

Street Farmhouse: 236 Canterbury Road:

No. 236 lies in the middle of a timber-framed house, with the right-hand side, No. 230, and the rear of No. 238, forming the original property.¹ It would appear to have a much earlier date than that officially given to it in the listing schedule. The whole group are now part of a complex of five attached houses, with an 18th and a 19th century house both joined on to the rear of No. 230. Because of the age of the older section of the block, the whole group have been given a Grade II listing, although the additions are only 18th and 19th century work. The listing states:

“17th century timber framed building,
with right side return extension of 18th century
and left side projection extension of 19th century.
Two storeys colour-washed, with hipped, tiled roof.
17th century brick chimney stack.
18th century extensions in brown brick.”

When the listing was carried out, the official was not able to obtain access to the building, which was sadly the case in many of the other listings in the village, apart from the barn, but on the evidence noted on a recent visit to each of the oldest three houses in this group, they are certainly a lot older than the ‘17th century’ stated in the schedule. From the various features observed, their date would appear to be much nearer 1450-1500. Nick Dermott, the Conservation Officer for Thanet Council, has verified this, on inspection of the photographs that were taken during the visits.

There is a large inglenook fireplace in 236, which had a small oven in one side of it. When some work had to be done to the hearth a few years ago, the old stones and bricks were removed. Beneath these, a smoke blackened floor was discovered. This,

¹ See plans in appendix Nos. 21 and 22

added to other evidence in the loft of the right hand section of the house, gives even more credulity to the earlier dating of 1450-1500.

The framing on the left side of the main room stands a small distance from the party wall, which is probably 17th C. It once had the studding set quite closely together, although only a few of the original timbers remain. The missing ones can be detected by the mortises in the wall plates. In the rear corner of this framing, there is a very worn sill at the bottom of the base wall-plate, indicating that this was once the position for a well used door, probably into a passageway. In the corner upright above the sill there is large iron ride, on which the old door hung.

In the beginning, the house was only one room deep, but it has had an outshut added onto the rear of it. On the rear wall of the bedroom above the main living room, an external window aperture, now enclosed on the outside by the outshut, is still retained in the plaster, including the original square, wooden mullions, set diamond-wise in the window frame. The window is small and lies just under the top wall plate.

When the property was divided into three dwellings, a staircase was fitted into this middle house, using the small space between the chimneybreast and the front wall. The window, which gives it extra light, is also a later addition. The front door is not in its original position and is now tucked into the corner of the living room, where timbers have been cut into to accommodate it. It is impossible to say exactly where the old door was, but it seems probable that it was just left of the present one and now incorporated in 238.² Although the loft is accessible, it is very difficult to enter, so only the camera was pointed up into it. This did not give enough evidence to ascertain the state of the beams in this area. Each feature that was observed within

² See note on the Medieval Cross-passage House Plan, Appendix No. 23

this central dwelling reinforces the earlier date for the building (1450-1500), rather than the listed one of the 1600s.