

**Building Report
The Railway Station Inn
7 Farfield**

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Historic Kidderminster project Ref: 326
Grid Ref: SO839762**



Nicky Griffiths

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External description

A brick built, double fronted building with an arched passageway leading to the rear, now known as The Station Inn. There is a gabled roof tiled with a modern replacement for the original welsh slates. There is a chimney at each gable end, with only one original chimney pot remaining. The different pitch to the roof indicates it was built separately from the adjoining terrace although it shares the same dentil decoration under the eaves. The brickwork has been painted over. The two windows to the first floor at the front are replacements under the original square arches and with the original stone sills. To the ground floor is a pair of canted bay windows each with four original sashes with stained glass to each bottom sash. There is dentil wooden decoration to the top of the window frame of each bay. The window locks inside appear to be original. The central front door has a wooden pilaster to either side and a pediment over with matching dentil decoration. To the southern end of the facade there is an arched passageway with a ledged and braced door that leads to a small courtyard and the original stable block. This courtyard has now been covered over as an outside smoking area. There were originally three houses adjoining at the southern end but these were demolished around the middle of the last century to provide a car park.



Nicky Griffiths

10th December 2007

To the rear is a two storey extension with a shed roof with a single chimney stack. The alleyway between the rear extension and the shed roofed stable block has been covered over creating a lean-to. The windows to the first storey of the extension are all replacement. However the ground floor windows now opening onto the covered passageway appear to be original. Beyond the two storey extension is a further flat roofed extension, possibly of later date than the main building, containing toilets. A lean-to conservatory has been added to the south side so that the toilets can be accessed without going outdoors.

Interior Description

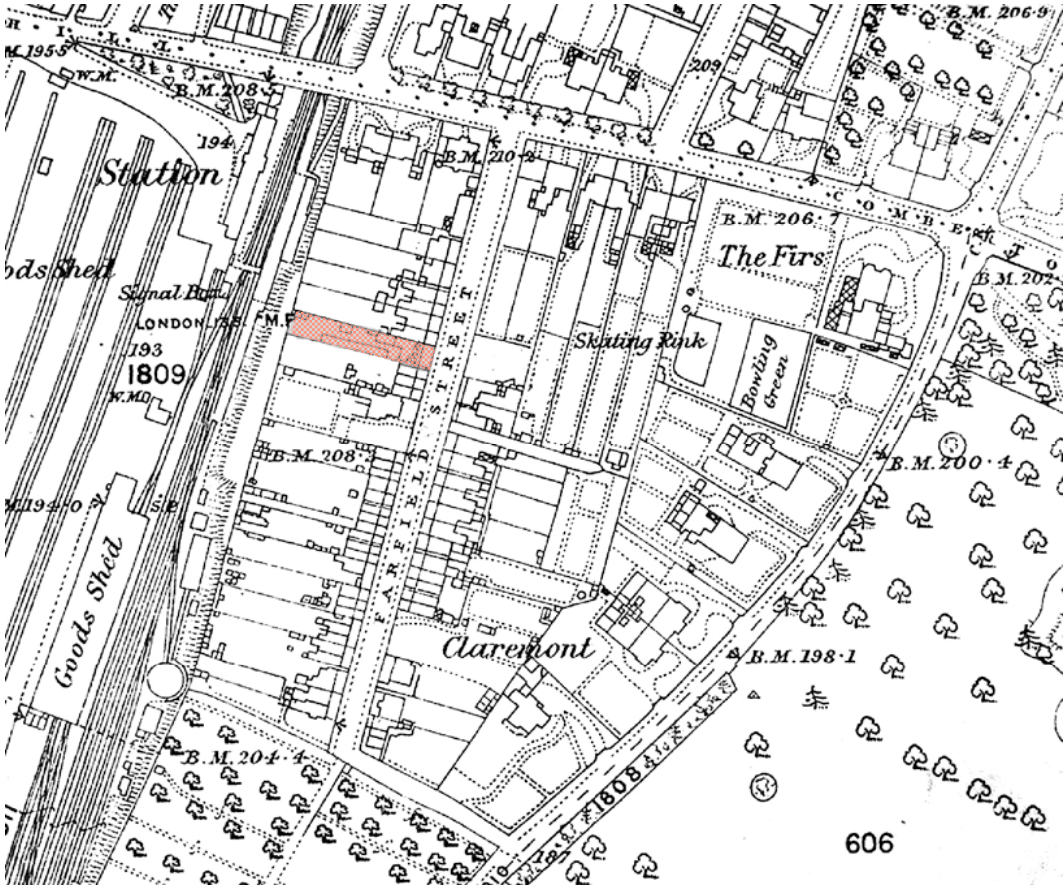
It was only possible to examine the public rooms of the building. Presently the front door opens into a tiny vestibule with a modern, glass panelled inner door. The side walls of this vestibule appear to be original but it is not clear whether this was once a longer hallway. Originally there were two rooms either side of the front door, each with its own fireplace. The chimneybreasts remain but the fireplaces have been replaced with a gas fire to the room to the left and a reproduction fireplace with open fire to the room to the right. The two rooms have now been made into an open area together with the room originally behind the left hand front room. This room also has a chimneybreast, now fitted with a gas fire, and a window overlooking the courtyard. A modern, glass panelled door from this room opens into a passageway. On the right hand side of this passage a door opens onto the stairs to the first floor. Beyond it a second door, which would originally have been an external door from the small courtyard, opens into the first room in the rear extension. This room has a chimneybreast with original fire surround fitted with a gas fire. There is tongue and grooved panelling to the lower part of the walls but it could not be determined if this

