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Historic Places Investigation

Framlingham Castle, Suffolk

The Red House, formerly Framlingham Workhouse

Emily Cole and Kathryn Morrison

Discovery, Innovation and Science in the Historic Environment



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**THE RED HOUSE
(FORMERLY FRAMLINGHAM WORKHOUSE)
FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE, SUFFOLK**

Emily Cole and Kathryn Morrison

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SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to inform colleagues at English Heritage, who are considering potential changes at the Red House in the Innert Court of Framlingham Castle. These include the creation of a catering kitchen on the ground floor of the Red House. The report sets out the building's history, development, use and significance, especially in relation to workhouse architecture. It also includes an architectural description of the Red House. In order to place the building in its proper context, the study considers Framlingham's workhouse buildings as a whole – the Red House, the 1729 block on the site of the Castle's Great Hall, and the north range.

CONTRIBUTORS

Historical research, investigation work on site and the writing of this report were undertaken by Emily Cole and Kathryn Morrison. New photography was taken by Kathryn Morrison.

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ARCHIVE LOCATION

Historic England Archive, The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EH

DATE OF PROJECT

The Investigation Team work on the Red House was begun in March 2016. An interim report was completed and circulated in May 2016, and the final text was sent to colleagues in English Heritage in July 2016. The desktop published report was completed in November 2016.

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The Historic Places Investigation Team of Historic England was approached by English Heritage in March 2016 to undertake an assessment of the Red House in the Inner Court of Framlingham Castle (listed Grade I), with the aim of establishing the building's significance, especially in relation to workhouse architecture. The building is currently occupied as a single dwelling by a long-term tenant, formerly the site's custodian. An assessment is required to inform decisions about the location of a catering kitchen, which will service a new cafeteria for visitors on site. This will replace the existing refreshment kiosk (Fig. 1).

Beginning in late April 2016, Emily Cole and Kathryn Morrison of the Investigation Team East undertook a review of readily available historical documentation relating to the Red House, which was constructed as a workhouse. This documentation included material supplied by the Properties Historians of English Heritage, plans, drawings and photographs from the Historic England Archive, and Registry Files retrieved from English Heritage and The National Archives. Site visits were made on 19 April and 5 May 2016. Primary research was then carried out in the archives of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and in the Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich. An interim report was completed and circulated in May 2016.



Fig. 1 The refreshment kiosk at Framlingham Castle, positioned to the north of the workhouse.
(© Historic England, K. Morrison)

This final report begins with an Overview (Section 2). Unreferenced, this is designed to provide rapid access to the history of the workhouse. It is followed by a detailed contextual narrative history of the building, comprising Sections 3 and 4. Section 5 contains a descriptive account of the building as it stands today. The report concludes with Section 6, an Assessment Summary, and an Appendix: 'The National Context. English Workhouses c.1660-1834'.

The report focuses, as requested, on the Red House, but the authors felt – in order to place the building in its proper context – that it was desirable to expand the study to include the 1729 workhouse block and the north range, the functions of which related to that of the Red House. These structures have been considered as much as possible, but have not been investigated in the same depth as the Red House because of the limitations of the original brief. At some point in the future, English Heritage may feel that it would be beneficial to extend the study to include the entire workhouse complex.

1.2 A Note on Terminology

The workhouse at Framlingham has been generally referred to as a ‘poorhouse’ since 1913 (Fig. 2), although it was built as a workhouse, and so a brief discussion of terminology is appropriate.

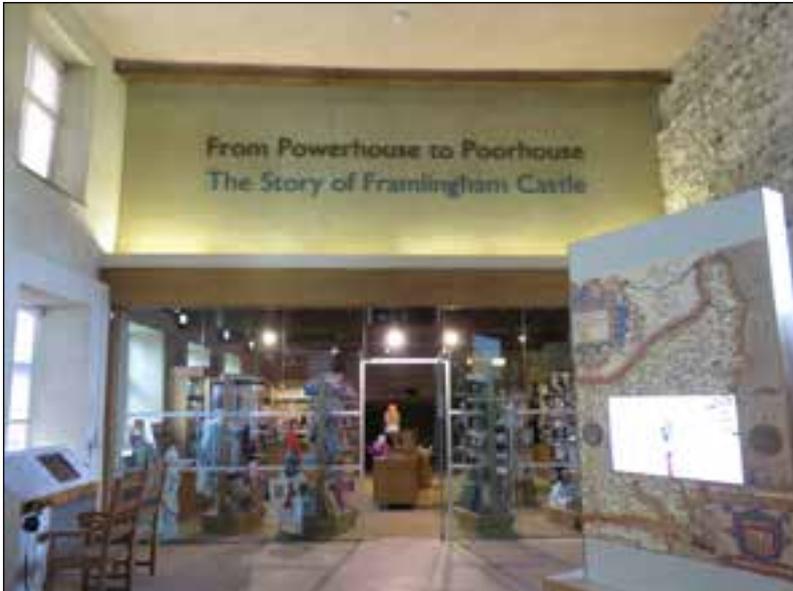


Fig. 2 The interior of the 1729 workhouse block (now shop and exhibition space), looking south. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

To an extent, the terms ‘workhouse’ and ‘poorhouse’ are interchangeable. For example, as early as 1722 the Luton workhouse was named ‘House of Maintenance for the Poor’, expressly ‘to soften the Appellation of a Workhouse, against which the Poor might be prejudiced’.¹ However, in order to assess the historical significance of individual buildings and institutions, the correct ‘building type’ must be identified, to ensure that relevant comparisons can be made.

Setting aside cases like Luton where euphemisms were deliberately deployed to soften the implications of the institution, it is clear that the term ‘workhouse’ has a more specific meaning than ‘poorhouse’. A poorhouse is any building that provided shelter for the needy prior to 1834, usually operated by the parish and funded from the poor rates. Most parishes had at least one poorhouse – often a simple cottage – and the majority implemented benign regimes. Inmates were usually the very young or the elderly. Workhouses, on the other hand, were institutions which aided or compelled the dependent able-bodied poor – whether resident or not – to undertake work in order to receive assistance from the poor rate.

Assistance of any type was usually called ‘relief’. ‘Outdoor relief’ could be financial or ‘in kind’ (for example, firewood, food or clothing), and was granted to recipients in their own homes. ‘Indoor relief’, on the other hand, was delivered when the recipient lived in an institution.

As will be seen, a number of different policies were implemented in Framlingham over the years – often chiming with national trends – but it is more accurate to label the building as a workhouse than as a poorhouse. Crucially it was built as a workhouse, with no intention that it would become a residential institution.

2. OVERVIEW

The Red House was erected in the Inner Court of Framlingham Castle in 1664 as the parish workhouse, on the site of what were probably service rooms at the low end of the medieval Great Hall (Figs 3 and 4). The workhouse was built by Pembroke Hall (now known as Pembroke College), Cambridge, in fulfilment of the will of Sir Robert Hitcham, who died in 1636. As far as is known, the earliest use of the term 'Red House' occurs in a document of 1699.

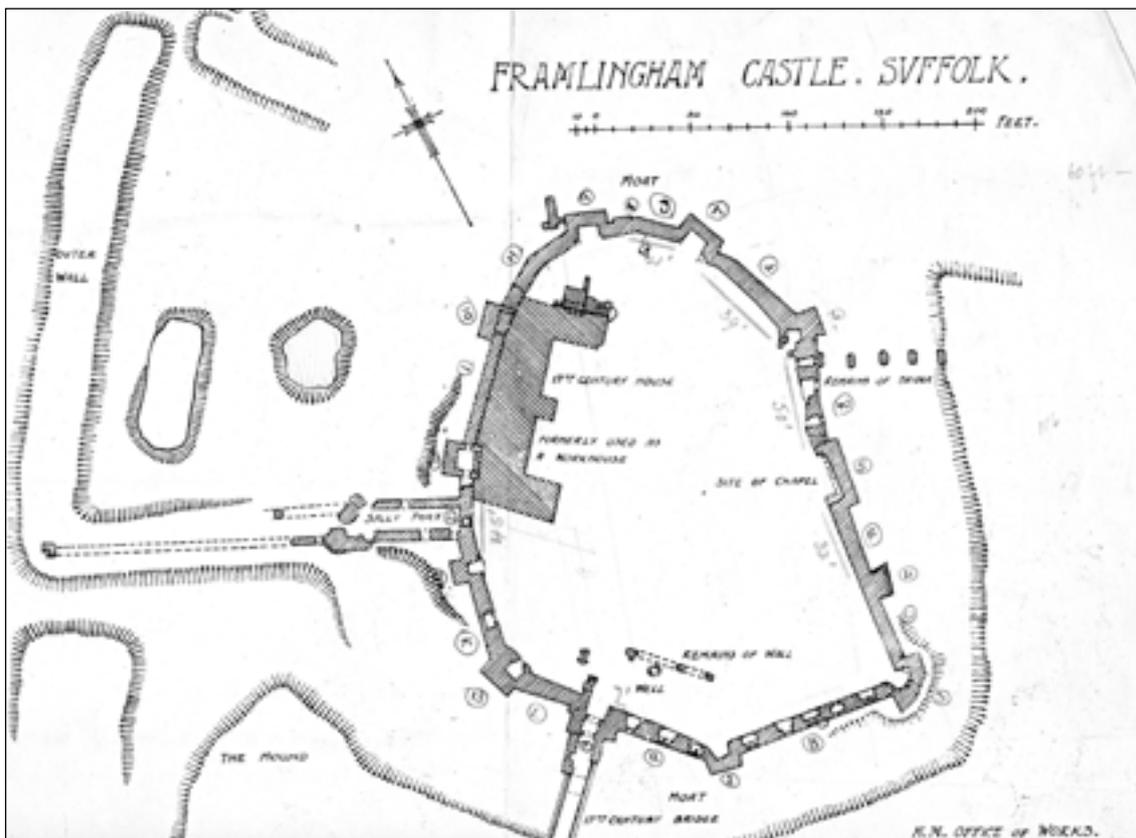


Fig. 3 A site plan of Framlingham Castle dated 1919, showing the location of the workhouse, comprising buildings of the late 16th century, 1664 and 1729. (TNA WORK 14/685)

Pembroke Hall is known to have commissioned the London surveyor Peter Mills to design two other buildings connected with Hitcham's will: almshouses in Framlingham (1654) and the Hitcham Building (1659-61) at the college in Cambridge. It is possible that Mills, who is best known as the architect of Thorpe Hall (1653-56) near Peterborough, designed other buildings for Pembroke Hall. He may have provided the design for the workhouse in Framlingham Castle.

The Red House is one of a very small number of purpose-built workhouse buildings to survive nationally from the 17th century: the only earlier survival in the whole of England (see Appendix) appears to be the south range of Newbury Workhouse in Berkshire, built in 1626 and now used as a museum (listed Grade 1). No other 16th- or 17th-century workhouse buildings are known to survive in Suffolk, other than in adapted buildings such as Hadleigh Guildhall.



Fig. 4 The Red House, Framlingham Castle, from the south-east. The workhouse of 1729 lies to its rear (north). (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Contrary to statements in the current guidebook and site presentation panels, the poor were not residents of the Red House in the 17th century. The building was intended to provide stock, implements and a place to ‘set the poor on work’. Those who were unwilling to work in exchange for their relief or dole (commonly referred to in Framlingham as ‘collection’) were sent to the workhouse to spin or weave during the day under supervision, but continued to live in their own homes. Those who did not require supervision to work were given stock and implements, and allowed to work in their homes. The building was not designed to include the residence of the workhouse master (known as the ‘workmaster’ or ‘governor’), but may nevertheless have ended up serving this purpose.

Although the Red House, as constructed, was a non-residential building, it adopted a standard lobby-entry house plan, with three rooms on each floor: an essentially traditional layout which made no obvious concession to its specific purpose. It thus replicated the conditions in which the poor worked (at spinning and so forth) in their own homes, and must be understood within the context of a cottage-based textile industry. A combing and weaving shed was also built within the castle as part of the workhouse of 1664, but nothing is known of the structure, which would presumably have been more industrial in character.

Until the Red House was completed in 1664, the workmaster, John Kilbourne, lived in the adapted north range of the surviving castle buildings, alongside the quarters of the schoolmaster, Zaccheus Leverland, and the schoolroom – the school being a separate institution established under Hitcham’s will. Mrs Kilborne was also involved in teaching children: perhaps in helping them to spin or to read, a duty undertaken

by the workhouse's Governess in 1705. Leverland's room and the schoolroom are represented by the surviving section of the north range, which appears to have been called the 'White House' by 1729. Kilbourne was promised a new house in 1664, but there is no evidence that this was ever built: he and his wife may have remained in the north range or moved into part of the Red House.

In 1666, just two years after the workhouse was completed, it was used as a pest house – presumably temporarily – during the plague. Around the same time, the Governor (probably still Kilbourne, who clearly had difficulty getting work out of his unwilling charges) ran off with the valuable stock. This was a major setback for the enterprise.

For some time – a period which is poorly documented – the building ceased to operate as a workhouse. By the 1690s it had become the home of a bailiff named John Earl, who apparently ran an alehouse on the premises and paid no rent. This fits snugly into a national pattern: a great many workhouses set up in the early to mid-17th century went into abeyance in the later 1600s. The notion that it might be possible to generate profit through pauper labour – especially from paupers who were essentially unwilling to work – was misplaced. As Kilbourne discovered, workhouses proved expensive and, above all, troublesome to operate.

The north range of the castle was still standing, though in poor repair, in 1697, when Richard Porter approached Pembroke Hall on behalf of the town of Framlingham to ask if they could use it as a workhouse – essentially reviving the scheme of 1664. Porter argued that this was needed due to the high unemployment rate amongst men in the parish, and especially amongst those who could not spin. In 1698, however, the north range was being valued, and it was sold in 1699 for the value of its building materials to a John Corrance. It was demolished in early 1700, to the indignation of those promoting the workhouse project.

However, by this time the Trustees of Hitcham's Estate had come up with an alternative proposal. In April 1699, they concluded that Framlingham Castle should be used as a workhouse for around 10 poor children, who were to live on the premises and learn to spin; the proposals were agreed by Pembroke Hall in January 1700. The plan was very much in the spirit of contemporary 'incorporation' workhouses elsewhere in England (see Appendix). The schoolroom and workroom were to be located in the truncated north range (Fig. 5). The schoolroom remained under the control of the schoolmaster (and presumably continued to admit non-workhouse children), whilst the workroom was in the charge of the workhouse Governor and Governess, Thomas and Anne Harding, who were also responsible for the care of the children. These years in the workhouse's history were somewhat tumultuous – there were complaints, for instance, when the ground-floor room in the north range, appointed as the children's workroom, was handed over for parish use in 1703-4 – and the new scheme was not a success. The number of children declined, and in 1708 it was decided to admit adults, rather than children, to Framlingham Workhouse, and to save money until there was enough to 'make the Workhouse fit' to receive the poor.



Fig. 5 The north range or White House, from the north-east. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

In 1729 a large new block was constructed adjoining the north elevation of the Red House, on the site of the medieval Great Hall, including lodging rooms and work rooms for indoor paupers (Fig. 6). This was built by the parish rather than the Hitcham Trustees, who nevertheless contributed to the costs of building and running the establishment. A workhouse test was applied for the first time: the poor had to enter the workhouse as a condition of receiving relief. This existed in tandem with an outdoor relief system, principally benefitting the industrious poor.



Fig. 6 The 1729 workhouse block, from the north-east. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Many 'test' workhouses were set up nationally following the passage of the permissive Knatchbull's Act in 1723, and although quite a few were purpose-built, few survive. One of the best survivals, and comparators, is the workhouse at Rochester in Kent (1724). The 1729 block at Framlingham – today little more than a shell – seems to have had a central entrance and stair (represented in the present-day building by a large brick-faced arched window piercing the castle wall), with a large heated room to either side on each floor. No plans of the building are known to pre-date the gutting of the ground and first floors around 1840.

The 1729 workhouse institution did not initially spread into the Red House, and the two structures are unlikely to have inter-communicated until a later date. Similarly the north range – first called the 'White House' in 1729 – was retained for use by Hitcham's Charity. The exact functions of the Red House and White House in this period are uncertain, but parts of them seem have been used to accommodate elderly people waiting for places in Hitcham's almshouses.

A house within the town was conveyed to Pembroke Hall for the use of the schoolmaster in 1711.² The school itself (or at least the boys' contingent) quit the first-floor room of the White House in 1722, relocating to the upper floor of the Market Cross, which had been built by Pembroke Hall around 1677. From there it moved in 1788 to a new building on the north side of Hitcham's almshouses. However, the schoolroom in the north range of the castle was referred to as the 'School Chamber' as late as 1727, suggesting that some educational function may have continued for a time after 1722, perhaps for girls. The whole of the White House became part of the parish workhouse in 1797. It may have been at this time that the ground floor was converted into a bakehouse. The 1806 inventory must have included the structure of 1729 and the White House, but not the Red House. It listed furnishings in a workroom, back house (bakehouse), pantry, committee room, sick ward, library, lodging rooms, and pest house. The Red House became part of the parish workhouse in 1813, and it is likely that doorways were created to communicate with the main workhouse block at this date.

When the New Poor Law was introduced in 1834, Framlingham parish was absorbed into the newly-formed Plomesgate Union. In 1836-37, a new union workhouse was built at Wickham Market to a double-cruciform plan devised by John Brown. During the few years when Framlingham served as a union workhouse, before the residents moved to Wickham Market, it was adapted according to New Poor Law principles, with separate airing yards and a 'Union School'.

Around three years after Framlingham's indoor poor had been transferred to their new institution, the 1729 workhouse block was converted into a 'Town Hall', usually referred to as a 'public hall' or sometimes as the 'Castle Hall'. The first floor and internal walls were removed, though the attic floor was left intact, probably reflecting its use as a dormitory for the adjacent girls' school (see below). In 1889, the early 18th-century organ gallery from St Michael's Church in Framlingham replaced an earlier gallery in the south end of the building. The church's organ gallery had been criticised by earlier Victorian writers and was thus deemed disposable. It was served,

in the hall, by an early 18th-century stair which may also have come from the church, or perhaps from the 1729 workhouse block.

The hall of the castle had a variety of functions and was the setting for a range of events. For instance, it was used as a court house (possibly right up to 1872, when a new court house was built), and as a drill hall by the Framlingham Rifle Corps (from 1859). Meanwhile, as well as the hall, from 1841 the White House (or at least its upper floor) accommodated a girls' free school while the Red House became the house of the schoolmaster of the boys' school. The Red House ceased to be the schoolmaster's house around 1882, and became home to the drill instructor and his family. In fact, the building was divided into two residences: one for Pembroke College's caretaker, and the other for the drill instructor or sergeant. Framlingham's fire engine was housed at the Castle by 1855, and appears to have been kept in a coach house with a large doorway, on the ground floor of the White House, next to the old bakehouse. The building also housed an armoury.

The 1729 block continued to be used for public gatherings until 1913, when Pembroke College placed Framlingham Castle in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works. It seems to have been around this time that the building began to be widely (but inaccurately) named Framlingham's 'poorhouse' rather than 'workhouse', perhaps in an effort to make the site sound more picturesque. The stigma associated with the word 'workhouse' was very strong at the time – indeed, it was as recent as 1911 that the term 'workhouse' was formally replaced by 'poor-law institution'. Using the term 'workhouse' would not have been compatible with attracting visitors to a historic site. None of these objections pertain today (2016), and the term 'workhouse' is used throughout this report, for historical accuracy. It should also be noted that the 1729 workhouse block was persistently but misleadingly referred to as the 'Great Hall' or 'Main Hall' for most of the 20th century.

Preservation works at the site, such as clearing growth and rubbish, began immediately in 1913, but were not completed before the outbreak of the First World War. The 1729 workhouse was used as an officers' mess in 1915-16. The site did not open to the public until the mid-1920s. The Red House was used as the foreman's house from 1914 and subsequently became the residence of the site's caretaker or custodian. The middle ground-floor room was a kitchen, in the mid-20th century, and serviced a tea room in the easternmost ground-floor room until 1955. The present kitchen, at the west end of the ground floor, served as the scullery.

An extensive repair programme of the Red House, known as the 'custodian's house' or 'custodian's cottage', was carried out in 1955-57. The windows throughout the house were repaired and reglazed, the roof was effectively rebuilt and two of the gables and the chimney stack were dismantled and rebuilt. Inside the building, much of the floor structure was reconstructed (with new beams, joists and floorboards), and the ceilings replaced with plasterboard. Not all of the oak used in the repairs was new, or from the site, making it difficult to identify original fabric in the present building. The partition walls between the westernmost rooms on both ground and first floors were rebuilt, and that on the first floor moved westwards to accommodate a new bathroom and fire escape. The level of intervention – despite evident disrepair

and beetle infestation – is astonishing by modern standards, and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, to give him his due, expressed some disquiet at the time. The Red House was not provided with water or drainage until around 1947, and heating, hot water and electricity were installed only following transferral of the site to English Heritage in 1983.

