

# C263 ARCHAEOLOGY LATE EAST Fieldwork Report Non-Listed Built Heritage The Barge Public House

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### Introduction

## 1.1 Summary site background and the proposed development

This report presents the results of the non-listed built heritage recording (NLBH), undertaken in advance of the demolition of The Barge public house prior to the construction of an extension to Custom House Station.

The building is located in the London Borough of Newham, on the intersection of Victoria Dock Road and Freemasons Road. (NGR TQ 40694 80959). The event code (sitecode) for the project is **XTI13.** 

The Barge (originally known as the Freemasons Tavern) was built in 1862 as a three storey public house serving the burgeoning area of the London Docklands. It was later extended to the north during the first two decades of the 20th century and appears to have sustained bomb damage during the Second World War. The Barge was converted into a hostel during the mid-1990s, and from 2003 specialised in providing accommodation for vulnerable young people. The Barge closed prior to demolition in early 2013.

The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone as defined by the London Borough of Newham. The site does not include any scheduled monuments or listed buildings. The NLBH assessment (Crossrail Document No. C520-XRL-T1-RGN-CR145-50001) has identified the building as being of local significance. The immediate area around the public house has been subject to comprehensive modern redevelopment and it stands out as one of the few clearly visible 19th century structures in the area. The building is due to be demolished with discreet material components salvaged and stored, with a view to reinstatement at an alternative site in the future.



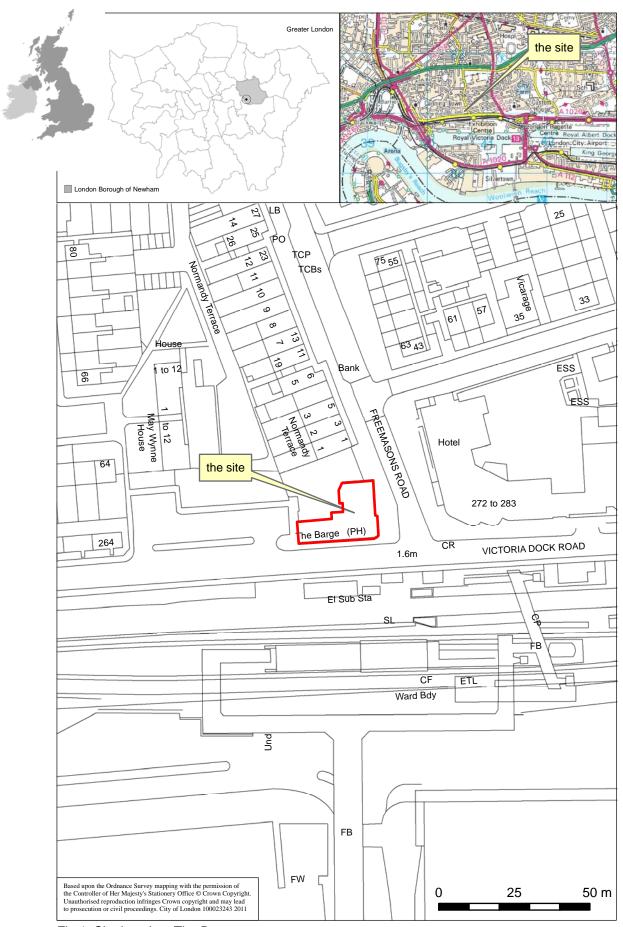


Fig 1 Site location: The Barge



Fig 2 The Barge, looking north-west

## 1.2 Purpose

This document presents the results of the NLBH recording of The Barge public house prior to demolition required by the construction of an extension to Custom House station.

The existing station requires extension and improvement in order to be incorporated into the south-east spur of the Crossrail Scheme, between Custom House Station and North Woolwich Portal. The existing station will be enlarged during the refurbishment in order to enable it to be used by Crossrail trains.

## 1.3 Scope

The NLBH recording forms part of the archaeological mitigation for Crossrail and the definition of NLBH follows Information Paper D22 Archaeology and Crossrail Generic WSI (Document Reference 14022008-44-P2Z1) and includes:

- Important non-listed buildings of historic interest proposed for demolition in conservation areas (as set out in Information Paper D18, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas).
- Important non-listed street furniture and materials.

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 Other important non-listed buildings and structures of historic interest outside conservation areas, locally listed station buildings and railway structures and industrial and defence archaeology of significance.

The fieldwork, conducted between 07/05/13 and 23/05/13, covered the exterior and interior of the Barge. All of the buildings and structures were recorded at English Heritage Level 2 as defined by the English Heritage publication *Understanding Historic Buildings*, a guide to good recording practice (EH 2006).

As described in section 3.3.2 of the Crossrail Document *C263 Archaeology Late East Method Statement Trench evaluation, sample excavation, watching briefs, and non listed built heritage recording, Custom House Statement* (document number: C263-MLA-X-GMS-CR145-50001 Rev. 4, 26.03.13) the overall objective of the NLBH recording was to produce a Level 2 record of the building before demolition of the structure.



# 2 Methodology and objectives

The NLBH recording was undertaken according to the methods and practices laid out in the Crossrail document C520 Custom House Station - Archaeology Site Specific Written Scheme of Investigation Document Number: C520-XRL-T1-RGN-CR145-50001.

In addition to the fieldwork, the off-site descriptive study and the reporting in this document comply with the relevant guidelines from the Institute for Archaeologists, (IFA 1996), English Heritage (EH 1991, GLAAS 1998, 2000 and 2006), the Museum of London Archaeology Health and Safety Policy (MOLA 2012), and the Museum of London Archaeology Service site manual (MoLAS1994).

The Crossrail document *C263 Archaeology Late East Method Statement Trench evaluation, sample excavation, watching briefs, and non listed built heritage recording, Custom House Station* (document number: C263-MLA-X-GMS-CR145-50001 Rev. 4, 26.03.13) stated that the Barge should be subjected to a Level 2 Historic Building Record (as specified by English Heritage, 2006).

The survey by MOLA subsequently focussed on capturing a detailed record of the structures in their present state, prior to demolition. Details and surviving public house features within the building were photographed and their locations noted on plans.

Photography included wide and general views along with detail of more complex or unusual features and those of architectural interest. A scale was used where appropriate.

