

Devon County Sites and Monuments Register

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| Parish Ringmore (Near Kingsbridge) | National Grid Reference SX 6523 4595 | Number (leave blank) | |
| Subject Barnford | Measurements (Sketch with scale overleaf if possible) 49ft.10 X 28ft.4 | | |
| Description , history, field notes and other information. (Please fill in a separate sheet for each separate item) Detached cottage - Listed Grade 2. At one time divided into two cottages, but probably built as one. The loft runs the whole length, with no dividing wall and there is no evidence of any but thin, and therefore later, dividing walls in the ground and first floor. The external walls are mainly of stone with some cob, rendered and painted cream, and the roof is thatched. There are three large stone chimney stacks, of which two project beyond the walls and one is within the wall. The front of the cottage faces north and it had two front doors (for the two former cottages). One of these doors is now a window. The other, which had a thatched hood (now slated), leads into a single storey extension, with a slate roof, now used as a Dining Room. This room has a casement window, facing west. Alongside the former second front door, in the north wall, is an old blocked-up window. A large stone chimney stack projects from the north wall of the cottage and, between this and the single-storey extension, a bulge 13ft8ins long projects 3ft6ins from the line of the wall. It is possible that the slate-roofed extension was added when a smithy was attached to the house and that the bulge in the wall contained the blacksmith's hearth. In the east wall of the cottage are a blocked-up door, a modern door and a casement window. Built against this wall, at its southern end, is a curved stone projection, two feet high and six feet in diameter, which may have had some connection with the work of the blacksmith. There are two upstairs windows in the east wall. The south wall of the cottage has three windows (one formerly a door) and a french door on the ground floor and five windows upstairs. Some of these windows appear to be modern. A large stone chimney stack projects fifteen inches from the wall and adjacent to this is a stone block. The west end of the house has a modern lean-to bathroom extension. Please continue overleaf if necessary | | Reference for each piece of information | Date of each entry 1984 |
| Owner/ Tenant Name and address Sir Douglas and Lady Hall Barnford Ringmore | | Recorder Name and address Mrs Bennett Hill Cottage Ringmore (Notes by Miss Mary Petter of Wheel Row, Kingston, Devon are attached) | |

The original house appears to have had a through passage running north to south, with doors at either end. (One door became the front door of the second cottage and is now a window. The other, leading to the garden, has been converted to a window in the Sitting Room.) On the west of this passage, of which only part remains, is a bedroom. (11'4" E/W X 15'6" N/S) This room, which is seven feet high, was probably built as a parlour, in the original cross-passage house. The jambs of the door, leading from it to the passage, are moulded and there is an elegant moulded fireplace (now blocked up). There is a window in the south wall and there appears to have been a wide window in the west wall. There is now a door in this wall, leading to a bathroom in the modern lean-to extension.

On the other side of the passage, a door with moulded jambs leads to the Sitting Room (27'9" E/W X 12'5" N/S X 6'11" high). This room was probably the Hall of the original house. It now has three windows and a french door in the south wall and a modern fireplace. In the north wall is a door leading to the Dining Room (8'2" E/W X 13'4" N/S), which occupies the single-storey northern extension of the house. There is a window in the west wall of the Dining Room, alongside the front door of the house.

From the Dining Room, an archway leads to the Kitchen (15' E/W X 10'6" N/S). This has a beamed ceiling of wide wooden planks. There is a window and a modern door in the west wall. The Kitchen extends to the south into a Back-Kitchen (12'4" N/S X 6'6" E/W). This has a window at the southern end and a blocked-up door in the east wall. The floor is at a higher level than that of the kitchen.

A staircase formerly led straight out of the Sitting Room, against the south wall. This has been replaced by a modern staircase, leading from the Sitting Room and over the Back-Kitchen to a Landing, which was formerly a bedroom with windows in the south and east walls and a stone shelf along the north wall.

Above the Kitchen is a Bathroom (13'7" E/W X 8'4" N/S). The doorway to this room (formerly a bedroom) is only 5'6" high and the ceiling has a moulded cornice.

Steps down from the Landing lead to a Corridor, which was inserted fairly recently against the north wall, in order to avoid bedrooms leading out of each other. To the south of this Corridor are two Bedrooms, with windows in their south walls. The more westerly of these was at one time part of the second cottage.

The Corridor leads to a cross passage, above the old ground floor passage. The staircase of the second cottage opened into this passage. It may have been added when the cottage was divided.

