

126 High Street: The Archaeology and History of an Oxford House

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SUMMARY

After the unrecorded demolition of the sixteenth-century addition to an important fifteenth-century house, late sixteenth-century wall paintings were found and some of the timberwork rescued. Contractor's excavations on the site were observed, revealing traces of occupation back to late Saxon times. A detailed survey of the surviving structure was undertaken, and a full documentary study of the house and its owners made.

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INTRODUCTION

126 High Street has always been recognized as an important contribution to the domestic architecture and streetscape of Oxford. Apart from its chance appearance

in early maps of Oxford and views along High Street,¹ it was drawn by Delamotte in 1834 for Ingram's *Memorials of Oxford*² and photographed about the middle of the century (PL. VIII, A).³ H. W. Moore, one of the architects of North Oxford, included it in his *Twelve Sheets of Pen and Ink Sketches of the Old Domestic Architecture of Oxford* (1882).⁴ The notebook of Gilbert Scott in Christ Church Library includes a sketch of the front. Herbert Hurst, the late 19th-century archaeologist and topographer, appreciated its antiquity⁵ and it was included on one of the earliest short-lists of buildings considered 'worthy of preservation' in 1914,⁶ and again in 1936 when a strong recommendation for preservation was made.⁷ In 1947 a brief description with drawings was published in a well-known and important paper,⁸ adding to the notice in the R.C.H.M. Inventory of 1939.⁹ The age of the house was assessed on structural grounds, being assigned to the late 15th or early 16th century, and it was suggested that the back wing might 'possibly have been built at a slightly later date than the front part'. The Provisional List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (1953) included the house and accorded it the distinction of Grade I status.¹⁰

When the back half of the house appeared to have become dangerous in 1969 it was propped up and a scheme prepared for its preservation. This was given planning permission but was not carried out. In 1971 a new scheme was prepared which involved the demolition of the whole of the 'Victorian' (16th-century) back wing and its replacement with a considerably larger 'replica'. After consideration, and consultation with the DoE Listed Building Inspectorate and local interests, this scheme was given 'listed building consent' and planning permission as an 'alteration'.¹¹ One set of small-scale plans of the whole of 126 was made and the wing was to be photographed during demolition.

However, on 12 May 1972 (virtually the last day of demolition) the writer by chance discovered the last fragment of ancient timber framing being removed, and some wall paintings on the remaining party wall. It proved impossible to recover any of the substantial timber framing which had been removed in previous weeks without any record being made of it. From this point a close watch was kept on all work on the site. The 'replica' is now completed, incorporating part of the timber wall and window at ground floor level, and some traces of the wall painting.

The moral need not be drawn again; suffice it to say that by the time that the unholy compromise of preserved façades and 'replicas' has ceased to pass for conservation it is to be hoped that there will still be some authentic three-dimensional old buildings left in our historic towns.

¹ It can be identified on Agas' (1588) and Loggan's (1675) maps and e.g. on the edge of Buckler's view towards Carfax, B.M. Add. MS. 36,375 f. 44.

² Bod. Lib. MS. Top. Oxon. e233 (Arch. Fe. 13) f. 11; Ingram, *op. cit.* (1837), All Saint's p. 16. Cf. also William Turner of Oxford (1850) in MS. Top. Oxon. a 31 f. 1.

³ O.C.L. 2104, Bod. Lib. GA Oxon. a65 no. 155 and MS. Top. Oxon. d498 f. 23.

⁴ Cf. A. Saint, *Oxon.*, xxxv (1970), 61 n36. This was brought to my attention by John Ashdown.

⁵ *Oxford Topography*, O.H.S. 39 (1899), 173 and below, pp. 273, 276, 291.

⁶ *Old House in Oxford*, O.A.H.S. (1914), 15, Pl. X.

⁷ *Oxon.*, 1 (1936), 196-201.

⁸ W. A. Pantin, 'The Development of Domestic Architecture in Oxford', *Antiq. J.*, xxvii (1947), 127-9, Fig. 5.

⁹ Inventory no. 74, p. 165, Pl. 215.

¹⁰ Ministry of Housing and Local Government (1953), now DoE.

¹¹ Therefore no national amenity bodies were consulted. Cf. *Anc. Mon. Soc. Trans.*, N.S. 19 (1972), 18.

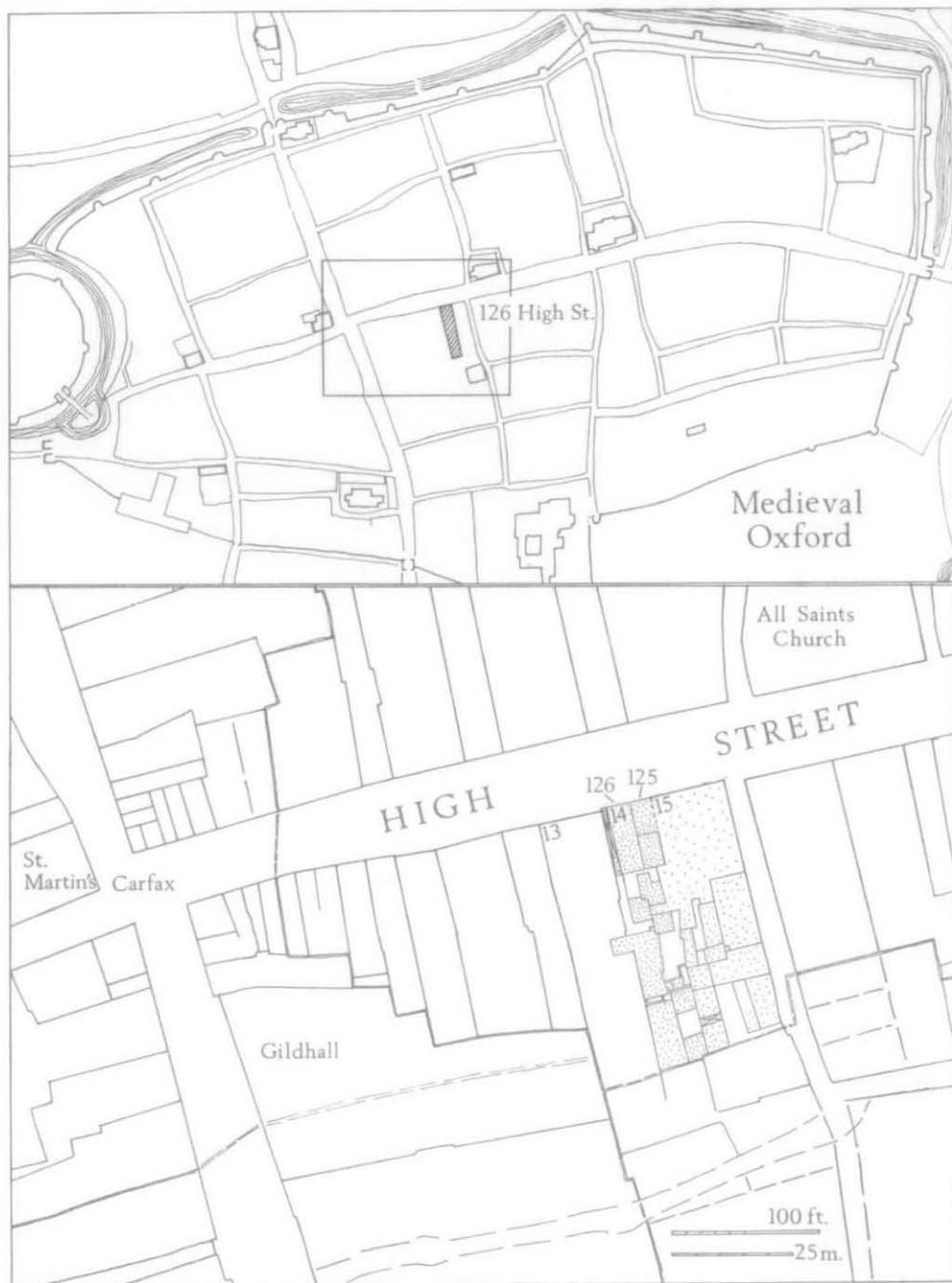


FIG. 1

Location of site. Lower part based on O.S. 1:500 (1878) with some medieval boundaries added.

GENERAL SURVEY

The history of medieval towns will only be fully understood through an inter-related study of their physical and historical remains. Such an approach has been much talked of but is only slowly becoming apparent in print. An imbalance of the evidence has given weight to the architectural and historical side of this study, but had more 'below ground' archaeological evidence been available this could have provided a critical check on the historical evidence and resulted in a fuller account. Nevertheless it is to be hoped that this study contains information that will bear comparison with other sites in Oxford and thence to other towns.

126 High Street is in All Saints Parish on the south side of the street and a short distance from Carfax. The parish, always at the commercial centre of the town, although declining in wealth and population has to the present day remained predominantly urban, despite encroachments from the University.

Of the earliest phase of the town only slight information was obtained. The shape of this and its adjoining properties and the rents they owed in common to St. Frideswide's Priory has been seen as a survival of the late Saxon planned layout, but cannot be proved to be such. The excavated area was not large enough to produce more than some pottery of late Saxon type, and a hearth.

Records of ownership which are reasonably complete from the mid thirteenth century show that 125 and 126 High Street were originally one property, divided in about the fifteenth century. Brief descriptions indicate a typical street frontage of shops beneath a solar, which implies a hall and service buildings behind, reached by a passage. The levelling of rubbish pits, perhaps in the late twelfth century, with a floor surface (including early fourteenth-century tiles) and a hearth is probably to be connected with the hall range.

All the early owners of the property were prominent burgesses following the trades of bellfounder, spicer and cordwainer successively, with several of them holding civic offices. As it cannot be proved that they all actually lived in the house, this to some extent merely reflects the pattern of private investment in urban property. From 1350, when the holding passed into the hands of St. Frideswide's Priory, there is less information about the inhabitants. Henry Mychegood, Squire Bedel of the University, occupied the house in the 1480s and died in 1501. Later references to his 'new tenement' would seem to imply that he had rebuilt it, and the structure of the front part of the house agrees with this date. The new building, which largely survives today (as 125 and 126 High Street) was a semi-detached pair with cellars, shops, two upper floors and attics; it presumably retained the old hall and service buildings behind. The timberwork was of standard late medieval type with three jetties and carved barge boards on the street front, but little ornament.

The back part of the house was rebuilt *c.* 1500, perhaps by Mychegood or some later lessee of St. Frideswide's, to judge from a dendrochronological date from the head plate in the back wing.¹² The rebuilding was represented archaeologically by a thick layer of demolition rubble and dump over the earlier floors, containing material dating to the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. The addition was of three floors and attics with one side jetty onto the passage from the street. Little could be recovered of its timberwork, but again it seems to have been of standard late

¹² Supplied by Dr. J. M. Fletcher. See p. 305.

medieval type. The main floor beam on the first floor employed a typical sixteenth-century flooring joint, thought by C. A. Hewett to have been introduced *c.* 1510-12. At the back on the junction of the two houses a double stone-lined cess-pit with drains flushing down in the thickness of the walls served privies on the upper floors of the house.

Later lessees from St. Frideswide's included William Baker, a London haberdasher, and Richard Gunter, twice mayor of Oxford and land speculator. The properties of St. Frideswide's having passed to Cardinal College in 1525, they were retained by the Crown on Wolsey's fall and sold to the Taverner brothers in 1545. Roger, a courtier and protestant scholar, and his brothers made a fortune out of speculation in monastic land.

An unknown occupier of 126 in the late sixteenth century added a fine wall painting in the ground floor of the back wing. An elaborate floral design with an inscription above (PL. X), it is closely related to another work in Oxford dating *c.* 1560-81. The first floor back room of 125 also retains traces of painted decoration. After a relatively short life the cesspit was filled for the last time and the drains blocked; this resulted in the preservation of an interesting sixteenth-century group of glass and pottery.

From the early seventeenth century onwards a list of occupiers is supplied by the leases of the property on the west, though apart from parish registers there is little of the more usual information from wills and inventories. A long succession of mercers occupied 126 and probably used the shop below. The history of 125 is vague from this point. It was perhaps Robert Pawling whose chequered civic career is known in some detail who added the elaborate façade to 126 with its lavish use of glass. Although masking (and thus probably preserving) the medieval jettied front, this has provided one of the most attractive domestic exteriors in the city. Minor changes were made to the fabric, and a major reconstruction was carried out when the larger staircase and chimney stack (not necessarily contemporary) were added to the back wing. After a fire, 125 was altered and a new front added to it. The last of the mercers lived in the house in the early eighteenth century and later in the century it was occupied by grocers. The Mallam family, once grocers and tobacconists, developed a family business as auctioneers and solicitors which expanded and diversified in the nineteenth century. By the middle of the century they seem to have moved out to North Oxford, though the business remained in the building. This must be a typical, if early case of the conversion of central accommodation to business premises, a trend which is reflected in the falling population figures for the parish. The shop again became a separate holding, and a printing works was constructed in the long, narrow yard behind the house, being used for that purpose until the recent works.

I. DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

The history of this property, like most of those in the central area of the town, can be recovered in considerable detail from the deeds, cartularies and lease-books kept by monasteries and colleges. Much of this information has been gathered together in H. E. Salter's *Survey*, where the property is tenement (14) in south-east

ward,¹³ though the account given there can be considerably expanded, largely from Salter's own transcripts and publications. After the narrative below, a bibliography of sources is given, and a schedule of all known references to the house arranged in chronological order. Material for tracing the lives of Oxford citizens is even more extensive, and an outline of the careers of the more prominent individuals can be found through the indices of printed volumes of documents; indeed it is to be hoped that these will one day be brought together to form a biographical register for the city to complement the work of Dr. A. B. Emden for the University.

Tenement SE (14), comprising 125-6 High Street, lies in the southern half of All Saints Parish, near the centre of the medieval town and only a short walk from the Gildhall (see FIG. 1). The parish, one of the wealthiest after St. Martin's, largely consisted of houses fronting onto High Street, plus a few in St. Edward's Lane (King Alfred Street), St. Mildred's Street (Turl Street) and the lane behind the church. Shops made up a high percentage of the street frontage, and the parish contained at various times the butchery, spicery and three large inns. That it was a prosperous area in which wealthy citizens thought it worth investing can be seen particularly in the late thirteenth to fourteenth centuries, when the growing number of chantries in All Saints church were putting the parish on a level with St. Martin's.¹⁴

The three properties SE (13), (14) and (15) formed a large rectangular block of land against the parish boundary. The shape of these three, and the rents due to St. Frideswide's from all of them (*temp.* Hundred Rolls, 1279), have led to the suggestion that they formed one large enclosure in the late Saxon burh.¹⁵ Attractive as this may seem (and it was groups of tenements just such as these which led Salter to propose a planned origin for Oxford)¹⁶ it is not in fact possible to prove the St. Frideswide's interest in these properties to have been of any great antiquity.

Turning to the deeds referring to the house, we first have either William Wakeman or Robert Fulconis as tenant, *c.* 1210-20. Although we cannot say which actually lived there, it is worth noting that both families appear on the charter of 1191.¹⁷ More definitely, we have William Seynter (*alias* Campanarius or Belgetere) mentioned as previous owner in *c.* 1261-2 and later. A bell-founder, he appears as early as *c.* 1230, was a bailiff in 1247-8 and last witnessed a deed in 1249-50. His son Oliver Seynter inherited SE (14) and (138) from him and also acquired property in the lane behind All Saints Church.¹⁸ The owner of several properties here was one Robert Bicester, a baker.¹⁹ He was alive in the 1260s, but after his death we find that his wife Margery married Oliver Seynter. Oliver was apparently alive and holding SE (14) in 1277 but at the time of the 1279 survey in the Hundred Rolls Margery is holding several tenements in her name and he is no more.²⁰ She pays a rent of 5s to the Prior of St. Frideswide's for SE (14) and it is worth two marks. Oliver had granted away part of his holding to neighbours on the west as we hear

¹³ *Survey*, I, 174-5. For abbreviations, see Bibliography, p. 267. Draft of Survey MS. Top. Oxon. c426 f. 110.

¹⁴ Information A. Butcher.

¹⁵ D. Sturdy, *The Topography of Medieval Oxford*, Oxon. B.Litt Thesis (1963), App. 6, no. 26.

¹⁶ *C.H.S.J.*, I, App. II, 483-90.

¹⁷ R. H. C. Davis, 'An Oxford Charter of 1191', *Oxon.*, xxxiii (1968), 54.

¹⁸ *Survey*, NE (156-7).

¹⁹ *Survey*, NE (59), (153) and (155).

²⁰ *H.R.* (408), (486), (489), (737) and (738).

from a deed of c. 1283-4. It is about 1280 that we first have a reference to shops 'under the solar once of Oliver the Seynter' and they belong to St. Frideswide's. Perhaps they were part of Christina Rous' gift of four shops to St. Frideswide's in 1241, though this is not certain.²¹ It was common for shops to be held independently of the rest of the property, and with the poor survival of St. Frideswide's deeds we consequently know very little of them.

The problem of ownership and occupation should be mentioned here. When an individual is recorded as owner and also a neighbour in deeds of an adjoining property, then there are reasonable grounds for supposing he lived there. This is probably the case with William and Oliver Seynter. Such was the extent of multiple ownership and our ignorance of sub-leasing and letting (as in the case of Margery Bicester and others later) that we often just do not know who actually occupied the property.

Margery was still alive in 1306 when she quitclaimed her right in SE (14) to Richard Spicer for 20 marks; he had perhaps been living there as early as 1302. Phillip Seynter, her son, sold his rights for 20 marks later in the same year. Richard Spicer was the more successful of the seven sons of William Spicer, who had appeared as a not inconsiderable landowner in the Hundred Rolls. Richard added many properties to his inheritance of Spicer Hall,²² was bailiff twice and Mayor in 1305-6, dying in 1341. The date he sold SE (14) to John Hampton is not known.

Hampton, a spicer, was a wealthy burgess with interests in several different shops and properties; he was bailiff twice (first in 1307-8), Mayor three times and died in 1328. Despite his office he was summoned to attend the Eyre in 1324 for having broken into the manors of one John Handlo with several others;²³ a reminder of the constant violence of the times. His lengthy will survives, detailing bequests and cash gifts amounting to about £40; it does not mention SE (14) but includes other properties.²⁴ Hugh Hampton acquired the tenement *iure hereditare* from his brother, according to the deeds of January and September 1342. He was also a spicer and seems to have had little property apart from his inheritance. According to her agreement of September 1342 Lucy, widow of Richard Spicer, took an action against Hugh, and claimed a third part of the messuage as her 'reasonable dower', being able as a widow to claim right in properties her husband had disposed of during their marriage. Her action was successful and she recovered a third 'on the east side of the messuage, together with the entry into the messuage'. Hugh, probably realizing that he was on his death-bed²⁵ granted away SE (14) together with his land in Beaumont (North Oxford) to Richard Selewode (later one of his executors) and John Denton in January 1342. Selewode quitclaimed the property to Denton in August 1342, and he in turn must have sold it to John Peggy, to whom Hugh Hampton quitclaimed it in October of the same year. In the previous month Lucy, widow of Richard Spicer, who had maintained an interest under Selewode, rented her right to John Peggy; she finally quitclaimed it to Peggy in January 1343.

²¹ C.S.F., I, 285 (374).

²² *Survey*, NE (158).

²³ H. E. Salter, *Munimenta Civitatis Oxonie*, O.H.S. 71 (1917), 44 (46).

²⁴ H. E. Salter, *Lincoln Charters*, f. 32-4.

²⁵ His brief will is dated 2nd July 1342 and was apparently given probate on 24th July 1342 (Salter, *Lincoln Charters*, f. 16). However he seems to have been alive in October, see below.

John Peggy was a prosperous cordwainer with property interests in various parishes, somewhat in contrast to previous owners of SE (14) whose holdings had been concentrated in All Saints. He was a bailiff in 1337-8, and twice again after that, dying in 1349. His will of April 1349 mentions a wife and children, apparently dead, and cash gifts of over £29. 'All my tenement in which I live in All Saints Parish' (SE (14)) was left to his executors, and a codicil instructed them to pass it to St. Frideswide's. William de Coumbe, acting for the executors, quitclaimed it to the Prior in February 1350 after the mortmain inquest had been held and a licence granted in the previous September. It appears from the inquest that the house was already paying a rent of 17s to St. Frideswide's and was now worth 7s more to them. Salter regarded this total as less than it should have been, but that due to the Black Death property values were dropping.²⁶ There is very little information about St. Frideswide's properties between their acquisition and the series of 16th-century rentals, but the gap is partly filled by chance survival of records.

The market ordinances of c. 1370 mention a house beyond St. Edward's Lane, once of John Hampton 'which Richard Wodehay held while he lived'. Richard, *alias* de Lynne, first appears in 1355, was Mayor four times between 1362 and 1367, Alderman and Burgess in Parliament, was still alive in 1370 but dead by 1372.²⁷ He is not recorded as owning much property but held one place, NE (126), for at least fifteen years.²⁸ It would seem that he lived in SE (14).

Moving on a century we have some deeds relating to a shop of Littlemore Priory.²⁹ This is described as lying between land of St. Frideswide's on east and west, and so must have been beneath the solar of SE (14) or (15) (the Tabard, later the Bear Inn). Henry Mychegood, squire bedel in theology, leased the shop in 1482, when it was contiguous on the west with his holding from the Prior of St. Frideswide's. It was a vacant plot, 19 ft. wide and 9 ft. deep (N.-S.) and he was to rebuild it. A lease of the Bear in 1523 refers to the 'new tenement of Henry Mychegood' on the west, implying that he had rebuilt it. Mychegood died in 1501,³⁰ and the surviving structure of the front part of 126 is not inconsistent with a date in the last two decades of the fifteenth century. Although it is tempting to see the 'rebuilding' of the Littlemore shop as contemporary with the implied rebuilding of the St. Frideswide's part, the evidence may simply record a refurbishing or refronting of the shop, quite unrelated to any adjoining structure. Mychegood had a position in the University which involved administrative duties;³¹ in common with other academics he seems to have arranged a regular income from investment in a few properties. His brother Robert was a servant of St. Frideswide's and held a lease of the Bear;³² he may well have helped Henry to acquire and improve his investment with rebuilding.

Nothing is immediately known of the property, divided for perhaps the first time and probably let out by Mychegood. A later inquest cites a lease granted by St. Frideswide's in November 1518, when 'two tenements and two shops' were

²⁶ Salter, *Inquests*, f. 13v.

²⁷ Wood, *City*, III, 16, 17, 46; All Souls, 158 no. 124.

²⁸ *Survey*, NE (4), (126); N (2), (106); SW (6).

²⁹ *Survey*, I, 175-6.

³⁰ No will; record of probate 28th August 1501, University Archives, Reg. D. (reversed) f. 99v, 107v.

³¹ A. B. Emden, *Biographical Register of the University of Oxford* (1957-9), *sub* Mochegood.

³² *Survey*, I, SE (15); Oxford Univ. Archives Reg. F (reversed), f. 81-2.

leased to William Baker, haberdasher of London, for 50 years at a rent of 40s. Subsequent rentals place two tenements with rents of 40s next to the Bear, and these are most likely to be 125 and 126 High Street. John Bilman and Robert Preston are tenants in December 1524 and again in 1525, when the St. Frideswide's land had become the property of Cardinal College. Bilman, *alias* Hynam, may have been related to Margaret Billman in the 1524 Lay Subsidy.³³ He had been Warden of the company of Cordwainers in 1512, was on the Council from 1518 and bailiff for 1528-9, then disappears from the records. His grant of NW (66) in 1527 mentions that he had it from Robert Mychegood.³⁴ Preston was one of nine privileged barbers in the 1524 tax of privileged persons, and of average wealth.³⁵

On Wolsey's fall in 1529 the College property—which seems all the while to have remained in his name—passed into the hands of the King, which caused the members of that institution not a little distress.³⁶ The income from St. Frideswide's seems however always to have been assured to them, and it was transferred to Henry VIII's College in 1532. A commission making an inquisition in 1536 (possibly as part of the inquiry ordered in 1530 into the Cardinal's holdings)³⁷ quoted the lease of 1518 to Baker, implying that he still held it. Two Lay Subsidies in 1543 and 1544, apparently in topographical order, give the names of John Ropp and William Sale immediately after the Bear.³⁸ A rental of 1544-5 (probably associated with the surrender of Henry VIII College) names Gunter as lessee of the two houses and a garden, with John Hynd and William Sale as tenants at 40s each.

