

## The Manor House and Manor Farm of Martock.



The Manor Farmhouse and Manor House in Church Street, with the former Market Cross at centre, known as 'The Pinnacle'.

This article gives a brief history of a cluster of buildings in the centre of Martock. They are remarkable for their quality of build, even in the context of this village, which is notable for its fine built heritage.

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## The Manor of Martock

Anciently the 'manor' establishment was west of All Saints Church. In the 1240s Ingram de Fiennes created a large 2 acre moated manorial enclosure, within which geofizz has found traces of an aisled hall of large proportions.

<sup>[1]</sup> de Fiennes was one of the few Lords of the Manor who made a home in Martock, and the site soon declined in importance, and finally the moat was filled in in the 1960s.

## The Goodden family,



For centuries the many branches of the Goodden family had been prosperous Martock yeomen. John Goodden of Bower Hinton inherited a further large fortune from his brother-in-law John Culliford. In 1736 his son Robert bought and moved to the Over Compton estate between Sherborne and Yeovil. This photo shows an anonymous sculpture of Robert's son Robert Goodden (1751-1828) in Over Compton church. He bought the Lordship of the Manor of Martock in 1811.

Robert's nephew John inherited the estate in 1839, and straight away built a magnificent new country

house in Over Compton, in a Tudor revival style by the architect John Pinch Jr. John was interested in building and many improvements were made on his estates.



In 1840 they owned 496 acres in Martock, centred on their properties in Church Street. Through the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century these buildings became known as the Manor Farm and Manor House.

By the time of John's death in 1882 a long lasting agricultural slump and fall in rents had begun in earnest. His son JRP Goodden sold all their Martock lands in 1883, except the Market House, sold to the Parish Council in 1951. In recent years the principal part of their home in Over Compton House housed Worldwide Butterflies and the Lullingstone Silk Farm, which made the silk for Princess Diana's wedding dress. Sadly, they finally sold Over Compton House after an internet auction in 2004.

## Subsequent ownership

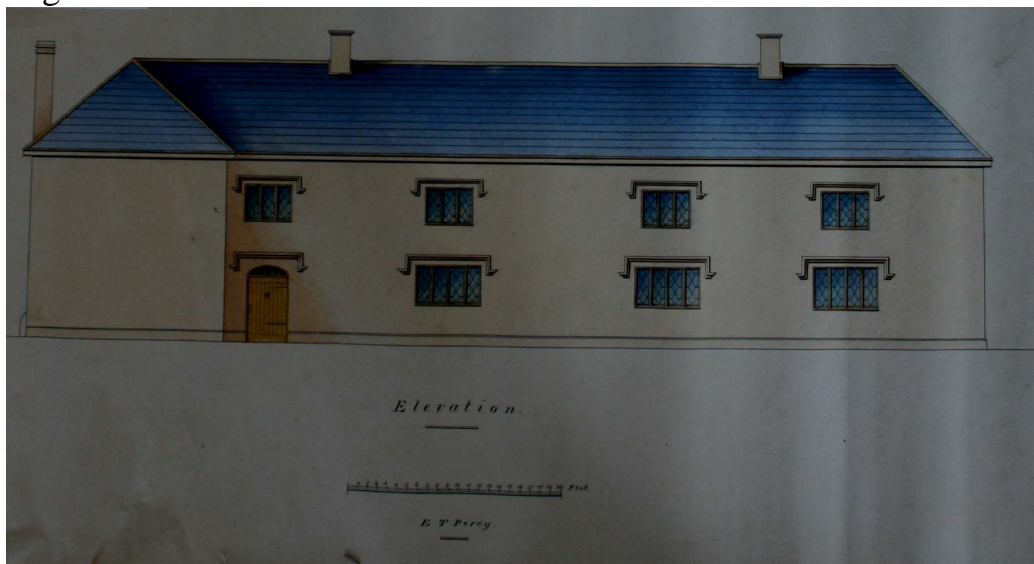
From 1883 Manor Farm belonged to HB Glover.<sup>[2]</sup> On 24<sup>th</sup> December 1925 his son sold to William Henry Paull, sack and tarpaulin manufacturer of North Street. Paull seems to have kept the land and his family still own it in 2018. The buildings were sold to JB Paynter of Hendford House (now the

Manor Hotel) in Yeovil, who had family connections with the Wood family – the Woods had built Ashfields House, the grandest in Martock, in the 1840s. Paynter progressively sold off the buildings in lots.

