

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INTERPRETATIVE SURVEY
OF
24, 25 (THE ALMA), 26, KING'S HEAD ST.,
HARWICH, ESSEX**

**by
David Martin FSA IHBC and Barbara Martin**



2019

STANDING BUILDINGS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIVE SURVEYS

AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

ABOUT THESE SURVEYS

The intended purpose of an *Archaeological Interpretative Survey* is to give an overview of the date, sequence of construction, and principal architectural features of a building. As such, they should not be regarded as a detailed archaeological record, nor should they be taken as definitive. Further research, particularly that undertaken during building works, is likely to refine and extend the archaeological record and could modify the dates suggested.

These reports are aimed at three groups of user, namely those owners who wish to know more about their property, those persons (architects and planners) who are charged with the responsibility for both conserving the buildings and ensuring that they are carefully adapted to the needs of the future, and finally the academic carrying out wider historical or archaeological research. A secure use for the future is, in our opinion, the only way of ensuring the long-term survival of any historical building.

INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUE

Unless noted to the contrary, the assessments involve a visual inspection of the fabric, both internally and externally, including any accessible roof voids and basement areas. Except where building works are being carried out, intrusive techniques are inappropriate. Interpretation of the fabric and fittings therefore relies principally upon inspection of the visible evidence. As part of the interpretative procedure, a measured outline survey of every property is undertaken.

THE WRITTEN REPORT








For ease of reference the written reports are divided into sections under a series of headings and sub-headings. The typical sequence of headings is as follows:-

- 1 Location of the building.
- 2 Sequence of development.
- 3 Detailed architectural description, arranged period-by-period.

THE DRAWINGS

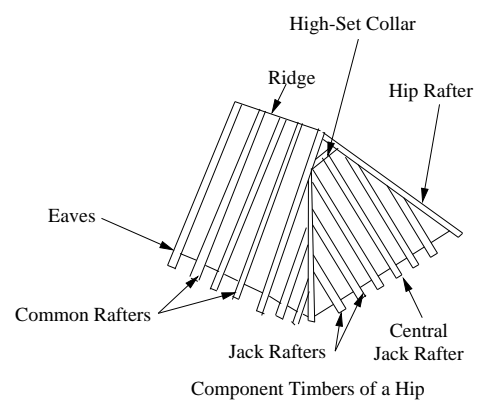
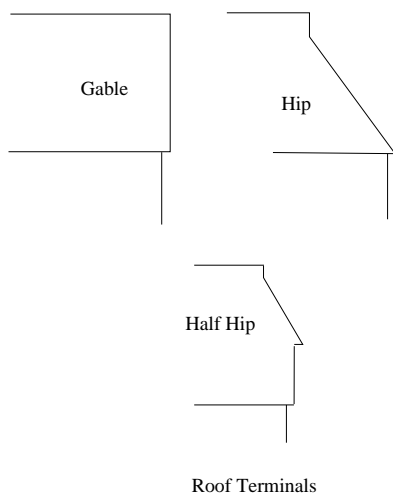
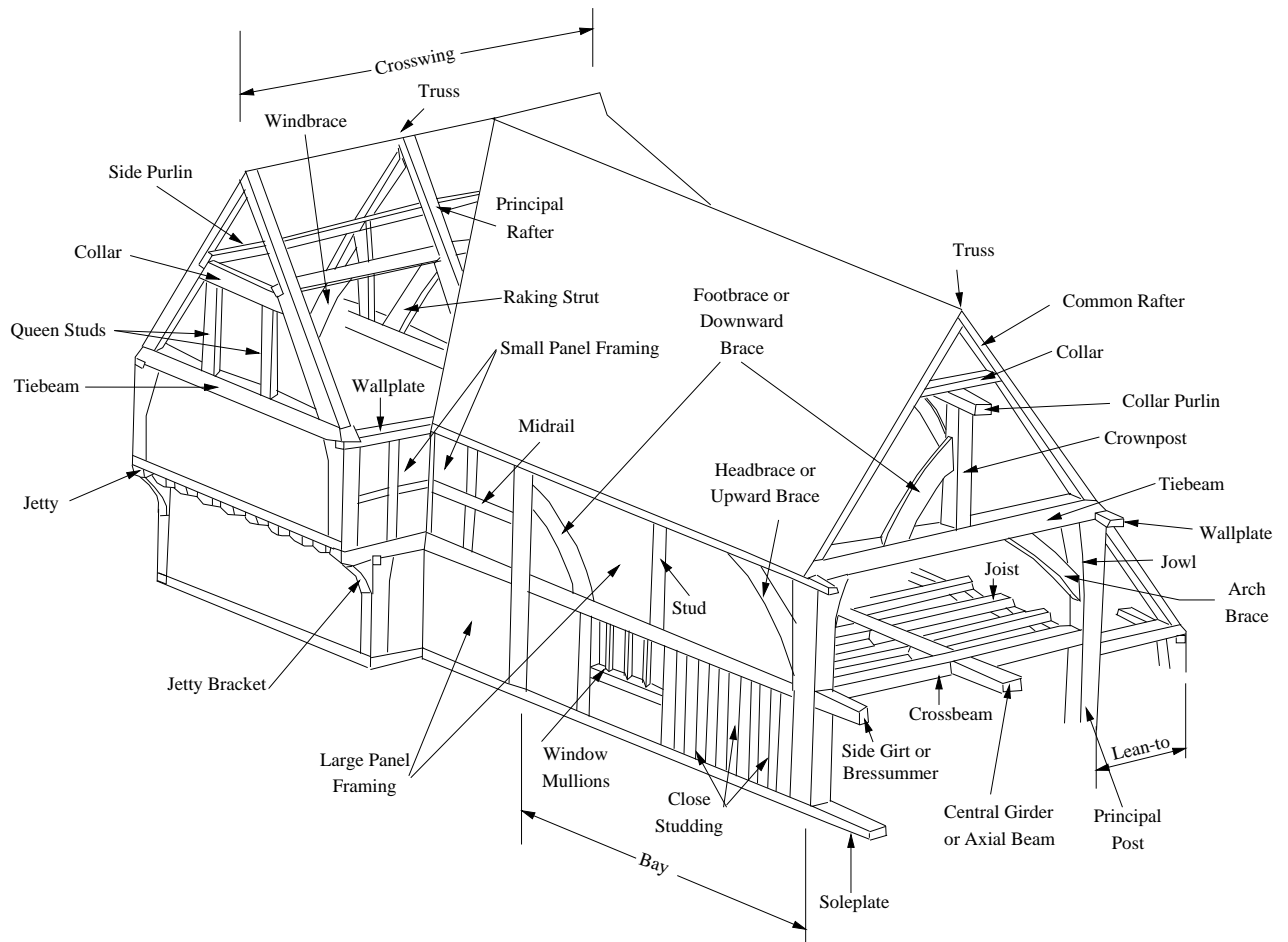
A set of drawings produced from an measured outline survey is included within the body of each report. The purpose of these drawings is to identify the features included within the written text and to illustrate, as far as is known, the form of the structure during its various stages of development. For clarity the drawings have been prepared in the form of scale 'sketches', rather than detailed archaeological record drawings. For reasons of economy, the making of detailed archaeological drawings is restricted to stripped-out or exceptionally important buildings.

The symbols as used in the drawings attached to this report are as follows:

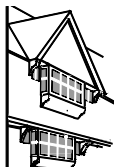
	Surviving Timber-Framed Wall
	Surviving Brick or Stone Wall
	Features evidenced but destroyed or masked from view
	Beam or feature immediately overhead
	Conjectural or very approximate
	Structural timber
	Details unknown or doubtful

OTHER CONVENTIONS USED -

- 1 Doors are shown in plan only where known: hence rooms may appear to have no obvious means of access.
- 2 With the exception of rafters, wallplates, and some chimneys and roof-lines, sections show features cut by or immediately adjacent to the cutting line only.



GLOSSARY OF PRINCIPAL TERMS



**24, 25 (THE ALMA), 26, KING'S HEAD STREET,
HARWICH, ESSEX
NGR TM 25962 32772**

BACKGROUND TO THIS REPORT

Following a visit to 24, 25, 26, King's Head Street in Harwich, Essex, with Brenda and Elphin Watkin and Andrea Kirkham on 19th January 2019, the Martins decided that this complex would provide an ideal candidate for checking whether the method of undertaking Archaeological Interpretative Surveys of historic buildings in East Sussex worked in another part of the country where box-frame construction was adopted. Access was available to all parts of the complex, in addition to which No 26 was in the process of renovation, meaning that much previously hidden fabric was available for study. The Martins' suggestion was enthusiastically received by the owner of Nos 25 and 26, Nick May, and by Richard Oxborrow, who, with others, are currently carrying out a detailed study of the town. This present report concentrates on the development of the house up to and including the reconstruction of the main range and addition of the southern 'Porch' during the first half of the sixteenth century. Later phases are mentioned in summary form only and, not having been surveyed by the authors of this report, these comments should be regarded as provisional. The wall paintings contained within No 26 — regardless of their possible date — are likewise omitted from this report on the grounds they fall outside the expertise of the authors. It is hoped these will be reported on separately by the wall paintings specialist, Andrea Kirkham.

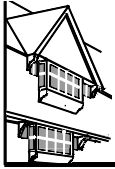
LOCATION

The building today occupied by Nos 24, 25 (The Alma), 26, stand on the north-east (hereafter assumed east) side of King's Head Street and, in part, extends through to East Gate Street to the north-east (hereafter assumed east). The part which forms the subject of this present report is limited to the King's Head Street frontage, though the building fronting onto East Gate Street, together with the linking range, contain within them fabric of mid/late eighteenth-century date.

With a built-up street frontage of 21.50 metres (70ft 6ins), the complex is constructed with its main (central) range aligned on a north-west to south-east axis (hereafter assumed north-south) with its south-west (hereafter assumed west) front elevation hard against King's Head Street. According to the 25 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey map (Essex Sheet XXXI.2) the ground level around the house stands at approximately 16 feet (c4.90 metres) above mean sea level.

HISTORICAL NOTE

No historical documentary research (either primary or secondary) was undertaken during the preparation of this report.



OVERVIEW OF THE HOUSE [Plates 1 and 2]

Nothing now remains of the earliest house on the site, the hall of which stood between two crosswings. It was a sizeable range and was either earlier than or contemporary with the present north crosswing. For this reason, within the present report this missing range is designated as belonging to **PERIOD A/B**. Bearing in mind that the southern end of the hall appears to have been the low end, the structure probably originally extended southwards into the present south crosswing to provide a service area for the house.

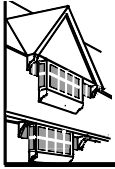
The earliest surviving work within the complex is represented by the small two-bay north crosswing (**PERIOD B**), which was accessed from the lost main range by a doorway at the extreme eastern end of its south wall. Although little early work is today visible, sufficient remains to indicate that it was jettied towards the street and probably dates from the fourteenth century.

The present south crosswing was constructed during the closing years of the fifteenth century (**PERIOD C**). It too is a two-bay structure with a front jetty and is of similar length to the north crosswing, but is markedly wider and taller. Reached from the hall by an off-centred doorway, it comprised a single room on each of its two storeys and appears not to have fulfilled a service function, suggesting a separate service range/building existed elsewhere on the site. The range may have fulfilled a commercial/mercantile use.

Construction of the period-C south crosswing indicates a marked rise in the fortunes of the building's owner. During the early years of the sixteenth century (**PERIOD D1**) the period-A/B main range was rebuilt on the same footprint as its predecessor. It is a continuously jettied range housing a hall and first-floor hall chamber, the latter ceiled from the roof void above. The new range was heated from the outset by a high-end chimney built just within the north crosswing, and was embellished within its street facade by elaborate fenestration, capped by a pair of overhanging gables. So as not to dominate the structure, the roof of the wide main range is ingeniously designed. Not only was the exterior of the range elaborate: internally there were a number of elaborately mouldings ceiling beams.

