

# CASTLE STREET CANTERBURY



*An illustrated trail*

Trail no: 9

CANTERBURY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

## CHAS SCANS

Between 1977 and 2002 Canterbury Urban Studies Centre and Canterbury Environment Centre published around 30 guides and city trails describing various aspects of Canterbury's past. Both organisations were based in St Alphege church.

Between them they produced 14 titles in the 'Trails' series, and a further 16 titles outside the main series. All are now out of print and many are difficult (a few impossible) to find through normal second hand sources. Many contain information that is not readily available in other printed or on line sources.

CHAS (Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society) is scanning a selection of these publications for uploading to the CHAS website as PDFs. In this way a new generation of readers and researchers can have access to this unique resource.

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<http://www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk>

**C**astle Street begins at the junction with Watling Street, St. Margaret's Street and Beer Cart Lane. These staggered crossroads are thought to have evolved from a time when St. Margaret's Street was wider than it is today. The eastern side probably followed the existing line, St. Margaret's Church was in the middle of the street and the western side, now built over, ran in line with the western side of Castle Street.

Across this junction once existed Canterbury's Roman theatre, a huge D-shaped building measuring some 230 feet in diameter. Constructed in two stages, the first (c.A.D.80) was on a small scale with a bank of gravel on which spectators sat. The second, built in the early 3rd century, was on more classical lines. Tiers of seats rose round a semi-circle with the stage placed against the diameter. In the centre of the seats and immediately fronting the stage was the orchestra, a flat, semi-circular area at ground level which provided seats for distinguished members of the audience. The total seating capacity was about 3000. By the 11th and 12th centuries the walls were mainly robbed out but a great deal still survives below ground. During the Middle Ages a large iron cross, the Tierne Cross, stood at the centre of the cross-roads and was a popular meeting-place for Canterbury citizens, no doubt after they had had a mug or two of ale at the Three Tuns opposite.

The inn now calling itself 'The Three Tuns' is more familiar to present-day Canterburyans as the Queen's Head, which was its name until mid 1983. In fact, the Three

Tuns is its original name, the first authentic reference to it appearing in 1600, although claims have been made about its being an inn since the 15th century. It may have been in private hands before it became an inn, when the land on which it stood belonged to the Priory of St. Gregory. In 1679, when the Prince and Princess of Orange passed through Canterbury, the trained bands who accompanied them were supplied with beer and tobacco while keeping guard at the Three Tuns. At that time the property to the west belonged to the City and a lease of 1698 described it as 'next to the tenement sometime of Leonard Cotton called the Three Tuns'. The Kentish Post in 1742 advertised a sale here when a Mr. Ellis was innkeeper. It first appeared as the Queen's Head in 1792 when the innkeeper was Richard Collington. He stayed three years but then occurred a rapid turnover of innkeepers, three in three years. In 1795 it was Edward Minter, in 1796 John Johncock and in 1797 John Clements. Successive innkeepers seemed to settle down to more normal periods of occupation.

Built on two floors, the Castle Street elevation is part painted brick, part stucco, with original shutters to three of the ground floor windows. The rendered section is over a late mediaeval frame. It has a Kent peg-tiled roof and three chimney-stacks and, on the wall, a large iron bracket carrying the inn-sign and a rainwater head. The tile-hung section of the building to the rear is late mediaeval and there is a side entrance leading to a yard where once the horses were stabled. Inside, in what was once the dining room, is a priests hole, said to lead to a tunnel that goes all the way



along St. Margaret's Street to the Cathedral but is thought more likely to lead to inter-connecting cellars underneath.

Next door is an early 19th century building, **Nos. 1 and 1a**, built of grey brick, two storeys high, which has a parapet and-stone coping, a plain moulded cornice, string-courses and two cambered doorcases with fanlights. On the ground floor are two segmental arched sash windows. The doors are six-panelled and have two steps leading up to them, the door on the left-hand side being a later addition.

**No. 2** is a large 18th century town house which was re-rendered in a neo-classical style in the early 19th century. Now occupied by a firm of solicitors, in the 1920s it was a preparatory school for boys. It has three storeys and a basement, and has a moulded stone parapet coping. Some of the windows have Italianate surrounds while the centre windows have been left blank to preserve the balance of the design. The second floor window-space is decorated with a moulded architrave, the first floor with a stone pediment and console brackets. The ground floor is



rusticated. The balconettes and cellar grilles are made of cast-iron and have anthemion leaf motifs.

Four steps lead up to a doorcase that has a segmental arched fanlight and a frieze with rosettes and guilloche patterning. There are foot-scrapers either side.

