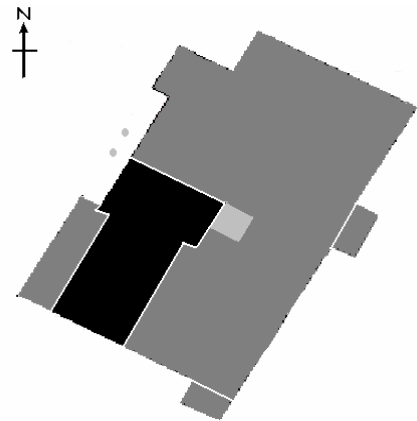


Broomfield Historical Development



1550



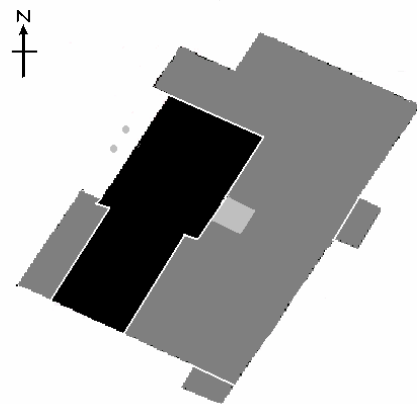
The Fire of 1984 revealed that the core of the property comprised a two storey Tudor cottage

For most of its history Broomfield was a comfortable timber framed manor house with a few hundred acres of land attached to it, belonging to a succession of families who made their money as merchants in the city.

The estate probably gets its name from John Broomfield, a leather merchant who in 1566 sold land in Southgate to Geoffrey Walkeden who owned the property until the early 1600s.

extension of the cottage into the area now occupied by the entrance lobby

1570

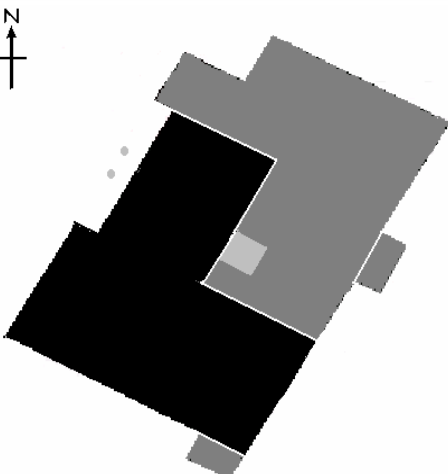


By 1606 "Bromehowse" was in the possession of Sir John Spencer
The building is extended to the rear in the south east and also to the front south west corner

By 1624 it had been sold to a prosperous London merchant Joseph Jackson. The Jackson family remained in possession of the estate until 1773.

Early in the 18th century the Jackson family made major alterations to the interior of the house. The grand new staircase was constructed, and the murals (dated 1726) were painted by Gerard Lanscroom. Some of the ground floor rooms were remodeled with new panelling and chimneypieces. It was probably also at this time that the formal park was created, with ponds, parterres, avenues, brick walls and other features.

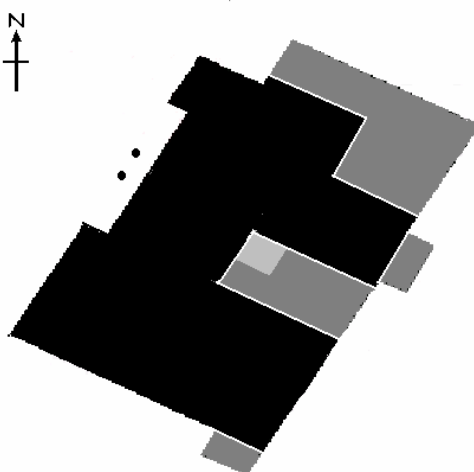
1600



In 1816 the house and estate were inherited by the Powys family. The design of the exterior had been little changed since the 16th century although the original modest farmhouse had been enlarged to turn it into a more convenient and spacious residence. A chimney had been constructed and an additional timber framed gabled wing added at the north end, over a brick basement, with another chimney on its north side. This area is now the entrance hall and staircase hall.

The house was U shaped with a little open courtyard facing east. It was described as a timber framed, many gabled building, with low ceilings.

1726



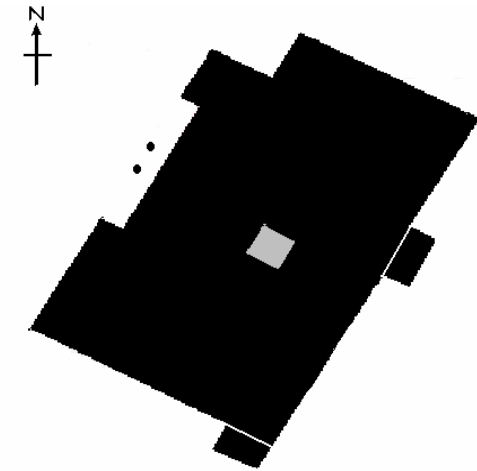
For most of the 19th century the House was let to tenants; William Rathbone, a deputy of the Corporation of London, lived in the House from 1858 to 1883. He was succeeded by Ralph Littler, a barrister (it was Littler who led the campaign to separate Southgate from Edmonton in 1881, and who assisted in the campaign to acquire Alexandra Palace for public ownership in 1900).

Littler left Broomfield in 1901 and soon after most of the land was sold for development, 54 acres including the house being bought for £25,000 by Southgate Urban District Council for use as a public park (opened in 1903).

Until 1983 the first floor was a clinic and ground floor as a café and local history museum

Planning and Listed Building consent obtained for Broomfield House Task Force scheme - Proposed restoration of main building, glazed link to modern function room annex to provide park café, community rooms and education resource rooms

1820



N

2004