John Ropp (or Rappe) was a skinner, a trade which involved supplying furs for the University, and he first appears in one of the perennial lists of complaints against the University produced by the City, having been imprisoned on failing to pay a fee to the University on entering his profession in 1528.³⁹ Again in March 1536, according to a City disposition, after the University had been on a rampage for four days and one of the proctors had taken to the streets armed with a pole axe, a butcher was chased 'into the house of ye said John Rappe and ye said William Sale' where they were threatened standing 'at their doore' and 'were faine to shutt up their dores'.⁴⁰ The implication is that they were neighbours, perhaps with a common door, if not sharing the same house. It seems that Ropp was not living there by 1545, but continues to appear in the City records.⁴¹

William Sale, a cordwainer, may first appear in 1524 in St. Mary's parish, with two servants, in the Lay Subsidy.⁴² He was constable in 1524, entered the Common Council in 1529 and was chamberlain in 1531-2; his part in the incident of 1536 has been mentioned above. Hynd is difficult to trace, though he may be connected with the servant of the Abbot of Oseney known in 1524⁴³ and a Hynd family that was in the city in the early 17th century.

³³ *O.C.D.*, 72; Wood, *City*, III, 28; and *Survey*, II, NW (66). From this point information to be found in *R.C.O.* and the City Archives will not be given references.

³⁴ H. E. Salter, *Churchwardens Accounts of St. Michael's Church, Oxford*, *Oxon. Arch. Soc.*, 78 (1933), 260 (27).

³⁵ *O.C.D.*, 56.

³⁶ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, III (1954), Christ Church, 234.

³⁷ *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, Vol. IV, iii, No. 6516.

³⁸ *S. & T.*, 144, 155.

³⁹ *R.C.O.*, 74, 84-5.

⁴⁰ *R.C.O.*, 137.

⁴¹ Though it could be his son who is Chamberlain 1547-8 and Bailiff in 1562.

⁴² *O.C.D.*, 70. ⁴³ *O.C.D.*, 66.

Richard Gunter was a prominent citizen in the second quarter of the sixteenth century. He was a brewer and victualler, manciple of Gloucester College and Vine Hall until he quarrelled with the University, to the extent of being discomfited and excommunicated.⁴⁴ On the Mayor's Council from 1525, and a bailiff in 1529-30, he also dealt in land, acquiring property in Oxford from Eynsham Abbey, the Greyfriars and Stodley Priory,⁴⁵ and ranking as one of the wealthiest citizens in the 1543-4 Lay Subsidies.⁴⁶ He was perhaps a goldsmith,⁴⁷ twice Mayor from 1545-7, M.P. for the city from 1547 and died in 1553, having lived in St. Peter-le-Bailey for most of his life.⁴⁸

Immediately on founding Christ Church in November 1546, but before endowing it the following month, Henry VIII sold to Richard and Roger Taverner a large amount of St. Frideswide's property in the City, along with other lands. Amongst these were the two tenements leased to Gunter and the adjoining Bear Inn. The Taverner brothers acquired a vast wealth of monastic land. Richard, a reformation scholar once of Cardinal College and translator of the Bible, pursued a career in government office; he once caused a sensation by preaching in St. Mary's sumptuously dressed, and finally retired to Woodeaton, receiving a splendid funeral there in 1575.⁴⁹ He numbered amongst his children a highway robber and Anthony Wood's grandmother.⁵⁰ Roger also worked for the crown. There are records of a few of the Taverner properties in Oxford being sold off, but what immediately became of SE (14) is not known. Its later history has to be traced from the Magdalen leases of the Wheatsheaf (SE (13) on the west) which give names from 1621.⁵¹ This is a somewhat unsatisfactory source, which does not tell us whether the name refers to the shop or the whole property, and because of thoughtless copying can be anachronistic, so that only the first appearance of a name can be relied upon.

Robert Cockram appears in 1621 and 1631, and his career (and those of subsequent individuals) can be traced from the printed volumes of Council Acts, to which specific references will not be necessary. Together with his brother Samuel he was apprenticed to William Boswell, mercer, and became a freeman in 1609. Four of his children were baptized in All Saints between 1621 and 1627.⁵² He reached several high offices in the city and was on the Council list until his death. He was buried in All Saints on 8 August 1631⁵³ and is noted in 1636 as a benefactor of the poor by his will.

In 1639 Thomas Pawling and George Potter, mercers, seem to be the inhabitants. Pawling was on the Council from 1634 to his death, rising to be an Alderman and holding several offices with Potter. He was buried in All Saints on 12 April 1645.⁵⁴ George, perhaps the son of Alderman William Potter who was Mayor in

⁴⁴ *O.C.D.*, 57; Wood, *City*, III, 29 n. 1.

⁴⁵ Salter, *Cart. Eynsham*, O.H.S. 51 (1908), II, vi, 246; A. G. Little, *Greyfriars in Oxford*, O.H.S. 20 (1891), 122-3; for Stodley, cf. *Survey*, I, 36.

⁴⁶ *S. & T.*, 147, 158.

⁴⁷ W. A. Pantin and W. Mitchell, *Register of Congregation 1448-1463*, O.H.S. NS 22 (1972), 428-9.

⁴⁸ In his will he left all his lands to his wife, then his son; P.R.O. Prob. 11/36 (Tashe F.8) f. 50.

⁴⁹ For the family see *Oxon. Arch. Soc. Rep.* (1917), 107 f.; *D.N.B.*; Wood, *Athenae Oxon.*, ed. Bliss, I, 419-24.

⁵⁰ Wood, *L. & T.*, I, 26, 40; V, 7.

⁵¹ *C.H.S.J.*, II, 53-5.

⁵² Bod. Lib. DD Par. Oxford All Saints c1 f. 14^v-16.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, c1 f. 87.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, c1 f. 92.

1622-3, had been an apprentice of Robert Cockram and was admitted in 1623. He was quite wealthy,⁵⁵ was eventually Mayor in 1649-50, arranged for the production of City Tokens in 1632⁵⁶ and died in 1658, leaving a house in St. Michael's to the City.⁵⁷ His appearance alone in a lease of 1653 and burial in All Saints would suggest that he did live in 126.

By July 1662 Robert Pawling, mercer, was tenant. He was the son of Thomas, mentioned above and was baptized in All Saints on 16 August 1635.⁵⁸ He entered the Council as Chamberlain in 1658, remaining in this and other offices until his temporary removal from the Council in 1663. The parish registers show him raising a family in the early 1660s,⁵⁹ he appears in the hearth tax of 1665 with six hearths and is in the 1667 Subsidy.⁶⁰ If he only lived in 126 and not in 125 as well, the number of hearths could imply that the chimney stack in the back wing of 126 had already been built by 1665. The Poll Tax of 1667 gives a detailed picture of the household: Robert Pawling, gent, has £200 in money, a wife Christian, three children, two apprentices and two girls whose wages are £2 each. One George Pawling has £300 in money.⁶¹ The household is not much larger than average, but his wealth is certainly so. This entry does not appear to be in the right place, but the 1667 Subsidy, which Salter thought was correct, places him before the Magdalen tenement with three other names between his and the owner of the Bear. These names, evident in the Poll Tax, the 1665 Hearth Tax and the 1648 Subsidy, could be the occupants of the back yards of 125 and 126, or of 125 alone, or of shops in front of this and the Bear.

Pawling returned to office as Mayor in 1679-80. A puritan, he had been licensed to hold Presbyterian services in 1672⁶² and infuriated Antony Wood when he prohibited the sale of coffee on Sundays and spoke slightly of the University.⁶³ More to the point he prevented Wood from seeing the City archives in February 1680.⁶⁴ Mentioned again in a lease of 1683, he was perhaps still living in High Street, but a few years later had moved out and leased Mather's farm in Headington, a Magdalen property.⁶⁵ Dr. Plot reports on an echo in his garden there.⁶⁶ Pawling was already known as a Whig⁶⁷ and was not on the Council in 1684 to take the oath of obedience and supremacy; at the time of Monmouth's rebellion he was brought 'from his house at Headington' and imprisoned in the Castle.⁶⁸ When James II filled out the Council with extremists in February 1688 Pawling was returned to office, but would not succeed the deposed aldermen.⁶⁹ Although later brought onto the council he was finally removed for non-attendance since he 'lived out of town'.

⁵⁵ Cf. his donation to the King after Edghill (*O.C.A.*) and the 1648 Subsidy, *S. & T.*, 166.

⁵⁶ *S. & T.*, 360.

⁵⁷ Wood, *L. & T.*, I, 238; 'Potter's Charity', *O.C.P.*, 251; *Survey*, II, NW (64).

⁵⁸ All Saints ct, f. 17.

⁵⁹ All Saints ct, f. 23, 25v, 26.

⁶⁰ *O.C.D.*, 86; *S. & T.*, 201, 338.

⁶¹ *S. & T.*, 226.

⁶² *V.C.H. Oxon.*, V (1956), 167.

⁶³ Wood, *L. & T.*, II, 463; cf. also II, 496 and III, 506-10.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, II, 480.

⁶⁵ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, V (1956), 164, 167.

⁶⁶ R. Plot, *Nat. Hist. Oxon.* (1705 ed.), 14, Tab. I, Fig. 4.

⁶⁷ Wood, *L. & T.*, II, 541; III, 70, Art 3, 72.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, III, 145, 155-6.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, III, 256, 261.

The Magdalen lease of 1697 repeats his name as being in 126, though he must have been living in Headington at least since c. 1684. He had other property interests in Oxford,⁷⁰ but is the most likely individual to have had the monumental façade added to 126 during his stay there, though there is no proof of this. 'Christina Pawlin' of Headington, presumably his wife, was buried in All Saints on 22 November 1707;⁷¹ 'Robert Pawling of St Clement Danes London' followed her on 7 January 1710.⁷² No wills have been traced for them, but one Katherine Pawling who died in St. Michael's Parish in 1709 has certain items in her will which may well represent the residue of Robert Pawling's effects, though what her relationship to him was is not clear.⁷³

The Window Tax of 1696 gives four names between the Magdalen tenement and the Bear.⁷⁴ Only one, Richard Dubber, can perhaps be identified, for there was a goldsmith of that name who was a Chamberlain and on the Council lists until 1715-16. He was in Queen Street in 1692⁷⁵ and held a shop under Stodley's Inn in 1706,⁷⁶ so he could have been in our property in 1696.

By 1711 Mathew Pinnell, mercer, was east of the Magdalen property; he was on the Council from 1671 and Bailiff from 1675 to 1715-16. With property interests elsewhere,⁷⁷ he seems to have lived in 135 High Street in 1696 and 1703;⁷⁸ he may have moved up the road or only had a shop in 126. A lease of 1725 repeats his name, though he was certainly dead by this time.⁷⁹ Elizabeth Vincent, widow, apparently the occupier in 1739 is probably to be identified with Elizabeth, wife of Edmund Vincent, cordwainer, who was granted administration after his death.⁸⁰ Edmund was the eldest son of John Vincent, cordwainer, who died in 1708,⁸¹ and himself died in October 1717. There is no closer description of the situation of his 'dwelling house . . . in All Saints Parish' which his wife keeps and is probably 126. Other property went to his children.⁸²

Until 1769 there is a lacuna and then Richard Madge, grocer, seems to be the occupant. He joined the Council in 1758 and rose to be Bailiff, which he remained until 1772-3. The survey of 1772 records him in 126 (20 ft. 9 in. wide) with a Mrs. Stevens in 125 (19 ft. 6 in. wide) and Mr. Brockis up to the corner (The Bear, 44 ft. 4 in.).⁸³ Madge also had a stable in Bear Lane (now Alfred Street). By 1787 Emmanuel Roades, admitted as a grocer in 1780, was in 126. He was perhaps still there in 1801, though it is the late William Roades who is mentioned in the lease of 1829.

The property passed to the Mallam family early in the nineteenth century.

⁷⁰ *Survey*, I, NE (16); *O.C.P.*, 158.

⁷¹ All Saints b3 f. 17.v

⁷² *Ibid.*, f. 18.

⁷³ Bod. Lib. MS. Wills Oxon. 145/1/37.

⁷⁴ *O.C.A.* (1666-1701), 348.

⁷⁵ *O.C.P.*, 161.

⁷⁶ *Survey*, I, SE (16); *C.H.S.J.*, II, 38.

⁷⁷ In Bocardo Lane, *O.C.P.*, 24, 35, 37 and Cornmarket, *Survey*, II, NW (58); *C.H.S.J.*, II, 269.

⁷⁸ *O.C.A.* (1666-1701), 347 and *Survey*, I, SE (9); *C.H.S.J.*, II, 60.

⁷⁹ His widow Rachel is referred to in 1724, *C.H.S.J.*, II, 269.

⁸⁰ Bod. Lib. MS. Wills Oxon., 107 f. 332.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 205 f. 329.

⁸² In Coach and Horses Lane (Merton Street), *Ibid.*, 207, f. 103. Cf. *C.H.S.J.*, I, 244.

⁸³ *S. & T.*, 11.

Thomas Mallam was a grocer or tobacconist⁸⁴ and auctioneer who appears in early directories in High Street from c. 1823.⁸⁵ By 1846 the tobacco side of his business seems to have been dropped, and he was living away from 126.⁸⁶ Early in the 1850s he moved to 'The Shrubbery' on the Woodstock Road, one of the original large houses in North Oxford.⁸⁷ The growth of the family business ventures can be traced through the pages of directories. Auctioneer, estate agent, timber merchant and cabinet maker continue alongside what had now become Thomas Mallam's solicitor's practice. This later became Thomas and George for some years, then Thomas & Co. and was joined by Mr. Grimsdale in c. 1930. Mallam Grimsdale and Co. are the present occupiers and authors of the recent building works.

The shop, which must have housed the tobacconist and then become part of the office, was used again as such from c. 1896 when the Danish Dairy Company moved there from 4 St. Ebbe's. It was probably they who rebuilt the regency shopfront with the mock 17th-century work seen in Taunt's photograph (PL. VII).⁸⁸ For about seventeen years from c. 1901 it was held by Goodwin, Foster and Brown Ltd., tea dealers and grocers. After a period when it was apparently empty, Kendall and Sons Ltd., umbrella-makers, moved into the shop in c. 1921, thus providing unconscious continuity with the earlier mercer occupants. Kendalls remained until c. 1971 when the Alfred Marks (employment) Bureau took on the premises.

The rear premises are presumably '126a' in the 1890-1 Directory, occupied by Edward Bayley Doe, printer. By 1893 Joseph Vincent, printer, was in possession; his business became the Vincent-Baxter Press, Classical Printers, until their closure shortly before the recent works.

The property is now once again in its original form (apart from annexations from the bottom of the garden), the whole block from 126 to Alfred Street being held with Russel Acotts on the corner.

SOURCES: *Schedule of Documents relating to SE (14)*

c. 1210-20	Wm. Wakeman or Rob. Fulconis to E. of SE (13), <i>C.S.F.</i> , I, 289 (382).
c. 1261-2	Once Wm. Campanarius to E. of SE (13), <i>C.H.S.J.</i> , II, 40 (524).
c. 1261	Once Wm. Seynter to E. of SE (13), <i>C.S.F.</i> , I, 292 (387).
1270	Once Wm. Campanarius to E. of SE (13), <i>C.H.S.J.</i> , II, 42 (526).
1277	Oliver le Seinter to W. of SE (15), <i>C.S.F.</i> , I, 297-8 (396).
1279	Margeria de Burencestre, <i>H.R.</i> , 798b (737), (738).
c. 1280	St. Frideswide leases three shops to Henry Barber. <i>C.S.F.</i> , I, 299 (397).
Mich. 1283-4	Rob. de Swinbrook and wife grant SE (13) to St. John's Hospital with ' <i>placeta quam habuimus de dono Oliveri Campanarii</i> ', <i>C.H.S.J.</i> , II, 43 (527).
1285	Once Oliver le Seynter to E. of SE (13), <i>C.H.S.J.</i> , II, 44 (529).
1302	Richard le Espicer to E. of SE (13) of <i>C.H.S.J.</i> , II, 49 (535).

⁸⁴ Receipts for Tobacco and Snuff, dated 1823 and addressed to 'Mr Thomas Mallam, Grocer' are preserved in the Minn Collection, Bod. Lib. MS. Top. Oxon. d498 f. 22.

⁸⁵ Pigot & Co., *London and Provincial New Commercial Directory* (1823-4).

⁸⁶ Hunt & Co., *Oxford Directory* (1846).

⁸⁷ Now the Principal's Lodging, St. Hugh's College.

⁸⁸ See below, p. 277.

- 1306 Aug. 20th Marg. de Burcestre quitclaims to Ric. le Espicer, Lincoln Archives Cart. f. 127 (1), *Lincoln Charters*, f. 317.
- 1306 Sep. 29th Philip, son of Oliver le Seynter grants to Ric. le Espicer, Lincoln Coll. Archives Cart. f. 127 (2), *Lincoln Charters*, f. 318. Another, virtually identical with the above, Linc. Coll. Archives Cart. f. 127 (3).
- 1342 Jan. 16th Hugh Hampton grants to Ric. Selewood and John de Denton, Linc. Coll. Archives Cart. f. 138 (1), *Lincoln Charters*, f. 321.
- 1342 Aug. 5th Ric. Selewood quitclaims to John Denton, Linc. Coll. Archives Cart. f. 139 (1), *Lincoln Charters*, f. 314.
- 1342 Sep. 17th Lucia Spicer rents her third part to John Peggy and recites her earlier actions. *Lincoln Charters*, f. 315-6.
- 1342 Oct. 23rd Hugh de Hampton quitclaims to Peggy, Linc. Coll. Archives Cart. f. 139 (2), *Lincoln Charters*, f. 320.
- 1343 Jan. 17th Lucia Spicer quitclaims to Peggy, *All Souls*, 158, no. 109.
- 1344 Mar. 11th John de Denton quitclaims to Ric. Selewood, *Lincoln Charters*, f. 322.
- 1349 Ap. 25th Will and codicil of John Peggy, *C.S.F.*, I, 304 (404), 306 (405).
- 1349 Aug. 28th Writ to John Laundels, escheator in Oxon., for Inquest., P.R.O. Inq. A.Q.D. CCXCIV.12, *Inquests* f. 13^v (52).
- 1349 Sep. 20th Inquest held at Oxford, *ibid.*
- 1349 Sep. 20th Licence to St. Frideswide's to acquire in mortmain, *C.S.F.*, I, 307 (406); *Cal. Pat. Rot.*, 397.
- 1350 Feb. 8th Wm. de Coumbe quitclaims to St. Frideswide's, *C.S.F.*, I, 308 (407).
- c. 1370-5 Market ordinances: house opposite sellers of pots 'quondam Joh. de Hampton quod Ric. de Wodehay tenuit dum vixit', Wood, *Hist. et Antiq. Univ. Oxon.* (1674), I, 158, sub anno 1319, from Twyne, IV, 331; also Wood, *City*, I, 476, and *Collectanea II*, O.H.S. 16 (1890), 119-20. They must in fact be of this later date as Salter observed (*Med. Oxford*, O.H.S. 100 (1936), 77n.); apart from Richard Woodhay the rough date is suggested by the appearance of Thomas de Aylesbury (*cf.* SE (9)), Robert Westley (*cf.* NE (148)) and John Coventry (*cf.* NE (142)), but it cannot be more precise. Littlemore Priory leases shop to Hen. Mychegood, Salter, *Cart. Osen.*, I, O.H.S. 89 (1929), 435 (503); *Survey*, I, 175-6.
- 1482 June 20th St. Frideswide's leases two tenements to William Baker, P.R.O. *Cardinals Bundles* C142/77 f. 32; *St Frideswide's*, f. 89.
- 1518 Nov. 6th 'New tenement of Hen. Mychegood' to W. of SE (15), P.R.O., *ibid.*, f. 33; *St Frideswide's*, f. 89.
- 1523 Mar. 8th St. Frideswide's Rental, *St. Frideswide's*, f. 46.
- 1524 Dec. 15th Cardinal College Rental, P.R.O. T.R. Misc. Books 164, p. 34; *St. Frideswide's* f. 50.
- 1525 Inquisition citing lease of 1518. As 1518, above.
- 1536 Oct. 20th Rental, P.R.O. *Ministers Accounts*, SC6/Hen.VIII/2931 m. 35.
- 1544-5 (36 Hen.VIII) 'A tenement of the King's College' to E. of SE (13), *C.H.S.J.*, II, 53.
- 1545 Dec. Crown sells tenements to Taverners, P.R.O. *Pat. 38 Hen. VIII*, C66/795 m. 11.; *St. Frideswide's*, f. 93; *Letters and Papers Hen.VIII*.
- 1546 Nov. Leases of SE (13), the Magdalen tenement (Wheatshaf), in *C.H.S.J.*, II, 53-5.
- 17th-19th Century

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- C.S.F.* S. R. Wigram, *Cartulary of the Monastery of St. Frideswide*, I, O.H.S. 28 (1894).
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II. ARCHAEOLOGY ABOVE GROUND

This title is intended to emphasize the approach to building studies that is now called for. Whilst meticulous recording of subterranean antiquities is an acknowledged necessity, there is still a widely held belief that buildings can be recorded with small scale drawings or merely photographs. Indeed, it is absurd that post-holes of vanished buildings should receive more attention than existing structures under threat of extinction. The stratigraphy of structures and household debris is surely just as significant as the layers in the garden cess-pit. The environmental evidence, discussed below by Mr. A. King, illuminates an area of study that could be informative if examined in a controlled demolition. Systematic and controlled demolition, undertaken to the best standards of excavation, though not unknown, is as yet rare.⁸⁹ But while most archaeologists pay most attention to the enormous problems of below-ground destruction, above-ground structures continue to be destroyed unrecorded,

⁸⁹ The recording by J. C. Buckler of the houses on the site of King Edward's Street is a good early example, cf. below, p. 289 n. 114; cf. W. A. Pantin's plea in *Oxon.*, II (1937), 200 and the demolition of the Radley Cruck House, D. A. Hinton, *Oxon.*, xxxii (1967), 13-33.

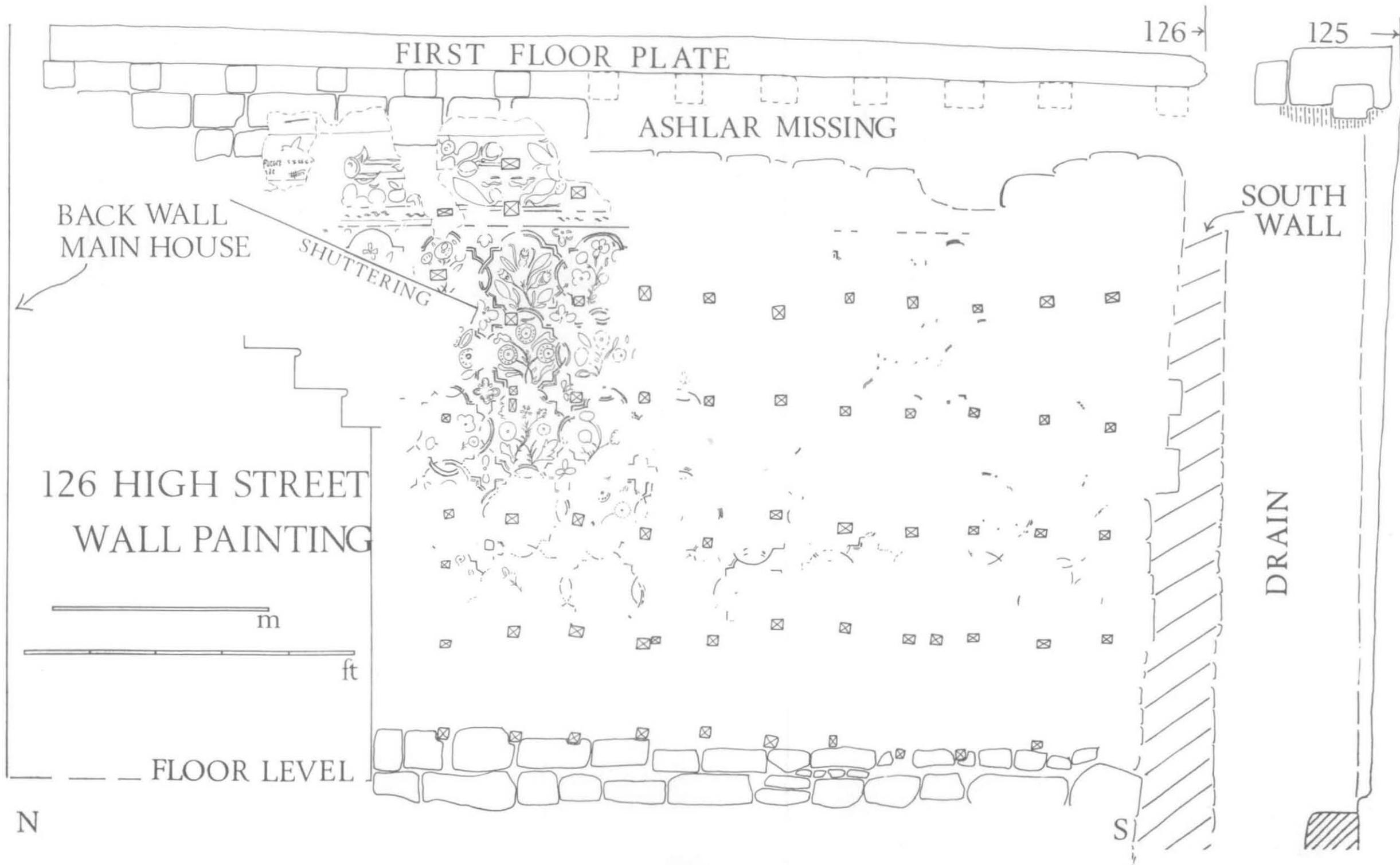


FIG. 4

Sixteenth-century wall painting on east party wall of back wing, showing wooden pegs for panelling and position of later stair.

