Tottenham Court Road Station, Soho, London
Archaeological Update 72213.06 (12.04.10)

Interim Statement – Historic Building Recording, South Block

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Crossrail (hereafter ‘the Client’) to undertake a programme of historic building recording of specific non listed built heritage within two blocks delineated by Oxford Street, Dean Street, Diadem Court and Great Chapel Street, and divided by Fareham Street (hereafter ‘the Site’), Soho. This statement reports on the southern block which is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 5295 1812 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The programme of building recording was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition in advance of the development of Tottenham Court Crossrail Station. The work includes proposals to demolish all extant structures within the Site, and alterations to the existing ground levels.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2010) detailing the methods and standards to be employed during the archaeological works. This interim statement is a summary of the recording undertaken between the 29th March and the 9th April 2010 on seven properties within the south block. A final report is being prepared in accordance with the WSI combining the results from the recording of both the north and south blocks.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Documentary research

2.1.1 A programme of documentary research was undertaken to inform the recording of each building forming the south block and to provide a background history of the Site. Visits were made to both the Westminster Archives and London Metropolitan Archives, along with the consultation of readily available digital sources.

2.1.2 The documentary research has successfully identified information relating to the former residents and businesses that lived and worked within the area. A significant quantity of architects plans relating to at least five phases of proposed alterations to the Bath Public House (Figure 4) have been identified and photographed. These provide evidence for the changing room layouts within the building, that correlate with gradual changing fashions in pub usage throughout the 20th century, within the Soho area.

2.1.3 The overall architectural character of the area has also been considered which still retains a mixture of contrasting property styles, denoted by a variety of functions and dates.
3 BUILDING RECORDING

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 Historic building surveys were undertaken at 93 Dean Street, 95 Dean Street, 3 Diadem Court, 9 Diadem Court, 2-3 Fareham Street, and 9 Great Chapel Street at a level 1/2 standard; and at 96 Dean Street (the Bath Public House) at a level 3 standard.

3.1.2 The level 1/2 recording comprised a digital photographic record using a digital camera set at ten megapixels with scales placed were appropriate. Each image was catalogued on proforma registers and photographic viewpoint plans. Basic written descriptions were also made for each property.

3.1.3 The level 3 record of 96 Dean Street entailed the elements of the Level1/2 survey and additional 35mm and medium format record photography and a metric survey using a Leica TCRP1205 to produce:

- Floor plans at 1:50 of the basement and ground to third floors which were annotated with archaeological information;
- Elevation drawings at 1:50 of the Dean Street and Fareham Street façades;
- Two structural cross sections at 1:50 through the building at SW-NE and SE-NW orientations.

3.2 96 Dean Street (NGR 529581 181262)

3.2.1 No.96 Dean Street (The Bath House Public House) was designed by the architect W.J. Farthing in 1899 (Figures 2-3), replacing an earlier pub on the site called 'The Green Man and French Horn', and a neighbouring shop/dwelling at 1 Fareham Street.

3.2.2 The fieldwork and research has demonstrated that the building has been continuously used as a public house throughout the 20th century, with accommodation on the upper floors and a function room on the first floor, which for a time in the 1930s-1950s operated as a restaurant. The existing internal bar layout is notably different to that from the 1920s (Figure 4) and is interpreted as a recent attempt to re-create the appearance of a later Victoria interior.

3.3 95 Dean Street (NGR 529585 181254)

3.3.1 The building at 95 Dean Street is a brick built four storey terrace shop/dwelling (Figure 5). It appears to possibly be early 18th century in date, although the frontage was evidently remodelled in the mid-19th century. Potential scars in the brickwork indicate the stone ornamentation had been inserted after construction, possibly late 19th to early 20th century.

