



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological buildings assessment of

71-75 High Street, Thrapston

Northamptonshire

June 2009



Iain Soden

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Report 09/75

Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council



STAFF

Fieldwork and text: Iain Soden BA, MIfA

Illustrations: Amir Bassir BSc

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signature	Date
Verified by	T Upson Smith		
Checked by	C Walker		
Approved by	S Parry		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project title	Archaeological buildings assessment at 71-75 High Street, Thrapston, Northamptonshire,
Short description	<p>Recording has shown the steady subdivision of an original frontage which probably served as an Inn, variously named the Golden Key or the Ship. Subdivision to form initially two and then three properties took place in the later 19th century, while a cottage was built to the rear before 1886, together with unrelated factory buildings before 1901.</p> <p>The interiors contain only sparse early fittings and then most of these are of late 19th-century or 20th-century date. The structure contains evidence of numerous alterations and retains vestiges of earlier decorative schemes. It lies in close proximity to the parish churchyard.</p>
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Future work	Unknown
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Northing	7865
PROJECT CREATORS	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDINGS ASSESSMENT AT
71-75 HIGH STREET, THRAPSTON,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,
JUNE 2009**

Abstract

Recording has shown the steady subdivision of an original frontage which probably served as an Inn, variously named the Golden Key or the Ship. Subdivision to form initially two and then three properties took place in the later 19th century, while a cottage was built to the rear before 1886, together with unrelated factory buildings before 1901.

The interiors contain only sparse early fittings and then most of these are of late 19th-century or 20th-century date. The structure contains evidence of numerous alterations and retains vestiges of earlier decorative schemes. It lies in close proximity to the parish churchyard.

1 INTRODUCTION

Rosguill Developments Limited of Enfield, Middlesex are applying to renovate the premises of 71-75 High Street, Thrapston, a Grade II Listed Building (NGR: SP 9969 7865; Figure 1). The Conservation Officer of East Northamptonshire Council has asked that an archaeological building assessment should take place before the application is determined. This assessment and report was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at the request of Rosguill Developments Ltd, the fieldwork taking place on 8 June 2009.

The properties front onto the High Street, while to the east lies the junction with Oundle Road. West of the properties is a narrow pedestrian access to the Parish Church, called 'The Slabs', while the churchyard itself forms the northern boundary of the plot (Fig 1).

1.1 Status

The property was listed (Grade II) in 1987. The following comprises the wording of the official listing (www.imagesofengland.org.uk):

SP 9978 Thrapston High Street (North side)

16/167 Nos 71-77 (odd) (this is incorrect; it is 71-75)

Inn, now house and 2 shops. Mid C18 and C19. Squared coursed limestone with stucco façade. Pantile roof to rear and concrete tile roof at front. Originally 4-unit plan. 2-storeys. 9-window range of irregularly spaced unhorned sash windows, with glazing bars, under plain stucco heads and keyblocks. Four panel part-glazed door to right of centre under similar head has later C19 shop front to right. C20 shop front to far left. Ashlar gable parapets and kneelers and brick stacks at centre ridge and ends. Rear elevation has C19 additions and C19 and C20 windows. Interior: centre room has open fireplace with bressumer. Formerly the Golden Key Inn until early C19.

2 HISTORIC MAPS

The property can be traced on maps back to the late 18th century, and is depicted as follows:

2.1 1781 Inclosure Map of Thrapston (NRO Map 5085)

This map is crude, imperfect and heavily marked, but shows the plot. The frontage is a simple rectangle and the western rear extension, forming an L-shape, is in place, as is the carriage house.

2.2 1810 Ordnance Survey 2-inch Surveyors Map sheet 269

This very small scale map depicts Thrapston in relatively good detail compared with other places in the County, but appears to show that the entire plot in question is clear of any buildings. While this might otherwise be significant, the map omits the Parish Church altogether. It is therefore considered to be an imperfect representation, possibly unfinished. It lies at the very south-western

edge of sheet 269 and its marginal depiction may have resulted in it not being fully completed.

2.3 1886 Ordnance Survey, 1st edition, 1:2500 Map 26 SE

This first, properly surveyed map shows all the extensions at the rear to have taken place, except for the brick buildings at the east of the plot. The carriage house too has been built, as has the separate cottage.

2.4 1901 Ordnance Survey, 2nd edition, 1:1250 26 SE

This enhanced re-survey version shows enough detail to confirm that the buildings as they now stand were all in position, apart from the shed in the north-west corner of the plot.

The maps are not reproduced in this report but can be viewed at Northamptonshire Record Office.

3 LOCATION

Although the properties now comprise three addresses, nos 71, 73 and 75 High Street, they were originally built as one and then divided into two distinct but conjoined properties, separated only at the ground floor by a passage at about the midpoint of the frontage, which is now the entrance to no 73, but which formerly provided access to the plots at the rear (Figs 1 and 2). The three modern addresses were formed from the division of the western property into two (71 and 73). The other property has remained distinct throughout (75).

There is only circumstantial evidence for the use of the original, single property as almost all architecturally notable elements relate to the first subdivision into two and then the life of the three distinct properties.

Therefore for the purposes of this report, speculation concerning the identity of the original single-property will be largely avoided, to concentrate on the identities of the two intermediate properties and recalling the three modern addresses when necessary. For clarity the two intermediate properties will be called the

western and the eastern, simply because their identities are not known for sure at any given period.

In the absence of certainty in terms of past room uses or attributes, the rooms in each property are known by a number and their floor, in which G = Ground Floor (Fig 2), F = First Floor (Fig 3) and S= Second Floor (Fig 4). Outbuildings are dealt with separately (Figs 5 and 6).

4 SCOPE OF RECORDING

The properties were comprehensively investigated for architectural and historically notable aspects which were photographed digitally. The visit benefited from a set of surveyed plans provided by the applicant. These were annotated with observations and interpretations of these where possible, at a scale of 1:100 and provisionally phased while still on site. A total of 91 photographs was taken, a selection of about half of which appears in this report. The accuracy of the floor plans was verified for assessment purposes using a Leica Disto-Pro electronic measurer before they were fully utilised.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The exterior

The buildings are mainly of coursed or roughly-coursed limestone beneath a roof of either pantiles (to the rear face) or modern interlocking concrete tiles (to the front face). The chimney stacks are of brick, as are some of the outbuildings and many alterations or additions to the original building. The gables have stone parapets and kneelers (Figs 7 and 8).