In conclusion, the Red House is of supreme interest and significance as a rare surviving example of a purpose-built 17th-century workhouse. It survives extremely well, despite varying levels of alteration – the most interventionist being the repair programme of 1955-57. The floor plan remains largely as it was in 1664, the changes made reflecting the needs of modern living (for example, the insertion of a bathroom in the 1950s). The building's relationship with the adjacent workhouse block of 1729 has varied over the years – although they are not now joined, there was a physical connection in the past, probably created after 1813. The central room on the ground floor of the Red House was the kitchen from the 1920s until 1955, servicing a tea room in the current sitting room; the wall to its west dates from 1955.

3. SIR ROBERT HITCHAM AND HIS CHARITIES

The wealthy lawyer Sir Robert Hitcham (1573-1636) was born in Levington, near Nacton, to the south-east of Ipswich.³ He was educated in Ipswich (at the Free School), Cambridge (at Pembroke Hall, renamed Pembroke College in 1856) and Gray's Inn, London. According to an inscription on Hitcham's tomb (Figs 7 and 8), in the south chapel of Framlingham church, he was: 'Attorney to Queen Anne in ye first yeare of King James, then knighted. And afterward made ye Kings senior Serjeant at Lawe and often Judge of Assize'. In 1635, Sir Robert bought Framlingham Castle together with the manors of Framlingham and Saxtead from Theophilus Howard (1584-1640), 2nd Earl of Suffolk. Hitcham may always have intended to donate this estate, which cost £14,000, to his old college.



Fig. 7 Sir Robert Hitcham's tomb in St Michael's Church, Framlingham. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 8 Detail of Hitcham's tomb, Framlingham church. Note the inscription: 'F. Grigs fecit anno 1638'. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

A year after the purchase of Framlingham Castle, and a week before his death in August 1636, Hitcham drew up his will. He was unmarried and had no offspring: his nephew, Robert Butts, inherited Levington manor, which Hitcham had acquired in 1609, while his sister was given a farm named Watkins.⁴ Having provided for the Butts family, Hitcham left his Framlingham estate to Pembroke Hall, to be governed by a trust, on condition that the college set up and maintain a number of charitable institutions for the poor. These were almshouses in Framlingham and Levington, and a school and a workhouse in Framlingham. The school and workhouse in Framlingham were intended for the benefit of the 'poore and most needy & impotent' of three parishes – Framlingham and Debenham in Suffolk and Coggeshall in Essex – and provision was made of 'a substantial stocke to sett them on worke and to allow to such needy persons of them soe much as they shall farther think fit'.⁵ In addition, Hitcham left money for the appointment of a schoolmaster and granted Framlingham church an endowment of £20 per annum for the reading of prayers twice daily.

In order to build the new structures in Framlingham, Hitcham ordered that 'all the Castle Saveing the stone building' – that is, the north range, containing the Great Chamber (see below) – was to be demolished, and the materials sold or reused.⁶

The implementation of Hitcham's wishes was delayed by legal disputes between his executors, the churchwardens of Framlingham and the Pembroke Trustees concerning the receipt of rentals, an issue settled in 1644. By then England was in turmoil. At Pembroke Hall, the Master, Benjamin Lany (in post 1630-44; reinstated 1660-62), and the remaining Fellows were expelled. In the same year, money was ordered to be paid to the new Master, Richard Vines (in post 1644-50), who then 'employed Workemen, provided Brick & other materials to erect a Scholehouse, Workehouse, & Almehouse at Framlingham'.⁷ However, work did not progress as planned: Vines sold the materials, refused to undertake the work, and was removed from the mastership. The money he owed was subsequently paid to his successor at Pembroke, Sidrach Simpson, but legal battles were still underway at the time of Simpson's death in 1655.

One of these legal challenges was posed in 1651 by the parishes of Debenham and Coggeshall, and the complaint was circulated in the form of an ordinance issued by the Lord Protector in 1654. The parishes objected to the terms of Hitcham's will, arguing that 'great inconveniences' would be caused by the poor having to travel to the school and workhouse at Framlingham – a distance of eight miles from Debenham and 45 miles from Coggeshall.⁸ Certainly, it was not usually the case that the poor of one parish would have to travel to another to work or be educated, and the churchwardens and overseers of Debenham and Coggeshall would have incurred a great deal of extra cost and trouble if they sent their paupers to Framlingham; Hitcham's will did not explicitly cover travel costs. The cost of maintenance and accommodation was another concern, and the dispute makes it absolutely clear that Framlingham workhouse was conceived as a non-residential institution, 'the Will not providing for the Poors habitation nor making any other provisions for their livelyhoods there'.⁹

It was further argued that Framlingham would be inconvenienced by so many poor congregating and residing in the town, and that the poor of the different parishes would find it difficult to work together under one roof:

And in respect of Continual differences, which in all likelihood will arise betwixt the Towns touching their poor, in such sort confused and mingled together, besides the jars and contentions amongst the poor themselves (incident to such sort of peoples) working together under the same roof, whereby the Town of *Framlingham* will be much disquieted, the work hindered, and more materials in danger to be spoiled and imbezilled than work done.¹⁰

As a result of the ordinance of March 1653/4, it was agreed that Debenham and Coggeshall would receive a portion of the revenue of Hitcham's estate to provide for the work and education of their own poor inhabitants, and that the workhouse and school in Framlingham would serve that parish only.¹¹ This was apparently confirmed by a deed issued by Pembroke Hall in August 1666.¹²

The agreement of 1653/4 allowed the stipulations of the will to be fulfilled. Within a year, Pembroke Hall had built a row of 12 almshouses (Fig. 9) in New Road, Framlingham; these are dated 1654, and are now listed Grade II*.¹³ The contract



Fig. 9 The Hitcham almshouses, New Road, Framlingham. They were designed by Peter Mills and built in 1654. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

for the building was drawn up between Pembroke Hall and the Framlingham bricklayers Robert Goodwin, Robert Atkin, John Goodwin and William Spink, 'according to a plot already drawn and agreed on by Peter Mills of London surveyor'.¹⁴ Peter Mills (1598-1670) was an important architect, responsible for Thorpe Hall outside Peterborough (1653-56). He also designed the Hitcham Building (1659-61, Figs 10 and 11) on the south side of Ivy Court at Pembroke Hall in Cambridge, and may have had a hand in the design of the Red House in c.1664. Mills is known to have remained active almost until his death: he was one of the four surveyors appointed to supervise rebuilding after the Great Fire of London in 1666 (alongside Christopher Wren, Hugh May and Roger Pratt), and he designed buildings at Christ's Hospital in London in 1667-68.¹⁵



Fig. 10 The south front of the Hitcham Building, Pembroke College, Cambridge. The building was designed by Peter Mills and built in 1659-61. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 11 The Hitcham Building (1659-61; Peter Mills), Pembroke College, Cambridge. Detail of north front. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Also in fulfilment of Hitcham's will, in 1653 Zaccheus Leverland was appointed schoolmaster in Framlingham, a post he retained until 1673, four years before his death.¹⁶ Originally, he seems to have taught children (almost certainly boys only) in the guildhall on Market Hill.¹⁷ By 1663, Leverland is known to have lived in the north (or Great Chamber) range of the castle, which also contained the schoolroom.¹⁸ Additionally, two pairs of almshouses – forming identical parallel ranges – were built in Bridge Road, Levington (listed Grade II). They display a stone plaque bearing Hitcham's arms (gules, on a chief or, three torteauxs [sic]). Although these buildings are usually dated to 1654, there is evidence to show that they were erected in 1677. On 28 April of that year, the Steward of Framlingham Richard Porter wrote to Pembroke Hall to inform them of the 'good forwardnesse' of the construction work, and also to let them know he had made some alteration to the form of the building.¹⁹ In a letter of July 1677, Porter reported that 'the Almshouses at levington are finished' and that he had paid £200 'towards the building of them'.²⁰

According to the same letter, the next building to be undertaken by Hitcham's Estate was the 'Crosse' at Framlingham, the building in the Market Place which housed Hitcham's school from 1722 until its demolition in 1788.²¹ It is likely that a wider consideration of the subject at the time (see below) led to the conclusion that it was no longer appropriate for the school to be co-located with the workhouse. Probably, this new school was just for boys, with the girls continuing to receive a more ad-hoc education, as appropriate, from the governess of the workhouse. The Market Cross

was described in 1787 as: 'a very Large Building containing a Chamber for Receiving the Stall Stuff another for a School Room and an Open Part Supported by Pillars with Several Shops about it.'²²

By 1787 the fair and markets at Framlingham were not as extensive as they had been in the 17th century, and the Cross was in need of repair. The school room was 'an Improper One being Low, and much exposed to Heat and Cold', and without a yard or any other place for the children 'to retire to upon necessary Occasions'.²³ It was demolished and a new schoolroom (Fig. 12) built at the north end of the Hitcham almshouses in New Road, slightly away from the town centre.²⁴ These new premises were certainly for boys only: a girls' free school was established by the Trustees of Hitcham's Estate in 1841, in the north range of the castle.²⁵



Fig. 12 The Free School, built to the north of Hitcham's almshouses in Framlingham in 1787-88. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

As has been shown, an agreement was reached in the 1650s which meant that revenue was paid out of the Hitcham Estate rents to Debenham, Suffolk, and Coggeshall, Essex, to enable them to 'set their own poor on work, according to their several abilities and capacities'.²⁶ In the case of Coggeshall, this totalled £150 per annum, paid in March and September.²⁷ It was intended that this sum:

be employed for providing a work-house and a substantial stock to set the poor and most neediest on work ... and to provide a School House and to allow £20 yearly, to teach 20 or 30 of the poorest children of Coxall [Coggeshall] to read, write, and cast accounts, and then to allow them such sums of money to bind them apprentices as the said trustees should think fit, not exceeding £10²⁸

Initially, it seems that Coggeshall did not formally establish a free school. However, in 1722, Pembroke Hall and Hitcham's Estate agreed that the annual payment was no longer practicable for either Coggeshall or Debenham, and agreed instead

to a partition of the charity's lands: the portion allotted to Coggeshall was land in Saxtead.²⁹ This enabled the founding of a Sir Robert Hitcham School in Coggeshall, set up in 1722 by the Pembroke Trustees, after a reconsideration of the terms of Hitcham's will.³⁰ It is probable that this reconsideration also related to the school at Framlingham, which – as has been noted – left the castle grounds for the room in the Market Cross in 1722.

At first, the Coggeshall school – for boys only – was located in a first-floor room in the Corn Market House on Market Hill, in a comparable arrangement to that at Framlingham.³¹ However, from 1787 – on the demolition of the Market House – it occupied a chamber at Crane's or Clock House, 1 Stoneham Street (listed Grade II). A clock tower was added to the building in 1787 by the new schoolmaster, Henry Emery (d. 1844), who remained in post for the next 49 years. The school remained in Stoneham Street until moving in 1859 to new premises opposite Paycocke's Cottage in West Street, built by the Trustees of Hitcham's Estate. As a plaque on the building records, the school finally closed in 1912. Hitcham's charity still exists today, and continues to carry out work inspired by the terms of Sir Robert's will; for instance, the charity's Trustees assist children of Coggeshall to enter higher education.

It may be that the workhouse at Coggeshall was founded around the same time as the town's Hitcham School. It was certainly in existence by 1727, and remained in use until at least 1812.³² The workhouse building was located on the west side of Stoneham Street in the centre of the town, to the north of Market Hill, close to the school premises. It was demolished in 1838-39 and replaced by St Peter's National School, built to designs by Joseph Clark.³³

The provisions for the poor of Debenham seem to have been far less formal. There is no record of a Hitcham school ever having been established in the town. There was a workhouse, located near the church, but this apparently had little architectural coherence. It was described as follows by the local shopkeeper Samuel Dove in the mid-19th century:

An old building, formerly standing in the Row facing the Churchyard, consisting principally of one long room, where its inmates were employed in spinning wool and with chambers above. There were also two small rooms at the east end for Lunatics ... One of them was latterly fitted up with a cage for the confinement of the refractory. It was altogether a very mean building in appearance, the front of it was fitted up for a dwelling for the Keeper and other officers, in one of which the Parish Officers used to assemble Monday Morning to hear the wants of the poor. Since the Poor Law Act [1834] came into operation it has been sold, partly pulled down and otherwise much altered. The portion of the old building now standing is converted into two tenements belonging to Mr John Gooding.³⁴

4. FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE AND THE WORKHOUSE

4.1 Medieval and Tudor Structures in the Inner Court

At the time of Hitcham's death in 1636, a number of buildings remained standing in the Inner Court of Framlingham Castle. He requested in his will that they all be demolished except 'the stone building'.³⁵ This was the north range (Fig. 13), which contained the Great (or Dining) Chamber.



Fig. 13 Robert Hawes's drawing of the north range of Framlingham Castle, as it stood prior to its demolition in 1700, with the Red House to the left. From *Pembroke College N5*. (By permission of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke College, Cambridge.)

With the exception of the north range, in accordance with Hitcham's expressed wishes, the existing buildings were demolished before the Red House was built in 1664. Writing around 1730, Robert Hawes (1665-1731), the one-time Steward of Framlingham and a Trustee of Hitcham's Estate, described the demolished buildings as: 'The chapple, Great hall, the buttry, pantry, skullery, the Inner Kitchin, prevy Kitchin, pastry, porter's lodge, with the Chambers over them, the wine-seller, beer-seller, the Brewhouse and Millhouse'.³⁶

The Chapel is known to have been demolished in 1657.³⁷ A guidebook of 1865 claimed that the 'dining room', meaning the castle's Great Hall, was levelled in 1658 and the materials sold to Southwold to repair buildings following a devastating town fire of 1659.³⁸ It is clear that the demolition of the Great Hall must have pre-dated the construction of the Red House, which was positioned to its immediate south. The north elevation of the Red House is built of the same brickwork, and in the same style, as the rest of the building: it would have been visible, and never abutted an earlier structure (unlike the east side, which abuts the curtain wall). A date of 1658 for the demolition of the Great Hall accords with this evidence.

The north block was at the high end of the medieval Great Hall, running between

the curtain wall (on the west) and the Chapel (on the east). In its present form, the block is believed to have been built or heavily remodelled in c.1585-86, based on dendrochronological analysis of timbers on both ground and first floors.³⁹ The large brick stack and internal fire surround certainly date from around that period. The north range contained the Great Chamber, or Dining Room, and was described by Robert Hawes in 1712 as follows:

Between the Hall and Chapell fronting the Great Castle-Gate, was a large chamber, with several Rooms and a Cloyster under it, pulled down in the year of our Lord, One Thousand and seven hundred; for which, when standing in the reign of King Henry the Eighth, there was a suit of Hangings of the story of Hercules.⁴⁰

Around 1730, Hawes described the part of the castle which was retained after Hitcham's death more fully as: 'The Dyning-Room, & the Great or Common Kitchin, with the Chambers and low Rooms to them belonging'.⁴¹ Nothing more is known about the Great Kitchen: possibly, Hawes had mistakenly identified a room which earlier served as the Great Parlour.

Documents in the Archives of Pembroke College reveal that the bulk of the north range was demolished in early 1700. In 1697 representatives of the town of Framlingham, in a letter from the Steward Richard Porter, requested the range for use as a workhouse (see below).⁴² They argued that they had desperate need of this due to the high rate of unemployment amongst men who could not spin. The Trustees initially agreed, but then decided to sell the building for the value of its demolition materials, a total of £70, to Porter's great disappointment.⁴³

The only known illustration of the north range of the castle was included by Robert Hawes in a critical account of Hitcham's Charity, written around 30 years after its demolition (see Fig. 13).⁴⁴ According to this sketch it stood two storeys high, was lit on the south by two canted bay windows with diamond-pane glazing, and had a red tile roof with a single stack. All that survived the demolition of 1700 was the west end of the range, today housing the bakehouse and, above it since 1984, the Lanman Museum (Fig. 14). In addition to these rooms, the lower part of the rear wall was retained to serve as a boundary around a garden occupying the northern part of the Inner Court: this area was leased in 1693 to John Browne.⁴⁵ The wall and trees beyond can be seen in early engravings of the castle, such as that by Samuel Hooper of 1785 (Fig. 15).



Fig. 14 The Lanman Museum on the first floor of the north range or White House. This was formerly the school chamber.

(© English Heritage, Properties Historians)



Fig. 15 An engraving by Samuel Hooper, showing Framlingham Castle after the demolition of most of the north range. Part of its rear wall was retained to enclose a garden on the north. Compare Fig. 13. (Historic England Archive)

4.2 Setting up the School and Workhouse, 1664-66

As has been noted, some years passed between the death of Sir Robert Hitcham and the creation of buildings for either the workhouse or the school set up in Framlingham under the terms of his will. The institution of the school seems to have come first, for a schoolmaster, Zaccheus Leverland (d. 1677), was appointed in 1653. In 1654 – the same year that the Hitcham’s almshouses were built in the town – the school began to meet in the late 16th-century Guildhall on Market Hill.⁴⁶

By 1663, however, there was clear activity at the castle site, as is shown by two letters from Robert Goltie or Goultie (c.1594-1678), rector of Framlingham and seemingly a Trustee of Hitcham’s Estate.⁴⁷ According to these documents, by 1663 Leverland had a room on the ground floor of the north range within the castle walls; meanwhile, a chamber above this was then in the process of being partitioned for use as a school room. This probably concerned the west end of the range – the area that survives today. Also resident within the castle was a John Kilbourne, ‘workemaster’: for his room, he had, ‘for the present’, the grand setting of the castle’s Great Chamber.⁴⁸ However, Kilbourne desired ‘a more convenient habitation to be built him towards which wee have now all materials in readines’.⁴⁹ Meanwhile, the rooms above and below his temporary accommodation were repaired, and two stairs were installed in the range: one serving the school chamber and another leading up to the roof over the Great Chamber.

At this time, it is clear that there were poor people being put to work on the castle site, presumably in rooms within the Great Chamber range and in outdoor areas also. As well as paying Kilbourne £100 for stock to employ the poor, additional sums were given to workers and employers outside the workhouse 'to set themselves & others on worke' (that is, weaving and spinning).⁵⁰ Golty explained to Pembroke Hall on 4 July 1663 that 'wee have provided wheeles for diverse poore children whoe now begin to fall to worke'. For 'their encouragement', these poor children were paid a penny a day '& what they earne', while the women teaching them received 3d. per week. A different method of payment was followed 'for such as spin hempo', 'such weavers as weave the linen cloth' and 'such as spin wool'.⁵¹

Golty and others were busy amassing materials for the building of 'the workehouse & scholehouse', as well as a house for Mr Kilbourne.⁵² Bricks were being made, for example, and the sum of £30 was spent on buying a house from Sir Nicholas Bacon at Dennington, a village north of Framlingham. This was used as a source of further building materials; Golty reported in July 1663 that part of it had been taken down and the materials used to build a partition for the school chamber.⁵³ He urged Pembroke Hall to consider that if 'wee might be allowed as much money' for the building work and relief of the poor as had been spent in the construction of Hitcham's almshouses in 1654, 'this would tend to the releife of hundreds'.⁵⁴

Shortly after this, Golty wrote to Pembroke as follows:

wee humblie desire . . . to know yr further pleasure for the building of the workehouse having now all the cheife materials in a readines & the season fitting wee conceive it needful to build with speed & should be glad if some of the fellowes would please to come over to see it set out & to countenance the worke that noe more may be done at present but what necessarie & you approve of: Hoping that the workehouse & a substantial stock being the first thing in the will that should take place you wilbe pleased yt it may accordingly be performed.⁵⁵

Work clearly moved forward reasonably fast, for in a letter of 17 May 1664 Golty stated:

the masons . . . have now raised the workehouse all of brick to the first flooring of jices [joists] & have framed another building to be raised up to the chimneys in the wale for a Combing house & to set up loomes.⁵⁶

Nothing more is known about this combing and weaving house; it might conveniently have been located on the site of the castle's Great Hall, between the Red House and the north range, but no buildings are shown in this location in Robert Hawes's drawing of the site of c.1730 (that is, as it was 30 years earlier, according to his remembrance; see Fig. 13).

