

5.6 John Street, west side16 - 18 John Street

- Three-storey, three-bay (painted) brick building with small windows at top floor (c.1860).
- Ground Floor – At street level, shopfronts at both units have recent doors (under transom panels for AC units) adjacent to large central windows with aluminum-framed, c. 1950s glazing, each with two recent transom windows above. No. 16 has aluminum-framed door and no. 18 has modern, six-panel wood door. There is no fascia nor cornice and exposed, painted steel beam above rests on plain brick piers at either side and central, round iron post.
- Second Floor – At second floor, building is articulated into three bays by plain brick pilasters, each bay having single dog-toothed band at head providing corbelling for projecting masonry above. Centrally placed apertures contain unusual 4/1 windows (assumed to be replacements) with vertical upper panes. Sills are painted, cast-in-situ concrete, with brick flat-arches above.
- Third Floor/Parapet – Upper floor is again divided by plain pilasters into three bays, and appears to be an attic. Small windows are set in recessed brick panels, each aperture having no lintel. Windows seem to be old, removable, two-pane sashes. At parapet, masonry steps out to plane of pilasters. Dentil-like band above is composed of two stacked headers with small, recessed bricks between. Brickwork corbels out slightly at course above, and wooden fascia has old, ogee-type galvanized gutter draining pitched roof to corrugated downpipe at LH side. Roof is invisible from road, and with small chimney at left, while chimney at right side is most impressively extended to rise above roof of tall building to north.
- Comments – An attractive building in rather neglected condition, and suffering from much settlement (assumed to be inactive). At ground floor, shopfronts are simple and lack of fascia and cornice at exposed beam is inappropriate to the context. Second-floor concrete sills – assumed to replace wood – do not project beyond masonry this may be aggravating peeling paint and spalling brick below. Four-pane top sashes seem in fragile condition and should be maintained. RH chimney head needs re-pointing. Removal of paint from masonry is to be encouraged, assuming brickwork below is neither excessively decayed nor varied in type.