

## WINGHAM, A MEDIEVAL TOWN

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Wingham, formerly a small market town, lies on the busy main road halfway between Canterbury and Sandwich. Its long main street (Fig. 1), presents a wealth of old houses of every period from the thirteenth century onwards, and it is only surprising that so little is known about them.

This paper sets out to look at the village generally, to re-examine some of its history, and to summarize its most interesting buildings. It is hoped, in a future article, to publish plans and sections of some of these.

### HISTORY

Despite its situation, close to a ford on the Roman road between Canterbury and Richborough, the only verified Roman settlement at Wingham is a substantial, but isolated villa, of which the bath-house was uncovered by George Dowker in 1881, and a large aisled building more recently excavated by Dr. Frank Jenkins.<sup>1</sup> The site, marked V on Fig. 1, is in a field behind the present Wingham Court.

The name, originally Wigingaham, is an '-ingaham' name of Saxon origin. By the time of the Norman Conquest it had given its name to a Hundred, comprising, beside Wingham, Ash and three smaller parishes, all of which were chapelries of Wingham, and over whose manors Wingham claimed paramouncy. Wingham was then the richest manor in Kent belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, ranking in value before Otford and Aldington,<sup>2</sup> but by what stages it reached this position is problematic. Unlike, say Adisham, there is no persistent tradition of a very ancient donation of the kind often made colourable by a charter concocted at a later date. In the case of Wingham there are two known charters, one with a purported date of 941, both of which may be considered spurious, or at least much altered.<sup>3</sup> These proclaim a 'restoration' by King Edmund to the community of Christchurch of a number of estates, including Wingham, which are represented as having been 'lost', but in many cases it is quite probable that they had

<sup>1</sup>G. Dowker, *Arch. Cant.*, xiv (1882), 134, and F. Jenkins, *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxi (1966), lxvi.

<sup>2</sup>W. Somner, *Antiquities of Canterbury* (1703), appendix BA, 30.

<sup>3</sup>P. H. Sawyer, *Anglo-Saxon Charters* (1968), nos. 477, 515.

