

Report and Documentary History for  
**Folly House, 53 The Causeway, Steventon**

*Site Code: STE-A*

*from*

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

Nat Alcock and Dan Miles



Fig. 1. View of the house from the north (Photo: D. Clark)

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***Oxbow Books***

STE-A: FOLLY HOUSE, 53 THE CAUSEWAY, STEVENTON, OXFORDSHIRE

Grid reference: SU 4692 9183

Survey Date: 2 June 1988

By: D. Miles

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Documentary history by Nat Alcock and Chris Currie with the assistance of Heather Horner and Catherine Lorigan

*References:* Currie, C. R. J. (1976) 'Smaller domestic architecture in North Berkshire, c 1300 - c 1650', Oxford, D. Phil thesis; Currie, C. R. J. (1992) 'Larger medieval houses in the Vale of the White Horse', *Oxoniensia*, 57, 81-244.

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

*In the admissions tables, Mess = messuage (house); a r p = acres rods perches; v. = virgate/yardland; d. = died. s. = surrendered.*

*Abbreviations:*

BRO Berkshire Record Office, Reading

Reg Parish registers at BRO; transcript published on CD by Oxfordshire Family History Society.

TNA The National Archives

WAM Westminster Abbey Muniments

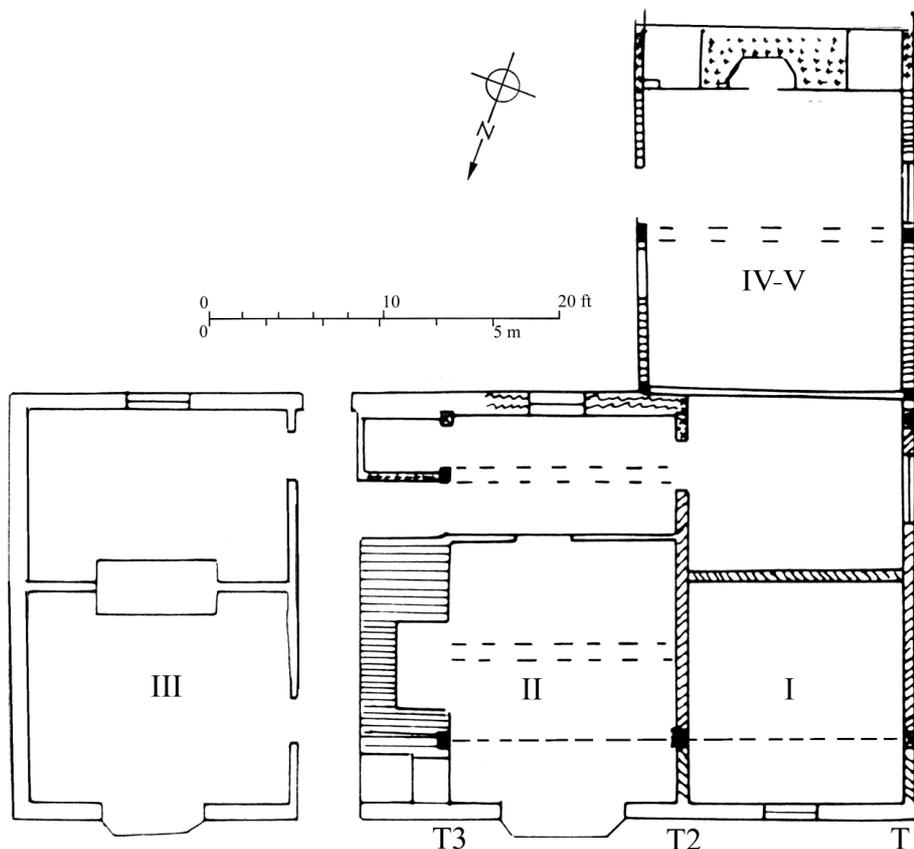


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering (after Currie (1976)).

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1: Folly House is a multiphase building consisting of a cruck range running parallel with the road, a rear crosswing to the south, and a 19th century extension to the east. The first phase is the cruck range, only the central bay (II) of which is largely intact. It contained a chamber in the western bay (bay

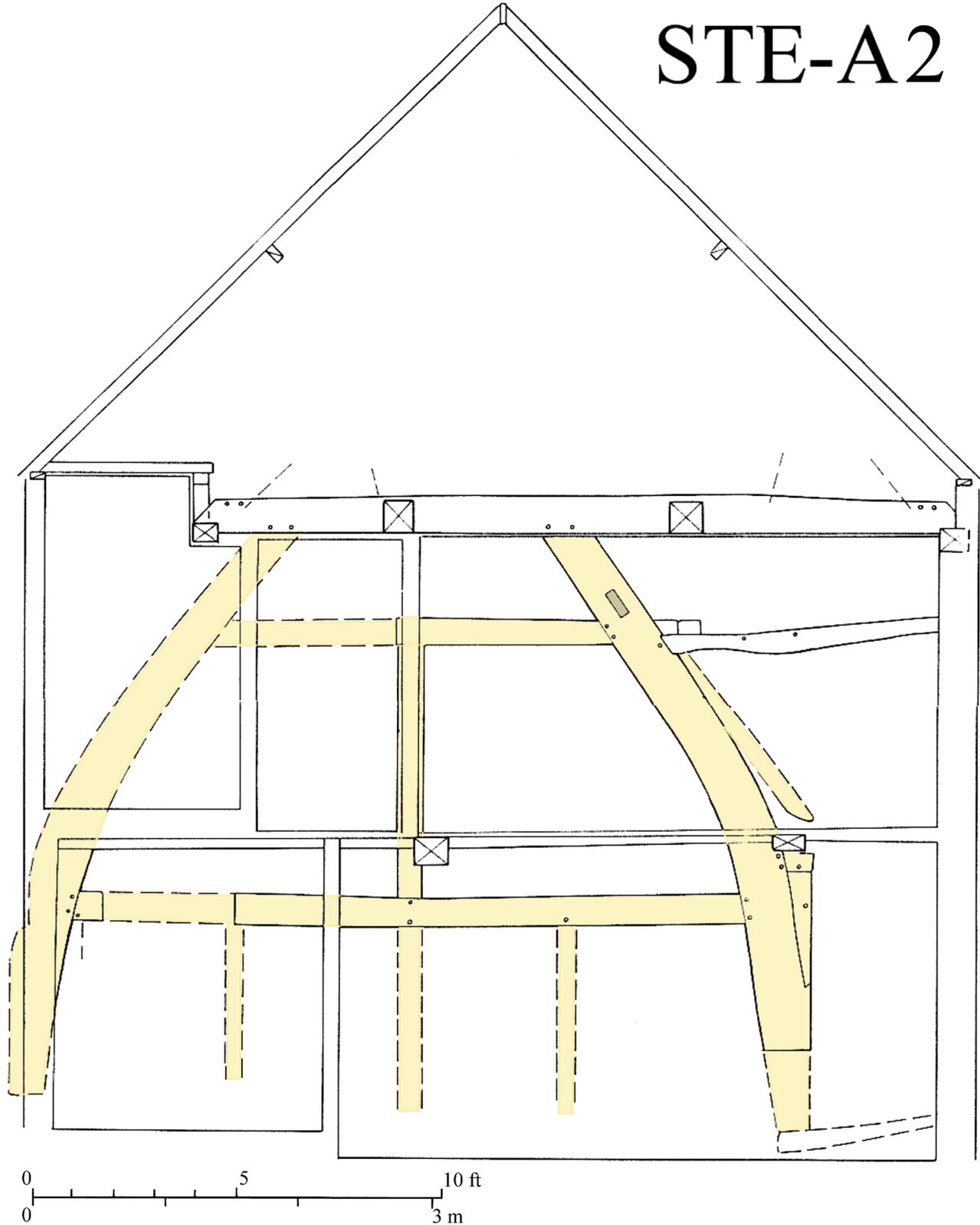


Fig. 3(a). Section of truss T2 from east.

I), and a two-bay open hall (bay II originally extending into bay III). The second hall bay and any further bays, have been removed by later rebuilding and extension. The present position of the chimney stack within bay III, with the cross passage to its east, suggests that this was the service end of the hall, with bay I as the upper or chamber end. The cruck trusses have been radically altered but fragments of a high quality arch-braced open truss remain (T3), truncated just above the collar. Although no date has been

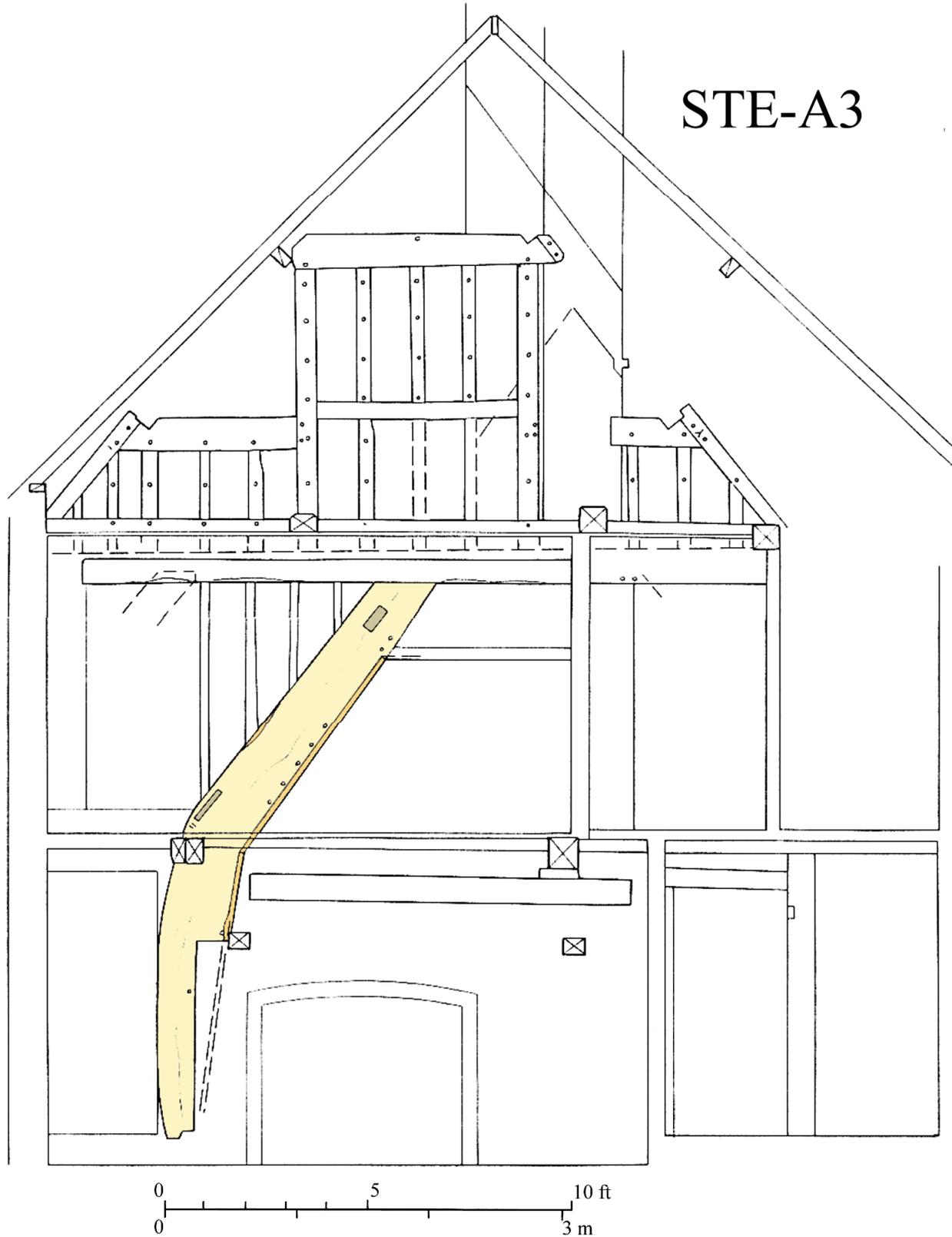


Fig. 3(b). Section of truss T3 from west.

obtained for this first phase, it could well date from the fourteenth century from stylistic grounds (cf. Terret Close, Long Wittenham, Oxon, LOW-A, of 1352-1373).

PHASE 2: Probably in the late fifteenth century, bay I was rebuilt in the form of a two-storey crosswing, incorporating cruck truss T1 in its side wall. It was extended about four feet to the north with a front jetty, and given a central roof truss. This range, also, is undated.

PHASE 3: In about 1570, a two-bay wing (bays IV-V) was built to the rear (south) of bay I. This was also of two storeys and has what appears to be a chimney bay at the southern end, identifying it as a parlour or kitchen. Tree-ring dating has given a felling date range of **1548–1580** for this range.

LATER PHASES: In the early seventeenth century, judging from the brickwork, the hall was floored over and a chimney stack was built adjacent to the open truss (T3). The brickwork of the western side of this chimney has two sets of mortar stains marking the earlier roof pitches. The first one (lower) relates to the flooring over of the hall; the second one dates from the later seventeenth or early eighteenth century, when bays II and III were extended forward to line up with the phase 2 wing and the crucks were all truncated at first floor ceiling level with new tiebeams and trusses placed over them. The attic room above bay II may have been a cheese room, judging from the regular number of peg holes in the upper portion of truss 3; these pegs would have held the cheese shelves. During this period the rear wall frame was also rebuilt.

In the late nineteenth century, the house was encased in brickwork and the eastern end rebuilt. The roof was also rebuilt and the rear wall raised from one and a half-storeys to two. After these changes, the house appears to be a late Victorian terrace, completely concealing the multitude of changes carried out over the previous 500 years.

### **STRUCTURAL FEATURES**

PHASE 1: CRUCK RANGE: Of this phase, only parts of the three crucks trusses remain; all longitudinal members having been removed during subsequent alterations. Of truss T1, only the rear blade is wholly visible. This is of substantial section with an elbowed curve. Both the collar and the tiebeam are tenoned into the cruck blade. No original studs are visible, but a peg hole is present on the upper side of the tiebeam roughly below the junction of the collar and cruck blade. Truss T2 is similar to T1 in that the collar and tiebeam are tenoned into the blades. Here, one stud survives in the centre of the truss from the collar to the tiebeam. Peg holes indicate that there were three studs below the tiebeam. Part of the tiebeam has been severed for a doorway on the ground floor, and the upper part of the rear cruck has been lost or obscured during the 19th century reconstruction. Smoke blackening was noted on the eastern face of the front blade. The front wall-plate, since removed, was supported on a short cruck spur which is tenoned into the back of the blade about a foot above the tiebeam. A shallow halving marks the original location of the wall-plate. The cruck spur is supported by a cruck stud which is cut into the back of the blade.

Of truss T3 only the front cruck blade remains, but enough is visible to indicate the high quality of the building. The blade is elbowed as in T1, with the position of the collar indicated by a pair of peg holes just below the present first floor ceiling level. The inside of the blade is straight, with a crank at first floor level; it is chamfered from the collar downwards. The arch-brace was inset from this, the lowermost part being cut on the cruck blades. This section is finished with an inch-wide chamfer. A particularly important but tenuous feature is what appears to be a peg hole for a mantel beam about a foot below the foot of the arch brace. Only one hole remains, the cruck being cut away immediately below it, and the face has been broken away leaving only the peg hole itself. The exposed western side of the blade has mortices for a butt purlin and a windbrace with a | assembly mark immediately below. There is a corresponding mortice for the purlin in T2. The rear cruck blade has been entirely removed, as has the uppermost part of the front blade.

PHASE 2: NORTH WING: The west wall framing, now hidden under plaster, has curved struts at first floor level, with evidence for similar bracing to the south at ground floor level. The side wall at truss T2 sat on a short length of sill beam placed under the front cruck foot. The wall-plate is jointed onto the back of the cruck blade, two to three feet lower than the present front eaves level. The crosswing

extended back to the centre line of the cruck range at the ridge, and part of the truss inserted here still remains, with purlins clasped on the eastern side, and butted on the western. The purlins carried windbraces rising from the principal rafters, on the northern side only, suggesting that the roof of phase I was retained on the rear roof slope. The truss has been truncated above collar level. Some rafters still remain, measuring 6 by 2in, laid at 10in centres. The floor joists also survive.

PHASE 3: SOUTH WING: The rear wing is of post and tiebeam construction., with a brick chimney.

## DENDROCHRONOLOGY

For dendrochronology abbreviations see page facing Introduction.

*Sampling Comments:* Nineteen samples were taken through coring by Robert Howard on 2 June 1988. Of these, samples A01-08, A10, A11, and A19 were from phase 1, samples A09, A12 and A13 were from phase 2, and samples A14-18 were from phase 3. Only three samples from this last phase could be dated. Of the samples that did not date, five were of elm, and the rest had too few rings to date. One exception is sample A05, the open truss cruck blade which had 102 rings. Although this did not date, there is some chance that it may do so in the future.

### TREE-RING SAMPLE RECORD AND SUMMARY OF DATING

Sample Code	Sample Location	Total Rings	Sapwood Rings	FMR Date	LHR Date	LMR Date	Date Cat
STE-A01	Cruck blade truss T2 N side	32 NM	1	—	—	—	—
STE-A02	Tiebeam truss T2	29 NM	2	—	—	—	—
STE-A03	Cruck blade truss T2 S side	37 NM	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A04	Cruck blade truss T1 S side	17 NM	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A05	Cruck blade, truss T3 N side	102	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A06	Stud in truss T2	Not oak	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A07	Collar truss T1	Not oak	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A08	Collar truss T2	Not oak	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A09	Packing piece to cruck truss T2 N side	Not oak	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A10	Cruck spur truss T2 N side	Not oak	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A11	Tiebeam truss T1	48	03	—	—	—	—
STE-A12	Principal post	47	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A13	Bridging beam bay I	40	12	—	—	—	—
<i>Samples STE-A14 to A18 are from a later phase.</i>							
STE-A14	Post, SE corner of rear wing	73	02	1469	1539	1541	1
STE-A15	Post, NE corner of rear wing	NM	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A16	Post, SW corner of rear wing	98	—	1445	—	1542	1
STE-A17	Tiebeam of S truss of rear wing	62	—	—	—	—	—
STE-A18	Post, NW corner of rear wing	106	03	1437	1539	1542	1
STE-A19	Strut under spur truss T2 N side	7 NM	—	—	—	—	—

Average date of last heartwood ring 1539

Site sequence: (samples 14, 16, 18), 106 rings long dated 1437–1542 with *t*-values 6.8(MCI0), 5.8(OXFORD)

95% felling date range: **1548–1580** (revised from 1555–1590, VA20.89, due to new sapwood estimates) (non-cruck phase).

## DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

### Summary

The house can be traced in the court books from 1670, initially as a messuage with four virgates owned by John Trewlock, though it was reduced to two virgates in that year. It was held by the Hopkins family from 1700. It was acquired by Richard Trewlock in 1563 and can be followed back to 1490, before which it seems to have been built up from a number of different holdings.

### Location

The house was copyhold until after 1876, numbered 35 on the Tithe Map (Fig. 4), owned by R.H. Betteridge, esq, occupied by Israel Winders (164 on the altered apportionment of 1884, when it was owned and occupied by William Tyrrell). The copyhold and the tithe map plot are correlated in the 1876 admission.

