

The Prince of Wales Public House, Shrivenham

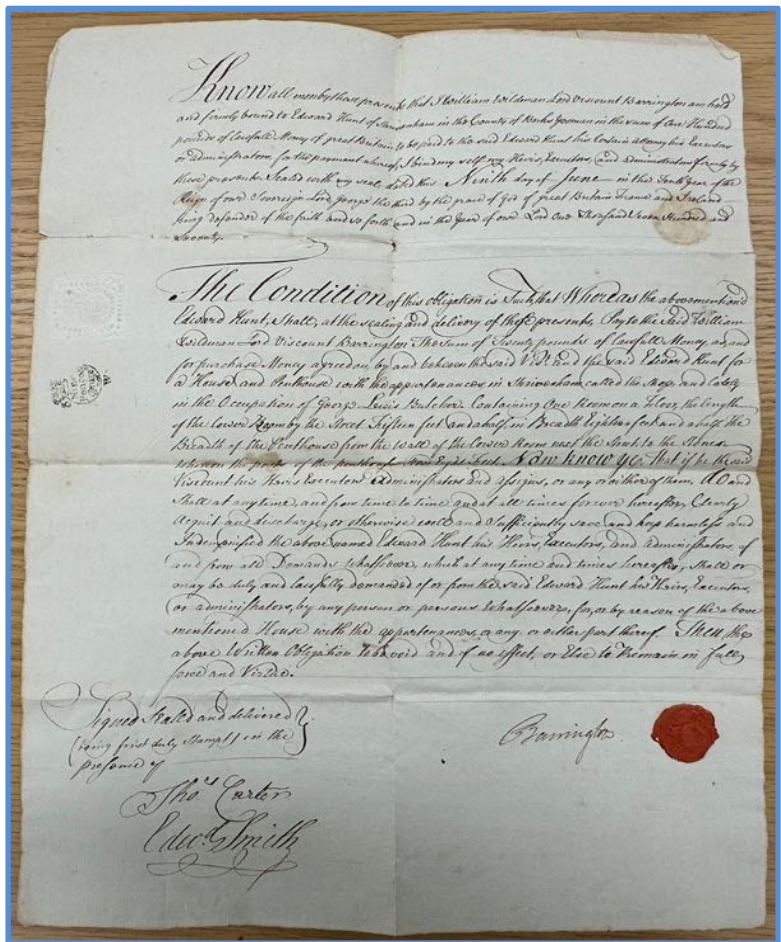
By Neil B. Maw



Some readers may be surprised to learn that the Prince of Wales is not as old as it might appear to be as a Public House. The information for this update on the history of the property comes from the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre (WSHC) at Chippenham. It is fortunate and rare that the documents that make up the Deeds of the property had survived with Wadworth Brewery of Devizes. (WSHC 2816/155/144).

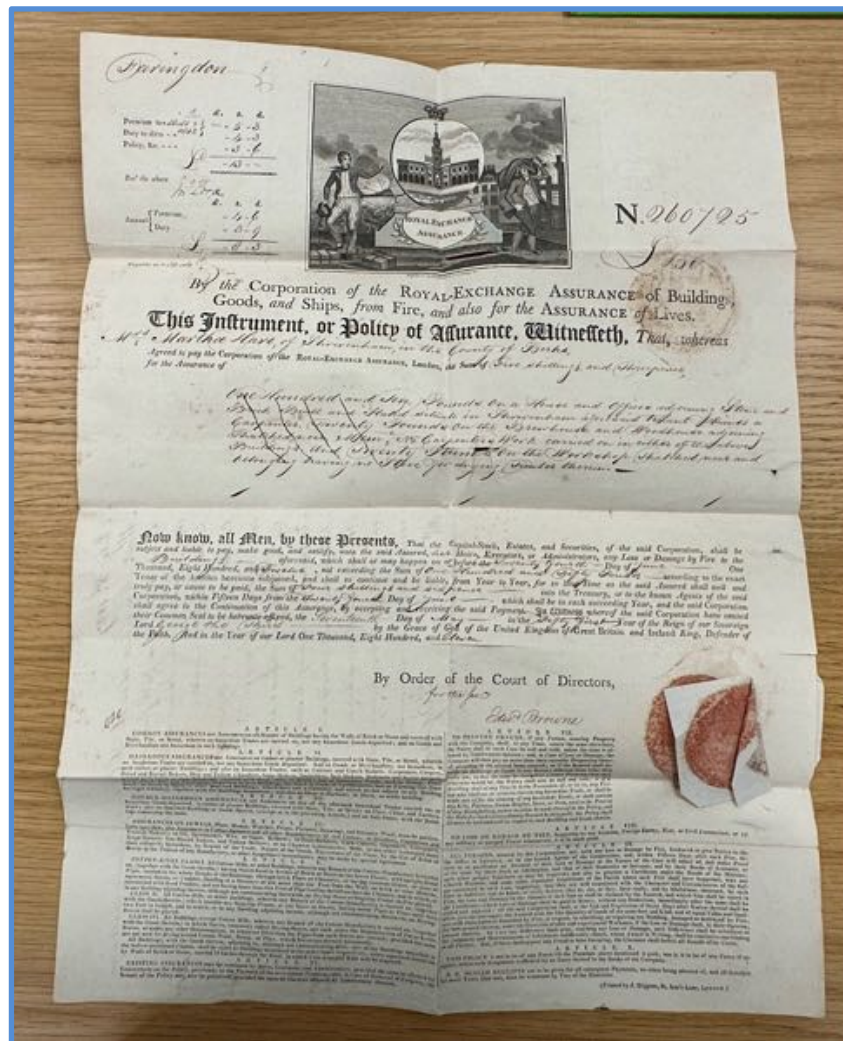
The oldest document is a single sheet of paper from the 18th century. (Below). It is a Bond certificate signed by William Wildman Lord Viscount Barrington (2nd) of Beckett. The document described that Lord Barrington sold a House and Penthouse to Edward Hunt for £20 on 9th June 1770. A Penthouse in the 18th century meant an addition to a property, often in the form of a lean-to. It was called *'The Shop'* and consisted of *'one room on a floor the length of the lower room by the street 15 feet and a half, in breadth 18 feet and a half. The breadth of the Penthouse from the wall of the lower room next the street to the stones whereon the posts of the Penthouse stood 8 feet.'* This implies that the building was of a single story and we assume built of rubblestone. The Penthouse was likely built of wood. (example below). The document described further that it was lately in the occupation of George Lewis, Butcher. For some reason that isn't explained in the document, Lord Barrington offered an indemnity of £100

should anyone dispute the sale to Edward Hunt. So, in 1770, there was a single-story house with a butcher's shop attached on the site of the Prince of Wales. We can only assume that Edward Hunt intended to use it for a similar commercial purpose.



The next document in the deed collection is an Indenture dated 8th August 1801. It involved Shute Barrington who was the Bishop of Durham. After the death of William the second Viscount, the Beckett estate was put into a trust. (More information on this can be read in SHS Publication 'Beckett & the Barringtons.'). The document showed that the premises was sold by Bishop Barrington to Betty Butler for £150 and described, '*All that messuage, tenement or dwellinghouse situate in Shrivenham with garden and orchard adjoining.*' It also had a 750-year lease attached to it. The wording suggested that something had changed over the previous 30 years but it wasn't clear. Also, a dispute must have arisen over a garden boundary with the neighbours as a statement was included that, '*a piece of garden ground was marked out and agreed by all parties and marked by a brick and stone wall which would be maintained and kept in good repair.*'

By an Indenture known as an Assignment dated 19th May 1806, Betty Butler sold the property to Edward Hunt Butler, a Baker from Faringdon for £180. We know from the parish records that the Hunts and the Butler's were connected by marriage, so it seems likely that this was a family affair of running a business in the high street of Shrivenham since 1770. However, it appeared to come to an end with an Indenture dated 20th October 1810, when the property was sold to Martha Hare, a Spinster of Shrivenham who paid £400. Upon purchasing the property, Martha took out a Fire Assurance policy which has been preserved among the deeds. (Below). The property covered in June 1812 was £110 on a house and offices adjoining, stone and brick built and slated. The tenant was a Carpenter called Mr Haines. Covered for £20 was a Brew house and a Wood house adjoining, both thatched, with a note added that no carpentry work would be carried on in either. Also covered for £20 was a Workshop, thatched nearby, having no stove. But Martha embarked on a large building programme over the following 20 years.



