

Report on

**Rosebank, 82 High Street, Long Crendon,
Buckinghamshire**

Site Code: LON-L

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

Nat Alcock and Dan Miles



Fig. 1. View from High Street

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Oxbow Books

LON-L: ROSEBANK, 82 HIGH STREET, LONG CRENDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Grid reference: SP 6968 0895

Survey Date: 28 May 2007

By: N. Alcock & D. Miles

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Documentary history by Nat Alcock and Eric Sewell.

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

Abbreviations:

Bodl.	Bodleian Library, Oxford
CBS	Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies
TNA	The National Archives



Fig. 2. View before renovation, from the west (Eric Sewell Collection)

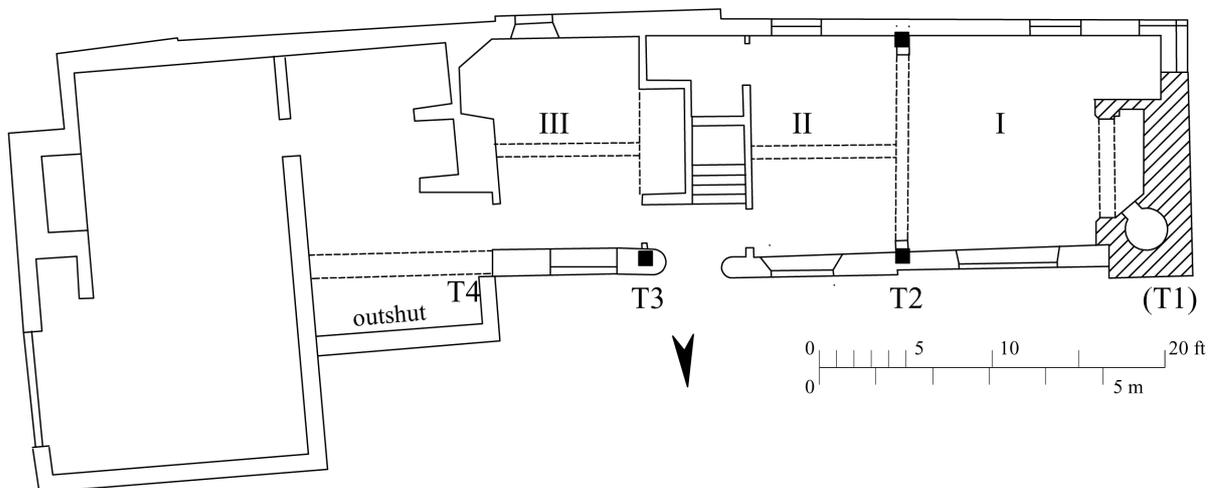


Fig. 3. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Note: Limited recording only has been undertaken on this house.

SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The house stands end-on to the street, on a narrow plot. Two cruck-built bays survive, apparently from an original three bays. No evidence remains of the functions of the rooms in the house, and it is not clear whether either of the internal trusses was originally open. It seems that neither of bays II or III was originally floored (from the stops on their ceiling beams). The house has not been dated, but comparison with other examples suggests that it may be of about 1500.

LATER PHASES: In later work, the street end (bay I) was replaced in box-framing, while the walls of bays II-III were replaced in stone. A timber-framed bay was added at the west end, perhaps in about 1600, with a later bay beyond it.