The buildings as they stand present a fairly uniform aspect to the High Street frontage. Apart from two ground floor shop-fronts the array of windows is fairly regular, although not fully uniform. This face is fully rendered in stucco and it is possible that it covers a former fenestration scheme. The existing windows are all un-horned sashes of 12 lights with stone sills. That they are a suite suggests identical ownership at the time, although the un-horned nature of the sashes should not be automatically indicative of an early date. Thrapston, and much of

eastern Northamptonshire was not directly influenced by new taste in the 19th-century, so a lack of horns should not automatically indicate an early date. They may be as late as 1890.

The 20th-century shop-fronts have broken the uniformity of the frontage at ground-floor level. The rear elevation of the building lacks any uniformity and will be assessed by phase.

5.2 The western property

The western property has been much altered throughout. While some major alterations have been important additions of character in their own right, many smaller ones have left the building containing a varied mixture of details of different periods, few of them of significance. Redecoration and upgrading on an *ad-hoc* basis has largely robbed the interiors of uniformity and a great deal of character.

The original building –Ground floor (Fig 2)

On map evidence, this dates from before 1781.

The building began as a simple, two-cell plan fronting south onto the High Street. In its eastern bay (G1) lies a large inglenook fireplace with a plain oak bressumer, simply chamfered on its arris (Fig 9). To its south side lies the recess of a small salt cupboard, while to the north another cupboard has been blocked, but its remains are visible from the back, where a haphazard modern recess has been cut from the front entrance passage (Fig 10). A brick lining suggests this second recess may have been a small oven.

In the western wall between the bays is a tiny window. This is said to have been a serving hatch when the property was once a public house. It is not thought to be original.

The western bay has been much altered at ground level (G2). A 1970s or 1980s aluminium and glass shop-front has removed the front wall entirely. However, behind this some remains of the bay survive, comprising an axial beam and traces of 19th-century décor on the west gable wall behind an electrical cupboard

(Fig 11). Extensive use of two phases of dry-lining for the former shoe shop means that more of this décor may survive.

Apocryphal stories suggest that room G2 surmounts a filled-in cellar, pertaining to its former use as a pub, known as either 'The Golden Key' (listing description) or 'The Ship Inn' (ex inf former owner). Certainly a substantial two-steps down to the western bay (540mm) is suggestive of a major level-change, as is a similar, even greater change (800mm) at the rear. If the floor was once higher, there must have been steps up from the road to the original front door, now lost in the shop-front. Currently there is no change in level from the street into what became no 71.

The original building – First floor (Fig 3)

Two bedrooms lie directly above G1 and G2 (F1 and F2). They have been modernised and few historic elements can be seen. In the ceilings are a row of three beams running north-south across the property. In the eastern wall of F1 lies a fireplace, obscured by a false built-in wardrobe door, while to its south, also behind similar covering, the wall is of stud-construction. This may be significant as, in conjunction with a feature in F7 (see below), it may suggest a former physical link between the two properties above the entrance-passage (linking F1 with S6). A blocked fireplace is present in the west gable of F2, also behind a built-in wardrobe.

The original building – Second floor (Fig 4)

The attic space lies at this level. Originally it may have been merely a loft space for storage, accessed only by a ladder, since it has no direct heat sources at all. However, evidence survives for former dormers on the front face, now tiled-over and their detail now lost, and full access was certainly enabled when the second rear extension was built. The space was divided up by bays and the whole fully plastered out with reed plaster, much of which survives (Fig 12). The dormers may have been removed when this floor was 'blacked out' for conversion into a home cinema, probably in the 1950s or early 1960s. A screen was constructed against the chimney breast at the east end of S1 and holes cut into the partition in S1 for the projector lens and the projectionist to view. The western half of S1 became the projection room, and the projector stand still remains.

The rooms at this level are seen to be floored in good wide elm boards.

5.3 The first addition to the property

On map evidence this dates from before 1781.

Ground floor (Fig 2)

Behind G2 is another room (G4) in an added rear wing. The back wall of the original property had been removed to form a single shop space and the two rooms share identical former dry-lining, together with the same lower floor-level. At the foot of the wall and behind the shop-decor lies 1930s torus moulded skirting board (Fig 13). This suggests that any change in floor level, or cellar in-filling took place no later than the 1930s.

In the rear wall of G4 there is a fireplace and flue (removed in the upper floor) (Fig 14). It has been plastered and the plaster painted and varnished to look wood-grained. It appears contemporary with the floor lowering and the skirting. At ground floor level this rear wing can be seen to contain blocked embrasures to the west and east (windows) and to the north, adjacent to the fireplace (doorway) (Figs 15, 16 and 17).

First floor (Fig 3)

Above G4 the room in the gable of this first extension has been completely rebuilt, as has the roof. No historic features could be seen.

Second floor (Fig 4)

There is no habitable second floor to this extension; the roof space (S4) is an unused loft with unremarkable timberwork which can be accessed from room S2. The gable interior is of modern block-work, the exterior of brick. The rebuilding, together with a window in the north wall, has removed all trace of the flue and chimney which would have served the fireplace in the north wall of G4 below. The roof covering is modern, interlocking tiles.

5.4 A second extension to the rear

On map evidence this dates after 1781 but before 1886.

In the angle between the original building and the first extension was constructed a second extension over three floors, which houses the current staircase (Fig 18). It is not clear where the original staircase lay, but it probably led up from G2,

where it could link from cellar to second floor and lead to rooms on either side. It is now lost.

Ground floor (Fig 2)

The ground floor room (G3) may originally have served as a kitchen, since beneath the stairs it has direct access to a walk-in pantry with quarry-tiled floor and which still contains a 19th-century wooden cupboard (Fig 19). It has a fireplace in its eastern wall, the flue of which has had to be repaired in brick at higher levels. At Ground Floor level its construction has led to the removal of the former rear wall of the original property. This is probably not an original alteration but is likely to be a modern change, connected with the introduction of a 1950s bay window and the need to introduce higher light levels into G3 and lend additional light to G1.

First floor (Fig 3)

At this level the new extension has been used to introduce the bathroom and an adjacent but separate WC into the building (F3). Neither is remarkable but dating is provided by Bakelite light switches of 1930s vintage. A cupboard in the corner of the bathroom may be significant since it possibly lies adjacent to a fireplace, now lost or obscured behind the bath and current tiling decor. On the landing outside the banister rail has distinctive very individually turned balusters (ie not uniform and steam-turned), suggestive of a date for the stairs (and by inference the extension) in the later 18th or early 19th centuries (Hall 2005, 112; Fig 20). At this level the doors from the landing to the bedrooms are of a suite, but are relatively basic, almost inexpert carpentry, and finished off with Bakelite fittings of the 1930s. Most early light fittings are concentrated around the staircase and these too are of Bakelite, suggesting that the house as a whole came onto electrical mains and received an overhaul before the Second World War (Fig 21).

