

# Finding Shakespeare's New Place; Interpreting the evidence



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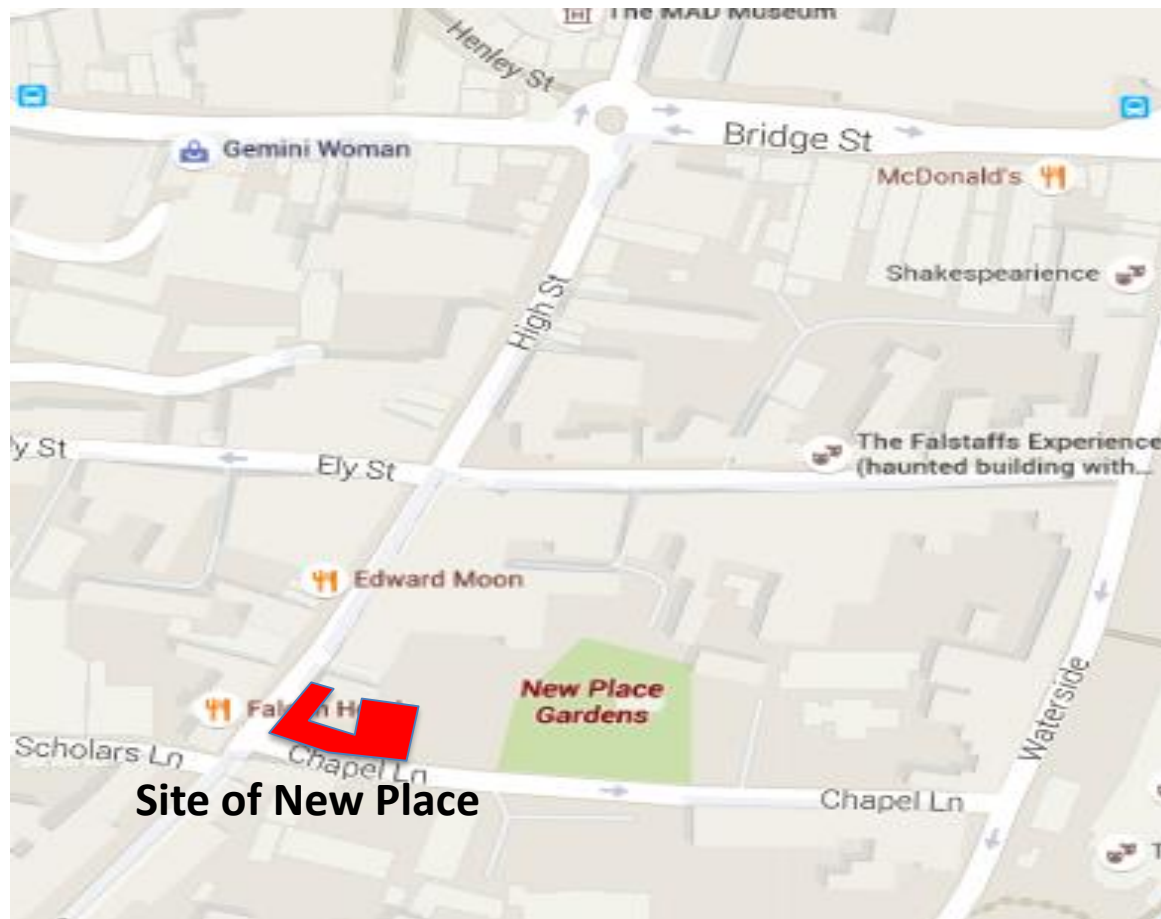
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Project Archaeologist



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# Site Location



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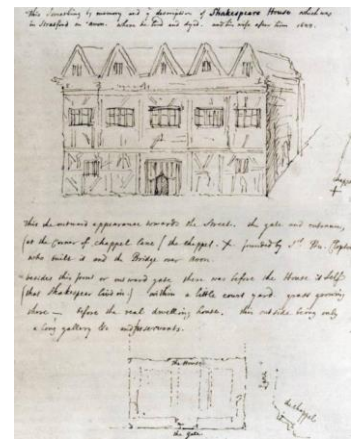


# What did we already now?

- Large quantity of documentary research
- Primary Sources
- A previous 'archaeological excavation'



