

YE OLD CHERRY TREE INN THE GREEN, LB ENFIELD

*Report on Rear Buildings Attached to the Main Public House
and Other Areas Affected by Proposed Alterations*

by

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1. BACKGROUND TO REPORT

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 The Historical Research and Analysis Team of English Heritage, Deputy Director's Division, was requested by London & SE Region, NE Team to give an opinion on surviving historic fabric to the rear buildings at the above C.18th public house and consider whether anything of historic importance survived here. Current LBC proposals involve the removal and loss of some of the buildings extant fabric.

1.1.2 Areas affected by the proposals, indicated on supplied, 1:100 scale, 'existing' and 'proposed' plans (dated Nov 1995), were examined in some detail on site and are described in the following text.

1.2 LIMITATIONS

1.2.1 Inspection was limited to those areas of the building that were accessible. This involved mainly a visual inspection of internal and external surfaces as no areas were opened up to expose internal constructional details.

1.2.2 The public house was open for trade during the investigation period which also limited access. Roof spaces were examined through available access points. However, sufficient information could be gained from the survey to form a general opinion.

1.2.3 The supplied plans were in some areas difficult to interpret as the exact proposals were unclear.

1.2.4 Areas discussed are identified on the appended Key Plan.

1.3 THE BUILDING

1.3.1 The building consists of a group of three adjoining blocks of varying periods and possibly originally under different ownership, now used as a Public House. The earliest of the group is of two storeys and constructed in a yellow stock brick and would appear to date from the early C18th. To the rear of this block are a group of single storey ranges. The site also encompasses Selborne Hall a large early C.20th club house and gardens to the rear.

1.3.2 The building (NG Ref: TQ 39 SW) has been described as of the early C.18th, yellow brick 2 storey facade with a red tile roof. The structure has been included on the statutory list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and been given grade II status.

1.4 LBC APPLICATION

1.4.1 The proposals, according to the supplied drawings, involve alterations and improvements to the existing rear bar area and restaurant. The proposals also include the introduction of toilets into the staff room of the main early C.18th block.

1.5 PAST RESEARCH HISTORY

- 1.5.1 There appears to be little documentary evidence relating to the development of this site with the exception of known cartographic information, which dates back to 1867. No historic information was provided with the initial request.

1.6 PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

- 1.6.1 The purpose of this investigation was to make an assessment of the surviving fabric affected by the proposed redevelopment at this site, establish its historic importance and assist with the evaluation of the proposed development. The research was required to form a basis on which acceptability of the proposed alterations and improvements could be assessed.

1.7 INFORMATION SOUGHT

- 1.7.1 Brief written historical account of the development of the structure identifying original surviving elements and areas of historic importance to assist the casework officer considering the current LBC application.

1.8 ARCHIVE

- 1.8.1 Copies of this written report, together with a separate photographic record, explanatory sketch drawings and available cartographic information, form the archive documentation.

2. THE REPORT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The results of historic constructional analysis of the rear single storey buildings, connected to and forming part of The Cherry Tree public house, are presented within this written report.

2.2 SCOPE

- 2.2.1 The following brief account presents the information collected during on-site analysis during April 1996.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The current proposals involve alterations to these buildings to form improved facilities and the demolition/alteration of a number of internal walls and extant features. These works are likely to expose historic elements of the structure, which would benefit from further on-site analysis during the building programme.

- 3.2 Important historic fabric likely to be lost during the course of repair, particularly timber-framing, should be recorded (4.3.2 & 5.1).

- 3.3 A separate programme of historical background archival research needs to be undertaken to provide background information with which to compare present interpretations based on site analysis.

3.4 Monitoring -

- 3.4.1 The proposed works should be monitored during the course of the project to ensure the maintenance of proper professional standards and to ensure important historic evidence revealed during the course of the works is identified.

- 3.4.2 The appointed monitor should be informed directly of the discovery of any significant and previously unidentified fabric remains.

4 THE REAR BUILDINGS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 These buildings consist of two adjoined single-storey ranges of different periods of construction. Pitched roofs of slate with timber weather-boarding and brick forming the extant external envelope.
- 4.1.2 They have been constructed roughly perpendicular to the main building and aligned on a west - east axis with approximate overall dimensions 24 x 12.5m (78'9"x 41'2").
- 4.1.3 Cartographic evidence suggests two ranges (1867) which appear to consist of Area A and a range to the east, running north-south, with both ranges enclosing a small yard. No evidence remains for this eastern 'range', which was probably lost when the existing arrangement was formed.
- 4.1.4 For identification purposes the rear buildings have been divided into three main areas and these areas assigned letters A, B & C (see Key Plan). These areas discussed in the following text.

