

1: Jackson-Stops | Properties for sale in Somerset

Sixteenth-century manor house used as location for film of Wuthering Heights is turned into a rental 'cottage' for just £7, a night The 16th century Broughton Hall was once used as a.

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The lord of the manor may have held several properties within a county or, for example in the case of a feudal baron , spread across a kingdom, which he occupied only on occasional visits. Even so, the business of the manor required to be directed and controlled by regular manorial courts, which appointed manorial officials such as the bailiff , granted copyhold leases to tenants, resolved disputes between manorial tenants and administered justice in general. A large and suitable building was required within the manor for such purpose, generally in the form of a great hall , and a solar might be attached to form accommodation for the lord. Furthermore, the produce of a small manor might be insufficient to feed a lord and his large family for a full year, and thus he would spend only a few months at each manor and move on to another where stores had been laid up. This also gave the opportunity for the vacated manor house to be cleaned, especially important in the days of the cess-pit, and repaired. Thus such non-resident lords needed to appoint a steward or seneschal to act as their deputy in such matters and to preside at the manorial courts of his different manorial properties. The day-to-day administration was carried out by a resident official in authority at each manor, who in England was called a bailiff , or reeve. September Learn how and when to remove this template message

Markenfield Hall in North Yorkshire , a 14th-century manor house with moat and gatehouse Although not typically built with strong fortifications as were castles , many manor-houses were fortified, which required a royal licence to crenellate. They were often enclosed within walls or ditches which often also included agricultural buildings. Arranged for defence against roaming bands of robbers and thieves, in days long before police, they were often surrounded by a moat with a drawbridge , and were equipped with gatehouses and watchtowers , but not, as for castles, with a keep, large towers or lofty curtain walls designed to withstand a siege. The primary feature of the manor house was its great hall , to which subsidiary apartments were added as the lessening of feudal warfare permitted more peaceful domestic life. By the beginning of the 16th century, manor houses as well as small castles began to acquire the character and amenities of the residences of country gentlemen, and many defensive elements were dispensed with, for example Sutton Place in Surrey , circa History[edit] Ightham Mote , a 14th-century moated manor house in Kent, England Before around , larger houses were usually fortified, generally for true defensive purposes but increasingly, as the kingdom became internally more peaceable after the Wars of the Roses , as a form of status-symbol, reflecting the position of their owners as having been worthy to receive royal licence to crenellate. The Tudor period 16th century of stability in England saw the building of the first of the unfortified great houses , for example Sutton Place in Surrey, circa During the second half of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and under her successor King James I the first mansions designed by architects not by mere masons or builders, began to make their appearance. Such houses as Burghley House , Longleat House , and Hatfield House are among the best known of this period and seem today to epitomise the English country house. Nearly every large medieval manor house had its own deer-park adjoining, emparked i. Within these licensed parks deer could not be hunted by royalty with its huge travelling entourage which needed to be fed and entertained , nor by neighbouring land-owners nor by any other persons. During the 16th century many lords of manors moved their residences from their ancient manor houses often situated next to the parish church and near or in the village and built a new manor house within the walls of their ancient deer-parks adjoining. This gave them more privacy and space. Thus the Devonshire historian Tristram Risdon d. The obvious origin of the suffix would appear to be that the building was the location where the manorial courts were held. True castles, when not royal castles, were generally the residences of feudal barons , whose baronies comprised often several dozen other manors. The manor on which the castle was situated was termed the caput of the barony, thus every true ancient defensive castle was also the manor house of its own manor. The suffix "-Castle" was also used to name certain manor houses,

