

Nos. 41 and 42 West Street.

A pair of small semi-detached late 18th century houses built of brick in Flemish bond. They are of double pile form and built between Nos. 40 & 43 with a slightly varying plan form of two storeys with basements and attics.

The basement to No. 41 shares a brick wall with No. 40 and has slight flying freehold at first floor level along the south east wall.

Each basement is accessed by a trap door in the front room with that of No. 41 to the front of the central stack and that of No.42 to the rear of the stack.



41

42 & side passage



Cellar access to No.41; bottom of steps to 41 against front wall; steps to 42 from below

A passageway between 42 & 43 gives access to the rear garden of 41 & 42 that have outbuildings with the lean-to roof against the west boundary wall. The outbuilding to 41 still contains the remnants of a boiler.



Passage beside 42 over built beyond the house by an extension to No.43



Outbuilding of No.41



and internal remnant of boiler

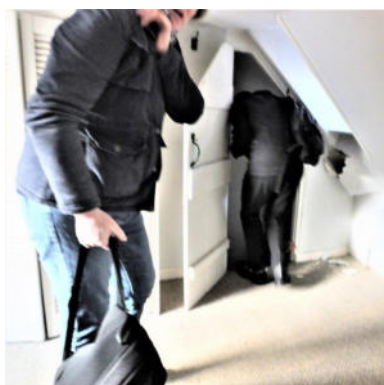
Entry to No. 41 is via a door from the street directly into the front room whilst that to No. 42 is from the side passage into the front room. Tight winder stairs connect the ground and first floor. In No. 41 these are positioned in the rear room against south east wall and from the front room in No. 42. Due to the double pile form with central



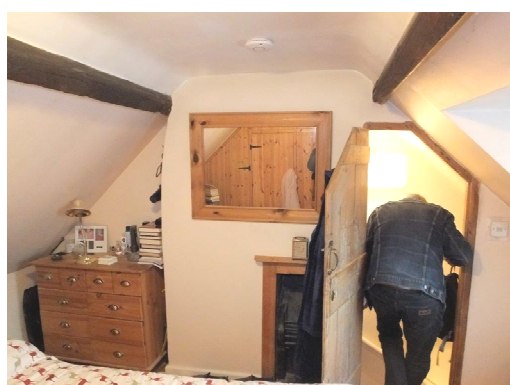
transverse valley each attic is accessed separately from winder stairs designed to fit within the same depth as the central chimney stacks namely 2' 0" (610mm) wide.



The attic rooms are lit by flat roofed dormers with those to the front behind a brick parapet. The rear attic room of No. 41 has an access hatch to the valley. The attic doors of cock beaded pine deals are shaped to the profile of the roof pitch and have hand forged hinges. The exposed purlins of No. 42 were noted to be $\frac{1}{4}$ sections of a ship's mast.



Attic floor in 41



Attic floor in 42



quarter mast section as purlin. Original cut out for collar before ceiling raise

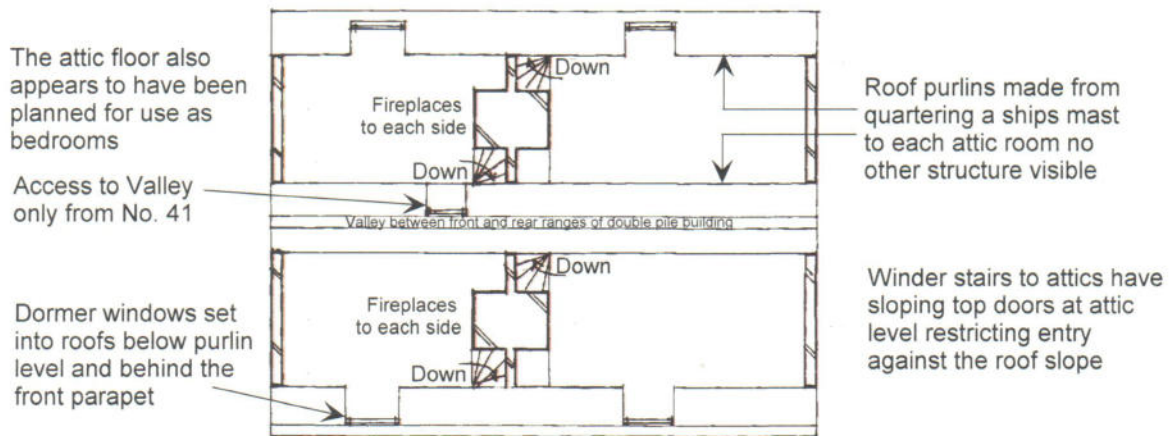
It would appear that in the past there has been access from the first floor front room of No 41 via the attic stairs to No. 42. This is now blocked.

Conclusion

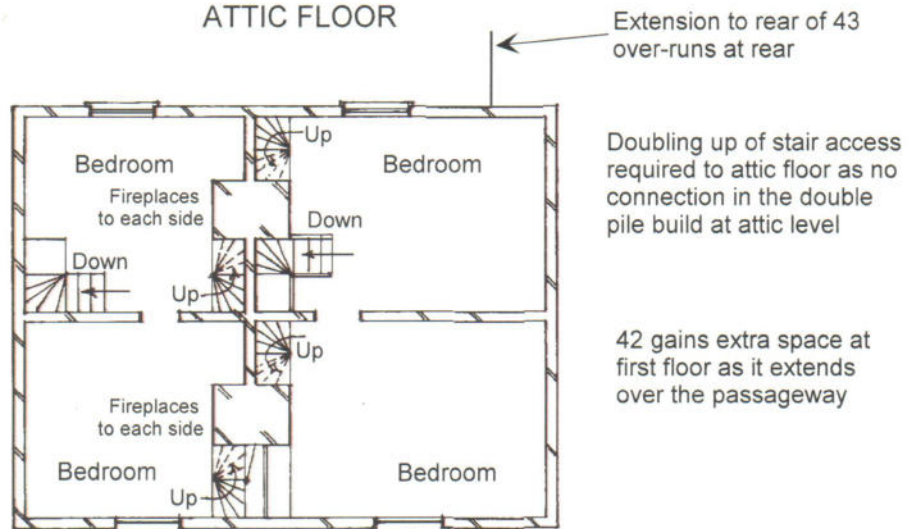
These two properties appear to have been built between the extant buildings of No. 40 and No. 43 and adjusted to accommodate existing features. They are an interesting example of maximum use of limited space so that each property provides six rooms and basement. With the use of the double pile plan it would also be possible with minimum adaptation to create four units each of three rooms or opened up giving a flexible pattern of accommodation.

Elphin & Brenda Watkin. November/December 2019

41-42 West Street, Harwich.



ATTIC FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