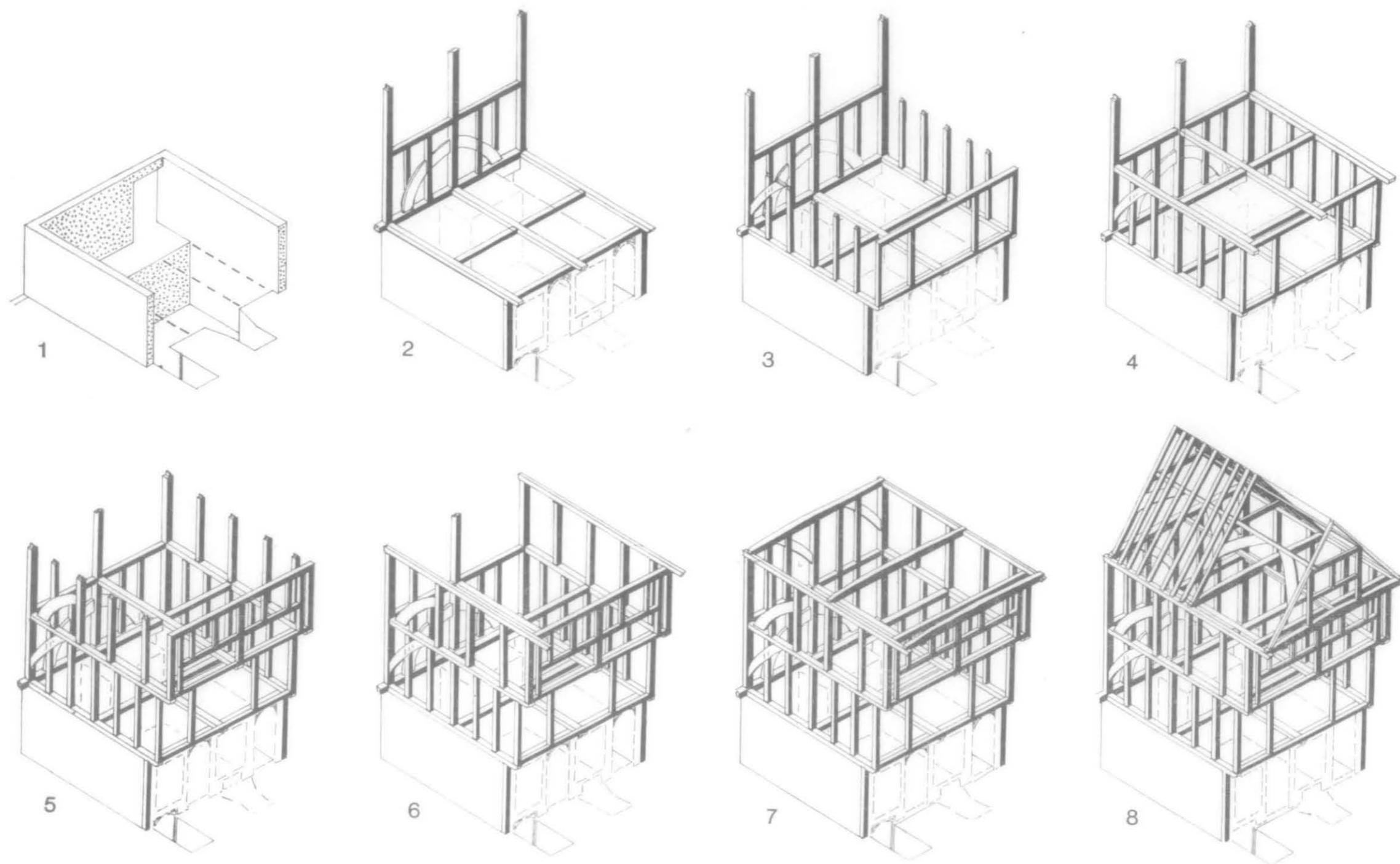
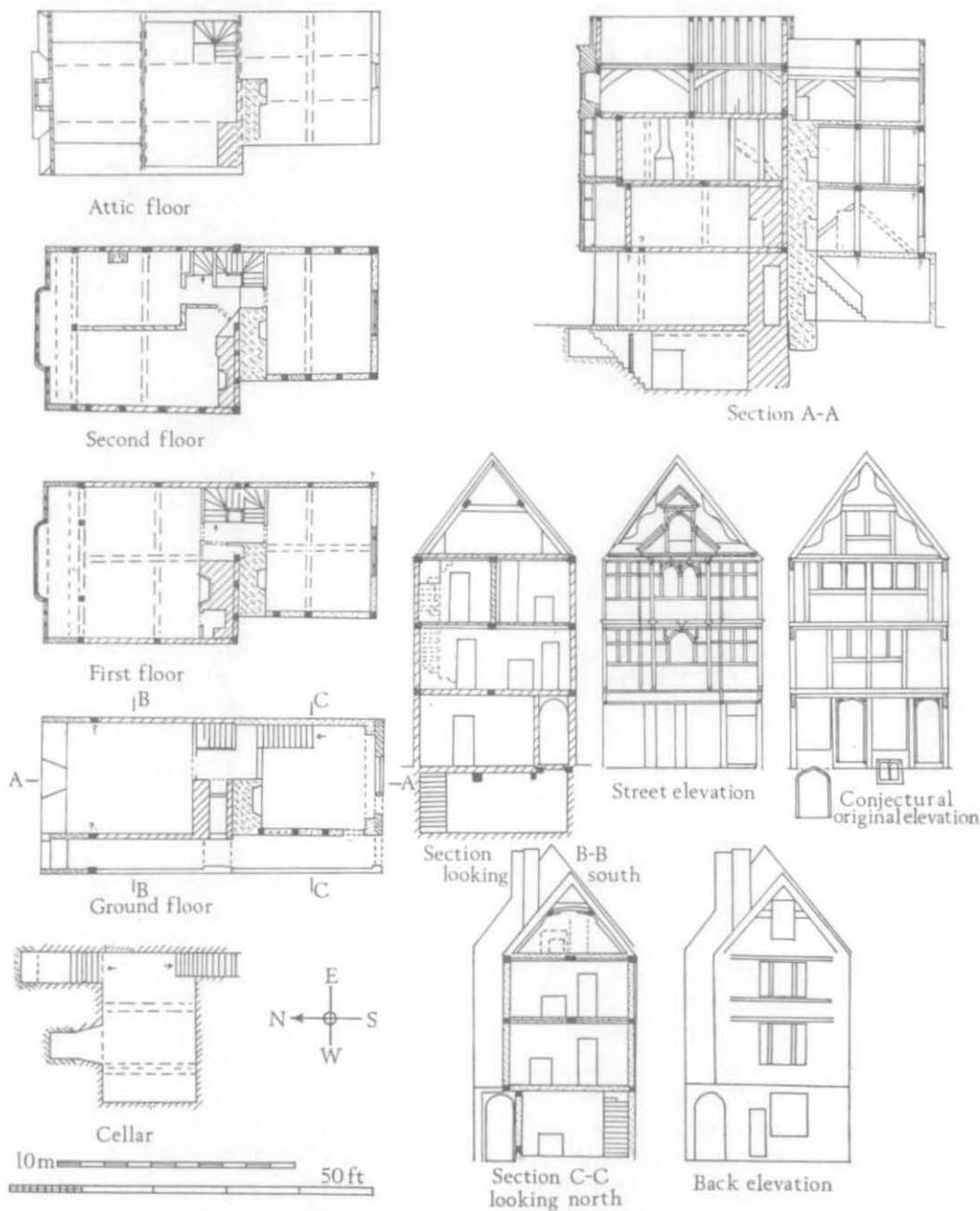


FIG. 3
 Timber frame of front part of 126 High Street ; order of construction. Scale 1 : 200.



126 HIGH STREET OXFORD

xv cent.
 xvi cent.
 xvii cent.
 xvii cent. or later

FIG. 2

126 High Street, after W. A. Pantin, with additions.

and some archaeologists even deny that this is their problem. All the different forms of evidence need equal attention, and at present there is nationally a serious imbalance.

A. SUMMARY OF BUILDING SEQUENCE

When Mychegood (if indeed it was he) replaced the old shops and solar with his timber range on the street front, the hall and service buildings were probably left standing behind. Only the western half (126) of Mychegood's semi-detached structure survives in something like its original form whilst the eastern half (125) has been greatly modified. Constructed in the closing decades of the fifteenth century, it had stone walls in the cellar and ground floor (perhaps as fire prevention) and a two-storey timber frame above, then attics. The rooms on each floor were roughly square, and although sizeable it is probable that domestic requirements would have necessitated using the hall and other buildings behind the front range. The entrance to these was on the west side of the tenement, where there was and is a passage through from the street. Mychegood's house is not of spectacular workmanship, but competent, and has endured considerable structural diminution.

Traces of carved barge boards remain, and one carved spandrel has been recovered (PL. VIII, B); a moulded window lintel on the second floor of 126 is one of the few fittings that survive. The stairs were probably small and square, near the junction of the two parts, at the back. The top flight of that in 126 survived until the recent works. On the evidence provided by the rear elevation, the chimney stack of 126 appears to be contemporary with the timber frame, or added soon after; any original fireplaces have been covered or removed. The back wings seem to have been added in the early part of the sixteenth century. They were a timber framed semi-detached pair built about a stone party wall on the ground floor (which was itself built upon the rubble dump of the demolished service range). Each wing had internal privies on the upper floors, flushing into a common cess-pit below. The western back wing (the demolition of which instituted this study) bore little structural relation to the frame of the front part, except that its principal floor joist was mortised into the principal plate of that frame at first floor level. On the ground floor a door and unglazed window faced onto the passage. The first floor room employed the rear wall of the front part as an interior wall, with plaster and wallpaper where brace and studding had been removed. The other rooms are lost to us, though they all seem to have had windows in the south wall and to have communicated by door to the stair in the front part. The eastern wing (125) had a chimney stack in its south wall, possibly an original feature, though now removed. In the second half of the sixteenth century the ground floor room of 126 was transformed by the addition of an extensive mural, of which that part painted on the stone party wall was partially observed (PL. X). At some stage not long after this the privies were used for the last time and the drains blocked.

It is difficult to discern the sequence of many of the later alterations, since they cannot be closely dated and do not physically relate to each other. In the early seventeenth century the first floor room at the front of 126 received a panelled dado, and the gable was decorated with pargetting. The second floor room was divided

with a timber partition wall in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. In the back wing the party wall on the first floor was rebuilt with ruder work than was used in earlier parts; it is of course possible that this was dividing a large open room for the first time; the possibility of the roof in the back wing being raised is noted below. In the second half of the seventeenth century the front of 126 was clad with a wooden façade, finished with classical detailing. As much an exercise in engineering as aesthetics, it drops sheer from in front of the jettied gable and stands some nine feet forward of the old shop front at pavement level. A chimney stack was added to the back wing of 126, cutting through the corner of the timber frame, and perhaps the staircase was rebuilt at the same time. This might have happened before the 1665 Hearth Tax, though the stair recorded before demolition seems to have belonged to the second half of the eighteenth century. This cut through the back wall of the main frame of 126, but only went from the first to the second floor, the old stair surviving above and a single flight running to the back wing below. The construction of this stair, and the blocking of a door between the two back wings (at first floor level) implies that the two houses were now completely separate, if they had not been for some time already.

The front part of 125 appears to have been severely damaged by fire, probably in the eighteenth century. The top plate of the party wall is still charred on its east side and is about half its original size. The replaced plate is still in use for 125, alongside the burnt one still used by 126. The fall of plaster and rubble which seems to have brought a violent end to a mouse nest in the party wall of the front part is perhaps attributable to works carried out at this time. As a result of the fire, the front gable of 125 was reduced to its present length, and the new front was added. Perhaps also at this time the sagging rafters in the southern half of the front roof of 126 (where the purlin scarfs had snapped) were doubled with the insertion of new ones beside the old. These events over the last few hundred years combined to produce a considerable diminution of the original timber work in the main frame. When the rear wall was exposed in 1972 almost half the timbers were missing or rendered useless, as the elevation shows (FIG. 5).

New windows were inserted in the back wings, probably in the nineteenth century. A regency shopfront is shown in the older topographical views (see PL. VIII, A) though it was altered to the heavier Danish Dairy Co. front in the 1890s (PL. VII).⁹⁰ This in turn gave way to the quieter frontage which now survives in a modified form.⁹¹

The new works, completed in 1974 with brick-clad balloon framing on a concrete raft, have inserted a new stair in a fire-proof well (breeze block) and almost doubled the area of the demolished part. With the back wing were destroyed a few nineteenth-century brick outbuildings, containing the lavatories. The Vincent-Baxter press works, built in the garden in the same century, and retaining parts of older buildings there (including a fireplace) still remain at present. A fragment of the wall painting, and the timber wall onto the passage have been incorporated in the new work.

⁹⁰ Taunt's photo, *Old Houses in Oxford* (1914), Pl. X.

⁹¹ Cf. *R.C.H.M.* (1939), Pl. 215.

B. DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS

The Front Part of 126 (FIGS. 2, 3 and 5)

The *cellar* is now approached by steps in the S.E. corner from the shop but was once reached from the street. The two openings in the north wall, shown by Pantin, are now blocked, but their ashlar jambs are visible. At the north end of the east wall is a timber lintel with an ashlar and rubble jamb of a blocked opening to the adjoining cellar of 125. The north wall of the cellar is behind the medieval shop front and the south wall was built forward of the rear wall of the building to provide a solid foundation for the chimney stack. The walls are of coursed rubble and continue up the stairs to the ground floor. Three north-south joists are visible, two beneath the passage and one in the centre of the room; they are chamfered and stopped.

The *ground floor* has been greatly altered but must retain the original stone walls beneath its plasterwork. On the west is the passage to the street with two doors at the south end, one out to the yard (the chamfered jamb of which was observed on the stone back wall) and the other leading into a narrow passage between the chimney stack and the rear wall of the house. The rear wall was consequently less than 30 cm. wide, although a principal load-bearing structure. Its eastern half was removed to provide a door to the back wing.

The *timber frame* of the front of 126 seems to have been built at the same time as that of 125, for the following reasons. The principal plate D⁹² at the rear of the first floor continues eastwards into 125 beyond the principal post 7 which has mortices for joints on its east and west sides at C level. The two braces springing from the east sides of posts 1 and 4 to the tie would then imply a similar pair in the other half, springing west. The plates tenoned into 7 would have been shared by both parts, the joists and tie beams being jointed to opposite sides of the same timber.

The structure is most easily described in the order of construction; since it is not certain whether one half of the building was erected first, or all put up as a unit, the western half only (126) is described. It is to be noted that this form of construction enabled erection on a confined site, which must have been commonplace in an urban setting (see FIG. 3).

The ground floor walls were of stone, though the shop front (and perhaps the west wall) were probably timber. First the outline of the back frame was assembled, consisting of the principal plate D on the ashlar wall, three principal posts 1, 4, 7, each two storeys high and tenoned into the upper surface of D. The central post 4 was supported by two braces, whilst the four secondary posts 2D, 3D, 5D, 6D supported the two joists for the second floor C₁ & C₄ which in turn steadied the principals 1 and 7 at the sides. Once the back wall was in place, the three main beams of the first floor D₁, D₄, D₇ could be tenoned into D (with horizontal tenons) and the floor framing added. All three, or perhaps only D₄ in the centre, could tie in the shop front as they jettied out into the street. The bressumer, posts and head plate of the front and the posts of the side walls were next tenoned into the plates; the pair of posts at the rear were braced to the principal posts.

The whole process was repeated for the second floor: plates C₁ and C₇ (both

⁹² Timbers in the back wall are levelled from A (collar) to D (plate at first floor level) and vertical members numbered from 1 (west) to 7 (east) as on Fig. 5. Subsidiary timbers are located by co-ordinates of these numbers.

joined to the principal posts by vertical tenons) were lowered onto the tenons of the posts in the side walls, and joist C₄ (similarly tenoned to post 4) was inserted simultaneously with the floor framing. Again the jetty tied in the front wall of the first floor. The side walls of this storey were similar, except that the pair of posts at the rear were braced to the plate below rather than the principal posts, and the central posts were nearer the street than those below, since the jetties made each successive room larger. The front wall has retained traces of its window arrangement, which is described below.

The next stage is different, for the principal posts 1 and 7 were now given axial (north-south) stability by fitting the two top plates B₁ and B₇ into tenons on the tops of the posts rather than into mortices at the front. Like those below, these plates were lowered onto the tenons of the posts in the side walls and jettied out at the front. The head plate over the front window appears to have been tenoned into the sides of these plates. The lateral stability of these two plates was assured by superimposing the beams B at front, middle and rear. Before the rear tie was lowered into position the second storey rear wall filling had to be inserted; the four secondary posts 2C, 3C, 5C, 6C and two post-to-tie braces. The central axial joist B₄ is in two parts rather than one as previously, added in sequence from south to north (S. tie, joist, mid-tie, joist, N. tie).

Finally the roof trusses were fitted onto the tie beams: three pairs of principal rafters, tenoned and pegged together and diminished by half above collar level, then the collars, tenoned into the principals were added with their supporting queen struts. The single purlins (in two lengths scarfed together), clasped between collar and principals, were added, with windbraces from principals to purlins. Pairs of common rafters, each tenoned and pegged together at the top, were then placed on the backs of the purlins and jointed to the plates. The finished roof had seven pairs of common rafters between the principal trusses and a pair of common rafters at each gable end, resting on protruding purlins and plates (which also carried the barge boards).

The subsequent filling of wall panels could easily be done after the frame was erected; studs, fitted into mortices on the soffit of the horizontal member above, were knocked along a groove in the upper face of the member below.

Many details, particularly of the jetties and floor framing, have been obscured and were not revealed during the recent works; by chance, however, an earlier record can give help here. In the papers of Herbert Hurst in the Bodleian are two rough sketches entitled 'West side of Mallam's House when it was uncovered', which show the timber framing exposed when 127 was demolished in the 1890s.⁹³ What exactly they show is not completely clear since they are drawn from below with much foreshortening. Either they represent the east wall of 127 and in particular its side gable end, or they show the jetty of 126 and the framing of the side wall at first floor level. In the latter case, which is the more likely, the principal joist 1D tenons into the back of the moulded bressumer with two tenons, one central and one nearer the soffit. Below this joist are shown posts and braces which must be standing on the ground. Above the joist are two long straight braces meeting the second floor joist 1C two-thirds of the way towards the back wall. The implication

⁹³ MS. Top. Oxon. d129 f. 115, 116.

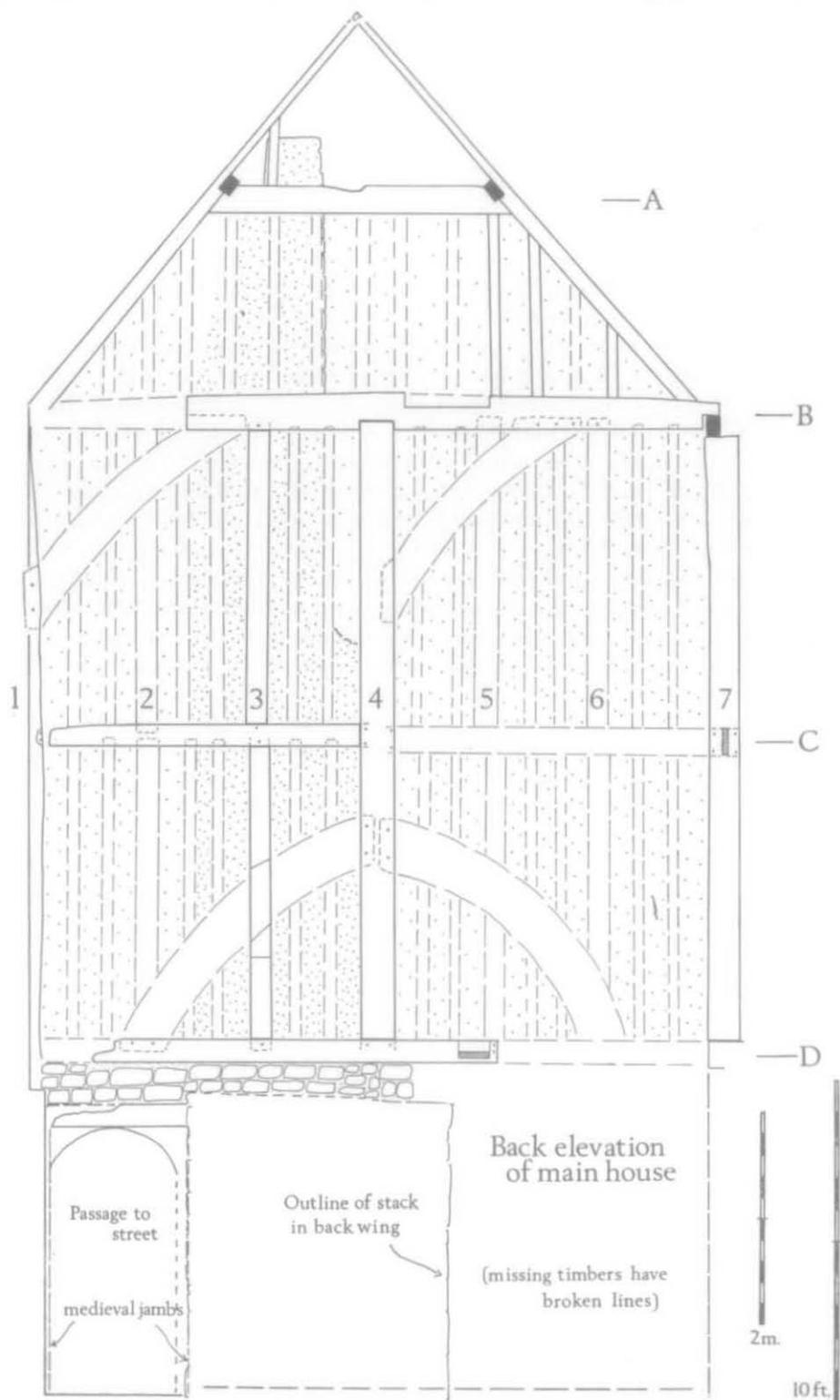


FIG. 5

Back elevation of main (front) part of 126 High Street.

of this would be (i) the building had a standard medieval jetty type, (ii) the side wall on the west at ground floor level was timber and not stone, (iii) the walls of the second floor had bracing more typical of the sixteenth or seventeenth than of the fifteenth century. This last could indeed be part of an alteration made when the new façade was added.

