

Notes on The Dower House

Not shown on map of 1897, shown in 1909 as 'Brackenston'.

Main House: Brackenston, listed in 'Academy Architecture' 1905.

Architects (?) (see below):

MALLOWS, C. E., & Grocock, Architects, 28 Conduit Street, w.
Brackenston, Pembury, Kent

Also listed in book: Landscapes of the Imagination

Designing the European Tradition of Garden and Landscape Architecture 1600-2000: Erik de Jong / Michel Lafaille / Christian Bertram under Frederick Landseer Griggs:

Brackenston House, Pembury 1904 - student of Mallows:

<http://www.oxforddnb.com/templates/article.jsp?articleid=97928&back=>

Mallows, Charles Edward (1864-1915), landscape architect, was born at 2 Charles Street, Chelsea, London, on 5 May 1864, the second son of Lucy Barrell (1829/30-1904) and George W. Mallows (1823/4-1892), a master shoemaker from Bedford. His parents married in 1866 and settled at Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Suffolk, in the household of Mallows's grandmother, also named Lucy Barrell, the widow of a grocer; Mallows's uncle ran the mill. Its Constable associations may have encouraged Mallows's leanings towards drawing and painting.

A student at the Bedford School of Art, Mallows was later articled to the Bedford architect Frank Mercer for three years from 1879. He gained experience working for Henry Hewitt Bridgman in the City of London for a year, then for Salaman and Wornum at 9 Old Bond Street. He attended the Royal Academy Schools. His final apprenticeship was his happiest, at the offices of William Wallace and William Flockhart from 1884 to 1886. **He then set up on his own in London, accepting an offer to travel and make measured drawings of English and French cathedrals for publication in the Century Magazine.** These drawings were added to his Academy Schools portfolio, and won him the RIBA Pugin travelling studentship in 1889.

After a breakdown caused by overwork Mallows returned to **Bedford; he opened an office there in 1895 with the architect George Grocock, and worked with him in the arts and crafts tradition** (much influenced by Richard Norman Shaw) on a variety of commissions, including cottages, schools, shops, and the restoration of churches. **In 1900 he was made a fellow of the RIBA; by 1901 Mallows was the diocesan surveyor for Ely, and had designed an opera house for Bedford** (though this was never built). **He took a student, Frederick Landseer Griggs, whose drawings for him appeared in The Studio.**

Mallows's work on gardens began with John Pyghtle White, who made well-crafted garden furniture, buildings, and ornamentation at the Pyghtle works in Bedford. Mallows was commissioned to draw for the catalogue. In 1898 White moved to Biddenham to King's Corner, a cottage designed by Mallows, who also designed the garden—his first. In this can be seen the beginnings of his delight in the formality of the seventeenth century. Through White, Mallows designed other cottages in Biddenham, including Three Gables for Henry John Peacock, a farmer; and on 19 September 1899 Mallows married Henry's daughter Sybil Lindsay (b. 1874). Later Three Gables became home for Mallows and his family.

From the turn of the century Mallows worked occasionally with the landscape architect Thomas Hayton Mawson. Mallows rented rooms adjoining Mawson's at 28 Conduit Street in London until his death in 1915. In 1901 Sir Robert Affleck of Dalham Hall in Suffolk asked for a new wing to be added and a garden to complement the house. Neither the building nor Mallows's Elizabethan garden design came to anything as Affleck lost his money almost immediately and the house was sold.

Mallows's most important commission, Tirley Court (later Tirley Garth), was slow in its completion as it went through the hands of three successive owners. The **Cheshire** family house, with its central cloister, roughcast walls, and red stone dressing, was begun for a director of Brunner Mond, chemical manufacturers, in 1906, and not finished until after 1912, when Tirley Garth was leased to P. H. Prestwich, a manager of a textile firm near Manchester. Mallows asked Mawson to join him in planning the garden and landscape around the house in 1912. Mallows planned the 'garth' as a planted courtyard

with its surrounding cloister walk, and steps down to a central pool with deep blue tessellations. The very geometrical design for the garden, based on circles and rectangles, was Mallows's. There were formal beds next to the southern front overlooking grass, trees, and shrubs. The steeply sloping eastern side had tennis lawns above a semicircular, terraced bastion. A long, axial path connected the bastion to a circular vegetable garden, ending in a magnificent wooden bothy, as large as a cottage. Mawson's planting plans were for herbaceous borders, a rhododendron bed, and the trees and shrubs of the surrounding landscape. **The Studio carried a series of articles by Mallows between 1908 and 1910** in which plans for Tirley Garth accompanied his thoughts on garden history and design.

Mallows was commissioned, in 1910, to remodel the remains of the old house at Canon's Park in Edgware for the industrialist Sir Arthur Du Cros MP, and to lay out new, grand gardens. Rectangular pools made a focus for the north and south gardens, and there was a long herbaceous border and walk in the east garden, looking out over lawns to a lake. Stone was generously used for terracing, for seats for the north walk, for a pergola, and for patterned brick paths. The house was sold to the North London Collegiate School in 1929, which built over the north garden. One of Mallows's last formal garden commissions, between 1913 and 1915, was for Craig-y-parc, Pentyrch, near Cardiff, for Thomas Evans (d. 1943), a businessman who had made money in coal and railways.

