

Dear Mr Tindall,

Please find
attached a photocopy
of our report on the
Bigin.

Please contact me at the address
below if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely, Liz Churchman



WITH COMPLIMENTS

Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2JQ Telephone 071-973 3500 GTN:3503 Ext.

This is a large stone house of the 17th century, virtually entirely refitted in the 18th and 19th centuries. The house is of three storeys, and is double pile on plan, with a deeply-recessed hall range between flanking wings.

The 17th century house followed the same lines as the existing structure. Signs of earlier fenestration on the south front demonstrate that all the elements here - hall range and flanking wings - belong to the 17th century, and even the central door position may be original, for the plinth breaks for it and there are no signs of an earlier door. The present three-gabled elevation, with moulded copings and finial, probably belongs to the 17th century.

Neither the west nor the east front shows the slightest trace of 11th century fenestration, a fact which suggests extensive rebuilding. The north front, however, retains 17th century features. The east wing displays a mullioned transomed window of the type that must have adorned the whole house originally. It has shallow reveals, simple splays and a cyma-moulded hood mould over. The west wing has a blocked mullioned and transomed window - at second floor level, visible internally. The central range projects at the rear. This is unusual and is, perhaps, the result of the rebuilding, although there are mullioned windows in the north wall. In the roof at this point there is a suggestion that the last ten feet of the central range has been added, for the roofing changes character. If this is a correct interpretation, the central range would have been recessed behind the wings, giving an "H" plan overall.

The existence of these numerous traces of 17th century work shows that the early house was of the same basic form as the existing house. A central entry would have opened into a main hall. It is unclear how this hall was heated, for the present fireplace is late in date and the stack here is, perhaps, not of sufficient substance for 17th century purposes. The hall was flanked by wings which probably provided parlours to the south and service rooms to the north. The site of the kitchen is uncertain: a possible site is at the north end of the east wing, where there is a large stack. The area to the north of the hall (divided from the hall by a thin internal wall) was certainly a kitchen in the 19th century, but this could be the result of the rebuilding discussed above. An earlier, smaller, room to the north of the hall might have been a simple unheated service room or even a stair hall.

The roof of the 17th century house survives. It has tall king-posts with braces up to the ridge and single "V" braces. The scantling is not heavy, and this, combined with the form, suggests a mid-17th century date for the original house.

In the 18th century - or, if the rainwater head is to be believed, in 1756, the house was thoroughly remodelled by one "CA" (the initials on another rainwater head). The fenestration on the west, south and east fronts was modernised.

On the south front are Venetian windows (possibly later still?) and there is a segmental window on the second floor of the central range. On the west front the second floor has a raised apron below each window. West and east fronts have semi-circular bow windows with vermiculated plinths: there bays, too, are possibly later than 1756.

Internally the house was greatly altered. The central door, now with a shallow triangular pediment, opens into a large entrance/stair hall, rising through two storeys. The hall is heated by a small fireplace, with flanking Ionic columns and dentilled and egg-and-dart mouldings supporting the mantelshelf. The fireplace is markedly off-centre, presumably to allow room for doors to three rooms in the west wing. The stair rises round two sides of the hall. It has slender turned baluster two to a step), square newels, a moulded swept handrail and shaped cheeks.

The loss of the hall as a living room possibly explains some of the alterations effected in the west wing. The north room was given an external stack, thus blocking the second floor window referred to above. The large southern room in the wing is a creation of the early 19th century, made out of two smaller rooms. On the model of the east wing, the removal of the dividing wall would also deprive the rooms of heating, and consequently a stack was added at the south end of the room, blocking the Venetian window. The screen at the north end of this saloon - certainly the principal reception room of the house - has doric columns supporting a wall with a fluted frieze. This decoration and the reed moulded cornice point to an early 19th century date for these changes.

