

## 5-6 Market Street, Harwich, Essex.

A 2 bay timber-framed building in the close studded style of the area with internal trenched braces, 19<sup>th</sup> century rendered brick façade with shop fronts to ground floor. Aligned NE-SW and of 2 unjettied storeys with attics. At ground floor an intruded stack has destroyed evidence for the original layout in the SW bay. Former framed openings in the rear SW corner have also suffered from loss of fabric making interpretation difficult. However, as the shorter joists are chamfered and stopped it is clear that a trimmer framed an opening to the longer third joist and then continued again over the next three surviving short joists. A random rubble



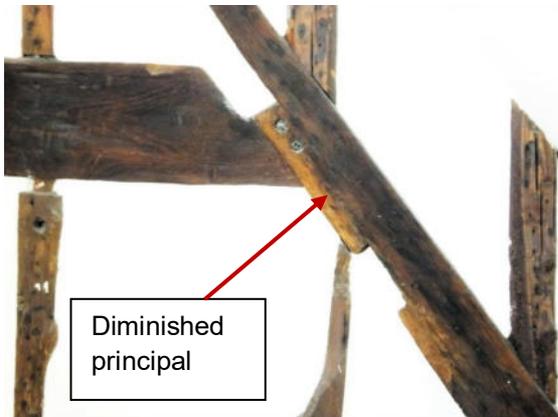
stone plinth is exposed under part of the SW flank wall.

The NE bay is fully floored with chamfered axial beam and flat section chamfered

joists with run-out stops and housed with bare face soffit tenons. Additional trimmers against the central transverse beam and either side of the axial beam support the hearth of the later first floor fireplace. The NE wall is covered but peg holes in the soffit of the midrail imply an evenly spaced fully studded wall but it is impossible to confirm door openings or brace pattern.



At first floor the NE wall is visible and consists of a jowled corner post, a flat tiebeam, typical close studding and trenched internal braces of Colchester style housed into the posts. The front corner post and part of the brace were lost when the later façade was added. The later roof raise has preserved the gable frame to both the NE and SW walls showing that the roof type was clasped purlin although these are missing. The NW truss has diminished



principal rafters above the collar and cut outs below for wind braces.



a curved timber brace.

The SW truss does not have diminished rafters or cut outs for wind braces and poses the question is this an intermediate truss?

Although the construction of the central partition is described in depth in the list description it is no longer visible except for

In the rear wall of the NE bay is a complete glazed window with central ovolo moulded mullion, flanking timber diamond restraining bars to which the diamond light panel in lead comes is tied.



## CONCLUSION

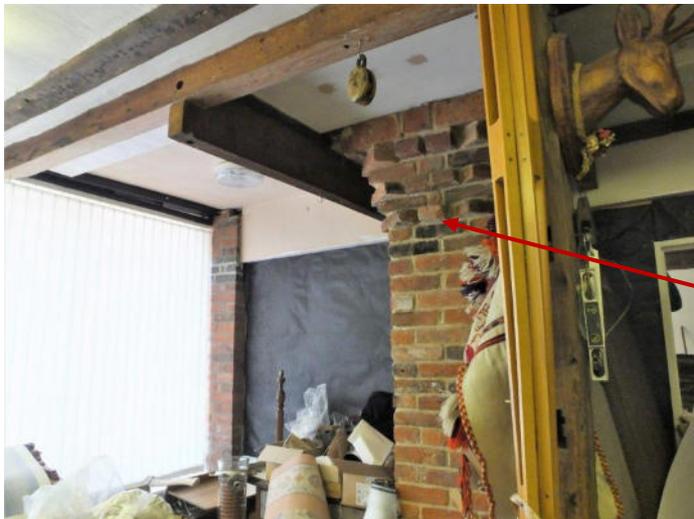
This timber-framed building of mid to late 16<sup>th</sup> century date has unusual framed openings and high ground floor storey height which together with the position facing onto the market suggests a possible commercial use. Further research needs to be undertaken to establish if the stack was original or intruded to form a lobby entry house. This could then help to explain the unusual construction of the first floor central partition. It would also be helpful if the full extent of the building could be established.



The lack of reduced principals also showed a variation in purlin size.

This illustration shows the scribing for a larger purlin section than had actually been used when the roof was constructed.

Scribed outline



The upstairs fireplace now supported by a brick pillar on the ground floor.

