

**‘Barn’ & Outbuilding,
Rose & Crown Inn,
Long Melford, Suffolk
LMD 185**

Historic Building Record

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(TL 878 491)

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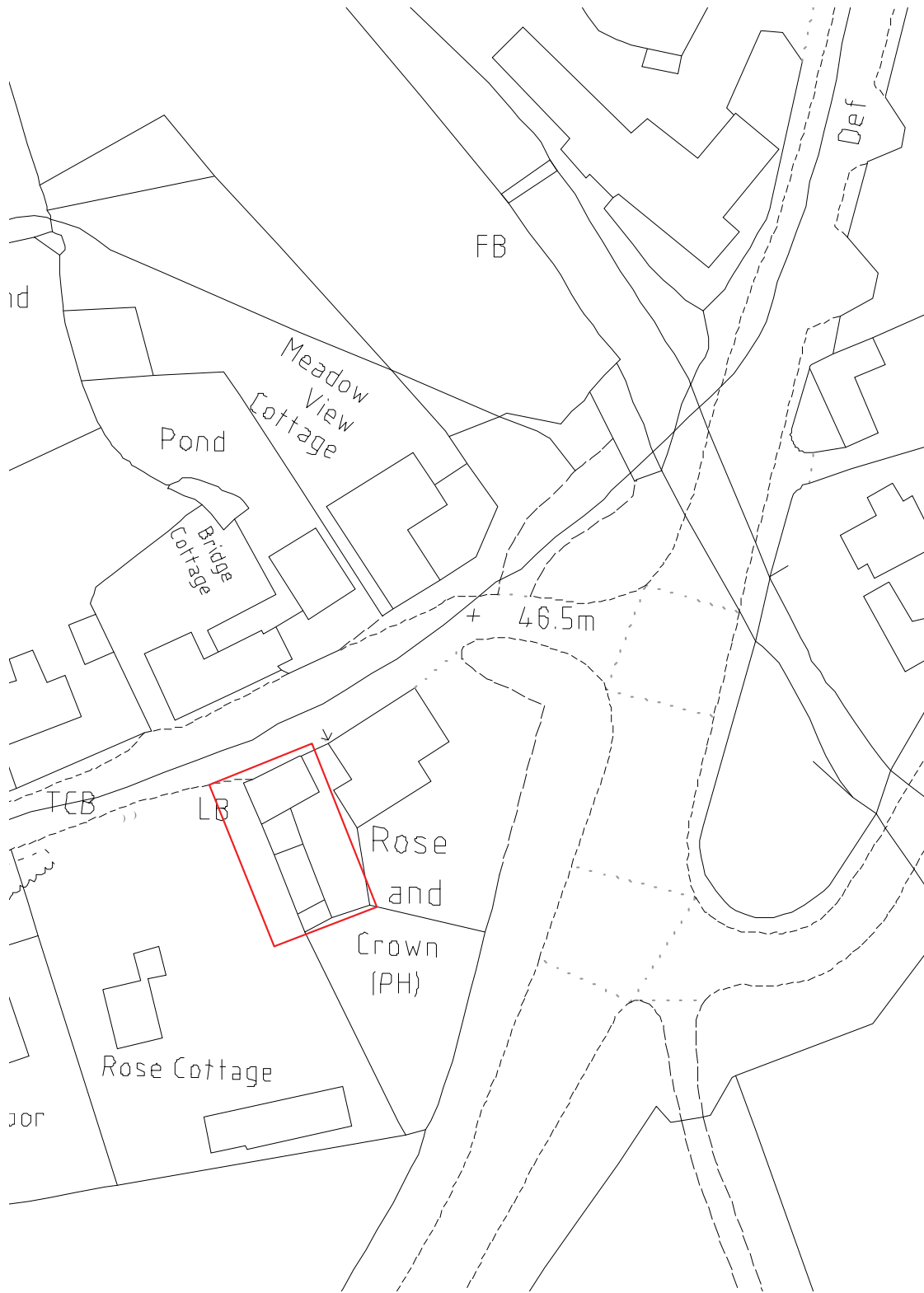
This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a redundant stable (known for planning purposes as a barn) and an attached range of sheds in the curtilage of a listed building. It has been prepared to a brief written by Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (Edward Martin, 17th February 2010, ref. SpecHBR(EM)_Rose&Crown_LMelford_01097_09) and is intended to inform and accompany an application to Babergh District Council for conversion.

