

Blue Bell, 57½ Market Place

The Medieval Site

The plot of land later occupied by the Blue Bell can be traced back to 1293 when it was held by Hugh son of Isabel and stretched from Market Place to Trinity House Lane. By 1347 there was a tenement (rented ground or house) with a frontage of 87½' but by 1430 the plot had been acquired by the de la Poles and subdivided. The Pole land passed to the town and by 1613 a tenement with a garden and stable adjoining to the west was leased to Robert Spencer, a draper. Incredibly the Market Place frontage partially remained in the hands of drapers down to the early 20th century. There is a description of some of the tenement fixtures in 1623 in R Horrox's 'Changing Plan of Hull':

“the hall, planked, and a portall of sealing with sealing round about the same, some part with old wainscotting, the rest with new furre: a glass window to the south. chamber above the shop towards the street, sealed with wainscot: a glass window towards the street. parlour floor of board, sealed about with good wainscot: a

great window towards the south.”

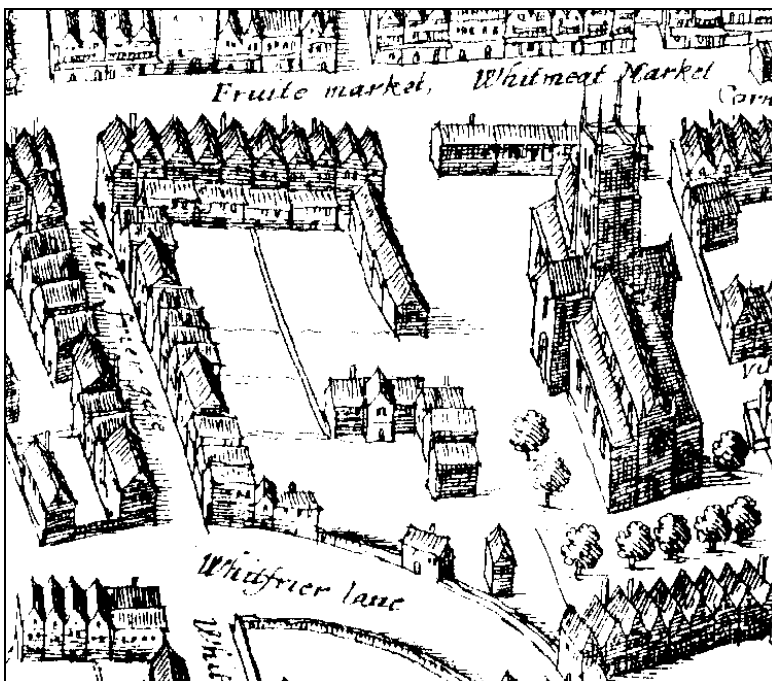


Figure 1 Part of Hollar's Plan of Hull, 1640

By 1644 the property had been split with the drapers shop fronting Market Place occupied as two tenements by Thomas Dewick, draper, and Thomasin Birkby, widow, with a little garth and garden at the back. The remainder of the plot,

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

formerly Dewick's garden, to Trinity House Lane was leased to dame Elizabeth Lister, widow, (a relative of the Lister's who built Wilberforce House) and contained a stable at the south west corner and a garden house usually called Clubb Hall, there was also a gate or door opening to Trinity House Lane. Hadley in his history of Hull states that: "*The Market in old deeds was called High Gate, on one side stood a great old house, called Club Hall, the sign of the Seven Stars.*" There was a pub called the Seven Stars but this was on the corner of Mytongate and does not appear to have ever been called Club Hall. There is another reference to Club Hall, spelt Chubb, in 1661 fronting Trinity House Lane.

Hollar's Plan of Hull in 1640 depicts existing buildings and has a reputation for high accuracy, particularly the fortifications. The plan shows a row of tall tenements between North Church Side and Silver Street with their gables fronting Market Place and another row of two storied buildings immediately behind, aligned as the Blue Bell is today and roughly in the same position but probably more towards the street, i.e. the Blue Bell has not yet been built. A path, boundary line or watercourse leads from roughly (probably precisely) the position of the present Blue Bell Entry to a large house, the only one in the garden, presumably Clubb Hall. The description above of the property in 1623 probably refers to Clubb Hall as it is the only building on Hollar's plan to have an open south side and the "*great window*" would have overlooked Holy Trinity Church.

