

**An Archaeological Interpretative Survey of  
Moss Cottage, Newbridge, Hartfield, East Sussex**

**Commissioned by Jenny Smith**

**Project Ref. 3213  
Report No: 2008231**



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

**2007**

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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.

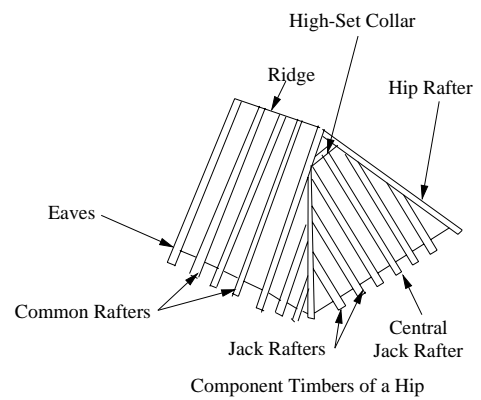
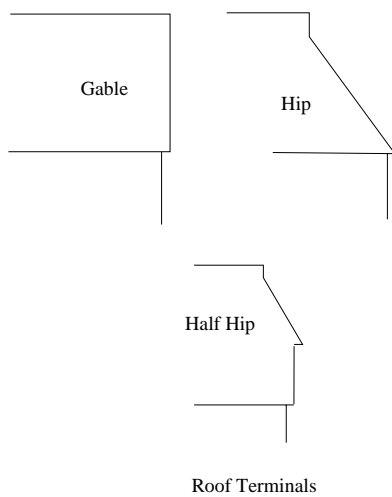
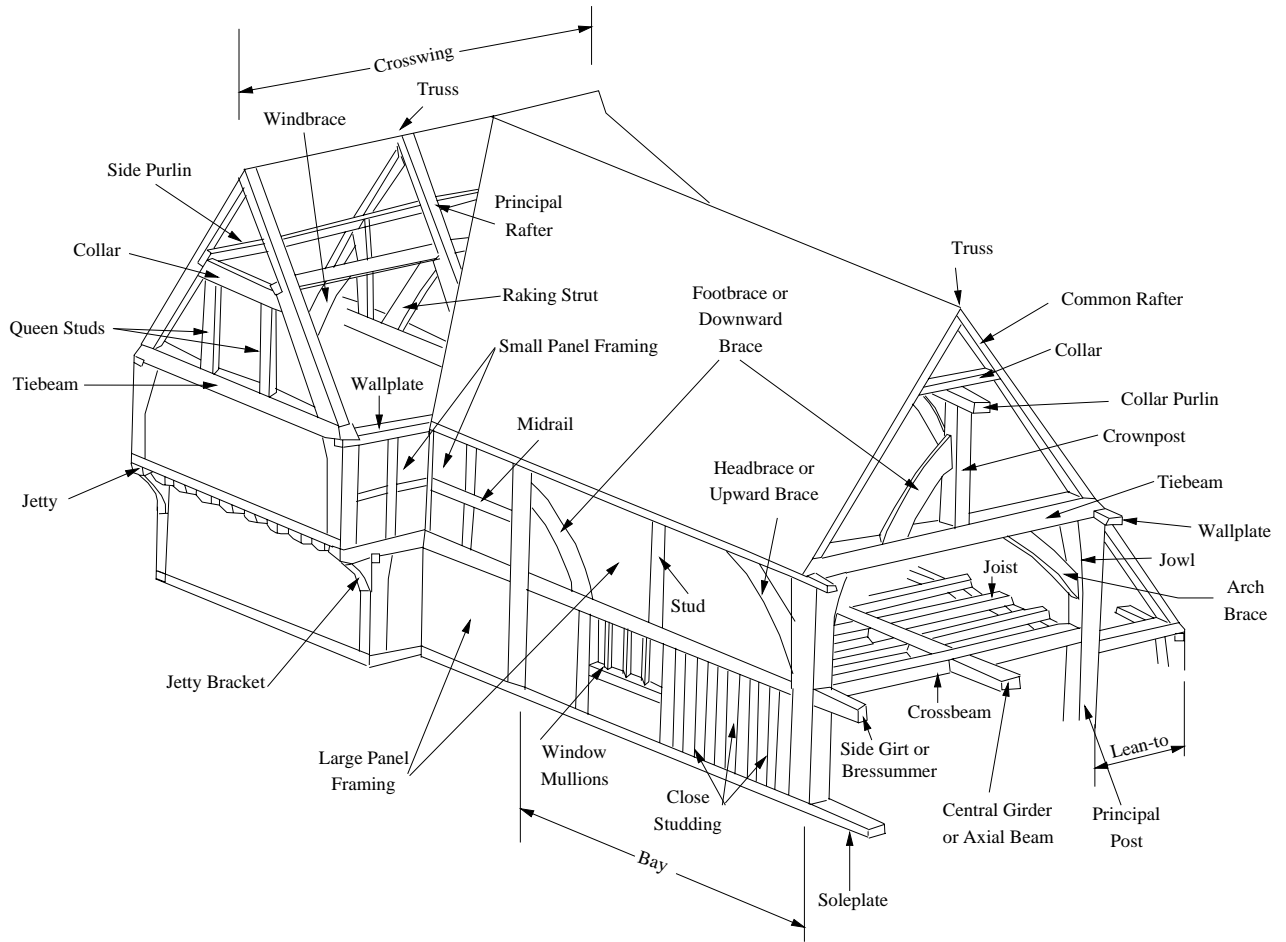
The symbols as used in the drawings attached to this report are as follows:

