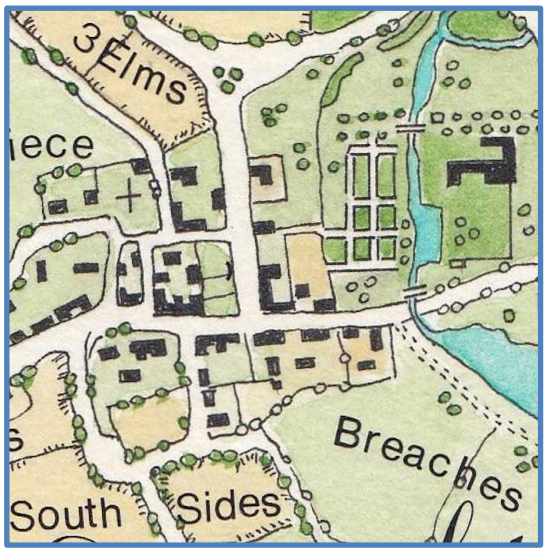
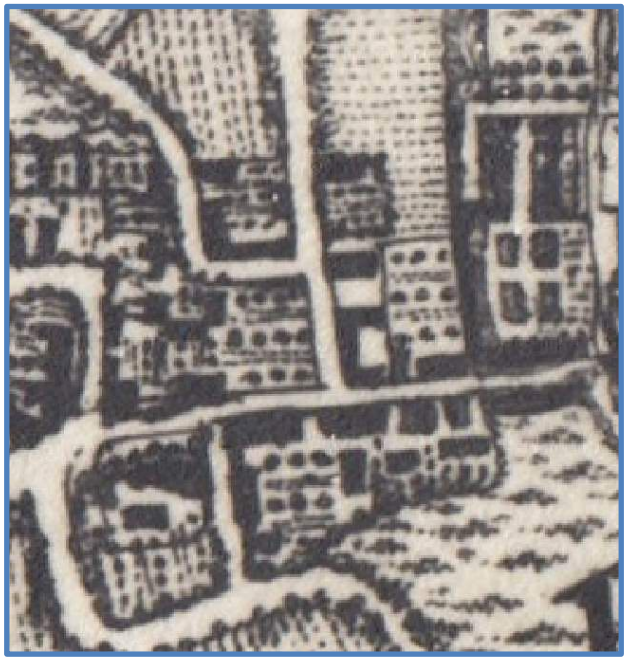
Park Cottages aka Beehive Cottages, Horne's Corner, Shrivenham

