

= Manor House , Sleaford =

The Manor House is a set of connected buildings located on Northgate in the English town of Sleaford , Lincolnshire . A complex arrangement , parts of the Manor House date to the 16th century , but they were extended with the addition of the Georgian Rhodes House and later Gothic @-@ Revival work . It was a private residence until the 20th century , and is now divided into commercial properties and residential apartments . The house was owned by a number of families and individuals , including local banker and businessman Benjamin Handley and Sophia Peacock , whose nephews , Cecil and Frank Rhodes , spent their summers at the estate as children .

The building is divided into two plots : The Manor House (No. 31) and Rhodes House (No. 33) . The former is a complex of buildings , mostly in stone . It is accessed through a cobbled courtyard , with a 19th @-@ century Gothic west front , including a small tower ; part of the north side of the yard is a 17th @-@ century gabled building . The brick @-@ built Rhodes House faces directly onto the street . Described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner and John Harris as " a jigsaw puzzle " , the Manor House is notable for its re @-@ use of medieval masonry , some dating 14th century and others likely being removed from Sleaford Castle . In 1949 , it was recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II * listed building , recognising it as " particularly important ... of more than special interest . "

= = History = =

= = = Origins = = =

The origins of the Manor House and its early history have not been fully studied . In 1872 , Edward Trollope mentioned it in his history of Sleaford , writing that " all its details are not honestly known " . English Heritage and the architectural historians Sir Nikolaus Pevsner and John Harris date parts of No. 31 to the 17th century and categorise most of No. 33 as mid @-@ 18th century and " mid @-@ Georgian " respectively ; however , local historian Dr Simon Pawley , states that No. 33 is 19th century . An estate map of 1766 shows that the plot was not part of the open field system around Sleaford . A more detailed map , dated to c . 1770 , has a building on a plot owned by Robert Banks , corresponding to the location of Rhodes House . An enclosure map completed in 1794 shows a small building at the site , set back slightly from the road and adjoined by a larger one to the north , which faced onto the street ; the location and layout also correspond closely to the arrangement of the older parts of Nos. 31 and 33 .

= = = Nineteenth century = = =

By the 19th century , the house was occupied by the banker , businessman and solicitor Benjamin Handley (1754 ? 1828) . He was Treasurer of the Sleaford Navigation and solicitor to the enclosure commission for Sleaford and several fenland villages , through which service he " amassed a great fortune " . It is not clear when ownership of the house changed , but Maurice Peter Moore (1809 ? 1866) , clerk of the peace for Kesteven , lived there from at least 1851 until his death . The son of Rev. Dr William Moore , vicar of Spalding , he was admitted as a solicitor in 1831 . Moore was living in Sleaford by 1834 , when he is recorded as owning as property on North Street , and was in partnership with William Forbes by 1841 . Moore married Ann Gardiner Peacock in 1834 . Their first daughter , Florence , died an infant in 1838 and Ann Moore died giving birth to their only surviving child , Anne Louisa Russell (known as Russell) , in 1839 .

Moore considered disinheriting his daughter , writing that " Russell 's conduct towards me continues to be cold and heartless ... and I must look on her as not deserving to inherit from me " . Sophia Peacock , a sister of his wife , was closely involved in Russell 's up @-@ bringing and Moore developed romantic feelings for her ; in 1858 , he changed his will to give her his property instead of Russell , but Sophia rejected his marriage proposal and he disinherited her the following year .

Despite Moore 's " vehement objections " , his daughter married George Edward Corrance in 1860 . After a year she eloped with Colonel Edward William de Lancy Lowe ; they married in 1866 , after Corrance divorced her on grounds of adultery . Her father " had always reason to be dissatisfied with her conduct " and , three months before his death , he made a new will and bequeathed all of his property to Peacock . After Moore 's death , Russell Lowe and her paternal uncle , Rev. Edward Moore opened a court case to contest the will . In March 1868 , the courts found that the will was legal . Sophia Peacock inherited nearly all of Moore 's estate .

