

## Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust

### Walled Kitchen Garden Register

Name of house	STAUNTON HAROLD
Address	Staunton Harold Ashby-de-la-Zouch Leicestershire LE65 1RU
Ownership	Private
Grid Reference	SK379201; OS Landranger Map No 128
Date original walled kitchen garden created	Thought to be mid 18th Century
<b>Other key dates in development</b>	
1086-1324	Staunton first appeared in the Domesday book. It had been granted to Henry de Ferraris after the Conquest. By 1324 there was a deer park here and William de Staunton had built the first manor house.
1423	Ralph Shirley married Margaret, heiress of John de Staunton. The Staunton estate remained in the Shirley family until 1954.
1706	Kip and Knyff's view of Staunton shows an unwallled productive garden on the south west facing slopes immediately NE of the end of the causeway bridge.
1762-1768	The hall was redesigned and the landscape remodelled into a natural style. It is probable that the unwallled productive gardens were swept away in this re-design (certainly there is no sign of them in Smith's view of the mid 1760s) and a new walled kitchen garden created out of sight of the hall's principle views - as was the fashion of mid 18th century landscapes. Accounts for 1765 show examples of the production and cost of bricks as well as the amount used in the re-design of the estate. For example, one entry reads: "December 24th, 1765, Cost of bricks: to Pay Benjm Birch for Diggin Clay to make Bricks, 135,000 at 6d, £3. 7s. 6d."
1820-1830	The Shirley Papers show that major improvements were made in the late part of this decade, probably in association with the construction of pleasure grounds. There is evidence of accounts for the commissioning of new greenhouses, indicating that improvements were being made to the walled kitchen garden.

1856-1859	According to a survey of the estate the size of the walled kitchen garden was three acres. In the Shirley Papers, the time book for 1856 shows one head gardener, Thomas Challis, was paid £5. 7s. 8d for four weeks' work, an under gardener, William Dunncliffe, £2. 0s.12d., five other adult males were paid £2. 0s. 8d. and an apprentice and the women were paid just £1.
c.1859	Following the death of Earl Ferris, costs on gardening wages dropped by almost 50%. The women's rates were reduced by 50% and appear to have stayed at this reduced rate.
1863	The time book in the Shirley Papers indicates the introduction of casual seasonal labour.
c1905	Descriptions of the walled kitchen garden by Katherine Everett report that there were vineries, a melon house, carnation house and mixed greenhouses and the staff comprised eight men and six boys beneath the head gardener.
c.1940	The walled kitchen garden was being run as a commercial nursery by Lord Ferrers.
1940-1945	The house was requisitioned by the Army and used as a prisoner of war camp. We have been unable to find evidence of what happened to the walled kitchen garden during this period.
1954	The whole estate was broken up and the nursery, the former walled kitchen garden, was purchased by Mr Watson. According to sales particulars the area at this time was three acres in size. It was enclosed by a high brick wall and divided into four main areas, included here were tomato, cucumber, carnation houses and two heated fern pits. There was a boiler house, tool shed, mushroom house, two potting sheds, a floor room and office and a store shed.
1990-present	The former walled kitchen garden was purchased by a new owner. It is now run as a commercial garden centre.
Size and Brief Description	<p>The present site of the former walled kitchen garden lies within the ha ha. It is approximately three acres in size running east west to north south, some 200m from the Hall and south of the Stables and Home Farm. To the east is the Yew Walk, which leads to the Wilderness. There is evidence that the east wall once extended beyond the south wall boundary, possible right down to the ha ha. This would have provided protection from easterly winds so that fruit crops could be cultivated on the exterior of the south wall.</p> <p>The north west corner has been sectioned off, possibly when the estate was split up in 1954, and is now home to the Gardeners Bothy, an independent garden store and rural craft shop. The Victorian back sheds and a square bothy are still standing.</p> <p>An 1980s bungalow has been built in the south west section.</p> <p>The north west quarter, formerly the orchard is now the Garden Centre car park. Plants, garden furniture, shrubs and trees for sale are displayed in new poly tunnels and sheds and in the remaining open areas. The original peach house is now a restaurant.</p>

