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Andrew Townsend Architects

Widmere Chapel, Marlow, Bucks

Historic Building Record



GREAT MARLOW.

Chapel at Widmer Farm; 13th and 14th-Century.

Oxford Archaeological Unit
March 2000

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Summary: The Grade II listed Chapel at Widmere Farm was stripped of external render, and its fabric recorded in August 1999 by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. The 13th-century chapel is of special interest in being on an estate belonging to the Knights Hospitallers. Evidence was found for the changes in the walls when new windows were added in the 14th century, and the survival of the original roof (with notch-lapped joints) was noted as a significant feature. A watching brief on the digging of drains revealed no significant buried features.*

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) was asked by Andrew Townsend Architects to undertake an assessment and rapid record of the fabric of the Chapel at Widmere Farm, Marlow, Buckinghamshire during the course of building works which included external repointing. Visits were made to the house in April 1999, and this report is based on observations made on those visits but not any extensive archival or historical research. An earlier watching brief on the digging of new drains, in November 1998, revealed no significant buried features.
- 1.2 The principal matter of record was the appearance of the exterior of the building after the removal of rendering, and this has been drawn to indicate the features apparent in the masonry (Fig. 2). Comments are also made here on internal features, and in particular the very interesting roof, but no recording was required or undertaken on these aspects.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Grade II* listed chapel is situated immediately adjacent to the farmhouse at Widmere, some two miles north-west of Marlow (Fig. 1); it lies in the ancient parish of Great Marlow. According to the manorial history in the *Victoria County History*, the manor belonged to the Knights Hospitallers from the mid-13th century until the 16th (Appendix 1).¹ It may have been a small commandery, with a preceptor, brothers, chaplain and servants to administer the estate (and this would account for the presence of the chapel), but it was farmed out (leased) by the late medieval period.² The building was described and illustrated by the Royal Commission in 1912, showing that it has not changed much in the last ninety years (Appendix 2).³ The farmhouse has always been listed, and is accorded Grade II* status, no doubt on account of the chapel (Appendix 3).

¹ *V.C.H. Bucks III*, ed. William Page (1925), 73.

² D. Knowles and R.N.Hadcock, *Medieval Religious Houses* (1953), 248.

³ Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Buckinghamshire I* (1912), 169 and pl.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1 North Wall

The north wall is of flint rubble with chalk quoins and two levels of putlogs. It had two lancet windows of chalk blocks which survive (blocked with brick), and an ?18th-cent window has been added with a brick stack at the west end (these seem to be contemporary and also with the large patch of mortar below the window). Two windows have been cut for the cellar, one with brick jambs and timber lintel, the other with a brick arch and window frame, both set in a white mortar patch. The flint rubble is set in a gravelly earth mortar, nearly flush with the chalk, and in places finished with a flat surface obscuring most of the stonework; there is little trace of its being laid in courses or levels. Along the wall top are two separate finishes, a earth/dung/straw facing, as if made up to an eave or wall plate, and a hair plaster doing the same. These may be the original and a repair, or two phases of repair.

3.2 East Wall

The east wall is of flint rubble with chalk quoins and three levels of putlogs. There seem to be some traces of whitewash on the flint surfaces, implying a less finished face than that seen on the north side (the number of coats implies this is ancient, and a thicker primary coat perhaps suggests that the chapel was originally washed in that manner, or at least from the time of its later medieval rebuilding). There are three phases of windows: (I) a vesica-shaped opening in the gable, evidently primary from its mortar setting; with a 'hood mould' all round and a deep opening, possibly though not obviously glazed, or perhaps with a ledge for a statue. Also a primary pair of lancets (seen also internally) of which only the outer jambs survive up to the springing of (II) a large Decorated window of chalk with hoodmould (stops worn or lost). Then (III) two tiers of casement windows built into the east window, one probably of 18th-century date, and the lower one 20th century. One curious detail is that the original flint rubble stops against the line of the base triangle of the roof (subsequently filled with rubble and mortar); only on the north side can a single timber (base plate) be seen, but the discovery of the mortice for the ashlar post implies that the whole of timber base construction was visible.

3.3 South Wall

The south wall is again of flint rubble, with quoins visible at the east end but obscured at the west by the adjacent brick farmhouse building. The top of the wall has separate dung/straw and hair plaster patches below the eaves, as on the north. There are three fine Decorated windows of two trefoiled lights. The easternmost has been converted to a door into the office, with the jambs continued down in brick, and steps leading up to the door. The next has been made into a door to the store but with reused chalk jambs below, and an

opening to the cellar. The western one is now a single-light window, with the eastern half blocked (the brick blocking has preserved the original ferramenta for the medieval glass). Below this window is a brick and timber window frame lighting the cellar, and no sign of any medieval opening here. To the west is another door ?18th-century, in a brick surround, apparently built into the chalk jambs of a fourth window. Just to the east of this is an arch segment of chalk blocks, joined with primary mortar (the space, between them of creamy gritty mortar). This is perhaps a former south door to the chapel.