The Manor House went into different ownership after the 1883 auction of the Goodden property, and had many different owners.

### Manor Farmhouse

What became known as Manor Farm in the 19<sup>th</sup> century faced directly onto Church Street. There are 17<sup>th</sup> century features inside the first Manor Farmhouse, such as beams and a large inglenook set against the cross passage.

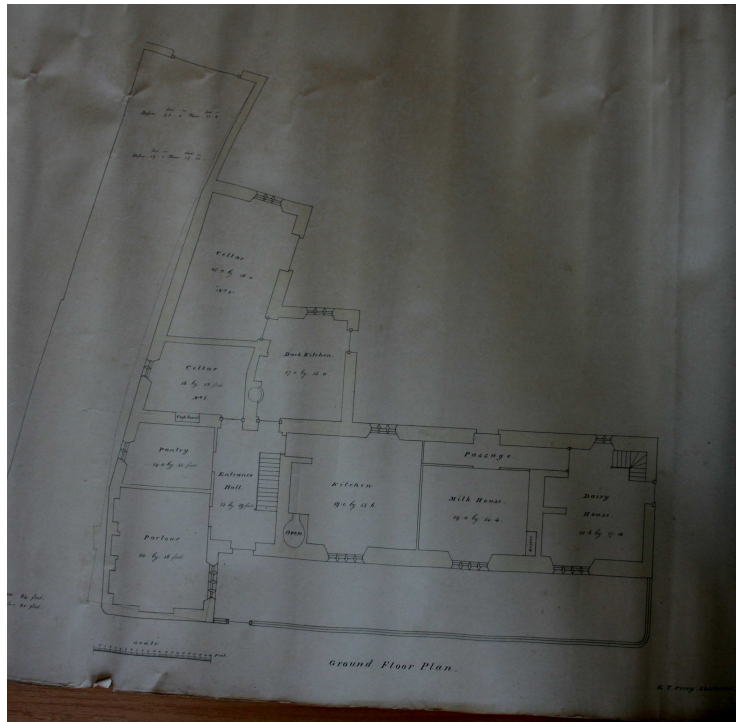


This 1840s design is for the upgrading of the farmhouse, drawn by E T Percy, a Sherborne surveyor, for John Goodden. It was beautifully done, the walls were faced in finest ashlar Hamstone, cast iron lattice windows installed and an Italianate hipped roof built with overhanging eaves.

E T Percy's drawing of the ground floor plan, showing room uses and dimensions. There is a date bottom right, but it is not visible here, except the first three numerals 184 -. The surviving 17<sup>th</sup> century inglenook is shown with its oven against the front wall.



The gates across today's Manor Road are also shown top left. The photo to the left shows the gate piers still survive in 2018



In 1840 Thomas Dight lived in Manor Farmhouse, plot 1916 on the Tithe Map, renting 294 acres from John Goodden. Dight's brother John lived at Rowleys in North Street and rented 69 acres.

Following its sale to JB Paynter in 1927<sup>[4]</sup>, this house was split into three, today called Corner Cottage, Manor Place and Pinnacle House. One of the stable blocks in the farmyard was converted into the second 'Manor Farmhouse', and the other stable block became the fire station to house Martock's first motorised fire engine, see below.



