

# The Registry Street, or Warrington Pottery – a biography of a small north Staffordshire factory, 1881–1969

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## Introduction

This is the story of a pottery factory and of the companies that operated from it. These companies are not exceptional or well-known and, as such, are not well-documented. Consequently, this is also an incomplete story, hampered both by the limitations of the sources available and a lack of identifiable products. It is, however, a story of the ‘typical’ – something generally overlooked in ceramic history, and consequently a story worth telling.

A short article in the *Northern Ceramics Society Newsletter*, ‘A Bomb to Kill Beetles’, described the attempt, in 1911, of a local resident to eradicate a plague of black beetles at the Warrington Pottery, Registry Street, Stoke-upon-Trent, and its aftermath.<sup>1</sup> In 1911 the Warrington Pottery itself was not well-known but this story caught the attention of newspaper readers across the country on account of the stupidity of those involved. The Warrington Pottery came to this writer’s attention following an archaeological evaluation carried out in 2023 by TVAS North Midlands in advance of the site’s redevelopment.<sup>2</sup> The beetle story propelled a mild interest into an intense fascination, not least because the details highlighted the squalid nature of many pottery factories at this time. Excavation on the site exposed some intriguing, but confusing structural evidence, in the form of two oven bases, and a small quantity of ceramics of which little could be linked with the factory itself. Nevertheless, documentary

sources highlighted an operation which, for almost a century, was at best unexceptional and at worst chaotic. This picture seemed to accord well with what is known of the way in which many smaller concerns operated in the Potteries, and so it seemed that further investigation of the Warrington Pottery and its history might shed light not just on this one factory, and on the various businesses which operated from it, but on the state of an often-overlooked sector of the wider pottery industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

## A new pottery in Registry Street

The pottery factory which was the source of the beetle infestation referred to above was built in late 1881, following an invitation to builders to tender for the construction of ‘two ovens and one enamel kiln; also a two-storey building, workshops, &c., in Registry-street, Stoke’.<sup>3</sup> The 1900 25-inch Ordnance Survey map shows an irregular four-sided factory fronting onto Registry Street, nestled between terraced housing, while at the rear it is bounded by the Fowlea Brook (Fig. 1). The 1879 25-inch Ordnance Survey map shows a plot slightly smaller than that occupied by the new factory, with some large nondescript-looking buildings around a large open yard, in which a ‘saw pit’ is indicated (Fig. 2). There are terraces of cottages to the north-west and south-east, fronting onto Registry Street, but it is clear that one or two houses to the south-east, along with

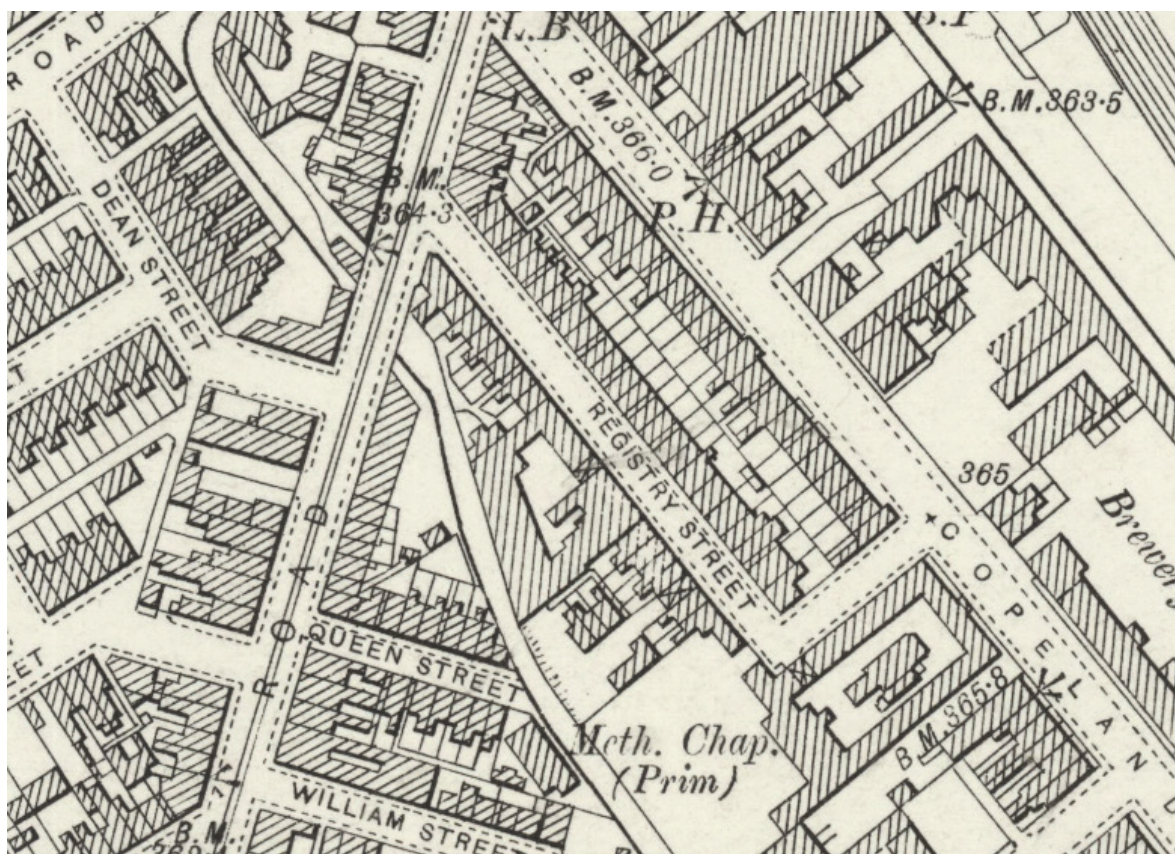


Fig. 1. The Registry Street Pottery in 1898. OS 25-inch survey, sheet XVIII.1.



Fig. 2. The site of the Registry Street Pottery in 1879, prior to the factory's construction in 1881. OS 25-inch survey, sheet XVIII.1.

the yard behind and other structures, were removed to accommodate the new pottery factory building. The identity of some of these buildings is suggested by an advert first placed in April 1881:

To be let or sold, an excellent manufactory, situate in Registry street, Stoke, with engine and boiler attached, formerly used as a metal mounting works; can be adapted to any business at little cost; rent moderate, or sold cheap; greater part of the purchase money may remain on mortgage.<sup>4</sup>

Although not mentioned in the 1881 invitation to tender, the Registry Street Pottery was built and initially occupied by James Plant.<sup>5</sup> Plant is listed as a manufacturer of stone and earthenware in 1882, with an accompanying advert which reads 'James Plant, Manufacturer of Stone and Earthenware and Decorated Goods for Home and Export, Registry Street Works, Stoke-on-Trent'.<sup>6</sup> In 1884 and 1888 he is listed under 'earthenware manufacturers'.<sup>7</sup> James Plant came from a family of potters, starting his career with his father at the family's Sneyd Green Pottery. He went on to build the Brewery Street Works in Hanley, where in 1880 he is listed as both a stoneware and earthenware manufacturer,<sup>8</sup> before building the Registry Street Pottery. He subsequently built the much larger Stoke Pottery on Shelton New Road where he operated as J. & R. Plant from 1889-1893 and as James Plant & Co. from 1893-1901. In 1900 Plant joined forces with Grimwade Brothers to form Grimwades, Ltd., becoming the company's Managing Director.<sup>9</sup>

Little is known about day-to-day business at Registry Street while James Plant was in occupation, or about the wares made there, but four new vessel shapes were registered by him during these years – three in 1885, and one in 1888.<sup>10</sup> This is in contrast to the ten shapes and patterns registered during his first two years at the Stoke Pottery. The following notices, placed in the Situations Vacant columns of

the *Staffordshire Sentinel* in November 1885, February 1886, January 1887 and September 1887 respectively, give further small clues to the nature of production: 'Wanted woman as oil and duster and pattern gilder'; 'Glost warehouse woman wanted – one that has been accustomed to sorting'; 'Wanted, a turner, to help for a few weeks'; and 'Wanted apprentice enamel paintress and gilder'.<sup>11</sup> Plant seems to have been making standard tea, table and toilet wares in white earthenware.

In October 1887, the following advertisement was placed:

To Let, two-oven Earthenware Manufactory, with two kilns, replete with machinery, &c.; satisfactory reasons for leaving. Apply James Plant, Registry-street Works, Stoke-on-Trent.<sup>12</sup>

The 'satisfactory reasons for leaving' presumably means that the business was in good shape and that Plant was merely intending to move on, as indeed we know that he did. However, no tenant was found, and a second ad was placed in March 1888, this time for the sale by auction of:

All that desirable Freehold Earthenware Manufactory, situate and being in Registry-street, Stoke-upon-Trent, in the County of Staffordshire with two ovens, kiln, buildings, and premises thereto belonging. Together with the Two Dwelling-Houses and Premises adjoining, and situate in Registry street aforesaid. This lot is subject to a lease to Mr James Plant which expires on the 25th December, 1888, at an annual rent of £135.<sup>13</sup>

Plant hoped to sell his property, but intended to continue his lease, and occupation of the works until 25th December. The factory's machinery is not included in the sale. Plant presumably intended to take with this him to use in his next manufacturing venture. By contrast, the machinery had been mentioned specifically when the factory

was advertised to let in October 1887 and would have been essential for a new tenant aiming to commence production on new premises.

### Difficult times

No buyer was found at this time, but new tenants were found – George & Benjamin Burton, who were previously at the Waterloo Works, Hanley, where they are listed as earthenware manufacturers.<sup>14</sup> Between 1889 and 1900 they are listed as ‘manufacturers of earthenware & figures’ at Registry Street,<sup>15</sup> and in 1901 they advertised in the *Pottery Gazette* as the Registry Street Pottery Co., Ltd.:

Manufacturers of Earthenware for Home and Export. Large varieties in Toilet Sets, Jugs, Flower Pots, Cheese Stands, and other useful articles. Also Manufacturers of Fancy Dogs, Spaniels, Hare and Hounds, Swans, Nest Eggs, and a General Assortment of Fancy Figures.<sup>16</sup>

These are typical earthenware goods such as were made by many small manufacturers for the lower end of the market.

