

Meriden listed buildings and places of interest



Michael Pierre de Villiers

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Title page: Meriden village green.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Pierre de Villiers was born in Durban, South Africa. He was trained to World Meteorological Organization class one meteorologist and multi-discipline weather forecaster in the South African Weather Service where he reached the rank of Director. He served on a weather ship in the South Atlantic. He served on World Meteorological Organization expert teams and was World Meteorological Organization rapporteur for the Africa region. He was also a commercial pilot and flying instructor. More recently he was a weather forecaster in the United Arab Emirates, then in England. Now retired.

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2023-06-14

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Introduction

Meriden the village and Meriden parish, are in the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and county of West Midlands. It is situated in mostly agricultural land.

The original settlement in the immediate area, known as Alspath (Al's path, or road to Al's dwelling), was on a hill to the east of the present village, according to the Domesday survey of 1086, Alspath was a small village with a monastery (later St Laurence church) on land owned by the Countess Godiva (or Lady Godiva) before 1066 and by Nicholas during the time of the Domesday survey of 1086. Lady Godiva (~1040-1070), or in old English Godgifu (god gift), was an Anglo-Saxon noblewoman and the wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia who owned Alspath until he died in 1057. Myth, almost certainly untrue, has it that she rode naked through the streets of Coventry in response to her husband's dare that he would ease high taxation by on his tenants if she did (Agutter 1990 and 1992, Walters 2019).

The establishment and growing importance of the road from North Wales and Ireland, via Holyhead and Chester, to London from the 15th century, led to the decline of Alspath and the growth of a settlement at the foot of the hill, namely Meriden, which became more important. The name Meriden is a corruption of Old English words myrge, pleasant, and denu, valley. It was a resting and watering place for cattle and sheep driving through from Wales to the Coventry and London markets. It was also a coach stop with several inns and ale houses. Birmingham was a much smaller settlement. The A45 by-pass, opened in 1958, reduced traffic through Meriden, returning the road to local use through the village (Agutter 1990 and 1992, Meriden history, St Laurence Meriden and Meriden West Midlands,).

Growth in the 20th century was extensive. Between the wars, development took place along the Fillongley Road and to some extent along Birmingham Road and Leys Lane. Much later, the Millison's Wood housing was constructed further to the east. Most of Meriden village, is enclosed by Fillongley Road, Birmingham Road and Leys Lane (Meriden History).

This article concentrates on listed buildings and places of interest in the Meriden village/parish area. They are presented from west to east. In the United Kingdom (UK) a listed building is one of special architectural or historic interest. A listed building may not be demolished, extended or altered without special permission from the local planning authority in consultation with the relevant central government agency. The building must be man-made and at least approaching its original state. Keeping this in mind, all buildings built before 1700 are listed and most up to 1840. It becomes much more difficult for more recent buildings to be listed, particularly after 1945, at least 30 years old and have to be exceptional to be listed. Structures such as bridges, monuments, sculptures, war memorials, milestones and mileposts may also be listed. Ancient structures, such as Stonehenge, are usually classified as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The listing in descending order of importance is Grade I, Grade II* or Grade II. Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest. Grade II* groups particularly important buildings of more than special interest. While Grade II lists buildings that are of special interest, usually private residential buildings and consist of about 92% of listings. There was a non-statutory Grade III until 1970 (British Listed Buildings (b)).

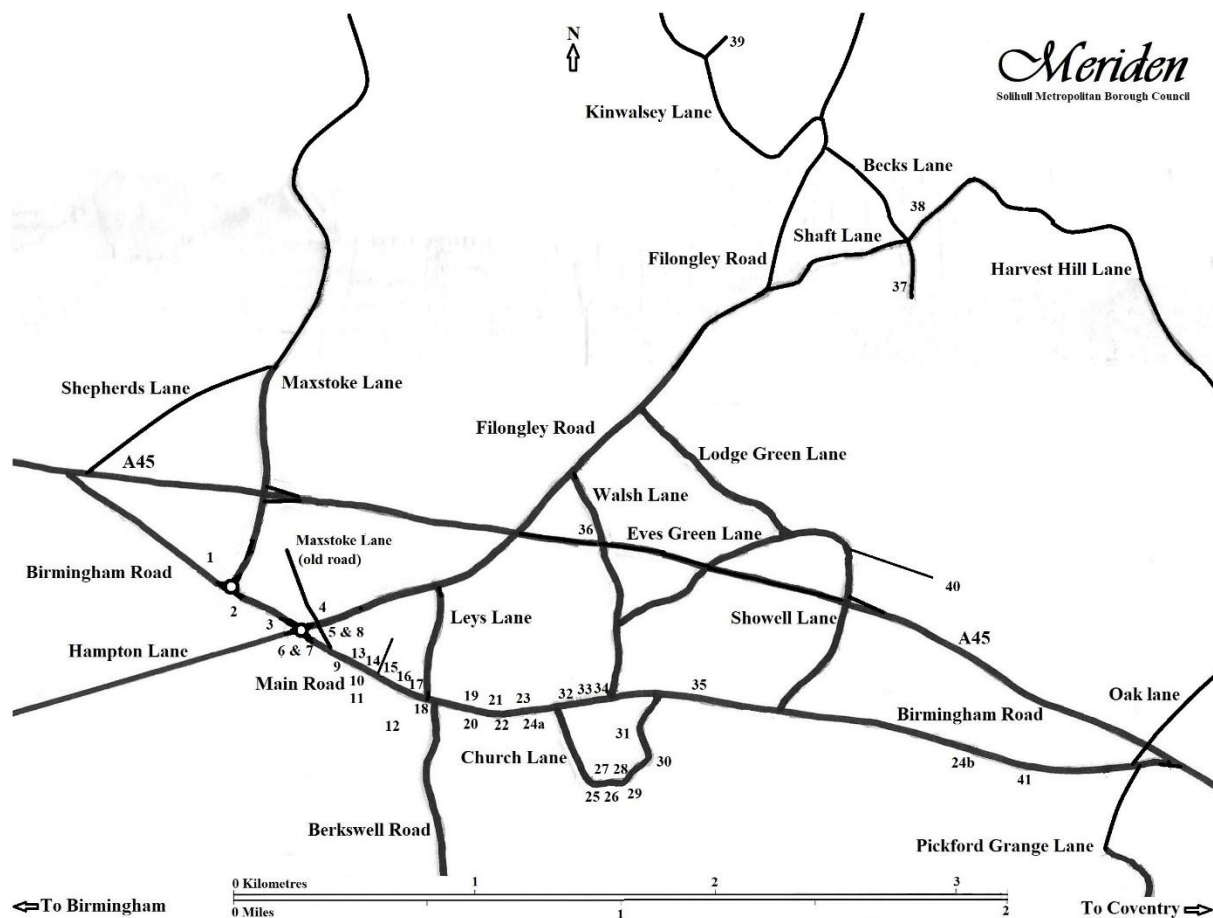
Nomenclature is to use centuries when referring to the age of buildings. For example, 17th century refers to buildings built in the 1600s.

Numerous technical terms used in the text are explained in a glossary that includes diagrams of roof types and architectural features mentioned in the text.

Buildings and places of interest

To reach Meriden village from the direction of Birmingham, or the airport, or the railway station, one travels eastward on the A45, turn off left at Shepherds Lane then right on to Maxstoke Lane. At the roundabout take the first left on to the Birmingham Road and you have arrived at your destination. There is another route where you turn off a major junction toward Balsall Common then left on to the arrow straight Hampton Lane, also known as the Meriden mile. However, this is a longer route. Arriving on either route means that one has to backtrack on the Birmingham Road toward the A45 to reach the first building of interest. This is Forest Hall. The Birmingham Road needs clarification. The section of the road that passes through Meriden village from the Fillongley Road to the western part of the Church Lane loop is known as Main Road.

