



Fig. 2 Nos. 3 and 5 Carr Lane, formerly Pasture Lane (K. Miller)

Sheffield wished to see somewhat more than that; by providing enough land for cow-keeping and potato growing they were to be able to keep a pig or two, to be fattened up on small potatoes and skimmed milk. This economical system taught thrift, kept the men in work on their own land when there was no call for labour in the fields, raised morale and lowered the poor rates.¹² Thus Burton came to be known as a place without poverty, where 'pigs and children fill every quarter'.¹³

The simple, soundly built cottages of Burton and Normanby can still be seen, although sometimes suffering from unwise blemishes imposed by recent improvement or modernisation; their lack of ornamentation, indeed their utilitarian nature, can be made out to point an interesting contrast with much cottage rebuilding dating from the later 19th century. Well before 1850 the rage for pattern-book picturesque threatened the closed village inhabitant with a riot of newly discovered 'period' detail, much of it Jacobethan in spirit. A few eccentric landscape gardeners in the 18th century paid other eccentrics to dress up as hermits and live in their newly ruined follies, but by 1840 any respectable labourer, his wife, children, cat, pigs, and whatsoever else was his, would probably end up unwittingly against a domestic backdrop of half-hip gables, rustic porches, fretted barge-boards and mullioned windows which, because they were the decorations of substantially built new cottages, and

accompanied by better water supply and sanitation, must incidentally have improved living standards. Contemporary pattern-books were sometimes short in overtly humane motivation for improvement; the suspicion remains that often the pseudo-medieval cottage or gate-lodge required inhabitants who were willing to play a part, but almost any cottage built with some care for its design, and made of reasonably sound materials, was better than those previously available. Classic rebuilding of the highly decorated sort can be found in north Lincolnshire villages formerly or still attached to the Yarborough estates, where everything from cottage to railway station was liable to appear built or rebuilt this way. Indeed, in one of these places, Great Limber, modern 'cottage' building now apes the Victorian pastiche which, through the respectability of age alone, has assumed a spurious authenticity. Yet whereas on the Yarborough estates domestic provision was thoroughly overhauled, on Nelthorpe properties at South Ferriby and Scawby provision of model cottages was distinctly uncommon; sometimes there was renovation of older houses¹⁴ but the former place had many small freeholds within the settlement itself to house labourers, and still retains the characteristics of an open village. Nelthorpe influence however was unmistakable; the family rebuilt the school in 1872 and provided a Reading Room in 1884. In Scawby a handful of model cottages dating from the second half of the