

Millers House late 18th century to 1880

The estate survey of 1781-2 describes the millers house as being of 2 bays. A bay is not a fixed measure but in timber framed buildings is usually the distance between the main building posts. This is dictated by the maximum useable length timber available and normally around 4 metres (13 feet).

At 15 metres (40 feet) in length of the house is much larger than that described in the survey. The Tithe Map and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps also show the larger building and it would appear the earlier 2 bay 18th century building was extended sometime between the 1782 survey and the 1840's mapping.

There was some evidence for this extension in the archaeology. At 9.2 metres (30 feet) from the north-west corner of the house the stone foundation of the north wall increases by 10 cm to a width of 50 cm. Additionally the stonework at the eastern end is of a higher quality and constructed from large sandstone blocks, squared and aligned along their outer edges rather than the less regular flagstones used at the western end.

The location of the change in foundation width corresponds to building of two bays each measuring 4.6 metres by 4.6 metres with the later extension being at the east end.



Eastern foundation of north wall. 50 cm wide and using larger sandstone blocks on outer side of wall.



Western foundation of north wall. 40 cm wide using irregular flagstones.

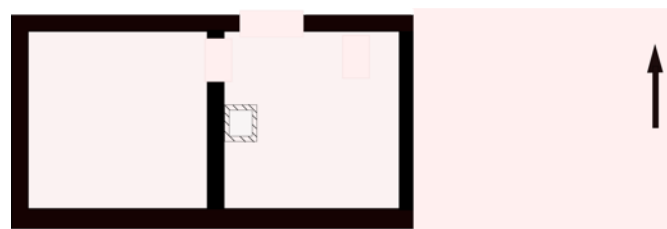
Most of the surviving brickwork is at the western end of the building with only fragments remaining at the eastern end. The bricks are hand made and of similar dimensions at both western and eastern ends and date to the late 18th or early 19th centuries. Given the similarity of the bricks it seems probable that house was rebuilt when extended.

This raises the possibility that the early house was timber framed. Documentary evidence suggests that the millers house might date to at least as early 17th century and this is supported by a small amount of 17th century pottery from the site. In Middleton at that time a timber framed house would have been more likely than a building constructed from brick.

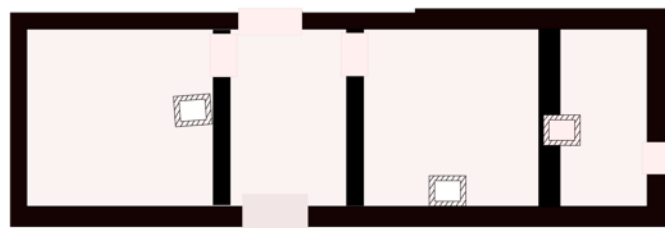
There was no direct evidence of timber framing in the archaeology but this could have been easily removed when the building was demolished.

Timber framed buildings were often clad in brick at a later date. An anomaly in the brickwork is that it is positioned close to the outer edge of the foundation rather than centrally and this might be explained if the timber framing still occupied the centre of the foundation. Brick cladding would have been an economical method of refurbishing the house since the roof and upper floors would have been supported by the timber structure and could have been retained with minimal alteration.

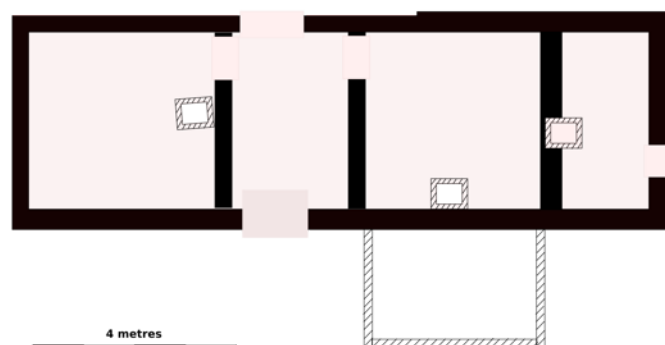
So little remains of the earliest house that it is difficult to be sure of its plan. The drawing below represent a speculative view based on the small amount of information that we have.



18th century Millers House



Circa 1800 - 1880 Millers House



Circa 1880 - 1947 Millers House

Small Finds

Small finds from the site from any period have been scarce but small quantities of pottery and other artefacts dating from the 17th to early 20th centuries have been recovered. A selection is shown below.

The examination of the small finds is not yet complete but the assemblage represents a cross section of the common pottery types found on 18th and 19th century sites.



Rim Sherd from a mug or cup. Industrial Slipware with a banded design. Early 19th century.



Fragment of hand painted wall tile produced by Minton, Hollins & co. between 1845 and 1850.



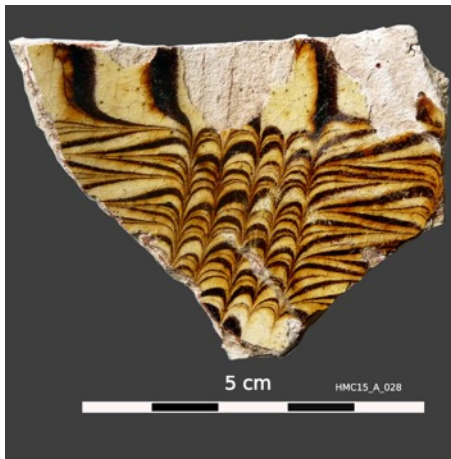
Bowl from decorated Clay Tobacco Pipe. Produced between about 1800 and 1850.



Stem and mouth piece from clay tobacco pipe with green glaze. The glaze was added to prevent lips sticking to the pipe when smoked.



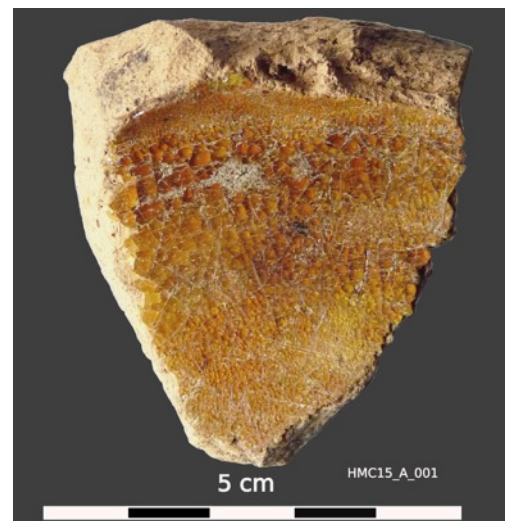
Left: Three views of a highly decorated clay pipe stem manufactured in Gouda, Holland and probably dating to the 19th



Three examples of traditional slipware pottery dating to the 18th century.



18th century unglazed pot. The black carbonised deposit on the inside of the vessel suggests that it was probably used for cooking.



Base from an 18th century self-coloured ware pot.



Coarse black glazed pot sherd. Probably 18th century.



Coarse black glazed pot dating to the 17th century.