

Outbuilding at Dillacks Farm, Assington, Suffolk

Heritage Asset Assessment



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August 2023

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Leigh Alston is a building archaeologist and architectural historian who for 20 years lectured on the understanding and recording of timber-framed structures in the Departments of Archaeology and Continuing Education at Cambridge University. He worked as the in-house building archaeologist for Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service for 10 years and still fulfils this role for its successor, Suffolk Archaeology CIC. He also undertakes commissions on a freelance basis for the National Trust, private clients and various county archaeological units. Leigh co-founded the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group in 1993, serving as Chairman for 13 years, and has been involved in several television programmes including 'Grand Designs' and David Dimbleby's 'How We Built Britain'. Publications include 'Late Medieval Workshops in East Anglia' in 'The Vernacular Workshop' edited by Paul Barnwell & Malcolm Airs (CBA and English Heritage, 2004) and the National Trust guidebook to Lavenham Guildhall. He has been elected to a fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries.

Outbuilding at Dillacks Farm Colchester Road, Assington, Suffolk

Heritage Asset Assessment

This report provides an archaeological record and analysis at Historic England (2016) Level 3 of an L-shaped redundant farm building in the curtilage of a grade II-listed former farmhouse at TL 94332 38100. The report includes a full photographic record of 36 images, but the building is not of sufficient scale or significance to warrant an additional archive of digital images. Where possible each photograph includes a 2 m scale rod with half-metre divisions in red and white. The site is recorded as an historic farmstead on Suffolk County Council's Historic Environment Record (ASN 051), and was inspected on 21st July 2023.

Summary

Dillacks Farm lies to the south of the A134 between Sudbury and Colchester. It formerly adjoined a small common known as Marshall's Green on the east and probably formed part of a green-side hamlet in the Middle Ages. Its current name derives from the Dillick family who lived in Assington during the late-17th century, but the existing house appears to date only from the end of the 18th. The house divides the road from an unusually complete early-19th century enclosed farm yard that has altered little since its depiction on the 1837 tithe map, at which time the property was a tenanted holding of 81 acres on the Assington Hall Estate. The eastern and northern sides of this yard are formed by a single-storied L-shaped outbuilding of red brick shown in 1837 but not on the local enclosure map of 1817 (when Marshall's Green was converted into farm land). It contains a central 'cowhouse for 6', as described in the 1938 Assington Hall Estate auction catalogue, with a shelter for a horse yard to the south and another for a separate 'cow yard' to the north. The cow shed contains a small 'mixing house' for the preparation of animal feed, which preserves its original brick floor, boarded internal partition and door, and an original double ceiling consisting of laths and clay daub above the joists with lath-and-plaster beneath. Fragile ceilings of this kind are sometimes found on the upper floors of Suffolk farmhouses but are rare survivors in farm buildings.

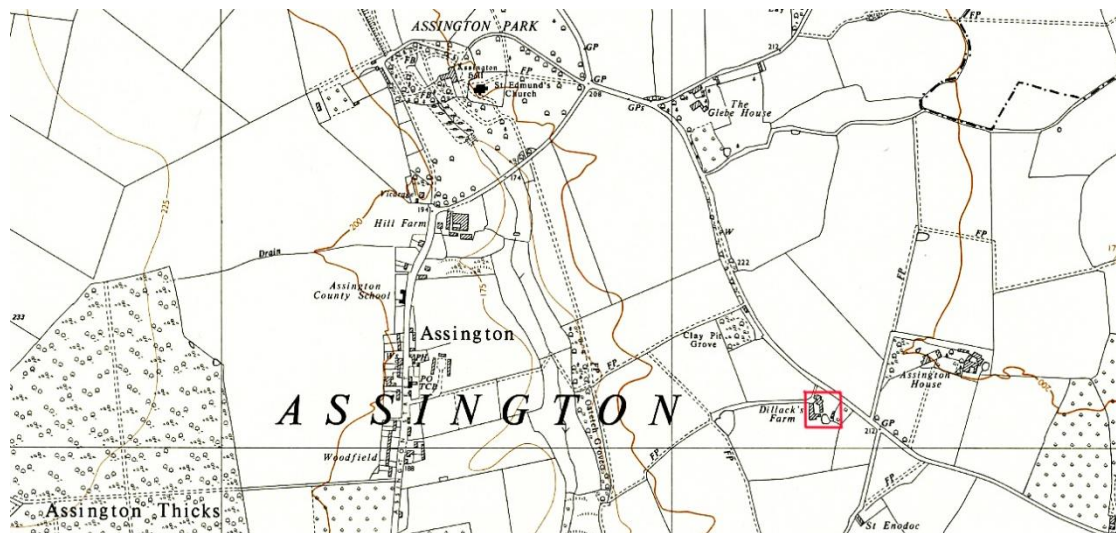


Fig. 1. Location map outlining the site in red 1 km south-east of Assington Church.

Documentary History and Map Regression



Figure 2. A site plan provided by Optimum Architecture Ltd. highlighting the outbuilding in red and the adjoining grade II-listed house in green. The outbuilding adjoins a farm yard enclosed by a large threshing barn on the west with a granary and stable to the south.

Dillacks Farm lies on the southern side of the A134 between Sudbury and Colchester, approximately 1 km south-east of St Edmund's Church in Assington. The site consists of a grade II-listed farmhouse dated by Historic England to the 18th century which adjoins a fully enclosed yard of early-19th century farm buildings to the south. The property is incorrectly named in Historic England's schedule as Diljacks but is labelled Dillacks in all other sources including the 19th century Ordnance Surveys. The name is likely to derive from the family of the 'Widow Dillick' who paid tax on a house with two hearths in Assington in 1674 ('Suffolk in 1674', Suffolk Green Books, Woodbridge 1905). A William Dillick of Assington made a will in 1688 ('Index of the Probate Records: Court of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury 1354-1700', BRS 1984), and the Suffolk Record Office online catalogue refers to a 1688 inventory of Elizabeth Dillick of Assington which 'appears not to have survived' (SRO IC/500/3/23/125). The timber frame of the present house dates from the end of the 18th century or the beginning of the 19th and is likely to have replaced a predecessor occupied by the family in the 17th century. The farm probably formed part of a medieval hamlet on the margins of a small green shown as Marshall's Green on Hodskinson's map of 1783 (figure 3). Greenside settlements of this kind were very common locally in the 14th century but were often abandoned altogether or left with a single farmstead by the 16th. Dillacks Farm was not depicted by Hodskinson who often omitted smaller properties, but the one-inch map of 1805 suggests that what is now Assington House on the northern side of the A134 also adjoined the green, which was enclosed to form new farm land in 1817 (figure 5). At the time of the Assington tithe survey in 1837 Dillacks was part of the extensive Assington Hall Estate owned by the Gurdon family which succeeded the Corbetts in the mid-16th century. It extended to 81 acres and 10 roods, and was occupied by Nathaniel Hudson who was still there aged 83 in 1871 farming 82 acres and employing 3 men and 1 boy. He lived with his 74-year old wife Mary, a 70-year-old nurse, a housemaid and a cook along with a 10-year-old boarder. The house and farm buildings were described in the auction catalogue when the estate was broken up and sold in 1938 (figure 12).



