

Report and Documentary History for
**Wapping, 66 High Street, Long Crendon,
Buckinghamshire**

Site Code: LON-J

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

Nat Alcock and Dan Miles



Fig. 1. Wapping from the north.

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Oxbow Books

LON-J: WAPPING, 66 HIGH STREET, LONG CRENDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Grid reference: SP 6976 0890

Survey Date: 1989

By: D. Miles & C Murray

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Documentary history by Nat Alcock and Eric Sewell, building on the work of John Chenevix Trench†.

Reference: Joyce Donald, *A History of Long Crendon*, Long Crendon (1971).

For court roll and documentary source references, see the primary bibliography of primary sources:

Abbreviations:

CBS	Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies
Rousham	Rousham (Cottrell-Dormer) archive; T-numbers refer to Long Crendon deeds.
TNA	The National Archives

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1: Wapping incorporates a two-bay cruck framed building. The whole of the house is thatched. Truss 3 is weathered on its southern end and half-hipped; truss 2 has a truncated apex (type 'W'). There is no indication of any extension to the north beyond bay I, and it is likely that the original house was no larger. It would appear that both bays were floored over from the beginning, although there is no evidence for an original smoke hood or bay, and the present floors may be replacements. No tree-ring date could be obtained, but on stylistic grounds the house probably dates to the sixteenth century. There are considerable constructional similarities between Wapping and Dragon Farm, Long Crendon (LON-F, 1551-9). A date shortly before 1536 is indicated by the documentary evidence.

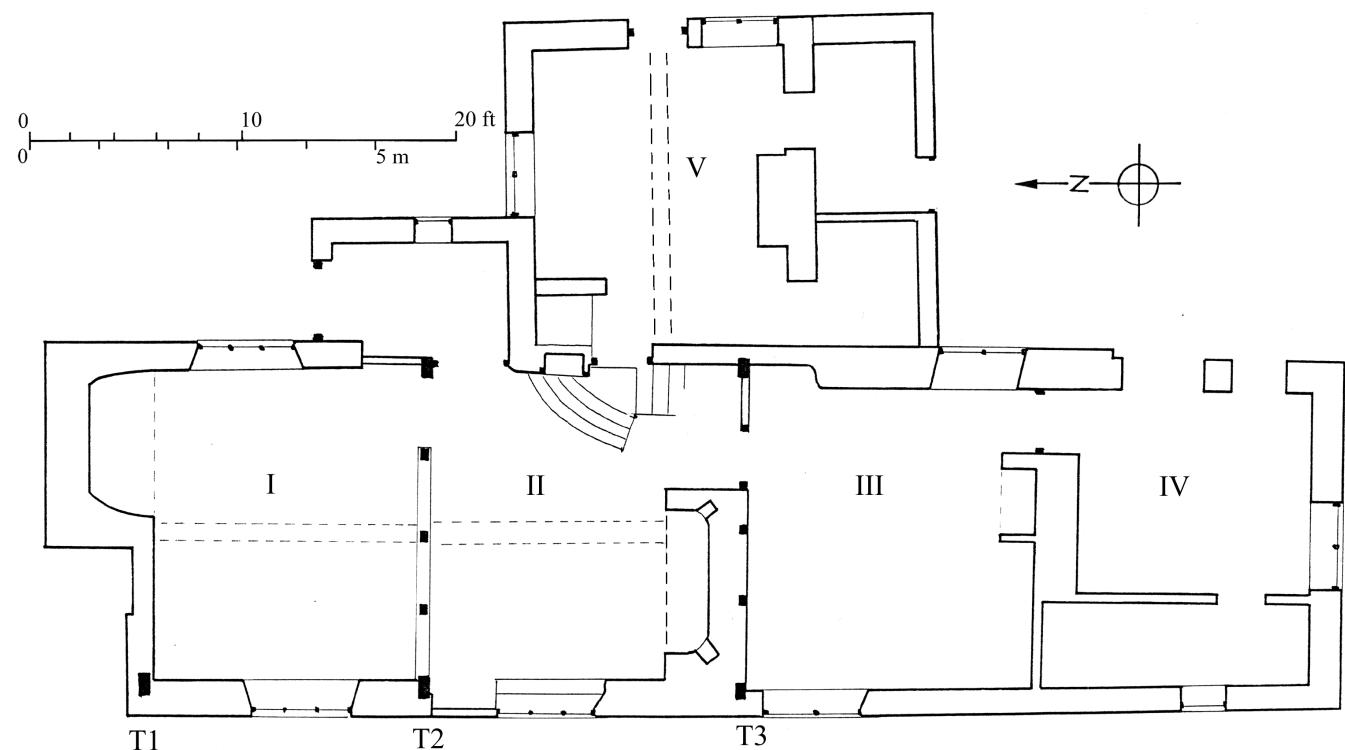


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering.