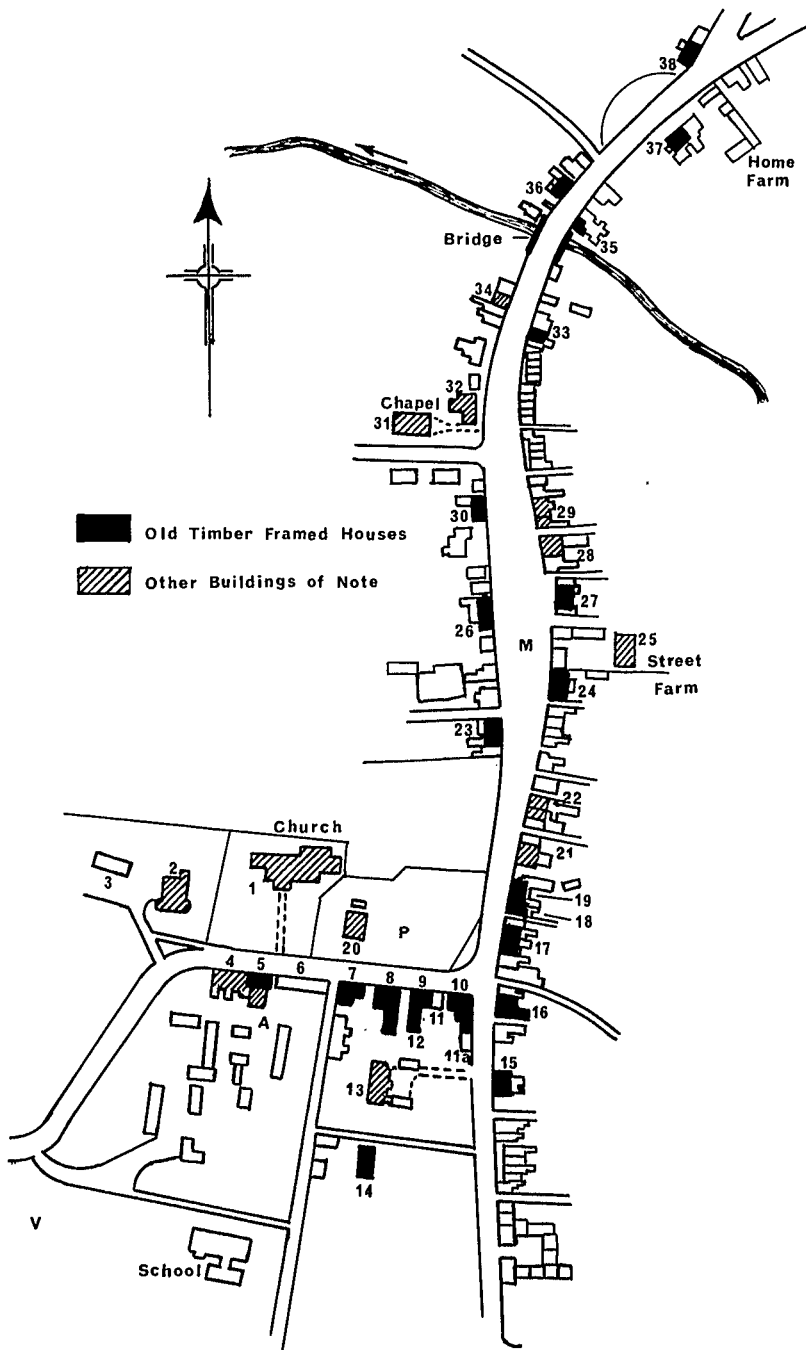


Fig. 1. Plan of Wingham, showing old Buildings. (Not to scale)

never been held. At that time the lands of the archbishopric and of the cathedral community were not yet differentiated, although there survives a genuine contemporary charter of the great Archbishop Wulfred, by which, about 830 he granted the community one estate near Wingham,<sup>4</sup> presumably from his extensive personal property. It may well be that what was 'recovered' in the mid-tenth century had been Wulfred's private possessions, afterwards sequestered. Following the Conquest, Archbishop Lanfranc separated the lands of the archbishopric from those of Christchurch and kept Wingham for the see. Wingham Court represents the capital house of the archiepiscopal manor: some timber-framed buildings, of which the age has not yet been determined, are incorporated in the present building. In Domesday Book the manor had been assessed at 40 sulungs and a total value of £77 in the time of King Edward, but 'now' reduced to 35 sulungs, and the value raised to £100. This may be explained by the abstraction of five estates, subinfeudated to various Norman knights as noted in the *Domesday Monachorum* (which, however, rates them at 7½ sulungs in all). The land in demesne (i.e. the remaining 35 sulungs) had 85 villeins, 20 bordars and 8 serfs – 113 households, implying a population of some 500 or more, a very large vill, but not necessarily concentrated on the present village site. There is no trace of anything approaching a small town in 1086, and indeed, in Professor Du Boulay's study of the Archbishop's lands little is heard of the town, and Wingham is seen as a complex of sub-manors and other agricultural units, some of them not in the parish.<sup>5</sup>

A grant of a weekly market was obtained from Henry III in 1252.<sup>6</sup> It was held on Tuesdays at the northern end of the town as it then existed, and where the present High Street widens out (M on Fig. 1). The clerk of the market was an ecclesiastical official and his office, perhaps still identifiable in Hasted's time, may have been in one of the still surviving ancient houses. Wingham had two annual fairs, held originally in the churchyard, but expelled by Archbishop Stafford in 1444 on the grounds of noise and ribaldry.<sup>7</sup> Such markets and fairs were the first step in raising a peasant village to the status of a market town, but this was often as far as they ever got. Wingham indeed appears to be one of these, there being local analogues of about the same date – Lenham, Headcorn, Sevenoaks and Robertsbridge were all under ecclesiastical patronage.

The comparative layout and growth of such embryonic towns has yet to be studied – Robertsbridge, for example, is an artificial 'secondary'

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, no. 1268. The estate, Sceldesford, is apparently lost.

<sup>5</sup> F. R. Du Boulay, *The Lordship of Canterbury* (1966), *passim*, esp. 384–90.

<sup>6</sup> E. Hasted, *History of Kent*, 2nd edn., ix, 224.

<sup>7</sup> A. Hussey, *Chronicles of Wingham* (1896), 33.

settlement,<sup>8</sup> but Wingham appears to have been unplanned. The basic plots are separated by alleys, but, except perhaps for those immediately flanking the former market-place, there is no sign of tenements of equal depth, let alone burgages. It is the simplest one-street town, lacking a broad market-place at a convergence as at Sevenoaks, or a square, as at Lenham. If we ignore the canons' houses, and the thin scatter beyond the bridge, there appears to be hardly more than a dozen plots on the east side, and maybe fewer on the west. The more marginal plots certainly contained, or came to contain three or four dwellings (cf. nos. 17, 18, 19 below), but the central ones (cf. no. 27) were probably intended for only one – perhaps making three dozen houses in all in the later Middle Ages. Does this constitute a town? If the plots are properly and intensively used it does. The final tale at Robertsbridge was under fifty, and in Hasted's day the town of Wingham contained about fifty houses, including the canons' houses, then secularized.

