

## Redland Past Revisited for the Redland Directory - No. 26

The building of Redland © Julian Lea-Jones Sept 2009

Once the Redland side of Whiteladies Road was open fields and nursery gardens almost all the way down to the railway line at Clifton Down station. Then in 1867 the need for houses led to many of the fields and nursery gardens between Redland, Hampton and Clyde Roads, being grubbed out for streets and building plots. Clyde Road, previously known as Cartwright Lane, after the landowner, a London merchant of that name who also owned Foley Cottage, (see Redland Past Revisited No. 9 - 'A Christmas story').

One of the largest new developments was the Woolcott Park Estate, but when laid out the developers had given scant regard for access, the only western thoroughfare being along the old Nettle Lane. This unsatisfactory situation resulted in a standoff between the developers and the Bristol Council who wouldn't lay out proper access to the estate unless the landlords would contribute £500 to the costs. As a result the developers went ahead and built even more houses over the proposed street line. It took ten years for the absurd situation to be rectified by which time the Council bowed to the inevitable ire of the householders and agreed to build an access road.



This involved much more expense for the ratepayers, (there's a surprise!), than the original £500, as houses on the street line had to be compulsorily purchased and demolished to make way for the street. A present day reminder of this episode is in

the name 'Woolcott Street'; Redland's only street, all the others are roads. I believe that the line of Nettle Lane ran from there up past the Old Barn on Luccombe Hill. I

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remember Rev Robert Springett-Nicholson telling me that his home, the old barn (shown here, complete with his charmingly idiosyncratic additions) was originally the remainder of a group of seventeenth century buildings, one of which was the bailiff's cottage for the estate of Prospect House. When I have researched this further I will give the results in a future article. In the meantime, to learn about the architecture of Redland's buildings, I strongly recommend, *Stephen Jones*' book, '*Whiteladies Walks*', published by RCAS in 1976.