## 14 Mill Brow, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria

Heritage Statement


Client: John Gordon
Associates Ltd
NGR: 361241478807
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## Contents

Illustrations .....  .2
List of Figures ..... 2
List of Plates ..... 2
Non-Technical Summary .....  3
Acknowledgements ..... 3

1. Introduction .....  4
1.1 Circumstances of the Project .....  4
1.2 Location and Arrangement, Geology, and Topography. .....  4
2. Methodology .....  6
2.1 Desk-Based Assessment ..... 6
2.2 Site Visit ..... 6
2.3 Report .....  6
3. Results ..... 7
3.1 Introduction ..... 7
3.2 Site History .....  7
3.3 Map and Image Regression .....  8
3.4 Site Visit ..... 10
3.5 Conclusion ..... 13
4. Discussion ..... 14
4.1 Introduction ..... 14
4.2 Significance ..... 14
4.3 Potential ..... 14
4.4 Disturbance ..... 14
4.5 Impact ..... 14
4.6 Recommendations ..... 15
5. Bibliography ..... 16
5.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources ..... 16
5.2 Secondary Sources ..... 16
Appendix 1: Listed Building Details ..... 18

## Illustrations

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location .....  5
List of Plates
Plate 1 (left): Extract from the plan of $c 1790$ ..... 9
Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of c1860 ..... 9
Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of c1911 ..... 9
Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1912 ..... 9
Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1914 ..... 10
Plate 6: General view of the front (south) external elevation ..... 11
Plate 7 (left): Typical two-light secondary glazing in the southern windows, first floor ..... 12
Plate 8 (right): Two-light secondary glazing in the east window, first floor ..... 12
Plate 9 (left): Typical secondary glazing in the southern windows, ground floor ..... 12
Plate 10 (right): Single-light secondary glazing in the north window looking into the stairs ..... 12
Plate 11: Multiple single-light glazing in the north elevation ..... 13

## Non-Technical Summary

Prior to the submission of a planning application for alterations to the windows at 14 Mill Brow, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria the Local Planning Authority requested the submission of a Heritage Statement. The building is Listed Grade II and as such is statutorily protected and the Heritage Statement is therefore intended to assess the impact of the proposed development on it. Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the work necessary for the production of the Heritage Statement.
14 Mill Brow was formerly the Old Manor House, and is therefore connected to the medieval history of Kirkby Lonsdale having probably formed the court house of the main manor for the town. The form of the original building is not known, but it is likely to have been small; the present building is thought to have been constructed in c1700, probably as a home for the steward of the manor, which by that time had been acquired by the Lowther family. By the end of the $18^{\text {th }}$ century, however, it was occupied by tenants and the Lowther's sold the estate, including the Old Manor House, in 1839. Following this, as the area decreased in social status, in part due to its increasing industrialisation, it had a succession of owners and occupiers throughout the late $19^{\text {th }}$ and $20^{\text {th }}$ centuries. At least some of the occupiers during this period were involved in industrial activities; a shoe maker, a black smith, and a laundress, and the building was even physically attached to a bone mill for a while.
The site visit revealed that much of the original fabric has survived, in part due to extensive and sympathetic renovation by the present owners. It was also apparent that there is no obvious evidence for earlier elements within the building, as had been suggested by various sources and that it was likely to all belong to a single phase of construction.
It is considered likely that the proposed alterations would be of benefit to the building in terms of removing the previously added secondary glazing to the rear, which is likely to be trapping moisture between the two layers of glazing at present. The addition of secondary glazing to the front windows, which has already been carried out, is unlikely to be detrimental to the building as it is attached to the masonry of the wall rather than the stonework of the mullions and cannot be seen from the outside.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank John Gordon of John Gordon Associates Ltd for commissioning the project and the owner of the property, Mrs Leech, for her assistance in providing access to the site and additional information about it. Special thanks are due to the staff of the Cumbria Archive Centre in Kendal for their help with accessing the archive material.
The project was managed and carried out by Dan Elsworth who also wrote the report. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace, and the report was edited by Jo Dawson.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Prior to the submission of a planning application by John Gordon Associates Ltd (hereafter 'the client') for alterations to the windows at 14 Mill Brow, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria (NGR 361241 478807), the Local Planning Authority requested a Heritage Statement be produced. The building is Listed Grade II and as such is statutorily protected and the Heritage Statement is therefore intended to assess the impact of the proposed development on it. Greenlane Archaeology was approached by John Gordon of John Gordon Associates Ltd to carry out the work necessary for the production of the Heritage Statement.

