

Bridgeford House.
Brewery Lane.
Bridge

Bridgeford House, Listed Grade II, was originally 4 cottages which were converted into one building by an architect owner in the mid-1920s. It faces south and is at a right angle to Brewery Lane. It originally measured 40' x 18' but a single story flat roofed kitchen was added at the east end during the conversion.

A photograph of the mill at the top end of Mill Lane taken from the Church Meadow in ca. 1905, given to me by the late John Williamson clearly shows that the house contained 4 cottages with their separate entrances. The photograph also shows the mill with its 4 sweeps and Little Bridge Place hidden behind trees in an otherwise empty landscape. The tall chimney of Bridgeford House by the roadside is hidden by a large tree on the opposite side of Brewery Lane but the lean-to at its base which was used as the communal laundry with its own brick chimney is clearly visible.

Bridgeford House actually consists of two houses (20' x 18') built at different times. Evidence of this is as follows:

(i) the roof beams of the two houses are at a right angle to each other.

(ii) the brickwork at the rear of the house facing the Nailbourne consists of an older section (House 1) nearest to the road, rather shoddy and of poor workmanship and a new section (House 2) of much better quality. The rear of the house is the only part not rendered. We were not given permission to do so by the administrators of the Grade system.

(iii) Internally there are 4 fire places downstairs. The 1905 photograph shows two chimneys in the middle of the building, one shared by House 1 (cottage 2) and House 2 (cottage 3) and the other in House 2 (cottage 4). Both chimneys were in poor conditions when I bought the house in 1964 and I had them blasted off under the roof.

The tall chimney by the roadside was severely damaged above the eave of the roof in the October 1986 storm falling on to the roof damaging about 200 slates without penetrating the roof. John Knight rebuilt it but was obliged to restore it to its original height and shape. Fortunately we had a good photograph of the ford and the chimney from which he was able to count the number of courses of brick required to rebuild it!

The term "Brickloggin" for Bridgeford House is entirely new to me. Bearing in mind that 'logging' is a term used evidently to indicate a brick infill replacing wattle and daub it is of interest that there is a patch of wattle and daub on an inner wall of House 1 which would indicate an earlier age than 19th C for House 1.

One of the upstairs front windows in House 1 (cottage) is filled in but its outline is preserved in the rendering. From the inside it merely robes the upstairs bed room from extra daylight. I have been told that the window was possibly blocked as a result of the Window Tax.

The front door of House 1 (cottage) came to light as a result of damage to the rendering from the falling chimney during the 1986 storm. It had been infilled with brick except for a small window (1' x 1') nearest to the front gate of Bridgeford House.

Vernon David.

Kendal.

June 2007.

1a, Meadow Close
Bridge, Canterbury,
Kent CT4 5AT
12th July '07

Dear Maurice

I enclose these details about
Bridgetford House which were sent to me
by Vernon David. He asked me to
pass them on to you. Meriel has
taken notes of his information.

Hope all is well with you and
your family,

Best Wishes
Rosemary