

Crown Inn, Crown Close, Sheering, Essex. CM22 7NX.
Heritage Statement for the Public House. Surveyed 31 01 2017.



2006 Google earth. Location of the Crown Inn, Sheering.



2006 Google earth. Detail of the site showing the building under study.

Location

Crown Inn, Crown Close, Sheering, Essex. CM22 7NX. The inn is situated on the corner of Crown Close with the main street, the B183. Listing NGR: TL5046613877.

Listing

The House is Listed.



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IoE Number: 118274

Location: THE CROWN INN, THE STREET (north side). SHEERING, EPPING FOREST, ESSEX

Photographer: Ms Elaine Allen LRPS. Date Photographed: 21 July 2000

Date listed: 26 April 1984. Date of last amendment: 26 April 1984

Grade II

TL 51 SW SHEERING THE STREET,
(North Side)
3/6 The Crown Inn

GV II

Inn, early C19. Plastered brick, roofed with handmade red clay tiles. 2 parallel ranges aligned approx. NE-SW. Internal chimney stack in front of ridge of front range, and external chimney stack at NE gable. Internal chimney stack in rear range near SW end. C20 extension at W corner. Linked in C20 with coach house/stable block to NE, plastered brick with exposed pilasters, hipped roof of slate. Main building of 2 storeys. 3-window range of early C19 16-light double-hung sashes under shallow segmental arches, 2 glazed doors. Listing NGR: TL5046613877.

Scope of this Report

The report forms a Heritage Statement outlining the historic importance of the building, identifying the historic features and examines the development of the building from its original inception. The building was Listed in 1984 and large scale alterations took place in 1985. In 1997 permission was given for an extension to the west which was never built.

Description – External



The south elevation is the front of the building. The former Stables has been conjoined.



The former Stables seen from the SE.

The House is built of red bricks rendered over in hard cement. The roof has been retiled in plain clay tile and has an asphalt undercloak and repair timbers suggesting the original roof was repaired in the LC20th (1965-1985). The building is symmetrical about the 8/8 sash windows which are all modern replacements except that to the RHS of the right hand (eastern) entrance door which retains its fine astragals and some milled glass panes. The two front doors are C20th in design and fabric and it was noted that the opening for the right hand one is larger than the door itself.

The Stables was originally a separate building and has three bays of 60-65x115x230mm handmade bricks. This is not a standard size and suggests they were seconds which would also account for their varying colours. All the windows are LC20th and inserted. Historic photography shows that there was another building (Smithy) adjoined to the south end.



The eastern elevation and the rear of the House looking SW.



The eastern side of the rear of the House.

The Stables has a grey slate hipped roof at the correct slack pitch and panelled brick wall allowing for large openings. It has been converted, most likely in 1985 according to the planning records, to a dining room and suite of toilets. The rear of the House reveals it is a twin pile house with the rear pile being lower and narrower than the front. This would indicate it was built in two phases and would also account for the awkward disposition of the chimney stacks. The rear windows are 1930's in style and are the type manufactured by Rippers of Sible Hedingham. The aluminium fittings imply they are LC20th versions. Again the walls are rendered except for a section of London Stock style bricks forming a pillar on the corner of the House. Connecting the Stables and House is a flat-roofed structure of 1985.