Second floor (Fig 4)

At this level the area off the landing comprises a small bedroom with no historic features visible. The pitched roof above is of pan-tiles over simple, unremarkable roof carpentry. The landing, devoid of all but the simplest handrails, gives direct access to the attic rooms of the main frontage (the cinema, above) (Fig 22).

5.5 Extending along the yard (Fig 2)

On map evidence this was in position before 1886.

A single-storey extension (G5) has been added to the G4-F4 north-facing gable. It has itself undergone considerable changes. It originally had a pitched roof, but its eaves on both sides have been raised (to different levels) and the pitch replaced by a single fall roof with roof-lights in it. The butt-joint of the raised eaves is clear on the west (Fig 23), while its re-construction in brick on the east is equally clear (Fig 24). Now used as a workshop, its original use may have been a stable. There is possibly a high-level blocked window embrasure in the west wall (Fig 25), together with a more certain blocked doorway and window on the east face in the courtyard (Fig 24). Graffiti notes the change of pitch and the builders as 'MEARS, JOHNSON, HILL, DEC 1944' (Fig 26). This makes sense as an ideal period for the abandonment of a stable, with a commensurate preferment for motorised transport. The original construction of this building entailed the blocking of the original north door into G4, a connection now replaced by another door in a similar location. The building was unheated but for any residual heat from the fireplace and chimney, also in G4.

5.6 A replacement kitchen (Fig 2)

This cannot be discerned on maps of 1886, but the location of the pump as shown on the second edition OS map makes it clear that this extension was built by 1901.

Probably during the 1920s the former kitchen in G3 was taken out of use. It was replaced by another in what may already have been an existing single-storey extension formed by G7. Attached to the back of the eastern property, it actually served the western one and its assumption of the role of kitchen may denote the period at which no 73 was created as a separate entity from 71. The brickwork of its northern wall is 19th-century brick, as is the flue which served its former fireplace added to the back wall (now covered over). Its windows have been altered. Nothing of its early interior survives, having been fully upgraded with built-in units in the 1980s. A water pump stands against its outer wall. It is probably of 19th-century origin and probably marking the location of a well

beneath. It may have been free-standing before G7 was built (Fig 27). An outside WC stands close to the pump, up against the adjacent property. It is of brick with a Welsh slate roof and contains possibly its original high-level cast-iron cistern and ceramic bowl.

By the time G7 was built, the eastern property may have had no access to, or interest in the courtyard to the rear as all its windows one by one were conceived to face away from this space.

5.7 The eastern property

On map evidence the frontage dates from before 1781.

As a slightly smaller property, the eastern one has altogether a different character. While its ground floor has been much altered, its upper floors form almost a time-capsule of the 1930s, while a range of adjoining outbuildings to the rear, seem to have had a light-industrial function.

Ground floor (Fig 2)

Like the western property that to the east, although slightly smaller, began as a simple, two cell plan. The entire frontage of the ground floor, however has been opened up in a former bicycle-shop sales area (G8), in which no historic features are visible, the whole interior dry-lined. There are probably the vestiges of fireplaces at each end of the room, each serving one half. The room division has gone, but its location may be indicated by a change in flooring, of which one (approximate) half is brick, the other of rubber blocks, of which further hundreds (possibly thousands) are stored around the property (Fig 28). The room contains an RSJ from which a selection of bicycles was until recently hung. At the back of the showroom lie the original stairs.

Two doors mark inserted cupboards in the east gable. Their purpose is not clear as they cannot be seen on the inside behind dry-lining. One may be for utilities' supplies and meters.

First floor (Fig 3)

The stairs at the rear of the former bicycle shop, number 75, lead to a landing and the upper parts of the property, which could hardly be more different from the

western one, presenting a drab aspect typical of the pre-war decade. The entire landing and stairs are characterised by a lack of light achieved by the dark staining of all the woodwork and the stairs themselves, either side of a stair-runner, complemented by brown-dominated 1930s wallpapers (Fig 29). The only natural lighting is from a window across the stairs with a north aspect. This was the only surviving window in this property looking into the courtyard.

Three simple but, by contrast, well-lit bedrooms lie above the shop space at this level, each entered from the landing. All are characterised by dark-stained wide elm floorboards with 1930s linoleum or oilcloth as a covering. The woodwork retains original 1930s painting, while the walls are covered in F6 and F7 with plain wallpapers with distinctive period friezes (Figs 30 and 31, respectively). The light fittings are equally distinctive 1930s bakelite designs on a stained wooden back-board (Fig 32).

Bedroom F5 has been repeatedly redecorated and seems to include a lowered ceiling, so it retains comparatively little of the detail of the other two first floor bedrooms. In the gable wall is a fireplace, from which a (presumably) Victorian cast-iron grate has been robbed out (Fig 33). In the north wall lies a cupboard (Fig 34). It is distinctly possible that this marks the location either of a former window which would be original to the building, or of a doorway which once linked with a northern extension. It may even have been both in succession.

Bedroom F7 contains a built-in wardrobe utilising the under-stairs space and a cupboard adjacent to a former fireplace, the latter long-since disused and plastered over. Above the cupboard, however, the angle of wall to ceiling is spanned by what appears to be the soffit of a stair (Fig 35). Together with the above-mentioned studwork in the adjacent property bedroom F1, this appears to indicate a narrow, now closed-off stair which once linked the two properties between F1 and S6. The evidence is equivocal; however an alternative explanation is lacking.

In the windows of F6 and F7 lie distinctive sash window catches which appear to be original to the windows. They are of brass and date from c1875-c1910. (Figs 36 and 37; Calloway (1991), 245 and 362). They may date the surviving fenestration scheme, perhaps better than the usual dating of un-horned/horning of sashes which traditionally falls around 1850.

Second floor (Fig 4)

At this level, the former attics have also been given the same 1930s décor as the first floor landing and stairs. To the front face there were formerly dormers but these have been lost when the roof was recovered. There are no lost or partly hidden features, the rooms being bare but for a cupboard in S6 adjacent to the door (Fig 38, note the colour scheme), and a fireplace in the gable of S7 (Fig 39). Reed plaster has been used throughout, as have wide elm boards on the floor. So far as can be seen through holes in the ceiling the roof carpentry seems simple and unremarkable. The whole second floor seems ideal as former servants' bedrooms, making a former link from S6 to F1 more likely, especially if the former Ship Inn served as an inn proper, not just a public house. It is believed that the family of the former owner and last occupant of both (all three) properties (Mr Percy Cotton), and who himself lived latterly in no 73, had held all three together since 1896. Therefore a late 19th-century single use or purpose for the entire frontage is very possible.