3.4 The Interior - Cellar

There is a four-bay cellar with a row of central columns, and low segmental arches between them and to the end and side walls (where there are pilasters against the outer walls; the ribs are all well cut in ashlar, and appear medieval. The caps are moulded, but plainly. The walls of the cellar have been examined for possible traces of medieval paintwork but no significant areas of pigmentation were found.⁴ One vault rib has the appearance of false jointing painted on it, but this is thought to be a microbiological growth on the actual masonry joint. It would seem that the crypt may have had four original windows on the south side, but the two on the north are certainly modern.

3.5 The Interior - Ground Floor

The office at the east end, and house at west were not seen. The store place between has a floor of earth tiles, some of which appear to be medieval and patterned. The building contains a framed partition, of which the west wall looks 16th or 17th century, though the ceiling over the store is 18th-century and of elm.

3.6 The Interior - Roof

The roof is 13th-century, with 18 trusses having base triangle, collars and collar braces, joined with open notch-laps from brace to rafter and brace to collar (applied on the west side); the notch laps have one face peg and are mostly spurred below the foot. The timber is of no great scantling (about 12 x 10 cm), and often waney (have their bark edge). The braces are straight, and meet in the middle of the collar. Apart from the wallplates, assumed to lie below the sole plates, there is no longitudinal strengthening for the roof (which has racked eastwards, but is nevertheless supported by stone gables at each end).

In the east wall is the head of the 14th-cent east window, with hoodmould and hollow, and on either side then outline of the head of a lancet window. Above

⁴ John Burbidge, *Widmere Chapel, Widmere Farm, Marlow, Bucks. Investigation of Interior Surfaces* (unpublished client report, August 1997).

the east window is the splayed opening of the vesica window (so it probably was glazed). High in the west wall is a lancet window about 5 ft tall, with a splayed opening.

The walls are plastered up to the top of the ashlar pieces, and at one time (though not originally) beyond that to a lost ceiling (as seen in the east wall there was a ceiling just below the collar level). The whole chapel attic is now a single boarded room.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The chapel is of exceptional interest for the high quality of its original masonry, and the remarkable preservation of its original roof in such unspoilt condition. It is also of interest for its internal arrangements, and for its relationship to the farmhouse. The opportunity to observe and record the walls when stripped of render has allowed some further understanding of the development of the building.

Julian Munby and Jonathan Gill
Oxford Archaeological Unit
March 2000

Illustrations and Appendices

Fig. 1 Location plan

Fig. 2 External elevations of chapel

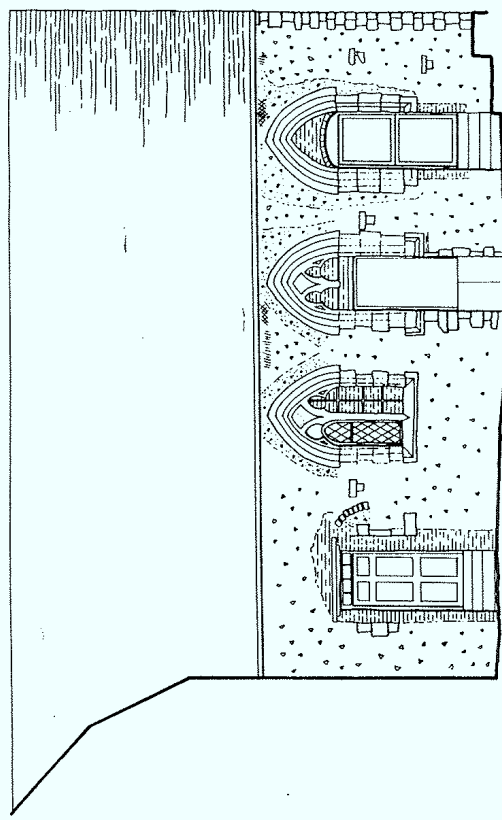
Appendix 1 *V.C.H. Bucks III* (1925), pp. 67, 68, 73

Appendix 2 *R.C.H.M. Inventory Bucks I* (1912), 169 and pl.

