RESEARCH DEPARTMENT REPORT SERIES no. 99-2007 ISSN 1749-8775

THE OLD HALL (MANOR HOUSE), CHURCH WARSOP, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REPORT

Linda Monckton

ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION

ENGLISH HERITAGE

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Research date: April 2006
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NBR No 109639
NGR SK 5674 6883
ISSN 1749-8775
Research Department Report Series 99/2006

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CONTENTS

THE OLD HALL (MANOR HOUSE) AT CHURCH WARSOP 1

Summary 1

Location and background 1

Introduction 4

History 6

Medieval (11th to 16th centuries) 6

Manorial history 6

Fabric and other evidence for the early manor house 7

16th to 17th centuries 10

Manorial history 10

Fabric and other evidence 11

17th to 19th centuries 13

Manorial History 13

Fabric and other evidence 13

20th century 14

Ownership 14

Fabric 14

Summary of building development 15

1. The medieval manor house 15

2. Late medieval 20

Summary 22

3. Late 16th and early 17th century 22

Summary 27

4. Late 17th and early 18th century 27

Summary 29

5. Late 18th and early 19th centuries (circa 1800) 30

Summary 33

6. Mid- to late 19th century 35

7. 20th century 36

CONCLUSIONS 39
Future/further research 40
BIBLIOGRAPHY 42
Unpublished 42
Published 42
ENDNOTES 44

THE OLD HALL (MANOR HOUSE) AT CHURCH WARSOP

Summary

The Old Hall (or Warsop Parish Centre) at Church Warsop appears, on first glance, to be a rather extraordinary series of farm buildings. This effect results from its use as a working farm for about hundred years from the late 19th century. Before that there is reasonable evidence of a complex and multi-phase manor house on a significant scale and with considerable architectural and social pretensions. The analysis of the house and of its documentary sources shows that seven major phases associated with the property are evidenced by the standing fabric. The most significant moments in the building's history appear to date from the 14th, early 16th, early 17th and late 17th centuries, *circa* 1800, the mid- to late 19th century and the late 20th century. Further evidence of the form of the medieval house might be expected to be found buried in the south-west and western areas of the courtyard. Fundamentally the house inherits its overall scale and layout from the medieval courtyard manor house, with the 17th century changes providing the plan as it stands today and much of the refaced character of the building. By about 1800 the internal plan was changed for the penultimate time, inheriting significant aspects of the earlier building. Each of these phases contributes something to the current internal arrangements and appearance of the building as it stands today.

Location and background

The village of Church Warsop is located in north-west Nottinghamshire, close to the border with Derbyshire and about 8 km north east of Mansfield. Church Warsop comprises a group of houses clustering around the church all close to a road junction (now the B6031 and the A60). What is now the A60 was an historically important north-south route. This village is distinct from modern Warsop, about 1 km further south.

At the north-west corner of the churchyard a large plot of land houses what is currently known as the Warsop Parish Centre or the Old Hall. The house now comprises three wings forming a U-shape enclosing an inner court (now covered in tarmac). The north range runs parallel to the road, the cross or east wing faces the current churchyard boundary and the south range faces onto a low wall over which stands a modern house (1970s) in its own private plot, albeit on land which once belonged to the Hall. Open fields still exist to the west and south-west. The Old Hall is a multi-phase domestic building and is listed at grade II* (figures 1 and 2).

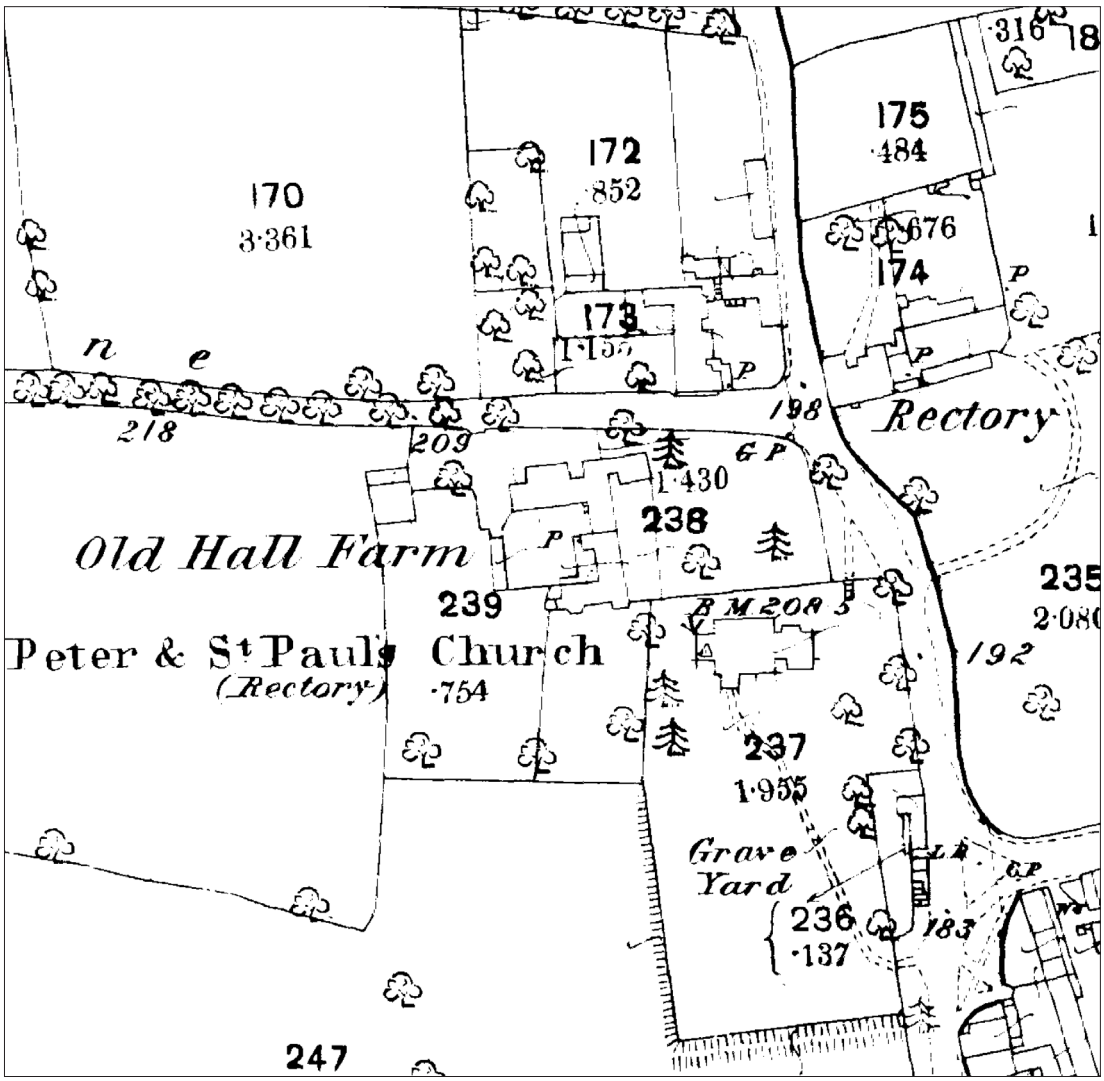

Figure 1. Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1883-4 1:2500 Nottinghamshire sheet XVIII.10.

The Old Hall has been reputed to be the most important medieval house in the county,[1] and yet with the exception of the south front little evidence for the extent and arrangements of the medieval house are immediately apparent. The evidence of the south front is itself confused by a series of later alterations and the apparent moving around of architectural features in the 19th century.

On ceasing to be a residence in the mid-20th century the Old Hall began to fall into a state of disrepair. In the 1960s it was granted by the Fitzherbert's of Tissington to the parish for use as a parish centre. Fairly radical internal alterations were made at this time (1972) to create rooms and spaces that could be used by the community. These changes altered the internal plan of the building on both main floors. In response to the parish's desire to modernise the centre, in order to provide new facilities and to compile a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Louise Brennan (Historic Buildings

Inspector, East Midlands Region) requested a report assessing the development of the building and analysis of its significance, especially with regard to the internal plan form as survives. This information will also be used to provide informed advice in response to applications for listed building consent.

Figure 2. View of house from south-east. ***Courtesy of the Old Warsop Society***

Thanks and acknowledgements are due to Louise Brennan, Ruth Burrows, Alan Crooks, Richard Goddard, Jeremy Lake, Barbara Sadler, Pete Smith and Amanda Atton.

Introduction

The most distinguishing feature of the Old Hall in Church Warsop is its complexity. The building comprises three ranges (north - a barn, south - a domestic unit and east - the connecting or cross range), all constructed in local Mansfield stone (evidence of rubble roughly coursed and finely coursed masonry exists with ashlar dressings) and which form a courtyard to the west. This courtyard is bounded on the west side by a free-standing single-storey brick building. The north and east ranges are covered by steep-pitched pantile roofs, the south end of the east range and the south range are covered in slate (figure 3).

Figure 3. View of south range and into courtyard from south west. ***Linda Monckton 04/06***

The interior of the current building is predominantly characterised by the alterations carried out in the 1970s which converted an apparently near derelict set of farm buildings into a parish centre. Inevitably the modernisations now cover many of the interior wall surfaces. The exterior clearly includes window openings dating from the middle ages, and the 17th, 19th and 20th centuries. Considerable evidence of change and alteration through the centuries suggests that this building was in near constant occupation as a significant house throughout its history.

