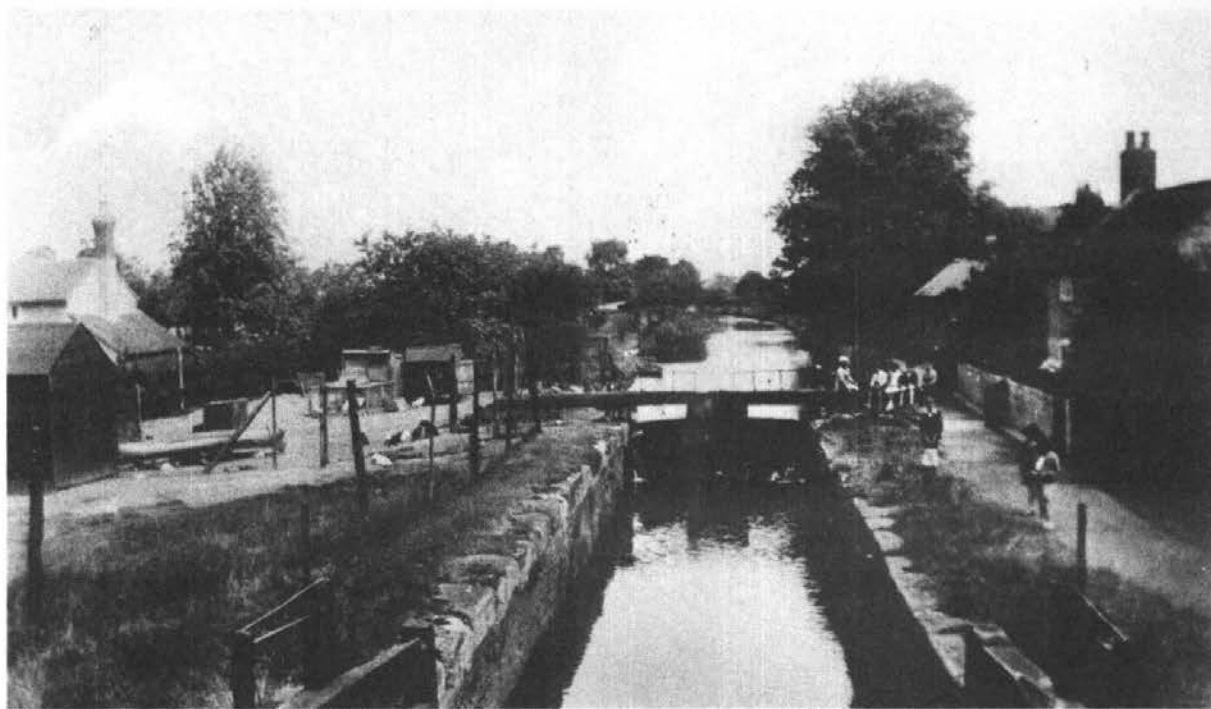


DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



Shelton Lock on the Derby Canal

**The Local History Bulletin
of the
Derbyshire Archaeological Society**

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

Volume 16: Part 6

Autumn 2003

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>The site of the Hospital of St Helen's in the 19th century</i> <i>1: The Spar Manufactory</i> by Jane Steer	150
<i>Barrage balloon sites in the City of Derby</i> by Jim Regan	174

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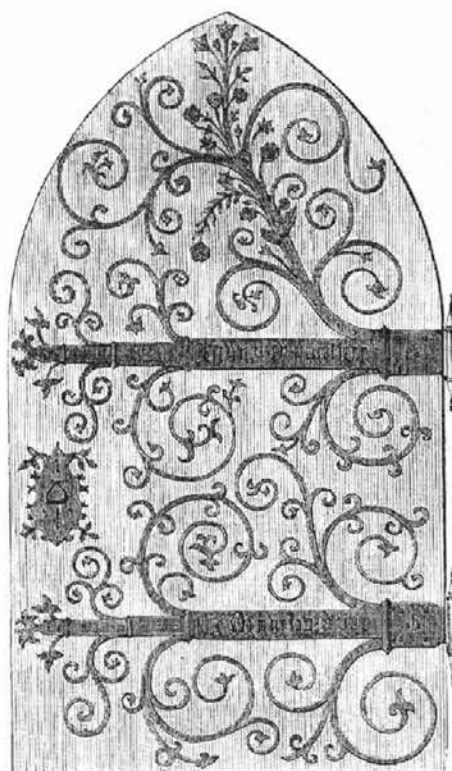


Some of Joseph Hall's spar ornaments

Mr. W. HASLAM, of Derby, exhibits a specimen of IRON WORK, intended for the door of a church. It is, as far as can be ascertained, a fac-simile of that placed, in the year 1251, on the door of the chapel in which Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I., and his wife, Eleanor, attended divine service.

William Haslam's door¹

This is now at
Breadsall Priory



¹ Illustrations from *Illustrated Catalogue of London's 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition*

PART 3: THE SITE OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST HELEN'S IN THE 19TH CENTURY

1. THE SPAR MANUFACTORY

(by Jane Steer,

INTRODUCTION

Today, St Helen's House, which stands on King Street, Derby, is a well known Grade I listed property built c1767. Opposite stand buildings of inferior architectural quality but they, and the land on which they stand, are of equal importance to the history of Derby. This is an area of historical, archaeological, industrial and architectural significance but its history has been largely disregarded until recently. When Derby City Council made public its plans in 2002 to demolish part of the former spar manufactory buildings in order to build Phase 3B of their 'Connecting Derby' road scheme, Joan D'Arcy and I decided to research the history of the entire site. Two Reports, 'From Religious Oratory to Spar Manufactory' and 'The Spar Manufactory Complex: 71 King Street' were submitted to the DCMS and English Heritage in 2002 as part of Listing applications by the Derbyshire Archaeological Society. A series of articles, based upon the research carried out, are now being written for *Derbyshire Miscellany*. The first two, on the oratory and hospital of St Helen's and the buildings occupying the site of St Helen's in the eighteenth century, were published in *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 16, Part 4, Autumn 2002. We have now moved on to the nineteenth century and, in particular, the history of the northern part of the site. St Alkmund's Way, part of the Inner Ring Road, runs through much of the southern part.

By the end of the eighteenth century the northern part of the site belonged to Joseph Sikes and housed Old St Helen's House, five cottages or tenements and 2a 2r 2p of orchard.



Burdett 1767 showing the part of the site which belonged to Joseph Sikes

Joseph Sikes died in 1798 and in his will dated 3 March 1798, he gave his freeholds within the limits of the borough of Derby and in the parishes of Combridge, Denstone, and elsewhere in Co Stafford, in trust for sale to his executors. The executors may have had problems selling Old St Helen's House because all or part of it was demolished in 1800, or maybe demolition occurred by agreement with the Browns. Eventually, on 6 April 1802, the property was sold to 'Richard Brown the Elder of Derby, Marble Manufacturer and Richard Brown the Younger of the same place, Marble Manufacturer for £1,500; (£750 each)'. It was described in the Indenture as:

All that Scite or Ground whereon there lately stood a Capital Messuage or Tenement wherein Samuel Burton did formerly inhabit and dwell, Also all those several Cottages or Tenements, Stable and Garden situate near or adjoining to the said Scite or ground and then or then late in the several Occupations of Mr Jas Fox, Saml Marsdon, William Harrison and Mrs Rebecca Wallis. And also all that Orchard adjoining to the said Cottages containing by estimation 2a 2r 2p or thereabouts and then or then late in the occupation of Mrs Ann Rose. All which sd Scite or Ground Cottages Orchard and premises then or theretofore had been called or

known by the name of St Helens and were situate and being within the parish of St Alkmund in Derby afsd. And all Houses etc And the Reversion etc And all Estate etc And all Deeds etc'.

... As for and concerning one undivided Moiety or half part of said premises/the whole unto two equal parts to be divided/To the only proper use and behoof of said Rd Brown Senr and Heirs and Assigns for ever.

And for and concerning the other Undivided Moiety thereof/To the only proper use of s^d R^d Brown Jun^r and Richard Brown Sen^r their Heirs and Assigns for ever. Nevertheless as to the Estate of said R Brown Sen^r and his Heirs in and to the said last mentioned Moiety/In Trust for said Rd Brown Jun^r and his Heirs and Assigns.²

Fifty years later the site had been redeveloped. The Browns built a new Spar Manufactory or Marble Works on the site of the Old St Helen's House and a very large new house for themselves, also called St Helen's House to its west on St Helen's Street. A smaller house, sold to William Bennett c1832-4, later a public house and then the Wine Vaults, was built adjacent to the west boundary of the manufactory. More land at the west end of St Helen's Street was used to build 19 working class houses, which were rented out, and a stone yard for themselves.³ Much of the rest of the land was sold. Land on St Helen's Street was sold to the Quakers who erected the Friends Meeting House in 1808 and to the Swedenborgians for a new Chapel on King Street. The tenement described in the Indenture as '*in the occupation of Mrs Rebecca Wallis*' was later sold to her. Dating from the 18thC, it still exists as 85 King Street and housed the Derby China Works from 1848-1935 (to follow).

A new road, St Helen's Street, was pitched from King Street to Willow Row by 1806⁴ but not without problems. Daniel Parker Coke owned three small houses, the shell of a Silk Mill and two large houses with gardens which stood in a total of half an acre of land on Willow Row at the proposed junction with Ford Street.⁵ Negotiations took several years. Messrs Brown advertised the properties for sale in 1802.⁶ This was unsuccessful and the Browns bought them in 1805 agreeing to pay off Coke's mortgage on the properties and to pay Coke the fee farm rent of £50 per annum. This was to be increased to £75 per annum when the Browns had '*in the space of the next three years erected one or more good messuages on the land*'.⁷ One was probably 6 St Helen's Street, built by 1818.⁸ The St Helen's Street houses below almost certainly belonged to the Browns who owned houses there and on Willow Row until c1875.⁹ The 17thC house was probably built by Roger Morledge c1660.⁵ (1852 map p153)



Houses being demolished on the corner of north side of St Helen's Street and Willow Row (before 1878).
17thC house with similar cross-banding to that on the Seven Stars (1680); early 19thC house with street name.¹⁰

² Nottinghamshire Record Office NC/Q175 - Friends Meeting House, St Helen's Street deposit.

³ St Alkmund's parish rate books, 1840 to 1880, Derby Local Studies Library (DLSL).

⁴ Brayley's map of Derby, 1806.

⁵ Derby Borough Deeds, Box 09, King Street Methodist Church, Lot 3, DLSL. Deeds show Coke bought these houses from the descendants of Roger Morledge, the carpenter (1682-1747). He was the grandson of Roger Morledge, the carpenter for the Shire Courts in 1660 who built his new house at the bottom of St Helen's Walk (ie on Willow Row).

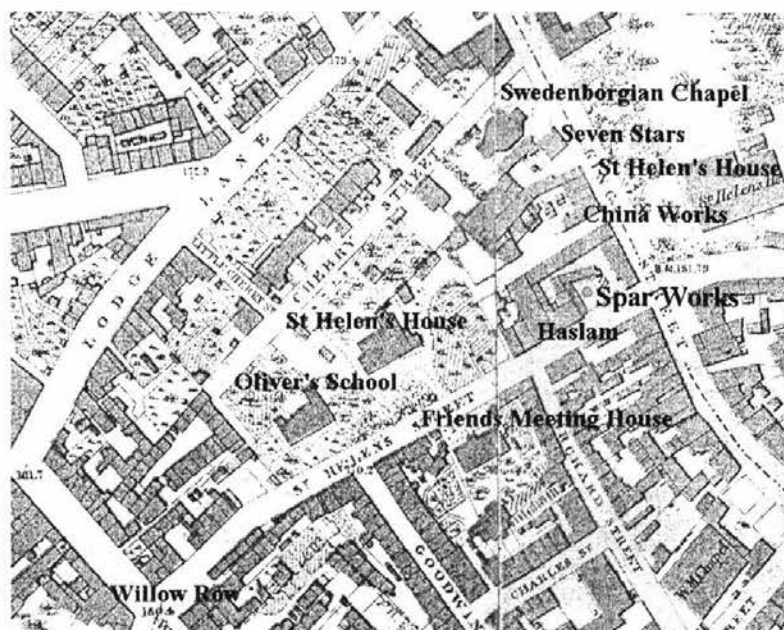
⁶ *Derby Mercury*, 21 October 1802. '*Enquire Messrs Brown and Son in Queen Street, DERBY*'.

⁷ Derby Borough Deeds, Box 09, King Street Methodist Church, Lease: D. Parker Coke & the two R. Browns. DLSL.

⁸ 1841 Census: Elizabeth Oliver had a school here. In *Pigot* 1818 she was listed as 'British Fire and Life Office'.

⁹ St Alkmund's parish rate books, 1840 to 1880, DLSL. Property belonging to Richard Brown was inherited by Sarah.

¹⁰ This photograph was stuck into William Haslam's (d1878) copy of R. Simpson's *History of Derby*, 1826. Anne Haslam.



Board of Health Map, 1852, showing how Joseph Sikes's north part of site had been developed

By 1852 the Spar Works together with the Derby China Works and the whitesmith, William Haslam, had become an area full of high-class craftsman and something of a Victorian tourist attraction. Hall's Spar Works were open to the public for tours of the workshops and the use of the baths. This eye-witness account in 1909 by the sometime Editor of the *Derby Mercury*, Alfred Wallis, describes his visit when he was a young boy.