PHASE 2. BAYS III & IV: Possibly during the early seventeenth century, the house was extended by two bays to the south. At this time the fireplace adjacent to truss T3 may have been added, followed shortly afterwards by the fireplace at the northern end outside truss T1.

PHASE 3. BAY V: This brick-built wing clearly must have been built after phase 2 as it abuts both bays II and III. The use of very thin bricks, however, indicates an early date, although this method of dating is not altogether conclusive. It would appear to have been unheated as the chimney stack is much later.

LATER PHASES: These include the probable rebuilding of the roof to bays III and IV as well as the brick chimney stack to bay V (early nineteenth century). Also dating from this period are a lean-to extension south of bay V, built of rubble stone and brick with a tiled roof and boarded loft door. It is possible that this area was non-domestic.

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

PHASE 1: Truss T2 has cruck blades which are slightly curved and terminate immediately above the collar (type 'W' apex). The boxed heart blades are 6 in thick. The three horizontal members are: a collar, a tiebeam, and a lower tie beam supporting the first floor axial beams. The collar has a very pronounced crank and projects beyond the blades to carry the purlins. There is evidence for three studs between the main and lower tiebeam, and below the lower tiebeam are three similar studs, some of which may be replacements. A doorway to the east of the third stud appears to be original; it has a small mortice next to