4.2 Structural Interpretation

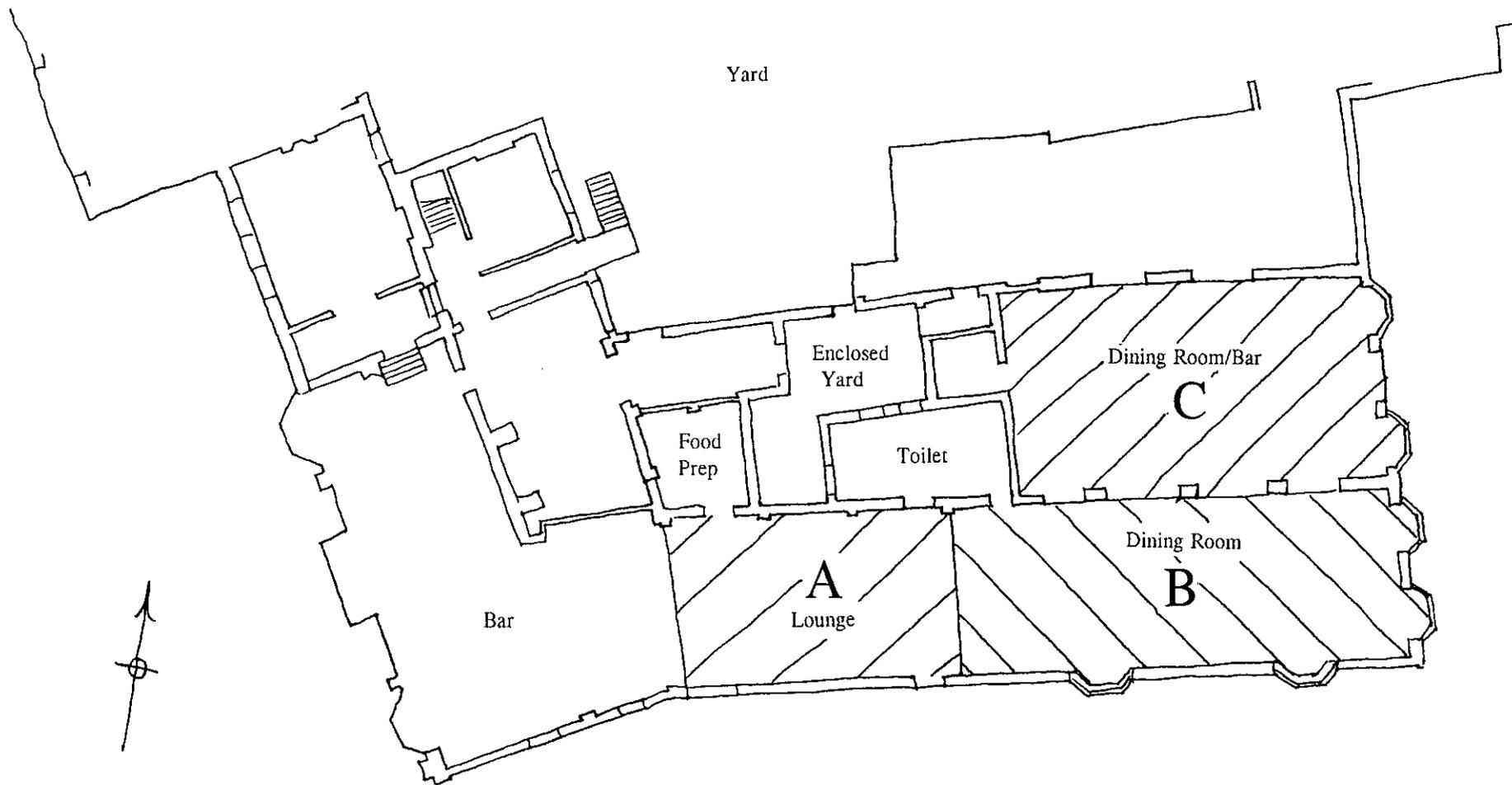
- 4.2.1 From close examination of these areas, it appears that the extant structure formerly consisted of three separate 'halls', two of which were open to the roof. This arrangement probably existed until the present scheme was created.
- 4.3 Area A: (identified as 'Lounge' on supplied plans) -
- 4.3.1 This would appear to be the earliest form of construction with surviving elements of an earlier roof contained within the complicated extant roof void. Here a series of truncated rafters together with remnants of a principal roof truss are mixed among the C.19th machined timbers of the extant rebuilt roof structure. Purlins survive and have been crudely reused, braced from the ceiling assembly. Wall plates also survive and would appear undisturbed at the eaves.
 - 4.3.2 It is conceivable that elements of earlier timber-frame construction/original fabric may be trapped within the supporting wall construction below, particularly the northern wall. Here elements of earlier timber weather-board cladding have survived, trapped behind later Fletton brick walling between the existing 'Enclosed yard' and the 'Food preparation area'. The measurements of this wall cladding suggest an early date.
 - 4.3.3 It would appear that the roof pitch here was reduced to its present form during the construction-rebuilding of Area B.
 - 4.3.4 Generally, the exposed timbers and in-filling panels within this 'Lounge' area are purely decorative and have no constructional purpose.
- 4.4 Area B: (identified as 'Dining Room' on supplied plans)

