

New Place; Shakespeare's Medieval residence.



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William Mitchell



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New Place revealed

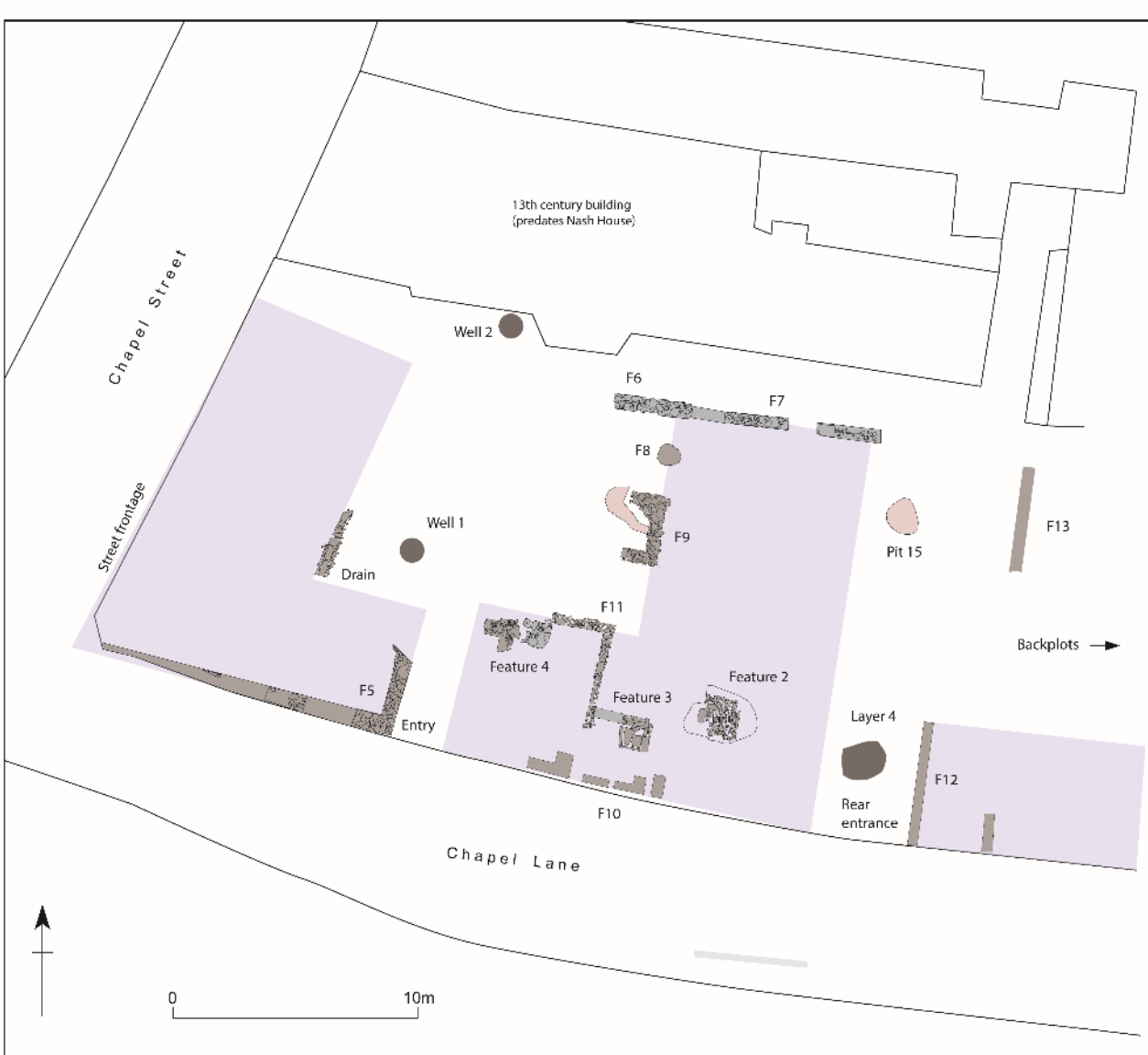


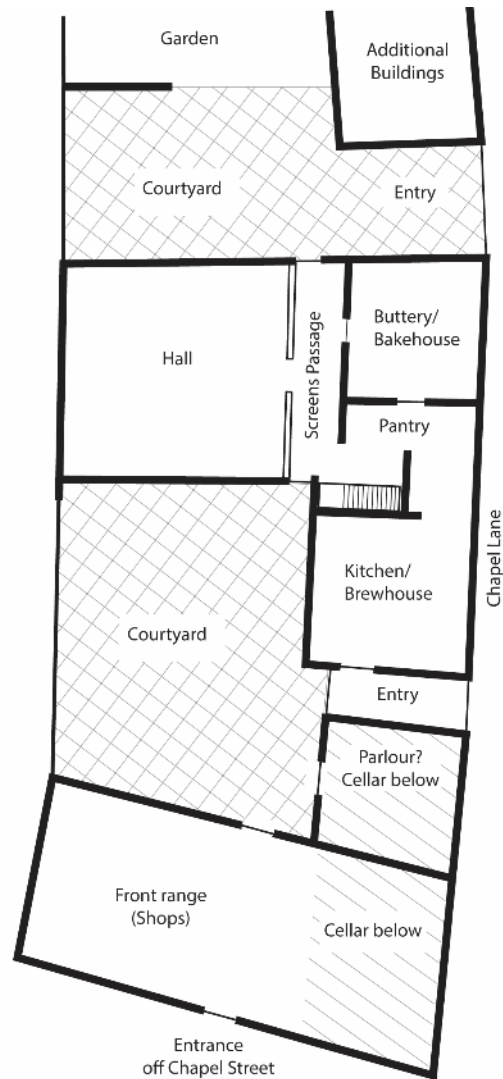
Hugh Clopton's 'Grete House'



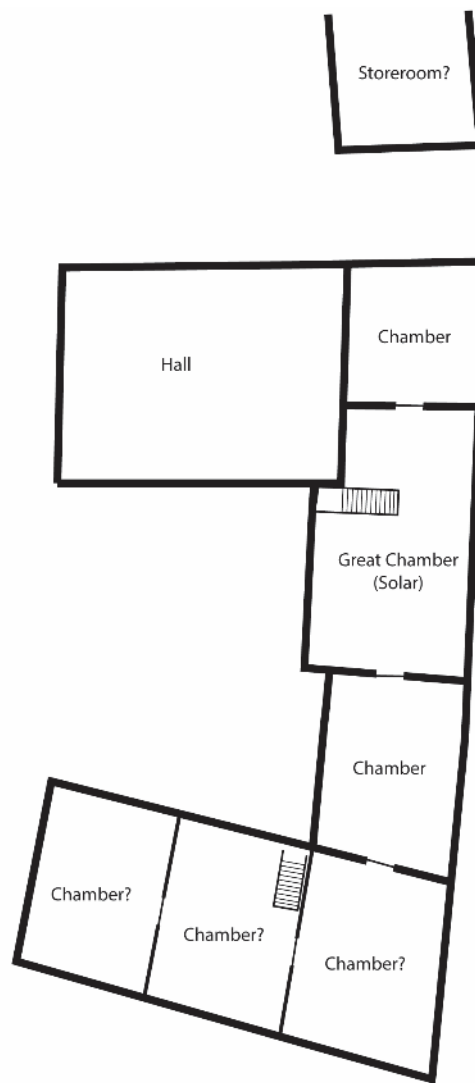
Hugh Clopton 1440-1496

- Belonged to an influential Warwickshire family
- Merchant of the woolstaple
- Became Alderman, Sheriff, Member of parliament and Lord Mayor of London





Ground Floor



First Floor

Hugh Clopton's 'Grete House'

Schematic Plan

Grand medieval house.

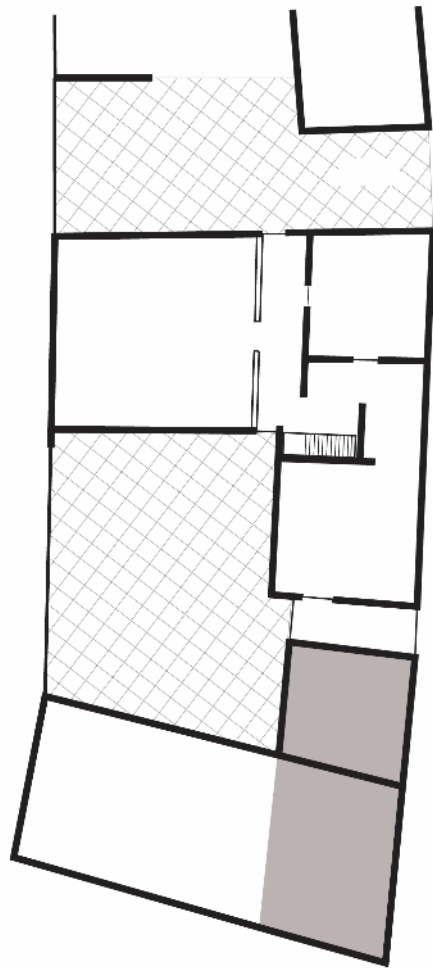
Built around a courtyard.

Open hall set back from the frontage.

Frontage let as shops.