Perhaps at the same date, but possibly a little later in the early/middle years of the sixteenth century (**PERIOD D2**) a small, but very high class 'porch' was built to the south of the south crosswing. Very heavily (but faithfully) restored in the twentieth century, it has continuous, high quality fenestration extending along the full length of its west, south, and north elevations at first-floor level. The form of the ground-floor walls is uncertain, but the decor on the upper storey and at eaves level is rich.

Subsequent to period D2 both the hall and hall chamber were divided into two single-bay rooms/chambers and a chimney (now fragmentary) was added against the south side of the central truss. The front jetties were underbuilt and a cellar intruded beneath the



24, 25 (The Alma), 26, King's Head Street, Harwich, Essex *Interpretative Historic Building Survey, 2019*



Plate 1

Exterior from west (image Google Earth)

- a) North crosswing (Period B — No 24)*
- b) Main range (Period D1 - The Alma, No 25)*
- c) South crosswing (Period C — No 26)*
- d) South 'porch' (Period D2 — No 26)*
- e) Eighteenth century link range*
- f) Eighteenth-century range (No 9 East Gate)*
- g) Addition at side of link*

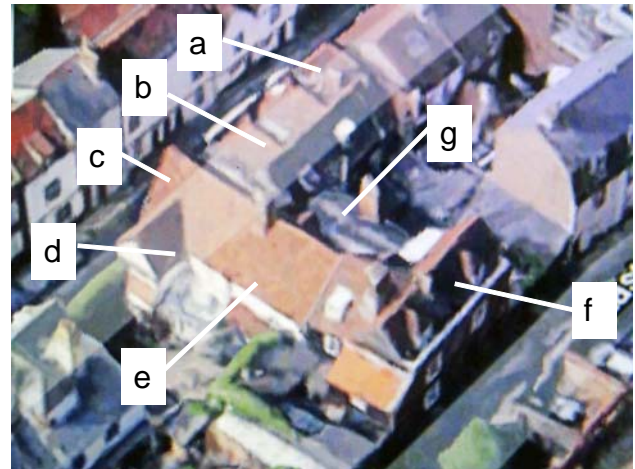


Plate 2

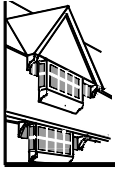
Exterior from east (image Google Earth)

- a) North crosswing (Period B — No 24)*
- b) Main range (Period D1 - The Alma, No 25)*
- c) South crosswing (Period C — No 26)*
- d) South 'porch' (Period D2 — No 26)*
- e) Eighteenth century link range*
- f) Eighteenth-century range (No 9 East Gate)*
- g) Addition at side of link*

north bay of the hall. In the 18th century the south crosswing was extended back, eastwards, linking with a newly built/rebuilt range fronting onto East Gate Street. The period-C chimney was replaced by a four-flue stack upon the same site, heating both the south crosswing and link. The fireplaces are narrow. Whatever form the early stairs took, they were now replaced by a spiral staircase, which has itself been replaced subsequently. Although much altered both internally and externally, the frontage of the East Gate Street range is of brick with windows and doorways capped with flat rubbed-brick arches. The eighteenth century roofs are of simple collar and side-purlin construction. There is a staircase protected by a Chinese Chippendale balustrade. A jettied extension has been constructed along the northern side of the 18th-century link range, serving as a passage leading from the back door of the hall towards the East Gate Street range. By this time both the East Gate range and the south crosswing had been made into separate dwellings.

At about the same time as the above eighteenth-century alterations were being carried out, the north crosswing was divided off from the remainder of the complex to provide an additional house (No 24). It was as part of this work that the wing was gutted, its walls raised in height, and additional fireplaces added against the period-D chimney so as to serve the new house.

There have been a number of other more minor additions and many internal alterations. All work undertaken subsequent to period D2 is excluded from the more detailed description of the building's form and evolution given below.



LISTED STATUS OF THE BUILDING

The complex which is the subject of this report is covered by three separate listings —

- ALMA INN (PART), 25, KING'S HEAD STREET. Listed as Grade II.
List Entry Number 1187903. First listed 20th June 1972.
National Grid Reference: TM 25962 32772
- ALMA INN (PART), 9, EASTGATE STREET. Listed as Grade II.
List Entry Number 1298484. First listed 20th June 1972.
National Grid Reference: TM 25960 32770.
- NUMBER 26 AND FRONTAGE WALL TO SOUTH EAST; 26, KING'S HEAD STREET. Listed Grade II*.
List Entry Number:1281089. First listed 25th September 1951.
National Grid Reference: TM 25956 32764

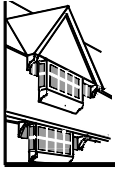
The descriptions in the list entries are purely for the purpose of recognition and are normally, therefore, primarily based on external appearance, augmented in most cases in Essex by a rapid internal appraisal and informed by notes made by the RCHME in the early twentieth century. The descriptions read as follows:

ALMA INN (PART), 25 KING'S HEAD STREET

Public house, early to mid C16 and C19. Timber-framed and pebbledashed with clay plain tile roofs.

EXTERIOR: 2 storeys with attics. Front has timber parapet and, on first floor a tripartite and canted oriel bay window with double-hung sash windows with small square panes. Ground floor is of 5 bays with pilaster piers, a double door, 2 single doors and 2 bays of windows. Stallrisers and lower part of doors have raised-and-fielded panels. Continuous fascia between console stops. All window and door glass is etched. Rear elevation to yard has black glazed pantiles and flat-roofed dormer. Here frame is exposed showing C16 original brick nogging infill and 2 frieze windows of moulded mullions. Short bay to the NW has black tarred weatherboarding. Rear ground floor has part Welsh slate, part patent glazed single-storey extension. To the rear at right-angles is a 2-storey timber-framed extension linking with Eastgate Street range (qv). This is rendered with Welsh slate roof and C19 double-hung sash windows with small panes. Large stack penetrates roof and ground floor is recessed to allow through route.

INTERIOR: main block is 2 bays of elaborately moulded timber-framing some exposed. Moulded bridging joists and spine beams, formerly jettied to street. Upper floor has jowled post and part of central tie beam exposed with mortice for missing tie beam brace. North wall has remains of contemporary stack, hearth now forming cupboard with reused mantel beams. Framing in NW wall appears 'open'. Roof rebuilt and some suggestions for the loss of a 3rd wall.



24, 25 (The Alma), 26, King's Head Street, Harwich, Essex
Interpretative Historic Building Survey, 2019

ALMA INN (PART), 9, EASTGATE STREET.

Public house, formerly house.

EXTERIOR: Late C18, Timber-framed with front and NW flank of red, tuck-pointed, Flemish-bond brickwork. Gabled roof of clay plain tiles. 2 storeys and attics with central ridgeline stack and 2 hipped roofed dormers, behind rebuilt parapet. Projecting brick band between storeys and brick cornice. Front has, on first floor, a flush double-hung sash window with small panes and moulded surrounds, either side of a rendered blind window recess all 3 having recessed aprons. All original openings have rubbed brick slightly arched heads and rendered keystones. Ground floor has one similar window, a large C19 window of 3 etched glass panes and an entrance to rear yard with wrought-iron gate. Black tarred plinth with moulded brick coping. At SE end is an early C19 lean-to extension, with matching red brick to street and black tarred weatherboarded flank. This has a casement window and clay pantile roof. This part of frontage has an early C19, 4-panel door with rectangular fanlight and rubbed brick flat arch.

INTERIOR: C18 well staircase with Chinese Chippendale balustrade. On first floor a simple C19 fire surround and mid C19 Adamesque fire surround with iron semicircular grate.

NUMBER 26 AND FRONTAGE WALL TO SOUTH EAST

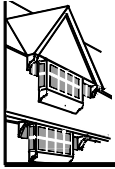
House and frontage wall to SE. Early and late C16. timber-framed and rendered with gabled plain clay tile roof. 2 storeys with attics with 2-storey extensions of rear and SE flank.

EXTERIOR: gabled front elevation has 2-light casement to attic, double-hung sash window with 2 vertical glazing bars to first floor and entrance with moulded surround and 6-panel door. Southern flank extension has richly moulded frieze window on 3 exposed sides above a lean-to machine-made clay plain tile roof and C19 double-hung sash window in former door opening. This is linked to a high, ancient, knapped flint front boundary wall also linking to No.27 (qv). The rear of this wall reveals rubble construction.

INTERIOR: 2-bay high quality timber-frame, at right-angles to street with spine beam in rear bay. Probably originally jettied to street. All posts are jowled and principal timbers are flat-chamfered with plain stops. A crown post with straightish arch braces has been reused to support ceiling on first floor. Door of elaborate linenfold panelling is now on ground floor. Until recently a brick spiral staircase (as part of stack) existed behind rear of C16 wing. 2-storey rear extension probably of C18 with gabled clay plain tile roof and reused timber. The small southern flank extension is of considerable interest and is a box-like structure, windowed on the 3 sides of upper floor. Elaborate moulded 'cornice' at front and rear eaves and joisted ceiling beneath roof. West front elevation [recte southern end wall] (now concealed) has 2 short ogee-profile wall braces to a central stud below the window sill. Cross-wing may have formed part of a single dwelling with The Alma Inn (qv), to the NW. (RCHME: Essex NE: London: 1922-: 136 (22)).

[Source: English Heritage, Images of England - website].

The description must not be treated as a comprehensive schedule of those elements which are legally protected as, no matter what the grade, the legislative cover not only



relates to both the interior and exterior, but also extends to any building within the curtilage which predates the 1st July 1948.

There is no listing for 24 King's Head Street, which is the earliest surviving part of the complex.

DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

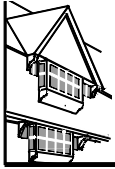
PERIOD A & B (? 14th C) [Drawing Nos. 1-3, Plates 3-7]

INTRODUCTION

Nothing now remains of the medieval hall on the site, it having been totally replaced during period D (see *Period D* below). If (as seems likely) there was a ground-floor room (or rooms) and a first-floor chamber beyond the southern end of the hall, it was replaced when the present southern crosswing was constructed during period C (see *Period C* below). Today the earliest surviving fabric on the site is the north crosswing, much of the frame of which is currently masked from view. This crosswing could be contemporary with the medieval hall, or could have been built later — all that is certain is that this crosswing is earlier than the south crosswing. Those elements which are visible indicate that the north crosswing was much altered in the late eighteenth century, probably when it was divided from the remainder of the complex to form a separate dwelling. At that time the height of the walls was raised and extra fireplaces were added against the west face of the period-D chimney so as to heat the newly formed house.

THE HALL

Although nothing survives of the medieval hall, its length can be ascertained from the location of the two crosswings, whilst the width is known from the position of an internal doorway in the south wall of the north crosswing, confirmed by a lack of weathering on all but the higher parts of the south crosswing's north wall. This data indicates that the hall's footprint was identical to that of its period-D successor, being a very respectable 8.60 metres (28ft 3ins) long by 7.10 metres (23ft 3ins) wide overall. Bearing in mind the generous width, the possibility of the medieval hall having been a fully aisled structure has to be considered. The height of the medieval hall's side walls is unknown, but weathering can be felt one stud in from what would have been the alignment of the hall's front wall on the hall face of the period-C south crosswing's north wall: the weathering extends down at least 600mm (2ft) from the top of the crosswing's wallplate. Lower down, the frame is un-weathered, but the junction between the weathered and un-weathered parts can not currently be ascertained. This data allows a minimum and maximum height for the hall's roof slope to be plotted (see Drawing Nos. 2 and 3).



