

CONSERVATION

in Nottinghamshire

The Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust Limited

14 – 24 REGENT STREET NOTTINGHAM Main Facade Restoration 1986/87



The problems started some years ago but really came to a head when part of the eroded main cornice, at Nr. 20 Regent Street, dangerously fell into the forecourt below. As the premises form part of the Wellington Circus Conservation Area, the Planners were contacted regarding the possibility of grant aid for the necessary repairs. The Planners quickly recognised the importance of the buildings and that the problems with the fabric of Nr. 20 were common to all six properties in the terrace, built about 1850 as prestigious houses for emerging businessmen, by the prominent Nottingham Victorian Architect, T. C. Hine.

A meeting of all owners and tenants of the terrace was set up and the idea of a joint initiative prompted by the City Planning Department with the prospect of possible grant assistance from the City Council and English Heritage was discussed, with myself fulfilling the role of Architect/

Administrator and Project Manager employed by each building owner to prepare proposals for the restoration work, obtain costings from appropriate contractors and supervise the work.

The initial study revealed many weathering problems, particularly at roof and parapet levels, due to age, neglect, poor or inadequate maintenance. Quotes for a comprehensive scheme, including the complete restoration of roofs and chimney stacks were unacceptable to the building owners because costs were very high. A less extensive scheme, involving repairs to some stonework at roof level plus the essential rebuilding of the badly eroded brick parapets and built up main cornice, together with brickwork repairs to the facade and some low-budget improvement works at forecourt level, was finally adopted and work started.

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As it was important to protect and enhance the 'unity' of the terrace in terms of appearance, it was decided to adopt a restoration approach, which meant that the type and state of remedial work undertaken, in all major problem areas, was maintained, even though conditions encountered sometimes varied from one property to another. The 'unity' concept was carried through with the choice of paintwork colours, the style of the railings, nameboards and forecourt improvements, etc.

One of the major tasks was to replace eroded brickwork sympathetically and unobtrusively. All the shaped brickwork gables were in a poor state and, although sections of the brick parapet had been previously 'repaired', the general condition and appearance was unsatisfactory. The best replacement bricks found were very close in size to the originals but varied slightly in colour and texture. By matching the original bond, selecting a suitable mortar and ensuring that all brickwork joints were maintained as tight as possible to match existing, a reasonable standard has been achieved in the circumstances. Approximately three thousand new bricks were used in the remedial work.

The built up main cornice, at parapet level, was in very poor condition and had to be completely reformed, to follow the original profiles, off the existing brick corbel base which, fortunately, remained in reasonable condition. The work was expertly carried out, using traditional techniques and equipment and the finished result reproduces the crisp and sharp impact at the head of the facade as originally conceived and built. The cornices and bays were all dressed in lead, as an added precaution.

The work to the forecourt areas was very limited, due to cost. It was important to identify the original landscaped beds between the stone masonry 'retaining walls' original landscaped beds between the stone entrance paths but gravel topped tarmacadam was selected, from a number of options presented, as the most maintenance free and, therefore, acceptable solution. An earlier proposal, to restore the shrub beds as original, was rejected because of concern over upkeep and consequent effect on appearance. Low cost railings were introduced to add interest and protection to the gravel beds and to prevent access for parking cars. Only two original railing posts remain and these have been retained in position at the entrance to No. 14 Regent Street. New railings to match the originals were too expensive. Trees have been planted in five of the forecourt areas and their full impact will start to show in the next few years. Identical mounting boards for nameplates plus numerals were included to maintain consistency as far as possible.

Alan Mulcahy ■

THE GABLES FARM LITTLE CARLTON, Nr. NEWARK



This important, timber-framed building had been standing derelict for many years and had been causing great concern in the Trust, as it had been given over to the housing of pigs and poultry and generally neglected.

The building was identified and described in Professor Barley's book *The English Farmhouse and Cottage* but remained under threat from weather and natural decay until it was purchased by a local builder, Mr. Eddie Roberts.

We are all very grateful to Mr. Roberts for (a) buying the building and (b) employing such a capable architect to supervise the work.

The following reports give the differing views of two people who are immediately involved with the building and, from this basis, form an interesting archive item.

Notes from the Secretary . . .

■ Slide Evenings

All members are reminded that the next slide evening will be on Friday 1st July.

All members are reminded that the very enjoyable series of slide evenings continue to be held.

The next meeting is:

Friday 1st July

"Bernadette"

Clifton Lane, Ruddington

The meeting starts at 8.00 p.m.

■ Pantiles

Philip Northam has 1000-1200 reclaimed overhead glazed pantiles, originally from the Vale of Belvoir, but relevant to certain parts of Nottinghamshire, in hand.

Anyone interested can contact him on Mansfield 22743.

■ Officers of the Trust

At the December meeting of the Council of Management the following officers were elected for the year:

At the December meeting of the Council of Management the following officers were elected for the year:

Chairman - Cllr. F. Higgins
Vice-Chairman - Cllr. R. Gibson
Hon. Secretary - Mr. G. A. Turner
Hon. Treasurer - Mr. J. Turner

The members elected at the AGM to represent the membership on the Council of Management were Mrs. I. Skirving, Cllr. M. Vickers, Mr. B. Nelson, Mr. F. Higgins, Mr. D. Garner and Mr. M. Linn.

■ Coach Trip

Watch out for the forthcoming coach trip in June, which will be to historic buildings in Derbyshire.

Details are now being worked out but any suggestions for this or other trips, would be welcome.

THE GABLES FARM, LITTLE CARLTON

Report by the Owner, Mr. R. W. Roberts

I bought the Gibbs Farm, Little Cashie in 1984. It was a Grade III Listed Building, formerly a gaol or board building and the new school history is later dated.

It had been empty for some 20 years when I purchased it and the only animals were cattle, pigs and other animals from the large farm which had been allowed to roam in the forest as they wished.

The concrete building, in the front of the house, split its appearance and, when threatened down, it was clearly evident that an elegant ground house was covered by this large concrete building and the various old hangings and other ornaments, which surrounded the machine.

The other buildings which surrounded the garden farm were used for my needs, the galley I converted into an office - being a small building, this was ideal for my needs, the engine room and shed became a workshop, storage building and log store and the third one was destined to provide a laundry and living facilities for the crew.

The five bay garage was built from existing materials—the main building, which I purchased from a Mr. James of Sutton-on-Frome. The buildings were at Boxkilling, near Seaford in Dorsetshire, on a farm which he owned. The houses were taken down, one by one and cleaned and rebuilt and the houses were re-erected and the roof fitted with natural, oak panelling. This led an ideal facility for my needs and the old materials blended in very well.

