

22 and 22A CHURCH STREET

List Entry Number: 1204093

Grid Reference: TM 26017 32638

This building had been converted to a public house (Duke's Head Inn) but is now divided into two domestic properties and consists of two main phases. The frontage range, including 22A is late 15th century, timber-framed of two storeys with original cellar. The 17th century phase relates to the ceiling of the first floor chambers, re-roofing and the creation of attic rooms. The bracket for the PH sign survives and the Street nameplate to the front elevation is mentioned in the listing.



PHASE I

This is a timber-framed building of two storeys and two bays in the close studded style of the area. Originally jettied to the front this is evidenced by the pressure mark of the former jetty plate and empty mortises to the underside of the joists for braces. These could have marked the position of a former window but with the absence of the jetty plate this cannot be verified.



The SE wall is timber-framed with an impressive high door opening with four centred head adjacent to the rear corner post and lateral stack. This would have probably



given access to a parlour in the adjacent cross wing. Another door opening to the front in the SE wall has a flat head to a lower opening but in this case it appears to be un-pegged. Doors in this position often give access to a shop/workshop but as 21 Church Street was not visited and no information appears in the list description it is impossible to say definitely if the door is original or intruded. Regularly spaced peg holes for studs along the deep chamfered mid rail to the NW wall in 22A have two gaps with central post, possibly for two windows towards the rear of the building. This would appear to confirm that this was an external wall against the line of the present lane (Currents Lane) and there was not a service crosswing or range beyond.

The lateral stack has chamfered brick jambs and chamfered mantel beam with numerous candle burn marks made for protection.



From the widely spaced pegged timbers above the mantel beam it would appear that the stack is contemporary and the hall always heated.

The 10' 0" high ceiling to the two bay hall has axial beam with deep chamfered sides with unchamfered flat section joists housed with barefaced soffit tenons. The transverse beams have deep chamfers with run-out stops and to the underside of the front section later mortise and board slot possibly for a draught screen. Two joists to the rear section against the SE wall have been replaced by reused timbers with crenellated mouldings, possibly from a moulded jetty to fill a later stair trap.



The cellar appears to run under both of the hall bays and contemporary with phase I but is now divided between the two properties. Where the walls are exposed it is mainly constructed of random stone rubble and some tile.



At first floor level no evidence is visible of phase I timber-framing or associated features. However the SE gable timber-framing is visible at attic level together with the cambered tie beam.

PHASE II

The SE timber-framed wall is now partly covered with 17th century panelling which may be insitu.

The hall chamber has been ceiled by transverse and double axial beams with deep chamfers curving run-out stops and typical 17th century end notches. Common joists are of square section with housed soffit tenons and visible scribed carpenter's marks. Reused or resited moulded corbels strengthen the joints between the rear axial and transverse beams. These are of typical 17th century design.



The roof is of framed side purlin style with principle rafters creating eight bays. Collars are of heavy pine board and some common rafters are reused. An access to the outside of the roof has been constructed and has a curved door, possibly re-used from elsewhere, accessing the steps.



PHASE III

The partitioned room to the front of the stairs in the part bay of no. 22 has a ventilator screen of 19th century short turned bobbins. The enclosed winder stairs has a balustrade of heavy turned 19th century balusters to the first floor landing. The winder stairs continue up to the attic rooms lit by dormers to the front roof slope.





Reconfigured stairs lead down to the cellar which has a later front 19th century entry for beer barrels that still survives at the S end of the cellar to no. 22 as does the very