There was no evidence of any *windows* in the back wall, which strengthens the suggestion (based on the plan type) that the main frame was built to supplement an existing range at the back. On the first floor at the front the two posts still standing were perhaps part of the original arrangement. More information was recovered from the second floor, where the moulded soffit of the lintel (head timber) and the central post, likewise moulded, are still visible and suggest a four-light window (see FIG. 6). In the attic the soffit of the front collar retains traces of a small two-light window.

Pantin's suggestion that the small *stair* from the second to the attic floor represented the original fitting seems reasonable. It would have been supported by a common joist and another inserted at right-angles on the north and west sides, and the wall plates on the east and south sides. Such was the arrangement observed in the attic floor where the stair had been removed.

The existing *chimney stack* is probably the original, for the daub on its south face retains impressions of the primary studding; this had been removed and the wall plastered over by the time that the external wall of the first floor was being used as the interior wall of the back wing (i.e. sixteenth century). The stack was built in rubble and ashlar (this particularly on the interior surfaces) held together by a red-

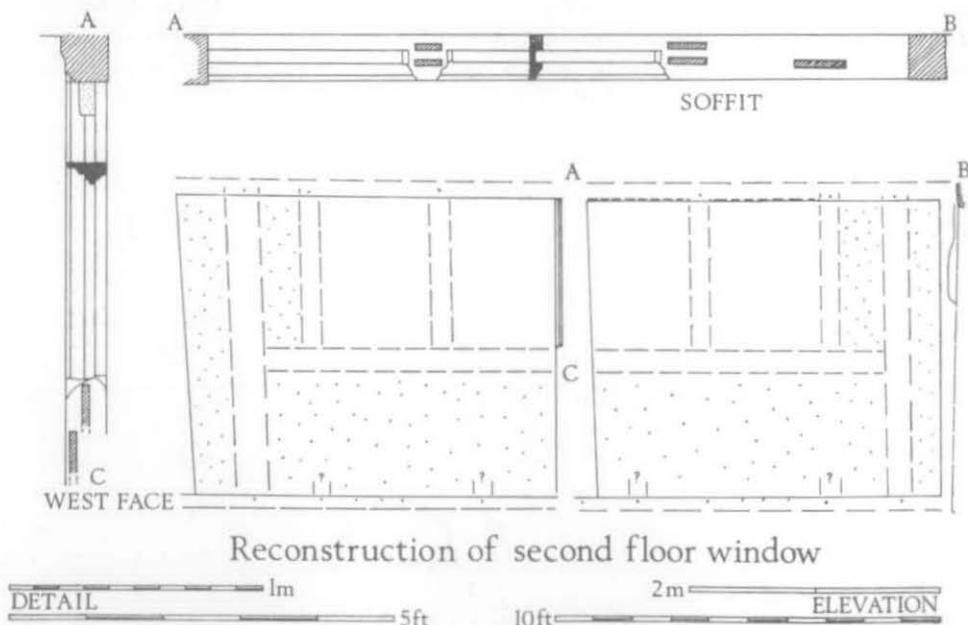


FIG. 6

Front wall of main house, interior elevation and detail of window on second floor.

brown gravelly daub. None of the original fireplace fittings are now visible, but may survive behind later ones.

Nearly all the *joints* in the portions examined were of unrefined pegged mortice and tenon type, for nothing more sophisticated was required. The size of the principals called for no special arrangement when three mortices were cut at the same place. The braces had chase tenons with three pegs. The method of inserting the studding has been described above. The tie beam (at least that at the south-east corner) was joined to the plate with a barefaced lap-dovetail, which typically had shrunk, leaving a gap on the tie soffit. The purlins were scarfed at the central truss, with 'secret bridle and edge pegs with vertical butts' type (not illustrated, *cf.* n. 118). This joint had failed and snapped when the roof sagged. Knowledge of the other joints used, particularly in the floor framing, would be useful to complete the group.

Several *construction* and *carpenters' marks* were recorded. The former were simple parallel scratches; the others, which might be carpenters' 'signatures' are illustrated, FIG. 7.

Original fittings: The lower ends of the barge boards survive on the front of the house. They were drawn by H. Hurst in 1896⁹⁴ (*cf.* PL. XI). Their traceried design is usually ascribed to the fifteenth century. A carved spandrel was discovered reused at the interior junction of principal post 4 and joist B₄ (i.e. at tie beam level). This is plain on one side and has a naturalistic carving on the other in late gothic style (PL. VIII, B). It was probably part of a door head, though might have been a bracket supporting a jetty at the front of the house.

Additional fittings: A simple pargetted design was noted by Hurst, following the line of the barge board and surrounding the old attic window. It can still be seen, though much covered with paint, and is one of the last fragments of pargetting to survive in Oxford (see below, p. 291).

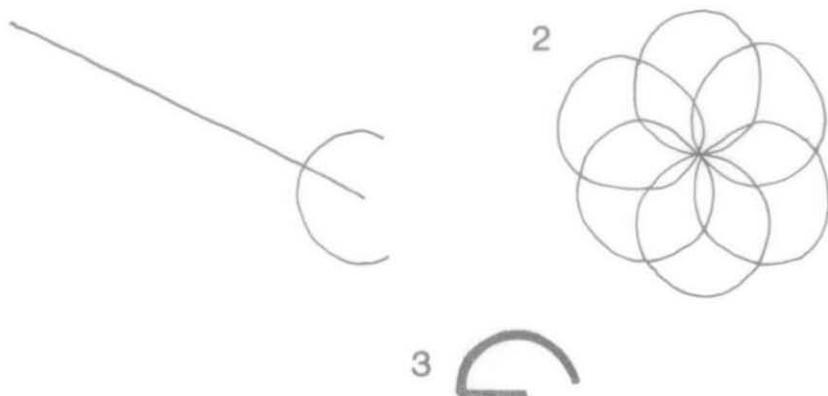


FIG. 7

Carpenters' marks from main house. 1, from east face of post 4 below 4C; 2, from east face of post 4 above 4C; 3, from principal floor joist 4C on east face at south end.

⁹⁴ MS. Top. Oxon. c312 p. 85.

The first floor room has a panelled dado of the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century (*R.C.H.M.*) and did have a cupboard door with similar moulding.

Seventeenth Century Facade (FIG. 2 ; PLS. VII, VIII, A): The form of the ground floor wall is not known ; the imitative features (including grotesque brackets) in the Danish Dairy shop front were all nineteenth-century. The first and second floors have a central projecting bay with curved corners and continuous fenestration across the front. The mullions are plain, except for the carved and fluted storey posts, and central window surrounds. A moulded transom crosses at a height of $\frac{5}{8}$ up the window. The central light on the first floor is round headed, with a 'keystone' beneath a squared 'capital'. All four storey posts have similar capitals supporting blank triglyphs, beneath a continuous projecting cornice which is simply moulded, with corona, astragal and cyma recta. The second floor is much the same, but there are two central arch headed lights. The entablature is similar to that below with the addition of dentils. These also feature in the small pediment at the top over the single arched light of the attic dormer window, and in the broken pediments on either side of it. Hurst thought that the dormer window preceded the addition of the façade, but it is probable that the original attic window was flush with the wall. The roofing of the projecting parts is of slate. It seems that the glass on the second floor has been replaced at some time, though that below may be original. Parallels to this façade and its date are discussed below (p. 291).

The Back Wing of 126

Apart from the back wall of the main frame (used as an interior wall), part of the timber west wall on the ground floor, and the east party wall on the ground and first floors, no other part of the demolished structure was fully observed. A certain amount of information can be recovered from Pantin's drawings (*cf.* FIG. 2), a set of architect's plans made before demolition and an exterior photograph taken in *c.* 1961 (PL. IX).

Footings (FIG. 13) : On the east side of the ground floor there was and still is a substantial rubble and ashlar wall (in line with that dividing the shops at the front) which serves as a party wall with 125, and supports the floor joists on the first floor. On the north there was no separate wall, since the back of the front part was used. The timber frame on the west rested on a narrow sleeper wall over a broader stone footing (1 m. deep and 80 cm. wide) of coursed rubble, which survives beneath the present wall. Beneath the south wall was a much broader stone footing (120 cm. wide) of large stones in a mortar fill. This was continuous with the western footing, but had a straight joint with the east party wall (yet neither appeared stratigraphically to be earlier). Here it also increased in depth to accommodate the cess-pit. Over this south foundation was a rubble wall 40 cm. wide. Although destroyed in later alterations, traces of its footing were noted, as also its bonding into the east party wall, and its western end flush with the outer face of the timber frame onto the passage. It was probably built up to the first floor if not further. For the archaeological context of these footings see Trenches I and K below. They were all dug into the demolition dump of an earlier building.

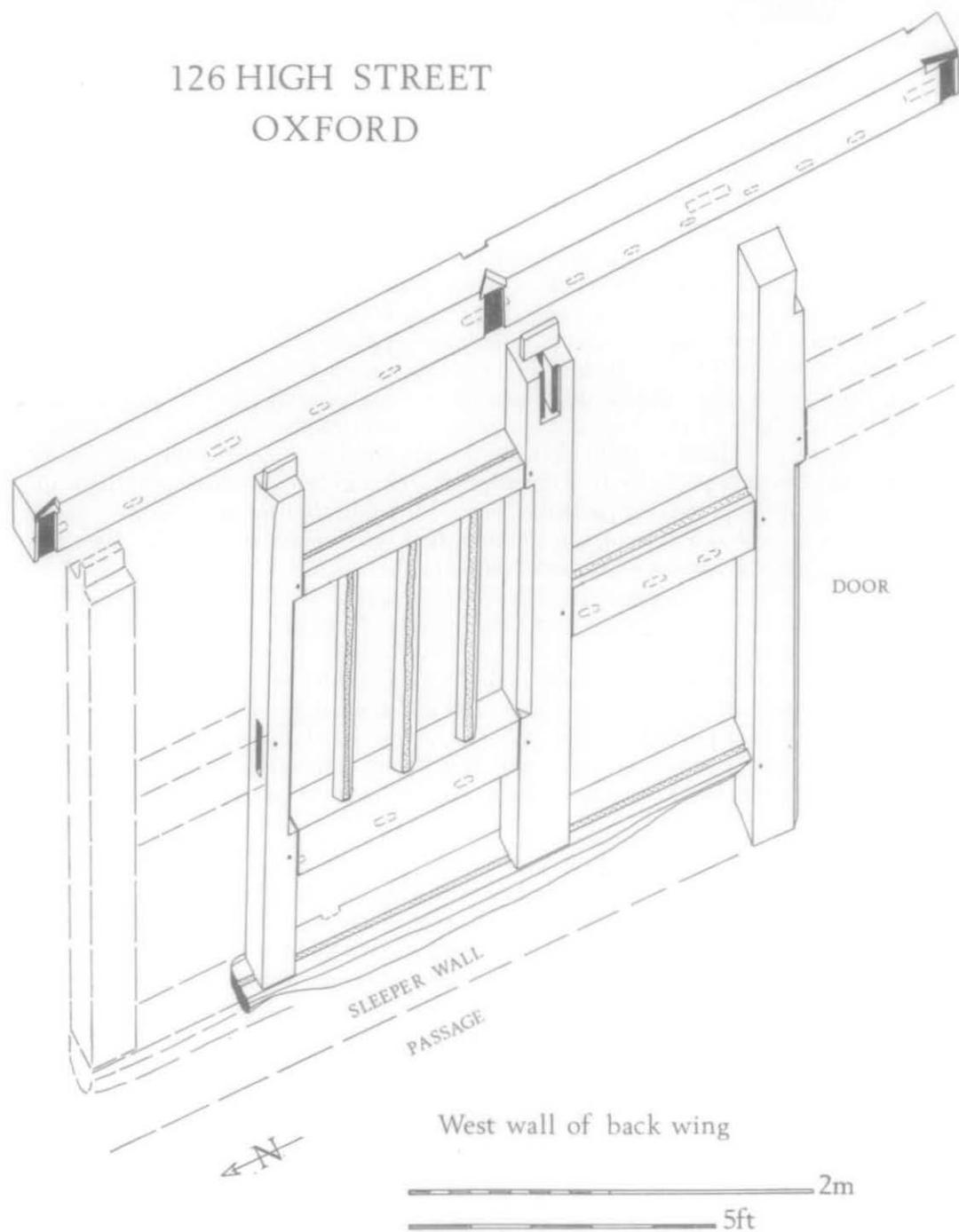
126 HIGH STREET
OXFORD

FIG. 8

Axonometric view of west wall of back wing, demolished May 1972, now replaced.

Timber Wall in passage (FIG. 8) : Enough of this wall was rescued (it can now be seen *in situ*) to be able to determine its original form and reconstruct some of the missing timbers above. The complete head plate was recovered with ground sill and three posts ; two more posts were indicated by the soffit of the head timber. The wall had five posts, but the frame was a two-bay structure as is shown by the three principal joists and roof trusses. The corner post next to the main house was removed when the chimney stack was added to the back wing (see below, p. 282). It probably stood on the footing wall, but the next two posts were raised on a sill beam ; this lay on a low wall and had a chamfer on the top outer edge. The first half-bay had a middle rail, the next a window. This was of simple construction, three mullions of square section, turned through 45° and held by shallow mortices in the sill and lintel. No provision appeared to have been made for glass. The next division had a middle rail, and the southernmost a door. The end corner post and door lintel had been removed when the south wall was altered. The door jamb, which may have been reused (to judge from its east face, visible inside the new building), had a plain chamfer and its return for the lintel. The filling of the panels was similar to that of the main frame, with a mortice above and a groove below for each stud. None were recovered.

No timbers of the *jetty*, which was along the west side, survived, but mortices on the central post and head timber suggested that there were three brackets supporting the joists, and the latter tied in the head timber (see FIG. 9, a).

Flooring : Virtually nothing remained of the framing of the first floor, though the mortice for an axial north-south joist had been cut into the principal plate D of the main frame (see FIGS. 5, 9, b). Beneath the lower plate of the first floor party wall (east) was a row of sawn-off floor-joists of square section, resting on the ashlar wall (FIG. 10). Unless these belonged to a later alteration it seems probable that these were joined to the axial joist, and that the three principal joists for the jetty only came as far as the west side of the axial (bridging) joist. Pantin's drawing of the joists in the ceiling of the first storey does not indicate which was principal (see FIG. 2). Above this the tie beams would have determined the framing of the attic floor.

The *joints* (FIG. 9) employed in the wall were all unrefined pegged mortice and tenon type. The principal joists tied the head timber with lap-dovetails at the ends and a simple notch joint in the middle. The axial joist met the plate of the main frame with a bare-faced soffit tenon and diminished (unpegged) haunch joint (see below, p. 290).

Destroyed parts of Back Wing

Upper Floors : The arrangement of the north wall is obscured by the insertion of staircase and chimney stack (the latter removed the whole north-west corner of the frame). The outer wall of the main house had been replastered, wallpapered and painted before the stack was put in, so it seems that no separate wall filling was used for the back wing. There must have been doors through from the front part leading off the original, smaller staircase. Only at attic level where the tie was cut through, was there any trace of this surviving. The west wall had no windows at the time of demolition ; those posts that were visible before demolition were shown on Pantin's

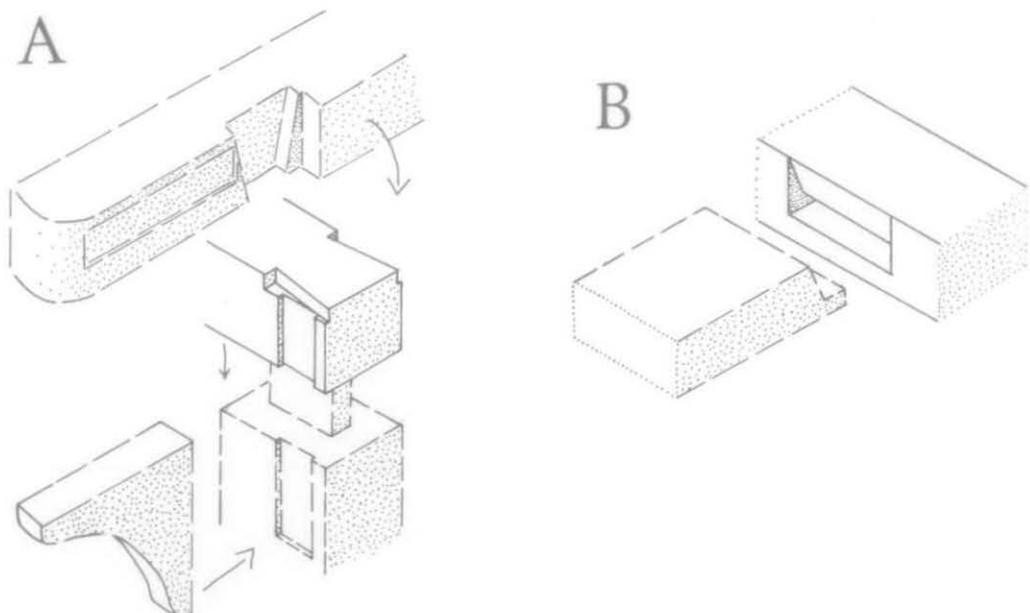


FIG. 9

Carpentry joints used in back wing. A, hypothetical reconstruction of jetty at south end of west wall ; B, barefaced soffit-tenon with diminished haunch at junction of principal joist and D.

drawing. On the second floor there seems to have been some alteration to the wall, which perhaps involved the blocking of a window.

The south wall seems to have been devoid of original features, and may have been completely rebuilt when the windows were inserted.

The east wall was apparently replaced at first floor level, and at the second floor only comparatively modern wall framing belonging to 125 was visible after demolition. It may be that the mortice cut in the south face of the principal post 7 of the main frame (at second floor level) was a secondary feature, to support a plate for this wall in the back wing. Pantin's drawing shows that fairly substantial posts were visible at second floor level. This floor is further discussed below, under *joints*.

The *roof* was a very great loss in the demolition, and had only been partially recorded. The purlins, apparently square in section, were probably through-purlins and seem to have been altered or cut away at the south end. No north truss is shown. The central truss had principals diminished a short distance below the collar, and perhaps halving round the purlins. The collar, which was cambered, seems to have clasped the purlins from above. The attic was ceiled just above the collars. The photograph of the exterior (PL. IX) apparently shows the principal rafters of the southern truss, the collar having been removed when the window was inserted.

The *garderobe* cess-pit is described below (p. 293). It was clearly constructed to serve both 125 and 126, and indeed more of it survives in 125, where in the first floor room a stone drain runs down from the upper floor in the south-west corner of

the back wing. Some such arrangements must have existed in 126, though the drain was perhaps external. Later alterations to the south wall of 126 (which included the blocking of the garderobe drains) and the recent demolition have removed nearly all remnants of the drain shutes. On the ground floor there was a smooth encrusted surface at the south end of the party wall (outside the original back wall of the wing) which looked as if it might have been the walls of a drain (see FIG. 4). There is no evidence for the construction method of the other wall of this drain. A solid area in the south-east corner of the ground floor room (included inside the later extension) may have contained the last surviving part of the drain shute from above.

Secondary Features in the Back Wing

First Floor Party Wall (FIG. 10) : This wall frame, which still survives in the new back wing, and indeed forms the west wall of 125, is of very different construction from the timberwork on the ground floor. Only the northern half was examined in detail, since the other part was covered with plasterboard and later by new brickwork. However, there were indications that both halves were virtually symmetrical. As mentioned above, the lower plate rests on the sawn-off joists which lodge on the ashlar wall. Four posts are tenoned into this plate, with long diagonal braces rising

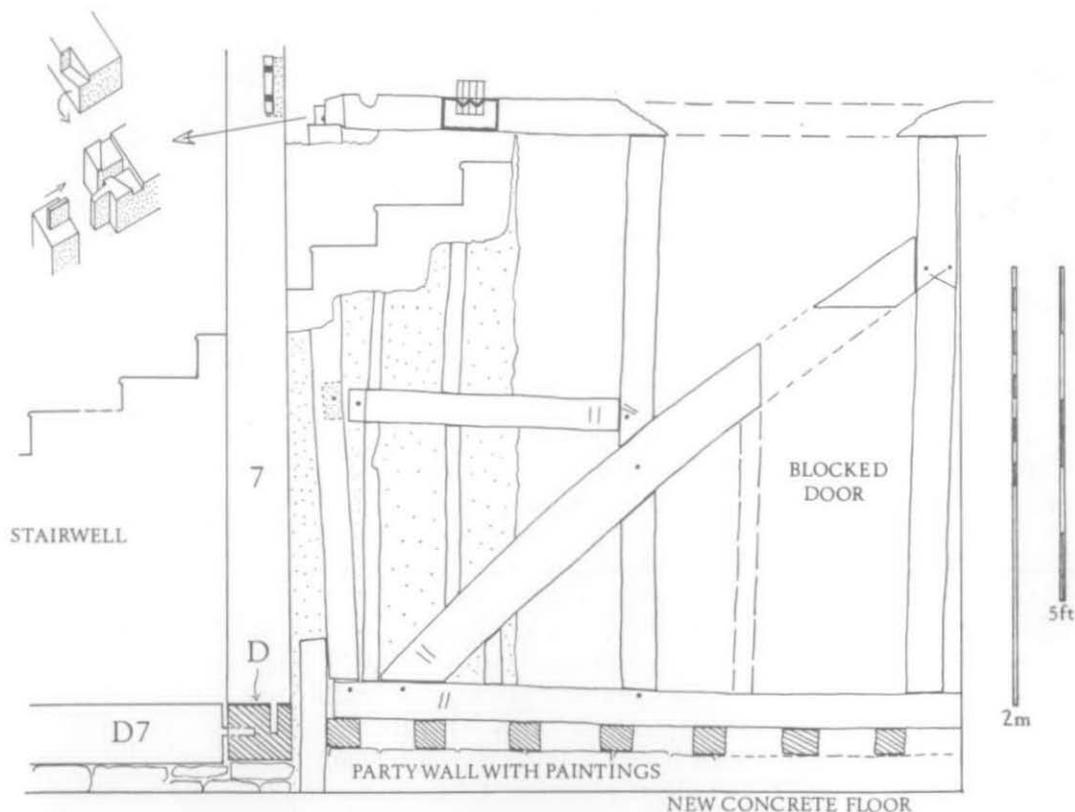


FIG. 10

First floor party wall in back wing, west elevation at junction with main house.

from the ends of the plate to the upper end of the central post. The two intermediate posts are halved round these braces. The filling of the wall panels is with small irregular studding held in by tenons or nails. Each side of the studding was covered with wattle and daub, the latter yellow in colour with a coarse gravelly fill. In 126 whitewashed plaster over the daub served as the interior wall surface until demolition.

There is a gap between the north post of this wall and the principal post 7 of the main frame; this was probably covered with lath and plaster, traces of which were visible beneath the later plaster of the stairwell. The upper plate has a tenon protruding at the north end, though the gap between the two frames will have prevented this joining with the principal post 7 (which, as mentioned above, has a mortice in its south face here).

At some stage a door was cut through the northern brace, next to the central post, though this was subsequently blocked.

The *joints* (see detail on FIG. 10) were mostly unrefined pegged morticed and tenon type, with tenons narrower than the widths of the beams. At the north end of the upper plate is an arrangement which receives the tenon from the post below, and provides the unused tenon, and two bare-faced lap dovetails for the principal joists of 125 and 126. The lack of a mortice for further posts on the next storey, and the detail about to be described would, however, suggest that these bare-faced lap dovetails were intended for tie-beams. Along the top face of the upper plate is a series of mortices (6×4 in. and 11 in. apart) with a W-shaped section. These are apparently mortices for rafters, and could have received a pair of rafters from a double roof meeting at this central valley. These may only have held studding for the wall above, though it seems quite possible that the roof was once at this level, and was subsequently raised when a second floor was added. This could explain the comparatively modern wall framing observed on the second floor of 125, and the reduced state of the roof, already described. It is of course equally possible that although designed as an eave plate, the member was never used as such.

Several simple *construction marks* were observed; groups of short parallel lines firmly cut into the timber.

