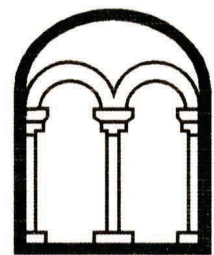


**CHURCH FARM, EAST WING, SHRAWLEY,
WORCESTERSHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Fieldwork Reference No.: WSM47405

Albion
archaeology





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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a report as possible, within the terms of the commission. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The building recording was undertaken by Mark Phillips BA. The photographic survey was carried out by Nigel Macbeth. Mark Phillips is the author of the report and the project was managed on behalf of Albion Archaeology by Hester Cooper-Reade BA (hons), MIFA.

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Structure of this report

Section 1 is an introductory chapter giving the background to the report. Historical background information derived from historic maps and documents is presented in Section 2. A description of the building forms Section 3 with discussion of the construction sequence and dating in Section 4. The significance and the potential impact of the proposed works are examined in Sections 5. Section 6 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 presents a summary 'list type' description of the existing building.

Figures and photographs are included at the end of the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background to the Report*

Planning consent has been granted by Malvern Hills District Council for the change of use to provide a managers flat and guest accommodation in association with an existing wedding venue at Church Farm, Shrawley, Worcestershire (W/12/0071/FUL) and (W/12/01228/FUL).

The approved development will affect a building of historic or architectural interest. The Historic Environment Planning Officer (HEPO) has issued a brief (Glyde M 2012) for mitigation works. The brief indicates that “on current evidence, that the historic asset is not of such significance to warrant pre-determination evaluation or preservation in-situ, and that the impact of the development on the historic environment can be appropriately offset by a conditional programme of Historic Building Recording”. A condition was therefore placed on the planning consent by the Local Planning Authority following advice received from the HEPO at Worcester County Council.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the programme of historic building recording in accordance with the requirements of the brief. As part of these requirements Albion prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the procedures and methodologies to be employed (Albion 2012).

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Shrawley is a hamlet located approximately 7km west of Droitwich and a similar distance to the south of Stourport on Severn. Church Farm is located 200m to the west of St Mary’s Church on Church Lane (Figure 1).

The farm comprises modern farm buildings at the west, a U-shaped range of historic farm buildings, the farmhouse and an L-shaped range of farm buildings at the northeast of the complex. The subject of the planned development work is the farmhouse which is located at grid reference SO 80445/64689. Church Farm house is not a listed building on the statutory list for England but it is locally listed within the Worcestershire HER (Historic Environment Record)

1.3 *Aims and Objectives*

The Brief required a level 3 historic building survey (English Heritage 2006a).

The objectives of the building survey and recording were to:

- Provide a detailed measured survey of the building and its fixtures and fittings.
- Provide a descriptive account and interpretation of the building, including discussion of its local, regional and national significance.
- Produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to ‘preserve by record’ the buildings in their current form prior to conversion.



2. HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

2.1 Introduction

Documentary research was undertaken on material held by the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) at the Hive in Worcester. Material consulted included trade directories, local histories and secondary sources in the local studies and archaeology library, historic maps on microfilm and original maps and documents in the archive search room. The archaeological background to the area is provided in a report prepared by WAAS (Russell 2012) and a summary of the data (Albion 2012, figure 2, Appendix 3).

2.2 Known Heritage Assets in the Historic Environment Record

WAAS conducted a 500m radius search for known archaeological assets listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) which they hold (Russell 2012). The results of the search have been summarised in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion 2012, figure 2, Appendix 3).

The HER has three entries which are directly related to Church Farm. WSM45191 represents the currently extant farm buildings which appear on the first edition 25" Ordnance Survey map (1884). WSM45192 comprises a number of farm buildings recorded on Ordnance Survey maps from 1884 to 1927 but which no longer survive. WSM46360 is the east wing of Church Farm which is recorded on a tithe map of 1834.

2.3 Maps

The earliest maps examined were photostat negatives of maps of the Bowater Vernon estate made by John Dougherty in 1731-2 (1101, ref f970.5:7). The map showing lands belonging to the estate in the parish of Shrawley includes the fields to the south of Church Lane but nothing to the north apart from a sketch outline of the church.

2.3.1 Plan of Church House Farm c.1805 (Images 1 and 2)

The first map to show details of the farm dates from about 1805 (7335/47(ii)). It is included in a bundle of miscellaneous Shrawley documents which include a ground plan and watercolour of Wood House and a survey dating from 1544-5 of the manor assigned to Catherine Parr. None of the other documents appear to be related to the plan of Church Farm and it is not known why it was drawn or who commissioned it.

The plan is a small scale plan on parchment which is labelled "Plan of the Church House Farm Shrawley". A pencil note on the map dates it to "about 1805" and a note in red in one corner indicates that "The numbers in Red Ink correspond with the numbers in the map made in 1821 by W. Womack". The area shown is presumably land that formed part of the farm. It includes a few fields to the north of Church Lane and a large area to the south that extends eastwards as far as the River Severn. The different land parcels are numbered with at least two sets of numbers in pencil and one in red ink.



The plan of the farm buildings (Image 2) shows the barns and outbuildings to the west and the farm house. The farm buildings are ranged along the north, west and east sides of a large yard with a separate building in the field to the west. The farmhouse appears to be longer from east to west when compared with later plans. A range across the west end of the building forms a cross-wing. A wing projecting from the north side of the building should correspond to the present east wing. Another block on the south east corner does not correspond to features on later maps. The plan of the house is an extremely small and its proportions may be incorrect. It is possible that the block shown on the south east corner could represent a walled garden or yard, rather than part of the house.

2.3.2 Tithe Map 1839 (Images 3 and 4)

This plan shows considerable changes from the earlier plan. The farm buildings on the north and east side of the yard next to Church Lane had been removed leaving the large barn on the west side of the yard. A new range of buildings closed the south side of the yard. The plan also shows additional enclosed areas or yards extending to the north and north east of the original yard. The changes indicate development and investment in the farm at this time. It is possible that the rearrangement of the yard areas reflect changes in the economy of the farm, possibly related to animal husbandry. The plan of the farmhouse at this time appears as a simple L-shape, corresponding to the south west and east ranges.

2.3.3 First Edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map 1884 (Images 5 and 6)

This map shows the land to the north and south of the farm as large orchards. More buildings are shown around the existing yards to the west of the farmhouse and further outbuildings and a yard with what appears to be a piggery has been constructed to the north of to the house. The plan of the farmhouse appears identical to the modern plan with the exception of the northern half of the lobby on the west side of the east range, which appears to be a modern addition.

2.3.4 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1903 (not illustrated)

The 25" second edition Ordnance Survey map (1903) shows very little change at the farm. An additional building is shown at the western edge of the northern yard.

2.3.5 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1927 (not illustrated)

The third edition map (1927) shows no further change. A number of the farm buildings have been demolished since 1927. These include the outbuildings on the north and west and the northern of the two yards.

2.4 Trade Directories

Trade Directories consulted in the local studies and archaeology library produced little information. The earlier directories list Shrawley farmers, but Church Farm is of insufficient standing for a separate mention. The first to mention Church House Farm is the 1936 Kelley's Directory of Worcestershire which names William Weaver. The 1932 edition lists a William Weaver as a coal dlr. at Church House.

2.5 Secondary Sources

The county histories (Nash 1781) (VCH 1924) contain no information which relates directly to Church Farm.



The Victoria County History section on the parish of Shrawley contains a detailed manorial history (VCH 1924, 337-341). The later history of the manor is likely to be of most relevance in relation to the history of the farm. This shows that the manor was split by William Gower when it was settled on his two eldest daughters in 1573. The parts passed through a number of owners before being reunited by Allan Cliffe in 1681. His nephew inherited in 1699 and sold the manor to Thomas Vernon, lord of the manor of Hanbury after which it descended with the manor of Hanbury in the ownership of the Vernon family.

A locally produced parish history (Walker 1982) includes a section by Margaret Oaks on domestic architecture. She wrote that the opening of the canal at Stourport in 1771 resulted in an increase in trade and building boom in the village. A number of new house were built in brick and the road through the village was widened in 1814.



3. BUILDING RECORDING: DESCRIPTION

3.1 **Methodology: Building Recording**

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* and English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006a) have been adhered to. All work has been done in accordance with the IFA Code of Conduct.

The survey followed the English Heritage recommendations for a level 3 survey, comprising a detailed examination of the building and a photographic record. The photographic records comprise high resolution digital images. In the report the photographs have been reproduced at a lower resolution in order to ensure digital versions of the report are of a manageable size. The terminology for describing timber frames follows Alcock *et al* 1996.

In the following description of the building the exterior elevations are described first. The description of the interior is order by floor, starting with the ground floor. The principle rooms have been numbered for the purposes of the description whilst hallways, circulation areas and storage areas have been integrated into the text with reference to the principle rooms. The rooms are numbered Ground Floor 1 to 6, First Floor 1 to 6 and Second Floor 1 to 3.

3.2 **General Description of Site and its Layout**

Farmhouse consists of a two principle ranges with smaller extensions to the rear (figure 3). An east-west aligned, one and half storey range forms the south east part of the building. A north-south aligned range of two and half storeys occupies the eastern side. Extensions at the rear side consist of a two storied block at the north west, a two storey hall and corridor on the rear of the south east range and a lean-to corridor on the west side of the eastern range.

3.3 **Exterior**

3.3.1 **South Elevation** (Image 7)

This elevation comprises the south side of the south west range and the south end of the eastern range.

The south west range has one and half storeys in two bays. This elevation contains two ground floor windows, the main south entrance to the building, a small first floor window and two first floor dormers. The ground floor window openings have segmental brick arches with wooden window frames divided by two mullions, a transom and a glazing bar below. The main entrance is covered by a porch consisting of a low brick wall with an ornate open timber framework supporting a tiled roof. Above the porch a small two light window under a segmental brick arch lights a small first floor roof space. The first floor dormers have tiled gabled roofs with shaped barge boards, brick gables and rendered cheeks. The tiled gabled roof of the south west range has chimneys located towards its eastern end and on the west gable. These have a band of blue brick mid-way up and a corbelled out cap.



The brickwork on this side of the south west range consists of red brick with some dark purplish blue over-fired bricks. The bonding used is a mixed garden bond (rows of alternate header-stretcher separated by courses of stretchers) in the area above the windows with more random bonding in the lower part of the wall.

The south elevation of the east range forms a symmetrical arrangement having two narrow windows on the ground floor and a blank gable wall above. The windows have segmental brick arches and wood frames consisting of a mullion and transom and a glazing bar below. The window openings lie to either side of an internal axial chimney stack which emerges at the gable. The chimney is identical in design of those in the south west range, with blue brick band and corbelled out cap.

3.3.2 East Elevation (Image 8)

This elevation comprises the east side of the east range. It has two and half storeys, originally in three bays although modern alterations have resulted in an irregular pattern of openings.