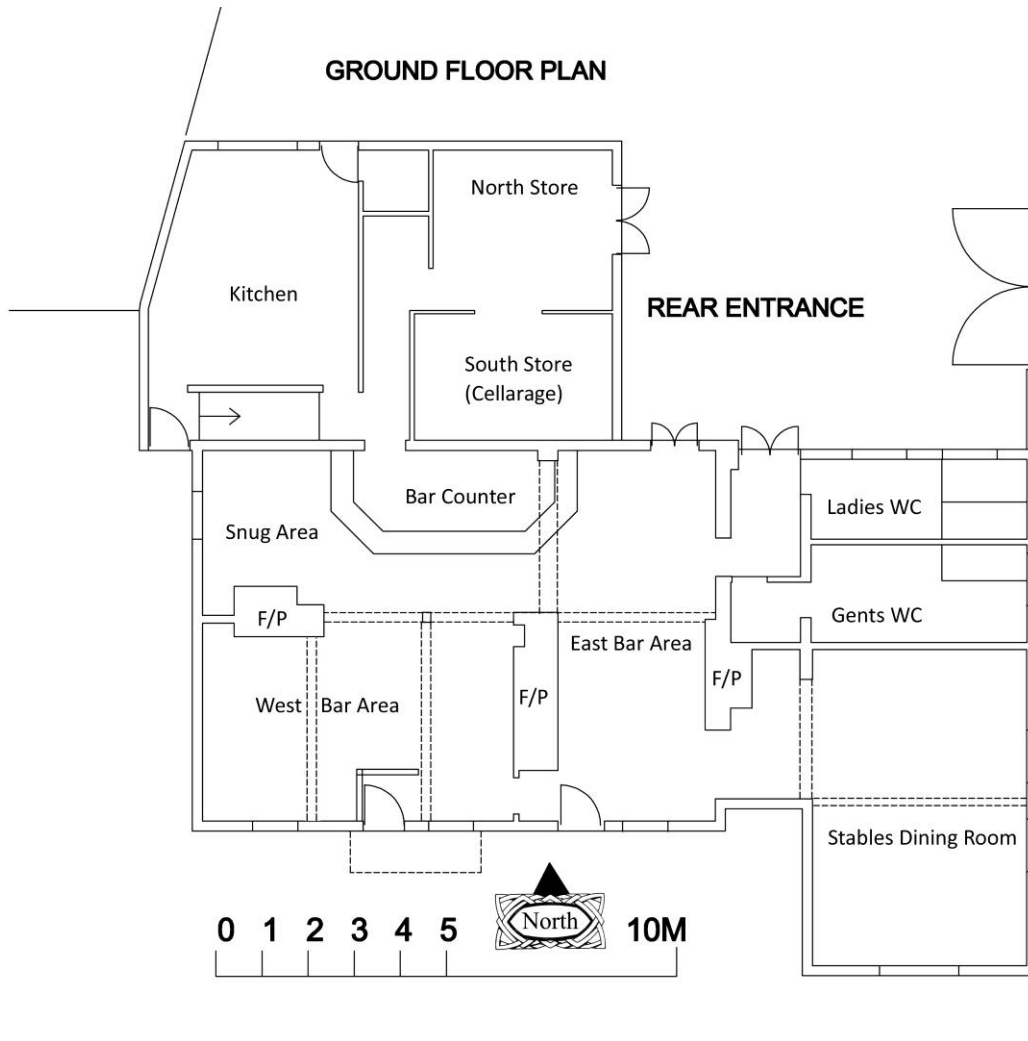
The Kitchen and Cellar. North elevation.

To the north is an adjoined LC20th building housing the Kitchen and the Cellar and stores. This is a brick and blockwork building and again the planning history implies it was built in 1985. All the visible fabric would concur with this. The broad hipped roof is finished with grey slates and the walls have 65x110x225mm machine made bricks.



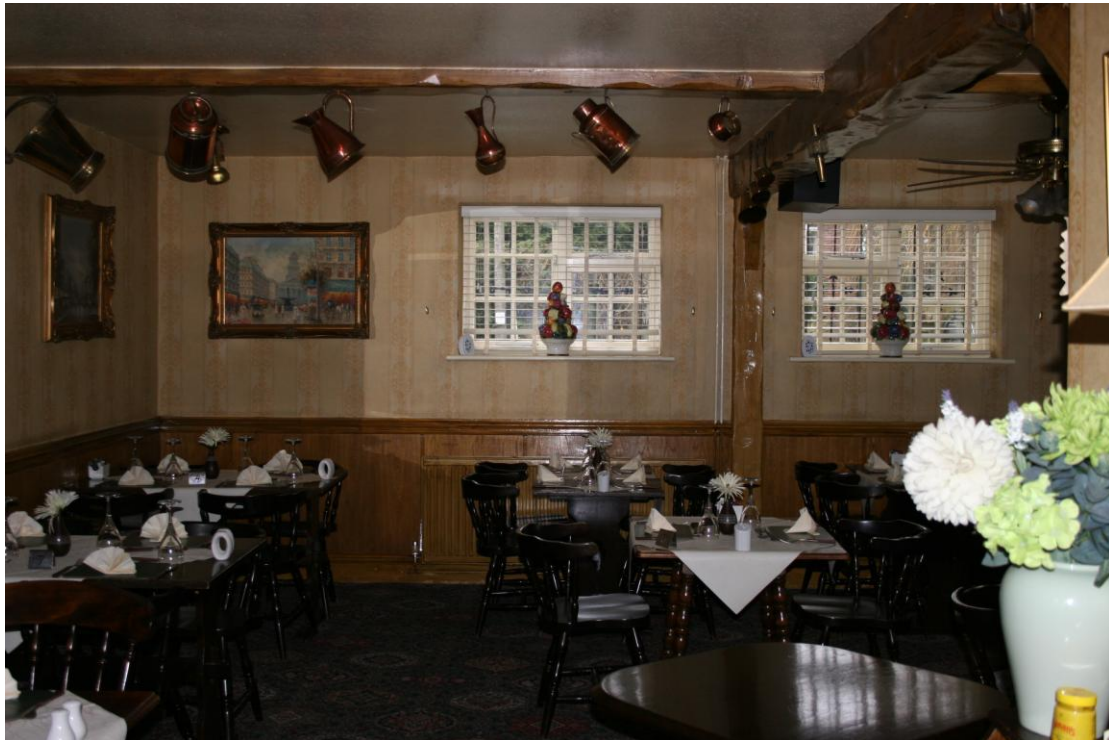
The western elevation.

