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Stride Treglown

BUXTON CRESCENT & SPA PROJECT

STATEMENT OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION FOR REMOVAL AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ARCADE TO REAR OF THE NATURAL BATHS

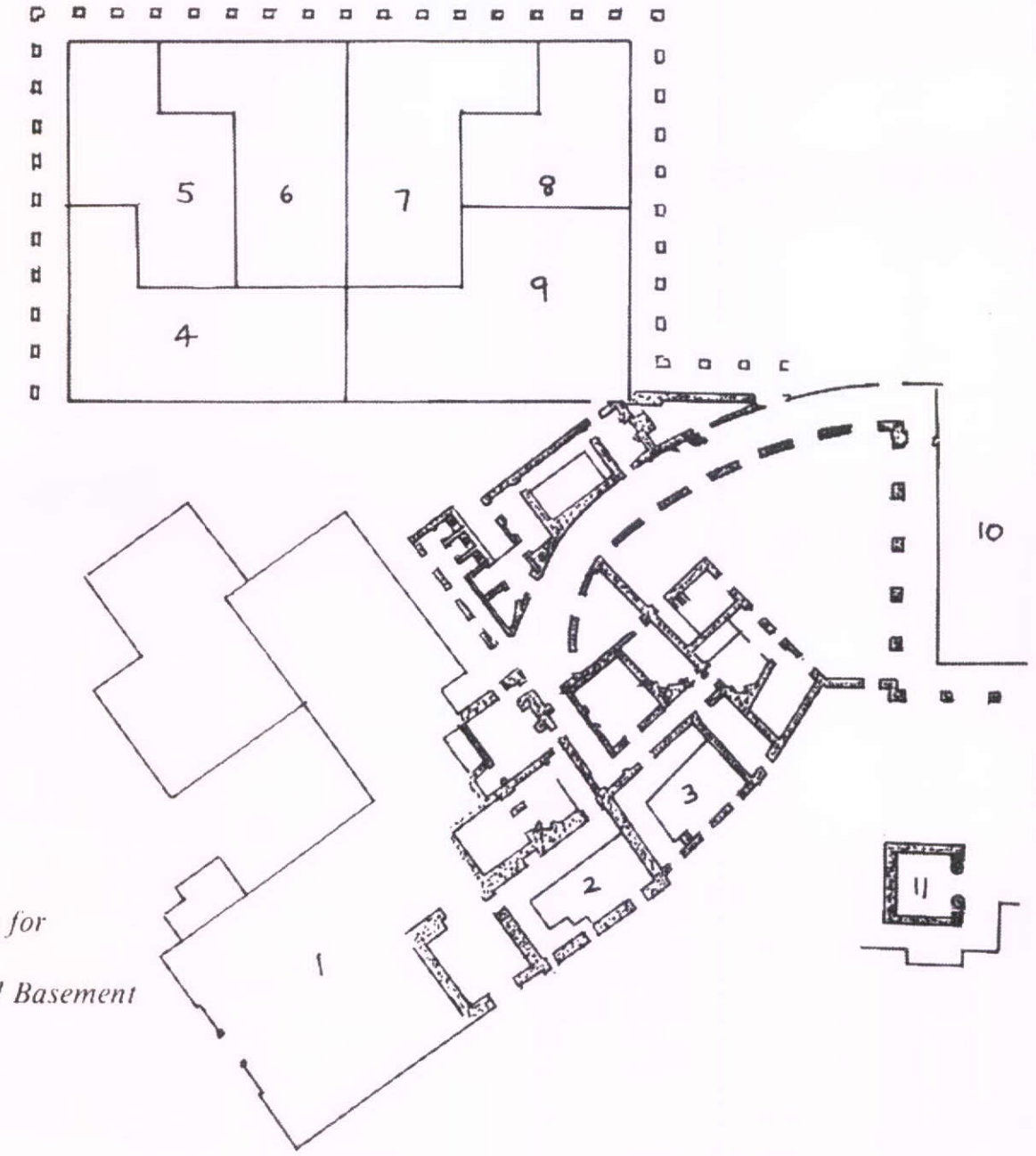
The arcade to the rear of the natural baths was constructed at the same time as 'The Square' and defines the south boundary of the small piazza to the rear of the square. The square was designed by John White as a screen to the untidy rear elevation of the Hall and the Baths. Here the elevation is so close to that of Lord Burlington's 'Piazza' adjoining the assembly rooms in York and White had presumably seen the Earl's still preserved at Chatsworth.

The scheme is an ingenious grouping of six houses round three sides of a court, with continuous arcade round the perimeter to link the houses with the Baths and Crescent. The lodging houses of 'The Square' and the adjacent arcade screening the rear of the natural baths were completed in 1807 and were listed Grade II* in 1951. Along with the new church of St John which was completed in 1811 and works to the George hotel to the north and to the Great Hotel, White managed to considerably tidy up the random elements to the rear of some of the older buildings and thus make a very significant contribution to the landscape and architecture to Buxton.

Between 1851 and 1856 the Natural Baths were redesigned by Henry Curry and it is this footprint which is evident in the current Natural Baths, though the baths were re-ordered in 1937. It is likely that at this stage the glazed roof was built over the arcade in question, which has since been removed. As part of the complex of 'The Square' this arcade is of 'high' significance.