According to the same letter of 1664, Kilbourne had complained about the attitude of the poor, who had become used to treating as dole the relief given to help set them up in work. Golty explained that this attitude could not be rectified:

. . . til the workehouse be finished, & roome made yt such as are Lazie & unwilling to work & careles of following their worke when put into their hands to bring it home in time but keepe yt at home for a month or more which if diligent might be dispatched in two or three dayes may be brought to worke at the workehouse & only such as are careful & diligent have liberty of carrying home worke to their owne houses.⁵⁷

This usefully clarifies that it was the lazy and indigent elements of society in Framlingham that would be expected to work in the workhouse to earn their dole ('collection'). The industrious poor would be allowed to take stock and implements home, where they were trusted to work. The same letter reveals that Mrs Kilbourne was employed in a similar capacity as her husband, and was eager to teach children: 'if parents were as willing to have their children taught as Mrs Kilburn & others are to learne them many more might have been taught . . .'.⁵⁸ This probably relates to the teaching of spinning and other processes of wool/cloth manufacture, but might also have referred to reading.

The completion of the Red House (Fig. 16) and the opening of the new workhouse building probably coincided with an agreement of 19 November 1664, drawn up between the Pembroke Trustees and John Kilbourne.⁵⁹ This confirms that the workhouse was being set up as a textile manufactory on a commercial basis. Kilbourne was to provide a sufficient stock of wool to employ 'three hundred poore people of fframlingham ... or more, if there be soe many in spinning'. Financial losses would be borne by Kilbourne, and he was also responsible for maintaining the quality of the work:

The said Wooll being Spunn in such manner as it ought to be in the Judgement of one or more of ye commissioners concerning the premises or whome they shall appoint And what is not soe done an abatement to be made according to the custome of the trade. – for Norwich yarne.⁶⁰

In return, the Trustees agreed that a new house would be erected 'for his dwelling' within the castle. Kilbourne was to 'have the use of the workehouse newly there erected for his trade'. He would hold 'the said dwelling house and workehouse' for three years, so long as he continued to 'provide a stock as aforesaid and imploy the number of poore aforementoed [aforementioned] and manage the business in imploying the said poore according to ye true intent and meaning of the last Will and Testament of Sr Robert Hitcham'.⁶¹ His salary was £40 per annum.

No new dwelling house, in addition to the Red House, is known to have been built. This does not mean that one was not provided: after all, no corroborative evidence survives concerning the combing and weaving house, which was certainly erected (see above). It is possible that the workmaster continued to inhabit the rooms in and around the Great Chamber of the north range for some time. It is equally possible that the entire enterprise collapsed before long. Unfortunately, contemporary documentation is scant during these crucial years, between 1664 and the 1690s, and Kilbourne disappears from the historical record. Our knowledge of the site in this



Fig. 16 The Red House from the south. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

period is dependent on the accounts of later stewards of the estate, who might have held personal biases or learned about the early history of the workhouse through hearsay.

The assignment of the rental of the demesne land (the manors of Framlingham and Saxtead) left to Pembroke Hall by Hitcham was not settled until August 1666, when an agreement was drawn up between the college, Framlingham, Debenham and Coggeshall.⁶² This allowed for an annual payment of £158 to Framlingham 'workhouse' – which was, therefore, operational at this time. Framlingham disputed this sum, and took the other parishes to court to have their portion reduced in 1682.⁶³

4.3 The Late 17th Century: the Workhouse in Abeyance

The use of the Red House changed in the later 17th century. According to a document of 1708, it was used as a pest house during the plague in 1666, and one of the governors – possibly John Kilbourne – ran off with the stock, which would have had considerable value:

Whereas Sr Robert Hitcham by his last will ... Enjoyn'd a Workhouse to be built at Framlingham presently after his Decease for the Employmt of Poor Impotent Persons, which Bequest was not perform'd till near 30 years after ... and within a year or two [it] was laid down & Converted to other uses, partly because ye Plague then

raging in ye Town, & being conveniently scituated for a pesthouse, was made up for that purposes & partly by reason of ye Governor going off with ye Stock that was intrusted in his hands for ye Imploymt of ye Poor, which hapned about ye year 1666.

After that ye Town was again without a Workhouse above 30 years, without any regard to Sr Robt Hitchams Will ⁶⁴

Around 1730, Robert Hawes wrote of the workhouse as follows: ‘indeed a brick house was built in the castle called a workhouse, containing but three rooms on a floor, not capable for that purpose’.⁶⁵ This description is useful in confirming that the plan of the Red House – with three main rooms on the ground and first floors – remains largely as built.

Alongside this text, Hawes set out a sketch of the buildings in the castle’s Inner Court, and this constitutes the earliest known view of the Red House (Fig. 17, and see Fig. 13). It shows the building from the south. The Great Hall to its rear had clearly been demolished, but the north range is shown still standing – as it did until 1700 – with a red tile roof and central stack. Part of this range was used as the school (see above). The Red House itself is shown with the pattern of fenestration that survives in the building today, and with a single central chimney stack. The



Fig. 17 A detail from Robert Hawes’s drawing of Framlingham Castle in c.1700, showing the Red House. From *Pembroke College N5*. (By permission of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke College, Cambridge.)

ground and first floors are depicted with single mullion, two-light windows with diamond-pattern glazing: these are probably to be treated as schematic rather than accurate depictions of the windows.

Hawes's document of c.1730 refers to the fact that the workhouse was 'defeated' in the late 17th century, but without providing dates.⁶⁶ He claimed that 'John Earl, a Bailiff, got possession of the Brick house in the Castle, sold ale there, & paid no rent for the many years he dwelt therein . . .'.⁶⁷ Little documentation survives relating to John Earl, save for a letter of 17 June 1692, referring to a debt to Pembroke Hall: perhaps unpaid rent.⁶⁸ Thus, the Red House seems to have been given a different use for a period of around three decades – though poor people are known to have been resident in the building by April 1699 (see below). In the meantime, Hitcham's school seems to have continued to be based within the castle walls, in the north range.

4.4 1699-1729: The Revival of the Workhouse

As has been noted, Richard Porter – Framlingham's Steward – wrote to the Pembroke Trustees in 1697, asking them to lease the town the north range of the castle for conversion into a workhouse. The building was then in poor repair, but Porter assured Pembroke that 'we will take upon us, not only the present reparon [reparation] of it, but the keeping it in repayre, so long as we shall use it'.⁶⁹ In 1698, the north range was being valued – by Porter and others interested in leasing it – but by spring 1699, Pembroke had entered into an agreement with a John Corrance, whereby he paid £70 for the materials of the dining room, 'being 56 foot long & 26 foot wide, vizt ye walls timber, lead, glasse tiles &c'.⁷⁰ Corrance was given until 1700 to 'carry away' the materials, though he was to leave 'so much of ye wall next ye garden now in ye possession of Mrs Browne standing as may be a sufficient fence to ye same'. In a letter of 6 February 1700, Porter made reference to 'the great building now taken down'; it had probably been demolished very shortly before.⁷¹

By this time, the Trustees of Hitcham's Estate had come up with an alternative proposal, set out in a document entitled 'Conclusions about ye workehouse'. On account of its significance to the story of the workhouse, and its level of detail, the document is quoted here in full:

A Method Concluded upon by the Trustees deputed for mannagement of the Revenue's of the late Sr Robt Hitcham's Estate at fframlingham at their General Meeting this 3d day of April 1699 as followeth

1. That the School Chamber be Ceiled, Glazed & trimmed up fit for use forthwith.
2. That the School Master attend there dayly unles Sundays holy days Saturdays in the afternoon four hours in the forenoon, and four hours in the after-noon to learn such children as the Trustee's shall appoint, to Read, Write & Case Accompts there, & the children to come to hear praiers one Sundays & holy days

3. That the Room under the Schoole be extended in breadth and length as farr as the wall of the Great Chamber and to be paved with Brick, for the Children to work in, and to be Glazed and trimmed up for the use forth with, and the stayers removed
4. That the Poor people in the Red house be forthwith turned out and the house to be repaired And a Copper and an Iron pott, to be hanged there to boil with Coal's
5. That Beds, Huts, Rugs, Coverlets, Sheets Matts & c be pvided for the Children by the Trustees as soon as the Houses be trimmed up, and to be inventoried and remain theirs for that use for ever as the Town's Goods marked with Sr Roberts Armes and the Governor to Answer and make good such as are imbesselled
6. The Governour shall have the free use of all the houses within the Castle belonging to the Towne (except the School Chamber & Librain) And the Castle yard, Mrs Brown's part onely excepted
7. The Governour shall have fiften pounds p Annum salary. And he shall have 5 Chalders of Coale two loades of wood and five loads of Broom delivered him yearly.
8. He shall find the Children with necessary & convenient Meat, Drink, Washing, Lodging & c, And mend their clothes and Linen, And his wife to learn the Girles to Read
9. He shall every day give leave to each child two hours either in the forenoon between seven & eleven of the clock or in the afternoon between one & five of the clock to Read write or cast accompt as the school master think fittest
10. The Children sent thither shall be three years old and upwards And for each Child He shall have one shilling p head paid him weekly, And have necessary linen & woollen & shoes pvided by the Trustees, who are to pvide also for them. Wheels and Reels to work with and pay for their shoes mending.
11. That the Children be Clothed in Blew with Bonnetts & c as at Christ Church hospitall _ & have Sr Roberts Arms upon their Coat's
12. That three Trustee's be appointed by the Rest at the General meeting to inspect weekly the work house and School, And monthly the Almshouse and report the abuses happening in any of the aforesaid places that the same may be rectified at their next general meeting
13. That the Almespeople repair daily to praiers according to Sr Roberts Will otherwise their salary to be detained by the Treasurer for the time being.
14. That ffive pounds _ per Annum be allowed to the Governess for threads, yarn, tape, laces, pins _ for the mending the Childrens Clothes linen & c

This method wee have Concluded upon with the Amendmts & will forthwith have the same put in execution under our hands ...⁷²

In a separate document, the reasons behind the proposals were set out, including various statements concerning the positive benefits of workhouses. Taking children to live in the workhouse was justified as follows:

For by this means Those who have many Children by putting some into Workhouse may better maintain the rest & themselues who now lue upon ye Collection given them to maintain their Children &c. And 3dly in respect of their Clothing. For at the Workhouse their Clothes will last ye longer then when with their Parents whereby they are Rent & torne wth stealing wood & Idleing at play &c and never mended.⁷³

The proposals were agreed in principle by Pembroke Hall in 1699, but before proceeding they checked that there were no objections to the scheme. It seems that some were against it, including Richard Porter, advocator of the alternative workhouse plan of a few years before. Porter felt that the limitation to children only was misguided – that they were better off with their families, and that there was a greater need for employment (in spinning, etc.) among adults.⁷⁴ Pembroke was concerned that there was not ‘unanimous consent’ for the scheme among the town’s ‘chief inhabitants’, but they did not receive any formal objections and formally agreed to the proposals on 22 January 1700.⁷⁵

Management of the new workhouse was placed in the hands of ‘Mr Alpe’ – that is, Edward Alpe (1643-1715), a prominent local figure who took on Richard Porter’s lease of Framlingham lands in the late 17th century.⁷⁶ Alpe was allowed to make arrangements with the workhouse Governor and Governess without consulting his fellow Trustees. This was the subject of a bitter complaint submitted by Robert Hawes and others in February 1704.⁷⁷ One of their allegations concerned the use of the north range. Alpe was criticised for diverting the revenues:

out of their proper Channels, & laid out in parting seuerall Rooms, & converting to the parish use a large Room under the Schole Chamber, which was designed by the Trustees, & exprest in the proposalls approved by the Colledge, to be for the Children to work in; for want of which Room the Governess haue declared, that she cannot imploy aboue 10 children, & the poor-people in those Rooms in lieu of Collection are paid weekly, & ordered to be clad out of Sr Robt hitcham’s estate, with out the Approbation of the Trustees at a Generall Meeting.⁷⁸

The Governess referred to is known to have been Anne Harding; her husband Thomas was appointed ‘work-master’ or Governor in May 1704.⁷⁹ A document of 1705 provides further information on the duties of the Governess, as well as mentioning her salary (£5 per annum): she was to have ‘her dwelling in the house’, presumably the Red House, was responsible for providing the children ‘with Meat Drink Washing and Lodgeing’, and was to teach ‘the Girls to Read’ (the boys almost certainly being educated separately by the schoolmaster), and was to ‘allow the Children two days in the week for prayers and School’.⁸⁰

The castle buildings were being repaired and altered for workhouse use in 1703-4. A document recording payments to workmen shows that a new door was added 'under the Library', for instance, and that two new floors were laid, a staircase built with a closet underneath, and a 'house of office' added (see below).⁸¹ On 16 May 1704, it was ordered that:

the present Treasurer do cause the Kitchin in the work-house to be paved with white Brick &c the entry before the door to be set with stone and the remainder of Brick that comes out of the Kitching to be towards ye paving of the Butteryys and that the windows in the said worke-house be put in good repair that the Bord of the Parlour ye hearth & and such other things as are necessary ... & that the present Treasurer do provide necessarys for ye lodging & Dyet of such persons as shall come in.⁸²

There was a later reference, in 1721, to 'the Parlor Chamber in ye Red House',⁸³ so 'the Parlour' referred to above was probably in that building, and the Kitchen is likely to have been there too. In June 1704, reference was made to 'the house adjoining to the school house', which was to be 'tiled & fitted up for use forthwith'.⁸⁴ This structure is not known to survive today: it was probably the house of office mentioned above – that is, a service building, likely to be a lavatory block – built abutting the north range.



Fig. 18 The north range or White House, which contained the school chamber until 1722, viewed from the north-east. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Also, as has been noted, work was undertaken in the room under the school chamber (Figs 18 and 19) – Leverland’s former accommodation, with his stair removed. This was intended as a workroom for the workhouse children, but by 1704 it had been appropriated by the parish and was being used as a lodging for poor people – who Robert Hawes complained were being paid weekly in lieu of ‘Collection’ and were ‘ordered to be clad out of Sr Robt hitcham’s estate, with out the Approbation of the Trustees at a Generall Meeting’.⁸⁵ This area of the north range was still being used as the lodging of poor people in 1726, when a widow named Rachel Smith was allowed part of the room under the school chamber.⁸⁶

It seems likely that the need for this extra accommodation came about in the early years of the 18th century, after the ‘Method’ document of 1699 ordered that ‘the Poor people in the Red house be forthwith turned out and the house to be repaired’.⁸⁷ It would seem that, after the departure of John Earl and his alehouse (see above), the building had functioned as a lodging for poor people supported by Hitcham’s charity, but in c.1704 it was repurposed with a view to the accommodation of the workhouse inmates, Governor and Governess.

It should be noted that this enterprise was comparatively small-scale, partly because of the loss for workhouse use of the ground-floor room in the north range. In March 1705, the Governess Anne Harding confirmed that ‘there is not room enough in the said Work-house to imploy about ten Children’.⁸⁸ These children would have



Fig. 19 The White House, viewed from from the south. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

been aged between three and 10, as had been set out in the workhouse proposals of 1699, and were to wear blue bonnets and coats bearing Hitcham's arms. By 1708, the number of children in the workhouse had reduced to five, and it was stated that 'upon Tryall we find not in ye Parish a Sufficient number of Children to employ it as it ought to be'.⁸⁹ It was therefore deemed impossible to continue along the lines set down in 1699. Instead, it was recommended that a workhouse 'for Older Persons' was preferable and was 'Consonant to ye Design of the Donor, & seems more to ye satisfaction of the Parishioners'.⁹⁰ Thus no more children were to be admitted; those in residence were to be apprenticed out and no more payments were to be made from Hitcham's Estate to people outside the house. Any 'Overplus' in the Estate's funds was to be set aside by the Treasurer and 'Improv'd' wherever possible, until:

it amounts to such a sume as ye College shall think sufficient to make the Workhouse fit to receive such a number of Poor impotent Persons as by ye Consent of a Majority of ye Trustees shall from time to time be put therein.⁹¹

This scheme seems to have gone ahead, and must have involved changes in the use of the various Inner Court buildings.⁹² For instance, by at least 1720, poor people seem once again to have been lodging in the Red House, many of them later being offered a place in Hitcham's almshouses.⁹³ Meanwhile, in 1711, the schoolmaster of Hitcham's school was given a house in the town, and may at that point have left accommodation within the castle walls.⁹⁴ The school itself left the castle site following the conversion in 1721-22 of 'part of the Stall house Chamber' in the Market Cross for use as a school chamber, with a room for the schoolmaster.⁹⁵ Almost certainly, this school in the Market Cross was for boys only. The education of girls may well have continued on the castle site but probably as an ad-hoc arrangement – at the discretion of the Governess (or Governor's wife) of the workhouse.

4.5 The Parish Workhouse, 1729-1837

A new workhouse block was erected to the north of the Red House in 1729 (Fig. 20). This was done at the cost – and initiative – of the parish rather than the Hitcham Trustees.⁹⁶ It nevertheless stood on land owned by Pembroke Hall, which leased the completed building to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, Thomas Doughty and John Pipe, on 29 September 1729.⁹⁷ The lease included:

All that stone Building containing in length Eighty three foot and six and Twenty ffoott in Bredth Erected since the tenth Day of last June, At the costs and charges of the said parishioners within the walls of the Castle of Framlingham aforesaid ffor the Maintenance and Employment of the poor of the said parish.⁹⁸

It is important to note that the lease did not include the Red House or the north range, which remained – at least for the present – in the hands of the Hitcham Trustees.

The chief purpose of Robert Hawes's document of c.1730 may have been to urge the Hitcham Trustees to contribute to the building costs, and this they did.⁹⁹ It was



Fig. 20 The new workhouse was built between the Red House and the White House in 1729. Photographed in 2006. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

ordered at a meeting held on 2 April 1731 ‘that One Hundred Pounds be Paid by the Treasurer to John Pipe & Thos Doughty towards Building the Work-House on or before the 2d of July next ensuing’, and furthermore that £20 due from an Edmund Cocking be lent to the pair.¹⁰⁰ Subsequently, on 24 September of the same year, it was ordered that ‘ye Twenty Pound Bond of Cockings & Twenty Pounds more from ye Treasurer be given to the Church Wardens & Overseers towards the Charge of Building the Work-House on or before this first of March 1731’.¹⁰¹ From 1733, the Trustees also paid £52 half-yearly towards the maintenance of 16 workhouse inmates, including a contribution towards their clothing, ‘the Out Side Garment to be the Livery of Sr Robert Hitcham’.¹⁰²

The 1729 block adopted a straightforward rectangular plan and filled the space formerly occupied by the Great Hall of the castle, between the Red House and the remaining block of the north range or ‘White House’, a name first recorded in 1729.¹⁰³ Together with these two ranges – which as noted above did not form part of the new workhouse establishment from the outset – the complex assumed a U-plan.



Fig. 21 The workhouse of 1729: the south end of the east elevation, abutting the Red House. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 22 One of several medieval heads decorating the façade of the 1729 workhouse. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Built of brick and flint, with a tile roof, the early 18th-century block stood two storeys high plus an attic lit by dormers (Fig. 21, and see Fig. 20). Medieval stone-carved heads (Fig. 22) were reset on the façade: ‘They have placed five old heads of Dukes and Dutchesses of Norfolk over ye windows wch were formerly taken out of ye Castle and preserv’d by Mr Hawes’.¹⁰⁴ In appearance, scale and plan, the building might be seen as a precursor of the 14 houses of industry or ‘hundred houses’ built throughout East Anglia between 1756 and 1785 (see Appendix).

Around the time the workhouse was built in 1729, the Hitcham Trustees ordered ‘that Convenient Windows be open’d at the White House in the Castle’.¹⁰⁵ This was followed in 1731 by the order ‘that Necessary Windows be open’d in ye Castle for the Convenience of the poor People there’.¹⁰⁶ These probably related to the ventilation and lighting of earth closets, perhaps in the ‘house of office’ built abutting the north range in 1703–4 (see p. 26). In the 1930s there were still no conveniences in the Red House.

The exact arrangement of the 1729 workhouse block is not known: as shall be shown, the building was greatly altered in the 19th and 20th centuries, work which involved the structural removal of the first floor, and no early plans are known to survive. The fullest source of evidence is an inventory taken by the overseers of the poor for the parish, Thomas Pool and Francis Taylor, on 19 April 1806, when the building was already 77 years old.¹⁰⁷ Since 1797 the workhouse had included the north range, or White House, which was rented from the Hitcham Trustees, but as yet it did not include the Red House. Individual rooms were named as follows: Work Room, Back House, Pantry, Staircase, Committee Room, Sick Ward, Library, Lodging Rooms, and Pest House.

