

THE FIRST USE OF BRICK IN NEWENT

John Rhodes

“Mr masters was the first who made brick at Newent in the year 1660; what they used before for the tops of chimneys came from Gloucester All brick houses in the town of Newent [were] built since the year 1698 except Mr Masters’, late Daison Serjeant’s.” So wrote an eye witness Walter Nourse (1654 - 1742 in 1720 -1730. (1)

Mr Master’s house of 1660 is probably nos 3-5 Broad Street which is faced with primitive brick at the rear, is the only brick building in Newent attributed to the mid to late 17th century and is compatible with the status of Thomas Master (d. 1687) as a gentleman mercer and occasional attorney.

Of the 1698 generation of brick houses one of the earliest is no 7 Church Street, an elegantly proportioned building “extending to and over the passage leading to the Bull stable” which is mentioned as newly erected in William Nelme’s will of 1701.

Notes

1 G(los) R(ecord) O(ffice) D412/Z3.

2 Dept. Of the Environment, *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, District of Forest of Dean, Glos., parishes of Churcham etc.* (1985), 54; Ralph Bigland, *Historical Collections re County of Gloucester*, (reprinted Gloucester 1992), 898; GRO D185/iv/36(i), 37.

3 Public Record Office PROB 11/470, Dogg 1703/96, f. 92.