

## CHAPTER 7: THE NORTH RANGE

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### 1 Introduction

The north range constitutes the whole of the northern section of the house, comprising the ranges to the north sides of the main court, the service court and the back yard. The north façade (fig. 7.1) of this range faces onto Walnut Tree Court and contains the gate tower, which forms the main entrance to the house. This range was probably built in two phases for Guy Wolston in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Kitchen and the service range to the west probably formed part of the first phase of building and the remainder of the range was added when the house was expanded a few years later. The gardener's cottage beyond was added in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

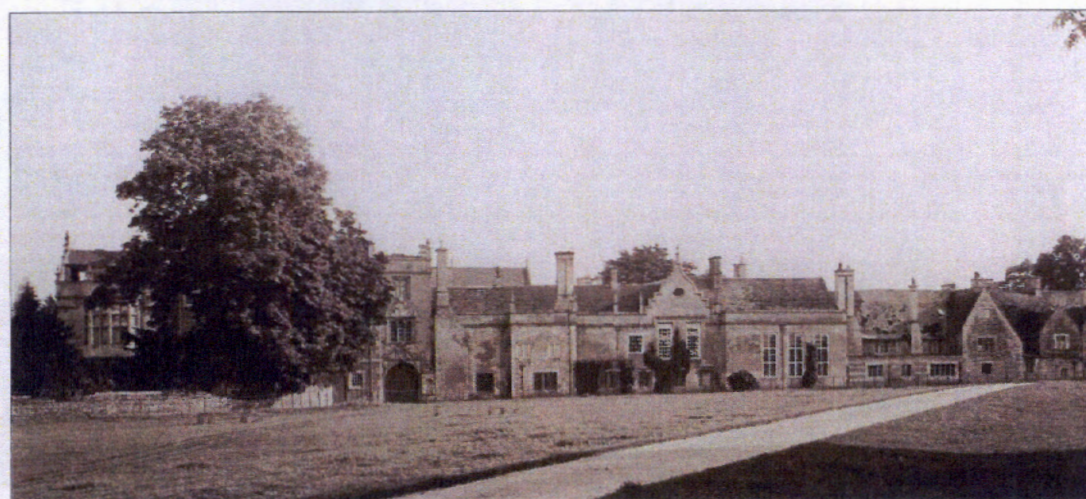


Figure 7.1 The north front of the North Range 1922.

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This whole range is constructed of coursed rubble stone with ashlar dressings, except for the south façade of the Library range which is faced with ashlar. Most of these rubble stone walls were originally rendered; as shown in various early photographs and on a few sections of surviving wall. The Library wing has a shallow pitched roof with 20<sup>th</sup>-century concrete tiles, whilst the remainder of the roofs are steeply pitched with Collyweston slates. There is a great variety of ridge and wall chimney stacks.

### 2 The Late 15<sup>th</sup>-Century House

The eastern section of this north range, occupying the north side of the main court, contains the central gate tower and attached staircase tower built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century with the Library range to the east, rebuilt around 1740, and the former north lodging range to the west was remodelled in 1622-24 and again in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (fig. 7.2). The western and the central sections of the north range, adjoining the hall

range, formed a late 15<sup>th</sup>-century lodging range. The western end was converted to the Old Dining Room on the first floor in 1622-24 with the double-height Kitchen to the west rebuilt in around 1704. The former service range beyond, on the north side of the service court, was built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, and extended in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

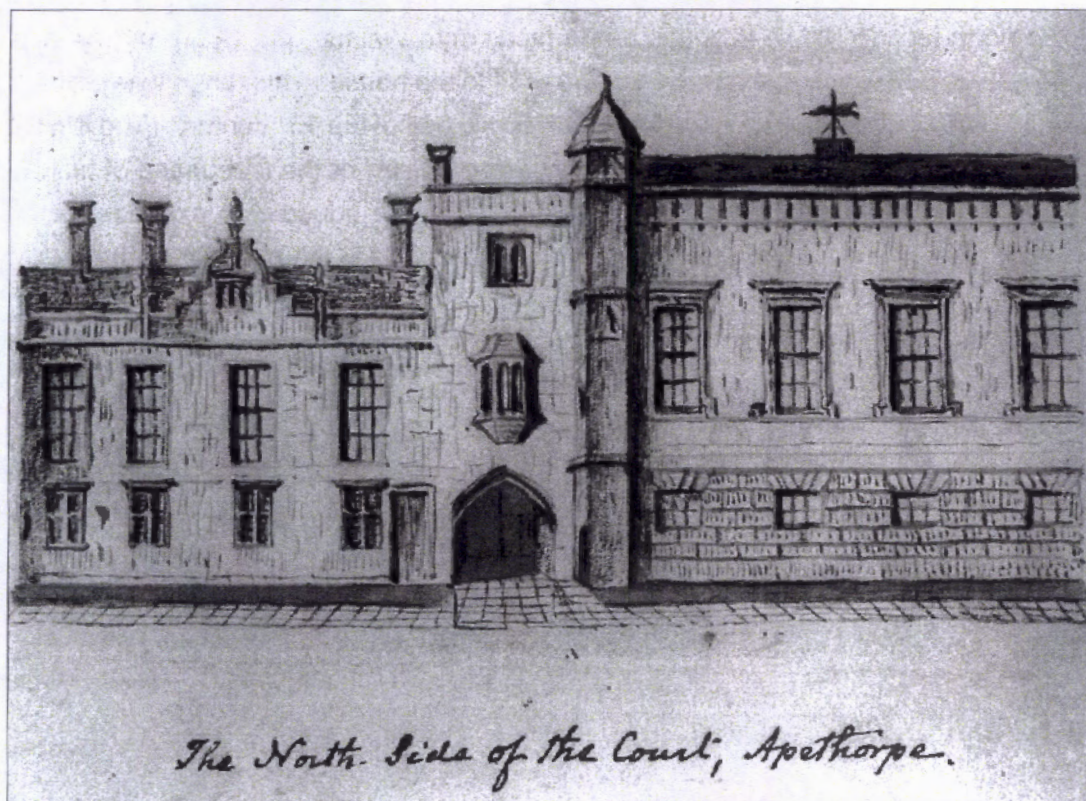


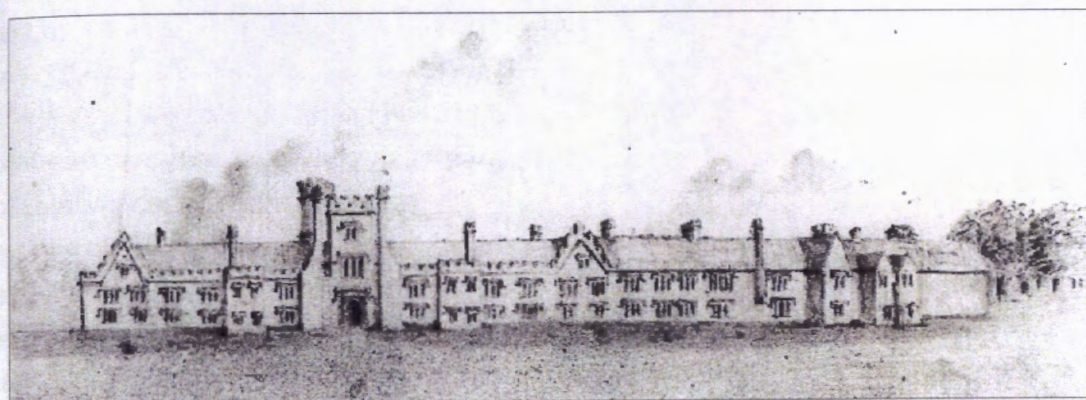
Figure 7.2 The south front of the North Range as recorded by H. K. Bonney, 1838.

