

ROBERT CHAPLIN'S (1774 – 1860) ARCHITECTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS AT COLEORTON HALL



BY SAMUEL T STEWART – MARCH 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to Ashby de la Zouch museum for allowing access to, and use of *certain* material researched from the John Crocker (local historian) Coleorton Beaumont archives catalogued for the museum by John MacDonald the Coleorton Heritage Warden.

Further material and photographs appertaining to the subjects represented would be welcomed by the author, particularly with respect to people who would have worked in the gardens or laundry.

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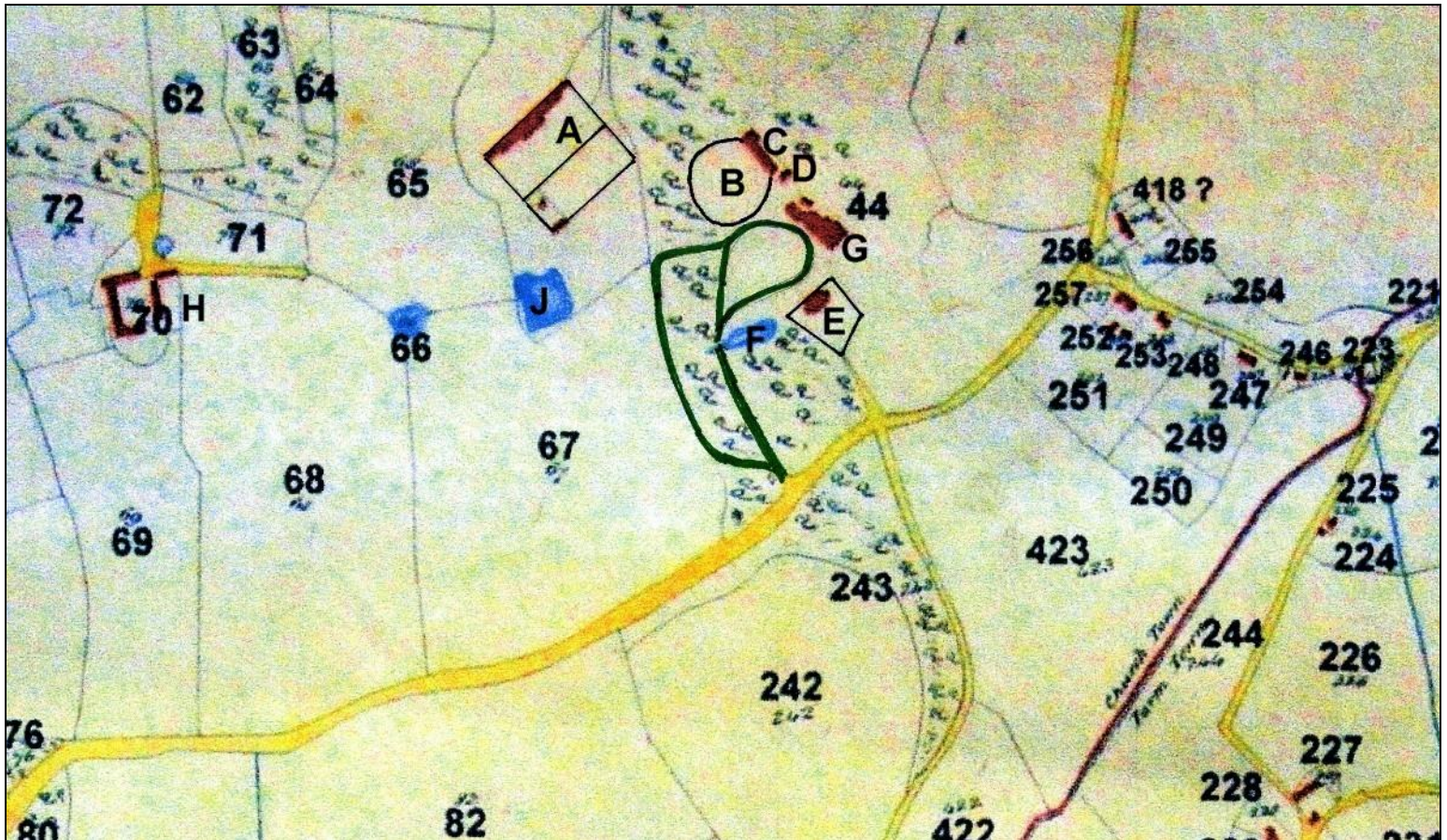
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MAPS

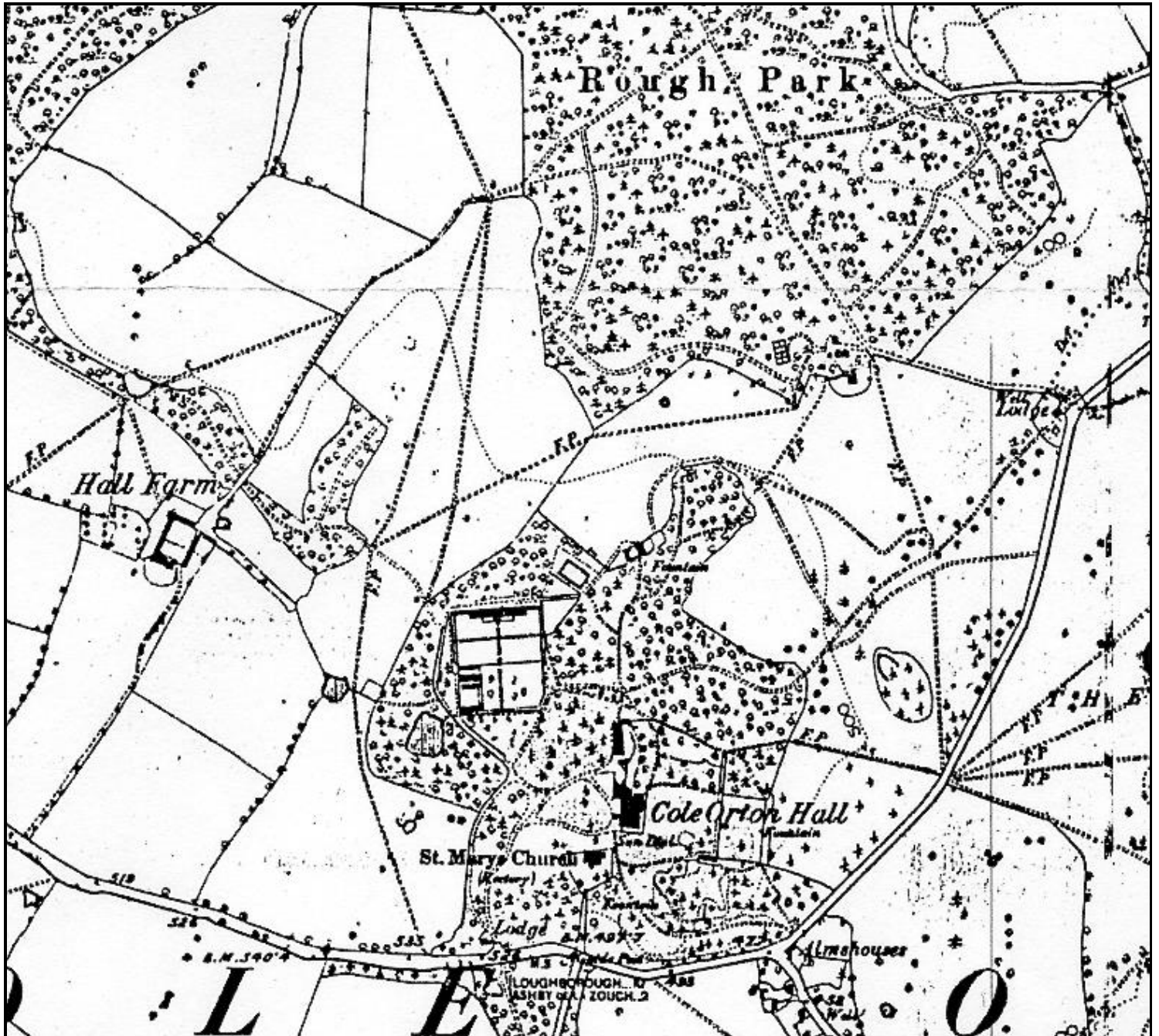
The extract below, taken from the 1842 Coleorton Tithe Map (annotated by the author) has been added at this stage in order to provide the reader with a geographical understanding of certain features around Coleorton Hall, some of which are described elsewhere in the book.



The old entrance drive from Ashby Road is coloured dark green, and passes over the bridge which spanned “Church Pool” marked **F**. It also shows the area of Robert Chaplin’s new kitchen garden marked **A**. Coleorton Hall is marked **G**, and Hall Farm is marked **H**. The latter was accessed by a track from the main Ashby Road between the fields numbered 68 and 69 (shown on the following 1882 O/S map). St. Mary’s Church is marked **E**, Chaplin’s Stable Block is marked **C**. The Brew House / Coachman’s Cottage is marked **D**. The area **B** was the site of the kitchen garden prior to Chaplin’s new kitchen garden marked **A** being built. It later became the pinetum and then in the 1900’s, tennis courts were built on the site. **J** marks the location of the garden pool shown earlier.

The 1842 Tithe Map of Coleorton is useful in that it loosely portrays the stone bridge and drive crossing the pool, but it is thought that by then it had fallen out of use as a change to the road system around the hall had taken place. The map is however **inaccurate** in respect of the geographical orientation of the various features described. The 1882 O/S map on the following page does however show them correctly. It is included to give an appreciation of the approach

driveway to the hall, and pathways etc around the hall / grounds and St. Mary's Parish church. These as far as the author is aware, were not significantly changed until after the NCB purchased the hall and grounds in 1948 and "The Cedars" private house was then built in 1959 on part of the original site of "Wordsworth's Winter Garden". Certain paths around the original winter garden area are still in evidence and photographs are included in the free to read publication on the author's website entitled "**Wordsworth's Winter Garden**".



1882 O/S Map

Supplementary information – Please refer to the preceding 1882 O/S map.

The area to the east of the Rempstone Road, traditionally known as “The Paddock” in the 19th and 20th centuries, and used for grazing stock in those times, was part of what was once the ancient “Coleorton Common” which in the 18th century would have been an industrial landscape of coal mines and its associated machinery with the remains of a medieval fishpond to the NE of the current Coleorton Fishpond which was established at the beginning of the 19th century probably as part of the re-landscaping of the grounds for the newly built Coleorton Hall, which was first inhabited in 1808. It was likely to have been first created to provide fish for the table at the hall; ice being brought from there in the winter to the ice house in the grounds of the hall, in order to preserve the fish.

This industrial landscape in the area would have been cleaned up to improve the views from the new hall no doubt. Apparently, the old Coleorton Common was recognized as an important horse trading centre in the 17th century, which, from earlier newspaper articles seems to have been a tradition maintained to some degree in later years. This area has sometimes been referred to as “Parkland”, which is not strictly true. The only Parkland referred to in 19th century records was Rough Park and smaller areas such as Canterbury Park in the area of Canterbury Lodge. The lodge is shown two thirds of the way up the RH side of the 1882 map and will appear as a separate article on the author’s website

The area of “Rough Park” was the site of one of the two ancient medieval deer parks in Coleorton, and is historically important for that reason. The area also contained 15th century coal mines which were excavated and destroyed by the nearby open cast mining operations between 1985 and 1993. Rough Park also included the road built by Sir George Beaumont in the 1830’s to avoid the crippling turnpike tolls after he unsuccessfully tried to get them reduced.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROBERT CHAPLIN (1774 – 1860)

Robert Chaplin was born in Kenton, Devon. He apparently spent the earlier part of his career at Newton Abbot, before moving to Ashby de la Zouch c.1821 when his design for the “Ivanhoe Baths” was chosen.

He lived in Rawdon Terrace, and other buildings in Ashby which were attributed to him were the Hastings Hotel built in 1826 and renamed the Royal Hotel in 1841, Ivanhoe Terrace and the Ashby Manor House. He possibly had some involvement with the Railway Station also (ref “Leicestershire Architects 1700-1850 by J. D. Bennet).