THE NORTH CROSSWING

Limitations

As already mentioned, the visible medieval work is today very limited — all that can be seen are parts of fifteen timbers. Working from west to east along the north wall, the ground-floor part of principal post A survives. This supports a jetty bracket and shows the sawn-off end of the jetty plate. To its east is the ground-floor element of principal post B, with a length of side-girt beyond, and beyond that is exposed the first-floor element of principal post C supporting the sawn-off stub of a tiebeam. Apart from the ground-floor part of its southern principal post (visible in the ladies toilet in The Alma), all that can be seen in the rear (east) wall is part of the northern rafter, a section of low collar jointed into the rafter, and parts of three studs in the roof gable. Nothing of either the first-floor joisting or the front (west) wall are visible, whilst exposed medieval fabric in the south wall is limited to the section of principal post D already mentioned as visible in the ladies toilet, together with short adjacent sections of soleplate and side-girt. However, a photograph of the western end of this wall taken during renovation of The Alma shows that the wallplate, some close studding and a wall brace survive at first-floor level, providing significant additional data regarding the design of the crosswing. It should be borne in mind that the description which follow is based upon these few visible timbers, together with those elements shown in photographs taken during building work.

Layout

The crosswing is of three bays and originally incorporated a front jetty. It measures 7.70 metres (25ft 3ins) long overall its former front jetty by 4.20 metres (13ft 9ins), and had first-floor side walls which measured 2.00 metres (6ft 7ins) from floor to top of the medieval wallplate. The front and rear bays are short, whilst the central bay measures approximately 4 metres (about 13ft) between principal posts. Truss C-C (between the two rear bays) can be shown to have been of open type on the first floor, whilst the same appears to have been the case with the ground floor of truss B-B, between the two front bays. The likelihood, therefore, is that the crosswing housed a single three-bay room on the ground floor with a three-bay chamber above, the latter open to the roof.

Wall Design, Windows and Doorways

The frame is of traditional construction with the tiebeams carried in normal assembly over the wallplates and principal posts (visible at post C in the north wall — Plate 3). Post C has a very slight swelling jowl. All timbers are neatly finished, but of small scantling: ie principal posts 180-190mm wide

Details of only two sections of infill framing are known — on the first floor at the western end of the south wall, and in the rear (eastern) gable. Both are of widely spaced close studding, as detailed in Drawing 2, 'Rear (East) Elevation',



Plate 3
Principal post C in north wall showing cut-off tiebeam and mortice for former arch brace

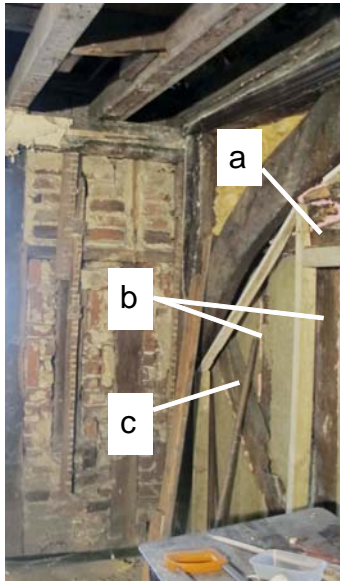
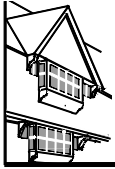


Plate 4
 Front wall of period-D hall chamber showing north side wall of period-B crosswing on right with a) wallplate, b) studs, and c) footbrace



Plate 5
 Fragment of rear (east) roof gable of north crosswing visible in gable of modern roof

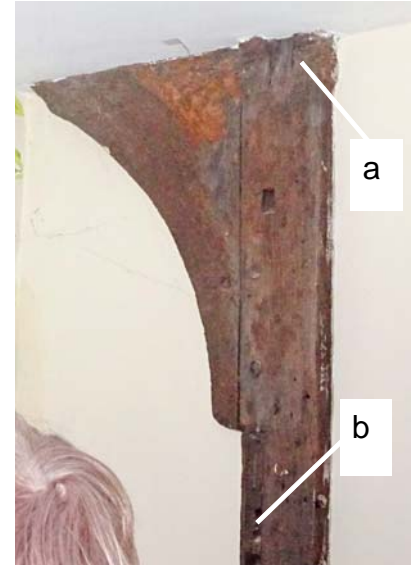


Plate 6
 Post and jetty bracket at west end of north crosswing's north wall. Note a) sawn-off plate at top of post and b) footbrace mortice at bottom of picture

and in Drawing 3, 'South Wall of North Crosswing'. Housed across the external face of the studs in the south wall is a slightly curved footbrace (Plate 4) and there is a pegged mortice for a similar brace against the south face of jetty post A in the front wall (Plate 6). In the eastern roof gable a collar is housed past the internal (western) face of the studs (Plate 5).

No details are known regarding the windows in the crosswing and only one door position is known.

The latter is at the extreme eastern end of the south wall and linked the crosswing to the medieval hall. Although blocked, there is still a doorway in this location, though the present opening dates from period D and incorporates an arched head. It was inserted to replace the original square-headed doorway which, unlike its replacement, utilized the easternmost principal post as its eastern jamb. Because of this, the west jamb of the original doorway had to be replaced by a new jamb immediately to the west, leaving a redundant pegged mortice in the crossbeam to accommodate the original jamb (Plate 7). Starting at this redundant

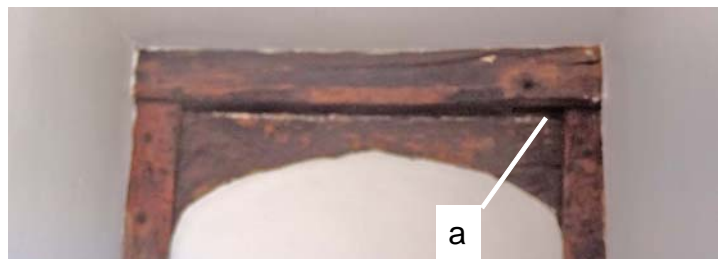
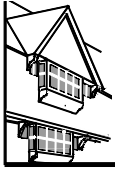


Plate 7
 Enlarged photograph of period-D door head at eastern end of north crosswing's south wall showing a) pegged mortice for west jamb of period-B doorway which stood very slightly to left of period-D doorway. The stopped chamfer on the lower leading edge of the side-girt is not visible in this over-enlarged photograph



mortice and running eastwards along the northern lower leading edge of the side-girt is a neat, stop-chamfer.

Floor and Jetty

No first floor joists are exposed to view, but the level of the jetty bracket at the western end of the north wall, together with the sawn off jetty plate which supported the projecting ends of the joists (Plate 6) suggest that the joists are still in position: certainly the joists are at the original level of the medieval floor construction. The purpose of truss B-B, positioned only 1.30 metres (4ft 3ins) back from the ground-floor front wall appears to have been to provide a crossbeam into which to joint the eastern end of the joists supporting the jetty. Assuming the joists to be in situ, the crossbeam which trims them is the same depth as the joists - usually an early feature. Furthermore, to the east of truss B-B the exposed side-girt in the north wall of bay B-C is located so that the ends of north-south aligned joists can be lodged over it, suggesting that the floor of bay B-C incorporates a central girder which, like the crossbeam, is the same depth as the joists. This all assumes that the medieval floor joists etc still survive above the modern plaster ceiling.

Chimney

There is no evidence to suggest a period-B chimney within the north crosswing.

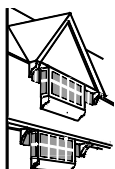
Roof

All that now survives of the roof is the lower part of the northern rafter in the east gable, together with the remains of a surprisingly low collar jointed into the rafter. It seems likely that a second set of collars connected the rafter pairs approximately two-thirds up the roof in the usual manner, but nothing of the roof's upper part survives so it is impossible to confirm this likelihood. The only roof with two tiers of collars previously recorded by the authors is that of the early thirteenth century which spans the first-floor hall of the inner guest house at Robertsbridge Abbey in Sussex [East Sussex Record Office HBR 1/604 (revised)].

PERIOD C (Late 15th Century) [Drawing Nos. 1-3, Plates 8-20]

LAYOUT

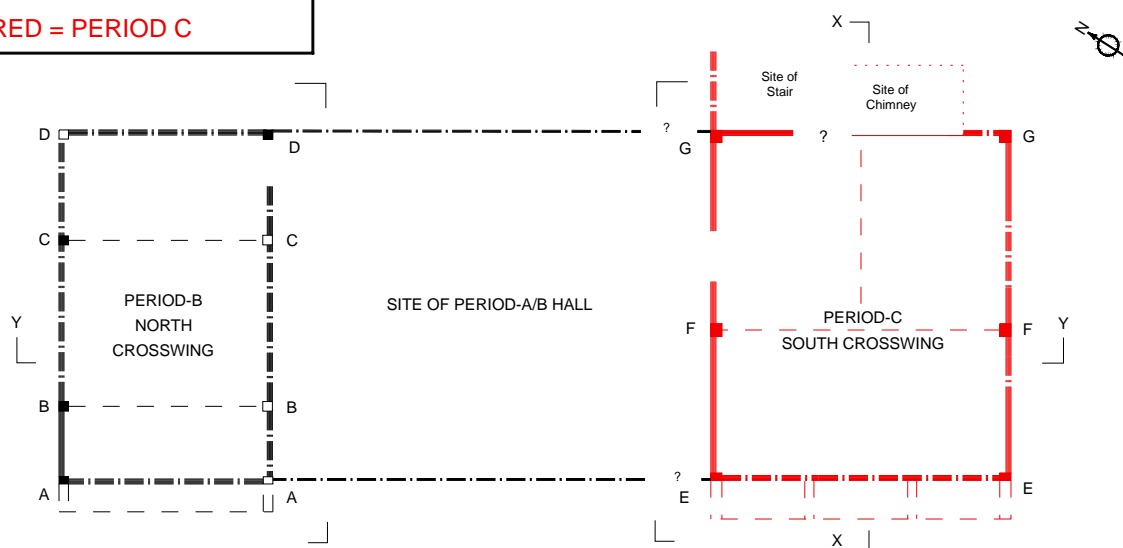
Whatever stood beyond what seems to have been the low (southern) end of the period-A/B hall, it was now replaced by a new crosswing of two bays, heated by a chimney against its eastern (rear) wall, with some form of narrow stair range/turret occupying the area between the chimney and rear doorway of the hall. Jettied to the front and having a single room with chamber above, the crosswing measures 7.55 metres (24ft 9ins) long overall its front jetty by 5.95 metres (19ft 6ins) wide. Its storey heights are generous — 2.85 metres (9ft 4ins) on the ground floor measured from underside of soleplate to underside of floorboards; 2.20 metres (7ft 3ins) from floor to top of wallplate on the first floor. The chamber was open to the roof.



