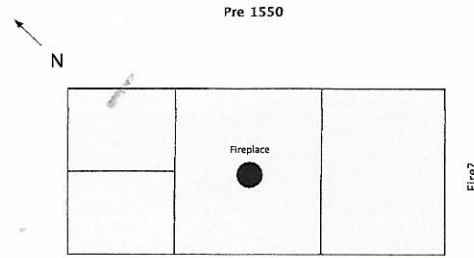


Moorden Farmhouse

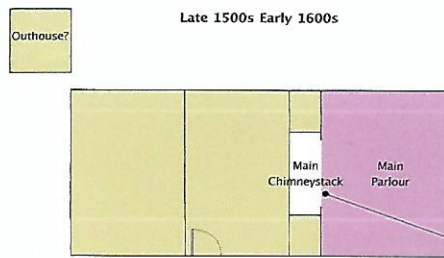
Moorden Farmhouse is a complex building, one that has undergone many changes & been subject to substantial additions since it was first built. This was mainly due to it's myriad of different owners & occupiers, but also influences from the wider environment such as booms & recessions in the agricultural economy & inheritance procedures like gavelkind, typical of Kent. There are many unanswered questions concerning the origins of this house, with many clues to it's history being lost to a fire in 1988 that destroyed much of the original roof structure.



The original house on the site of Moorden Farmhouse would have been a timber framed Hall House, open at the eaves to release the smoke from a central fireplace.

At somepoint this house was destroyed, probably by fire as charred timbers appear in the roof construction of the house that succeeded it in the late 1500's early 1600s.

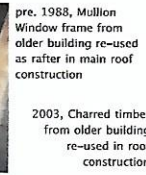
Owners: 1514 Thomas Piggott



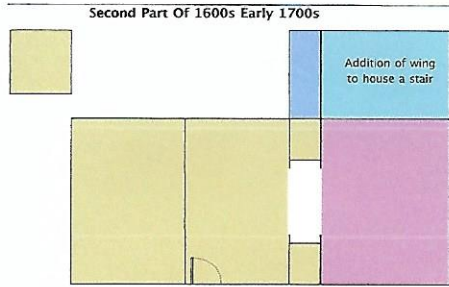
This house was initially constructed as a four bay chimney house with a chimneystack that heated an mpressive parlour to the south.

There may have been an outhouse on the North East corner, perhaps a pantry or buttery due to it's cool temperature. Re-used older timbers can be found here as well as in the main house's roof construction

1574/75 Richard Caryll 1579 Christopher Willoughby 1585 John Catcher



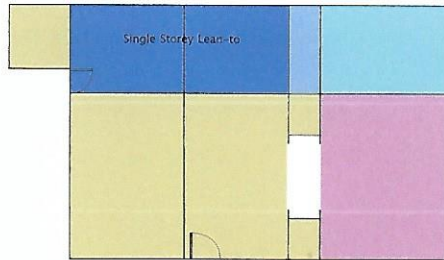
1623 William & Anne Swayne



The addition to the East of a new wing was most probably to house a stair, to a new second storey. This was then extended again perhaps to house the more substantial staircase.

A second fireplace was probably also built in to serve a kitchen.

Owners: 1660 Richard Saltonstall



A single storey lean-to was created and would have provided the additional rooms included in the 1660 inventory between Richard Saltonstall and his tenant at Moorden, Richard Hamm. Perhaps some of these spaces mentioned, such as The Bathhouse, Bolting House, Milk House or Brew House could have been independant outbuildings away from the house seen on the later map below

1688 Ricarda Saltonstall

Transcribed from Indenture between Richard Saltonstall, owner of Moorden and Richard Hamm, tenant, 1660

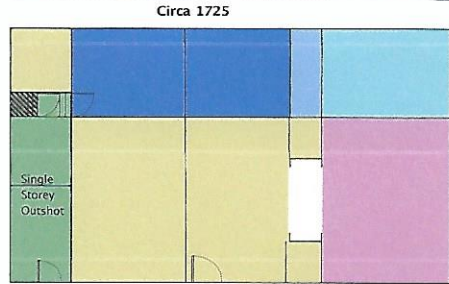
1604/1717

An Inventory of the goods in and about Moorden house

- Imparls (in the first place) The Great Parlour wainscotted
- Item - The little parlour wainscotted over the chimney and that side the room and a corbel round about
- In The Kitchen
- Item - Two trassers, four shelves, rack to lay bacon on and a rack, for spits and hooks to hold up the fire a trough under the water tank
- In The Bathhouse
- Item - a lock on the door and a shelf
- In The Bolting House
- Item - One dresser board and two shelves
- In The Milk House
- Item - A lock upon the doors, 4 shelves, a bacon trough and one cheese press
- In The Little Pantry
- Item - A lock on the door and two shelves
- In The Hunt Hall
- Item - An old bench
- In The Parlor
- Item - A lock on the door and a bench in the room
- In The Little Buttery
- Item - A lock on the door and scullers and one old cupboard
- In The Buttery at the End of The Hall
- Item - Two scullers
- Item - The parlour chamber wainscotted, two closetted shelves doubly round about a lock on one of the doors
- In The Wheat Barn
- Item - The floors well planked and a long ladder
- In The Stable
- Item - One rack and manger, one chubs bin and a lock on the door
- In The Hay Loft
- Item - Two racks
- In The New Lodge
- Item - One rack
- In The Brew House
- Item - One lock on the door



