

A Brief Account of some of the significant Lighthorne Buildings

by Colin Such (2012),

based on research notes by Peter Hinman and archival material in the possession of the Lighthorne History Society.

The Church



St Laurence's Church by Mark Thompson (1996)

The Hwicce were an Anglian tribe who arrived in this area around 577 AD. Christianity was introduced to Lighthorne in 688 AD, when King Eanhere of the Hwicce became a Christian. The Diocese of Worcester was formed from the Kingdom of the Hwicce.



A preaching cross was erected, probably in the 9th or 10th century. When the Domesday Book was compiled in 1087, Lighthorne was described as having a priest but no mention is made of a church. This is possible, as early services were often held in the open air by the preaching cross. The base of the cross is still visible in the churchyard.

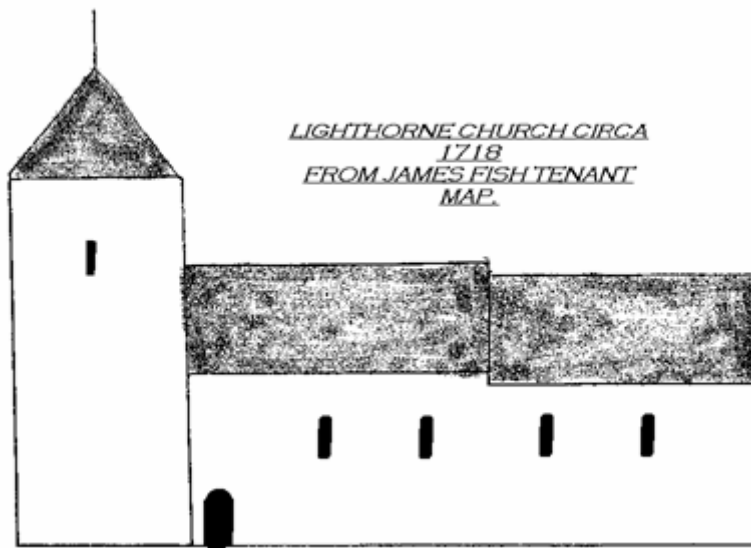
Photo Colin Such

By 1298 there was a church valued at 26 marks included in the valuation when the estate passed to Guy, the 10th Earl of Warwick. Later descriptions of this church indicate that it was a simple structure, consisting of a chancel, nave and wooden bell tower. The first recorded name of a Rector of Lighthorne is Henry de Hampton, who was invested on July 13th 1307.

The oldest church glass and oldest bell date from the accession of Henry V in 1413. The tower now contains 6 bells, 2 of which were cast in 2006. For further details of the bells see LH76 (E), in the Lighthorne History Society archive. Other important church glass includes a St. Sebastian window of the early sixteenth century by the King's glazier, Barnard Flower. A full description of the stained glass is contained in LH134 (E). The Parish registers start in 1538 under Rector D. Alanyus Hynske. The oldest surviving tombstone is that of Thomas Green and is dated 1686, though the inscription is now difficult to read. The Greens were a prominent freehold farming family who held land behind Curacy farm. They provided two rectors and many churchwardens for the parish. They are believed to be the family which built Dene Hollow. "The Greens of Lighthorne" by Anthony Cooper (1988) is in the Society archive (LH29).

The oldest church brass is dedicated to the rector John Dod(d), who died in 1707.

A 1674 report stated "The walls of the church (through the flatnesse and weightnesse of the roof, leaded on one side and shingled on the other) do very much yield outward on both sides, so that without soone a speedy course taken in all probability, the whole body of the church will fall."



*LIGHTHORNE CHURCH CIRCA
1718
FROM JAMES FISH TENANT
MAP.*

The sketch alongside, taken from a land survey by the usually reliable map-maker James Fish, shows the design thought to be in place by 1718, incorporating a side entrance and steeple. It would have been very plain inside, the medieval decoration having been removed by the strongly puritan rector Wylliam Smart during his incumbency from 1586 to 1600.



*LIGHTHORNE CHURCH
BUILT 1776*

The church was rebuilt in 1773-4, in ashlar limestone, by architect Thomas Squirrell, who was paid 4 guineas for a plan and estimate. Samuel Eglinton, to whom it has been attributed in the past, was the mason and John Mantun was his co-

contractor. The cost was £791.18.2d, of which £572.13.2d was paid by Lord Willoughby de Broke. Squirrell's tower remains to this day. The second oldest surviving bell was cast in 1774 by M. Bagley. It was recast in 1890.



St. Laurence's Church on a postcard circa 1910. Photo Colin Such

The nave and chancel of the existing church were rebuilt by architect John Gibson in 1876, in coursed rock-faced limestone, with ironstone dressings, in Gothic revival style. The builder was William Wilkins, who lived at Dene Hollow and the cost was £2,500. As

well as newly commissioned stained glass, that from the earlier building was also installed, incorporated in Victorian surrounds.

The porch and lych gate were presented in 1883, the cost defrayed by Lord Willoughby de Broke. A new organ was presented in 1910 at a cost of £200, again defrayed by Lord Willoughby de Broke. Replacement gates in the lych gate were installed in 1996 as a bequest by Cyril Hackleton, a local character who had lived in no. 2 Church Cottages.



In 1996 a stained glass window was installed between the tower and the chancel in memory of village resident, Vicky Stephenson. It was designed by Christopher Lund of Coventry.

Window by Christopher Lund.
Photo Colin Such

The Compton Verney Estate

The Verney family were owners of land in Lighthorne from 1490 and were lords of the manor by 1715. Between 1771 and 1774, Lighthorne was the first Warwickshire Village to have its common fields enclosed by Act of Parliament. The Lord of the Manor, John Verney, Lord Willoughby de Broke, had the largest holding of land in the parish, at the time, accounting for just over 50%. The enclosures created great wealth for the landowning families and greatly increased farming efficiency. This increased wealth led to the construction of most of Lighthorne's significant buildings. The old schoolhouse, the rebuilding of the first rectory, the church tower, Bishop's Farmhouse, Curacy Farm and the Antelope Inn are thought to date from this period. The Verneys gradually increased their land holding and Lighthorne became an estate village. Through the 1850s country estates were at their most prosperous, but after that agricultural income steadily declined. In 1921 the mansion and the estate were sold.

