



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

HALSWELL HOUSE, SOMERSET

A Structural History 1536-1689



Roy Bolton
Dissertation in Building History
Master of Studies, Cohort 4
27,690 words, June 2017

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This dissertation is submitted for the degree of Master of Studies

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Fig. 0.1. Halswell House, from the south-west: Image courtesy of Historic England, 2010.

Cover illustrations: *English School, c. 1720, Halswell House & Gardens (Private Collection).*

Photography is by the author or in the Halswell Park Collection unless otherwise accredited.

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Fig. 0.2. John Inigo Richards RA (1731- 1810) Halswell Park, dated 1764 (detail).¹

¹ Image courtesy of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

INTRODUCTION



Fig. 0.3. Heavily quartered armorial and date stone of 1689, first floor, north façade.

The manor house of Halswell near Goathurst in north Somerset was first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086² and appears to have been in continuous habitation since at least that date, with various post-medieval building phases in evidence. The manor was passed by descent from at least 1242³ until the estate was broken-up in a series of auctions between 1948 and 1950.⁴ The twentieth century was unkind to Halswell; the interior of the Baroque Wing was badly damaged by a fire in 1923 and though excellently restored by 1926 it had become a warehouse by 1950,⁵ closed to visitors. The damage to this key range goes some way toward explaining lack of attention subsequently offered by architectural historians, though when discussed at all it is the Baroque Wing which has generated attention. Its immediate buildings, including the older manor attached behind, were sub-divided into flats and so too became closed to interested bodies. Because of this shut and fragmented state the house has never been the subject of close historical examination. This ownership situation was only reversed in the twenty-first century, the entire house is now in single possession and the new owner has encouraged its full examination. It is the objective of this study, for the very first time, to look at the problems inherent in understanding this historic

manor house. At no other time have all the available archive records and privately held sources been combined to understand a millennium of this building's history.

Through examination of the known records and the evidence contained in the building itself, a reassessment of this interesting house has been completed which represents a significant chapter in the history of manor house development in North Somerset.

The last and largest phase of building created a grand Baroque north wing that faces out over the landscape eclipsing the older buildings in size, status and public visibility. This new house contained most the family and all of the formal apartments, reducing the old manor to service wings in support of the formal new frontage. With the changes in living styles and social protocol associated with a Baroque layout the Hall, Solar and other rooms of the old manor had outlived their original purposes and usefulness. This change of use and decrease in status coupled with the loss of some older buildings directly lead to the decline in understanding of the building and to its subsequent inconspicuousness. Additions were made when required, windows modified with evolving tastes and room uses changed. Smaller old staircases and corridors disappeared while new corridors were added alongside earlier rooms. Despite all these transformations it is now possible to interpret some of the surviving structures as built and to map out subsequent phases.

The estate has had major phases of improvements since that date. The mid-eighteenth century saw the expanding parkland transformed and many new structures created. By the end of the eighteenth century the estate, with its numerous new Georgian follies, was complete and no further remodelling or the Baroque house or old manor was attempted. As such, the Baroque Wing remained as the important and public part of the house while the older buildings endured, leaving the landscape and its new follies to display the more modern fashions.

² A. Williams and G. H. Martin (eds.), *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation* (London: Penguin, 2002).

³ R. W. Dunning (ed.), *A History of the County of Somerset: in 10 vols., vol. 6: Andersfield, Cannington, and North Petherton Hundreds (Bridgwater and neighbouring parishes)* (Oxford: Oxford University Press for The Institute of Historical Research, 1992), pp. 47-49.

⁴ Sothebys, *Paintings*, 17th November, 1948; Tamlyn and Sons, *Appointments of the Mansion*, 2-9th December 1948; Greenslade, *Halswell Estate*, 11th May 1950.

⁵ Mr Clarence 'Gassie' Harris purchased the house and 79 acres of grounds at auction in 1950, *Bridgwater Mercury*, 16 May 1950.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Despite its size and importance Halswell has remained obscure and very little about it has been published.⁶ Listed as Grade I in 1950 and recorded by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner,⁷ the manor and its associated buildings were not entirely missed by architectural historians. However the few published references that exist refer mainly to the eighteenth-century pleasure grounds or the very dramatic and prominent Baroque Wing completed in 1689.

The gap in knowledge that these brief surveys have left unfilled includes all of the history before the sixteenth century, any research into the connection that Taunton Priory had with the manor in the thirteenth century or anything more than a surface-level exploration in the old manor buildings. It has also left serious questions about the nature of the Baroque Wing's fabric or the setting of this ancient site of habitation.

The availability to explore at least some of these gaps in knowledge does to some degree exist in documentary records. Findings amongst these sources has led to new discoveries which are explored in chapter one. Those manuscripts and republished texts are listed in the bibliography.

The primary documentary sources are mainly held in the South West Heritage Trust, Taunton. These documents consist of family papers, mostly unrelated to the house itself and little survives from before the eighteenth century. Documents such as probates have been reviewed as have all existing wills relating to the family which are held as the National Archive, Kew. While written evidence for any of the building's phases is scant, a few crucial documents have been discovered which assist in building a framework for understanding this highly complex building and site. These are individually listed in the footnotes where they are drawn upon in the text and more comprehensively in the bibliography.

Antiquarian writings on Somerset, such as Collinson listed below, do hold some valuable information however the references to Halswell by other writers are limited; all available sources have been consulted and are quoted where relevant.

⁶ Halswell receives a rare but short mention in James Lees-Milne's *English Country Houses, Baroque, 1665-1715* (London: Country Life, 1970).

⁷ Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: South and west Somerset*, (London: Penguin Books, 1958), p. 188.

Two privately commissioned reports, published in 1995 and 2004⁸, warrant mention. Simon Bonvoison's *Halswell Park: Historical Landscape Survey and Management Plan* (1995) was concerned with the Registered Park and Garden of 450 acres, the house itself fell outside the focus of the report.

In 2004 a report of 18 pages, with further appendices, was produced Kirsty Rodwell to explore the structural history of Halswell House. The report was a support document to allow internal modifications of the building for hotel use. Rodwell did not have full access to the building nor the benefit of the 'opening-up' that is currently on-going.

The published sources are:

Collinson, John, and Rack, Edmund, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*, 3 vols. (London: R. Cruttwell, 1791), vol. 2, p. 317.

Colvin, Howard, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*, (London: John Murray, 1978), p. 819.

Dunning, R. W. (ed.), *A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 6: Andersfield, Cannington, and North Petherton Hundreds (Bridgwater and neighbouring parishes)*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press for The Institute of Historical Research, 1992), pp.47-49.

Lees-Milne, James, *English Country Houses: Baroque 1685-1715*, (London: Country Life, 1970), pp. 272-73.

Pevsner, Nikolaus, *The Buildings of England: South and west Somerset*, (London: Penguin Books, 1958), p. 188.

Published articles:

Bonvoison, Simon, *Halswell Park: Historical Landscape Survey and Management Plan*, (Bristol: Nicholas Pearson Associates, 1995)

Country Life, (London, 21 November 1909), pp.702-709.

Jackson-Stops, Gervase, *Arcadia Under the Plough*, *Country Life* (9 February 1989), pp. 82-85.

⁸ Simon Bonvoison, *Halswell Park: Historical Landscape Survey and Management Plan*, (Bristol: Nicholas Pearson Associates, 1995).

Kirsty A. Rodwell, *Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset: A Report of the Structural History of the Building*, (Privately Published, 2004).

Rodwell, Kirsty, A., *Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset: A Report of the Structural History of the Building*, (Privately Published, 2004)

The Historic England listings, published on-line, remain the most comprehensive resource for the buildings. However, the full extent to which the listings discuss the old manor is reproduced in full here:

*Country house in emparked landscape; now flats. South range C16 for Sir Nicholas Halswell; main north range 1689 for Sir Halswell Tynte, earlier house retained as service quarters;....*⁹

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner recorded the house in the 1958, his full account of the old manor is similarly indifferent of the early buildings and emblematic of the scholarship thus far accorded to it:

*Built in 1689 by Sir Halswell Tynte and the most important house of its date in the county.... The house took the place of an older one of which remains appear at the back...*¹⁰

Eclipsed by the important Baroque Wing, this lack of consideration for the earlier manor has allowed the earlier historic development of the building to go unexplored. The current research seeks to explore the built history of the manor house to 1689, the date at which a new extension was completed which consigned the old manor to services and in architectural history terms, obscurity. It seeks to decipher and plot the usage and significance of the building particularly between 1536 and 1689, the most important phases. This period was chosen only after a full assessment of the structure was complete and focuses on the most key phases identified during that assessment. This necessitates a full understanding of earlier and later phases which will be discussed in order to accurately define all building phases. In the absence of much by way of documentary evidence this study is dependent on close examination of the physical fabric, using photography, measured drawings and limited dendrochronology and archaeology to support the findings of this study.

The main research questions poised are:

- How early is the site and what is its chronology?
- What is the extant medieval fabric?
- Can the development of the early manor be understood within the current structures?
- Was the house of a courtyard layout before its current form?

⁹ The full listing is reproduced in Appendix Three, pp. 156-158.

¹⁰ Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: South and west Somerset*, (London: Penguin Books, 1958), p. 188.

- Do the remaining old manor wings constitute only the service areas of a now lost manor house or does the fabric still contain once high-status rooms?
- Is there an ecclesiastical connection that left physical remains within the building and what if any connection is there to the Dissolution of the Monasteries?
- What were the original, or historically developing, functions of the existing rooms?

In this text names of rooms and the Baroque Wing have been treated as proper nouns and capitalised to differentiate them from their common noun counterparts which are also used throughout: such as the Hall, Kitchen, Parlour or the Baroque Wing.



Fig. 0.4. Halswell House, aerial photograph from the east, 1953: Image courtesy of Historic England.

Chapter One

THE MANOR AND ITS BUILDERS: 1086 to 1689



Fig. 1. Sir Nicholas (d. 1633) and Lady Halswell (d. 1627) effigy at the Halswell's private wing of the Church of St. Edward King and Martyr, Goathurst.

THE HALSWELL FAMILY

The same family owned the manor from at least the mid-thirteenth century until 1950. Because of this continuous occupation the fortunes of that family are intricately entwined with the development of the building, as such their family records and the history of their vicissitudes in wealth provide important supporting information about the building's phases.

The manorial history is contained in the Victoria County History:¹¹

Roger Arundel held Halswell in 1086¹² and the overlordship descended with that of Huish Champflower to Henry de Newburgh.¹³ Henry gave a mesne tenancy to Taunton priory, which was recorded only in 1285.¹⁴ In 1565 and 1633 the manor was said to be held as of Goathurst.¹⁵

Alweard occupied Halswell in 1066, and in 1086 Wido held it of Roger.¹⁶ Peter of Halswell, who successfully claimed in 1280 to be heir to Ralph son of Robert (d. by 1242–3), in 1285 held Halswell for $\frac{1}{4}$ knight's fee.¹⁷ In 1303 William of Halswell held $\frac{1}{8}$ knight's fee¹⁸ and had land in Halswell in 1314 and 1327.¹⁹ He or a namesake died between 1329²⁰ and 1346, and another William Halswell was recorded in 1394 and may have held the fee in 1428.²¹ Thereafter the descent is obscure but both John and Robert Halswell were recorded in the early 15th century and another Robert later in the century was said to be father of John whose son Nicholas held the manor on his death in 1564.²² Nicholas's widow Margery held Halswell until her death in 1573 when she was succeeded by Sir Nicholas, son of her son Robert (d. 1570).²³ Sir Nicholas (d. 1633) conveyed Halswell to his eldest surviving son Henry in 1628.²⁴ Henry died unmarried in 1636 and was followed by his only surviving brother the Revd. Hugh Halswell.²⁵ Hugh (d. 1672) appears to have settled Halswell on his daughter Jane (d. 1650), who married John Tynte, and in 1667 the manor was put in trust for her son Halswell Tynte.²⁶ Halswell (cr. Bt. 1673) died in 1702.

At the time of the Conquest the composite land and tax register edition of the Domesday Book for south-west England, the *Exon Domesday* of 1086, records the size and details of Halswell as:

Guy [Wido] holds of Roger Halswell. Alweard held it at the time of King Edward and paid geld for 1 hide. There is land for 2 ploughs. In demesne are half a hide and half a virgante and 1 plough and 2 serfs and there are 2

¹¹ R. W. Dunning (ed.), *A History of the County of Somerset: in 10 vols., vol. 6: Andersfield, Cannington, and North Petherton Hundreds (Bridgwater and neighbouring parishes)* (Oxford: Oxford University Press for The Institute of Historical Research, 1992), pp. 47-49.

¹² *V.C.H. Som.* i. 495.

¹³ *Ibid.* v. 83; *Feud. Aids*, iv. 293.

¹⁴ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1327–41, 316; *Feud. Aids*, iv. 293.

¹⁵ P.R.O., C 142/141, no. 18; Halswell extent in possession of Miss B. Harris.

¹⁶ *V.C.H. Som.* i. 495.

¹⁷ *S.R.S.* xi, p. 155; xlv. 115; *Cal. Chart. R.* 1327–41, 316; *Feud. Aids*, iv. 293.

¹⁸ *Feud. Aids*, iv. 301.

¹⁹ *S.R.S.* iii. 164; xii. 43.

²⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* v, p. 126.

²¹ *Feud. Aids*, iv. 345, 370; *S.R.O.*, DD/S/WH 5.

²² *S.R.S.* lviii, pp. 22, 92; *S.R.O.*, DD/S/WH cat.; P.R.O., C 142/141, no. 18.

²³ P.R.O., C 142/154, no. 86; *S.R.O.*, DD/X/SR 5; D/P/gst 2/1/1.

²⁴ *S.R.O.*, D/P/gst 2/1/2; P.R.O., C 142/475, no. 96; *S.R.S.* li, p. 248.

²⁵ *Som. Wills*, ed. Brown, vi. 94; P.R.O., C 3/399/182; C 142/492, no. 121.

²⁶ *Som. Wills*, ed. Brown, vi. 95; *S.R.O.*, DD/S/WH 268; DD/SAS (C/63) 8; D/P/gst 2/1/2.

*villeins and 3 bordars with 1 plough and the rest of the land. There are 2 beasts and 10 sheep. There are 14 acres of woodland. It is worth 25 shillings. When he received it, 17 shillings and 6 pence.*²⁷

The manor consisted of one hide, a land unit traditionally accepted as being about 120 acres, and supported seven workers of varying status.

Subsequent records show the holding was not of sufficient size to support a whole knight's fee, being deemed an estate that could only support only one quarter of a knight's needs in 1285, and only half that again in 1303 when the manor is recorded as only able to support one eighth of a knight's requirements. Whether this reduction by fifty percent was due to an equal split of land by inheritance or the creation of a temporary manorial sub-fee is not known, though as both practices were common and still legal at this time²⁸ and Halswell remained within the family thereafter this seems more probably than a reduction in the size or value of the manor as a whole.

The overlordship of Halswell at this time was held by Henry de Newburgh (d. 1119); the first Norman Earl of Warwick, Henry mesne tenanted some part of Halswell to the nearby Taunton Priory, recorded in 1285.²⁹ This land usage is confirmed in the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* records of 1291.³⁰ The value of this Priory land at Halswell was recorded as being ten shillings³¹ and constituted one of twenty-eight landholdings outside of the priory grounds at this date.³² It is possible that the reduction of Halswell's knight's fee from one quarter in 1285 to one eighth by 1303 may have coincided with this mesne tenancy by Henry to Taunton Priory, reducing the land in demesne of William de Halswell.

In 1318 a licence was granted to "*William Halsewell for an oratory at Halsewell Court.*"³³ This is the only written evidence of a building type, or at least a room designation, recorded up to this point. No further documentary records exist for Halswell in this period to explain the nature of this oratory or Taunton Priory's interests at the manor. The Priory's interests may have focussed on the nearby Halswell watercourse for the purposes of managing a *vivarium*, or fishery. Taunton Priory managed a large *vivarium* in Taunton from at least 1207-8 and by 1360 it covered over seventy acres.³⁴ If this is the case then the manor buildings, seemingly

²⁷ A. Williams and G.H. Martin (eds.), *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation* (London, 2002), folio 94v.

²⁸ Sally Harvey, *The Knight and the Knight's Fee in England, (Past & Present*, No. 49, Nov., 1970), pp. 3-43.

²⁹ *Cal. Chart. R.* 1327–41, 316; *Feud. Aids*, iv. 293.

³⁰ Initiated in 1288 the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* was a 10% tax on church incomes raised by Pope Nicholas IV for the use of Edward I during the crusades. The tax entailed the valuation of all church assets.

³¹ Hugo, Thomas, *The History of Taunton Priory, in the country of Somerset*, (London: J.R. Smith, 1860), p. 15.

³² *Ibid*, pp.15-16.

³³ Hobhouse, Right Rev. Bishop (ed.), *Calendar of the Register of John de Drokenesford: Bishop of Bath and Wells A.D. 1309-1329*, (London, 1887), p.17.

³⁴ <http://webapp1.somerset.gov.uk/her/details.asp?prn=44388> (accessed 17 February 2016).

in the continued ownership of the Halswell family during the Priory's tenancy, may not have been affected by their ecclesiastical co-inhabitants. The oratory may have been a private chapel for the family; however the presence of the Priory within the manor boundary when this licence was granted may point to a wider use for the Augustinian lay monks who would have overseen their workers within close proximity to the Halswell's manor house.

Further evidence of the Halswell's close association with the Priory comes from an Inquisition by an Escheator³⁵ of King Edward II on the 6 January 1317 to ascertain whether the Priory was founded by one of his own ancestors, or by another. William de Haleswelle was one of the twelve to give oath that it was founded by William Gyffard, Bishop of Winchester, by c. 1115,³⁶ and as such the king had no claim over the Priory.

Immediately after this mentioned William de Haleswelle there are only intermittent mentions of family members, without birth or death dates, marriages or property settlements until the end of the fifteenth century. This, along with lack of surviving built evidence³⁷ at Halswell from this period may suggest the family was not in a position to build significantly for many generations. This corresponds with the nationwide impact of the Black Plague, which arrived in Somerset in 1348 and along with most of the country the population there was heavily reduced, with all the implications this had on land ownership and the need for new buildings.

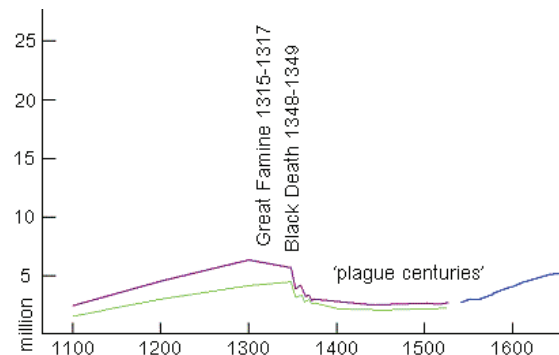


Fig. 1.2.. Upper and lower estimates of population, from J. Hatcher, "Plague, Population and the English Economy, 1348-1530."

³⁵ Escheators were the regional officials who initiated post-mortem inquisitions to uphold the king's rights as feudal overlord. <http://www.inquisitionspostmortem.ac.uk/contexts/the-escheator-a-short-introduction/> (accessed 18 February 2016).

³⁶ Hugo, Thomas, *The History of Taunton Priory, in the country of Somerset*, (London: J.R. Smith, 1860), pp.20-21, transcribing directly from the Inquisition records, 'Inquis, ad q.d., 10 Edw. II., n. 172. Appendix, No. XXXI.'

³⁷ At the request of the author, Dr Neil Rushton has dated a group of six gothic windows, now situated in the Gatehouse block outside the manor enclosure, to c. 1270. There are other remains which point to possible earlier building fabric which will be discussed in later chapters.

With a reduction in the English population of about one third,³⁸ see fig.1.2, and the well-documented land and property conglomerations that occurred from this date until the population increased again in the early-sixteenth century, the seismic effect this had on the built environment appears to have been felt at Halswell also.

It is not until the early-sixteenth century that significant recorded activity begins again and it is the fortunes of two specific generations of Halswell's that supports the physical reading of the buildings.

Robert Halswell (d. 1483?) married Catherine de Gatcombe (1416-1479) in 1430 and they had two sons, Nicholas Halswell MD Oxon., Prebendary of York, Fellow of All Soul's College Oxford, Proctor of the University and a founder of the Royal College of Surgeons (d. 1528), and the parent's heir, John Halswell (d. by 1517).

John Halswell (d. by 1517) married Mary Est (d. 1558), by whom he had a son, Nicholas Halswell MP (by 1512-1564), who should figure significantly in the built history of Halswell.

Nicholas's mother Mary Halswell, *née* Est, was a widow by 1517 when she remarried, to John Tremayle (d. 1534) of Blackmore Manor. At that date John Tremayle settled that manor upon himself and his second wife Mary.³⁹ It is at Blackmore Manor where the remarried Mary Halswell, with her son and heir Nicholas Halswell, appear to have resided, at least until Nicholas Halswell would come of age. John Tremayle was a widower, already having a daughter, Margery Tremayle (c. 1515 - c. 1558), by his first wife Elizabeth, *née* Speke.⁴⁰ In 1524 John Tremayle created a legal bond for his stepson for the purposes of his education in the law, at Middle Temple, and to secure his future finances. By 1534, the year of John Tremayle's death, the stepbrother and stepsister, Nicholas Halswell and Margery Tremayle, had already married and produced a son, John Halswell. Importantly, two years later in 1536, that bond of 1524 was annotated with a receipt for building the manor of Halswell.

*Bond of Jn.Tremayll to pay a sum of money to Nich.Halswell,jr. son of John Halswell "in mayntenyning him to lerne the lawe in London, other for profitable purchasse of land for the said Nicholas and hys beyers other for mayntenaunce of his howsholde after that he shall come to the age of 21 yeres...",1524, endorsed with receipt of money "for the beuldyng of the maner of Halswell",1536.*⁴¹

³⁸ J. Hatcher, *Plague, Population and the English Economy, 1348-1530*, Studies in Economic and Social History (London: Macmillan, 1977)

³⁹ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/som/vol6/pp76-85#highlight-first> (accessed 8 February 2017)

⁴⁰ P.R.O., C 142/22, no. 45.

⁴¹ <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/5b7ead70-d232-4795-b68d-5e7737d59e74> Document Reference DD\S\WH/91 (assessed 19 May 2015).

The following is an excerpt from John Tremayle's Will, read in 1534:

*Margery my daughter, the wife of Nicholas Halswell, my best coverlet having a story of Sampson on him. To the same, all my goods in the manor of Halswell. To John Halswell son of the same Nicholas, one mare of sorrel colour with her colt, or 20 shillings of money.*⁴²

Nicholas's uncle, his father's younger brother, a doctor and priest at Oxford, makes no mention of leaving him lands or money when he dies in 1528, only a chalice and some altar vestments.⁴³ Both inheritances imply that Halswell Manor remained in trust for the young Nicholas Halswell until he came of age at twenty one and that the manor was also being maintained or farmed by John Tremayle. By 1535 John Tremayle's widow Mary owned Blackmore Manor and leased it to her son Nicholas for a twenty year period,⁴⁴ after which it passed by inheritance through the Halswell's, combining the wealth of both manors. However Nicholas was also augmenting his inherited fortune, he was in possession of property in Hampshire, Essex, Norfolk, Somerset and Dorset, including Chantry Lands and various properties sold at the Dissolution, many of which he resold for profit.⁴⁵

In 1558, the year of his mother Mary's death, Nicholas Halswell obtained a plot of land to the north of the chancel of St. Edward King and Martyr Church, Goathurst, upon which to build 'an Ule or Chapell for himself and his heirs forever'.⁴⁶ The public battle by which this was achieved implies that the Halswell's were never before buried in this nearby church. The question of where they were buried, within Halswell Manor or even at Taunton Priory, remains unanswered as no documentary or physical evidence is known of the family's burial plots before this date.

When in 1535 Taunton Priory returned their *Valor Ecclesiasticus*⁴⁷ to Henry VIII immediately before the Dissolution of the Monasteries there was no mention of any holdings or other Priory interests at Halswell.⁴⁸ With the tenanted Priory land already returned to the control of Halswell it would appear that during this period, under the ownership of the young Nicholas, the lord of the manor of Halswell had greater wealth than any of his forebears. With this

⁴² <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/som/vol6/pp76-85#highlight-first> (accessed 15 February 2016)

⁴³ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/halswell-nicholas-1512-64> (accessed 17 February 2016).

⁴⁴ S.R.O., DD/S/WH 1

⁴⁵ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/halswell-nicholas-1510-64> (accessed 8 February 2017)

⁴⁶ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/som/vol6/pp51-52> (accessed 8 February 2017)

⁴⁷ Once Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church in 1534 Parliament was instructed to report on the value of all church possessions, the subsequent document was called *Valor Ecclesiasticus* and provides a detailed description of Taunton Priory's rights and liabilities in 1535.

⁴⁸ Hugo, Thomas, *The History of Taunton Priory, in the country of Somerset*, (London: J.R. Smith, 1860), pp.84-100.

wealth and with the supporting documentation of 1536 releasing money to build the manor of Halswell this appears to be a potentially golden period for building. This seventy-five word document is the most substantial documentary evidence for building work at Halswell from its origins through to the end of the sixteenth century.

The consolidation of assets continued with further profitable marriages when Nicholas (by 1512-1564) and Margery's (c. 1515 - c. 1558) heir, Robert Halswell (d. 1570)⁴⁹ married Susan Brouncker (b. 1535), a member of an aristocratic Wiltshire family. The estate then passed to their son Sir Nicholas Halswell MP (1566-1633), an industrious Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset who added more lands and manors to those he had inherited. He also built large extensions to the existing manor,⁵⁰ immediately after his own marriage in 1588. Sir Nicholas married into the powerful Wallop family: Bridgette Halswell, *née* Wallop (d.1627), see fig. 1, was the daughter of the Vice-Treasurer of Ireland Sir Henry Wallop, who in 1591 entertained Queen Elizabeth at his family home.

This combination of industry, inherited wealth seemingly greater than any of his forebears, a higher position in society through family and public dealings, and the ability and need to build a suitable manor house lead Sir Nicholas to invest heavily in improving his seat.

However while attempting to help the finances of various relatives he dragged himself into legal tangles and the debt of others:

In April 1628 he took the precaution of conveying the Somerset manors of Halswell, Lexworthy and West Bower, with Blackmore in Wiltshire [sic],⁵¹ to his eldest surviving son Henry. Shortly afterwards he was outlawed for debt. By 1629 Henry Halswell had replaced his father in the subsidy assessment list, at the much reduced rate of £10.⁵²

This slowing of the family fortunes appears to have had an effect on the subsequent building work until the end of the seventeenth century. This relative impoverishment meant Halswell saw few building improvements for the 100 years after Sir Nicholas's expansions from c. 1590.

It took the grandson of the last Halswell male by name to turn around the fortunes of the estate. When the Revd. Hugh Halswell, a proctor of Oxford University, died he left the estate

⁴⁹ The first born son John, already born by 1534, is not mentioned again in documentary sources.

⁵⁰ Dendrochronology completed in 2015 has confirmed this in some areas of the house.

⁵¹ This reference to Wiltshire appears to be inaccurate; the weight of documentary evidence elsewhere, right up to the 1970's when the Halswell descendants finally sold Blackmore Manor in Somerset, confirms this to be mistaken.

⁵² <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/halswell-sir-nicholas-1566-1633> (accessed 14 April 2017).

in trust to his infant grandson, the son of his daughter Jane who died soon after childbirth in 1650. Jane had married the Royalist Colonel of Horse John Tynte MP (1617-1669) whose mother's family connections meant that their son, Halswell Tynte (1649-1702), was related to two of Henry VIII's Queens: Catherine Howard and Anne Boleyn and subsequently Ann's daughter Queen Elizabeth I.

On his coming of age Halswell Tynte took over control of his own maternal estate, Halswell, and that of his father, Chelvey Court, in 1670. Within a year he had married into the equally ancient and well-connected Fortescue family of Devon.⁵³ Three years later he was created a Baronet in recognition of his father's active loyalty to the Crown throughout the Civil Wars. However within just five years this continued loyalty to the Stuarts would begin to unravel Sir Halswell's own ambitions. When he became an MP in 1679 he voted against *The Exclusion* of the Catholic-leaning James II from inheriting the throne and two years later the militia he controlled, as well as his lieutenancy of County of Somerset, were taken away from him, along with any future political ascendancy for which he might have hoped. His loyalty to the Stuarts appears to have continued through to the Glorious Revolution in 1688 as the Dutch are recorded having seized seven of his horses.⁵⁴ By the early 1690's he had lost all official positions as well as his parliamentary seat. However what he didn't favour in political revolution he spearheaded in architectural revolution. The wing he added to the north of Halswell was at the vanguard of architectural development in England.

This important English Baroque house was conceived in 1683 during the reign of Charles II, built during the reign of James II and completed on the ascension of William & Mary in 1689. Surrounding the main door of this new house are carvings of his military and knightly attainments and above it sits the complex quartering of arms reflecting the Halswell and Tynte ancestries to the left and his wife's Fortescue ancestry to the right. It is a triumphant expression of family power and military credentials. However the political isolation Sir Halswell seems to have suffered because of his loyalty to the Stuarts meant his strikingly forceful new house was underused as a seat of power in his lifetime.⁵⁵

Documentary sources for building work is extremely slight, therefore by using the family's financial history as a guide further circumstantial evidence is added in support of the physical findings made through building examination.

⁵³ The male line still exists as the Earl's Fortescue of Castle Hill, Devon and their fifteenth-century seat Ebrington Manor.

⁵⁴ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/tynte-sir-halswell-1649-1702> (accessed 6 April 2017).

⁵⁵ This family history beyond the period being discussed continues in Appendix One.

PROPOSED CHRONOLOGY FLOOR PLAN

The plan used is the 2015 house plan for the ground floor. The important phases are c. 1536 in light green, c. 1590 in light blue and 1689 in grey. A classical skin of 1754, in yellow, is applied to some of the earlier structure in grey. Full yellow was constructed in 1754. Where door openings have not changed these areas are not coloured, where new openings have been made those openings are coloured with the date of that insertion. Windows display either no change from construction, surround changes only, or full loss of historic material in the area. Staircases have also been date coloured.

A Servant's Hall in the courtyard, demolished 2005, has been outlined in dark green as it is discussed in the text. A twentieth-century extension at the south-east, in dark blue, has recently been demolished.



Plan 1.1.

Colour Key: c. 1536 – 1550, c. 1590, c. 1610, early-seventeenth century, late-seventeenth century, 1689, 1754, 1766, 1771, c. 1772-1899, c. 1900-1926, after 1950.

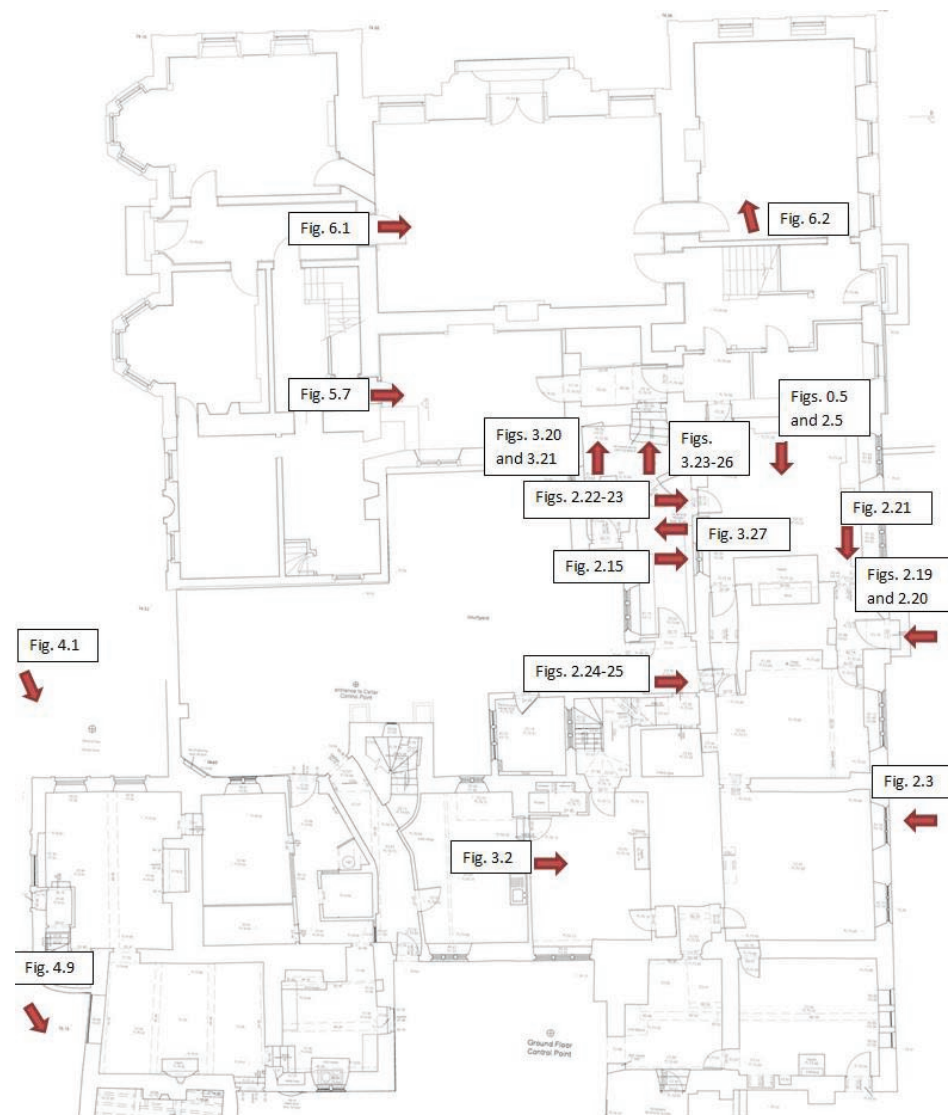


Plan 1.