**No. 3** is a mid 18th century, three-storey building of painted brick with rubbed brick arches over the windows. Of note is the way in which the first floor arches have projecting keystones with decorative moulding to the underside. The sashes are modern replacements. The doorcase and door are original, the doorcase having a cornice and console brackets, rectangular fanlight and panelled reveals. Three steps lead up to the six-panelled door. In the 19th and well into the 20th century, this building was the District Registry and Court of Probate.

**No. 4** is a 17th century building with a 19th century facade. It consists of three storeys and a basement, is stuccoed and decorated with three fluted pilasters. It has a rusticated base and plinth and its ground floor window is set in an arched recess in

the rustication. Four steps lead up to a modern six-panelled door set in a round-headed doorcase with two plain pilasters on either side.

The overhang or jetty at the front of **No. 5** indicates the timber-frame construction of the original 17th century house (of particular note are the fine carved 17th century brackets). It has three dormer windows, a parapet and a wide, modillion cornice. All the sash windows are set in moulded architraves. The imposing central doorcase consists of two Tuscan half-columns either side of a six-panelled door with fluted margins and corner medallions to the panels. The door contains a semi-circular fanlight with a small keystone to the architrave.

For many years this was the home of an eminent Canterbury citizen, William Somner, ecclesiastical lawyer and distinguished historian and antiquary. Son of another William Somner who was also an ecclesiastical lawyer, he was born c.1606 at No. 5, which in those days was not only the family home but his father's office, and carried a sign, The Crown. William junior grew up here, later attending King's

School, leaving when he was about thirteen to be apprenticed in his father's occupation.

He worked at home, surrounded by the court archives which not only referred to case histories but were full of information about mediaeval Canterbury. At seventeen he was taking on such cases as that of the illustrious Sir James Hale who with his wife was charged with not attending church, an indictable offence. By the time he was thirty-four he had also finished the *Antiquities of Canterbury*, a work that must have taken up many years of his spare time. Somner's life was not all work, however. He was passionately interested in archery, even managing to include the subject, most unsuitably, in the *Antiquities*. He also liked fishing, for both he and Izaak Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*, extolled the virtue of Fordwich trout. Izaak's in-laws, the Fludds, lived in the next street so must have been known to the Somners.

William continued to live at No. 5 even after he was married and had a family of his own. When he was thirty-one his father died, leaving the house to his eldest son, George,



10 & 11

St. John's  
Lane

who was later killed at the head of a royal detachment at Wye. George sold it to William, who went on living there for the rest of his life. William, like his brother, was an ardent Royalist and during the Civil War retrieved fragments of the Cathedral font, together with the archives, and hid them in the cellar. He died in 1669 and was laid to rest in the north aisle of St. Margaret's Church.

**Nos. 6 and 7** are two small 17th century timber-framed houses, of which No. 7 is dated 1608 at the rear. The front was altered in the 18th century by the insertion of Georgian sash windows and the re-rendering of the façade. Of particular note are the two fine 17th century corbel brackets at either end of the building, supporting the jetty. In 1882 these premises, now an insurance broker's and a sweet shop, were occupied by a wardrobe dealer and a dressmaker.

**Nos. 8 and 9** are a pair of semi-detached, late 18th century, three-storey, brick town houses. The left-hand side remains intact, complete with its fine eight-panelled door with matching panelled reveals and a sash window, both set in shallow

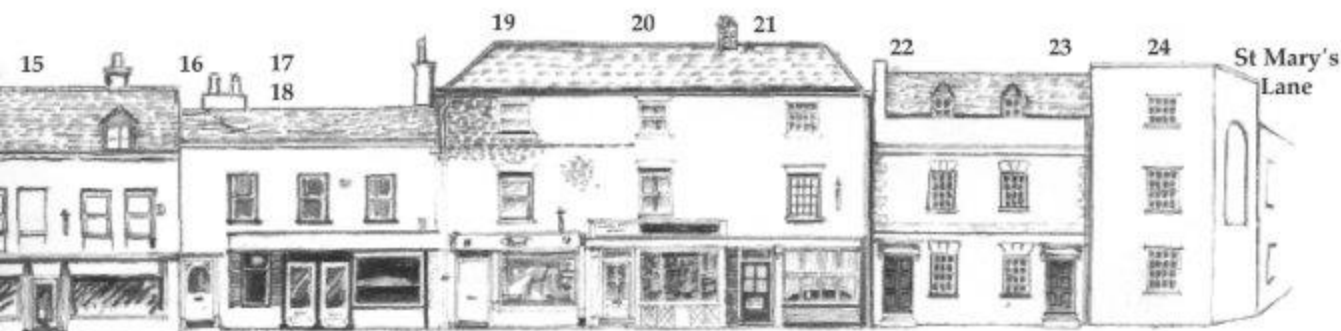
recessed panels in the brickwork. However, the matching right-hand side has been replaced by a shop. The present shopfront is designed in a traditional way and was installed in 1982.