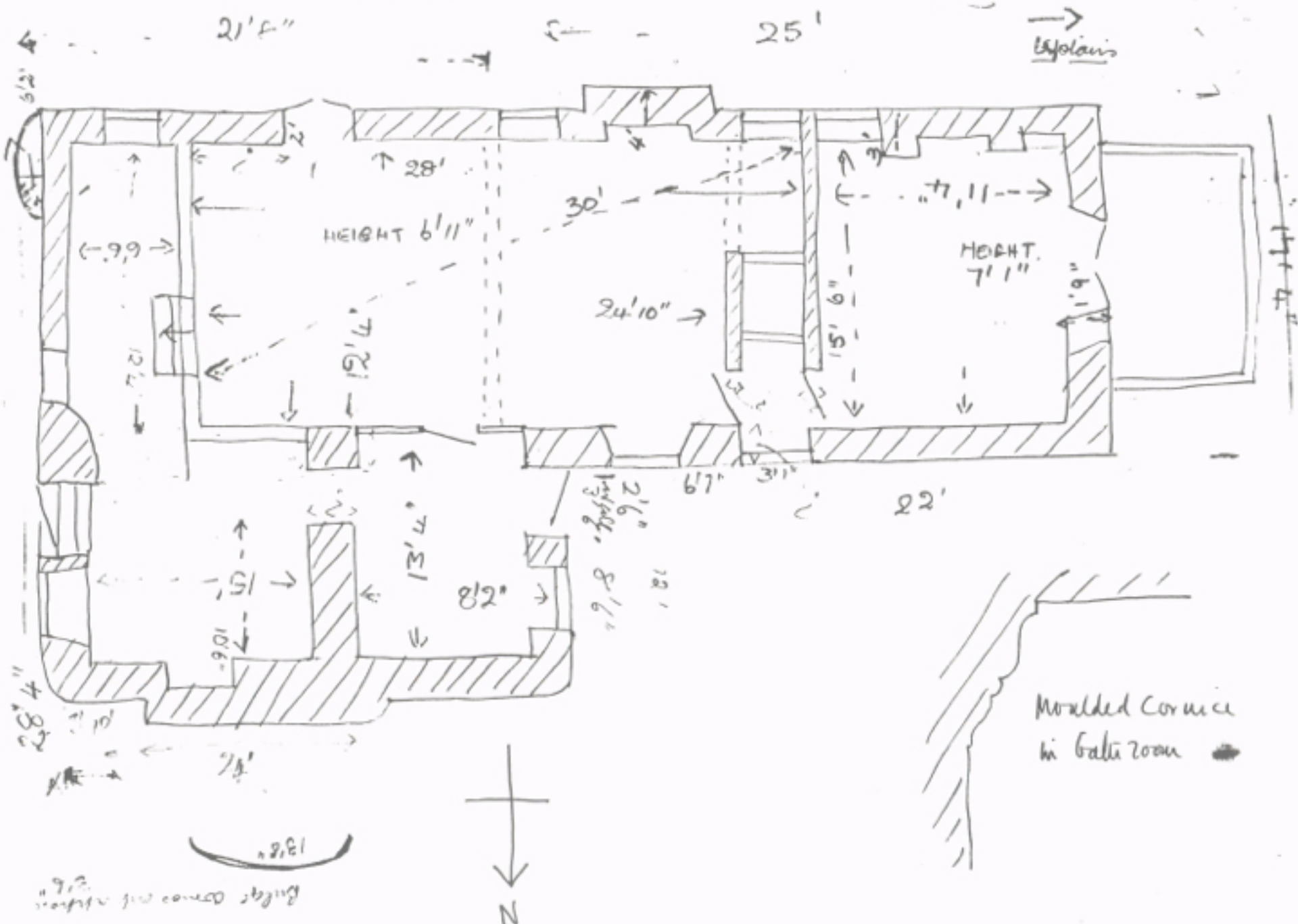
A door in the west wall of the passage opens into a Bedroom (10'6" E/W X 13' N/S) above the original parlour.

In the garden, to the south of the house, is a row of old stone buildings with modern roofs. One contains a fireplace and they may have been small cottages.

The very fine roof timbers are believed to be teak. It is thought that they may have come from an Armada wreck and that the house may date from the sixteenth century.

BARNFORD RINGMORE

Whole length 49' 10" →



Moulded Cornice
in Gable room



Bulge cornice in gable

13' 8"

BARNFORD KINGMORE

The house was at one time two cottages but it was probably built as one. The roof runs the whole length with no dividing wall and there is no evidence of any but thin, and therefore later, dividing walls in the interior.

There was a through passage with doors at either end, a typical 17th-century type of entrance. On the west of the passage there is a small parlour with an elegant moulded fireplace and there seems to have been a wide window in the west wall. The door jams into this room and into the sitting room from the passage are moulded. The sitting room was originally the hall. It had a large hearth and probably occupied the rest of the house, with no wall between it and the kitchen. A door in the east wall is blocked up. The venthouse dining room might have been added when there was a smithy attached to the house, but where was the hearth? Later the archway would have been cut into the kitchen and the opening into the sitting room.

Some of the windows on the south wall seem to be modern and an old window in the north wall has been blocked. There was a staircase leading straight out of the hall against the south wall. Another staircase in the passage would have been added when the house was divided. The mark of the dividing wall can be seen in the passage upstairs and it is marked by the beam downstairs. Marks on the ceiling and wall also show how the passage wall went right across the room.

Upstairs until recently there was no passage. There is one original moulded door between the dressing room and the west bedroom, and there is a moulded cornice in the bathroom. That traces of original decoration can be seen at both ends of the house is additional proof that it was once a single, quite important house. Might it have been the original house belonging to the farmstead opposite, replaced later by the present farmhouse?

The plan is similar to that of Portlemouth Barton, Malborough, a 17th-century listed farmhouse. It has a passage entrance with a parlour on one side and the hall on the other. The stairs still go up at the side of the hall