

**Cart Lodge at Moat Farm,
Fressingfield,
Suffolk
FSF 067**

Historic Building Record

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1-109875



Leigh Alston MA (Oxon), Architectural Historian
on behalf of
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

**The Archaeological Service
(Field Projects Team)
Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR
Tel. (01284) 352446**

September 2011

Cart Lodge at Moat Farm, Storey Lane, Fressingfield, Suffolk

(TM 269 754)

Historic Building Record

This report provides a record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a former cart lodge adjacent to a moated site and in the curtilage of a grade II-listed farmhouse. It has been prepared to a specification written by Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (reference: SpecHBR(EM)_MoatFm_Fressingfield_3677_08, dated 26th October 2010) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (Mid Suffolk District Council consent 3677/08, condition 4).

Introduction

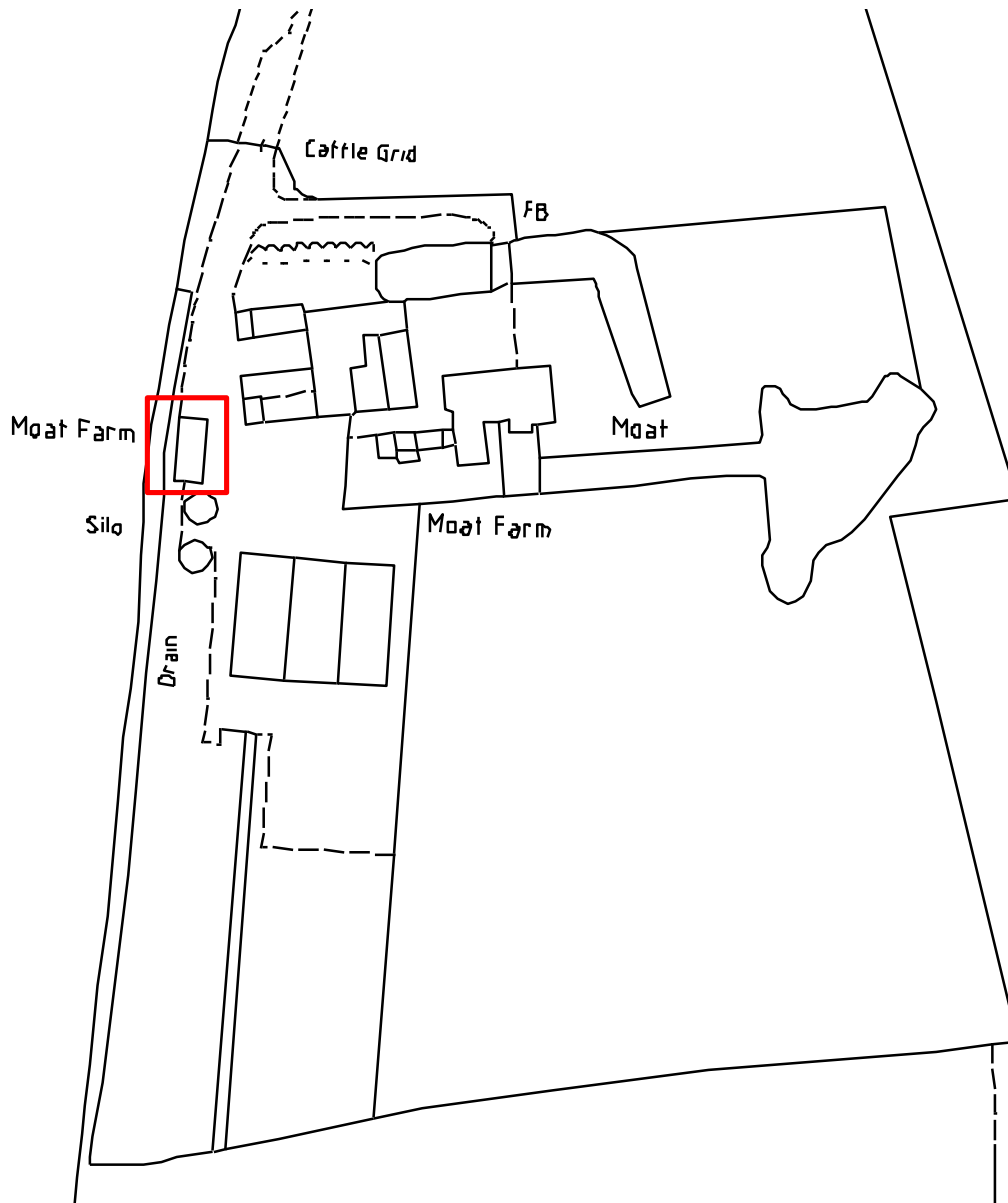
The report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 27 digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also includes 10 printed photographs of key features. Each image is described in a separate schedule and wherever possible includes a scale rod with half-metre divisions in red and white. The site was inspected on 8th September 2011.