Figure 3. A detail of Hodkinson's map of Suffolk published in 1783 showing the roughly triangular area of Marshall's Green in the centre. No buildings are depicted on the adjoining site of Dillacks Farm, but this does not necessarily mean it didn't exist.

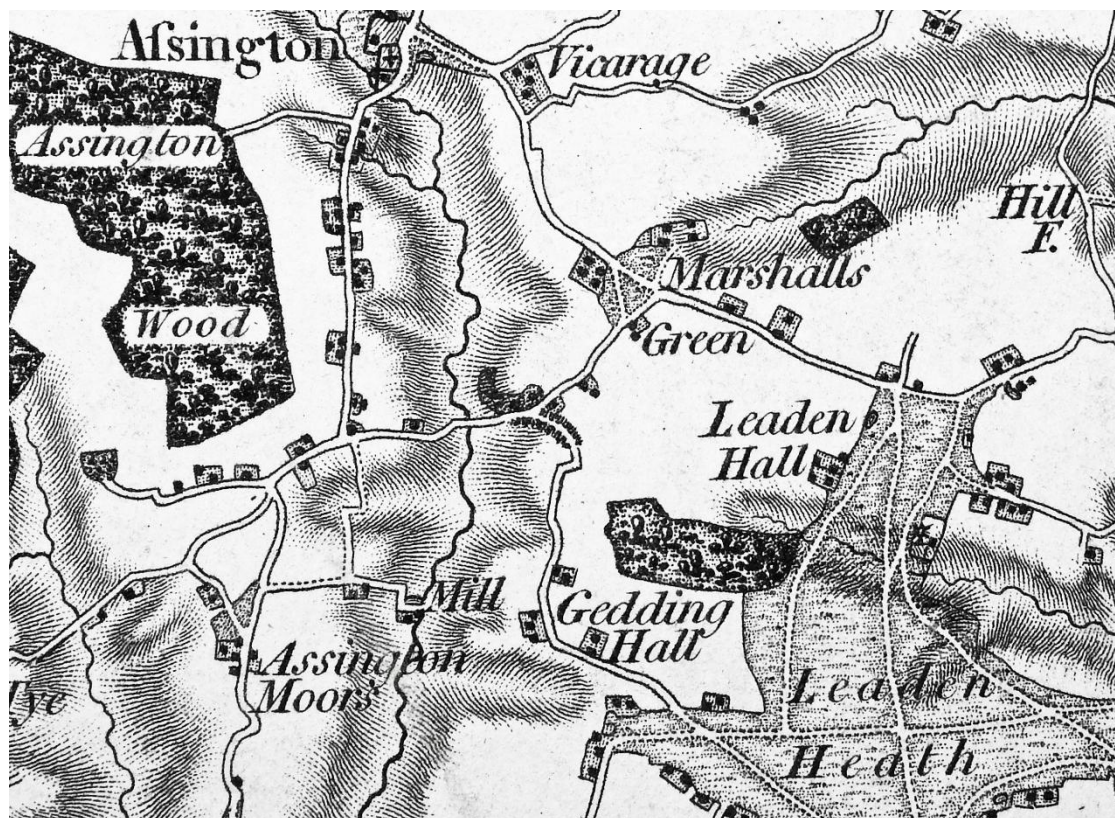


Figure 4. The first edition one-inch Ordnance Survey of 1805 by Colonel Mudge. The farm is shown as four stylised buildings adjoining Marshall's Green on the east, and this map suggests the green may have extended as far as Assington House to the north.



Figure 5. A detail of the 1817 Stoke-by-Nayland enclosure map (Suffolk Record Office). The area of Marshall's Green at plot 40 was allotted to John Gurdon Esquire of Assington Hall and amounted to 4 acres, 3 roods and 30 perches (i.e. just under 5 acres). Future traffic was to be confined to the '10th Private Road' adjoining on the south. The farm consists of the existing L-shaped house to the north of four detached farm buildings with no trace of the present outbuilding or the fully enclosed farm yard.



Figure 6. The First Edition one-inch Ordnance Survey of 1838, naming Dillacks Farm.

