

# TRADITIONAL HOUSES OF SOMERSET

REPRINT

Jane Penoyre

The ancient county of Somerset is home to a wonderful array of traditional houses, both in the villages and towns. They were built with local materials, using the skills of local builders and craftsmen and conform to the local contemporary style, reflecting the key characteristics of the region – namely farming and quarrying.

This book, illustrated by photographs and drawings of local stones, building styles, house plans, roof structures and the more decorative features of the houses, explores the local traditional buildings that extend in date here, from the late-thirteenth century to the beginning of the eighteenth. After that date, outside influences in design and fashion, combined with a universal distribution of cheaper building materials from other areas, resulted in a style of building common to the whole country rather than one particular county.

The book is arranged in two main sections, the first covering some aspects of the physical and historical background against which all the buildings are seen, and the second examining the buildings themselves. These include manor houses, farm-houses, village and some town houses together with farm groups from various parts of the county. The book also includes some examples of individual house surveys.

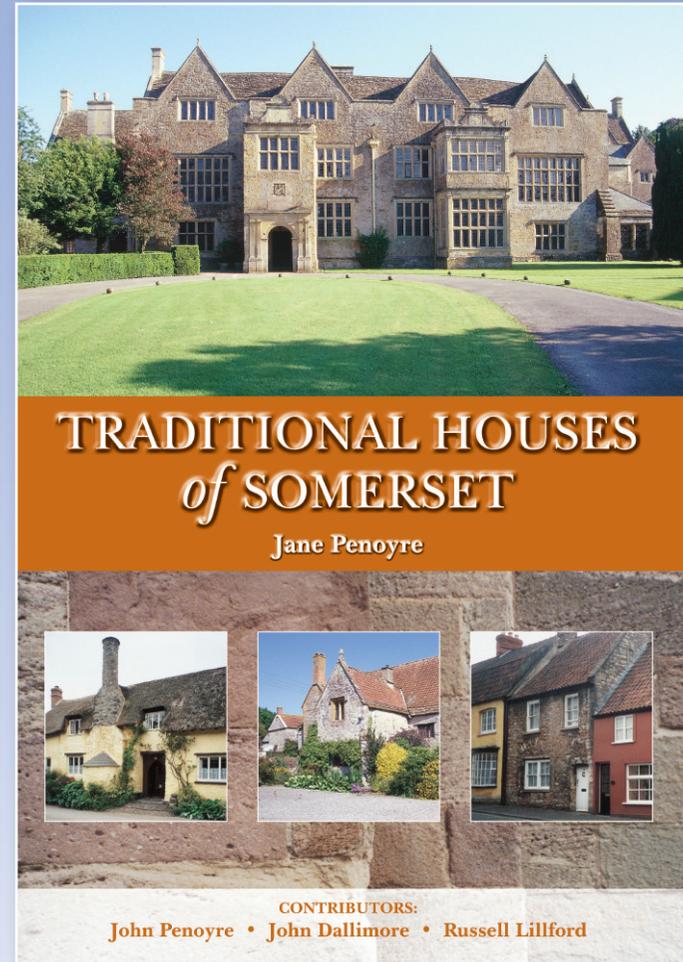
*Traditional Houses of Somerset* is a major work that will be a source of reference for anyone with a serious interest in vernacular buildings. It will also be enjoyed by all those who have an interest in the county of Somerset, and particularly those who own an old property or those who simply treasure the traditions of the countryside. Its illustrations – both photographs and architectural drawings – make this book a vital addition to any bookshelf.

Jane Penoyre was an architect who studied the traditional houses of Somerset for more than a quarter of a century. Her research also led to the publication of an earlier work (co-author, John Penoyre) *Decorative Plasterwork in the Houses of Somerset, 1500–1700* in 1994. Jane was a member of Somerset Vernacular Buildings Research Group (SVBRG), a local organisation that records and surveys the traditional buildings in the county.

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# TRADITIONAL HOUSES OF SOMERSET



Manor Farmhouse, Stratton-on-the-Fosse.



