

**BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**FRYERNING**

**THE HYDE**

**Grid Ref: TL 651 006**

The early eighteenth century house was demolished following a fire in 1965: the ornamental lake and many specimen trees survive.

### **HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT**

Timothy Brand purchased the Hyde in 1718 and had a new house built incorporating an earlier house to designs by Sir William Chambers, designer of Somerset House in London. Brand served the office of Sheriff of Essex in 1721 and was an acting magistrate. E.E. Wilde's 1913 book *Ingatstone and the Essex Great Road with Fryerning* shows a plan made by Mr D Sutton from the 1731 estate map drawn for Timothy Brand by William Pullen. This plan shows the some of the old roads passing close to the house some of which Thomas Hollis had diverted. The map also shows a representation of the south east prospect of the house and stables.

Timothy Brand died, aged 51, in 1734 survived by his wife, Sarah, and son, Thomas, and two daughters. Timothy's son Thomas (1719-1804) inherited the Hyde estate: he was a man with a taste for classical learning and antiquities and in 1748 embarked on a European tour with his good friend Thomas Hollis. In 1750 Thomas Brand set out alone on his second tour although he continued to keep in contact with his friend Hollis. Hollis wrote to Brand in October 1750 saying "I called at the Hyde and went over all the grounds. If I know anything of these matters you may make the environs look really handsome, and at an easy expence; but to do it completely, I take it the garden and its wall must be new-modelled". Thomas Brand did not return to England until 1753 and soon after became a member of several distinguished literary and scientific societies in London. He had brought back from his tours many antiquities and redesigned the interior of the house to display them. The grounds were also redesigned including a large lake and bridge. Thomas Hollis died in 1774 and gave all his real estates to his dear friend and fellow traveller Thomas Brand who, in recognition of this generosity, added 'Hollis' to his name. The antiquities that Brand and Hollis collected were arranged in the large hall at The Hyde and are now in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Thomas Brand Hollis dedicated time in the summer months to the laying out of the gardens, including planting trees and erecting the summer house which he called the Hermitage.

In 1771 roads which invaded the privacy of the house were diverted. Enclosed were 'A highway called Hide Lane leading from Fryerning to Little Hide Green into the Greater London Road: a lane leading out of Hide Lane to Roots Farm from Badworths Cottage in Hide Lane to north-west corner of lands called Hawkins: a highway leading from his house called The Hide into the Greater London Road'. Also in this highway diversion there was an application to make a common highway. Chapman & André's 1777 Map of Essex gives the house name and owner as 'The Hide *Thos. Brand Hollis Esq.*' and shows

the curving shape of a large lake and an entrance from Hyde Lane leading to the house. The roads previously encroaching on the privacy of the house had been diverted.

In 1786 John Adams and family visited the Hyde where they dined with Brand-Hollis and his sister. John Adams was the first United States ambassador in London and the second President of the United States. Adams writes of the grounds in his diary '...We have a pleasant view of lawns and glades, trees and clumps and a piece of water, full of fish. The borders, by the walks, in the Pleasure Grounds are full of rare shrubs and trees, to which collection America has furnished her full share ... Mr. Brand-Hollis has planted near the Walk from his door to the road, a large and beautiful Furr, in honour of the late Dr. Jebb, his friend. A tall Cypress in his pleasure grounds he calls General Washington, and another his Aid du Camp Col.' John Adams' daughter wrote 'Before the house are three other ponds, which have fish of various kinds in them, the ponds are not large, but have an agreeable affect.'

Thomas Brand-Hollis died in 1804 and left the Hyde Estate and his collections to his friend Dr. John Disney (1746-1816). In 1805 John Doyley drew up an estate map of land and properties belonging to the Hyde Estate: included in this were the details and acreage of land and properties owned by the estate in other areas of Essex. John Disney engaged John Doyley again in 1814 to draw up another estate map, this time solely of The Hyde estate in Ingatestone and Fryerning. This map, entitled '*Plan of the Hyde Estate owned by John Disney D.D. lately belonging to Thomas Brand-Hollis deceased*' gives details of all the land around the Hyde mansion. The Hyde mansion house, offices, yards and plantations covered just over two acres. This area also included the extensive walled garden showing its layout. Another two acre area was Pine grove piece with a plantation along the two road sides. There was an orchard and various areas of lawn. The shrubbery and its walks were also marked as was the large canal with railway running around it. The main entrance to the house was, as it is now to the coach house, from Little Hyde Lane: another drive was from where South lodge is today.

Dr. John Disney's heir was his son John, a barrister who also had an interest in classical antiquities. On his death in 1857 he left the collection of antiquities to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. John was succeeded by his second and remaining son, Edgar John Disney (1810-1884) who rented The Hyde to Lord Petre as Disney was residing in another of his properties, Jericho Priory, Blackmore. Following his death the estate passed to his son Colonel Edgar John Disney. The Hyde then passed to Edgar's son, Colonel Edgar Norton Disney, the final Disney to inherit in the first part of the twentieth century.

