

Little Mascalls, West Hanningfield Road, Chelmsford CM2 7SY.
Heritage Statement for part of the former farm site. 04 11 2016.



2013 Google earth. Location of Little Mascalls



2013 Google earth. Detail of the site showing the building under study now under trees.

Location

Little Mascalls, West Hanningfield Road, Chelmsford CM2 7SY. The site of a former barn, now under trees, is to the SW of the house. Centred on TL 732114 02485.

Listing – only the house is Listed.



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© Mr Brian Martin LRPS

IoE Number: 112614. Location: LITTLE MASCALLS, WEST HANNINGFIELD ROAD
GREAT BADDOW, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX. Photographer: Mr Brian Martin LRPS.
Date Photographed: 20 August 1999. Date listed: 19 June 1975.
Date of last amendment: 19 June 1975. Grade II.

1. GREAT BADDOW WEST HANNINGFIELD ROAD. 5213. Little Mascalls.TL 70 SW 13/666
Grade II

2. Approached by a drive from West Hanningfield Road. A C18 red brick house built
on an L shaped plan. 1 storey and attics. Small casement windows with lattice
leaded lights. Roof tiled, mansard, with 2 flat headed dormers. Renovated in
the C20.

Listing NGR: TL731450254

Scope of this Report

This report investigates the historical evidence for a timber-frame barn that has been
demolished in order to inform a modern development on the site.



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The Planning & Design Bureau Ltd	
Plan Title:	Site Location Plan
Site Address:	Land at Little Mascals, West Hanningfield Road, Great Baddow
Proposed:	Replace Dutch Barn (PP for Dwelling) with New Barn Dwelling
Plan No:	PDB/16/59/01
Scale:	1:250

2016. Site plan showing the site under study.

Historic Photography



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C20th photograph of the barns in a deteriorated state.

This photograph taken before the barns were renovated in the early 1970's offers some detail of the double Essex barn that was on the site. The roof can be seen to contain paired flat rafters and was clad with thatch fixed to riven laths. The flank walls are finished in large panels of lath and daub or lime plaster above runs of weather-boarding. The frame is revealed in the centre and has a mix of wide and narrow studs indicative of a c.1800 design.

The two porches are weather-boarded and have tall upper doors indicating they were built for threshing. The porches are two different sizes and this is often an indication that two barns have been conjoined to form a larger double barn. A weather-boarded outshot has been added to the northern porch (RHS) with a tiny window. There is another outshot parallel to the axis of the barn by the southern porch. Both outshots are under clay tiled roofs.

The buildings to the north (RHS) all have clay tiled roofs and are open fronted and railed with rustic poles to house animals. There is also a split stable door for a horse stall.



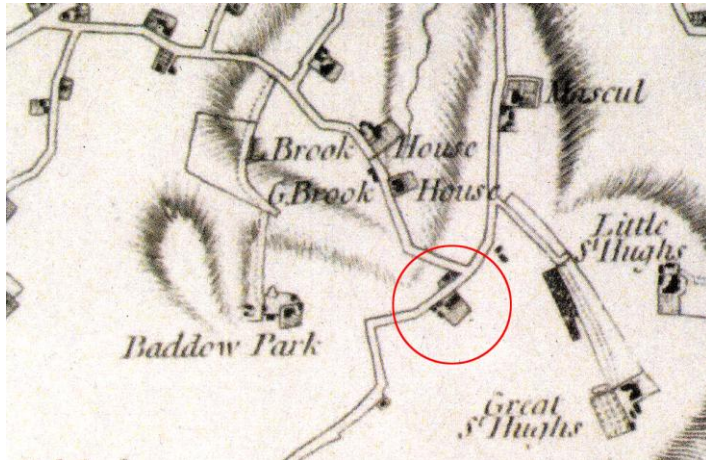
1972. Photograph showing the north end of the barn after remodelling.



1980's. Aerial photograph from the SW showing the farm buildings.

