

‘Sleddall Hall’ Wildman Street, Kendal.

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group (CVBG)

A survey undertaken by Clive Bowd & Mark Basey-Fisher 2015



Plate 1: ‘Sleddall Hall’ as photographed 2015.

Contents

‘Sleddall Hall’ Wildman Street, Kendal	1
‘Sleddall Hall’ and its setting	3
Introduction	3
Methodology used in the survey	4
The physical survey of the exterior elevations: The north elevation	5
Fig. 1: The north elevation	5
The west elevation	7
Fig. 2: The west elevation	7
The south elevation	11
Fig. 3: The south elevation and examples of trusses	11
The east elevation	13
Description of the interiors	14
Fig. 4: The ground floor	14
The North range facing onto Wildman Street	15
The south range facing the cobbled yard	17
Fig. 5: The first floor plan	21
The lofts	26
Documentary evidence used in aiding interpretation of the chronology	30
Fig. 6: ‘Sleddall Hall’. Map regression	32
The architectural changes: An interpretation	35
Phase 1 of the north range c.1550-1650	35
Phase 2 of the north range c.1650-1700	36
Phase 3 of the north range c.1700-1830	37
Phase 1 of the South Range c.1650-1700	39
Phase 2 of the South Range c.1700-1830	42
‘Sleddall Hall’, post 1830 to date	45
Summary	49
Tree-ring analysis results	52
Appendix 1: Sleddale Hall – extract from List entry 1390760.	54
Appendix 2: Castle Dairy – extract from List entry 1145642.	55
Bibliography	56

‘Sleddall Hall’ and its setting

‘Sleddall Hall’ is a Grade 11 *Listed building*, (entry no. 1390760), (see Appendix 1), located on the south side of Wildman Street diagonally opposite to Castle Dairy. The latter is a Grade 1 *Listed building*, (entry no. 1145642), (see Appendix 2), of national importance which has recently received a thorough programme of restoration, conservation and had an archaeological survey carried out by *Dan Elsworth, Greenlane Archaeology Ltd. (2010)*. More recently Castle Dairy has been completely re-roofed whilst at the same time having a series of dendrochronological samples taken to ascertain the construction phasing. The dating of the final roof form came out at c.AD1485, making this possibly the oldest upstanding house in Kendal. The significance of this is that along with Castle Dairy and a small cluster of other properties, ‘Sleddall Hall’ formed the nucleus of a tiny settlement that grew up alongside the river crossing of the Kent, at a point that later went on to become known as Wildman’s Gate *Speed, (1614)*. This settlement was to join with others in the area, such as Kirkland, to form in the post-medieval period that which we now recognize as Kendal. ‘Sleddall Hall’ presumably takes its name from Thomas Sleddall gent, a former burger of the town and the first modern mayor following the charter granted in 1635 to Kendal by Charles 1st. *Bingham, 257, (1995)*.

Introduction

This survey has been undertaken in order to attempt to ascertain the chronological dating sequence of the various phases to be seen within the structure known as ‘Sleddall Hall’. Due to restrictions on access, a full measured survey of the present structure has not been possible therefore reliance is placed on an earlier plan made by *Crispin Vyner-Brooks (c.2003)* at a scale of 1:100. Where possible the above measurements have been checked and added to, as the remit was different to that required now, the former having been drawn up for forward planning. The restrictions on access come about through the storage of bric-a-brac, packaging materials and antiques, the latter being the stock in trade of the present owners and traders Mr Andrew and Robert Aindow who conduct their antiques business from the premises. Further restrictions were encountered within the semi-derelict outbuildings that have functioned in the recent past as a pottery workshop with industrial size kilns being in situ along with further associated materials. Whilst these out-buildings form part and parcel of the curtilage of the property and are believed to be former two storey Victorian weaver’s cottages (pers. comm. Andrew Aindow), they have been omitted from this survey for the present on account of restricted access and that they do not come within the remit of the present study, which is the vernacular aspect of the property. With the above in mind, the plans included here clearly show those areas measured by us marked in black, and those areas seen by us but not measured, in red.

Our thanks for permission to undertake this survey go to Andrew and Robert Aindow, as does our appreciation for all the added insights into the more recent history of the property and the numerous cups of tea that helped to keep us going!

Methodology used in the survey

Whilst in a perfect world a fully measured survey would have been undertaken using the latest laser scanning and measuring tools, this option was not open to us both on account of cost and lack of the technical knowledge involved. However, under the conditions encountered, such equipment would have proved inoperative in all likelihood and reduced the information gleaned from old fashioned measurement by tapes, rules and the observation that goes along with being up close and personal to the fabric of the building.

Along with the drafting of a ground plan and first floor plan at a scale of 1:100, we endeavoured to survey the loft areas in order to record the architectural features, specifically the construction of the roof timbers and chimney stacks. Whilst conducting these actions we made copious notes and took many photographs. Added to this we questioned Robert and Andrew on various aspects of the changes that have quite clearly been undertaken, in particular repairs to the front roof timbers, re-roofing and the re-ceiling of the large upper workshop/store space. Please note that the rooms shown on the plans have been allocated a floor letter and number, F for first floor and G for ground floor, to identify them. Additionally, and shown in brackets, the present use of the rooms is shown for ease of identification. Scaled sections incorporated in the elevation drawings have been kept to a scale of 1:100, in keeping with the plans, and show the property as at this moment in time.

Initially we checked and measured the exterior elevations, compared the results with the earlier plan and made any necessary changes (a major difference being the space in the ground floor rear entrance passage). This last observation was to have knock-on effects on the first floor survey results. We photographed all aspects of the elevations and features and where possible noted the types and positioning of the fenestration along with any reduced or blocked windows and doors. The surfaces of the yard and ginnel were also noted along with associated drains. Access was gained to the narrow space between the south gable and the adjoining property, where alterations to the fenestration and former openings were recorded. The covered yard and kiln area to the east of the property was also looked at briefly, but access and safety issues made a thorough survey difficult. We therefore settled for a visual survey along with more photographs to confirm the earlier surveyed plan. Moving to the interior, we initially looked over those areas freely accessible and assessed the possibility of improving on the earlier survey whilst acquainting ourselves with the physical layout and any architectural features that could aid dating. It soon became apparent the restrictions would make an in-depth survey not possible, so an overview along with selected observations would have to be settled on pending future access becoming available.

The roof spaces proved another obstacle, with that over the front of the building not having any lighting or skylights, along with the lack of flooring, making observation difficult. This aside, a photographic record of sorts was made and the changes to the timbers and chimney stacks noted. The rear roof spaces however are lit and partially floored, but reliance on the latter is insufficient to allow freedom of movement. Like the front roof space, a photographic record was made along with notes being taken and some measurements, where deemed safe

to do so. Particular attention was paid to the trusses and chimney stacks, the latter showing crude alterations.

Drawing on the above, and along with further closer inspection over several visits, a report now follows which gives a chronological sequence of events and phases for the building based upon our findings. These findings will be sadly lacking in finer details due in part to restrictions of access, but also to the partial removal, and in some areas covering up, of datable features during the many changes that have been carried out in the property over more recent years. Work on the documentary paper chase will it is hoped throw more light on the building's past, in particular the owners and tenants, but no great hope is placed on this. Map recession covering the past four hundred years has helped with the footprint and curtilage, but more might be forthcoming in this area with further study.

The physical survey of the exterior elevations: The north elevation

Fig. 1: The north elevation

Sleddall Hall, Wildman Street, Kendal.
North elevation drawing. Scale 1:100.
Clive R. Bowd. CVBG. 24/09/15.



The main elevation of the building as we see it today faces north onto Wildman Street, a busy access road into Kendal, thereby providing passing trade. This north elevation is set back from the properties either side (which dwarf it), and comprises of random rubble mass walling utilising the local stone available, mainly limestone and various odd stones that have come from the glacial till. There is a slight difference in the size and construction of the stone to the left hand two bays, some coursing being evident. Portland cement appears to have been used in re-pointing the stonework. The frontage is five bays with four equal sized and spaced sash windows (minus horns) with twelve panes apiece on the first floor with a fifth fixed,

smaller in dimensions, over the ginnel, (the local name for an access passage). The wooden lintels are protected by roofing slates nailed to them, (a common local answer to the inclement weather experienced in this part of the country). At ground level the present shop (No. 5) is entered via the smaller of the two front doors, of six panel construction it has had the four top panels removed and glazed. The large brass letter-box has the name 'Sleddall Hall' engraved upon it. Immediately to the left of this door is another larger one of four panel construction the upper panels again glazed. This door is now not used, but along with the adjoining shop window, made up of eighteen panes (one of which used to open), is contained under a single timber fascia bearing the name of the business, to give further importance to this window, moulded timber pillar-like jambs extend to the ground (see plate 2 below).



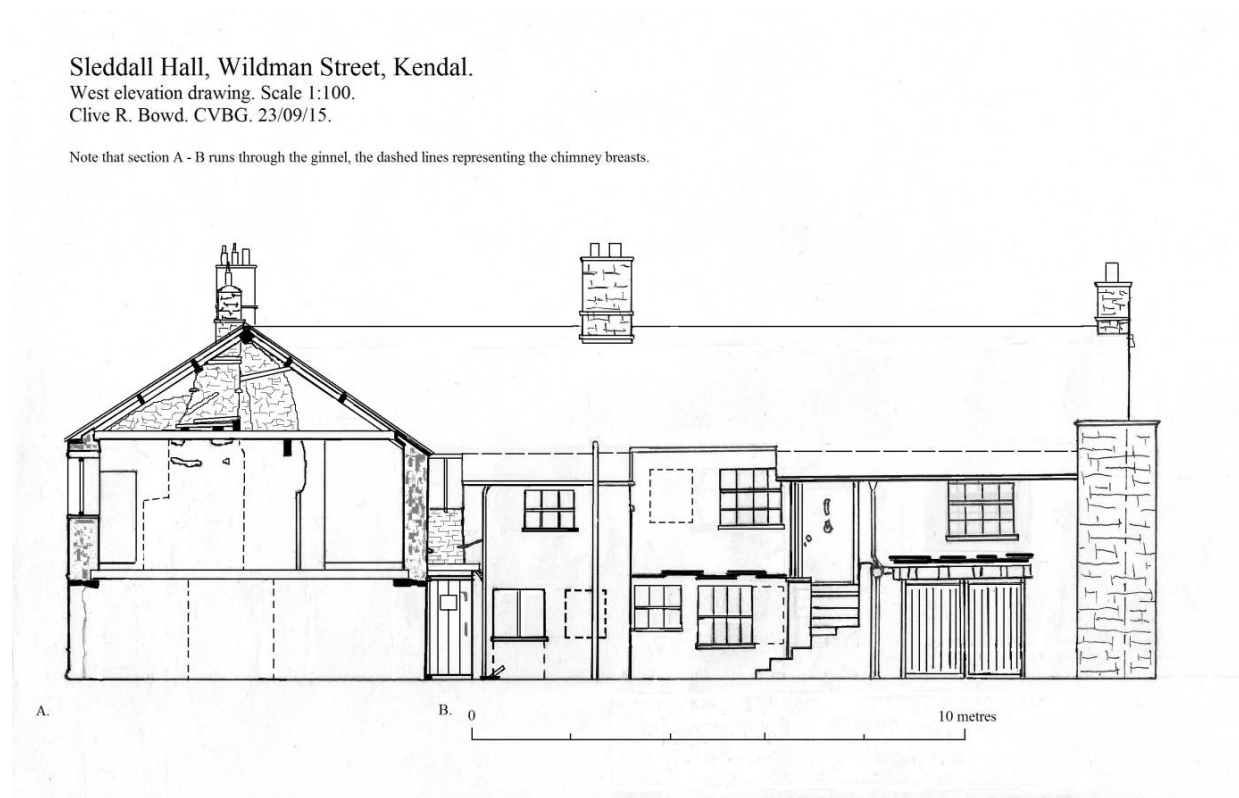
Plate2: Detail of timber fascia and moulding to window & door.

To the right of the present entrance is another multi-paned shop window, this being comprised of twenty panes, but smaller overall than the left-hand one. A little to the right of this is yet another fixed multi-paned window, this one vertical with twelve panes and with pintles to take outside shutters (now missing). The entrance to the ginnel is on the extreme right, again with slates protecting the timber lintel in the same manner as above the windows. This ginnel, paved with cobbles, passes under the upper floor of the property giving access to

the yard beyond and is a public right of way. Along the frontage of the building can be seen a large boulder plinth that acts as the footings, only stopping short where the larger shop door and window has been inserted. The roof is made up of diminishing courses of Cumbrian slate under a sandstone ridge, it having been re-roofed by the present owners. Two chimney stacks are evident, that to the left rectangular, stone, with cement render and three pots standing astride the ridge, it oversails the rear aspect of the adjoining property. The chimney to the right is rounded and made of stone on a square base with one pot, forward of the ridge. Both chimney stacks exhibit drip moulds. Cast iron rainwater goods serve the front elevation, a downpipe being located between the two front doors. The western gable is closed off and overshadowed by what used to be a brewery.

The west elevation

Fig. 2: The west elevation



Due to the ground-plan of the property, it being made up of a rear south range forming an offset T, the above drawing (Fig. 2) includes a section through the ginnel, thereby showing the construction of the west chimney in the north range facing onto Wildman Street.

The ginnel (see plate 3 below) walls are lime-washed, the stone beneath showing through as undulating surfaces, again, made up of random rubble. The floor surface was comprised of waterworn cobbles set in sand and grit, much the same as the cobbled yard, (this having been excavated and washed out by the flooding caused by Storm Desmond in December 2015, salvaged and awaiting relaying). This event allowed close inspection of the footings, which like the front elevation, comprises of a boulder plinth set directly on the glacial till. These boulders are set no more than an average of 15cms into the substrate and take the full loading of the building, the walls being built of an inner and outer skin filled with rubble with no through stones evident. Set into the western side of the ginnel is a row of roughly chamfered stone corbels supporting the floor above. There are no openings or other features to be seen in the ginnel, except for a shallow rebate at its north-east end, the ceiling being modern and encapsulating the floor joists above.