5.8 A northern extension

On map evidence this was built between 1781 and 1886.

To the rear is a two-storey extension partly in stone and partly in brick, but with a single-fall roof. Only the ground floor was accessible. The first floor appears to have no direct access surviving, unless via F9 which itself could not be entered as the ladder access was deemed unsafe.

Ground floor (Fig 2)

Leading off from the rear of the frontage lies room G9. It has a doorway to the east and originally also had a window to the north, later blocked in brick. In the north wall still stands a fireplace with a 1930s tiled surround (Fig 40). Its hearth has been lost. Almost directly opposite in the south wall is a partly obscured, but probably complete, Edwardian larder or china cupboard. The former doorway in the east wall could no longer be accessed from the interior. Although dating from much earlier (probably 19th century), this room has the hall-marks of having become an inter-war 'back kitchen'.

First floor (Fig 3)

Above G9 lay the inaccessible room F8. It has a boarded-up window in the east wall, a blocked window in the west wall (Fig 41) and maybe a blocked former access from bedroom F5. It may have a fireplace in the north wall. The roof covering is pan-tile.

5.9 The outbuildings

An array of outbuildings has been constructed in the plot to the rear of the properties. They are dealt with separately here since they are either separate structures or appear to have functioned independently of the main frontage.

Factory buildings (Figs 2 and 3)

On map evidence this range was built between 1886 and 1901.

Adjoining the north side of G9 is a long range, composed of two brick buildings, one of two storeys, one single-storey, both with pitched, pan-tile roofs. The buildings face east and have turned their backs on the courtyard from their inception, having no westerly prospect whatsoever.

The larger is of two single spaces G10 on the ground floor and F9 above. Area G10 is floored in quarry tiles and has a door and two windows in its east wall (all boarded up), and a doorway in the south wall connecting with G9 and the shop, for which it previously acted as storage. At its northern end is a partitioned lobby area and another exterior door facing east.

Above this area room F9 could not be accessed due to the suspect state of the ladder leading up and (reputedly) the floor. It was photographed through the open doorway part-way up the ladder, but further access was not possible (Fig 42). Room F9 is lit only by one or more windows in its east wall and appears to be an interior partly boarded out with tongue and groove pine boards painted white to maximise light levels. There appears to be considerable cupboard-space.

The stairway to room F9 rises in room G12 of the adjacent single-storey structure, which otherwise contains nothing of note, but for hundreds of stored rubber blocks such as are found in the floor of G8. This room, with a floor of

brick, appears to be designed principally for access purposes. However at the north end lies a small annex partitioned off in brick to form a small room and an adjacent WC. The small room is empty but a view above the ceiling makes its identity as an engine house clear. Mounted on the overlying roof trusses and rafters are a series of belt-wheels of varied diameters working around a single drive-shaft serving room F9 at just above floor level (Fig 43). No engine has survived, and an absence of any chimney or related flue suggests that the engine was petrol- or oil-driven, rather than steam-driven. As such it probably installed in the early decades of the 20th century, perhaps post-1914, rather than the 19th century. This makes F9 a probable former factory space, with G10 below as storage.

A freestanding cottage (Fig 5)

On map evidence this was constructed prior to 1886.

Standing on its own at the western boundary of the plot is a small building of two storeys, part stone and part brick under a pan-tile roof, the ground floor of which is today used as a workshop and containing numerous machine-tools and lathes etc (Fig 44). Apocryphal stories suggest that it was once lived in as a cottage (on the reputed indication of Mr Percy Cotton, the former property owner).

Its western wall forms the plot boundary for the length of the building itself, north of which was later built the current boundary to The Slabs, a freestanding wall. While the eastern face of the building has been altered, creating the door and flanking workshop windows currently there, the interior is clearly redolent of entry into a simple two-cell hovel. On the ground floor the space has been divided into two by a stud partition, the planking only on the 'best-room' side (open studs towards the doorway in simplest vernacular style). The whole has been lime-washed throughout to maximise light and there is a simple fireplace in the north gable end, the best room (Fig 45). A built-in shelf runs the whole length of the building's west wall (Fig 46). The southern, slightly larger room contains a fine pair of ornate 19th-century cast iron shelf brackets, probably original (Fig 47). Adjacent to the south end is a simple stair opening (served currently only by a re-used step-ladder), to the upper floor. This floor too has been divided into two with a stud partition, and is lit by a small, east-facing dormer (Fig 48). The soffits of the rafters and studs upstairs bear lath and plaster-marks indicating that this

was indeed considered a habitable space (Fig 49). It was unclear whether the floor was safe to walk on so recording ventured no further than viewing through from the stairway. The base of a 1920's treddle-powered Singer sewing machine stands in the southern (better-lit) room, testament perhaps to former domestic arrangements.

Given the circumstantial evidence, it seems highly likely that, whether originally conceived as such or not, this building was adopted as a small cottage or hovel.

Adjoining the north end of this cottage is a shed built of Fletton-type brick on the east, with corrugated iron doors and block-work to the west and north. It dates to the 1960s or 1970s and is considered to have no architectural merit (Fig 50). It is built off the churchyard wall and the boundary wall to The Slabs pathway as they currently stand. It therefore post-dates both of these.

A carriage house (Fig 6)

On map evidence this was constructed before 1781.

At the far north-east of the plot is a free-standing building with a single set of double doors and a pedestrian door adjacent. It is built of limestone under a pantile roof (Fig 51). However, it is constructed independent of the existing churchyard wall, suggesting that it predates this feature in its current form (Fig 52). The interior is stacked high with stored timber, so could not be fully accessed. What can be seen above this is simple, unremarkable roof carpentry. Altogether it has no architectural detailing. Although the green-painted timber doors are of 20th-century creation, the whole building is ideally sited to have begun as an 18th-century carriage house with adjacent store or tack room. It was probably later converted into a garage for motor vehicles. Although it stands closer to no 75 High Street it is considered more likely to have served the property before subdivision.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Original Inn (pre-1781)

Almost nothing survives of the original supposed Inn (regardless of its name) except the plan and principal structure of the main frontage (including roof) and

the earliest of the rear extensions. The possible stair sandwiched between the 1st floor bedroom of 73 and the second floor attic of 75 may be a vestige of this original single-purpose property. A possible filled-in cellar may lie beneath 71.

