

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003156 • MANOR
ABBAY FOREGATE MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Shrewsbury, Holy Cross, Shropshire
Associated places: Shrewsbury, Holy Cross, Shropshire

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abbey Foregate Manor, also known historically as the Manor of Monks' Foregate, was the manorial and jurisdictional estate associated with the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter and St Paul at Shrewsbury, in the suburb now called Abbey Foregate and within the historic parish of Holy Cross. The abbey was founded by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, in 1083, on the site of an earlier church of St Peter, and the monastery controlled the bridge, precinct, adjoining lands, mills, fairs, and local jurisdiction in the Foregate area. Medieval records refer to the liberty or hundred of the Abbot of the Foregate, and later sources expressly call the estate the manor of the Abbey Foregate. The monastery was dissolved in January 1540. The abbey site and buildings subsequently passed through several hands, but the surviving evidence does not establish every intermediate transaction. A distinction must be made between the manorial lordship and individual houses, mills, tenements, and leases within Abbey Foregate. In particular, William Langley's acquisition of the former monastic buildings in 1546 is direct evidence of ownership of the abbey site and mansion, but is not by itself sufficient evidence that he held the entire manor.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely evidenced institutional lordship is that of Shrewsbury Abbey, founded in 1083 and holding the Foregate estate and associated jurisdiction until the Dissolution in 1540. The post-Dissolution descent is incompletely documented. A later historical account states that Queen Elizabeth I granted the manor of the Abbey Foregate to Robert Newdigate and Arthur Fountayne, who

conveyed it on the following day to Richard Prynce, Thomas Hatton, and Thomas Rock, to them and the heirs of the survivor. The same account states that Thomas Hatton survived the other two grantees and that the manor remained in the Hatton family until 1654, when it was conveyed to Sir Richard Prynce, knight, son of the original Richard Prynce. By the early twentieth century, the manor was stated to be held by a descendant, the Earl of Tankerville. The precise dates of the Elizabethan grant, the deaths of the joint grantees, the 1654 conveyance instrument, and the subsequent descent to the Tankerville family have not been established from the public sources located. The former abbey mansion followed a partly separate descent: the monastic buildings were acquired by William Langley in 1546; the mansion property was later sold to Edward Baldwin about 1702, devised to Henry Powys of Berwick, and sold before 1821 to James Hiles. Those mansion transactions are not entered as manor conveyances because the sources describe the abbey buildings or mansion rather than expressly the manorial lordship.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- In the reign of Elizabeth I, 1558-1603 - The following day | Robert Newdigate and Arthur Fountayne | Grant of the manor of the Abbey Foregate by Queen Elizabeth I, followed on the next day by conveyance to Richard Prynce, Thomas Hatton, and Thomas Rock. | | St Mary's, Shrewsbury, in The History of the County of Salop, citing Anderson, Shropshire: its early history and antiquities.
- The day after the Elizabethan grant; exact date not established - 1654 | Richard Prynce, Thomas Hatton, and Thomas Rock | Conveyance from Robert Newdigate and Arthur Fountayne to Richard Prynce, Thomas Hatton, and Thomas Rock, to them and the heirs of the survivor. | | St Mary's, Shrewsbury, in The History of the County of Salop, citing Anderson, Shropshire: its early history and antiquities.
- After the deaths of Richard Prynce and Thomas Rock; before or by 1654 - 1654 | Thomas Hatton and the Hatton family | Survivorship under the conveyance to the heirs of the survivor. | | St Mary's, Shrewsbury, in The History of the County of Salop, citing Anderson, Shropshire: its early history and antiquities.
- 1654 - After 1654; exact end date not established | Sir Richard Prynce, knight | Conveyance in 1654 from the Hatton family to Sir Richard Prynce, knight, identified by the source as the son of the original Richard Prynce. | | St Mary's, Shrewsbury, in The History of the County of Salop, citing Anderson, Shropshire: its early history and antiquities.
- 1083 - 1540 | Shrewsbury Abbey (Abbey of St Peter and St Paul, Shrewsbury) | Foundation and monastic endowment | Manor And Title |

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Liberty or hundred jurisdiction of the Abbot of the Foregate: Medieval records refer to

the liberty or hundred of the Abbot of the Foregate, indicating local jurisdiction associated with the monastic estate.

- Control of the bridge and adjoining lands in the Foregate area: The supplied historical account identifies control of the bridge and adjoining lands among the abbey's associated local interests.

- Mills and fairs associated with the Foregate estate: The supplied account identifies mills and fairs among the local resources or jurisdictional interests controlled by Shrewsbury Abbey in the Foregate area.

DISCLAIMER

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