

Treales House, 3 Church Street, Lyme Regis

Graham Davies & Richard Wells, August 2024

The authors believe that Treales House originates from the late 17th or early 18th century.



1. A grade II building, Treales was first listed in 1952, later amended in 1974, then the south part of the Tudor House hotel:

C18 front. 2 storeys. 4 window bays. Slate roof. Stuccoed front; plinth. Sash windows; glazing bars and keystones to 1st floor windows. Doorway with fluted pilasters, moulded entablature and 6-panelled door with top 4 panels glazed.

2. An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Dorset, Volume 1, West. Originally published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1952:

Treales House, now two tenements, immediately N. of Kenmore, has a stucco front. It was built in the first half of the 18th century. The original street elevation was symmetrically designed, but the ground floor has been altered in modern times. The central doorway has fluted side-pilasters and entablature with dentil cornice; the five original windows on the first floor have flat arches with key-blocks.

The two above reports were based on the exterior front of the house as viewed from the street.

In 2012, Richard Wells was given full access to the building by the owner at that time.

Summary of his findings:

The cellar is probably older than the building above and a number of old salvaged beams have been used to support the floors above, the rafters are mostly of considerable age, with a few new sections in places. The room to the south front was a shop, this maybe explains the map representation of a divided building, it being held or registered in the names of different people (of the same family?). However so much has been moved or altered that it is difficult to see what was where, although the floor boards are visible on the ground floor many disappear behind modern walling and cupboards so the ends / runs cannot be seen. Some of the upstairs windows could well be original mid Georgian and are in their original position, the room shapes however are not. It is unlikely that the roof space was used as a living area before its modern alterations as the small part of original roof space that could be viewed above the stair looked unaltered. It could not be determined if the original building had been thatched. The wall thickness suggests an early building of late 17th or very early 18th century, before Georgian refacing.

Treales House has a later build date than some of the neighbouring houses in Church Street such as No.1 (Kenmore), the Tudor House, Nos. 6 & 7 and No.8 (Malabar). This lower part of Church Street was formerly known as the Butter Market. Buildings in Lyme Regis were not given street numbers until 1900. The name Treales can be traced back to the late 19th century.

In a conveyance of 20 January 1815, relating to the house known today as No.1 (Kenmore), Church Street, bounded by the Butter Market on the east, by a house formerly owned by Francis Grubb Stevens and now by John Hallett (today's Treales House) on the north. He bought the house from James Edwards in 1812 which became his home and shop. James Edwards was a Lyme banker and merchant, who handled many Lyme properties in the period 1800-1840. John Hallett was a clockmaker, the last, if not the only, clockmaker of Lyme Regis. He is particularly known in the Museum because the longcase clock in the writers' gallery was restored by John Hallett after it had been rescued from a demolished house at Cobb Hamlet following the Great Storm of 1824.

In the latter part of the 1880s, Tom Howell Foxwell, his wife Emma and their young family, came to live in Treales House in the Butter Market. Thomas Howell and Herbert Edward Foxwell were partners in the firm of H & T Foxwell, plumbers and House decorators. When Thomas Foxwell died, his wife, Emma, let part of the house as apartments (lodgings). The 1911 census describes the situation at that time.

Emma's son Walter, his wife and two year old daughter lived at No.3 Church Street (which had been divided off from the original house) whilst Emma remained at Treales (No.4 Church Street) accompanied by four sons, a daughter and three boarders. Emma lived at Treales until her death in 1930 aged 74.

Treales House continued as a guest house until the early 1960s. In 1940 it was requisitioned for evacuees.

From the early 1960s it became part of the Tudor House Hotel, returning again to separate properties sometime between 2003 and 2008.

