

About Strawberry Hill House & Garden

A Gothic Castle

In 1749 Horace Walpole bought a small house with a view of the river Thames and rebuilt it to look like a gothic castle. He gave the windows gothic shapes and he added bay windows, battlements and pinnacles.

Over the years he continued to enlarge the house. He added two towers which give it a fairy tale feel. The whole house is covered with white lime wash.



The Garden

The garden was very important for Horace and so the garden closest to the House has been re-created to look like it did in the 18th century although the view of the river has been lost to modern housing.



Horace Walpole

Horace Walpole is famous as a writer, antiquarian, politician, and collector.

Family

He was the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole, England's first Prime Minister.

Education

He attended Eton and Cambridge and then went on the Grand Tour to France and Italy

Collections

He filled his house with paintings, antiquities, books furniture and fine china.

Author

He is best known for his book – The Castle of Otranto – which is the first ever gothic horror novel!

