

MANORIAL HERITAGE REGISTRY HISTORICAL RECORD EXTRACT

MHR-M-0003256 • MANOR
ACTON MANOR

Evidence status: Unverified
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Location: Acton, Middlesex
Associated places: Acton, Middlesex

LORDSHIP / TITLE ASSOCIATIONS

- Acton Manor | Historically associated | 1606 - by 1899 | Provisional

ABOUT THE MANOR

Acton Manor was the Bishop of London's manor in Acton, Middlesex, and formed part of the much larger Fulham episcopal estate, which covered most of Fulham, Hammersmith, Acton, Ealing and Finchley. Acton was within the Bishop of London's estate by the Domesday period. Medieval and early-modern references show Acton functioning as a distinct manorial unit, with a manor court and customary holdings, although the relationship with the larger Fulham estate remained important. The surviving evidence also shows that Acton contained more than one subordinate or subsidiary manor or estate, so individual houses and estates in East Acton should not automatically be treated as the lordship of Acton Manor. In 1606 and 1610 the court rolls of the Bishop of London's manor record admissions and surrenders of customary property in East Acton. By 1899 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were recorded as lords of the manor. The precise legal date and instrument by which the manorial lordship passed from the Bishop of London to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners has not been established from the sources consulted.

OWNERSHIP / HOLDER ACCOUNT

The earliest securely evidenced lordship is that of the Bishop of London. Fulham Palace's institutional history states that Bishop Waldhere acquired the Manor of Fulham in AD 704 and that the estate included most of Acton; Acton was part of that episcopal estate by the Domesday period. A later antiquarian study of East Acton Manor House describes Acton as possessing more than one manor, subsidiary to Fulham, and identifies the property from early times with the Bishops of

London. The court rolls cited by that study expressly describe the Bishop of London as lord of the manor of Acton in 1606 and 1610. The early-modern individuals named in the court-roll and probate evidence, including John Suckling, Richard Sutton, Sir Richard Ashfield and members of the Goldsmiths' Company, were holders of particular freehold or copyhold properties within Acton and were not thereby lords of Acton Manor. By 1899 the lordship was in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The intervening conveyance or statutory vesting has not been identified, so no specific transfer date is asserted.

CONVEYANCE / DESCENT

- 1086 - by 1899 | Bishop of London | Acton was recorded within the Bishop of London's wider Manor of Fulham by the Domesday period. The sources do not establish a separate conveyance creating or transferring the lordship of Acton Manor at this date; this entry records the securely evidenced episcopal lordship rather than inferring a particular transaction. | | Fulham Palace, 'The house'; Philip Norman, East Acton Manor House, being the seventh monograph of the Committee for the Survey of the Memorials of Greater London, pp. 10-11 and 16-17.
- by 1899 | Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England | The precise transfer from the Bishop of London to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners has not been established. Kelly's Directory of Middlesex for 1899 records the Ecclesiastical Commissioners as lords of the manor, demonstrating that the institutional lordship had changed by that date without supplying the transfer instrument or date. | | Kelly's Directory of Middlesex (1899), entry for Acton, reproduced by Forebears; the entry states that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are lords of the manor.

RECORDED RIGHTS

- Manor court: Acton functioned as a distinct manorial unit with a manor court; court rolls survive for at least 1606 and 1610.
- Customary holdings: The court rolls record admissions and surrenders of customary property in East Acton.

DISCLAIMER

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