—————	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. 1675

### HARTFIELD - MOSS COTTAGE, NEWBRIDGE

NGR TQ 4557 3263

#### LOCATION

Moss Cottage (formerly known as Moss Cottages) is sited approximately 2.3 miles southwest of Hartfield Church and stands on the edge of Ashdown Forest on the western side of Kiddy's Hill Road, which runs between Camp Hill and Colman's Hatch. It is almost opposite the road's junction with Chuck Hatch Lane which at this point crosses a stream by means of a ford. As indicated in the 1874 1st Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey plan (Plate 1) the house is constructed upon a N-S axis and is aligned parallel to the road with its principal elevation facing east. To the west flows a stream which crosses the highway a little to the north of the house, whilst a second stream — to the east of the highway — is a man-made mill leat serving Newbridge Mill, a little distance to the northeast. The 1874 O.S. plan is the earliest identified map which shows the footprint of the building accurately: the 1842 Hartfield tithe map has been demonstrated as unreliable in this respect (see East Sussex Record Office HBR 1/1674 — Newbridge Mill House). The house stands at a height of approximately 70 metres above Ordnance Datum.

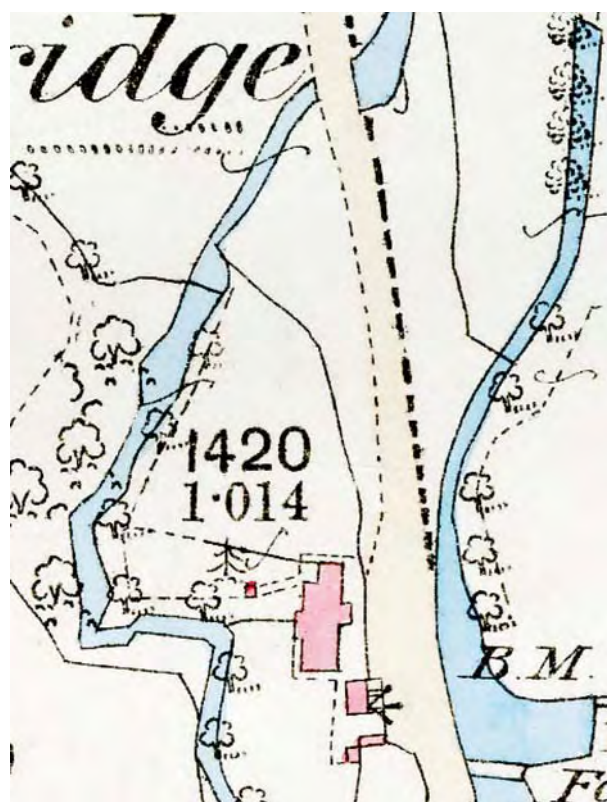


Plate 1  
Enlarged extract from 1874 1:2500 O.S.  
[Sussex Sheet 16.08]

#### OVERVIEW OF THE BUILDING [Drawing Nos. 1675/1-3]

The earliest part of the house (the southern end) was constructed in the late 17th century [**Period A**] and is framed in three bays. Although the house is exceptionally narrow, it incorporates an axial chimney rising through the ridge part way along the building, giving the property a house-like appearance — very different than

cottage-like structures which incorporate a chimney against one gable wall. Despite its small size, in general terms the house is neatly constructed and well carpentered, even though some of the secondary timber is small scantling and of 'hedgerow quality' having waney leading edges. Some of this secondary timber is not oak — some joists in the hall, for example, appear to be Silver Birch or a similar species. In the building's initial form there were three ground-floor rooms and three first-floor chambers, the latter open to the roof. The two southern chambers incorporated glazed windows from the outset: the arrangement in the northern chamber is less certain.

In the mid 18th century [**Period B**] the house was extended by the construction of a rear range, the northern side wall of which formed a continuation of the end wall of the period-A house. This extension was noticeably loftier than the earlier building, a point emphasized still further because the floor levels were elevated in order to allow space beneath the range for a partially above-ground cellar (now backfilled). The addition, which was built in brick on the ground floor with tile-hung timber framing above, housed a heated parlour on the ground floor with a spacious chamber on the upper storey. The house is said to have been used as an alehouse at one period in its life (*pers. comm.* Jenny Smith) a point which, if confirmed, could explain the addition of this rear range and cellar.

