

Unregistered Park & Garden:
Gateford Hall & Gateford Hill

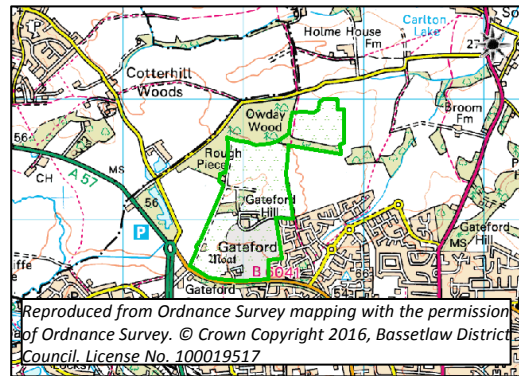
NCC/BDC Ref:
UPG14

Date(s):
 Medieval, C17, C18, C19, 1824, 1870s, 1953, 1961.

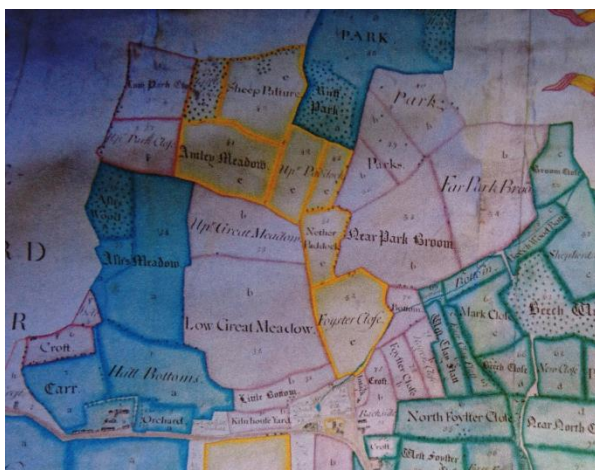
Description & historic information:

Gateford Hall, the grade II* listed moated medieval manor house, together with its former park; and Gateford Hill, the replacement country house of 1824 (also grade II listed) and stables (grade II), associated park, together with related outbuildings. Also includes an early-19th century farm.

Gateford was probably in the manor of Worksop at the time of Domesday. It was awarded to a local family, the de Gatefords, by the lord of Worksop (and was referred to as "De Gaytef" in the c1130 Worksop Priory endowment charter)ⁱ. Gateford Hall, originally a medieval manor house, is set within a moated enclosure (the moat partly survives). The date of the moat is uncertain, but most of this type and size are around c1250-c1350. A window opening on the rear of the hall appears to be 14th century, perhaps contemporary with the moat. The hall and moat were probably built by the de Gateford family. The Gateford estate stayed in the de Gateford family for many generations, eventually passing to the Pilkingtons, the Townleys, and then, in the mid-16th century, the Lascelles. By the early-17th century, there existed a park at Gateford (located to the north/north-east of the hall, although much larger than the present park).



1610 – Map of the West Riding of Yorkshire, by John Speed (source: www.picturesheffield.com/maps.php).



1725 - A Map of the Lordship of Gateford near Worksop in Nottinghamshire, for Sir John Rodes Bart. by J Dickinson (source: private archive) – note the field names which include 'meadow' and 'park' to the north east of the hall.



Gateford passed by marriage to the Rodes family (of Barlborough Hall) in the mid-17th centuryⁱⁱ. The hall was converted into a tenanted farm and the parkland used for agriculture (mostly grazing). The original stone and timber manor house was altered in the later-17th centuryⁱⁱⁱ, with an extension added and window openings adapted. Much of the timber framing survives behind the later

stonework. There were also several large barns to the front of the hall (probably 16th/17th century in date) and an attached outbuilding (probably late-17th/early-18th century in date) – these are illustrated in a mid-18th century watercolour. A large orchard existed east of the hall (see 1725 map).



