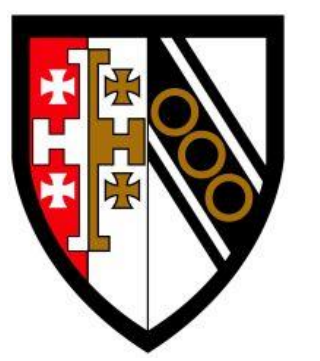


SELWYN COLLEGE: CRIPPS COURT (1)



The site before Cripps Court

The site now occupied by Cripps Court was originally farmland owned by Jesus College. Early photographs in the Selwyn College Archives show the open land with Selwyn behind and there is one photograph emphasising the rural origins with haystacks. No. 43 Grange Road was probably built on this site in late 1894 and had its own stable block. It was usually referred to as Saxon Barns. The one acre plot of land with a house was leased by Jesus College in December 1894 to Joshua Taylor, owner of the department store in Cambridge, before it was later purchased by Selwyn College in 1963.

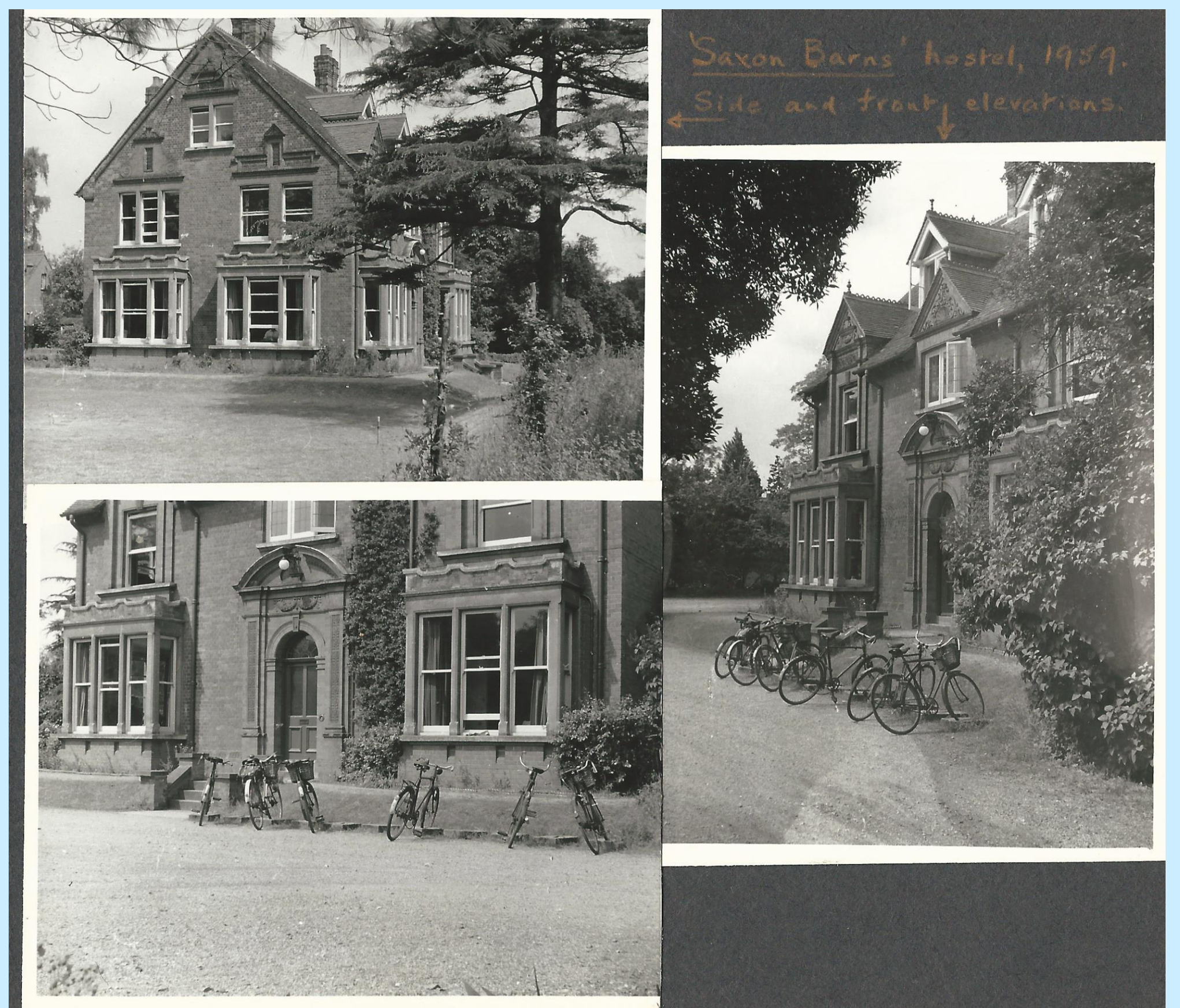
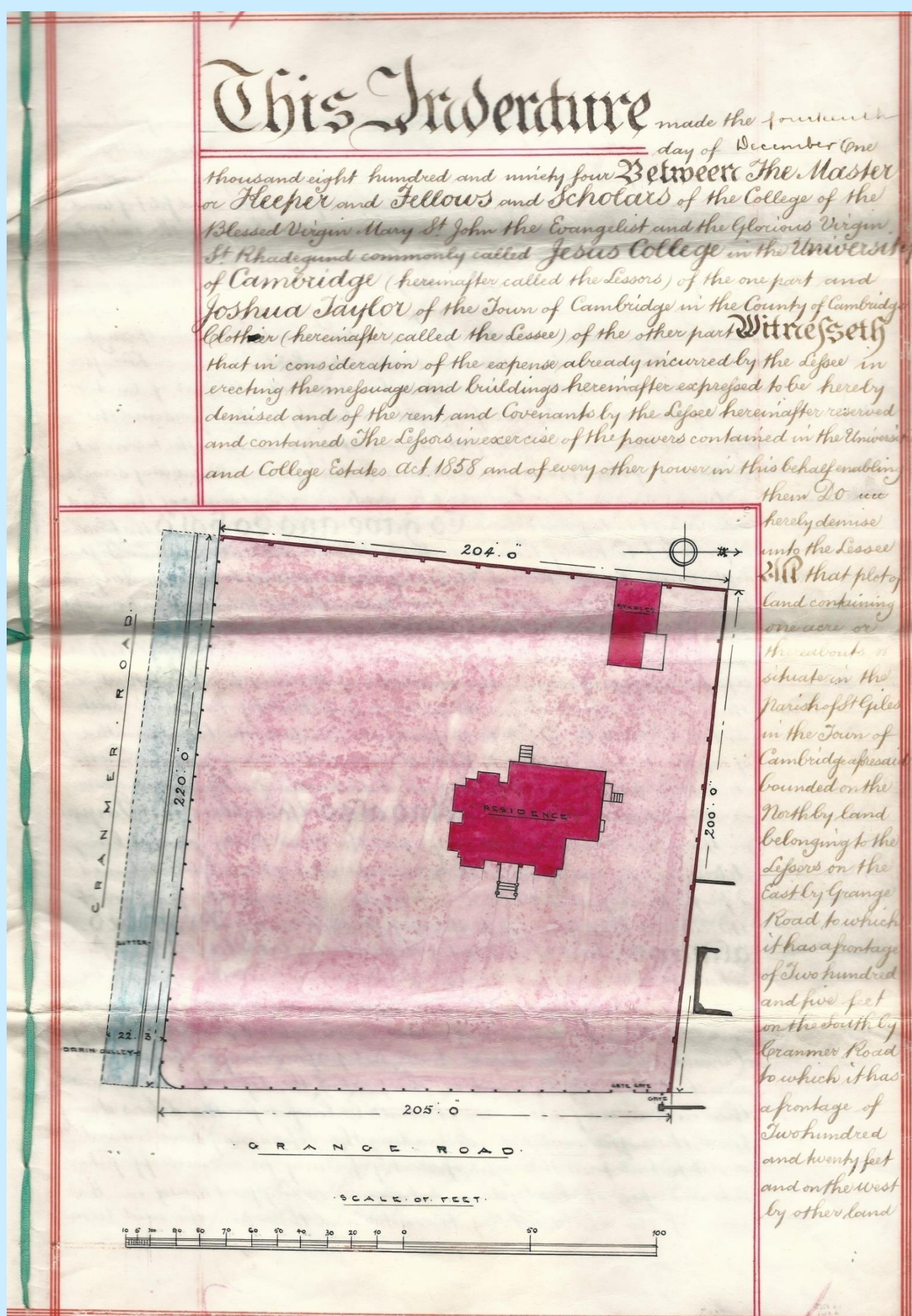


