

**Some Interesting
Historic Places
Outside Wickham
Village Centre**



Wickham Parish



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ROOKSBURY MANOR (Private drive from Southwick Road) *Ref.8.15*

Rookesbury is a Grade II* listed nineteenth-century manor house set in a large, pre-1810 park, latterly used as a preparatory school until 2012 and now in private ownership. The landscaped park with lake is attributed to Lancelot Brown.

The Garnier family, originally French Huguenots, established Rookesbury Estate from the seventeenth century, with the bulk of the present-day estate being purchased in 1766 by Charles Garnier when formal landscaping began, including the provision of a lake.

In the nineteenth century, Charles' son, William, demolished an old house and constructed the present building on rising ground with extensive views both south and west. This large house was constructed in 1824, following designs by Charles Heathcote Tatham, in an overtly classical style, in the



Ionic order. A walled garden was also constructed during the nineteenth century

In 1835, the Garniers, then Lords of the Manor of Wickham, moved in. The old Wickham Manor house, which lay opposite the church of St Nicholas, was dismantled and recovered materials reused elsewhere.

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By 1926 the estate covered four thousand acres. A subsequent period of decline meant that it was a little over a thousand acres remaining in 1979. The preparatory school was established in 1929 closed in 2012.

During WWII, Rookesbury Park School, as the manor had become, was taken over by an Army Motor Transport Unit of the RASC ATS which became responsible for ferrying men and material to the embarkation ports as D-Day approached. Huge army camps were set up at Rookesbury Park and the Liberty just prior to D-Day.



GREAT FONTLEY FARM (Tichfield Lane)

Ref.8.19.20

Great Fontley Farm stands about two miles south west of Wickham and has long historical associations with the Lords of the Manor of that place. In the early sixteenth century it belonged to the Uvdale family, with the Hawkesworth family as their tenants. That Hawkesworth was a gentleman lessee is evident from the fact that Great Fontley was referred to as a manor at the time.

Timbers in Great Fontley Farm have been dated to 1519 and 1558, the beginning of a period of architectural change known as “The Great Rebuilding”, the major feature of which being the flooring over of the Great Hall to create an upper story made possible by the introduction of the internal chimney.

The farm house itself is large, with five trusses and four bays, the hall being floored over above from build. The frontage is continuously jettied and has close studding at both levels. The east gable, the parlour end, is likewise close studded. In places,



the original herring bone noggin survives. The kitchen, has inferior plain filling conducive to its lower status.

The Parlour may not have originally been heated because it is quite small, and sits with a Service Room. Between the Parlour and the
continued...

Service Room, there is a small, private staircase which, although of a later date than the original building, probably occupies the site of the original. There is some evidence that the Parlour originally boasted an oriel window, and was the original principal bedroom.

The Hall, although floored over, retains some of the features of a medieval hall, as is evidenced by the position of the door, (with Tudor arch), and a large oriel window at the high end. That the chimney was added is indicated by the fact that it straddles a cross frame and blocks what was probably a screens passage. However, its addition seems to be early, judging by the typical sixteenth century brickwork.

The current entrance to the building seems to be at the site of the original entrance. The chamfered tie beams at the first floor level suggest that the original main stairway occupied the site of the present, later stairway.

The Kitchen, with its hearth, is at the low end of the Hall. It once had a timber chimney in its north east corner – there is heavy sooting

of the rafters above. The brick stack, with its thin bricks was added c1600.

A single story Outshut, built integral with the rest of the house, extends the length of the north side of the house and is an early example of service rooms being removed from the low end of the Hall. It was originally divided into a buttery and a dairy. Dendrochronology indicates that the Outshut and Hall were built at the same time, so the Outshut is not an afterthought.

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The chamber over the Parlour on the first floor became the principal bedroom in 1601, and its widow glazed. The chamber over the hall was the largest, and may have served as the solar or principal first floor chamber, but by 1587 had been down graded to a secondary bedroom and storage space.

Great Fontley has a side-purlin roof with queen-strut trusses and internal partitions.

Editor's access with the kind permission of the owner



Great Fontley Outshot window



Great Fontley original herringbone infill brickwork



Great Fontley 18th century Granary



Great Fontley kitchen chimney



Great Fontley Kitchen chimney original brickwork (lower courses)



*Great Fontley original
Kitchen fireplace brickwork*



*Great Fontley original Hall fireplace
brickwork*



*Great Fontley original brick flooring of
Kitchen hearth*



*Great Fontley original
Kitchen fireplace brick-
work*



*Great Fontley original Main
Entrance adjacent to Main
Stairs*



*Great Fontley later Main
Staircase in way of
original*



Great Fontley Tudor door lintel

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KNOWLE HOSPITAL (*Knowle villaage*)

Ref.8.19.20.21

Knowle Hospital is now a housing development, but the older buildings were opened in 1852 as The Hampshire County Lunatic Asylum. The Asylum was designed by J Harris, architect, and some of the construction was carried out by Russian prisoners from the Crimean War.