#### THE PREBENDAL COLLEGE

The college of Wingham was projected by Archbishop Robert Kilwardby in 1273, the foundation deed being signed at Wingham Manor on August 2nd, 1282, the first buildings were consecrated on July 23rd, 1283, there being some opposition to the scheme at that time. The royal consent did not, however, arrive from Edward I until July 1290.

Hussey<sup>9</sup> gives a translation of the foundation deed of the college, and a list of the provosts and canons.

The house of the provost was situated immediately to the east of the parish church, on the site of an earlier vicarage, close to the present Wingham House (P on plan). After the Dissolution the provost's house became the property of the Crown; this was in 1538, and it was eventually sold by Edward VI in 1553 to Sir Henry Palmer for the sum of £519-11s-4d, being altered and enlarged by him, and later described as a large, gabled Tudor house known as 'The Colledge'. This house was finally demolished about 1830, and the present Wingham House built in the Regency style, with the fashionable iron verandah of the period.

Facing Wingham House, on the south side of the street, is a row of very attractive timber-framed houses, long known as 'Canon Row' (Plate IA). These were the residences of the canons, originally six in number, and according to the deed of foundation, named after the places of their endowment, viz. Ratling, Peddinge, Wymlingswould, Chilton, Twitham and Bonnington.<sup>10</sup> These properties once extended

<sup>8</sup> D. Martin and B. Mastin, *An architectural History of Robertsbridge* (Hastings Area Archaeological Papers, v, 1974).

<sup>9</sup> Hussey, *op. cit.*, 24.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 32.

back much further than they do now,<sup>11</sup> but a fire, it is believed in 1660, destroyed certain buildings where the present vicarage stands (13 on plan), damaging the Dog Inn. The date 1661 on the inn refers to its restoration.

The demise of the college began in 1511, when the number of vicars choral was reduced to four, and a chaplain and a vicar, who had been at one time monks at Boxley and Evesham respectively, were ordered to cease wearing their monastic habits.<sup>12</sup>

In 1535, Richard Benger, a canon, was accused of upholding the cause of the Pope, and in 1538 the end finally came, the foundation being dissolved, and its properties seized.

A story told by Dugdale recalls how the Lady Elizabeth, daughter of the Marquis of Juliers (Jülich), niece of Edward III, took the vows of a nun after the death of her husband John, Earl of Kent, a brother-in-law of the Black Prince. Later she repented of this and secretly married Sir Eustace d'Aubrichcourt, of Denne Court near Sandwich. This took place ' . . . before the sun rising on the feast of St. Michael, in the year 1360 at the chapel of the dwelling house of Robert atte Brome, a canon of Wingham,'<sup>13</sup> The news of this eventually reached the Court and caused a nationwide scandal. Both were summoned to appear before Archbishop Islip, who imposed heavy penalties on them.

Throughout the Middle Ages, Wingham must have witnessed much coming and going through the then important port of Sandwich. Edward I stayed in the town for three days as a guest of Archbishop Winchelsea from September 28th, 1295. Edward II visited Archbishop Reynolds there in the summer of 1321, while Archbishop Meopham entertained Edward III on April 20th, 1331.

After the Dissolution, the archiepiscopal mansion remained in the hands of the Crown until 1630, when Charles I ' . . . granted the place called Wingham Court, with the demesne lands of the manor to trustees for the use of the City of London, at a yearly farm rent of £27-6s-8d, from whom it was conveyed at the latter end of that reign to Sir William Cowper, knight and baronet, in whose descendants it has continued down (in 1799) to the Rt. Hon. Peter Francis Cowper, Earl Cowper.'<sup>14</sup> The Cowpers formerly resided at Ratling Court nearby,<sup>15</sup> and later members of the family include the poet of that name.

The rents and profits of the estate, however, remained with the

<sup>11</sup> W. A. Scott Robertson, *Arch. Cant.*, xiv (1882), 2.

<sup>12</sup> Knowles and Hadcock, *Medieval religious Houses* (1971), 444.

<sup>13</sup> A. Hussey, 'Some Account of the Parish of Wingham' (1891), 21. (An indexed notebook containing manuscript and press cuttings, now in Canterbury Reference Library) taken from W. Dugdale, *The Baronage of England*, II (1676), 93. *The Complete Peerage* cites this story from Beltz, *Order of the Garter*.

<sup>14</sup> Hasted, *op. cit.*, 225.

<sup>15</sup> E. W. Parkin, *Arch. Cant.*, xcii (1976), 56.

Crown until finally transferred to the Oxenden family. The court here was removed in 1705 to the 'sessions room' at the Red Lion Inn.

#### NOTES ON SOME OF THE OLD BUILDINGS OF WINGHAM

(The numbers refer to those on the plan, Fig. 1. The 'Grades' mentioned are those allocated under Section 30 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947; they are based, of course, on an external and superficial examination.)