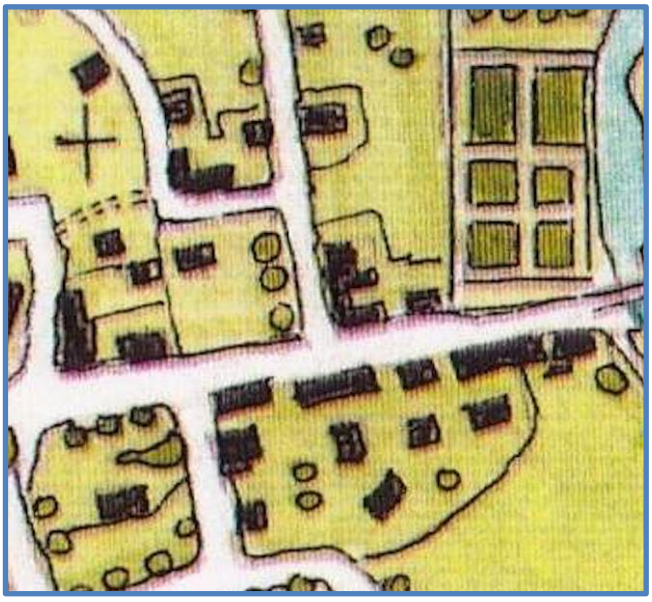
A general history by Neil B. Maw

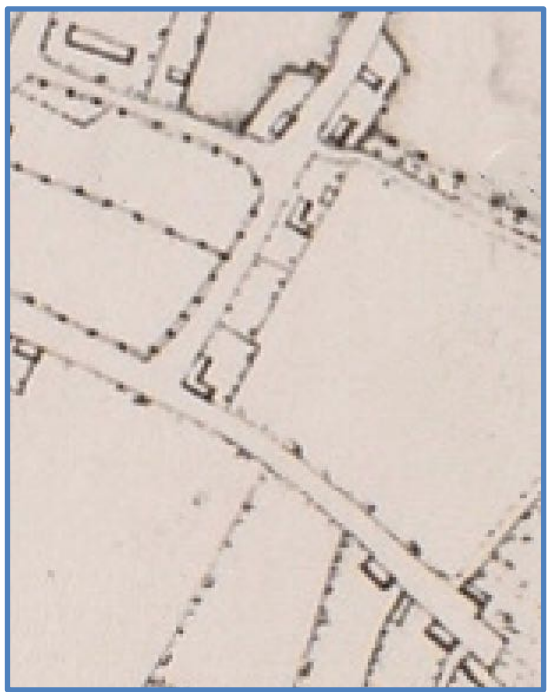


By looking at a series of maps starting with circa 1750, it can be seen that this particular junction and corner of Shrivenham has been occupied throughout that time. This fits in with Historic England's general description (Below). The sharp bend in the road is known locally as Horne's Corner, and is likely to be from the Smithy that was located about 200 metres away close to the rear of the Prince of Wales pub. (See SHS N1257 for details).