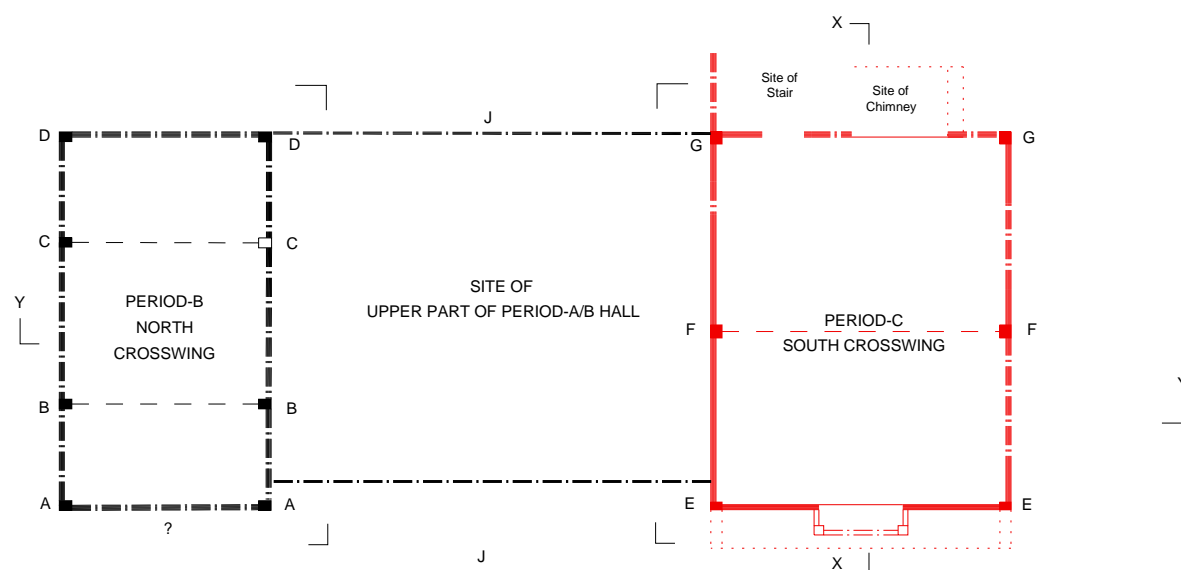
24, 25 (The Alma), 26, King's Head Street, Harwich, Essex Interpretative Historic Building Survey, 2019

BLACK = PERIODS A & B

RED = PERIOD C



GROUND-FLOOR PLAN



FIRST-FLOOR PLAN



**HARWICH - 24, 25 (THE ALMA), 26 KING'S HEAD STREET
PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS (1 of 3)**

Site Ref -

Drawing No.

1

Drawn By **D Martin**

Revision No -

Date of original survey **2019**

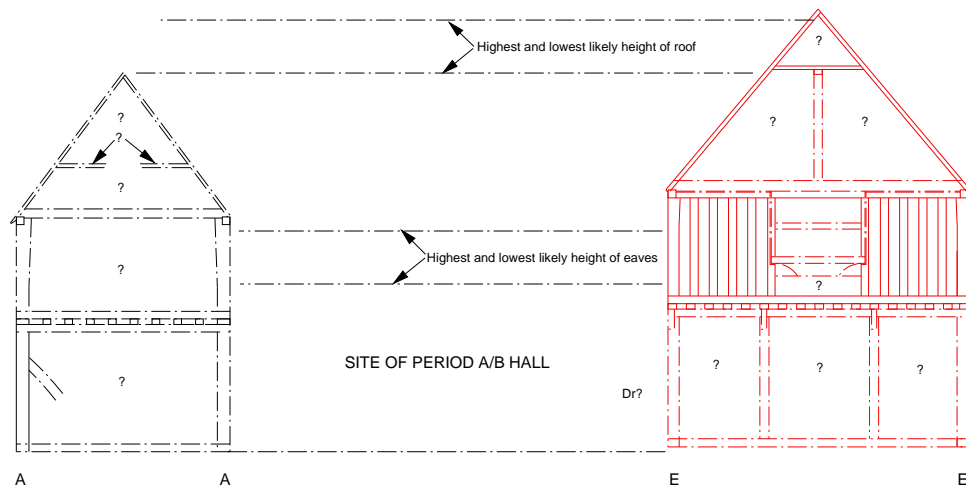
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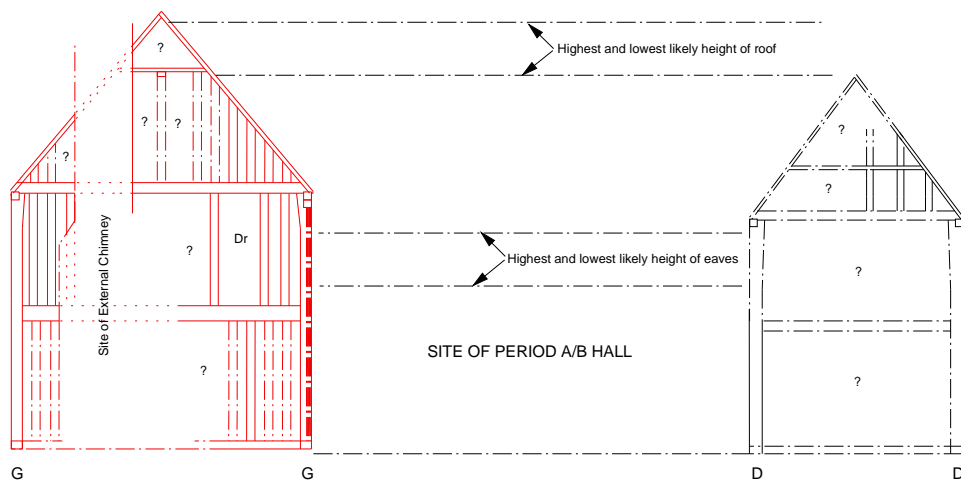
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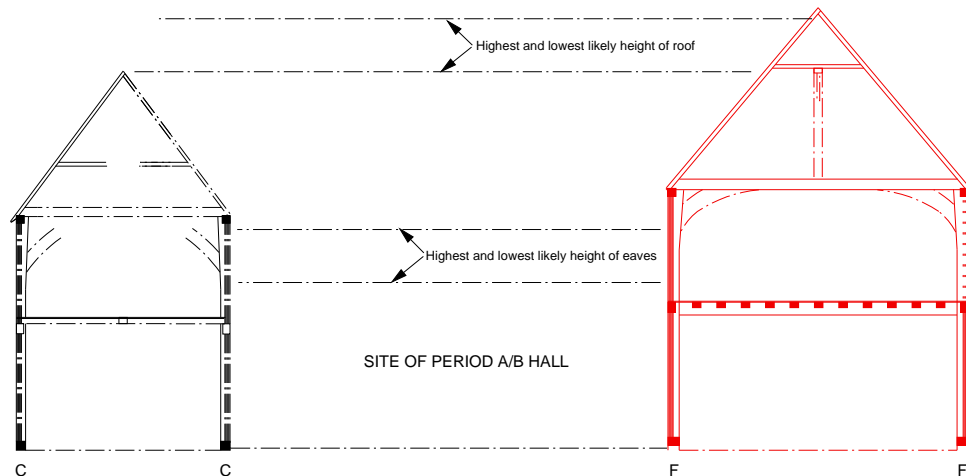
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FRONT (WEST) ELEVATION



REAR (EAST) ELEVATION



LONGITUDINAL SECTION Y-Y

SCALE 5 0 5 10 METRES

**HARWICH - 24, 25 (THE ALMA), 26 KING'S HEAD STREET
PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS (2 of 3)**

Site Ref -

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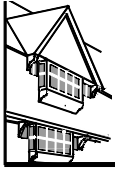
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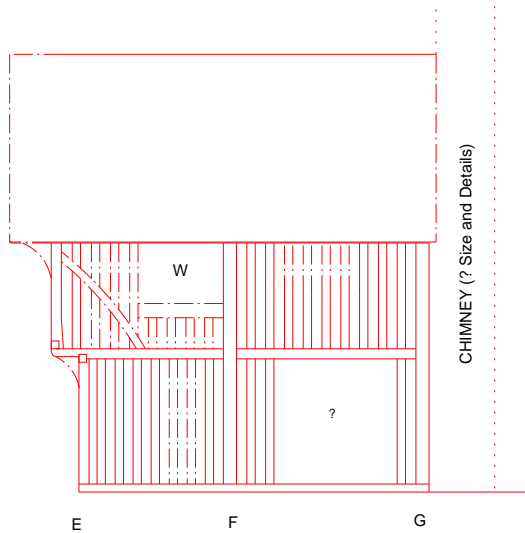
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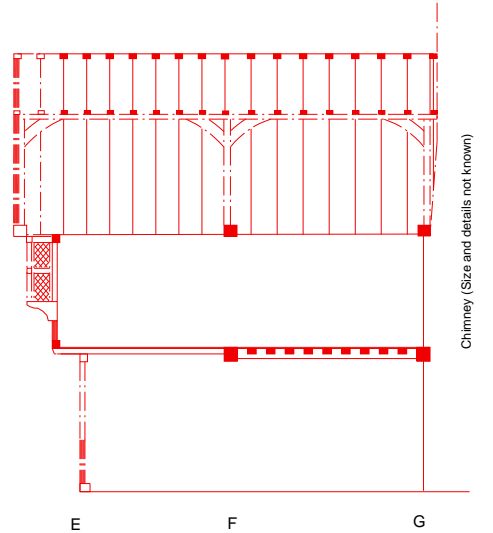
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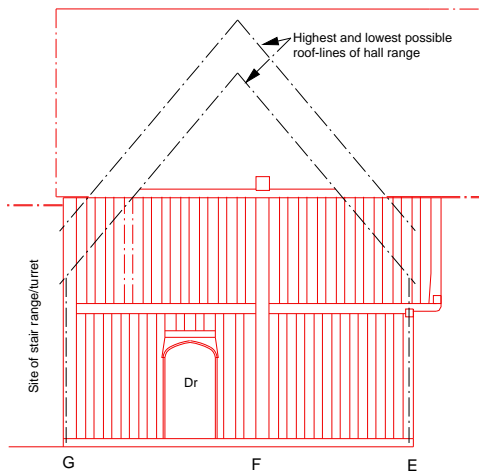
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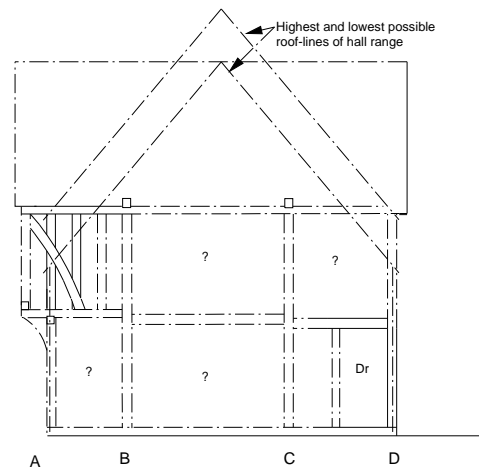
SOUTH ELEVATION OF SOUTH CROSSING



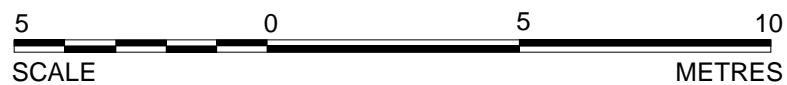
SECTION X-X LOOKING NORTH



NORTH WALL OF SOUTH CROSSING



SOUTH WALL OF NORTH CROSSING



HARWICH - 24, 25 (THE ALMA), 26, KING'S HEAD STREET
PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS (3 of 3)

Site Ref -

Drawing No.

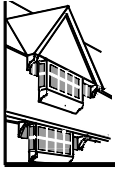
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Despite (apparently) being a low-end crosswing, the ground-floor two-bay room did not function as a service area and is more likely to have served a mercantile use — the evidence which would have indicated whether or not there was a shop front has been destroyed. Somewhat unusually, this ground-floor room was access from the hall by a one metre (3ft 3ins) wide doorway positioned about two-thirds back from the front door. Furthermore, this doorway was not closed by a door — it has never been fitted with hinges, nor does it show any indications of a former catch. The possibility of it having been closed by a tapestry hanging cannot be ruled out.

