

Further down Cricklade Street, however, was an excellent survival of a town maltings and one moreover which remained in production until the end of 1980. The major part of the site was demolished and cleared in the summer of 1983 prior to the construction of a sheltered housing scheme, which has recently been completed.

All that now remains is the frontage of the site to Cricklade Street, the town's main shopping street running south from the Market Place. Here two buildings - quite different in character - flank the entrance to the new scheme and the old access into the Maltings. One is an early 18th century town house which throughout most of the 19th century at least fronted a maltings behind, and was altered internally and externally accordingly. It has been rehabilitated in style to become a business centre rejoicing in the name of 'Queen Anne House'. Above the entrance, and nearer to the town centre, is the larger building, a 4-storey double malt-kiln, with its longer aspect fronting the street and emblazoned CIRENCESTER BREWERY MALTINGS, inscribed between the 2nd and 3rd floors. The facade is in stone, the remainder largely in brick. It has been gutted and now forms part of the residential amenities of the sheltered housing scheme.

There are records of maltsters in Cricklade Street back to 1812, and one William Howell was running his business as a "licensed maltster" according both to an entry in a local directory in 1847 and a painted inscription above the door. Other names follow later in the century, and research is in progress to sort out the various permutations in the activities of expansion and competition between the two main private breweries in the town throughout the 19th and into the 20th centuries. It is intended to produce a history of the Cirencester Maltings in due course.

Behind the street frontage were in fact two quite distinct (if joined) groups of malting buildings with a through yard between them running across the site from Cricklade Street into Ashcroft Gardens. On the southern side and behind the early 18th century town house, was a 2-storey malthouse built in stone and with about 10,650 sq ft of floor space. Behind it, and furthest from the street, stood a double kiln smaller than the surviving example, contemporary with the malthouse and built of similar materials. The slim iron columns which gave the malting floors their character were each inscribed T.H. & J. DANIELS/IRONFOUNDERS/STROUD. The kiln carried a date-stone of 1880; this may record the date of construction but might alternatively represent the rebuilding work which followed the fire at the maltings recorded in the local newspaper in March 1875.

Either way, the process of malting on the site went through a phase of dramatic expansion in the following two decades. The buildings which stood on the northern side of the through yard were built in different materials and to a larger scale than the existing maltings.

A further 26,000 sq ft of flooring was added in a 3-storey malt-house built in brick, together with the large pair of kilns surviving on Cricklade Street, and behind, a range of storage and working areas beneath the steep-tank(s). It is believed that

TETBURY BREWERY & CIRENCESTER

MALTINGS by DAVID VINER

The 3rd edition (1983) of the GSIA 'Industrial Archaeology in Gloucestershire' gazeteer included a reference to two sites not mentioned in the earlier editions - one in Tetbury, and one in Cirencester. Since publication, both have suffered partial demolition and wholesale change of character; this note is intended as no more than a brief record of recent changes.

TETBURY BREWERY ST 887935

The character of this fine group of 19th century buildings is captured in the photograph in CA & RA Buchanan's survey 'Batsford Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Central Southern England' (1980) p 101. Although out of use for its original purposes for over 50 years, this group was used as a laundry and remained virtually unchanged (externally at least) during that period.

The central 4-storey block is in stone, with a slate roof and red ridge ornamentation. It has a high pediment and a hipped roof, matched at a lower level by the flanking 2- and 3-storey buildings which are topped by louvred structures, almost oriental in character. The whole is completed by the inscription 'Tetbury Brewery/Established 1800' incorporated within the pediment design.

Rehabilitation of the whole site during 1983-84 has included conversion of the former brewery buildings to other commercial and industrial uses, so that their future seems assured for a further period.

However, as so often happens, site redevelopment has its price. In this case it was the loss of the adjoining engine house which stood in the way of the new access road and was demolished almost without a record being made. A fine example of its size and type, this stack was stone-built and had a robust character offset by the slim detailing of the brick chimney linking it with the other buildings. Together with the other roof details, the engine house and its chimney-stack formed a prominent feature of the Tetbury skyline when approached from several directions.

CIRENCESTER BREWERY MALTINGS SP 023017

Nearby Cirencester has various remains of its several breweries still surviving, although very little of any great merit. Off Cricklade Street the Cirencester Workshops development has utilised all that remains of Cirencester Brewery Company's buildings, and converted with sympathy (see Glos. & Avon Life for June 1978). What remains was in fact little more than the storage and processing buildings - the main brewing plant having disappeared just before the war.

this group dates from, or soon after, 1888 when the Cripps family brewery in Cirencester became the Cirencester Brewery Company and expanded its business in the town. Subsequently the national malting company of Hugh Baird & Sons leased and then purchased the Cirencester Maltings and continued to run them in the traditional floor-malting method until the of 1980. Before closure, a photographic record of the processes in the Maltings was commissioned by the Corinium Museum, and a representative range of equipment donated by the company to the museum for preservation.

It so happened that the attempts to find alternative uses for the Maltings during 1981-83 involved a complete professional survey and this, together with the museum's records and the photographic survey undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, should allow a reasonably full account of this particular aspect of Cirencester's history to be as fully documented as possible.

David Viner 1984.

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