

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND  
YORKSHIRE TEXTILE MILLS SURVEY

CASTLE MILL, SCRIVEN WITH TENTERGATE, KNARESBOROUGH (Civil Parish), NORTH  
YORKSHIRE (SE 348568) (T.6)

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**CASTLE MILL, SCRIVEN WITH TENTERGATE, KNARESBOROUGH (Civil Parish), NORTH YORKSHIRE (SE 348568) (T.6)**

INTRODUCTION

Castle Mill, Knaresborough, is of interest for its reflection of the industrial history of that town. Formerly the site of a corn mill, powered from the River Nidd, a paper mill was built in 1770, and when in 1791 this was converted to a cotton-spinning mill, a new building was added. Cotton flourished briefly in Knaresborough and neighbourhood during the very late 18th and early 19th centuries, and following the local pattern Castle Mill changed to flax spinning, probably during the second decade of the 19th century. The change resulted in the replacement of the 1791 cotton mill with a new flax mill building. Knaresborough was pre-eminently a linen weaving town in the 18th and 19th centuries, although for a brief period cotton weaving intruded itself, and from the 1790s manufacturers in both branches were serviced by the new water-powered spinning mills of the area. Christopher Walton, who died in 1814, worked in the cotton branch being one of the town's calico manufacturers, and succeeding generations of Waltons remained in textiles. By 1820, Walton, Oates & Company were calico and linen manufacturers, and during the next decade, when there was a further partner, Thomas Simpson, they added thread to their products. By 1844 they were also flax-spinners, having become an integrated firm like the two other principal firms in the town. The progressive expansion of their activities, still largely based on the domestic system, prompted their move in the late 1840s to Castle Mill, an existing water-powered flax-spinning mill into which they soon introduced power looms and added a supplementary steam engine. Walton & Co. ceased spinning during the 1860s, concentrating on weaving and building on their reputation for quality cloths, which was founded on a Royal Warrant of 1838 and an honourable mention at the 1851 Great Exhibition. They exploited this reputation in the early 20th century, establishing Walton's Knaresborough Linens, and supplying the Royal Palaces.

HISTORY

**Castle Mill before its occupation by Walton & Co.**

Castle Mill occupies the site of a former corn mill on the River Nidd on which, following an Act of Parliament in 1764, Leonard Atkinson and John Lomas built waterworks with a water wheel which pumped water up the side of the gorge to supply the town of Knaresborough. About 1770 a paper mill was built, powered by the same water wheel. After Atkinson's bankruptcy in 1771, the two enterprises were carried on by the Lomas family. Deeds of 1779 mention 'all that Paper Mill situate between the said Water Mill and the said River Nidd', and describe John Lomas as an engineer. His sons John and Charles were described as paper makers in 1785, when a lease of a  $\frac{1}{2}$  share for a year was given to Thomas Foster of Knaresborough, merchant; in addition to the mills, houses, outhouses, a work-house, storehouse, etc. are listed. In 1790 the Lomas brothers made an agreement with a millwright for the erection of a new water wheel (Jennings 1967, 207; Jennings 1970, 264).

In November 1791 John and Charles Lomas signed a 21 year lease for the erection of a cotton mill on the site with Robert Thornton, cotton spinner, Thomas Driffield, builder, Enos Cundall, stone mason, Thomas Allinson, plumber and glazier, John Dearlove, innkeeper and Ralph Dearlove, linen manufacturer. Thornton came from Airton, near Skipton,

John Dearlove from High Harrogate, the rest from Knaresborough. Thornton must have contributed technical knowledge, as must Ralph Dearlove, who from 1790-93 was a partner of John Marshall of Leeds, a pioneer of powered flax-spinning. The deeds make no mention of the John and Leonard Green quoted in Jennings 1967, 207. The lease (see Documentation) mentions certain specific buildings, including some belonging to the late Paper Mill as well as a room in the dwelling house of John Lomas, and describes the various components of the water-power system (including the water wheel, pit wheel and other wheels, gearing, upright shaft, flywheel), and grants the right to fix 'one or more tumbling shafts upon the upright shaft and flywheels and other appurtenances thereunto belonging... for the purpose of carrying the manufacturing of preparing, carding, roving and spinning of cotton'. Precisely when cotton spinning began is uncertain; Jennings's (1970, 264) date of September 1791 pre-dates the signing of the lease. In the course of a dispute about the right of the partners to use the site and water power for a new purpose, it was claimed that the cotton mill would not prejudice the linen manufacture, but would increase the trade of the town and provide work for the poor (Jennings 1970, 264).

The cotton mill was not an immediate success and in 1793 the co-partnership was dissolved. The new-erected mill, buildings and premises, machinery, engines and utensils, etc., cotton wool and twist were allocated to debtors who included Robert Thornton, and they put the mill up for auction on 3 May 1793. The Conditions of Sale (Document 1) describe the water-powered mill with 26 spinning frames containing 1,408 spindles or thereabouts, carding, drawing and roving machinery, and the dwelling houses lately occupied by John Lomas. The mill and premises were bought for £3,015 by Matthew Curtis of Marton with Grafton, bricklayer (Document 1), and the business of cotton spinning was carried on by Messrs. Curtis, Drifffield, Oliver, Dearlove and Co. into the early 19th century. The mill, then known as Old Mill, had about 60 workers and 868 spindles in 1803 (Jennings 1970, 264).

Castle Mill was one of a handful of cotton mills built in the Nidd and Washburn valleys between 1791 and about 1800, the establishment of which attracted cotton handloom weaving to Knaresborough. There was, though, never a serious prospect that cotton would in the long term replace linen as the principal local industry, due to its distance from the main centre of cotton manufacture and its relatively poor transport links (Jennings 1970, 264, 267).

The precise date of Castle Mill's conversion to flax-spinning is uncertain. Jennings (1967, 207; 1970, 264) suggests a date of about 1811, presumably based on the expiry date of the 21 year lease granted in 1791. Mention of it as a cotton mill in a lease of 1819 may be due to copying of obsolete wording; certainly in 1822 it was occupied by Ellison and Forster, flax spinners. A transfer of mortgages on land, cottages and the mill, made by John Ellison and William Collins in 1824, includes useful detail. Ellison is described as a merchant of Knaresborough, the mill as 'all that mill formerly used as a paper mill, afterwards for the spinning of cotton, but for several years past for the spinning of flax', situate between the water mill [i.e. Water Works] and the River Nidd, in the occupation of Messrs. Lambert Ellison and Roger Forster or their undertenants. The water mill is included, as well as the 'messuage where John Lomas formerly dwelt but now converted into workshops and warehouses', and other messuages late the estate of John Lomas. By 1826

John Ellison had died, and Lambert Ellison, gentleman, his devisee, took a further loan. The deeds repeat the description of 1824.

The evidence of John Vipont and Company to the Factories Inquiry Commission in 1833 (Document 3) implies that they had taken the mill on 1 July 1832. Used for flax and tow spinning in 1833, it was water-powered, with a 25 horse power water wheel, and 120 people were employed. By 1834 John Vipont had moved to West End Low Mill, having withdrawn from his partnership at Castle Mill, which was now occupied by Samuel Wilkinson, flax spinner and thread manufacturer. The inclusion of thread manufacture reflects a response to the market; it was a move made by other spinners, not least the firm of Marshall & Co., Leeds for all of whom it augmented profits (Jennings 1967, 239). The period 1833-36 saw the general expansion of spinning capacity in Knaresborough and Nidderdale, against a background of improving trade conditions. In 1835 Wilkinson told the Poor Law Commission, which was trying to move unemployed people from rural to industrial areas, that he had considerably extended his machinery and could offer work to 10 or 12 young females aged 14 to 20. Boys over 12 were 'very objectionable', and he could not employ any parents except for a good flax dresser (Jennings 1967, 240; Jennings 1970, 279). By 1836 Castle Mill had about 200 workers (Jennings 1970, 279). Samuel Wilkinson & Co. were listed as flax and tow spinners and thread manufacturers at the mill in 1837.

In 1839 Richard Dewes, assistant commissioner to the Hand-Loom Weavers Commissioners visited Knaresborough and the weavers' evidence made it clear that they needed their children's earnings to make ends meet. Some of the children worked in Castle Mill (Jennings 1970, 281-2; Document 4). Probably during the 1840s the proprietors of the mill established a school there, to take the children in 2 hour shifts through the day (Jennings 1967, 228).

About 1847 Walton and Company, well-established linen manufacturers in Knaresborough, leased Castle Mill which they used initially for spinning flax yarn and weaving linen by power-loom (Jennings 1970, 316). Where they had spun before is not known. Walton & Co.'s move to Castle Mill was a late move to integration which some Knaresborough linen manufacturers had already made by leasing spinning mills, although only Francis Thorpe achieved lasting success (Jennings 1967, 239). Walton's may have been one of the few, if not the only firm, to be integrated not only as a business but also in using power looms in a factory. Some Nidderdale firms were integrated too (Jennings 1967, 239).

### **The Walton family**

Textiles played an increasingly important part in the economy of Knaresborough and the neighbouring Nidd and Washburn valleys during the post-medieval period; many local wills and inventories of the 16th and 17th centuries list some kind of textile equipment, fibres or yarn. Hemp and flax were grown locally, and the 17th century saw a series of changes, including a growth in the scale of operations, and a movement from woollens to linens, which gradually transformed the local textile industry and eventually turned Knaresborough into a linen manufacturing town. As the linen industry grew it developed a horizontal division into flax dressing and spinning on the one hand, and weaving on the other, and by 1750 Knaresborough and its neighbouring villages carried on 'a great manufacture of coarse linen cloths and huckabacks' (Jennings 1970, 204-18). Hargrove (1789, 27) wrote that a 'considerable manufacture of linen

has been carried on here for many ages, and is at present in a flourishing condition', and estimated that upwards of 1,000 pieces of a particular cloth (others are also noted) were manufactured in the town and neighbourhood each week. The Walton family were among the manufacturers in Knaresborough who at this time were putting out yarn to weavers to make into cloth on looms in their own cottages.

The date of Walton's entry into textile manufacture is usually accepted as 1785. A letterhead (Document 9), probably of the 1870s, records the firm as 'Established 1785'. A series of reports published in various newspapers and trade journals in the 1920s and 1930s, based on information supplied by the Carsons, proprietors of Walton & Co. Ltd., include this same date as either that at which Castle Mill started (Leeds Mercury, 21 January 1926; Document 30) or the date at which the firm started business under the title Walton, Oates and Co. (The Drapers' Record, 4 June 1927; Document 31). The former is incorrect, given the known history of the mill in the late 18th century, but the latter could be correct. In his will dated 1814, proved 1815, Christopher Walton of Knaresborough described himself as calico manufacturer, leaving his estate to his wife Elizabeth, brother John, and brother-in-law William Robinson. It is uncertain whether Walton and Oates were in partnership by then, but they certainly were by 1820, the date printed on tally cards (Document 2) issued by Walton, Oates & Co. of Market Place, Knaresborough which describe the firm as manufacturers of checks, gingham, stripes, shirtings, calicoes, bed ticks, diapers, damask and linen sheetings, drills etc. The cards, each to the value of five shillings, were issued to the weaver by the overseer after he had passed the finished linen, and when the weaver had collected four they were exchanged for one pound in cash at the firm's office.

In 1822, Walton, Oates and Co. were listed as calico manufacturers and as linen manufacturers of Market Place, Knaresborough, but by the 1830s had become Walton, Oates and Simpson of High Street, Knaresborough termed linen manufacturers in 1834, and linen and calico manufacturers and thread manufacturers in 1837. In 1838, Thomas Simpson of Knaresborough was appointed linen manufacturer to the queen, and this is the Royal Warrant quoted in Walton and Co.'s labels, etc., during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By 1844 (Jennings 1970, 282, 285) the flax and linen trade in Knaresborough was in the hands of three firms, Frances Thorpe & Co., Walton, Oates & Simpson, and Samuel Wilkinson & Co. Waltons, who were soon to take over Castle Mill, where Wilkinson was based, by now employed most of the handloom weavers in the town. They also did their own finishing and dyeing, and were also described in 1841 as flax spinners though where is not known.

