

LITTLE GORE END - 92 Minnis Road

This thatched cottage stands on the corner of Gallwey Avenue and Minnis Road. It was originally the farmhouse attached to Little Gore End Farm. The size of this farm was quite small, just over 21 acres. It would appear that the original house was built in the mid to late 1500s and remained unaltered until the 19th century. It was then enlarged slightly and added to once more in the twentieth century, when a complete wing was added. It has now been divided into two separate dwellings, the old Tudor wing accessed from Minnis Road, while the entrance to the brick 19th-20th century wing is in Gallwey Avenue.

The oldest part of the house is timber framed and has an inglenook fireplace in the rear sitting room and a large fireplace in the front sitting room. Following a disastrous fire in the middle of the 1990s, when the thatched roof caught fire, much of the interior had to be rebuilt or resurfaced, but traces of the original building can still be seen.

In the 1840 Tithe Map, all the land belonging to Lower Gore End Farm and Little Gore End was owned by Sarah Britton, but it was all worked by her tenant, Henry Pett. The whole area by then amounted to almost 133 acres, but the 21 acre section around Little Gore End was not probably worked as a separate unit by this time. In the early part of 1900 it still had its own barn, stable yard, out houses and orchard, with a fowl-run. The map drawn up for the sale of the land in this area in c. 1915 shows all this, plus a large asparagus bed and separate garden surrounding the cottage. In 1840 the actual measurement of the house and the land that directly adjoined it was 29 perches (40 perches = a quarter of an acre).

The view of the south side of the house today (2006) is very similar to its appearance in the 1920s, when it appeared on postcards being sold in the village.