

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES : 1962-63

Abingdon, Berks. (1) Excavations on the site of the Neolithic causewayed camp were continued by Mr. D. M. E. Avery, when stratified material was obtained from the inner ditch. (SU/511982.)

(2) A fragment of an early 16th-century tin-glazed tile was reported by Miss K. Schmutz from a ploughed field south of Barton Court. The pattern was only previously known locally from St. John's Chapel, Bicester.¹ (SU/505073.)

(3) A late 18th-century pot was reported set in the brick floor of the cellar of a 15th-century back-wing at 30 St. Helens. (SU/498068.)

Begbroke, Oxon. Scrapers and other struck flints, including the butt of a polished axehead (SP/475136) and a leaf-shaped arrowhead (SP/477137) were found by Mr. P. J. Boyle in ploughed land around the Weed Research Station, Begbroke Hill.

Bicester, Oxon. Rubble footings of the Augustinian Priory Church were plotted by Miss H. Sutermeister during building works for Oxfordshire County Council south of the parish church. Mr. D. Watts recorded medieval patterned floor tiles and observed burials. (SP/58422.)

Cassington, Oxon. The upper filling of the southern arm of the pre-Roman big enclosure ditch, 30 ft. wide, was revealed in a drainage trench, between the scarp of Summertown-Radley gravel east of Evenlode and north of the Mill, and the private road from the Mill to the Cassington-Eynsham road.² Four fragmentary inhumation-burials were reported by Mr. R. Partridge, disturbed by the same trench, from inside the enclosure 45 ft. from the ditch. (SP/448100.)

Daylesford, Glos. A fragmentary bronze statuette of Horus in Roman dress was given to the Ashmolean Museum by Mr. T. W. F. Cooper, having been found in a recently ploughed field on the county boundary with Kingham, Oxon. It appears to have been a rare importation from Egypt to Britain in the Roman period, not earlier than the 2nd century B.C. (SP/259264.)

Dorchester, Oxon. A trench running parallel to the Dorchester-Alchester road was reported observed stripping topsoil at Amey's gravel pit at Queensford Mill. (SU/576953.)

Childrey, Berks. Sherds probably both of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age date, 1st- and 2nd-century Romano-British, together with fragments of 12th- to 13th-century cooking pots, were found by Mr. P. K. Griffin in flower-beds at Cantorist House, Childrey, Berks. (SU/361878.)

Chimney, Oxon. A coin of Galerius Maximianus as Caesar (A.D. 293-305) was found by Mr. S. W. H. Rolfe in ploughed land. (SU/359009.)

Clanfield, Oxon. (1) 11th- to 12th-century sherds were discovered by Mr. R. Hunt digging foundations in Busby's Close, 200 yards south of the church. (SP/284020.)

(2) Ditches of 11th to 12th century and 17th century were revealed in mechanical excavating on Grant's Hay east of the church. (SP/283022.)

¹ Ashmolean Museum : 1921. 320.

² *Oxoniensia*, xvi (1951), 79.

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Eynsham, Oxford. (1) Thanks to the interest and observations of Mr. N. Hunt, a trial excavation in advance of building operations was undertaken on the site of the Late Saxon and Medieval Abbey in the nursery garden immediately south-east of the churchyard of the parish church by Miss H. Sutermeister and Mr. D. Sturdy with members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society and volunteers. Robber-trenches were found and interpreted as traces of the south cloister walk and the south range of the claustral buildings. Rubble traces of a structure south east of the cloisters, possibly the infirmary, were also found. (SP/434091.)

(2) Further excavations on the deserted medieval hamlet at Pinkhill Farm were undertaken by Mr. D. Keen and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. (SP/439071.)

Frilford, Berks. (1) Mr. P. H. Cross reported struck flints and Romano-British pottery including Samian ware from ploughed land south of Manor Farm (around SU/436967); and Romano-British coarse pottery and tiles from ploughed land near Pead's and Barnett's farm. (Around SU/443973.)