### The Manor Farmyard

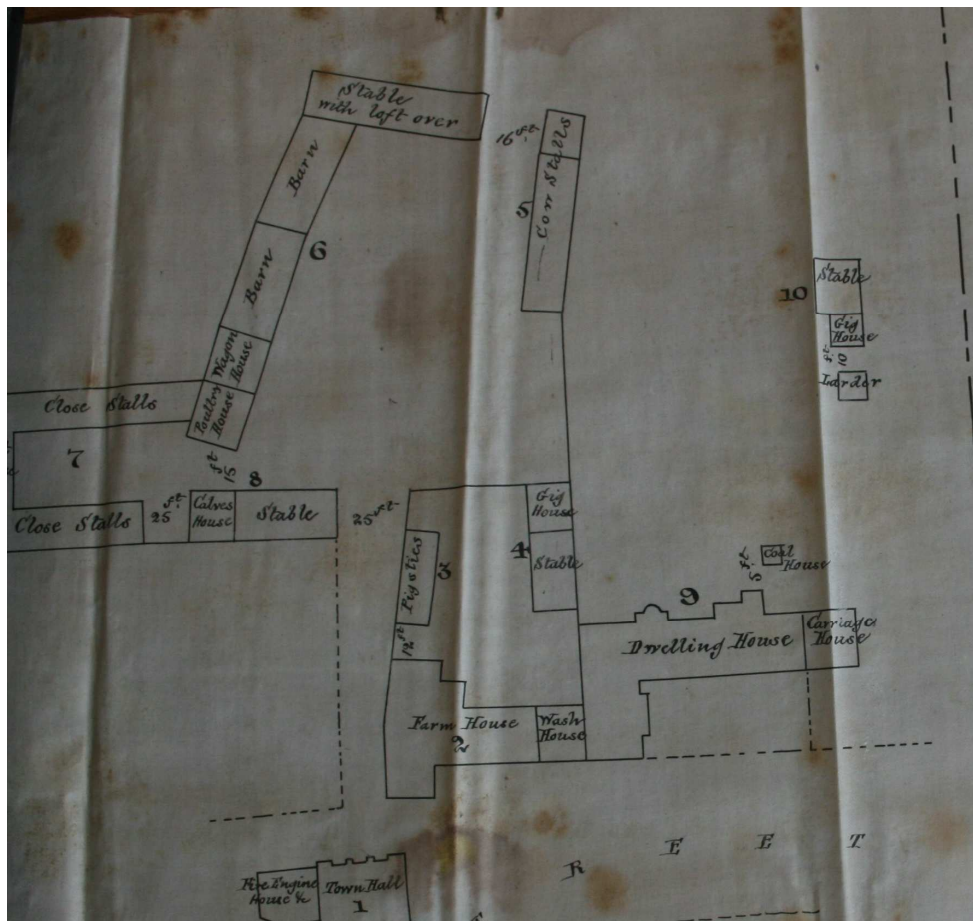
An impressive courtyard of high quality farm buildings was built to the south, down a lane now called Manor Road. The date 1847 on one of the roof timbers of the grain barn agrees well with the architectural style of this grand farmyard.



The 1887 OS map shows the full extent of the manorial complex, albeit marred somewhat by a join between two sheets down through the middle. It shows a pond next to the top stables (old fire station) which were there in 1823.

The west side of the farmyard always consisted of mainly open fronted lean-to sheds built against the wall dividing farmyard from Manor House gardens. The buildings opposite the stable pond may be pigsties.

The 1823 Tithe Map (see below) shows the same outline for these buildings, just as it does with the first Manor Farmhouse and Manor House. It seems likely that the existing farmyard buildings were substantially upgraded in the same way as the farmhouse in the 1840s. This happened in stages, witnessed by different stonework and roof heights – see photos below.



An undated drawing in the Goodden archive, <sup>[3]</sup> made before the Manor House fire in 1879, showing Manor Farmhouse, farmyard and Manor House.

It annotates the use of all the buildings: both the current Manor Farmhouse and 'Old Fire Station' are shown as stables, the latter probably with hay loft over, as on the other stables. The stable block converted to a fire station around 1930 has a calf house attached (the added lean-to). The survey which accompanies this drawing has not yet been found in the Goodden archive. See footnote <sup>[11]</sup>.



