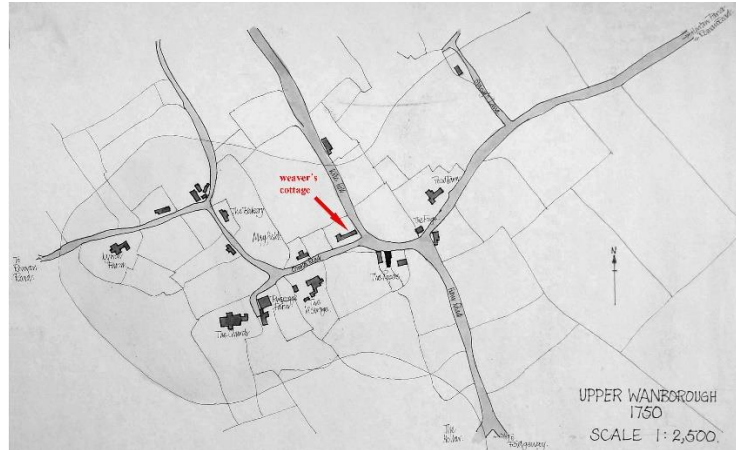


WANBOROUGH WEAVER'S COTTAGE, CHURCH ROAD

William Morris, the founder and editor of the Swindon Evening Advertiser, writing in 1888 recalls as a child looking through a cottage window in Wanborough to watch a weaver working at his loom. From Morris's description "an old thatched cottage with one small window overlooking the road midway between the Calley Arms and the Vicarage" the cottage was the middle one of the three on the corner of Church Road and Kite Hill.



Morris used to peer in at the window to watch the weaver working at a large loom. Morris later discovered that the weaver's name was William Reeve and he was the last weaver working in Wanborough.



1925



1996

William's son, another William living in Shrivenham, later told Morris that he had as a lad worked with his father on a small loom making cheese cloth while his father made blankets on the larger one. When he was seventeen and "the weaving business was getting bad" his father apprenticed him to a carpenter. William senior died in 1847 aged 84 and was working to the end with unfinished work still on the loom.