

Thatched Cottages Hollow Lane.

Three very old cottages demolished in the 1930's. For many years fish and chips were sold to the villagers from one of them.



Thatched cottages.

Bank Top.

There was a row of four old cottages at the top of Bank Top that were demolished in 1962.

This pamphlet only highlights certain dwellings that are of interest historically and have now been demolished. We hope that it gives a flavour of what Colton must have looked like in times gone by.



References.

Colton and the DeWasteneys Family by Rev. F. Parker. Private Publication 1879.

Documents held by Staffordshire Record Office.

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Pictures.

The sketch of Little Hay Manor House from Colton and the DeWasteneys Family by Rev. F. Parker. Private Publication 1879.

Colton History Society collection.

Staffordshire Views courtesy of William Salt Library, Stafford.

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Colton History Society

The Lost Buildings of Colton

Colton is a very old village dating back to Saxon times. The village is recorded in Domesday and from what we can estimate from its size and value according to the Domesday record, it was one of the biggest villages in this part of Staffordshire. Nothing survives of the Saxon period. Colton church is the oldest building and survives from the late Norman period; parts of the present day church, particularly the tower, date from the early 13th. Century.

But what of the other buildings in the village? Many have not survived the ravages of time although we do know of quite a few of them and even have documentary and photographic evidence of some of the buildings that no longer stand. This pamphlet aims to tell you about some of the buildings that we knew once existed.

Houses of Note

Bellamour Hall.

Situated on the left of the B5013 as you enter the village. Built in 1796 to replace the smaller hall and

intended as the main home of the Lord of the manor of Colton. It was demolished in the 1920's.



The second Bellamour Hall.

Colton Hall.

This house stood on the nearby site of the present day Colton Hall Barn conversions on the edge of the village. This for some centuries was the residence of the Lord of the Manor of Colton. Our records say that it was a very grand timber framed building with many rooms and a gateway. It was at its most magnificent in the 17th Century when it belonged to Lord Aston of Forfar.

It burnt down in 1645. It is alleged that Queen Elizabeth I visited this house whilst it was owned by the Gresley family.

Little Hay Manor House.

Situated half way up High Street on the right hand side, there is still a building on this site although adjacent to the Elizabethan house it replaces. This was the smallest manor in Colton mentioned in the Domesday survey. In the 14th Century it became one of the estates of the Bagot family and remained in their ownership for hundreds of years. The chimneys of the Elizabethan house are still standing in the grounds of the present house.



An artist impression of the Elizabethan house around the time of its demolition.

The Original Rectory.

This stood on the site now occupied by the new rectory. It was demolished in 1806 after the Rector complained bitterly that it was very damp due to its proximity to the brook and was seriously damaging the health of his family. The first village school for girls known as the “Webb School” and begun in 1818 by the Webb Trust fund is thought to have been held

in a building on the site for some time.



St Mary's Church and Tithe Barn.

Tithe Barn.

This building stood where the present day New Rectory wall stands. For centuries it would have housed the Rector's tithes.

Wilderley Hall.

This was a large house that stood on the left hand side of the B5013 going towards Admaston. We know that it was occupied in 1692 but demolished soon after.

Smaller Buildings

Bellamour Way.

Somewhere around the area where Colton House now stands, one of the original Manor houses of Colton stood in very ancient times. Made of wattle, daub and thatch it is now long gone.

The Three Wheels Inn.

Stood for many years where the Oldham Cottage Almshouses now stand. The rent from this inn was

left in trust to pay for 20 poor girls of Colton to go to school. Demolished in 1883.

Butcher's Shop.

A small butcher's shop stood in front of the Greyhound Inn in the present day car park until the late 1920's



Butchers Shop by the Greyhound Inn.

The Reading Room.

Erected for the people of Colton on land donated by Thomas Berry Horsfall in the late 19th Century, this served as the meeting place for the villagers for many years. Dances were a regular feature in the World War II. It was finally demolished in 1989 to make way for the new village hall.

Cottages by the Ancient Pinfold.

Adjacent to the present day war memorial, these cottages surrounded the ancient pinfold where animals awaited collection by their owners when they had strayed. The last one was demolished in the late 1970's.

Webb's Cottages.

Three ancient half-timbered cottages on the right hand side of High Street. They were left in trust by the will of Thomas Webb in 1762 to provide rental income for the running of the school for 20 poor girls. They were demolished in the early 1960's.

Fisher's Row otherwise known as Chatterpie Row. High Street.

A terrace of small houses higher up High Street on the left whose walls were reputed to be so thin that everyone could hear what everyone else was saying. Hence the nickname! They were demolished in the 1950s.

'The Barracks', at Stockwell Heath.

Built by Colton Parish Lands Trust as Alms houses; these were local houses for the poor of the parish. In the past Colton had a high percentage of people dependent upon the parish. They were demolished in the 1960's.



The Barracks at Stockwell Heath