

**An Archaeological Interpretive Survey  
of  
Stone House, High Street, Mayfield, East Sussex**



**Commissioned by  
Sister Jean Sinclair on behalf of  
The Society of the Holy Child Jesus**

**Project Ref 3131**

**by  
David Martin FSA IHBC MIFA & Barbara Martin AIFA**

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**Archaeology South-East  
Institute of Archaeology  
University College London**

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# STANDING BUILDINGS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIVE SURVEYS

### AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

#### ABOUT THESE SURVEYS

The intended purpose of an *Archaeological Interpretative Survey* is to give an overview of the date, sequence of construction, and principal architectural features of a building. As such, they should not be regarded as a detailed archaeological record, nor should they be taken as definitive. Further research, particularly that undertaken during building works, is likely to refine and extend the archaeological record.

These reports are aimed at three groups of user, namely those owners who wish to know more about their property, those persons (architects and planners) who are charged with the responsibility for both conserving the buildings and ensuring that they are carefully adapted to the needs of the future, and finally the academic carrying out wider historical or archaeological research. A secure use for the future is, in our opinion, the only way of ensuring the long-term survival of any historical building.

#### INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUE

Unless noted to the contrary, the assessments involve a visual inspection of the fabric, both internally and externally, including any accessible roof voids and basement areas. Except where building works are being carried out, intrusive techniques are inappropriate. Interpretation of the fabric and fittings therefore relies principally upon inspection of the visible evidence. As part of the interpretative procedure, a measured outline survey of every property is undertaken.

#### THE WRITTEN REPORT

For ease of reference the written reports are divided into sections under a series of headings and sub-headings. The typical sequence of headings is as follows:-

- 1 Location of the building.
- 2 Sequence of development.
- 3 Detailed architectural description, arranged period-by-period.

#### THE DRAWINGS

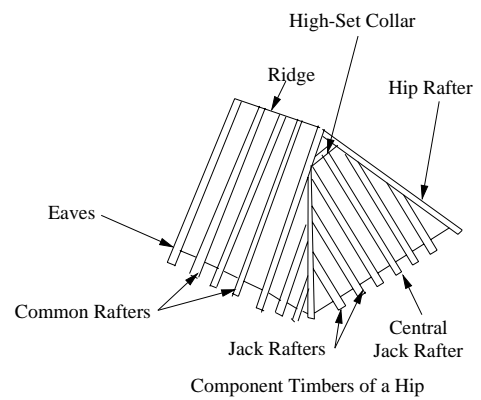
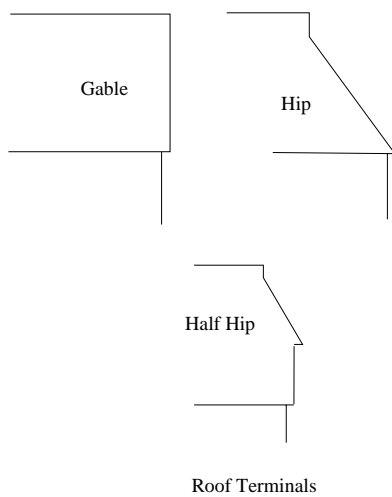
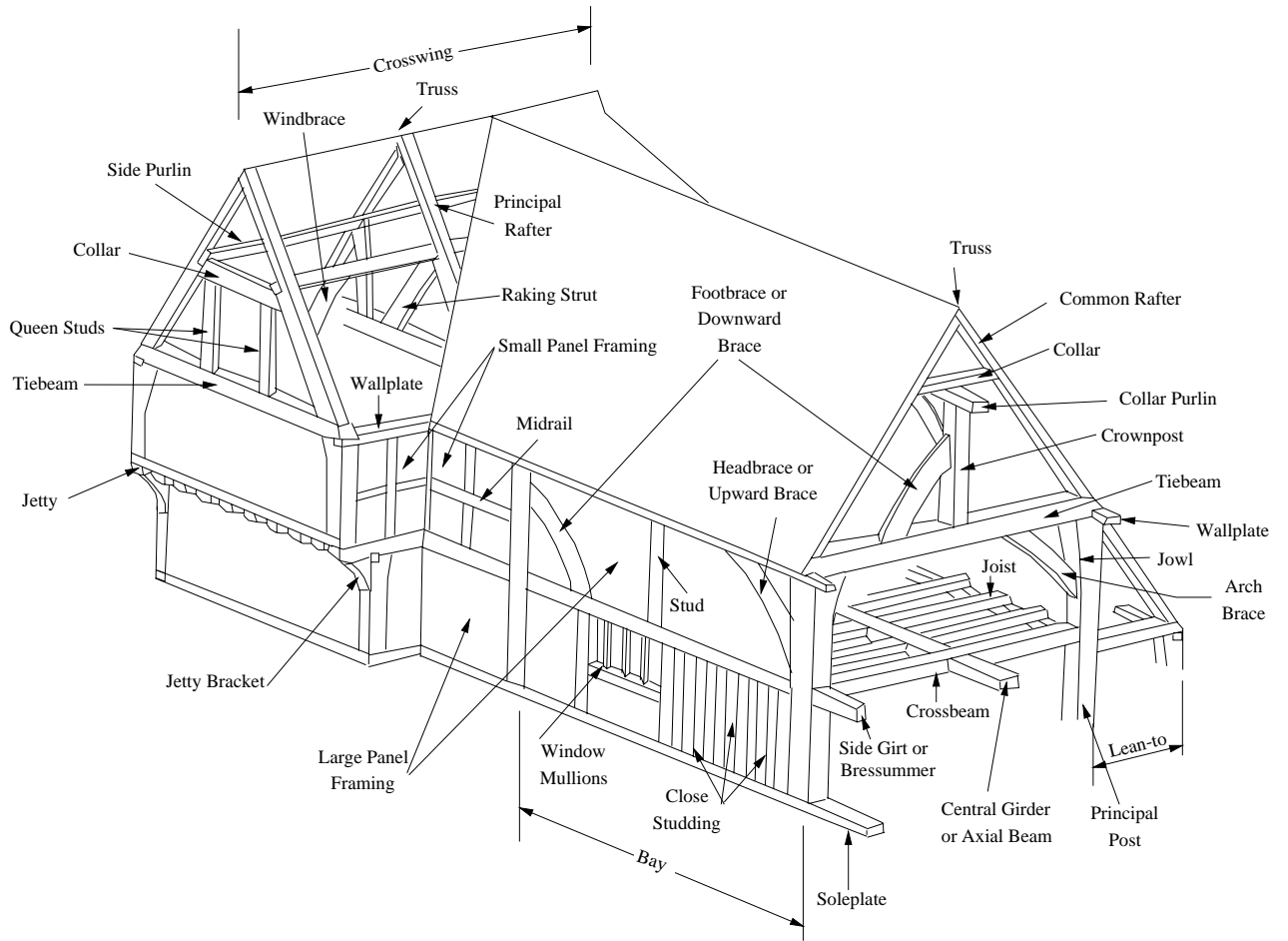
A set of drawings produced from an measured outline survey is included within the body of each report. The purpose of these drawings is to identify the features included within the written text and to illustrate, as far as is known, the form of the structure during its various stages of development. For clarity the drawings have been prepared in the form of scale 'sketches', rather than detailed archaeological record drawings. For reasons of economy, the making of detailed archaeological drawings is restricted to stripped-out or exceptionally important buildings.

