

	Bush House	
	Location:	Bury Road
	Post Code:	IP29 5HP
	Year Built:	19 th Century ?
	Status:	Building of Interest
Notes:	Bush House previously known as Holly Bush House pictured left on a 1909 Postcard.	

Bush House

Currently hidden behind high hedges facing on to Bury Road, Bush House was previously known as Holly Bush House, a property that has a story dating back to the mid 19th century.

The press article below provides an insight in to the early history, with reference made to Hargrave carpenter William Phillips (1818) who is credited with constructing the property. Tithe maps from the 1830's certainly indicate he owned land and property at the current location of Bush House.

He was married to Mary Ann Phillips (1821) originally from Whepstead, and they have two daughters Ann (1841-1916) and Susannah (1850-1887).

Susannah married Nathan Pask a bootmaker living in Hargrave in 1871 and they have three children; Frederick William (1873), Laura M (1875) and Stephen (1884). However by 1891 Susannah has passed away and the family has moved to Rickinghall Superior.

Ann remains in Hargrave, marrying Hewson Wray (1838-1917), not Harrison as indicated below, in 1867. Hewson was born in the village of Tetney Lock, Lincolnshire and is a recognised preacher in the Primitive Methodist movement. The couple subsequently have one daughter Laura (1868-1969) and one son Herbert William Wray (1870-1894).

The 1871 and 1881 censuses indicate the family are living together in what must have been Holly Bush House, with Hewson earning a living as a tailor. By 1891 they are joined by Ann's widowed mother Mary Phillips.

The 1901 Census lists the house occupants as Hewson Wray, grocer, draper and sub-postmaster, wife Ann and nephew Frederick William Pask as grocer's assistant, with the only change in 1911 being the replacement of Frederick with Adeline Foreman, servant and grocer's assistant.

The following article appeared in the Bury Free Press printed 18th April 1997.

The 'Risby' shop that is forever Hargrave.

A reader wrote asking for help identifying a house and shop featured on a postcard marked Risby, Jan 1909. The house, pictured left, was traced this week not in Risby but in Hargrave. Mrs Margaret Slade, village history recorder, for Hargrave has another postcard of the house, which was called Holly Bush, which stands near the village hall – see picture above.

The house was built by carpenter William Phillips (b.1818), for his two daughters Anne and Susannah. Anne married Harrison Wray, a Methodist preacher from Lincolnshire. He had to give up preaching because of throat problems and reverted to his original trade as tailor.

Their only son Herbert opened a grocery shop at Holly Bush in 1890. Herbert died, aged 24, in 1894 and his father kept the shop open until he died in 1917. The Primitive Methodists met in a barn in the grounds of Holly Bush until the present chapel was built in 1926.

The picture shows a group of Methodists by the entrance to Holly Bush. It was probably taken in 1904 at Sunday School anniversary.

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Nicholas Newman
November 2021