Plate 3: The ginnel looking north, prior to damage caused by Storm Desmond. Note the stone corbels.

Upon entering the cobbled yard, the complex nature of the western elevation to the south range can be appreciated. The walls have all been lime-washed and appear to be of random rubble construction beneath. To the extreme left on the ground floor is the present recessed entry to the ground floor, under a graduated Cumbrian slate roof, between the northern advanced bay and the north facing range (see plate 4). A solid door with vertical planks and a later inserted glazed window confronts you. The area in front of the door is paved with flagstones. To the left, in the yard, is one of two stone drains, this one serving the sink in the small kitchen in the shop, the other to the right, the sink in the present toilet. The modern metal framed casement window to the right also serves the toilet and is located where there was once a door. To the right is a blocked window aperture, only visible from within the toilet area. A stink pipe and waste pipe, along with the cast-iron downpipe from the gutters above, festoon this advanced bay. The first floor level exhibits a six paned timber mullioned window, simple plain chamfers, with a central metal framed opening casement. The upper floor facing south of this advanced bay contains a small single paned timber framed window.

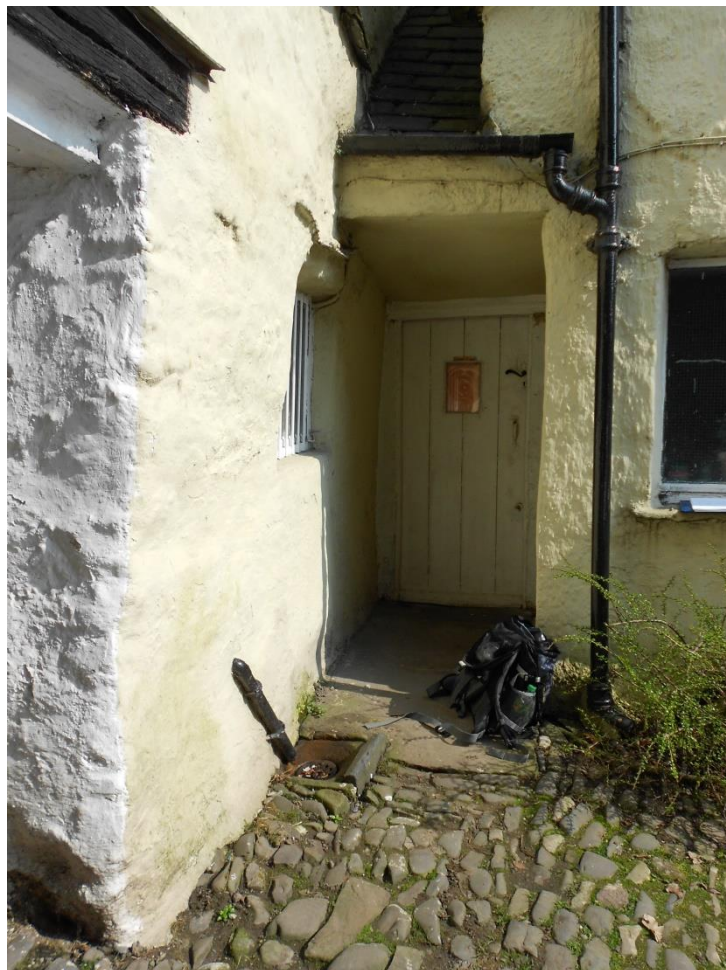


Plate4: The rear door. Note the flagstones and stone drain cover.

Next comes a recessed bay with two windows, the one to the left being of six panes with plain timber chamfered transoms and mullions, the right being deeper of eight panes and sashed, but from the interior it can be seen that this window has been reduced by two panes in width. Both windows are served by a continuous string course in slate forming a crude drip

mould. To the right of these windows is a temporary door leading to a lobby under the projecting outside stair. This lobby in turn gives access to the central area on the ground floor. The outside stair (plate 5) of stone, brick and concrete rises to the first floor and forms a projection at the northern end of the southern advanced bay that houses a pair of modern garage doors under another crude slate drip mould (see plate 6). The timber lintel to the garage doors is hung with slates. There is now a stone buttress-like extension (incorporating some brick) that houses a security gate restricting access to the southern elevation of the property and separating it from the modern garage business that closes off the curtilage to the south. Over the garage doors of the south range is a large twelve paned window, the upper four panes being a sash. To the left of this is the upper landing served by the exterior stair and giving access to two doors set at right angles to each other. These doors exhibit stout vertical planks and are painted white, that facing, giving entry to the recessed bay, carries the number 2, (see plate 9) the one to the right, giving access to the southern advanced bay, the number 3. Both doors have matching vertical cast-iron letter boxes with openings approximately 4 inches high x 1 inch wide embossed LETTERS. Number 2 also has a drop shaped knocker, a cast-iron octagonal knob and a very nice shield shaped keyhole escutcheon. Number 3 meanwhile has a thumb-latched integral cast-iron handle with back-plate. The open landing is partially enclosed by a timber balcony rail with nine spindles and terminating in a post that in turn supports the projecting roof, all square in profile. To the left of the landing is a twelve paned window, again with the top four sashed like that over the garage and tucked in under the eaves. To the left of this is the ghost of a blocked window, its outline showing up in certain light conditions.



Plate5: The access stair.

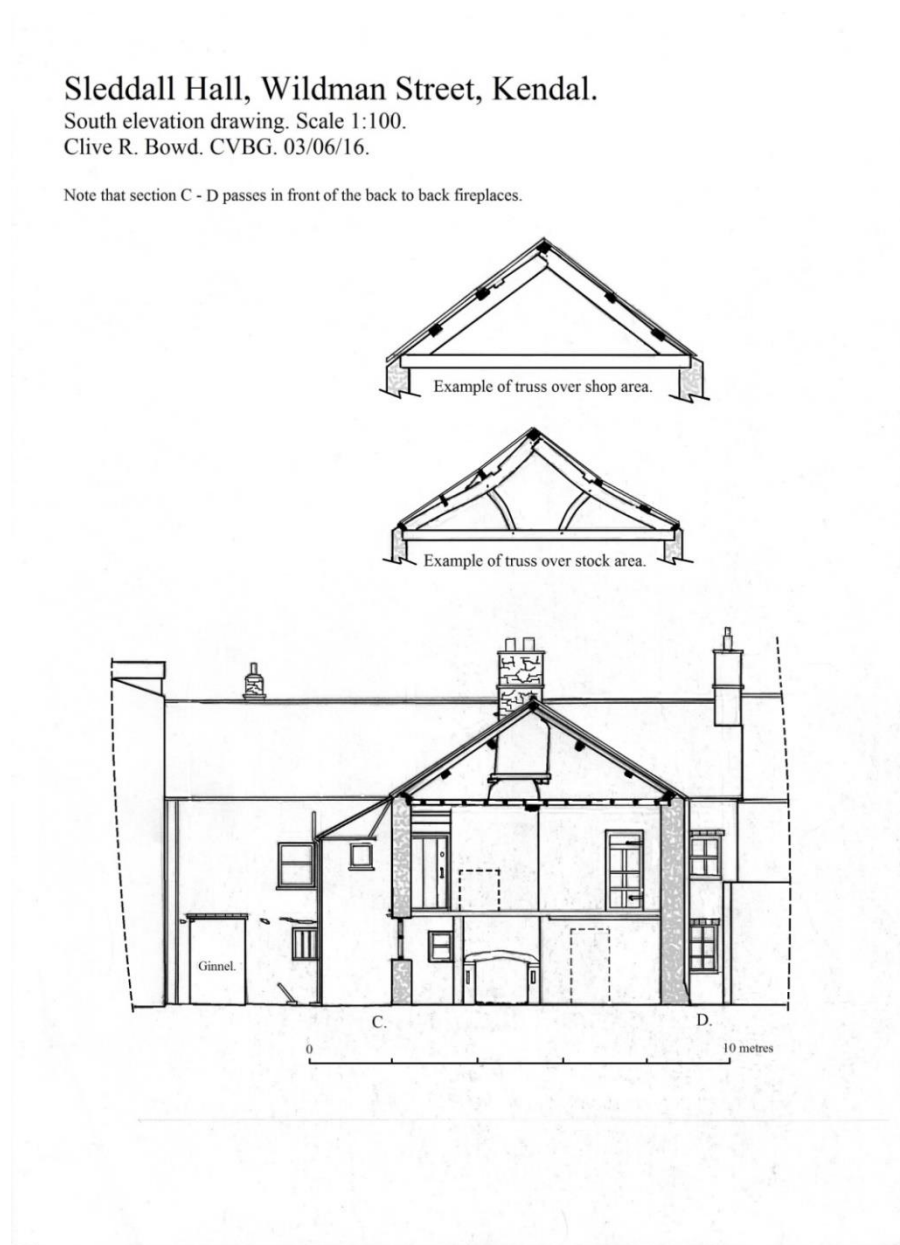


Plate6: The garage doors.

The roof on the western aspect of the south range is of graduated Cumbrian slate, the angle being slightly reduced where it extends out over the advanced bays. The ridge is again of sandstone. Two stone chimney stacks are seen on the south range the left one of the two (see plate 6 above) being rectangular and carrying two pots has been rebuilt. This stack serves the back to back fireplaces at the junction of the northern advanced bay and the recessed central bay. The right stack is again rectangular, carries just one central pot and is flush with the southern gable wall. Both stacks have stone drip courses. A single skylight is located towards the southern end of the range.

The south elevation

Fig. 3: The south elevation and examples of trusses



The south elevation of the southern range is not easy of access, or easily viewed, it being enclosed by a security gate to the west and a wall to the east. The above drawing (fig. 3) shows a section through the south range just in front of the back to back fireplaces, the south gable being of little interest. Note the ginnel giving access to the cobbled yard, and the northern advanced bay of the south range. From this drawing it can be seen how the front northern range is sandwiched between the taller neighbouring properties that have been butted up to it. The south facing elevations of the northern range have been lime-washed, that is apart from the section to the right of the south range. Both the windows to the right of the ginnel are modern the lower one appears to be replacing a door. The small window in the northern advanced bay also appears to be a modern replacement. The two windows to the right of the southern range are of interest in that they are built into a chamfered space at the rear of the northern range where it butts up to the southern. Whilst they are both of six panes, the upper window appears to be a bodged alteration to a timber mullioned window with plain chamfers, much the same as those already noted. This particular window has a central top pane housed in a metal frame that opens. The lower window is a modern replacement.



Plate7: The south elevation gable showing the reduced upper window, drip mould and chimney.

The south gable (see fig. 7 above) of the southern range presents a blank face almost, the stone of the random rubble wall being crudely pointed up, more akin to Scottish harling. Just two windows give its austere finish any interest. The upper window is located top right and is of twenty panes, five wide, the upper ten forming a casement. But this is not its original size,

clearly having been at least a third wider and a little deeper. The lower window too has been reduced in size and is a modern replacement. This window, however, appears to be in a blocked up aperture wide enough to have contained double doors. The chimney stack is a little off centre of the apex of the gable and flush with the exterior of the wall. A few protruding stones can be seen below with a stone drip mould above. Immediately to the right of the chimney stack and tucked in under the roof, is a tiny window now blocked. This is barely visible from the outside. A stone plinth is located along the base of the wall for much of its length.

The east elevation

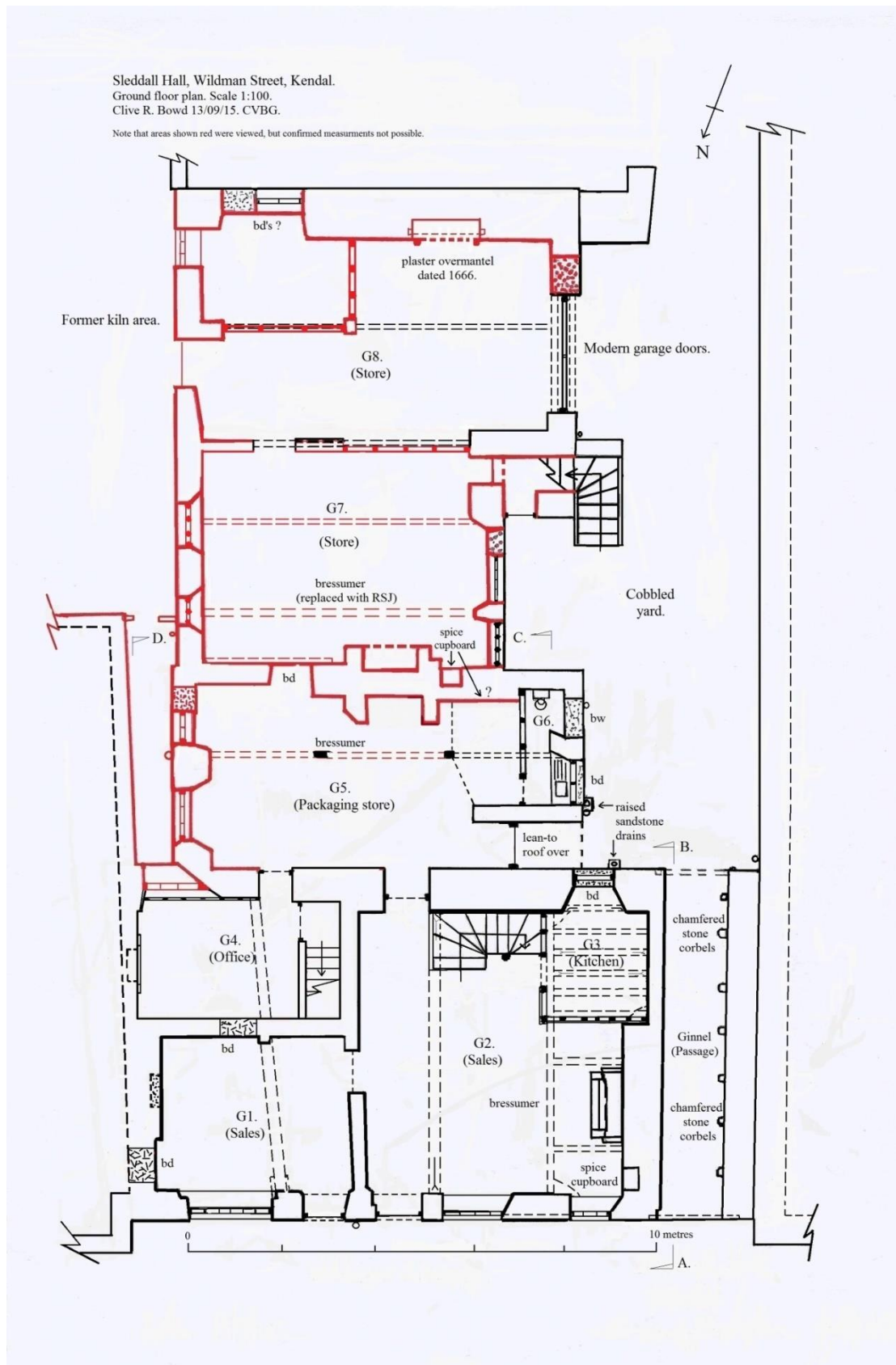
This elevation has in part been built up against, a pottery kiln area, along with storage, and workshop areas under a flat asbestos roof making close inspection difficult therefore no elevation drawing has been prepared. The walls are of random rubble with no lime-render or whitewash visible. A single door aperture is present in the ground floor towards the southern end of the range that gives access to the former kiln area. To the left of this is a window with a modern frame. In the central area are two further windows, both exhibit plain chamfered mullions and jambs. Another two windows occupy the northern end of the range, both with what appear to be modern frames. On the upper floor there are four windows, the most southern of them, modern, the remainder, timber mullioned with plain chamfers. Where timber lintels are exposed they have been faced with slates. A slight plinth to the base of the wall can be seen in places, along with a shallow return towards the northern end. The outside ground area here is mainly concreted over. The roof is of graduated Cumbrian slate served by cast-iron rainwater goods. The most notable feature is the treatment of the northeast corner where it meets the north range (plate 8). Here the corner has been built with a chamfered face rising through the full two storeys, stopping under the eaves on a level with the top of the upper window.

