

Lyddington Manor History Society

Historic Building Survey

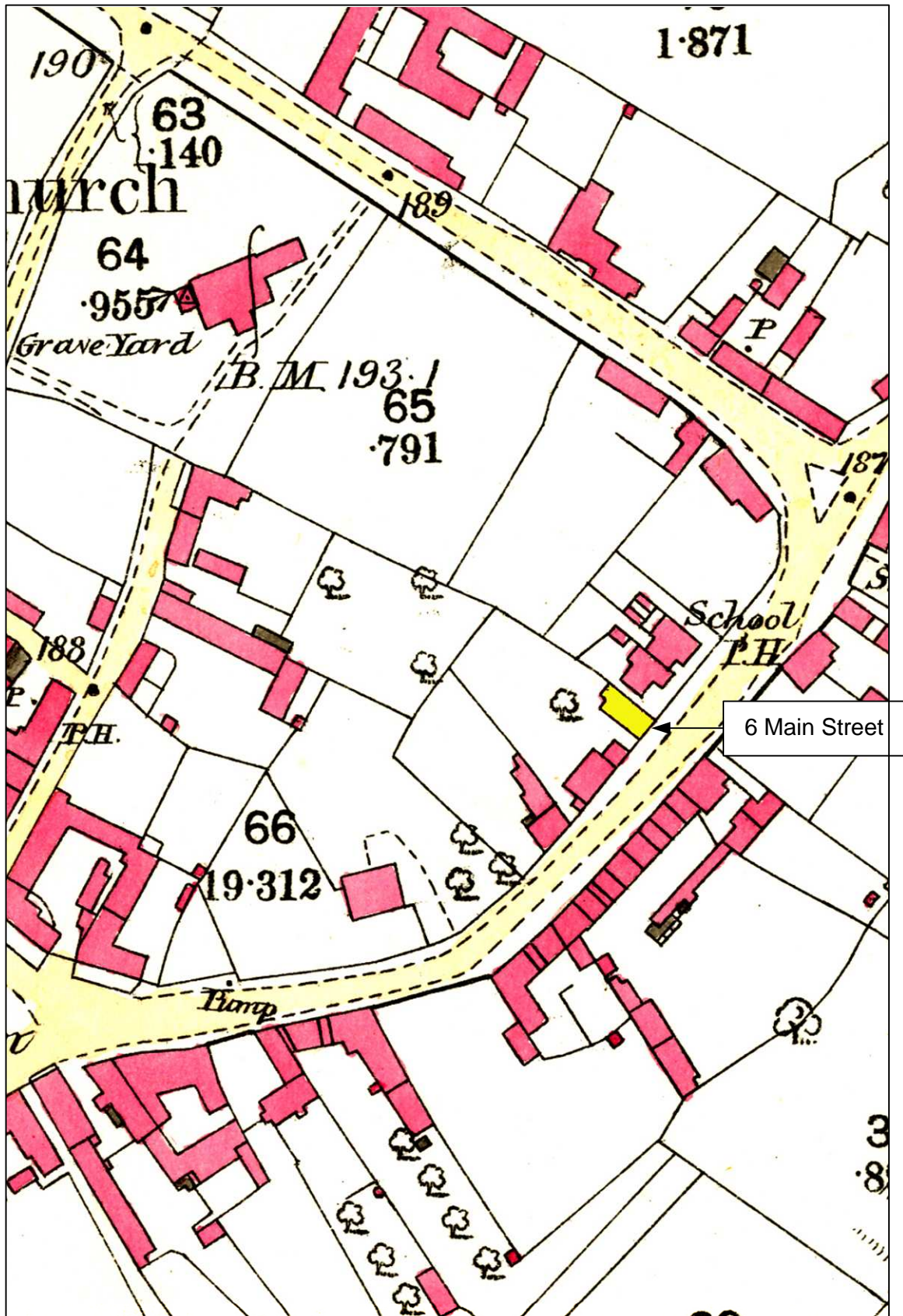
6 Main Street Caldecott, Rutland



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund





Location Map – 6 Main Street, Caldecott
(OS First Edition 1886)

HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY REPORT

6 MAIN ST, CALDECOTT

Survey

Date of survey: 28th September 2013

Surveyed by: Nick Hill & Robert Ovens

Summary

Concealed within this 17th century stone house are the remains of a 3-bay cruck-framed building, dating from the 15th or early 16th century. Only the lower parts of two cruck trusses survive, the upper parts having been removed when the eaves height was raised in a modernisation programme of 1949. The early house was rebuilt in stone in 1646, with some high quality masonry features, including stone-mullioned windows and a date-stone, though nothing of the interior survives from this period. The builder may well have been Daniel Hill, who was 24 years old at the time, and probably unmarried. During the 18th century, the rear part of the building became used as an outbuilding, with the principal residential accommodation in the adjoining No 8.

Site

OS Ref: SP869936

Orientation: For report purposes, the front gable to the road is taken as facing E.

The house fronts directly onto Main Street and is oriented at right angles to the road. The entrance into a small yard lies to the S of the house, with a narrow garden to the rear.

Materials

Coursed ironstone/limestone rubble, with roof of concrete plain tiles.

External features

The building forms a single range, originally of 1½ storeys, but the roof was raised in 1949. To the rear W, there is a modern extension, which replaced previous lean-to sheds.

The front E gable is built of large, well-squared ironstone blocks with a few limestone blocks, except for the upper gable. Former 3-light mullion window to ground floor, with ironstone ovolo-moulded surround, but mullions replaced by C20th timber window; cyma-moulded cornice. The window was previously converted to a door, with straight joints below, then changed back to a window. Similar window, formerly 3-light mullion, to 1st floor. The raking line of the earlier gable is clearly visible, with later build-up above. Good half-ogee pendant corbels of limestone, below ironstone kneelers. A limestone date-stone near the top: DH 1646 in a recessed panel, with a cyma-moulded cornice. The surrounding masonry indicates the date-stone is original, as the coursing differs to either side of it. To the right of the date-stone are three triangular limestone blocks, one of which is fire-reddened. At the top is another

plaque: 'Rebuilt 1949 Sir Michael Seymour Rockingham Castle', the lettering a little crudely cut, on a re-used block of limestone.

The S wall has alternating coursed ironstone and limestone rubble towards the E and lower down, but later re-facing of ironstone towards the W. The top part (around 1m) is of 1949, with 3 modern windows. The ground floor has a 3-light timber casement window to the E, with an old timber lintel. Next to the W is the front doorway, with some older jambs, but some replacements and 19th century brick to the upper W. Set closely beside this, with a continuous timber lintel is another window. Above the doorway is a blocked square opening, the bottom of which is only just above first floor level. At the W end is a third window, whose lintel extends to the E. It is evident that this wall face has been considerably re-worked over the years, with considerable alteration to openings. The SW corner has good quality, though somewhat weathered, limestone quoins.

The W gable is now concealed by the modern extension. Photos taken of the exposed upper gable show that it was built of irregularly coursed rubble, with much fire-reddened stone. The earlier lower rake of the gable, coming down to the level of the limestone quoins, can be clearly seen. There were similar limestone quoins to the NW corner. The gable had a 2-light timber window to 1st floor.

The N wall faces directly onto the adjoining property. It is built of unusually irregular coursed rubble, mostly limestone, with a high proportion of fire-reddening. The 1800 enclosure map shows that an adjoining building was located close to this wall, which was clearly not built to be seen. There is a modern window to ground floor and a blocked ventilation slit towards the W, which runs up past the current first floor level.

There are two chimneystacks, of rebuilt brickwork.

