

national trust montacute house

National Trust Montacute House: A Historic Treasure in Somerset

Nestled amidst the rolling hills of Somerset, Montacute House stands as a stunning example of Elizabethan architecture and a testament to the rich history of England. Managed by the National Trust, Montacute House offers visitors a unique opportunity to step back in time and explore centuries of history, architecture, and lush gardens. Whether you're a history enthusiast, architecture lover, or simply seeking a peaceful escape, Montacute House promises an unforgettable experience. In this article, we delve into the fascinating history, architectural features, gardens, and visitor information that make Montacute House a must-visit destination.

History of Montacute House

Origins and Early History

Montacute House was built in the late 16th century, around 1580, during the Elizabethan era. It was commissioned by Sir Edward Phelips, a prominent lawyer and politician, who aimed to create a grand country residence that reflected his status and wealth. The house was constructed on the site of an earlier medieval manor, incorporating some of the existing structures into the new design.

Architectural Significance

Designed by the renowned architect John Popham, Montacute House exemplifies the Elizabethan prodigy house style, characterized by grandeur, symmetry, and intricate brickwork. Its architecture showcases the transition from medieval to Renaissance influences, with features such as large windows, decorative stonework, and ornate chimneys.

Historical Events and Ownership

Over the centuries, Montacute House has witnessed numerous historical events and changes in ownership:

- Originally built for Sir Edward Phelips, it remained in his family for generations.
- During the English Civil War, the house was used as a strategic location and suffered some damage.
- In the 20th century, the house faced decline but was preserved thanks to

efforts by the National Trust, which acquired it in 1927.

Today, Montacute House stands as a preserved monument, offering insights into Elizabethan life and architecture.

Architectural Features of Montacute House

Exterior Design

Montacute House is renowned for its impressive brickwork, featuring:

- Symmetrical facade with tall, mullioned windows
- Elaborate chimney stacks with decorative brick patterns
- Grand entrance with a carved stone doorway

The house's imposing presence is accentuated by its courtyards and surrounding gardens.

Interior Highlights

Inside, visitors can marvel at:

- Spacious Great Hall with original timber beams
- Elegant panelled rooms and ornate fireplaces
- Period furniture and artworks that recreate Elizabethan life

The interiors have been carefully preserved and restored to reflect their historical authenticity.

Structural Elements

Montacute House features notable structural elements such as:

- Central hall design that facilitates symmetry
- Use of local Hamstone in decorative details
- Original wooden staircases and decorative plasterwork

These features contribute to its designation as a Grade I listed building,

recognizing its national importance.

Gardens and Grounds

Formal Gardens

The gardens surrounding Montacute House are meticulously maintained and feature:

- Formal flower beds with seasonal displays
- Herb and vegetable gardens demonstrating Elizabethan horticulture
- Ornamental fountains and statues

These gardens provide beautiful settings for leisurely walks and photography.

Parkland and Natural Surroundings

Beyond the formal gardens, visitors can explore:

- Extensive parkland with mature trees and open spaces
- Walking trails that lead to panoramic views of the Somerset countryside
- Wildflower meadows and areas for wildlife spotting

The grounds are a haven for nature lovers and those seeking tranquility.

Special Garden Events

Throughout the year, Montacute House hosts:

- Seasonal flower festivals
- Heritage gardening days
- Family-friendly outdoor activities

These events enhance the visitor experience and celebrate horticultural heritage.

Visiting Montacute House

Opening Hours and Ticketing

Montacute House is open seasonally, typically from spring to autumn. Visitors are advised to check the National Trust website for the latest opening times and ticket prices. Tickets can be purchased online or at the entrance, with discounts available for members.

Guided Tours and Educational Programs

To enrich your visit, guided tours are available, offering insights into the house's history, architecture, and restoration. Educational programs are also designed for school groups, making Montacute House a valuable learning resource.

Facilities and Amenities

Facilities at Montacute House include:

- Cafés serving refreshments and light meals
- Gift shops with souvenirs and books
- Accessible pathways and visitor amenities

Accessibility improvements ensure that all visitors can enjoy the site.

Events and Activities

Throughout the year, Montacute House hosts a variety of events such as:

- Historical reenactments
- Art exhibitions
- Family workshops and craft days

These activities aim to engage visitors of all ages and interests.

Why Visit Montacute House?

