

# THE SWAN INN: FROM MEDIEVAL ALEHOUSE TO TESCO EXPRESS

WHY IS THE SWAN INN IMPORTANT?

THE SWAN INN IS A SURVIVING EXAMPLE OF A HISTORIC BURGAGE PLOT PROPERTY THAT DEMONSTRATES THE EVOLUTION OF HOSPITALITY IN NORTH PETHERTON. ITS DEVELOPMENT FROM A DOMESTIC ALEHOUSE TO A FORMAL INN REFLECTS WIDER PATTERNS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE FROM THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD TO THE MODERN DAY.

FROM THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD ONWARDS, THE SWAN OPERATED AS A FULLY ESTABLISHED INN, PROVIDING FOOD, DRINK, AND ACCOMMODATION. INNS WERE CENTRAL TO COMMUNITY LIFE AND SUPPORTED TRAVEL AND TRADE.

BY 1898, THE SWAN INCLUDED AN ASSEMBLY ROOM, REFLECTING ITS IMPORTANCE AS A VENUE FOR MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND COMMUNITY GATHERINGS.



C. 1650 - 1727  
BUILDING CONSTRUCTED  
TIPPLING HOUSE/  
ALEHOUSE

18TH CENTURY  
ESTABLISHED INN

1898  
ASSEMBLY ROOM AND  
CARRIAGE SHED BUILT

C. 1500  
ESTABLISHED BURGAGE  
PLOT DOMESTIC HOUSE  
POSSIBLE ALEHOUSE

1727  
FIRST RECORDED AS A  
LICENSED INN

1838  
FIVES COURT RECORDED

A FIVES COURT IS RECORDED AT THE SWAN INN IN 1838, INDICATING ITS ROLE AS A PLACE OF RECREATION AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY AS WELL AS HOSPITALITY.

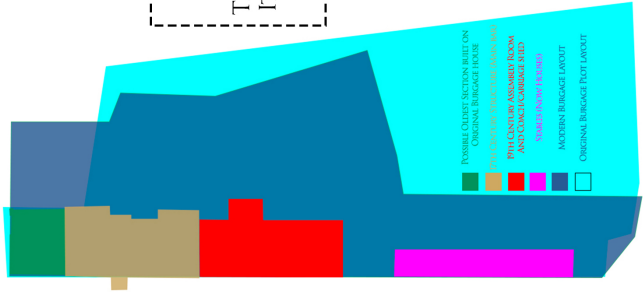
2012  
CONVERTED TO TESCO  
EXPRESS

IN 2012, THE BUILDING WAS CONVERTED INTO A TESCO EXPRESS, CONTINUING ITS LONG-STANDING COMMERCIAL USE WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE.

TIPPLING HOUSE OR ALEHOUSE  
THE BUILDING LIKELY OPERATED AS A DOMESTIC ALEHOUSE, WHERE ALCOHOL WAS PRODUCED AND SOLD FROM A PRIVATE DWELLING. THIS WAS COMMON IN MARKET TOWNS AND REFLECTS EARLY INFORMAL HOSPITALITY.



A BURGAGE PLOT IS A LONG, NARROW PLOT OF LAND TYPICAL OF MEDIEVAL TOWNS, WHERE BUILDINGS FACED THE STREET AND EXTENDED BACK INTO LONG YARDS USED FOR DOMESTIC LIFE, TRADE, AND PRODUCTION.



SAMPLE