# Documentary evidence



***'Praty house of Bricke and tymbre wherm he  
(ie Hugh Clopton) lived in his latter dayes and dyed'***

**-John Leland (1540)**

***'Besides this front or outward gate there was before the house itself (that  
Shakespeare lived in) within a little court yard grass growing there, before the real  
dwelling house. The outside being only a long gallery for servants'***

**-George Vertue (1737)**

***'...there was a brick wall next to the street, with a kind of porch at that end  
of it next the chapel, when they cross'd a small kind of green court before  
they enter'd the house, which was bearing to the left and fronted with brick,  
the plain windows, consisting of common panes of glass set in lead,  
as at the time'. -Rev. Joseph Greene (1767), from an account of New Place in 1682-3***

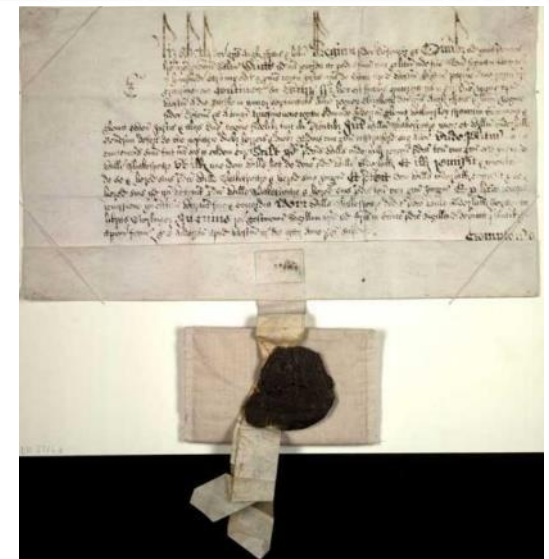
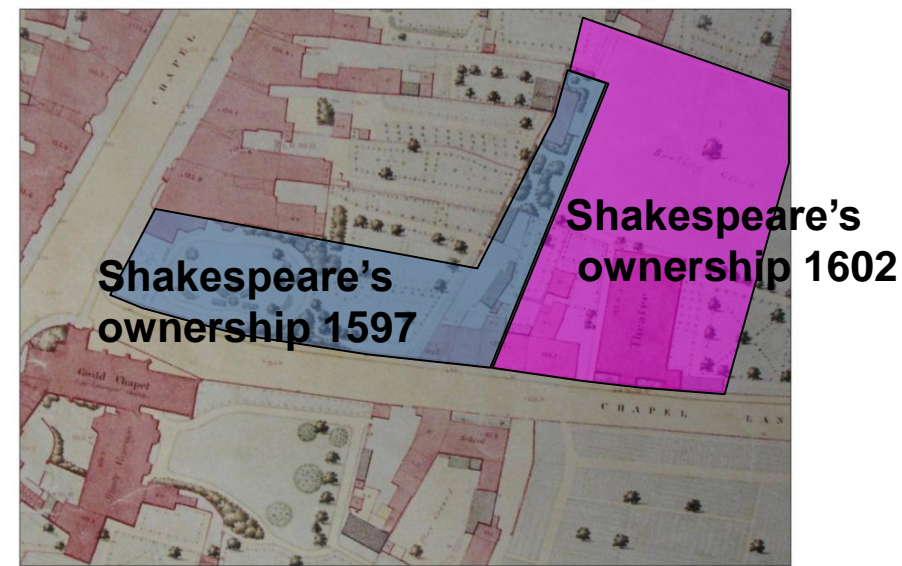


- 1597- *'de uno mesuagio, duobus horreis, et duobus gardinis'*  
(one messuage, two barns and two gardens).

- 1598- *'pd to mr Shaxspere for on lod of ston xd'*.  
Money paid by the corporation of Stratford to Shakespeare

- 1602- *'de uno mesuagio, duobus horreis, et duobus gardinis et duobus pomariis cum pertinciis'*  
(one messuage, two barns, two gardens and two orchards).