This photo of the yard, looking north east, taken perhaps for the 1925 auction. The annotations are later. From left to right: stables (now 'Old Fire Station'), later lean-to calf house, poultry house, wagon house (open fronted) and grain barn. The Carolean revival windows in the stables are large and high quality, demonstrating the importance attached to the housing of working horses at this time. The lean to on the far (north) side of the stables was always the property of The White Hart. The slit windows on the grain barn are standard for ventilation of stored crops while also preventing ingress of unwanted wildlife. The rounded door arch and buttresses either side are purely ornamental and well illustrate the high quality of all the buildings built by the Gooddens.

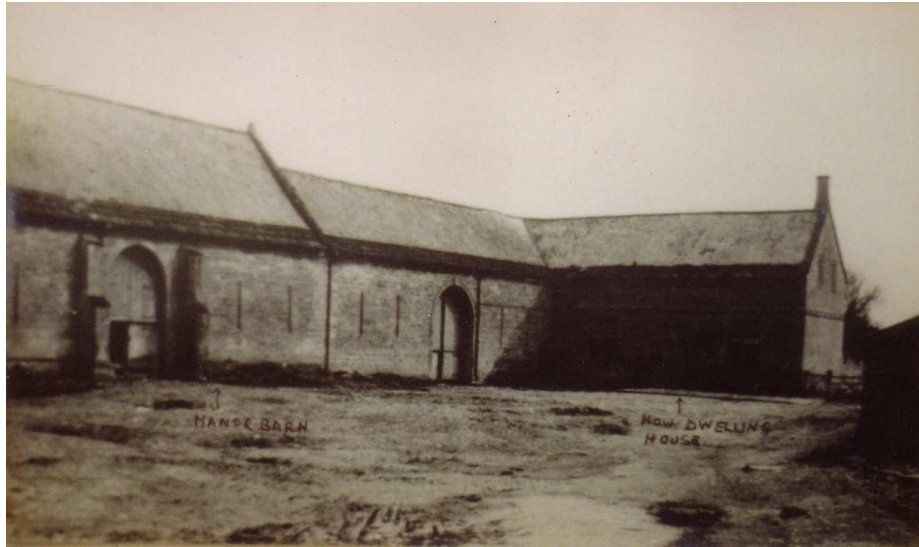


Photo (above) of the yard, looking south east, taken perhaps for the 1925 auction. The annotations are later. From left to right: the left hand barn, also seen in the previous photo, was demolished in 1932 (text attached to the photo); the second barn with archway, now converted to house and flats; and the stables, converted after 1927 to the second Manor Farmhouse.. The left hand barn was built first, as shown by the northernmost party wall, still there in 2018 (see photo).



When the central barn was converted from veterinary surgery to residential use in 2002, the remains of a circular horse gin for grinding grain was still there. <sup>[6]</sup>

### The second Manor Farmhouse



The southern stable block, with hay loft over, was converted to form a new Manor Farmhouse, possibly when Charles Gaylard bought the farmyard and land in 1927. Here we see clearly the same door and windows on the ground floor as on the other stable block, now 'The Old Fire Station'. Following the sale in lots of the remaining Manor Farm establishment in 1973, this and its attached barn on the left were bought by George Howard. The barn became a veterinary practise in 1988.

When the roof was overhauled, the stone slates which were once on both sides (used at the base of thatch to form a straight 'gutter line') were all brought to the front.

In the distance, on the far right of this photo, is an outbuilding converted by George Howard from 1986 onwards into what is today called 'Manor Farm', as opposed to 'Manor Farmhouse'. This building has seen steady enlargement right into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### The Glove Factory



Kelly's Directories reveal that by 1939 A F Thorne & Son Ltd, leather glove manufacturers, had moved to Manor Road from their North Street address. This date perfectly fits the building style of this purpose built glove factory.

It is well built with cut and squared Hamstone walls, large windows and a Welsh slate roof, state of the art of its period.

A.F. Thorne died aged 70 in 1946,<sup>[7]</sup> and Norman Burfield seems to have taken up production here soon after this. After leaving school at 14, he had started his own gloving business in 1944 after a spell with Joseph Hunt & Son, glovers based in East Street and Hurst. Until 1947, when wartime restrictions on the supply of leather were lifted, he had made gloves under contract for others. After this, he could buy skins on his own behalf, and all through his career he bought mostly from Pittards of Yeovil, peaking at £1m worth per annum.<sup>[8]</sup>



By 1990 he employed around 90 full time and 150 out workers, with a turnover of over £2m, specialising in quality dresswear gloves and gloves for the police and armed forces.



