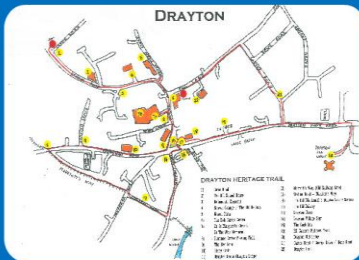


DRAYTON



A Heritage Trail





The Drayton Heritage Trail was produced for St Margaret's Church, Drayton, in association with Drayton C of E Junior School, using a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund. The aim of this trail is to allow villagers and visitors the chance to explore Drayton and learn something about its rich heritage. The trail can be done in any order, with many of the places to visit being within close walking distance of each other. If you follow them in order, the start point is Cator Road (just off School Road) and the end point is Drayton Hall (Hall Lane – a few moments away from the village centre). The whole walk takes approximately 2 hours.



THE VILLAGE OF DRAYTON

Drayton is a village that has built up around the winding river Wensum. Early settlers needing water for themselves and their animals, decided that the green river valley, sheltered by higher ground on three sides, was an ideal place to live.

Little is known about the early history of the village, yet the discovery of fossils suggest that the area was covered by the North Sea over 20 million years ago. Examples of Stone Age tools have also been discovered in the Hurn Road and Highfield Road areas, whilst Neolithic scrapers were found close to the Fakenham Road.

In the mid-19th century, Roman pottery and a bronze ampulla were found on the site of the former David Rice Hospital. A field off Low Road, called Bloodsdale, is where a fierce battle is supposed to have taken place between the Saxons and the Danes in 869 AD. This is supported by the discovery of burial urns there, containing an iron dagger, in 1848.

William the Conqueror's Domesday Book saw Drayton's first documentary evidence, when it was recorded in the Little Domesday Book in 1086. Lord of the Manor was Ralph de Beafoue, a Norman, who had taken over the land from a freeman. The land was described as being arable, meadow or woodland and the village itself was one league (1.5 miles) in length and half a league broad.

From those early times, Drayton continued to grow to become the village we know and love today. This heritage trail should take you to some of the key places of historical interest within the village and help to promote an understanding of how Drayton has developed over time. Because Drayton has such a broad history, it has not been possible to include everything within this trail, however, we recommend that all readers take time to explore further our delightful village of Drayton.

1) CATOR ROAD



Harry Cator was a railwayman's son who grew up in Drayton. He served in the 1914-18 war and became Norfolk's most decorated soldier from this conflict. He earned himself the Military Medal and the Croix de Guerre from France. He then earned the highest military honour, the Victoria Cross, for his courage on the Western Front, when he performed a one man assault on German machine gun positions at Arras on April 9th 1917.

On March 30th 1918, the residents of Drayton gave him a hero's welcome as Harry returned to the village,

riding through it on a wagon pulled by local men. Railway engines blasted their signals in salute and groups of children waved Union Jacks in his honour. These celebrations centred on the village green where he was presented with a watch and chain engraved 'From his friends in Drayton'.

This modest hero died in 1966 at the age of 72. Cator Road was named in his honour.



2) THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE



From Cator Road continue to walk down the hill on School Road towards the village centre. The Old School House can be found on the corner of Vawdrey Road opposite Drayton C of E Junior School. The old school house was built on church land in 1857 at a cost of £300. Known as Drayton Primary School, it catered for children aged 3 -13. It was set up by Reverend Howell and Mr Magnay (both of whom had roads named after them at the far end of the village). To begin with children had to pay a penny a week to attend. Lessons included religious knowledge, reading,

writing and maths, whilst in the afternoons the girls learnt how to sew and knit (including making socks for the vicar!). School holidays and pupils attendance depended on the farming seasons with holiday dates changing due to the harvest and pupils often missing school in order to work as scare-crows, work in the fields or collect acorns.





The school site was surrounded by a wood and a meadow where the children could play. Unfortunately the school playground was on a sloping site and was gravelled, causing the building to flood during heavy rain. Conditions within the building had always been cramped and as

pupil numbers rose, some lessons were taught in a room at the Rectory or the Village Hall. The school house did not have running water and a bucket of fresh water was delivered from the Rectory every day. There were three grates for fires to heat the school house, but one of these could only be used if there was a southern wind. In winter, the first lesson was often PE just to warm everyone up!