The *chimney stack* (see FIG. 14) was clearly an addition to the original building, cutting through its timber frame and footings, and sealing the interior wall surface at the northern end of the first floor room. Again, only the ground floor portion survived to be examined, and even that was obscured with brick blocking and cement rendering. The construction was of rubble and re-used ashlar (some stones in the foundations had traces of plaster on them) with small horizontal timbers included above the fireplace. The surround was gone, though the lintel was keyed, probably for another stone. Above and around the fireplace wooden plugs had been inserted (the scratched lines for aligning them could be seen); these doubtless held batons to support panelling, or indeed painted cloth. Pantin reported that no original fireplaces were visible, which leaves it uncertain how many there originally were. It is tempting to equate the six fireplaces on Pantin's drawing with the six hearths that Pawling was assessed for in the 1665 Tax, but we cannot be sure without knowing the extent of his holding.

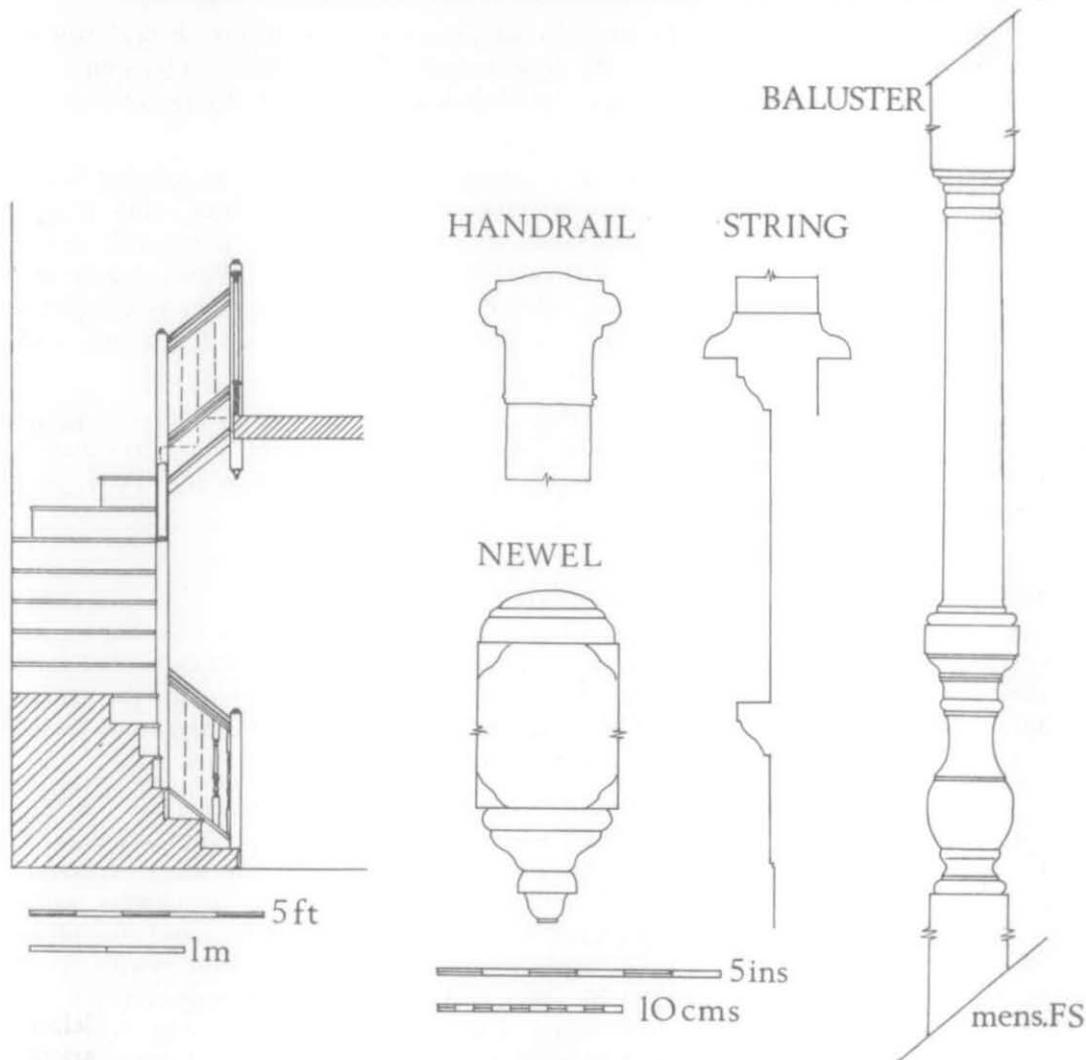


FIG. 11

Stair between front and back part, 126 High Street, stairwell looking east, and details. By permission of K. Stevens and Associates.

The flight of *stairs* from the first to the second floor is illustrated here (FIG. 11). Apparently of pinewood, the moulding of the balusters suggests a date in the second half of the eighteenth century, though this may or may not be the date of the first stair in this position. The first wall of the stairwell was painted with a black stepped design following the rise of the stairs. Later this was covered with some form of panelling.

The *south wall* was rebuilt, a brick and rubble wall being constructed on the broad medieval footing immediately outside the first stone wall. As a result the ground floor of the back wall projected further than the upper storeys, which

followed the old line. The tripartite sash windows and the single attic sash shown in the photograph of the exterior (PL. IX) appear to be of nineteenth-century date. It is possible that their insertion was associated with a complete reframing of the south wall.

Interior decoration : Apart from the extensive paintings on the ground floor, described below, there were a few other traces of painted decoration. The simple design on the stairwell has been referred to. On the first floor party wall was a fragmentary painted surface at the north end of the upper plate. This was a design of concentric brown curves on a creamy yellow surface, representing wood grain. Imitation woodwork or panelling is typically seventeenth-eighteenth century and has been noted locally before.⁹⁵

Wallpaper : Before the insertion of the chimney stack, the first floor room had wallpaper on its north wall. A fragment bearing the royal coat of arms of the Stuart house was removed from the wall for repair and conservation. It is hoped to report on this at greater length elsewhere.

THE WALL PAINTING. By MARTIN HENIG (FIGS. 4 and 12 ; PL. X)

Description : The east wall of the back wing retained traces of painting for its entire length, but in the southerly portion these were so slight and disjointed that they were not considered to be worthy of preservation. Furthermore the entire surface of the wall was sadly mutilated by the insertion of wooden pegs, and decay in the pigments employed had resulted in changes to some of the colours.

Label : The highest part of the frieze to survive was on the extreme left. Below a black band was a thinner white line, and then a green leaf, presumably part of the vegetal border of a black-letter text, for below it again is the word *FORGET* followed by six S-shaped flourishes. Underneath was the end of another word . . .)*ADE* (?made). Such inscriptions are common to this genre, and are often scriptural, though identification is made somewhat difficult by the frequency of misquotation.⁹⁶ At some time a stripe (now pink-white in colour) was overlaid and the bottom edge of the inscription was partially obscured. Beneath this stripe was an area of ochre on which some more green foliage was shown. Unfortunately, to the south a large gap in the plaster had removed the end of the label containing the inscription.

Frieze : Beyond the gap lay the remains of a vigorous if crude frieze a foot wide consisting of a dark green running scroll with ovoid leaves and dull red fruit. The upper half of the frieze had retained its colour much better than the lower part, probably because of some difference in the later facing of the wall (the lower part having presumably been panelled at some point). Underneath the broad frieze were slight remains of a lower and narrower running scroll of which a few leaves only survived.

⁹⁵ W. A. Pantin, 'The Recently Demolished Houses in Broad Street', *Oxon.*, II (1937), 177, Pls. xviii, xixb.

⁹⁶ Cf. F. H. Worsfold, 'Tudor Wall Paintings in Gore Street House, Monkton, Thanet', *Arch. Cant.*, LXIV (1951), 92-6, esp. 94-5; and E. Clive Rouse, *Oxon.*, xxxvii (1972), 199 f.

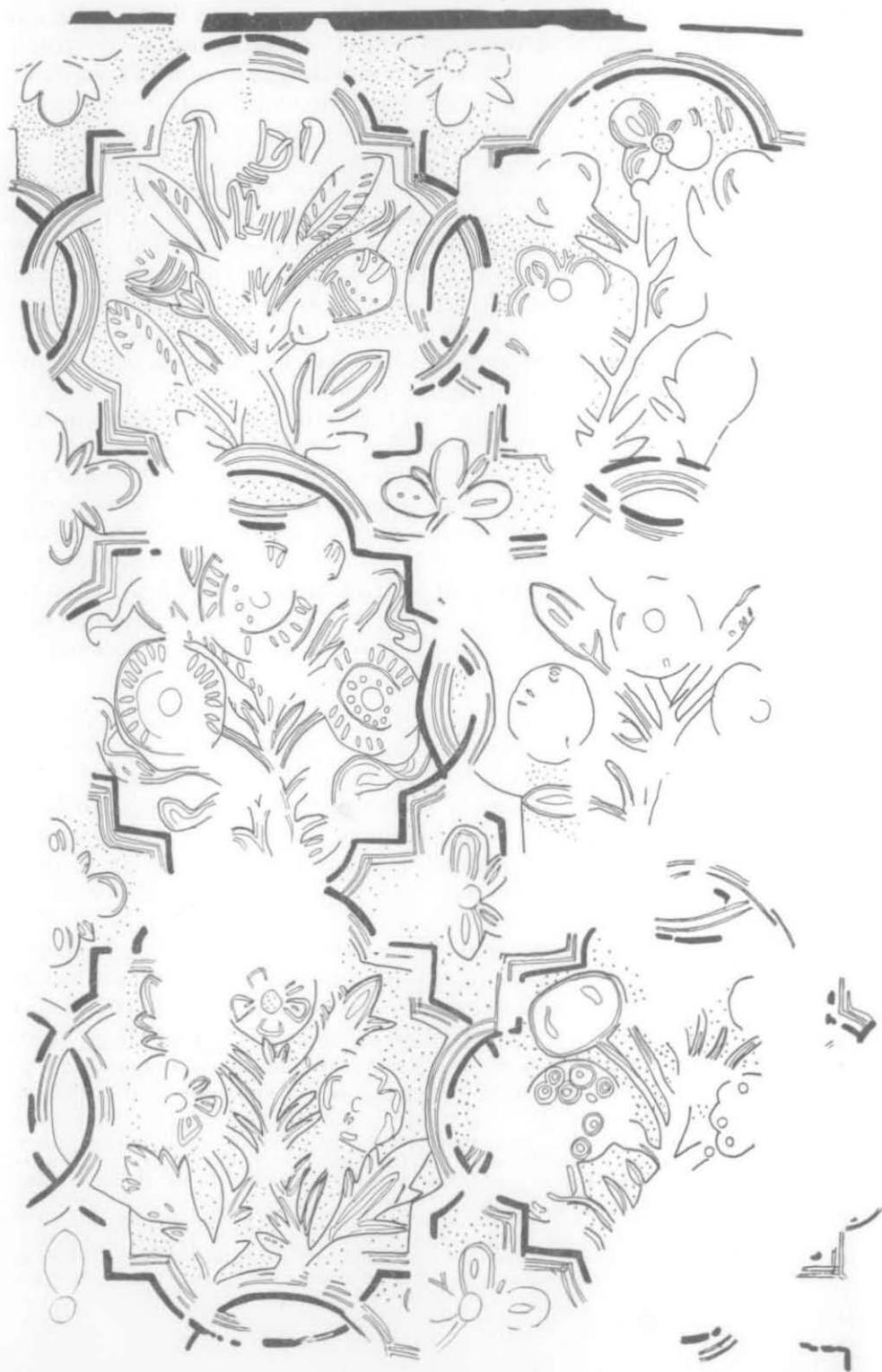


FIG. 12
Sixteenth-century wall painting detail. Scale 1/6.

Main pattern : Below the frieze on an ochre priming and red background was a pattern of formal interlocking quatrefoils, five deep. They appear to be matched in the very similar paintings once in No. 3 Cornmarket, parts of which are now in the City Museum.⁹⁷ Like the one from the (now demolished) back room there, the edgings of the quatrefoils alternated between a grey band with two parallel white lines on the outside and a black line on the inside, and a black edge outside with grey and white within. Between each quatrefoil was a rosette having four petals and a sepal between each (again as on the Cornmarket painting). As has been stated the remains at the southern end were almost entirely lacking and even at the north end the quatrefoils were badly damaged. They each contained a design based on a balanced triangle of three flowers disposed round a single stem, a divided stem or two crossed stems. However some included additional flowers or buds. The splendour to which this simple conception could attain was shown by an especially well preserved example where against the rich red ground were depicted two intersecting sprays each with leaves having five lobes. These were apparently black in colour although the greenish tinge upon the white lines painted on them suggests that they may originally have been dark green. The three flowers each have five petals with reddish centres. Unfortunately the petals seem to have lost most of their colour apart from white edgings, but in this instance there are traces of red. Other quatrefoils depict flowers with three or four petals as well as multi-petalled varieties.

Tracings were made of the entire wall with coloured felt-tipped pens, and these were related to a scale elevation drawing of the wall. Much of the original colour of the paint was lost when the part remaining *in situ* was scrubbed, at some point after our work was completed and before it received expert attention.

Discussion : Apart from the closely related local example mentioned above, the painting is of a type well attested in late Tudor England. It is not necessary to pursue their social context here for this has been done admirably already.⁹⁸ Suffice it to say that they are relatively humble versions in tempera of the painted cloths which can be observed in the background of many late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century canvasses. These painted cloths are referred to by numerous contemporary writers (e.g. William Shakespeare and John Aubrey) and we must assume that they were common.⁹⁹

What of the date? The painting in Cornmarket Street to which I referred is virtually identical in its treatment of the major part of the wall, but there the frieze consists of a formal fret. This contains ornamental labels with black letter texts but its main interest for us lies in the incorporation of the initials of IT in large capitals. These must stand for John Tattleton, who lived in the house from some time after 1560 until his death in 1581.¹⁰⁰ As the painting at 126 High Street is obviously so

⁹⁷ E. T. Leeds, 'A second Elizabethan Mural Painting in No. 3 Cornmarket', *Oxon.*, I (1936), 144-50.

⁹⁸ Cf. especially F. W. Reader, 'Tudor Domestic Wall Paintings', *Arch. J.*, xcii (1935), 243-286 and *ibid.*, xciii (1936), 220-262 and references there cited. More recently cf. E. Clive Rouse, *Records of Bucks*, xv (1948), 87-96 and *Oxon.*, xx (1955), 84-89 (The Golden Cross).

⁹⁹ For Shakespeare cf. Reader, *Arch. J.*, lxxxix (1932), 124 f.; *ibid.*, xcii (1935), 246; note *Love's Labour's Lost*, V, ii, 570 'You will be scraped out of the painted cloth for this', and *As You Like It*, III, ii, 258-9 'Not so; but I answer you right painted cloth, from whence you have studied your questions.' For Aubrey, cf. A. Powell, *John Aubrey and His Friends* (1963ed.), 191 'Mistress Powney had her hall "after the old fashion, above the wainscott painted cloath, with godly sentences out of the Psalmes".'

¹⁰⁰ Leeds, *op. cit.* note 97, 146, Pl. XXIb.

closely related to it and was probably executed at the same time, it should likewise date from the sixties or seventies of the sixteenth century.

London, of course, had a Painter-Stainers' guild and it is very likely that Oxford had a similar association.¹⁰¹ To judge from the quality of the work at 126 High Street, in the back room of No. 3 Cornmarket and in the 'painted room' at the same house our artist must have been amongst the most skilled practitioners of the craft in the city at that time.¹⁰²

ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS FROM UPPER WALLS OF THE HOUSE. By ANTHONY KING

Samples were collected from the debris in the party walls of the main building and back wing. Between the plaster of 125 and 126 in the front part of the house, in the stair well at the first floor, came the mouse nest and most of the bones. A few remains were found at the base of the first floor party wall in the back wing, i.e. from below the floor. These are treated as one below, except for the mouse nest.

Artefacts : Miscellaneous rubbish.

Plant Remains : 5 twigs ; 1 wood shaving ; 1 piece of charcoal ; 8 pieces of hazel nut (about four nuts) ; 1 plum stone ; 1 walnut shell.

Shells : 2 fragments of oyster ; 2 mussel shells ; 1 crayfish claw.

Bones : 67 bones of sheep, pig, rabbit, dog, fowl and other birds were identified.

The freshness of the bone and the presence of some tendons suggest a recent origin for much of the material, but such deposits are likely to accumulate over a considerable length of time. The scanty bone sample does not lend itself to any analysis, since it is biased towards small bones that can be dragged by mice or slip through cracks.

The Mouse Nest : The nest itself was made up with dust, fluff, straws and a certain amount of excreta, and other materials. Remains of seven mice were found, all house mice (*Mus musculus*). The remains were fairly fresh and the nest's rubbish confirms a recent date. However, for a well-preserved rat dating to 1661, see Goodman.¹⁰³

To conclude, the deposit was mainly built up through murine activity, with a certain amount of natural accumulation. A recent date is suggested, with reservations because of the long-lived nature of such deposits. The mouse nest had fresh organic material, and a typical assortment of odds and ends, again probably 19th or early 20th century. A violent demise is postulated for the nest's inhabitants.

¹⁰¹ Cf. E. Clive Rouse, 'Some 16th and 17th Century Domestic Paintings in Oxford', *Oxon.*, xxxvii (1972), 198-207.

¹⁰² A remarkably similar painting to ours may be seen at Blakesley Hall, Yardley (Worcs.), in the suburbs of Birmingham (not published); however patterns were undoubtedly spread very widely, and there is no need to invoke an Oxford painter here. The painting from Great Pednor Manor, Bucks., which Rouse associated with the Painted Room, Cornmarket (*op. cit.* note 98), is of much inferior quality to the Yardley painting and to those in Oxford mentioned in the present discussion.

¹⁰³ N. M. Goodman, 'Notes on the body of a black rat found in St. Peter's Church, Sandwich', *Kent Arch. Review*, 37 (1974), 204-5.

Beetles : The late Mr. E. Skinner of the Forestry Department of Oxford University collected some samples of insect carcasses from flight holes in post 4 at first floor level. These included examples of death watch and furniture beetles. The cause of death may have been due to the insertion of the chimney stack against the post in the seventeenth or eighteenth century.

Vincent-Baxter Press, 126a High Street

There is a brick building dating to the mid nineteenth century, which covers the back yard of 126. Incorporated in the rear portion are some re-used timber floor-joists from an earlier building. A stone chimney stack and adjacent wall lie half way back inside the building, on the boundary with 125. This has a stone fireplace on the first floor with a four-centred arch, probably sixteenth century. It probably belonged to a cottage or outbuilding in the yard, which long narrow properties of this sort often had.

125 High Street¹⁰⁴

This building has been frequently referred to above, but its main features can now be outlined. The front part was rebuilt with that of 126 in the late fifteenth century and the back wing similarly in the early sixteenth. From about this time 125 was probably a separate holding, though little is known of its history. It now has a shop on its ground floor, the first floor is connected with the premises of Russell Acott & Co. in 124 and the second and attic floors belong to Mallam Grimdale & Co. in 126. Substantial joists, probably of Mychegood's building, can still be seen in the first and second floor ceilings. To that period also the stone walling of the cellar probably belongs. The exterior of the back wing is shown on the photograph taken c. 1961, when the Russell Acott extension was built (PL. IX).¹⁰⁵ It shows a stone chimney stack in the centre of the south wall, built in brick from second floor level upwards. This has now been demolished and the stone work rendered over. The first and second storeys have two windows each, all sash windows of various types, dating to the nineteenth century. The interior of the first floor has the drain chute in the south-west corner as already described. The east face of the timber party wall has traces of painted plaster, which continues round onto the north wall of the room. This has been covered by later lath and plaster and was only visible from 126 through gaps in the wall. The existence of this should be noted in the event of any internal refitting of this room, since it might be worth uncovering and preserving. The second floor has a modern west wall, as previously mentioned; the roof is low pitched and there is no attic. At the front, the renewal of the façade after a fire, probably in the eighteenth century, has been referred to; it has three sash windows on first and second floors, those above being of smaller proportions, and above is a plain parapet above the cornice. A small attic room is still used in the southern half of the roof, which escaped destruction.

Discussion of the Building

Mychegood's house, as probably its predecessor, was of double range plan (presumably of 'parallel type') with shops and solars on the street front with a hall

¹⁰⁴ R.C.H.M., *Oxford* (1939), 165, no. 73.

¹⁰⁵ *Oxon.*, xxvi-xxvii (1961-2), Notes and News, 338.

behind.¹⁰⁶ Although Pantin regarded it as an early example of the classic post-medieval 'central stack type' (where front and rear parts are constructed round a central chimney and stair)¹⁰⁷ it only became such by adaptation when the hall range was replaced by the back wings in the sixteenth century. Perhaps the origins of this type, which provide a series of generalized rooms once a hall is not required, ought to be reconsidered in future fieldwork.¹⁰⁸ It would always have been an obvious arrangement to build stair and stack together at the rear of the street range in a narrow urban property, as in the front part of 126 or the east part of Tackley's Inn.¹⁰⁹ Granted the likely permutations as front and rear parts of houses were rebuilt singly or together, it will be difficult to say when the 'central stack type' (of one build) first appears, unless the two halves of the house can be proved to be contemporary. It may be that many early examples were, like 126, the result of adaptation, although this would make no difference to the social significance of the introduction of this type.

Mychegood's house would seem to be quite a standard, if modest, work for its period. There is remarkably little remaining in Oxford to compare it with. Nos. 26-8 Cornmarket (Zacharias) are perhaps half a century earlier.¹¹⁰ The north range of the Golden Cross is a contemporary building, but was of more elaborate construction and was one range of a courtyard Inn, not a private house.¹¹¹ Little remains or is visible of the timber framing of No. 3 Cornmarket, probably of c. 1500.¹¹² Nos. 130 and 132 High Street, which virtually complete the list of surviving medieval timber framed houses, have yet to be closely examined.¹¹³ Perhaps the closest parallel is the pair of houses on the site of King Edward Street, demolished in 1872 and recorded in very great detail by J. C. Buckler.¹¹⁴ These had timber framed fronts added to earlier stone halls, two storeys and attics above the shops, with triple jettied fronts and decorated barge boards. Both documentary and structural evidence suggest that these were of the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century; framing, like that in Mychegood's work, was widely spaced, with curved tension (and some arched) bracing, though the use of timber was somewhat more profligate.¹¹⁵ This type of framing was by now widespread over southern England. The roof is also of standard local type, with clasped purlins and diminished principals.¹¹⁶ There is nothing very remarkable about the joints employed. Hewett regards the type of dovetail used here on the tie and plate (see FIG. 9) as a widely

¹⁰⁶ W. A. Pantin, 'Medieval English Town House Plans', *Med. Arch.*, 6-7 (1962-3), 217 f.

¹⁰⁷ W. A. Pantin, 'The Development of Domestic Architecture in Oxford', *Antiq. J.*, xxvii (1947), 127, 130-3, Fig. 8.

¹⁰⁸ Pantin, *op. cit.* note 106, 206-7; D. Portman, *Exeter Houses 1400-1700* (1966), 24-30; V. Parker, *The Making of Kings Lynn* (1971), Chap. IV; C. A. Hewett, 'The Development of the Post-Medieval House', *Post-Med. Arch.*, 7 (1973), 60-78. For analogous rural developments, cf. J. T. Smith, 'The Evolution of the English Peasant House to the late seventeenth century', *J.B.A.A.*, xxxiii (1970), 122-147, esp. 134 f.

¹⁰⁹ Pantin, *op. cit.* (1947), Fig. 2.

¹¹⁰ R.C.H.M., *Oxford* (1939), 170, no. 105; C. J. Currie, *Oxon.* (1972), 181 (see n. 118 below).

¹¹¹ W. A. Pantin, 'The Golden Cross', *Oxon.*, xx (1955), 51-4, Figs. etc.

¹¹² *Ibid.*, 49, Figs. 13 and 14.

¹¹³ R.C.H.M., *Oxford* (1939), 165, no. 75 and 165-6, no. 76.

¹¹⁴ B.M. Add. MS. 36,439 f. 401-98, (illus.) and Add. MS. 27,765G f. 37-86 (text). An account of this is being written and will be published.