Internal features

Ground floor

The W room contains a feature of considerable interest: the cut-off remains of a cruck truss, dating from the late medieval period. The cruck blade in the N wall is clearly visible. It is c.145mm thick with uneven chamfers to the inner edge, and a large notch cut into it, just above the level where it disappears into the wall. The inner E face of the cruck blade has a 30mm diameter peg in situ – a detail observed on some other crucks in the area, but whose function is unclear. The S blade is covered over, but the curving inner face can be seen, here descending to just above floor level. A ceiling beam has been bolted onto the W face of the cruck blades, an irregular, halved oak timber, with sapwood face to the W. There are single threaded bolts with square nuts, probably dating from around the early 19th century. Although the cruck blades survive quite well to the ground floor, they have been cut off at first floor level and removed. A very small section of cruck blade is also visible in the SW corner of the W room at high level – enough to show that there were two cruck trusses in the building, though no details are visible here. A halved oak beam has also been inserted at ceiling level here, across the cruck truss. The N wall and the W gable wall also have early characteristics, with a thickness of c750mm thick, and an internal batter. The S wall however is 560mm thick, so this wall seems to have been rebuilt.

The W room has an inserted chimneybreast and former fireplace to the W, and two thin softwood ceiling beams, of late date. The E room has a chimneybreast with Victorian style fireplace and a modern ceiling beam.

First floor and roof structure

A ledge along the N wall about 750mm above first floor level indicates the original eaves height, before the roof was raised. The E bedroom has a chimneybreast for the fireplace below, and an added bedroom fireplace.

The roof structure was entirely replaced in 1949. The central chimneystack is built of Victorian brickwork, with the upper parts of 1949. In a patch of cement render to the front E gable there is a rough inscription: 'Rebuilt 1949 Sir Michael Seymour WJR Mason'.

Site history

The 1800 enclosure map shows the building as a single block, set hard against the E boundary of the plot. The building at No 6 is shown within a single plot, containing also No 8 (Wentworth Cottage). This single ownership is also indicated on the 1886 and 1904 OS maps. The 1886 map shows a projection for the former store to the W gable.

Date and development

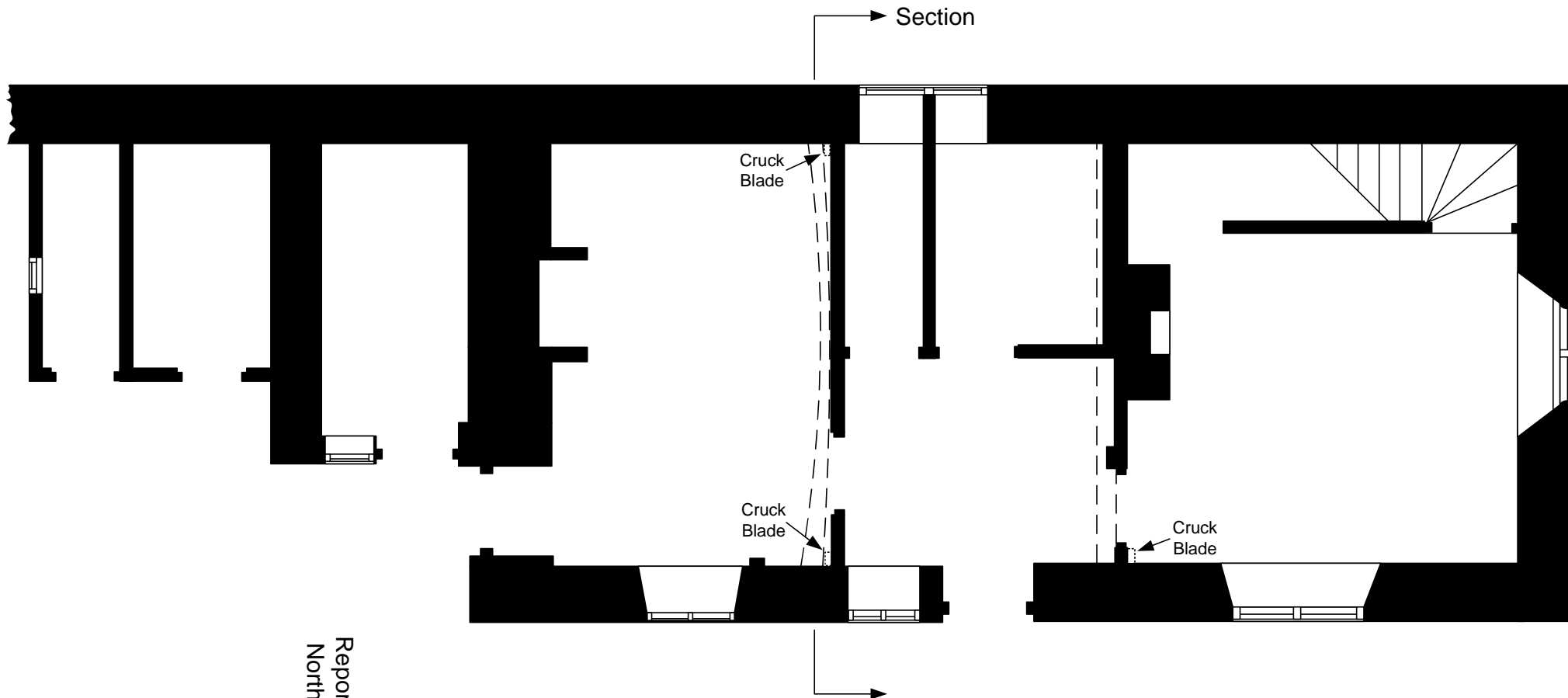
The survival of cruck trusses indicates that the early house dates back to the 15th or early 16th century. It probably formed a house of three bays, on the existing footprint, and gable-end on to the road. It is likely that an open hall occupied two bays, with the third bay forming a service end. The hall would have been open to the roof, with a central hearth and no chimneystack. The plot boundaries suggest that, while the entry would have been in the long south wall, there was no opposing door for a cross-passage. The original walls may have been of mud, but the north and west walls are of early date, of considerable thickness and with an internal batter.

