

5.6 John Street, west side



54 John Street

- Two-storey, flat-roof (painted) red-brick building with varied upper-floor masonry (c.1870)
- Description – Variations and toothed- and butt-joints in brickwork indicate composite nature of what appears at first to be a single building. At ground floor, building comprises four bays, with entry at second bay from left. Painted brick masonry is built off cement-rendered base at LH side, which may indicate stone foundation behind. Low door, without transom window, appears to be one of several changes to building. (Toothing-in of brickwork and discrepancies in course heights to left of door indicate alterations in this area.) Door itself is fully glazed, modern wood door reached by single concrete step, with soldier-and-header course voussoirs forming flat arch above. Ground-floor windows are three tall, 1/1 units with boxed-in wooden sills and flat arches apparently consisting of single soldier-course only. Modest fascia, spanning full-width of building just above window-heads, has beaded lower edge and chunky cornice, which returns into fascia at ends of building. At second floor, differing aspects of building are more apparent. Upper four bays comprise, at RH side, two recessed brick panels between plain brick pilasters, then central butt-joint where course heights change, and flush brickwork in two LH bays. Windows are 6/6 throughout, all with boxed-in wooden sills, RH windows being higher and having wooden lintels. Units at LH side have flat-arch, soldier voussoirs as at ground floor. At parapet, masonry consists of corbelled course under double course of alternating projecting and recessed headers, then additional plain course below slightly projecting dog-toothed course, with additional top courses largely hidden by deep metal flashing.
- South elevation, over rendered base, is built in painted, common-bond brick with headers every eighth course. Narrow, bricked-up aperture towards LH side is without extant sill or lintel/arch.
- Rear elevation retains original 6/6 windows at upper level, much hidden by large wooden deck.
- Comments – Simple and traditional brick building is more complicated in origin than it seems, yet most attractive in its old variety. Bricks below parapet are damaged, presumably where water has entered masonry from behind. Paint also probably hides a variety of brick types, and this should be investigated before removal is considered as masonry may comprise a wide variety of bricks and mortar types. Chimney (not visible from front) needs repair, and various replacement bricks.