The Registry Street Pottery Co., Ltd., is also listed under earthenware manufacturers in Kelly’s 1904 trades directory,<sup>17</sup> but by 1904 the business was in serious trouble. On 25th April the Registry Street Pottery (Stoke-upon-Trent) Ltd. announced the winding up of the company and appointed a liquidator.<sup>18</sup>

The factory was once again advertised to let on 23rd June 1906:

To Let, Registry-street Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent: complete with machinery and fixtures, suitable for either making earthenware or china. For further particulars apply to the Owner, James Plant, Stone House, Stone, or the Agent, Mr Travis, Barlaston.<sup>19</sup>

Again, a tenant was found and in February 1907 George Goff, trading with his wife, Jane, as G. & J. Goff, had

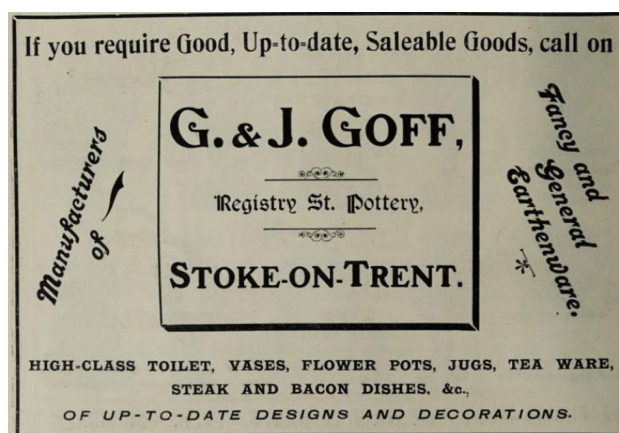


Fig. 3. G. & J. Goff advertisement; *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st January 1908, p. 30.

moved to Registry Street.<sup>20</sup> They described themselves as ‘Manufacturers of Fancy and General Earthenware’, which included ‘High-Class Toilet [sic], Vases, Flower Pots, Jugs, Tea Ware, Steak and Bacon Dishes, &c. of up-to-date Designs and Decorations’<sup>21</sup> (Fig. 3). This limited description suggests that the Goffs were, like George & Benjamin Burton before them, producing standard cheaper white earthenwares for the lower end of the market which were often marketed as ‘cheap lines.’<sup>22</sup> George Goff had previously been in business as an earthenware decorator in Liverpool Road, Stoke-upon-Trent, since October 1905, prior to which he had worked for others as a decorator, designer, and manager.<sup>23</sup> The earthenware decorating business had been started with a £100 advance from Jane, and operated under the name ‘J. Goff’; George had no capital of his own. In June 1906 the business relocated to Wharf Street and then, in February 1907, to Registry Street, whereupon the couple traded in co-partnership.

However, the Goffs’ time at Registry Street was anything but a success and ended in bankruptcy within the year. The Goffs’ gross liabilities amounted to £1,595 19s 10d, with 62 unsecured creditors.<sup>24</sup> They had received £905 from moneylenders over a twelve-month period and were thus liable for £1,273.

Their businesses assets were stock in trade, and trade fixtures, utensils, etc., which were estimated to produce £130 and £100 respectively. Amongst the creditors were listed Gimson (perhaps for kiln furniture)<sup>25</sup> – £37; J. Plant (presumably unpaid rent) – £236; The Chromo Transfer Potters Supply Co., Ltd., of the Eagle Transfer and Colour Works, Stoke-on-Trent (manufacturers of lithographic transfer and colours for china and earthenware)<sup>26</sup> – £14; Keeling & Walker, Stoke-on-Trent (flint and stone grinders and suppliers of potters' raw materials, colours, glazes, chemicals, sundry utensils and machinery)<sup>27</sup> – £18; Edwards (probably George Edwards, flint grinders of Bucknall)<sup>28</sup> – £10; and Warrington & Son, Stoke-on-Trent (almost certainly for coal and, or clay: Henry Warrington & Son were listed as proprietors of the nearby Berry Hill Colliery, as brick and tile manufacturers and iron masters)<sup>29</sup> – £87.

At the bankruptcy inquiry, Goff gave as the cause of the firm's failure 'want of capital, loss by defective machinery, [and] bad ovens', stating also that a month's trading had been lost due to the factory not being ready for work until March. He also acknowledged that the business's books had not been well-kept. The Official Receiver was not impressed and accused Goff of reckless trading.

As a consequence of Goff's bankruptcy, Messrs Charles Butters & Sons, 'received instructions to Catalogue and Arrange for Sale by Auction, at an Early Date, on the above premises [Registry Street Pottery], the whole of the Stock-in-Trade, Materials, Loose Plant, Utensils and General Effects'.<sup>30</sup> Notice of the sale, by public auction, on Thursday 27th February 1908, appeared shortly thereafter, and the list of items to be disposed of included:

Complete aerograph plant with sprayers, quantity of enamel and under glaze colours, mixing slab and maul, 350 good potters' boards, saggar shords, 1,500 saggars, jigger heads and tools, oven and kiln bars, kiln bats and props, 18 magnets, press

cloths and nozzles, quantity of ball clay, 5 casks stilts, lawns, printer's press, large quantity lithos, liners' wheels, stools, packing twine, crates, half a ton of straw, &c., &c., the whole of the blocks, cases, and working moulds (mostly made during the last 12 months), good and saleable designs, including toilet sets, vases, jugs, trinket sets, flower pots, cheese and fruit dishes, clock sets, &c, a large quantity finished and unfinished ware.<sup>31</sup>

A second advertisement relating to the Goffs' bankruptcy appeared in the following month. An 'Important Sale of Ware' was to take place at the Borough Auction Rooms, Trinity Buildings, Hanley, on Tuesday 17th March:

A large quantity of decorated ware removed for convenience of sale from the Registry-street Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent, and comprising:

30 richly-decorated toilet sets, 175 pairs of handsome vases from 12in. to 30in. high, an assortment of about 70 sets of jugs, 100 flower pots (various sizes and decorations), also a variety of useful and ornamental goods, plaques [*sic*], cheese dishes, trinket sets, clock sets, &c.<sup>32</sup>

The factory was again advertised to let on 10th February 1908:

To Let, Registry-street Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent: two ovens and kilns, complete with modern sliphouse machinery, electric power. Apply, James Plant, Stone House, Stone.<sup>33</sup>

Subsequent identical advertisements appeared on 3rd July and on 7th December 1908:

To Let, Registry-street Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent: 2 ovens, kilns, complete with modern machinery, steam pipes, jiggers, jollies, and steam stoves. Mr Travis, Property Agent, Barlaston.<sup>34</sup>

### **The Warrington Pottery**

The two 1908 ads are the last to link James Plant with the Registry Street Pottery. By the end of 1909 the factory had been sold to Henry James Warrington, and in January 1910 a new company, The Warrington Pottery, Ltd., was registered.<sup>35</sup> *The Staffordshire Sentinel* confirmed the change of trading name in February 1910 with the announcement that:

The Warrington Pottery, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares, to take over the business of a manufacturer and dealer in art ware, earthenware, china, porcelain, parian, majolica and other commodities carried on by H. J. Warrington, at Registry-street, Stoke-on-Trent. It is a private company.<sup>36</sup>

Henceforth the factory at Registry Street is known as the Warrington Pottery.

Henry James Warrington of Fenton Manor, trading as Henry Warrington & Son, Ltd., was proprietor of the important nearby Berry Hill Colliery and, as one of the Goffs' major creditors, would have been well-placed to take over their business. Warrington already had an interest in pottery manufacture, being not only one of the directors of the pottery firm Cauldon (Brown-Westhead Moore & Co.), Ltd. and supplier of its coal, but also a supplier of coal to many other local pottery firms. In 1904 Brown-Westhead, Moore & Co., had incorporated as a limited company and was renamed, although the ownership and management of the company remained the same.<sup>37</sup> The company used the shortened name 'Cauldon Ltd.' on its ware.

The coming of age of Henry's son, Henry John, was celebrated in lavish style at the Grand Hotel, Hanley, with around 140 people from the businesses with which Mr Warrington Snr was associated attending the event.<sup>38</sup> Speakers highlighted recent developments at the Berryhill Colliery and the improving fortunes of Cauldon Ltd., and amongst the many toasts was

one, proposed by Mr P. B. Ross, to the success of the Warrington Pottery Company. He expressed great confidence in its future, with the belief that 'The special materials, both red and white, would enable economical potting to be carried on with exceptional results as to quality.' Responding to this toast, John Sydney Forde (soon to become Henry James's son-in-law) stated that the pottery 'had recently been brought up to date by electrifying it throughout, and putting in efficient machinery, and with such management as they intended it to have he felt sure that the ware to be known as Warrington-Westwood would soon become world known.' Mr Claude Wallace and Mr J. R. Haines spoke of the materials from Westwood being of such a quality as should prove very advantageous to both Cauldon and Registry-street, and eventually to other firms in the Potteries, while Mr George H. Greatbatch stated that 'Registry-street was producing, from beautiful red clay, what was to be known as Warrington-Westwood ware.' Mr F. T. Moore, of Cauldon Ltd., also spoke of the prospects of the Registry Street works and stated that 'he looked forward to Berry Hill, Cauldon, and Registry-street becoming a united and happy family', a sentiment echoed by Henry Warrington Jnr.

However, Henry Warrington Snr had no practical experience of pottery making and he installed as manager of the Registry Street factory his son-in-law, John Sydney Forde.<sup>39</sup> This is a surprising move, as Forde, although described as a 'pottery manufacturer' in the 1911 Census, also had no experience of pottery making. He had, in fact, been in partnership as a garage proprietor in Birkenhead until 1909,<sup>40</sup> and he was soon to return to Cheshire and a career in the motor trade.<sup>41</sup>

After all the fanfare at Henry Warrington Jnr's coming of age party in March 1910, the business had changed hands within two years. In May 1912 the *Pottery Gazette* carried an article on the Warrington Pottery which made no mention of Henry James Warrington. Indeed, it states that:

Mr D. H. Floyd is the manging director, and he is infusing a considerable amount of energy into the works. Mr Floyd is a restless, pushing man of business, and his activity seems to have been infectious. At the time of my visit every one appeared to be working with a will.<sup>42</sup>

Daniel Henry Floyd (1887–1959) was the youngest son of Reuban Floyd, owner of the nearby Lovatt & Hall Street Potteries, Stoke-upon-Trent, which then operated as R. Floyd & Sons. The firm was described as ‘extensive manufacturers of earthenware for all markets ...’, with a reputation of being one of the cheapest houses in the trade, and at the same time supplying very serviceable ware; their special lines were ‘tea pots, vases, flower pots, clock sets, and novelties.’<sup>43</sup> It is clear that R. Floyd & Sons had taken over the Warrington Pottery by the time of the National Coal Strike of 1912, for on 2nd March 1912, as the *Sentinel* reported, in an article entitled ‘North Staffs. And the Strike. Most Factories Idle. Thousands of Potters Already out of Work’:

Messrs. R. Floyd and Sons, of the Lovatt and Hall-street Potteries, Stoke, and the Registry-street Pottery, Hanley [*sic*], are closing down to-day. Altogether some 150 hands will be unemployed.<sup>44</sup>

In fact, the article in the *Pottery Gazette* had probably been written around two months before its publication on 1st May 1912 – in other words, perhaps immediately before the closure due to the Coal Strike.

Daniel Henry Floyd was 24 or 25 when he assumed control of the Warrington Pottery. He had gained experience in the active running of his father’s two other factories alongside his two older brothers.<sup>45</sup> However, the exact circumstances under which the business came into the Floyds’ control are unclear, but it is possible that Warrington’s interest in a venture which was peripheral to his main business waned rapidly. No other connection between the Floyds

and Warrington has been found, but the former were clearly expanding at this time, for in November 1911 it was reported that the Hanley Pottery Co., Ltd. ‘has just been registered with a capital of £1,000, in £1 shares, to carry on the business of an earthenware manufacturer, formerly carried on by W. Bould, at Clarence-st., Hanley. Subscribers: D. H. Floyd and R. Floyd, 63, Hartshill-rd., Stoke-on-Trent.’<sup>46</sup>

In 1912 the Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd., is listed under earthenware manufacturers in Kelly’s Directory.<sup>47</sup> The 1912 *Pottery Gazette* article expands upon this, referred to the company’s production of red-bodied ‘Samian’ wares, which were cheap, lower-end goods of the type made by numerous smaller manufacturers. Its products were stated to include ‘teapots, vases, flower pots, jugs, tea and breakfast cups, plates, dishes, toilet sets, and a great variety of novelties.’<sup>48</sup> An accompanying illustration shows what are said to be the firm’s principal products (Fig. 4), which are described in some detail:

Teapots constitute a substantial feature in their many specialities. They are made in ‘Globe’, ‘Saxony’, ‘London’, ‘Silver’, ‘Princess’, and other shapes. They are supplied in plain ‘Samian’, and also with assorted bands – green, salmon, and white. The same pots are shown with ‘daffodil’ and also with ‘poppy’ decoration, both are very pleasing in appearance. One of the latest productions is named ‘Marble’. This pretty decoration is a mixture of white and red marl, nicely, and is shown on the ‘Princess’ shape. The decoration on the vase is an attractive one – Japanese and lanterns – the latter illuminated with gold. The clock case and the tall candlesticks are representative of many fancy pieces in addition to jugs, flower pots, tea sets, domestic jars, butter boats and other useful articles. The company have show rooms, at 60, Gamage Building, London, E.C. and at 46, Cranes’ Buildings, Church-street, Liverpool. The Warrington Pottery Company have contracted with Cauldon Ltd. (Brown, Westhead,



Fig. 4. Earthenwares produced by the Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd. *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st May 1912, p. 525.