It was identified as the 'Manor House' in Pevsner's *Nottinghamshire The Buildings of England,* 1951, and described briefly by him in terms of its south façade, which

appeared to incorporate all of the building's medieval features.[2] By the time of the revised edition in 1979 (by Elizabeth Williamson) the building was no longer a private house and had been converted into the parish centre providing it with the appearance it has today.[3] Before the alterations the building was briefly recorded by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME). At this date it was identified as the Old Hall and Barn, and the issue of the 19th-century organisation of medieval features was highlighted.[4] As a result, the 1979 Pevsner entry calls the building the Old Hall and Barn and includes a longer description of the building, characterising it as 'so reshuffled in the C19 that the archaeology of the house is quite illegible'.[5]

Bearing this in mind and considering the loss of some evidence as a result of the 1970s work, this building provides a confusing picture. Whilst some local studies have made good and useful attempts to pull together historical information concerning the ownership of the property, there is no meaningful assessment in published form of the development, or even the origin, of the current house.

The problems include the relative lack of diagnostic features within the rooms as they currently stand (for example, panelling, original ceilings and so on), hence making room status and identification difficult. For this we are dependent on an interpretation of the fabric, evidence of windows, doors and blocked openings. At Church Warsop this is further complicated by the fact that many windows were apparently moved in the 19th century. At first glance, therefore, the extent of the medieval house is no longer obvious.

Whilst considerable documentary evidence exists for the manor of Warsop,[6] this relates mostly to land holdings and tenancy agreements. The Old Hall at Warsop is however fortunate as far as the architectural historian is concerned, in three particular respects; first, is the survival of four inventories dating from the late 17th to early 18th centuries;[7] secondly the survival of building accounts (albeit cursory in nature) for the early 18th century,[8] and thirdly the series of photographs and a partial sketch plan by the RCHME in 1966.[9]

The following report is divided into two. The first deals with the history of the manor in the medieval and post medieval periods and the associated ownership of any manor house. Extant and visible evidence for the various building phases are identified chronologically after each phase of the manorial history. The second half of the report sets out a summary of the building development based on seven identified phases. This interpretative section is set out chronologically. The subsequent conclusion includes a summary plus recommendations for further research and investigation.

History

Medieval (11th to 16th centuries)

Manorial history

That a manor existed at Warsop (*Wareshope*) by the 11th century is demonstrated by Domesday, which records in 1086 that the manor was held by Roger de Busli. A reference to Warsop comprising three manors rather suggests that in the Anglo Saxon period three manors existed, and that these were combined into the manor Warsop in the late 11th century (Warsop, Stuckholme and Nettleworth). No reference to a manor house is made at this time, although a church and mill may have already existed.[10]

The manor is held by Olive of Karleton by the early 13th century as, in a grant from Henry III, the land is handed over from her to Robert of Lexinton.[11] This provides Robert with the whole manor, the whole meadow and the advowson of the church. At this stage there is no evidence of a substantial village, and the granting of land which was part of the Forest of the Sherwood, and the evidence of the current village combine to suggest that there was a series of dispersed settlements at this date rather than a planned village. The land passed to Robert's son John,[12] and in 1256-7 passed on his death to Lord Henry de Lessington, Bishop of Lincoln. In 1258 it is recorded that John's wife, Margery, holds 'the vills in dower', which seems to refer to the villages and manors associated with Tuggesford and Warsop.[13] That Margery holds the manor in dower is confirmed by a Close Roll for 1267-8.[14] The manor is held by William of Sutton shortly after this and then by his son and heir Robert. By this date there are 18½ bovates of land held in villeinage (that is, as copyhold tenements) and a mill, garden with fruit, dovecote, meadow and pasture. Reference is made to cottages. This is the earliest mention of the valuation of the manor.[15]

Margery is still dowered of the said manor on the death of Robert, in 1274, at which time it is stated that it will return to Robert's heirs on her death. Again the meadow and garden is mentioned along with the watermill and dovecote, and also a park of 100 acres. The references to a garden most likely means an orchard and therefore provides no information on whether there was a house at this date or not.[16] It seems, from this document, that the village of 'Sulholm' is within the manor of Warsop as the prior of St Oswald is giving money to the lord of the manor for the 'Vill'. St Oswald's Priory, Nostell, Yorkshire held land (and the church?) in Stookholme. The Abbot of Welbeck similarly owes money for the grange of Gledthorpe.[17] Margery dies in January 1291/2, at which time the manor of Warsop reverts to the Richard de Sutton, heir of Robert.[18] He grants to John de Sutton and his wife the manor of Warsop and the associated advowson of the church 22 March 1307/8.[19] John de Somery holds

the manor for his lifetime from 1322, although notably excluding the advowson of the church which would have remained with the Lord of the manor, (the de Suttons).[20] John de Sutton later sells the manor to John de Nunnes of London in 1327/8 who, in 1330, himself sells it to Sir John de Roos, knight.[21] The manor appears to have suffered some kind of recession during this period with reference to much of the manor holdings lying in waste and 'untilled for lack of tenants'; little improvement is recorded in 1372.[22] In the late 14th century (1379) Richard II confirms a market in Warsop (note Old Warsop Society is said to have the market charter).[23] Although some parts of the manor appear to have been granted to others during the early 15th century, this was for their lifetime only.[24] The ownership of the manor, therefore, remained with the de Roos family for a hundred years, at which point it is stated that Thomas de Roos had held two parts of the manor. This confirms what was implicit in Domesday, namely that the manor comprised three parts. The manor descended to the Earls of Rutland in 1508 when it passed into the female line via Eleanor de Roos. It remains with the Earls of Rutland until 1675, for which see below. At some stage, probably in the late 16th century, the market seems to have ceased.[25]

This summary history of the ownership reveals how typical the manor of Warsop was in the middle ages. Long periods of ownership by one family interspersed with brief holdings by others who die without issue or who are only granted the manor for life. What remains constant are the following: the advowson of the church remains with the lordship of the manor throughout, and the 'vill' of Warsop appears to be the primary part of the manor which is otherwise divided into parts. These documents, by their very nature, do not say whether or not the Lord of the manor, at any given time was resident in Warsop. In fact, the references in these documents refer only to the manor and never to the manor house. Instead the valuations of the manor (from the 13th century) refer to the holdings of tenants and the presence of buildings which can be quantified as producing a financial reward, such as the dovecot and the mill.

Whilst this manorial history is important and interesting for Warsop as a whole, it cannot reveal the precise date that a building was founded on the site. The best known summary to date of the manorial history is provided by Thoroton.[26] But even in this there is no confirmation of residency of any of the lords or tenants.

Fabric and other evidence for the early manor house

12th century

The precise date for the foundation of a manor house cannot be deduced from the above documents. Despite this one might speculate that there is some circumstantial evidence that a manor house existed on the current site from the early middles ages.

As indicated above a church certainly existed in some form by Domesday. This early church may reflect the suggested fragmentation of complex estates and aristocratic centres (in this case royal ownership of the forest of Sherwood) into self-contained local manors.[27] The construction of a stone church at Warsop can be approximately dated to the first half of the 12th century based on the presence of the Romanesque arch from the tower into the nave. Although usually considered relatively simple in execution (because of the large chevron mouldings), this is still evidence of a significant stone building. It is probable that the Lord of the Manor, as the one responsible for the advowson of the church, would have been at least in part responsible for such a building. Furthermore, if funded by the Lord of the Manor then it is highly likely that such an investment went hand in hand with the presence of a manor house. The anticipated location for a manor house that was closely affiliated with a new church would be close by, and even without the survival of the current building one might assume its location to be to the west, based not least on the presence of a significant historical north-south route directly to the east. There is, at present, no firm evidence to confirm or otherwise this assumption at present as nothing of this putative 12th-century house survives (which may not even have been constructed in stone).

13th century

The earliest part of the existing building can be dated to the very early years of the 13th century: this is a doorway, comprising an arch with a continuous roll and fillet moulding flanked by nailhead decoration (figure 4). This is found in the south range on the first floor. There is, however, reason to believe that this feature is not in its original location and there is no clear evidence of its provenance. It is feasible that it came from a house on the present site. Often such examples of the re-use of historic features can be associated with known restoration work on nearby church buildings. The major restoration phase at Church Warsop was in 1877,[28] thus post-dating the period at which the doorway is assumed to have been placed in its current position (for which see below). Therefore although the possibility that it was 'rescued' from the adjacent church during earlier

Figure 4. 13th-century archway with nailhead decoration, as reset in c.1800 in first-floor landing.
Linda Monckton 04/06

restoration works should be considered it remains a possibility that this doorway represents the earliest surviving stone structure on the site.

14th century

Identifiable fabric dating to the period of the de Roos' lordship is equally hard to find. The only two convincing elements are windows. One, in the south range, is located close to the nailhead doorway and facing onto the south garden. It is large block of stone in which is carved a trefoil-headed light (figure 5). A fragment of a blocked window of at least two lights with ogee shaped heads is visible on the south wall of the barn at upper level (see figure 13). Both these features appear to be 14th century in origin (although they could feasibly be later medieval). If they are both in their original locations, these features might indicate the size and extent of the late medieval property. However, whilst the location of the blocked window may reasonably be assumed to be original, there is doubt over the original location and indeed origin of many of the features in the south façade, most notably the evidence that some were moved in the 19th century. A medieval two-centred arch exists on the interior of the east wall of the east range (now in the cupboard to the north of the ladies toilets) (figure 6). No evidence of an opening is visible on the exterior, but there is reason to believe that this is in its original location.

Figure 5. Gothic single-light window, now lighting landing of 19th-century staircase. Linda Monckton 04/06

Figure 6. Blocked medieval opening situated in east wall, now confined within storage cupboard. Shows square headed opening to left.
Courtesy of the Old Warsop Society

15th century and early 16th century

Again it is the enigmatic south front which provides possible evidence for the house under the de Roos in the 15th century and the Earls of Rutland in the 16th century (from 1508). The south gable end contains arched lights held within square-headed frames, typical of a late 15th or early 16th-century date. Furthermore the upper stage of the bay window contains similar openings. Such bay windows would be wholly commensurate with a 16th-century manor house, although the issue of the 19th-century contribution to this façade needs to be carefully considered (see figures 3 and 7). The roof over the east (central) wing is probably dateable to the late 15th or early 16th century and has evidence of smoke blackening and secondary alterations (see figure 15).

Figure 7. House from south-east showing south range and newly created access road to new property. ***© Crown copyright.NMR BB6700416***

16th to 17th centuries

Manorial history

On the death of Edmund the property passed to the female line, to Eleanor who married Sir Robert Manners; her grandson was the Earl of Rutland. It seems to have remained with the Earls of Rutland until the late 17th century, although the land was leased by them in the late 16th century, suggesting that they were not resident. This may confirm the suggestion by one source that after the construction of Nettleworth Manor, the Lords of Warsop were no longer in residence.[29]

A few documents exist to confirm their ownership in the late 16th century, for example in 1592/3 Elizabeth, dowager Countess of Rutland, buys a messuage of land, and a further sale, this time to Roger, Earl of Rutland, took place in 1598. Documentary evidence for the property and manor significantly increases in the 17th century with a series of legal documents mostly relating to the lease and release of the manor. In 1623-4, for example, it is clear that the manor had been granted by the Earls of Rutland to John Sydenham, his wife Margaret and his son Henry, for their lifetime (albeit not exceeding a 60 year term). Also during this time the Sydenhams obtain land in Soulholme and the chapter of Southwell Minster also have some similar holdings.[30] At this date there is a recorded dispute concerning the ownership of the land granted to the Sydenhams, although the outcome did not go in the Earl's favour. A large number of documents can be found dating to a period 1637 to 1664 relating to further land changes and leases within the manor,[31] during which period it seems to be owned by Willoughby of Parham. Willoughby appears to consolidate the manor, purchasing farms and land in 1657/8,[32] and then mortgaging it in 1657/8.[33] In 1666 the manor, as held by William Lord Willoughby, is described as 'of 20 messuagges, 10 cottages, one water grain mill, 2000 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 500 acres of pasture, and 2000 acres of furze and heath in Warsop Church Towne Warsop market Towne Stuckholme and Nettleworth'.[34] Willoughby leases the property to a Mr Cornelius Clarke in 1664. The advowson of the church still remains with the lords of the manor.

The manor is sold to Sir Ralph Knight, knight, (and thereby his heirs) in 1675 by John Hall and John Bambrigge, trustees of the Willoughby's,[35] William Lord Willoughby having died in 1672.[36]

Fabric and other evidence

Four extant windows in the current building could be dated to the early 17th century, from the Rutland/ Sydenham period of ownership: one is on the north wall of the south range and two on the east wall of the east range (figures 8 and 9). The doorway further to the south is also likely to be early 17th century in date rather than late, as it has similar chamfered mouldings to the windows. Furthermore the roof of the north range suggests from its style and type of construction a late 16th or an early 17th-century date (figure 10). The implication is, therefore, of considerable work to the property involving roofing or re-roofing during this period.

1664 is the date of the earliest of four inventories to the property. This relates to the leasing of the property for 21 years from Mr Willoughby to Mr Cornelius Clarke of Chalthorne.

Figure 8. East façade of east range central section showing first floor early 17th-century windows above blocked doorway. *Linda Monckton 04/06*

Figure 9. North side of south range, showing early 17th-century window on upper floor.
Linda Monckton 04/06

Figure 10. North range (barn) view east.
Linda Monckton 04/06

17th to 19th centuries

Manorial History

As stated above, in 1675 the manor was bought by Sir Ralph Knight from the trustees of the late Lord Willoughby who had inherited it from his maternal uncle. Sir Ralph's granddaughter married the Reverend Gally and the family name taken was henceforth Gally Knight. The Gally Knight's owned the manor until the mid-19th century.

In 1846 the house was left in a will to Sir Henry Fitzherbert of Tissington, a relative. Sir Henry's mother Setina is said to have lived at the Hall and apparently died there in 1864.[37] A mid-19th-century map showing the extent of the manors within the parish of Warsop survives.[38]

Fabric and other evidence

The most obvious late 17th-century features that survive in the house are two large, now blocked, windows on the east wall of the east range (figure 11). The chimney added to the south range probably relates closely to this phase of works (see figure 24).

Figure 11. Detail of east façade of east range, southern end showing two surviving late 17th-century windows of 'hall' (now lighting WCs). ***Linda Monckton 04/06***

Four inventories (1694, 1699, 1700 and 1707) for the property survive. Almost contemporary with the latest inventory there exists in addition a set of 1706 accounts relating to some works to the property.[39]

In addition there is evidence of a very early 19th-century reorganisation of the house during the Gally Knight period of ownership. In particular there are a number of internal features and doors in the south range that date to this period.

It seems that in the late 19th century the manor was converted into a farm house with additional farm buildings added. Evidence for this is in a series of blocked openings in the fabric, old photographs and the account of Mr Alan Crooks.[40]

20th century

Ownership

The Fitzherbert's owned the manor throughout the 20th century. The property of the Old Hall was tenanted out. In 1937 the Crooks moved into the hall, which was already an established farm, and the family remained there until the 1960s.

The building was left vacant after the Crooks family moved to a farm across the road and by 1967, when it was photographed by the RCHME, it was in a dilapidated state. The house was granted to the parish by the Fitzherberts and was, in 1972, converted into a parish centre by the Eastwoods, a local building family. It remains essentially in this form today.

Fabric

The interior shows evidence of the 20th-century additions, including toilets and a bar facility. Losses include the internal panelling, room divisions and staircases. The north end of the upper storey of the east range is a flat. The ground floor provides community rooms. The barn underwent repair work including the complete rebuilding of its northern wall and the dovecot (of early medieval origin, but possibly retaining a late medieval form) was demolished in 1962.

Summary of building development

1. The medieval manor house

Although evidence for a 12th-century building does not exist, and that for the 13th century is restricted to the problematic presence of a doorway with nailhead decoration, there is evidence for a later medieval house of substance.

Figure 12. North range (barn) east wall showing extent of blackened masonry indicating fire bay. ***Linda Monckton 04/06***

Primarily this is provided by the north range which shows evidence of a significant 14th-century house. The east wall of this range was clearly part of a large fireplace: The entire width of the building is blackened and the side walls indicate the depth of the fireplace (figure 12). That this once formed the entire gable end of the building is demonstrated not only by the side walls having evidence of blackening but also the evidence that the gable was heightened, presumably to take the current (post medieval) roof. Windows were clearly inserted into this wall at a subsequent date (now blocked). There is no evidence however of any connection between this range and the adjacent east range (a blocked opening on the first floor does exist but the opening was created while the Crooks lived at the farm and was blocked in the 1970s). High on the south wall of north range is evidence of a small blocked medieval window comprising two lights with ogee heads (figure 13). The combination of small high

level windows, a fire bay (occupying the width of a building) and an apparent lack of communication doors to an adjacent building strongly suggests a detached medieval kitchen, rather than a high status room; the windows are (most likely) indicative of a 14th-century date. Detached kitchens of the overall type suggested here certainly existed in reasonable numbers in the 13th and 14th centuries. 14th-century examples include Haddon Hall, Derbyshire (early 14th century), Dartington Hall, Devon (*c.*1388-1400) and Canford Manor, Dorset (mid-14th century).[41] A later example with comparable fireplace arrangement exists in the predominantly 16th-century Gurney Street Manor, Cannington, Somerset (see figure 14). The layout at Warsop differs from Gurney in that Warsop follows an earlier, and arguably, more traditional arrangement of having a service wing close (in some cases attached) to the main house.