#### 1 THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Very little remains of the Norman church, which was rebuilt from 1220 onwards in the Early English style. The present church is a spacious building, with a chancel, a nave with a south aisle, an embattled porch and a west tower with a tall copper-covered spire. The south chapel was added about 1300, probably for the use of the canons of Wingham College. It was converted in 1682 for the use of the Oxenden family of Dene, and now contains their fine monuments. The south aisle appears to have become ruinous by the year 1541, and to have been rebuilt between then and 1562 at an approximate cost of £400, much of which was contributed by many small gifts and bequests.<sup>16</sup> It will be noticed that the great piers, which support the lofty arcades, are of timber and not stone – all except one being formed from the trunks of great chestnuts. The reason is said to be that in 1555 one, George Froggarde, a brewer of Canterbury, embezzled £224 of the monies collected for the repair of the church, following which economies had to be made. The west gable of this south aisle is of Tudor brick, contrasting the exterior of the earlier north aisle, which is finished in knapped flint.

Inside there are collegiate stalls with misericordes, and the lower portion of the rood screen of 1508. In the churchyard are a number of interesting old tombstones, including a well known one to a centenarian, one William Sayer, who died on December 6th 1822, and whose epitaph reads:

'Farewell vain world, I've had enough of thee,  
And now am careless what thou sayst of me;  
.....  
What fault you've seen in me take care to shun,  
And look at home – enough there's to be done.'

It is not often that a wall is listed Grade II, but this is so with the churchyard wall. On the street front it is of narrow red brick on a base

<sup>16</sup> W. K. Jordan, *Social Institutions in Kent, Arch. Cant.*, lxxv (1961), 122.

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of stone rubble and flint, while east of the chancel it is of red Tudor brickwork with diaper work.

### 2 DELBRIDGE HOUSE (Grade II)

This is a large red brick house of the early eighteenth century, situated just west of the parish church. The front block is of two storeys with a hipped roof, and five windows wide. It has a central doorway with a pediment, fanlight and Corinthian pilasters. The brickwork is unusual in that it is of header bond, and has a string course. All the windows, including the two pedimented dormers in the roof have their original glazing bars, the three centre windows on the first floor having key blocks. With its wooden modillion cornice under the eaves, the house presents a very fine and unspoiled appearance, enhanced by the unusual semi-circular, two-storey bays with parapets at either end of the house.

### 3 MILL HOUSE

Now divided into two cottages of one storey, each with one dormer window in the low, tiled roof. The front is timber-framed and covered with weather-boarding painted white.

### 4 WINGHAM COURT (Grade II) Plate IVA

It stands on the village street, facing the church, the main part of the house having two storeys, and four windows wide. The front is stucco, but the west end is of Dutch brick, with curvilinear gable, and, upon closer examination is seen to have been built on to the main part of the house, and shows a straight join with it. The house could thus be much older, and in fact is believed to be timber-framed, plastered over. The central front doorway is early eighteenth-century, with a pediment and stone pilasters. The windows are of different periods, three being flush with the outer walls, and four recessed. Behind this part of the house a smaller wing extends southwards, and this also appears to be timber-framed, being tile-hung, with a jetty underbuilt in brick, and again with an added Dutch gable (A on plan).

### 5

The lower part of the house, on its left or east side, however, does show some of its timber framing. This section is of one storey with three dormers in its steeply pitched roof. No evidence of the demolition of

the archbishop's manor has yet been discovered, thus it may be that some parts of it still survive – though, of course, not necessarily the more important buildings.

#### 6 BARN (Grade II)

Belonging to Wingham Court, this stands on the street front between the house and the corner of School Lane. It is a long, low brick building, some 33.5 m. (110 ft.) in length, having painted walls, and a tiled, half hipped roof. It appears to be eighteenth-century.

#### 7 THE OLD CANONRY (Grade II) Plate IA

This much photographed house stands on the opposite corner of School Lane, and is one of the finest of the medieval houses in Wingham. It is at present divided into two dwellings, the Old Canonry at the corner, and Canon Cottage, a lower building adjoining it on the east side. The Old Canonry still retains its 1287 cellars. These are of flint and stone, and partly above ground, so that the house is approached up five steps on either side. The fine timber-framed house we see was restored in 1893, when the mullioned window and the old front doorway were discovered under plaster. Everything above cellar level appears to be late fifteenth-century – the timber framing, the carved corner post with its dragon beam and heavy joists protruding on two sides, and the fine crown-post roof. Inside, the large parlour at the corner once had its ceiling covered with boarding divided into square panels by attached ribs with bosses at the intersections, similar to that in the Old Bede House at Liddington, Rutland (now administratively Leics.), a converted manor of the bishops of Lincoln. It is shown complete in an engraving published by J. H. Parker,<sup>17</sup> but all that now remains is a few decayed pieces in the cellar. Above this parlour is a large room open to its fine crown-post roof, which is hipped at the rear but has a gable at the front with noteworthy bargeboards. These, too, are shown in Parker's engravings,<sup>18</sup> but at the restoration of the house in 1893, they were found to be in such a state of decay that they had to be totally renewed.