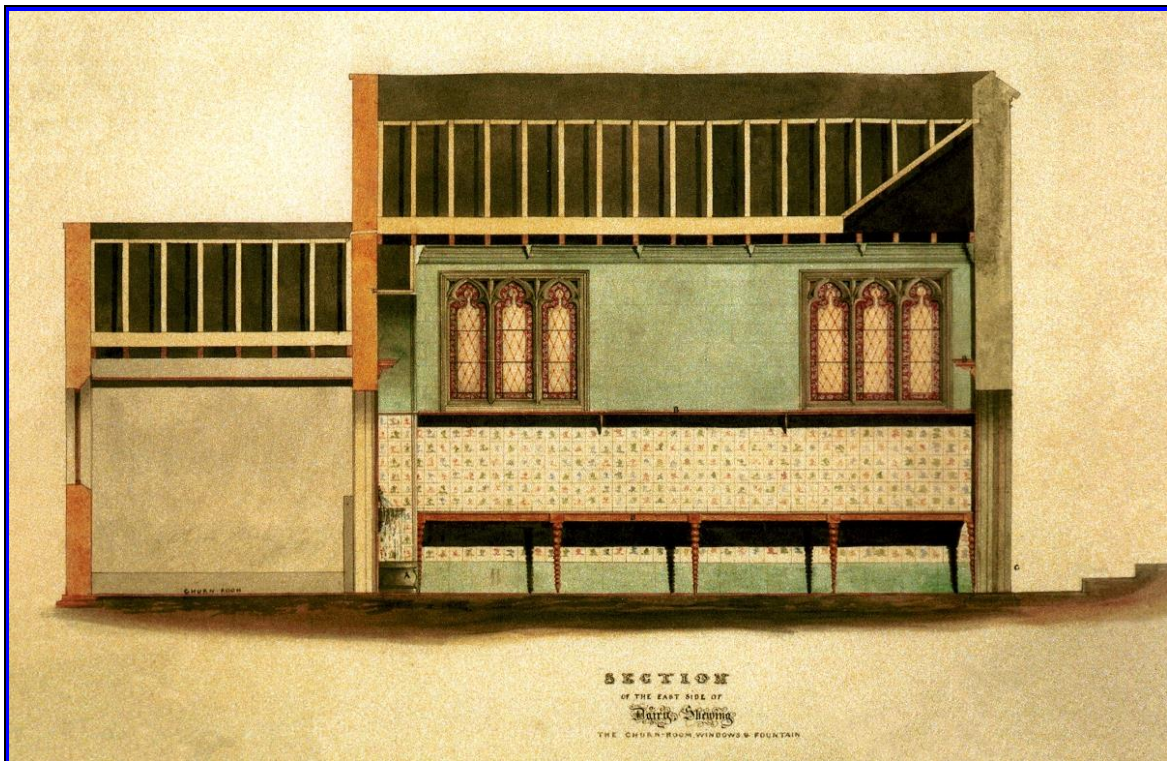


**The Royal Hotel and the Ivanhoe Baths
Examples of Robert Chaplin’s architectural skills**

Extensive architectural design and building work was carried out at Coleorton Hall by Robert Chaplin on behalf of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 7th Baronet (1753-1827) and Sir George Howland Willoughby Beaumont, 8th Baronet (1799-1845) as follows.

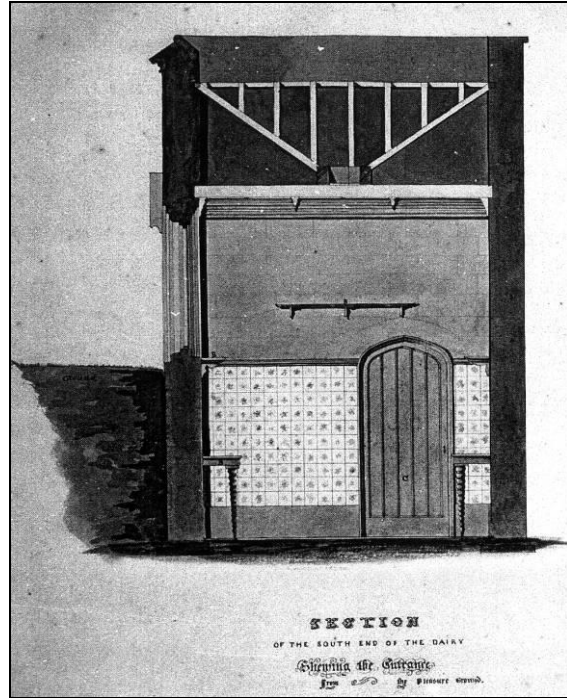
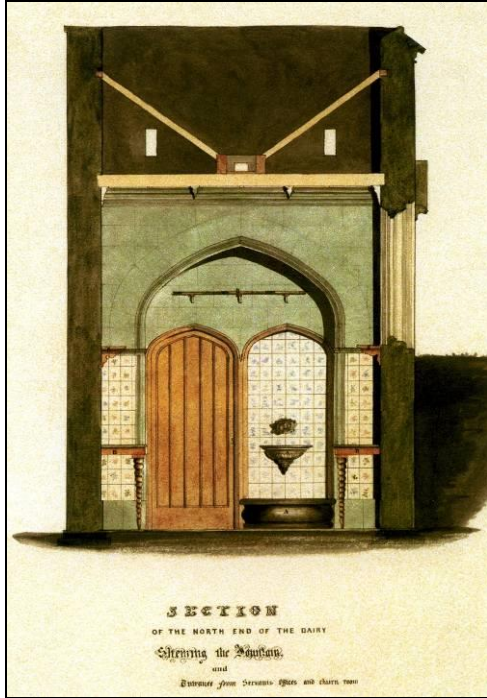
THE DAIRY HOUSE c.1824

There has been little recorded about this historically important addition to Coleorton Hall, the location of which is shown on the 1938 plan on page 10. Some of the external walls and the ornate mullion windows have fortunately survived, although not listed as far as the author is aware. The inside of this ornate building however has been incorporated into a private apartment, and as far as the author is aware, none of the internal features have survived!! An external photograph taken by the author during a tour of the grounds in 2015 follows and shows the surviving stone work walls and mullion windows. This can be compared with Robert Chaplin's plan, particularly with respect to the windows.

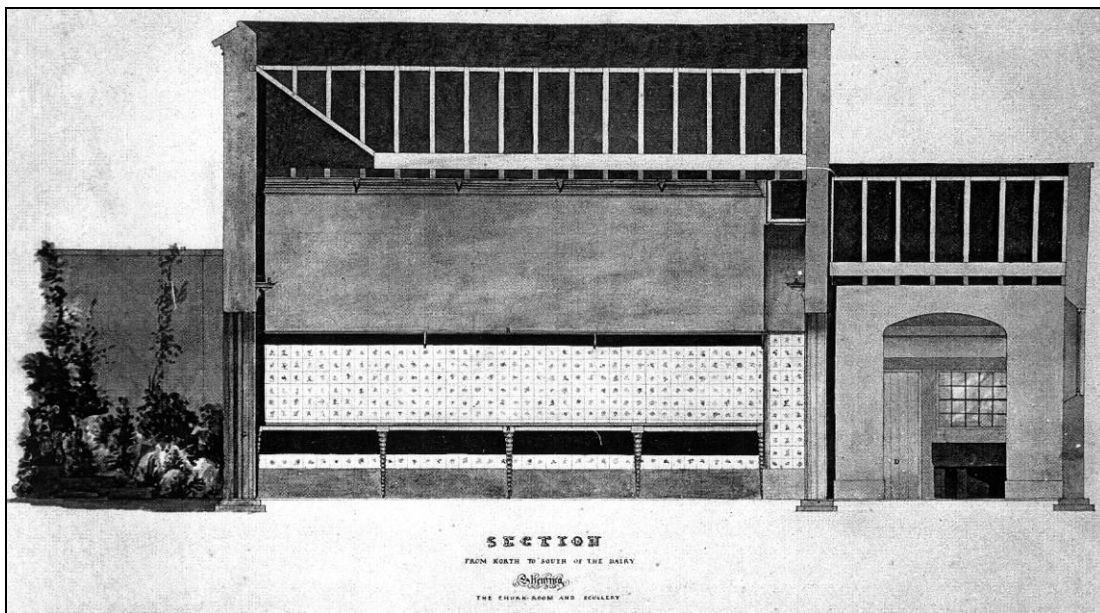


Section of the north east side of the Dairy House showing the churn-room on the left, the two mullion windows (still in situ at the hall) and the fountain on the wall to the left

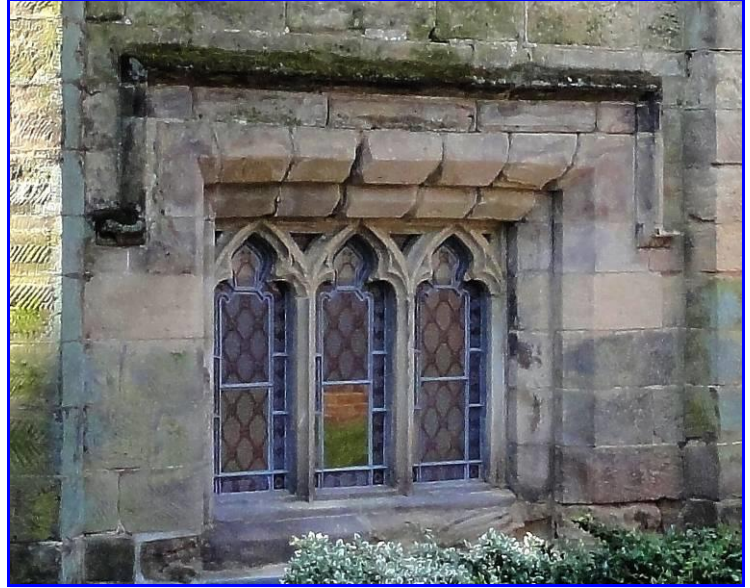
A **mullion** is a vertical element that forms a division between units of a window or screen, or is used decoratively. When dividing adjacent window units its primary purpose is a rigid support to the glazing of the window. Its secondary purpose is to provide structural support to an arch or lintel above the window opening.



On the left is a section of the North West facing end of the Dairy House showing the fountain and entrance from the servant's offices and churn-room. On the right is a section of the south east end of the Dairy House showing the entrance from the pleasure grounds which has now been bricked up but the steps down to this can be seen on the RH side of the following photograph.



Longitudinal section through the Dairy House showing the churn-room and scullery.

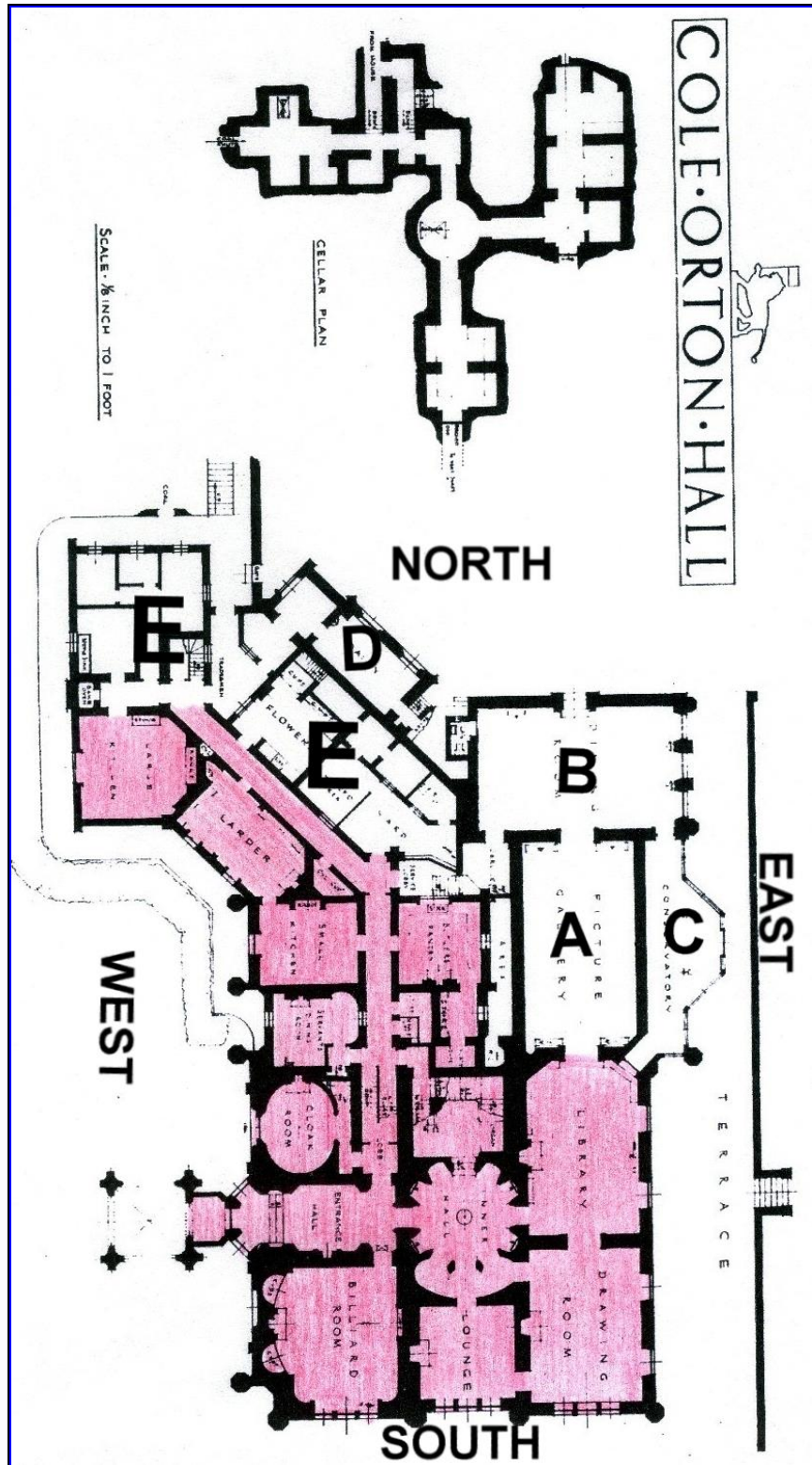


Photograph of the retained external north east elevation taken in 2015 by the author showing the attractive mullion windows.