was original. It is unlikely. Next to the door are two original sash windows that would have overlooked the courtyard but now look onto the covered and glazed passageway. A door at the far end of this room leads to the kitchen that also has a door and two windows onto the area between the stables and the extension, now roofed and glazed to make a conservatory area. The glazed lean-to giving access to the toilet extension leads off the far end of this conservatory area next to a modern glazed door leading into the garden. The area beneath the stairs leading to the first floor has been used to make a servery with a bar to the room in the extension and another bar that extends out into the right hand front room. This servery area also contains the door beneath the stairs that lead to the cellar.

History

No evidence has been found to confirm whether this building was intended to be an Inn when built or started out as a dwelling. However, it became an inn early in its existence as the Worcester Chronicle of 12th September 1849 reports in detail the application by William Hutton for renewal of his licence and states he had been the licensee for several years. His licence was granted on the condition he built a two stall stable. A list of licensees is included below. On a drainage map drawn circa 1850 a Mrs Hume is named as owner of the Inn and the three adjoining houses. The loss of the word "Railway" from the name of the inn is recent. A number of Farfield residents still refer to it as The Railway Station Inn.

Location Map



Taken from OS map of Worcestershire, Scale 1:2,500, Date 1885
Grid Ref: SO839762

List of Licensees

YEAR	NAME OF LICENSEE	SOURCE
1842	No mention of Farfield	Pigot's Directory of Worcestershire
1849	George Hutton "had been there several years"	Worcester Chronicle, 12th September
1850	George Hutton, Retailer of Beer	Slater's Directory of Worcestershire
1851	George Banks, victualler & tin man	Census
1855	George Banks	Billings Directory pp 150 & 165
1860	George Banks, Railway Station Inn	Cassey & Co's Directory
1861	William Rouse, Victualler, Railway Station	Census
1871	James Cook, Licensed victualler,	Census
1873	James Cook, Railway Station Inn	Littlebury's Directory
1881	Henry Field Worsted Carpet Innkeeper, Railway Tavern Inn	Census
1888	Henry Field, Railway Station inn	Kelly's Directory
1889	Mrs Field, The Railway Station, Alehouse	Broadfield's Directory
1891	Edward Henry Bullock, Innkeeper, Railway Station Inn	Census
1892	Edward Henry Bullock, Railway Station Inn, home brewed ales wines & spirits	Kelly's Directory
1901	Frederick Harding, Licensed victualler, Railway Station Inn	Census
1901	The Railway Station Inn, Farfield Street, home brewed ales in grand condition, good accommodation for cyclists, Mr Frederick Harding	Shuttle Hotel Directory, January
1921	Mrs Ada Somerfield. Railway Station Inn	Kelly's Directory
1922-1934	Mrs Ada Walker (remarried)	Names of licensees from this point all taken from framed document in the inn
1934-1941	Frank William R Cope	
1941	Nancy Lilian Potter	
1941-1952	James William Tew	
1952-1955	John Lyons	
1955-1957	Stanley William Birch	
1957-1958	Frank Edward Sheldon	
1958-1959	William Bertram Sheldon	
1959-1960	Norman Francis Tipping	
1960-1965	Howard Wilkins	
1965	Victor Atkins	
1965-1966	Howard Peter Watton	
1966-1978	Frank Edward Sheldon	
1978-1983	Anthony George Sheldon	
1983-1985	James Leslie	
1985-	Elizabeth Jane Leslie	