Further to the on-site work, a very limited programme of documentary archive research was undertaken, primarily utilising online and published sources.

The specific research aims for the recording were laid out in the Crossrail document C263 Archaeology Late East Method Statement Trench evaluation, sample excavation, watching briefs, and non listed built heritage recording, Custom House Station (document number: C263-MLA-X-GMS-CR145-50001) and are as follows:

- Is there any evidence for the development sequence of the Public House?
- What are the surviving fixtures and fittings, both internally and externally?

Further to the specified aims above were the following objectives:

- To investigate the fabric of the structure before demolition/ alteration/ refurbishment, with the aim of elucidating its structural history, and record and analyse the resulting evidence for this history using applicable archaeological methods
- To make a record of the existing building in its present condition, by means of photography, measured survey where necessary and annotated sketches.

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- To carry out an appropriate level of documentary research in order to give a written account of the structure.
- To report the results in suitable form in accordance with Crossrail requirements, and archive the records.



# 3 Concise historical background

## 3.1 Outline description of the building

This report should be read alongside the measured drawings of the building (Drawings 1-3 at the end of the text). The Barge public house, originally the Freemasons Tavern, is L-shaped in plan (Drawing 1) and has three different phases of construction (see section 4.1). The longest wing running east-west has a three storey east half and two storey western half. A curved south-east corner marks the junction between the south elevation and the east elevation. There are three distinct builds to the east elevation; the original 19th century brick build to the south, a very elaborate two storey middle section which contains the entrance lobby which has a granite and tile façade; and the single storey brick and stone east elevation (Fig 2). Internally there is a basement and ground floor, with first and second floors in discreet areas of the structure. The original layout of the public house is difficult to establish but is discussed in section 4 of this document. The later use of the building was a youth hostel which has fundamentally altered the earlier divisions of the property into single occupancy bedrooms and bathrooms.

## 3.2 Historical background

The Barge was originally called the Freemason's Tavern and was constructed as a purpose-built public house c 1862 (pubology.co.uk) on the corner of Victoria Dock Road and Dirty Lane. The building first appears on the OS 1:2500 map of 1869 (Fig 3) which shows a rectangular building orientated east-west along Victoria Dock Road in relative isolation. At this period of time the London Docklands was in a state of development and domestic housing to the north of the Victoria Dock was only just starting to be constructed on what was formerly Plaistow Marsh. The Freemason's Tavern was one of the first structures to be completed and would have initially served the dock workers as well as those employed in the local electric telegraph factories.



Fig 3 OS 1:2500 map of 1869

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The construction of the eastwards extension to the Victoria Dock, the Albert Dock, occurred between 1876-80 (Crossrail 2011) and by the OS 1:2500 map of 1896 (Fig 4) the area to the north of the docks had become densely urbanised with terraced houses organised on a grid-iron system. By this point the street name Dirty Lane had been replaced with Freemasons Road reflecting the local importance of the public house at its southern end. The Freemason's Tavern was now serving the local labour force who were now able to live in the new housing close to their workplaces.

Spurred on by the National Seamen's and Firemen's Union, who were themselves pushing for a wage rise and called on the transport workers for help, the East End docks were brought to a halt for two months during the summer of 1912 (eastlondonhistory.com). Whilst this must have been a difficult time for all of the communities living in the Docklands, the Freemasons Tavern provided a focal point for strike meetings and a photograph (Fig 5) taken at the time shows a dockers'

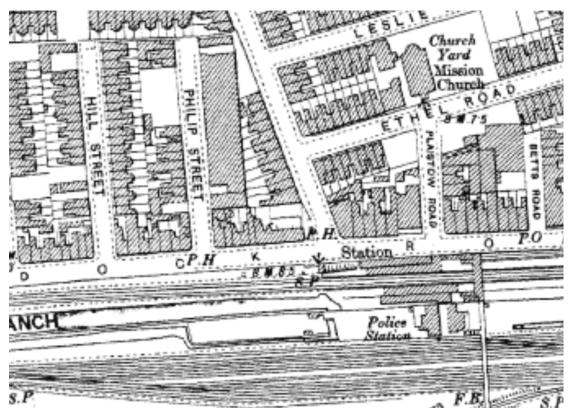


Fig 4 OS 1:2500 map of 1895





Fig 5 The Freemasons Tavern photographed in 1912 during a dock workers strike (Source: London Borough of Newham)

protest immediately outside of the east elevation of the pub being monitored by mounted police as a tram passes by (London Borough of Newham, date unknown). This photograph demonstrates that somewhere between the OS 1:10560 map of 1899 (not reproduced) and 1912 the Freemasons Tavern had been extended to the north by two bays, one of two storeys and the northernmost of a single storey.

Clearly the strike of 1912 and the Great War of 1914-18 did not dent the thirst of the local population as the OS 1:2500 map of 1919 (Fig 6) shows that there were a total of five public houses in a tight cluster along Victoria Dock Road, with one called the Railway Tavern (newhamstory.com) directly opposite the Freemasons Tavern on the east side of Freemasons Road. This is reflective of a national trend which saw a high tide of licenses granted to public houses during the first two decades of the 20th century. In 1905 c 99,000 licenses were issued which had dwindled to c 77, 500 in 1935. The construction of five million suburban homes throughout the country led to the redistribution of inner city licenses as well as a reduction in the numbers of public houses as drinking culture began to decline (Haydon 1994). The gradual reduction in licenses nationally was also demonstrated on Victoria Dock Road as by 1960 only three public houses remained, and by 1968 there was only the Freemasons Tavern and the Railway Tavern.