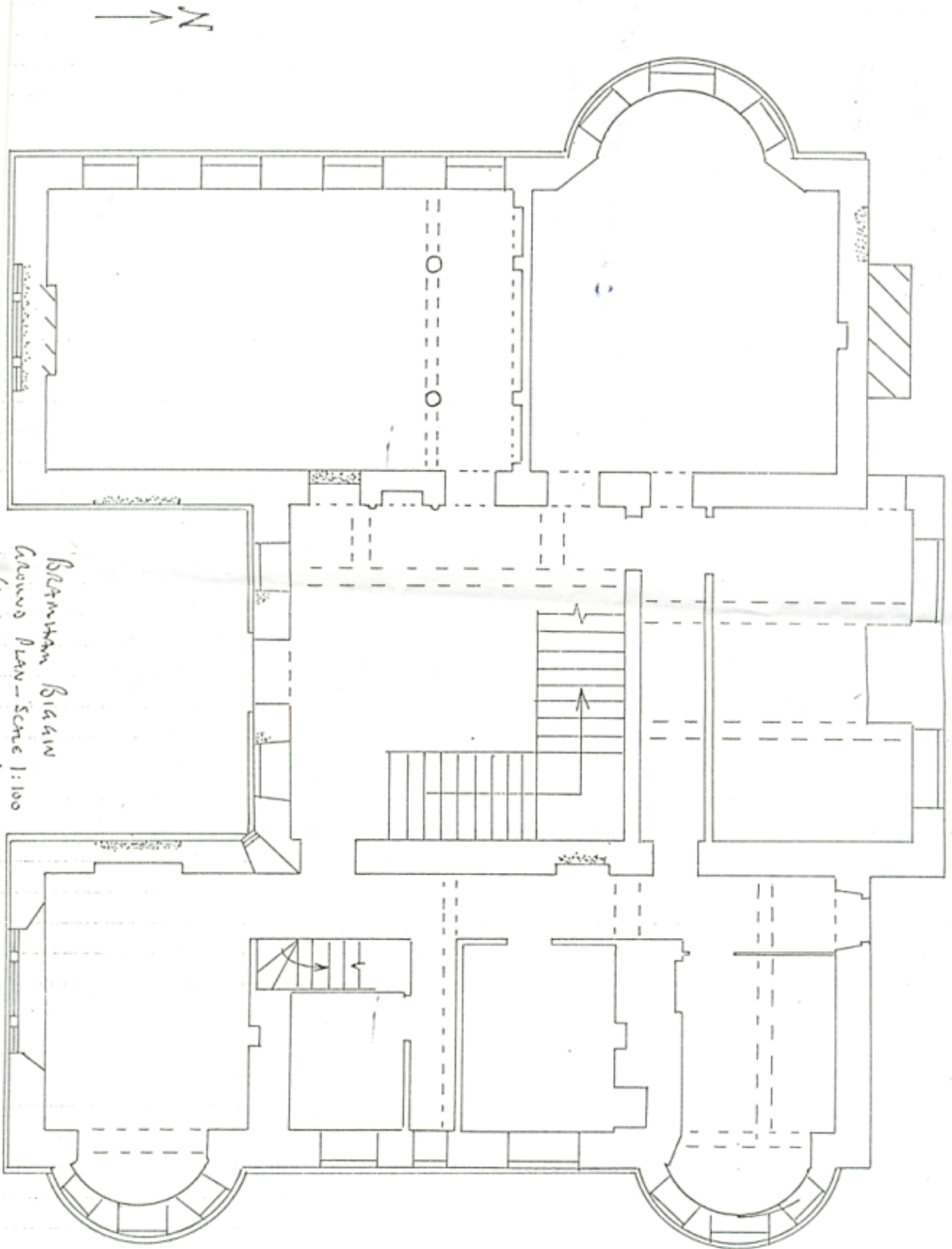
The east wing seems to have continued on the inferior side of the house, despite the added adornment of two two-storey bow windows. The northern of these two windows was added purely for symmetrical effect, for it is awkwardly positioned in relation to the cross-wall and incongruously lights a room of no pretension whatever. There is a parlour to the south of the wing, but otherwise the east wing seems - in the 19th century at least - to give a series of service rooms and a secondary stair.

