

## Note on Architecture of 37-39 Church Hill, Hoxne, Suffolk

37-39 Church Hill is a timber framed house built in three phases. The higher range to the right, consisting of the hall and parlour with chambers above, was built in 1573, the date carved on the shield on the west post of the hall's centre truss (Fig 2 & drawing a). It was built for the unidentified 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.



Fig 1: East front of 37-39 Church Hill

### 1573 Range

This has a two bay hall with a brick chimney stack at the high end that heats just the hall and the parlour beyond (drawing b & c). Redundant pegs in the joists on either side of the chimney stack suggest this stack replaced an earlier, possibly timber, chimney stack in the late 16th or 17th century. The parlour is slightly unusual, but not exceptional, in having had a separate external entrance. It also had only one window.

The first floor has a chamber over the parlour, which was the best first floor room as it was lit by three windows, one in each side wall and one in the north gable, and it had a half hip on the gable to give more height to the room which was originally open to the roof. A later attic room has been inserted over it. There was originally a single two bay room over the hall open to the roof - now divided into two rooms - which was probably originally used mainly for storage as it was lit by a single window in the east front wall (drawing b).



Fig 2: Date 1573 on west post

Fig 3: TP RH on east post

The stairs to the first floor were on the west side of the chimney stack where they are today, but these were more compact than now as this area also contained the passage from the hall through to the parlour.

**Timber framing** The original windows were diamond mullioned and unglazed - see the weathering across the whole of the original window cills. The common studs in the external walls were recessed by 1in (25mm) and originally plastered over and not visible externally - see the exterior of wall C'B' which is exposed in the later rear extension. Here you can see the notches in the principal post B' to hold the laths which ran across the exterior of the studs. There is a clasped side purlin roof with windbraces over the chimney bay and the hall chamber but, because the tops of wall plates are only 5ft (1.5m) above the floor, there are no tiebeams or jowled posts. Instead the principal rafters have additional dropped collars (drawing a). The only tiebeam and jowled posts are on the north gable. This gable has an additional wall built on it to give a half hip with jowled posts that carry a square set purlin that is tenoned at its south end into the northernmost principal rafter of the clasped side purlin roof (Fig 4). The jowled post looks a bit like a queen post except the jowled post does not directly support the purlin.

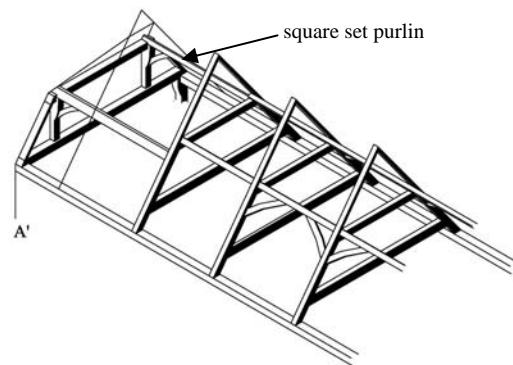


Fig 4: Roof of 1573 range viewed from SW

### Service Wing

The 1573 range either continued or was built against an earlier two storey building as its south end has, on the ground floor, two central doors for two service rooms and at the west end a door for the stairs to a chamber over the services, while on the first floor there is an original door into that service chamber. All this was replaced initially in the 17th century by a one room two bay single storey range - it has a face halved and bladed scarf joint in its wall plates (drawing b), a type first used in the 17th century. The roof was later raised to its present height to provide a first floor room.

# Reconstruction of 37-39 Church Hill, Hoxne, Suffolk

Map ref: TM 181774

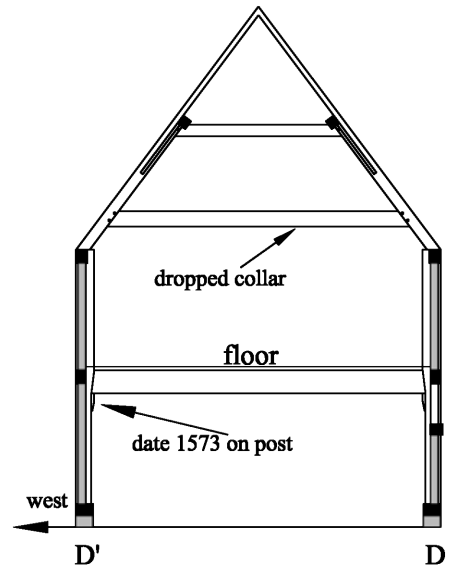
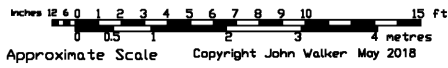
MW = modern windows

