

Berwick-upon-Tweed's
commercial character:
the fabric of the town in
the long eighteenth
century

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The long eighteenth century

Start date:

- 1660?
- 1688?

Georgian, 1714-1830?

End date:

- 1815?
- 1832?
- 1837?
- 1840?



Eighteenth-century towns

Peter Borsay's classification; population figures c. 1700

Metropolis (500,000)

Provincial capitals

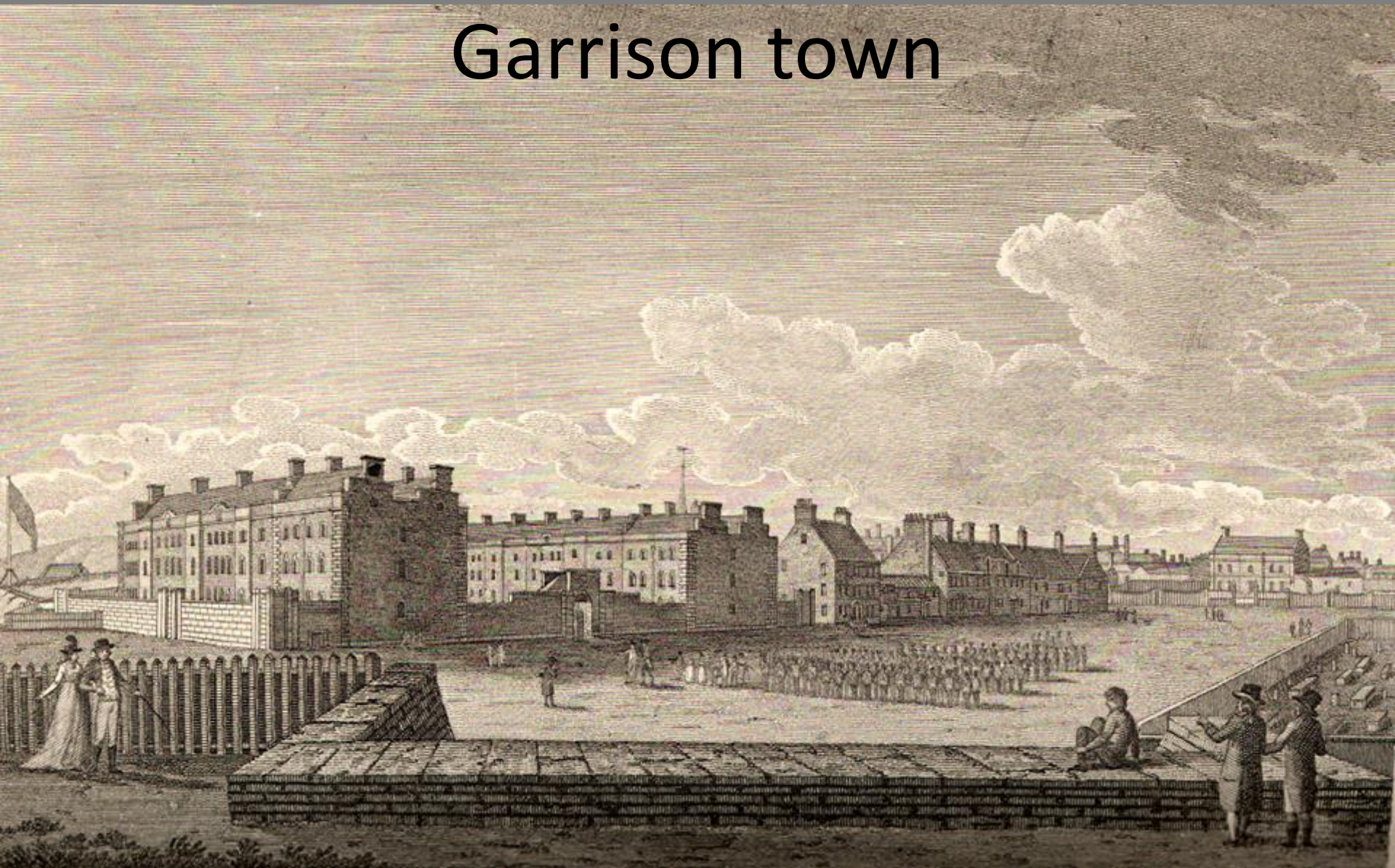
Later joined by Birmingham, Liverpool,
Manchester