*My father took me to visit the China Factory, whence I seldom returned without some toy - a lamb, a cat, or a pug-dog - as a gift. ... Besides the China Works, there were Hall's Marble Works, at the corner of St Helen's Street, opposite to the New Inn. This was one of my best-known haunts, for the machinery was most interesting to a boy, and there were swimming baths, to which, by especial favour of Mr Hall, I was allowed free access. There were other notable features of interest. Under the stone steps going up to the workshops, where the "bauble grinders" were busy fashioning vases and other decorative articles out of spar and marble, were cages containing noble specimens of the great eagle owl... strangers were always introduced to them when, after a tour through the long show room, the sawing yard was entered. ... Here was also a circular pond [see 1852 map above] in front of the baths, kept warm, like them, by the waste steam from the engines. Large numbers of gold and silver carp were bred in this tank under such favourable conditions ..."*¹¹

Brief history of Marble and Spar Manufacturing in Derbyshire

In the early 19th century Derbyshire was the richest mining area in Britain producing a wide variety of different stones and minerals, including a limestone, Hopton stone, used for paving, and the rare Blue John (fluorspar), Ashford Black Marble and Chellaston alabaster. Some were used to make large architectural features such as columns, statuary chimney-pieces, church furniture and memorials, whilst others were used to make decorative items such as vases, ornaments and inlaid tables. In 1778 and 1791 the only Derby industries mentioned in two publications were the Derby silk mill, the Derby China works and the spar manufactories.¹²

Early work using marble would have been carried out using hand tools, limiting the products to, for example, paving and hand carved chimney pieces. The latter, from c1760, may have been inlaid with a flat piece of Blue John or another decorative mineral. Later foot powered lathes were developed enabling the manufacture of hollow items such as vases from Blue John. But this was difficult and it was the introduction of water powered machinery, used in Derby before 1800, which revolutionised the industry and led to an increased production.

¹¹ Alfred Wallis, *Some Reminiscences of Old Derby*, 1909, No 1. DLSL Ba 900 [8982].

¹² W. Bray, *Sketch of a Tour into Derbyshire and Yorkshire*, 1778, p65. *Universal British Directory*, 1791, p380, p639.

The introduction of water powered lathes enabled the lathes to be used with a greater steadiness and for their speed to be changed easily, resulting in a significant reduction of losses due to breakage when hollow vases or delicate items were made.¹³ Similarly, the introduction of machinery powered by a steam engine after 1803 enabled finer work to be achieved, eventually leading to thinner walled vases and ornaments.

Stone masons in Derby, such as the Brown family, would no doubt have been influenced by two great building projects taking place in the 18th century. A nationally known architect, James Gibbs, was responsible for the rebuilding of All Saints Church (now the Cathedral) in Derby between 1723-5 just before the first Richard Brown became its long-serving Parish Clerk (1727-56)¹⁴ and Kedleston Hall, three miles from Derby, was rebuilt, between 1759-1784, mainly to the designs of Robert Adam. Joseph Hall, Adam's master mason with 12 carvers, 20 masons, 2 polishers and 5 labourers working for him,¹⁵ was the grandfather of Joseph Hall who succeeded the Browns at the Marble Works. Nearly every craftsman in Derby was involved in the project, including Richard Brown.¹⁶ At about the time the main works at Kedleston were nearly completed, c1768,¹⁷ John Gisborne built St Helen's House (listed Grade I) on King Street, c1767, to the designs of Joseph Pickford. Other Derby citizens, Joseph Wright the painter, John Whitehurst the clockmaker, William Duesbury of Crown Derby China, Erasmus Darwin, the Strutts, etc, were all renowned in their respective fields in the second half of the 18th century so it is no wonder that the Brown's spar manufactory developed into one of the largest and most eminent in the country - ironically, from 1803, in King Street, directly opposite Gisborne's St Helen's House.

THE BROWN DYNASTY AND THEIR MANUFACTORIES

The Brown family were stone masons and spar or marble manufacturers in Derby from c1735. The Browns who bought the site of Old St Helen's House in 1802 were the second and third Richard Browns in a dynasty of marble workers who were known for the excellence of their craftsmanship and who applied the latest technology to their methods of manufacture for 140 years. Renowned for what we would now call 'luxury goods', especially from the mid-18th century, they took advantage of the opportunities offered by the burgeoning tourist trade from the early 19th century. From the late 18th century onwards the great interest in natural history, including geology and mineralogy, enabled them to develop a further successful business selling specimens or collections of minerals. They were so famous that their manufactory is mentioned, sometimes in great detail in every Derbyshire history or directory with a description of Derby published between 1800-c1876. In 1828-9 Pigot commented that: '*various mills have been established in the town [Derby] for the manufacture of silk and cotton ... but the most celebrated are those of porcelain and ornaments of Derbyshire spar and marble*'.¹⁸

THE COMPANIES

Messrs Brown and Son of Derby; Brown, Son & Mawe, Richard Brown of Derby (c1735-1832)

On 17 April 1735 an advertisement in the *Derby Mercury* announced that:

Monuments or chimney-pieces, etc, performed in Marble or Alabaster, Likewise GRAVE-STONES engraved in Variety of Hands, and sold at reasonable Rates, by RICHARD BROWN, Clerk of All Saints in Derby.

This first Richard Brown died in 1756 and was succeeded by his son, Richard Brown the Elder (1736-1816) both in the business and as Parish Clerk of All Saints. The son married Ann Hind on 7 January 1761 at Newtown Linford in Leicestershire and two of his children, Richard Brown the Younger and Sarah, followed in their father's footsteps, becoming a well-known marble mason and mineralogist respectively. A third, Ann, married Joseph Walter Pitman, a painter, and their daughter, Ann, married Joseph Hall who was to succeed both Richard Brown the Younger and John Mawe (p159). In 1770 Richard Brown the Elder rented a house in Queen Street from Derby Corporation on a seventy year lease which he had relinquished by 1807.¹⁹ It was used as a business address²⁰ but they probably lived there because most of their baptisms and burials took place at All Saints.

¹³ J. Britton and E. Brayley, *Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol III, 1802, p373-4.

¹⁴ J.C. Cox and W.H. St.J. Hope, *Chronicles of All Saints*, 1881, p41, 43-4.

¹⁵ Kedleston Hall building accounts (National Trust). DLSL BO 728.7, 28763. microfilm, reel 1, K/3.

¹⁶ Maxwell Craven, *John Whitehurst of Derby*, 1996. Chapter 5, Kedleston Hall and its influence, p72-84.

¹⁷ Leslie Harris, *Robert Adam and Kedleston*, 1987, Chronological Table, p13.

¹⁸ Pigot's *Directory of Derbyshire*, 1828-9, p125.

¹⁹ *Schedule of Deeds belonging to the Corporation of Derby from the earliest date to the year 1814 inclusive*, c1849-50. DLSL DBR/D/40; Derby Borough Rental, 1806. DLSL DBR/D/160; Parish of St Alkmund Land Tax, DLSL microfilm.

²⁰ '*...Enquire of Messrs Brown and Son, in Queen Street*'. *Derby Mercury*, 21 October 1802.

Sometime before 1791,²¹ Messrs Brown established a Petrification Manufactory for 'sawing marble and turning machinery worked by water supplied from the Derwent' in the Old Shop. Built by Thomas Cotchett in 1702, it was three stories high, 27 yards long and about 10 yards wide²² and later became part of Lombe's Silk Mill.



Lombe's Silk Mill (on left) and the Old Shop (right) 1794. Note stone stacked outside the Old Shop.²³

Brown was elected an Honorary Member of the London Society for Promoting Natural History in 1782²⁴ and by 1786 was selling his ornaments at the London showroom of William Duesbury's Crown Derby China.²⁵ English minerals formed into 'general Collections of Fossils, classed and arranged according to their affinities' were sold from c1784 and 'Tablets of the Strata of Derbyshire and Mam Tor' were 'published' c1797-1832.²⁶ In 1794 the Browns opened their London shop under the name of 'Brown, Son & Mawe, Petrification Warehouse, 5 Tavistock Street' (Brown & Co's 'Derbyshire Spar Warehouse' followed in 1797) and appointed John Mawe (1766-1829), who later became an eminent mineralogist, as manager (Appendix I).²⁷ They advertised for 'several boys as Apprentices in the Turning Branch ... Also several Masons in the Marble Line'²⁸ in September and on 1 November 1794 Mawe married Brown's daughter, Sarah, at St Paul's church in Covent Garden.²⁹ By 1802 the Alabaster or Gypsum pits at Elvaston were rented from the Earl of Harrington, thus guaranteeing the supply of this valuable commodity.³⁰ The Peveril Museum in Castleton, opposite the Castle Inn, opened before 1800.³¹

John Mawe was also a successful author and in 1802 published *The Mineralogy of Derbyshire* in which he described Brown's manufactory at the Silk Mill and their London warehouse:

The first silk mill that was built for Sir Thomas [Lombe] is now converted into a manufactory for sawing, turning and polishing the fluor spars; the whole of the operations being conducted by machinery, subservient to the power of water. This beautiful production of nature is here formed into elegant urns, vases, columns, etc, giving employment to a number of families, and

²¹ 'The Old Shop, now used for fabricating ornaments of Derbyshire petrifications.' William Hutton, *The History of Derby*, 1791, p195.

²² *Derby Mercury*, 23 September 1802. An auction for a new 60 year lease for the Derby Silk Mills to commence on Lady Day [25 March], 1804 was advertised by Derby Corporation.

²³ Copper engraving by J. Walker and J. Storer from a drawing by J. Nixon. Dated 1 April 1794. *Copper Plate Magazine*.

²⁴ Hugh S. Torrens, 'The Early Life and Geological Work of John Mawe 1766-1829 and a note on his travels in Brazil', *Bulletin of the Peak District Mines Historical Society* Vol 11, No 6, Winter 1992, p268.

²⁵ Alfred Wallis and William Bemrose, *The Pottery and Porcelain of Derbyshire*, 1870, p11. DLSL BA 738.2, 8729.

²⁶ Hugh S. Torrens, 'The Early Life and Geological Work of John Mawe 1766-1829', p269; J. Britton and E. Brayley, *Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol III, 1802, p487; Maxwell Craven, *John Whitehurst of Derby*, 1996, p89-90; J.M. Hedinger, *A Short Description of Castleton*, all editions in DLSL: 1800-43, c. p33-35. DLSL 139.

²⁷ Hugh S. Torrens, 'The Early Life and Geological Work of John Mawe 1766-1829', p268.

²⁸ *Derby Mercury*, 4 September 1794.

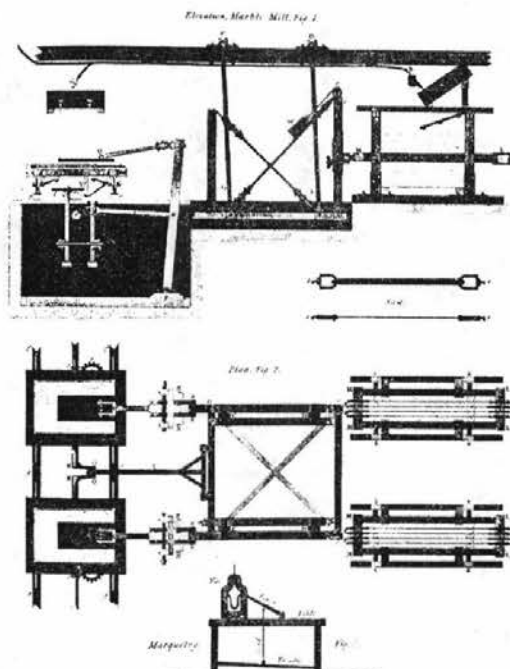
²⁹ *Derby Mercury*, 6 November 1794.

³⁰ J. Britton and E. Brayley, *Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol III, 1802, p412.

³¹ J.M. Hedinger, 5th ed., c1800, p13. DLSL 139; William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 1838, DLSL KA910, p315.

forming an interesting article of commerce. Messrs Brown and Co, the proprietors, are happy to show travellers their manufactory, and give them every information. Their wholesale warehouse in Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, exhibits the greatest variety of elegant urns and vases, etc, formed of this beautiful stone, at the same price as at the manufactory; also the most splendid and extensive collection of minerals in the kingdom.³²

Richard Brown the Younger made great improvements in the machinery and by 1800 was using the 30ft water wheel at the Old Shop³³ to power an innovative marble-sawing machine which could saw two blocks of limestone into five plates and polish two plates at the same time (drawing below shows the machine in 1802).³⁴



Brown's marble-sawing machine, Derby, 1802. (Rees' Cyclopaedia, 1819)

A new method of polishing and working Blue John using water powered lathes was also invented:

When the Blue John is to be made into a vase, or any other ornamental form, that renders the use of the lathe necessary, it is carved with a mallet and chisel, into a rude resemblance of the object intended to be produced, and being afterwards strongly cemented to a plug or chock, is screwed upon the lathe. A slow motion is then given to the work; and a bar of steel, about two feet long, and half an inch square, properly tempered, and pointed at each end, is applied to the fluor, on which water is continually dropping, to keep the tool cold, preserve it from friction, and enable it the more readily to reduce the substance upon which it acts. As the surface becomes smoother, the tool is applied with more freedom, and the motion on the lathe accelerated, till the fluor has assumed its destined elegance of form. When the turning is completed, pieces of grit-stone, of different degrees of fineness, are applied with water to bring the article to a proper ground for polishing with fine emery, tripoli, and putty, or calx of tin. These means are continued till the fluor is incapable of receiving a higher degree of polish; which is known when water thrown on it will no longer increase its lustre.³⁵

The seventy nine year lease for the Silk Mills and the Old Shop ended on Lady Day 1804,³⁶ and was no doubt the reason why the Browns bought the Old St Helen's House site in 1802 for a new and modern manufactory:

³² John Mawe, *The Mineralogy of Derbyshire*, 1802, p81-2. DLSL 1924.

