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## **45 Whielden Street (Little Summeries)**

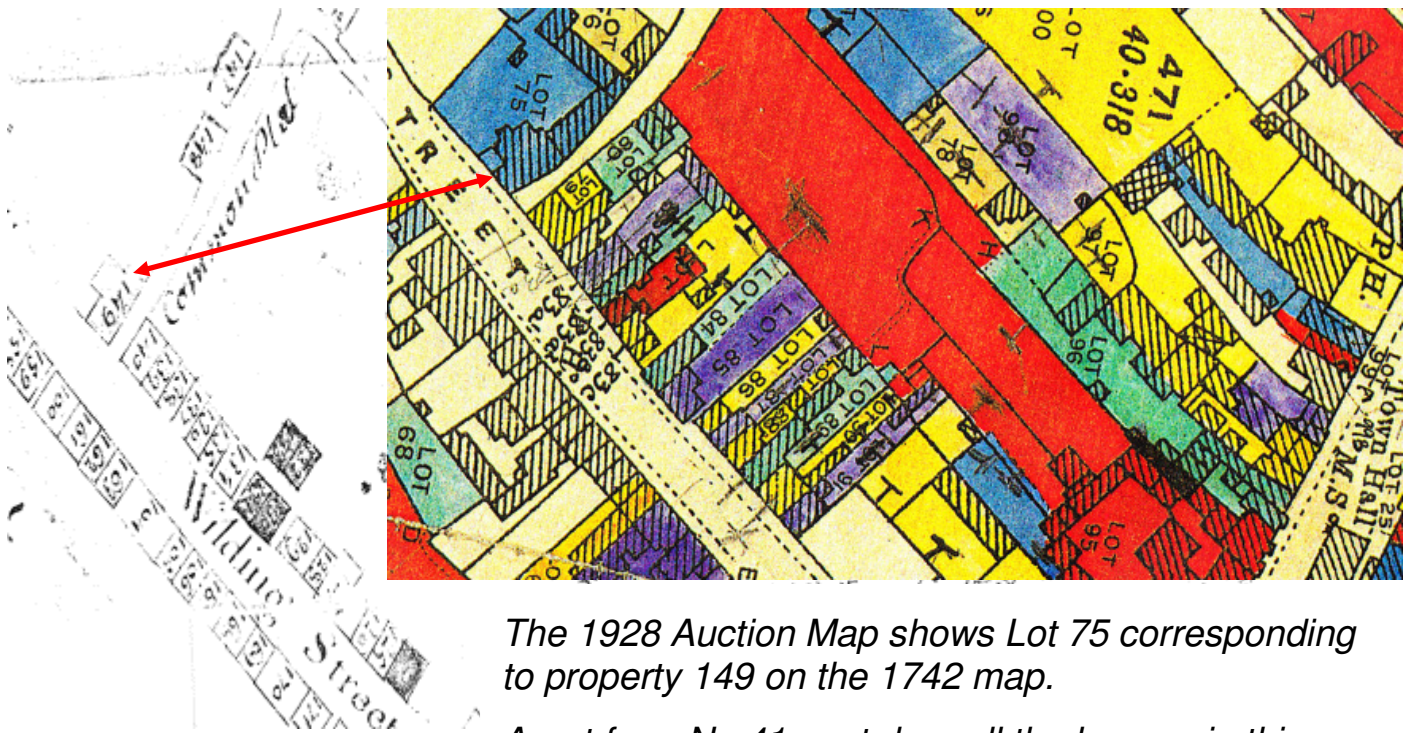
In the 1742 map of Amersham this road is called Wilding Street. The house is on the northern corner of The Common Platt (now just The Platt).

Most of the houses in Whielden Street were targeted for purchase by the Drake family. This was because the residents were entitled to vote in elections and the Drake family wanted to put in tenants who would vote for them; there was no secret ballot until 1872.

By 1742, this house was already owned by the Drake family and was included in the Tyrwhitt-Drake sale of property by auction in 1928 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](http://www.amershamhistory.info)  
For more information on the Amersham Society, go to [www.amershamsociety.org](http://www.amershamsociety.org)



*The 1928 Auction Map shows Lot 75 corresponding to property 149 on the 1742 map.*

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

The census shows that this house was connected with chair-making for many years. In 1841 it was occupied by William Weller Line (b. 1781), chair-maker, his wife Susanna Line, (b. 1783), his son John Weller Line (b. 1818) who was also a chair-maker and 5 year-old Jane Bignell.

In 1851 Josiah Hill (b. 1821) was living in the house with his wife Caroline and 7 children. He was a **higgler**, a person who travels around selling small items, which was better paid than you might think, as they had a live-in servant. By 1861 Edwin Pusey, (b. 1831), a builder employing 21 men and 4 boys lived here with his wife Hannah and 6 young children.

In 1871 the chair-making connection resumed. Nathaniel Avis (b. 1800) was recorded as a chair-maker employing 7 men and 1 boy with his son George (b. 1844). A younger son, Charles (b. 1838), was also a chair-maker, living next door with his wife and baby. By 1881 Charles had taken over the business and continued into 1891 (where he was joined by his son, also Charles and also a chair-maker) and 1901. He had died by 1911 when his widow Mary Ann Avis (b. 1849) was head of the household but her son Charles b.1871 was still making chairs at home.

In the 1939 Register, drawn up at the outbreak of World War 2, only Jessie Tompkins, a bricklayer born 1895 and his wife Nellie, born 1896, were living there.

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