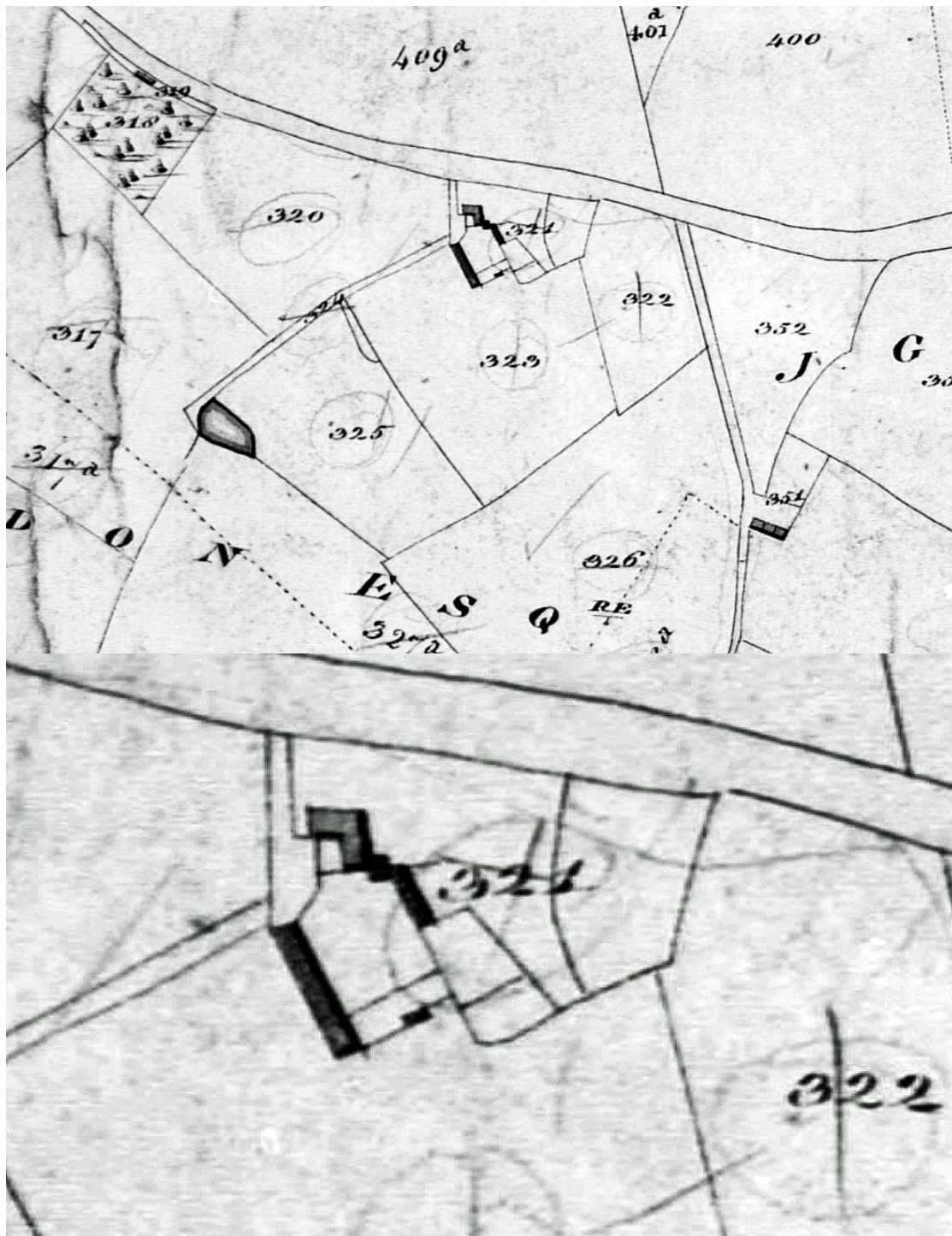


Figure 7. The Assington tithe map of 1837 with a detail below. The farmhouse to the north is shown with the same outline as in 1817 and is now adjoined by the distinctively L-shaped outline of the present outbuilding which had evidently been built in the interim. The large double barn had also appeared to the west of the yard, replacing what appears to have been a smaller predecessor in 1817, but only a small shed lay to the south with the present granary and stable apparently not yet built – although the enclosure on the site was the same shape as the later structures and the cartographer may well have omitted to colour it in. Plot 321 was ‘house and premises’ adjoining the enclosed medieval green on the east (plots 322, ‘The Green’, and 326 ‘Part of Green Field’). Plot 323 was ‘Home Field’, 320 ‘Lays’ and the track to the pond in ‘Calves Pasture’ (325) was the farm ‘drift’ (324).

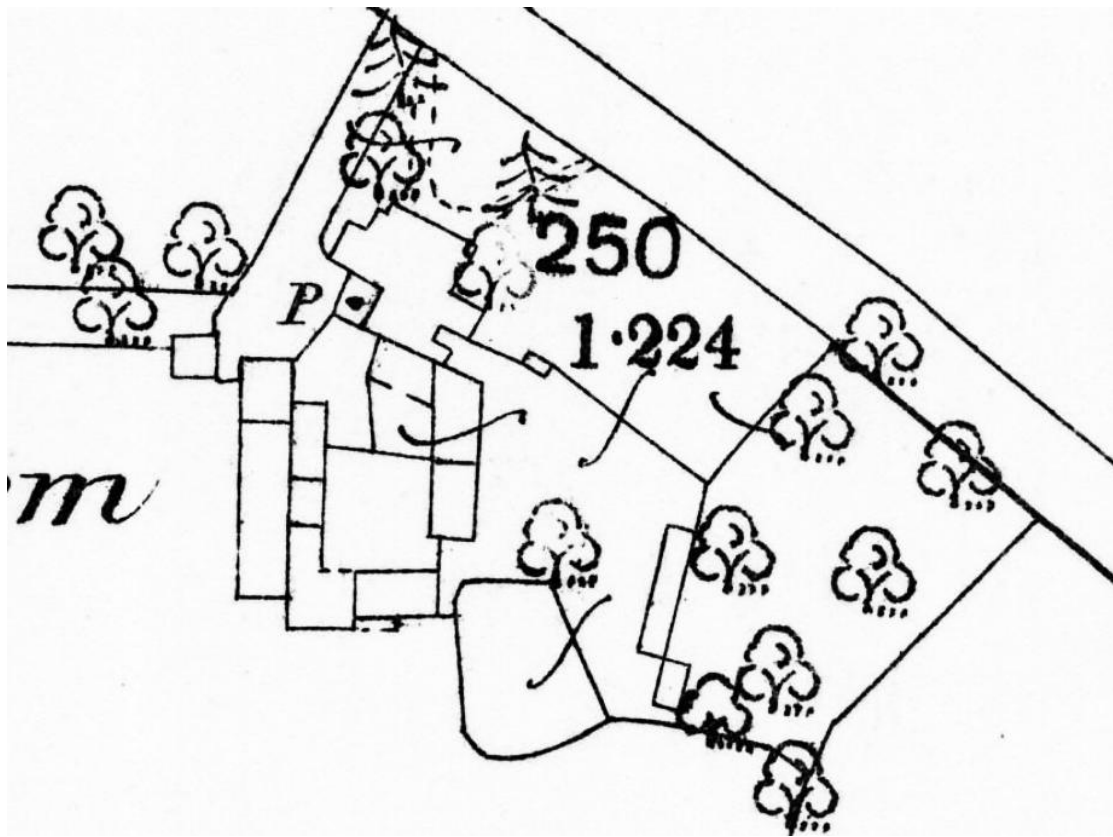


Figure 8. The First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1885. The eastern extension with a gambrel roof in illustration 9 had been added to the house since 1837 and the farm buildings are shown almost exactly as they remain today.