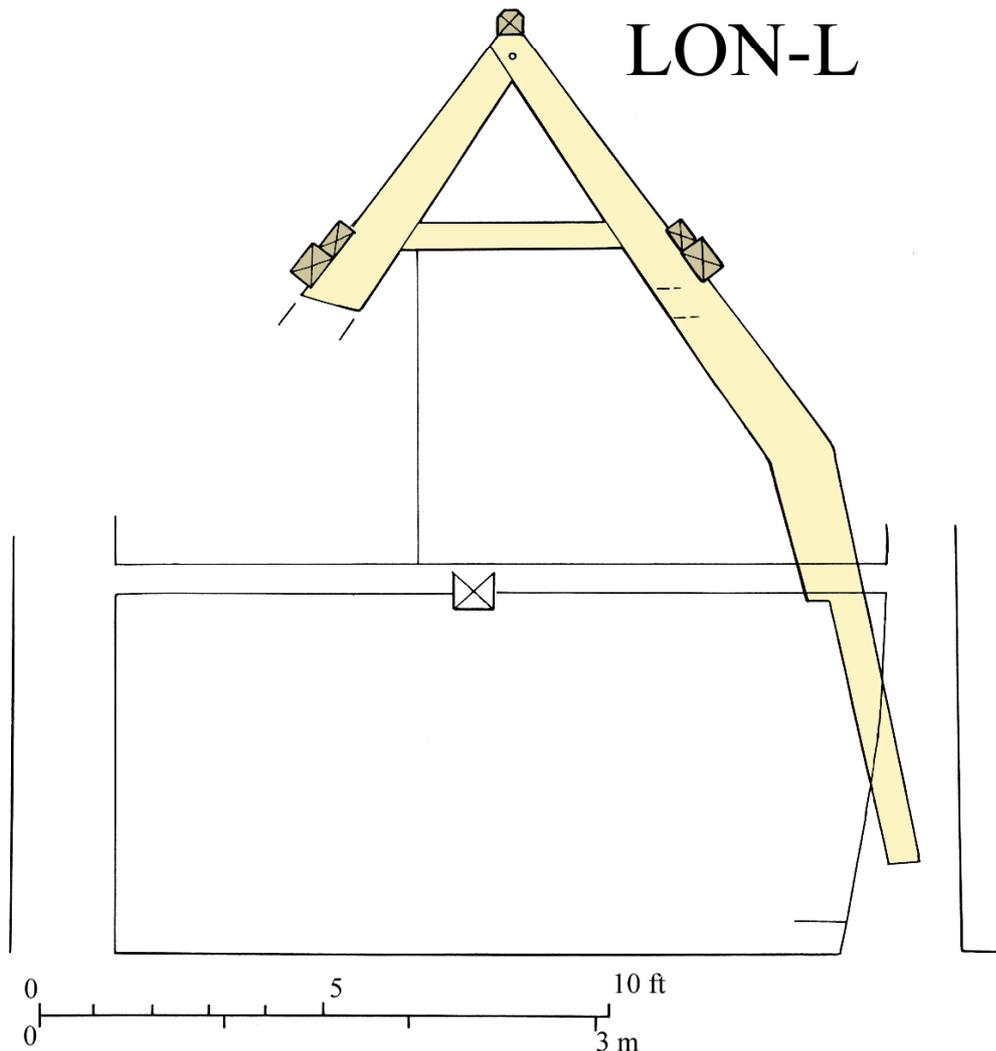


Fig. 4. Section of Truss T3 from the west.

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

Cruck truss T3 has apex type E (joined on a diagonal), as probably does T2; the end truss T4 (visible only on the upper floor) has the blades truncated above the collar (type V). The trusses have been extensively altered, with tiebeams and collars removed (apart from T4).

LATER PHASES: The inferred original west end cruck (T1) has been replaced by a box-framed truss. The axial beams in bays II and III both have scroll stops, suggesting insertion after about 1600. A stone-built chimney with an oven has been added to the end wall of the timber-framed bay I; its lintel is chamfered with straight-cut stops. Much of the walling has been rebuilt in masonry and extensions have been made at the east end.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY

Sampling comments: Evaluation of the visible timbers indicate that they were principally of elm, with very few rings. Since none were likely to be suitable for dating, they were not sampled.

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Summary

This house can be traced from c. 1635 as a messuage and 1 yardland held of Notley Manor. It was initially in the hands of William Towne and then the Brangwin family. In 1805, Joseph Gomm was admitted to the messuage, while the yardland passed from John to Richard Brangwin in 1810. Thereafter it can be followed through a sequence of court admissions until it was enfranchised in 1893. In 1910 it was among the cottages owned by Rev. Elwell (cf. LON-D and LON-K).¹

Topography and identification

This house, is identified in 1827 (Fig. 5) held by Joseph Gomm. From its position, it should belong to Notley manor, and indeed, the admission of Gomm to a messuage held of this manor is recorded in 1805.²

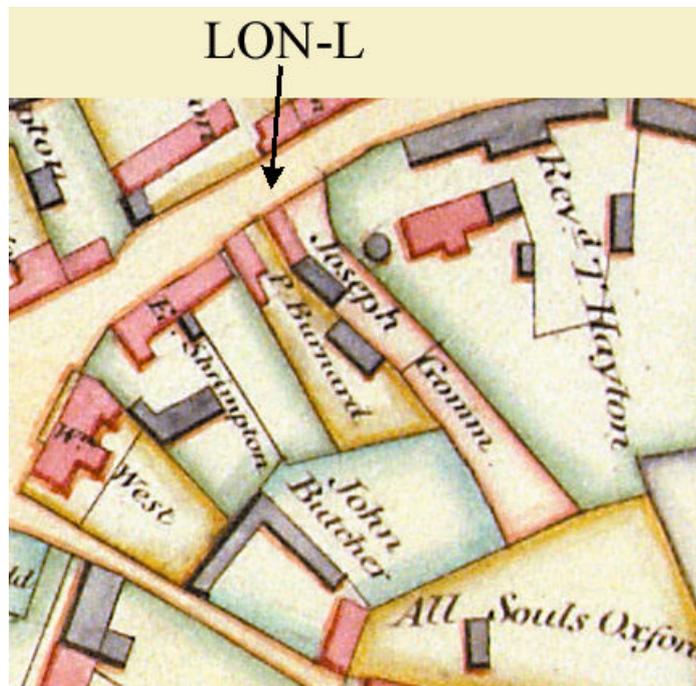


Fig. 5. Part of the 1827 map of Long Crendon (CBS IR/95/Q).