On the ground floor the southern bay contains a canted bay window with a tiled roof. The central bay has a modern door and a three light window with flat soldier arches over both. The eastern bay has a modern four light window with a flat soldier arch. On the first floor the south and central bays have three light windows with segmental brick arches. These windows have not been replaced in the modern period. They have wooden frames with a central metal framed casement hung on external pintle hinges. They also retain external iron window stays attached to the window sill. The two first floor windows in the northern bay are modern replacements with flat soldier arches. These windows were inserted to accommodate the insertion of a small bathroom at the north end of the range and probably replaced a single window matching those in the bays to the south. The attic storey has two small dormer windows in the south and central bays. The dormers have tiled gabled roofs and leaded cheeks. These two light dormers each have an iron framed hinged casement on pintles with an external window stay.

The bricks are a mixture of mid red and darker red brick with small numbers of partially overfired bricks with dark purplish blue ends. The brick is laid in English garden wall bond with three courses of stretchers between header courses with dentils at the eaves. Different, brownish red bricks have been used beneath the bay window and light red, modern bricks have been used around the modern inserted windows and doors.

3.3.3 North Elevation (Images 9 and 10)

The north elevation consists of the north end of the east range, a two storey extension along the north side of the south west range, a single storey porch and a two storey block on the north west corner of the house.

The north end of the east range consists of a gable end and a massive external chimney. At the base the chimney extends the full width of the range with tiled lean-to roofs on the ground floor side sections. Above the ground floor its width decreases with tile weatherings on the sides defining three stages. The chimney is attached to the gable up to the level of the lower part of the attic. Above this it



narrows to become free-standing. A tiled saddle forms a coping over the top of the wider section behind the free-standing part of the stack. The brickwork of the gable end and chimney is matches that of the east elevation with English garden wall bond used throughout.

A two storey extension along the north side of the south west range forms a circulation/hall area. It has two three-light windows. The one on the ground floor has a wooden lintel whilst the first floor window opening has a segmental brick arch. The wall is in mixed garden/Flemish stretcher bond. The extension is topped with three small gable roofs.

A porch with a lean-to tiled roof stands against the north side of the extension described above. It is built in mixed garden/Flemish stretcher bond and has two small segmental arched window openings in its east end. The door in its north wall is a modern two part (stable) door. Fresh cement pointing and the lack of closers around its sides suggest that this opening is a modern alteration.

The west end of the elevation consists of the gable end of a two storey block on the north west corner of the building. It is timber framed, infilled with brick with one first floor and two ground floor windows. The timber frame survives in the upper part where it comprises a tie-beam, upper tie beam, corner post, rafters and braces in the apex of the frame. The ends of purlins are visible at the level of the upper tie-beam. These appear to be trenched purlins. The tie beam is interrupted by two vertical posts which project below the tie-beam to a short horizontal beam. The two ground floor windows are wood framed cross windows under wood lintels. Extremely short cut bricks along the sides of the windows suggest that the windows may be later insertions. The first floor window occupies the space between the upper and lower tie-beams with mullions formed by the two vertical posts mentioned above. The ground floor brickwork is Flemish stretcher bond with the infill of the frame above in stretcher bond.

3.3.4 West Elevation (Image 7)

This comprises the west side of the north west block and the west gable end of the south west range.

The side of the north west block was obscured at the time of the survey by dense plant climbing plant cover. It has a single ground floor window which matches those in the side. In the middle of the wall is an external stack which rises above eaves level to form a tall, square stack with a single pot on top.

The gable end of the south west range has a blocked opening on the ground floor a small first floor window and an external stack. The window and blocked opening both have segmental brick arches. The stack is offset slightly to the south and narrows at first floor level. Two chimney pots indicate that it has two flues serving ground and first floor rooms.

3.4 Interior: Ground floor (figure 3)

On this floor the south west range and the east range are separate units which are separated by a passage serving the main entrance on the south frontage. Extensions



added to the back of the house form the circulation areas on this level. A block on the northwest corner contains a kitchen.

3.4.1 Ground Floor Room 1: Kitchen/breakfast room in east range (Image 11)

3.4.1.1 Early Eighteenth century

An aga has been installed in the large fireplace at the north end of the room but the fireplace retains much original brickwork. The heavy wooden bessummer across the front of the fireplace is a reused joist inserted during modern alterations, possibly to reinforce the opening. The original bessummer remains behind a trimmer beam on the left to support the side of the stack. A small oven on the right hand side appears to be original. Various modern repairs to the brickwork are evident around the inserted beam, above the oven and in the centre back of the fireplace.

The transverse ceiling beam (binding joist) in the middle of the ceiling has plain chamfers and with stops at both ends, though the detail of the stops is obscured by erosion.

3.4.1.2 Modern

The west door is a modern two part (stable) door. The window in the east side of the room has been replaced and widened, evidenced by the flat soldier arch on the exterior. The original binding joist is now supported on a steel post at this end.

3.4.2 Ground Floor Room 2: Dining room in east range (Image 12)

3.4.2.1 Early Eighteenth century

The binding joist in the middle of the room has a plain chamfer stopped at both ends with ogee/lamb's tongue stops. The use of this type of stop began in the late sixteenth century, went out of use in higher status buildings at the end of the seventeenth century but continued to be used in smaller houses into the eighteenth century (Hall 2005, 161). The binder supports a series of common joists laid on edge which have a plain chamfers runout at each end.

The plank and batten door at the north end of the room is made up from three wide planks and retains its original fittings (Image 13). The hinges are T-shaped strap hinges with rounded terminals. The lock is a wooden stock lock fixed with nails. The form of the hinges indicates a seventeenth or early eighteenth century date (Hall 2005, 48-52).

3.4.2.2 Twentieth century

The door with margin light and window in the east side of the room are modern insertions, evident from the external brickwork. An inserted partition wall across the south side of the room encloses a stair to the first floor. This wall contains a cupboard with a 19th C four panel door surrounded by a modern architrave.



3.4.3 Ground Floor Room 3: Lounge in east range (Image 13)

3.4.3.1 Early Eighteenth century

The binding joist has a plain chamfer with stops at both ends.

3.4.3.2 Nineteenth century

Material which dates from this period comprises the four panel door in the north end of the room, the architraves and shutter boxes in the windows in the south wall and the architrave around the opening for the bay window in the east wall.

3.4.3.3 Twentieth century

The fireplace on the south wall has been much modified in the modern period, being stripped back to bare brick and modified to take a wood burning stove. The alterations include the insertion of a protruding arch in modern bullnose bricks.

3.4.4 Ground Floor Room 4: Family room in south west range (Images 15 - 18)

The south west range of the farmhouse has a timber frame which has been encased and partially replaced in brick. A small proportion of the frame is visible in the ground floor rooms 4 and 5.

3.4.4.1 Sixteenth/early Seventeenth century

This room has a quartered ceiling with plain chamfered joists which is likely to date from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century (Brown 1982, 186).

A heavy post at the east end of the room joined to the transverse beam above with a pegged tenon and therefore appears to form an integral part of the frame. The post has three peg holes and large infilled mortise for a missing timber in its south side.

The area in the south east corner is filled with a large inglenook fireplace. This contains some evidence of recent repairs or alterations. The brickwork in the sides has been reworked, particularly the pier on the left hand side. The bressumer has a shallow moulding along its bottom edge and peg holes for a possible mantelshelf on the front. It is likely that the existing fireplace post-dates the original construction of this part of the house, the bressumer is not connected to the timber frame in front which has an empty mortise for an earlier beam in this location.

3.4.4.2 Eighteenth/Nineteenth century

Features dating from this period include the window in the south side of the room, a cupboard built into the thickness of the south wall and a wide four panel door in the north side. At some point the room has been narrowed by the insertion of partition along its northern side, either during this phase of work or possibly later.

3.4.4.3 Twentieth century

A doorway to the left hand side of the fireplace, linking this room to the corridor to the east has been blocked to form an alcove.



3.4.5 Ground Floor Room 5: Playroom in south west range (Images 19-20)

3.4.5.1 Sixteenth/early Seventeenth century

The original frame has been exposed on the north side of the room and a single wall post is partly visible in the south wall. The frame in the north wall consists of two rows of horizontal timbers, a wall post at its eastern end, some studs and an internal down brace in the north west corner of the frame. A softwood plank and batten door in this wall appears to be a later fitting inserted into an existing opening. An area of wattle and daub infill in the corner of the room displayed under a transparent cover consists of upright riven lathes supporting woven horizontal withies.

3.4.5.2 Eighteenth/Nineteenth century

The timber-framed partition that forms the east end of the room and the ceiling date from this period. The ceiling is a framed ceiling with an axial joist and common joists which form a flush lower surface. Nail marks and stains show that the ceiling was originally covered in lath and plaster which has been removed to expose the joists.

The partition consists of studs which are fixed with nails at their upper ends and straight diagonal braces. The partition occupies a bay division in the original structure of the building and surviving original elements have been cut back flush with the surface of the partition on its west side. It is clear that the partition would have originally been designed to be concealed beneath panelling or lath and plaster. The room would have been entered via a door in the north east corner of the room which is now blocked from its eastern side. It is a four panel door with raised and fielded panels.

The current form of the window in the south wall probably dates from this period although the frame has been replaced in the modern period.

3.4.6 Ground Floor Room 6: Kitchen in north west block (Image 21)

This part of the building appears to have been timber framed which has been largely replaced with brick except for where parts of the frame are visible in the north gable end.

3.4.6.1 Seventeenth century

This room has two binding joists which are aligned east-west. The one in the south half of the room is roughly finished. It has waney edges and a plain chamfer with a runout stop at its east end. The beam to the north is neatly finished with plain chamfers and lamb's tongue stops. The one at the west end is partially buried in the wall presumably a result of the wall being rebuilt in brick.

3.4.6.2 Nineteenth century

The two windows in north wall and the window in the north west corner probably date from this time.



3.4.6.3 *Twentieth century*

Modern work in this room consists of an enclosure for the heating boiler against the west wall and plastic panelling which covers the south wall. The modern boiler occupies the presumed location of former fireplace served by the external stack on this side.

3.4.7 **Ground floor circulation areas**

3.4.7.1 *Main entrance corridor (Image 22)*

This runs between the east and south west ranges. A beam at ceiling height runs along the west side of the corridor. This has two empty mortises and a number of stave holes visible on its lower side with another filled mortise next to the wall line. This beam forms part of the frame for the east end of the south west range. The modern wall line when replaced in brick was moved in slightly from its original position. A door from the hall into room 4 has been blocked to form a storage space.

3.4.7.2 *Hall (Image 23)*

At the rear of the south west range is a two storey extension which forms a ground floor hall and a first floor corridor. On both floors this links the east and south west ranges and the rooms on the north west corner of the building. On the ground floor the hall has been widened by moving a section of the north wall of room 4 to the south. This may have been a later modification to the hall area.

3.4.7.3 *Rear lobby (Image 24)*

At the rear of the building a single storey lean-to has been added to the west side of the east range to form a lobby area. Its west side is constructed in stretcher bond which meets the wall at its south end in a straight join showing that it post dates the two storey extension on the rear of the south west range. The north end of the lobby incorporates an earlier wall which the brickwork of the lobby abuts in a ragged join. The earlier wall probably formed part of a yard or garden boundary.