A Window into Elizabethan England

Montacute House offers an authentic glimpse into the lives of Elizabethan aristocracy, with its preserved architecture, furnishings, and gardens providing a tangible connection to the past.

Architectural Beauty

The house's striking design, intricate brickwork, and grand proportions make it a standout example of Elizabethan prodigy houses and a must-see for architecture enthusiasts.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

Its surrounding gardens and parkland showcase traditional horticultural practices and natural beauty, making it a perfect spot for outdoor enjoyment and cultural exploration.

Family-Friendly Destination

Montacute House's engaging activities, storytelling sessions, and expansive grounds make it ideal for family visits, offering both education and entertainment.

Plan Your Visit to Montacute House

Getting There

Montacute House is located near the village of Montacute, approximately 7 miles from Yeovil. It is accessible by car, with ample parking available. Public transportation options include local bus services.

Best Times to Visit

Spring and summer months provide the best weather and vibrant gardens, but the house is beautiful year-round, with autumn foliage providing a picturesque backdrop.

Tips for a Memorable Visit

- Check opening hours and book tickets in advance
- Wear comfortable shoes suitable for walking and exploring uneven grounds

- Bring a camera for capturing the stunning architecture and gardens
- Participate in guided tours or special events for a richer experience

Support and Conservation

As a National Trust property, Montacute House relies on memberships, donations, and volunteers to maintain and preserve this historic site. Visitors are encouraged to become members or support ongoing conservation efforts to ensure Montacute House remains a treasured part of England's heritage.

Conclusion

National Trust Montacute House stands as a captivating symbol of Elizabethan grandeur, historical significance, and natural beauty. Its impressive architecture, beautifully maintained gardens, and rich history make it an essential destination for visitors exploring Somerset or seeking a meaningful cultural experience. Whether you're exploring its historic interiors, strolling through its gardens, or attending one of its special events, Montacute House offers a timeless journey into England's past. Plan your visit today and immerse yourself in the heritage and beauty of this extraordinary National Trust property.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the historical significance of Montacute House managed by the National Trust?

Montacute House is a stunning Elizabethan mansion built in the late 16th century, renowned for its impressive architecture and well-preserved medieval and Tudor features. It offers visitors a glimpse into England's Renaissance history and is a designated historic building managed by the National Trust.

Are there any special events or exhibitions at Montacute House throughout the year?

Yes, Montacute House hosts various events including art exhibitions, seasonal festivals, outdoor concerts, and family activities. The National Trust regularly updates their event calendar to provide unique experiences for visitors of all ages.

Can I explore the gardens and grounds of Montacute House for free?

Access to the gardens and grounds is included with your entrance ticket to Montacute House. Some special events or private functions may require additional booking or fees, but generally, the outdoor areas are open to all visitors with a ticket.

Is Montacute House accessible for visitors with mobility challenges?

The National Trust has made efforts to improve accessibility at Montacute House, including ramps and accessible pathways. However, due to its historic architecture, some areas may still present challenges, so it's advisable to check their accessibility guide before visiting.

Are there any family-friendly activities available at Montacute House?

Yes, Montacute House offers a range of family-friendly activities such as interactive trails, craft workshops, storytelling sessions, and outdoor play areas, making it a great destination for visitors with children.

How can I support the preservation of Montacute House through the National Trust?

You can support Montacute House by becoming a National Trust member, making donations, or volunteering. These contributions help fund ongoing conservation work, maintain the historic site, and develop new visitor facilities.

Additional Resources

National Trust Montacute House stands as a quintessential example of Elizabethan architecture and a highlight of Somerset's rich historical tapestry. Nestled amidst the rolling countryside, this magnificent Tudor manor has captured visitors' imaginations for centuries, offering a captivating glimpse into England's noble past. With its stunning façade, beautifully preserved interiors, and a wealth of gardens and grounds, Montacute House remains a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts, architecture buffs, and families alike. This review delves into the various aspects that make Montacute House a treasured National Trust property, exploring its history, architecture, gardens, visitor experience, and practical considerations.

Historical Background and Significance

Origins and Historical Context

Montacute House was built between 1380 and 1396 by Sir William Montacute, a nobleman and politician, during the late medieval period. Originally constructed as a fortified manor, it was transformed into a grand Tudor residence in the 16th century, reflecting the wealth and status of its owners. Over the centuries, the house has witnessed numerous historical events, from the tumult of the Wars of the Roses to its preservation and restoration by the National Trust.

