

The
Journal
of the
Norfolk Industrial
Archaeology Society
Volume 9, No. 3

ISSN 0142 7040

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Cover Image

*A Colman's Advertisement
promoting Mustard Oil for
Rheumatism*

MALTINGS, MUNDESLEY ROAD, NORTH WALSHAM

Report by Derek Manning and Graham Smith.

Additional editing and information Philip Tolley and Mary Fewster



P1 General view of Maltings from the east, showing N elevation of maltings and E elevation of kiln buildings.

Left: Detail from the Tithe map c. 1843



Introduction

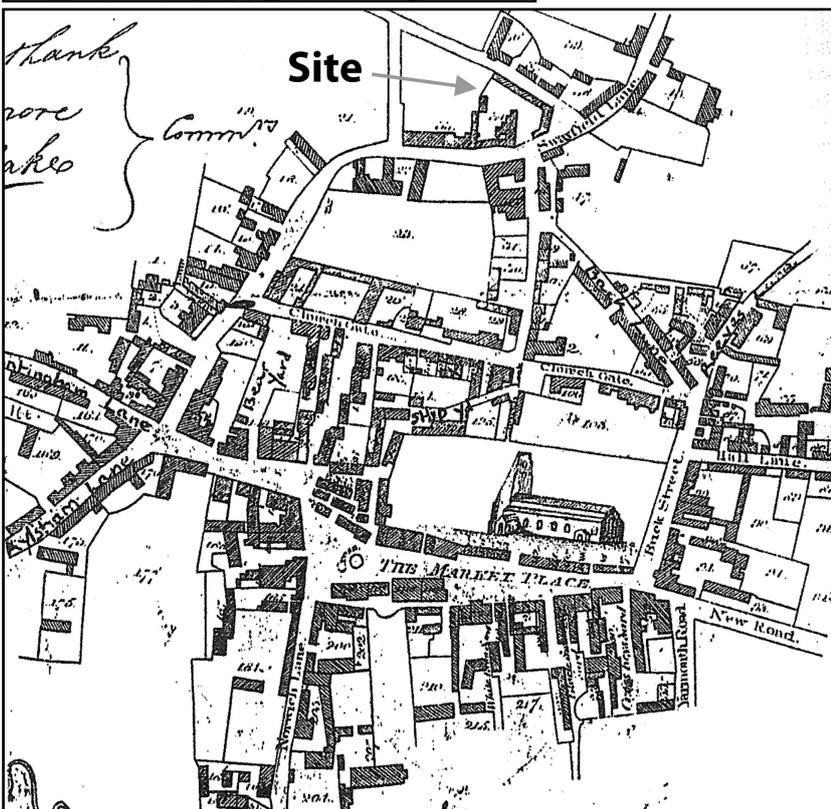
On 5th June, 2007, members of the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society visited the 18th century maltings in North Walsham shortly before it was due to be demolished. As access to the site was limited to just over an hour, only a brief survey was possible, and no detailed plans could be made. This report by Derek Manning was lodged in our records, and forms the basis for this article. It also serves to show how

easily important industrial sites can be lost. Demolition took place during the following week. The site remained vacant for four years before development.

The building is a small town malting, a type increasingly rare, even more so as it

Left: Map of North Walsham in 1814

Below: a detail from the map of 1814 with the site circled.



retains its kiln. The adjacent roads have been as they are now for some considerable time, and the building conforms to the oddly shaped site.

The exact age of the maltings building is unknown, but it appears on the 1808 Enclosure map, and the award gives the owner as William Shephard, but with no reference to his occupation. In the Tithe Apportionment of 1843 the property is shown as being owned and occupied by a brewer, William Colk, and the maltings were part of a complex which contained his Brew Offices, buildings, yards, gardens, barn and cottages. He also owned the Maids Head Public House, as well as a 'shop and yard.' It seems that by the 20th century the maltings had gone out of use, perhaps because the small brewery had been bought up by one of the larger brewery firms. Derek Manning had known the site from the 1930s, when it was an egg distribution depot owned by Mr. R. Riding, and it then became a motor body repair works owned by Mr. R. Howard before being left unused for a number of years.

