



## Shermanbury Place in Historic Ordnance Survey Maps, Photos and Images (*R. S. Gordon, September 2022*)

This document aims to illustrate the changes to the Shermanbury Estate from the earliest 1813 Ordnance Survey (OS) edition via the 1840 tithe map and a series of subsequent 6 inch and 25 inch scale maps; both levels of detail included due to differing years of publication. A map drawn up for the 1879 sale brochure (likely based on an OS map) is also included.

To give a fuller indication of the alterations over time, this document is also intended to be cross referenced with the estate drawings, photos, schedules and descriptions in the sales brochures linked below. Some of the exterior images most illustrative of the changes are also included in the second half.

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### Additional Sources

1. [Google Drive folder containing scans of sales posters and brochures](#)
  - i. [1874 Sales Posters](#)
  - ii. [1879 Sales Brochure](#)
  - iii. [1917 Sales Brochure](#)
2. [Google Drive folder containing photos from the Alan Barwick Collection](#)

## Maps

### 1. 1813 (1<sup>st</sup> edition) Ordnance Survey

The first map produced with any degree of detail on individual structures, at this stage the footprint of the house may well reflect the basic 1780 rebuild. The water mill and buildings ancillary to it and the house can be seen to the immediate south-west. The existing cottage or stables can be seen to the east of the church. Just to the east lie the four main buildings of the [Shermanbury Home Farm](#). Given the date of this map, it is likely of 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date.

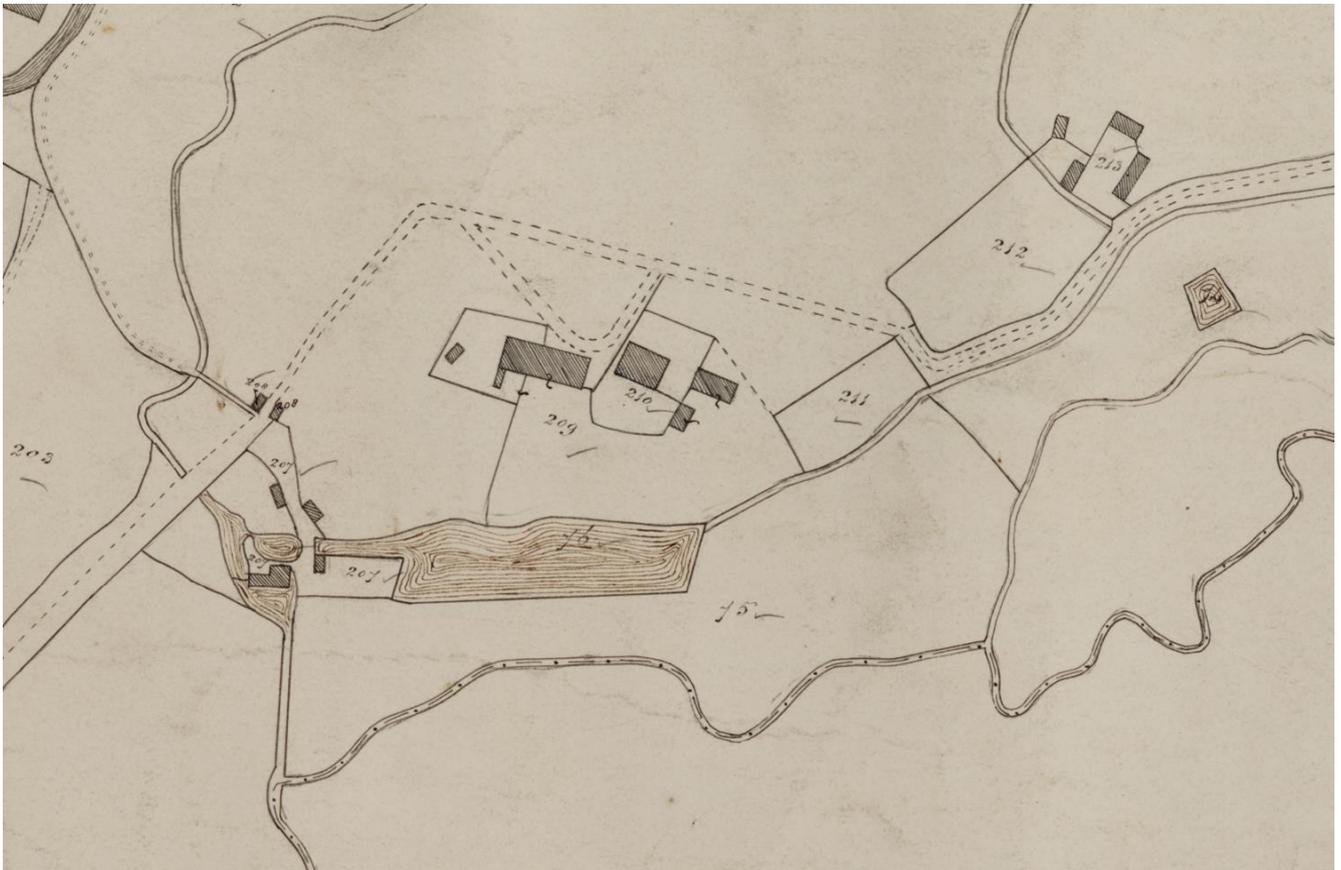
Source: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-231918028/view>



## 2. 1840 Tithe Map (H & F. Hitchins)

Surveyed by H & F. Hitchins who drew up a number of the tithe maps for Sussex parishes. Here we see a clear outline of the estate at this fairly early date. The small outbuilding to the north and attached clock tower at the north-west tip of the house can be seen. In addition, the stables and single outbuilding lie on the other side of the church. The water mill and its three associated outbuildings are seen to the west, while just above are two small buildings which the apportionment lists as the entrance lodge. The four buildings of Shermanbury Home Farm are seen to the south-east.

