

Queens Head, 31 High St, Pinner, HA5 5PJ. Recording and analysis of the Public House. Surveyed 11 04 2017.



2015 Google earth. Location of the Queens Head, Pinner.



2015 Google earth. Detail of the site showing the building under study.

Location

Queens Head, 31 High St, Pinner, HA5 5PJ. The building is on the north side of the road. NGR: TQ1226489633.

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Listing



© Mr Julian Marsh

IoE Number: 202095

Location: THE QUEEN'S HEAD, 31 HIGH STREET (north side) PINNER, HARROW, GREATER

LONDON. Photographer: Mr Julian Marsh . Date Photographed: 10 August 1999

Date listed: 09 July 1968. Date of last amendment: 09 July 1968. Grade II

HIGH STREET

1.5016 (north side) PinnerNo 31(The Queens Head) TQ 1289 NW 12/8 9.7.68 II GV2. Modern facade retaining the old roof. Interior has C16 staircase and panelling. (RCHM). Listing NGR: TQ1226489633.

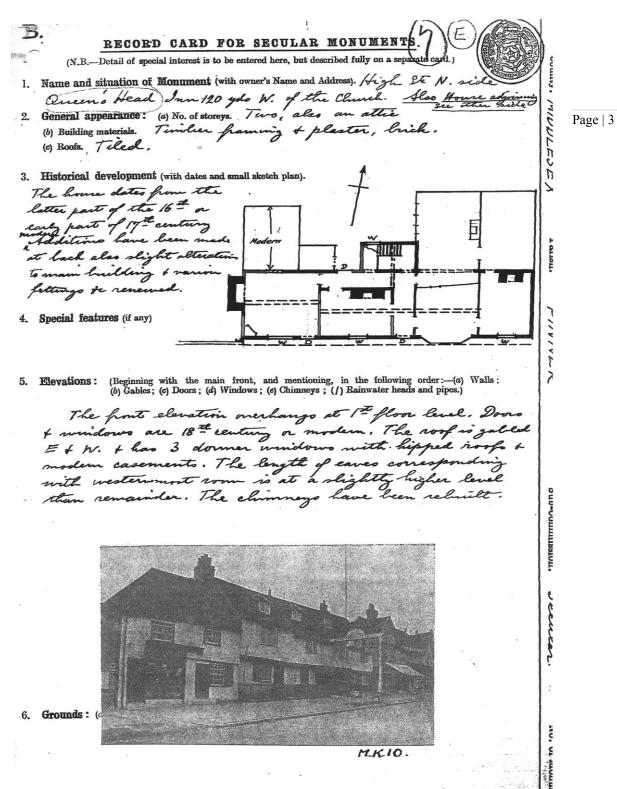
RCHME Description

- (6) House with shops on the N. side of High Street, 100 yards W. of the church.
- (7) Queen's Head Inn, adjoining (6) on the W., has been added to at the back. The upper storey projects on the S. front. Inside the building one room is lined with original panelling and the staircase has flat, wavy balusters, also original.

'Pinner', in An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Middlesex (London, 1937), pp. 101-104. British History Online http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/middx/pp101-104 [accessed 18 April 2017].

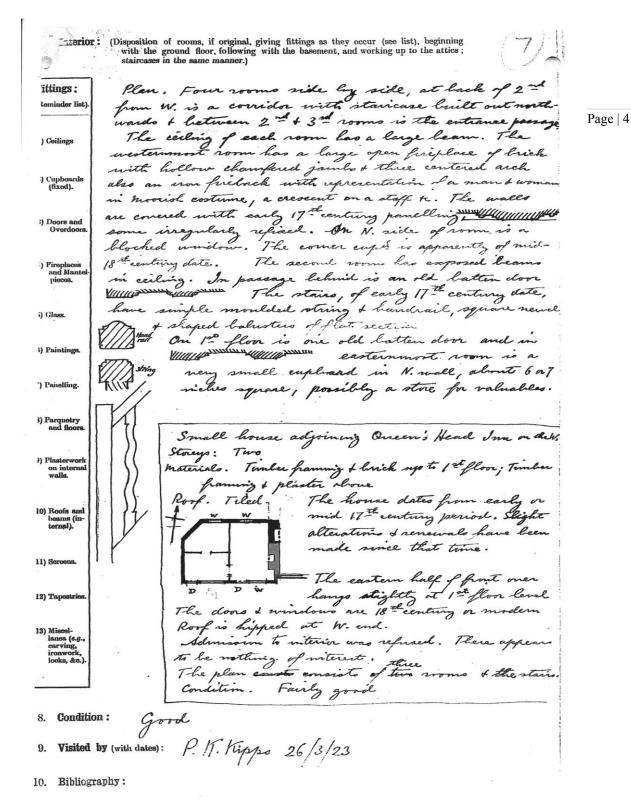
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RCHME Record Card Page 1 of 2





