

Two Unusual Timber-Framed Buildings in South-West Bedfordshire

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IVY FARM, STANBRIDGE

During the writer's investigation of the apparently seventeenth-century Ivy Farm at Stanbridge, a surviving pair of cruck blades were discovered within the frame work of the modified buildings, only fragments of one end bay survive. The end bay was floored and the original joists survive.

Figure 1 shows a section through the surviving cruck frame. The cruck blades stop above the collar and it would appear from inspection that they terminated at this height originally. The tie beam mortices over tenons on the top of the posts and the wall plate site over the ends of the tie beam. The termination of the cruck blades above the collar is not uncommon in the region as there are examples at 13 Castle Street, Aylesbury, Bucks and Dragon Farm, Long Crendon, Bucks.

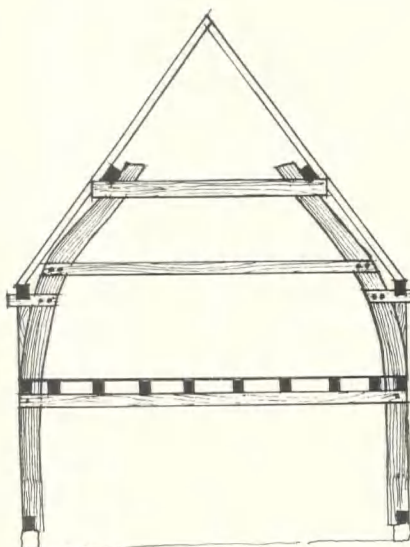


Fig 1 Ivy Farm, Stanbridge: the cruck blades.

STUDHAM HALL FARM, STUDHAM

The writer, during a survey of Studham buildings in 1979, identified a further Bedfordshire "Wealden" House. The building, Studham Hall Farm, had been modified in the sixteenth century to a continuous jetty building by the flooring of the hall. With the exception of the alterations to the front elevation the frame is remarkably complete.

Perhaps the most interesting discovery is the close parallel of the roof of the hall of this building to another "Wealden" house just over the Buckinghamshire border at Charity Farm, Edlesborough.¹ Both have butt purlin roofs over the hall with two pairs of purlins. The mouldings to purlins, tie beams, collars are similar in both buildings. The Studham building is larger having two bays at either side of the hall, the Edlesborough example has a single bay either end.

Following the publication of a basic distribution map and schedule of "Wealden" houses in Bedfordshire and the area north of the Thames² further examples have been noted by the writer;

STUDHAM BEDFORDSHIRE
Studham Hall Farm
Surveyed by J.M. Bailey

HAROLD BEDFORDSHIRE
Orchard Lane
Personal Observation J.M. Bailey

WEST WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
a) 58 High Street
b) Building immediately to east of Church loft in High Street.
Personal observation J.M. Bailey

NOTES

- 1 J.M. Bailey, *Timber-Framed Buildings*, (1979), 16-19 with figs 25-32A. The Edlesborough building is shown in fig 27; the Harrold house in fig 32A.
- 2 J.M. Bailey, 'Rowe's Cottage . . .', *Beds Arch J* 12, 1977, 85-98, esp. 96-98 with fig 1, supplemented by Bailey, 1979, fig 25 for Bedfordshire and adjacent counties. There are examples in Norfolk and Suffolk additional to those listed in the Schedule; information from D.H.Kennett.