

THE WHEELWRIGHT'S AND BLACKSMITH'S SHOP

The Wheelwright's and Blacksmith's shop stood on this site for many years.

James Reynolds, whose sign designating himself as wheelwright and shoeing smith can be seen on the side wall of Number 1 to the left, had established himself as a wheelwright by 1890. In 1898 or 1899 Francis Warry, who came from a line of blacksmiths extending back over 200 years, came from Somerset to West Dean to live at Number 16 and to be blacksmith here. This he continued to be until shortly before his death in 1935.



SIGN ON SIDE
OF NO 1

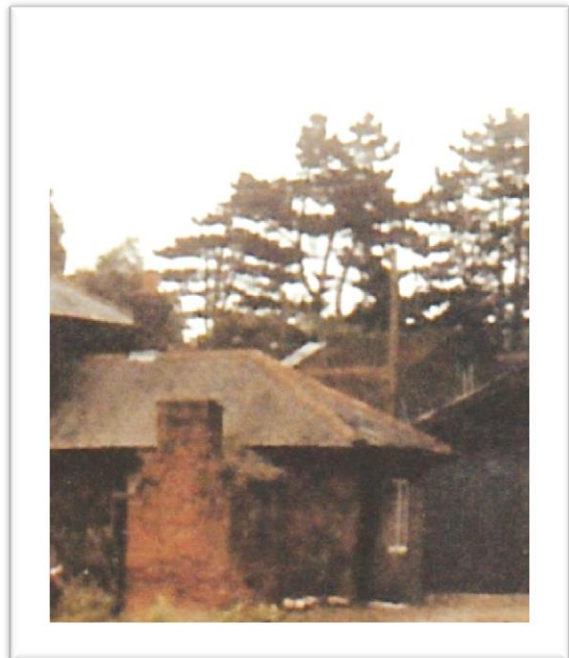
In addition to shoeing horses and bonding wheels for wagons, iron implements were fashioned as required by customers. By 1920 James Reynolds had been joined in the business by his two sons and the business had expanded to take in motor engineering and many other activities, details of which are shown on the board at what was the entrance to the garage and petrol station.



THE BLACKSMITH'S FORGE WITH THE
WHEELWRIGHT'S SHOP BEHIND IT C 1962

Demand for blacksmith and wheelwright services declined with the replacement of horses and carts by motorised vehicles

but the wheelwright's and blacksmith's shop and the blacksmith's forge continued to stand here until the shop, or smithy, was converted into a Post Office with shop in 1965. It is presumed that the forge was demolished at that time.



THE BLACKSMITH'S FORGE C 1964



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AND BLACKSMITH'S
SHOP EARLY 1900S