- Norwich (30,000)
- Bristol (20,000)
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne (16,000)
- Exeter (14,000)
- York (12,000)
- Chester (8,000)
- Shrewsbury (7,500)

Regional centres – population typically 2,500 – 11,000; typically county towns, assize towns, centres for elite recreational activities (assemblies, horse races, luxury shops, societies); sometimes also diocesan centres

Commercial towns – population 500 – 2,500: market centres offering some specialised services; often concentrations of processing/manufacturing

Garrison town



Engraving from Fuller's *History* (1799) (Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office)

Market town



Engraving from Fuller's *History* (1799) (Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office)

Sea-port



Buck view, c. 1743-5 (Bridgeman Art Library)

Other labels?

- Corporate town (county borough)
- Post town (stage coach services instituted 1786)
- Parliamentary borough (pre-1832 right of election belonging to resident and non-resident freemen)
- Thoroughfare town on the Great North Road
- Manufacturing town (barrels, shipbuilding, brick and tile, timber yards)

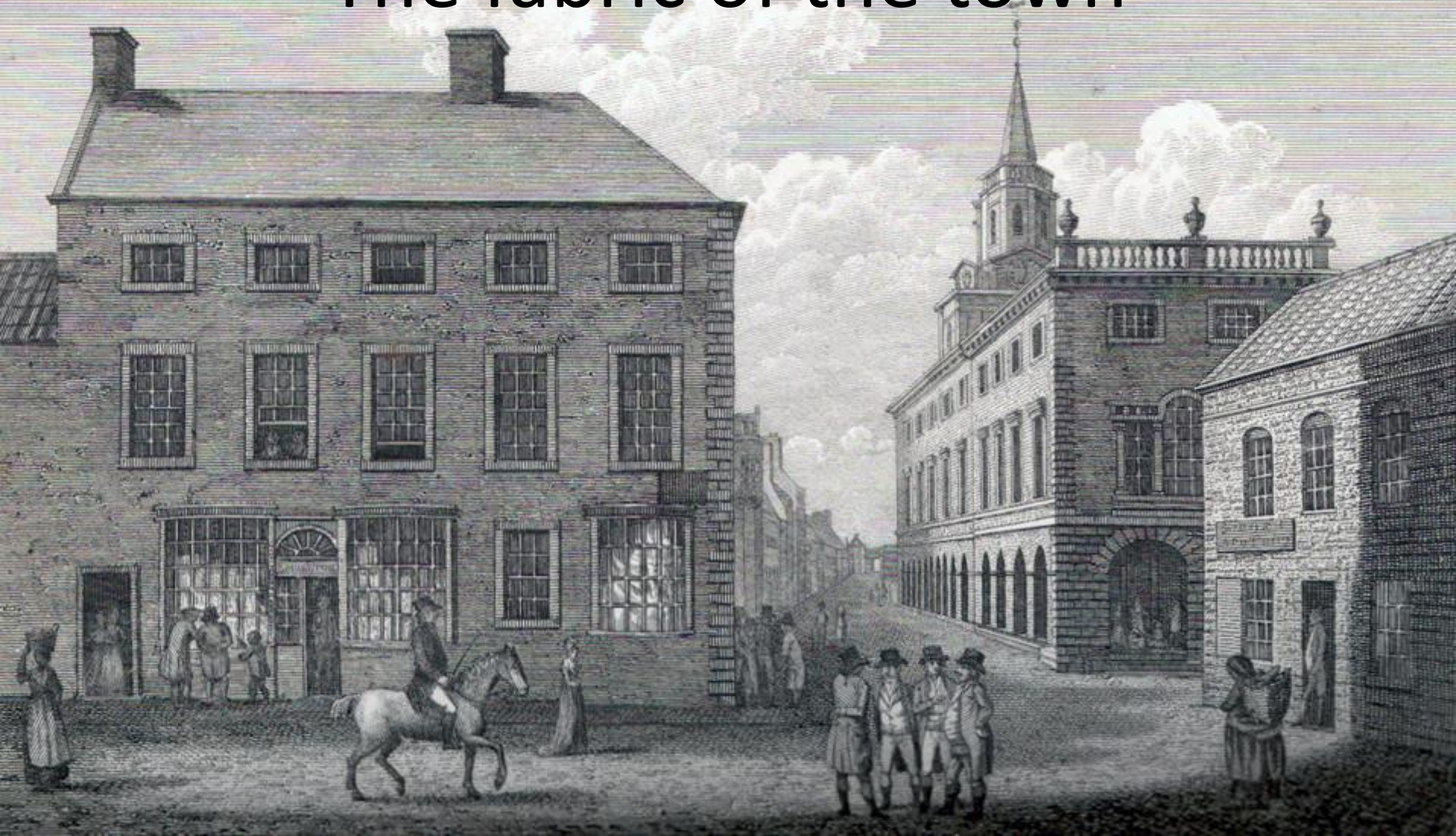
But also including:

- Fishing villages
- A mineral spa

Berwick's status in the 18th century

- Population estimated at about 3,000 in 1700 (David Brenchley)
- Rising to 7,187 at the time of the 1801 census
- *Not* an assize town, but a centre for assemblies and race meetings, and some specialised services (surgeons, schools)
- A regional centre for North Northumberland and Berwickshire
- A substantial 'commercial town'

The fabric of the town



Board of Ordnance maps of Berwick

1725 map, BL Maps K.Top.32



1788 map, TNA, MPH_1_228_2











Left: 2 Love Lane
Above: 5 Ness St



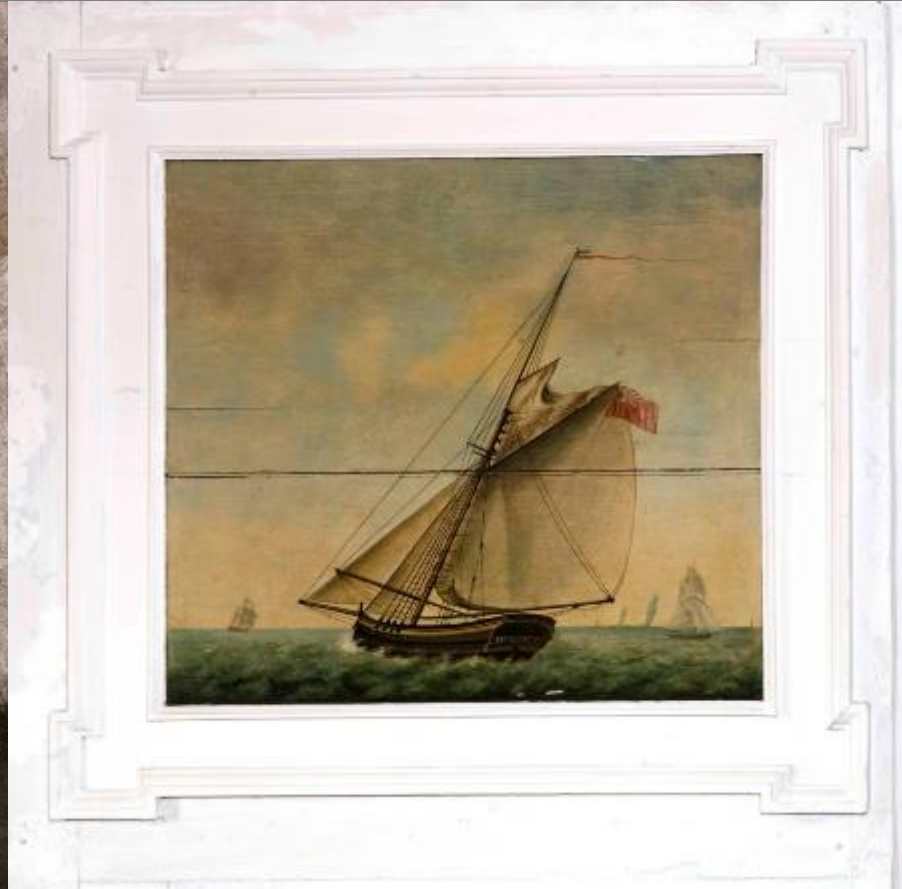
64-66 Bridge St



A commercial culture



Ice house, Bank Hill









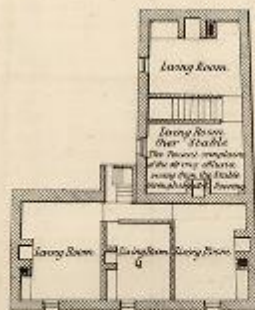




ELEVATION OF BUILDINGS IN WALLACE'S GREEN

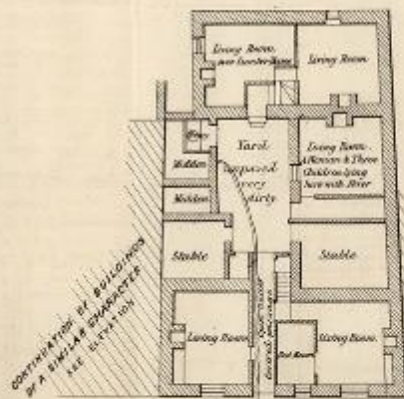
PLANS OF PROPERTY IN
WALLACE'S GREEN,
OPPOSITE THE NEW GAOL,
BERWICK UPON Tweed.

Shewing Room Measurements. Each Room is let off as a separate tenement at an average Rental of 14 per week or £2 12 0 per Annum. This property is described by the Medical and Relieving Officers as never free from Fever.



UPPER FLOOR OF PLAN A.

NOTE.—The Room Q, little more than 10 feet square, is occupied by a Man, his Wife, & six Children.



GROUND PLAN A.

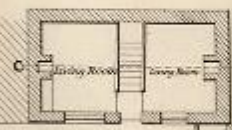
BUILDINGS OF A SIMILAR CHARACTER UNITE THE TWO BLOCKS AND SEE ELEVATION.

WALLACE'S GREEN

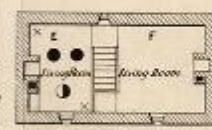
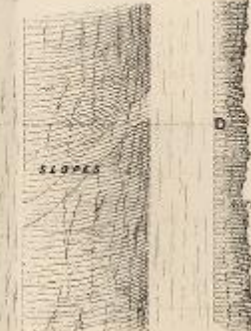
Scale for Plans & Section 50 feet to an Inch



SECTION THROUGH C.D.



GROUND PLAN B.



FLOOR OVER B.

NOTE.—In the corners of Room E marked with a cross (x) drainage or pipes are laid down for beds. The Bedd Chaises Cases are shown thus (●) Chaises Cases not fixed are shown thus (○)

