

**Standing Building Recording
Survey**

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The Royal George Inn

Lyonshall

Herefordshire

March 2015



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Frontispiece: View north showing the principal southwest -facing elevation of the Royal George Inn Lyonshall

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1 Executive Summary

The results of this programme of standing building recording, supplemented by detailed documentary research, on the Royal George Inn at Lyonshall, a Grade II Listed Building, has revealed evidence of five broad phases of construction and rebuilding, ranging in date from the late 16th-early 17th century up to the mid-late 20th century.

- Documentary information on the early history of the Royal George Inn is very limited; the earliest specific reference to the George Inn occurs in a sale advertisement of 1795. Architectural evidence suggests that the building was originally constructed in the late 16th-early 17th century as a yeoman's house of box-framed, continuous jettied type often found in vernacular houses in Herefordshire and the Marches during the 16th and 17th centuries. Much of the original fabric has been altered or removed as a result of later work (particularly as a result of the extensive internal re-organisation which took place in the mid-20th century); however, some early work has survived intact.*
- The earliest phase of construction, dated to the late 16th-early 17th century (Phase 1), is represented by the central three bays of the main NW-SE aligned block, located between the cider mill/kitchen and the public bar, defined by substantial chamfered cross-beams. Evidence of square-panelled timber framing, infilled with lath-and-plaster (and later brick nogging) is visible in the rear (NE-facing) elevation at ground and upper-storey level, which may also represent evidence of early work. The upper half of the NW gable end of the original building, of tiered, box-framed construction, has also survived partially intact.*
- At first-floor level, later alterations have obscured or removed much of the early fabric; however, the substantial chamfered cross-beams and jowelled corner posts defining the original three-bay divisions probably represent evidence of original fabric. A surviving section of cross-framing in the bedroom immediately NW of the landing may represent early work, as well as a section of square panelled box-framing with diagonal braces in the landing above the staircase. The collared roof truss with diagonal braces may also represent evidence of original fabric.*
- A secondary phase of building activity, which may be dated to the late 17th-early 18th century, is represented by the construction of a single bay, two-storey extension at the SE end of the building and the addition of a gabled single-storey range at the NW end of the building, which may originally have been constructed as a cider mill. The existing stone chimneystack appears to be contemporary with the addition of the SE bay, which seems to have been intended to provide a new kitchen/sitting room area.*
- Further substantial alterations were made in the late 18th-early 19th century (Phase 3), including the reconstruction of the SW-facing elevation of the Inn at ground-floor level and the addition of a lean-to brick privy at the SE end of the building (rebuilt in the mid-20th century). The two sash windows to the left of the later canted bay window and the doorway at the SE end of the principal SW-facing elevation with its substantial timber lintel probably also date to the same period. The brick outbuilding to the rear of the Inn appears to have been constructed at some point between c.1815 and 1840.*

- *The canted bay window in the SW-facing elevation appears to have been added in the late 19th century (Phase 4). Further substantial alterations were made in the mid-late 20th century (Phase 5), represented by the reconstruction of the rear elevation of the main block to accommodate new toilets and a pantry at ground-floor level, the rebuilding of the former cider house at the NW end of the main block and the addition of a large gabled extension to the rear of the building (for a restaurant and cellar).*

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Kinsey Hern Esq to carry out a standing building recording survey of the Royal George Inn Lyonshall Herefordshire HR5 3JN (NGR SO 3375 5559) in connection with proposals to redevelop the property as a community public house. The Royal George Inn is a Grade II Listed Building, prominently located in the centre of the historic village of Lyonshall, at the junction of the A480 road with an unclassified road running NE-SW from the A44 trunk road. Located within the yard to the rear of the Inn is a detached brick outbuilding.

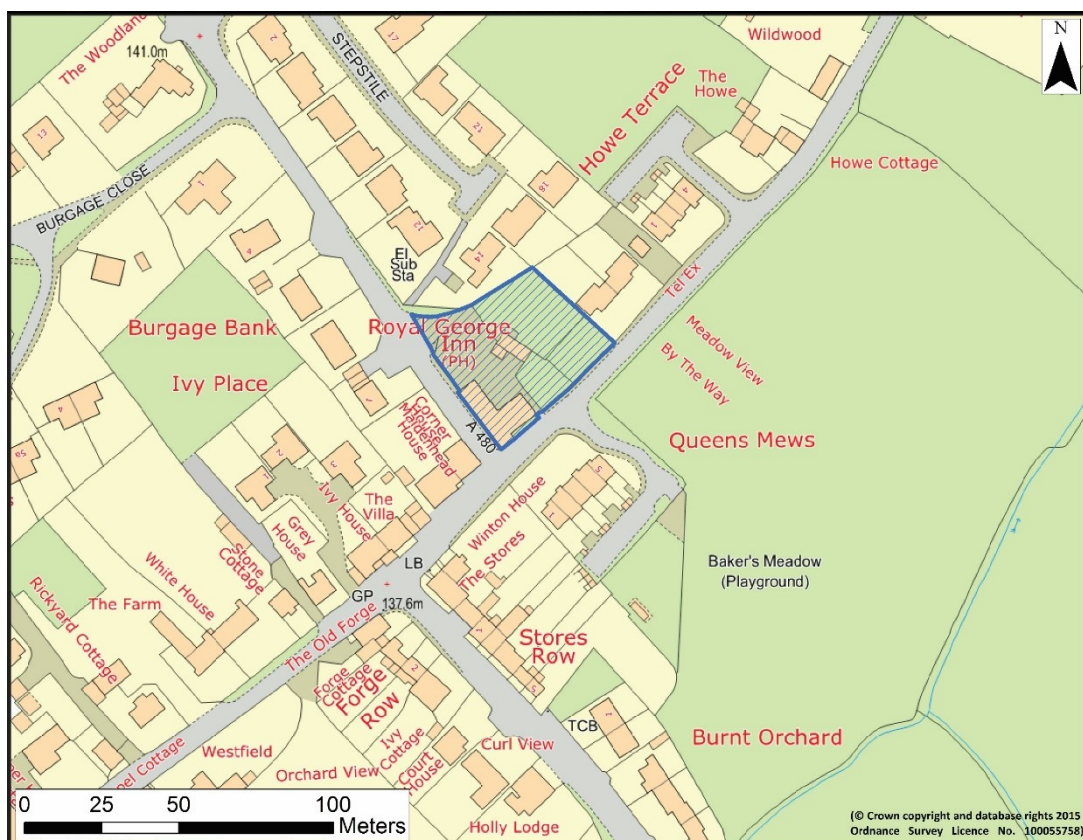


Fig. 1: Site location plan

2.1 Soils and Geology

Lyonshall lies within an area of typical argillic brown earths of the ESCRICK 1 series (571p) comprising deep well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils overlying reddish till (SSEW 1983).

3 Site Specific Historical Summary

A detailed historical and archaeological background of the site is provided in a separate Desk Based Assessment, of which this represents a summary. The earliest surviving fabric of the Royal George Inn was dated to c.1600 in a survey undertaken in 1933 by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments as part of their inventory of monuments in North West Herefordshire (RCHME, 1934). The building itself was designated as a Grade II Listed building in 1953.

Documentary information on the early history of the Royal George is extremely limited prior to the late 18th century. It should be noted that, due to the current closure of the Herefordshire Record Office, it was not possible to undertake a comprehensive search of their holdings. By the late 18th century, the Inn was in the hands of the Tranters, a family of yeomen/minor gentry who had been long established in Lyonshall. At least two branches of the Tranter family appear to have held property in Lyonshall village since the early 16th century and several Tranters are recorded in the Hearth Tax return for Lyonshall dated 1665. Documentary records show that Brook Farm was in the possession of Richard Traunter in the mid-late 1640s while The Maidenhead Inn, situated opposite the Royal George, was held by another branch of the Tranter family from c.1647 to 1840.

The earliest specific reference found to the George Inn occurs in an advertisement in the *Hereford Journal* dated 11th November 1795, for the sale of 'all that freehold *messuage* or tenement called The George Inn, situate in the village of Lyonshall, with the garden, orchard and several small pieces or parcels of land thereto belonging, containing in the whole about seven acres, be the same more or less, now in the holding of William Tranter'. William Tranter appears to have sold the George Inn to Richard Clarke, a local landowner originally hailing from Allensmore, who had already acquired property in Lyonshall through marriage to Elizabeth, niece and heiress of the late Thomas Palmer Esq of Shrewsbury in 1792, and purchased another two *messuages* in Lyonshall from James Lloyd Harris of Kington in 1796 (NLW D.T.M Jones MSS Nos. 2222, 2225).

Richard Clarke's will, dated 5th September 1808, contains bequests to his two sons, Richard Clarke junior and William Clarke (NLW D.T.M Jones MSS No. 2229). The elder son, Richard Clarke junior, received all of his father's household goods and the two *messuages* which his father had purchased from Harris in 1796. To William Clarke, his father bequeathed 'all that freehold *messuage* or tenement I bought and purchased of William Tranter called the George Inn in the village of Lyonshall aforesaid'. Richard Clarke the elder appears to have died in 1822 while his son Richard Clarke died in 1841 after a 'long and severe illness'. During the period c.1820-41, the Clarke family appear to have leased the George Inn to a succession of tenant landlords; a Mr James Evans is recorded as landlord of the George Inn in 1819 and 1820 while George King appears as landlord of The George in Pigot's Directories of 1835 and 1840.



*Fig. 2: Extract from the Lyonshall tithe map of 1840
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)*

William Clarke is still recorded as owner of the George Inn in the Lyonshall tithe apportionment of 1840 and appears as proprietor of 'The George' in Pigot's County Directories of 1842 and 1844. He appears to have died in about 1845, apparently without issue or leaving a will. The subsequent descent of the property is unclear: no deeds have been found specifically detailing the ownership history of the George Inn during the second half of the 19th century, although a reasonable amount of information may be gleaned from census returns, trade directories and newspaper records. Sarah Kinnersley is recorded as innkeeper of the George Inn as early as 1843, when a local 'tea-meeting' of the Primitive Methodists was held there on 26th June of that year. A subsequent newspaper entry dated 1845 refers to a prosecution brought by Mrs Kinnersley concerning a theft of monies from the George Inn. It is unclear when Mrs Kinnersley obtained ownership of The George from William Clarke or his heirs; however, she is described as a victualler and boot- and shoe-maker in Lascelles' Directory of 1851 and is listed as 'holder' of the George Inn in the 1861 census return. Sarah Kinnersley appears to have remained as proprietor of the George Inn until 1869.