Source: tithe map in private collection



### 3. 1874-5 Ordnance Survey (6 inch, published 1879)

With the increased detail of the new edition OS maps, a clear picture can be seen. A subsequently removed long outbuilding sits west of the house. The stables are seen east of the church, along with the still existing cottage. In the 1917 sale brochure, the stables are noted as also containing the coachhouse and blacksmith's shop.

A building appears to be marked as 'Rectory'. It is possible this was the old rectory prior to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century construction of the replacement further east at Wyndham (Wineham), but perhaps more so that the label is either mistaken or simply intended to be appended as part of the church text above. The 1879 schedule notes this plot (211) as the kitchen garden, but doesn't mention the building. The 1917 sale brochure notes this plot as a walled kitchen and fruit garden with *'a lean-to range of glass houses with brick and tiled potting sheds.'* It also notes the structure presumably seen here as *'a Gardener's appropriate brick and tiled Cottage containing four rooms.'*

North-east Shermanbury Home Farm is seen for the final time on a map. The 1879 sale brochure notes that the buildings (213: Granary, barn, shedding) were all of wood, so the lack of any later trace follows. The 1917 sale brochure as a result later refers to Ewhurst Manor and its associated Farm Yard to the north (1879 schedule: 241) as the 'Home Farm'. Below the old home farm is the orchard and garden (212, 1879 schedule).

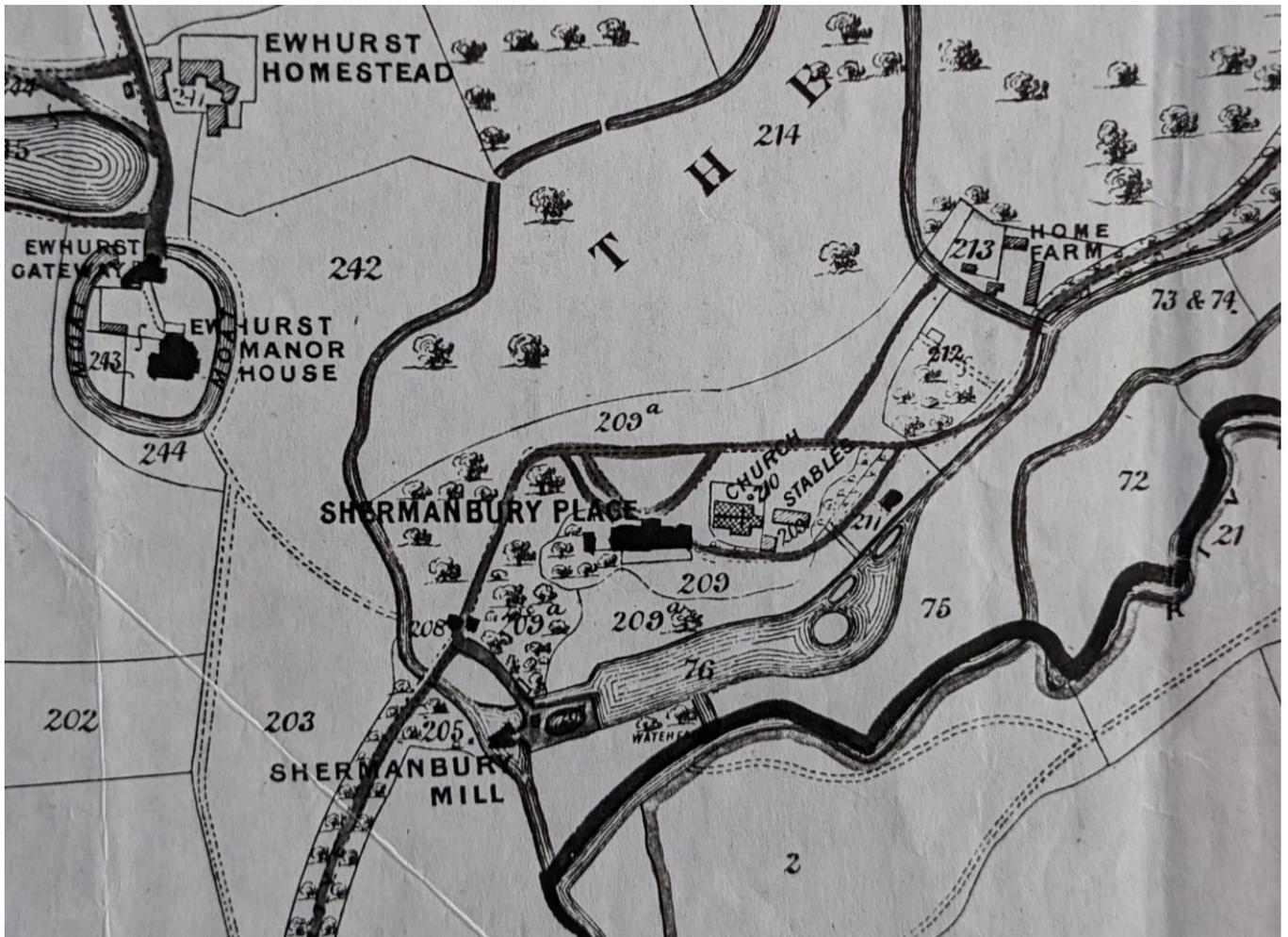
Source: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/102347653>



#### 4. 1879 Sale Brochure Map (Standidge & Co. Litho.)

The printers of this map appear to have been active in the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, so the basis of the map likely predates the sale by some time.