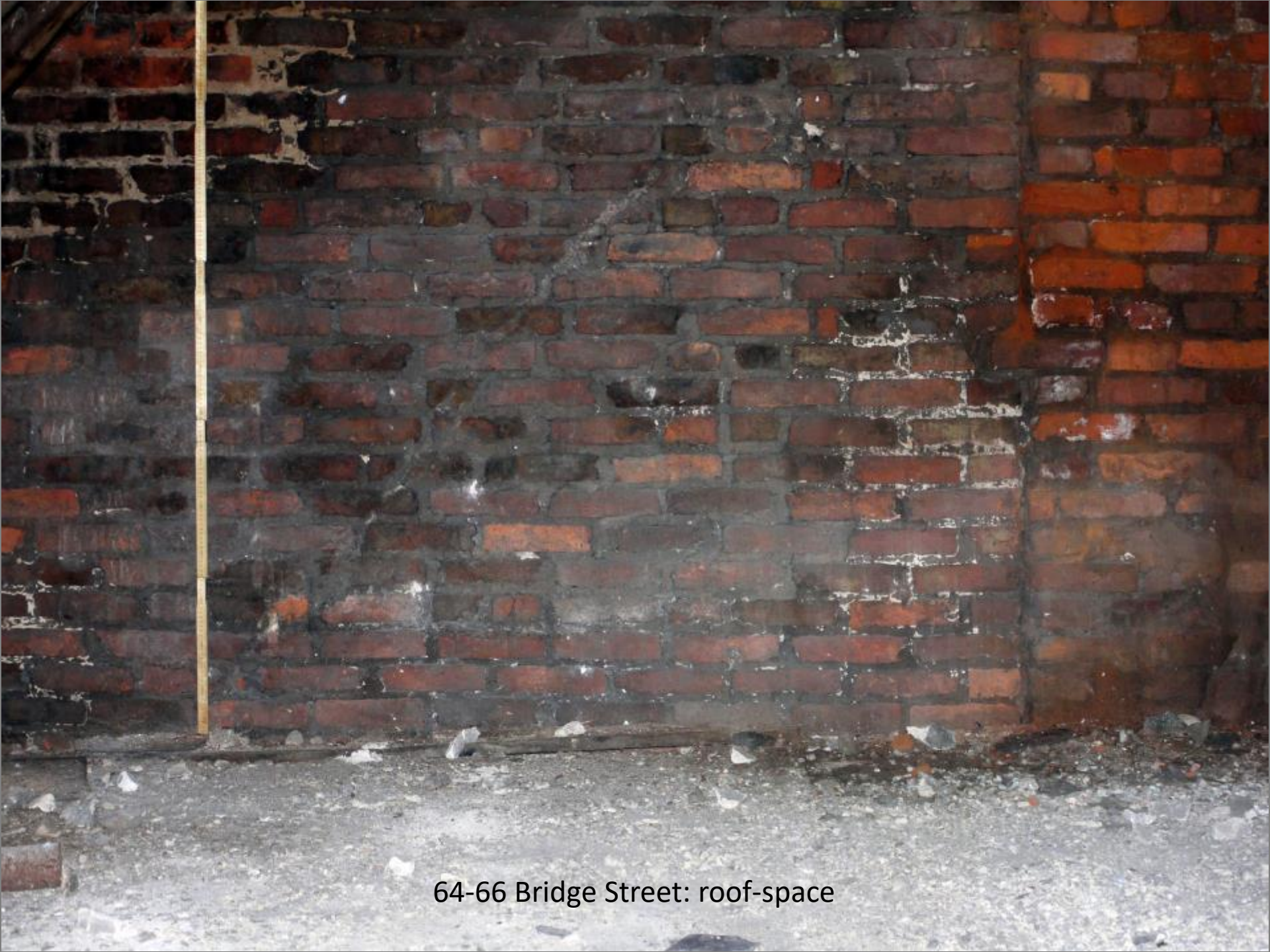


The True description ... of Barwick, c1580 (British Library)

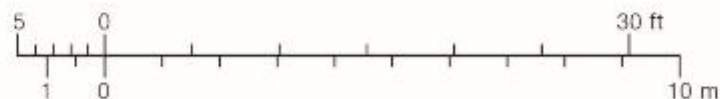


The Thatch Tavern in Tweedmouth as it used to be — complete with thatched roof. At a time when the Old Bridge was the only way across the river at Berwick, the Thatch was a busy coaching station, as well as a favourite drinking place for residents in the community.

The Thatch Tavern, 'destroyed by fire' in 1886, when it was 'perhaps the only thatched house then remaining in the borough' (*Berwick Journal*, 28 October 1886); rebuilt with a slate roof.



