

The Crown Post, 57 Church Street, Harwich.

A timber-framed building built in the close studded tradition of the area and of 2 distinct phases. Aligned SW-NE it now comprises of a jettied rear range truncated to the front and rear that comprises of only one complete bay and a frontage building, jettied to the road and of 2 unequal bays with a 19th century frontage.



Rear range reconstruction by Dave Stenning



The rear range is a remnant of a long walled jetty range now containing only one complete bay with evidence for further bay/s to front and rear. However when inspected by RCHME in 1921 at least 2 complete bays were extant, that surviving and the rear bay. At ground floor most of the surfaces are covered giving virtually no evidence of original features and the jetty has been underbuilt.

At first floor level the original diamond mullioned window over the jettied NW wall can be seen surviving due to being blocked in the late 16th/early 17th century. The wall plate above is rebated to take a shutter guide with the rebate continuing down the sides of the central stud that divides the window. In October 2006 Richard Shackle recorded that additional studs had been added in front of the window to complete the effect of a close studded wall and all painted in a

plain scheme of grey. This could be contemporary with the insertion of an oriel and flanking frieze lights inserted into the opposite side but has since been lost and the additional studs removed.

The tie beam of the rear open truss



is housed onto the wall plate above unjowled posts. The rear crown post is of cross quadrate form with four way bracing. The paired rafters have collars that sit on the collar purlin which continues to the front closed truss and supported by a brace to the central stud.

The frontage range has a jetty to the road and is of unequal bays with the shorter bay to the front. An axial beam offset to the NW creates a passageway effect but there is clear evidence of small square section double mortises for moulded mullions of a window and shutter rebate in the wall plate instead of a door. The axial beam has a hollow chamfer with run-out stops below a crenellated moulding and is mitred to receive transverse beams to the NW and

SE. That to the SE also has similar decoration and is supported by a jowled post with later carved head attached. The transverse beam to the NW appears to be a later insertion. The front window of six moulded mullions was divided by a stud and a doorway positioned against the SE flank wall.



Window mortises at front and axial beam with crenellations



At first floor level a central window with deep cill could be a former oriel. The flank walls are close studded with a door inserted in the SE corner. The bays are marked with a jowled post to the SE wall and unjowled post to the NW. The central axial beam and transverse beams are partially visible with replaced braces to the transverse beams from the bay posts. The construction of the roof was not seen.




Discussion

It would appear that the truncated rear range was at least three bays long and possibly originally extended to the road. The long wall jetty form of plan was very popular for public buildings such as guildhalls that required a building of full 2 storey height. The quality of framing and detail points to an early 15th century date. Originally it was orientated to the NW but for some reason this orientation changed in the late 16th or early 17th century when the original window was blocked and the oriel with flanking frieze lights inserted in the SE wall. At some point the front bay/bays were replaced with a 2 bay building that had a jetty to the road. A tantalising photograph and plan from the RCHME survey of 1921 show a gable to the front and also partway along the NW elevation creating a feature gable. It also makes mention of a moulded beam and early 17th door in the gable end. The photograph also appears to show that part of the ground floor NW wall was recessed back from the first floor wall with a pattern of cut off joists at first floor level. Was the set back part of a passage way clearly seen in the pattern of ground floor beams with the cut off joists creating a deep covered way? Clearly more work/research needs to be done!!



The Crown Post when the next property was demolished and the view from it along Church Street to the church.

WRECK SALE



**SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION
ON THE QUAYSIDE
OF THIS PORT
at ten o'clock in the forenoon
ON THE 24TH day of APRIL 1796**

part of the cargoes of ships
that have recently come to grief in these parts
Consisting of:-

56 Bales of Wool	23 Barrels of Potash
124 Deer Skins	154 Pieces of Fir Timber
37 Cases of Flour	1 Open Boat
9 Casks of White Lead	16 Hatchets
287 Oak Handspikes	20 Casks of Cudbear
21 Barrels of Tar	112 Cases of English China
341 Pieces of Cloth	45 Pipes of Linseed Oil
67 Articles of Pewter	209 Spills of Cotton Yarn

Together with - SAILS, MASTS, YARDS, ANCHORS and other Materials ~

part of the cargoes of ships
that have recently come to grief in these parts
Consisting of:-

