

# The Boiler & Engine House

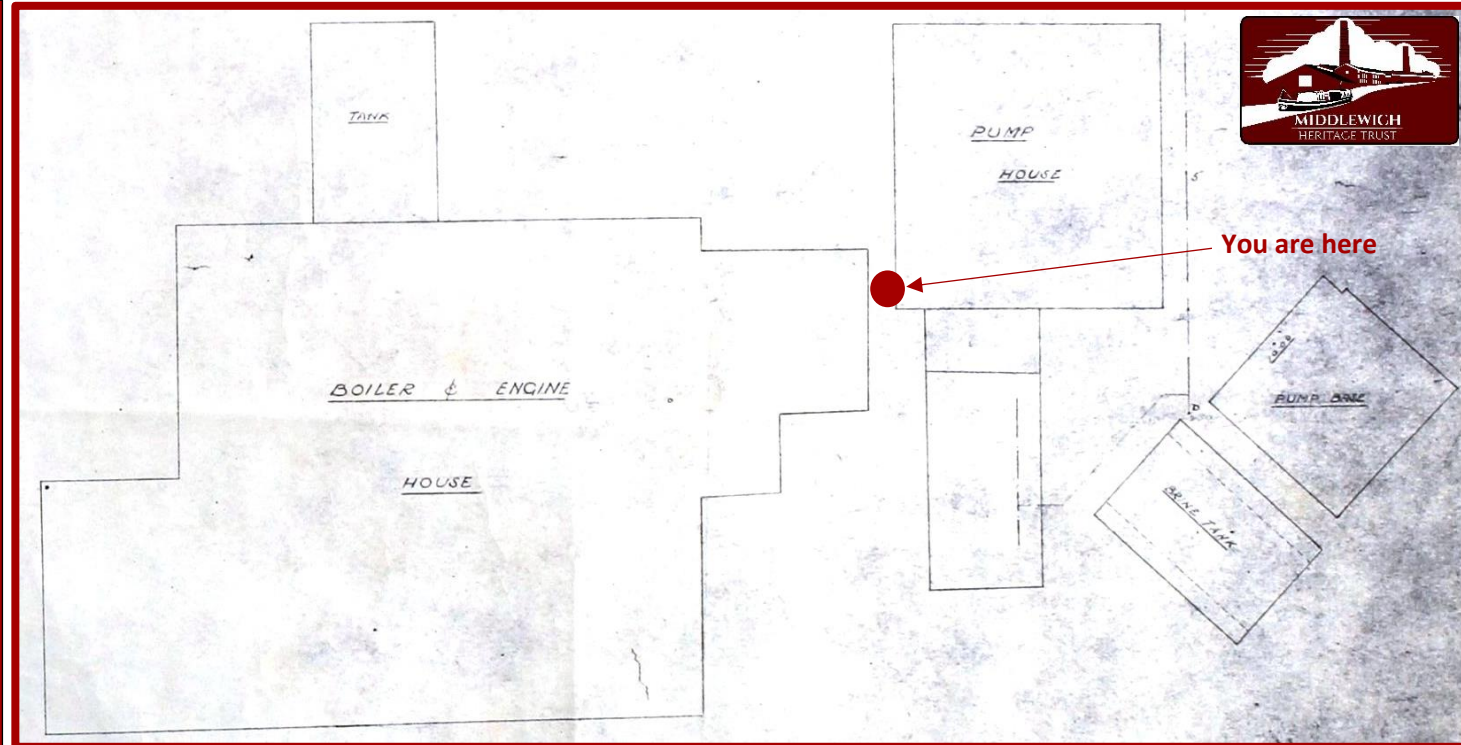
**Pump man, Jack Ashley's memories of the Boiler house.**

"In the 1930's we were on shift work of twelve hours including Saturday and then we didn't do a big lot on a Sunday. We had to keep the tank water high every day. Those steamers didn't pump as much as this electric one. The steamer stayed in case the electric failed. We always had a fire under that boiler, if anything happened to the electric one, I used to get the steamer going and it was away in no time".

"The town's water was used for the boiler feed and lime soda softeners. Exhaust steam was used to pre-heat the boiler feed".

"I never knew what the name of the steam engine was, it was a nice engine. The boiler was a Cornish Boiler about 30' long. .... [i.e., a boiler developed in Cornwall. It had only one firebox (Furnace) The other widely used design was the Lancashire boiler which had two fireboxes, side by side.] I think it was made by Joseph Adams & Sons, if I'm not mistaken, Wolverhampton. It was a grand old boiler, and the steamer was of the same principle, you know, piston like these John Thom's, but the stroke was slower than this".

"It was alright in the boiler house, there was a big, long wall there, and you could lie on it if you wanted. Nice and warm; we used to clean all the boiler and gate brasses"



Above: The layout of the boiler and engine house in 1957. There are no measurements for this building, there is another tank adjoined to the boiler house, this contained water taken from the Trent and Mersey Canal, using a small steam driven pump.

It is known that the boiler and engine house was made of red brick. We have found red brick debris on site so this would seem to confirm this.

Right: This sketch shows the location of the five boreholes which were sunk when looking for the brine steam, to sink a new pump shaft into it. Shafts 1-4 were dry but Shaft No 5 hit the bring stream. Pumphouse No 5 was built over it to house the new pump.