The asylum received its first twenty patients in December 1852, admitted from the workhouse in Fareham. Part of the Knowle complex, Ravenswood House, provided secure accommodation for those patients that were considered to be a danger to the public.

By 1856, the asylum had expanded to take 400 patients, and growth continued throughout the century to over 1,000 patients at the asylum by 1900 and to almost 2000 by the 1950s. Both male and female patients were admitted. Most were expected to work on the farm, in the kitchens and in other trades to help support the community.

The first medical superintendent was Dr

Ferguson. Later, the staff were led by Dr John Manley, medical Superintendent for over thirty years.

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His assistant was Dr Pater, the brother of Walter Pater, an eminent Victorian man of letters and Oscar Wild's tutor at Oxford. In 1964, Dr Ronald A Sandison's moved to Knowle from Powick Hospital and remained superintendent at Knowle till 1975. Sandison was the founder of the Wessex Psychotherapy Society and Knowle became the centre of the Wessex Post-Graduate School of Psychiatry. Southampton University department of psychiatry was set up at Knowle Hospital in 1971 where research on

suicide gave an international reputation to Southampton psychiatry.

Knowle had several unusual features for a county asylum, including a large chapel and its own pub, the "County Arms". Knowle Halt, a small railway station on the Eastleigh to Fareham Line and the Meon Valley Railway, served the asylum from 1907.



THE OLD RECTORY (Southwick Road, Wickham)

Ref.8.15



An imposing late seventeenth or early eighteenth century house with minor features of the early nineteenth century. The house is stylistically transitional and displays features in both the styles of the William and Mary period and the early Georgian.

A fragment of wood panel, recently

discovered, seems to be the remains of a packing case which once belonged to a Rev. Bromley, known to have began his ministry at Wickham in 1733.

The walls are of brickwork in Flemish bond with blue headers, red dressings, plinth, rubbed flat arches and aprons below the cills.

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Section of original panelling

The 1840 Wickham Tithe Map and Apportionment states that the building was inhabited by Reverend Jonathon Slackhouse-Rashleigh, who also owned some of the surrounding land.

The use of a range of brick types adds to the aesthetic beauty of the building and was employed in order to showcase the wealth of the inhabitant to impress visitors. Brick was an expensive luxury during the early-eighteenth century prior to the fall in its price brought about by the standardisation of manufacture and the reduction in transport costs associated with the wave of industrialisation that swept across Britain in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries.

The house has a hipped tile roof with Modillion eaves cornice. From the west is symmetrical. There is a splayed stone ground-floor bay at the north side. The principle doorway is of two phases, the radiating fanlight
continued...



and stone steps being original but with later Gothic additions, including an open pediment with panelled soffit and thin mouldings of Tuscan style.

The original end elevations are masked by the later wings. At the rear there is a two-storey porch with arcading, protecting an original doorway, with a fanlight.

The original staircase, with later rails, has been beautifully rebuilt, having been severely damaged as a result of a fire that occurred in the mid-1980s. The cellar has some original timbers that may have started life as ships timbers that were reused in the construction of the house.



The restored main staircase - lower flight



The restored main staircase - upper flight & landings

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BEVERLEY (Southwick Road, Wickham)

Ref.8.15

An early eighteenth century house with nineteenth century cladding and side wings, and mid nineteenth century rear extensions.

The front wall is of stucco and the first floor has a band, parapet with cornice and stone coping. The side walls are of brick in Flemish bond with blue headers, rubbed flat arches and some cambered arches, and stone cills. The walls at the rear are tile hung.

The main building has a slate hipped mansard roof.

During WW2, Beverley House was used as a maternity home for expectant mothers due to give birth at Bowlands Naval Maternity home in Southsea which had to be evacuated due to its close proximity to the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard.



UPPER HOUSE (Winchester Rd., Wickham)

Ref.8.15

A large Georgian house, now converted into six apartments, built in the mid eighteenth century, with early and late nineteenth century extensions.

The walls are of Flemish bond brickwork with dentilled eaves typical of the period. The symmetrical wings are also of Flemish bond with blue headers, red dressings and stone cills. The fact that the central façade has asymmetrical windows suggests remodelling, but at an early date. There is a stucco porch with narrow windows at each side, pilasters at each corner, and detached square columns at the front.

The rear elevation is a mish-mash of different extensions and periods. Centrally, there is a three-storied bow of similar details to the front. To the north there are two gables and a conservatory, while to the south there is a gable with a hip roof.