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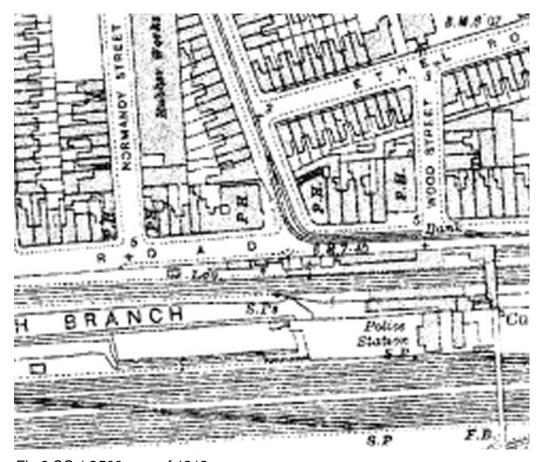


Fig 6 OS 1:2500 map of 1919

The London bomb damage survey records that a high explosive bomb fell immediately to the north-west of the Freemasons Tavern on Normandy Terrace between 1940-1 (bombsight.org) and this is highly likely to account for what appears to be repaired blast damage to the second floor of the original 1862 public house to the south of the site. The war also took its toll on a former landlord of the Freemasons Tavern, Bill Brown, who ran the pub until he was called up for service in 1941. Sadly Bill never made it home and died in Changi prisoner of war camp (newhamstory.com). By 1944 the licensees are listed as being John Rickard Murphy and Mrs Annie Neary (Post Office 1944).

Less can be said about the recent history of the building. Online sources indicate that it was a public house owned by the Courage Brewery and that the name had been changed to The Barge, and may have eventually changed its name to the Kilkenny Castle c 1985 (pubology.co.uk). By the early 1990s the pub trade was in crisis with the price of beer having risen by 15% during the previous decade and the Parliamentary Monopolies and Mergers Commission ordering that no brewery should be in possession of more than 2000 pubs which led to the selling of 22000 properties. The Barge finally closed its doors to beer drinkers and was converted into a youth hostel, which in 2003 eventually became a building 'providing accommodation for vulnerable young people with the objective of preparing them for independent living' (thebargehostel.co.uk). The Barge was closed in early 2013 in order to be demolished in advance of the construction of an extension to Custom House

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# 4 Description of the buildings

## 4.1 Phasing

As described in the previous section the Barge has been extended and altered during its history. There are four principal phases of construction:

- Phase 1: The earliest represented by the rectangular structure in the southern part of the site, running alongside Victoria Dock Road as shown on the OS 1:2500 map of 1869 (Fig 3).
- Phase 2: This structure was then extended to the north after 1899 and prior to the 1912 photograph (Fig 5) a fact emphasised by a fine Art Nouveau style entrance lobby complete with a wrought-iron gate surround.
- Phase 3: The second floor of the original public house was rebuilt during the second half of the twentieth century, possibly as a result of bomb damage during World War 2.
- Phase 4: During the 1990s the building was converted into a 'halfway' hostel for teenagers.

All four phases are represented in the fabric of the Barge and will be referred to within the description of the building and its fabric.

#### 4.2 Exterior

The building is constructed mainly of load bearing walls in yellow London stock bricks; some reinforcement has also been introduced possibly during the modification of the internal layout in later phases.

The longest axis of the L shaped plan, orientated east-west and facing south, has three storeys to the eastern half, while the west half was built up to first floor level. The south-east corner of the building is rounded with a white painted panel on the first floor level. This white paint masks the original public house sign. Both three and two storey parts of the building have single-sided pitch roofs sloping to the north.

The east and south facing elevation of the second floor is simple in appearance, constructed mostly with yellow stock bricks in Flemish bond and some darker over-fired bricks are also present. It has a plain and undecorated brick parapet and a simple cornice constructed from two layers of red tiles with a brick coping above. The second floor has no windows to the east, but six windows to the south with flat cambered arches and what appear to be modern sills. The second floor dates from Phase 3 and has been built subsequent to Second World War bomb damage, in brickwork which is noticeably cleaner than the Victorian stock bricks below.

The western two storey part of the south elevation has a moulded cornice and low rise parapet, both rendered and painted white. The windows of the first floor have modern uPVC glazing and are identical apart from the last two to the west, which have a higher sill. The windows have rendered heads with lozenge-shaped key stones in the centre, which are painted white. Behind the painted heads the windows have flat cambered arches. A dentilled cornice divides the ground floor and first floor on the east elevation of the Phase 1 building only, although this cornice has also been continued above the ground floor of the Phase 2 northern extension.

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The south and east elevation of the ground floor level of this wing of the Phase 1 building is rendered and painted white. The high level but smaller windows (boarded over at the time of the survey) replaced the original larger windows, which can be seen in the archive photograph of c 1912 and were almost the full length of each bay (Fig 5). The pilasters which divide up the bays of the south and east elevations at ground level are plain and rectangular in profile and constructed from concrete. However they were originally decorative pilasters with Classical-style capitals (the exact type is not discernible on Fig 5). There are three blocked doorways to the public house on the south elevation, with step stones from the Victoria Dock Road and a blocked cellar drop in the pavement of the east elevation.

The current entrance to the public house (Fig 9) in the centre of the east elevation dates to c 1900 and was added during Phase 2. The early 20th century lobby is typical of public houses constructed during the period where Art Nouveau design was ascendant. A single central window with an upper panel with a decorative oval glazing design is flanked by two identical double-swing doorways with yellow floral stained glass window lights above. Either side of the doors are elaborately moulded fluted pilasters supporting a segmental pediment. The dressed red granite façade plinth is surmounted with ox-blood red and yellow tiles. There are two identical panels of dust pressed Art Nouveau tiles adjacent to the doorways (Fig 10) with a floral motif relief design similar in style to those produced by Pilkington's Tile and Pottery Company during the first decade of the 20th century (Lemmen 2008). The façade has an open work wrought iron gate in scroll design (

Fig 11).



Fig 7 the east façade of the Barge, looking west
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Fig 8 The southern façade of the Barge, looking north-west



Fig 9 The latest entrance to the public house, looking north-east Page 15 of 46





Fig 10 Art Nouveau tiles



Fig 11 Open work wrought iron above the main entrance

At first floor level above the main entrance, are two identical windows with modern uPVC glazing shorter than those of the south wing. These windows also have similar rendered heads with a key stone dropping from the crown moulded cornice similar to those of the south elevation. A moulded cornice sits below a plain parapet which hides a flat roof behind (Fig 12).