Places have been arranged and numbered from west to east through the village with some deviations to the northern part of the parish. Their locations are shown in the map below.



Simplified map of the Meriden parish with numbered places of interest.

1. Forest Hall (Grade II*)

Forest Hall, the Workshop and Pavilion (both Grade II), in extensive ground surrounded by old oak trees, is home to the Woodmen of Arden. The famous archery club, reputedly the oldest in England, was established at a meeting in the old Bull's Head (then the Darlaston Hall) in 1785 and the hall built in 1788. A member club of the British Societies of Archers, it still uses the six feet (~2 metres) longbow that was used at the Battle of Agincourt. The bows are made by craftsmen in the workshop in the club grounds (WMFWI 1989). However, the buildings are on ground open to members only and with a high thick hedge between them and the road, it is impossible to obtain anywhere near decent photographs.



The workshop left and Forest Hall seen from the entrance. Vivid imagination required.

2. The Laurels (Grade II)



The Laurels mostly hidden from view.
central door in architrave surround.”

Walking back toward Meriden village, one arrives at The Laurels on the south side of the Birmingham Road. Set back from the road, the two story large white painted building is surrounded by trees with extensive creeper on the front wall. So one is left none the wiser of its merits as a Grade II building. However, British Listed Buildings says it is early to mid 19th century with a “hipped Welsh slate roof and bracketed eaves cornice” with “flush casement windows with glazing bars. Half glazed 2 panel

3. Corner House (Grade II)

On the south-west corner of the Birmingham Road and Hampton Lane intersection, is a large gable roofed building with ancillary smaller attached building to the rear. Although of early 19th century origin (probably 1814), there is evidence of considerable restoration, such as a new tiled roof on the main building, while the smaller attachments have much older looking



Corner House.



Thatched Cottage.

clerk of) Meriden (1658), possibly a joiner/cooper/carpenter (~1608) and a wheelwright pre-1650. The last craftsman to live there in early 1900s, was a shoemaker (Agutter 1992). With casement windows and glazing bars, the lower floor consisted of living and working areas with



Centre of England Stores.

roofs. It has pointed arched casement windows on the main building (British Listed Buildings), square casement elsewhere. The rough finish of the walls resembles what is known as pebble-dash, that is, mortar with pebbles.

4. Thatched Cottage (Grade II)

Situated on the north-eastern corner of the Fillongley Road and Maxstoke Lane, the 17th century home is the epitome of the classical English timber frame cottage. Comparing photographs taken by the author in 2009 and 2023 (and an old one in an Agutter (1992) publication taken in 1930), one can see an increase in vegetation obscuring the building from the road. Some alterations are evident externally, but there is internal evidence that the core could be from medieval time (pre 16th century). Built on a small property it was home to craftsmen, such as carpenter (1758), tailor, barber, cobbler,

a ground floor bedroom. The upper floor, is in the form of an attic with windows protruding from the thatch, consisted of two large bedrooms (British Listed Buildings). Today the cottage is divided into two households.

5. Centre of England Stores (Grade II)

Facing the village green adjacent to the Fillongley Road are two whitewashed brick buildings. They date from the 17th century,

although much altered. For example, modern shop windows in the larger of the two buildings that has a cross gabled roof, which until recently was a convenience shop, now (in 2023) empty. Both building have an attic upper story, the shop having a gabled dormer window facing the street. The eastern (right) building has five gabled dormer casement windows on its western side, Three with two panels and two rear three panels. Three same style windows on the eastern side, one two panel and two three panel to the rear. The eastern side has two The roofs of the two buildings have old tiles and stone chimneystacks (British Listed Buildings and Historic England (a) (both have the same text). Inside the buildings, there is evidence of original timber frame. The smaller gable roofed building on right (east) houses a branch of the Solihull library.



The village Cross. In background the Centre of England Stores and the Thatched Cottage.

6. Village Cross (Grade II)

The medieval stone cross on the Meriden village green with its top broken off long ago, has traditionally been in existence for about 500 years. Controversially, it is reputed to mark the centre of England. However, on the 14th June 2013 Ordnance Survey erected a plaque on Lindley Hill Farm, near Fenny Drayton, in Leicestershire to indicate the centre of England. It is also claimed that in England, a location in the parish is the farthest from the sea (Centre points of the United Kingdom).



Cyclists War Memorial.

7. Cyclists War Memorial (Grade II)

Also on the green is the National Cyclists' Memorial. A plaque reads; In remembrance of those cyclists who gave their lives in World War II 1939 – 1945. The 30-foot (9-metre) grey granite memorial was erected with donations from cyclists and cycling clubs following a public meeting held in October 1919. It was placed in Meriden to make it easier for cyclists to reach it from anywhere in the country. It is the site of an annual rally and service every May (Meriden history and Meriden, West Midlands).

8. K6 Red Telephone kiosk (Grade II)

The iconic red telephone box or kiosk on the pavement on the north side of the green is a K6. The now famous K6



K6 Red Telephone Kiosk

was the final design of 5 proceeding mostly similar designs. It was created to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1935 with production starting in 1936. It was also the first red telephone kiosk to be widely used outside London. It not only replaced most of the existing kiosks, but established thousands of new sites, becoming by far the predominant kiosk type. In the year before production started in 1936 there were 19 000 kiosks, by 1904 there were 35,000. The bolted together four-sided rectangular cast-iron K6 kiosk sections, with a domed roof, stands on a concrete base. Three sides of the kiosk, one side being the door, are much more glass than cast-iron. (British Listed Buildings, The Telephone Box, and Red Telephone Box).

9. Strawberry Bank House (Grade II)

Walking a short distance downhill and eastward from the green one arrives at the Strawberry Bank House, part of a larger hotel complex on the south side of Main Road. Strawberry Bank House was built on the site of an ancient barn. Agutter (1992) says that the architecture of the house and very wide internal doorways suggests it was built in 1780 and the number of outbuildings indicates it was on a farm. In the 1800s it served as a boy's boarding day school, later as a boys and girls boarding school and day scholars. During the time of 1st World War, it became a doctor's surgery and residence. In 1970 it became a restaurant and customers received a "bottle of medicine" in the bar. The two story building is white washed brick with a hipped old tile roof with eave and cornice. There is a band dividing the two floors. "Windows are nearly flush sash windows with glazing bars under flat arches and keystones" (British



Strawberry Bank House part of the Strawberry Bank Hotel complex.

Listed Buildings). The central door is half glazed with a rectangular fanlight. Above the door is a frieze and cornice.

10. Lanesfield (Grade II)

Situated a little further east, still on the same side of Main Road. This picturesque two story 19th century building with attic is described by British Listed Buildings as having white washed stucco walls with a tiled roof and ornamental fascia, or bargeboards, on the side gables,



Lanesfield.

“casement windows with glazing bars, modern bay window on right of ground floor. Gabled red brick closed porch with pointed arch” (British Listed Buildings). Comparing the recent photograph with a somewhat indistinct greyscale photograph taken in the 1920s, the front bay window is indeed a modern addition. Also, the windows on the east side have been replaced. Furthermore, the building was not originally painted. The walls having the appearance of being

timber frame filled with brick.

As far as can be ascertained the building was once a farm house, guest house, a sub-post office from 1882 to 1892 and residence. Most notably from 1919 it was the home of the owner of Shirley’s Garage, in existence for over 60 years, which was located next door to the west (Agutter 1992). More recently, the garage became a used Porsche salesroom and temporary location of Meriden Garage at the back in the large shed. In the early 2020s the land was converted to housing.

11. Brookside (Grade II)



Brookside. Well camouflaged.