generally built as mock castles, but often as houses rebuilt on the site of a former true castle: The origin of the suffix "Place" is believed to be a shortened form of "Palace", a term commonly used in Renaissance Italy Palazzo to denote a residence of the nobility. The suffix "-Park" came into use in the 18th and 19th centuries. Manor houses, although mostly forming residences for the lords of the manors on which they were situated, were not historically named with the suffix "Manor", as were many grand country houses built in the 19th century, such as Hughenden Manor or Waddesdon Manor. The usage is often a modern catch-all suffix for an old house on an estate, true manor or not. Maison-forte is another French word to describe a strongly fortified manor-house, which may include two sets of enclosing walls, drawbridges , and a ground-floor hall or salle basse that was used to receive peasants and commoners. The salle haute or upper-hall, reserved for the seigneur and where he received his high-ranking guests, was often accessible by an external spiral staircase. It was commonly "open" up to the roof trusses, as in similar English homes. This larger and more finely decorated hall was usually located above the ground-floor hall. In addition to having both lower and upper halls, many French manor houses also had partly fortified gateways, watchtowers, and enclosing walls that were fitted with arrow or gun loops for added protection. These defensive arrangements allowed maisons-fortes, and rural manors to be safe from a coup de main perpetrated by an armed band as there was so many during the troubled times of the Hundred Years War and the wars of the Holy League ; but it was difficult for them to resist a siege undertaken by a regular army equipped with siege engines. September Learn how and when to remove this template message Warmond House Huis te Warmond , the manor house for the Hoge Heerlijkheid of Warmond in the Netherlands There are many historical manor houses throughout the Netherlands. Some have been converted into museums, hotels, conference centres, etc. Some are located on estates and in parks. Many of the earlier houses are the legacy of the feudal heerlijkheid system. In Middle Dutch this was called the vroonhof or vroenhoeve, a word derived from the Proto-Germanic word fraujaz, meaning "lord". Other terms were used, including landhuis or just huis , a ridderhofstad Utrecht , a stins or state Friesland , or a havezate Drente , Overijssel and Gelderland. Some of these buildings were fortified. A number of castles associated with the nobility are found in the country. In Dutch, a building like this was called a kasteel, a slot, a burcht or in Groningen a borg. Some purchased existing manor houses and castles from the nobility. Some country houses were built on top of the ruins of earlier castles that had been destroyed during the Dutch Revolt. The owners, aspiring to noble status, adopted the name of the earlier castle. These country houses or stately homes called buitenplaats or buitenhuis in Dutch were located close to the city in picturesque areas with a clean water source. Wealthy families sent their children to the country in the summer because of the putrid canals and diseases in the city. A few still exist, especially along the river Vecht , the river Amstel , the Spaarne in Kennemerland , the river Vliet and in Wassenaar. Some are located near former lakes now polders like the Wijkermeer, Watergraafsmeer and the Beemster. In the 19th century, with improvements in water management, new regions came into fashion, such as the Utrecht Hill Ridge Utrechtse Heuvelrug and the area around Arnhem. Today there is a tendency to group these grand buildings together in the category of "castles". There are many castles and buitenplaatsen in all twelve provinces. A larger-than-average home is today called a villa or a herenhuis, but despite the grand name this is not the same as a manor house. A decree nationalized most mansions as property of the nobles, but few were adapted to other purposes. Many slowly fell into ruin over the next few decades.

2: Sixteenth Century Architecture Stock Photos & Sixteenth Century Architecture Stock Images - Alamy

Virginia House is a former sixteenth century English manor house blending three romantic English Tudor designs. In , it was relocated to Richmond, Virginia from main sections dating from the remodeling of a priory in Warwickshire, England and reconstructed on a hillside overlooking the James River in Windsor Farms.