Summary

Moat Farm lies in open countryside approximately 2 km south-east of Fressingfield village and 500 m north-east of the boundary with Stradbroke parish. The grade II-listed farmhouse is a timber-framed structure of *circa* 1600 lying within a water-filled moat which appears to remain intact on the north, east and south but has been filled on the west to accommodate the present 19th century barn and yard. At the time of the tithe survey in 1838 the farm was a mid-sized arable tenanted holding of 98.5 acres.

The four-bay cart lodge lies in the south-western corner of the main yard and is a single storied weatherboarded structure of typical form with a fully hipped pantiled roof. It was shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1884 but not the 1838 tithe map (although a possible predecessor lay in close proximity to the east) and its prefabricated softwood roof trusses and other carpentry features are characteristic of *circa* 1880. The original roughly-hewn arcade posts remain *in situ*, along with their chamfered and nailed lintels, but the building was enclosed during the 20th century to form a storage shed and workshop. The northern bay was initially divided from the rest by a boarded internal partition with an integral brick plinth but this had been largely removed by the time of inspection.

As a relatively late example of its type which has been considerably altered the cart lodge is of limited historic significance in itself, but its original red pantiles reflect those of the nearby barn and clay-lump sheds and the building forms part of a traditional 19th century farm complex of both historic and visual merit. Its location is also of historic interest given its possible location on the missing western edge of the medieval moat.



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2008

Figure 1

Modern Ordnance Survey

Enclosing the cart lodge in red to the left and showing the 19th century barn and yard complex in the centre with the grade II-listed farmhouse and moat to the right. The site is approached by a dedicated track from Storey Lane to the north. See figure 5 for more detail.

Documentary and Cartographic Evidence

Moat Farm lies in open countryside approximately 2 km south-east of Fressingfield village and 500 m north-east of the Stradbroke parish boundary. The grade II-listed farmhouse lies within a water-filled moat which appears to have been infilled on the west in order to accommodate the present barn and yard. The building is described in the Schedule of Listed Buildings as a timber-framed structure of *circa* 1600 with ovolo-moulded ceiling joists and is clad in 19th century brick with a 17th century rear wing to the south (not inspected for the purpose of this report). The barn appears to date from the first half of the 19th century with single-storied flint-rubble and clay-lump sheds to the west.

