

FIVES AND PHOTOCOPIERS IN SHEFFIELD

Midway between the Sheffield Wednesday football ground at Hillsborough and the centre of Sheffield is the former Hillsborough Barracks complex, built to house army units in the mid 19th century. This attractive group of dressed stone buildings has now been converted into a Morrisons Supermarket and offices for local businesses. The smaller buildings have all been given names which reflect their military history, such as Lancers' Court and Hussars' Court.

One day, driving into the supermarket development to stock up on Timothy Taylor's Landlord bitter, I was struck by the sight of a signpost to "Fives Court". This I had to investigate. The building in question is now occupied by Rank Xerox, and the strangely sloping side wall of the building viewed from outside does strongly suggest that it has once been a fives court. I will be writing to the developers to ask if there is further information on the building's original use. In the meantime, does anyone know what is the earliest surviving purpose-built fives court - playable or not? The Fives Court at Hillsborough will date from about 1850.

Ian Roberts



"Fives Court" at Hillsborough Barracks, Sheffield in 2000

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