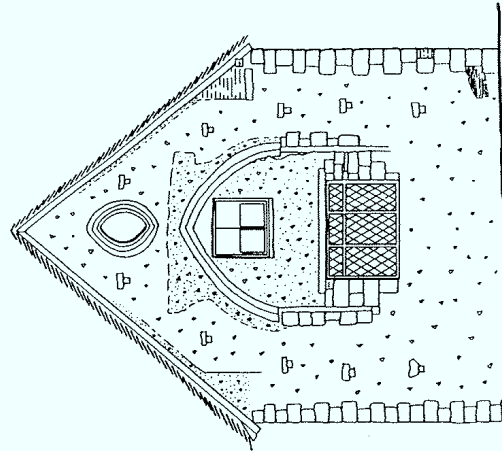
Appendix 3 DoE List entry for Widmere

Widmere2.rep.doc

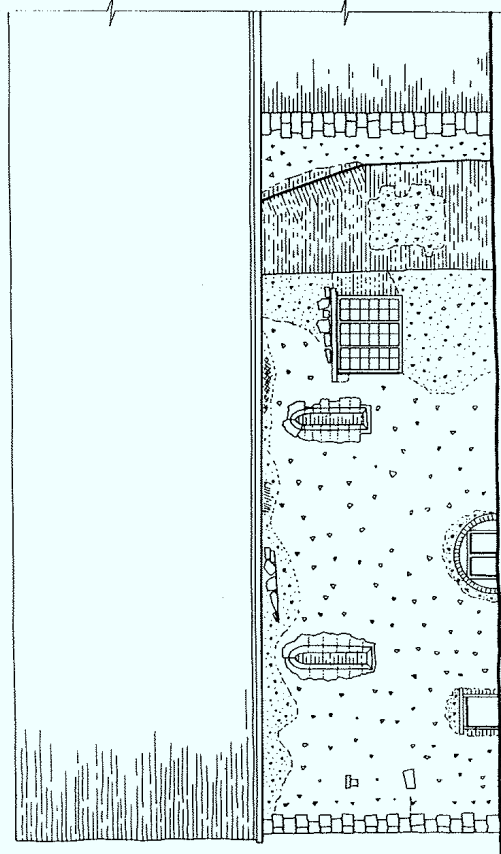




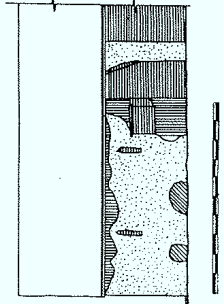
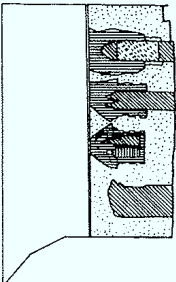
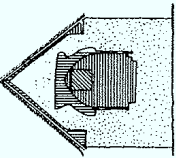
South-east elevation



North-east elevation



North-west elevation



Primary ocher-coloured mortar

Secondary mortar

Brick

Dungy mortar

Hairy mortar

C13th

C14th

C17th

C18th/C19th

C20th



Widmore

THE
VICTORIA HISTORY
OF THE COUNTY OF
BUCKINGHAM

EDITED BY WILLIAM PAGE, F.S.A.

VOLUME THREE

*NOTE.—This volume was completed in 1914, but owing to
the War and other reasons its publication has been delayed*

LONDON
THE ST. CATHERINE PRESS
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1925

APPENDIX 1

DESBOROUGH HUNDRED

GREAT MARLOW

The house, now divided into three cottages, is a long, low structure of simple proportions covered by climbing plants. Shelley was induced to settle here by a visit to Thomas Love Peacock at Marlow in 1816, and spent the greater part of 1817 in this house, where he composed 'The Revolt of Islam.'²⁹ Opposite Shelley's house is Remnantz, a fine 18th-century house of red brick with a stable block and clock tower of admirable design. It is the property of Mr. Thomas Owen Wethered, J.P., of Seymour Court, whose family has been settled in Marlow for about 150 years. George Wethered, son of Edward and Susannah Wethered of Penn, moved to Marlow, where he died in 1783, leaving a son Thomas.³⁰ He acquired Remnantz, which had been occupied by the Royal Military College from its establishment at Marlow in 1799 to its removal in 1811, and is described as of Remnantz at his death in 1849.³¹ He left a widow Sarah and a son Owen who died in 1862. At the death of his widow in 1881 Remnantz descended to their son, the present proprietor. The old-established brewery of Messrs. Thomas Wethered & Sons, Ltd., stands a little to the south, with the entrance in High Street.

On the western outskirts of the town are several other good houses standing in their own grounds, among them Spinfeld, the residence of Mrs. Robert Hay Murray. It is a fine red brick building in the Italian style with beautiful gardens, whence extensive views over the river valley are obtained. Highfields, in the same advantageous situation, is the recently-built seat of Mr. A. Ll. Griffith-Williams. The house called Gyldernscroft, formerly known as Townsend Cottage (after a family of that name), and later The Croft, incorporates the walls of a 16th-century building. It was once the property of the Pagets and afterwards of the Langleys. It was bequeathed by the historian to the family of the present owner,³² Gen. Sir George W. A. Higginson, G.C.B., who came into possession on the death of his father, Gen. Sir George Powell Higginson, in 1866.³³

West of Highfields is Beechwood, the property of the trustees of the late Mr. R. S. B. Hammond-Chambers, K.C., who built the new house. The house stands in well-wooded grounds on a height commanding a wide view towards the river. The old house near the Henley road was purchased in 1863 by Frank Smedley, the author of *Frank Fairleigh*, who died here the following year.³⁴

In the north of the town is the poorer, more thickly-populated quarter served by Holy Trinity Church. Here are also the new Church of England boys' school, the cemetery and the police-court.

The station is a terminus on a branch from Bourne End of the Maidenhead and High Wycombe section of the Great Western railway, and is situated on the outskirts of the town to the south-east. There are many handsome villas and smaller bungalows along the banks of the river. To the east of the High Street is Thames Bank House, the residence of the late Mr. Thomas Somers Cocks, D.L., formerly

M.P. for Reigate. He inherited the property from his father, to whom it was left by his sister, the widow of Vice-Admiral Sir James Nicoll Morris, K.C.B., the commander of the *Colossus* at Trafalgar, who died here. The house is now sold and let to summer visitors. Beyond is Thames Lawn, the residence of Mr. James Boyton, M.P. Beyond Thames Lawn are the Marlow paper-mills. To the west of the bridge is Sunny Bank, the residence of Mrs. Stanley Edwards, and north of this stands Court Garden, the seat of Mr. Robert Griffin, J.P. It was formerly the property of the Pagets and was sold by Henry Earl of Uxbridge in the middle 18th century to Dr. Battie, who built the house, a tall red brick building.³⁵ Dr. Battie died in 1776,³⁶ and his eldest daughter sold Court Garden to Richard Davenport,³⁷ Sheriff for Buckinghamshire in 1789.³⁸ At his death, ten years later,³⁹ the property passed to Davenport Bromley, who never lived there.⁴⁰

