

**Project No: 711**  
**Building Recording and Historic Research on**  
**The Royal Stores, Offmore Road, Kidderminster**

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This work was carried out as part of The Historic Kidderminster Project to provide a record of the hundreds of buildings and other important sites in Kidderminster. The Kidderminster Project is funded by the Local Heritage Initiative. It has been developed by Kidderminster Civic Society in partnership with Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service.



**The Royal Stores situated on the corner of Offmore Road and Leswell Street in 2007**



**Corner View in 2007**



**Side view in Leswell Street in 2007**

## **The Results**

The Property was built between 1894 and 1901 by John Tafft, a carriage maker of Ludlow and his wife Elizabeth Hoggins of Ashford Carbonel Shropshire

John was the son of John Taffe a master boot maker who was born in Onibury Shropshire in 1862. John and Elizabeth married at St George's Church Kidderminster in January 1887. they were living at this time at 48 Anchorfields Kidderminster.

On the 1891 census they were living at 12 Offmore Road (RG12/2314 Schedule No 319) when John was still a coach maker.

John purchased 1000 square yards of allotments situated in the corner of Leswell Street and Offmore Road (previously called Love Lane). His property reached the school in Leswell Street (no longer a school but the building is still there in 2007).

By the 1901 census (RG13/2765 Schedule No 263) John and Elizabeth were living at 152 Offmore Road which is situated on the corner of Leswell Street and Offmore Road. John's occupation is stated as being a grocer.

In 2007 there are houses built on what once would have been his back garden, and a fish and chip shop at the very end was once there but has been replaced with an attractive bungalow. (\* see later).

The site, amongst other things, has been an artist supplier and picture framing shop, and currently a computer shop.

In the record of his Golden Wedding (Kidderminster Shuttle/Times January 1937) John says that he bought the land 43 years before, this would make the purchase 1894 which would agree with the census information.

John Taffe died in 1940

- One amusing tale is that John gave a piece of ground at the bottom of his garden, situated in Leswell Street, to a fish and ship shop vendor at no charge, just on the understanding that he could have a fish and chip supper whenever he wished.

Location



Ordnance Survey Map of 1902 showing The Royal Stores in Offmore Road (Marked Pink)