Major country houses were usually part of a large estate which had various outbuildings to service the needs of the family, guests and servants. This often included a working farm with stables, glass houses, a cow shed, a dairy and a woodworking workshop. Provision may have been made for the production of acetylene or gas for lighting and then electricity generation and for a pumped water supply and water storage.

Before domestic refrigeration there was often an ice-house in the grounds where ice harvested from a nearby lake in winter would be stored in an underground pit, packed with insulation, to be used in the summer months.
Bailey’s instantaneous steam kettles for hot water production for stables
(Davies)

Drainage scheme for Cow Sheds (Davies)
Estate workers filling an ice-house

The ice-house at Holker Hall, Cumbria (Beamon & Roaf: see below)
Sections through ice-houses from different parts of England


The definitive work on this subject

(CIBSE Heritage Group Collection)
Merryweather machinery for pumping water, hydroelectricity generation and fire-fighting

Woodworking Workshop at Erdigg Hall, Clwyd, dates from the 1860’s
Woodworking Workshop at Erdigg Hall, Clwyd
Ruston & Hornsby Diesel Engine installed in 1933 at Killerton House in Devon to operate woodworking machinery by a series of belt drives
The Engine House at Speke Hall

Restored Hornsby 18 hp Oil-Engine at Speke Hall, Liverpool
Turbine House at Cragside, Northumberland

Cragside: Restoration of the Thomas Parker dynamo installed by Drake & Gorham, 1895 for the hydroelectricity scheme
Advertisement for Sam Deards’ Glasshouses and Heating Systems
Probably 1890’s (CIBSE Heritage Group Collection)
Miss Lane’s Conservatory, The White House, Washington, 1858
“Glass Houses,” May Woods & Arete Warren, 1988
(CIBSE Heritage Group Collection)

The Palm House, Bicton, Devon built by W & D Bailey, 1820’s
(CIBSE Heritage Group Collection)

Heating was by pipes laid in a floor trench and covered with a grating, the
remains of which can still be seen today.
Catalogue of 1900 from Mackenzie & Moncur
Hothouse Builders and Heating & Ventilating Engineers
(CIBSE Heritage Group Collection)