Moore & Co. [sic]), Ltd. for their seconds in white, printed and white china.<sup>49</sup>

The 1912 *Pottery Gazette* article refers specifically to the manufacture of 'Samian' at the Warrington Pottery, but it is impossible to be certain that other types, such as jet and Rockingham, are not shown in the accompanying illustration. In a letter of May 1913, a correspondent states his understanding that Rockingham teapots were not at that time being made at the Warrington Pottery, but whether this had previously been the case is unclear.<sup>50</sup> The *Pottery Gazette* article makes it clear that a connection with Cauldon Ltd. was retained, with the Warrington Pottery buying in from them 'seconds in white, printed and white china'. No extant examples of wares made by the Warrington Pottery have been identified, but a range of ads in the situations vacant columns of the *Staffordshire Sentinel* during 1913 and 1914 give some idea of the nature of the work at the factory, with teapot jiggerers, handlers and turners in high demand.<sup>51</sup> Other workers required were a covermaker<sup>52</sup> and a 'head warehouse woman (teapots).'<sup>53</sup>

This was not a good time to be engaged in a new venture of this sort. Following the outbreak of war in August 1914 the industry contracted and skilled and

unskilled workers alike were lost, initially through enlistment into the armed forces and subsequently as a result of conscription. Numerous ads placed by the Warrington Pottery Co. in the Situations Vacant columns during the War years testify to shortages in the workforce. In 1915, for example, it placed the following ads: 'Handler wanted at once for teapots, or apprentice served part-time; also apprentice cover turner, served part time (power lathe); regular work; War bonus';<sup>54</sup> and 'Jiggerer for Teapots (Apprentice or Journeyman), good place for steady man'.<sup>55</sup> In 1916 we see the following: 'Teapot Jiggerer Wanted; regular work; comfortable situation to right man';<sup>56</sup> 'Mouldmaker, to help; three or four months work';<sup>57</sup> and 'Woman Dipper for Teapots; also Apprentice Cover-turner'.<sup>58</sup> In another ad of October 1916 the company needed a bricklayer to repair ovens at the works.<sup>59</sup> Labour shortages seem to have been even more acute during 1917, with the following ads appearing: 'teapot jiggerer';<sup>60</sup> 'lad (strong) wanted immediately; good wages';<sup>61</sup> 'mouldmaker wanted at once' and 'woman (experienced) for bisque warehouse (teapots); also strong lad, 16-17';<sup>62</sup> 'saggar-maker wanted two-days per week';<sup>63</sup> and 'teapot jiggerer. Apprentice or journeyman wanted at once; good place for right man'.<sup>64</sup>

That the company was prepared to accept apprentices who had served only part of their time is evidence of the difficulties of filling positions during the War.

It was not merely the shortage of workers which affected the pottery industry. The cost of raw materials, such as coal, flint and bone, increased significantly, and there were shortages and delay in supply. Some items previously supplied by German firms, such as liquid gold, seger cones and lithos, were no longer readily available and alternative sources were needed.<sup>65</sup> Firms which produced redwares of the type made at Registry Street were less reliant on these than those firms producing white earthenware and bone china, but the trade in the cheaper jet, samian and Rockingham wares was itself badly affected by the war.

No information is available on the impact of the War on the scale of business carried on at Registry Street, but the company continued to operate for twelve years after its end which suggests a degree of stability and at least modest success. The immediate post-War period was one of optimism and expansion within the pottery trade,<sup>66</sup> and ads in the Situations Vacant columns at this time do not give the impression that the Warrington Pottery was struggling. In June 1919, for example, the company was looking for both a 'packer (teapots)' and a saggar maker,<sup>67</sup> while in October 1920 they advertised for a 'turner and blower wanted for teapots; wanted in a month'.<sup>68</sup>

In October 1920, the country experienced a short but very damaging coal strike. The *Staffordshire Sentinel* reported that many pottery factories were forced to cut or cease production due to the shortage of coal, throwing some 40,000 pottery workers – two-thirds of the workforce – out of work, and yet the Warrington Pottery and the nearby Lovatt Potteries and Hall Street Works were fully operational and anticipated keeping all of their employees on for the next two to three weeks.<sup>69</sup> It is difficult to determine the impact upon business of this coal strike, but shortly after its end the Warrington Pottery was

advertising 'Prepared Red Clay for Sale; 4 to 5 tons weekly'.<sup>70</sup> Then, immediately after the end of the even more damaging three-month coal strike of 1921, the Warrington Pottery was again hiring, seeking an 'experienced woman for dipping house (teapots)'.<sup>71</sup> It seems that such disruption was something which this business could accommodate.

The two companies, R. Floyd & Sons and the Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd., appeared together in another newspaper report in June 1924, after both were fined for failing to pay contributions under the National Health Insurance Acts and Unemployment Insurance Acts between August 1923 and January 1924.<sup>72</sup> Acting for the defendants, Mr F. Collis admitted that offences had been committed by both firms and that there had been 'gross slackness' in failing to stamp employees' health and insurance cards at the factories; however, Mr G. S. Marshall, prosecuting on behalf of the Ministries of Health and Labour raised the possibility of evasion. R. Floyd & Sons were fined 27 guineas and the Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd., was fined 9 guineas, with each firm required to pay £7 15s 6d in costs.

Business appears to have continued at Registry Street with no further incidents of this sort, and most of the mentions in the local newspaper are in the Situations Vacant columns. In February 1922, for example, the company required an 'apprentice turner (teapots); also strong woman for dipping house',<sup>73</sup> while in June 1923 it needed an 'apprentice turner, with knowledge of blowing, wanted at once; regular work',<sup>74</sup> and in September 1924 it sought an 'apprentice jiggerer and handler at once'.<sup>75</sup> The reference to blowing refers to the application of bands of slip to vessels using a blowing bottle. There was, however, a significant change to the R. Floyd & Sons partnership, operating at the Lovatt Street and Hall Street Potteries, which was dissolved on 31st December 1925, with Daniel Floyd's brothers Arthur Edward and Reuben Charles withdrawing. The business was to be continued by Daniel as

R. Floyd & Sons,<sup>76</sup> but there was trouble ahead for both companies.

Just over four years later, in February 1930, both the Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd., and R. Floyd & Sons entered into voluntary liquidation. The *Evening Sentinel* announced that a meeting of the Warrington Pottery Company's creditors was to be held on the 14th to nominate a liquidator and to appoint a Committee of Inspection,<sup>77</sup> and on the 17th the following ad appeared:

Re WARRINGTON POTTERY CO., LTD.

Registry-St., Stoke-on-Trent

FOR SALE BY TENDER, the whole of the loose assets, including finished and bisque teapots, &c., saggars, blocks, cases, moulds, work boards, kiln bats, utensils, store pots, 2 typewriters, office furniture, &c.

The property may be purchased or a tenancy may be arranged with suitable tenant.

Appointment to view to be made with the Liquidator. Tenders must be received by 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, February 20th, 1930, who is not bound to accept the highest or any tender.

Donald H. Bates, Liquidator,  
Incorporated Accountant  
Cheapside, Hanley.<sup>78</sup>

A further auction sale of the 'whole of the plant, trade effects and office furniture' of the Company was announced for 7th March of the, following its voluntary liquidation, which included:

About 200 dozen teapots. 500 glost saggars, 400 biscuit do., press-cloths, lawns, 200 feet rope, 100 feet do., Bolts, 25 h.p. electric motor by Lancashire Dynamo Co. with rheostat, spare armature, blocks, cases, moulds, stove pots, colour whirlers, Carborundum stones, contents of dipping house, contents of jiggering shop, do., saggarmakers' shop, work benches, 700 red paving

sets, 2 treadle lathes, small blunger, large quantity of utensils, and trade effects, office furniture, including: Oliver typewriter, tables, chairs, safe, clock, nest of drawers, cupboard, & c.<sup>79</sup>

A similar sale of the 'whole of the stock-in-trade, utensils, effects and office furniture' of R. Floyd & Sons was advertised for 11th March at the Lovatt Street Works,<sup>80</sup> following a sale by tender the previous month of the company's loose assets.<sup>81</sup>

Both companies appear to have been in a dreadful and quite chaotic financial state. The Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd., had liabilities of £9,560 0s 4d, and had, the liquidator found, been selling at a loss for some time, with the cost of wages and materials accounting, more or less, for the total income from sales.<sup>82</sup> The liquidator admitted that the situation was complicated, with the finances of the Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd., being very much linked to those of R. Floyd & Sons and the Weston Coyney Brick Works, operated by Daniel's brother Reuban Charles Floyd, the latter owing £1,927.

### The 1930s

It is unclear whether the Warrington Pottery was sold or let at this time, or to whom. Clearly the reference in *Kelly's Directory* in 1932 to the 'Warrington Pottery Co., Ltd., teapot manufacturers', of Registry Street, post-dates the cessation of business by the company and is a warning not to rely exclusively on the evidence of trades directory entries. In other respects, evidence for manufacturing activity at Registry Street during the 1930s is both sparse, confusing and, potentially, contradictory.

