

27⁵/03

Dear Mr. De Luca

As promised, here is the section on the White Horse p.h. taken from the "Survey of London" history. I also enclose the relevant page of references. The reference to Speeding is very tenuous, but I enclose the relevant section for info.

With Compliments

Regards.

R. Aspinall

librarian.



MUSEUM IN
DOCKLANDS

River, Port & People

Museum in Docklands

No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay
Hertsmere Road, London, E14 4AL.

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7001 9800

Facsimile: +44 (0) 20 7001 9801

e-mail: info@museumindocklands.org.uk

Website: www.museumindocklands.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1060415

(Museum of the Port of London and Docklands)

Emslie's views in the 1870s show how much the High Street was then a shopping street (Plates 3a, 151a). But they probably show a street where retail prosperity was already in decline. Commentators attributed this to the departure of street-traders and costermongers to Chrisp Street, from the late 1860s onwards.⁸¹ The removal of the Poplar Railway Station to East India Dock Road in 1865-6 had probably made matters worse. By 1895 the *City Press* called it 'one of the worst paying thoroughfares in London'.⁸² From 1872 to 1900 few new shopfronts are noticed in the district surveyor's returns. There was then some increase, to 1915. But the Inland Revenue's valuer was driven to constant comment in his assessments of 1909-15 that this was 'a bad business street'.⁸³

As for the shops themselves, by the 1930s they shared one predominant characteristic with the rest of London's humbler shops: the division of the ground floor between the shop itself at the front and a separate 'shop parlour' behind, whence the proprietor would emerge at the tinkle of the shop bell. Access to the shop parlour and the rooms above was usually via the shop not via a separate street-door. Some shops of this kind were of very simple design. No. 22, built in 1876, had its shop parlour as its only living-room and of the two bedrooms above one opened out of the other.⁸⁴

Taverns were an early feature of Poplar, doubtless because of its function as a waiting place for water-borne travellers. Seven alehouses were licensed in Poplar in 1519⁸⁵ and six (all to 'yeomen') in Poplar as distinct from Blackwall in mid-century.⁸⁶ In the early to mid-nineteenth century the High Street had about seventeen licensed public houses plus eight beershops.⁸⁷ The publican was sometimes a man of enterprise and some of the street's lamentable back-courts were generated in the yards of public houses. Some taverns were licensed for music and dancing: in the late 1860s there were four of these, all on the north side.⁸⁸ At least two had rooms set aside for the purpose, and one of these (later the Queen's Theatre) developed into a full-blown music hall with the auditorium and bars conveniently adjacent. In the 1880s and 1890s about a third of all the building work in the street was given to its public houses,⁸⁹ and between 1894 and 1899 three (the Spotted Dog, the White Hart and the Blakeney's Head) were rebuilt.⁹⁰ One public house, the White Horse, rebuilt in 1927-8, retains the name and site it had in 1690.

The public houses latterly stood out from their neighbours by reason of their relatively good repair. In surveys taken in 1909-15 the Inland Revenue's valuer found seven out of ten buildings in the street to be in bad condition,⁹¹ and in the mid-1930s rebuilding along the street was given priority by Poplar Borough Council because of the dilapidation of the properties.⁹² This began to alter the character of the street, which was further eroded when more than a third of the houses were either destroyed or seriously damaged during the Second World War.⁹³

North Side

Nos 1 and 3 (demolished). The houses shown in about 1900 on Plate 2a were probably built or rebuilt in the 1840s following the acquisition of property here by Julius Natorff, a surgeon of Limehouse, who occupied No. 3 for many years. A horseflesh salesman, Mr McEwen, had been there only since 1899, but a hairdresser, G. Ablard, had been at No. 1 since the early 1860s.⁹⁴

The White Horse public house at Nos 9 and 11. The present public house was erected in 1927-8 by the builder H. V. Clogg of Battersea to designs by A. E. Sewell for Truman, Hanbury & Buxton, brewers (Plate 40c).⁹⁵ The site comprised No. 11, which had long been in use as a tavern, and No. 9, at the corner of North (now Saltwell) Street, which had previously been in separate occupation and prior to 1831 had accommodated the hamlet and parish watch-house.⁹⁶ Stylistically the present house is very like other Truman's houses of the period, such as the Bancroft in the Mile End Road.