### 1.2 Location and Arrangement, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated mid-way along Mill Brow on the north side of. Mill Brow is on the north-east side of Kirkby Lonsdale and runs approximately east/west towards the River Lune (Figure 1). The building is essentially square in plan, with its front facing south onto Mill Brow, its north and east sides facing towards the terraced local topography and its west face against a nearby boundary wall.
1.2.2 The local topography comprises a relatively steep slope down to the valley of the River Lune to the east, with the site at approximately 60 m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2005). The local solid geology principally comprises Carboniferous limestone and Scout Hill Flags, with large areas of Bannisdale slate to the north and millstone grit to the south (Moseley 1978, plate 1). This is typically overlain by glacially-derived deposits, largely boulder clay, laid down at the end of the last ice age (Countryside Commission 1998, 66).


Client: John Gordon Associates Ltd
Figure 1: Site location
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## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- Cumbria Archive Centre (Kendal): this was visited principally in order to examine early maps and plans of the site, but other documentary sources and published records were also consulted in order to gather information about the historical development of the site and its environs;
- Cumbria Archive Centre (Carlisle): primary sources previously studied by Emmeline Garnett (see below) were checked in order to obtain the full references and other primary sources were examined;
- Client. a copy of a previous house history report produced by Emmeline Garnett was provided by the client as well as other useful information in the form of personal communications during the site visit;
- Greenlane Archaeology library: additional secondary sources, used to provide information for the site background, were examined.


### 2.2 Site Visit

2.2.1 A brief site visit was carried out on the $23^{\text {rd }}$ August 2012. The intension of this was to examine the original or early fabric of the building and its condition in order to assess the likely impact of the proposed alterations and gain further understanding of the historic development of the building. No written notes were taken or annotations made to the drawings of the building, but colour digital photographs were made of all features of interest where possible.

### 2.3 Report

2.3.1 A copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Archive Centre (Kendal) at a suitable time on completion of the project, on agreement with the client. A copy of this report will be provided for the client, a digital copy for the client's agent, and a copy will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition, at a suitable time a digital copy will be provided to the Local Planning Authority as required, and a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme, on agreement with the client.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the desk-based assessment have been used to produce three separate elements. Firstly, the production of a general history of the site (Section 3.2). Secondly, a map regression outlining the way in which the site has developed over time (Section 3.3). In addition, information about the physical remains of the building, collected during the site visit, is presented in Section 3.4. Finally, the results of these three sections are discussed in Section 3.5.