LOWER HOUSE (Winchester Rd., Wickham)

Ref.8.15

A spacious early and late nineteenth century house with stuccoed walls and a cornice to a low parapet above a stone frontage, all under a tile roof. The north side has brick walls.

The typically Georgian regular north east front elevation with parapet is of three storeys and has typical Georgian windows.

The doorway with architraves has a twentieth century hood on brackets, and a half-glazed door.

The building is extended to north as a two storey brick built building with three windows per storey under a slate roof.



PARK PLACE (Cold Harbour Close, Wickham)

Ref.8.15

Built as a mid-eighteenth century mansion, once a convent school and now a Pastoral Centre, the building has early and late nineteenth century wings and late twentieth century extensions. The main block has walls of brick with blue headers with red quoins, rubbed flat arches (now colour washed), stone moulded plinth, cills, plain 1st and 2nd floor bands, cornice and coping of the parapet. There is a wood porch of two pilasters and two columns, supporting a fully-detailed Doric entablature with dentils, triglyphs and mutules, an open pediment with panelled soffit, and an arched opening with key and Gothic fanlight. The south wing is of red brickwork, the north is stuccoed. The north wing has a rear extension capped by a clock tower, with separate corner columns, cornice, and leaded roof of ogee form.

At the rear there is Flemish bond brickwork with blue headers and red rubbed flat arches. and a semi-circular bay of two storeys at the



south side of the main block, a central Venetian staircase window at 1st floor level, and several minor extensions.

One room of the interior has pinewood doors and cases with fully carved mouldings, and there are original fireplaces.

There is a hipped tile roof to the main block and north wing, and a hipped slate roof to the south wing.



WICKHAM LODGE (*Off Winchester Road, Wickham*) *Ref.8.15*

A fine Regency house, built 1820, with walls of stucco, a plinth, a first floor band cornice, an entablature of a simple order below the parapet, supported by full-height pilasters which divide the facades, all under a slate roof.

The doorway projects slightly from the façade and has coupled square columns at each side, with entablature supporting a balustrade and a typical fanlight.

While the outside is of severe classical style, inside there are surviving period door cases and doors, ceiling cornices, and a staircase with slender cast iron rails.



LITTLE PARK (*Titchfield Lane*)

Ref.8.15

A large late eighteenth century house, now given over to flats. It has stucco walls on a regular, typically Georgian frontage of three stories with seven sash windows per story. The porch has two pilasters and two smooth columns in full Doric Order, with dentils and triglyphs, a pediment and a six-panelled door on stone steps, (now enclosed by glazing).

An L-shaped two-storey service wing, extends to the north. The south-east elevation has a short extension and a lower service block of greater projection, the main part having three storeys with sash window. There is a Doric door case with pediment, three-quarter columns, and a half-glazed door. The service wing has a first floor French window opening onto a balcony on brackets, with a Regency-style wrought-iron rail.

The main roof of interlocking tiles is hipped,

with a hipped slate roof to the wing, extending as a half-hipped tile roof.



MAYLES (*Mayles Lane*)

Ref.8.15

A mid-seventeenth century house enlarged c1700 and again c1860, with late nineteenth and twentieth century additions in English and Flemish “garden wall” bond brick, colour washed and partly rendered, all under a plain clay tiled roof. The c1700 range has the original 2-bay roof.

The house has brick gable-ends and axial and lateral stacks, (the original stacks having moulded bases to rebuilt diagonally-set shafts), clay plain tile roofs with gabled ends. There are three parallel ranges. The front range is the original two-room plan house with gable-end stacks (to the left) which was extended right c1700 and again in the twentieth century. A stair hall range was built behind the original house in the nineteenth century. About 1860 a range was built behind the stair hall forming an overall L-shaped plan, filled in later in the nineteenth century by a service range.

Inside, there are lightly chamfered ceiling beams. The fireplace at the south west end has



shaped bressumer, moulded shelf and Victorian chimneypiece. The nineteenth century wing has an open stairwell with stick balusters, moulded mahogany handrail and turned newel. Most of the surviving internal joinery is nineteenth and twentieth century, but there is a cupboard in the service range with re-used eighteenth century fielded-panel doors and some period window shutters.



BUDDENS FARM (Mayles Lane)

Ref.8.15

A much altered seventeenth century timber framed farmhouse of three bays with late eighteenth century cladding and extension to the rear, and twentieth century renovation.

The front and south walls are of brickwork in English bond with blue headers, typical of the eighteenth century, while the north gable has exposed brick noggin in frame, probably seventeenth century), and is part tile hung. The east front elevation is of two storeys and has seven casement window plus a plain doorway with a half glazed door.

Inside there is some exposed timber framing and a large period fireplace.