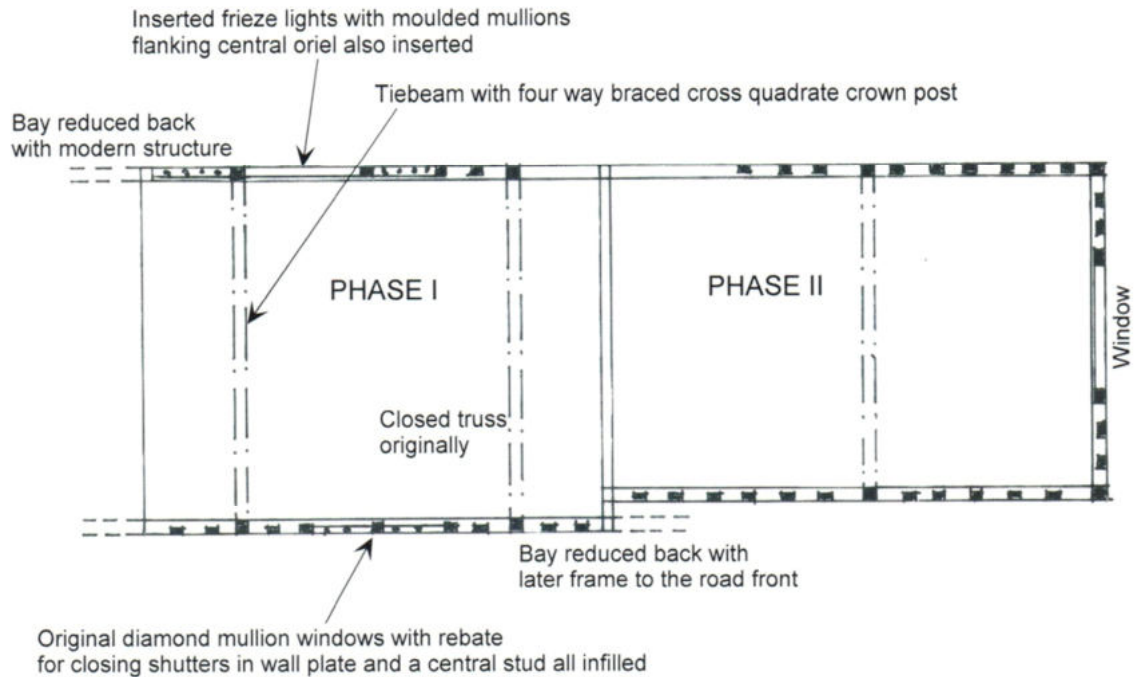
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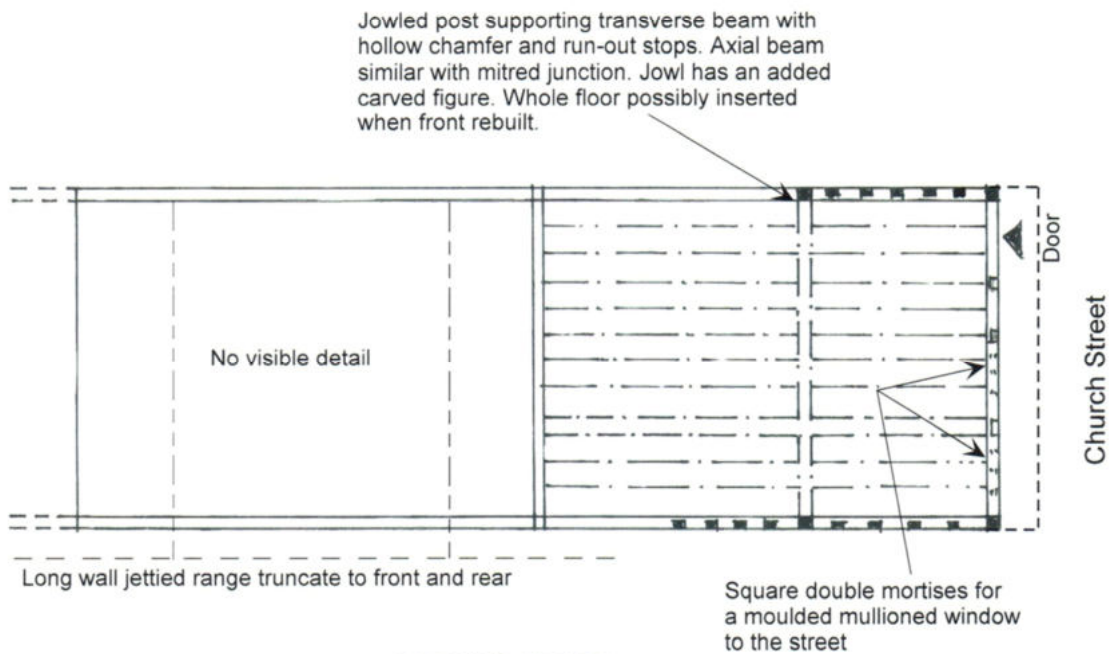
An interesting notice of sale with an amazing mix of items.



57 Church Street, The Crownpost, Harwich



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR