

## EGERTON MANOR – ACOL

This is a Grade II listed building, listed 11<sup>th</sup> October 1963. The original listing stated:

**House** : early 18<sup>th</sup> century

Plum coloured brick with red brick dressings

Plain tiled roof

Two storeys and attic on plinth, with moulded eaves cornice to roof  
with two hipped dormers

And stacks to left and right

Regular fenestration of 5 glazing bar sashes with rubbed and cut  
heads

And flying cornices with raised keys

Central half-glazed door in 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed gable porch

### **Interior:**

Panelled rooms and original staircase reported

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As with so much of the listing done during the 1960's, it would appear that the official did not get the chance to view the house internally for himself during his inspection. As anyone who has tried to date houses from the outside only can tell you, this is a very tricky business, because most houses are shy about revealing their true identity to the world in general! It takes time and a detailed inspection of not only the main internal structure, but also the loft space and the cellars (if they have any) before an accurate picture can be formed. The lady who owned the house in the 1960's knew it was old, but was not specially interested in its history, whereas the new owners are fascinated by the house's past.

When the house was sold in 1986, the new owners needed to do a large amount of repairing and renovating. They wisely involved English Heritage during this work and tried very hard to follow the advice they were given, which was not always easy. Some fascinating features were uncovered, including a huge open inglenook fireplace in the east downstairs front room and two beautifully shaped smaller curved brick fireplaces in the west front lower and upper rooms.

There now appears to have been an earlier building beneath the present brick structure, which could well be 17<sup>th</sup> century or even earlier. One feature concerning the orientation of the house is worth considering. In almost all Queen Ann style houses, which, at first glance, this one appears to be, their main frontage faces the highway. A little way south on the outskirts of Acol stands 'Cleve Court', illustrating this point exactly. Egerton Manor stands with its short end facing the road, which runs roughly north to south, while its main front faces south. This speaks of an earlier form of approach to house building, where the comfort of the inhabitants outweighed the view to be enjoyed by the passers-by.