Around 1800 [**Period C**] a single bay was added at the northern end of the main range, maintaining the heights and profile of the earlier part, but slightly wider. The ridge line of the roof was maintained by giving the rear slope of the extension a less steep pitch. The addition is brick built on the ground floor and tile hung above. It has a pole-rafter roof of clasped side-purlin construction (the side purlins are likewise of pole type) and



Plate 2

Exterior from west — pre 1929



Plate 3

Exterior from west — Later than Plate 2 and after 1909

there is a ridge board at the apex. There was a half-hipped terminal at the northern end. The roof timbers have been whitened indicating that, despite the low quality of the timbers, the new first-floor chamber was open to the roof. The ground-floor room was heated from the outset by means of a rear stack which projected slightly from the face of the external wall. Old photographs (Plates 2 and 3) show the chimney cap with two pots (implying two flues) but today there are no obvious signs of a former first-floor fireplace.

In the middle years of the 19th century [**Period D**] the house was further extended at the northern end, and again the heights and profile of the period-A part were maintained — the result is a long, low building. The extension gave an additional ground-floor room and first-floor chamber, the former heated by a chimney which projects slightly proud of the northern end wall. Unlike the earlier phases of the main range, the new first-floor chamber was fitted with a ceiling: it therefore seems likely that it was at this date high-level first-floor ceilings were inserted into the earlier chambers of the main range.

As Plate 4 illustrates, by 1874 lean-to outshuts had been added to the rear of the period-A and period-C additions but, significantly, not to the rear of the period-D addition. Both added outshuts were of late date, having been constructed after the original period-A rear wall had been weatherclad and the southern ground-floor wall brick underbuilt, but nothing more can be said as both were rebuilt during the mid/late 20th century — this is likely to have been due to their inferior quality. Also by 1874 a short lean-to outshut with shallow-pitched slate roof had been added against the front wall of the house — this is clearly visible in Plate 2 as well as Plates 4-6, but had been demolished by 1929 (Plate 7). Jenny Smith (the present owner) has been told that the lean-to served as a shop, which seems very likely.

The ordnance survey plan of 1874 shows the house in single occupancy at that time, but by 1897 the southern end had been divided off as a separate dwelling (compare Plates 4 and 5). Later plans (Plates 6 and 7) show the party wall between the two



Plate 4  
Enlarged extract from  
1874 1:2500 O.S.  
[Sheet 16.08]

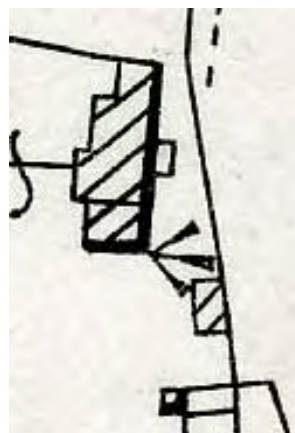


Plate 5  
Enlarged extract from  
1897 1:2500 O.S.  
[Sheet 16.08]

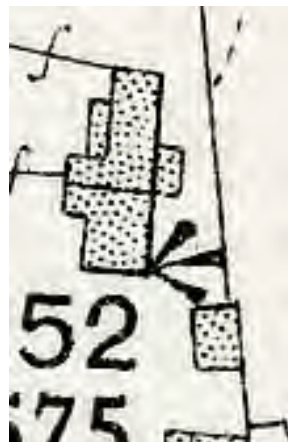


Plate 6  
Enlarged extract from  
1908-9 1:2500 O.S.  
[Sheet 16.08]



Plate 7  
Enlarged extract from  
1929 1:2500 O.S.  
[Sheet 16.08]

cottages further north, but whether this reflects reality or corrects an earlier cartographic error is unclear.

As already noted, in the mid/late 20th century the rear lean-to outshuts were reconstructed in modern brickwork (incorporating a damp proof course) and at the same time the northern outshut was extended along the rear of the period-D addition. This work probably coincides with the date at which the property was returned to single occupancy, at which time the internal layout was markedly adjusted. Access to the first floor is now via a modern staircase which rises within the period-A northern bay, the floor construction of which was at this date replaced. As part of these alterations a square alcove was formed beyond the northern wall of the hall and a modern timber inserted beneath the central girder to help support its northern end. Various secondhand timbers have been inserted into the frame to make it look more 'olde worlde'. Within the rear range areas of period-B lath and plaster have been removed at first-floor level so as to expose the timber studwork, part of the period-B first-floor ceiling has been removed, the cellar backfilled and the ground floor lowered. The period-C brick end wall between the c.1800 extension and the 19th century addition has been removed and large openings cut through the brick underbuilding in the rear wall, which underbuilding pre-dates the addition of the lean-to outshuts. The period-A chimney stack heating the hall has been demolished down to the level of the first floor and totally reconstructed so as to take up less room. At the same time the tiebeam to the north of the chimney was removed, and it may have been at this time too that the intermediate tiebeam to the south of the chimney was likewise removed.

