



All Change on the High Street

Heritage Open Days
Organised by Salisbury
Civic Society

Shop 3 **Cotswold Outdoor Ltd** 9 Queen Street, Cross Keys Chequer

The building's three storey frontage, hung with mathematical tiles, is 18th century. The frontage gives no clue to the structure behind which remains almost intact and dates from around the first quarter of the 14th century.

Many medieval features are evident on both the 1st and 2nd floors. There are massive original oak posts, beams and trusses, some with oak leaf and acorn motif carvings. On the first floor there survives one of the earliest arched 'false hammer-beam trusses' in England with two tiers of curved braces forming a huge arch over the middle of the hall. The house is an important example of a first floor hall with living quarters on the upper floors above.

Part of the original wattle and daub wall is preserved and a side wall vent to let smoke escape is visible. At roof level in the centre of the middle beam is a boss head of a grimacing man. Above the stairs there is a 14th century window frame. On the first floor the sash windows are 17th century. A Tudor style courtyard can be seen through these windows.

History

This is one of the oldest dwelling houses in the city. The original Deed survives. In 1306 it was a timber framed house with an open hall (to let the smoke from the fire out) adjacent to a courtyard and a frontage block. It was built for rich wool merchant William Russel. The wool and yarn market lay opposite exporting raw wool to Flanders and France. In 1420, having passed through various owners, the house was bought by Thomas Harding, clothier. In 1459 it was owned by William Harding, Chapter Clerk and Scholar. He gave the property to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral who then leased it over the decades to defray Cathedral maintenance costs.

In 1572 it was leased to Thomas Ray, weaver, then to Robert Ray, clothier who in 1638 sub-let it to a shoemaker. Another Clothier, Ambrose Hussey, leased it in 1737. George Foot, hatter, who already leased No. 8 (Crew Clothing) took over this lease too. He had the roof and front re-built and became sufficiently rich for his descendants to become landed gentry, owning Alderbury House in 1793.

Over the 19th and 20th centuries the building was leased to a variety of tradesmen including grocers, corn merchants and ironmongers. Ironmongers Wilkes, Son and Cassey and their successors, Mence Smith and Timothy Whites, occupied the building from the 1920's until the 1970's. Meanwhile Watsons (China Merchants since 1834) leased No. 8 in 1930, moving from their premises in Ye Halle (currently the Odeon cinema). In the late 1970's Watsons bought this building (No. 9) and carefully restored the interior, linking it back to no 8. An inserted floor at first floor level was removed restoring the hall to its original two storey height at the rear of the timber framed medieval building.

In 2008, No 9 was acquired by Cotswold Clothing and again separated from No 8.

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