

HISTORIC KIDDERMINSTER PROJECT

Building recording and historical research

Yew Tree House, Habberley Valley

Carole Gammond

Report No. 228

Grid Ref: SO 8012778

Photo: 1906

Date of work 15th Nov. 2006/May 2007/Nov 07

Map: 1883 O S Map

Present condition of building/feature: Excellent – fully renovated

Summary:

The Yew Tree Inn in Habberley Valley is mentioned in “The Valley of Habberley and the Hill of Trimpley” written in 1857. The building is thought to have been built around 1840/50. The 1861 Census shows Yew Tree Inn.

The building was probably extended by the then owner, William Henry Anderson, in 1891 – the date on the original plaque stating that the Bar was fitted out by James Rowley [Builders of Walsall]. By 1895 Mitchells & Butlers were the owners and the name was changed to Habberley Valley Hotel. In 1913 the licence was transferred [possibly to the Park Tavern, Stourport Road]. The following year the Hotel was sold to Mr. D F Pritchard who changed the name again – this time to Yew Tree House. Ownership remained with the Pritchard family until 1969 when Mr and Mrs Ken Smith bought the house.

The present owners, Mr and Mrs John Hudson purchased Yew Tree House in 1973, when the property had become sadly run-down. Since then the house has been completely renovated, with the addition of two small extensions and new dormer windows.

Sources of information:

Mr & Mrs John Hudson researched information from the Property deeds.

Description:

The original accommodation of Yew Tree Inn appears to have been two reception rooms, two bedrooms and a bathroom, plus the caves which housed the kitchen with large ovens built into sandstone, together with beer barrel storage and wine racks also built in to the sandstone at the rear of the property.

William Henry Anderson is thought to have extended the property in 1891.

John and Myrna Hudson have, since 1973, completely renovated the house. Two small extensions have been added and the roof was raised above the attic rooms at the rear. New dormer windows were added to the front elevation. The original stained glass windows and gold leaf bar signs have been renovated and retained. The large clock, believed to have been installed by M&B, could not be returned to working order due to its unsafe housing structure but the large bell and works have been retained. The caves remain unaltered but the cast iron ovens were dismantled and sold by a previous owner.



Habberley Valley Hotel 1904 (Valentine Postcard series)