The success of this business needed many new buildings on the Manor Farm site, as these photos taken in the 1960s and 21<sup>st</sup> century show. Mr Burfield died in 2009 and his company continued until 2018, shortly after sizeable contracts with the Ministry of Defence had ended.

### The Old Fire Station, formerly stables

In the 1780s an extension was built onto the Market House by George Slade, then Lord of the Manor, to house the Fire Engine – on the right hand side of this photo. As equipment grew in scale, this was considered too small. There was a fire at the Market House in 1899, fire marks still exist on the walls of the main market house, and a new, rather crude, roof structure was put on.

Mr Slade's extension was demolished in 1961 to ease traffic flow around it and the Market House was restored.



In 1927 Martock bought its first (second hand) motorised fire engine from Mr Brooks, motor engineer of Water Street, for £287.<sup>[6]</sup> The stable block on

the north side of the Manor Farmyard was bought by the parish council in 1930 and became Martock's Fire Station. Adaptations were made, notably the large sliding door inserted to accommodate the engine. The rear lean-to seen in the left photo was built as a wagon house by the White Hart in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was a coaching inn. The lean-to in the right photo was used as a calf house in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, at the time the plan (above) was drawn.

In 1986 this Martock Fire Brigade had two fire engines. When the siren went off, firemen's cars were parked at random, and keys left in the ignition.

