

Documentary History for
**Harfield Cottage 7 Bicester Rd, Long Crendon,
Buckinghamshire**

Site Code: LON-N

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

Nat Alcock and Dan Miles



Fig. 1. View from the north

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LON-N: HARFIELD COTTAGE 7 BICESTER RD, LONG CRENDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Grid reference: SP 6934 0866

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Documentary history by Nat Alcock and Eric Sewell, building on the work of John Chenevix Trench†.

For court roll and documentary source references, see the bibliography of primary sources:

Abbreviations:

ASC	All Saints College, Oxford
Bodl	Bodleian Library, Oxford
CBS	Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies
CofE	Church of England Record Centre
TNA	The National Archives

SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This house is the northernmost of a terrace of four buildings sharing a slip of land in the middle of the Bicester Road. It was probably originally of three bays and now contains three pairs of crucks. At least one has a type W apex (truncated blades).

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Summary

Surprisingly from its situation, this apparently insignificant house, islanded in a roadway, was in reality the messuage associated with a yardland, although the two houses sharing this island appear to be encroachments on the waste. It can be traced in this form as an All Souls copyholding from 1533 until 1810, when the land-holding was mostly dispersed. Thereafter, it was subdivided into four cottages. It was enfranchised in 1896-8.

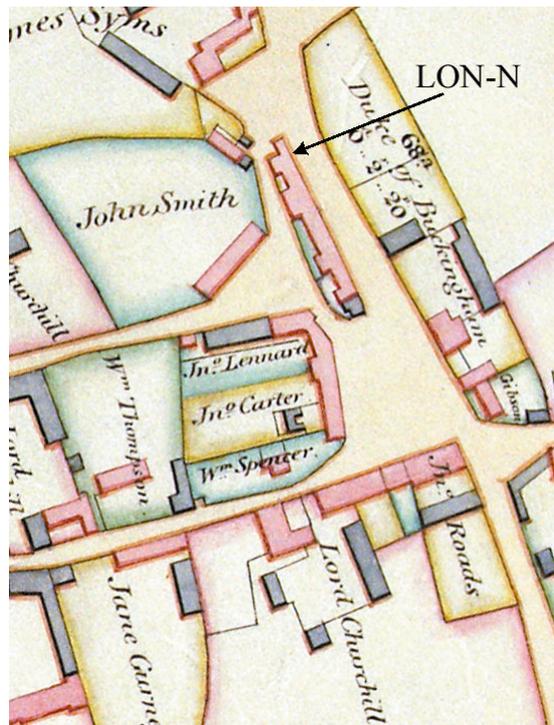


Fig. 2. Part of the 1827 map of Long Crendon (CBS IR/95/Q).

Topography and identification

Although it has no owner's name directly attached to it on the 1827 Old Enclosures map (Fig. 2), the nineteenth century history shows that it was part of the property held of All Souls College by John Smith. This comprised the north end of the range of buildings on the east of the narrow lane called Bilwell, together with the croft and buildings lying on the other side, with his name against them)¹ Although Bilwell is now a proper street, this part of it can perhaps better be thought of as a farmyard which provided a short-cut to the Bicester Road for those coming from the west of the village. The cottage is identifiable from the sequence of manorial admissions leading to the 1896-8 enfranchisement, which can be correlated with the 1910 Valuation description.

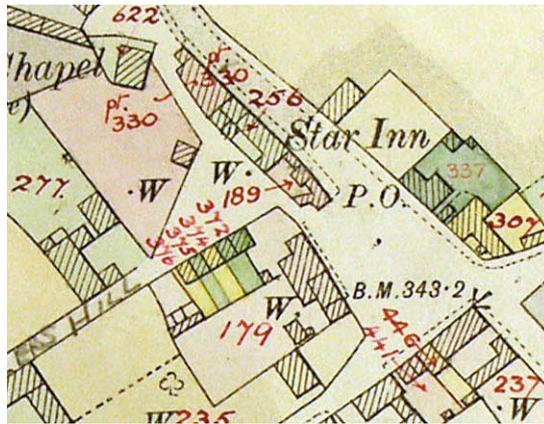


Fig. 3. Part of the 1910 Valuation map of Long Crendon. Harfield Cottage is hereditament 330. (TNA, IR 126/1/345).

