



The King David
High School
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Learning Links

Public Health in 19th Century Manchester Housing

Teacher's Notes

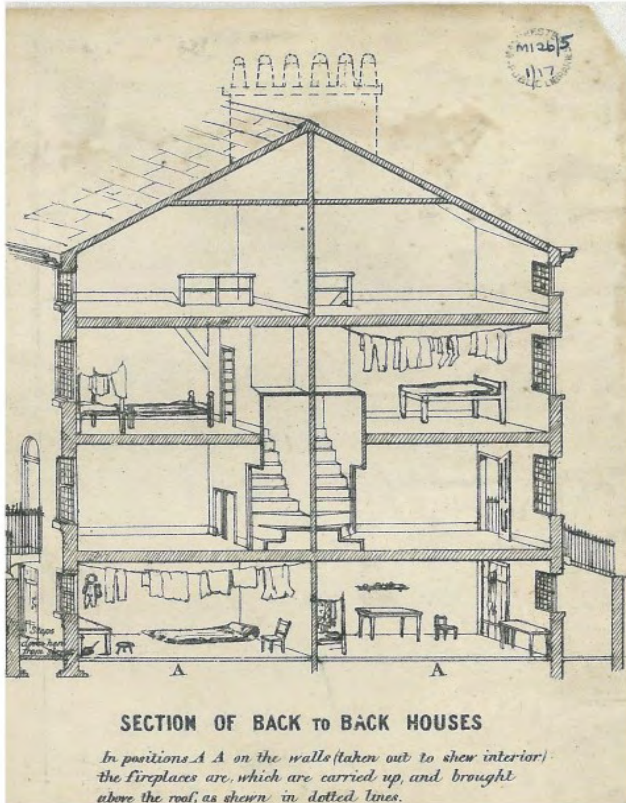
King David High School History Department worked with Manchester Archives and Local Studies in 2008 to produce resources using the archives for Key Stage 3 History teachers to use in class. The project was funded by Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) North West.

This resource sheet uses digitised archive sources to investigate the state of workers' housing in the rapidly growing city centre. It is intended as an introduction to the archives and the ways in which they can be used in class, both to convey the content of the sources and to analyse their reliability. Please feel free to copy or modify the notes for educational use. All of the images can be downloaded from the website.

Teachers should call 0161 or email archiveslocalstudies@manchester.gov.uk to arrange class visits to the archives, for access to more digitised sources, or for more information.

Housing

Housing for the poor in nineteenth-century Manchester was often cramped, badly ventilated and situated in the city centre near factories or polluted rivers. This diagram, from a Sanitary Association report, shows back-to-back terraced houses. The text on the right is from a Sanitary Association report on the Deansgate district. Whole families could live even in the damp cellars, which were only stopped by a Local Act of 1853.



M126/5/1/17-1

Cellar 3

Is but one room about 12x14. There are two beds in the room. 7 people live & sleep in this one room. We could learn nothing more a little girl only being in charge.

Cellar 5

This cellar has 2 rooms 12x14 & 12x12 respectively. The rooms are dark and damp. The approach to the cellar from the street is not more than 2ft 6in wide and the top of the window is rather below the level of the street. The tenant has been in it only a short time but complains of damp, rats, mice &c.

Cottage No 1

3 bed rooms a living room and the front room is used as a shop. The shop is about 12x13, living room 12x9. The bed rooms were described as being no larger. Eleven people live in this house; a man, his wife, 5 children and 4 lodgers.

M126/2/3/21

- What problems would people living in these houses have?
- How many people do you think lived in each room?
- What would you do to improve the conditions?
- Why do you think the Sanitary Association produced this diagram?



M126.5.1.17-2



m27026

- What differences can you see between the back-to-back houses and the planned workers' housing?
- What advantages do you think come with the wider streets and back doors?