An accomplished draughtsman and designer of architectural gardens, Mallows perhaps never wanted the resounding successes of which he was capable. But before he could achieve more houses and gardens like Tirley Garth he died very suddenly, of heart failure, at Three Gables, Biddenham, on 2 June 1915.

Changed name to Strathbogie ?when:

 STRATHBOGIE, NEAR TUNBRIDGE WELLS SC00574 05 Jul 1916

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Contents:

Paper Size: 10 x 15 INS

Address/Location

Strathbogie, Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Lodge, Strathbogie, Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Stables, Strathbogie, Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Gardeners Cottage, Strathbogie, Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Monument type: House; Lodge; Stable

1921 – owned by Mr Hamilton Gordon ?bought in sale in 1916? (d.1921 at Strathbogie of heart failure):

Gordon, Hamilton (1848–1921)

There passed away from heart failure on the 5th June at Strathbogie, Pembury, Kent, England, Hamilton Gordon, part owner of Gragin, Warialda, N.S.W., and at one time of Strathbogie, Emmaville, N.S.W., second son of the late Mr. Hugh Gordon, in his seventy-fourth year.

He was educated at the Sydney Grammar School and Sydney University, and with his elder brother, Mr. G. H. Gordon, took a keen interest in sport, especially cricket. On leaving the University he resided at and

managed the property of his father, one of the pioneers of the district, and for some years member for the New England electorate.

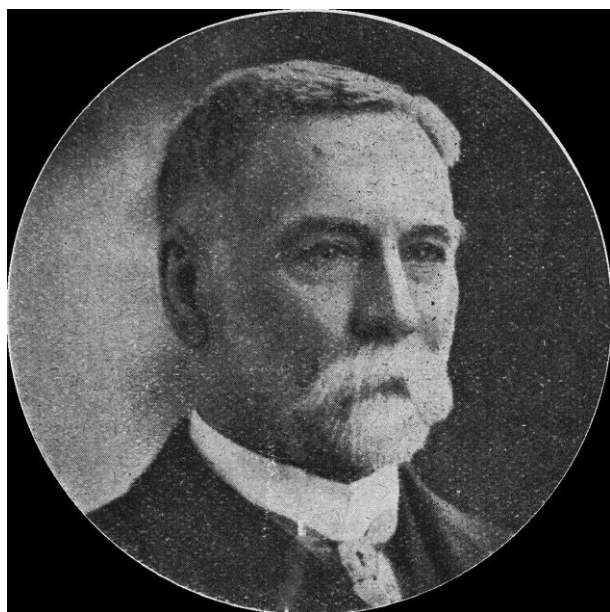
On his father's death Strathbogie was sold, and Mr. Hamilton Gordon left for England, and after several years of travel, married the youngest daughter of the Count de Meirelles, and has since resided in England. He leaves a family of two sons and two daughters.

Original publication

- *Pastoral Review*, 16 July 1921, p 535 ([view original](#))

Citation details

'Gordon, Hamilton (1848–1921)', Obituaries Australia, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/gordon-hamilton-430/text431>, accessed 23 January 2014.



- **Name:** Hugh Edwin Hamilton (known as Hamilton GORDON) GORDON
- **Sex:** M
- **Birth:** 10 OCT 1847 in V18472931 33A/1847
- **Death:** 1921 in 'Strathbogie' Pembury England of Heart Failure

Father: [Hugh Gordon](#) b: 1816 in Mains of Rhynie Scotland (01/01/1817 is incorrect) c: 11 JUN 1816 in ? A record of a Christening this date - Parents John & Margaret Rhynie & Essie.

Mother: [Emily \(2D\) Catherine Hollinworth](#) b: in Second daughter

Marriage 1 [Maria das Dores de Freitas DE MEIRELLES do Canto e Castro](#) b: 02 DEC 1882 in Lisboa Portugal

- **Married:** 04 MAY 1903 in Dajando Portugal

Children

1. [Francis Hamilton GORDON](#) b: 28 JAN 1904 in Woollahra NSW
2. [Mary Catherine Hamilton GORDON](#) b: 10 MAR 1905 in Point Piper NSW 19244/1905
3. [George Hamilton GORDON](#) b: 21 JAN 1908 in Dafundo Palacio de S Mateus Portugal
4. [John GORDON](#) b: in England (Possible only - Check)

House became Dower House ?when.

Used by Tonbridge Rural District Council in (Sept) 1969-1974 (council offices had previously been in Pembury Road, Tonbridge) & then by T Wells Borough Council (?+ Pembury Parish Council?) from 1975-1989 (London Gazette / PVN).

Planning permission gained for 80 bedroom hotel April 1989.

Jarvis Hotel built 1991, retaining some of the original Dower House (i.e. in restaurant).

Changed to Ramada in 2001, Mercure in 2011