Photograph of haystacks in front of Selwyn, 1887 in Griffiths Collection
The roof of the temporary building can just be seen between the two main Ranges



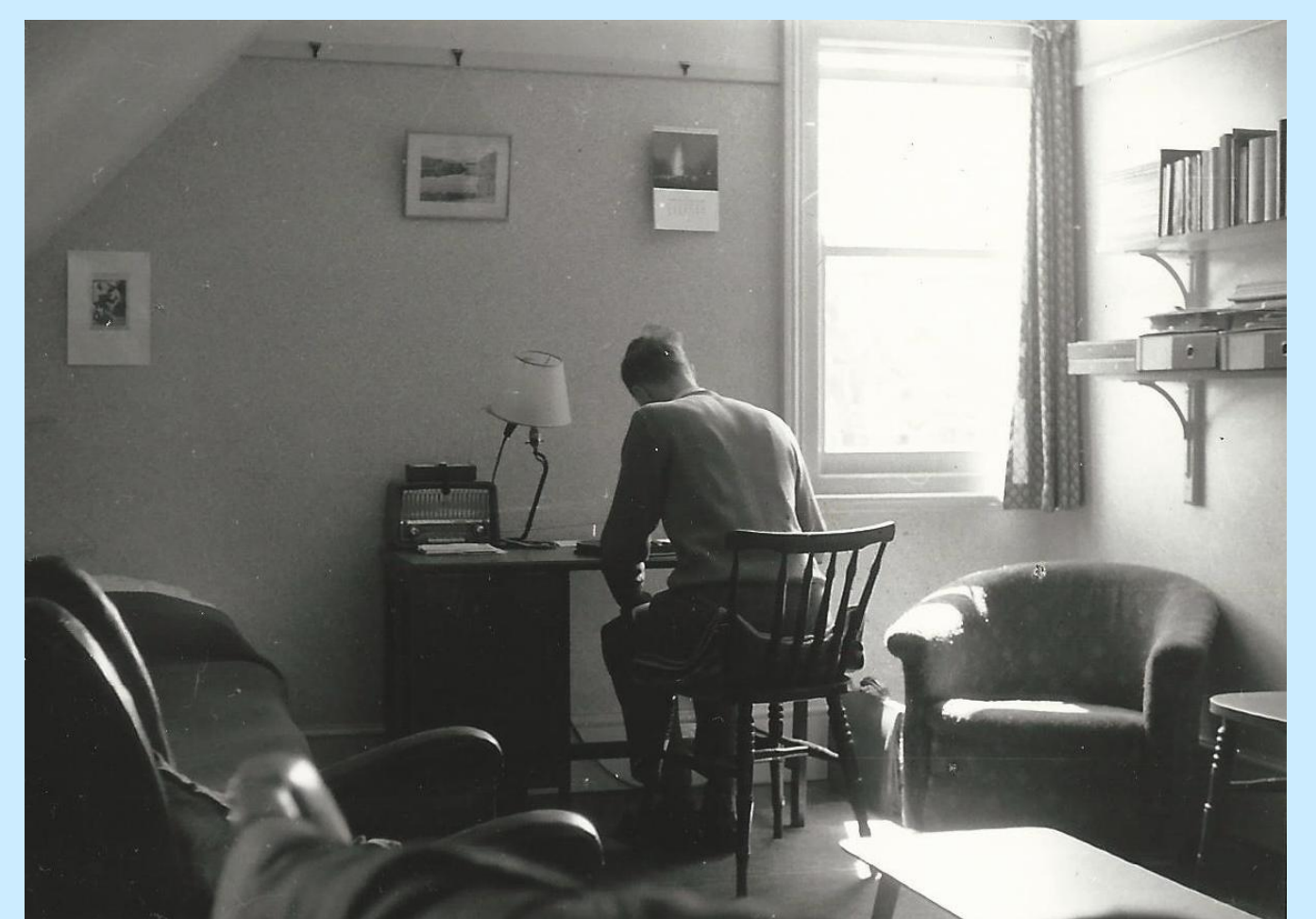
Photograph of Selwyn in Brack album, 1894. Perhaps just before the lease of land from Jesus College to Joshua Taylor. The scaffolding for the Chapel may be seen in the distance.

