

QUN85

Courtesy of LAARC - 1998

QUN85
61 Queen Street, EC4
M Burch

NGR: TQ 32455 80845

SMR: 044539-45

Excavation here, funded by Greycoat Estates, was inside a building constructed in 1957 (for the excavation observed then, see GM155 above). A N-S trench 10m by 7m was excavated. The S edge of the trench was approximately 10m N of the 1st - 2nd c Roman waterfront structures recorded nearby in 1978 (TST78 above).

Natural brickearth sloped down to the S with a marked (man-made?) step in the S third of the trench. Dumps raised the ground surface and cut into these was a timber-lined pit 1m square and surviving 1.3m deep. It was subsequently filled with mixed silts and building material of late 2nd c date. N of the pit was a building with a masonry foundation. The main Roman period of occupation then followed: a large terrace wall to the S, at least 5.6m E-W, with a protruding pier base of courses of tile at the E end. A similar pier had been recorded in 1957, 1.8m to the W. N of this was a second building, also on stone foundations. The small amount of dating evidence suggests a 3rd c date. Later dump layers indicating decay included fifteen examples of tiles stamped PP BR LON or variations; none were found in the surviving structure of the building.

In the N third of the trench was a sunken building cut into the Roman levels, and itself dated to 1000-1150. Part of the S wall and the SW corner were recorded. There was also one pit of 11th or early 12th c date. The church of St Martin Vintry, recorded in 1957, now lies largely under the N carriageway of Upper Thames Street, but the present site included the edge of the N graveyard. Eight badly disturbed graves were recorded, and one footing of probably early medieval date. Post-medieval brick foundations also crossed the site.

Perring (1991) has suggested that this building is a warehouse, but the presence of tesserae, painted wall-plaster and hypocaust box-flue tile in a dump of debris over the building indicates a residential use.

Britannia, 18, 1987, 335; *Medieval Archaeol*, 31, 1987, 129

Betts, I M, 1995 Procuratorial tile stamps from London, *Britannia*, 26, 219

Burch, M, 1987 Roman and medieval occupation in Queen Street, *Archaeology Today*, 8, 9-12

Cowgill, J, 1986 Queen Street (QUN85), *Finds Appraisal*

Perring, D, 1991 *Roman London*, 98