### 3.2 Site History

3.2.1 Kirkby Lonsdale: the town of Kirkby Lonsdale has an ancient history, and primarily dates to the medieval period. There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the town and only slight evidence for a Roman presence, although this does include an altar recorded at Abbot's Brow in the late $17^{\text {th }}$ century (CCC and EH 2002, 4-5). The place-name indicates that the town was certainly in existence by the early medieval period and that it had a church (op cit, 6). It was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 and shortly afterwards the church and associated lands in Kirkby Lonsdale were granted to the Abbey of St Mary in York by the lord of the manor, Ivo de Taillebois, which held it until the dissolution (ibid). The town obtained a charter for a fair and market in 1227 via the parson of the church, John de Kirkby, which ultimately led the town to acquire many of the trappings of a local urban centre (op cit, 7). The Dissolution in the $16^{\text {th }}$ century did little to stop the town's growth, with parts becoming increasingly urbanised and new buildings being constructed on many of the main streets (op cit, 9).
3.2.2 $\mathbf{1 4}$ Mill Brow: an investigation into the history of the property has already been carried out by Emmeline Garnett, who produced an unpublished report for the current owners (Garnett 2005). This revealed a considerable amount of information about the property, far more than could be feasibly gathered during the compilation of a heritage statement, and included searches of documents held in the Cumbria Archive Centre in Carlisle relating to the estates of the Lowther family. Other documents were examined as part of the compilation of this heritage statement, and the compilation of all this information has been used to form this section of the report.
3.2.3 Early History: the origins of the site relate to an important element of the town's medieval topography, as it is thought to have originally been used as the manorial centre dealing with affairs on behalf of the Abbey of St Mary in York (Chippindall 1930, 125). The manorial history of the town is relatively complex, with the main portion held by the Abbey of St Mary in York directly from the Crown with separate parts held by other local families (Curwen 1924, 305). It is therefore difficult to be sure which manor the Old Manor House corresponded too, although sources linking it to St Mary's (e.g. Chippindall 1930, 125, see above) suggest that it was the main one. After the reformation this reverted to the crown and was subsequently acquired by Thomas Carus in 1558 (Curwen 1924, 305; Chippindall 1926, 302), who died in either 1571 or 1575 , and the manor passed via his daughter to the Curwens of Workington (ibid). It was ultimately sold by her descendants to the Prestons of Holker, George Preston holding a court of the manor on $24^{\text {th }}$ April 1640 (Chippindall 1926, 302). It was subsequently sold to Sir John Lowther of Lowther some time after 1678, and his descendants continued to hold the manor into $20^{\text {th }}$ century (Curwen 1924, 306).
3.2.4 Exactly what form the building originally took is uncertain, but it is suggested that it was only 'large enough for the couple of monks who attended to... manorial affairs' (ibid). It has also been subsequently stated that the present house has $16^{\text {th }}$ century origins (RCHME 1936, 139), although further evidence for this is not given. More recently it has been said that 'internal evidence shows the ground plan of a great hall, possibly a tithe barn, with old cross- and through-beams formed from the huge trunk of a single oak and the cruck construction of a medieval barn or hall, the cruck trusses and king posts characteristic of buildings going back before the reformation (Gresson 1996, 18) but this description seems entirely at odds with the extant building, which has neither cruck trusses nor king posts! Thomas Carus, on acquiring the building in the late $16^{\text {th }}$ century, is considered to have found the
old manor house, as it was at that time, too small and unsuitable accommodation 'for the large family which would be seated here in future' and so he built a new hall on the south side of Market Street, presumably in the late $16^{\text {th }}$ century (Chippindall 1930).
3.2.5 The research carried out by Emmeline Garnett suggests that the present building was constructed as a house for the use of the stewards of the Lowthers as lords of the manor from the late 1670s (Garnett 2005). A pre-existing manor house clearly existed (see Section 3.2.4 above) and previous stewards of the manor are recorded: Thomas Wilson was steward in 1639, having succeeded Roger Ottway (Brown 1930, 27). The court books for the manor during this period (CAC(C) D/LONS/L/5/2/12/1 1672-1696) do not provide any specific references to the building or its construction, but detailed investigation of these records by Emmeline Garnett provides a list of the recorded stewards of the manor in the late $17^{\text {th }}$ century, concluding that James Knowles was probably responsible for its construction (Garnett 2005). The period during which he was steward at Kirkby Lonsdale also fits with the c1700 date generally assigned to the building, and he must have died shortly after 1727 (ibid). The following occupier, Miles Gathorne, seems to have been a tenant and not apparently one connected with the workings of the manor or the Lowthers. He is recorded by Pearson as having owned the property (Pearson 1930, 67) but the evidence suggests that this is incorrect and, although resident in Kirkby Lonsdale from early in the $18^{\text {th }}$ century, he cannot have lived at the Old Manor House until after 1733 when James Knowles' wife died (Garnett 2005). The Gathorne family continued to live in the property until 1777 when they built a new house at Townend (ibid). Following their occupancy the area seems to have declined rapidly in social standing; the Ordnance Survey maps of the later $19^{\text {th }}$ century show that it soon became extensively industrialised, with further buildings actually joining onto the Old Manor House, one of which was apparently a bone mill (Pearson 1930, 67). The Lowther family sold it along with other estates in Kirkby Lonsdale in 1839 and it was acquired at this sale by Arthur Foster, a local printer and book seller (ibid). However, as with subsequent owners, he did not live in the house and it had a succession of tenants throughout the rest of the $19^{\text {th }}$ century although many of these were difficult to identify with certainty due to the vague nature of addresses at that time (ibid).
3.2.5 Later History: Garnett states that the Old Manor House is first mentioned by that name only in 1905 when it was occupied by a John Barrow Airey, a shoemaker, who had been living and working in and around Mill Brow from at least 1861 (Garnett 2005). The 1905 reference was the last to John Airey, and it is clear that he had left shortly after that date. The 1910 valuation states that it was owned by an H Jackson and occupied by E Read and by this time it is being referred to as 14 Mill Brow (CAC(K) WT/DV/2/52 1910). A directory of the same year and in 1914 lists a Mrs Hannah Read, laundress, at the same address (Kelly's Directories Ltd 1910, 93; 1914, 92), while in 1929 an Edward Read, blacksmith, is listed (Kelly's Directories Ltd 1929, 84). In 1930 Edward and Hannah are both listed at the property (The Westmorland Gazette 1930, 196); Edward is also listed under blacksmiths (op cit, 192) and the 'Mill Brow Laundry' is also listed (op cit, 193), although it is not clear which building this is actually referring to. After 1930 the records become more difficult to access, although it is known to have passed in ownership from Harry Jackson to Hilda Harrison in 1948 (Garnett 2005).

