

Case Study: Georgian House, Bristol

Date house was built: _____
 Original owner: _____
 Profession of owner: _____

Why was the building located to the west of the city centre of Bristol?

What is the architectural style of the house?

Who would live 'below stairs' in the house?



"Since my arrival I've purchased 9 Negro slaves in St Kitts and can assure you I was shocked at first the appearance of human flesh for sale. But surely God ordained 'em for the use and benefit of us otherwise his Devine Will would have made manifest to us by some particular sign or token."

From a letter written by John Pinney in 1765

The Pinney Family

Azariah Pinney (1661-1720)

Left England in 1685 with £15 and sailed to the island of Nevis in the West Indies. He was a clever businessman and he managed to make money and buy land. Using slaves he turned this land into a sugar plantation. When he died he left his sons £23,000.

John Fredrick Pinney (1718-1762)

John Fredrick was Azariah's grandson and inherited his plantations. He only visited the Island of Nevis twice. Pinney left managers in charge of the plantation and lived the life of a country gentleman in England. When he died he left £16,000.

John Pinney (1740-1818) and Pero (1753-1798)

He was the cousin of John Fredrick and went to Nevis in 1764. He was concerned about the "rights and wrongs" of slavery but when he realised the money he could make, he became convinced it was acceptable. For twenty years he stayed in the West Indies making the plantations as profitable as possible. He left Nevis in 1783 and came home to Bristol worth about £70,000. In Bristol, he set up his business as a sugar merchant and he made even more money than he had as a plantation owner. John Pinney brought home with him from Nevis a slave named Pero. John Pinney lived and worked from 'The Georgian House' where he kept Pero as his personal servant. Pero was trained as a barber and learnt to read. After falling ill in 1798 Pero was sent to Ashton to recover in the fresh air. He died a few months later.