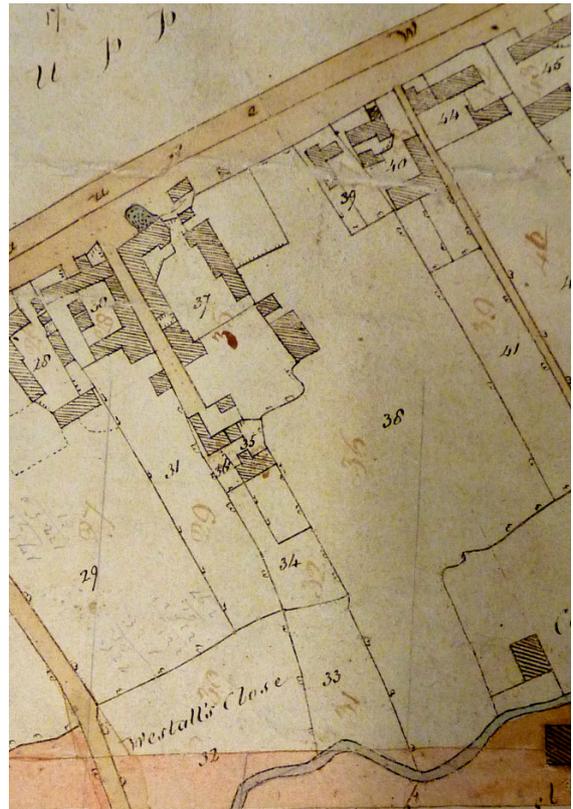
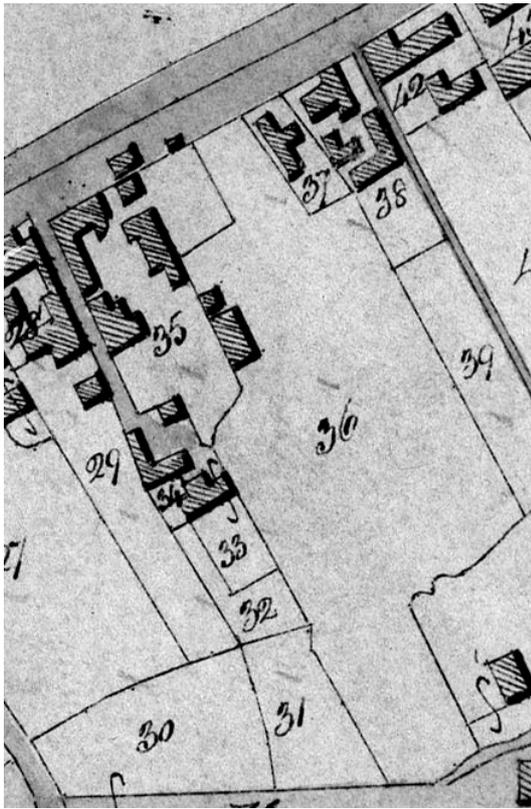


Fig. 4. Excerpts from the 1842 and 1839 maps of Steventon: (a, left) the 1842 Tithe Map;  
(b, right) the 1839 map

Folly House is plot 35 (left) or 37 (right) (1839 map reproduced courtesy of Steventon Parish Council).

### History after 1664 (Tables 1-2)

The house is identified as Holding 100 in the indexes to Steventon copyholds. In 1670 when it was surrendered just before the death of its owner, John Trulock/Trewlock (the son of Richard) it comprised a *messuage and four virgates* paying a rent of 39s 11d. In the hearth tax return, he had four hearths.<sup>1</sup> In the period between 1656 and 1700, several complicated transactions took place. John's father, Richard Trulock, shortly before his death (buried on 20th September 1656), leased on 18th August 1656 half of his property to his brother-in-law James Heron and the latter's son, another James, to hold it for 30 years or until his legacies were paid. Similarly, John in 1670 surrendered the property to the same people to execute the trusts set out in his will. The property was divided then, with one half to go to his son Richard; of the other half (the dower property of his mother Edith), as much as necessary was to be sold

<sup>1</sup> John Trewlocke was buried on 15 Aug 1670 (*Reg*). The 15 Sept 1643 baptism of [-] Trewlock, child of Richard and Edith plausibly though not certainly refers to him.

to pay his substantial legacies. What the will does not say but later transactions make clear is that the first half was itself settled on John's wife, Margaret, for life.<sup>2</sup> Thus, in 1686, when Richard was admitted to the other half, it was to the reversion on his mother's death of half the messuage and *two virgates*.<sup>3</sup> The remaining two virgates and the other half of the house were sold off, Margaret Trulock herself acquiring the house and a small amount of the land. A couple of years later, she transferred this property, including

Table 1. Post-1670 court entries relating to Folly House (See also detailed descriptions in Table 2).