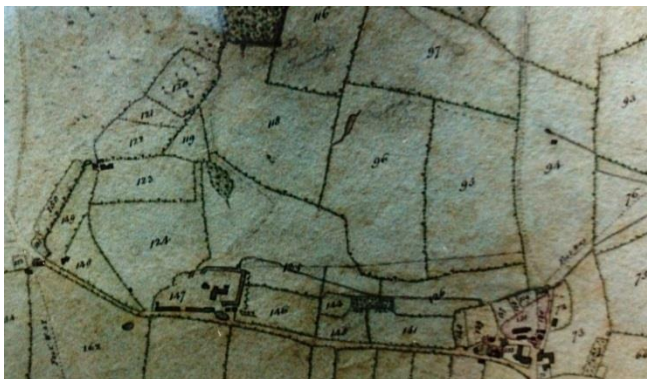
Mid-18th century watercolour of Gateford Hall (source: private archive) – note the mix of sashes and leaded casements.



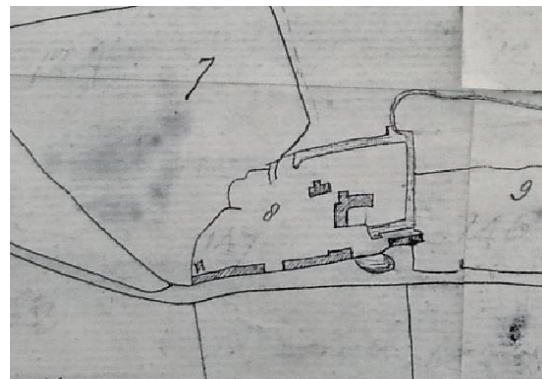
1984 view of Gateford Hall undergoing repairs – the timber frame is visible behind the stonework. (source: Workop & District Archaeological & Local Historical Society).



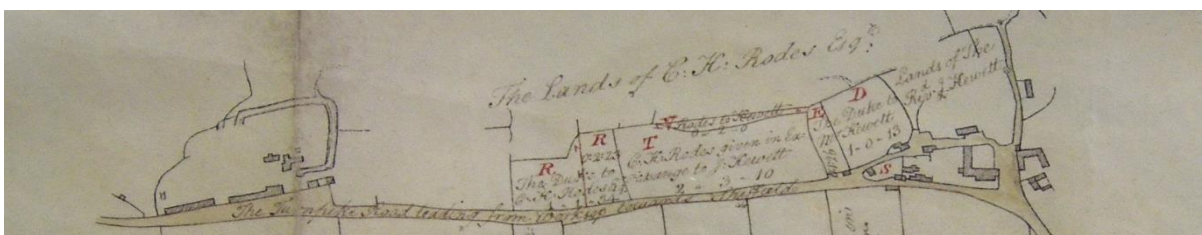
Present-day view of Gateford Hall.



1793 – A Map of the Manor and Lordship of Gateford (source: private archive).



1793 – A Rough Map of Gateford Hall Farm (source: private archive).



1797 – A Map of Gateford Fields, by Joseph Young (source: Nottinghamshire Archives) – Cornelius Heathcote Rodes is identified as the owner.

To the west of the hall are a range of barns, of stone and pantile, mostly constructed in the early-19th century (partly replacing those timber and thatch barns on the mid-18th century watercolour and late-18th century maps above). The Rodes family owned Gateford Hall until 1808, when the hall, adjacent farm buildings and associated land was sold to Henry Vessey^{iv}. It is likely that Henry Vessey was responsible for the construction of the new barns. Henry Vessey also had the cottage to the west rebuilt and added farm buildings (in the 1870s, that site was renamed 'California Farm'). There may also have been some alterations to the Hall during that period.



Agricultural buildings at Gateford Hall Farm.

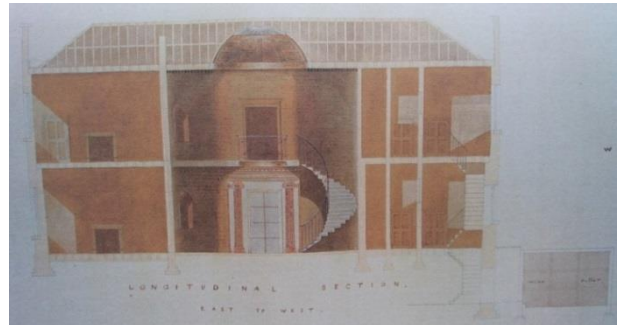


California Farm (previously 'Gateford Cottage').