- 4.4.1 The roof framing here is supported by a series of 'King post' timber trusses, constructed from machined timbers and probably dating from the late C.19th. The assembly was intentionally left exposed as was the underside of the whole roof structure which has been boarded and decorated (red/brown). Large roof-lights/vents were incorporated and have now been covered by the existing roof covering.
- 4.4.2 Where common rafters are exposed, particularly at the hipped (east) end, it is clear that a number of reused timbers were used.
- 4.4.3 Little, if any, of the former range survives below with the east and south walls constructed from a Fletton brick, the south wall being further covered with timber weather-boarding.
- 4.4.4 The exposed timbers and in-filling panels to walls and ceiling are purely decorative and have no constructional purpose, with ceilings supported by a crude suspension system from within the loft area.
- 4.5 Area C: (identified as 'Dining Room/Bar' on supplied plans) -
- 4.5.1 The roof framing here is supported by a series of steel trusses with exposed timber purlins, the underside of the roof structure completely boarded and the whole assembly intentionally left exposed and decorated (cream).
- 4.5.2 The boarding has been positioned vertically suggesting counter battening/framing.
- 4.5.3 Large openings within the framing suggest roof-lights/vents now covered.
- 4.5.4 The whole roof assembly is supported on solid brick on north, south and east walls of the same constructional period c.1930. Later openings have been formed on the south wall to allow present arrangement.
- 4.5.5 As with Area B, the exposed timbers and in-fill panels to walls and ceiling are purely decorative and have no constructional purpose with the ceiling being supported, from within the loft area above, by a crude suspension system.

5.0 STAFF TOILETS (rear of main block)

- 5.1 The partition that currently divides the staff accommodation/toilet from the corridor access to the rear yard would appear to be timber-framed and of historic interest. The original arrangement here is unclear but this rear addition was probably used as domestic quarters and served the main early C.18th house fronting The Green. The partition possibly enclosed a staircase serving the lower floor which is now lost.