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### 2.i The Eastern Section of the North Range

The section of the north range to the east of the gate tower was presumably originally built with the gate tower in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. No physical evidence of this structure survives, but it would seem logical that such a range was built matching that to the west. This range was remodelled in 1622-24 and then largely rebuilt in the 1740s as the Library. The only documentary evidence of its appearance is the conjectural reconstruction of the north front drawn by H. K. Bonney (fig. 7.3) and captioned 'Apethorpe in the Reign of Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> according to the evidence deduced from a minute inspection of its walls'.<sup>1</sup> But since this section of the north range had been completely rebuilt in the 1740s, long before Bonney's 'inspection', this part of his reconstruction must have been entirely speculative. This range presumably had floor levels similar to those on the surviving west range, lower than the gate tower whose

first floor is necessarily higher to allow for its high entrance archway. This explains why the surviving doorway from the spiral staircase at first-floor level is not original; unlike its surviving, stone chamfered counterpart on the top floor.



*Figure 7.3 The north front of the North Range as reconstructed by H. K. Bonney, 1838.*

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## *2.ii The Gate Tower*

The three-storey gate tower and the octagonal staircase tower attached at its south-east corner were built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century (fig. 7.4), and unlike most of the remainder of this range they survive largely intact both externally and internally, apart from their original battlements which were replaced in 1622-24.



*Figure 7.4 The south front of the Gate Tower. Pete Smith 2006*

The stair tower has three moulded floor bands and four small single-light round-headed windows in deeply chamfered surrounds with hood moulds set at various levels. The doorway on the south-west face has a flush, chamfered surround with a four-centred head and triangular inset spandrels. Internally a single stone step has been removed to accommodate the top of the present door when open (fig. 7.5), though the step below retains a curved insert to allow for a lower door when open. This suggests that the surviving doorway has been raised and that originally it was at least 0.20m lower, and careful examination of the external door surround does suggest that it has been



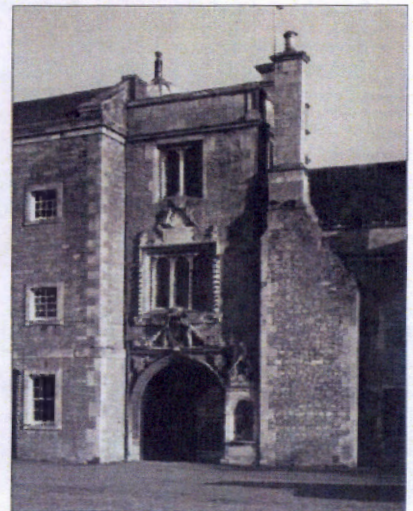
*Figure 7.5 The missing step on the spiral staircase in the Gate Tower.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

to accommodate changes in the access from the staircase to the ground and first floors and the doorways to these floors have also been altered - these changes of level are discussed in more detail below. Many of the upper stone steps are pierced for a bell rope, which once connected to a bell that hung in the dome above this stair tower. This is referred to in the 1629 inventory as 'A Bell and rope' in the Clocke Chamber,<sup>2</sup> in the 1705 inventory as 'On the top of the Stairs a Bell to Call the family dog',<sup>3</sup> whilst in the 1892 Sales Catalogue it is described rather more prosaically as 'the Bell Tower with alarm bell in case of fire'.<sup>4</sup>

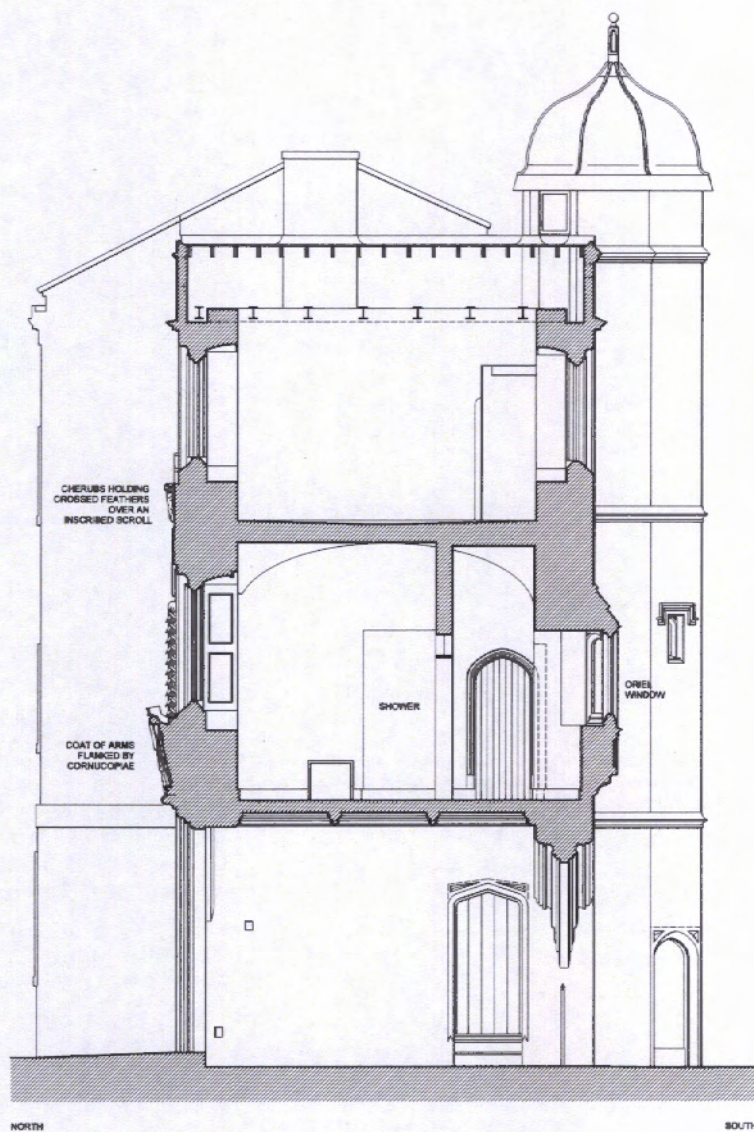
The west side of the gate tower retains a broad external chimney stack (see fig. 7.31), which is visible above the roofs of the west range. This stack has been altered, but it originally served the fireplaces in the west wall of the gate tower.

The north (fig. 7.6) and south (fig. 7.4) façades of the gate tower have deeply moulded, pointed arches. The mouldings of the north arch are continuous, while those of the south arch die into the jambs. The flat plaster ceiling to this entrance passage is divided into six rectangular panels by moulded timber beams, each panel is then subdivided by similar diagonal beams into four triangular panels. Above the south archway is a canted oriel window with four four-centred lights, four lower panels with cross cusping and a stone roof. The details of this window, like the double chamfered sills, do not correspond with the details on the other gate tower windows, which may possibly suggest that it is a later insertion.



*Figure 7.6 The north front of the Gate Tower.*

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APETHORPE HALL SECTION 5 - GATEHOUSE

Parish of Apethorpe, Northamptonshire  
Surveyed July - September 2005  
Grid reference TL 955 023  
Buildings index no.  
Drawn by A.D.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Figure 7.7 Cross-section through the centre of the Gate Tower.

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On the north side is a deeply set three-light window with four-centred lights and a hood mould. The first-floor chamber, known as the Canopy Room, retains its original stone cross-vault with plaster ceiling (fig.7.7). There are two surviving 15<sup>th</sup>-century stone doorways to east and west; both have chamfered and deeply moulded arches with four-centred heads on their inner faces (fig. 7.8).<sup>5</sup> Either side of the oriel window are projecting piers flanked by tall narrow recesses, these piers partly obscure the doorways and again might suggest that the oriel window was itself a later addition (see above). Above on both sides are single two-light windows with four-centred lights. These windows and the three-light mullion window on the floor below are set internally in deeply splayed surrounds with curved lintels and curved jambs hidden behind later shutters. The chamber on the top floor of the gate tower has a damaged late 15<sup>th</sup>-century stone fire surround with a cavetto-moulded arch with four-centred head and spandrel insets (fig. 7.9). The room is entered through a late 15<sup>th</sup>-century chamfered stone doorway with four-centred head. The floor is of gypsum plaster or lime ash over the solid stone vault below.



**Figure 7.8** The doorway on the first floor of the Gate Tower.

© English Heritage BB039800



**Figure 7.9** The fireplace in the Evidence Room on the second floor of the Gate Tower.

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### 2.iii The Northern Lodging Block

The northern lodging block occupies the section of the north range between the gate tower on the east and the Old Dining Room on the west (fig. 7.2). This block was built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century as lodgings, heated by stacks positioned in the cross walls. This lodging range originally extended west as far as the Kitchen.