³³ S. Glover, *History of Derbyshire*, Vol II, 1833, p597. J.M. Hedinger, c1800, p13. DLSL 139. An account of machinery used by Henry Watson at Ashford in 1755 is in *Travellers in Derbyshire*, Derby Lonsdale College Resource Book, p14.

³⁴ Description in *Rees' Cyclopaedia*, 1819-20 in Frank Nixon, *The Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire*, 1969, p85-6.

³⁵ J. Britton and E. Brayley, *Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol III, 1802, p373.

³⁶ The Lombes had first entered into this lease with Derby Corporation in 1724. *Derby Mercury*, 23 September 1802.

As the ground on which this [Brown's] manufactory stands belongs to the Corporation and the lease expires at the same period as that of the silk-mill, the proprietors of these works have lately purchased the extensive piece of land, which formerly belonged to the Monastery dedicated to St. Helen, near the upper end of Bridge-Gate, on the road leading to Kedleston. Here they are erecting some very spacious workshops, and a steam-engine of a six-horse power, to give motion to the ingenious machinery employed in the manufacture of the very elegant articles in which they deal.³⁷

By 1 November 1803 Messrs Brown had vacated the Old Shop and it was advertised again to let, but now with 'immediate possession'.³⁸ By this time, at least the first workshop and the engine house (Units 1 and 3, 71 King Street, p165-6) for the new Spar Manufactory would have been completed. In 1808 Brown & Co were paying St Alkmund Parish church rates of 3s 9d together with another 9s 4½d for 'their factory, Engine & land'.³⁹

From 1802-50 their machinery caught the imagination of those who saw it. This 1811 account describes the marble sawing machinery run by the 6hp steam engine (manufactured by James Fox & Co of Little Chester):⁴⁰

The machinery employed here, which is novel and simple, but very ingenious, is set in motion by a large steam-engine. The machinery for sawing and polishing the marble, consists of a set of saws, made of thin plates of iron, inclosed in a sliding frame, attached to the vibrating poles to which the cranks are fixed. These saws, by the assistance of sand and water, cut the marble in a perpendicular direction. A set of saws consists of many plates, so that the block to which they are applied, may be separated by one process into as many slabs as may be thought necessary. When the slabs are sawn they are taken to be polished by an equally ingenious method.

A second workshop forming the west wing (now Unit 5, 71 King Street and 12 St Helen's Street) was completed by 1818 and the church rates for 'Shops Engine House etc' had increased to £1 10s 3d.³⁸ Part of the east wing was used as a house⁴¹ and originally may have been part of the Old St Helen's House complex. A small extension built on the St Helen's Street/King Street corner before 1806 was used as a Museum (p159).

R. Brown's St Helen's House



The Manufactory

Chatterton & Swanwick 1819

Finally, a house, 10 St Helen's Street, built probably between c1842-50 (p167), completed the first phase of the Spar Manufactory. Although not part of the Spar Manufactory, the north wing of the Brown's new house, St Helen's House, on St Helen's Street had been completed by 1818 when church rates of 17s 6d were paid.³⁸

Today, most of their manufactory buildings still stand. At the top of St Helen's Street at its junction with King Street is a row of buildings, nos 2-12, built pre1818-c1842 or later and c1866-1869. Behind and adjoining them to form a central courtyard are workshops and an engine house dating from 1802-pre1818 (Units 1, 3 and 5) which are reached by an access road off King Street (see p165-7). This is the purpose-built industrial complex which once housed the unique and famous 19thC Spar Manufactory and its owners. Apart from the foundations of the Silk Mill, rebuilt in 1910 and part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, the 1802 buildings are the oldest industrial buildings left from the old Borough of Derby followed by the pre1818 workshop.

Mineralogy, botany and entomology were some of the 'elegant amusements' for wealthy tourists to Matlock Bath at the beginning of the 19th century.⁴² [The Napoleonic Wars deterred travel to the Continent.] A small shop was

³⁷ J. Britton and E. Brayley, *Beauties of England and Wales*, Vol III, 1802, p374-5.

³⁸ 'All that Mill and extensive Building, Water Wheel, etc ..., formerly used as a Silk Mill, but lately occupied by Messrs Brown ...'. *Derby Mercury*, 3 November 1803.

³⁹ St Alkmund church rates, 1808. Also 1818. DLSL St Alkmund Parish Registers microfilm.

⁴⁰ Rev. D.P. Davies, *Historical and Descriptive View of Derbyshire*, 1811, p172-3. Fox information from M. Craven.

⁴¹ Joseph Hall and his family lived in the east wing, 21 King St. 1841 census; Mrs Mawe paid rates on a house in 1840.

⁴² H. Barker, *The Panorama of Matlock*, 1827, p11. DLSL 143.

opened in 1810 on the Green at Matlock Bath, no doubt to satisfy this demand, but it soon moved to the former dining room of the Great Hotel. A saloon or library was opened and it became a focal point for 'elegant company' known as the Royal Museum.⁴³ By 1816 Brown's London Warehouse had moved to 149, The Strand.⁴⁴

Whilst work attributed to the Browns is found outside Derbyshire, their known work in the county includes chimney pieces in the state bedroom and music room, fire-surround inlays and a pair of "purple obelisks" costing £3. 3s (1766) for Kedleston Hall, an inlaid chimney-piece and Sir John Every's gravestone at Egginton Hall (c1780), marble-carving for the great north wing of Chatsworth, chimney pieces for Richard Arkwright at Willesley Hall (1789-90) and a wall memorial in Darley Dale church. In Derby, All Saints church floor was paved (1759, 1782), chimney pieces were supplied for the Friary Hotel, Derby Prison and Pickford's House (Museum) at 41 Friargate, and a fire-surround inlay for Erasmus Darwin's house in Full Street (1782). A black marble chimney piece was sold to the Archduke Michael whilst he travelled through Derbyshire (1818).⁴⁵

Brown and Mawe were responsible for the introduction of the use of black marble for ornamental and useful objects.⁴⁶ A method of engraving or etching in white line on the surface of polished black marble invented by Henry Moore, an author, painter and etcher of Green Lane, Derby,⁴⁷ was used by the Browns for a chimney piece at the Judges Lodgings in St Mary's Gate (1810).⁴⁸ William Adam described the impact of this procedure:

*It has multiplied the variety of articles by copying the characters of the Egyptian Obelisks accurately, at a small cost, and ornamenting bell and other vases with figures and groups from the best artists; also tables are done with Flaxman's drawings, illustrative of the Iliad and Odyssey, and copies of the Medicean and Borghesi, and other ancient vases, are very correctly imitated in this style. The late Mr Mawe introduced many improved shapes, by procuring correct drawings of the antique vases.*⁴⁹

Alfred Wallis writing in 1909 also commented that:

*He [Moore] was employed by Hall, of the Derby Marble Works, to decorate small table-tops and other ornaments, with views of Chatsworth, Haddon Hall, and other places of interest. Old fashioned drawing rooms in Derby may perchance still contain examples of this work, and possessors thereof will do well to keep them carefully, for the art, as Moore practised it, is amongst the lost things of this earth, which stand no chance of revival in these days.*⁵⁰

Richard Brown the Elder died on 22 August 1816 aged 80 and was buried at All Saints church [Derby Cathedral]. He had been an eminent spar and marble manufacturer with a good business acumen who, in the mid 1790s, used the energy of Mawe and Brown the Younger, then in their late twenties, to transform the business into the largest of its type in the country. This comment by Hedinger probably puts their work into context:⁵¹

I am convinced that so long as natural beauty is admired, these elegant ornaments will continue to be introduced into the most magnificent apartments, and amply repay the ingenuity of their patrons for their distinguished ability and merit, in bringing forward a manufactory new to every other part of the world.

In his will dated 26 April 1815⁵² Brown left all his real estate and personal estate to his son Richard Brown [the Younger] after payment of £240 each to his son, Henry Hind Brown, and his daughter, Sarah Mawe of London,

⁴³ William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 2nd ed, 1840. DLSL. By 1840 Mawe's Old Museum was owned by William Adam.

⁴⁴ J.M. Hedinger, *A Short Description of Castleton*, 1816, p16. DLSL 139.

⁴⁵ Unpublished information from Maxwell Craven; Kedleston Hall building accounts (National Trust). DLSL BO 728.7, 28763. microfilm, reel 1, KC/8, p15; Rupert Gunnis, *Dictionary of British Sculptors 1660-1851*, 1964, p64-65; Maxwell Craven and Michael Stanley, *The Derbyshire Country House*, 1991, p223; J.C. Cox and W.H. St.J. Hope, *Chronicles of All Saints, Derby*, 1881, p82; Maxwell Craven, *John Whitehurst of Derby*, 1996, p76-77; J.M. Tomlinson, *Derbyshire Black Marble*, 1996, p42, quoting from *Picturesque Excursions in the High Peak*, 1819.

⁴⁶ William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 5th ed, 1851, p367.

⁴⁷ Alfred Wallis, *Some Reminiscences of Old Derby*, No 25, 1909. DLSL, Ba 900 [8982].

⁴⁸ Maxwell Craven, 'County craftsmen's marble is a rare treat', *Derby Evening Telegraph*, 24 Feb 2003, p12.

⁴⁹ William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 5th ed, 1851, p367.

⁵⁰ Alfred Wallis, *Some Reminiscences of Old Derby*, No 25, 1909. DLSL, Ba 900 [8982].

⁵¹ J.M. Hedinger, *A Short Description of Castleton*, 8th ed., c1804, p15-16. DLSL 9896.

⁵² Will of Richard Brown, 26 April 1815. Lichfield Record Office B/C/11.

and £80 each to his grandchildren Joseph, Richard and Ann Pitman, children of Joseph Pitman of Derby painter. At probate his total effects were valued under £1000 (worth £46109.48 in 2002). However, Brown had paid £750 for the Old St Helen's House property and possessed valuable property in London and elsewhere, implying that he had probably transferred most of his business assets to his children before his death.

Later wills and other evidence show that before or c1816 the property had been split in two and the businesses dissolved. Mawe and Brown the Younger then traded as John Mawe and the Derby Marble Works. The London house and shop at 149 The Strand and the Museums at Castleton and Matlock went to John Mawe. Property in Derby, including the Brown's house and property on St Helen's Street and Willow Row went to Richard Brown the Younger. The Spar Manufactory buildings were split between them: the east wing on King Street to Mawe and the west wing on St Helen's Street to Brown with both having their adjacent part of the Unit 3 workshop. Whether the west wing was built by 1816 is impossible to tell because maps up to 1817 continue to show the footprint of Old St Helen's House (or was the workshop built on the foundations of the former stable?). It is difficult to imagine though that this successful business operated from only one single storey workshop from 1803-1817. Mawe was advertising his Derby manufactory in 1817⁵³ and in *Pigot's Directory 1818-1822* Brown is listed as a marble mason of St Helen's Street and Mawe as a mineralogist and manufacturer of amethyst of King Street. About 1823-4 Joseph Hall took over Mawe's Derby business. In *Brewer's Directory 1823-4* Mawe is listed at the Spar Museum on the corner of St Helen's Street and King Street but in the introduction it states:

The Museum of Mr Hall, late Mr Mawe, St Helen's St, is deserving of a visit from every stranger, where he may amuse himself for an hour to advantage in viewing the variety of ornamental spar it affords.

*'The [marble] works of Mr Brown are adjoining where the finest specimens of Derbyshire beautiful and variegated marble may be seen.'*⁵⁴

John Mawe died in 1829 aged 65 at his home, 149 The Strand, London. He left all his freehold, copyhold and personal estates to his 'dear wife' in his Will dated 30 July 1829;⁵⁵ probate was granted on 21 November 1829. Sarah Mawe, who then used agents to run Mawe's businesses, lived for another seventeen years (see Appendix 1 for her Will). The Mawe family owned the east wing and the King Street end of Unit 3 until c1866-9.

Richard Brown had leases from the Duke of Devonshire to work quarries of entrochial marble at Monyash and the black marble quarries at Ashford. No evidence has been found for the cost of his work apart from '*Chimney pieces are made by Mr Brown, at different prices, from 30s to £50, and £60, and upwards*'.⁵⁶

Richard Brown the Younger (1765-1848) retired in 1832, and having only one daughter, Sarah Ann, put his stock-in-trade at the Derby Marble Works up for sale by Eyre & Son. It was advertised in the *Derby Mercury* on 27 June 1832:

The Whole of the Valuable and Extensive STOCK-IN-TRADE of Manufactured FOREIGN and BRITISH MARBLES.