RCHME Record Card Page 2 of 2



Scope of this Report

This report describes and analyses the fabric of the Queens Head, Pinner with a view to mitigating changes to the upper rooms which were inserted in the MC20th.

The report adheres to Historic England Level 3 as outlined in Historic England. Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice. 2016. Page 22. Page | 5



Description – External



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The southern elevation of the Queens Head.



The oblique view shows the long wall jetty construction.

Southern Elevation

The southern elevation retains a 'modern facade' as recorded in the very brief Listing description and it can be seen that all the studwork and the bressummer is made of machined timbers. The fenestration is of 1930's style leaded lights retaining a LC19th canted bay. The porches and bay window are C20th additions not shown on old photographs. Long walled jetty buildings were very popular in the C16th reaching their peak in the 1550's.





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Detail of the jetty. The joists are original but have undergone rebuilding.



Detail of the canted bay window.

The joists forming the jetty are original and carry through the building. They are however of two different forms. The bays at either end have flat, heavy and waney joists while the middle section is of much more regular and square section joists. This may suggest a carriage arch was filled in or there was a serious event that damaged the middle of the building requiring repairs in the LC17/EC18th. For many years a date of 1705 was on the front of the building as this may signify a comprehensive refurbishment at that time.





The northern elevation from the car park.



The northern elevation of the main house and the western elevation of the rear range.

Northern and Western Elevations

The Northern Elevation is screened by a number of incremental modern extensions which partially overlap with the building to the west. The rear of the original frame has been extended with a narrow tower that contains the staircase and the rear entrance lobby. The roof steps out over the frame of the westernmost bedroom. Adjacent to the west is a two storey rear extension to the neighbouring house made of London Stock bricks and has a chimney with two flues. To the east is an independently built brick two storey rear range under a grey slate roof which does not meet the earlier plain clay tile roof.





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The upper storey of the rear stair tower and the C20th boarding of the WC.



Looking out of the stair tower window.

The stair tower has a LC19th or EC20th casement window with two lights and C20th furniture. This window has been indentified for replacement with a door. The frames are quite finely detailed but are machined components. The mullion is quite heavy and put in with security in mind given the MC20th iron rods fixed in place.





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MC19th horned sash windows in the Brick Range.



The entrance door and ground floor windows.

The Brick Range has large pane 2/2 horned sash windows under segmental brick arches. The northern elevation has a large 2/2 horned sash window with 1/1 side sashes. One side has been removed to install a louvre to ventilate the Kitchen in the room. Close examination shows many of the panes have MC19th milled glass typified by rows of long bubbles in the glass. The painted bricks are 65x110x225mm, the standard Victorian size.



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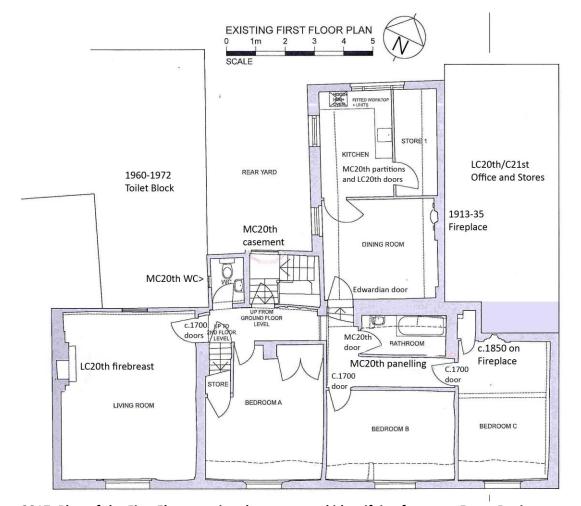
2016. The parallel range from the Queens Head website.



Detial of the boarded roof and skylight.

