

82 BELL STREET, HENLEY-ON-THAMES.

This survey was carried out by kind permission of Mrs. D. M. Girling.

new owner Mr. & Mrs. Aspin / 1985

Listed Buildings Entry of 1976 for Nos. 82 and 84; 17th C. 2 symmetrical houses. Silver grey brick walls with red brick dressings, window arches and small window aprons at 1st floor. Bracketed cornice, old tiled roof. 2 storeys and attic. 5 windows. Old casement windows at 1st floor and late 18 C. central bay window. Ground floor sashes with glazing bars, central window of 3 lights. Reproduction bow window at north side. 6 panelled doors of which top 2 panels to that of No. 84 now glazed. Moulded architraves and curved, moulded pediments above.



84 Bell Street.

82 Bell Street.

This house stands on the eastern side of Bell Street on the edge of what is considered the extent of medieval Henley. No. 82 has a long narrow burgage plot backing on to an area of former orchards and pasture (see 1842 Tithe Map).

Behind the late 17th C. front, which is described in detail above, hides a small open hall house, or to be more precise, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ bays of it. The full bay measures 3m in length by 3.50m in width by 4m height to the collar, where a ceiling has been inserted. It has chamfered arch braces, a highly cambered and chamfered tie beam, curved wall and wind braces. The roof space is not accessible. There are no original openings left. A large French window on the north side has replaced most of the original timbers. However, the wallpost on this side remains and shows 3 different carvings below the brace - see enclosed drawing. Since the wide chamfer cuts into the edge of these one must assume that this is a piece of re-used timber. On the back of this wallpost is a carved date, but it is not directly carved into the timber of the post but on a wooden band attached to the post. Below this is a very strange kind of timber toggle (I use this word for lack of a more suitable one) which is attached to the post by a mortise and tenon joint, which looks very straight

cut, possibly sawn. Nobody, including Dr. M. Airs, has been able to come up with an explanation for its use.

A stack of 2.20m width and 0.90m depth has been inserted into the second bay. Since the curved wall braces disappear into it, it cannot be an original feature. The modern brickwork in its lower third has recently been inserted when the opening to the other side was blocked. The timber struts above might represent the remains of a former smoke hood, although Dr. Airs is doubtful about this without further evidence, which could only be obtained in the inaccessible loft space above. To the right of this fireplace one can see the joists of the upstairs bedroom, which must have been inserted when that part of the building was altered and its height increased.

The 17th C. front part of the house still shows a timber-framed jettied building in its boundary wall with No. 84. The re-fronting of the two houses in the new building material with fashionable doors and windows was obviously done by one owner, with a view to leasing them separately, although flying freeholds show that the property was probably one large plot originally, and it was not possible to divide it exactly in half. The front wall is built in monk's bond with 0.06m brick, strengthened internally with timber sleepers.

Built on to the back gable wall of the open hall part of the house is a late timber-framed building of straight narrow timbers with brick infill of two bays with loft over, which used to be only accessible by outside hoist door in its gable. Reputed to have been a stable with hay loft, which is very well possible considering the former use of the land behind. (see enclosed Tithe Map).

