



Church Farm

Church Farm covered 99 acres and dates from 1608 and owned by Merton College, Oxford, it was also called Priory Farm. It has also been known as Whales Farm.

It is situated near the church and the building itself is grade II listed. "Mid-late 17th C. Two and a half storeys. Altered. 'L'-plan farmhouse built of rubble with ashlar quoins and ovolo section mullion windows with drip moulds and relieving arches (on ground floor). Modern Roman tile roof with moulded coping and footstones. A large central stack with 3 rebuilt brick diagonal shafts and 2 other chimneys, one on east gable end. Two light attic windows in gables. Three light windows on first floor and 4-light windows on ground floor; also, a number of others. The gable ends have one range of windows, the south front has 2 ranges (altered and one bay to gabled projection to left. The west front has 3 bays, right hand obscured by creeper, inserted central doorway (in matching style). Two storey range of outbuildings to north-east. Interior: 2 panelled rooms on ground floor; south-west room possibly C19 panelling, has bolection fireplace. In first floor room above is a good Tudor arch fireplace. The staircase is in the angle of the 'L' plan, heavy oak. Later queen post trusses to roof.

In recent years a retirement home has grown up around it.

Mentioned in a marriage settlement of George Turner and Elizabeth daughter of Frances Sheppard, of Eastman Street, Calne, widow with associated deeds 1736, 1738 and deeds settling the debts of George Turner, The Farm House, Lower Stratton, Stratton St. Margaret (so called in 1680) acquired by Kemble from Mackerell family and lease of part of the property by George Turner of Westbury (rooms specified) 1717, 1729. 1796 enclosure awarded to Gilbert Trowe.

In 1820 the resident was Thomas Day, the house, cottages and 170 acres were sold in 1831 when William Hall was in occupation.

1841 - Susanna JEEVES is shown as farmer.

1849 on her death there is a sale of Live & dead farming stock, hay, husbandry instruments, wagons, carts, dairy utensils, brewing utensils and iron bound casks, household furniture and effects. *Jacksons Oxford Journal 10-10-1849*. Also, the sale of 3 freehold cottages with gardens rented by Thomas DAY, Ann CULLERNE & John WILKINS at rent of £11 15s, and Freehold cottage on Wanborough Road in occupation of Mr TILLEY at £3 10s rent. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 22-11-1849*.

1855 – 1880 Edward JEEVES is reported as being here.

1855 Edward JEEVES, was indicted by William LEWIS, for a nuisance over right of way at Stratton St. Margaret. *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette 15/3/1855*.

- 1857 Reuben BEECHAY, farm servant, of Mr. Edward JEEVES, of Stratton, was brought up on a warrant, charging him with misconduct in his service in refusing properly to perform his work. Reprimanded, and ordered to pay 7s 6d costs, to be deducted from his wages. *Reading Mercury 5-9-1857.*
- 1873 Mr. Edward JEEVES, of Stratton, farmer, was charged with cruelly ill-treating two horses by using them whilst in an unfit state. P.S.Jones, of Highworth found the horses as part of a five horse ploughing team and reported to Mr. JEEVES. Mr JEEVES then put the horses into their stables. The bench took the view that Mr JEEVES had acted as soon as he had become aware so dismissed charges, but as he was wealthy he did pay costs. *The Western Daily Press 4-1-1873.*
- 1880 End of Lease of Edward JEEVES selling up.

TO be LET, a FARM of 144 ACRES of Capital Rich PASTURE and ARABLE LAND, with Farmhouse, Barn, Stables, and ample Outbuildings, situate at Stratton St Margaret, near Swindon, now in the occupation of Mr. Jeeves, who is leaving on expiration of lease on the 29th Inst. Offers will be entertained for the whole or in parts.— Apply to Messrs. Foley and Sons, Land Agents, Trowbridge; or to Messrs. F. H. and R. A. Moger, Solicitors, Bath.

The Bath Chronicle 7-10-1880 - Church Farm

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle
23 March 1878

WANTED, by Lady-Day, a COWMAN.—
Apply, Edward Gauntlett, Church Farm, Stratton.

The 1881 Census has Thomas Gantlett, aged 25, the farm covering 107 acres and employing 2 men, 1 boy and a woman.

In 1891 David Gantlett was living here.

The 1901 Census shows Edward Gantlett, 52 as occupant, he died in 1923.

In Kelly's Trade Directory of 1911, Messrs. Gantlett & Bourton farmed here but according to the 1911 census James Mapson the farm labourer & his wife Beatrice actually lived in the Farmhouse.

According to Land Taxes a Mr. G. J. Turner owned the property 1886-1896, acreage had now reduced to 90 acres, and W. H. Day in 1910.

1923 Kelly's Directory shows N, R M & E CULLIMORE as resident farmers.

From 1928 directory, 1930 Kelly's directory and 1939 Register to the 1940's it was farmed by Jesse Whale.

5th July 1930 and Mr & Mrs Jesse Whale have a daughter. *North Wilts Herald 18-07-1930.*

By 1945 Wilts County Council owned the farm, and in the 1951 Street Directory, E. Cook, W. Harmer and S. Horler live here.

1955-1961 shows Roy Harrington farming 54 acres. Later in 1960's saw the Higgs family, then Edward Mead, followed by Terrence Keylocke and finally the Randall's in 70's, before it became part of the Shelter housing complex in 80's.