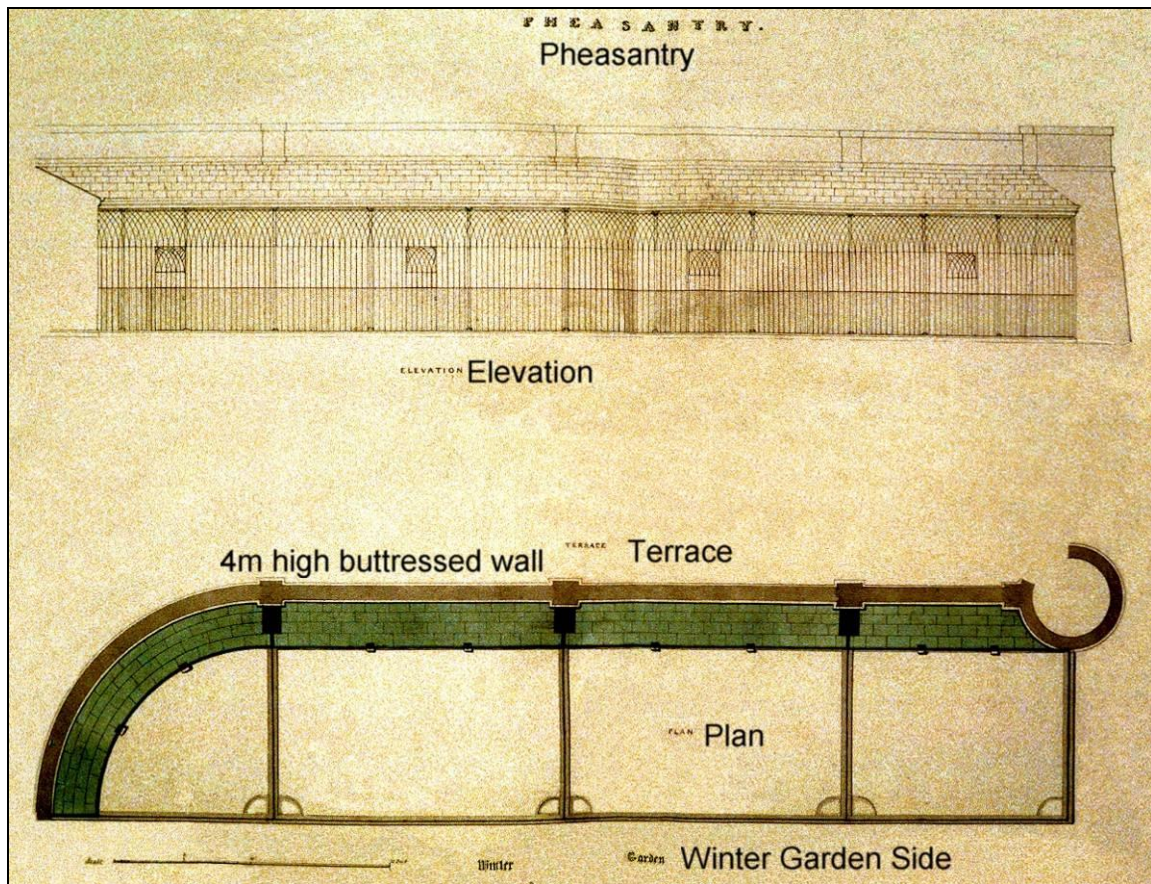


**1997 view of churn room and scullery end of Dairy House
(none of the internal features have unfortunately survived and are now replaced
by a modern residential kitchen)**

In the 1938 ground floor and cellar plan below, the red shaded area was that encompassed by the original hall as built in 1808. It is not clear how much of the building to the NW in the areas marked **E** was completed in 1808. The “Dairy House” marked **D**, was designed by Robert Chaplin c.1832, at the same time he designed the new kitchen garden, both of which feature later. It is quite likely that all of the buildings in the area marked **E**, including the flowers section, glazed area and yard didn't exist at that time.



THE PHEASANTRY (AVIARY) c.1831



Plan of the "Pheantry"

This was commissioned by Lady Mary Anne Beaumont, wife of the 8th baronet.

In 1841, it was recorded by Noyes that during a visit to the gardens he saw the above aviary and made the following comment – *".....which took up room that could not be spared, shuts out of view the ornamental masonry of the high terrace wall, and is altogether out of character with this place"*



This photograph shows the curved wall area that the “Pheasantry” fitted into

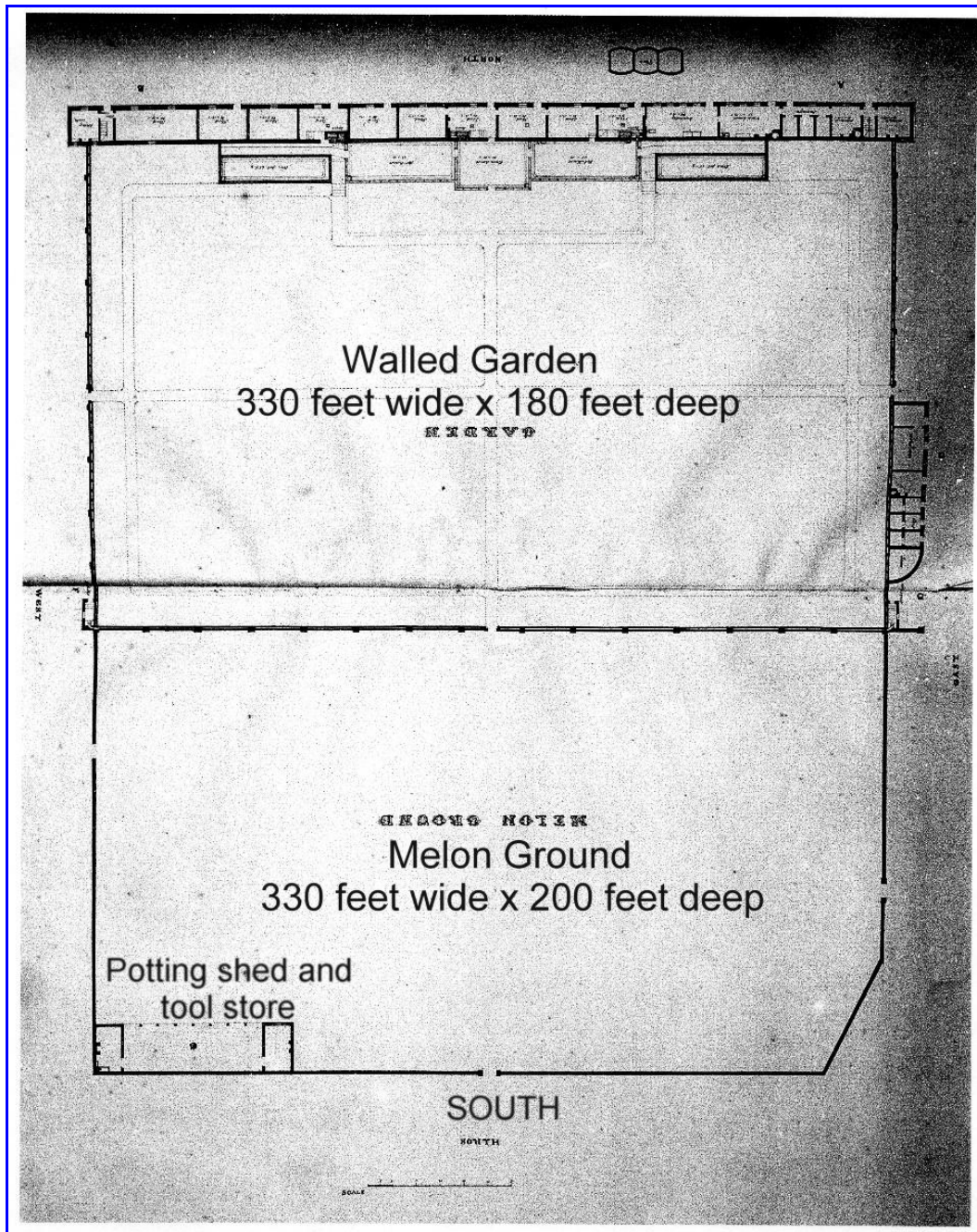


Aerial view of 4m high north retaining wall



Aerial view showing north wall in relation to the hall and church

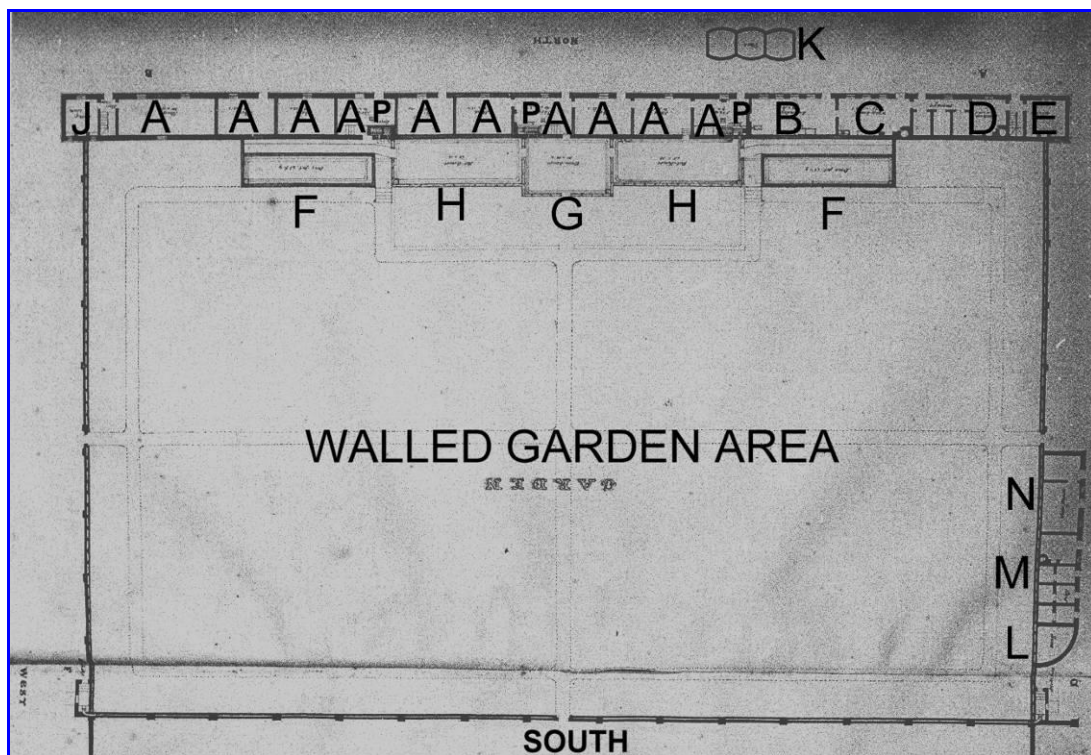
THE NEW KITCHEN GARDEN c.1830



The above is a copy of the plan of the kitchen garden drawn by Robert Chaplin. The garden was sited some 250m north west of the hall. The walled part of the garden to the east, west and south was buttressed all around, and was twenty feet high. The south wall was actually of double construction with heating pipes running down the centre. There was a stoke hole at either end with steps down, which presumably contained a boiler to feed hot water to the pipes. There follows a plan of the walled garden only area, marked up with a description of the various buildings that were constructed at the northern end of the garden. The original Kitchen Garden was part of the large service and farm courtyard that existed at the end of the 18th century.

A garden prior to Chapin's garden existed to the west of the stable block featured later, and this is the one referred to in Lady Beaumont's letter to Miss Wordsworth. In the 1930's, Tennis Courts were erected on the site of the old garden c.1930's and these can be seen on page 23.

In a letter to Miss Wordsworth dated 18th July 1830, Lady Beaumont wrote....."Removal of the kitchen garden from the back of the stables to a field beyond has given great lightness to the approach to the house", and in a letter to William Wordsworth on the 2nd July 1831, she wrote....."Hot houses, Kitchen garden etc are at length nearly completed.....double the sum we had hoped ...£8,000. £1,200 on actual manual labour using our own labourers. This must have been referring to the new garden based on Robert Chaplin's plans, which suggests they were drawn at the beginning of 1830. The letters would have been written by the 8th Baronet's wife Lady Mary Ann Beaumont, as Lady Margaret, wife of the 7th baronet, had died prior to this date.



Key

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------|
| A | Sheds (9). Although termed as sheds, they were much more than this as described later. | | |
| B | Laundry | C | Wash-House |
| D | Kitchen | E | Laundry-maids house |
| F | Pine Pit | G | Green House |
| H | Hot House (2) | | |
| J | 1 up / 1 down gardener's house with stairs to bedroom (adjacent shed marked A used as seed and store room) | | |
| K | Tanks | L | Dung Store |
| M | Four pig-sties | | |
| N | Cow House (between the cow house and pig sties there is a toilet) | | |
| P | Boilers (3) | | |

Although not shown on the preceding plans, an approximately 18 feet wide strip of garden supported by a 3 feet high wall ran externally down the east and west sides of the walled garden. These were for the gardener's house and the laundry house respectively which are described later.

The accounts for the hall gardens show that in 1834 James Cruikshank was the head gardener, and his annual salary was £100. It is likely that he was appointed to establish and manage the new kitchen gardens. Montgomery Henderson replaced him in 1838 and he is featured in a dedicated article to him later in the book. Henderson started on £63 – 0s – 0d per annum, which in the following year, and thereafter, was raised to £84 – 0s – 0d. Although pineapples were one of Montgomery Henderson's specialities, it was noted in the accounts that James Cruikshank (former head gardener) was growing them prior to Henderson arriving. On the following page is a copy of the Coleorton Hall garden accounts for 1834 to 1836 which suggest the garden was being well managed financially. Edward B. Knight (Edward Butt Knight) is mentioned in the accounts, and he was the 8th Baronet's land agent from 1827 till 1844, the year in which he died.

There is a record of Brick and Tile output from Sir George Beaumont's Coleorton Brickyard for the new Kitchen Garden continuing from May 1830 to February 1832, for drainage, Garden walls and buildings.

Between December 10th 1830 and August 1832, there were 220,850 Common Bricks alone purchased for the New Garden buildings construction and between May 22nd 1830 and November 27th 1830 a further 417,725 common bricks for the garden walls were purchased.

In addition to these, large quantities of other materials were purchased like – Flue bricks, , floor bricks, bevel ended bricks sough tiles (drainage), half round bricks, quarries, plain tiles and ridge tiles and garden tiles etc.

The author recommends that the reader refers to another book on the website entitled *The History of Coleorton Brickworks*.