The central part of the island block was the Star public house (5 Bicester Road), and the southern part (1-3 Bicester Road) contained a house and shop in 1910. It would seem plausible that these two buildings formed part of the Harfield Cottage copyhold, but in reality it appears that both were freeholdings, probably created as encroachments on the waste. The Star had certainly been in existence since the eighteenth century and possibly earlier.²

Court References

The messuage that became Harfield Cottage was associated with one yardland in the open fields. It is first firmly identified in the hands of the Appulford family in 1553, on the admission of William Appleford, following the death of his father, Thomas.³ It passed in 1607 to Richard Cox and was then held by this family until 1810-11. In those years, Thomas Cox (admitted in 1787) broke up the holding, and several admissions to his former property are recorded.⁴ The messuage itself with 6¼ acres of land was acquired by John Smith, senior, who also obtained 15½ acres held from the Windsor manor by Edward Thompson.⁵ However, he immediately mortgaged this land and when his son, John Smith junior,

¹ He had in fact died in 1825.

² The Star public house was originally of timber and thatch until a fire of 1868, after which it was rebuilt in brick. Records of licensees naming the inn go back to 1753, when a victualler's license was granted to John, son of Thomas Dodwell at the Star (CBS, Q/RLV/1-8), but it may have existed as early as 1668, when Tho Dodwell, victualler, married Sarah Percy (the first reference to the family in the village). It was a freehold belonging to Benjamin Field of Thame in 1833 (CBS, PB/R/1 (Register of Electors)). It paid a 4d quit rent to the Windsor manor (CofE ECE/6/1/124/15), and it is probable that 3 Bicester Road is the 'house and shop on Bicester Road' in the same list in the ownership of T.H. Coles, also paying 4d.

³ The spelling of the family name is variable, but Appulford seems to be the most frequent form.

⁴ He had already mortgaged it on two occasions, to his mother for £700 in 1794-5, and to John Winslow for £400 in 1800-1.

⁵ He was a farmer, living in Chilton.

was admitted in 1824-5, all he received was the messuage, its yard and garden, and the barn, stable, and cowhouse. Perhaps it was hoped that the lands could be redeemed, but the second John died in 1825, leaving his sisters to inherit the property, Eliza immediately and then Elizabeth in 1835.⁶

Further subdivision took place thereafter. In 1838 Elizabeth Smith, sister and heir of John, junior, sold a strip at the far side of the garden to Thomas Briscoe, on which he built the Dog and Gun public house. In the same year, she surrendered the rest of the property to Andrew Wall, baker, subject to receiving an annuity of 5s per week and the right to live in part of the property, which had been converted into four cottages.⁷ However, in 1845, Elizabeth married William Pritchard, labourer, of Long Crendon, and in 1847, Andrew Wall surrendered the property to him (no doubt cancelling the annuity). In 1860, the latter sold it to Andrew Shrimpton, who died in 1863, and was succeeded by his son, Albert, who enfranchised the property in 1896-8 and was still the owner and occupier in 1910.

Admissions to Harfield Cottage

1553: Tho APPULFORD†, messuage & 1ydl (ASC), heir is Wm APPLEFORD son

1593: Wm APPULFORD†, messuage & 1ydl (ASC), surr to widow no male heir

1607: Alice APPULFORD widow, messuage & 1ydl (AS) previously Wm APPULFORD, surr to use of Ric COX.

1645: Ric COX† holding messuage & 1ydl (AS), William COX son, admitted [Bodl, Ms top.gen.c43]

1682: Wm COX, messuage & 1ydl (AS), surr to Wm COX son, minor, adm 1685.

1717: Wm COX†, messuage & 1ydl (AS), surr to Wm COX heir aged 16.

1738: Wm COX†, messuage 1ydl (AS). Wm COX jun s&h but a minor

1752: Wm COX† messuage & 1 ydl (AS). His son, William, yeoman of LC admitted.

1787: Wm COX† 1 ydl (AS) occupied by Thomas Cox. Thos COX son & heir admitted.

1810: Tho COX, corndealer, messuage, barns etc & 6¼a (AS) (admitted as heir of Wm COX 1787) lately occupied by Joh COX, surrendered to John SMITH yeoman.

1810: Edw THOMPSON, 15½a in fields (W), surrendered to Joh SMITH of LC, admitted.

1811: Joh SMITH, 15½a (W) lately occ Edw THOMPSON & then Joh SMITH, conditionally surrendered to John LAMBOURNE of Ludgershall, yeoman.

1811: Joh SMITH, 6¼a (AS), conditionally surrendered to John LAMBOURNE of Ludgershall, yeoman.

1824: Abstract of Claims:

John Dodwell as mortgagee of John Smith, 6 ac in Cow Commons, Free [allotment 86, 3.0.7]

John Hollier (administrator of John Hollier decd), as mortgagee of John Smith, 5 ac, Free [allotment 140, 2.0.0]; Jn Lambourn of Ludgershall, as mortgagee of John Smith, 6¼ ASC [allotment 51, 3.0.0]; same, 15 ½ ac, W [in all. 50, 8.0.0]

1824: John SMITH jun admitted, son & heir of John SMITH senior, to messuage, barns etc (AS) formerly occ John COX. John senior died many years ago when John junior was an infant. John junior surrendered to use of Susannah his mother. [Court Book, p. 209]. On death of John junior, property left to JS sen's sister Eliza [*sic*, probably correctly sister of John junior] who also died. Elizabeth, only surviving child of John senior, is the heir. She is adm to 8a-1r-25p awarded to John LAMBOURN, which is then surr for £175 to Wm PHILLIPS, brewer of Bicester.]

⁶ The final disposal of the land seems to have taken place in 1832-4. An impression of over-stretched finances is confirmed by the entry in the record of Entry Fines, that John Smith had not paid his fine because 'it was considered too great' (CBS, D78/1 (Schedule of Fines)).

⁷ Andrew Wall, baker, was her tenant, listed here in the 1841 and 1851 census enumerations. In 1868, when the Star inn caught fire, it destroyed the rear of Mr Wall's premises, where there was a bakery (Thame Gazette 10 Nov 1868).

