

Alford Lodge, Alford

This is a building surveyed in 1984 by John Dallimore (JD), who suggests a date of late C16. The report identifies empty mortices for wind braces, which might suggest an earlier date, but JD has a lot of experience. It is therefore interesting to find that the building appears to be set out in masons measurements, Reed/10. The Reed/10 measurements appear to be associated with monastic stone masons. Stephen Honey from English Heritage, who is based at Muchelney Abbey, suggested that fireplaces in stone are built after the dissolution of the monasteries around 1540. This makes sense as there would have been many redundant masons and plenty of cheap stone available.

This building is assessment of late C16 is the correct age for masons to be leading the build and matches the units of measurement that they would have used. Earlier buildings would be expected to be in Cob measurements. So this looks to be a jointed cruck frame with original stone walls.

We can only assume the wind braces were either a fashionable item in decline or included as “belt and braces”, as we are on the cusp of their demise. Later builds knew that the gables with fireplaces provided enough resistance to racking to not need wind bracing.

Reeds as a unit in Somerset, in the mediaeval period, appear associated with mason led high status building, and move into domestic building after the dissolution.

The grid aligns well with the span, and length. Walls to the North, East & South are 2 units wide. The West wall and fireplace do not align suggesting they are of a different build date. The section aligns well with the left wall height matching, as well as the ridge and with a little leeway the collar. We may even be picking up the tops of purlins, but accurate site dimensions would be required to confirm this. The right wall looks to have been modified. There is no alignment with the floor so this may be later, site inspection required. The width of the fireplace does match, leaving this area as inconclusive.

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<http://svbrg.org.uk/grids.php>

Somerset Vernacular Building Research Group

January 2023

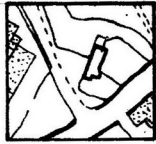
SURVEY: Alford Lodge ALFORD -

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Somerset + S. Avon Vernacular Building

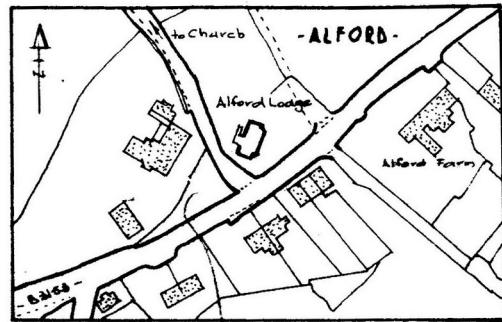
Research Group -

J. T. Dallimore

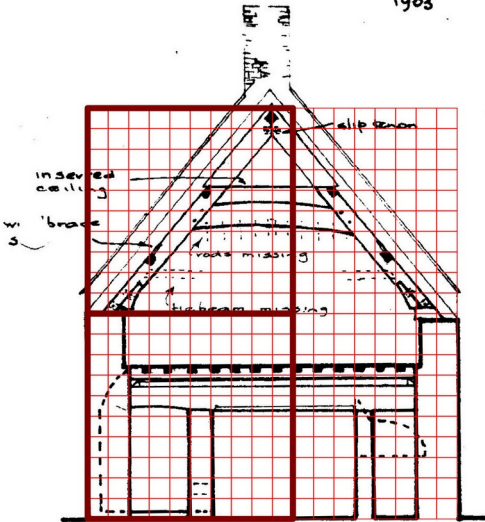
November 1984
amended April 1986



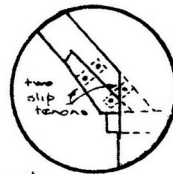
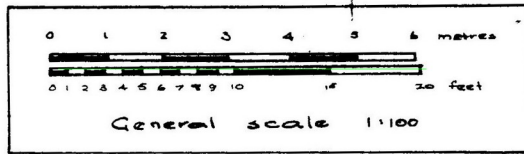
1903



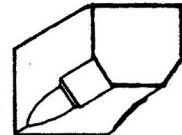
Location: ST 606 525



section thru fireplace f2

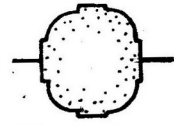
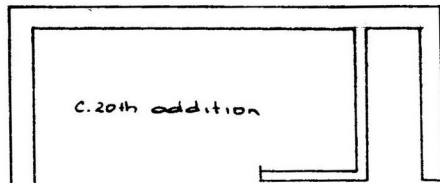
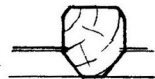


detail of jointed cruck 1:5

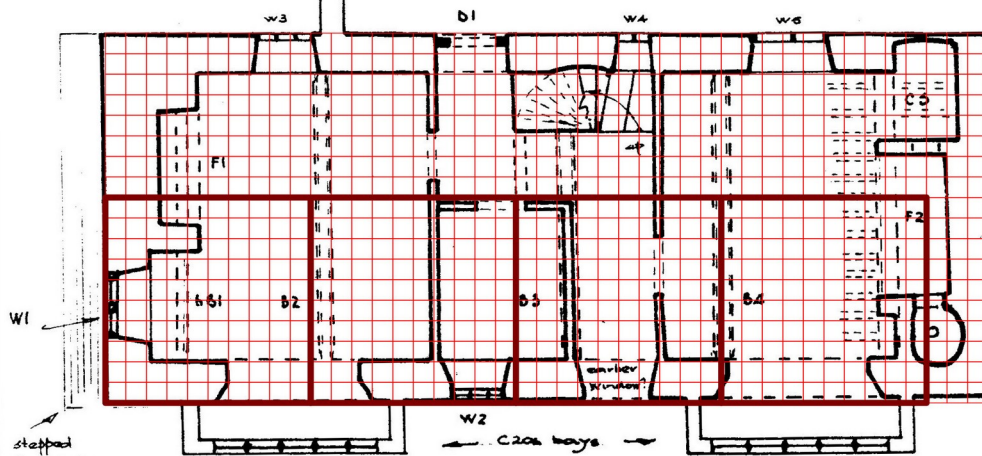


detail - beams
h81, h82, h83 & h84
1:20

mullions to w2, w8,
w4 & w5



mullion to w1
1:10



stepped foundation

↑ t4
jc

↑ t3
jc

↑ t1H
jc

ground floor
plan