There is a parallel single storey machined timber range with milled steel roof lights which could not be photographed as it was obscured by umbrellas and fencing. This contains the offices and stores. It is built of London Stock bricks with a red rubbed and gauged lintel over the doorway which has a LC19th four panel Victorian style door.





2017. Plan of the First Floor naming the rooms and identifying features. Focus Design.



Description – Internal – The Attic Rooms



Looking E in the easternmost attic room.



Looking W in the easternmost Attic Room 1.

The attics have been divided up into four rooms. The easternmost has not been decorated for habitation so was probably used for storage. The C16th clasped side purlin roof structure is clearly visible. The 6-8in wide rafter pairs are laid on the flat. The principal rafters are waisted (reduced in section) above the collars - a feature often seen in C16th jettied buildings. The partitions are inserted and the collars have been removed to form the rooms.





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Detail of the lath and daub partitions.



Detail of the sawn through side purlin. The vertical plate was the collar.

The partitions have side nailed scantling stud work with diagonally applied and nailed together laths finished with heavily strawed daub with a thin lime plaster skim coat. The purlins have been sawn through to insert the four dormers and the collars reused as vertical or raked struts. The work is very poor and is likely EC18th.





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Looking W in Attic Room 2. The collar has been dropped and reused.



Curved windbraces on the northern side of the frame.

Not only have the collars and purlins been cut through but the curved windbraces connecting the purlins to the principal rafters have been removed on the northern side. It can be assumed the dormer frames act as braces to prevent racking. However the ceilings have slumped.





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Looking W in Attic Room 4.



Looking E in Attic Room 4

At the western end is separate room with its own door which is a EC20th replacement with mild steel furniture that has been reversed to hang the door the other way round. The roof structure is similar but has been turned through 90 degrees to form a straight roof from a cross-wing roof. This accounts for the change of levels in the rooms. The single dormer is formed in the same way by cutting through the purlin. This higher status room may have been for the house keeper while the dormitory style rooms were for the maids or children.





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Looking down the steep attic stairs.



The door to the Attic Stairs.



Extension pieces nailed to the door.

The Attic stairs are very steep. At the bottom is a C17th or EC18th style vertically boarded, pit sawn, three plank door with nailed and clenched hand finished ledgers. There is an early Suffolk latch and a staple for an iron bar. The door is hung on hand wrought iron pintle hinges and has been altered long ago to fit the frame by nailing extension pieces to the top.





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The Living Room looking NW.



The Living Room looking W.

Living Room

Some elements of the timber frame are on display in the Living Room. Of interest is the 1970's style brick chimney piece made of reused bricks bonded with grey cement. It is proposed to remove the brickwork which should reveal the original red brick structure seen in the fireplace in the room below.





The door to the Living Room has been boarded over. The WC door is to the RHS





Hand wrought pintle hinge.

LC19/EC20th pressed steel lock box and catch plate.

The door in to the Living Room has been boarded over on both sides, presumably for sound insulation. It is hung on hand wrought pintles nailed to the boards. There is a late Victorian/Edwardian pressed steel lock box with brass knob. It is likely the door is of the same period as the Attic door.

Adjacent is the door into the small WC. This is a 1950's copy of a Victorian four panel door style door. This type of plain door, lacking mouldings was commonly installed in new builds in the 1950's. It has an anodised knob which is clearly a replacement for an older type.





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Looking S into Bedroom A.



Looking NE in Bedroom A.

Bedroom A

Bedroom A exhibits the top plate and the cambered tie-beam of the timber-frame. Two studs framing the window and the storey posts are also visible. Of interest is the two panel Georgian door which is the only one in the building. Prior to about 1800 these were for the servant's rooms and closets and used to denote the hierarchy of the rooms. For a brief period of about 30 years the hierarchy was altered such that two panel doors became used for the occupants. This fashion faded in favour of four panel Victorian style doors.





Looking E along the landing. Note the arched doorway and interrupted studwork in the wall.



The Bathroom at the end of the Landing. Looking E.

Bathroom

The Bathroom has been inserted in the MC20th and the walls are made of various reclaimed panels and a reused casement window laid on its side. The door is another 1950's cheap Victorian style four panel matching that in the WC. These low cost inserted rooms were commonly installed during WW2 to increase accommodation and then the type of construction continued into the 1950's when materials were scarce and expensive.