At the time of survey the house was still in the process of drying out, having suffered a flash flood on 20th July 2007.

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

## **LISTED STATUS OF THE BUILDING**

Moss Cottages, Newbridge, Hartfield, was listed grade II on 31st December 1982, its listed building reference being TQ 43 SE 12/117. 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 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.

## **DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### **PERIOD A (Late 17th C) [Drawing No. 1675/4]**

#### **LAYOUT**

As initially constructed the building comprised three bays, with each bay housing a separate room with chambers above. It was a small house, measuring 9.65 metres (31'8") long x a mere 3.65 metres (12'0") wide, making it one of the narrowest extant buildings of its period locally. On the ground floor the southern and northern rooms were un-heated, whilst the central bay — the hall — was served by an inglenook fireplace from the outset. The chimney was built into the northern part of the southern bay, leaving room to the east for a lobby entry servicing the front door (now blocked). Because the upper part of the chimney has been reconstructed it is impossible to tell whether the hall chamber was heated. All three first-floor chambers were open to the roof, which is hardly surprising bearing in mind that the first-floor side walls measure only 1.30 metres (4'3") from floor to top of wallplate.

#### **WALL DESIGN**

The house is traditionally timber framed and has walls of large-panel type incorporating straight footbracing to both the external walls and internal partitions at first-floor level. It is not clear whether the footbraces were exposed to view within the external/primary or internal/secondary wall face, though it may be significant that the one visible internal brace (in truss C-C) is today visible in the secondary face, but the wall infill appears to be modern and thus this could be the result of alteration. Normal assembly has been used at the junction between the principal posts, wallplates and tiebeams, the principal posts being fitted with a mixture of swelling and splay-cut jowls at their heads. Beneath the wallplates and crossbeams are visible traditional rounded-ended stave holes which carried the heads of the staves which, in turn, supported the laths of the daub infill.

The framing generally is well carpentered but the quality of the timber is in places waney, indicating that the trees from which the timbers were cut were slightly under sized for the scantling needed. The truss between the hall bay and southern bay has been largely removed in modern times and thus few details of this are known. Similarly, at the northern end of the hall only the extreme eastern end of the crossbeam is exposed, the remainder either being hidden by modern work or removed. That part which does remain has stave holes in its soffit, indicating a daub-infilled panel.

At first-floor level there was originally an intermediate tiebeam crossing the southern chamber immediately to the rear of the chimney. Although now removed, the tiebeam is evidenced by a dovetail in the rear wallplate.

## **WINDOWS**

Two provable glazed windows are evidenced within the front elevation at first-floor level: one serving the hall chamber the other serving the southern chamber. Both were of 860 mm width and were of similar type, being of two glazed panes divided by a central morticed-in mullion (removed). To either side of the central mullion a small hole in the soffit of the wallplate indicates the location of a vertical dowel to which the leaded lights were tied so as to prevent buckling and rattling - a usual feature at this period. Within the front wall of the northern chamber is a 620 mm length of wallplate which is absent of both stave holes and mortices. At each end is a mortice. This evidence indicates the position of another window opening, but the lack of both mullion mortice and dowel holes suggests that this opening may have been unglazed. Another possibility is that it had a frame face-pegged onto the external wall face — given that this was the smallest of the chambers and the opening is narrower than that of the other two windows, this possibility seems unlikely. At c.470 mm deep, all three windows were very shallow,

Sufficient evidence remains within the rear elevation to be certain that there were no first-floor windows in the southern half of this wall: elsewhere within this wall most of the evidence is hidden/destroyed.

## **DOORWAYS**

An area of repair in the later brick underbuilding of the front elevation indicates that there was an external doorway leading into the house beside the chimney. This is the classic location for a lobby entry and almost certainly replicated the earlier period-A arrangement. It is not known whether the house had a back door, leading to the rear yard.

The doorway linking between the southern room and hall is indicated by a stud mortice in truss B-B, hard against the fireplace, and by an absence of stave holes in the soffit of the crossbeam in this area. There would have been one further ground-floor doorway — leading from the hall into the northern room — but its location is not known: all that can be determined is that it was not at the eastern end of the partition.

Due to the extent of modern destruction, on the first floor only one door location is known. This is sited centrally within truss C-C and led from the northern chamber into the hall chamber: it is today blocked.

## **FLOORS AND CEILINGS**

Within the northern ground-floor room the floor has been replaced but, given the slightly lower level of the northern end crossbeam (at truss D-D) in relation to that at truss C-C to the south, the joists would have run north-south, being lodged into position over the northern end crossbeam and morticed into the northern face of crossbeam C-C.

