

Account of Purley on Thames

Architectural Features of the Barn

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The Barn measures 117 feet by 31 feet with an extension of 13 ft 6 in by 12 feet at bay 6.

It was at one time a Grade II listed building.

Listing Description

Taken from the 'List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest' published by the Department of the Environment 1984.

Location: SU 6587 7610, approx 40 metres to south of G P Trentham Offices

Description: Barn C18. Timber framed with brick plinth and weatherboarding. Half hipped old tile roof. 8 framed bays with aisle to south. Opposed waggon entries in third bay from east with projecting gabled strey to south and opposed waggon entries in third bay from west with projecting hipped strey to north. Irregular C20 fenestration.

Interior: Double purlin roof with double rafters to collar and transverse and longitudinal bracing.

The Survey of 1988

As part of the study into the possibilities of conversion to residential purposes, a fresh survey was undertaken by Mr K F Endean in August 1988. Some of the points he made are summarised below:-

"The barn is a timber framed structure in eight bays, with an aisle on the south side For the purpose of this survey the primary frames have been numbered one to nine starting from the east end. ... The roof is clay-tiled, the elevations boarded and the interior is partly lined and subdivided by blockwork and other materials.

"The majority of large timbers appeared to be in sound condition although insect attack was visible in several areas and serious infestation has contributed to the failure of one major beam.

"The roof structure is unusual, in that the trusses are formed with cruck blades, and this 'design' (possibly together with disturbance of joints during an earlier relocation of the building) has caused some splitting.

"It appears that on relocation most of the members were reassembled in their original relative positions. as many of the joints bear the original carpenters' marks. However in some cases it was necessary to re-cut or wedge the joints to achieve good alignment. This may have had caused a slight slackening of the frame.

"It is clear that much of the timber was second hand when it was used to construct the original barn. At least two of the posts had once served as primary floor beams in houses and display the original floor joist mortises. On one post there is also a pair of rebates for floor boards, indicating that the top of the member was set flush with the floor. This was an early form of construction. The re-use of existing narrow timbers has meant that the carpenters were unable to form jowls (the swelling usually seen below the lap dovetail junctions) and this may have contributed to the observed weakness at those positions.

"The ridge timber is not authentic. The original construction would have used a square ridge purlin, jointed to each common rafter.

"The aisle might be original, but could have been added as an 'outshot' to the original frame.

"Many of the common rafters and vertical wall studs are of 'old' timber. Most have been

fixed with nails but a few appear to be jointed and pegged.

“The south extension is of fairly modern construction and the north facing main door probably dates from the time of re-location. The structure around the carpenter’s shop entrance is older and appears to be jointed and pegged.