Plate8: The east elevation of the south range where it meets the north range. Note the chamfered corner with the two south facing windows tucked into the return.



Description of the interiors

Fig. 4: The ground floor



The North range facing onto Wildman Street

G2. Upon entering the front of the building from Wildman Street you come straight into G2, the former firehouse, the present main sales area (see fig. 4 above). Opposite is a solid timber door, with a rounded top, giving access to the south range. This is a modern sham specially commissioned by the present owners, secured to an earlier door. To the right of this door is an open plain timber winder stair, the area below forming a cupboard accessed from G3. The lower two steps of this stair appear to be edged with stone. Next to the under-stairs cupboard is a fine eight panelled door complete with iron thumb-lever latched door handle and iron spear-headed strap hinges hung on iron pintles. This gives access to G3, the kitchen. Above this door and used to clad the former heck, the partition wall between the kitchen and the fireplace, is 17th century square panelling. This panelling, along with the door, is said to have come from the northeast corner area of F5 in the south range, (per. com. Andrew Aindow). Alongside the stairs an octagonal timber pillar with top runout stops and a square plinth, tapering from 16cms at the top to 20cms at the bottom, supports the floor joists above.

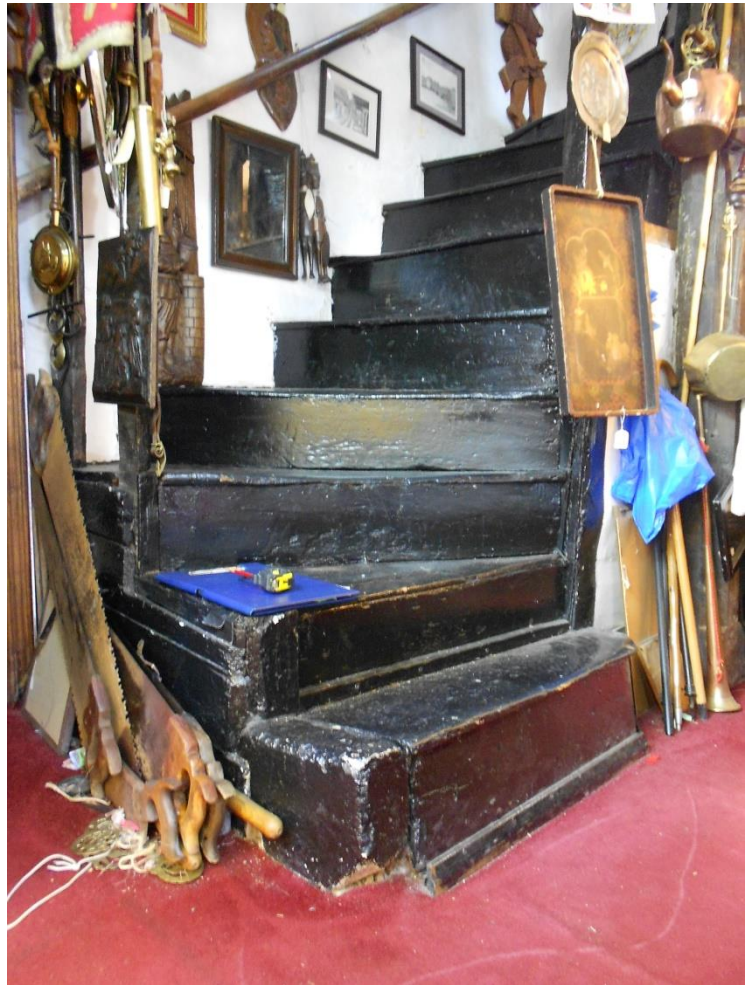


Plate9: The winding stair in G2.

The fireplace area contains the traditional layout of a central stone flagged hearth with a spice cupboard to the right and a fire window in the front wall. A rather rough beam acts as a bressumer extending the full width of the room, including G3, from which two transverse timbers are secured into the rear wall, the former fire-hood supports. Several dowel holes are to be seen on the front of the bressumer facing into the room. The fireplace itself has been remodelled by the present owners, the top half of a salvaged stone door surround with crenelated top, initials and date (RD. 1669) now fronts the inserted stone chimney breast. This has been brought in from outside the area. The timber lined spice cupboard (see plate 10 below) exhibits a dowelled frame with scratch mouldings and a plain door with iron butterfly hinges and a wooden lock. The butterfly hinges do not match, the upper having acute angles and four nails securing each element, the lower, more rounded ‘wings’ secured by three nails

to each element. Within the northeast corner of the hearth area, a diagonal timber gives added support to the floor timbers above, (the same expedient can be seen used in the kitchen, G3).



Plate10: The spice cupboard. Note the non-matching butterfly hinges.

Within the main part of the room a massif chamfered spine beam with runout stops attracts attention, 28cms deep x 30cms wide. A section of ceiling, along with the floor above, has been removed in front of the rear door. This extension of the stairwell reveals the sawn off roughly chamfered joists along with the lath and plaster ceiling. Tucked into the corner above the rear door a scratch moulded piece of coving like fascia can be seen. The floor is stone flagged and a slight groove should be noted in line with the spine beam. The room height averages 203cms. Along with the fire-window, the firehouse is lit by a twenty paned fixed shop window to the street and also gains further light from the inserted glazing in the front door.

G3 the kitchen, is accessed via the door next to the fireplace and was presumably the mell leading to the firehouse. This space is now enclosed, a modern single-paned window above the sink providing natural light, this being a former door. The partition wall to the right is made up of studs, lath and plaster and formed the heck to the fireplace in G2. A basic plank door shuts off the under-stairs cupboard. The floor is stone flagged, the centre flags being recent replacements. The ceiling is lower than that in the firehouse, an average of 195cms, and shows the underside of the floor above along with a mix of plain and chamfered joists with runout stops. Within the southeast corner another diagonal supporting timber can be seen. In the northwest corner is to be seen a mass of stone protruding from the rear wall. It

should be noted that the rear wall backing onto the ginnel at this point is somewhat thinner than elsewhere.

G1 the smaller sales area, is the former parlour and is entered from the firehouse via a modern glazed door. This room is lit by the large horizontal fifteen-paned shop-window to the street. Further light and display space is provided by the defunct front door. Modern built-in glazed display units line the south wall, concealing a blocked door that formerly gave access to the room behind. Another blocked door is concealed in the recess in the northeast corner. On the east wall is a blocked fireplace whilst a boarded in beam, central to the room, carries the floor above. A suspended timber floor of modern construction sits on joists set directly on the ground surface below. The average ceiling height is 200cms.

G4 the office, is no doubt where the buttery was. This room is now entered via the rear packaging store, G5, through a plank and battened door. No evidence of the blocked door to the front sales area was noted. The room is lit by a modern window in the southeast corner set within the deeply chamfered south wall. Below this window and forming a window seat, is solid bevelled panelling with moulded framing. Extending beyond this to the door is vertical plank wainscoting to waist height, all is painted white. Set into the east wall is a cast-iron hob grate (badly broken) with an oven (see plate 11), the flat projecting fire surround made of stone capped with a simple plain mantel-shelf, all painted white. This surround fronts a brick built arch to the fireplace. A simple plank door in the partition wall gives access to the inserted back-stair leading to the upper floor. Across the middle of the room is the continuation of the large ceiling joist seen boarded over in G1. The walls and ceiling are plastered, the floor, stone flagged.



Plate 11: The broken hob-grate in G4.

The south range facing the cobbled yard

G5, the packaging store, contains another former open hearth, the crudely cut bressumer extending the full length of the room and given added support by two rustic timber posts. The hearth is now enclosed and forms a back to back fireplace with that in G7. Reduced access

made close inspection not possible. To the left of the fireplace is a blocked door, formerly giving access to G7. On the right of the fireplace is a spice cupboard according to the owners, but this could not be seen at the time of the survey visits. The room is lit by two windows in the eastern wall, both with modern frames, the right hand one apparently reduced. Access to this room is via the rear door from G2 which passes through what appears to be a thick external wall. Another solid plank and batten door serves the rear entry into the cobbled yard. A third door gives access to the office whilst a fourth serves the partitioned off area which now functions as a toilet for the shop, G6. This is a good seven panelled door identical in design to that serving F4 on the first floor, but there is doubt as to their origins. The ceiling is plastered but shows signs of having had a partition closing off a larger area at this point going from the wall next to the fireplace, via the west bressumer supporting post, to the wall dividing the back-door from the north range, (see F4, the ground-floor plan). This room too has a stone flagged floor.

G6 The present toilet.

Within this small space can be seen the continuation of the bressumer from G5. The partition stud wall is of modern construction. A toilet and sink unit now service this area, the present modern window filling the upper part of a former door aperture. To the left of this is a blocked window. The floor is stone flagged.

G7. This area now serves as a general store, but was formerly the pottery workshop. Restricted access made this area particularly difficult to survey. Entry is through a small lobby under the exterior stairs in the cobbled yard via two modern doors. The west wall contains two windows the northern one being a timber plain chamfered frame, with six panes, matching those already noted, the southern is a modern eight paned window with a shallow splay on the left side and a blocked section. In the east wall are two further timber framed windows with plain chamfered mullions. A broad, crudely, chamfered ceiling joist with hacked surfaces spans the room, another deeper joist fronts the fireplace on the north wall and replaces a former bressumer. This beam is in fact a covered in RSJ (according to the present owners). To the right of the fireplace a further joist can be seen tight up against the wall, cut off short.



Plate12: The spice cupboard in G7.

A patch of plaster appears to plug a mortice hole at the western end of this joist. To the left of the fireplace is a spice cupboard with a scratch moulded and pegged frame containing a single shelf, the door is missing. The fireplace is enclosed in stone? The timber lintel is a bulky, cambered, rustic piece bridging the full width of the breast, in turn supported on plain projecting timber corbels. Built into the supporting jambs each side is a small vertical keeper slot facing into the room. The hearth is made from rounded pebbles laid on edge. The ceiling is plastered, the floor concrete. No sign of the blocked door to G5 is to be seen, it being plastered over. In the south wall a modern door leads through to G8. Above this door another heavy joist can be seen, plus what appears to be a reused timber acting as a lintel, the surface hacked to take plaster.



Plate13: G7: showing the central hacked joist, the lintel of the fireplace and the reduced window.

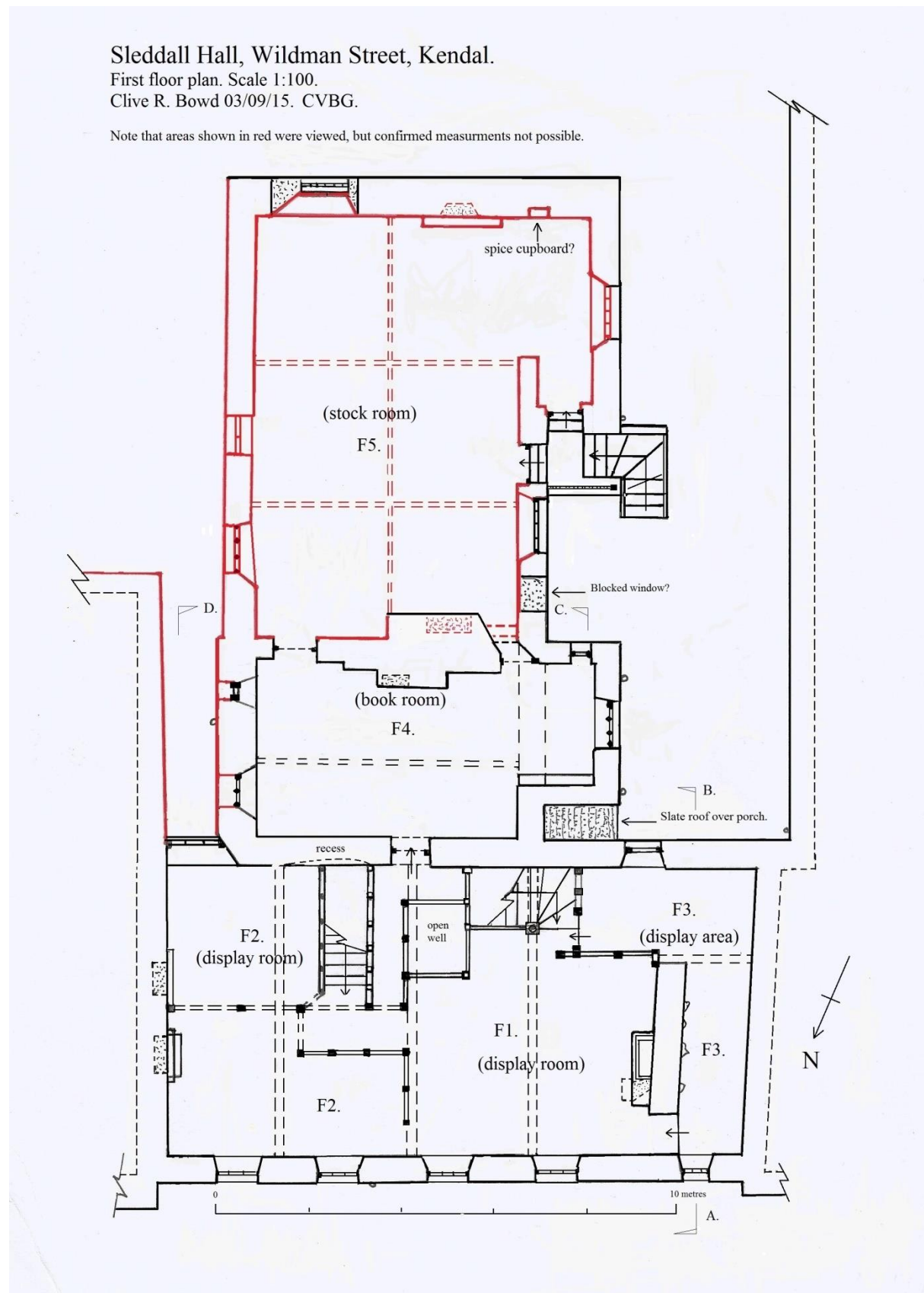
G8 The larger store and the plastered dated overmantel. This area is accessed from the modern garage doors in the cobbled yard, the opening having been reduced. Another opening opposite gives access to the former kiln area. The south east corner of this area has been partitioned off to form a toilet and kitchen area, itself lit by a window with a plain chamfered mullioned frame in the east wall, and a modern window in the south wall, this being set into a semi blocked door aperture. Access issues again made survey difficult. Set flush into the south wall, but offset, is a fireplace, the rustic timber lintel supported on diagonal pillars of brick set slightly forward of the wall. This lintel in turn supports another heavy (fire charred) timber lintel. Above this is a damaged plaster panel overmantel, apparently in situ (see plate 14). The horizontal panel (measuring some 130cms. x 60cms. approx.) has four ribbed lines

forming a border within which it is divided up into three sections by a central shield containing the inscription F over IM over the date 1666, itself enclosed in a larger shield shaped like cartouche. To right and left are three registers containing different designs, the upper has what look like acorns and bulbs with leaves and a linear linked cyma recta running through all, the centre is made up of scrolled hearts on their sides, back to back, with four linked circles between more acorns? The bottom register has two standing birds, a hawk and a martlet on either side of a fleur de ley on the left and another fleur de ley on the right, but this time with what appear to be a sitting mouse and possibly a sitting lion either side. All is covered in a heavy white lime-wash, or emulsion, making identification of the animals somewhat difficult. Within the plastered fireplace on either side, facing into the fire, are two vertical keeper holes. The ceiling is plastered, the floor concrete.



Plate 14: Decorated plaster overmantel dated 1666 and carrying the initials F over IM.

Fig. 5: The first floor plan



Description of the first floor

F1 display area. This is the present main first floor display area for the shop set within the north range. The room is served by the winder stair from G2 on the ground floor, the upper section turning round a continuation of the hexagonal post that is now square in section, and supports one of the two ceiling joists to be seen. A timber stud partition wall closes off the top of the stair from F3, another forming a screen to the fireplace. An opening between the two gives access via a step down into F3. The stair well has been opened up further, and extended into the room, by removing a section of the floor and closing it off with simple bannisters and hand rails. The east wall of the room is another stud partition, fixed to the other ceiling joist. This partition has two openings in it, the northern one giving access to F2, the southern one serving an inner hall leading again to F2, but also the secondary staircase and a landing giving access to F4 and the railed-off open staircase well (plus access to the main loft). Two vertical 12 paned sash windows, without horns, supply light to the room. On the west wall a plastered-over chimney stack rises in two stages to the ceiling with an attached, blocked, fireplace to the right, its flue set at a right-angle feeding into its larger neighbour, forming a canted mantle. These last two features are all painted white and blend together, the small fireplace having a stone hearth set flush in the floor. To the right of the chimney stack another opening gives access via a step down into F3. The average ceiling height is 230cms. The floor is laid with butt edged boards pegged into place, varying in width from 23 to 31cms and averaging 3cms thick.



Plate15: F13 looking west to the chimney stack. Note the attached flue on the right.

F3 display area is L shaped and encapsulates the chimney stack and west wall of F1, being at a slightly lower level. Within this wall, made up of random rubble, several through stones protrude in the upper section whilst just below the plastered ceiling further crude corbel stones can be seen. A heavy, deep, timber ceiling joist divides the space in two. The south wall is lit by a modern framed window, that on the north wall being a fixed vertical twelve pane window with thin glazing bars. The west wall exhibits further through stones in its upper portion. The floorboards are particularly uneven, but carpeting hides their nature.



Plate16: Detail of the through-stones and corbels to be seen in F3.

F2 display area is also L shaped, it having formerly been divided into two rooms each with its own fireplace set within the east wall. That to the north has a shallow chimney breast fronted by a gas fire and exhibiting a plain narrow mantle shelf. That to the south has a blocked fire surround just 7cms deep set up against the wall. A dividing partition stud wall can be seen to have aligned tight up on the left side of this fireplace, two posts supporting the present ceiling joist running west east. This joist links in with the stud wall forming the present partition dividing F2 from the upper hall, landing and F1. A main ceiling joist runs north south down the middle of the room. The north wall is lit by two sash windows matching those in F1. At the rear of F2, tight up in the south-east corner, a further window provides light. This window contains the remnants of a plain chamfered timber mullioned frame set into the deep right-hand splay. In the south-west corner of the south wall can be seen a crude recess that extends beyond the stud partition wall closing off this room from the top of the secondary stair. The recess is set into the solid rubble wall and presents a shallow concave surface some 200cms wide by a maximum 10cms deep and approximately 200cms high, the base of it being a little above floor level. This feature is best seen over the stair well. The ceiling height averages 216cms. The floor is identical to that in F1.

F4, the book room, now functions as a second-hand book sales area and is entered via the landing above the secondary stair. The present door is modern, the oak frame however has some age along with iron pintles and lock recess with iron plate secured with two hand-made

nails. The thickness of the wall at this point is also worth noting, 60cms, it appearing to have been an exterior wall. Facing this door is the blocked, offset, fireplace and chimney breast. Immediately to the right of this is the only access into the loft above this room. The east wall has two windows. The northern window has a plain timber frame with a central chamfered mullion, the left aperture fitted with an opening outer iron frame with a looped handle and latch. The southern window is also timber framed, but modern? The western advanced bay houses another plain chamfered timber window, but with two mullions. The central section is again fitted with an opening iron frame with a loop handle and latch (see plate 17). Below this window the sill forms a seat. A small window is set into the south wall of the bay. Within the bay on the north side is a stone bench like shelf. A single rough ceiling joist divides the room. In the south-east corner a good Georgian seven panelled door, matching that serving G6, is to be seen. This door, along with that in G6, is believed to have come from elsewhere. The other feature of note is the doorway to the right of the fireplace. This passes through the wall at quite an angle forming a narrow squint. The door itself appears to be Victorian. Both these doors give access to F5. The floor was not possible to examine.



Plate17: Detail of an iron window catch in F4.

F5, the large stock room is orientated roughly north south. As mentioned already the room is entered via a door either side of the fireplace, on the north wall, from F4. The fireplace is now blocked, but forms a back to back with that in F4. The narrow squint like passage to the left of the fireplace, along with its door (see plate 19 below) is best seen here, the door being of vertical plank construction with Victorian fittings. The east wall contains two windows, the northern one being of plain timber mullion construction with chamfers. The central glazing is mounted in an iron casement with a crude integral loop handled latch. The southern window appears to be a modern replacement. The south wall exhibits a reduced, semi-blocked, modern 20 paned casement window in the southeast corner with a large shallow splay to the left side. Offset to the right of centre is a small fireplace (see plate 18). The rustic timber mantelpiece and protruding brick jambs set on the diagonal replicate those seen below in G8 (the former pottery). To the right of the fireplace is an open built-in wall cupboard with a shelf. The moulded frame has mitred corners with no signs of there ever having been a door. This part of the room is located in the advanced southern bay which houses a further large 12 paned casement window in the western aspect and a solid plank door with Victorian fittings in the northern aspect. This door, along with the matching one further into the room on the west wall, provides access from the exterior stair in the cobbled yard.



Plate18: The 'restored' southern fireplace and gable window.

Another large 12 paned casement window provides light in the west wall within what is the recessed bay. Immediately to the north of this window is what might be another, now blocked and only indicated from the exterior by a shadow line in the render. Most noticeable, however, is the exposed spine beam with cross frame beams. This central beam runs the length of the room and has been roughly chamfered. At either end it is crudely tapered upwards towards the ceiling on the underside. It also exhibits open mortices to accept ceiling joists from each side, at a lower level than the existing ceiling. Each mortice is 8x4cms with 38.5cms centres to the six within the centre section. The section to the north has seven mortices, that to the south five. Each tenon on the joists was held in place by a single treenail, making two within each mortice. There is little sign of partitions walls having been removed. The present access to the loft over this room is located via a hatch in front of the northern blocked fireplace.



Plate19: The door within the inserted 'squint' passage to the left of the blocked north fireplace.

The lofts

Due to the nature of the footprint, there being a north and south range, each loft will be dealt with separately.



Plate20: The north range loft showing the heightened western chimney stack.

The north loft extends as an open loft over the entire north range, only being divided at the west end by the chimney stack that forms a partial barrier to free passage throughout (plate 20). The floor is not boarded and there is no electric light or skylights, making movement difficult. A noticeable change in levels can be observed at the access point, the hatch in the ceiling on the landing between F1 and F2. This level difference is due to the ceilings below being secured in different ways with that over F2 being suspended and tied into the stud partition walls that divide this area into two. The tops of these partitions can be seen held in place by timber pegs. The ceiling area over F1 has been mainly renewed using machine cut joists and plasterboard. Within the space over F3 vestiges of lath and plaster ceiling can be seen. Three simple trusses with tie beams, lapped and pegged at the apex are present. A heavy ridge purlin square in section, diagonally set, is complimented with two further rows of lapped purlins on each elevation carried on the backs of the trusses, let into rebates and

pegged with lapped rough cut rafters, (see figs. 2 & 3). The western chimney stack has been added to either side providing a supporting wall, doing away with the need for a further truss, thereby dividing the loft into five bays. The ridge purlin is supported at the east gable, where it runs into the wall, by a projecting beam acting as a corbel. The purlins are run directly into the gable walls. A catastrophic failure can be seen in the truss over F1 on its south aspect, this having been patched up and given further support during reroofing in recent years. Further repairs and strengthening can be seen in various places necessitating small bracing struts and props, also a section of steel plate! Behind the access hatch, the purlins at this point can be seen to have been cut through in order to extend the roof on the south range and marry up the two. A blocked access point utilising a crude frame along with lath and plaster (measuring 150cms high x 88cms wide), can be seen in the gable wall to the south range, this, like the west chimney stack, replacing the need for a truss. The western chimney stack (110cms in width), rises through the loft, timber corbels and beams supporting the load at ceiling level with a projecting drip course 33cms above this. The stack then continues up (100cms in width) 66cms before yet another drip course is encountered, just below the slope of the roof. The two drip courses average 10cms deep, the upper one extending all around the stack, the lower one having the western section omitted. The ghost of a former roofline can be seen on the eastern elevation whilst a diagonal recess in the west elevation suggests projecting eaves supporting a bargeboard. Within the bay, formed by the extension of the roof beyond the western chimney stack, a spliced purlin can be seen, the join pegged with two lengthy treenails, this being done so as to extend the purlin. Another thing to note is the expansion of the roof at this point, a rafter clearly pulled away from the ridge purlin by approximately 10cms and exposing the treenail that formerly held it in place!



Plate21: The north range loft looking west, showing the failed principal rafter.

The book room loft. This loft occupies the space directly over the present book room, F4, and forms the northern section of the lofts covering the south range. Access is via a small hatch next to the chimney in F4. There is electric light, but no sound flooring. The roof has been lined with fibre board in the recent past, but this is now hanging off. The walls are painted white. The chimney breast protrudes in two stepped back stages providing (along with the wall), a solid division between this loft and that over F5 to the south. A jettied out section 88cms above the floor of the loft is supported on timber corbels and beams before it continues up a further 137cms, the diagonally set ridge purlin running directly into the chimney breast which is offset to the right. There is no apparent access between the two lofts, or ever has been. A central plain truss (plate 22 below) 160cms from the chimney breast, with tie beam, divides the loft into two bays, its design akin to those in the front north loft. The timber of this truss measures 25cms deep x 7cms thick. Here though, a slight difference can be seen, the blades being supported with braces. Two rows of purlins occupy both elevations, those on the west now repositioned and turned vertical, those on the east horizontal, but the upper one being repositioned with the use of added blocks. Machined sawn rafters are to be seen on both aspects. The western aspect retains torching to the underside of the slates, the eastern aspect is felted. Within the north dividing wall the blocked access to the north loft can be seen as a recess.



Plate22: Reset purlins in braced truss. Note the lime torching.