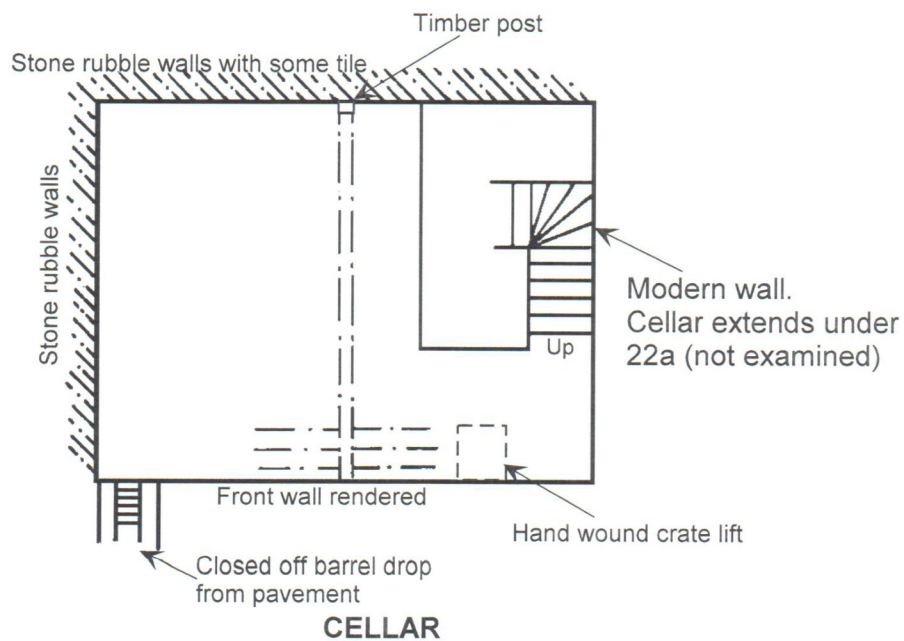
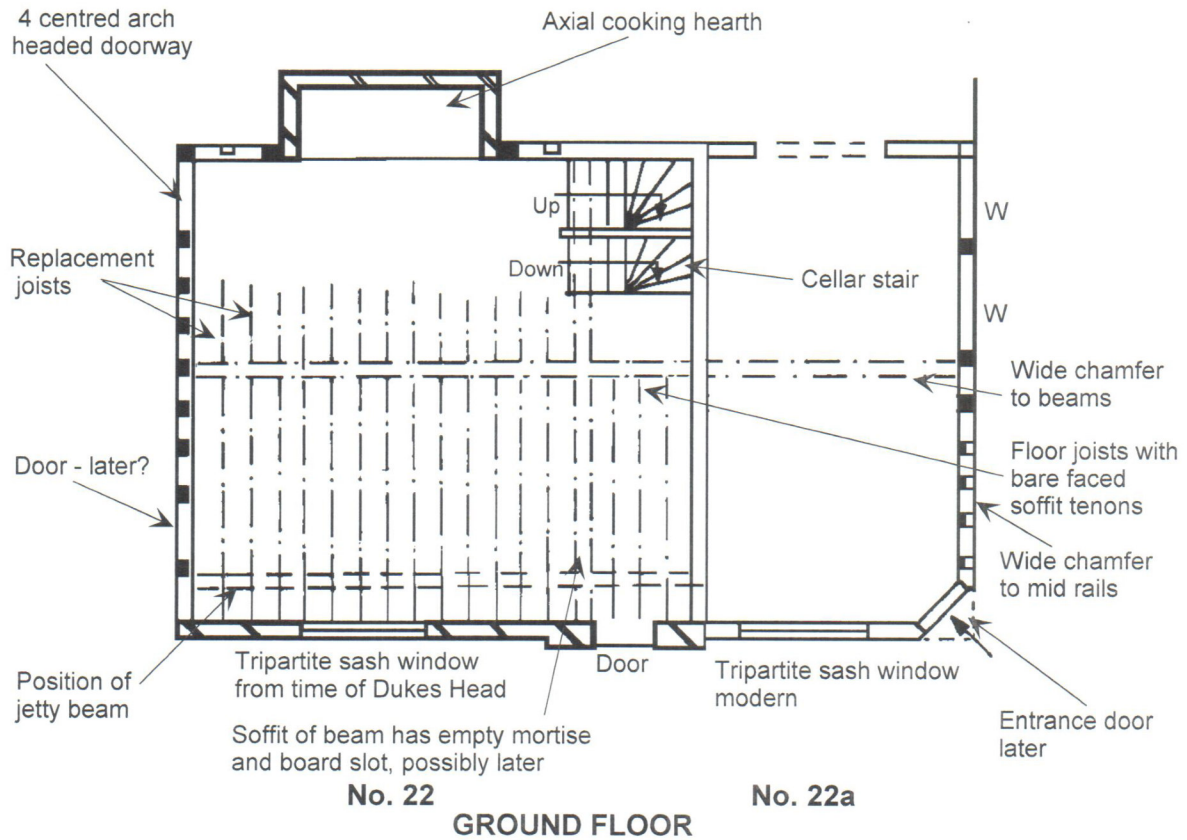


rare hand wound crate lift. The rendered front façade and fenestration mainly date to this period.