The Pub

Coaches left from the Blue Bell from at least 1791 when they went to Cottingham, Hornsea, Kimswell (?), Patrington, Rimswell and Roos. They would have been local carrier's carts rather than stage coaches but as yet they our first record of the Blue Bell. A century later carriers departed to Burton Pidsea, Burton Constable, Cowden, Hedon, Lelley, Mapleton, Marfleet, Owswick, Preston, Roos, West Newton, Withernwick and Wyton.

So far the earliest reference to ownership is from 1798 as part of a complex land deal involving a house and lands in Easinton and elsewhere plus the Blue Bell and the surrounding property in Market

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

Place. The parties were Betsey Fearne, spinster, on the first part, William Lambert, grocer, on the second part, and John Fearne, linen draper, James Watson, cheese factor, John Thompson of Albion St., Gent., on the third part. The Market Place properties were described as; *“one equal fifth part of a moiety, three messuages adjoining each other (formerly described as two) on the west side of Market Place. Land of S King to north, Matthew Foy to south, W Lambert and others to west and front to Market Place on east. Also one equal fifth part of a moiety a messuage known as the Blue Bell Inn with stables, outhouses, yards adjoining last mentioned premises on east, S King to north, M Foy to south and Stanhope Baynes to west.”* (The reference to three messuages formerly described as two matches the description of 1644 above.) The inn was in the occupation of John Banks. The properties were conveyed on a ‘lease and release’ basis, which was a way of transferring property without paying a fee. The entry fee (relief) had its origins in conveying freehold property by ‘livery of seisin’, which involved the vendor, before a witness, handing over a piece of turf to the purchaser; it was not necessary to mark the conveyance with a written deed until 1677. The fee could either be avoided by lease and release or by conveying the property to several people who became, ostensibly, the owners; both methods attempted to ‘disguise’ the true ownership. Both methods seem to have been used at some time in the case of the Blue Bell. The outcome of the 1798 transaction seems to be that Betsey Fearne sold her share of the property to Lambert. (From deeds to 53-57 Market Place it is likely that the Blue Bell site was tenanted by Henry Neve in 1774 but unfortunately his occupation is not recorded. The property fronting Market Place adjoined a garden belonging to a messuage in tenure of Henry Neve on or towards the west.)

The situation is clear at the next sale in 1808 when Samuel King, ironmonger, bought the messuage or dwelling house used as a public house known by the sign of the Blue Bell Inn, with brewhouse (not mentioned in the 1798 deed. Deeds are records of land transactions; buildings are mentioned but not their position on the property. Descriptions of buildings are often copied from one deed to the next, so phrases such as ‘all that new built messuage’ could refer to a

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

building erected some time ago.), stables, outhouses, yard, ground; the site contained approximately 507 sq. yds. The previous owners had been William Lambert, grocer, and Rev. George Lambert, Dissenting Minister. By 1889 the ownership had passed to the Rev. Edward Thomas Mortlock of Snailwell near Newmarket who in that year sold the Blue Bell to J G Smithson, brewer, and J W Tindell, bottler, the description of the property remained the same from 1808.

