



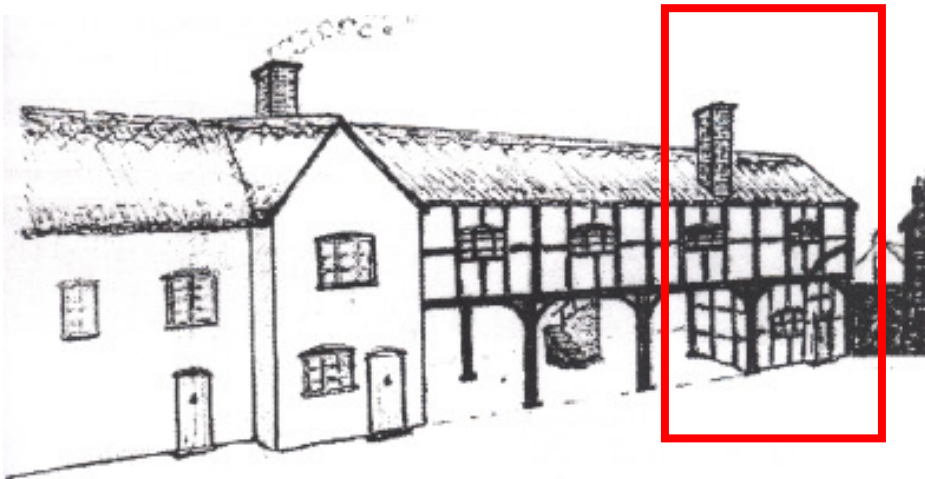
AMERSHAM SOCIETY



**AMERSHAM
MUSEUM**

1 Market Square

In 1680 this range of buildings would have looked something like the drawing below.

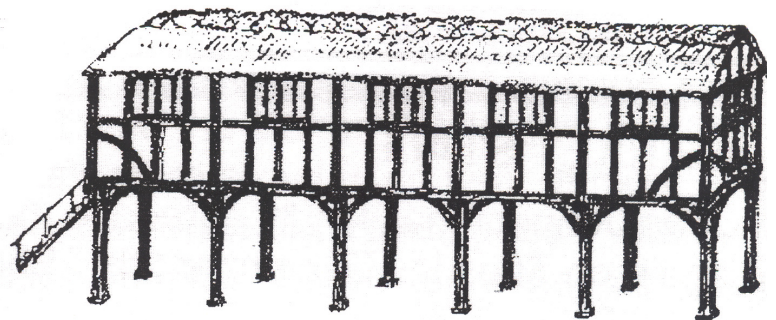


*1 Market Square
is shown here.*

The part to the left, made of brick was newer than the half-timbered building which was probably built between 1490 and 1500.

The original building consisted of a first floor hall of five bays, making a room 70 ft. by 24 ft., with a thatched roof and probably jetted timbers. This would probably have been reached by an outside stair. The ground floor beneath was initially an open space and probably used for the market, especially in wet weather.

It was built for the Fraternity of St Katherine which would have been set up by the tradesmen and burghers of the town, with the active collaboration of the Church, to support its members in illness, loss of business or employment. It was used for social purposes and fund-raising. It also paid



the salary of a Priest appointed to say masses for the souls of departed members. The building is referred to in Churchwardens' Accounts as Church House from 1539.

In 1617 this part of the building was converted into a Workhouse. Amersham's Overseer for the Poor raised £77.19s.4d, contributed by townspeople to pay for spinning wheels, tools, furniture and stock "to sett the poore to worke in linnen". This sum included £6.4s.1d. "paid in repairing the (Church house) to sett the poore to work in". This involved alterations to the easterly bay (now 1 Market Square). John Gregory was appointed to supervise this work with the employment of "four godly widows".

In 1626 the Linen Workhouse moved to a house, 24 High Street now known as Frith House, given by William Tothill. This may have allowed more space for educating pupils – see notes on No. 5.



Parish records for 1806 show repair bills for extensive work on church house. This included re-facing the whole southern aspect of the range in brick with a parapet extending above the lower part of the roof.

Willow Tree Café c1980

The census records show that Henry Putnam, glover lived here in 1841 but it was unoccupied in 1851. It was occupied by women school teachers: Rebecca Sandford (28) in 1861, and Mary A Cruse (30) in 1871. In 1873 the pupils were being educated in the newly built school in what came to be called School Lane but teachers continued to live here: Lucy Glenn (25) in 1881, Gertrude Hayward (29) in 1891 and 1901, and Mary Louise Gillard (32) and Ethel Mary Alberta Miller (33) in 1911.

For more information on this and other Amersham houses, go to www.amershamhistory.info
For more information on the Amersham Society, go to www.amershamsociety.org

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