The carriage-house, although architecturally unremarkable, seems to belong to this first phase.

6.2 Two properties (19th century)

Of the property when divided into two, more survives. This is principally the stairs and first-floor bedroom layouts in no 71-73. Few details exist, nor fixtures and fittings. To the rear of 71 a separate, free-standing cottage belongs to this era, although the date of its construction or the reason for it are unclear.

6.3 Three properties (c1900-present)

With 71 and 75 on the ground floor turned into shops no later than around 1900, 71/73 remained a separate living space, with the upper floors of 75 also providing separate accommodation, probably 'over the shop'. Thus the property had three entrances serving three addresses, with three distinct uses on the ground floor, while on the upper storeys the three resolved themselves into two distinct living areas.

Published photographs show that the ground-floor shops were in existence as early as c1900 (Warren 1987, 51-53). The identity of no 71 has not been ascertained, but no 75 was a Barber shop from at least 1908 to c1952. After that it became the premises of Jacques Cycles, founded elsewhere in 1913.

The photographs show that dormer windows existed along the front face of the roof of the entire frontage at least until c1952.

The first and second floor bedrooms (and particularly the landings) of 75 are notable in the character of their 1930s interior décor, if only for modern eyes to remark how gloomy and depressing they were, although the art-deco detailing on the light-switches etc is worthy of mention, as are some distinctive wallpaper friezes on the first floor.

The use of the second floor rooms above 71-73 merits note, if only because a purposely-fitted-out 1960s home-cinema has never been encountered by the author of this report.

The factory buildings, although they adjoin the rear of 75, hardly relate to the property, either in structural form or intended use. These are a total divergence from the character and purpose of the property, whether it is viewed as one, two, or three premises.

6.4 Overall

Whether viewed as one, two or three properties, the structure retains little of its original character, supposedly an Inn, other than the retrievable structure of its original plan. The character of the interior and rear has been demonstrated as comprising a variety of major alterations and extensions, making it an architectural mish-mash, reflecting changing economic fortunes and changes in taste in Thrapston between c1781 and c1900. The two shops on the ground floor have now existed for over a century. The separate nature of the accommodation above is of similar vintage. The outbuildings are distinctive but denuded by alterations. The brick factory buildings barely relate to the perceived purpose and character of the main frontage in any of its three incarnations.

The plot adjoins the parish churchyard. On numerous occasions such churchyard boundaries have been found to be fluid. There is a possibility that properly-buried human remains may lie beneath the northern end of the current property, indicative of a once-larger churchyard.

The prime location of the site, lying on the High Street adjacent to the churchyard, might suggest that buried archaeological remains may lie beneath the frontage (except where possibly cellared) and the rear yard, related to an earlier, possibly medieval range of buildings.

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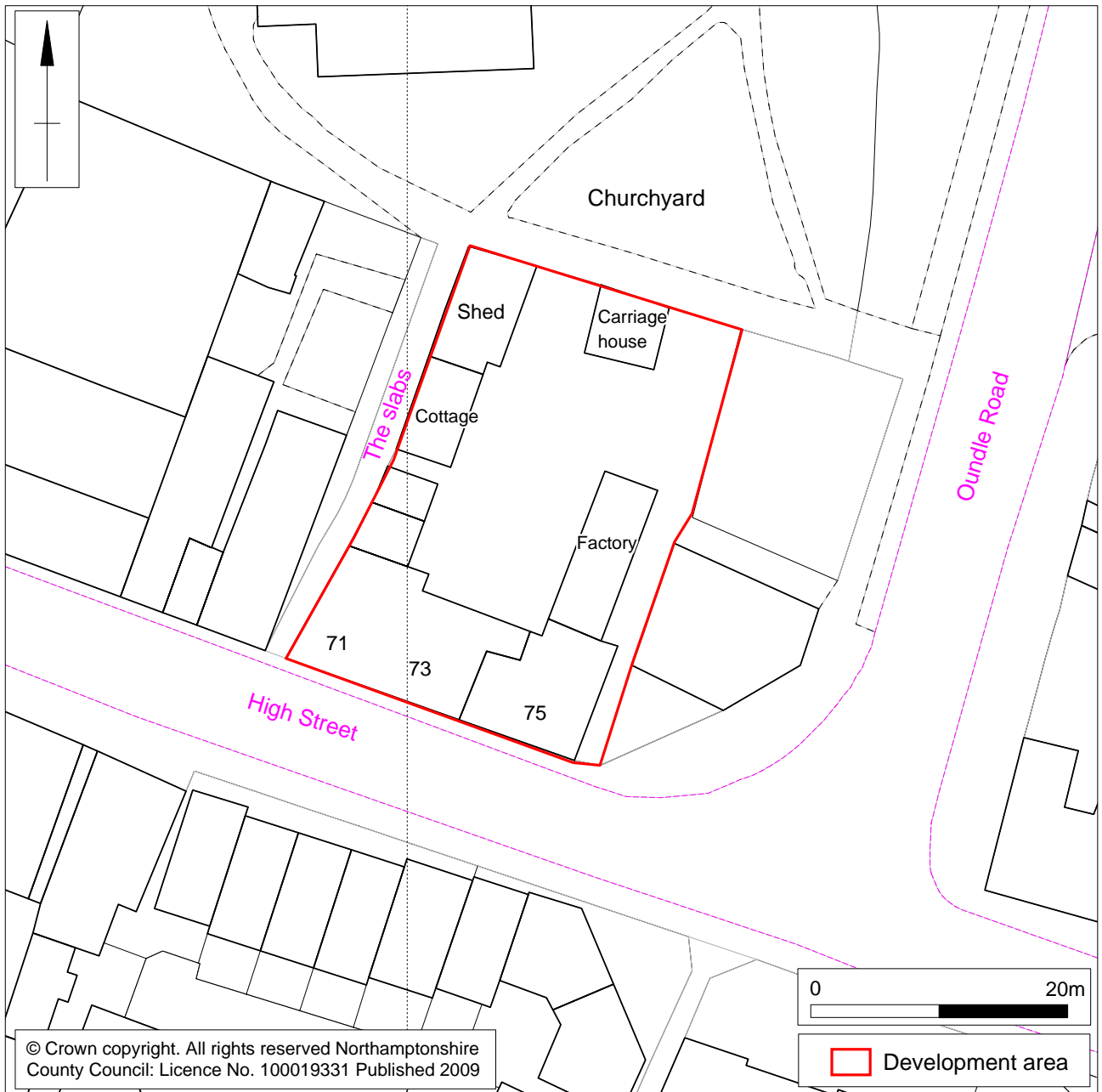
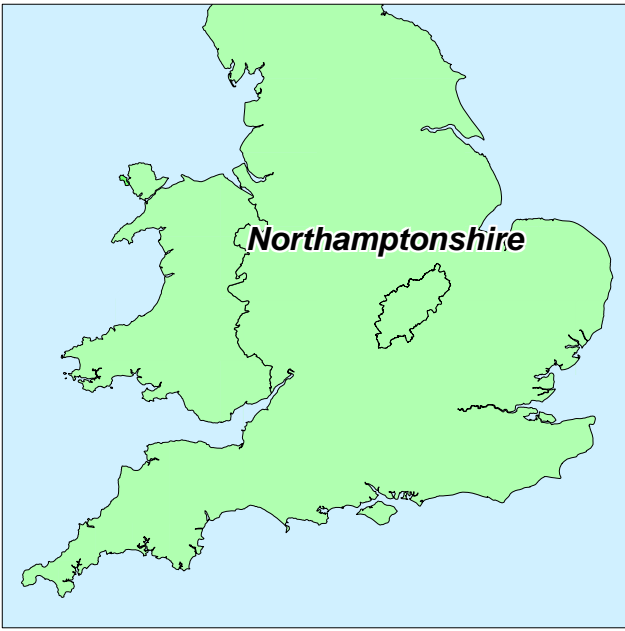
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Not accessible	?
Cupboard	C
Fireplace	F/P
20th Century alterations	Dark Blue
Replacement Kitchen (1886-1901)	Red
Factory outbuildings (1886-1901)	Orange
Extension along yard (Pre 1886)	Yellow
Second addition (1781-1886)	Light Green
First addition (Pre 1781)	Light Blue
Original frontage (Pre 1781)	Light Pink



