

Building Report

Summerville, Bewdley Hill

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Introduction

This report was undertaken as part of the Historic Kidderminster Project. Summerville is an example of the many houses of the town, which whilst not being of the scale of a mansion, were large enough to be an attractive opportunity for developers to pull down. This house is of particular interest because it was the home of James Batham, a man himself involved in many new developments in the town. Resources of both Kidderminster Library and Worcester Record Office have been used.

History

James Batham was a solicitor shown in the 1851 census at Summerville with nine daughters and two sons. He built the house around 1848 when it first appeared on the poor rate list. (WRO BA 10470/202) He remained there at least until 1865, when he is shown there on the poor rate list. (WRO BA 10470/210)



Summerville for sale 1949

Batham was involved in the formation in 1849 of the Kidderminster Freehold Land Society. One of its purchases was land at Greenhill and one of the streets was named

after Batham. The society's aim was to assist working men to become home owners, enabling them to qualify for voting rights. Subscriptions were collected at Batham's offices at what is now 29 Church Street. In the 1855 Billings Directory Batham was listed as solicitor to the Freehold Land and Building Society.

Summerville was still standing in June 1963. By July 1964 planning permission had been given for a proposal to build 21 houses there to form a cul-de-sac. This was to be Western Way. (Documents held by planning department.)

Description

Sales particulars from June 1949 described a 'medium-sized residential property', set back 40 yards from the roadway and screened on all sides by mature trees and shrubs. There was a brick paved yard with w.c., coal and coke stores, a brick-built garage for two cars, workshop and store room, having lofts suitable for conversion into living quarters for domestic staff.

The house comprised entrance hall, cloakroom, dining room, lounge, study, maids' sitting room or children's playroom, kitchen, scullery, and good cellarage. The first floor was approached by principal and secondary staircases. There were four bedrooms and two bathrooms, with a servant's bedroom and boxroom leading off the rear staircase.



Summerville 1902 OS Ref. 813763