Architectural Evolution

The house showcases the transition from medieval fortified structures to elegant Tudor residences. Its striking façade features symmetrical windows, a splendid range of courtyards, and intricate brickwork typical of the period. The building's evolution offers a fascinating insight into architectural trends and social history, making it an invaluable resource for historians and visitors alike.

Architectural Features and Highlights

Exterior and Façade

Montacute House's exterior is characterized by its impressive stonework and distinctive symmetrical windows. The façade is largely intact, offering a picturesque view that epitomizes Tudor architecture. The use of local stone and brickwork creates a warm, inviting appearance, while the large windows allow ample natural light into the interiors.

Features:

- Symmetrical front with elegant mullioned windows
- Tudor brickwork with decorative chimneys
- Well-preserved medieval gatehouse and courtyards
- Enchanting surrounding gardens and lawns

Interior and Decorative Arts

Step inside Montacute House, and you are transported into a world of Tudor elegance. The interiors boast oak-panelled rooms, ornate plaster ceilings, and period furnishings that evoke the grandeur of Elizabethan life.

Highlights include:

- The Long Gallery: stretching over 50 meters, it offers panoramic views and is often used for exhibitions.
- The Great Hall: with its high timbered ceiling and original features.
- Period furniture and tapestries: carefully curated to reflect the house's historic ambiance.
- The Library and Bedrooms: preserved with authentic furnishings and décor.

Restoration and Preservation

The National Trust has invested heavily in maintaining Montacute House's structural integrity and aesthetic appeal. Ongoing conservation work ensures that visitors experience the house much as it was centuries ago, with modern interventions kept discreet to preserve authenticity.

Gardens, Grounds, and Surroundings

The Formal Gardens and Grounds

Montacute House is complemented by its meticulously maintained gardens and grounds, which enhance its historic charm. The gardens feature:

- Formal flower beds with seasonal displays
- A walled garden containing herbs, vegetables, and fruit trees
- A lawn area perfect for picnics and leisure
- A woodland walk leading to scenic views of the surrounding countryside

Wildlife and Natural Features

The extensive grounds serve as a habitat for various bird species, butterflies, and small mammals. Nature walks around the estate provide peaceful retreats, with opportunities for photography and birdwatching.

Activities and Events in the Gardens

Throughout the year, the gardens host seasonal events such as plant fairs, outdoor theatre, and workshops, making it a lively venue for visitors of all ages.

Visitor Experience: Facilities and Amenities

Guided Tours and Exhibitions

Visitors can enjoy guided tours that delve into the house's history, architecture, and the lives of its former inhabitants. Additionally, the house hosts exhibitions, often highlighting local history, art, or specific themes related to Tudor England.

Educational and Family Activities

Montacute House offers a variety of programs aimed at children and families, including interactive activities, storytelling sessions, and craft workshops. School groups frequently visit to learn about history and architecture in an engaging environment.

Facilities

The estate provides essential amenities for visitors:

- Gift shop with unique souvenirs and books
- Café offering refreshments, snacks, and light meals
- Accessible pathways and facilities for visitors with mobility needs
- Parking areas and clear signage

Pros:

- Well-preserved historic building with authentic interiors
- Beautiful gardens and scenic grounds
- Friendly and knowledgeable staff
- Family-friendly activities and events
- Good facilities and amenities

Cons:

- Entrance fee applies; may be costly for some visitors
- Limited indoor space for large groups during peak times
- Some areas may have uneven surfaces, challenging for wheelchair users

Additional Features and Points of Interest

Filming Location and Cultural Significance

Montacute House has served as a filming location for various movies and television series, including adaptations of Jane Austen's works and period dramas, adding to its cultural cachet.

Special Events and Seasonal Celebrations

Throughout the year, the National Trust hosts seasonal events such as Christmas markets, summer fairs, and historical reenactments, enriching the visitor experience.

Accessibility and Practical Tips

While efforts are made to accommodate all visitors, some areas of Montacute House are less accessible due to historic architecture. Visitors are advised to check accessibility details before planning their visit.

Conclusion: Is Montacute House Worth Visiting?

Montacute House embodies the grandeur and elegance of Tudor architecture, offering an immersive experience into England's Elizabethan past. Its beautifully preserved interiors, stunning façade, and tranquil gardens make it a perfect day out for history lovers, architecture enthusiasts, and families seeking educational fun. The well-maintained grounds and engaging activities further enhance its appeal, making it a standout property within the National Trust portfolio.

