

5.6 John Street, west side34, 36, 38 & 40 John St.

- Tall, three-storey, seven-bay red-brick building with robust consoles at top cornice (c.1865).
- Ground Floor – Rhythm at street level differs from that of upper stories, and comprises both residential units and commercial units, and large coach passage at LH side. Masonry throughout is of hand-made red bricks in common bond, with rubbed brick soldiers at voussoirs. Unites are reached by modest flights of steps set mostly within recesses having panelled sides and soffits, all with bolection mouldings. Nos. 34 and 38 have recent, panelled metal door with integral “fan-light.” Masonry at no. 34 is rebuilt without transom window, while 38 has original pair of arched transom windows. Door to no. 36 is recent, and has pair of round-headed lights over two plain panels and two-pane transom window. Shopfront (to right) has 4-pane sash under two round-headed windows, and similar, half-width treatment at recess; all elements being recent. No. 40 has unusual (new) six-panel door with small central panels as panels of recess, under old round-headed transom windows. At no. 34 and 40, thick wooden sills and tall, narrow windows remain, with 1/1 units under round-headed top windows (all with metal storms). Fascia is only plain plywood and this runs full length of building. At second floor, elevation has seven, 2/2 windows (with metal storms) in segmental-arch apertures, each with rendered brick hood-mouldings dropping at jambs to wooden corbels. Sills are hidden by deep, white metal flashing. Top of second storey has band-course with recessed bricks forming crosses throughout. At third floor, building has seven, round-headed 2/2 windows (with metal storms) in round-headed arches. Narrow brick voussoirs are framed by profiled wooden hood-mouldings, again built off modest corbels. Wall-head has deep cornice with robust wooden consoles in pairs either side of windows. Consoles seem formed of upper and lower sections, with incised ornament at sides. Wall between is rendered and painted, and soffits above have v-jointed boards. Wooden, ogee-shaped moulding finishes fascia of cornice. Parapet is built of plain masonry with glazed, interlocking tiles forming protective coping. Rear elevation retains many old 6/6 windows.
- Comments – Façade is in good repair, though hood-mouldings and wooden corbels need some repair and painting, and some have fallen off. At ground floor, old panelled recesses and soffits, and old transom windows are rare and in good repair. Metal storm-windows, though not beautiful, protect old windows and should remain until a sensitive interior double-glazing system is installed. Parapet needs repointing, and a suitable lower cornice should be reinstated. Rear windows are wonderful.