



The Historic Buildings and Land of Stratton St. Margaret

There was a mill up until recent times and is recorded in the 'Doomsday Book'

Near the church once stood an Elizabethan tithe barn, built mainly of wood, and the village pound and the small parish school.

The main tithe barn stood near Parsonage Farm in Swindon Road (both now demolished).

The **Pidgeon House** was built c.1600 for the use of the Manor and is a Grade II listed building at the back of Swindon Road/Ermin Street.

Church Farm (grade II) dates from the mid/late 17th century. It is an 'L' plan farmhouse built of local rubblestone with ashlar stone quoins and ovolo section stone mullion windows, it is now incorporated into a Residential home. It was originally called 'Priory Farm' and stood on site of a Benedictine Priory.

19 Green Road is a 17th century Grade II listed building, which was once a dame school.

21 Green Lane, The Limes. Grade II 1800th century listed building.

1860 as 'Evans Farm', in occupation of John TANNER, farmhouse, barns, cowsheds, orchard and garden and about 154 acres of which 95 are arable, rest to pasture. Land Tax £10 12s 9d, Quit Rent to Lord of Manor 12s 4d. For sale as part of Tuckey Estate. *Swindon Advertiser* 09-07-1860.

Also known as the 'Manse', Upper Stratton Baptist Ministers lived here.

Became a Wilts C.C. Home in 1950's.

73 Swindon Rd, dated 1773, is a Two and a half storeys coursed rubble with ashlar lintels. Slate roof (modern asbestos to front). Gable end brick chimney to left. Two large modern dormers. Two ranges of 3 light casements. Central half glazed door. Modern extension to right. Catslide slate roof to rear over kitchen/scullery. Grade II listed.



Kingsdown House – (now Demolished)

Mentioned in the Will of Richard BIGGS in 1822.

From 1861-1895 Lt-Col. David Archer, local Justice of the Peace, was occupant, He died 10th May 1895, *Swindon Advertiser 18-05-1895*. by 1901 his widow Hannah is shown as head of house.

1879 saw the erection of a house and stables, plus roadway by David Archer.

In 1904-1915 Hugh S Chomeley a retired Tea planter lived in the house.

1922 Major Haywood Llewellyn Jones was owner. *1922 Kelly's Directory*

In 1930s-40s Lieut-Col Bevil Langron Butley was owner.

Description and from an Upper Stratton Senior school visit in 1935 – *“Colonel Burley residence is a stately pile of the Tudor period. It is approached through a fine park and stands in its own grounds. It has twelve chimneys of the usual Tudor design and mullioned windows. The outside is grey and mellowed with age. Round the house there is a small moat, but it is now covered by the grass. The ceilings are remarkably high and some of the older floors have been replaced by modern ones. The door is of stout oak studded with nails. Just inside the front door there is a large hall, and, on each wall, there are huge candlesticks which are used as ornaments. Just inside the front door there is also a room where they play table-tennis. Opposite the table-tennis room there is a room where they have parties. This manor will be still standing when other more recent structures have crumbled away.”* Eileen Griffin 1A
If she had only known, it would be knocked down to build the Crematorium 30 years later.

1948 Put up for Auction by Hobbs & Chambers, Sept 1948, 'A fine Tudor Style house in beautiful parklands. Lounge Hall, 4 receptions, domestic office, 8 principal beds and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 attics, garage, stabling and gardens. 17 acres productive land, 6 acres woodland, totl 32 acres. advertised in *The Gloucestershire Echo 16-07-1948*.

By 1951 Street Directory C S J Titcombe lived here. 1955 owners were Mr & Mrs C Brian.

Beechcroft House. Built around 1890's by Messrs Smith & Angel. Owned by the Arkell family for many years. Used for Elderly Evacuees from London during WWII.

Fairhaven, off Kingsdown/Beechcroft Road.

Home to local photographer. Renamed Rose Tree Cottage in 1988.

West Cottage, Green Lane would have stood near to railway crossing just inside Motor plant grounds.

The **Boundary house** was built about 1894 on the site of a cottage from when the road was turnpiked in 1757/8, it was never part of Stratton's boundary. During the early 20th century Boundary House was occupied by the coach building King Brothers, Henry Charles and Joseph and their two families. Henry Charles died in 1917. In 1924 Mr C James paid the rates of £9/2/9d. 17-04-1928 a son is born to Mr. Reg Austin, (*North Wilts Herald 04-05-1928*). Fletcher's Swindon Directory 1959 lists Hedley Hawkins, John Howard and J. Duff, motor agent, all living at 60 Beechcroft Road. Leslie Heard, Worcester Car Sales Ltd was based there from 1963 to at least 1967 when Boundary Motors is also recorded at Beechcroft Road. In 2016 it became Swindon Cycles Superstore.

