

# Occold Village Appraisal

Feb 1976

Peter Codling, Architect  
courtesy of



**The site is on the north side of the main road entering the village of Occold from Eye and any development on this site would form an introduction to the village**



**It is an open site surrounded with what has once been good mature trees. These are now largely dead or dying though some still exist on the east boundary and along the main road boundary. These include beeches, elms and scotts pine**



**Looking back out of Occold towards Eye, the site lies on ones right and the only building to the south is the old blacksmiths forge now turned into a garage with its resulting untidy surrounding area**



**The panoramic view of the site shows it to be relatively flat and with good clear views out to the south and to the north. To the west it is flanked by the cedars and to the east by the start of the village.**

**View out of site to the west**



**View out of site to the north**



**Immediately adjacent to the site and opposite the garage are two recently done up cottages of a very pleasant scale. Both have used dormer windows and there is an interesting stepped chimney corbel**



**Continuing into the village, there is a nicely proportioned Georgian type house on the north side of the road making interesting use of two coloured brickwork to accentuate the corners and colour washing of lintels and sills and a nice porch with decorated barge boards also picked out in pink and white.**



**The church forms the focus at this end of the village and is in a reasonable state of repair also acting as a pivot for the entrance to Church Farm and small cottage development on this piece of dead end road**



**Occold does not lack the picturesque and again colour wash combined with thatch for the dominant elements on this tiny cottage**



**One's introduction to the heart of the village is a small brick Victorian reading room in a sad state of dilapidation and largely overgrown**



**It has some lovely details including a strong double brick each with accentuated keys, pot bellied chimney pots and a stepped corbel on the chimney. The ridge tiles and finials are also extremely interesting**



**Opposite the reading room, on the south side of the road, white colour washing with details picked up in black to give a crisp appearance to an otherwise quite ordinary house. The black painted barge boards, gutters, down-pipes and the black tarred plinth and black glazed tile roof add to this effect**



**Colour washing is often used in combination with exposed brickwork and here the heavy black plinth continues the line of the hedge across the house. Note also the gable end chimney stack on the house at the rear of the photograph**



**Looking back down the village street towards the reading room, the staggered building line and the end on gables give an interesting and compact effect. The pollarded trees in front of the village shop will increase this variety to an even greater extent in the Summer than they do at present**



**Opposite the village shop there is a cul-de-sac terminated by a white washed building protected from the road by a brick garage outhouse**