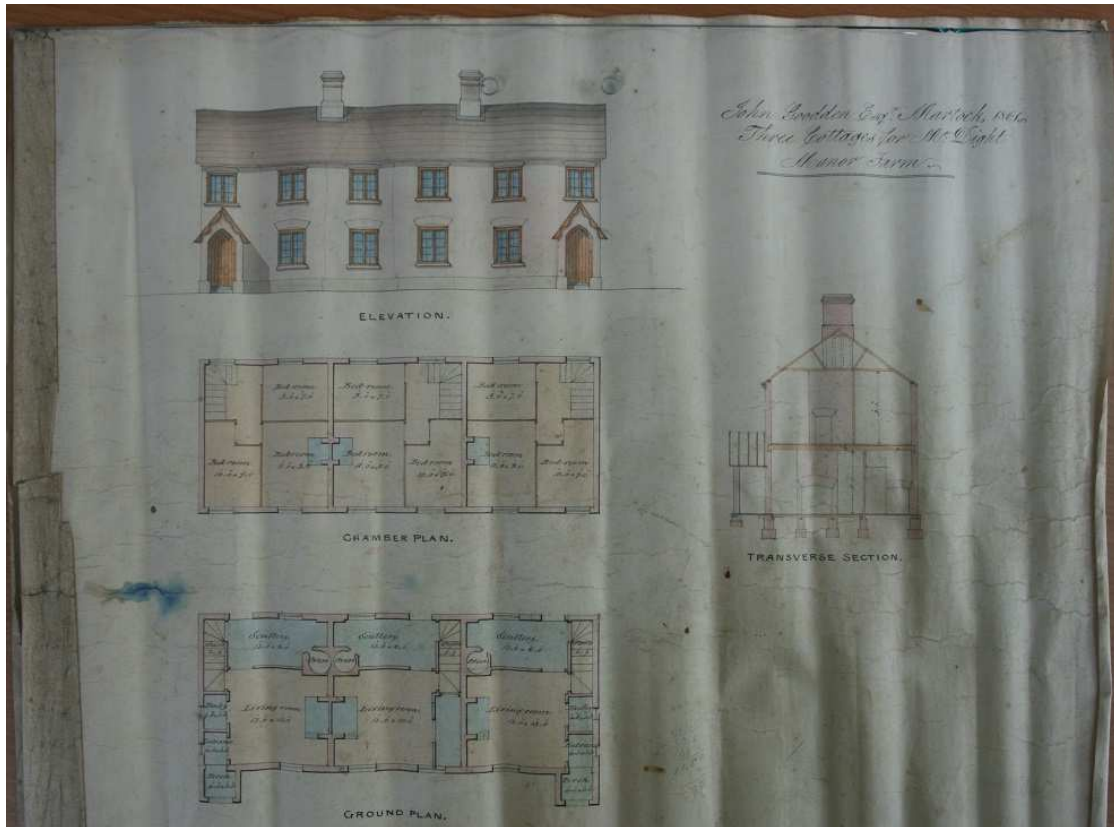


In 1988 a new and bigger fire engine arrived and would no longer fit. A new purpose-built fire station was built in Coat Road. The building was put up for sale in 1992 by closed tender, and sold to Burfields.<sup>[9]</sup>

The scissor roof trusses are an interesting feature, and all the remaining barns of the farmyard were built using them. They are a medieval revival style associated with eastern England, and demonstrate an antiquarian interest embraced by the Goodden family in the 1840s.

Stables of this quality and date traditionally had cobbled floors, many still have. A retired fireman <sup>[12]</sup> remembers the cobbled floor in this building still there in the 1980s.

## Cottages on the Stoke Road



A terrace of 3 cottages was built by the Gooddens for Mr Dight's farm workers on Stoke Road, 100 yards south of the farmyard. Various designs for both cottages and outhouses survive by Haggett and Pocklington of Sherborne, architects, dated 1861.



## The Manor House



The impressive Manor House seen from Church Street, as rebuilt after the 1879 fire. The site follows the line of the Market Square laid out by Ingram de Fiennes in the 1240s. This 'square' has survived remarkably intact over the centuries.



These two photos are taken from a drawing of the 'Market Square' by the Rev. George Musgrave, who lived at Ash House from around 1829-1832.



There is a degree of artistic license which confuses matters, but he does show the thatched Manor House on the far left of the drawing. This was then 1½ storeys, as opposed to today's 2½, and there were then windows in the north gable. The ghost of most of this can be seen faintly in the stonework of the gable today.

The drawing also shows an ornate chimney cowl, otherwise unique to Newton Surmaville House just south of Yeovil. It also shows a full height gated and arched agricultural wagonway at the far end, the roofline of which is still clearly visible on 14 Church Street. There is also a smaller pedestrian doorway next to it. This wagonway is described as a 'carriage house' in the plan above.

It seems likely that this was a separate house to the Manor Farm house next door, although also owned by the Goodden family – see the 1823 map below. In 1840 the first known occupant was George Stuckey (1804-1870), surgeon, and cousin of the Gooddens. He is recorded here from 1840 until 1866.

Prebendary G W Saunders states that the house was raised one storey and the thatch removed after a fire <sup>[10]</sup>. An article in the Western Gazette on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1879 is the first instance of this building being called the Manor House: "On Monday evening the handsome old manor house of Martock, belonging to John Goodden Esq, the Lord of the Manor, and inhabited by the Rev. J. Hinde, the curate of East Lambrook, was partially destroyed by fire. The Martock fire brigade mustered its full strength in a few minutes, and succeeded in saving the large dining room and rooms over it, but the remainder was all consumed. The whole of the furniture was safely removed, as was also the handsome old oak staircase, which was the pride of the village ...."

This account, together with the architectural style of the house, seem to date the building we see today perfectly. There are no fire marks on the stonework, so the whole house was probably rebuilt, or at least re-faced. The style is that of the high Cotswold vernacular rather than southern Somerset, so much favoured by John Goodden when enlarging his own house in Over Compton. This photo,



taken during re-roofing in 2016, shows this flamboyant style.



On one of the gables there is a date stone which used to be legible and bore the initials G (surname) over H and E (Christian manes) and the date 1672. This has been re used from elsewhere - the nearby Pinnacle also has a date stone 1742, but was rebuilt in about 1785.

In the earliest photographs of the Manor House, dating to the 1880s, the house looks just as it does today apart from the pitched roof over the porch, now flat.



### The 1823 Tithe map



The Manor Farm site as shown on William Wadman's 1823 Tithe Map.