An Indenture dated 13th October 1834 showed that Martha sold the property to Henry Sealy for £900. Henry was described as a Tailor and Draper of Shrivenham. He too took out an insurance policy which was described as 'Four cottages adjoining each other, stone built and slated £350. Three cottages adjoining each other, stone built and thatched £150. Two cottages adjoining each other, stone built and thatched £100.' This portrays a remarkable picture of ten separate dwellings, most of which by today's standards would probably have been considered hovels. But at this point there is no mention of a public house. Henry Sealy died in December 1841 at the young age of 35.

At this time there was a strong presence of the family called *Streat* in Shrivenham. We know by a newspaper article that Henry Streat was running the public house called the King's Arms that was in Church Walk (See SHS N1025). John Streat was a local builder and built the row of properties next door to the Prince of Wales in 1825. (See SHS N1257). Thomas Streat was from Burford, an Auctioneer and Brewer, his father Samuel, likely to have been the man

who was co-founder of the Brewery called Garne & Son of Burford in 1798. There are 15 members of the Streat family interred in St Andrew's churchyard at Shrivenham. In 1842, an advertisement appeared in the Oxford Journal (below) to sell the eight cottages and the names of the occupants that were published, tie up exactly with the documents under examination here. The Auctioneer was Thomas Streat and we assume that it was the Executors of the Will of Henry Sealy who had commissioned the sale. The result was that Thomas Streat himself purchased the property and an Indenture dated 24th October 1843 confirmed that this was the case - sold to Thomas Streat of Burford, an Auctioneer and Brewer. Two days later an advertisement appeared in the Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette (below) offering a 'Dwelling House and Premises - The Prince of Wales Public House.'

Business to commence with the Sheep at Eleven o'clock.

**ELIGIBLE COTTAGES AND GARDENS,
IN SHRIVENHAM, BERKS.**

**T O B E S O L D B Y A U C T I O N ,
By Mr. THOMAS STREAT,**

At the Barrington Arms Inn, Shrivenham, on Thursday the 17th of March, 1842, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, in one or more lots, as shall be determined on at the time of sale, and under the conditions then to be produced,—Eight substantially-built COTTAGES, with Gardens thereto, situate in the centre of the pleasant and healthy village of Shrivenham, and within a short distance of the Shrivenham Station on the Great Western Railway, now in the respective occupations of Mr. John Tillett, Wm. Holyoak, John Williams, John Ball, Mary Sharps, Henry Cavey, Richard Butler, and Ann Gorton, at a rental producing upwards of 50*l.* a year. The property is Leasehold, for a long term of years, of which upwards of 700 years are unexpired. The Land Tax is redeemed.—For a view apply to Mr. John Sealy, of Shrivenham; and for further particulars to Mr. Haines, solicitor, Faringdon, Berks.

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
SHRIVENHAM, BERKS.**

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by MESSRS, JOHN FIDEL and SON, on FRIDAY the 10th of November, 1843, at the BARRINGTON ARMS INN, Shrivenham, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, (subject to conditions then to be produced,) all that excellent

**DWELLING HOUSE AND PREMISES,
THE PRINCE OF WALES PUBLIC HOUSE,**
Late in the occupation of Mr. HENRY STREAT, very pleasantly situated in the village of Shrivenham.

The interior of the House consists of parlour, sitting room, kitchen, tap, 8 bed-rooms and good underground cellarage; there is also a good Brew-house and BREWING PLANT, (the latter may be taken to by the purchaser at a valuation,) a newly built Gig-house, good Stabling and Piggeries, with an excellent Garden and Orchard attached thereto.

The above property being situated in the much admired village of Shrivenham, near to Beckett, is worthy the notice of any gentleman or lady with a small family, wishing a snug residence; the whole having been recently put into good repair, a very small sum tastefully expended, would render it one of the prettiest retired villas in the neighbourhood.