Because the hall bay is longer, here the ceiling is of central-girder type, the 210 mm wide girder being neatly chamfered along its lower leading edges. The chamfers terminates in cyma stops. The tiny, plain, 90 mm x 80 mm joists are morticed-and-tenoned into the girder, have waney edges and in places retain bark — the timbers are certainly not oak, nor are they of a species normally used in house construction. That they are original is indicated by the setting-out lines and the fact that the shoulders are accurately scribed to waney edges on the upper face of the girder. Nail holes indicate that there was once a plastered ceiling, though this could have been added. Within the southern room the joists are masked by an under-plastered ceiling and thus the constructional details are not known.

At first-floor level the chambers were open to the roof, though high-level ceilings and plastered skelings were added subsequently.

## **STAIRS**

The location of the stairs giving access to the first floor is unknown, but would have been sited within either the northern or southern room.

## **CHIMNEYS**

Only the ground-floor hall inglenook fireplace survives — from the level of the first floor the stack has been rebuilt to a smaller size in modern times. It is not known whether there was originally a first-floor fireplace serving the hall chamber. The hall fireplace is constructed with sandstone jambs and rear wall and has a timber lintel, the lower leading edge of which is stop chamfered. The original form of the chimney cap is unknown, though its north-south dimension is indicated by modern packing pieces added into the roof at ridge level in order to size down the earlier opening.

## **ROOF**

The roof is well constructed and is of clasped-side-purlin type. All the timbers are neatly squared and well finished. At the junction of the bridge joints at the heads of the common rafters are neat carpenters' assembly marks which utilize Roman numerals.

The purlins are held in position at the trusses by collars. At the southern end is a hipped terminal which lacks a central high-set collar and central jack rafter, a feature which locally indicates a mid 17th-century or later date. In contrast, the northern end is today gabled. This may be original and is certainly early, being of period-B or earlier date. Two, perhaps three pieces of evidence suggest that the terminal may have been altered. Firstly, despite showing no indications of being a reused timber, the northern end of the front wallplate has two sets of birdsmouths within it — those used by the present rafters of the gable and a second set spaced more widely apart, as if for jack

rafters. The rear wallplate at this point has been removed and the upper face of the end tiebeam is hidden from view, so these timbers cannot be used to advance the hypothesis further. Secondly, the side purlins are roughly jointed immediately to the north of the collar of truss C-C and there is a difference in the size of the timbers at this point, possibly suggesting that the period-A purlins originally terminated at the truss. Lastly — though this could be imagination — there appears to be a slight difference in quality between the two sections of roof. The design of the terminal would not have been changed without good reason and, at first, it is difficult to see why such an alteration would have been made. But, in fact, if the (unproven) alteration dates from period B there is a very good reason. Because of the difference in floor levels and storey heights. the wallplates of the period-B rear range are located a full 670 mm (2'3") above those of the period-A range. This would have made weathering the addition against a hip very difficult, and very unsightly. Changing a hip to a gable overcomes this problem very adequately and cheaply. Even so, there could be other reasons for the anomalies noted above — because of the doubt, the present gable is shown in the period-A reconstruction drawings, qualified accordingly.

## **PERIOD B (Mid 18th Century) [Drawing Nos. 1675/5]**

### **LAYOUT**

At this date the house was considerably upgraded by the construction of a 4.35 metre (14'3") x 4.55 metre (14'11") extension added at right angles at the rear, its northern side wall being aligned to the northern end wall of the period-A house. This addition housed a heated parlour on the ground floor having its floor level elevated above that within the period-A part so as to allow the inclusion of a semi-basement room beneath. [The basement is now backfilled and the floor of the parlour has been lowered, thereby increasing the ground-floor storey height]. At first-floor level was a chamber, the floor of which was also elevated above that in the period-A part, being accessible via a short flight of steps leading up from the northern chamber. Internally the layout of the period-A house appears to have remained unaltered at this date.

### **WALL DESIGN**

The ground-floor walls of the extension are constructed in Flemish-bonded brickwork with red stretchers and grey burnt headers, all rising from a chamfered plinth set level with the period-B ground floor. On the first floor weather-clad timber-framing has been used, the main frame being traditionally constructed, but with spindly principal posts in the western end wall fitted with rounded bowls to the jowls. Here the tiebeam and wallplate are set in normal assembly, as is also the case over the existing rear wall of the period-A house. In the latter area, however, the design seems to have been varied during construction, for although the wallplates and tiebeam have mortices so as to

accommodate principal posts, the posts themselves are absent and appear never to have been fitted — they would have clashed with the alignment of the period-A rear wall, the wallplate of which was located a full 670 mm below that of the rear range. The eastern ends of the period-B wallplates extend beyond the tiebeam, terminating at the point where they meet the rear slope of the period-A roof.