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Fig 12 East elevation of the Phase 2 extension, looking west

The northernmost part of the Phase 2 extension appears to be a separate build to the block immediately to the south however is part of the same Phase 2 build despite its radically different appearance resulted from the use of red bricks on the façade contrasting the rest of the structure constructed of yellow stock bricks. This part of the building is single storied and has a flat roof. It has a symmetrical east elevation with two identical windows dressed with moulded stone architrave and key stones dropping from the stone plat band (or string course) and a parapet decorated with moulded tympanum that has a semi-circular brick arch with keystone and voussoirs (Fig 13). The stone dressed surrounds and architraves of the windows are identical to the moulded timber frame and architraves of the windows inside. East face of this part of the building also has a plinth of up to five courses of red glazed bricks topped with a course of plinth-brick. Bricks between the plinth and the stone plat band are also glazed.



Fig 13 East elevation of the north end block of the building, looking west

The Phase 1 build has a very plain west facing elevation constructed with a mix of yellow and over fired London stock bricks in Flemish bond. This elevation has no windows and features the scar of bomb damage repair with different coloured bricks visible in the parapet. It has a stepped parapet lowering to the north, reflecting the falling of the single-pitch roof.

The two storey Phase 1 build has a plain modern brick north elevation, with 2 modern uPVC windows on the first floor level. The ground floor level is painted white and plastered in some places with an inserted door and a small window.

The north facing elevation of the three storey part of the building has the access door to the second floor level and two modern windows. Most of this elevation is rebuilt with modern bricks in English bond. The lower half of two original windows are visible along with their sills in the lower level of the original wall constructed with a mix of yellow and darker bricks in Flemish bond. These windows, such as they survive, were blocked at the time that the second floor was rebuilt subsequent to Second World War bomb damage (Fig 14).





Fig 14 North facing elevation and access to the second floor level, looking south

North facing elevation of the 1st floor level of the middle block, constructed with a mix of yellow and darker bricks in Flemish bond has not been altered much. It has a projected chimney breast and a small chimney stack with only one pot. The 1st floor level is also accessible from the roof of the single storey north block. This door and a small window next to it are modern additions in the place of an original window with a segmental brick arch in the east facing elevation of the 1st floor wing to the north. Part of the segmental brick arch is still visible (Fig 15).



Fig 15 North facing elevation and alternative entrance to the 1st floor of the middle block, looking south

The rear entrance to the building is through the stairwell in the angle of the Phase 1 building and its northern Phase 2 extension. The stairwell has a large 1st floor window to the north. The possible original empty space between the stairwell and the

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middle block, north of the south wing was converted to a storage room by converting a window of the original north wall of the south wing to a door and adding an external north wall, joined to the west wall of the middle block and the stairwell. This first floor part of the building has since been removed and the door access blocked.

The basement of the property is also accessible from the stairwell and an external cellar drop, at the rear of the middle block of the building. The west elevation of the middle and north block of the building has a plain chamfered corner to the north end, two identical windows with segmental arches on each floor and a door with a step from the ground level. It has a flat roof with plain parapet and cornice (Fig 16).



Fig 16 North and west elevation of the building, looking south-east



Fig 17 North facing elevation of the building, looking south

#### 4.3 Interior

#### 4.3.1 Basement

The basement was originally accessed via a cellar drop from Freemasons Road which existed on the pavement in front of the east elevation of the Phase 1 building. This is now blocked but survives as a scar in the pavement. The storage cellar exists directly beneath the rectangular superstructure above and has a concrete floor surface with brick walls and a low composite ceiling constructed from both timber and rolled steel joists supported by stanchions. Stillages for barrel storage are found immediately to the north and south of the cellar drop, but they do not survive anywhere else within the cellars. The Phase 1 cellar has been subdivided into five smaller rooms by brick and concrete block walls. The four western rooms all have modern plasterboard ceilings.

There is an alcove in the second room to the west of the cellar drop in the south wall which is flanked on both sides by blocked pavement lights. Another blocked pavement light is also partially visible within the fourth chamber to the west of the cellar drop, however this is obscured by a modern concrete block wall.



Fig 18 The Phase 1 cellar, looking east. Note the stillages and blocked cellar drop between them.

The Phase 2 extension to the pub was also fitted with cellars which lie immediately to the north of the original storage space. A wide opening in the north wall of the Phase 1 cellar allows internal access. Following the blockage of the cellar drop in front of the east elevation the basement is accessed via a door in the stairwell which was added to the original Phase 1 structure of the pub during Phase 2. A single flight of timber steps leads down to the concrete floor. This is a pedestrian access only and a separate cellar drop exists immediately to the north. To the east, beyond the entrance lobby to the new cellars are two further chambers, the first of which is two bays wide and has access to the Phase 1 cellars to the south and a second Phase 2 chamber to the north which is four bays wide. Once again the walls are constructed from brickwork and the low composite ceiling is constructed from both timber and rolled steel joists, although there are no stanchions within the Phase 2 cellars.

#### 4.3.2 Ground Floor

The ground floor is accessed from the Phase 2 entrance lobby in the east façade. There is a small vestibule with modern timber and plaster walls immediately inside the lobby which allows entry to the former saloon bar to the north or the bar to the west.

The bar remains the central hub of the Barge (Fig 19), as much in its life as a hostel as it was during its time as a public house. Lit by a tall window to the east with an impressive timber architrave which mirrors the elaborate moulding on the exterior elevation, the bar is a square room with an access to the Phase 1 part of the building to the south. To the north is an inserted modern timber and plaster wall with a wired glass window allowing inter-visibility to the saloon bar. This modern dividing wall is a

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replacement for an early 20th century wall which was later removed and replaced with a single steel stanchion located just to the north during the second half of the 20th century in an attempt to open up the bar and lounge into a single open plan space. When the public house was converted into a hostel during the 1990s the current modern wall was inserted to once again divide up the space.



Fig 19 The timber bar in the Phase 2 northern extension, looking west

The west of the bar room is taken up with the timber bar itself (Fig 19). This is a carved, curving timber bar which is divided into six unequal bays by scrollwork pilasters which support the moulded surface above and has a moulded plinth and recessed timber panelling. The bar curves round in the north-western corner and has a vertical pivot hatch at its south end to allow access to and from the server behind. The bar appears to be contemporary with the build of the Phase 2 extension to the public house. There are modern folding timber flaps which can be unlocked to close off the bar at last orders to indicate that serving has ceased. The shelving unit above is supported on five turned timber balusters which are also contemporary with the Phase 2 build.