The entire project of the Oakton Farm was not just over two years. I had owner's insurance from our own businessmen and spent many hours myself at nights and weekends working on the house and outings.

The Archdeacon, was in U.S. Wesley a personal friend of mine, who, just over 10 years ago and who I have worked on many projects with. He spent many hours preparing plans and negotiating with the various authorities in clearing the necessary listed building's consents.

It is interesting to see that Professor Walgreen about the Circular Firm Heuristics
in 2006 The August Firmness and Others

The central aisle led to the house but then set feet and ground four levels out. It was clear, on the remains, that originally this was an open-sided hall and this was surrounded by a porch and a triforium gave you evidence that, at one time, incense was made in the open-sided hall and moved in turn without any chimney structure. A central wing port, with various mouldings was also ignored in a book by Maurice Wood's specialist on antique mouldings. The Department of Dendrochronology, at Birmingham University, referred to one sample of the redwood, timber and floor the drying. It was then found, with this survey, that the original central aisle, built dated back to the age of Henry VIII in 1510/1515, meaning that it had a central aisle almost 400 years.

Two male human volunteers were horizontally positioned over, with the exception of one arm, the acropuntal. When the patient was repositioned the corresponding flexion and abduction of the left leg were clearly visible.

Another item of importance which was observed on visit the medieval hall was the presence of the family coat of arms above which Lordens and Lord Professor Barker, a medievalist anxious to have a double check, made it out as excellent when taken to a leading local Victorian firm to find the original stone in the work in fact, although the date of the family room has not yet been decided and is now being worked together. Evidence of an original dress coat and suit of the 18th century.

The fact that revealed a smaller, smooth den + 6. The interesting note that both tubes were constructed in their original form, with the exception of the pipe in the first and last chimney.

[illegible][illegible]

books, which helped me to bring out the World War II era during which I was brought up. I read books such as *Richard III* and *The Day and the Night* of an American by Hugh Linder.

The Dutch Labour bank said it was not a bank that "explores out how market strategies developed by its clients can be used to their own financial account. That's been in mind throughout the online service and in all of its efforts to help its clients to do so."

[illegible]

After I had the structure in place, I had an outside contractor install a plywood boarding and insisted, over this contractor's objections, that we use real and not recycled panels. It was suggested that I should be satisfied with a 1/2-inch and 1/4-inch, on opposing estimates. I could not afford to do this and the tiles were purchased from *Quercus Tilig* in Stuttgart-Arbon. (See *www.berlin.org*, 1998, 2000).

According to many, even some of people's bungalows in Sultan in Aizawl are cordoned off 400 miles away.

The child panels were minor, set and mounted as opposed to the wattle and daub and rendered in modern materials but I was equally very satisfied. What we have problems of the cabinet with ageing, due to the cast aluminium not over the months, we have since filled this with plastic art. The wattle has been new process.

The house keeps warm by the central hall, being so high, does create insulation with one.

We have undergone the bravest and furthest a friendship and interest a chemical change of course.

The ground floors on the wings were completed and left for carpenter, but the inner hall floors were completed and then laid with slate. The patterned slate came from 29 Church Street, Long Benington. The house where I lived previously for some 20 years. The slates were collected over many years from various areas, some slates were used from Leith Hill Road, Brighton in the 1930s and show heavy wear from female boots.

The barnyard storage to the inner hall was lined with red hand-stamped quarry tile proving, taken from the old hearth in the pantry area within the house when I bought it. The repainting the levels in flint was taken from the house during a remand about many years of use.

In the kitchen, originally there were red and blue neighbours (see Fig. 1). The first had attacked all the red ones and there were no more, but all the blue ones were carefully saved and used for window sills and other things throughout the winter.

The brickwork to the outside was originally red and, if damaged, where necessary, but a lot of the existing brickwork was in fact saved. New brickwork was needed on the South side of the Eastern wing and on the Southern elevation, West wing gable. The rest was carefully painted with lime mortar and argillite. Tudor straw-banded brickwork panels were found on the Northern elevation and put in the old line, save on the front door and the original, semi-plinth area found around a similar area.

The windows were made to match those which were in when I purchased the property and a local joiner, Charles Taylor of Bishopcote, made these to accord with those which had been broken during the twenty years the building was empty, but the mouldings and patterns exactly conformed to the original.

The disease wing was taken down and I made new stirrups for either wings, constructed of oak for the saddle and oak I acquired. I obtained this from my father, who is a village blacksmith at Bottenhof where I used to live. He purchased many years ago some 14 x 10" oak posts from an old woodyard in Wörzburg and I counted the oak to make up the balance of all the necessary items, hinges, stirrups, etc. and *just* will send later than I can send this for making more items of furniture.

The last floors were made of wood, other flooring down the solid floors originally, between the supports where there were, a heavy cross-section and had to be rejoined at the end and had many windows. It is interesting to note that, in the original building, the ceiling had no attached covering, only in the regularity. We also found a large number of the door of solid wood and in the place in the house.

The waste-and-drum incinerator was first tested in 1870 and, early on, in the through passage of the solid ball a signature found, which appears a need James Esch, 1859, was carefully preserved and left Alonzo, and Esch, 1859, was tested in a similar manner.

As the work progressed, I treated the microwind openings and was like a weaver along the abdomen, job, and the finish was splendid and worth every moment of labour.

The house plan was totally strange, and it was provided a house with a large lounge, a family room, a screen hall which was the screening room, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, two offices and a library and a kitchen. It is believed it was originally a hotel for Germans, but not an apartment for the local Germans and other residents. We have found no evidence to support this belief.

[illegible]

There were many other animals in the hermit's all-but-second-hand timber, in the other end of the house and they all looked very well in their mossy govtacks. A set of ornate and important wire, for an hourglass, was made using one last, and a service from a short trip, in Chumbar. Small incense-burners were also being sold from vendors from a house in Horendard. A lot of the timber would have been stolen and it is interesting to note that, beneath the surface, it is in perfect, dry condition and ideal suited to human making.

Do not show how long we will stay at The Centres Farm, my son and daughter both like the house, my wife and I sometimes think it is not good for it, especially to note that the spirit of the place is good for us and I hope that the community, friends, neighbors, the work I have given in some way please generations to come and create what we have seen and done.

In conclusion, I would like to record that when I purchased the plot in 1984, I paid for the house at a bargain with 45 acres of land, £22,000. I was offered an option with a price of £14,100 and £12,000 and, because it paid a little above the odds, I do not know the exact cost of the whole. As a private citizen, I need bill of exchange interest but the government has no such interest.