The symbols as used in the drawings attached to this report are as follows:

—————	Surviving Timber-Framed Wall
///////	Surviving Brick or Stone Wall
-----	Features evidenced but destroyed or masked from view
- - - - -	Beam or feature immediately overhead
.....	Conjectural or very approximate
■	Structural timber
?	Details unknown or doubtful

#### OTHER CONVENTIONS USED -

- 1 Doors are shown in plan only where known: hence rooms may appear to have no obvious means of access.
- 2 With the exception of rafters, wallplates, and some chimneys and roof-lines, sections show features cut by or immediately adjacent to the cutting line only.



## GLOSSARY OF PRINCIPAL TERMS

## **REPORT NO. 1665**

### **MAYFIELD - STONE HOUSE, HIGH STREET**

**NGR TQ 5871 2702**

#### **LOCATION**

Stone House, built on an east-west axis, is prominently sited on the northern side of Mayfield High Street, 30 metres to the east of the parish Church. It is built within the former precincts of the palace of the archbishops of Canterbury and stands a little to the west of the heavily restored palace gatehouse. As a plan of Mayfield produced in the 1660s shows (see below) this part of the palace grounds was formerly enclosed by a stone precinct wall which at this point doubled as a retaining wall, the palace grounds being elevated some distance above the street. When this section of precinct wall was demolished in order to make way for the house, which is set back slightly from the street, the bank was dug into so as to make room for a front courtyard with, behind it, a partially subterranean basement beneath the house itself. In consequence, the ground floor of the house is elevated some distance above the street: a deliberate feature aimed at emphasizing the prominence of the building. The principal floor of the house is approached via a flight of steps which rise from within the enclosed forecourt/garden.

#### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**[based upon details kindly supplied by Christopher Whittick]**

Maps of the 1660s and 1681 showing the town indicate that at that date the site upon which Stone House stands was still part of the palace grounds, being a garden with what appears to be a gazebo-like building incorporated into the precinct wall, against the High Street [East Sussex Record Office (ESRO) AMS 5831/3; ACC 4656/7]. There was no house upon this site at that date.

In his account of Middle House, Mayfield, written in the mid 19th century, the genealogist and herald, William Courthope, states that 'On the opposite side of the way [to Middle House] are two stone built dwelling houses, of which one was formerly the Gate House of the Palace . . . . The other [*ie* Stone House] was erected out of the ruins of the same place.' [College of Arms, Courthope MS 23 pp142-3 (ESRO XA38/2)]. It is known that the owner of the palace, Michael Baker of Lower House *alias* Aylwins, Mayfield, was in the process of demolishing parts of the palace at his death in 1750 and substantial other parts (still shown standing in drawings made by the artist S. H. Grimm at an uncertain date in the 1780s) were demolished subsequently. Bearing in mind the early 16th-century windows reused within the building, and the fact that the part of the

palace demolished subsequent to Grimm's drawings included the sections built or remodelled by Archbishop Warham in the early 16th century, Courthope's claim seems very likely.

The documentary history of the site is likewise consistent with Courthope's comments. The property does not figure in the parish Land Tax returns until 1789 when the entry 'Richard Owen Stone for his house' occurs inserted into the return: the first entry in the parish Poor Rate book is the following year. The implication is that the house was newly built at that time.

Richard Owen Stone (1766-1824) was a Mayfield solicitor who, perhaps significantly, married Anna Maria Verrall of Southover, Lewes on 14th August 1789, the year the house first appears in the returns. Land tax actually lists him as owner of the property at this date, but other documents indicate otherwise: at this period the site still formed part of the Mayfield Place [Palace] Estate (see below). Whether Stone's lease of the property was sufficiently secure to warrant him building such a substantial house at his own cost, or whether the house was built as an investment by the owners of the Mayfield Place Estate for his tenancy is unclear. Whichever was the case, given the architectural details of the house there seems little doubt that in 1789 the building was still very new.

