

PLUM COTTAGE, PHILCOTE STREET, DEDDINGTON

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION

Plum Cottage is a detached cottage of stone and brick, situated on the west side of Philcote Street, just above Goose Green. The cottage is well set back from the road on top of a grassy bank.

HISTORY

First recorded history is in 1804 when William Brotherton, a stone-mason, bought a cottage from Stephen Gilkes, a dealer, for £80. In the following year, William Brotherton bought a barn adjoining the east side of the cottage from Haynes Gibbs a shepherd (who owned the property on the south side) for £8. William Brotherton converted the barn into cottages, and in his will of 1835 he refers to his 3 cottages. The property continued in the ownership of the Brotherton family until 1864. The property, which had then been converted into 4 cottages, was then bought by Henry Churchill, solicitor, who converted it into one cottage. After Henry Churchill was declared bankrupt in 1870, the cottage was bought in 1871 by James Gardner, a thatcher, at a public auction at the Unicorn Inn. The cottage was owned by the Gardner family until 1933 when it was bought by George Hancox a blacksmith. It was owned by the Hancox family until 1969 when it was bought by Beryl Livesey who first gave the cottage the name Plum Cottage. After Beryl Livesey's death in 1976, the cottage was owned by her cousin Mary Livesey until 1985 when it was acquired by the present owners.

THE BUILDING

Much old stone work (possibly dating back to the original cottage and barn) remains on the south and north side. Part of the cottage (probably the west end of the barn) was rebuilt in brick early in the last century. In modern times, the east side (fronting the road) was rebuilt in stone, and a new roof of clay tiles provided.

THE GARDEN

At the rear of the cottage is a charming cottage garden bounded on three sides by old stone and brick walls. This garden, originally created

by Beryl Livesey, was after her death lovingly tended and improved by Mary Livesey.

MAP AND OTHER REFERENCES

The property was shown on the 1808 map and in Joseph Wilkin's 1875 bird's eye view of Deddington (reproduced in Colvin). The name Plum Cottage was first shown on the 1973 25" Ordnance Survey Map. The Oxford Archaeological Unit Survey of the Historic Towns in Oxfordshire lists Plum Cottage as a building of interest, and dates it within the range 1700-1840.

JEAN WEBSTER and BRYAN WHEELER

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