

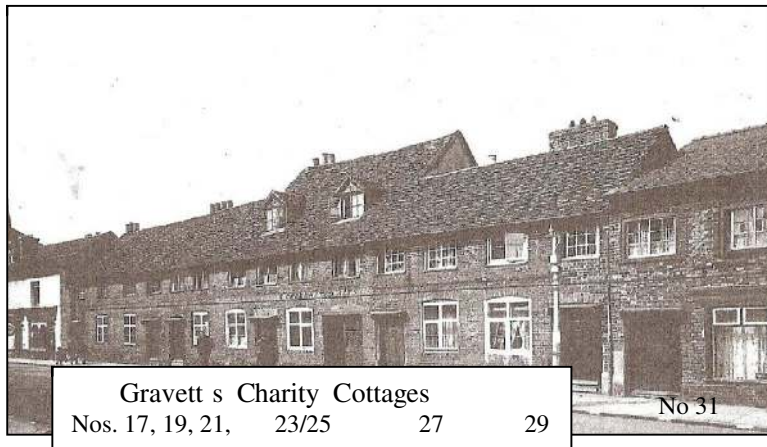
**31-33 Friday Street  
Henley-on-Thames**

**Grade II listed**  
*For Group value only, C18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>*



Nos 31/33 were first recorded in 1990 by members of the Henley Archaeological & Historical Group in Report No 61. No 33 was re-visited in 2010.

The Census Returns of 1891 - 1901 give us the names of the family living there: No.31: William Lovegrove, his wife and 7 children; No. 33: seems to be occupied by their sons William J and Alfred J, who are still there in 1911.



Gravett s Cottages in the early C20<sup>th</sup> with the adjoining Nos.31/33 on the right (only No 31 can be seen here). Before being whitewashed all cottages had red brick front walls with grey, burnt bricks used decoratively. Only the bricks of No. 33 have survived unaltered.

**Historic Background:**

The two cottages were formerly one house, a hall and cross wing, subdivided into two cottages in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> C. It was given a new brick front, a new shallow, slated roof and now forms a terrace of small cottages with Gravett s Charity to the west. The medieval timber frame in the west side wall of No. 31 was used to build No. 29 against it (see drawing below) when Mr. Benjamin Bradshaw created the terrace using two timber framed buildings, known as Gravett s Charity, and filling the gaps between them with additional labourers cottages.

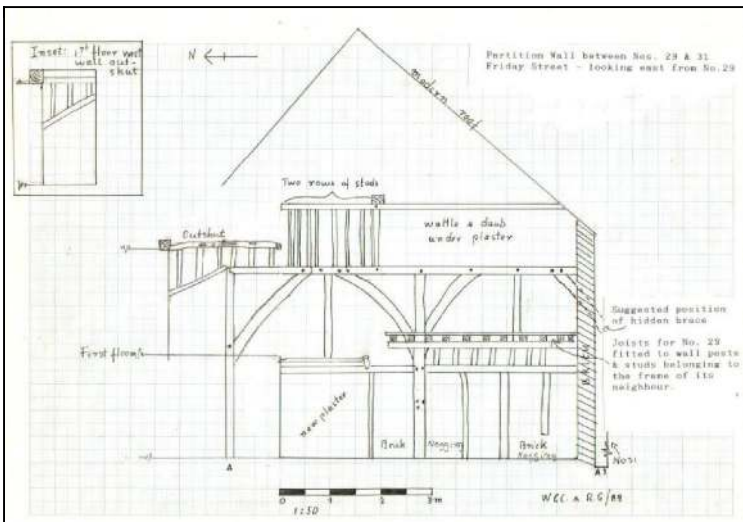
The tenement which was to become Nos. 31/33 was given to the burgesses of Henley in one of many bequests by Wm. Barnaby, yeoman of Henley, in his will of 1585:

The income of a tenement in Friday Street to the Bridgemen for repairing the bridge and for the benefit of the poor of Henley ( the poor were to receive every Good Friday

