

STREET FARMHOUSE : (238 Canterbury Road) April Cottage

The left hand end of the 15th century house now forms the rear half of No: 238 Canterbury Road.¹ The front wall of this end of original house was demolished in the latter half of the 19th century, when an extension was added. This work has unfortunately removed any evidence there may have been for where a possible screens passage and original front door stood. It may even had had a front jetty on its upper floor.

The interior of the old part of this dwelling has been drastically altered over the years, so that, apart from some differences in the thickness of the rear wall, very little visible internal evidence remains of its original structure. The door opening through to the back of the house (into what would have been the rear outshut) is original, although the doorframe and door are later. The rafters are made of old wood, but are not the original ones. There used to be a very old, worn tread in the doorway of the outside end-wall door opening. It was so dangerously worn that the present owners decided to take it up and have stored it in the loft. The chimney-breast in this back room appears to be a Victorian insertion. The Victorian staircase, which was sited between the old part and the new extension, has been renewed fairly recently.

The bedroom above the old part of the house has a low ceiling and the windows, now shared between the bedroom and tiny bathroom, are tucked tightly under the eaves. The frames are contemporary with the extension, but have been fitted into the older, possibly 17th century, window spaces, whereas the windows in the Victorian extension are much larger.

Externally, the gablet in the end of the roof can be clearly seen. The ends of the old roof rafters under the outshut roof tiles are also still visible. The size and pitch of the roof are two other features that help to confirm the age of the whole building.

¹ See the plans in Appendix [No.](#)