Colour Key: c. 1536 – 1550, c. 1590, c. 1610, early-seventeenth century, late-seventeenth century,

1689, 1754, 1766, 1771, c. 1772-1899, c. 1900-1926, after 1950.

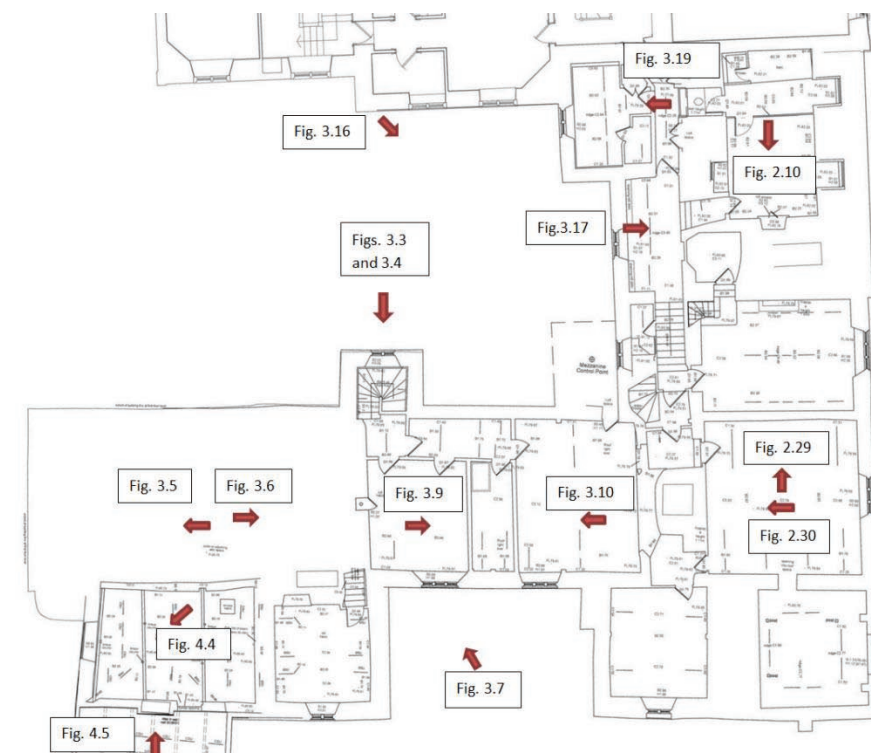
PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION KEY



Plan 1.2. Ground floor (detail).



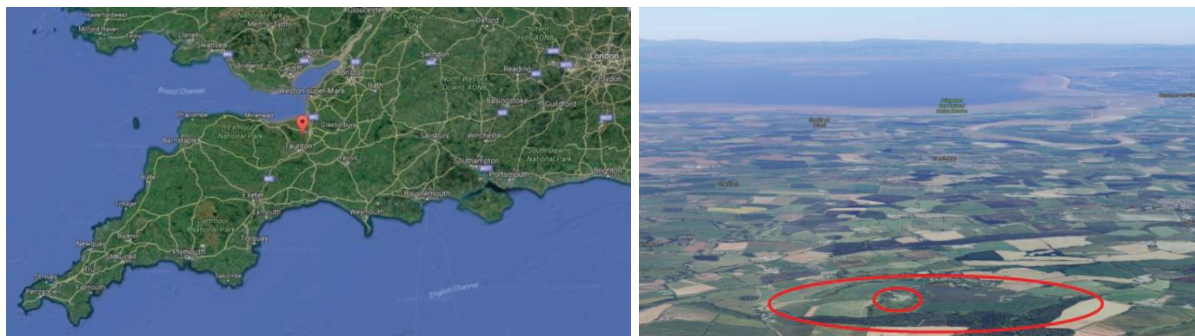
Plan 1.3. First floor (detail).



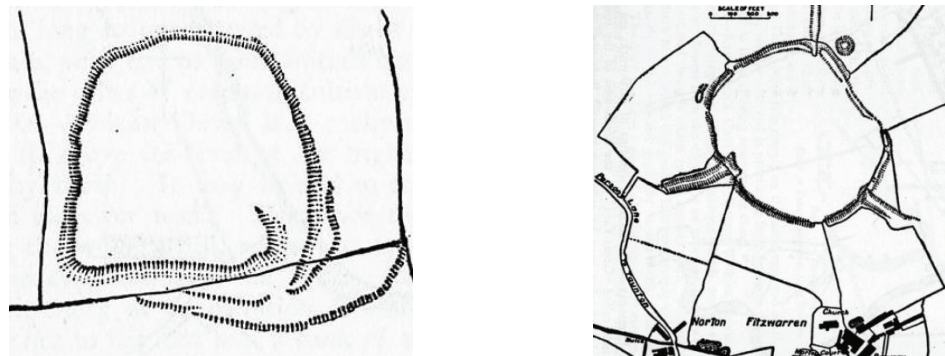
Plan 1.4. Attic floor (detail).

THE EARLY SITE to c. 1536

The manor stands on undulating land between two large fresh water springs, one of which supported a system of fisheries and ponds where a mill is recorded in 1597.⁵⁶ It occupies a commanding position with extensive views north to Wales. Separate from the manor and village of Goathurst which is on Halswell's northern boundary, Halswell formed a distinct property from at least Saxon times.⁵⁷ The earliest extant map of the site, dated 1756,⁵⁸ is the only record of the circular enclosure within which Halswell sits. By 1771 its north arc had been straightened and subsequent planting and in-filling of the ditch has rendered the unusual shape invisible to later mapping, though it still exists in parts.



Figs. 1.3 and 1.4. Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset, south-west England. The Registered Parkland is within the large elliptical marking and the house demesne within the smaller circle.



Figs. 1.5 and 1.6. Norton Camp, a 12 acre Bronze Age hill fort, 8 miles south-west of Halswell; and Cannington Camp, a 12 acre Bronze or Iron Age site 6 miles north-west of Halswell.

⁵⁶ Survey of the Halswell Estate, 1597, Somerset Record Office (DID/X/ELS 1), the map accompanying the text survey is lost.

⁵⁷ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001145>

⁵⁸ Somerset Research Centre, Taunton, document reference, DD\X\DT.



Fig. 1.7. John Jacob de Wilstar's survey of the Halswell estate dated 1756 (detail), outlining a circular enclosure of approximately fifteen acres in circumference including a spring.

The area is rich in Neolithic and Roman settlement remnants, the rising of a large spring into the enclosure and the expansive and defensible views afforded would make this site an ideal for a Bronze or Iron Age univallate enclosed settlement. The fresh water sources, good land and innate visibility would make continued habitation of the site a reasonable supposition; archaeology to establish this new theory has not yet been initiated. A theory that the Roman period left traces within existing buildings to the south of the enclosure will also be tested.

Immediately adjacent at the south-west of the circular demesne enclosure is a very large building which has had mixed use. Misunderstood to such an extent that it is not listed in its own right, much of it dates from the seventeenth-century and was the subject of a recording project by this author.⁵⁹ It is an earlier building converted into a grand gatehouse in the

⁵⁹ Roy Bolton, *The Stable Block*, MSt. Building History, University of Cambridge, (2015).

seventeenth century, see fig. 1.10. Though it must fall outside the scope of this study a series of windows rearranged within it warrants mention. They are a set of six double-lancet gothic windows, see fig. 1.8, which have been dated by Neil Rushton of the Churches Conservation Trust to c. 1270⁶⁰ and by archaeologist James Brigers to 'medieval'.⁶¹

Within the rubble that makes up the interior of a chimney at the south of the Baroque Wing there is a piece of masonry which is part of a stone fan-vaulted ceiling, see fig. 1.9.



Fig 1.8. One of a set of six late thirteenth-century double-lancet gothic windows, re-used in the west wall of the Gatehouse building.

Fig 1.9. A section of van vault embedded inside the chimney of the ground-floor Servant's Hall at the south of the Baroque Wing.

As Halswell has numerous small stone quarries within its property it seems unlikely that rubble stone was brought in from elsewhere, leading to the conclusion that there was a building on site with a very high status fan vault and at least six gothic windows. A record of a chapel on site on the early fourteenth-century aligns with both of these new finds.⁶²

⁶⁰ Verbal communication, October 2015.

⁶¹ James L. Brigers, *Halswell House and Park, Goathurst, Somerset*, GHH 14-85/2014/11, (Somerset: 2014).

⁶² In 1318 a licence was granted to "William Halsewell for an oratory at Halsewell Court." Hobhouse, Right Rev. Bishop (ed.), *Calendar of the Register of John de Drogheda: Bishop of Bath and Wells A.D. 1309-1329*, (London, 1887), p.17.

These constitute the early finds that pre-date the c. 1536 phase of building. The fate that befell the earlier buildings remains unknown. The ecclesiastical remnants suggest some early structures may have survived up to the seventeenth century.



Fig. 1.10. The Gatehouse, Halswell, much changed but containing six thirteenth-century windows, four seventeenth-century doors and two early sixteenth-century mullioned windows one of which matches a surviving window in the c. 1536 phase of the manor.

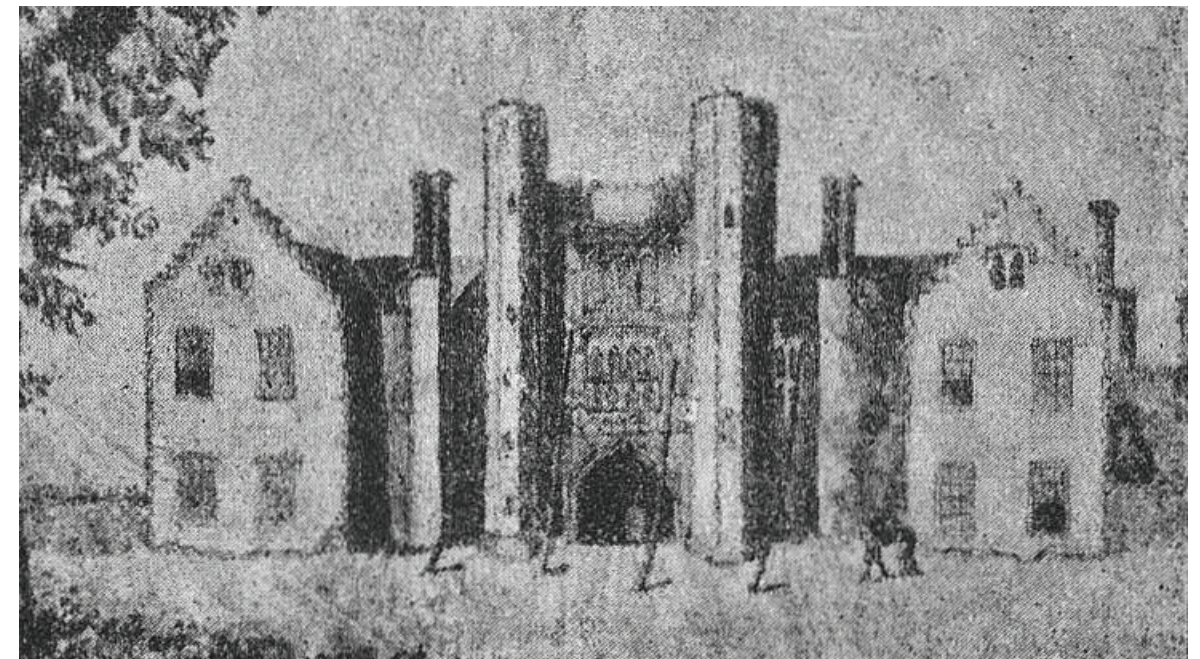


Fig. 1.11. Comparison building: The Gatehouse, Sutton Place, c. 1520, demolished 1782.

Chapter Two

THE MANOR HOUSE:

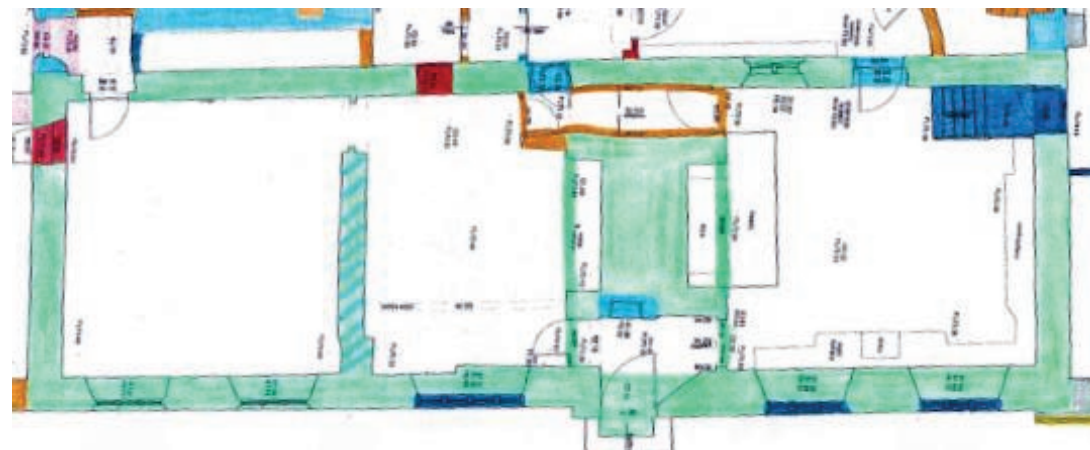
c. 1536 to *c.* 1540



Plan 2.1. East Range, East Elevation.



Plan 2.2. Location Key.



Plan 2.3. Corresponding floor plan detail. Colour code, c. 1536, light green; c. 1590, light blue; c. 1772-1899, orange; c. 1900-1926, dark blue; after 1950, red.

The assessment of the building situated to the south of the Baroque Wing, on the east range, as the remnants of the Hall and the earliest extant building at Halswell is primarily reached through the physical evidence. On the elevation, plan 2.1, the Hall is the three-bay northern building, the Kitchen and Buttery respectively occupy the single-bay dormered section and the two-bay gabled section to its south, see plan 2.3. The southern-most dormered section and a flat-roofed end building are later. The Hall corresponds to the northern most room, including the chimneystack and, what are now, its antechambers. The dating to the early sixteenth-century is based on the architectural detailing while the more precise date of c. 1536 is proposed by the documentary evidence detailing a manor being funded to be built at that date;⁶³ this would seem to correspond well with the physical evidence. The full extent of that c. 1536 manor complex remains unknown but what seems clear is that this single-room per storey building is a surviving element of that construction phase within the earliest surviving range.

This three-bay 'Hall' block to the north is of two storeys with an attic and unlike the rest of the house is built with a mix of red sandstone rubble, see fig. 2.2. Like the rest of the house it is dressed with ham stone. The roof has a south gable parapet with one original kneeler finial base to its west side, see fig. 2.1. This kneeler sits atop a much shorter diagonal gable edge than that which exists on the east, which is full length.

This corresponds to a door opening below through the south-west corner of the Hall attic to the attic of the lower building to its south; this necessitates a shortened gable to allow for adequate head height through the two buildings at this low point of the roofline. The remains of a stone wall exist to the west of this opening, creating a buttress to deal with the inherent weakness this would create in the structure. This wall exists above the current roof level of buildings that are now to the west of the Hall block and ties into them lower down, continuing the buttress function. At least part of this structure therefore appears to date from the same c. 1536 phase.

There is no gable parapet to the north as this wall of the building has been consumed within the 1689 wing.

There is a continuous string course above the ground-floor windows, each with relieving arches which have been truncated by replacement windows above. Approximately one metre from ground level is a chamfered plinth course which respects the east door's position and is quite weathered, as is the stone beneath. Above this door is a small window with

⁶³ <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/5b7ead70-d232-4795-b68d-5e7737d59e74> Document Reference DD\S\WH/91 (assessed 19 May 2015).



Fig. 2.1. The roof west of the Hall chimney.

Plan 2.4. Location key for fig. 2.1.

rebated chamfered mouldings and a relieving arch above the string course, above this, another similar window which shows some evidence that it once had a hood mould which has been removed. The two pairs of six-light mullion windows are early twentieth-century replacements, dateable to between 1924 and 1926.⁶⁴ The chimney casing above roof level was added in c. 1926, replacing a late Victorian red brick chimney of slightly smaller proportions, which itself replaced much earlier chimneys.⁶⁵ There is a rebate of approximately 25cm. between this block and the building to its south. The two rooms to the south on plan 2.3 correspond to a phase that appears to have been built consecutively with the Hall.

The southern room is the Buttery and the proposed facility of a staircase in the south of the Hall, beside and probably between, two fireplaces sharing this stack, would suggest that the centre ground-floor room was the Kitchen, below accommodation. Such an arrangement is not unusual in Somerset at this date. For example Gotherney Manor a few miles north of Halswell was built in the fourteenth-century with a ground-floor kitchen below bedrooms.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Images of a fire in 1923, see fig. 6.21, show these were still sashes by that date. Plans created by G & T. S. Vickery in c. 1924 (see Appendix for full plans) show the windows as stone mullions. That phase of restoration was complete by 1926, as recorded by a date-stone inscription on the east elevation.

⁶⁵ The chronology of this transformation, of windows and chimneys, is illustrated by a series of photographs, see figs. 2.6, 2.7 and 2.26.

⁶⁶ Anthony Emery *Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales, Vol. III: Southern England* (Cambridge University Press: 2006) p. 568.



Fig. 2.2. Hall block, east façade, which sits between a slightly later building to its south and the 1689 Baroque Wing to its north.

The southern-most room on this plan is unheated and displays no evidence that it had a fireplace. The extant evidence in this space points towards use as a cold store, or buttery. Two oak mullioned windows on the east, Halswell's only mullioned windows not made of stone, have multiple and regular nail holes that indicate a cloth covering consistent with that use, see fig. 2.3. The concave cross section of these oak windows is similar to a stone mullioned window on the western ground-floor wall of the Hall, strengthening the proposition

that this is contemporary with the Hall. Its proximity and connection to the proposed Kitchen, which shares the Hall's chimneystack, would seem to give Halswell a full complement of Hall, Kitchen and Buttery on the ground floor with polite rooms and accommodation above, all probably linked by stairs from the entrance porch within the Hall block.

There is currently no conclusive evidence that the openings to the east or west of the fireplace contained a staircase. However the width of this stack at ground-floor level is 3.6 metres and contains ante-chambers either side at odd levels which have no other decipherable function. It is proposed stairs may have risen almost to first-floor level from the east within the inner porch, which itself should have been tall and open with window openings east and north. This stairs rising westwards between the hearths of the Hall and the Kitchen would then join with a spiral stairs to ascend to the first floor and above, where another window still exists. This window is set into a large niche which removes a portion of the south wall at about one metre above current floor level, see fig. 2.4.

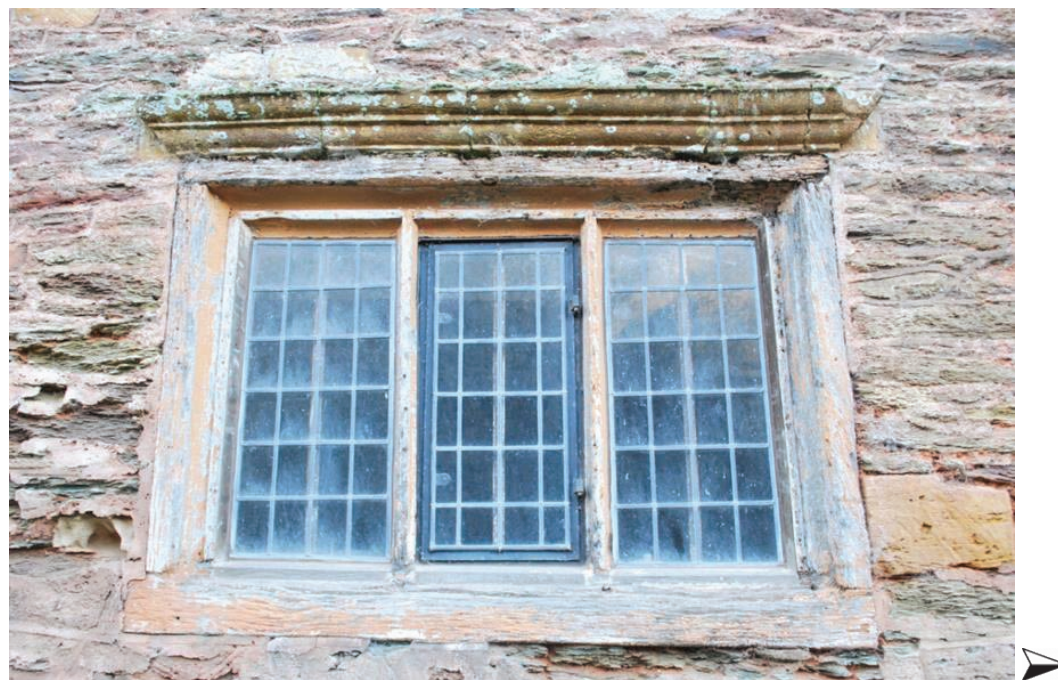


Fig. 2.3. One of two oak mullion windows, topped with later mouldings, on the ground floor of the east range.

This small space also has two doorways, one beside the window to a later corridor at the west, and one leading north to the Solar, the date of this second door appears modern, there is no visible relieving arch and detailing is reproduction Georgian. Below this small chamber there is an area of approximately 2.5 metres of unknown material, or void, before the next open space exists, see fig. 2.5. This open space is a tunnel passageway with a red brick arch above which is rough stone, leading from the Hall to the Kitchen. The date of this passage is

unknown, though the thin layer of red bricks are no earlier than late-eighteenth century and the passage has no decorative features unlike the east entrance passage opposite. It therefore appears to be a later construction. At this mid-floor height to the east side of the Hall there is now room of approximately 3 by 1.5 metres, there is similar capacity here at the west. This void, or stone mass, could have only limited functions: a stone buttress, or a spiral staircase, accessed either from directly below in a continuous spiral, or from a straight run of stairs from the east at mid-floor level. The former void possibility may be more prosaic, but it supports none of the other evidence that exists for a stairs here.

In the ground-floor entrance porch, which is only 2 metres high, there is a protruding layer of wall material directly opposite the east door, inset with a niche. The area would benefit from invasive investigation. A stairs from this position would be lit well from both ends with a high window above the east door illuminating a high staircase lobby the same height as the Hall. This would also illuminate the high internal oriel window in the Hall; the west window on the first floor lighting its top end where it becomes a spiral stairs, see figs. 2.5 and 2.16.

The ante-chamber above the porch has a late sixteenth-century door at its south with contemporary moulded joinery which is consistent with the later sixteenth-century doorways elsewhere within the house. This door opening may therefore be a later modification

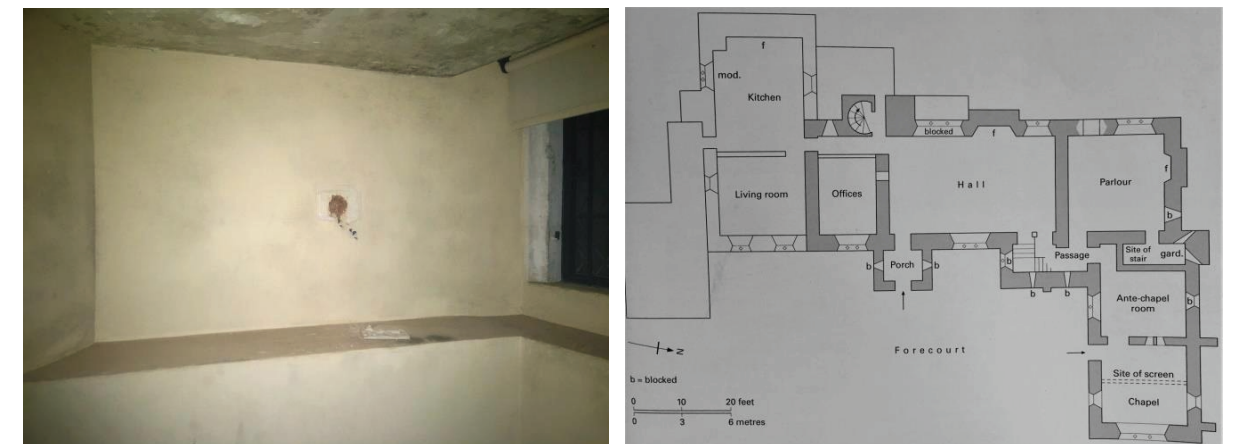


Fig. 2.4. First-floor chamber to the west of the fireplace stack, west window on the right.

Plan 2.5. Blackmore Manor, Cannington, Somerset, c. 1486 - 1500.

associated with a new layout of c. 1590 - c. 1610 when a larger staircase was built elsewhere and the smaller one near this fireplace position became superfluous; thereby being removed and the space modified to create small rooms between floor levels.

As a Hall this north block does not conform to the open hall or cross passage typology. It is instead of a much more modern layout, whereby a fireplace is built contemporaneously within

the hall and the cross passage has been done away with altogether. The builder of this Hall, Nicholas Halswell MP (by 1512-1564), grew up a few miles away at his stepfather's family home, Blackmore Manor, see plan 2.5.⁶⁷ This is a late-fifteenth century manor built with a low hall on the ground floor, without a traditional cross passage and its associated service doorways and incorporating a built-in fireplace. Growing up in this house from an early age and with the money and desire '*for the beuldyng of the maner of Halswell, 1536*'⁶⁸ the influence of the builder's childhood home upon his new design should possibly not be underestimated.



Fig. 2.5. Hall interior with oriel window to a, now, small chamber above the entrance porch, the contents of the corresponding area opposite remain unknown.

There is no evidence of a traditional open hall building at Halswell. The c. 1536 Hall, even if re-conceived out of an earlier shell, is proportionally wrong for such a use. While it was common to insert a chimneystack within the cross passage of an earlier open hall, here there is no evidence for this, but much to the contrary. The simple roof timbers show no sign of soot-blackening from an open hearth and the fenestration patterns, relieving arches and string course support the building being constructed on two floors below an attic. There are

⁶⁷ Anthony Emery, *Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales, Vol. III: Southern England* (Cambridge University Press: 2006) pp.495-497, Blackmore Manor, Cannington, c. 1486-1500.

⁶⁸ <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/5b7ead70-d232-4795-b68d-5e7737d59e74> Document Reference DD\S\WH/91 (assessed 19 May 2015).

no remnants of a corresponding cross passage doorway through the west wall, nor does the later sixteenth-century corridor extension, added parallel to this west wall, contain an external doorway that respects a historic cross passage position.

The red sandstone used is unique on this site to the Hall building. If the Hall was increased in height or otherwise transformed from an open-hearth hall to one of three stories it seems plausible that the brown sandstone rubble used elsewhere would also have been used in any later augmentations to the Hall. The Hall as it exists is only twelve metres from north to south, nearly a third of which is taken up by the fireplace stack and its suggested staircase area. It cannot be ruled out at this stage that the Hall may have been longer and was truncated by the arrival in 1689 of the Baroque Wing. However no physical evidence yet supports this hypothesis; the external wall junction on the east is overlapped with later quoins, the internal junctions give no conclusive information and the roof timbers in that area are modern. The later north wing's internal wall thickness does not match that of the Hall, being thinner, and the next north wall within the new wing, which supports its main staircase, is far too thin to be a survivor of the old Hall. The difficulty or need for truncating the block also seems to make it unlikely. Further suggestive evidence that its size has remained constant is the addition of a wing to its west in c. 1590 which follows the alignment of the northern wall of the Hall. This suggests the Hall's current north wall has not moved, at least since c. 1590.

Therefore it is asserted that the building begun from c. 1536 was not conceived as a traditional hall but was, in effect, built as a lobby entry house.

A lobby entry plan at Halswell would be an innovation unique to the south at this date. Indeed this would put it into contention for being one of the very earliest examples discovered. 1536 is also the approximate date now given⁶⁹ to the brick-built house that currently holds that accolade of being the earliest, Old Hall Farm at Kneesall in Nottinghamshire.⁷⁰

The block built consecutively against its south wall, containing the suggested Kitchen and Buttery, is set back, built of a slightly different mix of stone and less grandly conceived in detail, displaying three floors below a lower roof line than the two floors outwardly displayed in the higher Hall. The attic floor of the southern two-bay gable was also completely re-built in c. 1590. This inequality within the façade may be supposed to have been done to keep the higher status of the Hall visually separate from the service and other rooms to its south. A lobby entry house, but coming out of a grander tradition which still respected the social

⁶⁹ Matthew Johnson, *English Houses 1300-1800: Vernacular Architecture, Social Life*, (London: Routledge, 2010), p. 97.

⁷⁰ Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Nottinghamshire*, (London: Yale University Press, 1979), p. 159.



Fig. 2.6. East façade, c. 2000, re-fenestrated in 1926.

importance of the hall itself, with a solar above and not a parlour beside this Hall, at least probably not yet.

This Hall building differs quite significantly in arrangement and scale to all the other sixteenth-century buildings that are grouped around it and contains architectural decorations which pre-date those elsewhere within the house, with the exception of the two oak windows in the Buttery, see fig. 2.3. It contains the two grandest sixteenth-century rooms at Halswell, both with pairs of six-light mullioned windows to the east. These four windows are early twentieth-century replacements, taking the place of eighteen-century sash windows which were installed in most of the original openings below attic level, see fig. 2.7.

The 1920s ground-floor windows in the Hall are in their original positions as evidenced by their relieving arches above and their internal deeply splayed sills with early mortar remnants. Those on the first floor have been modified in the eighteenth and twentieth centuries so have lost dateable material though the over-sized nature of the Georgian sashes, see fig. 2.7, may indicate continuity with the openings sizes.

The two smaller windows at the southern end of the Hall's east façade and the east door beneath them, see fig. 2.6, do provide valuable dating evidence, as do two once external windows to its west wall and a pair of early sixteenth-century door surrounds with ribbed four-centred arches on the ground floor.



Fig. 2.7. East façade c. 1898. The first floor with Georgian sash windows. The ground floor is obscured by an eighteenth-century redbrick garden wall, defining the service floor at that date.

Above this east door on a, now, mid-floor level is small chamber with an internal oriel window overlooking the Hall; it is accessible only from the first floor of the building to the south. It is proposed that prior to a staircase in this area being in-filled this originally functioned like other internal oriel windows of this date locally. Notably two houses near Taunton: Poundisford Park and Greenham Barton Hall, see figs. 2.8 and 2.9, which was as a decorative light source amplifying the double height of the room below. At Poundisford the ribbed mouldings illustrated have similarities to two door surrounds in the entrance porch of Halswell's Hall. Halswell's oriel differs in its left-alignment due to the chimney stack in the centre of its south wall.

Directly above the Hall is the Solar, see fig. 2.11. The arched opening to the left in the illustration is now a small chamber directly above the current chamber with the oriel window, which is itself above the 2 metre high inner porch inside the east façade. It is suggested that these three small chambers at the east were originally two landings, ground and first-floors, connected by a run of stairs from the ground, east to west and terminating in a spiral stairs, probably at mid-floor level, before continuing upward through the west cavity.