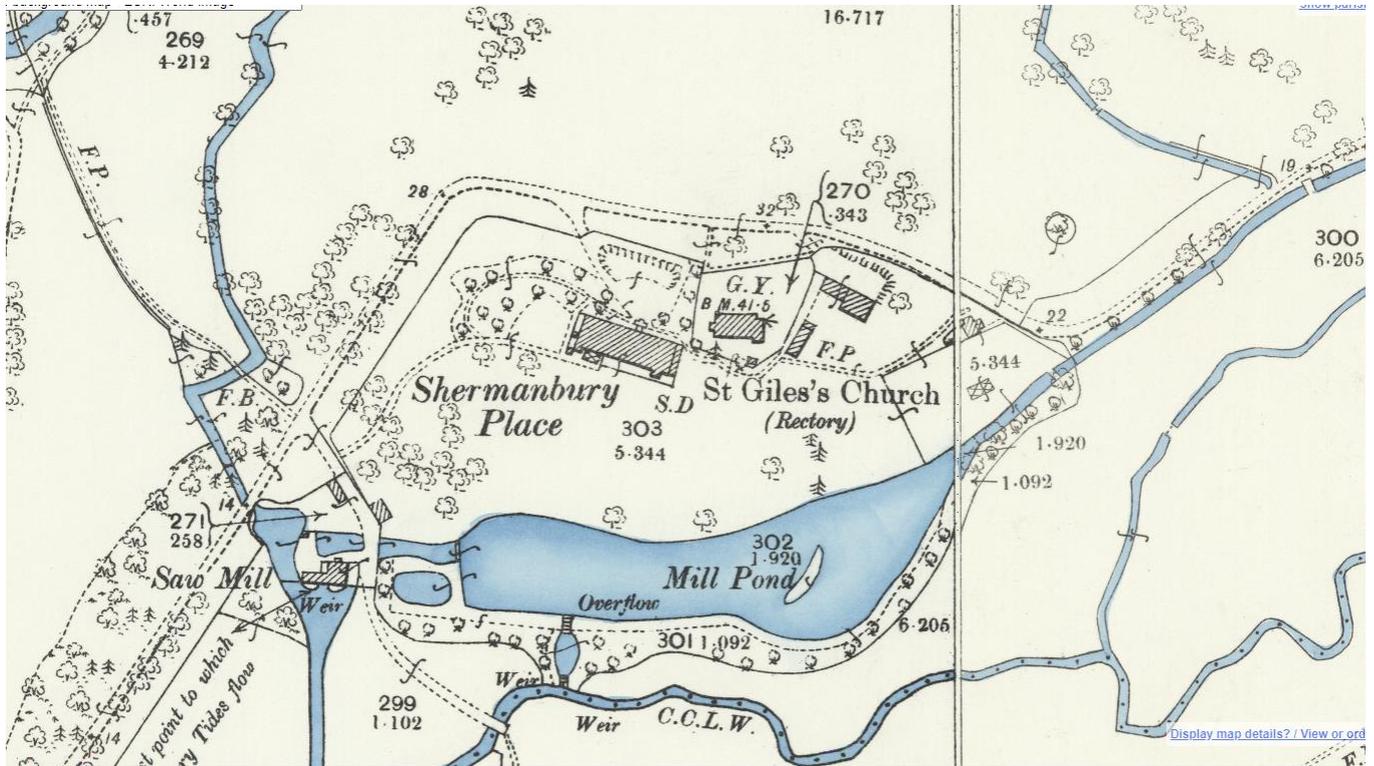
Source: scan of map from brochure in Henfield Museum Collection



## 5. 1896 Ordnance Survey (25 inch, published 1897)

By 1896, the long stable building to the south-west of the house has gone. A small glasshouse can be seen to have been added on the west rear of the house, also seen in the undated but likely 1870s or prior drawing 'Shermanbury Place - South Front'. The smaller clock tower seen in this image can also likely be seen here on the west side. Shermanbury Farm to the north-east has now gone, although is still marked by the treeline.

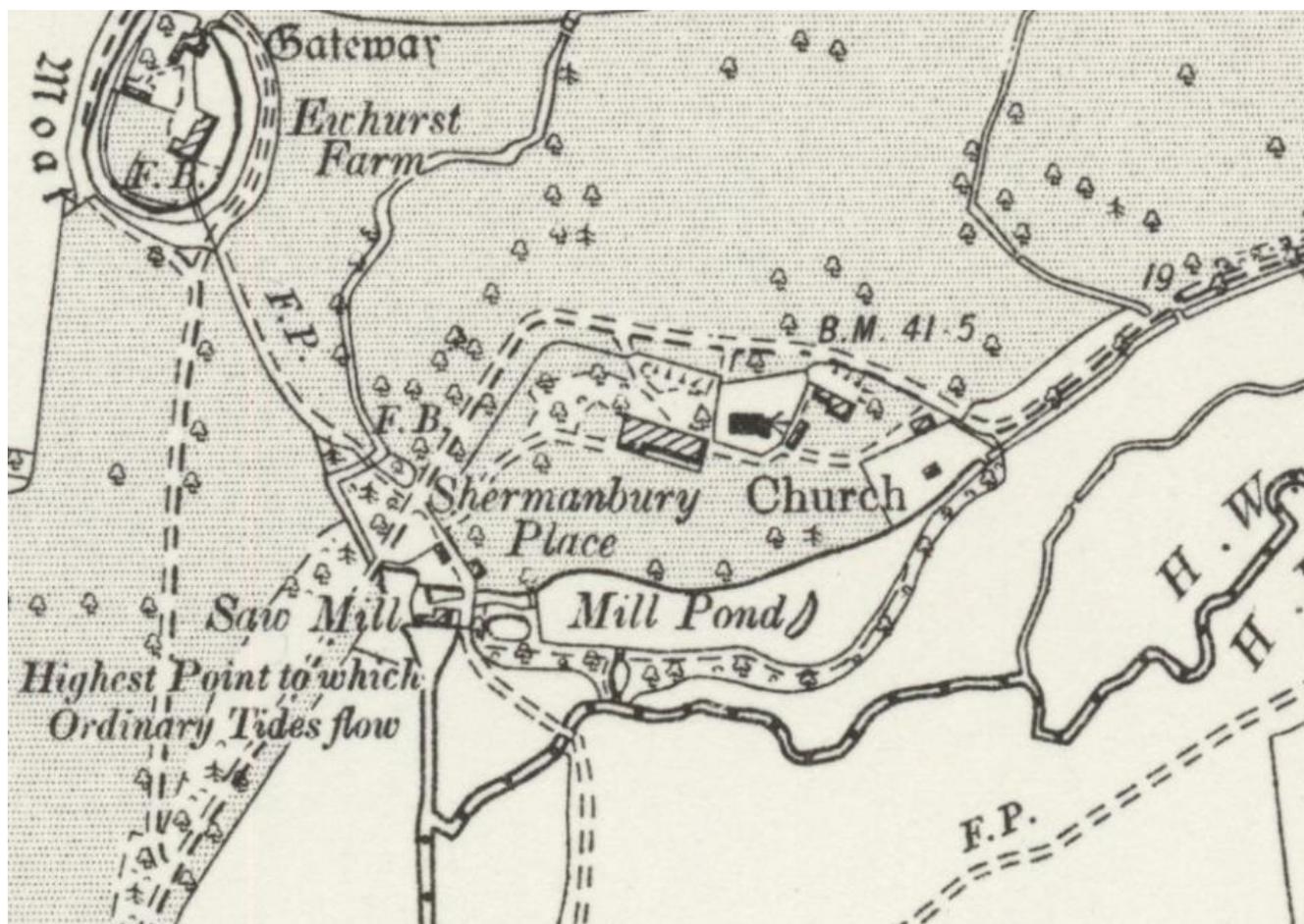
Source: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=18&lat=50.95579&lon=-0.27297&layers=168&b=1>