#### **Castle Mill during the tenure of Walton & Co. and their successors**

As already noted, Walton & Co. leased Castle Mill in about 1847, soon using it for both yarn spinning and power-loom weaving. The extent of the mill at this date appears on a map surveyed in 1847-49 (Document 5), which shows just the main range and the buildings to its north. The coming of the railway in 1848-51 reduced the price of coal from about £1 to 10s or 12s a ton, and Waltons were able to afford to install a steam engine at Castle Mill to supplement the power of the water wheel (Jennings 1970, 316). Whether there is a correlation between the installation of power-looms and a steam engine is not certain, but is to be suspected, particularly given the later evidence of irregular running of the water wheel (see below).

The 1851 census records John Walton, aged 39, of Byards Lodge, Knaresborough, linen manufacturer with one partner, employing 423 people, namely 272 men, 106 women, 25 boys and 20 girls. Most of the employees were handloom weavers and bleachers. Nine weavers were specifically described as working on power-looms, but there may have been others since not all of the other weavers were specifically described as hand-loom weavers. Crimble Mill (T.11) belonged to the Waltons, but it was apparently no longer used for spinning, having been turned by them into a bleach works (Jennings 1967, 254; Jennings 1970, 316). Also in 1851, Messrs. Walton & Co. received an honourable mention for their sheetings and huckabucks shown at the Great Exhibition in 1851. They also exhibited a seamless shirt woven by one of their workers, George Hemshall (Document 6). The railways enabled Waltons to exploit their reputation for quality and to make quick and reliable deliveries, thereby recovering from a long and steep decline in their volume of business. They opened an office in Leeds (Document 9) and re-established a branch in Manchester (Document 8) where they had had an interest as calico merchants in the 1830s. The Crimean War of 1854-6 saw their sales figures rise substantially, part of it due to a rise in price, and then stay within the range of £25,000 to £33,000 a year for the next twenty years (Jennings 1967, 254; Jennings 1970, 316-7, Fig. 2; Document 7).

By 1861 Waltons had given up spinning at Castle Mill to make room for an expansion of power-loom weaving. They employed 231 males and 95 females on the weaving side, including 27 specifically described as power-loom weavers. Another 61 people were employed at their bleach grounds in the Knaresborough-Harrogate area. 27 people in Knaresborough were described as power-loom weavers in 1861 compared with 9 in 1851; the number of handloom weavers in the town was now 207 (including all weavers not described as power-loom weavers), compared with 332 in 1841. Hand-loom weaving continued to decline thereafter in the face of the spread of the power-loom, but Waltons still employed a considerable number of hand-loom weavers in workshops throughout different parts of the town later in the century (Jennings 1967, 254-55; Jennings 1970, 317).

In 1865, William, Alfred and Henry Walton, all of Knaresborough, linen manufacturers, agreed to a lease of Castle Mill to run for 21 years from 1 January 1866. The lease specifies the mill, six cottages, workshops, flax and yarn rooms, heckling shops, dwelling houses and yards, the water wheel power, but reserving to the lessors the shafts, wheels and other gear connected with the water works. The Waltons were to repair the buildings, the lessors, among other things, the upright shaft in the calender room with the bevel wheels thereon and the connecting wheels between water wheel and horizontal shaft in the low weaving shop. Two of the three lessors agreed to erect at any time and at their own expense 'another Power Loom Weaving Shed' according to mutually agreed plans. No steam engines or boilers are mentioned since they were the lessees property.

In 1871 the Knaresborough Improvement Commissioners bought the water works from William Ellison. In a survey conducted for them in June 1871, Castle Mill was recorded as let to Waltons at £150 a year, and some cottages at £24 a year, both together worth no more than £2,000 (Jennings 1970, 438). The Commissioners completed purchase in November 1861, paying £8,600. The Articles of Agreement record that the mill, warehouses and cottages near or adjoining, and forming part of the premises, were subject to a lease to Messrs. Walton dated 1 January 1866. Their holding is itemised in a schedule attached to the Agreement (Document 10). The fullest details of Walton & Co.'s holdings are given in a Utensil Ledger (Document 11), which probably dates from about 1872, the year they bought the Knaresborough

Linen Company factory (see pages 78, 80). The Ledger not only includes Castle Mill, itemising its buildings and their rooms and contents, but also the looms out with weavers, the Crimble Mill (T.11) Bleachworks and Dyeworks, an Indigo Mill, the North Eastern Railway Company Factory and the Knaresborough Linen Company Factory. A Ledger for Rents, Rates, Taxes and Gas etc. (Document 12) contains a series of entries between 1869 and 1890, and a list of the Rental and Rateable Value of Property in the occupation of Walton & Co. survives for August 1881 (Document 14).

The change in ownership of Castle Mill from a private individual to a municipal body means that details relative to building and maintenance work survive among the Waterworks Deeds. In 1874 there was correspondence with Joseph Todd, millwright, of Nidd Valley Foundry, Summerbridge, Ripley, who was authorised to replace two wheels at Castle Mill, one on the water wheel axle, the other on the upright shaft in the calender room, which were of iron and had been bought from the Bowling Foundry over 20 years previously. The wheels appear to be bevel wheels. In 1879 partial rebuilding of a storehouse was agreed. In 1886 it was agreed to rebuild the gable wall of the winding room, and two sets of tenders survive (Document 15). From the unsuccessful tender of William Whincup, which incorrectly names it spinning room, it is clear that the winding room was the single storey brick building projecting south from the mill, west of the engine house and boiler house. William Rennison, whose tender was successful, included a sketch of the old gable in his Specifications.

In 1887 (Document 16) Walton & Co. informed the Waterworks Committee that they were about to make alterations and repairs in the driving gear of their main shafting, at the same time increasing the speed by at least 25%. They requested them to replace two wheels 'belonging to the Town' which were worn out, the cogs being defective, warning that they could give way at any moment and cause a serious stoppage and delay to the trade. They proposed replacement wheels of a different size, but subsequently reported that their engineer had arranged for the increased speed by means of drums placed on the main shafting. Walton & Co. obtained estimates for the wheels from Pullan, Tuke & Co. of Leeds, but the Waterworks Committee obtained the opinion of Joseph Todd of the Nidd Valley Foundry. Todd advised that with care the wheels might run a few years 'especially so now as the communication between the two shafts is likely to be made with Ropes or Belts'.

In 1881 a draft lease had named the lessees as William, Alfred and Henry Walton, the lessors or landlords the Local Board of Health of the District of Knaresborough and Tentergate. A 7 year lease from 1 January 1888, made in the names of Alfred Walton and Henry William Carson, covered the mill, 6 cottages, workshops, flax and yarn rooms, heckling shops, dwelling house, yards and other erections, and the water wheel power. The mill is shown in use for linen on a survey of 1889 (Document 17), post 1847-9 buildings being south of the mill and immediately north. In February 1893 the landlords enquired what increase Walton & Co. would pay should it be decided to replace the old mill wheel by a turbine, Walton offering £25 a year extra rent for the extra power, etc., provided. The need for this is highlighted by a letter of December the same year, when Walton & Co. reported that the water wheel gearing had broken down, the main factor being the irregular and uneven motion of the old waterwheel and the back lash caused thereby, which had previously caused breakages to the machinery.

Walton & Co. raised problems associated with water power in a letter of 22 May 1894 (Document 18). They noted the imminent completion of the

Bradford Waterworks Scheme and compensation reservoir and the uncertainty of its influence on the water supply. They continued 'there is always a deficiency of water for from three to four months during the year necessitating the use of steam power for driving the whole of our machinery and the cost of coal at Knaresborough being fully twice as much as in the chief manufacturing centres, the advantage of the water power for eight months in the year is considerably neutralised. The state of things during the summer months will probably continue and may get worse as the water passing under the wheels of the mills at Pateley Bridge in the daytime goes by Knaresborough during the night and any flow of water from the compensation reservoir during the night will be retained by the upper mill dams and reservoirs for next days use and so be of no advantage to us'. Waltons wrote later in 1894 that the 'greatest drawback to the water wheel from our point of view is its unsteady working and our inability to govern it'. In 1895 they objected (Document 19) that the new turbine was to be without a governor, preferring the present wheel, and that the speeded-up water works pumps were taking extra power. This was not put right by the installation of the turbine, which an annotation on a letter of 1898 (Document 20) notes commenced running on 27 December 1895. This letter records the occasion of the total absence of surplus water power at Castle Mill. Waltons complained (incorrectly) that the old water wheel gave continually 40 horse power, but the inefficient turbine substituted and a new high water tower deprived them of at least two-thirds of this, which they made good by use of steam power, suffering through the high local price of coal a £50 a year loss. Threats to give up possession of Castle Mill eventually resulted in agreement to appoint an arbitrator being reached on 20 December 1898, eleven days before the expiry of the lease.

In November 1898, notice of the Transfer of Business of Messrs. Walton & Co. was issued in the name of Thomas Clelland, managing partner of Walton & Co.'s Successors. The notice (Document 21) lists the firm as of Castle Mills, Knaresborough, and Crimple Mills and Bleach Green near Harrogate. A Valuation of dilapidations at Castle Mill and cottages, made in January 1899 on the expiration of the lease of Walton & Co. (Document 22), lists various buildings, and a photograph of the mill from the south is included on the rear cover of Walton & Co.'s Successors' price list of 1 January 1899 (Document 24). This document is one of a number, the earliest dated one being of 1863, the latest of 1899 (Document 23). The earliest, undated, one, perhaps of the 1850s, called them linen manufacturers by power, flax and thread spinners, bleachers and dyers. Flax and thread spinning are omitted from those of 1863-99, but on all these they are called linen manufacturers by hand and power, as well as bleachers, sometimes dyers, sometimes merchants. Thomas Clelland did not stay long as a partner in Waltons, since in 1901 a tenancy agreement was reached with Henry William Carson of Knaresborough and Joseph Carson of Barnsley. H. W. Carson was already a partner with Alfred Walton in 1888, and a diary for 1899-1901 (Document 25) survives in which he notes the number of looms running, the use of the turbine and of the engine, etc. It is clear from this diary that water-power still gave problems. Carson noted on several occasions that he was in Barnsley, where he was almost certainly a member of Carson Partners, successors to John B. Piggot and Son, linen manufacturers of Shaw Mill, Race Common Road, Barnsley (P.16; Kelly 1893, 62; Document 21). The link with Barnsley was strengthened by Joseph Carson's joining the partnership in or by 1901. The 1901 agreement describes Castle Mill 'with shops warehouses shed yards and other buildings', and seven cottages adjacent, with 'precedent use of the turbine... to the water works...'. The Carsons renewed their tenancy in 1907, agreeing that 'when and as soon as the lessors shall put down a

governor to the turbine, the annual rent shall be increased by £5'. The mill is shown on a map of that year (Document 27), and on an insurance plan of February 1911 (Document 28). In 1913, strengthening work was advised in the weaving shed to counter excessive vibration (Document 29). Joseph Carson died in 1935, aged 51. The mill is shown on a map of 1932 (Document 33); maps of 1947, and that of 1969 copied from it (Document 34) derive from earlier Ordnance Survey maps. After various changes of ownership, Walton & Co. Ltd. ceased weaving linen at Castle Mill in 1972 and moved in 1984 to Castle Mills, Harrogate and in 1986-7 the mill was converted to housing, some of the buildings having to be demolished as unsafe.