Court References

Notley Manor court rolls and books identify a series of admissions starting in 1753, when Richard Brangwin of Haddenham surrendered a 'messuage wherein James Ball did dwell' with one yardland, to the use of Edmund Brangwin the younger, son of Edmund Brangwin the elder of Haddenham, yeoman. In 1773, this escheated to the lord by the death of Edmund Brangwin without male heir, and was re-granted to Hannah Brangwin, wife of John Brangwin, for a fine of £300 (rent £1 3s). It was inherited in 1794 by John Brangwin on the death of his mother Hannah, and in 1805, the 'messuage lately occupied

¹ The names recorded for its occupiers in 1893 in the court records had not been updated since the 1860s, so do not correlate with those in the later census lists.

² The next door property (84 High Street) had belonged to the Earl of Abingdon, lord of Notley manor; in 1741 he presented it as an augmentation to the parish glebe lands.

by James Ball' (only) was surrendered to the use of Joseph Gomm (rent 2s 8d). In 1813, the yardland to which John Brangwin had been admitted in 1794 was surrendered to Richard Brangwin. In 1827, Brangwin received an exceptionally large allotment of 19 acres in lieu of this yardland (allotment 10).³

Joseph Gomm was a miller, who first appears in Long Crendon in 1799, when he married Martha Emerton. In 1833, he surrendered this messuage (still described as where James Ball formerly dwelt) to William Henry Shrimpton. Its ownership can be followed through to the admission of Sarah Pauling in 1892 followed by its enfranchisement in 1893. The last occupiers listed in the admissions series [in 1893] were James Burnham, William King and Richard Saunders, who can be identified in the 1861 census.

The court rolls only survive in a reasonably continuous state from 1720 onwards but no admission is recorded for Richard Brangwin. However, he is listed in the 1728 rental, holding a messuage, barn, etc. and one yardland, at a rent of £1 3s.⁴ This rental lists one other messuage and yardland property, in the tenure of Thomas Howlett (rent £1 2s), and the preceding rental (c. 1635) lists two such holdings, each paying £1 2s 6d, held by William Howlett and William Towne. Thus, the latter can be presumed to be Richard Brangwin's predecessor. Thomas Howlat is listed in the earliest rental (c. 1595), but William Towne's holding seems to be included within a larger group of properties held by John Tompson.

The Brangwin family are first recorded in the Long Crendon homage in 1720, and the will of John Brangwin of Long Crendon, yeoman in 1721 names sons Richard, John and Edmund. This John was possibly the previous tenant, though his will only mentions copyhold property in Haddenham, not in Long Crendon. His sons, Richard and Edmund, were probably the people named in the 1753 admission, and it is clear that by then the family had moved (or returned) to Haddenham.

Court Roll entries

- 1753: Richard BRANGWIN of Haddenham surrenders messuage wherein James BALL did dwell & 1 yardland to use of Edmund BRANGWIN the younger, son of Edmund BRANGWIN the elder of Haddenham, yeoman.
- 1773: Hannah BRANGWIN, wife of John BRANGWIN, receives from the hands of Lord a messuage or tenement wherein James BALL now dwells, & 1 ydl. In the Lord's hands by death of Edmund BRANGWIN without male heir, rent £1:3s, fine £300.
- 1794: John BRANGWIN on death of his mother Hannah BRANGWIN admitted to messuage wherein Jas BALL dwelt & 1 ydl, rent £1 3s, fine £1 3s [copy of court roll: CBS, AR 42/51, P134/5/19]
- 1805: Joseph GOMM on surrender of John BRANGWIN, messuage lately occupied James BALL, rent 2s:8d.
- 1813: *In 1810 John BRANGWIN surrenderd for £145 to Richard BRANGWIN 1 yardland occupied by Richard BRANGWIN to which John BRANGWIN was admitted in 1794*
- 1833: Surrender out of court presented. Joseph GOMM, miller, for £65 paid by Wm Henry SHRIMPSON, needlemaker, messuage or tenement wherein Jas BALL did formerly dwell in occ of Jos Gomm & Ann SHRIMPSON to which Jos G was adm 1805 on surr of Mr BRANGWIN. Henry Wm SHRIMPSON son & heir of his deceased father (WHS) adm to mess. Rent 2s-8d. H W S since died without heir. Selina Shrimpton his sister (*presumably as guardian*) took from the Lord messuage wherein Jas BALL did inhabit late occ Ann Shrimpton & now Wm HAWKES & Ric BECKETT. Selina Shrimpton conditional surrender for £65 to Andrew WALL.⁵
- 1839: Henry Wm SHRIMPSON son of Wm Hy SHRIMPSON now 21, admitted to messuage now occ by Wm HAWKES & Ric BECKETT. Rent 2s.8d. Fine 4s, heriot £1

