

Pirton's Small Timber Framed Domestic Buildings

H.L.F. Community Project

www.pirtonhistory.org.uk

Aims

- Measure and record the structural elements
- Reconstruct the phases of building
- To roughly date the phases
- Look for local characteristics or repetitive features
- Link the buildings to the documents
- Record oral history of the house
- Publish our work on the Pirton History Group website

Sources used to prove our theory on the development of the houses

- Architecture
- Documents
- Photographs
- Maps
- Archaeology

Methodology

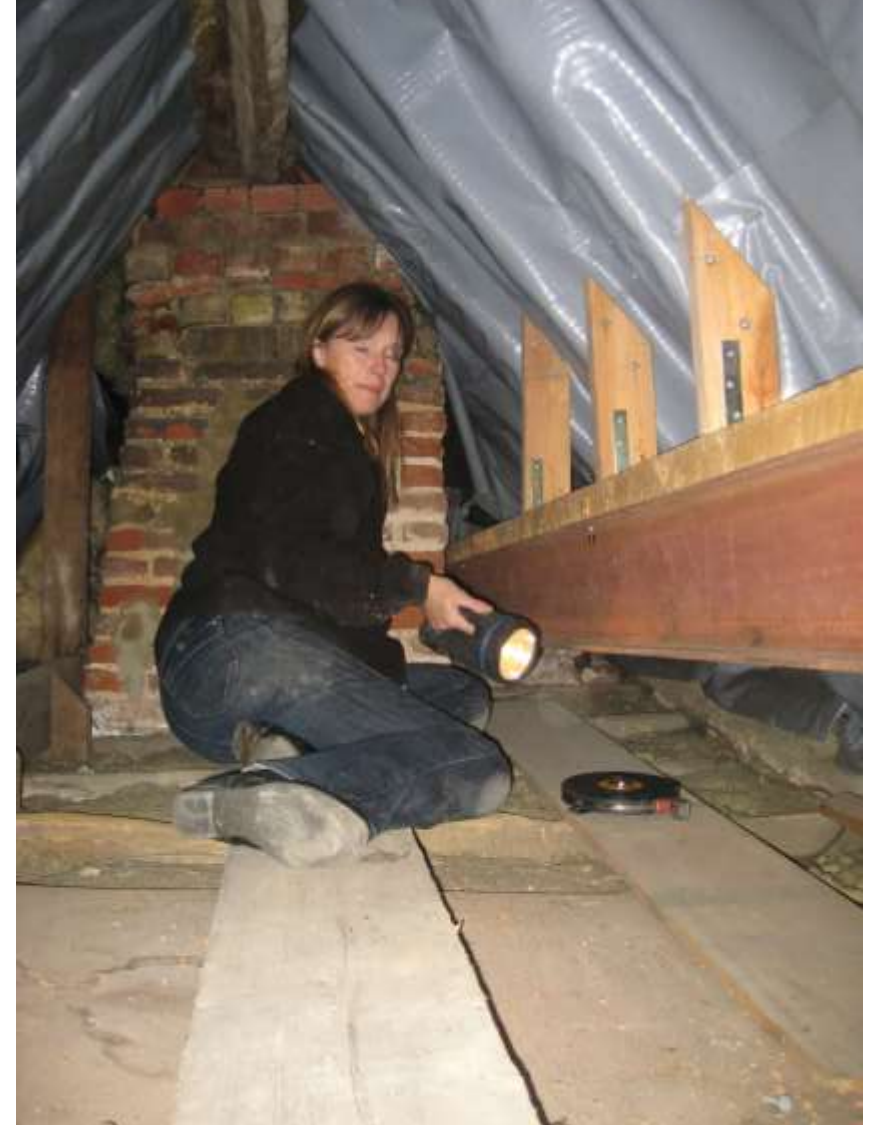
I got permission to enter the house

Georgina had knowledge and ladders

Georgina had the theories

I asked for the evidence

If we were uncertain we used
our HLF grant to ask for
professional help



We looked at 6 hall houses, 2 converted barns and 1 lobby entrance house. Today I am looking at just 2 houses.



Researching development of a house starting with architecture

THREE GABLES

A timber framed two storey cottage, rendered externally and extended to the rear in the 1970's. Originally thatched, the thatch was removed early in the 20th century and replaced with a slate roof. At the same time the eaves level was raised to the left hand part of the house.

