

Early Fabric in Historic Towns Project - Southwell

36 – 38 King Street, Southwell, Nottinghamshire,

Grid Reference: SK 7018 5403

Initial Survey: 13/03/2014

Listing:

English Heritage Building ID: 242390

Grade II

Date Listed: 09/02/1973

Nottinghamshire HER entry: 3.70.106

Maps:

36 & 38 King Street appear on the 1841 Tithe Map [1] at location 20 and 21 and are described as houses, premises and a yard. One owned by Sarah Hind with one occupied by William Swift and the other by George Geeson and others.

This property was originally 2 separate cottages on differing alignments, now combined as one dwelling.

Description of Building: 38 King Street

The building is L shaped. The original front range is a rectangular, single unit, one room deep, orientated north-east/south-west. The single ridge roof has a gable to the SW end and the roof line is higher than in the adjoining house at no. 36. The roof is composed of clay pantiles and has sprocketed eaves. There is a single stack chimney at the north-eastern end in the gable and through the roof line. The chimney has a three brick course topping. The house joins with that of no. 36 at an angle and the roof slopes slightly from west to east. The western gable has a brick raised parapet with a small kneeler and is finished with brick coping and lead flashing as it joins the roof of no. 36.

To the rear there is a rear brick-built extension in stretcher bond at right angles to that of the road frontage. It has a hipped, clay pantiled roof. The extension is built of bricks measuring two and a quarter inches wide by nine inches long and were probably produced locally.

The front elevation is roughcast rendered and painted white. There is a brick plinth of two courses before the rendering starts. These are dark in colour and appear to be an engineering type of brick though not mass produced. There is a segment-headed, 6 panel door, with top two panels glazed, at the western end of the building set beneath a shallow segmental arch and has a well-worn stone threshold. To the east of this on the ground floor is a square, vertical hung sash window with three panes above and below. The central panes are wider than the others. On the upper floor there is a single rectangular vertical sash window with three panes above and below. This window extends up into the dentilated brick cornice which runs across the front of the house. The guttering is supported by S-shaped supports.

Internal Architectural Details

Above the fireplace in the main room is a wooden bressummer, embedded in brick and supporting an old, oak beam running roughly east-west through the house and not across it. The beam is unchamfered but has a number of mortices cut on the underside and shallow, angled cut-outs between mortices. These latter were probably cut to house the base of rafter so the beam is probably a re-used wall-plate. It may have been re-used twice since the



mortices have no obvious role in the current house; they may have housed studding timbers. The current use therefore suggests at least a third phase of use.

Ceiling joists resting on the beam are softwood deal and relatively modern, probably 19th century. There was clear evidence of a reed and lime-ash flooring above the ceiling.

The junction between nos 36 and 38 is marked internally by a beam running north-south, beaded on both lower edges but made from deal not oak.

Roof Space:

The roof was constructed of principal rafters with clasped purlins; some of the rafters had been re-used and were clearly much older than others. Most of the timbers were of relatively modern origin with machine sawn evidence. The re-roofing may have been done at the same time as the rear extension. The brick dividing partition between nos 38 and 36 was present in the roof space; the bricks did not appear to be old.

36 King Street

Description of Building

The house is a rectangular two unit building one room deep and orientated at a slight angle to its neighbour no. 38. The roof is gabled and composed of clay pantiles. It is lower than that of no. 38 but has a brick parapet at the western end with lead flashing and a small brick kneeler similar to that of no. 38.

The chimney is situated near centrally and is through the roof-line. It is a substantial structure with four chimney pots. It looks likely that there is an extension to the original chimney.

Like no. 38 the front elevation is roughcast rendered in white.

As with no. 38 there is a brick plinth which appears to be of engineering type bricks two courses in height. The doorway, which is set in a shallow arch, is to the right hand (west) side of the front elevation and has a stone threshold. To the left of the door there are two square windows separated by a vertical drain down-pipe with the top level with the top of the door. Each comprises a vertical sash with three panes above and below though the central pane of each is wider than those flanking it.

On the upper floor there are three windows, each aligned to either the windows below or the door. The windows aligned to those below are again vertical sashes with three panes above and below as before. These are also set into the dog-toothed brick corncicing in the eaves. The casement window above the door is much smaller and rectangular, possibly metal-framed and has a single pane. Unlike the others it is not set into the corncicing but is below it.



Internal Architectural Details

From the outside this two-unit house looks to be one property but is probably two. This is supported by the finding that the joists run north-south in no. 38, east-west in the first part of no. 36 and north-south in the western part of no. 36. There were no notable features in this house the joists being made of deal. The central chimney probably served each part.

Roof Space

There was no evidence here of any dividing wall which suggests that if there were two properties they were knocked into one no later than the re-roofing. Roof timbers were again machine-sawn and the structure similar to that of no.38. There were clear and rather fine carpenters' marks on one of the collar timbers.



Plate 1: General View of nos 36 (nearest) and 38 King Street viewed looking east.



Plate 2: Sprocketed eaves and differences in roof height viewed looking east.



Plate 3: Clapsed Purlins in Roof Space of no.38 viewed looking north-east.



Plate 4: Internal of no.38 showing mortised beam.



Plate 5: 1841 Tithe Map Showing position of Properties.

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