(2) Further details of robber-trenches of the Romano-British temple, Early Iron Age pits and post-holes of a timber enclosure were discovered in excavations at the Noah's Ark site by Mr. D. Harding. (SU/439963.)

Garsington, Oxon. Romano-British pottery was reported by Mr. Wojtan sporadically throughout a trench 80 yards east of the Alchester-Dorchester road B.480 to Sandford Breck, indicating Roman activity over an area about 1,000 yards long extending from the kiln-sites discovered in 1956.³ (Around SP/561028.)

Hanborough, Oxon. An Early Iron Age settlement, discovered during gravel digging, was excavated by Miss H. Sutermeister, members of the Ashmole Club and volunteers from Bartholomew Secondary School, Eynsham (see above pp. 44-50). (SP/429115.)

Headington, Oxford. (1) Romano-British coarse pottery, probably indicating a kiln producing Sandford ware was reported by Mr. S. M. Goodchild from foundation-trenches at the Rookery, Old Headington. (SP/543078.)

(2) Sherds indicating a similar kiln were reported by Mr. G. Beard from the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. Together with similar finds previously reported by Mrs. W. I. Hassal from the Wingfield Hospital, they indicate a Roman site covering about 400 by 200 yards, largely covered by the hospital buildings and car-park. (SP/548066.)

Kingham, Oxon. See *Daylesford, Glos.*

Langford, Oxon. Sherds, iron slag, a Coxwell sandstone rubber, and struck flints including scrapers were reported by Mrs. M. U. Jones from a gravel pit immediately south of sites excavated at Langford Down.⁴ (SP/215027.)

Little Tew, Oxon. Sherds of several kinds were found by Mrs. A. V. Fitt gardening at Four Winds, including Romano-British coarse pottery; pagan Saxon, including a rim sherd with bar-lip; and 11th- and 12th-century examples. (SP/384282.)

Long Wittenham, Berks. The iron spike of a boatman's quant or pole, 17th- to 19th-century date, was recovered by Mr. H. Thompson from the bed of the Thames. (SY/543939.)

Oxford, Balliol College. A flint scraper was found on a spoil-heap outside Stair-

³ *Id.*, xxi (1956), 82.

⁴ *Id.*, xi/xii (1946/7), 44 ff.

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case IV during electrical alterations in 1962, in addition to the finds previously reported.⁵ (SU/51290648.)

Oxford, Bear Lane. Roman coins were said by Major H. F. O. Evans to have been found about 45 years ago during excavations for Post Office cables. A sherd of Samian ware was found nearby in 1965 in a medieval pit in the coal-yard, Christ Church. (SP/514061.)

Oxford, Bevington Road. Roman coins were similarly reported by Major Evans. Large quantities were found in gravel-digging here in the 1820s. (SP/510074.)

Oxford, Christ Church. (1) 11th- and 12th-century rubbish pits were observed in building operations in the cellars of Peekwater Quad Staircase 9. (SP/51510609.)

(2) An excavation on behalf of the Oxford Excavation Committee was undertaken by Miss H. Sutermeister and Mr. R. Hughes, outside the walls of the College in St. Aldates, between Staircase 7, Tom Quad, and the modern roadway. A massive rubble footing-wall, 8 ft. thick, was found at a depth of 5 ft. and standing 5 ft. deep; it was interpreted as the west wall of Wolsey's projected Great Chapel. Natural gravel was encountered at 9 ft. All early superficial levels appear to have been removed in 1526. (SP/51400601.)

(3) An ivory syringe-needle was found in works under the floor of the Junior Common Room in Staircase 7, Tom Quad.

Oxford, Fisher Row. Rubble footings of 13th-century cottages were found beneath the floors of demolished 17th-century cottages alongside Castle Mill stream. The medieval floors probably lay beneath the stream; if so, they may have been protected by a watertight clay bank. (SP/50880618.)

Oxford, 13-17 Magdalen Street. A miniature 13th- or 14th-century jug was discovered during rebuilding of Oxenford Hall. (SP/51210647.)

