

Development as an Inn (1727-20th Century):

The Swan was first recorded as an inn in 1727, marking its transition into a formal hospitality establishment, though the building dates from the 17th century.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, it operated as a commercial inn, providing food, drink, and accommodation for travellers and the local community.

A fives court is recorded at the Swan in 1838, and by 1898 it included an assembly room and carriage shed, highlighting its role as a centre for recreation and social activity.

The inn continued in use into the 20th century until it closed before 2012.



Figure 2 - Assembly Room, visible today - From Google Street Maps



Figure 1 - 1770 map showing the Swan Inn

From Inn to Modern Commercial Building:

Over time, the Swan Inn ceased operating as a public house and was adapted for new commercial use.

In 2012, the building was converted into a Tesco Express, which is still in use today.

Although its function has changed, the building continues to serve the community and travellers commuting between Bridgwater and Taunton, retaining its historic position within the town's commercial centre.

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The Swan Inn, North Petherton

From Medieval Alehouse to Modern Building



Figure 3 - The Swan Inn c. 1973. Image From - https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/somerset/northpetherton_swan.html

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Location and Setting:

The former Swan Inn, now operating as a Tesco Express, is located on Fore Street in North Petherton, within the historic core of the town, beside St Mary's Church.

This area formed the traditional commercial and administrative centre, with inns, a market, and civic buildings clustered along the main street.

Why is it important?

The Swan Inn is an important historic building that reflects the development of trade, travel, and hospitality in North Petherton over several centuries. Its survival within the historic streetscape provides valuable evidence of the town's commercial past.



Figure 4 - The Swan Inn on Fore Street - From Google Street Maps

Early Origins:

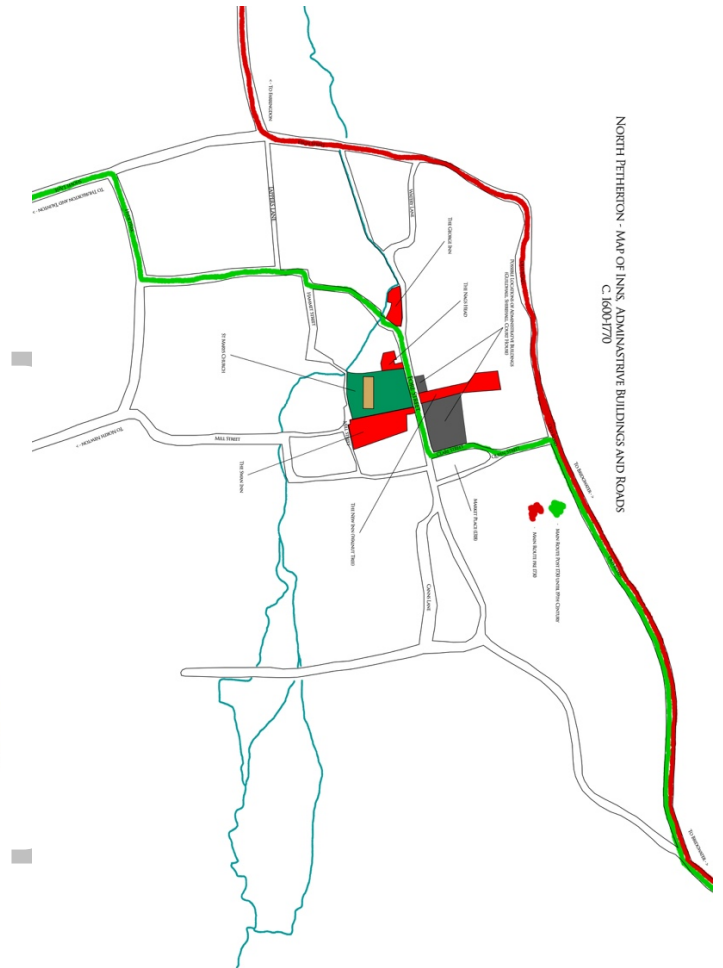
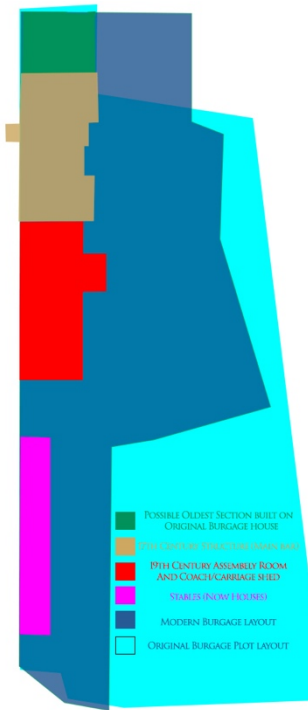
Beginnings as a Tipling House

The building occupies a long, narrow burgage plot, a typical feature of medieval towns where properties extended back from the street.

These plots were often used as domestic houses where ale and cider were produced and sold by "alewives", known as tipling houses or alehouses.

The Swan likely began as one of these early establishments, serving local residents and agricultural workers.

Its position along Fore Street would have made it an ideal location for small-scale trade and hospitality.



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