

GRAND HOMES

Today it is difficult to imagine that Barking town centre once had a variety of grand houses, only two remain Fawley House and the Vicarage. Who lived there?



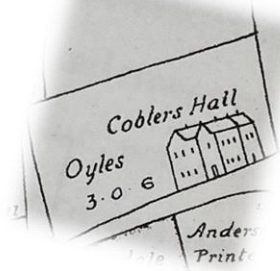
The Vicarage was built on Vicarage Drive, off Ripple Road, in 1794, for the Vicar of Barking, Peter Rushleigh. Local historian Lockwood recalled that, 'the carriage drive was lined with lilacs.' It is now a Grade II listed building and gives its name to Vicarage Fields – once the home for Barking FC – which became a shopping centre in the 1990s and redeveloped again in the 2020s. St Margaret's Vicarage was previously in North Street, in or close to Fulke's Manor and the current vicarage is in Upney.



Fawley House was built on the site of a smaller house in East Street by Fishing fleet owner Samuel Hewett (1797-1881). He sold it to Captain James Morgan – who had risen from a lowly fisher boy to become a wealthy Fishing Smack owner. It was a double fronted house with a large stone bay windows and a porch entrance. Also with a spacious ornamental conservatory, stables, and an excellent garden – for some years this included the figurehead of Captain Morgan's first vessel. The ground floor was converted to shops in the 1890s by Thomas Pelling.



Next door to Fawley House stood **The White House**, painted white, of course. It stood in its own grounds with a stable, coach house and trees. It had 12 rooms including a Turkish bath on the first floor. Doctor Manley lived here before moving to **Westbury House**. The last tenant was Benjamin Wallis Glenny, a builder's merchant. It was demolished in 1899 and replaced by the South-Western Bank, later it was the council's Treasury and then a Jewellery shop called Bulley's. Today it hosts McDonald's and our Heritage Mural by Jake Attewell. Another Glenny home was situated behind East Street:



Part of Thomas Fanshawe's manorial map of 1653

Cecil House, first known as **Waking Place**, was an Elizabethan home built by William Nutbrowne. It appears as **Coblers Hall** on the manorial map of 1653 and was also called **Cobb/s Hall**. When Thomas Fanshawe became Lord of the Manor the land and hall were leased to the Oyles family. They migrated from Brabant, in the Netherlands, in the sixteenth century – as cloth merchants with links to the East India Company. James Oyles paid taxes on land in Barking until 1641. By the 1650s John Oiles may have been living here, as he christened his children at St Margaret's Church, where a widow, Thomasina Oyles, was buried in 1689. Later the Glenny family farmed this land, as market gardeners. By 1759 Alexander Glenny was rated £15 for Cobb Hall. William Wallis Glenny renamed his Victorian house on this site, Cecil House, after the Prime Minister, Robert Cecil, who was the grandson of Frances Gascoyne - Barking heiress of the Bifrons Estate.



WH Frogley's paintings of Cecil House and The Paddock

Bifrons House, built by Dr John Bamber in 1717 was a grand house, part of the Bifrons Estate. The house stood just south of Axe Street, near its western end. From there the park stretched southwards between Fisher Street (now Abbey Road), Vineyard Lane (now Ripple Road) and King Edward's Road. It descended to the Gascoyne's and was eventually sold to the Glenny family in the late 1800's. They replaced it with a smaller property and later sold the site to Henry F Van for his mineral water factory, which was purchased by R Whites.



Drawing of double fronted Bifrons Mansion

Fulke's Manor was established by Richard Fulk from 1203. Later owners included Thomas Audley, Thomas Fanshawe and Sir Edward Hulse in 1773. Herbert Lockwood suggested it was likely to have been the Old Barking Vicarage before 1794 and possibly from the medieval period. Situated on the east side of North Street, on the corner of Nelson Street (now London Road) it was re-named **Northbury House** during the nineteenth century and redeveloped by 1860. It still relied on a well of spring water in 1867 but had a new gas supply. The Quash family lived there from 1868 - c1906 and it was acquired by Cape Asbestos in 1917, when it became known as **Cape Lodge**. It was demolished in 1936 during the London Road extension.



Fulke's Manor a grand medieval home, and later site of Northbury House (below).



Fun Fact Find –
How many rooms
did The White



At the corner of East Street and Ripple Road, where Boots is now, stood "**The Paddock**." The brandy merchant Roger Vaughan built this grand home in the early 18th century. Later local miller, William Whitbourn, lived there. Its last owner was Thomas Glenny a well-known brewer of Barking. It was demolished in 1907 when the three and half acres made way for the police station and Blake's corner - part of this parade from 1911 remains on East Street today.



“

*We ain't a-livin' where we did a-fore we moved away
From the little wooden 'ouse at Peckham Rye,
We've shifted for the better, as the circumstances prove
'Cause we've got a [little] villa, about so 'igh!
It's fenced all round wiv railin's and it's finished off wiv
spikes,
And a natty little wooden gate for keepin' out the tykes,
And you can come and see us any afternoon yer likes*

”

At our pretty little villa down at Barkin'...

*From Pretty Little Villa Down at Barking
Sung by Gus Elen, in 1911*

In 1788 a grand building was completed on North Street, which was not the home of a wealthy a family but built for the poorest residents! The Workhouse, drawn by Bamford, above, replaced an earlier one. It housed over 250 inmates and home for the master and matron. Days were spent picking old rope and doing general chores. It was taken over by the Romford Poor Law Union in 1834 and demolished in 1936. Asda is on this site today.

Another home with ancient origins was the Tudor mansion, **Tait's Place**. It was purchased by The Society of Friends as a meeting house in 1763, opposite their Quaker Burial Ground. Replaced in 1908, it was bought by Barking's Sikhs in 1971, who recently added the grand new Gurdwara to it. Carved into the Indian marble is a portrait of famous quaker Elizabeth Fry, buried nearby.

The Workhouse was one of many grand buildings built by the local authorities for the town. From the late 1800s till the early 1900s many of these were designed by Charles Dawson, the borough's architect.

