

from the Willoughby Society Archives

Vale House
Willoughby
1580 – 2007
(427 years)

History and restoration

Bill Carlisle

for

Willoughby Society

28th February 2007

Happenings in 1580

- Rumour of plot against England by King of Spain and the Pope
- Spain captures Lisbon
- Francis Drake circumnavigates the world
- 29 missionary Catholic priests illegally enter England and arrested
- Queen Elizabeth asks Spain if they plan war
- Vale House a 3-bay timber framed farmhouse

Vale House 1866



Aerial view 1988



Norwich
Union Fire
Insurance
Plaque
(date
unknown)



1979



1979



1995

- Remove Victorian fireplace and open up chimney breast.
- Replace stone and install Dovre wood burning stove.
- Neil Hallam reinstated hayloft.

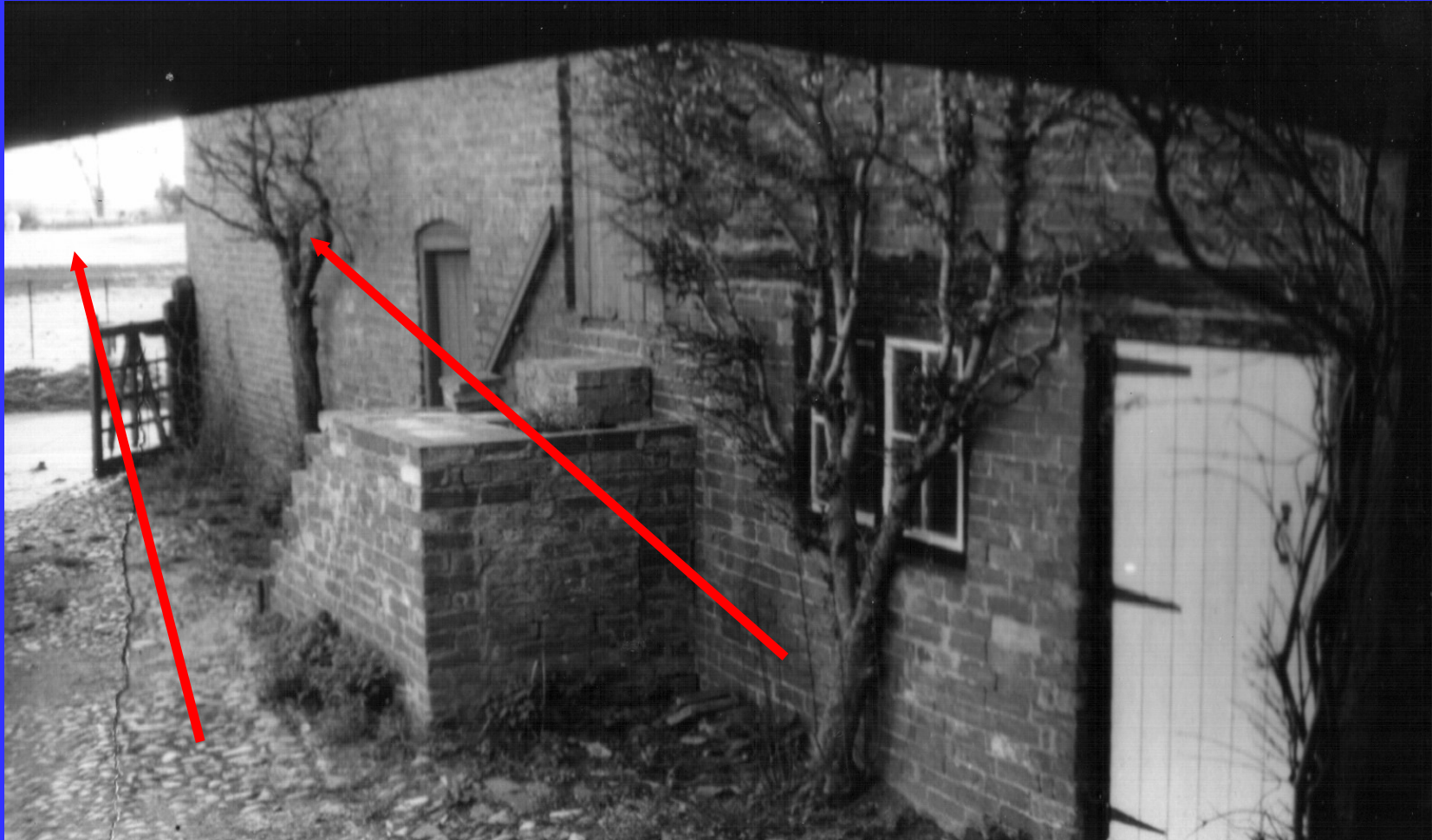
1995 - New stone being laid



1995 - First fire.