The buyer was Joseph Watson, a soap manufacturer, created Lord Manton. However he died in a riding accident in 1922 and the trustees put the entire estate up for auction on June 25th 1929. The auctioneers were James Styles and Whitlock of Leamington Spa. A copy of the auction catalogue is in the archive of the History Society (LH124). Whether the auction took place or not is unclear, but the buyers of the whole estate were George

Henry Morgan and a Mr Wilson, who proceeded to sell the mansion and its surrounding land to George Watson, the second Lord Manton. The Antelope Inn and a few meadows were sold by private treaty and the balance of the estate was offered by auction on September 10th 1929, by the same auctioneers, though this time the venue was the Bath Hotel in Leamington, rather than the Town Hall. A photocopy of the auction catalogue is in the society archives (LH125). Only a few houses, farms and meadows were sold in this sale and the balance of the estate was then re-offered in a third sale on June 24th 1930, again held at the Bath hotel. The society archive contains a photocopy of this catalogue (LH126) and also an original sale agreement document (LH154) for lot 20 (field adjacent to the Fosse Way) and a photocopy of a sale completion statement for No.2 Church Cottages (LH35). The vendors were prepared to offer a 75% mortgage, for a period of 5 years, to the purchaser of any lot sold at £1,500 or more, as long as he or she were a current tenant. The interest rate was to be 5% per annum. In reality this would apply only to the tenant farmers, as most of the cottages sold for figures of the order of £200 each.

Church Hill Farm



Circa 1905 postcard view of Church Hill Farm. Photo Colin Such

Church Hill Farm is probably the oldest domestic building in the village. Part of it dates back to the early to mid sixteenth century, with extensions in the early to mid seventeenth century and a late seventeenth century wing set back at an angle, to the right. There is an early to mid nineteenth century attached stable range to the right, altered and converted in the late 20th century.

In the Compton Verney estate sale, Church Hill Farm was sold by auction on September 10th 1929. The tenant was Mrs. Jones who was paying a yearly rent of £275.

LOT 17.

(Coloured *Brown* on Plan No. 1).

AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD GRAZING FARM,

KNOWN AS

“Church Hill Farm,”

conveniently situated and adjoining the Village of Lighthorne, with an area of

280 ACRES

Included with this Lot are about 3 acres of Woodlands known as Redlands Brake, containing about 1½ acres of good Larch and 1½ acres of Ash Poles. This Woodland is in Hand.

The Farm extends to 276½ acres, of which over 200 acres is well watered grazing land, and about 60 acres arable.

THE FARM HOUSE

adjoins the Church of St. Lawrence, and is substantially built of stone with tiled roof. It contains :—

Porch and Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Kitchen, Scullery, Dairy, 6 Bedrooms, Bathroom and Water Closet, and 2 Attics. There are hot and cold water supplies to the bath.

THE FARM BUILDINGS

are chiefly stone and brick built and tiled, and provide the following accommodation :—

Coal Shed, Coach-house, Harness Room, 2 Nag Stalls, Loose Box, lean-to Fowl-house, Wood Shed, Earth Closet and Water Closet, Fowl-pen, Boiler House, 4 Pig-styes, 2 2-bay Implement Sheds with Granary over, lean-to timber built slate-roofed Cooling Room, 4 Cow Stalls, Stand for 6 cart horses, Chaff House, Stalls for 8 cows, good Barn with pump inside, timber-fronted Cow Pens for 10 cows, 1 Loose Box, and timber built iron-roofed Shed near Orchard.

Situate in Field No. 237 is a brick built and slated 3-bay Open Cattle Shed, Root House and fenced Yard, and in Field No. 242 is a timber built slate-roofed Open Shed and Stall.

The present tenant is Mrs. Jones, who occupies on a Yearly Michaelmas Tenancy at a rent of £275 per annum.

Together with Lots Nos. 22 and 24 this Lot is subject to the following Outgoings :—

Tithe, Commuted, at £67 11s. 11d.	Present value	...	...	...	£74 0 4
Land Tax, £422 11s. 0d., at 9d. in the £	...	...	...	...	15 17 0
Land Tax, Redlands Brake (estimated)	...	...	...	...	0 1 11
					£89 19 3

The Vendors have been unable to obtain apportionment of the above outgoings from the Collector, but for purposes of this Sale the whole shall be regarded as a liability on this Lot, and be included as such on completion.

It should be noted that the Iron Built Engine Shed and the Engine therein are claimed by the tenant.

SCHEDULE OF LOT 17.

<i>No. on Sale Plan No. 1.</i>	<i>Description.</i>	<i>Acreage.</i>
117	Pasture	13.021
118	Ditto	1.609
119	Ditto	19.000
120	Ditto	2.288
121	House, Homestead and Garden	1.988
146	Pasture	37.760
148	Ditto	8.938
149	Arable	8.328
150	Ditto	20.438
182	Ditto	13.770
183	Pasture	12.453
184	Ditto	12.829
229	Ditto	13.286
230	Ditto	8.104
232	Ditto	18.507
236	Ditto	14.715
237	Yards and Buildings	.257
238	Pasture	15.914
239	Arable	18.322
240	Pasture	17.283
241	Ditto	8.733
242	Pasture and Buildings	8.882
		276.425
125b	Track in Field 146	.712
		.712
151	Pt. Redlands Brake	1.589
152	Ditto	1.383
		2.972
Acres		280.109



Church Hill Farm barns were converted into houses in 1989. Photo Martin Preedy

The Old Rectory



The Old Rectory on a circa 1910 postcard. Photo Colin Such

The first record of this building is dated 1667 when Sir Thomas Pope of Wroxton made a grant of the rectory to Sir Greville Verney. The front elevation was remodelled in the 18th century. The building is constructed of regular coursed limestone, with ironstone quoins

and dressings, with a painted, moulded cornice. The recessed centre has a projecting late 18th / early 19th century ground floor

The house has only served as a rectory intermittently. Known occupiers include the Lucas family (jewellers), Major Huttenbach, John Peyto Verney, Robert Barnard, also, possibly, Henry Eyres Landor. The rectory and stables were never offered by auction when the Compton Verney estate was broken up in 1929.

Rectory Stables

These were built in 1746 as stabling for the rectory. They were rebuilt by the hunting parsons of the Verney family. Originally they contained the grooms' quarters and feed and tack rooms. The Rev Robert Barnard Verney was passionate about hunting and tradition has it that he would jump the double gates of the stable yard on his old mare. The Lucas family converted the stables into a dwelling in 1946.

Fairfield



Fairfield in the 1950s. Photo Colin Such

This house dates from the early to mid 17th century. It has been substantially extended twice in the 20th and 21st centuries. The original structure is timber framed with whitewashed brick infill. It sits on a base of whitewashed brick. The roof is late 20th century tiles and would originally have been thatched.

LOT 68.