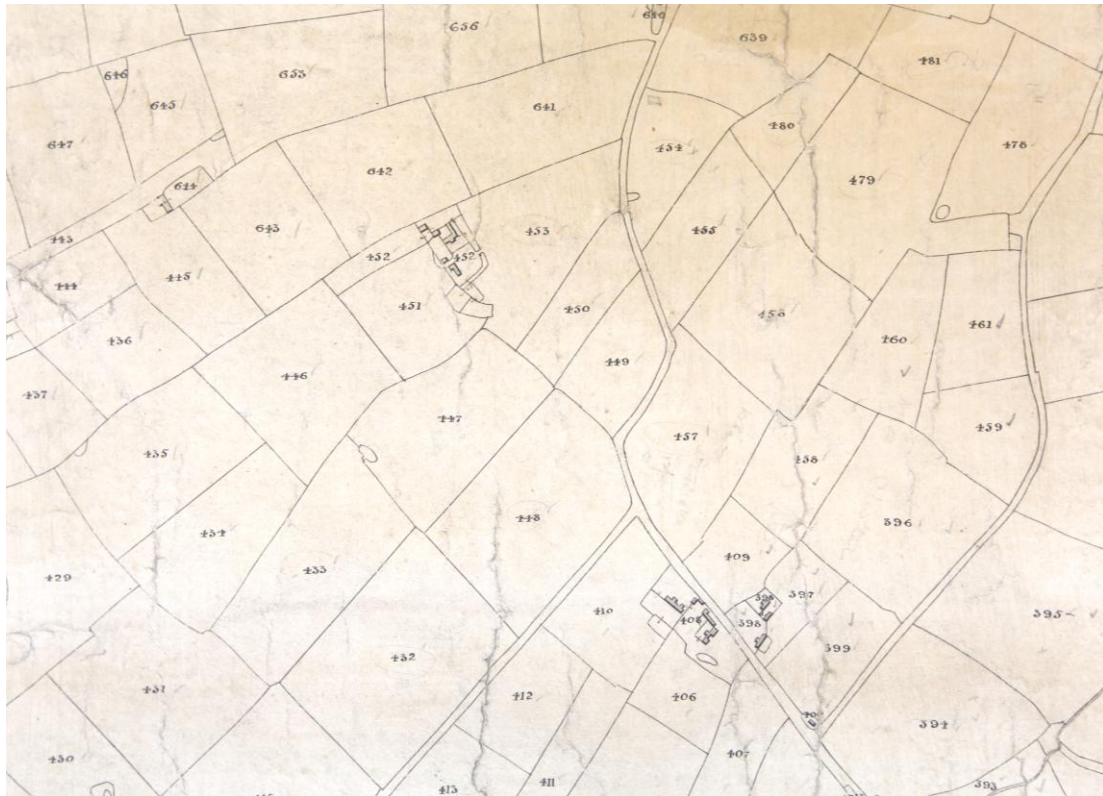


Figure 2
The 1838 tithe map of Fressingfield parish (Suffolk Record Office), showing Moat Farm in the centre. The direction of north lies towards the top right-hand corner.

At the time of the Fressingfield tithe survey in 1838 the farm was a tenanted holding of the middle size with 98.5 acres of chiefly arable land (including 23 acres of pasture) owned by Richard Priest Esquire and occupied by Benjamin Harris. The site is described only as ‘homestead’ on the apportionment (plot 452 in figure 2a) with ‘Home Field’ to the north and ‘Backhouse Meadow’ to the south (plots 453 and 451 respectively). The tithe map appears to show a rectangular building immediately to the east of the present cart lodge; it adjoins the entrance yard and may well represent the existing building’s predecessor. Interestingly, the southern arm of the moat is conspicuous by its absence from the tithe map but is clearly shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1884 (figure 3) and was presumably excavated or re-excavated along with the pond in its south-eastern corner during the intervening decades. The buildings adjoining the barn were also remodelled in the mid-19th century to create a series of enclosed animal yards and shelter-sheds in the typical manner of the period (when the system of yard-based mixed animal husbandry now known as Victorian High Farming replaced the earlier tradition of keeping cattle abroad in the fields: An enclosure on the opposite side of Storey Lane was known as Neathouse Meadow (454 in figure 2) and contained a small structure in its western corner). The same phase of remodelling may have produced the surviving cart lodge which the 1884 map shows in its present location against the western boundary ditch. A small pond in close proximity to the east (of which there is now no trace) may represent a fragment of the original medieval moat. The layout of the site had changed little by 1904 (figure 4) and with the exception of the enlargement of the yard and the addition of a block of mid-20th century cattle sheds to the south it remained much the same at the time of inspection. Both the 1884 and 1904 Ordnance Surveys label the site as Lambert’s Farm, although the moat is identified as such, and the property’s present name dates only from the mid-20th century.