This brings us to St. John's Lane, on the corner of which, during archaeological digs in 1948-50, were found traces of a palisaded settlement of about 300 B.C. These were Iron Age people, the first known occupants of Canterbury. Today there is a gap caused by a bomb in World War 2 where **Nos. 10 and 11** used to be. In the late 19th century they were occupied by a William Sollye, who described himself as a 'hairdresser and naturalist'. Set back from the gap is a little 17th century box-framed building with early brick nogging between the oak timbers. The modern office extension rather detracts from its appearance.

**Nos. 12 to 14** are part of an early 18th century building, two storeys high, of painted brick with a stone coping. The roof is in three hips and has three dormers. Nos. 12 and 13 have recessed doorways and between them a six flush panelled door opening on to a passageway.

Each has a mid Victorian footscrapers by the front door. No. 14 has a late 19th century shopfront (in 1923 it was a fishmonger's).

At the time these shopfronts were fitted, the area had a far heavier population than today. Large families occupied the houses or lived above the shops. A total of five to seven children per household was not uncommon and even those of modest means seemed to employ servants who also lived on the premises. From the street directory of 1850 it would appear that life in Castle Street was vigorous and noisy but the shopkeepers must have enjoyed a brisk trade. Unfortunately, no street numbers are given so the exact location of people is not known but some of the occupations were indicative of the times. Bernard Reed, born in 1777, was a glovemaking, his wife, Eliza, forty years his junior, a straw-bonnet maker. One of their neighbours, Harriet Westover, was a laundress, whose son, William (22)



was a tailor, son Henry (18) a printer's apprentice and son George (16) a brush-maker's apprentice.

**No. 15** is an early 18th century building. Two storeys high, of painted brick, it has a tiled roof with two hipped dormers. On the first floor are four sash windows (not original) with recessed panels below and a blank window in the middle. Its shop front is late 19th century and at that period was occupied by William Lewis, a tea dealer and traveller. In the twenties it was a photographer's, Frank Bailey, "wedding groups a speciality".

**Nos. 16 to 18** are part of one mid-18th century building, two storeys high, of painted brick. No. 16 has an original doorcase with reeded pilasters, Nos. 17 and 18, which have 19th century shopfronts with a double doorcase and moulded architraves. These premises seem to have had a propensity for people who either made or sold watches. In 1882, No. 17 was occupied by a watchmaker called Horton. By 1923, W.C. Holness had a watchmaking business next door at No. 18.

**Nos. 19 to 21** are contained within a three-storey, early 19th century building of red brick with a tiled roof. This was built as a block of three shops with living accommodation over. The original shopfronts survive in Nos. 20 and 21, No. 20 having been in the past a newsagent's, under different owners, for at least fifty years.

**Nos. 22 and 23** were demolished and then reconstructed to their original design when the site was redeveloped for offices in 1975. However, some of the original timber-framed party wall remains. It has a tiled roof with two hipped dormers and one of its decorative features is the edging of long and short quoins each side. The doorcases have cornices and console brackets. The original building was divided into shops. During the latter part of the 19th century, No. 22 was a pork butcher's and 23 a fruit and potato store.

**No. 24**, which is on the corner of St. Mary's Street, was also demolished and reconstructed as part of the office development next door. The arched panel in the rendering is a copy of the original design. It is on three storeys, stuccoed, and has hipped, tiled roofs. The previous building was once the Castle Inn which closed in about 1870. Its first record of licence was in 1792 when the inn-keeper's name was Edward Minter. By the early 1920s it had become the Castle Motor and Engineering Works.





Castle Row



Across St. Mary's Street is St. Mary's churchyard, once the burial ground of the long-vanished church of St. Mary de Castro. No one seems sure when the church was pulled down but three of its church bells were sold to the parishioners of Lower Hardres in 1542 so it may well have been then. It seems likely that the White Hart public house in Castle Row stands on the original site. The churchyard is now a grassy square divided by a path running diagonally from Castle Street to

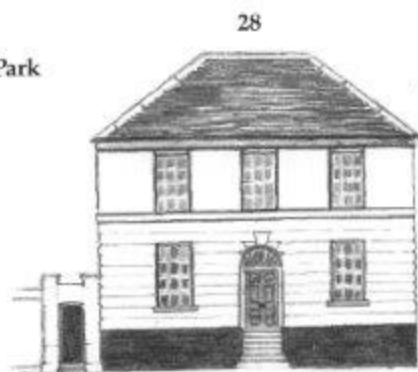
Castle Row and in spring is bright with daffodils. Trees and shrubs give shade to the old tomb-stones which have been removed from their original positions and lean against one of the perimeter walls. At the Castle Street entrance are four iron bollards which are listed for their historical significance. This is because they were cast by local iron-founders, Drury and Biggleston, at their foundry in Jewry Lane. Iron railings run along the top of a brick wall to the corner with Castle Row.

