

# **A History of SHOTTON HALL Shropshire**



*Photograph copyright: Mike Watson*

**Compiled by  
Rhys D Dyson Whatmore**



## **Dedication**

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Fred and Ursula Lennhoff who devoted their lives to helping young people and to giving them a better chance in life, and also to the people of Harmer Hill and the surrounding area in grateful recognition of the kindness, generosity and tolerance which they extended to many generations of Shotton boys.

## **Acknowledgements**

I am most grateful to all those people who have contributed to the production of this booklet. In particular I would like to thank Peter Fox and Michael and Dee Watson, current residents of Shotton Hall whose interest motivated me to research the Shotton Hall estate and who have provided both information and photographs; other current residents who have also assisted; former staff of Shotton Hall School especially John Lampen and Owen Booker, past headmasters; former pupils especially Edwin Thorpe of Wem; The Royal Archives for permission to reproduce the picture of the Marquis of Cambridge and Queen Mary; Marion Armitage for permission to reproduce the drawing of her father Fred Lennhoff; Derek M Walley for his help in dating the Wilding postcards of Shotton; Sandy Bullimore for proofreading the text; Martin Eliff for help with the Yuille family; Shropshire Archives for permission for reproduce the maps and for their general support; contributors to the Geograph website and lastly but not least Peter Saunders who drove me to Shotton Hall and Myddle on several occasions and took many of the photographs. If I have omitted anyone who helped, please forgive me and accept my thanks.

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[www.family-tree.co.uk/familyblogs/bessie](http://www.family-tree.co.uk/familyblogs/bessie)

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## Introduction

Shotton Hall is a medium sized mansion, located in the township of Shotton in the parish of Myddle in Shropshire. It is some six miles north of Shrewsbury on the Ellesmere Road. On approaching the village of Harmer Hill, the road divides – the left fork continuing to Ellesmere, the right hand fork going to Wem. Taking the right hand fork, one turns almost immediately right into Shotton Lane. Shotton Hall is about a hundred yards along the lane on the left hand side. A little further along on the right hand side of the lane is Shotton Farm with Rabbit Hill beyond.



*Extract from Robert Baugh's Map of Shropshire 1808  
reprinted by Shropshire Archaeological Society.  
Copyright Shropshire Archives*

The ancient township of Shotton included both what is now the Shotton Hall estate and Shotton Farm on the other side of the lane. The current house at Shotton Farm, according to the survey undertaken by the Department of the Environment was built in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century with late nineteenth century additions. Watkin Watkins, however, refers to building both a new hall at Shotton and a house for the tenant. This must have been between 1792 and 1811. Perhaps, then, the DOE survey has given Shotton Farm too early a date and it was in fact erected by Watkin Watkins. (1767 – 1849).



We are perhaps justified in thinking that prior to the time of Watkin Watkins, references to 'Shotton Farm' refer to a single estate consisting of what is now Shotton Hall and Shotton Farm with the house being the old Shotton Hall. Presumably two farms were created when the house was built at Shotton Farm. Bagshaw's Directory for 1851 (see below) states that 'in the last few years the two farms [i.e Shotton Hall and Shotton Farm] have been united.' In 1851 both farms belonged to Colonel Watkins. By the 1960s and probably much earlier, the estates had again been split – probably when Shotton Hall came to be regarded as a 'country house'. In the 1960s Shotton Farm was owned by the Mayall family of Lea Hall and it is still owned by this family today. A description of Shotton Farm is provided towards the end of this booklet.

Today, Shotton Hall has the appearance of a large Victorian house with battlemented bay windows opening onto a large lawn with extensive views to the east bounded by the Wrekin and the ridge on which stands the town of Wellington

To the rear of the house, and attached to it by a much later extension, is a two storey sandstone wing of some antiquity. Attached to this, and at right angles to it, is a brick built dwelling house. Beyond are various outbuildings.

The extensive grounds are bounded to the west by a high brick wall beyond which is a row of enormous pine trees and a lane. To the north and east the grounds are bounded by fields. To the south along Shotton Lane, the boundary is formed by a large stone wall which eventually becomes a fence. Beside this wall and fence lies ornamental woodland within which is a small ornamental pond and water channel.

My interest in Shotton Hall stems from the five years I spent there as a pupil in the 1960s when it was a boarding school, and a period of years later on when I served as Secretary to the Board of Trustees who ran the school in its latter days.

These notes are not intended to be a history of the school, but of the Shotton Hall estate from earliest times down to the present day.

## **Early history of the estate**

Prior to the Norman Conquest, Hadnall was held by a Saxon called Godwin, but after 1066 it was given to Roger de Montgomery. Roger granted Hadnall to Rainhald, Sheriff of Shropshire. At the time of the Domesday Book (1086) Hadnall was held by Osmunde, tenant of Rainhald.

David Hey (author of a book about Myddle under the Tudors and Stuarts), believes that at the time of the Domesday survey, Shotton township was probably joined to all the townships in the manor of Hadnall, but somehow Shotton became split off from the parent manor but remained attached to Myddle church. This split probably occurred before the building of the Chapel of Ease at Hadnall (12<sup>th</sup> century). By the sixteenth century the manor of Shotton consisted of just one farm, although Richard Gough (author of a history of Myddle) thought that at one time Shotton and Smethcott formed a single manor.

Hadnall then passed to William Fitz Alan, son of Alan – the progenitor of the Fitz Alan Family.

In the reign of Henry II, Hadnall was held by Gilbert, son of William. It seems probable that this Gilbert was the grandson of the Osmunde who had held the land in 1086.

## **The Banastre Family**

Gilbert's daughter Lettice married Nigel Banastre. They had two children Alice and William. This William or more likely his son is found in the Inter of Henry III (reigned 1216 – 1272) holding three hides of land in Hadenal of the fee of John Fitz Alan by the service of one knight's fee in the time of war.

The 'Testa de Nevil' which is a record of the latter part of the reign of Henry III states that 'William Banastre with his co-parceners holds half a knight's fee of John Fitz Alan in Hadenhal, Huston, Swetton [Shotton] and Smethecot.

William Banastre the Second had two sons Lawrence and William. This William is probably the same as the William recorded in the Inter of the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Edward I, (1295) holding land in Hadnall of John Fitz Alan.



In the Nomina Villarum of Edward II, (reigned 1307 – 1327) a William Banastre is shown as Lord of Little Hadenhele.

In the Guild Roll of Shrewsbury of 28\* Edward III (1354) there is a William Banastre of Hadenale, a burgess of the town. It is stated that he died without male issue. \* i.e. 28<sup>th</sup> year of his reign

The next known Banastre of Hadnall is Thomas who married Elizabeth Corbet. In a deed of 17 Henry VI (1438) they grant land to their cousin Ralph Lee.

The son of Thomas and Elizabeth was William Banestr who confirmed land to Haughmond Abbey in a deed of 10 Oct 11 Edward IV (1471).

### **The Kynaston Family**

By the time of the reign of Henry VI the lands at Hadnall including Shotton, seem to have been in the possession of a John Somerton. In a deed dated at Shotton on 18 January 23 Henry VI (1444) John Kynaston (ancestor of the Kynastons of Oatley) grants to Thomas Banastur of Hadnall and Elizabeth his wife, all the lands and tenements in the town, and fields of Shetton within the hundred of Pymehull which he lately purchased of John Somurford (or Somerset).

In a deed dated at Shetton of 3 Edward IV (1463) Thomas Banastre confirms to Guido his son the reversion of all his lands at Shetton after the decease of Thomas Banastr Junior. This reversion is only for the life of Guido.

In a deed made at Shetton of 12 Edward IV (1472) this same Thomas Banastre settles the property on Philip Kynaston of Walford and Alice his wife. Alice was Thomas Banastre's daughter.

In Thomas's will dated 13 April 1473 made in the house of his son-in-law at Walford, he states that his gift of Shotten to Philip and his wife to be in consideration of their laudable keeping of his eldest son Thomas for the term of his life. This Thomas would seem to have been deemed incapable of managing the estate. It has been suggested that this was the Banaster who is believed to have betrayed the Duke of Buckingham to Richard III at Thornbury Castle in Gloucestershire This cannot be as the story is about a

Ralph Banister and the supposed betrayal took place in 1483 several years after Thomas Banistre Senior had made his will.

In 15 Edward IV (1475) William Banastre, son and heir of Thomas released his right in Shetton to Philip and Alice Kynaston.

After the death of Philip Kynaston, Alice remarried to Humphrey Titley of Stanwardine and they were in possession of Shotton in 5 Henry VII (1489) when they settled it on Thomas Kynaston her son. This was confirmed in a settlement of 12 Henry VII (1496) to Thomas Kynaston and Helen his wife.

In 7 Henry VIII (1515) Thomas Kynaston, son of Philip and Alice bought some property near Shotton from Thomas Lee of Coton, for £30.

Richard Gough says that Hugh Ridley was sometime tenant of Shotton, and this must have been about this time. 'He was a rich farmer and married a daughter to Mr Russell of Sandsaw, a person of good family and a great estate.'

Thomas, son of Philip and Alice, was constable of Shawardine Castle. He married Alicia, the daughter of Richard Harnage of Shenton. He is described as Thomas Kynaston of Schrawardyn in a deed of 16 March 31 Henry VIII (1539) when he settled his estate at Shetton, within the liberties of the town of Salop, upon his son and heir Thomas Kynaston of Wollaston and in the same year demised the Shotton estate for a term of years to a William Watkins. It would seem that this William Watkins let the main house at Shotton to Bishop Lee.

### **Shotton Hall in the 1530s**

We must assume that by the time Bishop Lee rented Shotton Hall it was a building of some substance. It is likely to have been a half-timbered building, probably erected on stone footings. During the renovation of the Hall when it was converted into apartments, remnants of timbers were found in the walls of two of the rooms, suggesting these were the outer walls of the Tudor house. If this is correct, the house frontage would have been about 40 to 50 yards wide. This suggests a house of three or four bays. Given its size,



this building is likely to have been of 'box' rather than 'cruck' construction. The earliest building would have had a single hall internally open to the roof, but by the 1530s the open hall is likely to have had an upper floor inserted with proper fireplaces in the walls. From a fragment of stained glass from the house site, (described below) it seems probable that there was a chapel attached to the house.



***The Almonry, Pershore, Worcestershire***

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*It is possible that the house at Shotton Hall in the 1530s looked something like this building*

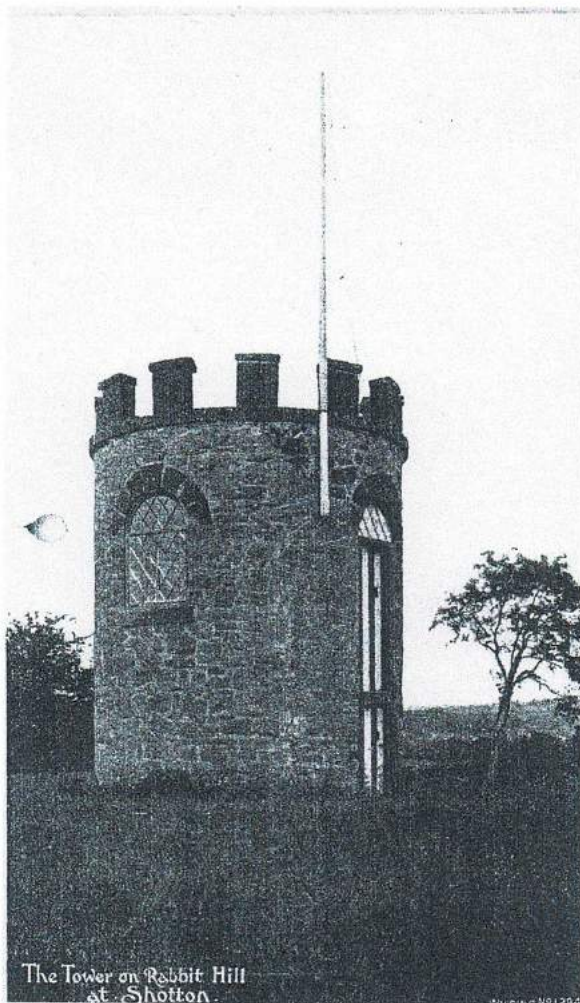
Whilst the Hall was being renovated in 2001, Mike Watson and his wife explored the cellars and discovered a well. Access to the cellars was from a staircase which was outside and behind the original house. A passageway led northwards to the cellars and the well under the front of house.



The cellar walls to the north and south define the limits of the Tudor house and at ground level now form the outer walls of the main rooms of Apartment 2. A modern staircase in the centre of Apartment 2 now gives access to the cellars, the floors of which have been lowered to provide more headroom.