1. Edward B. Knight - Account with Mr Cruickshank for Garden year ending 1835		Dec
Cash for fruits sold per Fruit Book	125 3 3	
Cash recd of His Grace the A. of C.	42 12 4	
Cash for Veg. sold per Vegetable Book	17 5 11	
Cash for Plants sold per Plant Book	15 16 8	
Cash for Pigs sold to May 16 th 1835	7 0 0	
Cash for Dairy Goods to June 6 th 1835	5 2 8	
	£ 213-1-4	
By the years salary from 1 st Jan 1835 to 1 st Jan 1836		100-0-0
By the years incidentals to same time per Mr Cruickshank's book		79-11-3
By balance due to Sir George Beaumont		33-10-1
		£ 213-1-4

Settled the above A/c Edward B. Knight & James Cruickshank Jan 29th 1836.

2. Statement of the Garden Account at Coleorton Hall for the year April 16 th 1834 to March 31 st 1835	
1834 By cash of Sir George Beaumont	38-14-6
Sept 4 th for fruit sold to Lambeth London.	40-18-0
17 th Cash of Mr Cruickshank for Plants sold as per his book.	31-11-0
	31-11-0
1835	39-1-6
March 23 rd --- Fruit sold ---	31-11-0
--- Vegetables sold ---	30-3-0
--- Plants sold ---	34-9-6
	26-16-0
	9-19-0
Balance	485-0-4½
	£ 792-10-9½
1834 By payment to Mr Cruickshank for the month of April 1834	38-14-6
--- May 1834	40-18-0
--- June	31-11-0
--- July	31-11-0
--- August	39-1-6
--- Sept.	31-11-0
--- Oct.	30-3-0
--- Nov.	34-9-6
--- Dec.	26-16-0
1835	32-17-6
January 1835	26-9-0
February	391-18-9½
March	16-10-0
By purchase of a House for the Gardens, and by keep of same	20-0-0
	£ 792-10-9½

3. Statement of the Garden Account at Coleorton Hall for the year from March 31 st 1835 to April 1 st 1836	
June 27 th 1836. To cash of Sir Geo. H. W. Beaumont for fruit sold to Lambeth, London per book	30-11-0
To cash of Mr Cruickshank for plants sold	10-3-1
--- Fruit sold	40-9-6
--- Vegetables sold	33-0-0
	32-2-6
	20-0-0
To Balance being the actual cost of the gardens for one year	583-10-7¾
	£ 784-8-9¾
1835. By payment to Mr Cruickshank for the month of April 1835 per book	30-11-0
By Mr Matthew Snelson bill for Cart to the Gardens	10-3-1
Payment to Mr Cruickshank	40-9-6
--- May 1835	33-0-0
--- June 1835	32-2-6
--- July 1835	20-0-0
By Mr Hood bill for Trees to Garden	40-11-0
Payment to Mr Cruickshank	33-0-6
--- August 1835	39-17-6
--- Sept 1835	29-19-0
--- Oct 1835	31-7-0
--- Nov 1835	116-8-3
--- Dec 1835	39-13-0
--- Jan 1836	31-19-6
--- Feb 1836	15-0-0
--- March 1836	20-0-0
By purchase of a House for Garden use	32-17-2
By keep of ---	2-10-0
Nov 30 th 1835: Messrs Marshall & Co. Derbyshire, Bill for Ironwork	17-12-0
Jan 16 th 1836 By Thos Haywood bill for reeds (seeds?) to Garden	100-0-0
Jan 27. Mr B. Walker's bill, Gravel	4-9-4
Jan 29. By Mr Cruickshank - one years salary from 1 st Jan 1835 to 1 st Jan 1836	73-8-5¾
Feb 7 th By T. Thorpe Whitesmith, bill for work to the Hall Gardens	£ 784-8-9¾
By Mr Bradford bill for Gleziers work at the Hall Gardens.	

Coleorton Hall garden accounts 1834 - 1836
(Transcribed from originals by John Crocker)

**THE FOLLOWING IS PART OF AN ARTICLE WHICH WAS FEATURED IN:-
THE "GOSSIP OF THE GARDEN – VOLUME III, JUNE 1858**

Cole-Orton Hall –

On entering the fruit and kitchen gardens, we were at once conducted through the vineries; these recalled to our mind the metropolitan horticultural shows, where for eighteen years Mr. Henderson, the head gardener, has been a successful exhibitor of grapes, pines, peaches &c., as well as the principal provincial exhibitions. In the early houses the fruit had all been cut with the exception of a few bunches of Muscat of Alexandria, which were large and fine, and had attained the rich amber colour this variety assumes when perfectly ripened. Passing through the greenhouse, a late vinery in which a fine crop was beginning to colour, the berries swelling freely, the foliage large and healthy, came next in order, and from the general appearance of the vines the fruit gave promise of the highest excellence when fully ripe. From this we move on to a pit, in which Mr. Henderson has grown annually some magnificent Black Hamburgh grapes, bunches large, berries finely swelled and of the richest black, (not even requiring another "dip"). Once or twice we have seen this beautiful fruit in perfection, but at the time of our visit last year (August) all had been cut. The vines however were in excellent condition, having stout, short-jointed, though roughly well-ripened wood, and although they had been forced for the last eighteen years, to have the grapes ripe in May, they seemed to have lost none of their vigour. The leaves were very large, leathery, thick and clean. The vines are planted inside, on a shallow border one foot deep, six and a half feet wide, formed of loam without any admixture whatever. It is impossible from the manner in which they were placed for the roots to escape, a proof that elaborate vine borders are not only unnecessary but hurtful. The border receives an occasional top-dressing, and is supplied with liquid manure two or three times during the season. In another division of the garden is a newly erected house in which the vines are planted in the same manner as before described. The pineries (pineapples) were next inspected, and found them well stocked with healthy robust plants, some of them swelling fine fruit. The smooth leaved Cayenne and Queen are favourite sorts here. There are other smaller pits and frames fully occupied, some with Melons, others with Achimenes, Gloxinias, &c. Of Gloxinias there were a large number of seedlings, the majority having large and highly coloured flowers of first-class excellence.

**The following is an extract from an article written in "The Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener"
December 23rd 1875**

.....and now I will change the scene and theme, from groves passing onto grapes, and from pinuses to pines. The kitchen gardens are but a short distance from the pleasure grounds, and are approached through bowers of evergreens leading to an orchard, the borders by the side of the walk containing standard roses of unusual vigour, their strength being sustained by good soil, rich feeding, and very close pruning. The fruit trees in this orchard are some of them old and scraggy, yet healthy, and yield good produce; but besides the fruit the mistletoe growing on the apple trees invites attention.

Entering the walled garden, which is about two acres, the borders again being lined with roses – what a place for roses! – we see the vineries on the south wall, and could not resist the involuntary mental enquiry. Are these the structures which for a quarter of a century produced the grapes which won so many prizes and medals at the Royal Horticultural, Royal Botanic, and other Societies' shows? The houses are neither large, lengthy, nor lofty, but just such common-place erections as were placed in ordinary gardens half a century ago, and the vines are certainly as old-fashioned as the houses. Their gaunt stems rise from the ground, and their branches are trained "any way", one vine covering a roof and the shoots disposed according to the one governing condition that the foliage can have light. They are pruned, too, on "no principle", as some might call it, yet on the principle of selecting and cutting to the best eyes, let them be situated where they may. That is how, so far as regards training and pruning, Mr. Henderson has "swept the boards" on so many occasions by the splendid quality and superb finish of his grapes.

It may be urged that this mode of culture is without "system", but rather should it be regarded as the fruit-producing and prize-winning system of which Mr. Henderson, with just and commendable pride, did what the veteran winner did not care to do – gave abundant proof by such a display of gold medals as have probably never been won by one man. Mr. Henderson showed, until he was tired of showing, and won until he was tired of winning, but he shows good grapes by his old "no system" mode of culture, and on the same old vines. His mantle has now fallen on Mr. Coleman who was one of his pupils - a worthy pupil of a worthy tutor.

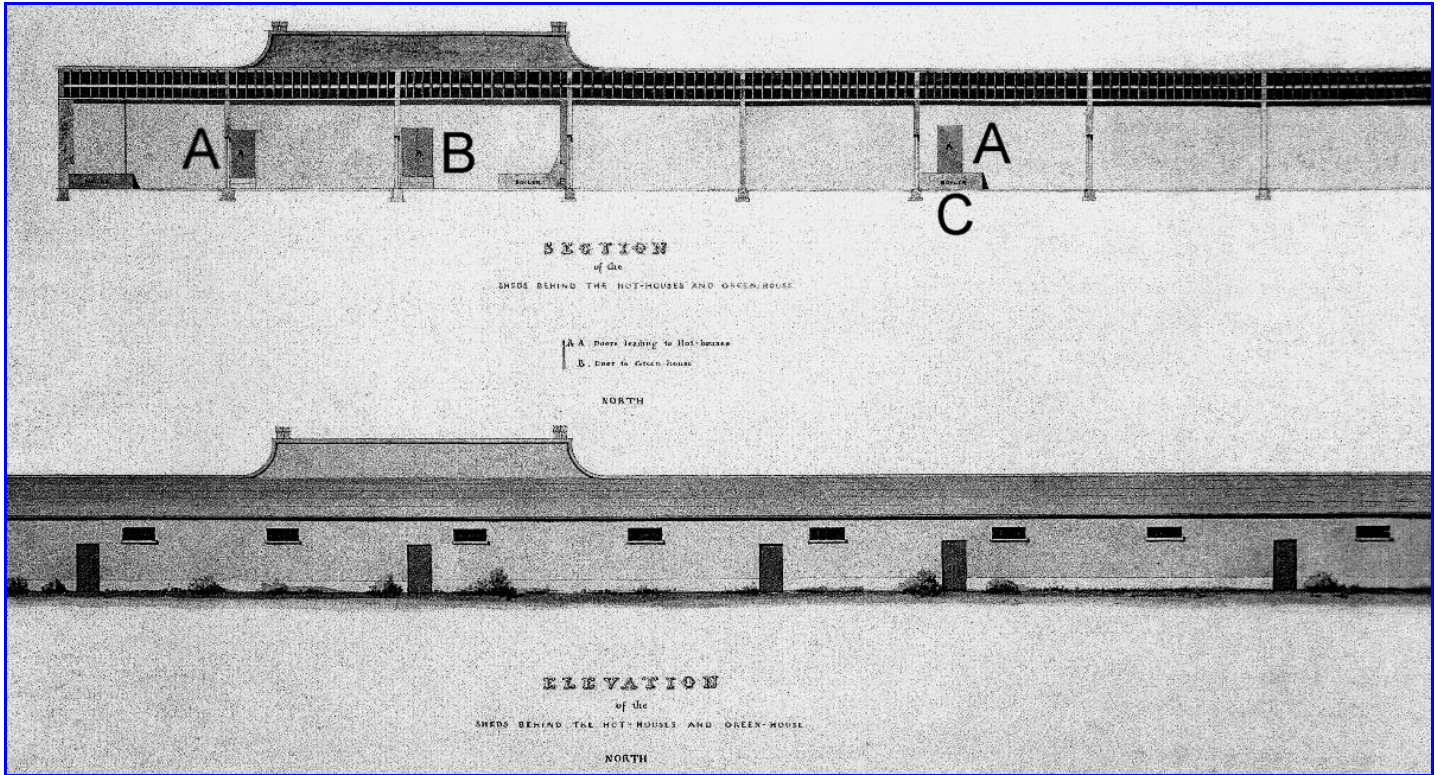
But in worse than these old houses, or at least in a structure still more likely and uninviting, have the conquering grapes been produced. And now I am going to state something wonderful, almost incredible, yet true. At the end of the vineries is an old brick pit. It was once a pine pit heated by dung, the bottom being arched forming a chamber beneath in which to place manure. Thirty years ago Mr. Henderson converted this brick frame (for that is what it is) into a vinery by placing in it a little more than a foot of soil and planting with vines, the canes being trained near the glass. The pit is now heated by a water pipe (no bottom heat), the lights push up and down-there are twelve of them-and the bed in which the vines (seven) are planted is 7 feet wide. It is from this homely pit that the aristocratic grapes have come. And now for the marvel-this twelve light pit has produced grapes which have won prizes of the value of £300. Is this not an achievement unparalleled in the annals of grape culture? Eleven pounds of fruit to the square yard of glass is the annual produce of this pit. The canes are trained "any way", and pruned as before to the "best eyes". The wood is stout, and exceedingly short-jointed, and the foliage in October possesses the thick leathery texture of a fig. It is hardly necessary to say that these vines have been top-dressed and fed with the right food, and in the right quantity, and at the right time. On these vines I make only this short comment: they show conclusively what may be done with a small amount of soil if properly attended to, and that-I make no secret about it-were I essaying the production of grapes involving the least outlay in preparations and fuel I should "go in" for the pit culture a la Coleorton.

At the other end of the vineries is a corresponding pit, where peaches are successfully grown in the same way as are these remarkable vines.

There is another short range of vineries planted with vines of more modern date, which were carrying excellent crops of highly finished fruit. The outside vine borders (and I think all are outside save that of the pit) are heavily dressed with rich manure annually, and which is never removed. No fear of the roots leaving a rich feeding ground like that and darting into the subsoil. The surface is simply netted with them, and cannot be dug, and hence the short-jointed wood, leathery foliage, and finely finished fruit. It is just the old lesson over again, but how slow is the world at learning!

