Chapter 6. The Churchyard-side buildings on Castle Street.

Part of Castle Street has changed somewhat over the years, mainly due to the earlier presence of a little row of buildings running along the side of the Churchyard. They were still present in the 1860s, around the time these first two photographs were taken, but they had gone by the 1880s.

*Right; Castle Street pre 1863 showing the Churchyard-side buildings.*
*Castleton Historical Society.*

*Below; Castle Street around 1865.*  *Castleton Historical Society.*
The Hall family owned and used many of these buildings in days gone by, especially the Hall branches who had the Castle and George Inns.

In his Will of 1751, John Hall, bequeathed; “... all that barn stable and shippon ...... now in my own possession situate and being by the side of the Church yard in Castleton .... ” which seems to be referring to some of these buildings by the Churchyard side. This particular John Hall was very likely the father of Micah Hall, our rather strange Attorney at Law who died in 1804. Micah in turn left much of his property to his “kinsman” Isaac Hall who died in 1830 aged 79.

1819

This map of part of Castle Street shows the Churchyard side properties in 1819, numbered from 159 (at bottom near main Church gates) to 163 (going round onto Cross Street). The Castle Inn is numbered 119.

No. 159 was a “house and stable” owned by the Earl of Newburgh, used by Millicent Hall who was landlady of the George Inn.

No. 160 was a stable owned by Isaac Hall - Isaac owned the Castle Inn at this time, and many properties along the whole of Castle Street including Castleton Hall. Margaret Wragg was landlady for Isaac.

No. 161 was “two houses and a bake house” owned by Robert How, the baker.

Left; Part of Castle Street in 1819.

D911 Z/P1 Plan of Castleton 1819, B Staley. Derbyshire Record Office.

Right; Castleton landlords and landladies in 1819. Q/RA 1/1-5. Victuallers Recognizances. Derbyshire Record Office.
The Churchyard steps separate the above properties from those numbered 162 and 163, which are still present today.

Property 162 was owned by Isaac Hall, of the Castle Inn, and 163 owned by Robert How, the barmaster, an important mining master. The former was in part a stable used by Margaret Wragg, landlady of the Castle Inn, and part was used by Elias (also Ellis) Needham as a shop.

Elias Needham also occupied parts of property 163 – a house and shop. He was a spar manufacturer and dealer, known to have his shop or “museum” as these tourist outlets selling spar ornaments and Blue John were called, “opposite the Castle Inn”. This was called the Peveril Museum. Joseph Hall, lead miner, lived in the other part listed as a house, possibly the one going round onto Cross Street.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>159</td>
<td>Earl Newburgh</td>
<td>Millicent Hall</td>
<td>House &amp; Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Isaac Hall</td>
<td>self</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>Robert How (baker)</td>
<td>self</td>
<td>Two houses &amp; Bakehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162 (pt1)</td>
<td>Isaac Hall</td>
<td>Ellis Needham</td>
<td>Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162 (pt2)</td>
<td>Isaac Hall</td>
<td>Margaret Wragg</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163 (pt1)</td>
<td>Robert How (barmaster)</td>
<td>Joseph Hall (miner)</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163 (pt2)</td>
<td>Robert How (barmaster)</td>
<td>Ellis Needham</td>
<td>Shop &amp; House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above; 1819 Summary Table. Information from D911 Z/P2. Survey of Castleton 1819, B Staley. Derbyshire Record Office.
By 1841, little had changed other than some of the buildings being handed down to the next generation; John Hall was the son of Millicent Hall, he was now landlord of the George Inn, and Richard Hall was one of the sons of Isaac Hall of the Castle Inn.

The bakehouse which stood about halfway along the street was still being used as such, but one of the houses now had tenant Thomas Needham living there.

Beyond the Churchyard steps Margaret Wragg now had a “coach house and stable” owned by Isaac Hall’s son, Richard.

Robert How Ashton, born in Manchester around 1800, now owned properties numbered 163; he was a farmer and lead smelter/merchant living at Cryer House on the opposite side of Castle Street.

His first wife Harriet had died of smallpox in 1829 aged 27. Marrying second wife, Catherine, their son was baptised here in 1837; he was also named Robert How Ashton – he lived at Losehill Hall after it was completed in the 1880s.

Above; death of Robert How Ashton’s first wife from smallpox. Derby Mercury 29th July 1829.
Image ©The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved.
http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000052/18290729/007/0003
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</tr>
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<td>160</td>
<td>Richard Hall esq</td>
<td>himself</td>
<td>Stable</td>
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<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>Robert How (baker)</td>
<td>self/Thomas Needham</td>
<td>House, Bakehouse &amp; House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>Richard Hall esq</td>
<td>Margaret Wragg</td>
<td>Stable</td>
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<tr>
<td>162a</td>
<td>Richard Hall esq</td>
<td>Elias Needham</td>
<td>Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>162b</td>
<td>Richard Hall esq</td>
<td>Margaret Wragg</td>
<td>Coach house &amp; Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>Robert How Ashton</td>
<td>Joseph Hall</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163a</td>
<td>Robert How Ashton</td>
<td>Elias Needham</td>
<td>House &amp; Shop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Churchyard steps

Above; 1841 Summary Table. Information from Castleton Tithe Award. D2360/3/141c. Derbyshire Record Office.

The backs of some of the Churchyard-side buildings can just be seen to the lower left of this photograph (below) of St. Edmund’s Church and Churchyard from around 1870. Note that the old church clock is off-centre on the tower.

Left; St Edmund’s Church and Churchyard circa 1870. Castleton Historical Society.

Right; Castle Street in the 1880s after the demolition of the churchyard-side buildings. Castleton Historical Society.
The exact date that these buildings were demolished is not known; using Archive photographs has been the only way to gauge a probable date. We had a new church clock in 1886 – the old one was a little off-centre on the tower – thus any photographs showing this feature are pre-1886.

The road became a little wider after the demolition of these buildings, and the Churchyard a little larger; but exactly why they were taken down is at present uncertain.

Above; date detailing the new church clock at St. Edmund’s Church. Sheffield Independent
27th November 1886. Image ©The British Library Board. All Rights Reserved.
http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000181/18861127/034/0003

Above; the full length of Castle Street pre-1886. The old church clock is still present but the churchyard-side buildings have gone. Castleton Historical Society.
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Acknowledgements.

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Kay Harrison, February 2016.