<i>Adm</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Rent</i>
40	1670	James & John Heron	s. John Trewlock	mess & 4v	39s 11d
156	1686	Maria Godscrosse	d. James Heron	½ mess & 2v.	19s 8d
157	1686	Ric Trulock	s. John Godscrosse & wife	½ mess & 2v.	19s 8d
158	1686	Maria Godscrosse	d. Jas. Heron	½ mess & 2v.	3s 6d
159	1686	Margaret Trulock	s. John & Maria Godscrosse	½ mess & 2v.	3s 6d
179 1/219	1689	Hopkins, Francis [then to John Smalbone]	s. Margaret Trulock 18 May 1689.	Mess, barn & ten called a Maulthouse, exterior blds, ½ orch & backside & lands	1s 6d
195	1690	John Smalbone	s. Ric. Trulock	½ mess & 2v. & reversion	19s 8d
238	1698	Thos Head, druggist, Assignee of bankrupt	s. John Smalbone of St Martins in Fields	½ mess & 2v. & reversion & 2nd ½ mess	
250	1700	Francis Hopkins	s. Thomas Head	Capital mess, homestall, 2 v, closes [details]	19s 8d
299	1707	Hopkins, Richard		Various lands	
302	1707	Hopkins, Richard		Various lands	
525	1749	Francis Hopkins	s. Richard Hopkins		17s 6½d
595	1761	Hopkins, Richard	d. Francis Hopkins	mess, homestall, 2 ydl	£2 17s 5½d
4/67	1809	Martha Allnatt	d. Rich & Ann Hopkins	See details below	
4/71	1809	Chas Atherton Allnatt	s. Martha Allnatt	[property as just admitted]	
4/170	1820	Hopkins, Richard	s. Chas Atherton Allnatt	All property	
C019	1843	Betteridge, Ric. H	d. Ric. Hopkins	All property	
	1875	Ttees will RHB	Will R H Betteridge	All property	
5/433	1876	Wm Tyrrell	s. ttees will RHB	Capital messuage and 2 yardlands. Cons £8,300	19s 2d

<sup>2</sup> In the 1686 and 1696 rentals, Mrs Trewlock paid 19s 8d.

<sup>3</sup> A further complication is that he was still under age and so Margaret was also his guardian.

including a barn and malthouse and half the orchard, to Francis Hopkins.<sup>4</sup> In 1690, Richard Trulock himself, perhaps at the time at which he came of age, sold his half to one John Smalbone, carpenter, of St Martins in Fields, Middlesex (no doubt related to the Steventon family of this name; see STE-F)<sup>5</sup> The latter also bought the other half of the house from Francis Hopkins. However, in 1698, he became bankrupt and, two years later, his assignee sold all his property to the same Francis Hopkins who had briefly owned one half of the house. At that time, Margaret Trulocke still occupied the house and indeed is still recorded there in 1707, at the death of Francis.<sup>6</sup>

Table 2. Detailed post-1670 descriptions

A156	1686. Maria, widow, heir of John Heron, James & John trustees for John Trulock, gent, long decd, will 20 Aug 1670. Maria, wife of. John Godscrosse, agricola, James's niece. ½ mess. & 2v
A157	1686. s. to Richard, on death of Margaret Trulock (mother), under age, Margaret (mother), guardian. ½ mess. & 2v
A158	1686. Same. To part, jointure of Edith Trulock, mother of John. ½ mess; le Homestall & lands, close Puggsdon, 2½ac
A159	1686. s. to Margaret, ½ mess, etc. as A156.
A195	1690. ½ mess, homestall, 2 v. reversion on death of Margaret T & all in jointure of Edith T
A238	1698. 11 Jun 1698. ½ mess, barns, 2v, in reversion on d. of Margaret Trewlock, mother of Richd, decd & lands in jointure of Edith; And ½ mess, lands; Knannel Croft, i. p. Margaret Trulock for life.
A250	1700. Capital message in occ Margaret Trewlock, mess Ric Thompson (S, W) [57 Causeway]; mess. Ric Leach (N & E) [39 Causeway]; 2v; [rent blank] pasture 1s; Knannel Close 2s 6d;
4/67	1809. recites 1761 (A595) surrender, including the capital message and two yardlands, rent 19s 8d; closes paying 1s; 1s; 6d and land paying 1s; 3s 6d; 1s; 1s 3d; 12s; 2d; 9d; 1s 1 ½d; 6s; 8s. Bequeathed by Richard Hopkins to his niece, Martha Allnatt, wife of Charles Atherton Allnatt; she immediately surrendered it to him and he then surrendered it to the use of his will.
5/433	1876. Capital message & 2 ydl. 'Now identified as TM 35' House & prems 1 ac 0 r 17 p. Including TM 202-3, 2 cotts & gdns, 27p, occ – Greenway & – Luker. [These two cottages lay north of the green and were probably built on one of the fields belonging to Causeway Farm, only becoming associated with Folly House at its sale in 1876.]

<sup>4</sup> This seems to have been a transfer between family members, rather than a sale, since Francis was apparently either her son or son-in-law. This is indicated by a deed of 1718 (BRO D/Ebt T13/11) which includes among the abuttals of a freehold strip 'land late of Widow Trewelock (and now of Richard Hopkins her grandson)'. Francis was probably born either in 1649 (*Reg*), son of John Hopkins, who had married Margaret Spicer (IGI) in 1645, or in 1660, son of Richard Hopkins and Mary (maiden name unknown). John and Margaret Trulock's marriage has not been identified. Francis may be the person of this name who married Mary Godfrey in 1662, but since his children were born between 1686 and 1703, he is more likely to have been the person born in 1660, marrying in about 1685 (*Reg*).

<sup>5</sup> It is intriguing that both Smalbone and Francis Hopkins are described as carpenters in some of the court book admissions. Interestingly, also, a Francis Hopkins (the latter's uncle) is recorded in 1664 as buying 24 acres from John Smalbone of the City of London, woodmonger.