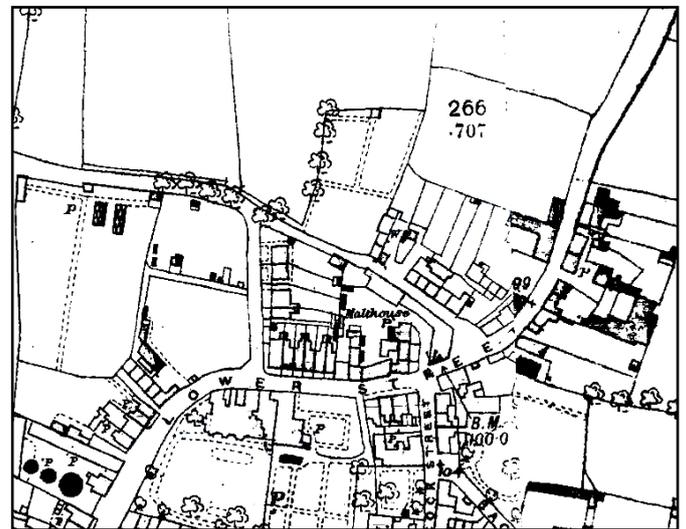
The maltings fronted onto the present Mundesley Road, formerly Swafield Lane, and then extended west with their north wall forming the south side of the former Catchpit Lane, now called Northfields Road. Map reference O.S. TG 283 304. On all three early maps in which it appears (the third being a map of 1814 in the Diocesan Records, no. 1643080) it is shown as a long, narrow east-west building with the short north-south block containing the kiln at its eastern end, virtually as it stood in 2007. The north elevation of the malting floors tells most about the development of the site.

Description Of The Site

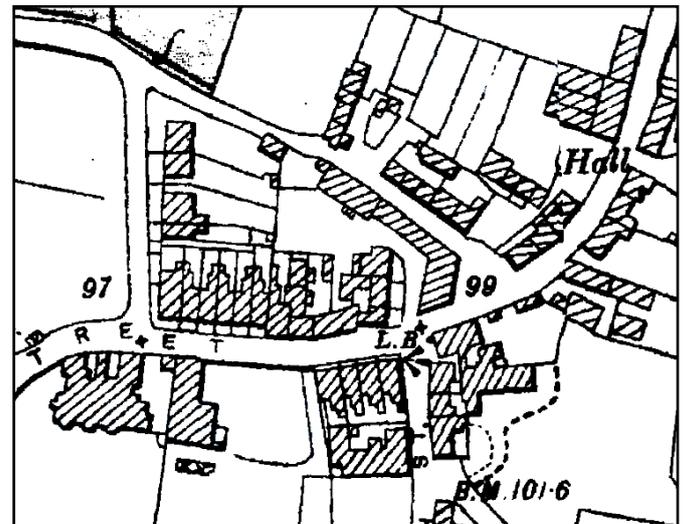
a. The North Elevation of the Malting Block

The overall length of this elevation was about 36 metres, and appears to have been built in several sections, the ground level falling to the west along the length of the elevation. Starting at the east end, the first section, extending to about 5.5 metres, had a flint plinth and was built in English bond brickwork for the first four to five courses with mixed up English bond above. On top of the plinth, which projected slightly from the line of the wall, were three courses of chamfered bricks. Above these were twelve courses of brickwork to the sill of a window ten courses deep; above this opening there were fifteen courses to the sill of a higher louvred opening nine courses deep. These courses were of a different quality from those below and indicate that the wall had been heightened. There was then a slightly projecting string course with a course of ventilated bricks above it. A further string course formed the eaves level. The roof was clad with Norfolk pantiles. The top, later, section of brickwork was also evident on the first section of the return to the east elevation, as was the decorative treatment of the eaves level, but this stopped at the junction with the malt kiln.

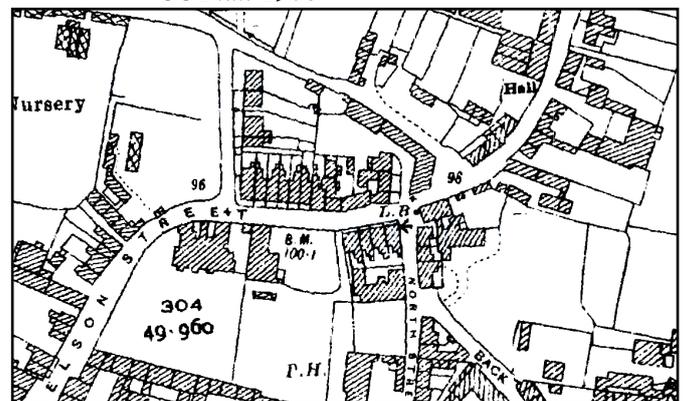
Continuing along the north wall to the west there was a large iron down-pipe from the gutter. At low level it was in an angle formed by a step out of the adjacent wall. This step



