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A HISTORY OF STOTT'S HOUSE FARM, WALKER
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The farm was situated within the township of Walker, near to the boundary with Wallsend, and was owned by the Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne from the early eighteenth century.¹ The date of original construction is unknown; it was built very close to the line of Hadrian's Wall, and many Roman stones were no doubt used in its construction. A 'stot' or 'stott' was a steer or bullock, but the word was also used as a surname, and there were Stotts leasing land in nearby Wallsend from at least 1539.² The stream that ran to the west and south of the house was called Stotspow (later Stott's Pow³) on maps of the River Tyne dating to c.1650 and 1693, and although Horsley said the farmstead was called Bee-houses by 1732 it was more commonly known by variations on the name 'Stott's house' throughout its history.⁴ On Isaac Thompson's 1745 map of Walker it was called Stots House, and thereafter there was a variety of spellings, with 'Stott's House Farm' the version chosen for the OS maps.⁵

Thompson's map of 1745 shows a long farmhouse connected at one end to out-buildings with differing roof heights; the position of the chimney stack very close to the position of the door suggests the sketch represents a house with a through-passage at the rear of the stack (Fig. 1).⁶ Although it is unclear how accurate the depiction is, this form of 'linear' farmstead was typical of north-east England, with a barn (for processing crops) and a byre (for animals) attached in a line to the farmhouse.⁷ Changes in agricultural techniques after 1750 often led to new buildings arranged around a central yard, as happened at the other local farms of Walker East and West Farms and Scrogg House Farm, but Stott's House Farm never developed in this way, other than having a house built behind the linear farm buildings.⁸

In 1745 the farm had seven main fields for crops and livestock, but many of them ended up being divided by wagonways and a railway line (Figs 2-3). Sometime between 1765 and 1798 Fair Pit of Walker Colliery was opened in the field called Butchers Close. A table and map 'from a survey or plan by A. Robson, Feb[ruar]y

¹ From this period it was occupied by a small number of long-term tenants: see the Appendix for a full list.

² For example Richard Stote and his brothers leased one-seventh of the township of Wallsend in 1539, while their father already leased other land: Richardson 1923, 61, 66-7.

³ Sometimes 'Stotts Pow'. A 'pow' is a slow-moving, ditch-like stream.

⁴ Wright 2011, figs 1.2, 1.3; Horsley 1732, 136.

⁵ Isaac Thompson's 'Map of the Township of Walker' (TWAM D.NCP/19/21). Names: by 1712: parish records refer to both 'Stotes House' and 'Stots House'; the same family are also said to have lived at 'Stot's Pow', which may be another name for the same house. By 1732: Bee-houses, Bees-houses. From c.1745 to 1774: Stots House, Stot's House, Stotes-houses, Stotts House. From c.1831: Stote's-houses, Stote's House, Stotts House, Stott's House.

⁶ For an example of this form of house, see Mercer 1975, fig. 42.

⁷ Lake and Edwards 2006, 7-8; Pevsner and Richmond 2002, 85. If the drawing on the map represents the front (north wall) of the farm then the relative position of house and out-buildings is incorrect; if it represents the back (south wall), as positioned on the map, then the order is correct.

⁸ Farms: cf. Thompson's 1745 map, and the 1st edition OS map (surveyed 1858). Walker East and West Farms were situated at Old Walker, also on the line of Hadrian's Wall.

28th 1798' that lists the exact sizes of the fields in the farms owned by Newcastle Corporation in Walker shows a wagonway crossing the farm down to the River Tyne (Fig. 2B, wagonway C).⁹ A map of 1836 no longer shows this wagonway, but does show the wagonway from Gosforth pit to Wallsend, with a branch line to Low Walker, which dates to before 1828 and was out of use by 1840 (Fig. 2B, wagonways A and B; Fig. 3A).¹⁰ Traces of all these wagonways were still visible in the landscape by the time of the first OS map (surveyed 1858).

