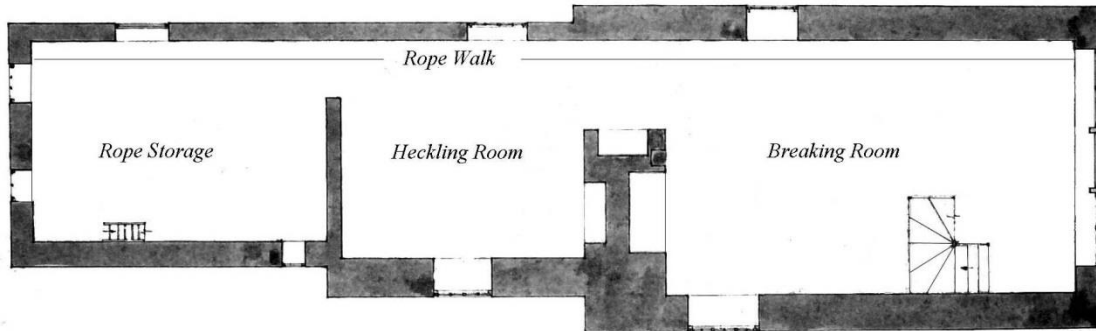


ROPERS, CHURCH ROAD

“Ropers” in Church Rd. was built about 1700 as a rope makers workshop, with living accommodation on the first floor. Rope was made from locally grown hemp, and the business thrived until the mid-19th century when local workshops were put out of business by rope production on an industrial scale.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN SCALE 1 : 50

c. Marcus Riggs

In the late-19th century the premises were being used as a beer house, “The Ship”. This was closed by the Licensing Act of 1904 (the Balfour Act), which restricted the number of licensed premises permitted in a community.



By the 1930s there was a shop operating from Ropers selling groceries and hardware, and it was about this time that the thatched roof was replaced by the pink asbestos tiles recently removed. The original rope walk, which extended the full length of the ground floor, still survives as a passage running front to back.