PHOTOS



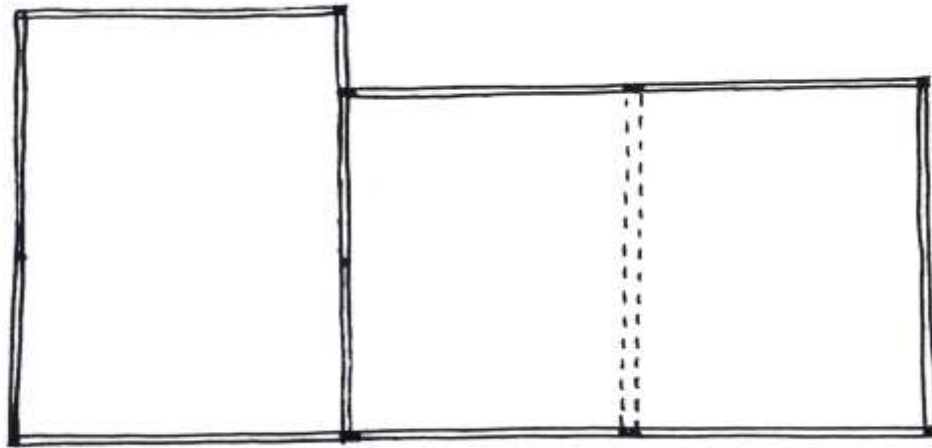
MAPS



In the north eastern gable wall is the remaining part of a tie beam and crown post with chamfered decoration. Due to the crown post construction we know that the hall would have been originally at least two bays in size with the additional bay being to the north east and is now demolished. Crown post construction followed on from cruck construction in the 15th century and was generally superseded by post and truss construction by the beginning of the 16th century in this area.



The original building had a two bay open hall with central decorative crown post truss and chamfered tie beam. There would have been a further wing on the eastern side two storey in height with service rooms and chamber over, which was probably separated from the open hall by a screens passage. It is possible that there was another bay to the west where the current cross wing still stands providing parlour and chamber above.