Figure 13. Detail of in situ blocked medieval window, in south side of barn. ***Pete Smith 04/06***

In such a traditional arrangement the buttery and pantry would sit between the great hall and the kitchen. One might therefore expect a buttery and pantry to the north end of the cross wing and a large open medieval hall further to the south. The evidence of the roof in this range is therefore crucial to an understanding of the extent and date of the medieval property in the late middle ages. The roof was accessed approximately in the centre of the range, close to the central chimney stack. The form of the roof

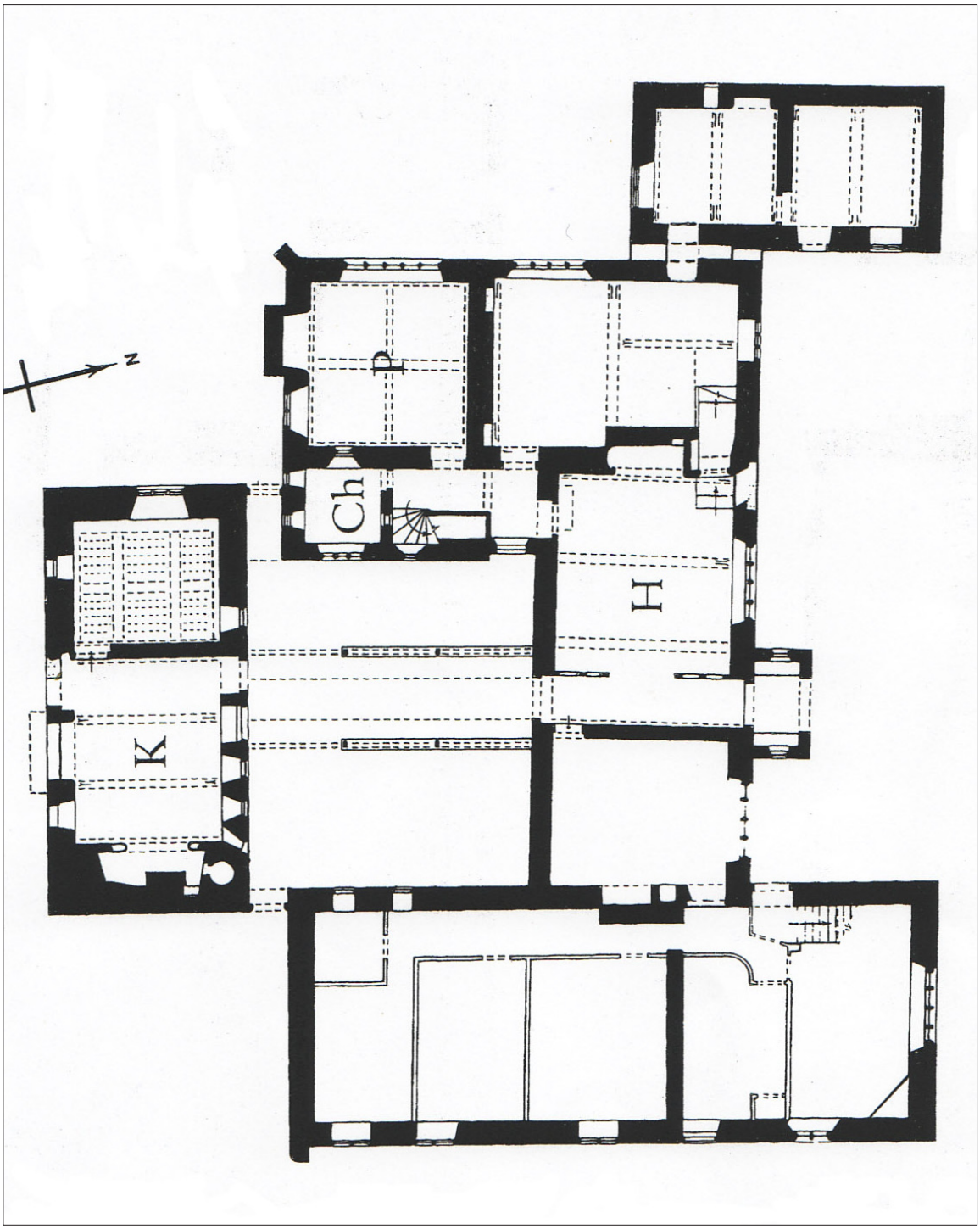

Figure 14.
Plan of Gurney Street Manor, Cannington, Somerset.
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suggests a late 15th or early 16th-century date, and considerable evidence of smoke blackening is commensurate with this part of the building being used as an open hall with an open fire (figure 15). Although this appears reasonably late for the continued use of a central hearth in an open hall, it is possible. A firm date for the roof, which appears to have unusual secondary alterations, most notably in the thickening of the principal rafters to take purlins on the inner face, would be useful (see research agenda below).

Figure 15. Roof over central area of east range. ***Linda Monckton 04/06***

The presence of an open hall in this location demands that the south range existed in some form as part of the medieval house providing accommodation and high status rooms. The main part of this wing has the poorest quality masonry and its rubble quality, as compared with the known post-medieval changes to the house, confirms that this belongs to the medieval house (see figure 18). It is apparently the only part of the medieval house not to have been re-faced at a later date.

Relevant to the assumption that the south range housed accommodation is the fact that this range appears to have remained the high end of the house throughout its history with the service end being later turned into a barn, hence retaining its low status. It seems that the overall hierarchy of the property may have been broadly maintained throughout its history.

The south range does, in fact, contain the largest number of extant medieval features, although considerable doubt has been thrown on their authenticity by the realisation that many may not be in their original location. Anomalies are clearly apparent on the south gable wall of the east range: The uppermost window appears to be the earliest in date and is unusually placed, not central to the gable, and is too high to relate to a first floor room (see figure 7). Equally there is an uncomfortable relationship between the ogee headed window on the south front with the projecting gable end of the east range (see figure 5). The two-centred door leading into the centre of the range, like both of these windows, shows evidence of packing and joints around the jambs also confirming that it has been reset (figure 16), and this is supported by the fact that it relates to the current ground level which clearly represents a lowering of the level associated with the earlier house.

Figure 16. Main entrance to south range from c.1800, note alteration in ground level.

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That the east range projected beyond the south at an early date is shown by the presence of a blocked window in its west face. The size and scale of this window is most likely to be a single light arch headed window set in a square-headed frame. The thickness of the wall at this point may suggest that this opened into a garderobe.

That a dovecot existed in the middle ages is certain by 1268 at the latest (see above). It was located to the east of the barn and was recorded by Whitaker in 1927 as made of local limestone, twenty-four feet high and square with 650 nesting places.[42] This structure may have been a 15th or 16th-century replacement of the early dovecot.[43] Its outline is visible on the 19th-century OS maps (see figure 1). It was removed in 1962 for the construction of a drive to a newly constructed house further south.

Figure 17. West facade of east range, showing blocked doorway to former great hall.
Linda Monckton 04/06

Although the actual extent of the medieval house cannot be determined at present, it is reasonable to assume that rather than a three-wing house as currently represented the house had an enclosed inner court. Blocked openings in the middle of the east range exist opposite each other on the east and west walls, highly indicative of a medieval screens passage arrangement (figure 17). This would normally be entered from within the courtyard leading into the great hall, in this case on the right, and with doors leading out of the end of the hall to the services to the left. The courtyard would itself have been entered through a range which enclosed it and it is likely that some form of gatehouse and/or fourth boundary wall or range existed on the west side of the site (under the later cowsheds, now converted).

2. Late medieval

The evidence in the barn is most revealing about a possible sequence of build in the medieval period. Used as a detached kitchen from at least the 14th century, this building went through two further major changes of use. One is that indicated by the inserted windows in the east wall (see figures 12 and 18). Currently set within these earlier openings are small breathers relating to the building's function as a barn, but one of these has plaster work up one side indicating that the larger and earlier opening was associated with a more domestic function (figure 19). This insertion of chambers at a first-floor level marks the point that the kitchen was moved out of this range (as the windows are set within the chimney breast), but must predate its use as a barn. The barn roof dates to the late 16th century and therefore it seems that in the later medieval period, the house was reorganised and additional accommodation

Figure 18. East wall of north range (barn), at first floor level, showing southernmost inserted window in earlier fire bay with later blocking.
Pete Smith 04/06

Figure 19. Detail of inserted breather in east wall of north range (barn) showing surviving 16th-century plaster on left jamb.
Pete Smith 04/06

was provided in this range. These chambers are at first floor level but the room below has a low ceiling, as shown by the presence of a corbel and a series of low doors accessing the space from the north and south, the latter connecting the range for the first time with the cross (east) wing. It is also apparently at this date that the east range was linked to the north range by the extension of the former. It is tempting to suggest that the re-roofing of the great hall in the early 16th century went hand in hand with the relocation of the kitchen, probably into the north end of the cross wing and the provision of new chambers in the old kitchen, plastered within, and the creation of cellars and storage space beneath. No connecting doors appear to have existed between these chambers and the upper storey of the cross wing and therefore one possibility is that the new chambers would have had independent first-floor access, probably from the inner courtyard. Similar arrangements, with external stairs to lodging ranges can be found in the late 14th century at Dartington Hall, Devon, for example. The only other part of the extant fabric that could relate to this phase of works is the four-light window with arched heads in the centre of the south façade. This appears to be inserted into the earlier rubble fabric around it, although it appears also to post-date the newer courses of masonry above, seeming to be cut into them rather than the other way round. This masonry is likely to date from the 17th century (see below) and therefore this insertion is most likely to be 19th century in date. The

form of the window is wholly commensurate with an early 16th century date however and it should not be discounted that this could have either copied an existing window or been relocated from somewhere else in the building.

Summary

There is no firm evidence for a 12th or 13th-century house, although it is likely that one existed in some form. In the later medieval period the evidence is somewhat unclear and confusing and therefore the precise extent of the property is hard to determine, as there is evidence that the footprint of all three ranges may have changed at least in part since the 16th century. Equally there appears, at the current time, to be no evidence to allow for any more detailed assessment of the arrangements within the medieval house and its precise plan therefore is currently not recoverable.

