

HALF TIMBERED HOUSE AT THE JUNCTION OF LADY STREET AND WATER STREET.

About two years ago, after the partial demolition of the old half-timbered corner house (which was probably one of the three Guild Halls) situated fronting the bottom of Lady Street, and having a return frontage to Water Street, steps were taken to re-erect it on the lines of its original plan.

Until then the front facing Lady Street was composed of three large gables in a line, but when the work of restoration was undertaken, the centre gable with the wall beneath it was removed, revealing the original recessed outer wall, so that the house now retains its original shape, i.e., a centre portion flanked on either side by gabled projections.

The architect entrusted with the work of restoration found that all the timbers had been numbered preparatory to removal, and that all interior fittings and the roof had been taken down.

The roof was therefore re-built and covered with old flat tiles, the missing timbers, etc., of the framework replaced, concrete inserted in place of the old wattle, and the old foundations made secure.

In this condition the house remained during the whole of the past winter, but quite recently work has re-commenced, though up to the present not much further of importance has been done, except that the roof of the old cottage abutting on the Lady Street portion of the property has been stripped and properly re-laid.

As the building stands at present therefore, it is quite weathertight, but the interior is still in a condition that renders the house uninhabitable until further steps are taken.

H.W.