³ The correctness of this identification is confirmed from the 1834 surrender by Brangwin of an allotment of 19a-0r-28p, 'formerly described as one yardland'.

⁴ Bodl. Ms Top.oxon.c.381/e.299 (1728); Top.gen.e.64: p. 116 (c. 1635)

⁵ CBS, D78/Box 6, Lord Churchill Court Book, f. 8.

- 1840: Henry William SHRIMPTON died since last court without heir. Selina SHRIMPTON, his eldest sister received from the Lord the messuage or tenement where Jas BALL formly dwelt, late occ by Ann SHRIMPTON now Wm HAWKES & Ric BECKETT. Rent 2s.8d. At the same court Selina SHRIMPTON surr for £65 to Andrew WALL, baker. Fine & heriot £10.
- 1862: Andrew WALL deceased, William WALL of Pontiac Livingston Co, Illinois is heir. Charlotte WALL, widow, mother of Wm WALL, admitted to messuage etc now occ by Jos BURNHAM, Wm KING & Ric SAUNDERS. Fine 4s, heriot 5s.
- 1874: Wm Spiers GIBSON on surrender of William WALL. Fine £9 [The following entries only give the fines paid.]
- 1876: Emanuel Ezra DODWELL on surr of W S GIBSON. Fine £9
- 1882: James PAULING on surr of Ezra DODWELL. Fine £12
- 1892: Mrs Sarah PAULING, grant of copyhold escheated for wanting heir (of James PAULING). Fine £20.
- 1893: Enfranchisement £29.10s.10d
1893. Messuage or tenement formerly occupied by Jas GOMM & Ann SHRIMPTON & since by Wm HAWKES & Ric BECKETT & now of Jos BURNHAM, Wm KING & Ric SAUNDERS, tenants. Owners: Henry Shrimpton 1833; Henry Shrimpton 1839; Selina Shrimpton 1840; Andrew Wall 1840; Wm Wall 1862; Wm S Gibson 1876; Emanuel Dodwell 1876; James Pauling 1882; Sarah Pauling 1892. Rent 2s-8d. Enfranchised 4 Apr 1893.⁶

The owner in 1910 was the vicar, Revd Elwell, 'as trustee'. This house formed one of a series of properties that he had bought, apparently as a 'lot', for which it is presumed that the vendor was Mrs Chapman, administrator of Rev. Ogden. His properties included 90, 92, 96, 98, 104 High Street (hereditaments 539-43); 82 High St (545-7).

Census

Using its position adjoining the vicarage and the name of George Sawyer, tenant in 1910, it is possible to work back in the Census and deduce the possible occupants:

1910: Mrs Wilmot; Geo Sawyer; Kezia Stretton (Valuation)

1901: Keziah Stretton; Geo Sawyer; Sarah Gibson

1891: Robt Harvey; Geo Sawyer; Sarah Gibson

1881: Edw Cadle, Hannah Allison, Geo Towersey (possible)

1871: Jas Busby, Arlotte Hearn & Mary Hawkes (possible)

1861: Joseph Burnham, cowman aged 69; Wm King, Ag Lab aged 76 ; Ric Saunders, Ag Lab aged 27 (next to Rev. Hayton)

Building References

In the Hearth Tax return, Thomas Howlett is listed with four hearths; however, the person of this name who died in 1699 also held a freehold messuage and yardland, and it seems unlikely that he was living at no. 82 High Street.

1910: Hereditaments 545-47: Block of 3 cottages, part stone, part mud, thatched, 2 up, 2 down. Woodshed, outside WC. Small garden, in occupation of Mrs Wilmot, George Sawyer, Kezia Stretton.⁷

1975: By this date, it was divided into two dwellings Nos 82 (front) & 84 (rear).

⁶ CBS, D78/Box 6, Herbert Dodwell's Court book.

⁷ TNA, IR58/2155.