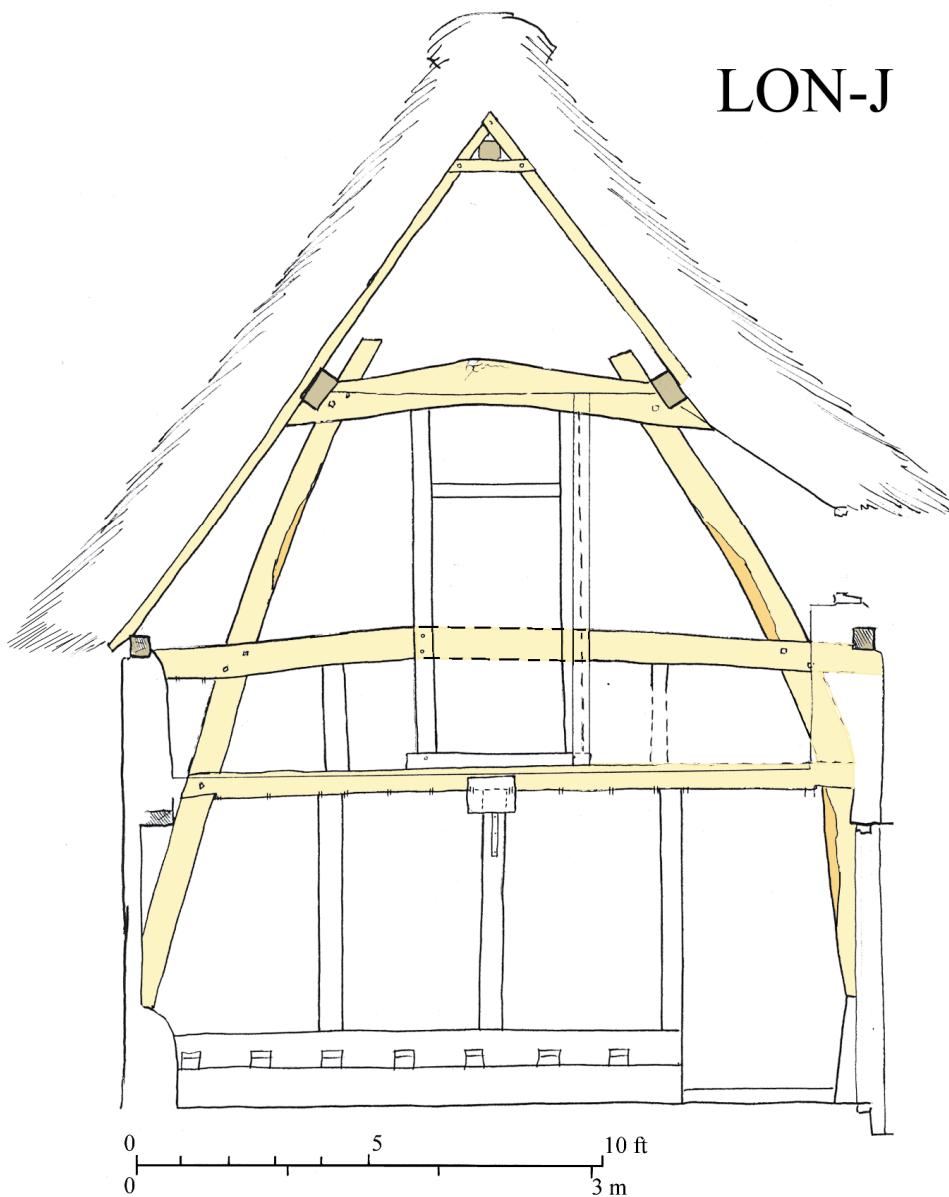


Fig. 3. Section of Truss T2.

the cruck blade possibly for a door post, and a single stave hole next to the third stud which may have been drilled in error. The present sill beam under the truss is a later insertion, the mortices indicating that it was a former floor beam. The studs and struts are not pegged to the horizontal members.

Truss T1 is only visible above the tiebeam but otherwise appears to be identical to T2. Truss T3 is half-hipped (type 'V' apex). The south face is weathered showing that this must have been the end of the original building. This truss is partly obscured by the inserted chimney stack and by the later rear walling. However, most of both blades are visible, as are the original sill beam, two ground floor studs, the tiebeam, and part of the collar. A lower tiebeam may also exist. The sill beam rests on a rubble stone plinth.

The purlins are scarfed immediately to the south of truss T2, and were strengthened by windbraces, two of which are still in place at truss T1. A peg at the back of truss T2 is also likely to be for a windbrace. The ridge is carried on small yokes that are positioned independently of the trusses, allowing for a half hip to truss 3. All the rafters, including the hip rafters, appear to be original and, as with the other main roof timbers, show no trace of smoke-blackening.

Both front and rear walls retain original wall plates. A timber visible at truss T3 may be the end of the rear sill beam. The position of the original entry is not clear, but doorways existed in the rear wall of bay I adjacent to truss 2, and in the front wall of bay II adjacent to the same truss.

LATER PHASES: Features dating from the seventeenth century include the external chimney at truss T1. It is of rubble stone and has a heavy timber lintel over the ground floor fireplace with a 2in chamfer, stepped stops and scribe marks. The inner reveals have been rebuilt. In bay I the floor is carried by a rough 9in axial beam, with a 2in chamfer. The axial beam in bay II is of better quality with a 2½in chamfer with ogee stops. It is supported at truss T3 by the fireplace, and at truss T2 by an iron bracket attached the altered centre stud.

Somewhat later, a chimney stack was inserted in bay II, against truss T3. It is built of bricks 2-2¼in thick by 9-9½in long. The ground floor fireplace has chamfered brick jambs and curved inner reveals with small pointed niches. The timber lintel has a 1in run-out chamfer and supports a short post carrying the end of the axial beam. High in the wall to the right of the fireplace is a small cupboard with an eighteenth-early nineteenth century moulded surround and panelled door.

The present structure of bays III and IV is much modified, with evidence concealed or obliterated. The siting of bay V indicates that these bays pre-date it. The rear door in bay III has angled reveals to avoiding the nineteenth century lean-to on the side of bay V. Apart from this, none of the openings show details earlier than the nineteenth century and they have twentieth century surrounds. The chimney between bays III and IV is later nineteenth century, with ground floor fireplaces, that to bay IV concealed behind modern kitchen fittings. The upper floors appear to be late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The roof structure is of eighteenth to early nineteenth century with tiebeam and collar with studs between them. The tiebeam is unbraced. Truss 4 has assembly marks facing bay III.