#### 7 CANON COTTAGE

Adjoins the Old Canonry on its east side, and is a lower building, containing it is believed more 1287 work than any of the other college

<sup>17</sup> J. H. Parker, *Domestic Architecture in England, 15th Century*, 1st edn. (1859), I, 127 and pl. opp.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 308, and pl. opp.; 2nd edn. (1882), 30.



buildings. It is timber-framed and stands on a raised flint undercroft, in which are two small original stone windows. Just to the left of the present entrance is a blocked Gothic doorway, made from two pieces of oak, and once reached by stone steps. This house is of the greatest interest in that it shows the general, low appearance of the original houses occupied by the canons, and indeed, most of the timbering, and even the roof appear to be thirteenth-century. One end of the roof can be seen inside an upper room of the Old Canonry, and it is pre-1300 in type, without any purlins. The low collars connecting the rafters have early joints known as bare-faced lap dovetails.

#### 8 THE DOG INN (Grade II) Plate IIIB

This stands next along 'Canon Row', and is very similar in outline to the Old Canonry, but with the higher jettied wing on the left, or east side. Again, the low part may date from 1287, and old illustrations support this, but today it is plastered over on the outside, and much altered within, so that more evidence must be forthcoming to verify this. Only the overhang on the left still shows its old timbers, where the exposed ends of the heavy joists appear to be fifteenth-century. As already mentioned, this building is said to have been badly damaged by fire in 1660; the date 1661 on the gable being the date of its restoration. Inside the saloon bar is a wide fireplace of the late-seventeenth century which has a bread oven still with its original iron door. The joists here show signs of fire damage, and are supported by an inserted seventeenth-century beam, chamfered and stopped.

#### 9 THE WINE-MAKING CENTRE

This is an L-shaped building next to the Dog, being timber-framed, two-storeyed and with a continuous jetty along the front. Under this jetty at the left-hand end is a waggon entrance which has moulded posts and a four-centred arch with hollow spandrels, typical of the fifteenth century, while over this arch the heavy joists are set at a slight angle. The village blacksmith once had his forge here in the yard at the rear. Again we find high ground walls of flint repaired with red brick, above which the ground floor front is much altered, it being now a modern shop. In the yard on the west side may be seen two small medieval windows with oak bars; these were discovered a few years ago during alterations.

## 10 THE RED LION INN (Grade II) Plate IIIA

Standing on its prominent corner site, this is indeed a very fine medieval building. It has the same raised undercroft of flint and stone, and a central doorway approached up several steps. The section of the building to the right of this doorway has no overhang, and appears to have been once an open hall, but now with an inserted floor and seventeenth-century joists. It is presumed that there were service rooms on the west side of this hall, but long since demolished.

By contrast, the left hand, east wing runs back some way. At the corner is a carved corner post, dragon beam and very heavy joists. Two mullioned windows of the late-fifteenth century remain, one in the side street, and a remarkable one in the projecting oriel above the main doorway, with old glass in it. The fine first-floor room at the corner has a crown-post roof, the room being used from 1705 as the sessions room, the first minute book of which the inn still proudly displays. This was obviously one of the more important buildings of the prebendal college, and the upper room may have once been a chapel, as it is known that some of the canons' houses had chapels.<sup>19</sup> Behind this upper room is a passage with three small rooms leading off it, one of which still has its fifteenth-century door with strap and pin hinges, the arch of the doorway being four-centred with hollow spandrels.

Beneath this, on the ground floor is a similar passage with what must have been either an unusually large fifteenth-century window, or part of a cloister looking out on to an inner courtyard. The roof of the building is interesting in that, following medieval practice, it still has no gutters, the roof being fitted with 'sprockets' to tilt up its edge, and to project rainwater out clear of the walls.

## 11 THE OLD FIRE STATION

This is a small nineteenth-century brick building, which once housed a horse-drawn fire engine. The horses for this were kept in a stable (11a) at the extreme rear of the Red Lion, which stable remained unaltered until 1975, when it still contained the stalls for the horses, each stall with a name over it, e.g. 'Betsy', 'Dolly', etc. The new kitchen of the inn now extends into this part.