Oxford, Paradise Street. A 10th- to 11th-century iron spearhead was found by Mr. Walker in the bank of Castle Mill back-stream. To the west, continuous pumping during laying of foundations, permitted the observation, beneath 6 ft. of modern tipped deposit, of 3 ft. of peaty alluvium overlying gravels of the flood-plain terrace at least 10 ft. thick. (SP/50850605.)

Oxford, Trinity College. Medieval and later rubbish-pits were planned by Miss H. Sutermeister and a series of stratified groups recovered. The finds ranged from the 12th to 19th centuries and were particularly rich in the 14th, 17th and 18th. (SP/51460652.)

Pusey, Berks. A bronze palstave was found by Miss M. Saunders-Davies in a ploughed field north of the copse standing north-west of Cherbury Camp. (SU/373965.)

Radley, Bucks. During dismantling of a cruck-cottage by Mr. D. Hinton, traces of occupation contemporary with the 14th- or 15th-cent. structure were found by Mr. T. McNeill and Miss H. Sutermeister and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. (SU/532990.)

Standlake, Oxon. Waterlogged ditches containing Romano-British coarse pottery were observed during gravel-digging on a settlement site south of the village.⁶ (SP/385025.)

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. Sherds of 1st- to 2nd-century Romano-British coarse

⁵ *Id.*, xxviii (1963), 90.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 51.

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pottery were reported by Mr. H. Babington Smith found during gravel-digging in 1962 south of Vicarage Field. (SP/400054.)

Wigginton, Oxon. Romano-British coins, pottery, painted plaster, glass and tesserae were reported revealed in ploughing a quarter of a mile north-east of the village. (SP/392336.)

Telford, Oxon. An Acheulian flint hand-axe was found by Mr. H. Babington Smith north-west of the corner of Rectory Cottage, in digging a path through early medieval levels. (SP/359047.)

DAVID STURDY.

HELEN SUTERMEISTER.

AN EIGHTH-CENTURY FIND AT BANBURY

In the first half of 1964 Mr. W. Slack, of Banbury, found a small coin lying on the surface of a piece of ground, in his allotment, which he had dug with the spade in the previous autumn. Since the coin was no more than 10 mm. in diameter, and was covered with a rather dark green patina, it seemed to him very likely that it had been in a lump of soil which had disintegrated during the winter. Being unable to identify the type, he submitted the coin to the Heberden Coin Room. It proved to be an 8th-century Anglo-Saxon sceat, or what might more properly be called a penny,⁷ and as such, an unusual discovery, meriting careful record. Between two and three hundred provenances are on record for 'sceattas', among which the heaviest concentrations are in Kent and the London area.⁸ From Oxford and its region, the material is limited, but coins of about the same period as the Banbury find have been recorded, for example, from Brackley and Chipping Warden.



FIG. 43

Enlarged drawing of the coin from Banbury. Areas where the surface of the coin has flaked away are shaded black. Obverse: note the jaw-line of the left-hand head, and the lips of the right-hand head.

Reverse: only the upper of the four 'birds' is at all completely preserved. ($\times 2$)

Obverse: Two heads facing each other; between them a long cross on a pedestal.

⁷ See P. Grierson, 'La fonction sociale de la monnaie en Angleterre aux VIIe-VIIIe siècles', *Moneta e Scambi nell'Alto Medioevo* (Settimane di studio del Centro italiano di studi sull'alto medioevo, vol. VIII), Spoleto, 1961, pp. 341-85.

⁸ C. H. V. Sutherland, 'Anglo-Saxon sceattas in England: their origin, chronology, and distribution', *Numismatic Chronicle* 6 Ser., II (1942), 42-70.

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Reverse : Cross, with four birds arranged cross-wise round it, to make a cruciform pattern.

0.75 gm. = 11.6 grains. Very base silver. See C. F. Keary, *A Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum, Anglo-Saxon Series*, vol. I, p. 18, nos. 166-8, = Type 37.