### **Bishop Rowland Lee**

In his 'History of Myddle', Richard Gough tells us that 'we have a tradition that one Bishop Rowland was some time tenant of this farm [Shotton]; that he was a Lord Marcher; and that the place of execution was on the bank between Shotton and Smethcot, which I have sometimes, though seldom, heard called the Gallows Tree Bank' [Now known as Rabbit Hill – on the right hand side of Shotton Lane beyond the present Shotton Farm. Around 1907 a small tower existed on the top of this of which nothing remained by the 1960s]



#### **The Tower on Rabbit Hill in 1907**

This photograph is one of the large series issued as postcards by the firm of Wilding's of Shrewsbury. Many examples are reproduced in a fascinating book: 'Greetings from Shropshire – Wilding's of Shrewsbury and their Postcards' Derek M Walley Squirrel Publishing Ltd 1997

This tenant was clearly Bishop Rowland Lee, born 1487 and Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. He was appointed in 1534 as Lord President of the Council of the Marches and charged by Thomas Cromwell with the task of bringing law and order to the Welsh regions of the Marches. This Bishop Lee did by convicting and hanging as many Welshman as he could.



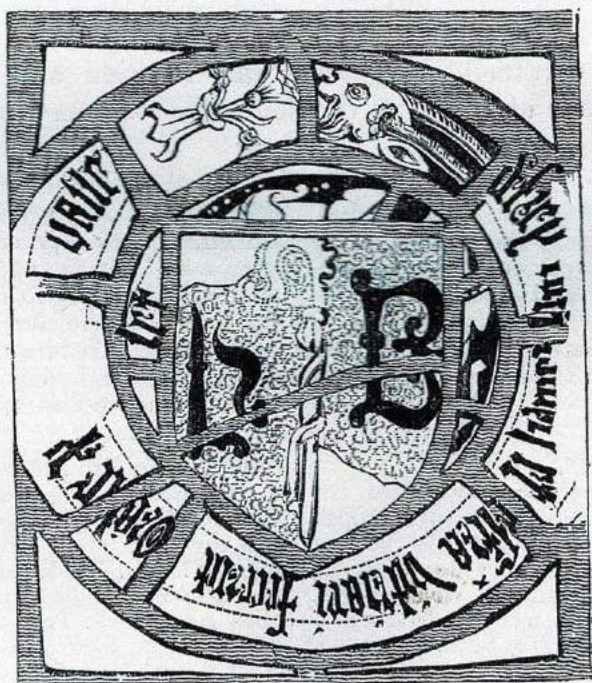
He claimed to have hung 500 Welshmen during his term of office. The headquarters of the Council of the Marches was at Ludlow, but the Council also met in Shrewsbury at the Council House which still exists near the castle. The Bishop died at Shrewsbury on 28 January 1543.



***Rabbit Hill (wooded) as it is today***  
*Copyright Rhys Whatmore*

It would seem that Bishop Lee's country seat was at Shotton as an entry in the Shrewsbury bailiff's accounts for 1540 states 'Mr Bayle Pursr had to my lorde pressydent to Schottoun a gallon of claret, 8d'. In 1811, William Watkins had in his possession a fragment of stained glass from the original mansion at Shotton Hall. An engraving of this fragment appeared in 'A History of Shrewsbury' by Rev Hugh Owen and Rev J. B Blakeway, published in 1825. The authors of this history regarded the fragment as evidence for Bishop Lee's tenancy of Shotton.





*Stained glass from the old house at Shotton Hall  
Source: Blakeway's Shrewsbury*

Describing the fragment they state ' it is a shield with the initials R. B. probably for Rowland Bishop: and from the words 'Orate pro ... fenestram vitriari fecerunt', which are all that that can be made out of the inscription, it would appear to have been set up in a chapel, which no doubt the president would have had at his manor'. [It seems more likely that the R B referred to the Banistre family.]

### Later Kynastons

The Thomas Kynaston upon whom Shotton was settled in 1539, died without offspring and the ownership passed to his brother Roger who married Maria, daughter of Thomas Hanmer of Hanmer in Flintshire.

From Roger Kynaston, Shotton passed to his son Francis Kynaston who married Barbara, daughter of Richard Sandford of The Isle, Shropshire.

From Francis Kynaston, Shotton passed to his son Thomas Kynaston of Lighteach near Prees, Shropshire who in 4 Charles 1 (1628) conveyed the estate absolutely to a William Watkins who was then in occupation of the estates.

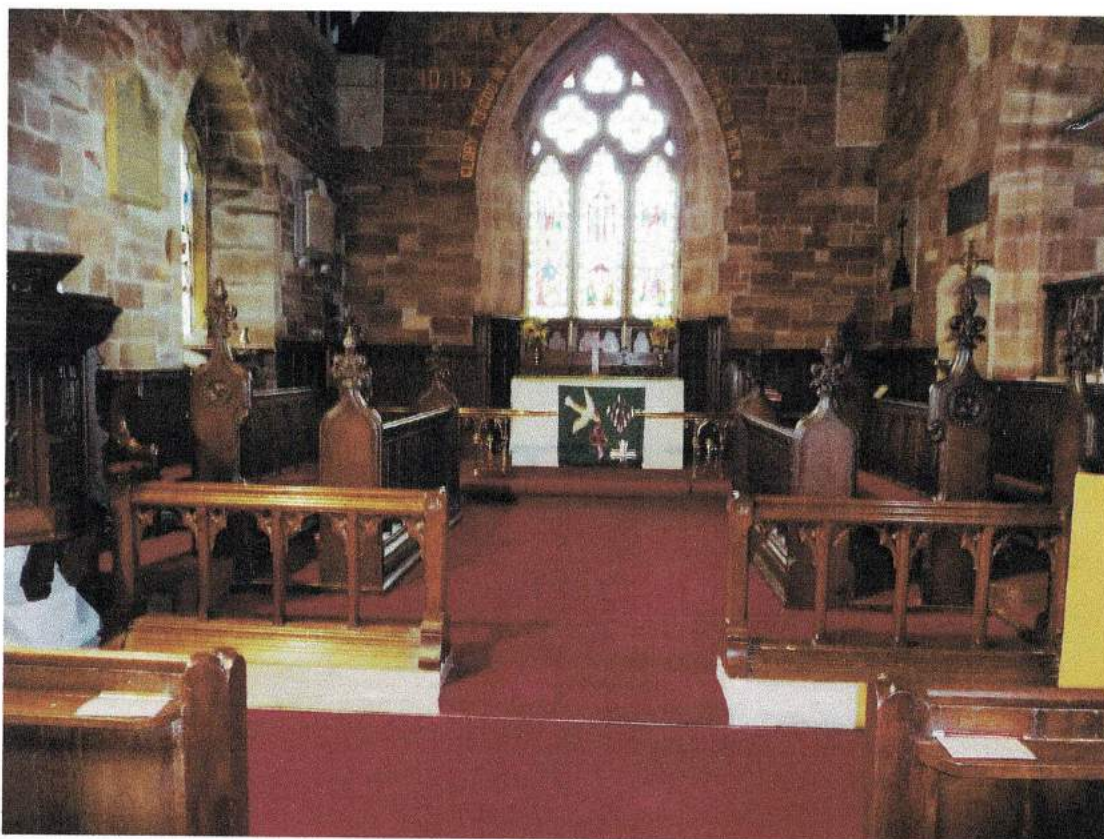


## **The Watkins Family**

In considering the Watkins family we are most fortunate that Richard Gough of Myddle composed from 1700 -1702 an account of the people who lived in the village of Myddle, including what he knew of their families and ancestors. He drew a plan of the church and inserted the names of the persons which sat in each pew. He then wrote descriptions of the occupants and their families, pew by pew.

The earliest recorded connection of the Watkins family with Shotton is in 1539 when Thomas Kynaston demised the estate for a number of years to a William Watkins This William was the grandson of a Watkin Watkins who married a Hoord from Coton, Shrewsbury.

William Watkins's son was Humphrey Watkins who married Dorothy Wright of Hopton. Their son was Francis Watkins.

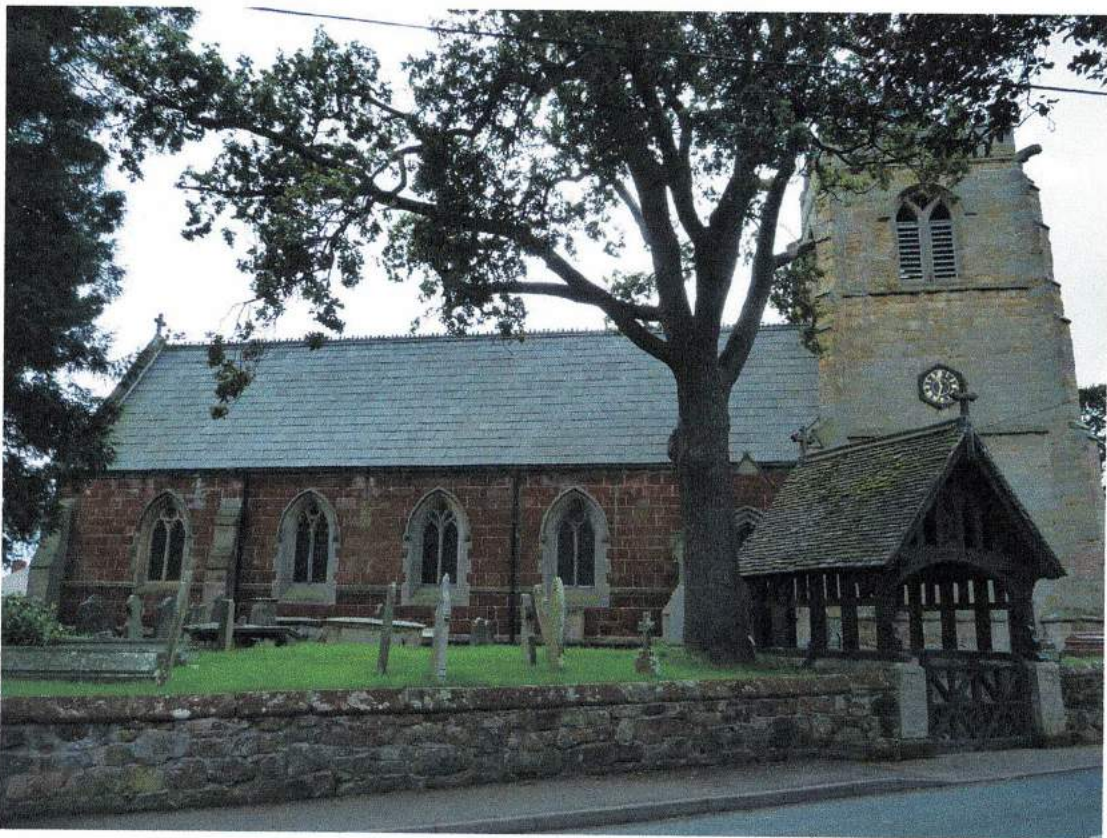


*The Chancel of Myddle Church*  
*Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*



Francis Watkins was buried at Myddle. His will of 1615 states that his body shall be laid to rest in the chancel beside the bodies of his ancestors.

Francis Watkins' son was William Watkins born about 1600, who was Under Sheriff of Shropshire. It was to this William Watkins that Shotton Hall was conveyed absolutely in 1628. William built the offices at Shropshire and improved the house and lands. (Blakeway). William married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Lee of Chester. Their eldest son Francis was born about 1629. William, the Under Sheriff was buried at Myddle on 9 September 1653.



