

Town Hill

[From The Square to Undercliffe.]

Lying on the southern side of Town Hill , the houses shown on the accompanying diagram feature on the 1817 Lane Fox Estate map , and the first O.S. map of 1849. Later in the century , in the 1880 's , " Squire George " Lane Fox owned the land on the cliff at the rear and the property towards The Square , and James Robinson owned Undercliffe up the hill to the east . Between lay the houses which exist today , though, as the diagram shows , they had rather more to them then. Each had its garden , privy , shed and pig sty . At the eastern end , just before you get to Undercliffe , was a cart entrance to the smithy and stabling which lay behind what was the butcher 's shop.

Harry Tindall has listed the names of those dwelling in this part of Town Hill after the First World War as , from west to east :

Up the passage F. Dodd , then , in order : J. Stockdale , G. Summersgill , B. Houston , J. Sanderson , W. Hill , B. Houston, and W. Robinson . Then followed the butcher 's shop and , behind , the blacksmith 's . In 2000 , a concreted private drive covers where the public entrance to the smithy and the other buildings lay.



Town Hill in earlier days , and in 2000. Note the tall building , now demolished , which was the cottage let by the Bramham Park Estate to the Rev. Bownas in 1818 , and became known later as the Reading Room [see the book , pp.75 -7] . The cottage one up from this , of a similar vintage , was occupied in the early C20 by the elderly Bradleys ; she kept a draper ' s shop there , and he liked to sun himself on the road opposite in straw hat and captain 's chair.



In 1817 **John Bradley** [stonemason of Bramham] purchased a piece of land from **William Wilks** [yeoman of Bramham] , **John Wilks** [schoolmaster of Aberford] and **John Scrivens** [tallow chandler of Aberford] . The price was £ 44 “ of lawful English money “ . The land was described as being “ part of the Dodgson Garth lying north against Town Street containing 13 yards in length and 24 yards on towards the east and adjoining Abraham Rhodes ‘s house and premises ,.... also 36 yards east adjoining the premises belonging to the Reverend Robert Bownas, and 17 yards lying west and south adjoining premises belonging to Richard Hill and William Wilks [see vendors] and now in the tenure or occupation of Richard Varley. “

The Dodgson Garth occupied by **Richard Varley** was recorded in the 1817 Bramham Park Tenancy Register , as were the two houses and yard on the site occupied by the William Wilks , Senior and Junior, and Thomas Wilks. Thus , in 1817 Wilks Snr. must have purchased the site from the Estate before selling the garth to John Bradley . Clearly , entrepreneurial property dealings were alive and well in Georgian times. The 1817 description of the site and its buildings was as follows :

“ Range of buildings , part slated and part thatched . East end occupied by Mr. Wilks Jr. One low room and kitchen with two lodging rooms [*ie. bedrooms*] over . One other occupied by Mr. Wilks Snr. In good repair . The old house contains two low rooms , kitchen cellar , two lodging rooms. In bad repair and unoccupied. West end occupied as plumber and glazier ‘s shop by Thomas Wilks . One low room. On the east side of the fold yard is a range of buildings used as barn , stable , cowhouse , pig sty and cart shed. In tolerable repair. Thatched , slated and tiled. West side of the fold yard is a small building occupied by Thomas Wilks. “

The probability is that the range of buildings described here as being on the east side of the fold yard are those which today comprise the outbuildings at the back of , and belonging to , Undercliffe.

At the time of the 1851 Census , the following lived at Undercliffe : **John Bradley** [36 , born Bramham --- presumably son of the 1817 John , and in the same trade as a stone mason] ; his wife Ann [36, b. Garforth] ; their children , two born in Bramham , Mary [10] & Emma [7] , and Jane [5] , born in Kippax.

A mortgage document dated 1877 mentions the first two John Bradleys plus another of the same name presumably born after 1851. **Jane Bradley** was still living there in 1872, was married from the house and died before 1877. By then **John Bradley** the grandson was an innkeeper in Carlton, York and now owner of the property which he mortgaged to **Thomas Edward Kele**, a gentleman of Wetherby, for £100.