About 2 miles west of the town on the river-bank is Harleyford House, the seat of Sir William Robert Clayton, bart. The original manor-house of the Pagets suffered greatly during the Civil War, and the present house was built near the site of the old one pulled down in 1755.⁴¹ It is a red brick building in the Palladian style, designed by Sir Robert Taylor,⁴² two stories in height with attics and a half basement; the drawing room walls are decorated with some good plaster-work. The house stands in the midst of well-timbered, park-like grounds, but its charm is in its gardens with lawns sloping down to the river.

The country round Marlow is exceedingly pretty and covered with beautiful beech woods. To the north-west of the town is the small hamlet of Bovingdon Green and beyond it stretches Marlow Common. Across the parish runs Marlow Bottom, one of the narrow, deep valleys so common in this county, which leads about 2 miles north of Marlow to the old farm-house of Munday Dean. The principal road north of Marlow leads to Oxford and rises continuously to Lane End, on the parish boundary. About 1 mile north of the town it passes Seymour Court, a square-built modern house and the seat of Mr. T. O. Wethered. The old house was practically destroyed in the Civil War, and portions of the garden wall were all that was left of it at the end of the 18th century.⁴³ The tradition that this house was the birthplace of Lady Jane Seymour, queen of Henry VIII, seems to have no foundation in fact; the Seymours who lived here before that date appear to have been an entirely distinct family. To the west of Seymour Court is Copy Green Farm.⁴⁴

A mile beyond Seymour Court a lane leads west off the high road to Widmere Farm House, belonging to Sir William Clayton and occupied by Messrs. David White & Sons. The situation is a remarkably fine one, with beautiful views of the quiet country-side with its woods and valleys. Most of the farm-house is modern, but the chapel of the Hospitallers still

Widmere

²⁹ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³⁰ Monuments in church.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Sheahan, *op. cit.* 898.

³³ *Ret. of Owners of Land* (1873), i,

10.

³⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³⁵ Lysons, *Mag. Brit.* i (3), 600.

³⁶ Stowe MS. 803, fol. 71.

³⁷ Langley, *op. cit.* 107.

³⁸ P.R.O. *List of Sheriffs*, 10.

³⁹ Stowe MS. 803, fol. 71.

⁴⁰ Richard Davenport's nephew, Davies Davenport, had some property in Marlow

in 1873 (*Ret. of Owners of Land* [1873], i, 6).

⁴¹ Langley, *op. cit.* 99. On a rain-water head is the date 1715, possibly a mistake for 1755.

⁴² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴³ Langley, *op. cit.* 107.

⁴⁴ See under charities.

A HISTORY OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

exists. It adjoins the east end of the farm-house, of which it now forms a part. It is a rectangular building consisting of chapel with undercroft dating probably from the early 13th century, and appears to have been attached to a large building of that period. Windows were inserted in the south wall in the 14th century, and about 1600 the chapel was divided into two floors and converted into a dwelling-house. The building, which is roofed with tiles, is of flint and stone and the north and east walls are coated with rough-cast. The undercroft, lighted by holes in the south wall, is vaulted in two aisles of four bays each, and has a central row of circular columns with plain capitals and bases and semicircular wall shafts with grooved capitals and high square plinths. The arches are segmental with chamfered edges, and the vault, probably of Totternhoe stone, is now thickly coated with whitewash. The chapel has a large early 14th-century window on the east, now blocked, above which is a vesica-piscis light. In the south wall are three 14th-century windows, the westernmost entirely

under cultivation and there are many farm-houses scattered over the parish. Among them is the old farm-house of Homers with a fine cluster of chimneys, which lies on the eastern boundary about 3 miles north of Marlow. Oldhouse Farm, Hill, Burford and Lower Farms farm the land eastward of Marlow.

The road continuing north from Widmere skirts the woods called High Heavens and Hill Green, and leaving Beacon and Redbarn Farms on the left and Cutlers Farm on the right, reaches Lane End about 2 miles distant. The parish of Lane End formed from Great Marlow, Hambleden, Fingest and West Wycombe has an area of 1,270 acres. The soil is sandy and the subsoil gravelly, producing crops of wheat and barley, but the inhabitants are principally engaged in the manufacture of chairs and in an iron-foundry and agricultural works. The parish is served by the church of the Holy Trinity on Ditchfield Common. There is also a Wesleyan chapel built in 1865 and a Gospel mission hall dating from 1888

at Moor End. At Moor Farm, to the south of Lane End, some of the buildings are of 17th-century origin and on the land belonging to the farm are the ruins of Ackhampstead Chapel, of which only fragments of the walls remain. It is said to have been rectangular on plan and to have been lighted by lancets. Moor Farm was the residence in the 17th century of John Brinkhurst, the founder of the Oxford Lane almshouses, who died in 1614 owning land called Mooreland.⁴⁵

The monument in

Marlow Church to a John Brinkhurst who died in 1681 is probably that of his nephew and heir, who forfeited his lands in 1653 for recusancy.⁴⁶ Among the seats in this parish is Wycombe Court, the residence of Mr. H. H. Worthington, J.P., a house in the oriental style surrounded by beautiful grounds. It was built by — Forjett, of the East Indian Police, who settled here on a pension received for giving important information during the Mutiny.

