

COURT MOUNT

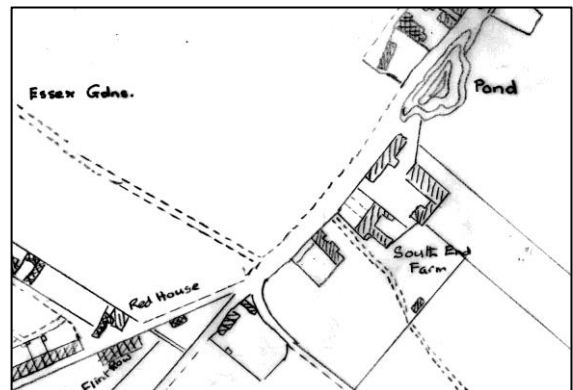
The history of this site begins in the 1400s, when it was one of the many



farms in and around the village of Birchington. At the rear of the present house there is an ancient wing with a medieval fireplace, giving just a hint of its true antiquity. At that date it was simply known as South End Farm. In All Saints Church there is a grave stone on the floor of the centre aisle which reads, "Here lieth the body of

Thomas KIRBY, of Southend." He died 1st March 1651 in his 78th year and by his wife Joane had 6 children of whom 2 were 'yet surviving'. When I commented on his 'distant' abode to Alfred Walker in the 1960s, he told me where Birchington's "Southend" was!

The map is dated 1875, with Canterbury Road known then as Church Hill, running from top right to bottom left. By 1923, the need for more houses in the village was acute and the owners decided to convert the farmhouse into tearooms and a country club. During the late 18th c. or early 19th c. the front section of the property was re-built and only the rear wing of the old farmhouse was retained.



The owners wisely kept a fairly large area of garden around the property when they sold off the main farmland. This was very soon utilised as one of the first caravan parks in Thanet, for holiday makers