

House History of Perry Oaks, 11 Watlington Road by Dave Rushton

The earliest record found, shows that Emma Mead, a widow of Chalfont St Peter sold the land and 3 cottages including this one to George Witney of the Lamb & Flag Beer House, Benson for £285 on 17 November 1907.

The cottage was formerly occupied by William Cato and then by Mr Frewin. The cottages were originally built by a William Wells. George Witney made a will on 29 Oct 1936, naming his wife Emily Witney as executor along with Maxwell West (a Benson builder) and Cecil Hatt, a solicitor of Wallingford. George subsequently died on 13 December 1936, and the will was proved on 6 December 1937. Emily herself died on 17 Jan 1943.

On 31 March 1943 a conveyance shows the 3 cottages were sold for £250 to William James Witney, a farm labourer of Sunnybank, Swyncombe. The occupier then was Arthur Green.

On 29 Nov 1954, a conveyance shows William James Witney (now of Park View, Crowmarsh) selling the land and 3 cottages for £180 to William John Aldridge, a builder of Hope Cottage, Benson. The cottage was then occupied by a Mr Garland.

In 1956, on 14 Sept, William Aldridge sold this cottage to Patricia Scott of RAF Benson for £250, the cottage now to be known as Pilgrim Cottage. The drawing is quite clear that the cottage referred to is the middle one of the three.

On 18 Nov 1963, there is a conveyance again from Patricia Scott, spinster of Pilgrim Cottage, selling to Florence May Smith of 5 Old Barn Close, Benson for £2,500.

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