Behind the bar is an ornate four bay wide set of timber spirit shelves (Fig 20) with a moulded counter, fluted columns, scrollwork shelves, eight double tiered rectangular mirrors with a row of eight arched mirrors above. Three of the rectangular mirror and three of the arched mirrors still feature original early 20th century Art Nouveau floral motif frosted etched designs. Above the shelving is a dark green structurally integral plaster coving complete with original gold painted escutcheons and festoon swags with a timber egg and dart moulding above.

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Fig 20 The spirits shelves behind the timber bar, looking south-west.

There is access to a small WC behind the bar directly opposite the serving hatch, and from the north side a door allows entry into a second server in the old saloon bar (Fig 21). This bar unit is a plain, modern, rectangular timber structure with a servery hatch on the south side. To the rear is a moulded doorway contemporary with the c 1900 Phase 2 extension which leads into what is now a kitchen and storage area. Also contemporary are the moulded timber dado and picture rails. The saloon bar was used as recreational space during the time that the building was a youth hostel and a second much larger kitchen unit was inserted in the north-west corner of the room. The dado and picture rail have been relocated to run around the exterior of this inserted kitchen and were removed from their original locations against the north and west walls. Originally the saloon bar was heated by a fireplace located centrally in the north elevation.





Fig 21 The saloon bar, looking west. Note the supporting column, the dado and picture rails and the moulded door architrave

The entire Phase 1 part of the building to the south was converted into eight single occupancy ensuite bedrooms (Fig 22) with a toilet, wash basin and shower (Fig 23). The rooms were all lit with high level windows in order to maintain the security of the vulnerable occupants. There are also two small kitchens and an office serving this part of the building. The rooms are all divided by modern plasterboard over a softwood framing. A corridor runs the length of the north side of this wing which is accessed from the main bar. There is a change in floor level adjacent to the kitchen which is negotiated by two steps down to the east. The original and subsequent layouts of this part of the building when it was a public house is no longer discernible as the interior was stripped and redesigned when it was converted into a hostel.





Fig 22 Representative first floor single occupancy hostel bedroom



Fig 23 Representative first floor en suite bathroom from a single occupancy hostel bedroom

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The stairwell is accessed from the east-west corridor and provides a route to both the first floor and the basement cellars. The banisters, newel posts and balusters are modern timbers of rectangular section (Fig 24).



Fig 24 The staircase between the ground floor and the first floor, looking north-east

#### 4.3.3 First Floor

The layout of the first floor owes its design to the conversion of The Barge into a youth hostel, and is therefore similar to the south wing of the first floor. There are 11 single occupancy en suite rooms. The rooms are accessed from two principal corridor; the first runs along the north side of the south wing and links to the main stairwell to 9 of the bedrooms; the second is orientated north-south and gives access to 2 bedrooms, a kitchen and a utility room.

All of the rooms have walls made of plasterboard over softwood framing except for the wall between Rooms 206 and 207. Intrusive work during the asbestos survey demonstrated that the plasterboard masked an original brick loadbearing wall. This wall corresponds externally to the change from a two storey structure to a three storey structure and appears as a building division on the 1869 OS map (Fig 3).

There is also a storeroom immediately to the east of the stairwell which has a flat cambered arch internally which is evidence that there was originally a Phase 1 window which was converted into a door during Phase 2. The north wall of this storeroom also features a blocked door which once gave access at first floor level to a room to the north which has been removed wholesale.

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A single step up from the second principal corridor allows access via a modern fire door onto the flat felt and modern tile covered roof of the very north end of the Phase 2 northern extension. This roofspace then links to a modern metal fire escape from the second floor of the Phase 1 building above.

A second staircase links the first floor with the second floor above and is located at the south end of the east-west principal corridor, adjacent to Room 204. The moulded banister, and turned balusters and newel post are all indicative that this is an original staircase from the Phase 1 building which has survived in situ. Several of the balusters have been replaced with modern ones of identical square profile as the staircase linking the ground floor to the second floor indicating later repairs. The first tread of the staircase is now flush with the modern raised floor level of the south wing. The Phase 2 northern extension maintains the original 19th century floor level and consequently a step up occurs at the junction between the two corridors on the first floor.

The ceiling structure of the first floor was examined during the course of a soft-strip on site and it was revealed that machine cut timber joists held up a superstructure reinforced with herringbone struts This is not an un-common feature of late 19th century buildings, often found in public buildings and used extensively in warehouses (Fig 25).



Fig 25 First floor ceiling structure, looking west

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#### 4.3.4 Second Floor

The layout of the second floor also owes its design to the conversion of The Barge into a youth hostel. The internal staircase from the first floor has been blocked with plasterboard and softwood framing and consequently the second floor is now only accessible via the flat roof and external fire escape. An entrance corridor allows access to two self-contained hostel flats, each with its own kitchen, living room, bedroom, WC and shower.



# 5 Conclusions, publication and archiving

#### 5.1 Conclusions

The aims and objectives of NLBH recording and analysis works defined in the SS-WSI (Crossrail 2012) complete with the production of this report. During the survey the non-listed building on the site was recorded in its present condition by means of photography and with the use of existing scale drawings supplied by Crossrail.

It was noted that the Barge represents a building of local significance as the final remaining structure of a public house in an area which once saw a proliferation of such buildings. As all of the other 19th century public houses at Custom House have been demolished the Barge is a remarkable survival despite the floor plans of the building have been radically altered when it was converted into a hostel. The in situ early 20th century design and surviving fixtures were of some architectural merit. The Art Nouveau exterior of the saloon bar entrance and the contemporary internal bar and spirit shelves were particularly noteworthy, and the principal contractor was able to salvage a number of Art Nouveau tiles and coloured and frosted glass windows prior to demolition of the building.

#### 5.2 Publication

#### 5.2.1.1

Information on the results of the survey will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of Custom House in particular.

## 5.2.1.2

In view of the potential of the material it is suggested that a summary on the results of the Standing Building Recording project, possibly including figures or photographs, should appear in the annual round up of the *London Archaeologist* or a similar and appropriate academic journal. The result of the NLBH recording will be included within Crossrail's project wide post-excavation analysis and publication work stream CRL 1 Historic Buildings.

