Kingston Lacy House in Devon dates from the 17th century with later major alterations

This opening section of “Country House Engineering” illustrates the size and architecture of some of the houses featured in the associated sections. While many houses are several hundred years old most were altered, often substantially, during the Victorian and Edwardian periods when engineering services were installed. The household numbers of family, servants and guests was often considerable, and while information and old photographs are readily available elsewhere, the final two pictures give just a glimpse of this.

*These house photographs were taken by Frank Ferris of the CIBSE Heritage Group*
Lacock Abbey was originally built in the 13th century

Erdigg Hall near Wrexham was built between 1684 and 1687
Dinton House, near Wilton, Wiltshire was built between 1814 and 1817

Montacute House in Somerset dates from the late Elizabethan period
Cragside in Northumberland was built between 1870 and 1885 and was the home of Sir William Armstrong who created his wealth from ordnance and heavy engineering. He is famous as “The Father of Hydraulic Engineering”
George Washington Vanderbilt’s Biltmore House, Ashville, North Carolina
(CIBSE Heritage Group Collection)

The house was built between 1888 and 1895
Nemours, Delaware, the house and estate of Alfred Victor du Pont (Aslet)

The mansion dates from 1909 while the formal gardens were completed in the 1930’s
The family and servants at Ketteringham Hall, Norfolk, about 1850
“Historic Houses of Britain,” Mark Girouard, 1979
(CIBSE Heritage Group Collection)

Edwardian servants, with housekeeper and butler seated, at Erdigg Hall, Clwyd (Girouard)