Final Verdict:

- Pros: Rich history, stunning architecture, beautiful gardens, family-friendly, well-maintained facilities.
- Cons: Entry costs, some accessibility limitations, potential crowds during peak seasons.

In summary, National Trust Montacute House is a remarkable heritage site that successfully combines historical significance with aesthetic beauty. Whether you are interested in exploring Tudor architecture, enjoying scenic walks, or participating in seasonal events, Montacute House offers a rewarding experience that celebrates England's cultural legacy. A visit here promises not only a journey through history but also a peaceful retreat into the timeless beauty of the English countryside.

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national trust montacute house: *Montacute House, Somerset* Mark Girouard, National Trust (Great Britain), 1968

national trust montacute house: Houses of the National Trust Lydia Greeves, 2021-04-29
This captivating book, fully revised and updated and featuring more NT houses than ever before, is a guide to some of the greatest architectural treasures of Britain, encompassing both interior and exterior design. This new edition is fully revised and updated and includes entries for new properties including: Acorn Bank, Claife Viewing Station, Cushendun, Cwmdru, Fen Cottage, The Firs (birthplace of Edward Elgar), Hawker's Hut, Lizard Wireless Station, Totternhoe Knolls and

Trelissick. The houses covered include spectacular mansions such as Petworth House and Waddesdon Manor, and more lowly dwellings such as the Birmingham Back to Backs and estate villages like Blaise Hamlet, near Bristol. In addition to houses, the book also covers fascinating buildings as diverse as churches, windmills, dovecotes, castles, follies, barns and even pubs. The book also acts as an overview of the country's architectural history, with every period covered, from the medieval stronghold of Bodiam Castle to the clean-lined Modernism of The Homewood. Teeming with stories of the people who lived and worked in these buildings: wealthy collectors (Charles Wade at Snowhill), captains of industry (William Armstrong at Cragside), prime ministers (Winston Churchill at Chartwell) and pop stars (John Lennon at Mendips). Written in evocative, imaginative prose and illustrated with glorious images from the National Trust's photographic library, this book is an essential guide to the built heritage of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

national trust montacute house: *Montacute House* Malcolm Rogers, National Trust, 1991

national trust montacute house: Montacute House Nicholas Cooper, Jo Moore, 2018

Montacute is one of the loveliest of English houses. The honey-colored, Ham Hill stone of its two faultless façades glows in the morning and afternoon sun. It is satisfyingly large but not overwhelmingly grand; its rooms seem dignified but comfortable at the same time. Like every old house, Montacute has been altered over the years, but these changes seem only to make it more human. When Montacute came to the National Trust in 1931, it was empty and unloved. But over the past century, thanks to a series of generous gifts and a pioneering partnership with the National Portrait Gallery, the house has come back to life, so that today it is many people's favorite. Providing the perfect setting for the house is the garden, which is a rare surviving example of Elizabethan design.

national trust montacute house: Montacute house, by national trust National Trust, Mark Girouard, 1964

national trust montacute house: *National Trust on Screen* Harvey Edgington, Lauren Taylor, 2020-04-01 From Mr Darcy diving into the lake at Lyme to Harry Potter exploring the cloisters at Lacock Abbey, National Trust on Screen goes behind the scenes of some of the most iconic film and TV moments. Ranging from lavish costume dramas such as Poldark and Wolf Hall to epic fantasies including Game of Thrones and The Dark Knight Rises, the historic houses and stunning landscapes of the National Trust have been chosen as backdrops by some of the world's most famous directors. This fact-filled guidebook is organised geographically enabling the planning of single visits or entire adventure trips. Films and TV series featured: Poldark, Sense and Sensibility, Wolf Hall, The Other Boleyn Girl, the Harry Potter films, The Duchess, The Crown, Snow White and the Huntsman, Never Let Me Go, Remains of the Day, Miss Potter, The History Boys, Game of Thrones and many many more.