Brookside is half tucked behind Lanesfield with access from the lane that leads to Meriden Hall. It is difficult to obtain a good photograph of the large two story building from the entrance gate. The house being obscured by trees. One can most likely get a better photograph in winter when the trees are bare. What can be seen is white painted plaster walls with casement windows. The roof is tiled with small

rectangular tiles, certainly not modern. Toward the southern end of the roof, along the ridge, is an unusual tall brick chimney consisting of four joined stacks arranged diagonally (British Listed Buildings). Dated 17th century, externally it looks a lot newer than this. There is also a more modern addition timber and tile roof main entrance porch.

12. Meriden Hall (Grade II*)

Meriden Hall is situated south of Main Road on 14 acres (5.6 hectares) of land on the corner



Meriden Hall.

of Main Road and Berkswell Road. Set well back from the road, it is on rising ground facing northward with a small lake in front of it. Apparently, the Hornbrook was diverted to create the lake. Access is via the lane mentioned above opposite the Bull's Head. Just after passing the public footpath off to

the right and entrance to a business premise, there is a general public not allowed past this point sign. This restriction plus the numerous trees obscures the hall from the road and lane making it very difficult to get a photograph of the hall. The best time being in winter after the trees have shed their leaves.

Although there is reference to a Meriden Hall as early as 1637, the current hall was built from 1721 to 1723. It is a large three-storied ashlar building with a Welsh slate roof and sash windows with glazing bars. The front is divided into three bays, the middle one is slightly projecting with a pediment. Each section has rusticated pilasters. Above the second story is a moulded cornice that surrounds the building (except on the south face) and acts as the capitals for the pilasters. A parapet partially hides the shallow hipped roof. The south was the original front and main entrance inside of which is an early 18th century staircase. The enclosures in 1785 created the opportunity to acquire 14 acres of private land around the hall, plus 44 acres (18 hectares) of farmland with greenhouses, a vinery, brewery, dairy, ice house and bakery. The hall was largely self-sufficient until about 1939 (Agutter 1992). The hall has now been converted into flats. A two story small cream painted later addition wing extends from the western side of the hall. Similar in design to the new wing, nearby to the west, is a large two story building. The old stable (Grade II listed), completed in 1724, to the west of the buildings, has been converted into flats. Not far to the south-west is the Grade II listed ice house (Agutter 1992, British History Online and British Listed Buildings). The only other ice house of which the author is aware is at Battle Abbey. It is usually a deep bricked underground chamber with a domed roof covered with earth and grass with a single entrance consisting of multiple doors to exclude warmer air. In winter, ice cut from a frozen water surface is packed inside with straw

for insulation. The ice is used to keep food cold, even in summer. An effective method before refrigeration.

13. Bull's Head Hotel (Grade II)

Back at the Main Road on the north side and opposite the Meriden Hall entrance, is the 19th



The Bull's Head.

century Bull's Head Hotel. According to writing on the front of the main building and a western wall the inn has been in existence since circa 1603. It was certainly popular in the 1700s according to a guidebook in 1755. However, then it was not at its present location. It was originally on the same side of the road but opposite the present village pond and Berkswell Road. It moved to its present site in 1846, subsequently incorporating an adjoining building to the east (Agutter 1990). The western (left) two story section with slate grey walls has a hipped roof with sash windows and a gable roof semi-attic dormer window over what was probably a coach entrance, now closed. The eastern (right) white walled two story plus attic section, with sash windows, has a half-hipped roof with four hipped roof dormers and casement windows. It also has a Doric colonnaded porch. The roofs consist of old and machined tiles (British Listed Buildings). The low point of the Birmingham Road at this point is subject to flooding in heavy rain with drains unable to cope. Sandbags are then stacked against the now disused main street entrances. On one occasion that the author is aware of, busses could not pass because the water level was above their entrance door levels.

14. Corner of Birmingham Road and Gloves Close (Grade II)

Back on the Main Road, the somewhat unusual and interesting, no name, two story 18th century red brick, old tiled, building is located next to the Bull's Head Hotel in the eastern corner of the block. The cream-coloured pebble-dash street facing wall has four upper story casement windows with light grey coloured louvered shutters (British Listed Buildings). The ground floor has three large unequal size shop windows in casement style. Largest is the central window, the smallest the righthand window that incorporates the entrance door. Inside the windows, unusual for the UK, are what appear to be trellis style metal burglar guards on the three windows. To the rear is single story with attic and gabled roof wing. That is, the building



Corner building with the bulging wall shown on the right.

is a L shape cross gable roof. An interesting feature, visible toward the back on the eastern side, is an apsidal wall. Apsidal is a fancy name for a domed like, or curved projection. It can also mean a vaulted recess. The only similar feature seen by the author in the bonded warehouse on the canal wharf at Stourbridge. On closer inspection at a later date, it appears to be buckling and bending of the wall with age, rather than a deliberate feature. One can also identify a bricked entrance with a curved arch visible.

15. The Nags Head (Grade II)



The Nags Head.

Also known as the Coach House the Nags Head. Still on the north side of Birmingham Road on opposite corner of Gloves Close from the no name building, is the 18th century old Coach House and Nags Head. Now a private residence. The two story building has white painted plaster (stucco) walls with two front wall wooden camber arched casement windows with transoms. The roof is old tiled hipped with half hip

along the front part of the side walls. The front roof has two hipped and tiled roof dormers. There is a black band indicating the ground level ceiling, or floor above, indicating that the dormers are low to the floor at most 1 metre (~3 feet) above floor level. (British Listed Buildings). All in all, an attractive and interesting design combination. Behind the building is a connection to a north wing in two sections, one section single story, the other two stories. At the time of the photograph, a concrete block addition to the obviously much more modern double garage, was nearing completion. As evidenced by the rubble in the foreground and the builders sign under the left window.

16. Brooklyn (Grade II)



Brooklyn.

licenced Malt Shovel (Agutter 1990).

East of and next to the ex-Nags Head is this early 19th century red brick two story building with Welsh slate hipped roof, side tiled hipped roof bay window. There is a distinctive arched fanlight with radiating gluing bars over the panelled front door (British Listed Buildings). The large sash windows with glazing bars have twelve panes each. It was built soon after 1830. For a short period thereafter, it was the

17. Waterfall Cottage (Grade II)



Waterfall Cottage. Light snow was still occurring.

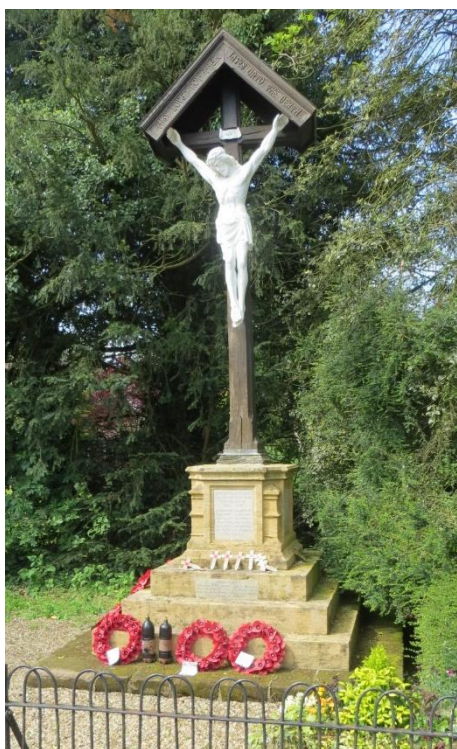
wing on right is single story with tiled hipped roof dormers front and back as well a single story sloped roof lean-to attachment at the rear. The front dormer window is mullioned with the right panel transomed.