County *West Yorkshire*

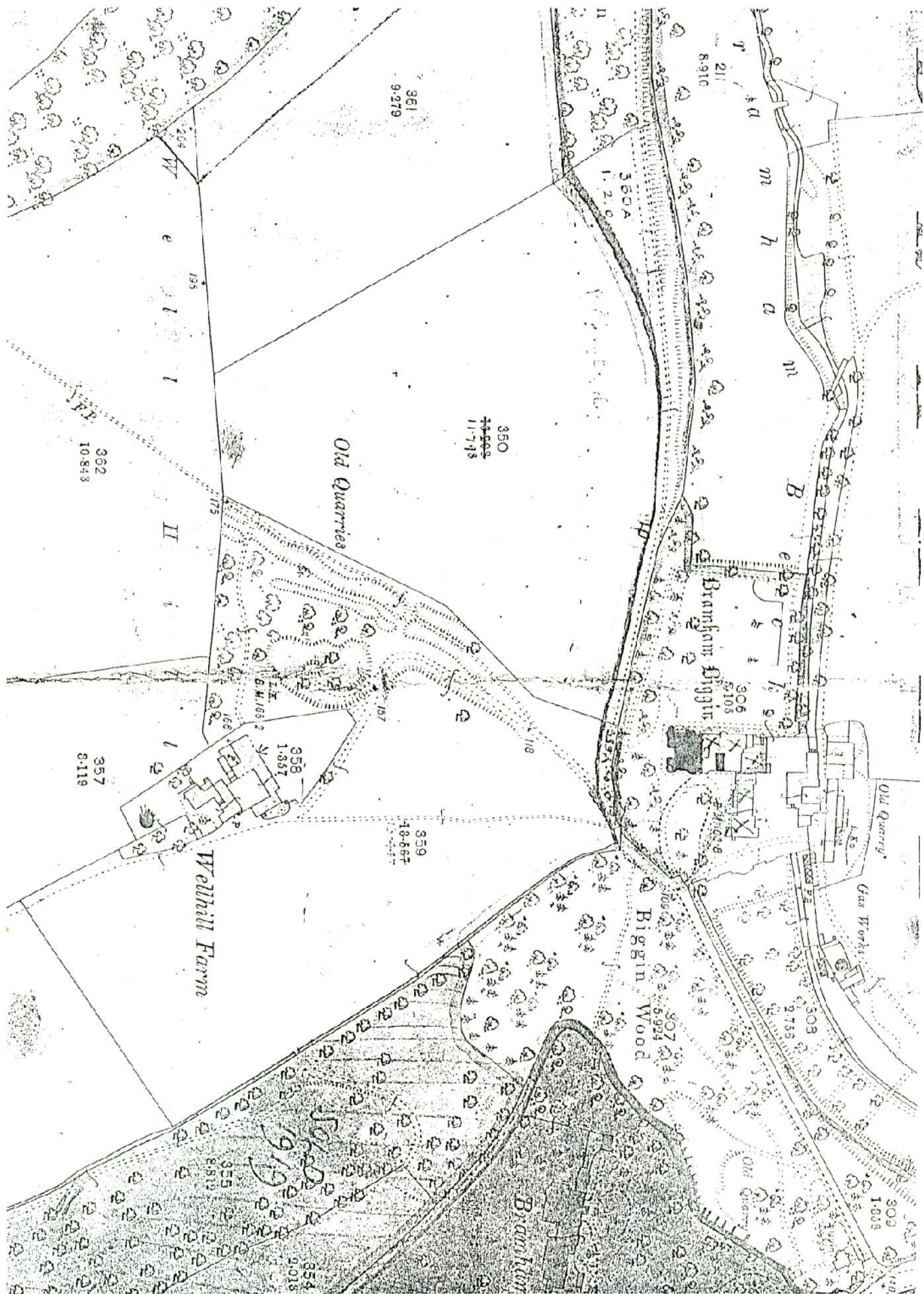
Parish *Batley*

Sub-Commission

No. of Monumen



*Batley Basin
Ground Plan - Scale 1:100*



Biggin goes on the rental market

HISTORY UP FOR GRABS!

Interest high in famous building

A HISTORIC English building is up for rent in the shape of the 17th century Biggin at Bramham.

The "des res" with a difference sits in its own five-acre grounds at Bramham Park and was formerly owned by Thomas Legh, one of Henry VIII's Crown Commissioners.

The centuries-old house, to be let unfurnished, has six ground floor rooms, six first floor bedrooms and eight attic rooms.

As well as the grounds, there are also outbuildings, including a garage and stables as part of the package.

The particulars from York-based estate agents

By
**JOHN
CARBERRY**

Before being passed on to Legh after the Dissolution of Monasteries, the Biggin was the Chantry for Nostell Priory near Pontefract.

Since then it has been occupied by "respectable families," adds the brochure. The house is currently empty but owned by immediate neighbour Mr George Lane Fox.

wanted. The building could be used for commercial or residential purposes.

"A lot of people are requesting particulars," added the spokesman from Smiths Gore.

Blaze tackled

FIREFIGHTERS from Wetherby tackled a Christmas Eve chimney fire at The Rowans last week.

A brigade spokesman

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SOME ACCOUNT OF BRAMHAM COLLEGE, AND THE
COURSE OF EDUCATION ADOPTED THERE.

NEAR, the Village of Bramham, to the south-west, is situated BRAMHAM COLLEGE, formerly known by the name of Bramham Biggins ; a place of great antiquity, and in days gone by, of great importance in the Parish ; and once the residence of Sir George Allanson Winn, Bart., who, in the year 1797, was created the first Lord Headley, of the peerage of Ireland.