The Sanitary Association's inspectors travelled around the city in order to report on the quality of housing in each area. This is a report from the Deansgate district:

Alpha Place is about 15ft wide and Fogg's Place about 21 ft wide. They are both well paved with flags and well drained, and from their steep descent, no surface water can lodge on the pavement. No 1 passage is in a dirty state. Heaps of rubbish and filth obstruct the passage. This state of filth might be remedied if the inhabitants would try. It is every body's business to give notice to the authorities to cleanse the ash pits and therefore it never is done. Alpha Place consists of 9 cottages and 5 cellars; and Fogg's Place of 4 cottages and 4 inhabited cellars; with a population as under

A handwritten table with three columns and three rows. The first row lists 'Cottages' with '19 men', '20 women', and '31 children'. The second row lists 'Cellars' with '10' in the first column, '12' in the second, and '22' in the third. The third row, labeled 'Total', shows '29' in the first column, '32' in the second, and '53' in the third. Horizontal lines are drawn under the numbers in the second and third rows.

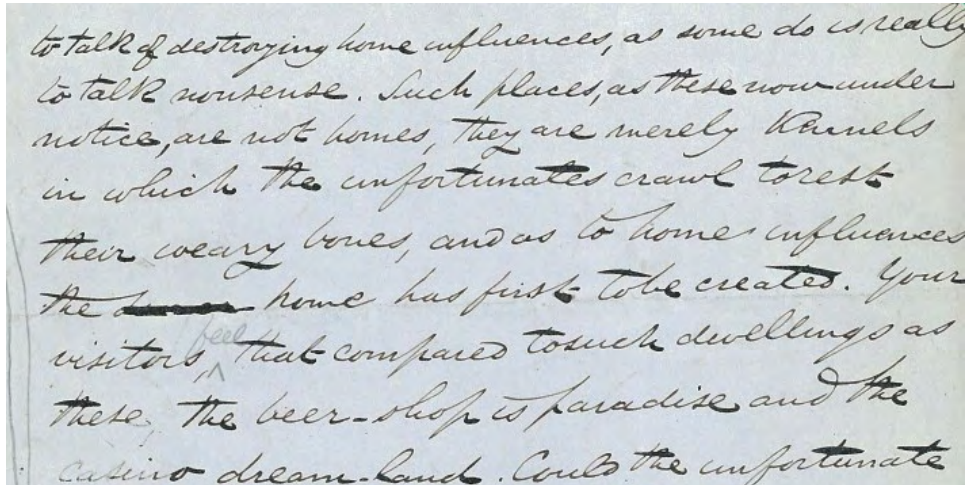
Cottages	19 men	20 women	31 children
Cellars 10		12	22
Total	29	32	53

These 114 persons have 6 privies, or 10 adults and 9 children to each. They have one water tap. Each tenant pays 2s a week for water in addition to the rent.

M126/2/3/23

- What proportion of the people in the street live in cellars?
- What aspects of the street does the inspector not approve of?
- What would you do to make the conditions better?

We cannot report favourably of either the cellars or their inhabitants. Each cellar dwelling has two rooms; the back room, under the Cottages in Omega Place. These dwellings are dark and damp, and, as an almost invariable accompaniment, they are dirty in the extreme. Deprived, in so great a degree, of air and light, the inhabitants of such places are morally and physically prostrate. They cannot summon resolution to keep, or endeavour to keep, such places clean. To call them homes is an abuse of language and when the youth are taken from such dwellings in the evenings to night schools, lectures, libraries and other public places to talk of destroying home influences, as some

A snippet of handwritten text in cursive script, likely from a manuscript. The text is written on aged, slightly yellowed paper. It discusses the nature of certain dwellings, comparing them to kennels and contrasting them with a home. The handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right. The text is: "to talk of destroying home influences, as some do is really to talk nonsense. Such places, as these now under notice, are not homes, they are merely kennels in which the unfortunates crawl to rest their weary bones, and as to home influences the ~~same~~ home has first to be created. Your visitors, ^{feel} that compared to such dwellings as these, the beer-shop is paradise and the casino dream-land. Could the unfortunate

do is really to talk nonsense. Such places, as these now under notice, are not homes, they are merely kennels in which the unfortunates crawl to rest their weary bones, and as to home influences the home has first to be created.