Messuage= dwelling house, outbuildings and land



The estate fine for New Place



# The purchase and excavation of the site of New Place



- Site purchased in 1861 by Halliwell-Phillipps after formation of a Trust
- Conducted archaeological excavations at New Place in 1862
- Excavations were directed by Hunt

Halliwell-Phillipps supervised from a distance



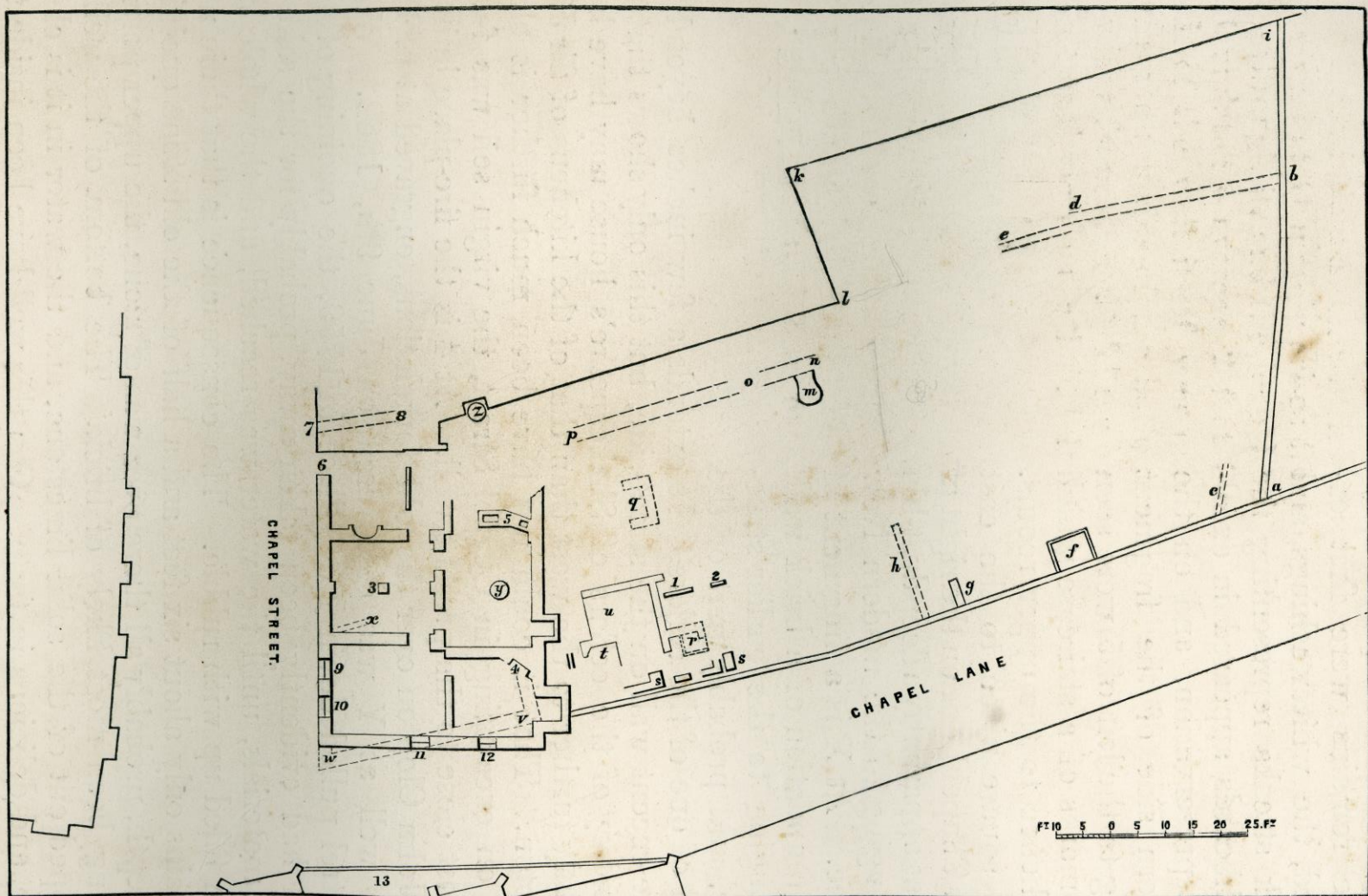




Halliwell-Phillipps

Photographic and illustrative evidence 1864





Halliwell's Plan

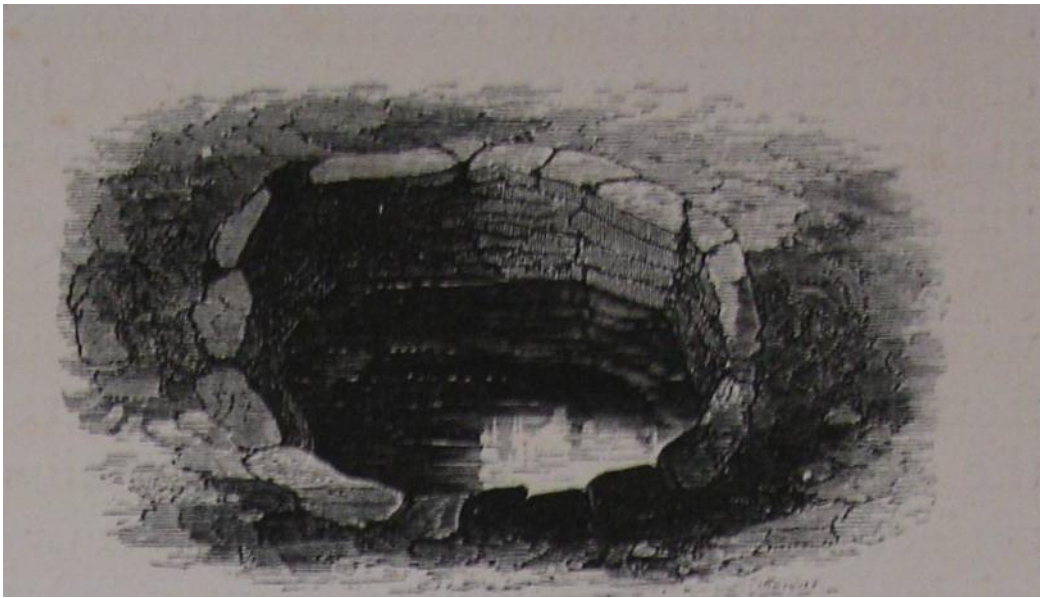


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One of the wells (there are three on site).  
'Old flat 18<sup>th</sup> century candlestick',  
and clean drinkable water found at the bottom  
of the well



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Only find attributed to Shakespeare's New Place was a knife- found in the spoil heap