#### DESCRIPTION

Castle Mills stands on the bank of the River Nidd, in the Nidd gorge, immediately below Knaresborough Castle. The buildings comprise a main mill block of three phases, originally water-powered, but later also steam-powered, set at right angles to the river, and a series of ancillary buildings with former cottages at their core more or less parallel to it. The earliest industrial building at Castle Mill comprises (see BB86/8103) the north-west wall and fragments of the south-west wall of the **water works** (1) built on the site after the passing of an Act of Parliament in 1764. The walls are of stone, much cut into by later buildings, the south-west wall carried on a segmental stone arch at basement level. Numbers are those on the Block Plan.

The next addition was of a paper mill, **Mill 1** (2), built in 1770 and sited, as described in the deeds of 1779, 'between the said Water Mill and the said River Nidd'. The paper mill, which stands at the end of a weir across the River Nidd constructed to serve the manorial corn mill which originally stood on the site (Jennings 1970, 90), is a three-storey building, 7 bays long, 3 bays wide, with a hipped roof. The ground floor walls are of stone, the upper walls of brick, with stone floor bands, and internally the mill has floors carried on substantial timber beams. The roof has three queen-strut trusses and tusk-tenoned purlins. None of the documentation examined speaks of the paper mill as a former corn mill, and it is not certain whether the paper mill incorporates any of the structure of the corn mill. A 1770 date is acceptable for the building, but so could be an early 18th-century date. In the latter case, however, the roof trusses would have to be seen as renewed. It was water-powered; the water of the River Nidd being led through a short head race on to a water wheel set in a chamber against the inside of the south-east wall and rising through the ground floor. The wheel, replaced by a turbine in 1895, drove an upright shaft up the centre of the mill, on the evidence of a later framework of timber and cast-iron beams and cast-iron columns. The use of the mill for paper-making is beyond the scope of this report, but for accounts of the process see Buchanan 1980, 152-3, Fig. 16, plates 21, 22; McCutcheon 1980, 253-55, Figs. 121-3, plates 61.1, 2; Hay and Stell 1986, 160, 181. Paper-making required a plentiful supply of fresh water for its processes and, where appropriate, its power. Early methods of preparation and manufacture involved water-driven stampers and shredding engines, and skill in the final sequence of belting, smoothing and drying. In 1791, a finishing house and drying house with cellar are mentioned in a lease of Castle Mill as belonging to the 'late paper mill'.

In 1791 a **cotton mill** was built on the site. The building does not survive, but it must have been on the site of Mill 2, since its lease

allowed 'the privilege of fixing one or more tumbling shafts' on the paper mill's upright shaft, as well as flywheels and other appurtenances belonging. The lease also involved a room on the first floor of the house of John Lomas.

**Mill 2** (3) probably dates from the early 19th century, as is discussed in a subsequent paragraph. Built against the south-east wall of Mill 1 and over the south-west wall of the Water works, it is a two-storey, eleven-bay long building with walls of stone. The south-east end is hipped and three bays wide. Access was originally by a door in the fifth bay from the south-east end of the north-east elevation, to an interior with timber floors, beams and joists. The ground floor has an off-centre row of cast-iron columns of cruciform cross-section with slight entasis, D-sectioned bolting-heads and lugs facing north-east, and rectangular top and bottom plates. Nine of these columns remain, two having been replaced. Plain cylindrical, cast-iron columns and timber baulks in some first-floor bays are of later date: this floor was originally uninterrupted, since the tie beams above merely supported queen-strut trusses. The roof space is only partially floored, and its use for storage may be secondary. Mill 2 was powered from the water wheel in Mill 1, perhaps from its own upright shaft, although the evidence has become confused with time. The ground floor columns will have supported a central line shaft; on the first floor, bolt holes in the underside of the tie beams, immediately north of centre, indicate a line shaft, but at what date is uncertain.

The date of Mill 2 is not certain from documentary evidence. However, Castle Mill converted from cotton to flax-spinning most probably during the second decade of the 19th century. It is likely that Mill 2 was rebuilt as a flax-spinning mill, rather than that it is the cotton mill of 1791. Stylistically it must be of early 19th-century date, and since the profits of this time lay locally with flax rather than cotton, as the mill's change of branch indicates, its rebuilding seems likely to date from its use for flax. The Napoleonic Wars caused an interruption to flax supplies, which at the time came to Britain largely from the eastern Baltic, and caused distress to many flax-spinners. The end of the wars saw a short-lived boom in 1814-15, and it is possible that an occasion like this resulted in the replacement of the 1791 cotton mill with Mill 2, unless perhaps the earlier mill burnt out. The element of the building which most usefully assists its dating is the form of the cast-iron columns, which are of cruciform section. Columns of this section were used in the 1790s at Derby, Milford, Belper and Shrewsbury, and in Yorkshire at Meadow Lane Mill, Leeds (1802-4), Water Lane Mill (1806 and between 1806-15) and Otley Mill (1815). Mill C at Water Lane Mills has a related but different type of column in the form of a cluster of four small shafts, and yet another variant, with a cylindrical core braced by four ribs, is known from three other Yorkshire mills (Providence Mill, Brighouse; Cape Mills, Bramley (M.23) and Hollins Mill, Bradford) dating between 1827 and about 1835 (Skempton and Johnson 1962, 176-85; Fitzgerald 1979b, 270-75; Report on Mill M.138). This range of comparable material need not conflict with a date in the second decade of the 19th century which was suggested on historical grounds for Castle Mill.

By 1847-9 (Document 5), Buildings 1-8 (see Block Plan) had been built. Buildings 1-3 were built for industrial use, the extra workforce involved in cotton and then flax-spinning making it necessary to add a brick privy tower to the centre of the south-west wall of Mill 1 at some time during the early 19th century. **Building 4**, a two-storey stone-built block built against the original water works building (1) might be John Lomas's cottage, which by 1824 had been converted into a workshop and warehouse.

There were other cottages on the site. **Building 5**, a stone-built two-storey, double-fronted, one-room deep cottage was built in the late 18th or early 19th century backing on to Water Side. In the early 19th century a pair of stone-built, single-fronted, one-room deep cottages (**Building 6**) were built against its north gable, and a double-fronted cottage (**Building 7**) against its south gable. The interiors of these cottages were reamed out when the buildings were converted to industrial use later in the century. There was a further row of six cottages (now demolished) on the other side of Water Side, opposite the main mill buildings (see maps of 1847-9, 1889: Documents 5, 17), specifically referred to, for example, in the lease of 1866. It may be presumed that mill-workers occupied some, at least, of these cottages. **Building 8** had also been built by 1847-9. It survived until recently as a three-storey building, 5 bays long, the gable walls of stone, those to the front and rear of brick. It may have begun as an open building of half the height: the stone walls form quoins in the brickwork above first floor mid-height; below that their inner edges are straight, as if cut back when the building was remodelled. Irregularities on the south elevation suggest cutting back, rather than that the building had open sides. Internally the building in its final form has an internal structure of timber beams and a king-post roof.

Mill 2, it has been argued, was built as a flax-spinning mill. Its size is unusual, however, since though in bay length it is like the 1791 mill at West House (T.5), in width it outstrips that mill and is closer in width to Marshall, Hives & Co.'s Mill C at Water Lane Mills, Leeds (M.138). The Castle Mill addition is, however, of just two storeys, not four, and it is also not fireproof, its timber internal construction more like that of most Yorkshire flax mills. When first built, Mill 2 was water-powered. It was still so in 1847-9, but shortly afterwards the new occupants of the mill, Walton & Co., installed a steam engine as a supplementary source of power. The steam engine was added to the south-west corner of Mill 1, sited between the tail race and the river. The tall, narrow **engine house** (9a), its lower walls of stone, the upper of brick, and gabled to the south-west, was lit by small windows in all three external walls. The engine house (9a) which retains fragments of the stone engine bed, has the proportions appropriate to a single-beam engine, which is what it housed in about 1872 (Document 11, pp.89-90). The brick-built **boiler house** (9b), attached to the south-west corner of the engine house and almost entirely demolished at the time of survey, was of similar width to it but more than twice as long. In about 1872 (Document 11, p.93) it housed a Cornish boiler. The brick-built chimney (9c), square on plan, has a gently tapering shaft with an ornamented brick cap, subsequently heightened.

Precise details of how the new steam engine powered the mill are uncertain, but the shafting was evidently taken along within the south-west wall of Mills 1 and 2, on the evidence of bolts and bolt holes in the timbers and an iron box in the wall between the two buildings. Within Mill 1, an upright shaft in the south-west corner rose to its second floor, from where due to floor level changes it powered a shaft slung from the south-west ends of the tie beams over Mill 2's first floor. The Utensil Ledger of about 1872 (Document 11) contains evidence for shafting from both water wheel and engine in both Mill 1 and Mill 2. Mill 1, on its evidence, then had a Calender Room and Bobbin Winding Rooms, and Mill 2 had two Weaving Rooms.

Walton & Co. were spinners and weavers when they first leased Castle Mill, and they may well have used it for both processes. However, such integration did not last long, and by 1861 they were just weaving there.

The change from spinning, to spinning and weaving, and then to just weaving, as well as prompting the addition of a steam engine to assure continuous working, led to the construction of **Building 10**. A single-storey brick building, in part built over the tail race, it may about 1872 have been the Sizing House (Document 11, p.92). In 1886 it was referred to as a Winding Room when Walton & Co. requested building repairs (see Documentation). Tenders (Document 15) include a drawing of the old gable which was to be taken down and rebuilt, as well as specifying taking down 'the tiles and wood roof and well prop and secure all the shafting also and protect all the machines from injury during the work'. This addition, demolished at the time of survey, communicated directly with the ground floor of Mill 1, that is with the lower of the two weaving rooms in about 1872 (Document 11, pp. 96-101). Building 10 post-dated 1847-9 (Document 5), and since its gable needed rebuilding in 1886, it may have been erected in the 1850s or 1860s. Its rebuilt form is shown in a photograph published in 1899 (Document 24), when a Valuation calls it 'Weaving Shed over Goit' (Document 12).

**Alterations to buildings 5-7** may belong to the early part of the Walton & Co.'s tenure of Castle Mill, and almost certainly before 1871 when the Local Board of Health became their landlords, and building or repair work generated letters to and from the Water Works Committee, none of which refer to this building work. The effect of the building work was first to remove all internal walls and partitions in Buildings 5 and 6, so creating long open rooms, and adding a 7-bay long second floor at the same time, and then to do the same to Building 7, evidently creating an office at ground floor, and a four-bay long second floor. The new upper floors are of brick, in contrast to the stone walls below, and the reconstruction of Building 7 involved the rebuilding of much of its south gable above ground floor. The roofs of both heightenings have timber king-post trusses. The rebuilt buildings, with later timber props to support some beams at ground and first floors, showed no sign of power and must have served as warehouses, a very necessary requirement for a firm trading on the scale of Walton & Co.

**Building 11** was added to the north end of Buildings 5-6, after 1847-9 (Document 5), and was largely rebuilt in 1879 when it was agreed to rebuild two walls and put on a new roof covered with Welsh slates. Records of 1879 call the building both a warehouse and a storehouse, but the building work was more extensive than intended, for only the lower part of the north gable wall, which is of stone, was left standing when it was rebuilt in brick as an irregularly-shaped, 3-bay, two-storey building.

Building work between 1889 and 1907 (Documents 17, 27) involved the **enlargement of the boiler house**, well shown on the insurance plan of 1911 (Document 28), and other small scale alterations. In 1895, the **water wheel was replaced by a water turbine**, part of which survives (BB86/8122). The sluice controlling water on to the turbine, and the wheel before, has cast-iron casings bearing the Royal Arms and the plate of Todd Brothers, Nidd Valley F[oundr]y, Summerbridge (BB87/8107-8). Within Mill 1, gearing, belt-driven from the turbine, survives at ground floor (BB87/8123-4, 8128), and a cast-iron sole beam and column at first floor (BB86/8129) relate to the former upright shaft.

