

Garth Cottage and The Guard House, High Street

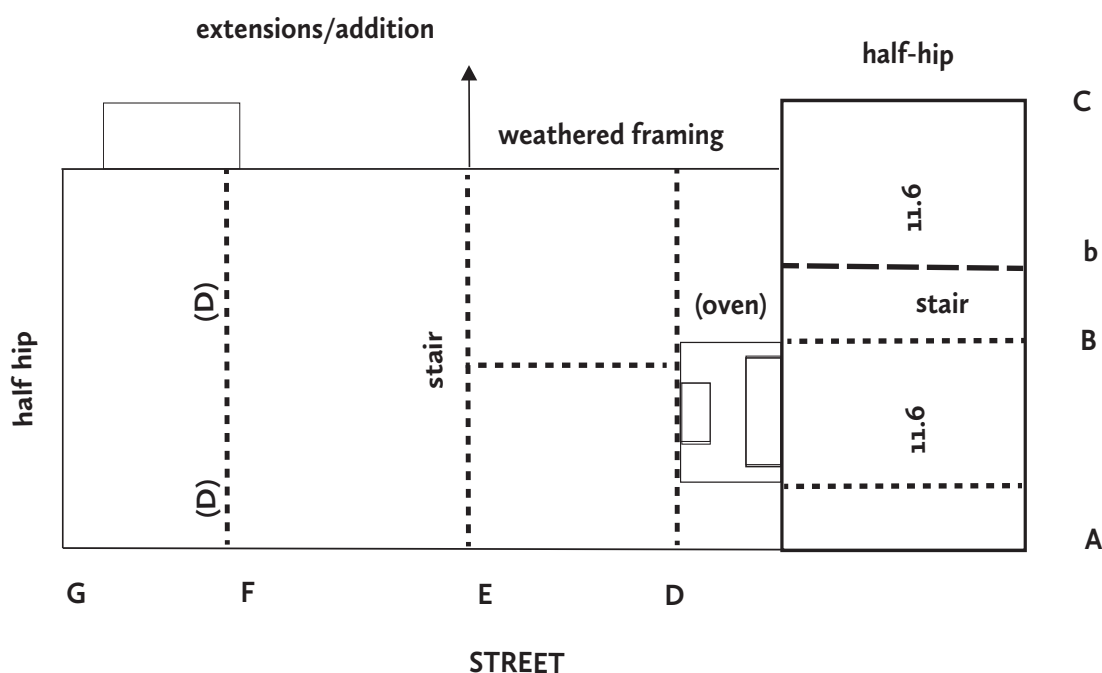


Description

Building lies parallel with and on the north side of the High Street. Front elevation faced with coursed malmstone with brick trim. Framing visible on eastern elevation. Tiled roof (was thatch until fire in 1961). East-west range (D > G) with north-south wing (A > C) at eastern end.

Cross-wing (Garth Cottage)

Cross-wing comprised of two bays, AB and BC. Some



evidence of ground floor partitioning at B, but first floor appears to have been open. No evidence remains for position of earliest stair.

Truss C has visible bay posts (rounded jowls) half-height tension bracing, regular square framing. Internally, fairly slender joisting and girders all visible. Some element of finish to joists in AB, remainder left square. Hearth with timber bressumer and remains of oven to north. Faint ritual markings towards southern end of bressumer.

Open stair now rises within BC, with first floor partition introduced at 'b'. Truss B appears to have been open; surviving (?replacement) arch-brace is nailed. Queen posts at B and edge of post at A are visible. First floor hearth now blocked.

East/west range (The Guard House)

This has undergone extensive renovation, presumably not least in the wake of the fire (see above). Later stack added to rear of GE. However, queen posted trusses still visible at F and E, as also tie at G and

Garth Cottage and The Guard House, High Street *continued*



weathered framing ED (north) visible within Garth Cottage. Original axial girder ED, stop-chamfered. Small, relatively modern hearth at D. Two door heads have been cut into tie at F. Stair rises parallel with truss E; not original but characteristic of late 18thC/early 19thC. Cut string, decorated brackets, balusters square & turned, moulded handrail.

Consideration

The framing of Garth Cottage is sturdy, if not finely finished. Although fully floored and heated at two levels, it is unlikely to have stood alone. The diagnostic features of jowl profiles, pattern of wall-framing and bracing, and roof construction of queen posts to side-purlins, all point towards a dating of 1610/15, + or — 5. It would probably have functioned as a 'solar'.

The tithe map of 1840 shows the building in plan as now, with a barn, but an estate map of 1793 appears to show only Garth Cottage. However enough details survive within the Guard House to suggest two elements are contemporary: queen post trusses, pattern of framing at E and ED (north) half-hip at G, shared original chimney stack, lack of double framing between. The probable entry would have been onto the side of the chimney stack at D (a 'baffle entry').

As it is unlikely that anyone would have built the range G > D in an older style between 1793 and 1840, it must be concluded that for some reason (possibly tenurial) the estate map did not depict both elements. This pair do illustrate what seems to be a common style that links South Harting and Buriton, that is, the use of malmstone with brick trim when facing up or renovating older buildings.