Internally this block consists of two rooms on both floors. Both rooms on the ground floor [N.1.22, N1.23] are largely devoid of architectural features. On the 1858 plan (see fig. 1.6) these rooms are referred to as the 'Still Room' and the 'Housekeeper's

Store Room'. The latter room, to the east, has a cross beam and a spine beam to the west adjoining it, both of which beams have been encased in plaster.<sup>6</sup> The cross beam has holes in the soffit which suggest that this was once part of a partition wall that divided off the Porter's Lodge. The two taller rooms on the first floor [N.20, N.21] were rooms of relatively high status, probably lodgings for close family members or guests. For, either side of the sash windows to the upper room to the east there are the jambs of earlier windows buried in the walls, which judging by their size and shape, were late 15<sup>th</sup>-century three-light mullion windows. The east gable to this east room was originally served by the chimney stack which rises up the side of the gate tower (fig. 7.31). The east room on the upper floor (fig. 7.10), adjoining the gate tower, has access into the gate tower up a small flight of five steps set within a later panelled projection in the south-east corner of this room. The inner frame of the late 15<sup>th</sup>-century stone doorway at the top of these steps has the former hinge pintles and lock bedding for a door (fig. 7.11) which would have opened inwards over these steps in an impossibly awkward manner. The doorway itself (fig. 7.8) is contemporary with the gate tower suggesting that originally there was a staircase here with a full landing to the west of this door. Both these rooms have adjoining rooms projecting from the north wall, the larger to the west was probably a closet and that to the east a garderobe. These projections have been altered many times, but they may well be original features of these important chambers.



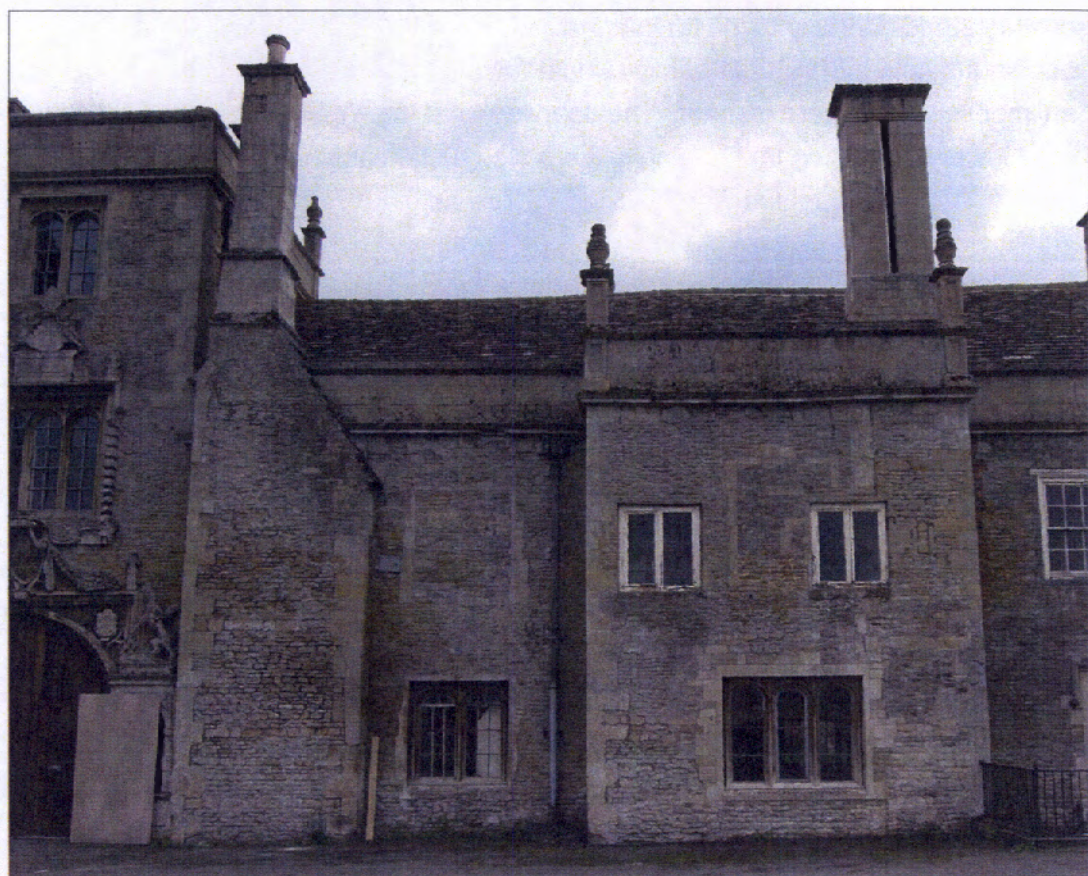
**Figure 7.10** *The East Panelled Room.*  
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**Figure 7.11** *The inner side of the doorway on the first floor of the Gate Tower.*  
© English Heritage BB039801

The north front of this block (fig. 7.12) has one small section of original wall visible to the east with a single late 15<sup>th</sup>-century two-light window on the ground floor and a similar blocked window above. The projecting block to the west was originally

narrower on the west side at first-floor level; the original upper quoins can still be seen above the right casement window. A small single light window can still be identified as buried in the wall to right of this casement which perhaps suggests that this lower western section was originally a garderobe, whilst the taller section to the east may have contained a pair of closets. There is a small blocked two-light window surround visible on the east face of this block at first-floor level, which formerly lit the east closet. The surviving two-light window below appears to have been inserted in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The existing three-light mullion window on the ground floor is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century copy of a late 15<sup>th</sup>-century window. The former single-storey addition to the west had a late 15<sup>th</sup>-century three-light mullion window with round-headed lights, which was presumably resited from the north wall, when this addition was constructed.



*Figure 7.12 The north front of the North Lodging Block.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

Recent detailed plans of the house (see fig. 1.21) show that the wall on the courtyard side is noticeably thicker to the eastern room next to the gate tower, and that there is a slight change in the direction of the wall to the western room, which might suggest that this range was built in two sections. There is no visible break in the outer walling on the court side, and the wall on the north side is now masked by later additions. The



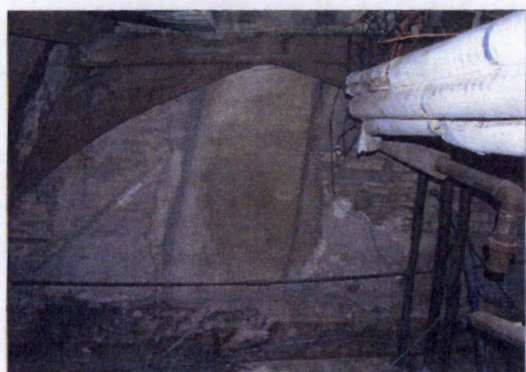
dividing wall between them is certainly thick enough to have once been an external wall. The roof of this range is in two sections, on either side of this masonry party wall (figs 7.13 and 7.14). Both sections appear to be late 15<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>7</sup> though dendrochronology has produced no dates for this roof. Each roof consists of two whole bays and two half bays, one at either end. The western roof has a ridge piece and both roofs have principals which are diminished in thickness above clasped purlins and un-cambered collars; there are arch-braces, and windbraces which in the west roof have a reverse curve. The slight differences in these roofs could be construed as further evidence that these two sections were built at slightly different dates. But a more likely explanation for the thinning of the southern wall at its west end is to make room for the bay window inserted at the north end of the hall range in 1622-24 (see Ch. 6). This window was certainly responsible for the narrower spacing of the later windows lighting the western room. On the inner faces of the end gable walls of both these roofs there are shallow triangular sections of painted plaster the scars of pitched ceilings whose apices were attached to the centre of the roof collars (figs 7.13 and 7.14). These unusual ceilings would not have been as impressive as the barrel-vaulted ceilings to the room over the parlour or the great chamber, but they do denote that these rooms were initially chambers of relatively high status. The west gable to the west room has a later rendered scar rising through the triangular ceiling scar, indicating that the original chimney stack, which has been removed, was sited on this wall (fig. 7.13). The now redundant stack is still in place on the ridge of the roof.