## 6. 1896 Ordnance Survey (6 inch, published 1899)

No obvious differences to the 1892 25 inch.

Source: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101434722>



## 7. 1909 Ordnance Survey (6 inch, published 1912)

A small outbuilding appears to have been constructed just south-west of the house. Additionally, the motor garage and chauffeur's house behind the stables has now been constructed along with a club house and engine shed noted in the 1917 sale brochure. One of the small mill ponds has been squared off, likely forming the 60 by 30 foot swimming pool mentioned in the 1917 sale brochure. A small building has been added to the east of the 'rectory' building, perhaps relating to the weir.

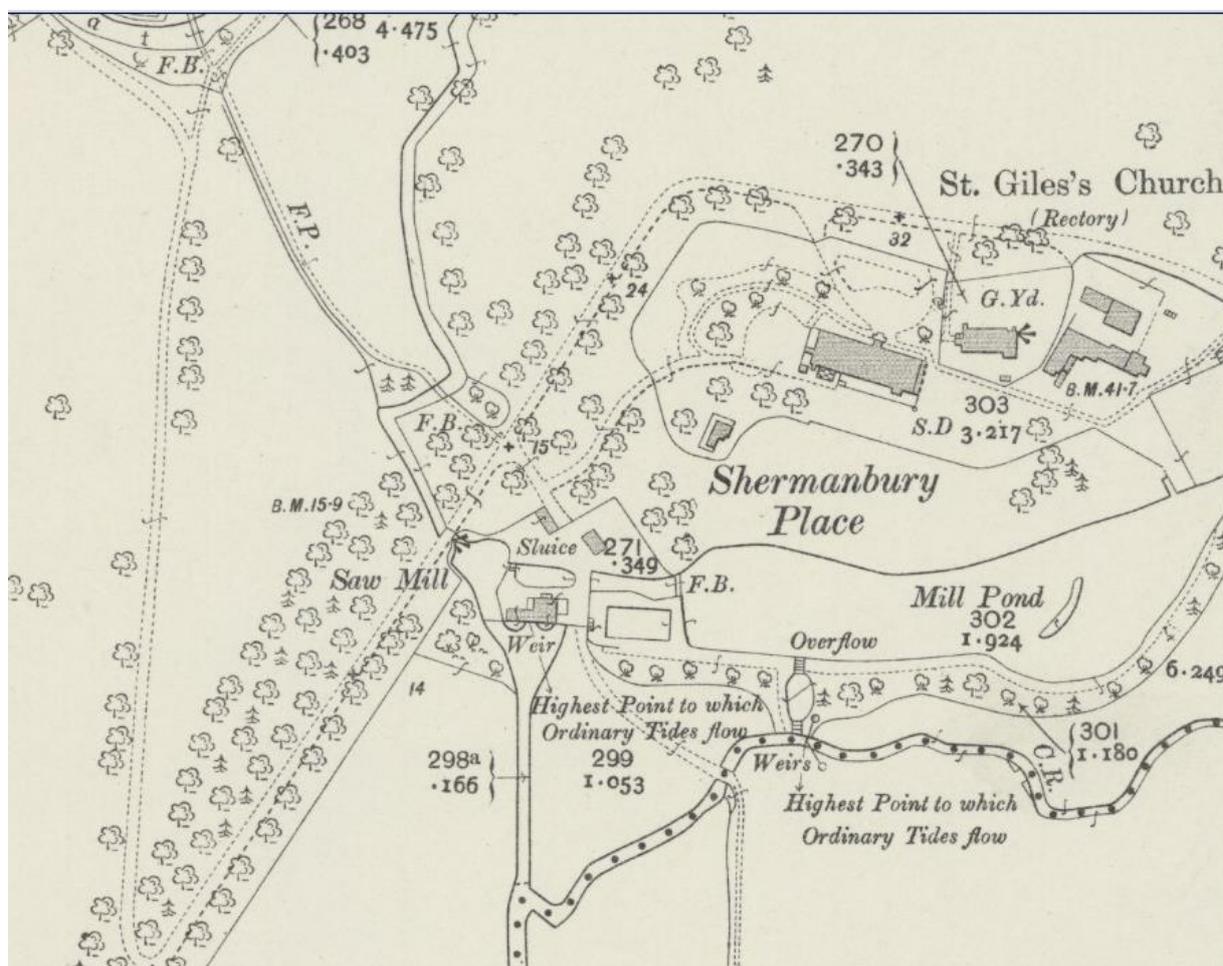
Source: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101434719>



## 8. 1909 Ordnance Survey (25 inch, published 1911)

Although surveyed the same year as the 6 inch above, the increased detail here clearly shows the shape of the extant structures. Again, the adjoining glasshouse is shown here on the 25 inch, but not the 6 inch maps. As seen in the photos, at some point around this time the old glasshouse on the south side must have been replaced by the larger sunroom extension (described in the 1917 brochure as an additional billiard room) and the older clocktower being replaced by the larger new, also including lavatory and W.C. (again per 1917 sale brochure).