On the death in 1756 of Michael Baker's nephew and heir, George Baker, the Mayfield Place estate descended to George's two daughters and co-heirs, Philadelphia (at that time wife of Thomas Elsley) and Ann Ruth (later the wife of Rev. John Kirby of Mayfield Vicarage [ESRO KIR archive of the Baker and Kirby families of Mayfield]). They held the estate in common, but eventually, in 1809 (following Ann's death in 1807) the estate was partitioned. Whereas the palace went to the Rev. John Kirby, Stone House passed with Lower House to Philadelphia, who was by this date the wife of Henry Godfrey. It is worth noting that the Godfrey's trustees included Richard Owen Stone. Stone House was described in the deed of partition as a messuage, stable, buildings, yards and gardens in the occupation of Richard Owen Stone [ESRO AMS 825 (partition of the Baker/Kirby estate, 1809)]. Whilst the Land Tax return of May 1811 lists Henry Godfrey as owner, that of May 1812 gives the owner as Richard Owen Stone, so evidently soon after the partition Stone finally became the owner occupier of the property. He continued to live there until his death in 1824. By his will of 1822 he bequeathed the property to his wife Anna Maria Stone (died 1838) for life, with remainder to his son, William Owen Stone (died 1840) [PRO PROB 11/1691 (will of Richard Owen Stone); 11/1936 (will of William Owen Stone)]. Like his father, William was a solicitor, explaining why in the parish rates from 1831 to 1838 the property is variously described as a house and alternatively as an attorney's office. Upon his death Stone House was inherited by his sister, Miss Maria Ann Stone, who was still in occupation in 1851 (then aged 60 years): her household consisted of a servant and gardener [PRO HO 107/1640 f233 (ESRO XA9/6)].

## **OVERVIEW OF THE BUILDING [Drawing Nos. 1665/1-2]**

Erected in c.1789 [**Period A**] the external detailing of this stone-built house, with its reused stone doorways and window surrounds, gives it a distinctly archaic appearance, this despite its textbook central entry, terminal chimney design raised over a full basement and fitted with parapets. The chimneys, in particular, should give away the structure's relatively late date, being of well fired, large, modern-sized bricks. Internally there are other clues also: the fact that all internal partitions at basement- and ground-floor levels are built of brick. Furthermore, although the first-floor partitions are of timber, they are merely nailed into position and are masked from view by plastered coverings. Another clue is in the layout; much of the house is designed two rooms deep. All these are indicators of a mid/late 18th century date, as too is the design of the fireplaces. In common with houses of the period, it is of typical compact design. The division of the interior by axial partitions means that the house contains more internal spaces than its external appearance implies, and these are further augmented by the use of contemporary end lean-to outshuts, partially buried below ground level and accessed from the exterior only.

The Mayfield Tithe Map indicate that already by 1844 a substantial brick-built rear range had been erected behind the eastern half of the main range, converting the house to 'T' plan [ESRO TDE 133]. As part of these modernizations carried out by the Stone family, the interior of the principal ground-floor rooms were upgraded by the application of new finishings. If not original to the initial build, it was at this time too that the double-hung sash windows were inserted into the front elevation and the first-floor external doorway leading onto the front balcony over the entrance porch was blocked. Certainly it was at this time that the ground-floor openings were converted to walk-in type (with window seat in the parlour) and panelled hinged shutters were added to the splayed jambs. In addition, the internal face of the front wall at this level was packed out to carry a hessian wall covering (since removed). In the entrance area small sections of moulded dado rail survive. These have a curious profile and likewise represent part of the 19th-century refurbishment. Generally, however, apart from an adjustment to the doorway leading into the hall from the entry, the internal layout of the period-A part remained unaltered by the early 19th-century refurbishment. Subsequent additions include the construction of a two-storeyed porch within the re-entrant angle between the two ranges and extensive modernizations and additions to the eastern of the two end outshuts.

All work carried out since period A is excluded from the more detailed architectural description which follows.

## **LISTED STATUS OF THE BUILDING**

Stone House was listed grade II\* on 26th November 1953, its listed building reference being TQ 5827 39/504. The description in the list entry is purely for the purpose of recognition and is normally, therefore, primarily based on external appearance. The

date is correctly given as C18. [Source: English Heritage, Images of England - website]. The description must not be treated as a comprehensive schedule of those elements which are legally protected as, no matter what the grade, the legislative cover not only relates to both the interior and exterior, but also extends to any building within the curtilage which predates the 1st July 1948. The garden wall to the south of the house is listed grade II in its own right (Ref TQ 5827 39/504a, listed 31st December 1982).

## **DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### **PERIOD A (Late 18th C, probably 1789) [Drawing Nos. 1665/3-6]**

#### **LAYOUT**

Cut into a substantial bank, Stone House is designed to textbook central entry, terminal chimney format, in this instance having its ground-floor rooms elevated well above the street over a semi-subterranean 'below-stairs' basement. In this way the builder made good use of the slope of the site, allowing the front elevation to be set off to full effect. Entry into the house is via a flight of steps which lead up to an open porch protecting the front door. All services, including the kitchen and bakehouse, are sited within the basement, allowing the entire ground-floor of the house to be made over to living and business. Flanking the basement rooms and set back slightly from the main facade so as not to dominate, are a pair of lean-to outshuts, increasing the length of the building from 12.75 metres (41'10") at the principal facade to an impressive 21.90 metres (71'10") measured overall. Because of the ground levels, the end walls of the outshuts act as retaining walls against the garden areas to either side, and the same is true of the rear wall of the main part of the house. In front of the house there is a garden court divided from the street by a low wall (listed in its own right) capped by a wooden fence of Chinese Chippendale pattern. Yards, which flank the garden court, tend to visually hide the outshuts from the street and give the only means of access to them. Both outshuts function as outhouses. Although an opening has been cut through the western end wall later, there was originally no access between the house and the outshut at the western end, whereas an external doorway at basement level in the east wall of the house allows easier access from the below-stairs area to the eastern outshut. The interior of this eastern outshut was inaccessible at the time of the site visit.