The castle was constructed between and from distinctive pink sandstone. It is an example of late 17th century Renaissance architecture. The Campbells demolished the castle. Dunnottar, Aberdeenshire, Scotland Dunnottar Castle is a ruined medieval fortress located on a rocky headland on the north-east coast of Scotland, about 3 kilometres 1. The property of the Keiths from the 14th century, and the seat of the Earl Marischal, Dunnottar declined after the last Earl forfeited his titles by taking part in the Jacobite rebellion of Surviving buildings are largely of the 15th and 16th centuries. Dunnottar has played a prominent role in the history of Scotland because of its strategic location and the strength of its position. Dunnottar Castle was restored in the 20th century and is now open to the public. It is a scheduled monument. Twelve structures on the site are listed buildings. Some of the original building is visible in the interior courtyard. The 17th Earl of Sutherland, who had changed his surname from Gordon to Sutherland, narrowly escaped them, leaving through a back door. Some of the original building is visible in the interior courtyard, despite a number of expansions and alterations. There are rooms within the castle, making it the largest in the northern Highlands It is now open to the public. Dunvegan Castle is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and has been the stronghold of the chiefs of the MacLeod clan for years. Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh, Scotland Edinburgh Castle is an historic fortress which dominates the skyline of the city of Edinburgh from its position on the Castle Rock. Archaeologists have established human occupation of the rock since at least the 2nd century AD. There has been a royal castle on the rock since at least the reign of David I in the 12th century, and the site continued to be a royal residence until the Union of the Crowns in As one of the most important strongholds in the Kingdom of Scotland, Edinburgh Castle was involved in many historical conflicts from the Wars of Scottish Independence in the 14th century to the Jacobite Rising of The British Army is still responsible for some parts of the castle, although its presence is now largely ceremonial and administrative. There has been a royal castle on the rock since at least the reign of David I in the 12th century. The British Army is still responsible for some parts of the castle. As the backdrop to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo during the annual Edinburgh International Festival the castle has become a recognisable symbol of Edinburgh and of Scotland. The British Army is still responsible for parts of the castle.

3: Manors, photos on Flickr | Flickr

Nov 03, - Entire home/apt for \$ XVII century manor house in Simancas Roman and medieval village with all amenities. 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, living, dining and kitchen 11 peo.

BOOKS A manor house is a country house, which historically formed the administrative centre of a manor, the lowest unit of territorial organization in the feudal system in Europe. A manor house was the dwelling house or "capital message" of a feudal lord of a manor. The primary feature of the manor-house was its great hall, to which subsidiary apartments were added as the lessening of feudal warfare permitted more peaceful domestic life. Legal trials or sessions of his "court baron" or manor court were generally held there, usually in the Great Hall of the Manor House. In France such courts were often held at the manoir, but outside the building in the courtyard. A lord might possess a number of manors, each of which would typically have a manor house. So each manor house might have been occupied only on occasional visits. Sometimes a steward or seneschal was appointed by the lord to oversee and manage his different manorial properties. The day-to-day administration was delegated to a bailiff, or reeve. The term Manor House is sometimes applied to country houses which belonged to gentry families, even if they were never administrative centres of a manor. The term is used especially for minor late medieval fortified country houses often built more for show than for defence. Although not typically built with strong fortifications as castles were, many manor-houses were partly fortified: Arranged for defence against robbers and thieves, manor houses were sometimes surrounded by a moat with a drawbridge, and equipped with gatehouses and watchtowers; but was not generally provided with a keep, large towers or curtain walls and could not generally withstand a long siege. By the beginning of the 16th century, manor-houses as well as small castles began to acquire the character and amenities of the residences of country gentlemen. More specifically a Maison-forte "fortified-house" is a strongly fortified manor-house, which might include two sets of enclosing walls, drawbridges, and a ground-floor hall or *salle basse* that was used to receive peasants and commoners. The *salle haute* or upper-hall was reserved for the seigneur. There he received his high-ranking guests. This upper hall was often accessible by an external spiral staircase. It was commonly "open" up to the roof trusses, as in similar English homes. This larger and more finely decorated hall was usually located above the ground-floor hall. They invariably had their own fireplace with finely decorated chimney-pieces and frequently at least one latrine. In addition to having both lower and upper-halls, many French manor-houses also had partly fortified gateways, watchtowers, and enclosing walls that were fitted with arrow or gun loops for added protection. These defensive arrangements allowed *maisons-fortes*, and rural manors to be safe from an attack by an armed band - of which there were many during the Hundred Years War and again during the Wars of Religion. Manor houses were generally well enough protected to withstand attacks from casual marauders but it was difficult for them to resist a siege undertaken by a regular army equipped with siege engines. Manorialism Manorialism or Seigneurialism was the organizing principle of rural economy that originated in the villa system of the Late Roman Empire. According to the Church it was the system of government authorised by God - not merely permitted but enjoined. It was widely practiced in medieval western and parts of central Europe, and was slowly replaced by the advent of a money-based market economy and new forms of agrarian contract. Manorialism was characterised by the vesting of legal and economic power in a lord, supported economically from his own direct landholding and from the obligatory contributions of a legally subject part of the peasant population under his jurisdiction. Abbots and Bishops were feudal lords - controlling around a third of Christian Europe. As Walter Horn noted "as a manorial entity the Carolingian monastery.. It could be self-sufficient, yield produce for the market, or it could yield a money rent. The term is most often used with reference to medieval Western Europe. Antecedents of the system can be traced to the rural economy of the later Roman Empire. With a declining birthrate and population, labour was the key factor of production. Successive administrations tried to stabilize the imperial economy by freezing the social structure into place: They were on their way to becoming serfs. Several factors conspired to merge the status of former slaves and former free farmers into a dependent class of such *coloni*. Laws of the first Christian emperor Constantine I around both reinforced the