(Coloured *Brown* on Plan No. 3).

**SINGLE COTTAGE WITH BUILDINGS AND TWO ACRES
OF GOOD SOUND PASTURE LAND.**

No. 100 and Pt. 101a on the Plan, and extending to

2.194 ACRES.

The Cottage is brick built and thached, and has 3 Bedrooms and 2 Living Rooms, with the usual Offices. There is a good Garden attached to the Cottage, which is let to Mrs. Treadwell on a Monthly Tenancy at an annual Rent of £3 5s. 0d.

There is a well of good Water in the Garden, and a Brook runs through the Meadow.

The Outbuildings are :—

Wood and iron Pigstye and Shed, timber and thatch Cart Shed, brick and tile Open Boiler House and E.C.

There are 3 further Pigstyes, two of which are let to Messrs. Hunt and Hobday at an apportioned rent of 1s. each per annum.

The Pasture Land is let to Mr. Hy. Talbot on a yearly Michaelmas Tenancy at an annual rent of £5.

The total rental from this Lot is therefore **£8 7s. 0d.** per annum, and so far as the Vendors are aware there are no Outgoings.

It was offered for sale by auction, on the break up of the Compton Verney estate in 1929, as lot 68. It appears to have sold on September 10th 1929 as it does not appear in the June 24th 1930 catalogue.

Church Cottages



Photo Colin Such

This attractive row of 4 cottages has been extended at both ends in the current century. No 2 has a date of 1642 carved in the stone of the chimney. They are built of squared, coursed limestone. Originally they were thatched, with shallow eyebrow dormers. The thatch was replaced by tiles circa 1950 and the shallow eyebrow dormers were retained.

They were offered as a single lot in the first two Compton Verney estate sales of June 21st 1929 and September 10th 1929 and if not sold as one lot they were to be offered as two pairs.

LOT 94.

(Coloured *Pink* and *Blue* on Plan No. 3).

Block of Four Cottages,

at the West end of the Village, and Nod. 111b on the Plan. If not disposed of as one Lot, these Cottages will be offered in pairs as Lots 94a and 94b :—

Lot 94a. Let to Messrs. L. Boyles and A. Hunt, at the respective rents of £3 5s. 0d. and £2 11s. 0d. (apportioned).

Lot 94b. Let to E. M. Hobday and Mrs. L. Day at rents of £6 9s. 0d. (apportioned) and £2 3s. 0d. respectively.

The Cottages are stone and brick built, thatched, and iron roofs, and contain the following accommodation :—

BOYLE (TENANT) : 3 Bedrooms, 2 Living Rooms, and Scullery.

HUNT (TENANT) : 2 Bedrooms, 1 Living Room, and Scullery.

HOBDAY (TENANT) : 3 Bedrooms, 1 Living Room, and Scullery.

DAY (TENANT) : 2 Bedrooms, 1 Living Room, and Scullery.

There are several Outbuildings at the rear.

The four Cottages take Water from the Well at the rear of the Cottage occupied by Hunt.

In the event of a sale in two Lots, Lot 94b shall have the right of access to the Well for obtaining water as heretofore used, and Lot 94a shall have a Right of Way over the Back Yard of Lot 94b as heretofore used for ingress and regress to the Public Road.

They were unsold and re-offered in the catalogue of June 24th 1930 as follows. The owner of this copy of the auction catalogue has written “no bid” adjacent to the lot numbers.

LOT 94.

LOT 94A.

LOT 94B.

LOT 94C.

no bed

Four Good Cottages,

very nicely placed on high ground at the Western end of the village, stone and brick built, with thatched and iron roofs.

Lot 94, contains: 2 Living Rooms, Scullery, and 3 Bedrooms. Now in the occupation of Mr. L. Boyle at a rental of £3 5s. 0d. per annum.

Lot 94A contains: Living Room, Scullery, and 2 Bedrooms, and is let to Mr. A. Hunt at a rental of £2 11s. 0d. per annum.

Lot 94B contains: Living Room, Scullery, and 3 Bedrooms, and is now occupied by Mr. E. M. Hobday at a rental of £6 9s. 0d. per annum.

Lot 94C contains: Living Room, Scullery, and 2 Bedrooms, and is let to Mrs. L. Day at a rental of £2 3s. 0d. per annum.

At the rear of the Range are Outoffices for the respective occupiers. A Wash-house and Bakehouse is used jointly by the occupiers of Lots 94B and 94C. Plot of Garden to each house.

The purchaser of lot 94A, being cottage no.2, was the tenant, Mr. A. Hunt, who purchased it for £55, secured by a £5 deposit and with a mortgage of £50 provided by Kinton Oddfellows. A photocopy of the completion statement is in the Society archive (LH35). Mr and Mrs Hunt's daughter married Henry "Cyril" Hackleton, who, in his will, provided for replacement lych gates for the church.

Whitegates



"Whitegates" is the name given to the 2 cottages in the lower left corner of this postcard view of circa 1910. Photo Colin Such

The first written mention of the name “Whitegates” is in the census returns of 1881, but the Verney estate maps of 1723 show 2 cottages at right angles on the same site. The foundations probably date to the mid 17th century. The 2 cottages were built of local limestone and thatched.

The late Peter Hinman thought that there may have been a water mill on this site, but that is no longer thought likely. Peter wrote:

Its location beside the stream and right angled construction possibly indicate that it was originally a water mill. A grindstone was found in the garden and supports the possibility. It was set in the gable wall, as a decorative feature, in the 20th century. A water mill is described in the early documents, unfortunately without any location given. The estate map of 1723 shows the two cottages as above, but also shows a small square building on the opposite side of the lane, near the current bridge over the stream. This other building may have been the mill and “Whitegates” the miller’s house. Alternatively both could have been mills at different times.

It is also possible that the mill was a fulling mill, used in the treatment of wool. The mention of the water mill is concurrent with the description of a 500 acre area around the village, the “Old Enclosure”, being turned over to sheep. This could have led to the construction of an estate fulling mill, which would have fallen into disuse when the farms reverted to mixed farming in the 1820s.

In 1881 the census return shows that two branches of the Humphriss family were living at “Whitegates”. One family comprised John, an agricultural labourer, and his wife, Elizabeth, and the other family, possibly the son of John and Elizabeth, comprised Amos, a Lighthorne born woodman’s labourer and his wife, Elizabeth, from Kingsbridge in Devon, and their two children, Marjorie and Raymond. In the 1891 census, Amos and Elizabeth are shown as having five children living with them at “Whitegates”. William Josephs, a groom from Hereford and his wife Gertrude, from Cologne, in Germany, occupied the other cottage.