This type of coin has recently been discussed carefully by Rigold, who sees it as one of the earlier 'sceatta' varieties.⁹ The date of striking is indicated by the Cimiez hoard (from near Nice, southern France), in which there was one specimen. The hoard's deposit is traditionally dated to 737, but it is not impossible that it belongs to the 740's.¹⁰ The Banbury coin will have been lost not earlier than ca. 725; the later terminus is, of course, a matter of speculation, but one might suggest roughly 750.

There are few other provenances attaching to Type 37. The most precious is that of Garton on the Wolds, Yorkshire, where in 1959 a sum of money, perhaps originally in a purse, was found in the excavation of a burial. There were 8 coins, of which 2 were of Type 37. Another specimen was among a group of 4 allegedly found at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in 1914; one came from Dale Hill, near Brighton; and one was found at Caister by Yarmouth.¹¹ The type did not wander to the continent in large quantities: from the Low Countries, there is one example among the beach-finds from Domburg.¹²

The evidence of localization of different varieties of sceattas within England is by no means clear-cut, as may be judged from the find-spots that have been mentioned: they could hardly be more scattered. Rigold takes the view that Type 37 is Kentish; 'it is quite unequivocally a domestic derivative of Type B and has a similar coastal distribution centred on Kent'. The derivation of designs, and the stylistic resemblance which reveals the workmanship of the same engraver are, however, two different things. The problem is an especially difficult one, but it may be preferable to leave open for the time being the alternative that Type 37 is Mercian.¹³

D. M. METCALF.

NOTE ON AN EXAMPLE OF THE ROYAL ARMS IN STADHAMPTON CHURCH, OXON.

The Church of St. John the Baptist, Stadhampton, Oxon., contains an unusually fine specimen of the Royal Arms of Queen Elizabeth I, of which not a great many examples survive.¹⁴ (Royal Arms were first ordered to be displayed in churches by

⁹ S. E. Rigold, 'The two primary series of sceattas', *British Numismatic Journal*, xxx (1960-61), 6-53.

¹⁰ J. Lafaurie, 'Les routes commerciales indiquées par les trésors et trouvailles monétaires mérovingiennes', *Moneta e Scambi*, at p. 266, draws attention to certain coins reading KAP on one side and PAS on the other which, on the chronological scheme proposed by G. de Manteyer, might be attributed to Charles Martel at Marseilles, and therefore to 741.

¹¹ Rigold, *op. cit.*, for references and for a critical comment on the 'Woodbridge hoard'.

¹² P. O. Van der Chijs, *De Munten der Nederlanden van de vroegste tijden tot aan de Pacificatie van Gend* (1576), vol. ix, pl. vi, 84.

¹³ See now D. M. Metcalf, 'A coinage for Mercia under Aethelbald', *Cunobelin* xii (1966).

¹⁴ Munro Cautley in his *Royal Arms and Commandments in our Churches* (1934), only lists about a dozen examples of the arms of Elizabeth I, but this is obviously a very incomplete list and the Stadhampton specimen is not mentioned.

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Henry VIII on his assumption of the title of Defender of the Faith in 1534 and are still supposed to be exhibited. Examples of the modern Arms of Elizabeth II may be seen at Great and Little Milton and at Haddenham, Bucks.) It measures some 4 ft. by 3 ft. 8 ins., in a contemporary carved frame painted very pale grey, and at present hangs above the screen in the tower arch, though originally it was probably placed above the chancel arch prior to the disastrous restoration of 1875 when, amongst other things, all the plaster was stripped from the walls.

The arms are carved in high relief, and glued to six boards painted a dark plum colour to form a background. They are in full colour and gilding, which all appears to be contemporary.

Recent cleaning and repair, undertaken through the generosity of the Rev. E. P. Baker, have enabled a close examination to be made. Before this, the arms were so dirty as to be grey all over, and few details of colouring, etc., could be made out.

