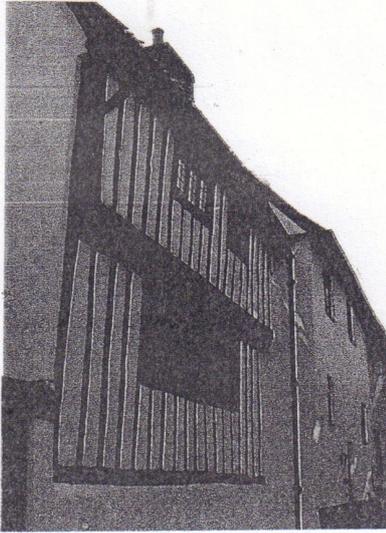


The Cardinal's Hat, Back Street, Reepham. NR10 4SJ

Map ref: TG100228

Owners Anne Woollett and Paul Hodge

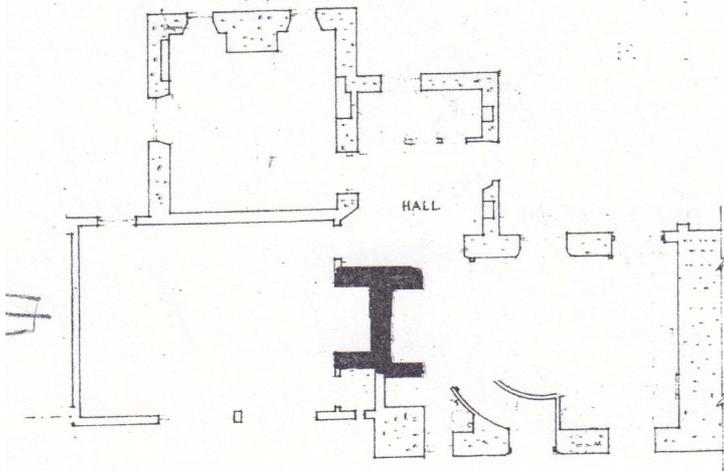
Report of a brief survey carried out by Susan and Michael Brown and Adrian and Lynne Hodge on 28th September 2010.



The Cardinal's Hat is situated to the south of Reepham market place on what was the principal route through the town. To the east it has a timber framed range with hewn jetties referred to in Hewett's *English Historic Carpentry*, to the west a brick range and to the south a two storey brick wing and a brick stair turret. All the brick is now rendered but the owners have photographs which show that the brickwork is in English bond.

The present main doorway is in the brick range on Back Street but this was only created during the restoration of the 1970s. The timber framed range stands on a very tall plinth and is complete, with no framing for a doorway. The modern windows are in the positions of the original windows and there are peg holes indicating the original mullions.

Interior



The front door gives onto a curving staircase which rises to the present day kitchen in the brick range. In the timber framed range, the ceiling joists that form the jetty are at 12" centres and are of mixed oak and elm with some fast grown timber. The brick chimney is original. There is a run-out chamfer stop on the principal joist which has been reinforced with a later reused bracket. The central storey post of the front wall is rebated for a shutter. It is possible that there had been a staircase beside the chimney on the north. The remaining part of the rear wall framing does

not have the close-studding of the façade.

In the rear hall there is an entrance door and a fine staircase with heavy turned balusters which probably dates to the 17th century. This staircase is in a wing built in English bond brick (now rendered) which again would point to a date in the 17th century. In the upper room of the timber framed range knees have been applied to raise the ceiling. There are peg holes in the rear central storey post for a bracket but the corresponding post on the façade has no peg holes which may indicate that there was originally a passage along the front wall giving access to partitioned rooms. There are taper burns beside a rebate, possibly for a small window in the rear wall. During restoration in the 1970s wall paintings were found in this room above the mantle beam. The only evidence now is from photographs as the plaster was removed and donated to the Bridewell Museum, Norwich but only a small fragment has survived. Photographs show a bull's head with tasselled ropes suspended from the horns and a decorative interwoven ribbon motif. Andrea Kirkham in a personal communication said it was a typical Renaissance decorative scheme and dated it to the first half of the 17th century. The front brick range has a principal joist axial to a transverse joist.

The roof of the timber framed range was replaced in the 18th century at the same time as the ceiling was inserted and supported on knees. It has cranked collars. In the east gable the queen posts and braces remain from the earlier roof (again mentioned by Hewett in *English Historic Carpentry*). The queen posts have carpenter's marks, that to the façade no. 2 with an auger and scribed 2 to the rear.

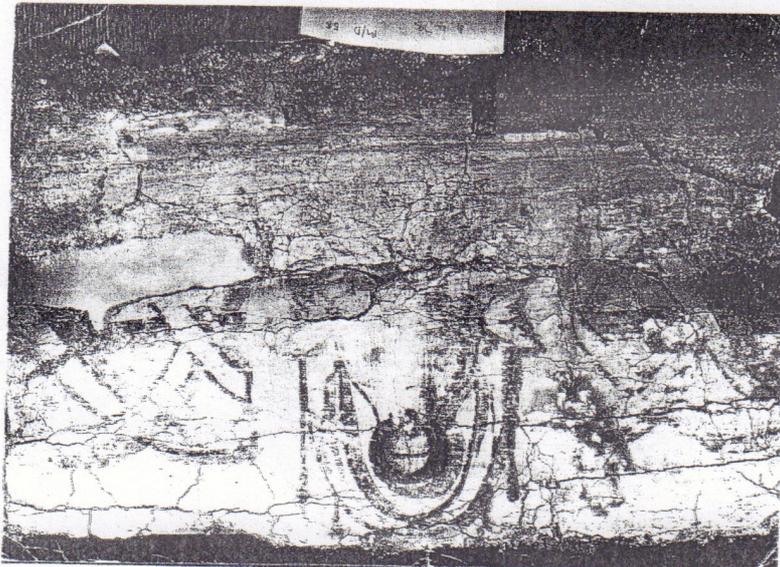
There is a modern roof on the brick range to the rear.

The chimneys in the attic show they were of two separate builds.

The front brick range has a 17th century roof with staggered tenon purlins in two tiers and all new common rafters.

Analysis

The timber framed range is the earliest part of the building and does not have a conventional plan. It has no doorway from the street and stands on a high plinth. It is possible that entry was from a rear courtyard, as it was after the 17th century extensions, and that the building was an inn. This is also suggested by the possible partitions and corridor on the first floor. The rest of the original building is lost.



In the first part of the 17th century the entrance hall with stair turret, the brick rear range and the range to the west of the façade were added, presumably replacing an earlier build. The upper room of the timber framed range, which was open to the roof, was painted with the decorative scheme at this time and it is possible that the partition was removed as well. It may be that the building became a house at this point. In the 18th century this room was ceiled and the roof modified.