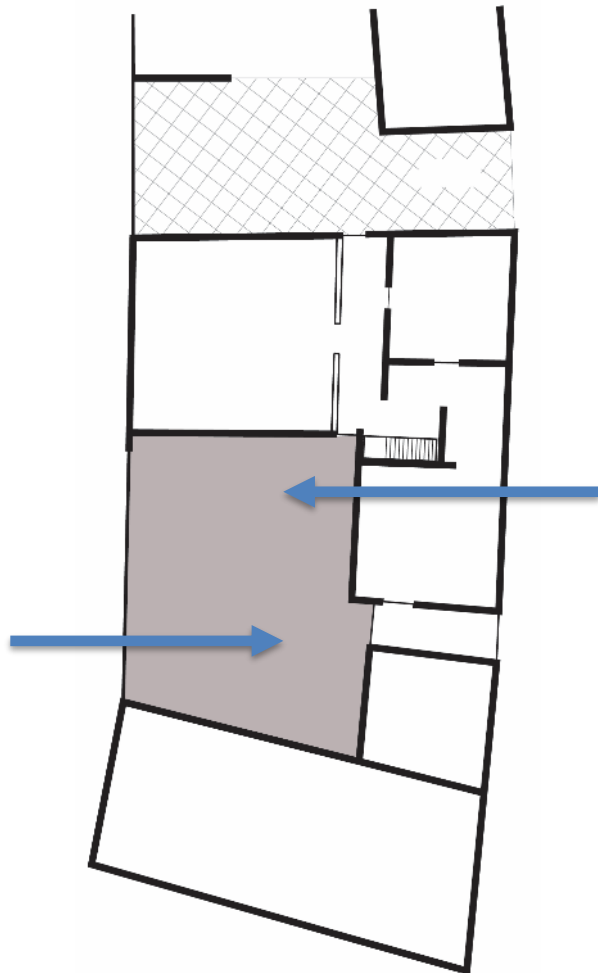
A Walkthrough of New Place

The front range and cellar
(Shops and chambers)





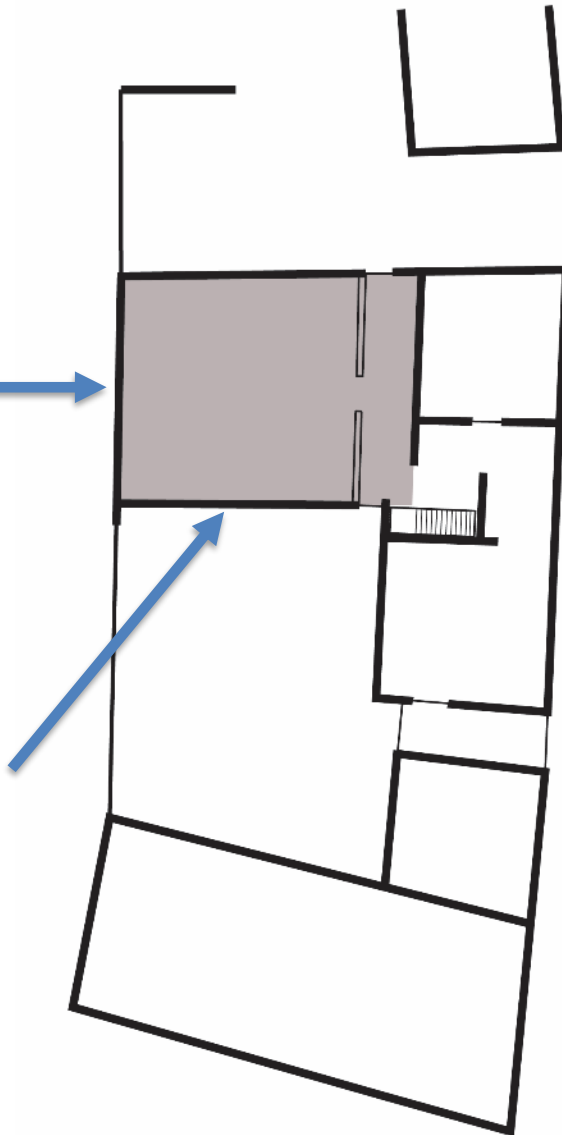
The well



The courtyard



Mid to late sixteenth century pits



The Open Hall Building



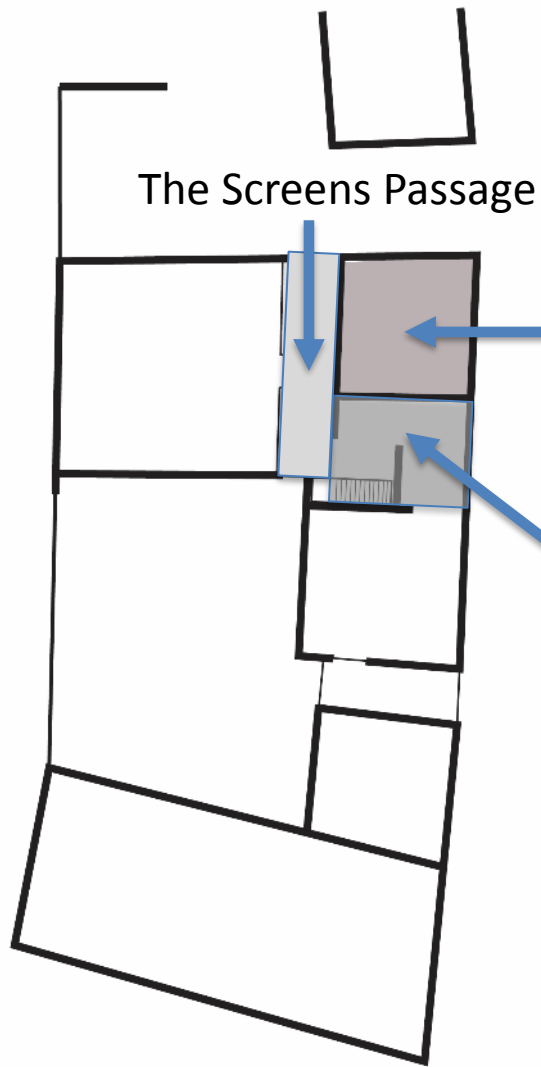
Comparative interior example;
The Commandery, Worcester

