

= Barrington Court =

Barrington Court is a Tudor manor house begun around 1538 and completed in the late 1550s , with a vernacular stable court ( 1675 ) , situated in Barrington , near Ilminster , Somerset , England .

The house was owned by several families by 1745 after which it fell into disrepair and was used as a tenant farm . After repair by architect Alfred Hoare Powell ( 1865 ? 1960 ) , it was the first house acquired by the National Trust , in 1907 , on the recommendation of the antiquarian Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley ( 1851 ? 1920 ) . In the 1920s the house was renovated , the stable block turned into a residence and several outbuildings , gardens and gateways constructed .

The house was originally surrounded by a medieval deer park and in the 17th century a formal garden was constructed . This had largely disappeared until a new garden was laid out by garden designer Gertrude Jekyll ( 1843 ? 1932 ) in an Arts and Crafts @-@ style . It now contains walled kitchen gardens , fruit orchards and ornamental gardens .

= = History = =

The estate had been occupied since the 11th century and by the 14th century included a substantial house to the north east of the present building , where traces of a moat can still be seen . In 1446 the owner , Giles Daubeney , 6th Baron Daubeney , died at Barrington and left it to his son , another Giles Daubeney , who was a courtier , diplomat and military commander under Edward IV and Henry VII .

The manor was inherited in 1514 by Henry Daubeney , created Earl of Bridgewater for his services to Henry VIII . He spent much of his time in France and little time in Somerset . He may have begun the new house , but he went bankrupt and was involved in the disgrace of Catherine Howard , Henry VIII 's fifth wife . It is unlikely that much , if any , of the current building was his work . The house was forfeit to the crown and then had various owners including Henry Grey , 1st Duke of Suffolk , who in 1552 sold it to William Clifton , a London merchant who had been assembling a Somerset estate . Clifton or his son John Clifton are thought to be responsible for most of the building at Barrington , possibly modeled on earlier work at Kirby Hall or East Anglian manors close to their roots at Kentwell Hall , Hengrave Hall or Channons Hall at Tibenham .

It passed down in the Clifton family including Gervase Clifton , who in 1605 sold it to his brother @-@ in @-@ law Sir Thomas Phelps of Montacute House . The house was then mortgaged and , in 1625 , sold to Colonel William Strode , Jr . The house and estate were owned by the Strode family from 1625 until 1745 after which it was bought by several different owners but poorly maintained , becoming known as Court Farm .

The interior of the house suffered from its demotion to a tenant farm and from a fire in the early 19th century ; after being almost derelict it was repaired under the supervision of Alfred Hoare Powell . Barrington Court was acquired by the Trust in 1907 and was leased to Col. A. A. Lyle of Tate & Lyle in the 1920s . He and his wife turned the house around and refurbished the court house and renovated Strode House ( built by Colonel Strode 's son , William III , in 1674 ) which was originally a stable and coach block . It was at this time that the Lyles contracted Gertrude Jekyll to design the three formal gardens on the property that are maintained by the head gardener .

The house was one of the first large properties acquired by the National Trust ; it was not anticipated just how expensive repairs and maintenance would be , and even thirty years later it was still used as an example of why the Trust should be wary of taking on other country houses .

Barrington Court was occupied by a tenant , Stuart Interiors , that took the lease in 1986 from Andrew Lyle , grandson of Col. Lyle . The company sold reproduction furniture . Stuart Interiors left Barrington Court in December 2008 , and although the building has no furniture , it is open to visitors .

In 2014 it was the site of filming for the BBC 's Tudor @-@ era historical TV serial Wolf Hall . In May 2015 the house was the venue for the BBC programme Antiques Roadshow .

= = Architecture = =

Like many Elizabethan mansions , Barrington is built in an ' E ' shape with large projecting wings with square projections that contain staircases . The house is not truly symmetrical as the hall has two lights and the buttery one . The south front has seven gables supported by octagonal buttresses and decorated with twisted finials with ogee scale @-@ work caps and English Crockets .

Its central entry porch leads into a screens passage with the hall on the left and , an innovation , a service passage leading to the kitchen wing that occupies the right wing . A long gallery stretches the entire length of the house on the upper floor .

= = = Strode House = = =

The stables ? built in 1674 by William Strode III ? were converted into a separate house around 1920 , under plans drawn up by the architect J.E. Forbes , when the building was given a new west front . The two @-@ storey brick building has Hamstone dressings and a hipped tile roof . Immediately in front of the building is the " fountain court " .

= = = Outbuildings = = =

In the 1920s a " motorhouse " was constructed in a Tudor style to match the other buildings . It is a single @-@ storey building with an attic . The front of the building is decorate with heraldic lions .

The two @-@ storey agent 's house , known as Beechams , was also built in the 1920s . There are also row of six thatched cottages in Tudor style , a farmhouse and a barn dating from the same period .

= = = Gateways and walls = = =

There are multiple gateways around the estate and entrances to the house . The gateway to the west of the forecourt was rebuilt in the 1920s with tall piers and moulded stepped caps , permitting a full view of the symmetrical facade of the house . The gateways to the east of the forecourt and to the east of the south lawn have wrought iron gates . The wall around the forecourt is of the same vintage and has rectangular lily ponds at the base .

= = Gardens = =

In the 16th century the house was surrounded by a deer park . In the 1550s William Clifton took action , in the Star Chamber court , against local poachers who hunted deer in the park while he was away .

The remains of the original gardens include a rectangular raised area or parterre 70 metres ( 230 ft ) by 50 metres ( 160 ft ) near a liner pond or canal which is 12 metres ( 39 ft ) by 110 metres ( 360 ft ) . There is also geophysical evidence of a further 17th @-@ century formal garden .

Barrington Court is noted for its Arts and Crafts @-@ style gardens for which garden designer Gertrude Jekyll provided planting plans . The gardens were laid out in 1917 by J. E. Forbes , of the partnership Forbes & Tate , for Lieut @-@ Col. A. Arthur Lyle . There are a series of walled areas that include a white garden , a rose and iris garden and a lily garden . The original plans are being used to restore the gardens ; however , the planting scheme has been changed from that designed by Jekyll to that designed by Mrs Lyle in the 1960s .

The walls of the kitchen garden were built in the 1920s and include two gateways with neoclassical architraves . The gravel paths are laid out in a square with a cross at the centre enhanced by a fountain surrounded by fruit trees , vegetable plots and soft fruits . There are carriage openings with wrought @-@ iron gates .

The kitchen garden provides produce for the property 's restaurant located in the adjacent Strode House ; this includes many types of fruit and vegetables . The local St Mary & St Peter 's CE VC Primary School , which has bases at Barrington and Ilton , has a vegetable plot where the children

plant , tend and cook the produce ; the walls are also strewn with apple , pear and plum trees . Attached to the garden is a squash court .

About 20 metres ( 66 ft ) south west of the house is an unusual multi @-@ faced sundial . It was built of stone and bronze , on a stone column . It is a dodecahedron surmounted by a heraldic lion . It was imported from California by Colonel Lyle in 1920 .

The gardens are Grade II \* listed on the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens .