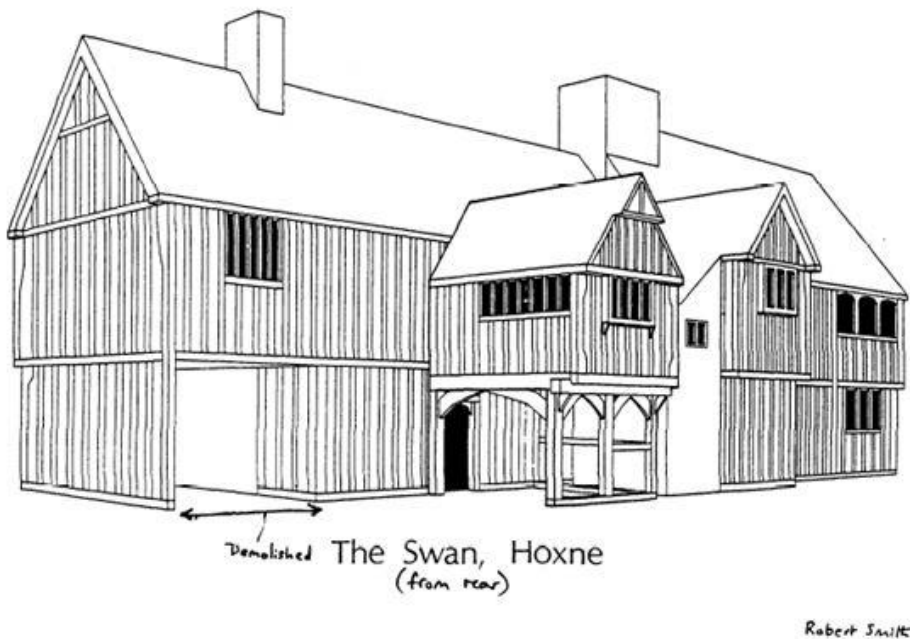


The Swan, Hoxne

The Swan Inn is a 15th Century listed building, formerly known as Bishops Lodge. Built in 1480 by the Bishop of Norwich, The Swan's interior reflects Hoxne's ecclesiastical past, with ornate ceiling beams and wide-planked floors.

The existence of a C16 side passage suggests that the building was already an inn. The parlour has moulded cross-beams and a dragon beam, evidence that the front and gable end of this section were once jettied. The Ceiling of parlour chamber has 2 chamfered bridging beams intersecting with moulded axial beams; moulded joists, possibly re-used. A First floor room in former stair wing has a stuccoed fireplace over which is an early C18 plaster cartouche, the central oval tablet shows a Resurrection scene and above is a coat of arms which contained the sacred monogram IHS. This room is likely to have been a private chapel for a Roman Catholic family.

The following is an architectural appraisal of The Swan carried out by the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group in 1996.



The Swan is a fine early timber-framed building which has been studied in some detail by Stephen Heywood and Robert Smith.

Because of the way the upper floor was divided into three separate units, each with its own stair, an original use as a high class guests lodging house has been postulated. It was an Inn by 1619, a plan of that date also showing a carriage entrance which has since disappeared. The brick front was added in the 18th century and at the rear there have been various later additions.

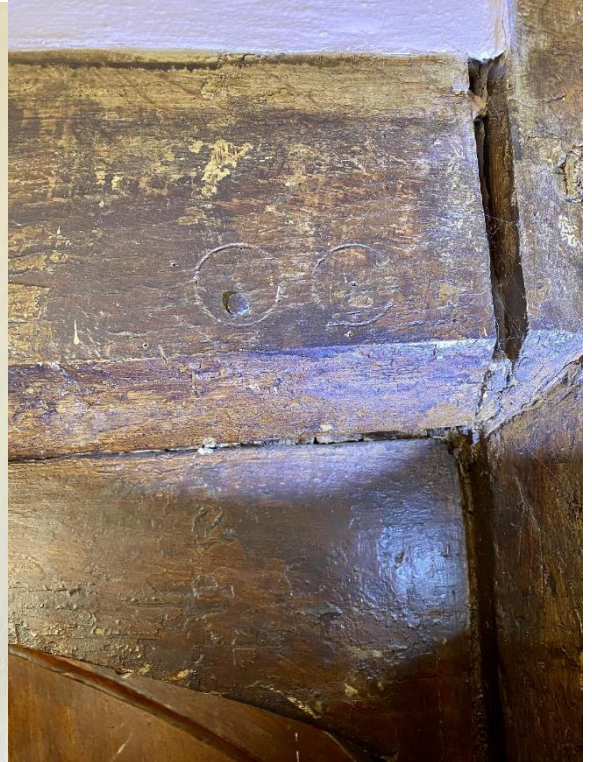
The two principle ground floor rooms have good moulded ceilings. The diagonal dragon beam in the parlour ceiling shows that the front and south end walls were once jettied.

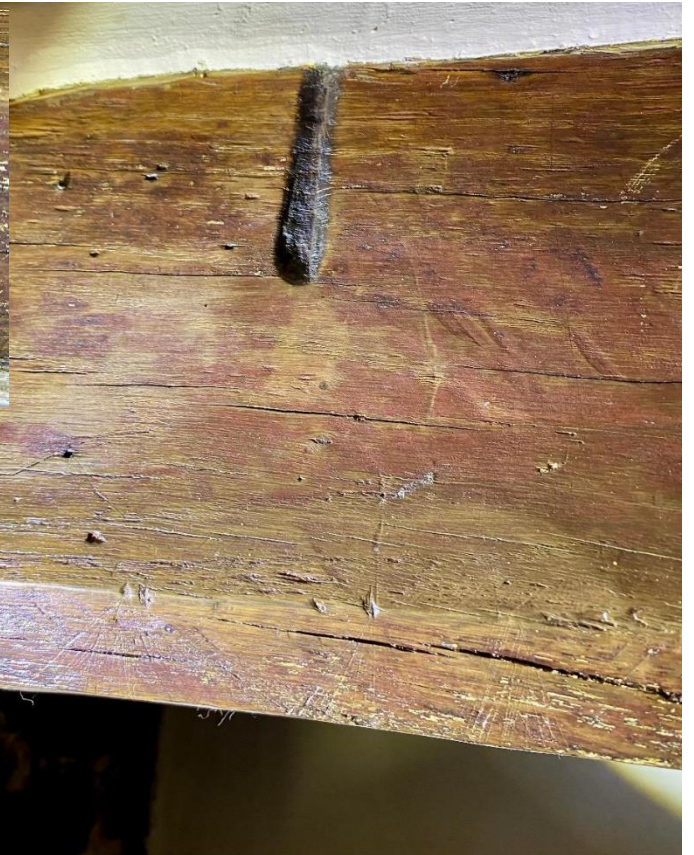
The narrow two-storied wing behind the main chimney stack is original. Its function is unclear but it may have been a porch. The first floor room in it was heated by a fireplace in the flank of the main stack.

The two-storied porch to the south is a slightly later addition of high quality, possibly an upgrading of the original porch. Note the jettied first floor and end gable, and yet another overhang at collar level! Also the open-sided arrangement on the ground floor.

