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To whom it may concern,

Several generations of my family have lived at 83 High Street, Barkway, certainly for more than 150 years.

I have clear memories of visiting my grandmother there during the 1950s and 1960s when there were only rudimentary electrics, a single water tap in an outhouse and also outside toilet facilities. Inside, an earth-floored pantry ran along part of the rear (now part of the kitchen). Further along the back were two storage areas under the thatch which were accessible from the cottage by a solid door. I am including photos and context below to support these statements.

Following my grandmother's death in 1973, when my mother inherited the cottage, my parents undertook a major renovation (after obtaining the necessary planning permissions), renewing the electrics and adding central heating and plumbing for the first time. As part of the renovations, windows were added to the rear ground and first floor rooms and the old back door was replaced with French doors. Over time, these single-pane windows have aged and begun to fail: the timber frames have started to rot and the glass has cracked. Additionally, they are extremely draughty, making heat conservation very difficult and energy costs unnecessarily high.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Elizabeth Layton

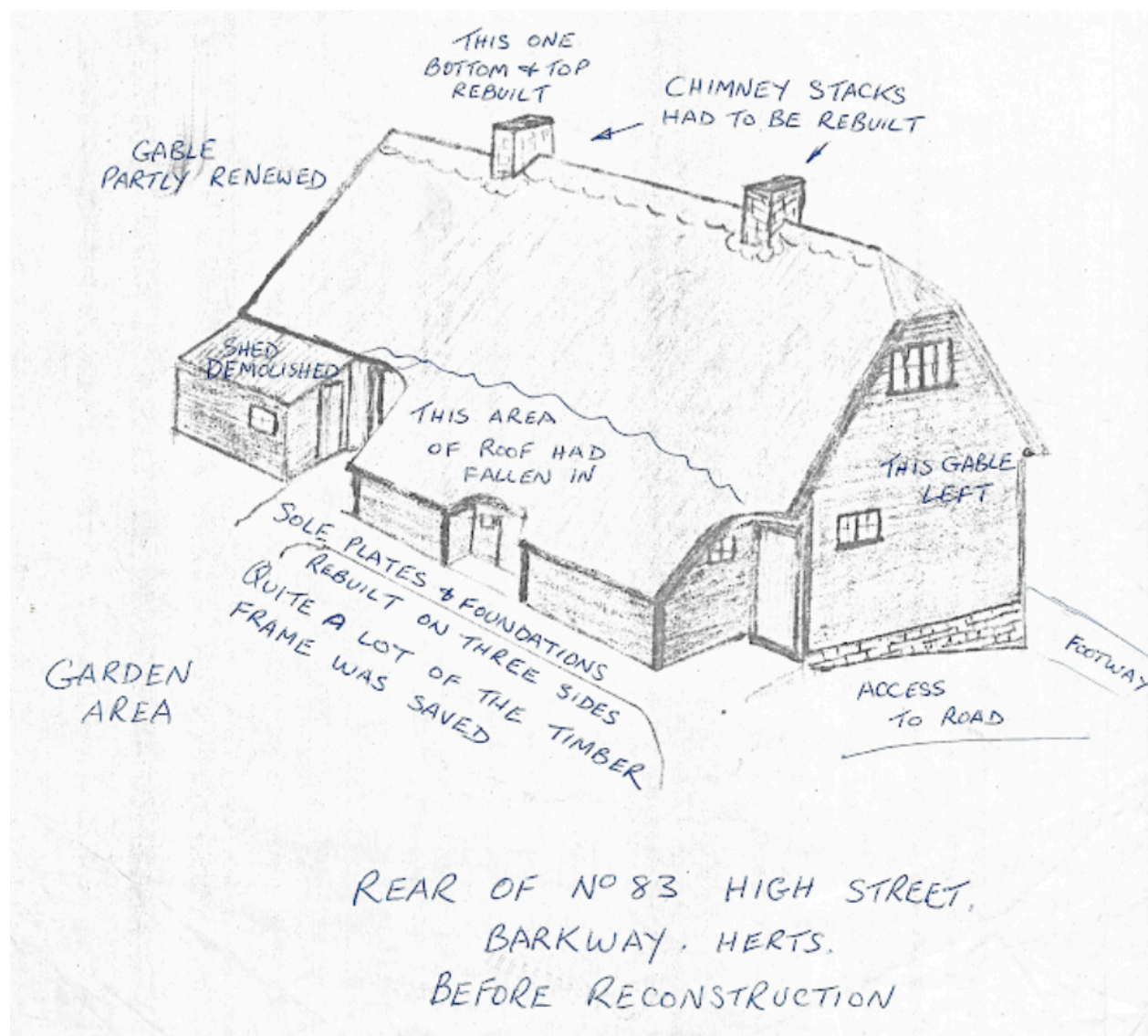


IMAGE 1: Sketch of the back of 83 High Street detailing the condition and renovation work required, circa 1973. This shows the rear of the house before windows were added in 1974.

