

Friday 15 April 2011

Henley-on-Thames

The Chantry House
Church Avenue

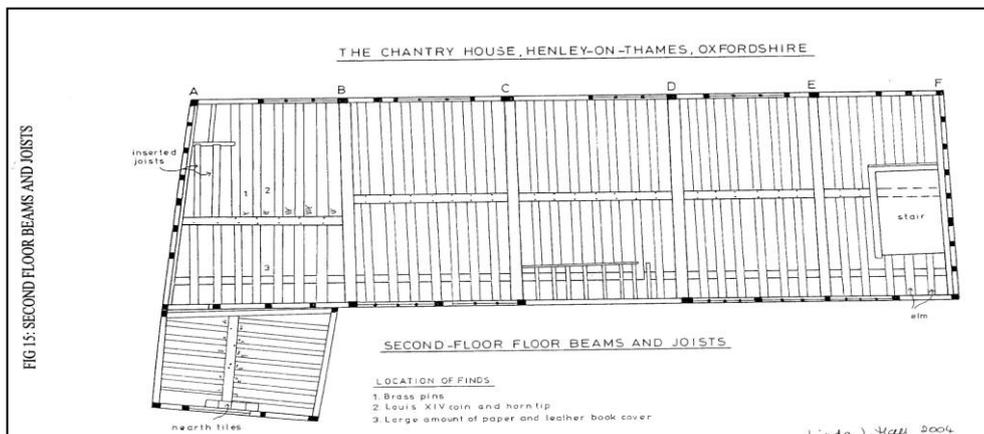
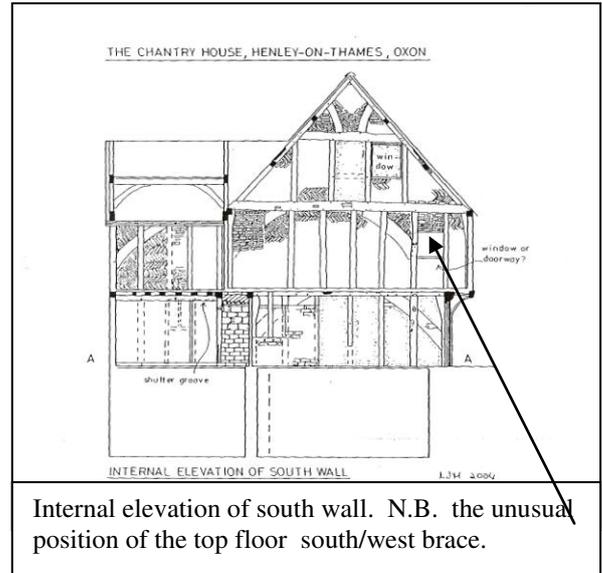
SU765826
Grade I

Owners: PCC of St. Mary The Virgin
Photography permitted.

Note: Below a view of the ground floor (no access to building itself from there) and full height east elevation from yard behind the Red Lion Hotel only; use the archway from Thameside to access this. The entrance to the building is from the churchyard on the west side.

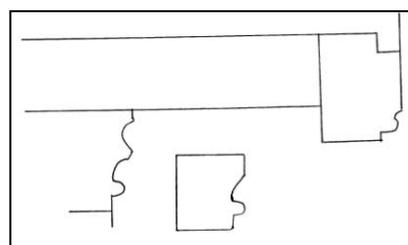


East, Thameside elevation. Lower ground floor was originally an open-fronted storage space under a jetty.

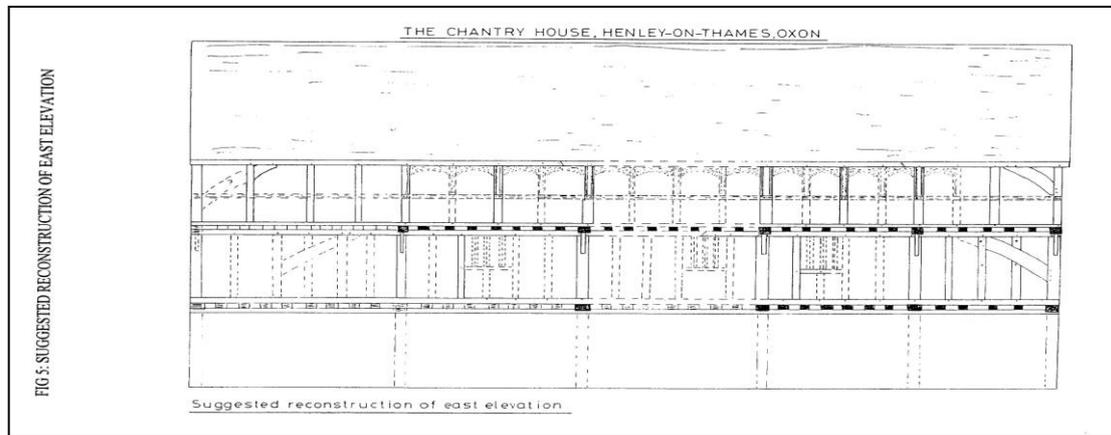


West elevation with principal entrance door; carved spandrels in four-centre arch. N.B. the location of the g.f. arch brace.

Scale drawings by Linda J. Hall, as part of the 2004 survey and report by FINIAL



West side jetty profiles



Notes on the historic use of the building

- 1445 first mention in deed of a messuage and vacant plot adjoining to the east of the churchyard (NB not in the churchyard as now). Both were bought by two Henley merchants John Elmes and John Devene from John Say, clerk and others.
- 1553 sold and known as Schoolhouse. Endowed by James I in 1604 it became the Free Grammar School, with the Lower School endowed by Lady Perriam in 1609 using the ground floor at churchyard level. Both amalgamated and moved out in 1778. In use by the Red Lion until sold as parish rooms to the Church in 1923; it was only then given the name of 'Chantry House'.

Notes on architectural details:

- A 5-bay, three-storey building plus storage loft originally. Small rear wing. Jettied on west and east sides; originally double jettied on the river side with the lower ground floor open fronted, supported by posts, but now underbuilt. Some original window openings survive on the top floor.
- Wide oak door at the north-west corner, now accessed from churchyard, formerly from a lane connecting New Street to Hart Street. Its surround has a four-centred arch, decorated spandrels, roll moulded jetty plate and bressumer; moulded bracket. Note large arch brace to the right of the door rather than in the more usual corner location.
- Tie beams in top floor room cut, ceiling and partition walls removed, additional posts inserted thus creating an 'aisled hall' look i.e. a typical school room.
- Some evidence of former division into five rooms with long row of windows on the east side lighting the access corridor to the individual chambers. NB shutter grooves.
- Disturbed wall framing in central bay on both west and east sides
- Location of large arch brace in upper south gable not in the usual corner position; possibly a doorway to the adjoining early part of the 'Red Lion'?

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