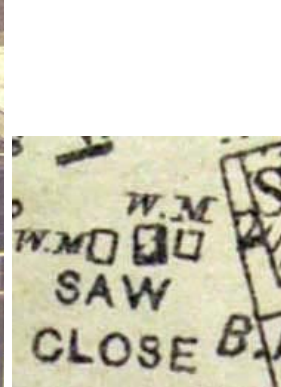
1886



1890



c1900



1904



1927



1930



1936



n.d.

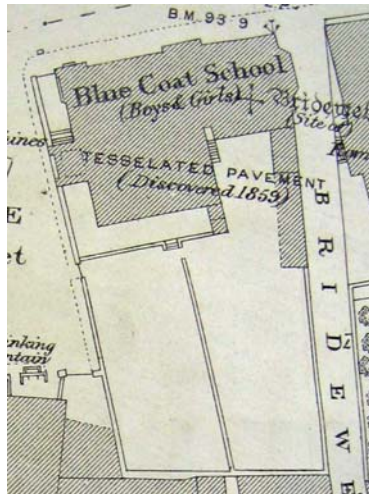


1987

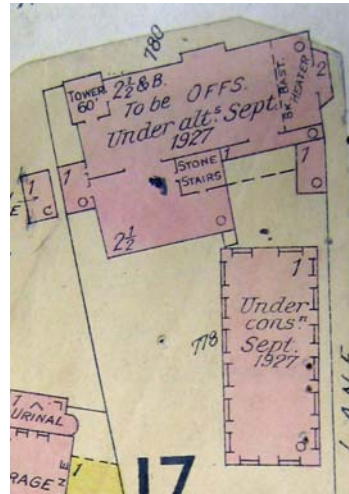
The current former weighbridge office is roughly on the site of Samuel Dawe's former house, to the west of the Bridewell, and later the first Charity school. There had been some form of weighing device in the market since the 17th century, the Council minutes often mentioning its existence. Cotterell's map shows a large octagonal weighing house to the west of the Charity school in 1852, but it was probably demolished when the new school was built 4 years later. The OS map of 1886 shows a smaller octagonal building flanked by weighing plates and it appears in an early photograph of the close.

Some time after 1904 the building and plates were removed and the current building erected closer to the Bluecoat school, probably to accommodate the additional traffic. The 1927 Goad map show the weighing office, but the market moved to Walcot Street in 1922 and it gradually became obsolete. By 1938 it had become part office, part lavatory. In 1987 a photograph shows it with new windows inserted in the west wall and today it is used by the car park attendants.

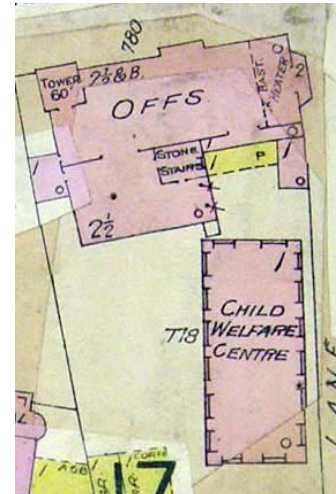
The 1927 Sawclose Clinic [HC01]



1886



1927



1958

The Saw Close Child Welfare Clinic was built on the site of the former playground behind the Bluecoat school. The 1927 Goad map (**Error! Reference source not found.**) shows the clinic under construction. It is a single storey rectangular ashlar building with high ceilings and high metal windows. There appear to be no deeds or planning records for this property. The 1927 structure remains though some of the partitions appear to be of later date. The reception area has modern windows inserted. There are a pair of scrolled brackets above the door supporting the canopy, but otherwise there is little original decoration.

In May 1961 the Corporation leased the car park to the south to Wessex Associated News Ltd (**Plate**) licensing them to use a portion of the car park to the south for loading newspapers between 2.30p.m. and 5.00 p.m. and from 2.30 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays for £125 per annum. The licence was renewed in 1980.²⁸¹

²⁸¹ CWS: 6 May 1961 & 20 Oct 1980



1927 Clinic north entrance



Looking south



W.C.



Kitchen



Treatment Room



Corridor



Treatment Room