The main body of the house measures 12.75 metres (41'10") x 7.00 metres (23'0") overall its external masonry walls which vary from 400 mm (1'4") thick at first-floor level to 590 mm (1'11") overall the plinth at basement level. As Drawing No. 1665/3 illustrates, on the ground floor the centrally-placed front door led into a generously proportioned entrance area extending across the full width of the house, with a doorway at the rear leading through to the garden. Against the western side wall of the entry,

forming a feature within it, is the stairs giving access to the first floor. A centrally-placed doorway (now blocked) led eastwards into the spacious principal living room – the hall – whilst doorways in the opposite wall, to north and south of the staircase, led into what was probably a small butler's pantry occupying the northwestern corner and a parlour occupying the southwestern corner. The latter, which almost certainly doubled as the solicitor's office, incorporated a canted borrowed light allowing the front door to be seen from within. All three rooms were heated.

A further doorway leading off the entry gives access to a flight of steps descending beneath the main flight to access the 'below stairs' basement within which were located all the service rooms. Like the hall above, the eastern of these extends the full width of the building and in this instance served as the kitchen, heated by a wide, deep inglenook fireplace in the east wall. In addition to housing the stairs, the central area (marked 'Stair Lobby' in Drawing No. 1665/3) included a barrel-vaulted cellar-like room projecting forward beneath the main entrance steps and landing. To the north of the stair lobby is a partitioned-off area designed as an un-heated service room. The wall which separates the western end of the basement from the central area incorporates doorways which lead into the two western rooms. That at the rear functioned as a cellar-like storage area and was reached from the central service room, whilst the larger room at the front was reached direct from the stair lobby and, like the kitchen, was served by a large fireplace, in this instance with a bread oven (removed) projecting from its northern jamb. There is some evidence to the north of the kitchen fireplace for a probable water boiling furnace or similar (area partially hidden at the time of visit).

In addition to a spacious staircase landing, at first-floor level were five chambers, four of which were heated by small fireplaces incorporated into the end walls. The un-heated chamber was located over the entry at the front of the house and originally gave access to a first-floor balcony area over the entrance porch, reached via a first-floor doorway (now converted into a window). The only other space at this level was a small closet contrived by partitioning off an area from the western end of the Northern Hall Chamber. This closet was reached direct from the landing via an entrance area leading to the chamber's door.

A further doorway on the landing leads to the enclosed attic stairs, which rise over the main flight and incorporate winders at their head. Although only one partition now survives within the roof space, there were probably originally three attic areas, one at either end leading off a central space containing the stairs. As the one surviving partition is merely nailed in, the removal of the other assumed partition would not have left any visible evidence.

## **EXTERNAL WALL DESIGN, WINDOWS AND DOORWAYS**

The external walls are faced in neatly squared ashlar sandstone blocks reused from the demolished parts of the palace – they contain a mixture of tooling marks and are of more than one quality, presumably reflecting different ages and/or quality of building

within the palace. There is a square-topped plinth at ground-floor level, whilst parapet walls mask secret gutters at the eaves. The boldly-projecting end chimneys are built using a typical late-looking, quite large and hard-fired brick, entirely in keeping with the late 18th-century date of the building. Because the flues from the twinned first-floor fireplaces tumble over within the thickness of the gable walls in order to tap into the chimneys, these parts of the gables are constructed in brick toothed into the adjacent stonework in rather random fashion – the only blemish within the otherwise well-designed external elevations. The lean-to outshuts utilize particularly large bricks as copings to their end walls, and similar-sized large bricks occur elsewhere within the structure (see below).



*Plate 1  
Street Elevation*



*Plate 2  
Hood to porch*

The symmetrical front wall (Plate 1) is divided into five bays by two tiers of regularly-spaced openings, all with reused stone surrounds. The front doorway, which has a plainly-chamfered four-centred arched head and vase stops, is approached by a flight of (rebuilt) steps and is protected by a flat-roofed canopied porch. This is carried by four columns supported on low pedestals and sporting Ionic caps and bases. The timber fascia to the flat hood is moulded and incorporates square dentils (see Plate 2). The door itself is of four panels and has a spring latch and two flat-bar locking bolts (see Plate 3).



*Plate 3  
Interior of front door*

Flanking the doorway at both ground-floor and first-floor levels are pairs of reused stone windows, all with cyma-moulded, square-headed external surrounds. Those serving the ground-floor rooms are capped by isolated lengths of plain, projecting stone string-course, each

identical to the width of the windows. The hollow-chamfered inner orders of all these windows are contrived from two-light openings which had four-centred arched heads with sunk spandrels, but the central mullions are missing, as too are the inner voussiors, the latter of which are substituted by a hollow-chamfered lintel. These openings now house double-hung sash windows which have slender glazing bars. The sashes could be of either c.1789 or early 19th-century date. All depends upon whether the adaptation of the windows occurred when the house was built or during the early 19th-century update to the house: on this point the visible evidence is contradictory. Internally the ground-floor openings are fitted with splayed timber reveals containing hinged panelled shutters. These project from the internal wall face to suit hessian wall finishes (removed). This internal modification forms part of the 19th-century refurbishment, as too does the adaptation of these ground-floor openings to walk-in type. Straight joints in the internal masonry to the identical window over the entrance porch makes clear that this window was initially built as a door leading to a balcony: it was modified to its present form as part of the 19th-century alterations.