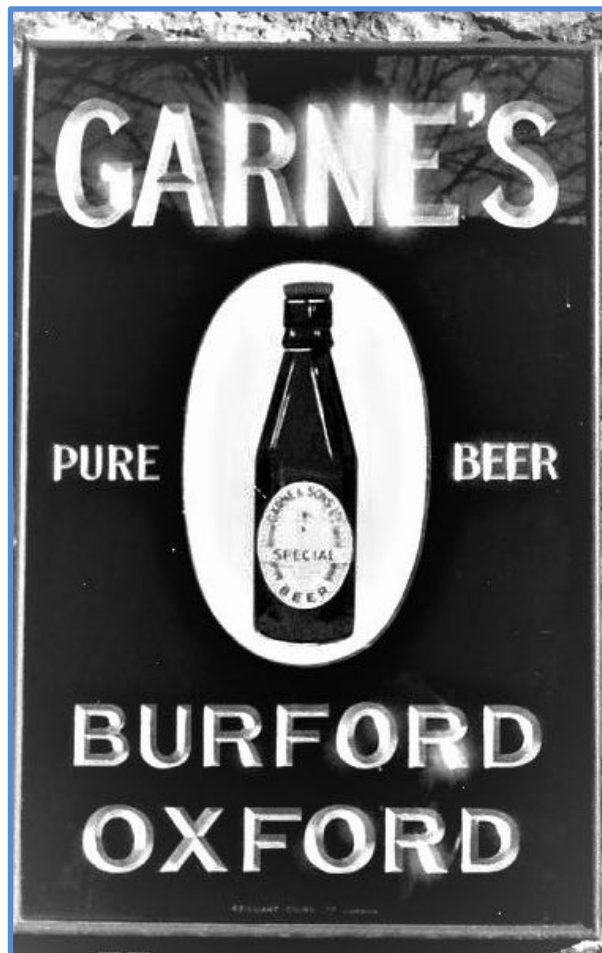
It is within one mile of the Great Western Railway Station.

For a view, apply on the premises; and for further particulars to Messrs. FIDEL and SON, or to Mr. JAMES HAINES, Solicitor, Faringdon, Berks.

There is nothing in the documentation to confirm what went on at this point, but reasonable assumptions can be made. Substantial alterations had clearly been made to the principal property, the one nearest the high street. John Streat the builder was likely the person who carried out the works. It was being offered as a choice; the public house named after Albert Edward the eldest son of Queen Victoria who had recently been born in 1841 and given the title of the Prince of Wales; or a pleasant retirement villa. The pub was to flourish and it's most likely that 1843 was the beginning of what continues today nearly two centuries later.

Thomas Streat continued to be the owner and his association with the brewery at Burford made it one of the first public houses to display the sign of Messrs Garne & Sons of Burford.

(Below).



Although Thomas Streat owned the pub, he rented it to Henry Hazell and his wife Sophia. By the 1850s they were doing well. In September 1852 he hosted a dinner of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The newspaper, Wilts & Glos Standard dated 18th September, recorded that about 45 people sat down to dinner at the Court held by the Brothers of the Vale of White Horse AOF No 2161. Even the Highworth Brass Band attended and gave musical accompaniment throughout the event. Many toasts were given including, '*Prince Albert and the Royal Family*' (The Prince of Wales). It was a very successful event. (Foresters below in 1914).



The census for 1861 listed Henry Hazell and Sophia still there, but three years later Henry died and was buried in St Andrew's churchyard. (Below). The Barrington Estate Survey of 1866 provided the information that Thomas Streat still owned the property but Henry's widow Sophia was the Landlady. Interestingly, the estate map also showed that there were still two tiny cottages to the rear of the pub occupied by Thomas New and Henry Webb. The census for 1871 showed that Sophia was still the Landlady aged 67. Within her household she had two grandsons staying with her, Thomas 20 and Alfred 18. She also had a young daughter Ann 11.



In 1876, Sophia decided to retire; maybe she was unwell, as her grandson Alfred applied for a temporary licence. The Reading Mercury dated 7th October that year listed his application which was granted. Alfred ran the pub for four years and then in April 1880, the licence was transferred to William Messenger, and he appeared on the census of 1881, age 40 with his wife Ellen 42, son William 17 and daughter Ellen 15. This brought the Hazell occupation of around 35 years to an end. Sophia lived to be 84 years of age and died in Faringdon in 1889. William Messenger, however, did not enjoy such longevity and at the age of 45 he died on 1st July 1886 and was buried in St Andrews churchyard five days later. (Below).



