




C263 ARCHAEOLOGY LATE EAST
Interim Statement
Non-listed Built Heritage Recording
The Barge Public House

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1 Introduction

This Interim Report covers the NLBH recording work undertaken by MOLA at The Barge Public House site which forms part of the Crossrail Custom House Station site. All fieldwork was conducted between 7/05/13 and 23/05/13 and supervised by James Wright (MOLA Senior Archaeologist). A level 2 record of the building was undertaken the fieldwork for which consisted of:

- Annotations of drawings supplied by the client alongside annotated sketches made during an on site analysis of the structure's make up, with attention paid to any areas of alteration and repair
- A photographic record including general and detailed shots taken by the MOLA photographic team, as well as photographs taken by the Standing Buildings team as an aid to off-site analysis.
- A further site visit during the soft strip of the building in order to photograph and analyse architectural and decorative features revealed during the works.

The event code (sitecode) is XTI13

This document is an interim statement of the results of the NLBH fieldwork completed at The Barge Public House site. More extensive results and conclusions will be included in the Fieldwork Report which will be submitted within six weeks of the end of fieldwork (Crossrail, *C263 Archaeology Late East Method Statement: Trench evaluation, sample excavation, watching briefs, and non listed built heritage recording, Custom House Station, Doc. No. C263-MLA-X-GMS-CR145-50001, Rev. 4, 26.03.13*).

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with:

- The Crossrail **Generic WSI: Archaeology Generic Written Scheme of Investigation**, doc no. CR-XRL-T1-GST-CR001-00003 (Rev. 4.0).
- A Crossrail **Site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (SS-WSI): C520 Custom House Station - Archaeology**, Doc. No. C520-XRL-T1-RGN-CR145-50001, Rev. 5, 26.11.12
- Crossrail Environmental Minimum Requirements (Crossrail 2008)
- An **Archaeological method Statement** MOLA, *C263 Archaeology Late East Method Statement: Trench evaluation, sample excavation, watching briefs, and non listed built heritage recording, Custom House Station, Doc. No. C263-MLA-X-GMS-CR145-50001, Rev. 4, 26.03.13*

2 Site Methodology and fieldwork objectives

2.1 NLBH recording methodology

The overall mitigation strategy for The Barge Public House is to be preservation by record. The 19th century building with 20th century additions and alterations, as a heritage asset of moderate importance required a level 2 record. As a further mitigation measure parts of the decorative fabric are to be salvaged and retained for reuse elsewhere. The level 2 record was carried out prior to the building being demolished.

Existing plans of the ground, first and second floors were supplied by the client, and annotated sketch drawings of the basement were made on site. Digital colour photographs were taken, both general views of the whole structure within its setting and detailed shots. Interventions into the fabric of the structure were observed during the soft strip by the client however or the removal of samples of fabric for archaeological analysis was not necessary. The fabric of the structure underwent visual analysis on site, with the analysis continuing after the fieldwork, and will be informed by an appropriate level of documentary archive research.

2.2 Fieldwork Objectives

The overall objective and aims of the NLBH recording was to secure preservation by record of the 19th century public house with 20th century additions and alterations prior to its dismantling and removal from site in the form of a standing building report. This was to achieve a level 2 record in accordance with the specification set out in the English Heritage Guidelines (EH 2006) The fieldwork undertaken and the continuing office based off-site work will produce the requisite results in the form of a NLBH fieldwork report.

The NLBH fieldwork report will be issued in due course giving a written and illustrated description of the structure, analysis of its fabric, its history and use with site photographs and drawings reproduced.

This NLBH fieldwork report and the site drawings and photographs will be archived under the site code XTI13, whilst a summary will appear in an appropriate publication such as the annual fieldwork roundup in the London Archaeologist.

3 Provisional Results

3.1 NLBH The Barge Public House



Fig 1 A general view of the late 19th century public house looking north-west

The Barge was built as a public house by the Courage Brewery in 1862 although was originally named the Freemasons Tavern. There are three principal phases of construction, the earliest represented by the rectangular block that forms the southern main part of the building running alongside Victoria Dock Road as shown on the Ordnance Survey 1869 1:10560 map of the area (not reproduced in this document). This structure was then extended to the north after 1899 and prior to the OS 1919 1:2500 map, a fact emphasised by a fine Art Nouveau style entrance lobby complete with a wrought-iron gate surround. 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 however mapping does not exist which can confirm this. During the early 21st century the building was converted into a 'halfway' hostel for teenagers.

The building is an L-shaped yellow London stock brick structure (Fig 1) with high level, blocked ground floor windows replacing much larger openings. There are at least three blocked doorways pertaining to the original public house opening onto Victoria Dock Road, and a blocked cellar drop on the east elevation. The early 20th

century Art Nouveau entrance lobby has a red granite façade with inset tiles and decorative moulded timber architraves around the two recessed canted bays which allowed access internally (Fig 2). The north end of the east elevation is a single storey flat roofed structure with stone window surrounds identical to the timbers ones of the lobby and a decorative parapet complete with moulded tympanum. The basement is accessed from the rear of the property via both an external cellar drop and an internal staircase.



Fig 2 A view of the entrance lobby on the east elevation, looking north-west

The original public house had two storeys above although the second storey has been replaced and the north wing of the building has only a first floor. The window heads of the original building all feature a lozenge design and are very tall and narrow. They are now fitted with uPVC windows although would once have been vertical sashes. The rounded south-east corner of the building has a painted panel upon which the sign of the public house was painted.

Internally the building has been extensively altered in order to create individual rooms complete with bathrooms for the occupants of the hostel. The division of these rooms makes it impossible to understand the layout of the building whilst it was a public house as the entirety of the southern section of the structure was converted. However an early 20th century timber bar (Fig 3) and spirit shelves complete with frosted and etched mirrors survives in the room behind the entrance lobby (Fig 4) along with a contemporary moulded doorway, dado and picture rail. This room was used as a reception, office and communal room when in use as a hostel.



Fig 3 Timber bar, looking west



Fig 4 Spirit shelves with frosted and etched mirrors behind the timber bar, looking north-west

Soft stripping of the first and second floors revealed that the floor and roof structures were held by timber herringbone supports, whereas the cellar was supported by rolled steel beams with timber joists (Fig 5) occasionally held in place by stanchions.



Fig 5 View of part of the cellar beneath the early 20th century extension, looking north



3.2 Provisional conclusions for future work:

The NLBH at The Barge Public House has been accurately recorded and there are no remains that require further examination within the site. The consultation of historical maps and any relevant photographs of the area, will contribute to the analysis, and understanding of the structure. The plan drawings of the structure produced by MOLA will also augment the analysis, record and reporting of the public house.

A list of salvageable items which could be reclaimed from the building prior to demolition was also produced. These items included decorated tiles, etched and stained glass windows, spirit shelves with decorated mirrors and the bar.

3.3 Future Deliverables

The remaining deliverables for the site as specified by the Written Scheme of Investigation (doc no. C263-MLA-X-GMS-CR145-50001), are:

- **NLBH Fieldwork Report** (including OASIS Summary Sheet) to be delivered 5/07/13 (six weeks from the completion of the field work)
- **Summary Report** to be delivered 19/07/13 (8 weeks from the completion of the fieldwork)