Andy Wittrick
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KEY PLAN

YE OLD CHERRY TREE INN
The Green
L B Enfield

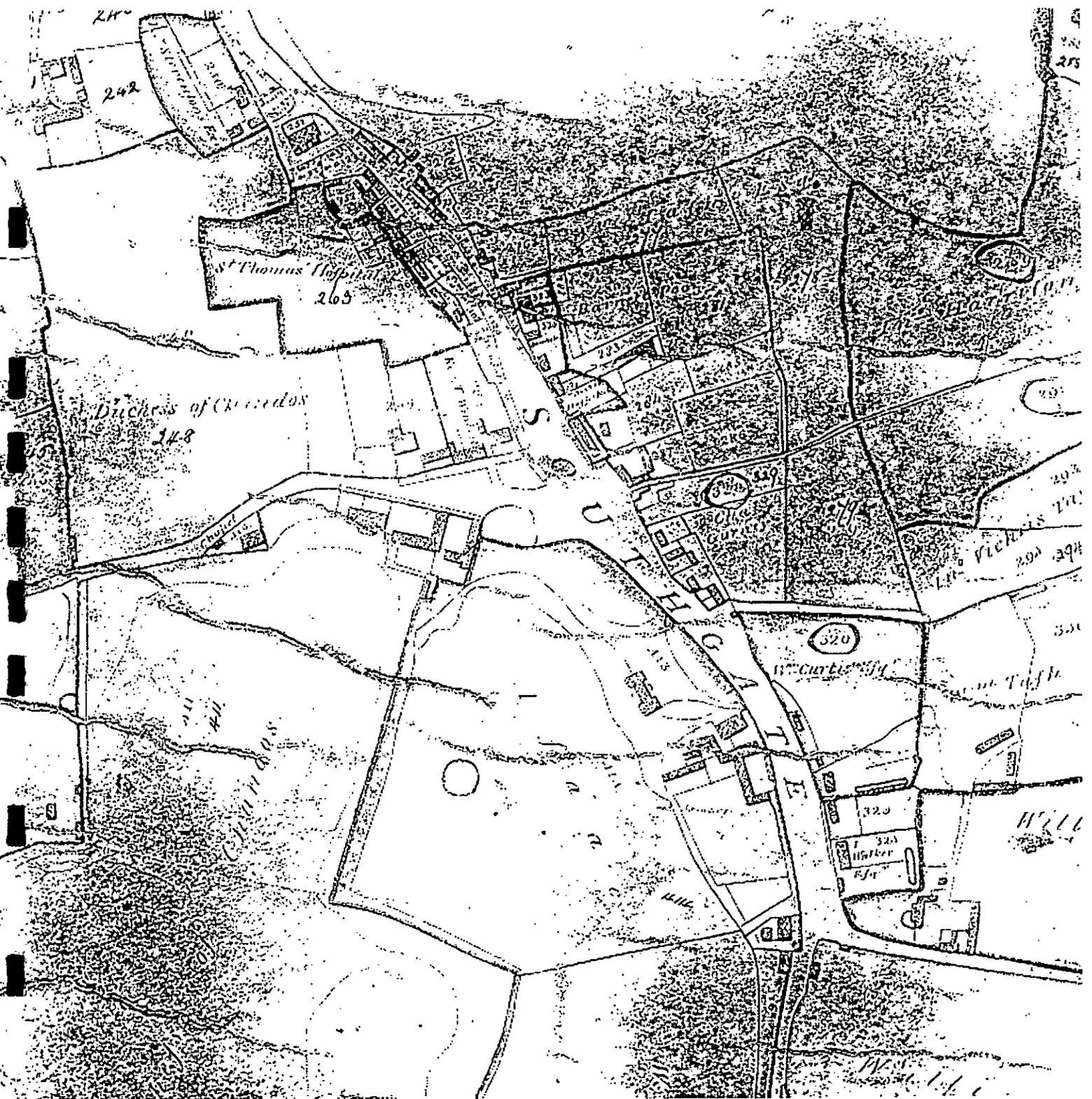


Fig. 1
