

1-2 The Shambles

Another building referenced by the Charles Archive is the former J & F Hall, Ironmongers, built in the 17th-century. This timber-framed house and shop would originally have extended further along the Shambles frontage giving it an L-shaped plan, but was partially replaced by a 19th-century building, before full demolition in the 1960s.



1-2 The Shambles in 1951 (Worcester City Conservation Photograph Collection)



You might also like to visit:



43-49 St John's (A 15th-century hall

To read more about the Charles' practice involvement, scan here:



While you're here:

Two more fascinating timber-framed buildings that you will pass along the trail are open to the public as museums and are well worth a visit.



Tudor House Museum, Friar Street

A beautiful 16th-century building full of unique features and fascinating stories



www.tudorhouse.org.uk

The Greyfriars, Friar Street

A late medieval merchant's house, tree-ring dated to 1489. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greyfriars-house-and-garden

F.W.B ('Freddie') and Mary Charles

Specialising in timber-framed conservation and innovative repair, the Charles practice campaigned to conserve timber-framed buildings from the often ravaging effects of post-war regeneration and educate the public about our built heritage. Freddie was one of the founding members of the Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, near Bromsgrove.

Many of the photographs, plans and drawings presented in this leaflet are publically accessible at Explore the Past in the Hive, Worcester. (www.explorethepast.co.uk/project/ charles-archive). Thanks to funding from Historic England, The Charles Archive has been electronically catalogued; a digital photographic archive of important material has also been created and made accessible via the Archaeology Data Service and Worcestershire and Worcester City Historic Environment Records.

To read more about cataloguing the archive, 📴 🔣 scan here



For more in-depth information why not explore Freddie and Mary's work in more detail in Charles. F.W.B, 1967, Medieval cruck-building and its derivatives: a study of timber-framed construction based on buildings in Worcestershire in the Society for Medieval Archaeology's Monograph no 2 and F.W. B Charles & Mary Charles, 1984, Conservation of Timber Buildings.

Explore the Past









and works of F.W.B 'Freddie' & Mary Charles

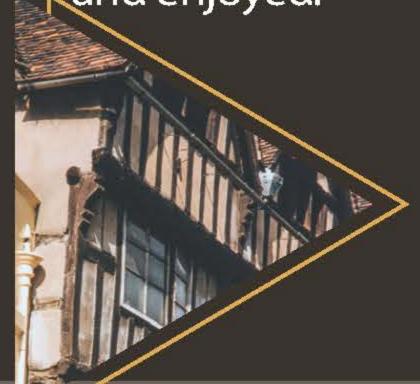
www.explorethepast.co.uk/project/charles-archive

Timber-framed Buildings of Worcester

This short walk around Worcester City Centre was inspired by the life and works of FWB 'Freddie' and Mary Charles, whose architectural practice recorded and conserved many of Worcester's most iconic timber-framed buildings from the 1950s to the 1980s.

More details about the Timber-Framed Buildings of Droitwich trail can be found at www.explorethepast. co.uk/project/charles-archive/DroitwichTrail. Further details of the project to catalogue the Charles Archive and a number of blog posts featuring some of the buildings you can see on the trails, are available on the Explore the Past blog (www.explorethepast.co.uk) or scan the QR codes to find out more about the buildings themselves, their association with the Charles family practice and the wealth of historic archive material available.

Many of these buildings are open to the public as coffee houses or pubs so the original features can be observed and enjoyed.



This guide includes a few hints and tips on 'things to look out for' as you visit these sites.



Golden Lion

Hidden behind the 18th-century façade of the former Golden Lion Inn is a three-bay medieval merchant's house dating to the early 15th century. Fully restored in 1988.



Reconstruction drawing of the Golden Lion

103 High

While the ground floor appears

much altered, the Georgian

façade of this building hides

another early timber-frame.

Believed to date to around

to the central building truss

(forming a huge Gothic arch)

The building was saved from

demolition in the mid-1970s.