Introduction

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a photographic record in the form of 56 digital images (Appendix 1), but also includes 10 printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). 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 22nd March 2010.

Summary

The ‘barn’ at the grade II-listed Rose & Crown Inn is a mid-19th century red-brick stable and hay loft with an attached range of single-storied sheds to the rear. The site lies in the hamlet of Bridge Street at the northern end of Long Melford parish, and occupies a triangular promontory between the old course of the street to the north (which forms the boundary with Alpheton parish) and the 20th century by-pass to the east and south (now the A134). The Rose & Crown is known to have existed since at least 1757, when it was mentioned by the same name in a manorial rental, but the present building is not shown on the tithe map of 1839 and is a replacement of *circa* 1850 (but is incorrectly dated to the early-19th century in the Schedule of Listed Buildings). Although not shown on the 1839 tithe map, both the inn and stable appear in their present form on the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1885. The stable may be contemporary with the house but is probably a slightly later addition of *circa* 1860. It preserves a particularly impressive boarded manger against its roadside elevation and is entered by a central door from the rear yard in the typical manner of inn stables (designed to accommodate the horses of guests). Small examples such as this, at just 8.4 m in length, are increasingly rare survivals in original condition. The internal ceiling is a replacement of the 20th century, as is the entire roof structure and its covering of treble-tiles, but the distinctively ‘blind’ roadside façade is little changed and makes a significant contribution to the road scene. The historic character of this facade is largely defined by the presence of a central first-floor loading door to the hay loft (its jambs dressed with gault brick) coupled with the absence of doors and windows to the lower storey where the manger abutted the interior. The two 20th century windows in the same elevation are fortunately too small to detract from this character. The range of single-storied sheds to the rear is contemporary with the stable and formed the western side of the inn yard. Divided into three compartments it includes a vehicle shed and a recently enclosed area that probably served as an open-sided shelter. Although of considerable historic interest the buildings are not of sufficient age or importance to merit listing in their own right.



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Figure 1

Current Ordnance Survey Site Plan

Enclosing the 'barn' and sheds in red to the west of the Rose & Crown. The buildings abut the original course of Bridge Street on the north, but this was by-passed in the mid-20th century by the modern A134 between Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds (shown here to the east and south).

Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record

The Rose & Crown Inn lies in the hamlet of Bridge Street at the northern end of Long Melford parish, approximately 3 km north-east of Holy Trinity church. The building adjoins the southern side of the road which forms the boundary with Alpheton parish. The hamlet was by-passed to the south-east by the present A134 in the mid-20th century, and the inn now occupies the triangular junction between the old and new routes. The building is listed at grade II as ‘an early-19th century red brick building with white brick end pilasters’, but its architectural details are more consistent with a mid-19th century date (i.e. *circa* 1840-50). Its internal timbers are recent insertions for decorative effect. The structure contains an integral rear lean-to and has a distinctive wide profile which is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1885 (fig.3) but is conspicuous by its absence from the Long Melford tithe map of 1839 (fig.2). The latter shows the narrow outline of the earlier inn on the site, which was described in a rental of 1757 as a ‘messuage now the Rose and Crown’ (*pers. comm.* Liz Wigmore of the Long Melford Historical Society). It was then (in 1757) owned by ‘Bullock of Bury’ and occupied by Edmund Newman, having formerly belonged to ‘Mr Prick, Henry Ellis and Robert North’. The building on the tithe map is described in the contemporary schedule as ‘the Rose and Crown Inn’ owned by Henry Braddock and occupied by James Albon (no. 174a).

The stable and sheds to the west of the inn are also absent from the tithe map, but were shown together with the existing house on the Ordnance Surveys of 1885 and 1904. All three maps show a substantial building in the garden of Rose Cottage immediately to the west but no trace of this now survives. The sheds appear to extend further south than at present, and an additional range of buildings lay to the east of the yard.



Figure 2

Bridge Street as depicted on the Long Melford tithe map of 1839, showing the Rose & Crown with a narrow rectangular outline (no. 174a). The present stable and sheds had not yet been built. Nothing now survives of the large ‘U’-shaped structure in the northern yard of Rose Cottage to the west (176) and the modern A134 now by-passes the road bend on the east.