- 1825: John SMITH now of full age, son & heir of John, adm messuage, barn, stable, cowhouse & other bldgs, yard & garden adjoining (AS), formerly John COX, immediately surrenders to his own use self with remainder to Susannah SMITH, widow, his mother. He died and it passed to his sister, Eliza SMITH.
- 1827 Enclosure Map: John SMITH
- 1835: Susannah SMITH, widow, messuage etc (AS), surrendered to Elizabeth SMITH sister & heir of Eliza SMITH her eldest daughter
- 1838: Eliz SMITH, 1r-12p being the SW part of the garden of messuage, surr to Tho BRISCOE.
- 1838: Elizabeth SMITH spinster, surrenders messuage divided into four, to which she was admitted as heir of her sister Eliza & her mother Susannah, to the use of Andrew WALL baker, on condition that 5/- per week be paid every Sat to Elizabeth SMITH during her life & subject to her being allowed to occ part of the premises. Excepts: part of yard & garden surrendered to Tho BRISCOE.
- 1847: Andrew WALL, message divided into 4 cottages (AS), surrendered to Wm PRITCHARD [who had married Elizabeth Smith in 1845].
- 1856: *Surr by Thos BRISCOE of LC, victualler, for £100 paid by Thos ROBERTS of Haddenham, blacksmith, for 1r-12p (AS) being part of garden of Eliz SMITH adm 1838, with messuage lately erected & used as beerhouse called the Dog & Gun.*
- 1857: *Messuage, buildings, yard, garden surrendered by Eliz Smith to Thos Briscoe, then divided into 4 cottages occ by Wm Brown, John & Wm Hollyman & Eliz Smith. [ASC Box 21, survey]*
- 1860: Surrender by Wm PRITCHARD of LC, farmer, for £96 paid by Andrew SHRIMPTON, baker, messuage bldg, yard & garden for some time time past divided into 4 cottages. occ by Wm Pritchard, Thos MUNDAY, Bethia GOLDBER & Andrew WALL. Wm ELLSON of Towersey admitted 4 Dec 1860 on payment of £100 to Andrew Shrimpton [mortgage]
- 1863: Andrew SHRIMPTON†, messuage divided into 4 cottages (except such part of yard & garden that Eliz SMITH surr to Tho BRISCOE) to which adm 1860 on surr for £96 by Wm PRITCHARD, occ by Eliz SMITH, Joh & Wm HOLLYMAN, & Wm BROWN, late of Wm PRITCHARD, Tho MUNDAY, Bethia GOLDBER & Andrew WALL now of Jonah SAYER, Helen MUNDAY, Hen CADLE & Tho BRISCOE. To Albert Richard SHRIMPTON, his son (adm 1871).
- 1868: Part adjoining *The Star* belonging to Mr WALL destroyed in fire.
- 1869 All Souls Copyholds: Messuage with buildings, yard & garden adjoining (except such part of yard & garden surr by Eliz SMITH to Joh BRISCOE) divided into 4 cottages occ by Eliz SMITH, Joh HOLLYMAN, Wm HOLLYMAN & Wm BROWN, copyholders Elizabeth SMITH 1835, Andrew WALL 1839, Wm PRITCHARD 1847, Andrew SHRIMPTON 1860. Subject to 5s paid by Andrew WALL to Eliz SMITH during her life & right to occupy 2 rooms.
- 1871: Albert Ric SHRIMPTON admitted to messuage now 4 cottages occ Jonah SAWYER, Helen MUNDAY, Henry CADLE & Thos BRISCOE.
- 1882: *Surrender by Caleb & Sarah NEWTON of LC, beer retailer, £325 paid by Wm Shillingford, brewer of Bicester, Dog & Gun beerhouse (AS) late Thos Briscoe, Sarah NEWTON adm 1882 as devisee of will of Thos B*
- 1896-98 Enfranchisement: To Alfred R Shrimpton
- 1931: *Enfranchisement: Billwell, Dog & Gun : Eliz SMITH, Thos BRISCOE, lately Geo BASSETT now Sarah Jane HUMPHREYS on surr of Edmund Augustine HANLEY (plan)*

Building References

In the Hearth Tax return, William Cox is listed with two hearths.

1910 valuation. Hereditament 330, north end of block, with garden to west, Owner/occupant Albert SHRIMPTON. Freehold. House of brick & thatch, [bedrooms] all in roof, 2 lower rooms, kitchen. Shop, bakehouse for 8 bushels, outhouse. Garden opposite. Stable of brick & stone with loose

lumber place, trap house. Quit rents 1s 7d to All Souls; ½d to Lady Kinloss, 7d to Windsor.

Hereditament 256, cente of block: Star public house, owned Walton Brewery, Aylesbury, occupied Henry Bird. 3 bedrooms & club room upstairs; bar, parlour, tap room, kitchen, cellar

Hereditament 189, south end of block: owned Mrs Emma Holland, ocupied Thomas White. house and shop, 2 bedrooms & 2 downstairs rooms, store.

Hereditament 277 (the part of the garden surrendered to Thomas Briscoe). Former Dog and Gun public house.