

Samuel Pepys Restaurant, 31 Church Street, Harwich.

A 16th century timber-framed building of two phases aligned NW-SE with late 18th century brick front façade in Flemish bond.

The former jetty to the ground floor has been under-built but the joists still have the pressure marks of the jetty plate and a dovetail for the jetty plate and mortise for jetty brace are visible in the NW mid rail of the parlour cross wing. A mortise in the mid rail of the SE parlour wall could be for a former stair trap but as joists adjacent have been replaced it is impossible to prove or disprove. The SE and NW walls are of close studded form with the gap in the studding of the NW wall against the rear storey post for a doorway. This is typical of the position for a door in the layout of a parlour cross wing. The transverse beam has a deep chamfer with run-out stops and the flat section joists are housed with soffit tenon diminished haunch joints. (This 16th century parlour cross wing could replace an earlier parlour and be part of an alternate rebuilding.)

The two storey hall appears to have been added to the cross wing shortly afterwards and again could be the replacement of a low open medieval hall. Also formerly jettied to the street but now also underbuilt. The axial beam is of larger section than that to the parlour and with deep stopped chamfers. The flat section joists are housed into the beam with soffit tenon diminished haunch joints.

Comment

The 'polite' brick façade has now completely changed the character of the former timber-framed building with gabled parlour cross wing to the SE and two storey hall



Side of parlour crosswing to hall with added support as complete side wall removed and the mid rail had been cut away most likely for a further change to anchor a screen or similar

range parallel with the street but in Harwich and London fashion may have also had feature gables to the street. Limited access precluded any investigation of the upper storey and attic.



Floor joists of cross wing to street. Jetty plate would have been above the light. Second picture shows remains of mortise for a jetty bracket and mainly destroyed dovetail housing for the jetty plate.