Official Designations for garden	English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England	Reference GD 1468	Grade II
<b>DESCRIPTION: CURRENT AND PAST</b>			
<b>Features: further information and current condition</b>			
Walls, doors, gates	<p>All walls are constructed of red brick, presumably manufactured at Staunton. They are buttressed and the bond is largely English Garden Wall. The four outside walls remain intact; over time they have been repaired and altered in places. Large sections of the internal dividing walls also remain. These are approximately 6' high and include two internal arched doorways. OS Maps of 1882 and 1901 show a wall dividing the NE Quarter. This no longer exists.</p> <p>We are uncertain exactly when the walls were built but indications are that these date from the mid 18th century, with evidence of major improvements in the 1820s and 1830s. It is possible that at this time the walls were raised to variable heights between 10' and 13' approximately. Some original rounded bullnose brick copings remain. Where the walls have been repaired, the brick copings have been replaced with flat concrete blocks.</p> <p>New entrances have been created. Arched entrances on the east wall looking out on the Yew Walk have been bricked up.</p>		
Glasshouses	<p>The Peach House in the SE quarter is now run as a restaurant and a modern extension has been added to the east. An original door shows the manufacturer's label, Foster and Pearson of Beeston, Nottingham. The original winding mechanism is still in place.</p> <p>The old Victorian greenhouses have recently collapsed and the brick bases are all that remain. Records show that some greenhouses were built in 1830. Labour costs from August to November for this work amounted to £1. 19s. 4d. Shirley Paper records also show that stonemasons were employed in the building of these greenhouses.</p>		
Frames	None remain.		
Pits	None remain.		
Hotwalls/ furnaces	None remain.		
Heating pipes/ boilers, etc.	None remain		
Backsheds, workrooms, stores	There is a run of backsheds along the north east wall, a section of the north half to the west wall and along the north side of the Peach House.		

Gardener's House, Cottages, Bothies	There are two semi detached estate cottages dated 1877 immediately to the west of the walled kitchen garden, displaying the Ferrers shield. One cottage has been extended in more recent years. There is a bothy on the north west corner of the former walled kitchen garden and one on the north east side of the internal wall.
Wells, ponds, tanks towers	None. However the 1882 map indicates there may have been a dipping pond just to the north of the peach house back sheds.
Planting	None remains. The 1882 map shows four divisions - and orchard took up the NW division; the NE division was divided by an internal wall - the west half of which looks as if it may have been used for fruit and the east half was largely taken up with bothies and glasshouses. In the Shirley Papers, the Garden Book for 1865-68 includes an invoice from seed merchants F. A. Dickson and Sons of Chester for white Spanish onions and white globe onions, among other things. The OS maps for 1882 and 1901 show the SW division was divided into four quarters by paths, but there is no indication of which crops might have been grown at that time. Katherine Everett's account of the garden includes references to vineries, a melon house, carnation house and mixed greenhouses. Some wall fastenings remain on the exterior of the south wall, indicating that fruit would have been grown on this wall too.
Other key features	A brick-lined ice house, probably 18th century, still stands some 200m to the north of the walled kitchen garden in the area behind the stables. We have found no records relating to the use of the ice house but it is possible that some garden produce would have been stored there.
Date site visited	14th February 2015
References	OS Maps 25" = 1 mile: 1st edition 1882; 2nd edition 1901; 1925 edition. Leicestershire and Rutland Records Office: Records 26D53, 2179, 2412, 2495-2497 and 2506, Shirley Papers Staunton Harold Park Restoration Management Plan (Chris Burnett Associates 1995) Parks & Gardens IUK Record Id: 3069 Staunton Harold Heritage Group Bricks and Flowers, Memoirs of Katherine Everett, 1949, Constable & Co Ltd
Researched by	Sheila Burnage, Felicity Hector
Record compiled by	ditto