### 3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 Introduction: relatively few early maps of Kirkby Lonsdale are available: the area of the town is not included on the Tithe Map of 1849 (CAC(K) WDRC/8/231 1849), and the majority of the available mapping is that produced by the Ordnance Survey from the late $19^{\text {th }}$ century onwards. However, there is a detailed plan of c1790, which depicts most of the town, including the site.
3.3.2 Map of c1790: this is the earliest detailed plan of the town (CAC(K) WDY/183 c1790), and it clearly shows a building corresponding to the property, although apparently slightly rectangular in plan and with its west wall against the western boundary (Plate 1). The plot is labelled ' 83 ', which presumably relates to a schedule of some kind but it has not been possible to locate this.
3.3.3 Ordnance Survey, c1860: although undated this is the first 1:2,500 plan of Kirkby Lonsdale produced by the Ordnance Survey (Plate 2). The site is by this date shown as forming part of a longer row of properties, apparently sandwiched between two other buildings and with what is presumably a mill leat running in front of it parallel to the street. The surrounding area is clearly very industrial in character,

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with a large tannery to the east and a smaller one to the west, and the workhouse is situated on the opposite side of the Mill Brow.


Plate 1 (left): Extract from the plan of $\mathbf{c 1 7 9 0}$
Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of $\mathbf{c 1 8 6 0}$
3.3.4 Ordnance Survey, c1911: this is the same scale as the previous map but shows that a considerable amount of change has occurred to the property and the surrounding area (Plate 3). The house is now depicted as entirely detached and square in plan with a projecting section to the rear (north). All of the adjoining buildings have been removed by this date, as have other buildings to the north-west, and neither of the tanneries are shown, suggesting that the area has changed considerably in the intervening period.
3.3.5 Ordnance Survey, 1912: this is a more detailed map but it shows essentially the same detail as the previous one (Plate 4). It is, in addition, marked with the numbers for the 1910 rating valuation, which provide the details of the owner and occupier of the property (see Section 3.2.5 above).


Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of c1911
Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1912
3.3.6 Ordnance Survey, 1914: this is essentially identical to the previous two maps (Plate 5).


Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1914

### 3.4 Site Visit

3.4.1 Externally the entire building is shown to be constructed from rough, largely limestone, rubble, with relatively modern concrete pointing, with windows comprising large mullion or mullion and transome type, in neatly dressed yellow gritstone (although augmented with applied concrete on the front elevation, presumably where the stone has eroded). Within these windows are timber casements, to the front these are of four and eight lights, the top four opening on a central hinge. To the rear they are more irregular, typically single-light hinged casements. Both the front and rear elevations incorporate re-used pieces of an antique stained glass, including fragments said to be from Kendal parish church and Furness Abbey, via the workshops of Shringley and Hunt of Lancaster (Mrs Leech pers comm.). The front elevation is broadly symmetrical in arrangement with paired windows on both floors either side of a central doorway with a moulded lugged surround incorporating a key stone and topped by a broken semi-circular pediment ornamented with a crown finial, above which is a slight alcove in the wall above (Plate 6). The south-west and south-east corners are finished with dressed v-jointed quoins, the roof is finished with local grey slate and there is a chimney stack at either end constructed from ashlar blocks of yellow gritstone.


Plate 6: General view of the front (south) external elevation
3.4.2 Internally the building comprises a large single room accessed through the front door, although this was originally divided by a timber central passage (Mrs Leech pers comm.), with a fireplace at either end, both with yellow gritstone surrounds, the west with a moulded mantel and a fluted keystone, the east with scrolled brackets. To the rear (north) are two smaller rooms to the east and west and a central staircase, with access below to a cellar. The staircase has turned balusters and square newels. On the first floor the space is divided into four rooms, plus the landing, while the second floor has only two rooms within what is effectively the roof space, with two tie beam trusses with collars exposed (the west with its collar removed).
3.4.3 Of particular interest are the windows. Those to the front (south) and one to the east now have two-light UPVC casement hinged opening secondary glazing, attached to the wall within the window reveals (Plate 7 to Plate 9). Those to the rear (north) have single-light panes attached directly to the stone of the mullions and transoms within each opening sealed with rubber seals, liquid sealant, and cement (Plate 10 and Plate 11).


Plate 7 (left): Typical two-light secondary glazing in the southern windows, first floor Plate 8 (right): Two-light secondary glazing in the east window, first floor


Plate 9 (left): Typical secondary glazing in the southern windows, ground floor Plate 10 (right): Single-light secondary glazing in the north window looking into the stairs


Plate 11: Multiple single-light glazing in the north elevation

### 3.5 Conclusion

3.5.1 The desk-based assessment demonstrates that the site is connected to some of the earliest history of Kirkby Lonsdale, being connected to the main medieval manor for the town. The presence of an earlier building on the site is suggested by several sources, although the form that this took is uncertain. There is little evidence for elements of it remaining in the present structure, despite statements made in various accounts. Although vague, the documentary sources suggest it was held by the Lowther family by the end of the $17^{\text {th }}$ century and that the house was therefore built for or by one of the stewards of the manor. By the end of the $18^{\text {th }}$ century it appears to have been let to an ordinary tenant before the sale of Lowther estates in area in 1839 and the decline in the status of this part of Kirkby Lonsdale, brought about in part by its increased industrialisation. The property then went through a rapid succession of tenants and owners throughout the remainder of the $19^{\text {th }}$ century and the $20^{\text {th }}$ century, the majority of both being connected to the local industries and businesses operating in the town at that time.
3.5.2 The site visit confirmed that the present building is largely of one phase of build, most likely corresponding to the generally assigned date of c1700, with no real evidence for earlier elements, or extensive later modification. It is clear from the map evidence, however, that the immediate environs of the building had been considerably more built up and some clearance of adjoining properties had taken place in the early $20^{\text {th }}$ century, leaving the building in its present detached situation.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The discussion of the results of the desk-based assessment is intended to determine the archaeological and historical significance of the site, in light of known history and impact of the proposed development. This information is then used to produce recommendations for the site in relating to its history and archaeology.

### 4.2 Significance

4.2.1 14 Mill Brow is a Listed Building and as such statutorily protected and considered of national importance. It is also situated within the Conservation Area for Kirkby Lonsdale, the revised version of which was approved in 2008 (SLDC 2008). The building is a good quality house of its period, described as 'the best at Kirkby Lonsdale' (Pevsner 1967, 263) and more recently 'Kirkby Lonsdale's best house' (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 465). The surviving fabric is largely consistent with the presumed date of c1700, and is in generally good condition.

