

Oxfordshire

BURFORD GAZETTEER: OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS

High Street: No. 78 (The Mermaid)

Work on the owners and occupiers of Burford's buildings was undertaken during 2003-6 as part of the Oxfordshire EPE project. The research accompanied the architectural investigations summarised on this website.

Standard sources included: census enumerators' books 1841-1901 in The National Archives; District Valuation assessments in Oxfordshire Record Office; printed trades directories including Kelly's Directory of Oxfordshire (1883-1939); RH Gretton, The Burford Records (1920), which summarises a vast body of early property deeds; and research (published and unpublished) by the Revd Raymond Moody and Mrs Joan Moody of Burford, drawing in part on title deeds in private possession. In some cases lack of documentation prevents the building's history being taken back earlier than the 19th century. The research was carried out by RB Peberdy of VCH Oxfordshire.

OCCUPATION and USE

2003

Mermaid public house.

Post-WWII

Front of property rebuilt; reopened as The Mermaid (R. Moody, Inns of Burford, pp. 59, 62).

1939

Three Pigeons Public House, prop. Walter Douglas Lomas, listed (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1920

Ernest Frank Aldridge listed as 'beer retailer' (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1915

Ernest Frank Aldridge listed as 'beer retailer' (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1911

Ernest Frank Aldridge listed as 'beer retailer & agent for the Great Western Railway Co.', High Street (no reference in directory to Three Pigeons by name) (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1910

Owned by Clinch & Co., occupied by Ernest F. Aldridge; noted as Three Pigeons Inn (DV Survey, ref. no. 401).

1903

Albert John Butler listed as butcher (no reference in directory to Three Pigeons by name) (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1901

Occupied by Albert Butler (butcher, cattle dealer), wife, 3 children, servant; named as The Three Pigeons (census, entry no. 39).

1895

Albert John Butler, 'butcher & beer retailer', listed (no reference in directory to Three Pigeons by name) (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1891

Occupied by Robert Thorpe (innkeeper), wife (assistant), 3 daus. (inc. agric. labourer, innkeeper's assistant) (census, entry no. 39).

1887

Robert Thorpe, Three Pigeons Public House, listed (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1881

Occupied by Joseph Smith (publican), wife, 2 daus., servant; named as Three Pigeons Inn (census, entry no. 46).

1876

B.C. Fisher, 'Three Pigeons', listed (Harrod's Dir. Oxon.).

1871

Occupied by Bart. Fisher (publican, carrier), wife, 5 children; named as The Three Pigeons (census, entry no. 40).

1869

John Bricknell, 'Three Pigeons', listed (PO Dir. Oxon.).

1869

John Bricknell listed under 'Three Pigeons' (PO Dir. Oxon.).

1868

[Three Pigeons not listed in Cassey & Co. Dir. Oxon.].

1867

John Pikeley listed under 'Three Pigeons Inn' (Melville & Co. Dir. Oxon.).

1864

Edward Arthurs listed under 'Three Pigeons' (PO Dir. Oxon.).

1863

John Pikeley listed under 'Three Pigeons' (Dutton, Allen & Co's Dir. Oxon.).

1861

Occupied by Bart. Fisher (victualler, carrier), wife, son, servant, 2 lodgers (census, entry no. 59).

1854

Peter Sharpe, 'victualler', listed under 'Three Pigeons Inn' (Billing's Dir. Oxon.).

1853

Peter Sharpe listed under 'Three Pigeons' (Lascelles' Dir. Oxon.).

1852

'Ed., Sharpe' (sic) listed under 'Three Pigeons' (Gardner's Dir. Oxon. (1852).

1851

Occupied by Peter Sharpe (innkeeper), wife, brother, 2 lodgers, 2 servants (census, 3rd part, entry no. 32).

1842

Peter Sharp listed under 'Three Pigeons' (Pigot's Dir.).

1841

Probably occupied by Peter Sharpe (publican), wife, 2 others (census, entry no. 341).

1830

John Dunphy listed under 'Three Pigeons' (Pigot's Dir.).

1823--4

James Dumphrey listed under 'Three Pigeons' (Pigot's Dir.).

[Inn appears in R. Moody, Inns of Burford, pp. 58--9, 62, but no inf. before 1820s.]

PLOT INFORMATION

Measured by Oxfordshire Buildings Record. Frontage width (OBR measurement): 8.48 m.
Length (map measurement): 42 m.

1999

Since 1921 the passageway has been eliminated. It also looks as if the southern range has been slightly shortened and the northern range extended, to create a building with greater uniformity.

1921

Building consists of two narrow ranges running east—west, with a passageway between them. The southern range is longer than the northern one.

Read more in the EPE book *Burford: Buildings and People in a Cotswold Town* by Antonia Catchpole, David Clark and Robert Peberdy (published 2008)

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