THE GABLES FARM, LITTLE CARLTON

Report by the Architect, Dr. G. L. Worsley

Gibson Farm is situated on the A56, little more than half a mile from South Middlesbrough, which accounts for what was the major road from the North of England, over Middlesbrough Bridge and the River Tyne, before the A10 was built as a by-pass.

Cable's Farm had been unimproved for many years, when it was taken for market in 1961. Mr. B. W. Roberts expressed an interest in buying the property in February 1961, with the intention of restoring the farm to a hunting home. He is a sportsman and his acquisition, it was quite apparent, the Cable's Farm was not very poor situated for a frog. Quite contrary to the superficial official appearance, the building was almost entirely unimproved at the spot. For a long time, the building had been listed as being of architectural and historical interest. Grade 2 in 1964 and, as a result of the destruction, had been raised to Grade 1 in 1978.

Grass Form was first documented by J. T. Smith in 1878 and by Professor M. W. Bailey in 1911.

^aThe description suggests a polymer hydrochloride with glucose adducts and lactose.

At the outset a decision was made to repair the existing two-building dairy and upgrade its furnishings, which were to be torn out and replaced by a new project. Collier farm will produce and liquidate shares while the appropriate planning, title clearing, consent and planning approvals/permissions were obtained and a detailed survey was made of the grazing.

A survey matrix was set up (Appendix 1) which listed each room separately and allowed each wall to be numbered and recorded in sequence. A measured survey of the whole building was carried out initially in 1986. There were, however, some redrafts in important dimensions.

The dry drawings were, therefore, drawn out to 10% of the free (in 1) and every internal wall and ceiling was drawn out to an increase in size of 4% in the free (in appendix 2).

From the mirror, it appeared that he had taken two other places in time stages – the Central Hall, the West wing and the East wing – the latter clearly from the 19th century and the central hall in a earlier time. The West wing, then, had been architecturally modified and rebuilt, early in the 19th century when the house became a museum, but the Central Hall, which had been removed from most of its ground floor, the first floor was added in the 18th and the staircase was added at the rear.

A detailed photographic record was made of the 14 young and a model was made to illustrate and demonstrate the extent of the timber framing. At this initial survey stage, it was also confirmed that timber framing was in place at the ground floor (reference A1, B2 and C3) and the some of the corner posts were not below the first floor level (reference D4).

The appearance of James Fort in the Spring of 1866 was that of a well-planned ruin. The block that the long section in the North-west corner being an essentially perfect one, and the lack of staining had allowed water penetration on the side. The South wall of the East wing (Fig. 4) was unsupported and a result of the collapsed roof and was unsafe as was the first floor chimney (Fig. 5 and 6). The roof over the West wing and the main hall was relatively sound, in contrast with that of the East wing but rain penetrating down the valleys had caused severe deterioration in the timber framing in the more vulnerable portions. The original 1866 chimney roof had 20 down pipes installed and this had been replaced with a number of hand made clay pipes that in the North elevation. Water seeped in the South corner of the hall and run into the East and East side of the West wing. The West end of the West wing had a machine made pipe (Fig. 7).

The ground floor and first floor plan (Fig. 1) – as existing – shows the structural form of the building, the central hall being two bays of approximately 21 by 160, with a 4th column on the South side and a third bay, or approximately 116, which provided the through passage and fireplace.

The West wing consisted of four bays, three of which were fully timber-framed, which were approximately 90 centimetres, leaving a 100-centimetre span. The East wing, 15.00 metres long, had three bays clearly of timber frame construction, with the posts again at about 90 centimetres, with a clear span of approximately 100.

A rubble stone pier was exposed in part of the base of the wall on the chimney wall of the cross passage (H3), a short length to the left of the main entrance (E2) and under the window area on the fourth side (H4). A similar target stone pier in limestone blocks, was exposed at the east end of the West wing (A2) and within the inner wall of the staircase (C1). Additionally it was possible to present a conceptual development for Gable Barn (Fig 3).

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This early stage consisted of a mechanical bill, the early crown post and simple capital and tail-cock, as well as the main beam and hearse, both of them from this period. There is no doubt whatsoever about the two bags to the Western side of the hall, as a result of existing wind traces from the main beam. The third bag, to the East is more problematic, since the wind traces from the main beam are more difficult to interpret. The fact that the wind traces from the main beam show the two bags to the Western side of the hall, as a result of existing wind traces from the main beam. The third bag, to the East is a consequential consequence of the fact that the main beam was removed when the East wing was added. The hall is unlikely to have had more than three bays.

Slide 2

Probably during the 14th century, the fireplace and chimney were added to form a permanent passage, which may have been associated with free-standing ovens, to provide kitchen, etc.

Stage 3

The four bay West wing was built in 1862. It is not clear whether this was directly connected to the skating hall at some time. From the plans, there is very clear evidence of the three wings and the most southerly bay, containing the fireplace, was most probably built at this time. The fireplace was wide enough for smoking and the room was in use as the kitchen in the century. Its timber frame has been removed.

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Believe it or not, after the Yellow Wing had been added, the new Flying East Wing was added. In the last few years of the 19th century, this wing was eight feet wider in span and gave additional accommodation in the lod area, providing more space in separate rooms. The ladders provided access to the first and second floors on the one of the sides of the East. The separate access to each Wing was maintained as the red mill remained centrally in its mechanical form and layout (Fig. 1).

Soon after the first wing was completed and peering under a small space of only six years a fireplace was added in the North bay of the first wing, a piano and new floor. The fireplace was recently added in a rustic timber wood and thrust. Also during this period, a new, small decorative window was added on the first floor in a room second bay of first floor level. Interior of this small window, the wood door and door and thrust. Also in this second bay, externally, was a small area of a plaster porch with wood masts which make look lovely in the country. Also on the decorative parapet.

ವಿಷಯ: ೬

At the beginning of the last century, a topographical report was carried out, when the whole of the ground floor area, with the exception of two parts to the North and East, the West

Wing was rebuilt, a ground floor level in brickwork and masonry above was raised out to provide a bedroom in the roof space over the main inclined hall. As a result of the provision of the fireplace, it was still necessary to have separate entrances to the two halves that now remained, and a new small staircase was built, very shortly after the first of the rebuildings, which provided access to the first floor of the East wing and then a new door over the hall. A new staircase was provided in the West wing to connect the slope stair from the cross passage. The West wing, as a result, had two stairs, one serving the North part of the wing and the other serving the large bedroom over the kitchen on the South side. Access to the second floor of the East wing was achieved by a very steep and confined set of wooden steps in the corner of the new upper level room. The work c. 1700 is shown sketched on Fig. 2.