The twin pile format can be easily seen in the western elevation. The rear pile has an added stair tower and the pitch of the rear roof has been altered to accommodate it. All the windows are LC20th replicas and it is likely that the large 8/8 pane sash shows where the Kitchen used to be.



2017. Groundfloor plan naming the rooms. Merritt Design Partnership.

Description – Internal – Ground Floor.



Looking E inside the Stables Dining Room.



Looking S inside the Stables Dining Room.

Stables Dining Room

All the visible fabric in the Stable Dining Room is of 1985 or later. The ceiling is inserted (originally it would have been open to the apex) and the fake beams are secured with visible hex headed bolts.



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The Ladies WC.



The Gentlemen's WC.

Stables - Toilets Facilities.

The toilet facilities date to 1985 with later additions and there is no historic fabric on view.



Looking S in the West Bar.



Looking WNW in the West Bar.

The Bar Areas

In common with many Public Houses the original walls have been removed between the rooms to create a larger open retail area. The openings are spanned by RSJ's hidden in timber boxes. The bar counter and backfitting serves all the retail areas and was put in by the current owner 23 years ago (1994) as an upgrade to one put in during 1985. There are no earlier fittings.



Looking NE at the fireplace in the West Bar.



Looking NE into the Central and Eastern Bars.

The Bars can be defined by the ceiling beams and the positions of the fireplaces. None of the fireplaces have original surrounds or fires. That in the West Bar is a complete fantasy of 1985 and incorporates pillars supporting the RSJ's.



The fireplace in the Central Bar.



The fireplace in the Western Bar.

The other two fireplaces are LC20th copies of cast iron register grates with tiled cheeks and identical timber surrounds most reminiscent of the 1950's. They appear to be gas fires. The walls are decorated with heavily embossed anaglypta style paper in a tobacco stain brown and the timber has been painted and grained in a glossy caramel colour.



Looking NW into the Snug Area.



The blocked fireplace in the Snug.

The Snug

The area to the west of the Bar Counter was originally divided off with its own fireplace. It has a large 8/8 sash which implies it was a work area such as a kitchen or scullery.



Looking NW in the Kitchen.



Looking S in the Kitchen.

The Kitchen and Store Rooms.

The Kitchen and Store Rooms are situated in the rear extension and therefore nothing predates 1985. The blockwork construction can be seen in the Store Rooms, one of which contains the beer barrels and pumping equipment.



The North Store Room looking E.

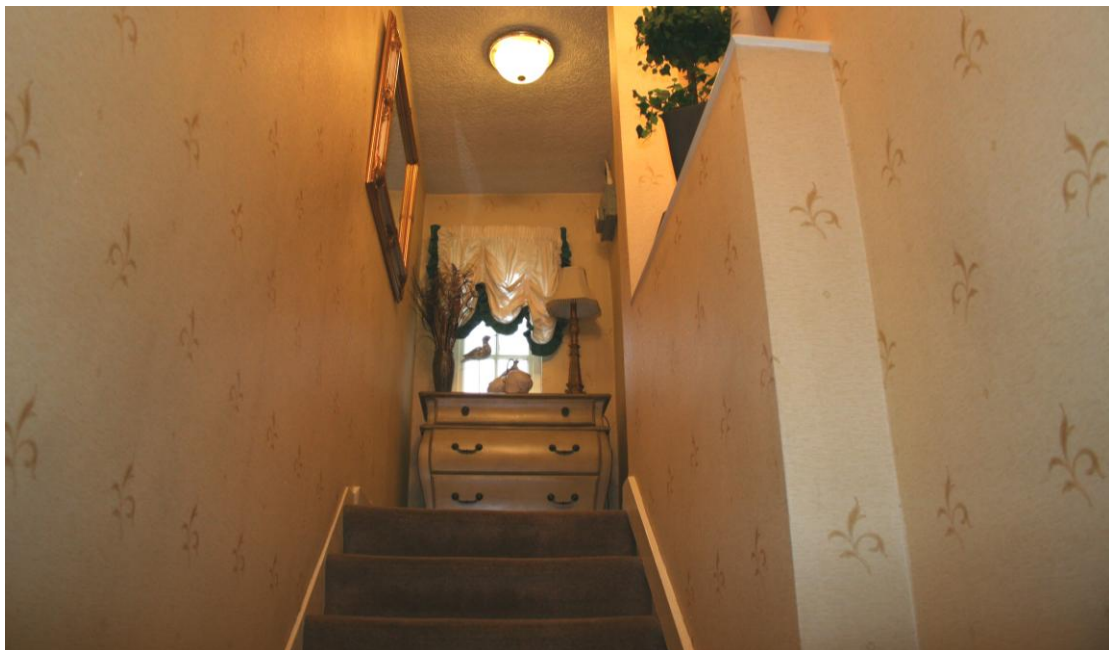


The South Store room contains the beer barrels. The wall of the House has been rendered.

The North Store Room contains freezers and the cooler plant for the cellarge. The barrels are kept in the South Store Room. Here the wall of the House has been cement rendered.