Neolithic celts of chipped flint have been picked up at Great Marlow and principally dredged from the river,⁴⁷ and a timber boat of the Bronze Age was found in the river in 1871.⁴⁸ The Roman remains consist of two small bronze human figures and a fibula which were discovered in the late 18th century.⁴⁹

Among place-names those of Oxenford and Eliote Streets occur as far back as the 14th century.⁵⁰ Akenhanger and Radelisgrave Lane are also 14th-



REMNANTZ, GREAT MARLOW

blocked, while the other two have been blocked in the upper parts, their sills cut away and modern doorways inserted. Each of these was of two trefoiled lights with tracery above under a two-centred head. The tracery of the easternmost has been destroyed. In the north wall are two blocked 13th-century lancets and a modern window, and at the south-west is a 17th-century dormer. A blocked doorway and parts of windows built into the walls of an out-house on the west are probably re-used 15th-century work. The undercroft, which is said to be connected with Seymour Court by an underground passage, is now used as a dairy.

Finnamore Farm, west of Widmere Farm, and the old workhouse in the south-east of the parish are both of 17th-century date, but the former has been much restored in modern times.

The country to the north of Marlow is chiefly

⁴⁶ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), ccclxliii, 141.

⁴⁷ *Cal. Com. for Comp.* 3172.

⁴⁸ *V.C.H. Bucks.* ii, 180.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.* 185.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* ii, 9.

⁵¹ Stowe MS. 942, fol. 304.

cousins John Rous, clerk, and Margaret Holborne, wife of Oliver Ridge.⁷ Harleyford was divided between them,⁸ but both moieties were acquired in 1638 by William King and Ralph Chase.⁹ Trouble arose through Margaret's father William Holborne having been attainted for piracy in 1592, and her moiety was said in 1640 to be in the hands of the escheator, William Lord Paget, Rous's claim being allowed in the same year.¹⁰ Lord Paget finally obtained the manor in fee,¹¹ the manor-house of which became his chief residence in this parish, and it henceforward descended with his manor of Great Marlow (q.v.).

Six hides 1½ virgates in Marlow held formerly by Godric, a man of Asgar the Staller, were among the lands of Walter de Vernon in 1086.¹² These may have formed the nucleus of *WIDMERE MANOR*, the property of the Knights Hospitallers, who are mentioned first in connexion with Marlow in 1248, when the prior acquired lands in free alms from the master of St. Thomas's Hospital, Southwark.¹³ The prior was accused in 1254 of neglecting to make suit at the hundred court for his land here,¹⁴ said in 1268 to consist of a messuage, 2 carucates of land and 2s. rent in Marlow and a messuage and 2 carucates of land in Widmere.¹⁵ Their property was augmented in 1307 at the dissolution of the Templars,¹⁶ who had claimed view of frankpledge in 1254 from lands here and in Little Marlow mortgaged by the chief lord of the fee, by which transaction the king had suffered an inestimable loss, the Taylard family ceasing to owe foreign service to him.¹⁷ Although it was expressly stated at this date that Widmere Manor had belonged of old to St. John of Jerusalem,¹⁸ the acquisition of the Templar lands in Marlow caused Widmere to be described in 1338, when it was farmed at 15 marks, as the ancient property of the Templars.¹⁹ The live stock and wool on the manor were sold in 1333 to the Bardi and Peruzzi,²⁰ and in 1336 the manor was leased to William de Langeford,²¹ who was excused in 1339 from finding men-at-arms for the defence of Southampton.²² In 1357 the prior, when cited by the Bishop of Lincoln to appear before the Bishop of London, ill-treated the messenger, Simon Ward, by throwing him into a stank of water at Marlow and wounding him, afterwards leading him through the town on his horse, worth 100s., whose tail and ears had been cut off.²³ Widmere Manor was leased in 1518 to William Harris for fifty-one years at £12 per annum,²⁴ the interest in

which rent was transferred by the prior in 1539 to Sir Francis Tanfield of Gayton, Northants, who likewise obtained a thirty years' lease of the manor, dating from Michaelmas 1570, at 20s. rent.²⁵ A grant of Widmere in fee was made in 1541 to John Lord Russell,²⁶ lord of Isenhampstead Chenies (q.v.), with which it descended²⁷ until its alienation in 1623 by Francis Russell, Lord Russell of Thornhaugh, to Sir William Borlase,²⁸ lord of Little Marlow Manor (q.v.), with which Widmere descended until 1648, when a rent issuing from it appears to have been settled by Sir John Borlase, bart., on his brother William,²⁹ M.P. for Marlow 1659, 1660 and 1661-5,³⁰ who died in 1665.³¹ His son John Borlase,³² who was M.P. for Marlow 1679-81,³³ was in possession of the rent in 1679³⁴ and died in 1681,³⁵ when his sisters and heirs, Ann wife of Thomas Wingfield, Mary, Alice and Henrietta Borlase, spinsters,³⁶ united with their cousin Sir John Borlase, bart., of Little Marlow, to levy a fine of the manor.³⁷ These four sisters, Henrietta and Alice having married Sir Richard Astley, bart., and John Wallop respectively, alienated the manor in 1687 to Richard Grenville,³⁸ their cousin,³⁹ lord of Wotton Underwood, with which Widmere descended until 1747, when it was conveyed by Richard Grenville-Temple to Daniel Moore.⁴⁰ The latter sold it in 1763 to William Clayton,⁴¹ brother of Sir Kenrick Clayton of Great Marlow Manor and M.P. for Great Marlow in 1761, 1768, 1774 and 1780.⁴² He was succeeded in 1783⁴³ by his son William,⁴⁴ M.P. for Marlow 1784,⁴⁵ who inherited the title and Great Marlow on the death of his cousin Sir Robert Clayton in 1799,⁴⁶ since which date the two manors have had a similar descent.

