



9 East Street

9 East Street is a building that has been adapted to domestic use from a two bay unheated building. The original building measured 23' 3" x 18' 5" internally and was two storey, with one room on each floor and a jetty to the front, now underbuilt. The main frame is built of well converted oak with primary brace infill some of which is reused. All of the studs and braces are pegged and the storey posts have deep 'gunstock' jowls. A bladed scarf is present in the rear wall plate. The axial beams are chamfered and have lamb's tongue stops with the common joists of vertical section 4½" x 3½" housed with soffit tenons and diminished haunches. There is evidence that the ceiling was plastered which would have provided additional strength to the minimal section joists.

It is assumed that the roof was originally a simple clasped side purlin with principal rafters and collars that incorporated, as common rafters, some reused rafters from a crown post roof. However as there have been changes in design and subsequent rebuilding it is now impossible to verify the form.

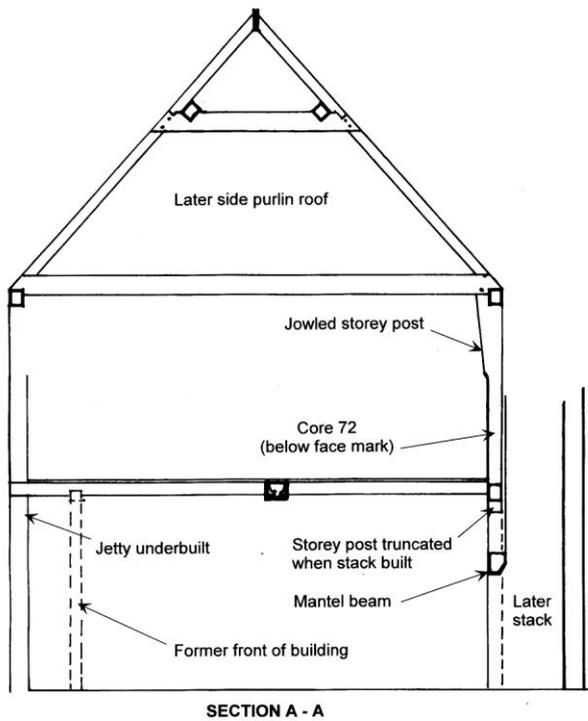
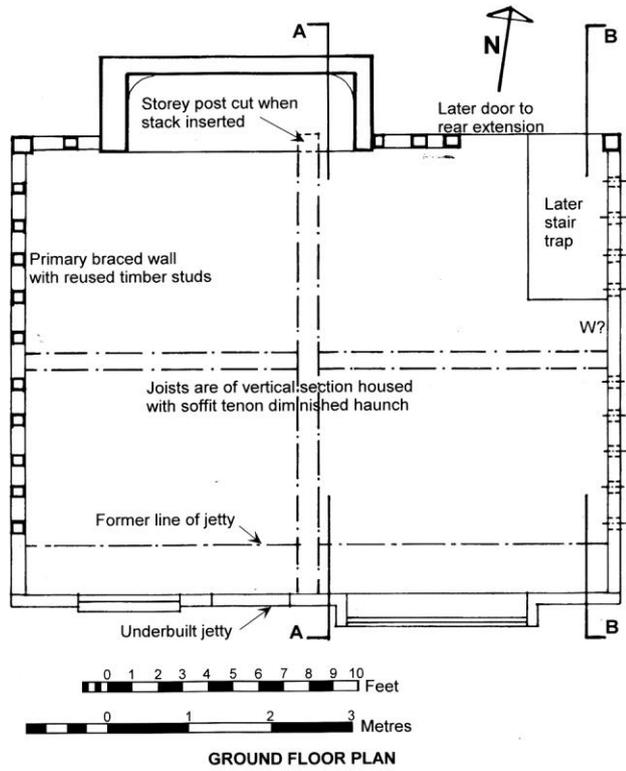
The alterations made to change the unheated range to domestic use involved the provision of a brick stack on the rear wall and an extension to the north to provide a service function. The stack occupies most of the north wall of the west bay and part of the east bay which has resulted in the north storey post of the central truss being truncated. The mantel beam is chamfered and has lamb's tongue stops with the typical 17th century outer notch. This type of stop can also be found in the rear extension.

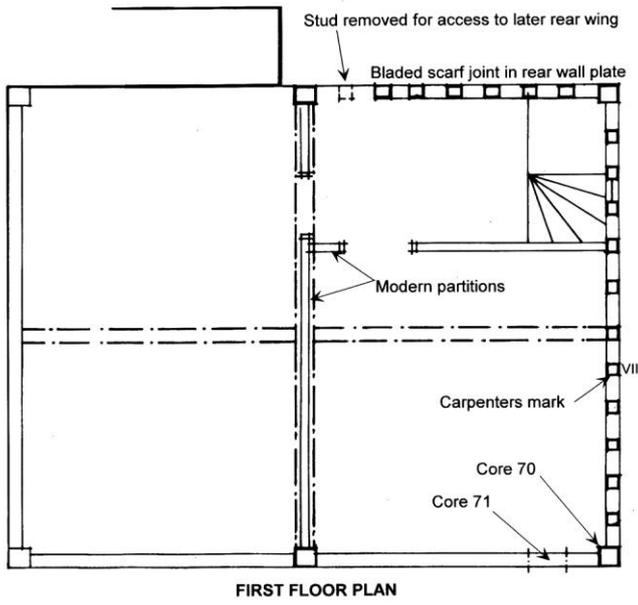
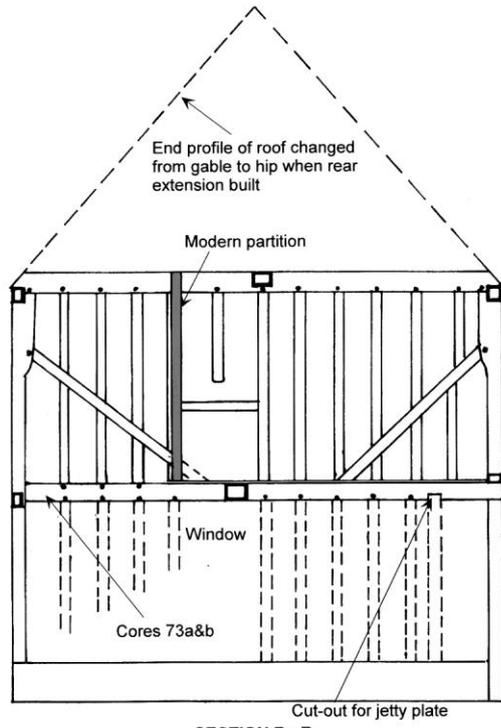
The later rear extension is of trapezoidal plan (possibly caused by an existing building to the west?) and appears to be of the same or similar date to the stack. The frame is of oak with unjowled storey posts and primary brace infill with more use of reused timber. The roof was changed in form to a hip at the east end when the extension was created. A subsequent rebuild is suggested by the presence of a ridge board, reused collars with nail fixings and another phase of repairs incorporating softwood.