national trust montacute house: *Faded and Threadbare Historic Textiles and their Role in Houses Open to the Public* Margaret Ponsonby, 2016-04-15 Many historic houses that open to the public in England and Wales - particularly those owned by the National Trust - preserve their contents rather than restore them to a particular period. The former owners of these houses often retained objects from various periods and this layering of history produces interiors that look aged and patinated. Although the reason for this preservation and lack of fashionable renewable can be attributed to declining economic fortunes in the twentieth century, there are many examples of families practising this method of homemaking over a much longer period. Taking National Trust properties as its central focus, this book examines three interlocking themes to examine the role of historic textiles. Firstly it looks at houses with preserved contents together with the reasons for individual families choosing this lifestyle; secondly the role of the National Trust as both guardian and interpreter of these houses and their collections; and finally, and most importantly, the influence of textiles to contribute to the appearance of interiors, and their physical attributes that carry historical resonances of the past. The importance of preserved textiles in establishing the visual character of historic houses is a neglected area and therefore the prominence given to textiles in this project constitutes an original contribution to the study of these houses. Drawing upon a range

of primary sources, including literature produced by the National Trust for their sites, and documentary sources for the families and their houses (such as diaries, letters and household accounts), the study takes a broad approach that will be of interest to all those with an interest in material culture, heritage, collecting studies and cultural history.

national trust montacute house: *Elizabeth's Rival* Nicola Tallis, 2018-03-06 A kinswoman to Elizabeth I, Lettice Knollys had begun the Queen's glittering reign basking in favor and success. It was an honor that she would enjoy for two decades. However, on the morning of September 21st, 1578, Lettice made a fateful decision. When the Queen learned of it, the consequences were swift. Lettice had dared to marry without the Queen's consent. But worse, her new husband was Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the Queen's favorite and one-time suitor. Though she would not marry him herself, Elizabeth was fiercely jealous of any woman who showed an interest in Leicester. Knowing that she would likely earn the Queen's enmity, Lettice married Leicester in secret, leading to her permanent banishment from court. Elizabeth never forgave the new Countess for what she perceived to be a devastating betrayal, and Lettice permanently forfeited her favor. She had become not just Queen Elizabeth's adversary. She was her rival. But the Countess' story does not end there. Surviving the death of two husbands and navigating the courts of three very different monarchs: Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and Charles I, Lettice's story offers an extraordinary and intimate perspective on the world she lived in.

national trust montacute house: *British and Irish Paintings in Public Collections* Christopher Wright, Catherine May Gordon, 2006-01-01 This book sets a new standard as a work of reference. It covers British and Irish art in public collections from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the end of the nineteenth, and it encompasses nearly 9,000 painters and 90,000 paintings in more than 1,700 separate collections. The book includes as well pictures that are now lost, some as a consequence of the Second World War and others because of de-accessioning, mostly from 1950 to about 1975 when Victorian art was out of fashion. By listing many tens of thousands of previously unpublished works, including around 13,000 which do not yet have any form of attribution, this book becomes a unique and indispensable work of reference, one that will transform the study of British and Irish painting.

national trust montacute house: *Art in England* Sara N. James, 2016-10-31 Art in England fills a void in the scholarship of both English and medieval art by offering the first single volume overview of artistic movements in Medieval and Early Renaissance England. Grounded in history and using the chronology of the reign of monarchs as a structure, it is contextual and comprehensive, revealing unobserved threads of continuity, patterns of intention and unique qualities that run through English art of the medieval millennium. By placing the English movement in a European context, this book brings to light many ingenious innovations that focused studies tend not to recognize and offers a fresh look at the movement as a whole. The media studied include architecture and related sculpture, both ecclesiastical and secular; tomb monuments; murals, panel paintings, altarpieces, and portraits; manuscript illuminations; textiles; and art by English artists and by foreign artists commissioned by English patrons.

national trust montacute house: *Heraldry in National Trust Houses* Thomas Woodcock, John Martin Robinson, 2000

national trust montacute house: *Everyday Objects* Tara Hamling, Catherine Richardson, 2016-12-14 This book is about the objects people owned and how they used them. Twenty-three specially written essays investigate the type of things that might have been considered 'everyday objects' in the medieval and early modern periods, and how they help us to understand the daily lives of those individuals for whom few other types of evidence survive - for instance people of lower status and women of all status groups. *Everyday Objects* presents new research by specialists from a range of disciplines to assess what the study of material culture can contribute to our understanding of medieval and early modern societies. Extending and developing key debates in the study of the everyday, the chapters provide analysis of such things as ceramics, illustrated manuscripts, pins, handbells, carved chimneypieces, clothing, drinking vessels, bagpipes, paintings, shoes, religious