## 12 HOUSE BEHIND THE WINE-MAKING CENTRE

This rear wing has been admirably restored, and is now a separate dwelling. It is a long, timber-framed building, always of two floors, the upper room of which is a long one, open to its crown-post roof, and

<sup>19</sup> Scott Robertson, *op. cit.*, 2.

conceivably once a refectory. It has an external stairway, and several small original windows with oak bars.

### 13 THE VICARAGE

This is a very imposing red brick building, of two storeys with attics and cellars, built in the eighteenth century. It has a central doorway with a pediment, a semi-circular arch, fanlight and pilasters. There are four uniform windows on each side of the central doorway, and a row of no less than nine windows on the first floor, all windows having their frames set back from the outer wall, and all having their original glazing bars with small panes. The roof is hipped at both ends, and carries four pedimented dormers and two symmetrical chimney stacks. Over the central three bays, which project forward, is a large pediment with a central semi-circular window, while under the eaves is the usual wooden modillion cornice. The house indeed gives the impression of having been designed by a leading architect. It stands on land which was once part of the prebendal college, and the remains of foundations in the garden are seen to indicate where other buildings stood before the extensive fire of 1660.

### 14 CANON HOUSE

This is somewhat hidden, further down School Lane, and appears to be the only timber-framed house at this end which escaped the fire. It is of two storeys with an added attic, it has close studding and a continuous jetty on the east side. Its tiled roof is hipped at the north end, with a gablet and a cross wing – probably an addition.

The roof is supported by plain square crown-posts, each with two curved braces up to the collar purlin, and two down to the tie beam. The bay at the south end has two crown-posts with only one pair of braces up and down. This end was refronted in brick c. 1830–50 when chimneys were inserted. The attic floors are of re-used timbers.

### 15 NO. 28–29 HIGH STREET

Originally one timber-framed house of two storeys, sixteenth-century in style. It has a continuous jetty or overhang on the street front, now underbuilt with seventeenth-century brickwork, and with two small added bays. On the first floor the timbers are covered with stucco at the front, but with 'mathematical tiles' made to look like brickwork at the side. The high pitched roof hipped at both ends suggests the first part of the sixteenth century, before gables came into fashion.

16 NOS. 31-32 HIGH STREET (Antique shops)

Facing the side of the Red Lion, these form an L-shaped building of two storeys, all timber-framed, but the timbers only seen at the south end, where there is an overhang exposing the ends of the medieval joists.

17 NOS. 35-38 HIGH STREET

It contains probably three medieval houses, now of two storeys. No. 38 stands end on to the street, and is believed to have had originally a jetty at the street end. No. 37 shows some of its timber framing, and has an overhang with a fascia board. On the first floor are some seventeenth-century metal casement windows with shutters.

18 NO. 39, WIGGINS, TOBACCO AND SWEETS

This is now brick-faced, but inside the timber framing shows that it was once a medieval house with a jetty at the street end. The roof has been rebuilt and additions made at the back of the house, inside which are some interesting Georgian fireplaces, cupboards and fittings.

19 NO. 40, DOCTOR'S HOUSE AND SURGERY Plate IB

This was originally a fifteenth-century 'Wealden' hall house, of which the south wing and the main timbers of the hall remain. The north wing, however, was rebuilt in the seventeenth century, when a floor was inserted in the hall, giving a continuous overhang, with uniform joists in those two parts. The wide fireplace was also put in at this time.

20 WINGHAM HOUSE (Grade II)

Stands back from the road, next to the church, on the site of the former provost's house. It is Regency in style, of two parallel ranges each of two storeys with painted brickwork. It has a low-pitched, hipped slate roof with tuscan eaves, and the remains of the original trellised iron columns of a verandah. The main doorway with two pilasters is on the east side.

21 NO. 41 HIGH STREET, formerly Vicarage House, now two shops (Grade II)

This was built as an attractive seventeenth-century red-brick house, as the upper part shows. It is of two storeys, four windows wide, and has a hipped roof. The upper floor has ten shallow brick pilasters in the

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Fig. 2. The Doctor's House and the Tobacconist's, as seen today, and in the fifteenth Century.

fashion of the period, and at the right hand end a small date-stone inscribed:

S	16
S M	28

There is a string course, and moulded brick eaves, also two fine doorcases of *c.* 1800, which have been added.

22 NO. 44 HIGH STREET, now a restaurant

The first floor shows that this was once a symmetrical eighteenth-century house of two storeys, with a painted brick front. It has two heart shaped date-stones, the first inscribed:

W  
I E

and the second 1720. There are casements with leaded lights, while the ground floor has a Victorian shop front.

NO. 45 was once similar, with a modillion eaves cornice, but was re-fronted in the early nineteenth century, with two semi-circular bow windows on the first floor.

