

Heritage Statement

Moot Hall, Aldeburgh, Suffolk

Prepared by **contura** on behalf of
Hudson Architects

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Figure 1 Aldeburgh is the bottom-right settlement depicted in this 1588 map.

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1 Introduction

1.1 This Heritage Statement has been commissioned by Hudson Architects in order to support a *Heritage Lottery Fund Stage 2 Application*. It includes a *Statement of Significance*¹, please see below 5.

1.2 The heritage asset is a Grade I listed structure, the *Moot Hall*, dating to the early 16th century. It is located on Market Cross Place adjacent to the beach and the public conveniences in Aldeburgh.

1.3 The *Moot Hall* is - despite its exposed position on the edge of the North Sea - one of the best preserved Tudor public buildings in the country.

1.4 It was erected by the Burgesses of Aldeburgh at a time of great prosperity as a manifestation of civic pride. Today it is still valued by the people of Aldeburgh as the centre of their community, a prominent symbol of their heritage. It houses the Aldeburgh Museum collection.

1.5 The intention is to build a sustainable future for the heritage asset and the collection it houses by implementing the following: improve visitor access and circulation with a complete redisplay, incorporating updated alarm and artefact protection. New, coherent

ent visitor orientation and sympathetically applied digital technology will enhance visitors' understanding and exploration of the heritage. A progressive team of trustees intends to implement an outreach programme to target schools and the community; recruit and develop additional volunteers; introduce changing exhibitions; forge partnerships with regional museums and history associations.

1.6 This statement is in line with guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 and in preparation for a future planning application that "in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected², including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary (NPPF 12.131).

1.7 The NPPF also states that "Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of

¹ Significance (of a place or building) is defined in Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (English Heritage) as "The sum of the cultural and natural heritage values of a place, often set out in a statement of significance".

² *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: *a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a*

degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.

a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal (NPPF 12.129).

1.8 The site was visited on 25th November; the building was inspected internally as well as externally with views of the building from all directions.

2 Context

2.1 Aldeburgh is a coastal town in Suffolk. Located on the North Sea coast to the north of the River Alde, the town is notable for having been the home of composer Benjamin Britten and as the centre of the international Aldeburgh Festival of Arts at nearby Snape Maltings founded by him in 1948. It remains an artistic and literary centre with an annual Poetry Festival and several food festivals as well as other cultural events.

2.2 Aldeburgh is a former Tudor port located on the North Sea coast. It lies around 87 miles north-east of London, 20 miles north-east of Ipswich and 23 miles south of Lowestoft. Locally, it lies 4 miles south of the town of Leiston and 2 miles south of the village of Thorpeness. It is situated just north of the River Alde.

³ Sir Francis Drake's *Greyhound* and *Pelican* (later renamed the *Golden Hind*) were both built in Aldeburgh. The flagship of the Virginia Company, the *Sea Venture* is believed to have been built here in 1608.

⁴ Suffolk Record Office, Ref No: C/3/3/3/14, Date: 1744 – 1745.

⁵ Before 1500 Aldeburgh Church consisted of just the tower and nave. Now the North and South chapels were added and a little later these were extended to form aisles. 1524 saw the roof of the nave and the

2.3 The town lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and has a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and nature reserves in the local area.

2.4 Alde Burgh means "old fort", but this structure, along with much of the Tudor town, has now been lost to the sea. In the 16th century, Aldeburgh was a leading port and had a flourishing ship-building industry³. It was granted Borough status in 1529 by Henry VIII.

2.5 Aldeburgh's importance as a port declined as the River Alde silted up and larger ships could no longer berth. It survived mainly as a fishing village until the 19th century, when it also became a seaside resort.

2.6 By 1500 Aldeburgh was emerging as a port and the town experience a period of prosperity until around 1650. Evidence of the town's growing prosperity can be found in the *Chamberlains' account book*⁴ and in the two big building projects, the alterations to the parish church of St Peter & St Paul⁵ and the *Moot Hall*, both still evident today.

tower arch raised, then in 1545 the chancel was added. The Elizabethan church would have looked much as it does today, but the churchyard extended to the middle of the present road until 1824.

The Church was used for many secular purposes: Ship auctions were regularly held in the nave; London theatre companies toured the provinces when the play houses were closed in the capital and several came to Aldeburgh Church.

2.7 Sometime during the first half of the 16th century a new high-status building was erected in the centre of Aldeburgh to serve as Council Chamber, permanent and secure shops and the town goal – the Town Hall. The term *Moot Hall* was used only from the nineteenth century and came with the Victorian restoration. In earlier documents the building was always referred to town hall. The word 'Moot' derives from the Saxon word for 'a meeting'.

3 Moot Hall - History and Development

3.1 For centuries the focus in a historic town was its markets and fairs. Medieval markets were presided over by a cross, called the market cross or high cross. A Tudor cross could be an octagonal structure on legs that sheltered those selling butter and eggs from baskets. Market crosses were built by the market authority.

3.2 The valuable right to hold a market was granted by the Crown. Many such grants were made to monasteries and manorial lords in the Middle Ages. The Dissolution and the growing independence of successful boroughs meant that by Elizabethan times markets were more likely to be run by a corporation, perhaps developed from a merchant guild. In Scotland markets were more often under borough control from the start. A special *Pie Powder Court*⁶ dispensed justice in cases relating to the market; the building in which it met could be called a tollbooth or talsey.

3.3 This type of building was then progressed to the *market house*. This provided a covered area for vendors on the ground floor and



Figure 2 Detail of 1588 map.

a guildhall, town hall, moot hall or talsey above. This plan can be traced back to the Palazzo del Broletto in Como, Italy (1215), but there are no British examples before the 15th century. The market house could serve many purposes. A small town might have no other public building for centuries, so it could house a Tudor court, Civil War armoury or a Victorian policeman. Civic functions, court sessions and public meetings could be held there. It could even double up as a school or jail. The typical structure was an open, arcaded ground floor with one or more storeys above.