*Figure 7.13 The east roof gable of the North Lodging Block.*  
Pete Smith 2006



*Figure 7.14 The east side of the west roof gable of the North Lodging Block.*  
Pete Smith 2006



**Figure 7.15** *The west side of the west gable of the North Lodging Block.*  
Pete Smith 2006

On western side of this west gable a single truss of the original late 15<sup>th</sup>-century roof still survives, (fig. 7.15) though most of the remainder of this roof structure was truncated when the Old Dining Room was created in 1622-24. This roof truss is similar to those to the east with the same partial scar of a pitched ceiling, indicating that a further lodging chamber was built here originally.

#### *2.iv The Cellar, the Housekeeper's Room and the Old Dining Room*

This central section of the north range has a single façade to the north (see fig. 7.34), whilst the south side abuts directly onto the north end of the hall range (see Ch. 6). It consists of the Cellar, the former Housekeeper's Room above and the Old Dining Room at first-floor level.



**Figure 7.16** *The north front of the former Housekeeper's Room and the Cellar.*

Pete Smith 2006

The original cellar constructed in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century may well have only occupied the northern section of the present cellars, and the section of pilaster visible on the exterior of the north wall suggests that this cellar was divided into two rooms. It was enlarged in the 1580s and again 1622-24 when its south wall was removed, and the two two-light chamfered mullion windows in the north wall were probably also inserted at this time (fig. 7.16). The former Housekeeper's Room above was probably also

divided into two rooms in the same way, for apart from the pilaster, the two windows to the north are slightly different in form from the single window to the east. They all have deeply set two-light windows with round heads and hood moulds, but the single east window is slightly smaller, with lower and narrower lights with staff mouldings. The original north wall to the first floor has been largely replaced by the new windows inserted in 1622-24 except for a section to the west which is finished with quoins suggesting that the Kitchen to the west was set back from the remainder of the north front. The walling to the east retains the scar of a former stone window surround to the side of a 20<sup>th</sup>-century sash window, this is probably the fragment of a large mullion window lighting the former upper chamber.

### 2.v The Kitchen

The Kitchen block to the west was completely rebuilt in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, though this is probably the site of the smaller Kitchen built to serve the original house built for Guy Wolston. The smoke blackened scar of a former chimney stack is visible on the west gable showing the probable position of the original Kitchen stack (fig. 7.17).

### 2.vi The Service Range

The service range constructed for Guy Wolston only extended west across the service court. The former Brewhouse beyond was added in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

At the northern end of the present first-floor corridor, which occupies part of the former Brewhouse, the quoins to the former north-west corner of this service range have been exposed (fig. 7.18). These quoins correspond with the evidence of the gable above, visible from the roof beyond. The west face of this gable (fig 7.19) has many surviving triangular coping blocks on the slopes of both pitches of the gable which clearly indicates that this was originally built as an external gable wall.<sup>8</sup> This wall therefore denotes the extent of this late 15<sup>th</sup>-century service range enclosing the service court, with an entrance gate or gateway between it and the west lodging range. The Rockingham Forest Map of c.1641 (see fig. 4.3) shows that the north range ended at this point,<sup>9</sup> and though this survey cannot always be relied upon in detail, the surviving physical evidence would seem to confirm that in this instance it is correct. This gable still retains the remains of a chimney stack within the roof, which heated the rooms at the western end of the service range.



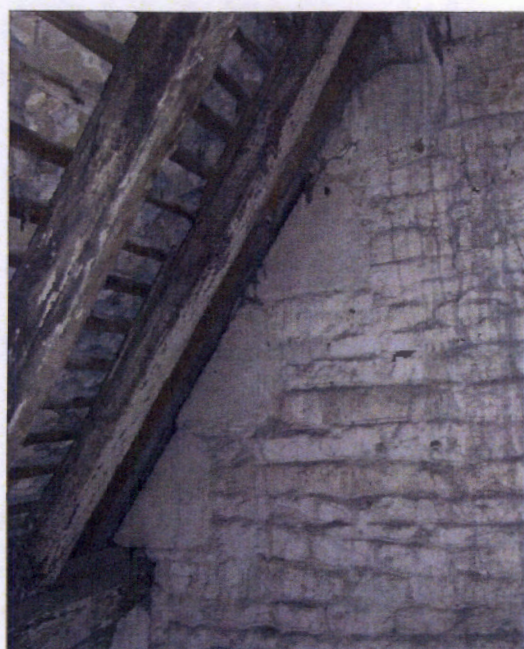
**Figure 7.17** The Kitchen roof showing the smoke-blackened scar of the former chimney stack.

*Pete Smith 2006*

This stack, which has been removed externally, is clearly visible on various early 20<sup>th</sup>-century photographs of the north front (fig. 7.1).



*Figure 7.18 The quoins exposed at the north-west corner of the Service Block.*  
*Pete Smith 2006*



*Figure 7.19 The gable at the west end of the Service Block.*  
*Pete Smith 2006*

The eastern rooms adjoining the Kitchen, which were probably built as storerooms or service rooms, were most likely converted into the Scullery and Larders in 1622-24. The single room to the west is divided from the eastern rooms by a thick wall and a change of floor level, which is even more marked on the floor above. The stone doorways in this thick wall on both floors have heads with four-centred arches, though that on the first floor has a chamfered surround, which on its inner (east) face retains its original pintles (fig. 7.20). Both these doorways and the change in floor level suggest that these western rooms were separated off, at least in function, from the rooms to the east. Perhaps the western room was the former Porter's Lodge, [N1.04, N1.03]. The rooms to the east have been remodelled and rearranged on many subsequent occasions and it now impossible to be sure of their original arrangement. The 1858 plan (see fig. 1.6) shows that the north wall of the eastern room then contained a small single-light internal window which was probably a late 15<sup>th</sup>-century external window. The room to the west [N1.07] retains a blocked fireplace in its west wall, which has been heavily over-painted, but the segmental arched and chamfered opening suggests that it may well date from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The majority of the south front of the service range has been masked by the gabled corridor, probably added in 1818 (fig. 7.51), and only the wall to the west is visible.



*Figure 7.20 The inner side of the doorway on the first floor of the Service Block.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

This retains a single two-light mullion window on the first floor with round-headed lights which could be part of the original fenestration. On the north front the tall gabled projection to the east is irregular with a lower pitch to the west side (fig. 7.21). To the right the sill and part of the jambs of a single-light window can still be seen buried in the walling. This window might help to explain the reason for the irregular west side of this gable which appears to have been extended downwards at some time. It probably lit a stair or closet that was originally finished with a parapet. The lower walling of the further gabled projection to the west (fig. 7.22) has irregular banded rubble stone and a band of coping stones buried in the wall at first-floor level; perhaps this was part of the parapet to an original single-storey projection. The small two-light window with its

round-headed lights and incised spandrels, which appears to be late 15<sup>th</sup> century in date, would seem to confirm that the ground-floor section of this gabled projection was part of the original service range. The roofs to the service range were completely rebuilt in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when the attics were added.



