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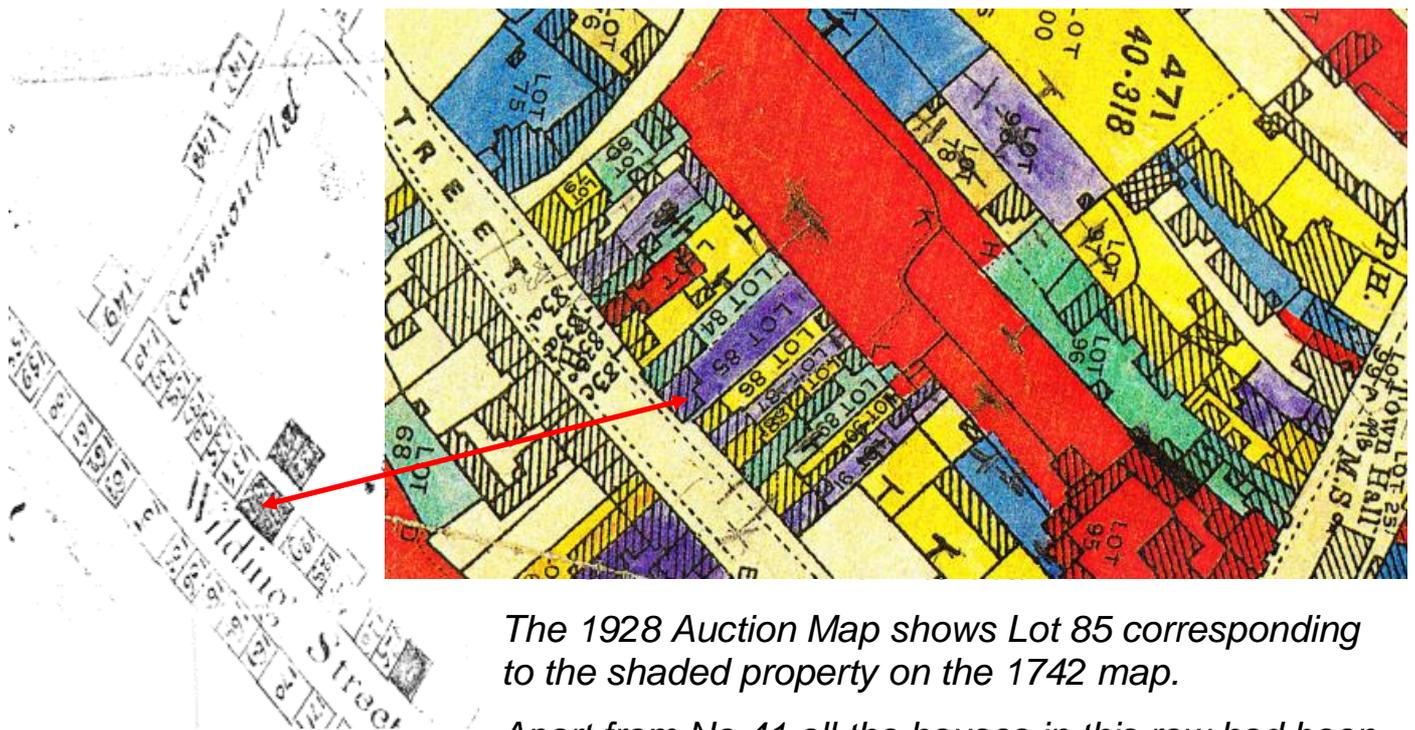
23 Whielden Street (Coachman's Cottage)

In 1742, this house, the one next door and several others nearby were owned by Henry Marshall. They are coloured blue on the 1742 map, below. Note that Whielden Street is written as Wilding Street – spelling was not a strong point of the 18th century. After this, the Drake family made a concerted effort to buy houses – and votes – so that father and son could be returned unopposed as MPs for Amersham (until the two seats of this pocket borough were abolished in the 1832 Reform Act.)



The house was included in the Tyrwhitt-Drake sale of property by auction in 1928 (see map, next page) although a sale was probably agreed with the tenant before the auction catalogue was printed because Lot 75 does not appear in the catalogue.

For more information on this and other Amersham houses, go to www.amershamhistory.info
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The 1928 Auction Map shows Lot 85 corresponding to the shaded property on the 1742 map.

Apart from No 41 all the houses in this row had been purchased by the Tyrwhitt-Drake family.

The house was occupied by the extended family of John Dover (born 1794). John and his wife Mary (b. 1800) had at least seven children. Census returns tell us that in 1841 his sisters Mary (b.1785), Sarah (b. 1802) and brother James (b. 1797) were living in the house with John, Mary and five of their children. In 1851 James (a letter-carrier) and Sarah (charwoman) were still living with their brother, his wife and five of his children (the 4 daughters, all straw-plaiters, the son a servant) but with the addition of a grandson, William Dover, aged 1. By 1861, all John Dover's children had left home (or died) and he was living with his wife, two unmarried siblings, James and Sarah and three grandsons, William Dover aged 10, James Beck aged 7, and John Dover aged 4. John Dover senior was listed as an agricultural labourer in 1841 and 1861 but he and his wife were recorded as paupers in 1851.

By 1871 Henry Piddington was living in the house, followed in 1881 by George Shrimpton, aged 57, agricultural labourer, and Thomas Rogers, aged 42, bricklayer's labourer. The house was empty in 1891 and then occupied in 1901 and 1911 by Benjamin Alkins (b. 1841), a dyer in 1901 and bill poster in 1911. The Kelly's Directories of 1931, 1941 and 1952 show the house occupied by Lemuel Irons (1892 – 1967). In the 1939 Register, compiled at the start of the 2nd World War, he was listed as a foreman baker living with his wife, a lodger (Albert F. Eales) - a stable lad (aged 50!) - and others.

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