Both photographs show the buildings as renovated in the LC20th. The upper one is dated to 1972 and the lower one is a common style of aerial photograph sold door to door in the later 1980's. The buildings have corrugated iron roofs and weather-boarded walls. The porches have garage style doors.

Topographical Survey from Maps



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1777 Chapman and Andre's Map of Essex.

The 1777 map shows the site of Little Mascalls unnamed. Within the boundary is a large building corresponding to the farmhouse, two buildings near the road and another that corresponds with the northern half of the former barn. To the NE is 'Mascul'.

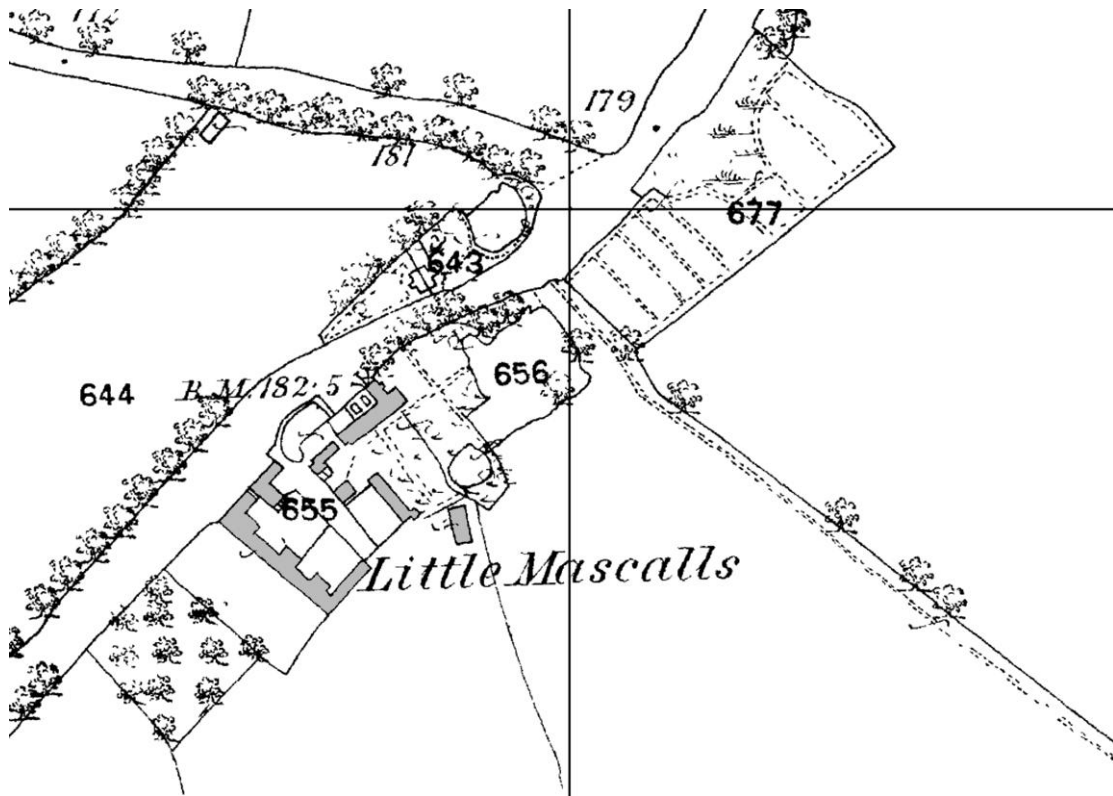


1838 Tithe Award Map for Great Baddow. ERO D/CT 13B.

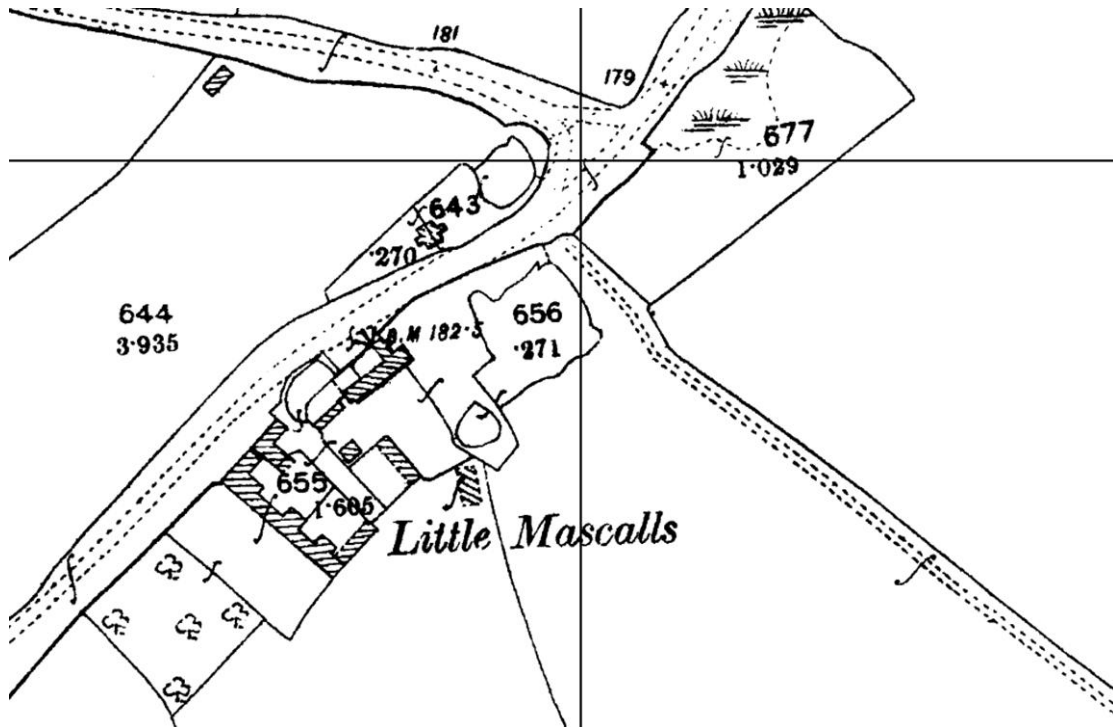
The Tithe Award Map for Great Baddow shows the site has been developed with a larger building on the site of the barn, apparently with only one porch. The other buildings have been conjoined. The farmstead occupied Plot 714 Homestead and belonged to the Revd John Jefferies and was occupied by Charles Wilkinson who is listed in White's Directory of 1848 and 1863 as farmer at Little Maskells.