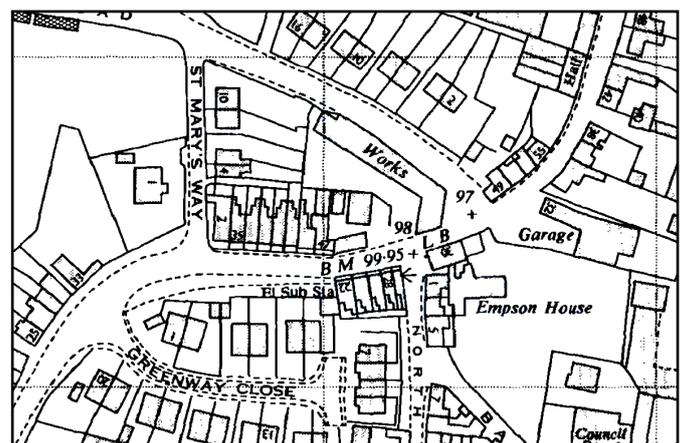
OS Plan 1884-6



OS Plan 1906



O S Plan 1928



O S Plan 1960's

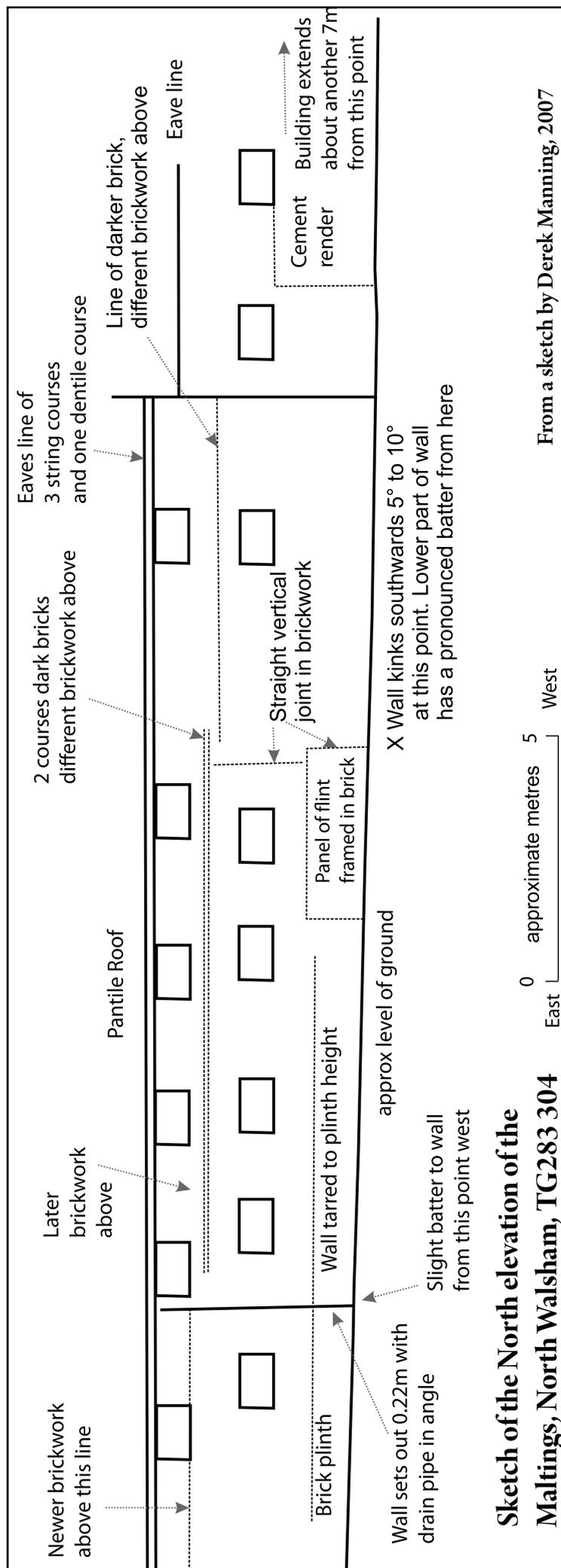
out disappeared as the wall heightened and there was thus a slight batter on the next section of the wall at low level. Here there was no flint plinth, but the lower courses of brick had been tarred. In this section there were about 23 courses of brick to the sill of a window, the sill itself being formed by header bricks, and the opening above being eleven courses deep. Above the window there were nine courses of brick, the upper two appearing to be darker and projecting slightly from the face of the wall. Above this the brickwork matched that of the first section, with a louvred opening nine courses deep set below the decorative eaves brickwork. This section of the north wall was about 8.2 metres long.