3.4 The *Moot Hall* at Aldeburgh was built in the early 16th century; a possible date put forward by David F. Stenning is 1512, but no documentary evidence to prove this appears to exist.

from distant places to attend the fair, and whose occupation of pedlars, or traveling merchants, required that immediate jurisdiction should in all cases be had. It was usual, therefore, for transgressors to be arrested, the cause tried, and judgment given in the space of one hour.

⁶ The Court of Pie Powder was a necessary adjunct to the fair, and was originally established for the purpose of settling all disputes arising therein. It was a very summary court of justice as circumstances required it to be, for it was intended to arrange difficulties between parties who had come

3.5 When the building was first built, it was located in the centre of the Tudor town, some distance from the sea. There are several historic maps which show the Town Hall in the late 16th century (see figs. 1, 2 and below). The building appears to stand to the south of the other market buildings and structures, but quite centrally within the wider open market area. The round building with the pointed roof was the Market Cross, which would have been surrounded by stalls. Four stalls are depicted between the Market Cross and a large open – later enclosed - market building is shown to the north of the market.

3.6 The ground floor of the Moot Hall was occupied by six self-contained shops and two prison cells.

3.7 The upstairs which was accessed by an external staircase had a large meeting room and a smaller room at the southern end which may have served as an office. The larger chamber would have performed many functions during the course of a typical week in the 16th century, ranging from the holding of borough and market courts to wedding feasts, schools and guild meetings.

3.8 Some of the documentary evidence gives us insight into the former uses of the building:

“This room, which lay under part of the Moot Hall, was 'used for the discharge, laying and bestowing of woollen cloths brought to the town to be sold in gross'; the leases included the farm of the office of Hallage and Hall Keeper, with its hallages, ameracements, fines, forfeitures and profits.”⁷

⁷ Suffolk Record Office, Reference Number: C/3/9/3/2, Date: 1583 – 1589.

⁸ Suffolk Record Office, Reference Number: C/2/3/9/2, Date: Jan - Dec 1590.

“Lease from Corporation to Nicholas Crane of Ipswich, tailor, of Cloth Hall under part of Moot Hall, and farm of office of hallage and hall keeper, for 7 years at 8 2s 6d pa, 25 Eliz.” (1582/1583)⁸

4 Description

4.1 There have been many descriptions and interpretations of this prominent building over time, more recently the comprehensive studies by David F. Stenning (2009) and Leigh Alston (2006).

4.2 Some of the detail in the interpretations must be questioned as it has been suggested, for example, that the carvings of the arches and the jetty are entirely genuine. Whilst the carvings in the arches appear genuine, only some of them are actually featured⁹ in the depictions of the building before the 19th century “restoration” which indicates that most of them are probably a very good Victorian imitation of Tudor carvings such as the jetty beam (see below description).

4.3 The many depictions vary widely in their details. Below is a chronological selection of some of them; whilst most of them are clearly an interpretation, they all provide an invaluable source for comparative study.

4.4 This Heritage Statement is not a detailed interpretation of the historic structure, but looks at its overall significance and considers those elements in more detail which are going to be affected by the proposal.

⁹ A woodcut from 1810 shows only one door that with a curved head and possibly one window (see figure 9).

4.5 The following *list description* by Historic England is reasonably comprehensive and accurate:

4.5.1 Historic England's List description

Market Cross, now town hall. c1520, altered 1654. Hall restored, external staircase and gable ends rebuilt 1854-55 by R.M. Phipson.

Materials

Timber-framed with brattished middle rails and arched and tension braces to first floor frame. Ground floor infill mostly 19th century herringbone or plain brick nogging, or flint and ashlar; first floor infill mostly 17th century brick. South gable and external stack rebuilt in flint and ashlar on ground floor, brick on upper floor and with brick decorated twin flues. Plain tile roof with pierced timber bargeboards and finial to north gable.

Exterior

Two storeys, the upper floor jettied. West front has two 4-centred doorways and an arcade of four 4-centred arches formerly serving an open market within, now fitted with 2-light lattice casements. Timber-framed external staircase with pentice roof leads to plain doorway on first floor towards north end. Other openings are three 3-light mullioned casement windows. First floor jetty bressummer is carved with C19 leaf trail decoration. On east front, flint and ashlar walling at south end is pierced by two lancets. Elsewhere on ground floor windows are two 3-light and four 2-light mullioned and transomed casements. First floor lit by two 3-light mullioned and transomed casements. Jetty bressummer decorated with ribbon trail carving. North gable wall has one 7-light mullioned and transomed casement window with lattice glazing on first floor, beneath bressummer carved with C19 vine trail decoration.



Figure 3 Moot Hall: Views from Southwest and Southeast.

Interior

Ground floor consists of 3 rooms, each with 4-centred doorways with carvings in the spandrels. Heavy chamfered bridging beams, and similar cruciform bridging beams in north room.

Jowled principal studs to timber-frame. Upper hall with 4 bays of chamfered tie beams on arched braces. Double struts to principals, two tiers of passing braces, the upper ones on arched wind-braces. Collars and upper collars.

4.5.2 The Suffolk Historic Environment Record adds:

Moot Hall: Timber-framed c.1528/40 brick noggin of 1654 when upper floor was inserted. Has served as a meeting place of Corporation, Court House, and police station. Ground floor (original timber arches) has been used as a prison until 1894 and as an open market. Sundial dates 1560 installed at cost of 7s. 6d. beneath this were the barred windows of the lock-up.

4.6 Structural condition

The structural condition of the asset is very good; however, the services require updating as proposed to give the building's use a new lease of life.



Figure 4 View of the Moot Hall from West.

