

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003192 • MANOR
ABBOTTS HALL MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Stowmarket, Suffolk
Associated places: Stowmarket, Suffolk

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Stowmarket Manor | Associated | medieval period | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

Abbotts Hall Manor was the manor of Stowmarket, Suffolk, also recorded as Stowmarket otherwise
Abbotts Hall, Abbot's Hall, and Stow Hall. The manor was associated with the monastic grange of
the Abbey of St Osyth in Essex. The church of St Peter and St Paul at Stowmarket was granted
to the
Abbot of St Osyth by Henry I sometime before 1135, and Henry II granted the manor to the
abbey in
the later twelfth century. Abbot's Hall occupies the site of the abbey's former
grange;
the present Queen Anne house dates from 1709 and is now part of the Food Museum. The
medieval manor
was an income-producing estate, with land rentals, tithes, markets, fairs, and other
manorial
rights. The manor and the physical estate should be distinguished: later records show that
parts of
the estate were occupied by tenants, while the lordship remained a separate manorial
interest. Much
of the copyhold property was eventually enfranchised.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The manor was held by the Abbot and convent of St Osyth from the twelfth century until the
Dissolution. In 1538 it was recorded in the hands of Sir Thomas Darcy. It had passed to John
Howe by
1557 and to Richard Broke by 1610. It was later held by Edward Lynch in the seventeenth
century,
followed by members of the Blackerly family and then by Edward Lynch again in 1718 according
to the
later manorial-court account. The same account records William Wollaston by 1765, the
Reverend
Frederick Wollaston, Christopher Hildyard by 1802, John Marriott by 1820, the Reverend
Richard
Danie, and John Frederick Robinson by 1860. The Suffolk Heritage summary records John Edgar

Rust as owner by 1836; a separate title-evidence report states that Abbot's Hall and its land were sold to Rust in 1803, but that evidence does not by itself establish the precise conveyance of the lordship. Joseph Beaumont acquired the lordship from John Frederick Robinson and held his first court in 1881. After Joseph Beaumont's death in 1889, the lordship passed to his eldest son and steward, George Frederick Beaumont, under the joint effect of Joseph's will and his widow's deed of disclaimer. George Frederick Beaumont remained lord of the manor until his death in 1928. The lordship was included in the Beaumont Collection auction of 1954, but the publicly available material located does not identify the purchaser and therefore no later holder is entered.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- sometime before 1135 for the church; later twelfth century for the manor - 1538 | Abbot and convent of St Osyth | Grant by Henry I of the church and later grant by Henry II of the manor to the Abbey of St Osyth; the precise date and instrument of the manor grant are uncertain in the consulted sources. | | Oxford Archaeology, The Regal Theatre, Stowmarket, Suffolk, Written Scheme of Investigation, 2019, section 3.5.1; Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary, manorial chronology.
- 1538 - 1557 | Sir Thomas Darcy | The manor was recorded in Darcy's ownership in 1538 following the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The precise grant or conveyance from the Crown is not identified in the consulted sources. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary, manorial chronology; W. A. Copinger, The Manors of Suffolk, volume 6, 1910, p. 231, as summarized in the archaeological assessment.
- 1557 - 1610 | John Howe | The manor was recorded in the ownership of John Howe by 1557. The transfer from Sir Thomas Darcy is not specified. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary, manorial chronology; Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.
- 1610 - circa seventeenth century | Richard Broke | The manor was recorded in the ownership of Richard Broke by 1610. The transfer from John Howe is not specified. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary, manorial chronology; Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.
- circa seventeenth century - 1718 or later | Edward Lynch | The manor was later recorded in the hands of Edward Lynch. The transfer from Richard Broke and the exact date are not specified. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary, manorial chronology; Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.
- 1765 - after 1765 | William Wollaston | The manor was recorded as possessed by William Wollaston by 1765. The conveyance from the preceding Blackerly or Lynch interests is not specified. | | Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.
- 1802 - after 1802 | Christopher Hildyard | The manor was recorded as possessed by Christopher Hildyard in 1802. The conveyance from the Wollaston interests is not specified. | | Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.
- 1820 - after 1820 | John Marriott | The manor was recorded as possessed by John Marriott

in 1820. The conveyance from Christopher Hildyard is not specified. | | Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.

- 1803 for Abbot's Hall estate; 1836 as manor owner in the Suffolk summary - 1840 | John Edgar Rust | Abbot's Hall and its land were sold to John Edgar Rust in 1803 according to title evidence cited by an archaeological assessment. The Suffolk manorial summary records Rust as owner by 1836. Whether the 1803 sale conveyed the lordship in full or primarily the house and estate is not completely clear from the published evidence. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary; Historic England, Abbot's Hall, Stowmarket, list entry 1486027; Cotswold Archaeology, Land west of Thorney Green Road, Stowupland, post-excavation assessment, discussion of Abbot's Hall title evidence.

- 1860 - 1881 | John Frederick Robinson | The manor was recorded as possessed by John Frederick Robinson in 1860. Joseph Beaumont subsequently acquired the lordship from Robinson and held his first court in 1881; the conveyance date and instrument are not otherwise specified in the consulted source. | | Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary; Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.

- 1881 - 1889 | Joseph Beaumont | Conveyance from the Reverend F. L. Hayward and others to Joseph Beaumont dated 16 March 1881 is reported in the Beaumont Collection index material; the associated text states that Beaumont acquired the lordship from John Frederick Robinson and held his first court in 1881. | | Beaumont Collection catalogue, Lot 22, Manor of Stowmarket or Abbots Hall; Beaumont Collection index, manorial devolution entry for Stowmarket or Abbots Hall.

- 1889 - 1928 | George Frederick Beaumont | After Joseph Beaumont died on 18 July 1889, the joint effect of his will and a deed of disclaimer by his widow, Eliza Beaumont, vested the lordship in his eldest son, George Frederick Beaumont. | | Beaumont Collection index, manorial devolution entry for Stowmarket or Abbots Hall; Suffolk Heritage Explorer, Stowmarket parish summary; Kelly's Directory of Suffolk, 1912, Stowmarket entry.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Land rentals: The manor is described as an income-producing estate with land rentals.
- Tithes: Tithes are identified in the supplied description among the manor's historic income and rights.
- Markets: Market rights are identified in the supplied description as historic manorial rights.
- Fairs: Fair rights are identified in the supplied description as historic manorial rights.
- Other manorial rights: The supplied description records other unspecified manorial rights associated with the manor.

DISCLAIMER

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