

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – The Star Inn/Mariners Arms 27 High Street West

Project Pub REF: 023

Name of Pub: The Star Inn

Did it have any previous names?: Mariners Arms

Current photograph:



© John Tunman 2022. Photograph showing approximate location of the Star Inn, now occupied by the Engine Rooms.

What did it look like in the past?



Image 1 - The Star Inn was the premises occupied by Millett's

Image 2 - The Star Inn in its Wider Context

Summary of Research by John Tunman:

It looks as though there could have been some rebuilding of the High street West frontage between the Rain's Eye Plan of 1785 and the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map published in the 1850s. Consequently it is not clear whether the building housing the Star Inn as shown on the photographs in the profile pre-dates 1785, or was built sometime in the following 70 years.

The first reference to it as a public house was in the 1840s, listed as the Mariners Arms. It retained that name until around 1851, when it became the Star Inn. There was no obvious reason for the change in the name, as the licensee had the pub for 4 years before the change and continued as licensee for at least 2 years afterwards (1). The First Edition OS Map of 1857 shows it as having a very substantial footprint abutting Fold Yard, where the Friendly Tavern (later the Boilermakers Arms) was situated. Trade Directories reflected this juxtaposition (2). However, it seems that the structure was sub-divided at some point – probably in the 1870s, when a trade directory showed a greengrocer positioned between the Star Inn and the Boilermakers, with an adjustment in the street numbering to the Boilermakers from 28 to 29 High Street West in subsequent directories(3). This change is reflected in the Second Edition OS Map of 1897, which shows the building divided into two premises. The public house closed in 1920 and was converted into a shop like the adjoining premises which had once formed part of the public house had been, as can be seen from the photographs. They remained shops until their demolition in the 1980s to make way for the block of offices which now stand on the site.

There is little further information available regarding this public house and who used it. It is however known that it became the meeting place for striking Masons and Bricklayers in 1875, a letter having been written to the Sunderland Daily Echo regarding the dispute signed by “The Operative Masons” and sent from “Star Inn, High-street, Bishopwearmouth” (4). In the early 20th century there was a report of a walking race from Ryhope to “Sidney Stone’s Star Inn, High-street West” (5)

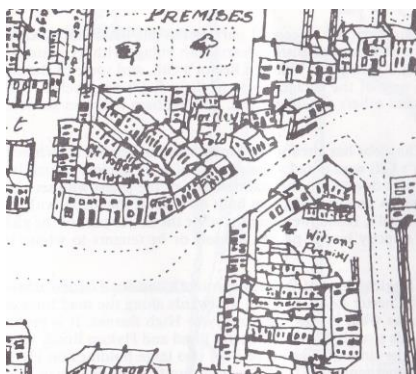
At some point, George Bewick and Charlton became the owners of the pub, retaining it up to its closure. However, from 1910 they leased the premises out, first to Thomas Usher & Sons of Edinburgh then, in 1912, to Thomas McGowan, who also had the Victoria Villa in Grangetown; he remained lessee up to its closure in 1920. Upon closure compensation totalling £1,000 was paid to the parties with an interest in the premises, namely Mary Ann Coupland and George Bewick who received £425 each, whilst Thomas McGowan received £150 (1).

Concerning management, points to note are that Thomas Carr, the landlord, was granted a wine license in 1874 (6) and in 1915, Thomas McGowan, who leased the pub from 1912 up until its closure, was fined £10 for allowing betting to take place on the premises (1). It is not altogether clear what the circumstances were surrounding closure, other than that the Licensing Justices refused renewal of the license after Sergeant Suddick opposed it (7).

References

- (1) A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth Ron Lawson p 90
- (2) Wards 1860; Christies 1871/72
- (3) Compare Wards Directory 1877 with Buchanans 1867/68 and Christies 1871/72
- (4) SDE 09/12/1875 p 4 col 3
- (5) SDE 26/08/1903 p 4 col 4
- (6) SDE 24/09/1874 p 3 col 2
- (7) SDE 21/05/1919 p 6 col 2

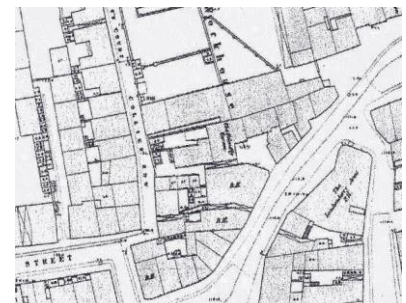
Map regression:



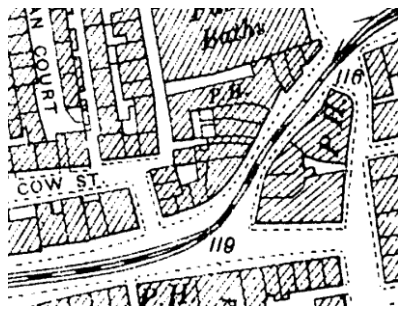
Rain's Eye Plan 1785



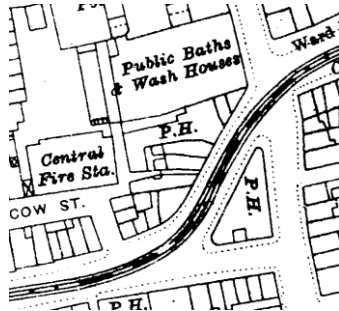
First Edition OS 1:2500 1857



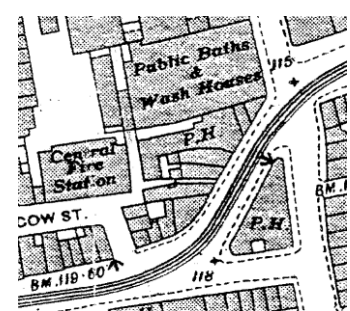
Ten Feet to the Mile OS Map 1857



Second Edition OS 1:2500 1897



Third Edition OS 1:2500 1919



Fourth Edition OS 1:2500 1941

Map Regression

There looks to have been some rebuilding of the premises between the Rain's Eye Plan of 1785 and the First Edition OS map, a yard area to the west having been built over. The only map which identifies the Star as a Beerhouse is the ten foot to the mile OS Map of 1857, which shows it as a large premises. However the Second Edition OS Map of 1897 shows this building to have been sub-divided. This is borne out by the renumbering of properties to the east and the presence of a Greengrocer between the Star Inn and the Boilermakers in Wards Directory of 1877 and subsequent directories. The footprint of the building remains the same in subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey Map of the locality.

How long had it been a pub? From circa 1841 to its closure in 1920, although its footprint was reduced by sub-division of the premises in the late 1870s. It was marked on the 10 feet to the mile OS Map of 1857 as a Beer House.

Who worked here?

Owners:

George Bewick and Charlton (up to closure see below to whom compensation was paid)

24/09/1874: Wine license granted

09/11/1910: Lessees Thomas Usher & Sons Ltd., Edinburgh

22/05/1912: Lessee Thomas McGowan Sunderland

Trade Directory:

1841/44: David Profit (Mariners Arms)

1847/51: Joshua Watson (Mariners Arms)

1851/53: Joshua watson (Star Inn)

1856/59: Bernard McArdle

1861: Charles Moody (also Joiner)

1864: Patrick Burns

1865: John Blacklock

1867: J Caffrey

1868/69: John Green Creffield

1871/73: Thomas Wigham

1876/77: Thomas Carr

1879: Patrick Welsh

1881/83: Sidney Stone

(Information from A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth Ron Lawson p 90)

Trade Directory Information Showing Change in Numbering

Campbells 1866:

26 E Richmond Publican

27 (The Star) J Caffray Publican

30 T H Ellis Butcher

Buchanans 1867/68:

26 E Richmond Beer Retailer

27 (The Star) J Caffry (note different spelling) Beer Retailer

28 W Hutchinson Tripe Dresser

J Hutchinson Innkeeper (Boilermakers)

29 Embleton Tea Dealer

Christies 1871/72:

26 R Broderick Confectioner

27 (The Star) T Wigham Beer Retailer

28 W Hutchinson Tripe Preparer

The Ford

J Hutchinson Innkeeper (Boilermakers)

Wards 1877: (first directory showing the change)

26 D Duff Confectioner

27 (The Star) T Carr Beer Fretailer

28 T Burton Greengrocer

29 W Jackson Innkeeper (Boilermakers)

30 W T Sheraton Butcher

Later Trade Directory Information

Wards 1887/88: J Horn Beer Retailer

Wards 1889/90: J Wardle Beer Retailer

Wards 1893/94: R Wilkinson Beer Retailer

Wards 1899/1900: G A Ludlow Beer Retailer

Wards 1905/06: G A Ludlow Beer Retailer

Wards 1909/10: G A Ludlow Beer Retailer

Wards 1911/12: G A Ludlow Beer Retailer

Wards 1913/14: T McGowan Beer Retailer

Wards 1915/16: T McGowan Beer Retailer

Wards 1918: T McGowan Beer Retailer

Wards 1921: No number but between 26 and 28, R Bloom House Furnisher

Kellys 1921: Robert J W Bloom Merchant, Importer and Auctioneer

(Information collected by J Tumman from Trade Directories)