It is some years before manufacturing is documented at the Warrington Pottery. In September 1938 an 'excellent works' in Burslem was advertised to rent at £95 per annum, having '2 ovens, 1 kiln, colour room, making shop and warehouses'; interested parties were invited to apply to the Warrington Pottery in Registry Street.<sup>83</sup>

A new company, J. C. S. Wood, Ltd., of the Coronation Works, Commercial Street, Burslem, had been registered in May 1937 'to take over the business of manufacturers and merchants of tiles, pottery, bricks, pipes, etc.'<sup>84</sup> In another notice, the firm was described as 'manufacturers and merchants of, and dealers in, tiles, faience, pottery, bricks, pipes, earthenware china and terra-cotta ware, etc.'<sup>85</sup> The company's stated interests are wide in their range, but its registered capital of £100 in £1 shares seems extremely small.<sup>86</sup>

Presumably, it was the Coronation Works which was to let in September 1938, and it seems likely that J. C. S. Wood, Ltd., was operating at Registry Street by that time. Ads placed in the Situations Vacant section of the *Evening Sentinel* in January and May 1940 direct applicants to the Warrington Pottery. These ads provide some clues to the nature of the business, which clearly included the production of standard white earthenware tea and table wares. The first of these was for a 'cup, saucer and handle maker, sponger for cups and cup handler',<sup>87</sup> while the other was for a 'placer, able to do bis[cuit] and glost tea ware.'<sup>88</sup> The company had also added tile-making to its operations at some point, for in the 1940 trade directory the company is listed as 'tile makers'.<sup>89</sup>

It is actually likely that pottery and tile production were carried on at the same time, given the items offered for sale by auction at the Warrington Pottery on 6th May 1941 after the failure of the business:

Nine tile presses, by Gosling and Gatensbury; 200 Bisque Saucers, 100 doz. New Moulds, 150 doz. Used Moulds for Cups and Saucers and Plates, 100 Potters' Boards, 2 Wad Boxes, 1,500 Saggars and Oven Horses, 3 Barrows, 10 Tubs, 6 Lawns, Deal Table, and large quantity of Bisque Tiles.<sup>90</sup>

Meetings of the Company's creditors were held on Saturday 10th and Monday 19th May<sup>91</sup> and its voluntary liquidation was announced later that month.<sup>92</sup>

Two further sales took place at the factory. At the

first, on 5th June 1941, the following equipment was offered for sale:

Three expensive Tile Presses, by Gosling and Gatensbury, four electrically-driven Jiggers and Spare Tools, a Quantity of Dies, two nearly new Ascot Gas Water Heaters, Quantity of Clay, Quantity of Moulds, Block and Cases, Tables, Chairs, Fire Extinguishers, Buckets and Sundries.<sup>93</sup>

Then, on 11th September, the following items were offered:

The Whole of the Stock of Gloss Tiles and Effects, including: –

Large quantity of 4in. gloss tiles, 6in. x 1in. ditto, bull nose ditto, 12 complete sets of tiled fireplaces, biscuit tiles and saucers, quantity of cranks, 2,000 sq. saggars, 800 oval do., moulds, & c.<sup>94</sup>

The company's combined production of tiles and tea and table ware is interesting, if unusual, but henceforth the factory operated solely as a tileworks.

Little has been forthcoming about J. C. S. Wood, Ltd., apart from the fact that it had a Warwickshire connection. Curiously, the only two named subscribers to the new company in 1937 were Florence Muriel Whaley and Joyce M. Redding, both of Rugby; their occupations are given as 'clerk', although Florence was, in fact, a secretary to an accountant. Both were young unmarried women in their 20s living at home in 1937.

The Warwickshire connection is apparent again when Members of the said Company, convened for an Extraordinary General Meeting on 18th May 1941, at 18 Styvechale Avenue, Coventry. The resulting resolution was: 'That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Meeting that the Company cannot by reason of its liability continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up the same and that Mr. A. E. Limehouse F.C.A., of 24, Market Place, Rugby, and he is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purpose of such winding-up.'

J. C. S. Wood were at the Warrington Pottery for less than three years, but there is other evidence for manufacturing in Registry Street at this time. In February 1935, a company called Furnival & Brown advertised in the 'Tiles' section of the Situation Vacant column of the *Evening Sentinel* for a 'woman for biscuit warehouse, exp[erience]d. in sizing; also girls for fettling;' their address is given as Registry Street.<sup>95</sup> Furnival & Brown, Ltd., were registered as a private company in August 1933 to 'carry on the business of factors of and dealers in china, glassware, pottery and earthenware, &c.,' with a nominal capital of £750 in £1 shares.<sup>96</sup> No address was given, but the directors are named as T. Furnival of Stoke, H. C. Brown of Market Drayton, Shropshire, and E. O. Foster of Cheadle, Staffordshire.

In Kelly's 1936 *Directory*, Furnival & Brown are

listed as 'earthenware manufacturers' of Registry Street,<sup>97</sup> while in the *Pottery Gazette & Glass Trades Review Directory & Diary* for the same year the firm's entry reads 'Furnival & Brown (tiles), Registry street Works.'<sup>98</sup> The *Directory & Diary* carries this same entry until, and including, 1940. In the meantime, Furnival & Brown advertised for workers: 'scrapers and fettlers,'<sup>99</sup> a 'young woman, exper[ienced],. for biscuit warehouse, and two fettlers,'<sup>100</sup> and 'dippers, scrapers and mottlers.'<sup>101</sup> However, Furnival & Brown, Ltd., were clearly no longer in business at the time of the last *Directory & Diary* entry, for in February 1940 we learn that a Mr. A. E. Turner 'ceased to act as receiver' for the company, which is described as pottery and earthenware dealers; a date of 4th August 1939 is given.<sup>102</sup>

Nothing further is known about this company.

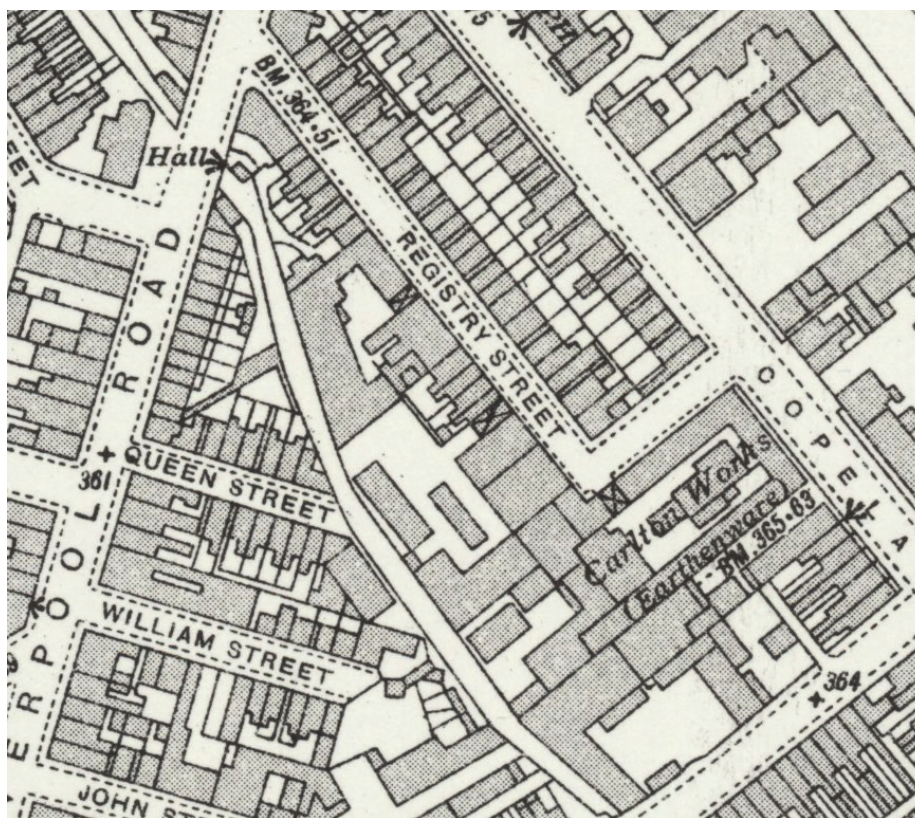


Fig. 5. Registry Street in 1937. OS 25-inch survey, Sheet XVIII.1.

Where was it operating? Could it have been based in the Warrington Pottery, or part of it? There are no other obvious industrial premises in Registry Street which could have accommodated this company, although the 1937 OS sheet does show a sizeable enclosed court or yard with two long rectangular structures, which could be workshops, to the south of the Warrington Pottery, separated from it on the street side by a terrace of four houses (Fig. 5). A further three cottages which were shown within this yard in 1922/23, had been demolished by the time of the 1937 survey. The yard, reached by a covered entrance, is in an area which had, by 1951, become part of Wiltshaw & Robinson's Carlton Works. Could it have accommodated a small manufacturing concern? It may not be a coincidence that in 1941, under the Wartime Concentration Scheme a 'glazed tile manufacturer was closed down to allow Wiltshaw & Robinson to hold a nucleus certificate', which allowed them to continue in business during the War.<sup>103</sup>

### **The Warrington Pottery in the post-War years**

There appears to have been a hiatus in production at the Warrington Pottery following the winding up of J. C. S. Wood, Ltd., which is unsurprising, given the government restrictions placed upon what could be produced and the consolidation of factories at this time. Production at Registry Street resumed after Rex Stuart Morris took over the works to set up business on his own account as a glazed tile manufacturer in 1944.<sup>104</sup>

Morris, of Willoughbridge, Pipe Gate, in north-east Shropshire, was said to have worked in the pottery industry for many years, and then as a commercial traveller, before joining the RAF in 1940.<sup>105</sup> He had worked as representative for Canning and Wildblood, Ltd., jam preservers of Birmingham, but was wrongly dismissed and subsequently awarded £233 7s 8d for loss of salary.<sup>106</sup>

A few examples of Morris's tiles are known.<sup>107</sup> These have relief-moulded decoration and coloured glazes and are marked 'R. S. MORRIS / STOKE. ON.

TRENT' on the reverse (Figs. 6, 7a, b). Apart from these few examples of the factory's products, most of what is known about Morris's business is derived from

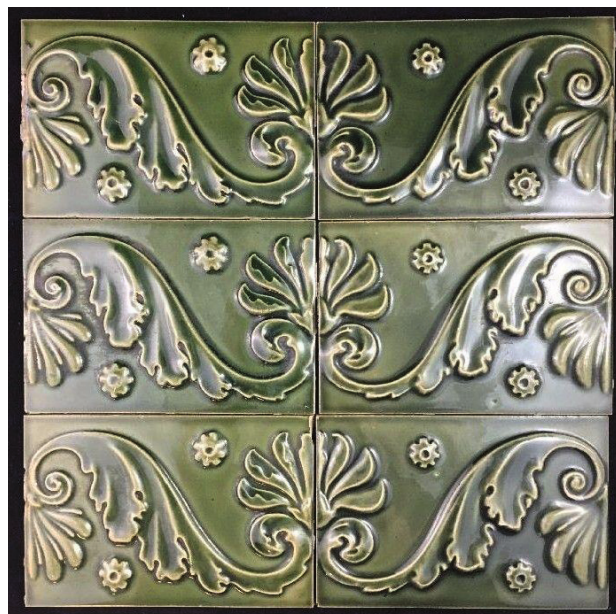


Fig. 6. Wall tiles made by R. S. Morris. Image: Worthpoint.



Fig. 7a, b. Moulded wall tile with the mark 'R. S. MORRIS / STOKE-ON-TRENT ENGLAND'. Image: Worthpoint.

details of court proceedings against him. In March 1949, for example, he was fined £20 for contravening factory regulations.<sup>108</sup> The three charges were:

1. That a young person was employed in cleaning the floor of the potter's shop;
2. that the floor of the potter's shop was not thoroughly cleaned by a moist method by an adult male after work had ceased; and
3. that a young person who had not attained the age of 16 had remained in employment after the prescribed 14 days without having been examined and passed medically fit for such employment.

These seem trivial matters, but in fact they reflect the seriousness with which the problems of silicosis were viewed within the industry. On 27th January, two factory inspectors had seen 15 year-old Elsie Jean Llewellyn sweeping the floor of a room where tile pressing was carried on, with no dust damping being used. The District Inspector of Factories, Mr E. Waller, prosecuting, referred to 45 cases of silicosis in the previous year which had been caused by potter's dust and hoped that the proceedings would serve as a warning to manufacturers of the importance of cleanliness. The forewoman stated that she had told the girls working under her on many occasions that they must never sweep up.