Eventually in 1956, a new building programme began, which became Drayton Middle School (now Drayton CofE Junior School). This was situated opposite the old school house on Parsonage Close, land owned by Rev Thomas Blofield.

The infants remained in the old school house. Further building work expanded the Middle School site in the 1960s (and then late 1990s), whilst in 1978, at the top end of School Road, a brand new 'First' school was opened for the infants.



After they left, the school house was sold and is now a private residence.

3) BELLOMONTE CRESCENT



This is named after the Bellomonte Family who held the Lordship of the village in the 13th Century. Of French origin, the family also erected the village cross which can be found at point 14 on the trail.

4) STOWER GRANGE / THE OLD RECTORY



This Grade 2 listed building dates back to 1625 and used to be the Rectory for St Margaret's church, until the new rectory was built next door. During its



lifetime it has had about fifteen changes in use. Mr R.E. Carter and his family lived there before it was used as an old people's home, then offices. It was later converted to become the Stower Grange Hotel and Restaurant in the early 1980s. Inside an old well was discovered beneath the floor of the function room; this dates back to 1800.

5) MANOR FARM



Manor Farm was one of the largest farms in the village until the 1980s and dates back to the 1600s. The farmhouse is now a private residence and the barn is an insurance office. In the ‘hurricane’ of 1987 a tree fell on the roof of the barn and it was rebuilt. The farmyard itself became the Doctor’s surgery, whilst much of the surrounding land became Manor Farm Close.



6) THE BOB CARTER CENTRE



In 1970 Mr RE Carter, of Carter's Builders, set plans in motion to open the 'Bob Carter Centre'. After his death in 1974, the Carter family continued with his plans and the sports and leisure centre was opened in 1979. Containing squash courts, a sports hall, function rooms and a bar, it was intended to be used by the residents of Drayton and surrounding villages. Family and community were very important to the Carter family (and firm) and with the construction of the Bob Carter Centre, they hoped to be able to give something back to the village they called home.



7A) ST MARGARET'S CHURCH



Overlooking the village green is the ancient parish church of St Margaret. The church was built in the late 12th Century during the reign of Richard I. The first rector, Peter de Draiton, was appointed in 1198 by his father, Hermanus de Draiton who was

Lord Of The Manor. It was also dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch at this time. You can see a small statue of St Margaret in a niche in the porch.

There may have been an earlier Saxon church on the site as the octagonal font is thought to date from Norman times, whilst the graveyard dates from 1150 and is mentioned in the Little Domesday Book (1068).

The church is made of flint and freestone in an early English and Decorated style of architecture. It has a nave, chancel and south porch with a tower at the west end. When the tower fell down in 1850 it revealed a coped stone



marked with a floriated cross. You can now see this 60cm west of the south porch.

The tower was rebuilt in 1851, whilst the south porch and chancel were rebuilt in 1866. In 1907 the nave was restored and the north aisle added.

One of the chalices belonging to the church dates from the 16th century and is inscribed 'For the town of Drayton'.

The original church bells date from the 15th to the 17th century. In 1967 three bells from Wood Dalling were added. The organ dates from 1913 and was installed in memory of Agnes Howell and her 44 years of work in the village.

More recent additions to the church include a lych gate in memory of the late R.G. Carter and a church room.

For over 800 years the road through the village has formed part of Walsingham way leading to the shrine of our lady of Walsingham. Many pilgrims used to pass through Drayton; including kings and queens from Henry III to Henry VIII. The humbler pilgrims often stopped to rest and pray in Drayton church and the scratched drawings in the plaster by the church door are thought to be their work.

In 2016, the church received a new thatched roof over the nave. St Margaret's Church remains a central part of both the village and the community.



8) FLORENCE CARTER PLAYING FIELD



This was originally the village pond which was fed by a spring of fresh water flowing from Taverham. The only evidence of this now is the name 'Pond Lane' and a large natural pond alongside Marriott's Way towards Thorpe Marriott. The pond was a useful stopping off place for cattle being driven along the road from the Cattle Market in Norwich towards Kings Lynn. Turkeys and geese also used these facilities when they were driven along the road in the same manner. In the late 1960s it was decided to turn the pond into a playing field; the main flow of the spring was diverted through underground pipes to keep the playground dry and suitable for children. The playground was named after Florence Carter, the first wife of Mr R.G. Carter who founded the building firm.