Open Halls

15th Century Background



The Hall Service Rooms; The Screens Passage, Buttery and Pantry

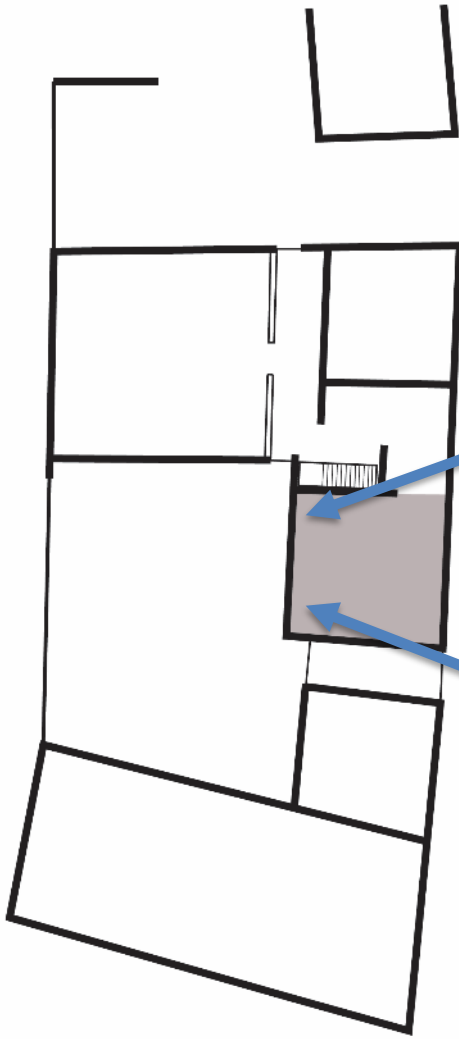


The oven (within the Buttery/ Bake-house)



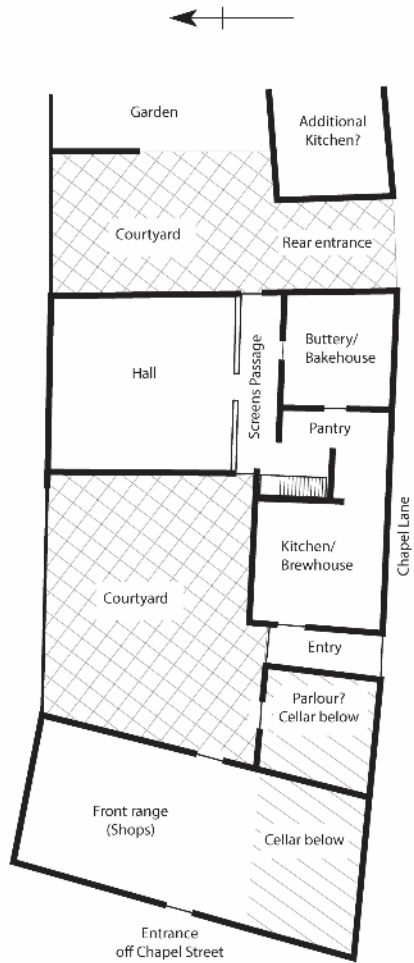
The storage tank (within the Pantry)

The Kitchen (brew-house)