Remains were buried air during the 18th century, when extensions were added to provide a dormitory, refectory and church choir stalls. The land was already maintained in a meadow state up to the 1840s, when modernised fireplaces were added in the parlor and lounge and a bath was incorporated. During some long boisterous stretching in the West Wind (Green K.O.).

Denon hi-nole:

In May, water samples were taken by the Monterey University (U.C. Howard) Drilling Party. From these, the water table of the sample was 10.4 m for the study period. 10.1 m for the deepest main beam and 12.0 m for the north pier. The main mast also had a core therefore have been placed in two cases but was, therefore, not added to the data.

Twelve samples from the West wing taken from a four-day collection period at the extreme South end had end dates from 1922 to 1930 and the entire the West wing is about 1940.

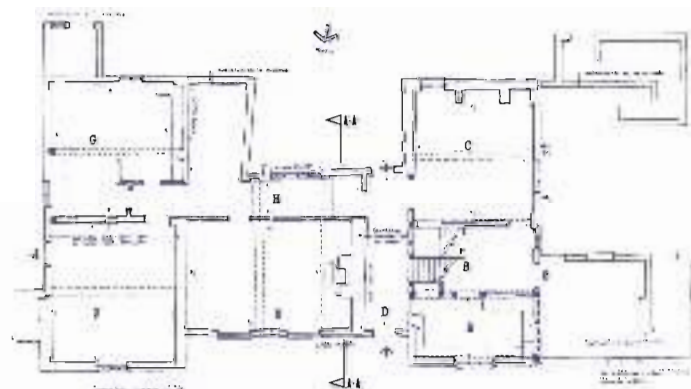
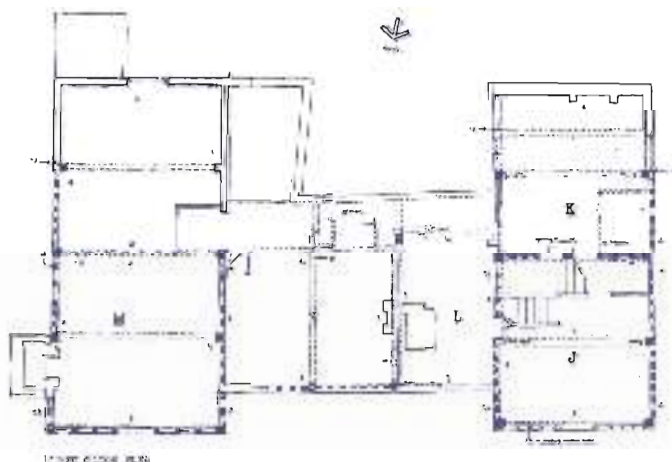
*There were 8 major concerns to be raised with regard to the restoration of Usbeki farm and of which was detailed in detail.

1. The most interest in the building, when the timber framed reconstruction was then in progress, was that the timber framework should be carefully matched to a historic structure, with all joints being checked and repeated throughout the building.
2. The rafters for over the hall should be removed to restore the hall, so that it was in general in line with the main 1600 and the brickwork, which had enclosed the main 1600, should be removed, together with the 18th century additions.
3. Apart from the areas where there was a reasonable chance that the framework had been built a few courses below ground level and there were no foundations, it was generally agreed to improve the works of the building with fixed timberwork and necessary repair areas of brickwork using original bricks, or the same kind and colour.
4. The idea of inserting iron struts to the Governor's staircase (James Street) Newell, within the timber framing, was generally considered as too cold and discordant as a result of the proportion etc., the three simple upward columns had existed. It was, however, agreed that all windows would be repaired or replaced, as existing in the 1650s. The result included, with cement and other, the insertion of iron struts which had been made.
5. A new ground floor slab, in complete with several light damp proof course, was laid over the walls of the ground floor levels to relate to existing levels.
6. Upper floors could be retained in the West wing but a few boarded floor joists, like the master floor, would be inserted where the floors had collapsed and were damaged in the East wing.
7. The timber framing of external walls was discussed at length, the easy solution being a return member of the raftering to the window and above the timber frame to the full exposed only in the interior. The Chairman determined to have a fully timbered building with the structure exposed internally and externally. It was, therefore, necessary to insert a vertical column beneath the upper framing, over the brickwork on the North end of the East and West wings and under the beams on the East and West facades. The rafters to the timber framing was recommended by two different AX-40 BP in the outer beam and 600 in the inner beam, with the main facades fitting the early beam for the main and the last window with windows of the windower beam. The solution was entirely concerned of the particular timber framing and the rafters and a detail using a Compensator in the window, better than to existing, the outer wall-bush would appear to have been a better solution.
8. There were two major problems with regard to the roof. The first was the modernisation of the rafters and the second was the roof finish. The two problems were inter-related, as the rafters were very much out of level and it was not possible to fix directly using a fixed members. These had formerly been used when the rafters were removed in the 18th century. It was, therefore, agreed to space the rafters, where the rafters are not only fixed in the timber frame, but also in the roof structure, using old wood members. These, the rafters were not used when the rafters were removed in the 18th century. It was, therefore, agreed to space the rafters, where a necessary and to use the whole of the rafters and existing. The whole floor was insulation to be incorporated and rafters to be inserted in the roof. A new rafters would overcome many problems and this was agreed in principle. It was, however, agreed that one of the materials which was present in use should have and with the stone and machine-made plain tiles were purchased and the hand-made plain tiles were not purchased. There was no problem in obtaining hand-made tiles, however, and the hand-made was, therefore, carried out in second hand tiles.

- (b) The kitchen was to be located in Area C which had been the South porch, where the timber framing existed, plus the old door and beam.
- (c) The door to the upper floor in the East wing was to be incorporated where the original window had given access to the first floor.
- (d) The bath was in the East wing, was to be in the South West corner, where the brickwork had subsided.
- (e) The bathroom in the West wing was to be incorporated within the external bay with the bath placed against the inside wall, and the wash hand basin only placed against the existing timber framing and wood ceiling.
- (f) The new staircase, from a change in use the original entry position in the south, to Room 2, went only two new floor levels with access, the base of the staircase is noted on the wings were also within the original structure.