There has been a tavern here with the present name since 1690 or earlier.⁹⁷ It was a good situation, close to the entrance to Poplar on the way to Blackwall and at the junction of the High Street with North Street, and overlooking the watering-place of Stonebridge pond (the position of which is still hinted at by the space in front of the White Horse).

The old White Horse was refronted or rebuilt in staid mid-Victorian classic style, perhaps about 1868-70. The freehold was bought by a lieutenant in the Hampshire Regiment in 1891 for £3,750 and sold by him to Trumans in 1921 for £4,350.⁹⁸

The sign of a white horse on a square post stood in front of the public house until 1993 (Plate 40e). Of lead, painted and filled with sand, it was modelled with great verve but had no known history and was difficult to date stylistically: the early to mid-eighteenth century might be suggested. In 1874 the lessee protested strongly and successfully to the Metropolitan Board of Works that to remove it 'would be fatal to the business'.⁹⁹

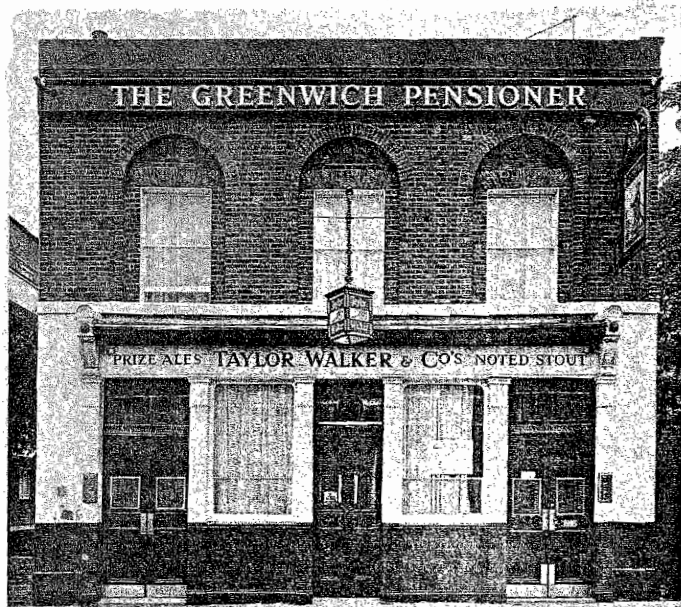
Nos 13 and 13A (demolished). The date of the buildings shown on Plate 4c is quite uncertain, although their site, together with that of No. 15, can be identified as belonging to the manor of Stepney in 1620, and as having a tenement on it in 1702 that replaced four cottages recently burnt. In 1767 it was owned by the Paillets, businessmen in Southwark and the City.¹⁰⁰ It was still owned by members of the family in 1828, when a lease for 21 years was granted of the two messuages on the site to John Gagen, a saddler, who undertook 'the substantially reinstating and repairing' of the messuages.¹⁰¹

No. 15 (demolished). This house was built in 1854 by Mary Ann Wood & Sons of Mile End for the owner, the

CHAPTER III (pp.55-97)