Investigators: Dr. I. H. Goodall, Mr. C. P. Giles  
Photographer: Mr. R. A. C. Skingle  
Research: Dr. I. H. Goodall, Mrs. G. Rathmell  
Date of visit: 13 October 1986

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- Wales, Wales and Rawson, Chartered Architects, Skipton, for permission to use their survey drawings of Castle Mill as the basis of the site plans and elevations contained in this report.

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DOCUMENTATION

This section is in two parts, the first concerned with the Walton family and their business partners before their move to Castle Mill, the second with Castle Mill itself. The main report includes many references to material published in Jennings 1967 and 1970; this section is mainly restricted to unpublished documents.

The following abbreviations have been used:

Walton MSS refers to material kindly made available by Walton and Co. Ltd. of Castle Mills, Knaresborough.

Deeds refers to the Title Deeds to the site of Castle Mill held by the Chief Executive's Department, Harrogate Borough Council.

**PART 1. The Walton family pre Castle Mill**

- 1814 Will (copy) of Christopher Walton of Knaresborough, calico manufacturer. Bequeaths messuages, lands... and parts and shares of messuages, lands... and personal effects to wife Elizabeth Walton, brother John Walton and brother in law William Robinson... to support my children.  
Dated 20 December 1814, proved 7 January 1815.  
(Walton MSS)
- 1820 Tally cards of Walton, Oates and Co., dated 1820 (see BB86/8092).  
(Walton MSS) (**Document 2**)
- 1822 Walton, Oates and Co., calico manufacturers, linen manufacturers, Market Place, Knaresborough.  
(Baines 1822, 226-7)
- 1834 Walton, Oates and Simpson, linen manufacturers, High Street, Knaresborough.  
(Pigot 1834, 811)
- 1837 Walton, Oates and Simpson, linen and calico manufacturers and thread manufacturers, High Street, Knaresborough.  
(White 1837, 721)
- 1838 Royal Warrant. By Virtue of the Power to me given I hereby appoint Thomas Simpson of Knaresborough to the Place of Linen Manufacturer to Her Majesty in Ordinary; He is to have and enjoy all the Rights, Profits, Privileges and Advantages to the said Place belonging during my Will and Pleasure.  
Given under my hand this Twenty Third day of April 1838 in the First Year of Her Majesty's Reign.  
Entered in the Office of the Board of Green Cloth the 23rd day of April 1838. Chas. Hill.  
(Walton MSS)
- 1839 Evidence of employees of Walton, Oates and Co./Walton Oates and Simpson to Assistant Hand-Loom Weavers' Commissioners, published 1840. P.P. (H.C.) 1840 [159] Pt. II.  
(**Document 4**)

- 1841 Walton, Oates and Simpson, flax spinners and linen manufacturers, High Street, Knaresborough. (Pigot 1841, 182)
- 1844 Walton, Oates and Co., flax spinners, High Street, Knaresborough. Walton, Oates and Simpson, linen manufacturers, (East End), High Street, Knaresborough. (Williams 1844, 88)

**PART 2 Castle Mill**

- 1764 An Act for the better supplying the town of Knaresborough and that part of the Township of Scriven with Tentergate adjoining upon the said town with Water; surrender on 30 May 1764 by Leonard Atkinson and John Lomas the elder of three closes called Castle Ings containing 15 acres in Knaresborough and Scriven with Tentergate. (Deeds: quoted in Deed of Covenant 14 April 1826; Mortgage 6 March 1792)
- 1770 Paper mill built. (Jennings 1970, 264)
- 1779 Indenture 24 June 1779.  
1. John Lomas of Scriven with Tentergate, Knaresborough, Engineer.  
2. Francis Bedford of Knaresborough, gent.  
All that one full half part (same in 2 equal parts divided) of and in the Water Works or Water Mill houses edifices and buildings near or adjoining River Nidd in Township of Scriven with Tentergate and Knaresborough. And dwellinghouse wherein J. Lomas then dwelt And all that Paper Mill situate between said Water Mill and said River Nidd. And also of all the tackle and other material, utensils and implements belonging... (Deeds)
- 1785 Lease and release. 2, 3 September 1785.  
Lease for a year between  
1. John Lomas the Elder of Knaresborough, Engineer.  
2. Thomas Foster of Knaresborough, merchant.  
Release between  
1. John Lomas the elder.  
2. John Lomas the younger and Charles Lomas of Scriven with Tentergate, Paper Makers.  
3. Thomas Foster, merchant.  
All that full half part or share (same into two equal parts to be divided) of and in the Water Works or Water Mill, Mill-Houses, Edifices and Buildings near the River Nidd in township of Scriven and Tentergate and Knaresborough and now in Tenure of John Lomas the younger and Charles Lomas or one of them, or their undertenants. And also of and in all houses, outhouses, work houses, storehouses, edifices, buildings, yards. Wears, Waters, Streams, Pipes, Conduits, Reservoirs, Engines,

Implements, Ways belonging. Also All other lands and parts and shares of lands of John Lomas the Elder. To hold for one year.

(Deeds)

1789

An act of Parliament was obtained some years ago for the better supplying this town with river water, which on account of its elevated situation rendered the common method of conveying that necessary article difficult and expensive. After many unforeseen delays, this useful improvement is now completed.

Annexed to the water works is a paper mill, where that business is carried on with success by Mr. John Lomas. (Hargrove 1789, 42)

1791

Lease 12 November 1791.

1. John Lomas the younger of Scriven with Tentergate and Charles Lomas of Knaresborough, Paper Manufacturers.
2. Robert Thornton of Airton, cotton spinner, Thomas Driffield of Knaresborough, builder, Enos Cundall of Knaresborough, stone mason, Thomas Allinson of Knaresborough, plumber and glazier, John Dearlove of High Harrogate, innkeeper and Ralph Dearlove of Knaresborough, linen manufacturer.

For and in consideration of (2) erecting and building a certain Cotton Mill and other erections and buildings on the Lands and Grounds of the said John and Charles Lomas and at all the above mentioned Parties joint expense. And in consideration of the rent hereinafter reserved, and Covenants contained on behalf of (2), John and Charles Lomas demise to (2) All that new Erection or Building intended for a Cotton Mill with the Finishing house, Drying house except the Cellar underneath the Drying house belonging the late Paper Mill and another Building adjoining thereto on the North End thereof and also a Room on the first floor in the Dwellinghouse of the said John Lomas at the South End thereof. Together also with the Use of the Water, Water Wheel, Pit Wheel and other Wheel or Wheels, Geering or Geerings, Upright Shaft and Fly Wheels belonging the same with the Priviledge of fixing one or more Tumbling Shafts upon the Upright Shaft and Fly Wheels and other Appurtenances thereunto belonging at all Times in the year for the Purpose of carrying on the Manufactory of preparing carding, roving and spinning of cotton. Together with all Ways (Except through the Garden at the Front of the Dwelling House of John Lomas), Paths, Passages, Waters, Watercourses, Lights, Easements and Appurtenances to the same premises belonging. (1) to have liberty of ingress with tenants and workmen at all times to enter demised premises and to view the state and condition thereof and of the Water Wheel Pit Wheel and other Wheels Dam and all the Appurtenances belonging. And also full and free liberty at all times to supply in the first Place the said Town and Part of the township of Scriven with Tentergate sufficiently with water according to the Terms of an Act of Parliament obtained for that Purpose without paying or making any satisfaction whatsoever for so doing. To have and to hold the said Cotton Mill and other Erections and Buildings on the demised premises with the use of the Water, Water Wheel, Pit Wheel, and other wheels, from 5 April last for 21 years, paying every year rent of £100 over and above all taxes, charges and assessments. (Deeds)

1793

Draft of Assignment of Demised Premises, etc. April 1793.

This Indenture made the ... Day of April 1793 between

1. John Lomas the younger now or late of Scriven with Tentergate, County of York, cotton manufacturer, Charles Lomas of Knaresborough, engineer, Enos Cundall of the same place, Mason, Thomas Allinson of same place, plumber and glazier, John Dearlove of same place, cotton manufacturer and Ralph Dearlove of the same place, linen manufacturer
2. Stephen Parkinson of Knaresborough fell-monger, Thomas Driffield of same place, builder, John Simpson of same place, gentleman and Robert Thornton of Ayrton in County of York, cotton manufacturer.

Whereas by Indenture of Demise on or about 12 November 1791 said John Lomas and Charles Lomas did Demise and to Farm let for the Term of 21 Years [last 6 words deleted]. All those the premises therein described for the purpose of erecting a cotton mill or mills and other the buildings for carrying on the Business of Manufacturing [Manufacturing deleted, Spinning inserted] of Cotton and for other purposes therein mentioned situate at Knaresborough [Knaresborough deleted, in Scriven with Tentergate inserted] unto said John Lomas (deleted), Charles Lomas (deleted), Robert Thornton, Enos Cundall, Thomas Allinson, John Dearlove, Ralph Dearlove and Thomas Driffield [see **Insert 1**].

And Whereas the Mill Buildings, Edifices and other Erections have been made agreeable to the said part recited [see **Insert 2**] indenture, now this indenture witnesseth that for 5s. John Lomas, Charles Lomas, Enos Cundall, Thomas Allinson, Ralph and John Dearlove transfer to Stephen Parkinson, Thomas Driffield, John Simpson and Robert Thornton all their and each Right to said new erected Mill, Buildings and other demised premises together with all Ways, Water Courses Cuts and Goits whatsoever occupied and now enjoyed by the premises for remainder of Term of 21 years. And also claim on Machinery, Engines, Utensils and all the apparatus whatsoever that has been, or now is in use in the said Mill and Buildings together with all the Cotton Wool, Twist and other the premises belonging the said Co partnership... for best price that can be got [see **Insert 3**] and sell the several machines, Engines...

**Insert 1:** for the Term of 21 years to commence from 5 April the last part, and whereas by Indenture of 8 parts bearing date 14 November 1791, made by John Lomas, Thomas Driffield said parties did thereby agree to become co-partners in the trade or business of Manufacturing [deleted, Spinning inserted] cotton for the term of 21 years on the said demised premises.

**Insert 2:** And whereas the said John Lomas, Charles Lomas, Enos Cundall, Thomas Allinson, John Dearlove, Ralph Dearlove, Thomas Driffield and Robert Thornton have agreed that the co-partnership shall be dissolved as hereinafter mentioned and in order to accomplish this John Lomas, Charles Lomas, Thomas Allinson, John Dearlove and Ralph Dearlove agree to assign said Mill with all the Buildings and Machinery thereto belonging and also the Stock in Trade and Debts of every kind to the said Stephen Parkinson, Thomas Driffield, John Simpson and Robert Thornton upon Trust hereinafter mentioned, now this indenture witnessable that for carrying the said agreement into execution and

**Insert 3:** And for better recovering said debts owing to them

John Lomas, Charles Lomas, Enos Cundall, Thomas Allinson, John Dearlove, Ralph Dearlove together with Thomas Drifffield and Robert Thornton, then John Lomas to Ralph Dearlove dispute Stephen Parkinson, Thomas Drifffield, John Simpson and Robert Thornton their attornies.  
(Deeds)