<sup>6</sup> She is probably the Mrs Trewlock, widow, buried on 11 Dec 1731, when she would have been 80 or 90 years old, if she was the same age as John [*Reg* gives Grewlock, incorrectly]. The marriage of Margaret Trulocke to Francis Fettiplace of London (22 Mar 1690/1, *Reg*) was presumably of John Trulock's daughter; Mary, Margaret and Susanna are named in his will.

The property passed to Francis's son, Richard Hopkins, then to another Francis and another Richard, and after him to his niece, Martha Allnatt, in 1809. It returned to the Hopkins family in 1820. with whose descendants it remained until 1876.

*Ownership before 1664 (Table 3)*

The surviving court rolls provide a complete sequence of admissions from 1490 onwards, and the identity is fully confirmed by the abuttal (recorded in 1601) on the house of William Sympsone (39 The Causeway, STE-E), corresponding to that in 1700 (A250). From 1491 to 1585, it was described as a messuage and 43 acres, but by 1601, it was regarded as comprising four virgates (probably including the freehold virgate mentioned below). The complex description in 1490, in terms of many individual parcels, suggests that it had previously belonged to a variety of earlier owners.

It was acquired by Richard Trewlock in 1563 from William Stone (C437); the owners thereafter were successively his son, grandson and great-grandson, John (1584); Richard (1601), probably another Richard, and John (admitted in 1661 on the resumption of normal court business after the Interregnum, though his father had died in 1656)<sup>7</sup> (C585, C593; C691, C272). We can be confident from this succession, that the first Richard Trewlocke or his tenant built the c. 1570 extension to the house.

Before 1563, the property can be traced from 1490, when a 'messuage called Hawkyns' passed to Thomas Stevyngton, on the death of his father John (C1177, C1181). Thomas soon surrendered it to John Yate, merchant stapler, of Charney Bassett,<sup>8</sup> whose substantial estate passed to his son Thomas in 1542 and it was then sold to William Stone in 1546 (with much other property) (C1203, C1051, C1087). No earlier linkage has yet been established.

*Table 3. Copyhold sequence: 1490 -1661*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adm</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Premis</i>	<i>Rent</i>	<i>WAM</i>
1490	C1177	unstated	d. John Stevyngton	Copyhold (held by court roll), amount unknown		7411, rot 8
1490	C1181	Thos Stevyngton son & h	d. John Stevyngton	1 parcel of 1 bordewe called Wykys, 1 parcel of ½ v for rent 6s 8d; 3 a 3r late Bondes; <b>1 mess late Hawkyns</b> ; 1 Churchett late Benottes [?]; 1 parcel Thos Doo; 1 a 3 r late Stranges; 2 r late Webbes by charter; 3 a late Wm Ffulbrokes; 2 a late Pynnokys; 2a 3r late John Michell; 1 parcell 1 bordewe	various	7411, rot 9
1491	C1203	John Yate of Charney	s. Thos Stevyngton	1 churchett late Benettes, 1 parcel of 1 Bordewe late Wykes; <b>1 mess late Hawkyns, 43 a 3 r meadow and pasture of 1½ v [details]...</b> 2 ½ a in Pokysden next the Cawsy Acre		7411, rot 10d
1542	C1051	Thos Yate son & h	Deathbed s. John Yate gent [merchant stapler, of Charney Bassett]	1 le churchett called Bennettes, 1 parcel of 1 Bordewe late Wykes, <b>1 mess late hawkyns, 43a 3r land and meadow and pasture of 1½ v</b> land wch had ex surr of Thos Stevyngton son & h of John Stevyngton as by ct eve of St Dunstan 6 Hen 7 [continues]		7412, rot 35

<sup>7</sup> Buried on 20 Sept 1656 (*Reg*); will proved 4 Feb 1657.

<sup>8</sup> For Yate see Yates, Margaret 2007. *Town and Countryside in Western Berkshire c.1327-c.1600*, Woodbridge: Boydell, p. 198