Poplar High Street

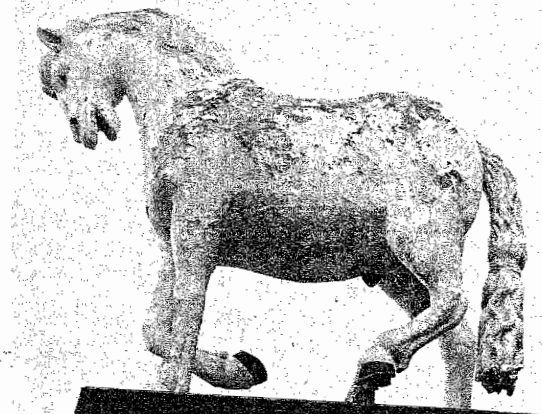
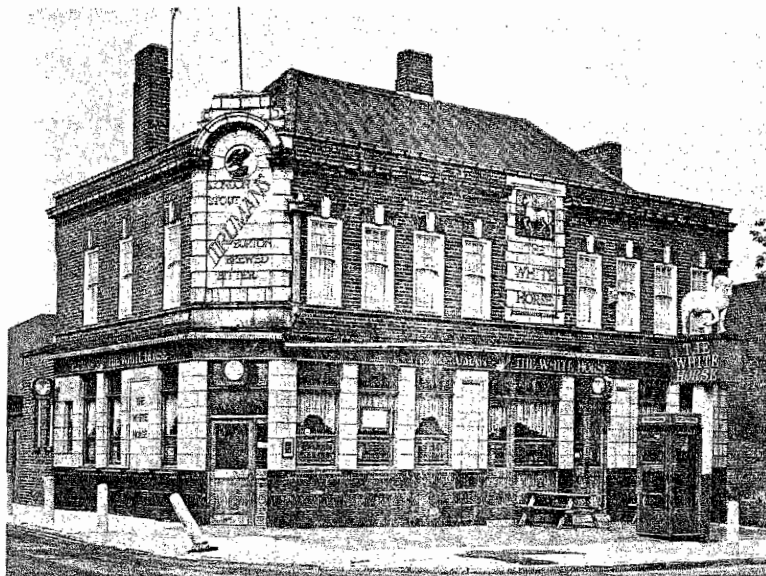
1. Booth, B15.
2. GLRO, SNP 395.
3. DA 2304.
4. Pop.454, p.79.
5. PRO, SC2/191/62.
6. PRO, SC2/191/49.
7. PRO, PROB11/570, f.156.
8. Pop.454, p.163.
9. Gascoyne: Rocque's map, '... London... and... Ten Miles round...', 1741-5.
10. PRO, MPB 31.
11. Pop.455, pp.240-1.
12. PRO, MPB 31: K.Fairclough, 'A Tudor Canal Scheme for the River Lea', *London Journal*, vol.5, 1979, pp.218-27.
13. GLRO, M93/436, p.34.
14. PRO, Cz Eliz 1/4/54.
15. GLRO, PCS 63, p.240; M93/436, p.37.
16. GLRO, M93/43, ff.253-4.
17. PRO, SC2/191/50: GLRO, M93/436.
18. GLRO, M93/436, p.20.
19. Pop.457.
20. GLRO, M93/436, p.20.
21. GLRO, Poplar Manor Court Book 1810-39.
22. GLRO, M93/436, pp.33-7.
23. MDR 1728/6/434-5.
24. MDR 1774/5/328-30; 1792/1/573.
25. TH 5742A.
26. MDR 1855/12/916-20, 922-5.
27. GLRO, M93/132, ff.475-6, 479-80.
28. RB: GLRO, PCS 80.
29. PRO, IR58/84595-9, 84648-51.
30. LCC/MIN/7302-7, 7557, item 8(153).
31. THLHL, Court Book of Poplar Manor 1810-39.
32. Pop.11, p.10.
33. GLRO, MR/TH/4.
34. *Reasons humbly offered against a pound rate...* (GL, Broadside 1747): *An Answer to the pretended Reasons...* (BL, press-mark 10350.g.12(23)).
35. LPL, Visitation Returns, 1766, ff.929-32.
36. PRO, IR58/84595-9, 84648-51.
37. *Ibid.*
38. CLRO, Assessment for War Tax, 16 March 1694: GL, MS 11,995A, p.250.
39. MDR 1728/2/220.
40. RB.
41. TH 3839.
42. TH 3839: GLRO, M93/132, f.476.
43. GLRO, M93/299.
44. TH 3833, 3839.
45. TH 3839.
46. TH 3835.
47. GLRO, Acc. 56.66/40, 41: CLRO, Assessment for War Tax, 16 March 1694: GL, MS 11,995A, p.250.
48. MDR 1805/7/283.
49. IOLR, A/1/1/2282, nos 1, 2.
50. *Ibid.*, nos 4, 6, 11.
51. RB.
52. MDR 1775/7/22-3.
53. MDR 1801/2/185; 1805/2/759.
54. RB.
55. IOLR, A/1/1/2282, no.17.
56. RB.
57. RB.
58. GLRO, M93/46, pp.329-30: TH 3749.
59. PRO, PROB11/2159, ff.237-40.
60. *Ibid.*
61. London Diocesan Office, deeds *re* No. 11 Mountague Place.
62. RB.
63. PRO, IR58/84595-9, 84648-51.
64. *POD.*
65. RB.
66. RB: Pop.460, pp.504-5.
67. AR/HB/956.
68. 'An Architect's progress in the 1850s and '60s. The autobiography of Thomas Wayland Fletcher', ed. M.H.Port, *East London Papers*, vol.11, 1968, p.31.
69. *POD.*
70. DSR.