64-66 Bridge Street: roof-space



64-66 Bridge Street/57 West Street and 51 West Street

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland

NGR: NT 99770 52815

Drawn by Allan T Adams BA FSA FSAI

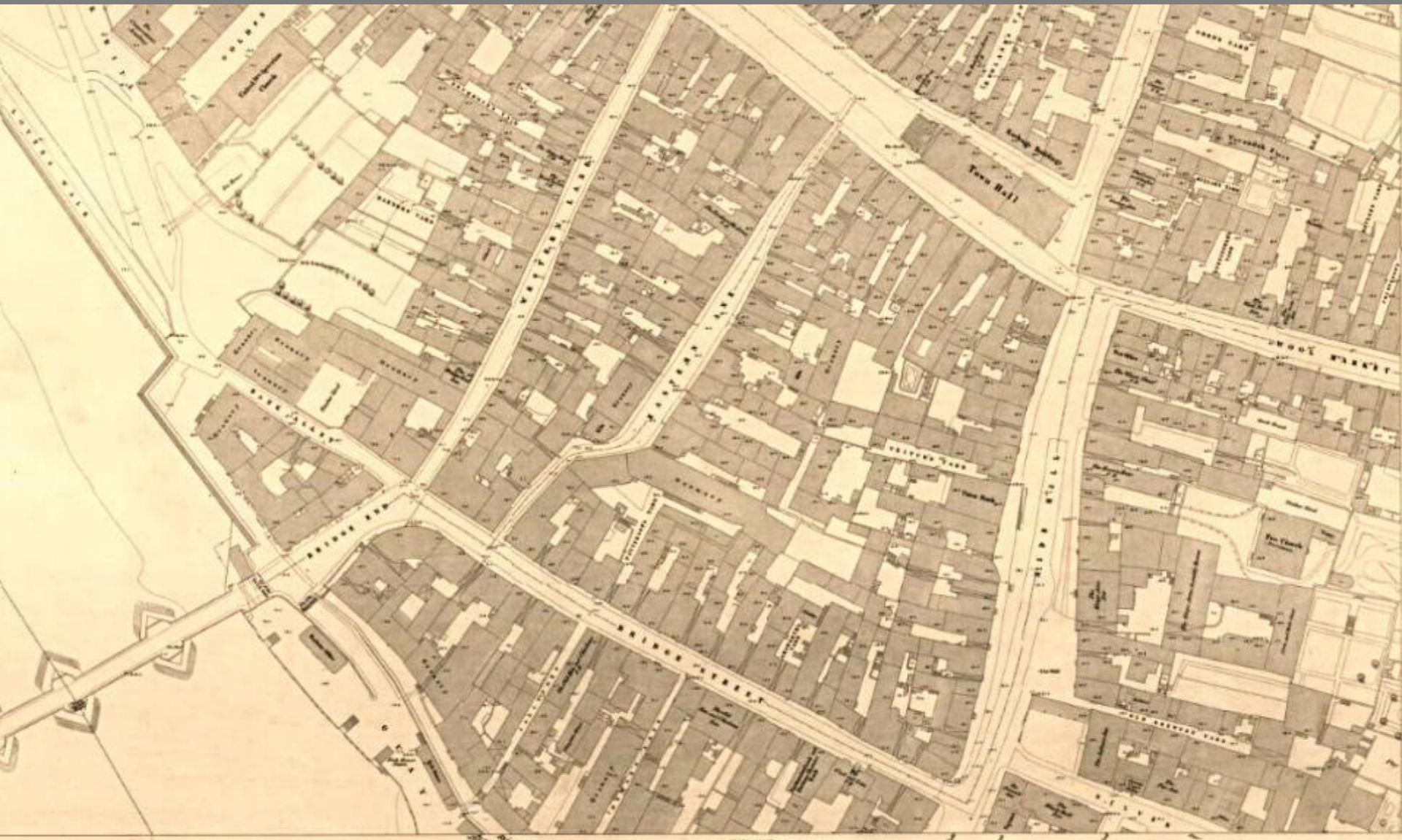


Buck view, c. 1743-5 (Bridgeman Art Library)