The next 3.5 metres of the wall was the same as the previous section except for a flint and brick plinth re-occurring. This plinth had brick quoins at each end and was six brick courses along the top, the top course being chamfered. Above this plinth the brickwork was a continuation of the previous section but stopped about 0.3 metres short of the west end of the plinth. At this point there was a straight vertical joint in the brickwork between this section and the next section to the west. There were straight mortar joints at each end of the plinth. The third section of the elevation kinked to the south compared with the previous sections and had a more pronounced batter at low level. The brickwork was more heavily weathered than the previous walling. It had no plinth but there was a course of darker bricks about 42 courses from ground level, which in turn was five courses below the darker course in the previous section to the east. Above this, the brickwork matched that of the previous sections of the elevation. There had been major repair of the lower brickwork at the west end.

Up to this point the building was two-storied, with a row of lower level openings and a higher row of openings just under the eaves level. The decorative treatment of the eaves continued as far as this point, as did the pantiled roof. The final section of the north wall matched the previous section, where it was visible, but was only single storied, with its eaves level lining up with the line of darker bricks in the previous section. There were two openings at low level in this section, lining up with the previous openings. Much of the wall was cement rendered and the roof was clad with asbestos cement sheet on steel trusses.

b. The South Elevation of the Malting Block

This had been much altered. The ground floor of the maltings had been widened by a single storey extension with a mono-pitch roof projecting southwards from the original wall of the maltings and cut into the original pantile roof just above its eaves line. This roof was clad in



Sketch of the North elevation of the Maltings, North Walsham, TG283 304

From a sketch by Derek Manning, 2007



These photographs should be looked at in conjunction with the elevation drawing alongside and photograph key plan.



P2 - Top left: Maltings North Elevation from east

P3 - Top Right: Detail of roof and dentile brick course

P4 - Left: Maltings North Elevation from NW



P5 - Above: Detail of North elevation wall brickwork and tie plate

P6 - Left: West end of North elevation

P7 - Below: Detail of openings and brickwork



P9 - Left: West most building from North

P10 - Detail of plinth wall and brickwork changes



BEATING CHAMBER, 50 PIER PLAIN, GORLESTON

Mary Fewster and Philip Tolley



Above: South elevation of Beating Chamber, 50 Pier Plain, Gorleston

Below: East elevation of beating Chamber

The timber-framed and clad building behind No. 50 Pier Plain, Gorleston is a rare survivor. As part of an effort by its owner, Bernard Duffield, and the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust, to ensure its preservation and adapt it to community use, the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society investigated the building and its history. I am grateful to Mr. Duffield, for allowing us to use the plans included with the deeds, and to the architect, Henry Keif, for permitting the use of his original drawings and allowing us to use them to as a base for the reconstruction drawings which were based on our research. A location plan will be found on the back cover of this Journal which shows the location in relation to the river and haven, slipways and Dolphins¹.

The maintenance and mending of nets was an operation central to maintaining an efficient fishing fleet, and beating chambers, the works where nets were repaired and prepared for use, were significant and recognisable buildings in the



landscape of fishing communities. The drift-net method of the herring fishery meant that each drifter used a curtain of nets up to two miles long. Both the earlier hempen nets and the later machine-made cotton nets regularly had to be tanned, or barked, by being soaked in a solution originally of oak or ash bark, and later of the bark of the Spanish or East Indian catechu tree, known as 'cutch'. Twenty-seven bushels of bark were required for tanning 80-92 nets. Nets due for tanning, and damaged nets, or 'spoils', were collected from the boats and taken to premises known usually in Yarmouth as beating chambers, and in Lowestoft as net lofts. They are also referred to as a net warehouse, or even net works especially on Ordnance Survey Plans.. Many boat owners had their own beating chambers, although some owner-skippers might make use of the chambers of larger companies or specialist firms.

At the beating chambers the foreman, known as a ransacker, would search the net and decide what work was necessary on it. By a code of knots and twists he conveyed the information to the beatster, the woman who would repair the net, who then knew whether the net required a little work, or whether more time was needed, and the work could then be planned accordingly. The beatsters seem always to have been women - perhaps because originally it was the wives and daughters of the fishermen who mended the nets - and the ransackers usually men. The beatsters were traditionally apprenticed for two years, and it appears equally traditional that they were the lowest paid workers in the industry.