The 1901 census gives the residents as George and Ann Garner, an agricultural labourer and his wife, plus Martha Lamley, mother, Alfred Lamley, brother in law and Harriet Talbot, niece.

LOT 67.

(Coloured *Green* on Plan No. 3).

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**A VERY PRETTY PAIR OF STONE BUILT AND
THATCHED COTTAGES WITH GARDENS,**

at the Western end of the Village, Nod. 114 on the Plan, and having an acreage of 0.309 Acres or thereabouts.

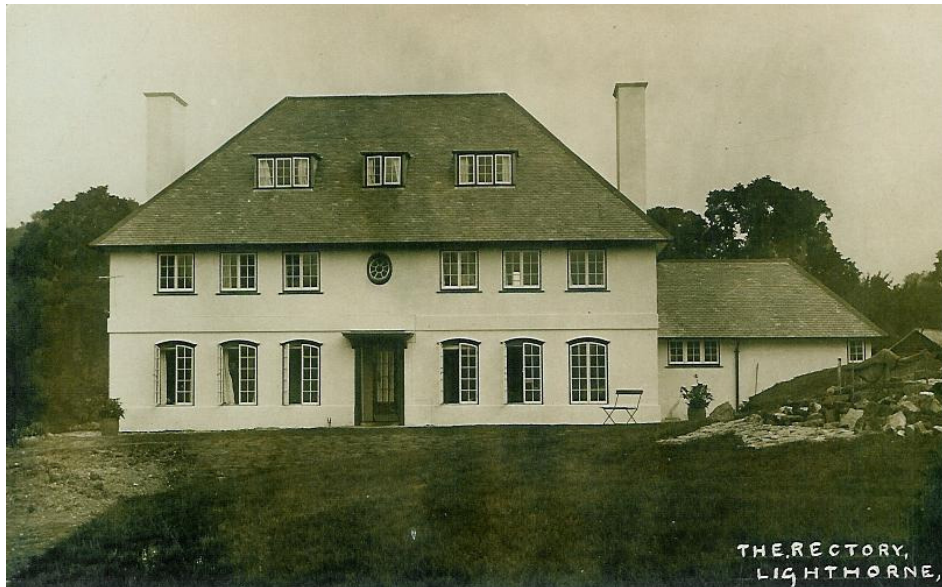
Each Cottage has 2 Bedrooms and 2 Living Rooms, with a joint wood and iron Outhouse and open Boiler-house. There are good Gardens to each Cottage, and a well of good water is available. The Cottages are let to Messrs. A. Humphries and G. Garner on Monthly Tenancies at rents of £2 15s. 0d. each per annum, total, £5 10s. 0d.

There is a Right of Way through the Gardens for foot traffic only from Field No. 74.

There are 4 Oak, 2 Beech, and 4 Chestnut trees included with this Lot.

The property was offered for sale by auction, as part of the Verney estate, on September 10th 1929. There is an annotation in pencil next to the particulars in the auction catalogue in the archives, implying that the sitting tenant of one of the cottages, Mr. A. Humphriss, purchased the lot for £200.

Northbrook House



The new rectory shortly after its construction in 1930. Photo Colin Such

This was built in 1930 as a replacement rectory when the rectory adjacent to the church was sold in 1928 for £5,000. The site was purchased for £300 and the house cost £3,402 to build. The architects were Coleridge, Jennings and Simenow of Westminster and their fees amounted to £227, making the total cost £3,929. However, in March 1933 an additional £356 was paid to strengthen the foundations. This house was sold in the 1980s when the new (3rd) rectory was built in the churchyard.

The grounds contain an ancient ash tree supposedly the largest in the county, now a shadow of its former self, but still alive.

Rosemary Cottage



Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings outside Rosemary Cottage circa 1910. Photo Colin Such

As with most of the domestic buildings in Lighthorne, this cottage was built of coursed limestone and originally it would have been thatched. The well in the garden is an original feature. It was originally two cottages and it has been enlarged in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It was the home of Chelsea Pensioner, Mr Hutchings in 1851. The family remained there for some years. The house is rumoured to have been used as a clandestine Methodist Chapel. (The church returns, prepared by the landlord's nominee, declared "no dissenters")

LOT 75.

(Coloured *Green* on Plan No. 3).

A DETACHED COTTAGE

on the South-West side of the Village, Nod. Part 99 on the Plan, together with a Garden on the opposite side of the road and Nod. 101b on the Plan, the whole let to Mr. F. Hutchings on a Monthly Tenancy at an annual rent of £2 15s. 0d.

The Cottage is stone built and thatched, and contains 2 Bedrooms and 2 Living Rooms.

The outside Buildings are :—

Brick and tiled Wash-house, Hovel, and E.C., all under one roof.

Wood and iron Stable, and brick and tiled Pigstye.

There is a Well on this Lot used for washing purposes only.

In the first and second Verney estate auctions the cottage remained unsold. It is noted that the well is for washing purposes only. The plan that accompanied the first auction shows that the cottage was originally two semi-detached dwellings.

LOT 75.

A Picturesque Detached Cottage

in a nice open situation on the outskirts of the village, stone-built with thatched roof, and containing: 2 Living Rooms, 2 Bedrooms with an outside Range of Wash-house, Hovel and E.C. Also timber and iron Stable, brick and tiled Piggery. Garden.

Now let to Mr. F. Hutchings on a monthly tenancy at a rental of £2 15s. 0d. per annum.

In the June 24th 1930 catalogue the description has been modified; the word "picturesque" has been added to the title and no mention of the well is made.

Yew Tree Cottage



Yew Tree Cottage in the 1960s. Photo Ben Knight

Dated 1632, on the front wall, it is built of squared coursed limestone, with a large inglenook fireplace. It is one of only two cottages in Lighthorne which have retained their thatched roofs. The extension to the right is a 20th century addition.

LOT 82.

(Coloured *Blue* on Plan No. 3).

COTTAGE ADJOINING THE LAST LOT,

Nod. 97b on the Plan, having an acreage of 0.127 ACRES (or thereabouts).

The Cottage is stone built and thatched, and contains 2 Bedrooms and 2 Living Rooms, with lean-to Coal-house, wood and tiled. Let on a half-yearly tenancy to Mr. A. Humphries at an apportioned rent of £6 10s. 0d. per annum, the Tenant paying the Rates.

The Outbuildings are wood, stone and iron Wash-house, E.C., and Hovel, all under one roof.

The cottage apparently sold in the September 10th 1929 auction, as it is not listed in the subsequent sale catalogue.

