



Shrewton House, Shrewton

A Historic Buildings Statement and history

Report No. B736

July 2017

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1 INTRODUCTION

The village of Shrewton is made up of seven scattered historic communities on Salisbury Plain¹. The older buildings in the village are mainly red brick with some flint-work. Shrewton House has been described by Pevsner² as making 'a handsome sight'. The house appears to have been built by the Gilbert family between 1820 and 1832 to replace an existing farmstead near the church. It stands on a raised terrace screened at the rear by trees with views looking south; the land descends gently across fields. It was known as 'Shrewton Park' in 1881³. In 1897 the owner, Thomas Mills sold 570 acres to the War Dept. soon after which the house was increased in size by adding a servants' wing to the rear. The house has been very little altered beyond this date except for repairs and refurbishment by the present owners. The current ownership has seen the addition of a timber-framed garage to the rear and the conversion of the stable loft into a flat. Its setting remains one of landscaped grounds with the stable block out of view to the north-east, and a lodge house on the drive to the west now known as Garden Cottage.

2 INSTRUCTION

In accordance with instruction by Mrs Victoria d'Avanzo, a historical appraisal of Shrewton House, Shrewton was undertaken in July 2017. The results, incorporated in the following report, present a photographic and textual record of the building as it now stands, supported by survey drawings, map and documentary evidence where relevant. This is followed by cautious archaeological interpretation.

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3 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This report is intended to provide supporting information to assist in determining an application for listed building consent for the alteration of Shrewton House in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework⁴ paragraph 128 which states:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local

¹ <https://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/getcom.php?id=202>

² Pevsner, N: The Buildings of England: Wiltshire, 1963

³ Census returns of 1881

⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government, 27th March 2012

planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

4 Listed Buildings

Shrewton House is listed grade II. Surrounding buildings are not listed, though the stable block and lodge house appear in 1832 at the same time as the mansion.

⁵SHREWTON ELSTON LANE SU 04 SE (off east side)

3/234 Shrewton House and front railings 18/2/58

II

Detached country house. Circa 1830, with late C19 service wing. Limestone ashlar front, rendered brick returns, late C19 rear wing is brick cavity walling, Welsh slate hipped roof, ashlar stacks with moulded capping. T-plan. 2-storey, 3-window front. Central double doors have fanlight over incorporating a lamp, either side is 15-pane tripartite sash, verandah to ground floor is supported on four pairs of stone Tuscan columns and up 4 stone steps. First floor has three French windows with margin panes, balcony with good wrought iron railings. Deep eaves. Left return has four plate glass sashes to ground floor and one small 12-pane sash to first floor. Right return has three plate-glass sashes and one small 12-pane sash to first floor; external stack. Rear of main range has one 20-pane sash to ground floor and one 16-pane sash to first floor. Rear service wing has half-glazed doors and 4-pane, 12-pane or plate glass sashes to ground and first floors. Interior has fine plaster ceiling margins, room to left of door has vine decoration and room to right depicts oak leaves and acorns, the hall has laurel leaves. Fireplace surrounds with paterae. Cellar. In front of the house are railings with same iron-work as those on the balcony.

Listing NGR: SU0721944791

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Building Recorders: Dorothy Treasure, Louise Purdy and Alyson Curtis, at Wiltshire Buildings Record, Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3QN Tel. 01249 705508 email to: dorothytreasure@wiltshire.gov.uk

Documentary Research: Margaret Parrott at Wiltshire Buildings Record

Survey Drawings: Kindly supplied by Cadplan, Cob Tree House, Oldbury Lane, Ightham, Kent TN15 9DA 01732 469100

This survey acknowledges the kind co-operation of Mrs Victoria d'Avanzo

⁵ <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1023995>

6 DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR

South Elevation



Fig. 1 Main south elevation and ornamental railings to terrace

Limestone ashlar front with full-length portico reached by limestone steps repaired in 1979.⁶ Two-storey with 3-light margin-pane sashes to principal rooms either side of 6-panel door with rectangular overhead. Unusual arrangement of lantern incorporated into overhead.

Ground floor sheltered by portico of paired Tuscan columns supporting balcony with fine geometric railing matching those in front of house. Three upper floor French casement doors from principal bedrooms leading to balcony.

Shallow hipped slate roof with ashlar stacks on return walls.

West Elevation



Fig. 2 West elevation

⁶ by H Dalton Clifford and Partners, St Ann's Gate, Salisbury

The **main south block** of c1830 is rendered, possibly over brickwork. The 1 x 1 ground floor sash windows with projecting sills are all the same, and were therefore inserted in c1956, soon after purchase by Sir Robert and Lady Evelyn Hinde.⁷ All have bell-moulding above the lintels. The upper window lighting the bedroom 1 bathroom may be a remodelling of an earlier opening, given its similarity to those in the c1900 rear range.

Ashlar lateral stack with two string courses. Later chimney pots. Flues serving north and south rooms converge above first floor window. Deep eaves to hipped slate roof.

Rear service range c1900 of painted stretcher-bond cavity brickwork with reserved 6 x 6 sash windows with projecting sills. Hipped slate roof with two red brick chimneys. Projecting former single storey wash house incorporated into later wing with gabled slate roof. The cellar steps land at a flagstone yard in front of the house, flanked by low rendered walls. To the rear is a partly rendered brick and stone former wash house with gabled slate and clay tiled roofs.

Rear Elevations



Fig. 3 Wash house at west of rear **Fig. 4 Rear (north) elevation**

Attached to the rear of the main service range is an external weatherboarded stair (**fig. 4**) serving the flat built in the early 1990s⁸. To the east is a brick oil store with slate roof, added in c1900 when the rear service range was built.

⁷ Verbal reference – Victoria d’Avanzo

⁸ Verbal reference: Victoria d’Avanzo

East Elevation



Fig. 5 Rear of main range, east side Fig. 6 East elevation of service wing

The rear of the main block is of render, with east entrance to cellar. The service wing is of cavity wall stretcher bond construction. Ground floor windows with 2 x 2 sash windows and cambered heads, upper openings under the eaves. All enclosed within a rendered brick wall to narrow yard.

INTERIOR

GROUND FLOOR

Entrance Hall



Fig. 7 Entrance hall

Fig. 8 c1900 mosaic hall tiling

Ceiling:	Lath and plastered with small moulded cornice and ceiling band.
Walls:	Plain with high torus-moulded original skirting.
Floor:	Red and black mosaic with polychrome border of c1900. Let into former stone sett floor, one edge of which is still visible in front of the dining room door.
Doors:	D1 (front) Two-leaf door with 3 panels each. Brass door furniture. Margin pane overlights. Reeded architrave surround. D2 (inner) Half-glazed inner door with two lower blank panels in similar half-glazed screen. Not full height. Probably inserted c1916.
Staircase:	Original stone open-well stair with cut string and simple rounded nosing. Stick balustrade with plain mahogany handrail wreathed to cast iron newel on curtail step.

Dining Room



Fig. 9 Oak leaf and acorn ceiling band within reeded moulding

(the south drawing room in 1916)

Ceiling:	Lath and plastered with small ogee-moulded cornice and decorative ceiling band with oak leaf and acorn trail.
Walls:	Plastered/plain with high moulded skirting board, otherwise plain.
Floor:	Parquet herringbone wood-block.
Door:	D3 (hall/dining) Original wide panelled door. 6 sunk panels with planted inner mouldings. Brass door furniture incl. mortice lock with brass

knob handles and fingerplate. Set on rising butt hinges. Wide architrave surrounds with triple fascias.

- Windows:**
- W1** (front) Original almost full-height tri-partite sash window (no horns). Plain chamfered glazing. Window panes are flat i.e. not wavy, so possibly replacements. Boxed shutters with same moulding as door. Panelled soffit. Triple fascia architrave surround as door.
 - W2** (side) Single 1x1 sash with horns. Mid-20th century insertion in plain opening without architrave surround and plain modern shelf.

Fireplace: Mid-20th century timber chimney-piece with marble insert to brick hearth lining. Skirtings appear to respect original opening, so fireplace is possibly the same size as the earlier one. 1916 sale particulars state this was a *carved oak mantelpiece*.

Study/Living Room

(formerly the south dining room in 1916)



Fig. 10 Mid-1950s chimneypiece **Fig. 11 Arched moulded recesses and ceiling band**

- Ceiling:** Lath and plastered with pulvinated cornice and vine trail ceiling band.
- Walls:** As above. The back wall has a wide segmental-headed recess with later-inserted (probably mid-20th century) tri-partite inner recesses, the central being round-headed and taller. The inserts combine shelving with single-panel cupboards below.

Floor: Herringbone parquet. C1919 as in dining room?

Door: **D4** 6-panel as above.

Windows: **W3** Tripartite sash as in dining room. Possibly mid-20th century as in dining room.

W4-5 (side windows) As W2. Both have been inserted into round-headed feature recesses either side of the fireplace. The arrises of the recesses are reed-moulded.

Fireplace: Mid-20th century chimney-piece, as in dining room.

Sitting Room



Fig. 11 6-panel door to hall (D5)



Fig. 12 Possibly original chimneypiece

(west Morning room in 1916)

Ceiling: Lath and plastered. Small moulded cornice.

Walls: Papered/plain, with low torus-moulded skirting board. Plain flattened picture rail below plain frieze.

Doors: **D5** (from hall) 6-panel on smaller scale. Hung on plain butt hinges. Flattened ogee-moulded architrave externally. Internally the door has been encased by a full-height wall unit incorporating moulded shelves in round-headed recesses, and panelled door cupboards beneath.

- D6** (from kitchen) 6-panel as D5. 6-pane rectangular overlight with moulded glazing bars. Simple architrave surround.
- Windows:** **W6-7** As W4-5, mid-20th century.
- W8** 10x10 sash, no horns. Mid-20th century replacement of later 19th century window. Sunk panelled shutters. Plain shelf.
- Fireplace:** Possibly original (**fig.12**). Limestone with reeded and pulvinated jambs. Corner blocks with roundels and plain mantelshelf. Stone kerb added later.

Rear Hall

This area has been remodelled in c1900 to accommodate the junction between the main range and the service range.



Fig. 13 Rear of hall with entrance to cellar on left **Fig. 14** Construction of service stair

- Ceiling:** Lath and plastered/plain.
- Walls:** Small moulded skirting board.
- Floor:** Linoleum over a solid floor.
- Doors:** **D7** (from hall) 6-panel on butt hinges as above. Attenuated ogee architrave surround.
- D8** (to kitchen) 4-panel door on butt hinges. On metal door-closer. China knob handles.
- D9** (to cellar) Plank and batten door within boarded partition to cellar stair

Stair: The servants' stair is a semi-newel type of painted softwood with chunky bottle-shaped balusters and newel with a ball finial. The treads and risers are covered in linoleum, but the sawn softwood construction is seen in the understair cupboard (**fig. 14**).