*Figure 7.21 The single gabled projection on the north front of the Service Block.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

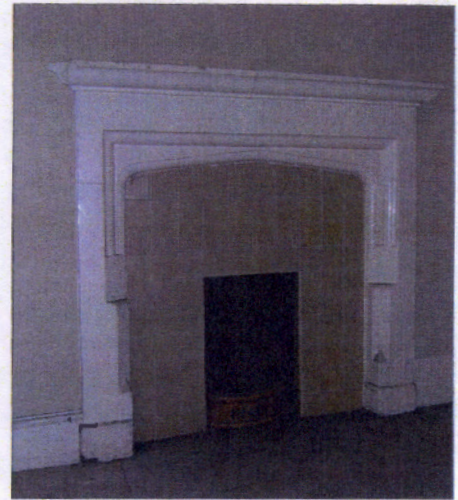


*Figure 7.22 The double gabled projection to the north front of the Service Block and the former Brewhouse.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

### 3 Additions for Sir Walter Mildmay

Sir Walter Mildmay (c.1523 -1589) seems to have made few changes to the north range, although the construction of the Cock Loft, in the hall range, probably necessitated alterations in the arrangement of the rooms on the first floor, to provide stair access. The consistent dendrochronology dating results from the ceiling beams and joists to the cellar, with dates from 1540 to 1570,<sup>10</sup> suggest that the original cellar was probably enlarged at this time. Sir Walter may also have been responsible for repairs to the roof of the stair to the gate tower as shown by the dendrochronology results for the timbers of the dome, which have two, presumably reused, timbers with felling dates of 1544 and 1546; though this repair work may just as easily have been carried out by the Crown between 1543 and 1552.<sup>11</sup> The former 'Bed Room No. 2' in the service range does contain a fine 16<sup>th</sup>-century painted stone fire surround (fig. 7.23), but this has probably been moved. It has a four-centred opening with ovolo moulding, set within a square frame with curved moulding. The jambs both reduce down to a plain chamfer, which then reduces to a narrower chamfer with pointed stops. The moulding to this fire surround is similar to the fireplace in the hall and it probably also dates from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from this, he added coats-of-arms in clunch stone, in the spandrels to the central gateway on the north front of the gate tower (fig. 7.6). These arms are identifiable as Mildmay ancient, and so were presumably installed before 1583 by Sir Walter Mildmay, in order to advertise his ownership and lineage to all who entered.



*Figure 7.23 The 1560 fireplace in the Service Block in 'Bedroom No. 2'.  
Pete Smith 2006*

### 4 The Remodelling of 1622-24

The large scale alterations and rebuilding undertaken by Francis Fane (1580-1628/9), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Westmorland, included many changes to the north range, especially the remodelling of its south front overlooking the main court (fig. 7.32). This façade, like the north and west fronts of the hall and state apartment ranges, was given a parapet with dies and urn finials and curved attic gables to blend with the new west front of the Long Gallery range. These complex alterations are discussed from east to west beginning with the Devil's Stair.

#### 4.i The Devil's Staircase

The Devil's Stair, or the Library Stair as it is sometimes known, at the eastern end of this range was inserted in 1622-24 to give direct access to the northern end of the Roof Walk from the Long Gallery and from the main courtyard, presumably via a now lost external doorway on the ground floor. It is constructed of oak, survives largely complete, though partially encased, and seemingly in its original position. It is a single flight return stair with bulbous turned newel posts and ball pendants, turned balusters, a moulded handrail and a continuous string with deeply chamfered mouldings (fig. 7.24). The ground-floor newel post has been encased with timber to form a continuous newel which rises to the first floor. Within the cupboard under the first flight of this stair the lowest section of the northern newel post can still be seen where it was never concealed by boxing.<sup>12</sup> This newel post is square with chamfered corners and hollowed panels to each face. The newel posts to each of the northern half-landings have been encased to form a continuous newel post, with staff mouldings, which rises up to support the cantilevered top landing. This might suggest that the square inner newel is continuous, but it is very different from the southern newel posts to this stair which are turned (see below), and it is perhaps more likely that sections of square newel were inserted between the original turned newels to support the cantilevered top landing. The fact that the inserted upper newel is considerably smaller than the boxing in does seem to confirm this interpretation. The handrails to the four main flights have also been encased in timber. The first-floor south newel post has had its finial removed and it has also been encased (fig. 7.25). During recent architectural investigation the top was temporarily removed from this encased newel post and the original newel post, shorn of its finial, could be clearly seen surviving within it.<sup>13</sup> On the top flight and landing the form of the original turned newel posts with their acorn finials, stumpy pendants and deeply moulded handrail can still be seen (fig. 7.24).



*Figure 7.24 The top flights of the Devil's Stair.*  
Pete Smith 2006

The width of the rectangular cage occupied by the staircase indicates the original width of this section of the north range which corresponds with the width of the gatehouse



**Figure 7.25** *The middle flights of the Devil's Stair.*  
**Pete Smith 2006**

and the range to the west.<sup>14</sup> Since there is no visible indication that the arrangement of the flights of this stair has been altered,<sup>15</sup> then the floor levels indicated by the position of the landings suggest that the present floor levels are roughly the same as they were in 1622-24. As we have seen the first-floor level corresponds with the first-floor level of the Long Gallery, and not with the section of the north range to the west of the gate tower, which is five steps lower. This strongly suggests that this whole section, which was constructed in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, was rebuilt, or at least raised in 1622-24 so that the floor levels corresponded with the new east range and the gate tower.<sup>16</sup> The second-floor south landing level, which

is two steps lower than the inserted 20<sup>th</sup>-century floor, would indicate that this was the level of the springing of the roof of this range as completed in 1622-24. But, the scar of a higher roof is clearly visible on the east wall of the staircase within the present roof (fig. 7.26), which would have sprung from the wall at a much higher level than the second-floor landing; approximately 1.6 metres higher. This suggests that this block of the north range had roofs at two different heights, a lower roof over the main section and a higher roof over the stairs. This would have been essential to gain the extra headroom needed to accommodate the top flight and top landing of this stair. The rectangular cage of this stair would therefore have risen up to form a type of stair tower, in almost exactly the same way as Blomfield suggested in his proposal to rebuild or restore this block in 1922 (fig. 7.27).<sup>17</sup>

The only place where there is evidence of alteration to the form of this stair is on the top floor; ironically the section which at first sight seems to be the least altered (fig. 7.24). But the strings to the top landing balustrades are plain and not deeply chamfered like all the strings to the lower flights, and the corner newel post does not have the corner chamfers to its square truncated lower section, unlike all the other newels with pendants; instead it finishes abruptly, at the level of the string, with an obviously later pendant attached below. Today the top landing has no windows and the space is very dark and the roof level shown by the scar surviving in the roof above would still have been rather low. Blomfield solved the problem of the roof height in



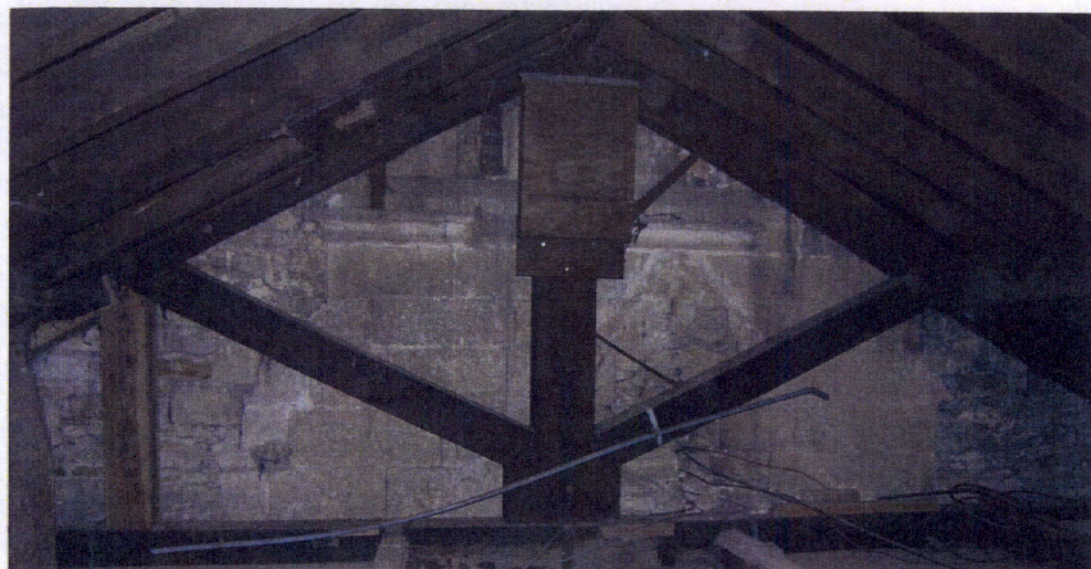


Figure 7.26 The roof over the Devil's Stair, showing the scar of the earlier roofline.