I have yet to note the pines. The notice needs only to be brief. They are grown in brick pits, the lights pushing up and down. There are four pits of twenty lights each. The plants are grown on the labour-and-fuel-saving-system. They are not potted. The suckers are planted one year, and they fruit the next, and such fruit! For instance, in October the fruit had been cut and the plants cleared out which had been inserted as suckers in the preceding September. If an occasional plant fails to fruit the first season, its fruit Mr. Henderson says, never "plumps" so well as the yearlings, because the "steel has been taken out of the soil and the roots have lost their vigour". "If", says he, "you want the best pines in the shortest time select big suckers" as long as your arm and plant them early in September, and within the twelve-month you will have more "eight pounders" than anything else. The condition of the plants justified that assertion. The pines are grown as cool as possible, two 3-inch pipes affording, I think, all the artificial heat; but then the pits are narrow and shallow, so that no more air is heated or cooled than is absolutely necessary. It is the most economical and effectual example of pine-growing, which after rather extensive travels, has come under my notice.

The garden walls are covered with well-trained and fruitful trees, many of them old, especially the peaches, which looked like octogenarians which had been cut down and made new again. They produce splendid crops of fruit, illustrating in a convincing manner the force of Mr. Luckhurst's advice of this mode of treatment.....

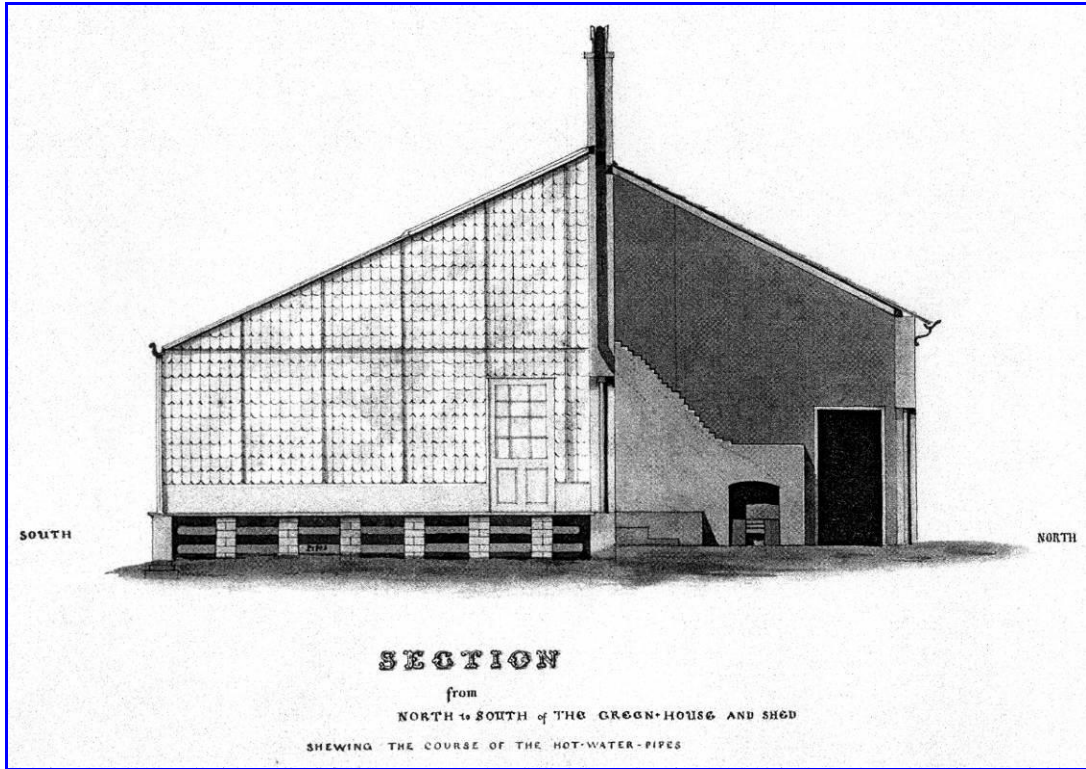


Top View

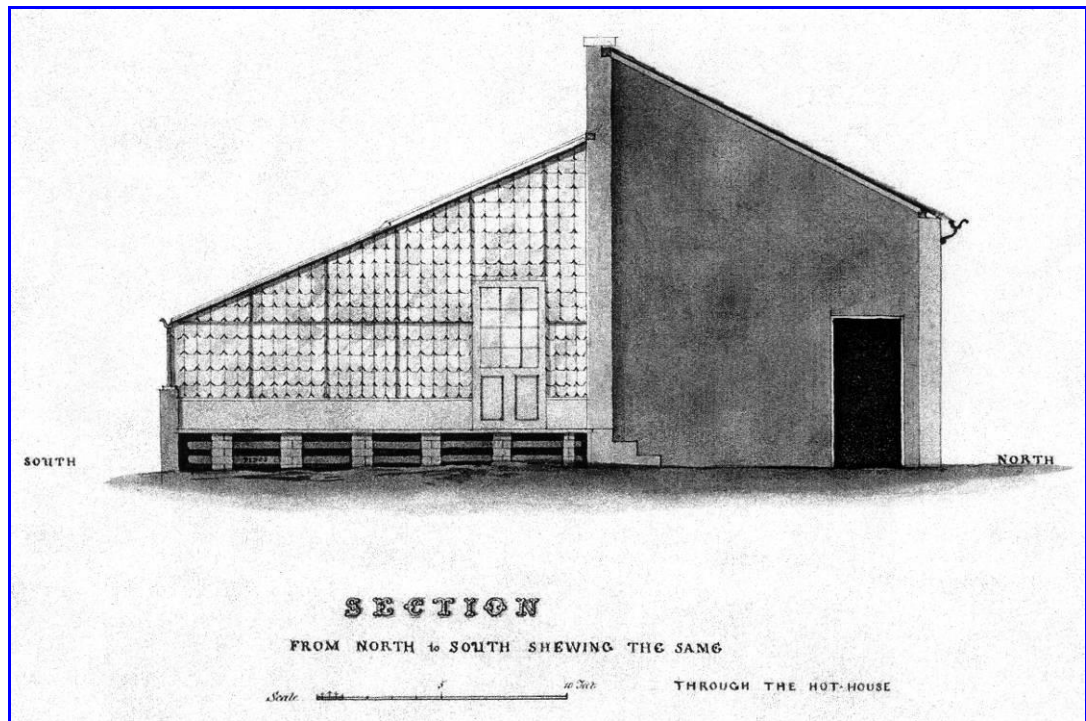
This is a longitudinal section through the “sheds” when viewed from the north showing access doors to the hot houses (two) and green house (one) marked **A** and **B** respectively. One of the three boilers shown on the earlier plan is marked **C**.

Bottom View

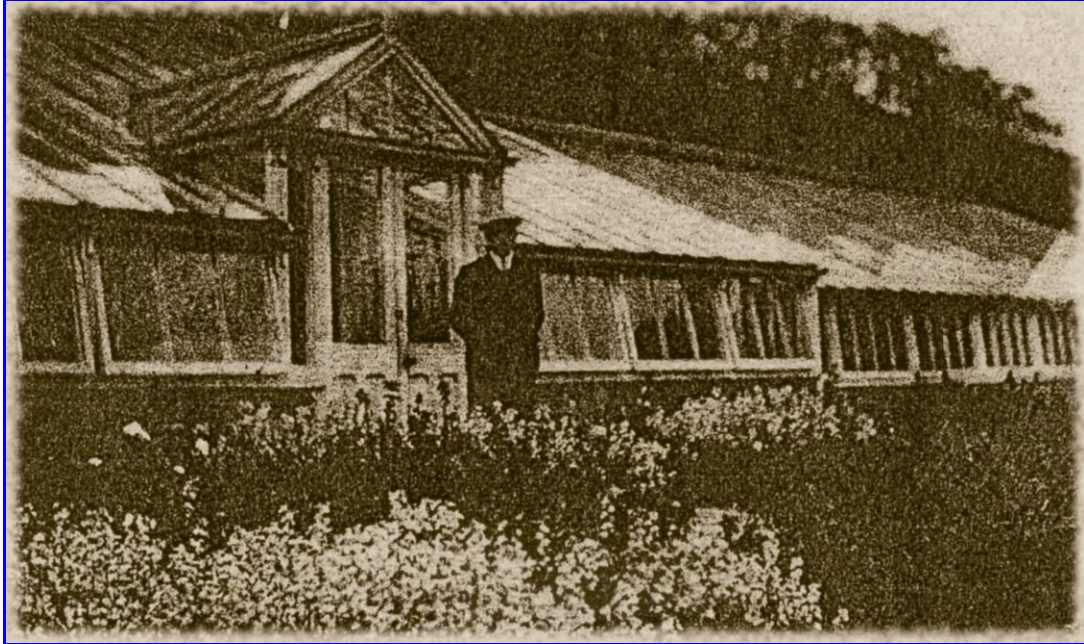
This is a similar view to the top one from the north but this time looking on the outside of the **sheds** which ran behind the green house and hot houses.



North to south section through green-house and shed showing boiler and hot-water pipes



North to south section through hot-house and "shed"



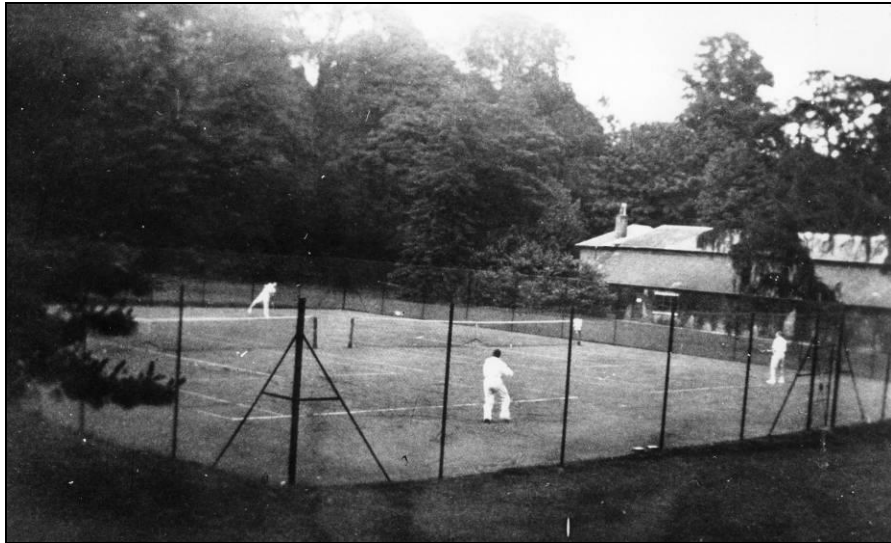
Early 1900's photograph of green house / hot houses

**Leicester Chronicle – July 10th 1852
Destructive Thunderstorm**

.....The greatest amount of injury however was done at Coleorton. Here the hail fell very profusely, some of the stones measuring at least two inches in circumference. Several windows of farm-houses were broken and in the gardens surrounding the hall, the flower beds (which are always kept with great care, but which were if possible, in a better state than usual on account of the marriage of Miss Beaumont being fixed for the next day) were literally destroyed, and the walks in some places practically washed away. In the hot house, the damage was more serious still, upwards of eight hundred panes of glass being broken, and a large quantity of Peaches, Melons, &c., injured.

**Sadly nothing exists of these historically important gardens now
and a number of modern residential houses now stand on the site**

THE TENNIS COURTS – c. 1930's



The above photograph taken c.1930 shows the tennis courts which were erected to the west of the stables, possibly by the 11th Baronet after the Abel Smiths left the hall in 1926 when their 25 year lease came to an end. The stables are shown in the background, and can be compared with later plans and photographs.

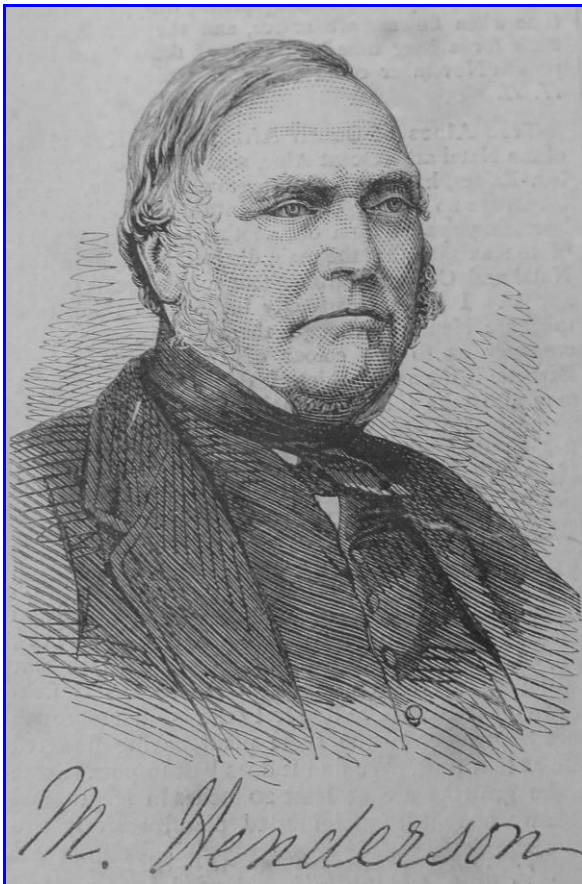


The above is a c.1980's aerial view showing the footprint of the tennis courts marked T opposite the stables, after they became surplus to requirement by the N.C.B. The tennis courts sit in the centre of an area once known as "The Pinetum" and which was partly turned over to the Kitchen Garden after the new hall was built in 1808 and prior to the Robert Chaplin designed garden being established further to the north west of the hall in the 1830's.