Sophia and Ann Gardiner Peacock 's father , Anthony Taylor Peacock of South Kyme , was a wealthy banker and his father , Anthony Peacock , was a land @-@ owner , who had worked closely with Benjamin Handley as a sponsor of the Sleaford Navigation and commissioner of enclosures in the 1790s . Among the younger Peacock 's other daughters was Louisa , who married Rev. Francis William Rhodes in 1844 . Louisa and Francis Rhodes 's nine children included Cecil Rhodes and Frank Rhodes ; they spent their childhood summers with their aunt Sophia at the Manor House in Sleaford and in the Channel Islands . Frank and Cecil learnt to ride at the Manor and it was during these visits to Sleaford that Cecil began his long friendship with Robert Yerburgh , a son of the town 's vicar . On Sophia Peacock 's death in 1892 , Frank Rhodes inherited the Manor House . He was still living there in 1897 .

= = = Later history = = =

In 1897 , Elizabeth Cross rented the Manor House from Rhodes , remaining there until her death in 1923 . She moved to Sleaford after the death of her husband , Rev. John Edward Cross (1821 ? 1897) , a prebendary of Lincoln . She purchased " ancient buildings " around Lincolnshire so that their old stonework could be incorporated into the house . It was put up for sale in 1924 and James Gordon Jeudwine and his wife were resident at the house the following year . Jeudwine was a son of Canon George Wynne Jeudwine ; a solicitor , he became a partner in the firm Peake , Snow and Peake in 1937 , the same year that he was appointed Clerk to the Justices of the Sleaford petty sessional division . He lived at the house until his death from injuries received in a car accident in 1941 . The buildings were divided so that the old Manor House became No. 31 and the 18th century part became No. 33 (known as Rhodes House) . By the 1960s , ownership had changed hands again : the Manor House was sold by C. B. Cliff to H. A. Mills of Newark in 1967 . Mills became headmaster of the William Alvey School in Sleaford . In the 1970s , the owner of No. 31 , R. W. Edgely , submitted an application for planning permission to demolish the stables at No. 31 and build a house to its rear ; Mills , along with Sleaford and District Civic Trust opposed the plans . From the 1960s to 1992 , Sleaford Medical Group practised at Rhodes House and in a building behind it . As of 2015 , the building is divided into residential apartments .

= = Architecture = =

The Manor House is a complicated group of buildings . Its earliest part dates from the 16th century , although it is built with stone @-@ work from two centuries earlier . No. 31 is largely 19th century , incorporating older buildings and inset with medieval elements . Sir Nikolaus Pevsner summarised that " it is hard to discriminate between what is genuine and what is 19th century fancy " . No. 33 is mid @-@ Georgian .

No. 31 is accessed through two 18th century gate @-@ piers adorned with pineapple finials which open onto a cobbled courtyard in front of the house . The western façade is 19th century and stone ; a single @-@ storey , it incorporates a tower , in the centre of which is a 14th @-@ century door , beneath a small pointed window . The rear contains a blend of medieval features , including a 14th @-@ century head of a king , set into a chimney . The north side of the courtyard contains a projected square bay dated to 1637 and incorporates an octagonal 14th century chimney piece , reckoned to have belonged to the Old Deanery in Lincoln . This joins to an 18th @-@ century brick section , which is connected to the right with a 17th @-@ century crow @-@ stepped gabled stone house . A stone wall attached to that section is inset by a blocked door , the base of which forms a

dog 's drinking fountain . The doorway , along with some of the other imported stonework , was probably taken from the decaying Sleaford Castle , now ruined . The interior includes a room dated to the early 17th century , with panelling and Tudor Revival motifs .

Rhodes House , No. 33 , dates to the mid @-@ 18th century . A three @-@ storey brick building with five bays and a classical stone door @-@ case , with Doric columns and an entablature . To the north is a two @-@ storey mid @-@ 19th century extension , also in brick , and an adjoining former garden wall . The rear has seven bays and two projecting wings , dating to the 18th century . Internally , one room has 17th century panelling of a Tudor design .