23 NOS. 50-52 HIGH STREET

Now three dwellings, these have late eighteenth-century fronts, stucco-covered and of two storeys, with sash windows, one of which is a side sliding sash. The inside has been very much altered, but there remain clues to show that this was once an important medieval house. The main central tie-beam and posts may be seen upstairs, and these are finely moulded. There is also a moulded and crenellated beam, now re-used as a tie-beam.

24 NOS. 54-55 HIGH STREET Plate IIA

Now divided into two dwellings, but once a very fine fifteenth-century Wealden house. It is mainly encased in brick and tile, but some heavy timbering and part of a jetty may be seen at the right hand, south end. Although not seen inside, there is enough to show that this was a typical recess-fronted hall house, with a large, steeply-pitched roof.

25 STREET FARM BARN (Grade II)

Although not now in use, several red-brick buildings still survive here, the most interesting of which is the barn at the back. This is aisled, but of three bays only, the roof having half hips at either end, and now covered with corrugated iron. It has a waggon entrance in the centre of its west side, facing the small stock yard, and a small central door at the rear. It stands on a ground wall of red brick, the aisle posts having straight braces and shallow gunstock jowls. The external cladding is horizontal weatherboarding, some of which is original. The barn is patched and repaired in places, its condition may be described as fair, but beginning to deteriorate. Its date is eighteenth-century.

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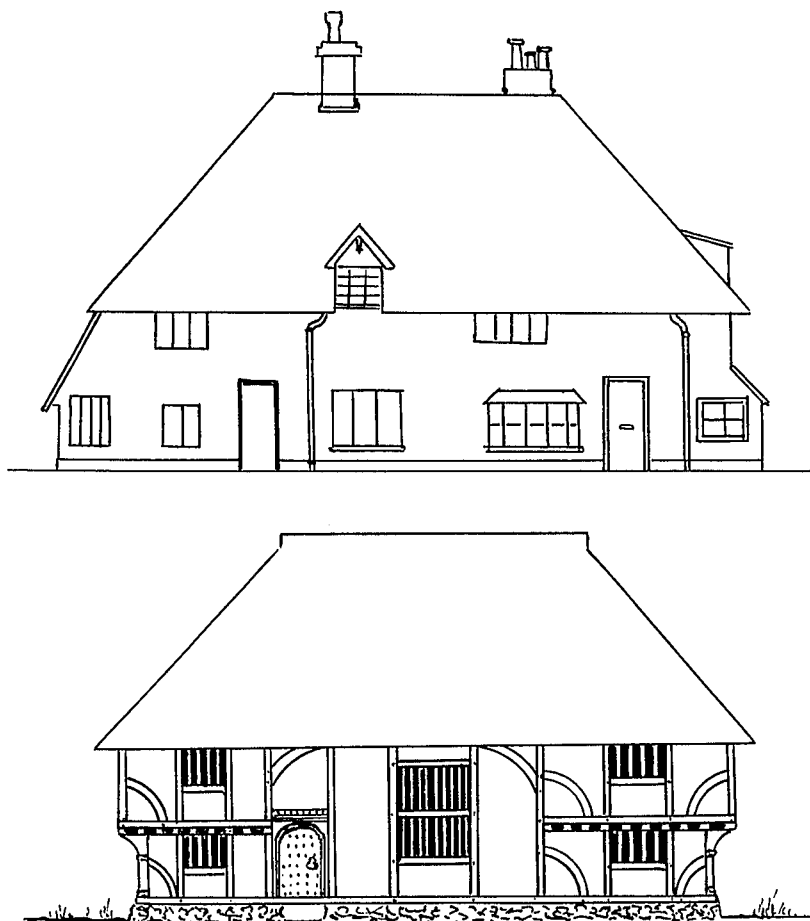


Fig. 3. Nos. 54-55 High Street, today, and in the fifteenth Century. The large Wealden House.

NO. 62, a brick house next to the farm, much altered, but apparently c. 1700, but it could be much older.

### 26 THE ANCHOR INN (Grade II)

The house is timber-framed, some panels of which were formerly visible at the south end. This south wing may be older than the rest, it is single storeyed with attics, while the main part of the inn consists of

two parallel two-storey blocks, apparently of *c.* 1800, although with so much renovation that it is very difficult to tell.

27 NOS. 56-60 HIGH STREET Plate IIB

This interesting building was originally a medieval house with a one-bay hall flanked by cross-wings, and appears to be a late example of the aisled tradition. Both cross-wings have been extended in the eighteenth century, but their old roofs, with transverse tie-beams are still intact inside the enlarged roofs. There is evidence that both wings have forward jetties, now underbuilt in brick.



Fig. 4. Nos. 56-60 High Street, today, and in the fifteenth Century. An aisled House.