At bay V the ground level drops, so this wing has a basement, built of rubble stone. The upper storey and attic gable are rather finely built of chequered brickwork with vitrified headers incorporating a three-brick band course in the gable end. The bricks are somewhat of an enigma – despite their 18th century patterning, they are very small, measuring 1¾-2 x 8¾ x 4½in. The purlins rest on top of the purlins of the cruck range and have intermediate support from later queen struts with an interrupted collar. The extension appears to have been originally unheated as the present chimney is 19th century. This is surprising given the general quality of the building. Entry was via bay II. The basement doorway in the gable end has a later brick surround.

All of the windows have wooden casements. The rear windows of bay I have 18th century wooden mullions. The glazing bars here and in the front windows of bays I and II are mid-18th century with narrow ovolo mouldings. Bay V has 20th century casement windows, the side window in an 18th century opening with a cambered brick arch. The upper floor and attic rooms are in original openings but have altered casements. The first-floor door between bays I and II has clearly been inserted. It is early 18th century with two panels to one side and three wide boards to the other.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY

For dendrochronology abbreviations see page facing Introduction.

Sampling Comments: Eight samples were obtained through coring by Robert Howard on 14 February 1989. Of these, only three were considered worth measuring, two other being elm and the remainder having too few rings to be worth processing. Two samples, 05 and 07, matched together to form a 55 ring site sequence but this failed to match any of the regional or national reference chronologies.

TREE-RING SAMPLE RECORD AND SUMMARY OF DATING

Sample		Total Rings	Sapwood Rings	FMR Date	LHR Date	LMR Date	Date Cat
Code	Sample Location						
LON-J01	Tiebeam truss T1		Not oak	—	—	—	—
LON-J02	Front cruck blade truss T1	10	NM	—	—	—	—
LON-J03	Tiebeam truss T2		Not oak	—	—	—	—
LON-J04	Rear cruck blade truss T2	63	—	—	—	—	—
LON-J05	Front cruck blade truss T2	55	—	—	—	—	—
LON-J06	Collar truss T2	10	NM	—	—	—	—
LON-J07	Front cruck blade truss T3	33	NM	—	—	—	—
LON-J08	Rear cruck blade truss T3	15	NM	—	—	—	—

Not dated

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Summary

This Windsor manor copyhold can be traced back to 1536 as a messuage and close, and it seems that the house was built shortly before this date. Earlier court entries (as far back as 1423) refer to a toft or close. In 1827, it was owned by Hannah Webb (Fig. 4). It was divided into cottages by 1830 and two further cottages were then built on the site (Fig. 5). It was enfranchised in 1902. Until the mid-19th century, it was frequently occupied by needle-makers.¹ The name Wapping is given both to this house and to the

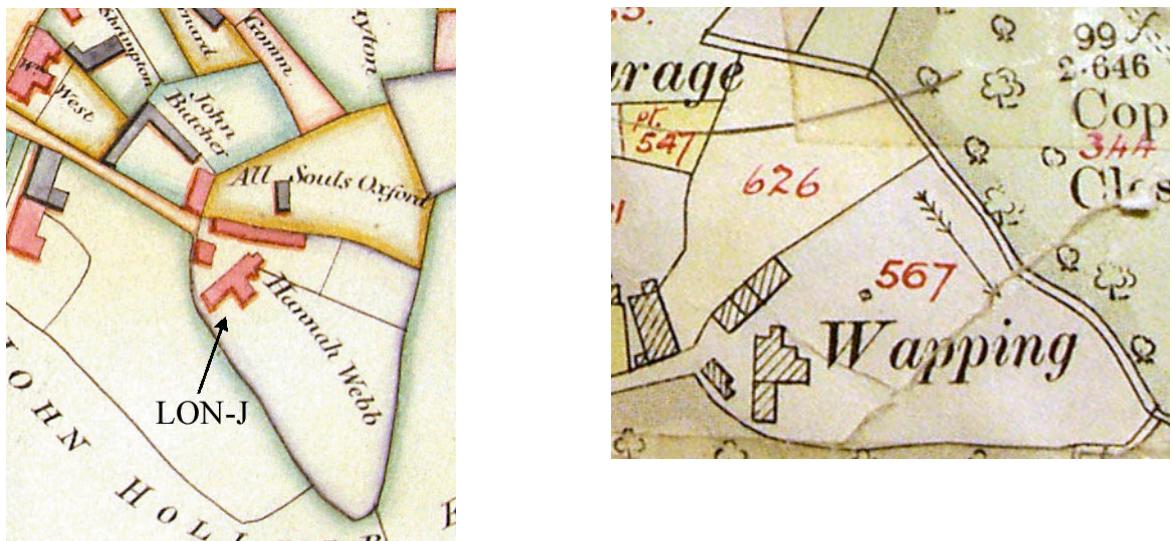


Fig. 4. (left) Part of the 1827 map of Long Crendon (CBS IR/95/Q).
(right) Part of the 1910 Valuation Map (TNA, IR 126/1/345).