Then, in March 1953 Morris lost a claim against Mr Kenneth Lawrence of Lawrence Fireplaces who has refused to pay £475 for a consignment of 950 boxes of tiles. Lawrence claimed that two-thirds of the tiles were unfit for the purpose intended, with a range of defects, and that they were badly packed.<sup>109</sup> Mr Justice Croom-Johnson acquitted Morris of any intention to mislead his customer, believing that a misunderstanding had occurred, with Morris having understood that Lawrence required a 'job lot', rather than best quality tiles.<sup>110</sup> Morris's deafness, resulting from his military service, was thought to

have contributed to the misunderstanding. The judge ordered the tiles to be removed from Lawrence's premises.

Morris was in trouble again the following year, when he was ordered to pay the balance of £907 15s 8d for work and materials supplied by E. Whitney & Co. of Bradeley for the construction of pottery kilns. Morris had withheld this part of the payment during a dispute over estimated costs, hours worked and the quality of work.<sup>111</sup> Within a month Morris filed a petition of bankruptcy.<sup>112</sup> The factory was advertised for sale on the 30th August:

For Sale. Glazed Tile Factory. Warrington Pottery. Registry St., Stoke-on-Trent, with six vacant cottages adjoining for extension. Excellent Structural Condition and all Presses and Machinery ready for use.<sup>113</sup>

The factory, which Morris had valued at £8,000 during bankruptcy proceedings, sold for just £3,000.<sup>114</sup> A sale of furniture and effects from Morris's Willoughbridge home and Morris's public examination in bankruptcy were both held on the same day – 18th November.<sup>115</sup>

In November 1954 a new private company, Tilecraft (Potteries) Ltd., of Registry Street, Stoke, was registered with a nominal capital of £5,000; its directors were P. B. Lawson and Mrs F. A. Lawson of Dockenfield, Seabridge, Newcastle-under-Lyme.<sup>116</sup> The company continued in business on this site until 1969, when it was said to have employed around 40 people.<sup>117</sup> As well as making tiles, the company also produced tiled fireplaces (Fig. 8) and advertised for a Fireplace Representative on a number of occasions. Indeed advertisements for staff were placed in the Situations Vacant columns of the *Evening Sentinel* on almost 60 separate occasions between October 1954 and October 1968. The range of staff required gives an idea of the nature of the work undertaken at Registry Street during these years. Most in demand were tile dippers, tile mottlers, tile makers and (women)



Fig. 8. Tilecraft fireplaces advert. *The Evening Sentinel*, 30th October 1962, p. 8.

fettlers. Other workers required less frequently are fly press makers, glost placers, dust grinders, attendants for the dipping machine (both a young man and woman specified on different occasions), a biscuit warehouse woman, a glost warehouse woman and a girl to train for the glost warehouse (a single ad). Other single ads were placed for a tile power press maker, a woman required for looking out tile surrounds, a woman required to look out sets for slabbers, and a biscuit warehouse selector. On the clerical side, there was an ad for a shorthand typist, an experienced shorthand typist or young girl to train as secretary to the Managing Director and also to learn and assist in book-keeping. Overall, a large part of the workforce appears to be female.

In 1955 two ads were placed which indicated that tiles were still being fired by coal: the first was for an 'oddman for kilns and oven shiftwork',<sup>118</sup> while the other was for a 'night man to sit up with glost kilns and biscuit oven',<sup>119</sup> both specifying glost kilns (plural) and a single biscuit oven. It might be expected that the Clean Air Act of 1956 would have brought about the end of production at a small factory such as this, but it was clearly able to adapt to

the new requirements. In March 1960 an ad was placed for an 'experienced glost placer ..., preference given to a man with experience of passage kilns'<sup>120</sup> and in April 1965 another sought a 'glost placer ..., preferably with pusher kiln experience'.<sup>121</sup> By the 1960s smaller, efficient continuous kilns were available to manufacturers which allowed those businesses on a sound financial footing to mitigate the effects of the Clean Air Act.

In March 1969 the company went into voluntary liquidation. On 11th March the *Birmingham Post* announced the closure of 'the Stoke-on-Trent Tile and Fireplace Company, Tilecraft (Potteries) Ltd. with the loss of about 40 jobs'.<sup>122</sup> Managing director, Mr P. Lawson, blamed the credit squeeze for putting the company out of business. Advertisements for the 'Tile Manufacturer's Plant, Machinery, Stock-in-Trade, Office Furniture and General Effects' to be sold at public auction at the Registry Street factory on Thursday 10th July were placed on 20th and 27th June and again on 4th July.<sup>123</sup> The range of items listed for the auction provides a useful insight into some of the equipment employed within a tile works, which included:

MANUFACTURING PLANT: including 48in. grinding pan with 24in. x 9in. rollers, motor and V-belt drive, 4 Gosling & Gatensbury semi-automatic tile presses (admitting 15in. dies), 2 small ditto (admitting 11in. dies), quantity of tile dies, 18 galvanised iron clay dust containers and lids with fork lift hand truck, ventilation plant including rotor fan, wet type dust collector with pump, gas tunnel kilns, equipment trucks (12in. wheel gauge), transfer trucks, pusher gear, gas booster, control and recording equipment, kiln furniture, 2 electric hand tile sizing machines, G. & G. [Gosling & Gatensbury] continuous dipping machine, lift pump, vibrator unit, Premier Colloidal Mill portable electric stainless arm mixer (as new).

TILE SLABBERS PLANT includes: Motorized concrete mixer, double head heavy grinder and dust extractor head. Clipper diamond wheel tile cutter, moulds, G cramps, &c.

GENERAL EQUIPMENT includes: Roller conveyors, 5cwt. electric chain block and gantry, industrial vacuum cleaner, pallet trucks and pallets, benches, benches, glaze tubs, wheelbarrows, &c.

Office equipment was also listed, as was the company's stock. The latter included Wedgwood & Adams repro. fireplaces, 30 modern marble and tile fireplaces, oak and marble mantles, seven teak gas fire surrounds, polished slate and marble, Italian marble and a quantity of glazed tiles.

Following the announcement of the subsequent closure of another tileworks, that of T. A. Simpson & Co., Ltd., of the Newport Tileworks, Furlong Lane, Burslem, which specialised in tiled fireplaces, the *Evening Sentinel* blamed its closure, and that

of Tilecraft on the 'economic climate and the Government's housing policy.' A number of Tilecraft workers had been taken on by Simpson's following the closure of that company and Simpson's Managing Director, Derek Steele, stated 'We thought we were making progress then things suddenly collapsed', concurring with the newspaper's assessment of the cause of the firm's failure.<sup>124</sup>

That was the end of ceramic production at Registry Street, after almost 90 years. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s part of the site was occupied by J. Lloyd & Sons, Ltd., suppliers of car exhaust systems, but by 1991 the firm had moved into new premises adjacent to the old factory.<sup>125</sup>

### **The factory buildings**

The Registry Street / Warrington Pottery factory building seems to have stood until the late 1980s. For the whole of its existence the factory is depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps with four ranges of



Fig. 9 Former pottery site, Registry Street, Stoke-on-Trent. Image Courtesy of The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent.



Fig. 10. Registry Street in 1951. OS 25-inch survey, Sheet XVIII.1.

unequal length arranged around a small yard reached from Registry Street by a covered entrance, placed slightly off-centre in the eastern range. The north and east range are the permanent features of the factory, while those on the south and west sides are more prone to change and vary in their completeness at different times in the factory's life. A photograph of the factory, taken in c. 1980–1985, shows a plain three-storey façade with arch-topped windows and an arched main gateway, which is off-centre (Fig. 9). The building seems to have been extended to the north, albeit at an early date, as there is a slight change in the roofline to the north and the windows in the extended section are narrower and more closely spaced. It is difficult to reconcile this facade with the layout shown on the Ordnance

Survey maps, but the aerial photographs seem to indicate that the southernmost part of the main range was in fact in just two storeys high – slightly lower than the adjacent cottages, which would help to explain this discrepancy. In 1954 the factory was advertised for sale 'with six vacant cottages adjoining for extension'.<sup>126</sup> These are the six cottages shown adjoining the factory to the north-west on the 1951 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 10)<sup>127</sup> which had, by the time of the next survey in 1968, been demolished and the their plots incorporated within the factory (Fig. 11).<sup>128</sup>

The early to mid 1980s photograph (Fig. 9) shows the pottery factory building in a state of dereliction. It was clearly not occupied by J. Lloyd & Sons, Ltd., whose sign is visible on the northern corner of the

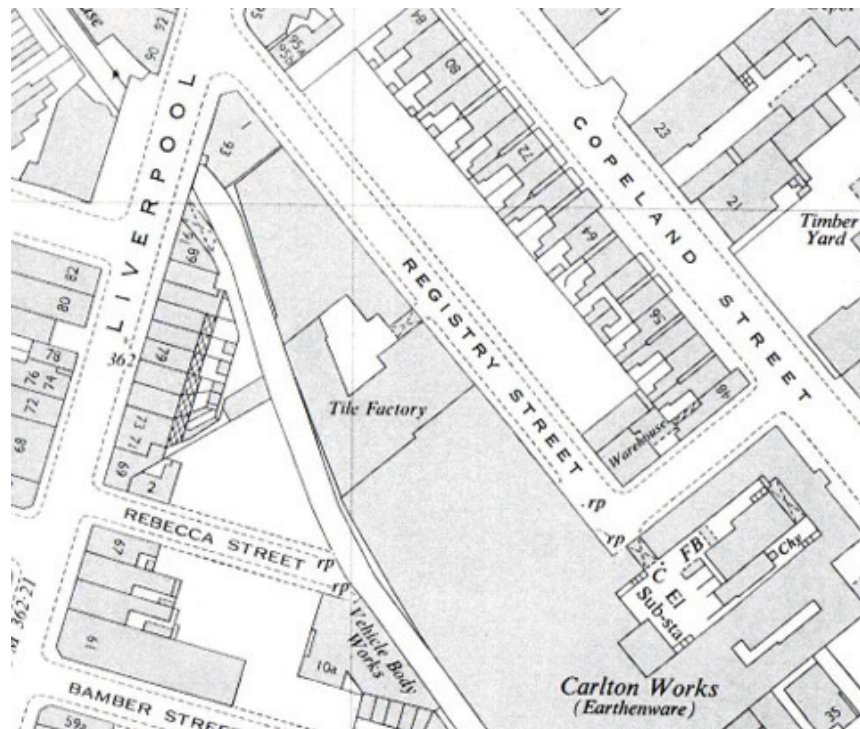


Fig. 11. Registry Street in 1968. OS 25-inch survey, Sheet XVIII.1.