On the other side of Castle Row is No. 25, an early 18th century building of red brick which contains two storeys and a basement. It has an old tiled roof and a brick modillion cornice. At the base is a plinth and attached to the centre front elevation a rainwater head. There is an arched passageway to the left. A single step leads to a six panelled front door which is set in its original wide doorway with heavy oak frame. The top four panels of the door are raised and fielded but the bottom two are flush with the face of the door and have beaded edges. Most Georgian doors in Canterbury are of this pattern, which was probably designed to ensure stronger panels at the base. A lady, known simply as Beatrice, widow of Salamon, is thought to have lived on this site towards the end of the 12th century.





Car Park



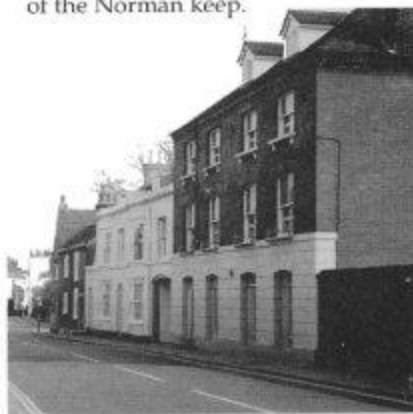
29, 30 & 31  
demolished

**No. 26** is late 18th century, two storeys high but with a basement and attic. It is stuccoed and has an old tiled roof with two dormers, a parapet and a moulded eaves cornice. Like its neighbour, it has a rainwater head. In 1882 this charming house was used as a fruit and potato stores. The building has two shallow bow-fronted bay windows the full height of the building either side of a central doorcase, which has a semi-circular fanlight above a six-panelled door. The bottom two panels are flush with the door as in No. 25. Two stone steps lead up to it and there is an original footscrapers either side. Another six-panelled door with one step is on the left. The basement window has a decorative iron grille. Underneath the first-floor sash window on the extreme right is the old carriage entrance to what was once a coach-house. The coach-house and the larger stable, a slightly more modern building, were converted to offices in 1978/9.

**No. 27** is a 19th century building recently restored. Built on three floors, the upper two are of red

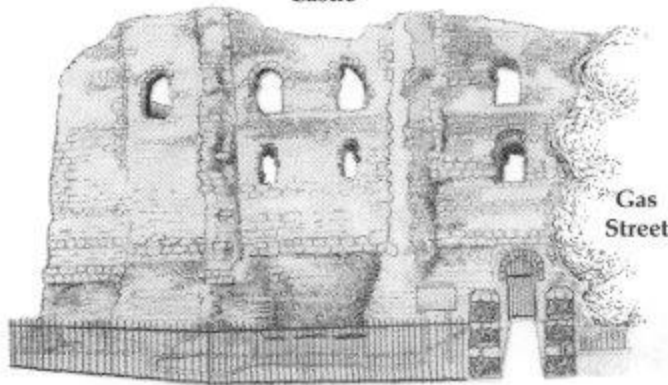
brick and the ground floor rusticated. It has two dormer windows with ironwork on top and cast-iron balconettes at the first floor windows. The ground floor was remodelled when the building was converted to offices. There are two steps to the front door which is a modern reproduction. From here there is a red brick wall enclosing a surface car park which stretches as far as an alley separating it from **No. 28**. This building was once the old Kent Sessions House, formerly the official residence of the Chief Constable of Kent. Although the present building was erected in 1730, it is thought to have taken the place of an earlier building. The city wall is incorporated into the side facing the ring road, and a two-storey segmental bay wing, built of exceptionally fine flintwork with brick dressings, was added in 1847. The window to this has lost some of its glazing bars but retains the original louvred shutters. The rest of the house is rendered with a rusticated ground floor. A very plain pediment faces towards the city beneath a steep, tiled roof

which has very heavy leaded hips and coved eaves. The eight-panelled front door has an elaborate, semi-circular, cast-iron fanlight which is reached by a steep flight of seven Portland stone steps. Adjoining the rear elevation is an early 19th century red brick stable block. Three more buildings at this end of Castle Street were demolished to make way for the ring road. **No. 30** was the Castle Hotel, known earlier as the Victoria Hotel. Opposite, linking Wincheap Green to Wincheap Grove, was a house called the Cedars and then a row of houses extended almost to the walls of the Norman keep.