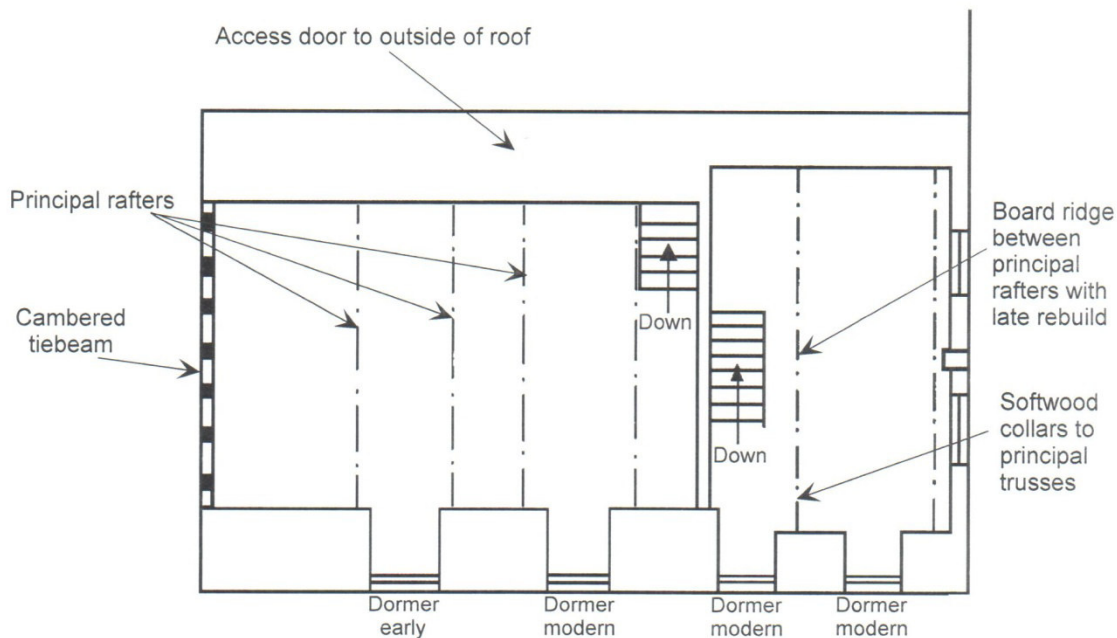
DISCUSSION

The impressive height timber-framed hall sits over a large contemporary rubble stone cellar that could have acted as store or workshop inferring some commercial element. The unusually high four centred head door imparts an impression of grandeur and the question who was it meant to impress? It would have been more usual for the door to have a dropped head rather than one of nearly 10' 0" in height. Perhaps it was a merchant's house although to date no evidence has been found for the usual associated services. There could have been an external kitchen but later rear extension now part of no.21 would have destroyed any evidence. Unfortunately the work carried out to the possible parlour cross wing at the time of listing has covered or destroyed much of the evidence that maybe could have answered some of the questions.

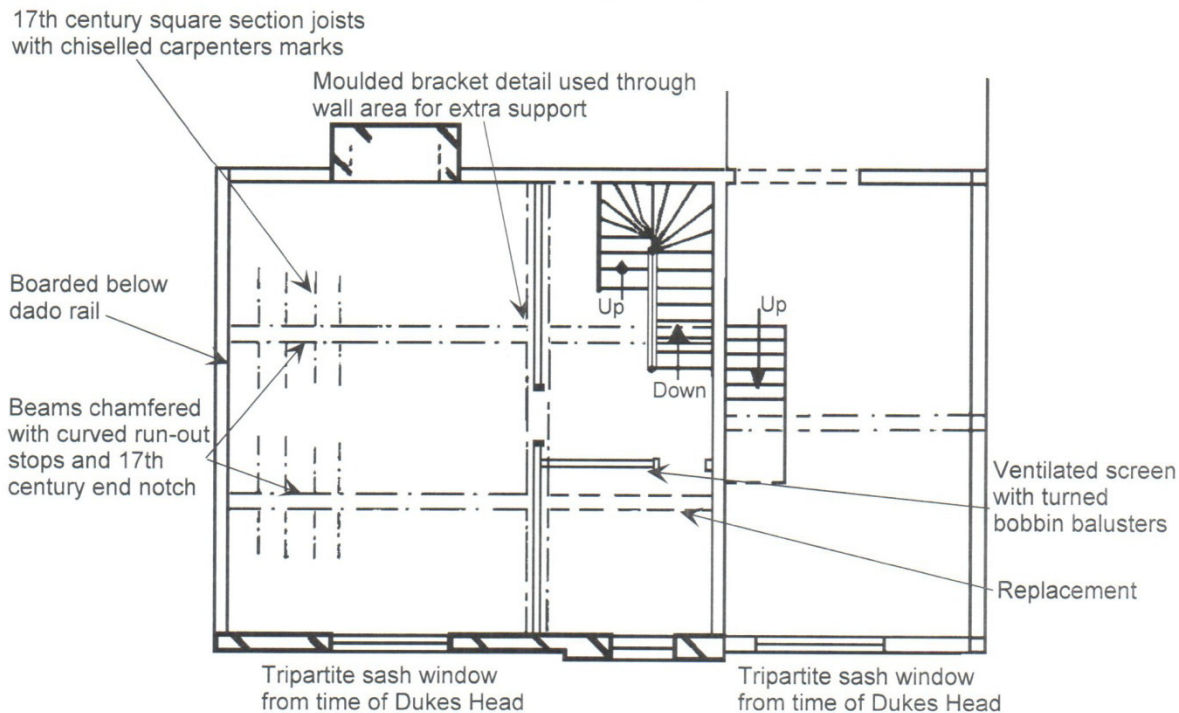
22 & 22a Church Street, Harwich.



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ATTIC PLAN



No. 22

No. 22a

FIRST FLOOR PLAN