Elton, formerly Mount Pleasant, Lyme Road, Uplyme, Devon

Researched & compiled by Graham Davies, 2011, revised 2026.
Deeds to house loaned by Mike Cawte, the then owner, who also helped with the original research..

Elton, originally known as Mount Pleasant, was built on land called Pym's Orchard.
The Tithe map of 1840 does indeed record an orchard at the site containing a pound (cider making) house.
The dwelling house called Mount Pleasant was built sometime later, but is recorded in the 1851 census.
Although the earliest available deeds are dated 1920, they do refer to information in earlier documents.

June 29, 1881, Frederick Norman Sellers, draper & postmaster of Lyme Regis, purchased the property known as Mount Pleasant, Uplyme from James John Stokes of Surrey and Charles Edward Phillips of Hertford, for £1020. The property is described as a parcel of land, of 3 roods & 23 perches, formerly known as Pym's Orchard, on which is found a dwelling house & outbuildings, standing on part of the land, and which is known as Mount Pleasant, and is occupied by William Frodsham. The indenture states that on another part of the said land there are two semi-detached occupied messuages.

January 9, 1893, Frederick Sellers takes out a £1,000 loan at 4% interest from mortgagees Robert William Hillman, solicitor, and Walter Banfield Wallis, businessman, gasworks owner & former miller, both of Lyme Regis, (GD - I note that Hillman & Wallis have a joint account).
Sellers repays the loan in December 1897.

When selling Mount Pleasant to Frederick Sellars in 1881, James John Stokes and Charles Edward Phillips were the mortgagees of the property. On June 9, 1880, for a consideration of £1200, William Monnery, Christopher Case and William Case convey the legal rights of the property to the mortgagees, James Stokes & Charles Phillips, to dispose of the property as and when they wish.

The deeds give no information before 1880, so we must rely on tithe and census records and trade directories. There is no dwelling house in 1840. The tithe map identifies the said land as an orchard with a pound house (where cider is made) owned by William Case. A William Case is mentioned in the 1880 document.
The name Mount Pleasant first appears when local tradespeople, Mounstephen (1851) and Fowler (1859) are recorded as living there. The house is uninhabited on census night, 1861. I believe that William & Jane Frodsham will have moved in by 1863/64.

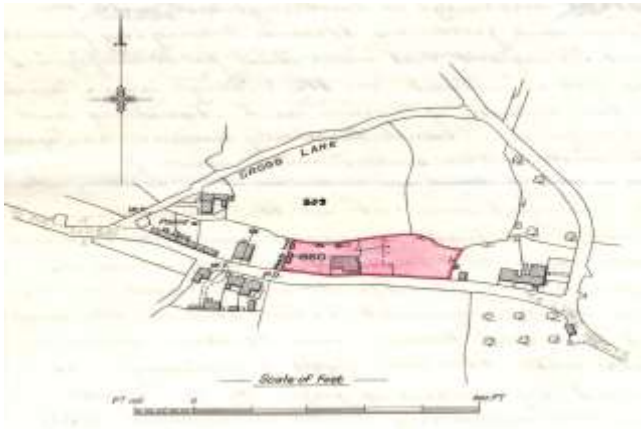
Looking at the structure of the building, and considering the people that lived there, it is suggested that the black rectangle was first built 1840/50s and that the white rectangle was added from the early 1860s.

Elton/Mount Pleasant was occupied by members of the Frodsham family for over 70 years.

William Frodsham was born in Kentish Town in 1819. I next find him staying at the Star & Garter Hotel, Brighton, in 1851. He is a bachelor, his profession a chronometer maker.
Ten years later he is lodging at a premises in Tavern Street, Walton Le Soken. Still unmarried, he now describes himself as a land proprietor and fund holder. I wonder what happened in those ten years?
His future wife, Jane Lincoln, barmaid, also lives at the same residence.
They marry in 1863 in Exeter, and must have moved into Mount Pleasant straight away as their first child, Tom, was born in Uplyme in 1863. They had two children, Tom and Florence (born 1865).
From the census records, 1871-1911, the family always appear to employ a cook and a housemaid.
In 1881, Tom Edwin Colyton Frodsham is at Queens College, Cambridge, later to go into Holy Orders and become a curate (1891) at St Luke, Torquay. By 1901, Tom has returned to the family home. His mother Jane (aged 57) died in 1891 and father, William (82) in 1901. Tom (65) died in 1928.
In 1881, Florence, 16 years old, is at a private school in Dix's field, Exeter St Sidwell. It appears that she spent most of her life (1865-1936) at Mount Pleasant/Elton.
William, Jane, Tom and Florence are buried in Uplyme parish churchyard.

June 24, 1920, Frederick Sellers, now of Craiglea Sutton, Surrey, sold Mount Pleasant for £1,750 to Tom Edwin Colyton Frodsham, Clerk in Holy Orders, and Florence Frodsham, spinster, both living at Mount Pleasant. The property is described as a messuage, outbuildings, garden and land known as Mount Pleasant, Uplyme and formerly part of the Manor of Uplyme, formerly known as Pym's Orchard and now for many years in the occupation of the purchasers.

Tom E C Frodsham died on Aug 16, 1928.
His sister, Florence Frodsham, made her last will on April 16, 1929. Her executors were George Laing Atkins, bank manager, William Graham Forward, solicitor and William Ammon Moull.
Florence Frodsham died on Dec 21, 1936 at The Cottage Hospital, Lyme Regis.
William Ammon Moull renounced probate and execution of the will.



Plan of Elton in 1937 Conveyance

July 15, 1937, the remaining representatives of the late Florence Frodsham, George L Atkins and William G Forward, sell Elton, formerly known as Mount Pleasant, to a medical practitioner, from Somerset named Athol Stewart Joseph Pearse.
(GD - Elton was Lot 1 of 11 lots in a larger sale of properties in Uplyme belonging to Florence and her brother Tom Frodsham)
The property, formerly known as Mount Pleasant, but now for many years known as Elton, is shown marked in red on a plan in the 1937 conveyance.

July 19, 1940, Dr Athol Pearse of Elton, now retired, sells the property, as described in the 1937 conveyance, to Alfred Caleb Victor Telling, company director & plastering contractor.

Feb 11, 1952, Alfred Telling of Elton sells the property, with same map of 1937 reproduced in 1952 conveyance to Agnes Mary Barley, widow, of 3 Egerton Place, SW3.

April 21, 1964, Agnes Mary Barley, now living in Sussex, sells Elton for £6,250 to
Richard Owen Neil Phibbs of 28 Halsey Street, London SW3.
In 1965 the Devon County Council buys a strip of land, 33 square yards, from a portion of the garden.

July 11, 1966, Richard Phibbs of Elton sells the property to Michael Popham and
Guy Hugo Southern, both of London. They hold the said property upon trust until they sell it on
July 20, 1981, to Frederico and Shelia Mottola of East Sheen, SW14, who are beneficial joint tenants.

From that time, the Mottolas have made several changes. Some of the land has been sold
for the building of two new houses between Elton and Mona House. The north-west
quadrant of the house was extended westwards, and the house divided into two residences,
Elton and Pym's Orchard.

References

Deeds of house.
Lyme Regis Museum Research Team Digital Archive.
Findmypast.