In c1823, Gateford Hall was inherited by Henry Machin. In 1824, Machin constructed a large house on the farmland to the north of the hall, atop a shallow hill within the former park. This new house, Gateford Hill, was designed by George Cookney^v (who had emigrated to Australia shortly after the plans for Gateford Hill were drawn, where he became an architect for the New South Wales State Government^{vi}). The house is constructed from stone ashlar with a hipped slate roof in the classical style. The main part of the house features a symmetrical façade with large porch of Greek Doric columns. On the rear is a secondary range that includes further accommodation, a large coach house and a stable range.



Main façade of Gateford Hill (facing south).



1824 Cross-sectional plan of house by George Cookney (source: Private archive)



Various views of Gateford Hill, including east façade (left) and cupola on top of the former coach house (centre).

Around Gateford Hill was laid out a small landscaped park (known as 'The Lawn'), featuring rolling lawns, clumps and rows of trees, individual specimen trees, a walled kitchen garden and a nursery.

The 1824 park, which mostly survives, affords views of Gateford Hill (and the surrounding landscape) from Gateford Road. Conversely, much of the former estate can be seen from the hill, the wider landscape being framed by features such as tree belts. Although no landscape architect can be directly attributed to the park at Gateford Hill, there are strong similarities with nearby parks by Humphry Repton (especially Babworth Hall). It is therefore possible that Henry Machin was aware of the Repton style when planning the new park.



Plan of the gardens around Gateford Hill, date and surveyor unknown (source: Private archive).



Large ornamental trees adjacent to Gateford Hill.



View southwards from Gateford Hill across park



Rear of kitchen garden wall.



View eastwards across park, looking from the access road to the former keeper's cottage.



1940s aerial photograph of Gateford Hill (source: Private archive).



1835 Sanderson's Map (source: Nottinghamshire County Council).

The Gateford Hill park has a combination of original metal estate fencing and more recent timber post and rail fencing, together with hawthorn hedges, around much of the boundary.



1830 Sketch of Gateford Hill by Sophia Swan (source: Private archive).



Original metal estate fencing around Gateford Hill.

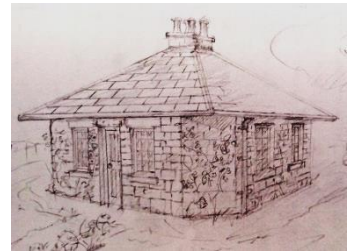


Original iron gate and posts.



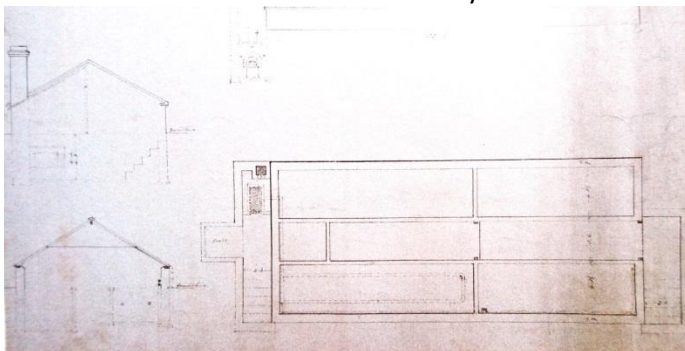
Modern post and rail fencing.

The 1824 scheme also included a small entrance lodge to the east of the house, adjacent to the driveway. This was constructed of ashlar and slate to match the main house. Sadly, the lodge suffered bomb damage in World War Two and was eventually demolished in 1969.



Sketch of former lodge (source: private archive).

In the mid-19th century, a large melon house was constructed immediately north of the kitchen garden. This was demolished and replaced with a squash court in the 1970s/80s). Also in this period, a kennels was built to the west of the 1824 house – the kennels have been ruinous since the mid-20th century.



Original plans of the melon house (source: Private archive).



West elevation of former kennels building.

