

MILTON COURT MILL *Westcott*

Pippbrook TQ 150492 - At the end of the access road to Milton Court.

The last watermill to stand on this site was pulled down in about 1947 and was, by all accounts, a large and interesting building, of a design far removed from the more standard layouts commonly found throughout the county.

The mill was built entirely of wood, which in itself is unusual and, although it is first shown on John Senex's map of 1729, there are strong indications that this is an ancient mill site. It is situated within the grounds of the Jacobean manor house, Milton Court, a listed building that dates back to 1611. This house was built by Richard Evelyn and is said to have replaced an earlier building, and the estate would have included a watermill. The mill took its name from the house; it is recorded as Milton Court Mill on most documents.

The mill demolished after the last war only dated from about 1860, and replaced a smaller wooden one which had a clasp arm overshot waterwheel. The new mill had an unusually decorative tiled roof, with three gables, together with other distinctive and unusual woodwork. The fact that it was entirely constructed of wood probably led to its demise through disrepair, and unfortunately, little is known about the drive machinery apart from the fact that it contained three pairs of stones. Photographs show that the externally mounted overshot waterwheel was quite large.

Thomas Wells was the recorded occupier and the mill remained in the same family, with John, and finally Alfred, who was made bankrupt in 1879. The estate was then in the ownership of L.M. Rate and the mill continued working until 31 March 1900, under the control of Mr Black, the last working miller. It lay derelict until it was dismantled for its timber. Like Hedgecourt Mill near Felbridge, Milton Court Mill was an important watermill in terms of industrial rural architecture, and a sad loss.

The mill site is easily located, as the mill cottage still remains. On the opposite side of the road embankment lies the millpond, now inevitably choked with weeds: Milton Court Mill has become another of the 'lost' watermills of Surrey.



Milton Mill Barn



Milton Mill



Milton Mill House