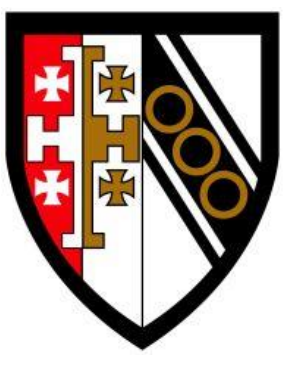
An increase in numbers of students following the Second World War led to plans for buildings in the College gardens in prefabricated huts. Perhaps memories of the "temporary building" which had survived for fifty years discouraged this idea and instead students were lodged in Saxon Barns on the corner of Cranmer Road and Grange Road. Hostels were also purchased by the College on West Road for accommodation.



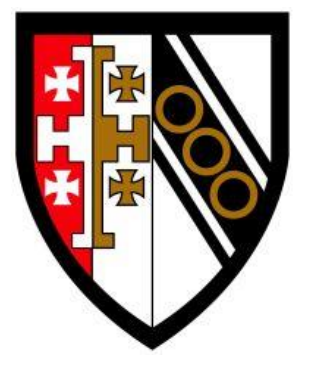
Photographs from the John Hughes Album showing Saxon Barns including the room occupied by John Hughes in 1959

John Hughes (SE 1956) spent his final year living in Saxon Barns and has fond memories of his time there, especially the regular "Sunday Lunch Club" to which Owen Chadwick was invited on one occasion. John kindly donated his photo album to the College Archives during the appeal for items for the 125th Anniversary. Together with images of the main College buildings it also contains some views of his room in the attic and the front of the house.