*Plate 4*  
*Window at basement level*

This layout of windows is repeated beneath the plinth at basement level, where the cills are positioned only just above ground level. Here the windows retain their original form – two lights with a central stone mullion and four-centred arched heads (Plate 4). These may have been reused in this form in order to reflect the lower status of the basement rooms, or equally (for the same reasons) could have escaped modification during the 19th century. The lobby at the bottom of the cellar steps was lit by borrowed light from a square-headed window in the eastern side wall of the barrel-vaulted area beneath the entrance stairs.

The two lean-to outshuts which flank the house are each entered by a stone doorway in their southern walls. That to the eastern outshut has plain jambs and a segmental arched head, whilst the single-light window to the east has a stone surround with semi-elliptical arched head and sunk spandrels, all of reused material (Plate 5). These doorways and adjacent windows are the only openings serving the outshuts: their other external walls act as retaining walls.



*Plate 5*  
*South wall of eastern outshut*

In the eastern end wall at basement level, immediately to the south of the chimney, is a reused stone doorway with un-elaborated depressed four-centred arched head: this gave access from the small yard into the kitchen. Both this wall and the western end wall were originally absent of windows, except at attic level were small rectangular openings immediately to the south of the chimneys lit the two end attic rooms. There is no evidence in either roof slope for dormer windows.

Although the point is not now obvious due to later alterations, despite its secondary nature the rear (north) elevation is nonetheless designed to be symmetrical when viewed from the exterior (see Drawing No. 1665/4). This is despite the fact that compromises had to be made with regards the internal layout. The reason why symmetry was considered important appears to have been that this elevation was easily visible from the palace. The reused central doorway, approached by a short flight of steps supported on a barrel vault, has chamfered stone jambs, the chamfer being carried around the otherwise plain four-centred arched head (Plate 6). Internally a massive timber lintel supports the wall above. Within this elevation each of the two ground-floor rooms and two first-floor chambers was lit by a single opening. As with the doorway and the windows within the front elevation, the surrounds are reused from the palace. They are of two chamfered lights with four-centred arched heads having sunk spandrels, all set within a cyma-moulded square-headed surround (Plate 7). Originally the rear doorway was flanked by narrow rectangular window openings with plain jambs and square heads, the lintels of which are each formed by a single stone block. That to the west of the doorway (now partially blocked)



*Plate 6*  
*Rear doorway (now within added porch)*



*Plate 7*  
*Blocked rear window serving hall*

is fitted with an original (possible reused) double-hung sash window having heavy ovolo-moulded glazing bars. The eastern opening clashes with the alignment of the entry/hall

partition and is in fact blind, its brick jambs being returned across the internal face of the wall in fully-bonded brickwork. Now internalized by the addition of the later rear wing, the opening was originally fitted with a double-hung sash which matched that to the west: presumably its glass was painted out to disguise the fact that it was a dummy. Over the doorway, on the first floor, one of the splayed jambs of a destroyed window survives behind a later timber surround, where a doorway has been cut through subsequently. Whether this window, which lit the first-floor landing, was fitted with a stone surround or a double-hung sash is not known.



*Plate 8  
Borrowed light in parlour*

A double-hung sash similar to that beside the rear doorway, also with heavy glazing bars, exists internally as a borrowed light where an angled partition divides the parlour from the entrance area (Plate 8). This partition is angled in order to avoid a clash between its alignment and the symmetrically placed windows in the front facade, though the borrowed light may also have served the additional function of allowing Richard Owen Stone to observe clients approaching the front door.

## **INTERNAL PARTITIONS AND DOORWAYS**

At both basement and ground-floor level the walls which divide the internal space are of brickwork, one-brick thick on the ground floor and half-brick on the first floor. The brickwork is a mixture of reused bricks, some of 17th-century type, others oversized. The heavy timber frames of the doorways incorporate pegged-in heads.

In contrast to the arrangement on the two lower floors, at first-floor level the interior space is divided using lath-and-plaster partitions, the laths being supported by regularly-spaced studs interrupted by raking struts. The design of the two axial partitions is illustrated in Drawing No. 1665/6. Here the studs are simply nailed to the side faces of the ceiling girders top and bottom, whereas the cross partitions are founded directly over the floorboards. Generally all studwork was intended to be hidden from view by lath and plaster fitted to both faces, but within the closet – regarded as a low status area – the studwork is left exposed to view. The same is the case with the surviving nailed-in partition within the attic.

All door frames have bead-moulded leading edges and are fitted with cyma-moulded architraves typical of the period. Where they survive on the first floor the doors themselves are a mixture of two-panel and four-panel type, depending upon status. For

this same reason, the door serving the eastern attic room is a three-plank ledged door: its top corner is angle-cut to suit the roof slope. The door giving access to the bottom of the attic stairs retains a good spring lock (Plate 9).