In the 1860s/70s, an estate cottage was constructed to the west of Gateford Hill, adjacent to access road from Owdy Lane (now called 'Keepers Castle'). This was extended in the late-20th century with a castle-style folly added to the east side.



View of former keeper's cottage in c1900 (source: Private archive).



Former keeper's cottage, present day.

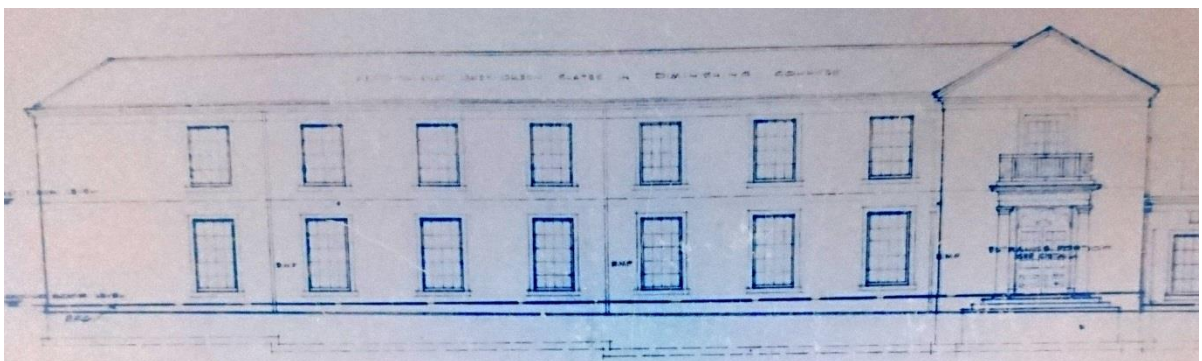
Gateford Hill was occupied by the Machin family until, in 1953, it was sold (along with much of the park) by the William Machin Trustees to the Steetley Company Ltd and became their headquarters. In 1961-2, a large extension was added to the side/rear, in a classical style similar to that of the 1824 building and in matching stone (although of wider stone blocks than the original house), designed by Sheffield Architects J. Mansell Jenkinson & Son. The extension also has a matching diminishing-course slate roof and has timber Georgian-type sashes throughout. Gateford Hill was then converted to a care home in the early-1980s and has remained in that use since.



West elevation of 1961/2 extension



West elevation of 1961/2 extension



Extract from 1961 plans of extension, by J. Mansell Jenkinson & Son (source: Bassetlaw District Council).



North elevation of 1961/2 extension.



East elevation of 1961/2 extension.

In recent years, the eastern part of the earlier Gateford Hall park was developed with housing (please note: this area is excluded from the unregistered park & garden boundary).