The elegance, costliness and variety of the greater part of these Effects, preclude any adequate description, being given within the usual limits of an advertisement; they consist chiefly of a large assortment of

Italian Marble Chimney Pieces

In varied sorts of Statuary, White and Veined, Dove and Berdilla; also in Derbyshire Black and Grey, and the lately discovered and beautiful Rosewood. All these adapted for drawing and dining rooms, libraries, &c.

Several MONUMENTS ready for inscriptions,

Polished slabs of Grey and Black Marble, slips and Jambs, Mortars & Pestles, Slabs and Mullers for grinding paint upon, Polished slabs for pastry, and a quantity of outside Slabs suitable for dairies or cellar benches.

LARGE LATHE, SAWS, TOOLS &c.

⁵³ Advertisement in James Sowerby, *British Mineralogy*, Vol 5, 1817. (see p171)

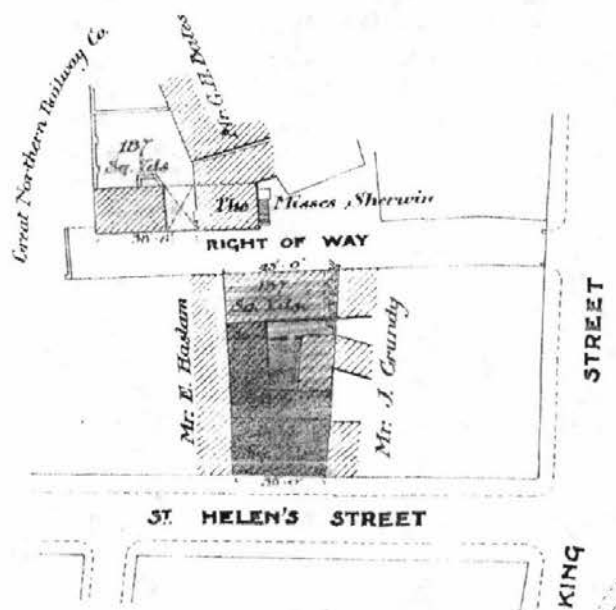
⁵⁴ *Brewer's Derby Circular Guide and Commercial Directory 1823-24*, Trade directory; Introduction, p22-3. DLSL.

⁵⁵ Will of John Mawe, 30 July 1829. PRO Online wills 11/1763, image reference 40.

⁵⁶ Stephen Glover, *History, Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Derby*, Vol I, 1833, p87.

However, Brown must already have made arrangements for Joseph Hall to take over his business because on 4 July 1832 he placed another advertisement in the *Derby Mercury* to announce that he would be succeeded by Joseph Hall at the Derby Marble Works and George Oldfield & Co at the Ashford Mills [Marble Works]. Joseph Hall placed an advertisement on the same day (p161).

Hall also purchased the section of the Unit 3 workshop behind 10 St Helen's Street (the house is thought to have been built between 1842-50, (p162)) and a yard on the other side of the access road from Brown in 1832⁵⁷ but not Brown's other workshops which were sold, together with some land, to William Haslam in 1834 (p165).



Plan attached to an Indenture in 1903 showing the area of land bought by Joseph Hall from Richard Brown.

This included 10 St Helen's Street, the west end of Unit 3 and the stables and the coachhouse with workshops over it on the 107 sq yds to the north of the right of way. There is an additional right of way between the west and east ends of Unit 3.⁵⁸

Richard Brown married twice, first to Mary Cooper who died in 1802 aged 23 and secondly, in 1806, to Sarah Eley who died on 10 August 1850. He died on 24 June 1848 aged 83 and all three are buried at All Saints.

In his will dated 15 February 1847,⁵⁹ he left 'All that my message in which I now reside situate in Saint Helens Street in the Parish of Saint Alkmund in Derby with the Garden land and all outbuildings and erections', all his land in Cowsley and his personal estate to 'my dear Daughter Sarah Anne Brown'. Probate was granted on 10 October 1848. His goods were worth under £600 (worth £33652.79 in 2002). The house was called St Helen's House (named on OS 1899 map). It had a rateable value of £56 17s 6d in 1840 (cf rateable value of St Helen's House, King Street £262 10s; 85 King Street £14 17s) and was enlarged on the south side before 1852 (p153).

Joseph Hall (1824-1848)

There were two Joseph Halls who worked at the Spar Manufactory: Joseph Hall (1785-1848) and his son, Joseph Richard St Helen Hall (1818-1876), who, by the excellence of their work, were following in the footsteps of their grandfather and great-grandfather, Joseph Hall (1725-1766), the master mason at Kedleston responsible for nearly all the carved stone, alabaster and woodwork in the house.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ In 1 November 1832 Joseph Hall took out a mortgage with Miss Ann Hughes, the owner of 85 King Street [in 1903 the Misses Sherwin]. *Schedule of Deeds relating to No 10 St Helen's Street*. Anne and Alison Haslam. Private Collection.

⁵⁸ Plan attached to Indenture for a mortgage of £600 between Potts & Birkinshaw and Elizabeth Hill dated 10 July 1903. *Schedule of Deeds relating to No 10 St Helen's Street*. (Also p160). Anne and Alison Haslam. Private Collection. Also see C. Head & R. Blackwood, *The Old Crown Derby China Factory - the King Street Works 1849-1935*, 2003, p28-33.

⁵⁹ Will of Richard Brown 15 February 1847, Lichfield Record Office B/B/11.

⁶⁰ Kedleston Hall building accounts (National Trust). DLSL BO 728.7, Acc no. 28763, film, reel 1, KC3/1. The original accounts books show Hall was the master mason from 1759-1765, apart from 1761 when he was in partnership with a

Joseph Hall owned some of the buildings he worked in and rented others. From c1823-4 he rented the east wing with its house and Spar Museum on King Street together with the east end of the Unit 3 workshop (see p159) from Sarah Mawe and her descendants. He bought the west end of the Unit 3 workshop in 1832.

Joseph Hall produced spar ornaments, chimney-pieces, chess and other ornamental tables '*quite equal in appearance and durability to the celebrated pietra dura*'⁶¹ and church memorials. He also made necklaces, ear-drops and ornaments out of Blue John, thousands of which were exported to China, South America and India. Vases and columns were made out of a pure white alabaster obtained from Chellaston.⁶² However, unlike his grandfather and the Browns, no record has been found for any work in stately homes. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1838,⁶³ showing '*a fawn the colour of the marble being entirely natural*' and obtained a prize for a wreath table from the School of Design, London.⁶⁴ Glover, in 1833, stated that Hall was '*a person well qualified from his knowledge of mineralogy and long experience of the business to continue improving in taste and elegance the innumerable articles he manufactures*'.⁶⁵

When Joseph Hall took over Richard Brown's Marble Works business, he too placed an advertisement in the *Derby Mercury* on 4 July 1832. This gives a fascinating insight into his business and raises the question whether many of the 'Grand Tour' objects listed as Italian by auction houses may well be Derby products.⁶⁶ The baths were open by 1827 and were a very early example of a public bath outside a designated spa in England.⁶⁷

MARBLE and SPAR WORKS, DERBY,

JOSEPH HALL

Has the pleasure to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public, that he succeeds Mr BROWN in the business of Statuary and Sculptor, upon the same Premises, in St Helen's Street, (adjoining the Spar Manufactory). He has engaged Workman and Artists of first rate abilities who have been long employed by Mr. Brown, and solicits a continuance of favours, not doubting but he shall conduct the Business with equal satisfaction that has been done for so long a period by his Predecessor; having the advantage of the extensive collection of Models and Drawings of Chimney Pieces, Monuments, &c. accumulated by Mr. Brown during half a century.

J.H. having erected a STEAM ENGINE and extensive machinery, gives him great advantage, and enables him to manufacture the beautiful Derbyshire, and other Spars and Marbles, into the most approved VASES. COLUMNS, CANDELABRA, &c. correctly copied from the Antique. Also TIMESTANDS, INKSTANDS, CANDLESTICKS, and a variety of useful and ornamental articles.

MINIATURES of those interesting Antiquities, Pompey's Pillar, Cleopatra's Needles, and other Egyptian Obelisks formed in exact proportions, and the hieroglyphics correctly copied from the originals.

J.H. has also introduced Collections of these splendid Spars & Marbles into MOSAIC TABLES, PAPER WEIGHTS, SNUFF BOXES, &c. which for elegance of appearance and superiority of Workmanship, are unequalled.

Very superior SCULPTURES of the WARWICK, PORTLAND, and other VASES; also great variety of DOGS, GAME, HORSES, COWS, SHEEP, and other Animals carved into the most characteristic attitudes.

SHELLS, CORALS, and various other Curiosities.

Mr Chambers. One account '*Totals for the foregoing Bills Collected*' shows Hall had been paid £8932 10s 10d by 1765

⁶¹ Stephen Glover, *History and Directory of the Borough of Derby*, 1843, p79.

⁶² Stephen Glover, *History, Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Derby*, Vol I, 1833, p236. Blue John cost £40 per ton. Alabaster p101. On page 94, Glover refers to J. Hall's Spar Works as a '*very interesting manufactory*'.

⁶³ The Royal Academy have a listing for this fawn but could not find an illustration; nor do they know where it is now.

⁶⁴ William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 5th ed, 1851, p374. Adam is describing Pietra Dura or Florence Mosaic.

⁶⁵ Stephen Glover, *History and Gazetteer of the County of Derby*, Vol. II, 1833, p597.

⁶⁶ Comment by Maxwell Craven. Barker, ref⁴¹, p14, states '*are far superior in workmanship to any now made in Italy*'.

⁶⁷ *Derbyshire and Chesterfield Reporter*, 1 November 1827. DLSL; Comment by Maxwell Craven.

MINERALOGY - Having served his Apprenticeship with the late Mr MAWE, J.H. has for many years past furnished Collections of MINERALS, arranged and described for the purpose of facilitating the Study of so interesting a Science, at various prices from 20s. upwards.

HOT BATHS - In consequence of the great increase of Visitors to J. HALL'S BATHS, he has erected a large HOT SWIMMING BATH which will be ready for use the second week in July. It will receive a constant and copious supply of pure fresh hot water, on the following very low terms, viz. 30s per Annum, or 20 tickets for 25s. (which are transferable,) or 2s. each person.

Young Persons under 14, 20s. per Annum.

Original Subscribers will have the advantage of using either the SWIMMING BATH, SINGLE BATH, VAPOUR or SHOWER BATHS.

All Subscriptions paid in advance.

Joseph Hall was a mineralogist living in Mary-le-Strand parish, London when he married Ann Pitman, niece of the Richard Brown the Younger, at Derby St Werburgh on 1 January 1816. He was apprenticed to John Mawe (see above) and probably came to Derby as Mawe's agent at the Spar Museum. Two of his four sons succeeded him at the Spar Works, the eldest of whom, Joseph Richard St Helen Hall, was born in Derby in 1818. In 1826 he lived in King Street. The 1841 census identified the house as No 21, the east wing of the Manufactory, where Hall and his family still lived, even though he had bought the west end of Unit 3 in 1832. This suggests that 10 St Helen's Street was not built until after 1841. His son Joseph and his family were living at No 10 in 1851.

Joseph died in March 1848 c60 years old, three months before Richard Brown the Younger. In his will made on 3 March 1848, he left 'all his real and personal estate situate in St Helen's Street, Derby, in the township of Litchurch and elsewhere' to his sons, Joseph R. St. H. and Thomas Hall, together with his third part of the business and stock in trade of Marble Mason jointly carried out with them. He left £50 to his son, Walter, and £100 to his daughter, Mary Elizabeth when she was 21. Probate was granted on 23 October 1848.⁶⁸

J. & T. Hall (1848-1857), J. Hall (1857-1876)

In 1851, Joseph Richard St Helen Hall (1818-1876) and Thomas Hall (1825-1857) employed 24 men.⁶⁹ Their showrooms opposite Derby railway station (then in Litchurch) contained 'a striking and varied assemblage of useful and ornamental articles'⁷⁰ - no doubt for rail travellers, visitors to nearby hotels and the tourist trade.

Joseph and Thomas were as well known as their eminent predecessors and exported to the Continent, India and the United States as shown by the first paragraph of this article in *The Art Journal* of September 1850:⁷¹

THE DERBY MARBLE-WORKS were commenced upwards of a century ago by Mr. Brown, and carried on by him, in a small way, for some years, until, by the introduction of machinery, worked by water power in a mill on the banks of the River Derwent, belonging to the Corporation of Derby, he was enabled to cut and work the spars and marbles with so much greater facility, that the business was largely increased and became famed. On the termination of the lease in 1802, the establishment was removed to larger and more convenient premises, erected on the site of the old monastery of St. Helen, and the motive power was a steam engine. Here it has continued ever since, and is one of the largest establishments of the kind in the kingdom. It was carried on successively by Mr. Brown, Messrs. Brown & Son, Brown & Mawe, Mr. Hall, and now by his sons, Joseph and Thomas Hall, who, in conjunction with their late father, have much simplified their machinery and increased its quantity; by which means, and by paying great attention to beauty of form, they have been enabled to greatly extend this branch of manufacturing Art, and spread its knowledge over various parts of the Continent, India, and the United States. Their business includes the manufacture of monuments, chimney-pieces, spar and marble ornaments, stone garden-vases, stone filters, &c.