Landfilling Consent was obtained in March 1984 and work commenced on the restoration in January 1984. Through the work, Mr. & Mrs. John M. Jones, Conservation Officers at Newell Trusty Council, provided valuable help and encouragement and, in the case of the building, the help of Misses associated with the building. The building's condition was improved by the building inspectors' approval of the work at various stages and the assistance of the Council's building

¹ M.W. Searcy, 'The English language and the English people: a language-based study of the English language in the 19th century', *Journal of English Studies*, 1990, 14, 1-12.



NEWARK CASTLE

A review of the recently completed work to the south curtain wall by the Project Architect, Chris Torrey, Conservation Architect for Newark and Sherwood District Council

Repairs to Newark Castle undertaken in partnership by Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and English Heritage -

The current repair programme at Newark Castle is just the latest footnote in its long history. The work proposed constitutes the most thorough-going repair and conservation of this ancient monument since that undertaken, controversially, by Anthony Salvin in the 1840s. The South-West tower and the middle tower were completed in an earlier phase in 1982. The first part of the present scheme involves the riverside curtain wall and has just seen that section between the South-West and middle towers completed.

In discussing the work I propose to briefly mention the ethos of repair which governed the approach taken and which was carried through into the work itself, and describe the recording of the work itself for posterity, the form of which was an essential aspect and one that assumed a greater part of the administration of the contract than was originally conceived, becoming almost an end in itself.

The work proposed required Scheduled Monument Consent and the essential prerequisite for this permission is generally enshrined in the phrase: that the repair shall be 'like for like'. Translating this dictum into a working philosophy is achieved by the understanding that the works will not 'adversely affect the historical and archaeological integrity of the monument to any extent'. Underpinning these guidelines is the principle that the repairs be carried out in an honest manner so that they can be distinguished easily from the original work.

Mindful of the above the first problem in repairing an ancient distinguished easily from the original work.

Mindful of the above the first problem in repairing an ancient stone monument is obtaining supplies of the same stone in which to carry out the work. The Castle is built of many stones, fortunately, the curtain walls are of just three, viz:

the ashlar face is in local reddish/buff sandstone not dignified by any proper name, and Ancaster freestone limestone, the inner rubble face is in a blue/grey lias stone which is a shelly ruddystone technically a limestone with the sandstone and Ancaster used for ashlar facings, dressings and features. The lias and Ancaster are still available but the sandstone, although commonly seen in buildings along the Trent has not been quarried for some considerable time. It has a fine but soft texture which when weathered leaves a friable surface subject to unsightly erosion.

After much searching and the obtaining of samples of virtually every red sandstone currently quarried, a Staffordshire stone from Hollington, the so called 'stine' was chosen and used for the ashlar repairs. This stone has the virtue of being in the right tonal range but it has a much coarser texture and will not weather in the same idiosyncratic way as the original.

To discuss a little, the colour of the stone used in the repairs has created a curious debate, which needs to be put in a proper context. Some dissent has been expressed that the Hollington stone is seen as a bright clear element on the repaired wall in contrast to the dull, blackish, coloured original stone. Doubt has been cast on the wisdom of using the Hollington instead of a darker stone which would match better with the original. The policy

of this argument - made by several learned persons - is that the Castle has weathered to the colour perceived now over many centuries and when, during repair of the old stone, it is cut back it reveals a bright clean face, similar in colour tones to the Hollington stone, even down to the same threads of dark red and black. Notwithstanding this physical evidence it must be remembered that the Castle is not being 'restored', with the hand of the restorer cunningly concealed, but being repaired, so that its form and nature are conserved with the evidence of recent works carried out apparent for future generations. A sentiment first propounded by William Morris and now the received wisdom - policed by English Heritage and the Department of the Environment.

Having satisfied English Heritage on the issue of the new stone the next contentious item was to agree the mortar in which to bed and point the stone. Samples of all the likely local building sands were made up in various mixtures with lime and Portland cement to create a reference library against which the original mortar could be compared for colour and texture. On this occasion the original mortar for the ashlar face was found to be consistent, and had been used for both bedding and pointing, and our sample number 7, using a sharp sand from Besthorpe together with lime and white Portland cement was a good match. A similar exercise on the inner face was not so successful, the colour here was more pinkish and more samples were necessary. Finally a mixture of two sands, Besthorpe and Hoveringham, with lime and white Portland cement gave a satisfactory mortar. Once again the mortar was used for bedding and pointing, following that of the Portland cement gave a satisfactory mortar. Once again the mortar was used for bedding and pointing, following that of the original work.

The repairs to this part of the curtain wall required little in the way of decorative and carved work, being predominantly the replacing or refacing of walling stonework. In essence it was an exercise in logistics, the co-ordinating of the supply of saving stone and its placing in the wall. Underlining this approach and an essential part of it was the comprehensive recording of the work.

The ashlar wall, which had much the greater part of the replacement stone, was drawn out as a grid diagram where every course of stonework was given a serial letter and the individual stones on that course then numbered starting from the left hand side. In this fashion every stone was recorded and encoded with its course letter and individual number locating it on the wall. Once the stone had been identified for replacement it was carefully and precisely measured and then ordered from the quarry using the grid location number. The stone charts produced by the contractor were also retained as part of the record. Before work on the walls was begun however, the stonework was photographed in its original condition. This is necessary so that the relationships of individual stones and their positions are available to the masons as a working tool, whenever small adjustments were required to give the wall as close an appearance to the original as possible.

Thus the basic information was established before work had begun. During the work the Clerk of Works maintained a grid

Contract and scope

drawing recording the as-built repairs. This task became very onerous as the contractor got into his stride but it has proved an invaluable record in terms of the monument. It is now possible, thanks to the perspicacity of the Clerk of Works and the co-operation of the contractor to select a stone and trace its history during these repairs.

The final record has been that of photographing the completed work, thus literally giving the whole picture.

The contribution of the contractor to the satisfactory outcome of this part of repairs must be recognized. Ratford and Holt are an old established firm of stone masons with an enviable reputation in this field. The branch of the firm which carried out the repairs has, as its Contracts Manager and Site Foreman, two men who have been previously employed on the repair of monuments by the Department of the Environment. The task of achieving the desired finish and standard of workmanship was certainly made easier by their understanding and affinity with the monument and their large experience and technical expertise.

In conclusion I would like to mention that the curtain wall was found to be, generally speaking, in extremely good heart, excepting of course the topmost parts where the effects of weathering are severe. The stonework once the surface layer had been removed was in pristine condition and, as a testament to the strength of the original work, the present contractor needed all the help that modern power tools could afford in taking out perished stone for replacement.

