

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 37

Ashtead House, Farm Lane, Ashtead



Ashtead House c: 1977 (Courtesy Mrs Jean Tappin)

Ashtead House is a Grade 2 Listed building and should not be confused with the mansion in the Park. It stands near the north-east gate of Ashtead Park, its grounds bordered by a 17th century red brick wall. It has survived other former nearby houses such as *Newstead House*, long since demolished. Built of mellow red brick and formerly colour-washed, it has overall Georgian elevation with an attractive shallow bay on the south-west façade.

After the death in 1939 of Miss Denshire, the last descendent of Capt. Nathaniel Smith, the house was used during the war to billet Canadian troops. After the war, the property was converted into three separate houses, at which time the original kitchen was extensively altered and evidence of the earliest period of the house was lost. However, a great deal remains to be seen on the successive developments from its modest beginnings into the large house of today. House No. 2 contains a late 17th century staircase with a seven metre newel post and many shuttered windows, ceiling beams and pine panelling. There is also an elegant Georgian staircase in the southern part of the house, where a ballroom was added. The room was reputedly built for the celebration of the King's visit to the Epsom Races in the early 19th century.

There are many fine specimen trees in the garden, including a massive tulip tree over 200 years old. Beyond the coach house, in the north-east and now in the grounds of The Pines, there is an ice house situated near the pond and possible source of the Rye Brook.

Goff Powell - Extracted from A History of Ashtead -L&DLHS 1995- with additions

For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours

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