9) THE RED LION



At the centre of the village is The Red Lion, the oldest public house in Drayton. Originally a three storey farmhouse built in 1678, it did not become a public house until the mid-1700s. An early record states that in 1780, the police arrested all the customers in the pub and fined them all two shillings for poaching. The original farmhouse door is still in existence, but in the loft where it must remain as it is bigger than the entrance to the loft and cannot be removed. A Roman coin (dated AD 250-270) was found in the garden of the Red Lion in the mid-1980s.

The building has had many major and minor alterations over the years. A shed to the left of the building was built for waggons to be left whilst their drivers visited the pub. This was eventually incorporated into the main building, becoming part of the carvery restaurant.

During both World Wars it was a popular pub with soldiers who were posted at Taverham Hall, and Nurses at Drayton Lodge, though it was reported as being damaged by enemy action on 8th May 1942.



10) STONY CROFT (Fakenham Road)



Stony Croft is one of the remaining large houses in the village. It used to be occupied by the Bunting family who ran the 'Buntings' department store in Norwich. Mr Bunting was a friend of the painter Alfred



Munnings and kept several of his paintings in the house. The front of the house used to have a croquet pitch, but this was lost when the road was widened.

11) DRAYTON LODGE (Drayton Grove)



Where Drayton Grove is now, Drayton Lodge used to stand. A Queen Anne building, it was originally occupied by Mr Charles Layton (who Layton Close was named after) and then Major Winter (one of the oldest Norfolk names), a retired judge from India, who kept two peacocks to scare people away! Some farm buildings belonging to the estate were rented by Mr Morgan for a garage and a workshop. This is still run by the Morgan family today. Drayton Lodge was sold to a builder, Mr Gill, for three and a half thousand pounds. It was later demolished to build the properties in Drayton Grove. The only remaining evidence of the old house is part of the surrounding wall which is the boundary wall of numbers 44 and 46 Fakenham Road. The large Cyprus tree on the corner of Drayton Grove was once in the garden of the lodge.

To continue the trail, walk past Morgan's Garage and continue to the pedestrian crossing. Cross over the Fakenham Road and join the Marriott's Way footpath. Follow this until you cross Taverham Road and find Station Road opposite.

12) MARRIOTT'S WAY (Old Railway Line)

13) STATION ROAD



The railway line was laid in Drayton during the late 19th Century and is now known as Marriott's Way. The station was originally positioned near to Station Road on what is now Drayton Industrial Estate.

It employed 6 or 7 local people and contained a waiting room, ticket office, goods sheds and a signal box.

During the laying of the railway in 1882, 13 skeletons were discovered, thought to be victims of the Black Death. The railway was part of the Midland and Great Northern Line and ran directly to Norwich. As well as passengers, trains would





carry freight including locally made bricks and paper from the mill at Taverham. During the war, the railway was also used to transport troops.

Following Dr Beeching's railway cuts in 1958, passenger services were stopped. In 1969, after the closure of the City Station to freight traffic, the Drayton line was closed and the



tracks lifted.

The old railway line became known as Marriott's Way; named after William Marriott, the chief engineer and manager of the railway for 41 years. Marriott's Way runs for 26

miles and runs between Aylsham and Norwich. If you head from Drayton towards Norwich you can cross one of the wrought iron A-Frame bridges that carried the railway line over the River Wensum.



At the bottom of Station Road, turn left and continue along Costessey Lane.



14) THE OLD BLACKSMITHS (Drayton Service Station)

The garage and service station in the centre of the village began life as a Blacksmiths. However, in the 1940s, to cater to the needs of the public, a petrol pump was added, whilst a side room sold cups of tea. Eventually the blacksmiths shop was no longer required and the business developed as a garage. The original buildings were demolished to

make way for a new forecourt, a repair workshop and petrol pumps. In 1987, this was all demolished and transformed into the building you see today.