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The panelled wall forming the Bathroom. The door leads to Bedroom C.



Detail of the reused casement window used to borrow light for the corridor.

Beneath the casement window is a reused panelled door which is too low for comfortable use and is fixed shut. The panelling has no special features, joints or mouldings and is probably deal and plywood.





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The entrance door, closet door and C19th fireplace. Looking W.





The timber fire surround and detail of the register grate.

Bedroom C

Bedroom B contains no special features. Bedroom C has handsome C19th timber fire surround with mantel shelf and a cast iron hooded register grate decorated with a shell motif. The register plate is decorated like a Bronze Age mirror. This design was common from the 1850's onwards.





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The tie-beam in the eastern wall.



Detail of the jowled corner post.

The tie-beam can be seen in the end wall and the details of the junction with the top-plate and the corner post show a heavy jowl with a single peg for the teasel tenon. The single peg in the top of the tie-beam corresponds with the truss seen in the end wall of Attic Room 1.





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Looking N from the older frame into the Dining Room of the Brick Range.



The Victorian door into the Dining Room. The hinges have Robertson screws.

Dining Room

The Dining Room is within the Brick Range. The impressive panelled door has applied mouldings and pressed steel box lock. The hinges have been secured with Robertson screws which is highly unusual. Robertson screws were not invented until 1907 and became popular with furniture makers. The other screws are slot-headed. It is likely the door has been rehung. The pressed steel lock is Edwardian in design.





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The room has higher ceilings and a fireplace in the corner.



Detail of the Edwardian fireplace.

The ceiling of the Dining Room has been taken up into the rafters to increase the height. Stuck unnaturally in the corner is an Edwardian styled cast iron register grate with machined rilling and a guilloched sunflower design. The simple timber surround has a small mantel shelf and applied sunflower motifs being the symbol of the Arts and Crafts movement.





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Looking N in the Upstairs Kitchen.

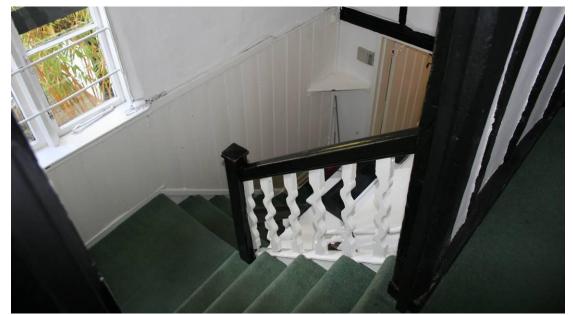


Looking N in the larder. Note the interrupted window frame.

Upstairs Kitchen

The Upstairs Kitchen reveals no historic features other than the windows. The two doors are LC20th hollow core poor quality items. The large sash window in the north wall has been divided by the insertion of the larder wall and it seems highly likely the Kitchen and larder were inserted in the MC20th when these odd insertions were common and the floor was originally one large function room.





Looking down the staircase.



Detail of the splat balusters.

The Staircase

The Listing mentions a C16th staircase and the 1923 RCHME records a C17th staircase but this is no longer in the building. The rear staircase has wavy splat balusters of a C17th design but they are too thick and machine cut. The plain newel posts and banister rail are not authentic. The scantling frame of the stair tower is visible and would concur with a C17th date but it appears highly rebuilt to insert the upstairs WC and the whole staircase has been moved since the RCHME 1923plan was made.





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The wall has been brought out to accommodate the bar backfitting.



The bar back fitting extends out under the original frame.

The wall has been moved out into the stair-tower to accommodate the bar back fitting and it can be imaged the earlier staircase was removed sometime after 1968 (if the earlier staircase was correctly identified).





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Looking W along the bar counter.



The rear of the bar counter.

Bar Counter and Backfitting

The Bar Counter and Backfitting is typical of the LC20th and most likely of the 1970's. Made of cheap plywood carcases and veneered it is screwed together with slot headed screws. Frequent alterations have been made to accommodate new pipes and equipment and variety of cheap chip or fibre boards used to create shelves and divisions.





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Looking S in the West Bar.



The framing over the West Bar.

Bar Areas

The Bars can be divided up by the design of the frames each bay as defined by the transverse wall plates. Bay 1 has a chamfered and cyma stopped heavy axial joist with regular, straight, chamfered and cyma stopped 6in wide common joists. The decoration of the timbers represents the more prestigious end of the building. The dividing walls have been removed and the empty mortices plated over with timber slips.





