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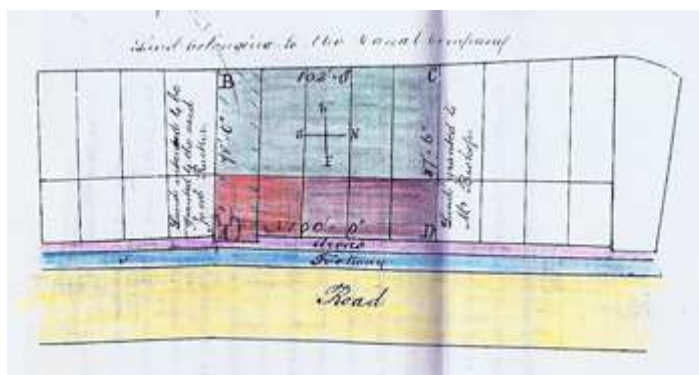
Sydney Lodge No 39 Sydney Buildings

No 26 pre 1902



No 39 today

In **1820** the Earl of Darlington released a plot to **Mr Jacob Racker**, of the Parish of Bathwick, to build five dwellings. The houses shown on the plan are part of the terrace of houses, known as **Sydney Parade**, to the right of No 39. Sydney Lodge was built in **1826**.

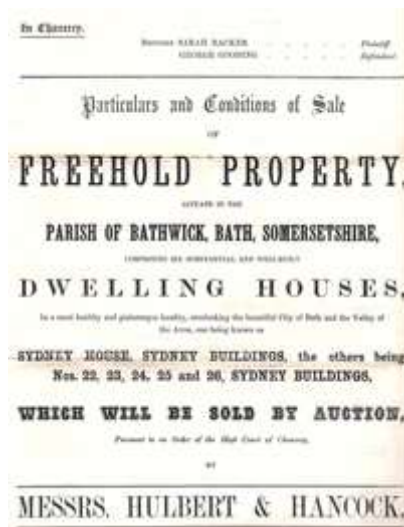


1820 Plan showing the plot

Click on the image for an enlarged view

Jacob Racker died in **1832** leaving his wife, Sarah, the right to occupy Sydney Lodge rent free for her lifetime.

The **1841 census** recorded Sarah Racker, aged 50 as independent, and two servants: John Whittingham, aged 30, and Fanny Stockman, aged 20. The **1851 census** shows Sarah Racker, still in residence with one servant, Ester Manning, aged 17.



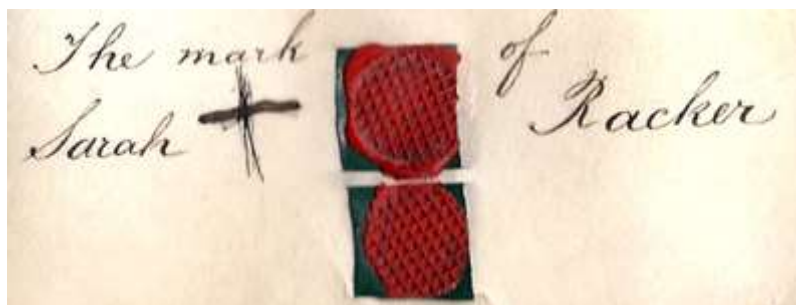
1860 Auction notice

Click on the image for an enlarged view

In February **1860** six freehold properties, including No 26, were offered for sale by auction. Mrs Racker, under the terms of her husband's will, was still in residence. **Mr Richard Martin**, of the City of Bath, General Salesman, purchased the property. Sarah Racker remained. The **1861 census** recorded Sarah Packham, aged 83, as the lodging housekeeper.

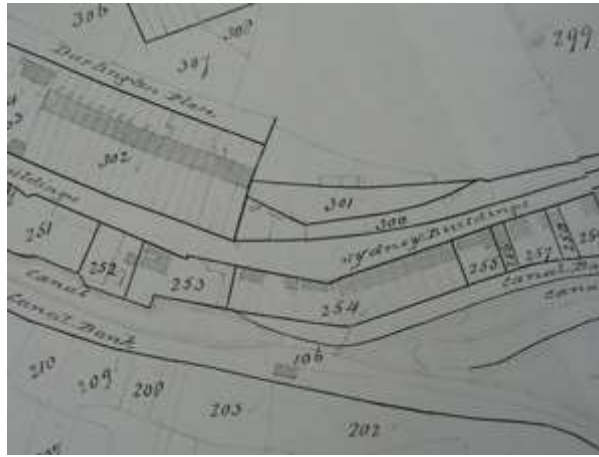
Up

In **1962** Richard Martin agreed an annual sum of £20 to Mrs Racker for her to forgo her rights to the premises. Richard Martin then sold the property to **James Grove**, a retired draper.

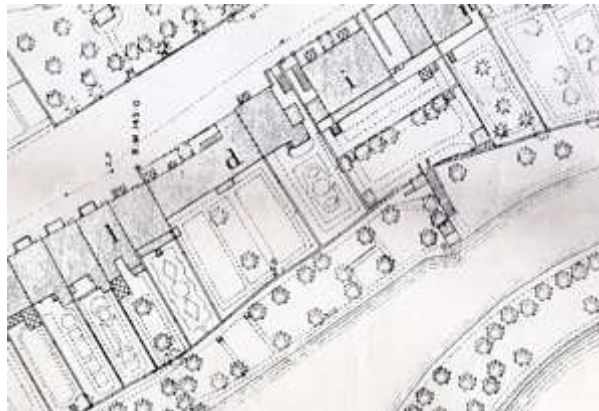


1860 Sarah Racker's mark on the Conveyance

There is a reference to the premises being enlarged by Richard Martin. The plan of the building on the Tithe map of 1840, and the map of 1854, differs from the current shape as shown on the 1886 map. It looks from the maps that the main part of the building was extended at the back, the building joined to No 25 [now 38] and a portico put on the front, but as building regulations were not required until after this time no record remains.