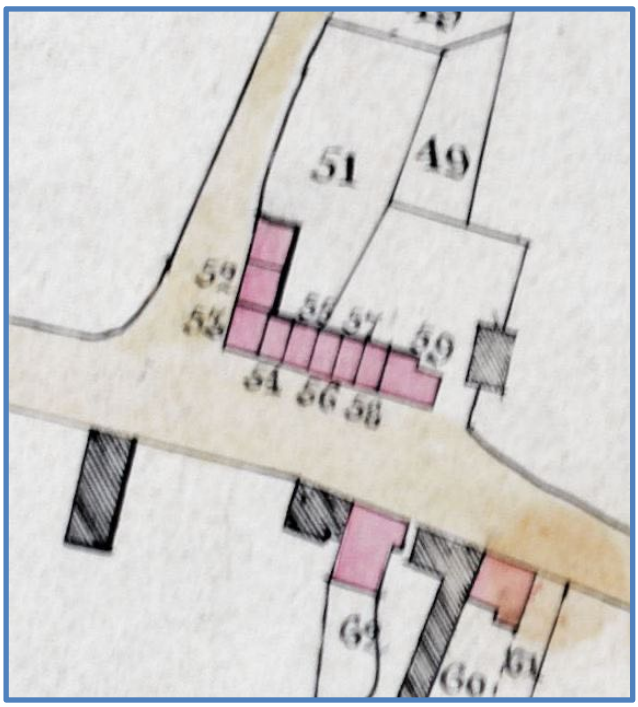


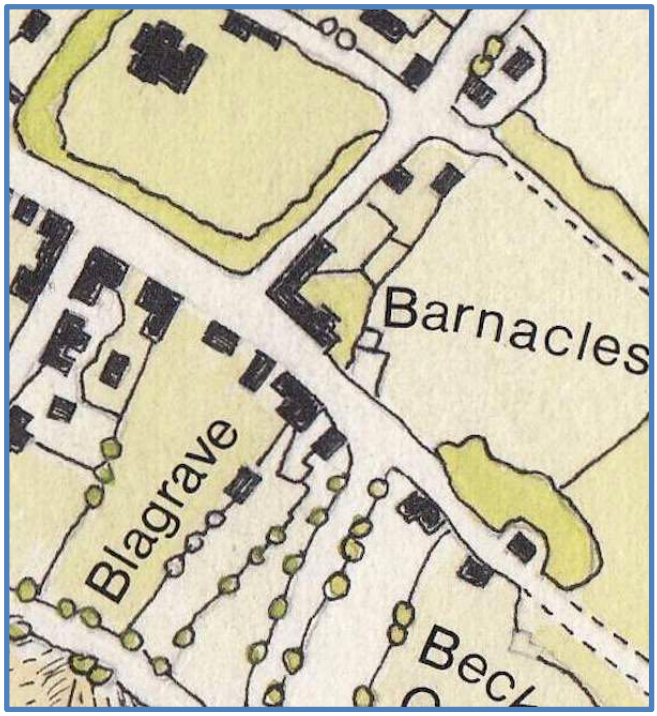




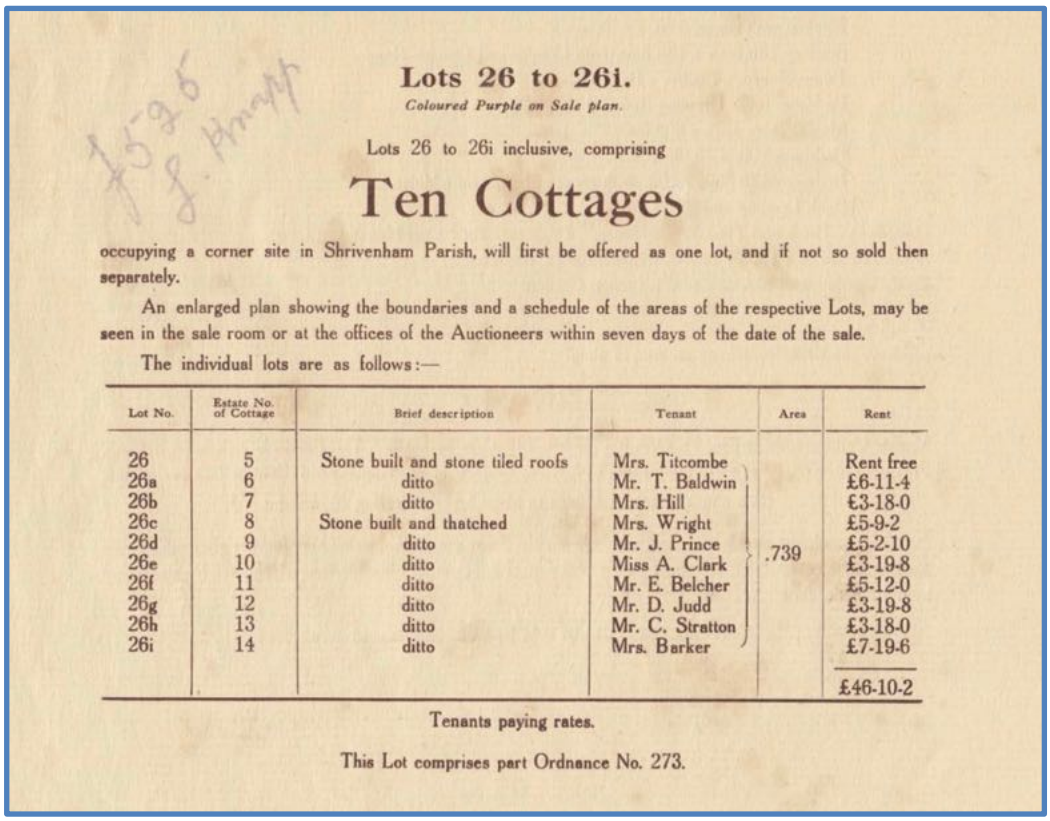
The map drawn up by George Merryweather (above 1815 – 1821) has proved to be very accurate. He was the Steward of the Barrington Estate to whom the cottages belonged. It seemed likely that it's around that period that the layout of the cottages became more like they are today.

The Tithe map for 1838 (below) is most interesting in that it shows a huge amount of detail for the whole village and shows the cottages very clearly. However, unfortunately, we are not in possession of the key to the numbers.