History of the site

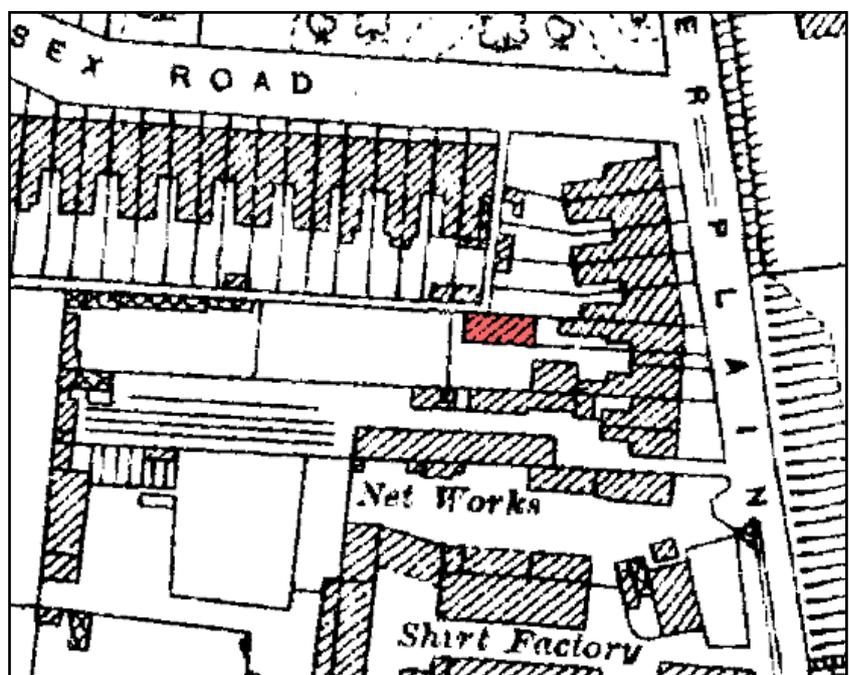
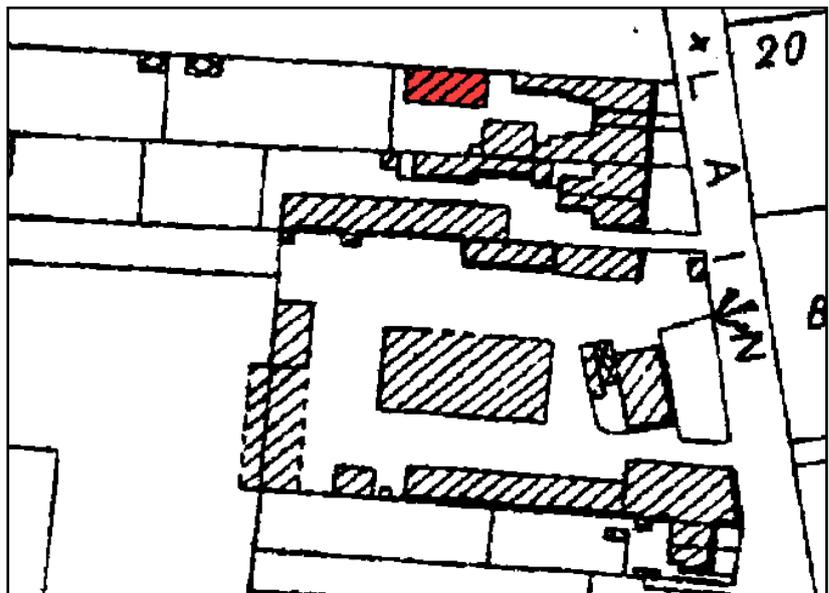
The building of the beating chambers at 50 Pier Plain can be dated to the years when the herring fishery out of Yarmouth was moving towards its peak. By 1900 there were 150 Yarmouth-registered drifters involved in the great autumn fishery, as well as over 400 Scots' drifters, and that number increased rapidly towards 1,000 by the great year of 1913. This required a major increase in all the support facilities, not least beating chambers. However, it would seem that it was only used for this purpose for a short time, and was later altered to provide accommodation for the 'gutting lassies', possibly those working for the Eastick family.

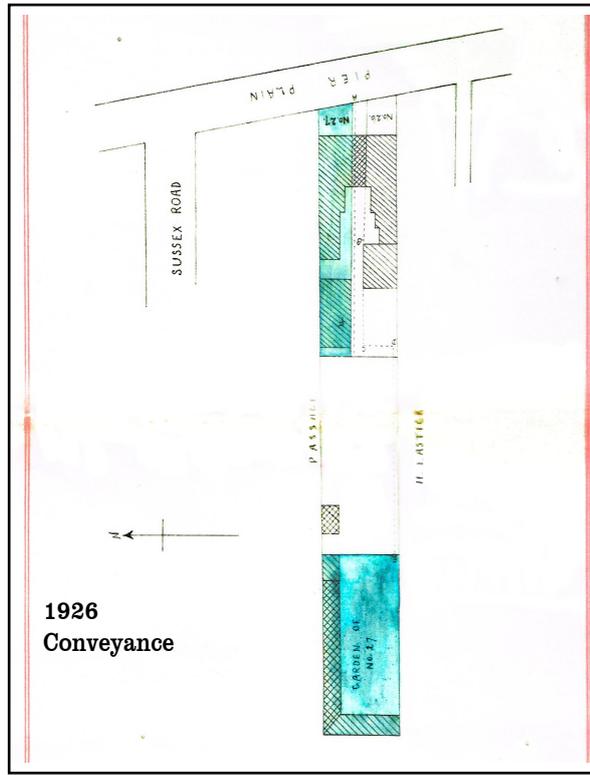
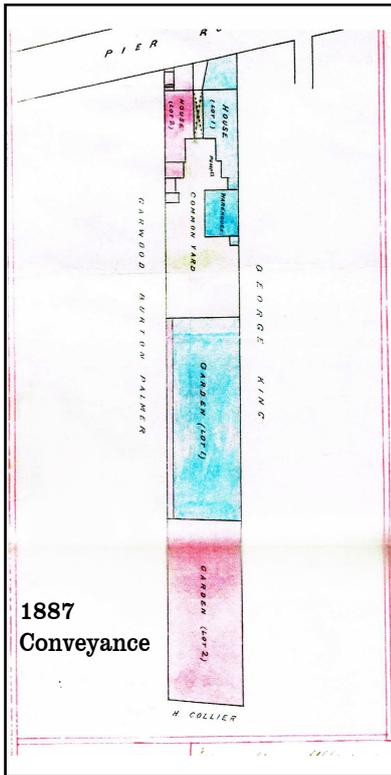
The documents provided by Mr. Duffield, the current owner, give an outline of the history and development of the site, and together with other evidence, give a likely date for the construction of the Beating Chambers.

In 1837 an indenture between Henry Rundle, pilot, Robert Newson, pilot, both



Above: OS 1886 Plan Below: OS 1906 Plan Bottom OS 1927 Plan
The beating chamber is coloured red for identification.





Detail of stair and entrance to modern kitchen area



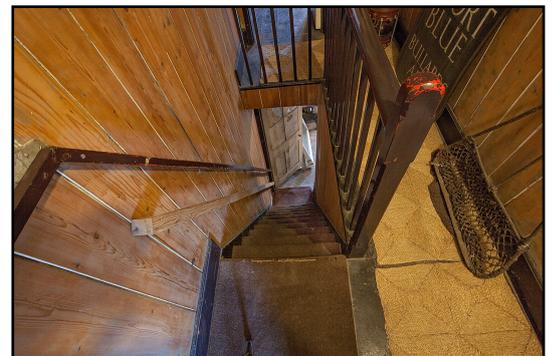
Left: West Elevation

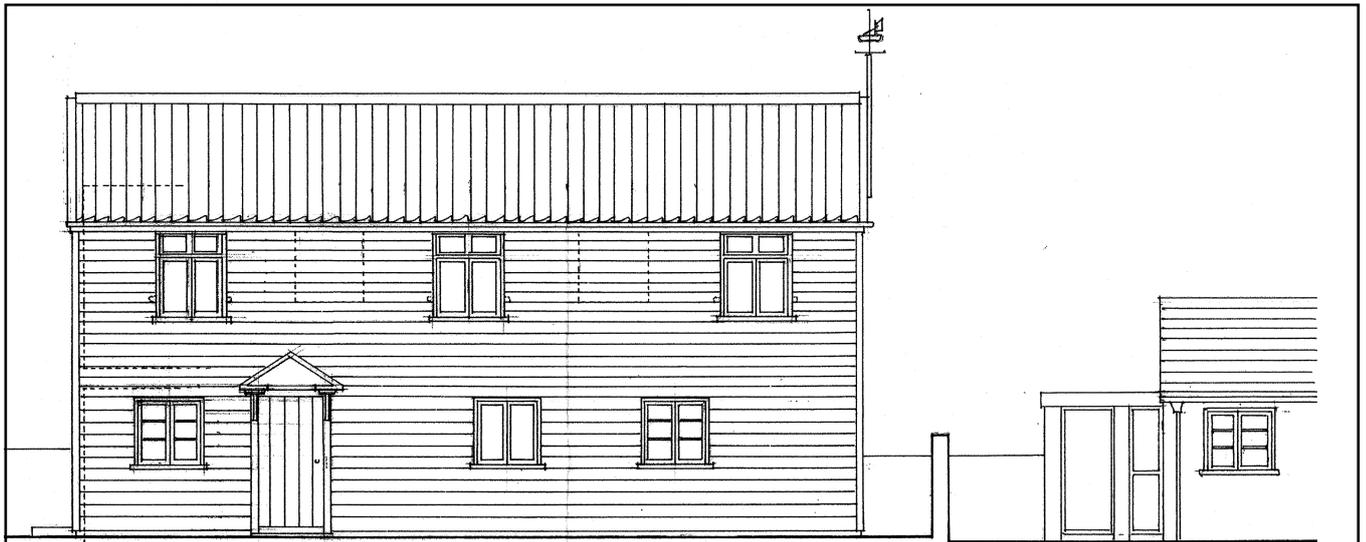
Bottom Left: View from street of Nos. 50 and 52 passageway and building behind.