Despite this, cumulatively the evidence suggests that the basis of the current building is formed out of a significant late medieval property, dating most probably to the 14th century (detached kitchen and associated ranges) and with significant rebuilding or upgrading in the early 16th century, dated to the de Roos and Earl of Rutland's period of ownership. The hall roof suggests either a new hall or a re-roofing of an old hall in the late medieval period, probably contemporary with the relocation of the kitchen and the provision of new chambers. These might conceivably be additions made to the house by the Earl of Rutland after he inherited it in 1508. In the 14th century, and certainly by the early 16th century, therefore, the house comprised services at the north end of the east range, a hall open to the rafters with an open fire in the southern half of the east range. This abutted in some form a range containing accommodation and high status residential rooms. The medieval house, therefore, provided the basis for the plan of the current property although its precise extent is unknown. One might expect such a manor house to have an enclosed inner courtyard, and the possibility of some range of buildings closing the court on the west side should not be discounted.

3. Late 16th and early 17th century

In the late 16th or early 17th century there is evidence for a considerable reordering of the medieval manor house. In many ways this period provided much of the current building's appearance and plan. It was at this date (*circa* 1580 to 1640) that the kitchen/chamber range was converted into a barn and given its current height, length, and roof (see figure 10). In addition, and significantly for the subsequent appearance of the property as a whole, it seems that much of the building was refaced with reasonably well-coursed ashlar masonry (including distinctive courses of larger stones in bands around the building) at this time, most notably the barn and the northern half of the east range.

Furthermore, there is evidence for the recasting of the main façade of the house and much of the internal plan in the early 17th century. In particular the new door, in the east face of the east range, providing access to a hall and a number of stone mullioned windows in this range (see figure 21).

Figure 20. West façade of east range, central section, showing blocked entrance to centre of range. ***Linda Monckton 04/06***

The evidence of the windows in the east and south range suggest domestic accommodation on two storeys. On the east façade of the east range two surviving windows show upper floor rooms of early 17th-century date. That to the north set slightly higher indicating a change in floor level (over the current boiler house), is located to the north of the filled partition that marks the end of the smoke blackened roof (see figure 15). A similar window, with the central mullion removed also on this façade at an upper level, and also at first-floor level on the south range (facing the inner court) and at ground-floor level on the south gable wall of the east range there are similar windows showing the extent of remodelling and clear evidence of the insertion of these windows into medieval fabric. It is not possible to ascertain whether this was the first time a floor was inserted into the medieval hall, but its is clear that by this date a range of accommodation rooms existed in what used to be the roof space of the open hall.

The evidence of doorways from this period provides considerable information on its probable plan form. Masonry breaks indicate the presence of blocked doorways, located opposite each other, in the centre of the east range (see figures 14 and 20). These were reasonable size openings and no doubt reflect the main entrance to the medieval manor house. It is possible that these were updated in the early 17th century but regardless of this they remained in use. The retention of a medieval screens passage arrangement in some form is not uncommon and can be paralleled, for example, in Cranborne Manor House, Dorset.[44] The passageway formed by these doors relates to the current boiler house and hall area. A new doorway was inserted further south on the east range at this date, and its chamfered jambs and two lights above the door are still clearly visible despite the later blocking (figure 21). This appears to have provided a new high status entrance to the property, leading into what was once the centre of the medieval hall. It seems highly probable that this led into a passageway providing access past the hall and to a main staircase that led up to the most important domestic rooms. This plan significantly influenced the later house.

Figure 21. Detail of east façade of east range, southern end showing blocked early 17th-century doorway. ***Linda Monckton 04/06***

Apparently related to the insertion of the new doorway, but conceivably later in the same century, the south end of the east range was refaced using relatively high quality and finely jointed ashlar. The kneelers of the gable may also be dateable to the same period. This refacing or rebuilding could have been necessitated by a number of factors, for example, it could represent a widening of the medieval solar range to

bring it in line with the main hall block. Once whitewashed this eastern wall would then have provided more the appearance of a smart 17th-century house façade. This hypothesis might also explain the asymmetry of the southern gable end.

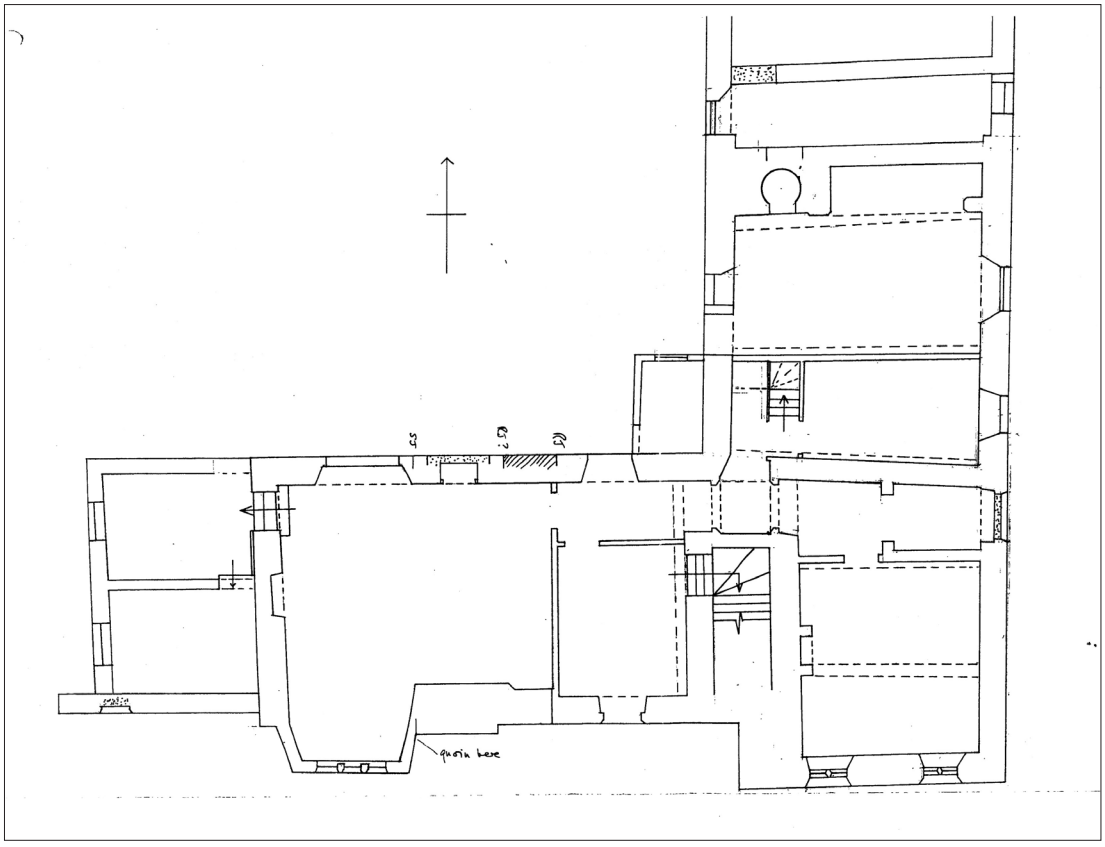

Figure 22. RCHME plan 1966. ***© Crown copyright.NMR***

As a result of the work to the interior of the house in 1972 it is difficult to define the 17th-century house plan precisely. Information on the domestic plan is mostly provided by an unpublished sketch plan of the southern half of the building made in 1966 (the only known survey of the house before its alteration) (figure 22). Obviously, therefore, this plan is particularly helpful for understanding the 19th and early 20th-century building, but it seems likely that aspects of the 19th-century house inherited this early 17th-century layout. Most notably the now blocked doorway clearly led into a hall which had presumably been carved out of an earlier room. The location of the staircase may well reflect the location of the 17th-century stone staircase. The room to the north of the hallway (shown on the plan with a partition wall and added timber stairway), was most likely the surviving extent of the medieval hall (shown here at ground floor only) providing a main room for the house (still referred to as the hall) with the extant (and at the time newest and most fashionable) windows marking its extent. The location of the staircase is unclear. It may either have been in the hall, which could be used for such a purpose by this date, or in the position of the 19th-century staircase.

The earliest of the available inventories dates to 1664 and therefore relates to this phase of the house's history. Alongside the kitchen, the inventory lists the following other service rooms: the wet larder, the pastrie, bakehouse, brewhouse, dairy, and store chamber as well as the stable, barn, little stable and flour chamber of the stable. Locating these rooms is not possible based on currently available evidence, but it may be reasonable to assume that the current barn, and its now disappeared north extension, accommodated the stables and barn. Commonly the brewhouse and dairy also would be separate buildings outside the main body of the house at this date.[45]

The creation of the barn necessitated the loss of the early 16th-century chambers at its east end. Perhaps by way of compensation for this loss of space the early 17th-century accommodation of the main house seems to have stretched over all the service rooms in the cross wing. That the accommodation associated with the property was substantial at this date is clearly demonstrated by the Hearth Tax Returns for 1664 which state that Mr Willoughby's house, with twelve hearths, was the biggest house in Warsop. The next largest house, the rectory, a predominantly 17th-century house of compact plan, had seven hearths.[46] This confirms, therefore, that by late 17th-century standards this was a significant house with substantial accommodation. The absence of 17th-century chimneys surviving however also confirms that much must have been done to re-order the house in the later periods (for which see below). From the inventory only seven hearths can be definitely identified, although the nature of inventories is that they may not include all accommodation within a property.[47]

Figure 23. 17th-century roof of south range. Linda Monckton 04/06 DSCN0125

Interestingly the medieval hall is, although no doubt truncated and definitely with an inserted floor, still referred to as the hall in this inventory. The reference to the chamber over the hall therefore must relate to the two surviving windows referred to above.