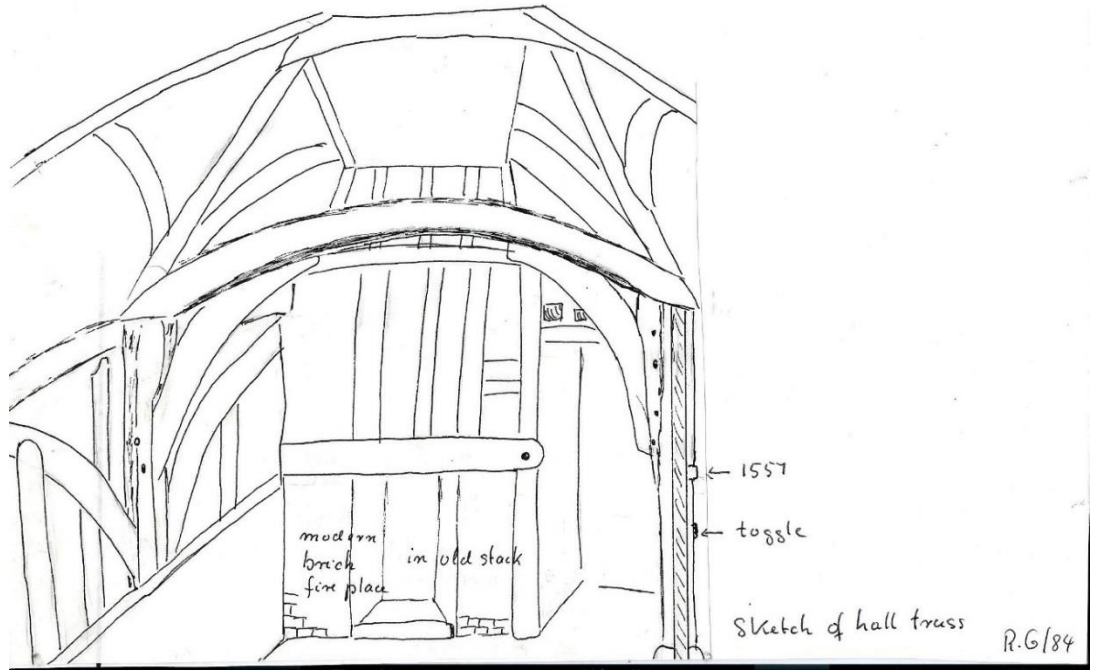
The house was very thoroughly modernized by a previous owner, Sir Richard Turnbull. It is said that the two timber-framed rooms in the back still had earth floors at that time.

CONCLUSION:- This small late medieval open hall seems to owe its survival to having lost its former status, but continuing to be useful as a workshop and storage space, maybe also for animal husbandry. Since all barns were built on the principle of the open hall house the change was an easy one, only the ornamental chamfers, highly cambered tie beam and carvings on the wallpost betray its original use.

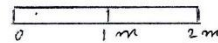
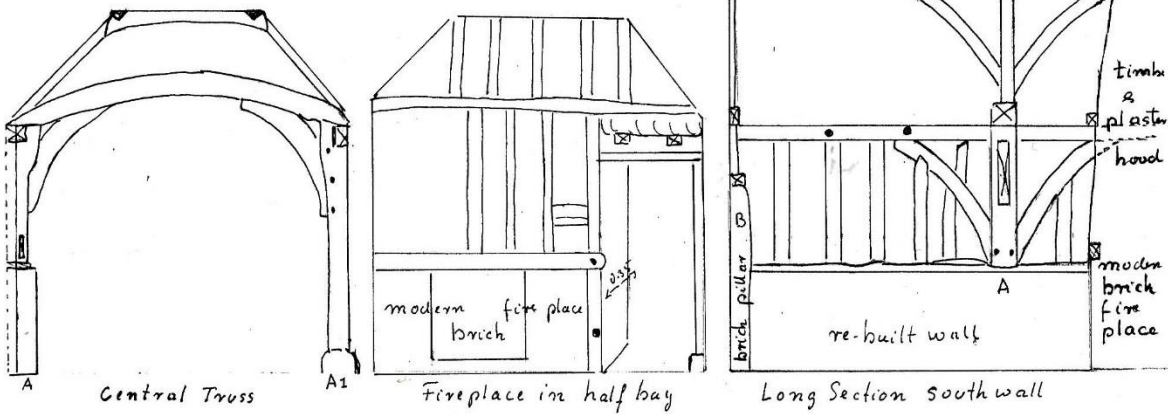
(x) See 'Historic towns in Oxfordshire' edited by K. Rodwell, published by Oxford Archaeological Unit.

A copy of this survey will go to the Royal Monuments Commission and to the Oxfordshire Monuments Record Office, Woodstock.