The stock room loft extends over the stock room, F5, access being via a hatch in the northwest corner. Electric light is installed, but no sound flooring. The loft presents two equally spaced trusses with tie beams the latter tied into the blades with curved braces, dividing the space up into three bays. The blades appear to be reused crucks, turned to accept two rows of lapped purlins either side. Some alterations to existing rebates along with additional retaining blocks can be seen, (see fig 2). The purlins are vertically set, the western aspect exhibiting torching to the underside of the slates, the eastern aspect felted. Machined rafters are used throughout the roof. A small glazed skylight, located in the southwest corner, just above wall-head height, provides some natural light. A small timber framed window in the south gable just under the roof to the left of the apex can be seen, (stacked roof slates being used to block it), the inner of the three timber lintels having two round peg holes on the underside, approximately 3cms in diameter. The chimney flues servicing G8 and the southern end of F5 are built within the thickness of the south gable wall and nothing is to be seen. It should be noted that the lower eastern purlin in this gable is supported on a stone corbel where it enters the wall. The chimney breast serving G7 and the northern end of F5 is virtually a mirror image of that in the book-room loft, the only real difference is that it only protrudes in one stage, the jettied upper section again being off-set and accepting the ridge purlin. The roof timbers exhibit fine, long, pointed treenails. This loft, like that above the book-room, has been lined in the recent past with fibreboard sheets and this is now hanging down in many places, making examination difficult.



Plate23: The small, blocked, gable window. Note the reuse of old roofing slates, the timber frame and lintels.

Documentary evidence used in aiding interpretation of the chronology

The following interpretation of the chronological development of the buildings making up 'Sleddall Hall' is based mainly on the physical structure as surveyed. This is due mainly to a lack of documentary evidence. What little documentary evidence is available comes from maps, plans and just two contemporary records, that being *The Boke of Recorde of the Burgh of Kirkby Kendal*, dated 1575, with later updates and published in 1892, with a modern reprint in 2001 by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. The second report is the *Hearth Tax Returns for Westmorland* dated 1670, with later updates covering the years through to 1675, also published by the Cumbria and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (Vol. 19) in 2008. Whilst these publications give some insight into the status of 'Sleddall Hall' at the time, they do not mention the buildings specifically, or their owner. Indeed, the actual name given to the buildings, 'Sleddall Hall', does not have any firm connection to Thomas Sleddall, former Mayor and burger of Kendal after whom they appear to have been named.

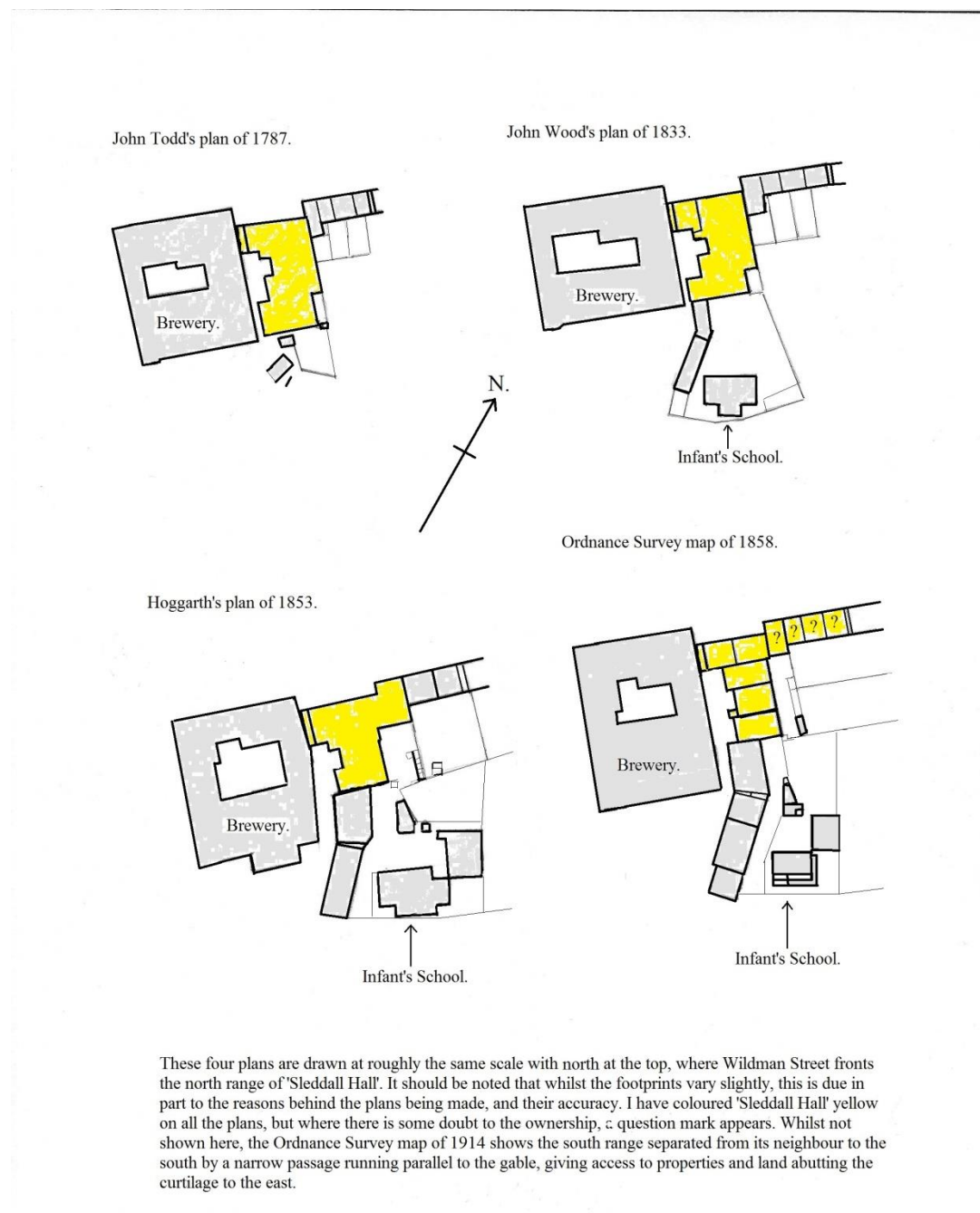
With the above in mind it should be said that the plaster overmantel surviving in the present store (G8) does give us a physical link to a possible early owner, if not the original builder of the property (see plate 14). The initials F over IM along with the date 1666, has provided a clue to the owner at the time. Assuming the F, the highest letter, stands for the surname as is the normal practise and the lower two initials for the forenames of husband and wife, then a possible owner can be alluded to, one James fisher, the I being interchangeable at this period with a J. This tenuous identification can be given further weight when both of the above documents are studied, the one helping to support the other. James Fisher's name appears in the Michaelmas *Hearth Tax Return for Kendal* dated 1670, (ROT 77d), under Stramongate. He is first shown as a Freeman of the town on page 207 and again on page 208 having been assessed as having four hearths (there being just 50 properties at the time exhibiting such a number), quite a contrast compared to the majority of properties listed that had just one (546 properties out of a total of 917), with 200 having two hearths and 70 with three. These figures do not count those who were exempt from the tax either because they were too poor, or for other reasons. A little further down the page within the Stramongate section appears Mr. Anthony Garnet who is also shown as having four hearths. Here we have our first real clue as to the importance of 'Sleddall Hall' and its owner at this time for Anthony Garnet we know owned Castle Dairy just opposite, so a comparison can be made. We can add to this snippet of information the entry in the *Boke of Recorde* for March 1715 which tells us James Fisher formed part of the Court of Review responsible for confirmation of land divisions and apportionments, that was in turn updating the previous survey carried out in 1692. Here then (if we can be sure this is one and the same person) we have a man of substance, a pillar of the community who was deemed fit to supervise the recording of land division and important enough to have a direct part in the running of the towns commercial life.

James Fisher appears to have come from a long line of merchants employed in the cloth trade. He himself was a shearmen, a clothier, and held high status in the guild and within the town. His forebears too seem to have done well for themselves, several by the name of John

or James are recorded in the *Boke of Recorde* as apprentice shearmen, or tailors, going on to set up in business on their own behalf and in turn taking on apprentices with entries covering the years 1593, 1599, 1607, 1618 etc. The last entry is particularly interesting in that it refers to John fisher, shearmen, taking on Rowland, son of William Garnett late of Kirkby Kendal (deceased) as an apprentice. This infers a link between the Fisher's and the Garnett's (the latter, owners of Castle Dairy) one that might well pay further research. Coming back to the point in question, just who were the J & M with the surname beginning with an F? Well for my money it must be James Fisher, but his wife is a little harder to tie down. The most likely name of the period would be Mary or perhaps Margaret, but as the marriage registers for Kendal parish church of The Holy Trinity only survive from 1754, and those of the other churches even later, this line of research seems to draw a blank. However, there is mention of a Margrat Fisher, note the spelling, being amongst the group of women who got together to form the Kendal (women's) Monthly Meeting in John Ayeryes house on 5th November 1671, this being the first meeting of the Westmorland Society of Friends, Kendal & Sedbergh branch (ref: *WDFCF/1/22 in Cumbria Archive Service*). Could this be the missing partner? Other avenues of research are open to us, but they remain a little tenuous shall we say, but there is hope that confirmation may yet be forthcoming and that we'll be able to say for sure that the overmantel does in deed commemorate the marriage of James Fisher to Margrat in 1666. If the above proves correct it might have a bearing on the layout of the property, Quakers at the time being somewhat viewed with distrust and only becoming accepted as part of the mainstream in society with the passing of the Declaration of Indulgence in 1687 issued by king James II, giving them legal status, *Bingham R. (1995) page 72*.

That is all at this point that can said of the documentary evidence available, apart that is from cartographical. Several maps and plans show the site of 'Sleddall Hall' but none name it, they do, however, suggest the footprint at any given time and even internal partitions that represent different ownership or tenancies. Dan Elsworth's report of 2010 carried out on Castle Dairy, under his business Greenlane Archaeology Ltd., looked into the map regression available for Wildman Street. There are just four maps that prove relevant to this site (see Fig. 6) along with a further one that helps to place 'Sleddall Hall' in its setting in 1614. The latter is *John Speed's map* which shows houses lining Wildman Street, the prominent highway leading from the crossing of the River Kent at 'Stramans' Bridge where 'Stramans' Gate becomes 'Wildmans' Gate (C on the map). The road is shown as dividing at this point, Wildman Street being the road to Appleby and Castle Street being the road to Sedbergh, the triangle of land formed between the two being put over to orchards; whilst 'Sleddall Hall' cannot be said to be shown, then neither is Castle Dairy, both merely being representations amongst others of the same size. This does nothing to prove the status of either, but the map does show the layout of the roads and the unique setting of this little settlement lying just outside the flourishing market town that was fast becoming the major township in south Westmorland, and premier manufacturer for woollen cloth and leather in the area.

Fig. 6: 'Sleddall Hall'. Map regression



The next item of significance is a plan by John Todd, dated 1787, where the site of 'Sleddall Hall' is clearly shown hemmed in between the huge brewery building to the west, with its central courtyard and projecting front onto Wildman Street, and the buildings to the east which are virtually on the same line as the brewery, the north elevation of 'Sleddall Hall' recessed between the two. This plan, however, shows that the ginnel giving access to the cobbled yard was in existence at this time, thereby informing us that the building was two storeys under one roof with no sub-divisions, the south range apparently all part of the same

ownership with further enclosed yards adjoining it to the south. Unfortunately the plan does not inform us where the priority lay as to entrances.

Then comes Wood's plan of 1833 showing pretty much the same layout of properties, the footprints of the buildings changing very little except that a long extension is seen extending from the south gable of 'Sleddall Hall's' south range with a dogleg opposite the southeast corner of the brewery. This in itself does not confirm ownership or usage. One subtle change however is that the front north range is now shown sub-divided, taking in part of the store area (G5). This change in layout no doubt reflects a change in fortunes, division of the property following the death of a parent, or the necessity to move with the times and capitalise on the street frontage. The land use around the property is also changing with the building of a school directly to the southeast, the orchards apparently long gone, replaced by what appear to be allotments, or possibly an extension of Castle Street common garden (see *Tyson B. CWAAS (2016) page 177*).

We now move on to Hoggarth's plan of 1853 where very little appears to have changed. The footprint remains the same, except the present neighbouring property to the northeast (The Elf) now seems to be incorporated into the plan. The buildings forming the extension to the south abutting the south range seem to have been realigned, straightening them out, but this may simply be poor cartography: however, these changes most likely reflect differing rationale behind the making of the plans, no more than that. Unfortunately with no internal divisions shown we have no supportive evidence for the early subdivision of the south range of the property, or otherwise.

Next come the series of Ordnance Survey maps, beginning with that published in 1858. No real changes are to be seen to the footprint, except there is the possibility the three properties to the northeast have been brought within the curtilage of 'Sleddall Hall', a thicker boundary line incorporates them and would seem to suggest this. This map reaffirms the division of the north range but also shows the south range is now subdivided into three. This clearly demonstrates a change in status with the property being further subdivided, to the point of becoming a tenement, with both living and working accommodation being catered for. Interestingly, water-pumps are shown serving the adjacent properties, including the brewery and Castle Dairy, but I cannot see one for 'Sleddall Hall'! From now on the mapping gives little more information other than to confirm that the basic layout remained the same, that is, at least until 1914 when we see the south range separated by a passage from those buildings to the south.

That then is about all that can be gleaned from the cartographic evidence, but it does give some valuable insights and helps to build a better picture of what is something of a conundrum, the actual chronological development of 'Sleddall Hall'. Finally mention must be made of the various illustrations of Wildman Street as portrayed by early artists and later photographers. Some do indeed show our buildings, in particular the photographic evidence, but often as not only the north (Wildman Street) elevation. A later illustration by A.W. Wainwright, based on an early photograph (*Kendal in the nineteenth century. 1977, drawing 78*), does show the western elevation from within the cobbled yard and goes on to carry some

added information pertaining to a former public house that existed, the Farmers Arms, previously known as the Weavers Arms and before that the Packhorse. Unfortunately some authors have misread his notes that go on to state this pub was located within the croft, not that it was actually this building. In fact the Farmers Arms stood further down Wildman Street to the west on the opposite side. An interesting connection here is a late 19th century photograph of the Farmers Arms in the Hughes Collection, *Marsh (2003) 108*, that shows the front of the pub with a shop alongside. The large multi-paned window of the shop, along with the front door, is enclosed between four moulded, attached, timber pillars under a continuous timber fascia with drip mould, virtually identical to that to be seen facing ‘Sleddall Hall’. This design proved very popular and similar ones can be seen wherever you look, which might add to the mistake in mixing up the two properties.