M126/2/3/23

- Does the inspector approve of the cellars? Why is this?
- What language does the inspectors use to show his anger?
- Do you think that the inspector is from the working class or middle class?

1851 CENSUS OF DEANSGATE

Parish or Township of: MANCHESTER		Ecclesiastical District of: ST. MATTHEW		City or Borough of: MANCHESTER			Town of:	Village of:		
Shed No.	STREET	NAME		Condition		AG		OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	B / D
				Relation		M	F			
50	5 Jordan Street	Barney	TIGHE	Lodger	M	35		Labourer	Ireland	
50	5 Jordan Street	Mary	TIGHE	Lodger	M		31		Ireland	
51	3 Cellar Jordan Street	Henry	WILKINSON	Head	M	36		Carder On General	Lancashire Manchester	
51	3 Cellar Jordan Street	Harnet	WILKINSON	Wife	M		36	Weaver In Cotton Mill	Staffordshire Burton	
51	3 Cellar Jordan Street	Sarah	WILKINSON	Dau			6	Scholar	Lancashire Manchester	
51	3 Cellar Jordan Street	William	WILKINSON	Son			2		Lancashire Manchester	
51	3 Cellar Jordan Street	Amelia	WILKINSON	Dau			3M		Lancashire Manchester	
51	3 Cellar Jordan Street	William	STEELE	Lodger	U	55		Foundry Man	Lancashire Manchester	
52	3 Jordan Street	Mary	BROWN	Head	W		34	Bonnet Maker	Lancashire Manchester	
52	3 Jordan Street	Thomas	BROWN	Son			18	Machinist	Lancashire Manchester	
52	3 Jordan Street	Elnoe	BROWN	Dau			12	Silk Winder	Lancashire Manchester	
52	3 Jordan Street	Ann	BROWN	Dau			8	Scholar	Lancashire Manchester	
52	3 Jordan Street	Betty	MOORE	Lodger	W		54	Laundress	Lancashire Manchester	
52	3 Jordan Street	William	MOORE	Lodger			11	Errand Boy	Lancashire Manchester	
52	3 Jordan Street	Ann	WILDE	Lodger			34		Lancashire Manchester	
53	1 Cellar Jordan Street	John	FODEN	Head	M	50		Labourer	Lancashire Manchester	
53	1 Cellar Jordan Street	Mary	FODEN	Wife	M		48		Lancashire Manchester	
53	1 Cellar Jordan Street	Elizabeth	FODEN				23	Factory Worker	Lancashire Manchester	
	N E E									
	N E E									