¹ In 1841 the occupant was most probably James Shrimpton (d.1848), needle maker. This was probably also the occupation of Edward Shrimpton, the tenant in 1824, who is likely to have been the needle-maker of this name born in 1778, son of Thomas & Sarah Shrimpton.

lane leading to it from High Street, called Butcher's Lane in 1841.² In 1554, it was called Rogers Lane.³

Court roll entries from 1586

From 1586 to 1827, the cottage can be followed in the hands of the West, Emerton and Winter families (below). By 1752, the holding included a malthouse, but in 1822 William Winter inherited 2 High Street and this activity was transferred there (later called Malthouse Yard). The 1827 holder, Hannah Webb, was the widow of William Winter. Despite the large interval between 1598 and 1662 without any change of tenant, the sequence appears to be correct (and is confirmed by the naming of Rogers Close in the 1598 admission, corresponding to the location of Wapping). Drewe (also Drogo, Drue or Drury) West must have been born in about 1585, and lived until January 1662.⁴ After 1827, the holding passed through several hands until it was enfranchised in 1902.

- 1586: Thomas Canon, senior, who held 3 v & a messuage called Rogers, died. Thomas Canon is his eldest son & of full age. Admitted.
Thomas Canon surrendered 1 messuage & appurtenances, to the use of Hugh Weste. Fine 10s.
- 1598: Hugo West died, seized of 1 messuage with appurtenances & 1 close belonging to the messuage, called Rogers Close. Relief 2s. Drugo West son & heir, admitted.
- 1662: Drury WEST died, holding a messuage (W).
- 1673: John WEST, messuage (W), surrendered to use of Ric EMERTON.
- 1705: Ric EMERTON, messuage or cottage (W), surr to use of Joh WINTER.
- 1732: Joh WINTER† senior, messuage (W), surr to Joh WINTER junior.
- 1752: Joh WINTER, messuage, malthouse, close (W), surr to Tho WINTER, brother.
- 1789: Tho WINTER, house & orchard (W), surr to Wm WINTER, son.
- 1803: Late Thos WINTER now Wm Winter, copyhold consists of house of stone, thatched, occ by John W, brother of Wm W, with garden & orchard containing about ¼a. Quit rent 2s (SGC CC 120130)
- 1807: Wm WINTER†, cottage & orchard (W), surr to Tho WINTER adm
- 1817: Tho WINTER†, cottage (W), surr to Wm WINTER, son.
- 1824: Ric & Hannah WEBB, cottage, garden, orchard occ by Edw SHRIMPTON [CBS, D78/11, Abstract of Claims]
- 1827: Hannah WEBB [Enclosure Map]
- 1834: Tho WINTER† had messuage & orchard to which he was adm 1807 as heir of Wm WINTER father, in occ John WINTER & then of Hannah his wife married Ric WEBB since decd now Hannah WEBB & Wm WINTER, son, pray to be adm. Hannah adm & after her decease surr to Wm WINTER.⁵

² After the 18th century owners of the adjoining plot to the north; 1851 Wapping Lane, 1861 Whapping, 1901 Wapping. Donald (1971), suggests an origin for the name 'In the middle of the 19th century it was a needle making stronghold producing vast quantities of sail needles which were sold to ship's chandlers in Rotherhythe, Wapping etc. There was also a needle making district in Redditch of that name.'

³ Rousham, T36 (22 Sep 1554 Wm Dormer to Nicholas Bethin), including 'Close of Robert Whyte called Wardynwyk, between a close called Jacke of Tames (E) and Rogers Lane (W); this close can be identified as that labelled John Butcher on the 1827 map.