⁶⁸ Will of Joseph Hall, 3 March 1848. PRO Online wills: Prob 11/2082, image reference 39.

⁶⁹ 1851 census.

⁷⁰ *Slaters Directory of Derbyshire 1850*, p62, DLSL; *The Art Journal*, Sept 1850. In the 1861 census, a mineral surveyor, Edwin Eardley, is living in a house listed between the Temperance and York Hotels on Midland Road, Litchurch.

⁷¹ 'Visits to The Manufacturing Districts: Derby', *The Art Journal*, September 1850, p280-1. DLSL BA600 50764. The Halls sold all the turnings and scrap from fluorspar to the chemist for the manufacture of fluoric acid.

The article continues with a description of the Derbyshire spars and marbles used in the works: Blue John from Castleton, Black Marble and Rosewood marble from Ashford-in-the-Water, alabaster from Chellaston and satin stone and goes on to describe various methods of cutting the stones to make the finished articles. It ended with:

'There are other manufacturers in Derbyshire, who work up the native marbles and spars, and whose showrooms are scattered over various parts of the county, generally visited by the tourist. We may mention Woodruffe of Bakewell, Redfern of Ashford, Vallance of Matlock, and others, but Mr. Hall is the most extensive, and certainly the most meritorious, manufacturer of these peculiarly native works.'

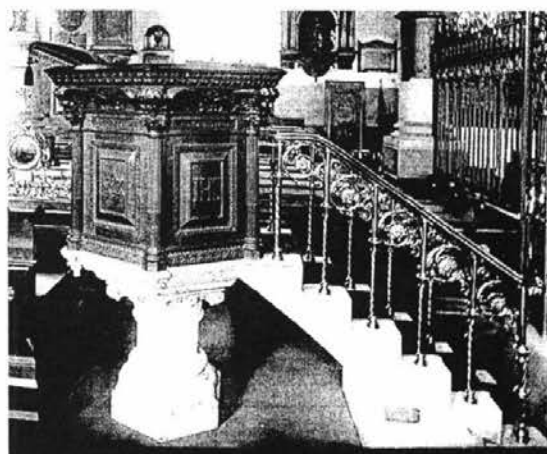
Some of the vases produced by J. and T. Hall which illustrated the article are shown below.



Ornamental goods were exhibited at the 1851 Great Exhibition (p150) and at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1885.⁷² Church fittings included a pulpit for Derby Cathedral (1873) and all the marble and alabaster (pulpit, roerodos, font, screen, pillars, and chancel floor) for St Luke's Church, Derby (1871).⁷³ Work at Mackworth Church for the Mundy family began with a pulpit (1876) and was completed by Robert Lomas in 1903.⁷⁴



Sir Hugh Bateman memorial (J. Hall 1874)



Derby Cathedral Pulpit (1890, DLSL) (J. Hall 1873)

⁷² Rupert Gunnis, *Dictionary of British Sculptors*, 1964, p185; J.M. Tomlinson, *Derbyshire Black Marble*, 1996, p67.

⁷³ C.L. Payne, *Derby Churches Old and New*, 1893, p22, 97; R. Lomas advert, rear of Bulmer's *Derbyshire Directory*, 1895 has a list of work carried out in churches. Some of it is pre-1876 and by J. Hall; *Post Office Directory*, 1876, p71.

⁷⁴ D. Farnsworth, *From Mercia to Clarke-Maxwell: A History of Markeaton and Mackworth*, 1987, p80-81.

The Hall family signed some of their church memorials. Those at Derby Cathedral (all internal) include John and Martha Bingham (1814-9), John Hope (1819), Henry Haden, surgeon at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary (1831), Hannah Weatherhead (1854) and Sir Hugh Bateman 1824 (1874).⁷⁵ Other examples in Derbyshire churches are: Martha Twigge at Bakewell (1827), Walter Evans at Darley Abbey (1839), John Macaulay at Repton (1840), Shirley, Bishop of Sodor and Man, at Shirley (1842), the Earl of Leicester at Longford (1844) and Thomas and Sarah Peach at Kirk Langley (1874). Their memorials can also be found in Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. In 1852 they repaired the effigy of Archbishop Sandys in Southwell Cathedral.⁷⁶

Thomas Hall, marble mason, died in 1857 or before. In his will, he left his half share of the house and land at Litchurch and all his other property to Joseph Richard St Helen Hall. It was proved in London on 5 Nov 1857.⁷⁷

Sarah Mawe's grandson, Anthony Tissington Tatlow, who inherited the Spar Works buildings, died c1866-69. They then passed to Sarah Ann Brown, Richard Brown the Younger's only child. The east wing on King Street was demolished before 1870 and a new showroom,⁷⁸ now 2-8 St Helen's Street, was built. Sarah Brown died in 1875 and instructed her executors to sell all her real estate (Appendix II). Joseph R.St.H. Hall may have bought the Spar Works buildings because 2-8 St Helen's Street is labelled Halls Executors (p168). However, the St Alkmund Parish Rate Book 1880 refers to Miss Brown's Executors as the owner of Nos 2-8.

Fifteen months after Sarah Brown died, Joseph R.St.H. Hall was also dead. He died on 5 September 1876, aged 57, at his home, Depth O'Lumb, Hazelwood, thus bringing to an end 140 years of eminent craftsmanship by the first Richard Brown and his descendants after 75 years of marble and spar manufacturing on this site.

Joseph married Mary Ann Herbert. She died in 1864, leaving him with five young children, the youngest of whom was only 3 years old, to bring up with the help of a governess. Shortly after his wife's death, Joseph wrote his will, dated 5 December 1864⁷⁹ in which he left all his real and personal property to Trustees: his brother Walter Hall of Derby (who also predeceased him) and his brother-in-law Thomas Herbert of Leicester, builder. He left annuities to his mother, Ann Hall, of £80 a year, his brother Walter £50 a year and his niece Ada Mary Wilks, only child of his late sister Mary Elizabeth, £100. The stock in trade, machinery and tools belonging to his business of Marble Mason were to be reasonably valued and offered to his son if he was of an age or capacity to be capable of managing it. Furniture, books, plate, linen and all other household goods were to be wholly or partially retained for the use of his children during their minority or sold... The rents accruing from his real property consisting of lands and houses together with the interests and dividends arising from Mortgages, Bills, Railway and other such securities were to be used for the payment of the annuities and for the maintenance and education of his children. Money arising from his wife's property was to be divided between his children.

Twelve years later, Hall's personal estate was under £12000 (£542703.74 in 2002) when probate was granted on 1 December 1876. His son, Herbert was then only sixteen and in 1878 the business was sold to Robert Lomas, Hall's foreman. Lomas continued at the Spar Works until the premises were sold to Mr Grundy, a provision merchant, and then relocated to 37 King Street. Hall's children owned the property their grandfather had bought on St Helen's Street (the house was rented out to various tenants including Barlow & Taylor who used it as lodgings for their shopworkers), until three of them, Edith Harkness, Helena Reckless and Herbert Hall, sold the property to Potts and Birkinshaw, painters, in 1903. They, in turn, retained the stable, etc, but sold 10 St Helen's Street and its workshop to Larcombe and Paget, of the Derby China Works on King Street in 1917.⁸⁰

William Haslam (1805-1878) and Edwin Haslam (1843-1913)

Alderman William Haslam and his son, Edwin, were well-known whitesmiths and bell-hangers. William won a prize medal for 'Wrought Iron and Brass Work' for a church door at the 1851 Great Exhibition, now at Breadsall Priory. Edwin worked more in the Arts and Crafts style and diversified into gas equipment and fitting and later into electrical equipment. His advert in Wright's *Directory of South Derbyshire*, 1874, lists brass rails for shop fronts and desks, all kinds of domestic bells, speaking tubes and brass or ironwork for churches. His showroom

⁷⁵ Derby Cathedral Inventory Records.

⁷⁶ Rupert Gunnis, *Dictionary of British Sculptors 1660-1851*, 1964, p185.

⁷⁷ Will of Thomas Hall, 30 April 1853. PRO Online wills: Prob 11/2260, image reference 159.

⁷⁸ St Alkmund Parish Rate Book, 1875. Stated that Miss Brown was paying rates on a showroom and manufactory. The rates paid had increased in 1870 suggesting that the showroom was built by this date.

⁷⁹ Will of Joseph Hall, Marble Mason & Sculptor of Derby, 5 Dec 1864, Derbyshire Record Office M264 p961.

⁸⁰ *Schedule of Deeds relating to No 10 St Helen's Street*. Anne and Alison Haslam. Private Collection.

on Irongate sold lamps, chandeliers, gas globes, gongs, etc. and he exported wrought iron all over the Empire. He built the gates at Iretonwood Hall, refurbished the Bakewell screen in All Saint's, Derby in 1873 and made the ironwork for the gallery, stairs and external railings at Derby Museum, which now holds his specimen book.⁸¹

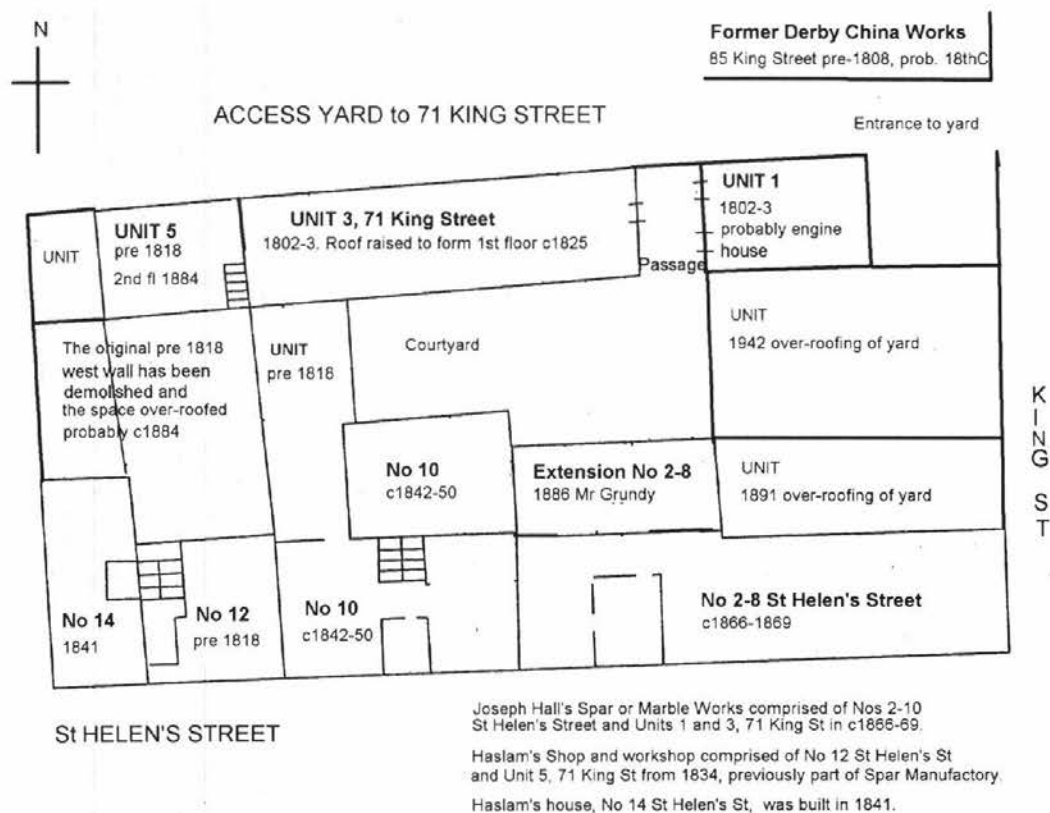
The Haslam buildings

William Haslam bought the western workshop and storerooms (Unit 5 and 12 St Helen's St), together with 308 square yards of land, from Richard Brown the Younger by a lease and release of 24 and 25 March 1834. The deeds state that the south side of the land, 38' 4", was bounded by St Helen's Street and the north side, 34' 10", was bounded by a carriageway. On the east side, 75' 0", it was bounded by land and premises lately sold to Joseph Hall and separated from it by a party wall. On the west side, 75' 0", it was bounded by the land and premises lately sold to Mr Bennett [a joiner, *Pigots Directory*, 1835]. Haslam began to build his house, 14 St Helen's Street on 14 May 1841. Sketches for the exterior, the staircase and the front door head together with a note of the date building commenced, were found in his notebook.⁸²

In 1884 a second storey was put on Unit 5, the rear workshop, and there is a datestamp of 1885 on 12 St Helen's Street. 'Locksmith', 'Bellhanger' and 'Gas Fitter' are still inscribed over the front door of Haslam's former shop and the adjacent windows (p168). In the 1980s the front room contained an Arts and Crafts fireplace and various wrought iron specimens were hung on the walls.⁸³ In 1998 the ceiling height was 4.6m (c15'-0") providing further evidence of its workshop origins and the ceiling was wood panelled.⁸⁴ The entry hall of Haslam's house, No 14, was panelled (17thC according to the *City of Derby Local List 1993*). The family had left by 1891.

THE SPAR MANUFACTORY BUILDINGS: WORKSHOPS AND HOUSES

This ground plan shows the various buildings belonging to the Spar Manufactory Complex which exist today.