- 1793 Conditions of Sale and Purchase Article (copies). 3 May 1793.  
(Deeds) (**Document 1**)
- 1798 Annexed to the water works, a paper-mill was erected, where that business was carried on with success till the year 1791, when the cotton-mill was erected, by Messrs. Thornton, Lomas, & Co., and began its operations on the 22nd of September that year - In the year 1793 this mill was sold and became the property of Messrs. Curtis, Drifffield, Oliver, Dearlove & Co., by whom the business is now carried on. The spinning of cotton was soon followed by an attempt to introduce the weaving of that article, and looms were set up for that purpose, by Messrs. Lister & Cockshaw: several other persons followed their example; and at this time (1798) there are no less than two hundred looms employed which, on an average, produce four hundred pieces each week.  
(Hargrove 1798, 55, repeated in 6th edition, 1809)
- 1822 Ellison and Forster, flax spinners, Old mills, Knaresborough.  
(Baines 1822, 226)
- 1824 Transfer of Mortgage for £4,000. 14 April 1824.  
John Ellison and his mortgagees to William Collins.  
All those Waterworks, Water Mill, Houses, Edifices and Buildings near the River Nidd, with messuage where John Lomas formerly dwelt but now converted into Workshops and Warehouses, and also all that Mill formerly used as a Paper Mill, afterwards for the Spinning of Cotton, but for several years past, for the spinning of Flax situate between the said Water Mill and River Nidd, and now in possession, tenure or occupation of Messieurs Lambert Ellison and Roger Forster or their undertenants, and also all engines cisterns reservoirs pipes cocks and other apparatus for conveying water from River Nidd and supplying the Town of Knaresborough and Township of Scriven with Tentergate thereunto. And also all the Auction and other materials utensils and implements whatsoever to or with the said mills or either of them belonging or appertaining. And all other messuages mills lands and hereditaments and part and shares of M. M. C. & H. late estate of John Lomas in Scriven with Tentergate and Knaresborough.  
(Deeds)
- 1826 Further charge of £600. 14 April 1826.
1. Lambert Ellison of Knaresborough, gentleman, devisee in fee named in Will of John Ellison late of Knaresborough, merchant, deceased.
  2. William Collins of Kirkman Bank, township of Scriven with Tentergate.
- All those Waterworks Water Mill Houses Edifices and Buildings near the River Nidd in the township of Knaresborough and Scriven with Tentergate in one of them with the Messuage Dwellinghouse or Tenement wherein John Lomas formerly dwelt, but then converted into Workshops and Warehouses. And also all that Mill formerly used as a Paper Mill, afterwards for the Spinning of Cotton, but for several years past for the

spinning of Flax situate between the said Water Mill and the said River Nidd and then in the possession, tenure or occupation of Messieurs Lambert Ellison and Roger Forster or their undertenants. And also all Engines, Cisterns, Reservoirs and other apparatus for conveying water from the River Nidd and supplying the town of Knaresborough and the township of Scriven with Tentergate by virtue of Act of Parliament passed in fourth year of reign of late majesty King George the third entitled 'An Act for the better supplying the town of Knaresborough and that part of the Township of Scriven with Tentergate adjoining upon the said town with Water'. And also all the tackle and other materials, utensils and implements whatsoever to or with the said Mills or either of them belonging. And all other messuages, mills, lands and hereditaments late the estate of John Lomas in Scriven with Tentergate and Knaresborough. Together with the appurtenances to the same belonging were for considerations mentioned granted to William Collins, heirs and assigns, subject to proviso for redemption.

And whereas by a certain writing of surrender of even date with hereinbefore recited indenture John Ellison did surrender (inter alia) all that parcel of land in Scriven with Tentergate with Manor of Knaresborough and containing one acre formerly part of certain Closes called Castle Ings and which are divided therefrom by a stone wall adjoining on the Castle Moat on the north and the said Closes called Castle Ings formerly of John Baxter on the south and heretofore in occupation of Thomas Lister and others with all the dwellinghouses, cottages, erections and buildings thereupon or on some part thereof erected and built and then or late in possession or occupation of John Ellison and Lambert Ellison and Roger Forster and of George Clarkson, John Atkinson, John Carter, William Hawkridge, Thomas Walker, William Waite, Benjamin Young, John Tenant, Henry Dalton, Jeremiah Temple, Joseph Warwick, John White, Henry Potts, Mrs. Dearlove, Christopher Amos, Widow Harrison, Joseph Ainsworth and Thomas Parker or their respective undertenants formerly part of estate of John Lomas deceased, to the use of William Collins. By this indenture the said freehold and copyhold premises made subject to proviso for redemption on payment by John Ellison of £4,000 and interest. John Ellison lately departed, devise to his son Lambert Ellison subject to payment. Lambert Ellison prevailed on William Collins to advance further sum of £600 on security of premises.

(Deeds)

- 1832      Annexed to the water works... [as Hargrove 1798, 55]... Messrs. Curtis, Driffield, Oliver, Dearlove & Co., and afterwards became the sole property of Mr. John Ellison. (Hargrove 1832, 33)
- 1833      Evidence of Messrs. John Vipont and Co., Knaresborough Old Mills, Scriven. Flax and tow spinning; applied to present purpose 1 July 1832; water powered from 25 horse wheel. (FIC, Supplementary Report, 1834, C.I., Part II, mill number 250) (Document 3)
- 1834      Samuel Wilkinson, flax spinners and thread manufacturers, Old Mills, Knaresborough. (Pigot 1834, 811)

- 1836 Charge for £400. 1 November 1836.  
Lambert Ellison and others to William Collins.  
All those freehold waterworks, water mills, houses, edifices and buildings near River Nidd, with messuage wherein John Lomas formerly dwelt but now converted into Workshops and Warehouse, And also all that Mill formerly used as a Paper Mill afterwards for the spinning of cotton but for several years now past for the spinning of flax situate between said Water Mill and River Nidd and now in possession of Mr. Samuel Wilkinson or his undertenants. And also all Engines, Cisterns, Reservoirs, pipes, cocks and other apparatus for conveying water from River Nidd and supplying Town of Knaresborough and Township of Scriven with Tentergate thereunto. Also all tackle and other materials and implements whatsoever to or with the said mills or either of these belonging. And all that copyhold parcel of land of one acre, formerly part of closes called Castle Ings, adjacent Castle Moat to North, closes called Castle Ings formerly of John Baxter to south and heretofore occupied by Thomas Lister and others together with all the dwellinghouses, cottages, erections and buildings thereupon erected and built. And also part of one Waste Building in Stockwell Lane. And also several dwellinghouses or tenements and other erections...  
(Deeds)
- 1837 Samuel Wilkinson & Co., flax and tow spinners and thread manufacturers, Castle Mills, Knaresborough.  
(White 1837, 720)
- 1841 Samuel Wilkinson, flax spinner and thread manufacturer and linen manufacturer, Old mills/Castle mill, Knaresborough.  
(Pigot 1841, 182-3)
- 1844 Samuel Wilkinson, flax spinners, thread manufacturers and linen manufacturers, Old Mills, Knaresborough.  
(Williams 1844, 88)
- c.1847 The firm of Walton and Co. took over Castle Mill in about 1847.  
(Jennings 1970, 279)
- 1847-49 The Castle Mill; Water Works.  
(O.S. 6 inch, Sheet 154, Surveyed 1847-49) (Document 5)
- 1848 Walton and Simpson, linen manufacturers, High Street, Knaresborough.  
(Slater 1848, 1180)
- 1851 John Walton, Byards Lodge, Knaresborough. Aged 39. Linen manufacturer with one partner, employing 272 men, 106 women, 25 boys and 20 girls. (Most employees handloom weavers and bleachers).  
(1851 Census)

- 1851 Certificate: Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations 1851. I hereby certify that the Jurors have made Honorable mention of Messrs. Walton & Co. for Sheetings and Huckabacks shown in the Exhibition. Exhibition, Hyde Park, London, 15 Oct. 1851; signed Albert, President of the Royal Commission. Medal attached. (Walton MSS)
- Seamless linen shirt exhibited in 1851. (Kellett 1984, 30) (Document 6)
- 1861 John Walton & Co., linen manufacturers and bleachers, York Place, Knaresborough. (Kelly 1861, 436)
- 1865 Walton & Co., linen manufacturers and bleachers, York Place, Knaresborough. (Slater 1864, 320)
- 1865 Lease 8 May 1865.
1. William Collins of Kirkham Bank, township of Scriven with Tentergate, Esq. (Mortgagee in possession of hereditaments and premises hereinafter described).
  2. William Ellison of Knaresborough, gentleman (a Mortgagor of Equity of Redemption).
  3. Lambert Ellison of Knaresborough, gentleman (executor of John Ellison, late of Knaresborough, merchant, deceased).
  4. William Walton, Alfred Walton and Henry Walton, all of Knaresborough, Linen Manufacturers.
- All that Mill called Castle Mill in township of Scriven with Tentergate. And all those six cottages workshops, Flax and yarn rooms Heckling Shops, Dwelling houses, Yards and other erections adjoining thereto. And also the water wheel power and Race belonging to the said mill all now in occupation of said lessees and their undertenants, saving and reserving to said lessors all the shafts, wheels and other gear connected with and driving the water works engines, pumps and other machinery belonging to the water works, filtering, cellar pump, well, main branch and other pipes for supplying the Town of Knaresborough with water with the precedent use of the water and power moving the same in the manner mentioned in the water works acts. Together with the water, goits, sluices, cloughs, water wheels, waters, water courses, rights, members and appurtenances to the said demised hereditaments belonging and now used and occupied subject to reservations aforesaid.
- To hold the said mills, machinery and all other premises from 1 January 1866, the time at which the present lease expires, for 21 years, at rent of £150... And shall sufficiently repair said Mill, Warehouses, Dwelling houses, Flax and Yarn Room, Heckling Shops, Cottages and other buildings demised and the windows, doors and floors of the said Mills other buildings (the Water Wheel, Dam, Main Walls, Roofs and main timbers of the said mill and other buildings excepted. And also excepted any repairs made necessary by damage from fire or other

inevitable accident). And Lessees shall not make any improper use of said dam or the water checked thereby so as to infuse or affect the said Water works or present lessors or assigns, workmen or agents for working, using, supplying water from said water works. And also the lessors shall substantially repair and keep in repair at their own cost and expense the said Mill Dam, Needle, Cloughs, Water wheel with wheel at each end of the axle tree, the upright shaft in the calender room with the bevel wheels thereupon, the connecting wheels between the water wheel and the horizontal shaft (the property of the lessees) in the low weaving shop, goits and mill races and also all and every main walls, roofs and main timber of the said Mill, Warehouse, Workshops and other buildings.

Memorandum that Messrs. William and Lambert Ellison, parties to the annexed lease of (2) and (3) do hereby agree with Messrs. William, Alfred and Henry Walton (4) to erect at their own expense on the premises thereby leased at any time during the continuance of such lease when required so to do by the said William, Alfred and Henry Walton another Power Loom Weaving Shed according to plans to be mutually agreed upon, And the said William, Alfred and Henry Walton agree to pay to William and Lambert Ellison interest in respect of the money expended by them in the erection of such buildings after the rate of £6 per cent per annum. As witness the 8 May 1865.  
(Deeds)

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Labels for goods:

Knaresborough. Bought of Walton and Co., manufacturers by power, Bleachers, Dyers and Spinners of Linen Yarns and Patent Threads. Grass Bleached Linens, Sheetings, Damasks, Diapers and Huckabacks all widths. Bed Ticks, Mattresses, Dowlasses, Ducks, Drills, Checks, Gingham, Sripes etc. Linen manufacturers by Special Appointment to the Queen.

Manchester: As Knaresborough label but with address of 2 Johnson Street, Cannon Street, Manchester.

(Walton MSS) (Document 8)

1860s, 70s

Letterhead: Walton &amp; Co., Linen Manufacturers, Bleachers and Finishers, Quebec Street, Leeds.

(Walton MSS) (Document 9)

1871

Agreement to purchase the Waterworks. 6 November 1871.

1. William Ellison of Knaresborough, gentleman (vender)
2. The Improvement Commissioners acting as the Local Board of Health Inspectors for District of Knaresborough and Tentergate, (the Purchasers).

William Ellison entitled to estate subject to mortgage of £4,600 due to trustees of William Collins deceased, and subject to mill, warehouses and cottages near or adjoining forming part of said premises to a lease to the Messieurs Walton dated 1 January 1866.

Agreed Vendor shall sell and Purchaser purchase premises in Schedule and plan at £4,000 subject to mortgage of £4,600 and interest, making £8,600.