By the time of the Tithe Survey in 1843/44 (above) it's clear that there were 10 tenements in the block and the later Barrington Estate survey of 1866 showed the same number



Lots 26 to 26i.

Coloured Purple on Sale plan.

Lots 26 to 26i inclusive, comprising

Ten Cottages

occupying a corner site in Shrivenham Parish, will first be offered as one lot, and if not so sold then separately.

An enlarged plan showing the boundaries and a schedule of the areas of the respective Lots, may be seen in the sale room or at the offices of the Auctioneers within seven days of the date of the sale.

The individual lots are as follows:—

Lot No.	Estate No. of Cottage	Brief description	Tenant	Area	Rent
26	5	Stone built and stone tiled roofs	Mrs. Titcombe		Rent free
26a	6	ditto	Mr. T. Baldwin		£6-11-4
26b	7	ditto	Mrs. Hill		£3-18-0
26c	8	Stone built and thatched	Mrs. Wright		£5-9-2
26d	9	ditto	Mr. J. Prince	.739	£5-2-10
26e	10	ditto	Miss A. Clark		£3-19-8
26f	11	ditto	Mr. E. Belcher		£5-12-0
26g	12	ditto	Mr. D. Judd		£3-19-8
26h	13	ditto	Mr. C. Stratton		£3-18-0
26i	14	ditto	Mrs. Barker		£7-19-6
					£46-10-2

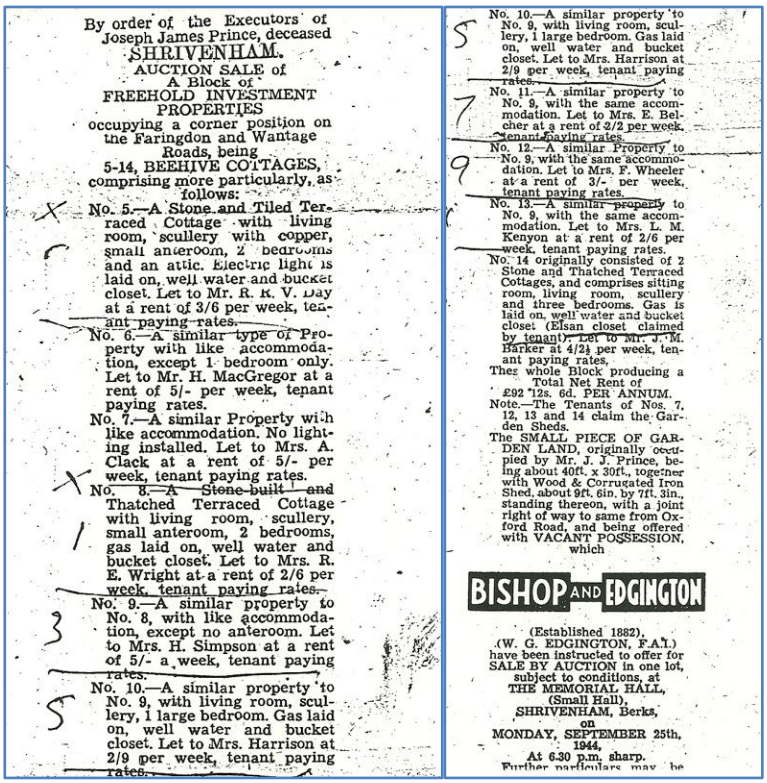
Tenants paying rates.

This Lot comprises part Ordnance No. 273.

The catalogue listing above is from the Barrington Estate Sale of 1927 (SHS N1059). This resulted in the purchase of the whole block by Joseph James Prince. The Indenture for the conveyance included in the list of parties involved Len Knapp (of the local building company) and Joseph Prince, also a Builder. The description of the property was, '*All that piece of land situate in the Parish of Shrivenham, being part of No 274 on the OS map, together with the 10 messuages or dwellinghouses erected thereon known as Beehive Cottages.*'

It's likely that Joseph Prince put up the money for the purchase as when he died on 3rd August 1944, he was still in possession of them, bequeathed to his wife Caroline Charlotte Prince. There was an attempt to sell the whole block very soon after by auction, described in an advertisement as in one lot. The advert listed all the details (below). The tenants names were published in the advert and for convenience here are the names:

Mr R R V Day, Mr H MacGregor, Mrs A Clack, Mrs R E Wright, Mrs H Simpson, Mrs Harrison, Mrs E Belcher, Mrs F Wheeler, Mrs L M Kenyon, Mr J M Barker.