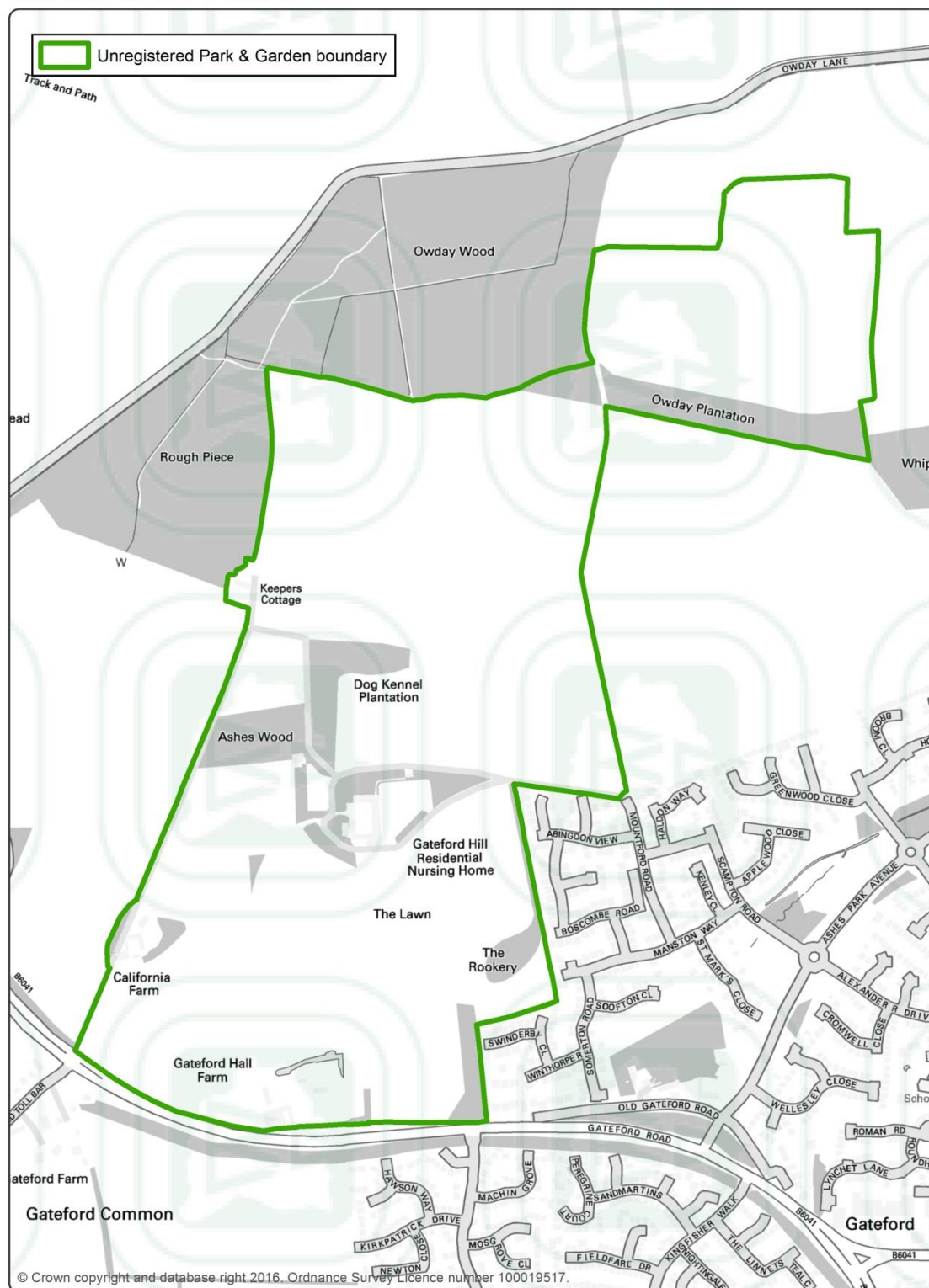
Aerial photograph of Gateford Hall & Gateford Hill, taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council)

Features of significance:

Gateford Hall (grade II*), Gateford Hall Farm, Gateford Hill (grade II), Stables at Gateford hill (grade II), California Farm, Keeper's Castle, Kitchen garden wall, range of stone and brick boundary walls, metal estate fencing (including several iron gates and iron posts), belts and clumps of trees, individual specimen trees, area of parkland between Gateford Hill & Gateford Hall.

Listed Buildings:	Gateford Hall (Grade II*); Gateford Hill (Grade II); Stables at Gateford Hill (Grade II)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	Old Gateford Conservation Area (last designated 4 th February 2009) – All relevant unlisted buildings and structures within the Conservation Area are regarded as 'positive buildings'.
Local Interest Buildings:	n/a

Gateford Hall and Gateford Hill



References:

ⁱ John Holland; *The History, Antiquities, and Description of the Town and Parish of Worksop in the County of Nottingham*; 1826.

ⁱⁱ Robert White; *Worksop, The Dukery and Sherwood Forest*; 1875.

ⁱⁱⁱ Nikolaus Pevsner (revised by Elizabeth Williamson); *The Buildings of England: Nottinghamshire*; 1979; p393.

^{iv} Sara Woodall; *Voices from a Trunk: The Lost Lives of the Quaker Eddisons 1805 – 1867*; 2014; p33.

^v Nikolaus Pevsner (revised by Elizabeth Williamson); *The Buildings of England: Nottinghamshire*; 1979; p394.

^{vi} Dictionary of Sydney website: http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/cookney_george.