Care will need to be taken in any dismantling of this structure and faithful reinstatement should be undertaken on completion of the works, which will form part of a separate Listed Building Consent Application.

These works are necessary to enable the pipework linking the Nestle source to their factory to be re-routed prior to the Enabling Works Contract for the Restoration and Extension of The Crescent in safety and without risk of collapse of the masonry onto the pipes or people installing them. Adjacent excavations for the pipework alterations have the potential for undermining the foundations of this Arcade.



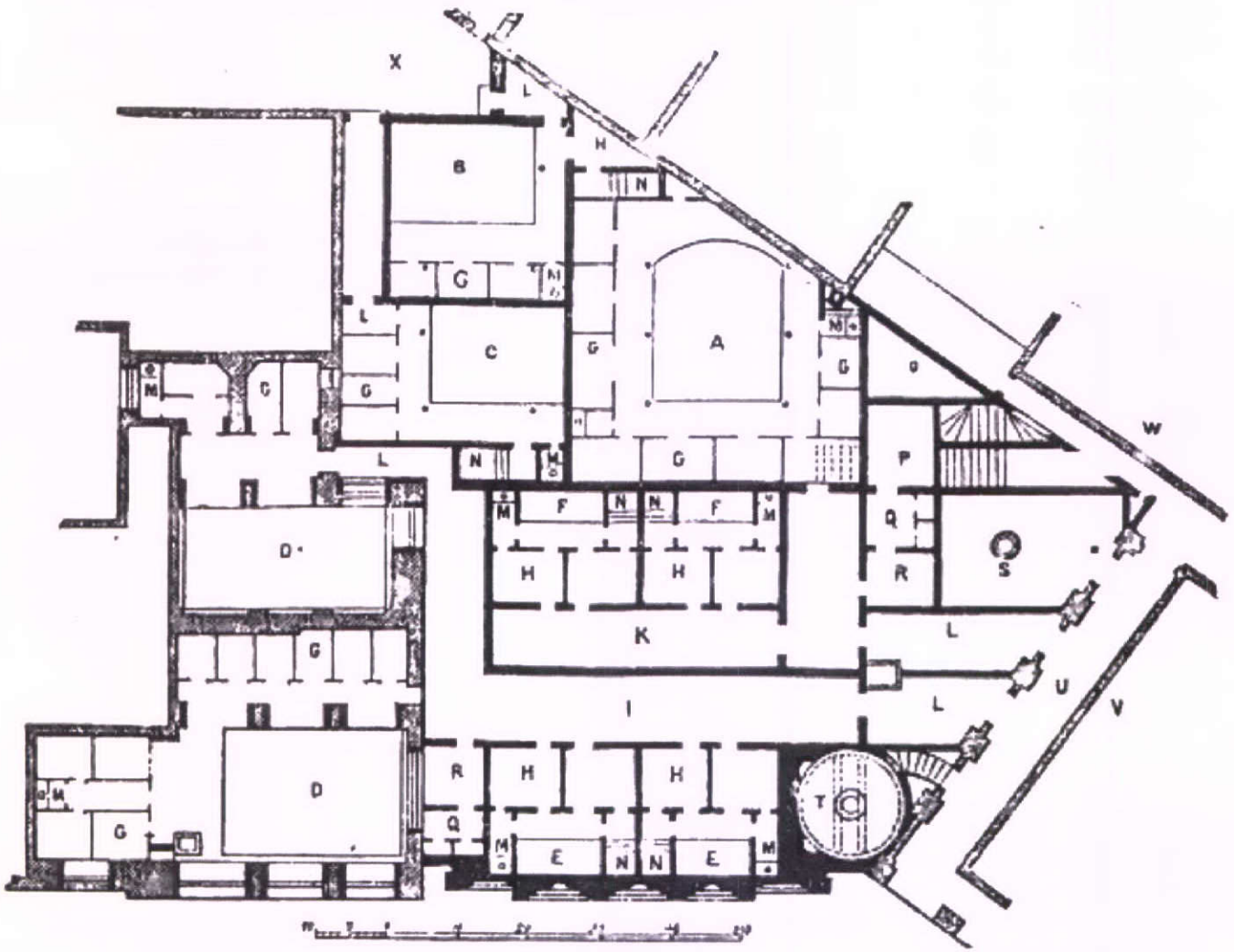
1 - Old Hall
2 - Old Bath
3 Ladies Bath
4 to 9 - House plots for the Square
10 - St. Ann's Hotel Basement
11 - St. Ann's Well.

Fig. 29: Detail of John White's plan for the Baths (redrawn from fig. 26).

GROUND PLAN OF THE NATURAL BATHS.

References to Ground Plan of Natural Baths.

A. Ladies' public bath.
B. Women's charity bath.
C. Men's charity bath.
D. Gentlemen's public baths.
E. Gentlemen's private baths.
F. Ladies' private baths.
G. Dressing-boxes.
H. Dressing-rooms.
I. Gentlemen's corridor and waiting-room.
K. Ladies' do.
L. Lobby.
M. Water-closets.
N. Douche-closets.
O. Furnace-room.
P. Drying-room.
Q. Store-room.
R. Bath-keeper's office.
S. Chalybeate drinking-well.
T. St. Anne's drinking-well.
U. Crescent arcade.
V. West End of Crescent.
W. Dining-room.
X. Yard.



SOUTH FRONT.