negative semi-servile status of the coloni and limited their rights to sue in the courts. As Germanic kingdoms succeeded Roman authority in the West in the fifth century, Roman landlords were often simply replaced by Gothic or Germanic ones, with little change to the underlying situation. In this plan, the manor house is set slightly apart from the village, but equally often the village grew up around the forecourt of the manor, formerly walled, while the manor lands stretched away outside, as still may be seen at Petworth House. As concerns for privacy increased in the 18th century, manor houses were often located a farther distance from the village. When a grand new house was required by the new owner of Harlaxton Manor, Lincolnshire, in the 1750s, the site of the existing manor house at the edge of its village was abandoned for a new one, isolated in its park, with the village out of view. In an agrarian society, the conditions of land tenure underlie all social or economic factors. There were two legal systems of pre-manorial landholding. One, the most common, was the system of holding land "allodially" in full outright ownership. The other was a use of precaria or benefices, in which land was held conditionally the root of the English word "precarious". To these two systems, the Carolingian monarchs added a third, the *aprísio*, which linked manorialism with feudalism. He solved this problem by allotting "desert" tracts of uncultivated land belonging to the royal fisc under direct control of the emperor. These holdings *aprísio* entailed specific conditions. The earliest specific *aprísio* grant that has been identified was at Fontjoncouse, near Narbonne. In former Roman settlements, a system of villas, dating from Late Antiquity, was carried into the medieval period. Manors each consisted of up to three classes of land: Demesne, the part directly controlled by the lord and used for the benefit of his household and dependents; Dependent serf or villein holdings carrying the obligation that the peasant household supply the lord with specified labour services or a part of its output or cash in lieu, subject to the custom attached to the holding; and Free peasant land, without such obligation but otherwise subject to manorial jurisdiction and custom, and owing money rent fixed at the time of the lease. Additional sources of income for the lord included charges for use of his mill, bakery or wine-press, or for the right to hunt or to let pigs feed in his woodland, as well as court revenues and single payments on each change of tenant. On the other side of the account, manorial administration involved significant expenses, perhaps a reason why smaller manors tended to rely less on villein tenure. Dependent holdings were held nominally by arrangement of lord and tenant, but tenure became in practice almost universally hereditary, with a payment made to the lord on each succession of another member of the family. Though not free, villeins were by not in the same position as slaves: Sub-letting of villein holdings was common, and labour on the demesne might be commuted into an additional money payment, as happened increasingly from the 13th century. He received also a sufficient and handsome hall well ceiled with oak. On the western side is a worthy bed, on the ground, a stone chimney, a wardrobe and a certain other small chamber; at the eastern end is a pantry and a buttery. Between the hall and the chapel is a sideroom. There is a decent chapel covered with tiles, a portable altar, and a small cross. In the hall are four tables on trestles. There are likewise a good kitchen covered with tiles, with a furnace and ovens, one large, the other small, for cakes, two tables, and alongside the kitchen a small house for baking. Also a new granary covered with oak shingles, and a building in which the dairy is contained, though it is divided. Likewise a chamber suited for clergymen and a necessary chamber. These are within the inner gate. Likewise outside of that gate are an old house for the servants, a good table, long and divided, and to the east of the principal building, beyond the smaller stable, a solar for the use of the servants. Also a building in which is contained a bed, also two barns, one for wheat and one for oats. These buildings are enclosed with a moat, a wall, and a hedge. Also beyond the middle gate is a good barn, and a stable of cows, and another for oxen, these old and ruinous. Also beyond the outer gate is a pigstye. Like feudalism which, together with manorialism, formed the legal and organizational framework of feudal society, manorial structures were not uniform. In the later Middle Ages, areas of incomplete or non-existent manorialization persisted while the manorial economy underwent substantial development with changing economic conditions. Not all manors contained all three kinds of land: The proportion of unfree and free tenures could likewise vary greatly, with more or less reliance on wage labour for agricultural work on the demesne. The proportion of the cultivated area in demesne tended to be greater in smaller manors, while the share of villein land was greater in large manors, providing the lord of the latter with a larger supply of obligatory labour for demesne work. The proportion of free tenements was