Piece No: HO 107 2227

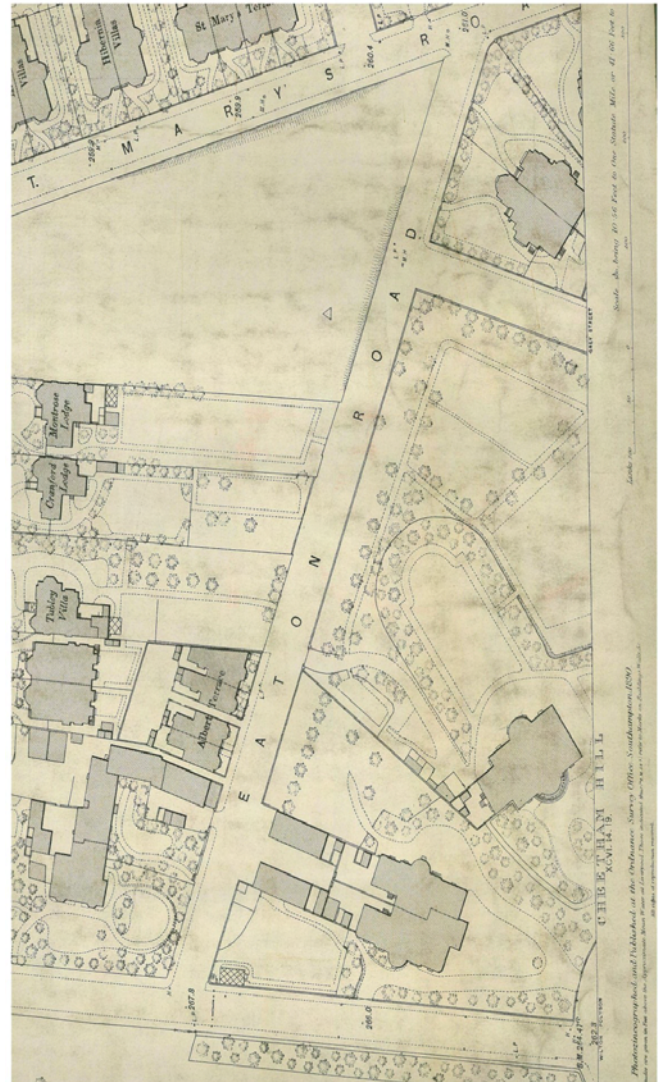
The census has been held by the government every ten years since 1841. It is a snapshot of the country which aims to include information of every household. This is a transcription of the 1851 Census Return for Jordan Street, Deansgate.

- What type of work did the head of the household do?
- Did the wives go out to work?
- Did the children go out to work? How old is the youngest worker? ('Scholar' means that the child was at school)
- Who other than the Brown family lived in the house at 3 Jordan Street?
- Why do you think they had lodgers living with them?
- What do you think life was like in the cellar at 3 Jordan Street?
- Jordan Street does not exist today. Make a list of reasons why it might have been demolished.

Look at these two maps. They are both from 1891 and to the same scale. The one on the left is of an area near Deansgate. The one on the right is of Eaton Road, in Crumpsall. Deansgate was a commercial district with shops, workers' housing and factories (such as the Alport Works). Crumpsall was a suburb some distance from the city centre where merchants and professionals had their houses.



1891 OS CVI 10.9 Deansgate



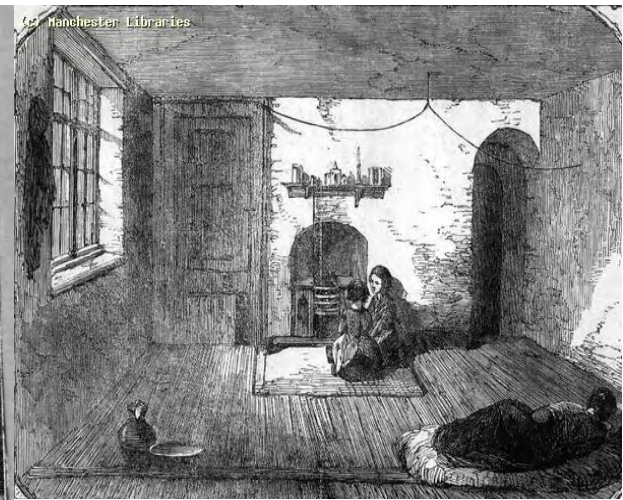
1891 OS CVI 14.14 Eaton Road

- What do you notice about the size of the houses?
- What workplaces are shown?
- Are there any parks or open fields, schools, churches or pubs?

Look at these two sketches of workers' dwellings that appeared in the *London Illustrated News*. The one on the left is of a cellar dwelling in 1838 and the one on the right is of a slum dwelling off Deansgate in 1862.