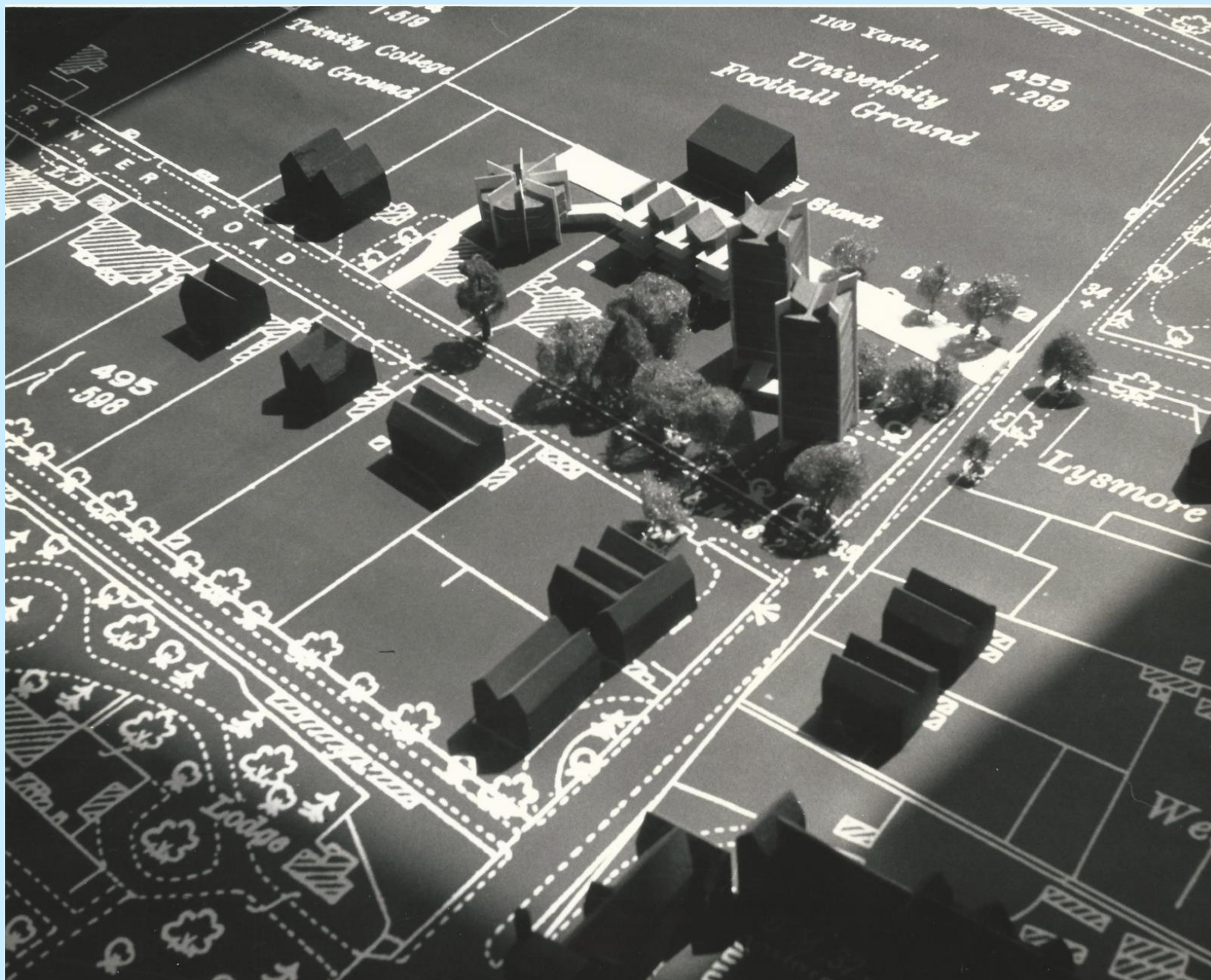


SELWYN COLLEGE: CRIPPS COURT(2)



Designs for Cripps Court

The problem of a shortage of accommodation became more acute in the 1960s. The increase in the size of the College meant the need for more and more accommodation. After initial plans for building in the College gardens were rejected, attention shifted across the road to the corner of Cranmer Road where Jesus College had agreed to sell the freehold of the site on condition that new College buildings for Selwyn went up within five years.



Photograph of first design for Cripps

Stirrat Johnson-Marshall, whose design of 1964 for the new Senior and Junior Combination Rooms had met with general approval, was commissioned to provide a development plan. His design for the new court consisted of two thin nine-storey towers, linked by covered ways to a longer, lower residential block, and an octagonal breakfast room. Local opposition and rejection by the City Planning Committee led to a revision to towers of only four storeys.

Photograph of design 2



By now the Cripps benefaction was on the scene and it came with a preferred Architect, Gordon Woollatt of the Nottingham firm Cartwright, Woollatt & Partners. His first design comprising three identical buildings with pitched roofs and a star-shaped breakfast pavilion had to be revised in line with the City Planning Department. The resulting building of 1968 was less symmetrical, flat-roofed and with more surface detailing.

