



Miss Penrose's Drawing

Lydia Penrose, sister of the Revd. Trevenen Penrose, drew this view of Branston church about 1830. He was not Branston's rector, but was renting the rectory, now Hainton House, from the Curtois family. Is the drawing an accurate depiction of the scene or did she use some artistic licence?

The church and the rectory are in their correct relative positions with Church Hill running up between them. There are two buildings directly below the church, of which that on the left can be identified from many photographs as the old Waggon and Horses, standing right up to the corner of Rectory Lane and the High Street. The thatched cottage next to the pub had disappeared before a sketch plan of the village was drawn in 1868*. The building on the extreme left was possibly the Plough pub, which jutted out into the main road until its demolition in the 1970s. The house directly below the rectory with a tiny upstairs window is almost certainly the Sheepwash Cottage. However, it is not on quite the correct alignment in relation to Rectory Lane. There is a suggestion that the space between the lane and the cottage was occupied by a pond. The remaining cottages are more difficult to explain, even with the help of some documentation in the Lincolnshire Archives.

The site of the two semi-detached cottages, now nos. 3 and 5 Lincoln Road, was part of a property sale in 1817 by Gentle Brown of Heighington to Charles White of Branston Hall. On this site Brown had owned a cottage occupied by Thomas Sharpe. White took this down and replaced it by two cottages, presumably semi-detached, which he let to William Newstead and William Duckmanton (LA TLE19/1, including a sketch plan). Miss Penrose squeezed these cottages between the Sheepwash Cottage and the building with a pyramidal roof, also inserting a tree that blocks our view of them. The approximate position of the house with a pyramidal roof was occupied by a delapidated cottage which stood for many years on the site of the present no. 9 Lincoln Road (there is no no.7). Could we say that Miss Penrose romanticised the cottage considerably, depicting it as a lodge house at the entrance to a country mansion, in which the gatekeeper lived?

*Partially reproduced in our *Traditional Farmsteads and Farming at Branston, Lincolnshire*, Branston History Group, 2011, p.20, from Lincolnshire Archives, Branston Par 23/8.

Joan and Dennis Mills, September 2014.

Source: From C Marriott with the kind permission of the family of the late Hubert Penrose, and courtesy of Dr Chris Adams.