



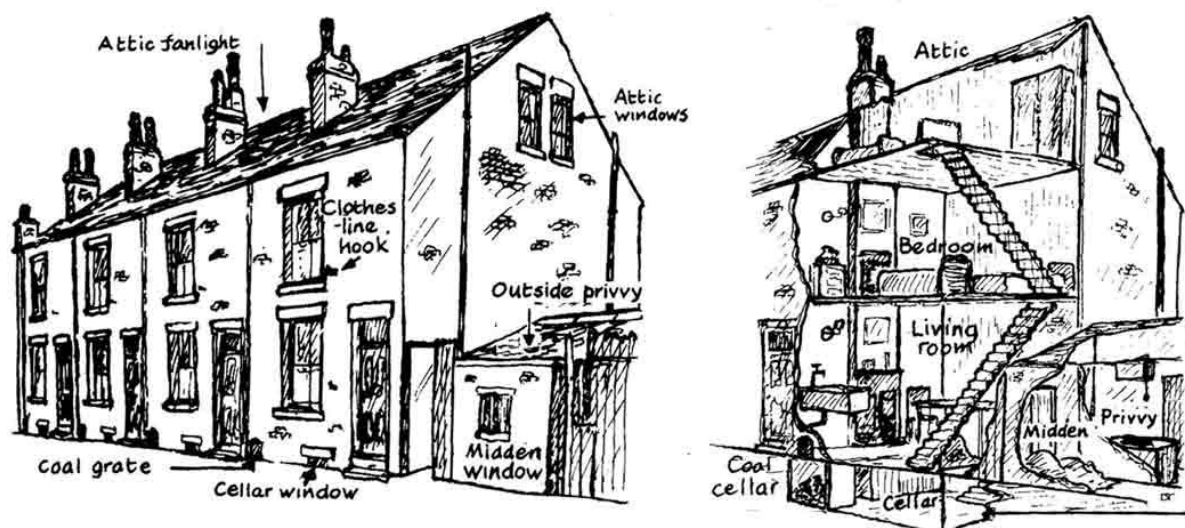
Leeds in 1840

Excerpt from **King Cholera: The Biography of a Disease** by Norman Longmate
(Hamish Hamilton, London, 1966)

Chapter 10, page 97:

“As in Lancashire, the towns and cities of Yorkshire had grown rapidly during the Industrial Revolution and places such as York, Goole, Doncaster and Hull, all of which were attacked [by cholera], were among the most insanitary in the kingdom. **Pride of place in terms of filthiness was however held by Leeds**, then a city of 76,000 inhabitants. Despite a succession of local Acts of Parliament covering street cleansing and water supply, half the population lived streets without any form of drainage or cleansing, and the condition of some courts and alleys was spectacularly bad. Three parallel streets housing nearly 400 people, had two privies between them, and when the coming of cholera drove the authorities into belated efforts to remove the worst nuisances, 70 cartloads of human sewage, the accumulation of 30 years, were removed from the privies serving the 30 houses of Boot and Shoe Yard. Fleece Lane produced an even more striking monument to civic neglect, an enormous mound of night soil covering an area of thirty feet by twelve. It was not surprising that within a few days of its first appearance cholera spread all over the city, nor that in the six months the outbreak lasted more than 700 died, the overwhelming majority of them in the unpaved and uncleaned part of the town.”

Back-to-back houses:



Source: The Thorseby Society (www.laplata.co.uk/thoresby/history.htm).