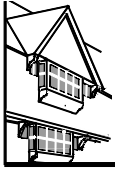
Although a first-floor doorway indicates that the two-bay chamber was accessed through its rear wall, beyond which there was some form of two-storeyed structure (see *Wall Design* below), how this 'stair area' was reached on the ground floor is unknown. Details immediately adjacent to the former ground-floor fireplace are hidden from view, but the area seems small for the location of a doorway. Alternatively, the stair may have been reached from the area beyond the rear door of the hall, perhaps even via a small 'porch' in the re-entrant angle between the hall's rear wall and the stair enclosure. Sufficient of the crosswing's constructional details can be seen to ascertain that the above two options are the only possibilities.

DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION

Wall Design, Windows and Doorways

The frame is of standard construction, the only variation from the norm being in the front wall where the tiebeam (of wallplate scantling) is in level assembly with the side wallplates in order to accommodate the (since cut back) projecting roof gable. The timbers are neatly converted and are of reasonable size — principal posts 260mm wide, crossbeam to truss F-F 260mm by 275mm, tiebeam of truss F-F 210mm deep.

Very complete details can be ascertained regarding the design of the walls. All are of closely-spaced close studding, the studs being on average 165mm wide with gaps between them of about 224mm. The studs are thick and within the front wall and the first return panel of each side wall the spaces are infilled with contemporary brick nogging, mostly laid in herringbone pattern (Plates 8-10). The gouged sides of the studs indicate that the brick infill is an original feature. In contrast all other walls are infilled with daub, fixed in the usual Essex fashion. Therefore, the brick infill within the front elevation is designed for external show. Where visible, the daub infill on the ground floor is supported by cleft laths (Plate 11); that on the first floor by hazel rods (Plate 12), but whether this suggests the panels on one of the two levels represents re-infill is not known to the authors. The first-floor daub panels are scored to take a skim coat of lime plaster, but on a few panels this is more carefully incised and is given a border, as if intended to be left exposed as in the style of medieval infill in Sussex (Plate 13). It may



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Plate 8
Front wall (left) and side wall
(right) showing level assembly



Plate 9
North face of crosswing's north
wall viewed from hall chamber



Plate 10
Brick infill to front wall,
first-floor level

be significant that it varies from the Sussex panels in that the pattern has been inscribed with a single-pronged comb, rather than one of four or five prongs.

In the crosswing's south wall, a peg-hole in the front principal post, together with an angled external housing in the external face of the adjacent stud, indicate that this wall was triangulated by a footbrace — the studs immediately to the east were removed when the period-D southern 'Porch' was constructed. The

frame is likely to incorporate other housed braces, but the evidence for no others were seen.



Plate 11
Daub infill on ground floor
of north wall, viewed
internally



Plate 12
Daub infill on first floor
of north wall, viewed
internally

Two period-C window positions are evidenced in the crosswing; both are on the first floor of the front bay (E-F). That in the front wall was located centrally and measured 1.70 metres by 1.15 metres (5ft 7ins x 3ft 9ins) internally. It was an oriel window and peg-holes in the side jambs located 550mm (1ft 10ins) down from the soffit of the 'tiebeam' indicate that it incorporated a transom in each side light (and, therefore, across the front face also). The form of the oriel's head is not known, but square-shouldered

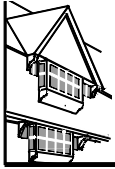


Plate 13
 Incised pattern on face of
 first-floor panel, north wall
 viewed internally



Plate 14
 Mortices for cill of former
 first-floor oriel in front wall
 of crosswing

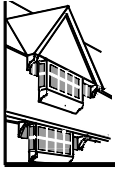


Plate 15
 Cill of an oriel in Clare, Suffolk, similar
 to that which formerly existed in the
 front wall of the crosswing

mortices indicate the cill was of solid type with the fully projecting part measuring 130mm deep. Furthermore, below its shouldered element the mortice extends down for a further 250mm (Plate 14), indicating the overall depth of the cill was 380mm and that externally it would have incorporated an integral corbel (for an example of similar type see Plate 15).

The second evidenced window serving the chamber was in the south wall, immediately to the west of open truss F-F. It is today evidenced by a 280mm deep mortice in the west face of the principal post, by a mortice in the wallplate for the window's western jamb, and by an absence of mortices in the soffit of the wallplate in that area between the principal post and the mortice for the lost jamb. The opening was of identical size to that in the front wall. Whether it was a standard flush window or, as with that in the front wall, an oriel, is impossible to tell from the surviving evidence. If of flush type, it must have incorporated a separate headpiece against the soffit of the wallplate, though no nail holes for this were noted during the survey. Although a window was later cut into the south wall of bay F-G (see *Period D*), when built the two windows can be shown to have been the only means of light within the chamber.

No window positions can be located on the ground floor: they can only have existed in the south wall of the rear bay (F-G) where an area of wall is hidden from view, and in the front wall (which was totally destroyed when the jetty was underbuilt). It is known from mortices in the soffits of the joists that this latter wall was divided into three roughly equal length parts by jetty brackets which must have been supported by studs. What is not known is whether the design of this wall repeated that on the first floor — with a central oriel window — or whether there was a shop front, either placed centrally or in three parts, extending the full length of the wall. It has to be admitted that at the time of survey the side faces of the posts at both ends of the wall were not closely inspected for



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joints associated with window cills and/or window heads — a serious oversight at the time of survey!

Access to the ground floor of the crosswing from the period-A/B hall was by the 1.00 metre (3ft 3ins) wide doorway shown in Plate 16. As can be seen, it has a four-centred — almost semi-elliptical — arched head which has haunched joints to the jambs, all set immediately below a square head. As noted earlier, there are no indications of the opening having ever been closed by a door, but there could have been a hanging curtain. On the hall face the spandrels of the arch are entirely plain, whilst the leading edges of the jambs and arch are simply chamfered.



Plate 16
Internal (south) face of
doorway from hall into
ground-floor room

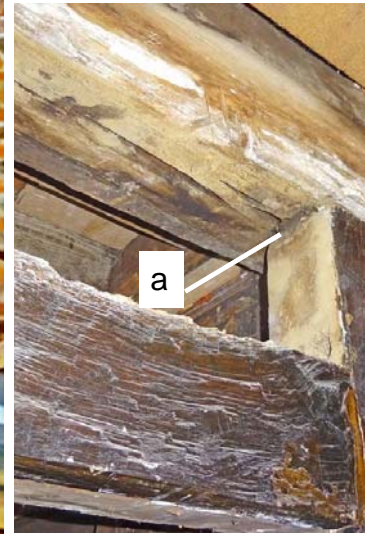
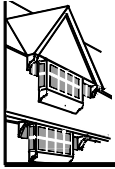


Plate 17
East face of north jamb;
first-floor doorway in
rear wall of crosswing

The only other doorway which is evidenced is an 0.83 metre (2ft 9ins) wide first-floor doorway in the rear (east) wall, located 0.85 of a metre (2ft 9ins) in from the external face of the north wall. At the time of survey doubt was raised by John walker as to whether the doorway represented an original feature, but use of a probe and the removal of a modern celcon block over the present doorhead proved categorically that both the un-weathered north jamb of the doorway (shown in Plate 17) and the un-weathered close stud adjacent to it are fixed using morticed-and-tenoned joints, and that these joints incorporate neither slip mortices or loose tenons: unless the tiebeam has been removed and replaced, the timbers have to be original. The present head of the opening is located 290mm down from the tiebeam and is notched into position: it must have been inserted after the jambs were in place, and could have been added considerably later. That the doorhead was originally formed by the tiebeam is suggested by the absence of mortices in the underside of the tiebeam between the two jambs of the doorway — in itself, further proof that the doorway is original to the crosswing.

Floors and Stairs

The design of the joisting which supports the first floor varies between the two bays. As Plate 18 illustrates, in the front bay (E-F) the joists are aligned longitudinally in order to support the front jetty, which jetty incorporated brackets beneath the ends of the side girts and two of the joists. At their eastern end, the joists are jointed into crossbeam F-F using shouldered barefaced soffit tenons. In contrast, the joists in bay F-G span across the building, being jointed at central span into a heavy-section axial girder. At their opposite end, the joists are jointed into the side face of the side-girts, rather than being lodged over them as is usual practice. The crossbeam and girder are neatly chamfered



and have simple stepped-and-splayed stops. The joists are plain and of 170mm by 110mm section (Plate 18)

Chimney

An absence of mortices for close studding in a length of both the crossbeam and tiebeam of the rear (east) wall, together with what appears to be an absence of weathering in the same area indicates that there was an external projecting chimney approximately on the site of the present much later four-flue stack. Indeed, on the first-floor studs to the south of the area can be seen a diagonal weathering line, indicating the site of an offset in the south face of the former chimney. It is likely that the stack heated both the ground-floor room and first-floor chamber, but this point cannot be confirmed.

Roof (Plates 19 and 20)

Although the crownposts and collar-purlin have been removed and the former overhanging front gable cut back flush, much of the period-C roof still survives. It has common rafters which, on average, measure 140mm by 75mm in section, each pair linked by a halved-on 125mm by 65mm collar. At the rear, the last pair of rafters are positioned immediately beyond the tiebeam of truss G-G, being supported by the slightly projecting ends of the wallplates. Some of the close studs forming the gable survive and are mortices-and-tenoned into the upper face of the tiebeam and secured to the rear face of the collar — which they pass — their tops being fixed against the internal face of the rafters. The rafter-couple at the central truss (F-F) are not morticed into the tiebeam, but halved against its western face, whilst the surviving westernmost rafter-couple is positioned against the internal face of the level-assembly front tiebeam. The rafters forming the overhanging gable were removed when the gable was cut back, but the peg-holes for the brackets which supported the projecting ends of the wallplate can still be seen in the principal posts of truss E-E. It is not known how the soffit of the projecting gable was closed.

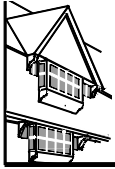
Although the roof's crownposts have been removed, that within the former rear (east) gable, together with a 5.25 metre (17ft 2ins) length of collar purlin and the crownpost's



Plate 18
Joists viewed from the south with bay E-F on the left and bay F-G on the right



Plate 19
Interior of roof looking east towards the rear gable



associated headbrace have been reused in 'modern' times to serve as a strengthener to the inserted joists of the post-medieval attic floor (Plate 20). A further section of collar purlin has been reused as a stud within an inserted first-floor partition. The crownpost is plain, measures 165mm across by 120mm in its original east-west direction, and supports a curved headbrace of 50mm by 215mm section, rising to the collar purlin. Further along the collar-purlin are the mortices for the former crownpost to open truss F-F and its associated headbraces. The lower leading edges of the collar purlin are neatly chamfered and have simple run-out stops at the crownposts.



Plate 20
Refixed headbraced crownpost (against far wall) and associated collar-purlin

PERIOD D

The period-D work is divided into two parts — reconstruction of the main range (Period D1) and the addition of the southern 'porch' (Period D2). Although of similar date, they need not be contemporary with one another and are therefore described separately.

PERIOD D1 (early 16th C) [Drawing Nos. 4-6; Plates 21-32]

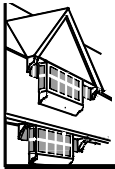
LAYOUT

The new main range duplicated the footprint of its predecessor, measuring 8.60 metres (28ft 3ins) long by 7.10 metres (23ft 3ins) wide on the ground floor, but increased to 7.65 metres (25ft 0ins) on the first floor on account of the new range's front jetty. Separately framed from the crosswings, having open trusses against the crosswing walls, it housed a ground-floor hall with a storey height of 2.95 metres (9ft 8ins) from floor to ceiling, with a less lofty hall chamber above having a storey height of 2.20 metres (7ft 3ins) from floor to ceiling. Both the hall and hall chamber were heated by a high-end chimney constructed within the adjacent north crosswing. The roof space was not intended to be utilized.

DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION

Wall Design, Windows and Doorways

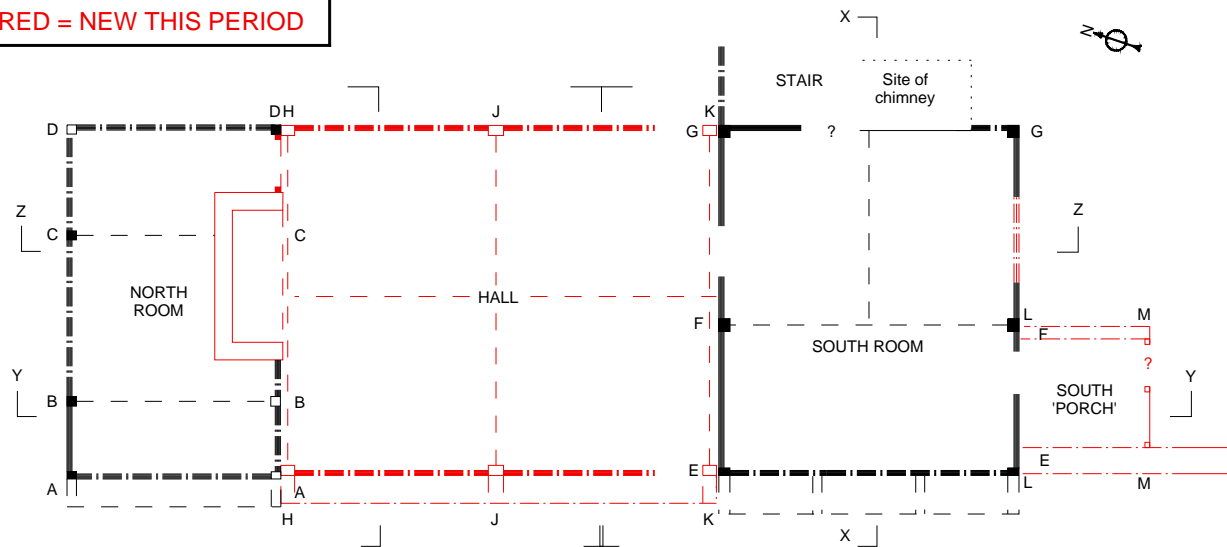
The main frame is of standard construction with jowled principal posts supporting the wallplates and tiebeams in normal assembly. Bearing in mind the substantial



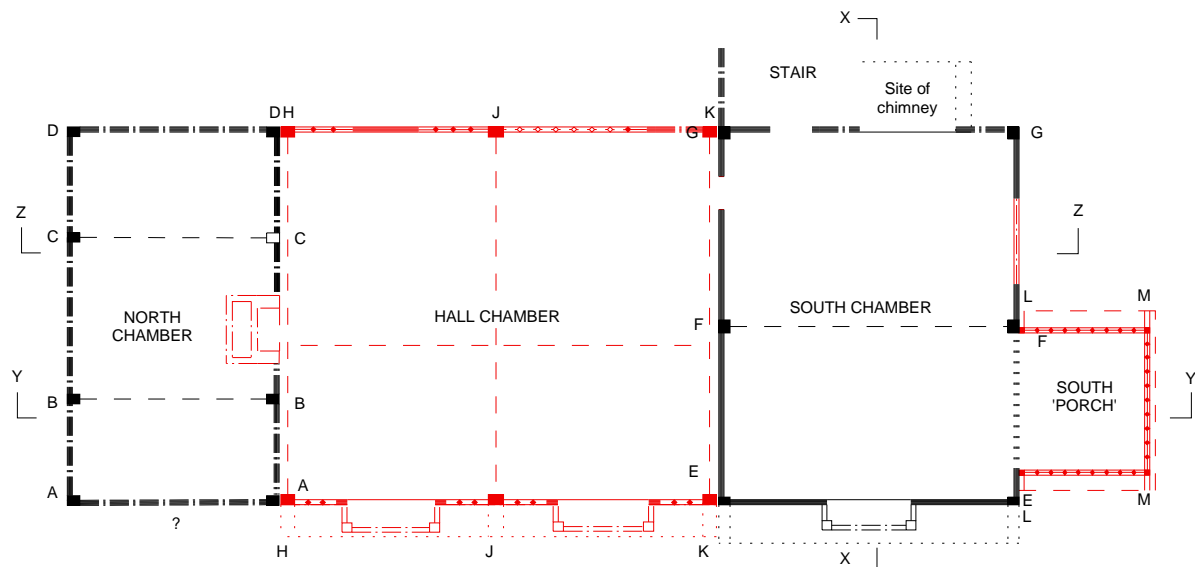
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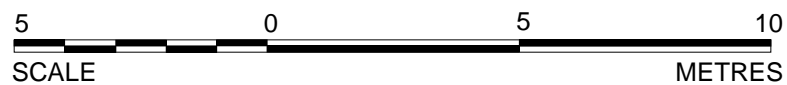
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GROUND-FLOOR PLAN



FIRST-FLOOR PLAN



HARWICH - 24, 25 (THE ALMA), 26 KING'S HEAD STREET
PERIOD-D RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS (1 of 4)

Site Ref -

Drawing No. 4

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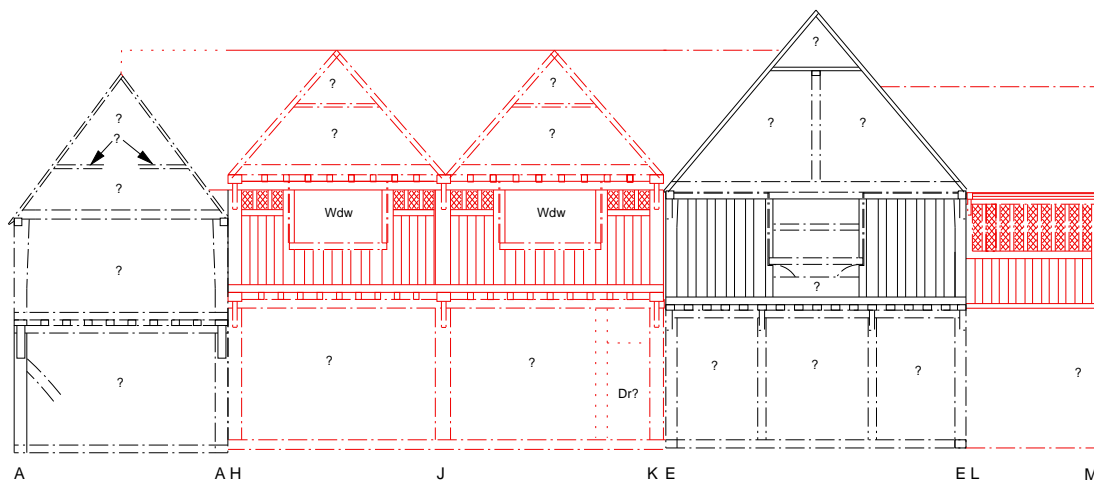
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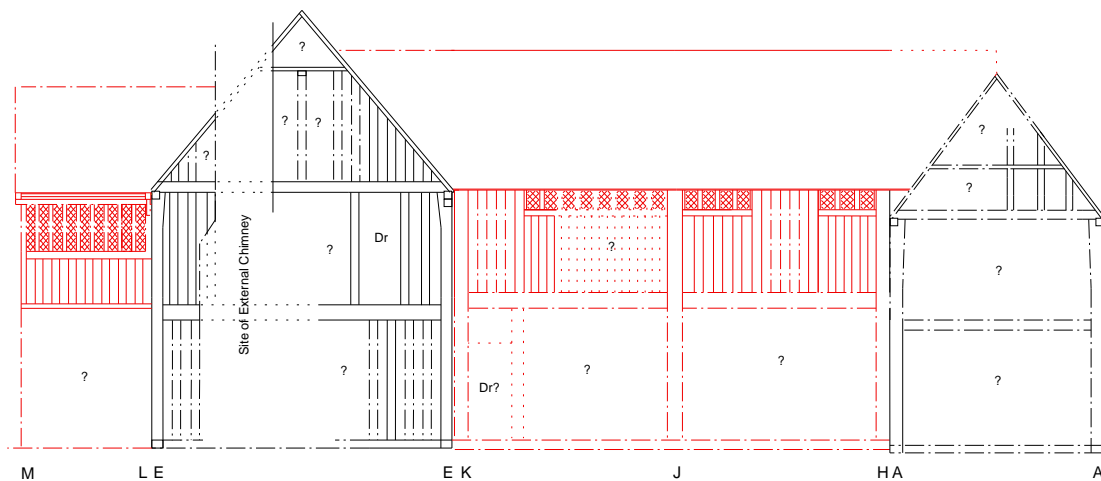
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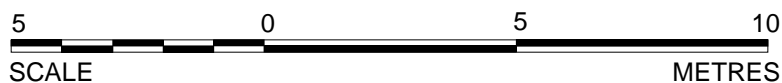
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FRONT (WEST) ELEVATION



REAR (EAST) ELEVATION



HARWICH - 24, 25 (THE ALMA), 26 KING'S HEAD STREET
PERIOD-D RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS (2 of 4)

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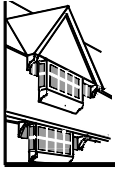
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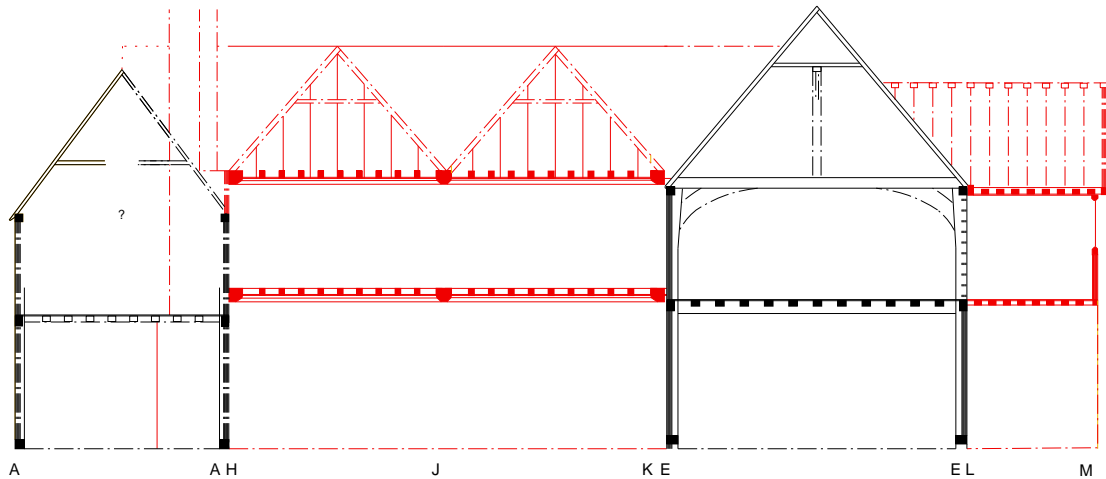
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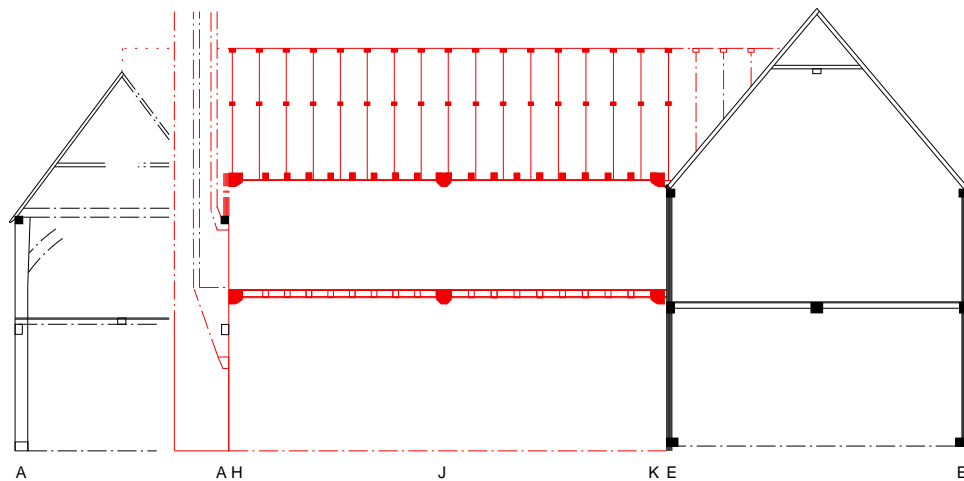