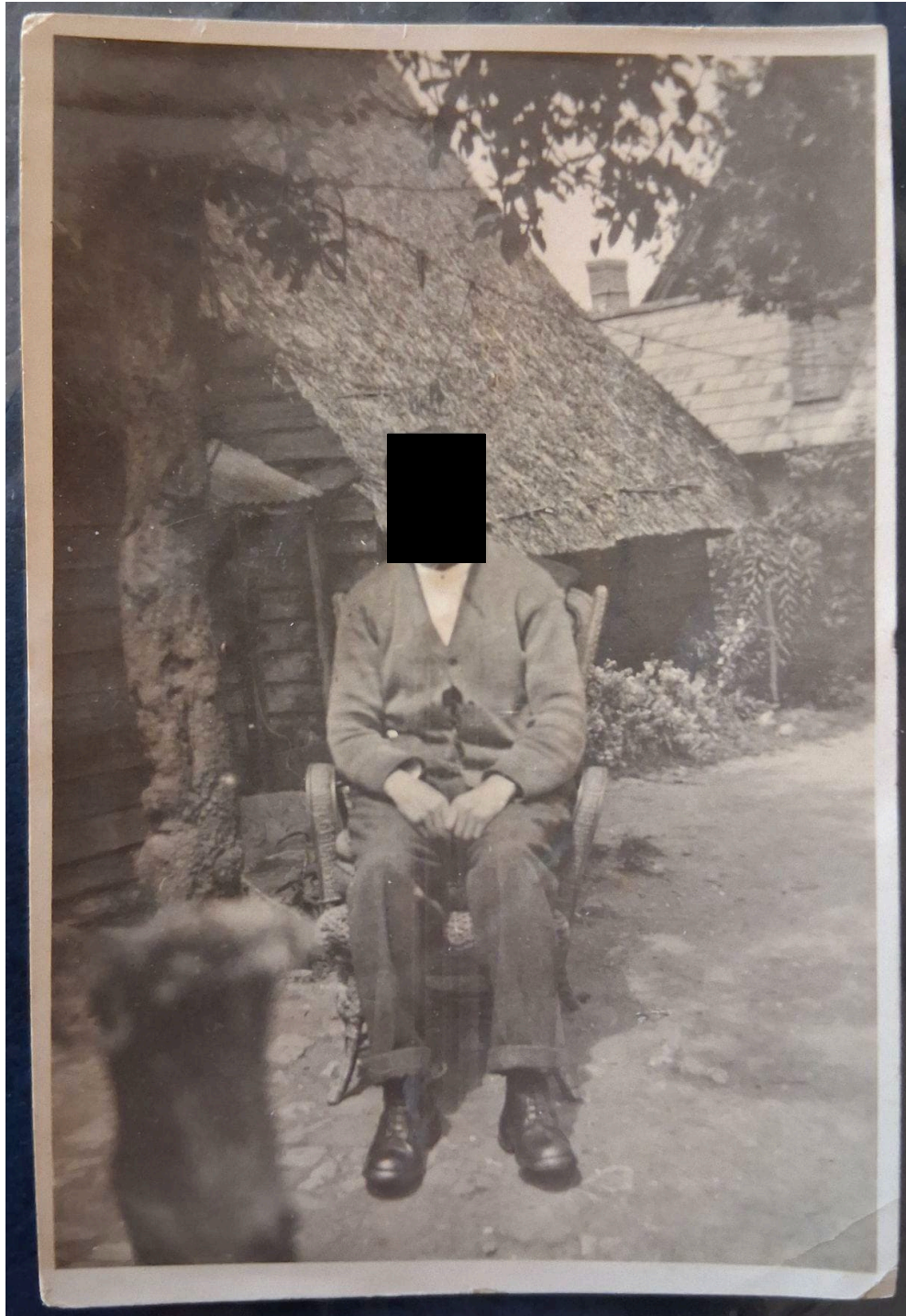


IMAGE 2: The rear of the house, circa 1930s. This earth-floored storage area was converted into the kitchen in 1974. You can clearly see there are no windows here.



IMAGE 3: During the renovation process, 31 October 1973. This old storage area was converted into the kitchen.



IMAGE 4: During the renovation process, 31 October 1973. This shows the living room area viewed from behind the house. The wooden back door seen here was replaced with French doors.



IMAGE 5: During the renovation process, 12 March 1974. The bathroom, living room and middle bedroom, seen before new windows and French doors were fitted.



IMAGE 6: During the renovation process, circa March 1974. The new windows are installed.



IMAGE 7: Following the completion of the renovation process, December 1974.