Above this straight flight of steps was a first-floor corridor from west to east which terminated by the upper window on the east façade, which is within the arched opening in fig. 2.11. Within this space is a ceiling height which equals the Solar, its ceiling has a running rib cornice of c. 1590, similar to that found in the south-range attic and the west elevation's



Fig. 2.8. Greenham Barton Manor, Taunton, Somerset.

This room and its interior oriel window were added in the sixteenth century.

ground-floor corridor. There is some suggestive evidence for this straight first-floor corridor within the chimneystack. The east chamber has a large arch to its west wall, see fig. 2.12, which corresponds to the ceiling height of the west chamber, and acts as the necessary spanning arch for this passage and the stair cavity below connecting the north chimneystack with the south chimneystack and its gable wall.

From the western first-floor chamber, visible through the rectangular door on the right in fig. 2.11, it is suggested a spiral stairs continued from below to the attic also allowing access to the lower-level rooms in the building to its south. Inside the chamber is a once external window, see fig. 2.16. This space has a late sixteenth-century doorway with a flattened four-centred arch, see fig 2.13, leading to the c.1590 corridor extension.

Above this is another smaller chamber, also now a modern bathroom, but with clear indications of sealed openings to its north, south and west sides, further suggestive of a linking spiral staircase here. This west stairwell chamber rises upward to the attic and terminates behind a modern partition wall illustrated on the left in fig. 2.14, which bisects the sixteenth-century floor boards.



Fig. 2.9. Poundisford Park, Taunton, Somerset, built soon after 1546.

Fig. 2.10. Halswell: the red stone lintel of the Hall's attic fireplace further suggests the chimney stack and the building's three-floor arrangement are contemporary with the structure. It sits beneath the collar rafter roof of the Hall.



Fig. 2.11. Halswell, the Solar above the Hall in c. 1980, with a late sixteenth-century fire surround (with later additions) and relieving arch above. The wall is punctuated with fixing holes for panelling.

This western wall was originally external and still has two exposed small windows on the ground and first floors, see figs. 2.15 & 2.16, to the Hall and to the proposed staircase respectively. They are in a more perpendicular style and have fine hollow chamfered mouldings in excellent condition; in section the ground-floor window is similar to the two oak mullion windows in the Buttery, see fig. 2.3. The two small windows to the east of the Hall have rebated chamfered mouldings simply carved inside and out, see figs. 2.17 and 2.18. It is of note that these six windows are the only windows at Halswell which are not with ovulo-section mouldings.

The east entrance door has a pronounced pointed arch, see fig. 2.19, as do the two door surrounds that flank it within the inner porch, leading north and south respectively, see fig. 2.21. These are the most pronounced high arches on the site, all other arched doors and windows having more flattened four-centred arches. Consequently these three door surrounds would seem to be the earliest surviving examples at Halswell.

The external east doorway does not appear to have been moved or tampered with. The door opens inward and has a deep corresponding rebate in the wall to accommodate the open door within the inner porch. The chimneystack wall on the Hall side has had structural restorations in the twentieth-century, see fig. 2.5.



Fig. 2.12. First-floor chamber at south-east of the Hall.



Fig. 2.13. Late sixteenth-century door on the first floor leading out of the earlier Hall building.

Fig. 2.14. Early elm floorboards in the attic above the Hall. The termination of the boards illustrated corresponds to the wall plate of the Hall's attic, where its west wall met the roof structure. The doorway opening must be of c. 1590 when a corridor was added, visible beyond.



Fig. 2.15. West wall ground-floor window to Hall.

Fig. 2.16. West wall first-floor window to proposed stairs.



Fig. 2.17. East façade mid-level window, once lighting the stairs, now lighting a small chamber.

Fig. 2.18. East façade first-floor window.



Fig. 2.19. External east door of the Hall building.

Fig. 2.20. East door with building join between the Hall and the Kitchen, the masonry indicates the Hall building was constructed first.



Fig. 2.21. Two similar four-centred arch door surrounds of red sandstone leading from the inner porch to the Hall and the Kitchen. Both doors are decorated only to their north, Hall-facing, sides with ironmongery to the undecorated south sides.

Two further stone four-centred arch door surrounds are located in the west wall of the Hall and its neighbouring room, the proposed Kitchen. They have near-matching apexes to their flattened arches but differing chamfer decoration to their bases, see figs 2.22 – 2.25. The flattened-arch tops of these doors suggest they were inserted at a later date closer to the end of the sixteenth century, as does the position of the west door within the Hall, superfluous in a freestanding building with an internal porched doorway at the east. It is noteworthy that this west door is positioned exactly in the centre of the room's floor space and that the later sixteenth-century additional building created to the west terminates at the existing north wall of the Hall. Both occurrences lead to the conclusion that the Hall has not been truncated or at least not after c. 1590 when these proportionally complimentary additions were made.

Externally the entire east façade has the appearance of five stages of building, see figs 2.26 and 2.27: the 1689 wing to the north, next the Hall block, then the single-bay section with a full dormer window, to the south of which is a much wider two-bay gable and finally to the far south is a single-bay addition of the eighteenth century, remodelled c. 1900 to mimic the earlier single-bay section, this final section will be discussed in a different chapter.



Figs. 2.22 and 2.23 (left). Ground floor: Hall west door, added c. 1590.

Figs. 2.24 and 2.25 (right). Ground floor: Kitchen west door, added c. 1590, possibly coinciding with a change of room use necessitating a door of equal status to the new internal Hall door.

The two-bay section has c.1536 fenestration only to its ground floor. Above these wooden mullions are later classical stone mouldings. The single-bay section to its north retains an original, probably c. 1536, window to the attic, see fig. 2.6, a mullioned window with high four-centred arches to its three lights, the only such example in the manor house itself.⁷¹ This single-bay section has high relieving arches to the ground and first-floor windows, the

⁷¹ There are two further windows of this type which have been used, or more probably re-used, in the Gatehouse block located south of the house. The dimensions of the two-bay section are double that of the single-bay section, so it is mooted that these two windows could have been removed from the manor house to their current position when the gable of the two-bay section was moved from south to east, destroying what may have been a range of three similar dormer windows.



Fig. 2.26. Photograph c. 1908, the east range still with sash windows while mullioned windows had already replaced at least two sash windows in the south range.



Fig. 2.27. c. 2006, east façade with new mullions of c. 1926.

former being truncated by the addition of the large first-floor mullioned window in c. 1926; the ground-floor mullioned window is earlier. The difference in scale and proportion of these two sections gives the appearance of two phases of construction, there even seems to be a fine masonry join between these sections, see fig. 2.28. However the internal wall thicknesses make this impossible. The two-bay section's southern wall is very thick and was certainly

once external,⁷² however the more slight and uneven internal wall to the north dividing this section from the single-bay section seems insufficient on the ground floor to support a free-standing structure and the much reduced thickness of this wall on the first floor must preclude these sections being built separately, see plan 2.3 and full plan for upper floors. The appearance of a masonry join between these two sections appears to reflect repairs associated with the water downpipe. The join, or repair, does not follow a vertical line and is further north than the internal wall division.

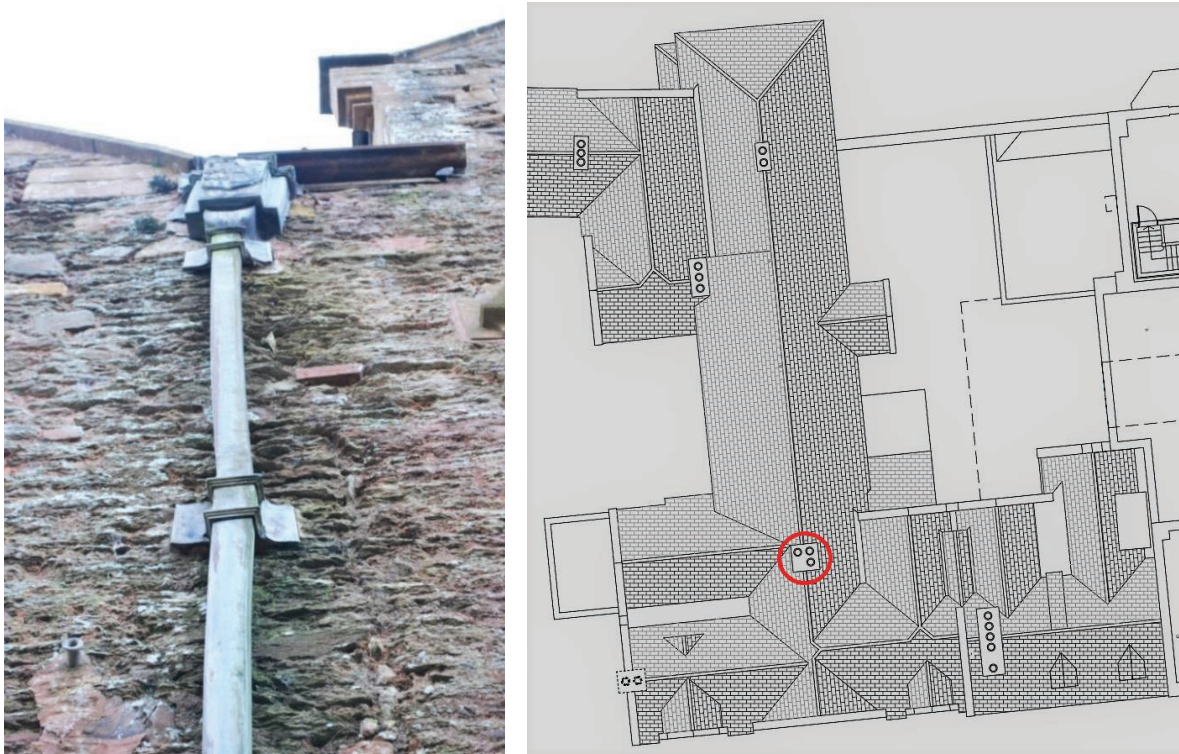


Fig. 2.28. Uneven masonry join with no quoins.

Plan 2.6. Roof plan of the east and south ranges; red circle indicates the chimneystack at the beginning of the later south range and the new connected attic at the south-east of the old east range, see fig. 2.30.

It is suggested that attic restructuring was carried out to the two-bay section at the end of the sixteenth century when its old roof alignment of north to south became an impediment to a new connecting wing's integration which needed to run east to west. Though of a later phase this will be discussed here as part of the complex development of the c. 1536 phase. These changes, not effecting the three-light arch topped dormer window to the single-bay section but certainly including the roof timbers and flooring in the attic of the two-bay section, was

⁷² The single-bay section of the building to its south is constructed of eighteen-century red brick, faced in rough stone and given a mullioned window gable between c. 1898 and 1908 when dated photographic records illustrate the changes, see figs. 2.7 and 2.26.

carried out between c. 1590 and c. 1610 and so transformed the outward appearance of the east elevation by moving the position of the gable from the south to the east. The visible difference in the external attic-level masonry, see fig. 2.27, supports this hypothesis, as does the south, original gable, wall being the thickest. There is further evidence for this roof change in the attic partition that separates the two-bay section from the single-bay section, see fig. 2.29. If the first and attic floors of this two-bay section were heated before these changes took place the fireplaces should have been in the thicker south gable wall.



Fig. 2.29 Unusual construction between the north to south aligned single-bay section and the subsequently re-aligned east to west two-bay section. See Plan 3.7 for location key.

A dendrochronological report,⁷³ of this two-bay section, confined to two attic floor joists, has dated these timbers to c. 1590. Certainly the attic as it currently exists was created at this time and it is suggested the two-bay section was then linked to a new south range running east to west, using this existing two-bay section as its eastern end, see fig. 2.28 to 2.31 and plan 2.6. This attic-level roofing and gable re-alignment from north / south to east / west became necessary to interconnect to the new south wing at attic level, and importantly its new staircase.

In fig. 2.31 the large chimneystack of the south range, otherwise hidden, has been exposed during re-roofing. The stack is built outside the west wall of the earlier east range building but buttresses to it, creating corridors through it at ground and first floor levels; a similar transit system to that believed to have been employed in the earlier Hall block. Immediately beneath the chimney in this illustration can be seen the horizontal oak framework of a small

⁷³ Dr. Andy Moir, Tree Ring Services, *Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset* (2015).

square flat ceiling, mirrored on the opposite side of the stack. Internally this illustrated area connects three distinct areas of the house: the attic room of the earlier two-bay section to the east, the attic of a later c. 1590 range to the west and the top of a c. 1590 staircase that rises from the foot of the c. 1590 extension to the west of the east range.

The roof structure of the older, eastern, two-bay section, though sagging and failing to a great extent compared to its neighbouring room opposite the chimney, is of the same build date as the roof to its west. When the c.1590 south range was built, following the line but not wall thicknesses of the earlier building, the new and old ranges were aligned and roofed as one continuous south range, however the weight of the older roof amended to lie across the new gable end was too much for the timbers to successfully carry.

The chimneystack wall is photographed again from inside the attic room in fig. 2.30. In that image the fireplace is seen inserted into this new c. 1590 stack, with new doors either side. The doorway on the left is visually datable to c. 1590 while the one on the right has only Georgian woodwork displayed. The failure of the amended roof structure above is visible here with iron bracing to the right; the replaced purlin to the left is associated with later structure built against that wall.



Fig. 2.30. The re-aligned attic of the two-bay section, looking west to the c. 1590 chimneystack and south range.



Fig. 2.31. The c. 1590 chimneystack at the east of that later range, see plan 2.6. The purlins supporting the ceiling of the new east facing gable on the earlier east range have sagged considerably from supporting the weight of the east range's older north to south roof alignment.

c. 1536 MANOR SUMMARY

This surviving early sixteenth-century portion of the manor at Halswell is the earliest full structure surviving within the house. It also appears to give us one of the earliest known examples, and a very high status instance, of a manor house built to a lobby entry plan.

The Hall building shows its status with high proportions, large windows and coloured building materials but is a much more modern form of house than a manorial hall. It has a ground-floor Hall beneath a Solar, with a kitchen, later a parlour, to its south. On either side and through the centre of its vast chimneystack almost certainly contained a series of well-lit stairs connecting all currently surviving rooms on the east range.

Immediately to the south of this important building stands a visually separate but contemporary addition in brown sandstone containing the Kitchen beneath two floors of accommodation. South of this, but a continuation of the same building, is a wider two-bay gabled section containing what appears to be the Buttery with accommodation, possibly heated, in the above rooms. This section was almost certainly built with a gable to its south end which was removed to its east side at the end of the same century to facilitate a new south range built adjacent to its west, necessitating the full re-build of its attic.

Though many of the early windows have been replaced there is good evidence for their Georgian sash substitutions, themselves replaced in c. 1926 with stone mullioned windows.

While it is conceivable that a separate kitchen block existed and that the proposed Kitchen was indeed built as a parlour, the evidence of the unheated Buttery to the south of that room suggests this being the c. 1536 Kitchen.

The very intricate phasing and remaking of gables makes this range difficult to read, however the evidence of wall thicknesses and the additions to the old building through subsequent phases, expanded upon in the next chapter, gives enough information from which to draw these deductions.

It appears conclusive from the evidence that the Hall has not been reduced in size, and indeed, that it was never really a hall in the traditional meaning. While the existence of another lost range to the north cannot be ruled out at this stage there is currently no visible evidence to propose ones existence.

The c. 1536 manor as described here provided the nucleus for the next phase of building expansion to the south and west.



Plan 1.1.

Colour Key: c. 1536 – 1550, c. 1590, c. 1610, early-seventeenth century, late-seventeenth century, 1689, 1754, 1766, 1771, c. 1772-1899, c. 1900-1926, after 1950.

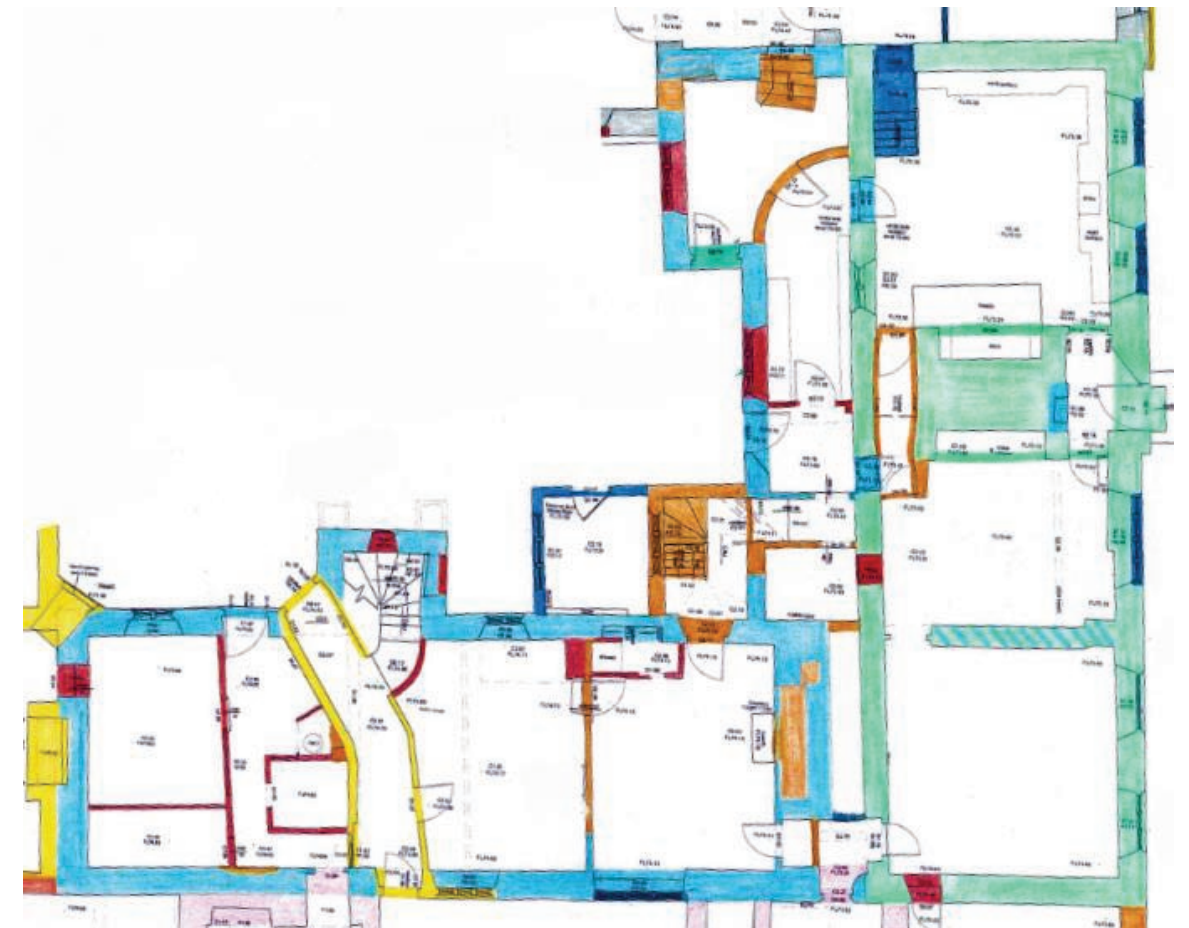
Chapter Three

SOUTH RANGE & WEST FAÇADE: *c.* 1590 to *c.* 1610

OVERVIEW



Plan 3.1. Location Key.



Plan 3.2. *c.* 1590's in light blue. Colour code: *c.* 1536, light green; *c.* 1590, light blue; 1689, grey; 1754, yellow; 1771, dark green; *c.* 1772-1899, orange; *c.* 1900-1926, dark blue; after 1950, red.

After the c. 1536 phase there is evidence of building works being carried out at Halswell between 1595 and 1610 in the form of a receipt detailing that '*lias, freestone, and tile were brought by sea through Bridgwater between 1595 and 1610*'.⁷⁴ Dendrochronology of five structural timbers in the south range has returned the date 1590 for each. These facts combined with the visual appraisal of the structures allows for confident dating of these areas to c. 1590 - c. 1610.

It is asserted that this expansion of the manor created a long wing to the south which ran westwards using the already existing south-east corner, the old Buttery, as its starting point. There is currently no found dateable evidence of earlier elements along this range. In addition an extension consisting of three gables was added to the west side of the existing Hall range, creating new rooms and corridors running north to south on all three floors as well as a new grander staircase at its southern end, decorated with turned balusters visually datable to c. 1590, see fig. 3.1. This staircase still exists from the first-floor level and above but was later removed at ground-floor level.⁷⁵ To the south of the foot of this staircase was a narrow service passageway running parallel between the previously external west wall of the old Buttery and the new south range. This passage is currently in-filled but there is clear evidence of its plastered walls at the south end of the old passage. There is further evidence that it still existed and had not yet been fully in-filled from floor plans created in c. 1924, see plan 3.3.⁷⁶

This service passage linked the new west-facing entrance corridor, leading to the Hall and the old Kitchen, to a new Kitchen which was created in the eastern ground-floor room of this c. 1590 south range. The remains of this kitchen were discovered while preparing this study. By removing late plaster on the new south range's internal east wall a large sixteenth-century service fireplace and doorway arch were uncovered, see fig. 3.2.

With the expansion of the manor from c. 1590 more polite spaces will have been required. Building a new Kitchen in the new south range would have allowed the old Kitchen to change its function and become a Parlour, being well suited to that use by its proximity to the Hall, large chimneystack and polite rooms above. The new entrance and corridor parallel to its previously external west wall could now facilitate movement from the new Kitchen to the Hall and Parlour, now accessed by new doorways of c. 1590 inserted into the

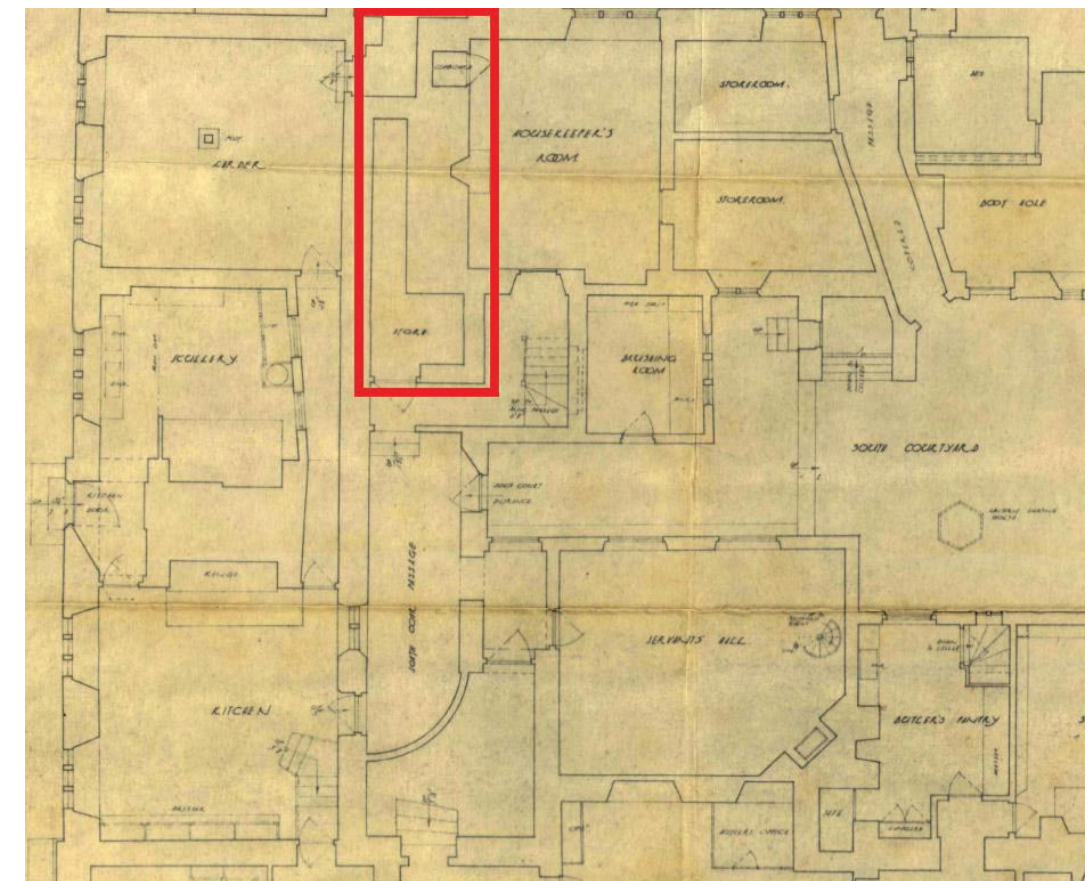
⁷⁴ <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/5b7ead70-d232-4795-b68d-5e7737d59e74> Document Reference DD\S\WH/91 (assessed 19 May 2015).

⁷⁵ The ground floor area where the stairs once began still has wall paint on the west wall following a northern descent of stair treads which met a low landing in front of a now removed window of c. 1590, before completing their run eastwards into the centre of the corridor.

⁷⁶ For full Vickery plans see the pp. 32 – 35.



Fig. 3.1. One of four turned-oak baluster sections in situ at the south of the western extension.



Plan 3.3. c. 1924 Vickery plan detail with blocked service passage highlighted.

earlier west walls of each room, see figs 2.22 – 2.25. This entrance gained some grandeur by creating a ceiling height to match that in the old Hall, possibly lit by two bays of mullioned windows. Further splendour was gained through the open balusters of the three-storey staircase which allowed light from all three floors of the southern gable to light both stairs and entrance hallway.



Fig. 3.2 The broad arch of the newly exposed sixteenth-century service fireplace with bread oven to its left and door arch to the right, leading to the service passage behind this fireplace and to the Buttery in the, now attached, two-bay gabled section to the east.

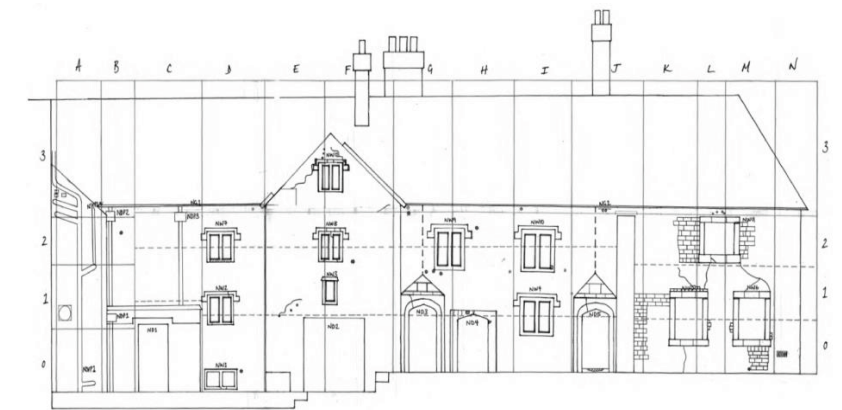
The proposed heat source for this new western extension was a fireplace in its northern wall, possibly topped by an Elizabethan plaster over-mantle which still survives on site, perhaps coincidentally, in this location.

By this development the service rooms were consigned to the southern range of the expanded building and were accessed through a passageway between the old east range and the new south range's Kitchen fireplace. The eastern portion of the south range's first and attic-floor rooms were large and suited to more polite uses. However the south range is on two separate levels due to the contour of the landscape resulting in three full floors above a cellar on the eastern portion of the range and only two floors below an unused attic void to the western portion of the range.

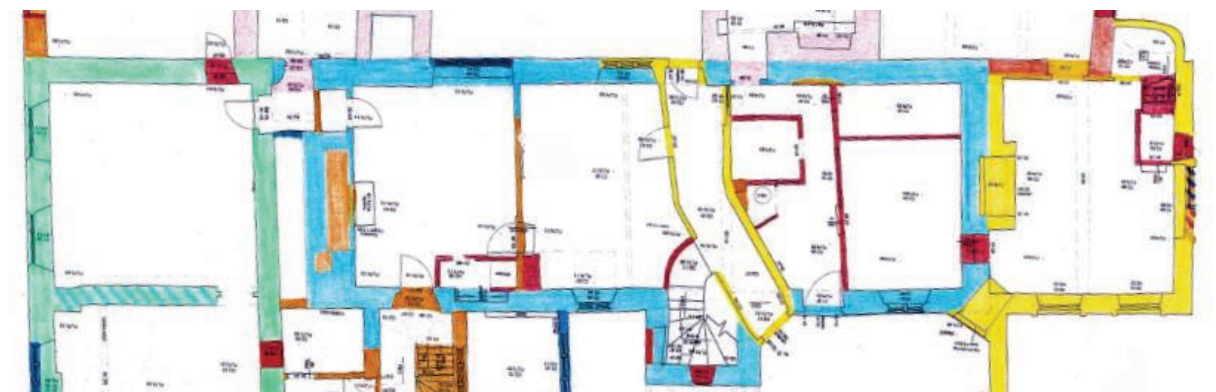
THE SOUTH RANGE: c. 1590 to c. 1610



Plan 3.4. Location Key.



Plan 3.5. South range, visible north elevation from courtyard (aligned to plan below).⁷⁷



Plan 3.6. South range floorplan, full from east to west. Colour code: c. 1536, light green; c. 1590, light blue; c. 1610, pink; 1754, yellow; c. 1772-1899, orange; c. 1900-1926, dark blue; after 1950, red.

⁷⁷ Zoned plan courtesy of Corbel Conservation.

The new Kitchen occupies the area on plan 3.5 from quadrants 'A' to 'C', its north window now filled-in and covered by two later additions, see plan 3.6. Immediately west of the new Kitchen is a raised cellar with timber ceiling approximately one-fifth of which is above ground, quadrant 'OD' on plan 3.5. This creates a raised floor level between the new Kitchen and the space to its west. Both room sections share a ceiling level resulting in a reduced ceiling height in the room above the cellar to approximately 1.6 metres. This room has no heat source. These two rooms were divided by a modern lath and plaster wall, which replaced an earlier wall of a similar type.

A large window opening in the new Kitchen has been revealed in the north wall. Within the partition wall, at its southern edge, is an oak sixteenth-century doorway with a four-centred arch. The flattened arch is similar, though more simply made, to the other c. 1600 oak door surrounds at Halswell. The wood and the partial surviving old timbers around it are smoke blackened and not fire damaged, consistent with the use of the room as a kitchen.

Below in the Cellar is one north-facing mullioned window interlaced with contemporary iron bars, above which is a relieving arch visible on the external wall. The window surround and its relieving arch matches that of the other original windows in this south range, though its mullion has been replaced, therefore it is felt the Cellar was built when the range was constructed. The central joist across the Cellar ceiling, supporting the floor above, has also benefitted from a successful dendrochronological test which dates it to c. 1590.⁷⁸ With this combined evidence the south range can be dated to c. 1590 and was built to contain some services, at least at cellar and ground-floor levels, but not built entirely as a service wing.

The room above the Cellar, with its restricted height and lack of heat source, is likely to have been service chamber. It may have been linked to the floors above by the external staircase tower to the north, which had two entrances. This tower shows no signs at the junctions of the wall to which it adjoins that it was added at a later date, the masonry suggests it was built contemporaneously with the south range. It had a large north-facing entrance probably decorated with a four-centred masonry arch leading to the Cellar below. This opening has for most of the twentieth-century been without an original door surround. The lintel was replaced with a rudimentary timber insert and the tower itself supported by a pier of twentieth-century buttressing, now removed. The area where its relieving arch would be expected has been reworked for a later window opening. At the foot of the stairs in the Cellar is a four-centred arch door surround that is unnecessary in its current location and appears to have been repositioned here from the ground-floor stair tower entrance, presumably being replaced by the wooden lintel in the twentieth-century, see figs. 3.3 and 3.4.

⁷⁸ Dr. Andy Moir, Tree Ring Services, Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset (2015).



Fig. 3.3. South range, north elevation, c. 2008: stair tower with north cellar entrance and east entrance to floors above, to its west a four-centred arch door.

Fig. 3.4. A flattened four-centred arch door surround incongruously at the foot of the cellar stairs.

On the east of the tower, reached by a few steps, was a separate doorway to an unconnected spiral staircase leading upward. The c. 1924 Vickery plans suggest this only led to the attic floor. It currently links ground, first and attic of the eastern section of the south range. This entrance and its hood moulds were removed only in the early twenty-first century. The small window above the cellar entrance is a later insertion.

The extent of the entire south range is recorded in plan 3.6, however the c. 1590 range extends only from the beginning of quadrant 'A' to the end of quadrant 'J'. Within the 'A' to 'C' quadrants there are two later buildings overlapping the plan, which mask in-filled windows on the ground and first floors. There are eight extant windows of the 1590's period on this range, all of which share the same detailing and relieving arches, except the tower attic window which has no need for a relieving arch. In addition to the two removed period doorways to the stair tower there are two further doorways in quadrants 'G' and 'J' inserted in 1754. The purpose for these doorways and the 1754 extension from quadrant 'K' will be discussed in a subsequent chapter.