The framing over Bay 2.

Bay 2 has a heavy plain axial main joist with 6-8in wide, flat waney plain joists most typical of C15th and C16th service rooms. The framing over Bay 2 is the same design as over Bay 4.



The framing over Bay 3.

The framing over Bay 3 is marked different. The main joist has redundant mortices from spandrels and is definitely reused. The pitsawn common joists are square in section and only 4in across and the mortices are oversized. It would appear this section of the frame has been rebuilt in the LC16th/EC17th.





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Looking SE in Bay 4



Detail of the waney flat joists in the Bay 4.

The waney joists are most noticeably in Bay 4. All the joist were examined for carpenter's assembly marks but none were found. With the exception of Bay 3 all the visible timbers are axe finished and it is most likely they are oak. No gaps in the paintwork could be found to confirm this however.





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LC20th reconstruction of a hob grate fireplace.



C18th fireplace with LC20th inserted brickwork.

There are two fireplaces in the Bar Areas. That in Bay 4 is a LC20th interpretation of a hob grate fireplace set into a Victorian corner flue. The fireplace in the westernmost wall has convincing moulded segmental Georgian arched bressummer but is pointed in grey cement. The brick cheeks are C20th but are likely to be from the 1930's to 1950's when brick fireplaces became popular and could be bought from catalogues.





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Wall panelling in Bay 1 looking N.



Wall panelling in Bay 1 looking E.

The brief Listing mentions C16th wall panelling and there is some authentic panelling on the walls in Bay 1. However it has all been repositioned as part of the LC20th remodelling of the Bar Areas.





Looking N into the WC block.



The lobby looking E.



Sample interiors of the WC's.





1960's photo of the annual wheelbarrow race. Edwardian photograph of a bear at the pub.



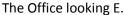
Toilet Block

The Toilet Block is entered from Bay 1 of the Bar Area and can be accessed from the rear of the building. All visible fixtures and fittings are LC20th. The sanitary ware is all very recent.

Of interest are the many photographs that relate to an annual wheel barrow race held from the pub. Another photograph show Charles Dawson Billows bear which he kept outside the pub for about a year. The accompanying text claims this was after his return from the Boer War 1899-1902. However he does not appear in the records at the pub until the 1911 census and again in 1914 in the Post Office Directory. By 1926 Mrs MB Billows was running the pub.









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Office corridor looking N.



Details of the roof structure over the Offices.





Bottle store.



The back door to the garden.

Offices in the Conservatory.

Running parallel to the Brick Range is a narrow building with a long cast metal roof light like a conservatory. The soffits are boarded with diagonally placed tongue and grooved painted boards. The partitions are all lightweight studwork clad with plasterboards. The rear door is a MC20th copy of a Victorian four panel door with a pressed steel lock box with white plastic knobs.

Google earth does not show this conservatory until 2013. Prior to that the area appears consumed by trees.





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Looking NW in the Kitchen.



Looking SE in the Kitchen.

Kitchen

The Kitchen is equipped to C21st standards and no historic fabric is visible at all.





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C20th brick steps down to the Cellar.



C19th lock boxes on the Cellar door.

Cellar

The Cellar is reputed to date to 1207. However the interior is insulated with C21st thermal boards and none of the original walls are visible. The brickwork is either C19th forming the barrel drop or C20th forming the retreaded stairs. The Cellar door has C19th box locks and T-strap hinges fixed with slot headed screws.





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Looking S in the Cellar from the stairs.



Looking E in the Cellar.

As is to be expected the Cellar is full of recently installed equipment for supplying the pumps above.





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Scuffed brickwork in the barrel drop.



Main floor joist across the building.

The main joist over the Cellar is evidently old and has chamfers softened by time. A rebate in the centre shows where an earlier prop was used to arrest the sag of the floor. Scuffed bricks are visible in the barrel drop and these appear to be C19th.



Historic Photography and Images



c.1900. Old Queens Head, Pinner.



Post Card of Queens Head, Pinner with the 1705 date on the building. Undated.