Pete Smith 2006

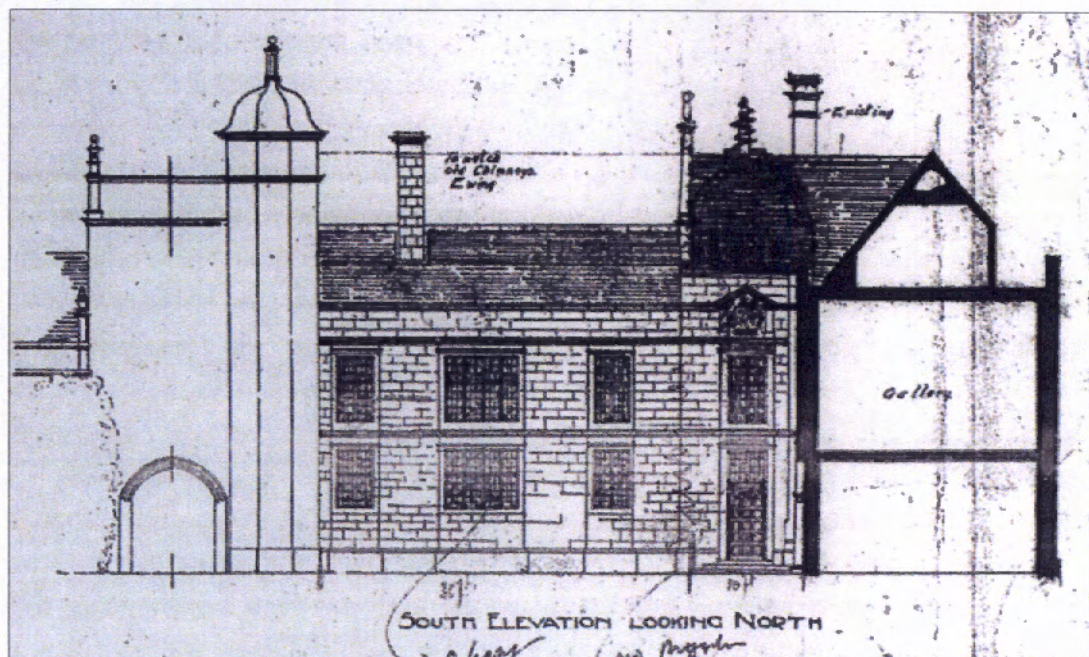
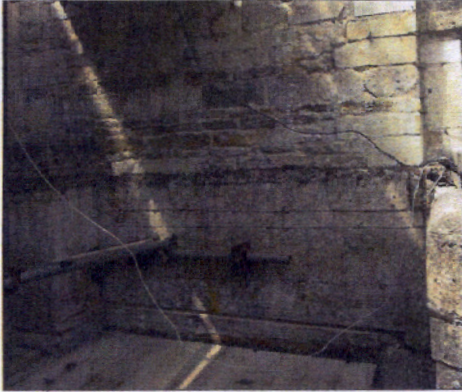


Figure 7.27 Blomfield's proposed reconstruction of the Library Block, 1922.

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his proposed restoration (fig. 7.27) by giving this roof gables on its north and south fronts, which would have gained more light and internal headroom. The original arrangement was presumably similar to this, possibly with attic windows in these north and south gables to light the top of this stair. Presumably the staircase would have had a window on the north front at first-floor level, and this would help to explain

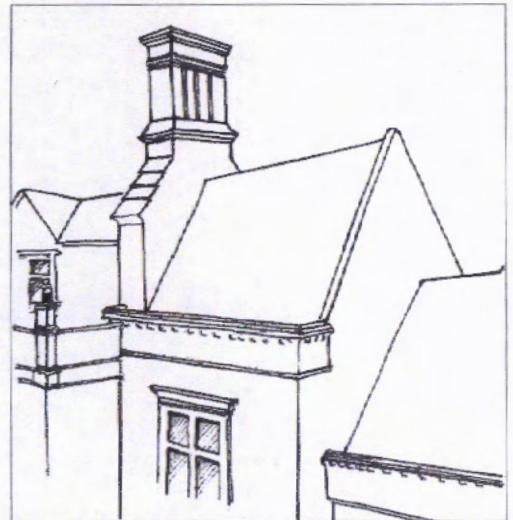
the otherwise seemingly unnecessary cantilevered landing; for without the cantilever, the beam supporting this landing would have had to rest in the north wall and it would thereby have collided with this window. The later failure of this cantilever, evidenced by the slope of the surviving end balustrade and the inserted newel support, might well have necessitated the replacement of the strings to this landing and the alteration or replacement of the corner newel, as noted above.



**Figure 7.28** *The parapet block on the north end of the Roof Walk.*  
Pete Smith 2006

The suggested higher roof to the staircase would also help to explain the usage of the small fragment of parapet with moulded top and dentilated cornice which survives in the corner of the northern flat to the roof walk (fig. 7.28). This section of parapet would originally have extended further westwards at the level of the springing of the staircase roof, giving this section of the north front a parapet to match the surviving parapet over the sections of the north range to the west of the gatehouse (fig. 7.29).

The present doorway on the top landing has an unexpected pair of steps immediately inside which means that the present (fire) door opens outwards onto the landing in a very awkward manner. This awkward access would not have impressed royal visitors wishing to experience the dramatic Roof Walk, one of Apethorpe's attractions, and it is hard to believe that this is the original arrangement. The simplest explanation might be that there was no door here originally, only an opening. This doorway passes through the large four-stacked chimney between the north and east ranges, rendering one of its flues useless. This stack seems only to have ever served a single hearth on the ground floor, though three of its flues have been in use in the past.<sup>18</sup> The stack was constructed as a symmetrical balance to the four-stack chimney at the end of the south range, both of which would have been visible from the courtyard.



**Figure 7.29** *Conjectural reconstruction of north front of Devil's Stair, showing probable arrangement of the parapet and roof.*  
Pete Smith 2006

The door and wooden door frame at the top of these stairs are 20<sup>th</sup> century, and recent removal of the plaster from the outer door frame has revealed plain ashlar jambs with masons' marks compatible with others found on the stonework of 1622-24, proving that this opening at least is contemporary with the staircase. On the west face of this doorway the north jamb projects forward significantly and it is canted out from the wall below the landing in an awkward way. This links to a timber beam over the doorway, supported on a stone corbel, all of which acts as support for the chimney stacks above. The timber beam appears to have been cut back to a chamfer at a later date. The gable on the western side of this chimney stack, which roofs the entrance from this doorway into the upper gallery, cuts across the moulded band at the base of the four stacks. This carefully moulded band has been cut into in a very rough manner which suggests that this roof has been raised or altered in some way (fig. 7.30). This suggestion is partly confirmed by the small section of walling above this doorway, which shows clear evidence of having been disturbed. None of this information helps to explain why the staircase landing is two steps lower than the floor level of the attic over the Long Gallery, but whatever the reason the present arrangement seems inappropriate to its original function and status.



*Figure 7.30 The altered Long Gallery roof showing how it abuts the chimney stack to the east of the Devil's Stair.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

One further puzzling feature of this stair section is the rectangular block of masonry which rises from ground level on the north front in the angle between the stair and the gallery range. This seemingly functionless block is sited between the closets and the corner of the gallery range, within the block as rebuilt around 1740. It is solid at ground- and first-floor levels though it has been partly removed to form the closet off the half landing between the first and second floors. This masonry presumably existed before the 1740 alterations, otherwise the space would have been utilised to make the north closets larger, if this is so, then perhaps it began life as an early garderobe or chimney stack. Two later chimney flues have been inserted into this block which are served by the brick chimney stack above.

#### 4.ii The Gate Tower

The original battlements to the gate tower and stair tower were replaced by a parapet with dies and urn finials, and an ashlar parapet topped with a lead ogee dome over the stair tower (fig. 7.4). This is confirmed by the dendrochronology results for the timbers of the dome, with two, presumably reused, timbers with felling dates of 1544 and 1546,<sup>19</sup> and another timber with a felling date of 1612.<sup>20</sup> The three sundial gnomons, the corroded stumps of which are still visible on the three courtyard faces of the parapet of the stair tower, were also fitted at this time.