¹¹⁵ Cf. Buckler's cross section, *ibid.*, f. 461.

¹¹⁶ E.g. at Oseney Abbey, R.C.H.M. *Oxford* (1939), 155, no. 48; and J. T. Smith, 'Medieval Roofs, a Classification', *Arch. J.*, cxv (1958), Pl. xivb, which also has diminished principals.

¹¹⁷ C. A. Hewett, *The Development of Carpentry 1200-1700* (1969), 192, Fig. 99.

distributed one in use from the mid-fourteenth century onwards.¹¹⁷ The purlin scarf of this form was employed in the Oxford area from the early fifteenth century.¹¹⁸

Oxford falls naturally into the area where hybridization of different carpentry school forms would be used. In the roof, for example, we have the common rafter tradition, derived from the eastern school, with the addition of features common in the midlands or Severn Valley area.¹¹⁹ This building demonstrates the use of simpler and more generalized joints gradually becoming more widespread after the heyday of medieval innovation, hand in hand with the use of less specialized forms of construction for roof and walls as earlier regional differences became blurred. This might further have been affected by the influx of important carpenters from London to work on University projects, who may have influenced the products of local carpenters. But since we are dealing with a small building, we should perhaps not expect to find much more than simple features well within the competence of local builders.

The timber remains in the *Back Wing* are slight and do not need commenting on at length. There is little difference in construction detail from Mychegood's house (e.g. the manner of inserting the studding), though a middle rail is employed. It is slightly surprising that the window was not designed to take glass, particularly in view of the fact that this room was later to be decorated with wall paintings, which implies something more than a basic domestic use. An important dating factor is the barefaced soffit-tenon joint used to link the new addition to the old frame. Hewett has found them in the western part of King's College Chapel in Cambridge (c. 1510-12) and regards them as having been invented there.¹²⁰ Buckler recorded such joints in the King Edward Street houses,¹²¹ the kitchen roof at Christ Church (1523-6)¹²² and in a modified form in St. George's tower in the Castle.¹²³ The first floor of Holywell Manor (1516) also has them.¹²⁴ If current early in the sixteenth century, the appearance of the joint in 126 would allow an early date for the back wing, which must anyway predate the wall painting which belongs to the second half of the century (see also p. 305).

The *Privy* is of interest in reminding us that standards of domestic sanitation were not always as low as is commonly supposed.¹²⁵ Oxford of course still has the great 'domus necessarium' at New College,¹²⁶ and on a smaller scale Wolsey built a cosy two-holer for the almshouses in St. Aldates,¹²⁷ but examples surviving above ground are rare.

¹¹⁷ C. J. Currie, 'Scarf Joints in N. Berks. and Oxford Area', *Oxon.*, xxxvii (1972), 181-3, type 9 (i), Fig. 3.

¹¹⁸ Cf. in general J. T. Smith, 'Timber framed buildings in England', *Arch. J.*, cxvii (1965), 146-8, Figs. 7 and 8. Clasped purlins, common locally from the mid 14th century, may originate in the Severn Valley area, e.g. Middle Littleton base cruck barn (early 13th cent.), *Jnl. Soc. Archit. Historians*, xxv, 4 (Dec. 1966), 228. Diminished principals of this form are common from the 15th cent. in West Midlands town houses but do not appear in N. Berks before the Elizabethan period: information, C. J. Currie.

¹¹⁹ C. A. Hewett, *English Cathedral Carpentry* (1974), 44-5, Fig. 33.

¹²⁰ *Op. cit.* note 114, f. 436, and f. 472, perhaps dating to c. 1470.

¹²¹ B.M. Add. MS. 36,437 f. 22.

¹²² *Ibid.*, 36,436 f. 693.

¹²³ Information C. J. Currie; R.C.H.M., *Oxford* (1939), 182-3, no. 232; the date from the contract, cf. L. F. Salzman, *Building in England* (1952, 1967 reprint), 570.

¹²⁴ Cf. M. Wood, *The Medieval House* (1965) Chap. 12; Salzman, *op. cit.* note 124, 280-5; and Portman, *op. cit.* note 108, 15-16.

¹²⁵ The 'Long Room', cf. B.M. Add. MS. 36,437 f. 271-85.

¹²⁶ B.M. Add. MS. 36,439 f. 508. Part of Pembroke College, cf. V.C.H. *Oxon.*, III (1954), 292.

The framing of the first floor party wall has a post-medieval look, compared with other timberwork in the house. The use of long straight braces and irregular studing was observed in the south wall of the ' Crown Chamber ' in the Star (Clarendon Hotel, demolished—now Woolworth's) which was held to be mid-sixteenth-century.¹²⁸ Doubtless this type of wall framing continued in use long after then.

Seventeenth-Century Features : The pargetting on the attic floor was described by H. Hurst in a paper on the subject, where he referred to similar work shown by Loggan in his view of Hert Hall.¹²⁹ There was much decorated exterior plasterwork in Oxford at one time, but nearly all has been destroyed ; Hurst recorded some of the last fragments as they went.

The façade has usually been placed in the second half of the seventeenth century. There is nothing in the classical detail which was not known and being employed locally, in fireplaces of the Jacobean period, for example. Windows with arched central lights were a common feature of seventeenth-century houses in Oxford and elsewhere (e.g. Abingdon), as is shown by topographical drawings and surviving examples. They are found in Nixon's School in the Guildhall yard (c. 1657-8, now demolished)¹³⁰ and the south wing of the Golden Cross (c. 1660s).¹³¹ Better known examples outside Oxford are Sparrowes House at Ipswich (c. 1670),¹³² hence the name ' Ipswich windows ', and the Llandoger Trow in King Street, Bristol (1669).¹³³ Hinton has recently noted the similarity between the design of the façade and Wren's treatment of the south wall of the Sheldonian Theatre (1664-9), with its prominent keystones and broken pediment.¹³⁴

III. ARCHAEOLOGY BELOW GROUND

Recovery of archaeological information from the site was mainly by means of rescue observation of the activities of the contractors. By the time the site was discovered the floor had been lifted, and about 50 cm. of soil had been removed, thus destroying the stratigraphical context of the back wing's construction. Trenches D, E, F, G and H were then dug and connected by shallow trenches ; the excavation of D, G and H was observed in progress. Even this poor alternative to proper excavation proved not unfruitful. In most cases it was possible, as much as safety permitted, to observe the sections of these trenches at leisure since the work was held up until the foundation plan had been redesigned. Later Trenches I, J and K were dug, being recorded by T. G. Hassall while the writer was away from Oxford. Apart from these eight trenches, the remaining archaeological deposits have been sealed for future generations beneath a generous tonnage of concrete.

The archaeological sequence is described and followed by brief descriptions of the layers. There were few stratified finds, except where mentioned ; the main groups are described at the end.

¹²⁸ W. A. Pantin, ' The Clarendon Hotel ', *Oxon.*, xxiii (1958), 101, Figs. 33-4, Pl. XIII A.

¹²⁹ H. Hurst, ' Remains of Pargetting in Oxford ', *Berks, Bucks. & Oxon Arch. J.*, iv (1898), 105-11. Cf. D. Loggan, *Oxonia Illustrata* (1675).

¹³⁰ Cf. *Oxford Almanack* (1884), illus. in H. M. Petter, *The Oxford Almanacks* (1974), 104.

¹³¹ W. A. Pantin, *op. cit.* note 111, 54, Pl. IV.

¹³² N. Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Suffolk* (1961), Pl. 56a.

¹³³ N. Pevsner, *N. Somerset and Bristol* (1958), Pl. 52a.

¹³⁴ D. A. Hinton, *Oxford Buildings* (1973), 31.

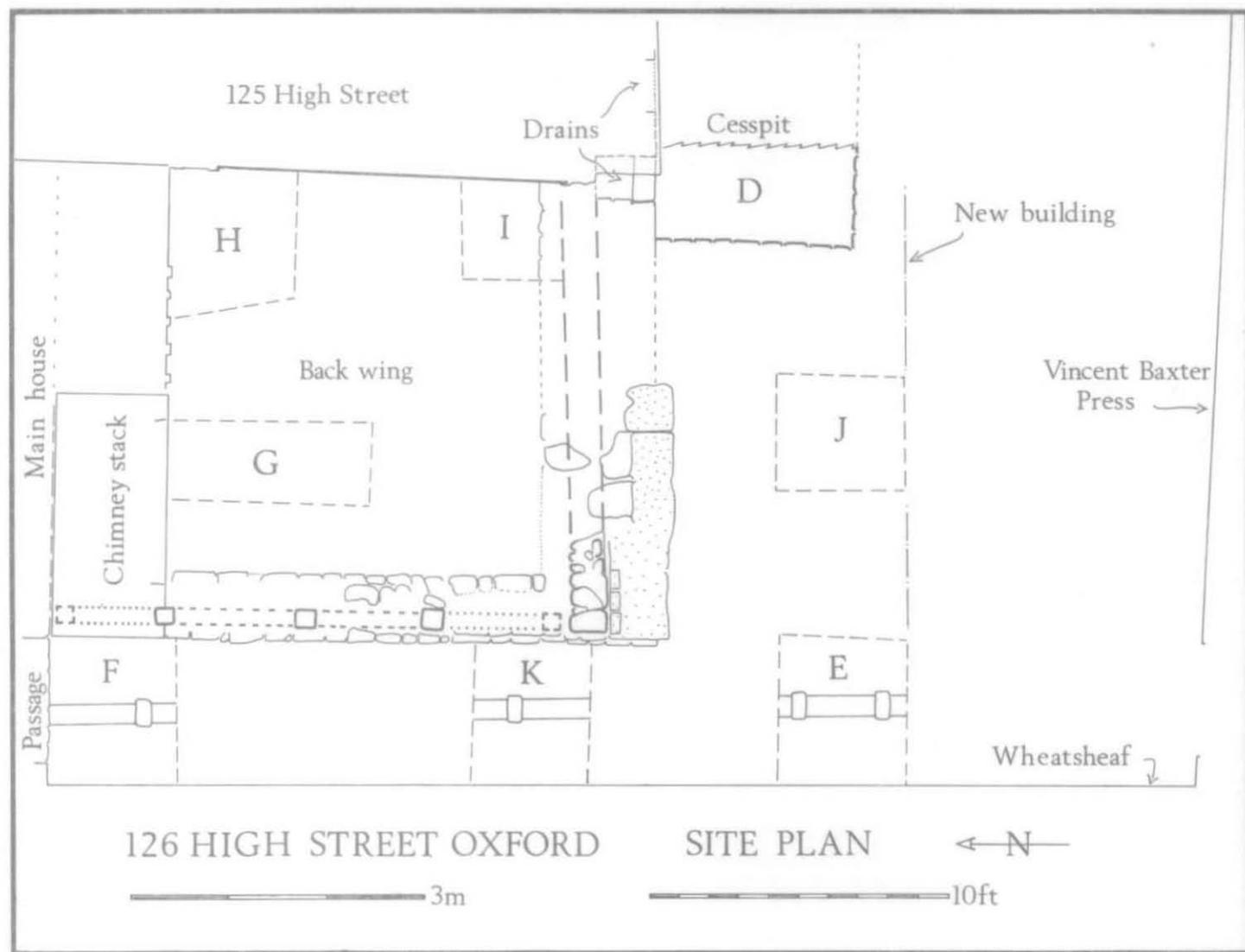


FIG. 13
Site of back wing and trenches.

A. SUMMARY OF STRATIGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE (FIGS. 13 and 14)

Natural gravel was found in most of the trenches on the site, and at its highest point of contact with primary red-brown loam was 61.90 m. O.D. Primary loam was found *in situ* in F, H and most extensively in J where there appeared to be a hearth on its surface (J6). Elsewhere it had been cut away by pits or was re-deposited. Late Saxon type pottery and other types, including tripod pitcher and thus dating up to the mid twelfth century at least were recovered from rubbish pits in D, G, H and I (see Ci below). These early pits were sealed by floor surfaces in G and H, and other layers in I and K. Remains of a floor with early fourteenth-century tiles in G (see Cii) and a hearth in Hg indicate that this must have been the floor level for some time during the medieval period. The extent of the building or area implied by this was by no means clear. It was perhaps an undercroft or even the hall itself if the general ground surface was then lower. More widespread was the level immediately above this (F3, 4, G10, H8, 6, I4, J3, K5); a brown loam, often loose, with stone and plaster. This seemed likely to be demolition dump from a building the larger stones of which had been removed. Three finds from this layer would place the dumping in or after the late fifteenth century (see Ciii). The trenches inside the back wing had gravel layers sealing the demolition dump (G4-9, H4-5 and I3) with more homogeneous loam build-up above (G2, H2-3 and I2). It is possible that this activity could be related to the building of Mychegood's house, though there is no reason to suppose that its foundations would have caused much disturbance (*cf.* F8-10) and it is probable that the buildings behind remained whilst the street front was built. Most probably these layers represent the demolition of the hall-service range immediately before the construction of the back wing. There was no obvious archaeological context for construction, the foundations of which may have been built up as the second layer of dump was deposited. Mortar spread in I1 and J2 could be associated with it, and further traces of these levels would have been removed in the contractors' general clearance and shallow trenches. The foundations (see above p. 277) were not very deep. In D, the building, use and final filling of the cess-pit could not be associated with any other levels, though its construction was contemporary with that of the back wing. A group of a few fragments of glass and pottery seem to date the filling of the cess-pit to the mid sixteenth century (see p. 308).

No level remained through which the narrow trench for the chimney stack had been cut (F, G1, 1a) except a small section connecting G with H (see main section, FIG. 14). When the Wheatsheaf passage was rebuilt in 1896 a deep foundation trench was dug along the west side of the site. Sewage and then electrical service trenches were dug along the passage to the premises at the rear, further obscuring the stratigraphy of the site.

B. DESCRIPTION OF TRENCHES

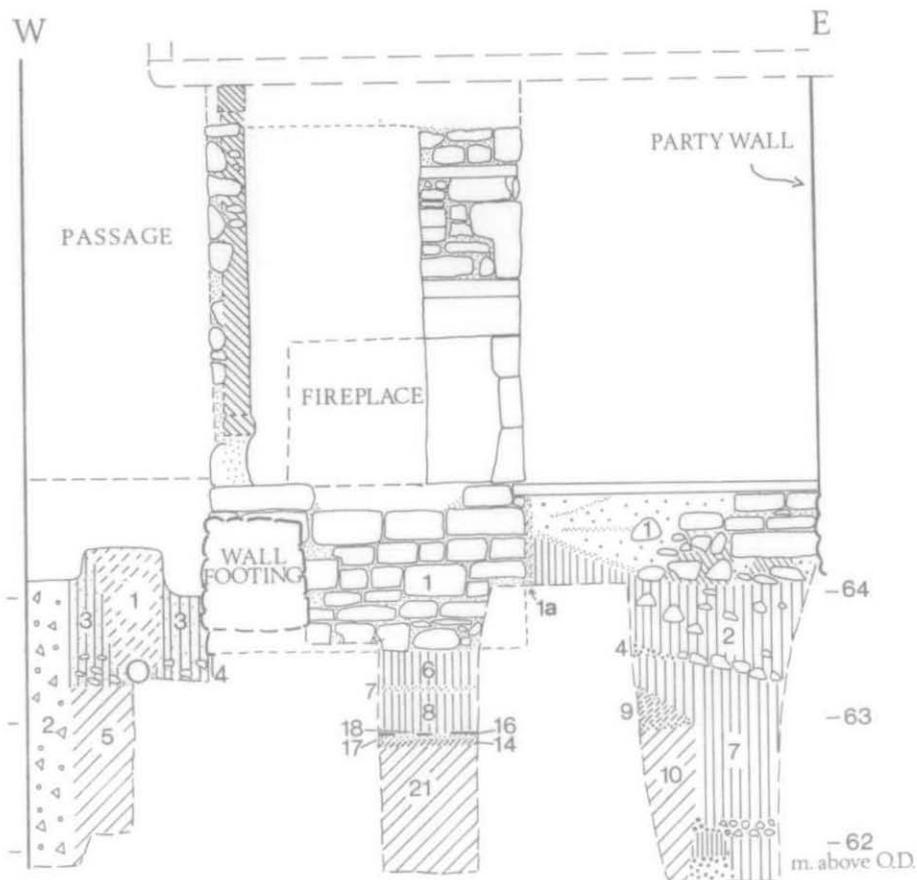
(D) (FIG. 15). By chance, the contractors' trench in the south-east corner of the new building coincided with a stone-lined cess-pit. Only at the south end was the trench cleared down to natural gravel. When finally the trench was filled with liquid concrete the drain exit was protected by shuttering.

1 Below the cess-pit: Complete examination of the section was not possible, but it looked as if the trench followed one rubbish pit down to gravel. A fragment of burnt daub, a

cinder, and a few corroded iron scraps were recovered, with late Saxon type pottery (see below).

2 The cess-pit : This was constructed at the same time as the back wing, the foundations of which were extended down at this point to accommodate it (and serve as its north wall). The south and west sides of the pit were coursed rubble, and the latter was bonded into the

126 HIGH STREET OXFORD



SECTION THROUGH BACK WING

3m

10ft.

FIG. 14

Main section through back wing and trenches below it, showing south section (reversed) of F and north sections of G and H.

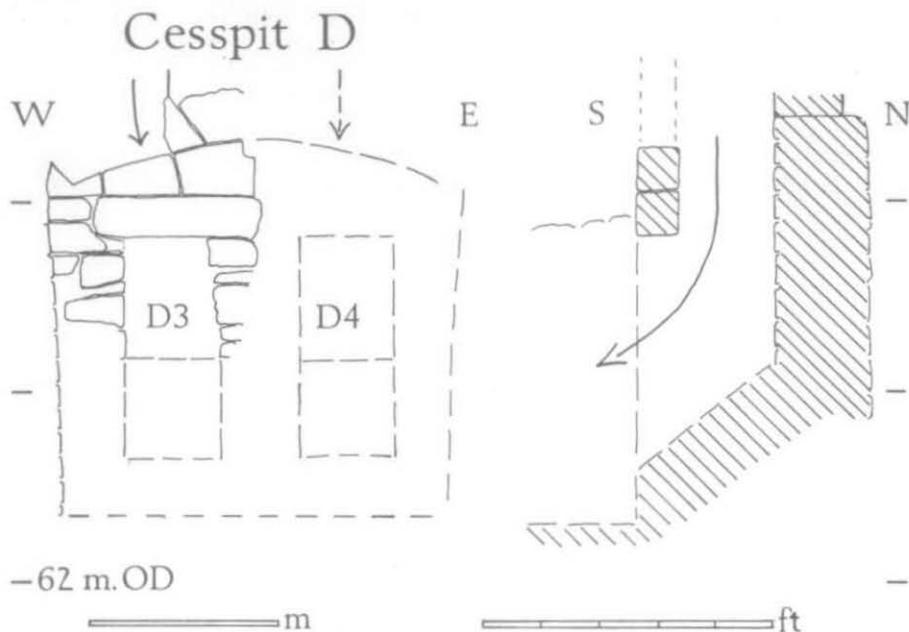


FIG. 15

Cess-pit in back wing, north elevation and section looking west.

foundation of the back wing. The east wall was beyond the limit of the contractors' trench (in 125) and was not reached during these excavations. The sides were 63·80 m. O.D. at their highest and descended to 62·40 m. O.D. where there were reported to have been stones across the bottom. The pit was fed from two drains on the north side, which came down from the upper storeys of the back wings (see above p. 280) and shot forward and out under lintelled exits with sloping rear walls. Over the two lintelled drains was a curved relieving arch of ashlar, the western half of which could be seen. The main fill of the cess-pit was excavated by the contractors and contained mortar, rubble and many fragments of roof tiles and stone slates. A limited amount of clearing was undertaken on the two drain exits, which produced a small group of glass and pottery, presumably contemporary with the final filling of the cess-pit and dating to the mid sixteenth century (see p. 306).

3 The western drain shute (from 126) was blocked off with stone at modern ground level. The final deposit was a black clay-loam containing glass and a few sherds.

4 The eastern drain shute (from 125) contained a similar fill, but the drain survives above unblocked, and must be closed off further up the building.

The final filling of the cess-pit and blocking of the west drain may well have been associated with building operations (*cf.* the tiles and slates in 2), perhaps when the back wall was rebuilt on the ground floor.

(E). Dug at the south-west corner of the new building. Only the west half was excavated to the depth of natural gravel. Construction trenches for the Wheatsheaf foundation and services had removed many of the archaeological features in the trench. Its condition did not invite examination with any safety, but the sections must have been similar to K, described below. Some late post-medieval glass bottles were recovered by the contractors from the upper layers of the trench, and a fragmentary clay pipe bowl (see below, p. 308).

(F) (FIG. 14). Dug in the north-west corner against the back wall of the main house. Only the western half was taken down below the level of the sewer pipe. The short east section did not relate the construction of the main house to the stratigraphy of the rest of the site.

North Section :

- 10 Footing of back wall of main house, in coursed rubble, the lowest course offset. Greatest depth 61.95 m. O.D.
- 11 Black loam, 4 cm. thick, below 10.
- 12 Red loam, 4 cm. thick, below 11.
- 13 Redeposited gravel, 15 cm. thick, below 12.
- 14 Primary red-brown loam, 20 cm. thick, below 13.

East Section : Above the level of the sewer pipe, the foundations of the chimney stack in the back wing, almost flush with 10 on the north, and cutting the foundation of the back wing (west wall) leaving a narrow gap (*cf.* G1a).

The lower part of the section was below the sewer pipe along the centre of the trench.

Towards the north : 9 Vertical band of black loam and rubble, 25 cm. wide against 10.

8 A similar band of rubble, sand and clay, next to 9 towards the south.

These were presumably associated with the construction of 10 ; to their south :

6 Clay layer below sewer pipe, 10 cm. deep, sealing

7 Pit, with layers of ash and sand.

Both 6 and 7 cut by 8 and 5. Gravel below this.

South Section (FIG. 14) :

- 1 Sewer trench.
- 2 Construction trench of Wheatsheaf passage.
- 3 Brown gravelly loam continuation of 4.
(The footing of the west wall of the back wing appeared in the section, but made no discernible cutting through 3.)
- 4 Rubble and brown loam 'demolition dump' with fragments of wall plaster.
- 5 Black loam with lenses, presumably pit. Continues on east, cutting 6 and 7.

(G) (FIGS. 14 and 16). Dug inside the back wing, from the chimney stack into the centre of the room. A small trench was dug from the north end of G towards the west wall. The depth of this footing was ascertained, but no construction trench was visible. The narrow construction trench of the stack (1a) was cleared and its powdery white fill removed, but no dating evidence was recovered.

- 2 Homogeneous brown gravelly loam (second dumping).
- 3 Mortar, continuing as 9 on east.
- 4 Gravel, not continued on east.
- 5 Light brown loam, on west and south only.
- 9 Thin gravel continuation of 3 on east.
- 10 'Demolition dump.' Brown gravelly loam base, with a loose fill containing mortar, plaster and rubble above, and purer loam above that. This was on all sides except the north, where clean brown loam 6 and 8 with a sandy layer 7 between was at the same level.

On the north side a layer of dark red plaster or mortar 18, apparently burnt, lay over some broken floor tiles 16 on a pink and white mortar bedding 17. This tile floor, virtually *in situ*, and dating perhaps to the early fourteenth century (see Cii), did not obviously relate to the other two sections, though it continued on the east side for 30 cm.

- 11 Black loam below 10, not contiguous with, but probably equivalent to 18.
- 15 Continuation of 11 on east, but more clayey.
- 12 Yellow clay below 11, on south side only.