5 Statement of Significance

5.1 Historical value - deriving from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.

- The *Moot Hall* is a Grade I listed heritage asset of exceptional historic significance.
- It is a mainly timber-framed building, containing many original features; however, there has been substantial restoration and some elements of the building are less sensitive than others – the highly sensitive 16th century fabric - to change.
- The Moot Hall was built as a status symbol reflecting the growing prosperity of the Borough of Aldeburgh in the mid-16th century.
- It has served continuously as the Town Hall and centre of governance (ground floor Town council offices, first floor Council Chamber) since it was first built and has remained at the heart of the Town and its social life.
- Local governance of the town, including until recently the law enforcement, has been administered from the Moot Hall from Tudor times to the present: the significance of this centuries' old living heritage is exceptional.
- The *Moot Hall* has strong cultural associations with Benjamin Britten, the internationally renowned composer. The Town and its surroundings of sea and marshes provided inspiration for much of that composer's work. Aldeburgh and the Moot Hall were central to Britten's opera *Peter Grimes*.
- Local Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was the first woman to practice as a doctor in Britain and was the countries' first female Mayor – and this at the Moot Hall in Aldeburgh.

► The historical value of the asset is very high.

5.2 Aesthetic value – deriving from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

- The *Moot Hall* is also Grade I listed because of its exceptional architectural significance.
- The *Moot Hall* has featured in many drawings, prints and paintings over the centuries and its picturesque setting is still highly appreciated.
- It has great aesthetic value despite its less authentic Victorian restoration.
- The building now occupies a prominent and highly visible location and is a positive landmark.

► The aesthetic value of the asset is very high.

5.3 Communal Value – deriving from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

- The *Moot Hall* has been depicted by artists and cartographers over the centuries, the earliest map dating to 1588 (fig.1).
- Numerous poets, painters, writers and musicians have spent time in Aldeburgh, featuring the town and environs in their work including the *Moot Hall*.
- The Museum's heritage appeals to a wide range of people from children to academics: a visitor survey (2015) highlighted the *Moot Hall* amongst five topics of particular local interest.

► The communal value of the asset is very high.

5.4 Evidential value – deriving from the potential of a place to yield primary evidence about past human activity.

- The fabric and design of the building has been heavily altered and restored over time, but this is also evidence of the varying interpretations of the building during different periods.
- The fabric of the asset ranges in date across the life of the building, demonstrating the historic development of the structure. However, whilst the structure mostly survives in its original form, there have been significant losses of original fabric and substantial rebuilding (both gable ends, replacement timbers and infill).
- Six self-contained shops originally occupied the ground floor and their carved facades (possibly not all original) remain visible today.
- The *Moot Hall* building provides evidence and knowledge about how local governance was discharged during the Early Modern Period, how, within the local community, society flourished, and how Aldeburgh's economy first developed and then declined until the advent of tourism saved it during the 19th century.
- The influence of coastal erosion and the Alde estuary is most starkly illustrated by the current location of the *Moot Hall*: Historic maps (see below) show that there used to be several streets between the *Moot Hall* and the shoreline; these streets have succumbed to the sea over time.
- Archival evidence is good and most evidence can be found at the Suffolk Record Office or the Aldeburgh Museum's archive where the history of *Moot Hall* is represented by a large and growing archive of photographs, prints and, increasingly, oral records.

► The evidential value of the asset is very high.

The overall significance of The Moot Hall is very high.

6 Assessing the effect of the proposed development

6.1 The project seeks to improve overall access: at present, both the entrance and exit are located on the first floor and visitor flow is disrupted; the current arrangement prevents full accessibility. The proposal relocates the entrance to street level, improving access and maximising visitor engagement. This will also provide the building with an improved narrative flow.

6.2 Internally, it is proposed to improve circulation and understanding of the heritage asset as the main display with a complete re-display of museum exhibits and incorporating updated alarm and artefact protection. New, coherent visitor orientation and sympathetically applied digital technology will enhance visitors' understanding and exploration of the heritage, both the heritage asset and the heritage that is represented in the museum's display.

6.3 External

- Proposed benches and signage - these are vital to promote the asset as well as access and improve visitor numbers. The proposed signage is simple and contemporary in style, but designed to be extremely effective in drawing attention to the building and directing the passing visitors towards the Moot Hall. The proposed bench is replacing an existing one that is located against the south wall. Both signage and the replacement bench are considered to not adversely affect the setting or the significance of the asset. The signage might appear a little out of context on the concept board drawing (C-450); however, considering them within the context of the surrounding buildings and landscape, they are well placed and deemed to be appropriate and an enhancing element of the overall proposal. The largest board *Sign 5* is some distance

from the asset and does not adversely affect its setting or significance.

- New dark grey/black finished metal handrail to external stair – fixed into building fabric. Minimal uprights fixed down to stringer - The staircase and handrail are relatively modern (1950s replacement of Victorian restoration) and the handrail requires updating: this is proposed in a sympathetic and least intrusive manner.
- Removal of plaque beside stair. Replacement with new white interpretation panel - The existing panel is outdated and a new version is required. This will be carried out in a sympathetic manner that will enhance the building's appearance and promote the understanding of the significance of the asset.

6.4 Internal

- It is proposed to move the dividing wall between the clerk's office and the hall to its original position: this would significantly improve access and circulation as well as understanding of the original layout of the individual shop units. This can be executed in a sensitive way with minimal fixings to the historic fabric so that it is not adversely affected. The current wall appears to have been inserted during the extensive 19th restoration, but also appears to have used at least one of the original uprights. It is considered that moving this dividing wall to its original location would very much improve the access, understanding, circulation and overall feel of this important entrance area of the building therefore enhance the experience of the building and restore this area to its original layout. Therefore the asset's significance is enhanced. Technical details to be confirmed.
- Stair hatch moved to other side to enable placing of display unit on this side, new handrail to internal stair and painted timber cladding to walls of stair - The proposal for the stairs is to

clad the walls of the internal stair in painted T&G board to give a more robust finish and also provide support for a new handrail (existing handrail is of no historic interest).

- First floor freestanding museum furniture. Minimal fixings back to the timber frame. Ground floor full height museum fit out joinery. Fixings to floor and beams. Some fixing of museum display units/panels/shelving to wall. Minimal fixings – These items will be carefully considered so that the minimal fixings do not cause damage to the timber frame. Some fixings will be necessary and these will be appropriately limited and placed so that the significance of the asset is not affected. Details to be confirmed.