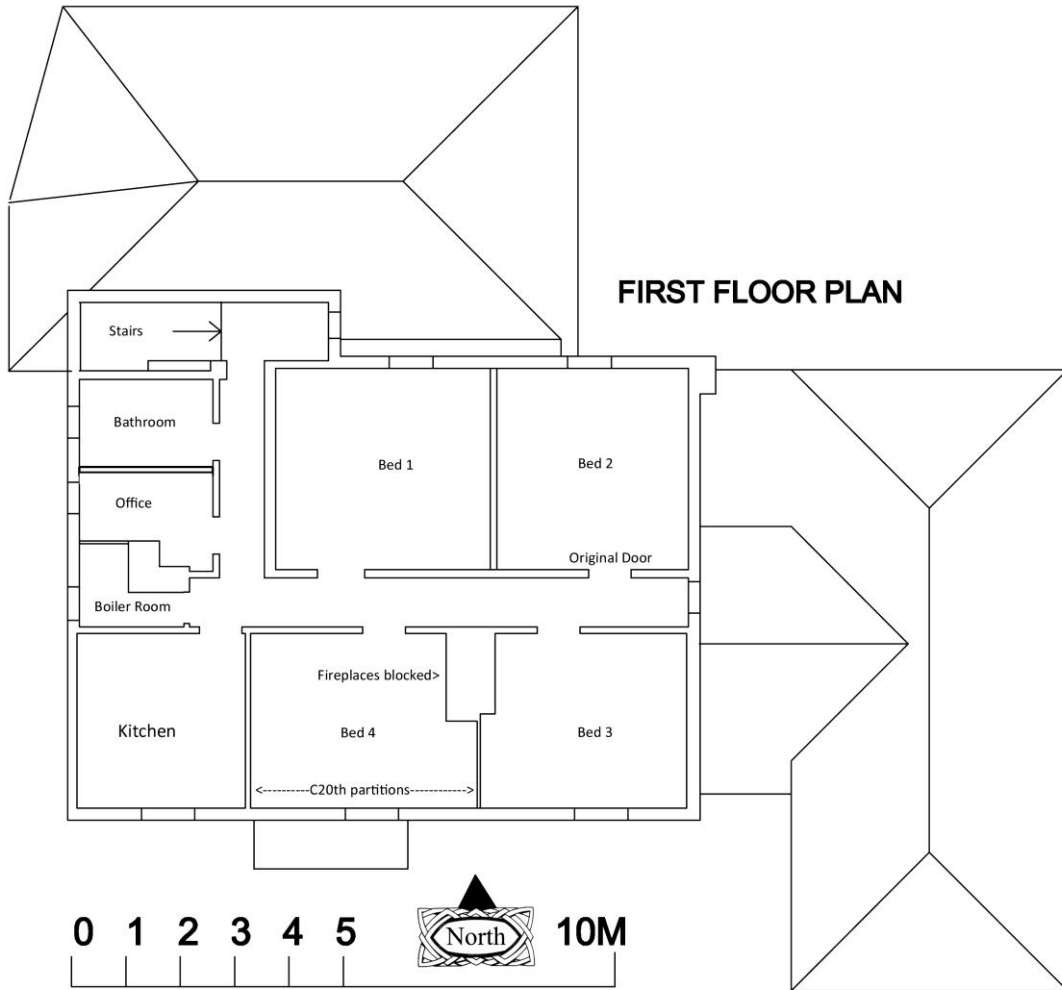


The closet under the stairs appears M-LC20th.



Looking up the staircase.

The staircase has been run up the north side of the original House in a stair-tower visible from outside. The treads are wide and the stringers simple. There is nothing visible to suggest the stairs are any older than the 1985 refit. Historic mapping indicates the stairs were originally on the western side of the building. The underside of the stairs is clad in fireproof boards.



2017. First floor plan naming the rooms. Merritt Design Partnership.

Description – internal – First Floor



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Looking S in the upstairs corridor.



Inserted rooms have plain modern architraves while the originals have beaded doorcases.

The originality of the upper rooms can be determined by their doorframes. The original doorframes have beaded details that appear to be formed from applied rods rather than moulded and have full doorcases. The newer inserted rooms, the Bathroom, Office and Boiler Room each have plain modern architraves.

The rooms themselves are unremarkable, with no original decor. All the fireplaces have been removed leaving vents in the firebreasts. Of interest is a EC19th vertically boarded door in Bedroom 2 which is almost certainly original as it is nailed to the doorframe with rose-headed wrought iron nails.

The Kitchen, Office and Boiler Rooms are inserted into a larger room. Bedrooms 4 the Kitchen have a lightweight partition and they were originally the principal upstairs room. The partition between Bedrooms 3 and 4 is also modern probably replacing older closets.



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The modern Bathroom looking NW.



The Office looking NW.



The Boiler Room looking W.



The bedroom corridor looking E. The roof hatch is at the end.



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The upstairs Kitchen looking NW.