The first-floor framing is infilled using regularly-spaced studs, interrupted in places by straight raking struts which triangulate all three walls at this level — the fourth side is formed by the period-A range. This infill framing was originally intended to be masked on the interior by lath and plaster (now removed). Only the principal timbers (principal posts, wallplates and tiebeams ) were intended to be left exposed. All the studs are morticed-and-tenoned into the tiebeam and wallplates, and all joints are pegged. The details are typical of the period.

It was perhaps as part of this upgrade that the exterior of the period-A house was clad. Certainly weathercladding had been added to the western (rear) elevation prior to the rear lean-to being built, for extra studs were inserted into the frame in order to support the cladding. Despite this, the style of the brick underbuilding suggests that the ground-floor walls of the earlier house were not rebuilt until period C, so possibly the entire period-A frame remained exposed externally at this time.

## **WINDOWS**

The new ground-floor parlour is lit by a three-pane glazed window positioned off centre in the northern wall, biased towards its western end, and there is now another (modern) window cut into the south wall. In its design the northern window frame is entirely consistent with a mid 18th-century date, but it could have been refixed in its present location subsequently, when the northern rear lean-to outshut was added — this would explain its otherwise illogical off-centred location. However, there could be other explanations, such as an external doorway to the window's east. Internally the mullions are cyma moulded. The central pane is fitted with an opening casement closed by a spring catch — one of several within the house. Engraved into one of the diamond quarrels of the eastern pane is an inscription which states '*May this houses harte Never know disstris [distress]*'. At first-floor level a two-pane casement window in the north wall lights the chamber: here too a later window has been intruded into the south wall, in this instance cutting through studs and a raking strut. It is not known how the semi-basement was lit.

It is possible that the windows in the front range were adjusted at this date, but the present windows are perhaps more likely to represent period-C/D modifications, aimed at giving a more uniform appearance to the front facade once it had been brick underbuilt.

## **DOORWAYS**

Access into the parlour and its chamber was via doorways leading in from the northern period-A room and chamber. The present frames appear to be later replacements.

## **FLOORS AND CEILINGS**

The ceiling over the semi-basement (forming the floor of the parlour) has been removed and the basement filled in, and thus no details of the joist layout are known. Confirmation that the floor of the parlour has indeed been lowered is the discontinuity in the fireplace jambs, indicating that the hearth was originally 410 mm higher than at present.

The ceiling over the parlour comprises joists which run east-west, along the axis of the range, jointed at mid span into an intermediate crossbeam. The present visible joists appear to represent later, reused timbers planted onto the underside of the plaster ceiling for visual effect — it is likely that the original joists still survive above the ceiling. At first-floor level, within the parlour chamber, the ceiling was originally set approximately 450 mm up the rafters, thereby giving a more lofty appearance to the chamber. Part of the chamber still has a ceiling at this level, but the western half is now open to the apex of the roof.

It is possible that high-level ceilings were added into the period-A chambers at this period. Certainly ceilings supported by sprung-in collars were added at some date, though the fact that the period-C addition was built without a ceiling perhaps favours these having been added during period D. It is this latter alternative which has been adopted in the preparation of Drawing No. 1675/3.

## **STAIRS**

Access into the new range was via short flights of steps from the northern room and chamber. These take into account the difference in floor levels due to the (former) semi-basement beneath the parlour. The stairs within the front range presumably remained in their period-A location at this date.

## **CHIMNEYS**

Constructed against the western rear wall of the new period-B range is a chimney stack which, somewhat curiously, thickens out as a battered wall at the base. This thickening appears to act as a buttress — it is unclear whether this is part of the original build or represents a repair made to stabilize the chimney at a later date. On the ground floor, heating the parlour, is a 1.30 metre (4'3") wide fireplace which has brick jambs and a timber lintel. The rear wall is constructed on a pronounced batter, whilst the base of the

jambes incorporate offsets showing the amount by which the hearth was lowered when the semi-basement was filled in. At first-floor level the brickwork of the chimney projects proud of the internal face of the wall, perhaps suggesting that a first-floor fireplace has been blocked. The chimney cap is plain and rectangular in section.

## **ROOF**

The roof is of clasped-side-purlin construction and is framed in two bays with the purlins supported by collars at each of the three trusses (eastern collar removed). The rafters, collars and side purlins are neatly squared. The western roof terminal is gabled with the end chimney rising against the western face. At the eastern end the roof oversails that of the earlier range and is carried over the backs of the period-A rafters by means of lay boards. Because it is taller than the period-A roof, there is a small hipped end projecting above the period-A ridge.

## **PERIOD C (c.1800) [see Drawing Nos. 1675/1-3]**

### **LAYOUT**

An additional 3.90 metre (12'9") long bay was constructed at the northern end of the front range around the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. It comprises a single heated room on the ground floor, with an extra first-floor chamber above. The extension was slightly wider than the period-A part, measuring 4.20 metres (13'9") compared with 3.65 metres (12'0") for the period-A range — the result is a slight kink in the alignment of the rear wall.