After his Lordship's death, (the second Lord taking up his abode in Ireland,) Bramham Biggin was occupied by a succession of respectable families connected with the Aristocracy, among whom were the late Sir Edward Vavasour, Bart., William Lane Fox, Esq., and Captain Ramsden.

About the year 1843, the Rev. Benjamin Bentley Haigh, who had for several years occupied Grimston Lodge, near Tadcaster, as an educational establishment under Lord Hoyden, received an intimation

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SOME ACCOUNT OF

from his Lordship that he required Grimston Lodge for the residence of some other party ; and having for some time looked about in vain for a suitably place to which to transfer his establishment, he at length, at the suggestion, and we believe, through the recommendation Of the late Sir Edward Vavasour, took Bramham Biggin, on lease, and transferred his establishment thither..

And to indicate the high and noble purpose to which it would thenceforward be devoted, he soon afterwards very properly changed its name from BRAMHAM BIGGIN, to Bramham College

Since the Premises have come into Mr. Haigh's Occupation, they have undergone a variety of alterations and improvements. Many of the old unsightly out-buildings connected with the place, as a gentleman's residence, have been cleared away; and several handsome new ones erected for the accommodation of the College, at a considerable expense to the present occupier. And, while in their construction, necessity, utility, and convenienc, have been principally kept in view, architectural taste, elegance of design, and some regard to exterior decoration, have not been lost sight of. The approach to the College has been Wonderfully improved.. The neat rustic Lodge at the entrance, recently erected in a fancy-style of architecture, gives an air of elegance to it ; and the superb iron gates, suspended on lofty posts of massive sandstone, and

BRAMHAM COLLEGE.

flanked on either side with strung iron palisades let into solid Masonry, add a kind of aristocratic dignity to its appearance.

— The gardens and pleasure-grounds have been tastefully ornamented and re-arranged ; the former devoted, of course, to purposes of utility,—to the cultivation of herbs, fruits, and vegetables for culinary consumption; the latter exhibiting, to attract the eye and captivate the imagination, their flowery parterres, their rare shrubs: arid choice evergreens; their fantastic wirework interwoven with the blooming rose or the climbing clematis; all interspersed with smoothly-shaven lawns and neady-gravelled walks, and adorned at intervals with Roman urns or vases, wicker flower-sttuids, and other rustic devices: the Whole combining the useful With the delectable, or, to express the idea in classic phrase, "*miscens utile dulci!*"

In short, when viewed from a distance, BRAMHAM COLLEGE presents, as a whole, a far different and_ inch more magnificent and imposing appearance than it did when occupied as a private gentleman's residence. This is more particularly apparent when it is seen from the Lodge. To a Spectator viewing it from thence with its glassy dome and other ornamental appendages, with its rich sylvan scenery, displayed riot-only is the grounds contiguous to it but in the distant back-ground, the *coup d'oeil*,