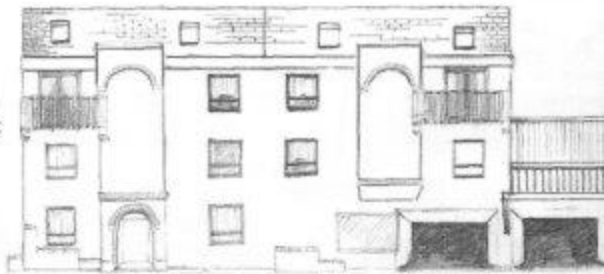


**No 30**

Castle



Multi Storey  
Car Park



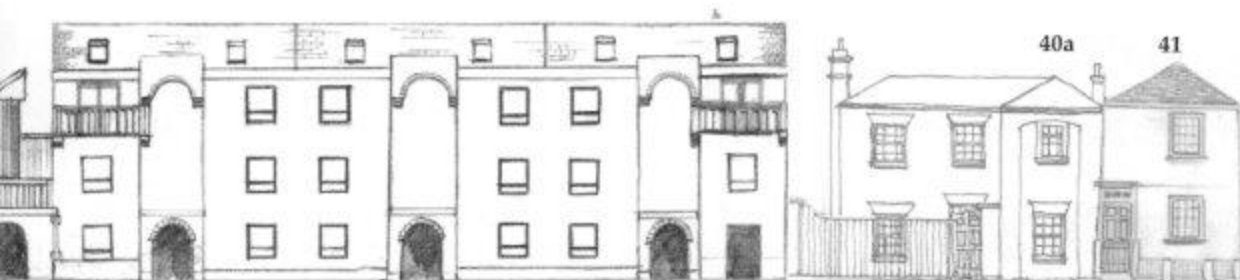
Proceeding back down this side of the street, the first building to be seen is the ruined keep, standing in a grassy area, just behind the city wall. Built in William the Conqueror's day and completed during the reign of his son, Rufus, the keep is all that remains of **Canterbury Castle** which covered an area of about 42 acres. Originally, it was three storeys high, measured 87' x 75' with walls 9 feet thick (11 feet through the buttresses) and was the fifth largest of its kind in England. It was built in bands of flint and Caen stone with four arched windows to each side. The main entrance was at first-floor level on the side facing the river and just inside it was a steep stairway leading to a dungeon. The castle was a prison from very early times. In the 11th century it became the County gaol and its keepers were the sheriffs of the County of Kent. The Jews of Canterbury were imprisoned here just before they were exiled by Edward I. A number of Protestants were also imprisoned before being burned at the stake during the

reign of Queen Mary. By the end of Elizabeth's reign, it had ceased to be used as a gaol and gradually fell into decay. James I granted it to his Clerk of the Kitchen, Sir Anthony Weldon of Swanscamp (Swanscombe), in whose family it remained for about 70 years. It was then sold successively to a Mr. Fremoult, a Mr. Balderstall, and to Messrs. Fenner and Flint, brewers, who closed a public lane leading across their property from Castle Street to Stour Street. Partial demolition of the castle went on between 1770 and 1792, when the curtain walls were gradually pulled down, the ditch filled up and houses built on the site. In 1817 there was an unsuccessful attempt to demolish the keep which was abandoned after removing the top storey. Then in 1826, the newly formed Gas, Light & Coke Company bought the keep from John Gostling and installed machinery which pumped river water into an iron tank for distribution through the city. It was at this time that the interior of the keep was gutted and the

ornamental stonework torn out. Later still, the keep was used as a coal store by the Gas Company. It was not until 1928 that it was finally purchased for the city (together with the adjoining Georgian Castle House, now demolished) although it was, as now, nothing more than a ruined shell.

Next to the keep enclosure is Gas Street, little more than an alley, which derived its name from the gasworks built the other side of it. Pollution from the works cast a blight on the immediate neighbourhood throughout the time of its existence. Slums, we would call them today, yet a former resident now in her seventies remembers the snowy-white aprons the women wore when they appeared in their front doorways. Mortality was high in the St. Mildred's parish, of which Castle Street was part. According to the 1841 census the average age at death was thirty-four, due in no small part to the unsanitary and overcrowded conditions in which many families lived.





Standing on this site now is the **multi-storey car park** built in 1981 after a great deal of protest about the suitability of its location from local residents and conservationists. Although the City Council won the day and the car park was built, many of the objectors still resent the introduction of yet more traffic to the area. One small consolation was the 'cladding' of small flats and maisonettes round three sides of it, successfully hiding the building's main purpose. The Castle Street frontage consists of two massive red-brick buildings linked by a covered walkway above a double entrance/exit for cars. The buildings are three storeys high with tiled roofs in which are set ten skylights.

On the first and second floors are pivot windows. There are four arched entrances for the residents and another entrance at the far end for people leaving and collecting their cars.

At each corner of the second floor are wooden balconies. Screening the walkway above the car park entrance is another wooden balcony, stained green. Behind the entrance but clearly visible from the street is a circular staircase surrounded by wooden slats. This building, for all its pretensions, strikes an alien note in the street,

and is entirely at odds with its surroundings. A few yards from the car park is a terrace of late 18th and early 19th century houses.