## FLOORS AND CEILINGS

Within the basement the ceilings are of central-girder construction framed in three bays, with the 65 mm x 200 mm joists left exposed to view. The floor timbers over the ground-floor rooms and first-floor chambers are of similar scantling (joists 70 mm x 185 mm) and are likewise divided into three bays with the joists supported by axial girders, though at these levels both the joists and girders were intended to be masked from view by flush under-plaster ceilings. Within the entry and parlour some of the decorative cornice which masked the joint between the wall plaster and ceilings survives. It is formed out of moulded daub over which the cyma-moulded plaster covering has been drawn (Plate 10). Unfortunately due to the ceiling joists having been built into the external walls, the majority of the cornices within the house were lost during the 20th century when structural repairs were carried out.

Although in general terms the joist arrangement within the first-floor ceilings follows that on the floor below, here, within the two long end bays, the configuration adjacent to the side walls was varied in order to suit the roof design. Within these longer bays a massive 350 mm x 185 mm trimmer is incorporated adjacent to the front wall, supporting the ends of the ceiling joists. The logic of this appears to have been to give extra support to the wallplates carrying the roof which, because of the parapets, are inset into the building (see below). In the long term this was a poor solution, for it adds considerable weight to the already heavy loadings being supported by the tiebeams.

## STAIRS

Brick steps supported over a half-section barrel vault rise from the basement to give access to the rear part of the entrance hall. The main stairs are located immediately above and are fitted with turned balusters supporting a simple moulded handrail, all



*Plate 9*

*Latch to door at base of attic stair*



*Plate 10*

*Surviving cornice in the entry*

typical of the period (Plate 11). Access to the enclosed attics stairs is via a doorway off the landing. Winders at the head allow sufficient headroom beneath the slope of the roof. At this point the stairs are today protected by a modern handrail: the original balustrade arrangement (if any) is uncertain.

## CHIMNEYS

The house is served by two boldly-projecting terminal chimneys, one of five flues and one of four. The flues do not tumble over within the chimney, but are instead gathered to the centre within the thickness of the end gable walls. Because of this, the stacks show little or no external tumbling, the wide bases of both chimneys (housing the working hearths at basement level) being hidden from view within the lean-to outshuts.

At the western end in the basement is a large working fireplace which also served a large bread oven (now removed). The bread oven was sited mainly within the western end lean-to, but because of its location it also projected through the gable wall of the main house. Within this wall can be seen an arched opening which carried the masonry over the vulnerable, non-structural dome of the oven (Plate 12). Because of the internal room configuration, on the ground floor the chimney incorporated not one but two small fireplaces: these served the parlour (front) and ?butler's pantry (rear). The parlour fireplace is currently blocked but retains its simple moulded timber surround and mantle shelf. Within the ?butler's pantry is a simple stone surround with segmental head. Within the opening is a very complete cast iron grate (Plate 13). This fireplace sits over the bread



*Plate 11*  
*Balustrade to main staircase*



*Plate 12*  
*Arch carrying wall over site of former oven*



*Plate 13*  
*Fireplace within ?butler's pantry*

oven in the basement. The pair of fireplaces at first-floor level are over those on the ground floor: the surrounds of both have been removed.

Like the chimney serving the western end of the house, the eastern stack incorporates a large cooking hearth at basement level. The hearth is exceptionally deep. Above is a timber spit rack (Plate 14). To the north of the fireplace are three courses of bricks which project forward into the room, above which is a blocked arched opening. The likelihood is that this was once associated with a water-boiling furnace, or similar fixture. Within the flue, above the brick arch which forms the lintel, are two arches crossing the flue, preventing the tumbling from collapsing in on itself. (A similar arrangement of arches probably exists within the western chimney, but the flue has been blocked.) On the ground floor, within the hall, the fireplace surround has been removed. At the time of the site visit the two-ring brick-on-edge segmental arch which spans the earlier opening was exposed for repair: this had dropped and was being supported by timber props. Both eastern chambers on the first floor were served by fireplaces, though that in the front hall chamber has had its surround removed. That serving the rear chamber has an original timber surround with projecting moulded shelf and mantle board, all typical of the period (Plate 15).

Neither attic room was heated.

## ROOF

The roof over the main range has gabled terminals with the chimneys rising externally against them. The structure itself is framed in five equal-length bays and is of staggered-butt-purlin construction with trusses incorporating heavy-scantling principal rafters and collars. The majority of the roof timbers are secondhand and show redundant mortices: in particular the common rafters to the lower tier are reused medieval rafters of 175 mm x 115 mm cross section. Except at the trusses, all collars are nailed to the common rafters: they serve as ceiling joists. Only the principal timbers