Brympton d'Evercy, c.1540.

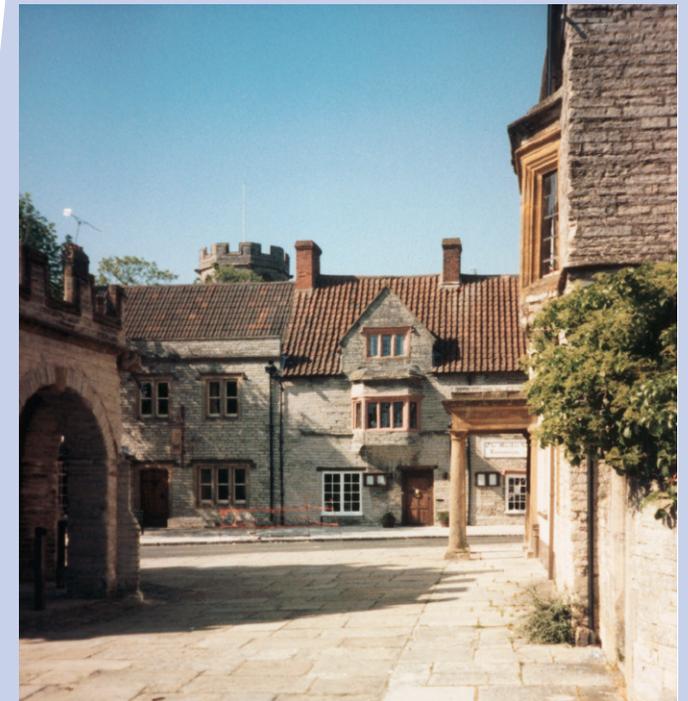
Left: A seventeenth-century interior with decorative plasterwork, Prior's Farmhouse, Stringston.



Above: Montacute House, the former entrance front.

Left: Bossington, a stack with an oven.

Below: The Market Square, Somerton.



TRADITIONAL HOUSES OF SOMERSET

LANDSCAPE AND BUILDINGS

gabled style with large gabled dormers, stone-tiled roofs and multi-paned windows being strongly characteristic of much of the county. In the west of Somerset, the village houses are built parallel to the street but are parallel with one or more windows projecting to the large dormer windows, built up to eaves level in the same line as the main house, their stone-tiled roofs often rising to the height of the main ridge. The style is linked an overall form the Cotswold tradition which was probably developed to create a more dignified appearance. (The use of traditional materials for the construction of such properties is outlined in the text.)

Typical corner Chert, a form of flint, has been the Cotswolds of the Mendons Hill where steep north-facing slopes form a prominent part of the north-western county boundary with Devon. Chert is a grey and has been used for the fine flint and used in 'coursed', irregular patterned walls with a good deal of over or girth walling, in which small round stones are used in the spaces between the larger stones. The walls are often decorated with small square tiles, the shiny pale brown-grey glaze having a central, in a series of stepped lines, seen in preference to the Cotswold style at Chert (Fig. 17).

The particular style of the Cotswold style is the use of flint in the construction of the walls and the use of flint in the construction of the walls. The use of flint and girth which covers the walls shows the underlying structure and the general nature of the construction of the walls. The use of flint and girth which covers the walls shows the underlying structure and the general nature of the construction of the walls. The use of flint and girth which covers the walls shows the underlying structure and the general nature of the construction of the walls.

The building shown referred to above are more correctly shown on the sheet (Fig. 17).

Cab

After stone Chert is an important traditional walling material. Chert is the most of England over the stone walling to be used in the county. The use of stone walling is the most of England over the stone walling to be used in the county. The use of stone walling is the most of England over the stone walling to be used in the county.

Fig. 14 Cotswold style, gabled dormers in North Somerset.

Fig. 15 High Street, Weston & Pains.

Fig. 16 High Street, Boscombe.

Fig. 17 High Street, Weston & Pains.

Fig. 18 High Street, Weston & Pains.



Example of a double-page spread.