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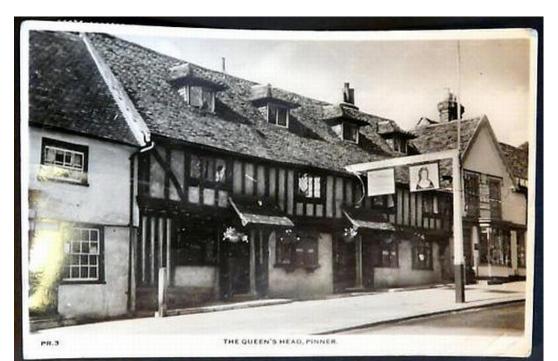


1920's. High Street, Pinner with the Queens Head on the left hand side.



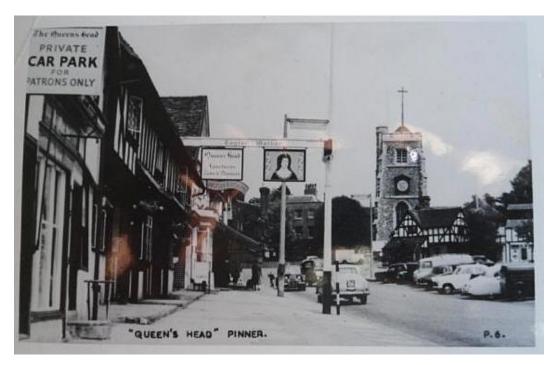
1923 RCHME Record Car photograph.





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MC20th. Queens Head, Pinner



1960's. Queens Head, Pinner



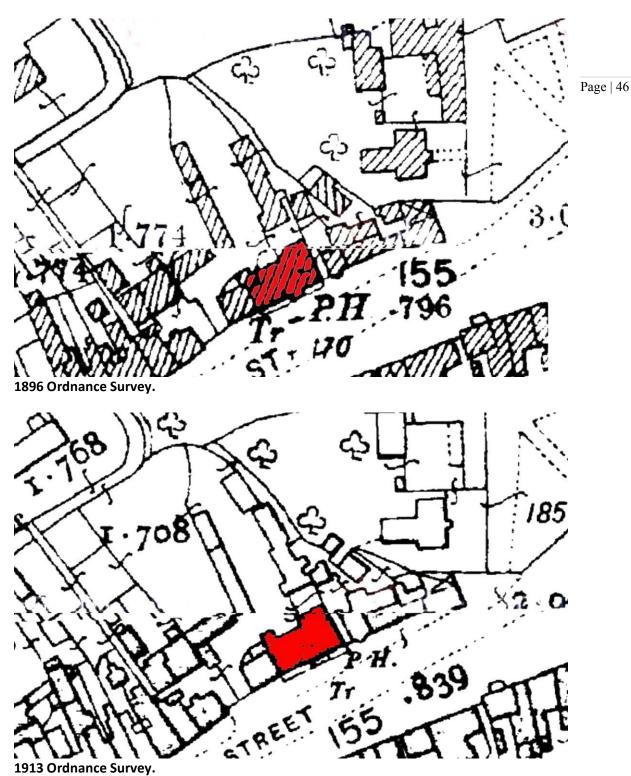


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1970's. Queens Head, Pinner



Topographical Survey from Maps

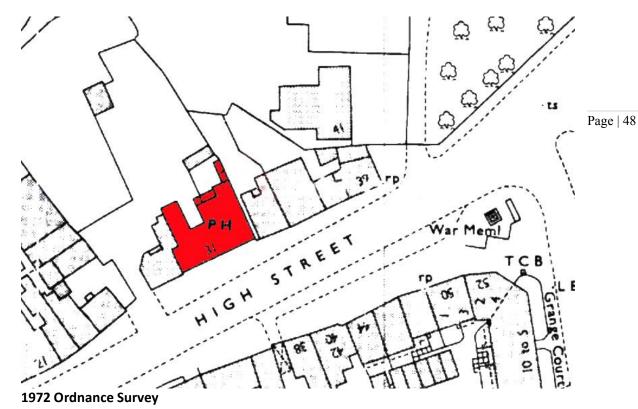


The first three editions of the Ordnance Survey maps have the building divided between two sheets. The meeting has not been exact and some detail is lost. The Brick Range is not shown on the first three maps.