### **WALL DESIGN**

The external ground-floor walls are constructed in Flemish-bonded brickwork, which continues along the length of the front facade and returns across the end walls. Thus, the opportunity was taken to underbuild the period-A frame as part of these alterations. At first-floor level the extension is constructed using timber studwork (apparently without principal posts) always weatherclad externally — probably tile hung as now — with all timberwork hidden by lath and plaster internally.

### **WINDOWS**

Within the front wall, serving the new room and chamber, are three-pane windows which have a central opening casement. On the internal face the mullions are cyma moulded with the central light closed by a spring catch. The opening lights are

supported by 'L' shaped hinge pintles on the outside face. The window frame on the ground floor must be refixed, for the details of the brickwork indicate that it occupies the site of a doorway, itself probably an insertion added when the house was converted into cottages — the doorway is visible in Plate 3, but may not be shown in Plate 2. There were no known windows in the northern end wall, whilst the rear wall was principally taken up by the chimney.

## DOORWAYS

As already noted, the doorway on the site of the present refixed ground-floor window serving this bay is likely to have been a post-period-C insertion. Internally doorways must have been cut through the period-A truss D-D in order to achieve communication between the existing house and the extension, but the wall in question has been modified in modern times and it cannot, therefore, be certain where these were located. The present doorways are adjacent to the rear wall, and, despite modification, this could reflect the original arrangement

## FLOORS AND CEILINGS

The ground-floor ceiling is of central-girder type. The girder is chamfered along its lower leading edges and has run-out stops. The joists measure 50 mm x 90 mm and once supported an under-plastered ceiling (since removed).

To judge from the whitening on the roof timbers, the first-floor chamber appears to have been open to the roof, despite the rough nature of the timberwork (see below).

## STAIRS

There was never a staircase within this extension, and thus access to the first floor at this period was presumably via the earlier staircase.

## CHIMNEYS

A chimney heated this added bay. It is set astride the brick ground-floor rear wall,



*Plate 8*  
*Whitened pole rafters within addition of c.1800, looking south towards period-A northern end wall. Note shallower pitch of rear slope to added roof*

being partially internal and partially external. On the ground floor the fireplace has brick jambs and a timber lintel. The stack rises as a rectangular flue which projects into the first-floor chamber. Early photographs of the house show the stack with two pots — implying two flues and two fireplaces — but if there was a first-floor fireplace there is no visible evidence of it today.

## **ROOF**

As with the earlier roofs over the building, the period-C roof is of clasped-side-purlin construction, in this instance with a half-hipped northern terminal. The side purlins at the terminal are held in position by cleats, the collar being located at a slightly higher level. It is this collar which supported the feet of the half hip's jack rafters. At the apex is a thin ridgeboard. Because the extension is slightly wider than the period-A part, the rear roof slope is pitched less steeply, allowing a continuous roof line to be maintained within the front elevation. Thus, at the period-A truss the period-C rear rafter is cradled over the back face of the earlier principal rafter (see Plate 8). All the period-C rafters are un-squared poles, as too are the purlins. Even so, they contain clear indications of whitening on their surfaces, presumably indicating that they were once exposed to view. Certainly the present ceiling is of modern date and there are no obvious indications of there having been a period-C ceiling.

## **PERIOD D (19th C) [see Drawing Nos. 1675/1-3]**

### **LAYOUT**

Yet another bay — in this instance 3.05 metres (10'0") long — was added to the northern end of the house in the 19th century, prior to 1874. This is the final lengthways extension and gives an overall facade for the building of 16.60 metres (54'5"). Despite the length, the 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1874 indicates that it was still in single occupancy at that time (Plate 4). The extension, which was heated by a single-flue stack constructed astride the northern end wall, allowed the formation of an additional room on each floor.

### **WALL DESIGN**

The ground-floor walls are of Flemish-bonded brickwork, straight jointed to the period-C brickwork within the front elevation. The first-floor walls are tile hung, suggesting the use of timber studwork, but all internal details are masked from view by plaster, as, indeed, would always have been the case.

## **WINDOWS**

Traditional three-pane glazed windows have been used. The internal face of the mullions are widely chamfered. Bearing in mind that several of the window frames at the southern end of the house also have wide chamfers to the internal leading edges of their mullions, it is probable that these too were replaced as part of the same phase of alteration. They incorporate spring catches to their opening casements.

## **DOORWAYS**

No period-D details known.

## **FLOORS AND CEILINGS**

The ceiling joists within the new bay run north-south along the axis of the building and, somewhat surprisingly for the date, were intended to be left exposed to view. The first-floor chamber was fitted with a high-level under-plastered ceiling from the outset, supported on joists nailed to the side faces of the rafters.