Servery to rear of Dining Room

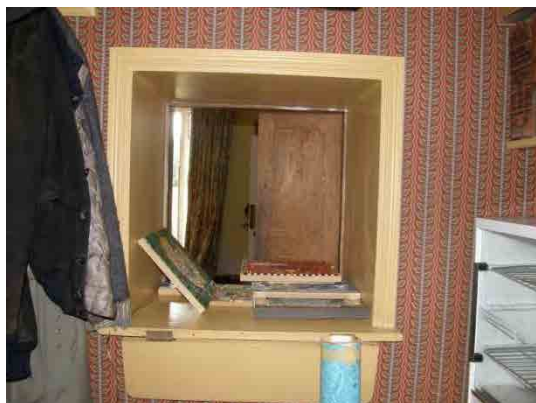


Fig. 15 Hatch formed in c1900



Fig. 16 WC of c1900 with later hand basin

(formerly cloak room)

Ceiling: Tall, lath and plastered.

Walls: Papered/plain. Inserted dog-leg stud partition prob.1878 between servery and the room beyond, probably a China pantry. Low moulded skirting. This room has no windows, but is lit by a borrowed light from the WC. Hatch cut through from dining room prob. 1950s.

Floor: Blue lias/pennant?

Door: **D10** Missing. Architrave surround.

WC

Ceiling: Lath and plastered. Strange circular feature in front of coved front wall. Perhaps for plumbing?

Walls: As above. Half-glazed partition to servery of c1878? date.

Floor: Continuation of above.

Door: **D11** Half-glazed door as above.

Windows: **W9-10** 1 x 1 sashes with horns as above. Inserted into formerly blank wall.

Other details: Water closet of some age. The overhead cistern bears the inscription 'Shanks and Co, Ltd, 1901, Patent levers'. The lead piping appears to be around that date.

China Pantry



Fig. 17 China pantry



Fig. 18 Belfast sink and drainer

Ceiling: Lath and plastered.

Walls: As above.

Floor: Lino over suspended floor.

Door: **D12** 4-panel as D8. This may have been the original doorway into the room before it was divided, though it is difficult to be sure as the architrave surrounds to both D11 and D12 are the same.

Window: **W11** 10 x 10 sash with moulded glazing bars as above. Plain panelled shutters. Attenuated ogee/plain arch surround.

Other Details: Range of possibly c1878 fitted china cupboards on back wall including metal safe (**fig. 17**). Shelf on brackets on front wall with holes for holding curve-bottomed objects. Gate-leg fold-out table in front of window. Old boxing in angle by door probably for wires from servants' bells. Old Belfast sink with leaded draining board and replacement later 20th century taps (**fig. 18**).

Kitchen

(added after sale of 1916)



Fig. 19 Kitchen



Fig. 20 Fitted L-shaped dresser

- Ceiling:** Lath and plaster.
- Walls:** Plastered/plain. Modern-looking torus-moulded skirting board.
- Floor:** Narrow softwood boards. Suspended timber floor covered in vinyl in larder.
- Doors:**
- D13** (larder) 3-panel door with large zinc ventilation panel over. Part ovolo-moulded architrave surround to both. The larder contains 3 tiers of softwood shelves held on flat timber corbels and ledges.
 - D14** (rear yard) Half-glazed modern door.
 - D15** (to utility) 4-panel on butt hinges and door closer. Brass knob handles.
- Windows:**
- W12** (east) 2x 2x2 sashes with horns.
 - W13** (west) As W12.
- Fireplace:** The original hearth has been entirely remodelled in the later 20th century.
- Other details:** Good corner dresser with moulded lips on shelf edges for plates. Drawers with drop-loop handles and lower cupboards with fielded panel doors. Wooden knob handles on cupboard doors are modern (**fig. 20**).
- There is a modern (mid 20th century?) round-headed arch between the larder (added after the construction of the kitchen) and the west wall, leading to the back door.

Back entrance/utility area



Fig. 21 Rear utility area



Fig. 22 Servants' bell in utility area

Ceiling:	Lath and plaster.
Walls:	Plastered, with tiled skirting.
Floor:	Red quarry tiles.
Door:	D16 Heavy 4-panel door, flush on the outside, sunk inside. On butt hinges. Rim lock with replacement knob handles.
Window:	W14 2 x 2 sash with horns and architrave surround.
Other Details:	Original fittings of c1916 lining walls, including Belfast sink with wooden wrist rest. Chimney breast now blocked in by later fittings. Servants' bell board high on west wall (fig. 22).

Flat's Kitchen



Fig. 23 Dresser and entrance to side passage



Fig. 24 Added stair to first floor

Ceiling:	Plastered/plain. Section in south-west corner appears to have been infilled – perhaps for opening? Maybe just repair.
Walls:	Plastered/papered. With old skirting.
Floor:	Linoleum over suspended floor. 2 steps up to new stair through doorway, door missing.
Doors:	D17 4-panel as above. D18 (flat's front door) Modern hardwood, part glazed.
Windows:	W15-16 2 x 2x2 sash windows, (only one with horns). Rounded architrave surround.
Other:	Good old dresser with 2 tiers of shelves and sunk panelled cupboards below. Probably c1900 (fig. 23).

Larder, room with water pump and passage



Fig. 25 Former flue to boiler



Fig. 26 Hand pump and stone sink

This was originally a single wash house with a boiler in front of the former fireplace on the west wall (**fig. 25**). Divided after 1916 into present proportions, and flue blocked.

Ceilings:	All lath and plaster.
Walls:	Whitewashed brick. Flue-type feature against back wall now divided by brick wall between wash room and cold larder.

- Floors:** Passage and wash room are paved with square flags. In the water pump room there is an area outlined with bricks for an earlier feature, perhaps a boiler, now gone. The floor around this has been concreted with scribed lines to resemble flags. Step down with timber nosing to wash room. The cold larder is paved with old red quarry tiles.
- Doors:**
- D19** (to passage) 4-panel as above.
 - D20** (to water pump room) plank and batten with thumb latch and heavy bolt. Hung on japanned strap hinges.
 - D21** (exterior) As D19. Large rim lock and other door furniture.
 - D22** (to larder) As D19. No bolt. Chain fixing on jamb, perhaps once lockable.
- Windows:**
- W17** (to water pump room) 3 x 6 sash window. No horns.
 - W18** 2 x 2 sash window with exterior zinc lining for ventilation.



Fig. 27 Interior of larder

- Other Details:**
- Water pump room:** Low stone sink on brick jambs, possibly original. Cast iron water pump attached to post. Lead piping still extant. Fixed table in recess at far end on iron brackets, and range of low cupboards with panelled doors and timber top is early 20th century and added after wash house divided up (**fig. 26**).
- Larder:** Range of boarded cupboards with ventilation holes and painted shelves. Open shelves around two other walls on timber brackets. All c1916 (**fig. 25**).

FIRST FLOOR

Landing



Fig. 28 Doorway connecting landing to rear extension

Fig. 29 First floor landing ceiling with lantern

- Ceiling:** Plastered/plain with small moulded cornice. Central lantern above round shaft, staff moulded at base. Single pane of glass replacing earlier lantern (**fig. 29**).
- Walls:** Plastered/plain with small torus-moulded skirting. The side bedrooms are approached through a basket arch with recessed reveals and moulded caps.
- Floor:** Carpeted.
- Door:** **D23** (to rear wing) Later-added reeded doorway, tall with plate ledge over. C1900. This is a remodelling of a doorway that led into a box room originally (**fig. 28**).
- Other Details:** The well is guarded by a continuation of the stick balustrade and mahogany handrail.

Bedroom 1



Fig. 30 Bedroom 1



Fig. 32 2 En-suite bathroom

Ceiling:	As above.
Walls:	As above. Small en-suite bathroom created at one end with modern stud wall, perhaps later 20 th century, Incorporates a bookshelf at one end (fig. 32).
Floor:	Carpeted.
Doors:	D24 6-panel as above. No overlight. D25 (bathroom) 2-leaf modern door matching D24.
Window:	W19 As W18.
Other Details:	En-suite bathroom has concealed downlighters and modern cupboards, WC and bath.

En-suite bathroom to bedroom 2

Ceiling:	Plastered/plain.
Walls:	As above.
Floor:	Carpeted.
Doors:	D26 As above. D27 (to landing) As above.
Window:	W20 Inserted 6 x 6 sash of c1916 (same as windows in kitchen of 1916).

Bedroom 2



Fig. 33 French casement door D30



Fig. 34 View from balcony

Ceiling:	Lath and plastered.
Walls:	Plastered/plain. Small torus moulded skirting. Moulded picture rail added later.
Floor:	Herringbone parquet as above.
Doors:	D28 6-panel on butt hinges. Replacement knob handles and finger plate. Attenuated ogee arch surround. D29 (to cup'd) As D21. Possibly added later. The architraves and doors are the same all round. D30 (to balcony) Full-glazed doors with plain chamfered glazing bars. Margin panes. 2 small infilled sections around the middle of the jambs externally indicate former fixings for shutters or canopies. Full-height sunk panelled shutters in shutter boxes with moulded attenuated ogee architrave surround (fig. 33). The French casement doors give onto a leaded balcony guarded by a geometric iron balustrade. At the intersections on the crossed ribs are cast iron 6-pointed stars (fig. 34).
Other Details:	No evidence of fireplace visible, perhaps in slanted wall adjacent to cupboard.

Bedroom 3

Details as bedroom 2

Ceiling: Lath and plastered.

Walls: Plastered/plain. Small torus moulded skirting.

Floor: Carpeted.

Doors: **D31** As D28.

D32 (balcony) As D30.

Bedroom 4

Details as bedroom 2



Figs. 35 & 36 Bedroom 4

Ceiling: Lath and plastered.

Walls: Plastered/plain. Small torus moulded skirting.

Floor: Carpeted.

Doors: **D33** As D28.

D34 (balcony) As D30.

D35 (built-in cupboard) As above.

Fireplace: Chimneypiece with pulvinated and reeded jambs as below. Painted white. Added in mid-1950s.



Fig. 37 Bathroom

Bathroom

Ceiling:	Plastered/plain.
Walls:	Stud wall to bedroom immediately above. Moulded skirting as above. Part modern tiled for bathroom.
Floor:	Carpeted.
Door:	D36 6-panel as D28.
Other details:	Divided from matching bathroom serving rear bedroom. The matching bathroom has a modern 4-panel door (D37) and modern architrave surround. The window (W21) is a 6x6 glazing bar sash without horns as W20, so possibly inserted also. It has an attenuated ogee architrave surround and moulded edged window ledge. Otherwise no other details. Built within the last 6 years ⁹ .

