

The 1669 Probate Inventory of John Oswin, weaver, Cossington, Leicestershire, *Newsletter* 78, pp. 19-21 — a further note

In this article I attempted to analyse the probate inventory in terms of what furniture was in which room, but was left uncertain as to the possible location of the weaving loom which was listed separately. No chamber over the hall was listed, so I suggested that this could either have been a house which retained its medieval open hall quite late, or that the loom could have been in the hall chamber. I was unsure whether a loom would fit in this space until I saw photos of The Weaver's House in Coventry which someone had posted on Facebook.

This is one of a terrace of six cottages built in Spon Street in 1455, now called Black Swan Terrace, and has been restored and furnished as it might have been in 1540. This is a much smaller house than John Oswin's,

and the loom takes up the whole of one of the two chambers, which are open to the rafters. Clearly then a surmised chamber over the hall in John Oswin's house would have been plenty big enough for a narrow loom worked by a single person, along with its 'warpfatt Geere and other Implements belonging to the trade round about'. It would of course have needed a strong floor to support it but that would rarely be a problem in a house of this period. One can imagine the rhythmical sound of the loom in operation reverberating throughout the house, wherever it was located.

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