0 5m

Ground floor plan Fig 2



Not accessible	?
Cupboard	C
Fireplace	F/P
20th Century alterations	Dark Blue
Replacement Kitchen (1886-1901)	Red
Factory outbuildings (1886-1901)	Orange
Extension along yard (Pre 1886)	Yellow
Second addition (1781-1886)	Light Green
First addition (Pre 1781)	Light Blue
Original frontage (Pre 1781)	Light Pink



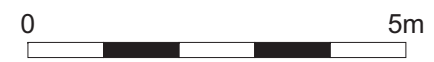
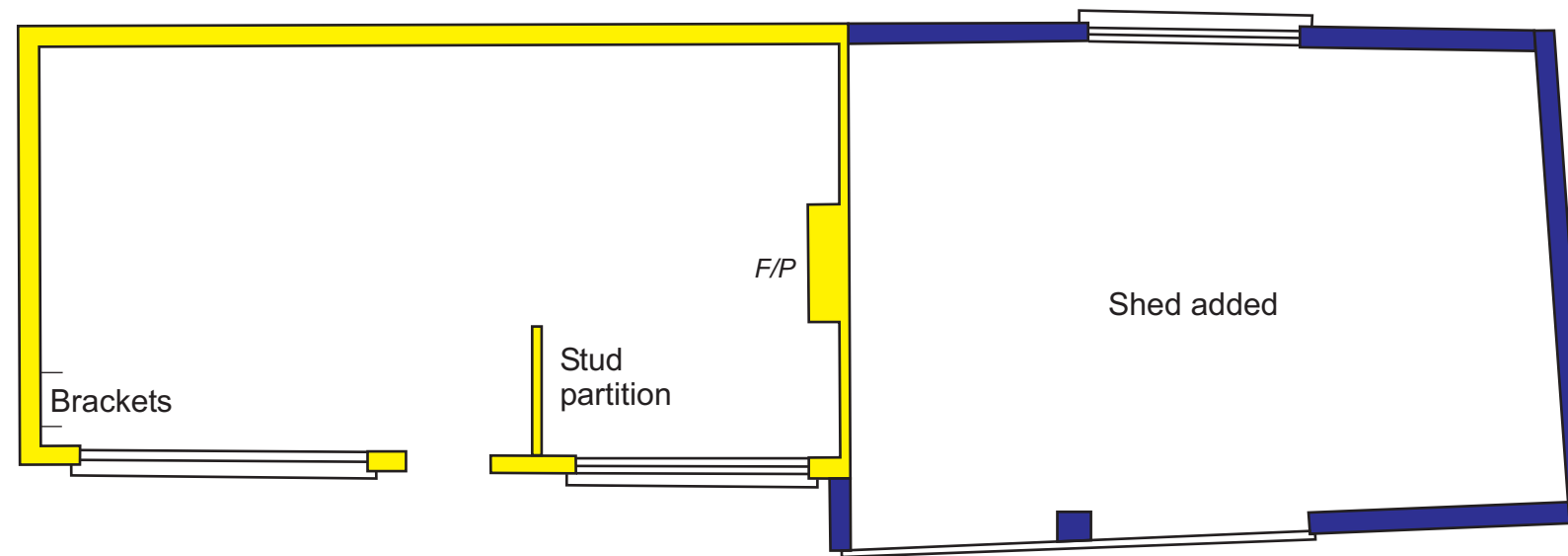
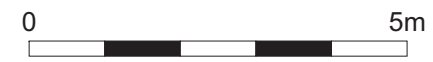
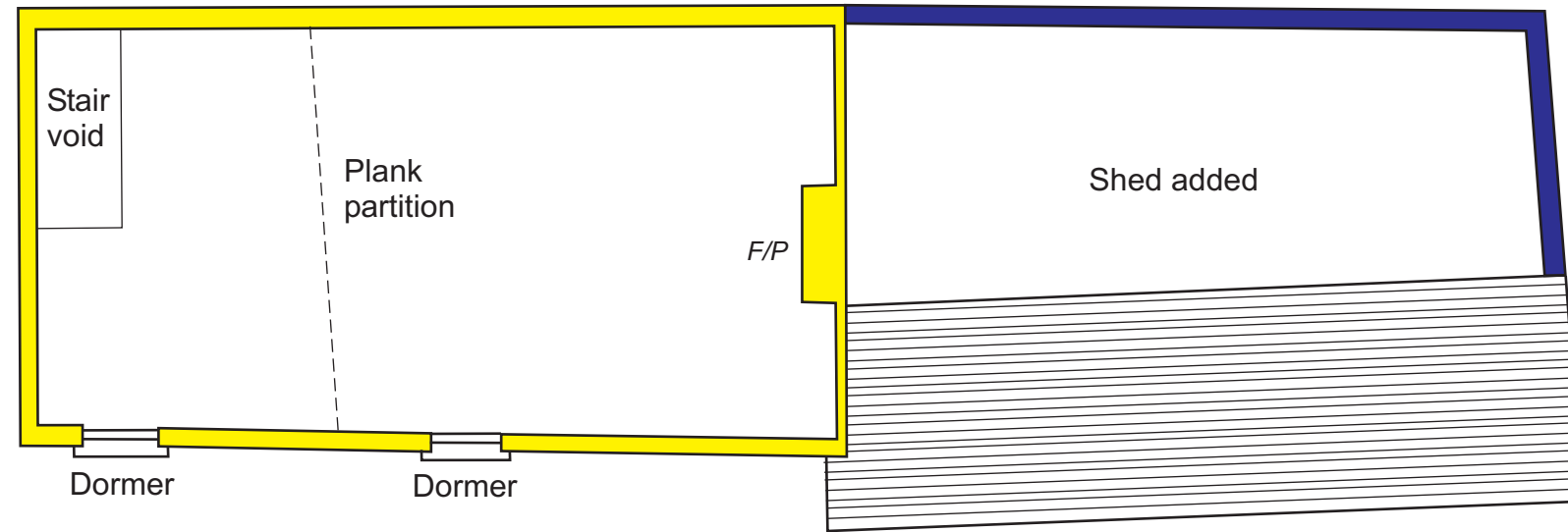
First floor plan Fig 3