1801 Enclosure Award Map

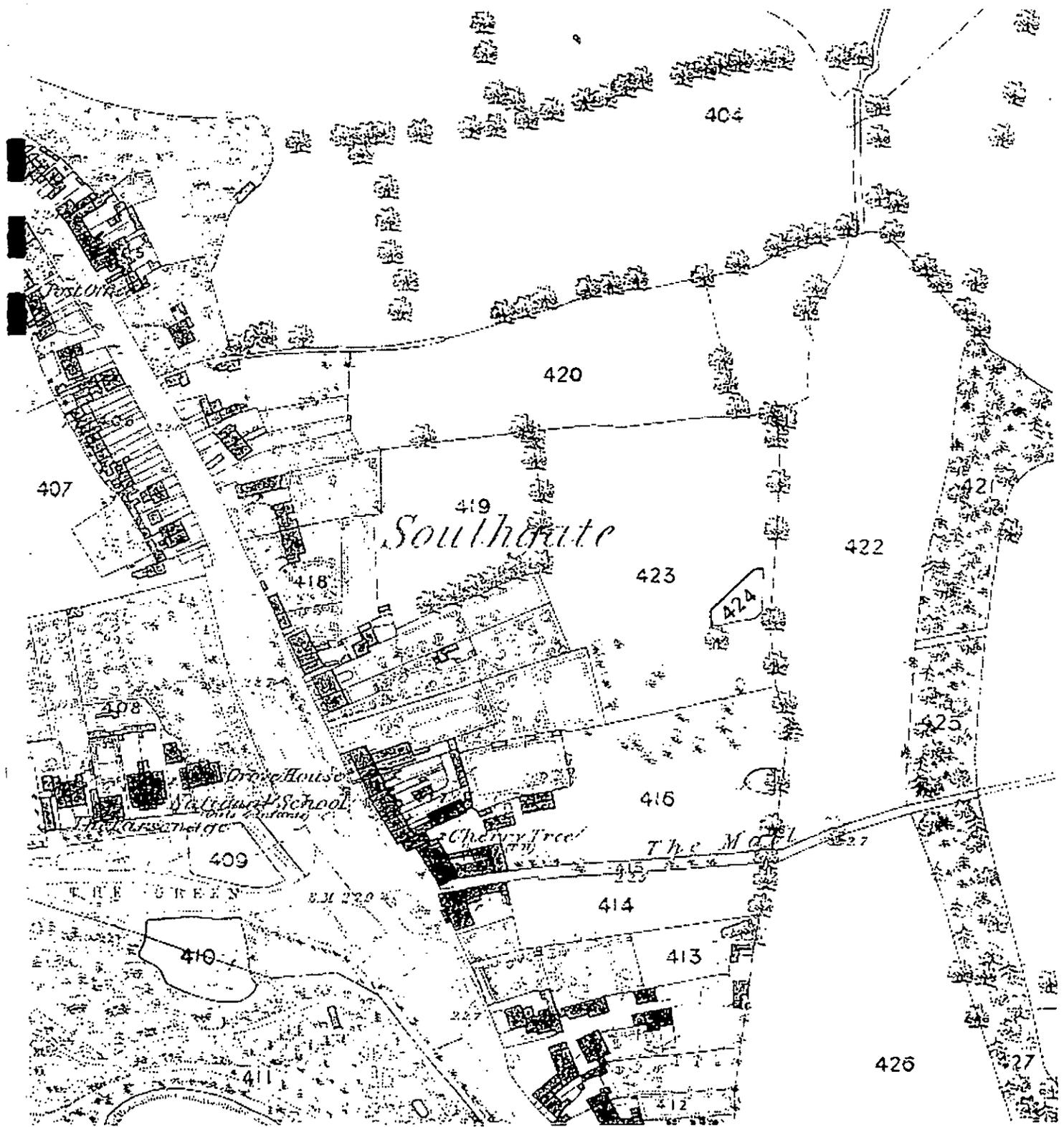


Fig. 2
1867 Ordnance Survey

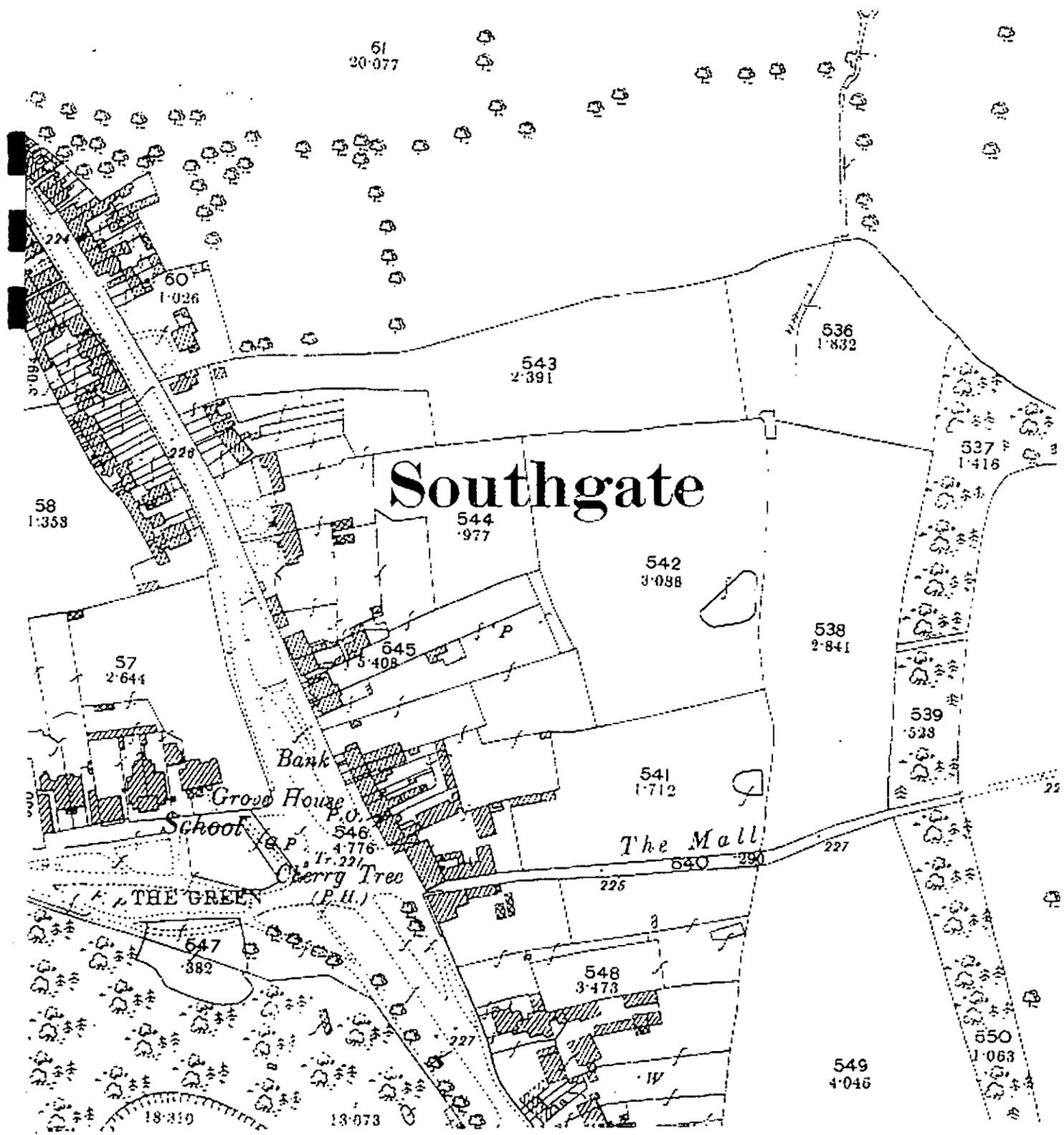


Fig. 3
1896 Ordnance Survey

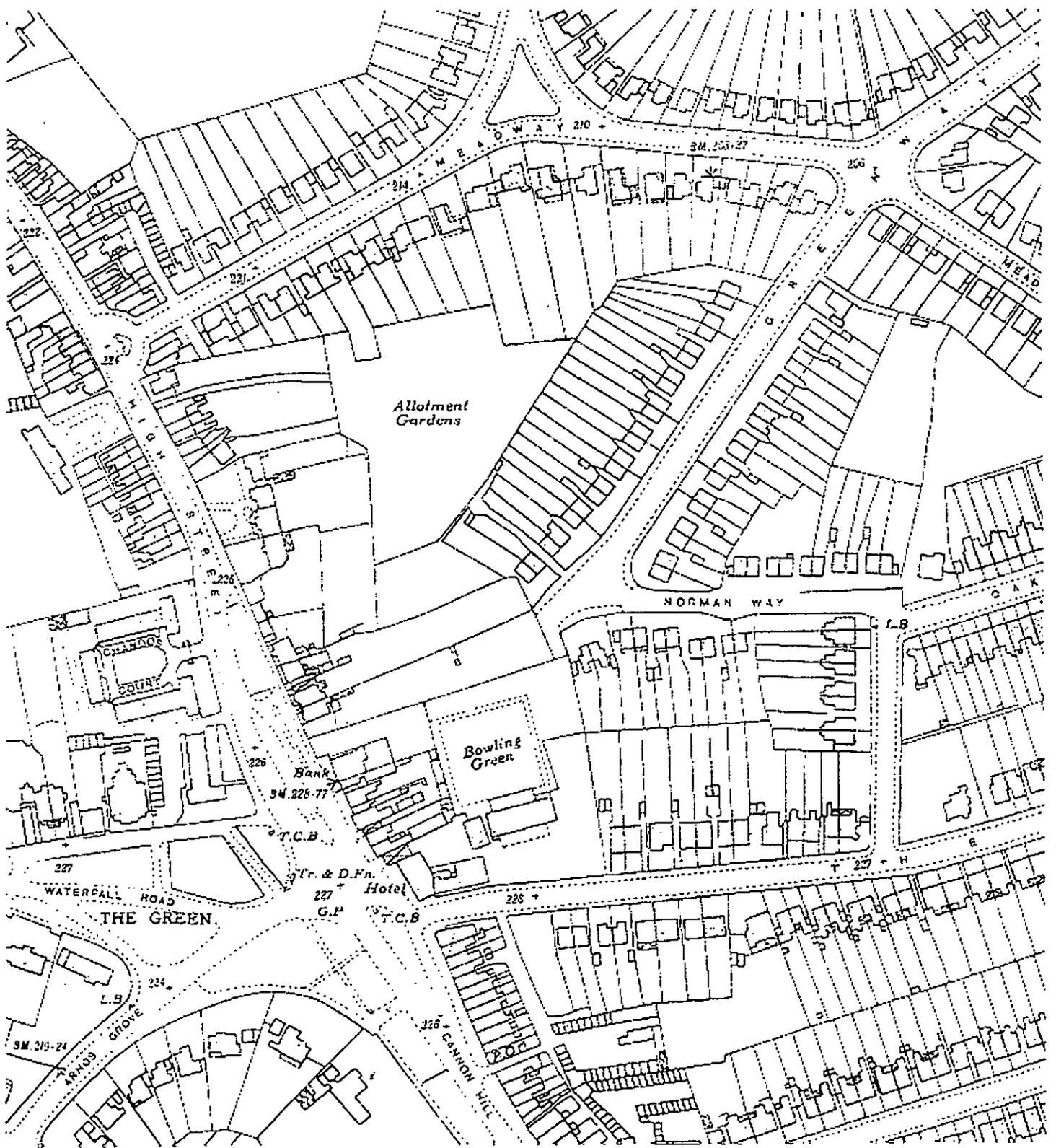