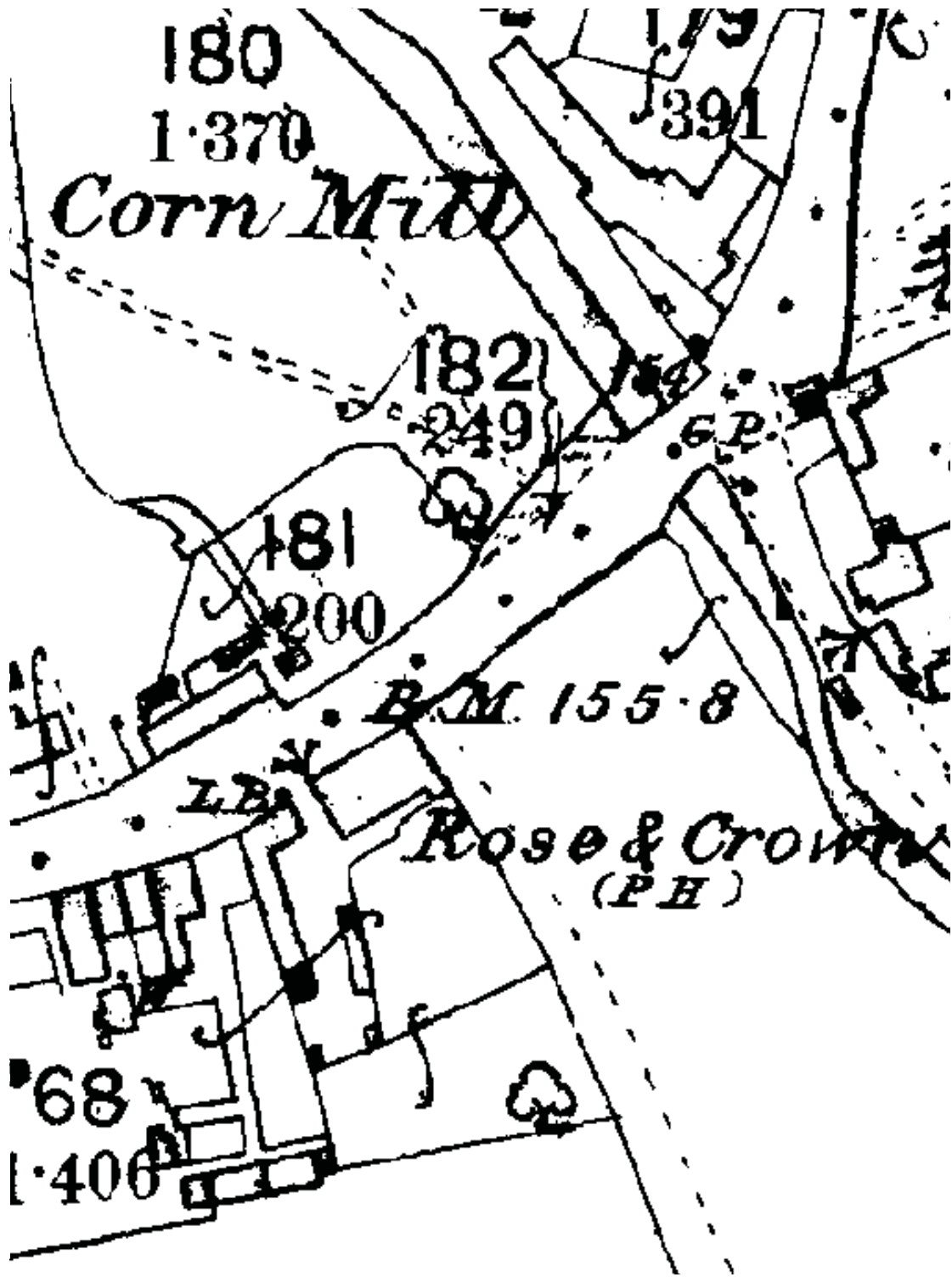


Figure 3

First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1885, showing the present buildings on the site for the first time. The Public House is shown with its integral rear lean-to and is significantly wider than its predecessor in figure 1, while the distinctive L-shaped outline of the stable and sheds is much as it remains today. Nothing now survives of the additional range of buildings on the eastern side of the yard, and the sheds appear to extend further south than at present. The parish boundary between Long Melford and Alpheton is indicated by a dotted line in the middle of the street.