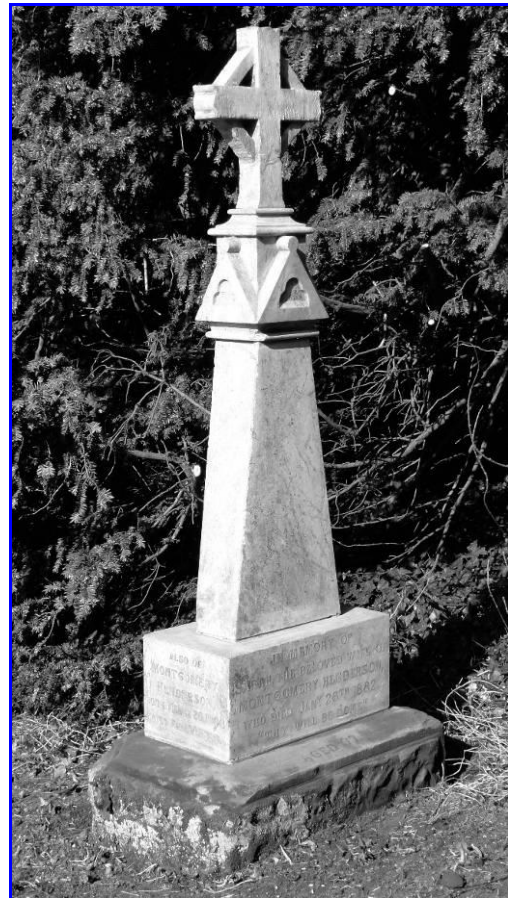
A TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY HENDERSON – HEAD GARDENER AT COLEORTON HALL 1838 - 1882

Coventry Herald – July 14th 1854
The Garden

At the exhibition of plants, fruits and flowers, held in “The Royal Botanic Gardens”, Regents Park, London, last week, a silver gilt medal was awarded to Mr. Henderson, gardener to Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, of Coleorton Hall, Leicestershire, for three dishes of grapes, a silver medal for a dish of nectarines, a small silver medal for a box of nectarines, and a certificate for 12lbs of grapes.



Montgomery Henderson



**Montgomery and his wife Sarah's
Grave in St. Mary's Churchyard**

The above grave memorial was completely hidden before the area was cleared by the author and John MacDonald (Coleorton Heritage Warden) as part of an ongoing project to recover hidden or sunken graves in the churchyard, which unfortunately we were not able to continue.

Supplementary information, taken mainly from “British Gardeners – Volume VII in the Gardeners’ Chronicle December 1874” –

Mr. Montgomery Henderson was born on 20th March, 1808, in the village of Swanston, at the foot of the Pentland Hills, near Edinburgh. At the age of fourteen he was placed for three years in one of the market gardens of that city. He spent time in various positions learning his trade as a horticulturist and in December 1834 went to be foreman under Mr. Neil Wilson, at Gopsall Hall, Leicestershire, the seat of Earl Howe. This situation he left in March, 1838, and obtained employment in the nursery of Mr. Knight of Chelsea. In June of the same year, Mr. Knight sent him to work as gardener for Sir George Beaumont at Coleorton Hall.

Montgomery made the following statement “My success as a grape grower is pretty well known, thanks to the Gardeners’ Chronicle”. When I came here, however, I found the grapes very poor and the vines in sad condition. I at once removed the top soil of the borders, and gave them a good dressing of turfy loam, on which I placed some strong manure, and then made a gentle hotbed over all. This drew the roots up to the surface. I endeavor to keep them there by using the same means, and to this I ascribe the fact that my grapes are so well colouredI succeeded so well, that within two years, they were carrying heavy crops, with bunches of from 4lb to 6lb weight”. He also said that “I have been very successful in the cultivation of the Pine-apple, having often thirty years ago, when large Pines were not so plentiful as they are now, had Queens of between 6lb and 7lb in weight”.

He is recorded in the chronicle as saying that “since I have been at Coleorton, I have been offered better places in point of position both in England and Scotland, but I have been made so comfortable both by the late and the present Baronet, who have always treated me more like a friend than a servant, that I have never thought of leaving them so long as I had strength to carry on my duties”.

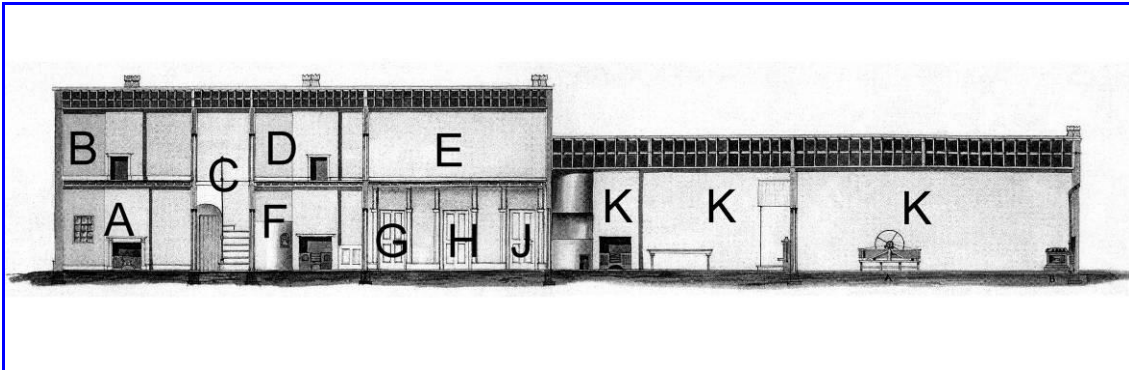
Montgomery Henderson died on 14th February 1892 at the age of 84, and had lived in Ashby since retiring from Coleorton Hall in 1882. He is buried in St. Mary’s Chuchyard, Coleorton, along with his wife Sarah who died on 26th January 1882, aged 75 in the same year her husband retired. He retired several months before the death of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Baronet, who died in June 1882.

Supplementary repeated notes:-

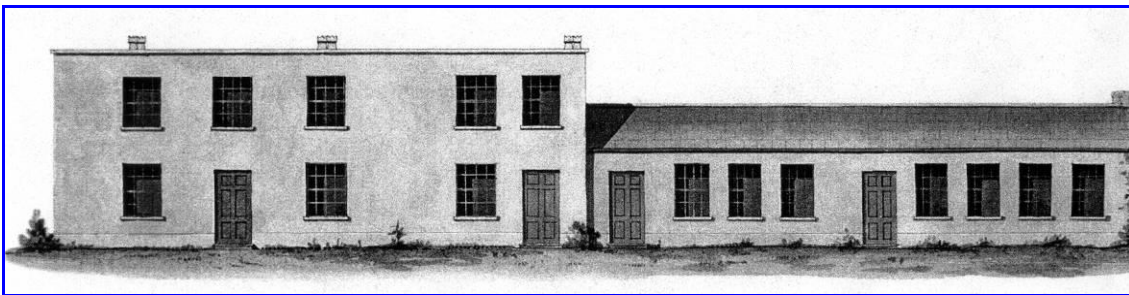
Prior to Montgomery Henderson coming to Coleorton Hall in 1838, James Cruikshank was the gardener and his annual salary was £100. It is a possibility that he was sacked to make way for Henderson who started on £63 – 0s – 0d per annum, which in the following year and thereafter was raised to £84 – 0s – 0d.

Although pineapples were one of Montgomery Henderson’s specialties’, it was noted in the accounts that James Cruikshank was growing them prior to Henderson arriving.

**THE LAUNDRY MAID'S HOUSE, WASH HOUSE AND LAUNDRY –
PART OF THE GARDEN COMPLEX - COMPLETED c. 1832**



Front elevation of Laundry (north facing) – sectional view



Front elevation of Laundry (north facing) – external view

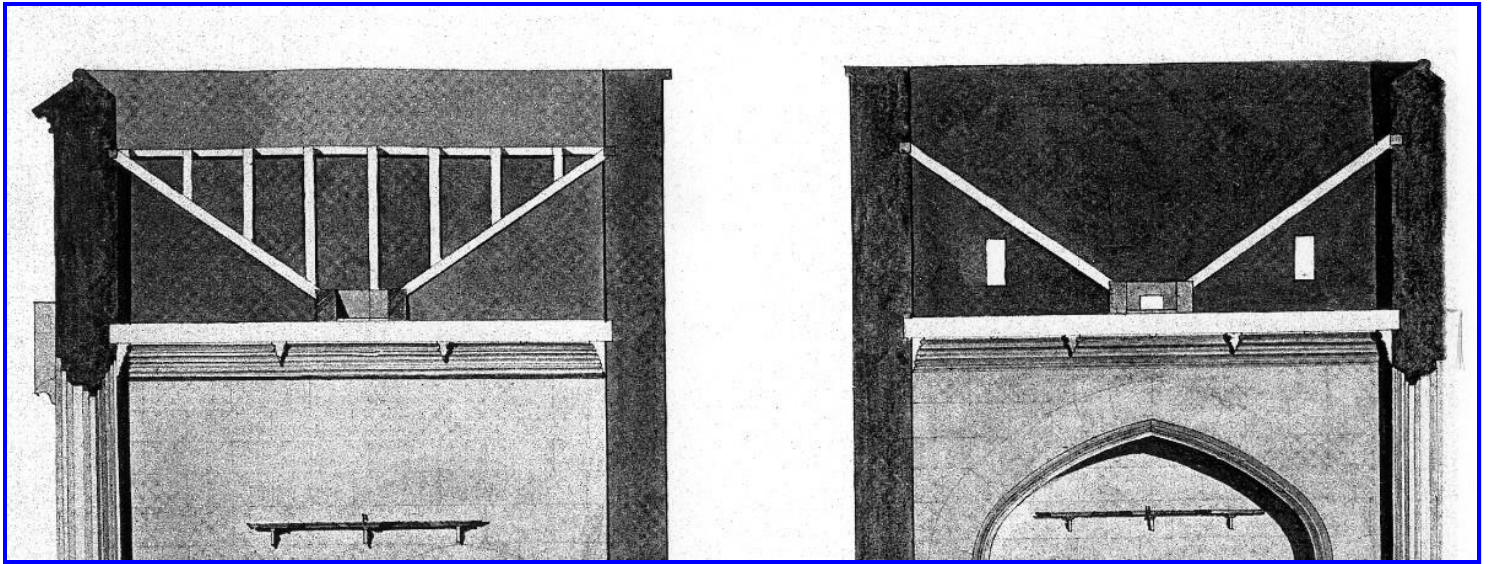
Please refer to the plan of the walled garden and key shown earlier which shows the location of the above

Key

- A** Sitting Room for Laundress and family
- B** Bedroom 1 (same size as 2)
- C** Stairs to bedrooms
- D** Bedroom 2 (same size as 1)
- E** Large bedroom which accommodated 6 beds and lockers
- F** Kitchen and living room with cupboards
- G** Door to pantry (6 feet wide)
- H** Door to steps down to cellar (6 feet wide)
- J** Door to coal house (6feet wide)
- K** Wash house and laundry rooms (termed as sheds on the original plan)

A LAYOUT OF THE LIVING ACCOMODATION FOLLOWS LATER

The roofs over the bedrooms give the impression that they were flat in the preceding plans. This was not the case. They were of a similar design to that Robert Chaplin employed in the design of the dairy roof shown earlier. Longitudinally they were an inverted pitch where the rain water ran into a central gulley. The ends were an inverted gable. This principal is shown below in sections taken from dairy roof design.



1831

R Chaplin Dr to A. Alexander
 £ s d
 A Patent Mangle — 15 15 0
 Package &c — 10 0 0

 16 5 0
 Carriage from London — 1 1 0

 17 6 0

The above Paid by
 Rob. Chaplin

25

Carriage and
 Mangle —

 £ 17 6 0

 1831

The above are the Robert Chaplin's receipts for the "Stone Box Mangle" used in the Coleorton Hall laundry. It was purchased from A. Alexander of London. Carriage was to a local canal wharf and thereafter by local carrier to site (charged extra). Date not given, but this item was shown in Chaplin's account to Sir George Beaumont for period 1830 & 1831. The laundry was completed in 1832.