Also in this period the south range was re-roofed. The current roof has an angled ridge beam with substantial purlins and trusses indicative of the early 17th century (figure 23); a few courses of masonry at the top of the south (rubble) wall were most likely built to support the wall plate of the new roof at this date. The rafters and western bay are 19th-century repairs, for

which see more below. The complete replacement of the western bay of this range, with the exception of the ridge beam, suggests major work in the 19th century. The possibility that this range extended further to the south should not be discounted.

Summary

This phase of alteration marked the shift from a medieval house of substance to a 17th century one, most notably with the elimination of the clear identification of rooms through varied window designs, and the more consistent application of stone mullioned windows, creating a series of chambers on ground and first floor. These new windows and the associated re-facing of much of the property with new stone would have necessitated the replacement of much of the fenestration from the medieval property and provided instead a smart and fashionable 17th-century gentleman's house.

4. Late 17th and early 18th century

As has been set out above the house was sold to Ralph Knight in 1675. Three inventories survive from the first 30 years of his family's long period of ownership, dating to 1694, 1699 and 1707. The 1694 and 1699 inventories are very similar and record similar rooms to the 1664 list. Additions include the study, the chamber over the pantry and the larder (although this probably refers to what was called the wet larder in 1664), a chamber over the parlour and two cellars. It seems likely that the house in these records was similar or the same in layout as in 1664. Evidence of physical changes to the property is limited to the insertion of two large, stone transomed and mullioned windows on the east façade. The precise date of this alteration is hard to determine: broadly speaking it is commensurate with a late 17th-century date.

The latest inventory, dated to 1707, contains significant differences to the earlier ones, most notably the identification of rooms. The 'hall' is still used (not in its own right but in the context of there being a chamber over the hall) but in addition there are a series of parlour and chamber rooms (the great boarded parlour, the little boarded parlour, the little chamber, great matted chamber, little parlour); the reference to stairs specifies that they are, by this date at least, made of stone. This list of new rooms probably suggests a limited reordering of the house: from the mid-17th century onwards there was a trend for an increasing specialisation of rooms and a greater distinction between a variety of rooms for informal and formal accommodation.[48] This usually resulted in a larger number of rooms and in the naming of rooms to clearly distinguish between them, as in this latest Warsop inventory. At Warsop, there is clear evidence that this renaming and increased specialisation of functions for rooms was accompanied by new works to the property in a short series of building accounts which survives for the year 1706.[49] These detail payments for labour and materials for the period February to June 1706. It is clear that two men are essentially in charge of the works (John

Walker and John Sylvester) as they have named men to serve them for their period on site. Many of the payments record purchasing and fetching of brick, lime (from Mansfield), sand and nails. The term hall is used in the document not to refer to the room but to refer to the building as a whole (works to the mill and other areas are also detailed). The purpose of many of the materials is, inevitably and frustratingly, not specified but what can be determined is that considerable work was being under taken involving amongst other things works to the stable, the construction of a new chimney, the complete whitewashing of the building (two troughs holding 40 gallons for the hall walls, 5 February), works to the windows (for which nails are ordered) and some work to the roofs (for which slate is ordered). By April the rubbish filled rooms are being cleared and the rooms cleaned, although a further reference to the same in June (for 4 days) suggests work on the main body of the house continued, and there are several bouts of labour by John Walker, and a mason, also with a paid servant, in May to confirm this. All this combines to suggest that the building is unoccupied at this point while the works are being carried out, and that the works affected many of the rooms in the house.

Figure 24. First floor of south façade of south range. ***Linda Monckton 04/06***

That this amount of work was carried out months before the 1707 inventory serves to reinforce that the inventory records a reordered and refurbished property. The reference to a new chimney (17 February: 'p[ai]d for the free stone for the new chimney at hall £0 10s 0'd) most likely refers to the chimney still extant on the south façade.[50] This freestone chimney is clearly an addition to the existing building and the simply moulded parapet is indicative of a date *c.*1700 (figure 24). This suggests a further

upgrading of the main accommodation range of the building. A series of boarded/ panelled rooms as listed in the inventory were most likely associated with this part of the house. Scars for a series of large openings exist on the east range, especially its west side, and these must reflect the location of large stone transoms and mullioned windows associated with this phase of works (see figure 20). These would have been similar in size and scale to those that survive on the eastern face of the same range (see figure 21). The provision of these large mullioned windows for all the rooms on the ground floor is indicative of the trend by the 17th century of presenting a unified architectural exterior to the property, a distinct contrast to the medieval arrangement of the windows clearly indicating the relative hierarchy and functions of the various rooms. The exterior of the house would provide little evidence as to the arrangement of the rooms inside, more important than this was the expression of the taste and social class of the owner,[51] in this case by having expensive and large mullioned windows set within a uniform whitewashed façade.

Summary

By the middle of the 17th century it is clear that the building had (broadly speaking) its current footprint (with the exception of a later contraction of the barn to the north and east, and a possible loss of a longer southern range). A barn had been established in the north range and a series of rooms existed on first-floor level throughout the east and south ranges and over the east end of the barn. This period represents the recasting of a medieval house, converting it into a fashionable 17th-century property, whitewashed and well provided with private chambers and hearths.

In 1706 the house was substantially redecorated, new windows were inserted in the hall and a new chimney in the medieval solar range. It seems that the overall plan of the building was broadly maintained from the early 17th-century house.

The inventories make it clear that the house has a great court (which was to the east of the cross wing, in land which is now part of the churchyard) and an inner court, containing a well. This must have had, as its medieval predecessor would have done, some bounding wall or range on its western side. Although there is no firm evidence for the location of the orchard and garden referred to in the inventories it may be reasonable to assume that these are to the south of the south front, as an area of land is clearly marked as separate from the open fields in the earliest Ordnance Survey maps of the mid-19th century, possibly reflecting earlier land use and division (see for example figure 1).

5. Late 18th and early 19th centuries (circa 1800)

The next discernable change seems to have come in *c.* 1800, at which point a fundamental internal reorganisation of the east and south ranges took place. First, a wide doorway was inserted into the north end of the east range, clearly to be used (as shown by its width) as a stable door; the jambs of this doorway (now a smaller opening) exists in its location. Small openings lighting the stable were inserted into the east wall and earlier doors and windows into the ground floor were blocked (see figure 33). A significant change to the internal layout of the building was caused by the decision to insert the stables within the main range and this marks the first sign of a contraction of the main domestic accommodation into the southern end of the house. In particular, the location of a large stable in this location would have necessitated the relocation of the kitchen and associated service rooms and pantries further south. At all previous phases of the building's history there must have been direct communication between these services and the hall. No evidence of this communication now exists; instead a thick solid wall divides this end of the property from the accommodation to the south (an opening at its western end being a 20th-century insertion). It is most likely, therefore, that this solid wall was created in *c.* 1800 to divide firmly the house from the stable and barn, forming a division that would remain for the rest of its occupied history. In fact the 1966 plan shows an earlier opening having been blocked perhaps indicating that this blocking (now lost) is *c.*1800 and the wall itself somewhat earlier (located as it is directly under the medieval roof partition). The kitchen was moved at this date into what had been the north end of the medieval hall, albeit with its divided and re-fenestrated appearance of the 17th century. The kitchen remained in this location during the 19th and early 20th centuries and the contrast of the large fireplace with the high status late 17th-century windows is seen in a RCHME photograph (figure 25). The fireplace of this kitchen is currently represented by the narrow cupboard which divides the boiler room from the ladies toilet.

Going hand in hand with the contraction of the house, and in fact necessitated by it, was a re-organisation of the internal accommodation. The changes at this date provided the house with much of its current character, and remained largely unchanged until 1972. In brief, this involved the creation of a garden front to the south range through the relocation and possible creation of medieval features to re-create the sense of a medieval manor house. This fascinating historicising of the property went hand in hand with apparent structural repairs.

That the south range existed at least to its current length by the 19th century is proved by the presence of the early 17th-century roof. However, the western bay of this range has been refaced in roughly coursed ashlar. A straight joint appears between this refacing and the rubble wall of the medieval range. An opening in the north side of this refaced

Figure 25. View of kitchen taken in 1966 showing 19th-century fireplace and late 17th-century windows inserted within what was the medieval great hall. ***© Crown copyright.NMR BB6700430***

bay is indicative of a late 18th or early 19th-century date. The chimney stack, in brick, would also be commensurate with such a date (see figure 3). The evidence of the roof shows that considerable repairs were carried out at this time, most notably the rafters throughout, and all the woodwork, including purlins in the westernmost bay (see figure 23). The roof was also re-covered in slate. It is most likely that such repairs to the end bay are indicative of a structural failing, or just possibly a decision to shorten a longer range from the earlier house.

Figure 26. Bay window on south façade. © Crown copyright.NMR BB6700420

At the same time the bay window on the south front was added. This bay window, with its upper storey of lights, is, in style, wholly appropriate to a late medieval manor house. The reasons for associating it firmly within the 1800s work are twofold: detailing and structure.

