

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
FELSTED**

**CROCKERS**

**TL 677 294**

A small courtyard garden designed by Percy Cane for Edwyn B. Trow, pre 1916.

#### **HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT**

The house was once the home of Mr. Crocker, the Usher of Felsted School, and was known as Crockers House or the Ushers House, It was split into two tenements on his death in 1876. The front garden had been manorial waste until 1881 when it was added to the property. In 1914 it was bought by Mrs. Ada Moorat, apparently a wealthy Catholic widow, who married Dr. Edwyn Trow, Bursar of Felsted School, in January 1915 at the Church of our Lady of Victories, Kensington. Mrs. Trow died in 1932 leaving the property to her husband, who died in 1955. In her will, Mrs. Trow left land opposite the house to the Catholic Bishop of Brentwood, provided a church was built there in memory of her son, Ferrars Moorat. This was not done.

Sometime before April 1916, Dr. Trow commissioned Percy Cane to design the garden. Cane describes the garden as he left it: 'Walls and a projecting wing of the house enclose a small court, recessed on one side, and surrounded with borders of old-fashioned flowers. The picturesque effect already made by tiled roofs and latticed casements is increased by the addition of flag-stones. The court, formerly a worn plot of grass, adds considerably to the old-time atmosphere, and is also very much more serviceable than was the lawn'. At some stage the Trows moved to live at Barn Court.

By 1920 or earlier the house had become known as The Laurels but by 1932 it had acquired the name of The Cottage. Had the laurels gone by then? It appears that there was a succession of tenants who occupied the property or part of it.

Georgina James owned the property from 1974 until her death in 1999; the current owners purchased the house from her husband David Burgess in 2003 and reverted to the name of Crockers.

#### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

##### **LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING; ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES**

The house is on the south side of Station Road, Felsted, about 100m. from the Swan public house. It has a small front garden and the rear courtyard garden has an area of approximately 75 sq. m.

##### **PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS**

The cottage had a garage and a lean-to added since Cane's time, though the latter is attractively roofed in re-used old tiles (one of which is dated 18 May 1893).

Brick footings unearthed during recent building works corresponded to a small square out-building shown in the south-east corner of the 1921 OS map.

## REFERENCES

Cane, Percy, 1916 'Garden Design' in *My Garden Illustrated*, (April),108-109.

Webber, Ronald, 1974 *Percy Cane, Garden Designer*

Conveyance, 7 July 1914 [privately owned].

### Maps

OS 25" to 1 mile, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1921

### Images

Sketch by Percy Cane in 'Garden Design' in *My Garden Illustrated*, April 1916, 109.

Garden photos 2004 and 2006. Private collection Ailsa Wildig.

### Personal Communications

Mr. and Mrs. John Raybould.

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