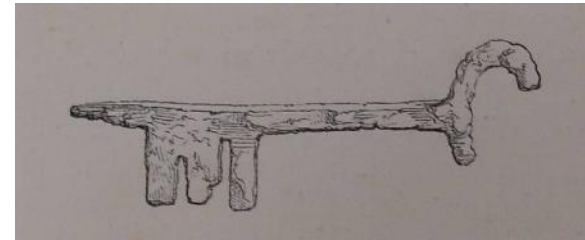
Other items supposedly from New Place



Fragment of decorated  
window glass



Glass jug



Key found on site  
by a gardener in 1828

- Wood panelling now in the Falcon Inn over the road
- A sun dial- and lock





**After the excavations**

**19<sup>th</sup> century finds;**

**A fob seal,**

**Queen Victoria memorabilia**



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# Halliwell- the conservator?



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# What problems were caused by previous investigations of the site?

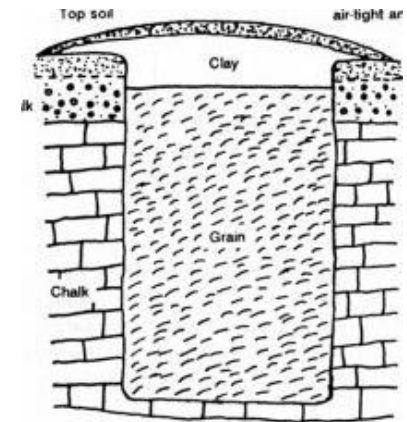
- Biased assumptions and assertions
- Historical evidence leading the archaeology
- Missing evidence
- Difficulties in interpretation



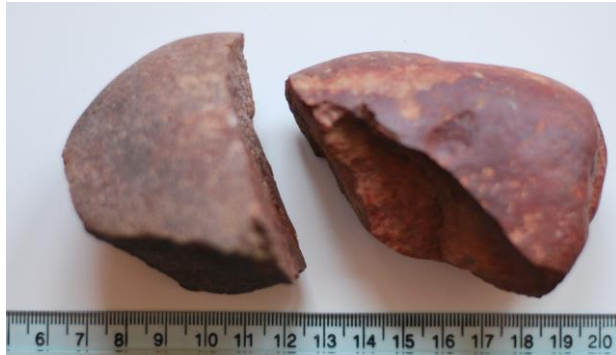
Previous occupation of the site.



