

## UPPER GORE END

The house and barn at Upper Gore End, which stand in Minnis Road on the left just before the railway bridge, both have an interesting history. In 1642 the farm was given to St John's College Cambridge by Henry Robinson, an old scholar of the college. He planned that the money generated by the rent from the farm would fund young scholars in the future. Robinson had a number of other holdings in the Birchington and St Nicholas-at-Wade parishes when he died. The map that was drawn up at the time of his gift shows a house very similar to the present one of just two storeys, but in the deeds held at the college, one of the tenants was ordered to repair and improve the house. Whether this is when the additional storey was added we do not know. There was also a pond near the farmhouse, which is remembered as being quite deep after heavy rain, because it lay in a natural hollow.

Because of its distance from the main part of the village the house was used to accommodate a number of the men who worked for the tenant farmer over the years. These appear in the Tithe map apportionments as well as the various census returns. The only piece of land that has been sold off during all these centuries is the small section on which the new Surgery now stands, abutting Gordon Square.

At the western end of the farmyard stands the old barn, which is now a listed building. The north end of it is dated in the listing schedule as 16<sup>th</sup> century, with the south end dated 17<sup>th</sup> century. It would appear that at some date during the 1600s the south end was wrecked during a storm. The 'new' timbers can be clearly identified when standing inside the barn. The brick walls which support the roof are a later addition still and were fitted under the existing timber frame, section by section. The size and grandeur of the internal space give the impression of being like small church. At one time there were at least 9 large barns in and around Birchington village. One of them was taken down and re-erected in Barnet, North London in the 1920s and was still standing in the 1980s.