HARVARD HOUSE

Carved over the doorway of what is now Harvard House (No. 26 High Street) is the date of 1596, indicating that the previous property on the site was consumed by the fire of 1594 or of 1595. The date of rebuilding is confirmed by carbon-dating of the timbers - dendrochronology.

The property belonged to Thomas Rogers who also owned the property next door (Nos. 27 and 28 High Street). Here the StratFire Project found timbers dating from 1431-63, so this cannot have been as severely damaged in the fires of the 1590s.

One of Roger's grandsons was John Harvard, benefactor of Harvard University – later giving his name to the property.

Rogers himself was a successful butcher, and also a corn and cattle merchant. He served as Alderman for the Stratford Corporation with William Shakespeare's father, John.

When Rogers died in 1611, the property passed to his son who was a maltster, producing malt used in brewing beer, and then to a grandson who was a bookbinder.

Later residents included a blacksmith, a bookseller, a plumber, a succession of ironmongers, tailors called Thomas and Harvey Williams and, from 1871, an estate agent**.**