Barry Hillman-Crouch
Design & Recording Services



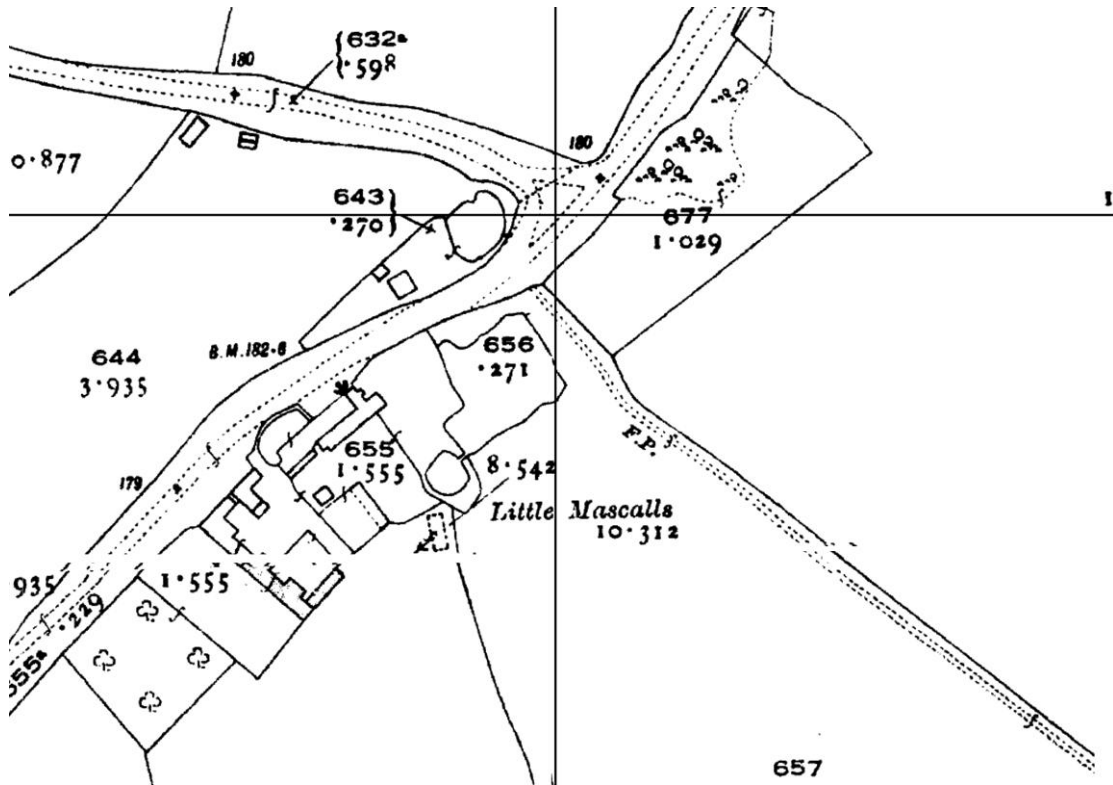
1874 First Edition Ordnance Survey.



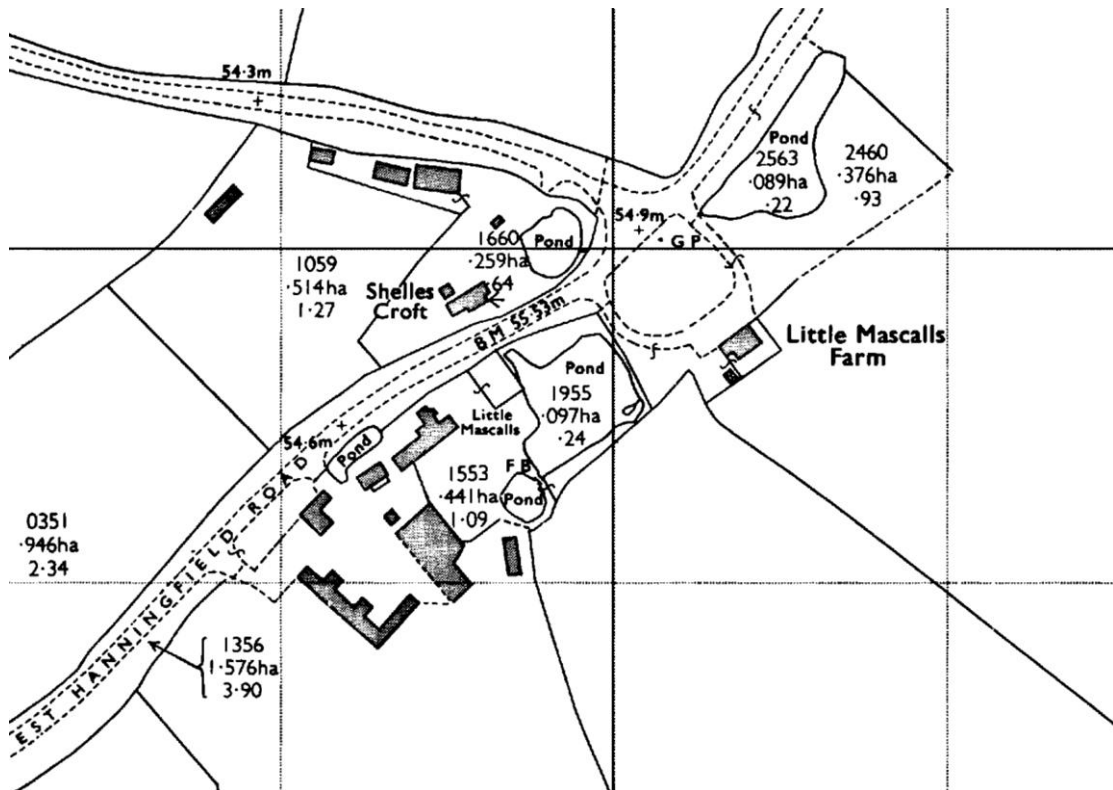
1896 Ordnance Survey.