However, four years later, at the 1881 Census, there were still Bradleys living at Undercliffe, this time **William Bradley** [31 and born at Tockwith, a carrier]; his wife Ann [35, born at Clifford]; and their daughter Lily [7 and born at Boston Spa]. They also had a neice, Isabella Stirk [11, born Clifford], living with them.

There are no deed papers to cover fully the next 50 years, though ownership can no doubt be traced in the available censuses of 1891 and 1901.

However when the house was sold in 1930 for £225, some details became clear. The vendors were **William Leathley** [tailor of Islington, London and formerly of The Square, Masham] and **James Robinson** [of Saskatchewan, Canada]. The purchasers were **William Thornton** [plumber, of The Bungalow, Bramham] and his wife **Norah Ruth Thornton**.

From the conveyance document of 1930, it would appear that the previous owner was an older **James Robinson** [gardener of Bramham] who had died in 1916; by his will, dated 1892, he had appointed the vendors above as executors. The document also refers to a recent tenant, **George Stockdale**. There is no indication when James Robinson acquired the property, or whether he lived in it. One other point of interest is that the house was now known as Undercliffe Cottage, and described as being on the south side of the Village Street or Town Street; it is also described as having out-buildings, a yard and a garden behind -- the first mention of the garden up the cliff.

In 1933 William and Norah Thornton sold the property for £350 to Miss **Doris Margaret Holmes** of The Windmill, Bramham who, in 1944, aged 49, married 58 year old **Walter Ernest Lock** [widower, and a joiner from Aberford]. As, on the marriage certificate, she gave her address as Mill House, Bramham, Undercliffe may have been let since she bought it. Doris died in 1970, leaving the property to Walter.

At about the time of his death in 1982 , Walter Lock was in the process of selling Undercliffe to **John R.A. Walker** and his wife **Jacqueline S. Walker** for £26, 000. The final transaction took place in January 1983 after Walter ' s death.

Two years later , in 1985 , the Walkers sold the property to **Norman and Margaret Thomas** , in a reciprocal deal which saw the Walkers buying the Thomas ' s house at 10 , Prospect Bank. Margaret and Norman lived at Undercliffe for 10 years , during which time they made considerable internal changes in bringing the property up to date . They moved to Boston Spa in 1995 , selling the house to **Paul R. Greaney** , who , working away , used it largely , with his partner Pauline Healy , as a weekend home .

Then, in _____ , Paul Greaney sold Undercliffe to

[Researched , written and placed in the Archive by Norman Thomas and David Machin .]



Summer 2003

Early 20th Century Town Hill

George Kitchen recalls that between Wood the Undertaker at Hillside and the Swan Inn there were 10 dwellings [some belonging to Geoff Wood , 3 to the Jessop family] , occupied , before many were demolished in 1962 / 3 , by the families :

Wood , Kitchen , Fox , Bullard , Raunds?, Alcock , Bendilow , Kitchen , Hyde and Cooper , the publican. Cooper used his back room as a mortuary for his undertaking second business , building his coffins there. Harry Tindall recalls having to walk through to get to their home at the back ; this involved crossing a plank which was laid across the open cellar , into which all sorts of rubbish was flung.

Alcock 's ran a shop -- " The Universal Provider " on a board outside -- selling flour , oatmeal and the like from large tubs.

Mid 20th Century The Crag

The top pair of semi's was not Council property , but was built by the Ramsdens of Bramham House [the Halifax Stone Trough Ale family] for their employees -- the grounds of Bramham House came right across to Town Hill at this point . They became Council property when the Estate was sold to the old West Riding C.C. in 1947 /8. The other three houses were very superior Council houses built in the late 1960 's. These replaced 12 small houses , demolished about 1966 - 8 , where the following families then lived :

Hatfield , Blenkins , Barton , Dickinson , Kitchen , Robinson , Bullard , John William 'New Year ' Maud [born on 1.1 , hence nickname !] , Johnson , Richardson , Bowman , and the parents of Mrs. Brearley , who lived later in one of the three new houses.

It was New Year Maude, a mason and entrepreneur , who started developing the cottages next to The Swan , refusing to accept money on Sundays.

