

Val Harrison

16th century insertion of a chimney stack and loft over the cross passage.

The house has enjoyed a number of major improvements throughout time and one of these was in the late 16th century when the hall fireplace and chimney stack were inserted into the open hall and at the same time a loft or small upper room was created over the passage. Now we know that this once existed because we still have the evidence surviving within the structure; within the cross passage we can see the back of the hall fireplace, which is carried out in this very smart stonework, which is squared blocks of granite and is known as ashlar granite, and at the head of the wall is a small projecting band of granite which has a chamfer on it, and the purpose of this projecting band was to carry the end of timber joists which formed a floor over this cross passage area. The purpose of the loft obviously may have varied through time but we do know through documentary records that some of these small chambers were known as wool lofts, so its quite likely that's what we have here, a small dedicated room for the storage of fleeces.