3.5 **Interior: First Floor (figure 4)**

The rooms on this floor comprise the first floor rooms of the east range and the first floor/attic storey of the south west range and the north west block. The east and southeast ranges are linked by a landing by a landing area. The east range is in three bays and the first floor would have originally comprised three equal sized rooms but these have been subdivided in the modern period to include a landing, bathroom and corridor. Circulation on this floor is via a modern partitioned corridor the east range and an extension along the rear of the south west range.

3.5.1 **First Floor Room 1: Bedroom in north end of east range (Image 25)**

3.5.1.1 *Early Eighteenth century*

The original room would have occupied the whole northern end of this floor. The south end of the room is formed by a brick wall, one of the two cross-walls that define the original bay divisions in the east range. The binding joist which would have run across the middle of the room has a plain chamfer and lamb's tongue stops (Image



26). The western stop is visible in the adjacent corridor. The beam here contrasts with the plain beams found in rooms 2 and 3 on this floor probably indicating a higher status function for this room.

3.5.1.2 Twentieth century

The windows in this room and the small bathroom to the north are modern replacements, recognizable externally from the flat soldier arches above the windows. In room 1 the window is probably similar in size to the one it replaced judging from the other original windows but it has been moved south to accommodate the insertion of the bathroom. Room 1, the corridor and the bathroom were created in this period by the insertion of stud walls.

3.5.2 First Floor Room 2: Bedroom in East Range (Image 27)

3.5.2.1 Early Eighteenth century

The north wall of the room is a solid brick cross-wall forming the bay division between this and room 1. The binding joist is a plain rectangular section and is the smallest of the three on this floor, measuring 190mm wide. The window in this room is probably retains its original form though the wood frame is likely to have been renewed. It has central metal casement on pintle hinges with an external iron stay to keep the window open.

3.5.2.2 Twentieth century

The existing room is a modern creation, partitioned off with stud walls to create a separate bedroom, corridor and landing. The stud wall forming the south side of the room runs up to the window so that the original window is shared with the landing to the south.

3.5.3 First Floor Room 3: Bedroom in east range (Image 28)

3.5.3.1 Early Eighteenth century

The north wall of the room is a solid brick cross-wall forming the bay division between this and the central bay. The binding joist is a plain rectangular section beam. The window matches that in room 2.

3.5.3.2 Twentieth century

The room retains its original dimensions, occupying the whole southern bay of this floor. Modern features comprise the door in the north wall and built in storage cupboards at the south end. The door is a modern unit with applied surface mouldings, identical to the doors used for the other bedrooms on this floor. This room would have been heated by a fireplace in the middle of the south wall which has been blocked off. The presence of the chimney breast is now obscured by modern built in wardrobes on either side.

3.5.4 First Floor Room 4: Bedroom (Images 29 - 30)

3.5.4.1 Sixteenth/early Seventeenth century

This is an attic room with sloping ceilings and low side walls. Visible roof structure consists of purlins and a pair of wind braces on either side the room. The purlins



have plain chamfers. The wind braces along the south side are curved whilst those on the north have a slight ogee curve.

3.5.4.2 Nineteenth century

The window in the south side of the room is a wooden framed casement possibly replaced in this period. The door is a plain four panel pine door.

3.5.4.3 Modern

The walls at the east and west ends of the room appear to have been covered in plaster board, although these walls fall on the original bay divisions and presumably have timber framing inside.

3.5.5 First Floor Room 5: Bedroom (Images 31 - 32)

3.5.5.1 Sixteenth/early Seventeenth century

This is an attic room with sloping ceilings and low side walls. The roof structure matches that in room 4 with the addition of chamfer stops at the east end. A scarf joint in the northern purlin is visible at its east end but its detail is obscured but within the thickness of the wall.

3.5.5.2 Nineteenth century

The door to the room is a plain four panel pine door. Probably in the eighteenth or nineteenth century the timber frame in this range was infilled and partly replaced with brick. It is possible that the absence of stops on the west end of the purlins is due to them being built into the wall at this time.

3.5.5.3 Modern

As in room 4 it is likely that the east wall of this room has been covered with plaster board. This room would have presumably have been heated because the stack on the west gable wall has two flues however no trace of a fire place is now visible inside the room.

3.5.6 First Floor Room 6: Bathroom (Image 33)

3.5.6.1 Seventeenth century

This is an attic room with sloping ceilings and low side walls. It has heavy purlins without chamfers at the break of slope of the roof.

3.5.6.2 Nineteenth century

The door is a plain four panel door.

3.5.6.3 Twentieth century

The west side of the room has been partitioned off to form storage space.

3.5.7 First floor circulation areas

3.5.7.1 East range landing (Images 34 - 35)

A landing and stairs from the ground floor occupy the southern half of the central bay in the east range. This space has been formed in the twentieth century by the



insertion of stud wall partitions. It is not clear whether this part of the building originally had a stair from the ground floor. The stairs from the landing up to the attic appear older but are not closely dateable (Image 46). The stair door on the landing is a plank and batten door made up of three broad planks which is hung from T-shaped hinges. These are strongly tapered with rounded terminals, suggesting a possible early eighteenth century date (Image 35). The door appears to have been reset in its present position as it has been extended at the top and bottom and the hinges are fixed to the frame with modern screws.

3.5.7.2 East range corridor

The corridor which runs along the west side of the east range is modern, formed by partitioning off bedrooms 1 and 2 with studding walls. The two window openings at the north end of the corridor are also modern with flat soldier arches visible in the external elevation (Image 9). The northernmost has been inserted at the creation of the bathroom at this end. The larger window to its south could have replaced and earlier window in this position.

3.5.7.3 South west range landing (Images 36)

This space occupies a half bay in the eastern end of the south west range which has been extended to join the east range. The west side of the landing retains some timber framing which includes a jowled post and tie-beam with a short arch brace at their junction. The ceiling has single curved wind brace. The stairs post date the construction of the south west range as they land on to the extended area between the two ranges.

3.5.7.4 Corridor along rear of south west range

A corridor at the rear of the south west range links the two ranges via a door inserted in the west side of the east range and gives access to the rooms in the western half of the building. This corridor is the upper part of a two storey extension added to the earlier ranges of the building to form a circulation area. The door linking the corridor to the east range is a plank and batten door of recent construction with narrow pine planks and modern fittings. The wooden lintel above the door is reused timber with redundant mortises in its western face.

3.6 Interior: Second Floor (figure 5)

The second floor consists of attic rooms in the east range. There are three rooms and a narrow section partitioned off to form a stair well and landing.

3.6.1 Second Floor Room 1: Store in east range (Images 37 - 38)

3.6.1.1 Early Eighteenth century

This is an attic room with low side walls, sloping sides and a narrow ceiling. The room occupies the northern bay of the east range and is defined by a cross wall at its south end. The wall is in unplastered, painted brick. Purlins with unstopped, plain chamfers have diagonal scarf joints partly visible at the south end of the room with the scarf in the thickness of the wall. The floor has floorboards approximately 290mm wide, laid on an east-west alignment.



A single dormer window on west side of room has a wooden frame with an iron casement on pintle hinges with turnbuckle catches.

The door in south wall is a plank and batten door with three planks (Image 38). The hinges hung on pintles are iron strap hinges with spear shaped terminals, a type which was current between the sixteenth and the mid eighteenth century (Hall 2005, 49). The door has a wooden latch. These are not closely dateable but commonly occur in seventeenth and eighteenth century contexts.

3.6.2 Second Floor Room 2: Bedroom in central part of east range (Images 39 - 41)

3.6.2.1 Early Eighteenth century

This is an attic room occupying the central bay of the floor. The roof has plain chamfered purlins.

A single dormer window on east side of room has a wooden frame with an iron framed casement on pintle hinges with turnbuckle catches (Image 40).

The door at south end of room is a plank and batten door of four planks with T-shaped strap hinges with rounded terminals hung on pintles (Image 41). It has an iron Suffolk latch with large leaf-shape terminals on the handle, a type which was popular during the eighteenth century (Hall 2005, 56-7).

3.6.3 Second Floor Room 3: Bedroom (Image 42 – 43)

3.6.3.1 Early Eighteenth century

This is an attic room with low side walls and sloping sides continued up to the apex. The roof has plain chamfered purlins and a ridge piece. Staggered pairs of pegs show on the underside of the ridge piece for the rafters above. The north wall is a solid brick wall.

A single dormer window on east side of room is wooden framed with an iron casement on pintle hinges with a turnbuckle catch.

Door at north end of room is a plank and batten door of four planks with iron strap hinges with spear shaped terminals matching those in room 1. The iron Suffolk latch is a modern cast fitting.

A small roof space is access via an opening on the west side of the room (Image 45). This roof is an extension of the earlier south west gable end, joining it to the western side of the east range. A collar and the ends of upper purlins in the south west range are visible in its west side. Reused timbers scarfed to the end of the purlins bridge the gap to the east range. In the apex is a short ridge piece which abuts a corresponding timber in the south west range. The wall plate on the west side of the east range is exposed in the base of the opening into the roof space (Image 44). The wall plate at this point is joined with a bridle scarf.



3.7 Roof Structures

The roof structure above ceiling height was inaccessible during the survey. Some details were visible inside the attic rooms and on the external gables.

The earliest surviving part of the building is the south west range which has purlins and wind braces visible in the attic storey (Images 29 – 32). The purlins have plain chamfers with angled straight cut stops visible in room 5. The wind braces are slightly curved; those on the south side of the roof in a simple arc whilst those on the north side are ogee shaped.

The two storey block on the north west corner of the building appears to post date the south west range. Here the purlins have a wide rectangular section without chamfers (Image 33). Their ends are visible externally in the north gable and appear to be trenched.

In the east range dates from the seventeenth or early eighteenth century. Here the roof consists of wall plates, chamfered purlins and a ridge piece which are supported by the brick gable and cross walls (Image 42). Common rafters are fixed to the longitudinal timbers with wooden pegs. These pegs can be seen as staggered pairs in attic room 3 where their lower ends have been cut off flush with the base of the ridge piece. A similar pattern of pegs can be seen in the small section of roof that joins the east range to the south west range.



4. DATING AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the construction history of the building and relates the construction phases to the dating evidence. The construction sequence is presented in figure 2.

4.2 Sixteenth – Early Seventeenth Century

The south west range is the earliest surviving part of the building. It is one and a half storeys high and two and a half bays long with the half bay located at the east end. In the nineteenth century this range was encased in brick and relatively little of the frame is visible. On the ground floor parts of the structure are exposed in the north wall of room 5, at either end of the frame dividing rooms 4 and 5, in the east end of room 4 and in the corridor beyond where a horizontal timber at ceiling height marks the end of the half bay. At first floor level the visible structure comprises purlins, wind braces and part of the wall frame on the west side of the landing in the half bay.

General indications of the age of the frame include large section timbers, pegged joints and thin curved braces like the one in the north wall of room 5. From the mid seventeenth century framing tended to be made from thinner timbers with straight braces. The quartered ceiling with deep, plain chamfered joists in room 4 suggests date in the later sixteenth or early seventeenth century.