*Myddle Church*  
*Copyright Rhys Whatmore*

Richard Gough says that this William Watkins was a well educated person and fit for greater employment than that of a husbandman but that his chief delight was in good husbandry. 'He found this farme much overgrowne with thornes, briars and rubbish. He employed many day labourers (to whom he was a good benefactor,) in cleareing and ridding his land; and having the



pulpit	1	Shotton	The wall under the Great Window		
Reading pew	2	Thomas Moore for the Eagle ffarme	Broomehurst ffarme	1	1 Mr Cotton
Sleep Hall Mr Acherley Mr Hanmer	3	Mr Cotton Mr Acherley Richd Gough	Mr Gittins for the Castle ffarme	2	2 Balderton Hall
Hollins	4	Billmarsh Robt Hayward Thomas Mather Richd Groome	The same	3	3 Wrights tenemt in Marton Stephen fform-ston
Sleep Hall	5	Shotton for servants	Webbscott	4	4 Nightingales Tent Tylors in Balderton Tho: Shaw in Mar
Mr Hanmer Mr Acherley	6	Mr Cotton Richard Gough Richd Groome Thomas Shaw	Robt Hayward Mr Muckleston Sam: Braine	5	5 James ffewtrell Noneley Tenemt Taylors Tenemt
Mr Lloyd	7	Houlston	Mr Hatcher John Eaton	6	6 Richd Gough Will Mansell and formerly to fforesters now Pudd downe
Edward Garland Balderton Hall for servants	8	Thomas Gittins Wid. Mansell John Horton	Willm Amies Wid Bickley	7	7 Vicar Gittins Pool Morrice Highway & wolfe quere
Mr Acherley for servants	9	Richard Gough Wolfs tenemt Hunts tenemt	voyd	8	8 Jones now Groome Wm Chaloner now Stephen D post Price, Hortons
Sam: Braine John Eaton Thomas Peirce	10	Mr Hatchets Tent. in Newton Tylers in Balder-ton	James ffewtrell Noneleys tent.	9	9 Hordly Tent Edges Tent Ralphes Tent Blacke Vann now Nich. Astley
The Mearehouse Richd Clarke & Wid Russell	11	Mr Muckleston Guests Tenemt	Ed: Garland John Hordley	10	10 Watsons Tent, Davis Cottage Baxters Cottages Chidlows Cottage
North doore	12	Highway Thomas Davis	Ed. Coop(er)	11	11 Daniell Hanmer Willm Candlen
front	13	ffreeman of Marton	Tho. Davis Ma. Willett Richd Roger Shoemaker	12	12 Chaloner Late Clarke
				13	13 Willm Jones Wid. Groome
					South doore

As the Church is now 1701

**Richard Gough's plan of Myddle Church 1701 showing the Shotton Pews**  
 From 'The History of Myddle' Richard Gough  
 The Folio Society 1983



benefit of good marle, he much improved his land, built part of the dwelling house, and joined a brewhouse to it which hee built of free stone. Hee built most part of the barnes, and made beast houses of free stone, which is a good substantial piece of building. Hee was a cheerfull, merry gentleman, and kept a plentiful table for his family, and strangers ...'

From the reference to the building of offices, it is likely that William Watkins was responsible for the erection of the sandstone wing at the rear of the main house.

Francis Watkins, born about 1629 married on 4 Oct 1654 at Myddle, Mary, daughter of John Teague of The Lea, Pontesbury. Francis was a Captain in the Parliamentary Army. Richard Gough says, 'This Mr Francis Watkins was a Captaine in the warrs, and was on the Parliament party; but I never heard of any company of soldiers that hee had, or of any service that hee did in the warres, for there were several Gentlemen in our neighbourhood that were forced to flee from their houses in the warres, and to shelter themselves in Garrisons; and because they could have butt little benefit from their lands towards maintaining them, therefore they had commissions to bee captaines, to the end that they might receive a captain's pay to maintain them.'

'Hee was heire to his father's lands and alsoe to his art of good husbandry, in which his care diligence, and skill, was not exceeded by any in the county. He marled sevrall pieces, and gott abundance of corne. He purchased lands in Tylley Parke, and certainly, if hee had lived, hee had been an exceeding rich man. His wife was provident and spareing, even to a fault; and therefore he could not keep soe good a house as his father did, which was noe small trouble to him. He dyed and left 5 small children behinde him; viz. 3 sons and 2 daughters.

David Hey says that very few men from Myddle fought on the Parliamentary side (and none were killed) and that Francis Watkins of Shotton was the only person of standing in the parish to sympathize actively with the Parliamentary cause.



The eldest son of Francis and Mary was William Watkins born 1656. Francis was buried at Myddle on 23 March 1663.

William Watkins was baptised on 26 January 1656 at Myddle. He married in 1681 Elizabeth, daughter of John Edwards of Great Ness. Their third son, and heir, John was born in 1693. William Watkins died on 12 September 1731 and was buried on 15 September 1731 at Myddle.

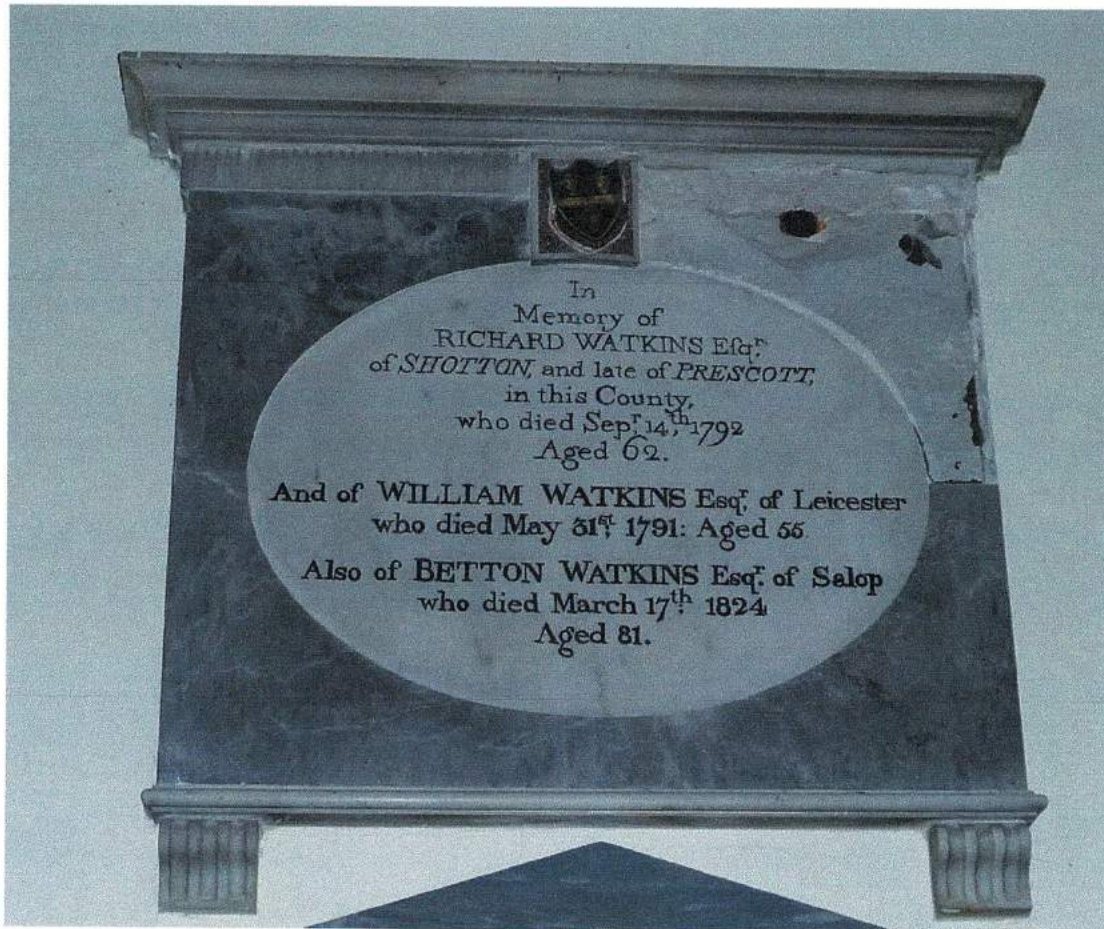
Of William Watkins, Gough says, 'William, the eldest son, was putt to a covenanted servant unto Mr John Edwards, one of the ablest attorneys at Law in this County. At expiration of his terme, he married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr John Edwards. This Mr William Watkins is now (1701) owner of this farme, and very happy in that it hath pleased God to give him such skill, care and industry in good husbandry as his grand-father and father had, for he is not inferiour to eyther of them therin. He is alsoe happy in a prudent, provident and discreet wife who is in every way suitable for a husband. They live very loveingly together, very loveing to their neighbours, and very well beloved of theire neighbours, and they are both happy in that itt hath pleased God in toaken of his love to them, and their mutuall love one to another to blesse them with many comely and witty children'.

John Watkins was baptised on 3 May 1693 and buried on 2 December 1765 at Myddle. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Betton of Upper Berwick. They had three sons who survived to adulthood – Richard baptised on 13 June 1734 at Myddle and buried on 14 September 1793; William Watkins baptised on 30 March 1736 at Myddle and buried on 30 May 1791 and Thomas baptised on 7 June 1737 at Myddle.

On the death of John Watkins in 1765 Shotton Hall passed to his eldest son Richard.

Richard Watkins married Anne Williams and he died without issue in 1792. Shotton Hall then passed to his nephew Watkin Watkins.

Watkin Watkins was born about 1767 and died in December 1849. William was the son of Richard's brother William who was an eminent surgeon at Leicester and who married a Mary Bowker.



*Memorial in Myddle Church to Richard Watkins and to his uncle William,  
and also to Betton Watkins  
Copyright Rhys Whatmore*

Watkin Watkins married Ann Eddows of Shrewsbury on 13 February 1798 at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury. Their son Watkin William Watkins was born in 1798. He married a Catherine and they had a son William Watkin Watkins born in 1826 but who died young. Watkin Watkins and Ann's daughter Mary Ann Watkins was baptised on 15 April 1806 at Myddle.

Watkin Watkins outlived both his children and left Shotton Hall in his will of 1849 to his son-in-law James Watkins.



Watkin Watkins was responsible for demolition of the 'old timber house called Mansion House' at Shotton Hall and the building of a new house. This took place between 1792 (when he inherited the estate) and 1811 (when he refers to the demolition in a letter.)

Watkin Watkins provides the following description of the old house:

'The old Hall House of Shotton was composed, part of wrought freestone, part of lathe and plaister, and part of brick. The stairs were cubes cut diagonally, being square blocks about 2ft 10in long, so that one block made two steps. The old house was covered by flags a yard square, and from 1 to 2in thick; the chimneys of well worked and moulded freestone. The old back door was thick and nailed like a prison door. The house had been so repaired and rebuilt at different times, that it was a mixture of all orders and disorders. Nothing remains of the old house but the pigeon house. I rebuilt the family house, and another with proper appurtenances for the tenant.'

Presumably the house Watkin Watkins erected was of three storeys and possibly of the same size as the present main house. It would probably have had typical Georgian features with rows of sash windows and a pillared front porch. Given the obvious antiquity of the sandstone wing we must assume that this did not form part of the old house and was allowed to remain by Watkin Watkins.



***Marshwood House,  
Dinton near Wilton***

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***The house built by  
Watkin Watkins may  
have looked like this***

In 1839 the tithe apportionment shows the Shotton Hall estate to consist of the following:

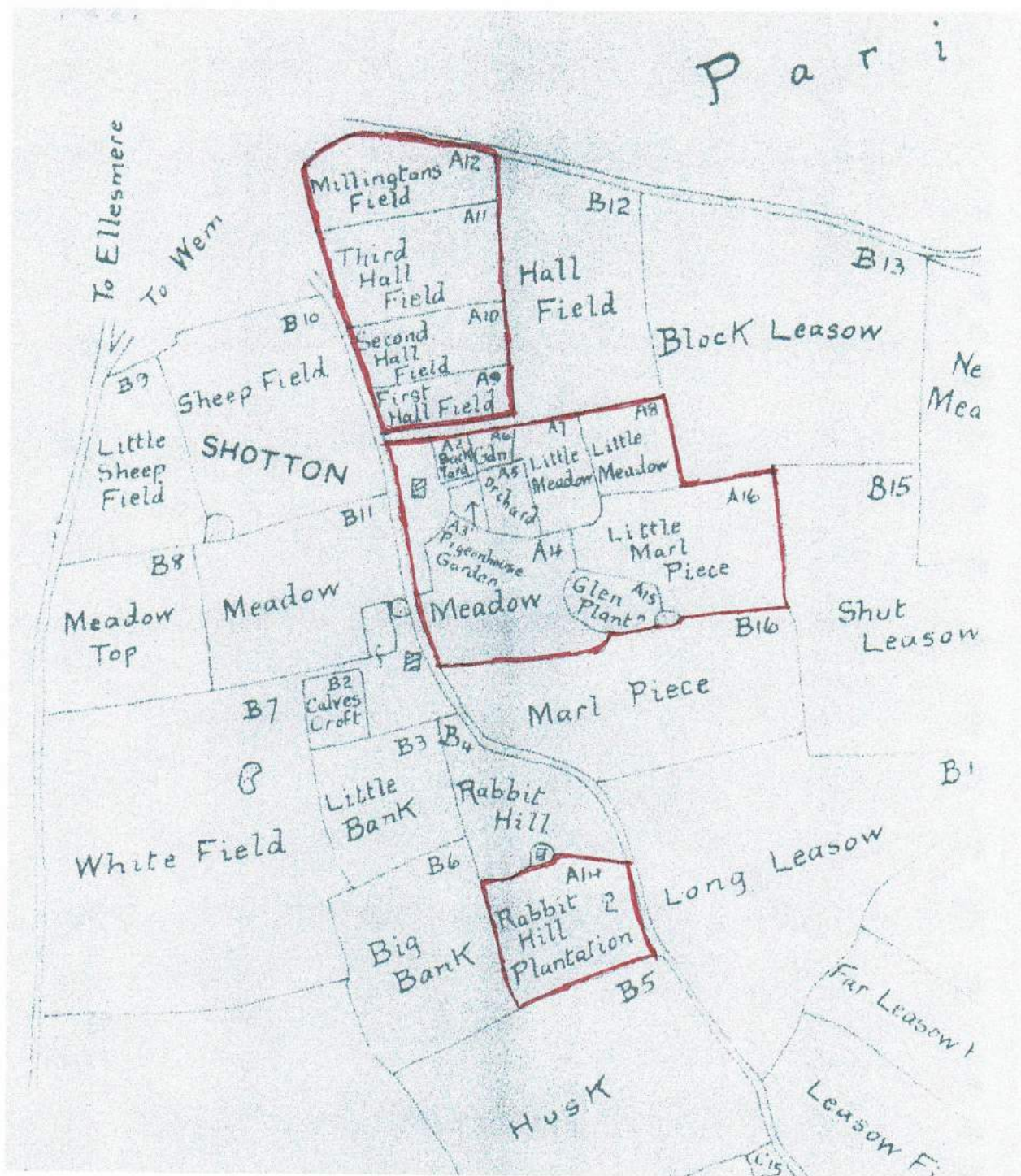
Field No.	Field Name	Use
A1	House buildings garden	
A2	Back Yard	Old Pasture
A3	Pigeon House Garden	Garden
A4	Meadow	Mown
A5	Orchard	Orchard
A6	Garden	Garden
A7	Little Meadow	Wheat Stubble
A8	Little Meadow	Wheat Stubble
A9	First Hall Field	Potatoes
A10	Second Hall Field	Wheat Stubble
A11	Third Hall Field	Lay [?] and Vetches
A12	Millington's Field	[Unreadable]
A13	Rabbit Hill House and Garden	
A14	Rabbit Hill Plantation	Plantation
A15	Glen Plantation	Plantation
A16	Little Marl Field	Turnips