The Bramham book recalls that the archway just discernable once led into the yard of a coaching inn on this site. A stone dated 1667 was found in one of the old cottages. Here there was also a two - man prison under the floor , hewn out of the rock , with access through a trap door ; presumably prisoners could be housed there overnight as their captors broke their journey at the inn.



Hillside, and its
bungalow. Just below,
the building used as a
Chapel of rest in late

(20)



SE44SW

BRAMHAM CUM OGLETHORPE
LS23

TOWN HILL
(north side)

1/54

Hillside

Grade II Listed

Farmhouse, now house. Possibly early C17, cased in stone in later C17; altered. Coursed magnesian limestone blocks, pantile roof. Linear 3-cell plan, formerly with lobby entry (altered). One and a half storeys; at junction of 1st and 2nd cells, a 2-light sliding sash in place of former doorway, with large rectangular lintel above it, and to right of this an inserted doorway with pantiled canopy; to the left the 1st cell has a very small square window and a large 2-light sliding sash, a gabled dormer above; to the right, the 2nd cell has a smaller 2-light window, the 3rd has a 2-light window and another gable dormer. Steeply pitched roof with ridge chimney in line with former doorway, another chimney at right gable. Interior: not inspected, reported to contain some evidence of earlier, timber-framed, building. Reference: RCHM Rural Houses of West Yorkshire 1400-1830, (1986), pp 192-3.





The Crag. See book page 48.



Westwood Cottage

CRAGG COTTAGE, THE CRAGG, BRAMHAM, LS23 6QB

Date built - Not known but a stone in the chimney stack is marked '1667'.

We understand that:

Cragg Cottage was originally two separate semi-detached cottages and there is evidence of a 'walled up' door on the eastern wall as well as of a further chimney breast and another set of stairs within the existing structure. We do not know when the original conversion was made but understand that it took place a considerable time ago. Further alterations and additions have been made since then. These include:

New chimney and chimney breast with a 'Welsh' style hood - probably done in the 1950s. We had the hood removed and a new stone fireplace with a 'living flame' gas fire fitted during the late 1980s.

Single garage and concrete ramp as above circa April 1966

'Alterations and extensions' for J Sutcliffe circa May 1970

'Joiners shop' built adjacent to the cottage - circa March 1976 - there was no evidence of this when we bought the property in July 1984

Porch and new rear doors to rear (south) side - circa June 1976

New hall, front door and 'study' extension built to the western side of the cottage - circa September 1977

Double garage, shower room/toilet and garden sitting room added to the western wall replacing the single garage and part of the porch above - circa October 1992

Cragg Cottage appears to have been a part of a complex of cottages and is said to have been a part of a 'coaching inn'. It was, at one time, linked to cottages across the road from it by an arch which was pulled down at the same time that the other cottages were demolished to make way for the present three terraced stone built houses. As we understand it, communal toilet facilities for these were at the top of the present road and a small grassed area was used for laundry purposes and as a children's play area.

The ground above Cragg Cottage was at one time an orchard and, when we moved in in 1984, two apple trees and a plum tree were all that remained of this. One apple tree was 'lost' in 1992 when the latest extension was built and the plum tree became rotten and fell down in 1997. Working on parts of the top area of the present garden has revealed a number of animal bones and we understand that this was part of an area used to bury infected cattle at an earlier date.

Various minor alterations were made to the garden between 1984 and 1998 when we had it redesigned and landscaped professionally.

OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

We understand that in the 1700s the cottage was occupied by a Mrs Jewitt (a 'washerwoman' and her son.

At some time it was in use for the overnight holding of prisoners 'in transit' and that there was a 'cell' under what is now the kitchen floor

From our deeds:

In December 1893, the property, with various other cottages in the immediate vicinity, belonged to John Cundall. Names mentioned (presumably tenants in these various cottages include) include Maria Dyson, Edison Robinson, Charles Haigh, Thomas Brook and Henry Cundall.

Flavels, Bowman, Potty Richardson

John Cundall died in 1907 and the property passed to his son John Henry Cundall and his wife Sarah.

John Henry Cundall died on 13 February 1947 and the property appears to have passed to Robert Henry Cundall and William Cundall and, in 1950 it was sold to James Frederick Miller and Vena Alice Arthur Miller.