The quantity of contents filling the Work Room in 1806 suggests that it occupied the entire ground floor of the 1729 block. It contained 22 spinning wheels, 13 shoemakers’ lasts, and various tools suggestive of outside labour. With its five chairs and large settle, possibly arranged around one of the fireplaces, it may have been used as a day room by the elderly and infirm. In addition, it served as the workhouse dining room: there was a dining table with seven forms and a dresser. Two ranges were mentioned, possibly occupying the two recesses shown within the south fireplace in a 1930s photograph (see Fig. 28), before it was restored. This fireplace retains part of a brick arch which is suggestive of an oven, and so this part of the building may have served as the bakehouse and general cooking area prior to the creation of a new bakehouse and pantry in the newly-acquired north range, probably around 1797. This, however, is purely hypothetical. A hatch to the north of the south stack (Fig. 23), opening into the Red House, may not have been created until after the Red House became part of the workhouse, in 1813.

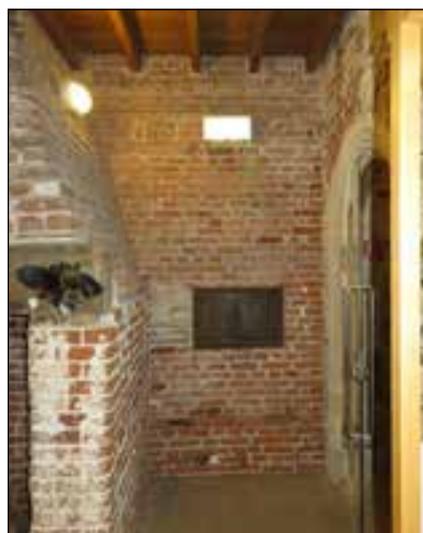


Fig. 23 The serving hatch in the wall between the 1729 workhouse and the Red House. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

From its contents it appears that the 'Back House' was much more than just a bakehouse; it was a complete service range. With a mash tub and ale stools it was clearly also a brewhouse, and the presence of three coppers and three wash tubs suggests that it was also the wash-house. The oven and its iron door (Fig. 24) are mentioned in the inventory, and may have been fairly new in 1806. The Back House had a meal hatch, as did the Pantry, which was presumably located to its east. This may, in fact, have been one and the same hatch, occupying the wall between the two rooms. The items stored in the Pantry included 32 wood dishes and 47 trenchers, as well as knives and forks.

A staircase (possibly the external stair shown in Fig. 35, or a lost internal stair) evidently rose from the Pantry to the Committee Room, which must have been on the first floor, close to what is now the Lanman Museum. Adjacent was probably a small Sick Ward followed by the Library, presumably the old school chamber which, despite its name, appears to have been used as a dormitory or a bedding store.

The 1806 inventory mentions 'Lodging Rooms' – containing items including 12 bedsteads, 26 coverlets, 40 sheets and 10 blankets – without revealing how many such rooms were contained within the building. Nevertheless, it can be assumed that they occupied the entirety of the first floor and attic (Fig. 25) of the 1729 block. The location of the Pest House is not known: the name 'Pest House' – and indeed its function, which was to isolate infectious cases from healthy inmates – suggests that this was a separate building rather than a room, but no such detached structures within the inner court survived into the 20th century.

Despite this analysis of the 1806 inventory, and particularly the analysis of the 'Work Room' as a single space (see above), it remains possible that the 1729 building originally had a central hallway, aligned with the porch and with rooms to either side. At the rear (west) of the central hall may have been a staircase, lit by the



Fig. 24 (left) The bakehouse oven on the ground floor of the north range or White House. The south side of the oven has been cut away to create a corridor (compare Fig. 39). (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Fig. 25 (above) The attic of the 1729 workhouse block probably contained lodgings for inmates. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

surviving arch-headed, brick-lined window set within the castle wall (Fig. 26). In form it resembles the windows on the ground floor of the main façade. It is difficult to find an alternative explanation for the presence of this window, which would have been cut by the floor structure if it existed prior to the creation of the Castle Hall in about 1840. It may, however, have been made in the 19th century to light the Castle Hall. It does not appear in the 1930s photograph of the Hall (see Fig. 28), and must have been blocked by that date.



Fig. 26 The interior of the 1729 workhouse block, photographed around 2005, showing the arched window of uncertain date that might once have lit a central staircase. (© English Heritage, Properties Historians)



Fig. 27 The 'dungeon' or punishment cell at the bottom of the stair in the curtain wall, to the south-west of the 1729 workhouse block. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Richard Green, in his history of Framlingham of 1834, described the workhouse as 'a neat and comfortable building' with 'two wings of an older date attached, that were in some way connected with the original building'. He added an interesting fragment of information about the arrangement and working of the workhouse, stating that 'at the foot of the stairs, is a small dark dungeon, now used, by the parish authorities, in confining such inmates who prove disobedient to the rules of the house.'¹⁰⁸ This was presumably the chamber at the foot of the staircase in the medieval tower at the south-west corner of the 1729 block (Fig. 27).

The workhouse as it existed in the late 18th and early 19th centuries is comparatively well documented. Evidence shows that the number of inmates at this time was generally around 30 to 40 – some of them members of the same family – though it reached 55 in the second decade of the

1800s.¹⁰⁹ On 28 December 1835 – by which time it had become a union house – there were 29 paupers living in the workhouse, including the Governor and his family of three.¹¹⁰ Before 1834, the poor people were active in spinning and also undertook outdoor work, those who did so being required to wear ‘brown clothing and badges’.¹¹¹ This came to an end under the New Poor Law of 1834.

In 1785 both the Red House and the White House – at that point not part of the workhouse institution – were ‘Putt into Proper repair’ by Hitcham’s Trustees.¹¹² The parish began to rent the White House as part of the workhouse in 1797, and the Red House in 1813.¹¹³ In May 1813, a document referred to ‘the new rooms in the Old House’ being fitted up as bedchambers, and this may relate to the Red House coming into use as accommodation for the poor.¹¹⁴ It is known that the Red House remained in use as a lodging for poor people (including some looked after by the local Mills charity) into the 1820s.¹¹⁵ Around 1820, references were made to the sale of shoes from the premises, which implies shoemaking was underway at the Red House, though spinning remained the main occupation.¹¹⁶

An interesting picture is painted by a letter of 1798, written by Benjamin Parke of Pembroke Hall to Samuel Kilderbee, Steward of Framlingham. Parke reported that a complaint had been made by the master of the workhouse about the ‘number of hogs in the castle yard’. Pembroke felt that keeping of the animals was ‘both offensive and injurious’, especially in the summer season, Parke writing that:

as they wish every attention to be paid to the health and comfort of the poor people, you are desired to signify the wish of the society [Pembroke Hall] and to remedy this evil as far as circumstances will allow – 2 and 3 [hogs] might perhaps be kept without inconvenience, though a dozen cannot.¹¹⁷

It was around this time in its history that Framlingham workhouse was first referred to as a ‘poorhouse’. The earliest known use of this term to refer to the workhouse buildings dates from an indenture of March 1814, when land ‘within the Walls of Framlingham Castle’ was leased by Pembroke Hall to a group including ‘Jasper Pierson & James Leggatt, Guardians of the Poor-House of the said Parish’.¹¹⁸ In the accounts of the overseers of the poor of Framlingham, the term ‘Poor House’ appears to be used in reference to the institution at Framlingham from 1829.¹¹⁹ It would, of course, have reverted to ‘workhouse’ under the New Poor Law, from 1834 until the removal of the inmates to Wickham Market. As has been noted (see p. 2), ‘poorhouse’ appears to have been the standard term used to describe the workhouse buildings as a whole from 1913 onwards, and particularly the central (1729) block.¹²⁰

After the New Poor Law was introduced in 1834, Framlingham parish was absorbed into the newly formed Plomesgate Union. In 1836 the parish workhouses of Framlingham and Parham appear to have been appropriated as temporary union workhouses. Meanwhile, a new central workhouse was built at Wickham Market, on a double-cruciform plan designed by John Brown (see Fig. 63), and small parish workhouses or poorhouses were closed and the properties sold. On 7 May 1836, an advertisement was placed in the *Suffolk Chronicle* for the undertaking of alterations and repairs at the Framlingham workhouse and division of the courtyard into airing

grounds by paled fences.¹²¹ The name of the Governor at this time – in effect, the last master of the workhouse – was Mr Smith. The inmates left the castle site when the workhouse at Wickham Market opened, probably in late spring or early summer 1837.

4.6 Parish and Educational Use: 1837 to 1913

For a time, the future of the workhouse buildings at Framlingham Castle seems to have hung in the balance. On 20 September 1838, ‘the free use and Occupation of the Castle Yard and the House therein situate’ – described as being ‘late used as a workhouse’ – was granted for a year to Henry Carr, a gardener, who paid an annual rental of £8.¹²² This was clearly an interim measure, for in March 1839 the Trustees of Hitcham’s Estate were discussing ‘the best mode of appropriating the Castle, wch in consequence of the erection of a Union House at Wickham Market, is no longer required for the purpose for wch it was originally let to the Parish’. The Trustees expressed regret that a building ‘wch admitted of being rendered available to many useful purposes’ was at that time unoccupied.¹²³ Hitcham’s Charity was keen to obtain from the parish the remainder of the lease for the site, and to ‘connect the castle with the Charity property of Sir R Hitcham’. They urged the overseers of Framlingham to make arrangements with the parish ‘with as little delay as possible’.

No documents clarifying the outcome of this suggestion are known to survive, but it would seem that a compromise was reached: some of the buildings on the castle site were handed to the Charity for their use, while others were retained by the parish. It is evident that by 1841 the Red House had become the residence of the schoolmaster employed by Hitcham’s Estate and his family.¹²⁴ This was Samuel Lane (c.1800-79), who in 1839 had been Master of the ‘Union School’.¹²⁵ This was not the workhouse school, but an initiative by the British and Foreign School Society (cf: British Schools). In 1840 the following report on Framlingham Union School was published in the *Suffolk Chronicle*:

Framlingham Union School. – The subscribers to the Union School at Framlingham conducted upon the system of the British and Foreign School Society, held their annual meeting in the Castle on Wednesday evening, when a satisfactory Report of its progress and funds was read, and several very interesting, animated, and encouraging addresses were delivered from the platform to the subscribers, the children, and their parents. A collection was made in aid of the school, which the meeting, by one of the resolutions put from the chair, was pledged to support, as “an Institution calculated to promote the lasting benefit of the children”, of whom there are now about 150, of both sexes from Framlingham and the surrounding parishes, receiving scriptural and general education, in this useful and thriving establishment.¹²⁶

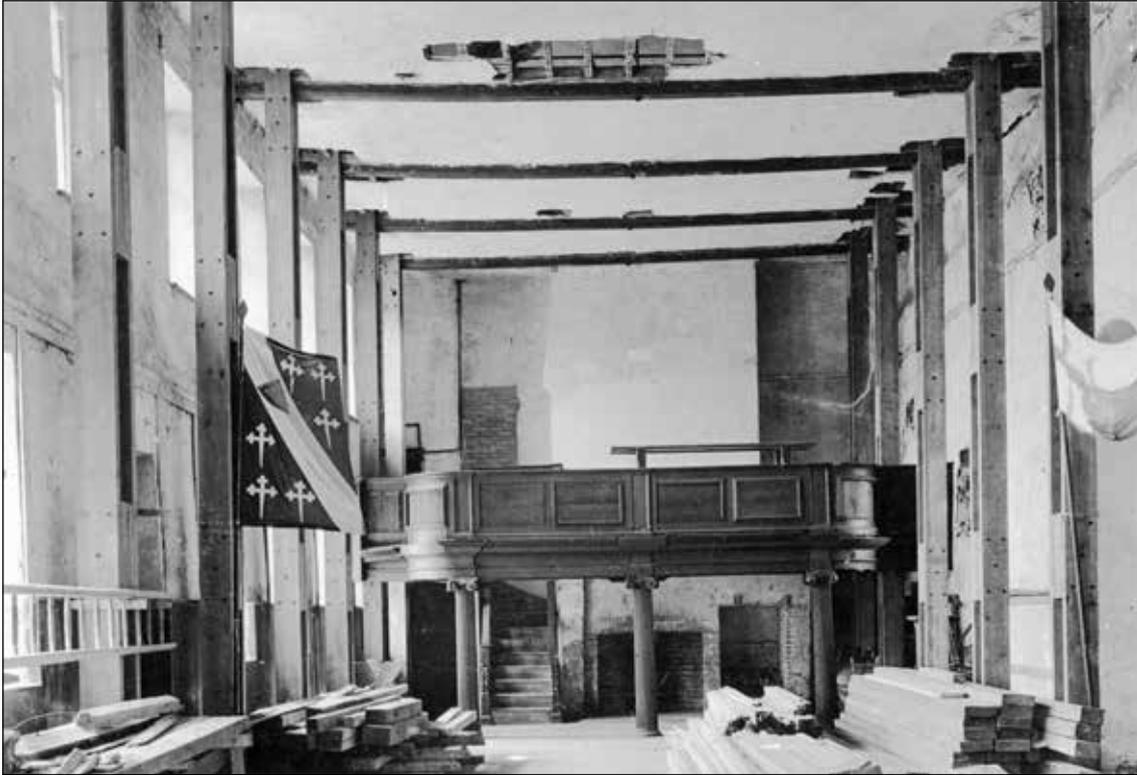
In 1841 Lane succeeded William Christie as Master of the boys’ free school, in the building at the north of Hitcham’s almshouses.¹²⁷ Also in 1841, Hitcham’s Charity appointed a schoolmistress, Miss Tucker, and this marked the formal establishment of a girls’ free school in Framlingham.¹²⁸ In 1844, the following statement was included in *White’s Directory of Suffolk*:

The *Boys’ Free School* was originally kept in a room over the Market

Cross, which was taken down in 1788, when a new school was built near the Almeshouses, which stand at the western extremity of what was the castle mere. The Workhouse, which stands near the same place, has (since Framlingham joined the Plomesgate Union) been converted into public rooms, in which assemblies, &c., are held. Adjoining it is a Girls' Free School, which the trustees [of Hitcham's Charity] established some years ago. The two schools now afford gratuitous instruction to about 113 boys and 86 girls. The schoolmaster has a residence in the Castle yard.¹²⁹

So from 1841 a girls' school was based in the White House – in the former school chamber on the first floor – and the Red House was functioning as the residence of the schoolmaster of the boys' school. Census returns show that Samuel Lane was still living at the Red House with his family in 1851, though the property seems to have been unlisted in the census of a decade later, by which time Lane was living in Castle Street; he had retired as schoolmaster and become 'Parish Clerk & Sexton'.¹³⁰ Teaching was clearly a family occupation, for in 1862 Lane's son – Samuel Lane junior (1828-82) – was appointed Master of the 'lower section' of the boys' school (by this time being run as a grammar school), while his wife Jane Lane succeeded Mrs Tucker as mistress of the girls' school at the castle.¹³¹ The Lane family were resident at the Red House at the time of the 1871 and 1881 censuses, and Samuel and Jane Lane continued to teach at the schools until 1879, when a new school building was opened in College Road (where it remains today) and new teaching staff were appointed.¹³² At this point, Hitcham's Charity ceased to use the castle site for educational purposes, ending a practice that had first begun over 200 years before.¹³³

Meanwhile, as White's *Directory* of 1844 makes clear, the central workhouse block of 1729 had been retained by the parish and converted to a public hall (Fig. 28). It was called the 'New Town Hall' in January 1841, when the Framlingham Farmers' Club arranged a meeting there.¹³⁴ It was also known as the 'Castle Hall' – for instance, that was the name it was given in 1859, when the *Framlingham Weekly News* noted that the monthly sitting of the local county court was held in the building.¹³⁵ Court use of the 'Castle Hall' continued into the 1860s,¹³⁶ and the building may have been used for this purpose right up until the completion of the new Court House in Bridge Street in 1872. The hall was also used by local societies and clubs, for local events, and as a drill hall: the first such use was in December 1859, by the Framlingham Rifle Corps, founded earlier the same month.¹³⁷ In April 1860, there was report of a 'Target Ground' at the castle nearing completion.¹³⁸ The military use of the castle seems to have expanded over the years: in 1891, a James O'Neill, 'sergeant instructor', was living in the Red House, along with his Canadian wife Margaret and their children. A directory of 1892 provides further information, stating that O'Neill was 'drill instructor to the D Co 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment'.¹³⁹ By the time the census was taken in 1901, O'Neill was retired but was still living in the Red House with his wife and 16-year-old son. Also within the castle complex was the parish fire station: this was present on the site by at least 1855, remaining until at least 1892, and occupied the projecting (east) part of the north range, as can be seen in surviving photographs (Fig. 29).¹⁴⁰



*Fig. 28 The Castle Hall, in a photograph of c.1930, showing the south gallery. Formerly the organ loft of the local parish church, this gallery was inserted here in c.1890. Note the two fireplaces.
(© Historic England Archive, AL0686/004/02)*



Fig. 29 A tinted postcard of c.1900 showing the former workhouse buildings. The double doors on the ground floor of the north range served Framlingham's Fire Engine House. This opening had been remodelled by 1930. (K. Morrison)

The 1729 block was clearly altered to reflect its new public use. By 1879, the first floor of the 18th-century building had been removed and the 'Castle Hall' opened up through two storeys. The main staircase and any ground-floor partitions had also been removed, for it comprised a single space, with galleries at its north and south ends. The earliest known source to shed light on the architectural arrangements of this period is a newspaper article of December 1879, reporting on the 'Harrier Hunt Ball' held at the castle that month by the Duke of Hamilton. For this event, the 'Castle Hall' was used as the ballroom, the entrance to which was via:

Mr Lane's residence, adjoining and communicating with which a large reception tent has been erected ... The ladies will ascend Mr Lane's staircase, unrobe, and descend into the Castle Hall by the gallery, beneath which Her Grace, the Duchess, and party have fitted up for them a very comfortable boidoir [*sic*], which will be Her Grace's reception room. The gentlemen will enter through Mr Lane's lower room, which has been comfortably floored and fitted up with a coffee beaufet [*sic*], adorned with flowers, shrubs, &c ... The approach to the supper tent is covered in, draped, and lighted and communicates with covered in corridors to Mr Lane's house; also leading to the bake-office, and the girl's [*sic*] school-room: all these are boarded, lighted, and warmed in the most efficient manner. The bake-office (perfectly transmogrified) will be allotted to gentlemen and used as a beaufet and retiring-room. The girl's school-room will be devoted to smoking, cards, games &c, from which a splendid view of the gay scene in the Ball room will be afforded. Here also is another beaufet fitted up ...¹⁴¹

In October 1887, clear mention of the north and south galleries was made by the same newspaper:

On Thursday a Liberal demonstration, under the auspices of the Framlingham Liberal Association, was held at the Castle Hall ... The walls of the hall were very tastily decorated with flags, evergreens, flowers, and mottoes; and the tables were well adorned with potted and other flowers. Along the north end gallery ran the mottoe "Justice, Liberty and Progress" with the word "welcome" beneath, and the Irish Harp and "Erin go Bragh." On the south gallery (the speakers platform), ran the Liberal mottoe "Ireland's rights before our own." ... the large hall was crowded in every part, there being something like 600 to 700 present.¹⁴²

It seems probable that the removal of the block's first floor and the insertion of the galleries was work undertaken in about 1839-40. That said, references were made in 1862 to meetings held 'in the Committee Room, at the Castle'.¹⁴³ A Committee Room was included in the workhouse inventory of 1806, and was probably on the first floor of the 1729 range (see p. 31). Either a new Committee Room had been created elsewhere – possibly in an enclosed area at the end of one of the galleries, or (more probably) in the former school chamber in the north range – or the substantial changes to the building were made at some point between 1862 and 1879. Unfortunately, no further documents have been identified which can provide further clarification.



Fig. 30 (above) A detail of the south gallery and stair, c.1951. (© Historic England Archive, AL0686/018/01)



Fig. 31 (right) The south gallery stair, c.1930. (© Historic England Archive, AL0686/004/01)

The gallery at the south end of the Castle Hall is known to have been replaced c.1890 (Figs 30 and 31, and see Fig. 28). White's directory of 1891-92 stated that: 'The appearance of the room has been lately much improved by the erection therein of the front of the west gallery removed from the church during its restoration'.¹⁴⁴ This refers to St Michael's Church in Framlingham, which was restored from 1889. This work involved the removal of the 17th- or 18th-century gallery, which had stood at the church's west end and carried its organ, built in 1674 for Pembroke College and presented to Framlingham in 1708.¹⁴⁵ The gallery's design had been criticised in print, and by the late 19th century it was probably viewed as disposable. The 1865 guidebook, for example, commented on the church's 'altar fittings and the gallery, which none can say are as they should have been, in accordance with the other portions of the building'.¹⁴⁶ A rare-surviving photograph of the historic interior of the Castle Hall around the 1930s shows the south gallery still in situ (see Fig. 28); it had been altered to fill the depth of the 1729 block, and was supported by three Ionic columns. The gallery area was reached by a staircase placed on the immediate east of the cut-back chimney stack. According to the photograph of the hall and another showing a close-up of the staircase itself (see Fig. 31), this had had turned balusters and probably dated from the early 18th century. It may have been reused from elsewhere within the 1729 block, or may have been removed from the church along with the gallery. It was not returned there, however, when in the 1960s the south gallery was removed from the Castle Hall and given back to St Michael's (see below).