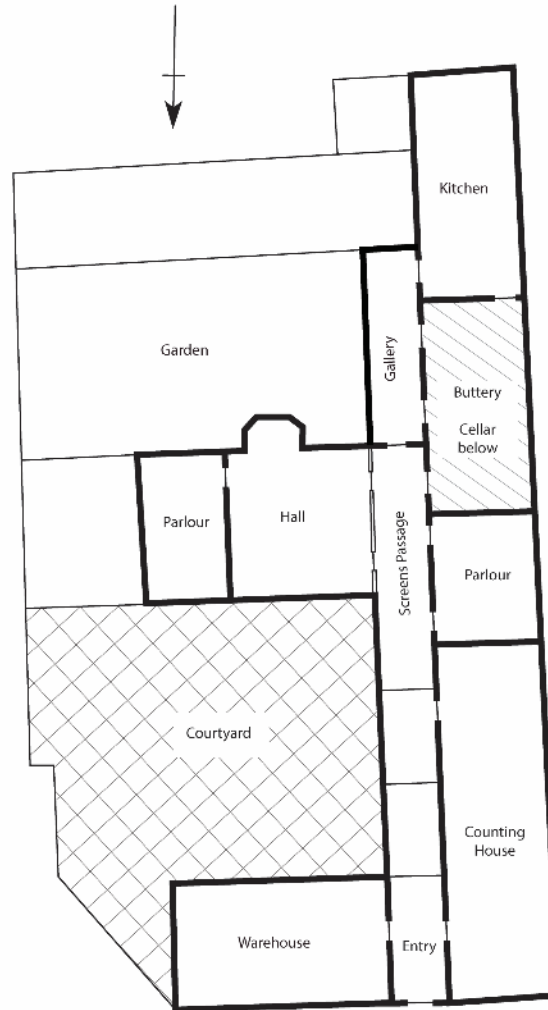


Hearth and Vat bases

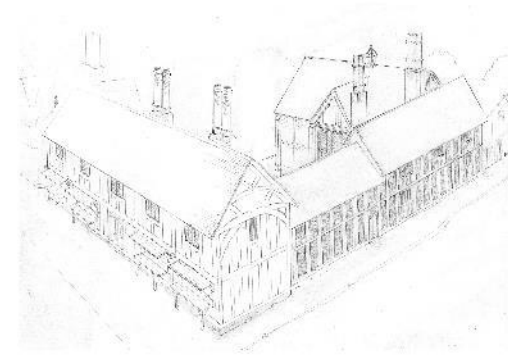
New Place, Stratford upon Avon



Suckling's House- Norwich



Comparative courtyard houses

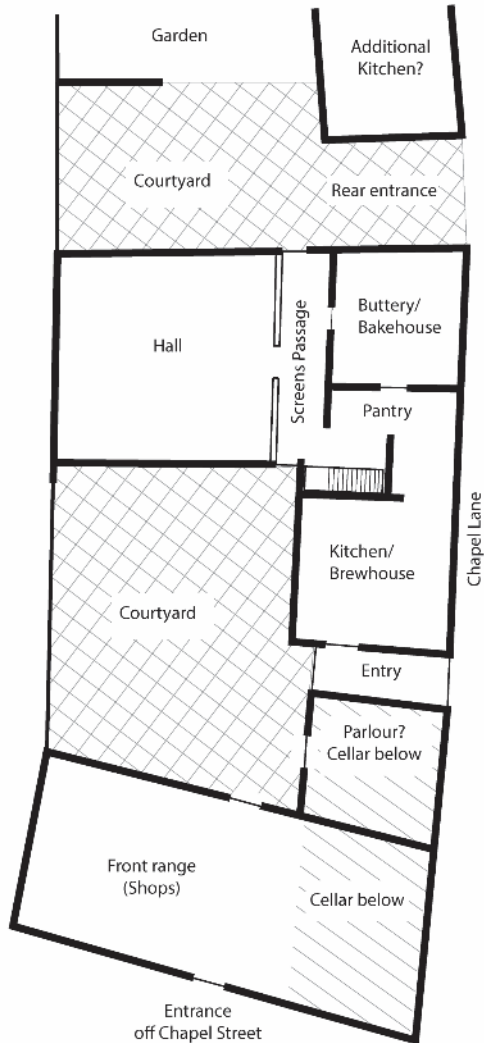


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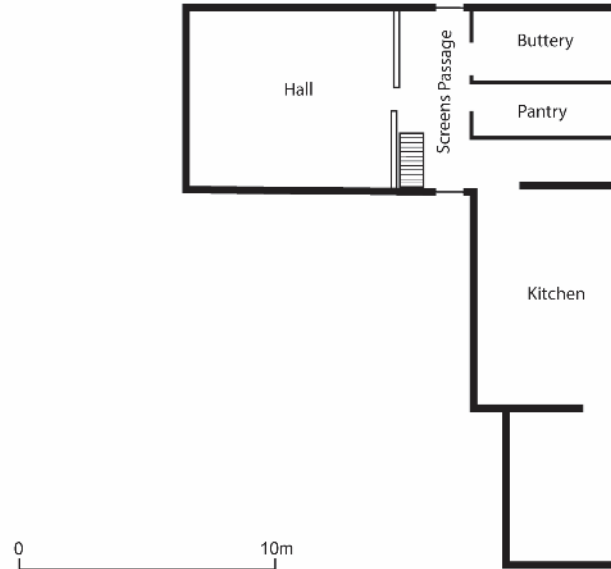


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New Place



Hams Barton Devon



An almost identical hall house

Both late fifteenth
Century in origin

The house after Hugh Clopton

- 1496-New Place left to Hugh Clopton's Great Nephew William Clopton (1481-1521)
- 1521-William Clopton dies. New Place left to his wife Rose
- 1543-1549-New Place let to Thomas Bentley at which time it is described as being *'in great ruyne and decay and unrepyryd'*
- 1563-William Bott purchases property
- 1567- Site purchased by William Underhill for £110
- 1583- New Place abandoned by William, William Underhill's son after 'family misfortunes'
- 1583-1597-Unknown ownership (abandoned?)

William Shakespeare's Renovations

- In 1597 Shakespeare purchased New Place, for himself and his family for £60 (probably double this)
- Stratford-upon-Avon was a four day ride by horse from London, so he is very likely to have lived between these two places from this time.
- Many motivations behind his purchase.

