

# Bishop Lloyd's Palace

A Grade 1 Listed building in the heart of Chester



## HISTORY MONOGRAPH No 8 – BISHOP LLOYDS PALACE AND BISHOP LLOYDS PLACE

***We know from a plan drawn up in 1872 that a row of cottages was attached to the rear of Bishop Lloyds Palace. At one time Chester houses of this size would have had a large garden to provide vegetables for the household and to house animals such as horses, cows and hens.***

***In later years the wealthy citizens of Chester moved out into the new suburbs and their town houses were often tenanted by several people. Cottages were erected, in what had been an open space at the rear, in rows or groups and became known as courts or entries.***



When Chester Archaeological Society visited Bishop Lloyds Palace in April 1899, just after Alderman Charles Brown purchased it, he told the visitors that behind the Palace there once existed one of the most wretched of these courts which contained 22 miserable tenements but he bought it and transformed them into half a dozen comfortable and neat cottages.

By the early twentieth century many of the dwellings in the other courts and entries were considered to be slums and were demolished in the 1930s. The occupants were re-housed in new council estates such as Blacon and Lache.

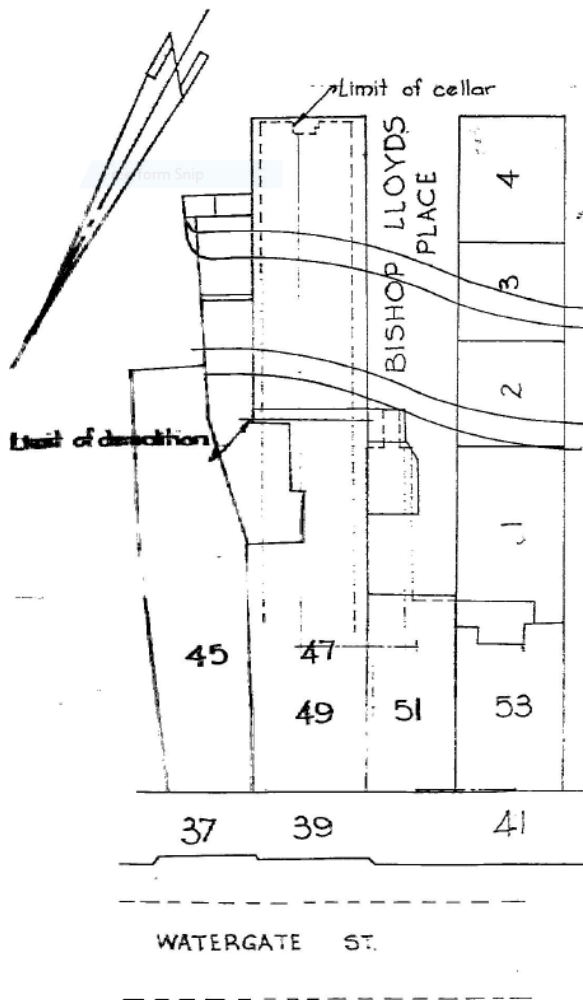
Bishop Lloyds Place lasted a little longer. Thanks to Alderman Brown the cottages appear to have been a reasonable size and the original five are shown on a plan produced in 1955 to identify the properties in Chester which were to be listed. Bishop Lloyds Palace is in green, Grade 1, while its neighbours are red, Grade 2. It would appear that there were other dwellings to the rear of the property to the east of Bishop Lloyds Place.

The plan of 1955



The Chester Civic Trust

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**The 1966 demolition plan**

In a drawing produced in 1966, a line can be seen across the cottages which was the proposed new access road to be known as Weaver Street. The construction of this road in the late 1960s brought about the demolition of three of the remaining cottages.

The City Council was given Bishop Lloyds Palace in 1948 and by 1972 there were serious concerns about the fabric of the building. A thorough survey was undertaken. This pointed out that the rear wall of the remaining structure was in a very poor condition. It was decided, as part of the refurbishment, that this rear wall be rebuilt with a new front door and staircase giving access to the attics which were to become a self contained flat.



**The new external entrance to the flat**

The internal stairs to the attic became a fire escape behind a wooden door.

At the same time a new kitchen was constructed for the use of the meeting rooms in Bishop Lloyds Palace.

**Jan Hore**



**The original staircase to the top floor**

CHESTER. BISHOP LLOYD'S PALACE.  
JACOBEAN STAIRCASE.



**The original staircase,  
now concealed behind a  
fire door**

**Sources:**

Cheshire Notes and Queries, 1899,  
page 45

Map: *Chester: A Study in  
Conservation*, 1968

Plan: *Drawing*, AHP Higgins,  
City Engineer and Surveyor and  
Planning Officer, Chester.

Dated 1966, reproduced 1972

**AVAILABLE TO HIRE**

The large and small rooms at Bishop Lloyd's Palace are available to hire individually or together at modest hourly rates. Kitchen facilities and equipment are also available for teas, coffees and light refreshments.

Please e-mail [admin@chestercivictrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@chestercivictrust.org.uk) or go to [www.chestercivictrust.org.uk](http://www.chestercivictrust.org.uk) to enquire about booking or to get further information