71. PDBW *Annual Report*, 1859-60, p.28.
72. DSR 1899/127; 1881/278.
73. *POD.*
74. G.Haw, *From Workhouse to Westminster. The life story of Will Crooks, M.P.*, [1907], p.26.
75. PRO, IR58/84595-9, 84648-51.
76. TH 5773.
77. *B*, 3 Sept 1859, p.592.
78. *B*, 31 Aug 1878, p.924.
79. *BN*, 15 March 1895, p.396.
80. PRO, E134/2Chas/Mich/8.
81. Haw, *op.cit.*, p.28: Booth, B172, p.34; B346, p.149.
82. *City Press*, 16 Jan 1895.
83. PRO, IR58/84595-9, 84648-51.
84. VFB, 1936, No.96, f.24.
85. *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII, Addenda*, vol.1, 1929, p.73.
86. GLRO, MR/LV/1, m.15v.
87. *POD*: OS 1867-70: GLRO, SNP 395.
88. D.Howard, *London Theatres and Music Halls 1850-1950*, 1970, nos 337, 534, 624, 774.
89. DSR.
90. DSR 1894/16; 1898/339; 1899/253.
91. PRO, IR58/84595-9, 84648-51.
92. PBC, Housing Committee Mins, 1935-6, pp.33-4.
93. GLRO, AR/TP/P39/65.
94. RB: *POD*: GLRO, M93/65, pp.528-9.
95. DSR 1927/552; 1928/412: DA 10,818: *Architect and Building News*, 24 May 1929, p.694.
96. MDR 1832/1/196.
97. TH 3854.
98. Deeds in possession of MER Property Company.
99. MBW *Mins*, 1874, ii, pp.691-2.
100. MDR 1768/2/599.
101. TH 3743.
102. DSR 1854/344: MCS 285, no.2368.
103. *POD.*
104. *POD*: *EEN*, 13 Nov 1908, 12 May 1911.
105. RB: TH 3838: MDR 1825/10/249.
106. DSR 1915/47-48.
107. RB.
108. Pop.773, pp.10-11, 15.
109. Pop.782, pp.30, 46.
110. Pop.782, pp.46-50.
111. Pop.782, p.262.
112. *B*, 17 Aug 1867, p.603.
113. *Tower Hamlets Independent*, 6 July 1867.
114. *BN*, 16 Aug 1867, p.557.
115. *B*, 17 Aug 1867, p.603.
116. Pop.782, pp.233-4.
117. M.H.Port, 'The Life of An Architectural Sinner: Thomas Wayland Fletcher, 1833-1901', *London Journal*, vol.15, 1990, pp.57-71.
118. Pop.783, pp.102-3, 127, 166.
119. Port, 1990 *op.cit.*
120. Pop.783, pp.216-17, 224-7.
121. Pop.783, pp.272, 394: *B*, 11 Sept 1869, p.731; 18 Sept 1869, p.744.
122. Pop.783, pp.394-5, 423-4; Pop.786, pp.81-2, 133, 145-6, 300.
123. Pop.783, p.447.



a (above). The Greenwich Pensioner, Bazely Street, 1827, in 1986 (pp. 186-7)



b (right). The Manor Arms, East India Dock Road, c1925, in 1986 (p. 156)



c (above left), e. The White Horse, Poplar High Street, 1927-8, in 1986 (p. 61)



d (above). Hope and Anchor, Newby Place, 1938, in 1990 (p. 182)