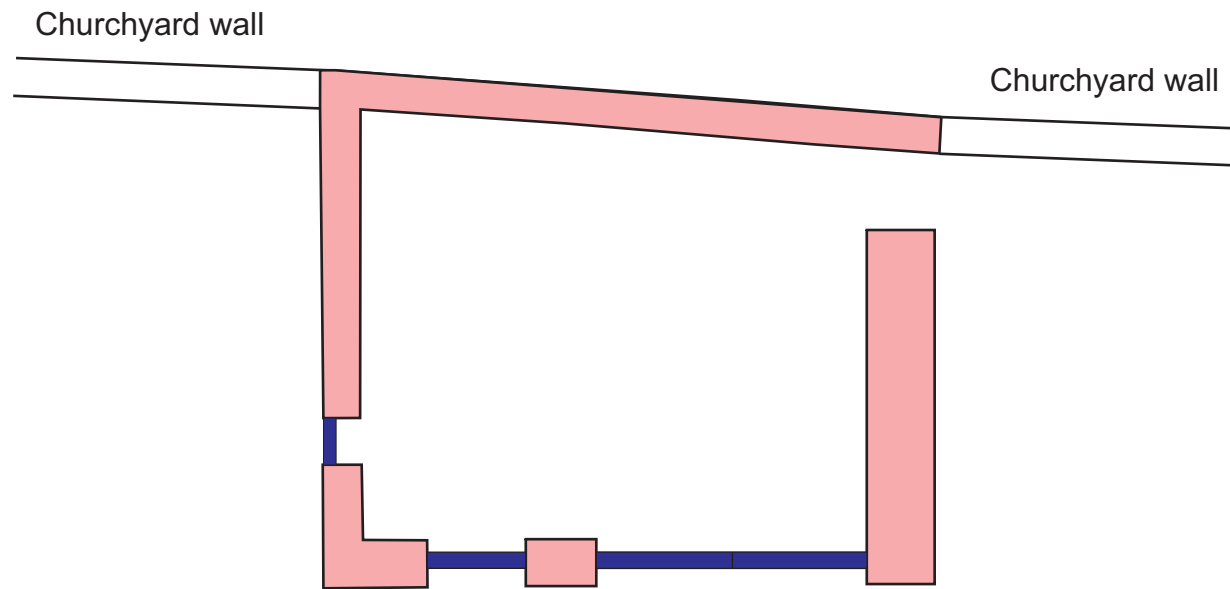
Not accessible	?
Cupboard	C
Fireplace	F/P
20th Century alterations	
Replacement Kitchen (1886-1901)	
Factory outbuildings (1886-1901)	
Extension along yard (Pre 1886)	
Second addition (1781-1886)	
First addition (Pre 1781)	
Original frontage (Pre 1781)	





Second floor plan Fig 4



Fireplace	<i>F/P</i>
Pre 1886	
20th Century addition	



Original build (Pre 1781)	
20th Century alteration	

Carriage House Fig 6



Fig 7: General view of frontage



Fig 8: General view of frontage



Fig 9: Inglenook fireplace in G1



Fig 10 Entrance passage G6



Fig 11: Former décor in west wall of G2



Fig 12: Reed plaster of second floor



Fig 13: Obscured skirting in G4



Fig 14: Obscured fireplace in G4



Fig 15: Blocked window in west wall of G4 (exterior)



Fig 16: Blocked window in east wall of G4 (exterior)



Fig 17: Blocked doorway in north wall of G4 (exterior)



Fig 18: Extension built for the current staircase



Fig 19: Cupboard within walk-in pantry off G3 (under stairs)



Fig 20: Hand rail and banister at first floor



Fig 21: 1930s Bakelite light fittings (foot of stairs)



Fig 22: Landing at second floor, simple handrail



Fig 23: Butt joint between G4 and G5, viewed from The Slabs



Fig 24: Brick eaves heightening of G5, viewed from the courtyard, note blockings also