One or two slightly unusual points are perhaps worth attention. The arms, France and England quarterly, are on an oval, almost circular, escutcheon surrounded by the garter with its motto in elaborate strapwork lined with pearls. These are ensigned by a crown whose hoops are of pearls. There is no helmet, crest or mantling, and the crown is placed between the initials E.R. in scrollwork letters. The supporters—the normal crowned lion and Tudor dragon—stand on an elaborate strapwork scroll bearing the unusual text ‘*Reginae erunt nutrices tuae*’, from Isaiah 49, 23.¹⁵ An unusual point about the dragon is that it is in two tinctures, the upper part and wings gold, the lower red, the latter being the more usual colour for the whole creature.¹⁶

The composition is in remarkably good order. There is only a sign of worm in one spot, and that not active. Various parts have come away from the background at different times—most of the E and R: the lion’s nose: the dragon’s right foot (part), etc., etc. Several features were loose and have been re-secured. Gold leaf is only used on the arms, garter motto, a yellow-gold paint being used elsewhere.

E. C. ROUSE.

P. S. SPOKES.

A FURTHER NOTE ON THE HOUSES AT 64, 65, 66 ST. THOMAS’ STREET

In a previous volume of this journal plans and a brief description of these houses have been given, and these should be consulted when considering the present note.¹⁷ A more detailed study has been made possible by the demolition of the houses in November 1962, and a clearer picture of the history of the structures has been

¹⁵ ‘... and Kings shall be thy nursing fathers and *their Queens thy nursing mothers* ...’, the idea of the Queen being the mother of her people. The normal motto is ‘*Dieu et mon Droyt*’ (variously spelt) though this sometimes changed later, ‘*semper eadem* and *Je meintendray*’ being used in connexion with the arms of William and Mary and Queen Anne. This is the only instance of the Isaiah text we have encountered.

¹⁶ The Welsh Tudor dragon came in as a supporter with Henry VII and was coloured gules under Henry VII, Henry VIII and Edward VI. Under Elizabeth it was sometimes represented as all gold (see Willement, *Regal Heraldry* (1821), 82): but in an example he illustrates in PL. XX the dragon is per pale or and gules. At Stadhampton it is per fess or and gules.

¹⁷ ‘Eleven small Oxford Houses’, ed. David Sturdy, *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii.

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obtained. The houses were situated on the north side of St. Thomas' Street, directly opposite the Hamel (FIG. 44).

Timbers surviving from probably 16th-century structures were found incorporated into the east wall of No. 65 and in the east (brick) wall of No. 66. The

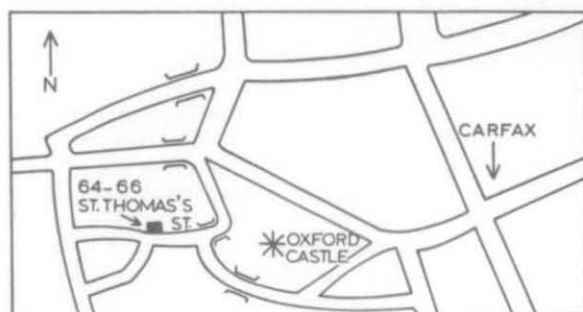


FIG. 44

Sketch plan showing location of the houses described in the text.

position of these timbers in space is shown in FIG. 45 and they are shown in greater detail and fitted together in FIG. 46. On the truss were located mortices and a purlin stub, and on the lower timbers a matching tenon and a further mortice. The whole of the timbers could not be inspected in detail and it is possible that further features existed. The truss had been cut through as shown to take a later horizontal beam, and the original apex not replaced. Although the two sets of timbers matched perfectly in size, they were not quite parallel and did not necessarily come from the same structure.

FIG. 45 shows the probable original structure of Nos. 64 and 65. As the ground floor front wall of No. 64 and the ground floor east wall of No. 65 had been rebuilt in brick, the corresponding timbers shown are hypothetical. The structure of No. 65 (late 17th or early 18th century) was dependent upon the east wall of No. 64 (late 17th century) and it was clearly built making use of the latter and also of the structure then to the east. This explains the preservation of the 16th-century truss.

