

**Case Name:** The Hanover Inn

**Case Number:** 1488373

### Background

Historic England has received an application to assess the Hanover Inn in Harwich for de-listing.

### Asset(s) under Assessment

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	Name	Heritage Category
1	THE HANOVER INN	Listing

### Visits

Date	Visit Type
11 December 2023	Full inspection

**Annex 1****Draft List Entry****Name: THE HANOVER INN****Location: 65 Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DR**

County	District	District Type	Parish
Essex	Tendring	District Authority	Harwich

**History**

The Hanover Inn probably started life in the C18 as a pair of houses built on the site of a late-C16 or C17 timber-framed building on the north-east side of what was then known as Hanover Square. Extensive fire damage in 2022 revealed that the building's south-east gable end, which was shared with No.66, consisted of two storeys of close-studding stiffened by straight braces, a method of construction normally associated with timber-framed buildings built towards the end of the C16 and throughout the C17.

Little is known of the building's subsequent history until it was remodelled in the mid-C19, possibly in the 1850s, by William Lawrence, a farmer from Aspell, Suffolk, as the Hanover Square Dining Rooms. Despite this change of use, the Ordnance Survey (OS) town plan of 1877 still depicted the building as two separate dwellings with a central passageway giving access to a rear courtyard. The 1871 census records William Lawrence as an eating house keeper, living with his wife, Laura, along with their seven children, his father, John, a retired farmer, and four servants. In the late C19, Mr Lawrence caused significant controversy with the churchwardens at the neighbouring Church of St Nicholas (listed Grade II\*), when he cut windows into the building's north-west elevation overlooking the church and its churchyard.

By the time of the 1891 census, Mr Lawrence had become a full-time farmer, with the day-to-day running of the premises handed to his daughter, Alice. When the next census was undertaken in 1901, the Lawrence family had left the Dining Rooms to run a farm from Albermarle Street on the Bathside. Its new proprietor is documented as Mrs Gertrude Curtis, with subsequent owners recorded as Mr Harry Beaumont (1906), Mr Dorman (1908) and Mr Curtis (1915). The establishment was still known as the Hanover Square Dining Rooms in 1939, when Mr EO Richardson of Harwich was granted the licence from Mr PW Green. An advertisement published in the East London Observer on 4 October 1939 describes the premises as having 14 bedrooms and being 'highly popular with the Navy'.

After the Second World War, the premises, which was by then operating as a public house known as the Hanover Inn, was acquired by the brewers Cobbold & Co of Ipswich, who later became Tolly Cobbold following its merger with the Tollemache Brewery, also of Ipswich, in 1958. When the brewery was sold in 1989, it was acquired by Mr Barry Mackness, a local publican, who ran it as a free house until his retirement in 2016. After passing into new ownership, it was refurbished in 2017, with the work including the installation of a new bar. On 20 March 2020, however, the pub, along with all other hospitality premises in the UK, was ordered to close by the Prime Minister as part of the Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Three months later planning permission was sought to convert the building into self-contained flats, but this was

withdrawn the following year. The pub eventually reopened under new ownership in August 2021.

On 24 June 2022, the pub was badly damaged by a severe fire, which also destroyed three adjoining historic dwellings. Due to the severity of the damage inflicted on the buildings, the fire brigade have been unable to determine the cause of the blaze.

### Details

Two former houses, now public house, probably built in C18 on the site of a late-C16 or C17 timber-framed building, remodelled as a dining room and lodging house in the mid-C19, with later alterations and additions. In 2022 it was badly damaged by fire.

**MATERIALS:** the ground and first floors of the main range's principal elevation to Church Street are of brick, partly painted and partly rendered and scored to imitate ashlar, while its second floor is of cement render over riven timber laths, also scored to imitate ashlar. Its left-hand return is of painted brick. The former Welsh slate roof, including the timber roof structure, has now been destroyed by fire. An adjoining two-storey range at the rear is of red brick in monk bond, its ground floor also painted, with a clay tile roof. Stacks are of brick.

**PLAN:** the building consists of a three-storey L-plan range at the north-west corner of the site forming the principal elevation to Church Street and the left-hand return to St Nicholas's churchyard. Abutting the north-east end of the left-hand return is a two-storey range which is in turn adjoined at a right angle by a further two-storey range on its south-east side to enclose a small courtyard accessed via a passageway from King's Quay Street to the north-east.

**EXTERIOR:** the principal elevation to Church Street was originally of three storeys in three bays but the second floor centre and right-hand bays have now (2023) collapsed following fire damage in 2022, as has most of the rear range of the original C18 building and its entire roof structure.

The ground-floor windows and doors were boarded at the time of survey, but photographs taken prior to the fire show that that it consists of a late-C19 pub front with a central entrance door (blocked internally) of six raised-and-fielded panels, flanked to its right- and left-hand sides by four- and three-light shop windows respectively, both with elliptical heads to each light and a central transom bar, and at the left-hand side is a half-glazed timber door; the windows and doors now (2023) contain no glazing and the joinery is badly damaged. Above is a shallow timber fascia with console brackets. On the first floor there is a central blind window flanked in each side by two-over-two horned sashes, while the second floor has an identical windows, all with fire-damaged joinery and no glazing.

