

STAKERS FARM (now called Walders)

A fifteenth century timber-framed hall house with a crown post roof, brick and plaster infilling.



As Walders was a tenancy held by the Walder family and two Walders are recorded as tenants

of the Knights Templar, perhaps the land on which Walders was built was given to the Templars in the 12th century.

In the late 1500s it was owned by William Walder. Inventories were taken after his death (1614) and that of his wife, Anne Walder (née Michell) (1636). They list a considerable amount of crops and livestock, including a team of four oxen.

In 1785 it was owned by William Markwick of Denne Park and occupied by Stephen Sayers. The 1844 Tithe Map shows the property in the ownership of Edward Staker and occupied by George Sheppard.

Until the mid-nineteenth-century the house was known as Walders; it was later called Stakers but has now reverted to its former name.

A mummified cat was discovered during repair and restoration work in the 1970s. The local story goes that, at the time the mediaeval building was being constructed, the dying cat was walled-up behind the chimney breast so that its pitiful mewling cries would chase out evil spirits from the house. The rather gruesome remains of this unfortunate animal can be seen in one of the galleries at Horsham Museum.