

75 NETHERSTREET, BROMHAM

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE

3 bay rectangular main block facing S, with E end to road. Two projections to rear, one of 1 ½ storey the other 2 storey

WALLING

The main block is timber-framed. The framing is in-filled with brick of 2 main periods. Later brick facing to ground floor of East elevation continued to East part of front elevation.

The framing is constructed of mostly reused timbers which form tall rectangular panels. The framing of the east elevation is 5 panels wide whilst that to the west has an additional narrow panel.

There have been a number of alterations.

There is a jowled main post at each corner of the main block each is jointed to a timber cill carried on a plinth. The construction of the plinth is varied. To the west part of the front elevation the plinth is stone rubble, to the east part the plinth is faced with dressed stone, the west elevation has a brick plinth.

The jowled heads of the main posts carry the wall plate. A storey rail is mortised, tenoned and double pegged into the main posts. Studs of varying scantling run between the wall plate and storey rail. Some joints are pegged and others are nailed.

The timber forming the west jamb of the front doorway and window above would appear to be a continuous timber and acts as a main post corresponding to the central roof truss. The storey rail is mortised, tenoned and double pegged into this post. Short intermediate rails divide the panels to each floor. Most of the joints between the original rails and studs are pegged, although some are nailed.

The side elevations have a straight brace to each top end panel running between corner post and wall plate. There is a corresponding straight brace to the east end of the front elevation.

Alterations have been made to the framing with the infilling of earlier openings. The later timbers are very slender, and are at a lower level than the original rails. The intermediate slender rails have been incorporated in the east elevation and an additional stud towards the east end of the front elevation at first floor level.

The rear projections are of brick. The main block and two-story projection were faced with hard concrete render, which has mostly been removed recently.

Roof

The main roof is hipped, with a graduated stone slate covering. The one and a half story projection has a gabled roof with covering as main block. The two-story projection has a flat roof.

Chimneys

The main block has two tall, internal lateral wall stacks to rear elevation. That to the east projects beyond the northern limit of the timber framing of the east wall. The base of this stack is stone rubble with brick above; it has large dressed stone quoins.

The one and a half story projection has a very small tall corner stack towards the north west.

The upper are all of brick with oversailing courses toward stop.

Openings

Main Block: The door opening is positioned toward the centre of the front elevation set below the storey rail between timber studs. There is a small cantilevered, gabled, wooden porch canopy, with lead sheet covering.

The ground floor window openings are all set below the storey rail. Timber studs form the jambs and there are wooden cills, except where the timber framing has been brick fronted. There the jambs are brick and the openings have concrete cills.

1 ½ storey wing: set below wooden wall plate, brick jambs as walling, wooden cill.

2-storey wing: set within walling, concrete cills.

Other details:

Repositioned stone figure below ground floor window in East elevation

Internal features

Rear rooms not recorded

Living Room

Narrow wooden floor boards. Step up into entrance passage. Ceiling is plain plastered either side of a lateral wooden beam. The timber, which is probably reused has a 3/4 inch chamfer and is notched at the east end where the timber appears to have been truncated, possibly removing a stop which related to an earlier use in another location. The face of the timber has been scoured to receive plaster. This beam continues into the entrance passageway.

Internal stud partitions with lath and plaster infill. Moulded chair to all walls.

Corner fireplace 20th century cast iron hooded grate, with blue ceramic tiles to splays, the latter also to hearth fender. Late 18th century bolection moulded wooden mantel piece.

Two early 19th century sash windows, 3x2 glass panes to lower sash, 3x1 to upper. Slender moulded wooden glazing bars.

Two 18th century 2-panelled doors. Panels are raised and fielded with moulded surround to one face, and plain, and flush to other.

Entrance Passage

Stone flags to floor

Ceiling beam is continued from living room. There is no decoration at its west end. 19th century 6 panelled external door. Two small glazed panels to upper part. Lower panels are plain and recessed to inner face and raised and fielded to outer face.

Parlour

Narrow wooden floorboards.

Ceiling is plain plastered to either side of lateral wooden beam. The timber has a 2 inch chamfer and is stopped towards the west end with a stepped ogee moulding and nick.

Notched run-out stop towards East end.