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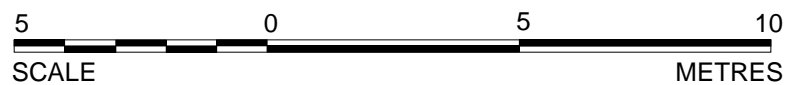
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LONGITUDINAL SECTION Y-Y



LONGITUDINAL SECTION Z-Z



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PERIOD-D RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS (3 of 4)

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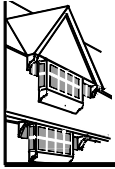
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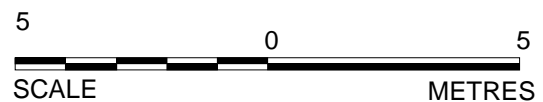
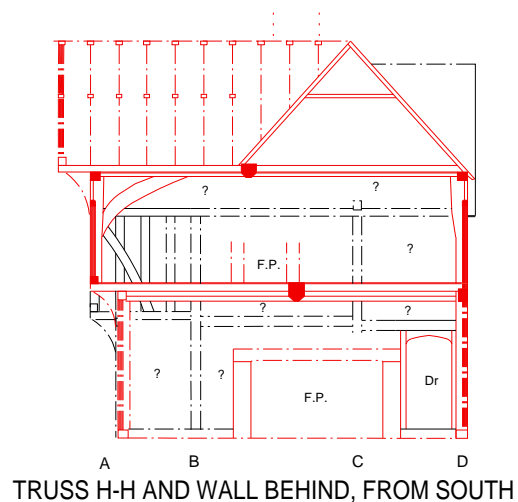
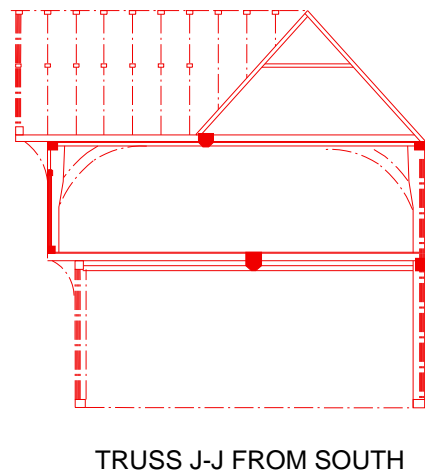
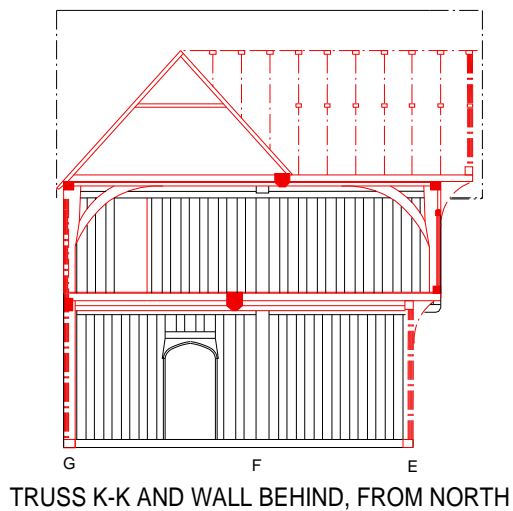
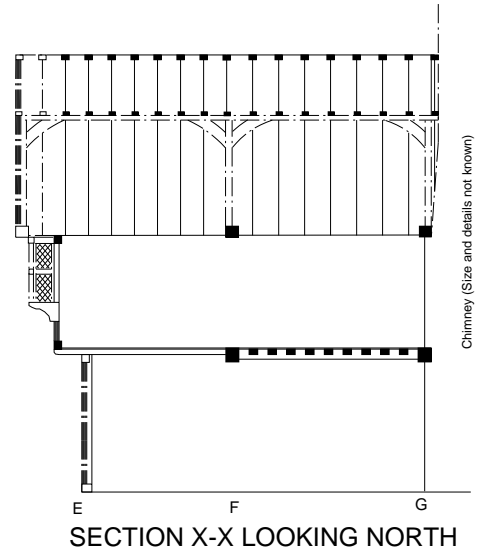
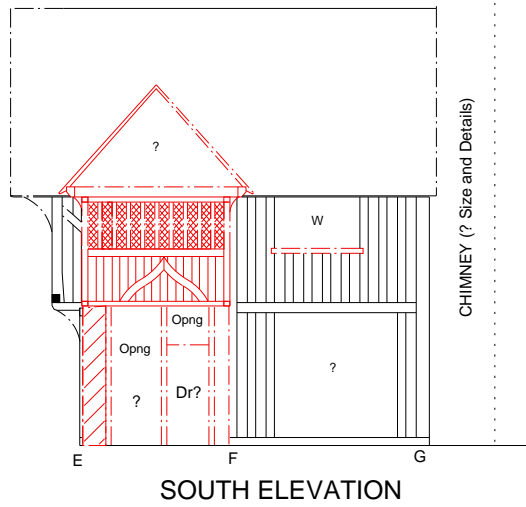
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PERIOD-D RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS (4 of 4)

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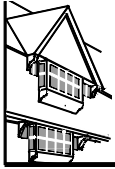
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dimensions of the range, it is no surprise that the principal timbers are of generous cross-section, with 300mm wide principal posts, crossbeams 270mm wide by 365mm deep, axial floor girders 310mm wide by 365mm deep, tiebeams 300mm by 270mm deep, 170mm deep wallplates and first-floor ceiling girders 240mm wide by 270mm deep.

All three trusses are of open type, the two end trusses utilizing the side walls of the crosswings immediately beyond, as indicated in Plate 4 on page 8 and Plate 9 on page 14. The crossbeams and tiebeams of all three trusses are elaborately moulded using a mixture of cymas, rolls and sunk chamfers, all typical of the early sixteenth century. Being freestanding, both lower leading edges of the crossbeam and tiebeam of truss J-J are moulded, whereas being blind, trusses H-H and K-K are moulded on the hall face only. At first-floor level all three trusses were archbraced: the braces on trusses H-H and K-K survive (Plate 22; see also Plate 4 on page 8 and Plate 9 on page 14), but those to truss J-J have been removed.

Nothing is visible of the front and rear walls at ground-floor level and, indeed, very little now survives. In contrast, on the first floor both walls survive in good condition (Plates 23 and 24; see also Plate 28 on page 25). Both are close



Plate 23

Rear wall of bay H-J showing fenestration



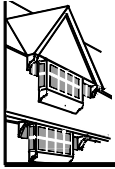
Plate 21

Crossbeam of truss K-K (left) and ceiling girder (right). The girder interrupts the crossbeam, its end being lodged over the side-girt in the adjacent period-C crosswing



Plate 22

Archbrace of truss K-K as existing in 2019 [for earlier appearance see Plate 9 on page 14] with, on the right, close studding within the front wall with associated clerestory window above.



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Plate 24
Surviving section of
clerestory window, close
studding and plastered
brick nogging in rear
wall of bay J-K



Plate 25
Joint for cill of oriel window, front
wall of bay J-K

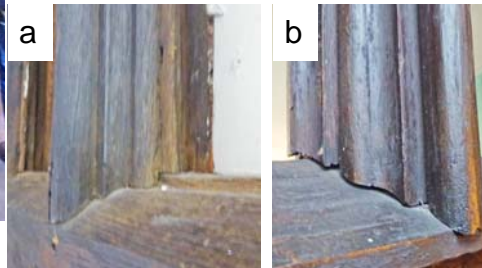


Plate 26
Mullions in the clerestory windows
a) Front (west) elevation
b) Rear (east) elevation

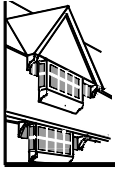


Plate 27
Western end of south wall,
north crosswing: inserted
period-D1 doorway with
arched head replacing plain
square-headed doorway of
period-B date on same site

studded and infilled with brick nogging, the original panels of which are laid herringbone, but plastered over.

Surviving and evidenced windows are restricted to the first floor. Within the front elevation the design of the two bays repeats — an oriel window flanked by very shallow three-pane clerestory openings. None of the windows in the north bay are now exposed, but they were photographed during restoration of the inn (For the northern clerestory window see Plate 4 on page 8). Both oriels have been removed, but are evidenced by shouldered mortices for their former projecting solid cills. The three-pane clerestory windows have plain heads, chamfered cills and elaborately moulded mullions and applied jambs, the mouldings being a combination of rolls, sunk chamfers, cymas, and hollow chamfers (Plate 26a). There is one unusual feature — as can be seen in Plate 26a, the small glazing rebates (with shanks of glazing sprigs in situ) is on the inner face of the window. This is presumably so as to show a greater depth of moulding when viewed from the exterior.

Unlike the front elevation, the rear elevation did not incorporate oriels, but had instead a near continuous frieze of clerestory openings. Those in the northern bay (H-J) are shown in Plate 23, whilst the surviving fragment of that which served bay J-K is illustrated by Plate 24. There are two windows in bay H-J — a four-pane southern one and a three-pane northern window, the two being separated by an area of close studding (now occupied by a modern window). In contrast, the south bay (J-K) had only one window, of seven panes, with an area of close studding beyond its southern end. As in the front elevation, the cills are chamfered, the heads plain, and the applied jambs



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and mullions moulded, but in this instance the glazing rebates are external, rather than internal (Plate 26b).

Although they no longer survive, the hall would originally have incorporated a front and rear door, almost certainly on the same site as the modern doorways which occupy the extreme southern end of the front and rear elevations. The period-C doorway leading from the hall into the ground-floor room in the south crosswing remained in use at this period, whilst on the first floor one stud was removed and another reduced in width so as to form a doorway linking between the crosswing's chamber and the new hall chamber.

Unlike at the south end, at the north end of the hall the doorway leading into the north crosswing was destroyed, probably because — being square headed — it was deemed too plain for the new high-quality hall. It was replaced on the same site by an arch-headed doorway, of which only the rear face is now visible (Plate 27). This modification would not today be identifiable had a new east jamb not been inserted hard against the period-B principal post. This was necessary in order to joint the new arched head into, and to continue the moulded/chamfered leading edge of the arch down the jamb. In order to maintain a doorway of adequate width, the inclusion of this additional jamb meant inserting the western jamb of the new doorway immediately to the west of the removed original period-B jamb, leaving a redundant mortice in the period-B crossbeam (see Plate 7 on page 8). On the western side of the doorway the new fireplace was positioned hard against the jamb of the fireplace.

