

Historic Kidderminster Project Ref: 462
The Lion & Lamb, 2 Leswell Street, Kidderminster
OS Grid Ref: SO 8368376880
Bob Millward 29 October 2007

Introduction



Fig. 1. 2 Leswell St, was the 'Lion & Lamb' in the 1850's. (Bob Millward 7 June 2007)



Tomkinson & Hall (1) report that the Lion & Lamb was a short lived public house which opened in 1855 and closed before 1890. It is now a private residence presently empty, but was for many years a local Off-License store that served the Leswell area. The property is now number 2 Leswell Street, has a name plaque by the door with "Hill View", and stands at the corner with Leswell Lane.

Fig. 2. The property extends for a relatively short distance into Leswell Lane – see where the brick colour changes above the door to the right of the picture. Note also the darker area to the left of the 1st floor window where a green Bank's brewery sign was once situated. (Bob Millward 7 June 1007)

History

The origins of this building are to be found in a Building Club described by Ebenezer Guest (3) with reference to Leswell. Unfortunately, he gives no date for the formation of this Building Club but states that 'they soon erected good houses'. In an undated Plan of Building Land (4) in the area close to what is now the corner of Leswell Lane and Leswell Street many of the plot holders named are those included amongst the Building Club described by Ebenezer Guest. Clearly the plan is linked directly to this club. One of the members shown on the plan was John Wall and his holding was precisely where 2 Leswell St stands today.

In the 1851 Lascelle's Directory (5) John Wall is listed as a Cooper & Basket maker of Blackwell St living in Leswell, but in Billing's 1855 Directory (6) he is a Beer retailer at the 'Lion & Lamb', Springbank. In the 1851 census he is recorded in Leswell Bank as a Cooper & Basket maker.

Leswell, Leswell Bank and Springbank were all names associated at various times and circumstances with the area at the top of what is now Leswell Lane and its junction with Leswell Street, and it is likely that all the above addresses referred to the same Leswell property.

Clear proof of the Lion & Lamb once occupied 2 Leswell Street comes from Drainage Maps (7) of Kidderminster dated sometime in the 1850's. The property is unambiguously marked: 'Lion and Lamb by John Wall'.

There seems to be no other references to the Lion & Lamb in any post 1855 Trade Directories or to John Wall living in Leswell in, or after, the 1861 census returns. Tomkinson & Hall aver that the establishment was closed by 1890 but the basis for this judgment is not given.

The property, now a private residence, was run for many years as an Off-Licence. The earliest proprietors we can identify were Mr and Mrs Savery until 1960 when Mr and Mrs Rogers took over the business. From 1963 to 1966 Mr Arthur and Mrs Marjorie Isaacs were there. Finally Mr and Mrs Annetts ran the shop until the early 1990's when they ceased trading (8,9).

For many years the building was classified as 49 Leswell Street but in 1962 or 1963 the numbering of the Street was altered and it became number 2 as it is now.

Sources

1. 'Kidderminster since 1800', Tomkinson & Hall (1975)
2. OS maps held by Kidderminster Library
3. Kidderminster Shuttle, 1 July 1905
4. Access provided by Harold Surman, Great Grandson of Thomas Surman a founding member of this Building club..
5. Lascelle's Directory & Gazetteer, 1851 – photocopy of Kidderminster section in Kidderminster Library.
6. Billing's Directory & Gazetteer for the County of Worcester, 1855 – Kidderminster Library Ref: 914.244
7. Drainage Maps for Kidderminster, c mid 1850s. Worcester Record Office or Kidderminster Library on microfilm.
8. Leswell Resident's memories: Ruth Rudd October 2007
9. Electoral Rolls; Kidderminster Library

Location

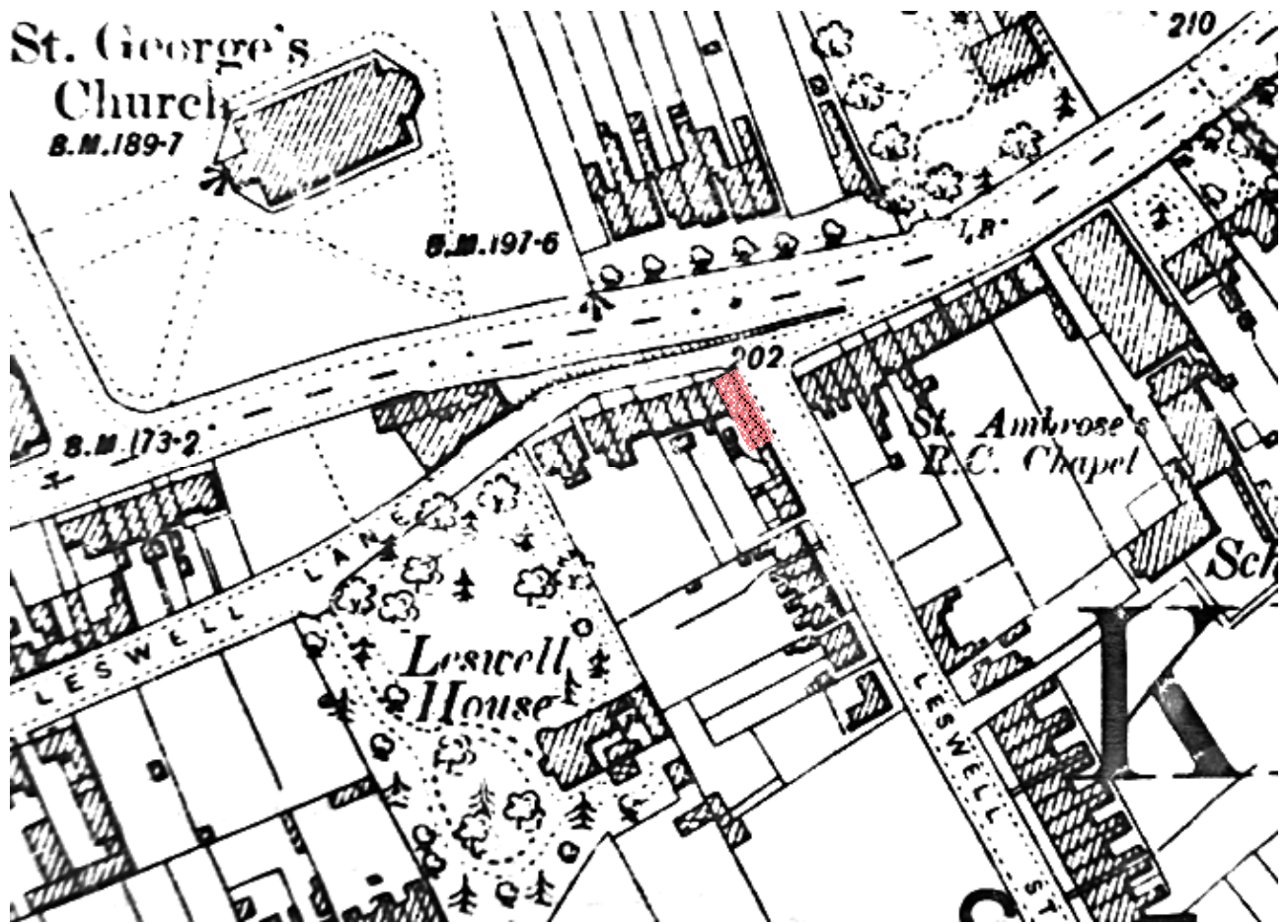


Fig. 3. OS 1902 Map Grid Ref: 8368376880
The relevant building is shaded pink