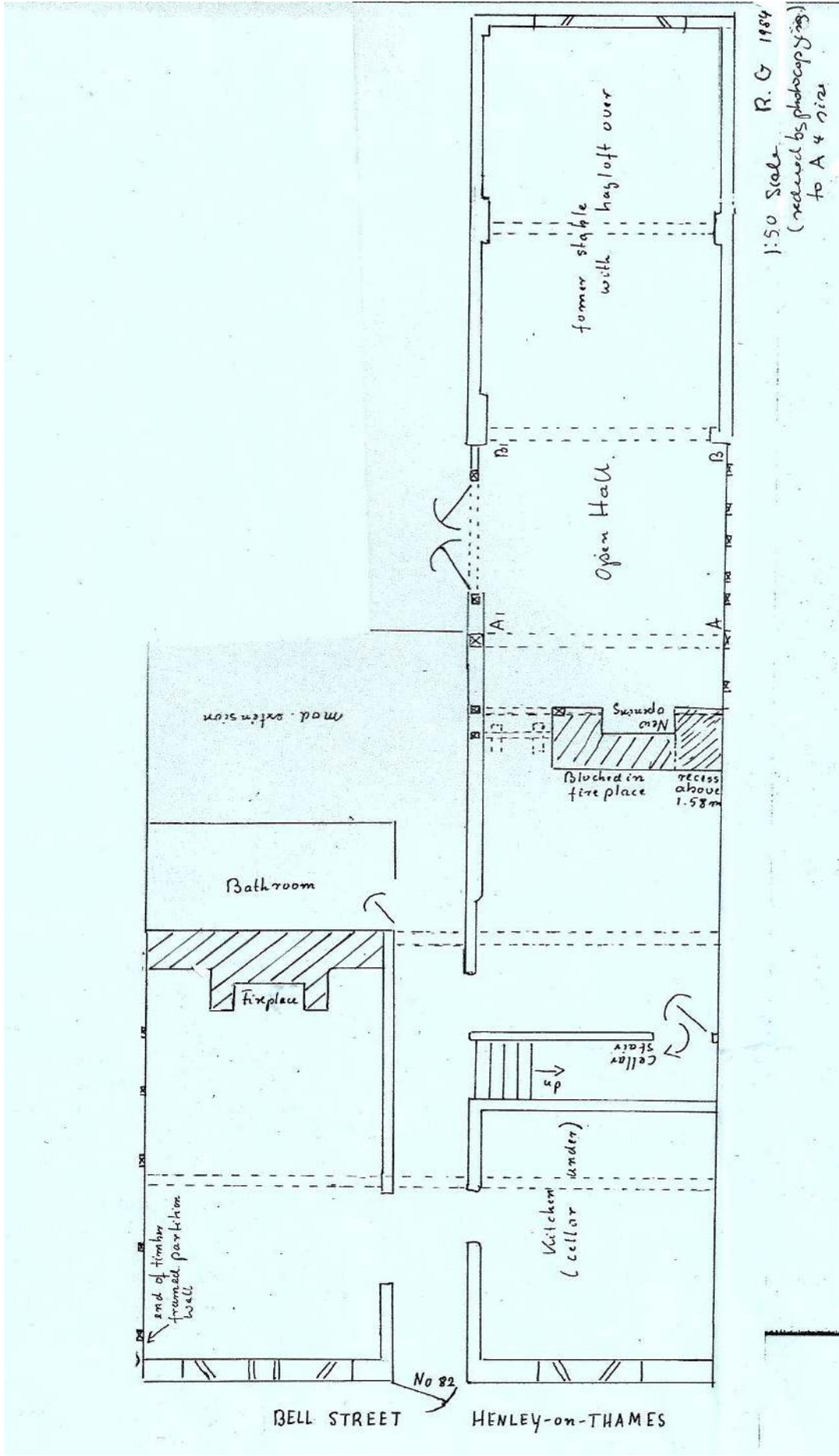
Recorded by :- R. Gibson.
Photographs by:- A. Cottingham, S. Bromilow.

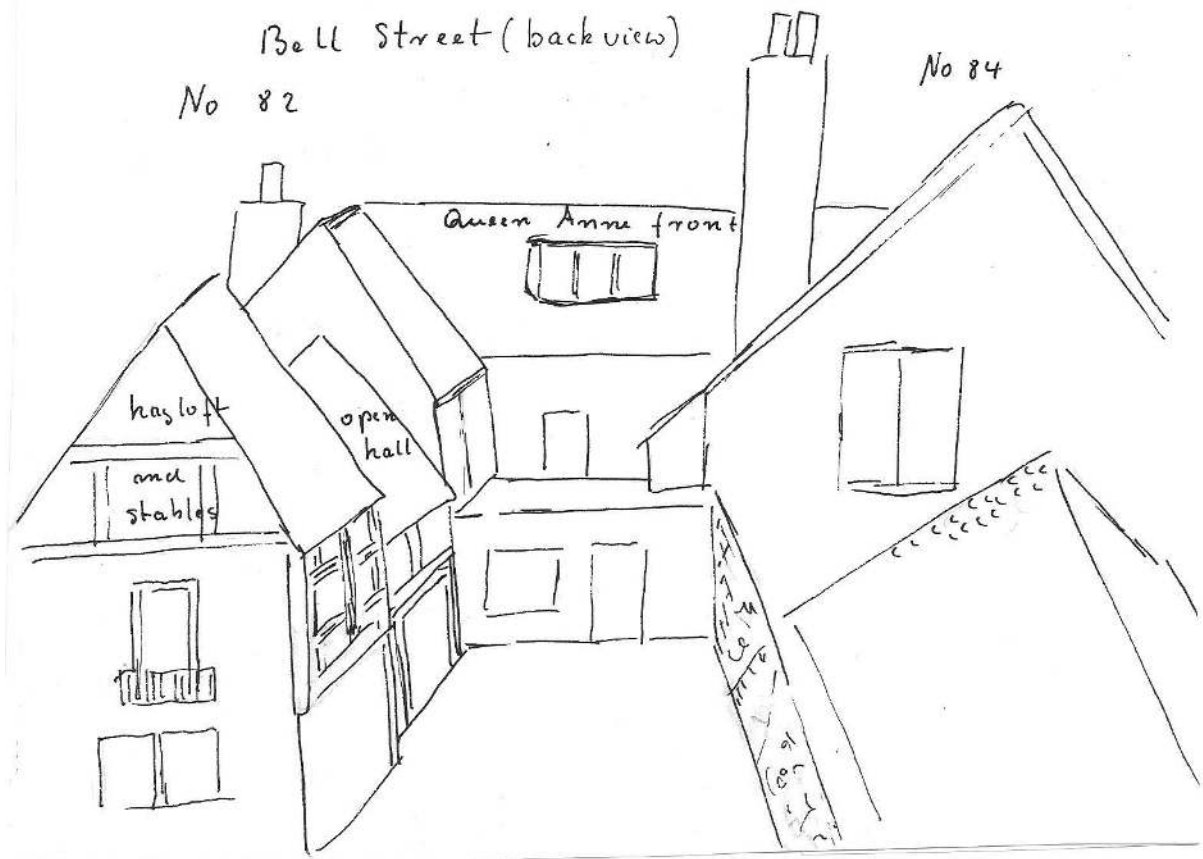


'Atlantic House'
 No 82 Ballstreet, Henley-on-Thames



R.G/84





Back view from patio of No. 82 Bell Street, sketch above and photograph, both from 1985 recording



Cambered tie beam & braces looking west
- on plan -

A



Side wall & part of fireplace hood to the right

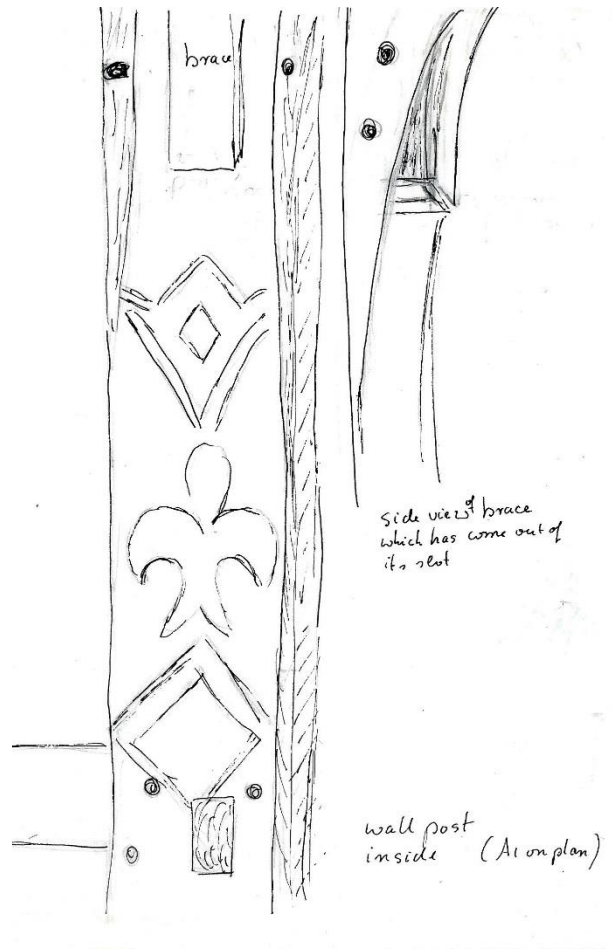
A1



Carving on wooden band on outside of wall post (A1 on plan)

**Above: View of hall truss
with cambered tie, arch and
wind braces**

**Right: Carving on north wall post
at A1 on ground floor plan**



side view of brace
which has come out of
its slot

wall post
inside (A1 on plan)



View of the queens truss on the first floor of the rear wing



Front room, north wall shows the framing of a medieval house; a jetty is indicated on the left hand side. None of the original framing of the front wall survives, as this was removed when the building was re-fronted in brick.



View of the rear wings. The nearest roof is that of the medieval hall. The taller, two-storey building is of slight scantling and probably of early 18th century date. Traditions has it that it was used as a stable.

82 & 84 Bell Street

1989 82 Atlantic House 84 Gearholm both at that time private houses

The two houses are linked by an 18th century facade, and also by being held in the past jointly. (Measurements etc taken of No 82 suggest original jetty construction in front & possibly originally one house with 84 before perhaps c. 1720. Behind 82 a barn or hall of two bays with inserted fireplace, end on to street. Beyond this a newer barn added)

St Mary's Church Parish Registers

Baptisms 1954-79 20 Oct 1974 Thomas Alexander Grant Huxtable

father Leonard Alfred Huxtable Co. Director mother Patricia Frances

Baptisms 1920-53 82

29 Feb 1948 Christopher Hanns Bradley mother Gertrude Bradley waitress

30 Mar 1947 Anthony John Garrett

father Frank Garrett shoemaker mother Kathleen Helen Elsie May Garrett

10 Dec 1944 Frances Garrett

father Frank Garrett sheet metal worker mother Kathleen Ellen Elsie May

25 Apr 1943 May Garrett

father Frank Garrett shoemaker m Kathleen Helen Elsie May

4 Jan 1941 Ellen Garrett

father Frank Garrett shoe repairer m. Kathleen Ellen Elsie May

Burials 1884-1944 84 Oct 1910 Juliana Sarah Knight (85)

1926 F. Ct. Sale : Tenant Miss C. Keene

Street Directories 84 1935-1915 Miss Cissillie Keene milliner

1924 Cyril Betton piano tuner (possibly at 82)

1887 Henry Knight

1869-1854 Richard Scott (84?) cabinet maker upholsterer & house furnisher

82 1915 John Watkin Hopkins vet & vet inspector

1903-1877 Miss Morgan private

1869 Lieut. Col. Wm Domett Morgan (82?)

1863- 1854 Joseph Dobson corn & seed dealer

Not known which house juist Bell St 1830 John Rathbone confectioner & pastry cook

1823 Thomas Rathbone confectioner & pastry cook (*see 26 & 28 Bell St*)

1790+ F Simms gent & Jos Stevens corn chandler

Bridge Rent Book 1886 No 85 Miss Scott formerly John Scott for two houses late in the occupation of Rich^d Scott & Jos^h Dobson & now of Miss Morgan & Henry Knight 4s

Henley Advertiser 5 July 1890 For Sale 2 freehold houses nos 72 & 74 (sic) Bell St. occupied by Miss Morgan & Mr Rogers

Henley Bridge Rentals 1842 Scott 2 houses Rathbone & Streak 4s

1828 Stevens 2 houses self & Staverton 4s

1823,1814 Stevens 2 houses occupied self & Taylor 4s

1807 Stevens 2 houses self & Mrs Taylor 4s

1800,1795 Jos^h Stevens self & Webster 4s

1793 Stevens occupied self & Miss Jones 4s

1790 occupied Stevens & Simms

1785 Jos^h Stevens in occupation Scott & Simmons

1779 Jos Stevens in occupation self & Dowell 4s

1775 Jas Stevens in occupation Mrs Pracey 4s

1749 Mrs Stevens late Drew & Welles 4s

1745 Jas Stevens late Drew & Weller

Court Leet Book of the Manor of Henley 1786-1881

20 May 1836 John Scott has opened a cellar window in front of his house in Bell St. He owes the Lord of the Manor 1d p.a. from Lady Day last.

Pew Faculty in St Mary's Church 1834/5 A faculty dated 27 January 1787 to the freehold premises situate on the east side of Bell St the property of Mr Joseph Stevens, and then occupied by his son Mr Henry Stevens and to the occupiers of the same premises for ever. In 1817 occupied by Mrs Stevens widow.

Lease & release 19/20 March 1734 O.R.O. Cooper & Caldecott C57(1)
between 1/ Eliz Havergill the younger widow & executor of Thomas Havergill innholder eldest son & heir of John Havergill dec'd all of Henley
2/ John havergill the younger peruke maker of Grt Marlow son of John Havergill the elder
3/ John Harrison of Purley Berks clerk & Abr Barnfield of Reading distiller executors of Andrew Binfield dec'd & Wm Forster surgeon

2 messuages lying together on the east side of Bell/North St & the Butcher's Arms (*Pub in Market Place*) Lease quotes

Indenture of 1722 Mortgage between 1/ John Havergill the elder dec'd 2/ Robert Collings of Henley servant & Edward Evans innholder 3/ Andrew Binfield
assignment of 2 messuages then lately erected situate together on the east side of Bell St then in the occupation of Henry Wright & Richard Wellar with the house then in tenure of Mrs Prossar on the south & the house of Mr Welch on the north (also Butchers Arms Market Place no 33)

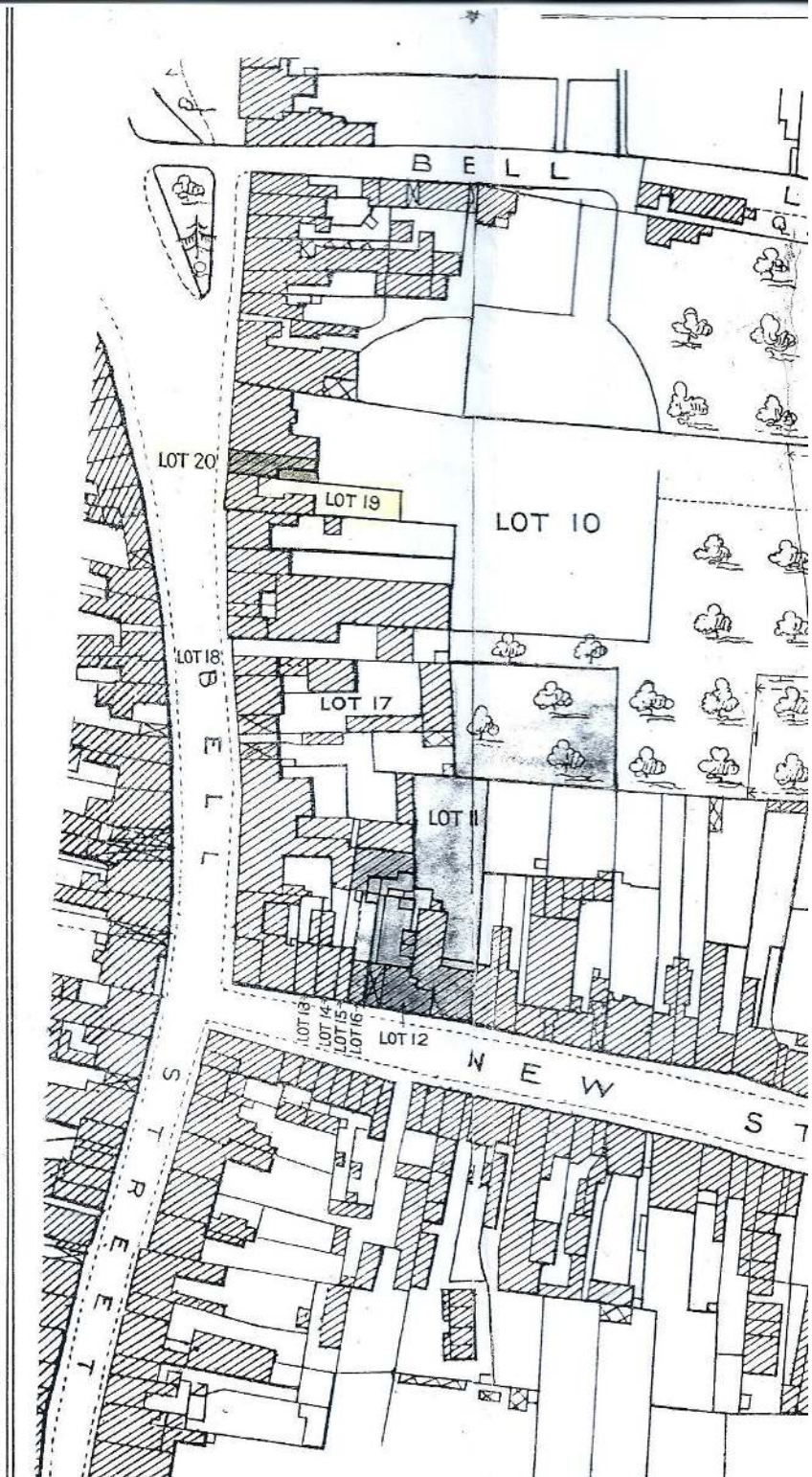
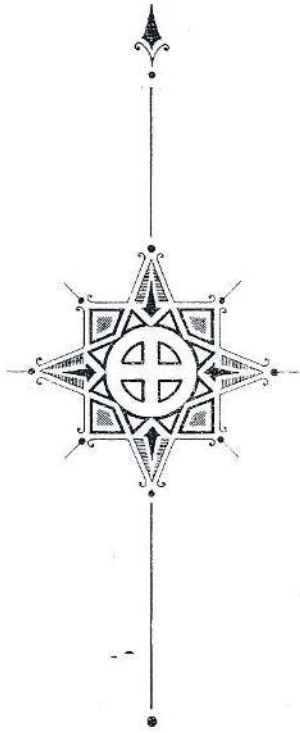
Further Mortgage 1734 of 2 houses lately built in Bell St now in occupation of William Drew & Richard Wellar between Mrs Prossar on the south & Mr Mason on the north.

Will of John Havergill 1722 O.R.O. Brooks C3/6, C3/9

Left to wife Elizabeth the Bear (*east side of Bell St north of the Bull now Scoop 2006*) & also on east side of Bell St. one house in occupation of Richard Wellar & a second house occupied by Henry Wright also the Butchers Arms

C3/9 **23 November 1727** Sale of property Mr Havergill to Mr Brooks 2 messuages on east side of Bell St now or lately in the occupation Henry Wright & Richard Wellar.

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McKenzie Sale 1826

LOT 19.—(*Coloured Yellow on Plan*).

A

Brick-Built and Tiled Residence

known as

No. 82, Bell Street,

HENLEY-ON-THAMES,

Containing Entrance Passage; Drawing Room, 10ft. 3ins. × 15ft. 3ins. with Register Grate; Dining Room, 11ft. × 11ft. 6ins. with Register Grate; Kitchen with Range; Scullery with Sink and Copper; 3 Bedrooms (Two fitted with Register Grates); Attic and Cellar; Outside W.C. and Fuel Shed with Loft over.

SMALL FLOWER GARDEN.

Company's Gas and Water.

Main Drainage.

This Property is let to Mrs. Green on a Quarterly Tenancy, at a rent of

£25 0s. 0d. per Annum,

Tenant paying Rates.

LOT 20.—(*Coloured Red on Plan*).

A

Brick-Built and Tiled Residence

known as

No. 84, Bell Street,

HENLEY-ON-THAMES,

Containing Entrance Passage, Sitting Room, Living Room, Scullery, 2 Bedrooms with Register Grates, Attic, Outside W.C. and Fuel Shed.

Company's Gas and Water.

Main Drainage.

This Property is let to Miss C. Keene on a Quarterly Tenancy, at a rent of

£20 0s. 0d. per Annum,

Tenant paying Rates.

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