A major programme of alterations and upgrading was carried out in 1646. The front east gable was rebuilt with high quality masonry, including large, regular stone blocks, two 3-light mullioned windows and a coped gable parapet with shaped corbels. The south wall was also given a high-quality treatment, rebuilt with alternating courses of ironstone and limestone. The less visible north and west walls, may also have been rebuilt or re-faced at this date, but here much more irregular stone was used. The internal plan of this building cannot be determined, though there would have been at least one fireplace and chimneybreast. The first floor window to the gable shows that there was now a first floor, at least to the eastern part, though the eaves height remained restricted by the cruck roof structure. Evidence for other windows or doorways, except for the front east gable, is absent. The owner responsible for this phase was clearly proud of his work, and fitted a date-stone with his initials, DH and the date 1646. The Hearth Tax of 1665 records a Daniel Hill paying tax on two hearths. In the parish registers, a Daniell Hill was baptised in 1622 and died in 1679/80. There are no other persons with the initials DH in the Hearth

Tax or parish registers of this period. It therefore seems likely that the builder of the house was Daniel Hill, who would have been 24 years old at the time. There is no record of marriage for Daniel Hill in the Caldecott or Lyddington parish registers, so he may have remained single, which would concur with the single initials on the date-stone. If this Hearth Tax entry is correctly attributed, it indicates that both the east and west rooms had fireplaces, as the house had two hearths.

During the 18th century, it seems that the rear part of the building became used as an outbuilding – an unusual development. The ventilation slit to the north wall, which runs up through the current first floor level, indicates that there was no first floor here. The blocked opening over the front doorway may have been a loading hatch. The doorway and windows in the south wall would have been different to their current appearance. The two roughly shaped beams, bolted to the cruck trusses, may have been inserted around the early 19th century, to stabilise the structure or to form a loading floor. The principal house on the plot would have been No 8, which was given a fine new stone frontage in the late 18th century, with its roof raised in height. The western part of No 6 may not have been converted back to domestic use, with the insertion of the first floor, until the late 19th century. The problem of the low ceilings to the first floor was finally tackled in the major programme of modernisation in 1949, by the owner of the Rockingham Castle estate.