Shotton Farm and its fields is listed separately and is shown as in the occupation of William Groom.

The tithe Map of 1839 shows that that the Shotton Hall estate was compact, consisting of four fields stretching back from the house to the road to Wem and a collection of fields to the north and east of the house. There was one detached field (A14) on Rabbit Hill. The fields attached to Shotton Farm were located between the Shrewsbury road and Shotton Lane, extending to the south of Rabbit Hill.

Mary Ann Watkins married at Myddle on 18 Jan 1825 her second cousin Lieut. Col. James Watkins of Calderbank, Lanarkshire. He served in the Bengal Army. James Watkins was the son of Mary Ann's great uncle Thomas Watkins born 1737. Shotton Hall was left by Watkin Watkins in his will of 1849 to James Watkins his son-in-law whose wife Mary Ann had died without offspring before 1843.





***Tithe Map of Shotton Township 1839***

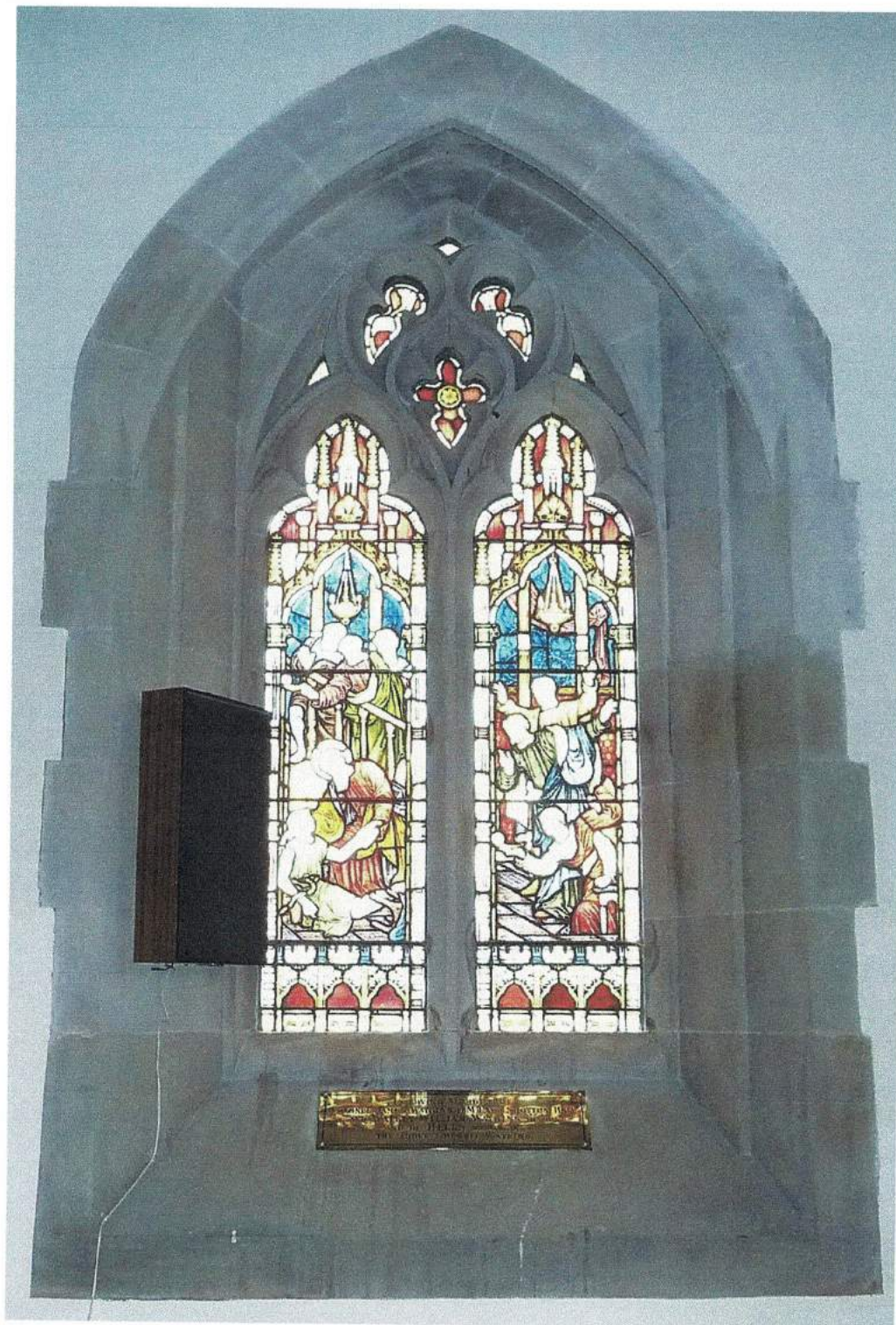
*Copyright: Shropshire Archives*

*The fields outlined in red formed the Shotton estate. The remaining fields formed the Shotton Farm estate. Both belonged to the Watkins family at this time.*

James Watkins remarried in 1843 to Helen, daughter of John Buchanan. Helen's mother was Helen Yuille born in 1776 at Port



Glasgow, Scotland. Their daughter Helen Yuille Watkins was born about 1845. James Watkins inherited Shotton Hall on the death of Watkin Watkins in 1849.



*The Watkins memorial window in Myddle Church*  
*Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*



Helen Yuille Watkins married in 1866 to George Yuille Strang. George was second cousin to Helen. He was baptised on 31 Oct 1836 at Glasgow, the son of Robert Strang and Margaret Murdoch Yuille. Helen inherited Shotton Hall on the death of her father. George Strang changed his name on marriage to Strang-Watkins. He died on 12 January 1898. Helen died on 12 May 1909.



*Plaque below the Watkins memorial window in Myddle Church*  
*Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*

George and Helen Strang-Watkins had one son – Watkin James Yuille Strang-Watkins, born 4 June 1867 in Edinburgh. He married Lady Muriel Maud Stuart Lindsay of Crail in Fife. They were married on 30 September 1896 in London. Watkin adopted the prefix Strang in 1912. He was a barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple. In 1919 he sold Shotton Hall to the Marquis of Cambridge. Watkin Strang-Watkins died aged 54 in London in 1921.

Watkin and Muriel Strang-Watkins had at least one son – Watkin Lindsay Watkins, born 19 July 1897 in London.

### **Shotton Hall in the censuses and Electoral Rolls**

The Watkins family owned Shotton Hall throughout the nineteenth century but did not necessarily live there. The censuses, however, provide a snapshot of the actual occupants, at ten year intervals. The Electoral Rolls also give an indication as to the occupants

### **1841 census**

Christiana Watkins	45	Independent	Born Scotland
Sarah Felton	40	Servant	Born Shropshire
Watkin Watkins	70	Independent	Born Shropshire
Ann Watkins	70		" "
Mary Woolrich	75	Independent	" "
Mary Williams	20	Servant	" "
Elizabeth Evans	20	Servant	" "

### **1851 census**

Edward Evans	38	Head	Ag Lab	Born Clunbury
Sarah Evans	52	Wife		Born Baschurch
John Evans	8	Son	Scholar	Born Middle

Bagshaw's Directory of Shropshire for 1851 provides the following information:

'SHOTTON, a small township pleasantly situated on elevated ground, two miles N W of Hadnal, contains 230 acres 2 rods 13 poles of land, the rateable value of which is £417. 4s 6d. Colonel Watkins owns the whole township. The number of inhabitants at the census in 1841 were twenty-two, at which period the land was divided into two farms. Within the last few years the two farms have been united, and the whole township is now farmed by Mr John Groome. The tithes are commuted for £54 5s.'

The 1859 Electoral Roll shows no voters at Shotton Hall.

### **1861 Census**

The enumerator states that Shotton Hall is uninhabited. The 1864 Electoral Roll shows no voters at Shotton Hall.

### **1871 census**

The enumerator states 'Shotton Hall as been uninhabited for upwards of 20 years it is now in a state of repair and will be occupied in a short time'. The 1873 -1890 Electoral Rolls show



John Groom, resident at Shotton Hall, being eligible to vote due to his ownership of a freehold house and land (Sleap Hall). This John Groom was the tenant of Shotton Farm in 1871. Shotton Farm is not included in the census of 1881 but John Groom is shown as residing at Shotton Hall. Whilst Shotton Farm may have been meant, if Shotton Hall was renovated in 1871 it would be strange if it was unoccupied for several years thereafter. On the strength of the Electoral Rolls we must assume that John Groom and his family had moved across the road from the farm into the Hall itself.

It seems likely that it was in the renovations of about 1871 that the front of the house was remodelled in accordance with current Victorian taste – the bay windows being inserted and the balcony erected.

### 1881 census

John Groom	Head	53	Farmer 550 acres employing 8 men and three boys Born Hadnall
Isabel Groom	Wife	49	
			Born Snenstone [Smestow?] Staffordshire
Emily Frances Groom			
	Dau	Unm 22	Born Hadnall
Catherine Harding Groom			
	Dau	Unm 17	Born Hadnall
Thomas Groom	Son	Unm 12	Scholar Born Hadnall
Henry Herbert Groom			
	Son	Unm 11	Scholar Born Hadnall
Martha Pate	Ser	Unm 19	Born Wem
Joseph Dytor	Ser	Unm 50	Shepherd Born Moreton Corbet

### 1891 census

Watkin J Y S Watkins	Son	Single	22	Barrister Born Edinburgh
Matilda J Strang	Sister in Law	Married	54	
				Born Gartloch Scotland
Kathleen E Vaughan	Visitor	Single	21	Scholar
				Born St Leonards Sussex

Mary E Vaughan	Visitor	Single	27	Hospital Nurse Born St Neots Huntingdonshire
Bessie Earle	Housemaid	Single	29	Born North Walsham Norfolk
Bessie Hale	Cook	Single	35	Born Ottery St Mary Devon
Ada Judge	Lady's Maid	Single	22	Born Chipping Norton Oxfordshire
Elizabeth Williams	Housemaid	Single	21	Born Trewin Montgomeryshire
Fanney Bright	Kitchen maid	Single	22	Born Condover Shropshire
Walter R Skinner	Butler	Married	72	Born High Halden Kent
Henry C Jinks	Footman	Single	19	Born Hastings, Sussex
Charles France	Coachman	Married	28	Born Shrewsbury Shropshire

As the first person listed is shown as 'Son' it appears that in transferring information from the original return to the official form which has been preserved, the enumerator has omitted names from the beginning of the list. Since Matilda Strang is shown as 'Sister-in-Law' the omitted names must be George Yuille Strang-Watkins and his wife Helen Yuille Stang-Watkins

### **1896 Electoral Roll**

Helen J S Watkin

### **1900 Electoral Roll**

Ellen J S Watkin

### **1901 census**

Captain H L Butler	Head	43	Retired Captain of H. M. Army Born Palmers Green, Middlesex
Fanny A L Butler	Wife	32	Born Richmond Surrey
Henrietta S Butler	Sister	41	Single Born London



Ellen M Cogger	Cook	29	Single Born Lymington, Hants
Henrietta Cooke	Kitchen maid	19	Single Born Bache Mile Shropshire
Alice Hutchinson	Lady's Maid	32	Single Born Esher, Surrey
Eliza Grant	Visitor		Lady's Maid 30 Single Born Sidlesham Sussex
Hannah E Brown	Under Housemaid	16	Single Born Henfail Denbighshire
Herbert J Goringe	Servant (Indoor man)	26	Single Born Corfe Castle Dorset
Caroline Tipper	Housemaid	34	Single Born Cheadle Cheshire

### **1904 Electoral Roll**

Herbert Lavie Butler

### **1910 Electoral Roll**

Watkin James Yuille Strand Watkin of Highfield,  
Harrow-on-the Hill

### **1915 Electoral Roll**

Watkin James Yuille Stand-Watkins of 33 Evelyn Gardens,  
London W  
Emily Evans

### **1918 Electoral Roll**

St John Herbert Charlton  
Elizabeth Bronwen Charlton  
Herbert Horton

### **1919 Electoral Roll**

Elizabeth Bronwen Charlton  
Herbert Horton



***Shotton Hall in about 1907***  
*Postcards published by Wilding's of Shrewsbury*



## **The Marquis of Cambridge**

In 1919 the Marquis of Cambridge purchased Shotton Hall from the Strang-Watkins family.