Internally the c. 1590 south range is bisected by only one solid wall, of early twentieth-century redbrick, which follows the line of the stair tower on its western side. Inside, the western section of the south range, from 'G' to 'J', has lost most of its original detail and layout, from the ground floor through to the attic. The attic floor, which was almost certainly once an inhabited space, is now an empty attic accessible only by a ceiling hatches from the floor below and retains few clues as to its original specifications.

The first-floor space has a twentieth-century arrangement of partition walls and changed access routes. The ground floor has a similar treatment but also has a bent passage running through it from north to south installed in 1754. The amount of change to this area over many generations leaves a certain amount of unanswerable questions about these rooms and their uses; however it appears to have been a space separated from the rest of the manor house, connected at attic level to the later south-west wing and having its own doorway into the courtyard from construction.

On the ground floor to the west of an eighteenth-century covered passage was a solid column of masonry, centrally placed, possibly there to support a fireplace backing in the room above, as it appears to have done when still wholly in place in c. 1924, see Vickery plans. The wall that supports this first-floor fireplace rests on an oak beam which has a partly truncated wall of modern brick beneath, allowing for the bent passageway angle. This appears to be made of twentieth-century redbrick, like the wall above it and therefore appears to have been under fill to support the fireplace and its wall above. This oak beam is chamfered only where it is exposed and not where it re-enters the wall, indicating the beam did not originally traverse an open space, as to do so it should have been fully chamfered from construction.

The extent of original timber structure at the attic level of this partition wall, see fig. 3.6, indicates it was not built to include the solid wall that now exists, and therefore was unlikely to support fireplaces, but was intended as a partition between two internally distinct areas of the range, see figs. 3.6 and 3.7. This first-floor fireplace, servicing the eastern side but supported in the western side of the range, existed from at least the late-nineteenth century; its ground-floor support structure is at the corner of a later bent passageway, so possibly dictating the course of that passageway, in which case it may have been in this position before 1754.

The original west gable, in quadrant 'J', appears not to have supported any fireplaces at this date. The defunct gable apex is visible within the attic space, see fig. 3.5, and shows no signs of a chimney. The ground floor below this has seemingly untouched rough-stone construction without any openings, though more invasive examinations of this area could still be undertaken. However the south wall of this ground-floor room does have a very large disturbance and has been in-filled with red brick. This is a possible location for a fireplace on this floor; this fire would share chimney space with a later large chimneystack immediately to its south.

This c. 1590 defunct west gable in fig. 3.5 is plastered rough stone suggesting that this space was inhabited. In this western section of the south range most of the roof timbers have been replaced. The thin rafters visible in fig. 3.5 date from the re-roofing of c. 1926. Evidence of

access to or a light source for this room seems lost through these modifications; however it is noteworthy that the attic space in the eastern portion of this range, which still remains intact, has attic level windows to its south side, originally dormers.



Fig. 3.5. The original plastered western gable of the c. 1590 south range, from the interior, east side.

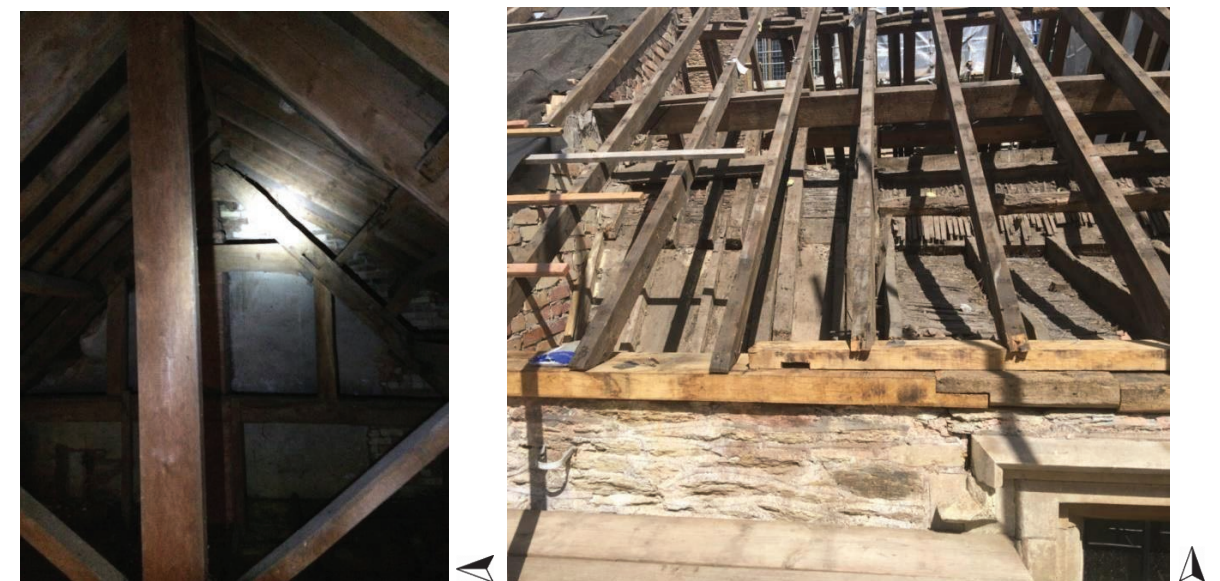


Fig. 3.6. The original roof trusses still exist to the east of the western section of the attic.

Fig. 3.7. South range, south elevation. The c. 1926 wall between both levels of the south range is on the left; the high pitch of the c. 1590 ceiling and so roof beside that; and above the hood mould is the dormer's ceiling construction.

The gaps between those dormer windows were filled with masonry at a later date, resulting in a three-storey south façade, hiding its original appearance of two stories below a dormered attic, see fig. 3.7 and 3.28.

There are no physical remains as yet uncovered in this western attic section that supports a fenestration arrangement. However two projecting gabled towers were added to the south at a slightly later phase, as well as a further three-storey block to its west in the early-seventeenth century. If dormer windows had existed at the south-west of the south range in the original phase their removal would have been necessary for the subsequent two phases. Why and at what date the accommodation in this attic section was lost is unknown, however possible window removal associated with the later phases may have led to its obsolescence.

To the east end of this western attic section early timbers have survived, see fig. 3.6. The aisle construction of that timber frame, there are two further vertical timbers to the far left and right below the tie-beam, is the only example of this type at Halswell. The modern chimney from the first-floor fireplace is partly visible behind the early twentieth-century king post in the foreground. The timber frame precludes any normal access through the wall behind, where the external stair tower terminates at its north. The same wall is visible from the other side in fig. 3.7.

The earlier roof truss to the right in fig. 3.6 no longer directly supports purlins between this section and the modern king post. This is due to this section of the roof being raised on the south side creating a decreased roof pitch to the south-eastern section of the range. This decrease in roof pitch is associated with the original dormer windows at the south being filled-in at either side, thereby changing that elevation from two storeys with a dormered attic to a three-storey elevation. The roof retains its original higher pitch westward from this foreground king post and the unequal roof levels are masked by a further south chimneystack at this junction attached to the slightly later gabled projection at the south, see figs. 3.28 and 3.29.

The first-floor room beneath this western space has a high ceiling and two north-facing windows, now divided by a lath and plaster partition, which existed in c. 1924, creating two rooms, each linked by a modern partition creating a corridor to the south. There is an opening at the east of this corridor which has twentieth-century bricks around and above denoting a changed access route dateable to the mid-twentieth century.

Passing through this modern opening we enter the eastern section of the south range. This first-floor room is above the new Kitchen and ground-floor storeroom with Cellar below, it is subdivided with partitions which are mainly from the mid-twentieth century however a lath and plaster dividing wall on the eastern side containing two doorways has existed since at

least c. 1924. This room contains a large and simple mid-eighteenth century wooden fire surround at its east wall, sharing the chimneystack of the new Kitchen below. This area warrants invasive investigation to determine the earlier phase or phases of fireplaces in this position. On the north wall of this room is an in-filled window opening approximately the same width as the existing mullioned window opposite it on the south wall. This window became defunct when a new red brick stair tower was added to the wall outside which overlapped the older window, according to maps sometime between 1771 and 1887,⁷⁹ but based on the lintel construction, late eighteenth-century.

A similar window on the ground floor was also partly covered by the new stair tower. The cavity of this window is viewable on the floorplans. This ground-floor window was completely covered from the outside when a flat-roofed single storey room of ashlar was built next to the red brick stair tower in the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, probably c. 1926. This new room was accessible only from the courtyard.

The attic floor above can be accessed from either end of this level, via the external north stair tower or through a door with a finely carved flattened four-centred arch of c. 1590 in the north-east corner. That door leads directly onto a southward passage through the chimneystack, a mirror of the now in-filled service passage on the ground floor, and to the north is the staircase of c. 1590, see fig. 3.1, at the south-east junction of the two ranges built at this date.

This attic space above this eastern section of the c. 1590 south range has a jointed-cruick roof of five spans. The main purlins of each are plastered on the inside with a decorative running rib cornice. The jointed crucks tie-beams also have corning; all appear to have been decorated from construction. The space is currently bisected by two partition walls and a short corridor. Only the lath and plaster partition wall in fig. 3.9 is shown as existing in the c. 1924 plans, however as the wall does not respect the position of the jointed crucks or return the running rib cornice it would appear to be a later addition, possibly c. 1926. However the position of this wall does correspond with that on the floor below, which in turn is in line with the partition wall in the ground-floor Kitchen, which itself rests upon the east wall on the Cellar, which is made of rough stone.

The original dormer windows in this section and much of the roof construction are still intact; new roof levels were simply added on top of the existing timbers. Fig 3.10 partly illustrates

⁷⁹ The 1771 estate map, see fig. 1.11, does not record a stair tower in this location. The next map detailed enough to show the area, the Ordnance Survey map of 1887, does record the stair tower.



Fig. 3.9. South range, east section, attic storey.

Fig. 3.10. A detail of the running rib cornice above a plastered jointed cruck arch beneath which has been added a later partition wall.

the opening of the dormer window at the south-west end of the attic. The arrangement of the jointed crucks is very irregular, no two being similarly spaced and remnants of moulded plaster decoration exist on both the east and west sides of the jointed crucks. Whether this room was ever a completely open space is not known, though the current partition walls are all probably twentieth century.

The large new Kitchen chimneystack rises through the eastern end of the south range attic room but currently no fireplace is exposed in the stack. With the plasterwork decoration and possibility that this was a very large open gallery-like space it seems likely a fireplace opening exists, now behind modern in-fill.

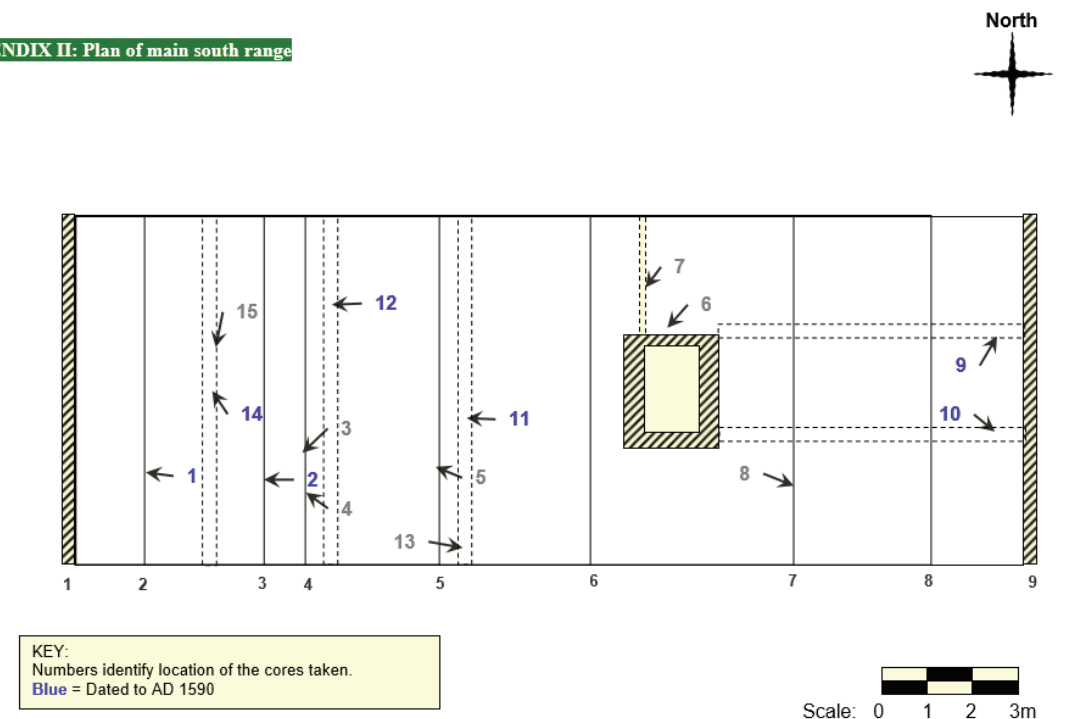
Dendrochronology has been undertaken in the south range from the west wall of this room, past the chimneystack and to the east façade wall. Testing timbers were chosen on each floor from the Cellar to the roof timbers, seven results were successful each indicating a date of c. 1590. These consist of one ceiling joist in the Cellar, two attic floor joists, two attic rafters and two attic purlins, see plans 3.7 and 3.8.



Plan 3.7. Location Key.

Dendrochronological Report: Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset

APPENDIX II: Plan of main south range



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Plan 3.8. Beams tested within that area, blue numbers indicate successful results.⁸⁰

⁸⁰ Dr. Andy Moir, Tree Ring Services, Halswell House, Goathurst, Somerset (2015).

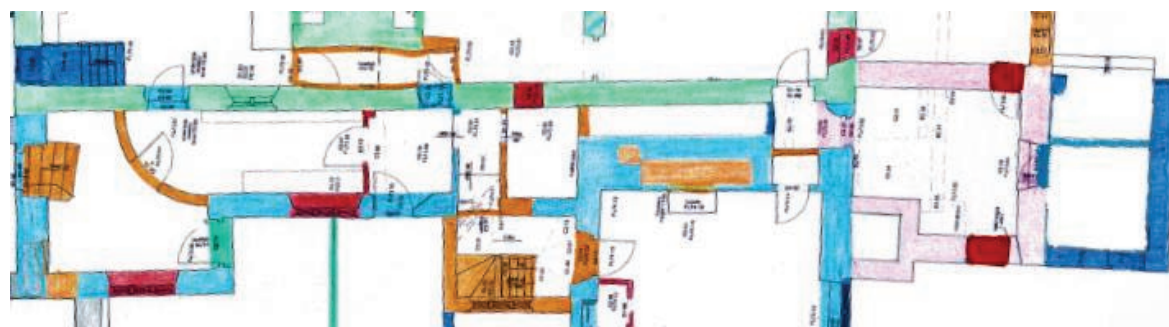
EAST RANGE, WEST FAÇADE: c. 1590 to c. 1610



Plan 3.9. Location Key.



Plan 3.10. East range, west elevation.



Plan 3.11. East range, west elevation. Colour code: c. 1536, light green; c. 1590, light blue; c. 1610, pink; c. 1772-1899, orange; c. 1900-1926, dark blue; after 1950, red.

More construction from c. 1590 is located to the west of the old east range. This is the three-gabled section on the left of plans 3.10 and 3.11. Of equal widths, the north gable is topped by a bellcote and the south gable slightly overhanging the roof of the south range, see fig. 3.16. Each gabled attic retains its original two-light mullioned window beneath which each had a larger three-light mullioned window. The central and northern examples exist now as c. 1926 replacements but within their original window-cavity widths. No original window openings survive on the ground floor; those currently in place in the north and central gables are oak replacements of c. 2006. Until that date this area of the courtyard was occupied by the Servant's Hall with a low-pitched lead roof, the outline of which can be seen cut into the walls in fig. 3.11. According to Richard Escott's *Memorandum* this was built in 1771.⁸¹ These two earlier ground-floor openings were removed, the disturbances to the original fabric are clear in this image, as are the original relieving arches and some remnants of the ground-floor mullioned window in the central section to the right of the arched door opening.



Fig. 3.11. North and central gable sections c. 2005, with the eighteenth-century openings exposed during the demolition of the Servant's Hall. There is a 1771 door opening through the south wall of the north gable. A lower-right horizontal section of the original central gable window still existed, touching the door's left jamb; the upright mullion was reused in its position.

⁸¹ Richard Escott's *Memorandum*, South West Heritage Trust, DD\X\EMY/1.

There are no ground-floor remains within the northern gable opening to indicate whether it was a door or a window in this position; however the high relieving arches are similar.

In the south gable section the first-floor window proportions and partial outline are visible from inside the range, see figs. 3.12 and 3.13. The window was removed by the time a new red brick stair tower, rising from the ground to the first floor, superseded the corresponding portion of the older c. 1590 stairs which sits behind this once external stone wall. The oak lintel above this window opening as well as some ham stone corners from the removed window openings left and right sides are still *in situ* on the inside of the expanded wall opening, now partly filled with a red brick arch giving door access to the later staircase.



Figs. 3.12 and 3.13. The removed c. 1590 first-floor window left and right upper corners, from within its c. 1590 staircase gable.

Immediately below this on the ground floor the wall was more substantially removed to create a larger ground-floor access for the later staircase. There are also visible remains of the old window opening to the south side in that area, the north side being completely removed to facilitate the large staircase entrance. The southern area of the old staircase cavity became enclosed within a small storeroom and consequently some early paintwork still exists there which follows the line and stair treads of the removed sixteenth-century staircase. This positions it immediately south of the existing west façade doorway, as would be expected in order for it to end at the still existing landing on the first-floor level. This paintwork stops at a break in the south gable wall where the south jamb of the window appears to have been positioned. This incline indicates that the stairs stopped at a landing immediately beneath the original window before turning eastwards to finish its descent in the centre of the c. 1590

entrance corridor. This would position the foot of the stairs where a double-sided oak archway still exists in the hallway, see fig. 3.15. The double-sided carving and the lack of ironmongery indicate a decorative archway, not a door. Its four-centred arch is topped with the carved initials of Sir Nicholas Halswell MP (1566-1633) who was responsible for this entire building phase, see fig. 3.14.



Fig. 3.14. Initials on the four-centred archway.



Plan 3.13 Location key.

Fig. 3.15 Oak arch at the foot of the c. 1590's stair position, blocked service passageway to the new Kitchen beyond and c. 1590's stone door surround to the old Kitchen or new Parlour on the left.



Fig.3.16. The three gables of the westward extension, c. 2014.

Fig. 3.17. Central gable section: the collar rafter roof joins with the attic of the Hall and sits above the termination of the c. 1536 staircase which lay behind the modern plaster wall and door to the right, which itself still leads downwards to the neighbouring attic chamber to the right.

The original façade of the three gables was quite symmetrical in elevation, with a slightly off-centre door and a projecting north gable. A door in the new west façade was positioned beside the foot of the stairs, itself entered through the carved and initialled archway which separated the entrance hall and the stairs. This external door is oak and decorated with a renaissance-inspired rusticated-ashlar design which is period to the build. It is the only piece of early classicism, surviving, within the old manor.

The removal of the old stairs at ground-floor level left open space leading to the new larger stairs built in the courtyard, but still leaving access to the narrow service passage further south and allowing for a new doorway to be cut through the new Kitchen's north wall, beneath the new stairs.

The triple-gabled western addition, see fig. 3.16, served three functions. The south gable provided a new staircase which connected all floors of the new south range and the old east range. This allowed the earlier small staircase arrangement at the Hall's chimneystack to become redundant, see fig. 3.17. The central gabled section contained only corridors to facilitate that access. The northern gabled section contained rooms and judging from the greater thickness of its north wall it was built as the termination of this range.

THE BELLCOTE NORTH GABLE: c. 1590 to c. 1610

This north gabled section is topped with a bellcote and contains a number of elements important to understanding the development of Halswell.

Starting from the top, ironmongery was discovered in 2015 running across the roof and terminating at the east entrance door of the Hall, suggesting that the bell was used, at some time, as a door bell for the east entrance as it did for the west entrance which is contemporary with the bellcote. Its canopy has five mounting indentations, see fig. 3.18, to support an ironwork weather vane. Beneath this the gable attic, see fig. 3.19, had the same fenestration to its west side as the other two gabled sections beside it. Its ham stone mullioned window has considerable wear at the base from the bell rope that terminated in the courtyard.



Plans 3.14 and 3.15. Location key and ground floor detail of the north gable section.



Fig. 3.18. The bellcote-topped north gable, which has five mounting indentations.

Fig. 3.19. The collar rafter roof of the bellcote gable.

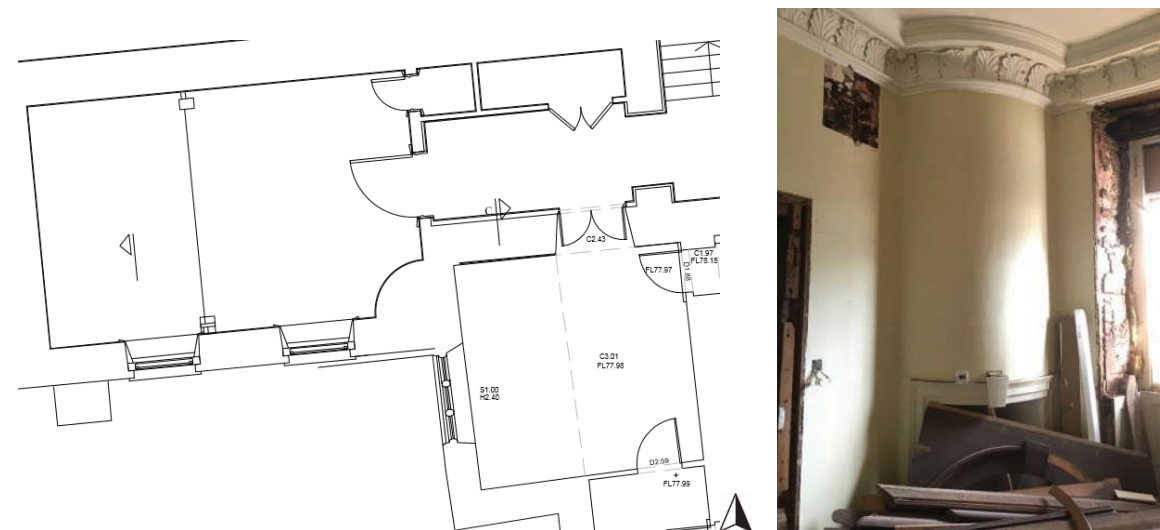
As this section projects westwards beyond the rest of the range it has space on its south elevation for openings, there is no evidence of any except a later ground-floor level door, see plan 3.15 and fig. 3.11, which appears to date from the construction of the now demolished courtyard Servants Hall of 1771. Other features in this room include an angled niche, steps up through a door in the north wall with a repositioned plaster over-mantle of c. 1600 above, and a red brick curved wall with a door. The mullioned window in plan 3.15 is a wooden replacement of c. 2006 replicating the window position of the example that partly existed up to c. 2006 in the central gable section, see fig. 3.11.

The angled niche is intriguing, recent removal of modern plaster, see figs. 3.20 and 3.21, has shown the opening reaches one step from ground level and has also uncovered a four-centred arch made of plaster, the only plaster feature of its kind at Halswell. The apex of the arch is visible but the remaining third of its span is hidden behind the corner of the west wall, which itself has been heavily disturbed and is in-filled with eighteenth-century brick. The hidden part of the door surround might indicate this north wall led to another part of the building, destroyed, or at least this doorway obscured, when the bellcote gable was added. However the flattened arch suggests it is not likely to date from before the c. 1590 phase.

The portion of the surround that is hidden behind the west wall would correspond well to a corner external stair turret, which are common in the locality. Greenham Barton Manor, already compared to Halswell for its internal oriel window, has three such external spiral stair turrets. In addition to the brick in-filling there are suggestive elements to the west to support this possibility.



Figs. 3.20 and 3.21. In-filled opening in the north wall of the north gable, with and without modern plaster. The half-door and angle of the opening suggests a spiral staircase but without invasive examination the nature of the area remains unknown. The area to the west wall, right of the window, has been in-filled with redbrick suggesting a larger opening at this corner.



Plan 3.16. First floor of the bellcote gable with semi-circular protruding fireplace at its south-east.

Fig 3.22. The above fireplace in the Alcove Bedroom.

The first-floor fireplace is located here and is an unusual semi-circular shape, from floor to ceiling, see plan 3.16 and fig. 3.22. Though its outline does not correspond to a spiral stairs the coincidence of such a shape in this area is striking. It could have sat on top of the structure for a single flight of semi-spiral stairs below; a protrusion in the ceiling below the

fireplace suggests some alteration here requiring extra support for the fireplace. A fireplace positioned here is inconvenient and necessitated a very high chimney rising to the height of the taller Baroque Wing to the north. The north wall of this room contains a series of chimney flues suitable for the standard position of a fireplace in the centre of the room.

The evidence seems to suggest the angled niche to be an in-filled, semi-spiral stair that went to the ground-floor south room of the Baroque Wing, the original Servant's Hall. This wing has a much higher ground level than the old manor, being approximately one meter higher than this room or the Hall. Possibly this niche is the remnant of an interim solution to connect the two buildings at ground-floor level before the inadequacy of a spiral stairs for all servants necessitated the removal of a proposed fireplace immediately to its right to serve as a straight stair cavity.

There is currently no heat source in any of this western three-gabled extension. It is proposed that the site of the ground-floor north door contained that area's fireplace, see fig. 3.23, as did the same position on the first floor, and possibly its attic.

The north door that currently exists in this room is reached by modern wooden steps through a ground-level opening which rises to ceiling height, there is no masonry above. The opening at ground level is deeper than necessary for steps and has masonry connecting its east and west sides only at the back. There is no other old masonry connecting these east to west sides of the north wall from ground to roof level. A concrete lintel of c. 1926 is now positioned above the door opening of the first floor and modern red brick fills the same cavity at wall-plate level in the attic. The roof structure above this had, in c. 1924, a roof light of size and position appropriate for the chimney of a stack this size. A subsequent building phase in c. 2005 has destroyed any datable roofing material which may have survived to confirm an early chimney opening. The cavity on the first floor, the only one with removed plaster, shows the stone has been hacked back at the upper level while *in situ*. This is consistent with the removal of its chimney breast leaving an empty cavity, seemingly only re-connected east to west on the upper-two floors in the twentieth century.

Set into the hollow space above the existing north door is a plaster over-mantle of c. 1600 consisting of a central cartouche with a biblical scene, *Daniel in the Lion's Den*, set into a strapwork frame. It is adorned with the arms of Halswell and Wallop, which dates it to the tenure of Sir Nicholas Halswell JP MP (1566 - 1633) after his marriage to Briget by 1588. To either side, now set at ninety degree angles, are two standing figures, *St. Agnes* and *Justice*, see figs. 3.23 to 3.26. All characters are associated with justice. Set side-by-side, these three pieces of removed and reset plasterwork create a standard over-mantle type of c.1600. There is no way of knowing where this plasterwork was previously positioned, however

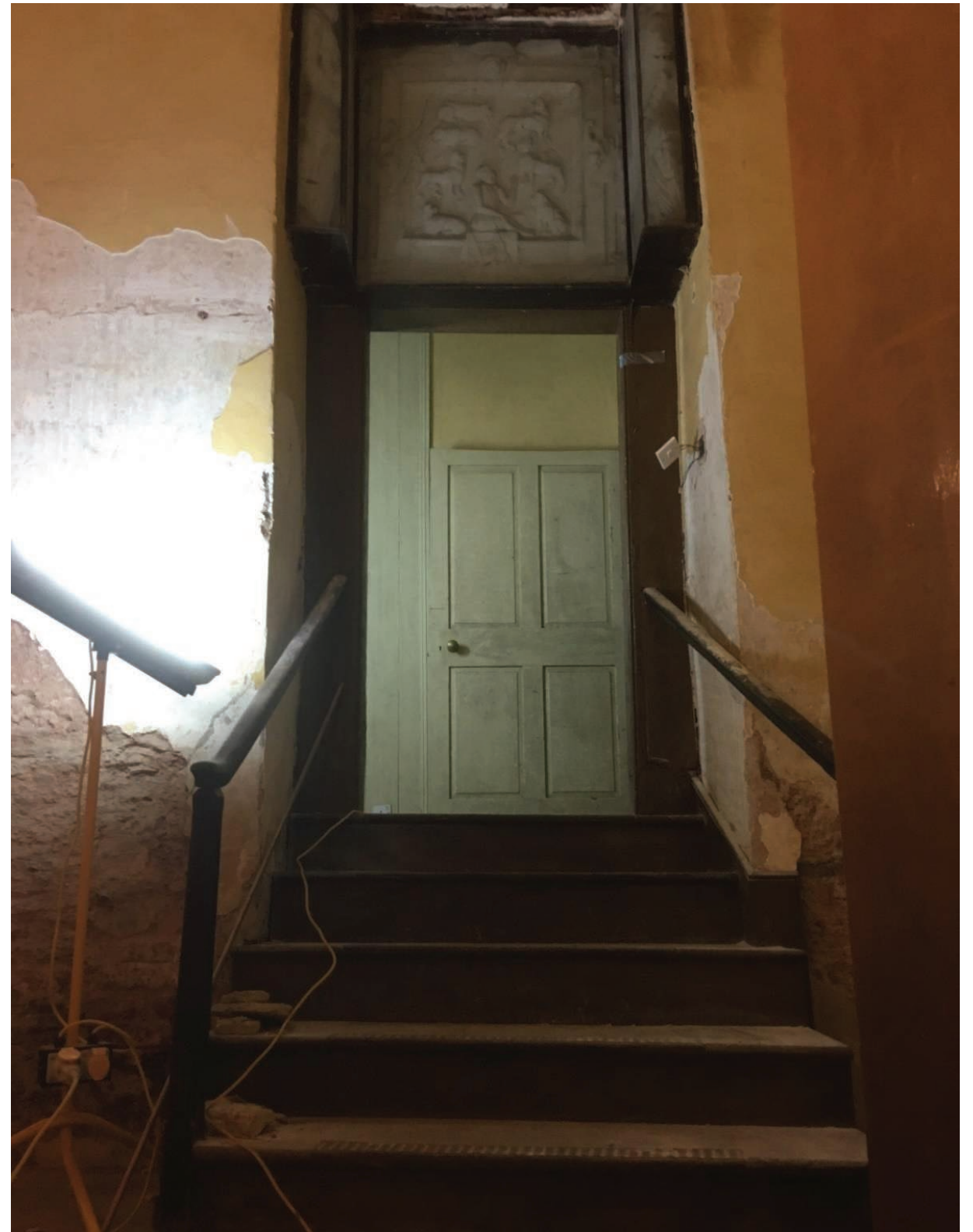


Fig. 3.23. The north wall of the north gable, the Baroque Wing beyond.





Figs. 3.24, 3.25 and 3.26. St Agnes, Daniel and Justice

resetting it into the cavity created by the removal of the chimney breast on which it may have sat seems appropriate.

The current layout of the ground and first floors has reduced the north gable rooms to mere extensions of the corridors which once serviced them. When the Baroque Wing to the north was built new access routes were needed to connect both house phases. It is proposed with some confidence this entailed the loss of the ground-floor entrance hall fireplace, not necessarily immediately, as well as that in the room directly above. There is no other area with which to connect both building phases; eventually the ground-floor fireplace like the first-floor one before it, was sacrificed for convenient access.

Returning to the ground floor, the bowed wall illustrated in plan 3.15 is a later addition and one which created a wall where none existed before, the c. 1924 plans show it had no door opening. This is built of eighteenth-century manufactured red brick in Flemish bond. Removing the plaster has exposed the interior corner of the central gable, before that wall returns westward to create the projecting bellcote gable section of the room, see fig. 3.27. The corner of this wall is plastered and the running rib corning returns in the same direction, which is a clear indication that the space was an open one at the time the plasterwork was added. There is only one layer of plaster and there are no indications of partition wall fixings along the exposed stone area. With this northern end of the range open at ground-floor level a large western entry hall would have existed aligned north to south. There are no possibilities for heat sources in this hall, or in the spaces on the two floors above, without a chimneystack having existed at the north end of this long open hall space.

The convention for a projecting tower at the entrance façade of a building of this date to contain the main entrance door may suggest that the bellcote gable was the entrance from c. 1590 to 1689. It is quite possible that this was the case. The slight possibility that there may have been an external spiral stairs at the north-west corner of the bellcote gable would strengthen this possibility,⁸² though internal steps terminating within the 1689 Servant's Hall seems more likely, and potentially provable with invasive investigation.