## **STAIRS**

The location of the stairs at this date is not known.

## **CHIMNEYS**

A single-flue chimney sits astride the northern end wall, projecting on the exterior by 120 mm. The ground-floor fireplace has brick jambs, but its timber lintel has been replaced at a higher level in modern times, probably to allow a range to be fitted. It currently houses an Aga.

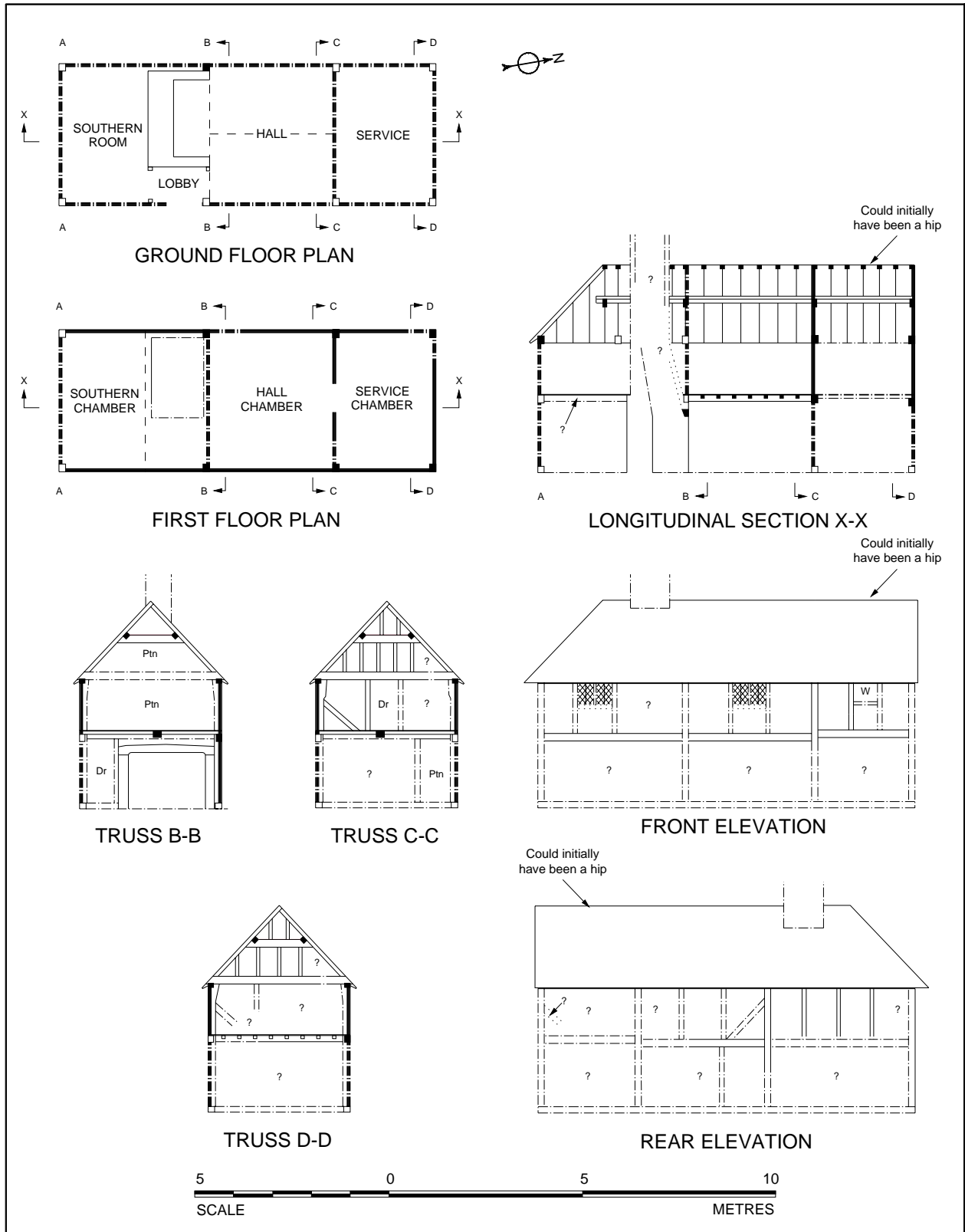
## **ROOF**

The roof is of sawn softwood and is of simple cut-and-pitched paired-rafters type with a thin continuous ridgeboard at the apex. The ceiling joists are nailed to the sides of the rafters and thus double as roof collars, preventing the roof from spreading. The end gable is constructed of regularly-spaced studs, tile hung on the external face. The chimney rises through the centre of the gable.









<b>MOSS COTTAGE, NEWBRIDGE, HARTFIELD, EAST SUSSEX</b>				Site Ref	<b>P75/08</b>
<b>PERIOD-A RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Drawing No.	<b>1675/4</b>
Drawn By	<b>J Clubb</b>	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	<b>2007</b>
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