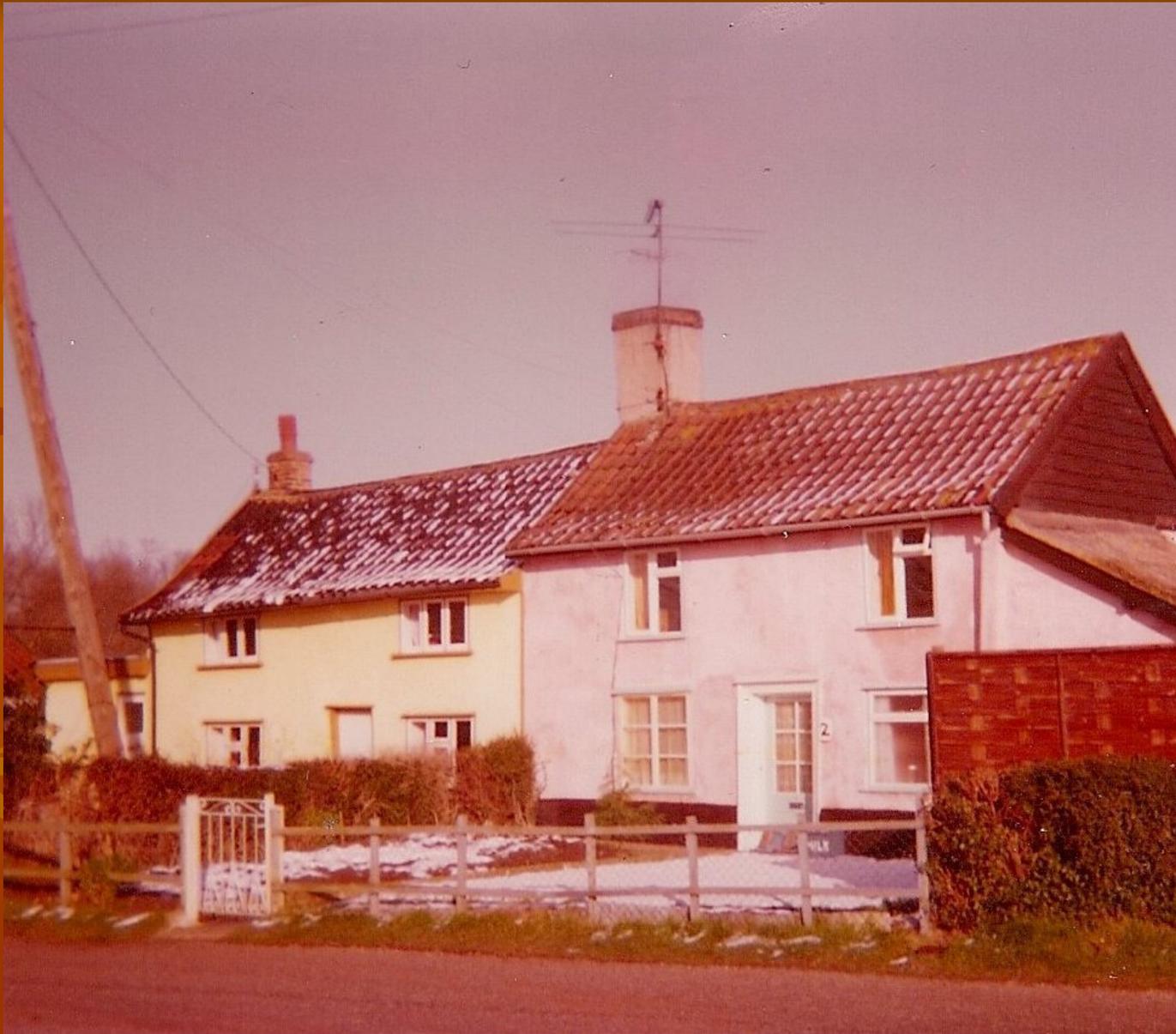
**Continuing down the village street on the north side. The twin gables of the Baptist chapel provides a variety of local detailing - recessed panels, brick arches of the windows and white painted barge boards with a wavy cut pattern. The porches with their black and white paint and white barge boards and finials complete the effect**



**The gable end chimney stack and combination of exposed brickwork and colour washing create added interest. Here the black tarred plinth has been topped by a white frieze extending half way up the windows on the ground floor**



**Another cul-de-sac terminates in a modern building of nice scale.  
Here the road is lined with out-buildings clad with the traditional horizontal  
timber panelling painted black**



**A pair of small colour washed cottages which derive their interest from the variety in colour use and the different colours of glazed tiles on the roof. Note also the horizontal timber cladding on the eaves and the brown barge boards**