generally less variable, but tended to be somewhat greater on the smaller manors. Manors varied similarly in their geographical arrangement: As with peasant plots, the demesne was not a single territorial unit, but consisted rather of a central house with neighbouring land and estate buildings, plus strips dispersed through the manor alongside free and villein ones: Nor were manors held necessarily by lay lords rendering military service or again, cash in lieu to their superior: Ecclesiastical manors tended to be larger, with a significantly greater villein area than neighbouring lay manors. By extension, the word manor is sometimes used in England to mean any home area or territory in which authority is held, often in a police or criminal context. Chavenage House is an Elizabethan era manor house situated 1. Finchcocks, an early Georgian manor house in Goudhurst, Kent, View of the rear of the house, from the garden Gainsborough Old Hall in Lincolnshire , one of the best preserved medieval manor houses in England.

4: 16th Century Manor House Stock Photos & 16th Century Manor House Stock Images - Alamy

France, Calvados, Coupesarte, sixteenth century manor house Harvington Hall Wilderhope Manor a 16th-century manor house In Shropshire owned by the National Trust and used a Youth Hostel.

The Servant Hierarchy This post is very much overdue! Therefore, the following is a list of servants predominantly from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, and a very brief note of duties for those respective positions. I have omitted references to other allowances such as beer, general perquisites like clothing or livery and board wages a sum given to the servants who reside when the family are not at home for the season for example , and also the obvious increase in wages based on experience and length of employment. They are therefore intended as a guide only. The indoor servant hierarchy for a large household giving an impression of particular departments – late nineteenth century BBC images Female servants. The housekeeper was the undisputed head of the female staff. Such a role demanded a huge array of responsibility and the best character was dependable, prudent, sensible, and honest. The image of a blowzy woman shouting orders at young kitchen maids and errand lads is probably most synonymous with the female cook. Not as prestigious as the male cook or chef, the female cook was nonetheless gifted and sought out for her sophisticated practical knowledge. Crucially, she had immense power over the reputation of her mistress when it came to entertaining and feeding guests. Modern-day perceptions of a nanny most likely come from the 19th century middle-class stereotype who was a stern and efficient outsider. In the country house the term nanny was used more affectionately for a long-standing female employee who had previously been in charge of the youngest children. Put simply, the housemaid was the cleaner of the country house, or any living arrangement, and her duties were endless making hours long. Her less attractive duty was of course the emptying of the chamber pot into a slop bucket. Often very skilled women or with the ambition to be so, they were part of the team of females overseeing everything in the kitchen department from cleanliness and efficiency to food preparation as well as answering to the demands of the dining table on a daily basis. This was the nursery support who had the less pleasurable duties to attend to including washing nappies and removing any other soiled items from sight. Where the household required a wet nurse, the nursemaid also attended to her needs as well as ensuring the entire department was kept clean. In reality she stood to support the network of employees connected with country house self-sufficiency. A woman in this job knew how to churn butter, to recognise the perfect creams for eating and how best to use the milky by-products for a variety of ingredients in the kitchen. This role became less crucial to the country house structure by the 20th century due to the impact of large-scale dairy farming and the ease at which produce could be bought from the open market. A country house maid-of-all-work whose routine revolved around supporting the kitchen maids with fetching and carrying, scrubbing, washing and scouring pots, pans and the kitchen generally! Her duties consisted of whatever the other staff mainly the kitchen maids thought fit within that department. These are often neglected in many secondary sources, but it would be impossible to run a large establishment without some extra external assistance. The key administrative role and one particularly necessary when the master of the house had to attend to business elsewhere. Depending upon the size of the estate these positions may have been fulfilled by one person. However, an estate usually consisted of different property across a region so an agent might have had responsibility for more than one estate steward. On smaller estates the house steward performed all these duties as one. A male cook held great esteem for a household, greater still if he was a French chef. The master of the house made it his business to enquire about a good chef and seek references out. As head of the kitchen department, the male cook or chef demanded enthusiasm and hard work from his support staff and was probably not unlike the sharp-tongued chefs seen regularly on TV in modern times. That lovely rosy-cheeked stereotype with well-polished mannerisms and clipped speech has the possibility to exist outside fiction. In smaller households, the butler replaced the valet in his duties. The key role of any footman was to aid conspicuous consumption through their expensive livery uniform, refined mannerisms and general appearance; the latter being a fundamental attribute in gaining employment. Just like the footmen, the coachman added a touch of conspicuous refinement whilst the family moved around or entertained. A good