Bedroom 5

Ceiling:	Plastered/plain.
Walls:	Plastered/plain. Small torus moulded skirting.
Floor:	Carpeted.
Doors:	D37 6-panel as above, with 4-pane overlight. D38 (to back stair) 4-panel with china knob handle and fingerplate.
Window:	W22 8x8 glazing bar sash without horns. Live glass. Roll-moulded architrave surround.
Fireplace:	As in bedroom above. Painted.

⁹ Verbal reference: Victoria d'Avanzo

Back Corridor

The back stair rises here, and there is a slightly awkward join with the front stair as the landing level here is above the half-landing of the front stair, due to the joining-on of the c1916 extension. The front part of the corridor appears to have been a box room originally. The window lighting this room was removed and the opening widened to connect with the new extension.

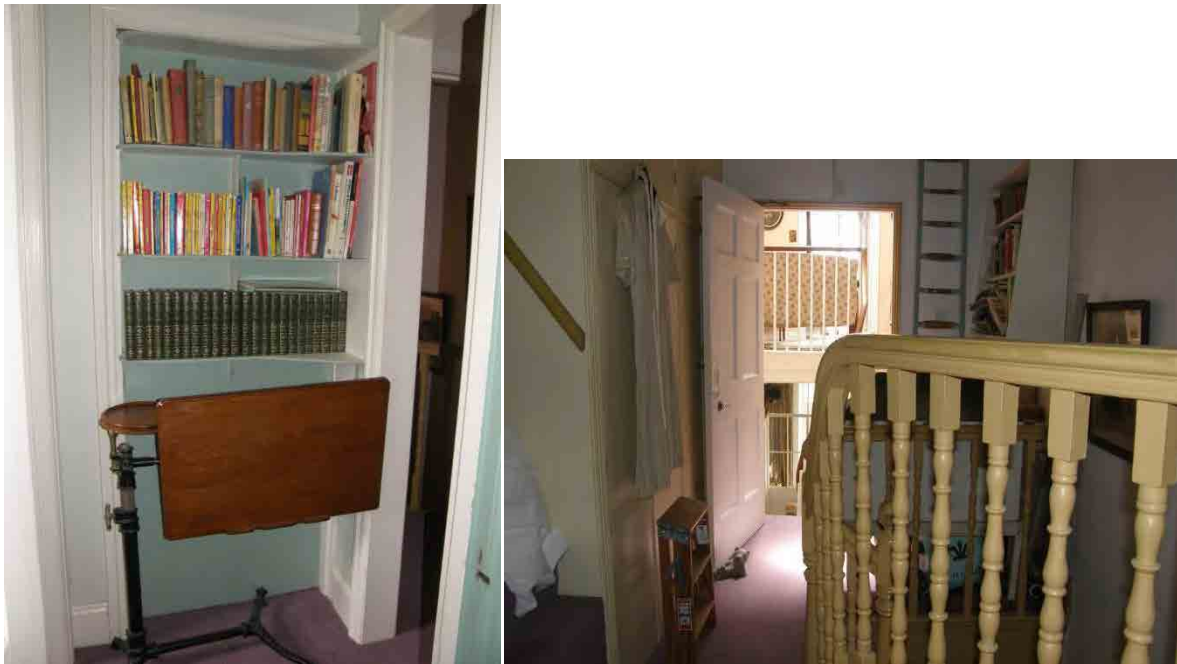


Fig. 38 Blocked doorway to bathroom and WC

Fig. 39 View between back and front stairs (former box room)



Fig. 40 Servants' bells

Fig. 41 Corridor looking north

Ceiling:	The high ceiling has a framed opening above the stair. This was once another light well. Plastered/plain.
Walls:	Plastered/plain.
Floor:	Carpeted.
Stair:	The top of the stair is guarded by a continuation of the balustrade and two newels flank the stairs, as below.
Other Details:	A short flight of 5 steps leads to rear bedroom 5 (visible to left of fig. 39). Between this stair and the back corridor is a mid-20th century corner cupboard with shaped shelves. Above it are high-level cupboards of a similar date. These blocks in one of a pair of doorways. Identical board of servants' bells (fig. 40). Between the stair and the continuation of the landing is a borrowed 4 x 4 sash-type light to the bedroom beyond.

WC



Fig. 42 WC with blocked doorway to right

Ceiling:	Plastered/plain. The ceiling has the same circular feature as in the ceiling below.
Walls:	Plastered/plain. Small torus moulded skirting.
Floor:	Carpeted.
Door:	D39 4-panel door with fingerplate and 1 x 1 sash with bottom leaf with textured glazing. Close moulded architrave surround to doorway.
Window:	W23 1 x 1 sash with horns.

Bathroom



Fig. 43 Bathroom



Fig. 44 Remains of older piping

Ceiling:		Plastered/plain.
Walls:		Plastered/plain. Small torus moulded skirting. Narrow panelled tall dado (this appears to be relatively modern) and coat hooks.
Floor:		Carpeted.
Door:	D40	4-panelled door as D39. With rounded architrave surround.
Window:	W24	2x2 sash window with lower textured glazing.

Bedroom 6

Ceiling:		Plastered/plain.
Walls:		Plastered/plain. Small torus moulded skirting. Partition wall with next bedroom is taken up with later 20 th century full-height cupboards.
Floor:		Carpeted.
Door:	D41	4-panel door with china knob handles and fingerplate. Rounded architrave surround.
Window:	W25	6x6 glazing bar sash without horns. Rounded arch surround to window and door.

Airing cupboard



Fig. 45 Airing cupboard



Fig. 46 Possibly original radiator

Ceiling:	Plastered/plain.
Walls:	Narrow room lined with full-height softwood airing shelves made up of narrow, spaced battens on timber brackets.
Floor:	Narrow softwood boards.
Door:	D42 4-panel door with rounded arch surround. Rim lock without knob handle.
Window:	W26 Lit by 1 x 1 sash window with lower textured glazing.
Other Details:	Room warmed by low, cylindrical radiator of early 20 th century date (fig. 46).

4-panel door (D43) separates the main house from the flat beyond.

Bedroom 7

Ceiling:	Plastered/plain.
Walls:	Modern lining to stud wall to east (bunk bed) room. Room perhaps reduced to increase cupboard space in bunk bed room? Yes. The return wall to the corridor perhaps also moved. Yes, but door frame left in place.
Floor:	Carpeted.

Door: **D44** 4-panel as above.

Window: **W27** 6 x 6 sash with moulded glazing bars. Ovolo moulded arch surround.

Other: Flue from utility room passes through the bedroom behind the door.
No sign of fireplace.

WC

Ceiling: Plastered/plain.

Walls: Plastered/plain with moulded old skirting. Hatch through to airing cupboard. Wall here probably re-lined with board.

Floor: Carpeted.

Door: **D45** 4-panel as above.

Window: **W28** 2 x 2 with horns.

Bedroom 8



Fig. 57 Bedroom 8

Ceiling: Plastered plain.

Walls: Papered/plain.

Floor: Carpeted.

Door: **D46** 4-panel as above.

Windows: **W29** (east) 2x2 sash with horns as above.
 W30 (north) As above.

Fireplace: Cast iron single plate register grate with canopy and integral mantelshelf. Fire bars missing.

Other: Old plumbing in angle of chimney breast.

Later 20th century cupboard unit.

Living Room



Fig. 58 Main living room looking south

Ceiling: P/P.

Walls: P/P with modern skirting on west wall.

Floor: Carpeted.

Doors: **D47** 4-panelled as above.

D48 (to stair) Mid-later 20th century half-glazed door with lever handle. Opening made through exterior wall at this time leading from enclosed stair added for privacy.

Window: **W31** 6 x 6 sash as above.

Fireplace: As in bedroom.

Stair: Modern straight flight, carpeted, lit by 3 x single light casements in varnished softwood.

CELLAR

The cellar has been extensively modernised during the present ownership and has been divided into 4 main areas. The enclosed stair appears to be a modern replacement, or has modern linings (**fig. 59**). At the bottom the stair is closed in with a lattice of thick batten. All the rooms have been tanked, with modern linings unless otherwise stated. The west rooms may have housed the original kitchen, though these rooms have been thoroughly remodelled within the last 20 years.

Room 1 Now remodelled as a bar.



Fig. 59 Internal cellar stair and modern doors to rooms 5 & 6

Fig. 60 Bar area (Room 1)

- Ceiling:** Vaulted ceiling, with modern plastered lining.
- Floor:** Brick floor of c1900. A single squared post on rough timber blocks supports hidden masonry or beam above ceiling lining.
- Door:** **D49** (to rooms 5 & 6) Modern plank and frame double doors.
- Other Details:** Room laid out as a bar with pine-topped island unit and cupboard against the north wall (**fig. 60**). Modern Belfast sink on iron stand against the east wall. All made within the present ownership.

Room 2 (wine bins)

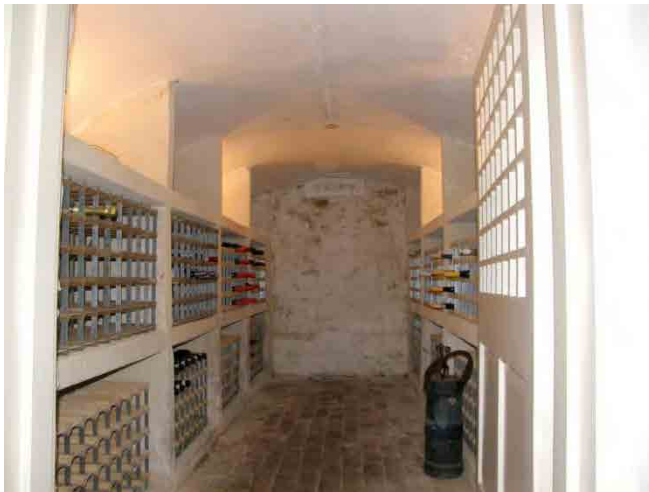


Fig. 61 Wine bins (room 2)

- Ceiling:** Vaulted as above, though the plastering is older, and seen over brick.
- Walls:** Whitewashed brick.
- Floor:** As above.
- Door:** **D50** Modern door with plain lower 2 panels and fretwork upper panel. On cast strap hinges attached with modern screws.
- Other Details:** Lined on east and west walls with 3 tiers of stone wine bins, probably original.