### 4.3 Potential

4.3.1 The standing building has the potential to contain historic fabric dating from at least c1700 and perhaps earlier (see Section 3.2.4 above), although there was no obvious evidence for this observed during the site visit. Previous descriptions of extensive earlier fabric appear to be somewhat misleading but the known documentary history of the site and its connection to the Manor of Kirkby Lonsdale does mean that the building has the potential for further information to be extracted from it. However, the necessarily limited nature of the site visit means that the extent of this potential remains uncertain.

### 4.4 Disturbance

4.4.1 The building has been extensively modernised in recent years, following a period of considerable neglect, but this work has largely saved and enhanced the historic fabric. Some elements were clearly lost due to their poor condition - the timber partitions forming a central hall leading from the main entrance for example, but in general much was clearly preserved. One of the least appropriate alterations, carried out by a previous owner, was the addition of concrete to repair the mullion and transome windows (on the exterior of the southern elevation) and the general concrete re-pointing, which will not allow the walls, which would have originally been constructed using porous lime mortar and perhaps also externally lime-rendered, to 'breathe'. In addition, the secondary glazing to the rear is potentially very damaging since it cannot be opened and is air tight, allowing the potential for moisture to build up within the space between it and the external glazing, which will gradually lead to damage to the stonework of the mullions and transoms and the timber casements.

### 4.5 Impact

4.5.1 The proposed alterations, some of which have already been carried out, are likely to have an essentially neutral or even potentially beneficial impact on the historic fabric of the building. The secondary glazing to the south, although not a good historic match to the building being UPVC, is attached to the wall rather than the more fragile stonework of the windows themselves. It also cannot be seen externally as the division between the two lights is hidden by the central stone mullion and so, in general, is considered to have a neutral impact. As this secondary glazing can also be opened (unlike that to the north, see Section 4.5 .2 below) this enables the space between the secondary glazing and the window proper to be ventilated.
4.5.2 The secondary glazing to the north, although only attached with sealant and concrete, is likely in the long-term to have a negative effect on the historic fabric of the building, both because of the immediate effect on the stonework but also the more lasting affect of trapped moisture in the space
between the external glass and the internal secondary glazing. Its removal will ultimately be a positive improvement to the building in removing this problem.

### 4.6 Recommendations

4.6.1 Removing the secondary glazing from the windows to the north is highly recommended in order to prevent later damage to the stonework, timber, or both. The proposal to use only the shutters (although those currently in place are in themselves not a particularly good historical match, but they are relatively unobtrusive when open) in lieu of secondary glazing is also to be recommended.

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## Appendix 1: Listed Building Details

(from English Heritage 2011)

Location: OLD MANOR HOUSE, MILL BROW (north side), KIRKBY LONSDALE, SOUTH LAKELAND, CUMBRIA

Date listed: 21 November 1952
Date of last amendment: 22 March 1983
Grade II
MILL BROW5166(north side)No 14 (Old Manor House)(formerly listed as OldManor House)
MILL BROW 1. 5166 (north side) No 14 (Old Manor House) (formerly listed as Old Manor House) SD 6178 NW 5/114 21.11.52 II GV 2. Circa 1700 incorporating older work. Two storeys. Rubble with ashlar dressings. Slate roof. Gable chimneys. Chamfered rusticated quoins. Five bay symmetrical facade. Windows with unmoulded mullion transom and surround. Casements with all glazing bars. Doorway has shouldered architrave and triple keystone supporting broken segmental pediment above which is a now empty recess. Right hand gable end has one transomed window. Rear has quoins. One three light mullioned window and traces of another now blocked, and two windows of type at front. Interior. Four light closed string dogleg stair with square newels and turned balusters, the balusters lacking from bottom flight. Remains of large corbelled chimneypiece in kitchen. In front room left hand side elaborate fitted cupboard to left of modern fireplace, with roundhead, keystone, and two-leaved door with ornamental raised and fielded panels.