The narrow bay at the east end of the building, only 1.5m wide, may be the remains of a smoke bay which is a timber framed chimney. The brick chimney in the southern half of this bay appears to have been inserted at a later date. The post on the left side of the fireplace contains a very large redundant mortise for a horizontal beam which would have been located just in front of the existing bressumer (mantle beam) of the brick fireplace. In Worcestershire only a few buildings with smoke bays have been recognized (Price 2011, 137-8). These include two examples similar to Church Farm. These both have two and a half bays in one and a half storeys with the smoke bay in the end wall, Orchard Croft, Callow End (Price 2010, 14-15) and Maypole Cottage, Wythall (Price and Moyneux 2007, 43). At Maypole Cottage the stairs were located at the side of the fireplace in the half bay. At Church Farm the position of the door of first floor room at this end matches that at Maypole Cottage, suggesting a similar arrangement.

4.3 Seventeenth Century

The two storey block added to the north west corner of the original building is tentatively dated to this period. It appears to have been originally been a timber framed structure which was later infilled and partly replaced with brick. One of its ceiling joists has ogee stops which are broadly dateable to the seventeenth or eighteenth century. A projection on this corner of the building is shown on an early nineteenth century map (Image 2) however it does not appear on the tithe map of 1839, which shows a simple L-shaped structure consisting of the south west and eastern ranges. The evidence for its date is inconclusive and rebuilding in brick has removed much of the original structure.



4.4 Early Eighteenth Century

The east range was added during this period. It consists of three bays on two and half storeys built entirely in brick. It is likely that it was built in the earlier eighteenth century to a rather conservative plan common in the seventeenth century. The east range is not closely integrated with the earlier part of the building. Looked at as a separate entity it represents a plan form commonly seen in farmhouses from the late sixteenth and seventeenth century, being a multi-storey building with rooms in line (Brunskill 1982, 48-49). The chamfered joists in the east range carry ogee stops which were in widespread use in the seventeenth century but continued to be used in smaller houses well into the eighteenth. Some doors in the east range appear to be in their original locations and have fittings dateable to before the mid eighteenth century (ground floor room 2, second floor rooms 1 and 3). By the late seventeenth century construction entirely in brick was becoming more common, previously being confined to houses of higher social status (Mercer 1975, 130). The brick work in the east range is English Garden bond and other examples are recorded in Worcestershire (Brian 1975). This bond may have originated from the north west midlands with numerous examples recorded in Staffordshire and Cheshire, particularly from the seventeenth century (*ibid*).

4.5 Nineteenth Century

Construction and alterations carried out during this period comprise the infilling and partial replacement in brick of the timber frame in the south west range and northwest block, the construction of a brick two storey extension along the north side of the south west range and the construction of a brick lean-to on the east side of the north west block. Interior alterations include the replacement of the ceiling in the west end of the south west range with a framed ceiling and the insertion of the partition between the two rooms in this range. The ground floor room at the south end of the east range was refurbished at this time with the insertion of a bay window and windows in the south wall. Other internal details probably include various four panel pine doors found in different parts of the house.

All of the external building work was carried out using a similar brick laid in Flemish stretcher bond suggesting that it forms part of a single phase of construction. Flemish stretcher bond appears to have first been used in central England where some examples have been found in buildings dating from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, however the great majority date from the nineteenth (Brian 1975). The same type of brickwork was used in outbuildings located immediately north of the farmhouse (Image 47). These are not shown on the tithe map on 1839 (Image 4) but appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Image 6) dating this phase of construction to the later nineteenth century.

The changes carried out during this period created new circulation areas in the ground floor halls and the first floor corridor in the south west range. These changes probably reflect contemporary concerns for increased the levels of privacy within the home. The corridors and halls provided separate access to many of the rooms, replacing earlier walk through arrangements.



4.6 Twentieth Century

The majority of the work carried out at this time affected the east range.

On the ground floor of the east range a larger window was inserted in room 1, a window, external door and enclosed staircase were inserted in room 2 and the fireplace was partly rebuilt in room 3. The first floor was subdivided to form a bathroom, bedrooms and a stair landing in the two northern bays of the range. Externally the lean-to lobby on the west side of the east wing was extended at this time.

In the western part of the house a new exterior door was inserted in the north side of the lean-to located in the angle between the north west block and south west range.

Minor alterations include the blocking of fireplaces no longer required with the introduction of central heating, installation of plastic panelling in ground floor room 6 in connection with its use as a kitchen and fitting of the wooden balustrade in the first floor landing in the south west range.



5. SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

The farmhouse at Church Farm is not included on the statutory listed buildings in the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). Because the listing process was not comprehensive survey of every building it certainly does not follow that omission from the NHLE list means that a building has no historical significance. The farmhouse is however it is locally listed within the Worcestershire HER (WSM46360). Regional Preliminary Character Statements on historic farmsteads commissioned by English Heritage provide information on the character and survival of various classes of farm buildings (English Heritage 2006b). These reports include a generalised assessment of the survival and value of farm buildings of different periods. This classifies substantially complete farm buildings dating from the period 1550 to 1750 as rare whilst huge numbers survive from the later nineteenth. A distribution map of listed farmhouses dating from 1550 to 1750 shows a substantial concentration of these in the West Midlands area (*ibid* 26, figure 10b). This probably reflects an initial dense distribution of farms which was then not subject to wholesale replacement during later episodes of agricultural improvement.

The most significant sections of the farmhouse at Church Farm are the south west and the east ranges. The south west range probably dates from the sixteenth or early seventeenth century. In this part of the building alterations carried out in the nineteenth century have removed or obscured much of the structural evidence and fixtures and fittings from this period do not survive. However it possible to identify the historic core of the building and show that it was a small farmhouse of only two and half bays with one and half storeys. The possible smoke bay at its east end of this range is of particular significance as it preserves evidence of a stage in the development of enclosed fireplaces. This is a rare survival with only a small number of smoke bays identified in Worcestershire (Price 2011, 137-8).

The east range of the farm is substantially complete with some modern alterations to external openings and internal stud wall partitions. This part of the building retains some fixtures and fittings (doors, ceiling beams and window fittings). Some of these are in their original locations and probably date from the construction of the building in the early eighteenth century.

The block on the north west corner of the building and the nineteenth century extensions to the rear of the building are of comparatively lower significance. The north west block appears to retain little evidence for its original structure which has been replaced in brick. The nineteenth century works served to integrate the parts of the building visually on the external and by providing circulation areas.

Overall the planned works will have some impact on the fixtures and fittings but the impacts on the fabric of the building will be low, consisting mainly of the insertion of internal stud wall partitions.



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7. APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Church Farm, Shrawley

Farmhouse. C16 to C19. Part timber framed with brick infill and cladding and part brick. Clay tile roof.

Southwest range: C16-early C17 timber frame building of 2½ bays and 1½ storeys, clad and partly replaced in brick. 2 segmental headed 3-light casements to ground floor and 2 gabled dormers to first floor, 2-light casements. Ground floor, quartered plain chamfered ceiling in east room, replacement C18/19 framed ceiling in west room. Half bay forms possible smoke bay at east end with inserted brick chimney. Two first floor rooms arched wind braces in ceiling.

Northwest wing: C17? timber framed, square plan 1½ storey block, infilled and clad in brick C19. North elevation, ground floor 2 2-light casements, first floor 4-light casement. West elevation ground floor 2-light casement and small brick external stack. Plain chamfered joists with ogee stops on ground floor.

East range: early C18 brick, English garden wall bond with dentiled eaves. 3 bays and 2½ storeys. East elevation; ground floor 19C canted bay at south, C20 door and 3 and 4-light windows, first floor 2-segmental headed 3-light casements and C20 3-light and 1-light at north end, attic 2-gabled dormers with 2-light casements. North elevation large external brick stack. West elevation ground floor C19 – C20 lean-to, first floor C20 3-light and 1-light casements, attic gabled dormer 2-light casement. South elevation 2 2-light casements. Ground floor 3 rooms, ceilings plain chamfered joists with ogee stops, 1 early C18 plank and batten door. First floor subdivided C20 with stud wall partitions, ceilings square joist in south and central bays and plain chamfered, ogee stop in north bay. Attic 3 early C18th plank and batten doors.

Two storey extension on north side of southwest range C19. Brick with 3-gabled roof. First floor segmental headed 3-light casement.

NGR: SO 80445, 64689

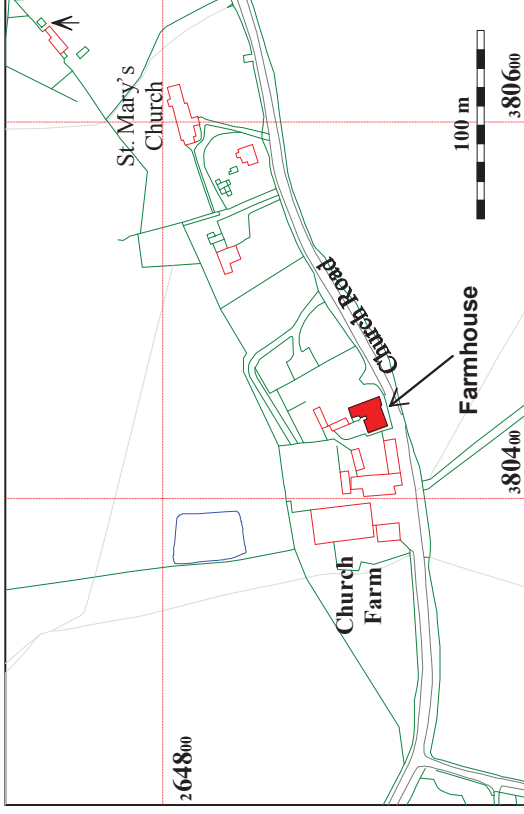
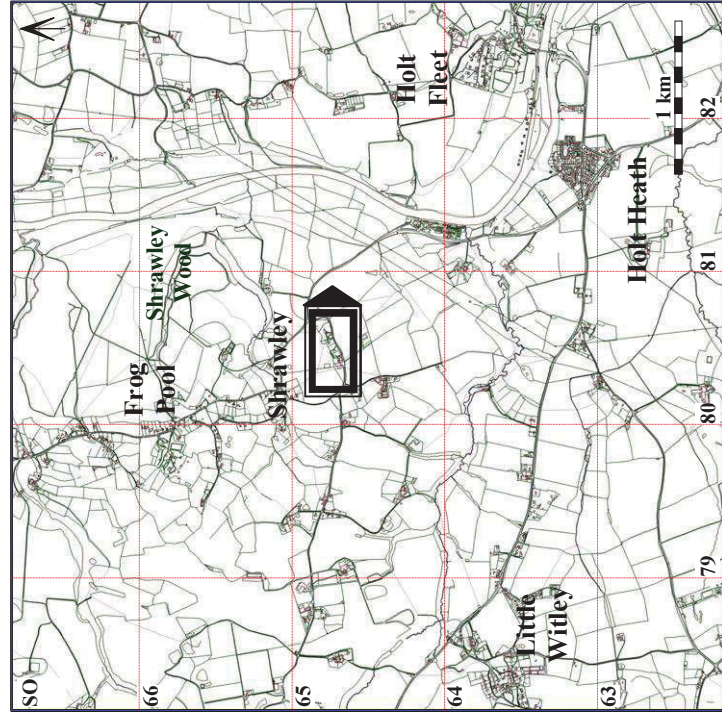
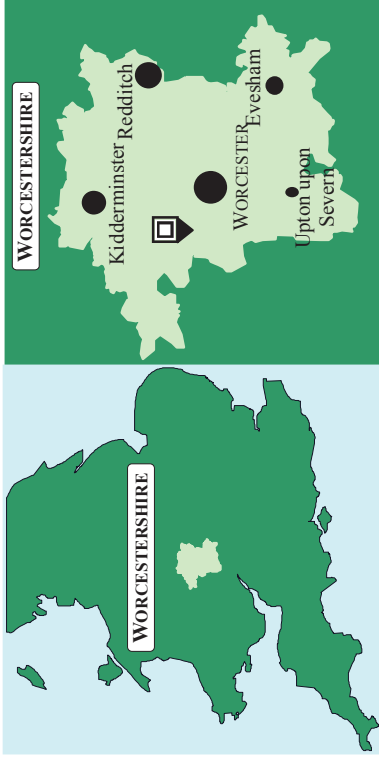