The main range's right-hand return to the churchyard has two rectangular windows (now boarded) at the left-hand side, both inserted into what were once larger window openings created in the late-C19, the remainder of which has been infilled with brick. On the first floor there is a small-paned tripartite sash, while the second floor has three two-over-two horned sashes, all without glazing. At its north-east gable end, of which the gable head has been destroyed by fire, the first floor has a two-over-two horned sash. Adjoining the gable end is a two-storey range with a two-bay façade overlooking the churchyard. Its ground floor has a late-C20 window (now boarded) to the left-hand bay, above which are

two six-over-six sashes (partly boarded) to the first floor. Above again is a clay tile roof with a brick stack to the centre of the ridge. Its north-east gable end, which has some burnt brick headers, has an original, segmental-headed doorway into which a flat-headed door (now removed and boarded) with a concrete lintel was inserted in the late C20, at which time the right-hand jamb was also rebuilt in modern brick. The doorway is accessed via a passageway from King's Quay Street, under the oversailing floor of No.25, of which its north-west wall is partly of septaria overlain with later brickwork.

The two-storey range flanking the churchyard is adjoined on its south-west side, at a right angle, by a further two-storey range. Its north-east elevation is obscured at ground-floor level by outbuildings associated with dwellings on King's Quay Street, while its first floor is rendered and scored to imitate ashlar. The opposing south-west elevation to the rear courtyard has an oversailing first floor which is of two bays with a six-over-six sash to the left-hand bay. An identical window to the right-hand bay and the roof structure at this end have all been lost to fire damage.

The courtyard contains the severely fire-damaged remains of a C20 flat-roofed extension that formerly housed the pub's kitchen.

**INTERIOR:** the majority of the interior has been gutted by fire. The upper floors on the north-east side of the main range have all collapsed, while those on the south-west side are supported by Acrow props and were not accessible at the time of survey (2023). Fire-damaged debris still remain in situ, but the severity of the fire makes them unidentifiable. The only discernible features are a brick chimney stack rising from the south-east side, which has a cast-iron surround at first-floor level.

The building's south-east gable end, which came from a late-C16 or C17 building that stood on the site and is shared with No. 66 Church Street (listed Grade II), still survives in situ. Although smoke blackened and with some of badly-damaged timbers, it consists of close-studding of storey height, tenoned into a sill beam at ground-floor level, a girth at first-floor level, and a wall plate at roof level, with the studs cut out and framed into straight braces at ground-floor level, all with wattle and daub infill panels.

The two two-storey ranges were under refurbishment at the time of the fire and consists of rooms with walls and ceilings that had been newly plastered prior to the fire. With the exception of floorboards, they retain no historic fittings of note.

## **Selected Sources**

### **Books and journals**

Industries of the Eastern Counties Business Review: Essex: 1888-1890, (1982), 217

### **Websites**

Information on the Hanover Inn from the Historic Harwich Pub Trail website, accessed 21 December 2023 from <http://www.harwichpubtrail.co.uk/hanover.html>

### **Other**

Chelmsford Chronicle, 8 September 1939, pp8

East London Observer, 4 October 1913, pp9

**Map****National Grid Reference: TM2612832552**

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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF – 1187889\_3.pdf.

**Current List Entry****List Entry Summary**

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

**Name:** THE HANOVER PUBLIC HOUSE

**List Entry Number:** 1187889

**Location**

THE HANOVER PUBLIC HOUSE, CHURCH STREET,

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Essex	Tendring	District Authority	Harwich

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** II

**Date first listed:** 20 June 1972

**Date of most recent amendment:** 18 April 1994

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**Legacy System Information**

This section only relates to older records, created before the introduction of the National Heritage List for England in 2011.

**Legacy System:** LBS

**Legacy Number:** 366504

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**Asset Groupings**

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

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**List Entry Description****Summary of Building**

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Details

609-1/2/37 House CHURCH STREET Hanover Inn) GV and early C19. Brick roof. and of 'U' plan form. Two	HARWICH (North East side)  CHURCH STREET The Hanover Public House (Formerly Listed as: (North East side) The Public house, former house. Late C18 partly painted and partly rendered with hipped Welsh slate PLAN: 3 storeys and cellars ridgeline stacks with gault dressings.	TM2632NW 20/06/72  II Public house, former house. Late C18 partly painted and partly rendered with hipped Welsh slate PLAN: 3 storeys and cellars ridgeline stacks with gault dressings.	CHURCH STREET The Hanover Public House (Formerly Listed as: (North East side) The Public house, former house. Late C18 partly painted and partly rendered with hipped Welsh slate PLAN: 3 storeys and cellars ridgeline stacks with gault dressings.
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EXTERIOR: front has, on second floor, 3 flush double-hung sash windows with central vertical glazing bars. First floor has 2 similar deeper windows and central blind window. Raised band at second-floor level returning down NW flank where there is second similar band above ground-floor level.

Ground floor has C19 public house front with fascia, console end stops and 2 bands of windows with elliptical heads to each light and central transoms. Central entrance (now blocked) has door of raised-and-fielded panels. Small entrance door on left of facade. Exposed NW flank has 3 double-hung sash windows with central glazing bars on second floor and small paned, tripartite double-hung sash on first floor.

2-storey red Flemish-bond brick extension to rear with gabled plain tile roof, ridgeline stack and 2 double-hung sash windows with small panes on first floor. Further 2-storey extension to SE of this of painted render.

INTERIOR: the rear arch of the entrance passage survives, from earlier dwelling with keystone and panelled pilasters. Also of this build is an open-well C18 staircase with turned balusters and pulvinated string rising in gabled rear staircase tower, exposed on the rear. First-floor room has simple cornices and panelling and part of ceiling has 2 plaster fleurs-de-lys (copies of C17 version?). Access to rear of public house is via alley into King's Quay Street and under oversailing floor of No.25 King's Quay Street (qv). The adjoining NW wall is partly of septaria with later brickwork overlaying.

Listing NGR: TM2613232557

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### Selected Sources

**Map****National Grid Reference: TM 26132 32557**

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