

25. 4. 1990
7 Vicarage Road
Henley-on-Thames

Report 54b

Notes on a visit to 23 & 25 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames,
formerly the "White Lion" public house. SU 762 825. Gd.II

Owner: Mr. Malcolm Frost

This is the tall central building in a row of cottages, which have been refronted in the 18th century in brick, but were originally timber-framed, and preserve a substantial part of their original timbers. (Dated brick 1744 next to front door)

It is 2 1/2 storeys high with 2 dormer attic windows. The ground floor has 3 windows (timber mullion and transom) and a door (not original) in a wooden frame. The 1st floor has 4 wooden casements with two lights each. The bricks are laid mainly in header bond, with some Flemish bond. There is a string course of three rows of headers. All bricks are painted white. The roof has old tiles.

Plan: 2 equal bays, running parallel with the street, to which a two-storey extension was added at the back, running at right angles to the front part. The ground floor has been much altered, probably due to the fact that it had been divided into two dwellings, and also during its use as a public house. A very substantial girding joist is visible in the eastern front room. The western front room has a blocked fire place, set at an angle (it probably shares the stack with neighbouring No. 21); behind this rises the stair-case. Although this is modern, it probably occupies the place of the 18th century one. The back-room has been subdivided into 2 unequal parts. The larger eastern one (living room) now shows the spine beam off-centre with joists showing only on its western side. A recess, the size of a door head) has been cut into it, indicating a different previous use of the area.

(using 2nd hand timbers and nails to hold studs)

The second floor shows some stud walling in the back extension] as well as some exposed timbers at the stair well. The wall between the two front bed-rooms is the same as that of the original bay division and the timbers are hidden.

In the attic the main timbers are exposed up to purlin height. The 4 wide curved windbraces are especially impressive on the south (the front) side, and show that this roof, unlike that of Nos. 17, 19 and 29, has not been completely rebuilt on the street side. It was not possible to see the rafters or purlins above the inserted ceiling. However it was just possible to see part of the roof timbers of the back part through a small hatch.

A curved collar, apparently unsupported by struts, had been given additional support by some chains, which connect it to the principal rafters. (An examination of the loft of both parts of the house would be very useful)

in the front part
The tie beam, measuring some 12", has a very pronounced camber, and does not seem to have the alarming slope to the front, which we observed in the other houses. Altogether this house seems to have suffered less during the 18th century rebuilding, probably because it was in better condition. Its visible timbers are certainly those of a substantially built house. Its front probably dates to the mid-16th century, with the back part of 17th century date.

Please see our Report No. 54/1989 on Nos. 17/19 & 29 Friday Street for historic background to this building and that of its neighbours.

A measured recording was not possible at present.

Ruth Gibson

Leaseholds continued

A Public House

called the White Lion

Situated at Henbury
in the occupation of Edw. Richardson
with Five Cottages adjoining containing 4
rooms each in the several occupations
of Bloxam, Lambert, Riggs & Cooper

Lease Expires 29th Sept. 1834

Rent Paid £115.00 p. Ann.^m

Law & Miss Smith 1825

From:

O. R. O.

Breakspear VII

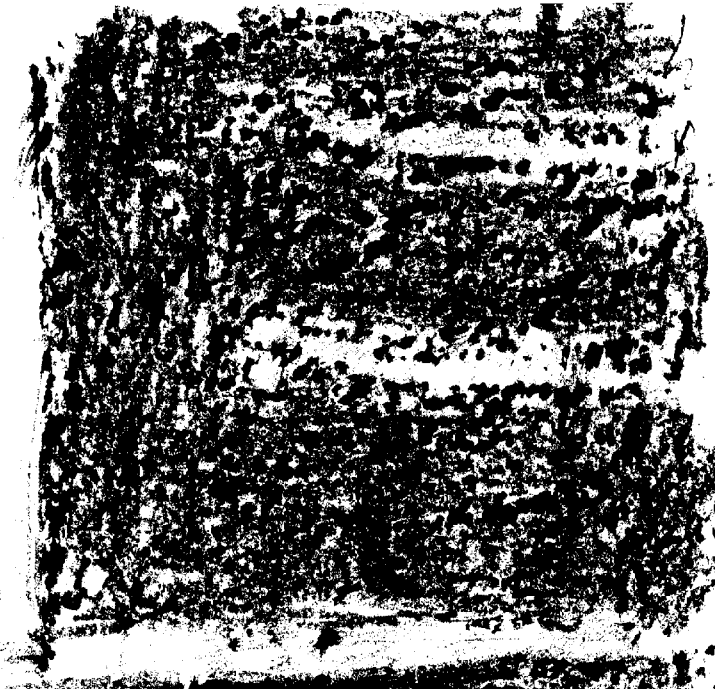
Inventor of Valuation

1. Jan 1826

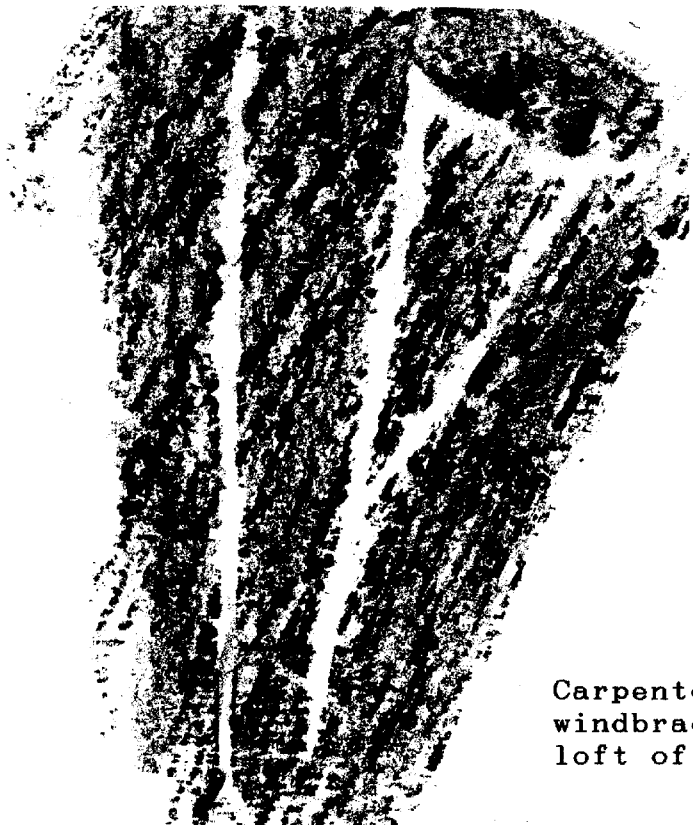
Dated Brick to the right
of the door of No. 23



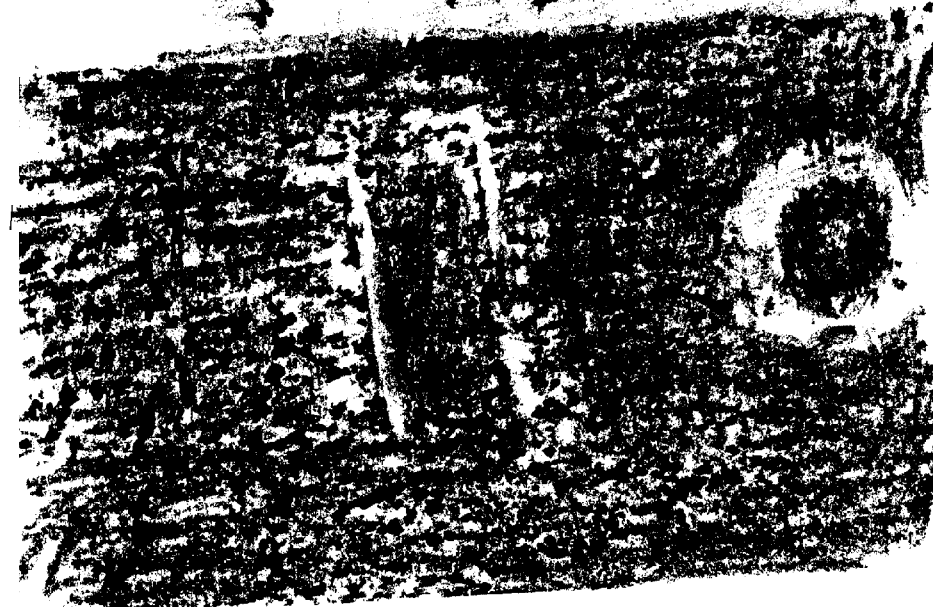
Carpenter's Marks and Dowel on
collar beam and queen strut of
rear wing of No. 17



RUBBINGS



Carpenter's Mark on
windbrace in the
loft of No. 17





No. 23 Friday Street, former White Lion public house.

With two and a half storeys it forms the visual centre of this row of timber-framed houses with 18th century brick fronts.

Part of the roof truss, looking west





No 23 Friday Street

Front range.

Loft bedrooms showing
wide curved windbraces.



No 23 Friday Street

Groundfloor, back extension
looking west at former partition wall.
Recess cut into beam indicates former doorway.

Loft in rear extension.
Collar supported by chain fixed to rafters



NB 2 inch brickwork to stack which serves two fireplaces in front



No 23 Friday Street - Ground floor, back extension, east wall

First floor, back extension, internal partition