The following items are part of the proposed update to modern fixtures and fittings and considered to not adversely affect the significance of the asset:

- Roller blinds replaced with new.
- Radiators replaced with slim flat panel
- Existing wall hung panels and other hangings to be removed. Wall filled and redecorated.
- The existing floors will be retained and possibly lightly refurbished.
- New boiler.
- Removal of all existing lighting, including wall sconces but excluding circular historic chandeliers (these are of some significance).
- Installation of new discreet museum spot lighting, details to be confirmed.
- Replacement of all cabling and sockets.
- Wiring to be surface fixed. Concealed where possible behind and/or above beams and columns. TAC nails used.

- Installation of sympathetic external up-lighting, details to be confirmed.

7 Maximising enhancement and minimising harm

7.1 The proposal successfully includes much enhancement and minimises harm as suggested in the NPPF (see NPPF, paragraph 137):

7.1.1 Replacement of a detrimental feature by a new and more harmonious one:

- The new interpretation board will replace a detrimental feature by a more sympathetic panel.

7.1.2 Restoring a lost historic feature:

- The re-instatement of the original partition offers an opportunity to better reveal the original layout and design of the interior of the asset and aid understanding.

7.1.4 Introducing a wholly new feature that adds to the public appreciation of the asset and introducing new views (including glimpses or better framed views) that add to the public experience of the asset:

- Both the proposed bench and the signage offer an opportunity to add to the public appreciation and experience of the asset.

8 Conclusion

8.1 The significance of the *Moot Hall* is fully acknowledged and carefully considered resulting in a sensitive proposal that does not result in harm to the asset.

8.2 The proposal seeks to sympathetically update this highly significant heritage asset: improved circulation and access, modern museum lighting and overall museum fixtures and fittings are required to bring this asset into the 21st century and secure its positive use. The scheme preserves and enhances the architectural and historic character of this important early public building.

8.3 The proposal sustains and enhances the significance of the heritage asset by means of sympathetic refurbishment and the enhancement of its setting.

8.4 The proposal is looking to secure the optimum viable use in support of its long term conservation.

8.5 Both physical as well as intellectual access to the heritage asset will be significantly improved and enhanced.

8.6 This redevelopment proposal is aligned with the 2015 Aldeburgh Town Plan to improve interpretation of the different aspects and periods of the town's heritage so that they are better understood, enjoyed and appreciated. Working in partnership with ATC

to achieve the aims of the project gives Aldeburgh an opportunity to see the Museum and the currently poorly interpreted Moot Hall become a successful heritage destination.

8.7 Further research into the Moot Hall (and the themes of the re-interpreted displays) is proposed as part of the project.¹⁰

8.8 The proposal is considered to not materially harm the values of the place in accordance with EH Conservation Principles: it reinforces the character of the central section and reveals some original features.

8.9 'The greater the range and strength of heritage values attached to a place, the less opportunity there may be for change, but few places are so sensitive that they, or their settings, present no opportunities for change' (EH Conservation Principles): there is clearly opportunity for change here and this has been sympathetically embraced.

8.10 It is considered that the proposal complies with the requirements of Section 66 (1) of the Planning (LB and CA) Act, section 12 of the NPPF, Historic England's *Good Practice Advice in Planning 2 - Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* July 2016 and *Good Practice Advice in Planning 3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets* July 2015.

¹⁰ • These include a detailed study of the Chamberlain's accounts which have already been transcribed to reveal insights into Aldeburgh's past.

• Ongoing research into local heritage will be undertaken beyond the project's life to feed into specific temporary displays and add to the Museum's archive and records.

• Recorded oral history will convey personal recollections and provide a valuable future resource.

• New research will provide additional material which will be used for tours of the Museum, Moot Hall, and Town.

9 Historic Maps and Illustrations

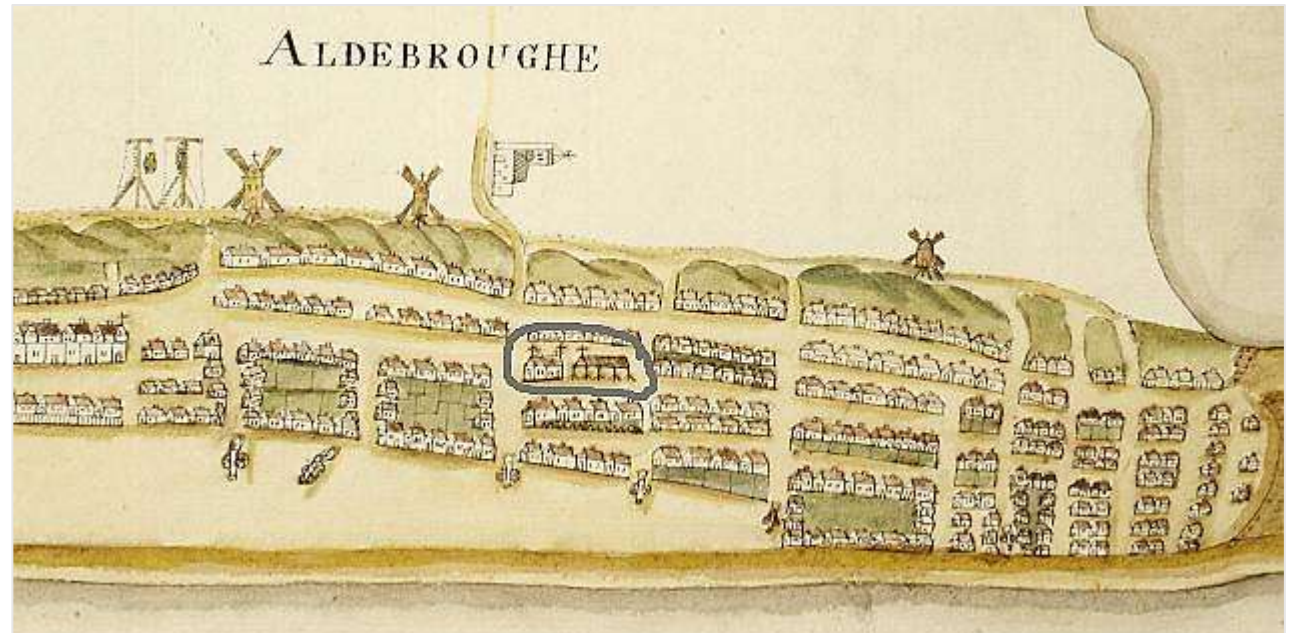


Figure 5 Map ca. 1589.