Floors, Ceilings and Stairs

The joists supporting the first floor within the new two-bay main range span across the building, are trimmed into a central girder, and project at the front to support a former continuous jetty. They are today hidden, but photographs taken during the restoration of The Alma show them to be of square or near-square section and, at the front, closely spaced (Plate 28). In contrast, to the rear of the girder they are more widely spaced and



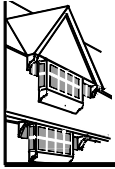
Plate 28

Joists supporting first floor within bay H-J, viewed during repairs. Note the front wall in the background, complete with jetty plate at its base



Plate 29

Joists and axial girder supporting first floor within bay H-J showing wider spacing of joists to rear of girder. Two of the joists in this area have been replaced



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the fact that when two were replaced they had to be notched in to position suggests that they are morticed-and-tenoned not only into the girder, but also into the rear side-girt (Plate 29). The joists are entirely plain and were from the outset intended to be masked from view by a plaster ceiling. In contrast, the girders and crossbeams are elaborately moulded (Plate 30; see also Plate 21 on page 23).

The layout of the joists over the hall chamber is of similar design, except here the axial girder is biased towards the front of the range and doubles as a support for rafters (see *Roof* below). The joists here were designed to carry a flush plaster ceiling — the roof void was never intended to be used — and here the upper surface of at least some of the 110mm by 140mm joists are waney. Those to the rear of the girder are at relatively wide, 430mm centres: the spacing of the joists to the west of the girder was not checked during the survey, but as they originally supported overhanging gables they are probably at closer centres, as in the floor below.

There were no stairs within the period-D1 range.

Chimney

A two-flue chimney was inserted to heat the new hall and hall chamber, the stack having been built within the period-B north crosswing with the fireplaces flush against the south face of the crosswing's south wall, which wall doubled as the northern end wall of the hall. Both fireplaces have had smaller hearths inserted within them, but the eastern half of the ground-floor fireplace has been converted into a cupboard and retains not only its sooted brickwork (Plate 31) but, in its eastern jamb, the timber spreader upon which the (since removed) timber fireplace lintel sat. The western jamb of the period-D1 fireplace is just visible within a shallow high-level cupboard formed in modern times behind the added fireplace serving the house within the north crosswing. From this it can be ascertained that the hall fireplace had one-and-a-half brick jambs and, in plan, measured 2.60 metres (8ft 6ins) wide by 1.00 metres (3ft 3ins) deep internally. No details of the first-floor fireplace are known. The chimney cap appears to have been rebuilt when two additional flues were constructed against the western return of the chimney.

Roof

Because of the 7.65 metres (25ft 0ins) width of the range and its generous height, to have covered it in one span would have made the roof appear very dominant, towering



Plate 30

Moulding on ceiling girder, bay J-K

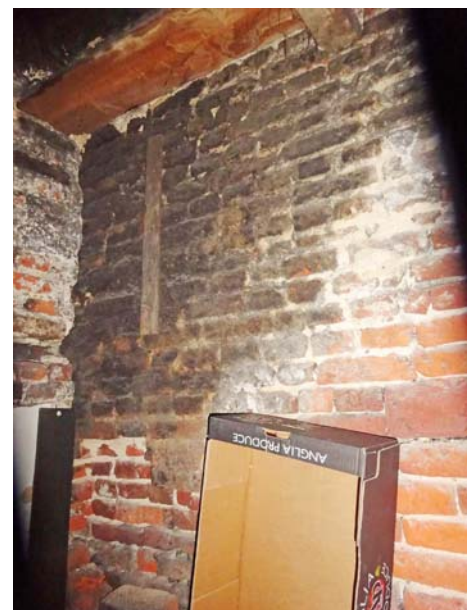
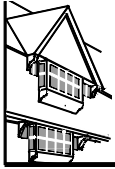


Plate 31

Rear wall of hall fireplace visible within cupboard. The straight-jointed brickwork on the extreme left is the side of the 'modern' inbuilt fireplace



over the adjacent crosswings. Because of this, and the desire to incorporate a pair of projecting front gables, the off-centred ceiling girders were utilized as a wallplate onto which a roof, parallel but set back from the road, was pitched. This reduced the span to 4.65 metres (15ft 3ins) overall, and the height to 2.50 metres (8ft 3ins). This part of the roof is of simple paired-rafter-and-collar construction and uses rafters of 125mm by 75mm scantling supporting halved-on collars of 105mm by 65mm section (Plate 32). Projecting forward from the front slope at right-angles to it were two parallel roofs, originally also of paired-rafter-and-collar construction, but since rebuilt reusing some of the original material. These roofs are today hipped, but were formerly gabled and projected out into the road so as to weather the tops of the two first-floor oriel windows. At the intersection with the main roof, both roofs are carried on lay-boards nailed over the backs of the rafters in the front slope (Plate 32).



Plate 32
Roof over rear part of main range viewed from within the southern front gable roof

PERIOD D2 (early/mid 16th C) [Drawing Nos. 4-6; Plates 33-41]

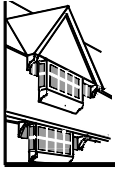
LAYOUT

At around the time the main range was reconstructed — but perhaps a little later — a small 2.60 metre (8ft 6ins) long by 2.90 metres (9ft 6ins) wide 'porch' was constructed projecting southwards from the front bay (E-F) of the period-C south crosswing (Plate 33). The purpose of this addition is uncertain, but its ground floor may have served as a porch (perhaps leading to a private garden) whilst its first floor was exceptionally well lit by deep clerestory windows which extended the full length of the west, south and east walls. *If* the 'porch' did lead to a private garden, the windows would not only have given a good view of King's Head Street, but also of the garden. Today the wall between the crosswing's chamber and the first floor of the 'porch' has been removed and this may have been removed when the 'porch' was built. If so, this first-floor area may have served as a walk-in bay window at the street end of the chamber, not unlike the full-height walk-in bays at the upper end of high-status halls: at the very least, a doorway would have been cut through the wall.

DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION

Wall Design, Windows and Doorways

The form of the 'porch's ground-floor walls is an enigma: small-scantling plates run around the external edge of the first-floor joisting but, apart from three mortices in the



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Plate 33
South wall of 'porch' with listed boundary wall (raised in height) on the extreme left and south wall of the south crosswing on the right



Plate 34
Base of ogee brace at west end of 'porch's south wall



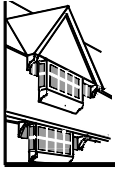
Plate 35
South-east corner on first floor showing chamfered top to window cill with the sawn-off corner post at the extreme left-hand end of the wall



Plate 36
Northern end of west wall showing cill halved and nailed to side of stud in south wall of south crosswing

soffit of the southern plate, the plates are absent of mortices — there isn't even any evidence for corner posts. Furthermore, the western plate is fully exposed and has a small hollow chamfer running along its lower external leading edge. The most likely explanation is that the ground-floor walls were either of brick or flint construction and that the three mortices in the soffit of the southern plate indicate where window/door frames were jointed in. The mortices are not pegged, but neither are any of the joints to the close studding within the first-floor walls. Consistent with this hypothesis is the positioning of the mortices: that at the western end is inset 500mm suggesting that the extant listed boundary wall to the south (shown on the extreme left in Plate 33 and now raised in height) may originally have extended north to form the west wall of the 'porch', whilst the eastern mortice is inset 250mm, perhaps suggesting a brick wall. If this hypothesis is correct, the positions of the three mortices are consistent with a 0.84 metre (2ft 9ins) wide doorway at the east end of the wall, with a 1.00 metre (3ft 3ins) wide window to its west.

As already intimated, all three first-floor walls are of close studding, now infilled with celcon blocks. The bases of the 150mm by 95mm studs are morticed-and-tenoned into the 95mm-square plates jointed onto the ends of the joists, whilst the tops are jointed into window cills. Housed into the external face of the studs in the south wall are a pair of 150mm by 20mm ogee footbraces (Plate 34) which, like



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the mortices beneath, are positioned slightly off-centre within the wall. As Plate 35 illustrates, the 100mm square-section posts at the south-west and south-east corners originally extended from the first-floor up to the level of the wallplates, but the upper parts were removed during a heavy restoration which returned the first-floor of the 'porch' back to something like its original form.

At its northern end the western window cill is not jointed into a period-D2 post, but is instead lapped and nailed to the side of one of the close studs in the south wall of the period-C south crosswing (Plate 36). The cill in the opposite (east) wall is jointed into the south face of the crosswing's principal post F (Plate 37). The 'porch' is not, therefore, separately framed, but is attached to the crosswing. In both the west and east walls, positioned hard against the period-C crosswing, are/were studs, interrupted by and jointed into the cill.

The three windows running round the first-floor external walls of the 'porch' have been very heavily restored — the present cills are planted on top of the originals, the present window heads are modern, and all the mullions have been shortened to suit the present reduced height: some mullions have been replaced. As plates 35-37 show, the cills have a wide internal chamfer and the mullions are elaborately moulded to a profile which ought to date from the first half of the sixteenth century — mainly rolls and sunk chamfers (Plate 38). Mortices visible in the top face of sections of the original window cills indicate that the individual window panes have been replicated to approximately (but not exactly) their original width.

One recognizable alteration was made to the period-C south crosswing's upper chamber at this period. Studs were removed from the south wall of bay F-G to allow a c1.70 metre (5ft 7ins) wide by 1.00 metre (3ft 3ins) deep projecting window to be inserted. The sides of the studs which formed the jambs of the new window were neatly cut out to form a shoulder to prevent the projecting solid cill of the oriel from overturning. It is possible that a similar window was inserted on the ground floor, but here the evidence is hidden.



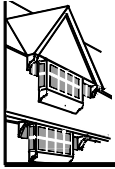
Plate 37

Northern end of east wall showing cill jointed into principal post F in south wall of south crosswing. The deep mortice relates to the cill of a removed period-C window.



Plate 38

Detail of window mullion on first floor of 'porch'



Floors, Ceilings and Stairs

The structure supporting the first floor boarding is of central-girder type with eight 140mm by 105mm plain joists jointed into the 170mm by 120mm central girder at one end and into the 95mm by 95mm soleplate of the first-floor walls at the other. Whether or not the joists were exposed to view from beneath is uncertain: they probably were. At its northern end the girder is jointed into the southern side wall of the crosswing, whilst the southern end joints into the soleplate of the 'porch's southern first-floor wall.

Central-girder construction is also used for the ceiling on the first floor, but here the northern end of the 200mm by 130mm central girder is jointed into a 110mm by 195mm tiebeam positioned against the wallplate of the crosswing (Plate 39). The 140mm by 95mm plain joists are jointed into the girder at one end and lodge over the external side walls at the other, oversailing the east and west first-floor walls by 170mm. They are then jointed into substantial 'flying' wallplates 160mm wide by 200mm deep, each of which is fully moulded on its external face (Plate 40). Thus, measured overall the projecting joist ends and flying wallplates, the eaves of the 'porch' project 330mm proud of the first-floor walls. The ends of the flying wallplates joint into the northern tiebeam in level assembly, whilst a mortice in the soffit of the tiebeam (visible in plate 40) indicate there were originally brackets at this point. These brackets were removed when the posts which supported them were removed and the 'restored' windows extended up to the south wall of the crosswing. Within the 'porch' at this level there was a plastered ceiling



Plate 39

Ceiling in 'porch', viewed from south



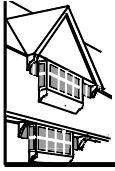
Plate 40

Eaves detail at northern end of west wall



Plate 41

Detail of eaves adjacent to the west end of the north tiebeam showing empty joint in the inner face of the western flying wallplate where a removed joist indicates the joints to have been haunched bare-faced top tenons



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— the soffits of the girder and joists are positioned flush with one another, with the upper face of the girder standing 35mm proud of the joists.

Chimney

The 'porch' did not have a chimney.

Roof

The roof of the range was rebuilt during the 'restoration', though the western rafter in the south gable was retained in position, evidently to indicate the pitch of the original roof and the fact that it had a gable. The number of rafters along the length of the roof is reconstructable from birdsmouth joints visible in the upper face of the flying wallplates.