#### 5.3 Archive schedule

#### 5.3.1.1

The site archive of original records will be deposited with the Museum of London in accordance with Section 8 of the SS-WSI (Crossrail 2012) within 12 months of the end of the survey.

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#### **Historic Mapping**

OS 1:1056 map of 1869

OS 1:2500 map of 1869

OS 1:1056 map of 1895

OS 1:2500 map of 1896

OS 1:10560 map of 1899

OS 1:2500 map of 1919

OS 1:2500 map of 1953-60

OS 1:2500 map of 160-68

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## **Websites**

The Barge – <a href="https://www.thebargehostel.co.uk">www.thebargehostel.co.uk</a> (accessed 26/06/13)

Bomb Sight – <a href="https://www.bombsight.org">www.bombsight.org</a> (accessed 26/06/13)

East London History – <a href="https://www.eastlondonhistory.com">www.eastlondonhistory.com</a> (accessed 26/06/13)

Newham Story – <a href="https://www.newhamstory.com">www.newhamstory.com</a> (accessed 26/06/13)

Pubology – <a href="https://www.pubology.co.uk">www.pubology.co.uk</a> (accessed 26/06/13)



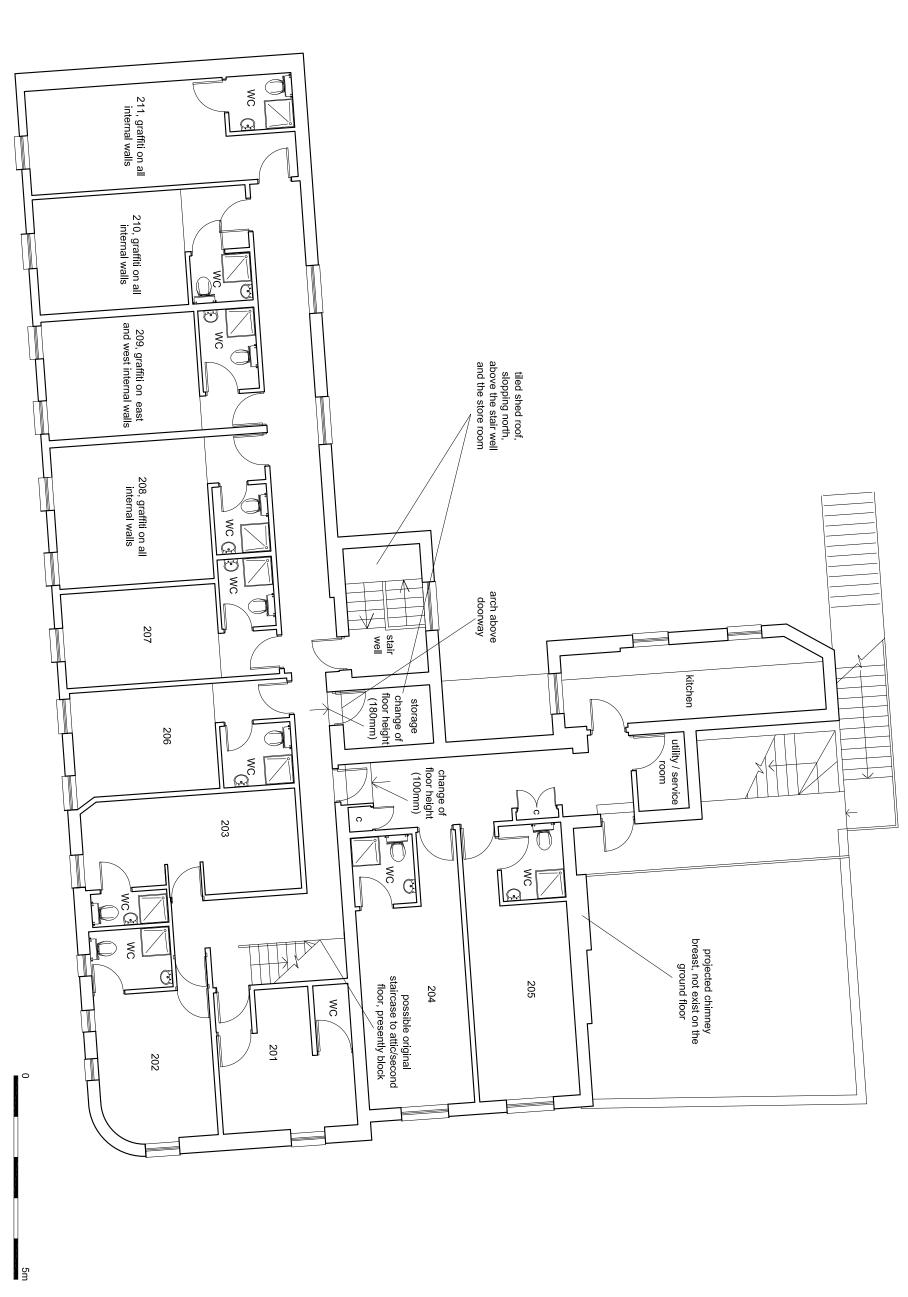
# 7 Acknowledgements

This report was commissioned from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) by the client, Crossrail Ltd, whom MOLA wish to thank. MOLA also wishes to thank Crossrail for the provision of the William Martin Property & Construction Consultants floor plans of the building. The contractors on site also provided assistance and in particular the author wishes to thank of Laing O'Rourke for their help and for facilitating access to the site. The documentary research was carried out by James Wright. The on-site photography was done by Maggie Cox of the MOLA Photography Team, whilst other photographs were taken by James Wright. The transferral of the data from the supplied drawings and production of the CAD plans were done by Azizul Karim.