Hoxne Swan 18.1.22

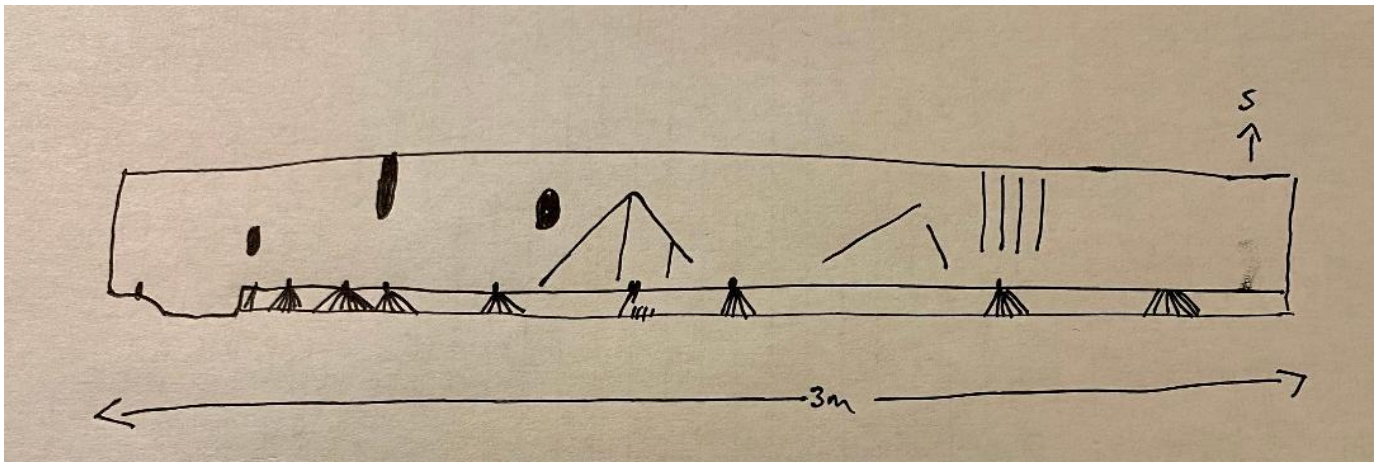
Upstairs, small bedroom south-facing fireplace. Door opening to vestibule, reputed to conceal a priest hole which was covered in fitted carpet so unable to verify. Two spectacle marks top right of the door frame going into the vestibule. Small bressummer with 4 burn marks, and fan-shaped cuts in the bevelled edge, about 13 in number.





There are up to 13 fan-shaped cut marks which start at the same point for each fan and splay out on the chamfered edge of the bressummer. They are not evenly spaced.





Scene of the resurrection, upstairs above a fireplace at the Swan, Hoxne

From the listing: A First floor room in former stair wing has a stuccoed fireplace over which is an early C18 plaster cartouche, the central oval tablet shows a Resurrection scene and above is a coat of arms which contained the sacred monogram IHS. This room is likely to have been a private chapel for a Roman Catholic family.

Certainly, the East facing cartouche suggests it could be a temporary chapel. The reputed priest hole on the other side of the chimney would have allowed either a quick get away for an illegal priest or somewhere to hide.





In Hoc Signo Vinces – In this sign, you will conquer

In the cartouche of the scene above the fireplace is a defaced monogram. It contains a remaining cross, S and what looks like a V. Having searched on the internet it is likely to be IHS with a cross and 3 nails below.



From research on IHS:

After three nails were added under the insignia (together with a cross above), some noticed that the inscription now contained a "V" below the IHS – so that we see IHSV. In this form it was adopted by St. Ignatius as the symbol of the Jesuits.

The later version of the coat of arms of the Society of Jesus always has a representation of the three cross nails in this spot and that this detail has actually become a distinguishing characteristic of the Jesuits' symbol. Often, we find the three nails presented as piercing a heart.

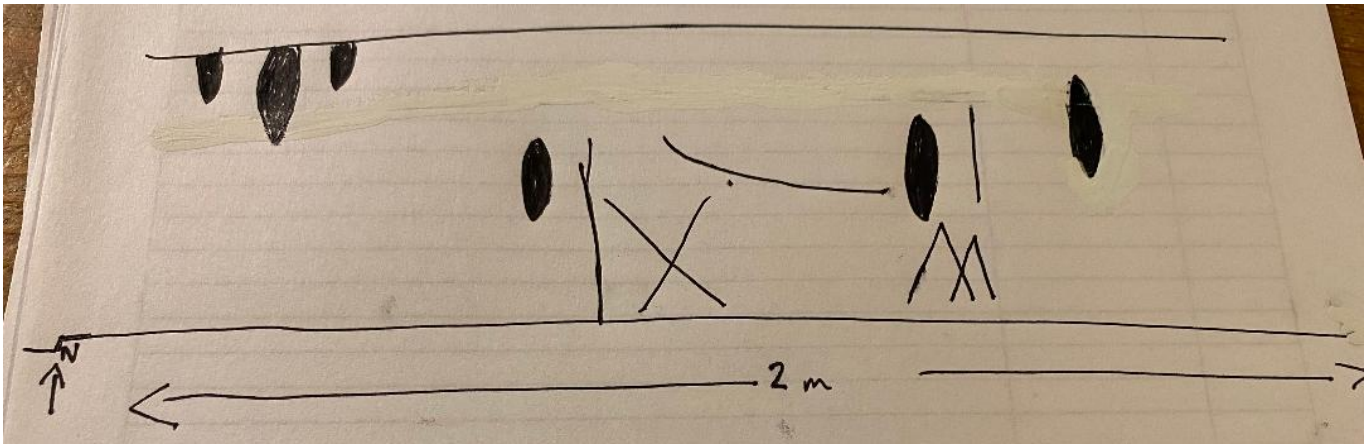
St. Ignatius of Loyola adopted the monogram in his seal as general of the Society of Jesus (1541), and thus it became the emblem of his institute.