15) THE OLD BAKERY

Now a private residence, the building on the corner of Low Road used to be a bakery. It was owned by Mr and Mrs James Land in 1912, with their daughter Gracie running the bakery in later years. It had two



large ovens ; a vertical and a horizontal one. The bakery is said to be haunted, as footsteps have been heard walking across the ceiling in an otherwise empty house. Various people have experienced a sudden chill that comes over the house. The story behind these strange



happenings states that a husband returned home and found his wife with another man. He is said to have killed both his wife and her lover in this very same house.

16) DRAYTON CROSS

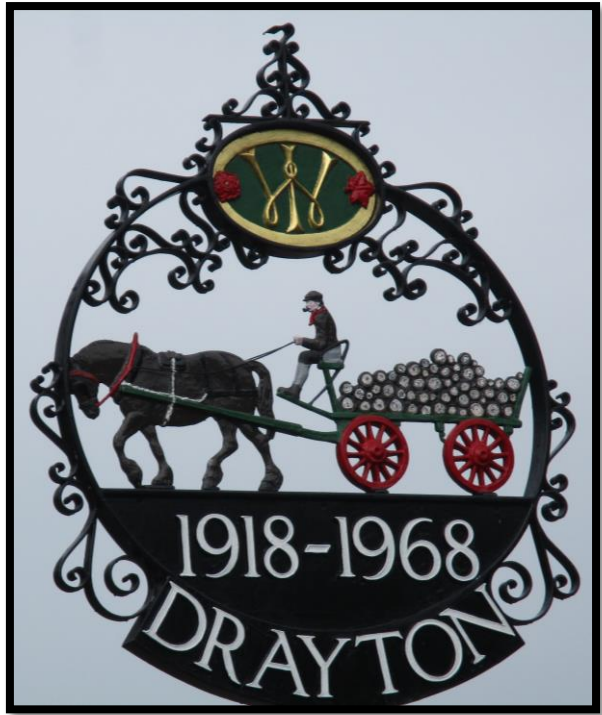
Throughout the 13th Century, the Lordship of Drayton was held by the Bellomonte family, who were of Norman origin. The weathered village cross was erected by one of the Bellomontes on what was the main village green, making it one of the oldest things in the village. The inscription on it is in French and promises a pardon for the sins of all who would pray for the souls of William de Bellomonte and Joan, his wife.

In 1924, the children of Drayton assembled at the village cross to receive a visit from Queen Mary, Princess Mary and Lord Lascelles. A bouquet of Queen Mary roses was given to the queen by the eldest pupil, whilst the youngest pupil gave Princess Mary pink chrysanthemums.



17) DRAYTON VILLAGE SIGN

The village sign depicts a horse and dray (a truck or cart without sides, for delivering beer barrels or other heavy loads) carrying logs. This sign was erected to commemorate the golden jubilee of the local Women's Institute (1918-1968). Though no one is sure of the exact origin of the village name, it may come from the 'de Draiton' family who were the lord of the manor during the 11th century. Alternate suggestions include the



name coming from 'the place where logs are dragged up by the river'. The sign, used as a symbol for the village and the Junior School, may also have its origins in the location of the village. Located on the way to Norwich, the village was a key stopping point for many people who travelled by cart to sell or deliver goods or produce; hence it's two public houses.

18) THE COCK INN



The Cock Inn was originally built in 1851 on the same site. It was also known for being the headquarters of the 'Rational Sick and Burial Club'. When wagonners from North West Norfolk brought loads of grain into Norwich, they would stop at The Cock for refreshments and brought a roaring trade to the pub. Villagers frequented the Cock as its entrance was hidden from the watchful eye of the squire in nearby Drayton House (on the site of what is now the Bank). The clubroom was the centre of simple amusements such as a performing bear or a German band which drew in crowds of people. In the early 20th century, the pub also had a 'private room for lady cyclists'.

In 1958 the original pub was rebuilt by R.G Carter, whose grand-father, George Bone, had once been the pub's landlord. This is the building that currently stands on the site.