**Two similar cottages have recently been renovated in the Georgian style**



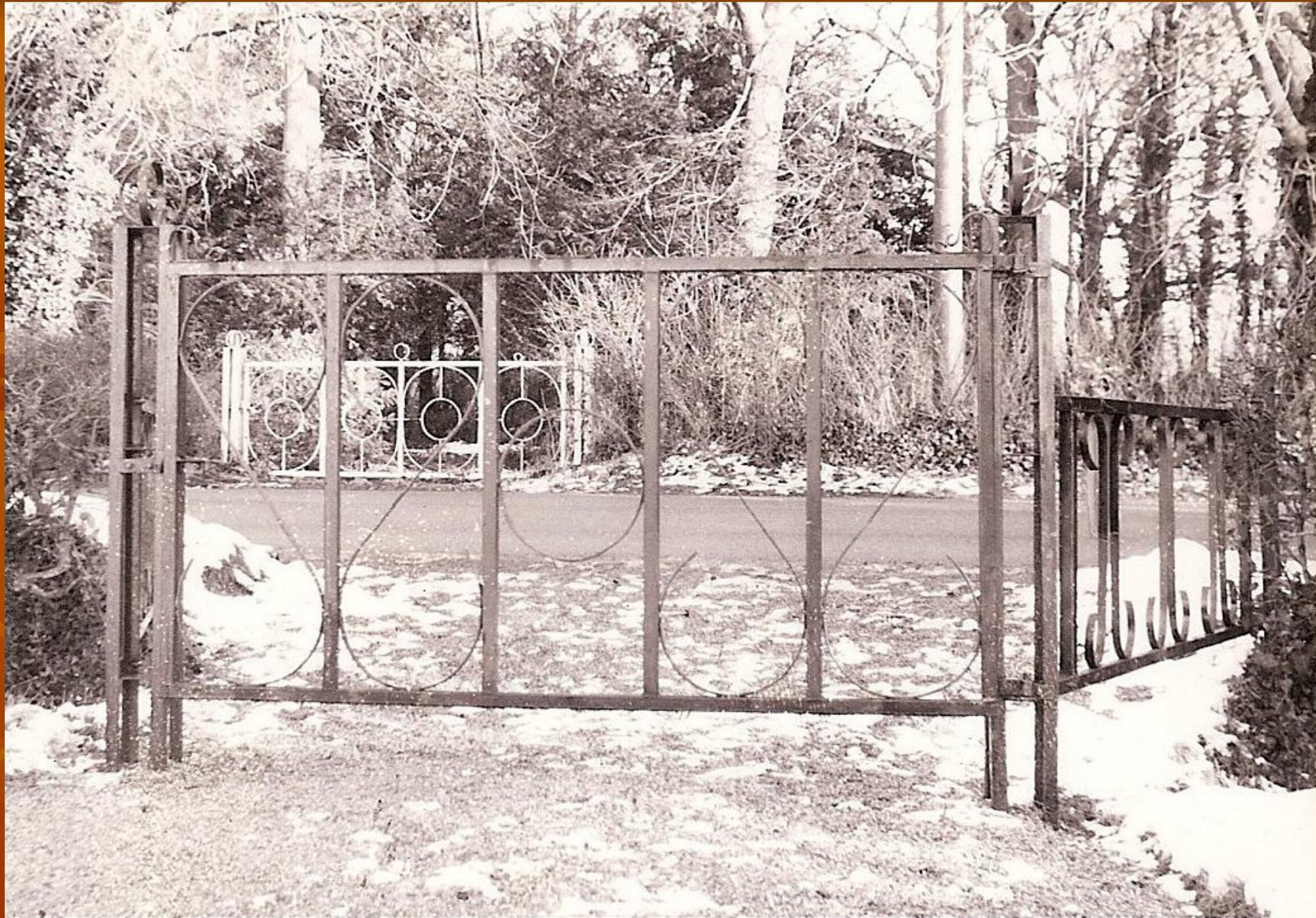
**Conventional modern housing at the east end of the village which had picked up the use of colour washing and exposed brickwork and the white painted barge boards. But in our view this does not go far enough**