Room 3 (play room)



Fig. 62 Detail of reused C17 beam



Fig. 63 Play room (3)

- Ceiling:** Two reused earlier 17th century beams with deep chamfers, the east with step and runout stops at the north end (**fig. 62**). New plastered ceiling.
- Walls:** On the south side the partition wall to room 4 has been partly removed, leaving structural piers, to combine with room 3.
- Doors:**
- D51** (exterior) Wide 3-panelled door, planked externally. On strap hinges. Probably c1900. Leads to a stairs to ground floor level from the semi-basement.
 - D52** (redundant internal door) As door to wine bins. On 3 sets of butt hinges.
- Window:** **W32** Modern 3-light timber casement with single panes to light-well covered in metal grille.

Room 4 (Billiard Room)



Fig. 64 Billiard room (4)

- Floor:** This is sunk well below the level of room 3, with a low ledge around the walls. All panelled over.
- Other Details:** At one time the middle window sashes at the front of the house on the ground floor were able to slide down into the basement to allow direct access to the veranda.

Room 5 (Workshop)

The sale particulars do not specify the function of this room, but it is possible that the cool worktops were used for some food preparation, either meat or dairy.



Fig. 65 Workshop (4)



Fig. 66 Worktops, sink and drain (4)



Fig. 67 Stone corbels once supporting the kitchen hearth above

- Ceiling:** 2 rectangular whitewashed softwood beams, the westerly with cargo marks. Against the east wall are two stone corbels which once supported an upper hearth (**fig. 67**). Nothing above on the ground floor now. The first floor has a fireplace above this position. The floor must have been reinforced at the time to support it.
- Walls:** Plastered/painted. Modern partitions to hide heating plant.
- Floor:** Earth floor now covered in damp membrane and modern timber wide-spaced slats.
- Door:** **D53** (exterior) 3-panel as D51. One large upper pane protected with iron spear-ended lattice. Leads to exterior ground floor level via steps.
- Window:** **W33** As W32.
- Other Details:** Stone work bench similar to wine bins around north wall returning to west. Pierced stone drain (**fig. 66**).

Room 6 (Store)



Fig. 68 Section of unplastered wall in area of heating ducts between rooms 5 & 6

Fig. 69 Dismantled c1830 fireplace in cellar similar to that in Sitting room (fig. 12)

- Floor:** As above. The present owner reports the existence of two embedded glaze-lined ceramic pots sunk into the floor, now under the damp proof membrane.
- Walls:** The dividing wall between rooms 5 & 6 is exposed on the south side, and seen to be made up of large pieces of limestone and chalk blocks set in a lime mortar. Remains of blackened whitewash and returning brick wall indicate that the heating machinery has been housed here for some time (**fig. 68**). Iron-framed ducts in east wall, now redundant.
- Other Details:** Against the west wall are the remains of a stone fireplace similar to that still extant in the sitting room (**figs. 12 & 69**).

7 Other Buildings on the site

Stables



Fig. 70 Stables from east



Fig. 71 Stables from west



Fig. 72 Fireplace in tack room Fig. 73 Diagonally-boarded door Fig. 74 Stable interior

Of Flemish bond brickwork. Unlisted, though main range containing stalls shown on map of 1832. Main range is a 2-storey building under gabled Welsh slate-tiled roof. Low single-storey entrance range at right angles with wide half-hipped roof and basket-arched entrance possibly added in the later 19th century. Paved in struck blue paving. To the left of the entry is a tack room with fireplace and tack hooks (**fig. 72**), reached via a diagonally-boarded door under a segmental head (**fig. 73**). To the right is a further tack room with vertically boarded dado and ceiling hook. Lit by 8x8 glazing bar sash.

The main stable has 4 loose boxes with iron stanchions, racks and vertical tongue and grooved boarding (**fig. 74**). Vertical shutter runs in grooves between the stable and entrance ranges. In 1987 approval was given to convert the loft into a studio with external staircase¹⁰.

¹⁰ Planning application S/1987/1208

Garden Cottage



Fig. 75 Former lodge house Garden Cottage

Fig. 76 Garden cottage sited prominently on the drive approaching from the south end

The original of c1832 building has been much altered and added to. Part of the original rubblestone construction to the rear is visible perhaps suggesting that the newer extension is at the front.

Oil Store



Fig. 77 Oil store from the east yard



Fig. 78 WC attached on east side

This brick and slate-tiled building does not appear on the Ordnance Survey map edition of 1924, but must have been built soon afterwards. The attached WC still retains a high-level water cistern and sanitary ware.

Wood shed/hen house



Fig. 79 Hen house and run



Fig. 80 Interior

To the west is a timber-framed and weatherboarded wood shed with pitched single-roman tiled roof of pre-1881 date. Internal construction shows an internal horizontally-boarded partition. Central timber post rising to support planked ridge directly. Truss-less roof of mid-later 19th century. It was once used as a dog kennel¹¹.

¹¹ Verbal reference: Victoria d'Avanzo

Garage



Fig. 81 Modern garage

Modern timber-framed and weatherboarded L-shaped garage. Permission to construct this was given in 2002.

Important Features

The primary features listed belong to the primary build of c1830. They are important in that they dictate the character of the house. The secondary features belong to secondary phase of c1900 (except the stalls in the stables which are c1830). These would not be listable in their own right but are good examples for their period.

Primary:

- External south, east and west elevations of main house
- Landscaped setting
- Front terrace with railings
- Unaltered double-pile plan of main house
- Main staircase
- Plasterwork ceiling bands in reception rooms
- 6-panel doors
- Possibly original fireplace in sitting room
- Lantern over first floor landing

Secondary:

- Unaltered service areas of pump room, larder and passage
- Fittings in WC/cloak room and old china pantry
- Dresser in the staff kitchen
- Ground and first floor servants' bell boards
- Original heating equipment/radiator in airing cupboard
- Ground floor fittings in stables



Shrewton House, Elston Lane, Shrewton

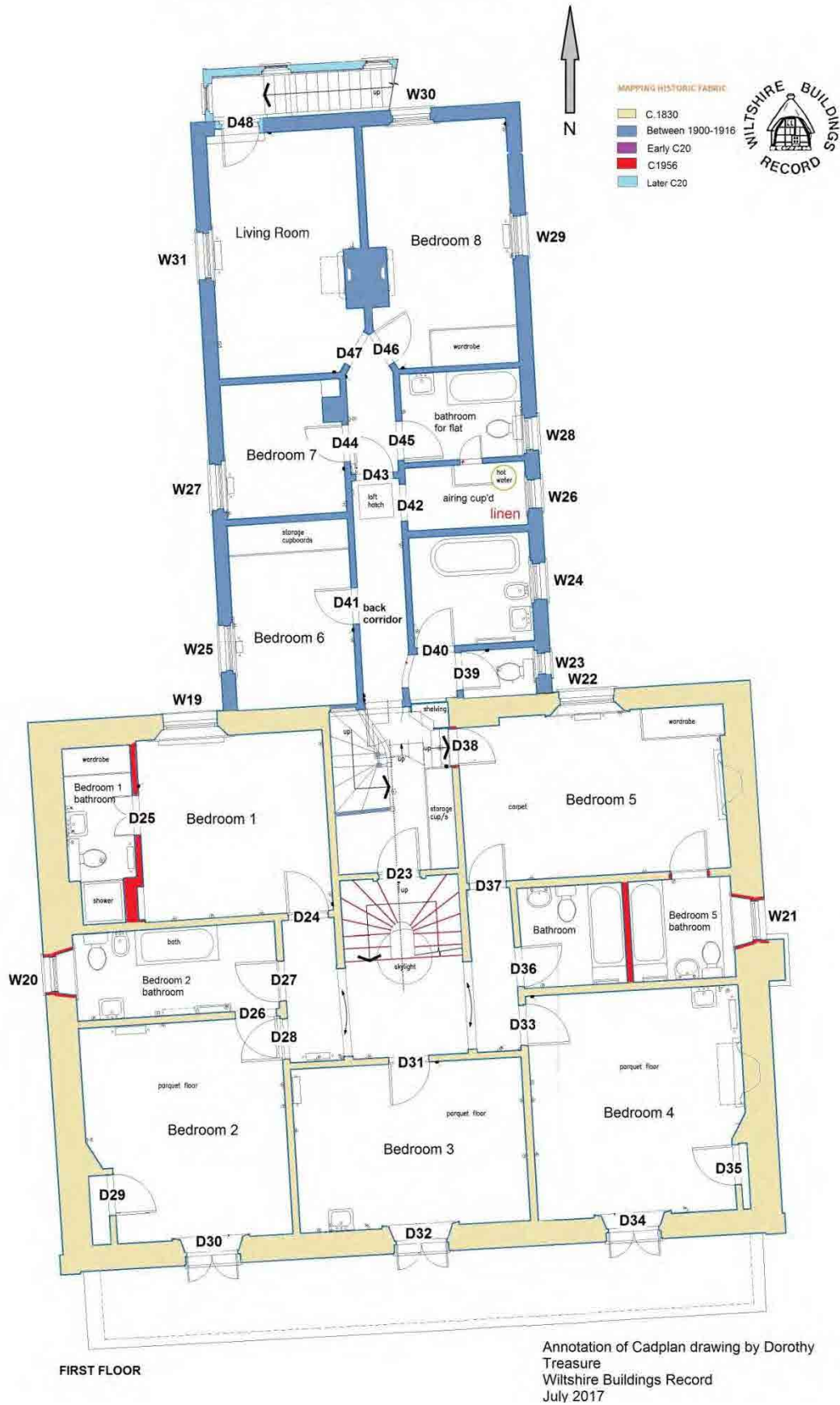


Fig. 83 First floor plan

Shrewton House, Elston Lane, Shrewton

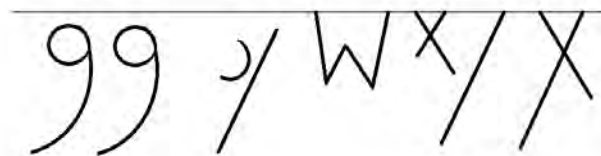
MAPPING HISTORIC FABRIC
 C.1830
 Between 1900-1916
 Early C20



CELLAR

Annotation of Cadplan drawing by Dorothy
 Treasure
 Wiltshire Buildings Record
 July 2017

Fig. 84 Cellar plan



cargo mark on beam in room 5 cellar

Fig. 85 Cargo mark in cellar

10 Evolution of Shrewton House

C1830

From documentary evidence Shrewton House was built in the period between 1820 and 1832¹². At the latter date it was described as 'newly-erected'. It was designed as a classical 'cube' with austere rendered brick elevations and the minimum of fenestration on the side and rear elevations, which were rendered. To make up for the potential shading on the ground floor, the windows are large tri-partite sashes which reach the floor, and at one time, the lower middle sash was capable of being lowered through a slot into the cellar to form a doorway¹³.

