



East Worlington Parish Hall

ORIGINS

The earliest records known as Glebe Terriers provide evidence of the date range that the barn was constructed. The document of 1679 indicates a barn built with mud walls and therefore indicates the barn was built before that date.

GLEBE TERRIER 1679

Dairy with a chamber over it, malt house with a chamber over it, a drift (?) for drying of malt, a barn built with mud walls, a shiping (shippon) and stable.

GLEBE TERRIER 1727

The outhouses are a barn consisting of five bays, a sheeping (shippon) of three bays and a stable of two bays all having mud walls and thatch covering...

There has been much speculation by local people, historian and archaeologist as to whether the building was built and used as a tithe barn or as a threshing barn. No conclusive evidence has been discovered to confirm it was one or the other, however it is possible to speculate that like many such barns in small rural communities in Devon it had both uses.

THRESHING OR TYTHE BARN

A TITHE BARN was a type of barn for storing rents and tithes — one tenth of a farm's produce which was given to the Church. Tithe barns were usually associated with the village church or rectory and independent farmers took their tithes there.

A THRESHING BARN can be recognised by its great doors - two opposite each other large enough for a fully-laden wagon to pass through. In between the doors lies the threshing floor, taking advantage of the through draft.

USE AS A COMMUNITY FACILITY FOR MEETINGS AND OTHER COMMUNITY PURPOSES EARLY 20TH CENTURY

East Worlington Kalendar of Quotidian Quotations published by Rev. H. A. Hill in 1910 describes the barn in a similar way to the earlier documents thereby confirming it is the same building. By 1910 the building was being used as Parish Rooms, which indicates an earlier date for use for the purpose. During this period the building was still owned by the church.



BUILDING USED AS A DEVON DAIRY SCHOOL

Around the 20th Century and well into the Edwardian period Devon supported a travelling Dairy School to provide education, mainly for girls, in the skills associated with producing dairy products. Devon Dairy school visited East Worlington and while it is impossible to confirm an exact date, the photographic evidence supports its presence in the Parish Hall.



Part of our heritage