Fig.5
1936 Ordnance Survey

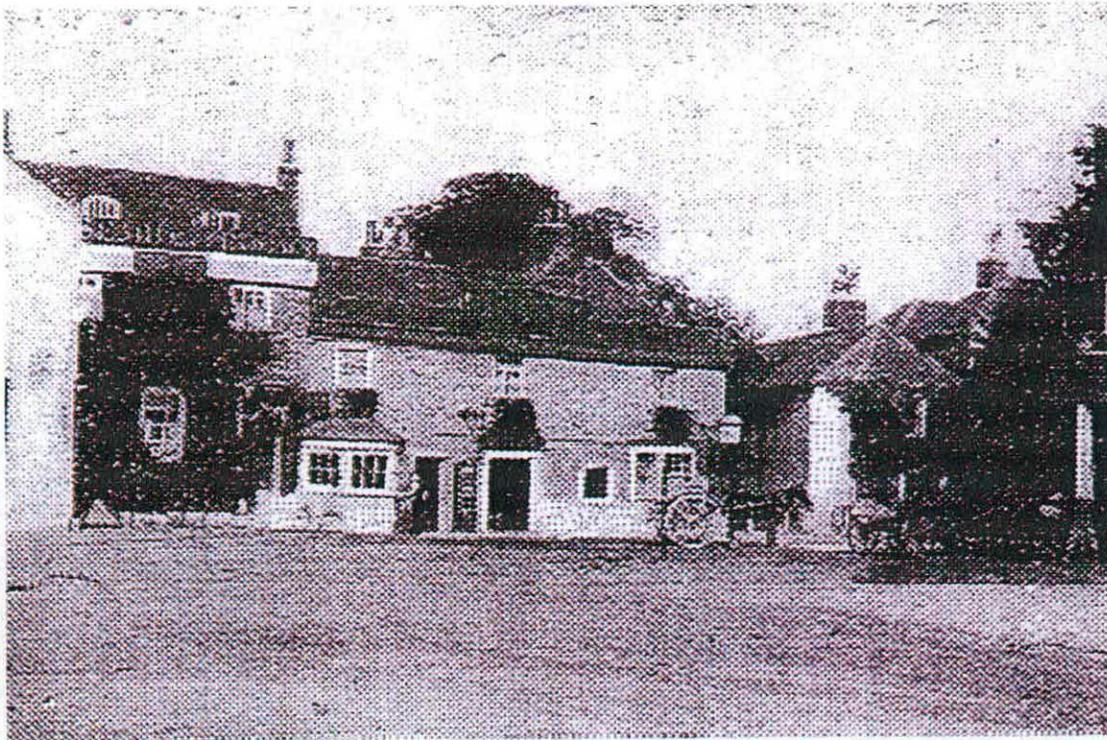


Fig. 6
Photograph of Cherry Tree Inn c.1895



Fig. 7
Photograph of Cherry Tree Inn 1957



Fig.8

Rear range, north wall, truncated cill for later doorway, late 17C framing



Fig.9

Rear range, north wall, brick infilling of late 17C framing, with weatherboarding 'impressions'