Colonel Adolphus Charles Alexander Albert Edward George Philip Louis Ladislaus 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Cambridge was born on 13 August 1868 at Kensington Palace, the son of Prince Adolphus, Duke of Teck and his wife Princess Mary of Cambridge. His sister, Princess Victoria Mary of Teck married George V and became Queen Mary and paid frequent visits to her brother at Shotton Hall.

Tradition has it that Queen Mary was always accompanied on her visits by her collection of caged birds. These were housed at Shotton Hall in a room on the top floor (the second from the right at the back of the main house). This suggests that the Queen's bedroom was the room which is the first from the right on the top floor at the back of the main house).

Visiting royal parties would arrive by train at Yorton Station, being driven from there to Shotton Hall.

Adolphus was educated at Wellington College and then began a military career. He served on the Western Front in the First World War but in 1915 illness forced him to spend the rest of the war in the War Office. During the War his title of Duke of Teck was changed by the King to 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Cambridge.

The Marquis married Lady Margaret Evelyn Grosvenor in October 1894. Their children were Prince George of Teck (1895), Princess Mary of Teck (1897), Princess Helena of Teck (1899) and Prince Frederick of Teck (1907)

Adolphus settled with his family in 1919 at Shotton Hall and became an active partaker in the life of the village of Harmer Hill. He held fetes at the Hall, provided annual parties for the school children, raised money for the school and was President of Harmer Hill Men's and Football Clubs. He also established a Choral Society. Beyond the village he was Treasurer of the Royal Salop Infirmary, 1<sup>st</sup> president of the Shropshire Branch of the British Legion and Vice President of the West Midland Agricultural Society. He was also a local JP and a director of the Alliance Insurance Company at Shrewsbury.





**Group at Shotton Hall,**

**Shrewsbury**

**August 1927.**

*The Royal Collection*

© 2008

*Her Majesty Queen*

*Elizabeth II*

*Cal No:*

*RCIN 2304048 b*

*Photographer:*

*R. L. Bartlett*

*Shown under the pillars  
at the back door of the*

*Main House are*

*from left to right:*

*Lady Joan Verney;*

*Dorothy, Countess of*

*Eltham; Adolphus,*

*Marquis of Cambridge;*

*Queen Mary; Margaret,*

*Marchioness of*

*Cambridge; George,*

*Earl of Eltham*



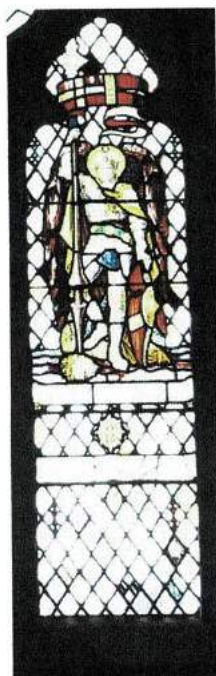
On 26 October 1927, the Prince of Wales (later Duke of Windsor) was due to open a new extension to the Royal Salop Infirmary but on 23 October the Marquis became seriously ill (I understand this was peritonitis) and on 24 October was rushed to the Quarry Place Nursing Home where he underwent an operation, but died that evening.

The Marquis was buried at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, but the cortege began in Shrewsbury and was escorted by police and guards of honour down to the Abbey Foregate.

The Electoral Roll for 1928 shows only the Marchioness of Cambridge at Shotton Hall together with four servants. The Marchioness sold Shotton Hall in 1928 and she died the following year in London.

### **Henry Arthur Cholmondeley**

The purchaser of Shotton Hall in 1928 would appear to be a Henry Arthur Cholmondeley. He is shown on the Electoral Roll as the occupant of Shotton Hall from 1929 – 1952. He was born in 1855 at Whitegate, Northwick, Cheshire. He may have lived abroad for much of his early life, possibly serving in the army, as he is only to be found in the 1901 census when he was aged 45, single, and living at Sledmere House, Driffild, Yorkshire and employed as a Land Agent. He married Helen Mary Wrigley in March Quarter 1920 in the St George's Hanover Square Registration District in London



*The Cholmondeley memorial window in Myddle Church*  
*Copyright Rhys Whatmore*

Two children of Henry and Helen have been traced – Essex L Cholmondeley born 1921 in the Driffild Registration District and Henry Pakenham Grenville Cholmondeley born 1923 in the Marylebone Registration District. Henry Pakenham Cholmondeley was killed in the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy on 7 November 1943. He was a Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Service Number 262092. He is buried in Plot M XVIII at Cassino War Cemetery.

There is a memorial window to him in Myddle church.

Henry Arthur Cholmondeley died in 1952 aged 96 in the Whitchurch Registration District.

In 1901, a Hugh Cecil Cholmondeley, born in 1853 at Sledmere was living at Edstaston House, Wem, and it seems probable that this was Henry Arthur's brother. Living so close at Shotton Hall, Hugh may have persuaded Henry to buy and live at the house. Hugh Cecil Cholmondeley had been a Captain in the army. His father was Thomas G Cholmondeley, born about 1821 in London and who was a Colonel in the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Cheshire Militia.



*Detail from the Cholmondeley memorial window in Myddle church*  
*Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*

The Electoral Roll shows no voters at Shotton Hall in 1953 and the next available register, that for 1956, shows Frederick G Lennhoff and Ursula J Lennhoff at Shotton Hall.

### **Shotton Hall School**

Fred and Ursula Lennhoff were Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany who met each other in England. Frederick George Lennhoff was born on 11 October 1903 in Berlin and his wife was born in Berlin on 4 July 1917. They married and settled in



Liverpool where Fred worked in an aircraft factory. During the War he was interned like most refugees from Germany! After the war Fred established his own small factory in London.

Fred had always been involved in work with young people and in 1949 he and his wife managed to achieve their ambition of establishing a school for 50 emotionally disturbed boys. This was at Westhope Manor in Shropshire. Westhope Manor was leaseand the Lennhoffs wished to acquire their own premises and this led to

their purchase of Shotton Hall in 1952.



***Frederick George Lennhoff:***  
*a sketch drawn in 1940*  
*Copyright: Marion Armitage*

Changes were made to Shotton Hall to adapt it to use as a school and outbuildings were converted to classrooms and workshops. The School was very successful and ran for many years, becoming quite famous and attracting a lot of distinguished visitors. A detailed description of the philosophy and work of the school is provided by F G Lennhoff in his book, 'Exceptional Children' published by George Allen and Unwin Second Edition 1966. Fred's upbringing and work in Germany are described in his autobiography 'The First Thirty Years' published in 1975 by Shotton Hall

Publications. A more detailed edition in German was also published.





*Shotton Hall main façade in the 1960s*    Copyright: Edwin Thorpe



Once a year Fred and his colleagues organised a residential conference for social workers. This would be held at a local University or Training College. These were always heavily booked and were very successful. He also arranged an annual lecture for social workers. This was given at Shotton Hall in the Club House on the Club Lawn. Once a year Fred would also give a lecture tour in Germany.

At Christmas every year, the pupils of a local school would be invited to an afternoon and evening of dramatic productions by the Shotton boys (these plays included extracts from 'Murder in the Cathedral', 'Julius Caesar' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'), an exhibition of craft and school work and a special meal. On one occasion, all the local children and their parents were invited to a 'fairground' at Shotton Hall with a great number of stalls, with chocolate bars as prizes. The Shotton boys also built a bus shelter for the people of Harmer Hill. This may well be the one still in existence opposite the Red Castle pub.

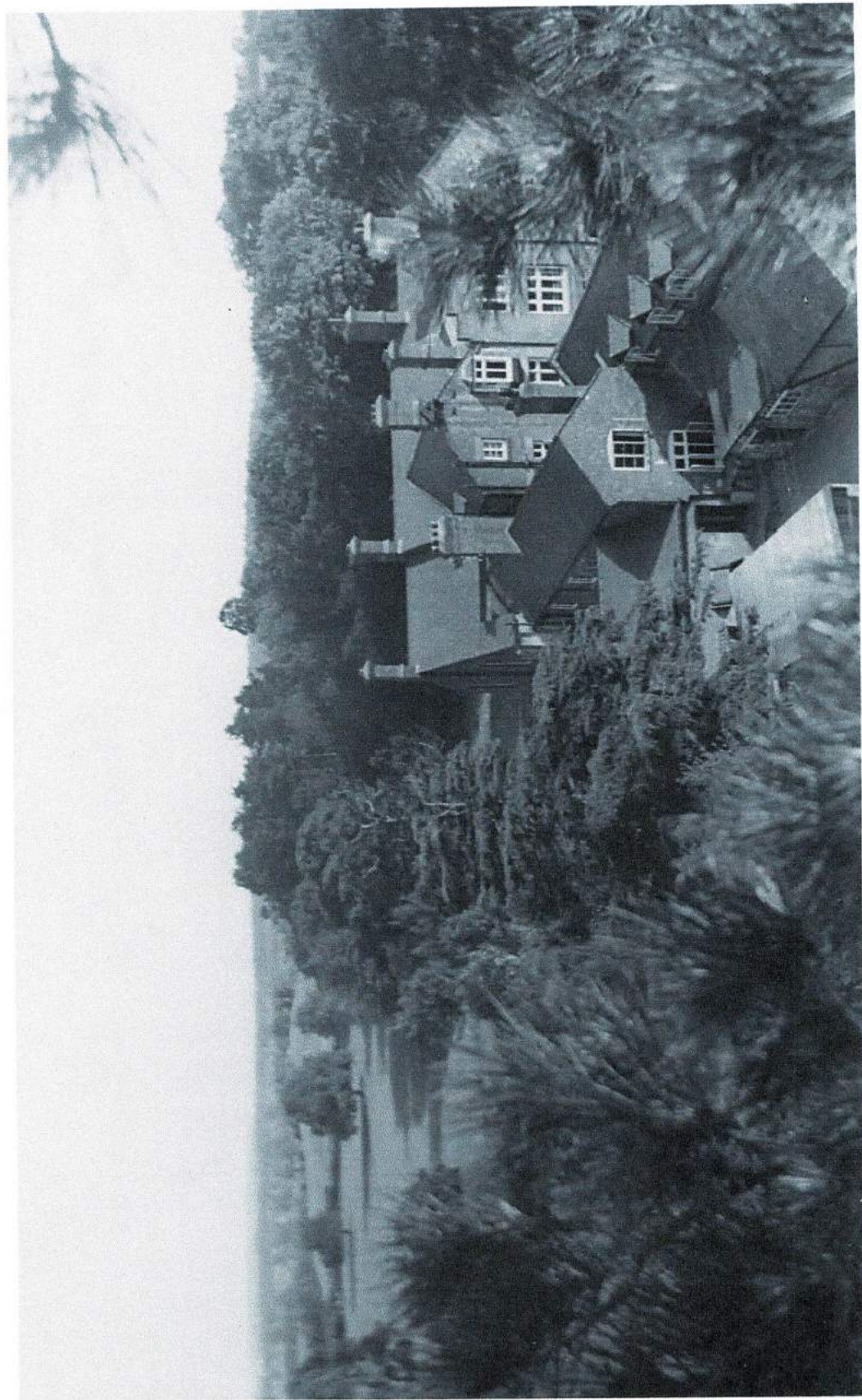
Fred was also very interested in farming and he purchased and ran for several years, via a bailiff, Hine Heath Farm at Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath near Shawbury. He then sold this farm and purchased Webscott Farm near Myddle, and later bought a further farm south of Shrewsbury.