Figure 1: Site location

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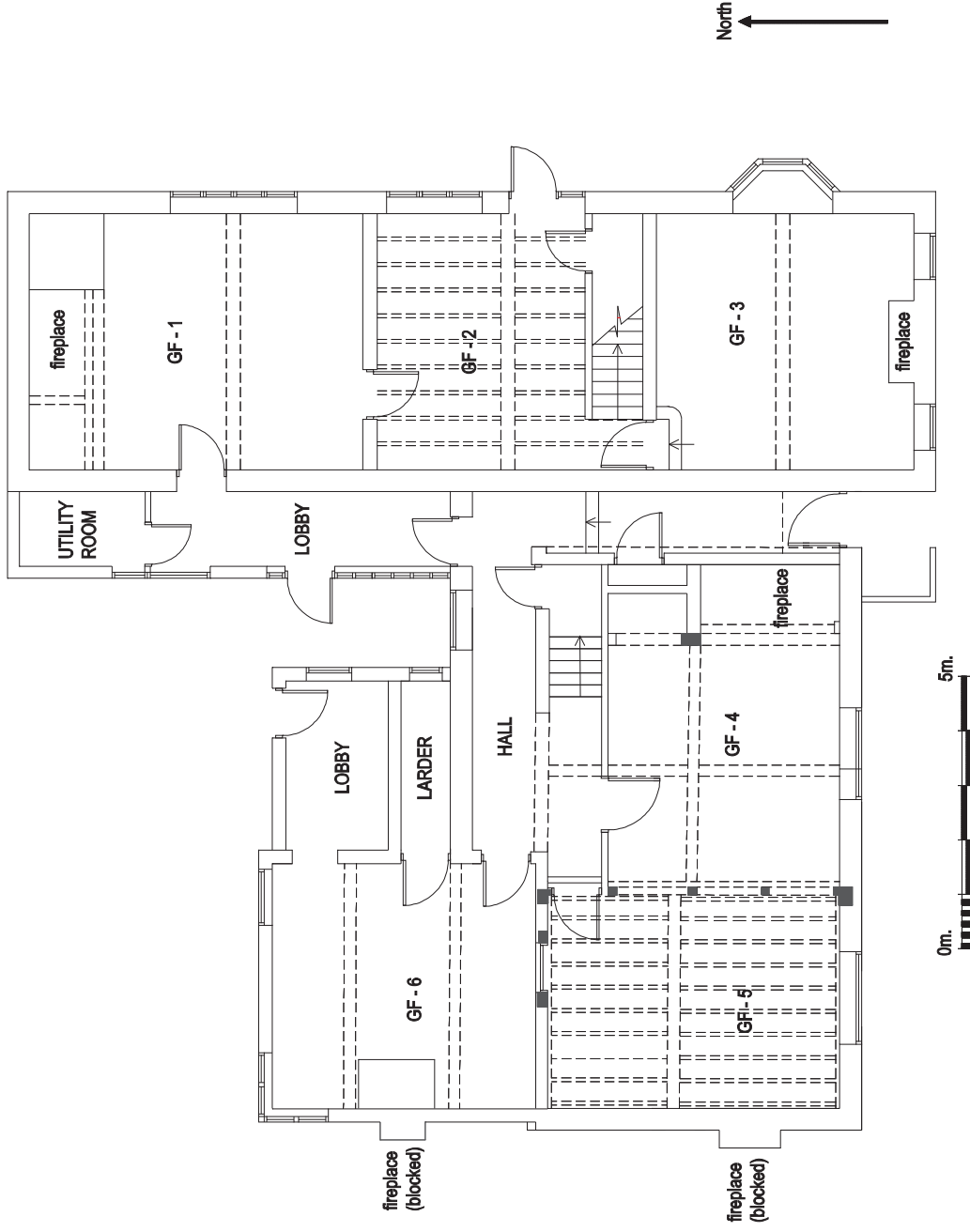