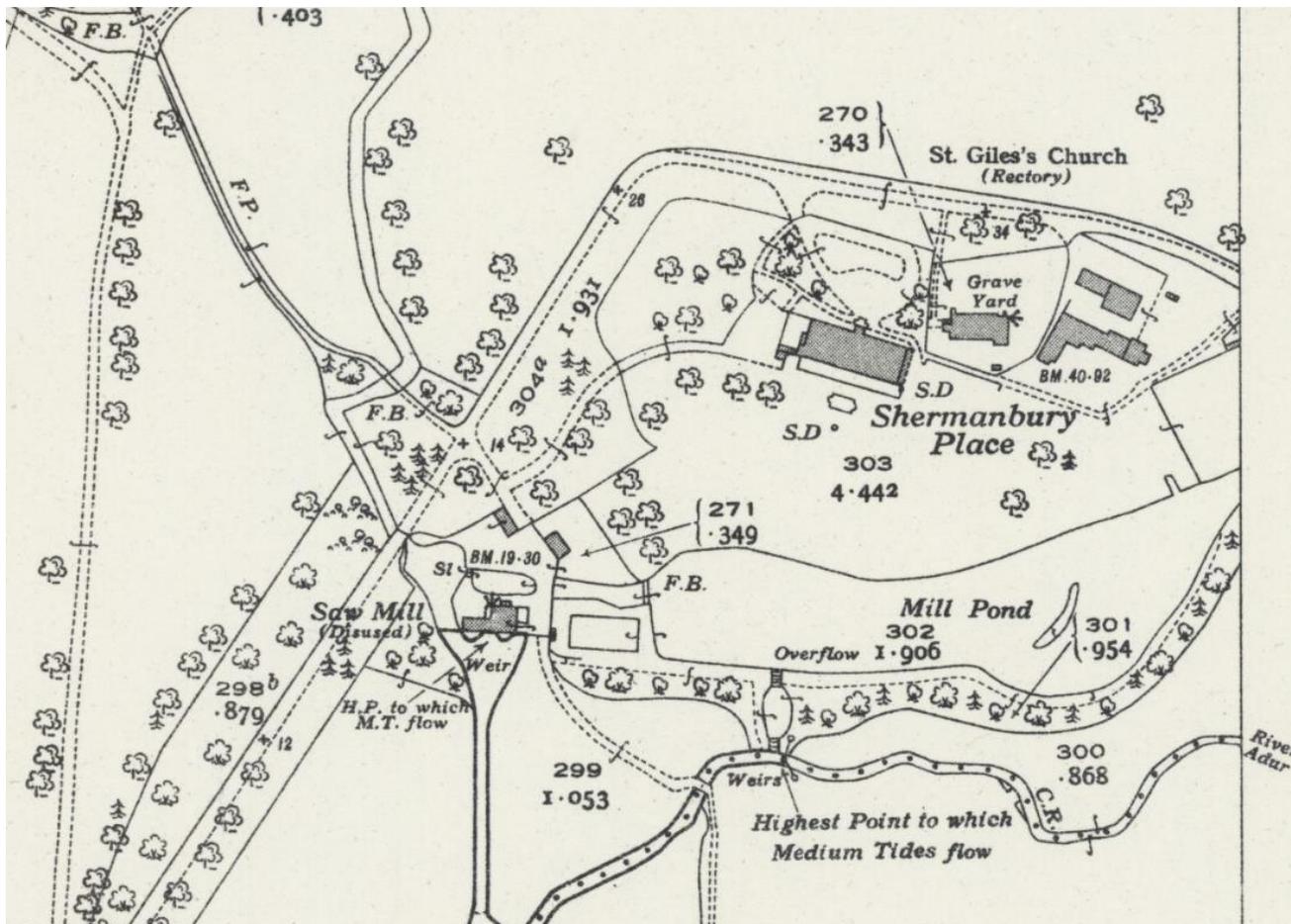
Source: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101434719>



## 9. 1938 Ordnance Survey (25 inch, published 1941)

Small outbuilding to immediate south-west of the house now gone again, along with the glasshouse adjoining the south of the house.