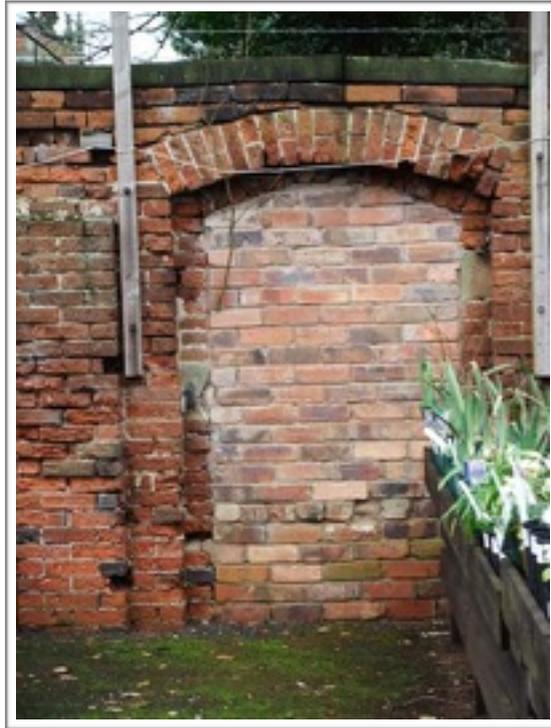
## PHOTOS



North entrance for walled kitchen garden



Section of outside of south wall showing old wall fastenings and whitewash and a view of exterior of the west wall showing one of the buttresses.



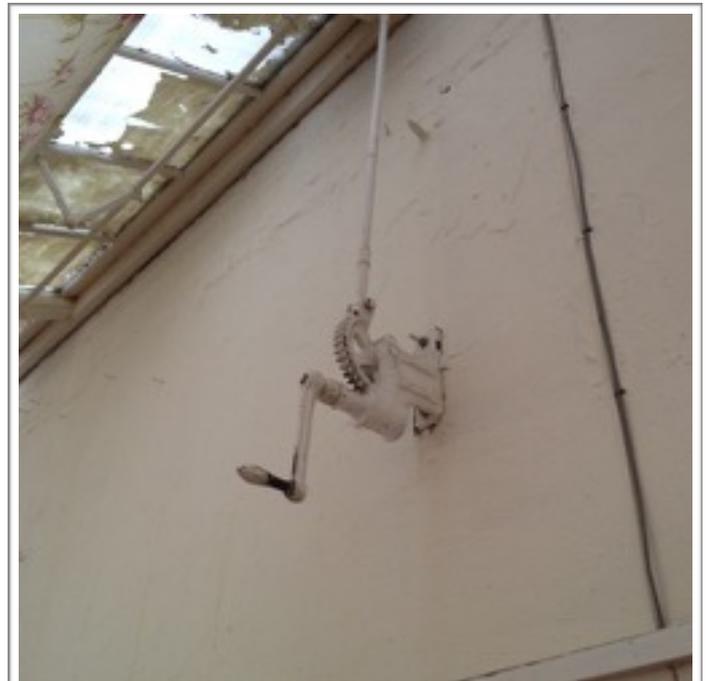
One of the bricked up original exits from the walled kitchen garden onto the Yew Walk.



One of the internal walls, showing a buttressed archway leading from the south east division to the north east division



Back sheds attached to the rear of the Peach house and, below, the original peach house door and a winding mechanism, which clearly show the manufacturer's stamp - Foster and Pearson of Beeston, Nottingham.





Estate cottages showing the date 12877 and the Ferrers shield.



Section of the interior of the west wall showing Georgian brick with later Victorian additions, including back sheds presumably built at the same time as the estate cottages which lie immediately behind.

The Victorian greenhouses circa 2008