coachman would be sought after for his knowledge of coach maintenance combined with a general equestrian understanding of the mechanics of road travel. Less conspicuous than the previous roles, but nonetheless a part of the network of specialist servants who communicated directly with their master or mistress. In reaching the position of head groom, dedication and ambition were key, and it is not unusual to see men undertaking this role after years of experience in the stable department beginning their career as a young postilion. A strange role, and one which is rarely included in secondary sources despite it still existing in formal parades, particularly in Britain. Young men or boys were usually employed in this role as they were light and therefore created less strain on the horses pulling the carriage. There were shifts in gardening trends over the period which demanded different horticultural knowledge from country house gardeners. As a highly specialist role, the most common thread would certainly have been the knowledge of produce – the more exotic the better. With this a gardener could sway the reputation of his employer; pineapples, apricots, grapes or oranges were inviting and added a great deal of variety to the dining table both at home or away in London. This seems to have been quite a perilous role for many. The Gamekeeper stood in an awkward place between his master and the preservation of game on the estate deer, pheasant, rabbits etc. Poaching was clearly as old as private landownership itself, but with the growth in popularity in the late 18th century of skilled marksmanship and the rights of search and arrest, suddenly preservation was as much about human life as it was game. Basically an aspiring footman who had shown steady ambition in another servant department. Typically an adolescent or younger. Similar to the hall boy or similar, though most likely carried out by an older male given the extent of duties and the nature of these – mainly building security. Unlike the female equivalent these roles would have been considered artisan rather than mere cleaning and char work. Journeymen and tailors for example sought to apply their skills at the country house and perhaps set up some informal contract to which they could return when required. Responsibilities might include repair of furnishings or specialist cleaning. These must not be taken as exact figures. Details of annual wages or salaries throughout the period are difficult to gain for several reasons, though mainly because amounts varied so vastly between estates and houses and often some positions are hard to identify. By the 20th century many positions had disappeared or been replaced by modern equivalents and thus wages were altered to reflect this shift. In this respect, I have omitted the 20th century wages for those occupations which had altered irretrievably by that point; Coachman, Head Groom and Postilion. Moreover, when servant numbers dwindled during and after the First World War, wages increased dramatically to entice prospective employees. Arley Hall, Cheshire including list of wages [http: Beeton, The Book of Household Management. XIX, number 2 December Family and Servants, A Social and Architectural History. Letters from the Grove. A History of Domestic Arrangements. English Domesticity in the Eighteenth Century. Life Below Stairs in Georgian England. In Association with The National Trust. In Association with the National Trust. A Domestic history of Erddig.](http://www.beeton.com)