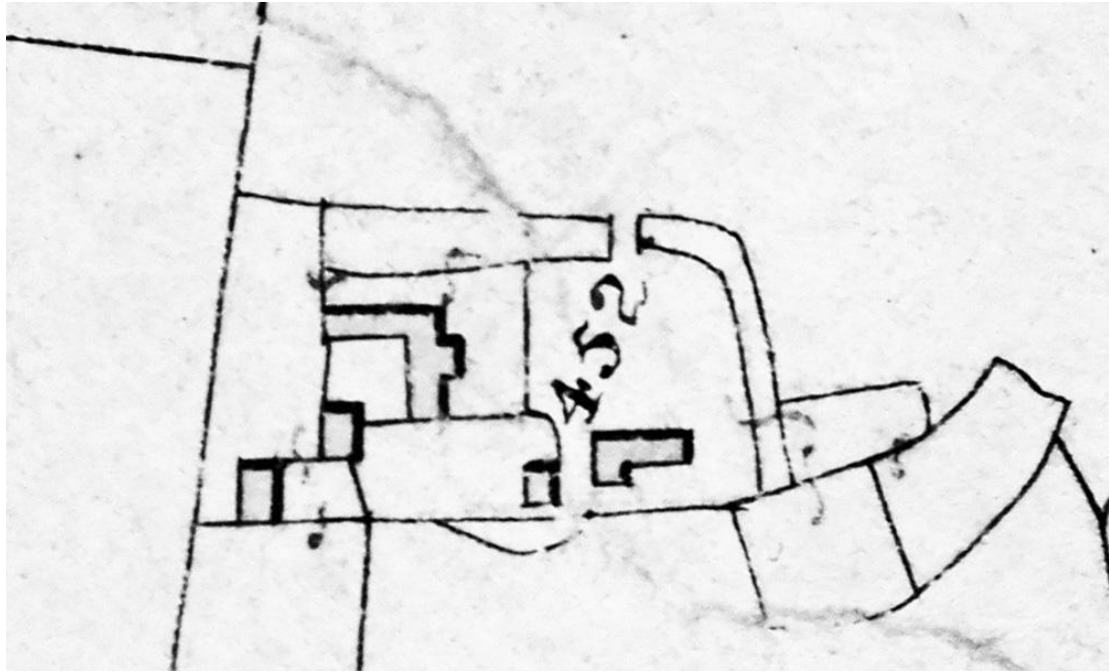


Figure 2a

Detail of the 1838 tithe map rotated to show north in the usual direction. The moat is shown to the north and east of the house but not the south (suggesting its present southern arm was excavated or re-excavated in the mid-19th century). The barn to the west of the site (with its eastern porch) appears to be the existing structure with its flint-rubble northern shed but lacks the clay-lump southern shed. The building in the south-western corner of the yard complex may be an earlier cart lodge and lies immediately to the east of its successor.

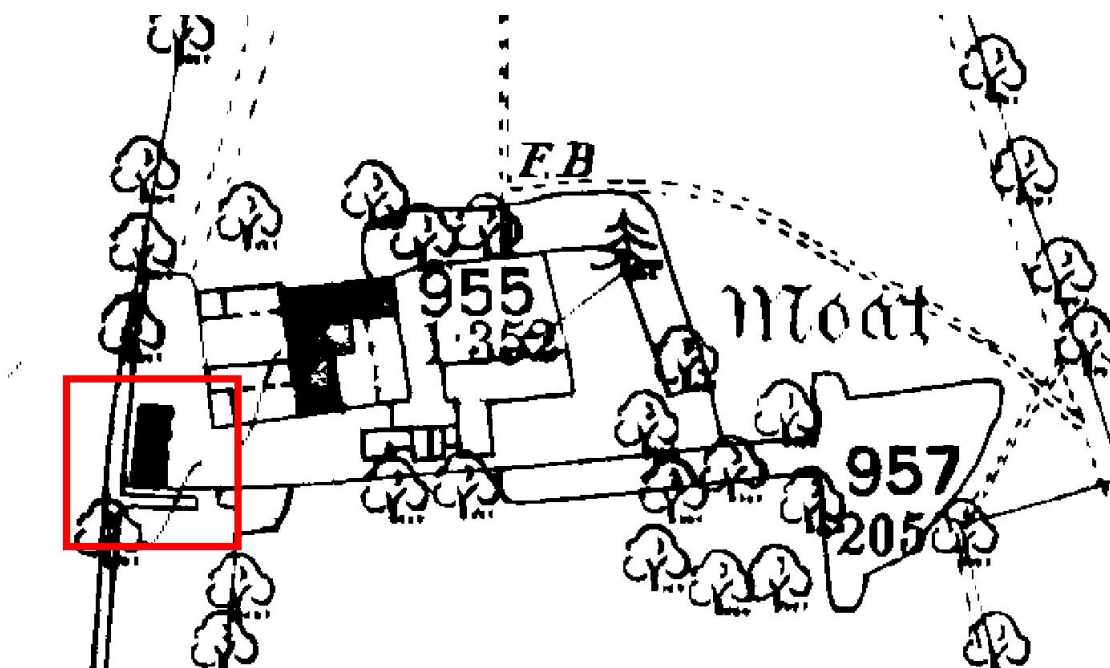


Figure 3

First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1884. The southern arm of the moat had been newly dug since 1838, along with a large pond to the east, and the present cart lodge had been built against the boundary ditch in the south-western corner of the site.