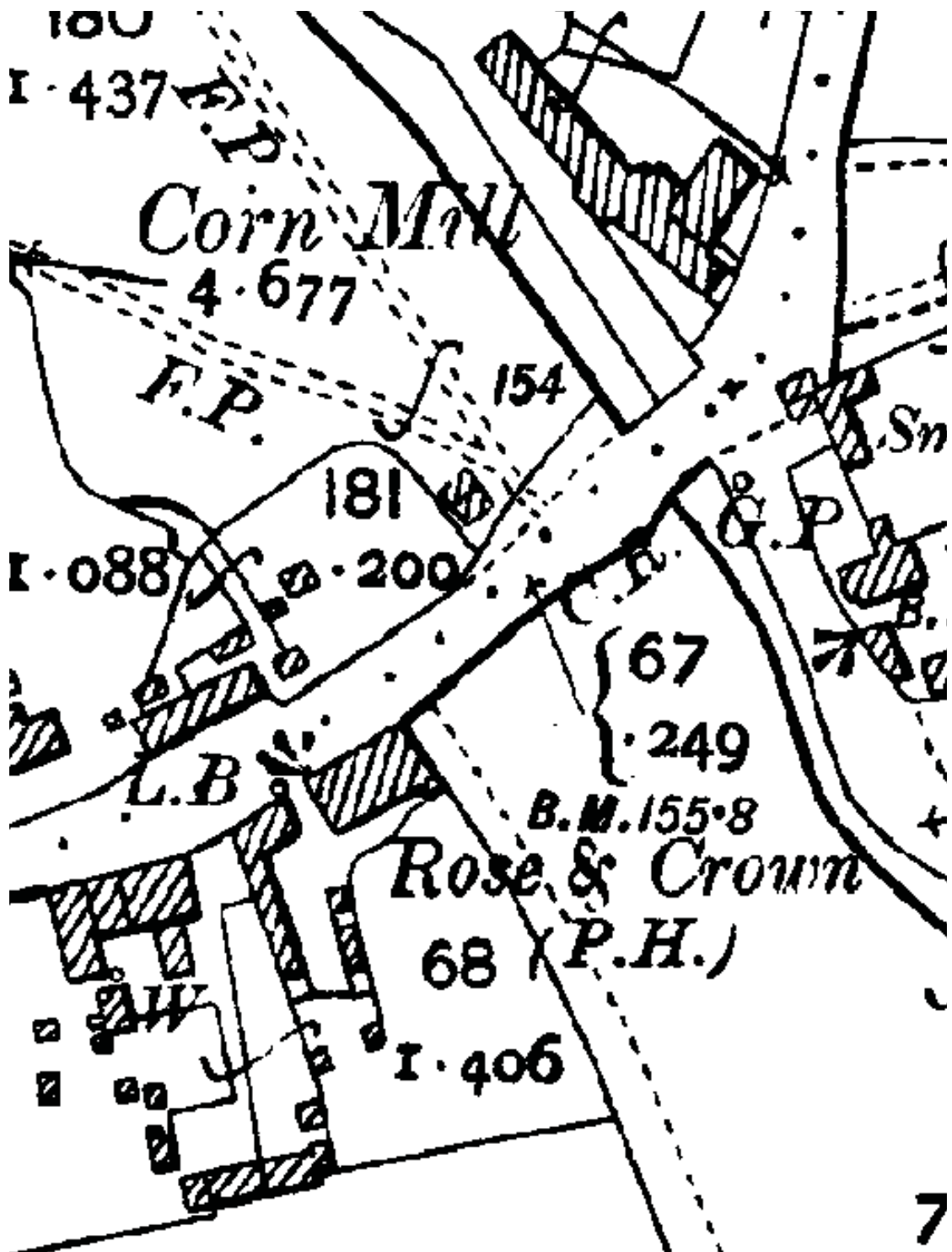


Figure 4
 Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1904, showing no significant change since the First Edition of 1885