5: Virginia House - Wedding Venue for Richmond, VA

Set in the beautiful Somerset countryside and only 10 minutes from the historic Roman city of Bath, lies the enchanting sixteenth century manor house hotel: Tracy Park. This is an elegant luxury 4 hotel surrounded by acres of mature parkland of historical significance.*

Most are occupied by families, many by the same family that has owned the house for centuries, and which has passed by the law of primogeniture down the male line. The manor house was the home of the lord of an estate in medieval times. Bailiffs were often gentlemen too, though this was not always the case. Far too many bailiffs spent most of their lives robbing their master via a series of intricate tricks, unknown to the lord because he was usually away, fighting battles for his monarch at home or abroad. Some great lords were sensible enough to leave management of the estate to their wife, aided but rarely defrauded by the bailiff. The manor house was the administrative centre of the feudal estate. Throughout Europe, manor houses varied considerably in both size and design. For their construction, much depended on what materials were locally available, and whether or not some fortification was necessary. When a manor house was built with self-defence in mind, it was termed a fortified manor house. By the end of the sixteenth century, architects were designing more fanciful, frequently more beautiful houses without bothering with battlements or drawbridge. The building of castles was considered redundant, because with the coming of gunpowder, even the strongest bastion could be reduced to rubble by cannon balls within a day. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, rectangular, fortified tower-houses within walled and moated enclosures were a common sight on the landscape. Still, inside these fortified houses the English were installing, even by the fourteenth century, more comfortable quarters, with luxurious apartments, larger, warmer bedrooms, and better hygienic arrangements. The dominance of the Great Hall, where everything used to happen, including feasting, partying, cookery, games, entertainments and the occasional murder, began to dwindle by the seventeenth century. Gradually, the manor house evolved into the country house. The Manorial System This was the social, economic and administrative system that appeared in the fifth century in Europe. It emerged from the chaos and instability after the collapse of the Roman Empire. Farmers needed to be protected against marauders and thieves, and sought such protection from their local lord of the manor. In return for protection, the locals surrendered certain rights, and control over their land. Sadly, in many cases throughout Europe, the peasants lost everything to their local lord if he was avaricious – land, home, daughters, produce and rights. Gradually, a system of obligations and service appeared, especially relating towards manorial agricultural management. These were set down in official documents called customs. In addition, meadowland was available to all for grazing of herds. Gradually, over the centuries, this became known as Common Land. An added facility might be woodland for timber, and the grazing of pigs. The lord of the manor presided over the manor courtroom, and received money or provisions or labour services from his tenants, either regularly or seasonally. In the twelfth century labour services were changed for cash rents, but huge inflation by the end of the twelfth century encouraged landlords to give up rentals and accept forced service again. For a while between the Wars in the 20th century, and especially after the 2nd War, it seemed Britain would lose all her great houses with their parks and gardens. The National Trust, a private organization not funded by the Government, came into being however, and through it country house owners were able to maintain their family lands and property, often being permitted to continue living in private suites within the country house or palace. By more than a thousand superb houses often with famous gardens were open to the public, and that number has probably doubled by now. Britain is the only country with a National Trust Heritage scheme, and that is why so many castles etc.

6: Manor house - Wikipedia

Charming cottage in a manor house of the sixteenth century 5 minutes from the sea.

7: Search Manor Houses For Sale In Uk | OnTheMarket

When a manor house was built with self-defence in mind, it was termed a fortified manor house. By the end of the sixteenth century, architects were designing more fanciful, frequently more beautiful houses without bothering with battlements or drawbridge.

8: Search for "18th century manor house" | ClipArt ETC

Sixteenth-century manor house once described by King Henry VIII as 'his small country palace' where he took a different wife each time he stayed could be yours for Â£3million.

9: The Servant Hierarchy | countryhousereader

A manor house is a country house, which historically formed the administrative centre of a manor, the lowest unit of territorial organization in the feudal system in Europe. A manor house was the dwelling house or "capital messuage" of a feudal lord of a manor.

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