

## Where the artist William Watkin Waite (1778-1856) lived in Ock Street

### St Helen's 1838 valuation schedule and map

The only occupier in Ock St with the name of Waite occupied a house and garden in property no. 32 which, from the map, is the second property from Tannery Lane to the west. It was quite a wide property – more than half as wide as the main house at the Clock House. His neighbours along Ock Street were Henry Knapp (property no. 29) to the east on the corner of Tannery Lane (where the Brewery Tap is now) and Bart Simpson in a small house without a garden (property no. 33) to the west. Down Tanyard Lane his neighbour, occupying a large property (property no. 30) was William Belcher.

### 1841 census

The only Waitses in Ock St were William aged 55 and Virtue aged 35. Virtue was his second wife (see <http://www.dnfa.com/catalogues/12875.pdf> consulted on 8/12/07). His occupation is 'artist' and hers 'seminary'. In the household were two female assistants aged 20 and 25 with the same surname, nine girls aged between 5 and 16, with eight different surnames, (including one with the surname of the assistants) and two female household servants. Also listed in the same household were William Tomkins, a baker, Mary Tomkins, and a journeyman, and a female servant. (In Billing's directory of 1854, Tomkins and Tripp, Ock St is listed under 'Bakers and Flour Dealers'.)

There are two households on the census list between George Knapp's household and William Waite's, one of which is the household of William Belcher. So I think it is reasonable to deduce that William Waite the artist lived at property no. 32 on the St Helen's 1838 map.

William must have rented the whole property, sublet the shop to the baker (where was the oven?) while his wife used the premises to run a seminary.

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