

16 Latimer Street
The History of a House
Phoebe Merrick

Abstract:

This building changed its use several times during the 20th century, from the Rose and Crown public house, to a fish and chip shop, a drapery and then a food shop.

This publication:

Romsey Local History Society
downloaded from: www.ltvas.org.uk; July 2020

Previous publication:

No 16 Latimer Street



Dish Deli, 30 June 2020

No 16 Latimer Street is the building opposite Latimer Walk, so the first shop you see in Latimer Street as you walk down to the town centre from the car parks, past Waitrose. Recently, (April 2020) the *Romsey Advertiser* carried a brief note that there is a proposal to redevelop the building and convert it into two shops with flats above although no application is recorded by Test Valley Borough Council. The item carried the suggestion that most of the building will be demolished and only the front retained.

Although the building currently is occupied by one business, the front is arranged so that subdividing it into two shops would appear to be simple. The building is much older than one might think.

In the 1790s, William Planel carried on business there with a beer shop, or possibly a public house. The association with beer selling continued right through the 19th century until it was closed in 1911. By then it was a tied house of the Lion Winchester Brewery and it was named “The Rose and Crown”.



The Marks family outside The Rose and Crown in 1904.

During the 19th century, the business seems to have changed hands several times. In 1823, Thomas Jesser was the licensee. Members of the Jesser family were associated with the brewery in the Hundred, situated on the site of the present Wakeford Court and Cressey Road. Later, John Edwards kept the Rose and Crown and he was a member of the family who by the end of the century were the licensees of the Dolphin in the Corn Market.

In 1911, six beer houses in Romsey lost their licences. The Rose and Crown was somewhat overshadowed by four nearby licensed houses so its closure was considered unlikely to deprive anyone. Its neighbours were the Latimer Arms opposite (now The Olive Tree), the William IV a few yards to the north (now the Topsy Pig) and the Phoenix, a few yards to the south. It was thought excessive that there were five public houses in Latimer Street between the Hundred and the boys school (now the library). The fifth one was the Railway View which was near the school, which is now a private house.

By 1911, the Rose and Crown was owned by the Lion Brewery of Winchester. Compensation was available under the Brewers' Endowment Fund which had been established to help remove pubs where there were thought to be too many. The owners of the property received £241 compensation. The brewery received £238 and the licensee, Henry Ader, received £30.



Boddington's Fish and Chip Shop 1975

The Boddingtons had inserted the plate glass windows in the 1960s



Mr and Mrs Boddington, with fish fryer, above, and outside the shop with their staff, below, in the 1970s.



Since the fish and chip shop closed, the building was occupied by Thimbles, a shop that sold fabrics. More recently, the windows were changed again and the building has been occupied by Dish Deli, a café and delicatessen.