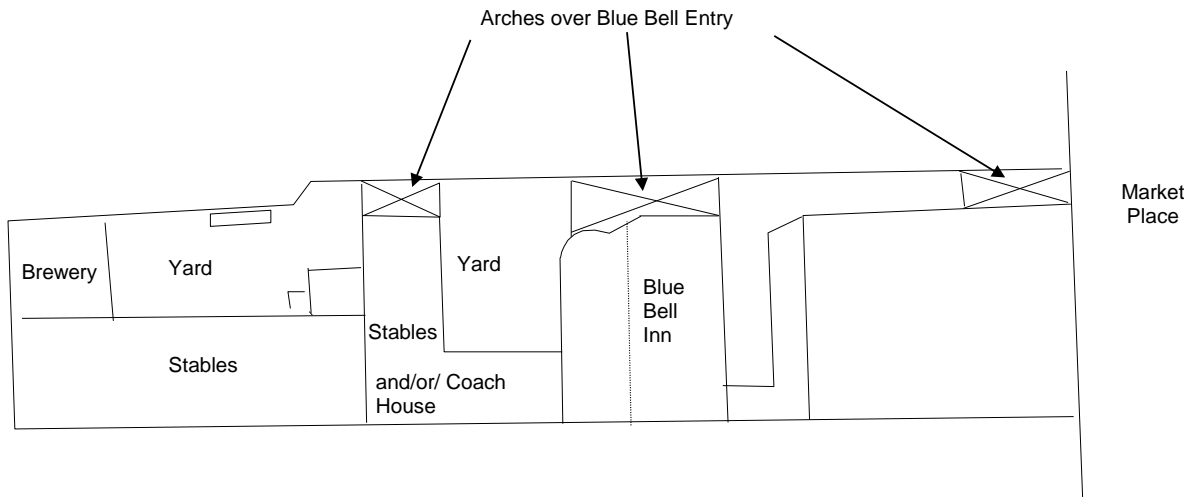


Figure 2 Blue Bell, Suggested pre-1853 building configuration.

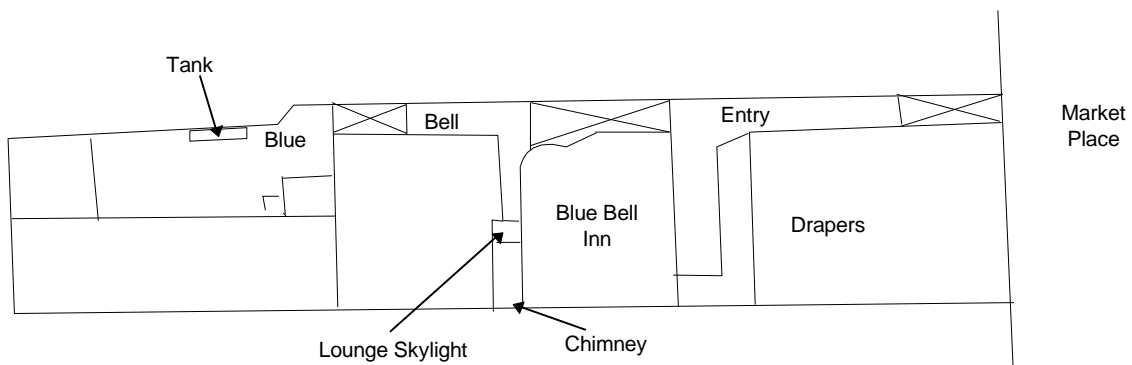


Figure 3 Blue Bell, 1853 OS Plan

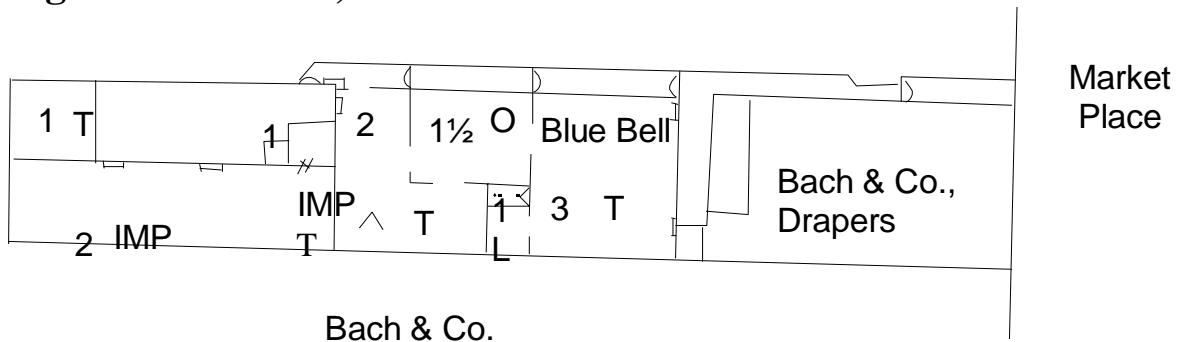


Figure 4 Goad's Plan of Blue Bell, 1886. Figures are the number

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

of stories, T-tiled roof, O-slate roof, L-metal roof. Windows, doors and openings are also illustrated.

