

**Building Report**  
**Site of 194 and 195 Comberton Road**  
**Former Gordon House Hotel Map Ref: SO839763**

**Author: Nicky Griffiths**  
**Date: 27th May 2007**  
**Historic Kidderminster project Ref: 322**



**194 & 195 Comberton Road prior to demolition Nicky Griffiths 1st March 2006**

**Description**

A pair of mid-Victorian houses, later used as a private hotel, demolished in 2006. Cox Homes' planning application for the demolition of the building contains drawings of the front and rear elevations and floor plans of the original building. The original houses were constructed of red brick with slate hipped roof and had a broad front elevation with each house having a pair of square arched sash windows to the ground and first storey. A pair of unusual arched dormer windows protruded from the roof. To each side of the building there were two bays, slightly lower in height than the main section but the same height as the buildings either side, with sloping slate roofs. The first bay had a small round arched window on the ground floor to the front. The

entrance door, in a round arched portal, was set in the side elevation of this first bay, with an arched window to the left of the door and set centrally at the first storey. The second bay had two of these narrow, round arched windows to its front elevation. This feature had been covered by a modern reception area to No 194 but could still be seen to the side of 195. A further arched dormer window was centrally set into the side plane of the main roof. Dentil friezes in brick ran around the building below the main roof and the roofs of the side bays. This pattern was repeated on the two centrally situated chimney stacks. There were two more arched dormer windows in the rear of the hipped main roof.



**195 Comberton Road Nicky Griffiths 1st March 2006**

### **History and Notable Residents**

There are buildings on this site belonging to Thomas Pennell shown on a drainage map of Kidderminster circa 1850 (copy on film in Kidderminster Library) and occupied in the 1851 census by Joseph W Lea, Fund holder and

John Amphlett, Landed proprietor. Billing's Directory, 1855, lists Alfred Brinton and John Amphlett as residents. It seems probable that Alfred Brinton moved out of Farfield House, where he had lived with his father, Henry Brinton Senior, and rented No 194 on his marriage in 1854. The properties were auctioned following the death of Thomas Pennell in 1857 for £1,240 and are described in the particulars as:

"each containing Entrance Hall, China Closet, Dining Room, 20ft. by 14ft.; Drawing Room, 13ft. 3 in. by 12ft. 9in.; Kitchen, Brewhouse, Cellars, Three Chambers on first floor, and Three Attics; with well-arranged Out Offices, Side Entrances, and large, productive, and well-planted Gardens. ... Lots 2 & 3 being in the respective occupations of Mr Amphlett and Mr Alfred Brinton, as yearly tenants, at a gross Rental of £70.



**Rear, 194 & 195 Comberton Road following demolition of two rear wings Nicky Griffiths 1st March 2006**

In the census of 1861 Arthur Day, attorney and solicitor, occupied No 194. In 1867 he took Thomas Frederick Ivens as a partner. Day later moved to practice law in London and Day and Ivens eventually became Ivens and Morton. Thomas Ivens occupied No. 195 in the 1871 census and Littlebury's directory of 1873 with the carpet manufacturer Edward Hughes occupying No 194 (See Thompson (2002) p.147). However in the 1881 census Thomas Ivens had moved to No 194, next door to his close and long time friend, the architect Joseph Thomas Meredith. He is still in 39 Comberton Road (now No. 194) in Broadfield's Guide of 1889 but has left by the time of the 1891 census.

## **Bibliography**

Kidderminster Times, August 13th 1898 *Obituary James Thomas Meredith*

Midlands Historical Data (2003), *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Worcestershire 1855 compiled by Martin Billing* (CD)

Midlands Historical Data (2003), *Littlebury's Directory and Gazetteer of the County of Worcester 1873* (CD)

Midlands Historical Data (2004), *A Guide to Kidderminster and Neighbourhood together with a Directory*, Edward Broadfield (Postmaster), 1889 (CD)