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1921 Ordnance Survey.



1970 Ordnance Survey.



2000. Google earth.

Discussion

Map evidence suggests that a building on the site of the barn was extended to twice its size between Chapman and Andre's Map of 1777 and the Tithe Award map of 1838 being drawn.

Photographic evidence suggests that an early barn with paired flat rafters was added to with a frame constructed of scantling. The most likely period for this to happen was during the period of the Napoleonic War.

After the French Revolution of 1789 there was a long period of instability culminating in the Napoleonic Wars of 1799 to 1815. Britain and France declared outright war in 1803. England also went to war with the USA who in 1807 declared the Embargo Act preventing European vessels from trading with America. War was declared in 1812 and ceased in 1815.

The Barn was a typical building of the Napoleonic War Era which ignited the rush for farms to convert to grain production to capitalise on the grain embargo imposed during the hostilities from AD1799 to AD1815.

'Napoleonic Barns' sprung up all over Essex. They are built to a pattern, one that does not reflect the earlier barns and their intrinsic dimensions based on rods. They were composed of simple frames using primary bracing with nailed in interrupted studs. At the same time wrought iron fixings, in the form of screw threaded bolts and the traditional 'blacksmith's joints' were being incorporated in the build as part of the original design and removed the need for heavy jowled posts. Spandrels were replaced with hanging knees bolted into place which were economic on space as well as materials. They also allowed free movement in the haylofts which had become a feature of the barns.

Eventually the wars came to an end and trade resumed its old pattern which was disastrous for the newly improved farmsteads. There was an exceptional harvest in 1813 which drove the prices down due to over-supply. The farmers had borrowed heavily to build their new buildings and the resulting decline in prices led to a recession.

The economic climate would have been reflected in the farm buildings whose function may have been changed when the farmers used increasing mechanisation in the production of grain to reduce their labour costs. The Outshuts may have been added as a result of these improvements and changes of process.

By the 1840's the concept of Victorian High Farming emerged. According to G.E Mingay in Victorian Countryside (2000) High Farming 'was the achievement of high production by the widespread application of new knowledge and equipment. Land was drained to grow more grain and other food for more and fatter stock, yielding in turn more manure and heavier crops.'

At Little Mascalls by 1838 we see a fully developed farmyard system fully corralled for animal husbandry. As Mingay says 'To house valuable stock, preserve its manure and promote greater efficiency in the working of the greater complexities of the system, new buildings in new configurations were required. Implements of unprecedented complexity and dedication to single tasks became increasingly common and steam power invaded, first the barn and eventually the field.'

Little Mascalls maintained its economic prosperity through the Victorian period and each successive mapping of the site sees an increase in the number of buildings. The barns become fully encapsulated in the farmyard. In the C20th this trend is reversed and the farm buildings are gradually removed.

The historic photography reveals that the barns were allowed to fall into disrepair in the post WW2 years until they were re-roofed before 1972. Many of the other buildings were demolished but new outshots were added to the barn and to the east a huge modern hay barn, often also used as cow byres, was erected.

Many small farms were driven out of business by EU directives on hygiene regulations and the demands of the supermarkets in the 1990's and 2000's. These new regulations made the buildings unsuitable for the processing and storage of foodstuffs and they became effectively large sheds. Not big enough for modern agricultural machinery they became uneconomical to maintain and were either removed or converted.

Significance

The site represents a former Napoleonic War era barn added to an earlier timber-framed barn now only known from photographs. The buildings were lost before AD2000 having been photographed as complete in the late 1980's.