In 1884 some of the outbuildings were offered to let including a warehouse 50 by 12 with stone floor, workroom 50 by 12 with private staircase and another warehouse 35 by 14, brick floor, with or without room above.

By 1899 John W Tindell was an ale and porter merchant and the Blue Bell was occupied by James Tunbridge with James Jenkins as his tenant. In 1899 Tindell erected over the entrance in Market Place a sign in the form of an ornamental bell constructed of metal and coloured glass suspended from an iron stay. An old sign attached to the wall was left in place. Tindell acted as agent for Smithson's Tower Brewery, Waverley St., and the Blue Bell was tied to them. Hull Brewery took over Smithson's in 1901 but the Blue Bell passed to Allsopp & Sons who merged with Ind Coope & Co. in 1934. Ind Coope sold most of their tied houses in Hull to Linsley's in 1912 after they experienced financial difficulties. However, Ind Coope retained the Vittoria Hotel and the Blue Bell. J W Cameron & Co. Ltd. bought the Blue Bell at sometime before the early 1960s.

In 1962 Hull City Council had plans to expand the Market, which would have included the demolition of the Blue Bell. Cameron's had put in an application to convert the first floor into living accommodation but were refused because "*the site is required for comprehensive development as a Market and because the site is unsuitable for living accommodation*". The Council offered Cameron's the lease of a building on the east side of Market Place but this was rejected. By 1964 the problem of relocation had still not been solved but the Council approved the plans for living accommodation. By January 1967 relocation plans had been dropped but the Council agreed to rent part of the rear of the Blue Bell, 13 Hepworth Arcade. Today the Market surrounds the Blue Bell on three sides.

The Ordnance Survey Plan of

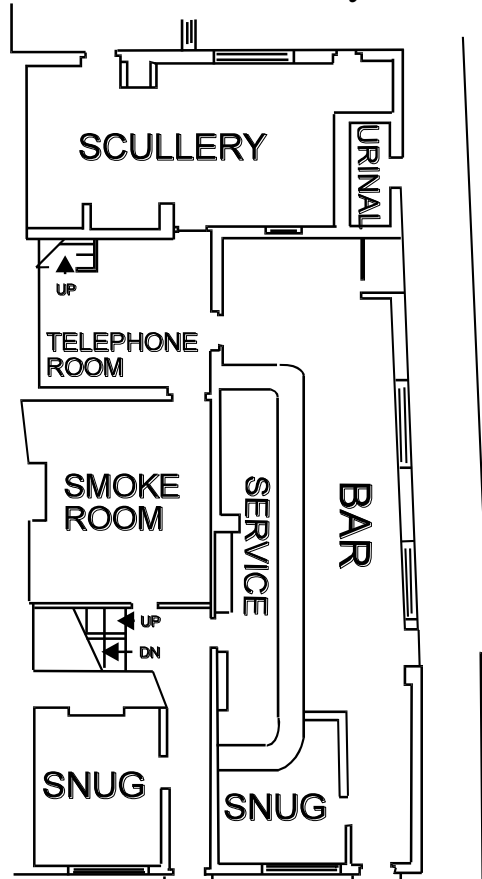


Figure 5 Ground Plan, pre 1965 (redrawn from KHRO 1853 is the first to label the Blue



Figure 6 First Floor Plan, pre 1965 (redrawn from KHRO 1953m 15630)

Bell and shows some interesting features. The original house ended on a line through the fireplace of the present lounge and the 'green man' pillar in the bar. This alignment can be seen very easily in the first floor plan of the 1965 alterations. The corner facing the yard had a rounded edge, to allow more easy access for carts, which accounts for the bend in the present gable also shown in the 1965 plan. The first section of covering over Blue Bell Entry ends here. The roof of this front part of the Blue Bell is 'M' - shaped with a larger gable in the front part than the rear. The first door down the entry is positioned where there is a kink in the wall and a slight widening of the passage, which can be seen on the 1853 plan, i.e. the section at the front of the pub is wider than the rear.