In 1797 the Farm was advertised to let for a term of nine years and is described as being of '133 acres or thereabouts'.¹¹ Robson's survey of 1798 shows the Farm consisted of 131 acres including the ponds, farmyard and the 'salt grass and gill' of Stott's Pow valley.¹² By 1828 another part of the farm to the south was lost for 'a Steam Mill for the purpose of grinding corn'. This consisted of a 'piece or parcel of Ground (formerly waste) containing by Estimation Three Rods or thereabouts, being part and parcel of Stot's House Farm ... then in the occupation of James Brown as Tenant' as well as the right 'to have use and occupy a Cart or Carriage Road through and long the North side of a Field or Close part of Stot's House Farm aforesaid called the Batts And also through and along a piece or parcel of waste ground called Salt Grass'.¹³ A further four acres were lost between 1836-9 when the Newcastle and North Shields Railway was built on an embankment across three fields to the north of the farmstead, permanently dividing them into smaller fields.¹⁴

A plan of the farmhouse is shown on Thomas Oliver's plan of the Walker Estate of 1840 (Fig. 3). It shows the farmhouse at the eastern end and a long, narrow range of buildings towards the west that housed the byre and barn. There is a circular extension at the back of the barn, also seen in John Lamb's 1864 plan, which is a circular wheel-house, or gin-gang, for a horse-powered mill (Figs 3, 5-6).¹⁵ The invention of the threshing machine in 1784 began to eliminate the need for hand-threshing in the late eighteenth century, and the machines were usually inserted into one of the bays of the barn, with the mill housed outside the barn in the circular offshot. The gin-gang at Stott's House Farm must have been added sometime between the mid-1780s and 1836, since it has been added in pencil to a plan of the

⁹ Newcastle Library Local Studies, Seymour Bell collection 21/3. Walker, Fair Pit to Walker Staiths, HER 4266.

¹⁰ HER 4185.

¹¹ *Newcastle Courant*, 21 October 1797 (54 hectares).

¹² Newcastle Library Local Studies, Seymour Bell collection 21/3. A 'gill' can mean a narrow valley or a stream.

¹³ Indenture dated 31 December 1828. The mill was later 'converted into a Mill for crushing and manufacturing Linseed and other vegetable Oils': 28 June 1831: TWAM DT.SC/26/1-4, and on Oliver's survey of 1840 it is a 'bone factory' (Fig. 3A). 'In the county of Durham "The Batts" means a flat low-lying place by a riverside, waste, sandy stony overgrown with willows, furze, weeds, etc, liable to be flooded when the river is out': Embleton 1888, 5.

¹⁴ 'Newcastle and North Shields Railway. Property required for the Railway, belonging to the Corporation of Newcastle [by] Robt Nicholson Sept. 1836': Newcastle Library Local Studies, Seymour Bell Collection 21/6.

¹⁵ John Lamb's plan of the area south of Stott's House Farm, drawn up for the Corporation of Newcastle, 1864 (TWAM D.NCP/19/6).

farm shown on a map drawn up by the Newcastle and North Shields Railway in that year.¹⁶

Some eight years after Oliver's plan was drawn up the farm building was included in a painting of 1848 by Henry Richardson depicting the duck ponds just in front of them that marked the line of the ditch of Hadrian's Wall (Fig. 4). The Farm was often mentioned in early antiquarian reports on the line of Hadrian's Wall because of the visible remains of the ditch. The presence of the ditch in particular influenced the lay-out of some of the farm's fields; the 1745 map shows a narrow field of *c.*1 acre (0.4 ha) to the west of the farmhouse called 'Roman Wall Lane' (in fact on the line of the ditch) which still existed in 1798, although it was later absorbed into a larger field (Fig. 2A).¹⁷ The narrow field that enclosed the duck ponds in front of the house survived until the end of the farm's life (Fig. 12).¹⁸