It passed into the possession of John Raper Kettlewell, a builder of Boston Spa at some unknown date and was sold by him to Paul Lindley Dixon and Susan Alexandra Tudor Dixon who lived in it from 8 January 1971 to 1978.

Robert Bradshaw and Jennifer Catherine Bradshaw 1978 to 4 July 1984

Christine Anne Leaman and Paul Stuart Leaman from 4 July 1984 to date



Town Hill.

See book page 73.

Ashdown Cottage



Ashdown Cottage.

C. 1700 built [main beam has a stopped champher , ie.1700 or after]
as 3 x 2 storey cottages on 380 sq. yards , prob. owned by B.P. Estate.

1852 Group including a Lane Fox , Thomas Wharton of Aberford , French of Dublin and Oliver of London bought it as dowry for Elizabeth Gascoigne of Parlington when she married Frederick Mason , Baron Ashtown of Limerick . On his death , a childless widow , Lady Ashtown sold the then Hilltop , High Street [still 3 houses] by auction on 27.6. 1890 at the Bay Horse, Bramham , to John Burton of Holmfirth for £100.

10.1890 Bought by Rev. Solomon Isaacson.

11. 1899 Bought by George Smith , gamekeeper , for £90. He lived there with daughter , Alice Anne Smith , who married James Marron , a retired bricklayer, at Bramham on 24. 9 . 1910.

The third , lower house had been demolished after a Mr. Bendilow 's residence there . Now it became one house ; the dividing wall had probably been where the main beam upstairs lies.

6.1942 Alice Marron died.

8.1948 Bought by William George Charles Phillips , landlord of the Fleece Inn , Tadcaster , for £ 70.

1949 Bought by Emma Kendrew , related to Kendrew the coalman of Prospect House , opposite.

1951 Completely derelict , bought by George Edward & Peggy Kitchen from Mark Kendrew for £200. They raised Paul and Stephen there after George , a joiner and wheelwright , had spent 3 years making major repairs and alterations :
new staircase , replaced beams , replacement and new windows, etc.

8.1965 Bought by Arthur Smith for £2000 , initially as weekend cottage as he was Head of a residential school in Leeds. This period saw more works carried out :
rebuilt E end where leanto had been ; laid drive, caravan standing and garage [stone from old rail bridge at Tadcaster -- wrongly dumped in Geoff Wood 's garden at Hillside !] ; old toilet block at end of garden demolished where shed built from stone Arthur brought piece by piece from school , where a chimney had been demolished; porch added to house; garden , beforehand a slope full of old bottles , locks , keys , etc. , was paved and terraced.

1977 Arthur & Sally Smith moved in . Sally died 12. 1993.

Arthur died 12. 1993.



Town Hill





186

THE SWAN

VAUX GROUP

Legal Department
(Mrs L.A. Saville - ext 394)

Mr A. Tindall
3 High Street
Bramham
Wetherby
W. Yorks
LS23 6QQ

MIH/LAS

03 March 1997

Dear Mr Tindall

Re: The Swan Public House, High Street, Bramham

Thank you for your letter dated 24th February.

Since receiving your letter I have looked at the title deeds but unfortunately I can only give you information that the Swan consisted of a public house and two cottages from a Conveyance dated 1892. There are no conveyances between that one and the Transfer to this Company. There is a plan on file which relates to alterations dated 28th October 1927 when the public house was altered, I would think the cottages were already one by this time. I enclose an extract from a Conveyance dated 24.11.1887 for your interest.

I hope this is of some help to you.

Yours sincerely

Linda Saville
Securities Clerk

Enc.



2000



This Indenture

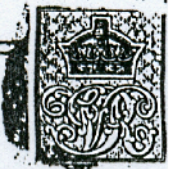
made the twenty fourth day of November

one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven Between Charlotte Young of Bramham in the County of York Spinster of the one part and Henry Herbert Riley Smith and Frank Riley Smith both of Tadcaster in the said County Brewers (trading under the style or firm of John Smith) of the other part.