When Fred and Ursula Lennhoff retired to live at Webscott Farm, in 1973 the Shotton Hall Trust was established as the governing body for the school, with the Lennhoffs acting as Consultants. In due course The Shotton Hall Trust purchased Shotton Hall.

Fred Lennhoff was awarded the OBE for his work in social education. He died at St Albans in 1975 and was cremated at Golders Green. His ashes were scattered in London. Ursula Lennhoff died in December 1986 and was cremated at Shrewsbury Crematorium. Her ashes were scattered in Shrewsbury.

Fred and Ursula Lennhoff are remembered with gratitude by the very many boys they helped over the years.





*An unusual view of Shotton Hall in the 1960s taken from the top of one of the pine trees behind the boundary wall.*

*Copyright: Edwin Thorpe*



The Headmasters after Fred Lennhoff were as follows:

John Lampen 1973 to 1982

John Hobley 1982 to 1990

James Parker 1990 to 1994

Owen Booker January – August 1994

During the period when Shotton Hall was governed by the Shotton Hall Trust further changes were made to the buildings. A single storey dining-room was built on to the north end of the main house. A new classroom block with a library, laboratory and toilets was erected. The wing at right angles to the sandstone wing was adapted and enlarged to serve as the Headmaster's house and later a totally new Headmaster's house was built in part of what had been the vegetable garden. A wooden bungalow was erected on the lawn in front of the house.

The ever increasing costs of running a residential school with a large number of specialist staff together with changing attitudes to the education of children with 'special needs' led to the closure of the School in 1994.



*Shotton Hall in a derelict state about 1999 Copyright: Edwin Thorpe*



Shotton Hall was sold to a property agency, but it stood empty and abandoned for several years. During this time much vandalism seems to have occurred and three fine carved fireplaces disappeared. Plaster fell off the internal walls, windows were broken and tall trees grew up alongside the main façade.

### **Recollections of Shotton Hall during the 1960s**

There were two main entrances to the grounds, both off Shotton Lane. The Tradesman entrance was located close to the start of the grounds on the west. The main entrance was located where the western most entrance is today. The present eastern entrance was inserted when the Hall was renovated recently. In the 1960s there was also a small gate, which still exists, onto the lane opposite the side of the main house.



*The Club House in the 1960s*

*Copyright: Edwin Thorpe*

Entering by the tradesmen's gate a drive ran alongside a vegetable garden on the left with greenhouses up against the boundary wall, then turned right into a drive leading to the back door of the house. (i.e. at the very back of the house – not the pillared entrance). The vegetable garden was bounded to the north by a high green hedge, beyond which was an orchard stretching to the northern boundary of the estate. Half way along the vegetable

garden was a gate in the western boundary wall and on the right was a small brick building used for storage.

Entering by the main gate a wide gravel drive on the right led up to the pillared back entrance to the main house, whilst in front was a



double gate leading into the school yard. On the left of this yard was the Senior school room with an apple loft above. This loft caught fire in May 1960 causing damage to the schoolroom below. Beyond this school room was a building containing large bins of animal feed and beyond this were pigsties with a loft over them. To the right of the schoolyard gate was a two storey building with a garage below. Above was a staff flat and a large loft.

To the north of the school yard was a wooden building which served as the Junior schoolroom. Beyond this, and set back on the right was the cow shed where the cows were milked. These grazed on the field at the corner of Shotton Lane opposite the church/school. At right angles to the cow shed was the end of the sandstone wing of the house with an outside stone staircase to the first floor and what was called the 'Middle school room' below.

The drive up to the back door of the house (i.e. at the very back of the house – not the pillared entrance) was lined with store sheds. Behind these to the north was a large lawn known as the Club Lawn as on the left of the lawn was a wooden building known as 'The Club' which was used for games. Also on the Club Lawn was a wooden building known as 'Cyril's Hut'. On the east of the Club Lawn was the wall of the Flower Garden. The Club Lawn was bounded to the north by a hedge beyond which was the Chicken Run which contained trees and two hen houses.

The Flower garden was enclosed to the west, north and south by high walls and to the east by a long rockery beyond which, and bounding the front lawn were large rhododendron bushes. In the centre of the flower garden was a large fruit cage with raspberries and gooseberries. To the north east of the Flower Garden was what we called 'the Fattest Tree in Shropshire' - a massive oak tree which must have been there for hundreds of years and which still exists.

The back door of the house (i.e. at the very back of the house – not the pillared entrance) gave access to the brick built wing which linked the main house and the sandstone wing. A long passage way from the back door gave access on the left to three larders and on the right to the boiler room. Ahead was the scullery with the





kitchen off to the left. The passage way wound round the scullery and gave way to the 'Glass Passage' – a veranda, which gave access to the main house.

Entering the Main House through the door beyond the pillars you entered a small hall with staff toilets on the

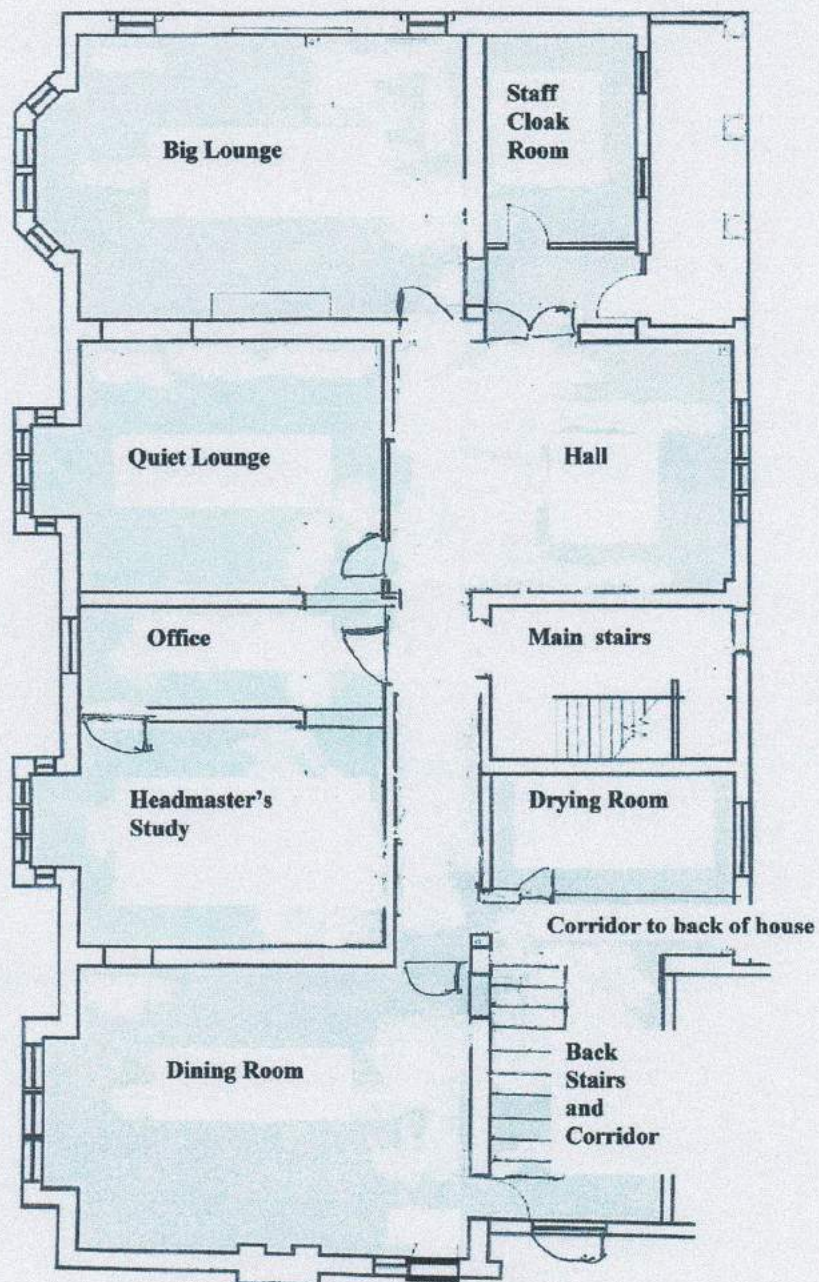
to the left was a long, wide and rather dark corridor giving access to the rooms at the front of the main house and on the left, to the main staircase.



***The 'Fattest Tree in Shropshire'***

*Copyright : Rhys Whatmore*





SHOTTON HALL IN THE 1960s  
Ground Floor

*Plan adapted from that in the Sales Brochure produced by  
Thornton Baker Homes*



At the north end of this corridor a door on the left led into the back of the house. Passing through this door, on the left was the doorway to the cellars and then 'the 'Drying Room' (formerly the Butler's Pantry' and on the right was a staircase known as the Backstairs' and a corridor leading to a side door.

Standing in the hall looking east, the first room on the right was the 'Big Lounge' which had a beautiful sprung beech floor and a plaster fireplace. In the middle of the right hand wall was a high blocked doorway which had given access in earlier times to a glass conservatory. The Hall, the staff toilets and the Big Lounge now form part of Apartment 1.

The next room was the 'Quiet Lounge'. Next came a narrow corridor-like room which led to the front door in the main façade of the house. This room was used as the school Office.

Next came the Headmaster's Study which was entered from a door in the adjacent office. This study had a very fine wooden fireplace dating back to the time of the Watkins family.

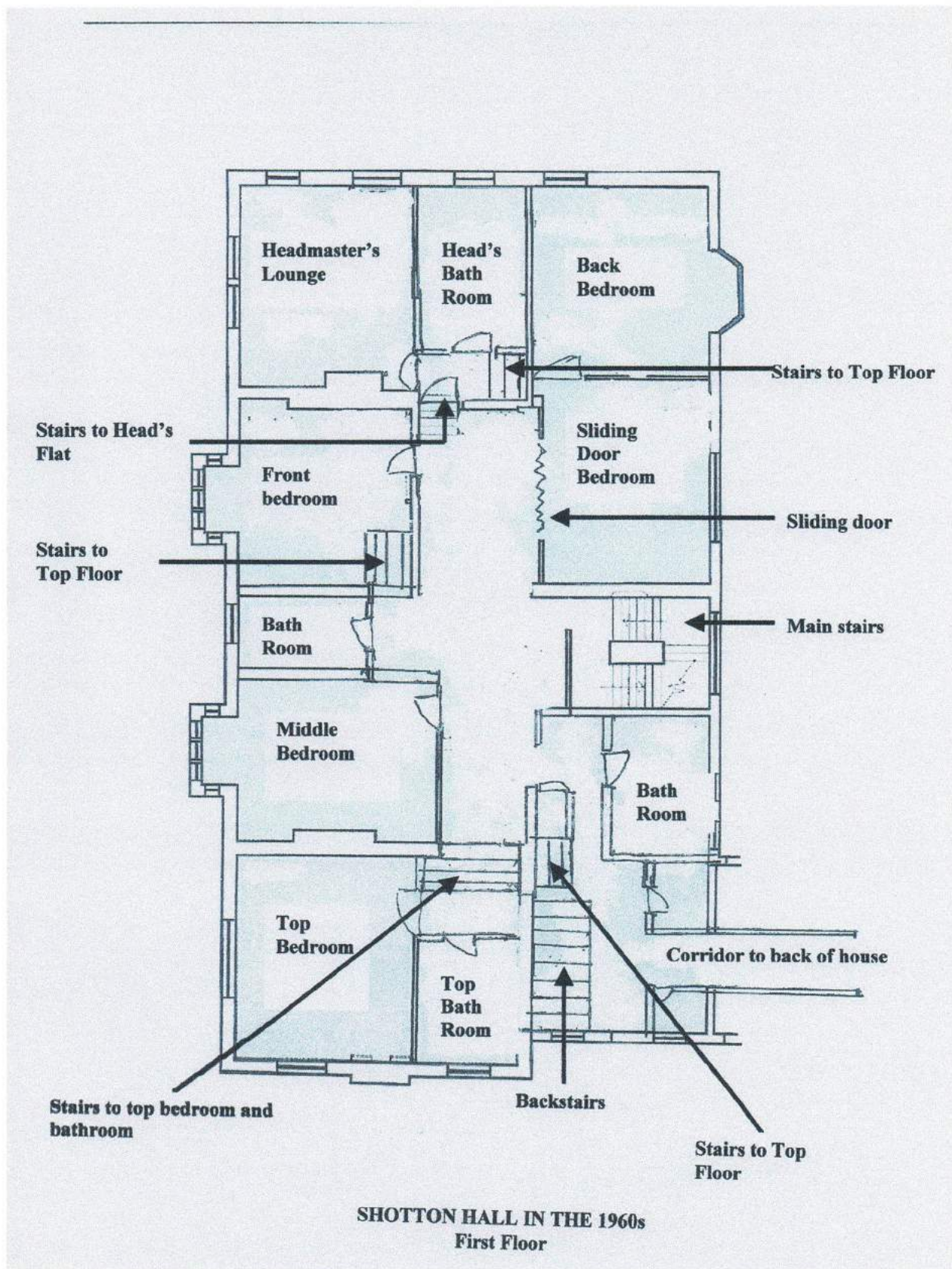
The Quiet Lounge, the Office and the Headmaster's study – these three rooms probably defining the limits of the medieval house – are now part of Apartment 2.