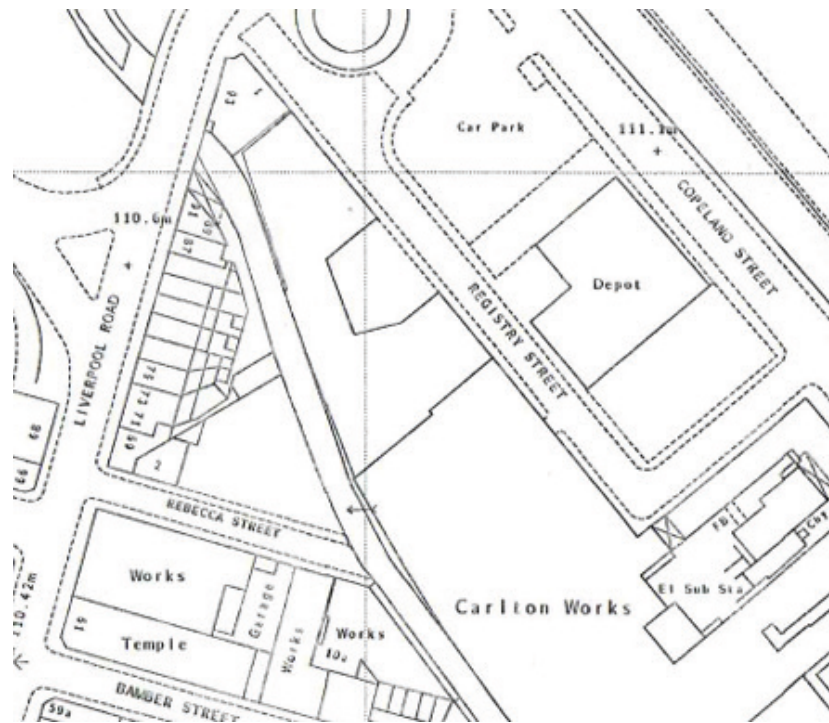


Fig. 12. Registry Street in 1995. OS 25-inch survey, Sheet XVIII.1.

building, and by 1995 a large section of the factory fronting onto Registry Street had been demolished to create an open area which seems to have been used for car parking (Fig. 12).<sup>129</sup> Indeed a photograph of 1991 shows Mr Lloyd in front of his business premises, with its main entrance, which are clearly on the newer part of the factory – the area previously occupied by the six cottages which were absorbed during the Tilecraft years.<sup>130</sup>

Although, the overall layout of the factory layout appears to have changed little during its active life as a pottery, changes of use – significantly from pottery production to tile making – will have had an impact on the internal arrangements, while the replacement of intermittent firing with coal by continuous firing in an electric kiln will have affected the flow of processes within this constrained site. There is not much evidence to suggest what physical changes might have occurred as a result of the transitions from pottery to tile production, and from firing with coal to firing by electricity, or what impact they might have had.

The Ordnance Survey maps are not very helpful on the matter of the layout of the Registry Street Pottery's ovens. No ovens are shown until 1951, suggesting that these were housed within workshops. Such ovens were either updraught stack ovens, also referred to as close-coupled ovens, or updraught skeleton ovens.<sup>131</sup> The former had no separate hovel, with the chimney built directly upon the shoulder of the oven's chamber, while the latter had a chimney which was built up from the ground but very close to but separate from the firing chamber. The separation of oven and chimney allowed the skeleton oven's freestanding firing chamber to be maintained, or even demolished and rebuilt, without affecting the chimney. The 1951 survey shows two circular ovens, one within a small roughly square workshop and the other – immediately to the south-east – shown only in outline, suggesting that this was an oven which was either under construction, or in the course of demolition. In fact, the oven shown in outline

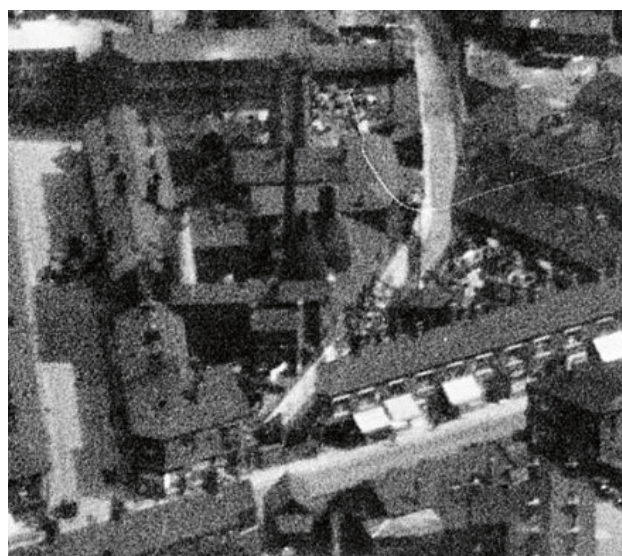


Fig. 13. Aerial photograph showing the Warrington Pottery in 1935, looking south-west. This clearly shows two ovens enclosed within a workshop which forms the western range of the factory. A chimney, which may be another oven or, more likely, a kiln, is clearly visible in the north-east corner of the yard. Britain from Above: EPW 047681 © Historic England.

abuts the other so closely that it appears almost to be truncated by the workshop surrounding the northernmost of the two.

Fortunately, there exist a number of aerial photographs which help to clarify the evidence of the maps, and which add significantly to the picture. The earliest of these, an oblique view from 1935, and clearly shows two ovens with pronounced bottle-shaped hovels of very similar form enclosed within a long building which forms the western range of the factory (Fig. 13). There seems to be a further free-standing chimney with a different, more slender, profile, in the north-eastern corner of the yard which may be another oven or, more likely, a muffle kiln.

The layout of the factory appears largely unchanged in a vertical photograph taken in August 1945,<sup>132</sup> but by June 1948 shows changes at the factory are evident. Another vertical view shows that much of the factory's western range has been removed



Fig. 14. Vertical aerial photograph showing the Warrington Pottery in June 1948. The northernmost of the factory's two ovens appears to be in a state of demolition. The second oven is just visible, enclosed within a workshop. Another structure, probably a third oven or a kiln, is visible in the north-eastern corner of the yard. Historic England Archive (RAF Photography) raf\_58\_b\_47\_v\_5304 © Historic England.

(Fig. 14). The southernmost of the two ovens is still visible within a much-reduced building, while the other is now a free-standing ring and is either in a state of partial demolition or is in the process of being rebuilt from the ground up with only the lower courses of the outer wall visible. The 1951 Ordnance Survey map suggests that demolition is the more likely scenario here, as an empty space is shown between the factory's northern range of the enclosed oven, where none existed in 1935.

The 1948 photograph also shows another structure in the north-east corner of the yard, which may be a small oven or chimney, and another feature is visible near to the centre of the factory's yard. This feature's position is occupied on the 1951 OS map by a structure of rectangular plan, which may indicate a kiln or oven.

In mid 1949 the local authority approved 'reconstruction and extensions' to the Warrington Pottery,<sup>133</sup> and aerial photographs taken in 1952 provide concrete evidence for this. These reveal major changes not shown on the 1951 Ordnance Survey plan (Figs. 15, 16). The factory now has six ovens, three of which are situated in a much-modified western range: the middle one of these is the southernmost bottle oven shown on the 1935 and 1948 photographs, but immediately to the south of it is a new, much taller oven partly surrounded by single-storeyed structure. This is almost certainly the oven shown in outline on the 1951 Ordnance Survey plan. The northernmost of the three is of a similar height to the early oven but appears to have a slightly smaller footprint; it is also of a conical form and appears to be free-standing. It is identical to another situated immediately to it east, while another of similar form but perhaps slightly taller,

occupies a position more towards the middle of the factory's yard. The final oven, now clearly visible, is also conical in form and is situated in the north-east corner of the factory's yard.

The likely sequence of ovens at the factory, based on the evidence of the aerial photographs, is shown in Fig. 17.

### Archaeological evidence

Excavations on the site carried out by TVAS North Midlands in advance of development uncovered the bases of the two circular brick-built ovens (Figs. 18, 19) but yielded little additional evidence for the layout of the factory as the site had been heavily disturbed.

The first of these ovens, 1000, situated on the southern edge of the site, is a confusing structure which has proven difficult to interpret. It had a firing chamber base diameter of c. 7m, and a surrounding



Fig. 15. View of the Warrington pottery, 1952, looking south-west. Britain from Above: EAW 045903 © Historic England.



Fig. 16. View of the Warrington Pottery, 1952, looking north-east. Britain from Above: EAW 045902 © Historic England.

circular wall 0.38m wide, which the excavator suggested was an outer wall or 'hovel' (the bottle shaped structure which encircled the oven chamber, acting as both a chimney and a sheltered workspace), giving an overall external diameter of c. 8m. The oven had eight ash pits of around 1.49m in length and tapering from 0.60 wide at the outer edge to 0.55m at the inside. Curiously, the ash pits had been modified

to extend beyond the chamber base and up to the surrounding wall.

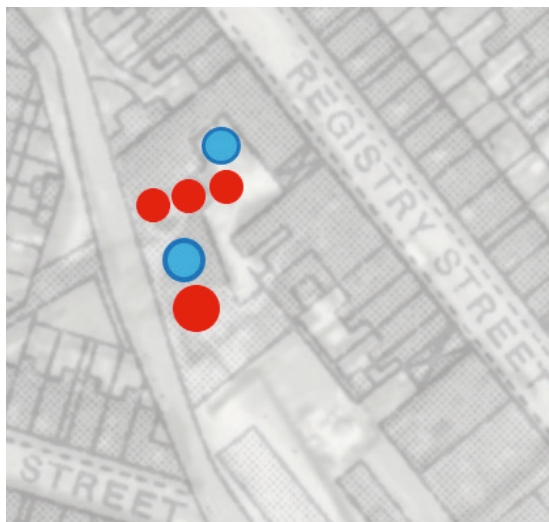
The brick floor of the firing chamber, 0.3m thick, had been constructed on a series of layers, 1.85m in depth, made up of – from top to bottom – ash with pottery and kiln furniture, sand and rubble with ash, saggars, pottery and kiln furniture, all contained by a ring of bricks which sat upon a base layer of bricks.



a. 1935



b. 1948



c. 1952

a. 1935: two ovens, on the west side of the works, and a possible kiln;

b. 1948: one oven, a second in the course of demolition, and a possible kiln;

c. 1952: four new ovens, shown in red, added.

Fig. 17. Suggested chronology of ovens at the Warrington Pottery based upon the evidence of the aerial photographs, using the 1948 aerial photograph overlying the 1937 OS sheet as a base.

Between the oven chamber and the surrounding wall was a void, a little under 1m deep, which had been filled with tile waste, much of it from Rex Morris's occupation of the site, which appeared as a series of separate voids as the ash pits were extended over this after this area had been filled in.

The interpretation of the surrounding wall as part of a hovel is open to question two reasons. First, the space between the outer wall of the firing chamber and the 'hovel' – the space in which a fireman would have had to work charging the oven's coal fires – was very narrow indeed. The space between the firing chamber and the hovel wall should be sufficient:

to create a working space for the fireman and his oven men. The width of that space could be as narrow as a wheel barrow but was usually somewhat wider to allow the ovenmen to wield a shovel when lumping and baiting the oven. It also needed to be wide enough to allow the fireman to use a poker or a trials rod – the long rod with a hooked end used to extract firing trials from deep inside the firing chamber during firing.<sup>134</sup>



Fig. 18. Two oven bases, 1001 (top) and 1000 (bottom), uncovered during excavations at Registry Street. Image courtesy of TVAS North Midlands.