icons and the built fabric of domestic houses and guild halls. These things are examined in relation to central themes of pre-modern history; for instance gender, identity, space, morality, skill, value, ritual, use, belief, public and private behaviour, continental influence, materiality, emotion, technical innovation, status, competition and social mobility. This book offers both a collection of new research by a diverse range of specialists and a source book of current methodological approaches for the study of pre-modern material culture. The multi-disciplinary analysis of these 'everyday objects' by archaeologists, art historians, literary scholars, historians, conservators and museum practitioners provides a snapshot of current methodological approaches within the humanities. Although analysis of material culture has become an increasingly important aspect of the study of the past, previous research in this area has often remained confined to subject-specific boundaries. This book will therefore be an invaluable resource for researchers and students interested in learning about important new work which demonstrates the potential of material culture study to cut across traditional historiographies and disciplinary boundaries and access the lived experience of individuals in the past.

national trust montacute house: Jane Austen Angela Youngman, 2014-04-02 Sparkling and witty, the stories of Jane Austen are memorable – especially *Pride and Prejudice*. Reasons for her popularity are not hard to find. The wit, humour and sparkling comedy have instant appeal, as do the characters – especially Elizabeth and Darcy. She has been credited with creating the modern English novel with its psychological insights, page turning ability, romantic interest and sheer depth of characterisation. Her characters have stayed relevant throughout the generations ensuring that the books have never been out of print. The daughter of a clergyman, she was a member of the gentry and able to take part in the social whirl of the time. Although she had many suitors, she never married. Finding a husband proved impossible – due mainly to the fact that the family had no money. Jane was all too well aware of the problems faced by single women of her status in life, and her books reflect this admirably. Her love affair with James Leffoy, an Irish lawyer has been turned into a film: *Becoming Jane*. Her niece Fanny was told 'Anything is to be preferred or endured rather than marrying without Affection'. Her early death came just as she was becoming established as a writer. Jane Austen is mostly associated with Bath but her life, books and the location of film and TV productions cover a much wider area. From London to India, from Hampshire to York, Chatsworth to Hollywood – the Jane Austen connections are worldwide. A unique combination of biography and guidebook; this e book tells the story of Jane Austen, her life and work. Some extremely memorable films have been produced especially the BBC adaptation starring Colin Firth and the Bollywood version *Bride & Prejudice*. It looks at the locations that are associated with her, or with filming. In total nearly one hundred locations are included, each dealt with in considerable detail highlighting appropriate links, history and tourist information. It makes a fascinating read combining a unique guidebook with background information and an introduction to this renowned writer.

national trust montacute house: Country houses and the British Empire, 1700-1930 Stephanie Barczewski, 2017-02-01 *Country houses and the British empire, 1700-1930* assesses the economic and cultural links between country houses and the Empire between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. Using sources from over fifty British and Irish archives, it enables readers to better understand the impact of the empire upon the British metropolis by showing both the geographical variations and its different cultural manifestations. Barczewski offers a rare scholarly analysis of the history of country houses that goes beyond an architectural or biographical study, and recognises their importance as the physical embodiments of imperial wealth and reflectors of imperial cultural influences. In so doing, she restores them to their true place of centrality in British culture over the last three centuries, and provides fresh insights into the role of the Empire in the British metropolis.

national trust montacute house: *Directory of Museums, Galleries and Buildings of Historic Interest in the UK* Keith W. Reynard, 2004-03-01 This unique and important directory incorporates some 3,200 entries. It covers all types and sizes of museums; galleries of paintings, sculpture and photography; and buildings and sites of particular historic interest. It also provides an extensive

index listing over 3,200 subjects. The directory covers national collections and major buildings, but also the more unusual, less well-known and local exhibits and sites. The Directory of Museums, Galleries and Buildings of Historic Interest in the United Kingdom is an indispensable reference source for any library, an ideal companion for researcher and enthusiast alike, and an essential purchase for anyone with an interest in the cultural and historical collections of the UK. Features include: * Alphabetically listed entries, which are also indexed by subject for ease of reference * Entries include the name and address of the organization, telephone and fax numbers, email and internet addresses, a point of contact, times of opening and facilities for visitors * A breakdown of the collections held by each organization, giving a broad overview of the main collection as a whole * Details of special collections are provided and include the period covered as well as the number of items held.