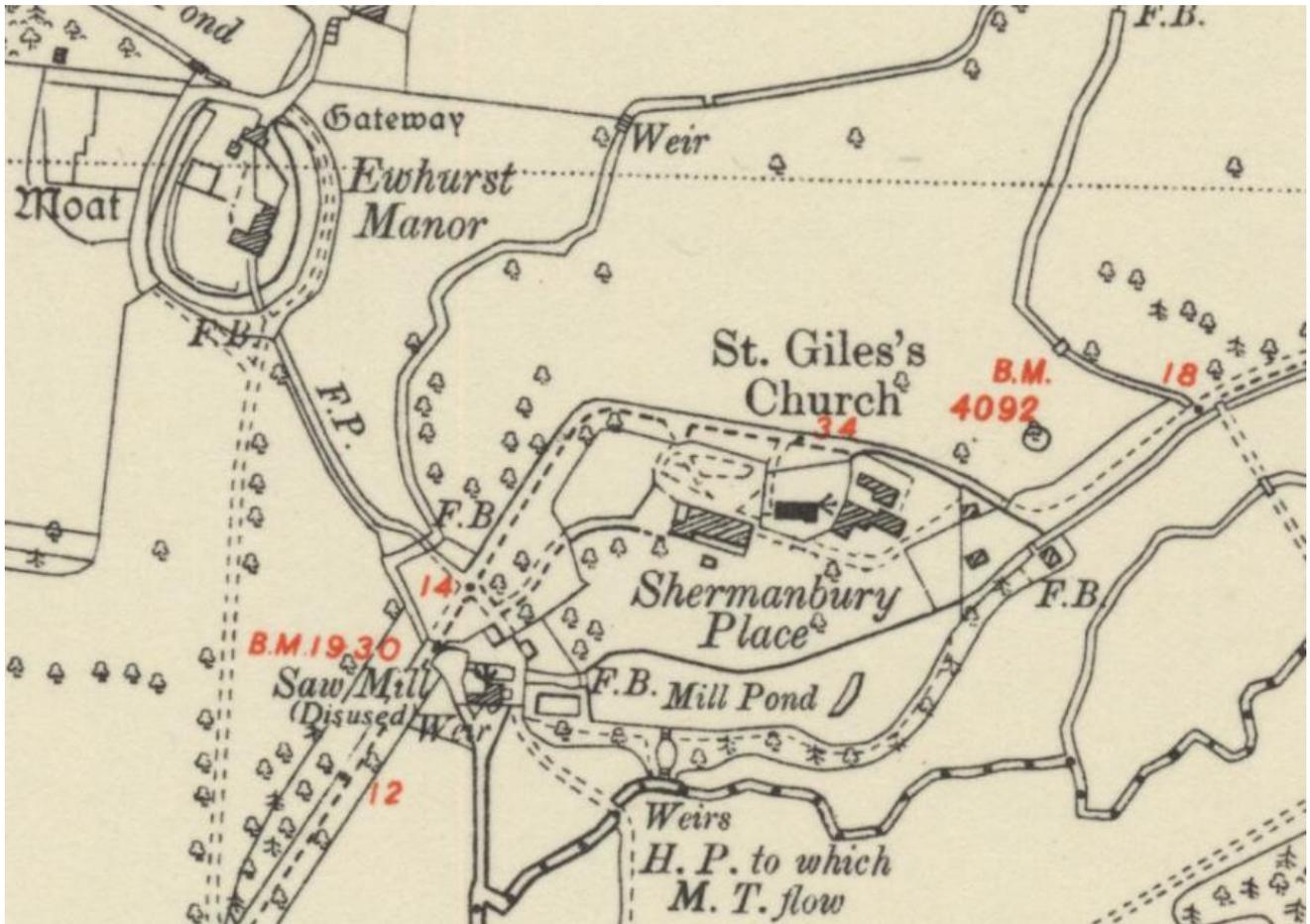
Source: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101434716>



## 10. 1946-47 Ordnance Survey (6 inch, published c. 1952)

Same as above. Small former 'rectory' building to the south-east still extant. Main mill building seen just prior to demolition.

Source: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101434716>



## Selected Images

### 1. Drawing: Shermanbury Place (Tudor residence of the Combers)

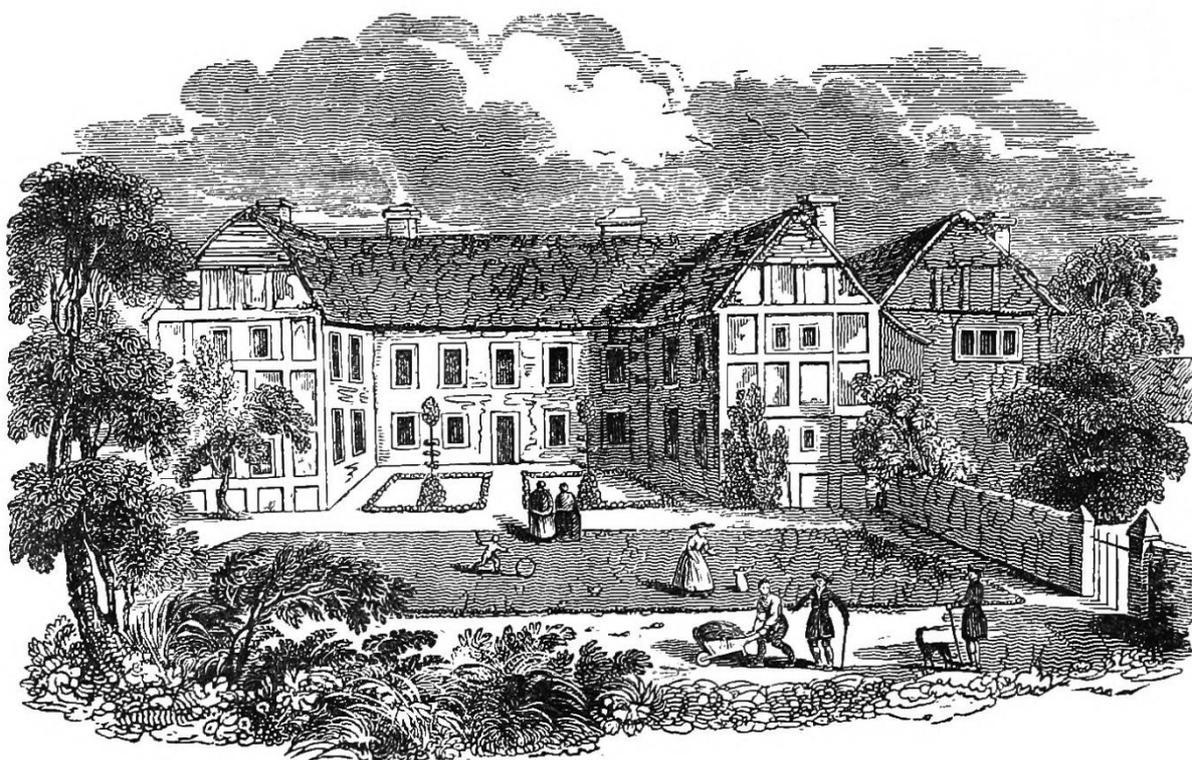
This well-known image is included in both Edmund Cartwright's *The Parochial Topography of the Rape of Bramber, in the Western Division of the County of Sussex, Vol. 2, Part 2* (1830) and Thomas Horsfield's *The history, antiquities, and topography of the county of Sussex* (1835). We see the Tudor mansion of the prominent 16th-17th century Comber family. Cartwright notes it as originally from the 'Burrell collection' – likely that of the Burrell Baronetcy of West Grinstead, i.e. Knepp (and no connection to the modern collection of the name in Glasgow), most of which was destroyed in a devastating fire in 1904.