Walking to the east of Brooklyn, still on the north side of Birmingham Road on the corner of Waterfall Close, is the very picturesque two story, gable roofed Waterfall Cottage. It is certainly eye-catching. The left and right wings are slightly lower than the main central section. The lower

Waterfall cottage dates back to at least 1620. During renovation by the Meriden Rural District Council in 1967, a 1620s minted coin from the reign of Charles I was found (Agutter 1992). The 17th century timber frame cottage is brick filled and white washed with an odd assortment of windows that add to the character of the building. Originally a single dwelling, it is now subdivided into two homes. Long ago there was a small waterfall on the opposite side of the road, hence the name (WMFWI 1989). Steam wagons would use the waterfall to refill their water tanks. Long past tenants include smiths, naylor, horse doctors and more recently, veterinary surgeons (Agutter 1992).

18. Meriden War Memorial (Grade II)

The village's war memorial is at the Berkswell Road south turn-off from the Main Road, on the side of Meriden Hall and opposite the village pond. It stands on land donated by Letitia Banks,



Meriden War Memorial.

heiress of Meriden Hall and wife of Captain Edward Banks. He was the first WW I death from the village due to friendly fire at the Battle of St Julien in 1915 (Meriden, West Midlands). Erected in 1920 in the form of a shrine with a stone base and pedestal upon which is mounted a timber, canopied cross with a cast-iron crucified Jesus. On the front base are the names of the 13 men from Meriden who died in World War I, while on two sides are the names of 78 men who served and returned. After World War II a plaque was added with the names of 7 men who died and the names of 8 men who returned.

19. Meriden Manor Hotel

Walking east on Main Road, after passing the village pond to the south, is the imposing south facing double story Manor Hotel on the northern side of the road. It is a privately-owned, four-star Georgian Manor House dating back to 1745. It is not grade listed. According to their website (Manor Hotel) the earliest image they have is in 1895 that shows only part of the building to the left of the main entrance was then in existence. It was tidied for sale in 1949. By 1994, a virtually mirror image of this building was added to the right with an intervening connection. There was also the addition of a bedroom block to the rear facing stables on the left of the original building. The present colonnaded portico front entrance was added to the intervening connection in 1996. In the late 1990s, an additional bedroom wing was added to the left (or west). Originally named the Princess Diana Wing is was changed to the Princess Wing. At some stage a further extension was added to the right (or east) of the building. It is certainly an impressive hotel.



Meriden Manor Hotel. The Princess wing is obscured on the left.

20. Meriden Well

Five houses east of the village pond on the south side of Main Road and opposite the Manor Hotel is a disused and covered well. Long ago there was a small pool fed by a spring (Agutter



Meriden Manor Hotel Princess wing and the sealed well on the opposite side of Main Road. 1990). The author can find no other information regarding this well. The assumption being that it was in use long ago.

21. Stone Cottage, or the Old Police Station



Stone Cottage.



The Elms.

Back on the north side of the road two houses east of the manor Hotel is the attractive Old Police Station, or as it is now known, Stone Cottage. It is a H shaped structure. That is, it has twin gabled, ashlar sandstone walled and old tiled structures that are interconnected, creating a H shape. Satellite imagery shows the western wing extends further to the rear. It is not grade listed. Agutter (1992) suggests mid-19th century, but admits there is little information. Be that as it may, the Old Police Station is of interest simply because it is an attractive building and where the main entrance is now situated used to be a small windowless cell (WMFWI 1989). The building is now divided into two private residences. While a plaque within the entrance says Stone Cottage, the residence on the left has an external wall plaque named Stone Cottage and the residence on the right plaque reads Stone House.

22. The Elms (Grade II)

About five houses further on, but now on the south side of Main Road, is 18th century The Elms. The two story, ashlar dressed sandstone rubble building has a hipped old tiled roof with casement windows (British Listed Buildings). It likely that the Doric porch was a later addition, possibly later in the later 1800s. It was originally known as Ivy Cottage, its present name dating from the 1920s. 1898 it was the Meriden Post office and a store (Bentley's Stores?) until the 1950s (Agutter 1992).

23. Meriden Hotel (Grade II)



Meriden Hotel.

front door has a Doric pilaster each side, surmounted by an entablature and pediment. Of the two chimneys one has three stacks in a row and one square arranged four stacks (British Listed Buildings).

A short distance further east, now on the north side of the road is an 18th century two storey building that was the Meriden Hotel. It is now a private residence with another residence attached to its left and a business premise to its right. One would never have guessed. it was once a hotel. It simply looks like a red bricked house with hipped old tiled roof. It has sash windows under flat decorative lintels and window sills. The lower left window is a later alteration to a bay window. The decorative stone surrounded

24. Distance markers and the Old School House



Milestones: 24a near the old school Main Road and 24b near the Birmingham Road/Albert Road bus stop.

points to the east with the inscription Coventry 5 miles London 96 miles. The author suspects it dates from the early 1900s. The earliest milestone in the Meriden area was in 1734 in a similar location near the Old School building, although this one was most likely made of stone and in place long before the school house was built.

Set back from the road on the south side, nearing what was the National school house (also known as the old Church of England School House), is an old-style cast iron distance marker, or milestone. Milestone is a generic term, including mileposts made of cast iron. The metal triangular shaped marker has, on the left side, a hand pointing toward the west with the inscription Birmingham 12 miles while on the right side the hand

There is another identical distance marker, although in better restored condition, much further east near to the Albert Road bus stop in Millison's Wood. The inscriptions read Birmingham 13 miles and on the right Coventry 4 miles London 95 miles.

Guideposts at crossroads became widespread from 1698 when parishes nationwide were required by law to provide them. Short, stone pillars indicating distances in miles to the next nearest village or town became prevalent. The use of the name milestone was first used in 1746. Later they were also made from metal, such as cast iron, or constructed from stone with metal letter plates (Dennison 2019). Milestones are becoming rare, although about 9000 are believed to remain in the UK. The threat of invasion during World War II led to many being removed or defaced. Many have been demolished due to widening of roads (The Milestone Society).

By the way, the old school house, originally the National School building, was built in 1843 partly sponsored by the Church of England's National Society (Meriden C E Primary School). It is a red brick half H shaped gable roof single story with central attic structure. Each attic window is part of two protruding facades. It has casement windows, the two large front facing windows appear to be sealed. The two tall corbelled cap Victorian groups chimneys consist triple free-standing stacks. The west (right) wing is now the Meriden medical branch of the Balsall Common & Meriden Group Practice. There is a large and beautiful chestnut tree next to the car park and a smaller copper beech tree.



The Old School House.



The Vicarage.

25. The Vicarage (Grade II)

About 100 metres further on past a farm field and the last row of residences, is Church Lane to the south. This is where Main Road reverts to the Birmingham Road. There is also a slip road to the north known as Old Road. This was the road to Coventry before modification by Telford. Church lane loops back to the

Birmingham Road higher up the hill

After a moderately steep walk uphill in Church Lane one arrives at a group of listed buildings at the top of the hill. The first building is the 18th century Vicarage with 19th century enlargement. Now a private residence. Very little can be seen of the two story red brick building with tiled and slated gable roof and hipped roof dormer windows. (British Listed Buildings). The building is mostly obscured from the public by a high and thick hedge on the road side and the public footpath to the west and trees, one of which is a beautiful Copper Beech tree. The photograph was taken from the footpath. Visible are some of the sash windows with glazed bars in the upper story and hip roofed dormer windows in a gable roof. At each end of the roof is triple stack corbelled capped chimney. The rear, east facing side has one dormer window.

26. Glebe House (Grade II)



Glebe House. The Vicarage roof is in the background.

Next to the Vicarage and part of the Vicarage complex is Glebe House. Even less is visible of this building, as seen in the photograph. The vicarage roof is visible in the background. 19th century Glebe House was part of the vicarage. It is now a separate residence. It is also a two story red brick building with Welsh slate roof (British Listed Buildings). A rather pointless exercise to add this structure.

