

Hello Heritage...

The Moat House

Local History Café Extended group is based at the Sir John Moore Foundation www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk



There are records of William de Appleby living in the Manor House on a moated site in 1166. The remaining stone gatehouse dates from the 15th century (the main house has disappeared). The de Appleby family (see Church board for more information) left in the mid-16th century. The timber framed additions date from the mid-16th century and there was a Victorian brick extension in the mid-19th century. From the mid-19th century there are records of this house being occupied by tenant farmers.

This engraving, based on a drawing by John Glover, a master at the SJM school, dates from 1790.



This view of the Moat House, c. 1900, is no longer visible due to hedges and trees. The more open landscape seen here (and see Eastgate House board) must have given a quite different sense of the village.

In the first half of the 20th century the house was occupied by two or three different households of tenant farmers. The moat was dry, but still obvious, with wooden bridges erected over the gap.

The house deteriorated and without drainage, mains water or other services it was condemned in 1960, the families re-housed, and the house likely to be demolished.



Thanks to new owners and a public grant the house was saved, modernised and has become a family home. Subsequent owners have continued to maintain and improve it. It is now a Grade II* listed building and its site a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the heart of Appleby's Conservation Area.

Understanding how buildings have changed over time often draws from paintings, but some are more accurate than others. This is a mid-19th century watercolour of the Moat House by James Lawson Stewart. His London street scenes illustrated Charles Dickens' novels. Some of the features shown here are certainly artistic license!

Heritage on your doorstep...

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