There is no precedent for a bay window of this type in the late middle ages which is not fenestrated at ground floor level, (unless it was an oriel but there is no evidence of this in this case) (figure 26). The presence of the large opening in the newly faced north wall of this bay would have provided light to this lower room, and probably suggest that it is relatively low status. Furthermore, and most convincingly, the plinth of the chimney, here ascribed to 1706, clearly sits behind the plinth of the bay (figure 27). The 'gap' formed between the existing chimneypiece and the new window is filled with masonry to create a flush surface (see figure 24). The bay window may or may not have been based on something that already existed in the property but its current form and location are part of the 19th-century work to this range. The lowering of the ground level and insertion of the medieval door in the centre of this range also date to this period (see figure 16). Significant for the current overall appearance of the building, the plaster and whitewash would have been stripped off at this time, intentionally providing the more 'rustic' appearance of bare masonry walls. The 19th-century house provided a hall in the south range, a staircase and upper lobby, whilst maintaining elements of the 17th-century plan.

Figure 27. Detail of bay window, showing masonry abutting against 1706 chimney. ***Pete Smith 04/06***

The arrangement of the windows (for example the single-light ogee-headed window) and the nailhead doorway referred to above were clearly located in relation to a newly created staircase arrangement. The plan of the first floor of the south range, in its current form, therefore, appears to relate wholly to this phase of works. The plan

centres on the position of the staircase (now gone) at the top of which is small landing (lit by the trefoil headed window) (figure 28). Opening from this small landing space is to the left (north) a 'Gothick' pointed doorway with wooden panelled door opening into a large room occupying the south end of the eastern range and to the right (south) an arch, made from the relocation of a 13th-century archway with nailhead decoration (see figure 4). Leading from the arch is a dog-leg corridor wrapping around the main rooms in the south range and which has wooden decorative details and further doorways (six panelled door with pointed arch heads). All these details date from about *c.*1800, and are reminiscent of the 'Gothick' style popularised in the third quarter of the 18th century (figure 29). One 18th-century door (six panelled) exists in the building, providing access from the upper corridor into the square chamber now lit by a four-light late medieval window (although whether or not in its original location is impossible to determine).

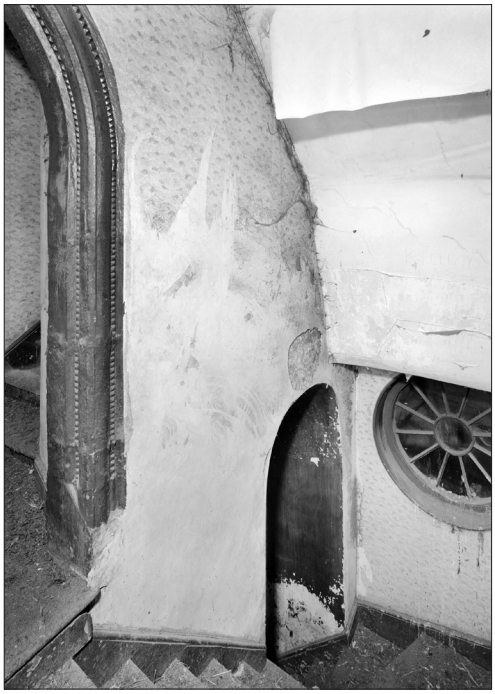

Figure 28. View down staircase as located in 19th century, showing nailhead archway and circular internal window.

The two large chambers in this range have an interconnecting door in the same style and the smaller chamber has a contemporary fireplace. The large room off the landing in the east range (now known as the Gally Knight room) shows further evidence of the external and internal rearrangements of the south façade at this date, with the insertion of a stone fireplace, medieval in origin but almost certainly relocated in its current position at this time, flanked by single medieval openings (figure 30).

Summary

Around 1800, during the Gally Knight's period of ownership, the focus of the house shifted to the south, with the south front becoming the main front, in contrast to the east front being the main façade of the 17th-century house. The insertion of the stables and internal re-ordering represents a reduction in the number of family rooms available and the expansion of the farming provision of the property. The current character and layout of the building owes most to this period of change. The reorientation of the house to the south (looking towards domestic gardens) marked a distinct shift in aesthetic and altered the house's relationship with its immediate

Figure 29. Main first floor room in south range showing c1800 panelled 'Gothick' doors. *Linda Monckton 04/06*

Figure 30. South wall of east range showing rearranged medieval features to provide symmetrical interior feature wall in c.1800. *© Crown copyright.NMR BB6700445*

environment. It finally lost, as its main front, the imposing 17th-century façade facing towards an outer court and the adjacent church. This court, the status of which was altered by this turning away of the front of the house to the south, appears to have been developed for outbuildings at about this time.[52]

6. Mid- to late 19th century

The next change to the house appears to have come after the 1840s and can, most likely, be associated with the taking over of the property and manor by the Fitzherberts of Tissington in 1845. There is no evidence that the Tissingtons used this for their manor (they had Tissington Hall in Derbyshire as their primary residence), and in this phase the house was decisively turned into a working and tenanted farm. Also at about this time the churchyard was extended to the north, taking over what had previously been the outer court of the house. By this date, and certainly by the early 19th century, the court had acquired a number of outbuildings, probably farm and estate buildings.[53] The selling of this part of the manor house complex marks a major sign of its contraction and lowering of status, commensurate with it being converted into a farm with new farm buildings focussing on the inner court to the west instead.

Figure 31. Early 20th-century aerial view of Manor House and its farm. ***© Alan Crooks***

In particular, crew yards were created with three ridged roofs in line, made of Yorkshire boarding,[54] covering the area of the inner court (the ground level of which was about two feet lower than at present) and the barn was altered and subdivided (figure 31). All the major rooms for the family seem to have retreated into the south range and the east range was effectively demoted into stable and pantry facilities. The kitchen was moved from the east range to the south range by the addition of a lean-to adjacent to what must have become the main parlour or family living room (see figure 33).

This phase retained the planning of the *c.* 1800 scheme, and although the kitchen was relocated the evidence of the earlier kitchen remained in *situ* until the 1970s.

7. 20th century

Mr and Mrs Crooks occupied the house from 25 March 1937 and broadly maintained the building as it was inherited. Knowledge of the building during this period is mostly dependent upon recent conversations with their son Alan Crook and study of the RCHME photographs taken in the early 1970s.

Figure 32. View into courtyard from south in 1966 Showing entrance arrangements at farm. ***© Crown copyright.NMR BB6700424***

During this period the inner court maintained the crew yards inserted during the 19th century. The farmhouse was entered through a door in the south-east corner of the courtyard, and a brick lean-to existed adjacent to this entrance (containing a door located opposite the main south front door and hallway) (figure 32). By this date

many of the windows, probably mostly 17th-century openings, were reduced in size and re-fenestrated with wooden casements. The small openings lighting the stable were blocked.

The stables at the north end of the cross wing remained in use, with a gear house to the south (now boiler room, originally the medieval screens passage location). The barn was subdivided as follows: the feed barn was at the west end of the barn; there were four loose boxes in the barn (blocked doors to which can be seen in the south side of the barn) and above them was an inserted concrete floor. An external stone staircase provided access to this upper storey at the eastern end.

Figure 33. View along hall passage looking east, with 19th-century stairwell circular window to right. Opening to left, now location of inserted wooden staircase.

The south range of the building provided the main accommodation for the farmhouse. The brick lean-to was the farm kitchen, adjacent as it was to the main living room area. The hall was partitioned off from this living space at the east end, with direct access one side from the south front and the other from the inner court (see figure 14). From this hall there was direct access to the staircase as reorganised in the 19th century and a hall leading east, and probably, in origin, part of the early 17th-century layout of the building (figure 33). Alan Crooks records that there is an extension cellar under the south end of the east range. The room at ground-floor level above this was the family's main living room. The pantry and dairy existed further to the north of the cross wing next to which was the brewhouse (where the 18th-century kitchen was located). It was under their tenancy that the three-light window was inserted into the lower storey of the bay window (see figure 27). Also a new fireplace was put in the west wall of the south range.[55]

The more radical changes occurred once the building was vacated by the Crooks and given to the parish. These works are referred to in the Introduction. In summary however, the internal plan of the building was significantly altered with the removal of panelled walls and the division of previously open rooms such as the large kitchen

area. It should be noted, and the series of Royal Commission photographs illustrated makes this clear, the building was falling into a state of some decay and therefore in need of both a new use and considerable consolidation. The accommodation on the ground floor now comprises a hall area (the barn) with a wooden mezzanine level at the east end; in the east range a bar (in the 18th-century stables); boiler house (in what was probably the medieval screens passage), a storage cupboard (in the 18th and 19th century a kitchen fireplace); toilets and a passageway in the kitchen and pantry areas (in the 18th-century kitchen, 17th-century hall, part of medieval hall); a small storage or bar area (in the 17th-century entrance passage location, now opening directly into the parlour) and a series of rooms which roughly correspond to the 19th-century house, although with the removal of some partitions and the relocation of the staircase. It was also at this period that the land to the south of the house was sold for a building plot, and the dovecot was demolished in order to provide a drive access to the newly constructed private dwelling.