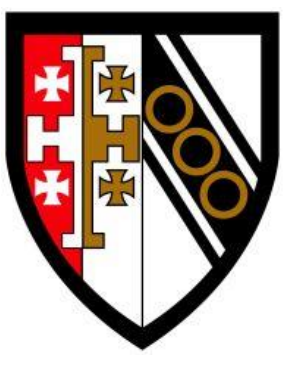


Photograph of final design for Cripps Court.

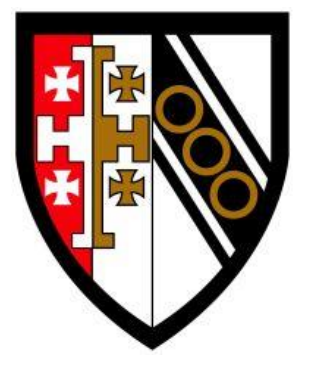


Photographs of Cripps under construction and site visits by Gordon Woollatt, the Architect





SELWYN COLLEGE: CRIPPS COURT(3)



The Opening of Cripps Court 1969

The Opening ceremony for Cripps Court was held on 17th May 1969 with members of the Cripps family present. The new building had 170 rooms and a multi purpose room, the Diamond, was completed by Easter 1969. The new Court demonstrated the value of having all junior members close to main site of College.



Photograph of the Diamond

Official photographs of the Opening Ceremony at Cripps Courts, 17th May 1969



Sir Cyril Cripps and Owen Chadwick (Master) after the unveiling of the plaque in the cloisters at the opening ceremony



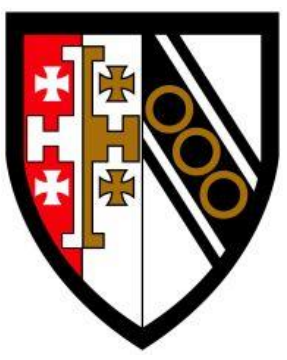
Opening ceremony. From left to right: Douglas Bell, John Durrant (recently retired as Senior Tutor & Vice Master), Sir Cyril Cripps, Owen Chadwick (Master), Sir Humphrey Cripps and Gordon Woollatt (Architect).

The setting of the new Court in the large lawns giving vistas open to the public and the retention of some mature trees provided a very attractive setting.

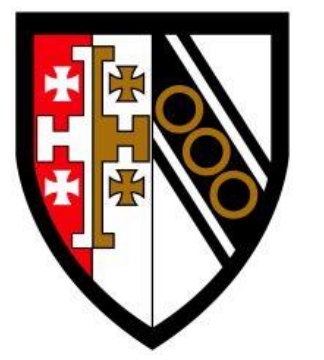
Photograph of lawn with daffodils from Cranmer Road

By the early 1980s, it was obvious that remedial work was necessary for the building with various problems including leaking flat roofs and a faulty roof of the Diamond. An appeal was made for funds as part of the Centenary Appeal in 1983 and the College was again grateful to the Cripps Foundation for their generosity.





SELWYN COLLEGE: CRIPPS COURT(4)



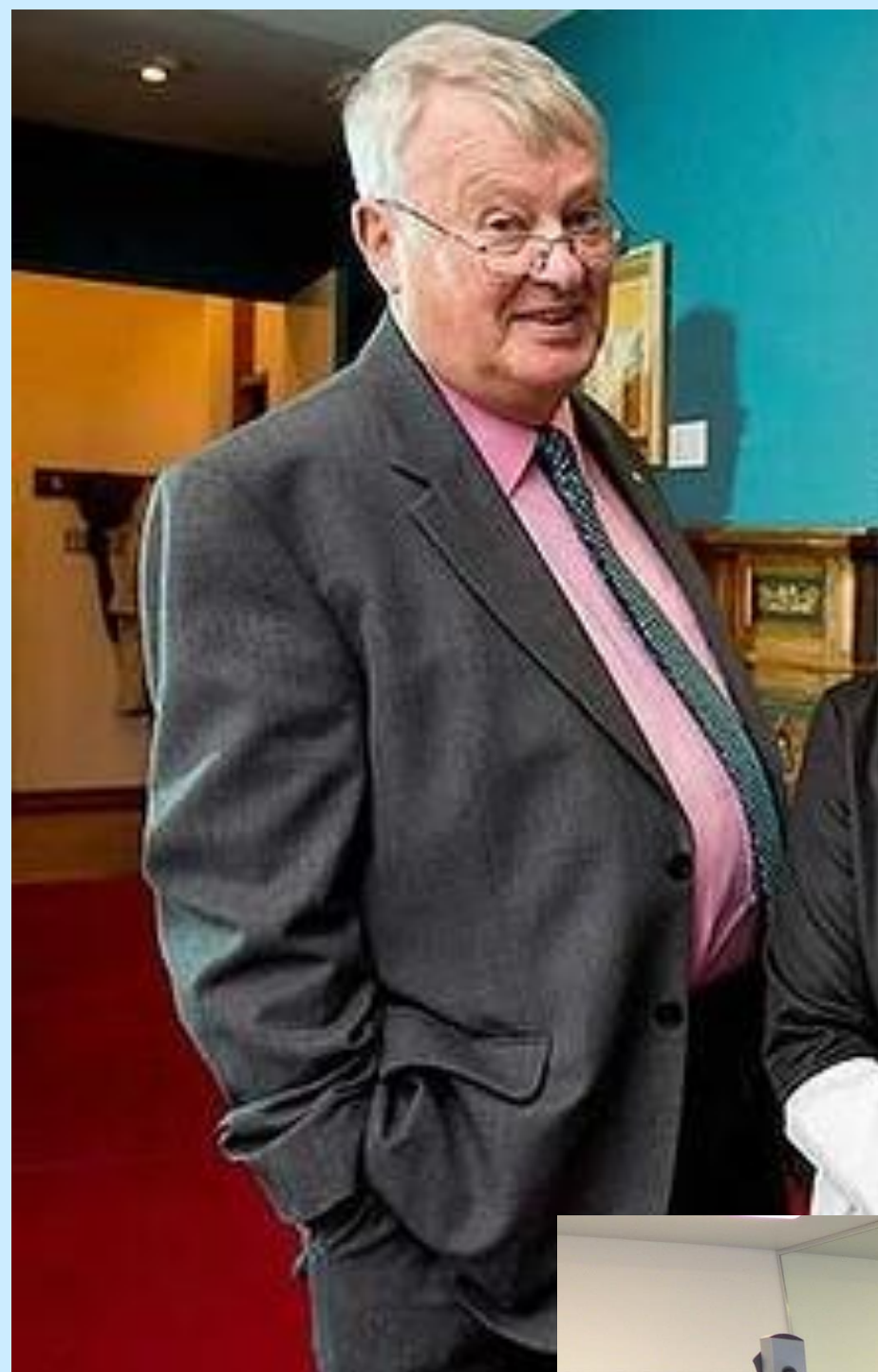
Cripps Court 2014

A further increase in numbers of students and the need for more accommodation led to two years of extensive refurbishment and expansion work on Cripps Court. It was fully operational at the start of September 2014. The new building cost £13 million and the College is grateful for the help from the Cripps Foundation. Cripps now has 203 rooms, including 54 new rooms on the newly-created fourth storey, substantially all of which have en-suite facilities. The building will house all first year undergraduates and some postgraduates. The work also included major refurbishment of the MCR and the Diamond Room, as well as a new College gym.

The Diamond has been refurbished for use as a primary Conference venue with WIFI.



Before...



Robert Cripps, son of Sir Humphrey Cripps, has continued the family's tradition of being major benefactors to Selwyn College through the Cripps Foundation.



...and after as a newly refurbished conference room



View of the new Gym at Cripps

Photograph of new room at Cripps



Contacting the Archives

If you have any queries about the College Archives or have any photographs of the College and Cripps Court, dinners and other events held there, the Archivist would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Elizabeth Stratton on 01223 762014 or email her at archives@sel.cam.ac.uk