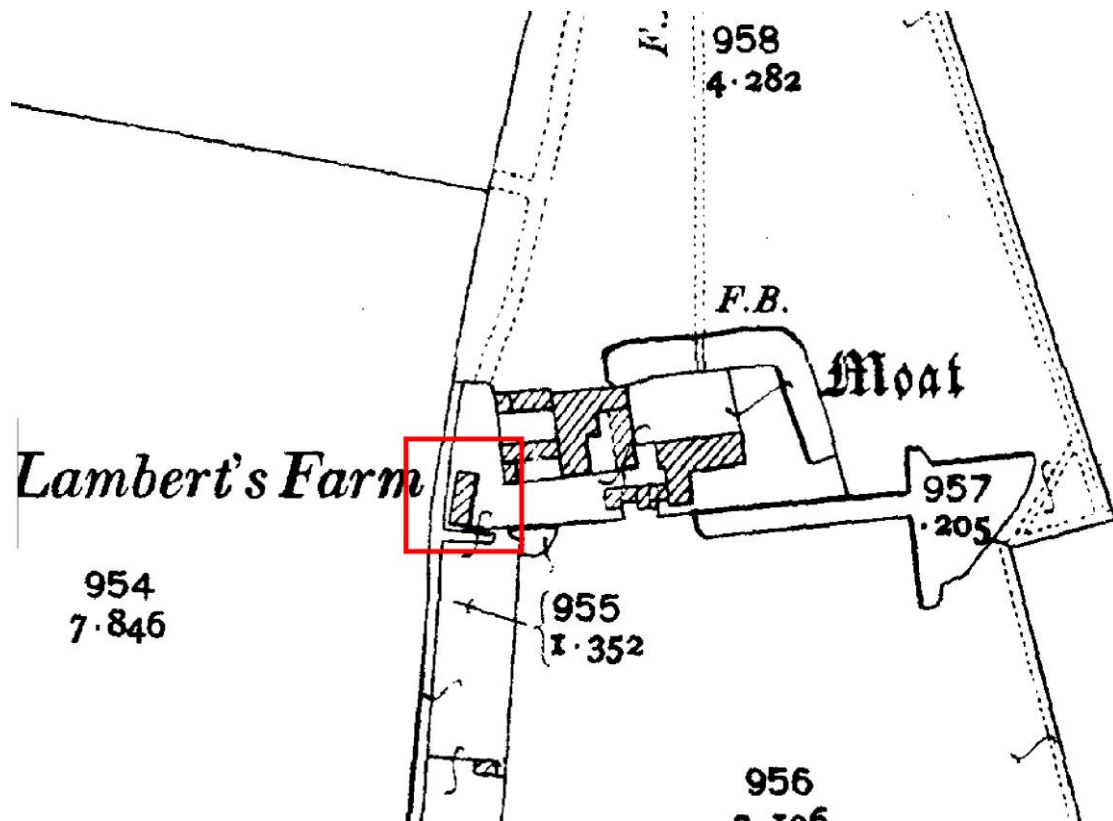


Figure 4

The Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904, showing little change since 1884. The 1957 Ordnance Survey (not reproduced here) also names the site as Lambert's Farm, and is present name appeared for the first time on the edition of 1980.