The Old Post Office



The Post Office, circa 1910 Photo Colin Such

This cottage is stone built and the western part, which probably dates from the 17th or 18th century, was originally thatched. It retained its thatch to at least 1937, as it features on a postcard used in that year. The eastern end was a slate-roofed lean to attachment, which has been extended vertically in the 20th century.

The Post Office started in Lighthorne sometime between 1850 and 1866, as White's Directory of 1850 does not list a post office, but William Herbert was listed as the postmaster in directories of 1866 and 1874. He had been listed as the blacksmith in the 1850 directory. At this time the post office was located at Smithy Cottage.



Lighthorne postmark, 1913. Photo Colin Such



Lighthorne postmark, 1953. Photo Colin Such

Kelly's Directory of 1896 states John Mountford was the sub postmaster. Postal orders could be issued but not paid. Wellesbourne and Kineton were the nearest money order and telegraph offices. By the time of publication of Spennell's 1926-7 directory, John Mountford was still the postmaster. In 1928 he was also selling groceries.

The Antelope Inn



Meet of the Warwickshire Hounds at the Antelope, circa 1910. Photo Colin Such

The building is thought to date from the early 18th century. It is built of squared coursed limestone with an old tile hipped roof. It has an L plan, with a wing on the right to the rear. Photographs, taken around 1910, show that the pub used to have a door in the centre of the front elevation. To the left of the door was part of the domestic accommodation, the bar being to the right. There was a hallway between the two. The lean to building on the right, with a pitched roof, apparent in the early postcards, was a manger which also served as a laying out room for the dead. This lean to building was replaced with a flat roofed porch in the 20th century. The porch and doorway which form the current entrance are mid to late 20th century and the well is a 1990s decorative feature.

The first record of the pub found so far is the Declaration of the Commutation of Tithes, dated 1838, in which the pub and associated cottages and buildings are rated at £12.10s for the support of the poor of the parish. The pub paid a tithe to the church of one shilling, probably in respect of land held, rather than as a pub. Joseph Lattimer was the publican and the signatory to the deed. However Peter Hinman has mentioned a reference to a beer house in the hands of the Lattimer family in a document dated 1829, but he does not record the source. The next references are Kelly's and White's Directories of 1850, which give the publican as Phoebe Lattimer. The census of 1851 calls the building a beer house with Matilda Lattimer as the publican. Morris's Directory of 1866 and White's of 1874 describe it as "Antelope" and "Antelope Inn" respectively, in the charge of William Lattimer. The Lattimers, who seem to have been related to the Hunt family, held it until some time in the mid 1890s. Mr James Healey had taken over by 1896.

LOT 83.
(Coloured *Pink* on Plan No. 3).

"THE ANTELOPE INN."

ONE COTTAGE, AND THE OLD MALT HOUSE,

together with a small Pasture Field at the rear of the Inn.

THE "ANTELOPE INN" is a brick, stone and tiled House, fully licensed, and a "Free" House. It contains 3 Bedrooms, 2 good Attics, and large Club Room over the Stables, a Public Bar, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen and Pantry.

THE OUTBUILDINGS, which are under one roof with the Inn, consist of Cellar, Stable, Garage and Wash-house.

Part of the Old Malt House is used as a Store, and there are 2 E.C.'s and Pigstyes. Water is obtained from a pump at the rear of the Inn. There is also a good Garden.

The Inn is let to Mr. E. Tarver, together with the Meadow, on a Half-yearly Tenancy at a rent of £38 per annum, the Tenant paying Rates.

THE COTTAGE is let on a Yearly Michaelmas Tenancy to Mr. A. Watts, at an apportioned rent of £4 per annum. It contains 2 Bedrooms, 1 Living Room, and a Wash-house, and has a Tool-house and E.C.

THE OLD MALT HOUSE has been converted into a Village Hall, and is let to the Lighthorne Harmonic Society at an annual rent of £5. It has 2 Rooms, large Cellar, and 2 W.C.'s on the ground floor, and a large Room upstairs. It is at present fitted with Electric Light.

The Landlords' Outgoings on this Lot are:—

Tithe, Commuted, at 5s. Present value £0 5 6

SUMMARY OF LOT 83.

No. on Plan.	Description.	Tenant.	Rent.
Pt. 91	Antelope Inn and	E. Tarver	£38 0 0
93	Meadow		
Pt. 91	Cottage	A. Watts	4 0 0
Pt. 91	Old Malt House	Harmonic Society	5 0 0
Per annum			£47 0 0

The Antelope Inn was offered together with the adjoining cottage and malthouse in the estate sale of September 10 1929. However the auction catalogue in the Society archive

has the word “sold” stamped next to the lot description, implying that a sale by private treaty had taken place prior to the auction.

The pub also served as a shop and Post Office for a while, after the village shop closed in the 1990s.

The depiction of the antelope on the pub sign is taken from the badge of the Warwickshire Regiment. The Antelope is standing on a strip of six pieces. This is said to be the six feet of turf representing the old name of the 6th Regiment of Foot. The old Regiments of Foot were given county affinities on June 30th 1881, to encourage recruitment and provide a positive identity. The 6th chose Warwickshire as they had been recruiting there and had been stationed there twice in the ten years prior to 1881.

The Malthouse and Lattimer’s Cottages



Part of the Malthouse with “Lattimer’s Cottages” opposite on a 1950s postcard. Photo Colin Such

Adjacent to the pub is the malt house, probably built in the early nineteenth century, converted to domestic use in the 1980s, although census records indicate that it had included staff apartments in the nineteenth century. It was in use as a village hall, youth group venue and drama group venue before the Village Hall was built in 1960. The September 10th 1929 auction catalogue records that it was let to the Lighthorne Harmonic Society at a rent of £5 per annum and that it was equipped with electric light.

The cottages opposite were known as Lattimer’s cottages and were either let to or used by pub employees. Peter Hinman recorded “It is rumoured that a passage extends under the road from the pub to the cottages. If this exists it is possibly an extension of the cellar.

This would be sensible if the beer was brewed across the road in Lattimer's cottages, as some people claim."

LOT 73.

(Coloured *Pink* on Plan No. 3).

Block of Four Cottages and Estate Store.

with large Gardens, Nod. 104c on the Plan, and covering an area of 0.463 ACRES (or thereabouts).

The Cottages are stone and brick built and slated, and contain 2 Bedrooms and 1 Living Room in three cases, the fourth having 2 Bedrooms and 2 Living Rooms. There are Coal Sheds and other Outbuildings on this Lot.