The Faringdon Advertiser dated Saturday 19th March 1887, reported the marriage of widow Ellen Messenger to Frederick Webb of Watchfield, which took place on the 14th. The same newspaper reported in April that year that the, *'holdover of the licence of the Prince of Wales Inn, Shrivenham, was granted from Mrs Messenger to her husband Frederick Webb.'* In May the following year, Landlord Webb appeared in the newspaper after a Court appearance. It was reported that Arthur Jones, a Gamekeeper from Shrivenham, was seen to be drunk in the Prince of Wales. Frederick Webb also appeared for allowing such a thing to happen. Webb pleaded guilty but explained that Jones was a lodger. Apparently, Webb had been warned about this by the police only a short time previously. He was fined £2 with costs of 8s 6d and warned that the conviction would be recorded on his licence.

Frederick Webb didn't stay as landlord for long after this and his licence was transferred in September 1888 to Edward Busby. He appeared on the census of 1891 as aged 42, with wife

Hannah 40, and daughter Lucy 9. He came from the Burford area. At a court case described by the Faringdon Advertiser on 20th February 1892, it was stated by Mr G.J. Haines who appeared for the prosecutor, that he was, *'glad to be able to say that the Prince of Wales Inn, since the present landlord held the licence, had been most properly conducted.'* The case was brought about by an employee of the Beckett Estate causing damage to a fence and wall at the back of the pub. After being rebuked by Edward Busby, the man, named William Carter, entered the pub and challenged the landlord to a fight. Edward Busby was described as a big man and had no difficulty to, *'put him out of doors.'* William Carter was found guilty of violent and disorderly conduct and fined £1. The Reading Mercury reported on another Court case concerning Edward Busby when on the 14th July 1894, he was assaulted by the Postman, Leonard Knapp. In his defence Leonard Knapp stated that Edward Busby had been in the habit when he met him of putting his finger to his nose in an offensive way, and on the occasion in question, Busby repeated the gesture. Knapp put him down twice with his fist in the heat of the moment, but, *'he much regretted having done so.'* He was fined £1 with 15s 6d costs. In August 1898, Edward Busby left Shrivenham and went to the Plough Inn at Stratton Audely. The new Licensee of the Prince of Wales was Henry Self.

The Shrivenham census for 1901 listed that the Innkeeper was Rees Self the son of Harry, along with his wife Emily 37, and daughters Lilian 9 and Nellie who was newly born. But what of father, Harry? Having taken over the licence in August 1898, he unfortunately died in November of the same year. The parish records show that he was interred at St Andrews churchyard on 14th November. (Below). At the Court Petty Session of January 1899, the licence was transferred from Henry Self to his son Rees.



The Faringdon Advertiser newspaper dated 1st March 1913, provided the information that Rees Self left the pub trade to become a Coach-Painter and moved to Watchfield in 1908. The Electoral Register for 1911 provided the information that Henry Elderfield took over the licence from Rees Self. He was aged 54 and had a family, his wife Hannah 53, daughter Marjorie 16, and son Alfred 12. But his tenure was short and the Electoral Register for 1914 listed that Samuel Thomas Bennett was granted the licence. However, the Faringdon Advertiser for 5th October 1912 reported that on granting the licence, it came with a warning from the Chairman of the bench, that it had been recommended to the Licensing Committee that the Prince of Wales public house was not required in Shrivenham!

So, what was going on that looked like the end of the Prince of Wales? In another newspaper article it was stated that the Chairman of the Licensing Committee had received a letter from Shrivenham Parish Council, stating that in their opinion there were too many licenced houses in the parish (Faringdon Advertiser 1st March 1913). On investigation, the committee

concluded that three public houses within a space of about 50 yards was too many and agreed with the council. A decision was deferred for two weeks whilst the matter was looked into further and the following information was aired. A meeting of the Shrivenham Parish Council produced a resolution to the effect that there were too many public houses in Shrivenham, but it made no mention of which one should close. When looked at more closely, there were only four members present at the council meeting and two of those were ardent teetotallers. The resolution was put on the agenda by one of them and seconded by the other. No attempt was made to obtain the views of the local people, and no pub was named in particular. There are some interesting points that emerged at the meeting and it was puzzling why the committee had chosen the Prince of Wales for closure. One person suggested that if one of the pubs had to be closed then the wrong one had been chosen (presumably suggesting the Crown). The conclusion of the lengthy meeting was that the licence should be renewed, with close attention paid to the conditions mentioned by the police.