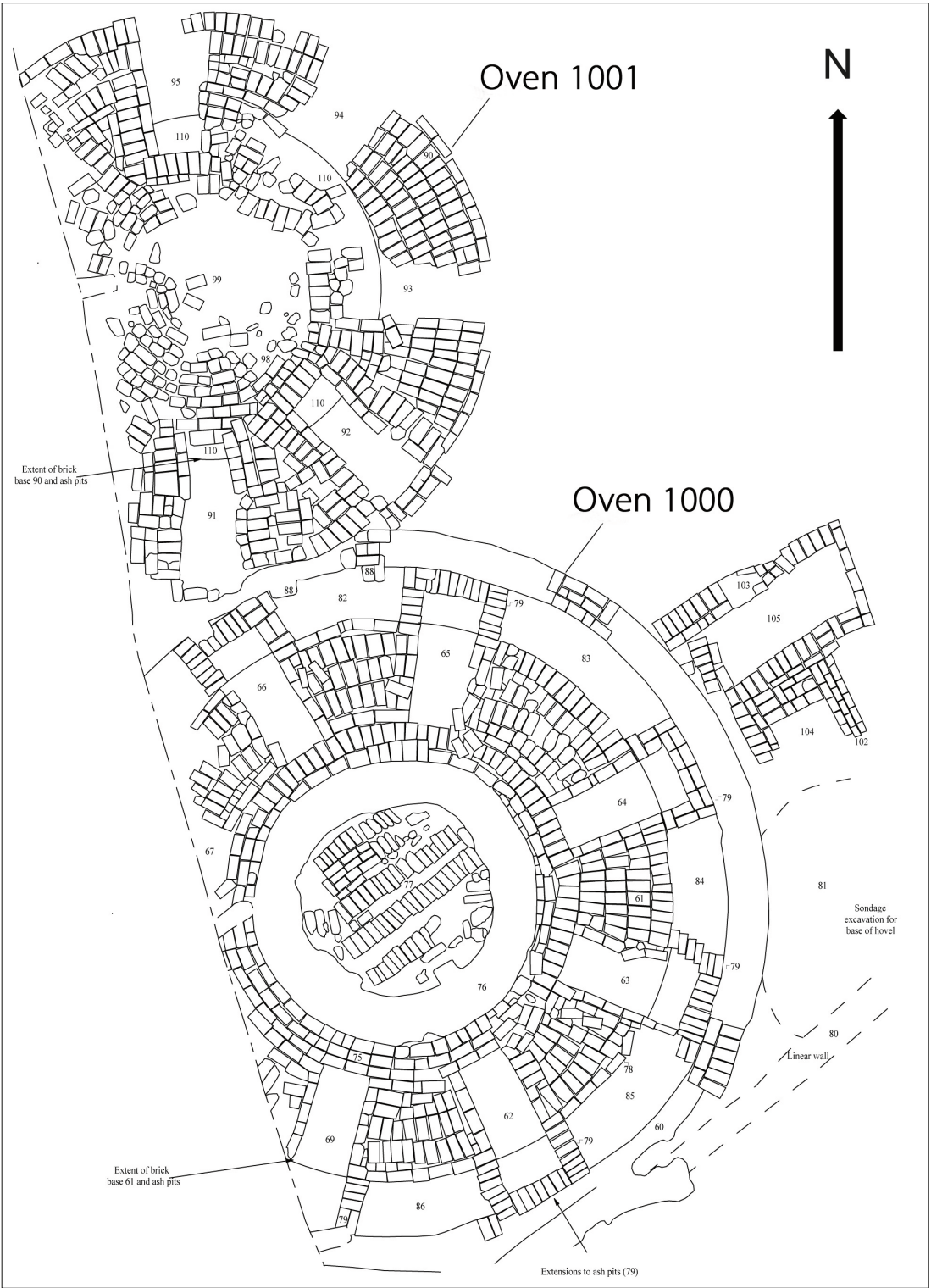


Fig. 19. Plan of oven bases excavated at Registry Street. Image courtesy of TVAS North Midlands.

Here the space was little more than 0.5m wide, which is far too narrow to have been used by a fireman. Second, in a later modification, the ash pits were extended up to the surrounding wall, which they then abutted; access to the ash pits would not have been possible if this wall was part of a hovel.

The 1952 aerial photographs may be helpful here, as what they show is a chimney which is not housed within a workshop for the entirety of its circumference (Fig. 20). Rather, it appears to stand within the footprint of a dilapidated workshop on the west side adjacent to the Fowlea Brook, while on the south and

east side of its circumference there appears to be a low lean-to structure with a gently sloping roof. Such a structure could provide protection to both fireman and firemouths. What is happening at ground level on the north side of the chimney is less clear, for here it abuts the workshop surrounding a second oven, believed to be excavated oven 1001 (below). The narrowness of the gap between the firing chamber and the surrounding wall, together with the presence of the tile filled void between the two, suggests that this is more likely to be a skeleton oven in which 'the chimney is built up from ground level, very close to,



Fig. 20. View of the Warrington Pottery in 1952, looking north-east showing a lightweight structure or lean-to around the southernmost of the ovens. Britain from Above: EAW 045911 © Historic England.

but completely separate from the firing chamber', although typically the gap between the two structures is 'about the width of a building brick'.<sup>135</sup>

Oven 1001 was immediately to the north of 1000 (Figs. 18, 19). In fact, its proximity to 1001 is such that the two ovens cannot have operated at the same time. It had a diameter of c. 6.4m and the absence of evidence for a hovel or surrounding chimney suggests that this was a stack oven. There were eight ash pits of c. 1.5m length, tapering in width from between 0.58m and 0.8m on the outside to between 0.3m and 0.35m on the inside. Two of these ash pits were excavated: both contained ash, coal, sherds of tile and ceramic vessels and kiln furniture.

The brick floor of oven chamber was domed, 0.25m thick, had been constructed on a series of layers, 1.88m in depth, made up of – from top to bottom – sand, ash with pottery and kiln furniture, clay, and rubble with saggars, pottery and kiln furniture. The edges of these layers seem not to have been defined.

It is difficult to disentangle the construction sequence of the two ovens from the archaeological evidence, but it is clear that 1001 did not truncate the wall surrounding 1000. If anything, the wall around 1000 seems to encroach upon a firebox and the outer edge of 1001's firing chamber.

Excavated finds included waste ceramics and kiln furniture, but most do not relate to production at Registry Street. Both ovens were built upon layers of waste ceramic material which comprised sherds from a number of local factories, including William Adams & Sons, Minton & Co., Minton & Hollins, and Copeland, and marked and dated pieces shows that the ceramics pre-date the construction of the ovens by two decades or more. It was common practice to build ovens upon layers of pre-fired ceramic material (bricks, waste ceramics and sagger fragments covered with fired sand) up to a depth of 3–4ft (0.9–1.2m), which formed what was referred to as a 'cork'. This foundation avoided the problem of moisture being sucked from the surrounding soil during firing.<sup>136</sup>

It is clear that the ceramic waste within the corks of the Registry Street ovens was brought in from nearby waster deposits of some age and so cannot help in dating the ovens' construction.

The ceramic finds are equally unhelpful in dating the end of the two ovens' active life. The fills of five excavated ash pits of 1000 contained nothing beyond tile fragments and Bullers rings, while two excavated ashpits of 1001 contained only undiagnostic biscuit bone china, earthenware and kiln furniture which cannot be closely dated. Both oven bases were overlain by mixed deposits of wasters which included sherds of wall or fireplace tiles marked 'R. S. MORRIS / STOKE-ON-TRENT ENGLAND'. Similarly marked tiles have been recovered from other deposits on the site, especially from the voids between 1000's firing chamber and the surrounding outer wall. The marked tiles are unexceptional with mottled brown cream-coloured surfaces; no examples of moulded Morris-marked tiles with coloured glazes were recovered.

## Discussion

So, the archaeological evidence is unclear and offers no firm dating evidence for either the construction of the ovens or their decommissioning. Fortunately, other sources are more informative.

It seems likely that the 1935 aerial photograph reflects the layout of the works from its construction in 1881. From the first it was probably a two-oven factory, probably with an additional decorating kiln, until c. 1951/52. This is what would have been required for the manufacture of twice-fired earthenwares. However, changes were clearly made once the factory was under Rex Morris's ownership, as seen in the 1948 aerial photograph, with a large part of the western range demolished, and one of the two large ovens housed within this range taken down. The 1951 Ordnance Survey plan shows the state of the factory prior to the expansion of firing capacity in evidence on the 1952 aerial views which show six

ovens and/or kilns. This expansion took place during the ownership of Rex Stuart Morris and it is likely that the new 'kilns' [*sic*] are probably the very ones whose construction led to Morris's dispute with E. Whitney & Co. which seems to have led to his bankruptcy. There is, however, no clear evidence as to when these went out of use, although they probably survived Morris's bankruptcy, as indicated by the 1955 ads for an oddman and a night man to attend to 'glost kilns' and a 'biscuit oven'. The 1956 Clean Air Act, which prohibited the use of coal for firing, clearly did not put an end to tile production at Registry Street, and reference to both passage and pusher kilns show that, under Tilecraft, the business was able to adapt to firing without coal, continuing until 1969.

## **Conclusion**

This paper is about a little-known factory, which has made little impact upon the world of ceramics and whose products are to all intents and purposes unknown, and the writer is confident in his assumption that no one has the slightest interest in the majority of the products of the various businesses that operated at Registry Street. This is precisely the motivation for writing this paper. The pottery industry of north Staffordshire and elsewhere consisted largely of such factories – unambitious, aiming at the lower end of the market, short-lived and often badly run and ending in bankruptcy. Were it not for the foresight of the City's Senior Planning Officer (Archaeology/HER/Heritage) in requiring a programme of archaeological work prior to the

site's development, and the excavation carried out by TVAS North Midlands, no one would have been any the wiser about this factory and its unexceptional, yet complicated history. That would have been a shame, for to understand the pottery industry in its entirety, we must understand and appreciate the ordinary as well as the exceptional. Over its short lifetime pottery and tile making in Registry Street gave employment to scores, if not hundreds of people, and impacted the lives of countless others. This is a story that deserves to be told.

Excavation can provide a means of getting beyond the constraints of the documentary record, yielding evidence for the physical development of a site, for processes, products and the problems experienced during production. At Registry Street, however, the archaeology revealed a complicated picture of buried structural remains and has left many questions about the physical development of the factory unanswered. Moreover, evidence for the wares made there was largely lacking, although the excavation showed how the waste from nearby businesses was discarded and reused.

If the reader takes away from this paper an appreciation of the contribution of the numerous small factories which have made the Potteries what it is today, and of the difficulties which they faced, then this paper will have been worthwhile. If the reader is moved to explore the histories and products of similar little-known factories, then I shall have exceeded all expectations.