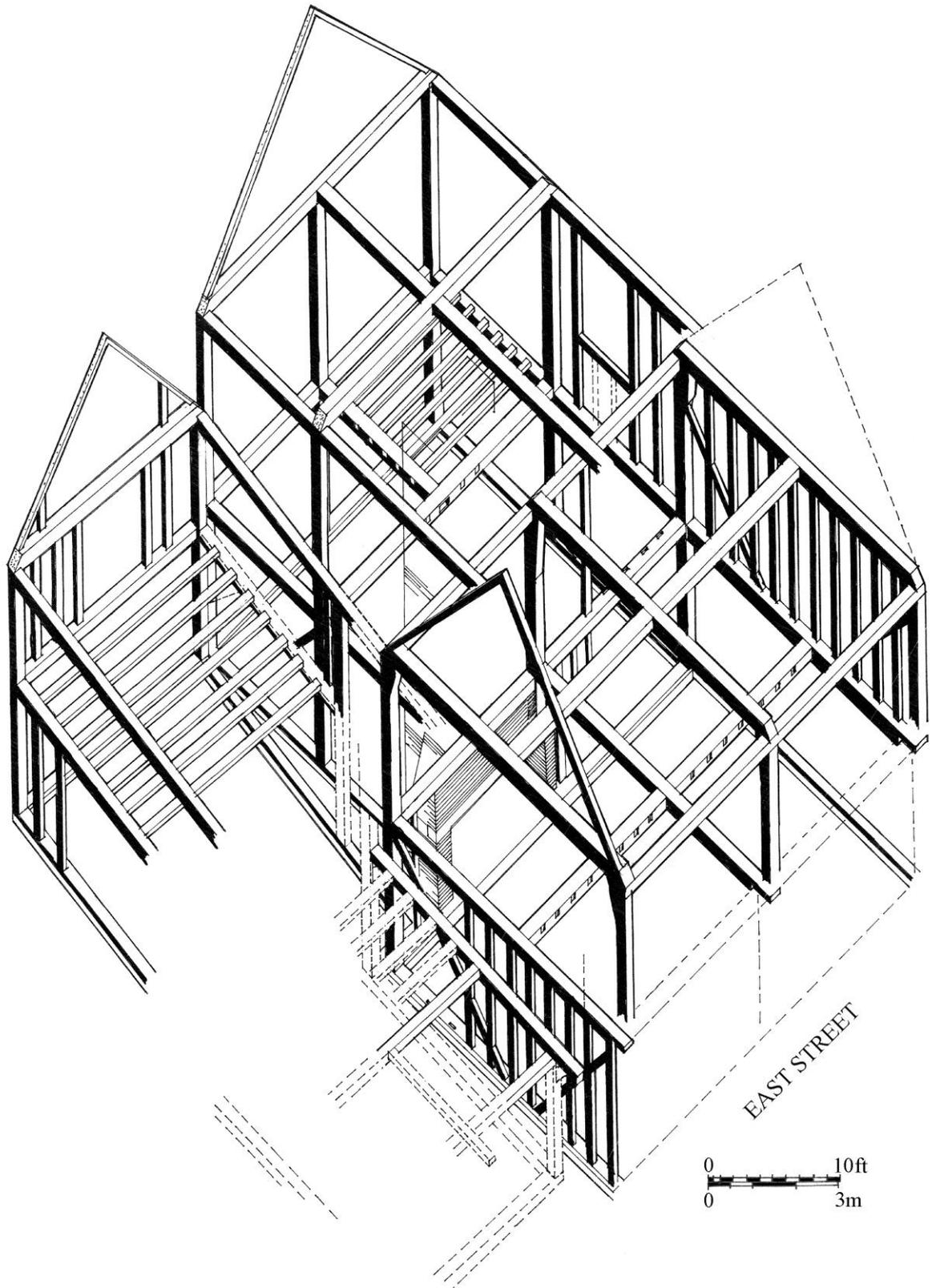
Four cores for tree-ring dating were taken in the building at the points indicated but they did not date. This is unfortunate as they would have indicated when the first of the two main building phases was constructed. The carpentry of both phases suggests a date in the first half of the 17th century.

HISTORY

This property is identifiable with the site of a copyhold tenement in the 1575 rental owned by Thomas Felsted. The building is puzzling, as it does not, in its first phase, fit the pattern of a conventional house and at first probably had a commercial use.







Axonometric drawing of the timber frame of 9 East Street.