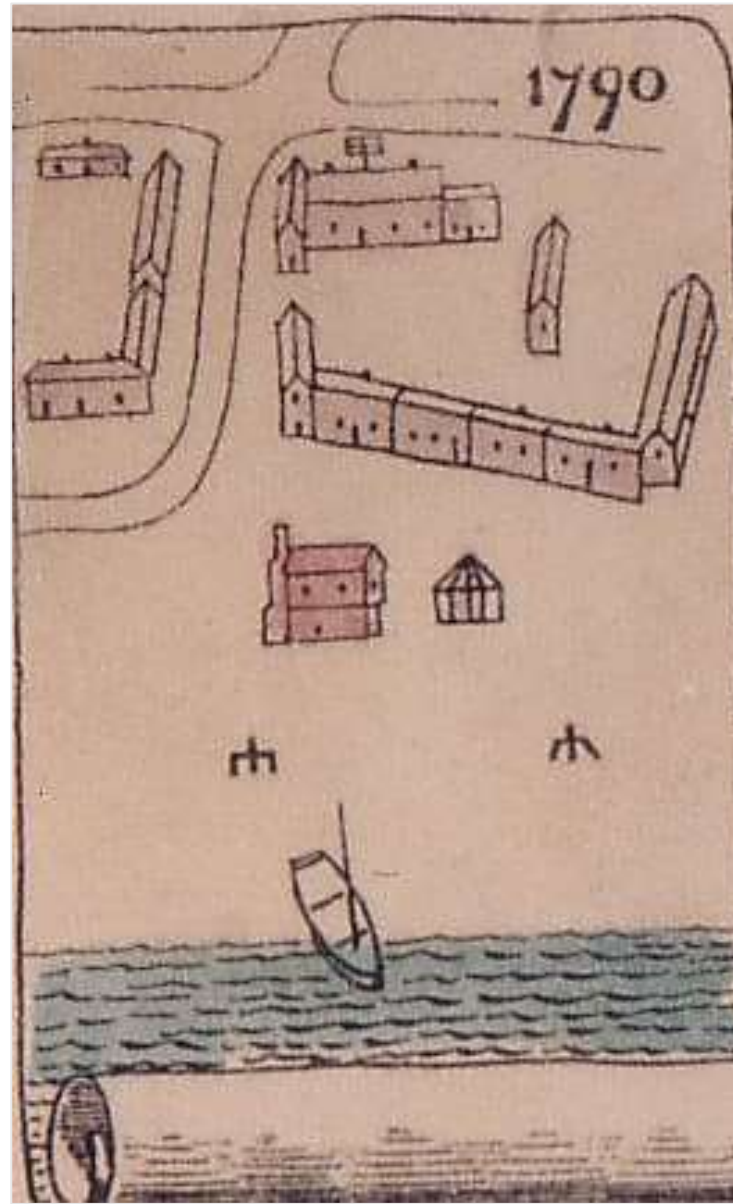
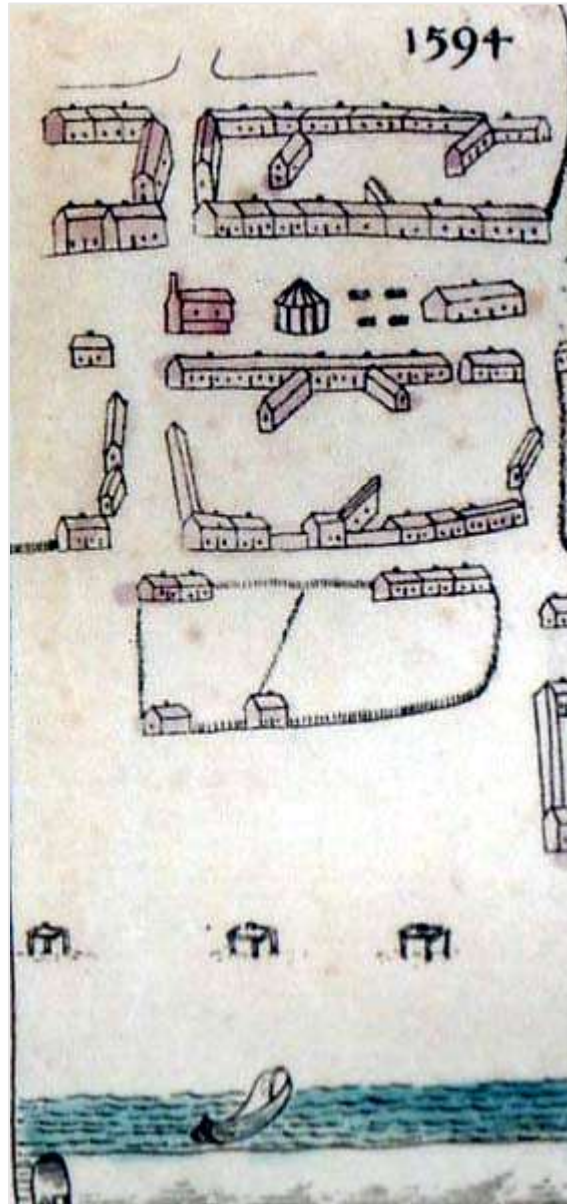


Figure 6 Historic maps 1594 and 1790.

