

Early Fabric in Historic Towns Project Southwell

5 King Street (The Hen House)

Grid Reference SK 7010 5400

Initial survey 06/03/2014

Listing

English Heritage Building ID: 242380
Grade: II
Date Listed: 09/02/1973

HER record

Nottinghamshire HER Record : 3:70:98

Maps

The Tithe Map and Apportionment Book of 1841 [1] (no. 92 The Bull Inn, stable and yards) shows this property to be the Bull Inn. This is a smaller public house than the Admiral Rodney but clearly with substantial out buildings at the back, accessed by the covered passage-way to the left of the building. The pub closed in 1909 and has been a variety of shops ever since. According to Roger Dodson in his book on Southwell Inns and Alehouses [2] it was called the Black Bull.

Description of Building

This building is a rectangular-shaped, brick built shop, running parallel to, and facing south-east onto King Street. It comprises a single unit, three-storey building with an offset timber-framed (with brick infill) projection to the rear which predates the shop frontage, which is a single room deep. Brickwork is indeterminate as the whole frontage has been rendered. It has a Bunter sandstone plinth facade and a left offset doorway recessed into the present shop front, with stone threshold.

The frontage has a plat band between ground and first floor and two, vertical hung modern sash windows on the 1st floor, 1 over 1. The second storey, which appears to go into the attic space has two C20th windows. The eaves have a double layer brick dentilated cornice. The ridge, blue tile, is parallel to King St and abuts, to the west, the raised brick-built parapet of the neighbouring property (No 3). Roof material is Welsh slate. There is a chimney stack between the shop frontage and the rear timber-framed projection. Cornice to rear has dogtooth dentilled brickwork.

The rear projection has the remnants of a timber-frame construction, with brick façade to the northern wall,(visible via the side alleyway) which supports the original timber wall plate, which shows evidence of several large vertical mortices which housed the original tenons for substantial studs which comprised the original wall. There is clear evidence of peg holes to join original studding to the wall plate. The gabled western end of the rear of the building shows remnants of the original tie beam truss consisting of two principal rafters and a tie beam. The principal rafters each have a central butt purlin (tenoned purlin) but



no apparent ridge plate/purlin. These tenoned purlins project through the principal rafters which might suggest the original TF extended further to the west than at present. The tie beam has a rectangular excision which would appear to have accommodated a door or window light, this would have somewhat compromised the integrity of the tie. A small access door is inserted into the brick infill of the gable end. The wall posts have suffered rot at some stage and the one to the SW corner has been completely replaced by a brick column which echoes the original shape of the wooden post, even showing the shape of the original jowled or splayed head, therefore post-dating the brick infill of the gable wall. The NW wall post is similarly replaced by brick column on the lower half up to about 1.5 metres from ground level. The wall post has a jowled head where it forms a joint with the tie beam and wall plate. Again, the wall plate protrudes through the wall post perhaps suggesting a further bay extending to the west.

Interpretation

This is the site of a former Inn, The Black Bull. The original timber framed building to the rear of the property represents the earliest phase of this building dating from pre 1750. Phase 2 (post 1830) is seen in the present brick frontage which at some time has been rendered. The original TF building to the rear had brick infill to consolidate the walls and in the Victorian period at least one side wall (N) was built beneath and to support the wall plate and replace the close studding. Possibly at the same time the entire SW wall post and half of the NW wall post were replaced by brick columns.



Plate 1: Detail of NW corner wall post joint showing jowled head with wall plate, tie and principal rafter, viewed looking south east.



Plate 2: West facing gable end showing truss, brick infill, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 3: Detail of substantial mortice to house large wall stud in wall plate on north facing wall showing peg in situ and common rafter, viewed from beneath looking south west.



Plate 4: Detail of smaller mortice to house close studding in wall plate on north facing wall showing peg in situ, viewed from beneath looking south west.



Plate 5: General view of NE facing brick façade supporting wall plate with mortices for close studding, showing brick columns replacing original wall post, viewed looking south-east.

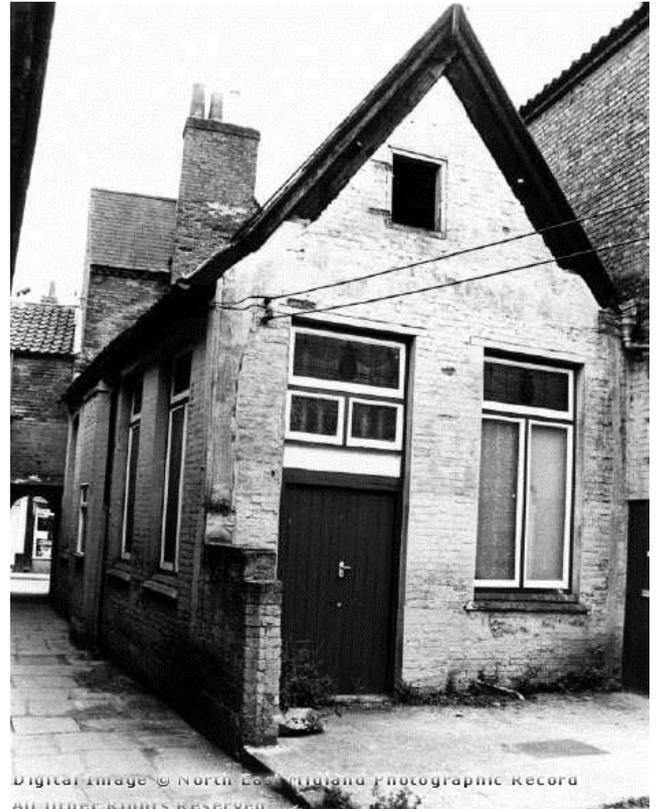


Plate 6: General view of NW facing gable supporting wall plate with TF truss obscured by render and dwarf wall projecting from N corner, viewed looking south-east. Date uncertain-copyright North East Midlands Photographic



Plate 7: Victorian stain glass in TF rear extension N wall.



Plate 8: Detail main ceiling joist in brick built frontage, viewed looking south.

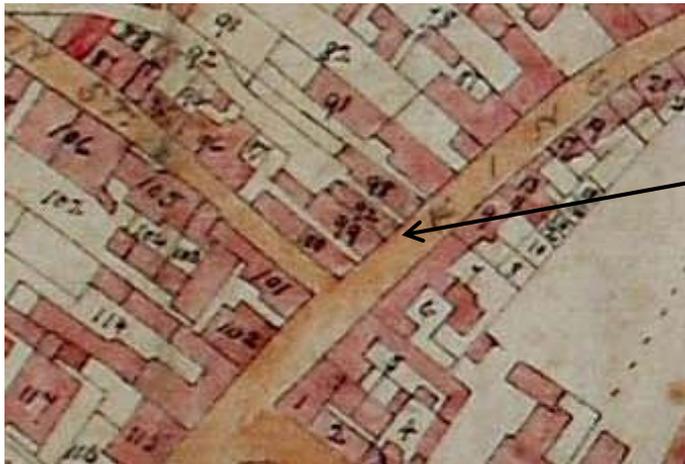


Plate 9: The 1841 Tithe Map showing the location of no. 5 Hen House, no 92 with the alley clearly shown.

[1] Ref: Nottinghamshire County Council: Nottinghamshire Archive: AT123 1b/1c

[2] Southwell Inns & Alehouses, Roger Dobson, Nottinghamshire County Council, 2008