Witnesseth that in consideration of the sum of Five hundred and fifty pounds as purchase money to the said Charlotte Young paid by the said Henry Herbert Riley Smith and Frank Riley Smith out of their Partnership assets (the receipt whereof the said Charlotte Young hereby acknowledges) the said Charlotte Young as beneficial owner hereby conveys unto the said Henry Herbert Riley Smith and Frank Riley Smith All that Messuage dwelling house or tenement Building yard garden piece of ground and premises as the same were formerly set out and enclosed when in the tenure or occupation of William Brearley of George Dunnington his under tenants or assigns which said Messuage and premises are now converted into two Messuages and premises one house being occupied by the said Charlotte Young and the other house in the occupation of

the part thereof occupied by the said Charlotte Young being now used as a Beerhouse Shop and dwelling house and premises which said

32-15



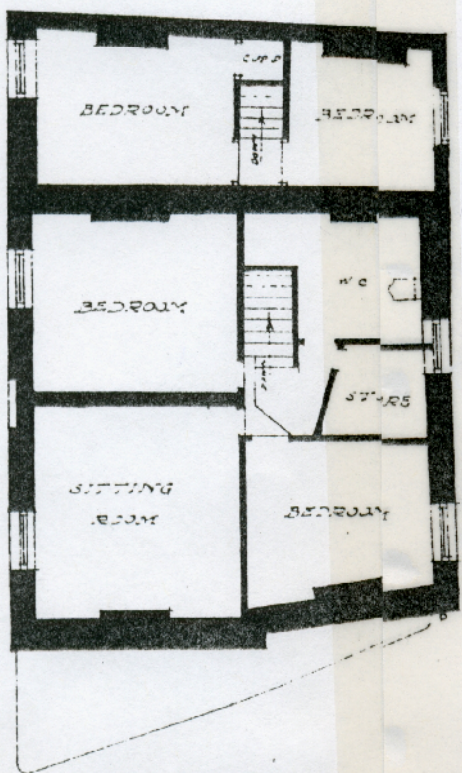
messuages dwellinghouses and premises
 are now situate lying and being adjoining
 to the Town Street of Bramham in the said
 County of York and before the said buildings
 were erected thereon were purchased along
 with other premises by the said William Backhouse
 of John Nelson of Bramham aforesaid And also All
that messuage tenement or dwellinghouse with the
Yard Garden and appurtenances therunto adjoining
 situate in Church Lane in Bramham aforesaid
 formerly in the occupation of Paul Burley Lee and
 then of John Bundle and now of Charles Richardson
 which said messuage and premises formerly belonged
 to the said Paul Burley Lee To have and to hold
the same premises Unto and to the Use of the said
 Henry Herbert Riley Smith and Frank Riley Smith
 in fee simple as joint tenants and not as tenants
 in common In Witness whereof the said
 parties to these presents have hereunto set their
 hands and seals the day and year first aforesaid
signed sealed and delivered

by the before named Charlotte
Young in the presence of
John Nelson
John Bundle
Charles Richardson