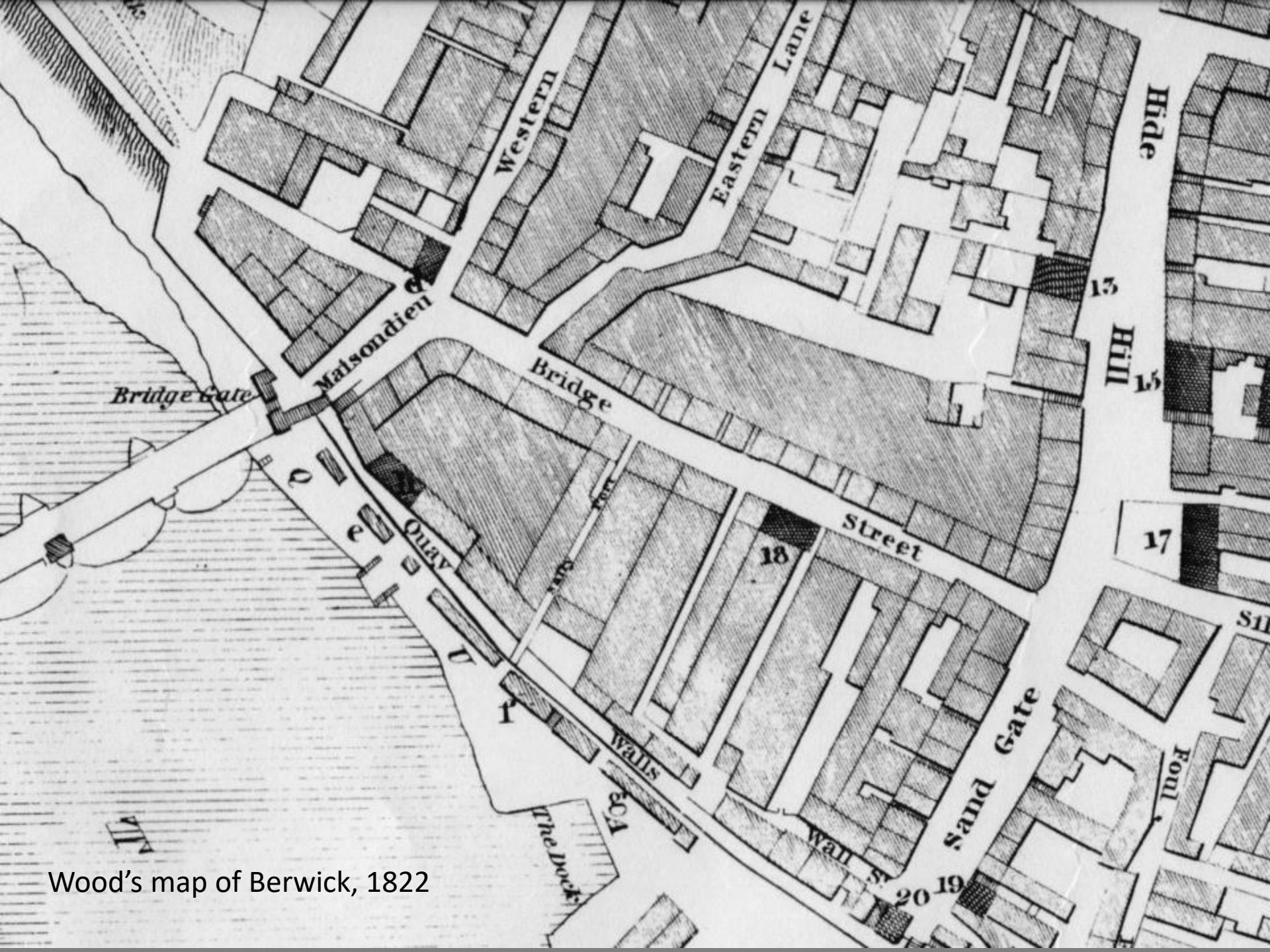


Detail from 'View of the Town and Bridge of Berwick' engraved by F Jukes after an original by C Catton junior, and published in 1793 (British Library, Maps K.Top.32.47.e)