The postcard reproduced below (in the possession of the Aindow’s) shows the north elevation of ‘Sleddall Hall’ c1950. The premises was quite obviously being run as an antiques shop then too, but what is of particular note is that the walls are rendered with no drip moulds and the window over the ginnel blocked. Other details are worth noting, the postcard is titled ‘Old Kendal Farm House’ not ‘Sleddall Hall’ while T. Cooke’s butcher shop to the left is somewhat different in layout to that existing now, this being the result of a major rebuild of the front in recent years by the Aindow’s; the interior of this shop (now called ‘The Elf’) has just undergone a complete refurbishment following Storm Desmond in December 2015. This refurbishment required the plaster was removed from the walls allowing inspection of previously hidden features that have a bearing upon the development of ‘Sleddall Hall’. The former connecting door between the properties was revealed along with another formerly giving access to the next property. Machined brick was found to have been used in the blocking of the latter, suggesting a late Victorian or Edwardian date, but that used in the fireplace lintels was handmade and more likely to be of Georgian date.



Plate24: Postcard of ‘Old Kendal Farm House’.

The architectural changes: An interpretation

The above gives an idea of the documentary evidence available, sadly very little. The last observation however ties in well with the fireplace in the office (G4), it too having a relieving arch acting as a lintel, hidden behind the stone surround, made of the same brick and the chimney breast constructed in stone in the same way; but here the fireplace contained a cast-iron range dating from the 1790's to the early 1800's, possibly a later insert, (now removed following further damage caused by Storm Desmond in December 2015).

The *Listing 1390760*, (see Appendix 1) however, refers to the main buildings being of 17th century date with later alterations and some earlier details, so it is with that in mind that the following is concerned. Due to certain odd features in the plan and construction, a complicated building regime can be seen to have taken place. Taking the front northern range facing onto Wildman Street first, it is clear that we have here a two storey building that has been divided into two in the past and then opened back up into one within recent years. All is contained under one continuous graduated slate roof. The windows in the upper floor all match, pre 1840's multi-paned sashes, that is apart from the smaller one over the ginnel. The ground floor presents two differing facades, the more dominant one to the left being actually smaller in ground-plan, the one to the right more restrained. Of particular note is the large boulder plinth to the right-hand section and the ginnel giving access through to the yard behind and the south range. As mentioned before, the building line is indented at this point, 'Sleddall Hall' actually standing back from the neighbouring properties. This observation, along with the combined length of the street frontage, marks 'Sleddall Hall' out as being different.

Phase 1 of the north range c.1550-1650

The basic plan is that of a yeoman farmers house, the firehouse to the right containing the normal open hearth and spice cupboard fronted with a bressumer and originally crowned by a fire-hood and divided off from the rear entry (now reduced to a window) by a stud and plaster partition, the heck. The open hearth was served by a fire-window facing the street whilst opposite was the parlour and buttery, divided off from the firehouse by a timber plank and muntin partition. Where the small kitchen (G3) is now, this will have functioned as the main entry with the possibility that a ladder, or winding stair, gave access to a sleeping loft, the reduced wall thickness and protruding stonework in the northwest corner hinting at this. At this stage the house would have been of one storey with the fire-hood rising through the loft, giving some heat to an otherwise cold unlit sleeping or storage area, the ground floors would have been stone flagged throughout. This then would have been the earliest phase that can be envisaged from the existing floorplan and odd architectural clues, the scratch moulding of the spice cupboard along with the layout of the firehouse providing the best dating, that being c.1550/1650. With no real head height in the lofts and poor access to them, no doubt improvements followed as soon as money allowed and demands needed to be met.

Phase 2 of the north range c.1650-1700

With increased affluence and the need for greater space, further improvements can be seen to have taken place. Another storey was the answer, the existing roof being taken off and the walls being heightened so as to allow for the insertion of full height upper rooms and windows. To facilitate these major alterations, the west gable chimney was extended upwards, leaving the former external stack with its drip moulds now enclosed within the new loft. It is this western stack that provides evidence of the length and height of the original house, the former roof having sprung from wall heads around the point of the sills to the new windows (thus masking a build line that would ordinarily be expected to be seen on the outer wall surface). Interestingly, there are no signs that the new continuous loft was ever really utilised for storage or as a sleeping area for servants or the like. Whilst this work was being undertaken, the opportunity was taken to extend the house beyond the west gable. The space so gained only applied, internally, to the upper floor and loft, a new west gable wall having to be built which incorporated chamfered stone corbels providing support for the new floor. That the space is so narrow appears to be due to the neighbouring property bordering the curtilage, although the fact that a new wall was built infers that no actual building existed at this time, otherwise in all probability any neighbouring wall would have been utilised to save on cost! At ground level the space provided a ginnel giving important access to the yard beyond. The slight recess seen at the north end of the ginnel suggests that some form of barrier or gate was located here, a security measure to be seen in most ginnels where an enclosed yard lies beyond (not only to keep out unwanted individuals, but livestock too). The present building butting up to the west gable was part of a large complex round a central courtyard; this was Jack Johnson Banks Brewery built c.1760/70 with the existing frontage added in 1903, around the time it ceased brewing!

Now a downhouse was added, if there hadn't been one, probably in the form of a lean-to extension with catslide roof to the rear, providing the space required for the chores that were growing, along with the household. No doubt an open hearth was included in this extension, a large projecting stack being built with an eye to future expansion, thereby setting the scene for its more recent use. This rear extension might well have occupied most of the area now taken up by the packaging store (G5) and necessitated the opening up of a door aperture to access it, this being the connecting door between G5 and G2. Further access would now be required to outside, accounting for the somewhat odd position of the rear door, (this being incorporated in the new wall facing the cobbled yard).

The above changes will have allowed for a re-ordering of the firehouse area, the former door in what was to become G3, no longer being required, was probably partly blocked at this stage and a window inserted instead. At the same time the tight winding stair will no doubt have been removed and the centrally placed stair in G2, that is now used, built to replace it. With a panelled partition and a door added the space now freed up, G3, will probably have become a store, (the former open stairwell being ceiled, accounting for the reduced head height) or more likely have been set aside as a separate office, the upwardly mobile owner requiring such a space for paperwork, books and business transactions. These changes might

have involved the insertion of the massive beam with its chamfered and stopped mouldings and (if not already in place) the central front door that now serves the property. It was also around this time, in all probability, that any mullioned windows on the elevation facing onto Wildman Street were replaced, this being a measure in part to present a fashionable facade to the public street. The replacements will have been made to match those inserted into the upper rooms, probably multi-paned leaded lights in timber frames. The floors on the ground-floor remained stone flagged, including the new rear extension. The first floor will now have had substantial butt jointed and pegged floors installed throughout, for the most part still remaining in the property. The exact configuration of the upper, unheated, rooms is unknown at this time, but two, possibly three are envisaged on much the same lines as those seen now, except the present open well and secondary stair did not exist thereby giving greater space. A further loft space might have been located over the rear extension, access being obtained via an opening where the present door to F4 is.

Phase 3 of the north range c.1700-1830

Little in the way of major architectural changes can be detected during this period. What is apparent, however, are the gradual (perceived) improvements being made to enhance living conditions. Georgian fashion, along with improved transport communications, began to turn our local vernacular traditions into nationally recognised forms. Change in the domestic scene came about with the Industrial Revolution, the easier procurement of mass produced items and foodstuffs, but more importantly heavy, bulky, commodities such as coal, made possible by the better road network and later by the new canal system that reached Kendal in 1819. These changes are reflected within the property by investment in new technology in the form of confined fireplaces provided with cast-iron hobs and later ranges, and sash windows.

The first of these changes is the insertion of flues to serve most of the rooms. This seems to have been achieved in G1 G4 and those in F2 by literally cutting into the thickness of the east gable wall in order to service the additional fireplaces required. The latter shows that F2 was subdivided to make two rooms, but probably not until c.1850 when the northern one was squeezed in. It's interesting to note here that in order to bring the ridge purlin forward of the new chimneys the flues were carried up through the loft in a shallow attached breast. Just when these alterations took place is difficult to say as the fireplaces have all been blocked up, hiding any architectural detailing, apart that is from G4. What had been the buttery would now appear to have been converted into a small snug, or possibly replaced the office envisaged as occupying the former rear entry area G3, the mell; to achieve this, timber panelling incorporating a window seat was installed along with the new hob grate. Here a slight clue is forthcoming as to dating these changes in that the arch of the chimney breast has been made from hand-made bricks (faced with a stone fire surround), almost certainly of mid Georgian vintage, and a rare example of the use of such a material in Kendal although not unknown in small scale projects in and about the town e.g. used in the construction of a bread oven of similar date. This last observation is of particular interest as the property containing this bread oven displays similar chronology and architectural developments, Bradley Field Farm, formerly known as Fisher's Tenement (*Bowd C. report forthcoming*). Is this another of

their properties? Here then is a possible connection with the power and influence built up by the Fisher's over time, but more research is needed to confirm, or otherwise. The surviving grate within the fireplace in G4 (although badly damaged), is a simple cast-iron hob incorporating an oven to the right and sham plate on the left, designed for burning coal. Whilst an exact date of manufacture has not been ascertained, a date in the last decade of the 18th century would appear to be about right. This last action will have made a better impression on visitors and clients who could then have entered the office by the front door off Wildman Street via what was effectively now a through passage, having been formed by the insertion of another timber partition, or possibly a screen, closing off the firehouse, the feint groove in the flag-stoned floor suggesting such a change took place.

It's most likely that the open hearths in G5 and G7 (the back-to-backs in the south range) along with G2 were reduced in size around the middle of this period in an endeavour to improve on their efficiency. These changes would have taken the form of building in stone chimney breasts housing open hob grates, not dissimilar to that in G4, but larger and probably incorporating a hot water cistern. The former hoods will have been removed and the chimney breasts carried up incorporating flues to service the first floor rooms. Strangely, the fireplace in F1 appears to have been an add-on, tapped into and, utilising the flue from G2 below. Quite why this fireplace should be so small is a puzzle, but its general feel is that of the later Victorian period, presumably this room having gone unheated until then. What is particularly striking is the stepped and sloped chimneybreast. Could this in fact be part of the original smoke hood that served the open hearth in G2 and have passed through the former loft? If the answer is yes, then it would be a very rare survivor indeed.

Moving on to the second technological advance, sash windows, we have fine late Georgian examples on the first floor serving F1 and F2. These appear to be all of the same phase, part of a systematic revamp of the north elevation that probably took place, along with other changes, around 1800, no doubt replacing any earlier timber mullioned windows (more of which later). Whilst the glazing bars, the astragals, are fine suggesting the later Georgian period there are no protruding pieces to the upper frames, horns. Horns were an innovation that appears around the 1830's, a way of reinforcing the frames to prevent warping or twisting. It should also be noted that these windows are set back from the outer wall surface by around four inches, part of a trend that followed on from legislation in 1707 and 1709, implemented in London, in an attempt to help reduce the risk of fire taking hold. Whilst not legally enforceable in this part of the country, it became fashionable when seen that the resultant shadow effect proved pleasing to the eye. Such innovation became readily available as the manufacture of components and materials was easier to source, the softwood for the frames being in all likelihood imported from the Baltic, the local iron industry producing the weights required, the window glass, whilst still subject to a heavy levy by the government (something like twice the production costs at this time), being better and offering greater variation in size. The window tax, however, persisted through this period and was only repealed in 1851, which effectively meant that only the better off in society could afford to install such large and numerous windows. This in itself points to the social standing that the owner of 'Sleddall Hall' had risen too, or at least wanted to present to the world.

By c.1800, it would seem that the rear outshut (G5) had been raised to provide a second full height storey. This will account for the alterations to the roof of the north range, a section of the rear purlins being cut through and removed, along with the rafters, and a new roof constructed to fill the space, linking it to the south range (plate 25 below). The rear wall-head was extended upwards to form a gabled dividing wall which in turn gave support to the new roof over (F4) and eliminated the need for a second truss, but also provided access via an opening between the lofts. It's this phase that brings the two ranges together under one roof, giving us basically the footprint and profile that we see now.



Plate25: The inserted connecting roof between the north and south ranges showing the cut off rafters.

Along with the raising of the outshut went the extension of the back-to-back chimneys, but this will be looked at later.

Phase 1 of the South Range c.1650-1700

In trying to understand the chronological development of the south range we cannot say for definite that there was a structure on the site prior to c.1650. Unlike the north range there is really no arguably datable features to an earlier building. Taking it at face value what we have here is basically a rectangular footprint that has been extended on the west elevation to

form two projecting bays (seen in the change of pitch in the roof). But this very much simplifies the picture, for when we look at the plan again, it will be seen that there is a shallow offset in the rear east elevation. Closer inspection on site also reveals vestiges of a squarely built plinth along the south and east elevations that might just be the footings of an earlier building, but are more likely to be the original, suggesting a better understanding of subsoil movement. It's the northern end of the south range that presents a dilemma in that the dividing wall between the two ranges whilst undoubtedly formerly an exterior wall, it cannot be said with certainty which of the ranges came first! Looking at the thickness of this wall, which is equal to that at the south end and thicker than those encountered in the north range, it would seem this formed part of the southern range prior to the northern being built, which tends to throw my former observations concerning the north range into doubt! To add further to this confusion there is a definite batter to this wall, seen to good effect on the stair in G2. This would ordinarily suggest the outer face of an early, late medieval wall at the least. But is this simply the result of movement? Then there is the rather odd canted north-east corner that rises up through both storeys and has the rear windows of the north range tucked in, butted up against its outer face. This treatment of the corner of buildings is often encountered where such a building is close to another and the passage of fully laden hay carts, or stage coaches for example, was required. Based on these observations, along with the general dimensions and form of the south range, it's tempting to ask 'is what we have here a converted late 17th century barn'?