Charlotte Young
John Nelson
John Bundle
Charles Richardson



1928 Alterations



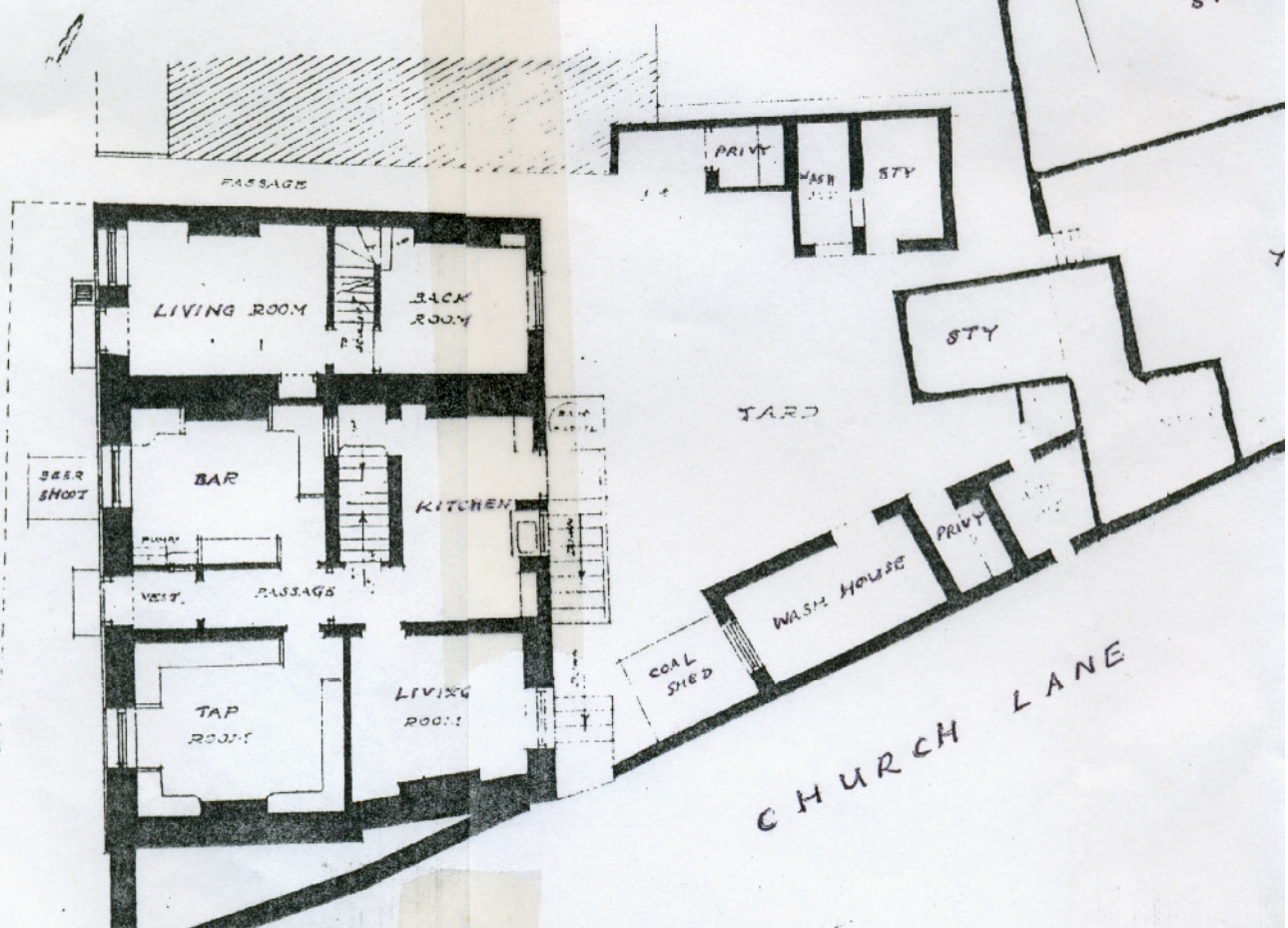
BEDROOM PLAN
AS AT PRESENT

WHITE

BELONGING TO

PROPO

Pre-1928



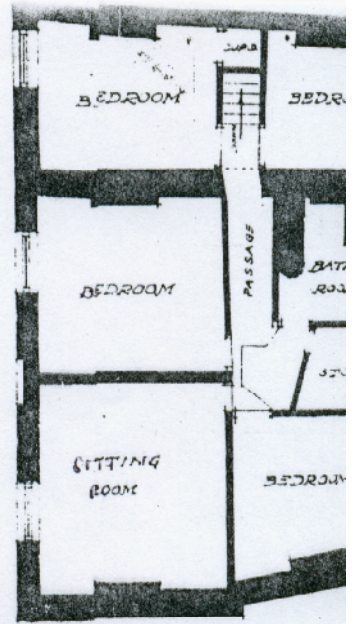
THE SWAN INN, BRAMHAM.