The Cornwallis family were notable recusants of the 16th century and based in Brome hall. They also were Royalists in the Civil war Frederick Cornwallis accompanying Charles II into exile and returning with the restoration of the monarchy. It is likely that the symbol was defaced during the iconoclasm of 1643 under the instructions of the Earl of Manchester and actions of William Dowsing of Laxfield, when Frederick Cornwallis was in exile. There is a possibility that the Swan was owned by the Cornwallis estate at this time.

South side of the chimney

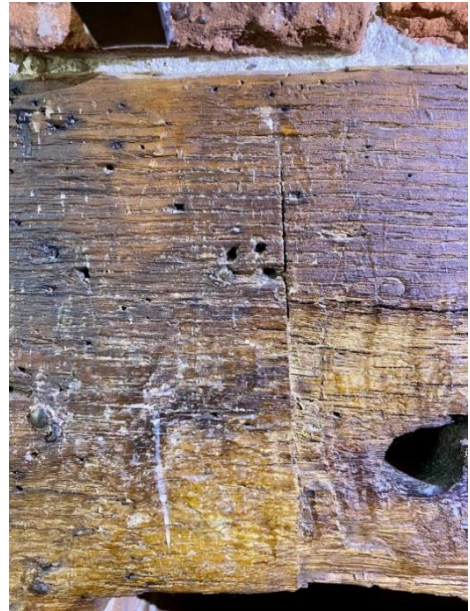
Large room, beams painted black (including the fireplace). Fireplace bressummer contains 10 burn marks, X marks and an M but much detail is obscured due to paint.

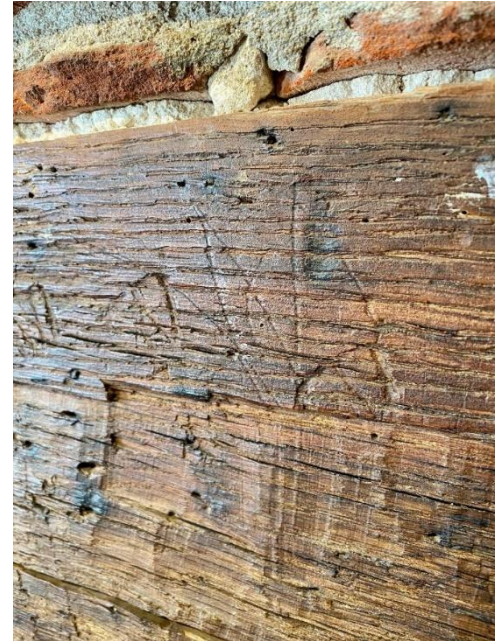




Downstairs, main bar north of chimney







Bressummer contains several burn marks (10+), three deeply carved and crude "M", on the West end of the beam behind the deeper and crude M are a finer and shorter interconnected M and possibly A. There are a few arcs of an incomplete compass drawn circle and two clear, deep circles both cut by an inverted "V" shape. The central part of the beam has been cut away to accommodate a new fire surround in the 20th century. The finer, more complex M is likely to be 16th Century and the others 17th century and later. There are also a number of burn marks on door frames downstairs and behind the bar.