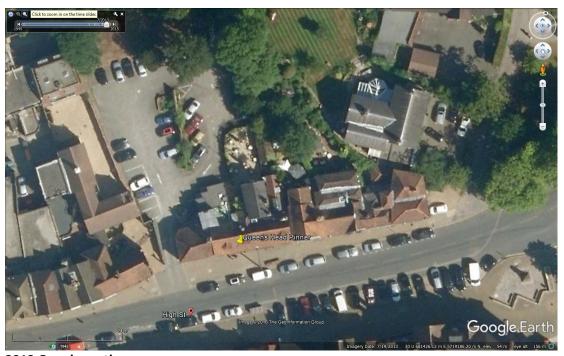
2006 Google earth.





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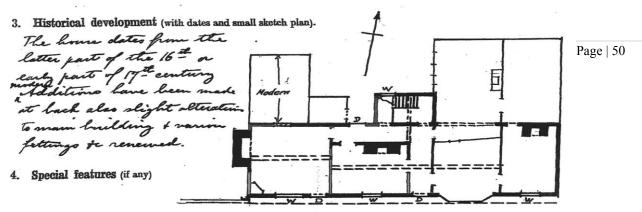
2010 Google earth.



2013 Google earth.

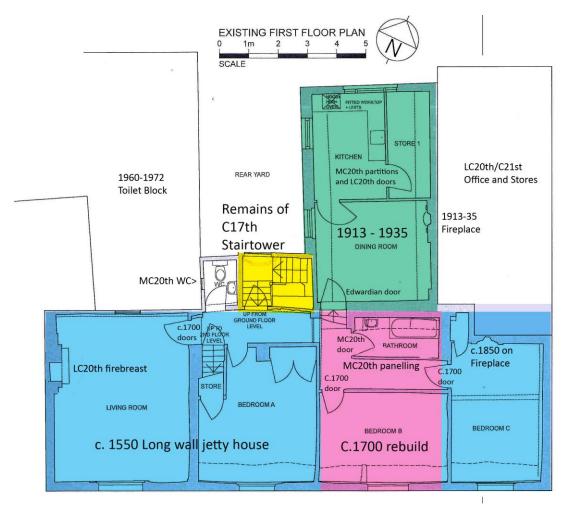


Historical Plans



1923 RCHME Record Card Plan.

Phasing and Discussion



2017. General phase plan using the existing first floor plan



Original build.

The pub claims a date of 1204 for the Cellar. As there is no historic fabric on view this report cannot confirm or refute the claim.

Phase 1. C16th. C. 1550. The long walled jetty house.

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The Queens Head has a four bay timber-frame forming a long walled jetty house. Two of the bays (2 and 4 reading W to E) have flat waney 6-8in wide, axe finished common joists that denote service rooms of an early design in the C16th. Bay 1 has chamfered and cyma stopped joists denoting a reception room of higher status set in a cross-wing with its own frame. Bay 3 has had the main and axial joists replaced; most likely c.1700 and this may indicate there was a carriage way through the building or that there was some calamity that required an extensive repair.

Because the facade is a C20th representation of the original frame, of which only the principal timbers in the walls are now visible it is difficult to determine the form of the frame i.e close studded, normal or box framing. The internal partitions have been removed but the visible mortices indicate normally spaced studwork.

Original to this period is the visible floor frame including the jetty in Bays 1, 2 and 4 and the clasped side purlin roof that has been hacked about in the attic rooms. The roof in Attic Room 4 has the same form with curved windbraces but it has been turned through 90 degrees to create a straight roof from a cross-wing roof. Long wall jetty houses become popular in the EC16th reaching a height in the 1550's when the clasped side purlin roof allowed easy installation of large brick firestacks. These are often placed between bays to heat four rooms at once. The Queens Head has only small fireplaces which do not correspond with this era but the firestack in the easternmost corner is very large.

Bay 1 retains some genuine C16th/C17th panelling but it has all been repositioned – i.e cut down to fit and its origin is undetermined.

The RCHME record postulates a date for the house in the later C16th century or early C17th. However the description betrays that the frame was not exposed in any of the rooms except for the main joists. The stairs are described as C17th but it is clear from the RCHME plan that the present stairs are not in the same position as those of 1923. The careful drawing showing the splat balusters does not coalesce with those presently in place which are of the wrong shape, too thick and apparently band or jig-sawn. Twisted and splat balusters are C17th and C18th and reference is made to Linda Hall's book - Period House Fixture and Fittings 1300-1900 page 117.