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## NOTES

- 1 D. Barker, 'A Bomb to Kill Beetles', *Northern Ceramic Society Newsletter* 210, December 2024, pp. 41–3.
- 2 H. Daniel & D. Barker, 'Evaluation and Excavation of two 19th- to 20th-century Pottery Ovens at the former Registry Street Works, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire', *Staffordshire Historical and Archaeological Society Transactions* 57 (2026).
- 3 *The Staffordshire Daily Sentinel*, Monday 8th August 1881, p. 2.
- 4 *Ibid.*, Thursday 7th April 1881, p. 2; repeated Thursday 21st April, p. 2, and Friday 13th May 1881, p. 2.
- 5 'Mr James Plant. Death of a Well-known Potter Manufacturer', *Evening Sentinel*, Friday 6th March 1931, p. 1.
- 6 *Keates's Gazetteer & Directory of the Staffordshire Potteries, Newcastle and District*, 1882 (Hanley: Keates & Co., 1882), pp. 406–8.
- 7 *Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire* (London: Kelly & Co., 1884), pp. 542–3; *Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire* (London: Kelly & Co., 1888), p. 573.
- 8 *Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire* (London: Kelly & Co., 1880), pp. 530–1, 663.
- 9 *Evening Sentinel*, Friday 6th March 1931, p. 1; Tuesday 10th March 1931, p. 5, *The Staffordshire Advertiser*, Saturday 14th March 1931, p. 4.
- 10 27272, 18th May 1885, ewer – shape: a ewer of oval body, cylindrical neck, high spout and angular 'D' handle with scroll thumb rest; 36791, 30th October 1885, teapot – shape: a teapot of tapering hexagonal body, angular 'D' handle and similar but smaller handle to the low lid; 38235, 18th November 1885, jug – shape: a jug of tapering hexagonal form, recessed base, level rim, raised spout, angular 'D' handle from the shoulder to lower body, the body moulded with a flowering plant; 94547, 23rd February 1888, teapot – shape: a teapot with spirally fluted cylindrical body, low dome lid with button knob, compressed 'D' handle from the shoulder to lower body.
- 11 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Monday 16th November 1885, p. 2; Friday 19th February 1886, p. 2; Saturday 1st January 1887, p. 4; Thursday 15th September 1887, p. 2.
- 12 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 25th October 1887, p. 2.
- 13 *Ibid.*, Saturday 31st March 1888, p. 8.
- 14 E.g. *Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire* (London: Kelly & Co., 1884), pp. 542–3; *Keates's Gazetteer & Directory of the Staffordshire Potteries, Newcastle and District*, 1889–90 (Hanley: Keates & Co., 1889), pp. 282–3.
- 15 E.g. *Keates's Gazetteer & Directory of the Staffordshire Potteries, Newcastle and District*, 1889–90 (Hanley: Keates & Co., 1889), pp. 282–3; *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire* (London: Kelly's Directories, Ltd., 1896), p. 667; *Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire* (London: Kelly & Co., 1900), pp. 694–5.
- 16 *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st June 1901, p. 590.
- 17 *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire*, 1904 (London: Kelly's Directories, Ltd.: 1904), p. 709.
- 18 *The London Gazette*, Issue 27671, 29th April 1904, p. 2781.
- 19 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Saturday 23rd June 1906, p. 12.
- 20 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 25th February 1908, p. 5.
- 21 *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st April 1907, p. 430, to 1st January 1908, p. 30.
- 22 D. Barker, 'Cheap Lines and Cheap Imports', *Medieval Ceramics* 44 (2023), pp. 29–41.
- 23 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Tuesday 25th February 1908, p. 5.
- 24 *Ibid.*; *The Pottery Gazette*, 2nd March 1908, pp. 356–8.
- 25 J. Gimson & Co., of Fenton, were manufacturers of kiln furniture.
- 26 *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st July 1908, p. 782.
- 27 See, for example, Keeling & Walker ad., *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st January 1908, p. 107.
- 28 *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire*, 1904 (London: Kelly's Directories, Ltd., 1904), p. 740.
- 29 *ibid.*, pp. 174, 688.
- 30 *Staffordshire Advertiser*, Saturday 15th February 1908, p. 8.
- 31 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Saturday 22nd February 1908, p. 12.
- 32 *Ibid.*, Wednesday 11th March 1908, p. 4.
- 33 *Ibid.*, Monday 10th February 1908, p. 8.
- 34 *Ibid.*, Friday 3rd July 1908, p. 8; Monday 7th December 1908, p. 8.
- 35 *Financial News*, 3rd March 1910, p. 13: Companies Registered at Somerset house during January.
- 36 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Monday 7th February 1910, p. 4.
- 37 *The Pottery Gazette*, January 1908, p. 76.
- 38 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Monday 7th March 1910, p. 5.
- 39 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 14th February 1911, p. 5.
- 40 *The London Gazette*, issue 28278, 10th August 1909, p. 6128.
- 41 He was in Hoylake by 1914 (Electoral Register) and

- his occupation in 1921 (Census) is given as 'motor salesman'.
- 42 'Buyers' Notes', *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st May 1912, pp. 524–5.
  - 43 *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st April 1912, pp. 402–3.
  - 44 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Saturday 2nd March 1912, p. 8.
  - 45 *The Pottery Gazette*, 1st April 1912, p. 403.
  - 46 *Ibid.*, 1st November 1911, p. 1258.
  - 47 *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire, 1912* (London: Kelly's Directories, Ltd., 1912), p. 763.
  - 48 *Ibid.*, 1st May 1912, pp. 524–5.
  - 49 *Ibid.*, p. 525.
  - 50 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Monday 5th May 1913, p. 6.
  - 51 E.g. *Ibid.*, Thursday 12th June 1913, p. 8.
  - 52 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 29th April 1913, p. 8.
  - 53 *Ibid.*, Thursday 22nd May 1913, p. 8.
  - 54 *Ibid.*, Monday 23rd August 1915, p. 4.
  - 55 *Ibid.*, Monday 29th November 1915, p. 6.
  - 56 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 5th September 1916, p. 1.
  - 57 *Ibid.*, Monday 18th September 1916, p. 1.
  - 58 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 24th October 1916, p. 1.
  - 59 *Ibid.*, Monday 2nd October 1916, p. 1.
  - 60 *Ibid.*, Monday 1st January 1917, p. 1.
  - 61 *Ibid.* Wednesday 7th February 1917, p. 1
  - 62 *Ibid.*, Monday 28th May 1917, p. 1.
  - 63 *Ibid.*, Saturday 30th June 1917, p. 1.
  - 64 *Ibid.*, Monday 15th October 1917, p. 1.
  - 65 D. Barker, "'Business as usual': the impact of the Great War on the British ceramics industry", *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 51:2 (2017), pp. 222–7.
  - 66 *Ibid.*, pp. 250–1.
  - 67 *Ibid.*, Friday 13th June 1919, p. 6.
  - 68 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 19th October 1920, p. 6.
  - 69 *Ibid.*, Thursday 21st October 1920, p. 3.
  - 70 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 16th November 1920, p. 6; Thursday 18th November 1920, p. 8.
  - 71 *Ibid.*, Thursday 11th August 1921, p. 1.
  - 72 *Ibid.*, Monday 30th June 1924, p. 3.
  - 73 *Ibid.*, Wednesday 1st February 1922, p. 6.
  - 74 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 19th June 1923, p. 6.
  - 75 *Ibid.*, Friday 5th September 1924, p. 8.
  - 76 *Ibid.*, Thursday 14th January 1926, p. 1.
  - 77 *The Evening Sentinel*, Wednesday 12th February 1930, p. 2.
  - 78 *Ibid.*, Monday 17th February 1930, p. 2.
  - 79 *Ibid.*, Wednesday 5th March 1930, p. 2.
  - 80 *Ibid.*
  - 81 *The Evening Sentinel*, Monday 17th February 1930, p. 2.
  - 82 *The Pottery Gazette & Glass Trades Review*, 1st March 1930, pp. 471–2.
  - 83 *Evening Sentinel*, Thursday 15th September 1938, p. 2.
  - 84 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Wednesday 19th May 1937, p. 7.
  - 85 *The Pottery Gazette & Glass Trades Review*, 1st June 1937, p. 831.
  - 86 *Ibid.*
  - 87 *Evening Sentinel*, Wednesday 17th January 1940, p. 2.
  - 88 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 28th May 1940, p. 2.
  - 89 *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire, 1940* (London: Kelly's Directories, Ltd., 1940), p. 417.
  - 90 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Wednesday 30th April 1941, p. 2.
  - 91 *Evening Sentinel*, Tuesday 6th May 1941, p. 2; Wednesday 14th May 1941, p. 4.
  - 92 *The London Gazette*, 27th May 1941, p. 3035.
  - 93 *Evening Sentinel*, Friday 30th May 1941, p. 4.
  - 94 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Monday 8th September 1941, p. 4.
  - 95 *Ibid.*, Friday 22nd February 1935, p. 2; repeated Friday 22nd March 1935, p. 2.
  - 96 *Evening Sentinel*, Tuesday 29th August 1933, p. 5.
  - 97 *Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire, 1936* (London: Kelly's Directories, Ltd., 1936), pp. 421, 809.
  - 98 *Pottery Gazette & Glass Trades Review Directory & Diary*, 1936, p. 69.
  - 99 *Evening Sentinel*, Wednesday 29th January 1936, p. 2.
  - 100 *Ibid.*, Thursday 5th March 1936, p. 2.
  - 101 *Ibid.*, Thursday 30th July 1936, p. 2.
  - 102 *Pottery Gazette & Glass Trades Review*, February 1940, p. 200.
  - 103 K. Niblett, 'Ten Plain Years: The British Pottery Industry 1942–1952', *Northern Ceramic Society Journal* 12 (1995), p. 202. A company designated a nucleus firm was able to continue the production of utility wares and wares for export, while other companies relocated their operations to the premises of the nucleus firm where they carried on their own businesses.
  - 104 *Evening Sentinel*, Friday 19th November 1954, p. 9.
  - 105 *Ibid.*
  - 106 *Ibid.*, Thursday 8th December 1949, p. 5.
  - 107 E.g. <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/set-29-s-morris-trent-stoke-green-1879814541>
  - 108 *The Staffordshire Sentinel*, Saturday 19th March 1949, p. 1.
  - 109 *Evening Sentinel*, Friday 6th March 1953, p. 10.
  - 110 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 10th March 1953, p. 8.
  - 111 *Ibid.*, Wednesday 26th May 1954, p. 10.
  - 112 *The London Gazette*, Issue 40246, 3rd August 1954, p., 4539.
  - 113 *Evening Sentinel*, Monday 30th August 1954, p. 3.
  - 114 *Ibid.*, Friday 19th November 1954, p. 9.

- 115 *Ibid.*, Friday 12th November 1954, p. 2; Friday 19th November 1954, p. 9.
- 116 *Ibid.*, Saturday 20th November 1954, p. 5.
- 117 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 18th November 1969, p. 3.
- 118 *Ibid.*, Wednesday 19th January 1955, p. 2.
- 119 *Ibid.*, Monday 10th October 1955, p. 2.
- 120 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 1st March 1960, p. 2. This is probably an electric tunnel kiln through which goods travelled on a continuous belt of refractory material which moved on parallel rollers
- 121 *Ibid.*, Monday 26th April 1965, p. 3. A pusher kiln is a continuous kiln suitable for firing high-volume products such as ceramic tiles; the goods are pushed through the kiln on trays by a hydraulic pusher mechanism.
- 122 *The Birmingham Post*, Tuesday 11th March 1969, p. 4.
- 123 *Evening Sentinel*, Tuesday 20th June 1969, p. 2; 27th June 1969, p. 2; 4th July 1969, p. 2.
- 124 *Ibid.*, Tuesday 18th November 1969, p. 1.
- 125 *Ibid.*, Wednesday 13th November 1991, p. 31.
- 126 *Ibid.*, Monday 30th August 1954, p. 3.
- 127 1951 Ordnance Survey Sheet SJ87454SE, 1:1250.
- 128 1969 Ordnance Survey Sheet SJ87454SE, 1:1250.
- 129 The new layout, with parking bays, is clearly visible on Google Earth.
- 130 *Evening Sentinel*, Wednesday 13th November 1991, p. 31.
- 131 'The Potteries Bottle Oven: Types' <https://bottleoven.blogspot.com/p/types.html>
- 132 raf\_106g\_uk\_646\_rs\_4112 Historic England11\_08\_1945.
- 133 *Newcastle Times*, Friday 5th August 1949, p. 5.
- 134 'The Potteries Bottle Oven: Types' <https://bottleoven.blogspot.com/p/types.html>
- 135 *Ibid.*
- 136 E. A. Sandeman, *Notes on the Manufacture of Earthenware* (London: Crosby Lockwood & Son, 1917), pp. 195–6.