A number of architectural alterations were also made to the Red House during the post-1839 period. It is known that a doorway had been opened up by 1879, joining the central room of the Red House's ground floor (the kitchen) with the Castle Hall. It entered the hall in the area beneath the south gallery, to the east of the south chimney stack. This doorway may have been created when the galleries were inserted in the 1729 block and the first floor removed, or it may date from an earlier time: perhaps 1813, when changes were made when the Red House began to be leased by the parish (see p. 33). It is extremely unlikely to pre-date this point, since

between 1729 and 1813 the Red House was not part of the workhouse. The doorway remained open until the 1950s – it was still shown on plans of the Red House drawn in 1947 and 1950 (Figs 32 and 33).¹⁴⁷ Such plans are also interesting for showing the arrangement of the south gallery and stair.

The Red House seems to have served in its entirety as the home of the schoolmaster Samuel Lane, and his wife, until his death in 1882. Possibly at that time, and certainly by 1912, it was divided into two residences: one let by Pembroke College ‘to a man & his wife, the latter acting as caretaker’ and the other ‘to the sergeant who instructs the local Territorials’.¹⁴⁸ The caretaker kept chickens within the walls of the castle, while the sergeant – properly, the Serjeant Instructor of the 4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment – had a garden ‘fenced off with an ugly wire fence’.¹⁴⁹ This alteration occasioned the insertion of an additional door on the south façade of the Red House, within the window of the central room (see Fig. 29). It was probably also in connection with this that a staircase was built within the central room, abutting the 1729 stack. Both of these alterations have been reversed.¹⁵⁰

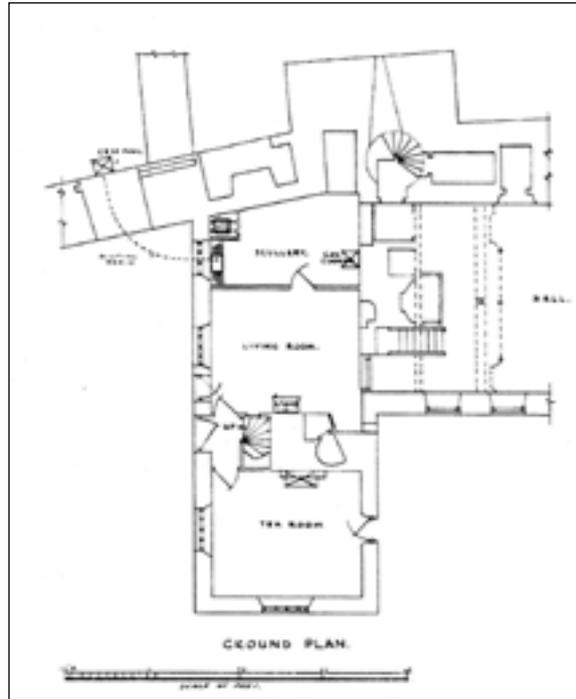


Fig. 32 A ground-floor plan of 1947 showing the Red House and the south area of the Castle Hall. Note the doorway between the Red House and the 1729 block, and also the gallery and stair which remained in situ until 1966. (© Historic England Archive, MP/FRC0071 crop)

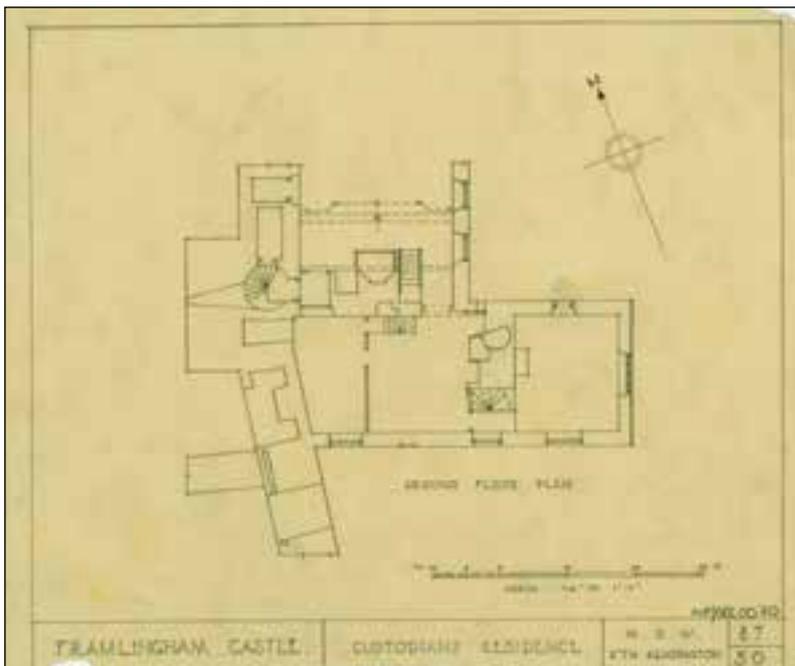


Fig. 33 A ground-floor plan of 1950, showing the Red House and the southern area of the Castle Hall. (© Historic England Archive, MP/FRC0070)

4.7 The Castle under Guardianship: 1913 to the Present

In 1912, Pembroke College approached the Board of Works about the possibility of Framlingham Castle being taken into guardianship. A site inspection was undertaken, at which it was found that ‘within the Castle is a XVIIth Century house, which is let by the College in two parts, one part to a man and his wife, the latter acting as caretaker, and the other part to a Sergeant who instructs the local Territorials’.¹⁵¹ This must have been William Finch, an unmarried soldier, who – with two boarders – was listed in the Castle Yard in the census of 1911. In a memorandum regarding the castle’s condition, it was described as being ‘very untidy ... with chickens wandering about everywhere’ (Fig. 34).¹⁵² A section was fenced off to form kitchen gardens, and the interior of the Castle Hall was still being used ‘for target practice’ by the local Territorial Corps. The document continues:

The custodian’s residence in the Castle yard is not included in this report but mention should be made of the interesting 17th century gallery in the Drill Hall. This I learn was brought from a church in the vicinity, having been pulled out during its ‘restoration’, and placed for convenience in its present position. It has been badly mutilated and damaged (e.g. the pedestals to the columns have been removed) but it is still worth the expense and trouble of preservation.¹⁵³

Restrictions meant that the Board of Works was unable to manage structures occupied as dwelling places, so the Sergeant was turned out, despite resistance by the Secretary of the Territorial Force Association of Suffolk, who begged that the company of the 4th Battalion – the Suffolk Regiment – be allowed to continue on site.¹⁵⁴ It was decided, however, that a ‘whole time Caretaker will be required at the building’, so use of the Red House was permitted to carry on.¹⁵⁵

In 1915, it was reported that the castle was in an ‘insecure state’, and repair work continued during the First World War.¹⁵⁶ In particular, ‘the 17th Century house’ was found to be in extremely poor repair – the ‘foundations, roofs, & floors being in a



Fig. 34 In many early 20th-century views of Framlingham Castle, there are ‘chickens wandering about everywhere’. (© Historic England Archive, FL00758/01/001)

deplorable state' – and demolition was even considered.¹⁵⁷ It was decided that repair of the roof was 'to be taken in hand at once', the timbers then being described as 'original', though the roof of the 1729 block had 'been largely renewed in pine'.¹⁵⁸ It is clear from further descriptions that these references concern the north range (White House) rather than the Red House on the south. The main area of concern was at the north (Figs 35 and 36), where there had been 'modern' alterations, including a porch and stair, built out of old materials.¹⁵⁹ The porch was to be demolished and the roof repaired, though in April 1917 arrangements were made to close down all works at the castle, 'in view of the release for military service of the working foreman, Mr Knapp'; all materials were to be stored in the Castle Hall.¹⁶⁰

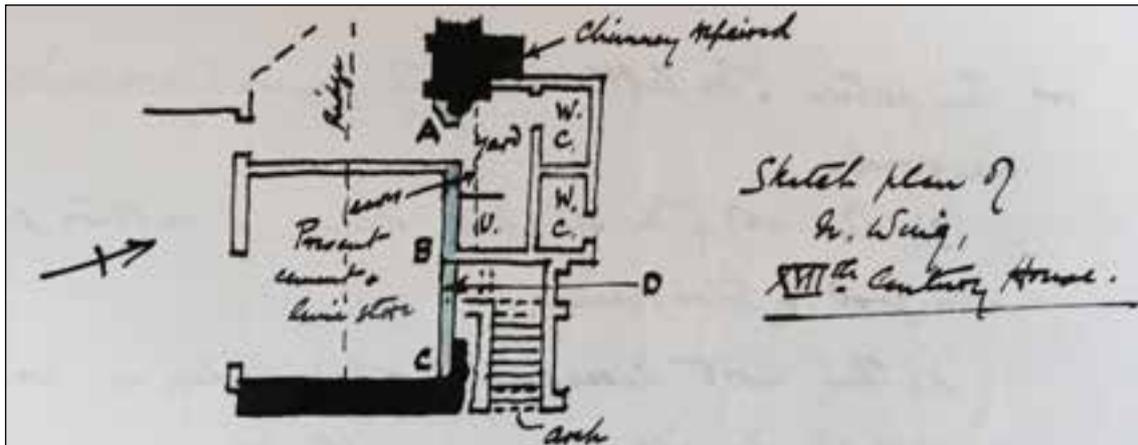


Fig. 35 (above) Sketch plan of the east end of the north range or White House, from a memorandum of 14 June 1916. (TNA WORK 14/685)

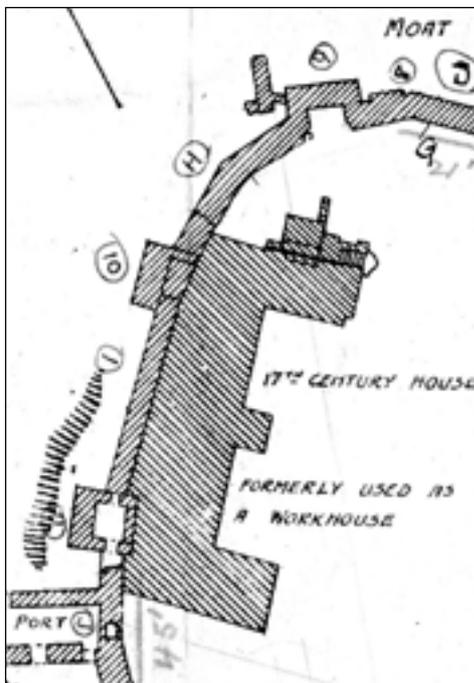


Fig. 36 (left) Detail of site plan of Framlingham Castle dated 1919, showing the outline of ancillary structures on the north side of the north range. (TNA WORK 14/685)

A document of September 1916 shows that, while this work was still underway, the main hall of the 1729 block was in use as an officers' mess between October 1915 and May 1916. The builders' materials were moved from thence to a room in the north range.¹⁶¹ The same document records that Mr Knapp, the foreman of the works, had occupied the Red House from February 1914 until May 1916, after which

it had been unoccupied. It was then described as having ‘a living room, scullery and two bedrooms’, with no water supply; the only ‘sanitary convenience’ was an earth closet at the north end of the Castle Hall, by this time known as the ‘Great Hall’. This description implies that the Red House was still divided into two dwellings, and that Knapp occupied just one of those, but there is no mention of any other residents. Following the end of the First World War, the Red House was repaired – probably to form a single dwelling once again – work which was complete by September 1919, the building then being reported to be ‘now in habitable condition’.¹⁶² Mr R. J. Knapp was formally appointed caretaker, and moved back into the Red House with his wife and their children. From this time until at least the 1980s, the building seems generally to have been known as either the ‘custodian’s house’ or the ‘custodian’s cottage’.

The site opened to the public in the mid-1920s, and this had various consequences for the buildings; for instance, there was much discussion in the late 1920s about the need for adequate lavatories and where these might be placed.¹⁶³ A tea room was created in the east room of the Red House’s ground floor (see Fig. 32), and it was probably at this time that a doorway was opened up, providing direct access to this room from the north side. It continued in this use until 1955 (see below). Meanwhile, the central room on the ground floor was a kitchen, with a scullery at its east (now the kitchen). Around this date, it was proposed that the tie beams of the 1729 block should be strengthened, work which may have resulted in the timber posts visible in the photograph of the 1930s (see Fig. 28).¹⁶⁴

Various repairs continued through the 1930s (Fig. 37). In 1938, there was discussion about the provision of a bathroom for the ‘caretakers’ cottage’ and the need to serve that building with hot water.¹⁶⁵ The further improvement of ‘sanitary accommodation’ for visitors was also being discussed. However, it was found that the site’s pipework needed to be connected to the main sewer and thus that the work was more complicated than expected. Photographs from the 1940s show the increasing dilapidation of the buildings, but building work was suspended on site during the Second World War (Fig. 38). It had still not been resumed by summer 1950, although the hope was expressed that it would be reinitiated soon.¹⁶⁶

By 1951, the castle site was once again the subject of discussions about proposed building work (Figs 39 and 40). In September of that year, a memorandum to the architect T. A. Bailey stated, ‘Main Hall – Partitions of upper rooms to be taken down after a survey has been taken’, the reference being to the room divisions at attic level in the 1729 block.¹⁶⁷ In summer 1952, the state of the timber at the Red House was being checked, ‘due to wood beetle’, and in September that year repairs to the roof of the central range were undertaken after a heavy storm.¹⁶⁸ Decorative work was carried out at the Red House in October and November 1952, and in December that year a new water tank was added to the building’s west attic. In January 1953, the work planned for the attics of the 1729 block was commenced: after a complete survey of the rooms above the Hall, ‘all remaining plaster’ was removed from the ceilings and partitions and all joists and partitions were taken out. Partitions, joists and plaster were also being removed from the lower part of the ‘Great Hall’, which was then in use as a ‘store for flood relief bedding etc’.¹⁶⁹



Fig. 37 Repairs to the roof of the Red House, 12 September 1933. (© Historic England Archive, OWS01/02/F01172)



Fig. 38 A view of the workhouse buildings showing their state of disrepair around 1945 (detail). (© Historic England Archive, cc45/01193)

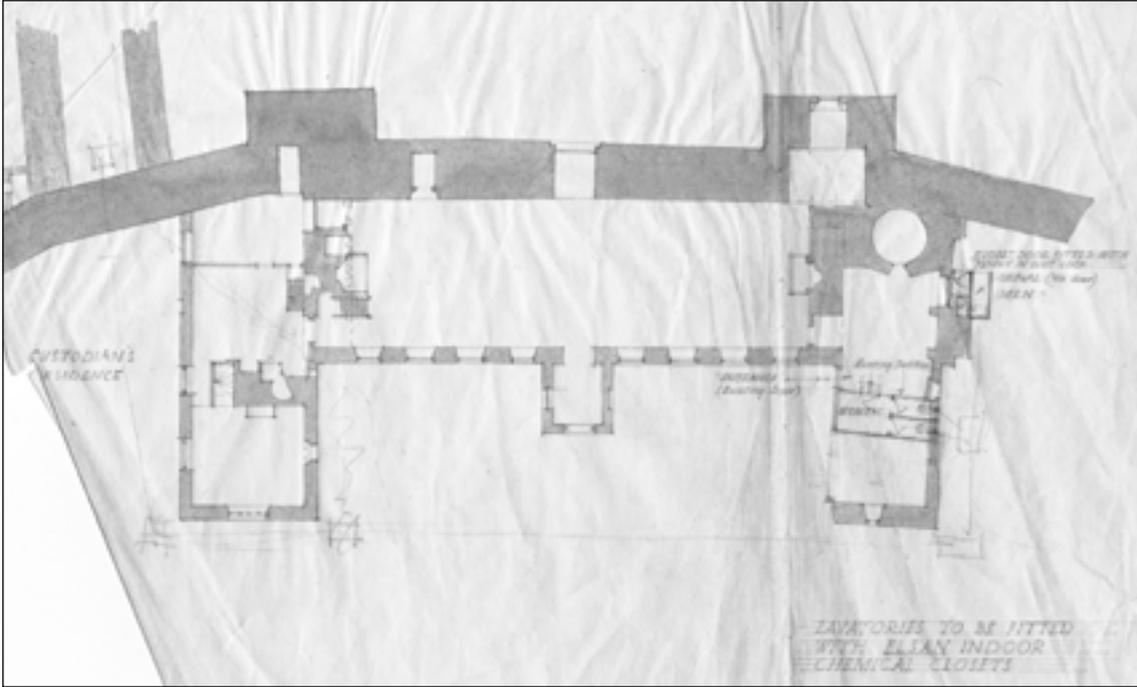


Fig. 39 A plan of c.1952, showing the former workhouse buildings (Red House, 1729 block, White House). North is to the right. (TNA WORK 14/685)

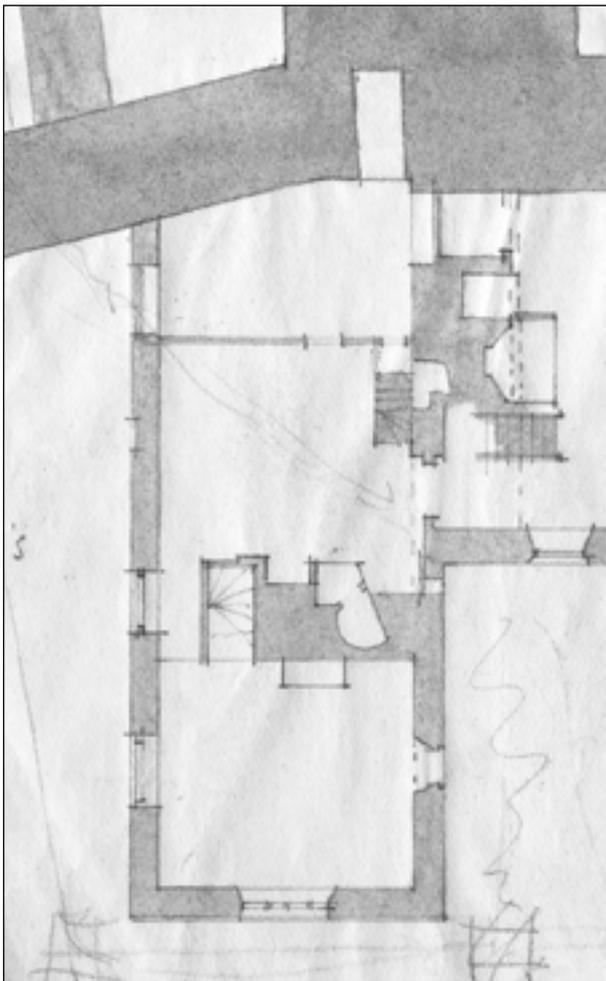


Fig. 40 Detail of the plan of c.1952, showing the stair and closet in the middle room of the 'Custodian's Residence' or Red House. Compare Fig. 54. (TNA WORK14/685)

In autumn 1953, the site's custodian, Mrs Murray, retired, clearly paving the way for more intensive work in the Red House.¹⁷⁰ By March 1954, the architect 'had in hand work to provide electricity and water to the custodian's house, plus main drainage from the house to the sewer'.¹⁷¹ There was a further delay when work was suspended following the discovery under the main access road to the castle of a large number of skeletons.¹⁷² Nonetheless, this did not interrupt the programme of work for long. In a letter of 26 February 1955, the various proposed alterations to the Red House were set out, including the removal and replacement of beams, the rebuilding of the partition wall between the middle and west bedrooms, the enlargement of the bathroom and the creation of a new passage to serve that room, and the insertion of a new window in the north wall to light the new bathroom.¹⁷³ There was a 'scheme to re-design all windows in [the] house', first mentioned in April 1955 and carried out in 1957-58.¹⁷⁴ Other changes included the reopening of the meal hatch between the Red House and the south-east area of the 1729 block, the rebuilding of the fireplace in the east chamber on the ground floor (the tea room), the blocking of the doorway between the west bedroom and the staircase in the medieval wall (Tower 11), the reopening of the blocked window in the south-east gable, the rebuilding of both gables, and the rebuilding of the roof. The area beneath the east room of the ground floor – the former tea room – was excavated in August and September 1955. The footings of an earlier wall were found and a plan showing the find drawn up (Fig. 41).¹⁷⁵