28 NO. 67 HIGH STREET

This is a fine example of a brick-built house of the early eighteenth century. It has a central doorway with pediment, entablature with triglyphs, and fluted Doric pillars. The roof is low-pitched with the usual modillion cornice under the eaves. The house has a semi-basement, necessitating five steps up to the front entrance. The upper floor has three windows still with their original glazing bars, and this



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part has been stuccoed over; the ground floor being of brick in Flemish bond.

### 29 NOS. 68 AND 69 HIGH STREET

These are now shops, but were formerly two red-brick buildings, each of two storeys and attics, and three windows wide, and are interesting in that each is neatly dated. No. 68 has a small date-stone on the first floor with the inscription:

B  
I E  
1758

No. 69 still has its original casement windows on the first floor, and the date-stone:

G  
P E  
1717

This arrangement of initials, which was popular during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, shows that of the surname first, followed by those of the Christian names of the husband and wife below.

### 30 THE FORMER SHIP INN (Grade II) Plate IVB

This is a very attractive building, with its thatched roof, its timber framing, and its continuous overhang. It is of two storeys and four bays, and as it was built in the sixteenth century after brick fireplaces had begun to be popular, it had never had an open hall. It ceased to be an inn a few years ago, but now has been renovated, and re-opened as an antique shop.

### 31 THE FORMER CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL (Grade II)

This is a large and fine example of a nineteenth-century non-conformist chapel. Its front is of yellow brick, with the date 1835 on the gable. It has only recently been saved from demolition, but its future is still uncertain.

### 32 THE OLD MANSE (Grade II)

This stands to the right of the chapel, but nearer to the street. It is another unspoiled example of an early Georgian house, its date, 1722,

being shown by two small heart-shaped date-stones, one has 17 on it, and the other 22. It has a central doorway with a curved hood, two original windows on each side, and five on the first floor. Its tiled roof has two dormers, with a modillion cornice under the eaves, the brickwork being in Flemish bond. It is interesting to note that the fashion, started by the London Fire Acts of 1707 and 1709, had not reached Wingham by this date, as the design of this house shows.

NOS. 79-82, just beyond the Old Manse, are early nineteenth-century, but interesting in that they have cast-iron windows.

33 NO. 93 HIGH STREET, A BAKER'S SHOP

The front of this dates from *c.* 1800, being in brick, of Flemish bond with dog's-tooth dentils. Behind it is an earlier building, end on to the road, with a medieval style roof. This is believed to be timber-framed.

34 NO. 99 HIGH STREET

This is an attractive small house of *c.* 1840, in the late Georgian style, of two storeys and attics, and three-windows wide. Later Victorian cottages have been built on each side.

35 BRIDGE HOUSE, NO. 97 HIGH STREET

Now an antique shop, and much altered by the insertion of Victorian shop-fronts, this is timber-framed, and appears to have been built originally with a low hall flanked by one wing.

36 WHITE COTTAGE RESTAURANT

A most attractive thatched building of one storey, with two eyebrow dormers in the roof. It appears to have been re-fronted in brick in the late seventeenth, or early eighteenth century, as timber framing shows inside.

37 BEECH TREE COTTAGE, NO. 104 HIGH STREET

This is a most intriguing house, of two storeys and three-windows wide. It appears to be in the main medieval, with a steeply-pitched roof with gablets, but re-fronted in the early nineteenth century in the 'Gothic Revival' style. The front is stuccoed over, and has pointed, mullioned windows of three lights, with pointed drip-moulds above them. The pointed doorway has two lights.

38 THE OLD COTTAGE

A very early type of timber-framed cottage, now of two storeys and two bays. Originally, it had an open hall at its south end, with an adjoining small parlour and only one upstairs room. It has two quaintly leaning dormers inserted in the roof, with initials and the date 1667 on them. The cottage, no doubt once thatched, is now part thatch and part tiles. Some of its original timber-framing shows. Adjoining it on the north side is a larger nineteenth-century brick addition.

NO. 103 HIGH STREET may also be a medieval building. It is of two storeys, timber-framed, and at right-angles to the road. It has an end jetty on the street front, but underbuilt in brick.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Messrs. S. E. Rigold and K. W. E. Gravett, for valuable help in editing and adding to this article.

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Plate IA.



The Old Canonry, with the Dog beyond.

Plate IB.



The Doctor's House (left) and the Tobacconist's.

Plate IIA.



Nos. 54-55 High Street, the large Wealden House.

Plate IIB.



Nos. 56-60 High Street.

Plate IIIA.



The Red Lion Inn.

Plate IIIB.



The Dog, and the Old Canonry beyond.

Plate IVA.



Wingham Court.

Plate IVB.



The former Ship Inn, after Restoration.