It typifies the late Georgian ideal of a country villa with strong links to the landscape around it. All the doors and windows on the main façade are designed to open onto the portico at ground floor, and the balcony at first floor, thus inviting the occupants to commune with nature at every opportunity. This greater regard for nature was brought about by an increasing enthusiasm by the landed classes for country pursuits and farming¹⁴.

Earlier designs for country houses often raised the ground floor above a semi-basement. The demands of villa architecture drove cellars further underground, and at Shrewton the only natural light to the extensive network of cellars was to the rear. The original access was by internal stair below the main stair, but with the proliferation of services to the rear, direct access was provided from the small east and west paved yards on either side of the c1900 service wing. This further enhanced the separation between the family and their servants.

The full-width flat-roofed portico is surmounted by a Geometric railing, and reached through fully glazed casement doors, possibly the only original sources of light for the front bedrooms.

Previous to the rear extension of c1900 there were two detached outbuildings. The west building was a possibly original wash house almost certainly with a copper boiler in front of the still-existing flue. It is not known what the east building was, but it may have been a fuel store.

The house was approached, as now, by a meandering drive and screened from the lane by a dense planting of trees. Set back at the south end of the drive was a t-shaped lodge (now with small extension to the west). The lodge house at the south end of the drive remains part of the Shrewton House estate, and is renamed Garden Cottage.

Separated by lawns to the east was the stable block, still extant. In a map of 1832 the current landscaping of front railing guarding a sudden drop down to the south is not shown, though not all features are shown on the sale document of 1832.

The house was divided into principal reception rooms to the south and west, with an unheated room on the east side at the rear. Stone corbelling still extant, visible in the cellar below indicates that a sizeable hearth once existed in this presently unheated room, almost

¹² See section on history

¹³ Verbal reference: Victoria d'Avanzo

¹⁴ Girouard, Mark: *Life in the English Country House*, 1978

certainly the kitchen hearth. The extensive cellarage below may have contained the majority of the storage.

Between 1900 and 1916

Very little appears to have changed between the building of Shrewton House in c1830 and 1900. TL Mills sold 570 acres of land to the War Dept in 1897. This is likely to have funded the addition of the rear service wing, which is described in the 1916 sale particular (**figs. 95, 96**) The new service range comprised cloak room, WC, scullery, servants' entrance, rear stair, kitchen, china pantry and other service rooms, which are still largely intact. At the time of the sale there is no comment about the house having been newly-extended, suggesting this was achieved soon after 1900. The kitchen on the north-east side was relocated to the new wing (leaving the corbelled support for the hearth visible in the cellar) and the room divided up to form a cloak room/WC and china pantry. Other alterations included the insertion of an internal part-glazed porch, parquet floors, and a hatch made through the dining room wall into the former servants' hall beyond.

C1956 and later

Alterations included the 1x1 sash windows in the flank walls of the main range, two new chimneypieces in the dining room and drawing room (now study). The roof of the veranda was repaired, The current archway between the larder and the west doorway to the kitchen was added. There was once a slop sink above the ground floor WC, later removed. In the later 1990's (?), the cellar was remodelled to form a bar, billiard room, and lounge. In 1986 permission was given to make a hard tennis court with chain link fence¹⁵. In 1989 approval was given for a new window on the rear (north) elevation¹⁶. In 2002 permission was given to construct a timber framed and weather-boarded L-shaped garage to the rear of the house¹⁷

¹⁵ Planning application S/1986/0517

¹⁶ Planning application S/1989/1403

¹⁷ Planning application S/2002/2223

11 Shrewton House: some historical notes.

The first clear reference found to the land on which Shrewton House now stands occurs in the Land Tax record of 1780, when Mrs. Elizabeth Colebrook was the owner and John Sainsbury the occupying farmer. In 1785, ownership passed to Miss Jane Folliott, when the occupier also changed, to William Smith. 1796 saw another change of occupier to Mr. Abraham Moody.



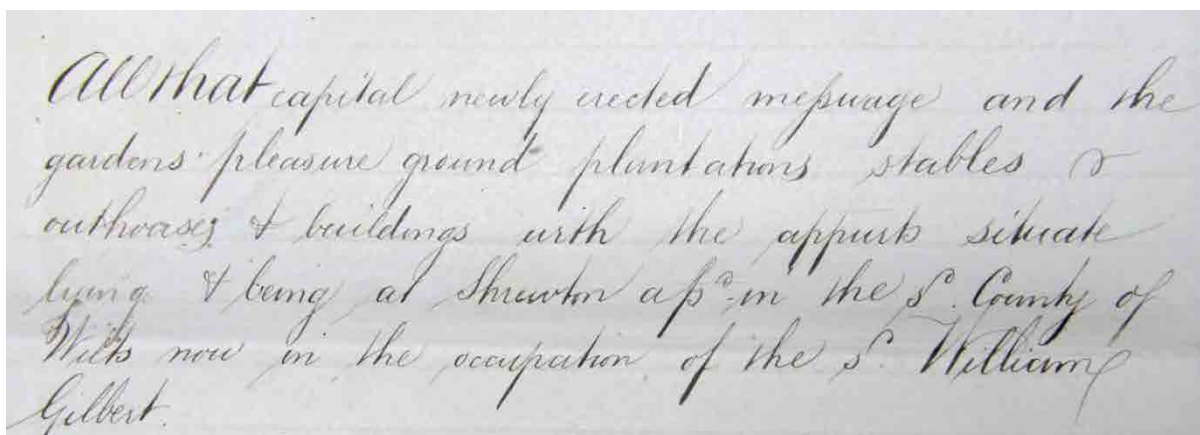
Fig. 86 Andrews and Dury map of 1773 (Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre)

In 1800, Jane Folliott held 290 acres in Shrewton and the parish map drawn up at that date for the Enclosure Award shows that there was then no house on the land. Jane Folliott became Mrs. Fussell in 1814, and Samuel James Fussell, who was presumably her husband, began farming the land. Jane Fussell sold her land in about 1818 to Mr. Joseph Gilbert, who had in addition a slightly larger estate in Shrewton, inherited from his aunt, Sarah Goddard, in 1811. Shortly after this, Gilbert ceased to lease out the land and began instead to farm it himself.

On the Greenwood Map of 1820, the house still does not appear, but it seems most likely that it was built for the Gilbert family, as both owners and farmers of the land, to replace an existing farmstead north of the church. The Land Tax records of the 1820s until 1831 show Joseph Gilbert as the owner and his son William Gilbert as the occupier. Parish records show William Gilbert had been born in Shrewton in 1783, the son of Joseph and Mary.

A map of 1832, contained in a document bundle numbered 816/23 in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre shows that the house had been built by then. Another document in

the same bundle refers to the sale of the house and its estate to Thomas Sheppard by Joseph and William Gilbert in 1832. The schedule refers to:-



*All that capital newly erected messuage and the
gardens pleasure ground plantations stables &
outhouses & buildings with the appurtenances situate
lying & being at Shrewton aforesaid in the S. County of
Wilt now in the occupation of the S. William
Gilbert.*

Fig. 87 Text from schedule (WSHC ref: 816/23)

'all that capital newly erected messuage or dwelling-house with the stable, coach-house, garden and pleasure-ground thereto adjoining' ... 'stables and outhouses and buildings with the appurtenances situate...at Shrewton...in the occupation of William Gilbert and also all those four several cottages, two of which have been recently built by the said William Gilbert.'

Thomas Sheppard Esq. was a member of parliament; in 1837 a document gave his address as 20, St. George Street, Westminster. Perhaps he bought the house as an investment, or as a country retreat, as a base for countryside pursuits enjoyed by the gentry, but he seems unlikely to have spent much time there, for by 1841, according to the census, the Nicholls family were living there.

The 1832 map shows the house on a piece of land referred to as 'Folliott's Allotment'. John Nicholls, who was head of the household at Shrewton House in 1841, had married Jane Folliott Fussell, daughter of yeoman farmer Samuel James Fussell. Parish records show that she had been baptised on July 29th 1817. The registers also record the baptism of the Nicholls' son, Samuel James Fussell Nicholls, on October 29th 1840, and daughter Anne Louise on the same date. Evidently, their son had been named after his grandfather, and it seems likely the family moved into Shrewton House in 1840, having delayed Samuel James' baptism until they had settled into their new home.

The 1841 census shows John Nicholls was then aged about 30; his occupation was listed as 'surgeon'. His wife Jane was listed as being about 25 years of age. Their eldest child, Frederick, then 5, had not been born in Wiltshire, but his younger siblings – Mary Jane, aged 4, Samuel James, 2, and nine months' old Anne, had all been born in the county.

Separate households which appear to have been occupying adjacent premises on the site, or else within the house itself, were those of Samuel and Mary Fussell, aged 55 and 45, of independent means, together with female servants Eliza and Maria Hooper, aged 25 and 20 respectively, and 15 year-old Elizabeth Wallis. At the Manor House, Robert Wansbrough, aged 33, was running a farm, and had two live-in female servants, while Thomas and Louisa Timbrell, both aged 30, were farming at Shrewton Lodge. Also living in the village were a

builder, James Grant, and bricklayer, Thomas Light, who might perhaps have been involved in the building of Shrewton House.

