

## ORCHARD HOUSE

The Tudor mansion of the Portman family rose on a site west of the parish church about the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and was almost certainly the work of Sir William Portman, Lord Chief Justice of England (d. 1557). It was left to succeeding generations to enlarge the house on the grand scale, and it may have been another Sir William, the 6<sup>th</sup> baronet ( 1644 – 1690 ), who added the range of buildings which dominates John Kip's engraved view of the house, c.1708. These additions had vanished by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the Tudor house itself was demolished in about 1843. No trace of the buildings remains on the site, which is the current location of Taunton Race Course.