⁴ His eldest child, Nicholas, was baptised on the 10th July 1603, and others followed in 1606, 1608, 1610 (John), 1613, 1615 and 1620. Joan, the wife of Drury West, was buried on 27th March 1648, and he was buried in January 1661/2 (will proved 25th Jan 1662, CBS, DAWf 41/232).

⁵ Thomas died young, aged only 32, in 1816. A Hannah Winter married Richard Webb in 1822 at the Old Church, St Pancras. Thereafter they did not live in Long Crendon.

- 1837: Hannah WEBB widow, of Gt Marlow, & Wm WINTER plumber of Gt Marlow, messuage divided into 3 with orchard (W), previously Tho WINTER former husband of Hannah WEBB and father of said Wm Winter since decd, surr to Wm WINTER then in 1834 to Hannah WEBB, formerly occ by Joh WINTER then by Jonas SHRIMPTON then by Joh BRUCE, Andrew SHRIMPTON, Widow BALDWIN & said Tho TOWERSEY, surr for £158 Tho TOWERSEY.
- 1844: Tho TOWERSEY left by will to Mary TOWERSEY, his wife, 5 cottages in Butchers Lane.
- 1846: Surrender by Mary Towersey and admission of James James, followed by conditional surrender by him to Emanuel Shrimpton.
- 1850: Mary TOWERSEY, messuage divided into 3 & orchard (W), previously Joh WINTER since occ by Jonas SHRIMPTON, Wm BALDWIN, Tho TOWERSEY also 2 cottages erected by Tho TOWERSEY all of which lately occ by Joh BRUCE, Jonas SHRIMPTON, Wm EDWARDS, Jos SHRIMPTON & Jas LOVELL and now or late occ by Hen & Jas BUCKLE, Wm HUTCHINS, Hen BAMPTON, Hen CALDWELL & Jas BONNER, surr to Jas JAMES of Aylesbury. Rent 2s.
- 1860: Jas JAMES, messuage for some time divided into 3, orchard now used as garden, heretofor of Joh WINTER then Jonas SHRIMPTON, Wm BALDWIN & Tho TOWERSEY. Also 2 cottages erected by Tho TOWERSEY [Windsor Survey]
- 1874: Jas JAMES formerly occ by Joh WINTER then Jonas SHRIMPTON, Wm BALDWIN & Tho TOWERSEY also 4 cottages lately occ by Hen BUCKLE, Jas BUCKLE, Wm HUTCHINS, Hen BAMPTON, Hen CALDWELL & Jas BONNER, surr to Walter Briaris CROOK.
- 1875: House divided into 3 & orchard also 2 cottages erected on site. Previously Hannah WEBB, Tho TOWERSEY 1839, Mary TOWERSEY 1845, Jas JAMES 1850, Walter Briaris CROOK 1875 [Windsor copyholds list]
- 1876: Owner Walter Briaris CROOK, cottages occupied by Widow HARRIS, Wm HARBOUR, Ric HARRIS, Widow BUCKLE, Geo BECKETT, Joh BECKETT [Valuation]
- 1902: Cozens CROOK, John Spiers CROOK & Chas EDDEN, messuage divided into 3 to which adm 1902 as devisees of will of Walter Briaris CROOK, occ by Joh WINTER then Jonas SHRIMPTON, Wm BALDWIN & Tho TOWERSEY. Also 4 cottages erected, formerly occ by Hen BUCKLE, Jas BUCKLE, Wm HUTCHENS, Hen BAMPTON, Hen CALDWELL & Jas BONNER now late of Wm HILLSDEN, HARBOUR, J ING, ELKINTON & YOUNG, surr to use of Selina WINTER of Gt Marlow.
- 1902: Enfranchisement (with plan) Selina WINTER of Gt Marlow, widow, house divided into 3 with orchard/garden, previously Joh WINTER occ by Jonas SHRIMPTON, Wm BALDWIN, Tho TOWERSEY. Also 4 cottages erected on same premises, formerly occ by Hen BUCKLE, Jas BUCKLE, Wm HUTCHINGS, Hen BAMPTON, Hen CALDWELL, Jas BONNER now or late W HILLSDEN, HARBOUR, J ING, ELKINGTON, YOUNG. £56. (Church of England Record Centre, copy deed c.31935).