Schedule (see Document 10)

Plan (no longer attached)

(Walton MSS) (Document 10)

- 1872 Deed of Indemnity. 5 August 1872.  
 1. William Ellison of Knaresborough, gentleman  
 2. Local Board of Health for District of Knaresborough and Tentergate.  
 Whereas the Board have recently contracted with William Ellison for purchase of certain freehold and copyhold hereditaments known as Castle Mills and Water works ...and Engines, Water wheels, Pumps, Dams, Rights of water, Mains Tanks, Cisterns, Filters, Taps, Cocks and other apparatus and machinery used for or in connection with supply of water from mills and water works under Powers of Act of Parliament of 4 George III entitled 'An Act for the better supplying of the Town of Knaresborough... with water'.  
 (Deeds)
- c.1872 Utensil Ledger. Undated, but with record of purchasing Knaresborough Linen Company Ltd. factory in 1872.  
 (Walton MSS) (**Document 11**)
- 1869-90 Ledger for Rents, Rates, Taxes and Gas etc.  
 (Walton MSS) (**Document 12**)
- 1874 Minutes of Waterworks Committee and their letter to Joseph Todd of 26 October 1874; return letter from Joseph Todd, 29 October 1874. Re two iron wheels on shafting at Castle Mill.  
 (Deeds) (**Document 13**)
- 1877 Walton & Co., linen manufacturers, sheetings, huckabacks, ticks, damasks, glass and tea cloths, towels, etc. and bleachers of linen yarns and cloth, York place, Knaresborough.  
 (Kelly 1877, 508)
- John Birks Pigott and Son, linen manufacturers, Shaw Mill, Race Common Road, Barnsley.  
 (Kelly 1877, 56)
- 1879 Local Board of Health and Waterworks Committee meetings, extracts from Minutes.  
 5 May 1879: Application of Mr. H. Walton, on behalf of Messrs. Walton to improve the Warehouse part of the Mill property by reference to Waterworks Committee.  
 26 May 1879: Meeting to consider application of Messrs. Walton for certain alterations at the Castle Mills, and ordered at last meeting of Board be referred to this Committee. Messrs. Walton attended with plans and specifications of proposed alterations. Examined. Resolved lease be extended for 14 years from expiration of present lease, at same rent, on condition Messrs. Walton do proposed alterations, estimated to cost £200, and buildings as altered belong to Commissioners.  
 2 June 1879: Messrs. Walton's proposed alterations approved.  
 28 July 1879: Messrs. Walton found the building of the Storehouse in such a dangerous condition they desired the Committee inspect it. Architect's proposals for taking down and rebuilding the walls on north and east sides with a new roof covered with good Welsh slates, whole estimated to cost from £40-£50. Agreed work as proposed by Messrs. Walton's Architects be done, Commissioners allowing to them £20 from rent as proportion of expense of work.  
 Confirmed by Board meeting 4 August 1879.  
 (Deeds)

- 1881 Walton & Co., linen manufacturers, Castle Mills, Knaresborough.  
(Kelly 1881, 608)
- 1881 Rental and Rateable Value of Property in the occupation of Walton & Co., August 1881.  
(Walton MSS) (**Document 14**)
- 1886 Meeting of the Waterworks Committee. 17 May 1886.  
Condition of building called 'Winding Room', forming part of Castle Mills, inspected. Resolved gable of building be taken down, and properly and substantially rebuilt, that the Surveyor, with kind assistance of Mr. Hobson, prepare suitable specifications, and notice be given to every master builder in town to send tenders by 1 June.  
(Deeds)
- Specifications and tenders from William Whincup (unsuccessful) and William Rennison (successful).  
(Deeds) (**Document 15**)
- 1887 Letters to and from Walton and Co., and to Waterworks Committee, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 September 1887 re power.  
(Deeds) (**Document 16**)
- Walton & Co., linen manufacturers and bleachers, Castle Mills, Waterside, Knaresborough.  
(Slater 1887, 226)
- 1888 18 January 1888. Messrs. Alfred Walton and Augustus Charles Dore, trading as Walton & Co., linen manufacturers of Castle Mills, Knaresborough, successors to the late Mr. Thomas Simpson, have authority to use the Royal Arms.  
(Walton MSS)
- 1889 Castle Mill (Linen).  
(O.S. 10ft, Sheet 154/12/12, Surveyed 1889; O.S. 25 inch, Sheet 154.12, Surveyed 1889) (**Document 17**)
- 1893 Walton and Co., linen manufacturers, Castle Mills, Knaresborough.  
(Kelly 1893, 640)
- 7 February 1893. Local Board of Health to Walton & Co.  
In the event of the Board deciding to replace the old mill wheel by a Turbine, would you please inform me what increase you would pay the Board in respect of the advantage which will undoubtedly accrue to you in the substitution of a turbine as suggested.
- 24 February 1893. Reply of Walton & Co.  
We are willing to give £25 a year extra rent for the extra power etc. which is provided from the turbine.
- 12 December 1894. Walton & Co. to Local Board of Health.  
Letter re recent breakdown of water wheel gearing. We have never admitted any negligence on our part. In 1883 our shaft and wheel were sent to Messrs. Todd and the key for fastening both together was put in and fixed by them. Main factor in accident is irregular and uneven motion of old waterwheel and backlash caused thereby, whole force of wheel is borne by the key in question.  
(Deeds)

- 1894 22 May 1894. Walton & Co. to Local Board of Health.  
(Document 18)
- 1 December 1894. Walton & Co. to Local Board of Health.  
Memorandum. I return your report. The greatest drawback to the water wheel from our point of view is its unsteady working and our inability to govern it.  
(Deeds)
- 1895 24, 26 April 1895. Walton & Co. to Knaresborough U.D.C.  
(Deeds) (Document 19)
- 27 December 1895. Turbine commenced running.  
(Annotation on letter of 30 September 1798, Document 20)  
(Deeds)
- 1898 30 September 1898. Walton & Co. to Knaresborough U.D.C.  
(Deeds) (Document 20)
- Transfer of Business of Messrs. Walton & Co., from 1 November 1898, Walton and Co.'s Successors.  
(Walton MSS) (Document 21)
- 1899 Valuation of dilapidations at the Castle Mill, Cottages, Stables etc., thereto belonging as held and a lease by Messrs. Walton & Co. (and lease expiring on the 31 December 1898).  
(Deeds) (Document 22)
- 1863-99 Walton and Co; Walton and Co.'s Successors, Price Lists, 1863-99, and one pre-1863.  
(Walton MSS) (Document 23)
- 1899 Photograph of Castle Mills, Knaresborough from south on outer rear cover of Walton and Co.'s Price List dated 1 January 1899.  
(Walton MSS) (Document 24)
- 1899-1901 Diary, signed by Henry William Carson.  
(Walton MSS) (Document 25)
- 1901 Agreement of tenancy of Castle Mills. 2 September 1901.  
1. Knaresborough U.D.C. (Lessors)  
2. Henry William Carson of Elgin House, Knaresborough and Joseph Carson of Barnsley, Linen Manufacturers (Lessees).  
Take all that Mill called Castle Mill with shops, warehouse, shed, yard and other buildings connected therewith, and also all those seven cottages adjacent thereto (save the precedent use of the turbine with its appurtenances, water power, the shafts, wheels and other gear connected with and driving the water works, engines, pumps and other machinery belonging to the water works, filtering, cellar pump, well, main branch and other pipes necessary for supplying Town of Knaresborough). Lessors shall permit lessees to use such surplus power (if any) as may be available on and above what Lessors require. If Lessors require whole of water power, rent £80. Year to year tenancy from 1 January, £120.  
Lessors to keep main walls, roofs and main timbers in good repair; if through any alteration of gearing or turbine the lessees have to re-arrange their connection, to be paid for by Council.  
(Deeds)

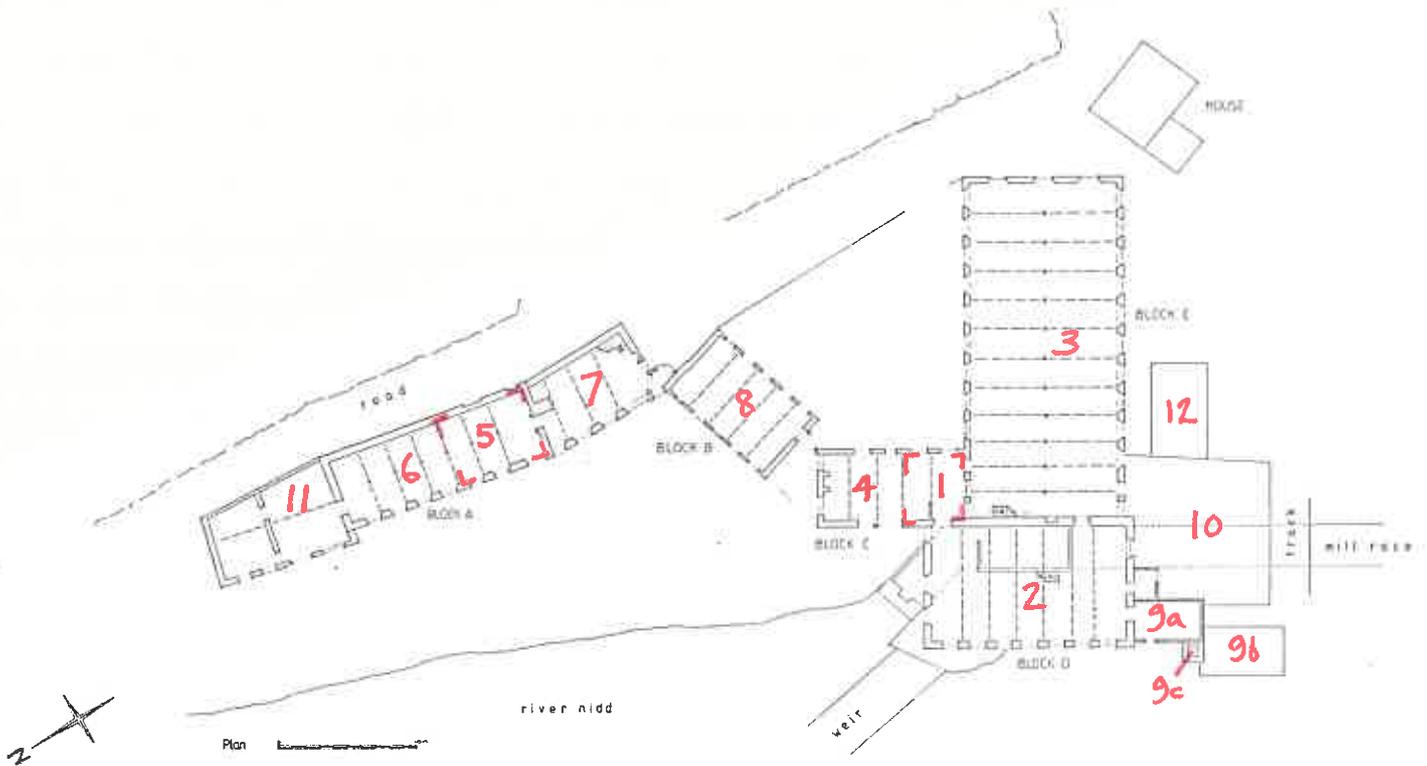
- 1902 Heads of Agreement. 3 March 1902.  
Between Knaresborough U.D.C. and Harrogate Corporation re Harrogate Sewerage Scheme Provisional Order.  
7. Knaresborough U.D.C. to keep in repair the existing turbine at the Mill and all other plant and machinery at present used for raising water from the Filter Beds near the Mill until the Waterworks at Masham, pursuant to the Harrogate Water Act 1901, are completed or abandoned and during that time to allow Corporation to use the same and the existing reservoirs and filter beds on all occasions.  
10. Harrogate Corporation, in using Turbine at the Mill, shall not reduce the power to the said Mill to a greater extent than the U.D.C. at present reduce the same, and if do, pay compensation to the U.D.C.  
(Deeds)
- 1893-early 20th C. Carson Partners, Barnsley, Price lists.  
(Walton MSS) (**Document 26**)
- 1904 Walton & Co. (successors to), linen manufacturers, Castle Mills, Knaresborough.  
(Kelly 1901, 620)
- Carson Partners, linen manufacturers, Shaw Mills, Race Common Road, Barnsley.  
(Kelly 1901, 72)
- 1904-6 Carson Partners, linen manufacturers and merchants, Shaw Mill, Barnsley.  
(Robinson 1904-6, 500)
- Walton & Co.'s Successors, Castle Mills, Waterside, Knaresborough - linen manufacturers and merchants.  
(Robinson 1904-6, 501)
- 1907 Agreement of tenancy. 21 March 1907.  
1. Knaresborough U.D.C. (Lessors) and  
2. Henry William Carson of Kirkgate House, Knaresborough and Joseph Carson of Barnsley, linen manufacturers (Lessees).  
All that Mill called Castle Mill and also all that cottage, stable, cart shed, workshops, flax and yarn rooms and dwelling houses, yards and other erections adjoining and also the turbine wheel power and race belonging the said Mill... Yearly rent £160. Agreed when and as soon as the Lessors shall put down a Governor to the Turbine the annual rent shall be increased by £5.  
(Deeds)
- Castle Mill (Linen).  
(O.S. 25 inch, Sheet 154.12, Revised 1907) (**Document 27**)
- 1910-11 Walton & Co.'s Successors, linen manufacturers, bleachers and finishers, Castle Mills. 150 looms.  
(Worrall 1910-11, 161)
- 1911 Castle Mills insurance plan, 1 February 1911.  
(Walton MSS) (**Document 28**)
- Agreement re land with three Reservoirs recently used as filter beds.  
(Deeds) (**Document 29**)