Building Analysis

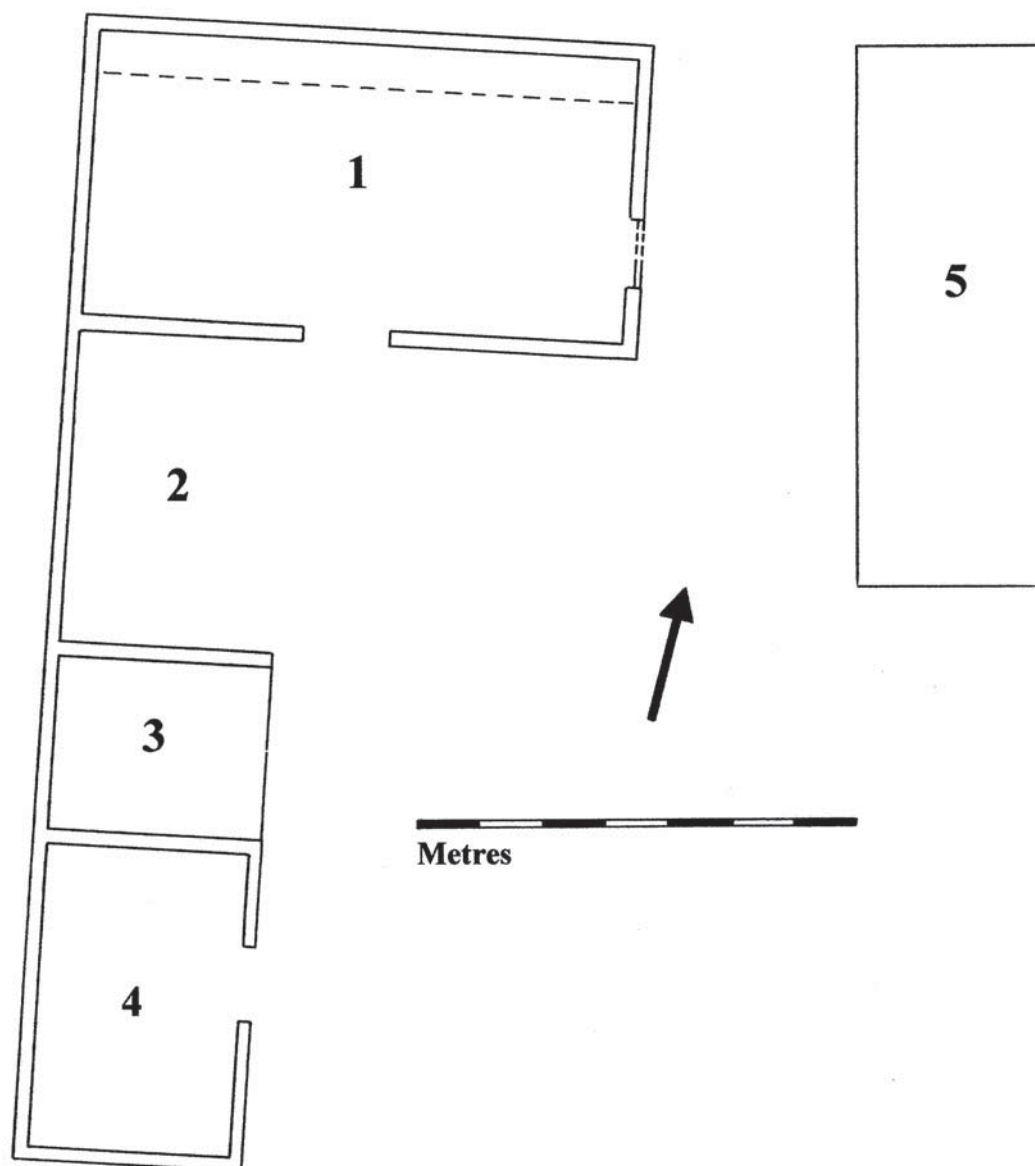


Figure 5

Block Plan of site, identifying each building unit with a number for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. Scale in metres.