Richardson's watercolour shows a complex principally built in stone but with additions and patching in red brick. At the extreme east end of the farm (to the left of the picture) there is a small stone lean-to, then a building largely built in brick; markings on the wall of the house next door shows this replaced an earlier building with a steeper roof. Next is the farmhouse, identified by the chimney stacks at each end, which is mainly built in stone but with patching in brick. The house has two types of tiles on its roof, still visible in a photograph of the house taken *c.*1898 (Fig. 10). The house has a very deep roof, with the eaves only just above the height of the door. Beyond the house is a byre (for animals) with a tall gable end porch facing north, which appears to have been added since 1840 (*cf.* Fig. 11A). Later photographs of this section of the farm show a sliding hit-and-miss ventilator with fixed glazing above beside the door, a type of ventilator which became popular in the mid- to late-nineteenth century and often used in cow-houses (Figs 9-10).¹⁹ Richardson's painting shows another section of building beyond this cow-house, which was the crop barn. The barn was usually the largest building in a farmstead, typically consisting of a central threshing floor between large doors front and back, and bays to either side for storing the sheaves and straw.²⁰ At the western end of the barn is another possible lean-to, with a sloping roof.

In October of 1854 the Corporation of Newcastle asked for tenders for the building of a farmhouse on the property.²¹ The 1st edition OS map, surveyed in 1858 (published 1862), shows an L-shaped house built to the south of the farm buildings, while nineteenth-century photographs show a two-storey house, not shown in the 1848 painting, has been added to the west end of the farm building (Figs 5-9). It is likely the L-shaped building is the farmhouse, since the neighbouring properties, East and West Farms, also owned by Newcastle Corporation had farmhouses added to the

¹⁶ Newcastle Library Local Studies, Seymour Bell collection 21/6.

¹⁷ The field is listed in a 1798 survey showing the farm: Newcastle Library Local Studies, Seymour Bell collection 21/3.

¹⁸ This is labelled 'cow loan pond etc' on the map; 'loan' is a northern term for either a lane or an open area where cows were milked.

¹⁹ Lake and Edwards 2006, fig. 27C.

²⁰ Lake and Edwards 2006, 8; Brunskill 1971, 141-3.

²¹ *Newcastle Courant*, 13 October 1854.

south of their farm buildings, while the building on the end of the old building were some of the farm cottages mentioned in census returns. The 1911 census says the farmhouse had six rooms (excluding any bathroom or scullery). The house attached to the west end of the farm replaced part of the single storey barn or byre seen in Richardson's painting, and also shortened the building; in the 1840 plan the west end of the farm building extended almost up to the two small enclosures by the side of the farm buildings (*cf.* Figs 3B, 5, 6 and 11).

An 1874 advert for the sale of a away-going crop (one that would mature after the end of a tenancy) says the farm had 29 acres of wheat and 14 acres of oats, and that the purchaser 'may have the use of the Thrashing [sic] and Winnowing Machines upon the premises'.²² The animals and farming implements were also put up for sale:

Messrs Brown and Hedley, instructed by Mr Brown, who is relinquishing farming, will sell by auction, at Stott's House, Walker, in the Parish of Long Benton, Northumberland, on Thursday, April 2nd next, The whole of the stock, implements of husbandry, etc, upon the said Farm, consisting of -

5 useful draught horses.

1 draught mare, in foal to Conqueror.

9 excellent cows, calved and in calf.

1 superior S. H. [short horn] cow, near calving.

1 handsome Ayreshire cow, close to calving, and from the Chillingham stock.

1 quey [young] stirk, and 1 young Danish yield cow.

8 two-year-old Irish bullocks.

All in very high condition.

Implements. - 2 long and 3 coup carts [closed carts for carrying manure, coal etc.] and frame; 2 spring carts, metal and stone rollers, 2 swing and 1 ribbing ploughs, 2 pairs of harrows, grub and four-horse do., double turnip sower, turnip cutter, 2 combined reapers, by Bamlet and Samuelson; sheep rack, fold hecks, 2 stack stands, 2 wheelbarrows, 2 metal and 1 stone pig troughs, ladders, hay knife, grindingstone, hand tools, cart and plough harness, gig harness, bran and corn bins, cow tubs and chains, sacks and pokes, dog kennel, hen coop, 2 barrel churns, nearly new; milk barrels, and other dairy utensils. Poultry, consisting of cocks, hens and 13 ducks. Also a stamp of old land hay for removal. [T]erms cash, and no reservations. ... Stott's House is close to Walker Station on the Newcastle and Tynemouth Railway.²³

In 1879 a school teacher called James Irwin Coates drew a number of watercolours showing the line of Hadrian's Wall, and included a view of the wall ditch in front of the farm (Fig. 7). As no photographs survive of the nineteenth-century L-shaped farmhouse, this watercolour is the only image of it, half hidden behind three haystacks. To the right of the hedge can be seen the windmill of Walker Mill and the chimney of Fair pit colliery, both built on land that used to belong to the farm.

