

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.

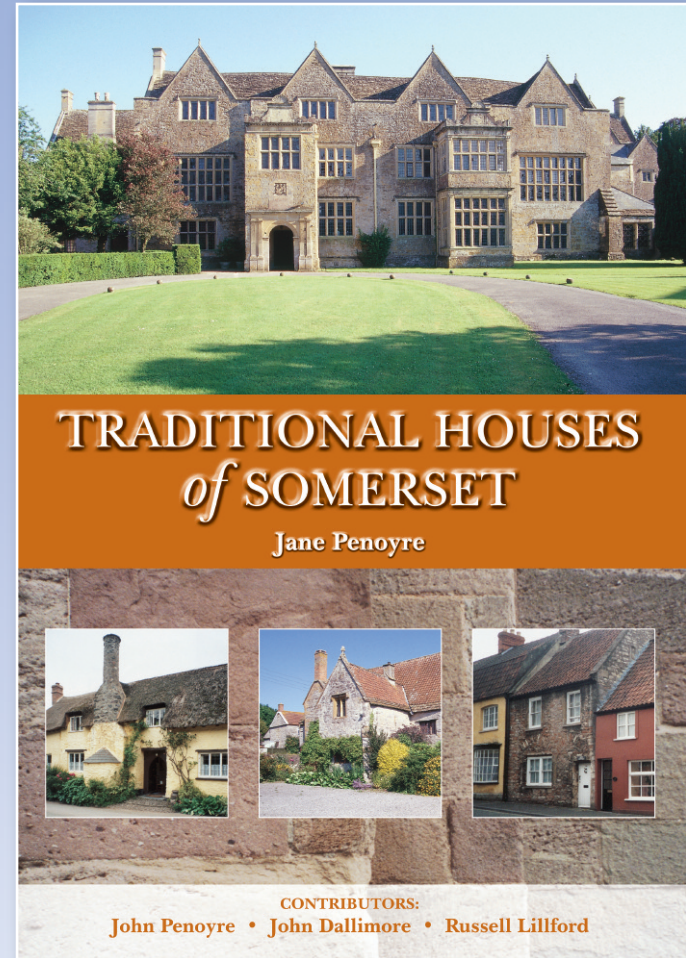
Traditional Houses of Somerset is a major work that will be a source of reference for anyone with a serious interest in vernacular buildings. It will also be enjoyed by all those who have an interest in the county of Somerset, and particularly those who own an old property or those who simply treasure 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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HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: *Hardback, 192 pages, 297x210mm, profusely illustrated in mono including 16 pages of colour*

Price: *£19.99*

ISBN: *978 0 86183 407 5*

Imprint: *Somerset Books*

Published: *2005 reprinted June 2014*

Somerset Books 

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A photograph of a large, historic stone building, likely a castle or manor house. The building features a prominent crenellated roofline and a large, multi-paned window. The stone is weathered and light-colored. There are several smaller windows and a small white door at the base. The building is surrounded by greenery and a small white door is visible at the base.

A black and white photograph of a grand, ornate living room. The room features a high ceiling with intricate plasterwork, a large fireplace with a decorative mantel, and a piano. A television set is placed on a small table in the center of the room. The room is furnished with a sofa, armchairs, and a bookshelf.

A photograph of a traditional English cottage with a thatched roof and a tall, stone chimney. The house is painted yellow and has several windows with white frames. A large, dark arched doorway is visible. The house is surrounded by greenery and flowers.



Example of a double-page spread.