Of course, adding to these conflicting observations is the presence of the dated plaster overmantel of 1666, which appears to be in situ and therefore tends to rule out the barn theory. But the overmantel cannot be ignored, so failing any other datable features it should form the basis of the dating for the south range. Such an overmantel is usually to be found over the principal fireplace in a house of the period, or at the very least, acting as a secondary feature in a public room in a house with some status. This really brings us back to its location, on the ground floor built into the south gable of G8. With no reason to believe otherwise, this fireplace, together with that above in F5, would seem to be part of the original build of the south gable wall, both flush with the wall suggesting a two storey building at conception. How then do we equate this with the former open hearths at the opposite end of the range in G7 and G5? All may well be of the same date, if we take into account the *Hearth Tax Return* of 1670, the number of hearths would indeed add up to that recorded, four. This calculation allows for ground-floor hearths only, as at this period there was no second storey on the front north range and going by the construction of the back-to-back fireplaces, these too only served ground-floor rooms. The upper fireplace in F5 will most likely have gone undetected, perhaps a perk of being a person of standing?

Falling into this period is the reused wainscoting (panelling) of 17th century date now to be seen in G2, but said to have come from the northeast corner area of F5. If this was indeed its place of origin, then this points to a substantial high status building. What is most striking in the upper room (F5) is the ‘exposed cross-framed spine beams’ as described in *The Listing* for the property. These present a major investment in materials and time, but do not give the impression of being domestic. Here then are possibly two conflicting views, one suggesting domestic opulence, the other a non-domestic use. Of course there is nothing to say that the upper floor was not used for a combination of purposes during this period. The main problem is the lack of dateable detailing, the crude tapering to the undersides of the spine beam at either end being very noticeable and at the same time not easily explained.



Plate26. The spine-beam in F5 showing the former slots for rafters and the crude tapering off.

When looking closer at the ground floor layout, the location of the dated overmantel and the fireplace it serves seems rather odd at first sight. It's only when you ignore the clutter and the present modern divisions of the space that it makes any real sense. This fireplace would appear to have served a parlour, with possibly a buttery alongside, the two closed off from the larger firehouse by timber partitions, much the same as that envisaged in the north range. Access to the firehouse might have been where the present modern door is, or more likely through what would have been the north gable, the present wall with the back-to-back fireplaces in, utilising the now blocked door. This will account for the mortice hole in the ceiling beam just within the blocked door that would have held the beam linked into the bressumer. Such a layout will have provided the traditional heck, mell and firehouse arrangement with the fire-window facing the cobbled yard and at the same time providing

light when accessing the spice cupboard. This layout will also account for the existence of the slight offset of the outer wall where G5 meets G7, G5 being a later insert. If the above is anything like the actual original footprint for the south range, this adds further strength to the theory that 'Sleddall Hall' started out as a compact freeman shearer's house of the time, but one of higher status than your norm. Such an arrangement will have provided both domestic accommodation and an upper work/storage area, the curtilage taking in further out-buildings, stabling, gardens etc.

Phase 2 of the South Range c.1700-1830

Little can be said of the developments in this period as the interior has been basically gutted in the recent past in order to provide workspace and storage facilities for the craft pottery, (this being undertaken prior to the property being listed in 2003). What form the windows took can only be guessed at, but based on those that came later, simple glazed timber mullions with plain chamfers are most likely. The ground-floor was accessed probably from a principle door located where the present one is in the west elevation, the entry via the north gable becoming access to a designated downhouse, any former outhouse being upgraded by having the roof raised and incorporated into the main house, thereby providing extra room. It's probably during this time that the back-to-back chimneys were extended upwards and additional flues added to service the new upper room over the downhouse and the north end of the south range. Evidence for the above conclusions is seen in the corbelled chimney stacks within the lofts and the re-arrangement of the purlins, although the latter might reflect changes of a more recent vintage (see fig 2 and plates 27 & 28).



Plate 27. The main loft over F5 looking north. Note the tie braces and relocated purlins.

What seems to be apparent is that the form of timber roof construction in the south lofts above F5 and F4 is earlier than that in the north loft. The use of curved braces, large treenails pegging the timbers together and of course the cruck blades, all give a feeling of antiquity. But we shouldn't be misled into thinking it as straight forward as that, archaic styles and techniques lingered long in this part of the world!



Plate28. The added and extended chimney stack over F4 clearly showing the timber corbelling. Note the earlier chimney stack behind, the braced truss in the foreground and the torching to the underside of the roof slates on the right. Also worth noting is the modern ceiling serving the room below, both in this loft and that shown above.

It's also to this period that the spice cupboard serving the firehouse in G7 should be allocated, (plate12) probably the treatment of the hearth too, the reduced area now forming the quintessential inglenook. Other hints as to changes during this period are seen in the hacking of the surfaces to the remaining ceiling beams in G7 and G8 which indicate they were plastered, in order to blend them in with the surrounding walls, a very Georgian practise.

By the turn of the eighteenth century the property will have reached maximum potential as a house of the period, offering reasonable living conditions, but possibly more important space, space for commercial activities in the form of workshops and retail. Around this time money was spent on upgrading the existing windows on the east and west elevations. Most appear to have been replaced using matching timber windows with plain chamfered mullions and jambs, probably reflecting those that had gone before, with the first-floor window at the back in F2 being a cannibalized version. Leaded lights might have filled the frames, but those still surviving exhibit clear glass set in iron frames, where they open, along with crude iron fittings; the latter give the impression of being locally made smiths work with good examples to be seen in F4 and F5.



Plate29. Timber mullioned window in F5 with iron framed insert exhibiting iron fittings.

That the windows matched, and were to be seen throughout the property in both the north and south ranges, tells us that there was a single owner with a single objective. Add to this observation the newly constructed connecting section of roof, along with the access door in the lofts, and we see clearly that the property was functioning as a single unit, albeit with differing roles in parts. It's at this point that we have to look at the two ranges as one.

‘Sleddall Hall’, post 1830 to date

But times and circumstances were changing for by 1833, Wood clearly shows in his plan the north range as being sub-divided (fig 6). This is an important stage in the development of ‘Sleddall Hall’ as we now see an openly commercial phase that links in well with the architectural detailing that exists. The street front now takes on the form of two separate shops, serviced by separate front doors and large multi-paned windows: to achieve this, the former timber partition is replaced by a substantial wall closing off the firehouse from the parlour and office and any further screen is removed. This change in priorities in turn necessitates the insertion of another stair. Whilst it would be easy to see the existing back stair as fulfilling this role, evidence suggests otherwise, or at the least a different layout. Where the later office had been (G4), was to become a small living room backing onto the shop located in G1. The new stair appears to have been located in the southwest corner, possibly taking the form of a steep open winding stair, in front of where the door to G5 is now. The evidence for this layout is seen in the shallow recess at half-landing level visible in the upper bedroom (F2) and open stairwell of the existing back stair. This recess will have been cut into the outer wall to provide a little elbow room when turning the tight stair. At the same time the now blocked door connecting the ground-floor rooms (G1& G4) will have been opened up. The insertion of a second stair infers that the upper bedrooms comprising of F2 will now have become part of this smaller unit with the stud partition wall acting as a property divide. There is little evidence that the north loft was subdivided at this stage or, indeed, as to how the upper rooms were used. It might be that around this time a suspended timber floor was inserted into G1, providing greater warmth and more in keeping for a retail sales area. The now blocked connecting door to next door (The Elf as it is now), was no doubt added at this time, suggesting a shared occupancy (indeed, another blocked door in turn connected ‘The Elf’ to its neighbour. If the boulder plinth facing G1 had not been removed by now, it will have been to allow for the new shop front and air-flow for the suspended timber floor.

The newly formed right hand shop-unit (the former firehouse) can now be seen to have sole use of the rear door to the cobbled yard, taking up part of G5 as a rear passage. G3 will now in all probability have become a small kitchen come sitting area used by those running the shop. Meanwhile on the first floor F1 appears to have remained very much as it is now, but unheated, suggesting it might well have been used as a store or workroom (plate 15). The L shaped room F3 (plate 16), formed partly by the extension out over the ginnel and a step down from F1, is something of a puzzle in that any real use for it is not obvious. The multi-

paned window overlooking Wildman Street is quite clearly butted up to the outer surface of the former gable wall, which in turn exhibits evidence of the corbel stones that supported the chimney in its earlier lower position. Odd spaces like this are often encountered in old properties, the result of changes being made piecemeal and not really thought through. As with most other locations, these areas usually became 'glory holes', the repository for unwanted objects. Some are found to have functioned for specific purposes e.g. as dressing rooms, storage of valuable items or for curing meat as at Townend Troutbeck for example, *Townend, Troutbeck (1999)*. 6; here though the latter is best ruled out as the space is not shut off, or ever seems to have been, nor is there any access to the chimney flue, besides, having two good sized windows infers other use. One possible other use (if we allow ourselves a little flight of fancy), is that this space had functioned as a meeting room for local female Quakers, much the sort of thing alluded to in the record concerning Margrat Fisher, it then going on to be used for other purposes as Quakers were accepted and the need for discretion became unnecessary. A comparison can be made here with the function of the rear room in Castle Dairy which is believed to have been used by the Garnett's for following their Catholic faith and various esoteric purposes a century earlier, *Garnett A. (2016)*.

Returning to more certain ground, by c.1830 we see from Wood's plan (fig. 6) that the buildings connected to the south gable of 'Sleddall Hall' had become a continuous block; as to their purpose, or ownership, more research is needed, but does not come within the remit of the present survey. However, the footprint of these buildings along with that of the brewery to the west have a direct bearing on access to the cobbled yard facing the south range. It will be seen that a gate closing off the constricted southern end, coupled with another at the north end of the ginnel, would control free movement making this into an enclosed yard. Presumably as the land surrounding 'Sleddall Hall' was developed a right of access was maintained to serve this yard, thereby providing pedestrian access from Wildman Street and vehicle access for carts, coaches and horses from the south. This facility was to prove crucial in the later development of the property as according to the Ordnance Survey map of 1858, the south range had been divided up into three units, at least at ground-floor level. We now see that 'Sleddall Hall' had effectively been turned into tenements, rented out to artisans and craft workers if the evidence on the ground is anything to go by. In making changes to the interior layout of the south range new access from the cobbled yard was required, this took the form of the present attached open stairs. These stairs effectively now enclosed the ground-floor entrance providing alternative access to the upper floor, allowing for further changes in the layout of the ground-floor.

Outside this survey, but alluded to in the Introduction, the remains of 'weavers cottages' are to be seen within the curtilage and add yet another dimension to the changes that took place within and about the property. A direct link here with oral history passed down to Andrew Aindow might be made with 'Frances Passage', said to have passed through the present store (G8), giving access to those cottages. What appears more likely is the passage as shown on the later Ordnance Survey map of 1914 passing between the south gable of the south range and the buildings extending to the south. This passage was clearly made, probably at a slightly earlier date when the land was being actually sold off and provision had to be made

for access to those concerns still held by the landlord, necessitating the partial demolition and rebuild of the former attached building. According to Andrew, this former building had functioned at some time as a cold store prior to becoming the motor repair garage it is now.

Related to the above changes are those seen in G5 where the ghost of a partitioned off area can be seen taking in the present toilet (G6). This area became a hall for the new door and window, making this unit self-contained, the earlier rear door presumably still partitioned off so as to carry on serving the shop in the north range. It's probable that the door through to G4 from G5 was knocked through at this time so as to provide a link through into the eastern of the two shops in the north range. The existing door through into G7 will probably have simply been locked so as to provide future flexibility in renting out the units. As to how the remaining units on the ground-floor were utilised, it's hard to say.



Plate30.Mid nineteenth century door furniture on unit 2.

Upstairs in the south range we can safely say was now divided into, at the least, two units, the doors to the exterior stairs being numbered and provided with letterboxes (see plate 30 above). The door furniture, particularly the small size of the letterboxes, suggests a date around the early 1850's, not so very long after the first pre-paid stamped letter-post had been introduced. Just how these units were actually divided up is unsure but the nature of the southern fireplace would point to a rather cold space! The northern unit within F5, however, exhibits a larger fireplace that no doubt was fitted with an enclosed cast-iron range, the fire-window, if one had existed, was now blocked as a larger multi-paned window was installed.

Judging by the present window apertures, these two units within F5 were well catered for with natural light. The partial reduction in size of the window aperture in the south gable is something of a mystery, but it probably represents a more recent change in use, the window being 'modern'. A final observation concerning this area is the narrow door giving access to F4, pushed through next to the chimney (see plate 19). This second door into F4 makes no real sense, unless that is it was required due to F4 being partitioned at some stage, resulting in the skewed nature of the passage. From this it can be seen that there are numerous variations in layout that could have been achieved at any given time from c.1850 onwards. As to whether these units were purely residential, workshops or a mixture is not easy to say, but most likely a combination was in existence at any given time.

Another aspect of these changes was the lack of sanitary conditions that will have existed. No privies are obvious, but then they will have come and gone as needs be. Internal toilets are highly unlikely, at least not until the early to mid-twentieth century. Mains sewage only made its appearance c.1880. Water-pumps, exploiting the local aquifer, are shown on the 1858 Ordnance Survey 25" map, one located in the rear yard of virtually every other property along Wildman Street, including Castle Dairy, but not one for 'Sleddall Hall'. It must be assumed therefore that by this time piped water served the property. Piped drinking water had made an appearance with Bird's Park reservoir on Hay Hill opening in 1847, but not fully functional until 1848 *Bingham R. (1995). 309*. This source of water proved inadequate for the town, so in 1894 another reservoir was brought into being, Fisher Tarn! Here's that name again, bringing us full circle and very nearly into the twentieth century. That mains water did come to 'Sleddall Hall' in the middle of the 19th century is hinted at by the installation of stone drain covers in the cobbled yard,(see plate 4) the one outside the present toilet possibly marking the location of any former hand-pump, whilst that serving the present kitchen is clearly for that purpose only. This in itself though is not confirmation of mains water as they may have served purely as part of a drainage system, hand-pumped water still being used.