27. Church Farm (Grade II)

The pleasing on the eye Church Farm house building, west of the church and bordering the church ground, is from differing centuries. The oldest part being early 17th century (around 1610) and much rebuilt in the 19th century. The building is of irregular shape, oriented north-



Church Farm front view.

north-west to south-south-east. There is a longer two story main block with a gabled wing at each end and a central slightly longer protruding gable wing. The older southern wing has two stories and an attic. Attached at right angle to each side of the northern and southern wings is a single story old tile and hipped roof section. The structure is predominantly red brick build with some timber frame and red brick fill still evident, mainly at



Church Farm rear view with church headstones visible.

central section and the northern wing and one with triple diagonal shafts on the southern wing (British Listed Buildings).

the front and rear of the southern wing and the upper part of the rear northern wing. Most of the straight rear wall is white washed. Windows are rectangular casement with glazing bars while curved lintels are evident on the central and northern wing fronts. The rear has varied size casement windows with one ground floor larger arched window. There are three corbel capped red brick chimneys. One each of twin diagonally arranged stacks on the

28. St Laurence Church (Grade I)



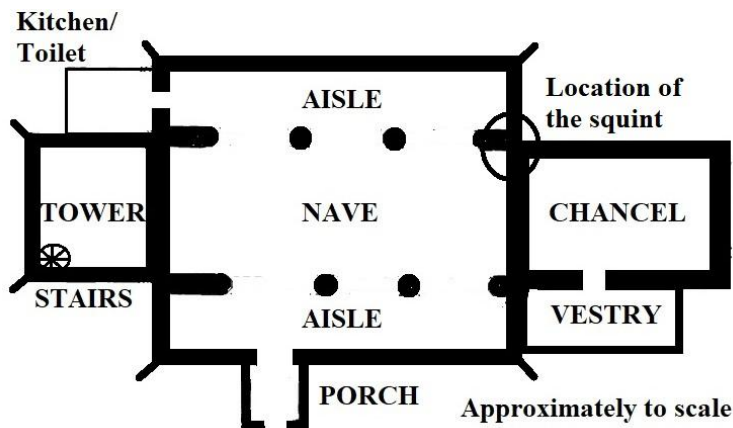
St Laurence Church seen from the north-north-east.

Situated high on the hill it has views across the countryside, especially to the west and north. On a clear day you can see to the Clent Hills in the west, Birmingham city centre to the north-west and beyond to Barr Beacon near Sutton Coldfield.

St Laurence church dates from 12th century, altered and enlarged during 13th to 15th century. Very little remains from the 12th century. A church on the site predates 1066 to Saxon times. The tower was completed in the 15th century. Is also has two

effigies circa 1400 and 1450. It has a modern south porch entrance and Victorian era vestry addition on the south-east. (British Listed Buildings). Tradition has it that Lady Godiva, owner of Alspath Hall until her death in 1067, founded a church on the site dedicated to Saint Edmund, an Anglo-Saxon martyr. The present vicarage was built between 1759 to 1763, with 19th century addition. The novelist George Eliot visited her sister in Meriden repeatedly until 1854 when her sister died and was buried in the churchyard. (Agutter 1990 and Meriden, West Midlands).

The original building had a chancel and the main body of the church, the nave. Possibly the Earl of Chester built the core of the current church of St. Laurence (circa 1150). In succeeding



St Laurence Church floor plan.



The squint.

interesting and unusual is the north wall. It has what is known as a squint, or hagioscope. It is an angled hole, or small splayed opening through the church wall. The opening looks like a roughly hewn isosceles triangle with a squared top. Apparently, it allowed lepers, or penitents, that were unable to come into the church and take communion, to squint through the opening and see the bread and wine on the altar, emblems of salvation. Sources differ which is correct, lepers or penitents. Agutter (1990) says it is incorrectly called a leper squint. It is in fact a hagioscope, an oblique hole in the wall so that a person performing a rite at the later aisle addition or side chapel could see through to the chancel and the high-altar so that the person could co-ordinate service functions (Wright 2024).

The nave is still the same size as in Norman times. A few traces of medieval wall decoration survive on two pillars on the north arcade and mason's marks on the pillar nearest the pulpit. Inside is a beautiful 15th century oak panelled roof. Circa 1827 the church was too small for the ~800 congregation, so the wings (or aisles as they are called) were completely rebuilt and galleries installed that provided 100 extra seats. At the western end of the northern aisle is a doorway to a small flat roofed later addition room that now serves as a kitchen and toilets. (St Laurence Meriden). See the photograph of the church.



The mounting block outside the main entrance gate.

centuries, aisles and a tower were added, the roof was raised and styles which became 'old fashioned' were replaced by newer ones, themselves now ancient (Meriden, West Midlands).

The chancel was extended eastward in the 13th century and its east wall dominated by a 15th century large and attractive stained glass ogive window was renovated late 18th century. Most

The 14th century tower has building material that suggests three different construction periods with lower red sandstone sections then about three metres of ashlar and red sandstone again in the top section. See the photograph of the church. An inside beam has the name W. Thompson (a local carpenter) and the date 1770 carved in it. There is evidence the tower was in its present state from 1725. There are five bells. The oldest bell appears to be from the

medieval time of Richard II's reign 1377-99. Three were cast in 1740 and one in 1897. The clock, in perfect working order dates from 1856. (St Laurence Meriden).



Moat House.



Moat House after snow 10th January 2010.

dry naturally. Originally there was a moat, hence its name. It has two early chimneystacks, one with three joined diagonally arranged shafts on the south wing and a polygonal shape on the central roof. Both have moulded corbelled caps. There is a small chimney on the northern wing.



Alspath House. Need a vivid imagination again.

Outside the main churchyard entrance is a sandstone mounting block (reputedly from circa 1300) when, for centuries past, congregation members visited the church by horse.

29. Moat House (Grade II)

Moat House is a two story timber frame 16th or 17th century half-H shaped, or recessed centre, building with red brick nogging, flush casement windows and old tiled roof with gable wing ends. It is dated 1609 on a 1903 Ordinance Survey map. There is evidence of some tiles missing from the forward part of southernmost roof. The timbers are oak almost entirely in its natural grey colour. There are still traces of black pitch colour. Oak needs to breathe for centuries to dry properly. During the Victorian era, they were painted with pitch, falsely believing this would preserve the wood. Thankfully, the timbers are being allowed to reject the pitch by flaking and continue to

There is evidence in the western gable head of the south wing of renovation that dates from 1609, therefore the house could be older (British Listed buildings and British History Online). There is reference to a building occupied on this site since 1481 (Meriden, West Midlands). A

beautiful old building. The author is always pleased to see it and often photographs in different weather and lighting conditions.

30. Alspath House

Continuing along the Church Lane loop back to the Birmingham Road, part way down Meriden hill, one first passes Alspath House. It takes its name from being at the site of the original settlement, which was known as Alspath. Not much can be seen of it, it being obscured by a high wall. The at best poor view is from the high gated entrance. It is not grade listed. What can be seen is a large and impressive, fairly modern looking building with an extensive compound containing a number of buildings. All told there are three large buildings.

31. Meriden House (Grade II)



Meriden House.

A short walk further downhill along the road is Meriden House, dated early 19th century. What can be seen through a double metal, electric, gate and a winding gravel drive, is a white painted stucco walled two story building with a side view Doric central porch entrance. The hipped Welsh slate roof is low pitched with wide eaves. According to British Listed Buildings and Historic England (b) (both have the same text) the building has sash windows with glazing bars. The central front porch is impressive. It is described as having a half glazed 2 panel door above which is a fanlight with radiating glazing bars. The porch is 1st floor high with impost blocks above the door supported by slim Doric pilasters each side of the door. Set halfway down the hill, in the north-east corner of just under 15 acres (6 hectares), the house faces to the north-west over a small lake with a wide view toward Meriden and the north. The property extends northward to the Birmingham Road, bounded by Church Lane on each side. A Public footpath passes through the property from the church to the Birmingham Road opposite the Queen's Head. Within the property are Sweet Chestnut and English Oak trees that are probably six or seven hundred years old.