Key

1. Mid-19th century red-brick stable and hay loft with gault-brick dressing to northern corners and loft door. Ceiling and treble-tiled roof structure rebuilt in 20th century. Original window in western gable (partly blocked). Original boarded manger survives against northern internal elevation as indicated by broken line.
- 2-4. Single-storied range of three treble-tiled red-brick sheds with pentice (single-slope) roof. The converted northern shed (2) now with a modern eastern wall and probably designed as an open shelter; the central vehicle shed with vehicle doors and intended to accommodate a cart or trap, and the southern shed with the remains of a wooden shelf and probably intended as a harness room or barrel store.
5. Mid-19th red-brick and slate Public House with integral rear (southern) lean-to.

1. Stable

Proportions and Date

The building at the Rose and Crown known for planning purposes as a barn is in fact a mid-19th century stable with a hay loft above. It lies on a slightly different axis to the house, as shown in figure 5, and is separated from it by a gateway of 3.2 m in width which opens onto the inn yard from the street to the north. The structure extends to 8.4 m in length by 4.9 m in overall width (27.5 ft by 16 ft) and rises to 4.2 m at its eaves (13.75 ft). It consists of uniform red brick in Flemish bond with gault (white) brick dressing to its front (northern) corners and to the jambs of the original loft loading door in the centre of the same elevation. The rear yard elevation is partly laid in rubble bond. Neither the present inn nor the stable are shown on the tithe map of 1839 but both appear in their present forms on the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1885. The stable may be contemporary with the rebuilding of the inn in *circa* 1850 but is probably slightly later as its brickwork differs in colour and in the details of its dressing: a date of *circa* 1860 is most likely.

Original Layout

The stable was entered by a single door in the approximate centre of its rear elevation and lit by a single window in its eastern gable. The doorway remains in use but the window has been reduced in width (its original proportions are defined by quarter bricks). A brick beneath this window is inscribed externally with the horizontal numeral '5', which probably identified a manufacturing batch. The front (northern) elevation was entirely featureless on the lower storey, in the characteristic manner of stables which typically possessed hay racks and mangers opposite their yard entrances. The central first-floor loading door to the hay loft has been reduced in height, as indicated by the continuation of its gault brick dressing beneath its present sill and by four courses of secondary brickwork. No trace of the hay rack now survives, but the boarded manger which spans the entire width of its roadside elevation is almost certainly original to the building and is a particularly fine example of its kind. Rising to 0.9 m (3 ft) above the concrete stable floor it retains some seven or eight tethering rings and a number of internal divisions (it was partly hidden at the time of inspection), while its timber-work has been reinforced with iron plates and straps to produce a surface of unusual character. No other historic fixtures or fittings remain.

Alterations

The general layout and appearance of the stable remains largely intact, but its ceiling and roof structure are 20th century replacements. The present ceiling consists of mid- to late-20th century softwood joists supported on two secondary brick piers and with clearance of 2.3 m (7.5 ft) it lies approximately 0.3 m above the original ceiling (as indicated by the reduction in the height of the external loft door). The brickwork of both roof gables has also been rebuilt, and the treble tiles and softwood clasped-purlin structure of the roof are additions of the early-20th century. The original stable (and range of sheds) may have been roofed with slate to match the inn, or with pantiles. 20th century windows have been inserted into the lower storey of the western gable and the upper storey of the eastern gable, while the original ground-floor window to the east has been reduced in width as described above. Small secondary windows have also been inserted at both ends of the northern façade, and the western example was formerly of greater depth but has been reduced in height: six courses of inserted brickwork are visible beneath its present sill.

2-4. Sheds

A single-storied range of contemporary red-brick sheds with a treble-tiled roof extends by 13 m (42.75 ft) south of the roadside stable and forms the western side of the inn yard. These lie beneath a single-span (pentice) roof structure which rises to 2.3 m (7.5 ft) at its eastern eaves with a high western wall adjoining the neighbouring property (Rose Cottage). The range

extends to 3.6 m in width (12 ft) and is divided into three sections. The northern compartment adjoining the stable (2) has been heavily modernised in recent years and its eastern elevation consists of modern brick and boarding; it may have been an open shelter shed in the 19th century, but no conclusive evidence survives. The narrow central shed extends to just 2.75 m (9 ft) in length and contains double doors to house a cart or trap, while the southern shed of 5.2 m in length is entered by a single door with a glazed light above and contains evidence of a boarded shelf at the southern end of its western elevation. This shed may have served as a barrel store but could have readily operated as a harness shed.

Historic Significance

Despite the loss of its original roof and ceiling the external appearance of the stable at the Rose & Crown remains largely unaltered and makes a significant contribution to the historic character of the street. Smaller inn stables of this kind are increasingly rare survivals, particularly with original fixtures and fittings such as the impressive manger found here. They were designed to accommodate the horses of overnight guests and drinking customers alike. The historic character of the roadside elevation relates to its loft door and the corresponding lack of doors and windows on its lower storey – a character which narrowly survived the insertion of the present unprepossessing but mercifully small 20th century windows at each end. Although of undoubted historic interest the stable and its attached range of sheds are not sufficiently well preserved, or of sufficient age or rarity, to merit listing in their own right.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view of site from junction of A134 and Lavenham road to south-east.
2. General view of site from north-east showing modern A134 to left and original road to right.
3. General view from north-east showing change of orientation between Public House and stable.
4. General view from south-east showing stable range to left & Public House to right.
5. General view of stable range from south-east showing single-storied sheds to left.
6. General view from street to north-east showing Rose and Crown Public House with stable in rear.
7. Northern facade of Rose and Crown Public House (included for site context).
8. General view from north-west showing stable to right with Public House in rear to left.
9. Exterior of stable (1) from north-west.
10. Northern facade of stable (1) showing original hay loft door in centre.
11. Detail of hay loft door with gault brick dressing in northern external elevation of stable (1). The door has been reduced in height (as shown by the later brick infill beneath).
12. Detail of northern facade of stable (1) showing secondary window to east.
13. Detail of northern facade of stable (1) showing partly blocked secondary window to west.
14. Detail of partly blocked secondary window to west of stable facade (showing infill beneath sill).
15. Exterior of stable from west showing rear range to right.
16. Detail of western exterior showing rebuilt brickwork of roof gable.
17. Detail of eastern exterior showing window in rebuilt brickwork of roof gable.
18. Eastern external gable showing partly blocked original window to left.
19. Detail of partly blocked original window in eastern gable showing infill to right & inscribed numeral '5' beneath.

20. Detail of numbered brick (5) beneath window in eastern external gable.
21. External western elevation from north-east showing Rose Cottage in rear to right.
22. Exterior from west showing street context.
23. Southern exterior of stable showing original doorway with pentice shed to left.
24. Detail of original doorway in southern external gable.
25. External southern gable of pentice shed showing stable and PH in rear.
26. Western external elevation of pentice shed seen from north-east.
27. Entrance to southern shed (4) in western exterior of pentice shed.
28. Detail of original door light to southern shed (4).
29. Entrance to vehicle shed (3) in centre of western exterior of pentice shed.
30. Exterior of northern shed (2) in pentice range showing modern brick & boarding.
31. Internal southern gable of southern shed (4) showing remains of wooden shelf to right.
32. Detail of former barrel shelf in south-western corner of southern shed (4).
33. Internal rear (western) elevation of southern shed (4).
34. Interior of southern shed (4) from south.
35. Interior of central shed (3) from east showing full height of western elevation.
36. Detail of northern partition of central shed (3).
37. Southern internal partition of central shed (3) from east.
38. Interior of converted northern shed (2) showing eastern window to left.
39. Internal eastern gable of stable loft (1).
40. Internal northern elevation of hay loft (1) showing external loading door.
41. Internal detail of loft loading door in northern internal elevation.
42. Internal south-western corner of stable loft showing modern ladder access.
43. Softwood roof structure of stable (1) from east.
44. Detail of softwood roof structure of stable (1) showing nailed collar.
45. Internal western gable of loft.
46. Interior of stable from east showing southern entrance to left.

47. Interior of stable (1) from west showing southern entrance to right.
48. Western end of northern stable interior (1) showing original manger.
49. Eastern end of northern stable interior (1) showing original manger.
50. Western end of manger against northern interior of stable (1).
51. Detail of tethering rings attached to manger of stable (1).
52. Eastern end of original manger against northern stable interior (1).
53. Detail from west of manger in stable (1) showing iron straps to front edge.
54. Detail from south-east of manger in stable (1) showing internal divider.
55. Southern interior of stable (1) showing original door to yard.
56. Detail from west of 20th century rebuilt ceiling of stable (1).

Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pp. 13-17

Appendix 2 (pp. 13-17): Selected Printed Photographs



A2.1 General view from modern A134 to south-east showing red-brick stable (1) and single-storied range of sheds (2-4) to left & rear elevation of Rose & Crown Public House (5) to right



A2.2 General view of site from old road to north-west showing stable (1) to right with Public House (5) to left.



A2.3 Northern roadside facade of stable (1) showing original hay loft door with gault brick dressing in centre and evidence of blocked secondary ground-floor window or hatch to right.



A2.4 Exterior of eastern gable showing partly blocked original window to left with numbered brick immediately beneath.



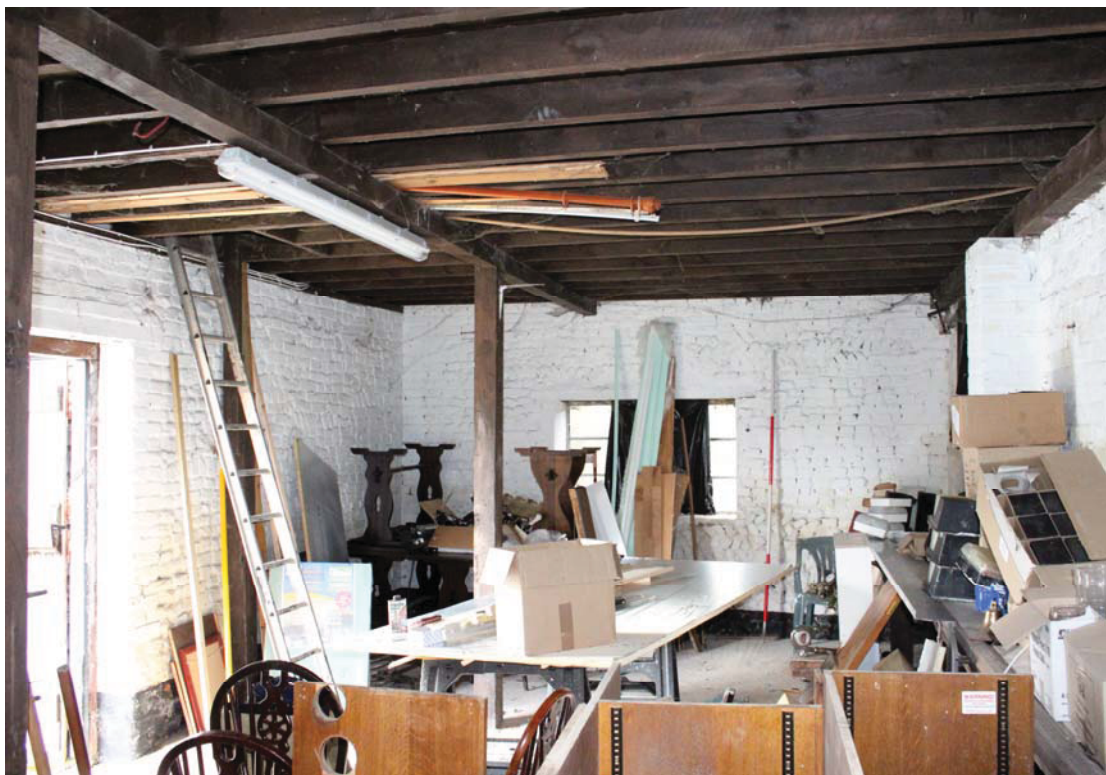
A2.5 Southern exterior of stable showing original central entrance with recently converted northern shed (2) to left and western gable of Public House (5) to right.



A2.6 Eastern exterior of pentice sheds seen from north-east, showing the vehicle shed (3) in centre, the enclosed southern shed to the left and the modern façade of the northern shed (2) to right.



A2.7 Internal northern elevation of hay loft above stable (1) showing external loading door in centre and softwood clasped-purlin roof structure.



A2.8 Interior of stable (1) from east showing southern entrance and original boarded manger against northern roadside elevation to right. The ceiling is a 20th century replacement.



A2.9 Eastern end of original manger against northern stable interior (1) showing tethering rings and boarded construction.



A2.10 Detail of boarded manger against northern interior of stable (1) showing internal division of trough to left.