Sketch plan of site in 2002 showing buildings which made up the Spar Manufactory Complex

⁸¹ Maxwell Craven, *Derbeians of Distinction*, 1998, p112. Information from Maxwell Craven.

⁸² Indenture and notebook: Anne and Alison Haslam. Private Collection. Two of the sketches can be seen in J. D'Arcy and J. Steer, *From Religious Oratory to Spar Manufactory*, 2002, DLSL 728 MSS, 60956.

⁸³ Information from Anne Haslam.

⁸⁴ Raybould's Sale Particulars for the Spar Manufactory Complex in 1998.

The Workshops and houses

The buildings shown below are now known as Unit 1 and Unit 3, 71 King Street. The ground floor of Unit 3 (a workshop) and Unit 1 (probably the engine house) were the first buildings (2 3/8" bricks) erected by the Browns in 1802-3. They are the oldest industrial buildings remaining from the old Borough of Derby apart from the foundations of the Silk Mill [rebuilt in 1910 and now a World Heritage Site]. The first floor was erected c1825 (2 7/8" bricks). In 1832 the Mawe family owned the left half and Joseph Hall the right half of the Unit 3 workshop. Gisborne's St Helen's House c1767, which is Grade I listed, is in the background.



A second workshop, the west wing, then comprising of the ground floor and first floor of Unit 5, 71 King Street and 12 St Helen's Street, was erected by 1818 and is probably Derby's third oldest industrial building. 2 7/8" bricks were used for the entire building. Unit 5 shares a common party wall with Unit 3.



Unit 5, 71 King Street



12 St Helen's Street

Two more buildings were built on St Helen's Street. A house (No 10) was probably built between 1842-50 (3¼" bricks) and a new showroom, 2-8 St Helen's Street, (3 3/8" bricks) was built by Sarah Ann Brown c1866-69.



10 St Helen's Street



2-8 St Helen's Street

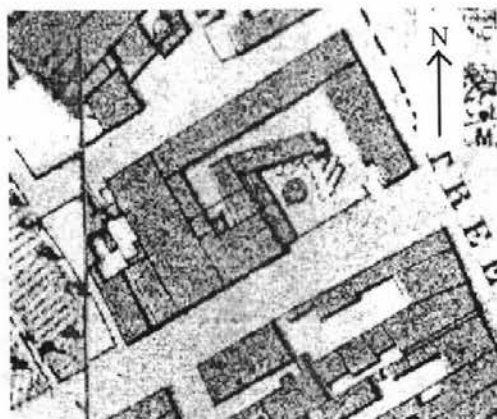
These buildings form a rectangle round a small central courtyard. Unit 3 and Unit 5 were extended upwards c1825 and 1884 respectively. Some new windows were inserted and two hoists removed (probably late 19thC) about 3 years ago. On the whole there have been remarkably few changes to the exterior of the buildings.

Unit 5, 71 King Street, and 12 St Helen's Street were sold to William Haslam in 1834. He built a house (below), 14 St Helen's Street, for himself in 1841.

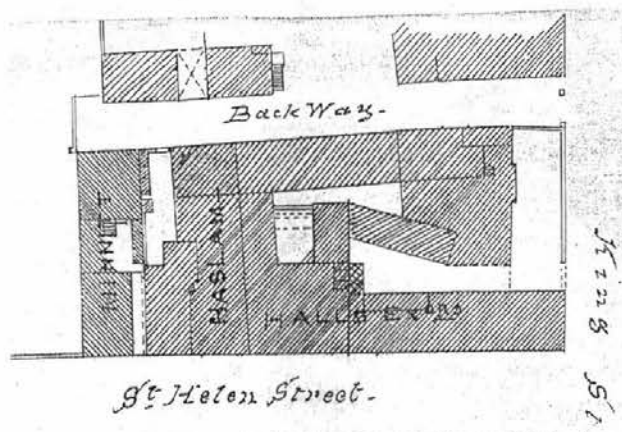


The buildings of the Spar Manufactory complex which were erected between 1802 and 1852 can be seen on the Board of Health map of 1852 below. The swimming pool and heated fish pool are in the centre of the complex. William Haslam's house (1841) is on the west of the complex with Mr Bennett the joiner's building on its west side (later a public house, then Mr Minnett's Vaults, now demolished). 10 St Helen's Street has now been built.⁸⁵ The east wing, 21 King Street, was lived in by Joseph Hall and his family in the 1841 census. It was not listed in 1851 or 1871 but in 1861 it was listed as *27 King Street: Hall's Show Rooms* (house number changed).

⁸⁵ 1851 census: Joseph R.St.H. Hall and family are living at No 10. Walter Hall was born at St Helen's Street c22 March 1822 (St Alkmund parish registers) but the house is not shown on Dewhirst & Nichols map of 1838, DLSL.



Information about later changes to the site comes from Derby Borough Building Notices and Plans.⁸⁶ In 1884 Edwin Haslam applied for permission to put a new storey on his old workshop (still extant - see below). Note: the east wing on King Street has been demolished and the building (now 2-8 St Helen's Street) between 10 St Helen's Street and King Street appears on this plan, marked 'Executors'. It was probably built between c1866-69 because Anthony Tissington Tatlow, Sarah Mawe's grandson, was the owner in 1865 and Sarah Ann Brown in 1870. Most of the available Building Notices and Plans date from 1875; none were found for its erection.⁸⁷



Building Notice and Plan 3336, 20 September 1884

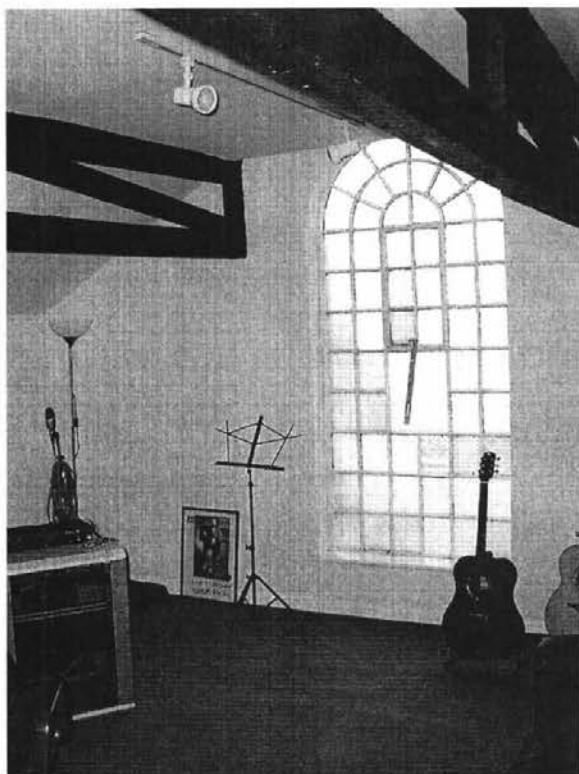
'Locksmith', 'Bellhanger' and 'Gas Fitter' are still inscribed over the front door of Haslam's former shop and the windows on either side. There is also a datestamp of 1885 just above the door.



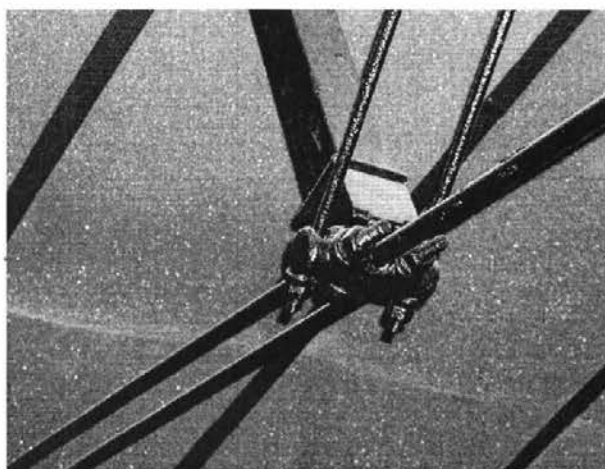
⁸⁶ Derby Borough Building Notices and Plans. DLSL

⁸⁷ St Alkmund parish rate books for 1865 and 1870. DLSL

At about the same time that the second floor was built on Unit 5, the side wall of the building joining Unit 5 to 12 St Helen's Street was demolished and both it and the vacant land to its west was over-roofed. Both the extension and the over-roofing contain rare types of roof trusses.

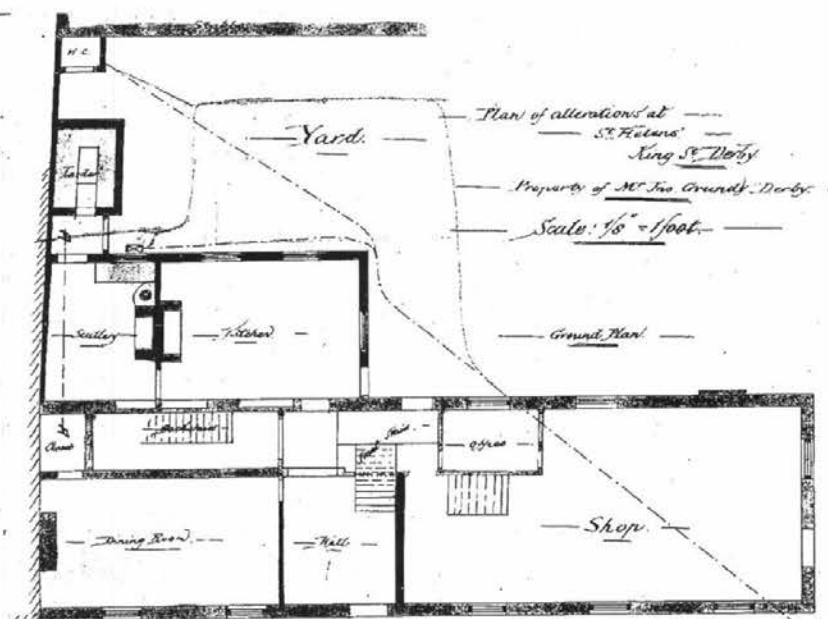


Unit 5, 2nd floor extension
Timber trussed purlins
Handyside window



Unit 5, over-roofing
Trusses with proprietary prefabricated cast iron nodes

Nos 2-8 St Helen's Street was sold by either the executors of Sarah Ann Brown or those of Joseph Hall to Mr Grundy, a provision merchant. In 1886 he applied for permission to change it into a shop and house and to erect a new kitchen wing.



Building Notice and Plan 3710, 30 May 1886

In 1891 Mr Grundy put a glazed iron roof shed on north side of his shop on King Street.⁸⁸ Apart from one or two small alterations, the last building notice for the complex was No 17520 on 1 March 1942 when Batterby and Hefford applied for permission to sheet over the adjacent part of the yard on King Street.



Mr Grundy's 1891 over-roofing to left and Batterby & Hefford's 1942 over-roofing on right
Note kitchen extension built by Mr Grundy in 1886. Viewed from King Street 2002.

The above description of the buildings is expanded in *'The Spar Manufactory Complex: 71 King Street'* which contains more photographs of the windows, central courtyard and the brickwork. The latter are used to demonstrate how the brick coursing was used to determine the building sequence of the workshops. Some more building notices and maps showing the changes in the footprint of the building can be found in *'From Religious Oratory to Spar Manufactory'* 2002.⁸⁹

APPENDIX I: JOHN MAWE, Mineralogist (1766-1829): A brief history of his life

John Mawe was a famous practical mineralogist and geologist who for thirty years not only traded in minerals and shells to provide specimens for collectors but also wrote eleven books on the subject, some of which were very popular and ran to several editions [many are in Derby Local Studies Library]. He travelled extensively, firstly during his youth when he spent 15 years at sea as a mariner in merchant ships and developed his interest in shells and secondly in the early 1800s when he surveyed most of the mines in this country, particularly Derbyshire, followed, between 1804-11, by his adventurous travels in South America. After 1811 his property and business interests expanded and by 1829 he had traded from his shop at 149 The Strand, London (also his home), museums and spar manufactories in Derby (until 1824, p159) and Matlock Bath, museums in Castleton and Cheltenham,⁹⁰ and an *'establishment'* in Florence which dealt in Italian alabaster and marble.⁹¹ He owned an import/export business at the King's Warehouse, London,⁹² and mines in Crich (see Sarah Mawe below).

Mawe, described as *'a man of great energy, commanding mind, and extensive knowledge of the world'*,⁹³ was born in Derby in 1766, the son of Samuel Mawe, a baker who lived in Queen Street and leased St Michael's corn mill.⁹⁴ He left his life as a ship's officer at the onset of war (probably the Great War with France 1793-1815) and

⁸⁸ Building Notice and Plan 4858, 16 November 1891, DLSL.

⁸⁹ Jane Steer, *'The Spar Manufactory Complex: 71 King Street'*, 2002, DLSL. J. D'Arcy and J. Steer, *From Religious Oratory to Spar Manufactory*, 2002, DLSL 728 MSS, 60956

⁹⁰ Mawe & Tatlow's Museum, Cheltenham, print c1810.

⁹¹ H. Barker, *Panorama of Matlock*, 1828, catalogue. DLSL 143. Published by Mawe and sold in his museums.