The Cottages are let on monthly tenancies to Messrs. Castle, Watts, Upton and Fryatt, at the respective rents of £6 15s. 0d., £6 10s. 0d., £4 0s. 0d., and £10 0s. 0d., making a total annual rental of £27 5s. 0d. The Estate Store is in Hand.

59

The block of four cottages at the end of Post Office Lane was offered as lot 73 in the September 10 1929 estate auction and evidently sold, as they were not re-listed in the subsequent catalogue.

Bishop's Farmhouse

This was built as a dower house for the Verney family in 1726. The date is inscribed on an end elevation with the initials EH and RI. As with most of the other large buildings in the village, it is built of coursed limestone with a tiled roof. It has contrasting sandstone lintels to the windows. Originally an L shape in plan, it has been extended to an F shape with wings to the rear. The porch, door and door furniture are mid-late nineteenth century.

This may have been the home of Henry Eyres Landor, the brother of the poet, Walter Savage Landor. Alternatively he may have resided at the Old Rectory. The farm takes its name from a tenant farmer, John Bishop of Bledington, Gloucestershire, who held it with 227 acres at the time of the 1851 census.

LOT 84.

(Coloured *Brown* on Plan No. 3).

An Exceptionally Nice Residence

KNOWN AS

“BISHOPS FARM,”

Nod. Part 91 and 92 on the Plan.

The House, which is stone built and tiled, stands back from the road, from which it is screened by a Shrubby. It is in an excellent state of repair, and has been equipped with Electric Light. The present tenant has spent considerable time and care in laying out the Garden. The adjoining Meadow, extending to just over an acre, is included with this Lot. The whole is let to the Hon. Mrs. Verney on a Lady Day Tenancy, subject to six months' notice, at an annual rent of £50, the Tenant paying Rates.

Landlords' Outgoings :—

Tithe, Commuted, at 4s. 2d. Present value £0 4 7

The House provides the following accommodation :—

3 Attics, 5 Bedrooms, and 1 Sitting Room upstairs, also a Bathroom and Landing.

On the ground floor, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen and Scullery, Larder and Pantry.

2 Lavatories outside.

The Lot is well equipped with

OUTBUILDINGS,

namely :—

Stone and slated Engine House and Battery Room, wood and iron Store House, stone, wood and tiled
Harness Room, 2 Stalls, Box with loft over.

2 good Boxes and Garage under one roof, stone and slated.

Lean-to Incubator House and lean-to Boiler House.

A very neat, compact, and convenient Country Residence.

Bishop's Farmhouse was sold in the second Compton Verney estate auction on September 10th 1929. The auction catalogue details indicate that it was equipped with electric light.

Dene Hollow



Dene Hollow on a postcard circa 1910. Heath Lane is now known as Old School Lane.
Photo Colin Such

This is a late 16th century or early 17th century house of regular coursed limestone, with contrasting ironstone dressings and alternating quoins. It has been recently re-slatted and the original stone coped gable parapets with moulded kneelers have been retained. The front door is nineteenth century. It has a moulded basket arched surround with moulded spandrels and hood mould with lozenge stops. The house has 3 light recess-chamfered stone mullioned windows with hood moulds. The chimney stacks have quoins and brick dog-tooth cornices.

The Green family lived in Lighthorne for many years, the first written record being the church terrier of 1616 which records “a quarterne at the end of Thorney doole” in the hands of Thomas Greene. His gravestone may be the oldest still to be seen in the churchyard. They also seem to have been very prolific, though later Green family references as agricultural labourers may or may not be from the original wealthy yeoman family.

In the 1714 terrier, William Green is recorded as having 59 lands as well as joint occupation of Glebe Farm with Thomas Mason Junior. William Green supported the enclosure act and the family consolidated their holding of 87 acres following the act. This was the area lying behind Curacy Farm towards Chadshunt, as shown in the Verney field map. The estate maps show clearly that his farmhouse was detached from the farm, which is unusual and seems to be Dene Hollow. This building is of the right period and would have been a typical wealthy farmer’s house. The fields relating to the farm were sold to Lord Willoughby de Broke in 1829 by the trustees of William Green. The area of just over 1.5 acres was held by the trustees of John Green in 1839, paying rent in lieu of tithes

of five shillings. The family seems to have moved away or lost its wealthy position after this date, although they are known to have farmed in other areas. The name Green appears frequently in Lighthorne documents: a pew was held in perpetuity for the Green family in 1718 according to the church pew register, and William Green DD was rector from 1766 to 1769. He was replaced temporarily by the Hon. Brownlow North from 1769 to 1771 and returned to the post from 1771 to 1781.

William Wilkins, the contractor who built the nave and chancel of the church in 1875-6, was a resident of Dene Hollow at the time of the church rebuilding. It is stated that he presented two of the stained glass windows to the new church and it has been suggested that other stained glass was used in Dene Hollow as decoration, though none has survived subsequent changes of ownership.

Curacy Farm

This was built as a farm in the mid eighteenth century, with regular coursed limestone and slate roof. The rear wing has old tiles to the roof. The farm was purchased by Lord Willoughby de Broke from Mr. Green and an 1829 valuation in the Society's archive (LH 32), when it was conveyed to Trustees, valued it at £2,128.

This farm was known as "The Curacy" in the census returns of 1881. The curate was Henry H. Ross-Lewin of Sheerness in Kent. He was listed as a lodger, the house being in the name of Maria Badger from Shipston, the wife of a late farmer

LOT 7.

(Coloured Grey on Plan No. 1).

A VERY CONVENIENT and COMPACT FARM,

KNOWN AS

“Curacy Farm,”

and adjoining lands extending to

175 ACRES,

45½ Acres of which are arable, and lying to the South of Lighthorne Village, the Farm House and adequate Farm Buildings forming part of the Village.

The area is let to various Tenants at an estimated rent of £195 per annum.

The Landlord's Outgoings are :—

Tithe Commuted at £29 8s. 0d.	To-day's value	...	...	£32	3	10
Land Tax, £214 15s. 0d. at 9d. in the £		...	...	8	1	2
				£40	5	0

THE FARM HOUSE

is substantially built of stone, and slated, and contains :—Entrance Porch and Hall, 3 Living Rooms, Kitchen, Scullery with copper, Bake Oven, Cellar and W.C., with 3 Bedrooms and 3 Attics and Box Room.