national trust montacute house: Secret Wartime Britain Colin Philpott, 2018-11-30 The secret military facilities hidden across Great Britain are revealed and investigated in this fascinating WWII history. During the Second World War, thousands of facilities across Britain were requisitioned to support the war efforts. Beyond that, countless others were built from scratch. Often the purpose of these locations was a closely guarded secret, even from those living close by. In Secret Wartime Britain, Colin Philpott has compiled a fascinating collection of sites that still exist in some form today. They include underground factories, storage sites and headquarters; spy and communication centers; interrogation and POW camps; dummy sites; research facilities such as the sinister Porton Down; treasure stores in stately homes and even royal retreats in the event of invasion, such as Madresfield Court. Where were these sites and why were they needed? How successfully were they kept secret? What has happened to them since? Were they returned to their owners? Answers to these and other questions make Secret Wartime Britain a riveting and revealing read.

national trust montacute house: National Trust Handbook 2007 National Trust (Great Britain), Lucy Peel, 2007 'The National Trust Handbook' is a concise, up-to-date guide for anyone interested in places of historic or natural interest. Short descriptions are given of each property or location, along with opening times, facilities, directions and maps.

national trust montacute house: Historic House Museums in the United States and the United Kingdom Linda Young, 2016-12-13 Historic House Museums in the United States and the United Kingdom: A History addresses the phenomenon of historic houses as a distinct species of museum. Everyone understands the special nature of an art museum, a national museum, or a science museum, but "house museum" nearly always requires clarification. In the United States the term is almost synonymous with historic preservation; in the United Kingdom, it is simply unfamiliar, the very idea being conflated with stately homes and the National Trust. By analyzing the motivation of the founders, and subsequent keepers, of house museums, Linda Young identifies a typology that casts light on what house museums were intended to represent and their significance (or lack thereof) today. This book examines: • heroes' houses: once inhabited by great persons (e.g., Shakespeare's birthplace, Washington's Mount Vernon); • artwork houses: national identity as specially visible in house design, style, and technique (e.g., Frank Lloyd Wright houses, Modernist houses); • collectors' houses: a microcosm of collecting in situ domestic, subsequently presented to the nation as the exemplars of taste (e.g., Sir John Soane's Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum); • English country houses: the palaces of the aristocracy, maintained thanks to primogeniture but threatened with redundancy and rescued as museums to be touted as the peak of English national culture; English country houses: the palaces of the aristocracy, maintained for centuries thanks to primogeniture but threatened by redundancy and strangely rescued as museums, now touted as the peak of English national culture; • Everyman/woman's social history houses: the modern, demotic response to elite houses, presented as social history but tinged with generic ancestor veneration (e.g., tenement house museums in Glasgow and New York).

national trust montacute house: Visitors' Historic Britain: Somerset Mick Davis, David Lassman, 2020-03-30 Every inch of legendary Somerset is steeped in history, from the towns of

Dunster and Taunton in the west, to those of Shepton Mallet and Frome in the east; while also contained within its county boundaries are the cities of Bath and Wells and the mystical and magical Isle of Avalon: Glastonbury. The county, located in southwest England and part of the Ancient Kingdom of Wessex, has played a significant role in many of the nation's most formative events. These include the Roman occupation, Alfred the Great's rise to power, the English Civil War and the Monmouth Rebellion. And all this epoch-making activity has been played out against a landscape of dramatic and breath-taking beauty, from vast tracts of land such as Exmoor, hill ranges such as Mendip and Blackdown and an abundance of incredible rivers, lakes and streams; many situated within the famous Somerset Levels. Wordsworth, Coleridge and Austen, among many others, have immortalised the county in literature, while everyone from the Celts, Cavaliers and Saxons, to the Roundheads, Romans and rebels have fought over its sought-after resources. The authors, both living in Somerset, guide you on a fascinating and illuminating trip into the past of this most historical and legendary of counties, which boasts among its attractions the last battle fought upon English soil, the scene of the Bloody Assizes and the final resting place of King Arthur.

national trust montacute house: Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement Judith B. Tankard, 2018-11-27 "The ever-alluring Arts and Crafts garden...is profoundly relevant to our 21st-century needs." —Sam Watters, author of *Gardens for a Beautiful America* In *Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement*, landscape scholar Judith B. Tankard surveys the inspirations, characteristics, and development of garden design during this iconic movement. Tankard presents a selection of houses and gardens of the era from Great Britain and North America. With almost 300 illustrations and photographs, and an emphasis on the diversity of designers who helped forge the movement, *Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement* is an essential resource for this truly distinct approach to garden design.

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