

## Overton Houses and Buildings



West Overton Cottage

North Farm was started in 1801. It is of red brick square main block with a three bay south front and service wing at the rear. To the north east is a large farmyard with central stockyard surrounded on three sides by farm buildings of various dates from the early 19th century. The modern buildings on the east have replaced the aisled barn which had a thatched roof.

The Old Manor (perhaps once called Church Farm) is reputed to have a sealed up underground passage running south across the road. It has been considerably rebuilt and a part built on which contained a large downstairs room called the 'Reading Room'. The gift of the use of this room was made to the parishoners in 1890 as long as Lady Meux was owner of the estate. When the estate was sold ownership passed to Mr. William Russ.

Holly Lodge was owned by Mr Huntley of Honeystreet and managed by Joe Ashley the village carpenter wheelwright and undertaker. When it was refurbished in 1950 a wall beam with the lettering EMP 1691 marked upon it was found suggesting it was the property of the Earl of Montgomery and Pembroke.

Overton House was the former Vicarage. It was first mentioned in 1588 and was rebuilt in the early 19th century incorporating older walling and enlarged later in the century. The vicar for Overton with Fyfield and East Kennet lived there after 1929. The house was sold in 1939 and was called West Overton House. A new vicarage was built on the south eastern outskirts of the village. That house burnt down in 198? And was later demolished and the land sold.

South Farm has a long south range with sarsen walls which is probably 17th century. The range was partly rebuilt in brick in c. 1800 and a north wing added at the eastern end to provide a new symmetrical entrance. New windows were inserted in that front in the later 19th century. It was the home of Robert Buxton between 1930? and ? who was a famed watercolour artist.

No 69 is possibly 16th or 17th century. It was the home of the chimney sweep and earlier was used as a Sunday School in the 19th century.

Nos. 72 and 73 are stone and thatch cottages with the date IS 1697 on one of the chimneys. The Cottage was the Smithy in 1906.

In 1859 the Yews was the bakery and general stores. On the map of 1906 it was marked as the Post Office. Next to the Yews a new blacksmith was built in ? The two old graneries were demolished in 1955 due to their poor state of repair.

The four stone cottages opposite became the general stores and post office in 1956.

Opposite the Yews were three thatched cottages called Peacock. Behind them was the village Pound. When they were reconstructed in the 1930's a beam was found with EP 1552 on it. The cottages burnt down in the late 1950's. An old cottage at the back of Peacock was once used as the Dame School.??

The old Village Hall was built opposite Holly Lodge in September 1931 and opened by Rt. Hon J H Whitely a former Speaker of the House of Commons.

Gypsy Furlong on the road between West Overton and Lockeridge was the home of CE Pontin the architect.

The council houses were built in the 1950's.

The estate at Southfields was built by GB Thorner Homes in 1977.

**Source:** West and East Overton. A Collection of Documents And Maps. Extracts with permission of Clive Dorling, who retains copyright.