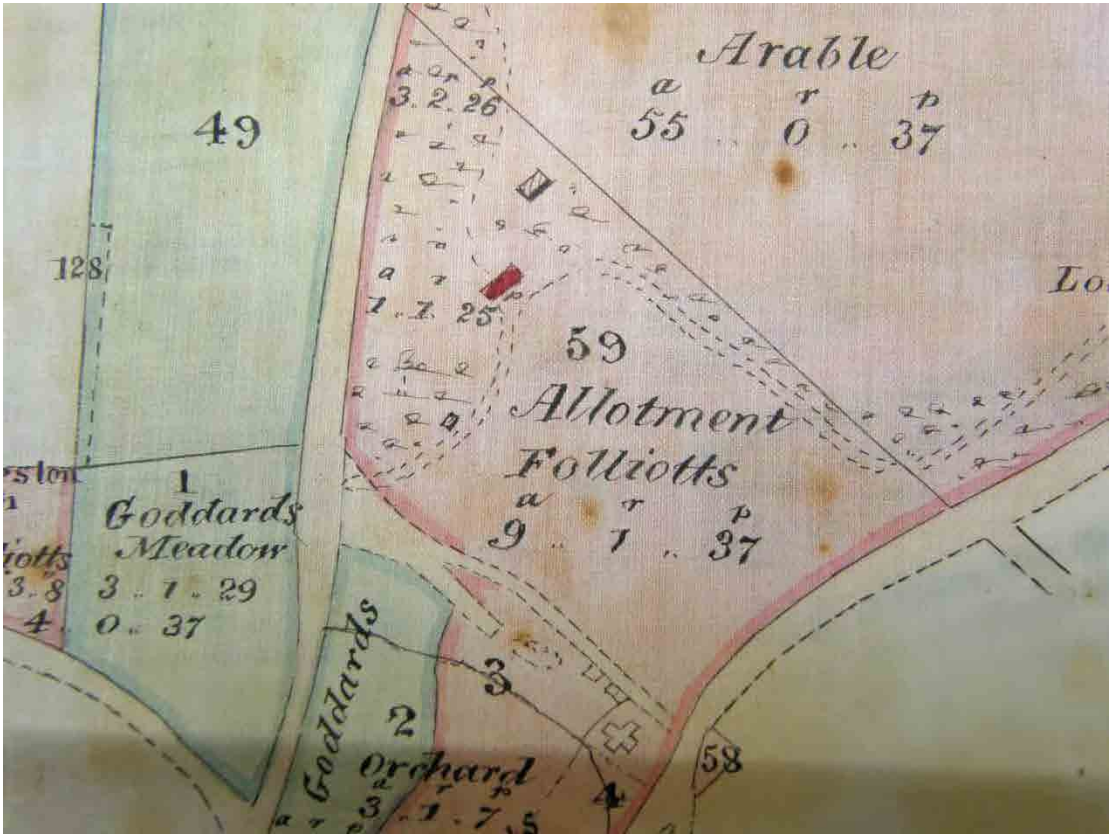


Fig. 88 Map from documents concerning the sale to Thomas Sheppard (WSHC 816/23)

The Tithe Award, conducted in around 1840, lists the landowner as Thomas Sheppard, and the occupier as John Nicholls, and shows the extent of the estate which then accompanied the house, totalling about 790 acres.

LANDOWNERS	OCCUPIERS	Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION of LANDS AND PREMISES
Thomas Sheppard continued	John Nicholls continued	197	On the Hill
		198	House Yard Outbuildings and plantations
		199	On the Hill
		200	Plantations
		201	Down below the Turnpike Road
		222	Plantations
		223	Above the Turnpike Road
		224	Plantations
		225	Adjoining Endfold
		226	Above the Turnpike Road

Fig. 89 Extract from Tithe Award for Shrewton (held at WSHC)

In the census returns of 1851, the enumerator referred to the house as 'Shrewton Park House' and provided the additional information that John Nicholls, now 40, had been born at Frome in Somerset. This time his occupation was referred to as 'surgeon and farmer of 800 acres', and he was employing 30 labourers. His wife Jane, now 36, was a Shrewton girl. Of the four children whose names had appeared on the 1841 census, only the youngest, Anne, appears. It is likely that Frederick, Mary Jane, and Samuel James were away at boarding schools. Anne, now 10, had however three younger sisters – Emily, Fanny, and Eliza, all born at Shrewton, presumably at Shrewton House. Parish records list the baptism of Emily Frances on April 19th 1844, Fanny on July 9th 1847, and Eliza Edith on Dec. 9th 1849.

Living with the family were their cook, Sarah Collins, aged 25, Eliza Hooper, 16 (listed as both housemaid and nurse), a groom, William Saunders, aged 21, and Henry Major, 18, and William Ashley, 14, both employed as carters on the farm. In the immediate vicinity were two families of agricultural labourers – the Ingrams and the Sainsburys, and also farm bailiff Daniel Turner and his family. At the Manor House, the occupier was now Charles Wansbrough, aged 45, a proprietor of land, farming his own 900 acre estate, and employing 40-50 labourers.

The landowner, Thomas Sheppard, had died in 1848, leaving a somewhat complicated will. Described then as being 'formerly of Hampstead Heath, Middlesex, and then of Folkington, Sussex', he bequeathed an estate at Sutton Veny to his sons, of whom he had four, and 'all those messuages... and premises... at Shrewton... estimated worth £20,000 unto his sons Charles Down Sheppard, Frederick Sheppard, his nephew William Hulbert Sheppard of Frome and his friend John Campbell Cameron of Grays Inn Middlesex, gentleman, his trustees and executors, to the use of his son Walter C. Sheppard for life, remainder to his male issue. A codicil followed, complicating matters further and, as seems to have happened all too frequently in the Victorian era, a lengthy Chancery case ensued, as distant family members fought each other over perceived entitlements under the will for almost three decades.

Meanwhile John Nicholls continued to live at Shrewton House. By the time the 1861 census was taken, he had been widowed, his wife Jane having died in February 1855. She was buried in the churchyard at Shrewton, as was her father, who died the following year. In 1861, John Nicholls gave his occupation simply as 'surgeon'. His eldest daughter Mary Jane had returned home, perhaps to supervise the household management after the death of her mother. Anne and Emily, aged 20 and 19 and both unmarried, were living at home, and had been joined by their aunt Jane, John Nicholls' sister. Perhaps it was the turn of the youngest daughters, Fanny and Eliza, to be away at school. The family had just one live-in housemaid, 22 year-old Sarah Noyll, while at Shrewton Lodge Charles Smith, 38, described as a 'gentleman', and his wife Katherine, 25, employed a cook, two housemaids and an errand-boy. A coachman, James Ingram, lived nearby.

In the 1871 census, John Nicholls was described as a 'farmer of 800 acres'. Only his youngest daughter, now apparently called Edith, aged 23, was still at home, along with two female domestic servants.

By May 1876, according to papers then before the Chancery Division of the High Court, the wrangling over Thomas Sheppard's will seems to have reached a conclusion. An appeal had been launched against the probate of by plaintiffs Francis Clyde Harvey, Charles Ughtred

Shuttleworth and John Parsons. Frederick, the youngest of Thomas Sheppard's four sons, had died in 1875. His death had been preceded by those of his elder brothers, Charles Down Sheppard in April 1861 and Walter Cope Sheppard in November of that same year. His third brother, William Hulbert Sheppard had died in 1870; none of the brothers were thought to have left any male issue. Perhaps the plaintiffs thought otherwise?

The defendants were named as Thomas Sheppard's daughter, Sarah Frances Harvey, Philip Kemp and Susan his wife, who was Sheppard's other daughter, together with Armant Edmond Edgar Count de Brimont and Laurence Camille Clementine Mina his wife, George Sheppard Harvey, Rose Offley, Ada Harvey, Edmund James Harvey and Francis Philip Cunliffe Owen. Whatever the outcome, a great deal of legal expense had clearly been incurred, and in order finally to carry out the trusts in the will and cover the costs, it became necessary for the estate and house to be sold.

The buyer initially seems to have been Abraham Laverton, M.P., of Westbury House, Westbury, because a document in 816/23 is an agreement by which Abraham Laverton agreed to sell the estate to a Maddington farmer, Thomas Longman Mills, for £23,150, to include 'parcels of freehold land, with house, cottages, lodges, barns, granaries and other buildings thereon erected'. The sale was subject to an existing lease of the premises to the tenant, John Nicholls. The conveyance, which took place on August 12th 1878, included detailed instructions on how the crops were to be managed and 'to keep a flock of 800 sheep at least and pen and fold them on the farm'...and 'to allow an incoming tenant to have stabling for nine horses from the 1st of April on the last day of the tenancy term'.

Kelly's Directory of 1875 still listed John Nicholls at Shrewton House, identifying him as both surgeon and farmer. Owens' Directory of 1878 listed him simply as a surgeon, and did not name the house, and Kelly's 1880 Directory named Thomas Longman Mills as the occupier, so it seems he must have moved there in about 1879.



Fig. 90 Ordnance Survey Wiltshire Sheet 53/8 dated 1881

The census returns of 1881 show that Thomas Mills, then aged 36 and described as a farmer, was living at the house, then named 'Shrewton Park', with his wife Fanny, aged 32.

He came from Tilshead and Fanny was from Chiseldon. They appear to have had no children, and were wealthy enough to employ a cook, Hester Withers, aged 53, and two general domestic servants – Jane Lovelock, aged 23, and 18 year-old Mary Sainsbury. Two visitors were also at the house on census night – sisters Alice and Maria Maton, aged 29 and 27, from Maddington.



Fig. 91 Ordnance Survey Wiltshire Sheet 53/8 dated 1900

In 1891, the census taken that year appears to show Shrewton House occupied by a farm bailiff, Alfred Bailey, aged 24, living with his wife Annie, 27, and 35 year-old Lucretia Bailey, described as a domestic servant. Alfred and Lucretia Bailey were from Maiden Bradley, but Annie was a Shrewton girl.

In 1897, Thomas Mills sold 570 acres of his farm to the War Department, but continued to live in the house until his death in 1909. The 1901 census shows him, aged 55, living at Shrewton House and farming the land. He and his wife Frances, aged 53, employed a live-in cook and housemaid; next-door was coachman Charles Scott with his family. Kelly's 1907 Directory adds the information that Thomas Mills was a Justice of the Peace.

The Inland Revenue Survey of 1910 lists the owners and occupiers of Shrewton House as 'Executors of T.L. Mills'. The estate then totalled 220 acres of agricultural land; including the house, buildings and gardens it totalled 229 acres in all. The 'gross annual value' of the house was said to be £60 and its rateable value £54. The 'original gross value' was estimated at £6,200, of which the site constituted £4,140, the buildings £1,800, the 'timber' £200 and 'fruit trees etc.' £40.



Fig. 92 Ordnance Survey Wiltshire Sheet 53/8 dated 1900

Kelly's Directory shows that Mrs. Mills was still living there in 1911, and in 1919 her husband's executors sold the remaining 230 acres to George Williams. When the estate was put up for sale in 1916, the sale particulars advertised 'The Shrewton House and Elton Hill Estates' as 'a Freehold Agricultural and Sporting Estate' of slightly over 675 acres, of which the Shrewton House estate comprised 230 acres. The property was described as being suitable for 'a gentleman's family'. Besides Shrewton House itself, there was 'a range of commodious farm buildings', a range of stabling, a 'motor house' and a 'walled-in kitchen garden'. In addition, the property contained a thatched lodge, a 'modern bailiff's cottage', and seven labourers' cottages, with gardens, as well as 'productive arable and pasture lands'.