1950's photo – showing old
hayloft.



1995 – Hayloft nearing completion



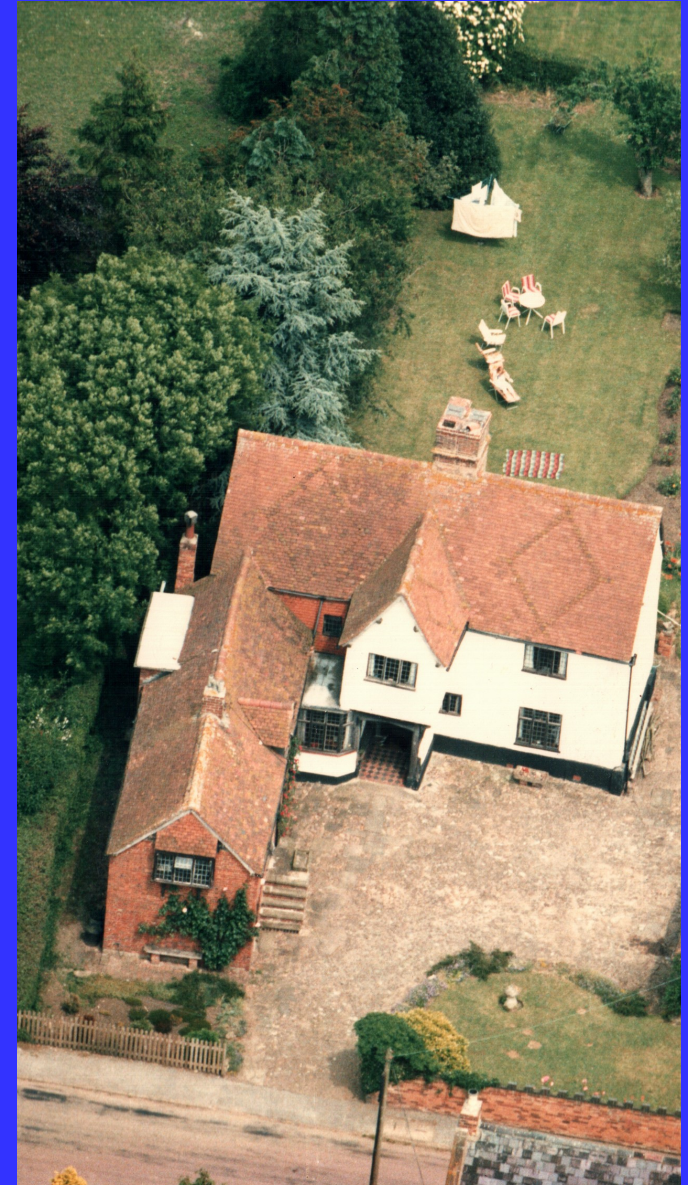
1995 - Hayloft



1995 -



1988 -



2001 Investigation begins

Builder Neil Hallam

Architect David Warren

- South wall corner posts opened
- New corner posts
- Supports and wall covered

Initial Investigation on South Wall



Render
removed from
corner post



Corners
protected



2002 – 2003
Restoration by
Parker & Morewood Ltd
Architect – David Warren

- Listed Building Approval for proposed work
- English Heritage involvement
- Ancient Monuments Department interest
- Wattle & Daub expert visits
- Structural Engineer required for safety

The Priesthole

Built within the chimney stack for the
safety of persecuted Catholics

Priest hole exposed



1. Wattle & daub, 2. priest hole
3. modern insulation panels



Corner post for NE wall



Corner post for NE wall



William Carey

1761-1834



“expect great things from God, attempt great things
for God”

Removal of rendering by hand



Checking damaged timbers



Exposure of wattle & daub



Building held up with acrow supports



New oak timbers in builders yard - Nuneaton



Final adjustments on site

Ken Morewood (age 75)



Window
uncovered
in porch
gable



New timbers
and window in
south wall



Render
applied to
insulated
panels



Panels completed before painting



Choosing the
colour

Lime wash on rendered panels



Foundation for enlarged drawing room



Timber framing above blue lias stone



All timbers are pegged



New roof to keep priest hole exposed.



Before tiling



Priest hole and wattle panel



Scaffolding coming down



Fourth and
final coat
of lime
wash



Final result
2003



Final result 2003



Final result 2003



2004

Federation of Master Builders

- Master Builder of the Year Midland Area,
Awarded to Parker & Morewood of
Nuneaton for Conservation

As we are now.