By order of the Executors of
Joseph James Prince, deceased
SHRIVENHAM.
AUCTION SALE of
A Block of
FREEHOLD INVESTMENT
PROPERTIES
occupying a corner position on the Faringdon and Wantage Roads, being
5-14, BEEHIVE COTTAGES,
comprising more particularly, as follows:

No. 5.—A Stone and Tiled Terraced Cottage with living room, scullery with copper, small anteroom, 2 bedrooms and an attic. Electric light is laid on, well water and bucket closet. Let to Mr. R. K. V. Day at a rent of 3/6 per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 6.—A similar type of Property with like accommodation, except 1 bedroom only. Let to Mr. H. MacGregor at a rent of 5/- per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 7.—A similar Property with like accommodation. No lighting installed. Let to Mrs. A. Clack at a rent of 5/- per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 8.—A Stone-built and Thatched Terraced Cottage with living room, scullery, small anteroom, 2 bedrooms, gas laid on, well water and bucket closet. Let to Mrs. R. E. Wright at a rent of 2/6 per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 9.—A similar property to No. 8, with like accommodation, except no anteroom. Let to Mrs. H. Simpson at a rent of 5/- a week, tenant paying rates.

No. 10.—A similar property to No. 9, with living room, scullery, 1 large bedroom. Gas laid on, well water and bucket closet. Let to Mrs. Harrison at 2/9 per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 11.—A similar property to No. 9, with the same accommodation. Let to Mrs. E. Belcher at a rent of 2/2 per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 12.—A similar Property to No. 9, with the same accommodation. Let to Mrs. F. Wheeler at a rent of 3/- per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 13.—A similar property to No. 9, with the same accommodation. Let to Mrs. L. M. Kenyon at a rent of 2/6 per week, tenant paying rates.

No. 14 originally consisted of 2 Stone and Thatched Terraced Cottages, and comprises sitting room, living room, scullery and three bedrooms. Gas is laid on, well water and bucket closet (Elsan closet claimed by tenant). Let to Mr. J. M. Barker at 4/2½ per week, tenant paying rates,

The whole Block producing a Total Net Rent of £92 12s. 6d. PER ANNUM.

Note.—The Tenants of Nos. 7, 12, 13 and 14 claim the Garden Sheds.

The SMALL PIECE OF GARDEN LAND, originally occupied by Mr. J. J. Prince, being about 40ft. x 30ft., together with Wood & Corrugated Iron Shed, about 9ft. 6in. by 7ft. 3in., standing thereon, with a joint right of way to same from Oxford Road, and being offered with VACANT POSSESSION, which

BISHOP AND EDGINGTON

(Established 1882),
(W. G. EDGINGTON, F.A.I.)
have been instructed to offer for SALE BY AUCTION in one lot, subject to conditions, at
THE MEMORIAL HALL,
(Small Hall),
SHRIVENHAM, Berks,
on
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 1944,
At 6.30 p.m. sharp.
Further particulars may be

But they didn't sell and the soon after were sold to Margaret May Pridham, also a widow of Shrivenham for £950. Margaret died on 16th November 1958 and it was passed to her son William Ocock Pridham. It was somewhere after this time that two of the cottages became one reducing the total number to 10. William Pridham was described in the legal documentation as a Game Warden in Uganda, Africa and on 5th January 1961, granted the property to Sheila Whitfield of Shrivenham as a Deed of Gift.