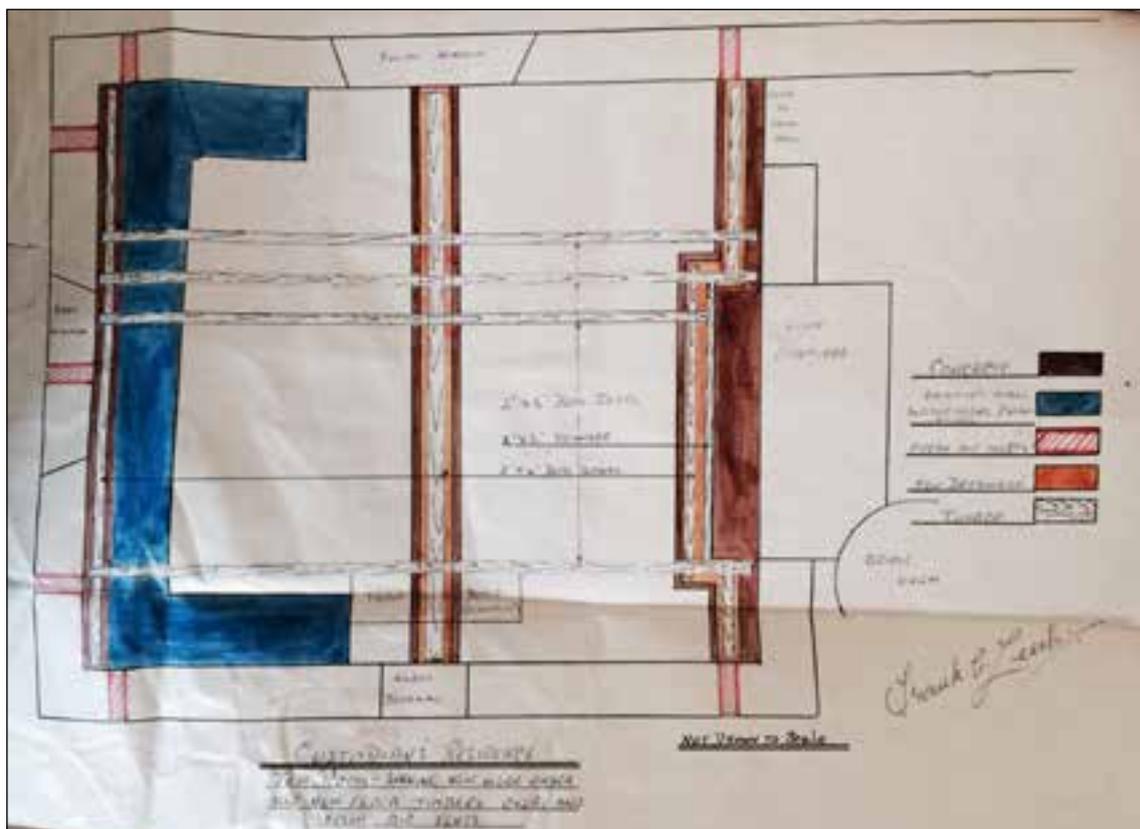


Fig. 41 Drawing of the floor of the Tea Room in the Red House (or 'Custodian's House'), 23 September 1955. The blue area represents footings of an earlier building, exposed during excavation. The white, orange and brown areas show new work being undertaken. (EH Registry File AM046227/004)

This programme of work was extensive, and was underway until late 1957.¹⁷⁶ Its scale was due to the level of disrepair at the Red House, plus the damage caused by wood-boring insects. As early as June 1955, the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, R. Gilyard-Beer, expressed concern about ‘the amount of replacement taking place’, especially with regard to the timberwork, although he acknowledged the amount of decay.¹⁷⁷ Similarly, in November 1955 the architects noted that ‘generally, it was felt that work throughout had not been given sympathetic consideration by [the] chargehand’.¹⁷⁸ From this point on, there seems to have been a greater attempt to renew rather than replace.

Work of this period was by no means confined to the Red House. Indeed, it was even greater in scale and degree with regard to the central block of 1729. The ‘relatively late date’ of this building led the Inspector to permit a more radical approach, since he did not feel it justified such a ‘careful ... repair’.¹⁷⁹ In December 1956, he gave his approval to the wholesale replacement of the existing roof of the central range, work which began in June 1958 and was well underway in 1960.¹⁸⁰ In autumn 1958, the rebuilding of the wall forming the east side of the 1729 block (the ‘Great Hall’) was authorised, and work on this area was undertaken until 1964. By 1961, work had spread to the north end of the 1729 block – matchboarding on either side of the fireplace was removed and the fabric of the stack was investigated – and in 1963 repairs were underway in the ‘Bake House’, on the ground floor of the north range. Repair of the porch was underway in 1964, and further work was undertaken (including the addition of new bargeboards) in 1968-69.

In May 1964, the decision was taken – ‘after discussion’ – to remove the gallery at the south end of the hall, originally installed c.1890 (see above and Fig. 28), and to return it to St Michael’s Church (Fig. 42).¹⁸¹ Clearance of the gallery was carried out in late May or June that year,¹⁸² and the gallery was ‘reported collected by the vicar in 1965’.¹⁸³ It was reinstalled in the church in 1970 having been much restored and altered to re-fit the space; the organ placed atop the gallery was restored at the same



Fig. 42 The organ gallery of St Michael's Church, Framlingham. This was removed from the church and placed at the south end of the Castle Hall in c.1890 (see Fig. 28). It was taken down in 1966 and re-erected in the church in 1970. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

time. The removal of the gallery must have represented a great visual change to the interior of the 1729 block, and removed all evident traces of its use as the parish Castle Hall. Once the gallery had been taken down, the south stack was exposed, and this was being repaired in March 1965; the ‘studwork’ attached to it was removed and the stack strengthened (Fig. 43). A new attic



Fig. 43 The south end of the workhouse, showing the south stack. Note how the left (east) side was truncated to accommodate the gallery stair in the 19th century. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

floor was installed in the 1729 range in 1965, including a ‘framed oak trap door’ for access;¹⁸⁴ in more recent times, this has been erroneously identified as a ‘coffin hatch’ (Fig. 44).¹⁸⁵ Work on the floor of the ‘Great Hall’ was being undertaken in 1966 and its internal walls and ceiling were plastered in 1967-68. The leaded lights of the 1729 block were replaced at the same time, using ‘as much of [the] original work as possible’.¹⁸⁶ In late 1968, just when work was almost complete, a programme of excavation of the area beneath the ‘Main Hall’ was begun; this continued into 1970, when new RSJ supports were inserted into the 1729 range. The floor had been relaid by June 1970.

Meanwhile, the need to meet fire regulations meant that attention returned to the Red House. In 1965, it was decided to reopen the doorway between the west bedroom and the medieval stair, while another fire escape was to be provided via the attic of the 1729 range and from thence to a step ladder; a flight of steps leading down from the 18th-century block to the attic of the Red House was installed in December 1965. A new partition was built in the west bedroom in 1966, but in 1969 both the partition and the door were reworked.



Fig. 44 The access hatch of 1965, which has been misidentified as a ‘coffin hatch’, photographed in 2008. (© Historic England Archive, DP066451)

As this account will make clear, the work undertaken at Framlingham Castle in the 1950s and 1960s was extensive and protracted; it was spread over a long period of time as funds were limited, though this naturally led to complaints from visitors.¹⁸⁷ Finally, however, by 1970, the site was largely clear of workmen, and alterations carried out since that time to any of the buildings on the site have been comparatively minor – for instance, heating was installed in the Red House in 1983-84 and a shop was inserted on the ground floor of the central (1729) range in 1986-87 (see Fig. 43).

5. A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE RED HOUSE

5.1 Exterior

The Red House (Fig. 45) is located within the Inner Court of Framlingham Castle. It was built against the west curtain wall, with the main entrance facing south towards the castle gatehouse and drawbridge. A cellar was found under the easternmost room during works in the 1950s, giving rise to the theory that the Red House was built on the site of an earlier building, said to be Tudor (see Fig. 41). This was probably a service wing of the Great Hall of the Castle.



Fig. 45 The Red House from the south, photographed from the wall-walk. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

The house has a rectangular plan (Fig. 46) and stands two storeys high with an attic. The west wall is formed from the oblique masonry curtain wall, while the north, south and east walls are built of red brick laid in English bond. The bricks (9 to 9½ inches long x 2¼ inches high x 4½ inches deep) are similar in size and colour to those used in earlier and later work around the castle and – perhaps because of extensive replacement across the site – do not provide clear diagnostic evidence for the date of various features. The roof is covered in red tiles.

Old photographs (see Figs 29, 34 and 38) show the walls of the Red House in a slightly damaged condition; apparently either lime-washed or lightly rendered. Now pristine, the brickwork has evidently been cleaned and repaired. However, a patch of

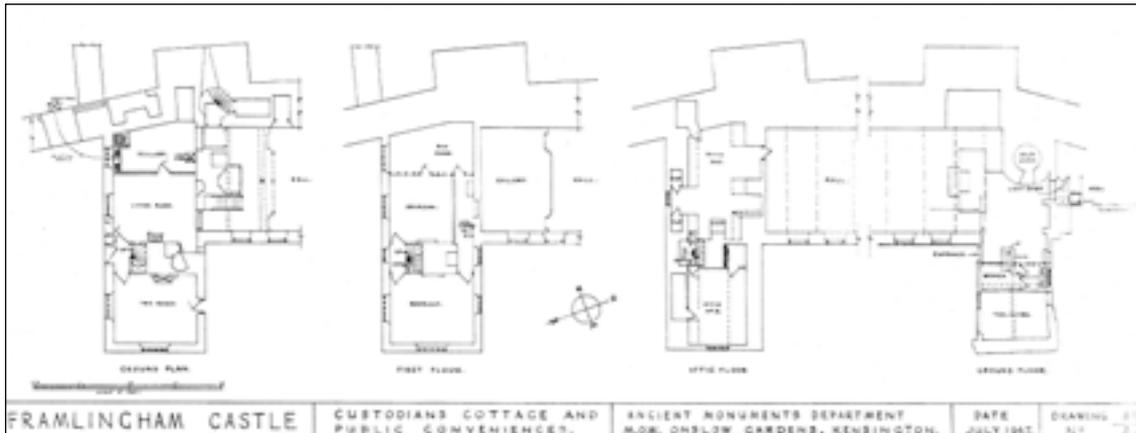


Fig. 46 Plans of all three floors of the Red House, dated July 1947. The plan to the right additionally shows most of the ground floor of the 1729 block and the north range (White House). (© Historic England Archive)

pale render has been retained on the north wall, perhaps because the bricks beneath were too damaged to enable the removal of the protective facing. In addition, part of the brickwork on the upper floor of the north wall (inside the 1729 block) has been pecked; render or plaster has been removed, but the bricks have not been replaced (Fig. 47). Interestingly, the render at this level seems to continue behind the 1729 stack, suggesting that the building may have been rendered prior to that date.

The original windows and south doorway have red brick hood moulds. Two secondary doorways were blocked in the 1950s or 1960s: one on the south elevation, on the west side (see Fig. 38), and another on the north return of the building (see Fig. 50).¹⁸⁸ There is a plain plinth, and moulded off-sets or weatherings (rather than plat bands) run around the building at first-floor level and beneath the gables. On the south front this is concealed by guttering, which was replaced in 1955.

The attic of the Red House has a double gable to the south and a single gable to the east but none facing north. The window in the south-east gable was unblocked in 1955.¹⁸⁹ The south-west gable was rebuilt in 1956.¹⁹⁰ The east gable was taken down for safety before work began on the roof in 1956, and then rebuilt. A tall stack with a moulded plinth – the whole of its structure rebuilt using original bricks (but with renewed mouldings) in 1955 – projects above the roof ridge in the centre of the building. Old views (see Fig. 38) show this with five chimney pots; also five flues



Fig. 47 Part of the north elevation of the Red House, showing a blocked window at first-floor level, viewed from the interior of the 1729 block (now office). (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



*Fig. 48 The attic and roof of the Red House, showing the stack from the west.
(© Historic England, K. Morrison)*

can be seen in aerial photographs of the 1950s, by which time the pots had been removed. Four of these would have related to hearths on the ground and first floors of the building. Although there is currently no visible evidence for hearths at attic level (Fig. 48), one is marked on the 1947 plan in the west attic and may have been an 18th-century addition (see Fig. 46). This was bricked up in 1955.¹⁹¹

A panel beneath the east gable window may represent the former position of a stone plaque, similar to one on Hitcham's almshouses. However, in 1956 it was noted under the heading 'East Gable':

Mr R. Mackay instructed that rendering and brickwork be removed from bricked up opening under window opening – this exposed two vertical pieces of oak, one on either side of opening, 3” in reveal. Photographs have been taken¹⁹²

Around half of the north wall of the Red House was masked by the new workhouse block in 1729, but sections of its (one-time external) brick facings are exposed to either side of the 1729 stack on each floor. On the ground floor, inside the present shop, is a blocked doorway (east; currently concealed by shop fittings) and a hatch (west; see Fig. 25). The doorway is rebated on its north side under a timber lintel, and there is no trace of a brick hood of the type found over the main south entrance. It is almost certainly a secondary feature, probably added in the early 19th century. Initially, it was positioned hard up against the 1729 stack: a brick stub wall to its right (west) curves at the top, the curve continuing as a scar that cuts through the weathering. This represents the original extent of the 1729 stack, which has been truncated, probably in the mid-19th century to accommodate a gallery stair in this position. To the west of the 1729 stack there is a meal hatch (see Fig. 25), seemingly built to serve food between the Red House and the central workhouse block and possibly an addition of the early 19th century (see p. 30); it was reopened and the frame inserted in the programme of work of the mid-1950s (see below). Upstairs, inside the current English Heritage site office, a blocked window with a brick hood

mould can be seen to either side of the stack (Fig. 49, and see Fig. 47). These two windows were evidently of the same type as those on the south and east elevations.

This examination of the north wall indicates that there can have been no two-storeyed rear wing or outshot to the Red House prior to 1729. It also suggests that there was no rear doorway at the outset. A low arch on the north side of the ground-floor middle room of the Red House is explained below, as the entrance to a larder beneath a stair; it was not a doorway. A doorway on the north side of the sitting room – visible in old photographs (Fig. 50) – did not have a brick hood mould and was almost certainly a secondary feature, probably added in the 1920s to serve the new Tea Room. In 1955, its upper part was replaced by a window and its lower part was blocked. By 1900 a second south doorway had been created within the window of the central room, another alteration which was reversed after 1960. The main door itself dates from 1956.¹⁹³



Fig. 49 A blocked first-floor window on the north elevation of the Red House, visible to the right of the 1729 chimney stack. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

The building's diamond-pattern leaded glazing dates from 1955-57, when there was a 'scheme to re-design all windows in the house', though there was some later replacement.¹⁹⁴ Historic views show the building with latticed casements, but the exact pattern of the glazing was not followed in the



Fig. 50 Detail of a 20th-century postcard, showing the doorway on the north side of the Tea Room. It was replaced with a window in 1955 and the lower part blocked. (Diana Howard)

replicas. The work of 1955-57 involved much replacement of timber window frames as well as reglazing, and this included a mixture of new and old oak. The windows have timber mullions and (on the first-floor south side only) transoms: all appear to have been renewed, or at the very least heavily repaired, but perhaps imitate the form of the originals. Some windows have internal ovolos (sitting room; kitchen), while the others have cavettos or, occasionally plain chamfers (Fig. 51). Most have plain chamfers externally. The windows to the first-floor lobbies are small and high. The first-floor east window (Fig. 52) is set within a projecting brick panel on a moulded course, suggestive of a shallow oriel.



Fig. 51 Interior of a window to the sitting room. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 52 Exterior of the salient window to the east bedroom. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

5.2 Interior

The Red House is a classic example of a lobby-entry or baffle-entry house. The entrance door opens onto a small lobby, beyond which is a small winding timber stair and the large brick chimney stack. There was a lobby to north and south of the stack on the first floor. This was a common house plan throughout East Anglia, and indeed throughout England, from the early 17th century. In most lobby-entry houses the ground-floor room to one side of the stack would have been the hall (or hall-cum-kitchen), and to the other side would have been a polite parlour or service room. If a third room was included in-line, as it was at Framlingham, it was usually unheated. An early example of a lobby-entry house of this type was built at Holbrook, south of Ipswich, for Tooley's Charity in 1577.¹⁹⁵

The 'house' at Framlingham, of course, had a specific function. Although it adopted an established domestic plan, the building would not originally have been used in the usual manner. It provided a place to 'set the poor on work', so the main requirements were workspace for the poor (notably for spinning) and storage space for materials (such as fleeces and wool). Most 17th-century workhouses, as outlined in the Appendix, were effectively textile factories. Although no comparable buildings have

survived of this function and period, it seems likely that the rooms on the ground and first floors were originally workrooms and that the attic was used for storage. Today, there is little evidence of these functions in the fabric of the building.

The principal feature in the east room on the ground floor (sitting room, formerly tea room) is the fire surround (Fig. 53). The stone jambs were evidently salvaged from the castle buildings but the head is constructed of red brick with a chamfered edge. Inside the fireplace, to the north, the curved back of the oven is visible (see below). Two small recesses remain on the south side. The hearth and curb date from 1955.¹⁹⁶ The ceiling beam of the room was exposed in 1952 and replaced in 1955.¹⁹⁷ At the time, it was recommended that this beam was not to be reused but to be kept on site for possible future museum exhibit. The doorway which led north from this room, despite being shown on a plan dated 1960, was replaced by a window in December 1955, when it was noted: 'Tea Room (a) Door opening bricked up to original window sill height'.¹⁹⁸ The window had been exposed earlier the same year.¹⁹⁹ The custodian requested an additional north window to what was then his living room in 1968. The floor of the room was raised by 9 inches in 1955; previously it lay two steps down from the entrance hall.²⁰⁰ A void (or cellar), believed to relate to medieval or Tudor castle buildings, was found under the floor in 1955 (see Fig. 41).²⁰¹

On the other (west) side of the chimney stack, a chamfered axial beam runs through the living/dining room and kitchen, stopped at either end. This was replaced in English oak in April 1955, at which time the living/dining room was referred to as the kitchen and the present kitchen was the scullery.²⁰² Since Robert Hawes maintained that the building had three rooms per floor in the 17th century (see p. 22), there was probably always a partition between these rooms. The wall between the two rooms, removed in 1955, was referred to as a 'wooden partition'.²⁰³ It was replaced by a four-inch breeze block wall. This was fitted beneath the 1955 beam without being respected by chamfer stops; this may have been an oversight on the part of the 1950s carpenter.

The living/dining room has a blocked arch in its north wall (Fig. 54), backing onto the south stack of the 1729 workhouse block. 20th-century plans show that this arch was located under a staircase and gave access to a closet hollowed from the brickwork of the 1729 stack (see Fig. 40).²⁰⁴ This was referred to as the 'food



Fig. 53 The fire surround in the Red House's sitting room (east room). (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 54 The north wall of the living/dining room. The arched opening gave access to a closet/larder, and there was formerly a staircase in front of this (see Fig. 40). (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

cupboard in north wall' in 1955, when it was fitted with a new door.²⁰⁵ It was probably the larder that went out of use in 1964. An offset within the opening relates to the reduction in the bulk of the stack, to install a stair for the hall gallery, either c.1840 or c.1890 (see p. 38). There is now no sign of the adjacent stair in the living/dining room, though it is shown on the plan of c.1952.²⁰⁶ A shallow rectangular recess in the north wall of the same room – representing a thinning of the wall – is unexplained but may relate to the creation of a doorway (of unknown date; now blocked) communicating with the 1729 block. Plans show that a large oven in the 1664 chimney stack once opened into this room; its curved back is visible in the sitting room (see above). The kitchen range was removed in February 1955, and a boiler and pipes placed in the opening.²⁰⁷ The small tiled fire surround seems to have been installed in 1963.²⁰⁸

The room at the west end of the ground floor is the present kitchen, formerly scullery. The main feature is a medieval stone doorway with a pointed head in the curtain wall, opening into a closet with a raised floor level (Fig. 55). A hatch on the north wall corresponds to another hatch visible within the shop (see Fig. 23): the timber beam over the hatch was replaced in concrete in 1955.²⁰⁹ At the same time, 'Upon instructions from Mr Gilyard-Ber, the brickwork concealing the Hatch opening [south wall of Great Hall]' was removed and this confirmed his theory of it being a Serving Hatch between original Poor House and Dining Hall'. This is evidence that the workhouse kitchen was located in the Red House after 1729.