The suspended ceiling in the Kitchen hides a MC20th panelled ceiling.



Looking NE in Bedroom 1.



Looking NW in Bedroom 2.

The other bedrooms have LC20th copies of the original C19th door in Bedroom 2



Looking N in Bedroom 2.



The EC19th boarded door in Bedroom 2. Looking S.

The boarded door in Bedroom 2 is the only hint of an early decorative scheme left in the building. The planked door has four horizontal ledgers nailed and clenched and is hung on two elegant wrought iron T-straps that are nailed to the door and the frame.



Looking SE in Bedroom 3.



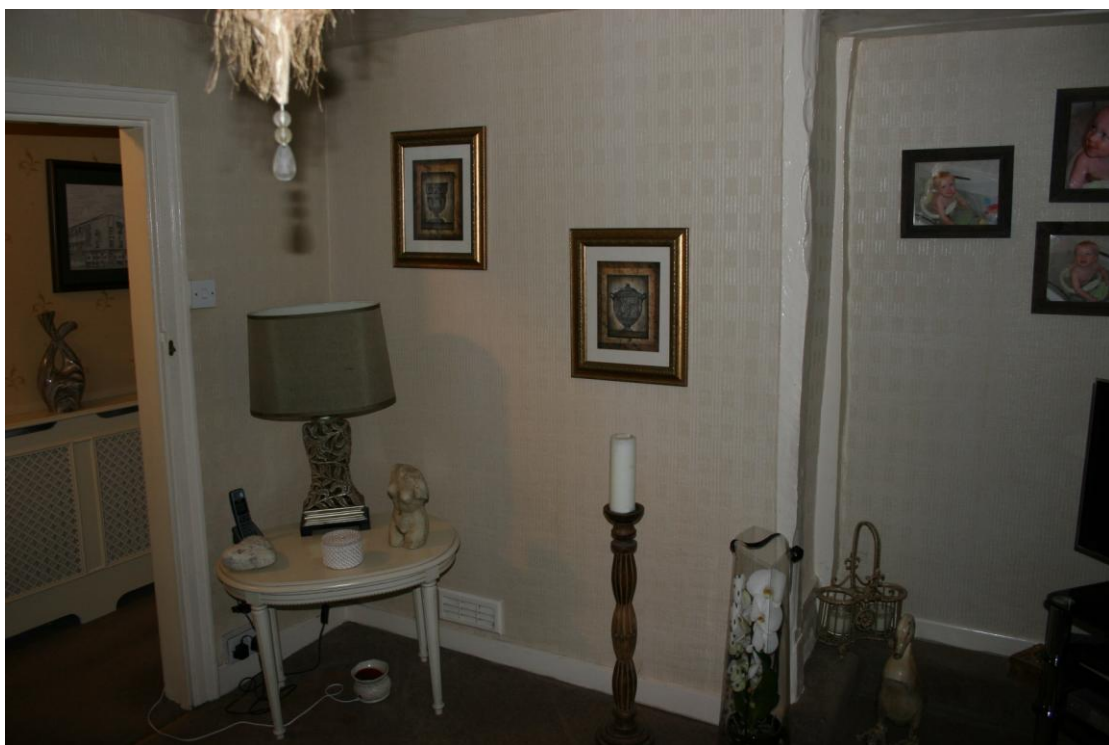
Looking NW in Bedroom 3. An example of a LC20th replica door in an original frame.



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Looking SW in Bedroom 4 currently used as a sitting room.



Looking NE in Bedroom 4 at the blocked fireplace and modern partition.

Description – Roof Structure



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Looking W in the main front roof.



Looking SW in the main front roof.

The roof is a simple clasped side purlin roof constructed of pine rafters paired onto a ridge piece. The collars are side halved and nailed and there are inserted birdsmouthed struts. Plank tie-beams have been added to strengthen the spans and are secured with wrought iron ties. There is an asphalt undercloak in good condition which may have been part of the 1985 refit. The chimney is of EC19th red bricks.

Historic Photography



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1908. The Crown Inn on a post card date stamped 1908.