- 1913 28 August 1913. Edwin Kitching to Knaresborough U.D.C.  
(Deeds) (**Document 30**)
- 1915-16 Walton & Co.'s Successors, linen manufacturers, bleachers and finishers, Castle Mills. 150 looms.  
(Worrall 1915-16, 187)
- 1919-20 Walton & Co.'s Successors, linen manufacturers, bleachers and finishers, Castle Mills. 150 looms.  
(Worrall 1919-20, 203)
- 1919 Walton and Company Limited established.  
(The Drapers' Record, 4 June 1919, 606) (**Document 32**)
- 1926 Article and photograph about Castle Mill and its products.  
(Walton MSS: The Leeds Mercury, 21 January 1926) (**Document 31**)
- 1927 Article about Walton and Co. and photograph of Castle Mills.  
(Walton MSS: The Drapers' Record, 4 June 1927, 606) (**Document 32**)
- 1928 Note about Castle Mills.  
(Walton MSS: The Industrial World Mid-February 1928, 6)  
(**Document 33**)
- 1932 Castle Mill (Linen).  
(O.S. 25 inch, Sheet 154.12, Revised 1932) (**Document 34**)
- 1947 Lease. 31 July 1947.  
1. Knaresborough U.D.C.  
2. Walton & Co. Ltd., and their successors.  
Council demise Mill called Castle Mill and all that cottage, cart shed, workshops, flax and yarn rooms and other erections adjoining, And also the turbine wheel power and race with yards and piece of land between mill race and river known as 'Island', all in occupation of Company, together with Landlords fixtures specified in Schedule and the water goits, sluices, cloughs, turbine wheel, water courses with the stone bed upon which the water pump and engine formerly used for supplying the town of Knaresborough stood (except tenant's fixtures which comprise all other shafting, drums, engines, boilers, pulleys, pedestals, wheels, hangers, shelves, stillages, machinery, machines, gas, steam and water pipes (except pipes formerly used for supplying town with water) and all other fixtures.  
Schedule: Hangers or pedestals; turbine wheel; shaft from turbine upright, bevel wheels, main shaft; two main horizontal shafts; drum; drum at wall next calender; governors and connections.  
[No values included; plan taken from one in 1911 Agreement, derived from O.S. 10ft. map, and in turn used as basis for that in Lease of 31 March 1969 (**Document 35**)]  
(Deeds)
- 1969 Lease. 31 March 1969.  
(**Document 34**)
- 1984 Walton & Co. Ltd. announce move to Harrogate from 2 January 1984.  
(Walton MSS)

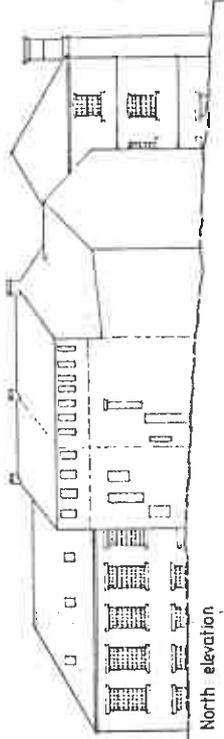
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CASTLE MILL, KNARESBOROUGH

Block Plan

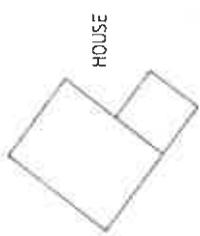


1. Waterworks.
2. Mill 1, paper mill.
3. Mill 2, flax mill. Probably on site of cotton mill.
4. ?former cottage.
- 5, 6, 7. Cottages, later workshops and warehouses.
8. Industrial building.
- 9a. Engine house.
- 9b. Boiler house.
- 9c. Chimney.
10. Winding room, later weaving shed.
11. Warehouse.
12. Industrial building.

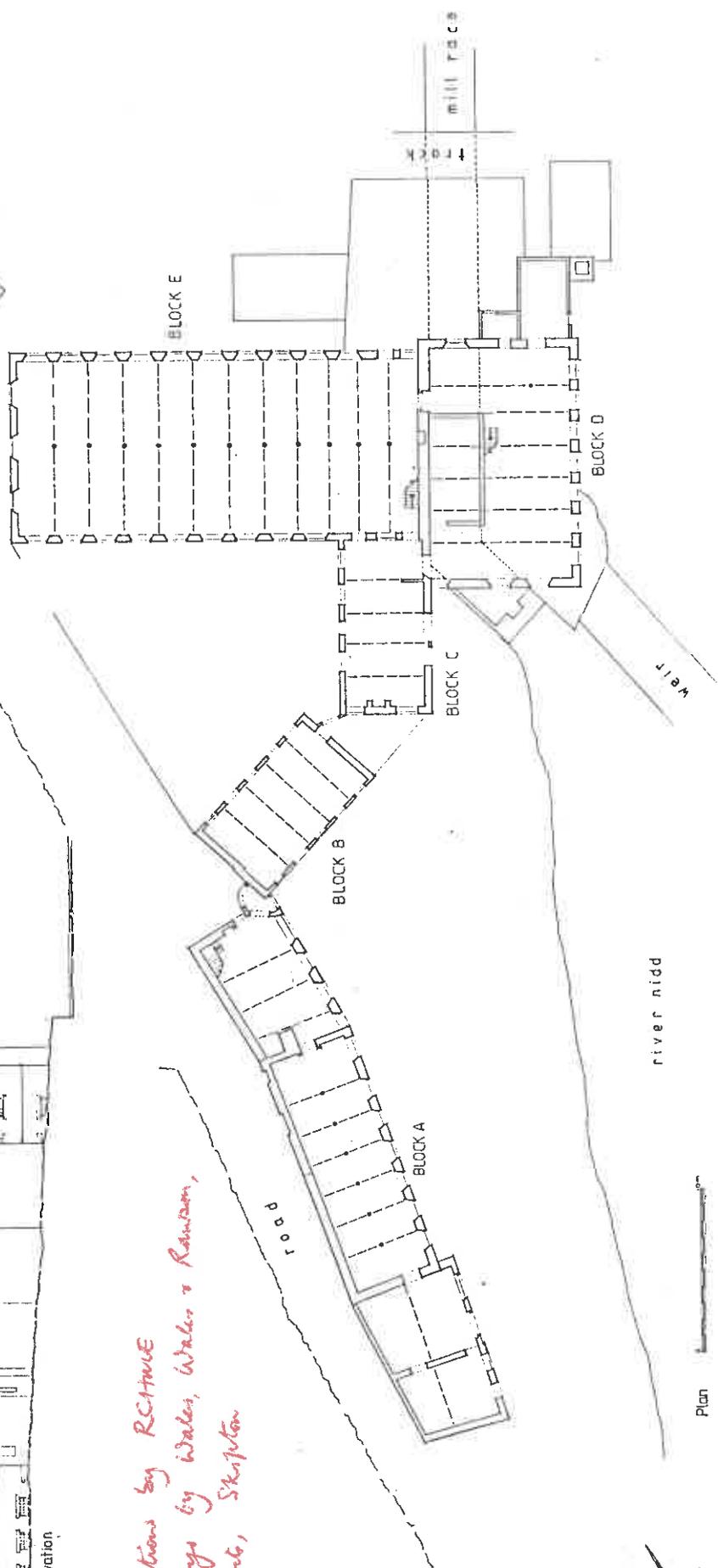


North elevation

*Plan and elevations by RCHAVE  
based on surveys by Wales, Wiles & Ransom,  
Chartered Architects, Skipton*



HOUSE

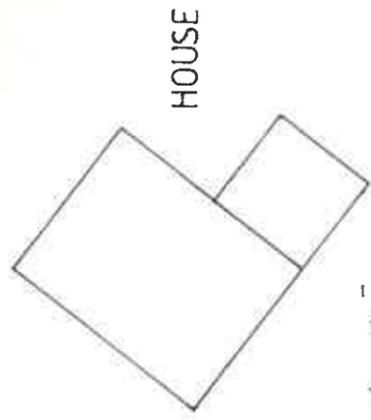


river nidd

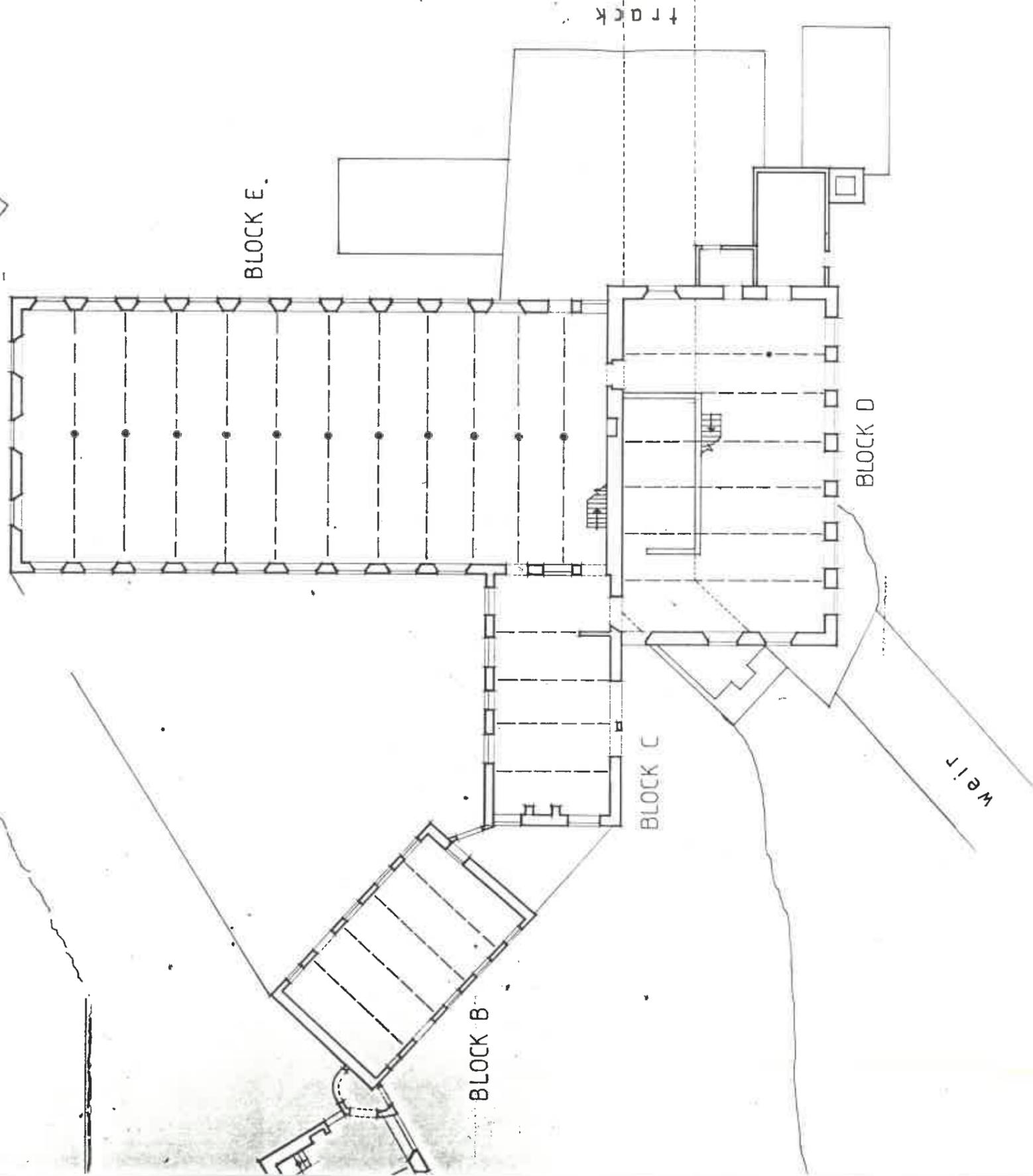
Plan



West elevation



HOUSE



BLOCK E.

BLOCK B

BLOCK C

BLOCK D

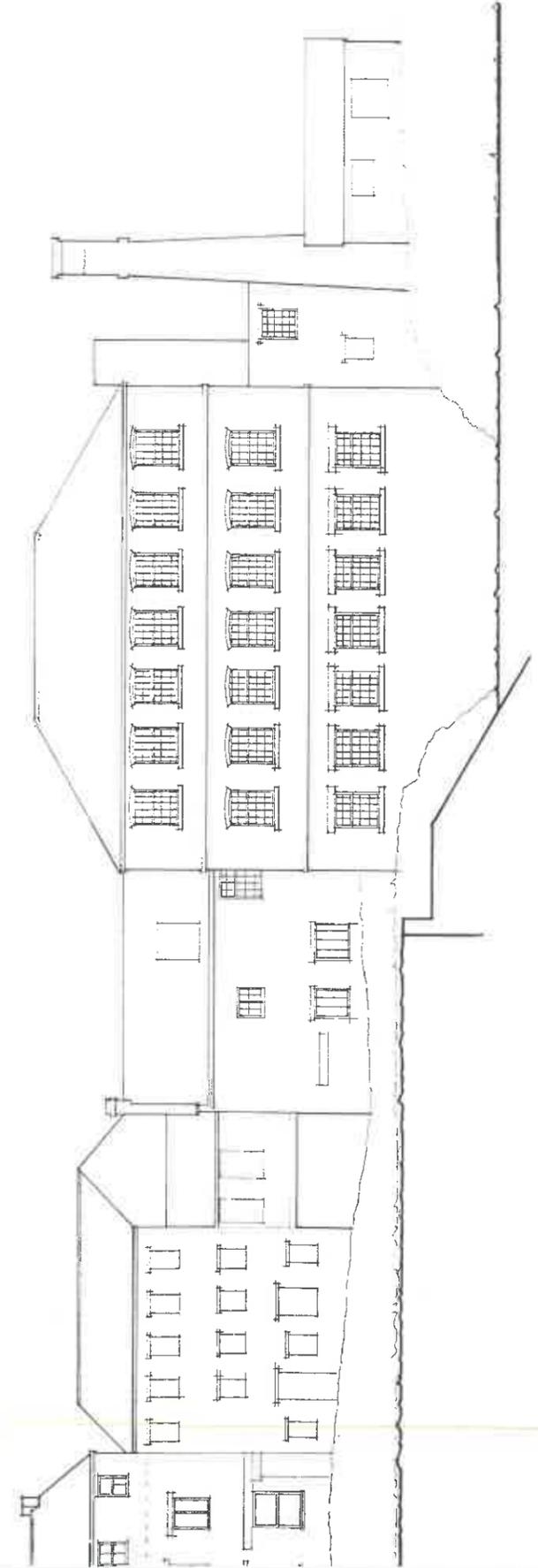
TRACK

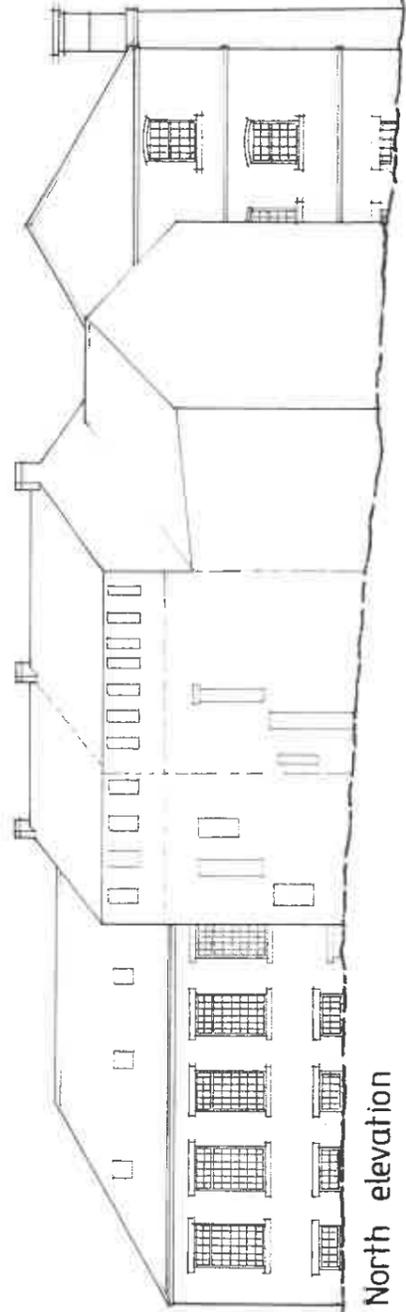
mill race

Weir

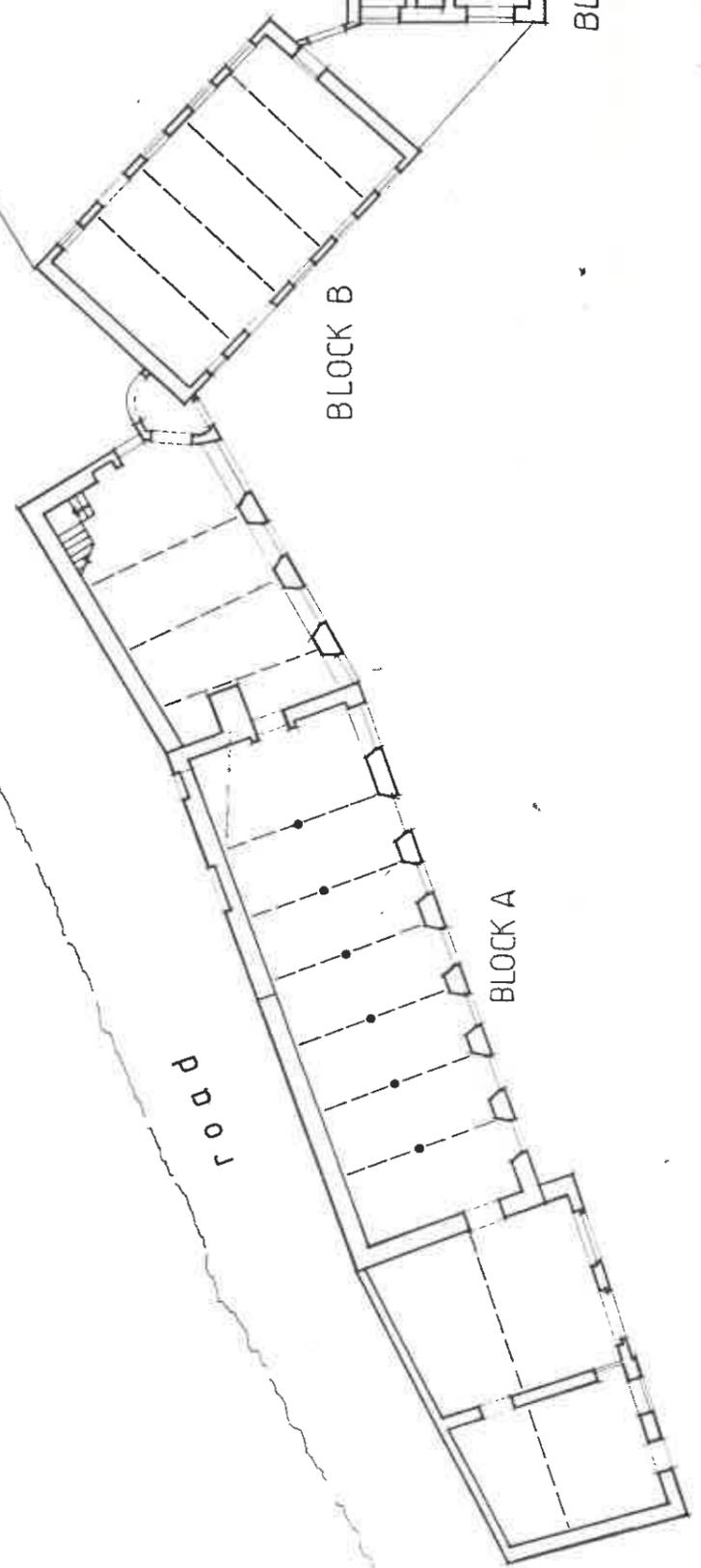
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Castle Mill,  
Kearnsburgh



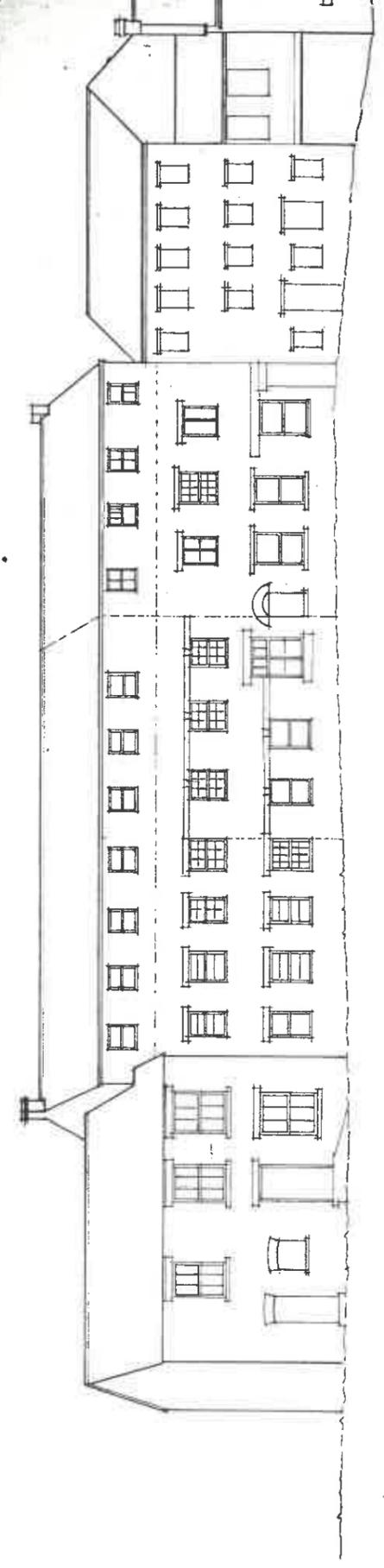


North elevation



river nidd

Plan 10M



West elevation