Figure 3: Ground floor plan

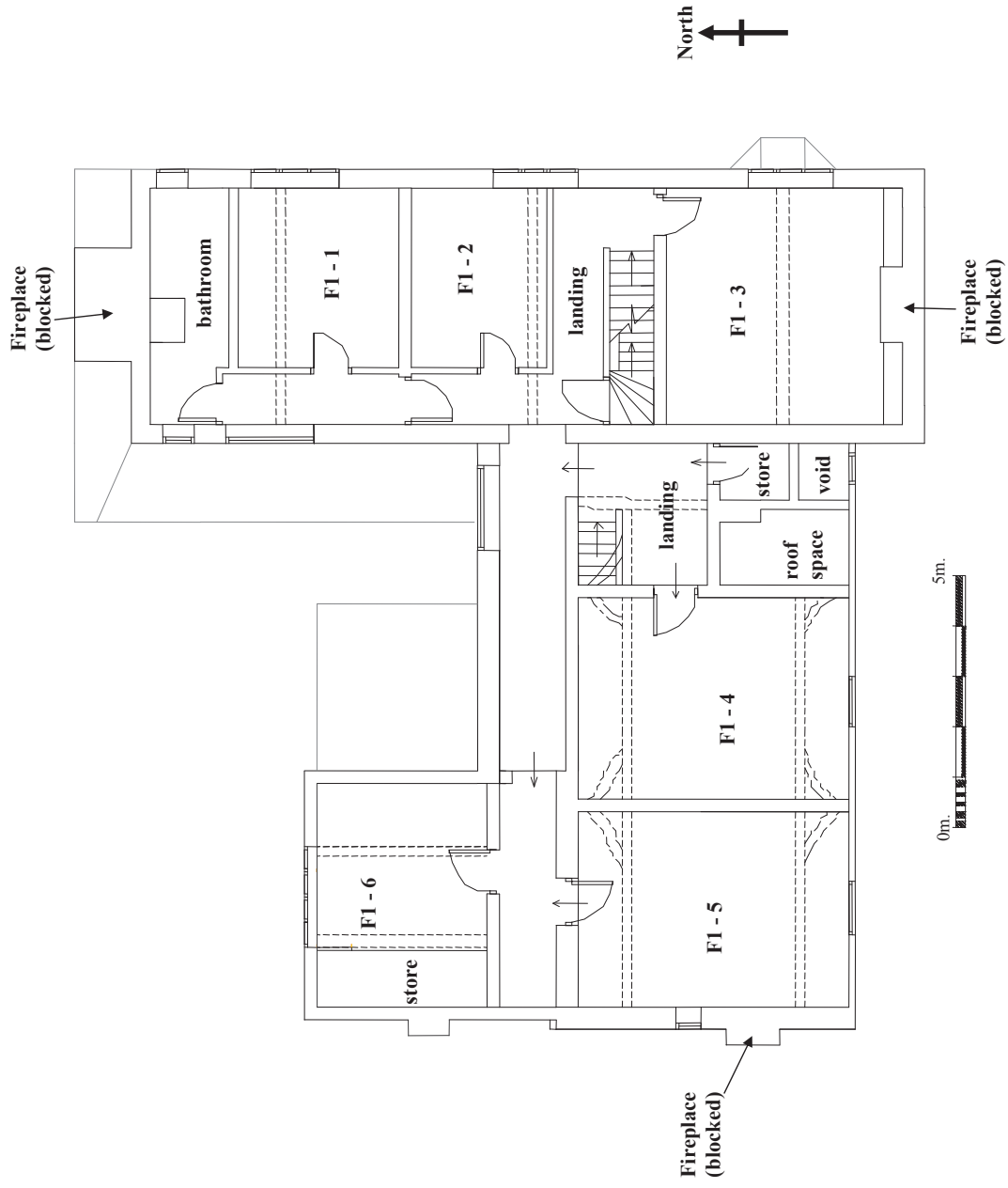


Figure 4: First floor plan

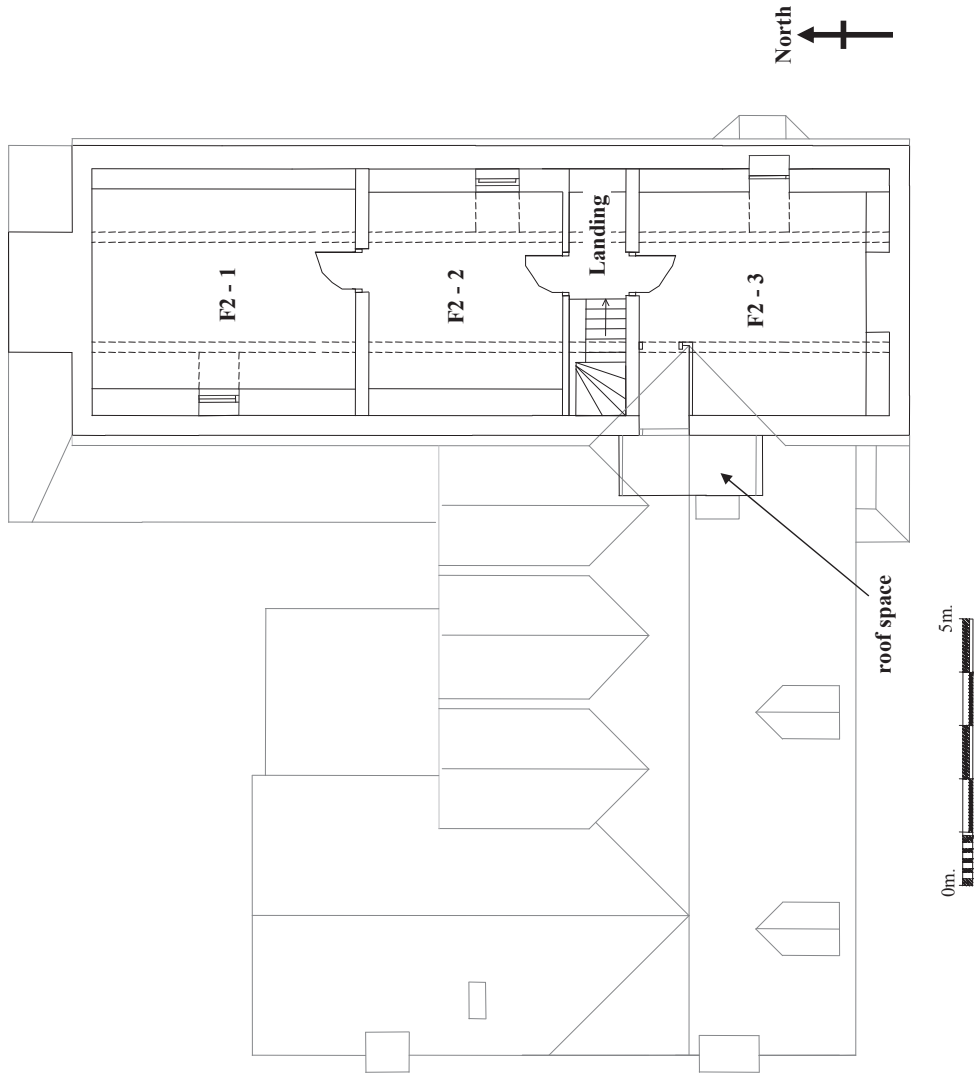


Figure 5: Second floor plan



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATIONS

Figure 6: East and north elevations



WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

Figure 7: West and south elevations

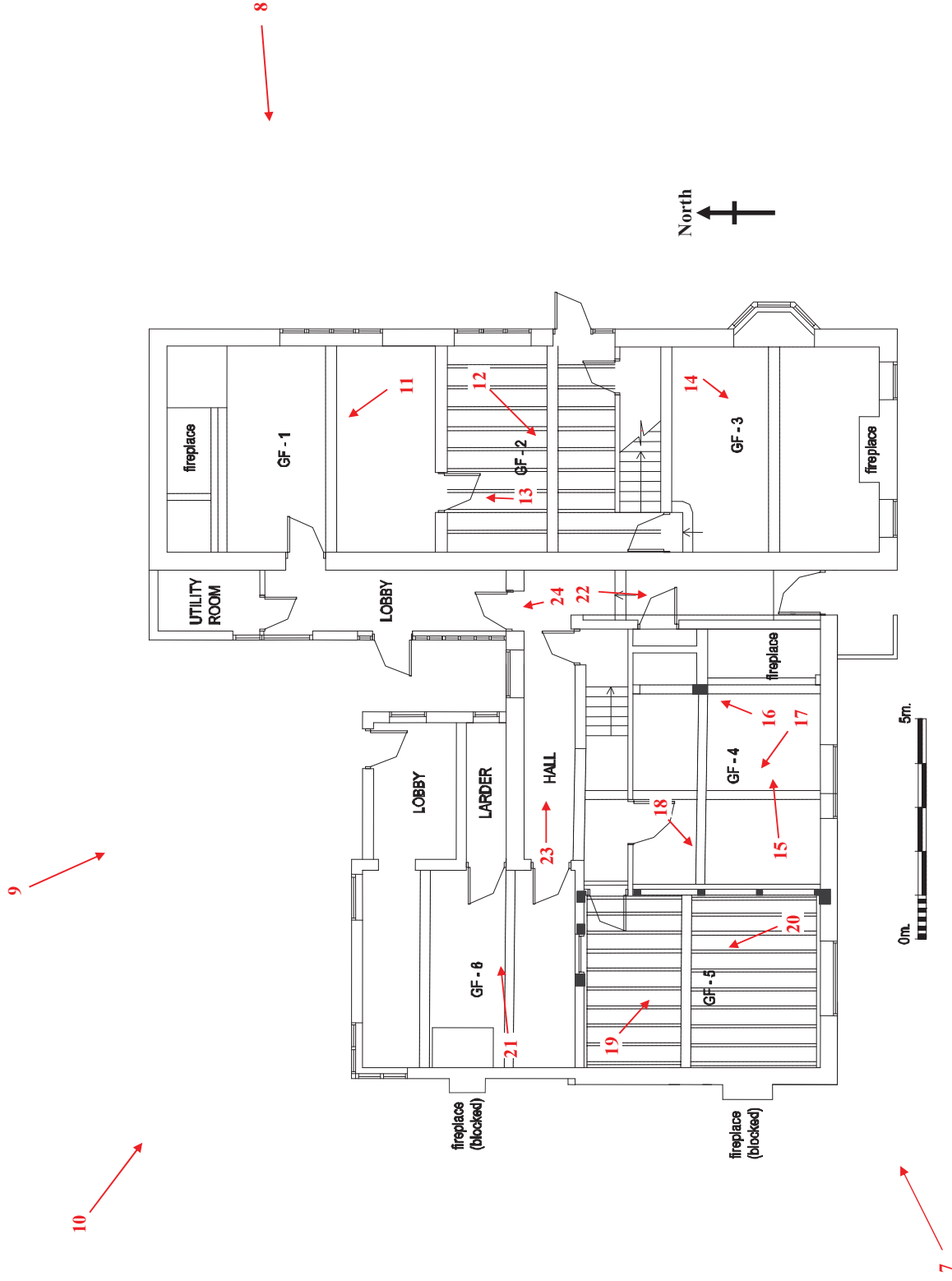


Figure 8: Locations of images: ground floor and exterior

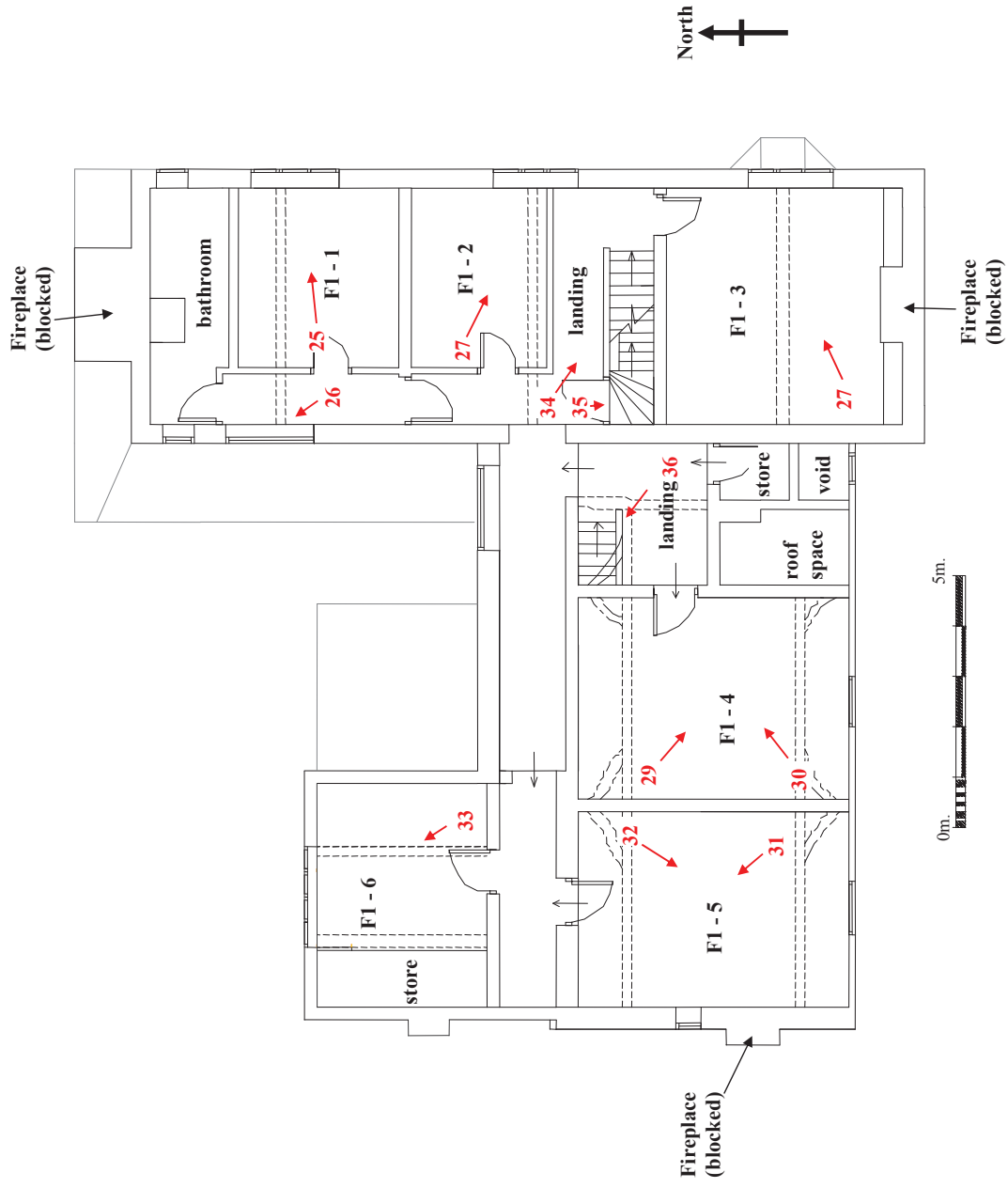


Figure 9: Locations of images: first floor

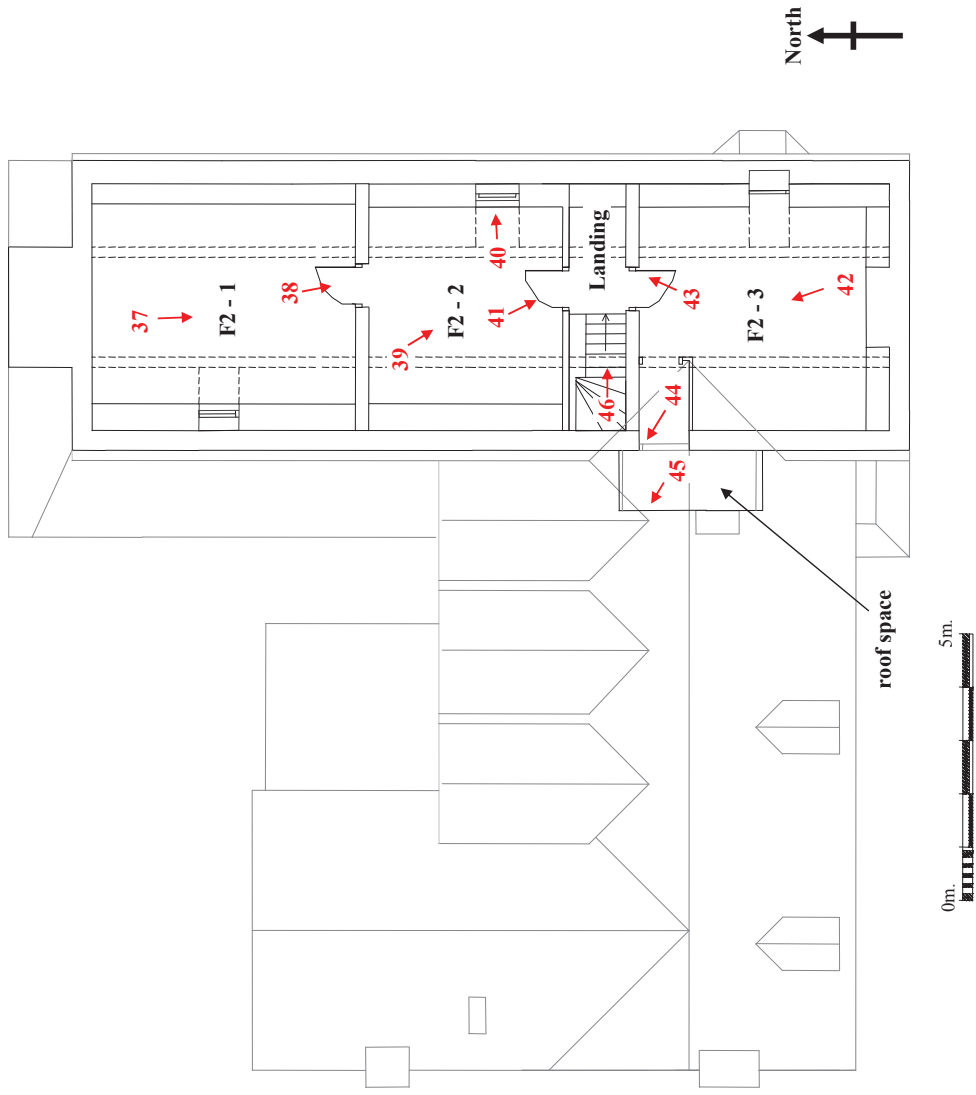


Figure 10: Locations of images: second floor



Image 1: Plan of Church House Farm, c.1805

(reproduced with the permission of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service)