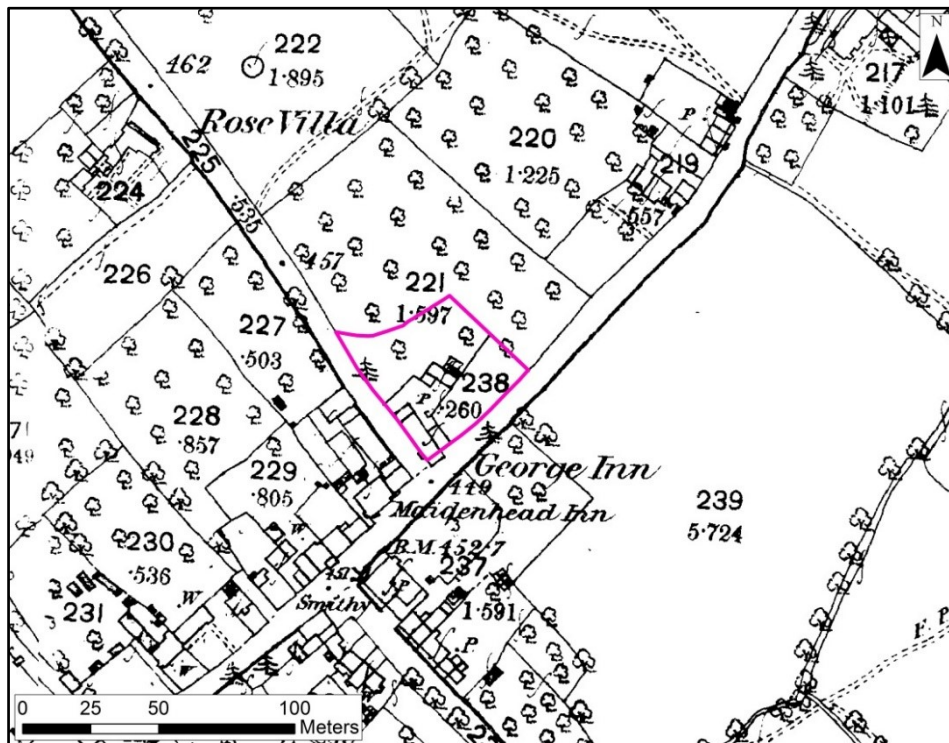


Fig 3: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1887
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)

Directory	Occupier
Pigot's 1835	George King (George Inn)
Pigot's 1840	George King (George)
Pigot's 1842	William Clarke (George)
Pigot's 1844	William Clarke (George)
Lascelles 1851	Sarah Kinnersley, victualler and boot- and shoe-maker (George)
Post Office 1856	Sarah Kinnersley (George)
Cassey's 1858	Sarah Kinnersley (George)
Slater's 1859	Sarah Kinnersley (George)
Littlebury's 1867	Sarah Kinnersley (George)
Slater's 1868	Sarah Kinnersley (George)
1871 census	William Badger (George Inn)
Littlebury's 1876-77	William Badger (George Inn)
Kelly's 1879	William Badger (George Inn)
1881 census	David Hammond (Auctioneer)
Kelly's 1885	Daniel Price (George Inn – Stabling)
Jakeman & Carver's 1890	Daniel Price (The George – Stabling, Farmer & Coal Merchant)
1891 census	Daniel Price (George Inn – Innkeeper)
Kelly's 1895	Cornelius Cowles (George Inn)
1901 census	Mary Ann Cowles (George Inn - Publican)

Kelly's 1905	George Henry Cowles (George Inn)
Kelly's 1913	George Henry Cowles (George Inn)
Jakeman & Carver's 1914	George Henry Cowles (George Inn/Farmer)
Kelly's 1917	Thomas Moorhouse (George Inn)
Kelly's 1929	William Thomas Clark (George Inn)
Kelly's 1934	Rosanna Clark (George Inn)
Kelly's 1937	Rosanna Clark (George Inn)
Kelly's 1941	Rosanna Clark (George Inn)

Table 1: Occupiers of the Royal George according to various historic directories and census returns

By 1910, the land valuation survey for Lyonshall records that the inn, then described as the 'George Hotel', had been acquired by the Alton Court Brewery (NA IR58/38957). No records have been found to indicate when the inn came into the hands of the brewery; it is possible that it may have occurred at some time during the 1880s-90s, when the brewery is known to have expanded its business and acquired freehold and leasehold titles to numerous public houses in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire.

The description of the inn, referred to as the 'George Hotel' in the Land Valuation Survey of 1910, reads as follows: 'Brick timber and pantile Inn containing 4 bedrooms, 2 boxrooms and landing and sitting room, back passage, kitchen and brick ditto [assume this refers to timber] bar and cellar, privy and garden, dairy and pantry. Brick and slated wainhouse, 2 pigscots, cowhouse for 4 and stable for 3 & open cartshed, stone, timber and tiled cider mill and loft over' (NA IR58/38957). In September 1933, the Inn was surveyed by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments as part of their inventory of monuments in North West Herefordshire and was subsequently designated as a listed building in 1953. The listed building description reads as follows: 'Public house. 17th c., late 19th and 20th c. alterations and additions. Timber-framed with sandstone rubble plinth, part wattle-and-daub and part painted brick infill, rendered to entrance front; part tiled and part Welsh slate roof with hip at south-east end. Rectangular plan aligned north-west/south east with single-storey addition to north-west and 19th and 20th c. additions to rear and to south-east end. Main axial stack and further gable-end stack, two entrances to south-west front; probably originally jettied on this front but this has now been underbuilt. Two storeys flanked by single-storey additions. One single vertical glazing bar sash window to addition to left. Main block with one 3-light casement window, two similar 2-light windows and a pair of similar windows to first floor. The ground floor has a pair of sash windows with single vertical glazing bars and two further sash windows to the left of a canted bay window which is flanked by two partly glazed doors, all under a penticed roof supported on brackets. Small light in lean-to later addition to right. Interior is altered. The square panelled timber-framing is revealed to the rear and partly to the interior.

The Royal George appears to have remained in the ownership of the Alton Court Brewery throughout the first half of the 20th century. In 1956, the Alton Court Brewery was taken over by the Stroud Brewery, which merged with Cheltenham & Hereford Breweries Ltd. in 1958 to form 'West Country Breweries'. At some point during the 1950s-60s, it appears that substantial changes were made to the Royal George (as evidenced by comparison between photographs of the Inn taken in 1933 and 1965) with the reconstruction of the NW gabled block and the insertion of a new chimneystack, the reconstruction of the rear (NE-facing elevation) to accommodate new

toilets and a pantry, the reconstruction of the toilet block at the SE end of the Inn and the addition of a new restaurant and cellar attached to the rear of the building.



*Fig. 4: Photograph of the Royal George Inn taken in 1933
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Monuments Record)*



*Fig. 5: Photograph of the Royal George Inn taken in 1965 showing alterations
(Reproduced by courtesy of Hereford Central Library)*

4 Standing Building Recording Survey

4.1 Methodology

This standing building recording survey was carried out to RCHME Level 3, as defined within *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage, 2006). Level 3 is defined as ‘... An analytical record [comprising] an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the buildings origins, development and use, The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analyses has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the buildings appearance and structure to support an historical analysis’ (EH 2006, 14).

The work also followed guidance contained within *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2014). Border Archaeology complied throughout with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014) and *Regulations for professional conduct* (CIfA 2015).

The aim of the programme of standing building recording was to allow for the preservation by record of all standing building fabric of historical interest that will be destroyed or substantially altered by the development. The survey thus comprised a detailed photographic and descriptive survey of the interior and exterior of the Royal George Inn and a detached brick outbuilding located within the yard to the NE of the public house.

A detailed documentary assessment was carried out prior to fieldwork in order to assess the historic importance of the buildings. Copies of relevant information, including historic mapping and HER data, were obtained from the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record. Unpublished documentary sources, historic mapping and old photographs of the site were consulted utilising materials held at the National Monuments Record, the National Archives, the National Library of Wales and Hereford Central Library. These have been reproduced in the final report where necessary to aid interpretation. It should be noted that the Herefordshire Record Office is currently closed and it was thus not possible to undertake a comprehensive investigation of records held there relating to the Royal George.

Building phases were established prior to photographic recording, with each phase being discussed in detail.

The programme of Standing Building Recording consisted of the following elements:

1. High-resolution digital photography (20MPX capacity), all with suitable scales, of the following.

- All external elevations
- All internal room spaces and roof structures (where accessible)

- Details of any architectural or functional fixtures, fittings and features relating to either the function or development of the building. Each feature was photographed and placed into a wider context (i.e. the surrounding elevation), individual features being photographed as separate items and in detail
- Photographs illustrating the building's relationship to surrounding buildings and setting

2. Collation and annotation of existing survey drawings

The report contains:

- A phased plan of the building, with photo locations clearly marked, and a location plan related to the national grid.
- An annotated elevation drawing
- Appropriate additional illustrations that help support findings and the interpretation of the buildings
- Additional illustrations of dateable fixtures and fittings (mouldings, catches, hinges, latches etc.)
- A summary description of the building in its current form in the format of a typical listed building description

Plate	Description
1	View looking N showing principal SW-facing external elevation of the Royal George Inn
2	View looking NE showing the SW-facing elevation of the central three bays of the main block, the fenestration comprising sash windows at ground level and casement windows at upper-storey level
3	View NE showing the SW-facing elevation at the SE end of the main block, with a canted bay window of late 19 th -century date flanked by two doorways, the one to the left being a 20 th -century insertion
4	View looking SW showing the rear (NE-facing) elevation heavily reconstructed in brick during the mid-late 20th century, with exposed timber framing at upper-storey level
5	View NE showing the SW-facing elevation of the single-storey gabled block at the NW end of the Inn, rebuilt in brick with a modern sash window inserted
6	View looking SE showing the NW-facing elevation of the gabled block (cider house) rebuilt in brick at ground level with exposed timber framing and loft door at upper-storey level
7	View looking NW showing lean-to toilet block with catslide roof, of brick construction, externally roughcast, reconstructed in the mid-20th century
8	View SW showing NE gable elevation of the modern NE extension added in the mid-20th century
9	Internal view showing chamfered NE-SW aligned cross-beam in the central bay of the main block at ground-floor level, with later partition wall beneath cross-beam to left of picture
10	Internal views looking E and S respectively showing tapering vertical corner-post supporting cross-beam with evidence of slots for horizontal and vertical members, possibly representing the original SE gable end frame
11	
12	Internal view looking NW showing large cross-beam with mortise hole over chimneybreast between lounge and public bar
13	Internal view looking SW showing timber-framing with lath-and-plaster infill above stairway to first floor
14	Internal view looking SW showing timber-framing forming part of original NE-facing external elevation, with later addition visible to left of picture
15	Internal view looking NW showing partition wall between the lounge bar and kitchen with lath and plaster infill
16	Internal view looking SE showing square-framed partition wall between lounge and kitchen