Such an entrance arrangement through the bellcote gable would rationalise an otherwise unusual entrance hall layout; a larger entry space with fireplace and door to the Hall opposite. There is no original stone surviving inside the heavily disturbed west wall for evidence of an original door or its rebate, a feature common to the earlier east door and the contemporary west door next to the staircase. The high relieving arch on the ground floor matches that of the window beside it, which we know was in place in the central gable. However due to the amount of damage done to historic material in this area it seems unlikely the main entrance at this position can be proved, nor should the high probability be dismissed.



Fig. 3.27 The quoins, returning plaster and returning running rib cornice of the central gable section, with a later red brick partition added to the right.

⁸² Examples of such arrangements in Somerset include: Gotherney, Clevedon Court, Farleigh Hungerford and Newton St. Loe.

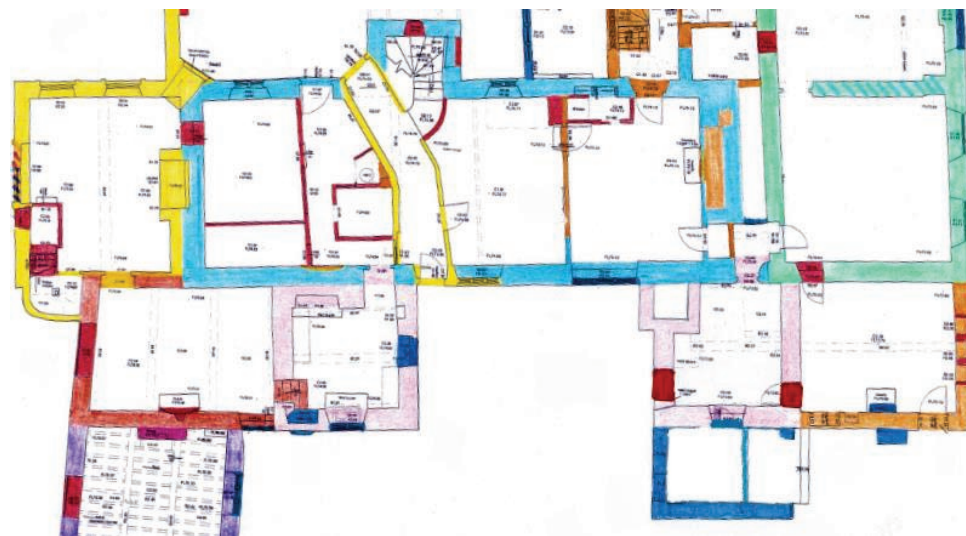
TWO PROJECTING GABLES, SOUTH RANGE: c. 1610



Plan 3.17. Location key.



Plan 3.18. South range, south elevation.



Plan 3.19. Colour code: c. 1536, light green; c. 1590, light blue; c. 1610, pink; early-seventeenth century, brown; late-seventeenth century, purple; 1754, yellow; c. 1772-1899, orange; c. 1900-1926, dark blue; after 1950, red.

As has been discussed the roof level of the central section of the c. 1590 south range was raised, thereby removing the two central dormers, but leaving the old mullioned attic windows as an apparent third storey. These windows seem original but they have top sections and hood moulds which appear to date from c. 1926, see fig. 3.29. Whether these windows had hood moulds before this date is not known. These mullion parts are the only originals fenestration remaining on the c. 1590 south elevation; as can be seen by comparing plan 3.18 and figs. 3.28 and 3.29 all four windows beneath were replaced between c. 1900 and c. 1926.

The lower left window has interior stonework below its casement which has been modified significantly and it appears that this was originally a door position. It is tentatively suggested that the door which is currently to the west of this window was moved to its current location from here in the mid-eighteenth century when the bent passage was installed and new door surrounds were needed for both ends, of which more in a subsequent chapter.

The identification of the two gabled projections as being later than the south range is based primarily on clearly visible joins between the south range and the junctions of these projections, which are built adjoining the south wall and not structurally connected to it. The chimneystack and garderobe columns are also built outside the south wall of the existing south range and do not integrate into this wall as might be expected, see plan 3.19.

They are probably near contemporary with the south range and so are tentatively included at the latter end of this c. 1590 - c. 1610 date range phase.

Externally they are similar, though the eastern projection is slightly lower and has a higher pitched roof, and at its west side the eaves are on two levels, see figs. 3.28 and 3.29. Below the stumps of spiral finials⁸³ both have mostly original mullioned windows at attic level but most fenestration and door placement has been changed on more than one occasion.

The west projection has fireplaces with four-centred arch surrounds on all three floors. Each room was entered by a doorway to the east of its fireplace. The attic level of the western section of the south range behind the projection is no longer inhabited space; access to the attic of this projection is now accessed by a modern stairs from inside the first floor of the south range.

⁸³ The crest of the Tynte family was a unicorn; it is possible that these thin spirals were a reference to this.



Fig. 3.28. South range, south elevation, c. 1898.



Fig. 3.29. The exposed area of the south range, c. 2004

On the ground floor a large lead cistern, initialled and dated 1713, was embedded in the south wall around 1920,⁸⁴ see plan 3.19, and removed in April 2017. The first-floor window was in-filled by the end of the nineteenth-century but is now re-opened and is original. By 1926 the rough door opening beneath it was also converted, possibly back, to a window. A seventeenth-century style stone door surround on its east elevation seems to have been installed at this period.

Immediately to the west of this projection, in the wall of a west-aligned later in-fill, there was a rudimentary door opening in the late-nineteenth century; this was augmented with a seventeenth-century four-centred arch stone door surround, presumable between c. 1900 and c. 1926. A thin window was also installed in the twentieth century just above this door.

The east projection currently has no heat sources; one of late-eighteenth century date did exist at its west servicing the first-floor. This and its associated chimney were removed in c. 2006. This red brick chimney was built next to a stone feature that slightly protrudes westwards at the junction of the south range, see plans 3.19 and figs. 3.28 and 3.29. The function of this rectangular structure with smoothly-plastered interior spanning two floors is unknown, but it is tentatively asserted that it was a garderobe that serviced the first floor. The awkward in-filling at its top where it meets its roof might suggest it has been truncated and also serviced the attic floor; in which case it would have appeared as a tower from the exterior. It is also built against the existing south wall; its only access point now is from the first-floor of the east projection. There is a defunct historic drain that runs beneath this feature which is likely to have run with spring water from west to east before joining the stream, now pond, to the east of the house.⁸⁵

There is some suggestive evidence for an earlier chimneystack servicing two floors in the centre of the eastern wall of this projection. The ground-floor wall has been disturbed at various times but has a sealed cavity that contains defunct pipes. Above this area is an opening in the wall which since the late-eighteenth century has contained a doorway into a room which was added to its west at that time. The hipped roof for this eighteenth-century addition had a ridge beam connecting it to the earlier eastern projection, where a chimney for this stack would need to have been positioned, see fig. 3.28. A remnant of this partly-defunct roofing still exists protruding through a later roof structure created when a gable was created for it on the south façade in c. 1900, see plan 2.6. Therefore the creation of this

⁸⁴ Removed from their Welsh seat Cefn Mably, which was sold to Lord Tredegar in 1920; this partly informs why Halswell was not abandoned but rebuilt after the 1923 fire.

⁸⁵ Multiple small springs exist or have existed around the house, some seasonal, some piped off their natural paths, such as the one that fed the well inside a stepped pyramid monument of c. 1741 to the west of the house, which is uphill from this drain.

extension would have provided multiple reasons to remove an old stack in this location. The late-eighteenth century date of the addition is approximate to the date of the now removed red-brick chimney and first-floor fireplace at the west of the east projection.

Access to each floor from the south range was, and is, in a similar eastern location as those in the matching projection. In the case of the ground floor the entrance to this room was at the end of the narrow service passage between the Buttery and the new Kitchen, resulting in a sort of *enfilade* from the north to south walls of the manor house. The situation on the first floor was similar though with a change in the floor height progressing from the higher Hall block to the lower south block. The access door for the attic floor was also in similar place. However at the attic level there is no stone wall dividing the south range from this projection. Currently there is a section of reused⁸⁶ oak panelling dividing half of the projecting bay from the south range so door arrangements of the original build remain unknown.

Its first-floor window had become a Georgian six-over-six sash window by the nineteenth century, the ground-floor window beneath survived. A flat-roofed two-storey extension was added to the south of this projection in *c.* 1926, it is visible on the attached plans but was removed in late 2016. This resulted in these two external window openings becoming full size door openings inside the new build. When this extension was removed in 2016 its mullioned windows were reused in the positions of the original fenestration bays which still partly existed; restoring the probable appearance of the south-east projecting bay's elevation when built. The ground-floor window is a seventeenth-century example, removed in *c.* 1926 and placed back in 2016.

⁸⁶ The dust chamfers on this seventeenth-century panelling are upside down indicating it has been re-used.

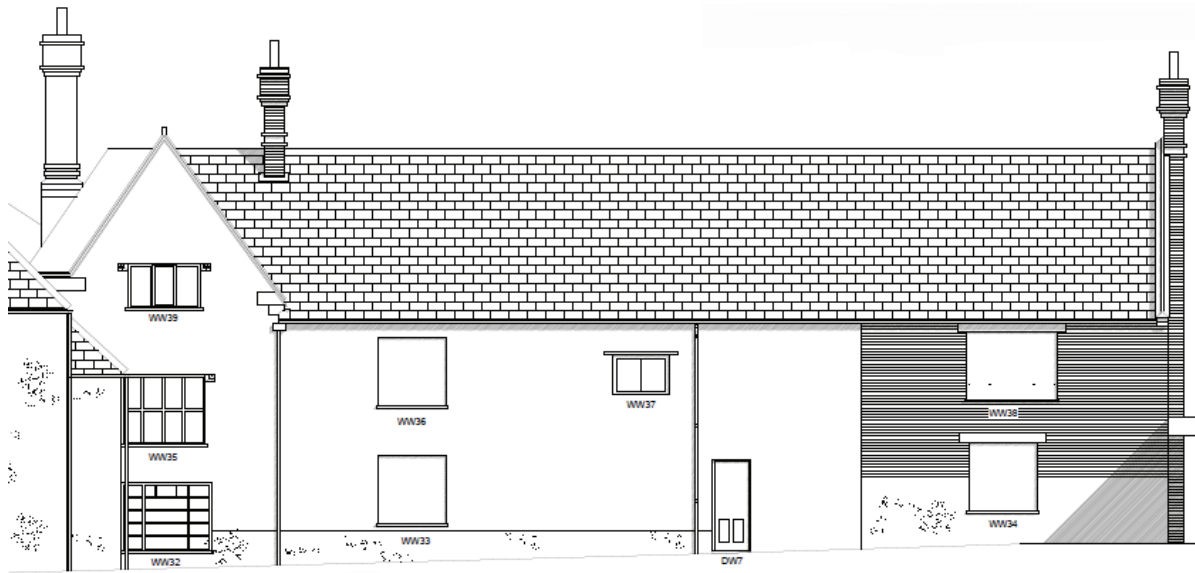
Chapter Four

THE SOUTH-WEST WING:

c. 1620 to *c.* 1683



Plan 4.1. Location key.



Plan 4.3. South-west wing, west elevation



Plan 4.2. Colour code: c. 1590, light blue; c. 1610, pink; early seventeenth century, brown; late-seventeenth century, purple; 1754, yellow; magent, 1766; c. 1900-1926, dark blue; after 1950, red.

The middle of the seventeenth century at Halswell saw few works being completed. With the two great building phases in c. 1536 and c. 1590 - c.1610 and a decrease in the family fortunes with the bankruptcy of Sir Nicholas Halswell in 1628 little seems to have been commissioned. However a modest wing at the south-west was built. Its first section is an east to west aligned single-bay gabled addition, see fig. 4.1. Built-up against that building's south wall came a later north to south aligned building of humble status, see fig. 4.7.

The single-bay at the north extends from the west wall of the western projection on the south range; the roof construction of this new gable has consumed that of the west side of the earlier projection, which is retained within the attic space, see fig.4.2. This single-bay addition of two-storeys below an attic projected further west than the other buildings at that time. There is no staircase linking the three floors of this addition, the ground and first floors act as extensions to the earlier connecting projection on the south range and there is no remaining evidence of a stairs from first floor to attic.

Slightly larger in proportions but in style this addition is in keeping with the earlier phase of finial-topped gables with cut-stone kneelers and hood moulds above the mullioned windows. In this case the only remnants of original fenestration are the hood stops at attic and first-floor levels, which can be seen in fig. 4.1 at either side of modern windows. The installation of the metal window on the ground floor has badly disturbed the opening, so much so that it is not known whether this opening contained a window or a door, or indeed if there was a pre-1950's opening on this level.



Fig. 4.1. Single-bay, two-storey below an attic extension of rough stone with twentieth-century Crittal windows, a 1754 Palladian addition overlaps from its north.

The evidence that this is a separate phase of building comes through its position; wedged between other buildings the joins of separate phases are clear internally beneath the plasterwork, as well as through reference to the wall thicknesses. The existing walls of the south range, and its western projection, have been used to form two sides of this building, requiring new walls only to the addition's south, west and a short section to the north. The original free-standing corner of the older south-west projection is visible in fig. 4.2 where the new door surround rests against its quoins, its relieving arch cuts into those older quoins.

Inside the new addition a plaster sample has been removed on the first floor revealing the original south-west corner of the south range before the later wall abuts it to create the full north wall of the new addition, see fig. 4.3.

To the south of this single-bay addition is a longer building which is of a slightly later date and agricultural in nature, see figs. 4.4 to 4.7. At attic level, the intrusion of this building's roofline into the earlier is clear. A later red brick partition wall is built upon the earlier stone southern wall of the single-bay section. There is a low doorway to the left of this image that connects the attics of both buildings, this is the only level at which the two buildings interconnected. There are no heat sources in either of these attic spaces.



Fig. 4.2. The western projection of the south range with the addition's roof joining it from the west, the new south wall of the addition is partly visible with a doorway and modern window above.

Fig. 4.3. Inside the first-floor room: original south-west corner of south range to the right, to the left the extension of that wall westwards to create the new building, also see plan 4.2.



Fig. 4.4. The earlier single-bay addition at attic level, looking toward the longer range.

The ground-floor room has had the benefit of archaeology⁸⁷ which appears to confirm the visual dating of the building. As archaeologist James Brigers writes:

The building was found to have been constructed on a platform thatcut through extensive pre-existing deposits..... containing later 17th century pottery..... A large post hole [223] was identified to the west..... this may represent a component of a structure pre-dating the earliest form of the existing building but was also of post medieval date based on wall plaster contained within a packing deposit.

The dateable material in the attic consists of collar rafter roof timbers, see fig. 4.5, and remnants of plaster, on a lath section above one tie beam and on the original south gable which is now hidden within a later and longer roofline. At the base of this gable wall there is some evidence of a fireplace and removed stairs from ground to first floor between the hearth and the east wall. This twist of the stairs is also still discernible in the stone of the first-floor gable wall, though this configuration has long since disappeared, as has the use of the attic space as a habitable area.

⁸⁷ James L. Brigers, *Halswell House and Park, Goathurst, Somerset*, GHH 14-85/2014/l1, (Somerset, 2014).



Fig. 4.5. South-west wing attic looking north to a later red brick wall with an in-filled door to the left.



Fig. 4.6. South-west wing, east elevation. The southern section of this range is 1766.



Fig. 4.7. South-west wing, west elevation, the northern, fully seventeenth-century section.

The floor heights in the building were changed, probably in c. 1950; the original floor joists in the northern first-floor room have been taken out and realigned at a higher level, this would have made the attic space too low for habitation. The exterior of the east elevation of this stone building has been faced with redbrick. The bricks appear to be of seventeenth-century manufacture so may have formed an outer skin to the building when constructed. The southern portion of this building, see plan 4.2, was built as a dairy in 1766,⁸⁸ the brick join is perceptible on the east façade and very clear on the west where it abuts the rough stone of the earlier building, see fig. 4.9.

Many, if not all, of the mullioned windows are later inserts. Most of the windows display clear signs where they meet the brickwork of being inserted after the brick was already in place, see fig. 4.8. These were likely to have been installed between c. 1900 and c. 1926.

The west elevation is of rough stone and was built against a natural mound of land, now removed; resulting in a partly-submerged ground floor from that elevation, see fig. 4.9. There are narrow windows near the ceilings of both the north and south rooms so the ground level did not rise beyond these. The west elevation has been heavily modified in the twentieth-century however the only apparent historic door opening on the elevation, now in-filled, is at first-floor level, see fig. 4.7 and 4.9. There is a small wooden casement window inserted in

⁸⁸ Richard Escott's *Memorandum*, South West Heritage Trust, DD\X\EMY/1.



Fig. 4.8. Mullioned windows inserted at a later date.



Fig. 4.9. West elevation with natural landscape contour which once abutted the building's wall necessitating access at this elevation only from the first floor.

the top section of this earlier door opening, see fig. 4.7. This would have opened internally to the landing opposite the later staircase, which was moved to this area after the smaller seventeenth-century one near the earlier fireplace was removed. This probably occurred when the dairy was added to its south wall, as the proximity of a heat source adjoining the cooled dairy would have been problematic. Internally the ground floor has a stone drain along its west wall, possibly a feature to carry away penetrating ground water from the spring that fed the well or water reservoir on the hill above, which itself was encased in a stepped pyramid in c. 1741, see fig. 4.9.

THE HEARTH TAX: 1664 to 1665

The 1664-5 Hearth Tax records for Somerset provide valuable information for plotting the size of the manor at that date. Below is the listing for Halswell, owners names are recorded. John Tynte had by 1649 married the heir to Halswell, Jane Halswell. She bore him a son, Halswell Tynte, before she died in 1650. The estate was held in trust for him and administered by his father John Tynte who is recorded as the taxable entity. He was rated for 17 hearths at Goathurst, with the tax being biannual at a shilling per hearth the rate for the year was 34 shillings.

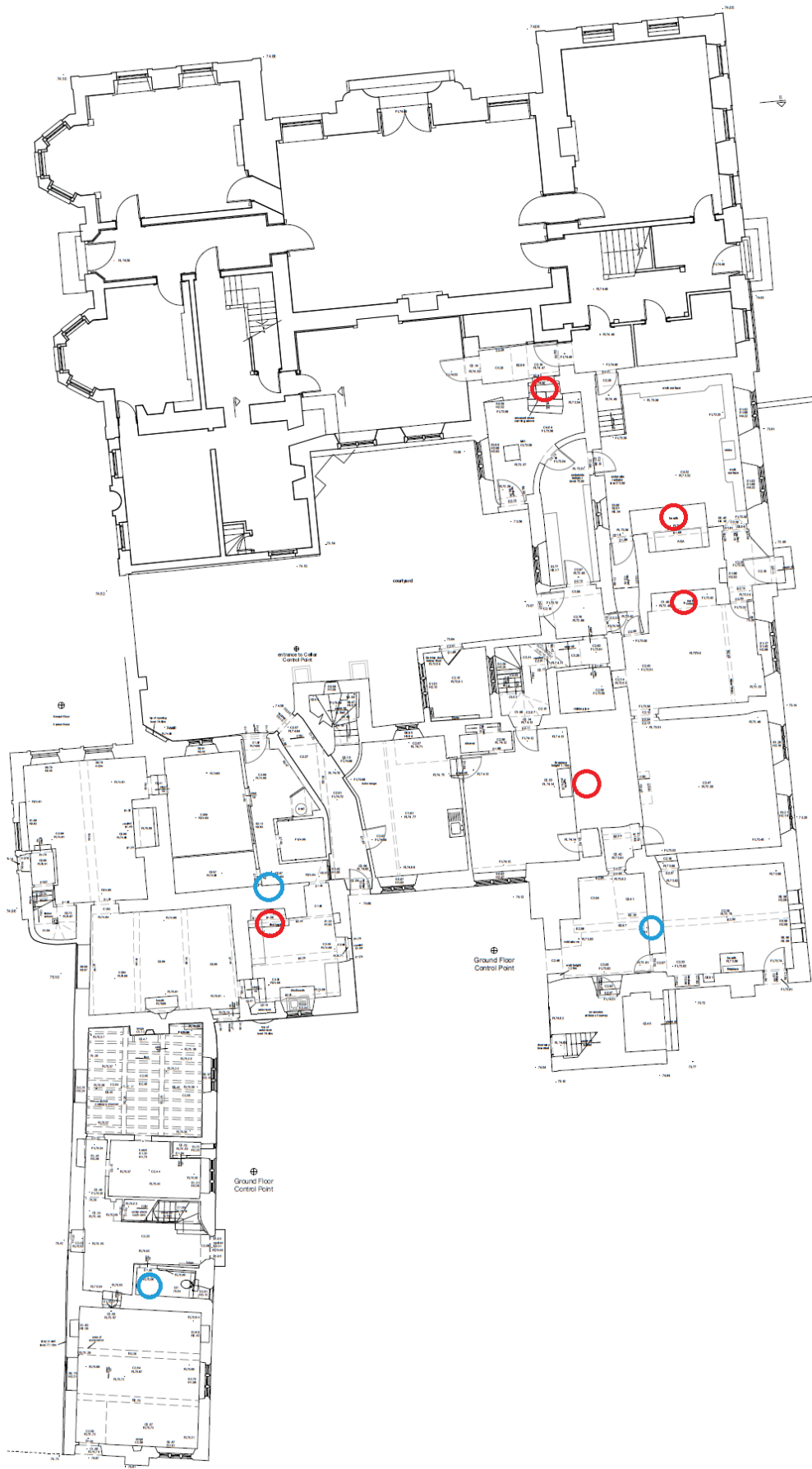
£	s	£	s	
	2		4	Henry Bonner gen ij Eñ now William
1	13	3	6	Tot. xxxvj
				Zachery Hayne Collector
				Nich. Browne Tything-
				man
				Goatehurst
17		34		John Tynte Esq. xvij Eñ

Fig. 4.9. The Halswell Hearth Tax record of 1664-5.⁸⁹

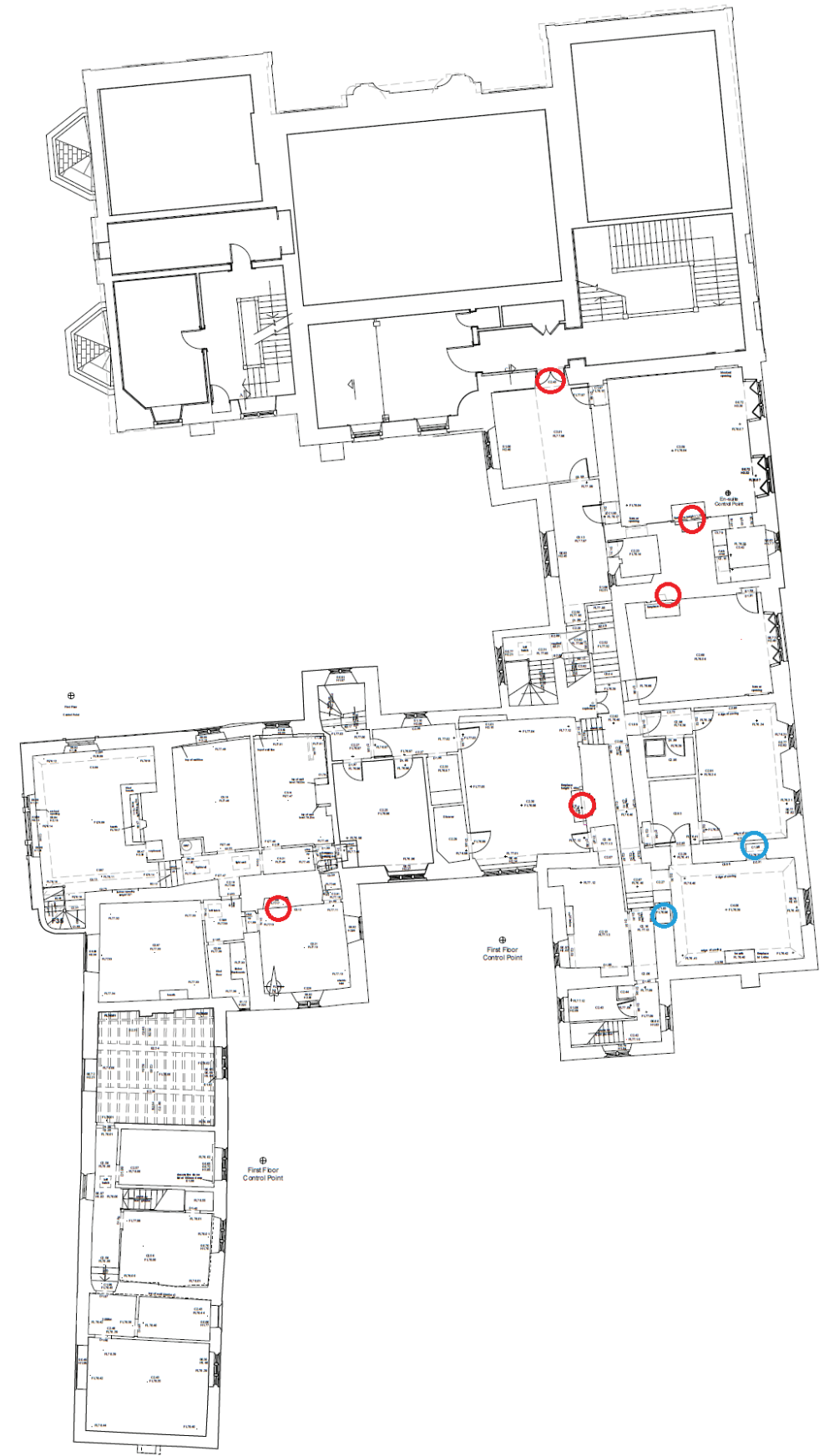
The current house plans have been augmented with red circles to indicate hearths that were certainly in existence in 1664-5, and with blue circles to indicate possible hearth positions at that date. This totals fifteen hearths with six other possible positions, totalling a maximum of twenty one.

This record suggests the manor has not lost any significant components since that date. All the hearths indicated here have been discussed within the text.

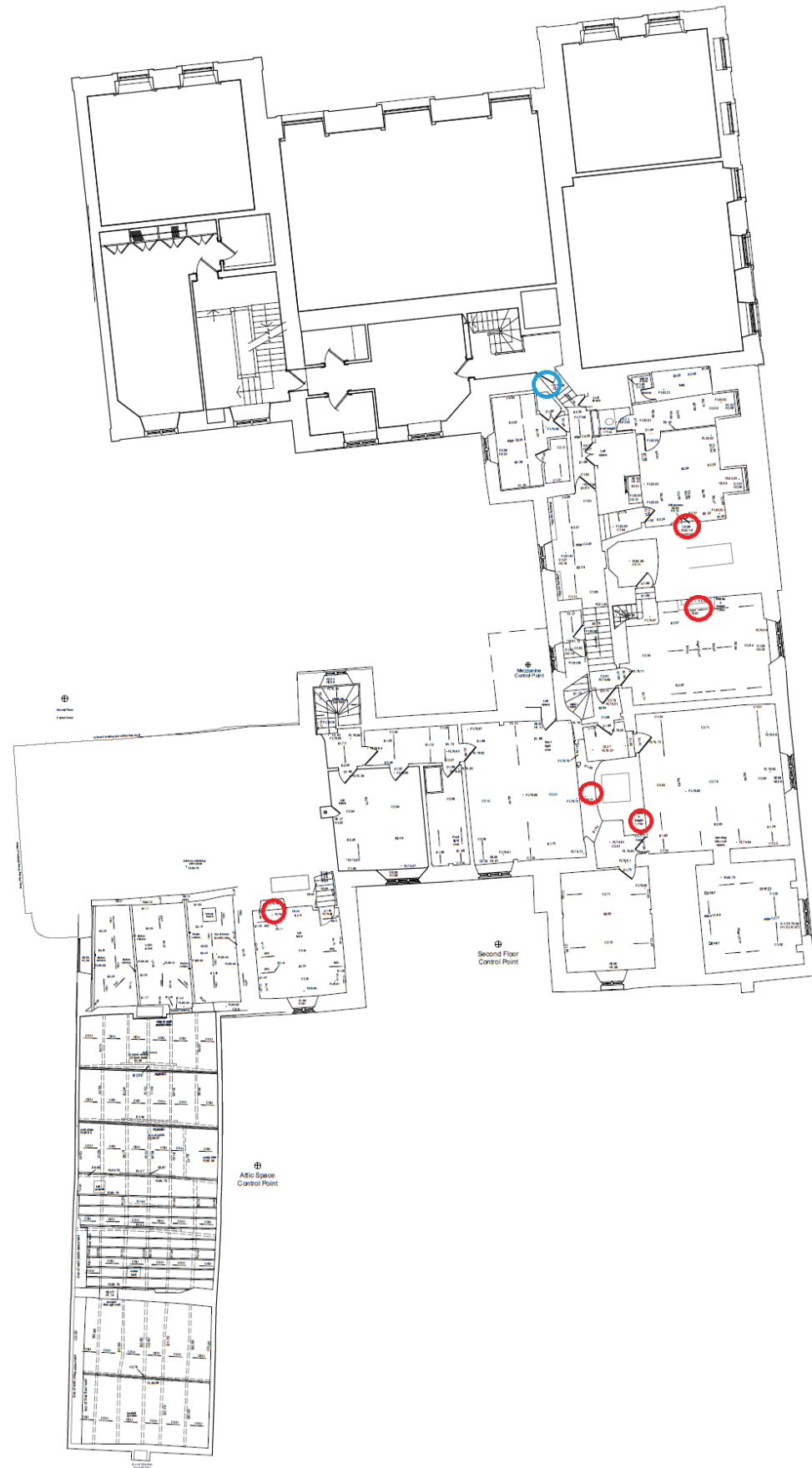
⁸⁹ R. Holworthy, *Dwelly's National Records, vol. 1, Hearth Tax for Somerset 1664-5*, (Fleet, Hants: E. Dwelly, 1916).



Plan 4.4. Hearth Tax Proposed Plan: Ground Floor.



Plan 4.5. Hearth Tax Proposed Plan: First Floor.

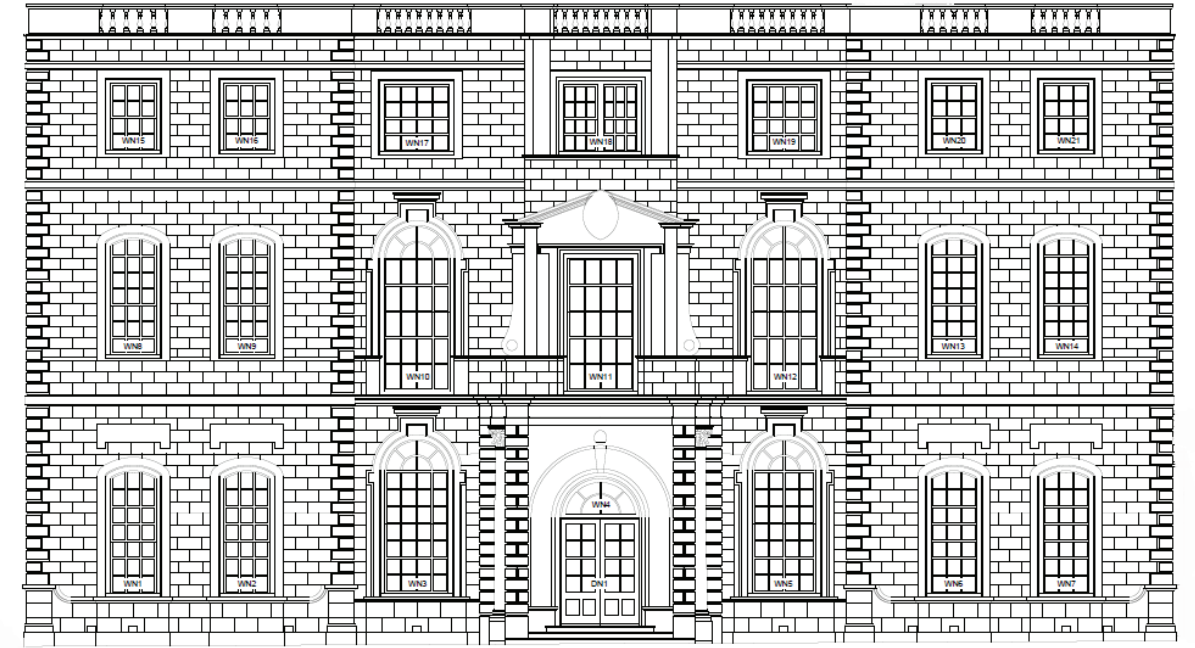


Plan 4.6. Hearth Tax Proposed Plan: Attic Floor.