Below Top: Top of stairs

Below Centre: View east of rooms 1st floor

Below Bottom: 1st floor west room partitions.

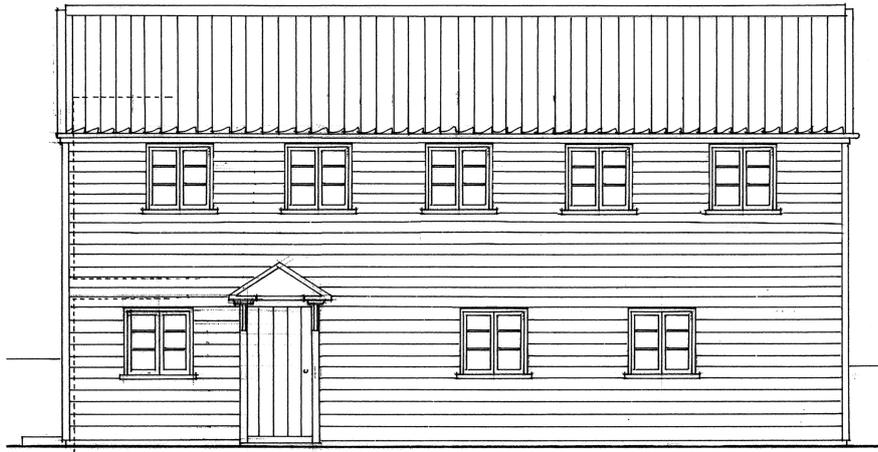




South Elevation

Top: as is now

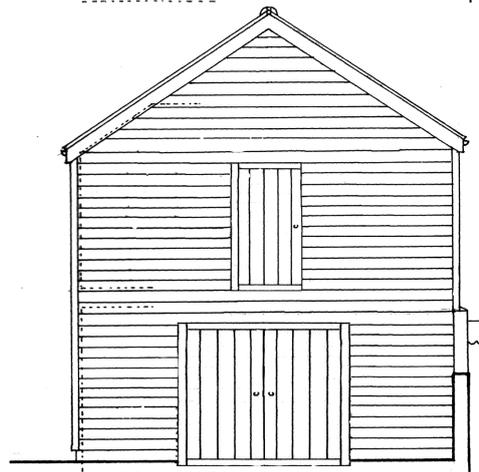
Left: Reconstruction of original window layout.



End Elevations

Above: West and east elevations

Right: Reconstruction of original east elevation layout.



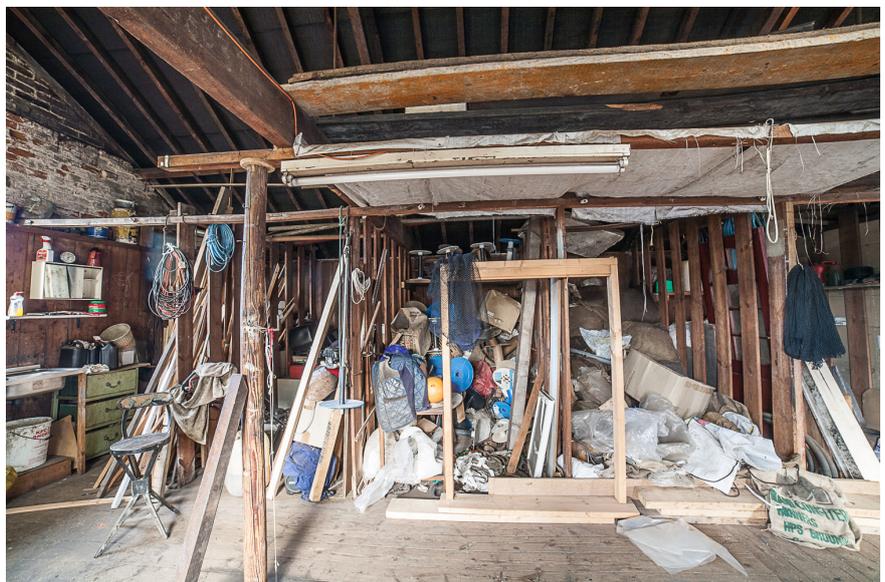


Above: General view down the interior of the first floor, showing the boarded rear wall, partitions and posts for net construction, as well as goods relating to the chandlery.