²² *Newcastle Courant*, 14 August 1874.

²³ *Newcastle Courant*, 27 March 1874.

Sometime before 1886 the barn was extended with a single-storey projecting hipped roof, built in stone with a pantile roof, that is visible in a photograph probably dating to the 1890s (Fig. 9; see also Figs 11D and 12). The presence of a louvred box ventilator on the roof and the form of the doors suggests that the barn had been converted into a byre for animals at some period.²⁴ There is a small lean-to structure with narrow doors in front of the two-storey house (Fig. 9).

The OS map revised in 1894-5 and published in 1899 (Fig. 8) shows the expansion of Wallsend in the late nineteenth century that began to encroach on the farm. The ship-builders Wigham Richardson and Co. built a large number of terraced houses for their workers on the grounds of Carville Hall to the east of Stott's House Farm, and in 1892 Wigham Richardson rented from the Corporation of Newcastle the strip of land belonging to the farm that bordered the Hall's grounds for a series of allotments, reducing the size of the field called House Close.²⁵

A photograph of c.1898 shows one half of the farmstead (Fig. 10), by which time the building at the east end is derelict, the front wall of the western part of the original farmhouse has been rebuilt in brick, and a chimney possibly for a scullery/wash-house has been added to a room to the left of the front door.²⁶ It seems that the old farmhouse had been converted into accommodation for a farm-worker, as in 1915 the ground floor rooms of 'the cottage at the east end of Stotts House Farm', occupied by the farm's hind (a skilled farm worker), was declared unfit for human habitation.²⁷

Figure 12 shows the farm in c.1933. The main roof of the byre, originally roofed in pantiles (Fig. 9), has been re-covered and is in poor condition, and the lean-to structure that was previously attached to the front of the house at the west end of the farm (Fig. 9) has been re-positioned in front of the byre.²⁸ The line of the Wall ditch is still visible, but the ponds have dried up and are just grass.

In 1828 the farm had lost its land by the river; by 1840 a corner of one field was lost to the mill of Walker Grove; by 1858 part of another field was sold or leased to create Park Villa and its gardens, and by 1895 two further fields had become football and cricket grounds. By the 1930s it had lost most of the rest for house-building as Newcastle expanded, and was no longer a fully functioning farm.

²⁴ Possibly before 1882, when the farm sold 48 pigs, two cattle and three horses: *Newcastle Courant*, 19 May 1882.

²⁵ The company, now Swan Hunters and Wigham Richardson, continued to lease the allotments until 1937, for an annual rent of £15 (TWAM DS.SWH/2/2/10/9).

²⁶ This photograph was donated to Newcastle City Library in 1923 by Dr E. Blair of South Shields, possibly a relation of the antiquarian Robert Blair (who died the same year). He gave it the incorrect title 'Carr Houses at Wallsend, 1899'. The complete photograph shows the Carville Allotments Gardens (set up c.1892) and Carville Hall (demolished 1898) in the background: Croom 2015, 7.

²⁷ 'The walls were saturated with moisture and it was obvious that nothing short of demolition and complete reconstruction would meet the case'; it suffered from, 'among other defects, dampness and dilapidation' (TWAM MD.NC/PH/4/1/57). There are no free-standing buildings east of the farmstead that could be this 'cottage'.

²⁸ This happened before 1907: see Fig. 11D.

