

Mains Farm House (404)

Compiled by Pat Nightingale

An 1838 rental of the Manor of Beeding lists John Penfold at Maynes House and says it was formerly Backshells'. This seems to be supported by a 1733 map of land called Snellings in the Manor of Beeding (WSRO Add Mss 27483), which lists J. Backshell Gent. as copyholder of Maines and names some of his fields, for example, *Brooks* (there are several brooks on the tithe map), *Clays* (plot no. 218) and Flaxlands (plot no.198).

The 1841 Census lists Henry Pierce, aged 60, as an agricultural bailiff living at Mains Farm with his wife and three children, together with Samuel Allovey, a ship broker, his wife and two children.

Today it is still two dwellings: The Old House with its entrance on Hyde Street and Old Manor with its entrance on Manor Road. The A.R.Quinton picture, viewed from the east, shows the part called Old Manor, with a barn in front of it. The 1986 photo shows The Old House after renovation in 1986, viewed from the west.

The house is a Grade 2 listed building and has been surveyed by Dr Annabelle Hughes, who dates the original construction to c1500.

Bramber and Beeding Local History Society has copies of two documents relating to Mains Farm:

- (i) An indenture of 29 September 1871, when Maines Farm was sold to Thomas Faulconer Wisden by William John Penfold, Henry Penfold and Edward Tufnell.
NB It appears that part of the farm was in the Manor of Beeding and the rest in the Manor of Sela.
- (ii) Sale particulars from 1914 when the farm was sold off and Mains Farm Estate was built.