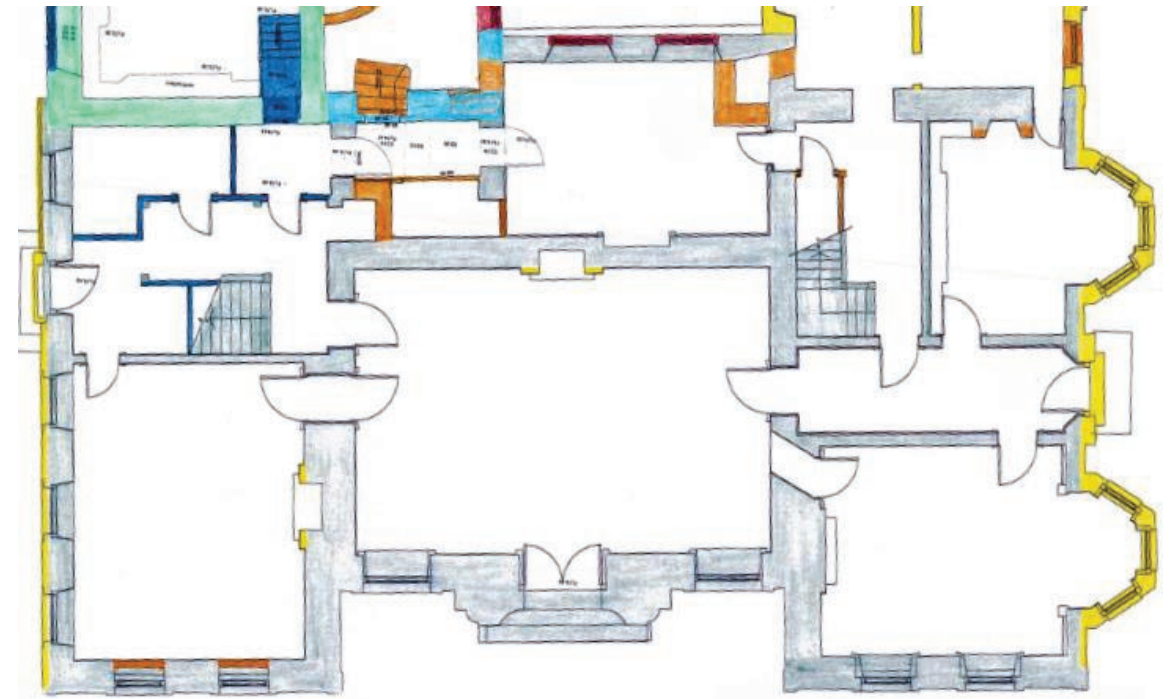
Chapter Five

THE BAROQUE WING:

1683 to 1689



Plan 5.1. Baroque Wing, north elevation, attributed to William Taylor (fl. 1668-1689).



Plan 5.2. Baroque Wing plan. Colour code: c. 1536, light green; c. 1590, light blue; 1689, grey; 1754, yellow; c. 1772-1899, orange; c. 1900-1926, dark blue; after 1950, red.



Plan 5.3. Location key.

Halswell one of the earliest surviving Baroque houses in the country. But the only known documentary record of its construction comes from a letter written by the architect William Taylor in 1683 to his client the 1st Viscount Weymouth of Longleat House, Wiltshire. Taylor was employed by Weymouth to carry out alterations on Longleat in the early 1680s and it is in a reply letter from Taylor to Weymouth concerning those works where his connection to Halswell is mentioned:

*I must be att [sic] Sir William Portment's and Sir Halswell's before I come to London.*⁹⁰

Most of Taylor's buildings have been demolished,⁹¹ and this mention of Halswell may seem slight, nevertheless Sir Henry Colvin refers to the possible attribution thus:

*Halswell is quite a sophisticated building whose attribution to Taylor would, if substantiated, establish him as a designer of some importance.*⁹²

Historic England list the building as fully attributed to William Taylor.⁹³ The Palladian modifications of 1754 to the east and west façades will be discussed in the following chapter.

Assumptions have been made that the creation of this wing resulted in the destruction of part of, or an entire, north range, possibly more:

⁹⁰ Taylor, Will. Letters to Lord Weymouth, 1684, n.d. XXII. f. 75: XXVI. f.480. <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/b79465ab-860a-498c-be9f-504176342177> (accessed 20 February 2016).

⁹¹ William Taylor built other country houses in the south-west in the 1680s: Escot House, Devon (from 1684) which was illustrated in Colen Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*, and Chipley House, Somerset (1681-3). Bridget Clarke, 'William Taylor new discoveries', *Georgian Group Journal* (London, 1998), pp. 1–11.

⁹² Howard Colvin, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*, (London: John Murray, 1978), p. 819.

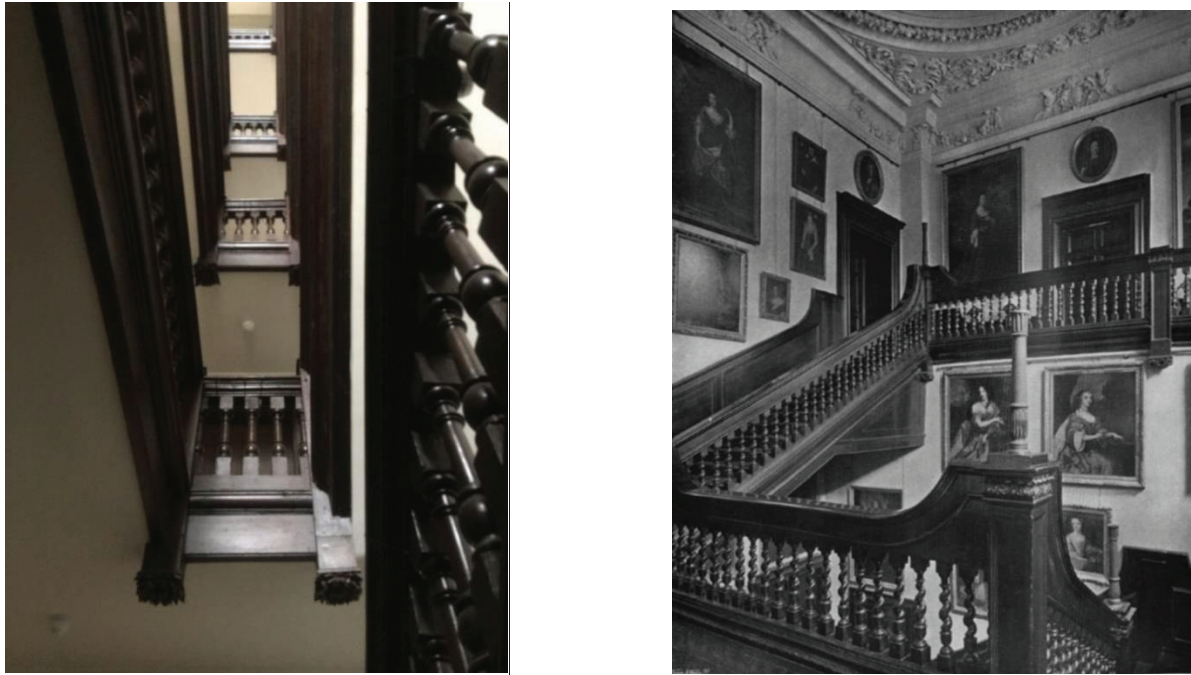
⁹³ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001145> (accessed 20 February 2016).

*The east, south, and part of the north ranges of the early 17th-century house survive, but the remainder of the north range was replaced in 1689.*⁹⁴



Figs. 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3. Baroque Wing, clockwise: north, west and east façades.

⁹⁴ R. W. Dunning (ed.), *A History of the County of Somerset: vol. 6: Andersfield, Cannington, and North Petherton Hundreds (Bridgwater and neighbouring parishes)*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press for The Institute of Historical Research, 1992), p. 48.



Figs. 5.4 and 5.5. The Baroque Wing staircases: the oak baluster stairs to the south-west spans five floors. The Great Stairs⁹⁵ to the south-east connects only the ground and first floors of the Baroque Wing and on an intermediate level the first floor of the old manor house and the three-storey projection at the south of the Baroque Wing.

The evaluation of the north wing as containing part of an older building therefore needs to be addressed. This may stem from misunderstanding the word 'Court' in the manor's early name, '*Halsewell Court*', recorded in 1318.⁹⁶ 'Court' denoting a centre of manorial justice and not implying a physical arrangement of buildings. A likely reading of the Baroque Wing integrating an earlier range is the mixed fenestration and varying floor levels within the building. In common with many other examples of Baroque domestic architecture the desire for regular external features was not always compatible with the requirements within.⁹⁷ In this case the three-storey east, north and west façades of Halswell have regular fenestration, though necessitating many blind, or artificial, windows which would otherwise cut through a staircase on the east, or reveal multiple floors, as to the west.

The south elevation is more complex, having five floors to the south-western portion, serviced by a five-storey oak baluster staircase.⁹⁸ There are three floors in the centre section, with a further, lower, three-storey adjoining section in-filling, or double-piling, the 'H' plan. The south-east section has only two full floors as due to the formal Great Stairs.

⁹⁵ Image courtesy of John Goodall, published in *Country Life Magazine*, November 1908.

⁹⁶ Hobhouse, Right Rev. Bishop (ed.), *Calendar of the Register of John de Drogheda: Bishop of Bath and Wells A.D. 1309-1329*, (London, 1887), p.17.

⁹⁷ For example, Easton Neaston, Northanthamptonshire.

⁹⁸ This stairs survived the 1923 fire.



Fig. 5.6. South elevation: showing two vertical scars of removed chimneys from the now demolished Servant's Hall and a repurposed butler's pantry.



Plan 5.4. South elevation with cross-section of the east range through its Hall and Solar.

The choice of traditional leaded-light mullion and transom windows for the entire of the south façade, which is of rough stone, is also unlike the other three façades of ashlar or plaster with sash windows. There is no physical evidence that the remainder of the house had these traditional windows, the sash windows with thick glazing bars seem to be the original design. The glazing bars appear in an early-eighteenth century painting, see front cover illustration, which pre-dates by decades work known to have been carried out to the façades by Cartwright of Blandford in 1754.⁹⁹ The stone window jambs show no disturbances in the areas where mullions or transom bars would be expected. Though the ground-floor window frames do have the stubs of iron railings or bars which by this evidence fortified the windows at some date, seemingly at the date of construction, when the political situation nationally, locally and for the Halswell Tynte family was tumultuous.

The Baroque Wing forms a squat 'H' plan and abuts the earlier range at its east. The layout of this 'H' plan wing functions with or without the two-bay three-storey section attached to its centre on the south façade. This poses the questions whether this section existed in 1689, was added later or constituted part of the earlier house.

This section, see plans 5.2 and 5.4 and figs. 5.6 - 5.8, appears by its upper fenestration to



Fig. 5.7 The ground-floor Servant's Hall.

⁹⁹ Richard Escott's *Memorandum*, South West Heritage Trust, document reference, DD\X\EMY/1.

be contemporary with the 'H' plan building. The ground and first-floor windows have later modifications with replacement twentieth-century mullions to the ground floor and mid-Georgian sash windows to the first. However the second-floor windows are original to the build and follow closely the style of the remainder to the south façade. Indeed the first-floor room in this section, the Alcove Bedroom, is recorded in an inventory of 1730¹⁰⁰ and has kept that name in subsequent references, so this section existed by at least that date. The room name, Alcove, and it's still existing eponymous arch which spans a raised bed dais at the far end, which serves no structural purpose, suggests this room was created as a state bedroom suitable for Baroque formality, see fig. 5.8. The room above it has recently been stripped back to the stone walls and these show no signs of blocked windows to the north that might be expected if it was built as a clean 'H' plan and these were once outer walls.

There are no obvious signs to the external stonework that indicates this three-storey section was added later to the 1689 build, or indeed that it is of an earlier phase. The north-west corner of the c. 1590 bellcote gable is well defined as a stand-alone structure within each of the three floors of this projection and its south wall seems clearly to have been built-up against the bellcote gable's west wall, so it cannot date from before c. 1590.



Fig. 5.8. The first-floor Alcove Bedroom, above the Servant's Hall in the 'double-pile' southern section.

¹⁰⁰ *Assignment of Goods at Halswell House with Inventory by Room, 1730*, Somerset Heritage Centre, part of DD\S\WH/98 (Original), part DD\X\ELS/1 (Transcript).

However the unusual nature of the projection is readily understood as a means of creating a circular flow for servants, the ground floor was the Servant's Hall in 1730,¹⁰¹ see fig. 5.7, as well as allowing for a grand bedroom on the intermediate floor of the Great Stairs, a level which otherwise leads only to the old manor house.

The projection creates a rudimentary double-pile house to the thin centre of the 'H' plan. William Taylor should have been familiar with the work of William Samwell (1628–1676) at Ham House, Richmond where the Duchess of Lauderdale had completed a similar, if more comprehensive, double-piling of her 'H' plan house by 1675. Taylor would also have seen the use at that great house of mullioned windows to the river façade, sash windows to the garden façade and an expeditious use of blind windows for symmetry.

Therefore it is asserted that the 'H' plan wing was built contemporaneously with this double-pile section and there are no remains discovered to date of an earlier phase which might be integral to the layout of this part of the building.

¹⁰¹ *Assignment of Goods at Halswell House with Inventory by Room, 1730*, Somerset Heritage Centre, part of DD\S\WH/98 (Original), part DD\X\ELS/1 (Transcript).

THE CELLARS: 1683 to 1689

The cellar beneath the western portion of the Baroque Wing supports the hypothesis that the 'H' plan wing was purpose built and did not rise from earlier foundations of a missing chapel or accommodation wing, filling as it does the western footprint of the building that rises above. The cellar construction itself is consistent with a building of this date, and could not be early-fourteenth century, when the missing oratory was licenced at Halswell.

However the cellars have two features that stylistically do not appear contemporary with the date of the house above. In the north wall of the southern chamber is a small in-filled hatch once opening to a long narrow chamber equal to the west hallway above it, with arched red brick racks for bottle storage, see figs. 5.9 and 5.10. In design this hatch appears closer to the early windows in the 1536 phase than to other architectural features at Halswell, except the moulding here is not hollow as in those windows but ovolo. Its sill splays sharply downward which is common in early sills and similar to the earliest extant windows in the house. The sill and architrave above have in-filled holes to their centres appropriate for a



Plan. 5.5. Cellar plan. The two large cellar chambers fill the western section of the 'H' plan; the contemporary cellar passage to the south is now beneath an additional room of 1754.

dividing iron bar. Though the hatch has these superficial similarities to an early window surround it may be a coincidence of design. The ovolo-type moulding may come from reused window material, the dividing iron bar and angled sill for wine security. Old fashioned, but not completely out of keeping with the traditional stylistic elements being built above ground.



Fig. 5.9. Cellar, southern chamber, west wall, with a hatch surround to the north and a blocked opening in the ceiling to the south.

Fig. 5.10. Hatch surround.

A more intriguing feature is the large round-headed archway, with distinctly late-medieval or Tudor carved moulding, that leads into the 1689 cellars from a cellar passageway which connects to the older cellar under the south range, see fig. 5.11. On the inside of the archway is ironmongery to hold a pair of large doors. There is a cavity in the ceiling within to take the inward sweep of the tops of large double doors before the ceiling level in the main body of the cellar chamber reduces in height to meet the sweep of the barrel vault. Therefore the cellar appears to have been constructed to take this large archway and its high doors. The round arch to the top is a singular feature at Halswell, it appears nowhere else on site. There are two further arched cellar door openings opposite this door, however these arches are more compressed and follow in profile the flatter barrel vault.

This large arched door frame with its Tudor-style ribbed cross section throws up questions of cellar date, however the cellar does not appear medieval or Tudor in any other regard and suits the form for a late seventeenth-century building. Therefore it would appear that the door detailing is either reused stone or very old fashioned for its date. The frame is both over-sized for the cellar chamber and far too large to meet with the tunnel that connects to it. This suggests that it is more likely to be reused material than built for a space where it is so

unsuitable. If reused from onsite¹⁰² it raises the question of what sort of building could warrant such a door.

The re-used thirteenth-century gothic windows in the Gatehouse, see fig. 1.16, and the stone fan vault rubble in the Servant's Hall chimney, see fig. 1.17 and fig. 5.7 for the fireplace, lead tantalisingly to these three elements being part of a demolished religious building, possibly the oratory licenced at Halswell in 1318.



Fig. 5.11. Door surround on the south of the Baroque Wing cellar.

¹⁰² Halswell had numerous small stone quarries scattered throughout the estate which are recorded on Ordnance Survey maps, so transporting in rubble from elsewhere seems unlikely.



Figs. 5.12, 5.13 and 5.14. The cellar door apex and views of the intersecting tunnel displaying the full thickness of its ceiling structure.

The crude intersection at the doorway with the tunnel that connects this cellar with a smaller cellar under the south range also poses the question whether there was a previous tunnel here that connected more fittingly. However as can be seen in figs. 5.12, 5.13 and 5.14 of the apex of this tunnel, the above-ground level is too low for a tunnel to meet with the apex of the tall rounded doorway into the 1689 cellar. Crude as the tunnel connection is, it would appear that it could not be any taller than it was built without disturbing pre-existing ground and building levels in the courtyard and older south range. Therefore it is asserted that the cellars beneath the 1689 house were purpose-built at that date, be it with the use of an existing re-purposed early door surround.

The connecting cellar tunnel must have been then built during the same construction phase as there are no other entrances to the 1689 cellar. The creation of this tunnel under the north wall of the south range appears to have damaged the integrity of the wall above where there is a distinct bowing of the masonry, visible on the floor plans. The tunnel was lit by two above-ground light lanterns, see fig. 5.17, one of which was removed in 1754 when an extension was added bringing this section of the courtyard to within the north wing. A stairs was built partly through the circular opening of that lantern, see fig. 5.14.



Fig. 5.15. Two early door surrounds in the Hall, with similar cross-section profiles as the cellar door.



Fig. 5.16 Cellar door detail.

Fig. 5.17. The remaining cellar passage light lantern of c. 1689 in the courtyard.



Fig. 5.18. An ovolo-moulded piece of masonry, reused in the construction, or blocking-up, of the ceiling opening to in the south-west of the southern chamber. The blocked opening would have led to the courtyard before an extension of 1754 brought that area within the house.

BAROQUE WING: SUMMARY

The 'H' plan of the Baroque Wing, including the two-bay three-storey 'double-pile' section to its south elevation, was built in one phase. The cellar beneath this wing is contemporary with that build as is the tunnel that connects this cellar to the earlier house across the courtyard. Its large door surround is probably of reused medieval or Tudor material from the site.

The unusual five-storey floor configuration of the western section is a necessary arrangement being associated with the secondary staircase which, unlike the Great Stairs, serviced all floors and left ample space for extra small rooms throughout its ascent. There is currently no other found physical evidence of earlier phases of building within the fabric of this wing nor does it seem likely that any part of this phase of construction used earlier foundations or layouts within its design.



Fig. 5.19. The c. 1689 plaster ceiling design, re-cast c. 1926, in the north-east corner first-floor room.

Chapter Six

ALTERATIONS:

1690 to 2017



Plan 1.1.

Colour Key: c. 1536 – 1550, c. 1590, c. 1610, early-seventeenth century, late-seventeenth century, 1689, 1754, 1766, 1771, c. 1772-1899, c. 1900-1926, after 1950.

Falling outside the main date focus of this study, this chapter will treat these later additions and developments with more brevity.

The next phase of works after 1689 seems to begin in 1753 when the Drawing Room on the north-east corner of the house was redecorated in the rococo style. We know this from one of the many very useful diary entries made by the then estate Steward, Richard Escott. His *Memorandum* records this work of 1753 succinctly:

*Drawing Room at Halswell and the Chamber fitted up this year.*¹⁰³

This suits the later style of the room and its fireplace, see fig. 6.2.

The reference to 'Chamber' is less clear. However the fireplace in the Hall, or Saloon, see fig. 6.1, depending on which inventory is consulted, the 1730 or the 1785,¹⁰⁴ also has a fireplace which dates from this period and as the main reception room of the house it is reasonable to judge this is the other room to receive the modern make-over of Escott's note. Julian Orbach has verbally attributed this fireplace to Henry Cheere (1703-1781).¹⁰⁵ The painted wood panelling and high plain frieze are typical of Baroque houses¹⁰⁶ and although the style could still have been produced in 1753 there is no reason to suggest it from dates from later than 1689. All original fireplaces in the Baroque Wing are lost, however one intriguing remnant has recently been identified in a mid-eighteenth century alms-house in the village, see fig. 6.3.

The architect responsible for these interior works is unknown; however Francis Cartwright of Blandford (d. 1758) remodelled interiors of many houses in the south-west¹⁰⁷ and he was employed in 1754 to remodel the east and west facades. Escott records his 1754 works:

*The East and West Front of Halswell house made by Mr Cartwright of Blandford [sic].*¹⁰⁸

The exterior work done by Cartwright consisted of a Palladian facelift to the east and west facades of the Baroque Wing, see figs. 5.1 to 5.3. The east elevation has a plaster rusticated-ashlar skin to the whole ground floor and the five windows above are applied with simple entablatures to four windows flanking a central pediment with blind balustrade below

¹⁰³ Richard Escott's *Memorandum*, South West Heritage Trust, document reference, DD\X\EMY/1.

¹⁰⁴ *Assignment of Goods at Halswell House with Inventory by Room, 1730*, Somerset Heritage Centre, part of DD\S\WH/98 (Original), part DD\X\ELS/1 (Transcript), and *An Inventory of all the Household Goods and Furniture in Halswell House, 14th October 1785*, Somerset Heritage Archive, Part of DD\S\WH/267.

¹⁰⁵ House visit, subsequent to his publication of the new Pevsner Guide to Somerset, 19th October 2016.

¹⁰⁶ Similar treatments occur at Dyrham Park, Gloucestershire and Boughton, Northamptonshire.

¹⁰⁷ Such as Creech Grange, Dorset, Lutton House, Devon and Cranbourne Lodge, Devon where payments for fireplaces and plastered ceilings are recorded between 1738 and 1741. Dorset History Centre, Denis Bond's "Accounts of the building and repair of Creech Grange and Lutton".

¹⁰⁸ Richard Escott's *Memorandum*, Somerset Heritage Centre, DD\X\EMY/1.



Fig. 6.1. The Hall, or Saloon, the central reception room at the centre of the Baroque Wing.¹⁰⁹



Fig. 6.2. The 1753 Drawing Room, the fireplace survives; the interior was replicated in c. 1926.¹¹⁰

Fig. 6.3. A c. 1689 fireplace reused by the family in their village alms houses.

¹⁰⁹ Image courtesy of John Goodall, published in *Country Life Magazine*, November 1908.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

giving the appearance of a flush balcony. The west elevation has been given a large stone rusticated ashlar door surround with an elaborate classical window above, again with a blind balustrade giving the appearance of a balcony. He also constructed the west wall which encloses the courtyard and its rusticated stone door surround is a pair to that at his west entrance. It is also asserted that he built a classical extension at the west of the south range, see fig. 6.4. The extension is called Butler's and seems to have been built to fulfil the role of service quarters which overlooked the estate, with large windows to its north and west. The treatment of the window architraves on both Cartwright's Baroque Wing elevations and those of Butler's are similarly unusual, having no keystones and each lintel made of more than one horizontal stone strapped together with metal pins.



Figs. 6.4 and 6.5. Butler's, c. 1754. Inside, at its corner junction with the early-seventeenth century gabled in-fill at that sections original north-west corner.

Further work from same phase of works is a bent passageway through the c. 1590 south range. At its south, see fig. 6.6, there is a fine and unusual door surround which sits awkwardly against the return wall to its west. This doorway has no relieving arch but cuts into the relieving arch of the window to its east. Consequently it appears to have been moved to this position from elsewhere. The wall beneath the neighbouring window has been disturbed to ground level, lacking original masonry inside, so it is asserted the opening was previously for a door, quite probably with this door surround.

The door was in place here by the late-nineteenth century, see fig. 3.28, before the south-east corner was transformed by the Tudor revival antiquarianism which from c. 1900 to c. 1926 had replaced eighteenth-century architectural details with earlier styles throughout the old manor.



Fig.6.6. Passage opening, south.



Fig. 6.7. Passage opening, north.

On the north elevation where the passage meets the courtyard there is another stone opening with a four-centred arch, see fig. 6.7. This is simpler and the stone less weathered. It has a matching pair in the south-west of the courtyard occupying the opposite corner position between the courtyard's red brick west wall of 1754 and the termination of the original south range. Both doors' surrounds display disturbances to the older stone walls with which they intersect, indicating they were added later. This second door leads into Butler's, believed to be by Cartwright, and acted as that additions only doorway until one was broken through its Serlian window opening by 1926, see fig. 6.4.

The passage itself does not respect the lines of the ceiling beams, one cuts diagonally across the space and bisects the two levels within the south range, leaving a pocket of higher ceiling to the north. Butler's appears to be a wholly eighteenth-century build, which the date of its roof structure supports. Its fenestration is mid-eighteenth century as is the large stone service fireplace to its east wall, the original west gable of the south range. Butler's west wall has a Diocletian window to the first-floor and a Serlian window to the ground-floor which at a later date has been partly in-filled and its right opening extended to ground level to create a doorway. Its four-centred arch doorway from the courtyard has been blocked up, presumably at the same date, 1926, when a central opening in the Serlian window appears on the Vickery plans. It is therefore asserted that this passage was created in 1754 when the courtyard wall and Butler's were built.

Cartwright was presumably also responsible for a single-storey addition behind the courtyard wall which contained a small study and a Butler's pantry with steps into the cellar. Both of these rooms were given fireplaces and chimneys specific to these rooms which were added to the exterior of the south wall and terminated at the parapet of the Baroque Wing. These fireplaces and chimneys were removed in c. 2006. The creation of these rooms necessitated the destruction of one of the two above-ground hexagonal light lanterns of the 1689 phase, see fig. 5.17, which illuminated the cellar tunnel from the courtyard. A ground-level light well illuminating the southern chamber of the Baroque Wing cellar was also filled in as it made way for the new rooms above, see figs. 5.18 and 5.19. This eighteenth-century extension exists on the 1756 map.

Escott's *Memorandum* tells us the now demolished Servant's Hall in the courtyard was built in 1771. Sited in the lowest section of the courtyard this single-storey addition in red brick overlapped the two mullioned windows of the higher ground-floor room of the three-storey 'double-pile' section at the south of the Baroque Wing. In 1730¹¹¹ that room functioned as the Servant's Hall, the new addition removed the servant's gathering area from the main house and into the courtyard.

Cartwright (d. 1758) could not have been responsible for the eighteenth-century addition to the south-east corner of the old manor house, see figs. 2.7 and 3.28. The map clearly records that this corner did not contain a structure in 1771. Its exterior was remodelled by c. 1900, see fig. 2.6; however the interior first-floor room does contain dateable plasterwork from the late-eighteenth century. Its light relief is typical of the Adamesque classicism of the 1790's.

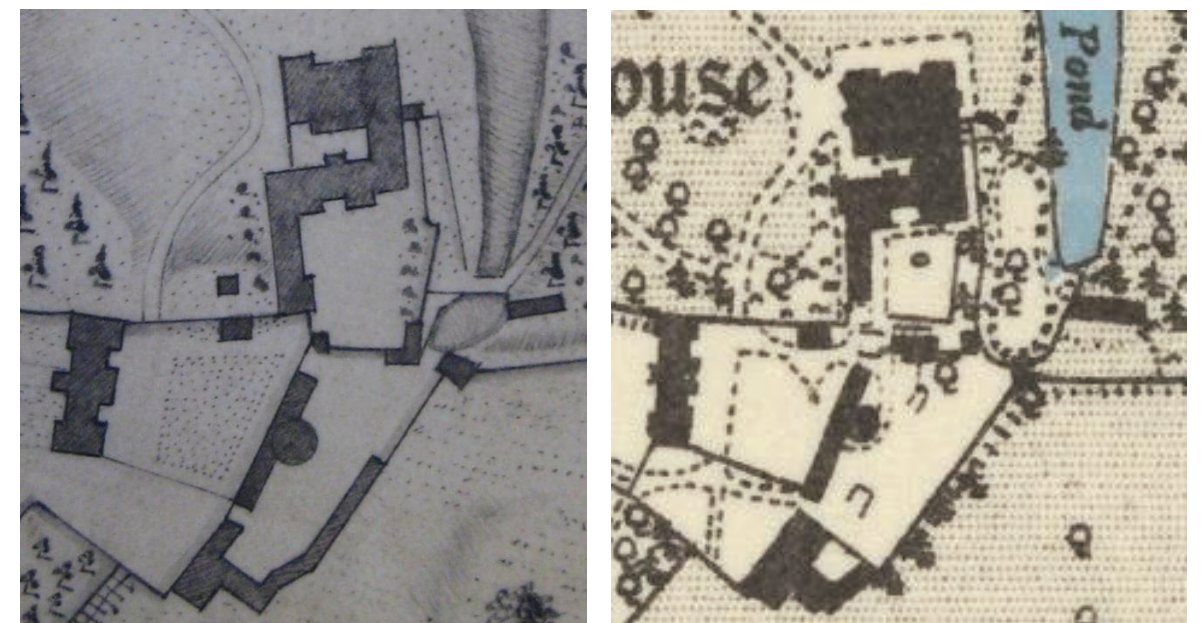
According to Escott in 1766 '*Lady Tynte's Dairy [was] made*'. An eighteenth-century inventory suggests this was toward the south west, a location reiterated on the c. 1924 Vickery plans. Most of this range is late-seventeenth century. The maps to 1771 show the range continued south further than it does today; the current building's termination had already existed by 1887 according to the Ordnance Survey map of that year, see figs. 6.8 to 6.11. This suggests a larger building with an eastward breakfront gable was demolished to build the smaller 1766 dairy on part of its foundations. The diary entry by Escott suggests that this dairy was partly a polite feminine space of the kind that was fashionable in the eighteenth century.¹¹²

¹¹¹ *Assignment of Goods at Halswell House with Inventory by Room, 1730*, South West Heritage Trust, part of DD\S\WH/98 (Original), part DD\X\ELS/1 (Transcript).

¹¹² For a treatise on the subject see Meredith S. Martin, *Dairy Queens*, (New Haven and London: 2011, Harvard Historical Studies).



Figs. 6.8 and 6.9. 1756 estate map by Jacob de Wilstar, original and traced copies.



Figs. 6.10 and 6.11. 1771 estate map by William Day and the 1887 Ordnance Survey map.

To the south of that seventeenth-century range, both built up against it and incorporating the building by the creation of a ground-floor door cut through the older building's south gable wall is a dairy made of eighteenth-century red brick. The nature of the building as a dairy is confirmed by its lack of heat sources and two large opposing air vent openings in the upper north corners of the ground-floor room. The termination of the earlier rough stone building is visible where the fully red brick extension begins, see fig. 6.12.

There are two bay windows at the west of the Baroque Wing which if 1754 would be early examples. They have stone parapets which match the moulding at the top of the 1754 rusticated door between them. They do both have cellar structures beneath which roughly equate to the bays, see plan 5.3, suggesting some protruding structures may have been in this position from 1689, which would be very unusual. A painting of the late-eighteenth century depicts the bay windows, as well as Butler's, see fig. 6.13.



Fig. 6.12. The dairy of 1766. This redbrick extension is clearly defined where it abuts up to the earlier stone building. The original ground level is equivalent to the concrete apron at the lower level. Its original in-filled window is visible to the left of the ground-floor 1950's window insertion.



Fig. 6.13. Attributed to William Tomkins (1730-1792) Detail from a painting of Halswell.¹¹³

¹¹³ Image courtesy of the Pennington-Munthe Trust, Helen's House, Herefordshire.



Fig. 6.14. Halswell c. 1720 by an unknown hand (detail).

The paintings of the eighteenth century have also led to a physical confirmation that the Baroque balcony which sat above only the north door was expanded in the mid-eighteenth century to encompass all three windows. In the earliest image of Halswell, c. 1720, see fig. 6.14, the front central five windows and door are whitewashed with a full balcony door only at the centre. This appears to still be the arrangement in 1764, see fig. 1.4, but by 1788, see



Fig. 6.15. 1908, *Country Life Magazine*.

fig. 6.17, the balcony extended to all three windows which are by that date also reduced to ground-floor level. This arrangement existed in 1908¹¹⁴ and until 1926 when the Vickery plans show us the left and right balcony extensions were removed along with all the railings. This expansion of two window openings appears to be the only change made to William Taylor's original north façade.

