

Dutch Bricks found in Lyme Regis

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<https://www.lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk>

Dutch bricks were imported into England from the 16th century, often as ships' ballast. The bricks were smaller than the standard English brick, harder and denser which made them ideal for ballast.



The Old George Inn

The Old George Inn was situated in an area called George's Court, bordered by Monmouth Street and Coombe Street. It was mainly built of Dutch bricks and the authors believe that after the fire of 1844, which completely destroyed the inn, the bricks were salvaged and stored for future use. It seems that due to the hardness of these bricks they were particularly useful for the building or repair of chimneys.

The finding of a large number of these bricks in a chimney in the Old Police Station, Coombe Street, built in 1869, only a short distance from George's Court, would seem to support their thoughts.

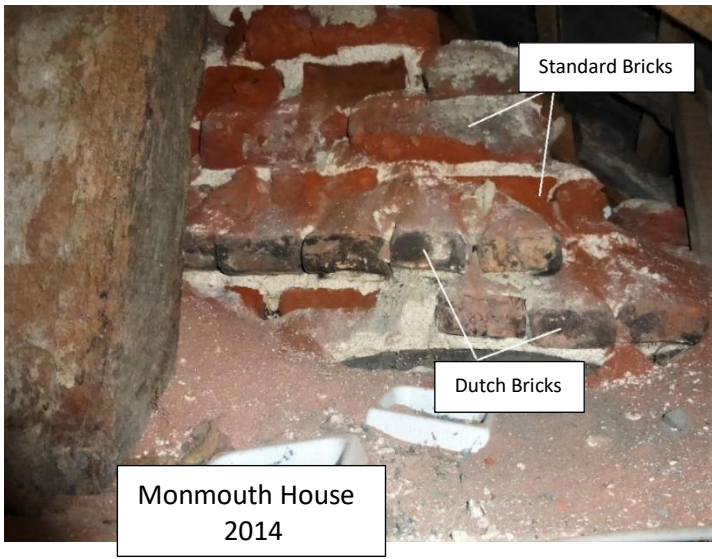
Much smaller numbers of bricks have been found by the authors in other sites in the town, including a chimney in the former 'New' George Inn in Coombe street, repair to an old garden wall in the same street, and repair of the chimney in the ground floor shop at the junction of Sherborne Lane and Broad Street.



Dutch bricks

Old Police Station
2015

Remains of a disused chimney in the roof at the west end of Monmouth House



The Old Fossil Shop was demolished in 1913 when Bridge Street was widened.



The above chimney is situated behind 'Boots' in Broad Street and was part of the former 'Great House' which occupied the area of today's Nos. 45-47. The chimney served the fireplace of the 'splendid drawing room' as described by Mary Russell Mitford in her recollections of her stay at the house as a nine year old child in 1796. The presence of the Dutch bricks suggests a repair or part rebuild of the chimney at a later date, with the brick showing intense burning on an exposed surface possibly indicating salvage from the 1844 fire at the George Inn.

LRM Research Team's project to research and document the historic buildings in Lyme Regis