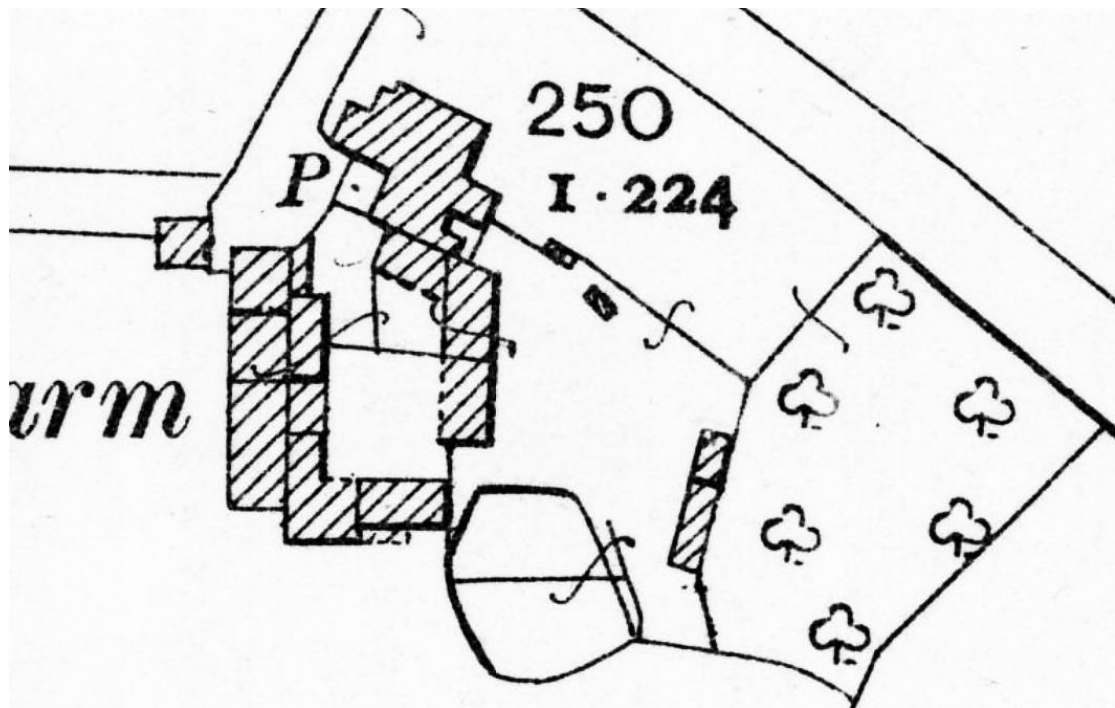


Figure 9. The Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1902, which shows the farm buildings more clearly. Broken lines indicate the open elevations of the outbuilding's two shelter-sheds (1 and 3 in figure 16), with the former adjoining the horse yard in front of the southern stable and the latter a small cow yard to the north.

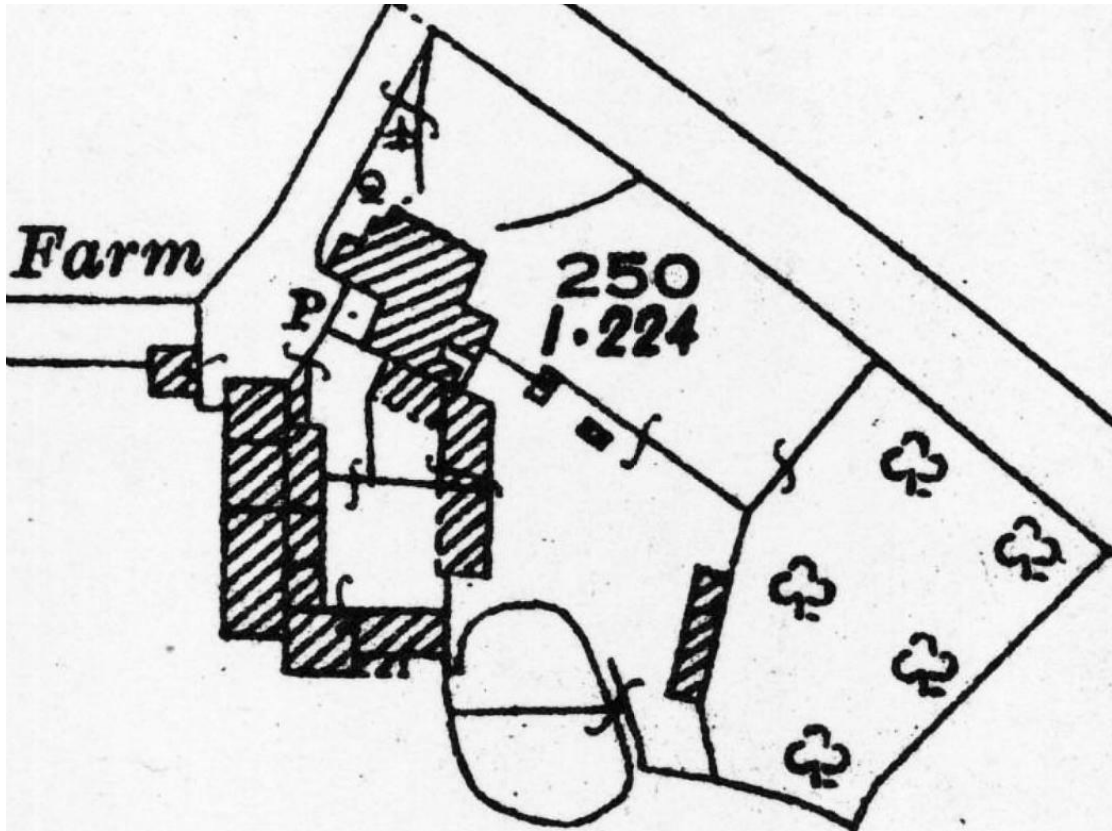


Figure 10. The 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1924, showing little change since 1885.

