

## FOREST LODGE 40 YEARS ON

Former police station is  
restored to former glory

THE Lodge on the Forest is a well known landmark in Nottingham and remembering it as a schoolboy many years ago, its dignified yet mysterious outline caused so much speculation as to its former use. Was it a police station, did it have cells, could one be locked up in there?

We never did then find out. For all attempts to scale its railings and get into its lower courtyard were thwarted by irate park keepers who were not convinced about our well intentioned historical research. Forty years later we finally answered those questions.

By **JOHN SEVERN**

In recent years — before its renovation in 1984 — the building looked very different from when we first encountered it as youngsters. Gone were the railings and most of its windows. The facades had peeled as if sunburnt and the whole structure looked a most messy sight, covered in graffiti and damp stained patches.

Its use was then as a dump for unwanted bits and pieces and a store for the park keeper who maintained the Forest Recreation Ground.

It was just the type of building that the Trust could tackle and a building of sufficient character to warrant such attention. Furthermore it was listed and it was in disrepair.

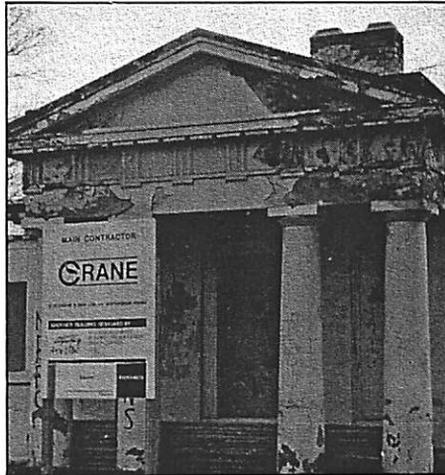
The details of its acquisition, its repair and the methods used are the subject of a future article. Meanwhile here are the answers to some of the questions we posed forty years ago when we first did battle with the building — and its inhabitants — on our way to and from school.

The building was — and now is again — a keeper's cottage or lodge. It's architect, Henry Moses Wood, was at the time of its construction in 1856/57, the Borough Surveyor to the Nottingham Corporation.

During its life however it has played many roles and recent repairs have confirmed our boyish thoughts that it was a 'cop shop.'

"Salmons" map of 1861 surrounds its plan on the Recreation Ground with the cryptic words East Lodge (Police).

When we carefully removed the last hundred years of paint from the pediment facing Mansfield Road, there were revealed in dignified corporation lettering the words Police Station.



● *Forest Lodge before and after its restoration as a park superintendent's home by the Trust. — Main picture by courtesy of the Nottingham Evening Post.*

"Little did I realise that forty years later I would be back repairing the building and finding out about its former use."

Forest Lodge will always have many memories for me. For little did I realise in 1944 when bolting from a fork-waving park keeper that forty years later I would be back repairing the building and finding out about its former use.

### Respected Career of architect Henry Moses Wood

HENRY MOSES WOOD, the architect of Forest Lodge, who was Sheriff of Nottingham in 1836, commenced his career in the offices of Edward Staveley the Corporation surveyor where he remained for several years. By the 1820s he had become a land surveyor and architect and in 1837, on the death of Edward Staveley, accepted the part-time appointment of borough surveyor at a remuneration of £100 per annum.

Moses Wood's work as an architect in Nottingham included work on the Judges Lodgings on High Pavement (now the Records Office) and Carrington Hospital (the Collins Almshouses on Carrington Street which were demolished 20 or so years ago). He also worked on the layout of the Arboretum.

In 1859 Mr. M. O. Tarbotton was appointed as permanent surveyor to the city but because of his valued services to the city Moses Wood was also retained as a consulting surveyor. He died in 1867 in his 80th year, a highly respected and well thought of gentleman.

JOHN SEVERN