⁹² John Mawe, *The Voyager's Companion or Shell Collector's Pilot*, 3rd ed., 1821. DLSL 1855. Advertisement after title page giving advice to *'Any person desirous to send a box of shells, etc to the author'*

⁹³ William Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 1838, p57. DLSL KH 910 8939.

⁹⁴ Samuel Mawe entered into an 80 year lease on a house and a 21 year lease on St Michael's Corn Mill and a house with Derby Corporation on 3 June 1769. *Schedule of Deeds belonging to the Corporation of Derby from the earliest date to the year 1814 inclusive*, c1849-50. DLSL DBR/D/40. [St Michael's corn mill is adjacent to the Old Shop.]

'with other business, commenced collecting minerals and shells',⁹⁵ returning to Derby to work as an apprentice for Messrs Brown at their Spar Manufactory in the Old Silk Mill.⁹⁶ By 1794 he managed their London shop and in November that year married Sarah Brown (p154). In 1800 Mawe had more than 20,000 specimens from all over the world including diamonds, rubies, Oriental stones, Brazilian topaz, etc, for sale.⁹⁷

His first book *'Mineralogy of Derbyshire with a Description of the most Interesting Mines in the North of England, in Scotland and in Wales'* was published in 1802 following a request 'by a Spanish gentleman to make surveys of the principal mines, to collect their various productions, and more particularly, specimens from each stratum, describing their thickness, situation and position; in order to shew an exact representation of the mines, for the cabinet of his most Catholic Majesty [Charles IV] at Madrid. To ascertain a correct statement of the geology and mines of Derbyshire is a work worthy of the patronage of a Prince who enjoys so great a share of the precious metals produced in South America'.⁹⁸

In 1804 he went to South America on a 'voyage of commercial experiment' but on arrival at Montevideo the ship and its cargo was seized and Mawe was imprisoned as an English spy. Later he was sent into the interior and detained until rescued by British troops in 1806. He went to Buenos Aires with the British Army and on the termination of their expedition, sailed to Rio de Janeiro in 1807. A letter of introduction to the Viceroy of Brazil from the Portuguese Minister in London eventually led to the Prince Regent permitting him 'as a person devoted to mineralogical pursuits, and desirous of exploring the ample field for investigation which his rich and extensive territories presented' to travel to the interior and visit the diamond mines at Minas Geraes - at a time when foreigners were prohibited. He held an 'official situation (first administrator)' for some time at the Royal Farm, Santa Cruz.⁹⁹ On returning to London in 1811, he wrote an account of his adventures in *'Travels in the Interior of Brazil, including a visit to the Rio de la Plata, and a Historical Essay on the Revolutions in Buenos Ayres'* in 1812 which was published in London, Brazil, USA, France, Sweden, Germany, Portugal and Russia.¹⁰⁰ His *'Treatise on Diamonds and Precious Stones, and particularly those in South America'* followed in 1813. [Until the 18thC India was the only known source of diamonds but after 1726 Brazil became the main producer.]

He acquired property and businesses in London (149 The Strand) and Derby (Museum and Spar Works) c1816 (p159) and was advertising his London shop in *'British Mineralogy'* in 1817.¹⁰¹

Mr. MAWE has connexions in all the Mining districts of Europe, Brazil, North America, Ceylon, &c. from whence he receives the finest productions of those countries, and being concerned in several Mines in this kingdom, he regularly receives their finest produce; which, connected with his Manufactory in Derby, for forming Vases, &c. of the beautiful Fluor of that county, he is enabled to vend Minerals on the most reasonable terms.

He traded under his own name at 149 The Strand, London, and the Museums in Derby (p159), Castleton and Matlock Bath but as Mawe and Tatlow (?his son-in-law) in Cheltenham. A catalogue listing his 11 books, collections of minerals and shells and his ornamental works of art show that his spar ornaments were very similar to those of Joseph Hall (p161). It also listed glass shades for alabaster ornaments, French and Italian bronzes, Oriental china and birds and insects mounted in glass shades, etc. as well as the items in the advertisement below. Mineral collections in cabinets with catalogues or shell collections cost 2 to 20 guineas and upwards.¹⁰²

Until 1829, the Royal Museum on Museum Parade was the only Museum trading in Matlock Bath. The clientele must have been wealthy for even in 1843, when Sarah Mawe owned it, the showroom was considered to be 'most

⁹⁵ John Mawe, *The Voyager's Companion or Shell Collector's Pilot*, 3rd ed., 1821, p vi and 23. DLSL 1855. Many of the places he visited during his years at sea are mentioned in this book.

⁹⁶ Miss H. Wright's notebook, p25. DLSL Derbys. Collection 9563. Owner of Brookfield and North Lees Halls in 1846.

⁹⁷ Hugh S. Torrens, 'The Early Life and Geological Work of John Mawe 1766-1829' and a note on his travels in Brazil', *Bulletin of the Peak District Mines Historical Society* Vol 11, No 6, Winter 1992, p267-271. Quoting Hedinger 4th ed

⁹⁸ John Mawe, *The Mineralogy of Derbyshire*, 1802, p iv. DLSL 1924.

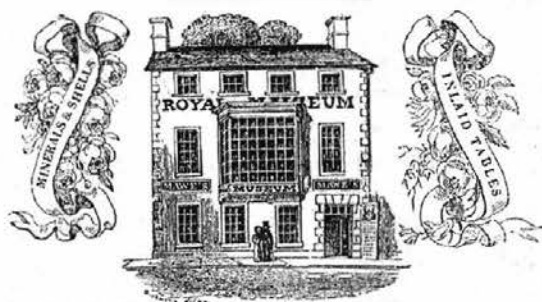
⁹⁹ John Mawe, *The Voyager's Companion or Shell Collector's Pilot*, 3rd ed., 1821, p xiii and 10. DLSL 1855.

¹⁰⁰ John Mawe, *Travels in the Interior of Brazil*, 2nd Ed, 1823, p1-3, Preface. DLSL 1928.

¹⁰¹ Advertisement in James Sowerby, *British Mineralogy*, Vol 5, 1817. James Sowerby and his family produced the coloured plates for most of the 11 editions of Mawe's *Familiar Lessons in Mineralogy and Geology*, 1819-1829, and his *Treatise on Diamonds and Precious Stones*. Web site, Lawrence H. Conkin, *James Sowerby, his publications and collections*, <http://www.lconkin.com/bio/publications/sowerby.htm>.

¹⁰² J. Mawe, *Lessons in Mineralogy and Geology*, 11th ed., 1829. DLSL 1853. Mawe's Catalogue is bound into the book.

UNDER THE ESPECIAL PATRONAGE OF
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.



**MAWE'S
ORIGINAL ROYAL MUSEUM,
MATLOCK-BATH.**

The Proprietor begs leave to announce, that the STOCK ON SALE, at the above Establishment, is of a very superior and splendid description.

CONSISTING OF
SUPERE INLAID AGATE, & MARBLE TABLES;
ALSO

BEAUTIFULLY ENGRAVED TABLES;
With Antique Borders, and Moonlight or Diamond Engraved Centres, representing the finest Ancient and Modern Buildings, Figures and Landscapes.
These Tables are now elegantly mounted on marble feet, in a style far superior to any thing of the kind ever yet offered to the public.

CHIMNEY-PIECES, MARBLE SLABS, URNS, &c.

BEAUTIFUL ITALIAN ALABASTERS,
Expressly executed for the above Establishment, and very superior to the generality of Alabasters imported from Italy.

THE FINELY SCULPTURED
Models of the Leaning Tower and Baptistero of Pisa, Trajan's Column,
THE BORGHESE, MEDECIAN, AND WARWICK VASES,

AND
THE GROUPS AND STATUES AFTER THE ANTIQUE.
Are Perfect Specimens in this department.

short will he left everything to his wife, Sarah, who erected a commemorative memorial in Castleton church 'that some memorial might be preserved of the affectionate regard he had long cherished for the Inhabitants of Castleton where he first became attached to his favourite study, the science of mineralogy'. Mawe was in the habit of spending two months every autumn in Castleton.

Sarah Mawe (1767-1846), a well-known mineralogist in her own right, was appointed 'Mineralogist to Her Majesty' to Queen Victoria in 1837.¹⁰⁹ In her will dated 5 September 1833,¹¹⁰ she left her property to her two grandsons. Her children, John and Sarah, and Sarah's husband, Anthony Tissington Tatlow, had already died. Her eldest grandson, John St Mawe Tatlow died in 1837 aged 20, so by 1846 her second grandson, Anthony Tissington Tatlow, a barrister at the Inner Temple,¹¹¹ was her sole heir. She left 149 The Strand, London, the establishments at Matlock, Cheltenham and Castleton and other Derbyshire property including soughs and mines at Crich, two cottages in Matlock and other real or copyhold estate in Matlock or elsewhere. If both grandsons died, then the property was to go to her niece, Sarah Ann Brown. Anthony Tatlow was the owner of the Spar Works buildings in Derby in 1865.¹¹² For some reason unknown her will was in administration in 1879.

admirably adapted for the display of the beautiful wares so tastefully arranged; the stock is costly, rich and elegant, not only in the productions of this country, but in fine specimens of foreign materials, fossils and shells, with many wonders of the Eastern hemisphere both in their natural and artificial state'.¹⁰³ There was a saloon or library with newspapers and books to read with engravings, stationery, perfumery, etc. for sale, and a garden. A lead mine at the Museum Mine was open to the public. John Mawe himself carried out experiments on minerals for an hour every morning when in residence.¹⁰⁴ Its manufactory was 'to the North of the Bath, up the hill by the Hotel, in the stable yard'.¹⁰⁵

Mawe was manufacturer to all the members of the Royal family,⁹⁸ was an Honorary Member of the Mineralogist Society of Jena, member of the Royal Geological Society, First Administrator and Mineralogist to His Majesty the King of Portugal, Brazil, etc, and was consulted by the Government of the day.¹⁰⁶ He was very conscious of the importance of minerals, advising travellers to 'look into the book of nature ... , as the wealth of nations mostly depends on the produce of their mines'.¹⁰⁷ This view was also promoted in an advertisement for 149 The Strand: 'A knowledge of our subterranean wealth would produce greater opulence to this country than the acquisition of the mines of Mexico - what is the value of the gold and silver mines of Peru, compared with the coal and iron mines of England?'.¹⁰⁸

John Mawe died on 26 October 1829, aged 63, and was buried at St Mary-in-the-Strand, London. In his

¹⁰³ Henricus, *The Matlock Tourist*, 1843, p20. Advert: A. Jewitt, *The Matlock Companion*, 1835, p53. Both DLSL 143.

¹⁰⁴ H. Barker, *The Panorama of Matlock* 1827, p15; 7th ed, 1829, Catalogue, p17. DLSL 143.

¹⁰⁵ W. Adam, *Gem of the Peak*, 1838, DLSL KH910 8939, p57.

¹⁰⁶ John Mawe, *A New Descriptive Catalogue of Minerals*, 3rd ed., 1818, Title page. DLSL 1850.

¹⁰⁷ John Mawe, *The Voyager's Companion or Shell Collector's Pilot*, 3rd ed., 1821, p55. DLSL 1855.

¹⁰⁸ This advertisement was bound into J. Mawe, *A New Descriptive Catalogue of Minerals*, 2nd ed., 1816. DLSL 1849.

¹⁰⁹ Hugh S. Torrens, 'The Early Life and Geological Work of John Mawe 1766-1829', p271.

¹¹⁰ Will of Sarah Mawe dated 5 September 1833. PRO Online wills 11/2042, image reference 175.

¹¹¹ Information from Maxwell Craven.

¹¹² St Alkmund Parish rates book, 1865 and 1870. DLSL.

APPENDIX II: WILL of SARAH ANN BROWN (1807-1875)

Sarah Ann Brown, daughter of Richard Brown the Younger, lived at St Helen's House in St Helen's Street. She died unmarried on 2 May 1875. As a result her will dated 6 June 1874 is long and interesting. Her estate was under £12000 (£542703.74 in 2002) (maybe under £72000 - text unclear) and the main bulk of her fortune was left to the daughters of four of her Fincham, Sykes and Francis cousins with the proviso that all her legacies were to go to *'either married or unmarried women... for their own sole use ... free from control by husbands ...'*¹¹³

After she gave instructions that *'my remains are to be interred with my beloved father in the family vault at All Saints Derby - if not in a vault to be made in Nottingham Rd Cemetery as near to the grave of the Rev. Rosumgrave Macklin's family as practicable. A good but simple tomb with my name and age to be erected over it as a memento to those of my friends who survive me. I should prefer that Mr Joseph Hall of Derby. Marble Mason should, if living, be employed to erect the tomb'*, she listed her Executors: Charles Henry Johnson of Manchester, Manufacturer, (son of her cousin Elizabeth Johnson), Mary Leeke, daughter of Revd Wm Leeke of Holbrook [Holbrook Hall] and Samuel Richardson Cox of Spondon, Wine Merchant. She then made twenty smaller bequests. Some were to her Brown family relatives and others describe some of her personal property.

Money left to her Brown relatives included £150 each to George and Ellen Peach, children of her cousin, the late Mrs Peach, the daughter of her late uncle Henry Hind Brown of Melton Mowbray, £200 on trust for Richard Brown Pitman, printer, brother of Mrs Ann Hall in his lifetime and then to his children and £500 on trust for her cousin Ann Hall, widow of late Mr Joseph Hall of the Marble Works, [died 1848] during her life. After her death the income was to go to her son Joseph Hall. (Ann Hall died in 1878, Joseph predeceased her in 1876.).