**Figure 7.31** The altered chimney stack on the west side of the Gate Tower.  
*Pete Smith 2006*

The west side of the gatehouse, which is visible above the roofs of the west range, shows a broad external chimney stack (fig. 7.31). This stack has been cut back, just below the level of the parapet, to a single stack on the right hand side. It rises through the 1622-24 parapet and the moulded coping to this parapet wraps partially around the stack, showing that this stack was reduced to a single flue when the parapet was added in 1622-24.

The doorway to the octagonal stair tower was presumably raised and the new timber steps inserted into the spiral in 1622-24, when the first-floor level of the Library block was raised to correspond with the level of the new east range. At the same time, this block of the north range was presumably also given an ashlar parapet

with dies and urn finials on both its façades, and a curved gable with a blind three-light window on its southern façade to match the surviving gable over the section to the west of the gate tower, though no evidence of this survives today.

#### 4.iii The North Lodging Block

A parapet with dies and urn finials and an off-centre gable with a false three-light mullion window was added in 1622-24 to the south or courtyard façade of this section of the north range (fig. 7.32). The sash window immediately below the gable has a section of reused and inverted fluted lintel of a type found over many of the windows added in 1622-24. On the north front, immediately west of the gate tower, is a broad external chimney with regular quoins, which rises up to a single square ashlar stack

to the left; the sloping right section seems to have lost its matching square stack. This chimney was added in 1622-24 and it served the now blocked chimneypieces on the ground floor and first floor, replacing the stack on the west wall of the gate tower. As already noted the stack on the west wall of the gate tower was reduced to only a single flue serving the Canopy Room in 1622-24 (fig. 7.31). This means that the chimney pieces to the east rooms, originally on this east gable wall, were replaced at this time and that the external stack on the north wall was then introduced to replace them. Both the rooms on the first floor were accessed after 1622-24 from the hall range, via the new staircase inserted in the north-west bay window (see Ch. 6). To the west is a boldly projecting rectangular closet or garderobe block (fig. 7.12) topped with an ashlar parapet of 1622-24 with, behind, a tall double chimney stack of similar date. The two-light window was almost certainly inserted when this projecting block was regularised and given its parapet and finials in 1622-24, for it is sited centrally within this newly enlarged block. The room immediately to the west of the gate tower may be identified as the Porter's Lodge in the 1629 inventory,<sup>21</sup> with its former south doorway giving access to the main court.



Figure 7.32 The south front of the North Lodging Block.

Pete Smith 2006

#### 4.iv The Old Dining Room etc.

The cellar below the Housekeeper's Room was enlarged to the south and extended below the new bay window added between the hall and north ranges in 1622-24. The cellar windows to the north were probably also certainly inserted at this time; the original windows to this cellar were presumably much smaller. The south wall of the



**Figure 7.33** *The Cellars.*  
Pete Smith 2006

original cellar was also removed except for a very broad section to the east which has large stone quoins (fig. 7.33). This surviving section of wall had to be retained to support the walls and roofs of the corner between the walls and roofs of the hall and north lodging ranges. It also supports an inserted chamfered beam, which has empty double mortises on both its north and south faces, which would once have contained joists.<sup>22</sup> This beam and most of the other timbers to this ceiling have had

dendrochronology dating, with results ranging from 1540 to 1570,<sup>23</sup> suggesting that these cellars had already been altered, and that they were altered again at this time reusing these earlier timbers. On the ground floor the removal of the wall on the south side of the north range created a large new room, possibly the servants' hall.<sup>24</sup>



**Figure 7.34** *The north front of the Old Dining Room.*

Pete Smith 2006

The upper section of the north façade of this block was almost completely rebuilt in 1622-24 when the Old Dining Room (fig. 7.34) was created on the first floor.<sup>25</sup> The two very tall sash windows, which were inserted in 1716-17,<sup>26</sup> are set within the frames of the two broader mullion and transom windows that were inserted in 1622-24. The major mullion which divided these two former windows can still be clearly seen embedded in the ashlar stonework between these two sashes. Above the ashlar parapet with dies and urn finials, plus the broad curved and stepped gable with its moulded band and blind oval window which rises over these windows, are all part of these alterations. This new room originally occupied the whole space between the hall and the north wall.<sup>27</sup> Its collar purlin roof has upper collars to each truss and lower collars to all the pairs of rafters (fig.



*Figure 7.35 The roof of the Old Dining Room. Pete Smith 2006*

7.35). There are arched braces nailed to these collars to provide support for the barrel vaulted plaster ceiling below. Dendrochronology testing of the roof produced last measured ring dates of between 1615 and 1622,<sup>28</sup> which confirms that this roof was constructed at this time. The tall north windows to this room originally rose through

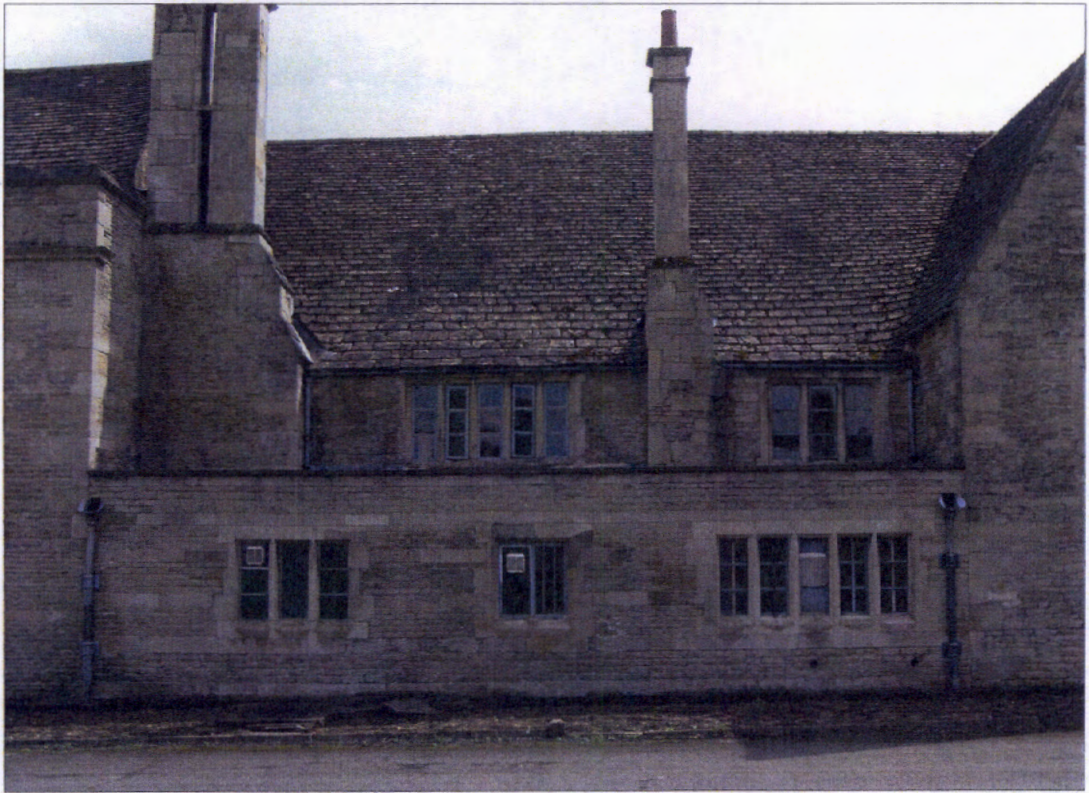
the eaves level of the north gable so a barrel vaulted plaster ceiling must always have been a feature of this room. The plain plaster ceiling was introduced in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, probably replacing a far more decorative Jacobean style plaster ceiling. The fireplace (fig. 7.36), which is positioned awkwardly at the north end of the west wall, occupies its original site on the west wall of the former, late 15<sup>th</sup>-century, lodging chamber. The plaster overmantel is all that survives of the fireplace introduced as part of these 1622-24 alterations. It has a strapwork-enriched plinth with three grotesque lion-like heads in high relief from which rise three armless terms, two male and the central female, with Ionic capitals,