License Holder:

21/10/1886: James Horn

20/06/1888: George Norman

22/08/1882(?): James Wardle

17/04/1889: Robert Wilkinson

12/12/1894: George Ludlow

01/02/1911: George Lawson

07/08/1912: Thomas McGowan, Victoria Villa (15 Sept 1915 fined £10 for allowing betting)

06/02/1919: General Annual License Meeting renewal adjourned

05/03/1919: Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting renewal referred to Compensation Authority

21/05/1919: Principal Meeting of Compensation Authority license refused

23/01/1920: Compensation paid to Mary Ann Coupland and George Bewick, £425 each; T McGowan (Lessee from 1912) £150

??/01/1920: License expired

(Information from A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth by Ron Lawson p 90)

Census Information:

1851: Joshua Watson , 57; wife Ann 55 (From A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth, Ron Lawson, p 90)

1861: Charles Moody (also a Joiner), age 27; wife Mary Jane 30 (Ibid)

1871: Thomas Wigham, Head, married, 49, Beer House Keeper; Mary A, wife, 48, Assistant; John, son, 18, Underhand Puddler; Elizabeth, daughter, 14, scholar; 3 younger sons; Robert Aynsley, lodger, 42, Cabinet Maker; Elizabeth Healey, 21 Servant

1881: Three households listed at 27, but no reference to pub. (1) Francis Podborski, Head, married, 31, Seaman born Prussia; wife; 2 daughters; 1 son. (2) Thomas Callaghan, Head, married, 28, Iron Ship Rivetter; wife; son; boarder, a house painter. (3) Jessie Callum, Head, widower, 53, no occupation given; 1 son an Iron Ship Rivetter; daughter, General Servant, and 2 further younger sons.

1891: Robert Wilkinson, Head, married, 27, Barman; wife; 1 son; 1 daughter; servant aged 14, called Wilkinson, but not his daughter (sister perhaps – or just coincidence)

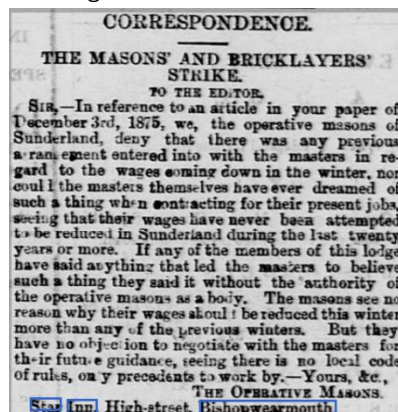
1901: George Ludlow, Head, married, 28, Public House Bar Manager, employee; wife; 1 son; 1 daughter; 1 servant (Information collected by J Tumman)

Who drank here?: There is limited evidence to suggest who might have drank at the Star Inn, however there is reference in a Historic Newspaper article to suggest that bricklayers and masons of Sunderland frequented the pub.

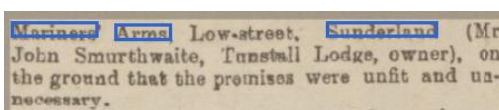
Brewery link: Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest a potential brewery link.

Story timeline

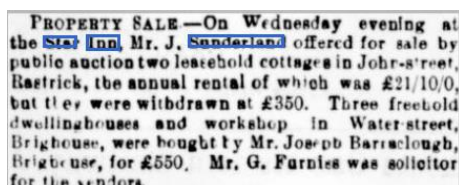
All images accessed via British Newspaper Archives unless otherwise specified



9th December 1875 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The Operative Masons write about the Masons and Bricklayers Strike from the Star Inn.



21st September 1893 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Mariners Arms has its license renewal opposed due to it being 'unfit and unnesesary'



9th May 1896 – Brighthouse & Rastrick Gazette: An auction is held at the Star Inn.

Sources consulted:

A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth Ron Lawson p 90

Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas (2021). Available at: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/16351/History-of-Bishopwearmouth>

British Newspaper Archives. Available at: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Compare Wards Directory 1877 with Buchanans 1867/68 and Christies 1871/72

Historic England, Search the List. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

National Library of Scotland Ordnance Survey Maps. Available at: <https://www.nls.uk/maps>

Ron Lawson (2019) Historic Pubs of Bishopwearmouth.

SDE 09/12/1875 p 4 col 3

SDE 21/05/1919 p 6 col 2

SDE 24/09/1874 p 3 col 2

SDE 26/08/1903 p 4 col 4

Trade Directories. Available at: <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>

Wards 1860; Christies 1871/72

Completed by: John Tumman

Date: August, 2022.