Shakespeare's Renovations



Late 16th to early
17th century
ceramics
recovered from
construction cut



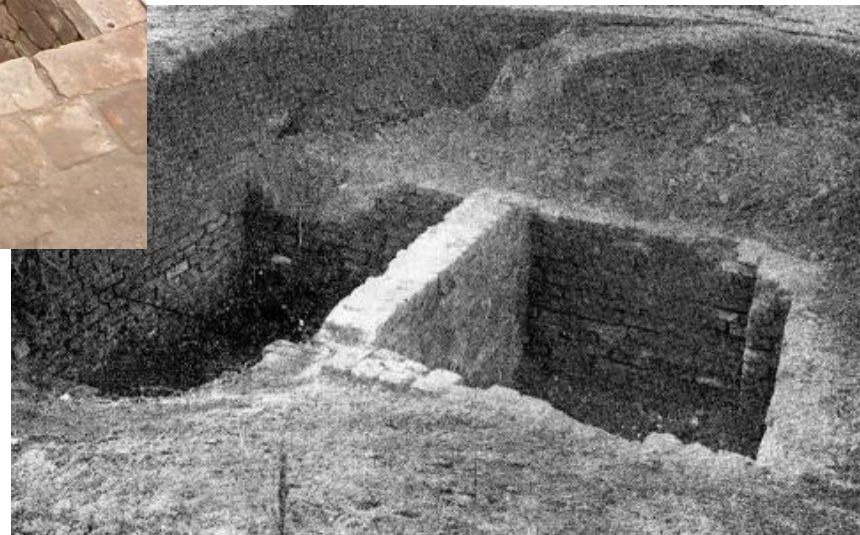
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Tudor Brick Pit c.16th-18th century
Excavated in 1922



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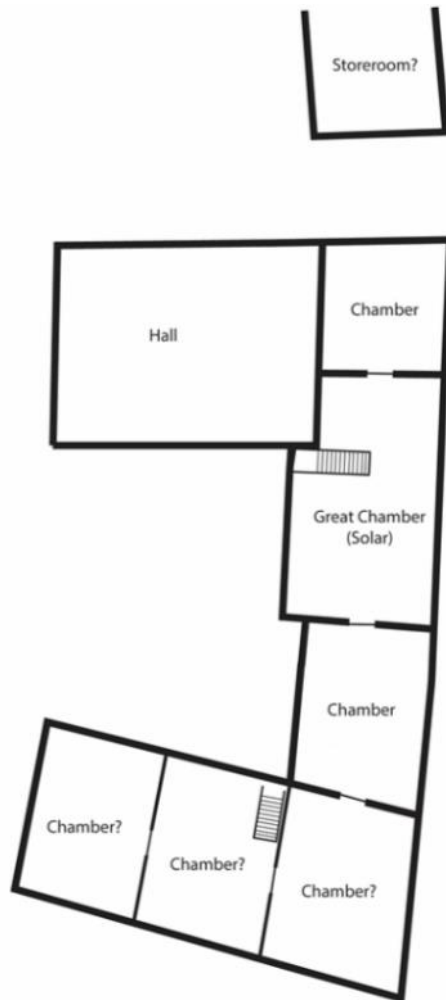


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Shakespeare's Long Gallery



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Continued use of the Hall



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Comparative houses

The Shakespeare Hotel, Stratford



Tudor House, Long Itchington, Warwickshire



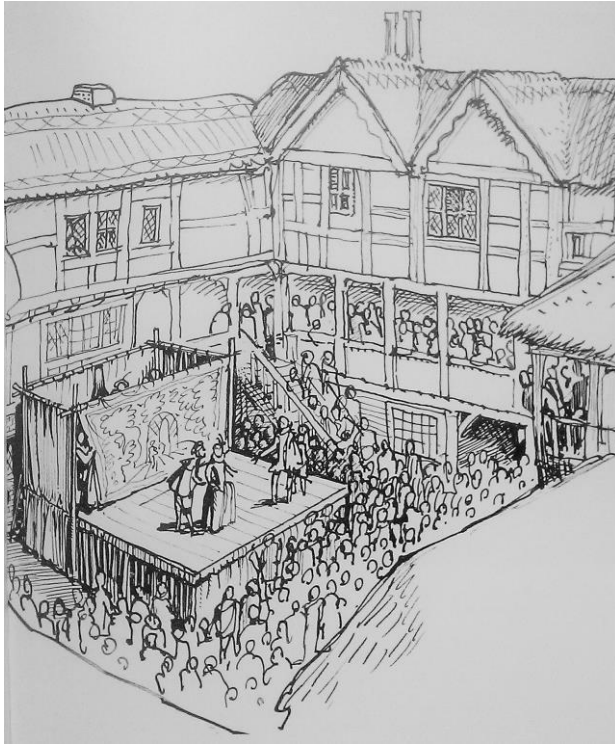
New Place

Shakespeare's motivations

- Symbolic associations
- Pursuit of status
- Desire for investment
- Obligation to his family