The following Farm Buildings are conveniently situate near the House, and are brick and stone, tiled or slated :—

Earth Closet, Meal House, Dairy and Coal House, Hen Pen (the Lean-to Iron-roofed Cooling House is claimed by the Tenant), Nag Stables and Harness Room, Coach-house with Loft over, Stall, 3-Bay Implement Shed, Granary over, Range of Cow Biers for 18, Calf Pen, Meal-house and Barn, Stand for 5 horses with Loft over, Harness and Chaff Rooms, 2 timber-fronted Cattle Stalls, Yard and 6-Bay Open Cattle Shed.

The timber built and iron-roofed Lean-to Shed used by the Estate for storing ladders is included in this Sale.

Situate in Field No. 47 is a brick and slate 2-Bay Cattle Shed.

The Buildings and Yards Nod. 55 on the Plan consist of stone-built, slate and iron-roofed 3-Bay Open Cattle Shed, 3-Bay Open Cattle Shed, timber-fronted Stall for 8 cows, Feed House, 3 Stalls, Barn, Harness Room, Stand for 6 horses, with Loft over, and Yards.

The Water Supply to the House is derived from a Reservoir situate in Field No. 78 (Lot 8).

SUMMARY OF LOT 7.

<i>Acreage.</i>	<i>Tenant and Tenancy.</i>	<i>Rent.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
159.715	W. Tompkins, Yearly Michaelmas	£174 0 0	Apportioned.
10.983	W. Hirons, Yearly Michaelmas	16 10 0	
3.938	Various, Yearly Lady-day	4 10 0	Landlord pays rates.
1.121	In Hand	- - -	
<u>175.757</u>		<u>£195 0 0</u>	

SCHEDULE OF LOT 7.

<i>No. on Sale Plan No. 1.</i>	<i>Description.</i>	<i>Acreage.</i>
40b	Lane	1.512
44	Arable	11.962
45	Pasture	6.651
46	Pasture	9.682
47	Ditto	11.226
58	Ditto	9.073
59	Ditto	3.835
64	Ditto	6.670
65	Ditto	8.450
66 & 91a	Arable	9.022
84	Pasture	2.073
85	Ditto ... ..	.873
88a	} Yard, Buildings Rickyard, House and Orchard ... ..	.406
88b		.473
88c		.194
48	Pasture	15.874
49	Ditto	20.214
54	Ditto	16.578
55	Buildings and Yard ... ..	.240
67	Arable	9.581
69	Ditto	15.126
		----- 159.715
57	Meadow and Hovel	10.983
56	Allotments	2.578
68	Ditto	1.360
		----- 3.938
94	The Nursery ... ..	.725
86	Waste ... ..	.396
		----- 1.121

	Acres	175.757

The Leicestershire and Warwickshire Electric Power Company's Overhead Cable runs through part of this Lot, namely, Fields 54 and 49. The Company pay an annual wayleave at the rate of :—
 4s. per pole which impedes ploughing operations.
 2s. per pole which impedes mowing.
 1s. per pole in other cases.
 6d. per stay.

Offered as lot 7 in the 2 auctions of 1929, it failed to find a buyer and was re-listed in the June 24th 1930 catalogue, with a slightly changed description. It was offered with vacant possession from September 29th 1930, the main tenant, Mr. W. Tompkins, having been served with a Notice to Quit. A WC had been installed in the farmhouse since the 1929 auction and the earth closet was no longer mentioned in the description of the

outbuildings. The sale figure, indicated in pencil in the margin of the auction catalogue, was apparently £2,325.

The Old Schoolhouse



The Old Schoolhouse, referred to on this circa 1910 postcard as “Tansy Hill Cottages”.
The thatch was in a poor state. Photo Colin Such

The Old Schoolhouse is built of square coursed limestone with string courses. It became a single residence in the 1980s, when it was re-roofed with old tiles, replacing a mix of thatch and corrugated iron. The whole building now has leaded light windows which are either the originals repaired or replacements.

According to White’s Directory of 1874, The Old School House was *a neat National School with a house attached for a Mistress, erected by Lord Willoughby de Broke in 1781*. Other directories refer to it as a Church School, which was considered more likely by the late Peter Hinman. The 1781 date is thought to refer to the erection of the schoolhouse cottage, which seems to have been attached to the west end of an earlier cruck built structure. This earlier building may have been the farmhouse of John Roos, (sometimes written Roes, Rous or Rows). The cruck beams indicate a date as early as the 15th century. This was probably built in longhouse style with three bays, one or two bays, probably on the west side, being used as a barn, The Roos family held 131 acres of the land to the east and north, as copyholders, prior to the enclosure act of 1723. Following enclosure, the property reverted to the major landowners, the Verney family. The Roos family, who had been resident in Lighthorne for several generations, became tenants.

The number of Church Schools in England rose tenfold in the 18th century, in response to parliamentary Acts allowing dissenter worship. The Church returns for the period state “no dissenters”, a situation the rector, Richard Lydiatt George, a relation of the Verneys, wished to maintain.

The census of 1851 shows the schoolmistress as Jane Ennis, from Scotland, living there with four children, Anne, Jane, George and Mary. The schoolmistress is Miss Ann Tibbits in the 1866 and 1874 directories.

The New School on the Bank was built in 1876 and the Old School then became two, three or four cottages. Residents in 1881 were William Hall, a woodman, and his wife Sarah, with their granddaughter, Jesse A. Inge. One cottage was vacant while another was in possession of George and Ruth Mountford and their daughter Harriet. George Mountford was the ‘Wesleyan Local’. By 1891 the Old School had become quite crowded with twenty people living in four dwellings. Five members of the Hunt family, widow Mary, farm labourer son, Henry, daughter-in-law, Selina, and their two children shared one cottage, four members of farm labourer, Richard Plester and wife, Hannah’s family another. George Timms, a carpenter and joiner, shared another with his wife, Mary, and six children while wood sawyer Charles Smith and wife, Anne Maria, made up the fourth household.

LOT 89.

(Coloured *Yellow* on Plan No. 3).

Pair of Cottages and Old School House,

with large Gardens, delightfully situated near the Curacy Farm House, Nod. 83 on the Plan, and extending to 0.409 ACRES (or thereabouts).

The two Cottages are let to W. Horton and J. Greenway on Monthly Tenancies at £6 and £2 12s. 0d. per annum respectively. The Old School House is in Hand.

This Lot is stone and brick built with thatched, iron, and slated roofs, and contains the following accommodation :—

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE : 2 Rooms.

COTTAGES : One contains 2 Living Rooms, 3 Bedrooms, and 2 Attics, and the other 1 Living Room and Pantry, with 2 Bedrooms and Attic.

There is a joint Wash-house attached, and usual Outbuildings.

The wood and iron hut at bottom of the Garden is the tenant's property.