Research Results

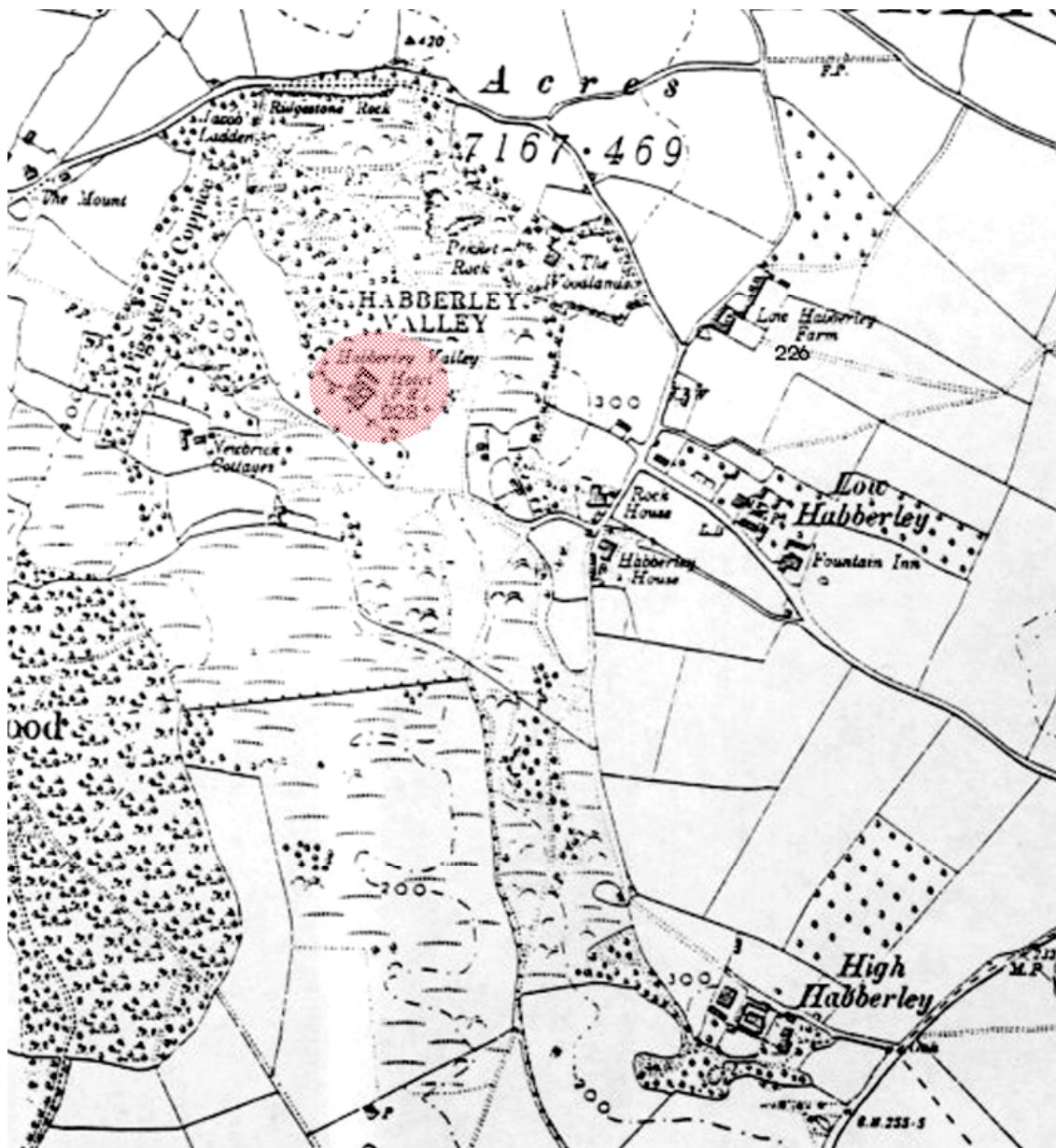
- 1840/50 Building thought to have been built
- 1857 What is probably Yew Tree Inn is mentioned in the book by George E Roberts
“The Valley of Habberley and Hill of Trimpley”
- 1861 Census shows a Yew Tree Inn
- 1883 O S Map shows Yew Tree Inn
- 1891 Yew Tree Inn – owner William Henry Anderson – it would appear that he inherited
the property together with The Fountain Inn, Low Habberley, possibly from
Sydney William Anderson and Robert Anderson.
An original plaque [still at the house] states that the Bar was fitted out by James
Rowley – Builders of Walsall.
- 1892 A mortgage acquired by William Henry Anderson between him and three others for
the sum of £4000.
- 1895 Mitchells & Butlers became the new owners of Yew Tree Inn and the name was
changed to Habberley Valley Hotel. It appears that the sale included the Fountain
Inn and the mortgagees were paid £4000.
- 1903 OS 6” Map shows Habberley Valley Hotel P.H.
- 1913 Mitchells & Butlers transferred the licence to another establishment that they
owned – believed to be the Park Tavern, Stourport Road. Mitchells & Butlers
retained The Fountain Inn but Habberley Valley Hotel, the land, stables, coach
houses, etc. were all transferred to the Mayor Alderman & Burgess of
Kidderminster with the condition that it should not trade again as a licensed hotel
and that beers, liquors, etc., should not be sold on the premises in future.
- 1913 Approval of sale of Corporate Land by the Local Government Board to: Mr.
David Frederick Pritchard - Market Gardener. The name of the property was
changed to Yew Tree House.

- 1928 Ownership transferred to the widow of D F Pritchard, Mrs Kate Helen Pritchard [rumour has it that DF Pritchard committed suicide on the Town Hall steps]
- 1958 Ownership transferred to Joan & Seymour Pritchard. They purchased additional land at the same time that Eric & Muriel Osborne purchased Habberley Valley.
- 1969 Ownership transferred to Mr & Mrs K Smith
- 1973 Ownership transferred to Mr & Mrs Hudson
- 1991 Extension to house – Mr & Mrs Hudson WF121/91

Bibliography

*Information researched by Mr & Mrs John Hudson from the property deeds.
 "The Valley of Habberley and the Hill of Trimpley" by George E Roberts - written in 1857.*

Location



**Yew Tree House (Habberley Valley Hotel)
 1903 OS 6" Map. Grid Ref: SO 8012778**