17	Internal view looking SE showing timber-framing of original NW gable end, obscured by modern brick chimneystack (to right of picture)
18	Internal view looking S and SW respectively showing exposed timber-framing of SE extension to main block, of late 17 th -early 18 th -century date
19	
20	<i>Internal view looking SE showing masonry wall forming part of SE extension to main block, partially rebuilt in brick, with evidence for a partially blocked-up doorway</i>
21	<i>Internal view looking NNW showing timber-framing of upper storey of SE extension, obscured by modern roof of later toilet block of post-and-truss construction.</i>
22	Internal view looking NW showing large stone fireplace in public bar
23	Internal view looking SE showing smaller fireplace in chimneybreast in lounge bar
24	Internal view looking NW showing surviving box-framing in upper portion of NW gable, with central loft door inscribed with the initials 'W.T'.
25	Internal view looking SW showing sash windows with narrow vertical glazing bars in lounge
26	Internal view looking SW showing late 19 th -century canted bay window with earlier doorway with wooden lintel to left of picture
27	<i>Internal view of kitchen block looking SE with modern fireplace and brick chimneystack to right of picture and passageway leading to pantry and toilet block to left</i>
28	Internal view looking E showing interior of toilet block at SE end of Inn, originally built in early 19 th century and completely reconstructed, with modern eight-pane casements inserted, in the mid-20 th century
29	Internal view looking SE showing masonry fireplace and chimneybreast in mid-20 th -century extension to NE of the main block
30	Internal view looking NE showing modern toilet block with earlier crossbeam at ceiling level with slots for vertical posts
31	Internal view showing staircase leading to first-floor landing with timber framing visible above and to left of picture
32	Internal view looking NW showing first-floor landing and passageway with substantial NE-SW aligned cross-beams and later 18 th -19 th -century square-framed partitions with regular, thin scantling
33	View looking SE from first-floor landing showing cross-beam with jowelled corner-post (to left of picture) and timber framed partition wall with doorways leading to living room and bedroom
34	Internal view looking SE of bedroom to SW of first-floor landing showing cross-beam with vertical jowelled corner-post connected by a cast-iron tie
35	Internal view looking NE showing roughly square panelled timber-framing in NE wall of first-floor landing above staircase, with diagonal brace and jowelled corner-post visible to left of picture
36	Internal view looking NE showing exposed square-panelled timber-framing with irregular thick scantling in NE wall of bedroom to NW of first-floor landing
37	Internal view looking NW showing section of cross-framing in NW wall of bedroom to NW of first-floor landing, with centrally placed low-arched frame
38	Internal view looking SE showing exposed timber wall-plate and jowelled vertical corner-post in bedroom in NE corner of the first floor
39	Internal view looking SW showing exposed wall-plate and jowelled vertical corner-post in bedroom in NW corner of the first floor. The casement window appears, in its present form, to be of late 18 th -or 19 th -century date
40	Internal view of living room at SE end of first floor showing coved ceiling and casement windows
41	Internal view looking NW showing fireplace in living room at SE end of first floor, with substantial cross-beam above

42	Internal view looking SE showing regular, square-panelled timber-framing with thick scantling in SE wall of living room at first-floor level
43	Internal view looking SE showing square-panelled timber framing and casement window in SE wall of bedroom at the SE end of the first floor
44	Internal view looking NW showing bedroom to SE of first-floor landing showing square-panelled framing and cross-beam with slots for vertical posts (in foreground of picture)
45	View looking N showing first-floor landing and passageway with square-framed partition walls
46	Internal view looking NW showing thin scantling of partition wall of bedroom to SW of first-floor landing with earlier jowelled corner-post and wall-plate to left of picture
47	View looking SE showing blocked fireplace and chimneybreast in bedroom to SE of first-floor landing
48	Internal view NW showing roof truss of probable late 16th -early 17th century date, with trencled purlins and angled struts connecting the collar to the principal rafters, the panels infilled with wattle and daub and lath-and-plaster
49	View looking NE showing the principal SW-facing elevation of the brick outbuilding with projecting extension with catslide roof
50	View looking SE showing the NW-facing gable elevation of the brick outbuilding
51	View looking SW showing the NE-facing rear elevation of the brick outbuilding, partially reconstructed in roughly coursed masonry with evidence for lean-to structure (now demolished)
52	Internal view looking SE of main compartment of outbuilding showing roof construction, of typical 19th - century open-truss type
53	Internal view looking NW showing brick partition wall separating the two compartments, with horizontal cross-beam to left of picture
54	Internal view looking NE showing rear wall of main compartment of outbuilding, the lower portion partially reconstructed and a low doorway inserted

Table 2: List of plates referenced in annotated plan of the Royal George Inn and outbuilding to the rear (Fig. 6)

