

archive sources exist, as do local histories throughout the country. As examples, a surviving local society, the Ipswich Building Society,<sup>17</sup> notes its origins in a Freehold Land Society of 1849<sup>18</sup> and Abbey, formerly the Abbey National, originated in the National Freehold Land and Building Society of 1849.

Few readily available published sources are to hand. Barrie Trinder cited Chapman and Bartlett<sup>19</sup> as a major source, although there may be more recent primary research. Surprisingly, Tarn<sup>20</sup> does not mention the Freehold movement, but may have excluded this ‘middle-class’ movement in his predominantly working-class history. In his excellent study of the terraced house as a building type (a valuable visual reference), Muthesius<sup>21</sup> notes :

‘In the 1840s and 1850s we witness what was called the “freehold movement”, but its main aims were to obtain franchise for the small man through possession of property, and it mainly concerned rural areas. In many working-class areas “building societies” or “building clubs” were operating, as in Leeds, Burnley, Swansea and the west Midlands.’

Gauldie<sup>22</sup> devotes a chapter to the Freehold Land Societies and discusses the 1840’s Chartist settlements, such as Charterville in Oxfordshire, as precedents. She considers Taylor’s role in establishing six separate freehold land societies in Birmingham by 1850 with two others in Sheffield. She also notes the tendency to what we would now call ‘gentrification’ with London and other societies going ‘up market’ with villa developments.

From this limited literature, the Grimsbury scheme begins to emerge as typical in origin, participants, date and form. But what of the visual evidence?

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<sup>17</sup> Ipswich Building Society: Home page (Online): Retrieved 7:II:2007 from [http://www.ipswichbuildingsociety.co.uk/history.php?sub\\_area=history](http://www.ipswichbuildingsociety.co.uk/history.php?sub_area=history)

<sup>18</sup> Howlett, Ivan: *One Hundred and Fifty Years On*, Ipswich: Ipswich Building Society, nd.

<sup>19</sup> Chapman, S.D. & Bartlett, J.N.: ‘The Contribution of Building Clubs and Freehold Land Societies to Working Class Housing in Birmingham,’ in *The History of Working Class Housing*, ed. S.D. Chapman, David & Charles, 1971, pp.223-46.

<sup>20</sup> Tarn, John Nelson: *Five Per Cent Philanthropy: An Account of Housing in Urban Areas Between 1840 and 1914*, Cambridge: University Press, 1973.

<sup>21</sup> Muthesius, Stefan: *The English Terraced House*, New Haven : Yale U. Press, 1982, p.18.

<sup>22</sup> Gauldie, Enid: *Cruel Habitations: A History of Working-Class Housing 1780-1918*, London: George Allen & Unwin, 1974, Ch 18.