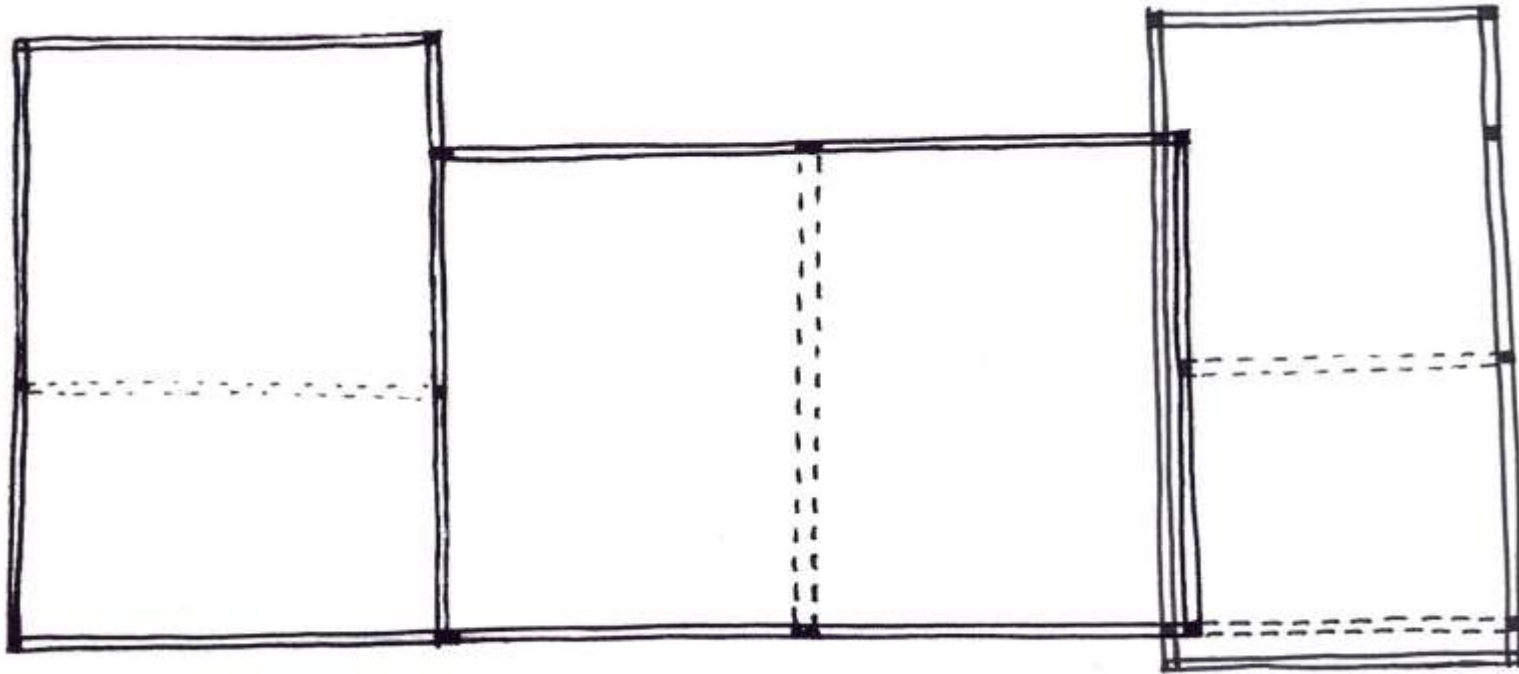


Phase 1

The cross wing was originally jettied. The original corner post can be seen with the sill not extending beyond it. The bressumer beam supporting the first floor joists has been partially cut back to increase head height.



A new two storey jettied cross wing is built on the western end of the building. Unusually, the cross wing has been slotted inside the former end wall, presumably due to restricted space. The crosswing is two bays in depth but consists of a single room at ground floor and single room at first floor. The first floor room is constructed with a crown post roof although the crown post is not decorated.

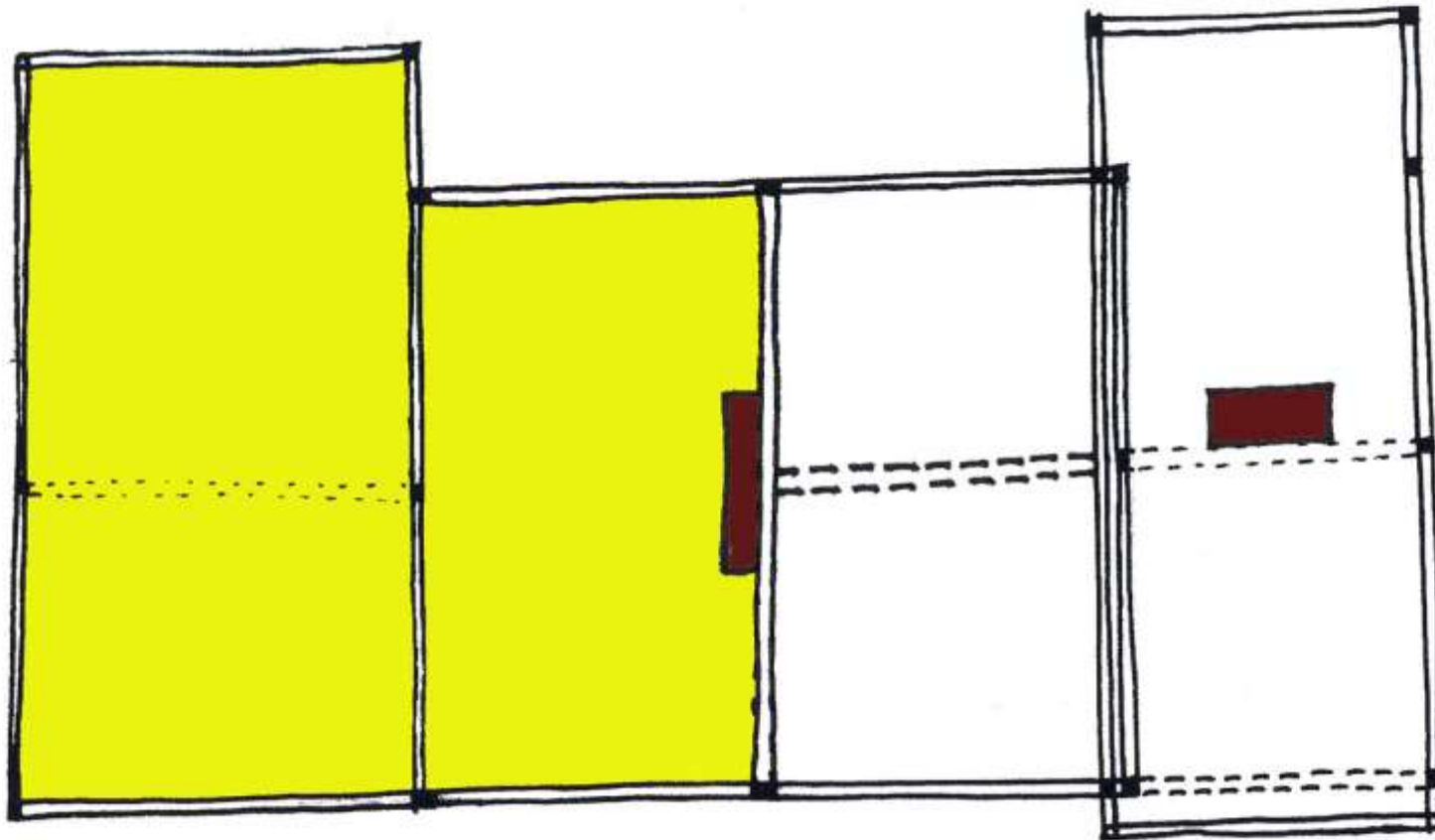


Phase 2

The original wall plate showing the clearly inserted floor. The wide gap in the vertical studs appears to have been the hall window as there is a rebate for shutters. This window is likely to have been timber mullioned and there is evidence of a similar window on the opposite wall.

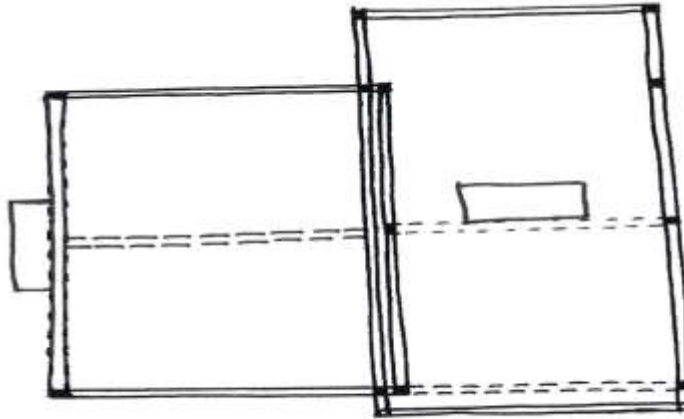


The open hall is floored in and a chimney stack is inserted into the centre of the room dividing the room in two. It appears that only the western half of the former open hall was heated.



Phase 3

The eastern half of the house is now redundant and is demolished along with a range of barns that adjoined it and formed a small courtyard. The buildings are still shown on the pre enclosure map of circa 1800 but disappear shortly afterwards.