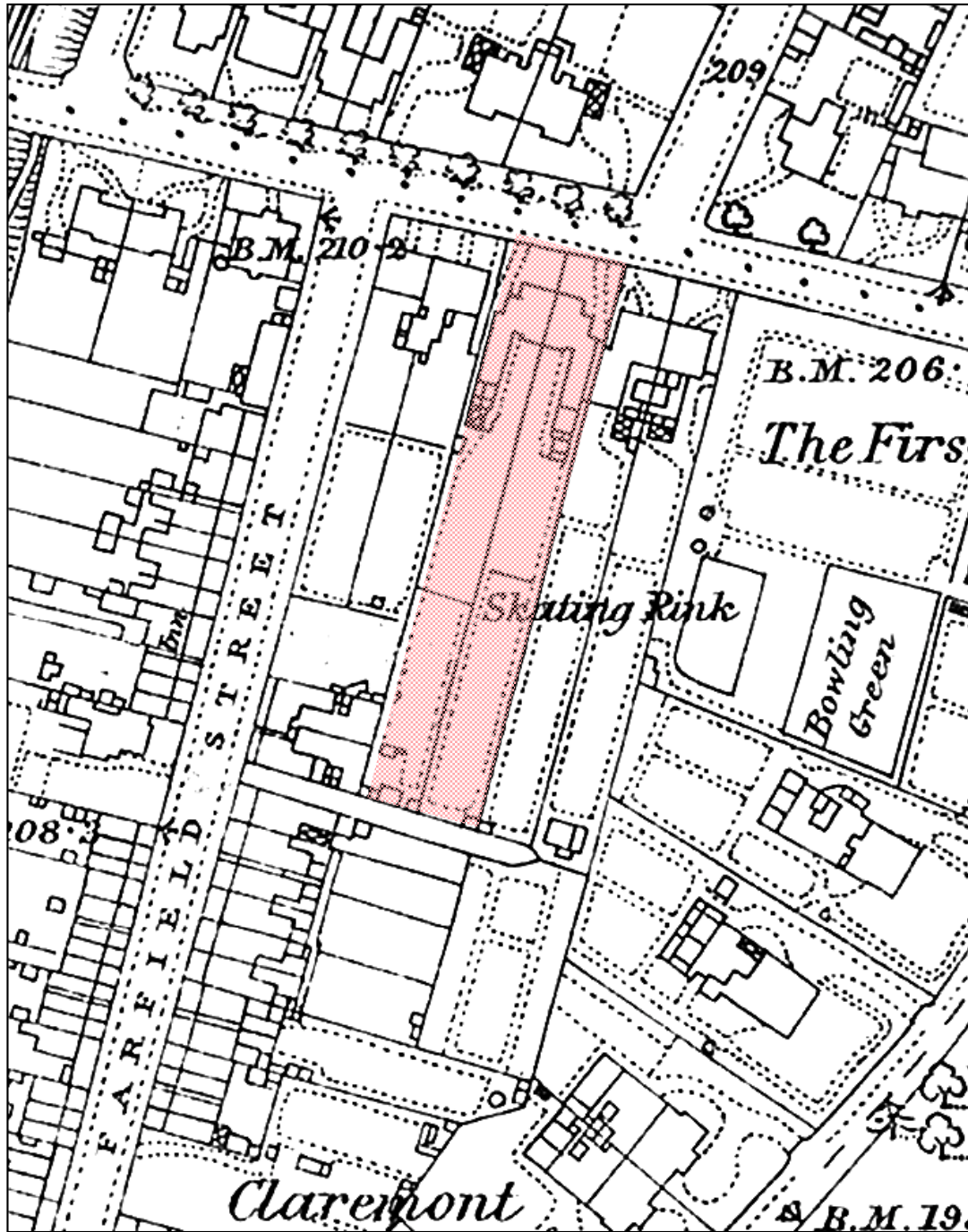
Worcester Herald, July 11, 1857, *Sale of Property*

Worcestershire Record Office, *Particulars of Valuable Freehold Dwelling Houses & Land situate at Farfield, Near Kidderminster*, 8th July 1857, Catalogue Ref 705.55/5278/28(iv)

Thompson, M (2002) *Woven in Kidderminster*, David Voice Associates

Tomkinson, K & Hall, G (1975), *Kidderminster since 1800*

Location



OS 1885. Map Ref: SO839763