Fig.10
West elevation 1996



Fig.11
South elevation 1996



Fig.12
Rear range, south-east elevation 1996

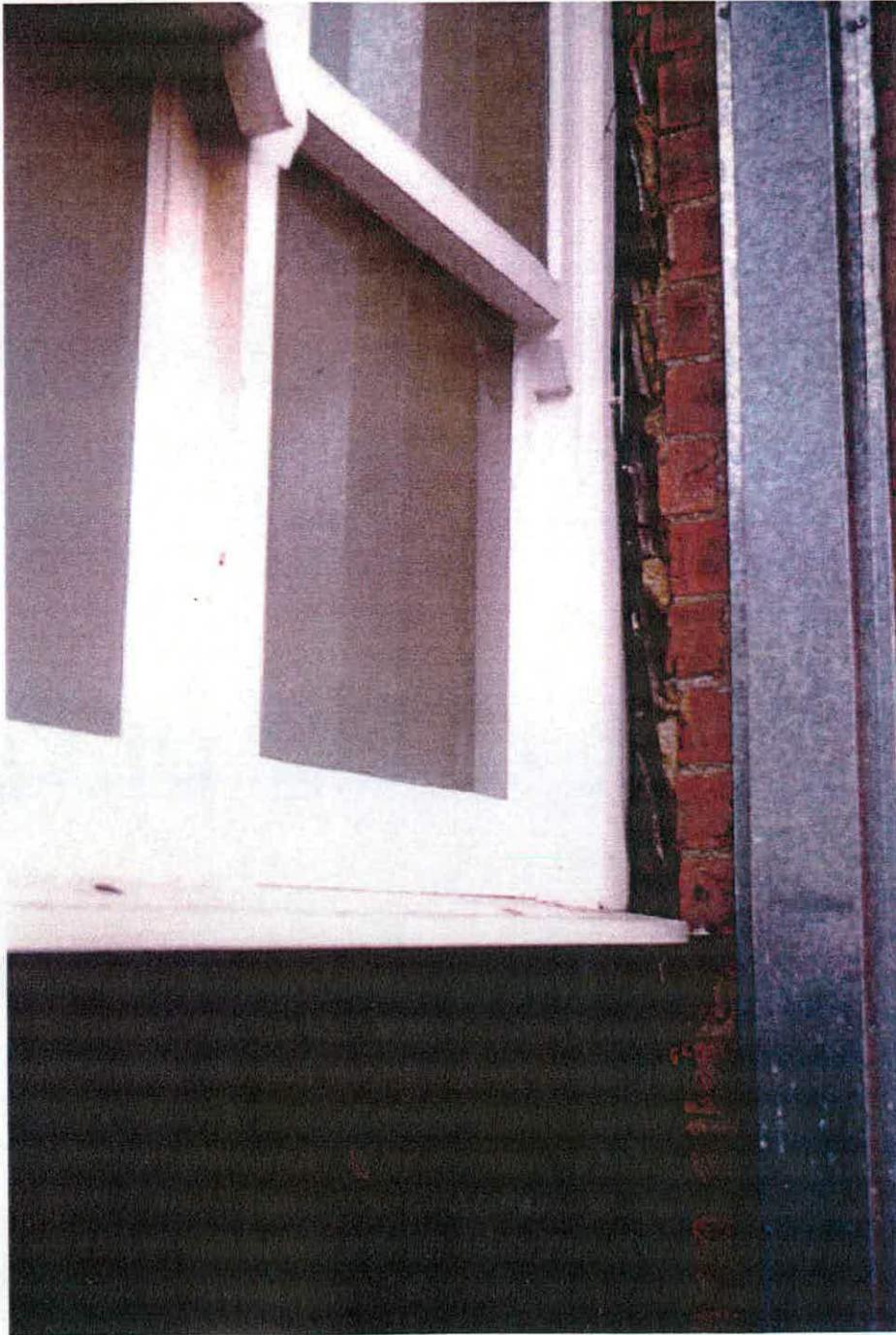


Fig.13
Rear range, north wall, showing 'trapped' weatherboarding 1996



Fig.14
Roof assembly over main west range 1996



Fig. 15
Wall framing, rear range, north wall, prior to alterations 1996



Fig.16
Steel trussed roof assembly over rear bays of rear range 1996