Phase 4

Archaeology- digging to find the missing crosswing

old hand in the pit

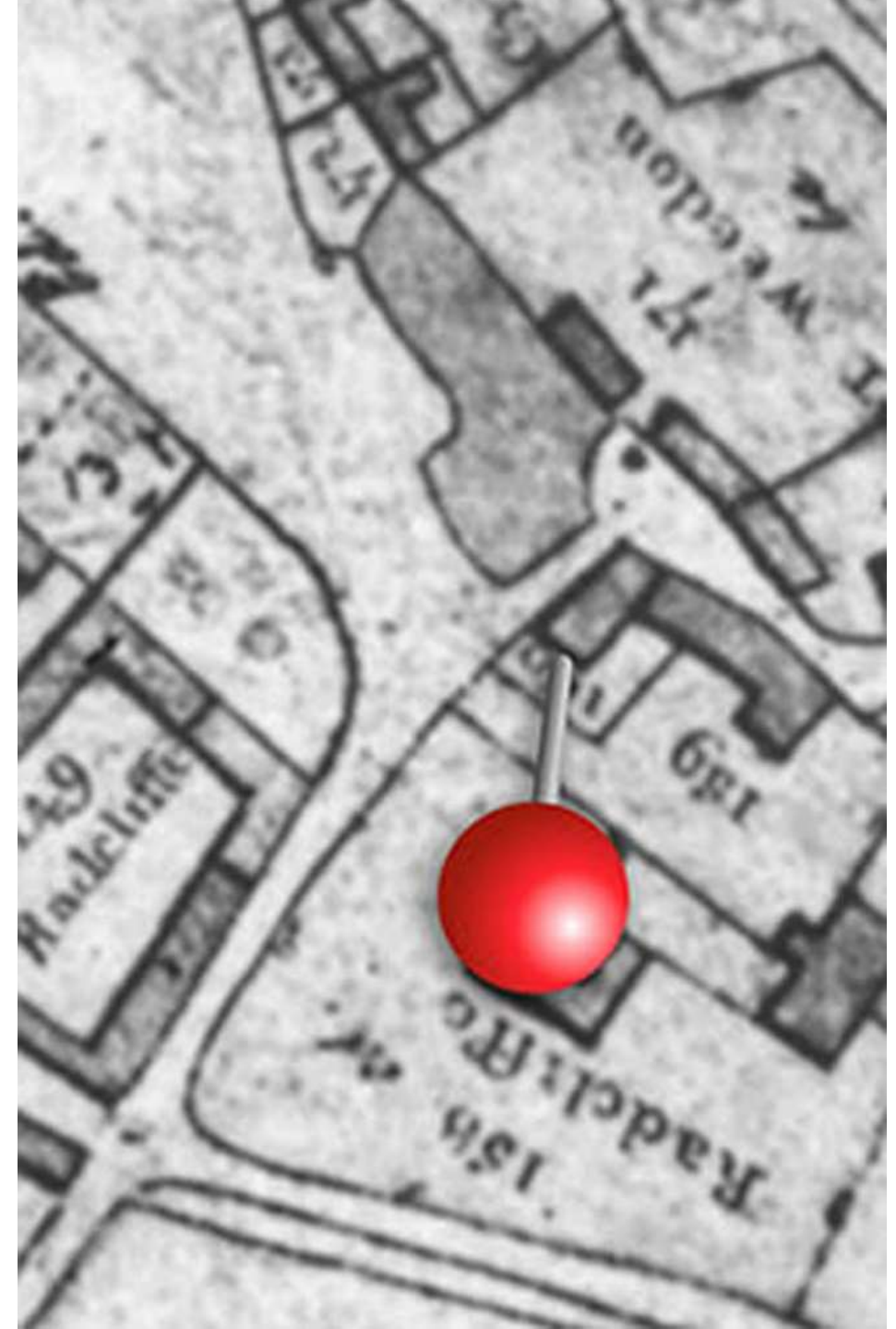


young hands washing the finds

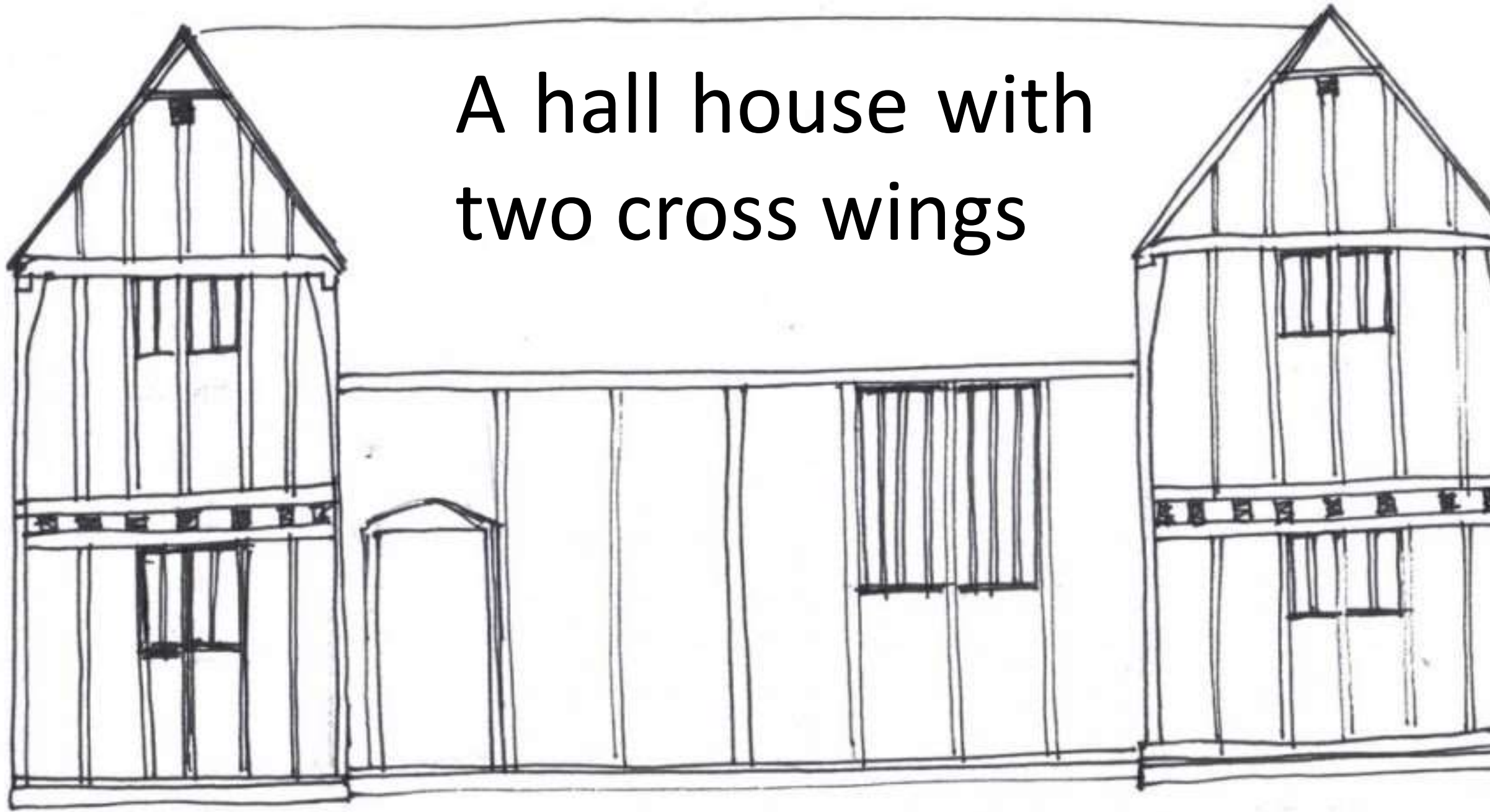


Archaeology

Test pitting in the garden over the demolished cross wing produced very little pottery, and large amounts of Victorian ware. This is consistent with the building having remained insitu rather than being demolished and other buildings being erected at a later date on the same site. This is born out by the pre enclosure map of 1800.



A hall house with
two cross wings



Researching a house starting with documents

I was interested to find out when the first two storey houses were built in the village.

Working backwards I searched the manor court rolls and rentals [earliest 1376].

Identifying individual houses was extremely difficult as there were no addresses until the late 19th century and there were 4 manors.

margin: fine 3s, 100d 1553

To this court came John Wilkyns, son and heir of John Wilkyns deceased, and craved admittance to one messuage with closes adjacent with six acres of land pertaining to it, formerly in the tenure of Thomas Peche and before of John Wilkynson, called '**Crabbes**'. To whom the lord, through his steward, granted thence seisin to hold to [i.e. by] him, his heirs