There has been some speculation (Patricia Clarke, 2010) that the building was built as a 'floored' Wealden House but the details of the frame do not support this. One would expect more ornate framing in the upper walls (indicated by peg holes) and a radically rebuilt floor frame to achieve the long wall jetty that now exists. Bay 3 has an entirely new floor but it is made of reused timbers and square section common joists consistent with a rebuild in 1705 – the date proudly shown the front of the building for many years. Wealden Houses are most common in the C15th but there are also some dating from the C16th. Harris R. 1978. They are considered as Yeoman's houses – a relic of the feudal system.



Phase 2. C.1700. The Attic Rooms and doors. Replacement floor.

The Attic Rooms have been installed by rather brutally cutting through the side purlin to install four dormers. The quality of the work is poor and unusual configurations of reused collars have been used to stiffen the frame. The doors to the Attic Rooms and those on the first floor are atypical of this period. It is evident they are old, having hand wrought furniture, many keyholes and signs of reuse by being extended. It stands to reason that the Attic stairs were also installed at this time.

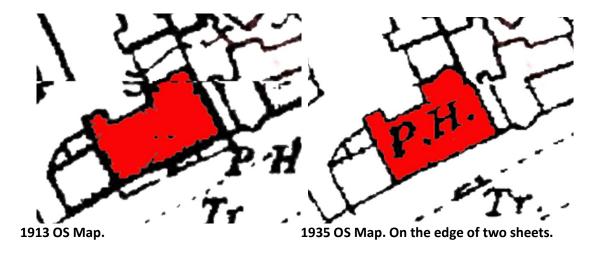
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On the ground floor the ceiling joists in Bay 3 have been replaced with near square 4in pitsawn joists set in a reused main axial joist. It is speculated that the building originally had a carriage arch, a very common feature for an inn, which was infilled to improve the accommodation.

For many years the pub had the date of 1705 on the front and this date would be correct for a major refurbishment. The pub was known as the Crown until 1715 when the name was changed supposedly to commemorate the passing of Queen Anne.

Phase 3. C.1800. Lath and plastered walls in the Attics Rooms.

The walls and ceilings in the Attic Rooms have been lath and daubed and the fabric and design of the diagonally placed laths that are nailed together is one emerging at the end of the C18th-c.1800. The easternmost room has not been used for habitation as it is not lath and rendered and may have been a store room.



Phase 4. Brick Range. 1913 - 1935

The Brick Range has Victorian and Edwardian features so dates to the Edwardian era. The door and window openings are under plain segmental arched lintels but the sash windows have very large panes. The internal door into the Dining Room and the fireplace which is machined with Arts and Crafts motifs are more typically Edwardian. The door has been hung (or rehung) with Robertson screws which were not invented until 1907 and even after were not commonly unavailable. Originally designed for car production they were mostly used by furniture makers.



The historic mapping indicates that a wider rear range was removed and the Brick Range was built after 1913. The style and fabric of the building would indicate the building was put up shortly afterwards.

Phase 5. MC20th bathrooms.

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Both the upstairs WC and the bathroom were added in the MC20th. The staircase shown by the RCHME 1923 plan would have been moved across to make the required space. It is very common in pubs to find toilets added upstairs in the 1930's but it is more likely the panelled bathroom was put in during WW2 or slightly afterwards. This kind of construction is often seen in buildings that required more billets for servicemen.

Phase 6. C20th additions and internal alterations.

In the 1970's to the 1990's it was common for older public houses to convert to the trend for sport bars by removing the internal partitions thus doing away with the social divide of the salon, public and snug bars. Inside the mortices of the original partitions between the bays can be seen hidden by modern timber plates and the floors are supported by boxed in RSJ's, (Rolled Steel Joists).

The two fireplaces in the Bar Areas are LC20th fanciful recreations although the Georgian segmental arch in the larger fireplace in Bay 1 would be convincing if it was not pointed with grey cement. The London Stock brick firebreast in the Living Room above is also of this era.

To the rear of the building a large toilet block has been added between 1960 and 1972 and decorated to modern tastes with recent sanitary ware. The conservatory containing the Offices and Stores is also LC20th and the skylight does not appear on Google earth until at least 2010.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the owner Sean White for engaging me to record the building and to Sophie Matthews of Walsingham Planning for recommending me. The architect's plans were provided by Focus Design of Winchester.

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