A conveyance dated 5th February 1973 was the beginning of Sheila Whitfield gifting the cottages as Freehold to their various sitting, long-term, tenants, for instance Victor and Edna Day in their corner cottage. The gifting of the numerous cottages continued up until 1998.

Historic England Listing:

2. Late C17, early C18 seven cottage range of rubble stone and brick dressings with a thatched roof half hipped at each end and 7 brick stacks. Each cottage is of 1 storey and attic, 2 bays except No, 13 at the E end of which more later. Nos 1-11 have 6 pane 2 light casements to the eyebrow dormers and 3 light casements under cambered heads to the ground floor, some with glazing bars others plain. C20 wooden porches shelter plank doors. No. 13 is currently being renovated. It is of 1 storey and attic, 3 bays with 2 three light windows to the ground floor and a plank door. Above, the dormers are being altered to top lit 4 pane wooden casements. This cottage has some ironstone rubble in its courses and could be earlier than the rest of the range.

Listing NGR: SU2427289039

The information given in the Historic England information above confirms what is seen in that the cottages located in the Faringdon road section of the corner (Below), are later than those in the Longcott road section. The original cottages must have been pulled down and replaced by those seen now, probably circa 1830s.



The occupiers as recorded from the 1841 Census onwards

1841
William Garrett a Joiner/Carpenter.
William Goslin an Agricultural labourer.
Thomas Greenaway a Shoemaker.
John Knapp a Mason
John Tailor an Agricultural labourer
Henry Skinner an Agricultural labourer
John Carter an AG
Thomas Webb an AG
William Horn an AG
John Butler an AG1

1851
William Knapp a Bricklayer
Robert Gosling an AG
Henry Sealy an AG
John Holyoak an AG
John Knapp a Mason
John Taylor an AG
Charles Skinner a Mason
John Carter an AG

Thomas Webb an AG

1861
John Carter an AG
Charles Skinner a Bricklayer
John Lockey an AG
John Knapp a Bricklayer
Uriah Cox a County Policeman
Thomas Farmer a AG
John Hatt a House Servant
Robert Gosling a AG
William Allen a Bricklayer's labourer
William Knapp a as above

1871
William Knapp a Builder
Thomas Turner an Agricultural labourer
Joseph James Prince a Builder's labourer
Wallace Winchcombe a Policeman
Eve Locker a Nurse
Benjamin Butler an Agricultural labourer
Robert Gosling as above
George Parker a Coachman
Robert Webb a Garden labourer
William Sealy an Agricultural labourer

1881
William Cox a Gardener's labourer
Henry Hall a Agricultural labourer
William Lea a labourer
William Sealey as above
John Thorne a Carpenter
Thomas Farmer a Labourer
Henry Gillett a Coachman & servant
George Rodbourne a Plate layer (railway)
Robert Gosling a Labourer
James Stacey a Police Sergeant

1891
William Lee a Milkman
Thomas New a Pig Butcher
Ambrose Ford an Agricultural labourer
Eve Rodbourne a Nurse (widow)
Charles Sparkes a Police constable
Joseph Prince a Bricklayer
Thomas Farmer a Agricultural labourer
George Groves a Shepherd
Harry Kimbry a Groom
William Cooper a Coachman

1901
Charles Jones a Gardener
William Titcombe as above
Ambrose Ford a Farm Bailiff
William Lea a Farm labourer
David Judd as above
William Woodward a Postman
Jemima Dennis a widow
Joseph Prince a Stone Mason
Charles Sparkes a Policeman
Joseph Wheeler a Road Contractor

1911
Eliza Ford a widow
William Lea a Labourer
David Judd as above
William Woodward a Postman
Thomas Gerring a Coachman
Joseph Prince a Bricklayer
George Groves a Shepherd
Robert Reason a Packer
Edwin Titcombe a Chauffer/Gardener
William Titcombe a Labourer

The format for the 1921 Census was changed which made the process of allocating the names to the cottages more difficult. However, the list of tenants given in the Sale catalogue entry of 1927 above, would have changed little. The narrative above continues chronologically from that point.