

Additional Information:

ADDITION: LITTLE SAMPFORD

There was a well next to Mount Hall, Maynards Lane, in Little Sampford, the house has NOW been extended over this well. It was situated under the present day kitchen. [INFORMATION: MRS ELSOM)

ADDITIONS: SAFFRON WALDEN

A well existed under No 7 Prospect Place. Originally it was on the north-east side of the house, but is now built over. It provided water for Nos. 5,6 and 7. In the 1920s there was no water in the houses, but one tap at the bottom of the lane and further up a well. [INFORMATION: MRS ELSOM]

n 1960 there was still a well at Nos. 52 & 50 Castle Street (now one house) between this house and Elsoms/ Jeffrey's Fish and Chip shop at Nos. 54 & 54A.
[INFORMATION: BRUCE MUNRO]

ADDITION - Elmdon

[Duncan Wood contributes:](#)

Poplar Farm Elmdon

There were actually 2 wells, one was holding rainwater from the roofs of the cattle sheds, and did have a hand pump, but it was never used in my time (1934 - 1952) and until my father retired around 1970. (There was an unsuspected weak place - the well was totally enclosed, but My father and I were talking to one of his friends, and the ground gave way and one leg almost disappeared from view !) The main well was dug out by hand to a depth of 150 feet, approximately 8 feet in diameter from memory. One could drop a pebble down and wait to hear it splash. The water was pumped to a large storage tank holding 3,000 gallons, supplying both the house and the animals, and coming out almost like milk with the amount of chalk that came up. Of course, it quickly settled and became crystal clear. A petrol engine was used to do the pumping throughout that time. Somewhere around 1948, the well ran dry and my father had to obtain water for the cattle from the Cam at Littlebury - and quite disgusted that he had to pay for the privilege! So a further 97 feet was bored through, at a diameter of 4 inches and my father was told that we would never have any more problems as they had encountered an underground stream. Again, the same pump was used, complete with petrol engine, although I have a feeling that an electric motor was fitted after mains electricity was brought to the farm. This was after I had left home, so can not be absolutely certain of that. I rather doubt if there was ever a typical hand pump for this well, partly because of the depth involved, but also because there was a large 'fly-wheel' that the engine powered via a belt, and in that wheel there was an obvious place where a handle had once been fitted, although it was never used in my time. I visited the farm a couple of years back. All the superstructure and storage tank had gone, so I assume that mains water was now available.