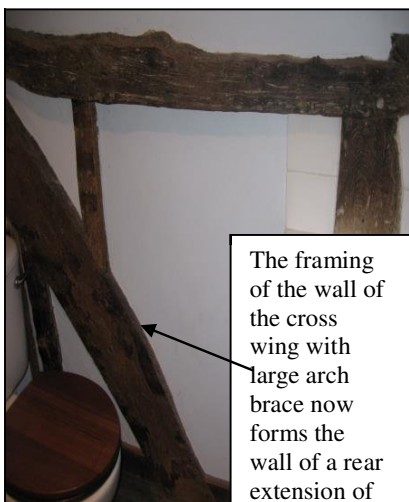
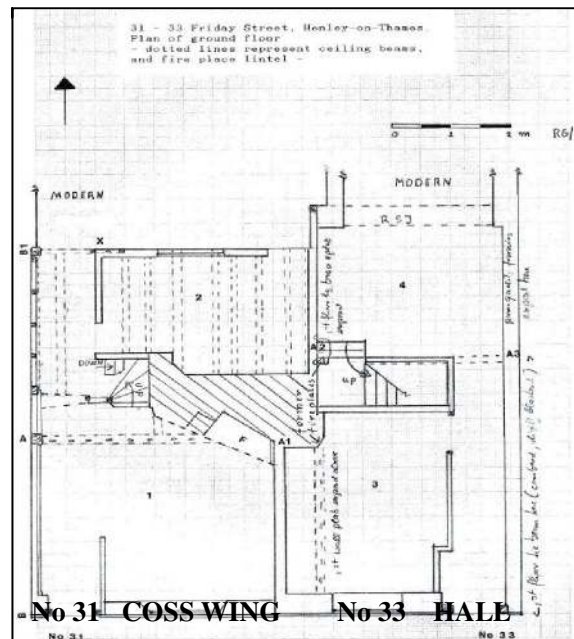
20 dozen of bread, ten smocks ready made for ten of the poorest women as well as providing funds for maintaining the poor of the almshouse)

**Description of the Buildings:**

- Plan form: L shaped. Originally hall (at No. 33) and two-bay cross wing at No. 31.
- The framing is of heavy scantling, with long, arch braces in the wall and wide curved wind braces, visible at first floor level of No. 31, but also from the adjoining Nos. 29 and 33. Both these houses made use of the still existing framing of the former cross wing, when they were built or extended to the rear.
- The roof structure is of C19<sup>th</sup> date, of low pitch and slated. It replaces what must have been a gabled roof, facing the road, over the cross wing and a tiled, steeply pitched roof over the hall at right angles to the cross wing. Only one bay of the hall survives. The rear bay is a later extension.
- There is a large brick stack in the corner, providing F.P.s for both cottages on two floors (see plan below)



**Timber framed east side wall of cross wing of No 31, exposed in newly built No 29. The medieval framing was used as the east side wall as well as supporting the floor joists of the new house.**



The framing of the wall of the cross wing with large arch brace now forms the wall of a rear extension of the former hall, now No. 33



**The arch braces of the cross wing as seen in No. 31**

Back wall of bay 2 at first floor level

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

**Parish/County:** Henley-on-Thames, Oxon  
**Street and House name:** 33 Friday Street

**Owner:** Susan & Nigel Pike  
**Tel No:** 577521, mobile:  
07711357019  
Ruth Gibson  
**Date:** 14.4.2010

**Listing grade and entry text:** Gd II *Listed for Group Value, late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> C. facade*

**Known History:** Very probably part of the Barnaby Charity bequests, see will of W. Barnaby of 1585 and Ann Cottingham research attached

**Map ref., date of 1<sup>st</sup> map, type of plot:** 1878 OS map On long burgage plot up to Town Ditch

**Plan form/position in street:** Now roof parallel to street shared with No. 31 with rear ext.

**Description of the building:** See **Report No. 61, 1990** by HA&HG on both Nos 31 and 33.

**Post Script to the above report:** A site visit on 14.4.10 revealed more of the historic framing than had been visible in 1990, but has confirmed the assessment that this building and its neighbour were once one house and that No.33 was built parallel to the street, whilst No. 31 was built gable onto the street, very likely representing the cross wing to a possible hall.

More details of the wall between the two are now visible. At first floor level a large arch brace can be seen in the west wall (Bay 2 on plan) , very much like those recorded previously in other parts of the first floor walls of No. 33.

At first floor level of Bay 3 (on plan) two beams have been uncovered. The one on the west side is straight and (*measure size*) and is very likely the eastern wall plate of No. 33. It is in line with (*probably, but needs checking ?*) the beam in the kitchen below, called the mid rail, which with its former studs below would have formed the dividing wall between the ground floor room of the cross wing and the hall (now the front room of Nos. 31 and kitchen of No 33 respectively).