CONCLUSIONS

On approaching the Old Hall in Church Warsop today it seems an unlikely candidate for the title of the most important medieval house in the county. The evidence suggests, however, that a large courtyard house was firmly established on site by the 14th century (almost certainly building on an earlier structure). This building had a large detached kitchen block, a cross range housing services and an open great hall and a large chamber block to the south. From this point the house has gone through many alterations, changing its appearance and plan forever. Of these changes, six further key phases can be identified. Before the end of the middle ages the plan of the house changed significantly with an early 16th-century recasting of at least the north and east ranges: the detached kitchen was abandoned and probably brought into the main cross wing. The earlier kitchen block was converted into chambers above and storage and cellars below. The essence of the medieval house though was retained with an open hall still at the south end of the cross wing. The medieval house was accessed through the centre of this range into a screens passage leading from the inner courtyard. Some form of gatehouse entrance to the courtyard is likely and would have existed under the current brick cowsheds (now social space) to the west. Such an arrangement of gatehouse leading across a courtyard to a great hall, flanked by services and a solar/accommodation range is typical of many late medieval manor houses.

The medieval house was recast in the early 17th century, and at this point some aspects of the current house plan probably emerged. The barn was created to the north and the medieval hall was floored to provide a suite of accommodation chambers on the first floor. New fashionable stone mullioned and chamfered windows were provided and the front of the house was reversed from the now lost west range to the east range, facing out onto the great court. As a major entrance to the property the medieval screens passage entrance appears to have been maintained but a new door and considerable stone re-facing contributed to a fashionable façade. It is possible that the west and south-west corner of the courtyard house was reduced at this time.

The late 17th century inventories record the nature of the accommodation during this period, the last one reflecting to an extent the updating of the accommodation in 1706, an increase in the size of many of the windows and the provision of new chimneys to supplement or replace the existing 12 hearths. Further re-facing of the medieval hall range is likely at this date.

This substantial and relatively well recorded 17th century house shows little evidence

of change during the 18th century, accepting some loss of 18th-century features in the 19th-century works to the property. However it seems to be towards the end of this century that the status of the property first significantly changes. The solid division between the livestock and domestic accommodation of the property is set up at this time with the construction of a partition wall dividing the newly created stables from the kitchen's third location, in the hall of the 17th-century house. This sets out half the house for accommodation, significantly reducing the earlier service area and pushing many of its functions into the south end of the house. As part of this recasting the external appearance of the house was considerably altered, in particular, the creation of the south façade. Re-using a series of medieval features and possibly introducing or creating others this plan devised a garden front to the house. All the features relate closely to the internal layout of the building at this date (and as now). Much of this wing retains evidence of this early 19th-century (*c.* 1800) re-planning.

The fortunes of the house changed again in the late 19th century as its use as a working farm came to dominate. The inner court was filled with crew yards and the original west range, long gone, was covered with cow sheds. It is most likely at this stage that the large late 17th-century windows were blocked and smaller more domestic ones inserted.

This building was occupied by tenant farmers until the 1960s when the last of the main seven phases involved the cessation of farming and the conversion of the complex into a parish centre.

The complexity of this building contributes towards its overall significance. Despite its current appearance, which reveals, on first glance, little of a medieval courtyard house, there is considerable evidence for a series of significant and interesting phases to the building's history. It was certainly an important medieval manor house in the county, and became a very significant sized 17th-century house. Aspects of its plan can be related to almost every phase of its development, and in general outline and form it owes much to the size and scale of the medieval manor, although the details of that plan are hard to recover. The historicist approach of the 19th-century patrons reveals both an interesting reorientation of the 17th-century house and is an unusually clear example of the medievalising tendencies of that generation.

Future/further research

Measured survey of the plan of the house
A measure survey would assist in two respects: first it would provide the only record

the current building, confirm wall thicknesses and assist in understanding phases of building. Secondly it would provide a basis for graphically illustrating the phases of the house as outlined above.

Stone by stone analysis

This could assist in confirming building breaks and altered features and would express them clearly.

Dendrochronology

This would be extremely useful in confirming (or otherwise) the proposed dates set out above. The dates of the roofs are the clearest evidence in the property for identifying the extent of the building at any given time. Access to all three roofs was available, but it would be useful to have access to all parts of all roofs to check for example the nature of the re-slated bay at the south end of the east range.

Recording during building works

Because of the nature of the alterations to the building in 1972, several internal walls have been lost of significantly altered. However other internal wall surfaces are currently covered up and further evidence of the phases of the house may be revealed by a watching brief and recording during any stripping out of the property.

Potential for below-ground archaeology

As noted above there is considerable potential for below ground remains relating to the medieval and later houses to the west of the inner courtyard, and also the western end of the south range. In addition it should be noted that outer court of the medieval and later house may be preserved in part under the northern part of the churchyard. Furthermore to the west of the manor there may be evidence of the layout of paths and gardens below the present surface (as indicated on the enclosure map).[56]

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ENDNOTES

1. DCMS, Listed Building Description, Warsop Parish Centre, Warsop Bishop's Walk, Warsop, Notts, 28.8.62.

2. Pevsner 1951, Warsop Manor House pages 193-94.

3. Pevsner 1979, Warsop Old Hall and Barn page 364.

4. Unpublished report by RCHME held in National Monuments Record (NMR) 'Old Hall, Church Warsop', November 1966.

5. Pevsner 1979, Warsop Old Hall and Barn page 364.

6. Papers relating to the Warsop Enclosure Commissioners can be found in the Nottinghamshire Archives along with court rolls etc. Also there appears to be a large collection of charters (63 were recorded in 1905) and 5 membranes of accounts held at Belvoir Castle. In 2001 these were not accessible and they have not been consulted as part of this report. However although mostly likely to relate to the manor it is possible that they would reveal some information about the manor house. For summary of documentation see Nottinghamshire EUS (2001), 2.

7. For which see Derbyshire Record Office (D239 M/E 15578 - 1694; D239 M/E 15575 – 1664; D239 M/E 155787 – 1699; D239 M/E 15579 – 1707); note that typed transcripts are held in Nottinghamshire Archives, (DDFW 158 – 1707; DDFW 156 - 1699/1700; DDFW II 157 - 1694) these were first drawn to my attention by Ruth Burrows.

8. Derbyshire Record Office D239M/E15586.

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10. Domesday Book (2003), pages 759, 766 and 782.

11. Nottingham Archives D239 M/M33-44: transcript of Charter Roll no 27 23 April 1233 17 H III.

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22. Nottinghamshire EUS 2001, 6-7.

23. This appears to be a confirmation of the Tuesday market granted to John de Lexington and his heirs in 1239. By 1410 reference is made to a Saturday market only. See Nottinghamshire EUS (2001), 7.

24. Nottingham Archives D239 M/M33-44: transcript of Chancery Inquisition Post Mortem 2 Henry V no. 40 29 October 1414.

25. Nottinghamshire EUS 2001, 9.

26. Thoroton 1972, p 366 f; although the above is instead taken from notes from the Public Record Office documents.

27. Blair, J 1988, 7.

28. Derbyshire Record Office E16113 for Faculty I 1876; Also reference in King 1884, 13.

29. Old Warsop Society n.d., 22.

30. Nottingham Archives D239 M/M33-44: transcript of Chancery Proceedings James I R. 4-16 23 January 1623-4.

31. See especially the Derbyshire Record Office series D239 relating to the Fitzherbert papers.

32. Derbyshire Record Office T1089.

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34. Nottingham Archives D239 M/M33-44: transcript of Feet of Fines, Double Counties 18 & 19 Charles II Hillary, Public Record Office.

35. Nottingham Archives D239 M/M33-44: transcript of Close Roll 27 Charles II, Part 10, no 34, 26 June 1675.

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37. Anon. Warsop Parish Church, Parish Centre, Sookholme Church. No page numbers and Old Warsop Socity n.d., 22.

38. Derbyshire Record Office D239 m-e 16265

39. For inventories see Derbyshire Record Office (D239 M/E 15578 - 1694; D239 M/E 15575 – 1664; D239 M/E 155787 – 1699; D239 M/E 15579 – 1707); note that typed transcripts are held in Nottinghamshire Archives, (DDFW 158 – 1707; DDFW 156 - 1699/1700; DDFW II 157 - 1694); 1706 accounts: Derbyshire Record Office D239M/E15586.

40. I am particularly grateful to Alan Crooks and Ruth Burrows for their generosity in talking to me about the house on a number of occasions.

41. Wood 1965, pages 247 to 256

42. Whitaker 1927.

43. Nottinghamshire EUS 2001, 14.

44. See RCHME 1975, page 9.

45. Cooper, N. greater houses page 307.

46. Webster (1986/7), page 50.

47. Cooper 1990, 274 for comments on the scope of inventories and their uses.

48. Cooper 1990, 75 and 273.

49. Derbyshire Record Office, D239M/E 15586.

50. Derbyshire Record Office, D239M/E 15586.

51. Cooper, N. 1990, page 69.

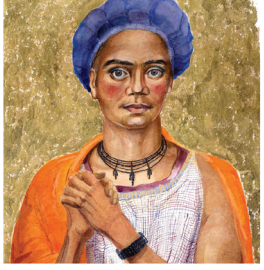
52. Some of these may have pre-dated the 1800 reordering of he property, but change in relationship between the main façade and the court at this time may have sidelined this courtyard further in relation to the house with its use as a supplementary farmyard court being developed instead.

53. Nottinghamshire EUS 2001, 24.

54. Crooks, Description, 23.09.2002.

55. *pers comm.* Alan Crooks.

56. Nottinghamshire EUS 2001, 24



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