

SUNDIAL FARMHOUSE HISTORY. Grade 2 listed.

Sundial Farmhouse was originally Manor Farm presumably under the stewardship the Abbey and is the most recent dwelling in the line of houses which includes Rose Cottage and Woodview, building on the end of an existing line of houses saved the expense of a fourth wall. The landlords, Trinity College Oxford were by reputation extremely careful with expenditure on repairs and often when houses were so bad that tenants moved out then Trinity would sell the freehold and as a result most of the houses in the village which were once owned by Trinity are now privately owned. The land extended at the rear to the buildings and cowshed on the main A422 road to Stratford upon Avon. One of which has now been converted into a dwelling called Sundial Bams. Presumably the land over this road was also part of Manor Farm. It is difficult to date Sundial Farmhouse because of lack of records but we guess it was built around the same time as The Old Post Office circa 1725. What is now the garden room is much older and was a simple one up one down dwelling. The house is similar to Raydon Hill House in Mills Lane in many ways in particular the rear located column stairway and inside, much of the woodwork mouldings and decoration is similar and presumably done by the Abbey estate workers. In fact it was probably the estate workers that built both houses and many others in the village. The property was we believe originally thatched (see text on The Chapel below) but we have no idea when it was replaced with something more durable probably late 19th century when the house had a Victorian make-over with new sash windows which were signed and dated 1895 when they were overhauled in the late 1970s. The interior was also panelled in Victorian style and some interior doors are Victorian and these features have been retained where possible. There is a photo taken by the National Monuments Record in 1947 showing the house roofed in both slate and tiles to the front. It was re-roofed in about 1959/61 with tiles to the front and slate to the back, the Velux windows at the rear were installed at this time. The chimneys were rebuilt at this time with the assistance of Roger Freeman from the village. The first freeholders were the Clyde Scotts in 1971 from whom we purchased the property in 1978. They undertook many of the big improvements, central heating, AGA, new plumbing, relocated the bathroom from the West side which is now a bedroom to the east side and re-wired the whole house. There is evidence of a bread oven which sadly has been removed from the front of the house the rebuilt wall can clearly be seen. They were retired and ran out of both energy and money and the house and garden required much TLC. There was a stable and dovecote in the garden where the cobbles are now but this was demolished early 1960s by persons unknown. It was listed and its disappearance probably to supply building stone for the renovation caused some problems when we bought the house. There is a photo of it taken by the National Monuments Record in 1947 the cobbles in the garden are all that remains. The Chapel which now serves as a garage was originally a bam before being attached to the house and made as a chapel.

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