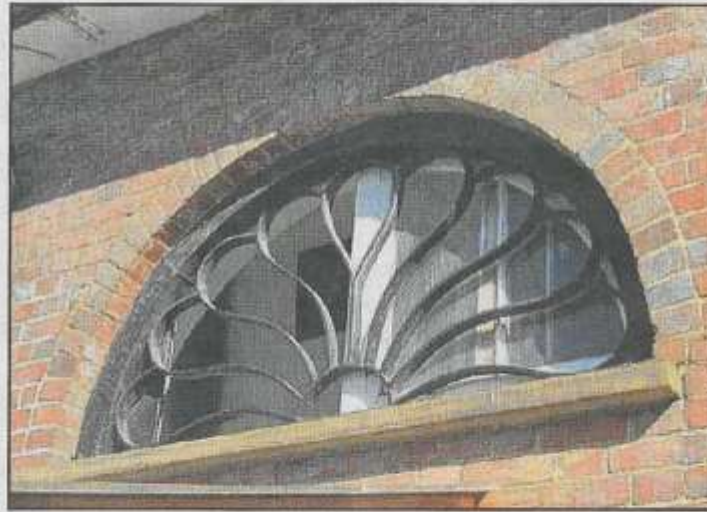


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ORIGINAL: The building's appearance in 1821



ATTRACTIVE: One of three rear windows



DELI KITCHEN: The former fish market with its four Doric columns

Sad snippet survives from fish market's past

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OVER the centuries, Canterbury has benefited from market sites specialising in cattle, fish, corn, bread, butter, cloth and rushes.

For some a token vestige remains – street names including Buttermarket and Butchery Lane, or the rush market water pump that survives high on the wall at the corner of Orange Street and Palace Street.

Only one of these had a building that has survived to

modern times: the Canterbury fish market in St Margaret Street, designed by the city surveyor Jesse White and built in 1822.

Original plans are dated 1788, so it took the council 30 years to complete the build – obviously not a priority job.

The building, with its four Doric columns, prominent triglyphs (each looks like a Roman III) on the frieze above and attractive semi-circular windows at the rear, is now trading as CJ's Deli Kitchen. Each of the columns follows the Greek Doric pattern with 20

flutings (slightly concave vertical strips).

We know what the new fish market looked like in 1822 as it was recorded in a catalogue of city properties known as a terrier book, and this survives in the cathedral archives.

Columns

This suggests the number of columns was increased from two to four – no doubt to strengthen the support for the pediment above and the roof.

It also shows that some ornamentation in the pediment has been lost but the triglyphs

have been added. The stylish semi-circular rear windows with their chunky ironwork seem to have been an original feature.

Behind the formal architectural history of any impressive building there always lies the human history of those who lived there, worked there, or did business there.

Much of this typically remains unrecorded or has not survived, but one sad snippet found its way into the Whitstable Times in April 1871.

It concerns Solly Solomon, lessee of the Canterbury fish market, who fled to America

with a new lady friend, abandoning his wife and family in Canterbury.

A friend in the city was surprised to receive a letter from him, saying that he (Solly) had changed his name to Slater and that his friend would never hear from him again.

A little later the friend received a second letter, this time from Solly's new lady friend.

This explained that Solly had attempted suicide but survived. With this, Solly seems to have disappeared from the historical record.



TOKEN: Water pump for rush market