¹¹⁴ Image of the north elevation published in *Country Life Magazine*, November 1908.



Fig 6.16. Baroque balcony area in 2004.



Fig. 6.17. Watercolour dated 14 March 1788.



Fig. 6.18 The Trophy Seat at Hestercombe House Gardens, reputedly from above a door of the east or west elevation at Halswell and given to Hestercombe in the mid-eighteenth century.

Another remnant of the removed Baroque decoration exists at the neighbouring country house, see fig. 6.18. This stone relief of military attainments does match the unusual militarist relief carvings around the Baroque Wing's north door and is traditionally believed to have been moved here after Cartwright's modifications in 1754.

The last addition of consequence before the c. 1926 amendments is the red brick stair tower in the courtyard, see fig. 6.19. The creation of this necessitated the removal of the lower section of the smaller c. 1590 stairs and allowed for the abandonment of the narrow service passage that ran between the junction of the south and east ranges. Now the new Kitchen was connected by a door in the north wall of that room which opened at the foot of the new stairs. By what date the "new Kitchen" became redundant and moved into the old Hall is not known. The red bricks used to reduce the new Kitchen fireplace to a small domestic heat source date from the eighteenth century. The inventory of 1730 may suggest the old Hall had become the kitchen by that date.¹¹⁵ The new stair tower is built with eighteenth-century brick and seems to re-use the c. 1590 mullioned windows the new stairs displaced; the first clear record of the stairs is on the Ordnance Survey map of 1887. Built against this stair tower, see fig. 6.19, is a courtyard service room of c. 1926.

Another addition made between 1908 and 1926 was a two-storey porch and washroom under a flat roof. Placed against the c. 1610 east projection on the south range, see fig. 6.20, it was removed in 2016, see fig. 6.23.

All Georgian sash windows, except two remaining in the Alcove Bedroom, were replaced by stone mullions between c. 1900 and 1926. After the 1923 fire extensive restorations were

¹¹⁵ *Assignment of Goods at Halswell House with Inventory by Room, 1730*, South West Heritage Trust, part of DD\S\WH/98 (Original), part DD\X\ELS/1 (Transcript).



Fig. 6.19. Red brick staircase and the single-storey addition of c. 1926 in 2005.



Fig. 6.20. The c. 1926 covered porch addition in 2004.

carried out between 1924 and 1926. Two photographs, see fig. 6.21 and 6.22, show the magnitude of the rebuild that was necessary for the Baroque Wing. The plasterwork recasting is of good quality and faithful to the 1908 images, concrete floors and a flat concrete roof were inserted. The oak baluster five-storey stairs seems to have mostly remained intact and as did the entirety of the earlier house.



Figs 6.21 and 6.22. Baroque Wing after the 1923 fire.¹¹⁶

CONCLUSIONS

Halswell is a highly complex building; inhabited for a millennium, perhaps longer, the expectation for early fabric is high. This analysis of the existing building has produced the first comprehensive appraisal of the house ever attempted.

This study must rely heavily upon the building itself as contemporary records are slight, however those that have been discovered have proved important in support of the physical evidence. Some of the research aims are ambitious and few have been studied seriously before, as such it is the process of investigating these aims that delivers new knowledge about the building, and not necessarily the answering in full of all these objectives. This research can only examine the building as it stands which may leave questions concerning the earliest manor left unanswerable. The building and site are dense with layers which warrant more study over many disciplines such as archaeology, dendrochronology and other techniques¹¹⁷ to fully understand the early settlements.

While the historical research into the early manor and family has yielded some important new insights providing useful guidance to areas for future research, mediaeval fabric has proved to be confined only to a few salvaged architectural details. While the current restoration is ongoing the possibility for new discoveries within the fabric is very real. However it seems the search for medieval buildings, layouts or even cellars is more likely to be the preserve of the archaeologist than the architectural historian.

The research has gone some way to establishing the links between Halswell and Taunton Priory and the effect of the Dissolution of the Monasteries on the manor. This study has established the Priory no longer had a foothold in Halswell by that time, and so there was no great upswing in the Halswell's finances from their old tenants leaving them a well-run fishery or mill complex. Instead the c. 1536 building phase began, much like the consequent building phases, because of an advantageous family marriage, and in Nicholas Halswell's (by 1512-1564) case a generous step-father, also his father-in-law. There is not enough documentation to establish much about the early years before this or what parts if any of the older buildings still survived after the c. 1536 phase began. But what has now been established is the history of the building that still stands, and that history appears to begin in 1536 when money was granted to build the manor. The chronology from that date has now been established with the addition of a few thoughts of how the building looked as these changes took place through different phases.

¹¹⁷ A new programme of carbon dating lime in the mortar at Halswell has been taken up as a dissertation topic by Claire Fear through Bath University.

¹¹⁶ Images courtesy of the Halswell Park Collection.



Plan 1.1.

Colour Key: c. 1536 – 1550, c. 1590, c. 1610, early-seventeenth century, late-seventeenth century, 1689, 1754, 1766, 1771, c. 1772-1899, c. 1900-1926, after 1950.

The statuses, uses, heat sources, stairs, services, passages, extensions, abandonments and facelifts have been understood to a great extent. Partly this ability to still read the building is due to the neglect the old manor had suffered for over three-hundred years, and partly to the current restoration that is taking place which allows for insights into areas previously hidden.

Some hypothetical spectres that have hung around Halswell for decades have now been banished, in particular thoughts the old manor encircled a courtyard or the Baroque Wing necessitated the demolition of a grand north wing. The evidence in the Hearth Tax records and the full complement of rooms that still exists suggests that the old manor has limped along invisibly for 328 years, overshadowed and neglected since 1689 by the formal house that usurped it.

Being re-built in 1536 not as a traditional hall house but as a house in a modern sense with a lobby entry system, no traditional hall, no cross passage or its associated service doors, the grand rooms that were built were later mistaken for lower-status spaces, such as the Hall as a kitchen. The theatre of the Baroque Wing may have given the impression that this family must have had a grand palace before that one was built. In fact it took the Halswell's at least 450 years of squiredom and beneficial marriages to reach the heights of building the Baroque Wing, with only very small changes over the subsequent 260 years of ownership. Influxes of wealth came often from marriages. The old manor was fully befitting of their status up to that date, as academics, lawyers, doctors, knights and members of parliament they were a solid force in the locality, but squires not aristocrats.

The dated drawing, plan 1.1, is the culmination of exhaustive research into archival material related to many aspects of the family's history and finances. Through the review of hundreds of family documents, mainly kept at the South West Heritage Trust, a picture of the financial abilities of the family to build at certain times was formed. Only three of these documents proved pivotal for the time period up to 1689 but they have granted historical dates to the visible phases to those three important periods; c. 1536, c. 1590 - c. 1610 and 1683 - 1689.

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Appendix One

HALSWELL TIMELINE

- 1066 Alweard occupies Halswell.
- 1086 Roger Arundel holds Halswell and the overlordship descends with that of Huish Champflower to Henry de Newburgh. Roger Arundel also held 28 manors in Somerset.
- 1086 Details from the Domesday Book:
'Wido holds of Roger Hasewelle [Halswell]. Alward held (it) T.R.E. and paid geld for 1 hide. There is land for 2 ploughs. In demesne are 'half a hide and half a virgate and' 1 plough and 2 serfs and (there are) 2 villeins and 3 bordars with 1 plough 'and the rest of the land.' 'There are 2 beasts and 10 sheep.' There are 14 acres of wood (land). It is worth 25 shillings. 'When he received it, 17 shillings and 6 pence'.
- 'Wido holds of Roger Arundell – Halswell. Alward held it in the time of King Edward and paid geld of one hide. There is arable for two ox-teams. In the desmene ther is one ox-team and two serfs, two villeins, three cottars with one plough. There are fourteen acres of woodland. It is worth twenty-five shillings'.
- 1285 Henry [de Newburgh] gives a mesne tenancy to Taunton priory. It was recorded only in 1285.
- 1285 Peter of Halswell holds Halswell for 1/4 knight's fee. Peter claimed to be the heir to Ralph, son of Robert (d.1242-3).
- 1303 William of Halswell holds 1/8 knight's fee.
- William of Halswell had land in Halswell in 1314 and 1327. He died between 1329 and 1346.
- 1318 William of Halswell is granted a license to have mass celebrated in the 'Oratory'.
- 1334 William de Swelle or Sewolle holds land at Spaxton and Goathurst.
- 1428 Another William Halswell may have held the fee. He is recorded in 1394.
- Early-fifteenth century A John and Robert Halswell are recorded.
- Late-fifteenth century Another Robert (d. 1483?) is recorded later in the 15th century. This Robert is thought to be father of John Halswell (d.1528) and Nicholas Halswell (d.1528).
- 1528 John Halswell dies.

- 1528 Nicholas Halswell, a prebendary of York and founder-member of the College of Physicians, bequeaths to his young and fatherless nephew Nicholas Halswell (1512-1564) a chalice, some altar vestments, and presumably this uncle's lands.
- Nicholas Halswell (1512-1564) had a career at the Middle Temple and he was fairly active with local affairs. He was in possession of property in Hampshire, Essex, Norfolk, Somerset and Dorset. He married Margery Tremayle. He was father to eight recorded children including Robert Halswell.
- 1536 A receipt for the 'building of the manor of Halswell' suggests that there were structural changes to the manor.
- 1548-1603 Nicholas Halswell acquires Chantry lands.
- 1558 Nicholas Halswell obtains a plot of land to the north of the Chancel, St Edwards Church, Goathurst, upon which to build '*an Ule or Chapell for himself and his heirs forever*'.
- 1564 Nicholas Halswell dies and holds the manor on his death.
- 1564 It is thought that Margery, widow of Nicholas Halswell, held Halswell until her death in 1573, when she was succeeded by Sir Nicholas (son of her son Robert). However, it is also thought that on Nicholas's death in 1564, the estate passed on to his son Robert Halswell, and that Sir Nicholas Halswell succeeded in holding Halswell when Robert died in 1570.
- 1570 Robert Halswell dies. Robert was buried on 29.09.1570.
- Sir Nicholas Halswell (1566-1633) succeeds in holding Halswell. Sir Nicholas Halswell MP (1566-1633) married Bridget, daughter of Sir Henry Wallop of Farleigh Wallop. They had six sons and three daughters. A memorial is in St Edwards Church.
- 1612 Robert Halswell (1588-1626), Sir Nicholas Halswell's eldest son, lives at Halswell after his marriage in 1612 as the expected heir. Robert took his seat in parliament in 1614.
- 1626 Robert Halswell pre-deceases his father in 1626.
- 1628 Sir Nicholas conveys Halswell to his second son Henry (d.1636).
- 1633 Sir Nicholas Halswell dies.
- 1636 Henry dies unmarried and is succeeded by his brother the Revd. Hugh Halswell (d. 1672). Hugh was a doctor of divinity and proctor of Oxford University in 1627.
- 1649 Jane Tynte (d. 1650) married John Tynte of Chelvey (1617-79).
- 1667 The manor is put in trust for Hugh's grandson, Halswell Tynte (1649-1702) the son of Jane Tynte, Hugh's daughter.
- 1672 The Revd. Hugh Halswell dies.39 Hugh is buried in Goathurst.
- 1689 1st Baronet Halswell Tynte (1649-1702) rebuilds the north front of Halswell.

- Halswell Tynte was granted a Baronetcy in 1673 and was buried in Goathurst.
- 1702 1st Baronet Halswell Tynte dies and is succeeded by 2nd Baronet Sir John Tynte (1683-1710).
- 2nd Baronet Sir John Tynte married Jane, the heiress of Sir Charles Kemeys (1651-1702), in 1704.
- They had three sons Halswell (1705-1730), John (1707-1740), and Charles (1710-1785), and a daughter Jane (1708-1741). All their grandchildren died young, except the daughter of Jane also called Jane (1738-1825).
- 1710 2nd Baronet Sir John Tynte dies and his son succeeds: the 3rd Baronet Sir Halswell Tynte MP (1705-1730).
- 1730 The 3rd Baronet Sir Halswell Tynte dies and is succeeded by: 4th Baronet Sir John Halswell Tynte (1707-1740).
- Baronet Sir John Halswell Tynte held the Rectory at Goathurst and never married.
- 1740 4th Baronet Sir John Halswell Tynte dies and Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte (1710-1785) becomes 5th Baronet. Sir Charles re-landscapes Halswell Park.
- 5th Baronet Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, MP Somerset, married Anne Busby. He also acquired Chelvey in 1740, and Cefn Malby from his mother in 1747, taking his mother's maiden name, Kemeys, upon the inheritance of her family estate, Cefn Malby.
- 1785 5th Baronet Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte dies and the estate is left to his widow, Lady Tynte.
- 1798 Lady Tynte dies. Her niece Jane (d.1825) had married Colonel John Johnson on 19 Feb 1765. On inheritance of Halswell they assumed the name of Kemeys Tynte as directed in the Will of Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte. They had a son (b.1778) Charles Kemeys Tynte, MP for Bridgwater.
- Colonel John Johnson (d. 1795) and Jane Hassell (1738-1824) as a stipulation of their inheritance of the Halswell and Kevan Mabley estates they changed their name to Kemeys-Tynte in 1785. They were succeeded by their son,
- Charles John Kemeys-Tynte (1778-1860).
- Col. Charles John Kemeys-Tynte (1800-1882).
- Charles Kemeys Kemeys-Tynte (1822-1891).
- Halswell Milborne Kemeys-Tynte (1852-1899).
- Charles Theodore Halswell Kemeys-Tynte, 8th Baron Wharton (1876-1934) (abeyance terminated 1916).
- Charles John Halswell Kemeys-Tynte, 9th Baron Wharton (1908-1969).
- 1950 Halswell sold and the estate broken up.

After Sir Halswell's death in 1702 his son Sir John married the Welsh heiress to the estate of Sir Charles Kemeys. When she died in 1747 both estates were combined under the sole ownership of the 5th Tynte Baronet, Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, see fig. 1.7, and a great new period of building commenced once again.

By now the ancient manor house had been mostly transformed into service rooms at the rear to support the grand Baroque house which dominated the landscape. This severe Baroque house, though now old-fashioned in the age of Palladianism appeared to suffice in size and only had a few Palladian modifications, such as the rococo dining room and a facelift to the east and west elevations.

Sir Charles love was the outdoors and he created a vast naturalistic landscape from the regimented Restoration-period gardens with which he grew up. Sweeping away the straight avenues of trees and high redbrick walls that enclosed the estate and the gardens within it. Sir Charles appears to have employed the famous Thomas Wright of Durham to design pleasure gardens with waterfalls and follies, walks and rides encompassing a 450 acre parkland. Though some of these buildings were very visible in the larger landscape, such as the classical Rotunda and Rockwork Screen at front of the house, or the gothick Robin Hood's Hut set high above the house on the Bronze Age settlement called Rooks Castle, much of his attention and resources were focussed within the ancient wooded stream landscape called Mill Wood.

The Kemeys-Tynte's, as the family name became upon Sir Charles's death in 1785, continued in the military and in parliament right up to the twentieth century but the phases of building that told of so many architectural patrons over the centuries had stopped by 1785. When an old family title from a maternal line was, probably incorrectly, revived by the House of Lords in 1916 they became the Barons Wharton. The house suffered a fire soon after in the 1920's but was comprehensively restored and updated by the 8th Baron, who left a house in excellent physical condition with historically replicated interiors. It was the 9th Baron, Charles John Halswell Kemeys-Tynte who without the likelihood of children himself, sold the estate off at auctions between 1948 and 1950.

The successes of four men from this family had great impact upon the building and estate; Nicholas Halswell MP (by 1512-1564), his grandson Sir Nicholas Halswell MP (1566-1633), his great grandson Sir Halswell Tynte (1649-1702) and his grandson Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte (1710-1785). These are the key drivers of construction during the periods where we have both physical and documentary records.



Fig. 1.7. William Hogarth (1697-1754) "Portrait of Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte" (1710-1785), 1753.¹

¹ Image courtesy of the Pennington-Munthe Collection, Southside House, Wimbledon, London. A payment of £42 is recorded being made to the artist in June 1753 from Tynte's bank account at Hoare's.

Appendix Two

HISTORIC ENGLAND LISTING*

“Country house in emparked landscape; now flats. South range C16 for Sir Nicholas Halswell; main north range 1689 for Sir Halswell Tynte, earlier house retained as service quarters; north range partly destroyed by fire c1922 when fabric restored and interior refurbished; converted to flats with internal division, particularly south, c1950. North range: Ham Hill ashlar, flat bitumenised roof; stucco on returns; south range: random rubble, some colourwashed, slate roofs, brick and rubble stacks. Baroque north front on imposing scale; 3 storeys, 2:3:2 bays, the outer in shallow wings; rusticated quoins, ramped plinth band, first floor band, first floor sill band, second floor band and band over heads of second floor windows; cornice, baluster parapet. Sash windows with glazing bars; on second floor with square heads in architraves; windows to centre paired, a C18 alteration. Windows to the wings with segmental heads and architraves, outer windows of centre bays with semi-circular heads, elaborate architraves; to first floor, foliate panels over. Centre window of centre 3 stepped forward and emphasised with raising crescendo of ornament eared architrave, flanked by 3 sets of pilasters, inner with carved foliage, centre with scrolled volutes supporting open triangular pediment; moulded keystone supports large painted cartouche, swag each side. Paired three-quarter glazed doors in semi-circular headed recess, fanlight, radiating glazing bars; trophies flanking rusticated pilasters stepped back in 3 stages, to centre represented by quarter column, supports deep cornice which forms narrow balcony, formerly iron rails, now missing. Returns in similar style; left of 5 bays, ground floor rusticated, sash windows with glazing bars, on first floor moulded architraves with cornices, centre window with triangular pediment, baluster panel below. To right of 3 bays, sash windows with glazing bars, centre first floor with semi-circular head in square head architrave, dentil cornice, baluster panel set below; C18 single-storey bays on ground floor with cornices, between them semi-circular head door opening in rusticated surround, half-glazed door. Contiguous range to south, irregular plan; 2 storeys and attic; stone-mullioned windows with stopped labels, many renewed, leaded lights, relieving arches. Flat-pointed and 4-centred arch stone door frames. Right return of north front with attached wall to obscure service quarters, emphasised door opening and 2 niches. Interior of service wing with remains of domestic fittings including range of cupboards on ground floor. North range with elaborate plaster and woodwork, much in replica after fire; large open-well staircase, twisted balusters, ramped handrail, panelled newel posts; stairwell with ornamental plaster

ceiling, Baroque with wreathing, cartouches, cherubs, corner pilasters; ground floor dining room ceiling, with ribs, garlands, intertwined branches, dentil cornice, in style of fig; first floor room to east with further Baroque ceiling, ornamented with centre wreath with enframing panels, also chinoiserie wallpaper. Centre rooms to ground and first floor more restrained, on ground floor fielded panelling; 3 fine C18 chimney pieces, room on right of ground floor with chimney piece removed, C16 plaster overmantel reset above a doorway between house and service wing. Further lesser features. Country Life, November 21 1908; Collinson, Somerset I, 1791; VCH Somerset 11, 1911).”

ESTATE LISTING

“In the Saxon and Norman period, Halswell formed a distinct property within the heavily wooded parish of Goathurst (VCH 1992). By the late C13 Peter of Halswell held Halswell for one quarter knight's fee, while in 1318 William Halswell was licensed to have mass celebrated in his private chapel. A receipt of 1536 for 'building the manor of Halswell' may relate to the south range of the present mansion, and a late C16 survey indicates the existence of a warren, orchards, and bartons associated with the manor house (Pearson Assocs 1995). In 1603 Nicholas Halswell became MP for Bridgwater, and was subsequently knighted. Halswell was conveyed to his son Henry in 1628, and passed to Henry's brother, Dr Hugh Halswell, a Proctor of Oxford University in 1636. The estate was placed in trust for Dr Halswell's nephew, Halswell Tynte, whose mother was the daughter of Sir Nicholas Halswell who had married John Tynte of Chelvey Court c 1640. Tynte inherited the property on the death of Dr Halswell in 1672, and the following year was granted a baronetcy. Sir Halswell Tynte settled at Halswell, and in 1689 completed the construction of a new Palladian wing to the north of the C16 and C17 house.

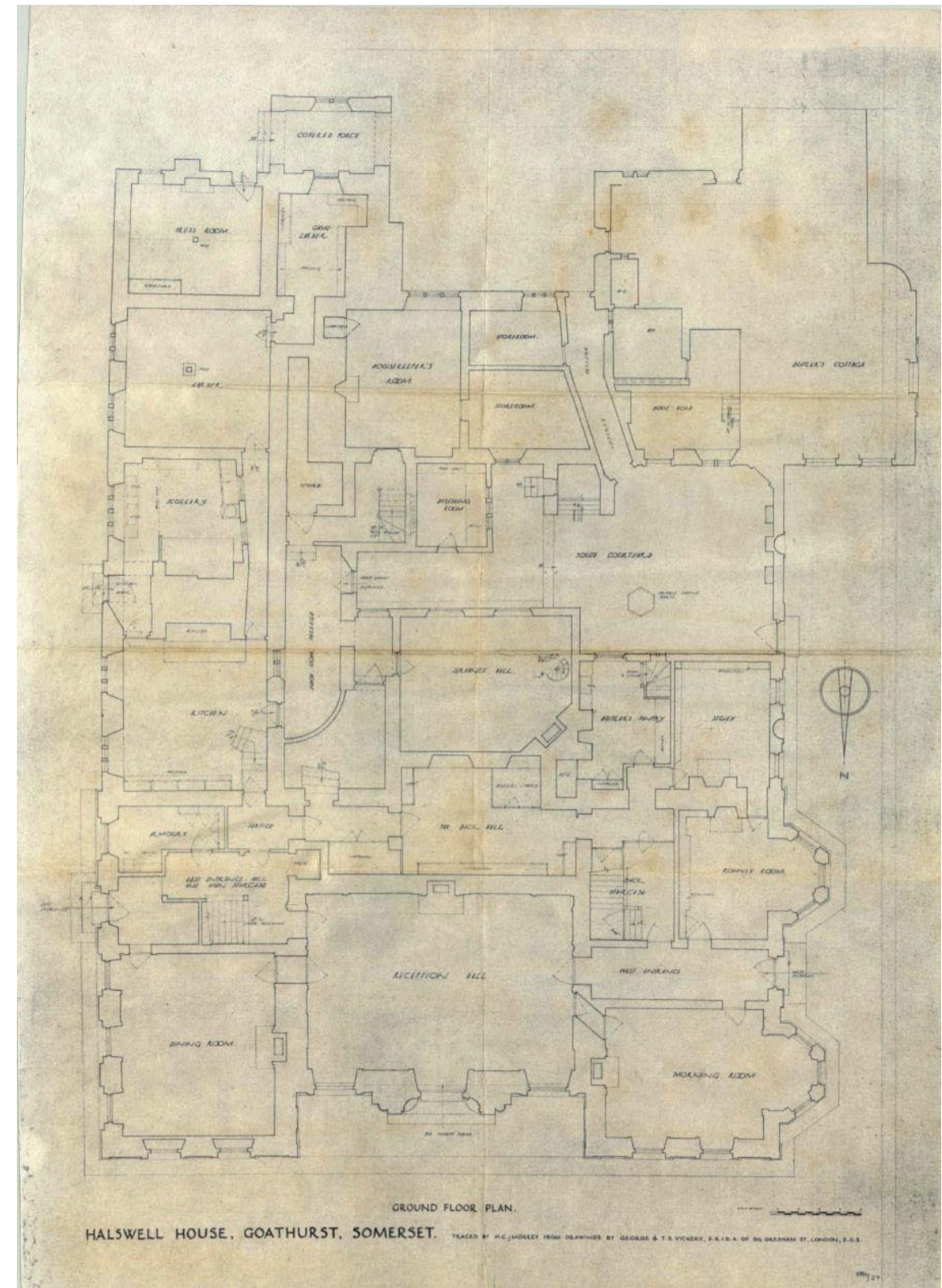
An early C18 painting (private collection) shows formal terraced gardens and parkland to the north-east of the House which were associated with the late C17 remodelling of the House. Halswell was inherited in 1702 by Sir Halswell's son, Sir John, who had married the heiress of Sir Charles Keymes of Cefan Mably, Glamorganshire. Sir John was succeeded in 1710 by his eldest son, Sir Halswell Tynte, who died in 1730, leaving the estate to his unmarried brother, the Rev John Tynte, Rector of Goathurst. Sir John's third son, Sir Charles Keymes Tynte, succeeded the Rev Sir John Tynte in 1740, and in 1747 inherited the Welsh properties belonging to his mother's family. Sir Charles sat in Parliament as Member for Somerset until 1774, and was a leading figure in the county. He was a close associate of Coplestone Warre Bampfylde of Hestercombe, Somerset (qv) and Henry Hoare of

Stourhead, Wiltshire (qv), sharing with them a taste for the embellishment of his estate. A painting of c 1750 shows that the formal gardens around the House had been largely removed, and contemporary visitors' accounts refer to several ornamental structures, lakes, cascades, and well-wooded parkland. Richard Escott, appointed estate steward in 1753, wrote a detailed account of Sir Charles mid C18 improvements (Escott Memorandum). These included the extension of the park to the east and west of the House, and the construction of a series of ornamental structures in Mill Wood and elsewhere in the pleasure grounds, the design for several of which has been attributed by Gervase Jackson-Stops to Thomas Wright (CL 1989). Halswell was extensively visited in the mid and late C18, with a detailed description being written by Arthur Young in 1771. Work in the grounds at Halswell continued up to Sir Charles' death in 1785, when the property passed to his widow, who remained in occupation until her own death in 1798. The estate was inherited by Sir Charles' niece, Mrs Johnson (d 1825), who assumed the name Keymes Tynte but did not reside at Halswell; in 1821 Mrs Johnson's son, Charles Keymes Tynte MP, was living at Halswell. The OS surveyor's drawing of 1802 indicates that few changes were made to the landscape created by Sir Charles, a situation reflected on other C19 surveys. Under Charles Keymes Tynte's grandson the pleasure grounds in Mill Wood had declined (OS 1889), but in 1902 the 'noble and well-wooded park' was still stocked with a herd of fallow deer (Kelly's Directory). The barony of Wharton was revived in favour of Charles T H Tynte in 1916, and in 1919 a herd of red deer was noted in the park at Halswell (ibid). Despite increasing financial problems, the north range of the House was restored to a high standard following a serious fire in 1923. By the early 1930s the estate was vested in Hoare's Bank, and during the Second World War a prisoner of war camp was established in the grounds. The ninth Lord Wharton sold Halswell in 1950, and the estate was divided into several parts. Trees in the park and Mill Wood were felled and the stables and outbuildings divided into flats. The estate remains in divided private ownership today (1999). The Temple of Harmony and Robin Hood's Hut were vested in the Halswell Park Trust in 1994."

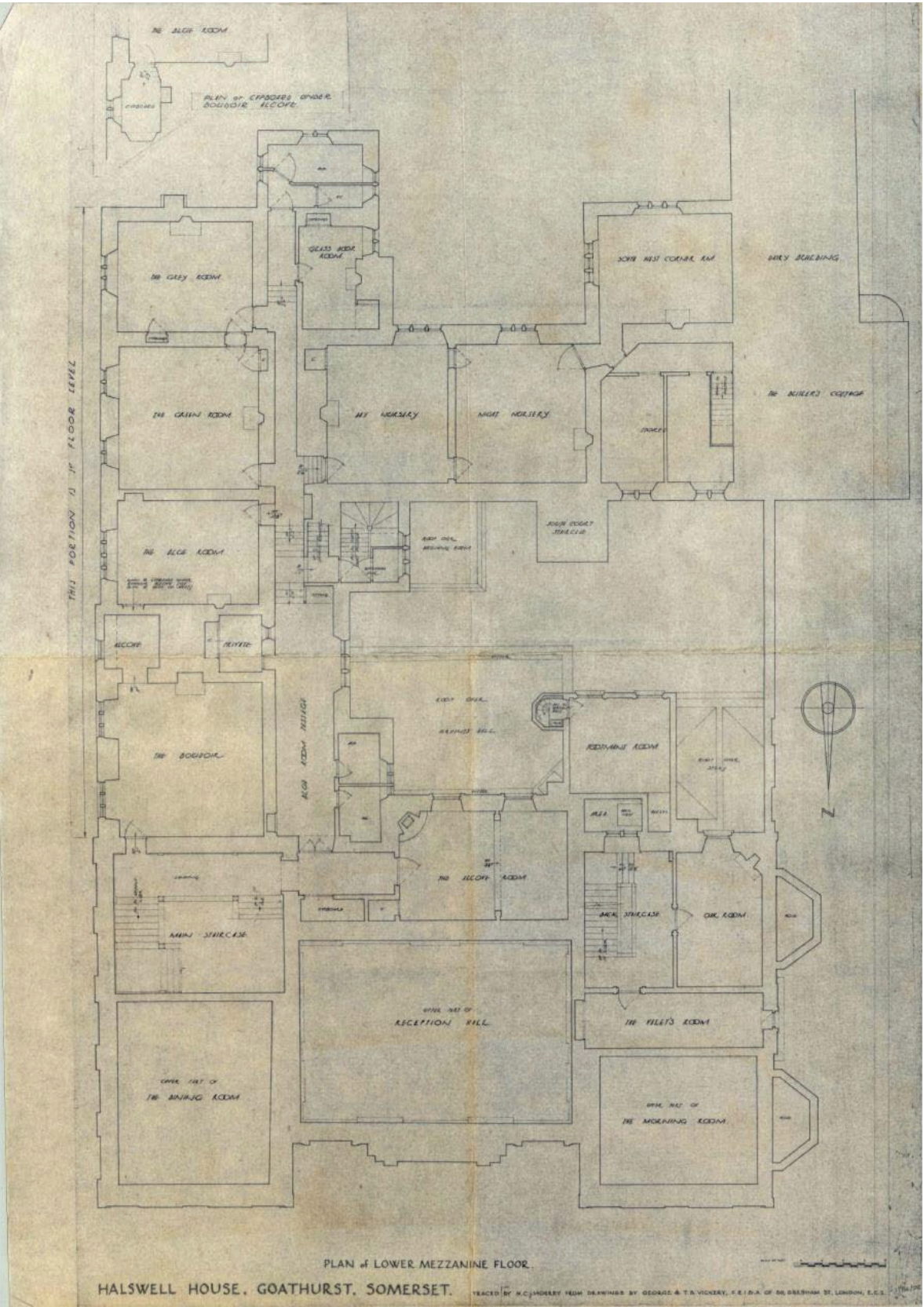
*Copied from <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1058950> (accessed 10th January 2016).