**No. 40** is a modern addition and **Nos. 40a and 41** are of red brick, two storeys high, with a basement. The roof is in two hips, the left side of slate and the right of old tiles. No. 40 has a sash window set in a recessed arch. No. 41 has the original doorcase but a modern six panelled door. The footscrapers is also original. A row of modern iron spear-railings encloses the small front area.





Nos. 42 to 47 were built as a group in late 18th/early 19th century. A central pair of three-storey houses with recessed arched panels is flanked by two pairs of two-storey houses. This terrace, of red brick, is a good example of how piecemeal alterations spoil the original unity of the design. Originally the house had blind recesses above the doors but these have in most cases been converted to windows and the original arrangement only remains in 44, 46 and 47. All have semi-circular fanlights but the only surviving original doors are in 42, 43 and 45, i.e., six-panelled, triple-reefed, flush-panelled doors. Only four unaltered original windows

remain, in 42 and 45. The rest are either approximate copies or inappropriate replacements. Surrounding the front areas are modern railings, replacing the originals which were taken away for scrap during the war.

No. 48, now a general store and Post Office, is a late 18th century building with a hipped roof, originally tiled but since replaced with slate. It is on two storeys, rendered, with 19th century shopfront and windows. Above the shop is an iron fixture for a blind. A post-box set in the wall still bears the crest 'G.R.' but the stamp machine beside it is modern, as is the pavement mounted EIIR cylinder post box in front of the

one set into the wall. In the late 19th century the shop was a grocer's and fruiterer's; the Post Office was not introduced until later.





This brings us to the corner of Rosemary Lane. On the opposite corner is a pair of late 18th century buildings, **Nos. 49 and 50**. They are two storeys high, of painted brick, under a tiled roof with two dormers, quite recently restored. The shopfronts, one original, the other a copy, are 19th century and have divided panes, also double-hung sashes, a once common feature. In the upper left-hand corner is a sign, 'Lavender Place', which refers to the Lavender family who owned several properties in

the area at one time. In the late 19th century, No. 49 was a butcher's and No. 50 a baker's.

**Nos. 51 and 52** are one 17th century timber-framed building. Built on two floors, stuccoed, it has a tiled roof with two dormers, one of which - on the right - has a single cast-iron casement. The ground floor has been entirely rebuilt with a modern shopfront.

**Nos. 53 to 55** are a 17th century row of three buildings, refronted in the 18th century, two storeys high, and

rendered. They have a tiled roof with three dormers whose windows have been replaced in recent years. Originally houses, they were later converted to shops. By 1882, No. 55 had become a greengrocer's run by a Mrs. Comford. At 54 lived Mrs. Lansfield, a washerwoman, and at 53, Matthew Weed, a labourer. **Nos. 56 and 57** were originally three 18th century houses, of which only 56 remains as built; They are on two floors, the ground floor brick, the first floor mathematical tile, and each has a dormer window in the roof. No. 56 has a six panelled door with a 19th century wooden surround, No. 57 a modern shopfront. At the time No. 55 was a greengrocer's, 56 was occupied by two dressmakers, Miss Hearnden and a Mrs. Goldup. 57 belonged to a plumber and painter, George Cole.

**Nos. 58 to 63** are a row of six early 18th century town cottages. They are on two storeys, stuccoed, with tiled roofs and six hipped dormers.





Unusually, all six retain the original sixteen-light sash windows that were probably inserted in the mid 18th century. Nos. 58, 59 and 60 have recessed doorcases while the others have simple wooden surrounds, 59 retains the original two-panelled door but the others are copies. Of note is the wooden lead lined eaves gutter used before cast-iron gutters were available. Continuing the list of neighbours in 1882, at 58 was James Hookway, a carpenter; at 59, Alfred Street, a plumber; at 60, Mrs. Ford, a laundress; at 61, Mrs. Davies, a shopkeeper; at 62, Mrs. Ann Baynes, and at 63, Stephen Pitcher, a coachman.

**No. 64.** This 18th century stud-framed house has been given a spurious medieval treatment by the removal of the rendering, exposing the timber framing which has been in-filled with brickwork. It is on two floors and has a hipped dormer in the roof. At first-floor level is a modern bay window. The bow fronted, Georgian-style shopfront, also modern, has been recessed into the building in a way which never

occurred in the 18th century. The shop door, with its mock 'bulls-eyes', is also modern. All in all, the result is a confusion of mock historical features.

**Nos. 65 and 66** are shop buildings which have a late 18th century frontage. The original shopfront remains in No. 65 which has an iron shop-sign bracket. They are on three storeys, of brick, with a rendered parapet. The sash windows are 19th century. At the back of No. 66 is a much older 16th century building. A hundred years ago 65 was a grocer's, much later a pork butcher's. 66 has sold fried fish shop for at least sixty years.