TO MESSRS JOHN SMITH'S LADCASTER BREWERY CO LTD

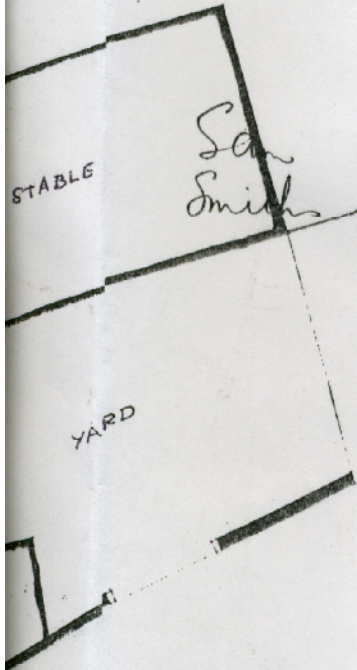
PROPOSED ALTERATIONS.

28 October 1928

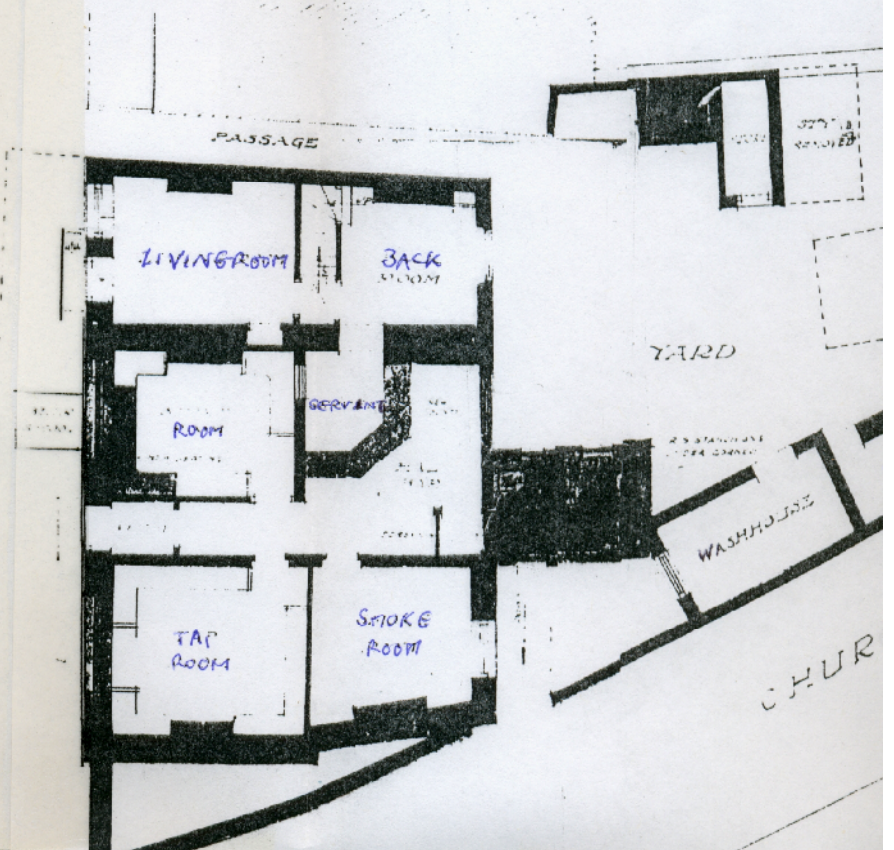
SCALE = 8 FEET TO ONE INCH



Post - 1928



HILL TOP

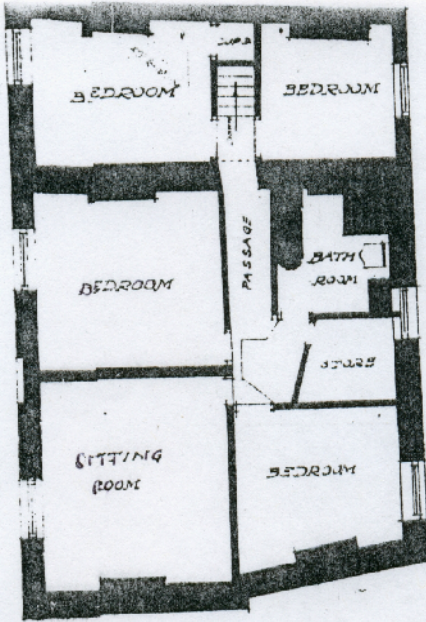


PAMHAM.