The so-called *MANOR* or *FARM* of *SEYMOURS* was held by Muchelney Abbey, Somerset, before the Dissolution, and was bestowed with it on Edward Seymour Earl of Hertford.⁴⁷ In 1542 he exchanged these lands in Marlow with the king,⁴⁸ by whom they were bestowed in the same year on the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral in free alms.⁴⁹ They were held on lease under the dean and chapter⁵⁰ until about 1862, when the freehold rights were purchased by the Wethereds (see below).

A lease of Seymours had been obtained in 1541 from the Earl of Hertford by John Seymour⁵¹ (Seamer), of whose family there is record in Marlow from the 14th century⁵²; this lease was confirmed to John Seymour by the dean and chapter in 1549.⁵³

⁷ Chan. Inq. p.m. (Ser. 2), cccclxviii, 30.

⁸ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 8 Chas. I; Bucks. Trin. 10 Chas. I.

⁹ Ibid. Bucks. Hil. 13 Chas. I; Mich. 14 Chas. I.

¹⁰ Fine R. 15 Chas. I, pt. ii, no. 13.

¹¹ Feet of F. Div. Co. Trin. 13 Chas. II.

¹² P.C.H. Bucks. i, 265.

¹³ Feet of F. Bucks. Mich. 33 Hen. III, no. 9.

¹⁴ Hund. R. (Rec. Com.), i, 22.

¹⁵ Feet of F. Bucks. 53 Hen. III, no. 10.

¹⁶ V.C.H. London, i, 487.

¹⁷ Hund. R. (Rec. Com.), i, 23.

¹⁸ Cott. MS. Nero, E vi, fol. 90b, 143.

¹⁹ Larking, *Knights Hospitallers*, 95.

²⁰ Cal. Cloie, 1333-7, p. 124.

²¹ Cal. Par. 1334-8, p. 226.

²² Cal. Cloie, 1339-41, p. 216.

²³ Cal. Par. 1354-8, p. 555.

²⁴ Cott. MS. Claud. E vi, fol. 174.

This rent was assessed among the Hos-

pitallers' possessions in 1535 (*Valor Eccl.* [Rec. Com.], i, 404).

²⁵ Add. Chart. 47489-90.

²⁶ Pat. 33 Hen. VIII, pt. i, m. 1-3.

²⁷ Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. viii, App. i, 61a.

²⁸ Feet of F. Bucks. East. 21 Jas. I.

²⁹ Ibid. Mich. 24 Chas. I.

³⁰ Ret. of Memb. of Parl. i, 507, 519; App. xlvii.

³¹ Ibid. 519; Berry, *Bucks. Gen.* 80.

³² Berry, loc. cit.

³³ Ret. of Memb. of Parl. i, 534, 540, 546.

³⁴ Feet of F. Bucks. Mich. 31 Chas. II.

³⁵ Berry, loc. cit.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Feet of F. Bucks. Mich. 33 Chas. II.

³⁸ Ibid. East. 3 Jas. II.

³⁹ He was son of Anne daughter of the Sir William Borlase who died in 1630 (Berry, loc. cit.; Chan. Inq. p.m. [Ser. 2], ccclix, 48).

⁴⁰ Gibbs, *Bucks. Loc. Rec.* ii, 88.

⁴¹ Feet of F. Bucks. Trin. 3 Geo. III.

⁴² Ret. of Memb. of Parl. ii, 123, 137, 149, 162.

⁴³ *Musgrave's Obit.* (Harl. Soc.), ii, 14.

⁴⁴ Recov. R. Hil. 24 Geo. III, m. 210.

⁴⁵ Ret. of Memb. of Parl. ii, 175.

⁴⁶ G.E.C. *Baronetage*, v, 72.

⁴⁷ L. and P. Hen. VIII, xvii, g. 1154 (60); *Cartul. of Muchelney and Athelney* (Somers. Rec. Soc. 14), 1.

⁴⁸ L. and P. Hen. VIII, xvii, g. 556 (27).

⁴⁹ Ibid. g. 1154 (60).

⁵⁰ Marcham, op. cit. no. 435.

⁵¹ Langley, op. cit. 106, quoting deeds in his possession.

⁵² John Seymour, who was a burgess in 1387 (Linc. Epis. Reg. Inst. Buckingham, ii, fol. 387 d.), died in May 1425 and left his estate here, after the death of his widow Joan, to his grandson Thomas Seymour (P.C.C. Wills, 3 Luffenham).