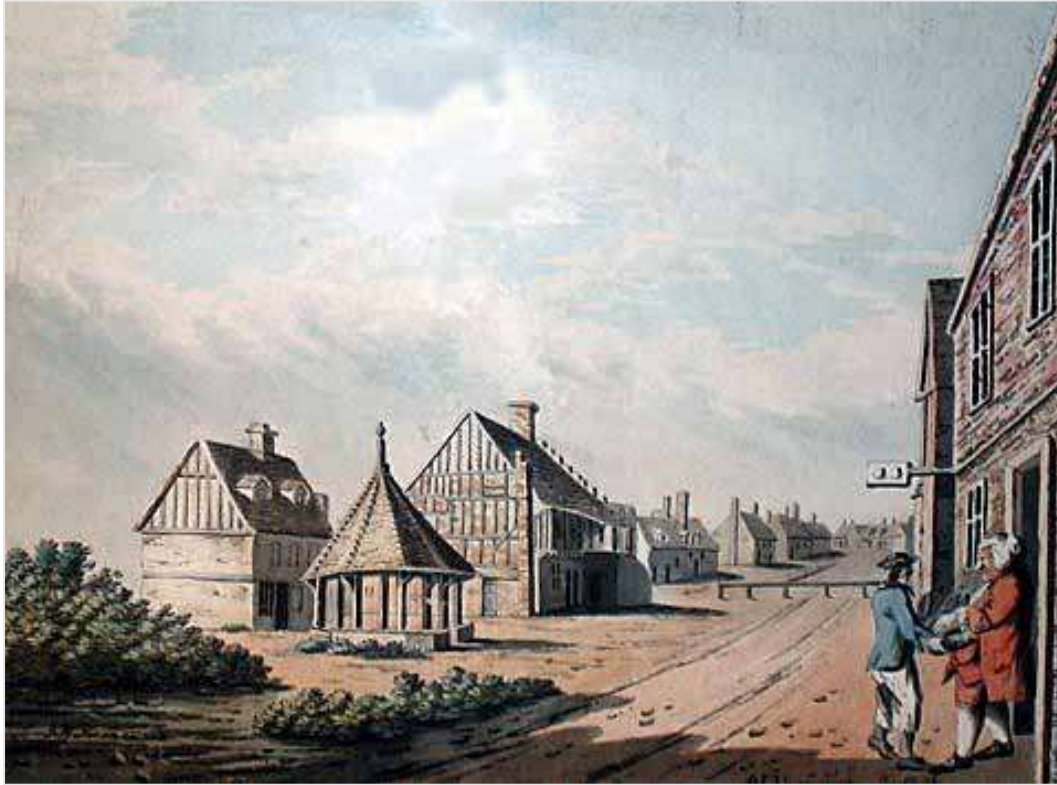


Figure 7 Watercolour 1769: View from Northwest.



Figure 8 Drawing 1835 View from Southeast © Aldeburgh Museum.

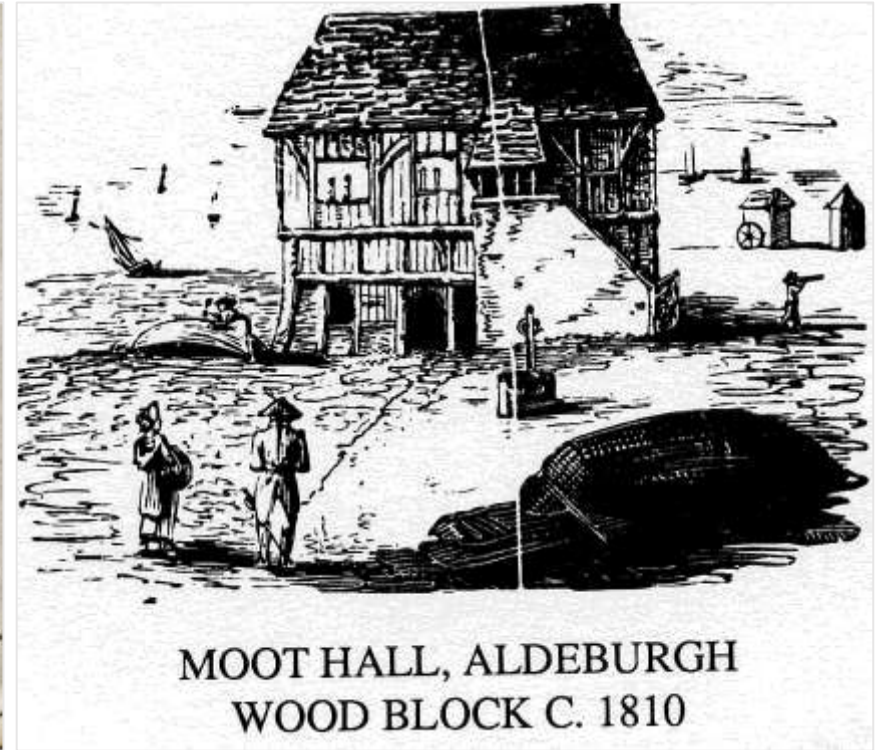


Figure 9 Woodcut 1810, View from West © Aldeburgh Museum.



Figure 10 Drawing Moot Hall View from South 1835 © Aldeburgh Museum.



Figure 11 Print 1855 View from East © Aldeburgh Museum.



Figure 12 above: Watercolour of the Moot Hall by Thomas Churchyard ca. 1850.



Figure 13 Inside the Council Chamber ca. 1924. The Mayor's table is at the other end today with the major facing South. The cross beam with the clock is where the dividing wall was originally: the mortises (slots) for the studs (upright timbers) can still be seen.