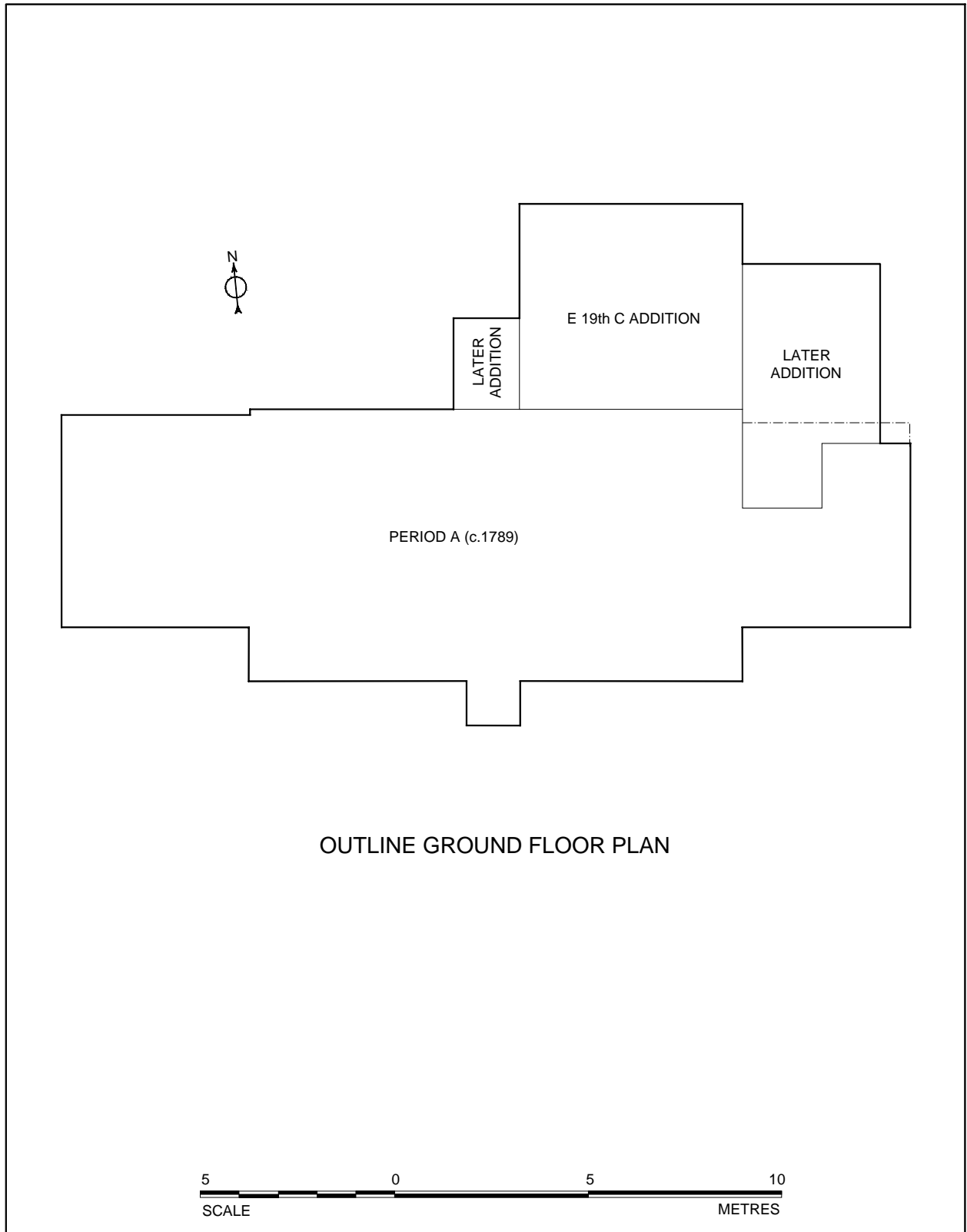


*Plate 14*  
*Spit rack over kitchen fireplace*



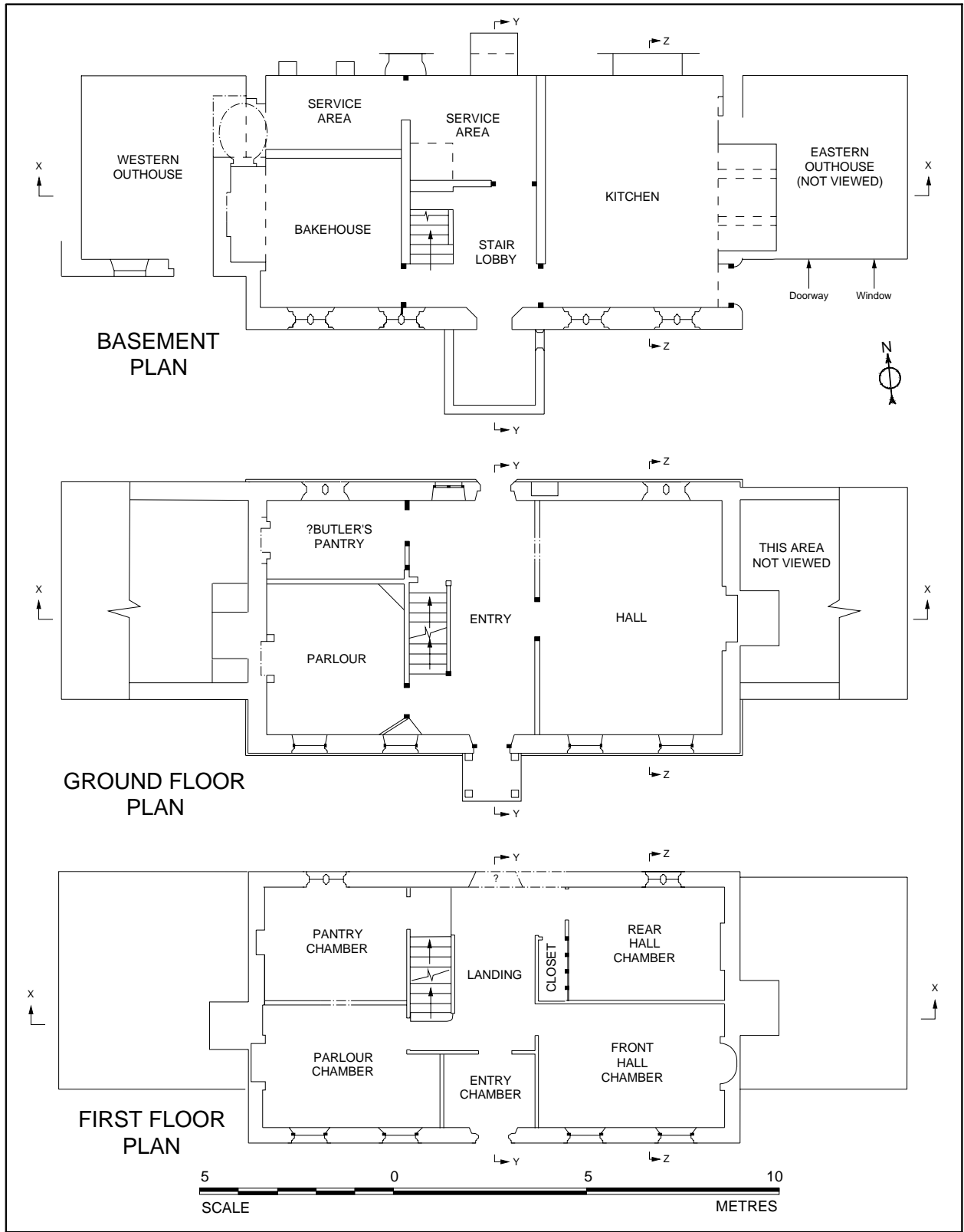
*Plate 15*  
*Surround and mantle board to fireplace,  
rear hall chamber*