At the end of the last century Nos. 65 and 66 were in the hands of the Oxford Cottage Improvement Society Ltd.,¹⁸ which rebuilt No. 66 to match No. 65 and partially renovated No. 65—rebuilding the ground floor east wall, putting in new joists on the second floor, raising the second floor ceiling to above the purlins, and doubling many of the rafters. The entire façade of No. 64 was also, but independently, Victorian. During the late 18th century the area to the rear of Nos. 65 and 66 was developed as Wareham Court. In 1884 this contained twelve distinct dwellings, the majority of which were demolished in 1906. What has previously been called the extension to No. 65 is probably better regarded as the remains of No. 1 Wareham Court, the two houses having been thrown together in 1906, or

¹⁸ I am grateful to Mrs. M. Keith-Lucas for an opportunity to inspect the records of this Society.

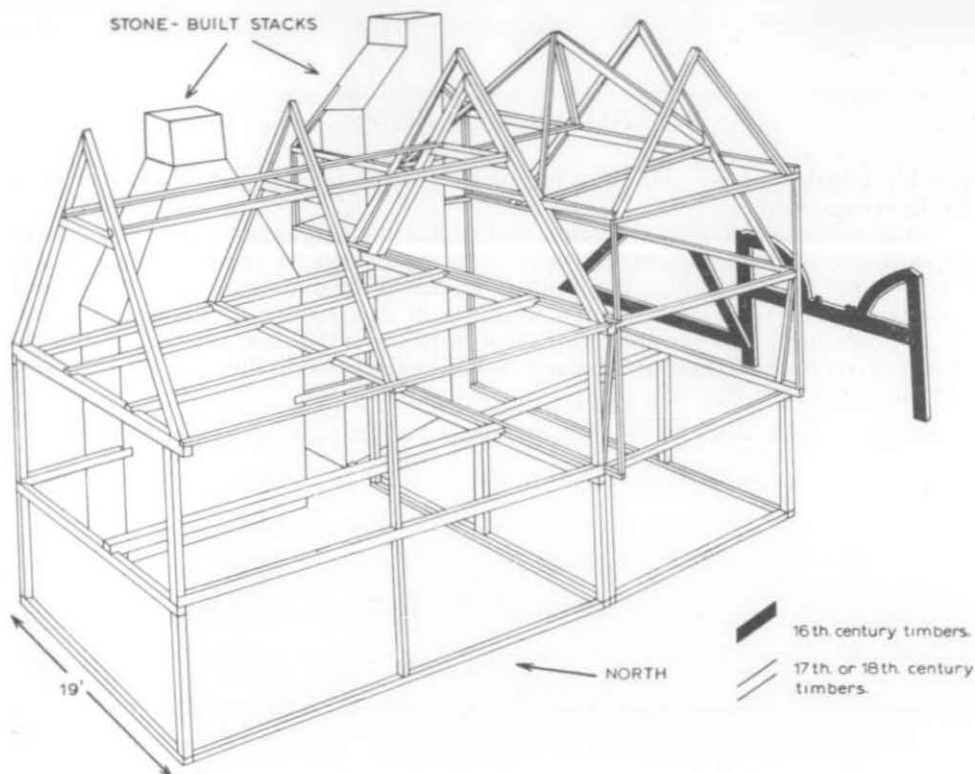


FIG. 45

Probable original structure of Nos. 64 and 65 St. Thomas' Street. No. 66, immediately to the east, was reconstructed in the 19th century. Timbers surviving from earlier structures are shown.