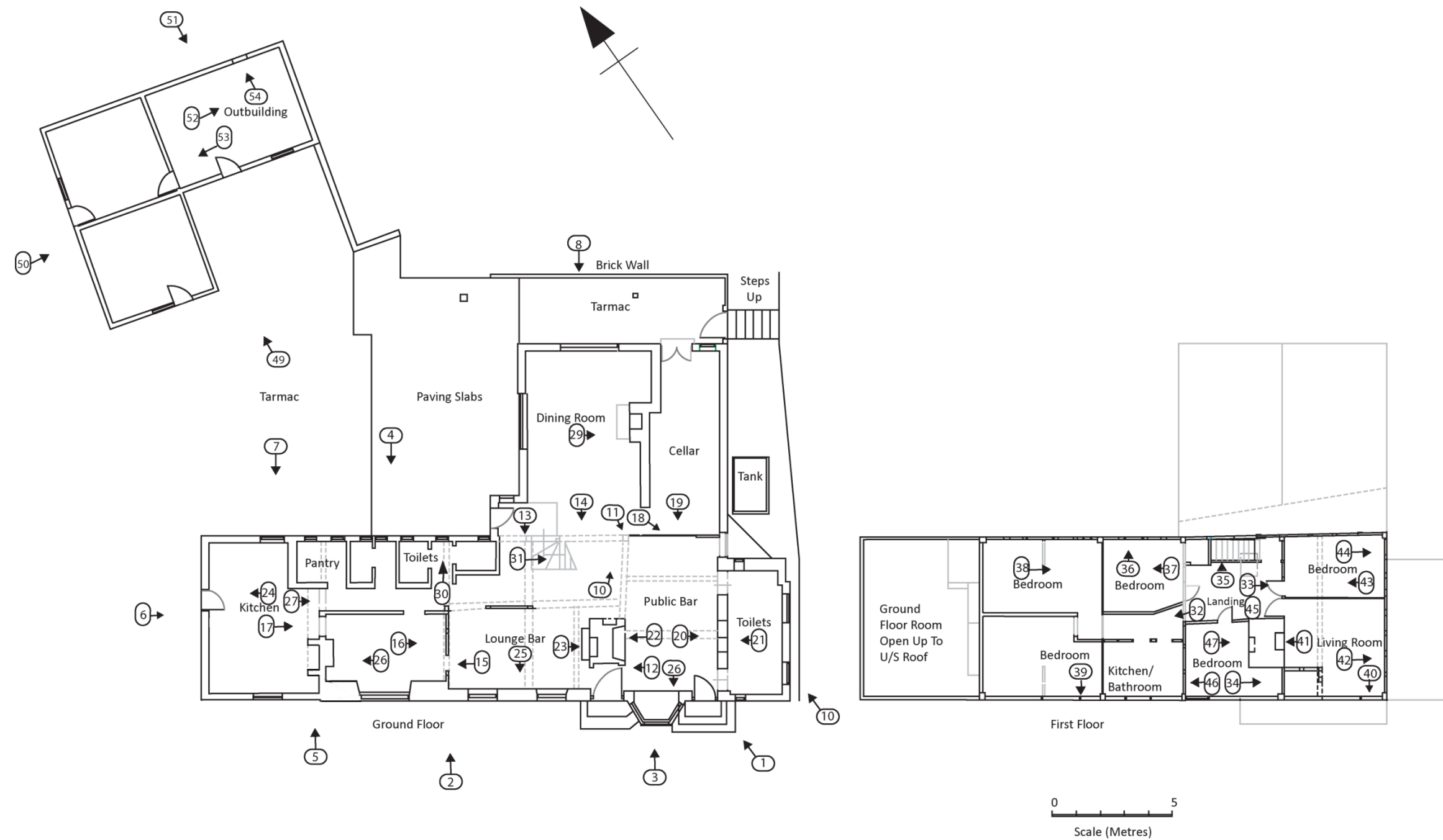


Fig. 6: Annotated plan of the Royal George showing location of photos taken

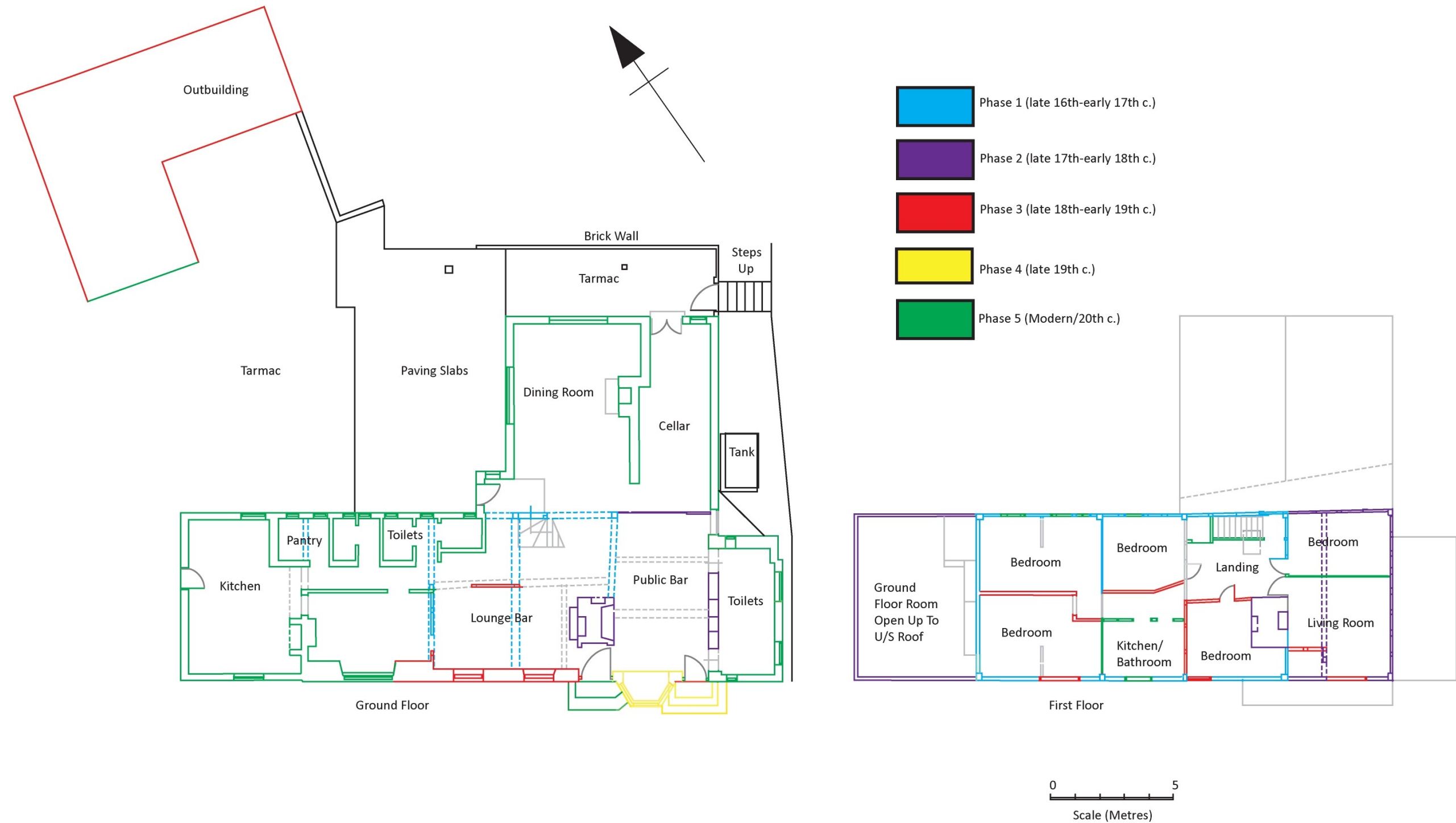


Fig. 7: Phased plan of the Royal George Inn and adjacent outbuilding to the rear

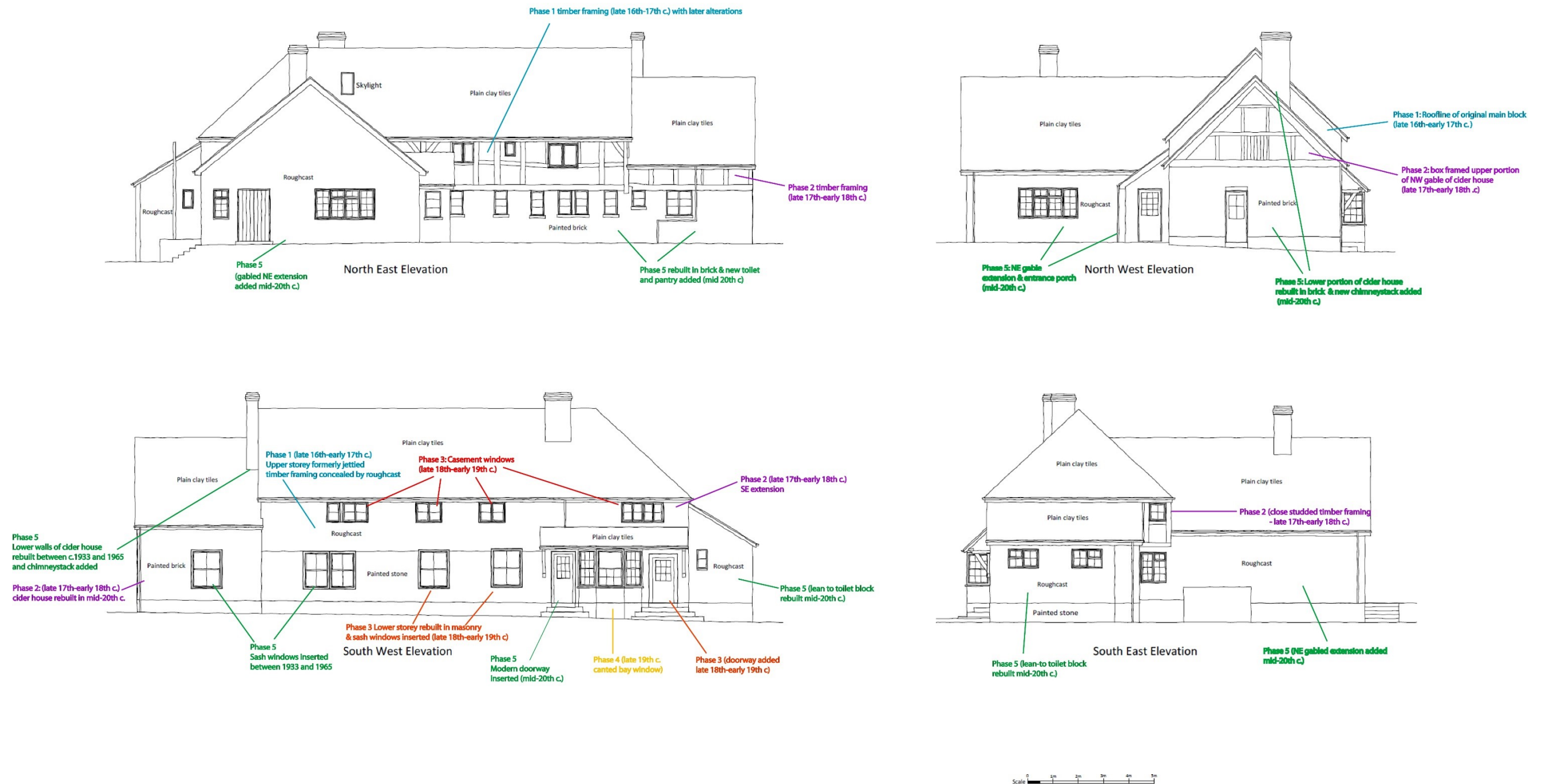


Fig. 8: Phased elevation drawings of the Royal George Inn

5 Structural Description and Phasing

5.1 General Building Plan

The Royal George Inn is a two-storey building, L-shaped in plan (originally rectangular) and oriented NW-SE with single-storey additions at the NW and SE ends and a large modern single-storey gabled extension to the NE (*Plate 1*). The exterior of the building is entirely roughcast and whitewashed, although there is timber-framing exposed at the NW gable end and square timber-framed panelling at upper-storey level in the rear, NE-facing elevation. The roof is pitched with a hip at its SE end; the roofing largely consists of tile with the exception of the single-storey lean-to block at the SE end of the building, which is of grey Welsh slate.

This description will first describe the main rectangular block (which contains the earliest surviving fabric), followed by the NW gable block (formerly a cider house and more recently used as a kitchen) and then consider the more recent additions to the SE and NE elevations.



Plate 1: View looking N showing principal SW-facing external elevation of the Royal George Inn

5.2 Analytical Description

5.2.1 The Royal George - Exterior

The main block is four bays long and two storeys high; the lower storey of the principal, SW-facing elevation is of coursed sandstone masonry construction, whitewashed and resting on a sandstone rubble plinth. The upper storey is clad in roughcast, concealing evidence of its original construction, but internal evidence indicates that it is timber-framed with square panels infilled with lath-and-plaster and more recent brick nogging. The description of the building in the RCHME survey (compiled in 1933) refers to the frontage as originally being of jettied construction (i.e. with an overhanging upper storey), which was subsequently underbuilt at a later date.



Plate 2: View looking NE showing the SW-facing elevation of the central three bays of the main block, the fenestration comprising sash windows at ground level and casement windows at upper-storey level

The fenestration of the main block at ground-floor level consists (from left to right) of a pair of four-paned sash windows with single vertical glazing bars (added at some point between c.1933 and 1953), to the right of which are two four-paned sash windows, all of which are set within plain flat-headed wooden architraves (painted in black) (*Plate 2*).

To the right of the easternmost sash window is a canted bay window flanked by two partially glazed doors, each with four stone steps leading to pavement level, all under a penticed, tiled roof supported by plain scrolled timber brackets (*Plate 3*). Comparison between photos of the SW-facing frontage of the Inn taken in 1933 and 1965 (*Figs. 4 & 5*) indicate that only the door to the right of the canted bay window was in existence in 1933 and

that its counterpart to the left was inserted (and the penticed roof extended over it) by no later than 1965. The fenestration of the canted bay window consists of three 12-paned sash windows, the upper sash of the central window has been replaced (at some time before c.1965) with frosted glass and a circular ventilation slot inserted. Inserted in the wall between the easternmost sash window and the glazed door to the left of the canted bay window is a glazed plaque bearing the inscription 'West Country Ales – 1760'; this plaque was added between 1958 and c.1967 and indicates that the Royal George had been purchased by West Country Breweries.

The fenestration of the upper storey (from left to right) consists of a three light, six-paned casement window, to the right of which are two four-paned casement windows, all set within flat-headed wooden architraves. At the SE end of the elevation, above the penticed roof, is a pair of four-paned casement windows.