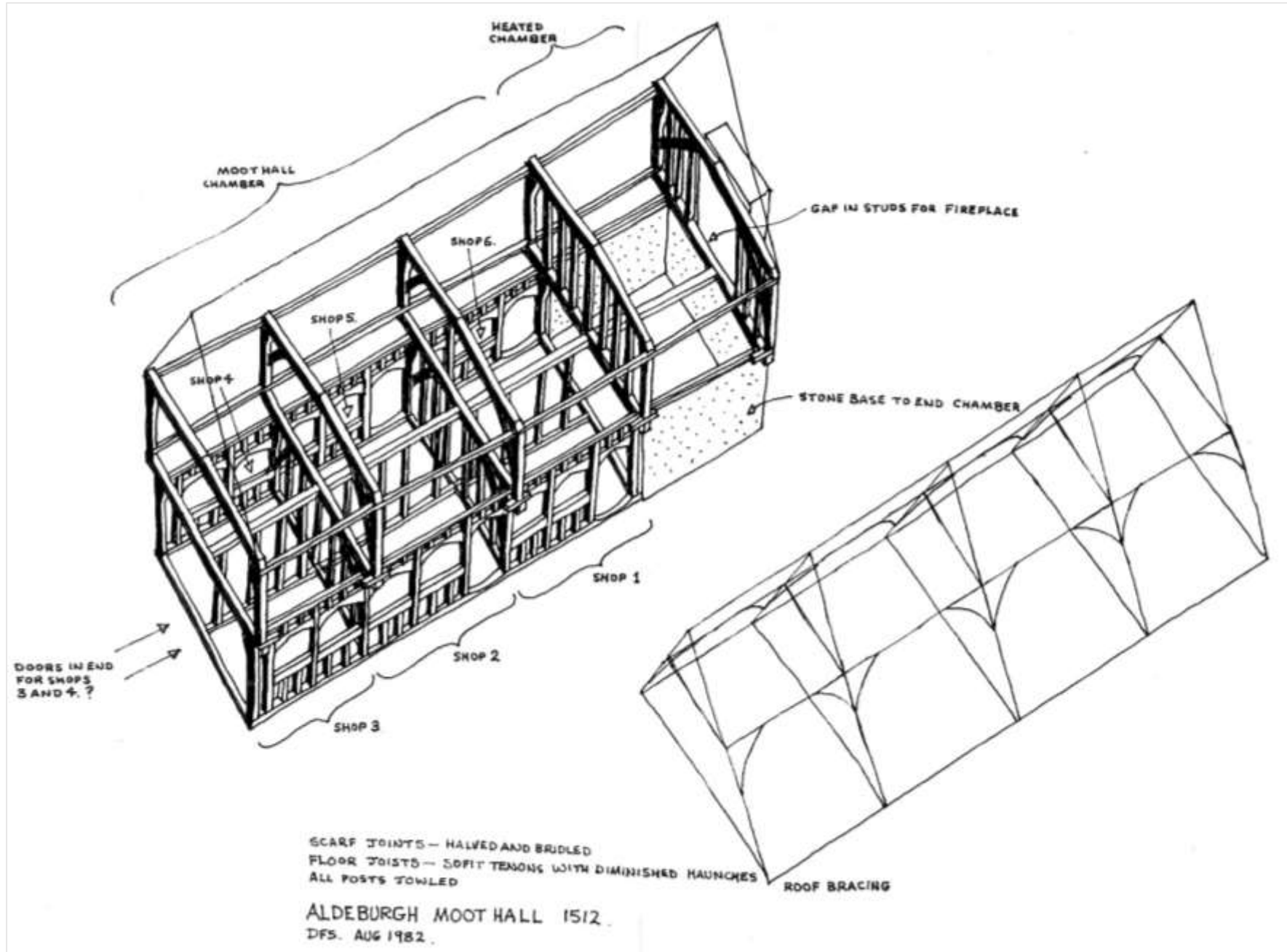


Figure 14 Reconstructive drawing by David F. Stenning 1982.