The last family to live in the house were the Sandersons. In 1935 William Sanderson and his daughter Mrs Tait were in an accident on the Great North Road when their car burst into flames; Mrs Tait died but William Sanderson was saved. 'At a private gathering of friends in Stott's House Farm, Wallsend, Mr Sanderson presented an inscribed silver tea set to Captain Bourner as a token of gratitude for saving his life'.²⁹ By June of 1937 the house was empty. A local newspaper recorded that 'since the farm was vacated a fortnight ago a veritable raid by all sorts and conditions of people has taken place, which has left the buildings in a derelict and dangerous condition'.³⁰ The farm was demolished to make way for the new housing, and some of the Roman stones were taken to be used in the central rockery of the Carville Chapel Roman Wall Rock Garden that opened in September 1937.³¹

Acknowledgements

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²⁹ *Southern Reporter*, 14 November 1935.

³⁰ Cutting from an unnamed newspaper dated (by hand) 5 June 1937 in an album in Newcastle City Library Local Studies (*Walker, Walkergate and Walkerville: Miscellaneous Articles*).

³¹ Giles 1938.

Appendix: List of the tenants of Stott's House Farm

year	occupier	references and notes
by 1706	Winship family	St Bartholomew's parish records: references to John, Mark, Thomas, Sarah, Anne and the widow Winship until at least 1723, when the records stop mentioning house names.
by 1775	Redhead family	St Bartholomew's parish records: there are references to two families, Lancelot and Rebecca (née Falcuss) Redhead and William and Hannah (née Hunnam) Redhead and their families. The relationship between Lancelot and William is unclear (there is an 18-year age gap between them). At this period the Falcus (sic) family had the tenancy of the neighbouring farm, Walker East Farm.
1812		When they both died in 1812 Lancelot was described as a farmer at Wallsend and William as a farmer at Walker.
by 1828	James Brown	Indentures: TWAM DT.SC/26/1-4; Anon 1833, 77; Maclauchlan 1858, 9. He died before 1867: <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 16 April 1867.
1841		Census: James and Mary Brown and family (including 20-year old son, also described as a farmer) and a female servant. Thirty-one other people, mainly pit workers, lived in 'Stotts House Farm Cottages'.
1843		Tithe map: 125 acres: NRO DT469s.
1851		Census: James Brown, aged 78, farmer of 120 acres.
1861	Mary Brown	Census: Mary Brown, widow, farmer of 120 acres, employing 2 men and 1 boy. William Brown, a carter, is the head of a separate household in the farmstead.
1870	Robert Brown	<i>Newcastle Journal</i> , 21 March 1870; son born at Alcester: Robert described as 'of Huddersfield and Stott's House Farm': <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 31st October 1873.
1871		Census: no farmer mentioned, although George Brown lives in the farmstead as a husbandman with his two sons working as farm servants.
1874		Sale of animals and farm implements (March), death of two daughters of William Brown (May), sale of away-going crop (August): <i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 27 March; 29 May; 14 August 1874.
by 1880	George Charlton	<i>Newcastle Courant</i> , 16 Jan 1880 (suing for damage to crops by chemical works); 4 November 1881; 19 May 1882.
1881		Census: house occupied by George and Mary, their children William, Mary, John & George, mother-in-law Ursula Hedley, farm servants Emily Hogg and Mary Holmes.
1891		Census: as above (apart from the servants), plus extra

		children Jane and Henry; and two servants, George Jefferson and Elizabeth Finley.
by 1895	Henry Yarrow	<i>Shields Daily Gazette</i> , 18 Mar 1895: fined 10s for not washing out the cow-shed with water at least once a day, rather than just sweeping it twice.
1901		Census: house occupied by Henry and Elizabeth Yarrow, their daughter Annie, and two domestic servants, Jennie Waugh and Annie Brown. Henry died in 1908.
1908	George Sanderson	<i>Morpeth Herald</i> , 8 May 1909; <i>Taunton Courier</i> , 29 May 1935.
1911		Census: George and Margaret and their children Thomas, William and Agnes; milk lad William Lewis. Eighteen other people lived on the farm, consisting of four households in one- and two-rooms tenements.
by 1915	William Sanderson	Closure notice for 'cottage at the east end of Stott's House Farm' served (TWAM MD.NC/PH/4/1/57); lease of land for allotments 1917, 1922 (TWAM DS.SWH.2/2/10/9).
1937		Buildings demolished.