

5.6 John Street, west side**64 John Street** (south)

- Three-storey commercial building with extensive rebuilt masonry at upper levels (c. 1870 and later).
- Ground Floor – At shopfront level, wooden materials are recent, used in a rustic contemporary manner. Stall-risers are finished with rough vertical boards having modern-section, face-applied frames and central cross-bracing. Large piers at either side are finished similarly, while narrow intermediate supports have simpler wooden cladding. Actual glazing framing is aluminum, and front door (to RH side) is similar. As at buildings to right, area of traditional fascia and cornice is finished with painted, ribbed sheet-metal and, again, striped yellow awning contributes to heritage streetscape. At second floor, pair of old, 6/6 wooden windows have concealed sills and exposed, metal-angle lintels. Masonry to either side of windows is painted red-brick laid in common bond, with outer window-jambs apparently rebuilt. Masonry between and above windows is painted concrete-block, as at building to right. At third floor, masonry is somewhat as described but in unpainted brick, with small adjacent areas rebuilt using reclaimed brick starting inwards of line 4” beyond outer jambs. Lintels are concealed angle-iron without voussoirs or headers, and plain parapet is obviously recent. Fragments of original decorative parapet elements remain at both upper corners, particularly at RH side. Wall-head is capped with rowlock headers immediately below projecting thin metal flashing.
- South Elevation – South elevation is plainly visible on account of adjacent open area and garden, and is built of hand-made red brick in common bond, with headers every sixth course. Wall contains two, bricked up apertures (one with voussoirs) at ground floor, two 6/6 windows at second floor, and one 6/6 window at third floor, all with modest, unpainted wooden sills and lintels. Small, single-pane casement exists towards rear of third floor, and top rear corner has five diagonal wooden braces.
- Comments – This is an anomalous building. Much of upper two floors has rebuilt masonry, and original form is not easily determined. It appears that old brick was for some reason replaced in central and upper areas of façade. Rebuilt sections, and concrete block, are not so intrusive and might remain, since there may be an associated narrative. This aspect should be investigated. Reinstatement of decorated brick parapet is encouraged, and introduction of suitable signage fascia, in place of vertical metal cladding, would be welcome. Shopfront is expendable whereas south wall and all old elements which it contains, should be maintained. Braces may require maintenance too, in due course.