To give an idea of the scale of the repairs, two simple statistics on the ashlar face some 2603 new stones were inserted into the wall, their sizes varying but being generally a minimum of 300mm thick; on the rubble side the line was replaced in random lengths and was measured in square metres, here some 30 tons of material being used.

Finally, a reminder that the repairs are a rolling programme and the next part - the north curtain wall - will begin in April, 1988.

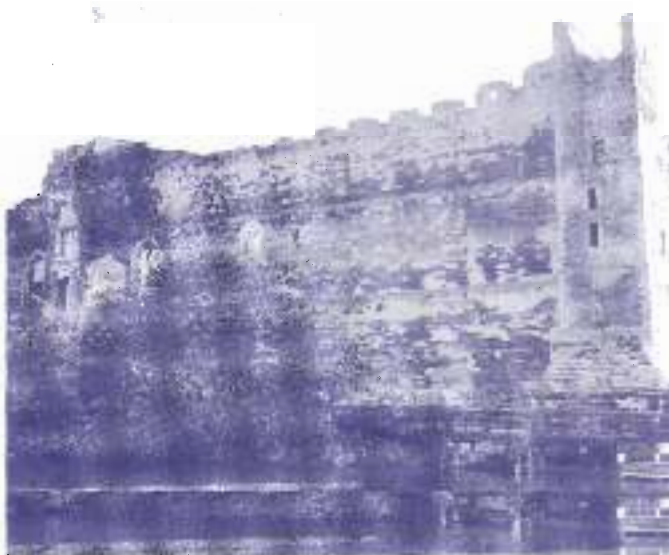
Notes:

*Quotations from the letter of consent from the Department of the Environment under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

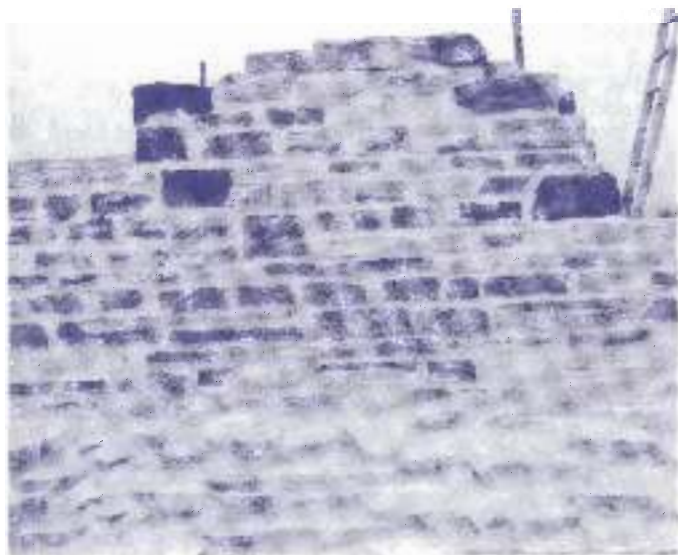
The Trust wishes to thank the Newark & Sherwood District Council for their help in the publication of this article.



External side showing Merion no. 8 before repair showing the wall work before the core work was completed by the removal of the damaged masonry in the foreground.



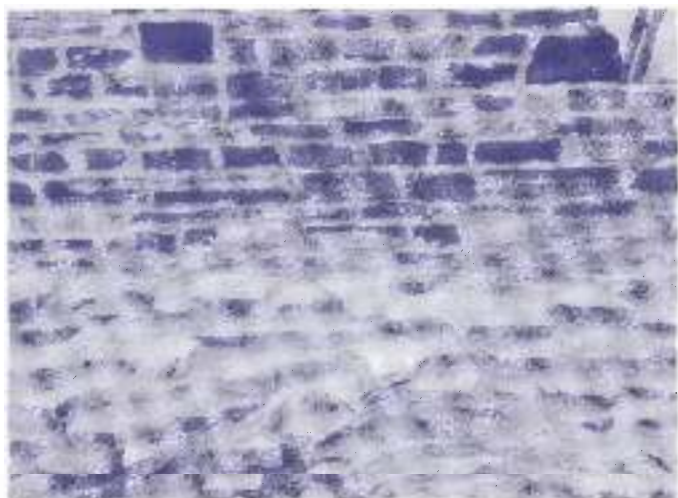
Ashlar side after completion of work.



Location no. 5 and base work after repair.



Internal rubble face after completion of work.



Merion no. 5 and core work after repair.

A LAYMAN'S VIEW – NEWARK CASTLE REPAIR

Several things impressed me about the Newark Castle repair; the stone chosen, which Mr. Timmy refers to, and masterpieces of careful, detailed information showing the pre-repair condition, proposed action and final state of each individual stone. Interestingly, there were several instances where complete replacement was initially proposed but did not prove necessary upon detailed examination.

The care taken over choosing the replacement stone and mortar is apparent; inevitably, there is a 'patchwork' effect, but this is seen to be far worse on other parts of the structure which suffered the mid 15th century improvements and in those patches of what I can only describe as 'Ministry of Works red tile trim', whose original rendering has long disappeared.

Some visitors comment unfavourably on the way the new stones are inserted, or as to stand proud of the present wall surface. Most Trust members will appreciate the reason for this but I asked Mr. Timmy for his official view. He writes:

'The original surface is the one of the original new stones, not the existing surface, which has weathered back to this level. It is an ancient monument, a policy to insert a stone in its old bed with what would have been the original plane. The ethics of this are not open to debate, it is the received wisdom and is applied whenever and wherever a monument of this type has to be repaired.'

One feature of the curtain wall repair is a number of stones bearing the initials of the contractor, together with the date of repair. This is seen to be a modern equivalent of the mason's

marks which identified an individual's work and enabled his payment to be assessed. 'Our contractor', says Mr. Timmy 'as heir to the men of old, should also have this opportunity to so mark his work. It adds a little more interest to the project and gives him pride in his work.'

While fully appreciating the skilled and sympathetic work carried out, I personally feel that this aspect was overdone.

The treatment of the inner face of the curtain wall raised many problems of opportunity. The 18th century material, which Poesner describes as badly unavailable, has now been absorbed into the fabric and forms part of the long history of the Castle. It has therefore been retained and repaired and, where replacement was necessary, limestone was used, specially pointed to reduce its rather aggressive impact.

An evidence of the 'continuing history' of Newark Castle, the seen observer of the North face of the curtain wall will, here and there, see peckmarks and damage which may conjure up visions of Civil War attacks. More mundanely, they actually date from the early days of the Great War, when a rifle range was situated across the other side of the river – nevertheless, they are part of history and have not been touched.