However, more pressing matters were just around the corner, being one year away from the outbreak of World War I. We have no information at the moment on how the pub fared during the war years, but we know that Samuel Thomas Bennett was still the landlord in 1921 when he managed to get himself charged with receiving stolen goods. The Faringdon Advertiser dated 26th February covered the court case that was heard at Faringdon, whereby George Kent was accused of stealing Cotton Cake, used for feeding sheep, from his employer. Kent used to work at the Prince of Wales and placed some of the Cotton Cake in the hay loft at the pub, which Samuel Bennett said he knew nothing about. The Magistrates concluded that the case had not been proved against the landlord and dismissed the charge.

Two years after leaving the pub Samuel Bennett found himself in dispute with a local character of some repute, Harold 'Rimble' Knapp. (*See SHS Catalogue No: N492 for more information on him*). Samuel had seen Rimble's dog come on to his land and kill one of his Leghorn chickens. Samuel said that two shillings would be a fair compensation, but Rimble would not pay. Samuel's solicitor said that it was sheer obstinacy on the defendant's part. Anyone who knew Rimble would understand that statement in an instant. Rimble was ordered to pay three shillings damages and 5s 6d costs. (*Info North Wilts Herald Fri 31st Oct 1930*)



The 1920s was the decade where the motor car made huge progress in replacing the horse. It's from that decade that surviving photographs show cars. This one is from the 1920s, outside the Prince of Wales pub. (Photo courtesy of Paul Williams).

The Electoral Register for Shrivenham in 1931 confirmed that the licence had been taken over by Thomas Peare and his wife Bessie (Elizabeth). An article contained in the North Wilts Herald dated Fri 30th October 1936, was an obituary for Thomas Peare. He had passed away earlier in that month aged 83. Apparently, he had a national reputation as a horse and cattle doctor; and was an owner and trainer of trotting ponies. (Below) Some of his ponies were of world renown for their speed. He was also a horse dealer and held a Royal Charter for a free stand in any of the cattle markets in the country. Previous to the Prince of Wales he was the landlord of the King's Head at Cricklade. The licence was taken over by his wife Elizabeth, who ran the pub until 1941 when she died and was buried in St Andrew's Churchyard on 11th March aged 60.



The Electoral Register of 1945 provided the information that Stanley Child was the next person to take on the licence with his wife Jeanne. But they didn't stay long and the Electoral Register for 1947 listed the licensee as Harold H. Fletcher and his wife Winifred M. The register also listed occupiers of the small cottages that were still located in the yard, with names such as Stella Brown and Brenley Williams. The Fletchers also did not stay long and the Electoral Register of 1951 listed the licensee as Charles C.V. Tibbetts and his wife Mary. Just two years later in 1953 the Register recorded Alfred de Milt Severne and his wife Joane Margaret. In the cottages were Brenley Williams, Winifred Ockwell and Martin James Christie. But in the year 1954 some stability returned to the pub in the hands of Leonard Frederick Burrows with the well-known Nina Marian Burrows. It isn't certain what happened to Leonard but by 1965 Nina was running the pub on her own with her good friend Mrs Calver. Nina Burrows was the licensee for a considerable time, as far as the 1980s, but then the names become obscure.

From the Shrivenham Parish Magazine we can add the information that Mike and Jane Binyon were running the pub in 2002 and were still there in 2005. Then from approximately 2015 to the present (2023) the landlord has been Edward Campbell

If any reader has further information on proprietors names and dates, or any stories that concern the pub, please get in touch with us on info@shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk



The official listing below should be treated with caution in the light of the study presented above. Maybe part of the butcher's shop referred to above was of 17th century construction? (Photo above circa 1950s courtesy of Paul Williams).

The Prince of Wales is a Grade II listed building. The DoFE description: *17th century with an 18th century addition of rubble stone and brick with a steeply pitched gabled slate roof and four ridge stacks, two to the east of brick and two others of brick on moulded stone bases. One storey and attic, four window, two door range. The 17th century range has three light leaded casements under wooden lintels and a 20th century polygonal glazed bow on the ground floor and three two light casement dormers set through the eaves line. The 18th century brick range has a 20th century sash window under a cambered arch to the ground floor and a hipped eaves former with a similar sash. Gabled brick porch with a 20th century plank door. The door in the 17th century section is also a 20th century plank door. Several 20th century additions to the rear. The interior has been modernized.*