

Heritage Statement – January 2014

Local authority

Havant Borough Council

Site Location

Old Mill House
Mill Lane
Bedhampton
Havant

The change from grazing to arable farming, particularly the growing of corn, during the 18th century, marked a period of prosperity and expansion and two mills were rebuilt in this period. Today only the Mill House of Lower Mill remains (our property).

The Mill House has an important literary association with John Keats, the poet. Keats visited the house on a number of occasions and completed one of his best poems “The Eve of Agnes” here. It is also the place where Keats spent his last night in England before leaving for Italy and his subsequent death from consumption at the age of 25. A stone plaque built into the rear of the house commemorates these facts and states:

“In this house in 1819 John Keats finished his poem ‘The Eve of Agnes’ and here in 1820 spent his last night in England.”

The Mill House dates from the 18th Century and is constructed of brick and tile with the typical Hampshire chequerwork pattern in red and blue bricks (the Mill House has subsequently been painted).