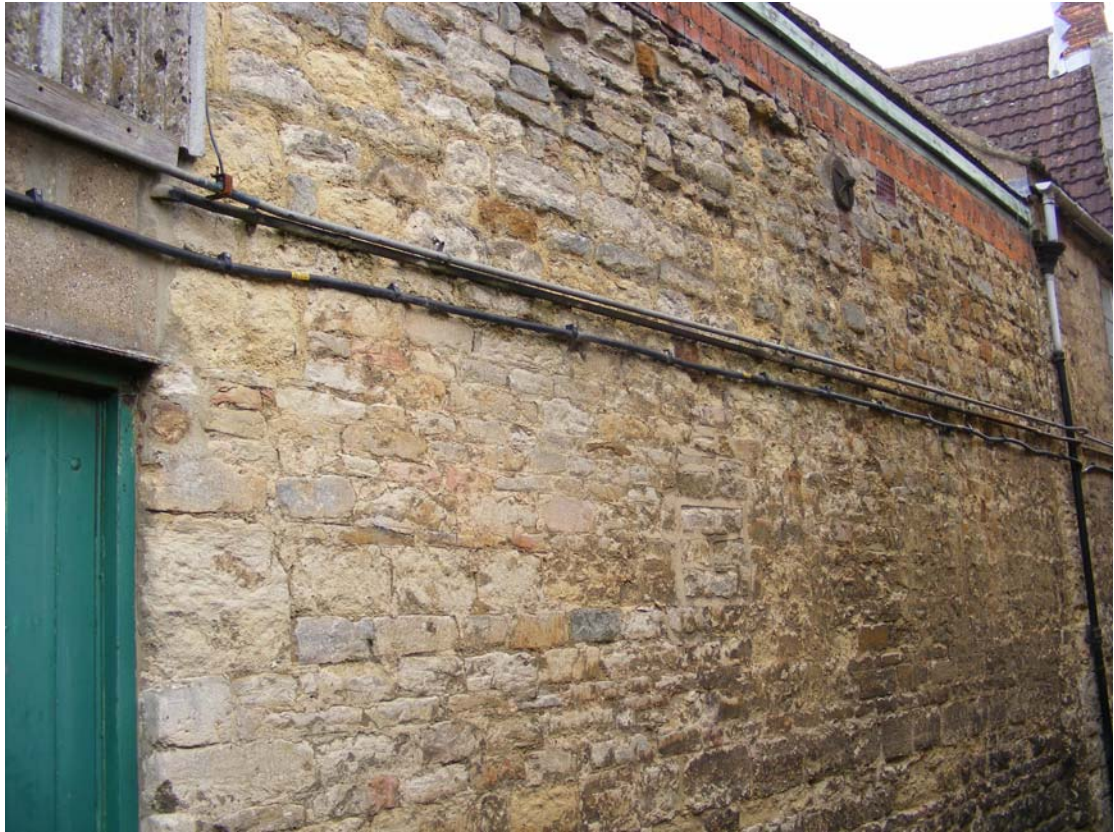


Fig 25: Possible blocking in west wall of G5, viewed from The Slabs

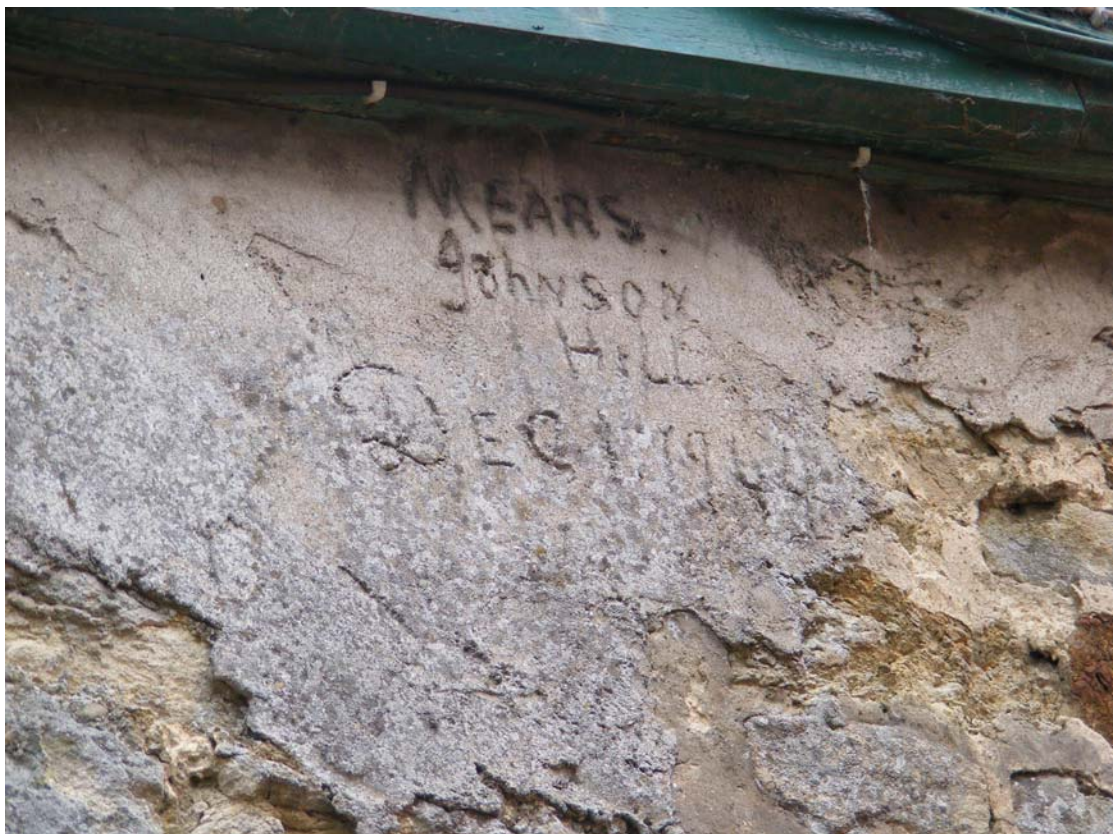


Fig 26: Builders' graffiti on north wall of G5 (1944)



Fig 27: Pump and rear wall of kitchen G7



Fig 28 Rubber block floor in G8, note bicycle rack from ceiling



Fig 29: Stairs from G8 to first floor landing and bedrooms



Fig 30: 1930s wallpaper frieze in F6



Fig 31: 1930s wallpaper frieze in F7



Fig 32: 1930s Bakelite Art Deco-detailed light fitting



Fig 33: Former fireplace in F5



Fig 34: Cupboard in north wall of F5 – possibly a blocked doorway or window



Fig 35: Possible former stair soffit in F7



Fig 36: Window catch in F5



Fig 37: Window catch in F6



Fig 38: Room S6; note door paint scheme on woodwork



Fig 39: Room S7; note dormer removed at front (right)



Fig 40: Tiled 1930s fireplace in G9



Fig 41: Blocked window in west wall of F8



Fig 42: Room F9, remotely photographed from stair in G12



Fig 43: Pulleys and driveshaft above engine house/wc



Fig 44: Cottage, east front, exterior



Fig 45: Cottage, ground floor interior, north end



Fig 46: Cottage, ground floor interior



Fig 47: Cottage, cast iron shelf bracket



Fig 48: Cottage, first floor



Fig 49: Cottage, first floor; note evidence for plastering at left



Fig 50: Shed added to cottage at north end



Fig 51: Carriage House



Fig 52: Carriage House rear, facing churchyard



Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park

Northampton NN4 8BE

t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822

e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk

w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

