

Oxfordshire

BURFORD GAZETTEER: OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS

High Street: No. 42-44 (Falkland Hall)

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Gretton, The Burford Records (1920), which summarises a vast body of early property deeds; and research (published and unpublished) by the Revd Raymond Moody and Mrs Joan Moody of Burford, drawing in part on title deeds in private possession.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

NB from 1830 to an unknown date the Bear and 'Falkland Hall' were in common ownership and possibly treated as a single unit. The building's name is apparently a late attribution, dating perhaps from the period 1890 to 1910.

1962

Building leased by trustees for commercial activity (inf. from R. Moody).

WWII

Building housed a cinema (inf. from A. Jewell).

1939

Falkland Hall is 'now the Town Institute ... used for dancing, entertainments, public meetings &c.' (Kelly's Dir. Oxon.).

1920

Building acquired by the War Memorial Committee and vested in separate trustees (inf. from R. Moody).

1910

Owned by 'Sports Cttee'; no occupier stated. Note that building is called Falkland Hall (DV Survey, ref. no. 182).

1906

Burford Recreation Society (founded 1904) purchased building; became used for 'dancing, entertainments, public meetings &c.' (Kelly's Dir. Oxon., 1911 edn).

1901

Described as Salvation Army Barracks – 1 house, uninhabited (census; no entry no.).

1891

Occupied by Arthur Barric??, captain in the Salvation Army (census, entry no. 13).

1890

Building on corner of Priory Lane converted into Salvation Army barracks (Kelly's Dir. Oxon., 1895 edn).

1881

Probably item described as uninhabited house (census, entry no. 13).

1871

Building probably contained following four small households: (a) Mary Taylor (straw bonnet maker); (b) Mary Ryman (seamstress); (c) Sarah Hart (gloveress), nephew (bootmaker), niece; (d) Chas Sparks (agric. labourer), wife (census, entries nos. 18-21).

1861

Following three households may have lived in Bear buildings or in this property: (a) Henry Harding (labourer and lodger); (b) Richard Forrest (tailor), wife, 4 children, 4 grandchildren, brother; (c) E. Hurt (deaf pauper), 3 children (inc. 2 gloveresses).

1851

Following 5 households, listed as single household probably occupied the building: (a) Richard Forest (tailor), wife, 6 children; (b) William Cook (cordwainer), wife, dau.; (c) John Forest (tailor), wife, son; (d) Richard Cossett, son (both carpenters); (e) Richard Ryman (labourer), wife, 4 children.

1841

Situation unclear.

1830

Building sold with the Bear Inn by the Lenthall estate to John Jones, carpenter and builder (R. Moody, Inns of Burford, p. 35).

Late 17th—18th cs.

Building possibly acquired by Matthews family, or later publican, and added to Bear Inn (inf. from R. Moody).

1558

House built possibly for Edmund Silvester, clothier (died 1569): but see [Falkland Hall and Edmund Silvester](#). (R. and J. Moody, The Book of Burford, 21; Buckler drawing, 1821, in Bodleian Library).

PLOT INFORMATION

Width (OBR measurement): 15.6 m. (Original plot possibly extended to about 30 m. At some times a strip of land on the north side was transferred to the adjacent tenement, and cottages were built on the south side of the front, facing Priory Lane. The south side

of the tenement plot presumably once had a wall, similar to the one along Sheep Street behind the pharmacy.)

1999

Building appears to be unchanged from the 1921 except for a small addition to the north-west corner.

1921

Hall appears to be essentially the rectangular building erected in the mid 16th century.

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