3.4 93 Dean Street (NGR 529587 181251)

3.4.1 The building at 93 Dean Street is a stock brick four storey terrace shop/dwelling with ornamentation in red brick, situated on the corner of Dean Street and Diadem Court (formally Crown Court)(Figure 6). It is likely to have been constructed in the early-mid 19th century, the exterior of the structure has seen few alterations, retaining much of its original character.
3.5 9 Diadem Court (NGR 529578 181247)
3.5.1 The building at 9 Diadem Court is a stock brick four storey terrace with decorative bands of red brick string coursing within the frontage (Figure 7). Large windows into principle rooms possibly indicate that the property was converted to commercial usage and is comparable to 93 Dean Street in terms of proportions and construction, thus a mid-19th century date is likely. Internally, several mid-19th century fireplaces remain in-situ as well as the original turned timber staircase (Figure 8).

3.6 3 Diadem Court (NGR 529583 181250)
3.6.1 The building at 3 Diadem Court is a stock brick built three storey terrace house with ashlar at ground floor and simple red brick string courses across the elevation above (Figure 9). The structure is likely to have been constructed between the late-18th to early-19th century, although has subsequently been divided into apartments and redeveloped internally during the 21st century.

3.7 9 Great Chapel Street & 4 Fareham Street (NGR 529571 181231)
3.7.1 The building at the corner of Great Chapel Street and south side of Fareham Street is a red brick built four-storey structure of mid 19th century in date (Figure 10). The building retains original internal doors, casements, plaster cornices and staircase in addition to the substantial stone ornamentation across the façades. Internal access was limited at the time of survey, due to Health & Safety concerns.

3.8 2-3 Fareham Street (NGR 529570 181259)
3.8.1 The building at 2-3 Fareham Street is a compact red brick built warehouse of late-19th to early-20th century in date (Figure 11). The front and rear elevations are characterised by large arched windows with elements of architectural embellishment and moulded brick string courses. Internally there was a concrete staircase with a projecting privy tower to the rear and a pairs of fireplaces in the east wall of the building on each floor.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Summary of work completed
4.1.1 The programme of historic building recording for those structures within the South Block have been completed in compliance with the agreed WSI.

4.2 Recommendations
4.2.1 It is recommended that a watching brief is maintained within two properties No. 96 Dean Street (The Bath House Public House) and No.2-3 Fareham Street (the former warehouse) to record elements of earlier decorative schemes and internal layouts, currently obscured by modern surfaces.
5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

5.1 Key References


Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures

Wessex Archaeology, 2010. Crossrail, Tottenham Court Road Station, 93, 05, 97-99, 102 Dean Street, London: Written Scheme of Investigation for Building Recording of Non Listed Built Heritage. Unpublished WSI ref: 72213.03.

5.2 Consulted Cartographic Sources

1580 Buck Panorama (LMA ref: RM2/1)
1572 Hogenberg map (LMA ref: RM1/1)
1658 Newcourt map (LMA ref: RM3/5)
1682 Morgan map (LMA ref RM5/1)
1746 Rocque map 26'' to 1 mile (LMA ref: RM6)
1794 Horwood map (LMA ref: RM9)
1827 C & J Greenwood map (LMA ref: SL/GL/GMM/001)
1870 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25'' to 1 mile (LMA ref: RM21/XXXIV NE/SE)
1938 Good Fire Insurance Plan (LMA ref: LCC/VA/GOAD/IX/1938)

5.3 Consulted Trade Directories

1677 A Collection of Names of Merchants Living in and About the City of London
1736 Kent’s directory
1738 Intelligencer; or, Merchants Assistant
1740 Complete Guide 1st Edition
1799 London Directory
1799 Kent’s directory
1850 Kelly’s Port Office Directory
1900 Kelly’s Port Office Directory
1925 Kelly’s Port Office Directory
1935 Kelly’s Port Office Directory
1945 Kelly’s Port Office Directory
1950 Kelly’s Port Office Directory
Figure 2: General view of The Bath House

Figure 3: Detail of signage on north elevation of The Bath House

Figure 4: 1899 plan showing proposed room arrangement in The Bath House
Figure 5: General view of 95 Dean Street

Figure 6: General view of 93 Dean Street

Figure 7: General view of 9 Diadem Court

Figure 8: Detail of fireplace in 9 Diadem Court
Figure 9: General view of 3 Diadem Court

Figure 10: General view of 9 Great Chapel Street

Figure 11: Detail of doorcases in 9 Great Chapel Street

Figure 12: General view of 2-3 Fareham Street