Image 2: Plan of Church House Farm, c.1805 (detail)

Area shown is outlined in image 1

(reproduced with the permission of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service)

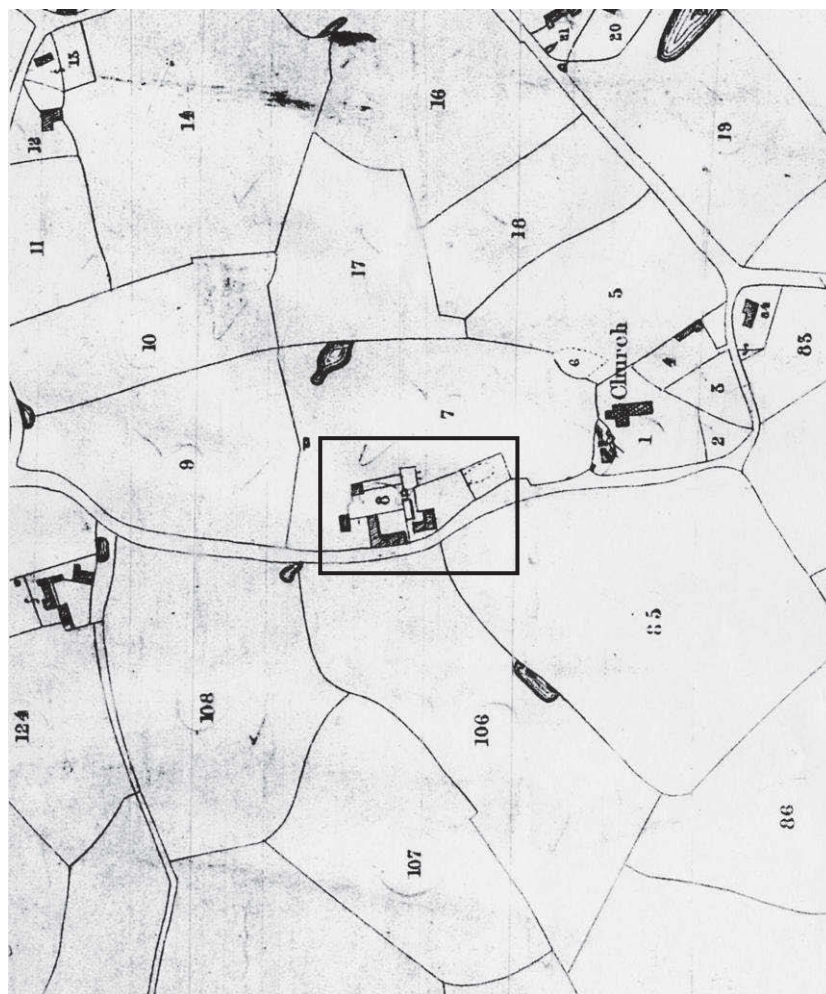


Image 3: Tithe Map 1839

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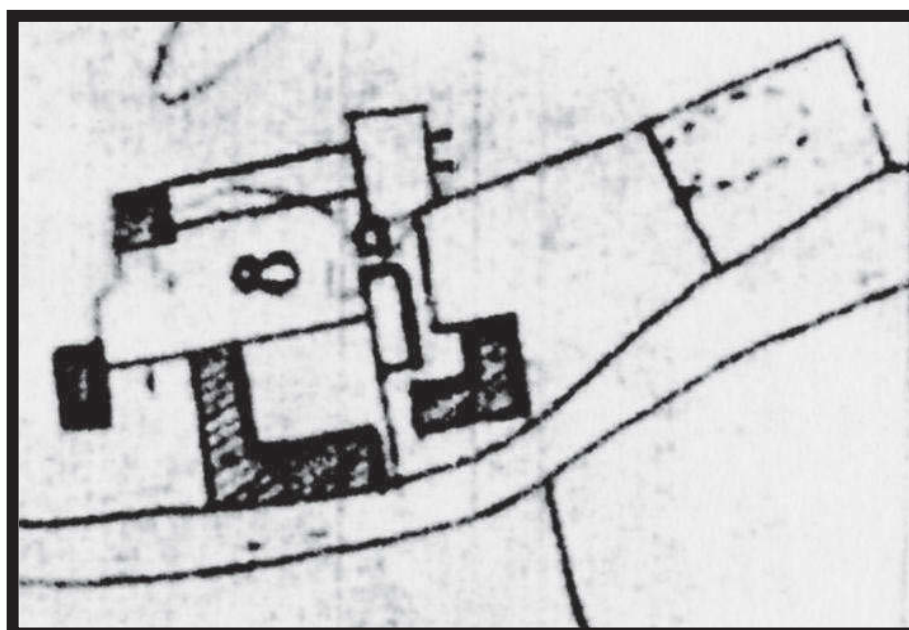


Image 4: Tithe Map 1839 (detail)

Area shown is outlined in image 3

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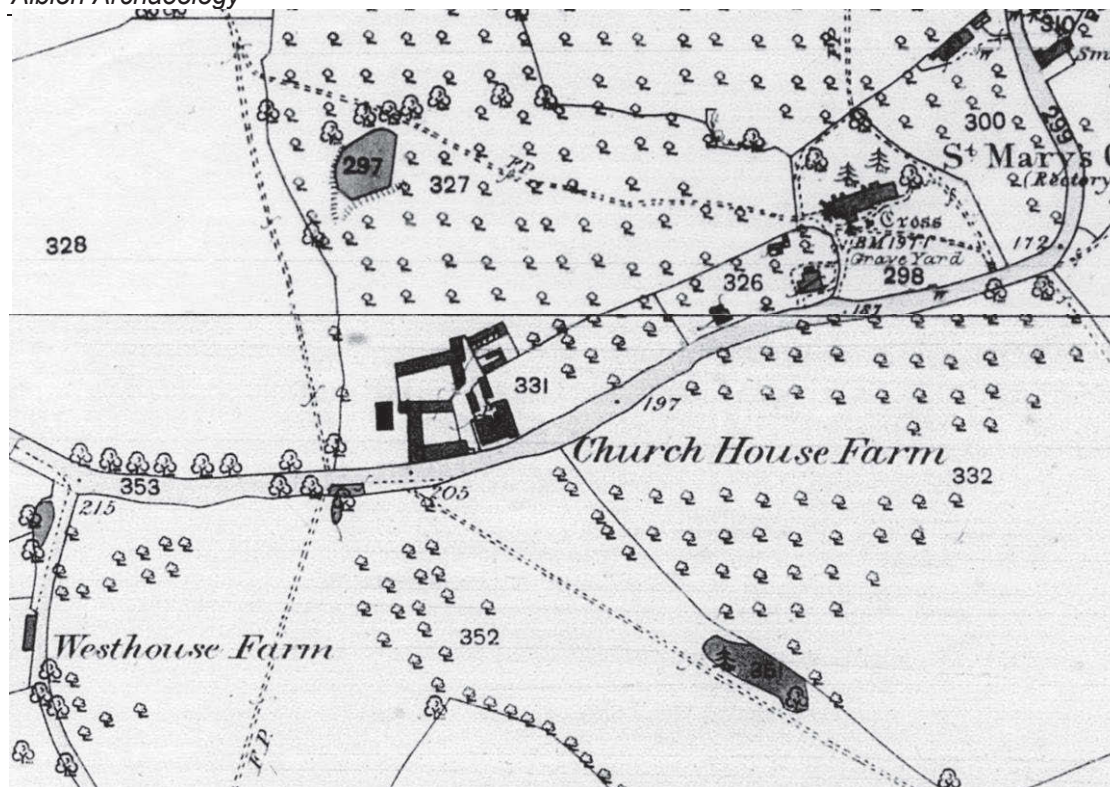


Image 5: Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" 1884
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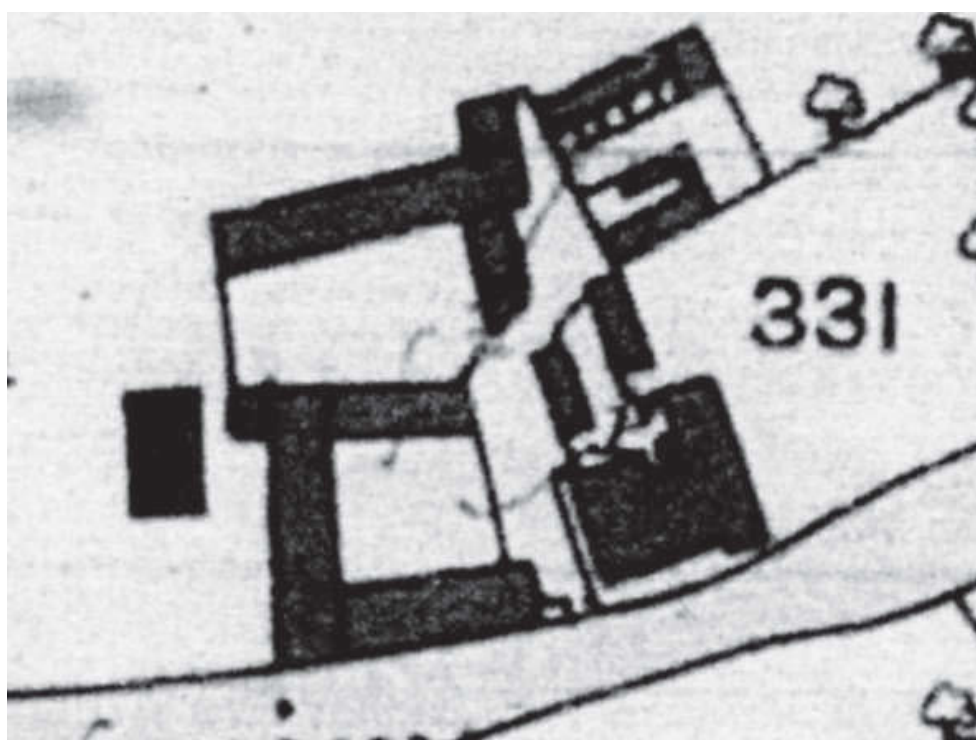


Image 6: Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" 1884 (detail)
(reproduced with the permission of Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service)



Image 7: Farmhouse from the south west



Image 8: Farmhouse from the east



Image 9: Farmhouse from the north



Image 10: Farmhouse from the north west



Image 11: Ground floor room 1
Looking north west



Image 12: Ground floor room 2
Looking south west



Image 13: Ground floor room 2: detail of door and fittings



Image 14: Ground floor room 3
Looking south west



Image 15: Ground floor room 4
Looking east towards fireplace



Image 16: Ground floor room 4:
detail of fireplace

Shows post with redundant mortise (filled with brick) for a possible earlier bressumer. Existing bressumer and brick fireplace visible immediately behind



Image 17: Ground floor room 4
Looking north west



Image 18: Ground floor room 4: detail of timber partition
Looking south west



Image 19: Ground floor room 5
Looking south east, towards room 4.



