

Elegance restored

This former country vicarage has been carefully restored to elegance under the direction of the enthusiastic new owners and Clague partner Simon Beck. The foundation of this listed building is 17th Century but the superstructure was very substantially altered in Victorian times.

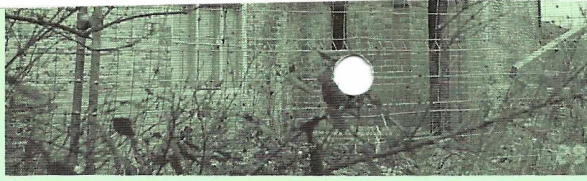
Close liaison was required with Canterbury City Council in order to achieve the client's ambitious brief.

The stable, veranda canopy and entrance conservatory were faithfully reconstructed to the original detail. New additions included an indoor swimming pool, an orangery and a utility room. Much has also been created

out of the formerly rather plain garden. The keynote of the work has been careful attention to detail and the use of high quality materials.

There is no doubt that the house is now one of the most desirable in the area - however there is very little chance of the current owners wanting to move!





Front elevation - nearing completion of repairs.



South side elevation showing the very bowed 1635 gable after repair.

Broad Oak Water is considered to be the next most suitable major surface water resource development for Kent. If proposals by Mid Kent Water Plc. are approved this 16th Century farmhouse will be flooded. As a consequence of these long-standing plans the building had fallen into disrepair and had been utilised by squatters. Archaeologists and Canterbury City Council identified the historic importance of Vale Farmhouse and have insisted that the structure be fully repaired while wider plans are considered.

Maureen O'Connor has undertaken the work of specifying the complicated repairs. R. J. Barwick (Building) Ltd. won a competitive tender and intend to

complete the work in early 1993.

Inside the brick exterior (which incorporates the dates 1635 and 1645 in the gable walls), are the remains of a 2-storey timber framed building, which maybe 100years older than the brickwork, and which was found to be in very poor condition.

A fully engineered scaffold was required to stabilise and enclose the building and support a temporary roof while the structure of the building was exposed for repair. Much of the work has concentrated on repairing and strengthening the timber frame, together with the intermediate floors and roof, in order that it can continue to support the walls until such time as the building's fate is decided.