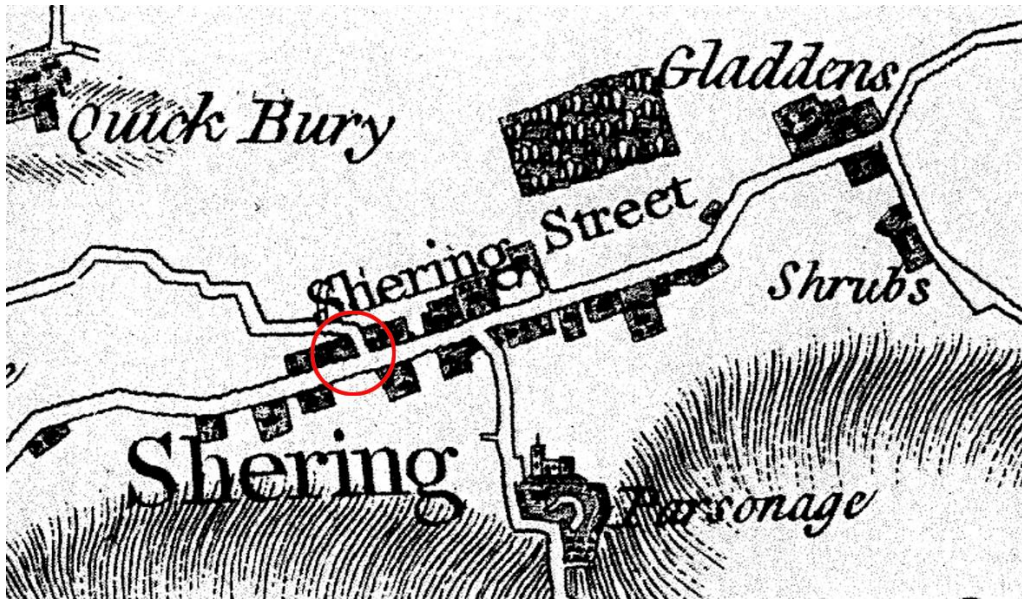
The 1908 photograph shows the Stables and Smithy as separate to the House. Kelly's Directories of 1906 and 1908 show that the blacksmith was a Keith Young. He would have also been the landlord of the Crown. The small chimney for the forge can be seen next to a roof vent on the Smithy. The House is of exposed brickwork and has a grey slate roof.



1960. The Crown Inn. Francis Frith Collection used under Fair Usage.

The 1960 photograph shows the Smithy has been removed and the Stable doors blocked up. There is a pair of garage doors. The gap between the buildings has a simple shelter and regulars remember this was the male WC. The roof now appears to have clay tiles.

Topographical Survey from Maps



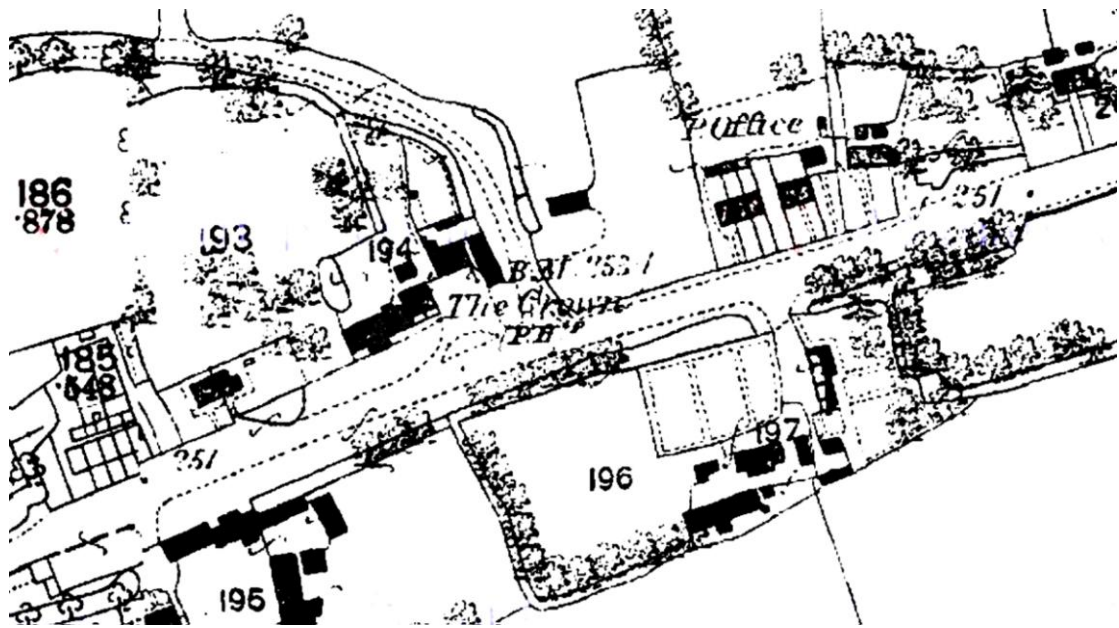
1777 Chapman and Andre's Map of Essex outlining the site of the Crown.