– ie butt purlins and principal rafters – were originally intended to be exposed to view, the remainder of the rafters and collars being masked by lath and plaster. Ashlar pieces formed low side walls. Externally part of the roof was masked by low parapet walls. Usually these would be thin and rise high, with the wallplates which carry the rafters being supported over the inner part of the walls. However, in this instance for some unclear reason the carpenter has chosen to pitch the roof (including the trusses) off pole plates inset from the wall face and supported over the ceiling construction (see Drawing No. 1665/5). As a result, the entire roof weight is carried by the first-floor ceiling. Given that the ends of the tiebeams, and some of the joists are built into the walls and are, in consequence, rotting, this has resulted in a major structural problem.



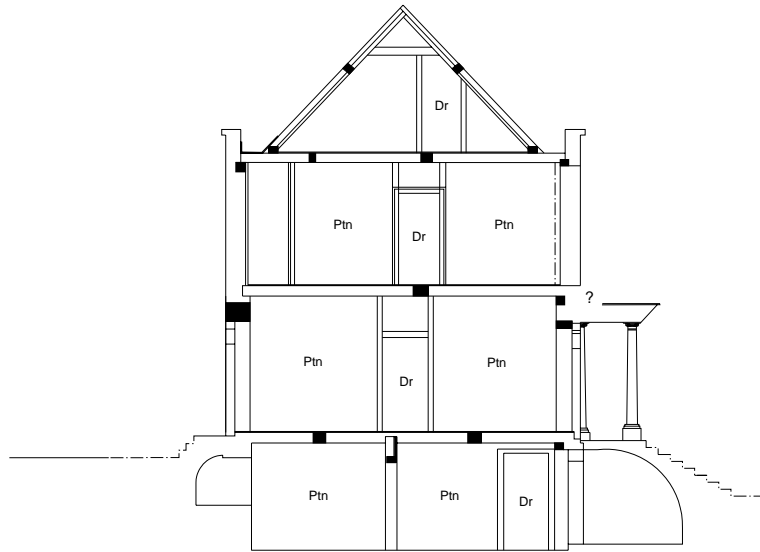
<b>STONE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD, EAST SUSSEX</b> <b>OUTLINE PLANS SHOWING SEQUENCE OF DEVELOPMENT</b>				Site Ref <b>P93/Town/15D</b>	
				Drawing No. <b>1665/1</b>	
Drawn By <b>J Clubb</b>	Revision No <b>1</b>	Date of original survey <b>1996</b>	Date of this revision <b>2007</b>		



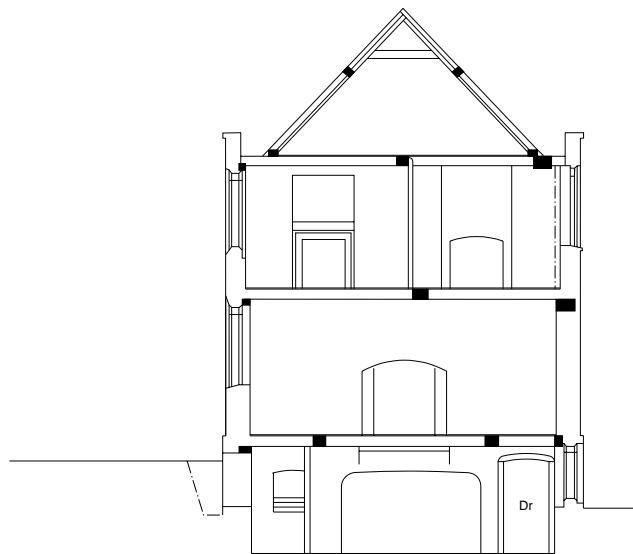


<b>STONE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD, EAST SUSSEX PHASE-A RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Site Ref <b>P93/Town/15D</b>
				Drawing No. <b>1665/3</b>
Drawn By <b>J Clubb</b>	Revision No <b>1</b>	Date of original survey <b>1996</b>	Date of this revision <b>2007</b>	

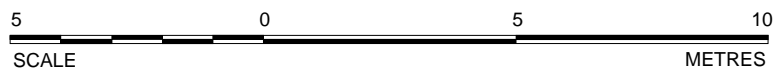




**CROSS SECTION Y-Y**



**CROSS SECTION Z-Z**



<b>STONE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD, EAST SUSSEX</b>				Site Ref <b>P93/Town/15D</b>
<b>PHASE-A RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Drawing No. <b>1665/5</b>
Drawn By <b>J Clubb</b>	Revision No <b>1</b>	Date of original survey <b>1996</b>	Date of this revision <b>2007</b>	



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