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

A narrow passage separated the Blue Bell from the next building to the rear on the 1853 plan. There was a small, one storied, building at the southern end of this passage and the skylight in the present lounge is positioned at the end of the building across the width of the passage. This small section of the pub is still only one story high from the skylight to the southern wall. Originally the 'passage' probably was part of a small courtyard that occupied the space where the 1½ storied building, the rear half of the bar, now covers. Significantly this is the only section of Blue Bell Entry not to be arched over. The south and west sides of the small courtyard were formed by an 'L' - shaped two storied building, which is now the gents toilets and the lounge from the skylight westwards. The 'L' - shaped block now has a mansard roof. The infill 1½-story building did not join the Blue Bell when erected and left the passage from the skylight to Blue Bell Entry clear. By 1886, when Goad's Insurance Map was produced, the passage had been covered but only at the ground floor and there is still a gap between the roof of the infill and the three storied part of the Blue Bell.

Running along the remaining southern wall of the site is a long two-storied block, which forms one side of the yard. The western side of the yard originally was stopped by a square single storied building (probably the former brewery) in the same position as the new entrance block to the market hall. On the northern wall of the yard used to be a tank, or horse trough, suggesting that these rear buildings may have held the stables. The brickwork of the two story block is interesting in that the lower story is constructed with thin, i.e. pre 1870, brick and the upper in more modern brick. The walls of this building are marked on Goad's plan of 1886 as being imperfect, which would account for the rebuild.

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

It is difficult to determine the date of the various sections of the modern Blue Bell as the whole has been ashlarred at some time, probable in more than one phase. The style of exposed brickwork

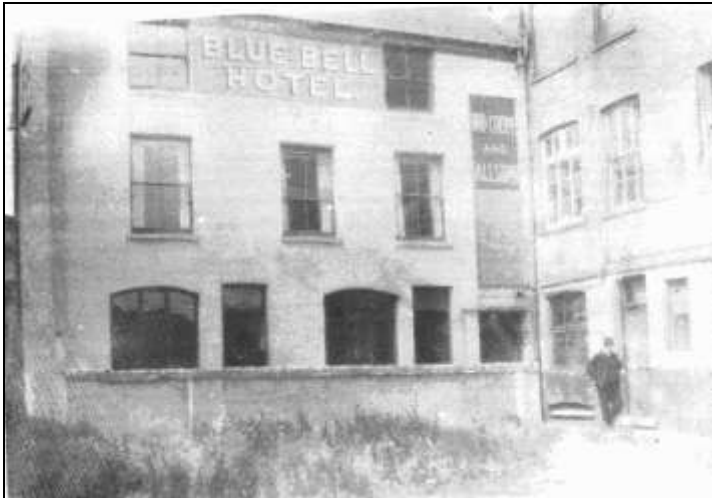


Figure 7 The Blue Bell c. 1900 after the drapers has been demolished, note the now blocked door on right.

tentatively suggests a date for the original buildings, i.e. three storied tenement, two storied 'L' - shaped block and the 'stables', of, say, c.1800. All these buildings originally had tile roofs. The above thoughts on building development are illustrated in the accompanying plans.

The earliest detailed plans of the Blue Bell unfortunately only date back to 1964 when the toilets and first floor flat were altered but include elevations, ground and first floor plans. The area where the dartboard is now used to be termed the telephone room and extended to include the staircase. The men's toilet used to be only a urinal accessed from the passage with the scullery occupying the space at the back of the telephone room. In the 1965 alterations the old



Figure 8 The Blue Bell, 1983 (C Ketchell)

scullery was divided in two forming a storeroom on the left and the toilets as they are at present on the right.

There also was another snug in the main bar to the left of the front entrance; this entrance was subsequently blocked up. The alcove between the present lounge and snug originally housed stairs

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

leading both up to the first floor and down to the cellar. In the flat above, the stairs from the alcove were removed and the lounge, which had occupied the whole of the front, was converted into three bedrooms. A hatch and fire escape ladder from one of the bedrooms leading down to the passage was installed and can still be seen. The front elevation shows a board above the passage advertising Ye Olde Blue Bell Inn, which is still in position but painted over.

Sam Smith's took over the pub in January 1985 when they sold Old Brewery Bitter at 64p. Sam's refurbished the Blue Bell in November 1985 at a cost of £50 000. Some of the alterations included a new bar and backfittings; new fixed seating in the bar; a complete redecoration of the lounge including Drayton upholstery; a larger service area into the lounge complete with handpumps; bar billiards moved from the cabin to the bar and the cabin turned into a snug with the loss of its sliding door. The pub reopened in February 1986 and the first pint was pulled by Sam's architect, Mark Ewbank.