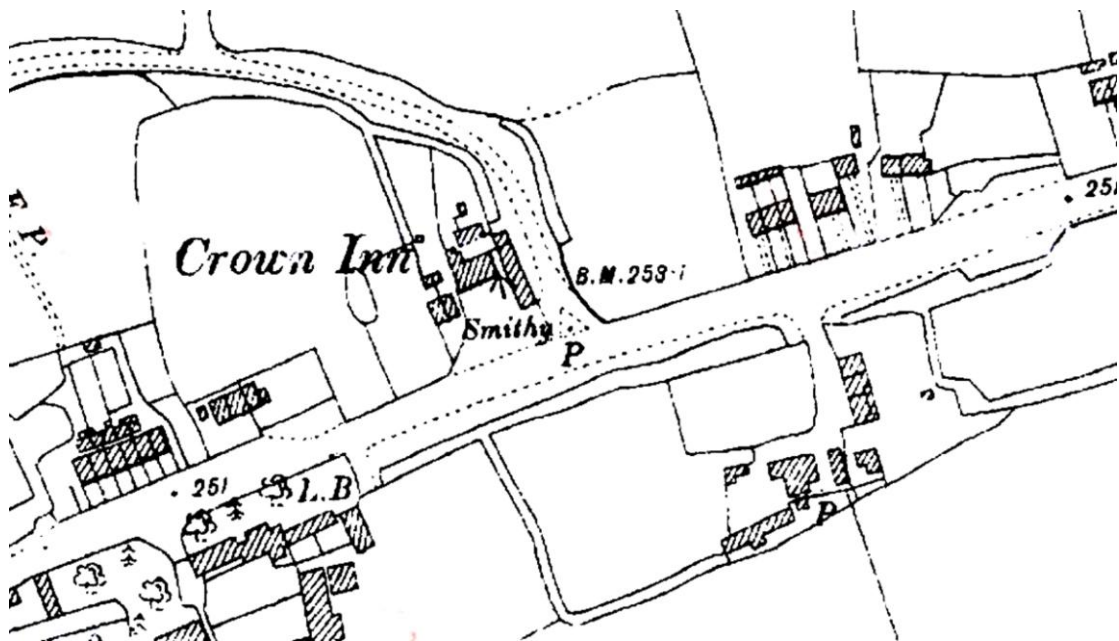
1839 Tithe Award Map of Sheering. The Crown is Plot 197.

The 1777 map of Essex shows a plot corresponding to that of the Crown but offers little detail. The 1839 Tithe Map shows the two buildings corresponding to the House and Stables as though conjoined. Plot 197 *Crown Public Hse, stables, gdn* was owned by Thomas Chaplin and occupied by John Garrett who is listed in Pigot's Directories of 1828, 1830 and 1839. By 1845 Charles Brown is listed as the victualler at the Crown in Pigot's Directory and in White's Directory of 1848 and the Census of 1851.

The 1839 map shows a small addition to the western elevation and it is likely this is an external staircase.



1874 First Edition Ordnance Survey.



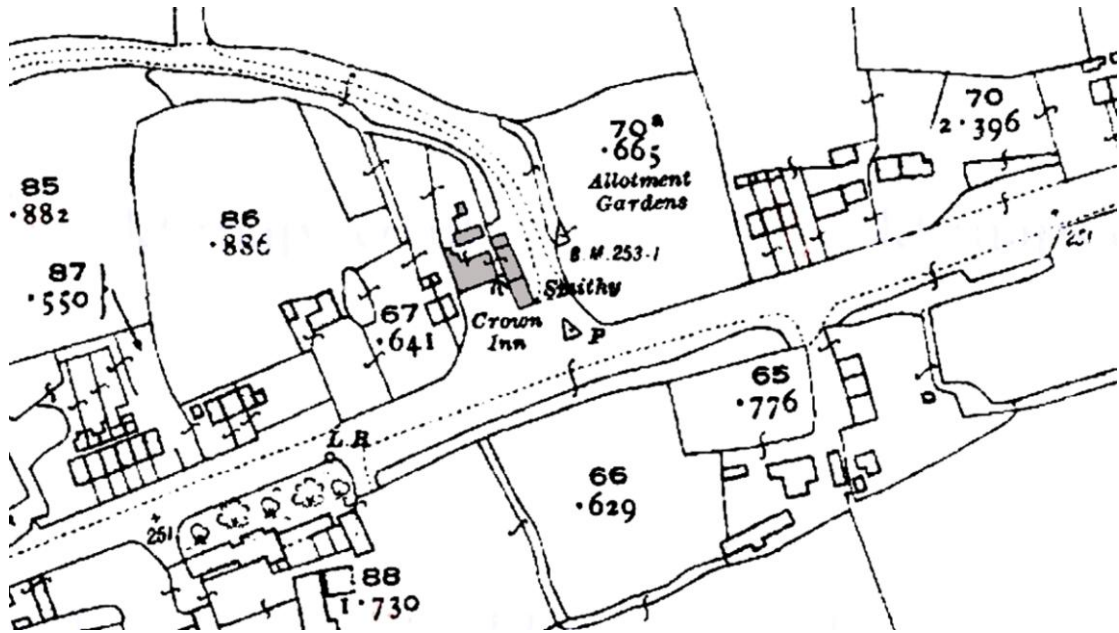
1896 Ordnance Survey.

The 1874 Ordnance Survey shows the House and Stables as separate buildings. The rear of the building has been extended and is likely to be a replacement for the stair-tower mapped earlier.

By 1896 the Stables have been extended southwards to include the Smithy which is now marked clearly on the map. Another building has been added to the northern end of the Stables and the rear yard building is shown open sided to the south.