1711 Lucy Montague



The first half of the eighteenth century saw the lean-to raised & a second parallel roof that matched the existing range added. Ceilings were put on the first floor rooms at the expense of earlier attic space.

A single storey outhouse was added to the North of the house.

These changes may have been carried out by Lord North in order to sell the property after inheriting Moorden from his late wife who died in 1734

Alternatively they could have been carried out by the new owner Richard Children who purchased it from Lord North that year.

Owners: 1734 Earl Guildford, Francis North 1734 Richard Children 1753 Ann Children 1755 John Children



Sections illustrating Moorden Farmhouse from an 1804 Estate map when Moorden was owned by George Children. Note there appears to be no chimney on the Northern outhouse, no front porch, or bay window to the South and the main door is shown as the one now noticeably bricked up



Changes were made to the facade of the front of the house after 1804 including relocating the original main door to the right towards the parlour.

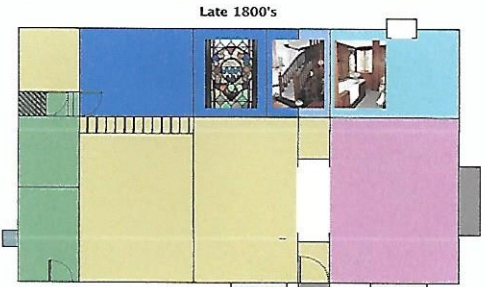
A chimney was added to the outhouse for a bread oven, which can be seen on the 1841 Tithe Map of Leigh above.

Owners: 1813-15 William Wells I 1847 William Wells II 1870 Frank Hills

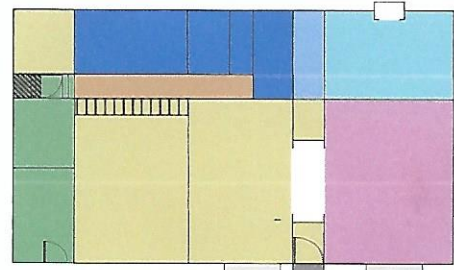


Other changes made during the second part of the 1800's, either under the instruction of William Wells the younger or Frank Clarke Hills included:

- The addition of the panelled bathroom housing a Rufford Company Victorian bath (post 1851)
- Enclosing the inglenook fireplace in the kitchen & adding a range
- Possibly adding the rear chimney
- The creation of a heated greenhouse & outhouses
- Replacing the servants ladder into the service end of the house with a staircase
- Adding stained glass windows & a Provincial stair

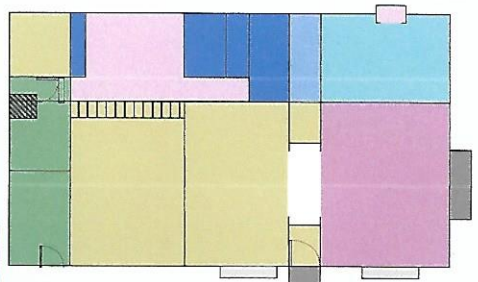
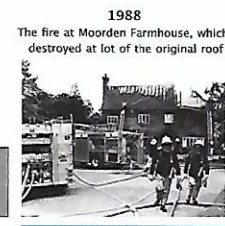


A front porch & bay window in the style of George Devey were added to the house, perhaps after Moorden was inherited by Arnold Hills in 1896



Circa 1932 the bread oven in the outhouse was demolished & a new chimney built on the adjacent wall for a copper & to serve a new kitchen so a formal dining room could be created in the old one. The range was removed from that room, a panelled facade built around the chimneypiece & a wooden floor replaced flagstones. A passageway was created at the rear of the new kitchen and the stairs where turned around into it. The far right front window was blocked in on the first floor.

Owners: 1927 Arthur Hills 1974 Patrick Hills & Penelope Ogilvy 2010 Redleaf Trust



In 2011 Moorden Farmhouse was separated for the first time from the farmland & purchased by Simon & Donna Bruxner-Randall. Wanting to retain the building's history & character the new owners made minimal & sympathetic changes to the Farmhouse, opening up the passage way & old pantry to make a breakfast room, converting the loft space with the addition of dormer windows & changing the small bedroom in the North East corner to an ensuite bedroom, relocating it's fireplace to the room below. They also created the lake in the garden & built the timber framed garage.

2011 Simon & Donna Bruxner-Randall