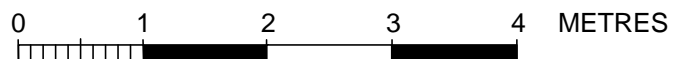
Nick Hill
September 2013



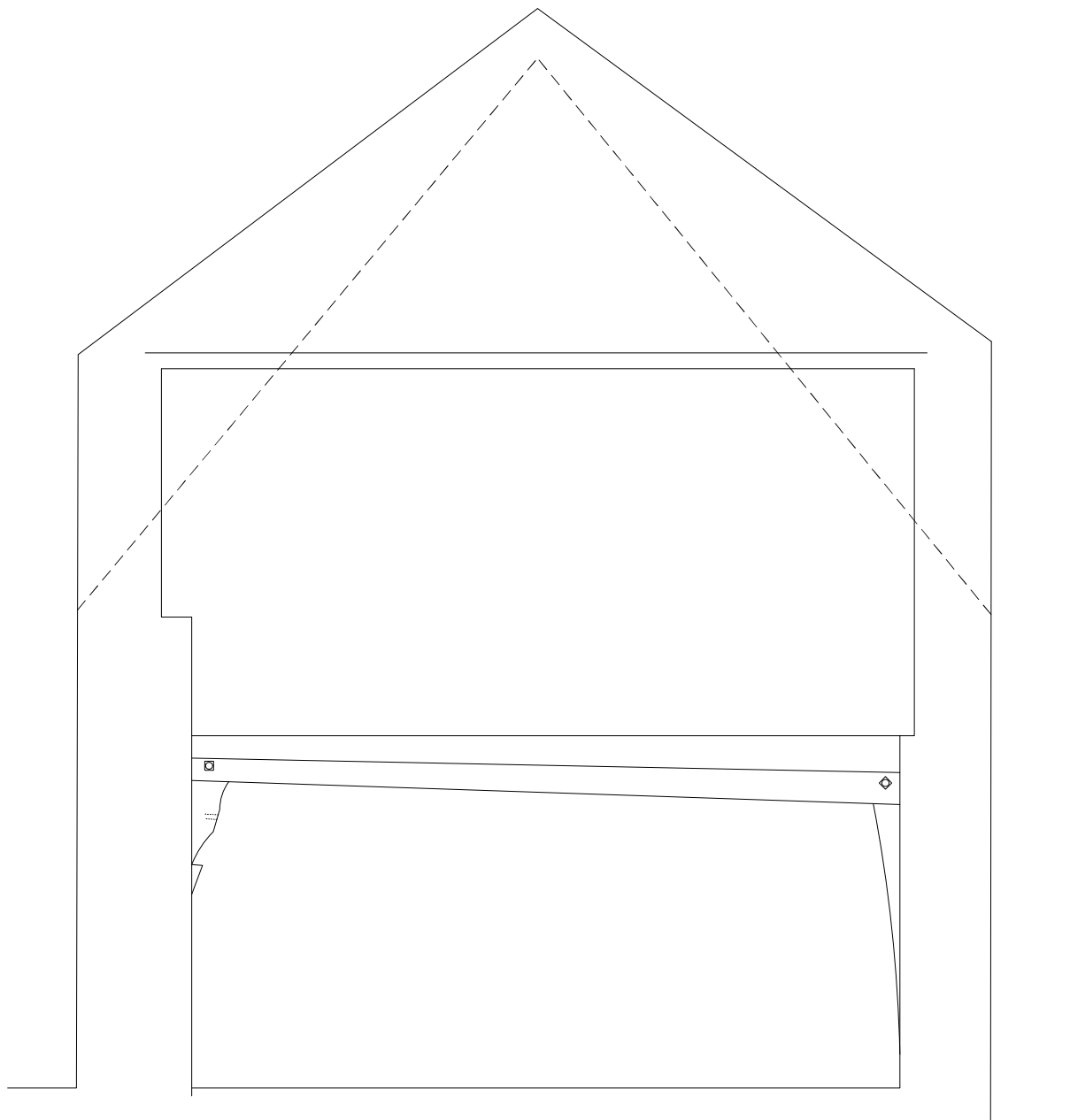
GROUND FLOOR

6 MAIN STREET, CALDECOTT

(Based on a plan dated January 1996)