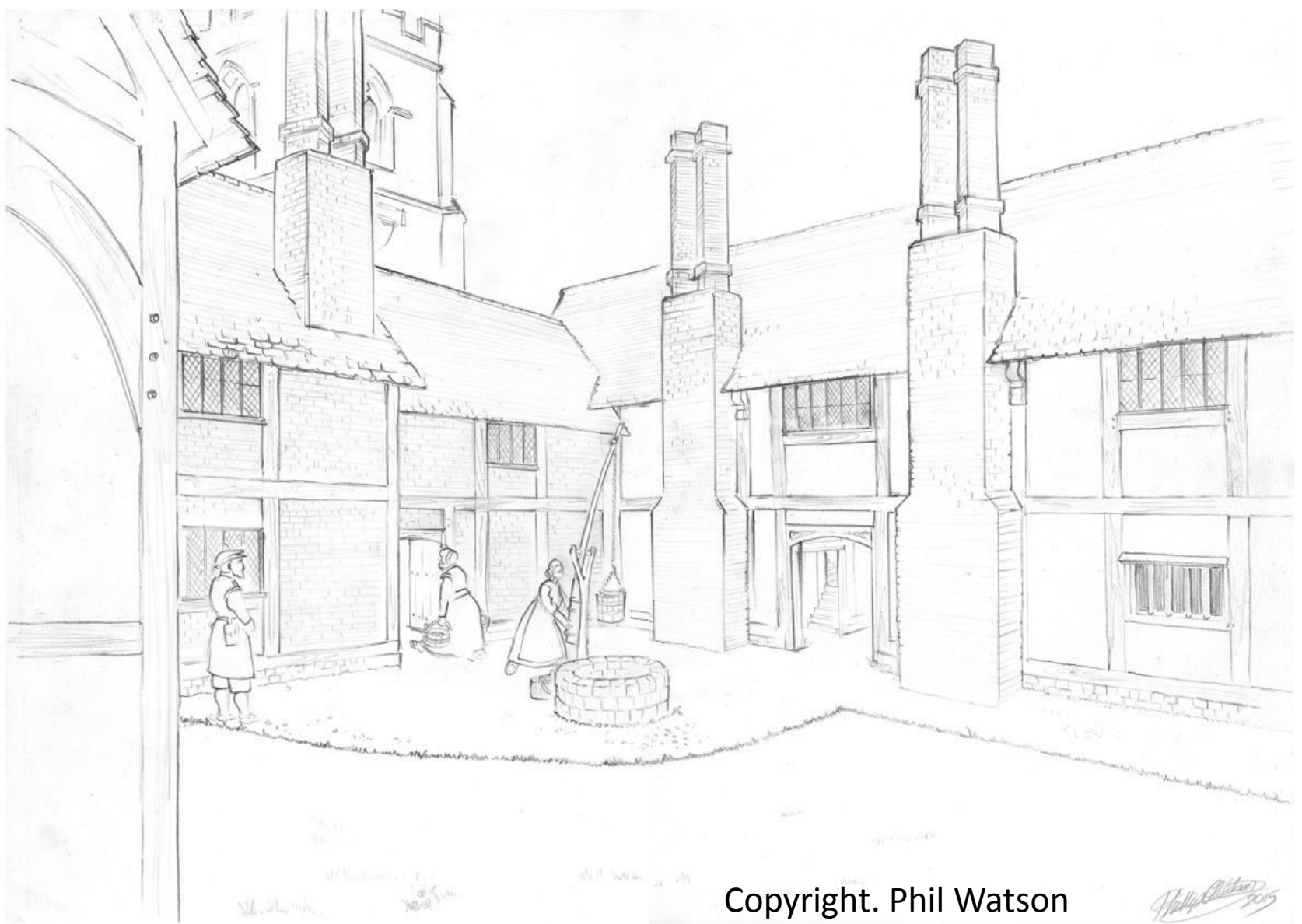


Symbolic associations and pursuit of status



Performance being held at a courtyard inn

- Hugh Clopton- merchant's house, Influence of New place within the town, Shakespeare's mercantile connection.
- The courtyard inn and performance space possibilities.



