

F&DHS Heritage Shop Project 2017



• 13-17 High Street •

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This building is on the site of an 18th century pub The Dog and Partridge, and the cellar of the present building appears to date from this era. In 1806 the Dog and Partridge was put up for auction as its owner had been declared bankrupt. It consisted of a house, yard, garden and stable with an adjoining dwelling, occupied as a shop.

It was bought by Witton Brewery and when that business was dissolved in 1861, the pub was up for auction again. The tenant of the pub at that time was Mrs Hannah Harrison, formerly of the Red Lion, and the shop was occupied by Thomas Gorst, a draper. It was presumably at this time that Thomas bought the whole property and rebuilt it to suit his needs.

Thomas was the son of Richard Gorst, the shoemaker, who lived roughly where Devonshire Bakery stands. Thomas and his wife Hannah did not have children but took in Joseph, the son of Thomas's late brother Ralph. Joseph trained as a tailor and cutter and went on to manage the shop for his uncle.

Joseph Gorst's shop in the 1890s



Joseph married Annie Lewis at Liverpool Cathedral in November 1884. Annie was the daughter of the late Edward Lewis, a butcher, and step-daughter of John Priestner, another butcher who lived in the house now occupied by Devonshire Bakery.

Joseph Gorst's extended shop after 1900



Joseph inherited the draper's from his uncle in 1891. He later extended the shop across the whole of the front of the building, incorporating a furnishing department and providing employment for most of his family. (PHOTO FD02058 1900s)

Joseph died in 1911. His will stipulated that his son Thomas should continue the business, sharing the profits with his mother, until her death or remarriage, when it was to be sold and the profits divided between the remaining children. Annie died in 1932 and presumably the terms of the will executed.

The property subsequently became 3 shops, nos 13, 15 and 17. No.13 was Miss Marjorie Macdonald, ladies' hairdressers, in the mid 1930s. That became a gentleman's hairdressers shortly after the war, run by Dennis France, who continued the business for 40 years. The shop is now the Indian Restaurant.

Little is known about the occupiers of the shop at no.17 until about 25 years ago when Cheshire Relocation moved in.

The middle section was occupied in the 1950/60s by House of Temperley, an electrical shop, which later moved to 14 Church Street. L T L Stationer's were the next occupants, followed by Berry and Gray Estate Agents. For a short time it was the office of Frodsham Forward before Cheshire Relocation expanded to take over the middle shop.