The room is panelled throughout. The oak panelling is reused, probably 17th century. Panels are mostly square with rectangular panels towards top. Most top panels have narrow diamond motif towards centre with oak leaf decoration within. Single panel to west of fireplace has large, deeply carved lozenge motif raised towards centre. Lunette decoration to upper rails and below original window positions in west wall.

Early 20th century tiled fire surround. Elaborate reused 17th century wooden overmantel with lunette, arcaded panels, and fluted styles.

Window as a living room. Double doors, with three moulded panels to each.

Bench seat continued around south and west walls. Turned legs carried on narrow, raised wooden platform. Moulded edge to bench.

Stairs

17th century oak staircase short straight flight to quarter landing, straight flight to quarter landing, with bifurcated flight leading to principal range, and a rear wing. Fluting to newels which have flat, square caps. Twisted balusters carried on closed string.

Bedroom one

Plain plastered ceiling each side of transverse wooden beam. Beam is plain chamfered with run-out towards north, and stepped run-out towards south.

Timber framed partitions. Position of infilled openings visible in South wall. Shallow rectangular recess in North wall. Main post projects in northeast corner.

Fireplace within shallow recess. 19th century semicircular cast iron grate. Moulded plank mantel shelf, carried on moulded wooden bracket. 20th century moulded wooden surround.

Early 19th century sash window with slender moulded glazing bars, and moulded surround. 18th century plank and batten door. Brass knob and finger latch. Spoon ended strap hinges. Beaded architrave.

Bedroom 2

plain plastered ceiling.

Early 19th century sash window, as bedroom 1.

18th century plank and batten door, brass knob and finger latch.

Bedroom 3.

Ceiling plain plastered to either side of lateral wooden beam. Beam has two inch plain chamfer, nicked scroll stop with notch.

Wide oak floorboards.

Timber framed partitions. Main posts project in Southwest and Northwest corners.

19th century cast iron grate. Wooden surround. Heavy moulded overmantle, covered by wallpaper.

19th century double light to West. One fixed-light, one side-hung casement separated by beaded wooden mullion. Eight glass panes to each light, slender moulded glazing bars.

Two early 19th century sash windows to south separated by central beaded mullion. Eight glass panes to each sash, slender moulded glazing bars.

INTERNAL ROOF STRUCTURE

The roof is constructed of heavy sawn timbers.

Three trusses divide the roof space into 2 bays, with a hipped bay at each end. The tie-beams are located slightly to the side of the truss positions. Towards the north side of the roof, each tie-beam retains a mortice from a previous use, there are no mortices towards the south end of these timbers. These mortices may be from a use in a previous structure, or may indicate that major alterations have occurred to the roof, including re-aligning of the trusses and possibly an increase in the width of the roof space.

The principal rafters sandwich a plank ridge piece. The soffit of each principal rafter retains a mortice indicating the existence of earlier collars. Later plank timbers have been nailed against the side of each truss. A common rafter towards the centre of each hipped bay also retains mortice from an earlier collar.

Two tiers of purlins each side of the roof, which are morticed, tenoned and pegged in the principal rafters.

The roof is floored throughout. Lateral beam towards side of roof . Lower part of joists are tenoned into beam. The floor level here is lower than at the other end of the roof, the beam being shallower. Transverse beam to west side of the roof with mortice towards top to receive tenon from upper part of joists.

DISCUSSION

The main block was constructed during the early 18thC. Incorporating a significant amount of re-used material, principally the timbers which form the framing. The main block comprised two heated rooms on each floor. The ground floor rooms were separated by a central entrance passage. Each room was lit by two windows to the front elevation and two to side elevations, the windows occupying alternate panels.

A number of architectural features, including the staircase, panelling to the parlour and stone figure beneath living room window were brought to the property from another building, possibly Bromham House.

The fixed bench within the parlour suggests this room has been used for gatherings as a non-conformist meeting room, or an alehouse.

The main block has undergone few alterations. The window openings have been changed in two phases. The first during the early 19thC, being the replacement of the original windows by single openings, as exist to today at the E end of the building. The double sashes towards the W end represent later 19thC alteration.

The 1 ½ -story, heated rear extension was added during the mid-late 19thC, and served as a kitchen or scullery. The 2-storey block was added during the late 19th - early 20thC.

GEI July - Dec 2000