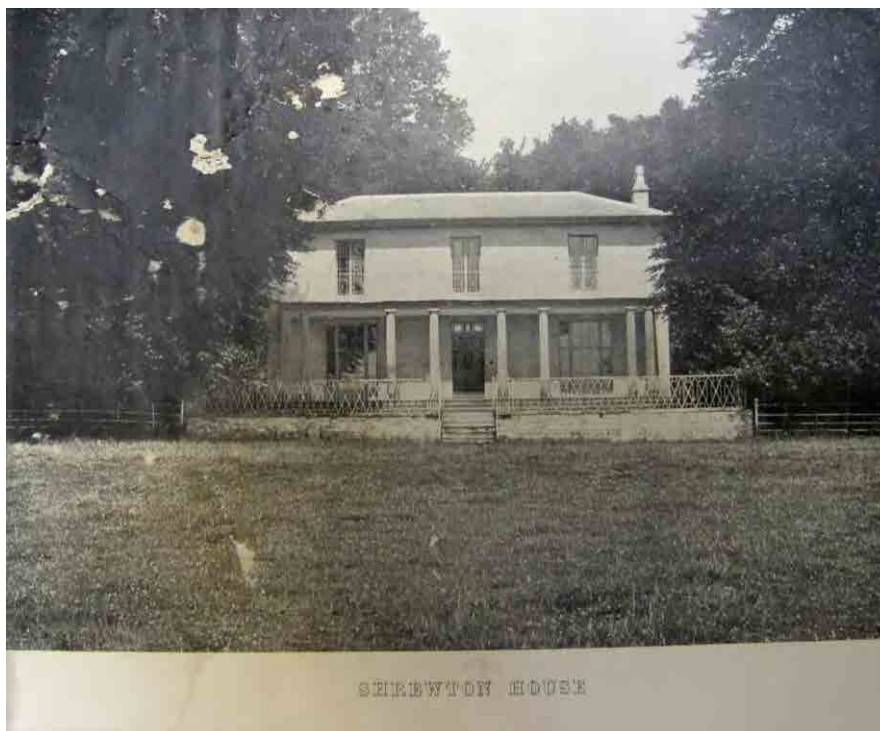


Fig. 93 Shrewton House in 1916 taken from sales particulars (WSHC ref: 1225/140/13)

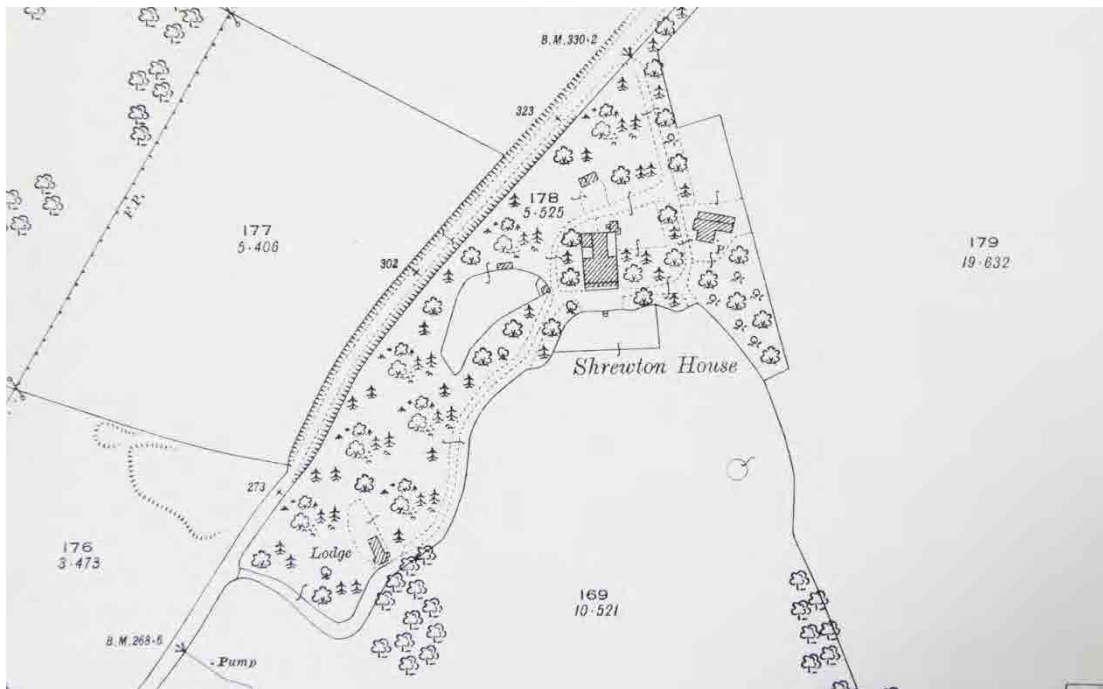


Fig. 94 Ordnance Survey Wiltshire Sheet 53/8 dated 1924

Kelly's 1920 and 1923 Directories show George Williams, J.P., living at the house. However, the directory for 1931 shows that by then Mrs. Audrey May Pope was the occupier; she was described as a poultry farmer.

By 1935, Mrs. Pope's occupancy had given way to that of Gerard Bonham-Carter, and the directory for 1939 shows him still there, although the land was still owned by the trustees of the late George Williams Esq.

A notebook detailing the organisation of household work, dated the late 1930s, gives an idea of what life was like for the 'house parlour maid' at Shrewton House even at that late date, containing as it does an account of a fully-occupied working day from 7 a.m. when she got up to open up the downstairs rooms, clean fireplaces, lay fires and lay the dining-room breakfast, through sundry chores until 10 p.m., when a tray of drinks was to be taken to the study or sitting-room before she could finally retire to bed.

The Electoral Register of 1945 places Gerard, Joanna, Florence and James Bonham-Carter at the house, but those for 1950 and 1955 name just Gerard, Florence and James. By 1955-6¹⁸, the Bonham-Carters had been succeeded by Sir Robert and Lady Evelyn Hinde, their son William Arthur Douglas Hinde, and their daughter Victoria. The house was sold for £7,500¹⁹. In 1965 and 1970, the occupiers remained the same, although an additional occupier's name which appears in the records is that of Rose Isaacs. In 1975 and 1980, just Sir Robert and Lady Evelyn and their son were listed in the electoral register. The register for 1985 gives no occupiers of the house other than George W. Crowder at 'The Flat, Shrewton House', but by 1990 Victoria d'Avanzo was living at Shrewton House; Brian Stuttard and

¹⁸ Verbal reference – Victoria d'Avanzo

¹⁹ Verbal reference: Victoria d'Avanzo

Anne Beadle occupied 'The Flat'. By 1995, Victoria d'Avanzo's name on the electoral register had been joined by those of Luca and Sebastian d'Avanzo, her sons. Emmerentia and Patrick Dempsey were at The Flat.

In 2000, although no-one was listed at the flat, the house was still occupied by Victoria, Luca and Sebastian d'Avanzo; in 2005 and 2010, just Victoria d'Avanzo remained at Shrewton House, with Emmerentia Dempsey occupying the flat.

Sources:

Victoria County History, volume XV.

Shrewton Land Tax Records 1780-1831.

Shrewton Enclosure Award, 1800 (E/A 59)

Greenwood Map of 1820, reproduced in Wilts. Record Soc. Vol.52

Shrewton Tithe Award, 1841

Documents re sale to Thomas Sheppard (WSHC 816/23)

Documents re Thos. Sheppard's will & chancery case (WSHC 2210/2)

Census Returns

Kelly's Directories

Parish Registers

Inland Revenue Survey of 1910

Electoral Registers

Sales particular of 1916

Notebook detailing staff domestic duties in late 1930s

Appendices

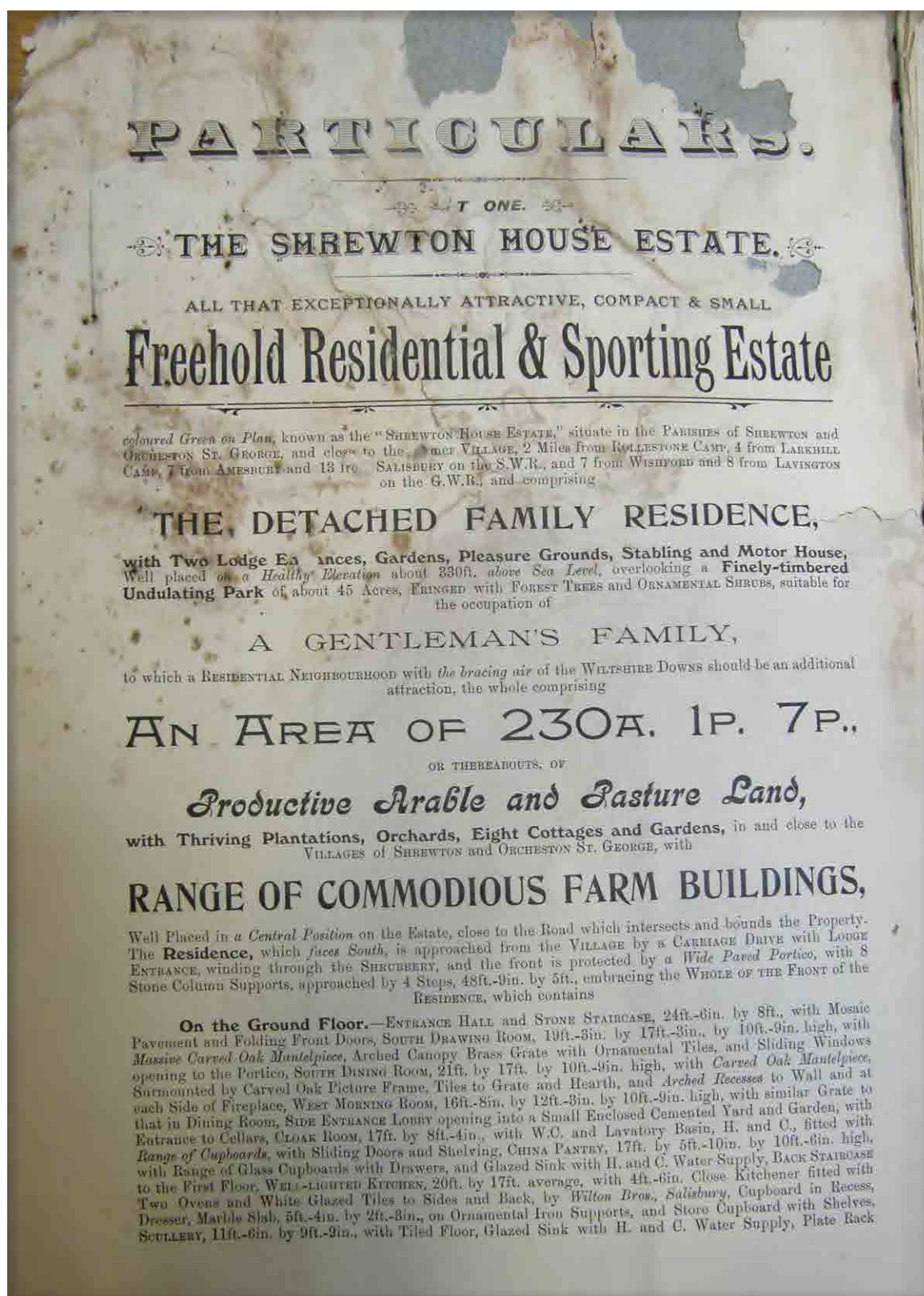


Fig. 95 Details from 1916 sales particulars (WSHC ref: 1225/140/13)

and Shelving, BACK KITCHEN, 18ft. by 10ft., with 4ft. Falcon Kitcheners, Iron Boiler in Brickwork, Dresser and Glass Cupboard, SIDE ENTRANCE from ENCLOSED YARD with Force Pump, Larder with Tiled Floor and Shelving, and Back Entrance Lobby, 9ft.-8in. by 6ft., with Stone Floor, opening into the ENCLOSED COURT YARD, 38ft. by 12ft., with Cement Floor, and Main Entrance to Cellars, which extend over the whole of the Basement of the Residence and secure perfect Ventilation to the Floors of the Reception Rooms, also Coal House, with Serving Window in Wall, and E. C.