**No. 67.** On the corner of Hospital Lane is an early 16th century building with an 18th century facing. This was once the Black Dog, until 1818 just called The Dog, a very ancient inn which was on the licence list of 1692 and closed in 1975. In 1792 the innkeeper was a man named John Tivelain and in 1882, Thomas Marsh. It is now a gold and silversmith's. On two storeys, of red brick, it has two dormers and a stone coping. The

side elevation which stretches down Hospital Lane has an overhang and a hipped roof. At the front there are two restored windows to the ground floor with narrow shutters and wooden blind fittings (both modern). There is a rainwater head between the windows, also an iron bracket containing a hanging shop sign. To the right is a doorcase with a heavy cornice supported by voluted consoles (Victorian).





**No. 68.** On the other side of Hospital Lane is a building of 18th century origin despite the date, 1847, on its frontage which no doubt refers to its refacing. It is built of red brick, on two storeys, with basements and attics. It has a tiled roof with two end chimney stacks and a curved Dutch gable on the left side which echoes similar gables down Hospital Lane. There are three curved dormers above a panelled parapet. On the first floor are six sash windows with keystones, the third window on the left having a brick surround and curved gable. There is a string-course and a plinth. The doorcase has a keystone and quoins and there is a rectangular fanlight above the door which is solid oak with vertical panels. The same family of solicitors (Mowll & Mowll) have occupied the premises for over a hundred years.

**No. 69** is a 16th century house with an early 19th century frontage. Once a corn and hop merchants, it is on three storeys, faced with mathematical tiles, and has a tiled roof. It has three sashes set in

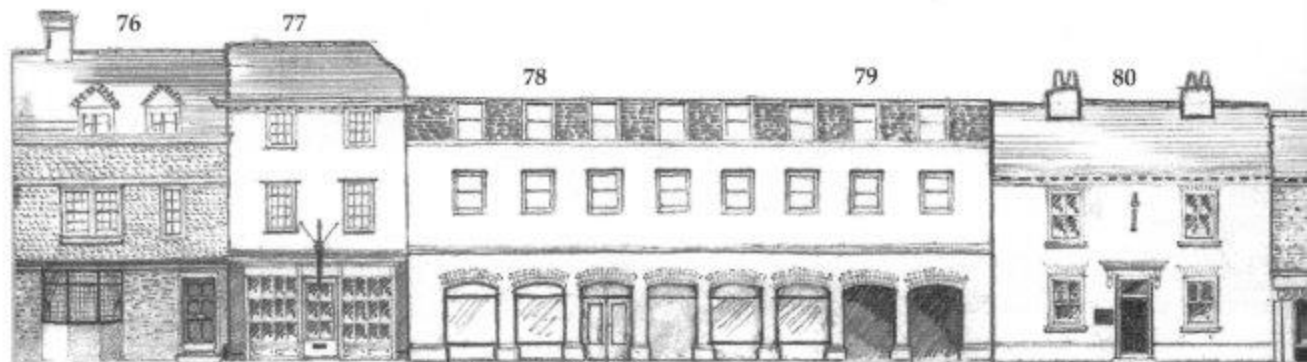
moulded architraves on the first floor and on the ground floor a large, mullioned window with a round-headed section in the middle, i.e., a Venetian window. The doorcase has a rectangular fanlight, fluted pilasters and a six panelled door. It has one step and a footscrapers and by the door an unofficial plaque, dated 1551.

**Nos. 70 and 71** is late 15th century and timber-framed, possibly a wealden-type house, which has been refronted but still retains its overhang or jetty. On two storeys, its first floor is faced with fish-scale tiles, the ground floor of No. 70 is painted brick. It has a tiled roof and two early 19th century shopfronts each side of a central passageway. For many years 71 was a baker's shop but was converted to its modern use in 1955. Altogether there were three baker's shops in Castle Street during the late 19th century, indicating that bread was very much the staple diet and all baked on the premises, not in factories as it is today.

**No. 72** is a 19th century building on two storeys, stuccoed, with a stone

copings. The tiled roof has been renewed and has one dormer. Three steps lead up to a four-panelled front door and there is a rainwater head to the left. William Butler, a coach-maker, lived here in 1882. This building stands on the corner of Adelaide Place.

On the opposite corner is **No. 73 to 75**, a fine early 18th century house which was refronted in stucco in the early 19th century. The building was subdivided into three houses in the 19th century, at which time the fine, original staircase was also removed. It is on two floors and has a parapet and moulded cornice. There is a string-course and a plinth, and the ground floor is rusticated. The five sash windows have cornices and console brackets, also cast-iron anthemion-patterned balconettes. The original entrance to No.73 was in Adelaide Place and has a doorcase with a cornice and two console brackets, and, outside, a row of cast-iron spear railings. Nos. 74 and 75 share a double doorcase on the Castle Street frontage which has a rectangular fanlight above two three panelled



doors and two panelled sidelights (all modern) with four steps leading up to them. A man named Swan the Merchant held land here and probably lived on this site at the end of the 12th century.