1840 Section of Tithe map showing plot 255



1886 Map section [at letter 'd']

Click on either image for an enlarged view

The **1871 census** recorded James Grove, aged 73, his wife Sarah, also aged 73, and their daughter Sarah, 43, with a servant Emma Hemmings, aged 32.

Up

James Grove died in December **1871** and his daughter Sarah inherited the property. The **1881 census** shows her, now aged 53, as the head of the household, with two servants: Emma Hemmings, 40, and Jane Hemmings, 21.

In **1885** Sarah Grove sold the property to **Mr Benjamin Kitt**, of Twerton and moved to No 5 Sydney Buildings.



1872 Inland Revenue document submitted by Sarah Grove

Click on the image for an enlarged view

Six years later the **1891 census** lists Benjamin Kitt, a civil engineer aged 53, with his sister Ellen Kitt, aged 43 and living on her own means, with two servants: Mary Hine, a cook aged 26, and Fanny Southfield, a housemaid aged 21.

By **1895** Benjamin Kitt had acquired the house next door, No 27 [to become No 40 after 1902] presumably for his sister to live in as no other names were listed in the Post Office Directories. In **1909** Benjamin Kitt died leaving the two houses to his sister. He is buried in Smallcombe Cemetery, as is his sister although she had moved away from Bath at the time of her death in 1913.

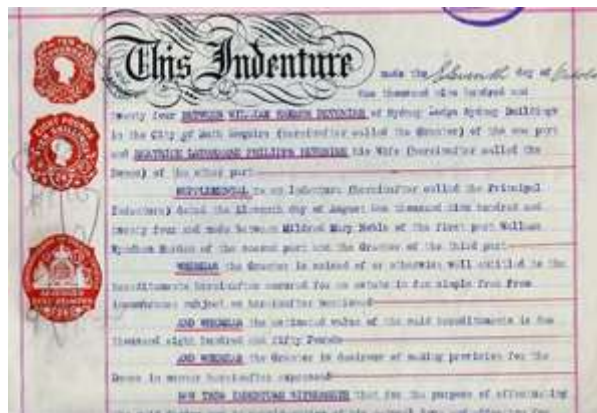
Some time during the Kitts' ownership a 4 storey single room block was added to the back of the house, to accommodate bathrooms.

Mr John Elliot Mills of Combe Down purchased No 39 in **1910** for £517 and then sold it two years later, in **1912** , to **Mrs Martha Tucker**, a widow, of Raby Villa, Bathwick, for £700.

Mrs Martha Tucker lived at No 39 until **1922** when she moved to No 51, where William Tucker [possibly her son] had been living since 1903. No 39 was sold in the January of **1923** to **Mr Frederick James Wills**, of No 40 Sydney Buildings, for £1,300. No 39 and 40 had the same owner again, but only briefly as 6 weeks later Frederick Wills sold the property for £1,475 to **Mr Wallace Wyndham Harden** of 4 Darlington Place.

Up

Wallace Harden is listed in the **1924** Post Office Directory as living at No 39 but in August of that same year he had sold it to **Mr William Hammon Devenish** of Widcombe Hill House, Bath for £1,850. William Devenish then makes over the property to be jointly owned with his wife, Beatrice Laugharne Philipps Devenish, who was 14 years younger than her husband.



1924 Indenture

Click on the image for an enlarged view

William Devenish remained in residence until **1927** when it was rented out, and from 1934 through to the early 1970s became apartments. The Monk family were one of many that lived in part of the house during this period. [See Julien Chilcott-Monk's reminiscences from the **People** page on this site.]



1950 Julien Chilcott-Monk in the back garden

William Hammon Devenish died in 1933, aged 71, and is buried in Smallcombe Cemetery. Beatrice Devenish died in 1946, aged 69, bequeathing the property to Captain Charles Oliver Lloyd Devenish, of 5 Herbert Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, and William Reginald Devenish of Strumpshaw Rectory Norwich, in Holy Orders, as trustees.

In **1953** the trustees sold to **Mr Edward William Green**, of Aldmore Lodge Bathford, Somerset, for £1,500. [The value had dropped by £350 from the 1924 sale.]

Edward William Green died in 1957 and in **1964** the trustees sold to **Mr William Harry Allen**, of No 46 Sydney Buildings, for £5,250. [He was then living at No 45 so possibly owned both No 45 and No 46.] William Allen had also acquired the small plot of land opposite No 47 so in **1972** when he sold No 39 to **Dr Gordon Hudson Mungeam and Mrs Elizabeth Ann Mungeam**, this plot was included. The house was once again owner-occupied.

The Mungeams sold the house to the present owners in **1980**.



2008 Julien Chilcott-Monk in the back garden, 58 years later

Extracts from the deeds. Photographs with permission from Julien Chilcott-Monk.

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