Extract from Ordnance Survey 1:528 town plan, surveyed 1852

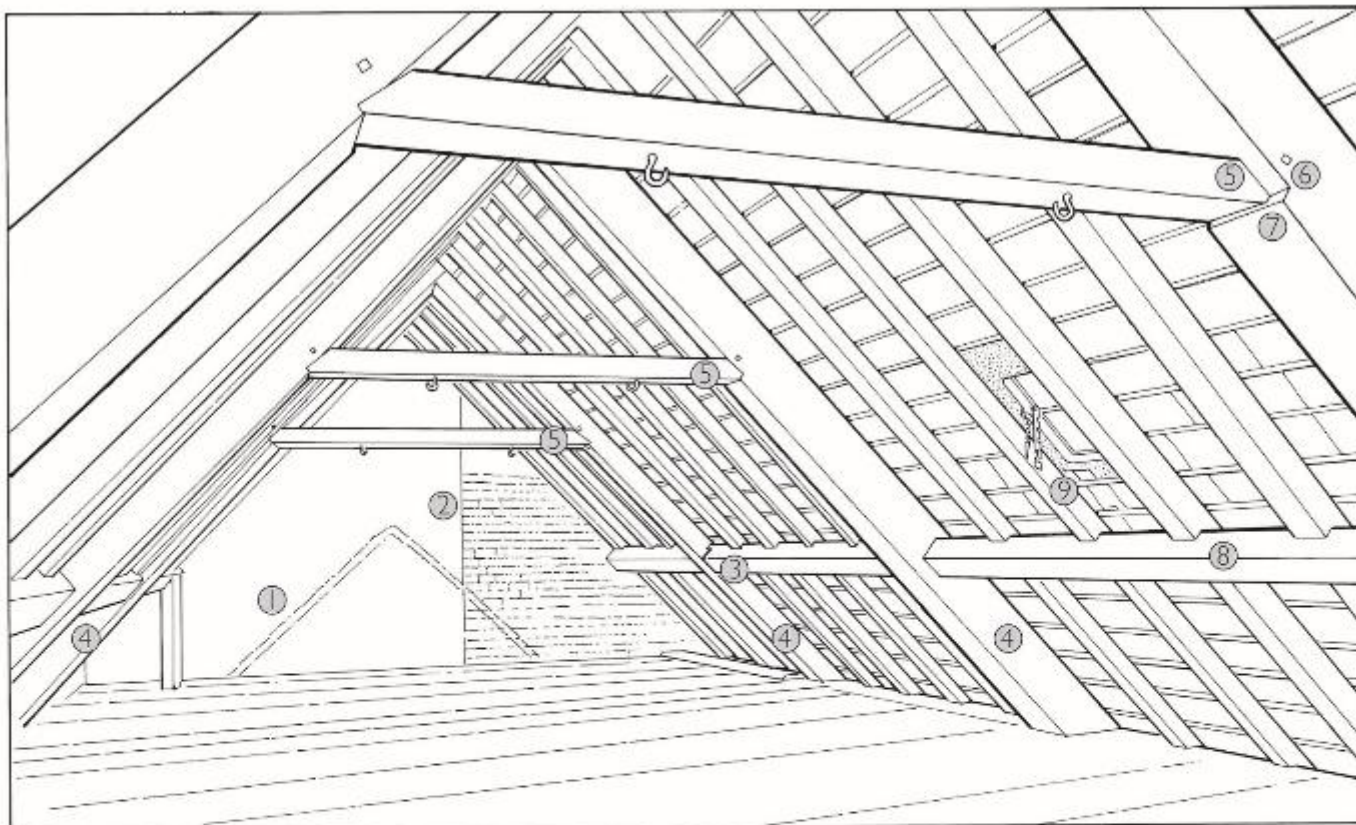




Wood's map of Berwick, 1822







Sketch of the roof,
looking south east
64-66 Bridge Street

- 1 Outline of earlier roof line on brickwork
- 2 Straight joint in brickwork of stack
- 3 Tenon of purlin visible
- 4 Principal rafter
- 5 Collar with shouldered joint

- 6 Square-headed metal fastening
- 7 Principal rafter diminished above collar
- 8 Common rafter trenched over purlin
- 9 Iron roof light

64-66 Bridge Street/57 West Street and 51 West Street

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland
NGR: NT 99770 52815
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2 Love Lane: attic of rear range

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