Plate 3: View NE showing the SW-facing elevation at the SE end of the main block, with a canted bay window of late 19th - century date flanked by two doorways, the one to the left being a 20th -century insertion

A substantial portion of the rear (NE-facing elevation) of the main block, extending SE from the kitchen to the public bar, appears to have been wholly rebuilt in brick at ground level during the mid-20th century, when the pantry and new toilet block were inserted (*Plate 4*). Some evidence of exposed square-panelled timber-framing is visible at upper-storey level, although the fenestration, consisting of two two-paned casement windows flanking a small single light window, appears to be of modern date.



Plate 4: View looking SW showing the rear (NE-facing) elevation heavily reconstructed in brick during the mid-late 20th century, with exposed timber framing at upper-storey level



Plate 5: View NE showing the SW-facing elevation of the single-storey gabled block at the NW end of the Inn, rebuilt in brick with a modern sash window inserted

Attached to the NW end of the main block is a gabled, single-storey structure of brick and timber-framed construction with a pitched tiled roof set slightly below the roofline of the main block. This structure is identified as a cider house in the RCHME survey of 1933 and may be identified with the 'stone timber and tiled cider mill with loft over' mentioned in the Land Valuation Survey description of 1910.

The SW-facing elevation of the single-storey structure is of brick construction (laid in a regular stretcher bond) resting on a low sandstone plinth (*Plate 5*). Set within the centre of the elevation is a single four-pane sash window in a flat-headed wooden architrave surmounted by a brick lintel. The lower portion of the NW-facing gable wall (including the plinth) and the NE-facing elevation also appear to have been rebuilt in brick. At ground level, a partially glazed doorway is set off-centre within the NW gable elevation, to the left of which is a bricked-up single-light window with a brick sill and lintel. The fenestration of the rear NE-facing elevation consists of a six-paned casement window with a brick sill, above and to the left of which is a single-light glazed window.



Plate 6: View looking SE showing the NW-facing elevation of the gabled block (cider house) rebuilt in brick at ground level with exposed timber framing and loft door at upper-storey level

At ground floor level, no evidence of a construction break was noted within the NE-facing elevation of the main block and the single-storey structure adjoining it to the NW, indicating that this section of brick walling must have been entirely reconstructed at the same time.

Comparison between photographs of the SW-facing frontage of the George Inn taken in 1933 and 1965 indicate that the entire external wall of this block (excepting the upper timber-framed portion of the NW gable) was entirely rebuilt in brick at some time between those two dates and the present sash window and brick chimneystack inserted. However, while the lower portion of the former cider house exhibits significant evidence

of modern rebuilding, evidence of earlier fabric survives at upper-storey level. The upper portion of the NW gable end is of tiered, square-framed construction (suggestive of an 18th -century date) with a plank-and-batten loft door inserted centrally above the wall-plate (*Plate 6*). The upper storey of the rear NE-facing elevation, which noticeably bows outwards, comprises five roughly square timber-framed panels with no fenestration.

Attached to the SE end of the main block is a single-bay lean-to structure (formerly used as a toilet block) of brick construction, externally roughcast, with a steeply pitched catslide roof of grey Welsh slate (*Plate 7*). The fenestration consists of a single light two-paned window in the SW-facing elevation (which appears to have replaced an earlier sash window shown on photographs of c.1910 and 1933), two rectangular four-paned windows in the SE-facing elevation and another single-light window in the NE-facing elevation. There already appears to have been a lean-to structure in this location as early as 1840; however, in its present form, it appears largely to have been constructed in the mid-20th century.



Plate 7: View looking NW showing lean-to toilet block with catslide roof, of brick construction, externally roughcast, reconstructed in the mid-20th century

Projecting from the SE end of the rear elevation of the main block is a broad single-storey gabled structure of brick construction, externally roughcast, with a pitched tiled roof surmounted by a brick chimneystack (*Plate 8*). The NE-facing gable elevation has a doorway inserted to left of centre, flanked by a single-light, eight-paned window to the left and a broad, flat-headed four-light, 32-paned window to the right. The SE-facing elevation is devoid of fenestration, while the NW elevation has another four light, 32-paned window. To the left of this window, located in the angle between this gabled structure and the main block, is a gabled entrance porch which also appears to be a modern insertion.

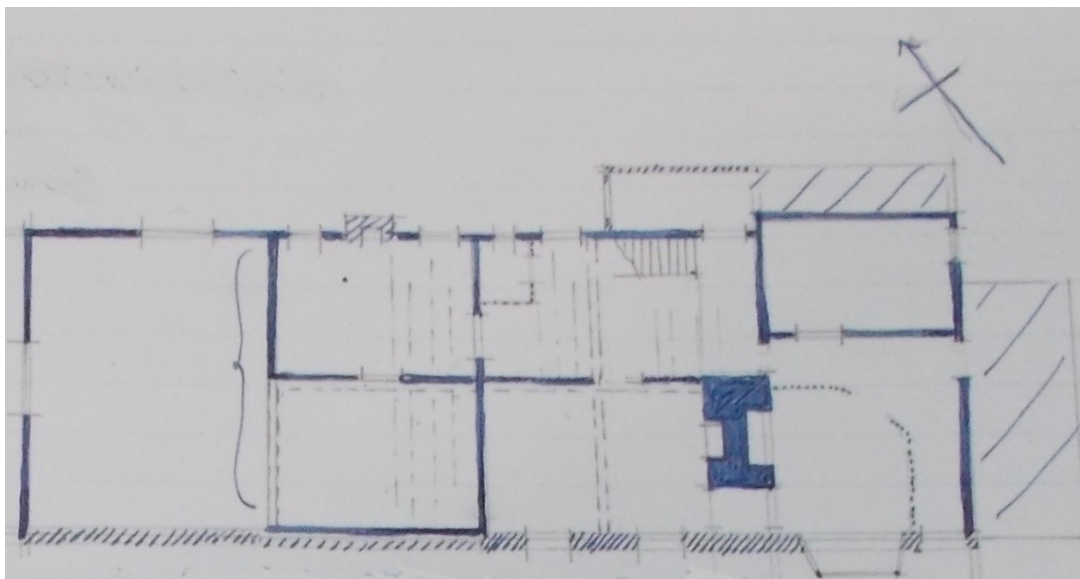


Plate 8: View SW showing NE gable elevation of the modern NE extension added in the mid-20th century

5.2.2 The Royal George – Internal Description (Ground Floor)

Internally, the Royal George exhibits up to five phases of building activity, which have substantially concealed, altered and/or removed much of the original building fabric and layout, particularly at ground-floor level. The extent of the alterations made to the Royal George after the Second World War are well illustrated by comparing the existing ground floor plan of the Royal George with a plan made by the RCHME when the building was surveyed in 1933 (*Fig. 9*).

The plan of the front half of the building resembles its existing layout relatively well, with the lounge and public bar flanking either side of the fireplace. The bay window in the public bar is shown on the 1933 plan, although, significantly, only the door to the right of the bay window is shown. The partition wall dividing the lounge bar from a rectangular room to the NW is still discernible and it appears to have led directly into the gabled block at the NW end. This gabled block was a cider house in 1933 and was subsequently reconstructed as a kitchen, with the addition of a substantial brick chimneystack and fireplace (not shown on the RCHME plan or a photograph of 1933 but clearly visible on a later photograph of the inn taken in 1965).



*Fig. 9: Copy of sketch plan of the Royal George Inn produced by the RCHME in 1933
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Monuments Record)*

The rear half of the building, however, has significantly changed in layout and appearance between 1933 and the present day. The existing entrance porch and restaurant block are not shown on the 1933 plan and are clearly later additions. The room to the NE of the lounge bar is shown as a large hallway with the staircase to the first floor in its present position, a doorway providing access from the yard to the rear of the building is marked immediately NW of, and at right-angles to the staircase. To the NW of the hallway, the 1933 plan marks another rectangular room of similar proportions to the room between the lounge bar and the cider house. This layout changed significantly between 1933 and the present, with the insertion of the present toilet block and pantry, which necessitated the reconstruction of the entire rear wall of the building at ground-floor level (probably contemporary with the rebuilding of the cider house at the NW end). Following the closure of the Royal George, a significant proportion of the internal wooden partitions, fixtures (e.g. bars, doors, fireplace grates) and fittings at ground-floor level have been removed.

Due to the fact that much of the original fabric and layout has been either concealed or removed by modern alterations, and for reasons of clarity, the description of the ground floor has been organised by building phase. Five phases of building activity have been identified, ranging from c.1600 up to the mid-20th century.

- **Phase 1**

The earliest phase (Phase 1), which may be dated to the late 16th-early 17th century, appears to be represented by the central three bays of the main block, essentially comprising the rooms between the former kitchen and the public bar, the outer walls of which were of box-framed construction which were probably originally infilled with wattle and daub, although much of the infill appears to have been replaced with lath-and-plaster and brick nogging at a later date.

It is clear that the Phase 1 building was of a three-unit, continuous jetty type. It is unclear precisely where the original front entrance to the house was situated; it may have been situated in the centre bay and disappeared when the lower storey was underbuilt and the existing pair of sash windows was inserted. The RCHME plan shows the position of a rear entrance in the central bay (which was subsequently removed when the rear wall was reconstructed and the gabled extension added to the NE in the 1950s-60s). This division into three bays is delineated by substantial stop-chamfered cross-beams at ground level and is similarly mirrored at first-floor level as well (*Plate 9*).

It is uncertain whether the stone chimneybreast between the lounge and public bar belongs to the earliest phase of construction; the existing stack exhibits evidence of considerable alteration and cannot be said to represent evidence of the original Phase 1 fabric. In its present form, it is more likely to represent later work, contemporary with the extension of the SE end of the original structure (Phase 2), which probably took place in the late 17th -century, although it may well be that a fireplace was situated in this location previously.



Plate 9: Internal view showing chamfered NE-SW aligned cross-beam in the central bay of the main block at ground-floor level, with later partition wall beneath cross-beam to left of picture

Evidence for the original gable-end framing at the SE end of the building is represented by the substantial vertical corner-post, tapering towards its chamfered base, and the stop-chamfered beam which it supports (*Plate 10*). The vertical corner-post and chamfered beam display evidence of slots for horizontal and vertical members and of circular holes for wooden staves, which would have supported timber laths or withies attached to them (*Plate 11*). At the SW end of the chamfered beam is a large mortise hole, which may have been intended to carry a bracket for a jetty bressummer beam supporting the original overhanging upper storey (*Plate 12*).