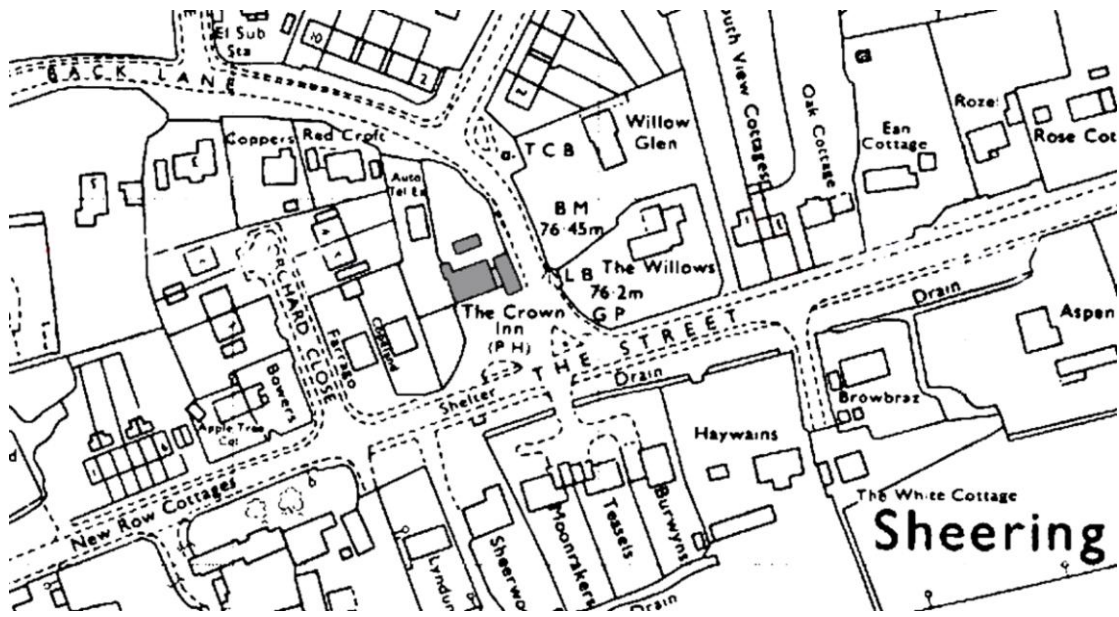


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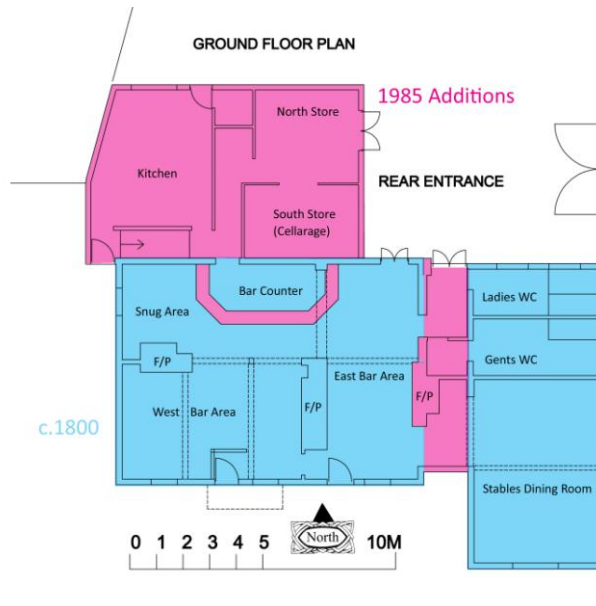


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1923 Ordnance Survey.



1977 Ordnance Survey.



General Phases

Discussion

The Crown Inn was constructed around AD1800 as an inn on the junction of the main roads into Sheering at the time. While a building is shown on the plot on the 1777 Map of Essex by Chapman and Andre there was no fabric in the house to suggest an earlier phase and inns are normally named on the map.

The building is a two pile house with the rear subservient to the front and the two halves may represent an expansion of the business within a short time frame as the fabric is very similar throughout the building.

The House and the Stables are shown on the 1839 Tithe Award Map and records back to 1828 identify the buildings as an Inn. Plot 197 *Crown Public Hse, stables, gdn* was owned by Thomas Chaplin and occupied by John Garrett who is listed in Pigot's Directories of 1828, 1830 and 1839. By 1845 Charles Brown is listed as the victualler at the Crown in Pigot's Directory and in White's Directory of 1848 and the Census of 1851.

Between 1839 and 1876 a smithy was added to the Stables but this was removed between 1923 (OS Map) and 1960 (Francis Frith photograph).

The only original features identified in the House were the beaded architraves in the upper bedroom doorways and a single EC19th style boarded door still nailed in position. One of the front windows retains a sash window with fine astragals that may be original. All the other features post date 1985 when a huge refit was undertaken and the building altered to its present state.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the owner, Mr Joe Johnson for engaging me to record the buildings and to Keith Harley for recommending me. The architect's drawings were prepared by Pam Merritt.