

## CALLAS HOUSE

Callas House was demolished in 1960 and the Callas Rise estate now occupies the site. It was built in the 1600s and stood on the west side of Callas Hill opposite Callas Hill Farm. It was once the family home of Henry Phillips and his family as listed in a Tax Census of 1701. His descendant Sir Thomas Phillips researched his family history and had printed transcriptions of many old records relating to Wanborough, including the Tax Census referred to above.



Looking up Callas Hill © P Williams



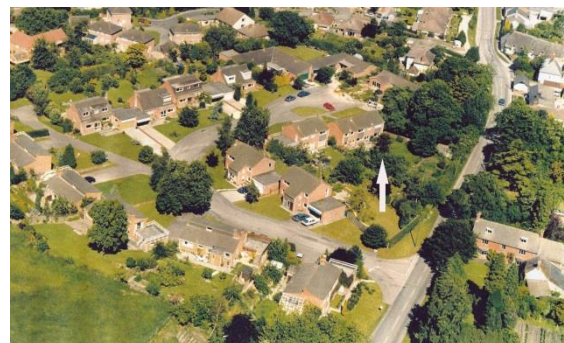
Callas House in 1960 just before demolition

William Morris, founder and editor of the Swindon Advertiser, visited the house in 1887 and recorded the presence there of a secret chapel in an upper room, which he suggested may have been used to celebrate Roman Catholic mass which was at one time illegal.

A. D. Passmore who owned an antique business in Old Town was an antiquarian with a keen interest in local archaeology and an avid collector of all things old. He lived in Callas House from 1928 until his death in 1958.



Passmore in Callas House c.1932 © Paul Williams



Looking north along the High St 1988

The house was demolished in 1960 even though Passmore had had it listed, but English Heritage made a record of the building before demolition and the 1960 photograph above is part of this record. The monkey puzzle tree shown on this photo was still growing in a Callas Rise garden when the aerial photo above was taken in 1988.