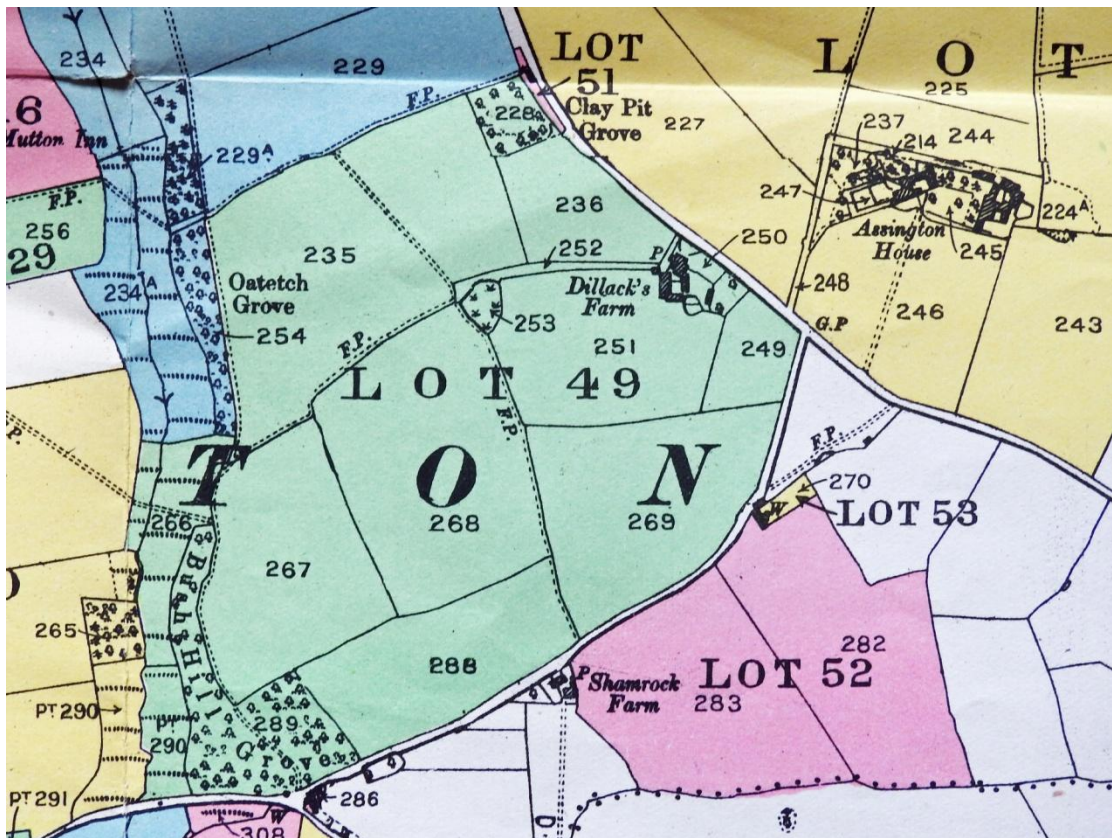


Figure 11. The farm coloured green as lot 49 in the 1938 Assington Hall Estate auction catalogue. A contemporary press report states no offer was made and it failed to sell.

(Coloured Green on Plan No. 1)

A Valuable Small Farm

situate in the Parish of Assington on the main Colchester to Sudbury Road.

Dillack's Farm

with

86a. 1r. 23p.

The Farmhouse

Is soundly constructed of brick and plaster with tiled roof, and contains :—

ENTRANCE HALL ; 3 SITTING ROOMS ; KITCHEN ; PANTRY ; STORE HOUSE and COAL HOUSE ; 4 BEDROOMS and 2 DRESSING ROOMS.
OUTSIDE :—P.C.

An Attractive Pleasure Garden and Small Kitchen Garden

WATER SUPPLY, is pumped from a Well near the Back Door.

The Homestead

is ample for the Holding, and compact and includes :—

Brick and tiled Corn Barn, with cement floor. Boarded and thatched double-bay Barn. Range of 3 Boarded and Slate Loose Boxes. Brick and Slate Loose Box. 2 Brick and slate Bullock Boxes, one with Granary over. Brick and tiled and corrugated iron Stable for 5 with Chaff Box. Horse Yard with 3-bay open Shed. Brick and tiled Cowhouse for 6 with Mixing House. Cow Yard with 3-bay Open Shed. In the Stackyard—A Range of brick, boarded and tiled Buildings, comprising Cart Lodge and 2 Fowlhouses.

SCHEDULE.

Ord. No.	Description.	Area.
228	Woodland	1.285
235	Arable	17.472
236	Pasture	4.232
249	Ditto	2.170
250	House and Buildings	1.224
251	Arable	8.213
266	Pasture	3.547
267	Arable	9.493
268	Ditto	12.951
269	Ditto	9.961
288	Ditto	7.597
289	Woodland	5.620
Pt. 290	Pasture	1.691
252	Driftway511
253	Pasture427
	Total Area	86.394

OUTGOINGS :—Tithe Redemption Annuity apportioned £9 19s. 2d.

The Farm is now in the occupation of Messrs. S. J. & W. Rice, yearly Michaelmas Tenants at a rent of £80 per annum, the Woodlands Nos. 228 and 289 are in hand and Possession of these will be given on Completion.

Figure 12

Particulars of the farm from the 1938 Assington Hall Estate auction catalogue. The outbuilding is described as 'Horse yard with 3-bay open shed. Brick and tiled Cowhouse for 6 with Mixing House. Cow Yard with 3-bay Open Shed.' (See figure 16.)



Figure 13. The photograph of the house from the road to the north in the 1938 auction catalogue.



Figure 14. The northern facade of the house in 2006 (Historic England). The right-hand gable chimney had been reduced in height, but otherwise the exterior remained much as in 1938.



Figure 15
Aerial photographs probably from the 1970s and 90s in the current owners' possession. The southern threshing barn retains its original thatch in the former while the later image below shows corrugated iron on both the barn and the southern half of the outbuilding in the foreground. The walls of the small cattle yard to the north of the outbuilding still survived in the 1970s but had been lost by the 1990s.

Building Analysis

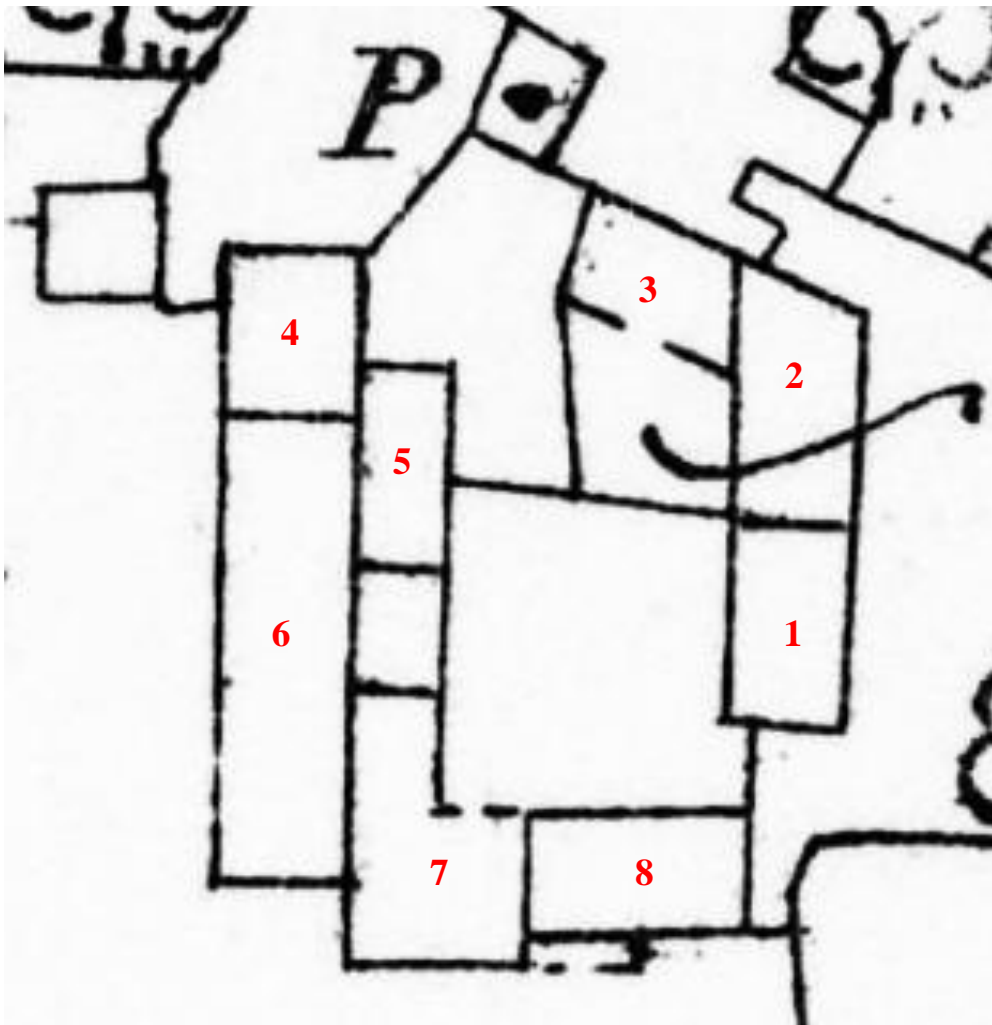


Figure 16

The early-19th century farm buildings on the 1885 Ordnance Survey numbered to identify their various functions as described in the 1938 auction catalogue. They all remain largely intact today, but the adjoining house to the north has been sold separately from the majority of its land and the site is no longer a working farm.