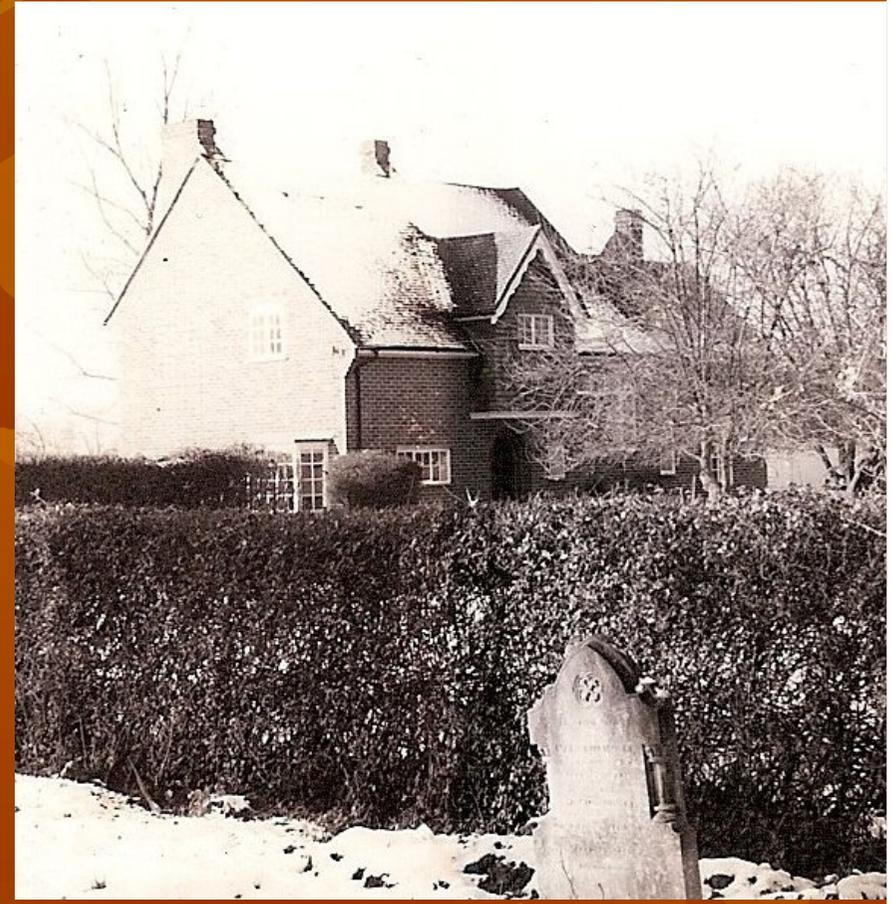
**An opportunity missed. This is a charming vernacular building but with a total lack of sympathetic site treatment**



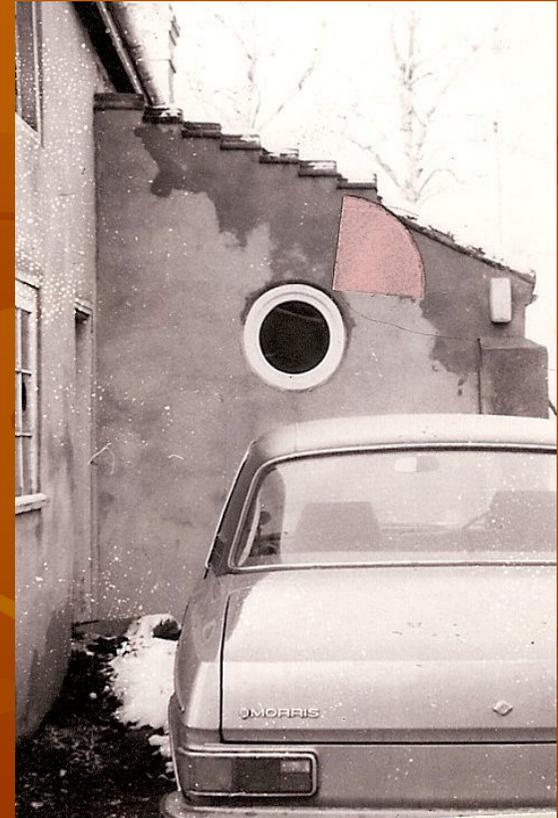
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**A variety of ridge and eaves detail both old and new**



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**Thank you  
for watching**