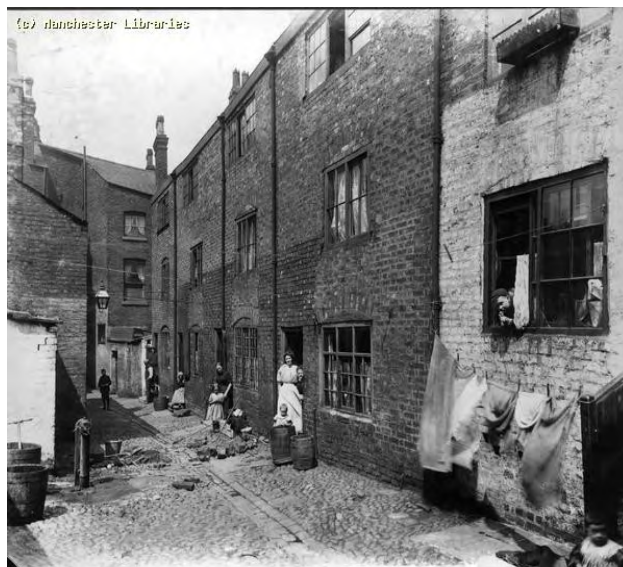
m08388



m08539

- What do you notice about the rooms? And about the furniture?
- How have the artists tried to show the darkness in the rooms?
- Do you think the artists actually visited these rooms? How do we know?

Now look at these two photographs. The one on the left was taken in 1908 and the one on the right in 1896.



m08316



m00632

- What can you see on the street in the photograph on the left?
- What can you notice about the cellars in the photograph on the right?
- What are the differences between the sketches and photographs? Which do you think is more trustworthy? Which tells us more about the public's view of the condition of workers' housing? Give reasons for your answers.

Glossary

Accompaniment (noun) *something which comes along with something else, for example damp and disease*

Ash-pit (noun) *an outside place to dump ash from the fire*

Census (noun) *a national survey of households taken every ten years by the government*

Commercial district (noun) *an area in a town or city with mainly businesses like shops and factories, where people work; rather than a domestic area which has mainly houses, where people live*

Dwelling (noun) *house*

Flags (noun) *paving stones on the street*

Middle class (noun) *in the nineteenth century, this meant the group of people who earned more than the labouring working classes, for example doctors and lawyers*

Privies (noun) *toilets*

Prostrate (adjective) *the state of being weakened or incapacitated*

Remedied (verb) *fixed*

Sanitary (adjective) *a clean, healthy environment*

Slum (noun) *an area of poor-quality housing, usually in the city centre beside factories and mills*

Suburb (noun) *an area of housing near a city*

Transcription (noun) *a typed version of a document was originally handwritten*

Working class (noun) *in the nineteenth century, this meant people working on physical labour for an hourly wage, for example cotton spinners and factory workers*

Further reading

Marr, T. R., *The Housing Conditions of Manchester and Salford*, 1904 (331.83 M2)

Parkinson-Bailey, John, *Manchester: An Architectural History*, 2000 (740 942 733)
(Chapter 3: Housing in the Nineteenth Century)

[Local Image Collection](#)

[M343](#) 'Tripe Colony' housing estate, Miles Platting, 1905-1977

[M126](#) Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association, 1848-1924

[MSf 310.6 M5](#) Manchester Statistical Society, c.1800-1850

[M9/78](#) Unhealthy Dwellings Committee, 1889-1890

[City/Borough Committee Minutes:](#)

Improvements and Buildings Committee, 1828-1931

Health Committee Minutes, 1872-1875

Housing Committee, 1919-1986

Town Planning and Buildings Committee, 1912-1930

Public Health Act Committee, 1905-1977

Little Ireland Walking Tour by Mervyn Busted

http://www.mangeogsoc.org.uk/egm/3_1.pdf

Victorian Manchester sources by Martin Hewitt

<http://web.leedstrinity.ac.uk/depart/history/mh/contents.htm>

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(Mixed year? Please tick all that apply)

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