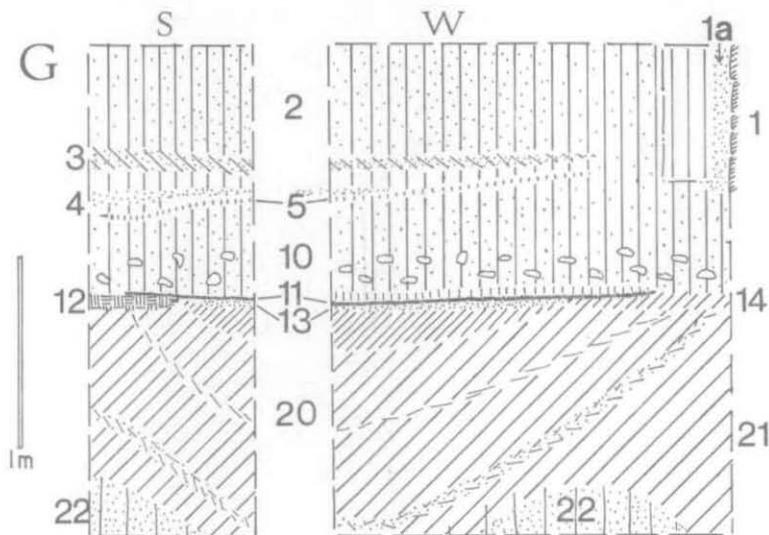


FIG. 16

Trench G, south and west sections. Scale 1 : 40.

13 White plaster/mortar below 11. A similar layer overlying 15 on the east contained fragments of plaster and may belong to 10.

14 Light brown gravelly loam below 11 and 13 on west, 17 on north and 15 on east, levelling off the pits below.

19 Brown gravel levelling off dip in Pit 21 at north end of east section.

Without further excavation, it was difficult to see how these layers related to the tile floor, or even whether they belonged to the pits below or the dumped material above. A level surface was provided by 12, 13, 14 and 15, though there was no ubiquitous mortar bedding, 13 probably being equivalent to 17 though not contiguous with it. The floor may have been systematically removed, or was perhaps never very extensive. Traces of burning in 18 could be associated with the hearth material in H9.

20 Pit with black loam fill, gravel and ash lenses, cutting 21. A St. Neot's type rim was recovered from the bottom of this pit (see p. 302).

21 Pit at north end.

22 Gravel, probably redeposited natural.

(H) (FIGS. 14 and 17). Dug in the north-east corner of the site against the timber partition at the back of the shop and the stone party wall of the back wing on the east. It was joined to G by a shallow trench on the north, which provided the only section that survived up to the floor level of the demolished building.

1 Rubble with orange mortar and brown loam in the north-east corner, merging with the foundations of the party wall on the east. Perhaps this last, together with the sloping mortar layer in the small connecting trench with G (main section, no number) represents a trench dug for the building of the party wall foundations.

2 Gravelly loam with large stones, beneath 1, on north and east sides.

3 Dark gravelly loam continuation of 2 on west and south. Secondary dumping.

4 Sloping gravel lens beneath 3 and 2.

5 Plaster/mortar continuation of 4 to west and south (4 on FIG. 17).

6 Brown gravelly loam beneath 4 and 5, cut by 2 on east and 7 on west.

7 Sterile pit, sealed by 2 and 4, cutting 6 and 8-14 in north-east corner.

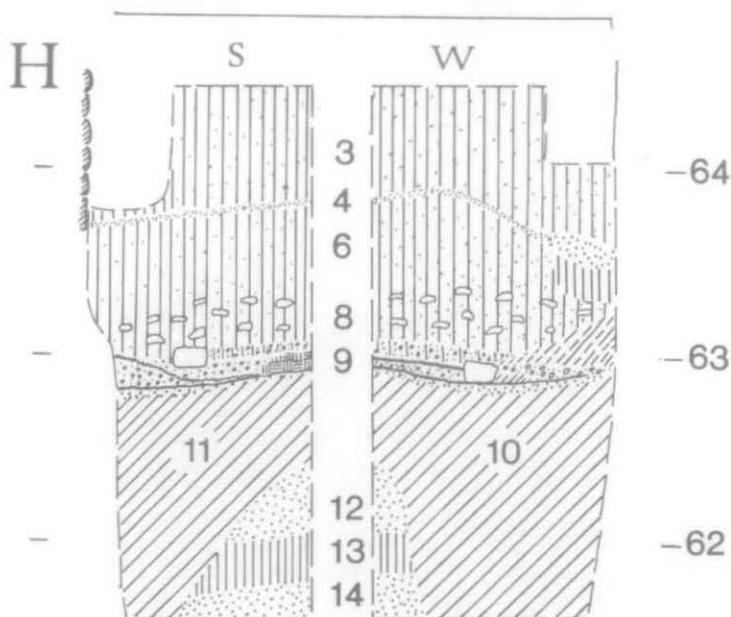


FIG. 17

Trench H, south and west sections. Scale 1 : 40. Height in metres above O.D.

8 Rubble 'demolition dump' merging into homogeneous loam 6 above. From this apparently came the ? salt and buckle, probably of fifteenth-century date (see p. 304). A worked stone, coloured as if burnt, came from this layer (see p. 305).

9 A group of layers sealed by 8. Somewhat obscure in section, they appeared to be floor levels consisting of gravelly loam spreads with black ashy layers in between. A higher accumulation of ash and burnt material in the north-east corner seemed to be a hearth.

Two pits 10 and 11, sealed by 9 and cutting 12-14. Pottery and other artefacts were recovered from the indistinguishable upper layers of these pits, and a small amount from 11 only, at a later stage. None of this was later than the twelfth century (see Ci). The section did not elucidate which pit was earlier, though a count of the fabric proportions would suggest that 10 was later than 11.

12 Redeposited gravel between 10 and 11 on the south-west and between 7 and 11 on the east.

13 Primary red-brown loam beneath 12.

14 Natural gravel beneath 13.

(I) (FIG. 18). Dug inside the south-east corner of the back wing. North and west sections recorded by T. G. Hassall. In the south section, the increase in depth of the south footing of the back wing to a depth of 1.60 m. to accommodate the cess-pit has been noted above. The south wall has a straight joint with the east party wall.

1 Mortar spread.

2 Mixed brown loam with ash, plaster and pebbles.

3 Thin mortar spread sealing 4.

4 Mixed brown loam with mortar flecks, stone and loose tiles; loose in places. This 'demolition dump' continued under the footings to the east and south. Part of a fifteenth-century costrel was found in it (see p. 305).

5 Thin band of clay with silt above, sealing 6. Approximately the same level, but hardly as substantial as the 'floor levels' in G and H.

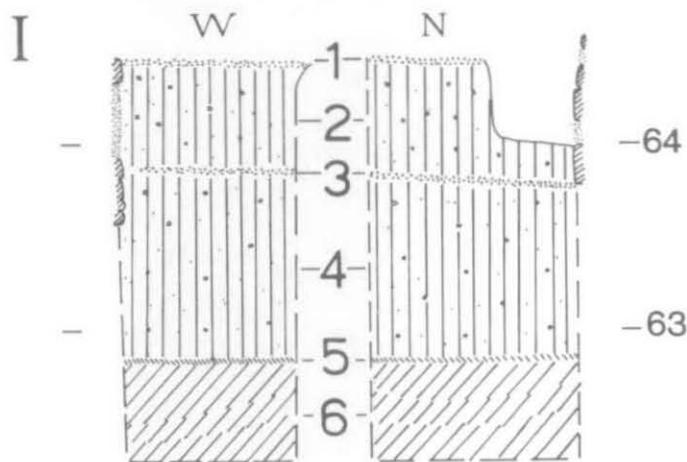


FIG. 18

Trench I, west and north sections. Scale 1 : 40. Height in metres above O.D.

6 Pit fill. One base sherd of grit and shell fabric.
The trench was not excavated down to the gravel.

(J) (FIG. 19). Dug outside the back wing, in the centre of the back wall of the new building. The north and west sections were recorded by T. G. Hassall. Bottom of section at 61.50 m. O.D.

- 1 Loam, 20 cm. thick.
- 2 Mortar layer, 3 cm. thick.
- 3 Mixed loam and stones cutting down to natural gravel through 4, 5, 6 and 7. Might be the same as the 'demolition dump' in other trenches, but more probably a pit.
- 4 Sterile pit in north-east corner, cutting 5, 7 and 8.
- 5 Part of a sterile pit remaining between 3 and 4 on north.
- 6 Burnt layer, 5 cm. thick, sealed by 5 and lying on 7.
- 7 Red-brown primary loam 35 cm. thick, beneath 5 and 6.
- 8 Natural gravel beneath 7. Highest point 61.65 m. O.D.

(K) (FIG. 19). Dug against the wall of the Wheatsheaf, beneath the passage from the street. North section recorded by T. G. Hassall.

- 1 Contractor's trench against west wall of back wing, cutting 3 and 5.
- 2 Electrical service trench against Wheatsheaf wall, cutting 3 and 4.
- 3 Sewer trench cutting 4 and 5.
- 4 Foundation trench of Wheatsheaf passage, cutting 5, 6 and 7. Dug in 1896.
- 5 Mixed brown loam 'demolition dump'. Lowest point 62.97 m. O.D. This continues east under the foundations of the back wing, which go down to 63.62 m. O.D.
- 6 Two thin ash layers with loam and a clay band between. At most 20 cm. thick. Approximately the same level as 'floors' in G and H but more probably associated with 7.
- 7 Sterile pit, continuing east under the west wall of the back wing, and apparently to the west also.
- 8 Sterile pit.
- 9 Red-brown primary loam, probably redeposited.
- 10 Natural gravel, perhaps redeposited.

The south face was excavated on the west side below the sewer trench, but the rest of the section was essentially the same as that on the north face.

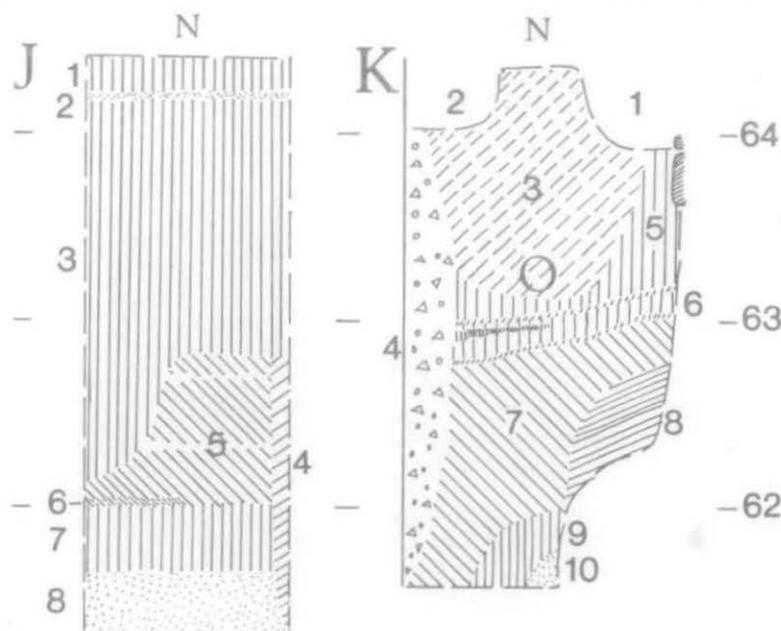


FIG. 19
Trenches J and K, north sections. Scale 1 : 40. Height shown in metres above O.D.

C. ARTEFACTS

The limited scale of excavation restricted the number and usefulness of finds from the site. Unfortunately, no serious collection of faunal or floral material was possible below ground, though a few bones were recovered. The early pottery 'group' is neither large nor coherent enough to make any general deductions valuable. In any case, once enough of certain types have been recognized and published, there is little worth doing with unstratified material. With this in mind, only the more complete examples have been illustrated or described. The finds are now deposited in the Ashmolean Museum.

Bibliography

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Castle Mound</i> | E. M. Jope, 'Late Saxon Pits under Oxford Castle Mound', <i>Oxoniensia</i> , xvii/xviii (1952-3), 77-111. |
| <i>Clarendon Hotel</i> | E. M. Jope, 'The Clarendon Hotel, Oxford', <i>Oxoniensia</i> , xxiii (1958), 1-83. |
| <i>Guildhall Museum</i> | <i>Guildhall Museum Catalogue</i> , 2nd ed. (1908). |
| <i>Logic Lane</i> | F. Radcliffe, 'Excavations at Logic Lane, Oxford', <i>Oxoniensia</i> , xxvi/xxvii (1961-2), 38-69. |
| <i>London Museum</i> | <i>London Museum Medieval Catalogue</i> (1954 ed.). |
| <i>Seacourt</i> | M. Biddle, 'The Deserted Medieval Village of Seacourt, Berkshire', <i>Oxoniensia</i> , xxvi/xxvii (1961-2), 70-201. |

(i) Late Saxon-12th century finds

POTTERY (FIG. 20)

D 25 sherds were recovered from below the floor of the cess-pit, evidently from an earlier rubbish pit. Of these, 11 had a coarse grit or shell fill and 14 a sandy fill.

Coarse fabrics : mostly body sherds.

D1.1 Tubular spout from pitcher. Sand and crushed flint fill, red-brown colour, darker internally. Grey-black core. Cf. *Castle Mound*, Fig. 34.

Not illus. Rim from cooking-pot with everted rim-flange. Grit fill. Black. As *Logic Lane*, Fig. 13, No. 13.

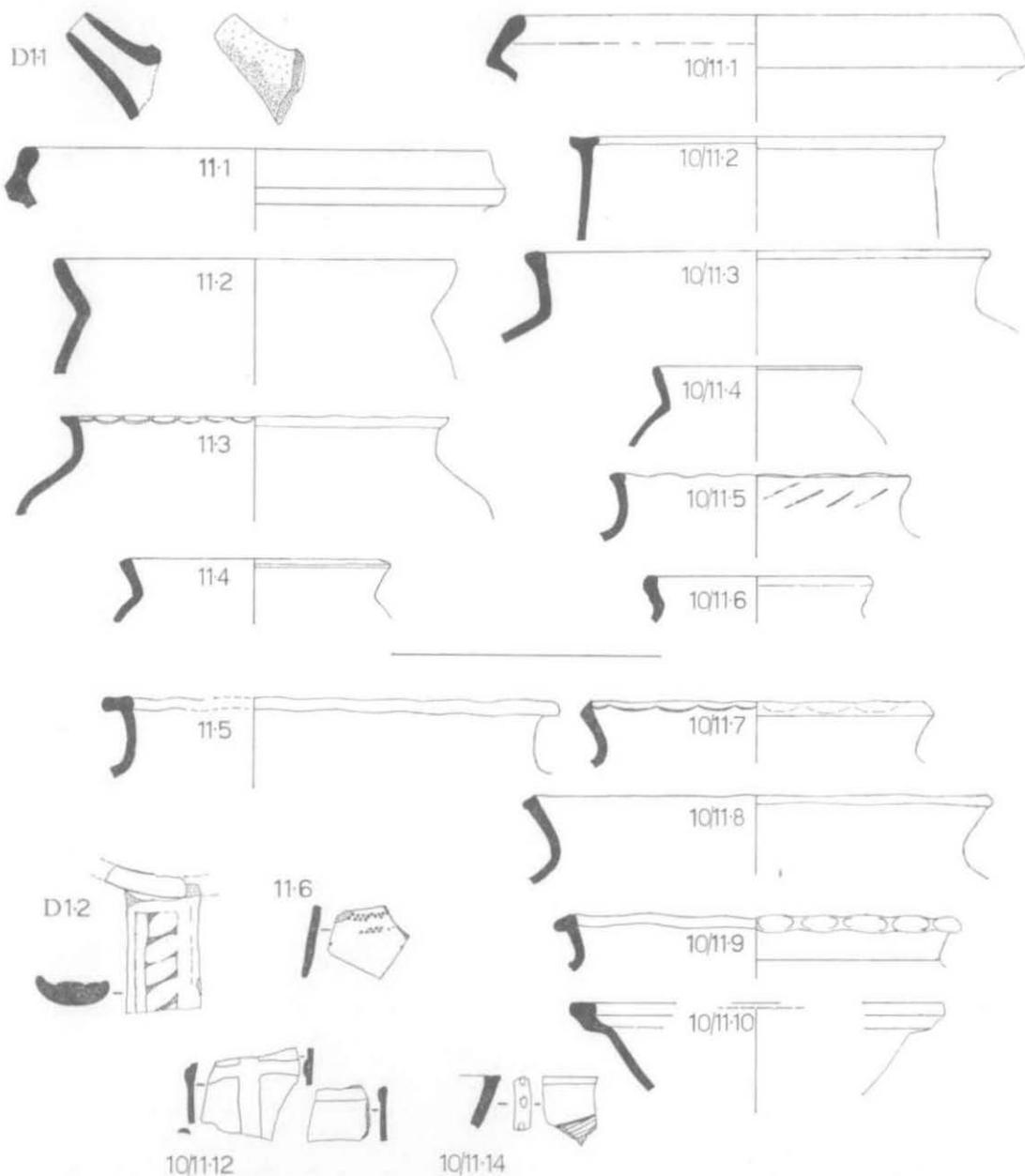


FIG. 20

Pottery, twelfth-century or earlier, from D and H. Above, coarse fabrics ; below, sandy fabric. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Sandy fabric :

D1.2 Handle from a tripod pitcher. Sandy fabric, buff exterior with blue-grey core. Yellow-green glaze. Twisted strip in middle of handle. Cf. *Clarendon Hotel*, 54-7, Fig. 19.

G From an ashly lens at the bottom of Pit 20.

Not illus. Rim and body sherd of cooking-pot. St. Neots type fabric, with a fine shell fill ; Purple-black exterior, grey-black core. As *Logic Lane*, Fig. 9.

H Pit 11 produced a sample of 84 sherds when the bottom of the trench was widened. Of these, 54 were of coarse fabrics, 28 of sandy fabric and two were glazed. The proportion of coarse fabrics being higher than sandy, 11 alone is perhaps earlier than 10, as represented by 10/11 (see below). The numbers are of course too small to be significant. For fabric changes, cf. *Clarendon Hotel*, Fig. 20, p. 55.

Coarse fabrics : Five rims, one shallow dish, the rest cooking-pots with everted rim-flanges. Eleven base-angle sherds.

H11.1 Rim of shallow dish with inturned rim-flange. Shell fill, lying parallel to surface. Pink-buff exterior and grey-black core. As *Castle Mound*, Fig. 32, No. 6 and *Clarendon Hotel*, Fig. 15, C3.1.

H11.2 Cooking-pot with everted rim-flange, rounded rim. Grit and shell fill. Brown and purple-black on exterior, grey-black core. Type as *Clarendon Hotel*, Fig. 11, CIB.2 and 3.

H11.3 Cooking-pot with slightly everted rim-flange. Rim lightly finger-tipped. Grit and sand fill, smooth exterior. Red-brown to black on exterior, grey-black core.

H11.4 Cooking-pot with everted rim-flange. Grit and sand fill ? with mica. Purple-orange-black on exterior, grey core.

Sandy fabric : Three rim sherds from one vessel, the rest body sherds representing 3-5 individuals.

H11.5 Rim of large cooking-pot, lightly finger-tipped rim. Hard sandy fabric. Grey-black interior, buff exterior, blue-grey core.

Glazed sherds :

H11.6 Body sherd of Stamford type ware. Very fine creamy fabric, yellow crackled glaze on exterior. Traces of roulette pattern.

Not illus. Body sherd of glazed (probably tripod) vessel. Hard fabric, fine sand fill. Traces of green mottled glaze on exterior. Buff interior, grey core.

A mixed group was dug out of the upper layers of pits 10 and 11 by the contractor's workmen. Of the sherds, 205 were of sandy fabric and 229 had a shell or grit fill. Sherds of tripod pitcher were also recovered.

Coarse fabrics : 25 different rims were represented, many too fragmentary to allow full identification, but were mostly from cooking-pots with everted rims. 31 base angle sherds, one from a flat-bottomed cooking-pot with steep sides, base diameter 30 cm.

H10/11.1 Rim of shallow dish with inturned rim flange. Grit and shell fill. Grey-pink and black exterior, grey core. Greatest diam. 30 cm. As *Logic Lane*, Fig. 10, No. 4.

H10/11.2 Three rim sherds of straight-sided cooking-pot. Grit, shell and sand fill. Pink-buff interior, brown black exterior, grey core.

H10/11.3 Four rim sherds of cooking-pot with everted rim-flange. Coarse grit and shell fill, but smooth surface. Grey-brown, becoming black. Grey core.

H10/11.4 Rim of cooking-pot with everted rim-flange. Grit and shell fill, smooth exterior. Grey-brown interior, purple-black exterior, grey core.

H10/11.5 Two rim sherds of cooking-pot with everted rim-flange. Grit and sand fill, smooth exterior. Red-brown interior, darker exterior, grey-black core.

H10/11.6 Rim of cooking-pot with everted rim-flange. Grit and sand fill. Black, grey core.

Sandy fabrics : A minimum of 14 vessels was represented by 19 rim sherds and 22 base angles. Nearly all were cooking-pots with everted rim flanges.

H10/11.7 Two sherds of lightly finger-tipped rim. Hard grey-black fabric, grey core.

H10/11.8 Rim sherds of fine sandy fabric, grey interior, buff-grey exterior, blue-grey core.

H10/11.9 Two sherds of finger-tipped rim, grey interior, black exterior, dark grey core.

H10/11.10 Rim of large deep pan. Hard sandy fabric with white specks. Orange-brown interior, brown exterior, grey core. Reconstruction probably as *Clarendon Hotel*, Fig. 18, Z.12. Diameter perhaps 45 cm.

Glazed sherds : About four pitchers were represented by 45 sherds.

H10/11.11 Five body sherds of pitcher. Hard sandy fabric, buff-red interior, grey core and thin yellow-green glaze on exterior. Not illustrated.

H10/11.12 Six sherds, including foot, from tripod pitcher. Hard sandy fabric, grey-black with red tinge to core. Dark green glaze. Traces of decoration with applied strips of clay.

H10/11.13 Thirteen sherds from tripod pitcher. Harsh sandy fabric, grey-black interior, blue-grey core. Exterior buff-orange with yellow-green glaze. Applied strip and scratched line decoration. Not illustrated.

H10/11.14 Rim sherd from pitcher. Harsh sandy fabric with grey core and olive green glaze. Top of rim punched, as *Seacourt*, Fig. 19, 2 and 3. Incised lines on exterior.

This pottery, all sealed below the floor of a later medieval building, adds little to our knowledge of early medieval pottery in Oxford, the main types and sequences of which has been well established by the work of Professor E. M. Jope and others. The presence of tripod pitchers must put the 'group' into the twelfth century, though there is nothing in it that need belong to the thirteenth.

SMALL FINDS (FIG. 21)

Clay : D1 A burnt daub fragment, associated with the pottery described above.

H10/11 Part of a bun-shaped loom weight, fine fabric, orange-red exterior, grey-black core. Cf. *Clarendon Hotel*, Fig. 23, c, d, and e.

H10/11 Spindle whorl of fine white clay, with cylindrical perforation and concentric rings of the exterior, as if turned. As *Archaeologia Oxoniensis* (1892-5), Pl. opposite p. 1.
Iron : A few corroded pieces were recovered from D1 and H10/11, some of which could be identified, especially after being X-rayed by Miss Birgül Biktimir of the London Institute of Archaeology.

D1 Tip of hunting arrow, with forked blade, as *London Museum*, 66, Fig. 16 type 6, 68 (undated); and *Guildhall Museum*, 227, M.xvii. 20-23, Pl. 89, nos. 25-8.

Knife, broad blade of uncertain shape, narrow tang.

Small nails, not illustrated.

H10/11 Part of spur of early form, probably straight-armed, now bent. As *London Museum*, 95, Fig. 28, type Cii (twelfth century or earlier) and Fig. 29, no. 5.

Knife, broken end of blade, possibly of scramasax type.

Small nails, not illustrated.

Lead : H10/11 A small weight, an irregular triangle in section, with perforation.

Chalk : H10/11 Rough cube of chalk 2 × 2 × 2.5 cm. Not illustrated. Cf. *Castle Mound*, Fig. 38, p. 98; *Clarendon Hotel*, Fig. 23, p. 74-5.

Apart from the absence of worked bone, this is a typical 'late Saxon' assemblage, comparing with evidence of domestic and industrial activity from other sites in Oxford of this period.

(ii) Fourteenth century

FLOOR TILES

Dr. A. B. Emden has kindly looked at tracings of the tile fragments, and has identified parts of Haberley XVII, XXV and XXXIX.¹³⁵ He writes 'all three are keyed specimens

¹³⁵ Letter, 16th Jan. 1974; Cf. Loyd Haberley, *Medieval English Pavingtiles* (1937). David Ganz has also helped with the descriptions of the tiles.