The 1893-96 25" to the mile second edition Ordnance Survey map shows the lake with a footbridge and a boat house, as well as marking the position of the summer house alongside the lake. The gardens around the house show elements of design and woodland walks are marked. By this time there were two driveways to the house and two lodges. Also shown on the map is a sundial. Mr. J.B.C. Earle who was a relative of the Disney family and a regular visitor to The Hyde recalled some of his memories of the 1930's for inclusion in S.E. Clark's *A Short History of The Hyde*. Mr. Earle recalls the view from the bedrooms 'Bedrooms to the left overlooked the park, those to the right had views toward the lake near the north end of which were four tall poplars named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – contrasting with the wooded area adjoining the rear of the house. Here, trees hid a rose-garden and the kitchen-garden with the traditional high brick wall. Under trees nearby, beside a rough pathway, stood a large black-painted shed – the ice house – ice from the lake in winter was stored for use throughout the

year. The whole Estate was entirely self-supporting, or almost. There was a farm; dairy cattle grazed in the long grass meadow to the south beyond the balustrade where the Disney Arms were set in stone.' Mr. Earle also mentioned the cedar tree on a trim lawn beyond which was 'the lake with, at the north end, a suspension bridge – the longest on a private estate in England.'

The Hyde was a military convalescent hospital during World War I. The Ingatestone Show was held in the grounds of The Hyde from its inception in 1890 until just after the second World War. The grounds of The Hyde stretched down to the current B1002 as the Ingatestone by-pass had not been built. The Disney family finally sold the Hyde to the Spencer-Phillips family who leased it out as a private boys' school in the early 1950s.

On Saturday 6 May 1965 a fire broke out and badly damaged the building and it had to be demolished. The once grand house was brought to a ruin in just a few hours. The ruins were eventually demolished leaving, for some time afterwards, just the large wooden gates and wall that surrounded it, still with the Disney crest embedded into it. The remaining coach house has today been developed as a private residence, The Hyde Coach House, and another property has been built in the grounds.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

### LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM SETTING

The site of The Hyde is off Little Hyde Lane, Fryerning with extensive uninterrupted rural views. Fryerning is a small village to the south of Chelmsford and north-west of the line of the A12 road and one mile from Ingatestone. The A12 at this point follows the valley of the River Wid. To the north the land rises up to higher ground over the Bagshot Beds, an area of poorer soil.

### ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The Hyde Coach House is close to the footprint of the old house and is approached from a wide tree lined avenue from Little Hyde Lane leading to an ornate brick wall and wrought iron gates and on to the coach house. This drive on the late nineteenth century ordnance survey map is shown as a track. The second house is approached from the original drive in Little Hyde Lane at the junction with Back Lane with North lodge at the entrance. Another drive passes South lodge and originally led to the now demolished house.

### PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The Hyde was demolished in c1965 following a fire: it was described by a relative of the Disney family, Mr. J.B.C. Earle, as having a large brick balustrade courtyard before the front door, over which stood the Disney lion crest in stone. It was also described as being of orange brick ornamented with dark blue, with white window frames and ivy on the walls. The coach house has been extended and developed into a private residence and a second house has been built in the grounds.

## REFERENCES

### Books and Articles

Clark, S E *A Short History of The Hyde*

Disney, John 1808 *Memoirs of Thomas Brand-Hollis* T.Gillet, London

Fletcher, Robert 2012 *Thomas Brand Hollis – and ‘English radical republican’ at The Hyde Ingatestone*

Nichols, Jack and Tytherleigh, Brian 2005 *Ingatestone 1913-2003* published privately

Taylor, C.James, ed. 2007 *Founding Families: Digital Editions of the Papers of the Winthrops and the Adamses* Boston Massachusetts Historical Society

Wilde, E E 1913 *Ingatestone and the Essex Great Road with Fryerning* pp 291-299 Oxford University Press

### Maps and Images

1600-1601 Map of Ingatestone showing the Hyde Estate ERO D/DP P89

1777 Chapman & André's Map of Essex Plate XVII

1805 Map of the Hyde Estate John Doyley ERO map binder 9

1806 Oil on canvas *View of the Water and Grounds at The Hyde* taken from one end of the shrubbery walk, George Cuitt

1806 Oil on canvas *South east view of The Hyde, Ingatestone* taken from the London Road, George Cuitt

1806 Oil on canvas *The Hermitage at The Hyde* – George Cuitt

1814 Estate map *The Hyde Estate* ERO D/DP P45

1893/96 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" to the mile ordnance survey map sheet LX

1923 Postcard of The Hyde lake and thatched summer house (private collection)

1933 Postcard of The Hyde and lake (private collection)

### Archival Items

1771 Highway diversion ERO Q/RHi 2/15

1818 Highway diversion ERO Q/RHi 4/2B

2009 *The Hyde and the Disneys* G.Beach in *Ingatestone and Fryerning Historical and Archaeological Society* No.47

### Websites

[www.masshist.org/ff/](http://www.masshist.org/ff/)

[www.masshist.org/digitaladams/](http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/) *Adams Family Papers: An Electronic Archive*

[www.lostheritage.org.uk](http://www.lostheritage.org.uk)

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