Although there is no date given, this drawing appears to be late 17<sup>th</sup> - mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, by the style of dress. Built on presumably roughly the same site as the current house, William Comber had bought the lease of the manor from Lord Sandys in 1542; he or his son John are most likely to have initiated the new construction. It was recorded as demolished by John Challen Esq. in 1779, having replaced another manor house [recorded on the site](#) in its own turn.

With the settlement of Shermanbury a promontory 'burh' - i.e. fortified settlement - in earlier Saxon days, it was noted in Domesday as held of Harold by one Azor. The de Bucy/Buci family held the land from shortly after the Norman Conquest to 1349, followed by the de Fyfhide and the Sandys families; however, they may well not have lived here, with Ewhurst Manor being more prominent at this time.

Source: [Horsfield, Thomas, \*The history, antiquities, and topography of the county of Sussex, Vol II\* \(Lewes: Sussex Press\) \(London, 1835\)](#) (acc. Hathitrust, 15/08/22).

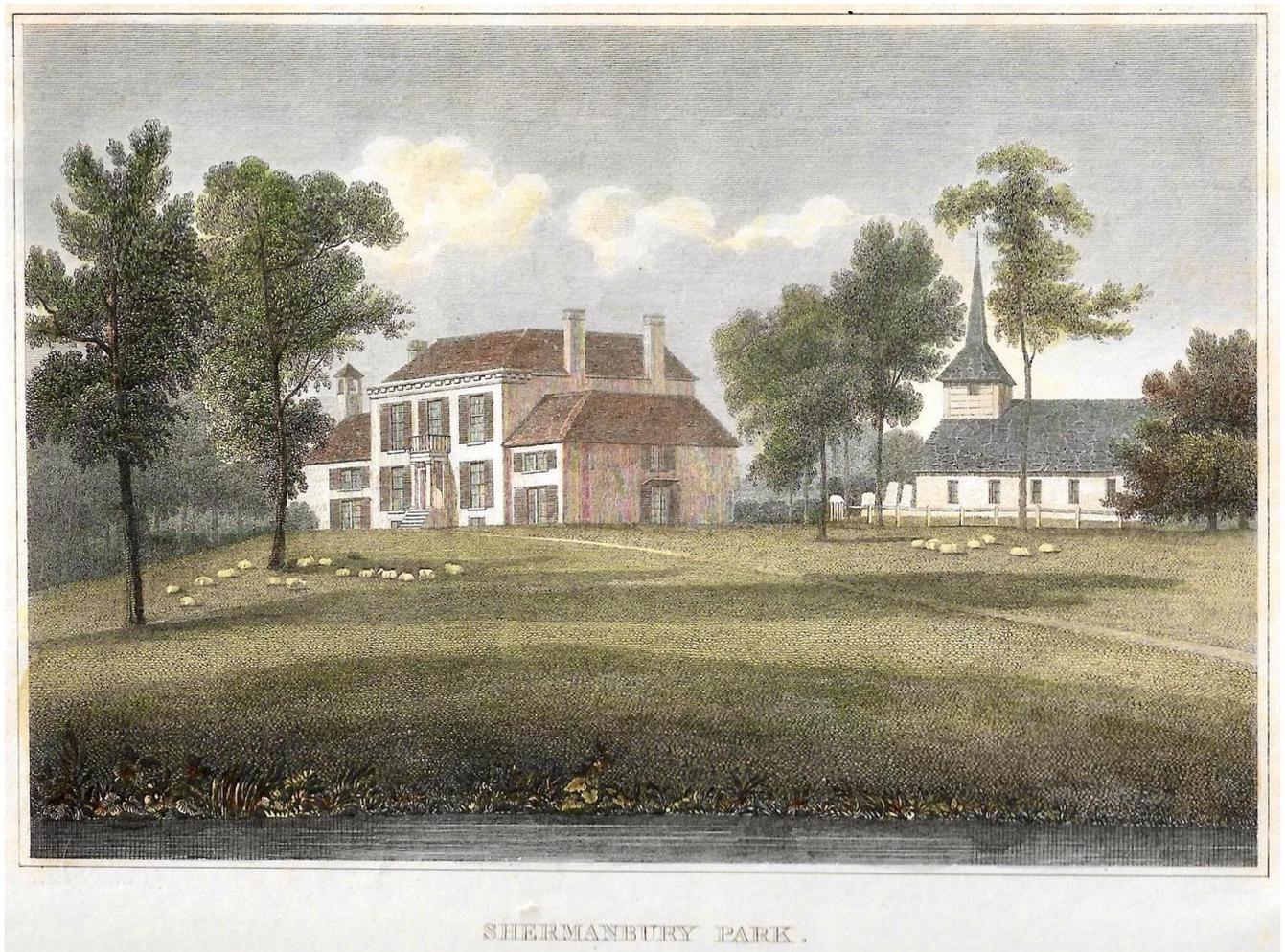
Source: [Cartwright, Edmund, \*The Parochial Topography of the Rape of Bramber, in the Western Division of the County of Sussex, Vol. 2, Part 2\* \(London, 1830\)](#) (acc. Hathi Trust, 15/08/22).



## 2. Engraving: 'Shermanbury Park' (early view from south-east)

This is a fairly well known image, also appearing in Horsfield (ibid), [where he notes](#) that it was provided to him by the current occupant, the Rev. John Gratwick Challen. This seems likely to be the form of John Challen Esq.'s functional 1780 rebuild of the house, or close to it. At this stage the house appears surrounded by simple parkland without the ornamental gardens of the earlier Tudor mansion or later iterations of the new. At least one of the low, but still two story wings likely hosted the servants' quarters.