Plate 10 & 11: Internal views looking E and S respectively showing tapering vertical corner-post supporting a cross-beam with evidence of slots for horizontal and vertical members, possibly representing the original SE gable end frame

The original framing of the rear (NE-facing) elevation of the building can be clearly discerned within the former lounge bar, consisting of square panels which have survived at upper-storey level but which have been removed at ground-floor level, although slots for the horizontal and vertical members have survived. The surviving panels have brick nogging up to eaves level (which appears to be of late 19th -or 20th -century date), although some isolated evidence of lath and plaster infill appears to have survived within the panel above the stairway leading to the first floor (*Plate 13*).



Plate 12: Internal view looking NW showing large cross-beam with mortise hole over chimneybreast between lounge and public bar; Plate 13: Internal view looking SW showing timber-framing with lath-and-plaster infill above stairway to first floor

It is also noteworthy that the timber-framing is whitewashed (another indication that this was originally an external elevation); however, the brick nogging is not, possibly suggesting that the infill was added after this ceased to be an exposed external feature. The square panels at ground level have been removed, as has the dwarf stone wall on which the timber-framing would originally have rested. However, the slots for the vertical and horizontal members are visible, as are small circular slots for vertical staves which would have supported timber laths or withies (*Plate 14*).



Plate 14: Internal view looking SW showing timber-framing forming part of original NE-facing external elevation, with later addition visible to left of picture



Plate 15: Internal view looking NW showing partition wall between the lounge bar and kitchen with lath and plaster infill

Further probable evidence of the original fabric at ground-floor level is represented by the timber-framed partition wall dividing the two rooms between the lounge bar and the kitchen block, the lower panels of which have surviving lath and plaster infill, mostly concealed by later plasterwork and wallpaper (*Plate 15 & 16*). It is likely that the doorway at the SW end of the partition with jowelled vertical corner posts is original and represents the original line of the lower storey before it was extended to the SW in masonry during the late 18th or early 19th century.



Plate 16: Internal view looking SE showing square-framed partition wall between lounge and kitchen

Partially exposed within the interior of the kitchen block at the NW end of the building is the timber-framing of the NW gable end of the original building, of box-framed construction with squared panels infilled with lath-and-plaster carried on vertical oak staves, with angled struts at the apex of the gable connecting the collar to the principal rafters (*Plate 17*). This gable end form is commonly found in 17th-century timber-framed houses in Herefordshire and elsewhere in the West Midlands. The NW gable end is partially obscured by a substantial brick chimneystack which appears to be a modern addition, constructed at some point between 1933 and 1965, when it appears that the lower storey walls of the kitchen block, originally of masonry and timber-frame construction, were entirely rebuilt in brick.



Plate 17: Internal view looking SE showing timber-framing of original NW gable end, obscured by modern brick chimneystack (to right of picture)

- **Phase 2**

At some point during the late 17th century, it appears that extensive alterations were made to the original fabric. These comprised a two-storey extension at the SE end of the building (essentially comprising the existing public bar at ground floor and the living room and large bedroom on the first floor) and the addition of a gabled single-storey range at the NW end of the building, which appears originally to have functioned as a cider mill and was subsequently reconstructed after the Second World War for use as a kitchen.



Plates 18 & 19: Internal view looking S and SW respectively showing exposed timber-framing of SE extension to main block, of late 17th-early 18th-century date

At ground-floor level, evidence for the extension to the SE is represented by the continuation of the timber-framing of the original rear (NE-facing) elevation which is visible within the public bar, comprising two surviving panels on the ground floor as well as the upper-storey panels (*Plates 18 & 19*). The ground-floor panels have brick nogging and are coated with whitewash while those at upper-storey level (which are rendered) display evidence of surviving lath-and-plaster infill. This section of timber-framing projects very slightly (approximately 5cm) forward of the earlier timber-framed rear elevation and evidence for a construction break differentiating these two sections of timber-framing is clearly discernible. Moreover, the scantling of the earlier and later sections of timber-framing differs slightly in thickness.



Plate 20: Internal view looking SE showing masonry wall forming part of SE extension to main block, partially rebuilt in brick, with evidence for a partially blocked-up doorway



Plate 21: View looking NNW showing timber-framing of upper storey of SE extension, obscured by modern roof of later toilet block of post-and-truss construction.

The SE wall of this extension has also survived, concealed on its SE face by the roof trusses of a brick lean-to toilet block originally added at some point in the late 19th century and partially reconstructed in the 1950s-60s. The lower stage of this elevation consists of a section of roughly coursed rubble masonry wall, approximately 2.1m high, partially reconstructed in red brick laid in stretcher bond with two blocked-up doorways (*Plate 20*). Above this section of masonry walling, the upper storey retains intact square-framed timber panels infilled with lath and plaster, resting upon a timber wall-plate and extending up to eaves level. This section of timber-framing is noticeably more regular and closely studded compared to that visible in the rear (NE-facing) elevation (*Plate 21*).



Plate 22: Internal view looking NW showing large stone fireplace in public bar

It is likely that the stone chimneybreast, in its existing form, belongs to this secondary phase of construction, with a large fireplace with inglenook and a substantial timber bressummer on its SE face (*Plate 22*), indicating that this new extension almost certainly housed the kitchen and living room at ground -floor level (indicated by the large fireplace), with a parlour located on the opposite site of the chimneybreast (as evidenced by the smaller fireplace) (*Plate 23*).



Plate 23: Internal view looking SE showing smaller fireplace in chimneybreast in lounge bar

On the NE-facing side of the chimneybreast is a narrow arched recess of uncertain function. The extension of the building to the SE resulted in a significant change of layout: from being a simple two-unit structure it became a three-unit 'baffle entry' house with the entrance directly fronting onto the side of the chimneybreast, with the kitchen/living room to the right and the parlour to the left.

Probably contemporary with the extension to the SE end of the building was the construction of the single-storey gabled block at the NW end. This gabled block appears originally to have been built as a cider house (a feature common to many farmsteads and yeomen's dwellings in Lyonshall and indeed Herefordshire generally during the 17th-18th centuries) and was still used for that purpose in 1910 and 1933. The Land Valuation Survey description of 1910 refers to a 'stone timber and tiled cider mill with loft over'. The 1933 survey refers to the cider house at the NW end of the inn as being in a poor condition structurally and it appears that it was subsequently rebuilt in brick after the Second World War.



Plate 24: Internal view looking NW showing surviving box-framing in upper portion of NW gable, with central loft door inscribed with the initials 'W.T.'

The only surviving portion of the original fabric of the cider house is the NW gable end, of box-framed construction, the panels infilled with lath and plaster and rendered internally, with a centrally placed hayloft door of plank-and-batten construction inserted immediately above the wall-plate (*Plate 24*). The hayloft door appears to be inscribed with the initials 'W.T.'; the identification remains uncertain although one possibility might be William Tranter, who is documented as selling the property to Richard Clarke in 1795.

- **Phase 3**

This phase of building activity, which may be assigned to the late 18th -early 19th century, is primarily represented at ground-floor level by the construction of the existing SW-facing wall in roughly coursed rubble masonry beneath the overhanging upper storey. The two four-paned sash windows with narrow vertical glazing bars within the lounge bar probably date to this phase of activity, together with the majority of the narrow ceiling joists visible in the lounge and public bar (*Plate 25*). The doorway to the right of the canted bay window (which is a later addition) with its substantial timber lintel can also be dated to the late 18th -early 19th century. The 1840 tithe map shows an extension to the SE end of the main block, which appears to correspond to the site of the present lean-to brick toilet block with catslide roof; however, the existing structure appears essentially to be a later 20th -century rebuilding.

- **Phase 4**

A subsequent phase of activity, datable to the second half of the 19th century, is represented by the construction of the canted bay window in the public bar (*Plate 26*). The bay window is not shown on the tithe map of 1840 but is depicted on the OS 1st edition map of 1887.



Plate 25: Internal view looking SW showing sash windows with narrow vertical glazing bars in lounge



Plate 26: Internal view looking SW showing late 19th -century canted bay window with earlier doorway with wooden lintel to left of picture

- **Phase 5**

Extensive alterations to the ground-floor layout of the inn appear to have taken place between 1933 and 1965, based on a comparison between a plan surveyed by RCHME in 1933 with later photographs and an OS plan of 1965.

The most significant modern alterations visible at ground-floor level comprise the addition of the four-bay toilet block and pantry along the rear (NE-facing) elevation of the main block, which necessitated the entire reconstruction of the rear wall of the building at ground-floor level and the insertion of six new windows (*Plate 30*). Contemporary with this work was the complete reconstruction of the walls of the former cider house at the NW end of the building and the addition of a brick chimneystack (*Plate 27*) (not shown on a photograph of 1933 but visible on a later photograph of the inn taken in 1965), the rebuilding of the lean-to toilet block with its simple post-and-truss roof at the SE end of the Inn (*Plate 28*) and the construction of the large single-storey gabled building (formerly a restaurant and cellar) attached to the rear wall the building, which is first shown in its present form on an OS 1:2500 plan of 1974 (*Plate 29*).



Plate 27: Internal view of kitchen block looking SE with modern fireplace and brick chimneystack to right of picture and passageway leading to pantry and toilet block to left



Plate 28: Internal view looking E showing interior of toilet block at SE end of Inn, originally built in early 19th century and completely reconstructed, with modern eight-pane casements inserted, in the mid-20th century



Plate 29: Internal view looking SE showing masonry fireplace and chimneybreast in mid-20th -century extension to NE of the main block



Plate 30: Internal view looking NE showing modern toilet block with earlier crossbeam at ceiling level with slots for vertical posts

5.2.3 First Floor

Access to the first floor is gained via a dog-leg staircase located immediately opposite the rear entrance to the Inn. The existing staircase (*Plate 31*) is modern in date, although it occupies the location of an earlier straight flight of stairs leading to the first floor shown on the RCHME survey plan of 1933. The internal partitions at first-floor level have remained largely intact, although a significant proportion of fixtures and fittings have been removed.

The first floor comprises a landing with a coved ceiling and two hatches providing access to the roof-space. Leading off to the SE of the landing is a large living room and bedroom, with two small bedrooms immediately to the NW and SW. A passageway to the NW of the landing leads to a kitchen/bathroom and two further large bedrooms.