Date	Adm	To	From	Premis	Rent	WAM
1544	C1067	Thos Yate gent	Former s. John Yate	Huge estate as in rot 35 (minor variations).		7412, rot 37
1546	C1087	Wm Stone aged ___ years	s. Thos Yate gent	Huge estate as rott 35 and 37 (minor variations). [William Stone by Wm Backhouse clerk his uncle]		7412, rot 39d-40
1548		Wm Stone	survey	<i>Inter alia</i> 1 mess Hawkyngs; 43 a 3 r land, meadow and pasture of 1 virgate		7358
1563	C437	Ric Trewlocke	s. Wm Stone	1 mess late Hawkyngs and 43 a 2r land, meadow and pasture of 1 virgate, other tenements meadows etc late in occ Thos Sympson & Stephen Smyth	35s	7418, rot 5d
1584	C585	[John Trewlocke son & h]	d. Ric Trewlocke	Copyhold mess 43a 2r meadows pasture of 1½v, divers lands etc [not adm as would not pay the full fine]	35s	7418, rot 29/30
1585	C593	John Trewlocke [pays fine]	d. Ric Trewlocke cf 2[?] Sept 26 Eliz	1 mess 43 a 12 r land and meadow, pasture for 1½v, and divers other lands meadows leasows & pasture	35s	7418, rot 30/31
1590				John Trewlock. <i>Rental</i>	34s 4d	
1599				John Trewlock. <i>Rental</i>	39s 4d	
c. 1646				Richard Trulocke. <i>Rental</i>	39s 4d	
1601	C691	Ric Trewlocke son & heir	d. John Trewlocke	2 mess 4v [seems to include the freehold house and rent]	39s 4d	7419, rot 16
1601	C692	Wm Sympsone son & heir [abuttal]	s. Thos Sympsone [1601]	1 mess 1 orchard 1 close and backside adj, pasture for 1 cow between ten of John Trewlocke (W) and Jas Stone (E)	21d	7419, rot 16
1661	C272	John Trewlocke	d. Ric Trewlocke	2 mess, 4 yardlands and close of meadow/ pasture called Pleices (2 a)		7421, rot. 4
1661	C277	Ric Trewlocke [dead by date of roll]	s. John Wells and Rob Wells	21 Apr 1652. Close of pasture or meadow called Pleices cont 2½ ac. [added to HLD 100, see C279]	8d	7421, rot. 4d
1661	C279	John Trewlocke s & h	d. Ric Trewlocke	2 mess, 4 yardlands and a close of meadow and pasture called Pleices cont 2½ a and appurts	Ng	7422

*The freehold house (Table 4)*

Simultaneously with this copyhold sequence, the ownership of a freehold house and one virgate can be followed from 1537 when it was granted by John Yate to his son Thomas (Table 4, C322). It also passed to William Stone (1548), and was sold with the copyhold house to Richard Trewlocke (C438). It disappears from the court records and from 1601 seems to have been treated as part of the copyhold.<sup>9</sup> Certainly, in 1601 and 1661 (but not before or after), the copyholding was described as including two messuages and between 1590 and 1599, the rent increased from 35s to 39s 4d, suggesting that the freehold rent, variously given as 3s 4d, 4s and 4s 1d, had been consolidated with the copyhold, corresponding also to the apparent enlargement of the property.

<sup>9</sup> Since a freeholding might pay a heriot of the best beast on inheritance, whereas copyholds only paid a fine of two times the rent, this could be advantageous.

The frontage of the Folly House toft (TM 35) is quite large and it seems likely that the freehold and copyhold messuages adjoined each other.<sup>10</sup> It is therefore not possible to be certain whether the surviving medieval house was freehold or copyhold, although the probability must be that it was the principal property, i.e. the copyhold.

Table 4. Freehold property

Date	Adm	To	From	Premis	Rent	WAM
1548	C322	Wm Stone [to show charter]	Thos Yate son of John Yate Gent	John gave lands and tens in Stev [no details] to Thomas by charter 17 Dec 29 Hen VIII [1537]; Thos by charter 13 May 38 Hen VIII [1546] sold it to Wm Stone. Charter to be shown		7414, rot 5
1548				Wm Stone 1 mess 1 v freehold. <i>Rental</i>	4s 1d	7358
1563	C438	Ric Trewlocke	s. Wm Stone	FREEHOLD mess and 1 v land	4s	7418, rot 6
1584	C584	John Trewlocke son & h	d. Ric Trewlocke	Freehold mess & tens	3s 4d	7418, r. 29/30

*Probate records*

Folly House is recorded in several wills and inventories. For John Trulock, dying in 1601, we have only a note of his administration and neither the will of Richard Trewlock in 1657, nor that of John in 1670 are informative, apart from the leases they mention (discussed above). The latter's probate inventory lists property at Steventon and Radley, Berkshire, and Honeybourne, Worcestershire, but only names a malthouse and granary at Steventon, without any household goods.<sup>11</sup>

Most significant are those of Francis Hopkins (d. 1707), who was extremely well-off, with an inventory total of £1832. In his will dated 7 Dec 1706, he left the goods in the Chamber over the Parlour to his wife, Mary. His inventory (13 Feb 1706[/7]) lists:

Kitchen, Milkhouse, Buttery, Parlor, Best Cellar, Little Buttery, Old House, Old Kitchen, Cheese Loft, Best Chamber over the Parlour. Chamber over the Kitchin, Maids Chamber, Chamber over the Milkhouse, on the Staircase, Mens Chamber, Corne Loft, Corne Grainery, Sheephouse Barne (apparently located away from the main house), Maulthouse, New Barn, Long Barne, Great Barne, Stables, Dungeon [*chaff and 'howplow'*]

<sup>10</sup> It is possible that the original frontage was considerably larger than just that represented by TM 35, since the field TM 36 was in the same ownership as Folly House from 1765 until 1875 (with the house, TM 37, STE-E, until 1809).

<sup>11</sup> Richard, 1657: TNA, PROB 11/261 & BRO, D/A1/128/28; John, 1675, will: TNA, PROB 11/334 & BRO, D/A1/128/81; inventory, TNA, PROB 4/9924.