



*Fig 5: If the lost farmhouse lined with the shop building on Heyford Road (left), Harris's new Manor (far right) could have been built behind it; the rearward extension to the shop building (centre) may incorporate parts of the former smithy.*

Belcher and Gilkes are listed consecutively in the 1841 Census, both apparently living in the Paines Hill/Cow Lane area. Neither property was of any great rental value.

Some uncertainty remains over Acacia Cottage in Southside and Jacob Watson's close shown attached to it in 1767, but as there is no sign of it in the Rate Book it must in any case have been disposed of between then and 1837, either by one of the Watsons or by Harris himself.

One piece of property which the Watsons had clearly disposed of before Harris came on the scene is the extensive garden which still goes with Paines Hill House – known in former times as the Doctor's House (Fig 6). Its grounds have been somewhat reduced by later infilling, but their overall outline is exactly that of another close shown on the 1767 Enclosure Map as belonging to Jacob Watson. (It is possible the Belcher and Gilkes cottages also stood on the fringes of this close.)

The imposing house to which this land was and is attached is said to date from about 1806, its fine pair of bays reportedly constructed using stone from the façade of Middle Aston House, which was itself being rebuilt at the time. The exact circumstances in which Watson's land passed to new owners remain to be discovered. Brookes tells us (p.161) that the house was built by the father of Dr Thomas Perry (of Spalding,