On the First Floor.—The SOUTH BEDROOMS open on to the ROOF of the PORCH, which embraces the whole of the Front of the Residence, No. 1 SOUTH BEDROOM or Drawing Room, 15ft. by 14ft.-6in. by 9ft. high, fitted with Hanging Cupboard, and EAST DRESSING ROOM, 14ft. 3in. by 7ft., No. 2 MIDDLE SOUTH BEDROOM, 15ft.-8in. by 11ft., No. 3 SOUTH BEDROOM 14ft.-6in. by 13ft., with Hanging Cupboard, No. 4 NORTH BEDROOM, 17ft.-9in. by 11ft., with Cupboard, Bath Room, 13ft.-6in. by 9in., with Reclining Bath and H. and C. Water Supply, and No. 5 NORTH BEDROOM, 17ft.-6in. by 11ft., with Hanging Cupboard. On the BACK LANDING is a W. C. with Flushing Cistern, BATHROOM with H. and C. Water Supply, LINEN Room with Hot Water Piping and Row of Shelving, HOUSEMAID'S ROOM, and Slop Sink and Tanks and FOUR SECONDARY BEDROOMS.

The Detached Range of Stabling and Motor House

is conveniently placed near the Residence and is divided into TWO STALLS and THREE LOOSE BOXES with Grooved Tiles to Floor, WASHING BOX, SADDLE ROOM with Ornamental Tiles to Floor, the Walls and Ceiling of which are Lined with Matchboard, fitted with Glazed Bit Cupboard and Small Range, COVERED ENTRANCE WAY, 14ft.-9in. by 8ft., open at Entrance, with Grooved Tiled Paving, a good ample Room for a temporary Motor House, the MOTOR HOUSE, 26ft. by 14ft., with Brick Floor and Siding Doors, Cement Washing Platform with Rain Water Pump to Tank, 8ft. by 2ft. by 2ft.-6in. deep—the latter of which is reserved. There is a Lean-to Open STRAW SHED at back of Motor House with Galvanised Roof, and a Covered Shed and Greenhouse in Shrubbery at back of Offices.

THE WALLED-IN KITCHEN GARDEN

with Tool Shed and Privy is on the West side of the Residence, and near the Village Road is a Range of Thatched Loose Boxes with Store opening into the Orchard.

The **Residence** is fitted with *Electric Light* supplied from a Dynamo and Engine in the Motor House, and an ample Supply of Good Water is laid on to the Residence from the Farm Buildings. The Tenant's Fixtures are reserved.

Fig. 96 Details overleaf from 1916 sales particulars (WSHC ref: 1225/140/13)

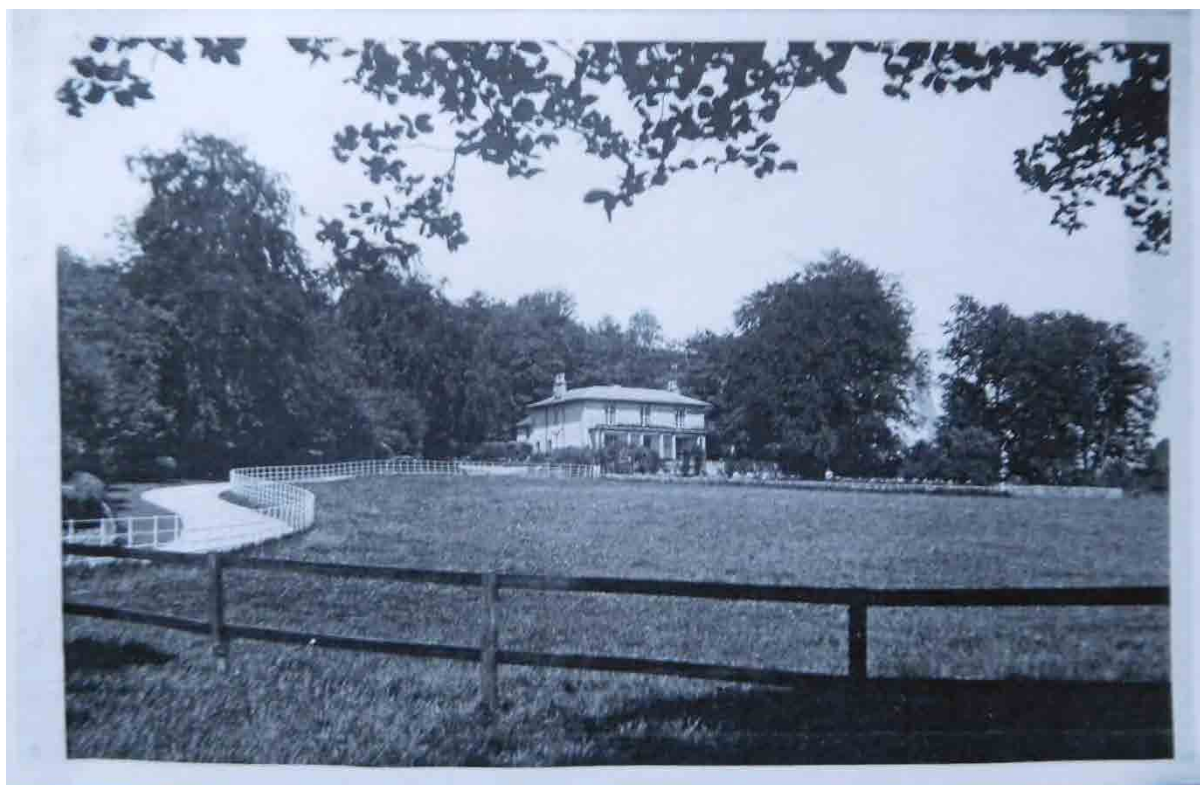


Fig. 97 View from south (WSHC ref: 1225/140/13)



Fig. 98 Photographs of c1979 (WBR archive)



Fig. 99 Photograph of May 1979 (WBR archive)

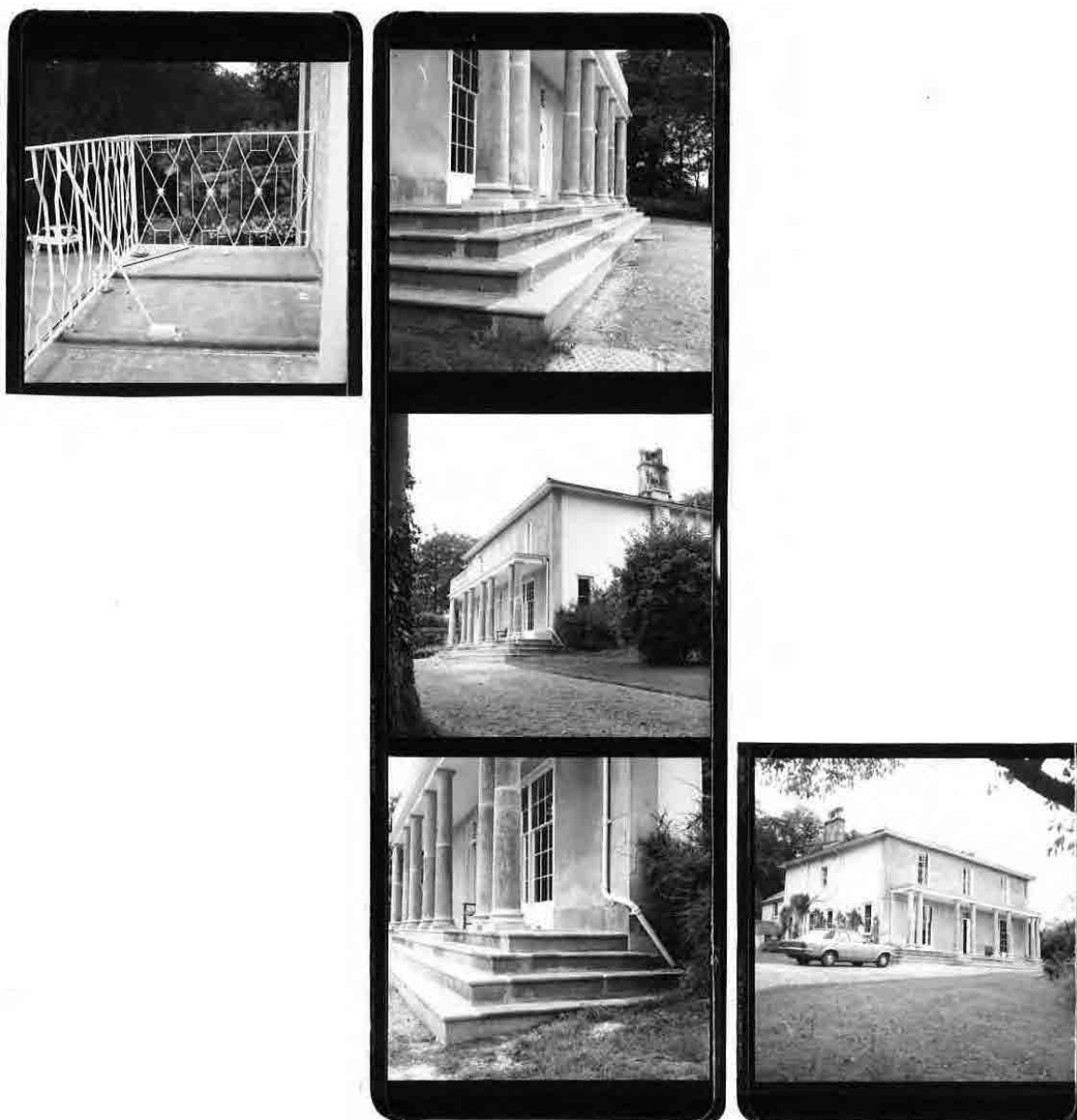


Fig. 100 Photographs after restoration taken Sept. 1980 (WBR archive)