- 1-3 The single-storied outbuilding forming the subject of this report, consisting of a 3-bay shelter-shed serving the 'horse yard' on the west (1), a 'cowhouse for 6' (2) containing a separate 'mixing house' for preparing animal feed to the north (2a), and a three-bay shelter-shed serving a small separate 'cow yard' to the north-west.
- 4 A brick and tiled 'corn barn with a cement floor', apparently built as an extension to the slightly earlier timber-framed and weatherboarded threshing barn on the south (6).
- 5 Part of a range of lean-to boarded and brick slate-roofed loose boxes for cattle adjoining the eastern elevation of the barn.
- 6 A timber-framed, weatherboarded and formerly thatched double threshing barn, part of which is now converted into a dwelling.

- 7 A brick shed containing a boarded first-floor granary with the remains of grain bins in its eastern half, described as ‘two brick and slate bullock boxes, one with granary over’ (although the roof appears to be tiled in the 1970s aerial image).
- 8 A single-storied brick stable with a tiled and corrugated iron roof, designed for 5 horses and including a chaff box (i.e. a storage compartment for chaff to mix with the animal feed).

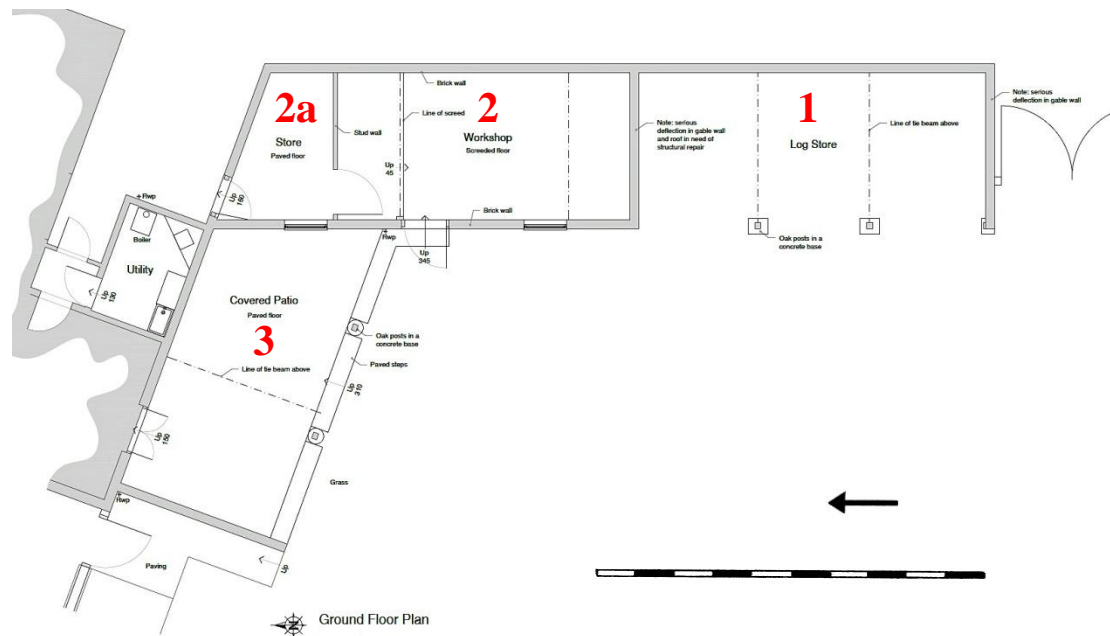


Figure 17

A ground plan of the outbuilding by Optimum Architecture Ltd., identifying each compartment with a number for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. Scale in metres.

Introduction

This analysis describes the historic origin and development of the outbuilding with reference to the numbered ground plan in figure 17. The text is intended to be read in conjunction with the captions to the 36 illustrations of the photographic record which form part of the description.

Listing Entry

The house is listed at grade II with the following entry in Historic England’s schedule, which was last revised in 1978 (no. 1351737):

Colchester Road, Assington

Diljack's Farmhouse

An 18th century timber-framed and plastered house. 2 storeys. 3 window range, double-hung sashes with glazing bars. A central 6-panel door with the upper 2 panels glazed has a shouldered architrave, frieze and cornice. Roof tiled. At the north-west end there is a large external chimney stack with offsets, and at the rear there is a single storey block with a mansard roof.

The property name is given in error as Diljack's rather than Dillacks, and the absence of internal features from the description indicates the inspector failed to gain access. The addition to the rear has a gambrel roof rather than a mansard as its gables are vertical, and according to the historic maps was added between 1837 and 1885. The interior was renovated approximately 20 years ago by a previous owner, stripping the plaster from the ground-floor room to the west of the central entrance passage and exposing the wall timbers. The framing consists of narrow vertical studs interrupted by straight diagonal primary braces that are pegged at both ends in the style of the late-18th and early-19th centuries. Several timbers were re-used from older structures. Such a date is consistent with an ostensibly original cupboard and HL hinges elsewhere in the house. Similar framing can be seen in the barn, although in this case the braces are nailed rather than pegged in a manner suggestive of a slightly later origin. A date at the very end of the 18th century is also consistent with the absence of the farm from Hodskinson's map of 1783, although this may not be accurate as the name indicates a link with a property belonging to the late-17th century Dillick family which seems to have left the area soon afterwards. The 1817 map shows a different layout of farm buildings and it also seems unlikely that the structures depicted would have been replaced so quickly had they not existed in 1783.