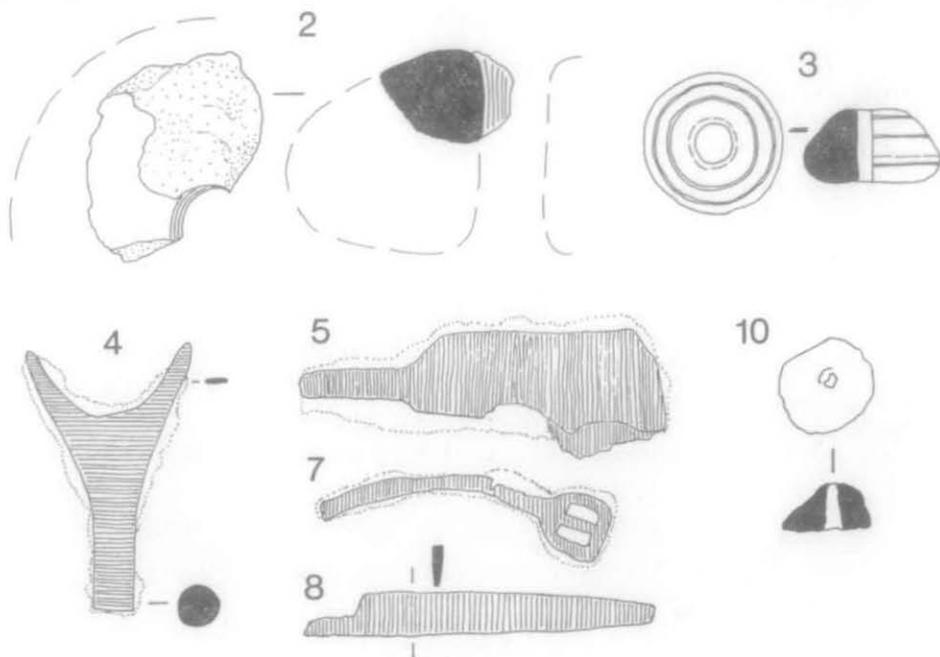


FIG. 21

Small finds, twelfth-century or earlier. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

and may be dated to the first half of the 14th century, probably *c.* 1330. They are among the patterns which occurred on tiles found in St. Peter's-in-the-East.¹³⁶

A1 (Not stratified) 1.9 cm. thick ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.). Keyed and inlaid. Green-brown glaze. Haberley XXXIX.

A2 (Not stratified) 3 fragments, 2 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed and inlaid. Dark green-brown glaze. Haberley XXXIX.

A3 (Not stratified) 1.9 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed and inlaid. Traces of dark green glaze. Worn. Possibly part of Haberley XVII (FIG. 22).

G16a 1.9 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed and inlaid. Green-brown glaze (FIG. 22).

G16b 1.9 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed (square, not rounded) and inlaid. Dark brown-green glaze. Two fragments. Haberley XVII.

G16c 2 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed and printed. Pattern worn probably part of d.

G16d 2 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed and printed. Orange-yellow and green glaze. Haberley XXV.

G16e 2.1 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed and printed. Yellow-green glaze. Three fragments. Haberley XXV.

G17 1.9 cm. ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) thick. Keyed and inlaid. Orange-yellow glaze.

G16 and 17, several other fragments, too worn or shattered to be identifiable.

(iii) From 'Demolition Dump' of Medieval Building (FIG. 23)

H8 ?Salt, base and lower part of bowl only. Bowl added to stem, which is hollow and thinned towards the base with knife trimming. Notched rim round base. Fine

¹³⁶ A. B. Emden, 'Medieval floor tiles in St Peter-in-the-East, Oxford', *Oxon.*, xxxiv (1969), 29 f. where other find-spots of these types are recorded. XVII = SPE (4), XXV = SPE (5) and XXXIX = SPE (17).

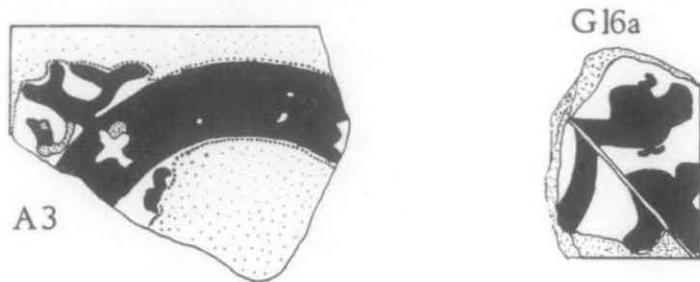


FIG. 22
Unidentified floor tiles. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

hard fabric, with some sand, cream and white. Dark, thick green glaze on exterior with dark green-black specks. Inside only sparse glaze, mottled green and yellow. Surrey type, probably fifteenth-century.

Comparanda: A.M.1909.1173c. Radcliffe Square. Probably the same type of vessel, but with holes cut in stem. Similar fabric and glaze, notched base and internal trimming. Guildhall Museum, London M.ix.449 (Acc. No. 6016). Candlestick. Fine white fabric, green glaze. Similar notched base and internal trimming. Not illustrated.

Although this vessel type is frequently called a salt, it could equally be used as a lamp with a floating wick, and indeed would fit in with the sequence of lamps known in the earlier medieval period.¹³⁷

I4 Costrel, upper part, handles and mouth only. Fine smooth fabric, creamy orange. Speckled orange-green glaze. Mammiform type, *i.e.* with flat base (back) and domed top (front), made in one piece—the neck and handles added later.

A similar example, probably made in the Oxford area, has recently been excavated in Reading Abbey and may be related to the one illustrated here.¹³⁸ Perhaps late fifteenth century.

H8 Buckle, of double-looped type. Copper alloy. The front has a repeated incised notch decoration round the loops. Late fifteenth century or later.¹³⁹

Although not closely datable, this group could well have been deposited in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. The demolition of the rear buildings, which immediately preceded the rebuilding of the back wings, should come after the introduction of the diminished haunch joint (? '1510-12') and within the likely period of use of the timber dated by dendrochronology (? '1495-1505'). On this evidence the group is perhaps all fifteenth century.

(iv) Building Materials

A large number of fragments of roof tile were found, mostly unstratified. Typically they are of harsh sandy fabric, red with a grey core, many partially covered with a dark green-brown glaze. A few sherds of ridge tile were also recovered (one as Jope, *Oxoniensia*, xvi (1951), 86-8, Fig. 12, Nos. 7 or 8).

Stone slates were found in some quantity in the main fill of the cess-pit D2.

Wall plaster lay amongst rubble in the 'demolition dump' of F4, and around the footings of the back wing C.

A squared limestone block, (15 × 34 × max. 21 cm.) with a hollow moulding lay in the

¹³⁷ For a later series, with both a 'salt' and candlesticks, *cf.* *Post-Med. Arch.*, 3 (1969), Fig. 3, No. 49.

¹³⁸ For the type, *cf.* G. C. Dunning, *Proc. Hants. Field Club*, xxvi (1969), 108-10, Fig. 40; For Reading, S. Moorhouse in C. F. Slade, 'Excavations at Reading Abbey', *Berks Arch. J.*, 66 (1971-2), 104, Fig. 14, No. 50.

¹³⁹ *London Mus. Cat.* 278-9, Pl. LXXVII, No. 10; Ilse Fingerlin, *Gürtel des hohen und späten Mittelalters*, Berlin (1971), 185, 400, Nos. 303-4; G. F. Bryant and J. M. Steane, *Jnl. Northants. Museum and Art Gall.*, 9 (1971), 50, Fig. 11, No. C5

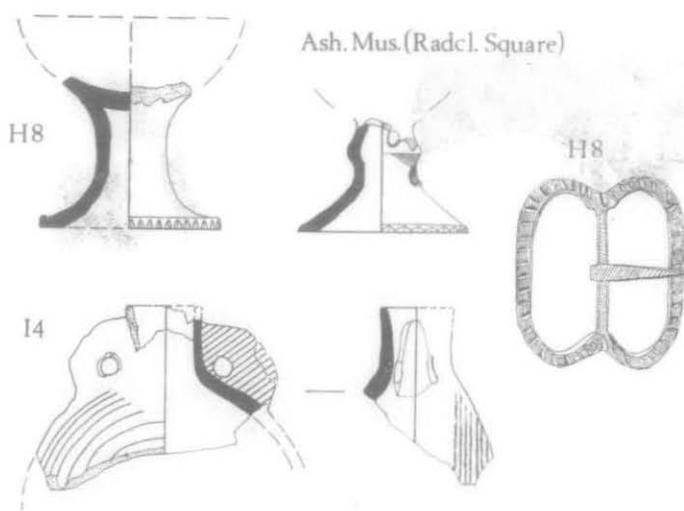


FIG. 23

Finds from 'demolition dump', c. fifteenth century. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$, buckle $\frac{1}{4}$.

'demolition dump' H8, and showed signs of burning. A smaller piece, also limestone, with a hollow moulding ($15 \times 12 \times 10$ cm.) came from the top of the timber party wall of the first floor in the back wing.

(v) *Cess-pit Group. From D2, 3 and 4.* By J. HASLAM

GLASS

Descriptions (FIG. 24)

- 1 Neck of bulbous flask, the lip somewhat roughly cut while the vessel was on the pontil. Weathered glass, originally green.
- 2 Neck and base of a hexagonal bottle, probably of the same vessel. The neck was roughly cut while the vessel was held by the pontil; width of pontil mark on base: 13 mm. Neck and base of weathered green glass.
- 3 Base of large bulbous flask, approx. 8 cm. diameter at base, with high kick-up. The underside shows mould blown ribbing, probably spiral, with a ring of thicker glass showing the limit of the mould. Pontil mark width: 25 mm. Weathered green glass.
- 4 Small fragments of rim, and convex base of urinal, of probably elongated form.¹⁴¹ Both neck and base of weathered bluish-green glass. Pontil mark width: 23 mm.
- 5 and 6 Rim and part of the folded foot of a beaker; weathered green glass. These are probably of the same vessel, but no reconstruction has been attempted.

POTTERY

Descriptions (FIG. 25)*Fine wares*

- 1 Part of lower part of mug; hard fine purple-brown fabric, with dark grey patches. Glaze: glossy dark brown on interior and exterior.
- 2 Sherd of rim of mug; hard fine reddish-brown fabric. Glaze: glossy dark brown on interior and exterior.

¹⁴¹ Reconstruction from a more complete specimen in a group of the late 15th century in the Guildhall Museum, London (ER 190A), publication forthcoming by the writer.

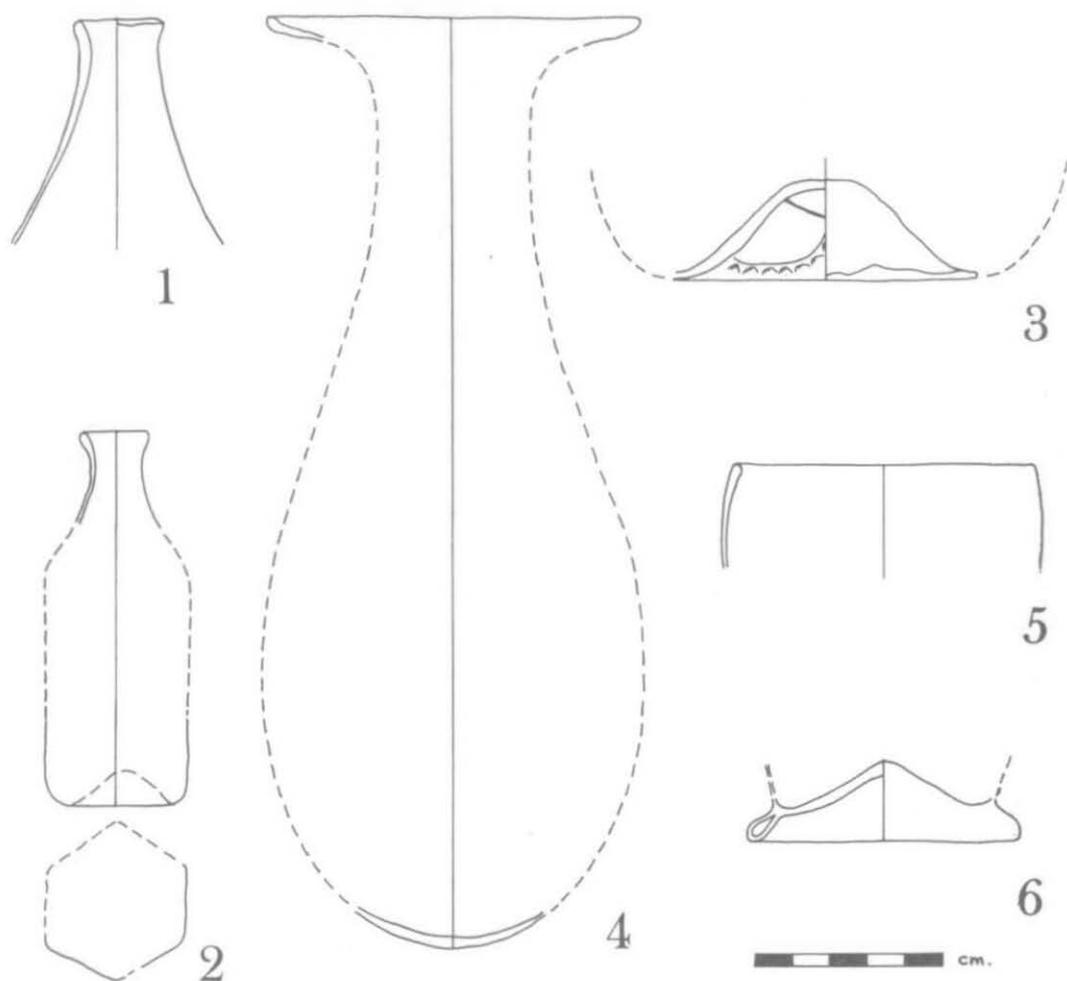


FIG. 24
Sixteenth-century Glass. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

3 Sherd of rim of mug or cup. Fine orange-red fabric, with orange glaze on interior and exterior.

Nos. 1 and 2 belong to the class of 'Cistercian ware' vessels which are common in the north of England, but which occur relatively infrequently in excavations in Oxford. No. 3 is from a type of vessel the fabric of which is even more unusual, and which is found in London in small quantities in most excavated groups of the 16th century.

Coarse wares

4 Sherd of upper part of large vessel; fine sandy orange-buff fabric, with the centre showing a sandwich effect of grey and orange fired clay, and the surfaces dark grey. Unglazed.

Several other sherds of probably same vessel present, as well as part of a handle.

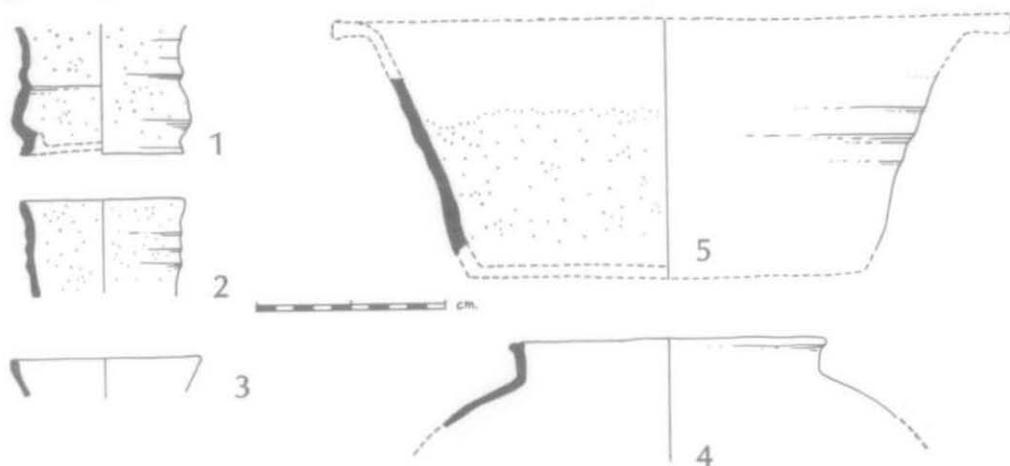


FIG. 25
Sixteenth-century Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

5 Part of side of pancheon or bowl; orange-buff sandy fabric with specks of red. Thin orange glaze on lower part of interior.

Several other sherds with similar fabric are present.

Not drawn: part of loop handle of probably an altar vase, of Dutch or N. Italian maiolica. Pale buff fine slightly sandy fabric, with small patches of pale bluish-white tin glaze still present.

Also several small medieval cooking-pot sherds; fragments of roofing tile, and the major part of a floor tile, 15 cm. square and 2.6 cm. thick. Yellow glaze, no pattern.

The associated group of finds of glass from this excavation is one of the more interesting of the period to have been recovered in the area. Neither the glass nor the associated pottery are easy to date, though the group as a whole must be placed at some period in the 16th century. The urinal (FIG. 24, 4) is paralleled in a number of excavated groups from London of the medieval period, from the 14th to the early 16th century. The bottles (FIG. 24, 1, 2 and 3) can also be paralleled from these late 15th- or 16th-century groups. The folded foot and rim of the beaker (FIG. 24, 5 and 6) are more akin to types from the late 16th-century glasshouses at Rosedale and Hutton, Yorkshire.¹⁴² All these types, however, are very nearly paralleled by fragments from the early 16th-century glasshouse at Bagots Park, Staffordshire.¹⁴³

A date in the early or mid 16th century would also accord with the most likely date of the manufacture of the Cistercian ware pottery, as well as of the coarse wares, similar types of which were made all over southern England in the first half of the 16th century.

(vi) *Clay pipe*

A fragment of a decorated bowl from Trench E, late 18th-century shape. Supporters for Royal Coat of Arms and maker's initials C./P. Oswald lists a C.P. in Henley (1752), but none in London. It is not known previously from Oxford.¹⁴⁴ Not illustrated.

¹⁴² D. W. Crossley and F. A. Aberg, '16th-century glassmaking in Yorkshire: Excavations at Furnaces at Hutton and Rosedale, 1968-71', *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 6 (1972), 107-151, esp. Figs. 64-66.

¹⁴³ D. W. Crossley, 'Glassmaking in Bagots Park, Staffordshire, in the 16th century', *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, I (1967), 44-83, esp. Fig. 20.

¹⁴⁴ A. Oswald, *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, B.A.R. 14 (1975); *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 4 (1970), Pl. VB; information Mrs. J. de Goris.



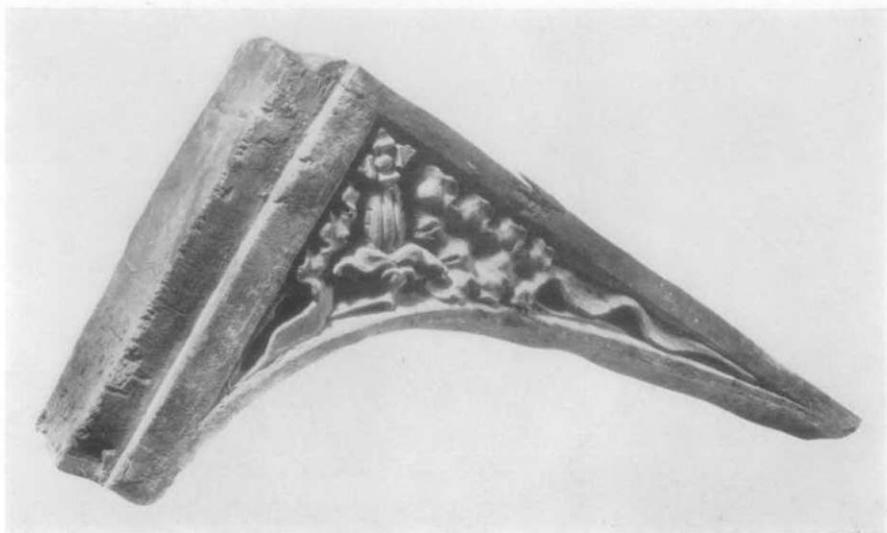
126 High Street in the early 20th century : the 17th-century façade.

PLATE VIII



A. 126 High Street before 1894 : the Regency shop front.

Ph. : Oxford City Library



B. Carved spandrel, probably late 15th century.

*Ph. : J. Peacock for Oxford City Council
126 HIGH ST.*

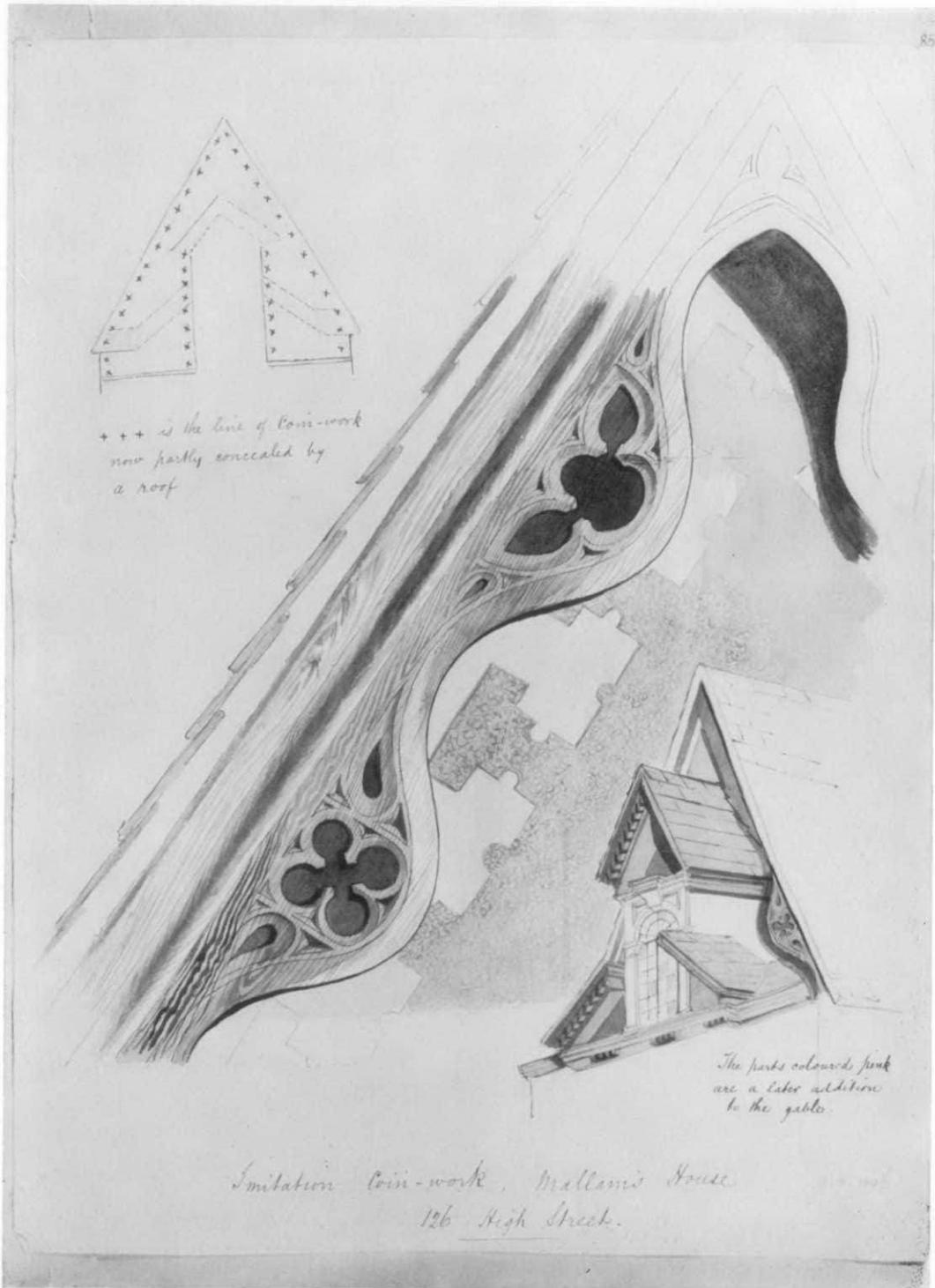
PLATE IX



126 and 125 High Street. Back elevation, c. 1961, before alterations.



126 High Street. Wall painting inscription and frieze.



126 High Street. Drawings by Herbert Hurst, 1896. (MS. Top. Oxon. c. 312, p. 85.)