The last room at the front of the house was the Dining-room. The large fireplace contained original blue Delft tiles. This room is now part of Apartment 3.

Returning to the main staircase, the original hand rail of which remains in place, you ascended to a small landing and went through a large plaster moulded archway into a wide corridor. The staircase led no further, but there is now a further flight of stairs continuing to the top floor of the house.

Turning to the right at the head of the stairs and facing south, there was on the right a very large and heavy sliding door which gave access to the Sliding Door Bedroom, with another fine fireplace, and to the Back Bedroom (over the columns) beyond. These rooms now form Apartment 4.





*Plan adapted from that in the sales brochure produced by Thornton Baker Homes*



Ahead was a short flight of stairs, crossed by a partition and a door which led to the Headmaster's Flat. At the top of these stairs to the left was the Headmaster's Lounge, in front was a bathroom and to the right the stairs continued upwards to bedrooms on the left and the right. That on the left is likely to be the bedroom used by Queen Mary, whilst that on the right was used for her caged birds.

This latter room gave access to a lumber room which in turn gave access to the 'Top Corridor' which led to the Iron Balcony. The Headmaster's Lounge and bathroom now form Apartment 5 whilst the other rooms of the Headmaster's flat are now part of Apartment 8 and are approached via the new extension of the main staircase.

Running along the front of the house on the first floor were 2 bedrooms with a bathroom in between them. These are now part of Apartment 6.

Returning to the head of the stairs and turning left to face north, there was a short staircase leading up to the Top Bathroom, with the Top Bedroom on the right. These are now part of Apartment 7.

At the foot of the short staircase the corridor continued to the left past a bathroom and the start of the corridor linking the main house with the sandstone wing on this level, and continued to link up with the Back Stairs. A staircase from this corridor led to the top floor passing the Staff Bathroom and the Guest Room, before turning into the Top Corridor leading to the Iron Balcony. Off this Top Corridor were staffrooms on the left and right at the front of the building, and two lumber rooms. A fire occurred in one of these lumber rooms in 1964, but was quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade. No other rooms were affected.

Going along the corridor leading on the first floor to the sandstone wing there were three staff rooms on the right with a large room – the 'Hostel Living Room' straight ahead at the end of the corridor. This was used by the youngest boys. A doorway onto the left led into the sandstone wing – the Hostel – where the bedrooms of the youngest boys were located together with a sewing room, a staff room and a bathroom.



In front of the main house was a lawn the same width as the house. About 50 yards from the house this lawn was split into three sections, the central section continuing on the same level, the sections on the left and right continuing on a lower level. The lawn ran down to a metal fence beyond which stood a group of isolated pine trees known as 'Five Trees'. In the 1950s, the very elderly gardener at Shotton Hall told Mr and Mrs Lennhoff that he had planted these trees when he was young (probably about 1900). These trees still exist. They were used as the badge of the school.



*The Five Trees Copyright Rhys Whatmore*

To the right of the lawn began a stretch of ornamental woodland.

There were no ghost stories associated with Shotton Hall in the 1960s so the headmaster's wife invented one for us – Ermatrude – a young girl who had committed suicide by throwing herself off the iron balcony. Needless to say, we never saw or heard her. There is, however, a strange story about the Wem road not very far from Shotton. In the Shropshire Family History Society Journal, G Mary Walton recalls that in the early part of the twentieth century two



relatives were riding a motor cycle late at night on the Wem road. They were making an urgent visit to a relative who was dying in the Royal Salop Infirmary. Suddenly one of the men clearly saw a white horse in the road. He called out to the other man who was unable to see the horse, which then disappeared. Later the men checked whether anyone else had ever seen a white horse at that spot. Whilst no-one had, a check of the field names on old maps showed that at least two of the fields at that spot were called 'White Horse Field'. Quite clearly a white horse was connected with that spot. Did the field names record the sightings there in much earlier times of a phantom white horse?

### **The renovation of Shotton Hall**

When renovation of Shotton Hall began in 2001, it was extensive but did not change the appearance of the main façade apart from the demolition of the single story dining-room to the north. The wing connecting the main building with the sandstone wing was demolished and a replacement built. The main building was converted into apartments and the sandstone wing and outbuildings were converted into cottages. The grounds were landscaped and grassed and the gravel drive behind the main house was turned into a garden. In my opinion, the renovation was very successful and the whole estate looks most attractive.



*Main Façade Copyright Mike Watson*



The property seems to have passed from one property company to another during the years since 2001 and it is no longer clear who owns the freehold of the estate.



*Back of main house 2001 Copyright: Mike Watson*



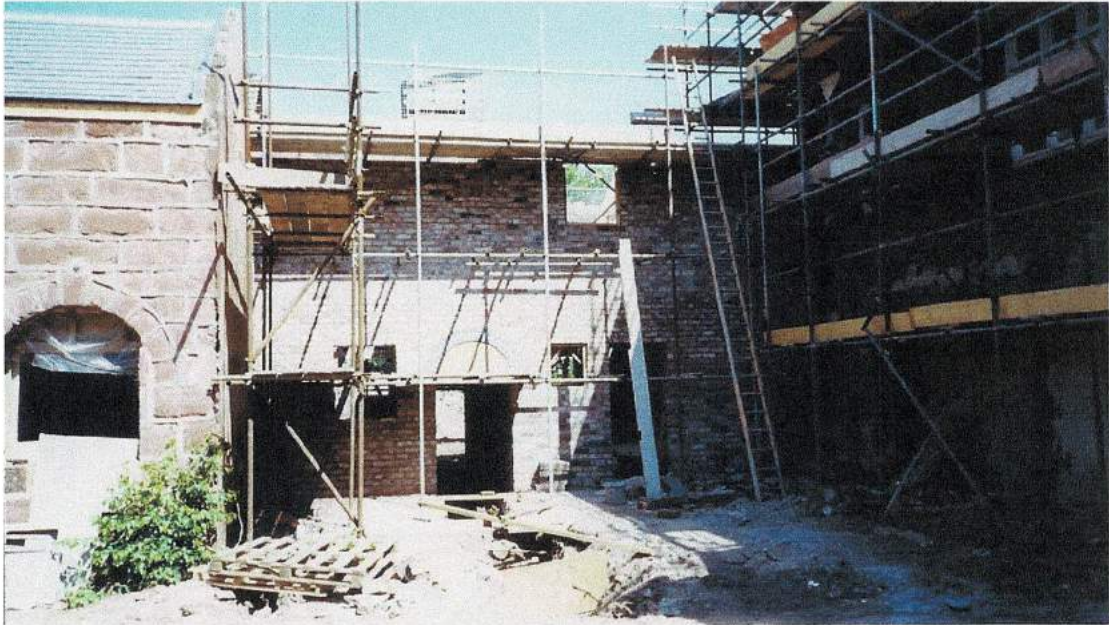


*Back of main house 2001 Copyright: Mike Watson*



*Starting to rebuild the demolished wing between the main house  
and the sandstone wing  
Copyright: Mike Watson*





*Rebuilding the demolished wing Copyright: Mike Watson*



**The main staircase Copyright: Mike Watson**





*Renovating the sandstone wing Copyright: Mike Watson*

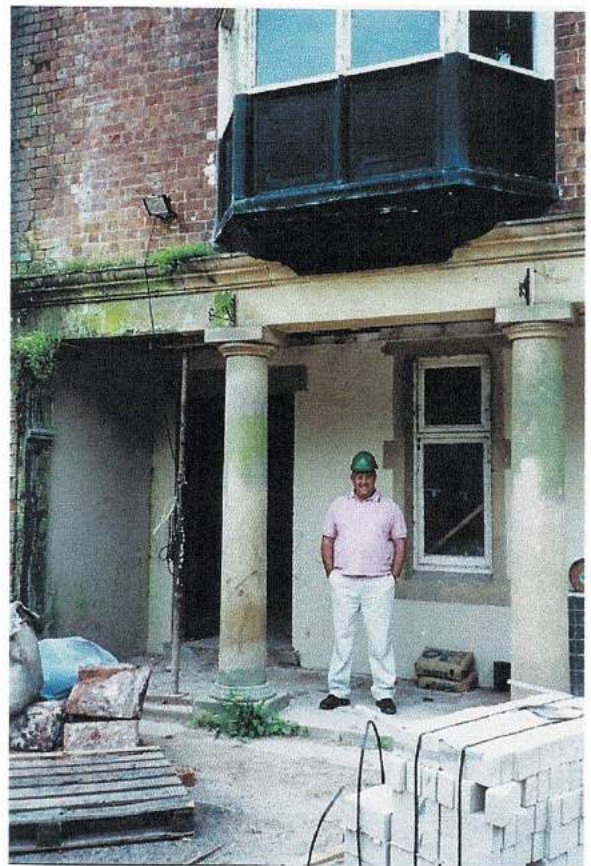


*Renovation of sandstone wing completed Copyright: Mike Watson*





**Stairs to the Headmaster's flat, soon to be  
Mike and Dee Watson's new home**  
Copyright: Mike Watson



**Mike Watson inspects the renovations**  
Copyright: Mike Watson



***Entrance Hall*** Copyright: Mike Watson





**The former 'Big Lounge' Copyright : Mike Watson**



***Making changes to the former 'School Yard' Copyright: Mike Watson***



## The new Shotton Hall

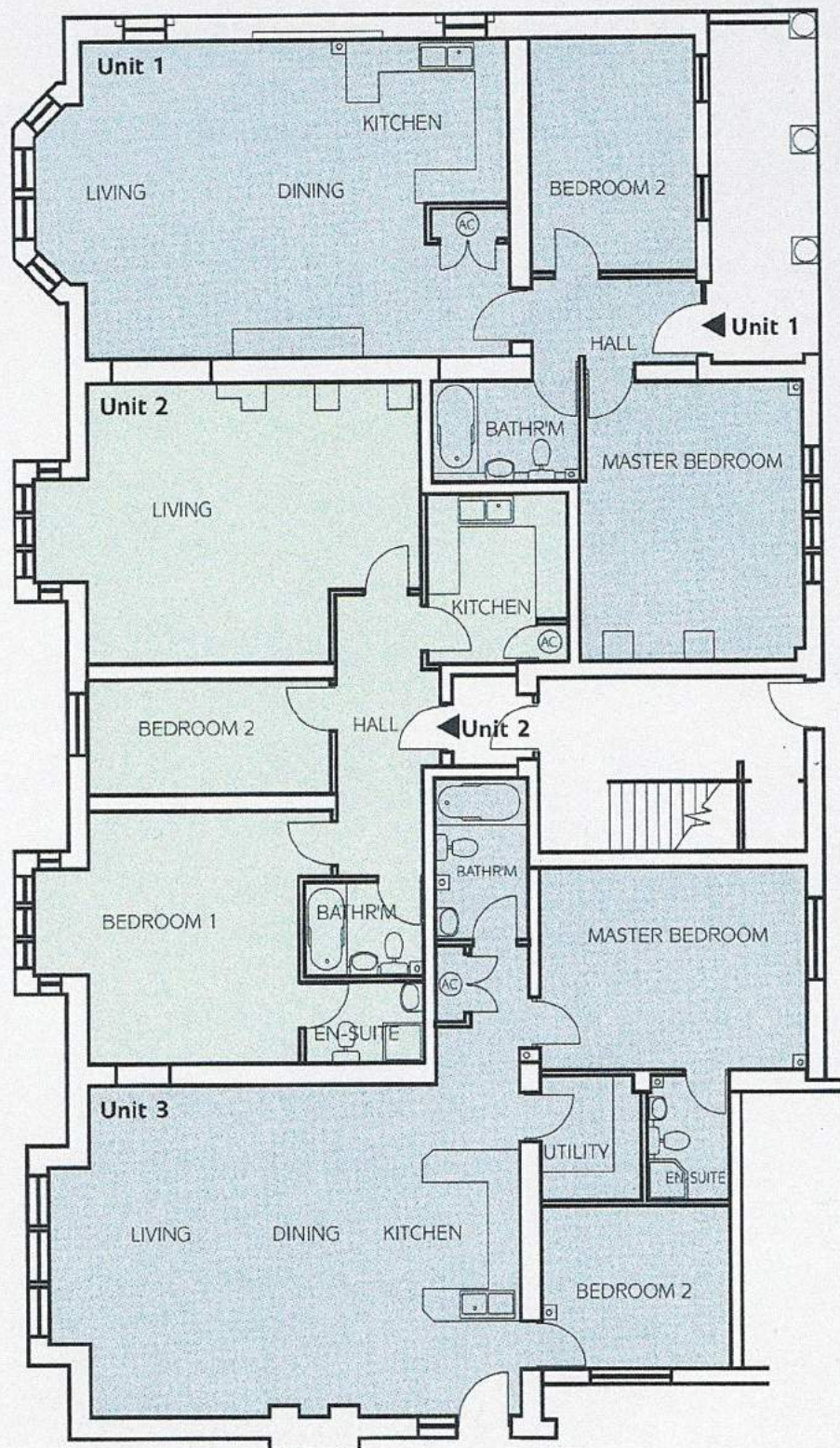


*The back of the main house Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*