I think we, in the 20th century, are fortunate to have such a dedicated combination of Conservation Department and Contractor to look after this part of the country's heritage, before we pass it on to our successors.

F. N. Hoskins ■

OLD HALL FARM LINBY

Members will recall that this late-medieval Grade I house was visited in 1985 and a description and measured plan published in the Newsletter. Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Hardstaff and their two sons have kept this house in first rate condition. The room at the South end of the long range, used to be used as a farm worker's cottage. In the 1970s an extension was built on the East side to make it suitable for one of the sons. It was built, as Mr. Hardstaff senior recognises, of unsuitable materials – a coarse brick and very clumsy profiles.

The Trust was recently alerted by Mrs. Claire Hardstaff, who, with her husband, now lives in the South end of the house, to a discovery they had made in the South room. There is a doorway in the middle of the North wall (B on plan); it has a pegged oak frame. It faces directly the doorway in the North wall (B on plan); it has a pegged oak frame. It faces directly the doorway in the middle of the South wall, which has been converted into a window (A on plan). Neither alteration can be dated closely, but they are not recent. The fireplace in the East wall (F) appears to be 17th century, going with the building of the main front elevation of the house. It will be noted that the walls of this room are distinctly thicker than the rest of the front wall and there is a straight point (SE on the South wall, alongside the stair turret, and the bulkhead of the front, with its banking turret, stopped there and was built up to an existing building. The South room was, in fact, a tower. It may be recalled that Sneyth Hall, when it was rebuilt in 1788-92, incorporated an existing tower.

In the North wall of the tower over and to the right of the inserted doorway, there was a cupboard which it was decided to investigate. When the lining and shelves were removed it was found that the opening had an arched head in rubble masonry. On the outside of this wall and seen from the next room the doorway (C) in wall masonry (see rubble) is sharply

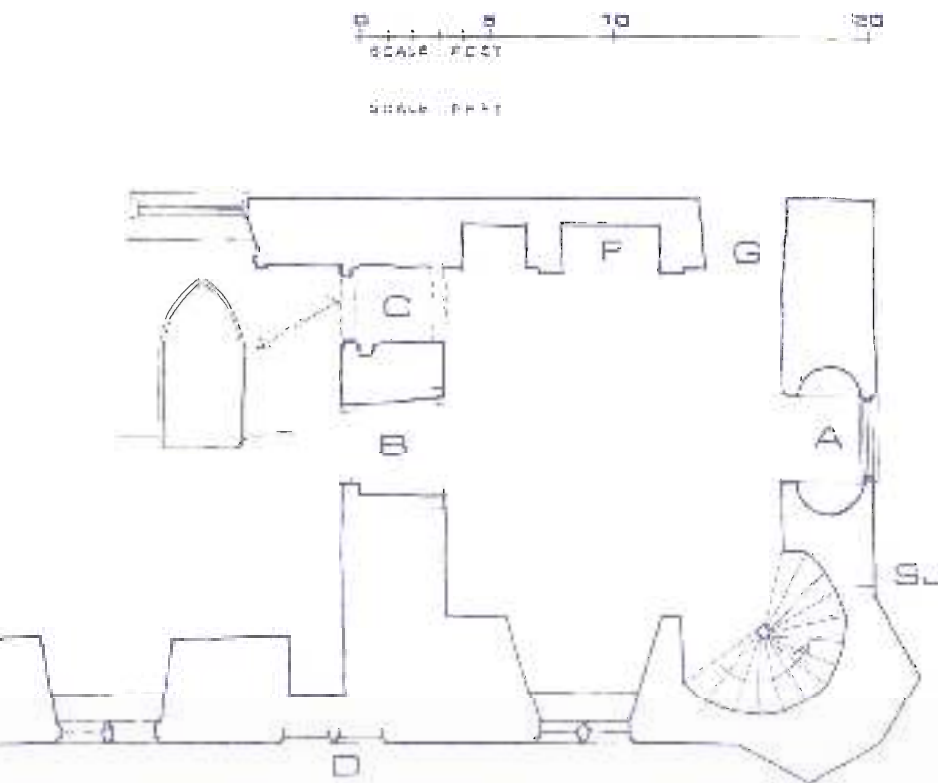
pointed with chamfered jambs. The chamfer stops at a level below the present flooring of both rooms by about 6 inches. The opening had once had a door, opening towards the tower room (that is, inwards if the tower stood first). It could be fastened by a drawbar: a balk of oak, about 6 inches square, which pushed back into a deep recess and could be pulled out and its head lodged in a recess on the other side. The deep recess has been filled in but the end of the balk – about 9 inches of it – has been left in the shallow recess.

The plan of the tower room, as drawn by Bryan Cather for the Newsletter of 1983, has been redrawn to show the new doorway (C) and it is shown in elevation as seen from the next room. The window (D) on this elevation is false and was included in the rebuilding of

the front elevation for the sake of symmetry. The two windows above it, on the first and second floors, are also false and this suggests that the tower had three storeys and rose to the full height of the house as it now is. The thick front wall of the next room may also be mediaeval. We are thus a little nearer to understanding the development of this complex building, but much remains to be explained. The opening (C) leads to a recent extension at the rear of the house.

We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Claire Hardstaff for alerting us to this exciting discovery. She now has to decide whether to have a door fitted for this new opening and, if so, what sort of wood to use and what design to adopt for it.

M. W. Barber ■



The Repair of Moreton Manor Dovecote

Joseph Whitaker F.Z.S., a local author and naturalist, wrote a book published in 1927 entitled *A Descriptive List of the Mediaeval Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire*. He was seventy seven at that time, having been born in 1850 and he died at the age of 82 in 1932.

Whitaker gives an interesting description of the Moreton Manor Dovecote on page 105 to 108 of his book and there is a photograph on page 106. His description is a little confusing but nevertheless it can easily be interpreted when one has seen the building itself.