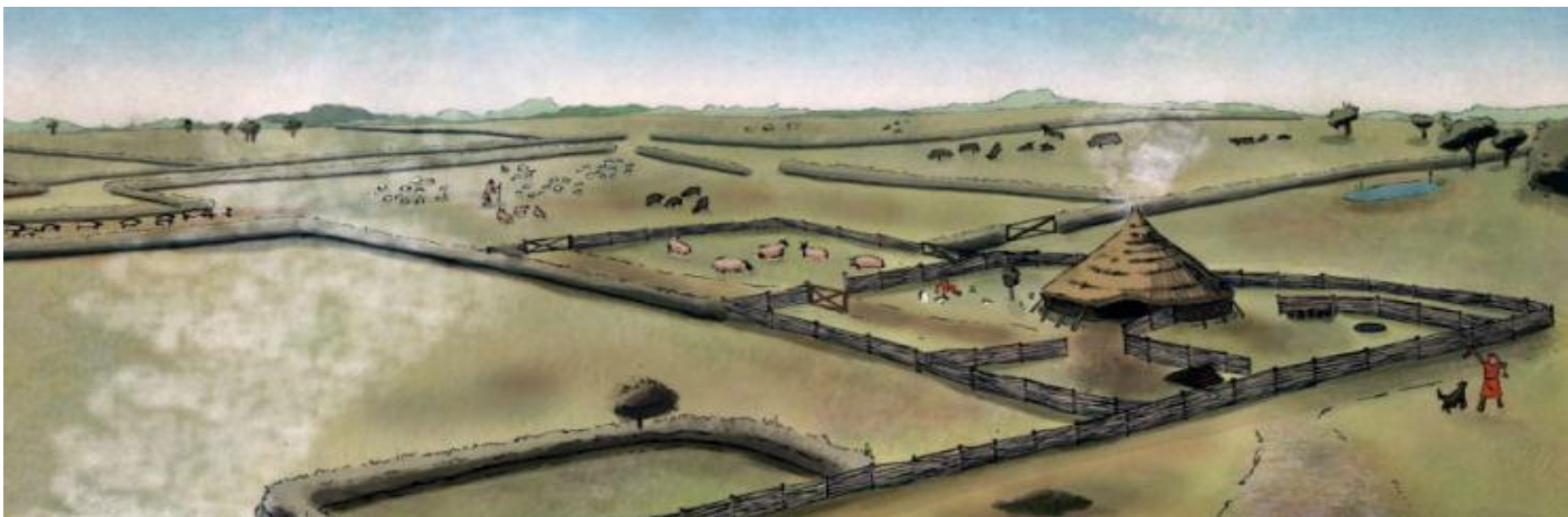
# Ancient origins











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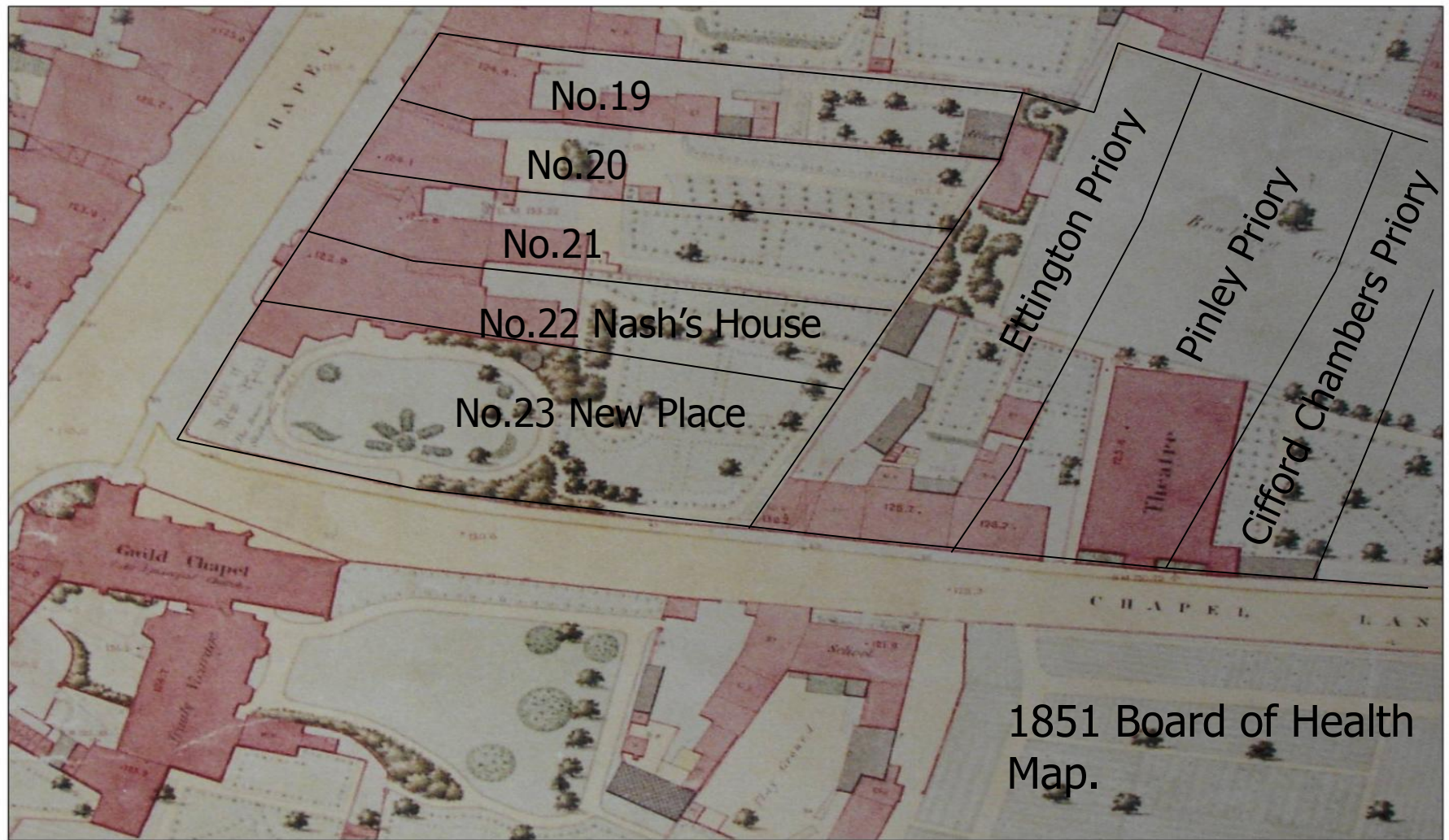


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1851 Board of Health Map.

**Medieval burgage**-(founded c1196- Bishop of Worcester). Frontages were lined with plots of land (burgages) measuring,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  perches in width (57.75 feet) and 12 perches (198 feet) in depth.



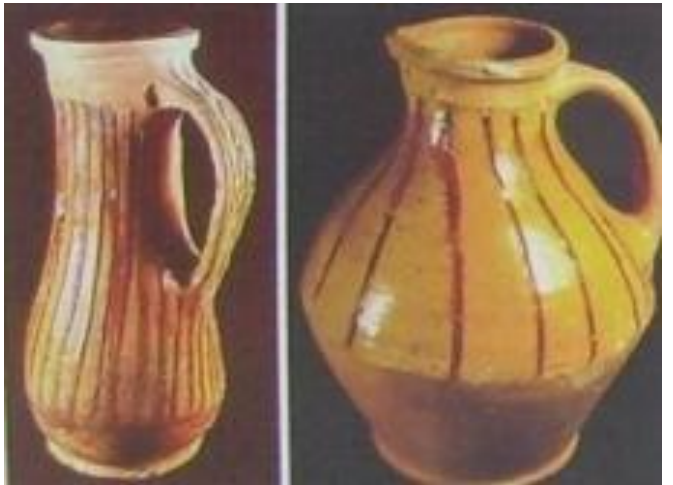
# An earlier 13<sup>th</sup> century timber building















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What did this 13<sup>th</sup>/ 14<sup>th</sup> century house look like?