Upstairs, the east bedroom has an axial beam with rectangular and diamond-shaped inserts in the soffit, and some on the face (Fig. 56). Some (not all) of these are aligned, as if a window or screen with diamond mullions once divided the room axially. Some are superimposed. Similar inserts occur randomly on the timbers of windows and purlins throughout the workhouse buildings, and so their date and purpose is suspect. Most of these probably date from 1955-57. In 1956 it was decided to cut the beam in the east bedroom at its east end in order to remove it; it is not clear whether it was repaired and reinstated, or replaced.²¹⁰



Fig. 55 (left) Doorway within the curtain wall, in the present kitchen (west room). Note the serving hatch just visible to the right (see also Fig. 23). (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

Fig. 56 (below) Detail of a repaired beam in the east bedroom. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)





Fig. 57 The corridor to the bathroom, created in 1955. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 58 The middle bedroom, showing the blocked doorway to the hall gallery. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

The east end of the middle chamber was partitioned off in 1955 to create a corridor (Fig. 57) leading to a small bathroom which runs behind the stack, occupying a space which was probably once a lobby. The middle chamber itself has a blocked doorway with a timber lintel in its north wall, formed out of the window seen in Fig. 47 (Fig. 58). This doorway must have been created in or after 1729, and can be seen in photographs showing the gallery at the south end of the main workhouse block. A note made in 1956 states that it had been blocked in brick in 1926.²¹¹ It may have been reopened in 1956, for in 1965 – after the removal of the hall gallery – it was noted: ‘removed oak door and frame from middle bedroom and prepared for sealing opening with brickwork . . .’²¹² This may, however, have been a different doorway.

The partition between the middle and west bedrooms was replaced with a new stud-and-plaster wall in 1955.²¹³ The position of this was shifted 1ft 6ins west of the original location, to allow space for the installation of the bathroom.²¹⁴ At the same time the entire floor of the middle and west bedrooms was rebuilt, including joists and boards, as well as the ceilings of the rooms below.²¹⁵ It is likely that ceiling beams in the bedrooms were also replaced in 1955.

An unchamfered transverse beam in the ceiling of the end, or west, chamber is abutted by a chamfered axial beam with stops. This axial beam continues through to the central stack, where it is stopped. There is no evidence of a partition beneath any of these beams, and it is known that the transverse beam was replaced due to sagging in 1955; in the event, both may have been replaced. The chamber has a doorway in its north wall which is not medieval, but which communicates with a spiral stair in the medieval curtain wall (Tower 11). The door was installed as a fire

precaution in 1965; it was expected that the custodian and his family would escape through there, or through the 1729 attic, in the event of fire.²¹⁶ Within a built-in wardrobe occupying the north side of the room is a niche with a timber lintel, seemingly fashioned from the blocked window seen in Fig. 49 (Fig. 59).

There appears to have been a bedroom in the east attic in January 1953, when it was noted: '1 new leaded light made and fixed in window of second floor bedroom facing east'.²¹⁷ The former presence of a fireplace in the west attic suggests that it, too, was at one time a bedroom. A raised area within the west attic formerly contained a water tank; this was moved here from the scullery in December 1952, and has since been relocated again.²¹⁸ A closet to the north of the central brick stack is partly rendered. This might be the so-called 'plaster flue' which caused some excitement in the 1950s.²¹⁹ In 1955 it was decided to 'remove existing 18th century brick chimney stack from Attic floor level [in 'West Attic'] to most advantageous point in Roof space, and support remainder of stack over'.²²⁰ The exact status of the stack at this level must, therefore, remain suspect.

The roof of the Red House (Fig. 60) dates largely from 1955, when it was decided: 'All roof timbers to be removed from wall plate and all sound timbers to be reused wherever possible in the reconstruction of the Roof'.²²¹ In fact, few original timbers can be identified. The construction is complex, to accommodate the gables, but essentially comprises collars pegged to the principal rafters with three tiers of tenoned purlins. There is no ridge piece. Some timbers have incised assembly marks and visible saw marks.



Fig. 59 Niche in the west bedroom, corresponding to a blocked window. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



Fig. 60 The Red House roof, showing the hatch over the stair. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)



*Fig. 61 Framlingham Workhouse from the south-east, showing the Red House in context.
(© Historic England, K. Morrison)*

6. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

- The Red House (Fig. 61) was built in 1664 as a workhouse, not a poorhouse. It was not originally residential, but more of a domestic-style textile manufactory. It is crucial to establish the correct building type and the original functions of the building in order to assess its significance. Workhouses of this period are rare; poorhouses (generally cottages) more common.
- The Red House is one of just two purpose-built 17th-century workhouses known to survive nationally. The other – in Newbury in Berkshire – is also Grade I listed (see p. 61 and Fig. 62).
- The Red House is the only purpose-built example of the building type in this period to survive in its entirety, although a separate combing and weaving shed has been lost. Newbury is a partial survival.
- It is possible that the surveyor and architect Peter Mills, best known for Thorpe Hall outside Peterborough, designed the Red House. This attribution to a known London architect heightens the potential significance of the building.
- The original three-room plan of the Red House survives largely intact, with minimal (reversible) subdivision of space on the first floor.
- The original structure of the Red House was heavily repaired in the mid-1950s, but without substantially changing the character of the building.
- The local/regional significance of the Red House is enhanced by the fact that it was provided under the will of a local benefactor, Sir Robert Hitcham, and is thus connected with a network of buildings and institutions provided by Hitcham's Charity and owned by Pembroke College, Cambridge.
- The significance of the Red House is enhanced by its juxtaposition with the 1729 workhouse block: together, these two structures offer an eloquent testimony to the evolution of the workhouse system in the 17th and 18th centuries, as it changed from a workshop-based system into a residential institution. The Red House and the 1729 block enrich one another and have enormous potential to tell the story of the English workhouse in the period pre-dating the Workhouse at Southwell, Nottinghamshire, built in 1824 and now operated by the National Trust.

APPENDIX: THE NATIONAL CONTEXT. ENGLISH WORKHOUSES, c.1660-1834

The various stages in the history of Framlingham Workhouse mirror national developments in the implementation of the poor laws and changing attitudes towards paupers: that is, people dependent for their survival on assistance from the parish poor rate. As a building and as an institution, Framlingham Workhouse is best understood by considering where it sits in the evolution of the English poor law, from the 17th century onwards.

Summary Overview

English parishes were required to relieve their own poor and set paupers to work from 1601, though many had begun to engage actively in the alleviation of poverty during the second half of the 16th century.²²² In principle, this was financed through a poor rate, collected by specially appointed overseers of the poor. Records relating to the activities of the overseers of the poor in Framlingham survive from 1568. Here as elsewhere, most of the poor rate would have been dispensed as outdoor relief, though some parishes provided institutions, for example in Ipswich (see below).

While some parishes set up institutions funded by the poor rate – ‘hospitals’ for children and the aged who needed care, ‘workhouses’ for the unemployed, and ‘houses of correction’ or ‘Bridewells’ for minor criminals and vagrants – others depended on charitable bequests or gifts. It is important to stress that workhouses of the kind set up in Framlingham under Hitcham’s will (1636) were not residential institutions (unless they included a ‘hospital’ or a ‘house of correction’ component), but simply places where the unemployed poor were put to work. The majority were conceived as textile manufactories, where the poor would come to spin during the day, returning to their own homes at night. Many pre-Civil War workhouses went out of existence or changed character in the later 17th century, and the scant documentation which covers this period of Framlingham Workhouse’s existence strongly suggests a similar experience. Aside from the Red House at Framlingham, the only purpose-built 17th-century workhouse known to survive in England is a timber-framed, jettied range at Newbury in Berkshire. Most 17th-century workhouses occupied converted buildings, and there is slim evidence that purpose-built examples adopted a standardised approach, whether in terms of layout or appearance. As yet, they did not have a clear identity as a distinct building type.

The notion of making a profit out of pauper labour (specifically child labour) in a residential workhouse was put into practice in several large urban ‘incorporation’ workhouses, set up under local legislation around the year 1700. This is the type of scheme that was put into effect in Framlingham around 1699; it seems to have been problematic, and in 1708 it was agreed to admit adults rather than children.

The idea of compelling the able-bodied poor to reside in a workhouse as a condition of receiving relief was current in the early 18th century. This was enshrined in Knatchbull’s Act, or the Workhouse Test Act, of 1723. It was in this context that the central range of Framlingham Workhouse was built, on the site of the medieval Great Hall, to include lodgings as well as work rooms. The building continued to be used as

a residential workhouse for the parish until Plomesgate Union was created and the indoor paupers moved to the new union workhouse at Wickham Market in 1837.

English Workhouses up to 1664

Despite the existence of permissive legislation, relatively few parishes had bothered to institute a poor rate or 'set their poor on work' by the 1620s. One of the few exceptions was located close to Framlingham, in Ipswich, where the foundation known as Christ's Hospital – set up by the merchant Henry Tooley in a Dominican priory in 1569 – was largely rebuilt in 1574 to include workshops where 40 people were employed in carding, spinning and weaving.²²³ This ceased to operate as a workhouse in 1601 but may have been remembered by Hitcham and others in the 1630s.

Greevous Grones for the Poore, a pamphlet published in 1622, claimed that parishes merely 'turneth forth their poor . . . to beg, filch and steal for their maintenance so that the country is pitifully pestered by them'.²²⁴ Subsequent initiatives encouraged the implementation of the poor laws. Notably, in 1623 an Act was passed to encourage 'the erecting of Hospitals and Working-houses for the Poor' and, in 1630, Charles I instructed a select committee of the Privy Council, known as the Commissioners for the Poor, to investigate the execution of the poor laws throughout the country and to ensure their proper administration at every level of local government.²²⁵

The new legislation was effective, and by the eve of the Civil War the Elizabethan poor laws had been put into operation in many English towns. Several large urban parishes began to use the poor rate effectively, whether to establish 'hospitals' for poor children and the elderly, or 'working houses' where the able-bodied could be set to work. One of the first of these institutions was set up in Dorchester, Dorset, in 1617. This was a 'hospital or working house' in which 50 poor children were taught a trade by a governor and matron, and the idle poor were set to work.²²⁶ The site contained the 'mansion house' of John Coke, a fustian-weaver who was appointed first Governor of the hospital.

The Act of 1623 encouraged charitable donations which allowed other towns to follow the example of Dorchester. Many of these new establishments, however, had no 'hospital' element and were little more than workshops, or workhouses. At this time the term 'workhouse' signified no more than 'a house, shop, or room in which work is regularly performed; a workshop or factory'.²²⁷ In the 17th century, workhouses were generally concerned with textile manufacture, and were mostly set up in towns where there was little option of sending paupers (invariably recipients of outdoor relief) to work for local farmers, tradesmen or manufacturers. As well as providing work for unemployed textile workers, they provided a means of training the unskilled, thus better equipping them to earn their own living. While vagrants and petty offenders were incarcerated in houses of correction for a set term, the ordinary pauper was free to set off home from the workhouse at the close of each day, like any independent labourer. Workhouse buildings thus comprised three essential elements: lodgings for the master or governor, an area to keep stock, and space to work. They did not have residential accommodation for the able-bodied

poor. In some towns, the workhouse accommodated children and the aged (the impotent or non-able-bodied poor), but this would not originally have been the case at Framlingham.

Sir Robert Hitcham would have been aware of several prominent initiatives of the early to mid-1620s. In 1623, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London unsuccessfully attempted to promote a scheme devised by the President of Bridewell, Sir Thomas Middleton, whereby parishes would group together to build hemp and flax houses to provide local employment.²²⁸ A year later, a woollen draper, John Kendrick, bequeathed £7,500 to Reading and £4,000 to Newbury for similar purposes.²²⁹ Each town was to use part of the money to provide a house 'fit and commodious for setting of the poor to work therein, with a fair garden adjoining'.²³⁰ In 1625, Reading Corporation purchased a house for £2,000, and by 1628 it had been enlarged and converted into an establishment for poor clothiers. The establishment, known as 'The Oracle', comprised a courtyard surrounded by ranges of workshops. The Oracle shopping mall stands on the site.

Newbury workhouse (Fig. 62) is probably the earliest purpose-built workhouse to survive in England, though it does not survive intact. Richard Emmes, a carpenter from Speenhamland, Berkshire, was appointed to build the workhouse in July 1626 and it was completed a year later. It comprised three new ranges around the north, east and south sides of a courtyard, with an old building to the west. It was essentially a woollen cloth factory, with a separate weaving shed, and a dye-house in the east range. Today only the south range survives: this was later known as the Cloth Hall and is now in use as a museum; the other blocks have been demolished. A timber-framed building with a jetty and large gables, it is listed Grade I.



Fig. 62 Newbury Workhouse in Berkshire, completed in 1627. (© Historic England Archive, aa44/04194)

Similar schemes were implemented in other textile towns. In 1628 Sheffield spent £200, a sizeable sum, on building a workhouse.²³¹ The carpenters who built it were sent to Newark, to look at the workhouse there. Nothing is known about the Newark workhouse, but the Sheffield building may be the four-square structure – seven bays long and three storeys high – depicted on early 19th-century tokens issued by the local overseers.²³² Also in 1628, a carrier named Thomas Hobson conveyed a site in St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, to 12 trustees, for the purpose of erecting a combined workhouse and house of correction; his will of 1630 stipulated that the building, 'in great part erected and built', be completed within four years.²³³ Known as the 'Spinning House', this provided employment for textile workers as well as correction for vagrants until 1807. Built of brick with a tile roof and mullion windows, this building may have influenced or inspired Hitcham and the Pembroke Trustees, but little is known about its layout.

Towns continued to set up workhouses throughout the 1630s. Taunton and Abingdon operated newly erected workhouses in 1631, and one was approved for Totnes in 1632.²³⁴ In 1635, Halifax was given a large house by a gentleman, Nathaniel Waterhouse, to be used as a workhouse.²³⁵ Others were set up in Salisbury (1638),²³⁶ St Thomas, Exeter (1638),²³⁷ and Plymouth (1640). But as the case of Framlingham reveals, workhouses were not confined to large towns: in 1635 the Justices of Little Holland in Lincolnshire reported that in 'all our severall parishes we have a Towne stocke with a workhouse, a master and utensills and that there hath been above 200 poore people set on worke and employed weekly by the officers'.²³⁸

English Workhouses, c.1664 and 1729

Many of the workhouses set up in the first half of the 17th century were short-lived and unsuccessful; indeed, most closed down later in the century. The principal reason for the failure of early workhouses was undoubtedly cost: many had been set up in the expectation of making a profit, but in fact made a loss. This may have happened in Framlingham, where the workhouse was set up in 1664. In a sense, Framlingham can be seen as a late, though very rare, example of the first generation of English workhouses, a generation which sought to provide work for the outdoor poor on commercial lines. Few new workhouses opened between the 1660s and 1690s.

Attitudes towards the dependent poor hardened in the late 17th century. The matter was hotly debated and proposals increasingly tackled the issue of how to make a profit from pauper labour in workhouses. In the years around 1700, a number of towns – concentrated in the south of England – obtained local acts enabling parishes to band together to set up large 'incorporation' workhouses which concentrated on housing and training pauper children. Amongst those set up in East Anglia were Colchester (1698), Kings Lynn (1699, in a former church, which collapsed in 1854), Sudbury (1702, in a former college) and Norwich (1712, in two workhouses, both in converted buildings). Few of these incorporation workhouses were purpose built, but the plan of the Exeter Incorporation Workhouse (1699-1701) is well known. It included a chapel in the centre, a house for the master of the works in one wing, and a house for the master of the house in the other. The incorporation workhouses

failed in their attempt to make a profit from pauper labour, but this did not become apparent for some time.

The idea that the able-bodied should be made to reside in ‘test workhouses’ gained ground. Though approaches and regimes continued to vary throughout the country, Knatchbull’s Act of 1723 allowed parishes to offer able-bodied applicants a place in a workhouse as a condition of receiving relief. It was probably as a result of Knatchbull’s Act – and possibly also inspiration from the early success of incorporation workhouses – that a residential workhouse was erected at Framlingham in 1729. Roughly contemporary workhouses in East Anglia with which it may be compared include Wisbech (1720, demolished), which only admitted those able to work. The H-plan used at Exeter remained popular. At Chatham (1725, demolished) the master’s house again occupied one wing, while the kitchen and dining room occupied the other. Architecturally, the new range at Framlingham is also comparable with the workhouse of St Margaret’s, Rochester, of 1724, which still stands (used as a school; Grade II*).

Alongside the large workhouses discussed above, parish poorhouses existed in rural areas throughout the country. These were generally small versions of the urban ‘hospitals’ providing a refuge for the impotent or houseless poor, whether the young or the aged, and did not function as workhouses. These poorhouses usually occupied converted or purpose-built houses, erected on a domestic scale and plan, and cast in the local vernacular.

English Workhouses c.1729-1834

After the rash of workhouse building in the wake of Knatchbull’s Act in the 1720s, fewer were erected in the 1730s and 1740s, partly because of several high profile scandals involving cruelty to paupers in institutions. There were calls for reform of the poor laws, notably for larger administrative units. Thomas Alcock suggested that large workhouses should be provided by every hundred, and the first of these was built in 1756 at Nacton (demolished) near Ipswich, Suffolk, by Carlford & Colneis Hundreds. Subsequently, 14 ‘hundred houses’ – usually called ‘house of industry’ – were formed throughout East Anglia (see Table, p. 65). This approach received the sanction of Parliament through Gilbert’s Act of 1782, which aimed to turn workhouses into poorhouses by admitting only ‘impotent’ paupers.²³⁹

The East Anglian hundred houses had some interesting architectural features; for example an upper floor was often divided into cubicles for married couples – a regional custom that might have prevailed at Framlingham, though the evidence is lacking. A punishment cell was generally provided for refractory inmates, the equivalent to that at Framlingham being the small ‘dungeon’ at the bottom of the stair in the medieval curtain wall of the castle (see Fig. 27). Typically, as at Framlingham in 1806, there were no day rooms as distinct from work rooms, and spinning was the dominant industry.

Table: Incorporation Workhouses in East Anglia		
*building survives		
Incorporation	Location	Date of Formation
Carlford & Colneis Hundreds (Sf)	Nacton	1756
Mutford & Lothingland Hundreds (Sf)	Oulton*	1764
Bosmere & Claydon Hundreds (Sf)	Barham	1764
Samford Hundred (Sf)	Tattingstone*	1764
Blything Hundred (Sf)	Bulcamp*	1764
Loddon & Clavering Hundreds (Nf)	Heckingham*	1764
Wangford (Sf)	Shipmeadow*	1764
Loes & Wilford Hundreds (Sf)	Melton*	1764
East & West Flegg Hundreds (Nf)	Rollesby	1775
Mitford & Launditch Hundreds (Nf)	Gressenhall*	1775
Forehoe Hundred (Nf)	Wicklewood*	1776
Stow Hundred (Sf)	Onehouse*	1778
Cosford & Polsted Hundreds (Sf)	Semer	1779
Hartismere, Hoxne & Thredling (Sf)	None	1779
Tunstead & Happing (Nf)	Smallburgh	1785

Urban workhouses in the late 18th century were generally more compact in plan than their rural equivalents, and fewer survive to the present day. Like the East Anglian workhouses, they were dominated by workrooms, though many of these are known to have fallen into disuse. Children made up a large portion of workhouse populations by the 1790s. They were expected to work, but received basic schooling. In some cases they were sent out to a free school from the ages of around seven to 14. They were then often put out as apprentices. This may have been the practice at Framlingham, but again hard evidence for this period is absent.

Increasingly, through the late 18th and early 19th centuries, workhouses accommodated children, the disabled, the mentally handicapped, the sick and the aged, with able-bodied paupers being relieved in their own homes. But as outdoor relief spread, and poor rates escalated, so did public discontent. The ‘workhouse test’ developed into the concept of the ‘workhouse deterrent’, inspiring the Poor Law Commissioners set up by Parliament to investigate the poor law in 1832. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 inaugurated the New Poor Law. It established unions of parishes which set up deterrent workhouses – in which inmates were strictly

classified and segregated – throughout the country. Framlingham was assigned to Plomesgate Union, which quickly decided to build a new workhouse at Wickham Market (Fig. 63). Once new workhouses opened, outdoor relief to the able-bodied ceased, as did attempts to make a profit from indoor pauper labour through spinning or shoemaking. One consequence of the New Poor Law which is seldom discussed is the fate of the many hundreds of parish workhouses and poorhouses that had to operate as union houses for a few years after 1834, and then were suddenly vacated.