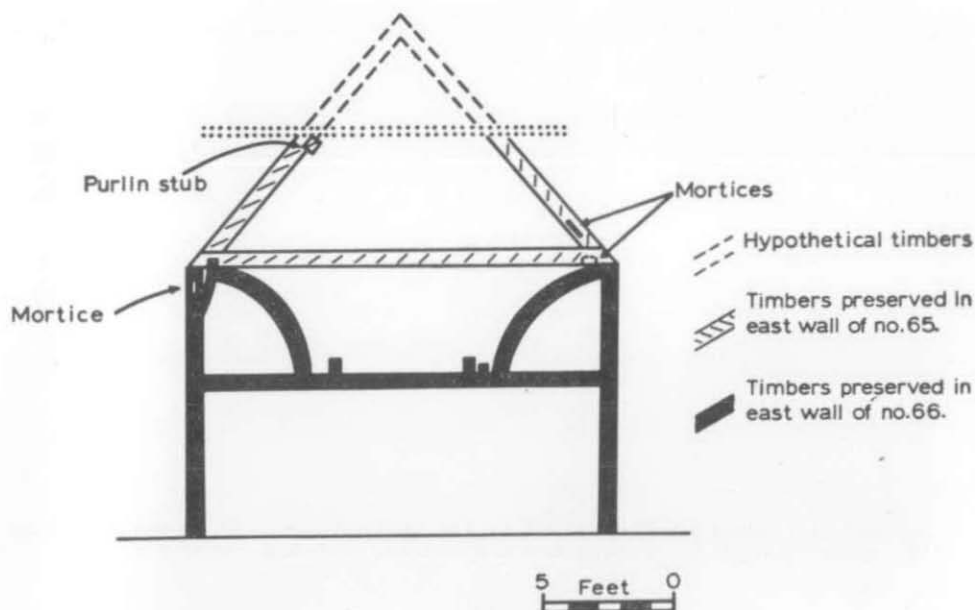


FIG. 46

Timbers from earlier structures found incorporated into Nos. 65 and 66 St. Thomas' Street.

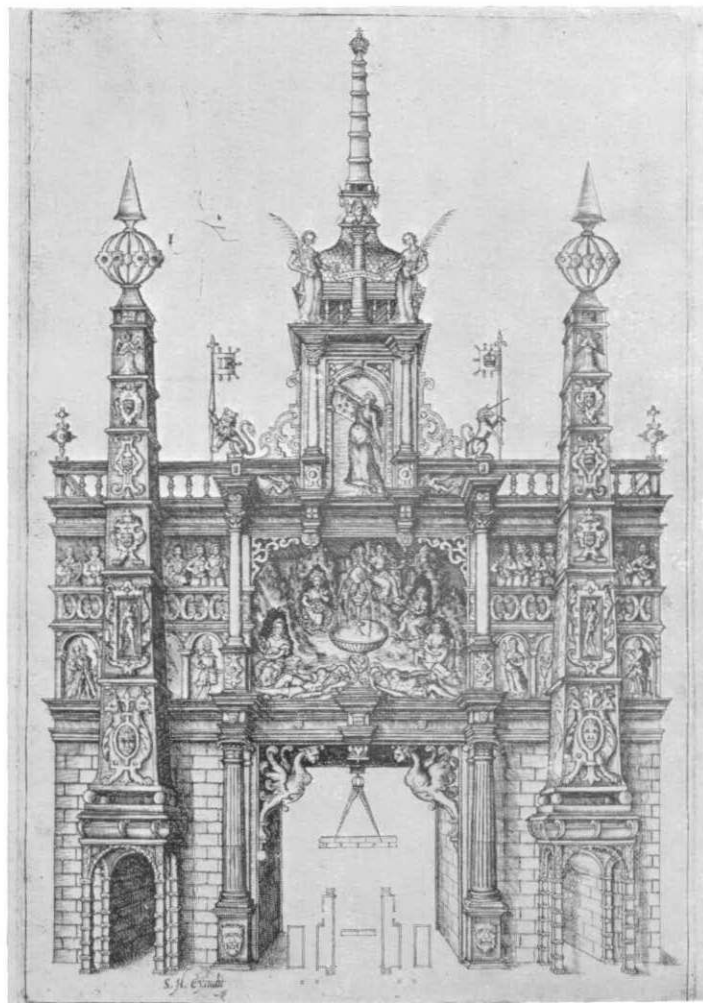
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possibly a little earlier. Thus the presence of two stairways, and of different floor levels, is explained.