Laburnum Cottage.

Back tracking down Meriden hill to the slipway Old Road and

32. Laburnum Cottage

Back tracking down Meriden hill to the slipway Old Road and

travelling eastward along it, one passes Laburnum Cottage with a Copper Beech tree in front. This white painted double story old tile gable roof house with rear extension is not grade listed. The frontage is deceptive, giving the impression of a smallish building. Apparently, it has six bedrooms. The flush, three panel, mullioned casement windows have side hung panels and fixed central panel with a transom. They are much more modern additions. The wooden gabled and old tiled entrance porch is possibly an original feature. There is little information about the age of the building. It appears to be pre-1900, probably about the same age as the next building along the road, the Cooperage. There is some evidence of prior occupants on the site, such as a baker, brewer and farmer named Edward Motteshed, circa 1638-1703 and it appears on survey/maps between 1703-1785 (Agutter 1992).

33. The Cooperage (Grade II)



The Cooperage.

Next door but one, to the east, is the Cooperage. At first sight one is not inclined to think too much of this early 19th century, two story, red brick building with flat lintelled sash windows, enclosed front porch and gabled, tiled roof (British Listed Buildings). However, a rough sandstone section toward the back, seen in a side view photograph, is usually a sign in Meriden of a Tudor period, or earlier building (Agutter 1992). The Tudor period being from 1485 and 1603

including the Queen Elizabethan I age from 1558 to 1603. This section could pre-date 1550. There is also information that a building was leased to the owners' relatives from 1718. Coopers (barrel makers) were in great demand, particularly during Meriden's earlier history. Wooden barrels were essential for storing and transporting ale and beer and guaranteed employment. Elizabethan Meriden had 4 inns and 7 alehouses. In 1702 when the Queen's Head Inn became a licensed establishment there were already 12 people licensed to sell ale (Agutter 1990 and 1992). The traditional barrel is made of curved wooden staves held together with wooden or metal hoops with a flat base and a flat removable top. They came in various sizes and shapes, including casks, tubs, buckets, vats and butter churns. Also situated nearby, now demolished, was a malt house essential for brewing beer. Cereal grain, processed into malt, is essential for the brewing of beer. Both establishments were suitably located close to the Queen's Head Inn. The Cooperage is now a private residence.

34. Queen's Head Pub

The Queen's Head Inn, on the north-west corner of the Old Road and Eaves Green Lane, has some old timber framing, but was mostly renovated by 1914 (Agutter 1992, British History Online). The building is a curiosity.

Two old photographs taken from different frontal angles, dated 1900 and older (Agutter 1990), show a rectangular two story half-hipped and old tile brick building with five square casement



The Queen's Head Pub on the Old Road viewed from the Marion



The Queen's Head pub at Old Road level. Notice the different west wall from the east wall seen above.

windows, consisting of four panes of glass, on the first floor with three bigger six pane rectangular casement windows at ground level and an off-centre door. Half-timber with brick infill is visible on the upper parts of the end walls from the level of the front eave upward. Shortly before the beginning of World War I, in 1914, the front was modernised with a new brick front and rustic balcony

(Agutter 1990). A 1920s photograph (Agutter 1990) viewed from the south-west of the building, truncated on the left, reveals that at least two half-timbered/mock Tudor dormer windows were then present from this time. It also shows the addition of a brick single story flat roof structure with shop windows across the front and the aforementioned rustic balcony. The present building reveals the eastern two thirds bear some resemblance to these older

photographs in that the five 1st floor windows appear to have survived as has the upper half-timber brick infill on the eastern wall and half hipped roof. The roof still has the two large protruding front facing gable dormer windows with old tile roofs, black timber framing and white painted infill shown in the 1920s photograph. They are too neat and tidy and are probably mock Tudor, which appeared in England architecture later in the 19th century. The leftmost (western) old tiled gable dormer type roof, is a replica of the others, except for the red brick, although with the same roof peak ornament. Furthermore, it has a bay window on the 1st floor with a tiled hipped roof of its own. The old tiled gable dormer roof and bay window may have been added at the same time as the others two. There is some doubt, and evidence that it was added later, such as its roof ridge is perfectly aligned main roof ridge, whereas the roof ridge on the other two are slightly below the main roof ridge. The author believes that this feature and the gabled two story red brick western third of the building was added post 1920. It is also significant that the roof ridges on this part of the house are level with no evidence of some sag due to aging as on the eastern two thirds of the house. The casement windows are also different,

some have arched lintels. Although it has old roof tiles, these do not appear as weathered as the rest of the old tiled roof. There is also discontinuity in the single story structure across the front, which appears to have been extended to the left. It has been modified to single pitch roof while still flat roof in front of the five original 1st floor casement windows and the left side bigger casement bay window. The adjacent sloped roof to the right of the bay window is a different length from the other sections where accommodation had to be made. The two rectangular chimneystacks with decorative corbelled caps, are identical and equally spaced on the roof top, except the left chimney straddles the roof ridge while the eastern one is offset to the rear of the ridge. Each stack has, or had, four pots with some damaged and at least one is missing. They cannot be seen in the 1920s photograph and are definitely not the same as in the older photographs. The flat roof structure on the right (eastern side) is obviously a more recent addition. Lack of grade listing is more than likely due to the building being severely modified through time. Altogether a distinctive and interesting combination of building features and very attractive result.

The Queen's Head first became a licensed inn in 1702 in a cottage on the same site. At the time "the cottage was part stone, part half-timbered and already at least 100 years old" (Agutter 1990). It was at a favourable location for trade being at the bottom of Meriden hill at the intersection with the then Aves Green Road. It was also the last stop east of the village where one could prepare for the arduous climb of the hill, or a rest after the perilous descent from the east from Coventry. Completion of the new regraded by-pass in 1822 resulted in a drastically dwindled trade, although during eight months of construction the inn "did a roaring trade catering for casual and regular workers" (Agutter 1990). Today, it continues to be a favourite meeting place for bar drinks, pub meals and local events.

35. Meriden Hill

At the eastern end of Meriden village on the road to Millison's Wood, is the base of a long and steep hill. From the 16th century when Meriden was on the route from Wales (and Ireland via Holyhead) to London, Meriden was a resting and watering place for cattle and sheep driving through from Wales to Coventry and London markets, as well as a coach stop. The hill was a



Downhill view of the Birmingham Road embankment and steeper Old Road to the right. The Queen's Head is hidden off to the distant right where the road begins to curve to the left.

foreboding obstacle and dangerous. It was the cause of fatal cart accidents, such as in 1692 and 1702. June 1710 an unknown wagon driver, who died on the hill, was buried at St Laurence church at parish expense (Agutter 1990). Following increasing complaints an 1810 government Commission of Enquiry impressed the need for drastic improvement to the road. The famous engineer Thomas Telford lessened its effect in 1822 by cutting through the top then used



Meriden Hill. The cutting depth at the top is evident by sky/ground discontinuity between the trees.

this earth to build the lower part into an embankment, thereby decreasing the gradient. Work started on the 15th April and the road opened on 11th December. It was widened in 1926 (Agutter 1990). These days, while the embankment is clearly visible with the Queen's Head Pub well below on the Old Road, the approximately 10 metres cutting nearing the top is less evident, being obscured by bushes and trees. In winter, after significant snow it can still be problem ascending. Cars can get stuck

about halfway up the hill. The trick is to increase speed at the base and then gently manage power and steering up the slope. The alternative route to Millison's Wood is to return to Meriden, get onto the A45 east to Coventry, return west bound on the A45 at the first roundabout near Allesley, then take the slip road and easy gradient onto the Birmingham Road just before Millison's Wood.