Fifteenth and earlier sixteenth century court records

Court roll entries from before 1586 can also be linked to this site. As early as 1423, these refer to *Rogers* as a toft, which presumably at an earlier date had been occupied by someone of this name. In 1536 it was first described as a messuage, though five years later the term close was still being used. By 1529, it was being held with two yardlands with messuages, but this must be an incidental association since, in 1529 and 1541, the 2s rent for the close/cottage was distinct from the standard 28s for the yardlands (the same as that being paid in 1803). In 1534, it was discovered that the two yardlands had been leased by indenture against custom and the property was seized by the bailiff and regranted to Thomas Canon,

senior.⁶ He was succeeded by others of the same name in 1541, 1554-5 and 1586.⁷ The last immediately transferred the messuage to Hugh Weste.⁸

1423: John BAKER took from the lord a toft called Rogers, to hold for life at will. Fine 5s

1529: William BURT junior, son of Hen BURT surrendered 1 mess & 1v, rent 14s; other mess & 1v rent 14s; 1 close called Rogers, rent 2s, to use of John PARKER vicar of Thame.

1535: Jury presented that John PARKER vicar of Thame, held 2 tens & apps (W), late in tenure of William BURT. He leased these to William Byrtt by indenture for 10 years (dated 26 Jun 1529) against the custom of the manor. This had been presented at the last court [*whose roll is lost*] and the holding seized into lord's hand and granted to Tho CANNON senior. Parker asked leave to appeal at the next court.

1536: John Parker, vicar of Thame had been ordered at last court to show how 2 holdings, late Wm Byrtt, were alienated - leased by indenture for 10 yrs. He failed to do this, so the seizure was confirmed. Tho CANNON senior took the said 2 messuages & 2 virgates. He was also admitted to a messuage with appurtenances called Rogers.

1541: Thomas Canon came & took 2ydl (W) late in tenure of Thomas CANNON (presumably deceased). Also took a close called Rogers (W) (also late Thomas Cannon)

1555: Thomas Canon, son of Thomas, decd, took from lord 1 mess & 2 virg (W). Fine 40s.

Building evidence

It appears from the early court records that Wapping was built on a vacant toft at some date between 1423 and 1536, most likely from the architectural evidence at the end of this period and, if the 1529 description is correct, then it would have been built by William Byrt while he held it from John Parker. In the c. 1662 Hearth Tax return, neither Drury nor John West are listed, although the latter appears in the 1671 exempt list, presumably with one hearth. However, the identification is not certain, since several other members of this family are also listed. In his 1662 will, Drury West left his son John his 'horse stable in mounds doares, windowes, shelves and benches and the old bed in the inner loft'.⁹

By 1752, a malthouse had been added to the property. In 1803, the house was described as 'a house of stone, thatched, occ by John Winter, brother of William Winter (the copyholder), with garden & orchard containing about 1/4a'. It had certainly been divided into three by 1830, and between 1839 and 1844 Thomas Towersey added two further cottages beside it.¹⁰ The 1851 census lists ten households in 'Wapping Lane' but there is no way of knowing which of them were the three in Wapping itself. Since all of them included at least three children, the house held not less than fifteen people.

In 1903, Cecil BREWER, an Arts & Crafts architect, bought Wapping, then a group of tumbledown cottages with a view to conversion into a dwelling house.¹¹

In the 1910 Valuation (hereditament 567 including 568-71), was described as: Occupant Wm Harbour, owner Cecil Claude Brewer. One of 6 cottages of brick & thatch (some have been pulled down). Old but being 'done up'. Now: hall, 2 lower rooms & bathroom, kitchen, coals, larder & wash houses, 4 bedrooms decent, another in roof for servant. Garden.

⁶ The tenure of the two yardlands and the close was disputed in 1573 by Henry Byrt, following the death of his father, William. He surrendered the property to William Rede, who was told that he had to take the dispute to court (and then pay a £10 fine), which he presumably chose not to do.

⁷ Thomas's death was presented in 1554, and his heir was John Canon who inherited two yardlands held from the Dormer manor and one from All Souls. The admission of Thomas to the two Windsor yardlands in the following year required the payment of a substantial 40s fine.

⁸ The third 1586 (Windsor) yardland was probably acquired by Thomas Canon junior in 1546.

⁹ CBS, DAWf 41/232. The meaning of the clearly written phrase 'in mounds', etc. is unclear

¹⁰ CBS, D78/13.

¹¹ From Joyce Donald's papers.