1861 CENSUS - BRANHAM COLLEGE

No of Schedule	Road, Street and No./ Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Rel	Con	Age		Occupation	Where Born
					M	F		
22	Bramham College and Boarding School for Young Gentlemen	Benjamin B. Haigh	Head	Mar	57		Principal of Bramham College	Yorks. Gunthwaite
		Ann	Wife	"	59			" Dowsbury
		Emily A.	Dau	Unm	26			" Tadcaster
		Louisa J.	"	"	23			" "
		Francis	Son	"	21		Undergraduate of Cambridge	" "
		Emily A.	G/Dau	"	1		Visitor	" Boston Spa
		Juliana Clay	Niece	"	15		"	" Durham, Sunderland
		Stephen Wilson	Assist	"	49		Assistant Master	Yorks. Holperby
		Doran Brock	"	"	37		"	" Ireland
		David C. McClellan	"	"	21		"	" Nottingham
		John C. Johnson	"	"	24		"	" Scotland
		Charles E. Robinson	"	"	29		"	" Nottingham
		Maria Pick	Serv	"	22		Housemaid	Yorks. Gt. Ouseburn
		Jane Bailey	"	"	18		"	" Kirkbymoorside
		Ann Pinder	"	"	19		"	" Acomb
		Mary E. Crombie	"	"	21		Waitress	York
		Margaret Hunt	"	"	25		Cook	"
		Hannah Rawnsley	"	"	23		Scullion	Yorks. Otley
		Mary Clerk	"	"	22		Semstress	York
		Thomas Baynes	"	"	18		Pupil	Yorks. Harrogate
		Charles Kidson	"	"	15		"	" Durham Sunderland
		Roderick Swindolls	"	"	16		"	" Cheshire. Bilington
		Robert Harker	"	"	14		"	" Australia
		Edward Ballance	"	"	16		"	" Middx. Hackney
		George Ballance	"	"	14		"	" "
		Robert Hamilton	"	"	15		"	" India
		Thomas Dodgshon	"	"	15		"	Yorks. Morley
		Alfred E. Ballance	"	"	13		"	Middx. Hackney
		Spencer M. Smith	"	"	15		"	Yorks. Sheffield
		Charles Watson	"	"	15		"	" Leeds
		Elliot Thompson	"	"	15		"	" Bradford
		Edward P. Wood	"	"	15		"	Lancs. Manchester
		John Atkinson	"	"	15		"	Yorks. Bradford
		Arthur Dodgshon	"	"	13		"	" Leeds
		Jonathan Shutt	"	"	17		"	Middx. Linehouse
		Charles Odling	"	"	14		"	Lincs. Bealington
		Andrew Dezbrough	"	"	14		"	Midlothian
		William Hall	"	"	12		"	Yorks. Leeds
		John Sibree	"	"	15		"	" Hull
		Matthew Whitelaw	"	"	13		"	Scotland
		George Oldfield	"	"	14		"	Yorks. Huddersfield
		William Kipling	"	"	14		"	" Cleasby
		Joseph McGowan	"	"	11		"	" Leeds
		Alfred Howe	"	"	15		"	Lancs. Manchester
		John Howe	"	"	15		"	" "
		Henry A. Leigh	"	"	15		"	Cheshire Grapnel
		Francis G. Middleton	"	"	15		"	Durham Derlington
		Thomas Bowden	"	"	17		"	Lancs. Manchester
		David B. Bowden	"	"	15		"	" "
		Thomas W. Hall	"	"	13		"	Yorks. Leeds
		Robert B. Jackson	"	"	15		"	Lancs. Manchester
		Edmond Knowles	"	"	16		"	Yorks. Swaledale
		William Wilson	"	"	15		"	" Sheffield
		William Lucas	"	"	23		"	" Leeds
		John Sutcliff	"	"	15		"	" Halifax
		William Frank	"	"	15		"	" Kirkbymoorside
		Thomas Yates	"	"	15		"	" Leeds
		William Weeler	"	"	11		"	" "

No of Schedule	Road, Street and No. / Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Rel	Con	Age M F	Occupation	Where Born
		Richard Womersley			13	Pupil	Yorks. Calverley
		George "			11	"	" "
		Walter Powell			14	"	" Bramham
		Samuel Ambler			15	"	" Bradford
		Frank Bellachill			15	"	" Pudsey
		Henry Hill			13	"	" Wetherby
		William Foster			12	"	" Bradford
		John Harker			11	"	Australia
		Henry Middleton			13	"	Durham Darlington
		Charles Jackson			13	"	Lancs. Manchester
		Robert Foster			10	"	Yorks. Bradford
		Charles Oldfield			12	"	" Huddersfield
		Robert Asquith			15	"	" Leeds
		William Haigh			14	"	Lancs. Liverpool
		John R. Haigh			13	"	" "
		George Masser			13	"	Yorks. Leeds
		Matthew Knowles			15	"	" Swaledale
		Charles Bell			11	"	" Brighouse
		Charles M. Oates			12	"	York
		Arthur Pawson			13	"	Middlesex. London
		Henry Sutcliffe			13	"	Yorks. Shipley
		Hamilton Pawson			11	"	Middlesex. Hendon
		George F. Dodgshon			12	"	Yorks. Leeds
		John Perran			11	"	India
		Robert Anderson			10	"	Scotland
		William Berrey			15	"	Lancs. Manchester
		Joseph Hebblethwaite			12	"	Yorks. Halifax
		Joshua Taylor			11	"	" Leeds
		Frederick Walton			12	"	" Halifax
		Frederick Firth			12	"	Cheshire Northwich
		Walter "			10	"	" "
		Charles Pearson			14	"	Lincs. Crowle
		William Winter			12	"	Yorks. Boston Spa
		Thomas Taylor			11	"	Yorks. Leeds
		Henry Firth			9	"	Cheshire Northwich

1841 CENSUS: BRAMHAM BOARDING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES

Samuel Bownass	40	Ind
Sarah Stringer	49	F.S.
M.A. Bownass	40	School Mistross
B. Wormald	35	Assist School M.
H. Atkinson	15	" " "
S. Atkinson	15	" "
Mary Pollard	30	F.S.
Eliz. Poney	15	"
Ann Dykes	15	"

Note Pupils 1 boy aged 7
5 girls @ 10 years
12 " @ 15 "