⁵³ Langley, loc. cit.

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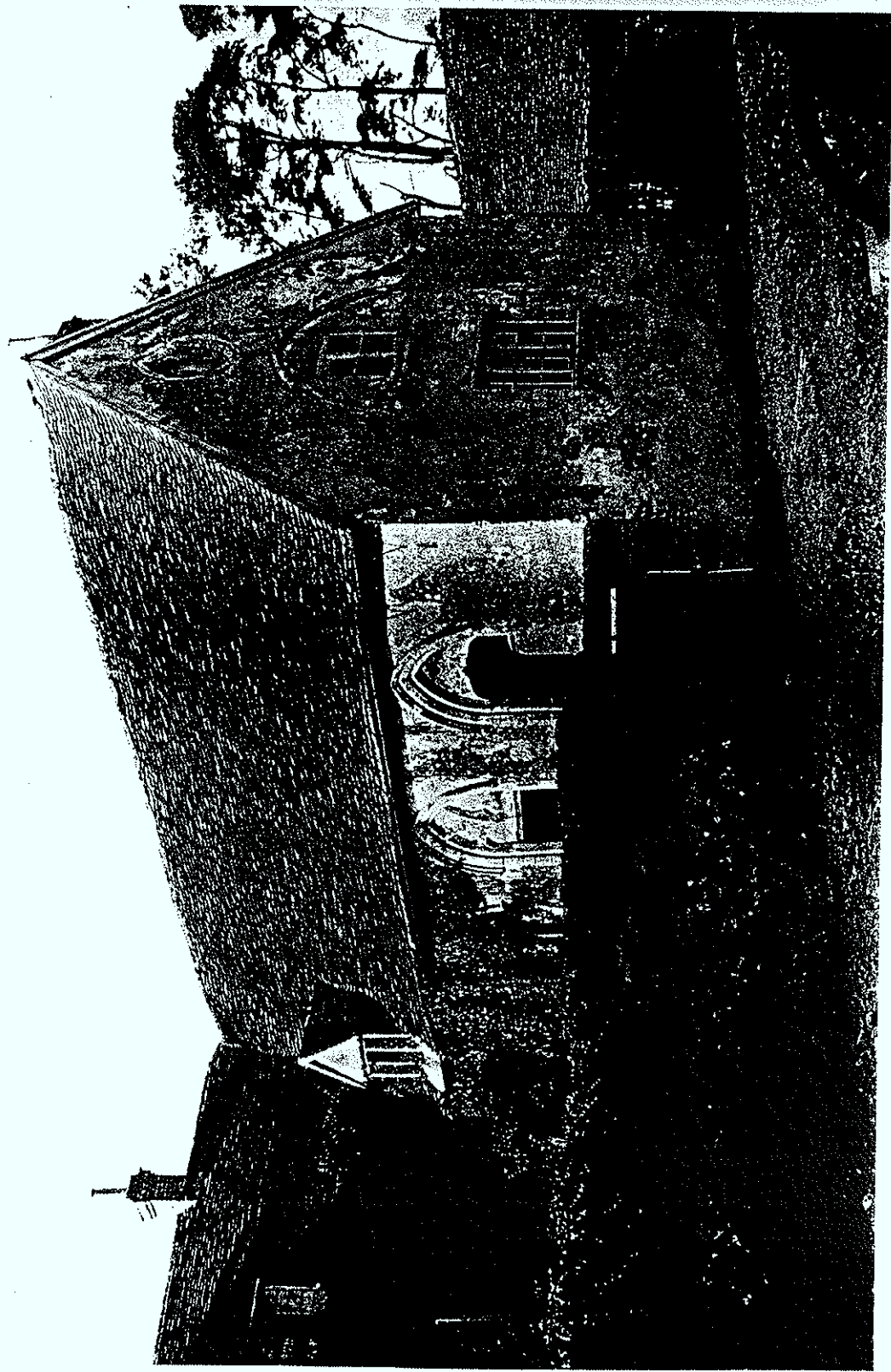
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GREAT MARLOW.

Chapel at Widmer Farm; 13th and 14th-Century.

ably formed part of a larger building of about the same date; it is of two storeys and an attic, and is built of brick and timber. The roof is tiled. A *House*, now disused, on the farm, is of two storeys and an attic, built late in the 16th or early in the 17th century, of flint with dressings of thin bricks; the roof is tiled. The plan is rectangular, and the building is gabled at both ends; some of the windows have been altered, and two small lights in the S. gable are blocked. At the S. end is an original chimney stack of thin bricks. Inside the house is a wide fireplace with chimney-corner and oven.

An *Outbuilding*, N. of the farmhouse, is partly of 17th-century brick, and a *Barn*, S. of the farmhouse, is built of brick and timber, probably of the 17th century.

Condition—Of farmhouse, fairly good; of disused house, poor.