Plate 31: Internal view showing staircase leading to first-floor landing with timber framing visible above and to left of picture

- **Phase 1**

The present internal partitions at first-floor level are largely of 18th-20th -century date and can be distinguished by their relatively thin and regular scantling compared to the more irregular (and thicker) scantling of the earlier work. The existing fenestration is largely of 19th-20th -century date. However, the original three-bay division, mirroring the ground-floor plan, is still discernible, evidenced by the substantial cross-beams (*Plate 32*).

The large cross-beam with jowelled vertical corner-post forming part of the partition wall separating the landing from the living room and bedroom to the SE may have originally formed part of the SE gable end frame, prior to the addition of the SE bay in the late 17th-early 18th century (*Plate 33*). A corresponding vertical jowelled corner-post, connected to the cross-beam by a diagonal brace and a later cast-iron tie, is visible in the bedroom immediately to the SW of the landing (*Plate 34*).



Plate 32: Internal view looking NW showing first-floor landing and passageway with substantial NE-SW aligned cross-beams and later 18th-19th -century square-framed partitions with regular, thin scantling



Plate 33: View looking SE from first-floor landing showing cross-beam with jowelled corner-post (to left of picture) and timber framed partition wall with doorways leading to living room and bedroom



Plate 34: Internal view looking SE of bedroom to SW of first-floor landing showing cross-beam with vertical jowelled corner-post connected by a cast-iron tie

Evidence of early timber-framing is visible in the NE wall of the landing above the staircase, represented by a series of exposed, roughly square framed panels, the scantling relatively thick, with a jowelled vertical corner-post and a diagonal brace visible in the panel, which is partially obscured by a modern cupboard above the staircase (*Plate 35*).



Plate 35: Internal view looking NE showing roughly square panelled timber-framing in NE wall of first-floor landing above staircase, with diagonal brace and jowelled corner-post visible to left of picture

Within the small bedroom immediately NW of the landing, surviving sections of what appear to be early fabric are represented by a section of exposed square-panelled timber-framing in the NE wall (*Plate 36*) and a section of timber cross-framing in the NW partition wall with a chamfered, low-arched frame, possibly representing a doorway which had been infilled at a later date (*Plate 37*). There is a noticeable difference between the slender and more regular scantling of the timbers of the adjoining walls (indicative of a later date) and the much thicker scantling of the square-framed panels of the NE and NW walls.

Within the two large bedrooms at the far NW end of the building, little visible evidence of early fabric has survived and evidence of timber-framing appears to have been either removed for the insertion of modern windows or concealed by later plasterwork and wallpaper. However, the substantial chamfered wall-plates with jowelled, vertical corner-posts may well represent evidence of original fabric.



Plate 36: Internal view looking NE showing exposed square-panelled timber-framing with irregular thick scantling in NE wall of bedroom to NW of first-floor landing



Plate 37: Internal view looking NW showing section of cross-framing in NW wall of bedroom to NW of first-floor landing, with centrally placed low-arched frame



Plate 38: Internal view looking SE showing exposed timber wall-plate and jowelled vertical corner-post in bedroom in NE corner of the first floor



Plate 39: Internal view looking SW showing exposed wall-plate and jowelled vertical corner-post in bedroom in NW corner of the first floor. The casement window appears, in its present form, to be of late 18th- or 19th-century date

- **Phase 2**

Evidence of this phase of activity is primarily represented at first-floor level by the addition of the large living room and bedroom at the SE end of the building. These two rooms are demarcated from the landing by a substantial timber-framed stud-and-rail partition wall with squared panels, the infill of which consists of lath and plaster concealed by white plasterwork, inserted into which are two flat-headed plank-and-batten doors with cast-iron hinges. The ogee-moulded skirting appears to be a later insertion. The living room, which is the larger of the two rooms, has a coved ceiling and is lit by a pair of four-light casement windows set within a moulded rectangular architrave (*Plate 40*); the glazing bars and fittings appear to be late 18th -or 19th -century in date, although the architrave may be earlier.



Plate 40: Internal view of living room at SE end of first floor showing coved ceiling and casement windows

Set within the NW wall of the living room is a large fireplace with a brick segmental arch set within the upper portion of the masonry chimneystack extending upwards from the lounge/public bar at ground-floor level. Inserted in the thickness of the chimneybreast above the fireplace is a horizontal timber (*Plate 41*). Within the SE wall of the room is a section of exposed square-panelled timber-framing, the regular form of the panels and the thickness of the scantling contrasts markedly with the thinner scantling of the partitions on the opposite side of the room flanking the fireplace (*Plate 42*). Extending NE-SW across the ceiling of this room and the adjacent bedroom is a large chamfered cross-beam with slots for vertical timbers; it is difficult to determine whether this cross-beam was associated with a partition wall or (as seems more likely) these represent re-used timbers inserted to provide additional support for the roof above (*Plate 44*). The adjoining bedroom has a coved roof and is lit by a single four-pane casement window in the SE-facing elevation. There is exposed square-panelled timber-framing with thick scantling in the SE and NE walls, identical to that visible in the living room (*Plate 43*).



Plate 41: Internal view looking NW showing fireplace in living room at SE end of first floor, with substantial cross-beam above



Plate 42: Internal view looking SE showing regular, square-panelled timber-framing with thick scantling in SE wall of living room at first-floor level



Plate 43: Internal view looking SE showing square-panelled timber framing and casement window in SE wall of bedroom at the SE end of the first floor



Plate 44: Internal view looking NW showing bedroom to SE of first-floor landing showing square-panelled framing and cross-beam with slots for vertical posts (in foreground of picture)

- **Phases 3-4**

It is likely that the existing layout of the rooms extending to the NW and SW of the landing, together with the cross-axial passageway, were largely established during the late 18th-19th century (excepting the partition walls of the kitchen/bathroom, which are clearly modern). This is suggested by the regular squared form and thin scantling of the timber-framed partitions, the use of lath-and-plaster infill for the panels rather than wattle and daub and the ogee-moulded skirting (*Plate 45*). Most of the casement windows in the SW-facing rooms probably date from this phase of activity, while those casements in the NE-facing rooms appear mostly to be 20th-century insertions.

Documentary evidence indicates that it was during the 19th century that the George expanded in importance as an Inn and as a local venue for society meetings and auctions and, consequently, it is likely that provision was made for further accommodation during this period. The 1910 Land Valuation Survey records the presence of four bedrooms (which must have been at first-floor level) and two 'boxrooms', the location of which remain uncertain but may also have been on the first floor.



Plate 45: View looking N showing first-floor landing and passageway with square-framed partition walls

The bedroom to the SW of the landing is lit by a single four-light casement window set within a flat-headed architrave of probable 19th-century date. The walls of the room are of square-panelled construction (the panels infilled with lath-and-plaster as elsewhere) with jowelled corner-posts visible in the SW and SE corners and ogee-moulded skirting (*Plate 46*). The post in the SE corner is connected to the wall-plate by a cast-iron tie. Located at the SE end of the room is the upper stage of the masonry chimneystack visible at ground level. A brick

segmental-arched fireplace (since blocked-up) is visible within the chimneystack, above which is a horizontal timber inserted into the thickness of the stack (*Plate 47*).



Plate 46: Internal view looking NW showing thin scantling of partition wall of bedroom to SW of first-floor landing with earlier jowelled corner-post and wall-plate to left of picture



Plate 47: View looking SE showing blocked fireplace and chimneybreast in bedroom to SE of first-floor landing

- Phase 5

Evidence of modern work at first-floor level is represented by the staircase and wooden cupboard on the landing, the ceramic panelling and plasterboard partition walls in the bathroom/kitchen and the glazed casement windows in the two rear (NE) -facing bedrooms.

5.2.4 Roofspace

The roof was accessed from two hatches within the ceiling above the first-floor landing. Although access to the roof space was restricted due to safety concerns, two distinct phases of roof construction were clearly discernible. On the NW side, the roof construction is of simple collar-and-truss construction with trenched purlins and angled struts connecting the collar truss to the principal rafters, similar to that visible in the exposed NW gable end and therefore probably belonging to Phase 1 (early 17th century) (*Plate 48*). The panels of the roof truss, where exposed, appear to be infilled with a mixture of wattle and daub and lath and plaster (presumably of a later date).

The corresponding roof truss on the SE side is of queen-post construction and can probably be assigned to Phase 2, associated with the construction of the SE extension to the building, which may be dated to the late 17th century.



Plate 48: Internal view NW showing roof truss of probable late 16th -early 17th century date, with trenched purlins and angled struts connecting the collar to the principal rafters, the panels infilled with wattle and daub and lath-and-plaster

5.2.5 Outbuilding

Located within the yard to the rear of the Inn is a detached brick outbuilding of probable mid-19th -century date, oriented WNW-ESE and comprising a gabled rectangular block with a pitched, slated roof, one-and-a-half storeys high, with a single-storey lean-to structure with catslide roof projecting out from the SW-facing elevation (*Plate 49*). It is likely that this may be identified with a brick and timber wainhouse and stable mentioned in the description of the Royal George contained in the Land Valuation Survey of 1910. Externally, the outbuilding is of red gauged brick construction, laid in English Garden bond with no evidence of a construction break between the gabled block and the lean-to structure, suggesting that they represent a single phase of construction. The SW-facing wall of the lean-to structure has evidently been rebuilt (the brickwork being laid in stretcher bond), with the insertion of a modern glazed door and four-paned window.



Plate 49: View looking NE showing the principal SW-facing elevation of the brick outbuilding with projecting extension with catslide roof

The SW-facing elevation of the main gabled block (*Plate 49*) has a segmental-arched doorway at ground-floor level with a segmental-arched window to the right of the doorway and flat-headed window with a wooden sill above it. The NW-facing gable elevation has a centrally-placed segmental-arched window at ground-floor level with a stable doorway immediately to the right of it and a segmental-arched hayloft door above (*Plate 50*). The SE gable is devoid of fenestration, although there is a small rectangular area of whitewashed brickwork in the bottom left-hand corner of the elevation which indicates the position of a wooden lean-to shed against this wall.

The lower courses in the SW corner of the rear (NE-facing) elevation appear to have been partially reconstructed in roughly coursed rubble masonry (*Plate 51*). Inserted in the masonry is a low, flat-headed doorway with a

wooden frame and lintel, probably associated with a run leading from the outbuilding to two external sheds for pigs or chickens, which are shown in this location on the OS 1st edition plan of 1887 and are also recorded in the Land Valuation Survey entry for the Royal George in 1910. Evidence for a projecting lean-to structure against the NE-facing wall in the same location is indicated by a row of narrow slots for timbers approximately 1m above the low doorway. A building is first marked in this location on the 1840 tithe map for Lyonshall.