and assigns from the lord by the rod at the will of the lord according to the custom of the manor. Rendering thence per annum 6s and suit of court and a heriot, when it shall arise, of 12d. And concerning the fine, the lord was given as appears above his name and he rendered fealty and thus he was admitted tenant

1628	Manor court rental 48546	Robert Collison holds 1 mess with 6 acres of land called Crabbes, rent 6 shillings
1610	Manor court rentals 48545	Robert Collison holds land called Crabbes rent 6 shillings
1603	Manor court roll 48465	George Copcote surrendered 1 tenement with 1 half acre pasture, called Crabbes, 6 acres arable to Robert Collison
1585	Manor court roll 48460	Ralph Copcote surrenders to wife Beatrice and son George 1 mess and close called Crabbes with 6 acres
1577	Manor court roll 48459	John Wilkyns surrenders 1 tenement and close called Crabbes in Church End with 6 acres to Ralph Copcote
1553	Manor court roll 48458	Copyhold mess with 6 acres adjacent called Crabbes in tenure of John Wilkyns, formerly Thomas Peche, before of John Wilkynson

A lobby entrance house dated around 1629. It has 2 and a half bays with a cross wing. The house was built with an upper floor with a brick chimney and a fireplace in the upper chamber. The original entrance would have been in line with the chimney.