Fig. 63 Plomesgate Union Workhouse, Wickham Market, Suffolk, photographed in 1999. The workhouse opened in 1837. (© Historic England, K. Morrison)

ENDNOTES

1. Quoted in: Morrison 1999, 16.
2. Loder 1798, 373: 'Michael Baldry, as Schole-Master of Sir Robert Hitcham's Free-Schole at Framlingham holdeth half a Burgens. Late purchased of him, for the Schole-Master's Habitation: which was Richard Baldry's 1673. Lionel Bredstreet's 1659. By the annual rent of 2d. ½.' Baldry was still the school-master when he died in 1732.
3. Sir Robert Hitcham: <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/13368> (accessed 4 July 2016).
4. TNA PROB 11/173.
5. Ibid. Framlingham may already have had one or more poorhouses for the accommodation of houseless poor at the time Hitcham was drafting his will: a cottage in New Street was given by Hugh Driver by his will dated 1633 (Loder 1798, 398). Nonetheless, the parish is highly unlikely to have 'set the poor on work' in a workhouse.
6. Ibid.
7. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5. and Suffolk Record Office, HD88/6/2.
8. Ordinance of 20 March 1653/4, quoted in Loder 1798, 421.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid; Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham G.11.3.
12. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5; Beaumont 1890, 157.
13. A second set of almshouses was built later in Framlingham, under the will of Thomas Mills (1623-1703), another local benefactor. These were completed in 1705 in Station Road; they are listed Grade II*.
14. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 b1.
15. Colvin 1995, 655-8.
16. Leverland was succeeded by William Palmer (to 1680) and Samuel Pulman (to 1682) (Loder 1798, 207).
17. <http://www.hitchams.suffolk.sch.uk/History-of-School/> (acc. 7 June 2016).
18. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 a1.
19. Ibid, Framlingham K.3.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid; Suffolk Record Office, GB10/2/1; White's Directory 1844, 190.
22. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.10.
23. Ibid.
24. The boys' school remained in this building until 1879, when a new school building – for both boys and girls – was opened in College Road, where it remains today. The school building at the north of the almshouses was subsequently converted into a masonic hall; it is

- listed Grade II.
25. White's Directory 1844, 190.
 26. Loder 1798, 421.
 27. Beaumont 1890, 157.
 28. Ibid.
 29. Ibid.
 30. <http://www.coggeshallmuseum.org.uk/localhero.htm> (acc. 7 June 2016).
 31. Beaumont noted that 'Provision is also made by the scheme [the scheme of the Charity Commissioners, which regulated the Hitcham charity from 1878] for the education of girls, but no school has yet been established' (Beaumont 1890, 158).
 32. See documents in the Essex Record Office including: Q/SBb 98-99 (examinations concerning theft of food and flock from Great Coggeshall workhouse, 1727); D/P 36/18/1-3 (workhouse papers, 1751 to 1812); and D/P 36/12/4 (workhouse disbursements, 1744-45).
 33. See Beaumont 1890, 181 and http://braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/754/historic_towns_in_essex-coggeshall_report_1999_20k (acc. 7 June 2016).
 34. Knowland 1986, 109. The workhouse has been identified as the plot numbered 324 on the tithe map of Debenham: a row lying at right-angles to the street opposite the west end of the church ('Suffolk Workhouses' catalogue, Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich).
 35. TNA PROB 11/173.
 36. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5
 37. Henry Sampson, handwritten document of c.1663 in Suffolk Record Office.
 38. Green 1865, 33. Hawes's document of c. 1730 had noted that 'The Buildings pulled down in the Castle, were sold to the Inhabitants of Southwold, their Town being abt that time burnt' (Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5).
 39. See: Dr Martin Bridges, 'Framlingham Castle, Suffolk: Tree-Ring Analysis of Timbers from the Poorhouse and Gates' (English Heritage Scientific Dating Report, Research Department Report Series no. 40-2008). The report is available online via: <http://research.historicengland.org.uk/>.
 40. Robert Hawes, 'History of Framlingham and Loes Hundred' (BL Add MS 33247 [1712])
 41. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5.
 42. Ibid, Framlingham K.3 (letter dated 10 October 1697).
 43. Ibid (letter dated 6 February 1699).
 44. An engraving was included in Green 1865, 35
 45. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham S.1. The garden was in use by Mrs Browne by 1699 (Framlingham, K.3 bundle 2).
 46. <http://www.hitchams.suffolk.sch.uk/History-of-School/> (acc. 7 June 2016).
 47. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 a1 and K.2 a2. These letters were written to

Pembroke Hall. The former (K.2 a1) is undated, but was probably written around August 1663, while the latter (K.2 a2) is dated 4 July 1663.

48. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a1.
49. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a2.
50. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a1.
51. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a2.
52. Ibid.
53. Ibid.
54. Ibid. According to Robert Hawes, the final cost of building the Red House was £223: Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham N.5.
55. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a1.
56. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a3.
57. Ibid.
58. Ibid.
59. Ibid, Framlingham K.6.
60. Ibid.
61. Ibid.
62. Ibid, Framlingham N.5.
63. Ibid.
64. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a6.
65. Ibid, Framlingham N.5.
66. Ibid.
67. Ibid. Note that the text following mention of John Earl does not report that Mr Alpe and other tenants succeeded Earl; the text relating to Alpe and other tenants relates to the estate, and Alpe succeeding Richard Porter.
68. Ibid, Framlingham K.3 (letter from Henry Hudson, 17 June 1692).
69. Ibid, Framlingham K.3 (bundle 3).
70. Ibid, Framlingham K.3 (bundle 2).
71. Ibid, Framlingham K.3 (bundle 3). Hawes confirmed this date in a document of 1712, stating that the Great Chamber block had been 'pulled down in the year of our Lord. One Thousand and seven hundred': (BL Add MS 33247, 6).
72. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 a4.
73. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a5, 3.
74. Ibid, Framlingham K.3 (bundle 3).

75. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a5. In this document, Thomas Crouch made reference to his having communicated the 'propossalls' concerning the new workhouse 'to the Society [ie: Pembroke Hall] in Octor last'. This probably explains the existence of a separate 'Method' document, duplicating that of April 1699 but dated October 1699 (see note 70).
76. Ibid, Framlingham N.5.
77. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 b2 (undated letter from Robert Hawes to Pembroke Hall) and K.3 (letter from Robert Hawes, Jasper Goodwin and Francis Kilderbee to Pembroke Hall, 7 February 1704).
78. Ibid, Framlingham K.3.
79. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a5, p. 5. Harding was given a place in Hitcham's Almshouses in 1731 (Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich, G10/2/1).
80. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 b4, f. 1.
81. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a5, p. 10. The precise location of the library at this time is not known, although it was clearly near the school chamber in the north range. This is confirmed by: Framlingham K.2 a4. This 'Method' document of 1699 refers to the Governor having 'free use' of the buildings within the castle belonging to the town, except the School Chamber and Library.
82. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a5, p. 5; Framlingham K.2, b.3.
83. Suffolk Record Office, GB10/2/1, f. 41.
84. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 a5, p. 7.
85. Ibid, Framlingham K.3, and see: Framlingham K.2 b2.
86. Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich, G10/2/1, f. 76.
87. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham K.2 a5.
88. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a5, p. 7.
89. Ibid, Framlingham K.2 a6.
90. Ibid.
91. Ibid.
92. That there was still a workhouse on site in 1712 is proven by Robert Hawes's history of Framlingham of that year, in which he states that the inward buildings of the castle 'are now defaced and pulled down, there remaining a Workkhouse made of Brick & an English Schole-House both for the Poor' (BL Add MS 33247, 5).
93. For instance, in July 1720 John Calver was granted permission to dwell in the 'Parlor Chamber' in the Red House. In September of the same year, he was given a place in the Hitcham almshouses (Suffolk Record Office, GB10/2/1, f. 41 and f. 44).
94. Suffolk Record Office, GB10/3/2 (indenture of 2 June 1711).
95. Ibid, GB10/2/1, ff. 51-52.
96. Reputedly, the building of this workhouse block cost £300 (Suffolk Record Office, HD 1538/32 [part of Peter le Neve collection]).
97. Pembroke College Archives: Framlingham S.3.

98. Ibid.
99. Ibid, Framlingham N.5.
100. Suffolk Record Office, G10/2/1, f. 96.
101. Ibid, f. 99.
102. Ibid, f. 107 (minutes for 27 April 1732).
103. Ibid, f. 90 (minutes of 19 December 1729).
104. Ibid, HD 1538/32 (part of Peter le Neve collection).
105. Ibid, G10/2/1, f. 90 (minutes of 19 December 1729).
106. Ibid, f. 99 (minutes of 24 September 1731).
107. Ibid, FC 101/G19/3.
108. Green 1834, 21.
109. For instance, on 6 June 1809, there were 34 paupers resident in the building (Suffolk Record Office, FC 101/G19/1).
110. Suffolk Record Office, FC101/G19/4/1-2.
111. Ibid, GB10/2/1, f. 361 (accounts of 22 February 1782). There are various references to spinning, apprenticeships, money raised by poor at the workhouse and outdoor work in this document, which is the Treasurer's Account Book of 1719-1824.
112. Ibid, GB10/2/1, f. 381 (accounts of 22 April 1785).
113. Ibid, f. 602 (accounts of 15 May 1812 to 28 May 1813). The cost of the rental for both ranges was £1. Previously, the parish had paid just 10 shillings for the rent of the north range (the White House).
114. Ibid, FC 101/G19/7 (the reference is to 'bedd stedds to be got for the new rooms in the Old House and also for the late armoury room').
115. Ibid, ADA 1/AP1/1. In 1813, for instance, money was received from 'Mr Mill's Trustees for 3 men in the Red House'. The rental for each man – all the recorded poor people resident at the Red House at this time were men – was 5 shillings.
116. Ibid, ADA 1/AP1/1.
117. BL Add MSS 23947, f. 39.
118. Suffolk Record Office, FC 101/A1/2. It is notable, however, that this document is among a group transcribed in 1835, and the poorhouse term may possibly have been substituted for the original 'workhouse' at that point.
119. Ibid, ADA 1/AP1/1.
120. See, for instance: TNA WORK 14/1970, note of 23 December 1963.
121. Suffolk Chronicle, 7 May 1836, 2.
122. Suffolk Record Office, FC 101/G20/5/42.
123. Ibid, FC 101/G20/2/32 (letter of 25 March 1839 from George Attwood, Treasurer of Sir Robert Hitcham's Charity).

124. In the census returns for 1841, residents at 'Red H. in C.' (i.e. the Red House in the Castle) were Samuel Lane, schoolmaster, his wife Ann, a laundress, and their six children, with a 25-year old 'coach smithy'. In Pigot's Directory of Suffolk of 1839, Samuel Lane was listed as Master of the Union School. At that time William Christie was Master of the 'Free School' by the almshouses.
125. Pigot's Directory of Suffolk, 1839, 548, lists: 'Mrs & Miss Springett' (boarding Union School, Saml Lane master).
126. Suffolk Chronicle, 23 May 1840, 2.
127. Suffolk Record Office, GB10/2/2 (Treasurer's accounts of 1824-64).
128. Ibid.
129. White's Directory 1844, 190.
130. Lane probably moved out of the Red House following the death of his wife Ann (or Anne) in late 1858. He remarried in summer 1859, his new wife being Susannah Read.
131. Framlingham Weekly News, 1 November 1862, 1.
132. Ibid, 4 January 1879, 4; 18 March 1879, 4.
133. References to the 'Girls' School Room' at the castle continued to be made, however. See, for instance: Framlingham Weekly News, 16 June 1883, 4 (regarding an exhibition held in the room as part of a Grand Bazaar).
134. Ipswich Journal, 23 January 1841, 2.
135. Framlingham Weekly News, 3 September 1859, 1.
136. For example, see Framlingham Weekly News, 26 April 1862, 1.
137. Ibid, 17 December 1859, 1, and 31 December 1859, 1.
138. Ibid, 14 April 1860, 1.
139. Kelly's Directory, 1892, 1060.
140. White's Directory 1844, 357; Kelly's Directory, 1892, 1058.
141. Framlingham Weekly News, 13 December 1879, 4.
142. Ibid, 8 October 1887, 4. Later, in 1890, the galleries were named the 'school-room gallery' and the 'speakers' gallery' (Framlingham Weekly News, 4 October 189, 4).
143. Ibid, 26 April 1862, 1; 14 June 1862, 1.
144. White's Directory 1891-2.
145. For a photograph of this gallery before it was removed during the church restoration, see: <http://framlinghamarchive.org.uk/category-church-chapel/nggallery/page/1> (acc. 10 June 2016).
146. Green 1865, 14.
147. Historic England Archive, MP FRC0070.
148. TNA WORK14/35, memorandum dated 3 May 1912.
149. Ibid.

150. Confusingly, the staircase appears on a plan of 1950 (see Fig. 33) but not on plans of 1947 (see Fig. 32), when it must still have existed. The door, however, appears on the plan of 1947, but not that of 1950.
151. TNA WORK 14/35, letter of 6 May 1912.
152. Ibid, memo of 10 January 1913.
153. Ibid.
154. Ibid, letter of 27 August 1913. In this letter, the Castle Hall is referred to as 'the Armoury, Framlingham'. See also letter of 17 November 1913.
155. Ibid, memo of 10 January 1913.
156. TNA WORK 14/685, memo of 30 October 1915.
157. Ibid, memos of 14 June and 27 June 1916.
158. Ibid, memo of 14 June 1916, p. 2.
159. Ibid, memo of 29 June 1916.
160. Ibid, memo of 5 April 1916.
161. TNA WORK 14/1059, memo of 8 September 1916.
162. TNA WORK 14/685, memo of 9 September 1919.
163. Ibid. The scheme for new 'public conveniences' was, for instance, mentioned in memos of 19 September 1928 and 25 April 1929. Plans of the site were prepared as part of this work, showing the location of the proposed new toilets.
164. Historic England Archive.
165. TNA WORK 14/685, memo of 10 September 1938.
166. TNA WORK 14/1970, letter of 25 July 1950.
167. EH Registry file, AM046227/005.
168. Ibid, AM046227/004.
169. Ibid, report of February 1953.
170. TNA WORK 14/1970, memo of 1 October 1953.
171. Ibid, memo of 18 March 1954.
172. For a discussion of this discovery, see in particular: TNA WORK 14/2555.
173. EH Registry file, AM046227/005.
174. Ibid, AM046227/001.
175. The drawing is of 23 September 1955: Ibid, AM046227/004.
176. See progress reports in TNA WORK 14/1970 and reports in EH Registry file, AM046227/004.
177. EH Registry file, AM046227/005, note of 3 June 1955.

178. Ibid.
179. Ibid, note of 14 December 1956.
180. Ibid.
181. Ibid, report of 25 May 1964.
182. A report of works undertaken in the month ending 21 June 1964 states that 'The gallery has been cleared, stripped and dismantled, all sections removed and carefully stored' (EH Registry file, AM046227/004).
183. EH Registry file, AA046227/001, letter of 11 March 1970.
184. Ibid, AM046227/005, report of 20 October 1965.
185. Ex inf. Shelley Garland.
186. EH Registry file, AM046227/005, report of 5 October 1967.
187. TNA WORK 14/1970, letter of 21 December 1960 and note of 11 April 1964.
188. These doorways are visible in old views, and on the 1960 plans (HE Archive, MP/FRC0261).
189. EH Registry File, AM046227/005.
190. Ibid, AM046227/005.
191. Ibid, AM046227/004. In October 1955 it was noted: 'section of moulding on West side of stack (cut away to receive 18th-century addition to stack) reformed'.
192. Ibid, AM046227/005.
193. Ibid, AM046227/005, memo dated 16 May 1956.
194. Ibid, AM046227/005: the windows of the west room on the ground floor (then the Scullery), the middle and west bedrooms were reglazed in 1955. The bathroom window was replaced at the same time.
195. Ian Johnson, 'Hill Farm, Laxfield', Proc. Suffolk Arch Hist, 1984, 53.
196. In 1952 the hearth was 'relaid' (EH Registry File AM046227/004). In June 1955 it was noted: 'rough drawings made of fireplace and sent to London' (EH Registry File AM046227/004).
197. Ibid, AM046227/004 (1952) and AM046227/005 (1955): 'East Bedroom . . . Remove oak beam over Tea Room. Prepare new oak beam (already in stock) to conform to character of existing beam and place in position after all necessary action has been taken concerning oak tie beam in chimney breast'.
198. Ibid, AM046227/004.
199. 'Tea Room . . . (d) window opening in north wall exposed, together with oak lintel over', June 1955 (EH Registry File, AM046227/004).
200. On 31 July 1955 it was reported: 'In determining levels for new concrete floor, a section of wall was exposed on east side of room, and it appears to be interior of room down to original floor level of Castle, the room being filled with rubble to under present floor level' (EH Registry File, AM046227/004). On 31 August: 'work on clearing rubble fill from cellar still in progress . . .'. On 30 September: 'all rubble removed from room under Tea Room (approx.

50 tons) and the whole transported to local tip'. New brick and concrete foundations were built for the floor, which was topped with deal boards. These may have been replaced in concrete in 1964.

201. See note 199.
202. EH Registry File, AM046227/005: 'The oak beam running East to West over Kitchen and Scullery was examined and it was decided that owing to severe fracture in section of beam which crossed Kitchen and also to the fact that Death Watch Beetles are still active in both sections of beam that the whole beam be removed and replaced with a new English oak beam of same dimensions and character of original one' (26 February 1955).
203. Ibid, AM046227/004.
204. Ibid, AA46227/2.
205. Ibid, AM046227/005.
206. The plan (EH Registry File, AA46227/2) shows Elsan closets. It is known that Elsan closets replaced earth closets (ladies and gents) in north range in 1952, thus dating the plan (EH Registry File, AM046227/004).
207. Ibid, AM046227/004. Substantial alterations were made to the stack at this time; it was noted that photographs were taken in advance of the work, but these have not been located; they probably do not survive.
208. Ibid, AM046227/004.
209. Ibid, AM046227/005.
210. The beam had been exposed by removing a plaster casing, and coated in Cuprinol, in October 1952, (EH Registry File, AM046227/004).
211. Ibid, AM046227/005.
212. Ibid, AM046227/004.
213. Ibid, AM046227/005.
214. Water was drawn from a well until 1955, when the Castle was connected to the mains.
215. The floor of the west bedroom had already been replaced in 1952. In July 1952 it was noted: 'floor joists removed, together with ceiling below owing to the bad condition of joists through activity of wood beetle' (EH Registry File, AM046227/004). In August it was reported this had been carried out and 'all wood taken from this floor has been burned'; in addition, the ceiling in the west bedroom had been removed, the beams treated with Cuprinol, and new ceiling board fixed, and the west internal wall had been rerendered. The following ceilings were replaced in plaster board in 1955: 'Scullery, Kitchen, Tea Room, West Bedroom, Middle bedroom, Bathroom and passage to Bathroom' (EH Registry File, AM046227/005). The ceiling in the hall was also replaced.
216. Ibid, AM046227/005.
217. Ibid, AM046227/004.
218. Ibid, AM046227/004. Further to this, in January 1955 it was noted: 'Galvanized storage tank prepared and placed in position on lead drip tray in Garderobe in west curtain wall'.
219. R. W. Symonds of Chelsea wrote to Mr Bailey on 12 October 1955 about the 'timber and plaster flue' which he had seen recently at the Castle. Says once common to take smoke away from open halls, but he's never seen one before. Wants to make sure it is not

destroyed. Says only one in England. Wants to publish it. Gilyard-Beer replied it is in the Custodian's House, in the attic, and cannot be older than C17th. So unlikely to be a smoke flue. EH Registry File, AM046227/001.

220. Ibid, AM046227/005.
221. Ibid, AM046227/005.
222. The defining Acts were 39 Elizabeth I c. 3 of 1597-98 and 43 Elizabeth I c. 2 of 1601.
223. <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Ipswich> (accessed 29 April 2016).
224. Morrison 1999, 5.
225. Ibid, 5-6.
226. Ibid, 6.
227. Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd edn., vol XX, 1989, 548-549.
228. Morrison 1999, 6.
229. Ibid, 6.
230. Ibid, 6.
231. Ibid, 6.
232. <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Sheffield> (accessed 29 April 2016).
233. Morrison 1999, 7.
234. Southampton purchased a workhouse in 1631 (Southampton City Council Archives SC10/1/17). Morrison 1999, 6-7.
235. Morrison 1999, 6 quoting information from Calderdale District Archives.
236. Ibid, 7.
237. Ibid, 7.
238. Ibid, 7.
239. To make this work, the able-bodied who refused to work would, theoretically, be sent to a House of Correction rather than the workhouse. In practice it was cheaper to give them outdoor relief.

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