Image 20: Ground floor room 5
Looking north with timber partition to room 4 on the right hand side.



Image 21: Ground floor room 6
Looking east, towards the lobby, larder and corridor



Image 22: Ground floor: entrance corridor
Looking south, towards entrance



Image 23: Ground floor hall
Looking east with door to room 4 at right hand side of image



Image 24: Ground floor hall and lobby area
Looking north



Image 25: First floor room 1
Looking east



Image 26: First floor: detail of stop on chamfered beam
Western end of the beam which is visible in the corridor adjacent to room 1



Image 27: First floor room 2
Looking south east showing modern partition wall just beyond beam



Image 28: First floor room 3
Looking north east



Image 29: First floor room 4
Looking south east

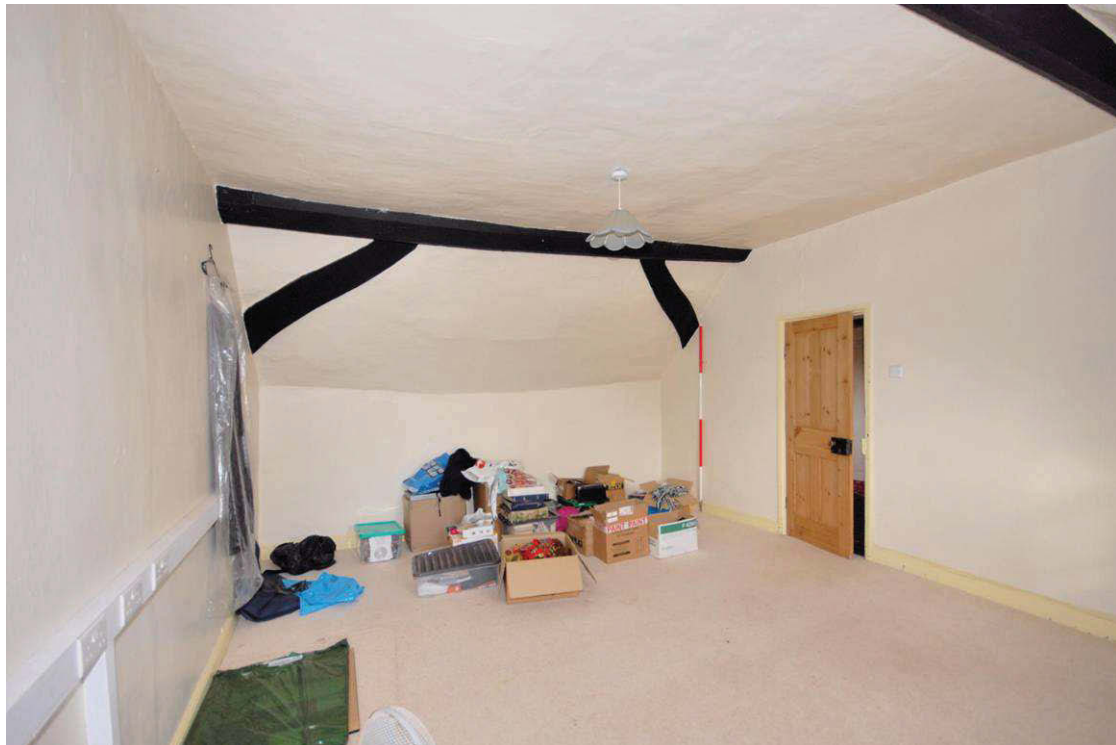


Image 30: First floor room 4
Looking north east



Image 31: First floor room 5
Looking north west



Image 32: First floor room 5
Looking south west



Image 33: First floor room 6
Looking north west

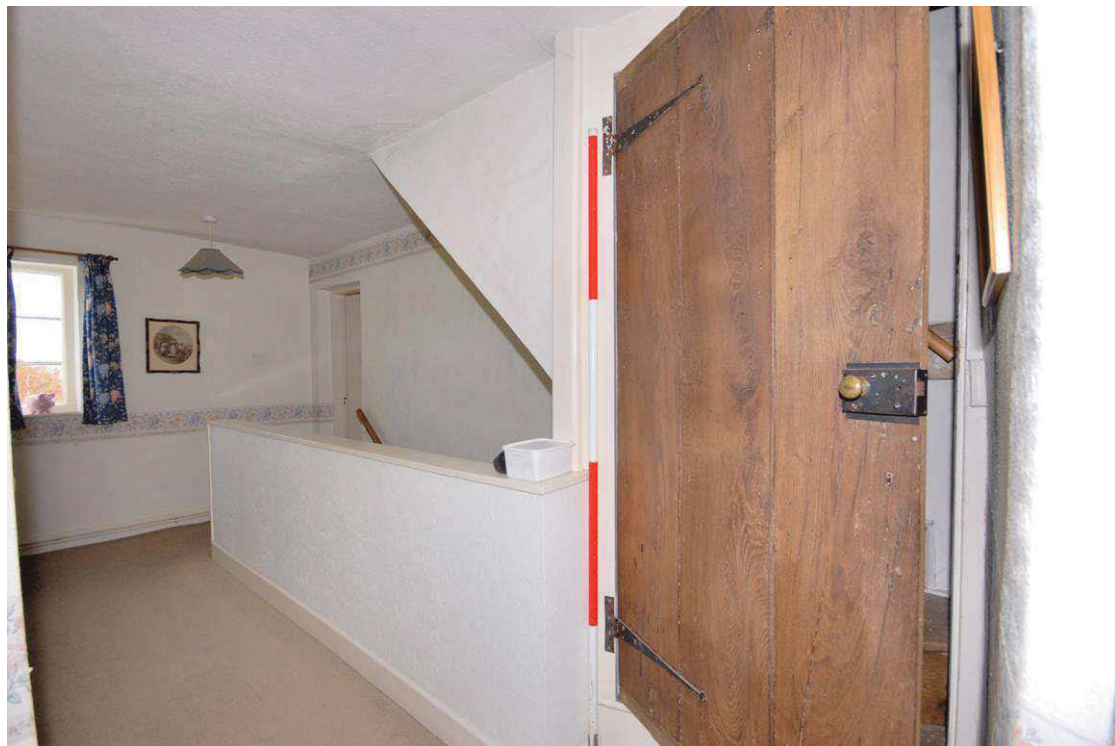


Image 34: First floor landing
Looking south east, showing stair door in foreground



Image 35: First floor land: detail of stair door
H-shaped hinge with rounded terminal

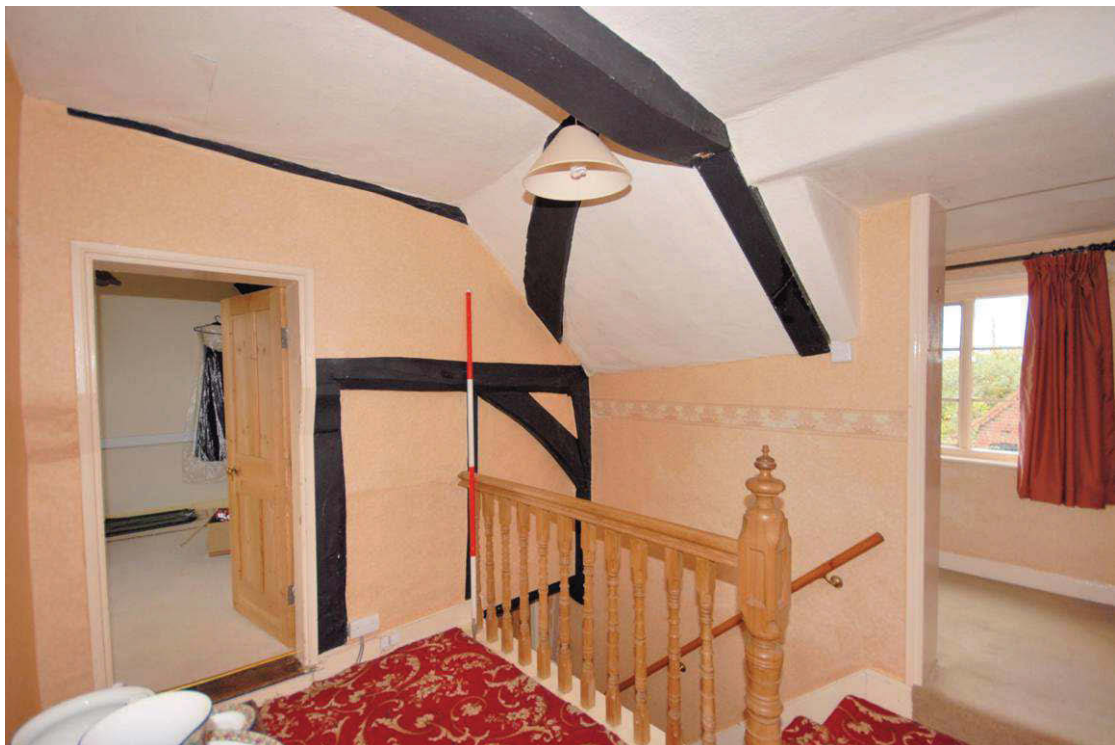


Image 36: First floor landing next to room 4
Looking north west



Image 37: Second floor room 1
Looking south



Image 38: Second floor room 1: details of door fittings
Strap hinge with spearhead shaped terminal and wooden latch



Image 39: Second floor room 2
Looking south east



Image 40: Second floor room 2: detail of window catch



Image 41: Second floor room 2: details of door fittings
Strap hinge with rounded terminal and door handle with large leaf-shaped ends.



Image 42: Second floor room 3
Looking north west



Image 43: Second floor room 3: detail of door fittings
Strap hinge with spearhead shaped terminal.



Image 44: Second floor room 3: detail of scarf joint in wall plate
View looking east from inside roof space shown in following image



Image 45: Roof space adjacent to second floor room 3
Looking north west with purlin on the right hand side and tie-beam above 2m
photographic scale



Image 46: Second floor stairs
Looking east



Image 47: **Outbuilding located to north of farmhouse**
Looking north west