Plate 50: View looking SE showing the NW-facing gable elevation of the brick outbuilding



Plate 51: View looking SW showing the NE-facing rear elevation of the brick outbuilding, partially reconstructed in roughly coursed masonry with evidence for lean-to structure (now demolished)

Internally, the main gabled block has an open truss roof with trenched purlins and angled struts connecting the tie beam to the principal rafters (*Plate 52*). It comprises two separate compartments, both of which are whitewashed at ground-floor level, sub-divided by a brick partition wall, 2m in height (laid in English Garden Bond). Extending through the centre of both compartments is a substantial, low cross-beam supporting joists for a hayloft above (*Plate 53*). Within the larger of the two compartments the joists for the hayloft have been removed, although the mortise slots for these joists are visible in the cross-beam and beam slots within the flanking walls. Within the smaller of the two compartments, the joists for the hayloft have remained intact.



Plate 52: Internal view looking SE of main compartment of outbuilding showing roof construction, of typical 19th -century open-truss type

Few features of interest were noted within the larger of the two compartments. The lower stages of the NE wall of the larger compartment appear to have been reconstructed with roughly coursed rubble masonry (tapering outwards towards the base), possibly in connection with the insertion of the low doorway leading outside to the sheds for chickens or pigs. A timber wall-plate has been inserted in the wall between the masonry and the brickwork above (*Plate 54*). No evidence for stalls or fittings, such as racks or mangers for horses or livestock, was noted, although these may have been removed previously. Within the smaller compartment, wooden hay racks and a concrete feeding trough attached to the NE wall were identified, all of which appear to be of relatively modern date. Patches of cobbled flooring were noted in both compartments.

It was not possible to obtain access to the lean-to building with catslide roof attached to the SW-facing elevation. Although structurally it appears to be integrated (and therefore contemporary) with the main block, there is no evidence for an interconnecting door and it must therefore only have been accessed externally. It could have functioned either as a cowhouse or cartshed.



Plate 53: Internal view looking NW showing brick partition wall separating the two compartments, with horizontal cross-beam to left of picture



Plate 54: Internal view looking NE showing rear wall of main compartment of outbuilding, the lower portion partially reconstructed and a low doorway inserted

5.3 Summary Discussion of Phasing

Based on the structural evidence and the available documentary and cartographic sources, it is possible to establish five main phases of construction, ranging in date from c.1600 through to the mid-20th century.

5.3.1 Phase 1 (late 16th -early 17th century)

Much of the original fabric has been altered or removed as a result of later work (particularly as a result of the extensive internal reorganisation which took place in the mid-20th century); however, some early work has survived intact. The earliest phase of construction, dated to the late 16th -or early 17th century, is represented by the central three bays of the main NW-SE aligned block, located between the cider mill/kitchen and the public bar.

It appears that the Phase 1 building was of a three-unit, timber-framed continuous-jetty type, probably comprising a central, ceiled hall flanked by a parlour at one end and a kitchen/service room at the other. This type of construction is commonly found in vernacular houses of 16th -17th -century date in Herefordshire and elsewhere across the country. Notable examples of continuous jettied houses of similar date in nearby villages include 'The Throne' at Weobley and 'Old Oak House' in Pembridge. Unfortunately, there is a lack of documentary evidence for the early history of the Inn so it is impossible to say whether it was used as a hostelry from the time it was first built; on balance, it appears more likely that it began as a yeoman's house, which was subsequently converted into an inn by no later than the late 18th century.

It is unclear precisely where the original front entrance to the house was situated: it may have been in the centre bay and disappeared when the lower storey was underbuilt and the existing pair of sash windows inserted. It is worth noting that the RCHME plan shows the position of a rear entrance in the central bay, which was subsequently removed when the rear wall was reconstructed and the gabled extension added to the NE in the 1950s-60s, suggesting that there may once have been a corresponding centrally-placed entrance in the SW-facing elevation. This division into three units is delineated by substantial stop-chamfered cross-beams at ground level and is similarly mirrored at first floor-level as well.

It appears likely that the house had a gable end chimneystack which was probably located at the SE end; however, the existing stone chimneystack located between the lounge and public bar probably dates from the late 17th century, when the SE end was remodelled with the addition of an extra bay to the SE. The upper half of the NW gable end of the original building has survived partially intact, although the lower half was presumably truncated when the gabled cider house was added in the late 17th or early 18th century and was further obscured by the construction of the brick chimneystack in the mid-20th century.

At first-floor level, later alterations to the internal layout has obscured or removed much of the early fabric. The substantial chamfered cross-beams and jowelled corner-posts defining the original three-bay divisions probably represent evidence of original fabric. A surviving (albeit partially altered) section of cross-framing in the bedroom immediately NW of the landing may represent early work, as well as a section of square-panelled box-framing with diagonal braces in the landing above the staircase. The collared roof truss with diagonal braces also

probably represents evidence of original fabric. Much of the timber-framing at first-floor level along the front elevation appears to have been altered in the 19th century while the rear elevation was heavily altered in the mid-20th century with the insertion of new windows.

5.3.2 Phase 2 (late 17th-early 18th century)

This phase of building activity, which may be dated to the late 17th-early 18th century, is represented by the construction of a single bay, two-storey extension at the SE end of the building (essentially comprising the existing public bar at ground floor and the living room and large bedroom on the first floor) and the addition of a gabled single-storey range at the NW end of the building.

The existing stone chimneystack appears to be contemporary with the addition of the SE bay, which seems to have been intended to provide a new kitchen/sitting room area, as evidenced by the large SE-facing fireplace. The front entrance to the inn also appears to have been relocated to the SE end of the house, entering into a lobby adjoining the chimneystack.

The bedroom and living room occupying the upper floor of this new extension appear to have been of higher status compared to the other rooms, as evidenced by their size, the presence of a large fireplace and the much more regular studding of the internal walls. The queen-post roof truss in the roof-space above the first-floor landing also appears to belong to this phase of construction.

Probably contemporary with the SE extension is the single-storey gabled range added to the NW gable end of the house, which was probably built originally to house a cider mill. The cider industry rapidly expanded in Herefordshire and the Marches from the mid-17th century onwards and numerous cider mills were constructed within farms and yeomen's houses during the 17th and 18th centuries. A cider mill is recorded as attached to the Maidenhead Inn in the RCHME survey of 1933.

This range is recorded as being of stone-and-timber construction in the 1910 Land Valuation Survey and still appears as a cider mill in the RCHME survey of 1933, but was almost completely reconstructed in brick for use as a kitchen after the Second World War, with the exception of timber-framing of the NW gable end with loft door. No evidence survives for fixtures and fittings associated with the former cider mill, which were presumably removed in their entirety after the reconstruction.

5.3.3 Phase 3 (c.1750-1850)

To this phase of work, which may be broadly dated to c.1750-1850, can be assigned the masonry work of the existing SW-facing frontage of the main block at ground-floor level. The two sash windows to the left of the later canted bay window and the doorway at the SE end of the principal SW-facing elevation, with its substantial timber lintel, probably also date to the same period.

It would appear that the SW-facing elevation of the cider house was also rebuilt and extended at the same time (based on the evidence of the RCHME drawing); however, evidence of this was completely swept away when the walls of the cider house were entirely reconstructed in brick in the mid-20th century. There also appears to have been a rectangular lean-to structure attached to the rear (NE-facing) elevation, which is first shown on the Lyonshall tithe map and appears on later Ordnance Survey maps up to c.1955; this appears to have been demolished by no later than 1974, when the present NE gabled extension (housing a restaurant and cellar) was already in existence.

During this period, there appears to have been a substantial reorganisation of the original three-bay internal layout to create additional accommodation at first-floor level, as evidenced by the square-panelled, timber-framed partition walls with slender scantling within the passageway and most of the rooms leading off from the first-floor landing. The four-paned casement windows at first-floor level can also probably be assigned to this phase of work.

This extensive programme of alterations may well reflect the increased importance of the George Inn during the 19th century, not only as a local hostelry but also as a venue for society meetings (agricultural societies and religious groups are known to have held meetings at the George during the first half of the 19th century), auctions and local court sessions (the manor courts for Lyonshall are documented as being held at the George in 1851). The Land Valuation Survey lists four bedrooms within the Royal George in 1910, together with another two boxrooms, which may also have been on the first floor.

The brick outbuilding in the yard to the rear of the Royal George appears to date to the first half of the 19th century; it is not shown on an OS surveyor's drawing of 1815 but does appear on the Lyonshall tithe map of 1840, largely resembling its present appearance, except for the structure attached to the rear elevation, which appears to have been demolished at some point during the mid-late 20th century.

5.3.4 Phase 4 (late 19th century)

This phase of work, which may be dated to the second half of the 19th century, is primarily represented by the addition of the canted bay window at the SE end of the principal (SW-facing) elevation, which is first shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1887.

5.3.5 Phase 5 (mid-late 20th century)

Phase 5 represents the extensive alterations which were made to the internal layout of the Inn during the mid-late 20th century, based on comparison between a photograph and survey plan of the Inn dated 1933, a photograph of the inn dated 1965 and a later Ordnance Survey plan dated 1974.

The most significant modern alterations visible at ground-floor level comprise the addition of the four-bay toilet block and pantry along the rear (NE-facing) elevation of the main block, which necessitated the entire

reconstruction of the rear wall of the building at ground-floor level and the insertion of new windows at upper-storey level.

Contemporary with this work was the complete reconstruction of the walls of the former cider house at the NW end of the building and the addition of a brick chimneystack, the rebuilding of the lean-to toilet block with its simple post-and-truss roof at the SE end of the Inn and the construction of the large single-storey gabled building (formerly a restaurant and cellar) attached to the rear wall of the building, which is first shown in its present form on an OS 1:2500 plan of 1974. A pair of sash windows and a second doorway (to the left of the canted bay window) were also inserted in the SW-facing principal elevation at some time between 1933 and 1953 (its existence is mentioned in the listed building description of that date).

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8 Cartography and Aerial Photography

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1974 OS 1:2500 map

Photographs of the Inn dated c.1910, 1933 and 1965 were consulted at Hereford Central Library and the National Monuments Record

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