# **8 APPENDIX 1 – FLOOR PLANS**

[XTI13] Standing Building Survey Report © MOLA2013





P:\MULT\\1051\XTI13\FIELD\SBR\CAD



# 9 APPENDIX 2 - List of archaeological photographs

Serial	Archive	Direction	Description
Number	Number	of View	·
070513-01	10713009	W	numbered entrance door to a 2nd floor room
070513-02	10713010	W	kitchen area and access to the loft in a second floor room
070513-03	10713011	SE	floor boarding and door to a 2nd floor room
070513-04	10713012	SE	carpeted floor and door to a 2nd floor room
070513-05	10713013	S	north facing elevation of the 2nd floor, entrance from the first floor roof
070513-06	10713014	SW	north facing elevation of the south wing and the stairwell
070513-07	10713015	SW	north facing elevation of the stairwell, looking from the 1st floor roof
070513-08	10713016	S	survived bottom half of a blocked window with sill in the north facing elevation of the 2nd floor
070513-09	10713017	SE	north facing elevation of the 1st floor level of the middle block
070513-10	10713018	SW	blocked door and present door to the east on to the ground floor roof terrace from the 1st floor
070513-11	10713019	N	inside the 1st floor kitchen
070513-12	10713020	NE	internal staircase on the 1st floor to access 2nd floor (now blocked in the start of the 2nd flight)
070513-13	10713021	NW	blocked staircase from the 1st floor to the 2nd floor
070513-14	10713022	W	ball top starting newel post of the internal staircase on the 1st floor
070513-15	10713023	S	change of floor height on the 1st floor
070513-16	10713024	SE	rounded internal corner of the 1st floor south-east corner room of the south wing
070513-17	10713025	S	segmental arch of an original 1st floor window to the north next to the stair case, converted in to a door to an added storage room
070513-18	10713026	NE	sample of a typical bathroom in a 1st floor room
070513-19	10713027	SE	1st floor window to the south in room 206
070513-20	10713028	W	staircase flight from the 1st floor
070513-21	10713029	W	void between the plaster-board room dividing internal wall
070513-22	10713030	W	void between the plaster-board room dividing internal wall
070513-22	10713031	W	void between the plaster-board room dividing internal wall
070513-23	10713032	Е	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room
070513-24	10713033	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close view
070513-25	10713034	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room
070513-26	10713035	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close view
070513-27	10713036	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, hole through the wall
070513-28	10713037	Е	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close view
070513-29	10713038	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close view

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Serial	Archive	Direction	Description
Number	Number	of View	
070513-30			graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close view
	10713039	Е	
070513-31	10713040	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close view
070513-32	10713041	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-33	10713042	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-34	10713043	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-35	10713044	W	graffiti on internal walls of a 1st floor room
070513-36	10713045	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room
070513-37	10713046	w	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-38	10713047	Е	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-39	10713048	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-40	10713049	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-41	10713050	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room
070513-42	10713051	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room
070513-43	10713052	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a 1st floor room, close shot
070513-44	10713053	N	ground floor stairwell lobby and entrance to the stair case to the basement
070513-45	10713054		floor boarding of a ground floor room
070513-46	10713055	S	a typical room on the ground floor
070513-47	10713056	W	east-west running corridor on the ground floor, the main bar area to the right
070513-48	10713057	SE	south-east corner room on the ground floor with the rounded corner
070513-49	10713058	W	the main bar of the public house
070513-50	10713059	w	the main bar of the public house
070513-51			the main bar of the public house with the hinged shutter
070513-52	10713060	W	dropped the main bar of the public house with the hinged shutter
	10713061	W	dropped
070513-53	10713062	N	posts of the bar opening and the hinged shutter
070513-54	10712062	W	timber panelling and scrolled moulded posts in the base of
070513-55	10713063 10713064	SW	the main bar the main bar of the public house
070513-56		NE NE	the bar area
070513-57	10713065 10713066	N	inside the bar and the spirit shelves
070513-58	10713067	N	inside the bar and the spirit shelves
070513-59	10713067	S	inside the bar and the spirit shelves
070513-60	10713069	S	recessed electric circuit box
070513-61	10713070	NE	inside the bar area
070513-62	10713070	NE	inside the bar area
070513-63	10713071	W	art nouveau moulding on the spirit shelves
070513-64		VV	art nouveau moulding on the spirit shelves
070513-65	10713073	NW	the spirit shelves
070513-66	10713074		the function area inside the single storey north block
070513-67	10713075	NE	the function area inside the single storey north block
	10713076	SW	Page 40 of 46

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Serial Number	Archive Number	Direction of View	Description
070513-68	10713077	SE	the function area inside the single storey north block
070513-69	10713078	SE	internal elevation of the main entrance door to the public house
070513-70	10713079	SE	internal elevation of the main entrance door to the public house and the moulded picture rail continued into the chamfered modern wall.
070513-71	10713080	NE	internal elevation of the main entrance door to the public house and the moulded picture rail continued through the internal wall
070513-72	10713081	SE	open work of wrought iron above the main entrance to the public house
100513-01	10713082	NW	entrance door to the public house
100513-02	10713083	SE	panels of dust pressed art nouveau tiles adjacent to the doorways
100513-03	10713084	SE	panels of dust pressed art nouveau tiles adjacent to the doorways
100513-04	10713085	SE	panels of dust pressed art nouveau tiles adjacent to the doorways
100513-05	10713086	SE	panels of dust pressed art nouveau tiles adjacent to the doorways
100513-06	10713087	W	art nouveau glassworks in lights above the main entrance
100513-07	10713088	NW	the main entrance door to the public house
100513-08	10713089	NW	the main entrance door to the public house
100513-09	10713090	NW	the main entrance door to the public house
100513-10	10713091	NW	the main entrance door to the public house
100513-11	10713092	SW	blocked door in the main entrance to the public house
100513-12	10713093	W	door to the kitchen behind the bar with possible original moulded timber frame
100513-13	10713094	SE	north and west facing rear elevation of the building
100513-14	10713095	SE	north and west facing rear elevation of the building
100513-15	10713096	SE	north and west facing rear elevation of the building
100513-16	10713097	SE	north and west facing rear elevation of the building
100513-17	10713098	S	north facing elevation of the building, looing south
100513-18	10713099	SE	the ramped cellar drop in the rear of the building
100513-19	10713100	Е	rear entrance to the middle block in to the pub kitchen
100513-20	10713101	SE	south and west facing elevation of the stairwell
100513-21	10713102	W	east facing front elevation of the public house
100513-22	10713103	W	east facing front elevation of the public house
100513-23	10713104	SW	north and east facing elevations of the public house
100513-24	10713105	SW	north and east facing elevations of the public house
100513-25	10713106	W	east elevation of the north end block of the building, looing west
100513-26	10713107	W	east elevation of the middle block of the building, looking west
100513-27	10713108	W	east elevation of the south wing of the building, looking west
100513-28	10713109	NW	south and east elevations