19) R.G. CARTER'S BUILDERS YARD



A former pupil of Drayton School, Mr R.G. Carter established the building firm of R.G.Carter in 1921 in a small office near his home in Low Road. His son, Mr R.E. Carter developed the firm, and later his grandson, also called Robert, became chairman of the company. New headquarters were built in the late 1940s on the Drayton High Road. The family had previously lived at the Old Rectory before moving into Lowlands, opposite the village sign. Lowlands is now used as part of Carter's Drayton headquarters. The building firm have been responsible for many constructions across Norfolk, including Carrow Road Football Ground and buildings for Norwich Union, not to mention much of Drayton itself. They pride themselves on being a family based business. The company have been responsible for building much of Drayton in the 20th century.



For further details about the company history visit <http://www.rgcarter-construction.co.uk/about>

20) DRAYTON OLD LODGE



The Old Lodge is now a brick built ruin but is the remains of the fifteenth century fortified manor house built by Sir John Fastolf during the Wars of the Roses. Sir John was the inspiration for Shakespeare's legendary character Falstaff who appears in several of his plays. He was a prominent soldier in the 100 years war and 'owned' the village between 1432 and 1459. After his death it was left to his relatives, the Paston family. However, the will was contested; the Duke Suffolk had his eyes on Drayton and besieged it with a view to taking it over. He succeeded in acquiring the neighbouring manor of Hellesdon, but Drayton manor was defended successfully, for a time, by Margaret Paston. Drayton Lodge makes several dramatic appearances in the Paston Letters (a collection of correspondences between members of the Paston family and others connected with them in England between the years 1422 and 1509). For instance, in 1465 the Duke of Suffolk's men were reported to have broken down the walls of the Lodge, taken the lead off the roof and cut up the doors. Next to the Old Lodge is a replacement 'Old Lodge' which was built just before the First World War. Though it began life as a private residence, it served as a Nurses' Home for many years and then offices for the Health Service. It is now a restaurant and wedding venue.

21) CARTER RD / GEORGE DRIVE / BONE RD



R.G Carter Builders also built all of the houses on Bone Road, George Drive and Carter Road ; naming the roads after the Carter family. George Bone, former landlord at The Cock

Inn, was grandfather to R.G Carter and gave his name to both George Drive/Close and Bone Road. This estate was originally built in the early 1960s as residential Drayton began to grow in size.

22) DRAYTON HALL

Drayton Hall was home to the Walters family after their previous home, Drayton Old House, was demolished. Built at the end of the 19th century, the owner, Mr J.H.F. Walter was the proprietor of the paper making business in Taverham. The Drayton Hall estate stretched to the Reepham Road whilst Keepers Cottage further along Hall Lane was the home for the gamekeeper of the estate. Drayton Hall later became the maternity home where many babies



were born in the quiet seclusion of the hospital. In 1990, the maternity patients were transferred to the Norfolk and Norwich hospital and the Hall was closed. After being used as a filming location for several Anglia TV series, the Hall was re-opened as Drayton Hall Christian Centre. Though its name has changed over the years, it remains a Christian centre.

The Drayton Heritage Trail was written and compiled by Michael Silvester, in May 2016, using a wide range of source material including :