Proportions, structure and date

The outbuilding forms the eastern and northern sides of the enclosed farm yard in figure 16. The single-storied L-shaped structure consists of 9-inch red-brick laid in Flemish Bond and extends to 19 m in length along its eastern wall by 12 m along its northern. The return angle is greater than 90 degrees as it respects the axis of the farmhouse which in turn respects the road. The eastern range is 3.75 m or 12.25 ft wide internally and rises to 2.3 m or 7.5 ft in height at its roof-plates, with a roof of clasped-purlins secured by nailed collars and a ridge-board. This roof was tiled initially but is now covered with corrugated iron and more recent sheet metal, leaving a section of tiles intact to the northern half of its eastern slope. The northern range is a slate-covered single-pitched structure consisting of 20th century replacement softwood rafters leaning on a tall brick rear wall that effectively separates the house from the farm yard. The eastern roof structure has lost most of its common rafters but is otherwise largely intact, and its form is typical of the first half of the 19th century. The building was depicted with its distinctive outline on the 1837 tithe map but not present on the enclosure map of 20 years before, and was evidently constructed along with most of the other farm buildings in or about the 1820s. A degree of remodelling is likely to have been stimulated by the 1817 enclosure of Marshall's Green and other common land in the vicinity.

Layout and purpose

The southern end of the building is entirely open to the western yard, with a pair of original wooden arcade posts flanked by bolted knee-braces supporting its roof-plate (1). This extends to 9 m or 30 ft in length and in 1938 operated as a shelter-shed for the horse yard in front of the brick stable to the south. The 19th century Ordnance Surveys confirm that both the stable and shelter-shed adjoined the same yard, and suggests the 1837 map incorrectly omitted the stable and its adjoining granary (as the shelter-shed would not have been required but for the yard and therefore the stable). The northern end of the eastern range (2) is entered by a wide doorway where it adjoins the northern range and lit by a modern window on each side. All three features are original as their jambs are respected by closers (quarter bricks) in the bonding, but the door and windows themselves are modern replacements. The interior extends to 7.5 m or 24.5 ft in length excluding a small compartment to the north divided by a boarded partition (2a). This compartment is 1.4 m long to the east and 3 m to the west (4.5 ft and 10 ft respectively). The larger space was open to its rafters as it remains and was described in 1938 as a 'cowhouse for 6' while the smaller was a 'mixing house' in which animal feed was prepared. The two were connected by an ostensibly original plank-and-batten door and the

mixing house was also entered from the house on the north via a renewed door in its gable. A brick floor survives within this compartment but has been largely replaced or covered with concrete in the cow shed.

The mixing house retains its original ceiling of plain joists resting on the internal partition with lath-and-plaster nailed to their soffits and an additional upper layer of clay daub supported by split laths nailed to their tops (illustrations 22-23 & 26). There is nothing to suggest the internal partition and double ceiling of the mixing house are later insertions, although this cannot be ruled out entirely. The sill of the partition is embedded in the brick floor which strongly indicates the arrangement is contemporary with the building, and if the mixing house was added later it must have occurred within a decade or two at most. The ceiling was necessary to ensure the mixing house was as hygienic as possible, with no dust and other contaminating material able to fall through from the rafters and the roof space above. This roof space may have been used for the storage of relatively light and non-abrasive material such as straw or hay, with clay employed as a cheaper alternative to floorboards. Only a small section now survives to the east, but the undersides of the laths exposed in illustration 22 are not whitewashed as might have been expected had they been exposed to view from beneath prior to the application of the lath-and-plaster. Daub attic floors of this kind are sometimes seen on the upper storeys of East Anglian farmhouses where they served to retain heat in the bedrooms where the roof-spaces above were not accessible. Most were replaced with boards when these spaces were converted into attic bedrooms, and although once common they are now rare survivors. Examples are also seen occasionally in farm buildings under similar circumstances but these too are rare. The northern range extends to 9 m or 30 ft in length against the yard to the south (3), matching the southern shelter-shed (1), and in 1938 it formed the shelter-shed of a small cow yard that overlapped the adjacent entrance to the cow shed (2) – for which purpose it was designed. The 19th century hay rack and the pair of boarded mangers against its northern wall and western gable are understood to have been moved from elsewhere in the building. The shelter-shed is now directly linked to the former farmhouse by a pair of French doors, but retains its original pair of wooden arcade posts with shaped separate lintels as shown in illustration 32.

Historic Significance

The farm buildings at Dillacks Farm represent a largely complete early-19th century complex that has remained almost unaltered from the time of the 1885 Ordnance Survey and probably the 1837 tithe map (which appears to omit the southern stable and granary in error but shows their outlines unshaded). Complete farm yards of this period are increasingly rare, particularly on this relatively modest scale. The individual buildings retain all or most of their original roof structures and are undesignated heritage assets that lie within the curtilage of an adjoining grade II-listed former farmhouse. Under Historic England's current criteria they could be regarded as listable in their own rights, although the case is marginal given the loss of the threshing barn's thatch and its partial conversion into a dwelling. The outbuilding to the north and east of the yard was a multi-purpose building containing an enclosed cow shed as well as two open-fronted shelter-sheds for both horses and cattle. The shelter-sheds retain their original arcade posts but no fixtures or fittings survive *in situ* and most of the roof tiles have been lost. The pentice roof of the northern shelter-shed adjoining the house has also been replaced, although its height serves to screen the house from the yard and will therefore minimise the impact on the listed building of any future conversion. The most historically significant elements of the structure are the internal partition and rare double ceiling of the mixing house at the northern end of the cow shed, which are almost certainly contemporary with the walls. These fragile features illustrate an aspect of local farm buildings that rarely survives.

Photographic record follows on pp. 15-32

Photographic Record (pages 15-32)



Illus. 1. The northern facade of the former farmhouse, which faces the road and conceals the farm yard to the rear. Listed as 18th century, the internally exposed framing consists of narrow studs interrupted by straight primary braces which are pegged rather than nailed at each end in the manner of the late-18th and early-19th centuries.



Illus. 2. The house from the entrance drive to the north-west showing the brick extension to the earlier thatched threshing barn in the rear.



Illus. 3. The enclosed farm yard from its south-western corner showing the L-shaped outbuilding on the right with the 3-bay open shelter-shed of the horse yard (1) on the right, the cow shed (2) in the centre and the shelter-shed of the cow yard (3) on the left. The threshing barn is visible to the extreme left with the house in the rear.



Illus. 4. The enclosed farm yard from the north showing the outbuilding on the left with the brick stable and boarded granary in the rear and the threshing barn on the right. The buildings are all consistent with the date in the 1820s or 30s indicated by the historic maps.



Illus. 5. The double threshing barn to the west of the yard, with lean-to loose boxes between its porches (included for site context). The brick bay on the right appears to have been built as an extension to the earlier and formerly thatched barn on the left.



Illus. 6. The south-western corner of the yard showing the loose boxes adjoining the barn on the right with the granary and stable on the left (included for site context).



Illus. 7. The barn from the west showing the raised roof of the central section which has been converted into a dwelling (included for site context). The brick bay on the left was described as a corn barn in 1938 and contains a blocked unusual arched entrance to the extreme left. It probably operated in the manner of a modern grain store.