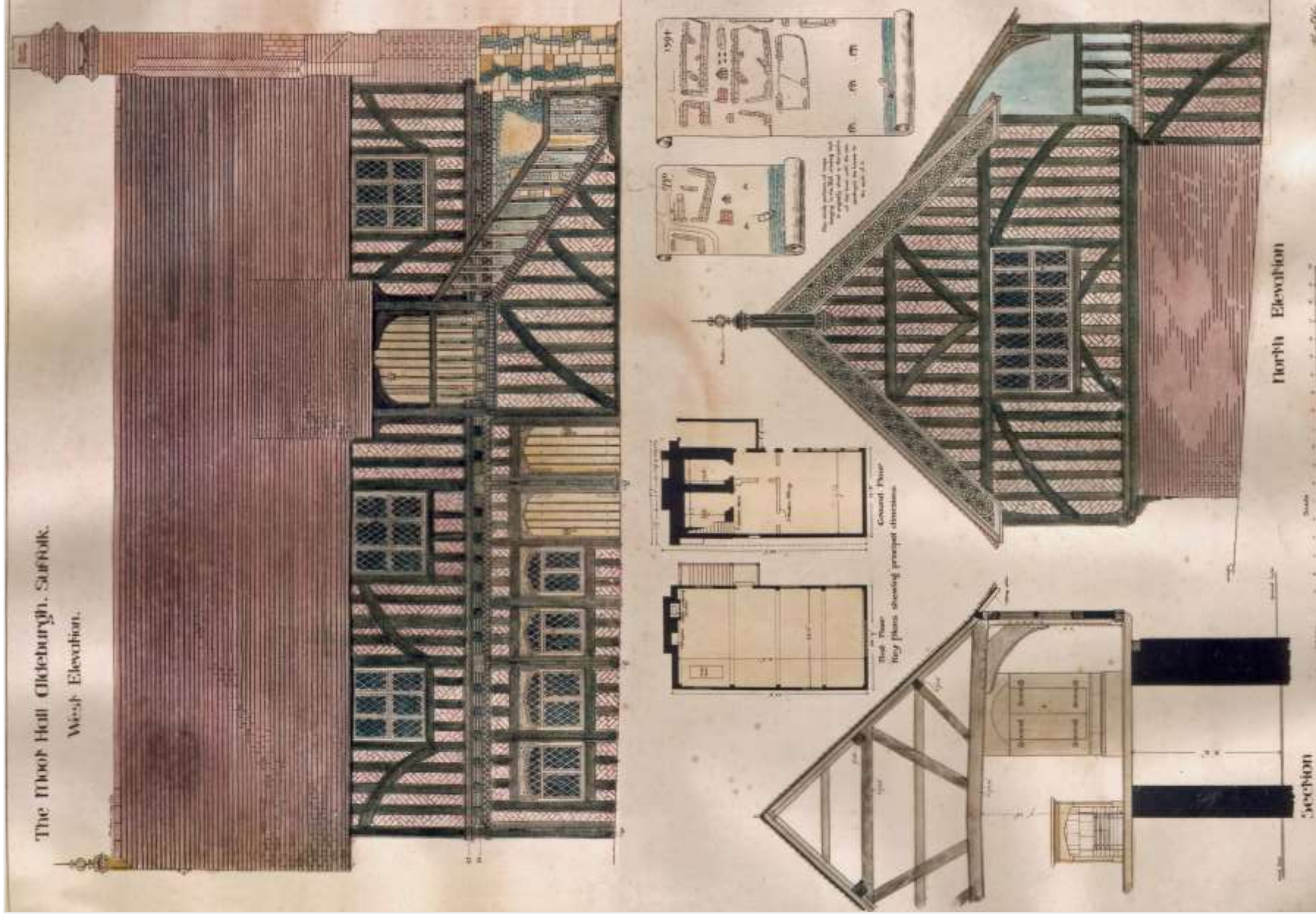


Figure 15 Plan of ground floor and first floors of Moot Hall: W & N elevations and extracts from maps of 1594 & 1790 by Thomas E. Key for Aldeburgh Borough Council in 1974.

10 Records

MOOT HALL

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: MOOT HALL

List entry Number: 1269716

Location

MOOT HALL, MARKET CROSS PLACE

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Suffolk, District: Suffolk Coastal, District Type: District Authority, Parish: Aldeburgh

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: I

Date first listed: 27-Feb-1950

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 460471

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Details

ALDEBURGH

TM4656 MARKET CROSS PLACE 837-1/4/37 (East side) 27/02/50

Moot Hall, GV I

Market Cross, now town hall. c1520, altered 1654; hall restored, external staircase and gable ends rebuilt 1854-55 by RM Phipson. MATERIALS: timber-framed with brattished middle rails and arched and tension braces to first floor frame. Ground floor infill mostly C19 herringbone or plain brick nogging, or flint and ashlar; first floor infill

mostly C17 brick. South gable and external stack rebuilt in flint and ashlar on ground floor, brick on upper floor and with brick decorated twin flues. Plain tile roof with pierced timber bargeboards and finial to north gable. EXTERIOR: 2 storeys, the upper floor jet-tied. West front has two 4-centred doorways and an arcade of four 4-centred arches formerly serving an open market within, now fitted with 2-light lattice casements. Timber-framed external staircase with pentice roof leads to plain doorway on first floor towards north end. Other openings are three 3-light mullioned casement windows. First floor jetty bessummer is carved with C19 leaf trail decoration. On east front, flint and ashlar walling at south end is pierced by two lancets. Elsewhere on ground floor windows are two 3-light and four 2-light mullioned and transomed casements. First floor lit by two 3-light mullioned and transomed casements. Jetty bessummer decorated with ribbon trail carving. North gable wall has one 7-light mullioned and transomed casement window with lattice glazing on first floor, beneath bessummer carved with C19 vine trail decoration. INTERIOR: ground floor consists of 3 rooms, each with 4-centred doorways with carvings in the spandrels. Heavy chamfered bridging beams, and similar cruciform bridging beams in north room. Jowled principal studs to timber-frame. Upper hall with 4 bays of chamfered tie beams on arched braces. Double struts to principals, 2 tiers of passing braces, the upper ones on arched windbraces. Collars and upper collars. South chimney-piece removed for restoration at time of Review. (BOE: Pevsner N: Suffolk, 2nd Edition: Harmondsworth 1974, p. 72). Listing NGR: TM4655256862

Selected Sources

Books and journals

Pevsner, N, The Buildings of England: Suffolk, (1974)

National Grid Reference: TM 46552 56862

ADB 012 - Moot Hall

SHER Number: ADB 012

Name: Moot Hall

Type of Record: Building

Grid Reference: TM 4655 5685

Parish: ALDEBURGH, SUFFOLK COASTAL, SUFFOLK

Summary

Moot Hall, Listed Building.

Monument Types

BUILDING (16th century to 18th century - 1501 AD to 1700 AD)

Designated Status

Listed Building (I) 460471: MOOT HALL

Description

Moot Hall. C16 Town Hall of two storeys. Building was restored at the end of the last century. Fine wooden roof, the timbers are mainly original (S1).

Circa 1520-1540, timber framed, with brick nogging on the upper floor, which was inserted in 1654. The original timber arches on ground floor are a reminder of the fact that the ground floor was an open market (R1).

May 1997: Descheduled (S1).

Sources and Further Reading

[R1] SSF16083 - Bibliographic reference: Pevsner N & Radcliffe E. 1974. The Buildings of England: Suffolk. (2nd edition), 72.

[M1] SSF45542 - (No record type): SAM file:.

[S1] SSF5242 - Unpublished document: Department of the Environment. Scheduling information.

[R2] SSF50032 - Index: OS. OS Card. OS, card TM45NE6.

Associated Finds: None recorded

Date Last Edited: Feb 22 2016 3:01PM

11 References

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- www.old-maps.co.uk
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- National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF)
- PPG *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* 2014
- Historic England's *Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 - Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*, July 2015
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- <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>
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- <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>
- <http://archive.historicengland.org.uk/>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aldeburgh>
- <http://www.buildinghistory.org/buildings/markethalls.shtml>
- <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/Data/Sites/1/media/parish-histories/aldeburgh.pdf>
- Pevsner, N., *A History of Building Types* (1976), chap.15 gives the wider European context.
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- Schmiechen, J. and Carls, K., *The British Market Hall: A social and architectural history* (1999).
- Tittler, R., *Architecture and Power: The town hall and the English urban community c. 1500-1640* (1991).
- <http://www.visit-aldeburgh.co.uk/articles/the-history-of-aldeburghs-moot-hall>
- <http://www.aldeburghmuseumonline.co.uk/1500-1650/moot-hall/>