

WASC 817

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 817

AVIATION
MINISTRY OF ~~SUPPLY~~ MEMORANDUM

From: (Branch and Address)		To:	
M. McLaren		Director	
Telephone No.	Extn.		
Our ref:		Your ref:	

I enclose some notes on the visit to the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford, together with the photographs, as promised, of the barge which is lying on the south bank of the Black Ditch.

Also enclosed is the catalogue of the Auction Sale to be held at the Waltham Abbey Town Hall on Friday, 6th March. Lots 242 and 243 are copies of Farmer's 1735 History.

No doubt you will have seen the material which is on display in the windows at the far end of the Churchyard path.

M. McLaren

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L.H. IS.

Wt. 12126 D1402 30m 6/58 B.G. Ltd. (746) G798
Wt. 24299 D1603 20m 10/58 B.G. Ltd. (889) G798

Use the reverse for continuation or reply as necessary.

DirectorMaterial of Historical Interest

A visit was made to the Essex Record Office on 22nd January, 1964, to see the material held there which relates to the Powder Mills at Waltham Abbey.

The E.R.O. staff had searched their subject and Parish Prints indexes and had set out nearly all the items in readiness for the visit.

The documents seen were:

- 1735 J. Farmer's History of Waltham Abbey with the engraving of the gunpowder mills as one of its "many curious copperplates." Farmer included a dedication to John Walton depicting the Walton arms.
- 1777 Chapman and André's map showing Powder Mills at Waltham Holy Cross. (Scale 2 in.:1 mile).
- 1812 Plan of Lea Navigation Scheme showing Powder Mills as six buildings in outline.
- 1818 - 1858 Papers compiled by the Law Agent to Principal Officers of H.M. Ordnance at Waltham Holy Cross. These comprised 16 bundles of miscellaneous documents which were not inspected individually.
- 1821 Draft tracing of the Royal Ordnance Factory, approx. 24 in. x 48 in., scale 1 in.:200 feet. A numerical key indicates the locations of over 200 buildings.
- 1825 - 1840 Draft maps of the Waltham Abbey locality which were used for the Town Map of 1826 and for the Tithe Award and Map of Waltham Holy Cross, 1842.
- The individual maps (in eight bundles) were not inspected closely but at least one shows the powder mills with outlines of buildings. Scale approx. 1 in.:200 feet.
- 1880 - 1881 Correspondence and papers relating to an application by the New River Company for permission to divert a public footpath through Sewardstone Mills and to an application by the Schultze Gunpowder Company for permission to erect a gunpowder factory. The papers include various descriptive pamphlets on Schultze's Powder.
- 1760 - 1894 Newspaper cuttings including brief accounts of explosions, an engraving of 1808 depicting the Mills as viewed from the West, and one full page article with illustrations. Photocopies of these cuttings have been requested.

Owing to temporary building operations two items held by the E.R.O. were not produced. These were an 1826 map of the Waltham Abbey Town area showing gunpowder mills and a photocopy of a 1783 map of the Powder Mills. However it is thought that the 1826 map was compiled from the draft maps which were produced and that the 1783 map is a copy of an original which is still held in the E.R.D.E. Civil Drawing Office.

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The location of all these items has been noted in the Library Services catalogue of material of historical interest.

Material of historical interest

M. McLaren

Waltham Abbey,
March, 1964

(M. McLaren)

The documents seen were:

- 1755 J. Farmer's History of Waltham Abbey with the engraving of the Gunpowder Mills as one of its many curious copperplates. Farmer included a dedication to John Waltham depicting the Waltham Cross.
- 1777 Chapman and Andre's map showing Powder Mills at Waltham Holy Cross. (Scale 2 in. : 1 mile).
- 1812 Plan of the Navigation Scheme showing Powder Mills as six buildings in outline.
- 1818 - 1828 Papers compiled by the law agent to Principal Officers of H.M. Ordnance at Waltham Holy Cross. These comprised 16 bundles of miscellaneous documents which were not inspected individually.
- 1821 Brief tracing of the Royal Ordnance Factory, approx. 2 1/2 in. x 4 1/2 in., scale 1 in. : 200 feet. A numerical key indicated the locations of over 200 buildings.
- 1825 - 1840 Draft maps of the Waltham Abbey locality which were used for the Town Map of 1826 and for the Tithe Award and Map of Waltham Holy Cross, 1842.
- 1881 The individual maps (in eight bundles) were not inspected closely but at least one shows the powder mills with outlines of buildings. Scale approx. 1 in. : 200 feet.
- 1880 - 1881 Correspondence and papers relating to an application by the New River Company for permission to divert a public footpath through Sewstons Mills and to an application by the Schultze Gunpowder Company for permission to erect a gunpowder factory. The papers include various descriptive paragraphs on Schultze's Powder.
- 1894 - 1895 Newspaper cuttings including brief accounts of explosions, an engraving of 1808 depicting the Mills as viewed from the West, and one full page article with illustrations. Photocopies of these cuttings have been requested.
- Being to temporary building operations two items held by the R.E.O. were not produced. There were an 1826 map of the Waltham Abbey Town area showing Gunpowder Mills and a photocopy of a 1765 map of the Powder Mills. However it is thought that the 1826 map was compiled from the draft maps which were produced and that the 1765 map is a copy of an original which is still held in the R.E.O. Civil Drawing Office.

THE
WALTHAM
ABBAY
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SERVICES
DEPARTMENT
MARCH 1964