Many of the later Georgian and

Victorian shop fronts in the City

conceal earlier timber-frames.

as 'one of the most remarkable

1400, Freddie Charles referred

(© WCC Charles Archive)

Curved brace and moulded wall post in the passage provide some of the evidence for dating the building

To read more about the Golden Lion and 103 High
Street, scan here:





103 High Street in 1951 (Worcester City Conservation Photograph Collection)



Guesten Hall Ruins

These ruins are the in-situ remains of the medieval Guesten Hall – a building whose outstanding 14thcentury roof structure has been salvaged twice since demolition in 1862. This arch-braced, open timber roof was first adapted for reuse at Holy Trinity Church, Shrub Hill and then sympathetically restored to form the New Guesten Hall at Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove.



Removal of the Guesten Hall roof at Holy Trinity Church, 1969 (© WCC Charles Archive)

To read more about the Guesten Hall, scan here:



The Commandery

Arguably one of their most important projects, the Commandery museum including the 15thcentury solar wing, canal range and collapsing frontage shop were restored by the Charles practice between 1986 and 1988.



The formerly slumped timber frame was corrected and windows restored to their 16th-century appearance



The Commandery in the 1970s, prior to restoration (© WCC Charles Archive)

The Charles' vision fo the Commandery canal range, 1987



To read more about the controversy surrounding **Hereits** the 1980s restoration, scan here:



44 Friar Street

Survey work before restoration in 1984 revealed that this late 16th-century house once had a jetty at first floor level and was originally gabled over the street. The original façade was reinstated based on this evidence.



surviving fragments of 16th-century wall paintings inside on the first floor, partly uncovered during restoration.



building may have looked in the 16th century



structural condition (© WCC Charles Archive)



Nash House

This jettied house was built in 1605 for Alderman John Nash, a wealthy clothier and twice Mayor of Worcester. While this building was not the subject of restoration by the Charles practice, it did provide their office space for many years. These photographs were included in the Charles Archive and show the building prior to restoration by architect Henry Gorst.

Nash House prior to restoration (© WCC Charles Archive)



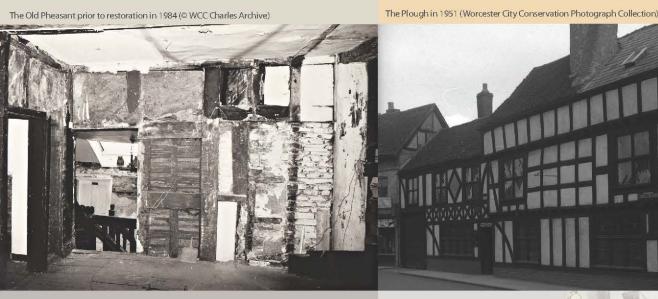


The Old Pheasant

Restored in 1984, the Pheasant was originally built in the late 16th century as a large town house, becoming an inn at the end of the 18th century.



The carved and gilded console brackets to the carriage drive



King Charles House

Part of a large merchant's house, built for William Blagden and Richard Durant, King Charles House dates to 1577. The jettied upper storey was restored by FWB Charles in 1986, following a major fire which destroyed the roof. The original jetty had been removed in the 19th century and was reinstated by the Charles practice from surviving evidence.

This building is traditionally the place from which King Charles I escaped after the Battle of Worcester in 1651.





The Plough

The Plough is likely to have been built in around 1600 and was sadly demolished to make way for City Walls Road in 1972. According to Freddie Charles the building had been 'horribly Victorianised' but he was able to reconstruct how it may have looked when first built by observing the building during demolition.

To read the full story of the Plough Inn,







20 Mealcheapen Street

Reconstruction drawing of the Plough by FWB Charles (© WCC Charles Archive)

Built as a shop and house in the mid-16th century, number 20 is another very striking example of a full restoration by the Charles Practice. Built as a shop and house between 1500 and 1550, this building was part of a thriving retail street close to the bustling Cornmarket. The building was clad in brick during the 18th-century but the 19th-century shop front was removed during restoration due to structural concerns.

IIII



Clasped purlin roof with curved windbraces

Design for reconstruction to 20 Mealcheapen Street (FWB Charles) 20 Mealcheapen Street (G R Fletchers) in 1951 (© WCC Charles Archive)









Protruding timber pegs in timber-framing, characteristic of the **Charles practice** restoration works following historic practice

King Charles House after the fire