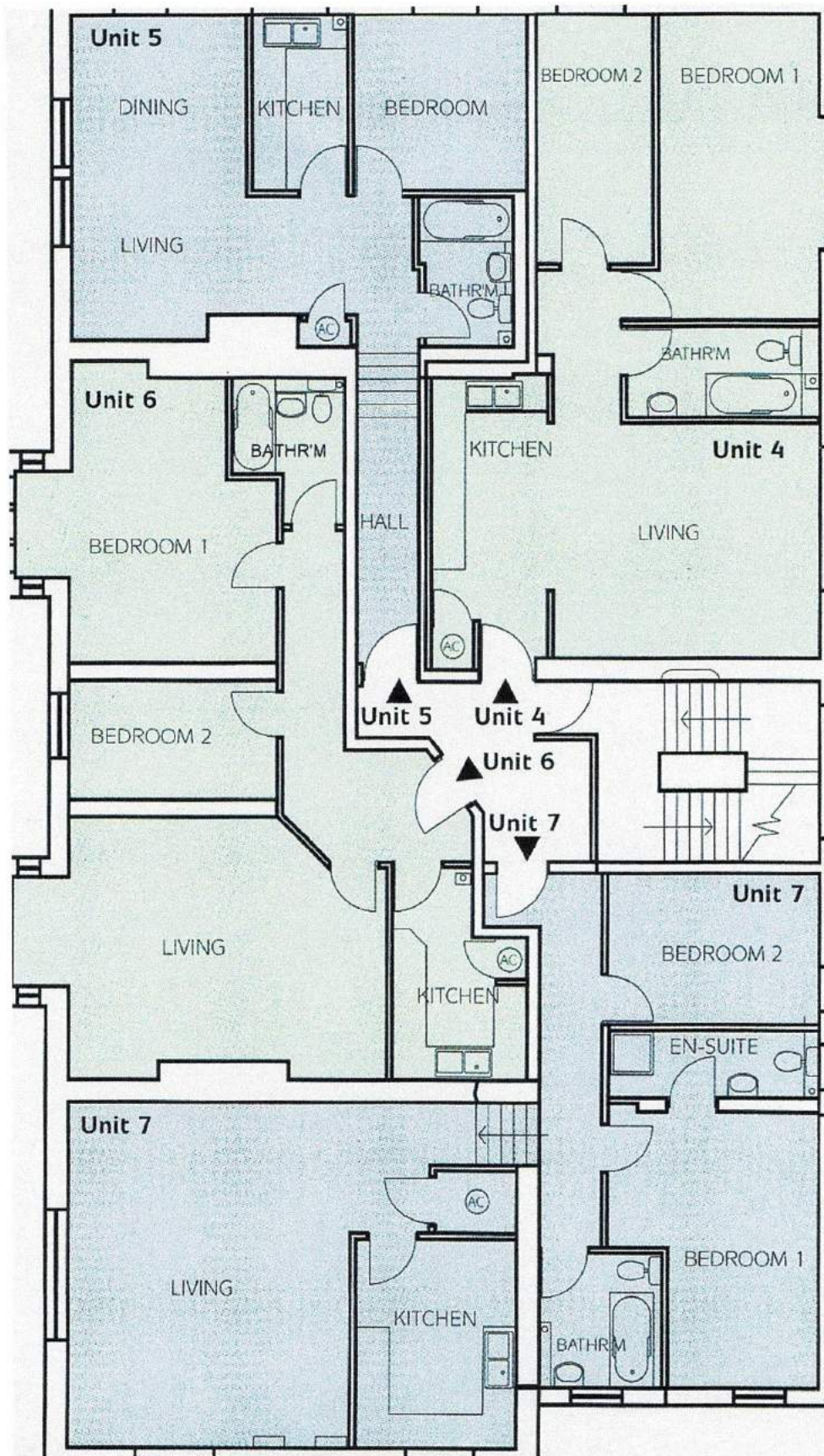
*Former Headmaster's House and the Hostel Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*





***The apartments on the Ground Floor of the Main House***  
*From Sales Brochure issued by Thornton Baker Homes*





*The apartments on the First Floor of the Main House*  
**From Sales Brochure issued by Thornton Baker Homes**





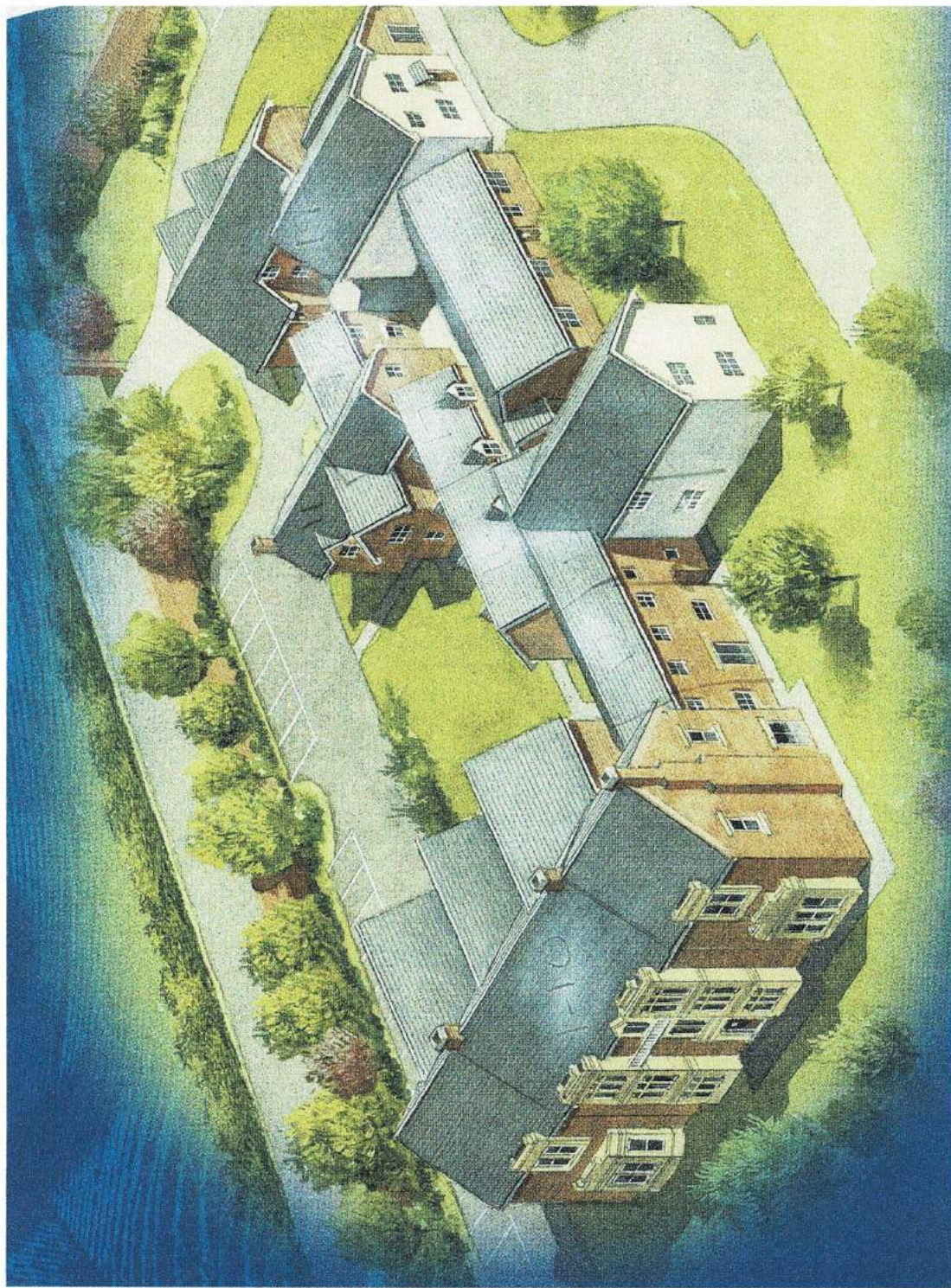
*Site of former Flower Garden and Club Lawn Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*



*The former School Yard Copyright: Rhys Whatmore*



***The New Shotton  
Hall***  
*From the Sales  
Brochure issued by  
Thornton Baker  
Homes*





## Shotton Farm



*Front of  
Shotton Farm  
Photograph  
taken and  
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Richard  
Mayall  
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Whatmore*

This is now a listed building and a description of the house has been drawn up by the Department of the Environment. This states that the house was built in the mid to late eighteenth century with mid nineteenth century additions. [Watkin Watkins, however refers to building a house 'for the tenant' and this may have been Shotton Farm, in which case the farmhouse was erected between 1792 and 1811.] It is a red brick building of three storeys with a dressed red stonestone plinth and a slated roof. The front façade has a later 2 storey gabled addition. The rear also has a later projecting wing of one and a half storeys. Inside the house is a staircase with closed string and stick balusters.

*Rear of  
Shotton Farm  
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## **Sources**

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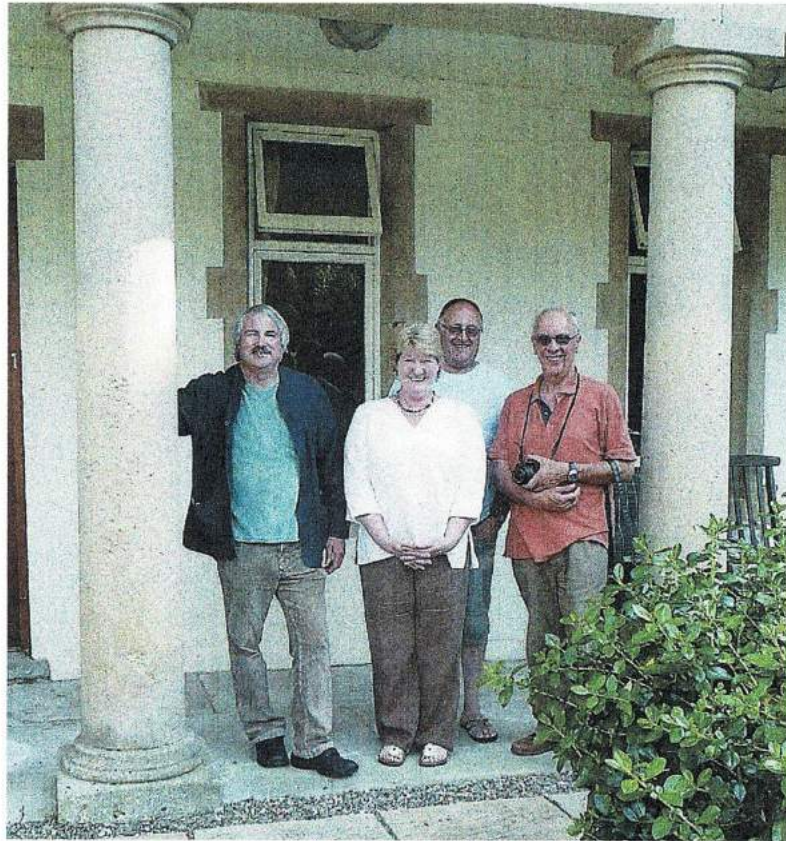
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Personal recollections of myself and former students and staff of Shotton Hall

Information from current residents of Shotton Hall

Wikopaedia





**Some of the contributors to this booklet, under the pillars at the back of the Main House of Shotton Hall**  
*Left to right: Rhys Whatmore, Dee Watson, Mike Watson, Peter Saunders*  
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