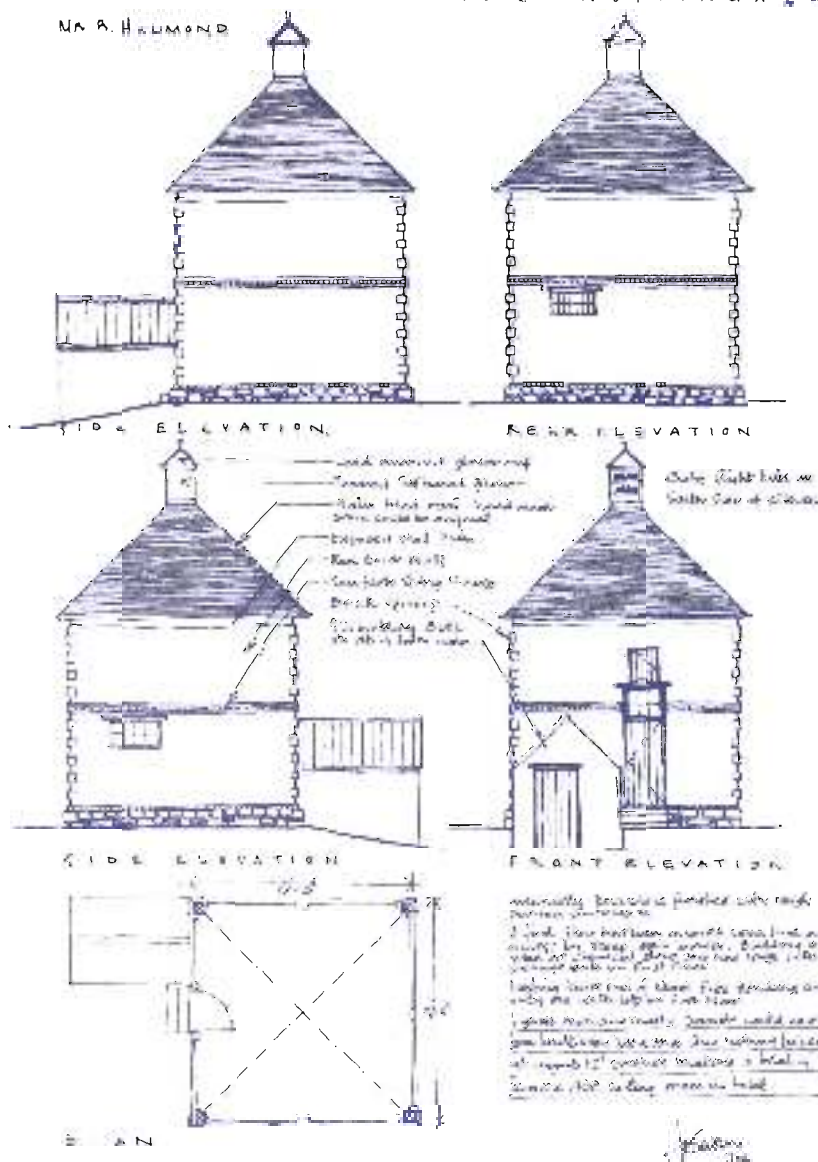
The structure is roughly square and sits upon a lias limestone foundation. The thickness of the lias wall is unknown because a concrete floor has been installed and this finishes at the same level as the top of the limestone footing. On top of this the structure is quite different from any I have seen before. At each corner a vertical post runs from the floor slab to the wall plate and is connected to each plate running from post to post. There is no plate at the ground and no intermediate horizontal members as one would expect in a timber framed structure. Nor can one see if the building were originally timber framed for both sides of the vertical posts and the bottom of the wall plates are concealed by the encasing half brickwork. If the building were originally timber framed it does seem a little strange that only the vertical corner posts were re-used in any re-building. It is my view that the Dovecote is an originally built and that the nesting boxes were mud and stud which is a typical local tradition. This could account for the general construction being only half brickwork as the ladder construction of mud and stud nesting boxes would give added stability to the wall (as at Cromwell in Nottinghamshire). In any event a structure of this size is perfectly stable in half brick construction providing it is properly restrained at its extremities. This particular building is I guess 300 years old and has stood well.

I would imagine that the half brickwork acted as a restrainer for the four posts, the posts being temporarily propped until the brickwork was up to wall plate level all round. Once the brickwork was up, the wall plates could be installed and as the roof was built up, the wall plates could be installed and as the brickwork would not allow any swaying of the framed up members, the whole structure was and still is stable. Remove the brickwork, however, and the frame would collapse. To assist in restraining the frame, the brickwork has been built around the two exposed insides of the vertical post and this would lock the post into position as the walls went up. Once the brickwork was up and the wall plates were connected to the posts, the roof could be assembled in the normal way.

My reason for assuming a mud and stud nesting box system apart from the comparison with Cromwell, is that there are remains of the oak pegs still in the wall plates internally, particularly in the side nearest the outside water tank. Their length and setting out suggests they are the remains of the ladder system found in all mud and stud examples that I have come across.

The roof construction is very similar to the Dovecote roof at Manor Farm, Easingby, except that at Moreton there is only evidence of a central Glover.

MORTON MANOR DOVECOTE
MORTON CUM FISKEATON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
MR. R. HAMMOND



The buildings seemed to be little different from when Whitaker saw it when he visited Mr. Richard Wright to view it on 6th August 1927. In his description he says it has a central Glover with eight entrance holes and below a further nine were on top of the wall. These have now gone, no doubt being tiled over after a roof repair.

The repairs carried out in 1987 comprised work to the roof, brick walls and maintenance repair to door, windows and other items.

The roof was stripped to its carcass, all rotten and unstable timbers were replaced, new glovers were constructed and the roof re-battened and tiled. As in the repair at the Bleasby Dovecote, the roof was completed with thicker battens in order to give added strength to some timbers which were 'borderline' for removal and which were retained on the grounds of the historic importance of keeping as much of the original structure as possible.

The brickwork was raked out and re-pointed where necessary and in some cases it was necessary to replace the decayed bricks. A few replacements were provided by Mr. Robert Hammond, the present owner of Morton Manor, and others were acquired through the Nottingham Civic Society's Special Projects Group

which had recently obtained some similar bricks from the Manor House at Colwick in order to repair the Dovecote at Wollaton Village.

The building is presently used as a storage shed and has been for some years.

The building is presently used as a chemical store and has been for some years. It is hoped that in the future, the area surrounding the building will be re-organised in order that a better view of the structure can be obtained all round.

The Dovecote is also referred to in the *Gazetteer in Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire* 1986 published by the Cromwell Press (page 31) and the building can easily be seen from the entrance gates to Morton Manor and also from the railway crossing on the Morton to Southwell road.

For intending visitors it must be pointed out that the building is on private land in a working farm and is used for a specialist purpose which requires the structure to be locked at all times. Apart from the breaking of the Laws of Trespass by unauthorised access to the site, it would be courteous to contact the owner, Mr. Robert Hammond, at Morton Manor, Morton cum Fiskeaton, Nottinghamshire (telephone Newark 830225) to make an appointment to view. The grid reference to the building is 725 514 on O.S. Sheet 120.

J. A. Severn