M = diamond mullion windows

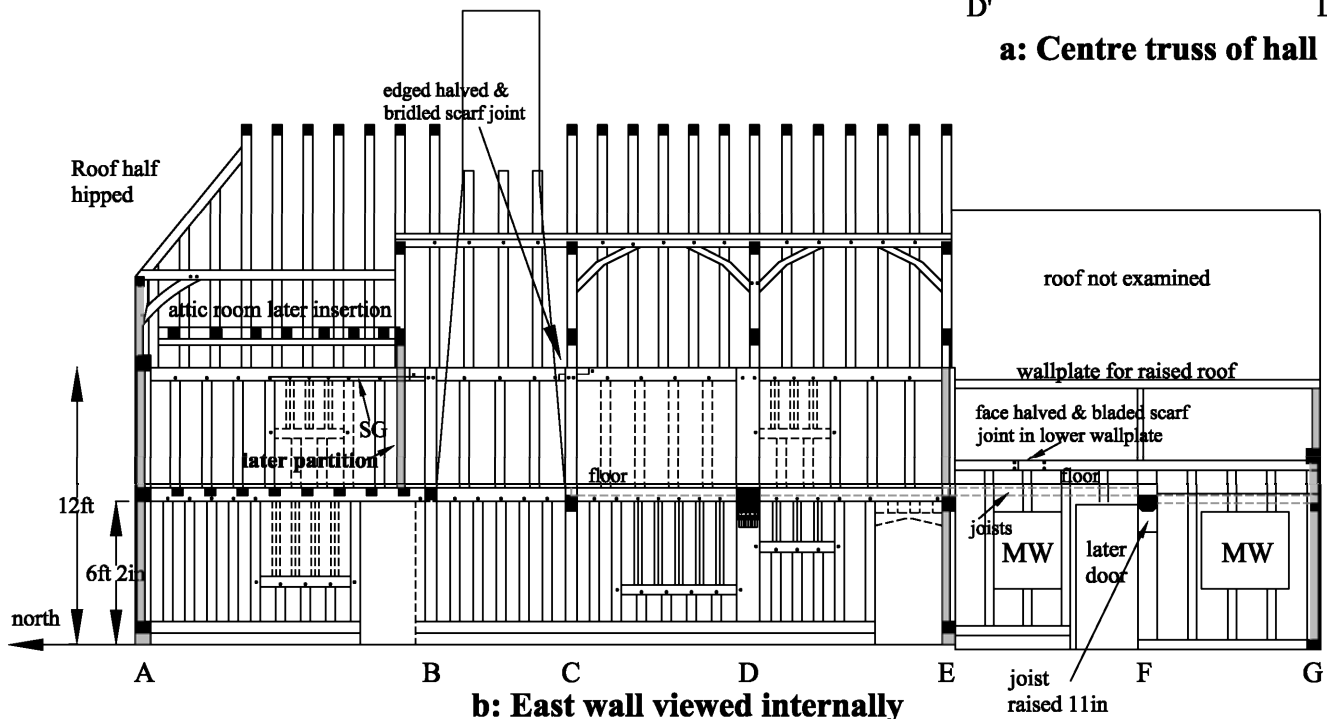
SG = shutter groove

⊠ = missing timbers in plan

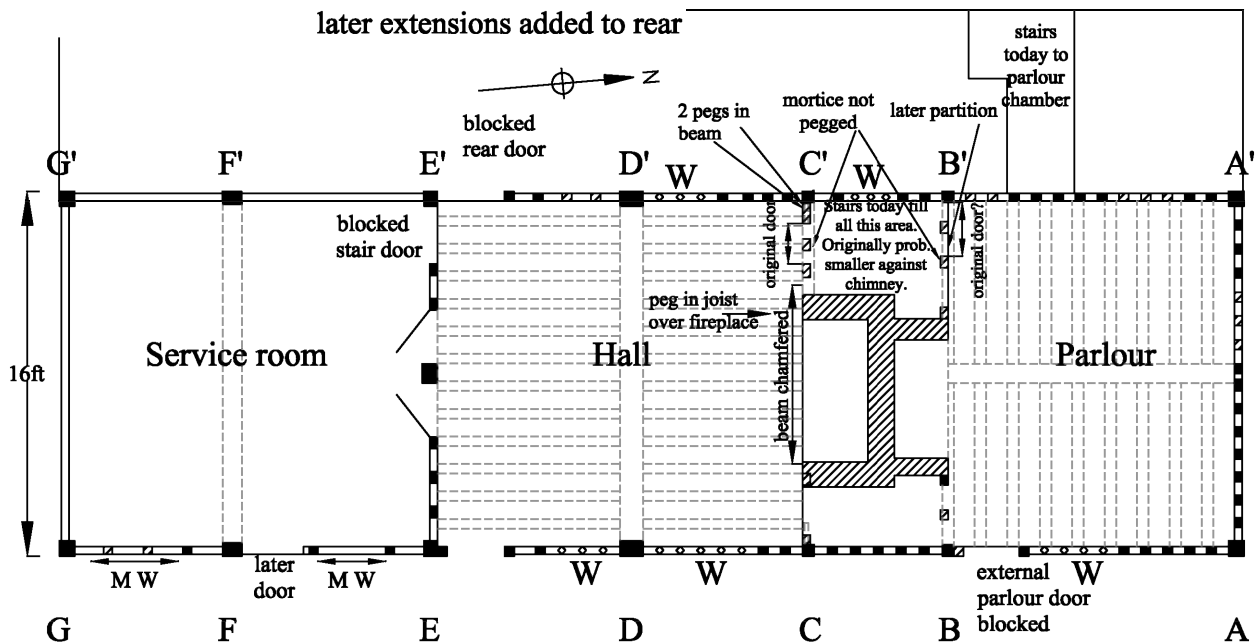
⋯ = missing timbers in elevation



**a: Centre truss of hall**



**b: East wall viewed internally**



**c: Reconstruction of ground plan**