36. Walsh Hall (Grade II*)



Walsh Hall in winter sun 2nd February 2013.

Travelling northward from the Queen's Head along Eaves Green Road, one exits to the left along a road to Walsh Hall. Walsh Hall is a listed house in, you would never have guessed it, Walsh Lane. It dates back to the 15th century with later additions, the most recent in the earlier part of the 20th century.

The nucleus of the present building is believed to be early to middle 15th century when it was a single story timber frame structure on a sandstone base (Agutter 1990) of which one 3.5

metres bay remains with an original roof truss. The present outer two story building with attic and old tiled roof, is a three gable exterior timber frame on an ashlar base with white washed plaster infilling and lattice casement windows. It has red brick chimneystacks with joined diagonally set shafts (British Listed Buildings). There is also a more modern red brick building. An article in the Daily Mail Online (Saunders 2013) reveals luxurious interior restoration at great expense.

Long ago, in the 1600s, the estate was “largely self-contained economically with a brewhouse, bakehouse, dairy, smith’s workshop, farmyard and barns” (Agutter 1990). It was also moated. Still in existence in the late 1800s, the building became dilapidated by the 1930s when it was renovated with the addition of a new medieval style wing. The buildings could only be seen from the Fillongley bridge over the A45 in winter when the trees are bare. Now a high wooden fence has been built hiding the buildings from view.

Interesting fact. It was once owned by Birmingham musician Jeff Lynne, of 1970-1980s Electric Light Orchestra (ELO) fame and a founding member of the band. He was later a member of the Travelling Wilburys (Jeff Lynne, George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison and Tom Petty). The author still likes the music of both groups and still has an ELO CD (compact disc). Our social group at the time were big fans of the ELO. He sold the house to Robin Campbell of UB40 fame, who after going to great expense restoring it, put it up for sale in 2013 (Saunders 2013).

37. Stonehouse Farmhouse (Grade II)



Stonehouse Farmhouse.

Passing to the north of Walsh Hall, at the Fillongley intersection, continue north to a right turn onto Shaft Lane then another right turn to a cul-de-sac lane at the end of which is Stonehouse Farm. The 17th century double story building has been altered, possibly evidenced by a vertical divide in the stonework of the wall facing the lane, although the divide does not continue to the top of the wall.

The walls are made of coursed (similar height) sandstone and random rubble. Similar to the walls of The Elms at Main Road. The machine tiled roof is a mix of hipped on the left and gable on the right with a small gable at the front on the left side of the building when viewed from the lane. Windows are flush casement with glazing bars (British Listed Buildings). Visible from the lane are two ground floor windows with central mullion and arched brick lintels. The first floor windows are bigger on the first floor, particularly the one on the right. Evidence of alteration.

38. Marlbrook Hall (Grade II)



Marlbrook Hall seen from the entrance from the road.

arches. Apparently, there is some 17th Century timber framework. The main part of the building has early 16th century brickwork on the east wall. However, the upper story and western part has 18th century bricks. Lower story ceiling beams and joists are early 16th century. A gable at the north-west has 17th-century framing while a south-west facing gable has 18th-century brickwork, but an earlier chamfered beam (British History Online and British Listed Buildings). There is uncertainty when there was first a house at the site. Probably from 1240 for a family by the name of Langley. The first definite description of a settlement here is 1498 (Agutter 1990).

Returning to the intersection, turning right (to the east) along Harvest Hill Lane one soon arrives at the large, irregular plan, two story Marlbrook Hall oriented south-east to north-west. Walls are red brick with an old tiled roof and distinctive corbelled brick cornice. There are two twin rectangular chimneystacks with corbelled caps. It appears to have a pot missing from one of the stacks. It has flush casement windows with glazing bars and cambered

39. Hillwood Cottage (Grade II)

Backtracking from Marlbrook Hall at the Shaft Land intersection with Becks Lane, go along Becks Lane then right on the Fillongley Road for a short distance then left on Kinwalsey Lane.



Hillwood Cottage entrance. Lovely setting for a house.

Follow this for some distance until reaching a point where the road veers sharply to the left. Opposite this turn is a private lane at the end of which is what was named Hill Wood Cottage Farmhouse. The building is out of sight along a private curving lane behind a wooden gated entrance with call/response communication box. Therefore, photographs are not possible and privacy must be respected. However, a pity, because an online photograph at British

Listed Buildings shows a very attractive cottage with an old tile gablet roof, or Dutch gable, with eaves and a recessed upper gable on the side wall left of front. According to British Listed Buildings, the cottage is 17th century with alterations. It is a single story timber frame, white

washed building with an attic and two gable roofed dormer windows. Windows are flush casement with glazing bars.

40. Alspath Hall



Alspath Hall. A misty winter morning February 2010

Back at the Birmingham Road and the top of Meriden hill there is an intersection with Showell Lane to the north. Passing over the A45 on Showall Lane to where the road turns sharply to the left and at the water treatment works, is a private lane to the right with a public footpath alongside. Walking along the footpath one passes north of Alspath Hall. Surrounded by farm fields grazed by sheep, the hall stands to the east of a collection of farm buildings,

including two large barns. It is not grade listed. Photographs reveal that it consists of a two story, gable roofed structure with an attic. The side left of the front has a single story addition with a gable roof protrusion and chimney. The main building has two corbelled, single pot, square red brick chimneystacks. Circa 1920s photographs show the building had white trim casement windows with glazing bars and cambered arches. These have been replaced with brown trim still flush casement windows with cambered arches. Glazing bars are not visible in the somewhat indistinct present photographs taken from some distance. At the front, four outer upper and lower windows remain three panelled with the three inner windows double panelled. Two at the upper floor and one ground floor. Below the upper story righthand double panelled window is the offset from centre front door with a gabled porch that was already in existence in 1920 photographs when the walls were plain brick. The photographs also reveal a similar parallel gable roofed two story structure without attic to the immediate north with two corbelled chimneystacks, one without a pot. Inspection of satellite imagery appears to show that the two structures are not attached, although they appear to be very similar in structure and design.

Originally called Aspit Hall dating back to Saxon times., the name change to Alspath Hall occurred sometime between 1830 and 1850 (Agutter 1992). There is uncertainty regarding the age of the present building. It probably dates from around 1830 to 1850. Alspath was the property of Lady Godiva (~1040-1070), or in old English Godgifu (god gift), She was an Anglo-Saxon noblewoman and the wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia who owned Alspath manor.



Triumph statuette.

41. Triumph statuette at Millison's Wood

From 1942 until 1983 the site of the large Triumph motorcycle production plant was at present day Millison's Wood. It relocated after its Priory Street

factory in Coventry was destroyed by Luftwaffe bombing early in World War II (Meriden, West Midlands). A commemorative statuette with a plaque, unveiled on the 7th October 2005, stands next to the Birmingham Road between Bonneville Close and Albert Road on the south side. The inscription reads; This was the site of the triumph motorcycle factory Meriden 1942 – 1983 sculptress Francis Firth. The factory was demolished in 1845 to be replaced by residential houses.

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Blacksmith: A smith who creates objects from iron or steel, sometimes other metals, by forging (heating the metal) and using tools to hammer, bend, and cut. See smith and farrier.

Camber arched window: A curved arch, or lintel, above a window.

Capital: Situated between the top of a column and load bearing being supported by the column. Can be plain, as in Doric, or decorative as in Ionic and Corinthian classical Greek architecture.