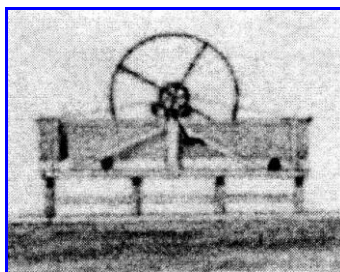
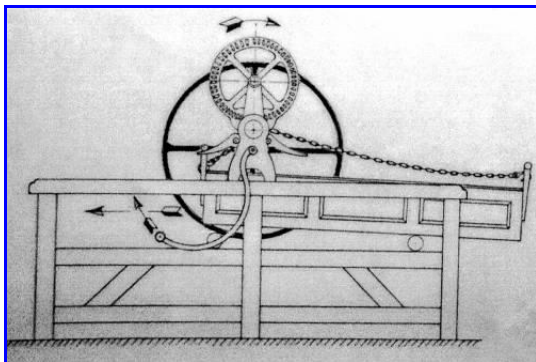
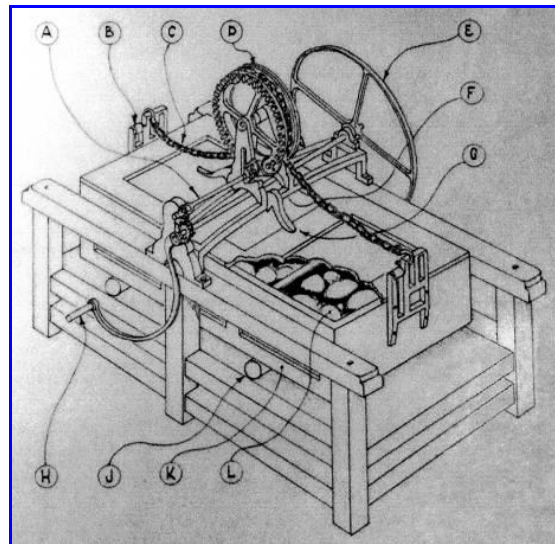
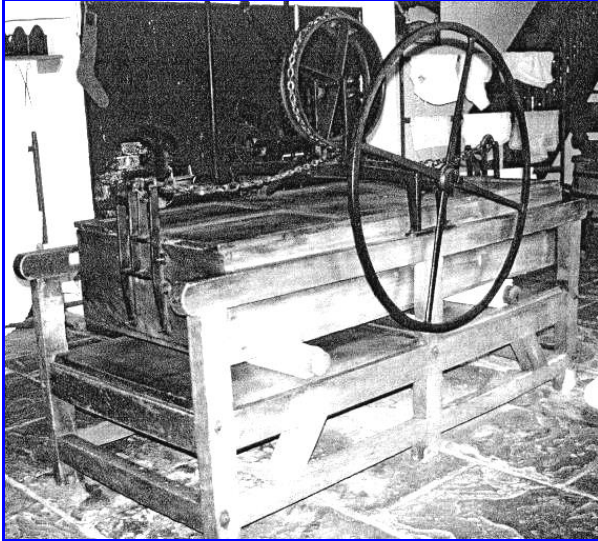
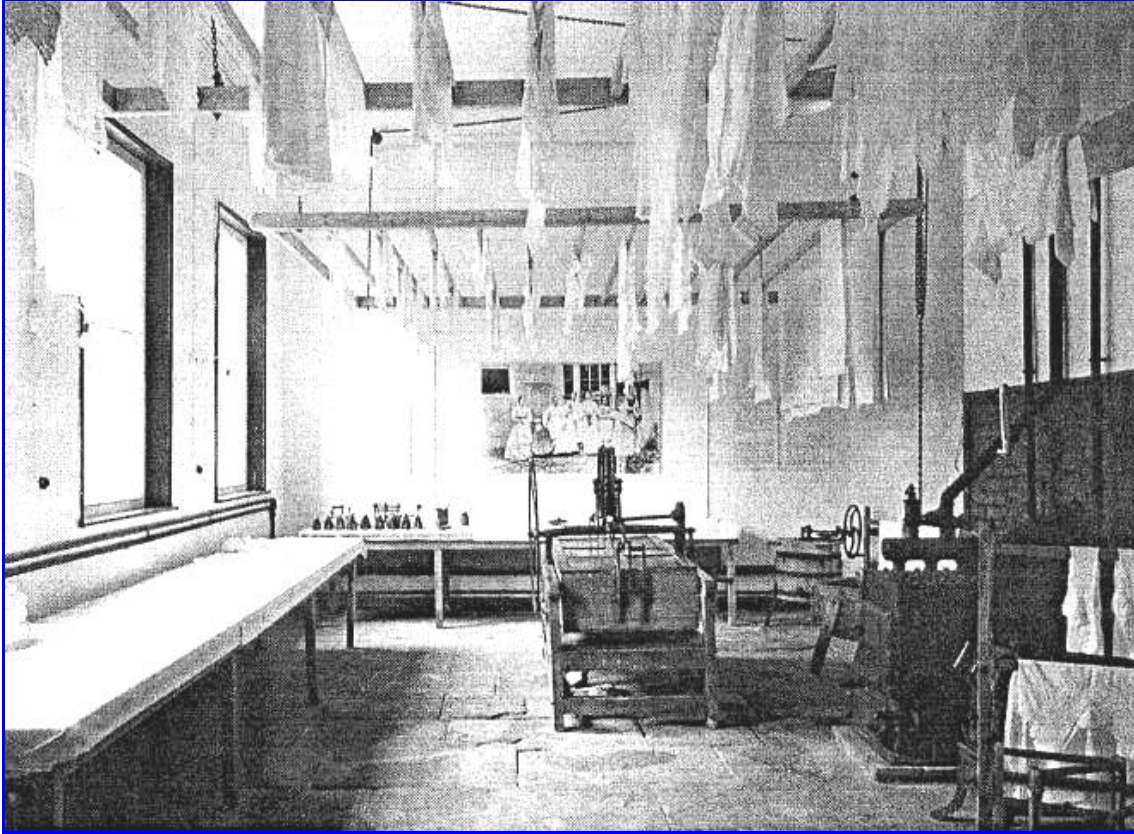


Illustration of Mangle enlarged from original plan shown earlier



The above are a photograph and schematic drawings of the type of "Stone Box mangle" purchased by Robert Chaplin and used in the laundry at Coleorton Hall. The large box filled with stones provided pressure for the mangling of the sheets and table cloths wrapped around the rollers marked J. The handle E is rotated, and via a linkage system moves the box backwards and forwards. A mechanism allows the box to be lifted at either end to allow the rollers with the sheets wrapped around to be loaded. Various

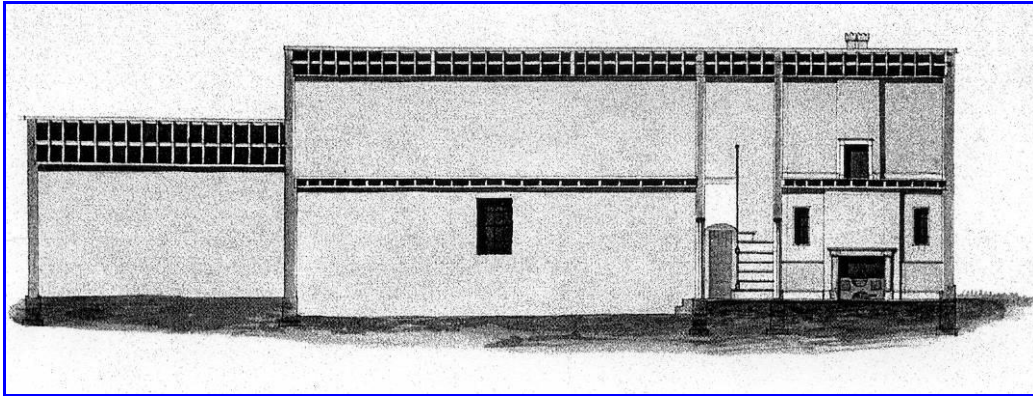


The above photograph shows a typical laundry scene of the period, with a stone box mangle in the centre as described on the previous page.

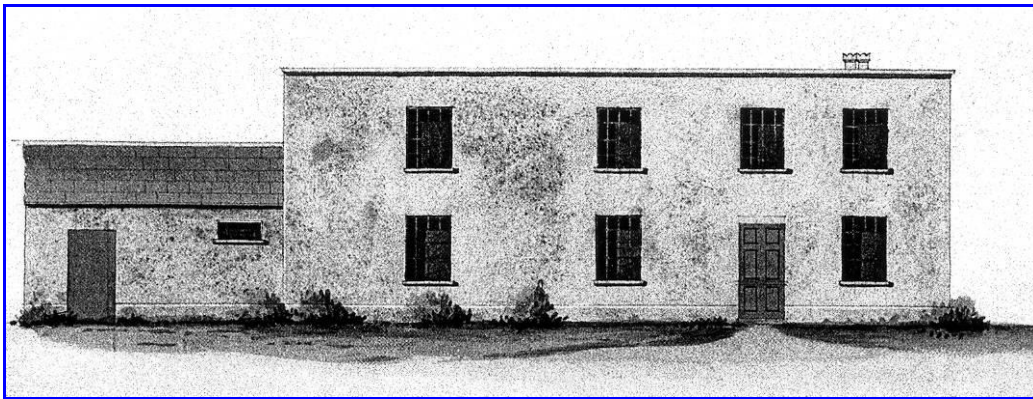
Note the various flat irons on the bench at the rear and also on the pre heated top of the range on the right hand side

HEAD GARDENER'S HOUSE – PART OF THE GARDEN COMPLEX

Three adjacent “sheds” (only one shown) were utilised for a store room, seed room, boiler house mushroom house and gardener’s bothy



Front elevation (north facing) – sectional view

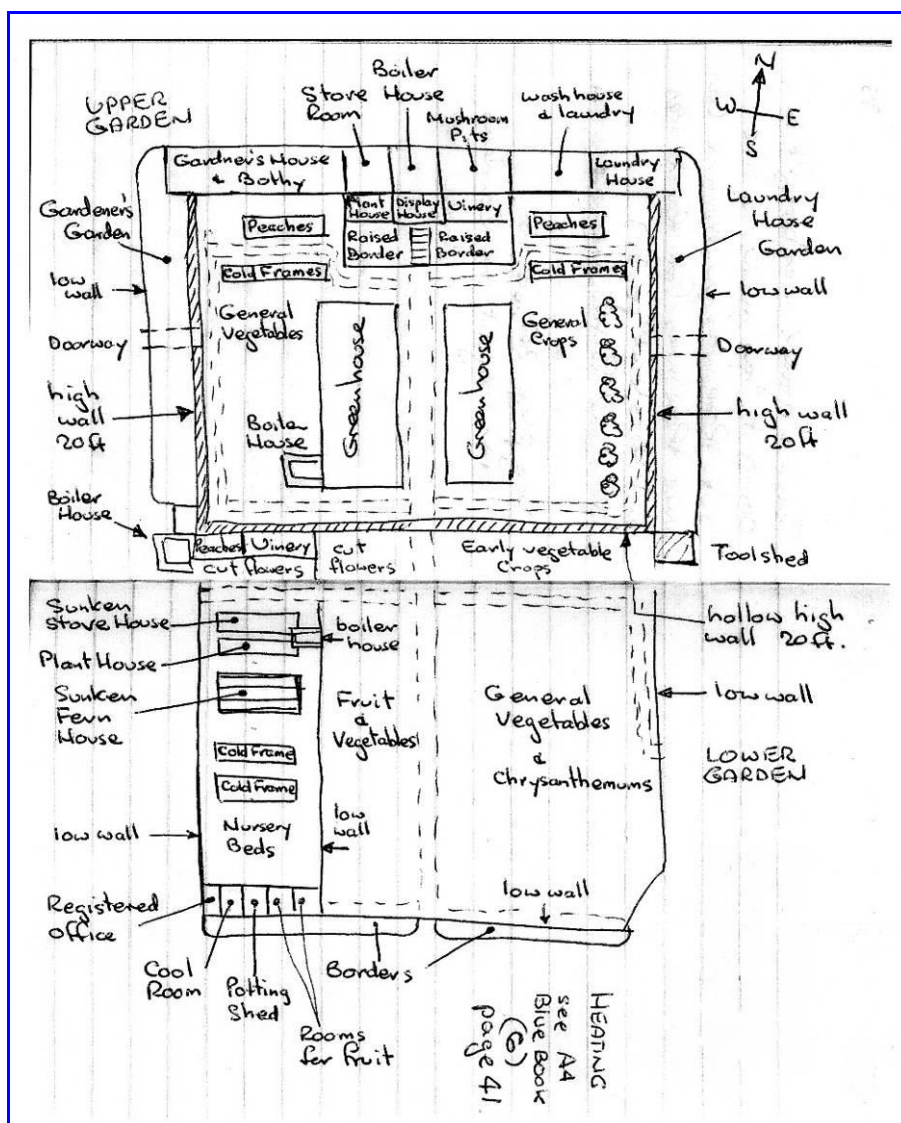


Front elevation (north facing) – external view

Please refer to the plan of the walled garden and key shown earlier which shows the location of the above

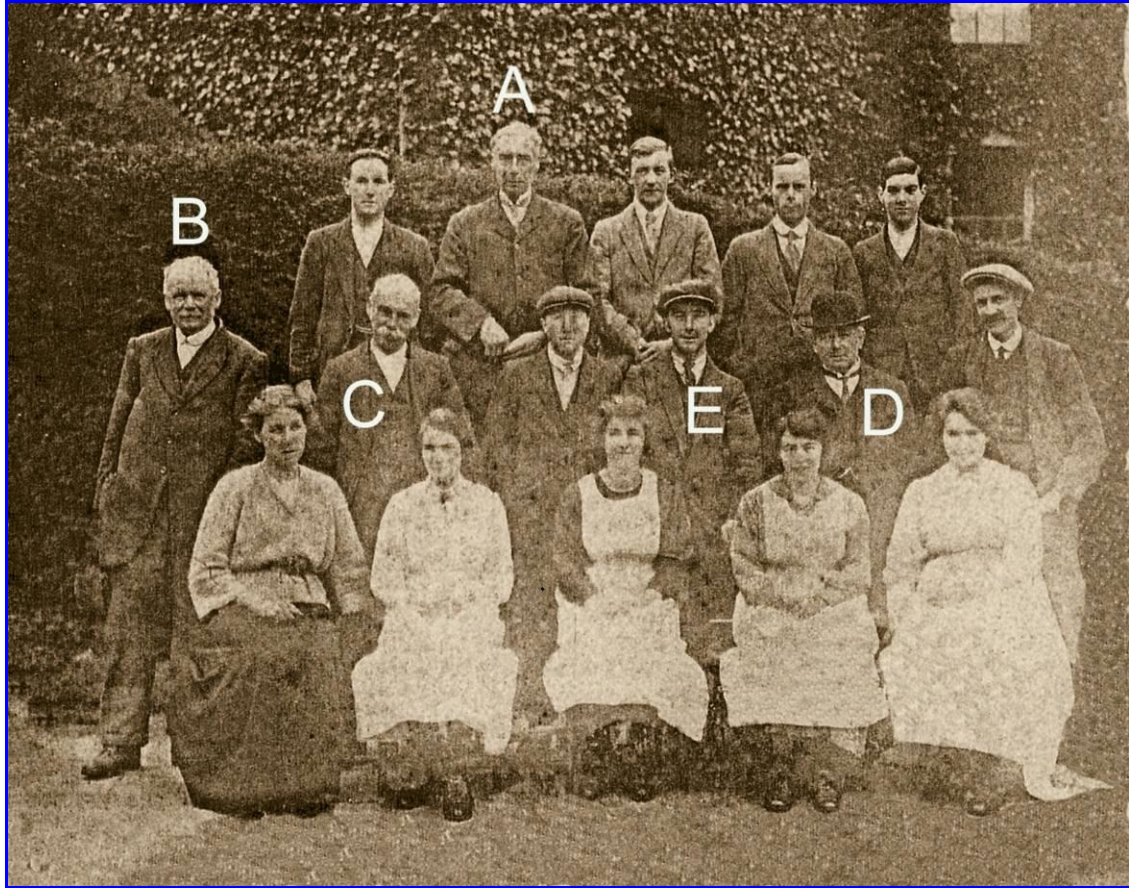
The roof construction of the head gardener’s house was the same as for the Laundry Maid’s House described previously. It is thought that the facilities in the gardener’s house were sufficient to house gardening labourers, or lodgers if necessary.