Building Analysis

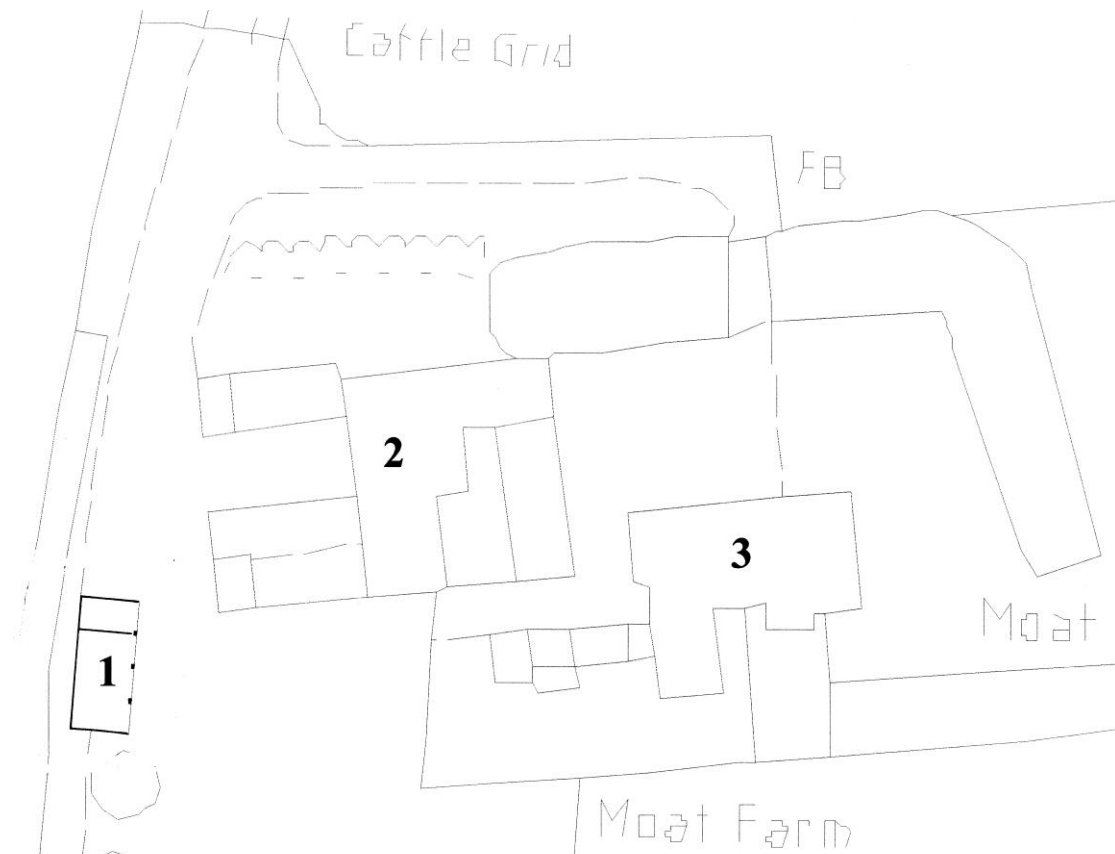


Figure 5
Block plan of the site showing its water-filled moat and principal buildings.
Based on Ordnance Survey

Key

- 1. Cart Lodge. Late-19th century four-bay cart lodge with hipped pantiled roof, open-sided eastern elevation and separate compartment to north.**
- 2. Early-19th century barn with attached flint-rubble and clay-lump single-storied yard sheds to west.**
- 3. Farmhouse. Grade II-listed range of *circa* 1600 clad in 19th century red brick with 17th century rear (southern) wing.**

Description

The cart lodge at Moat Farm is a single storied weatherboarded structure of typical form with a fully hipped pantiled roof and evidence of an open arcade facing the yard on the east. Its walls rise to 2.1 m (7 ft) at their roof-plates and it extends to 11.9 m in length by 5.6 m in overall width on an approximately north-south axis (39 ft by 18.5 ft).

The fabric of the enclosed gables and rear (western) elevation consists of narrow oak studs with deal (softwood) roof-plates and prefabricated roof-trusses with central iron bars bolted to the tie-beams. The studs are interrupted by primary diagonal braces that are nailed rather than pegged to the principal timbers. These features are characteristic of the latter part of the 19th

century and the building is unlikely to have stood for more than a decade when depicted on the Ordnance Survey of 1884.

The front (eastern) elevation is now enclosed by 20th century boarding but was originally open to the yard along its entire length. The roof-plate is supported by three oak posts on brick plinths with crudely chamfered lintels which are nailed from beneath as shown in illustrations 9 and 10 below. The posts are roughly hewn and may have been re-used from an earlier structure. The south-eastern corner post contains an empty mortise that may have secured a post-and-rail fence defining the southern edge of the yard as shown on the Ordnance Surveys.

The northernmost of the cart lodge's four bays was divided from the rest by a boarded internal partition with an integral brick plinth but the partition had been largely removed by the time of inspection. The eastern elevation of this northern bay was later infilled with narrow softwood studs to form an enclosed shed and a new entrance door inserted into the northern gable. The floors are of 20th century concrete throughout.