BREWERY CO. LTD.

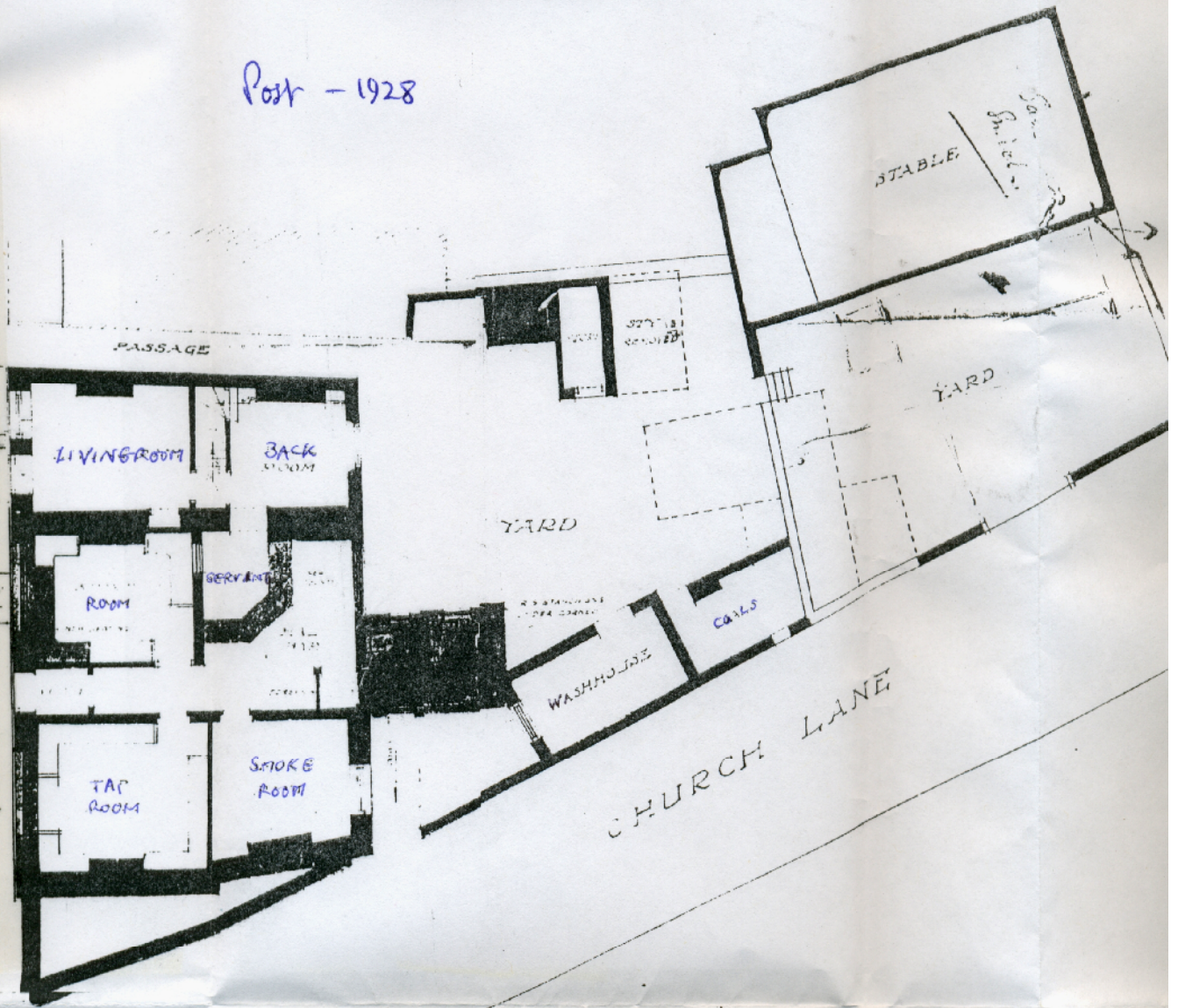
ONS.

Chairman:
28 OCT 1928



BEDROOM PLAN
AS PROPOSED

Post - 1928



GROUND FLOOR PLAN
AS PROPOSED