^b(3). WIDMER FARM, about 2½ miles N.W. of Marlow Church, and on the W. side of the main road to Oxford. The *Farmhouse* is apparently modern, except one chimney stack of early 17th-century brick. Adjoining the E. end of the house, and now forming part of it, is a *Chapel*, probably of early 13th-century date; the S. wall is of flint and stone with wide joints; the N. and E. walls are covered with plaster; the roof is tiled. It was probably attached to a large 13th-century building, and was of one storey with a vaulted cellar underground; in the 14th century windows were inserted; in the 16th or early in the 17th century it was converted into a dwelling-house and the upper chamber divided to form two floors.

The chapel is of especial interest as it retains many original details, notably the vaulting of the cellar.

The plan of the chapel is rectangular. At the gabled E. end is a large window of early 14th-century date, probably originally of three lights, now blocked; only the outline and a moulded label are visible outside; the arch is chamfered inside, and has a moulded label and remains of former tracery; above it is a pointed oval window. In the S. wall are three 14th-century windows, originally each of two trefoiled lights and tracery under a pointed head, with a moulded label; the western window has been filled in with brick; the upper part of the other windows has been blocked, and the tracery of the eastern window destroyed; the sills of both have been cut away for modern doors; the eastern label has defaced head-stops, the others have returned ends; in the wall, under the windows, are holes which light the cellar; a

modern doorway at the W. end of the wall may replace an original opening; above it is a dormer window, probably of the 17th century. In the N. wall are two small 13th-century lancets, now blocked, visible inside, and a larger modern window. The cellar, now used as a dairy, is in two aisles and vaulted in square bays supported by three circular central pillars and semi-circular wall-shafts: the pillars have plain capitals with octagonal abaci and plain chamfered bases; the wall-shafts have grooved and hollow capitals, and stand on high square plinths; the arches are segmental and double-chamfered; the vaulting, probably of clunch, is covered thickly with whitewash. The oak boards in the first floor are probably of the 17th century; the timbers of the roof are not visible. A small *Outbuilding*, W. of the house, is apparently of 15th-century material, possibly re-used; the walls are of rubble. At the W. end a blocked doorway has a four-centred arch, and above it is part of a window; at the E. end, on the first floor, is part of the jamb of another window, all probably of the 15th century.

Condition—Fairly good.

^b(4). FINNAMORE FARM (see Plate, p. xxx.), 2½ miles N.W. of Marlow Church. The *House*, now two tenements, is of two storeys, built probably early in the 17th century. The lower storey is of brick and flint, the upper storey timber-framed with brick filling, and the whole building has been restored with modern brick. The roofs are tiled. The plan is L-shaped, the main block facing S., and the wing at the W. end extending towards the N. On the W. side the roof is half-hipped; the N. and E. ends are gabled. The original chimney stack in the main block is of thin bricks. A large timber-framed *Barn*, probably also of the 17th century, extends towards the S. from the E. end of the house.

Condition—Not very good.

^b(5). THE OLD WORKHOUSE, about 1 mile N.W. of Marlow Church, is of two storeys and an attic, built of brick in the second half of the 17th century; the roofs are tiled, and hipped at the ends. The plan is of half-H shape, with the wings extending towards the N. In front the brickwork is in Flemish bond, and there are three dormer windows. The wings are lower than the main block. At the back, between the wings, on the ground floor, is blind arcading, with round heads to the arches. Plain axed beams are visible in the ceilings.

Condition—Good.

SU 88 NW

GREAT MARLOW

WIDMERE

4/50

Widmere Farmhouse

21.6.55

GV

II*

House, incorporating former chapel. Chapel is early C13 with traces of C14 windows and later alterations; house is late C17-early C18, raised and altered early C19, with C20 extension, the whole forming a T-plan. House is of flint with narrow brick dressings and narrow first floor band course; raised attic storey of brick with band course and off-set eaves; slightly mansard half-hipped roof with brick chimneys. 2 storeys and attic, 3 bays. Left bay is gabled to front and has C20 projecting 2-storey extension. Centre bay has 4-pane sash with gauged head to ground floor, and 4-light wooden casement above. Larger 3-light wooden casements with single horizontal glazing bars to right bay. Attic has small blocked window between right bays over lobby entry. Flush-panelled door, top-lit, with c.1900 gabled porch of coursed chalk and brick, with bargeboards. Chapel to rear, is of chalk rubble, rendered and whitewashed, with tiled roof. S.E. side has 3 C14 2-light windows with remains of tracery, mostly blocked. Left window has one later leaded light; centre window has board door and flap to crypt; right window has C20 door. C19 flush-panelled door to left with rectangular fanlight and flat wooden cornice hood on shaped brackets. N.E. gable has moulded mandorla, and arched head of wide blocked window. 2 blocked lancets to N.W. side. Interior: chapel has fine crypt with vaults on semi-circular wall shafts and central row of 3 cylindrical piers. Piers have small octagonal capitals. Arches supporting vaults are segmental and double-chamfered. Upper part of chapel has inserted floor and roof with coupled rafters and braced collars. RCHM I p. 169 Mon. 3.

SU 88 NW

GREAT MARLOW

WIDMERE

4/51

Stable 20m. to east of
Widmere Farmhouse

GV

II

Stable. Mid-late C18. Red and vitreous brick, old tile roof. One storey and loft, 2 bays. Off-set plinth and eaves, first floor band course. Ground floor has 2 windows with shutters and segmental heads; loft has 2 gabled eaves-line dormers with louvred openings. Central stable door with segmental head. Weatherboard lean-to to right.



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