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Serial Number	Archive Number	Direction of View	Description
100513-29	10713110	NW	south and east elevations
100513-30	10713111	NW	south and east elevations
100513-31	10713112	NW	south and east elevations
100513-32	10713113	NW	south elevation
100513-33	10713114	N	south facing elevation
100513-34	10713115	NW	south facing elevation
100513-35	10713116	W	original cellar drop in the pavement of the east front of the building
100513-36	10713117	NE	south and west elevations
100513-37	10713118	NE	south and west elevations
100513-38	10713119	SW	crack visible in the joint of the middle and north facades
100513-39	10713120	SW	crack visible in the joint of the middle and north facades
100513-40	10713121	S	scar of a projecting wall to the north from the north elevation
100513-41	10713122	SE	scar of a projecting wall to the north from the north elevation
100513-42	10713123	S	ventilators in the external north wall
100513-43	10713124	S	ventilator in the external north wall with stone surrounding
100513-44	10713125	NW	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-45	10713126	NW	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-46	10713127	W	mirror behind the spirit shelves
100513-47	10713128	W	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-48	10713129	W	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-49	10713130	W	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-50	10713131	W	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-51	10713132	SW	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-52	10713133	SW	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-53	10713134	W	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-54	10713135	SW	mirrors behind the spirit shelves
100513-55	75313001	W	custom house station development work, barge exteriors
100513-56	75313002	W	custom house station development work, barge exteriors
100513-57	75313003	W	south and east facing external elevations of the building, view from custom house station footbridge
100513-58	75313004	W	south and east facing external elevations of the building, view from custom house station footbridge
100513-59	75313005	NW	south and east facing external elevations of the building
100513-60	75313006	NW	east facing external elevations of the building
100513-61	75313007	W	east facing external elevations of the building
100513-62	75313008	SW	north and east facing external elevations of the building
100513-63	75313009	SW	north and east facing external elevations of the building
100513-64	75313010	SW	north and east facing external elevations of the building
100513-65	75313011	SW	north and east facing external elevations of the building

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Serial Number	Archive Number	Direction of View	Description
100513-66	75313012	S	custom house station, further south of the building
100513-67	75313013	SE	custom house station, further south of the building
100513-68	75313014	S	north facing external elevation of the 2nd floor, view includes the path above the 1st floor roof
100513-69	75313015		north facing external elevation of the 2nd floor, view includes the path above the 1st floor roof
100513-70	75313016	SW	north facing external elevation of the 1st floor, view includes the path above the ground floor roof
100513-71	75313017	S	north facing external elevation of the 1st floor, view includes the path above the ground floor roof
100513-72	75313018	NE	a typical room on the 2nd floor
100513-73	75313019	S	corridor in front of room 204, 205 on the 1st floor in the middle block
100513-74	75313020	W	staircase flights from the 1st floor
100513-75	75313021	SE	a typical room on the 1st floor
100513-76	75313022		a typical bathroom in a room on 1st floor
100513-77	75313023	NE	added storage room right next to the stairwell
100513-78			segmental arch above the original external window to the north, later converted as a door to an added storage room
	75313024	S	
100513-79	75313025	S	segmental arch above the original external window to the north, later converted as a door to an added storage room
100513-80	75313026	W	internal staircase on the 1st floor
100513-81	75313027	NE	internal staircase on the 1st floor
100513-82	75313028	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a room on the 1st floor
100513-83	75313029	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a room on the 1st floor
100513-84	75313030	E	graffiti on an internal wall of a room on the 1st floor
100513-85	75313031	W	graffiti on an internal wall of a room on the 1st floor
100513-86	75313032	SW	graffiti on an internal wall of a room on the 1st floor
100513-87	75313033	NW	graffiti on an internal wall of a room on the 1st floor
100513-88	75313034	W	the main bar
100513-89	75313035	W	the main bar
100513-90	75313036	SW	the spirit shelves behind the main bar
100513-91	75313037	W	the second bar and doors to the kitchen
100513-92	75313038	Е	function area in front of the 2nd bar
100513-93	75313039	SW	blocked door in the main entrance area
100513-94	75313040	NW	the main entrance doorway
100513-95	75313041	N	art nouveau tiles adjacent to the doorways with a floral motif relief design
100513-96	75313042	N	art nouveau tiles adjacent to the doorways with a floral motif relief design
100513-97	75313043	E	open work of wrought iron above the main entrance
100513-98	75313044	SE	north and west rear elevations and open area in the back of the building

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## 10 APPENDIX 3 - OASIS ID: molas1-154568

**Project details** 

Project name The Barge Public House

the project

Short description of A standing building survey was undertaken on the non-listed Barge public house. The pub was built in 1862 as a purpose-built structure serving the London Docklands and emerging residential housing to the north. The building was extended to the north c 1900, and this included the addition of an impressive Art Nouveau lobby. During the Second World War the second storey of the building suffered bomb damage. In the early 1990s the

building was converted into a hostel.

Project dates Start: 07-05-2013 End: 05-07-2013

Previous/future

work

No / No

Any associated project reference

codes

XTI13 - Site code

Type of project **Building Recording** 

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation

Monument type PUBLIC HOUSE Post Medieval

Monument type **HOSTEL Modern** 

"Annotated Sketch","Measured Survey","Photographic Methods & techniques Survey", "Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"

Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS Prompt

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON NEWHAM NEWHAM The Barge Public House

Postcode E16 3BU

Study area 333.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 540694 180959 50 0 50 56 28 N 000 11 35 E Point

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation **MOLA** 

Project brief originator

Crossrail

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Project design originator

**MOLA** 

Project

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Type of

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sponsor/funding

body

Name of

sponsor/funding

body

Crossrail

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive

Exists?

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Digital Archive

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**LAARC** 

Digital Media available

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Paper Archive

recipient

LAARC

Paper Media available

"Drawing","Manuscript","Map","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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