

Bygone Buses

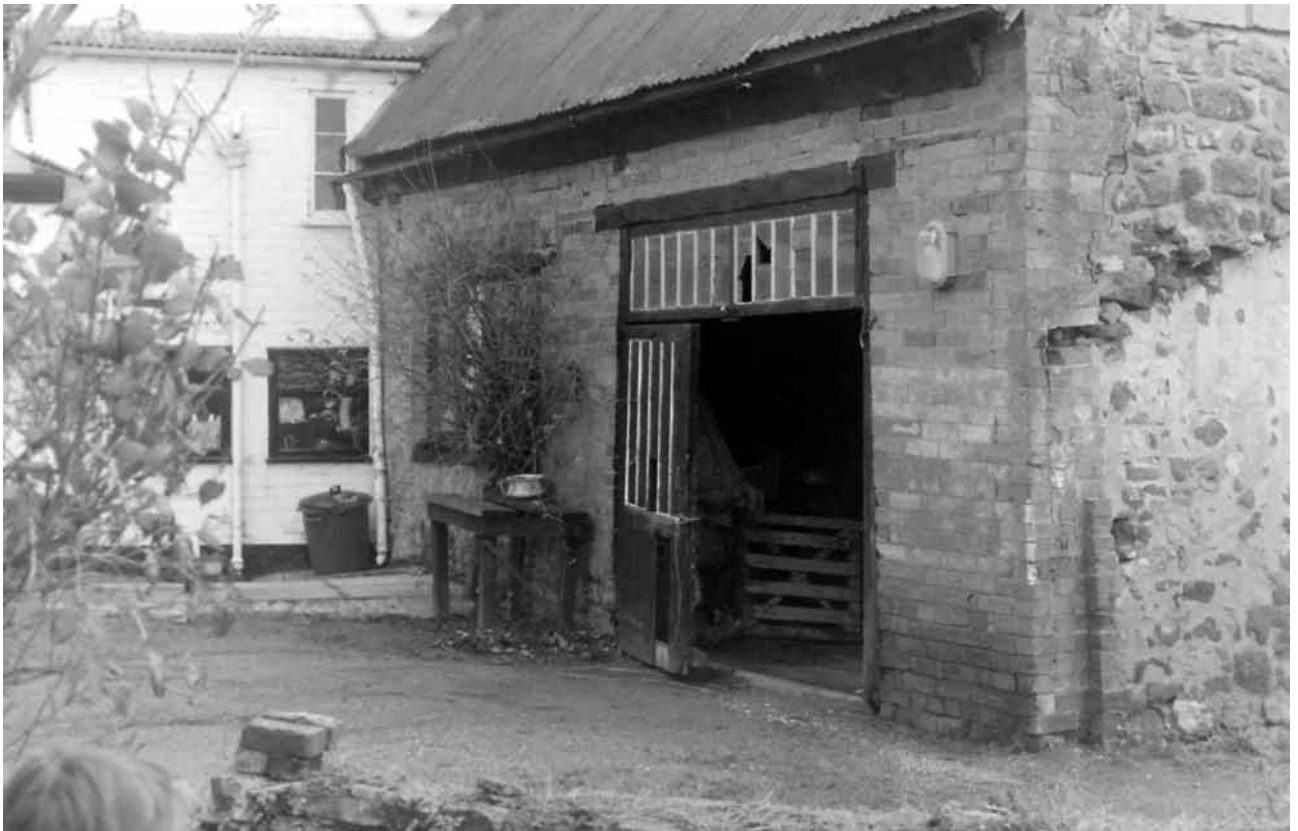
of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-L01
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LOOKER. Alfred West End WEST HADDON

It has been established that Alfred Looker was born in 1885 and had become a carrier based in West Haddon by the first decade of the twentieth century. He features in most directories of the period and in Kelly's Northants Directory of 1914 he is shown as serving Northampton, Cross Keys on Wednesdays and Saturdays and Rugby on Mondays.

It would appear that Alfred Looker motorised his operation in July 1914 when he purchased a 17-20hp Maudslay van which became registered on 9th July as BD 2480.



This illustration shows Alfred Looker's former garage in West End, West Haddon. The building has since been redeveloped as an extension to the neighbouring cottage.

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Torestyn" 101 Broadway East, Northampton NN3 2PP, who would be pleased to be advised of any additional information relating to the above operator. The records of the PSV Circle and the Omnibus Society have been consulted extensively for this series and acknowledgement and thanks are due to these organisations.

LOOKER Alfred - WEST HADDON

It was described as a dark green open-sided motor van which was used as a public conveyance. Local people recall that Looker bolted seats to the floor of the van when he had passengers to carry, and in Motor Tax documents in 1921 BD 2480 was described as a green carriers' van for goods and passengers.

The Maudslay served Alfred Looker well for nine years when on 3rd November 1923 it was replaced by an ex-War Office Leyland lorry registered BD 8437 which again carried passengers as and when required. Alfred Looker probably kept this vehicle for only about a couple of years before replacing it with a brown Morris lorry registered RP 2278 on 25th March 1926.

Alfred Looker still appeared in the 1928 Kelly's Directory as operating to Northampton on Wednesdays and Saturdays but there is no mention of the Rugby service. It is not clear for how much longer Alfred Looker remained a carrier but he certainly did not provide a passenger service in the post-Road Traffic Act, 1930 period.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
						New	S/H	W/D			
BD 2480	Maudslay	17-20hp	878	?	Van	7/14	—	12/23	—	No further owner	1
BD 8437	Leyland	Subsidy A	7513	?	Lorry	11/23	—	3/26?	—	W G Goddard, New Bilton L/L 9/33	2
RP 2278	Morris	?	141798	?	Lorry	3/26	—	by 9/32	—	A Stow, Thame L/L 9/32	3

Notes: 1 - BD 2480 - van body with unknown number of removable seats - its chassis would have been ex-War Office.

2 - BD 8437 - lorry body with unknown number of removable seats.

3 - RP 2278 - lorry body with unknown number of removable seats.