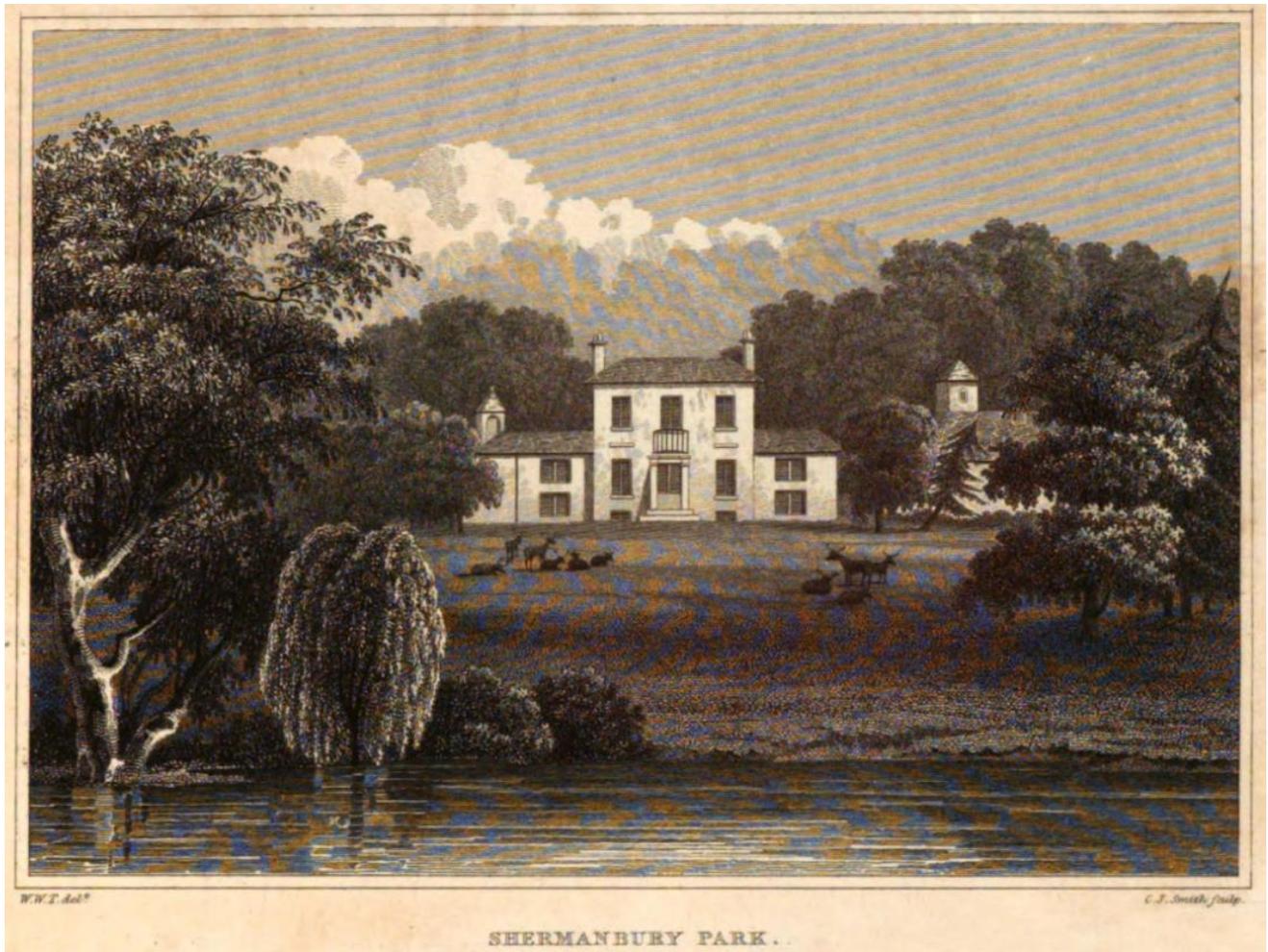
Source: C/O Alex Hills (colour print), B&W version in Horsfield



### 3. Engraving: 'Shermanbury Park' (early view from south)

Another image of the post 1780 rebuild state of the house, this from Cartwright (1830, *ibid*). The clock tower was clearly an original or early feature, perhaps also designed to be somewhat complementary to that of St. Giles'.

Source: [Cartwright, Edmund, \*The Parochial Topography of the Rape of Bramber, in the Western Division of the County of Sussex, Vol. 2, Part 2\* \(London, 1830\)](#) (acc. Hathi Trust, 15/08/22).



#### 4. Shermanbury Place, South Front

This image may have been drawn for the sale, but may also predate it. Although the house has the same basic form to the above two images, substantial alterations must have occurred in the decades separating them, with the central portion of the house extending from three to five bays and a more spacious first floor being added over the east wing. A simple garden has also now been laid out.

Source: [inc. in 1874 sale brochure](#)



## 5. Photograph: Shermanbury Park (viewed from South Front)

Circa later 19<sup>th</sup> century date. An additional story has also now been added to the west wing to make the housefront symmetrical, with the glasshouse also seemingly replaced at this time. The first-floor addition can be seen here in the lighter brick colour. Due to the tree, it is unclear if the clock tower remained the same, but most likely.

Source: [Alan Barwick Collection](#)



## 6. Photograph: Shermanbury Place (viewed from south-east, inc. sunroom and clocktower)

Here in this circa early 20<sup>th</sup> century view, the greatest extent of the house is seen, with the additional 'billiard room' or sun room having been added to the south west corner, alongside the impressive new clock tower.

Source: [Alan Barwick Collection](#)



## 7. Photograph: Shermanbury Place ornamental garden, view south-east from clocktower

Although the central feature/pond is the only element clearly seen on the maps, the progression of the garden design is clearly seen over the course of the photos.

Source: [Alan Barwick Collection](#)