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Artefacts



Pins



Loom weight



Spindle Whorl



Textile working Bobbin



Thimbles

Cottage industries

Artefacts



16th/ 17th century lead tokens



**16th century
Rose and crown
Half groat**



**15th century
Neuremborg
Jeton**



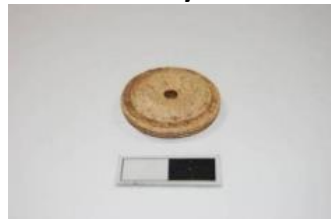
Artefacts



17th century ceramics



c.17th century cribbage peg



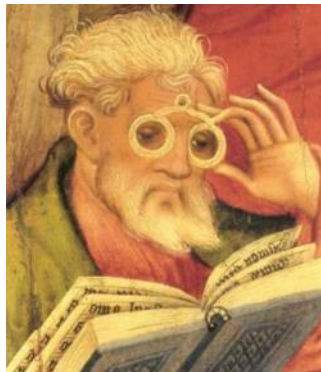
Bead/ button making and buttons



Dice



Instrument tuning pegs



Eye glass frame



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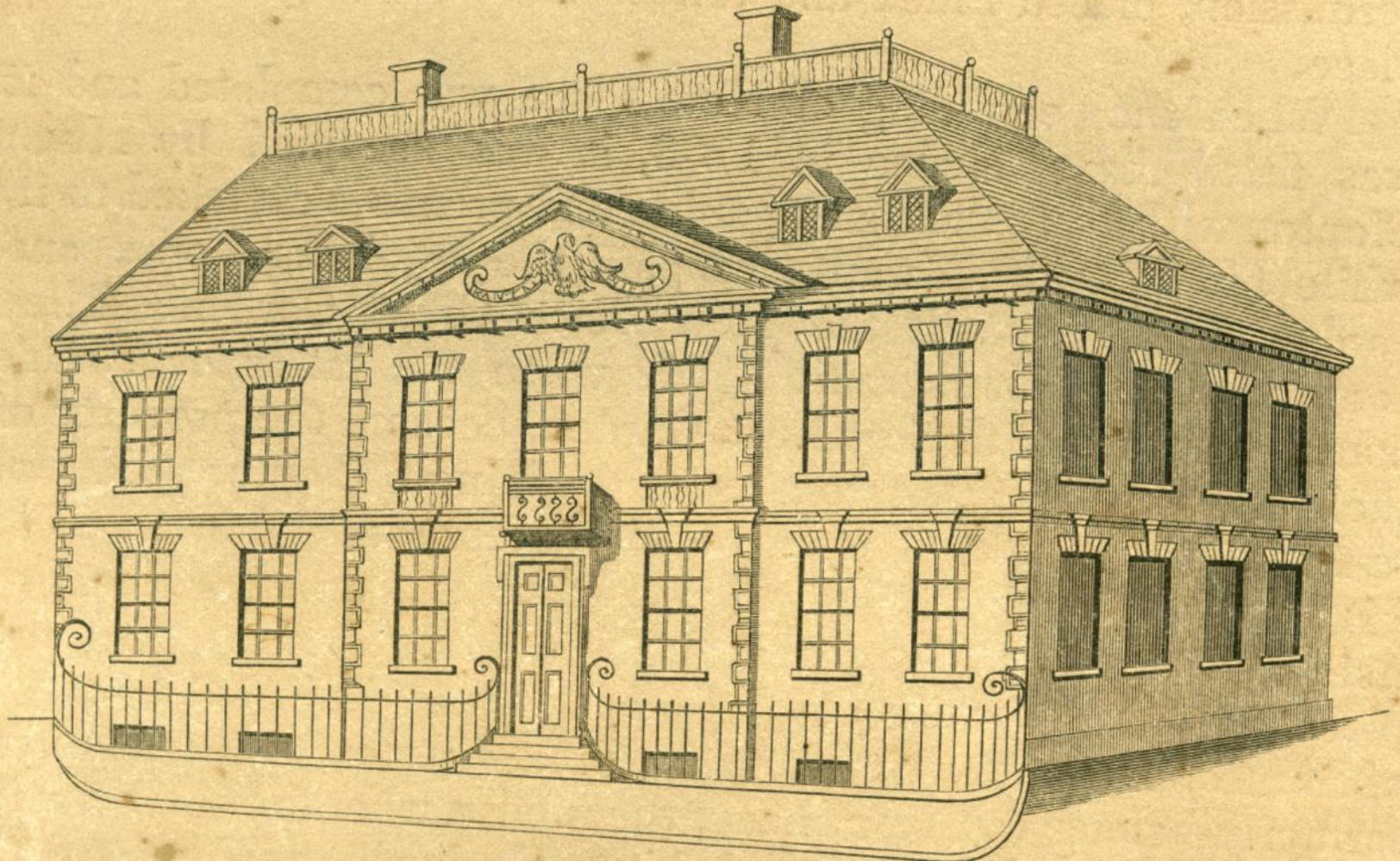
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The story continues- After Shakespeare

- New Place survived, in the same form, for a further 85 years
- Stayed within the Shakespeare family, passed to his daughter Susanna, and then her daughter Elizabeth until her death in 1674 (then sold to Sir Edward Walker)
- Left to his daughter (wife of Sir John Clopton)
- Reverted back into the descendants of the original owners
- Sir John Clopton saw New Place as 'Old fashioned'
- **Completely rebuilt – but retained the name**



Sir John Clopton's New Place





Sir John Clopton's New Place



Archaeological evidence for Sir John Clopton's New Place



Similar examples



Clopton House



Bishop's Palace, Lichfield



Stratford Prep School

The end of New Place

- Sir John Clopton's New Place was sold to Rev Francis Gastrell in the mid 18th Century
- Unappreciative of the history of the site
- Annoyed with the 'Shakespearean Pilgrims'
- Destroyed Mulberry Tree
- In 1759, after argument with tax rate assessors, Sir John Clopton's New Place was razed to the ground
- Shakespeare's New Place had already been dismantled 60 years earlier



The interpretation continues.....

Thank you for listening

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