NH / RO September 2013



SECTION OF FORMER CRUCK TRUSS – WEST FACE

6 MAIN STREET, CALDECOTT





View from the east, with raised roof line



Date-stone to east front



The south side, with original limestone quoins to left



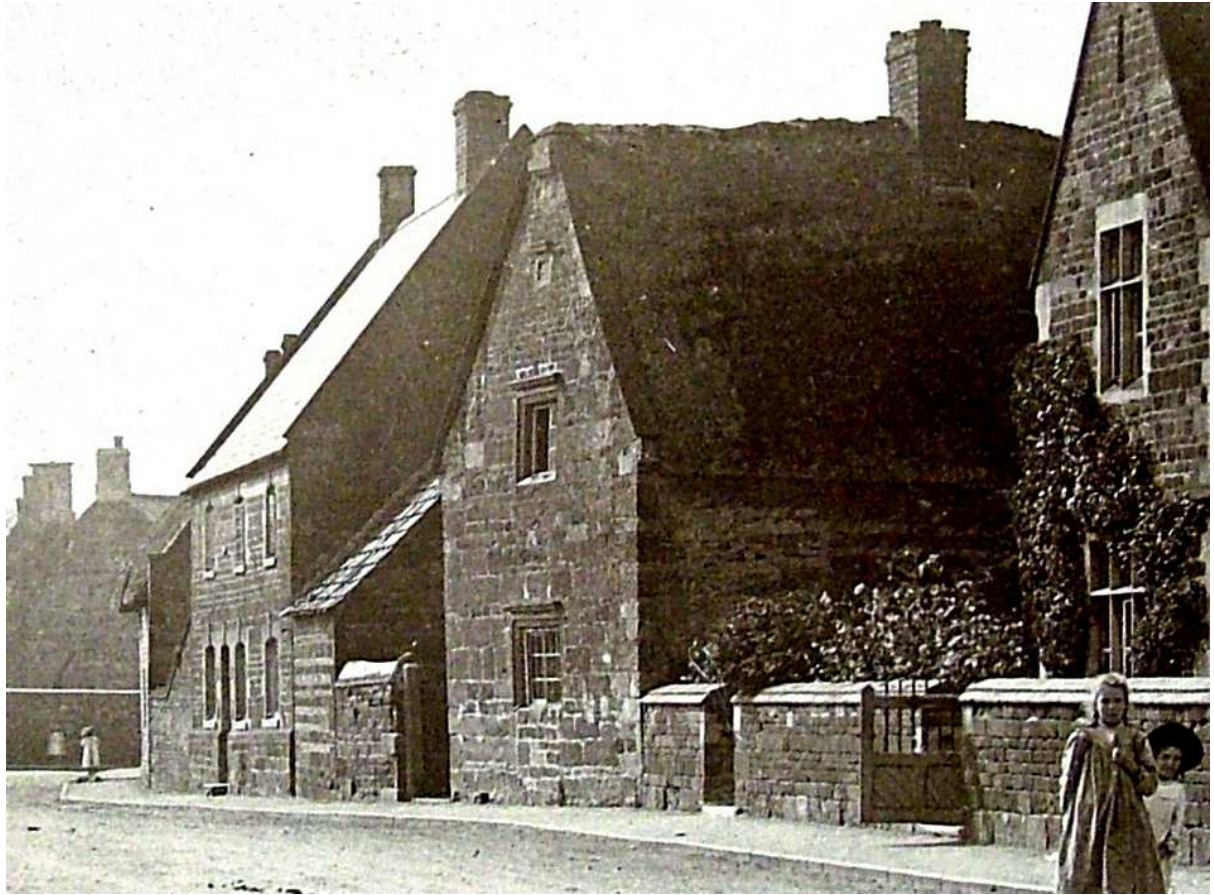
West gable in c.1990s, showing original lower gable