The specific bequests give some idea of the furnishings in her house and of Sarah's hobbies. They included her *'rosewood marble table and inkstand of the same marble'* left to her cousin Jane Cox of Derby, spinster, and *'two portraits painted in oil of Francis Walker and his daughter Catherine Walker afterwards Mrs Richardson'* left to Samuel Walker Cox of Spondon. A *'silver cake basket, silver muffiner and an oakstand for books on a table'* was left to Elizabeth Ann Sykes, eldest daughter of her cousin Thomas Sykes of Cottingham, merchant.

Mary Leeke was left firstly *'the clock in the drawing room with the glass shade'* and secondly, Sarah's personal property: *'all my family and other pictures and drawings with the frames (not otherwise herein disposed of) and all my prints, unframed drawings and all articles connected with the occupation of drawing and needlework, books, albums, pianoforte, pair of polescreens now in the drawing room, two pairs of handscreens, two busts with glass shades of my Grandpapa Brown, a bust with a glass shade and a miniature in a red case of my late Aunt Mawe, an old cabinet and silver spoon, the gift of my Grandmama Sarah Eley, my lustres and other china and glass ornaments, my stereoscopes and slides, my photographs, trinkets or ornaments and all my wearing apparel'* which were to be distributed after her death in the manner she had intimated.

£300 and one of the *'two arm chairs covered with green leather in the Dining Room'* and either her *'dear father's'* gold or silver watch were left to each of her long-serving servants, John Tabb, who had *'lived in the family'* for nearly 28 years, and Hannah Millington, who had lived with her for more than 24 years.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Derbyshire Archaeological Society Council for their support and Society members who helped with fieldwork and provided information, in particular Peter Billson and Peter Steer who examined much of the exterior of the buildings and gave me their expert advice on their construction, Anne and Alison Haslam whose Haslam family documents provided so much vital but unknown information and Maxwell Craven, who first identified the importance of this site and the work of the Brown family and their descendants several years ago. Joan D'Arcy and Dudley Fowkes, as usual encouraged me along my way and read my drafts. The staff of Derby Local Studies Library are forever helpful and uncomplaining and the Derbyshire Record Office, Lichfield Record Office and Nottingham Record Office have supplied documents with their usual efficiency. Several web-sites have been invaluable, especially Michael Spencer's list of DRO wills on the Wirksworth site (<http://www.wirksworth.org.uk/WILLS.htm>) and the Public Record Office Documents Online Wills service (<http://www.pro.gov.uk/online/docsonline.htm>). Finally thanks must go to Mr Costello of Blue Sky Studio and Mr Fryer of SJM Flooring, both then at Unit 5, 71 King Street, and the owner of Simforce Recruitment (Unit first floor rear of No 10 St Helen's Street), who all kindly gave us access to their premises.

¹¹³ Will of Sarah Ann Brown dated 6 June 1874. DRO D96/1-/1875 Wills, p64.

BARRAGE BALLOON SITES IN THE CITY OF DERBY

by

(the late Jim Regan)

On Tuesday January 25th 2000 I set out on a series of visits in and around Derby to see if there were any visible remains of the balloon sites and Bofors gun sites which had been part of the wartime defences. The locations of the six Heavy AA batteries (3.7") were well known, though, except for one which continued into use into the Cold War period, little remained to be seen. Two batteries, manned by the Home Guard, had become rocket batteries before the end of the war, with nothing remaining, one set of emplacements had only recently disappeared under new housing, and only the gun room, now used as a council store, remained of the 'fifth'. The sixth, a little way out of town, had been returned to agriculture within recent years.

I'd been gathering information ever since first becoming involved with the Defence of Britain Project in 1995. People soon began to pass on to me all sorts of items about wartime Derby. In May 1997 knowing there was much more out there I contacted the Derby Evening Telegraph and they published my requests for more wartime memories. They rolled in and then I had to remind the paper that they needed to pass them on to me, which eventually they did! I also made use of my local history contacts, going along to some of the groups and speaking to them for a few minutes before their regular meetings began. As a result I made many personal contacts: well over a hundred at the end of the day. Some people I saw but briefly, collecting their unsigned notes, some I held in long telephone conversations, and some I visited, sometimes more than once. Some of the information was nostalgic and uncertain, some definitely at fault, some informants contradicted each other, but there were some very trustworthy and knowledgeable respondents.

In the meantime I was carrying on with my 'pillboxing' along the Derbyshire/Staffordshire border in particular. As was to be expected the information was almost wholly within an urban context: gun and balloon sites, pillboxes (Gust one or two), a police post, Home Guard units and their stories, bomb sites, sirens, fire watchers' posts, rocket sites, 'dummy' guns smoke generators, the odd searchlight, decoys, tank testing grounds, a large railway control bunker, static water tanks, locations of air raid shelters, first aid and wardens' posts, etc, etc. Very few of these installations remained. There was also much social information: how, for example, as the War went on lady telephonists gradually extended their duties into the night hours, how ladies' underwear could be made from flour bags, and wedding cakes could have cardboard sides, as well as some discontent in Home Guard units. One or two important documents came to light and were deposited in the appropriate Record Offices. In addition official information was passed on to me by Bernard Lowry.

Derby was home to Rolls Royce, International Combustion, Qualcast, the very large railway works, and all sorts of shadow factories and war factories. Many of these were situated on the south side of town, so it was this area in particular that was defended with balloons, Bofors guns, and the truly horrendous smoke generators, which lined the streets, burned oil, and were lit as a raid approached. These were well represented in the list, though balloon sites were confused with gun sites and vice versa; not surprising after the passage of fifty plus years! I was further helped in my searches when a Home Guard map, undated, but probably late 1941 or 1942 turned up in the Local Studies Library, showing a variety of defences.

Hoping for some first hand evidence I approached the Barrage Balloon Reunion Club, The W.A.A.F. Associations, both locally and nationally, but found only one lady who'd served on a balloon site in Derby. (It was Mrs. Milton, from Tonbridge in Kent, and from her description I'm pretty certain I located 'her' balloon site.) No information came in from Bofors gun crews though I learned that one gun, at Spondon, was operated by the 64th. Light A.A. Battery, R.A. I did talk to two ladies who'd served at No. 7 Balloon Centre, 918 Squadron, with 32 balloons, Alvaston, Derby, though neither had worked on the balloon sites. They, both members of the same tennis club, had enlisted in April 1939. Their Commanding Officer was a local businessman. The first balloon had been flown and demonstrated in Derby in March 1939. Most people's sharpest early remembrances of the balloons was to see them sinking, struck by lightning, the evening before war broke out.

When I eventually listed all the reported possible balloon and Bofors sites, including some notified by Bernard Lowry as having no armament in 1942, I came up with the staggering total of 51 balloons and 31 A.A. sites. Of

course the Home Guard map was the best guide I had. It recorded 36 balloons and 9 Bofors guns. I knew that balloons and L.A.A. were easily moved and this certainly happened. Some people said of them, especially guns, that 'they were there for a short time' The Home Guard map wasn't quite accurate, perhaps because it was coloured in, so one gun in particular, shown as a red circle on the map, couldn't be put on its exact site, which had been coloured solid blue, so was put nearby, but of course the Home Guard would know where it was.

I decided to investigate every possible site as people had said they'd seen guns even on those sites later said to have none. And what was the result? On the very first day I wrote in my daily record 'visited 8 balloon/gun sites is in the west and south west of the city-of course no evidence remains.' And so it remained most of the time through to July. Since the war large council and private estates have been built on the south side of the city so I would very likely arrive at a site to find only private or council houses and old people's bungalows. Some other sites were covered by factory buildings and their car parks and some few were inaccessible.

So, was anything discovered? Traces remained close in to Rolls Royce, Rolls Royce and its surrounding factories are hemmed by crowded streets of terrace houses, so the these guns were mounted on platforms, so as to be able to fire over the rooftops. To the best of my knowledge no photographs or sketches exist, though two post war(?) air photos show one platform in plan, with no gun and one distant oblique photo shows a shadowy object in the distance. There's some tumbled ground at one or two of these sites so perhaps an archaeological 'dig' might find out what they are.

One balloon site of an unusual type did however survive. Hidden away in a cul de sac it had not been reported to me by anyone perhaps because of its location, perhaps because it's large and entirely at ground level, so difficult to understand. A balloon had been reported as being flown close to the River Derwent and very near to the Balloon Centre. I obtained the map of the Centre, later 66 M. U. from Hendon and visited the area, which is now playing fields, and a mobile home estate. There was nothing to be seen, but, excluded from the homes development was a row of ex-R.A.F. houses and these were interrupted by a large circle. I visited and found that it was still there. On the Hendon map it was described as a 'Balloon standing'. No wonder people couldn't take it in at a glance; it was 130 feet across and the circular perimeter track was 15 feet wide! In the centre was a 24 feet concrete circle surrounded by eight concrete pads each approximately 2 feet by 4 feet. A small portion of the site was cut off by a fence. It did not lend itself to ground level photography.

On the Hendon map another similar site was shown, now gone. Not an ordinary balloon site, perhaps it was used to test new or repaired balloons. An unlocated map in the Ban-age Balloon Reunion Club's publication shows similar features labelled 'Balloon Handling Grounds' there must have been others. Do any remain? Does anyone remember their exact function?

Notes and References

Roof over Britain. The Official Story of Britain's A.A. Defences 1939-1942, HMSO, 1943.

Home Guard map of Derby defences 1939., 6 inch OS map annotated in 1941/2. Derby Local Studies Library [DLSL], BA912.

Alvaston RAF site plan 1952, RAF Hendon. IWA/942/52.

25 inch sheets of Derby updated in 1947 with air photography by Hunting Air Surveys, DLSL.

APPENDIX: DERBY DEFENCES: BARRAGE BALLOON SITES

Alvaston Recreation Ground: Reported. But unlikely as there was one very nearby in Brighton Road.

Arboretum: Reported. On DLSL map.

Balfour Road. Former Princess St. Corner: On DLSL map. Under industrial development. This site close to Elton Road footbridge where site also reported. confusion?

Brackens Lane: Reported. Shown on DLSL map opposite hotel.

Brighton Road: Reported. On DLSL map but actually almost opposite Fife Street where there are new houses.

Chelwood Avenue: Reported. This area is not included in the DLSL map.

Coleman Street: Reported. Not shown on DLSL map. At North end of street?

Curzon Lane: Reported. Not shown on DLSL map. Is this the balloon reported 'off Meadow Lane' part of 99MU?

Deadman's Lane (Opposite): Reported. There are two local balloons. shown on the DLSL map. One is over the-railway and beyond the canal (not accessible). The other is shown further towards town on the same side of the road. Was it placed here because the other side of the road had been already coloured blue? This is very much a guess, but there would have been room on the other side of the road.

Goodsmoor Road: Reported. There is a balloon on DLSL map though it does not fit very well with the report, which would put it on the other side of the railway bridge towards Littleover. Balloon site now housing and Primary School fields.

Homelands School: Reported. A very well known site in front of school. On DLSL. map.

Longbridge Lane: Not reported. On DLSL map to East of bridge on South side. Area remains rough grass. (2000)

Meadow Lane: Reported. One balloon on DLSL map, but further towards River than site remaining. Area was 99MU, now redeveloped so this site may have gone. Nearer the main road, in cul de sac, also called Meadow Lane is only surviving evidence of any balloon, a concrete balloon 'standing' (from official map.) between former R.A.F.(?) houses.

Normanton Recreation Ground: Reported. Not on L. S. L. map.

Osmaston Park: Reported. On DLSL map at East end of park as reported.

Osmaston Park, (Municipal Sports Ground) Outside SW boundary: Not reported. On DLSL map. Beyond Elm Wood. Inaccessible industrial development.

'Pear Tree' Police station. (actually Cotton Lane Police station): Reported. On. DLSL map at Russell. Street, but there is a pub here on North side. Perhaps on South side.

Portland Street: Reported. On DLSL map where now clinic and police station, opposite Carnegie Library.

Sherman Street: Reported. On DLSL map to South of school. Post war council houses.

Sherwood Recreation Ground: Reported. As there was a balloon shown at Balfour Road/Princess Street corner and a gun on the Recreation Ground these reports are likely to mean the balloon shown on the DLSL map, which was very close by.

Sinfin Lane: Reported in 'field over bridge.' This may be the Goodsmoor Road balloon.

Sinfin Lane: International Combustion: On DLSL map. Industrial site probably with space for a balloon.

Sinfin Lane: 'One Stop Shop' (former Co-op): Reported. Not on DLSL map. Confirmed by Co-op former personnel.

Sunnyhill Recreation Ground: Reported. On DLSL map.

Thorndike Avenue/Garrick Street: Reported. Only site reported by a member of a balloon crew now living in the South. She was uncertain after the years but this site fits well with her description. On DLSL map. Now area of old people's dwellings.

Victory Road: On DLSL map. In industrial development approximately quarter mile north of Moor Lane on west side of road.

West Green Avenue, Allenton (likely to be Sinfin Fields Crescent): Reported. On DLSL map. Area of post war housing.