The Wheatsheaf in Ermin Street is listed grade II and probably dates from the 17th century. It has a typical Cotswold stone tiled roof which is characteristically laid in diminishing courses i.e. small tiles close to the ridge becoming larger towards the eaves. Behind the pub there were 6 cottages now the car park. The pub has been associated with nearby Arkells Brewery since the 1850's (Arkells Brewery is the focus of the Stratton (Kingsdown) Conservation Area).

The Villas. Built by Thomas Colborne was used as a Children's home, by 1939 was housing nursing staff of St Margaret's Hospital.

Stratton Park house is situated on the east side of Wanborough Road, Stratton Park House is described as a late Victorian villa understood to have been built by a retired tea planter come brick maker Thomas Day who was resident from 1851-1871, It is a Grade II listed building with the listing highlighting the panelled ashlar chimneys with dentil capping, glazing bar sash windows with moulded architraves and a stucco roundel featuring a fox catching birds. To the side of the main building is an attractive dovecote featuring a steeply pitched spire-style roof with timber shingle covering. There is also an orangery,

by 1878 Captain R.H. Pollen was resident,

1881 William G. Craig, C.E., a Scottish Engineer is living here.

1882 16th Feb, Eliza Ellen Langley wife of William Craig dies. *Swindon Advertiser* 25-02-1882.

1887, 21st March, at Stratton house, Sophia Jane Beach Bowchier, eldest daughter of William & Anna, and granddaughter of the late captain John Bowchier, R.N., of H.M.S. Hawk. *Swindon Advertiser* 02-04-1887.

It was put up for rent in 1895, 'To be Let, Unfurnished, Stratton House, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Stratton St. Margaret Station and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Swindon Station, containing drawing and dining rooms, 7 bed-rooms and servant's offices, with conservatory, stabling, and over an acre of kitchen garden, lawn, &c.; rent £4; also the Wharf farm adjoining, consisting of farm-house, cottages, and over 36 acres of good pasture land; will be let separately or together, at a moderate rent.- Apply S., 22, Dorset Street, London'. *The Standard* 07-05-1896.

In 1900 Mr. R. G. Ward was resident.

1901 Census shows a widow Mary Pritchard and her two daughters, she moved out later in the year and there was a furniture sale, *Swindon Advertiser* 25-10-1901.

1910 postcard shows a Mrs Deacon as occupant.

1911 Joseph Brown, a groom, and his family shown as occupants.

1930 Street Directory shows Joseph Deane Willis resident.

1939 Register shows Joseph Deane a retired farmer living here, his wife is still there in 1941.

1948 F Cadman and in 1951 S J Bryant lived here and the last family to live here in 1960's was Mr Josef Hajduk, Mrs Nikole Hajduk and children.

In the early 1970's in connection with the building of the M4 motorway, a bypass for Stratton St. Margaret was built that enabled Wanborough Road to be downgraded. However, that was at a price for Stratton Park House because the new road and the junction with Oxford Road were built on its land to the east of the house and as a result Stratton Park was reduced in size to around two acres. The land to the east of the A419 was subsequently developed to provide a Toys-R-Us and later Sainsbury's superstore.

The building was acquired by Neville Clarke Associates, a firm of management consultants around 1985 and they carried out the conversion and the extension using local architects Eric Cole and Partners. The extension built in 1987 provided an additional 500 m² of floor space and overall provided around 800 m² of floor space including a purpose-built conference room. The building was then acquired in the early 1990's by Jim Pymer, who had been the Company Secretary of Neville Clarke Associates and his wife who established Certification International, an independent certification body offering audit and certification across several ISO standards. They sublet parts of the building to a few occupiers including Wind River, a software company that was eventually acquired by Intel, Whitmarsh Preece, a firm of commercial property advisers and Salamander, a firm involved in electrical switchgear. Since 2001 owned by PFA.

6 Green Lane was the original Dairy.

1938 Saw the completion of the Upper Stratton Housing Scheme, built by Highworth R.D.C. for £6,252 12s 6d.
North Wilts Herald 11-02-1938.

Recreation Grounds, Ermin Street, sold to Plessey's for Sports Ground now Kingsdown Gate housing estate. Garrads, the radio and record player company, had a Sports field off Stratton Road. It had football, cricket, hockey pitches, tennis courts and bowling green along with clubhouse. When Garrad's left Swindon, the grounds were sold and now make up part of Greenbridge leisure area.

1966 **Crematorium** built in Kingsdown Road on site of Kingsdown House.

Gays Place, sheltered housing named after well known local midwife of 1940's and 1950's often seen out and about on her bike.

Espringham House, Sheltered Housing in Hathaway Road opened in 1971.

Stratton Wood - [A Woodland Trust Site](#) this was opened around 2000 after a lot of local campaigning. On the first day of tree planting Clive Anderson came and joined in.