Illus. 8. The internal southern gable of the threshing barn showing its typically early-19th century framing with original bolted knee-braces rather than arch-braces to the tie-beam (included for site context). It is stylistically slightly later than the house as its diagonal wall braces are nailed rather than pegged, although the roof collars are pegged.



Illus. 9. The brick outbuilding from the east showing the stable on the left and the house to the right. The structurally distinct section of the house with a gambrel roof was added between 1837 and 1885 according to the historic maps. The tiles of the left-hand section of the outbuilding were replaced with corrugated iron between the 1970s and 90s as indicated on the aerial photographs in figure 15.



Illus. 10. The outbuilding from the north-east showing its Flemish Bond fabric with the boarded shed of the house adjoining on the right and the original entrance doorway in the northern gable of the feed-mixing shed (2a).



Illus. 11. The northern gable of the outbuilding which is integral to the wall of the cow-yard's shelter-shed (3) on the right and effectively screens the farm yard from the house. The arched doorway is also integral to the Flemish Bond brickwork and opens directly into the compartment described in 1938 as a mixing house (2a).



Illus. 12. The original Flemish Bond external southern gable of the horse yard's shelter-shed (1) at the southern end of the outbuilding.



Illus. 13. The open western wall of the three-bay shelter-shed (1) that formerly served the horse yard adjoining the stable (as described in 1938 and shown on the Ordnance Surveys). The two original wooden arcade posts survive along with all four knee-braces, but their feet have been encased in concrete blocks. The roof consists of a mixture of corrugated iron and modern pressed metal.



Illus. 14. The interior of the horse shelter-shed (1) from the south showing the re-used timber of its tie-beam that may have been salvaged from the earlier farm buildings on the site. The wooden troughs in the cow shelter-shed (1) are understood to have been removed from this space.



Illus. 15. The roof structure of the horse shelter-shed (1) from the south showing the empty pegged mortices of the 16th or early-17th century re-used tie-beam in the foreground. The original roof collars are nailed rather than pegged and the majority of the rafters have been removed.



Illus. 16. A detail of the original tarred and bolted knee-braces linking the arcade post of the horse shelter-shed's western interior to its roof-plate (1).



Illus. 17. The western exterior of the brick cow shed (2) showing its wide entrance door on the left. Both the door and window apertures are respected by closers (quarter-bricks) and are original to the wall fabric – although the window and door are modern replacements.



Illus. 18. The interior from the north of the cow shed (2) which has been converted into a workshop with a modern concrete floor. No original fixtures or fittings remain.



Illus. 19. The partly intact original clasped-purlin roof structure of the cow shed (2) as seen from the north. The rafters rest on a ridge-board and the original collars are nailed rather than pegged as might be expected in a relatively narrow structure. The original tile battens survive to the right.



Illus. 20. The interior from the south of the cow shed (2) showing its original wide doorway to the missing enclosed cow yard on the left. The boarded partition of the feed mixing house (2a) is visible in the rear along with a section of original floor bricks.



Illus. 21. The boarded partition and door of the mixing house (2a) at the northern end of the cow shed as seen from the south with the empty mortices of a re-used tie-beam in the foreground. The external gable door lies in the rear and the joist ends of the unusual double ceiling are visible at top right with details in illustrations 22-23.



Illus. 22. A detail of the joist ends above the boarded southern wall of the mixing house in illustration 21 (2a). A small section of the original split laths of a daub attic 'floor' remains *in situ*. The attic floors of farmhouses were often constructed in this way when there was no access to the attic rooms and therefore no need for floorboards. They offered additional protection from dust and water ingress from above.



Illus. 23. A further detail of the rare original 'floor' of clay daub to the roof void above the mixing house (2a), consisting of a thick layer of clay, straw and hair applied to split oak laths laid across the joists. The lath-and-plaster of the inner ceiling is also visible beneath the joists.



Illus. 24. The roof space above the mixing house (2a) at the northern end of the cow shed showing its gable in the rear. Most of the original clay daub floor in illustration 23 has been lost and boards have been laid across the joists instead. This space appears to have been accessible from the cow house (2) and may have served as a hay or straw loft. The clay floor prevented its contents from damaging the lath-and-plaster beneath.



Illus. 25. The interior from the west of the mixing house (2a) showing the brick northern gable on the left and the entrance to the main cow shed (2) on the right. The mixing house varies from 1.4 m in length against the eastern wall in the centre to 3 m on the west, reflecting the irregular angle of the building's corner.



Illus. 26. A detail of the 19th century lath-and-plaster ceiling of the mixing house (2a) as seen from the west. The laths are nailed to the undersides of the original common joists. There is no evidence of whitewash on either the joists or the upper laths in illustration 22 that might suggest this plaster post-dates the layer of clay daub above.



Illus. 27. The southern internal partition of the mixing house (2a) consisting of vertical studs with sections of original plaster surviving to the left. The exposed boards on the right retain the scars of nailed vertical laths to which the plaster was secured. Boarded walls were often sealed or ‘torched’ in this way in the 18th and early-19th centuries.



Illus. 28. The brick northern internal gable of the mixing house (2a) showing the original doorway which communicated with the house.



Illus. 29. The western interior of the mixing house (2a) showing the original plank-and-batten door to the main cow shed (2) on the left with the renewed door to the house on the right and the modern window to the shelter-shed (3) in the centre.



Illus. 30. The 19th century floor bricks of the mixing house (2a) on the left and the main cow shed (2) on the right. The bricks respect the sill of the partition between these spaces, suggesting it is contemporary with the building. The concrete blocked to the left supported a missing 20th century tank.



Illus. 31. The southern exterior of the three-bay open-fronted shelter-shed to the former cow yard (3) showing its slate roof and two intact arcade posts on later bases.



Illus. 32. A detail of the original shaped lintel dividing the arcade post of the cow-yard's shelter-shed (3) to the right in illustration 31 from its roof-plate.



Illus. 33. The interior of the shelter-shed (1) to the north of the farm yard showing the window to the mixing house (2a) in the cow shed. This window is modern but its aperture is respected by closers in the brickwork.



Illus. 34. The 19th century boarded manger against the northern internal wall of the shelter-shed in the cow yard (3) with the modern French doors to the house on the left. This manger is understood to have been moved from the horse yard's shelter-shed to the south of the outbuilding (1).



Illus. 35. The interior from the east of the shelter-shed to the cow yard (3) showing its open southern elevation on the left. The narrow-sectioned common rafters are 20th century softwood replacements. This roof is a single-pitch structure adjoining the tall brick wall that divided the farm yard from the house on the right.



Illus. 36. The western interior of the shelter-shed that served the cow yard (3) showing a 19th century hay rack with wooden tines above a low boarded manger of the same period. The French doors on the right are 20th century insertions that connect the building directly to the house.