Casement: A window attached to the frame by hinges at the side. Popular during the Tudor period 1485-1603 including the reign of Elizabeth I until 1603. Popular again in the Edwardian period 1901-1910.

Chancel: Part of a church that houses the altar, the officiating ministers, sometimes the choir.

Column: A vertical structural support, usually circular.

Cooper: A person who made wooden barrels used for storing and transporting ale and beer. The barrel is made of curved wooden staves held together with wooden or metal hoops with a flat base and a flat removable top. Also, a maker of casks, tubs, buckets vats and butter churns.

Corbel: A type of bracket. A structural solid piece of stone, wood or metal jutting from a wall to carry a structure such as a beam lying or resting on, or exerting pressure.

Corbelled caps, moulded: As seen on the tops of chimneystacks.

Cornice: Horizontal decorative, or ornamental moulding immediately below the external roof eave, or ceiling in a room.

Cornice, bracketed eave: Broad and widely spaced ornamental brackets that support an overhanging eave.

Daub: Plaster, clay, or another substance used for coating a wall. Can be mixed with straw to fill gaps in a timber frame or half framed building. Or applied to form a wall or fence made from interlaced stakes, twigs or branches, hence wattle and daub.

Dormer: A window that projects vertically from a sloping roof. These are most commonly gable or hip roofed.

Eave: The overhanging end of a roof.

Effigies: A sculpture, image or likeness of a person, figure or picture.

Entablature: The superstructure of mouldings and bands horizontally above a column, resting on its capital.

Fascia: An external wide band of material, usually wood, that hides the ends of roof rafters,

Fanlight: Glazed area above a door to let in light. Usually rectangular or semi-circular.

Farrier: A smith who shoes horses. See smith and blacksmith.

Frieze: Part of an entablature between the architrave and the cornice. A broad sculptured or painted decoration. Can be decorative. See bargeboard.

Gable roof: A common and simple inverted V design.

Gable cross roof: Two or more gabled roofs to form L or T shapes. Can be more complex shapes.

Gablet or Dutch style roof: A combination of gable at the top and hip below. Often with overhanging eaves. Also a small gable-shaped feature over an opening or recess.

Glazing Bars: Bars between adjacent panes of glass in a window.

Half-hipped roof: A form of clipped gable. A combination of gable with a sloping hip top.

Hip and hipped roof: The roof consists of two pairs of slopes. On a rectangular building the longer parallel sides would have a ridge.

Impost block: A projecting block resting on top of a column or embedded in a wall.

Keystones: Window base or sill.

Lintel: A load bearing horizontal support of stone, concrete, steel, or timber, above a window or door.

Isosceles triangle: Two sides and two angles are equal.

Louvered shutters: Louvers are slats or blades that rotate open or for privacy or to control light through windows. In the context of the buildings discussed these are wooden fixed louvered shutters that swing open, or shut, each side of a window.

Moat: A deep trench, or ditch, usually filled with water and usually found round a fortification for defence.

Mullion: Vertical dividing part of a window.

Nave: The part of a church for most of the congregation, usually separated from the chancel by a step or rail and from aisles by pillars.

Naylor: Maker of nails derived from the Old English word *nayl*.

Nogging: The filling of gaps in a wooden frame with bricks.

Ogive: A pointed arch.

Parapet: A protective wall or balustrade.

Pebble-dash: A type of wall plaster with pebbles.

Pediment: The triangular upper part of the front of a classical building, typically surmounting a portico. A triangular feature surmounting a door, window, or other part of a non-classical building.

Pilaster: An ornamental architectural feature used to give the appearance of a supporting column with a plinth (base) and capital, such as at wall corners and each side of a door. Can be highly decorative.

Roofs: See diagrams below.

Rubble: Random naturally shaped stone or boulders. Can be roughly shaped or squared to form a wall.

Rustication: In classical architecture, a masonry method that produces a surface texture finish that contrasts with smooth, squared-block masonry (ashlar). The edges of the stone block are cut back to emphasise its size and position.

Sash window: Opens by sliding up and down. Can be one or more movable panels. Each sash can be made up of panes of glass. These days more likely to be a single pane of glass. A common design during Georgian era (1714-1830, the reigns of four successive Kings George) and Victorian (~1830-1901) era.

Sill: A ledge at the bottom of a window.

Single-pitched roof: Also known as lean-to or mono roof. Usually attached to a higher wall.

Slate tiles: A fine-grained metamorphic rock that can be split into flat and smooth platters. Colours vary from grey, greenish and bluish-purple.

Smith: One who works in metal. Derived from the Old English word *smite*, which also meant strike. See blacksmith and farrier.

Stucco: Or render or plaster, is a mixture of aggregates, a binder and water. Applied wet it hardens to a dense solid.

Tile: Old and machined. Thin flat or curved piece of clay for roofing.

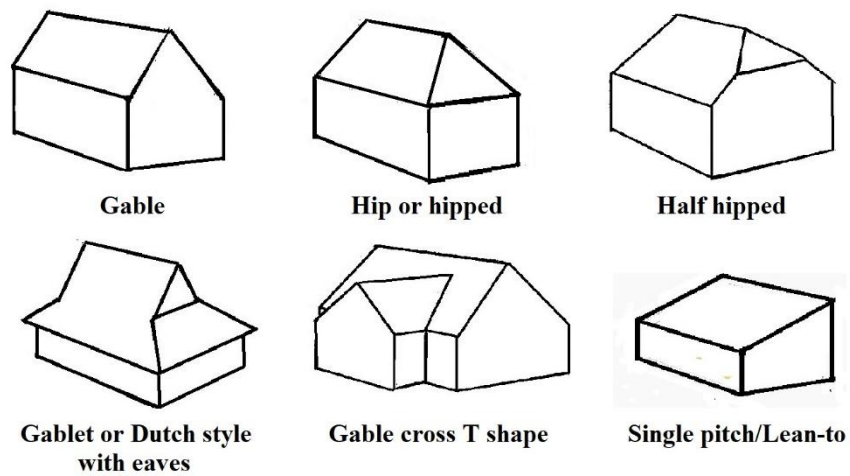
Timber framed: Or post and beam, was a traditional construction method using squared-off, load bearing heavy timbers joined with large wooden pegs.

Timber, half-timbered: When the wooden wall frame is left exposed on the outside and the spaces filled with daub or brick, it may be called half-timbered.

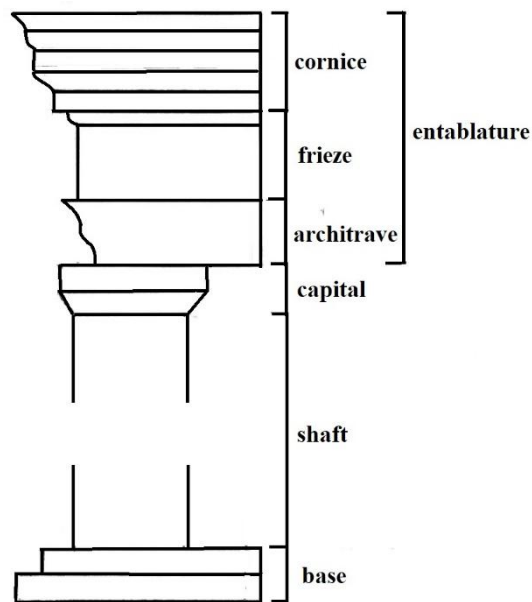
Transom: Horizontal dividing part of a window.

Tudor architecture: It encompassed many forms and features. The popular concept is that of late perpendicular style that was the typical structure of ordinary people, generally around 1485 to 1605. That is, timber frame filled with wattle and daub, or less often brick.

Tudor, mock: Not authentic or imitation. Decorative and non-structural. First appeared in England architecture later in the 19th century. Also known as Tudor revival architecture.



Roof types



Column architecture with features mentioned in the text.