Historic Significance

The cart lodge is a relatively late example of its kind, dating from *circa* 1880, and has been much altered by the removal of its original internal partition and by its enclosure to form a workshop and storage shed during the 20th century. It is accordingly not of special historic significance in itself. However the building retains its original red pantiles which reflect those of the nearby barn and clay-lump sheds, forming part of a traditional 19th century farm complex of both historic and visual merit. Its location is also of historic interest given its possible location on the missing western edge of the medieval moat.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view of site from south showing cart lodge to left, early-19th century barn & sheds in centre & grade II-listed house right.
2. General view of farm entrance from north showing cart lodge to right & early-19th century barn & sheds to left.
3. General view of site from west showing cart lodge to right & early-19th century barn and sheds to left.
4. General view of site from north-east showing moated farmhouse of c.1600 with early-19th century barn to right.
5. Grade II-listed farmhouse of c.1600 with 19th century brick facade from moat to north. Included for site context.
6. Exterior of cart lodge from south-east showing weatherboarded southern gable to left and hipped pantiled roof.
7. Eastern exterior of four-bay cart lodge showing 20th century boarded infill to original open arcade.
8. Exterior from north-east showing weatherboarded northern gable to right.
9. Weatherboarded rear (western) exterior showing 20th century lights of corrugated plastic.
10. General view of interior from north showing former open arcade to left and original studwork of rear wall to right.
11. Interior from north-east showing southern gable to left and rear (western) elevation to right.
12. Western interior showing remains of original boarded partition on brick plinth to right.
13. Interior from south-east showing remains of boarded internal partition to northern bay to right.
14. Detail of internal western studwork showing narrow oak studs interrupted by nailed primary braces with deal roof-plate.
15. Interior of northern bay from east showing remains of boarded internal partition to left and northern gable to right.
16. Internal northern gable showing inserted door interrupting primary brace to left.
17. Detail of fully hipped roof structure of northern gable from east showing boarded internal partition to left.

18. Northern bay from west showing narrow inserted studs lacking brace to formerly open eastern elevation.
19. Interior of formerly open eastern elevation showing three arcade posts with chamfered lintels.
20. Detail of pre-fabricated softwood roof trusses from south showing central iron suspension bar.
21. Eastern interior showing back-painted arcade posts and lintels in centre.
22. Detail of black-painted arcade posts and lintels to eastern interior.
23. Detail of arcade post abutting original internal partition of northern bay showing black paint only to soffit of lintel.
24. Detail of chamfered and nailed lintel to arcade post of eastern interior.
25. Detail of Fletton brick plinths beneath arcade posts of eastern interior.
26. Detail of chamfered arcade post lintel adjoining southern bay of eastern interior.
27. Detail of chamfered and nailed to arcade post of eastern interior.

Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pp. 10-14

Appendix 2 (pp. 10-14): Selected Printed Photographs



Illus. 1. General view of the site from the south showing the cart lodge facing an open yard to the left, the early-19th century barn and single-storey yard sheds in the centre and the grade II-listed farmhouse to the right.



Illus. 2. The grade II-listed farmhouse of *circa* 1600 with its 19th century brick facade seen from across the moat to the north. Included for site context.



Illus. 3. The exterior of the cart lodge from the south-east showing its originally open eastern elevation (now enclosed by 20th century boarding) with the weatherboarded southern gable to the left.



Illus. 4. The rear (western) internal elevation showing its narrow studs with nailed primary braces and deal roof-plate. The remains of the original boarded partition on a brick plinth to the northern bay are visible to the right.



Illus. 5. The interior of the northern bay from the east showing the remains of the boarded internal partition to the left and the northern gable to the right.



Illus. 6. The northern bay from the west showing the narrow inserted studs without a brace to the formerly open eastern elevation, and the remains of the original internal partition to the right.



Illus. 7. Detail of the pre-fabricated softwood roof trusses from the south showing a central iron suspension bar.



Illus. 8. Detail of the black-painted arcade posts and lintels to the original open eastern interior.



Illus. 9. Detail of the chamfered and nailed lintel to the northern arcade post of the eastern interior.



Illus. 10. Detail of the northern chamfered arcade post lintel of the eastern interior showing the heads of the iron nails which secure it to the roof-plate.