Appendix Three

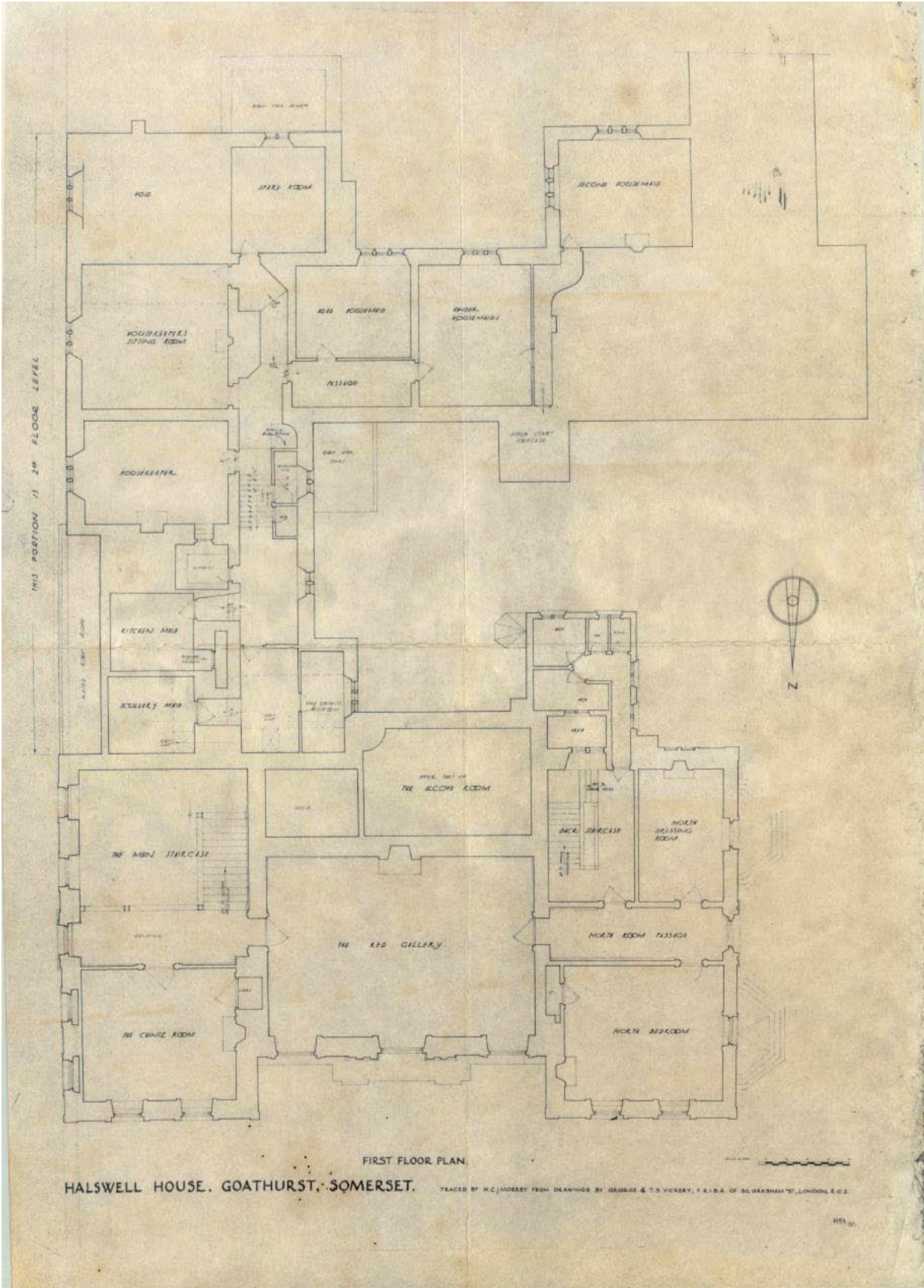
VICKERY PLANS, c. 1924



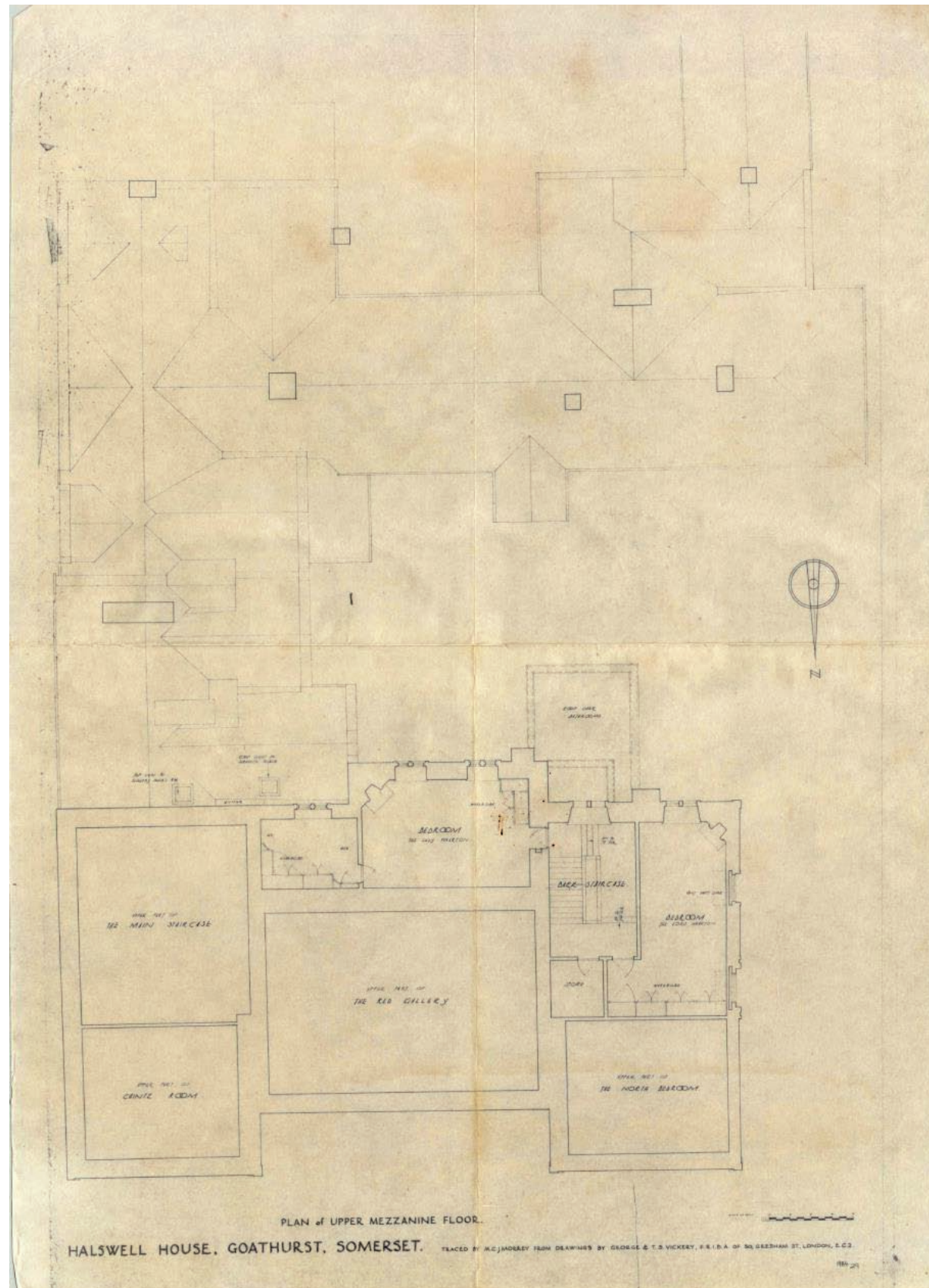
Plan 4.1.



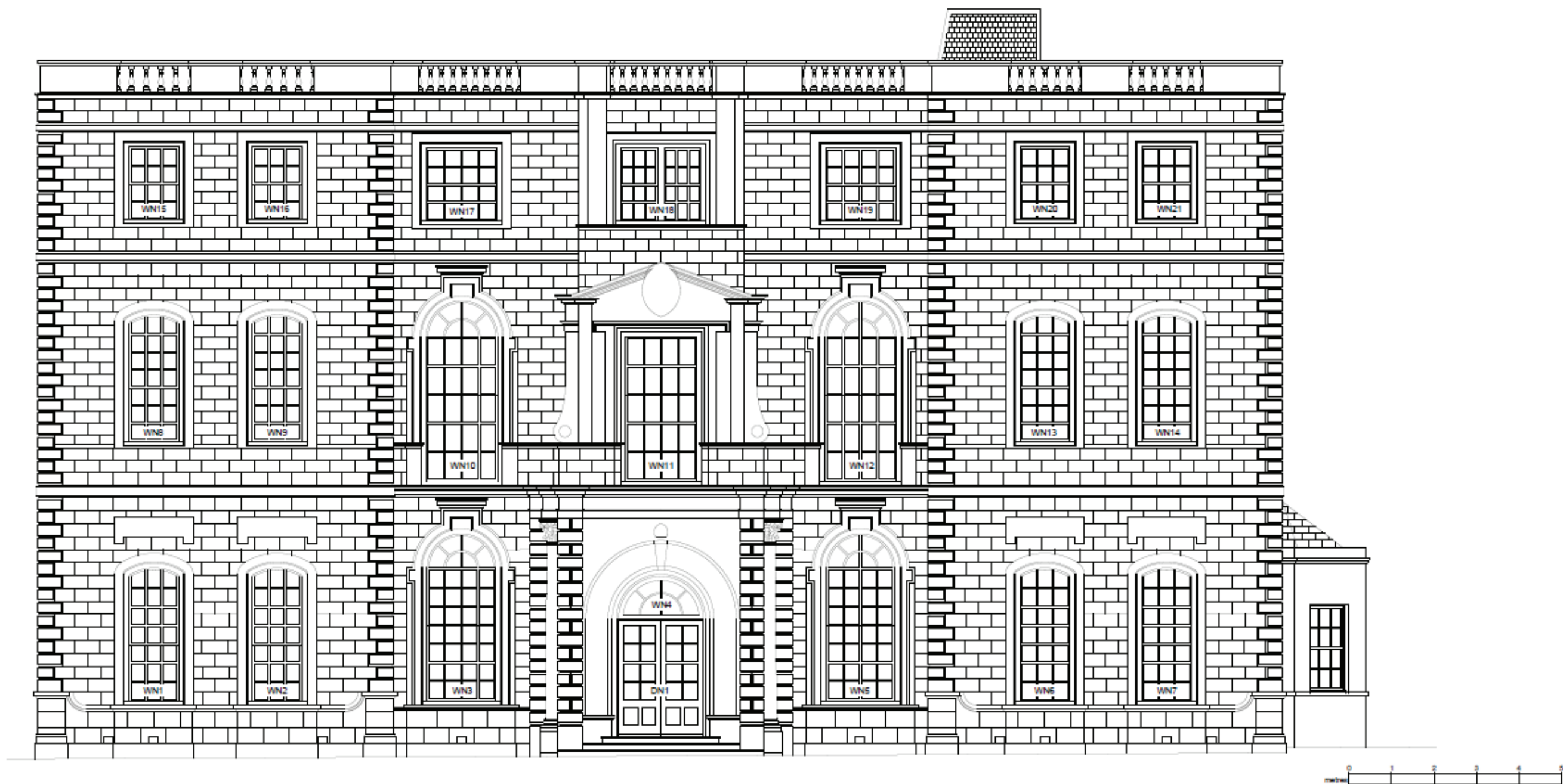
Plan 4.2.



Plan 4.3.



Plan 4.4.



NORTH ELEVATION, BAROQUE WING

Scale 1:111 on A3



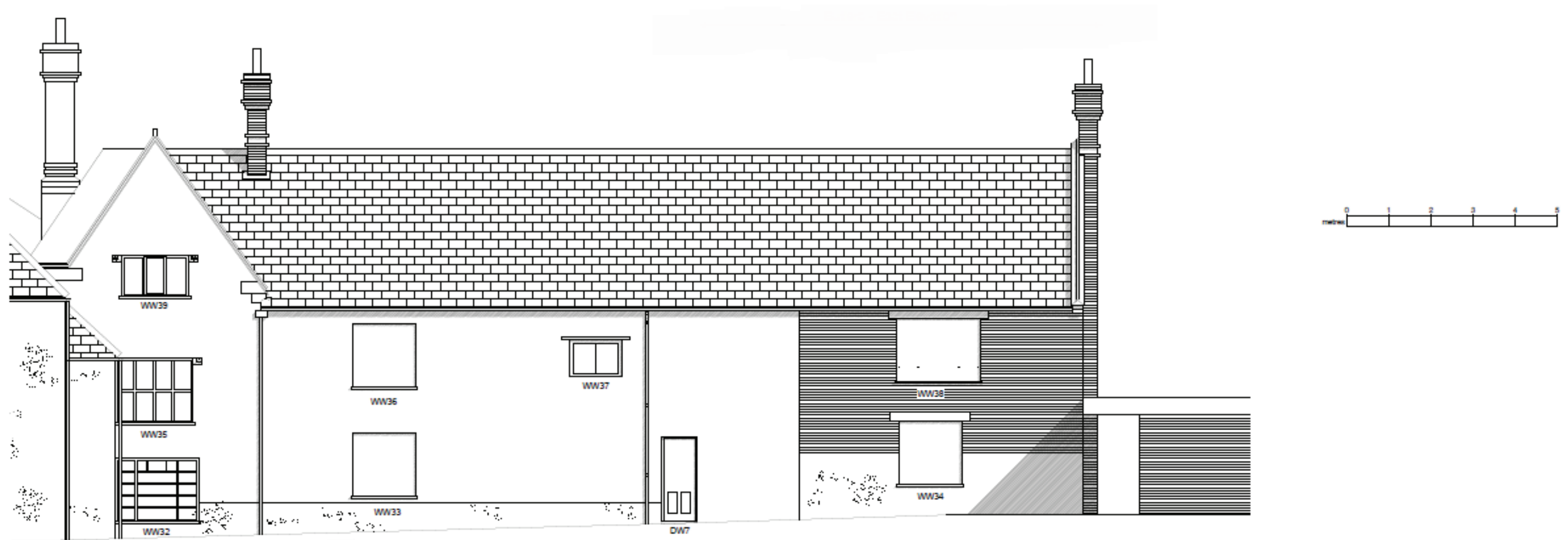
SOUTH ELEVATION, BAROQUE WING, WITH A CROSS SECTION OF THE EAST RANGE THROUGH THE HALL



EAST EVELATION, BAROQUE WING (HIGHLIGHTED)



WEST ELEVATION, NORTHERN SECTION



WEST EVELATION, SOUTH WING



EAST ELEVATION, SOUTH WING
INCLUDING CROSS SECTION FROM THE CENTRE OF SOUTH RANGE

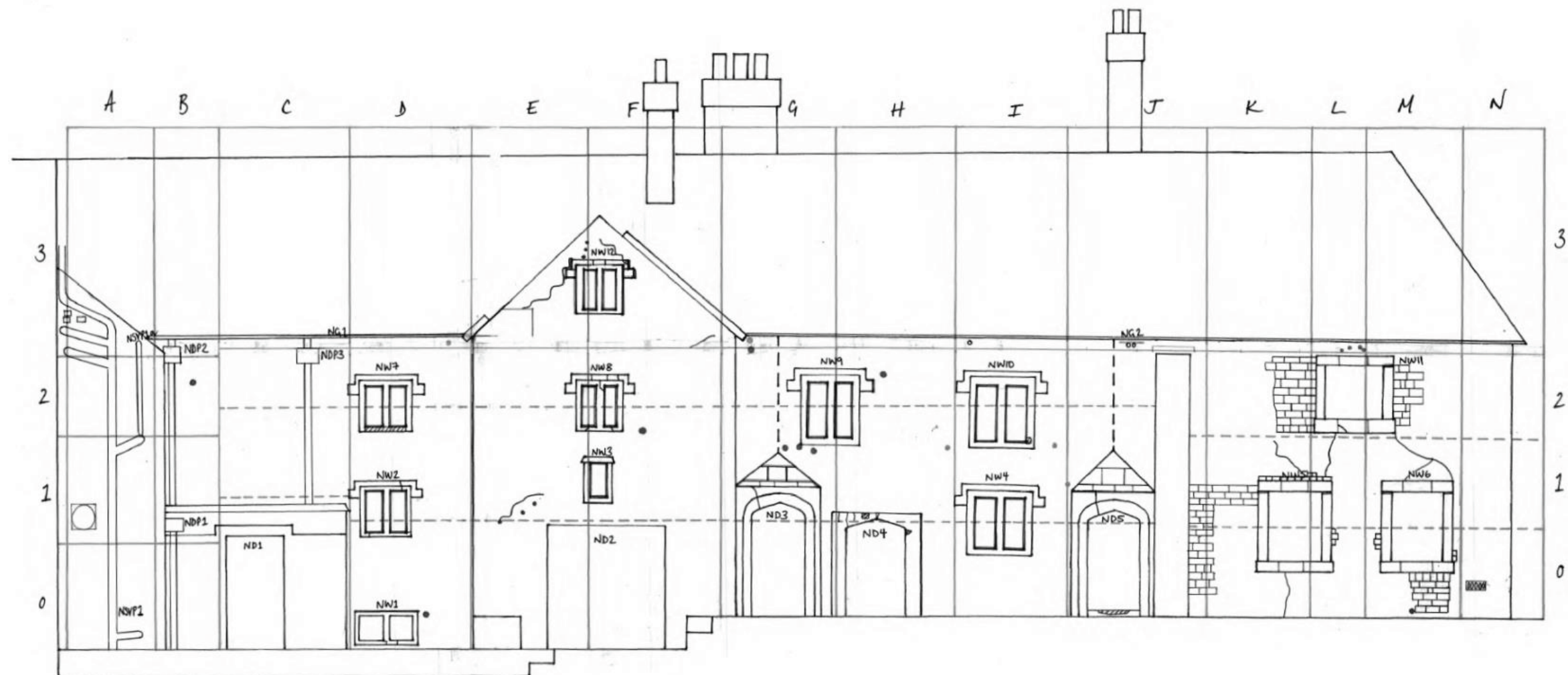


EAST EVELATION, EAST RANGE

Photographic key: Left to right and ground floor to top floor. WE1 = Window East 1. DE1 = Door East 1



WEST ELEVATION, EAST RANGE FROM WITHIN THE COURTYARD
 INCLUDING A CROSS SECTION THROUGH THE CENTRE OF THE SOUTH RANGE
Photographic key: Left to right and ground floor to top floor. WW1 = Window West 1. DW1 = Door West 1



NORTH ELEVATION, SOUTH RANGE FROM WITHIN COURTYARD
 INCLUDING A CROSS SECTION OF THE COURTYARD ENCLOSING WALL LOCATED IN SECTION 'J'
 Photographic key: Left to right and ground floor to top floor. WW1 = Window West 1. DW1 = Door West 1

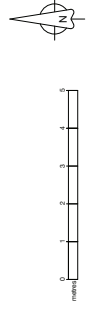


SOUTH ELEVATION, SOUTH RANGE

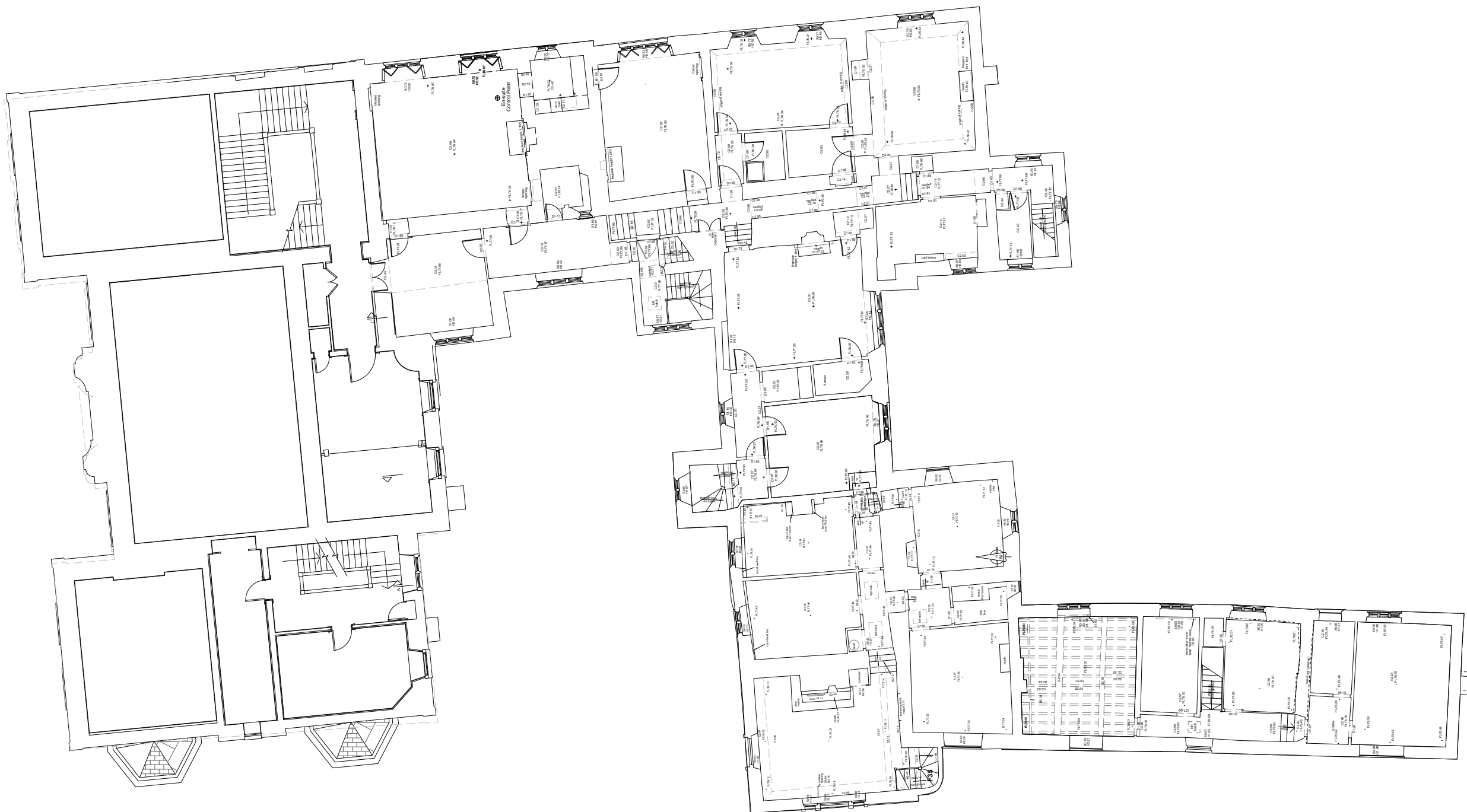
Photographic key: Left to right and ground floor to top floor. WS1 = Window South 1. DS1 = Door South 1

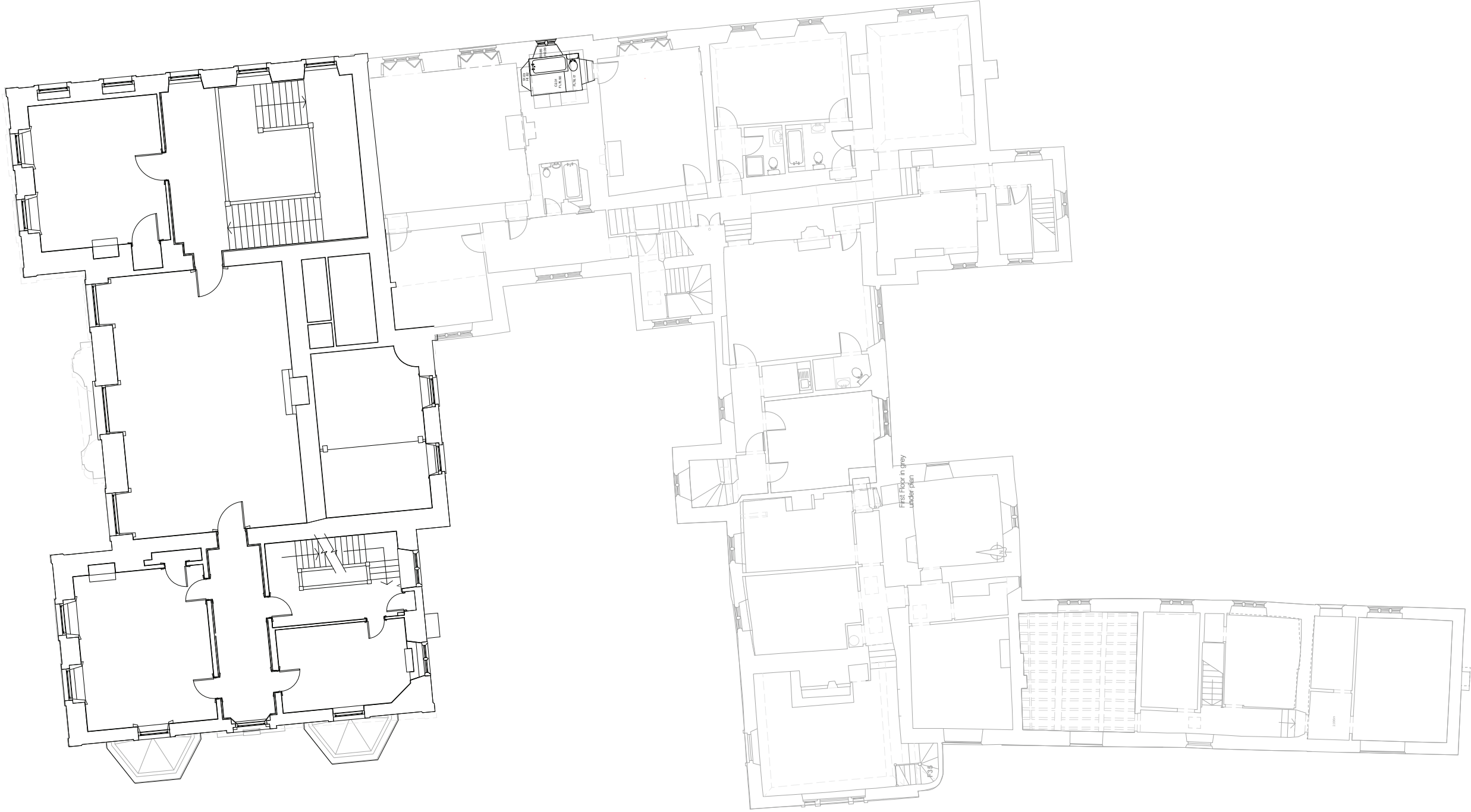


Ground Floor in grey
over Collar Plan

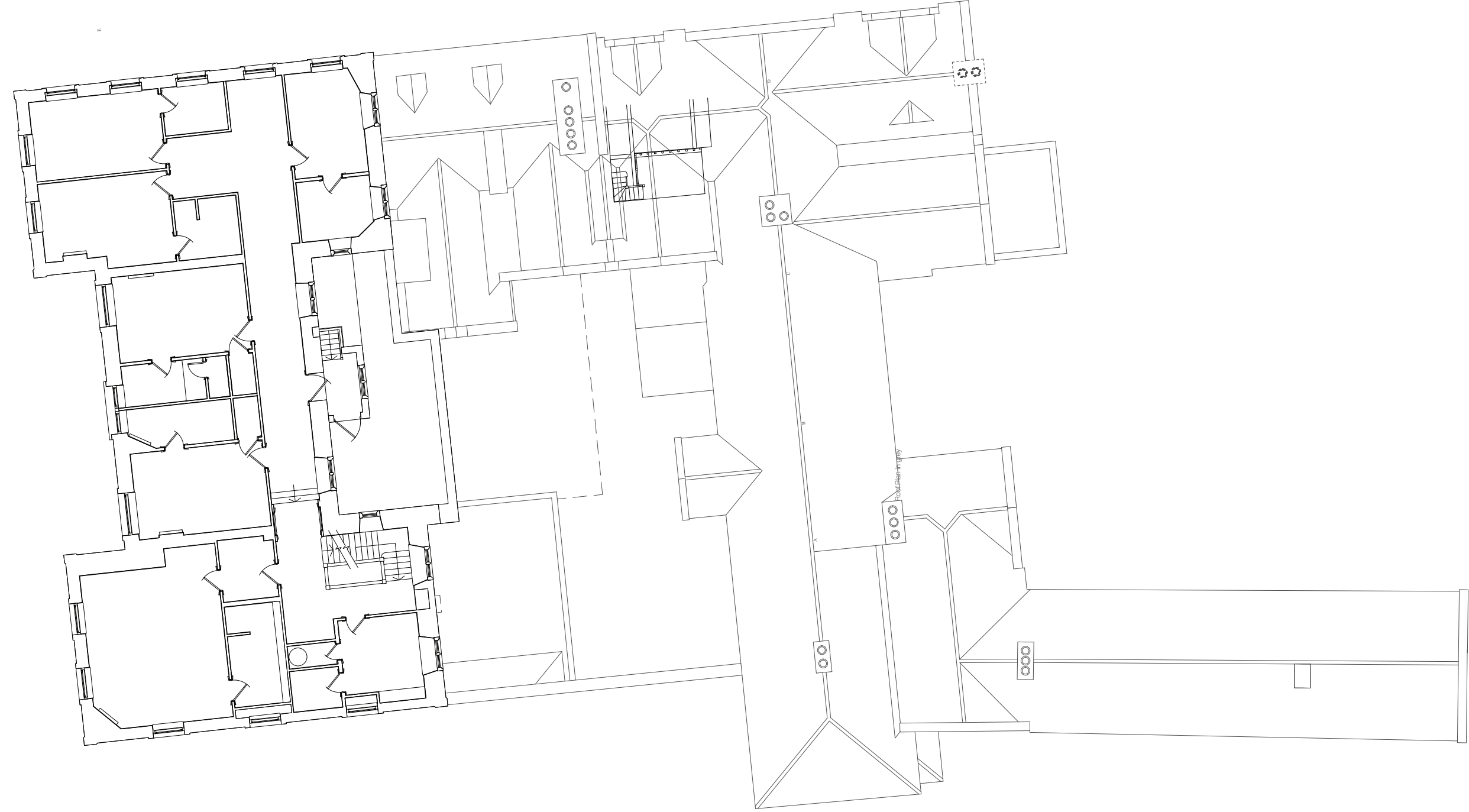


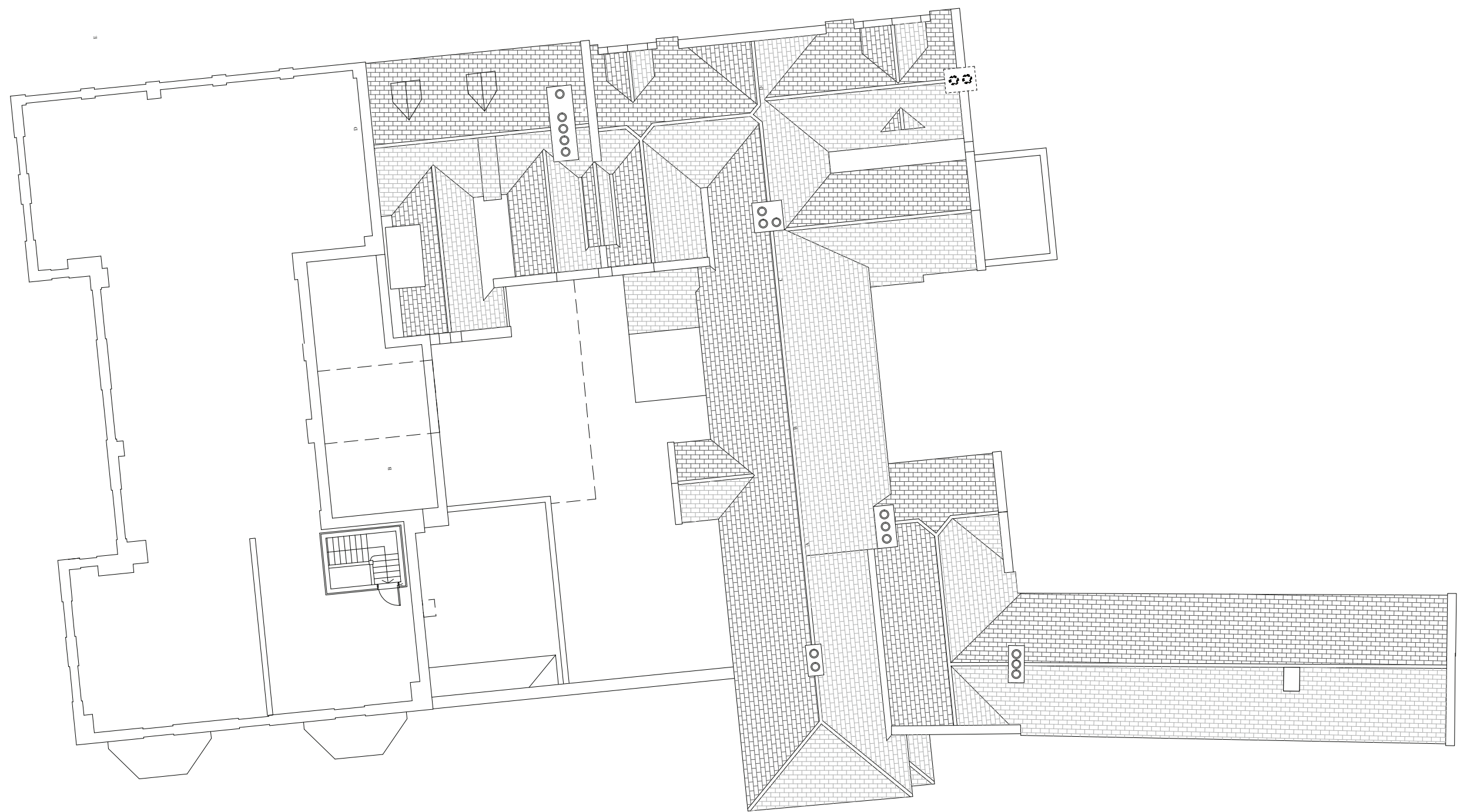














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