The west room looking north-west, towards cut-off cruck blade



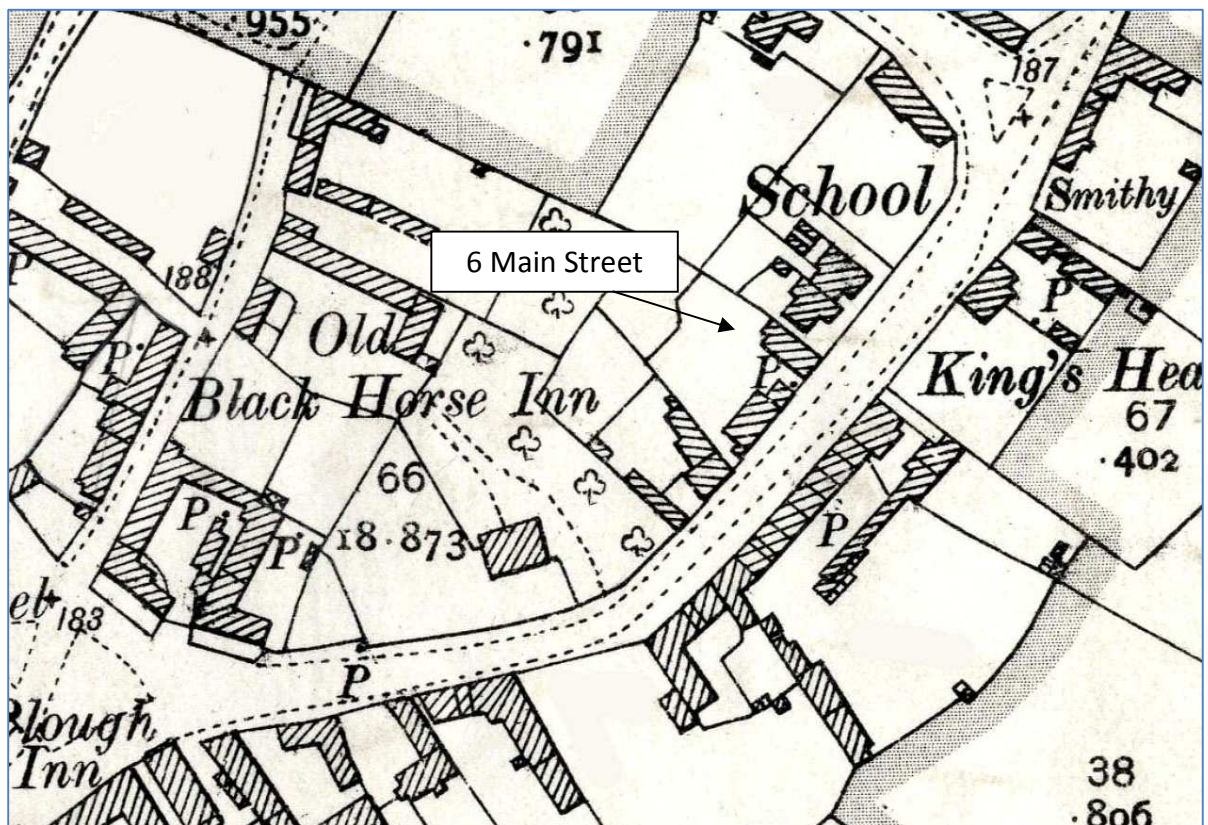
Cut-off cruck blade to north wall of west room, with bolted-on floor beam



View of c.1910



Caldecott Enclosure Map - 1800



Caldecott - OS Second Edition 1904