Licencees

Pre1798-1805 John Banks. Removed to Bull & Sun, Mytongate in 1805.

1806 George Agers (Agar). HA 25/10/1806, death of Mrs Agar wife of Mr Agar of the Blue Bell, aged 33.

1810 Robert Everington. Removed to Wellington Hotel, 44 Mytongate, by 1814-15.

1811 James Johnson.

1814-15 Unknown, 59 Market Place only listed.

(1814-15 John Clark, currier and leather cutter, 16 Robinson Row, shop, Blue Bell Entry. - Probably High St.)

1817-1838 Robert Crake. Removed from Yarmouth Arms, 168 High St., after 1814-15. Death of Mrs Crake HA 27/10/1827. Remarriage HA 13/3/1829. Crake was also a maltster from the Blue Bell from c. 1823-38 although the malkiln was probably part of the Spread Eagle.

March 1841 Robert Wood. Removed from Ship Inn, Church Lane, by March 1841 (advert in HA 30/4/1841, no brewery tie).

Nov. 1841-42 Mary Ann Wood.

1846 William Coates. He also appears as an ale and porter brewer from the Blue Bell in the 1846 directory.

Ale and Architecture. The Blue Bell

1848-1863 Robert Nicholson.

1863 March-67 Mary Nicholson.

1872-89 George Parker Sergeant.

1892 Enoch Stafford (Old Blue Bell).

1895 Louise Jackson (White's).

1895 W Penny, Olde Blue Bell, (Cook's). Possibly the artist who later moved to the Artist's Rest, Albrough.

1897 William Penny.

1899 James T Jenkins.

1909 Frank Clark.

1911 Miss Jenny Broady.

1925-1933 Mrs Jenny Tadman.

1936-at least 1956 Martin Henry Cross. Cross had three brothers, also licensees. His uncle was Martin Cross of the Osbourne St. brewery. During the war there was a small fire on the stairs and roof, which was put out using water from the horse trough.



**Figure 9 M H Cross
with Polly**

(Flat was not occupied post war until 1966 hence nothing in electoral registers)

1966 Charles and Freda Jackson

1986 Robert Richardson and Deborah Hardaker

1987 Peter Leonard

1989 David and Carol Fletcher

1992 Anthony and Patricia Walsh

1993-1994 Anthony Walsh and Patricia Hammill

1995 - Mick & Christine Wornor

YE OLDE BLUE BELL HOTEL
and LUNCHEON BAR
MARKET PLACE.

(Opposite General Post Office.)

The above Hotel has been thoroughly renovated, and refurnished throughout, making it one of the most comfortable Houses in the old town.

Light Luncheons ready at any hour of the day.

Two Comfortable Smokerooms.

Lighted throughout by Electricity

ALL BEERS, WINES, and SPIRITS will be found here of the **best quality.**

If you want a **SNACK**, call at Ye Olde Blue Bell.
If you want a **DRINK**, call at Ye Olde Blue Bell.
If you want **QUALITY**, call at Ye Olde Blue Bell.
If you want **COMFORT**, call at Ye Olde Blue Bell.
If you want **CIVILITY**, call at Ye Olde Blue Bell.

HOT SOUPS, SAUSAGE & MASHED POTATOES

HOT OR COLD MEAT PIES. SANDWICHES.

TEA, COFFEE & COCOA READY AT ANY HOUR

OF THE DAY.

J. T. JENKINS, PROPRIETOR

SPREAD EAGLE ENTRY

The Spread Eagle was occupied by Mr Mitchinson in 1788 (Hadley). Mitchinson occupied a brewery in Spread Eagle Entry in 1798. By 1803 George Mitchinson was victualler of The Spread Eagle, 59 Market Place. There was a malkiln associated with the site as Robert Crake was maltster and victualler from 57 Market Place, the Blue Bell, c. 1823-38. F & G Harrison were maltsters and victuallers from the Spread Eagle before 1842. The malkiln was still in use in 1872.