

**VERNACULAR BUILDINGS RESEARCH
HENLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL GROUP**

Parish/County: Henley-on-Thames, Oxon
Street and House name:

44-46, 48-50 Hart Street
Speaker's House

Owner: G. Payne
Contact: Kevin Thatcher
Tel No: 07901610991

© Ruth Gibson
Date: 13.8.07, 4.12.07
Feb. 2008

Listing grade and entry text: Gd II separately listed
15-16th Timber framed, old tiled roof, jettied upper floors
(see Greenback texts)

Known History: see attached notes by A.Cottingham

Map ref., date of 1st map, type of plot. Long burgage plot running back to the brook line behind Friday Street at the rear of Nos 44-46. Behind 48-50 the plot is curtailed by encroachment from the Rectory garden.

Plan form/position in street: Nos 48-50 is a two-bay building built parallel to the street, each bay has a short lower rear wing at right angles (somewhat askew) to the front. No. 46 continues under the same roof; whilst No. 44 is a three-bay building, built gable end to the street.

Brief Description of the buildings:

Nos. 48-50 is a double fronted, 2 storeys and attic building, probably built as an addition to the earlier 'Speaker's House' occupying the western.

It has several early-mid 17th century features such as the

- ovolo and hollow chamfer mouldings of the jettied bressumers;
- the row of mullion windows, also ovolo and hollow chamfer, now blocked but visible in the two first floor rooms. They, together with the larger central window (which is now a modern two-light window), would have formed an impressive row of central window with two flanking ones, typical for the 17th century.
- A 17th C. staircase with Ipswich type window, which occupies a small rear extension between the rear ranges of Nos. 48 and 46 and appears to have served the first floors of both groups. The stairs are turned at the bottom with a dog-leg and landing in front of the tall Ipswich type window (timber window framing and side hung sashes, one wrought iron opening light, iron catches, leaded glass quarries) . The banister has a toad back ? hand rail, turned barley twist balusters, square newel posts topped by balls.



Cellar, brick walled, under the front range. Stair access behind 48 (?). Blocked access opening to street

Nos 44-46 this building consists of a 3-bay cross wing (44) and adjoining range, built parallel to the street, extended at the back. The earliest building on this site is the cross wing, which may have started as a three-bay hall. It has a magnificent crown strut roof with curved side braces (i.e. a fan truss), only one of which survives in front of a later brick stack. The north/road side tie and studs have been removed to allow for the insertion of a window, the second one has been cut to allow for headroom, when the g.f. ceiling was raised.



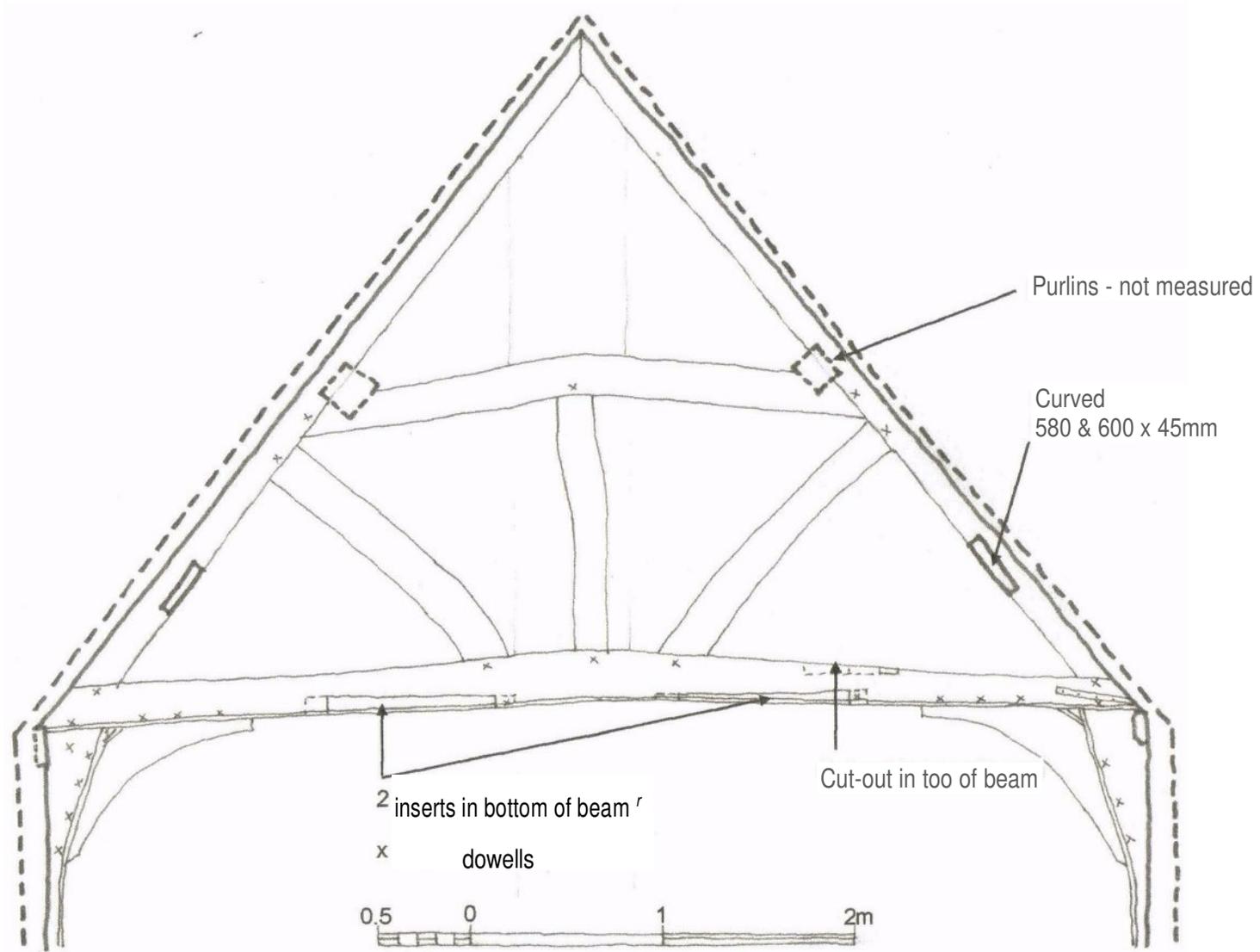
There is an early window, with two diamond mullions in the east rear wall. Its construction in relation to the framing of the wall shows that it is a later insertion and seems to indicate, that it was inserted when the room was chambered over. The window was blocked, very likely a consequence of the rear extension to of No. 46.

In the attic of No. 46 one can see that the rear roof slope was raised with the insertion of additional rafters and purlins. Picture below.



The ground floor rooms of Nos. 44 and 46 have been heavily altered with many second hand timbers being inserted in the 20th C. as well as a new brick dividing wall.

R.Gibson 2007 (short version for VAG. No dendro date achieved)



The Speaker's House, Hart Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

ELEVATION OF TRUSS (from North)

surveyed February 2008
phiiip allison



44-46 48-50 Hart Street, Henley

Buckler 1827
South Hart Street





The Speaker's House, Hart Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

EAST END OF TRUSS

surveyed February 2008
philip allison



The Speaker's House, Hart Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

EAST END OF TRUSS WITH SPREADERS

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The Speaker's House, Hart Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

CENTRE OF TRUSS

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The Speaker's House, Hart Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

WEST END OF TRUSS

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