

# Yew Tree House 37-39 Church Hill 15.2.22

The age of the house is complex and the listing and a report by John Walker of Suffolk Historic buildings group may not give the building justice to its age. There are sooted timbers suggesting it was a hall house and others features which possibly push the house back earlier. The listing is: HOXNE LOW STREET, CHURCH HILL TM 17 NE 7/119 No.38 (formerly listed under Church Hill as 29.7.55 No.37, No.38, No.39) II House, latterly 3 cottages. A C16 2-cell range, the hall with a storey post bearing the date 1573. To left is a lower section, probably of C19 date, replacing the original service end. Timber framed, mainly plastered. Pantiled roof, half-hipped to the right. 2 storeys. Hall has replacement diamond-mullioned windows of c.1986, with square-leaded glazing. Mid C20 standard casements to adjoining parlour cell. Boarded entrance door into cross-passage. Internal stack with square shaft, mostly rebuilt. Left range has small-paned casement windows, a 4-panel door and a gable stack. Interior not examined. Under renovation at time of survey (1986), work to the hall cell largely completed.

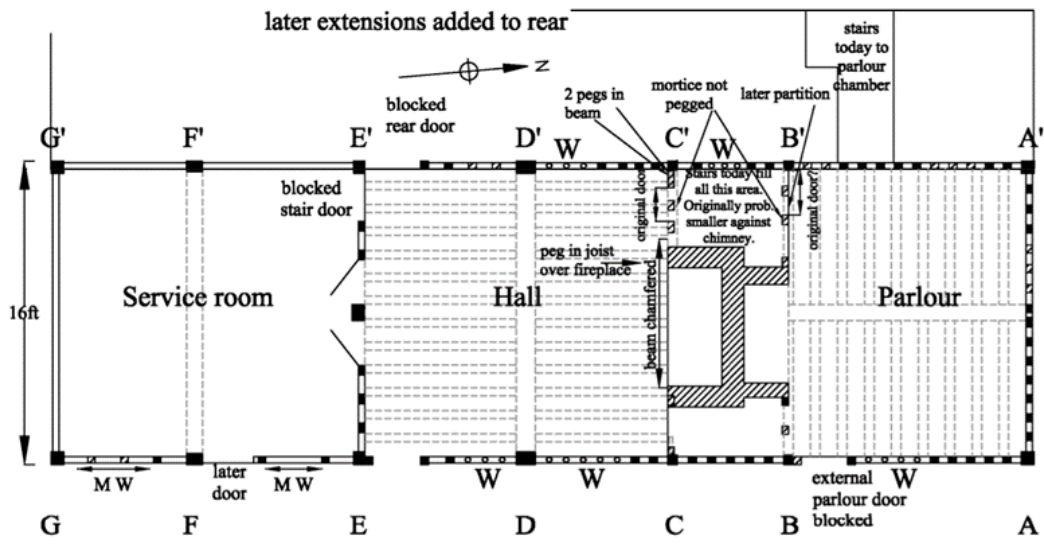


Fig 2: Date 1573 on west post

Fig 3: TP RH on east post

There is a carved date of 1573 on the shield on the west post of the hall's centre truss (Fig 2 & drawing a). It refers to TP and RH, the initials on the shield in the east post of the centre truss (Fig 3). The lower range to the left, which replaced an earlier service range, was built in the 17th century as a single storey wing, and was raised to its present height in the 18th or 19th century. Additional later ranges have been added to the rear of the building.

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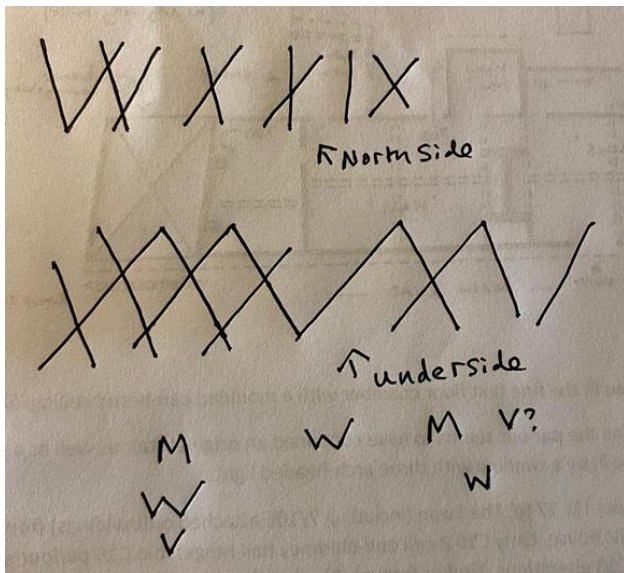
c: Reconstruction of ground plan

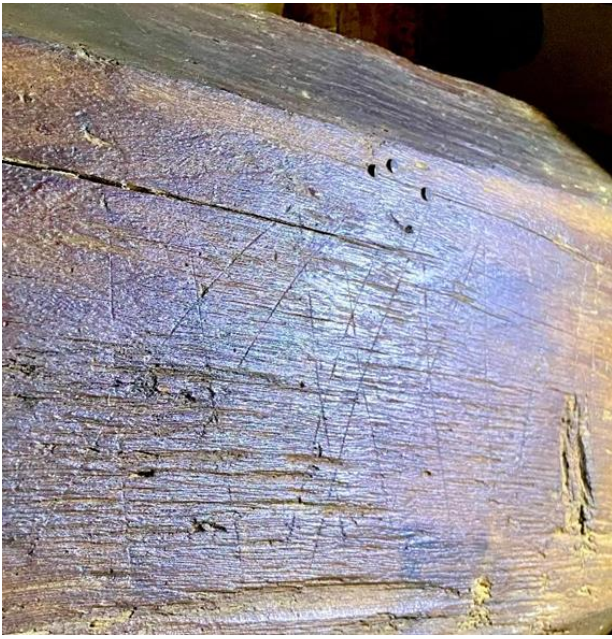


## Ground floor, service room. South of the building

On the beam which shows evidence of burning in a house fire there are a number of marks on the central beam at its east end. On the side of the beam are marks like a series of saltire crosses which don't appear to be construction marks. Also present is either a W or a butterfly mark. Underneath the beam are a number of M (Marian marks) which appear to be interconnected and complex. A number of M, V, W and possibly A can be seen. All invoke the protection of the Virgin Mary. The

sharpness of the cut suggest they were put in at a time when the Oak beam was still green. If the original bressummer would have been present there would be many more marks observed.





Ground floor Hall – West door. Small compass drawn circle.



Ground floor parlour, North end

On the right door frame on the entrance to the parlour is a well-defined hexafoil (daisy wheel). Also present are a number of burn marks, 7 at least. Mostly on the west side.





## First floor bedroom above the Parlour

Many burn marks, particularly in the NW corner where there are about 20 burns on one beam and nearby a complex pattern of 7 interlocking circles with a central hexafoil. The latter would have been drawn in when the oak was still green as there are shrinkage cracks offsetting them. There are at least another 4 more burn marks in this room.



## Upstairs, central room above the hall



6 burn marks, one on a mullion window bar. Star shaped cross below the West window and the door is below. There is a cross cut into the wood. The lines of the cross follow the grains of the seasoned wood so it presumably came later.



## Southern bedroom built possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century

There are no apparent marks which suggest a time when the use or belief of the apotropaic marks were diminishing.

## Chronological order of marks seen in the house:

Earliest = Marian marks (complex M, V, W, A) and interconnected circles and hexafoils, star cross = 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. Put in when the house was being built.

Later 16<sup>th</sup> century into 17<sup>th</sup> century = burn marks and simple cross.

