

29/31 North Lane



Statutory listing

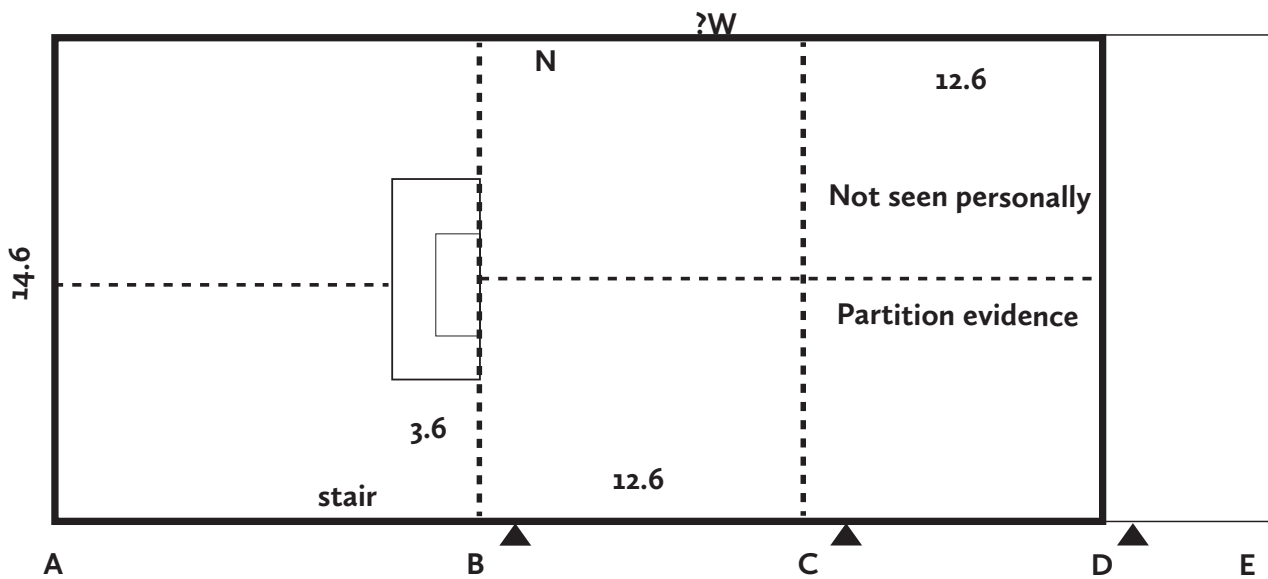
1986 Gil

Two cottages. C15 timber framed hall house, with early C18 recladding and extension, early C19 outshots at each end, and late C19 rear outshots. Walls of coursed malmstone with brick quins, cambered arches, and high plinth: brickwork to the rear outshots: small exposure of the framework.



Modern single-storey additions

Visible framing



Thatch roof, hipped at each end, and brought to a low eaves above the north-end outshot; slate roof to rear and south-end outshots. East front elevation of two storeys, three above four windows. Casements. Two boarded doors in plain frames. The interior cross walls show the massive framework of a 2-bay hall. [Not likely]

Description

Much of this building is encased/faced with malmstone and brick trim. Thatched roof hipped each end and extending over a lean-to/outshot at the north end. Three front doors testify to periods of sub-division; what was originally a single dwelling is presently in dual occupation. The hearth onto BC has been much reduced in size; axial girder. Heavy framing with

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carpenter's marks (using circle/semi-circle) at C, and low mortices in studs. Original external framing visible BC (west) including arch-brace. The north end was not examined at this visit, but some information was available from the owner, and in a report of 1974 (Hallam). At first floor some bay posting visible with long tapered jowls; bay divisions at B and C, with crown struts. Edge-halved scarf joint in eaves plate (N); north of this a couple of peg holes that could indicate earlier window jambs.

Roof of clasped side-purlins with heavy curved wind-bracing from principal posts; all heavily sooted B > C; sooted thatch lathes (an unusual survival); flying collar halfway between B and C (?in lieu of an open truss).

Comment

1986. This was correctly interpreted in 1974 (Hallam) as a medieval three-bay house that initially had a central open hall. A common pattern would be hall flanked by storeyed bays, but Hallam raised the possibility of a two-bay hall with combined solar/service; however, the extent of sooting over the southern bays could be accounted for if there was no wattle-partition above collar level, or if there was a phase when there was a framed flue above a hearth at C. This aspect would provide scope for more detailed examination. Details on the framing at C suggest a fitted bench, such as would be found at the high end of a hall. It is interesting that the series of carpenter's marks all appear on the 'high' end truss at C; a specialist carpenter might be able to cast light on the significance. The two peg holes in the eaves plate BC (west) may indicate the position of a double-height hall window.

A dendro project in Hampshire has made it possible

to be more positive about the chronology of roof types in the region (Roberts, 2003). The crown-post roof which is ubiquitous over medieval houses further east, in Hampshire 'became a rarity after 1400' being superseded by clasped side-purlin roofs with crown struts, fan trusses and queen posts. The earliest dated crown strut was 1402, although the tradition carried on throughout the fifteenth century.

There is a point of comparison with Glebe Cottage; in both cases it seems that the eventual masonry stack was built into a service end, albeit with a transitional stage of framed flue.