The beam on the first-floor east side is cambered and retains signs of sooting, despite having undergone sanding and cleaning. It is c.5 m long (*needs re-measuring, also careful checking of tie beam for original posts/studs above to assess possible former roof structure*) and would have had an impressive span. It is very likely just one surviving bay of a hall of at least two bays, i.e., cambered tie beams usually occupy a central space, also the width of it indicates that this was the building of somebody who had the means to impress and who was unlikely to have a 5 m deep hall only just over 3 m in length. The missing part of at least one bay, but possibly more, appears to have had to make way for No. 35 a large, modern brick building connected with the printing and paper making industry (already shown on the 1878/9 O.S. map)

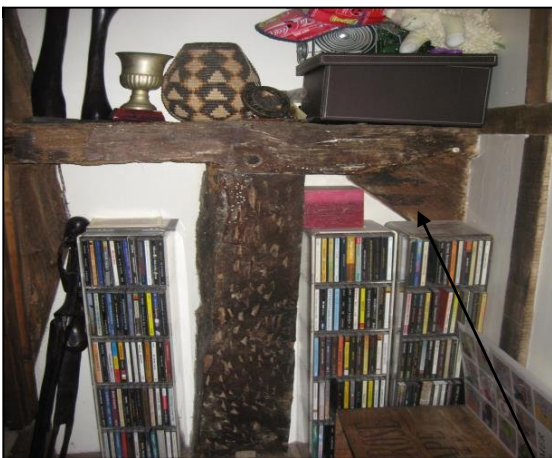
The attic has the same late roof trusses supporting a wide-span shallow pitch as those seen and photographed in 1990 at No. 31. This confirms that this was one house which was split in two and re-organised, probably first by Bradshaw in the mid C18th, but then given a new roof in the mid C19th. This is another example of the trend seen in other parts of Friday Street of creating cottage accommodation out of substantial, earlier timber framed buildings which belonged to the Henley Corporation.



No. 31, the former 2-bay cross wing  
 No. 33, one bay of the former hall  
 Both under a mid-C19<sup>th</sup> slate roof



East wall with tie beam, which retains some smoke blackening.



First floor, west wall. This is the framing of the two-bay cross wing (now No. 31), confirming that it and the hall are contemporary.



Long arch brace seen in two parts on the stair landing and in the rear bathroom.



Ground floor east wall. These large bricks, mainly laid in an irregular Flemish bond, indicate a late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> C date for this wall, which was erected below the sooted tie beam, once the centre of the medieval hall.

Taken from research by Ann Cottingham on Friday Street North

**31 & 33 Friday Street** 31 Miss C F Deniz Owner 33 1989 Miss Sumner

These two houses may be two cottages included in the Barnaby Bridge Rents, Miss Sumner thought that they originally paid Bridge Rents

**St Marys Church Registers**

**Burial Register 1884-1944** 33 Mary Elizabeth Heath (64)

**Street Directories** 31 1922-1911 Alfred Lovegrove, boot maker

**Assembly Books 1746** (see Crocker's notes for Gravetts Cottages)

"The six tenements in Friday St that are now built ..... are leased to Bradshaw, the two adjoining eastwards were built in place of the two old houses and malthouse that was in possession of Widow Simmonds."

**Hughes Lists 188 AD586 2 Sep 1740 Mayor** etc to Wm Brooks of Henley brewer lease for 11 years of 2 messuages on the north side of Friday St

**158 & 180 AD597 & 598 6 April 1744**

Granted to Benj Bradshaw of Henley carpenter lease for 11 yrs of 2 messuages in Friday Street  
**135 AD572 20 Sep 1731** Granted to William Symonds of Henley yeoman lease for 11 yrs of 2 messuages on north side of Friday St

**84 AD562 24 January 1719**

The Warden etc granted to Wm Symonds of Henley, maltster lease for 11 yrs of 2 messuages on north side of Friday St

**Corporation Records - Ledger transcribed by S J Holton** Town Hall Documents 4/11/12

**8 January 1719** Lease of Mr William Symonds for 11 years to be renewed at same rent & same covenants etc & a treat of a barrell of the best brew at the sealing thereof.

**1585 Will of William Barnaby left** a tenement in Friday Street between John Lewis on east and William Gravett on west. (*probably on site of Nos 31 & 33*) *John Lewis in 1604 is placed to the west of Queen Anne Cottage & the Tannery at what is now 35. William Gravett may have lived at the most easterly of the 3 houses known as Gravetts Gift*