It shows all the existing buildings with remarkably similar footprints to those of today, although it should be remembered that this map was only drawn to help raise taxes, and was not necessarily an accurate depiction of building outlines.

1977 is the Market House at the head of Church Street. 1916 is the Manor Farm and 1915 today's Manor House. Buildings coloured pink are domestic, those coloured blue are loosely described as 'outbuildings', the distinction being simply a way of calculating the Tithe payable.

### References and Bibliography

Much of this information has been drawn from original research by Fergus Dowding and the Martock Local History Group. We are also grateful to Geoff and Marion Singleton for dates and information from their archives.

#### Notes:

1. Simon Griffin, research paper, 2002, unpublished.
2. Deeds in the possession of a local resident.
3. The Goodden deeds were deposited in the Dorset Record Centre in 2014. Most of the Martock papers have the DRI reference D/148/7/ boxes 47-59.
4. Manor Farm was sold in 3 lots on 27 October 1925. Lot 1, Manor Farm and 118 acres sold for £6,700 to William Henry Paull. At this time the tenant, TH Millard, paid £310 rent per annum for Manor Farm and 118 acres. Thanks go to Geoff and Marion Singleton of Manor Farmhouse for allowing me to photograph their copy, and for other information related here.
5. Conversation with Geoff and Marion Singleton, also SSDC planning application 02/01001/LBC
6. Log book of the Martock Fire Brigade, held at the Fire Station in Coat Road.
7. Western Gazette, 15 November 1946.
8. Sale of the stables that became the fire station - conveyance of sale 26 June 1930 between Maud J Paynter, Gertrude L Beckton and Walter E Newman to Martock Parish Council. Transferred to SCC under Section 6 of the Fire Brigade Act 1938 and vested in SCC under Section 49 of the Fire Service Act 1947.
8. The Glovers of Yeovil, by Peter Lawson-Clarke, Book published by himself 1996.
9. SCC put the fire station out for sale by closed tender in 1992. Burfields put in a tender and were successful.
10. Western Gazette, 3 February 1879. Prebendary GW Saunders was vicar to Martock from 1917-1952 and a keen historian, wrote an article about the 1879 fire in 'Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries vol. XXIII p.236
11. In 1973 Charles Gaylard retired, the land and buildings sold in different lots. The cattle yard at the north east corner (shown on the pre-1879 plan) and 3 acres of orchard were sold to Bernard Yandle of The Yews. He sold 1996 to Fergus and Louise Dowding, who sold in 1999 to Kingfisher Carpets of Martock, who in 2000 sold to Burfield. These then consisted open cow stalls on 3 sides surrounding a fold yard. The Bridgwater patent tiles and king-post truss roof was removed in about 2005.
12. A. Welch, 2018.

#### Occupants, mainly derived partly from Kelly's Directories

It should be noted that these directories only listed people who paid for an entry.

##### Manor Farm

- 1883 John Dight  
1889 Henry John Farrant, farmer, Manor Farm [he quit, all dead and livestock sold 21 September 1893 – Western Gazette]  
1894, 1902 & 1906 William Tucker  
1914 Arthur Millard, Manor Farm, Church Street.  
1919 Henry Thomas Millard, Manor Farm, Church Street.  
1931, 1935 & 1939, Chas. Gayland, 'The Manor Farm'. In 1919 he was a farmer in Bower Hinton.  
1939 A F Thorne & Son Ltd, leather glove manufacturer, Manor Road. This company was in North Street in 1935.

##### Manor House

- 1883 Rev Francis Hinde, MA, Church Street – no mention of 'Manor House'.  
1889 William Bernard Cooper, Manor House  
1902, 1906, 1910 Mrs Patrick  
1914 Miss Manfield

1919 Vyvyan Popham Spurway

[1924 an auction of 'highly important pedigree poultry and appliances....] advertised Western Gazette.

1931 Guy Petter

1939 Robert Ingram

1939-1959 Harry Mallows

1959-2016 Lt-Col Cecil and Marion Hungerford Jackson and then their daughter lived at the Manor House,  
her sold the site in lots, the grounds subject to heavy and unhappy development.