Crabtree House

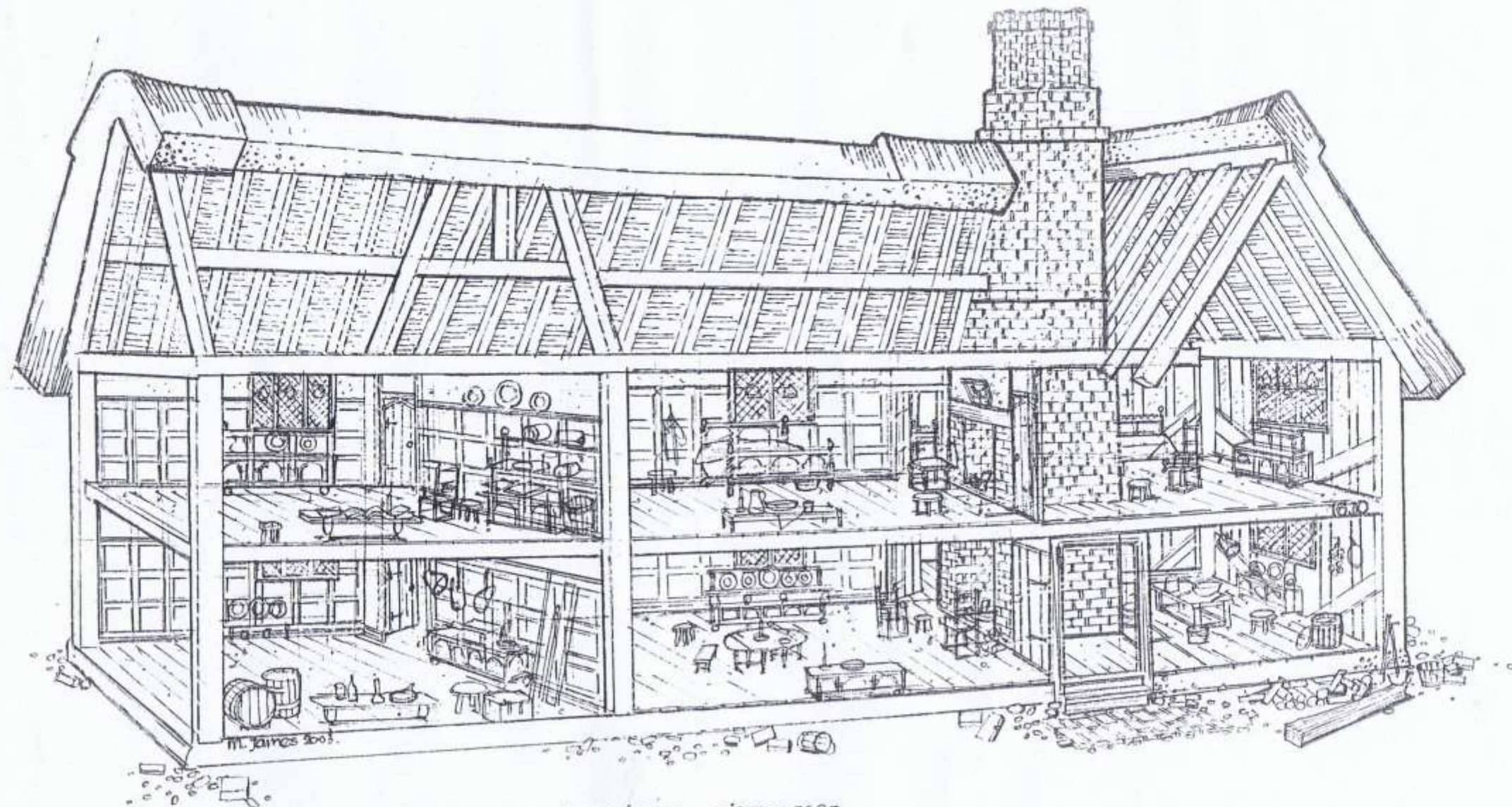




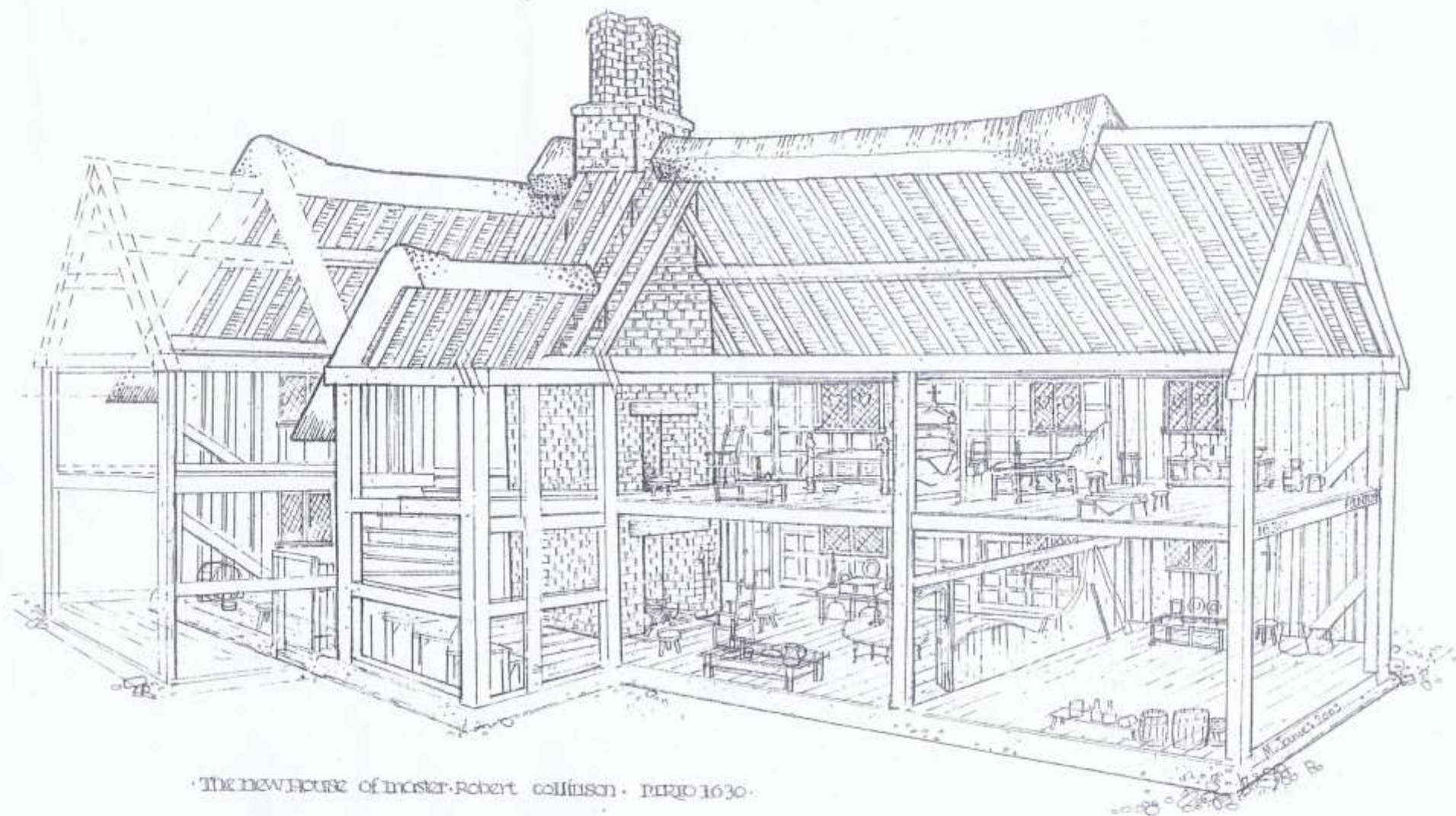
The rear view showing the stair turret. The original staircase was located next to the chimney.



This was a yeoman's house. The manor court rolls show that the tenant was required to repair the original house. This did not seem to happen as the next entry is just for land. The 1629 rental shows a new house.



THE NEW HOUSE OF MASTER · ROBERT COLLINSON · PIRTON 1630.



The new House of master Robert Collinsen. 1630.

Other aspects of the history of the house

- What other lands were held
- How usage of internal space changed
- Family relationships
- Furniture and furnishings

Item in the halle 3 tables 8 chaires a fire shovel & tongs with three flitches of Bacon in the chimney & other things

Item in the chamber over the halle one bedd & bedding 18 paire of sheetes five dozen napkins with other linnings one coffer one chest two truncks one table three chairs & other odd things

Item in the best chamber one bedd & beddinge one chest one table one box two chairs with other odd things

Item in the chamber over the dairy one old bed & beddinge one coffer one box & other odd things

Item in the pallor one bed & beddinge one chest of draws one table one couch one looking glass with other things

Item in the chitchen chairs stools glass & pewter

Items of furniture from an inventory





Personal details

Goliath and Charlotte Burton on their wedding day in 1905. Charlotte Weedon was his second wife. Goliath was a smallholder farming a few acres.

Superstition

- One aspect not covered by architecture, formal documents, archaeology etc is peoples beliefs. We have found many apotropaic marks carved into the timbers
- Many of the marks we found were near doors, windows and hearths - areas of buildings vulnerable to evil spirits who were believed to travel through the air

The double V invoking the protection of the Virgin Mary



Daisy wheel found mainly in kitchens



Burn marks to ward off accidental fires



The Future

- Continue our research
- Make our findings easily available

There are many more details on our website

www.pirtonhistory.org.uk