**No. 76** is a late 16th century timber-framed building which has been refronted. A hundred years ago it was an apartment house. It is on two storeys with an attic which contains two hipped dormers under a tiled roof. The two upper floors which oversail are hung with white painted fishscale tiles and the ground floor is of painted brick. The segmental bay window is a 1920's mock Tudor pattern. However, the base of the bay is older and originally supported a segmental bay of sash windows. The dimensions of this bay window, which only projects about 300 m.m., are identical to a property in Watling Street. It seems likely that the design was a standard pattern installed in the years following the 1787 Street, Paving & Lighting Act to replace bay windows that projected further into the street. The door has a moulded architrave

and an early 18th century six-fielded panelled door with one step leading up to it. There is a foot scraper to one side and it has a 'V' section lead lined timber gutter at eaves level.

**No. 77** is entirely modern, a reconstruction built in the 1970's. It was originally intended to restore the building but so little of the original frame remained that this proved impractical. It is on three storeys with a plain rendered exterior and has a parapet with a wooden bracket cornice. At one time the original building contained Collard's corn and fodder store, much later Court Bros., ironmonger's factory.

**Nos. 78 and 79**, or **St. James' House**, was built at the same time as 77, also replacing an earlier building which was demolished. During archaeological excavations on the site in 1976, evidence of two late 13th/early 14th century buildings was discovered, one of which stood until the 1950's. There is documentary evidence of an inn called **The Globe**, dating back to 1591, which remained an inn until

1926. According to the street directories, **Richard Faulkner** was the innkeeper in 1882 and **S.J. Cousins** in 1923. The other property was at one time a bakery, finally ending up as a builder's yard in the 19th century.

These digs also uncovered a corner of the Roman theatre and a robber trench over 10 feet deep which may have been the foundations of a monumental structure, possibly an arch. In addition, the main N.E./S.W. Roman road was found in the vicinity, layer upon layer of road metalling reaching to a depth of five feet and running parallel to **Castle Street**.

The present building is of red brick on two floors with a mansard roof containing eight dormers. It has sash windows on the first floor and a stringcourse. The ground floor has a series of eight brick arches, two of which, on the left, contain modern shop windows as do the fifth and sixth. The third arch has glazed double doors opening off the pavement and the main entrance doors to the offices above are set



back behind the two final open arches as is access to the rear. Like the multi-storey car park, this building is aesthetically displeasing, showing a lack of respect for the historic street frontage.

**No. 80** is a 17th century building which was refaced in the 18th century. Two storeys high, of red brick, it has a tiled roof with two hipped dormers and a wooden modillion cornice, above which is a lead lined timber gutter. The doorcase has a vestigial hood on console brackets and a rectangular fanlight above a six-fielded, panelled door. A baker named William Thomlow lived here in 1847 with two female servants and two young baker's apprentices. Later, it became a solicitor's office and then the Canterbury District Register Office.

**Nos. 81 and 82** are one building, mostly a modern reconstruction behind the original early 18th century façade. It is on two storeys and has a tiled roof with three hipped dormers. The first

floor is tile-hung beneath a wooden modillion cornice which is below another wooden lead lined gutter. Of particular note is the original early 18th century sash with some crown glass intact above the entrance to Geering & Collyer. During the mid 19th century the whole of this building was given over to a boarding-school for boys, proprietor Mrs. Mary Morris. By the 1920's, No. 81 was occupied by Frank Townsend, a bootmaker, and No. 82 by Whitworth and Green, cycle makers. The latter retains its 18th century shopfront with two slightly curved bows and a rectangular fanlight above double glass-panelled doors.

This brings us to the end of Castle Street, which has emerged as a well-balanced mixture of commercial and domestic buildings, some of which are of considerable historic interest. Most of the shops are in the hands of individual owners and

include businesses that are increasingly rare, such as a gold and silversmith's.

Although many of the buildings have been altered and refronted over the years, the periods blend and intermingle despite the odd jarring note of modern architecture which has yet to harmonize with its surroundings and perhaps never will. The main difference is the decline in the number of people living here and the number of food shops that existed to serve them. Overcrowding, with all its attendant miseries, has gone but now the pendulum has swung the other way and houses which once teemed with life have at most one or two occupants. If they too should drift away, Castle Street will have lost not only its unique character but its power to resist further development.

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The Canterbury Environment Centre exists to advance environmental education and action for sustainable living at all levels in our city and its rural surroundings. Its aim is to promote environmental awareness, change and development, to co-ordinate the activities of individuals, community groups, local authorities and businesses in the activities of Local Agenda 21.

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