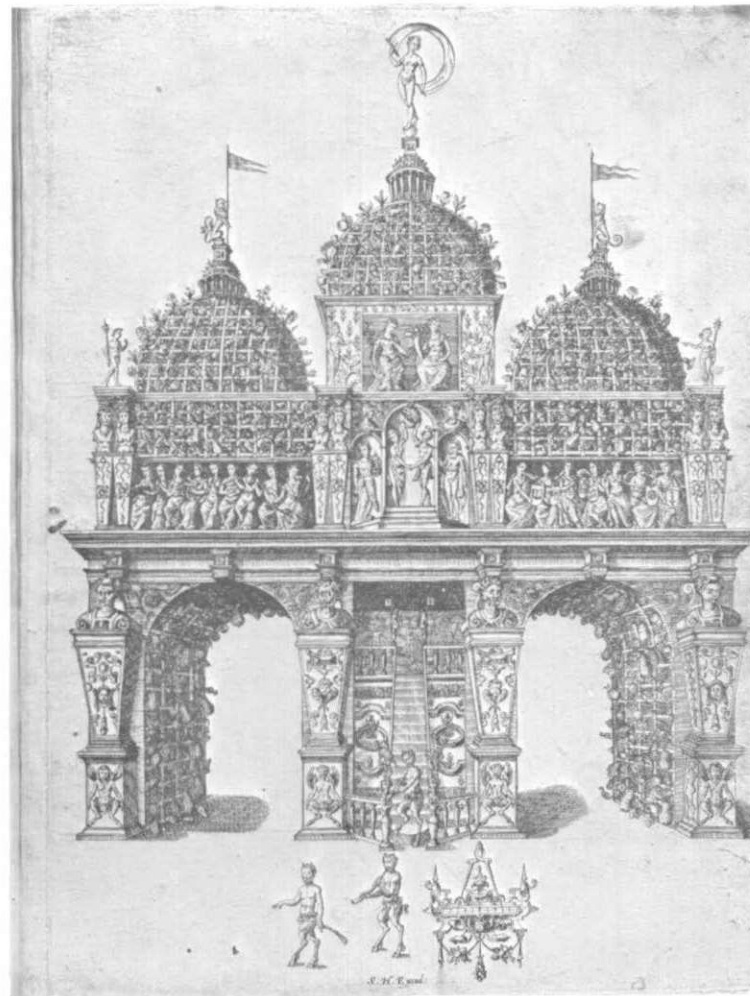
The construction of No. 64 comes rather late to be regarded as part of the main development of the area, which took place in the early 17th century. However, it is reasonable to suppose that, in a time of expansion, rebuilding on already occupied areas would tend to be later than the utilization of convenient open spaces. Further, No. 65 can surely be regarded as an attempt to make the most of all the available space—a trend which, here at least, reached its culmination in the undoubted squalor of Wareham Court.¹⁹

J. DORAN.

¹⁹ I am again indebted to Archer, Cowley & Co. Ltd., owners of the property, for their co-operation and interest, and to Mr. D. Sturdy for valuable comments and suggestions.



A
ARCHES FROM STEPHEN HARRISON, *THE ARCHES OF TRIUMPH* . . . (LONDON 1604)
A. Hortus Europae.



B
P. Arabia Felix.

Phh.: by permission of the Bodleian Library

PLATE V



STADHAMPTON, OXON. ROYAL ARMS AFTER RESTORATION.

Ph. : P. S. Spokes

PLATE VI



VIEW FROM WEST OF STREET FRONT OF Nos. 64, 65, 66 ST. THOMAS' STREET.
DEMOLITION OF No. 64 IS UNDER WAY.

Ph.: J. Doran