**Coleorton Hall Kitchen Garden as they were during the period 1944 to 1953
(the 20 feet high garden walls were demolished c.1952 by the NCB due to subsidence)**



The above schematic diagram drawn by John Crocker, is based on the memories of Mr. George Haynes of Ibstock which he described to John on the 17th October 2000.

Mr. Haynes commented that when the walls were broken due to subsidence, he was most surprised to see that they were hollow, and contained heating pipes to provide warmth for the trained fruit trees. When the 11th Baronet died in 1934, his shop at Coalville was closed. However, the garden business was carried on by Caldicott and Vic Wileman under the name of "Sir George Beaumont and Son". They took a commission on the produce sold on Coalville, Loughborough and Burton-on-Trent markets.



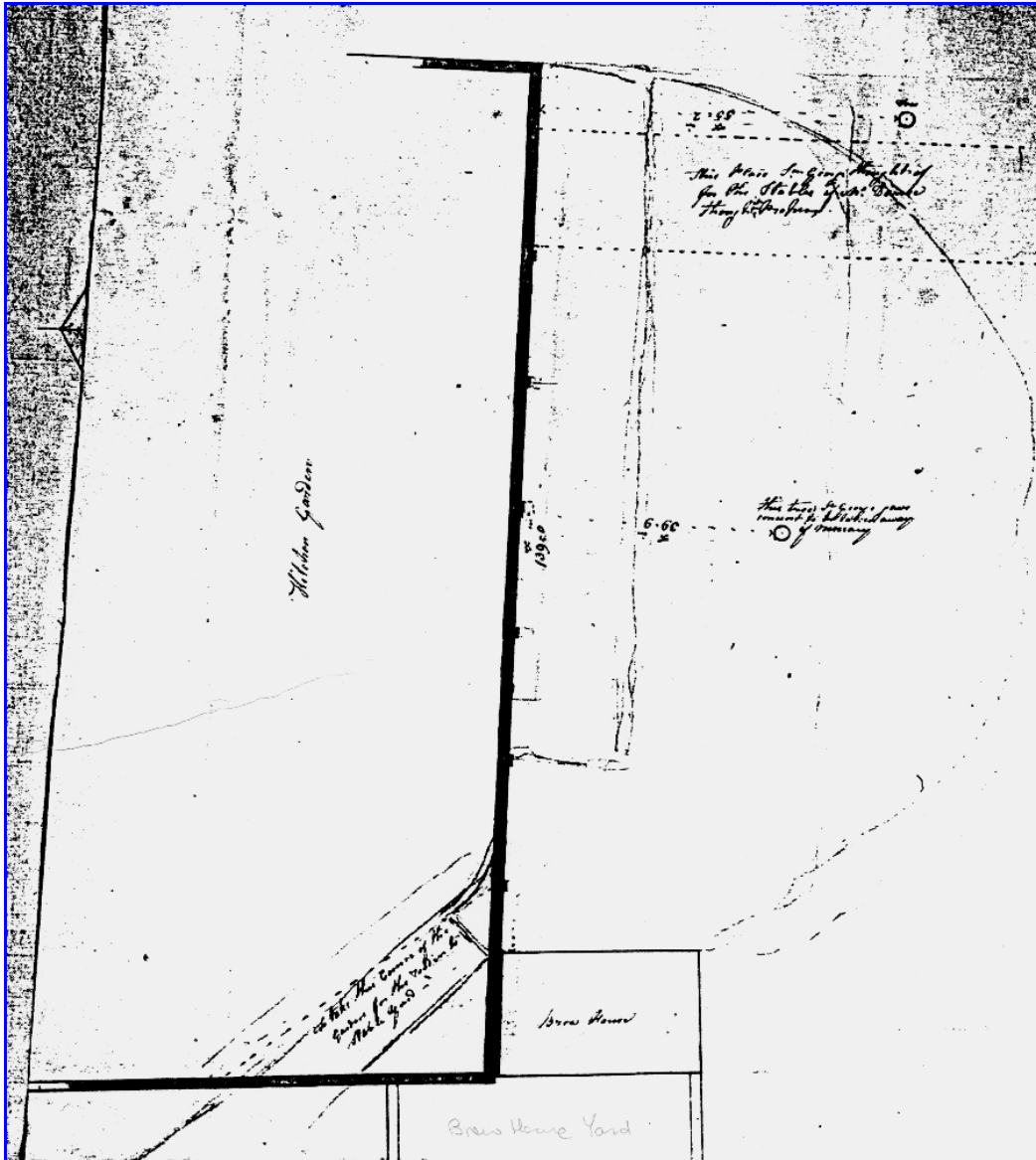
Staff at Coleorton Hall c.1905 during the time when the Abel Smiths' were leasing the hall from 1901 to 1926

- A- Mr. Henry Wilson junior (Head Gardener) –
He was appointed by the Abel-Smiths in 1902
- B- Mr. Arthur Brooks Gardener (brother of Frank Brooks of
Brooks Nurseries, Coleorton?)

In 1890 when Sir George Howland William Beaumont, 10th Baronet, was resident at the Hall, there is a record that the gardens were leased, presumably due to the difficult financial situation Sir George was experiencing at that time. It is not known whether the gardens were leased whilst the Abel-Smiths were at the Hall.

- C- "Gas Man"
- D- Mr. Bayliss (Head Coachman)
- E- Vic Wileman?

THE STABLES – c. 1832



The above is part of an old plan depicting the second Kitchen Garden and contains notes referring to stables. This Kitchen Garden is the one designated on the 1842 tithe map shown earlier, and was built just to the north of the new hall following its completion in 1808. After Sir George and Lady Margaret moved into the new hall in 1808, building work continued piecemeal. The old farm buildings and kitchen garden to the west of the new house were in the process of being demolished in order to open up the vista from the new hall and the family would have needed a new kitchen garden and stabling for the horses. This plan provides important information, in that for one thing, it shows the kitchen wall built onto the end of the "Brew house" (a separate article on the Brew House features later). This garden wall feature has survived and can be seen on the end of what was the Brew House to the right in the 1997 photograph below. The plan also shows the Brew House yard to the south of the Brew House, which has also survived.



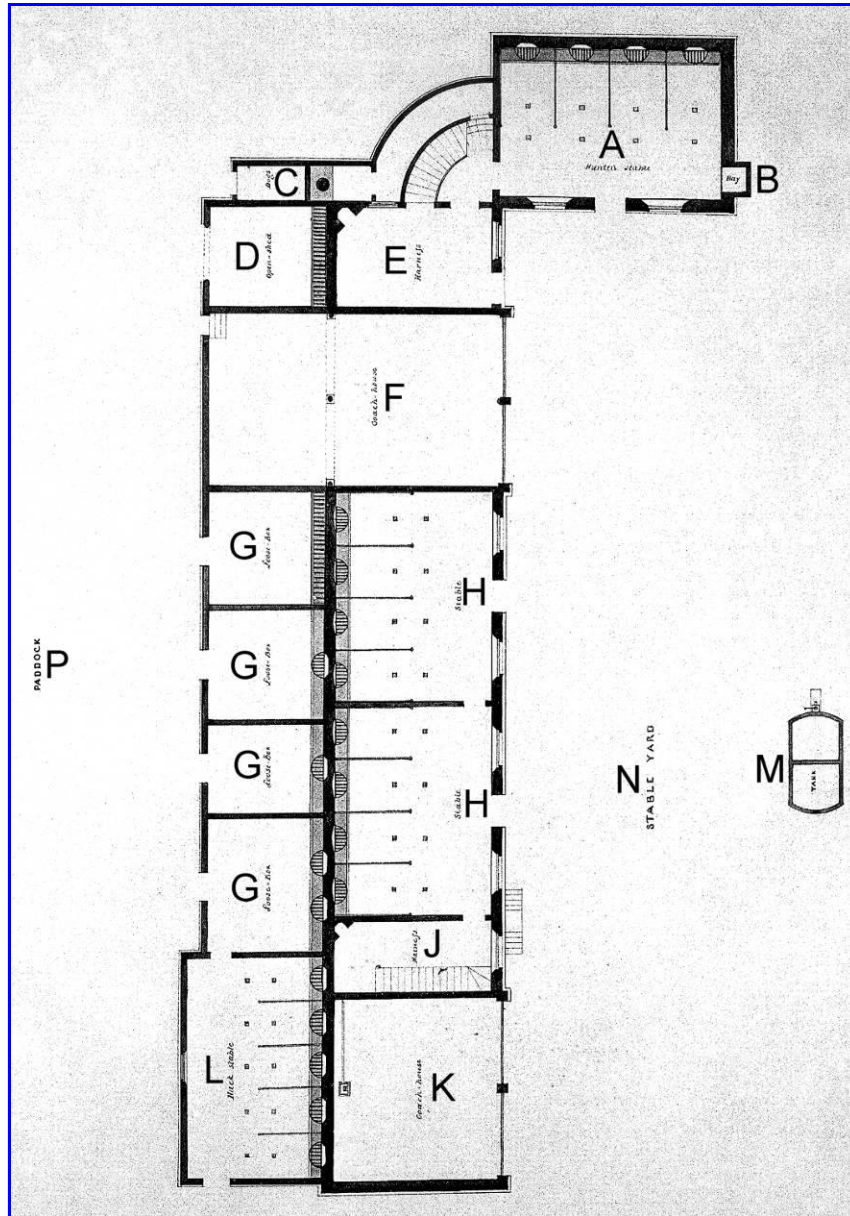
New stables were built on the inside of the garden wall in the early 1800's, but there are no records to suggest George Dance was involved with these. It can be assumed therefore that these were constructed by local builders. The part of the add on stables designed by Chaplin are shown in the building on LH side of the photograph and to the right of the two windows.

In 1832, Robert Chaplin was requested to design a new stable block on the site, the plan of which is shown on the following page. The centre spine at the southern end was almost certainly the original kitchen garden wall. It is thought, that part of the left hand (west) side of Robert Chaplin's plan was the original stable block (marked **G & L**) which was built in the early 1800's, and the rest was added to by Chaplin.

If we look again at the above photograph, we can see the stables to the left as they were in 1997. They became the director's dining room and staff canteen when the National Coal Board rented the hall in 1947, and subsequently purchased it in 1948 for £30,000. They were later replaced by apartments. On the left is the section of the original stables that was built on the inside of the kitchen garden wall. Their location is marked **C** on the 1842 tithe map, and they are also shown on the aerial photograph attached to the picture of the tennis courts on page 23.

In John Crocker's research material, he has noted that pre 1900, up to nine apprentices lodged over the stables on the second floor. The hunters stable's marked **A** were apparently demolished by the N.C.B. for a boiler room to be built in connection with the adjacent large office complex. There are now a number of residential apartments on the site. The coach house and hack stable (**K and L**) were later used as garages by the 11th Baronet and his wife. Sir George kept his race horses down at the "Ginn Stables", where the estate office was located.

ROBERT CHAPLIN'S 1832 GROUND FLOOR PLAN FOR THE STABLES



Key

A	Hunter's stable	G	Loose boxes	N	Stable yard
B	Hay shute	H	Stables	P	Paddock
C	Dogs	J	Harness room		
D	Open shed	K	Coach house		
E	Harness room	L	Hack stable		
F	Coach house	M	Water tank		

THE BREW HOUSE / THE HEAD COACHMAN'S COTTAGE AND THE GAME HOUSE

Whether Robert Chaplin was involved in the design of these buildings is not known, but it is likely that he was. The brewing of ale was an ancient tradition carried out on a private domestic scale alongside other domestic production of food and drink. Thus, ale and beer was produced at home for family consumption, and on farms and estates for the landowner's family and workers. The LH photograph below taken in 2015, shows the head coachman's cottage (former Brewhouse) to the right. A Brewhouse is mentioned in an inquisition on Sir Henry Beaumont's death in 1607. There is a record that ale was being supplied to the estate "Ice House" from the Beaumont Arms in 1836, which suggests that by this time it was no longer a Brew House. John Crocker recorded that it was converted into a cottage for the coachman c.1806. When the hall was advertised for Letting in 1890 in the London Morning Post, it was advertised with a coachman's cottage.



The 1979 photograph on the left, is a close up of the head coachman's cottage (former Brew House) adjacent to the stables. The photograph on the right is cropped from the lower 2015 photograph, and the small building in the centre with the pitched roof was a former game house, presumably used to hang the game in following a shoot. This was converted into an electricity sub-station by the NCB at some point during their time at the hall.