Although it is quite evident that many more internal changes have taken place in more recent years, especially the replacement of windows, blocking of doors (including that in the lofts between the north and south ranges), these changes are virtually impossible to put in any accurate order. We know for instance that the roofs have been attended to and in part stripped off and re-slatted after first installing modern felt or weather membranes, the old slates being reused where possible; this work along with the repair and rebuild of some of the chimneys, and repair of roof timbers, where necessary has been carried out by the present owners within the last forty years. That said it's quite obvious that similar work was carried out perhaps anything up to one hundred and fifty years earlier, the present sandstone ridge tiles being from a time when such materials were commonly available and fashionable to use. The mid to late twentieth century also saw the replacement of the floors in G7 and G8 with concrete, the garage doors installed and the fireplaces repaired. It's during this time that former partitions were removed and the ground-floor opened up for use as a pottery, the industrial sized kilns installed and the small shower room and toilet too. Other changes include the blocking of the connecting door to 'The Elf' and the replacement of the suspended timber floor in G1. The toilet in G6 was also installed with the former door being converted into a

window and the old window blocked. Two more changes are worth mentioning, one being the realignment of the stairs in G4 to their present form, thereby allowing a door to be opened up through to G5, and the removal of a section of floor over the stairs in G2 in order to open the sales area up. The latter now provides a good view of the construction of the ceiling and floor.

Summary

‘Sleddall Hall’ has gone through many changes over the years, not least from being a comfortable home and business to being sub-divided and rented out as combined workshops and tenements, finally being used solely for business use. Its history is little known, although further research within the various archives available might yet bring fresh information to light. Architecturally it presents a challenge, the basic footprint and layout appearing to suggest an amalgamation of two separate properties coming together under one roof to meet the needs and changing requirements of the times and the owners. That the present buildings have 17th century features is not in doubt, but what went before is. Part of this uncertainty has been brought about by more recent requirements clearing away possible clues, (the buildings only be given Listed status as late as 2003), but then that is the nature of change and the real world.

Storm Desmond in December 2015 was to play an important part in the history of ‘Sleddall Hall’. The damage caused by this flooding event brought home the risks that our built heritage faces from natural disasters, but it also highlighted the underlying strengths of the construction methods and materials used in such buildings. Failure of the hard-surfacing in the ginnel was not down to its makeup, but more to do with having been disturbed on previous occasions in laying services. In washing out and excavating the ginnel the footings of the north range were undermined revealing the construction of the walls (see plate 10 below). These walls stand on next to no foundations other than large stones being bedded in the underlying glacial till. Some partial collapse did occur, but little movement. This structural integrity is due in no small part to the inner and outer faces of the random rubble stone walls being filled with coarse stones and lime mortar, the latter providing not only cohesiveness throughout, but acting as a form of shock absorber enabling any movement to be absorbed, fractures to knit back together. A positive aspect of this flood event is that in the aftermath areas within the property have now become better accessible e.g. G4, G5 and G8, and previously hidden features can now be seen such as the stone flagged floors which had been covered in carpet, the suspended floor in G1 and the fireplace in G4. Another positive outcome of the flooding is that reappraisal of the use of the rooms has led to changes being implemented which will open up more of the property to the public. This can only be good for business, those interested in the local heritage, and the building itself.



Plate 31. Flood damage in the ginnel caused by Storm Desmond. Note the lack of footings!

The present report, as stated before, is based upon what can be seen, the remaining architectural features and how the space has been used; from this we have built up a possible sequence of development, but this can only be one of several options; the general picture however will not be so very far from that arrived at. Other lines of enquiry might well add to this record, principle among them being a dendrochronological survey. The reasoning behind this statement is that data sets from tests on the main timber components within the property would help establish when they were installed. Two areas are particularly important and felt likely to produce good results. The main chamfered spine beam within the firehouse in G2 was made specifically for that space and as such would greatly aid dating of the north range. Likewise the joists supporting the upper floors throughout the property appear to be mostly original to the build, but here caution must be used as they might well be re-used timbers. Other timbers that might prove of benefit if sampled are the corner braces within G3 and that beneath the bressumer in G2 as these will no doubt have been made for the job. The second area of particular interest is the ceiling joists over F5, the upper store; here the cross framed spine beams would again seem to have been made specifically for the space, therefore any dating obtained would be crucial to our understanding of the sequence of build. Finally we have the main roof timbers, any dating retrieved here would help in sorting out the architectural development and time scales involved. It's with the above in mind that a request for funding of such dendrochronolgy analysis was put in front of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society.

‘Sleddall Hall’ can be seen as a link to the fuller understanding of the early post-medieval development of Kendal as a major market town within the area. Of particular significance to that understanding is the relationship that ‘Sleddall Hall’ shared with Castle Dairy with both properties facing onto Wildman Street and having extensive grounds behind them. Both also enjoyed similar sized footprints and were recorded as having four hearths each in the Hearth Tax Survey of 1670, (provided my interpretation is correct). The similarities do not end there, what followed was a general decline (or was it?) in importance, leading to sub-division to provide for tenants and commerce, as demonstrated above. Just how these properties were incorporated within the expanding town of Kendal is still not fully understood so a better appreciation and understanding of ‘Sleddall Hall’ can only add to that pool of knowledge, which explains the importance behind researching it in greater detail.

Finally, failing any further evidence to the contrary, it might be time to think again about the name ‘Sleddall Hall’. Perhaps it should be renamed ‘Fisher Hall’ in the light of recent research, and to mark the 350th anniversary of the plaster overmantel being installed?

NB This survey was conducted as part of the continuing research into our local vernacular buildings by the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group (CVBG). Mark Basey-Fisher gave considerable help in undertaking the physical survey and, like myself, is a member of the above group. Further input was made by June Hall and Dan Elsworth (both CVBG committee members), the latter in particular reference to the application for grant funding from the CWAAS for tree-ring analysis. Whilst this can only be in reality an interim report, due to the changing circumstances and as more research turns up further information, the above will however provide a snapshot of the building at this point in time.

Clive Bowd. BSc. Hons. Heritage Consultant. CVBG & CWAAS. (Former FSA Scot.).

Kendal, June 2017.

Email: hercon2000uk@yahoo.co.uk

Tree-ring analysis results

Following consultation with Dan Elsworth (CVBG & CWAAS) concerning the benefits and viability of having tree-ring analysis carried out on ‘Sleddall Hall’, it was decided that a formal application for grant funding be made to the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society in order to achieve what was beyond the financial resources of the CVBG. The application proved successful and the services of the Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory (NTRDL), was procured.

A survey, along with samples being taken, was conducted in April 2017 by Alison Arnold and Robert Howard, with their report following shortly after. Many of the internal timbers were found to be not suitable for testing, mainly due to the growth rate, however, a fair number within the lofts were. The results proved inconclusive on some of the timbers tested, but enough provided sufficient material for firm dating to be arrived at. Fifteen samples were taken, two having too few rings, but the remainder allowed two dated chronologies.

Quoting from the report summary: *“The first site chronology comprises five samples and is 191 rings long, these dated as spanning the years 1371-1561. Interpretation of the sapwood on these samples indicates that four timbers from the front-range roof were cut as part of a single episode of felling at some point between 1571 at the earliest and 1596 at the latest. The felling date of a fifth timber, a first floor ceiling beam to the rear range, cannot be determined but is unlikely to be before 1543 at the earliest.*

The second site chronology comprises three samples and is 119 rings long, these rings spanning the years 1536-1654. Interpretation of the sapwood on these indicates that the dated timbers of the rear range roof were also cut as part of a single episode of felling in, or about 1660.

Five remaining samples remain ungrouped and undated”.

What this tells us confirms the proposed development of the two ranges as put forward in the above architectural report. That was based purely on what few architectural details remain and the footprint and layout of the ranges, but this report goes further in that it clearly shows the front north range is the earlier, by some 65 years or so at the least. This is borne out by the original roof structure having been cut into at a later point in order to amalgamate the two ranges under one roof. The findings from this tree-ring analysis also confirm the original observation that the rear south range was built as two storeys from the start (the integral dated fireplace of 1666 now proving to be commemorating that build), at least up to G5, where a former single storey outshot serving the north range may have been, later raised to gain further space and allow for the roofs to be integrated. This set of dendrochronological dates can therefore be seen to greatly add to our knowledge of just how ‘Sleddall Hall’ developed architecturally and adds further weight, to what had up to this point been based purely on observation. Furthermore, the tree-ring analysis shows that local trees were being procured

for the work, presumably from managed woodlands and no doubt being used green, not left to season, as is to be expected at this time.

What this report does not, and cannot tell us, is just how early the north range is, the present roof after all might be a later replacement. This is, however, most unlikely based upon the floorplan and what architectural detailing remains. Added to this is the circumstantial evidence provided by the Westmorland Hearth Tax returns and the Booke of Recorde. As for the rear south range, what you see we can now say dates from c.1666. But, even here, there is nothing to say that an earlier building did not once stand on the site, the slightly offset plinth being a clue possibly to such a phase.

That said I believe the commissioning of this tree-ring analysis has proved, beyond a shadow of a doubt, beneficial in the further understanding of the architectural development of this property, but also in the greater understanding of the development of this part of Kendal in that it has added yet more hard data to that already collated. My thanks go to the CWAAS, who must be commended upon financing such research and the CVBG for covering the costs of printing the hard copies of this report.

Appendix 1: Sleddale Hall – extract from List entry 1390760.

338/0/10019 WILDMAN STREET 17-DEC-03 5, 7, 9 Sleddale Hall

II Shop and pottery studio, formerly dwelling. C17 with dated ornamentation of 1666, and incorporating earlier fabric. Altered mid/late-C19. Rubble stone construction with ridge chimney stacks and slate roof covering laid to diminishing courses.

PLAN: L-shaped plan with rear range enclosing a narrow yard accessed via a passage.

EXTERIOR: Front elevation: 2 storeys, 5 bays with open passage entrance to right and doorways to the left in bays 2 and 3. Bay 1 has multi-pane shop window, bay 3 has a doorway with 6-panel part-glazed door, and a multi-pane display window to the right. Single ridge chimney to right-hand end. 5 first floor windows with mostly with 6 over 6 pane sash windows. Rear range with entrance at the junction of the 2 ranges, advanced bay, a recessed bay with paired windows, and a second advanced bay with an external stair to a galleried entrance landing.

INTERIOR: The street frontage range is divided into 2 cells, that to the right with a substantial chamfered spine beam, winder stair, hearth with imported surround and C17 square panelling moved from an upper room. The hearth wall incorporates a spice cupboard. The rear range has back to back hearths in the present pottery workshop and a further altered hearth to the end bay with a damaged decorative plaster overmantle panel with the inscription F/I M/1666. Above, a large undivided room or workshop accessed by means of the external stair, with exposed cross-framed spine beams. Roof structure supported on tie-beam trusses with angle struts, the trusses formed from what appear to be re-used cruck blades.

An L-shaped range of shops and workshops formed from a former high-status house in the historic centre of Kendal. The building plot reflects the town's distinctive urban form, with its pedestrian access passage to the side of the building, and the interior retains much original detail, despite later adaptation and exterior remodelling.

Appendix 2: Castle Dairy – extract from List entry 1145642.

SD 5193 SE KENDAL WILDMAN STREET (North side)

5/176 Castle Dairy

24-4-51 I

Farmhouse; the name implies an association with Kendal Castle but 'Dairy' may be a corruption of 'Dowry'. Now a restaurant. Probably C14; extensively remodelled c1560 for Anthony Garnett (numerous dated features have survived). Later additions and alterations. Coursed rubble with quoins. Graduated stone-flag roofs; stone chimneys (corbelled to west wing and projecting to east wing). Central Hall with 2-storey cross-wing to either end. For detailed description (including exceptionally well-preserved interior) see R.C.H.M. Westmorland (1936), with the following amendments: multi-light windows, to Hall front and to west wing 1st floor, were renewed in 1983/4 (all in facsimile except for heads carved on label-stops to Hall window). On the interior, 2 more original doorways (with pointed heads) have been opened up on the left-hand side of the cross-passage; the ground floor, east wing, fireplace and some of the original windows have also been unblocked. The extension to the rear of the west wing has been demolished.

Listing NGR: SD5193593066

Bibliography

- Arnold A. & Howard R. (2017). *Sleddall Hall, tree-ring analysis of timbers*. Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory (NTRDL). for CWAAS/CVBG. Sherwood.
- Bingham R. (1995). *Kendal. A Social History*. Cicerone Press. Milnthorpe.
- Bowd C. (Report forthcoming). *Bradley Field Farmhouse, formerly known as 'Fisher's Tenement'*.
- Elsworth D. (2010). *Castle Dairy, Wildman Street, Kendal. Archaeological Building Report*. Greenlane Archaeology Ltd. for NPS Group. Ulverston.
- Ferguson R. (1892). *The Booke of Recorde of the Burgh of Kirkby Kendal. 1575*. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. Reprinted 2001.
- Ferguson, Philips & Wareham (2008). *Westmorland Hearth Tax Michaelmas 1670 etc.* British Record Society and Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.
- Garnett A. (2016). *Castle Dairy, Wildman Street, Kendal. An Esoteric Lodge of the Elizabethan Age Influenced by Neoplatonic and Hermetic Philosophies?* In Transactions CWAAS series 3. Vol. 16. 2016. Pages 215-236.
- Listed Building (1951). *Castle Dairy. Entry no. 1145642*.
- Listed Building (2003). *Sleddale Hall. Nos 5 7 & 9. Entry no. 1390760*.
- Marsh J. (2003). *Britain in old photographs Kendal past & present*. Sutton Publishing Ltd. Stroud.
- N.T. (1999). *Townend, Troutbeck, Cumbria*. The National Trust. London.
- Speed J. (1614). *Kendale from 'Speeds' Topography 1614. In Kendal. A Social History by Roger Bingham (1995)*. Cicerone Press. Milnthorpe.
- Tyson B. (2016). *Three early Common Gardens of Kendal; and the origins of a successor*. In Transactions CWAAS series 3. Vol. 16. 2016. Pages 177-201.
- Vyner-Brooks C. (c.2003). *Sleddall Hall plan 1:100 (un-published)*. Kendal.
- Wainwright A. (1977). *Kendal in the nineteenth century.78: Yard 3, Wildman Street*. Westmorland Gazette, Kendal.
- WDFCF/1/22-*Westmorland Society of Friends, Kendal & Sedbergh. Kendal (women's) Monthly Meeting branch minutes (1671-1719). 5th November 1671*. This record can be found on the Cumbria Archive Service website CASCAT.