This Lot is sold with the benefit of a right to enter upon Field No. 78 (Lot 8) on the Plan and take water from the Well as heretofore.

The property was offered for sale by auction on September 10th 1929 and must have sold as it does not appear in the subsequent catalogue.

The New Schoolhouse



Photo David Humphriss

Kelly's Directory of 1872 states *In 1872 Lord Willoughby de Broke erected here a Gothic school house, with teachers' residence, in a picturesque situation in the village; the design is by Mr. W. Lait, his lordship's clerk of works, and the work was executed by Messrs. W. and T. Wilkins, builders of this village.* The design has similarities with Gibson's 1876 church, with its coursed rock-faced limestone and ironstone dressings. The *Worcester Diocesan Church Calendar* of 1874 gives the cost as £1,000.

LOT 99.

(Coloured *Blue* on Plan No. 3).

The Lighthorne Schools and School House

Nod. 127 on the Plan, and having an area of .257 ACRES (or thereabouts).

The Schools and School House are stone built and slated, all under one roof, the House containing 3 Bed-rooms, 2 Living Rooms, Scullery and Wash-house, with Wood Shed and E.C. at rear.

The School contains two good Rooms.

The whole is let to the County Council on a Lady Day Tenancy, subject to six months' notice, at an annual rent of £12 per annum.

This Lot is sold with the benefit of a Right of Footway over Field No. 107 comprising the previous Lot.

The schoolhouse was offered as lot 99 in the first 2 sales of the Compton Verney estate in 1929 and failed to sell. It was re-offered in the sale of June 24th 1930 and the copy of the

auction catalogue in the Lighthorne History Society archive indicates that it sold to Mr. Hawkes for £350. Mr. Hawkes also purchased the meadow adjoining the school, to the east, providing access to Pratts Hill, for an additional £11. The building continued in use as a school until 1960, when it then had a complement of only 13 pupils.

Smithy Cottage and the Forge



The smithy on a 1950s postcard. Photo Colin Such

The cottage is built of square coursed limestone, in the mid eighteenth century and is thatched. The forge is early nineteenth century and has a tiled roof. White's Directory of 1829 lists a Mr. Momford or Mountford as the blacksmith.

The 1851 census shows that a Mr. William Herbert was in business as a blacksmith here. He was born in Lighthorne and was living with his wife, Isabella, from Liskeard Cornwall, and two sons, Thomas William and Phillip Moon. There was also a lodger from Kinton, a gardener called John Buckerfield. The Cottage also served as a Post office between 1866 and 1874, the blacksmith, William Herbert, acting as a postmaster and parish clerk.

William and Isabella Herbert were still present in 1881 together with elder son Thomas, now also described as a blacksmith. Thomas Herbert is shown as living alone at the cottage in 1891, but it is possible that the house was divided at this time and the other portion let to one of the Humphriss families. (The Humphriss family members are listed alongside Herbert but as a separate household. They may have been in Chestnut Cottage.)

LOT 91.

(Coloured *Brown* on Plan No. 3).

COTTAGE AND SMITHY

in the centre of the Village of Lighthorne, Nod. Pt. 105 on the Plan, and let to Mr. Ben Cole at an annual Rent of £8 10s. 0d.

The House is stone built and thatched, and the Smithy stone and tiled. The House has 3 Bedrooms, 2 Living Rooms, and Cellar, with Wash-house and E.C. attached. The Smithy consists of Forge and Standings. There is a Well of water at the rear, and a small Garden.

The Landlords' Fixtures are included with the Freehold.

The wood and iron Garage is the property of the Tenant.

The cottage and smithy were offered as lot 91 in the estate auction held on September 10th 1929 and must have sold as they were not re-listed in the 1930 sale.



An extension to the cottage on the left side served as a shop prior to the construction, in the 1960s, of a purpose-built building opposite. The house ceased to be a smithy in 1988, when the cottage portion was sold as a house separate from the forge. The forge was subsequently converted into a single dwelling.

Drawing by Mark Thompson, 1997

The Broadwell

The name “broadwell” is quite common in England and is believed to be from the early English “breac-well” or the “brook well”. Although the well is as old as the village, the earliest parts of the present structure, the quoins and coving, were probably built in 1746, the remainder of the fascia, pool and paving are from the 19th and 20th centuries. The old ironstone escutcheon inserted in the fascia is older and is believed to be the arms of the Pope family, Lords of the Manor in the 16th and 17th centuries. It may originally have been installed in the church and possibly transferred to this location when the church was rebuilt in 1773-4.

Bank Cottages



Numbers 1 – 6 Bank Cottages on a circa 1910 postcard. Photo Colin Such

At the west end of The Bank, on the site of the present houses “Larkins” and “Stoneybank”, stood two terraces of brick-built cottages, in line and with a small separation between the two terraces. In style they were similar to “South View” before it received its 20th and 21st century additions. They were built of bricks, probably made at the Chesterton Hill estate yard, and had slate roofs. In the two 1929 Compton Verney estate auctions the cottages were offered as a block of 6, a block of 4 with estate store adjoining and a semi-detached cottage at the eastern end. None of the 3 lots sold and in the 1930 auction the cottages were individually lotted, the western block listed as 6 two bedroom cottages and the eastern block listed as 4 two bedroom cottages and 1 double cottage of four bedrooms. The implication is that the estate store had been turned into a 2 bedroom cottage. The semi-detached cottage on the eastern end was lotted separately. Unfortunately the two terraces were demolished in the early 1970s.

Sources and Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Dr. Sylvia Pinches, University of Leicester, for confirming details of the Compton Verney estate sale.

Research notes by the late Peter Hinman.

LH11 1994 Warks. District Council Conservation Area Review, prepared by Shankland Cox.

LH20 Victoria County Histories, Vol. 5, Kington Hundred.

LH23 Directories of Warwickshire published by Kelly (1872, 1896, 1926), White (1829, 1850, 1874) and Spennell (1926).

LH13 Lighthorne Ecclesiastical Terriers for 1586, 1616 and 1714, detailing land holdings.

Census returns for 1841 (LH10), 1851 (LH9), 1861 (LH8), 1871 (LH7), 1881 (LH6), 1891 (LH5), 1901 (LH4).

LH124 June 25th 1929 James Styles & Whitlock auction catalogue of the Compton Verney Estate sale.

LH125 September 10th 1929 James Styles & Whitlock auction catalogue of the Compton Verney Estate sale.

LH126 June 24th 1930 James Styles & Whitlock auction catalogue of the remaining portions of the Compton Verney Estate.