Right: general view along the south wall of the first floor interior.

Left: view of partions at the west end of the first floor interior.

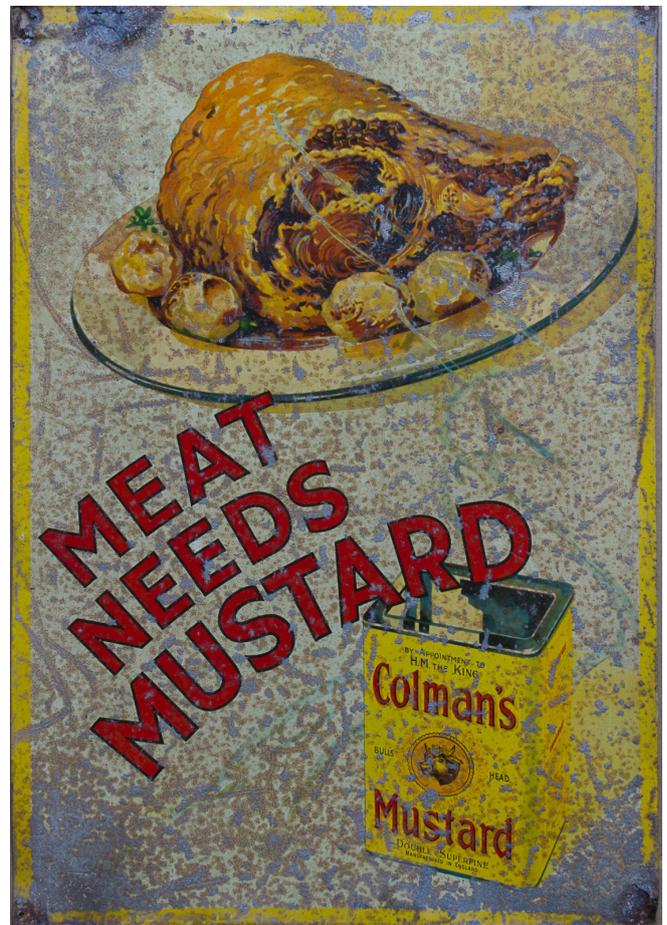
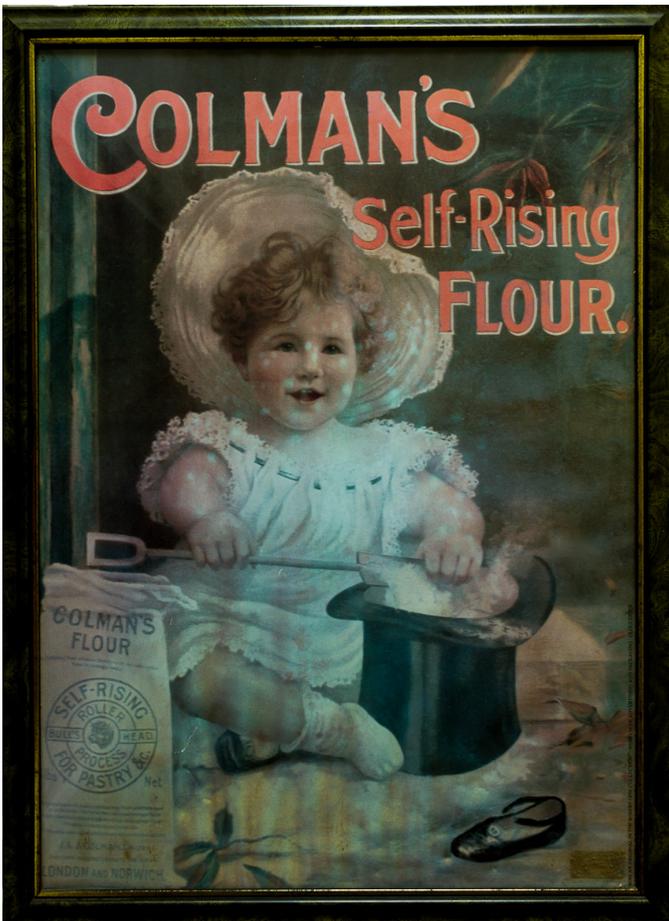
The colour photographs in this paper are all © Philip Tolley apart from that on the title page





Above: A Victorian framed advertisement

Below: Child playing with spilt flour. The bag promotes the use of a roller mill to grind the flour. Colman's always calls it self rising flour.



Above: Tin plated sign promoting the partnership of meat and English Mustard.

Below: Colman's Blue was a common brand for whitening washing. The address 108 Cannon Street was the company's London office. The Bulls Head trade mark is also used.