Helen Colman's History Of Drayton

**'Joe Mason's Page' – The Blog For Memories Of East Anglia
(<https://joemasonspage.wordpress.com>)**

Drayton Parish Magazine

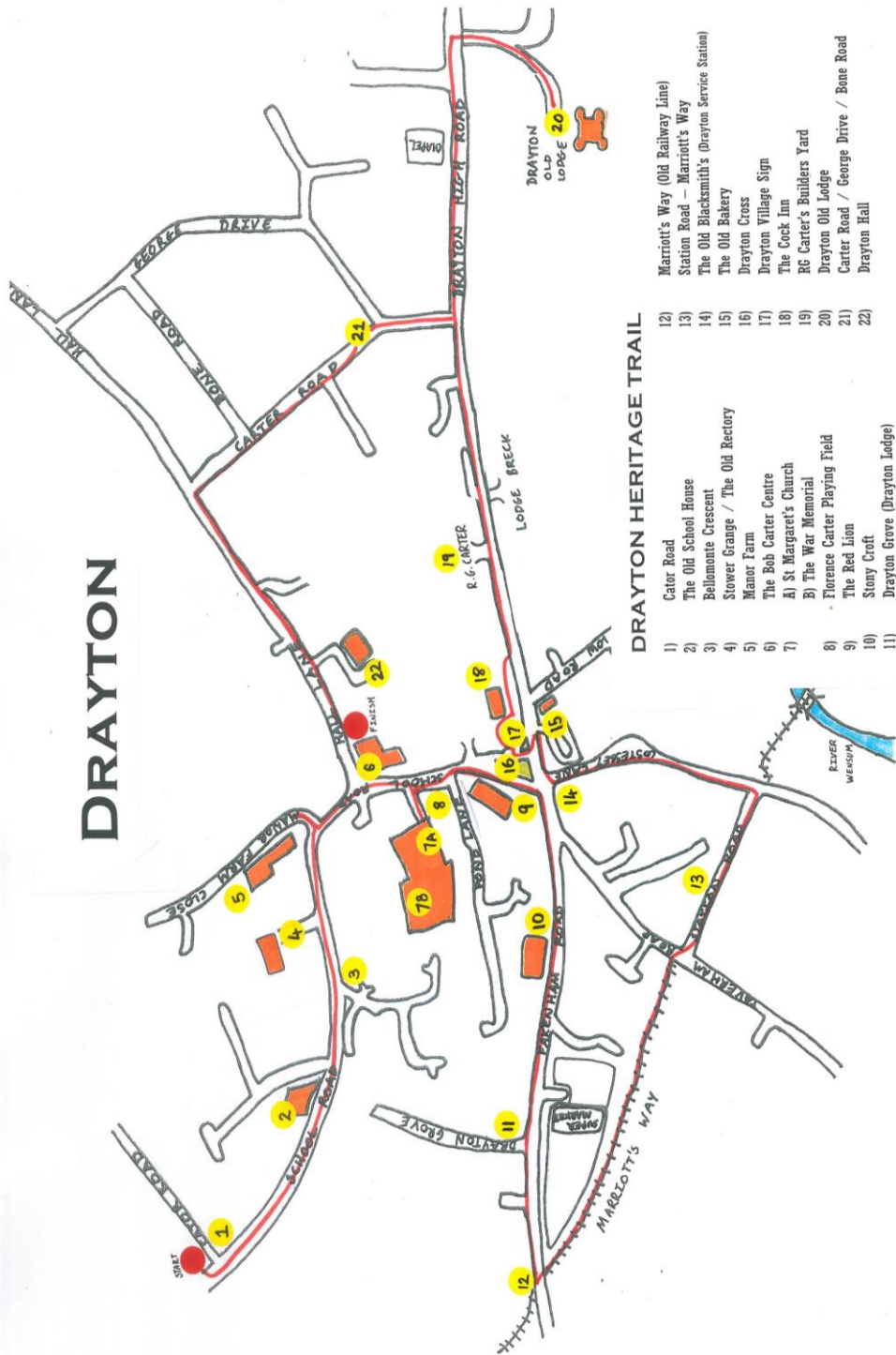
Drayton School Log Books

**George Plunkett's Photos Of Old Norwich website
(<http://www.georgeplunkett.co.uk/>)**

**RG Carter Website
(<http://www.rgcarter-construction.co.uk/about>)**

Every effort has been made to ensure that this trail guide is as historically accurate as possible. Present day photos were taken by the children of Drayton C of E Junior School and Michelle Taylor.

DRAYTON



DRAYTON HERITAGE TRAIL

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| 1) Sorel | 12) Marriotti's Way (Old Railway Line) |
| 2) School Road | 13) Station Road - Marriotti's Way |
| 3) School Road | 14) The Old Blacksmith's (Drayton Service Station) |
| 4) School Road | 15) The Old Bakery |
| 5) School Road | 16) Drayton Cross |
| 6) School Road | 17) Drayton Village Sign |
| 7) School Road | 18) The Cock Inn |
| 8) School Road | 19) RG Carter's Builders Yard |
| 9) School Road | 20) Drayton Old Lodge |
| 10) School Road | 21) Carter Road / George Drive / Bone Road |
| 11) Marriotti's Way | 22) Drayton Hall |
| 12) Marriotti's Way | |
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