*Figure 7.36 The fireplace in the Old Dining Room.*

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separating two round arches with jewelled spandrels, each containing a shield on a strapwork background; the shields bear the arms of Sir Francis and his wife, Lady Mary, confirming that this room was created as part of their remodelling of house.<sup>29</sup>



*Figure 7.37 The north front of the Service Block.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

#### *4.v The Service Range*

On the ground floor of this range, the former storerooms were converted into the 'Pastry' and 'Buttery', as referred to in the 1629 inventory,<sup>30</sup> when the traditionally placed pantry and buttery were moved from the north end of the hall. The north wall (fig. 7.37) on the first floor has two ovolo-moulded, mullion windows, that to the left of five lights and that to the west of three broader lights. The five-light window to the east is shown as a three-light window on the 1858 (see fig. 1.6) and 1905 plans and it was enlarged by Blomfield in 1913.<sup>31</sup> The present window shows no signs of alteration and it seems likely that Blomfield re-opened two formerly blocked lights. These early 17<sup>th</sup>-century windows suggest that this range was converted, at least in part, into accommodation in 1622-24. Between these windows is a single external chimney with very irregular quoins and a tall ashlar stack, to the east is another larger external chimney with regular quoins and off sets. The tall square stacks to this chimney are linked by an ashlar band. The eastern section of this stack has been masked by the west wall of the new Kitchen, suggesting that it predates the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century



kitchen. Both these stacks appear to have been added in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century when these upper rooms were converted into bed chambers. The room beyond to the west also has an ovolo-moulded three-light window suggesting that this room was also converted into accommodation in 1622-24. The former bedroom to the east [N2.11], adjoining the Kitchen, has a ceiling which is coved on its north and south sides, this and the five-light ovolo-moulded window on its north wall indicate that it was altered into a high status bedchamber; together these three converted rooms might have formed a separate guest lodging. These rooms could not have been accessed directly from the hall range and they were presumably reached from the service court via a now lost internal stair.

## 5 Minor Additions in the 1650s

The north front of the gate tower (fig. 7.6) was embellished in 1652 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Westmorland. He added flanking rusticated niches topped with griffons, though the left niche was removed when the library block was rebuilt. At the same time a cartouche was added over the gateway with a coat-of-arms bearing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl's arms flanked by cornucopias. The deeply set three-light window above with four-centred lights and a hood mould has similar later embellishments, with scrolled strapwork below, wreathed jambs and a pedestal above supporting a plaque revealed by *putti*. The large rectangular-faced sundial on the south-west face of the gatehouse stair tower was probably also added at this time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl.

## 6 The Early 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Alterations

Thomas Fane, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland (1683-1736) rebuilt the Kitchen, 1704-06, added the former Brewhouse beyond the service range, 1711, and carried out extensive alterations to the north lodging range, between 1716 and 1720.

### 6.i The Kitchen

The present Kitchen was enlarged, or more likely completely rebuilt, for the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl. This Kitchen block projects forward from the north front (fig. 7.38), and its roof is higher and wider than the roofs of the ranges to the east and west. It is constructed of even and regularly coursed rubble stone with regular quoins and a plain rubble parapet. The results of the dendrochronology dating of the timbers of the Kitchen roof give felling dates of 1689 and 1703,<sup>32</sup> with two presumably re-used timbers which have felling dates of 1613 and 1639,<sup>33</sup> and this tallies exactly with the references in the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl's accounts for the period Lady Day 1704 to Michelmas 1705 which concern the Kitchen.<sup>34</sup> The first of these is to 'Laborors felling trees for kitchen' followed by 'Lime and Slate [...] for kitchen uses - £15', with others for 'Masons Worke...£42:3', 'for 10 oake boards - 10s', 'for 27 oake boards - £15:15:8', 'for 1000 of white bricks - £1:2:6' and 'for 48 new ridge tiles from Euston - 10s'. Followed by payments for 'Haire

for kitchen inside ceiling - 12s', 'kitchen pavements etc - £8:4:6' and various other payments for 'slating' and 'painting'. There is even a payment under 'Necessaries' for 1706 for 'Tinker worke mending kitchen utensils - 5s' which would suggest that the new Kitchen was complete by this date.



*Figure 7.38 The north front of the Kitchen.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

The only problematic entry in the accounts is for 'ye kitchen window sash roape - £0:1:2' suggesting that originally it had sash windows of some sort. It would seem unlikely that expensive modern vertical sliding sash windows would have been used in such a utilitarian room.<sup>35</sup> But it does at least suggest that these large windows with leaded lights were not the original ones, and this agrees with the evidence of the exterior stonework (fig. 7.39). The surrounds to these three large windows have quoins to their jambs on their upper sections, but not to the lower, suggesting that these windows have been dropped and almost doubled in size. The windows themselves with their thick, pegged wooden frames divided into six panels each with square leaded lights originally dated from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Presumably therefore the original 'sash' windows were removed and the openings enlarged and extended downwards as part of the remodelling of the house in the 1740s.

The resulting Kitchen is a single rectangular double-height room with a single large fireplace opening in the centre of the east wall with ovens either side. Part of this large stack projects eastwards beyond the west wall of the cellar/Housekeeper's Room/Old Dining Room block. In the cellar the projecting south-east corner of this stack can be clearly seen with its large and very regular quoins. There is no sign of the former south wall of the cellar adjoining this corner, confirming that the south wall was removed in 1622-24 when the Old Dining Room was created above.



Figure 7.39 The north front of the former Brewhouse and cottage.

Pete Smith 2006

### 6.ii The Former Brewhouse

Initially the north service range only extended across the service courtyard, as can be seen on the Rockingham Forest Map of c.1641, (see fig. 4.3) whilst the Bonney sketch plan (see fig. 1.9) definitely shows that by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the range extended much further west across part of the back yard. This suggests that the former double-height Brewhouse was added to the west in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Most likely as part of the extensive alterations carried out by Thomas Fane, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland (1683-1736). For there are a number of payments in his accounts for November and December 1711 that refer to work on the 'Brew house'. These include payments 'to the mason setting up ye Coppers in the Brewhouse', payments to 'Ed Reade for Labouring worke att ye Brewhouse' and payments to Michael Hambleton ye slater a bill for worke...aboute ye brewhouse'.<sup>36</sup>

On the north front, at the eastern end of the former Brewhouse, is a projecting gabled wing (figs 7.22 and 7.39). The western corner of this gabled projection is corbelled out about a metre above ground level. In the angle between this projection and the north range there is an earlier projection with irregular quoins which was presumably the external chimney stack which served the Brewhouse.



**Figure 7.40** *The roof of the former Brewhouse.*  
Pete Smith 2006

The former Brewhouse has a simple collar-purlin roof which was largely rebuilt and strengthened in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (fig. 7.40). On the south pitch many of the rafters have been replaced whilst on the north many new rafters have been inserted to strengthen the originals. The surviving original timbers are painted or white-washed showing that the roof to the Brewhouse was open until the alterations of 1913. The surviving trusses each have collars with two struts which presumably linked to tie-beams, though these seem to have been removed when the new ceilings were inserted by Blomfield well above the eaves level. A single curved wind brace survives supporting the purlin on the north pitch of the roof, but there is no evidence that the roof had any other such braces.

### *6.iii Alterations to the North Lodging Block*

The main gateway was given a new pair of large wooden gates, each with an inner wicket gate, with raised and fielded panels. The south front of the north lodging range had four wooden cross-casement windows with rectangular leaded panes and flat lintels with moulded hoods which were inserted on the ground floor and four tall sashes with glazing bars above. The casement windows have unusual scroll finials to their iron hinges which are comparable to hinges found on similar windows at nearby Boughton House, in Northamptonshire, dating from around 1700.<sup>37</sup> The upper sash windows have had their glazing bars replaced with narrower glazing bars and larger glass panes in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century. These windows were added when the first-floor rooms of this section of the house were converted into 'my dressing room and bedchamber'.<sup>38</sup> The ground-floor rooms, of relatively menial status, were fitted with casement windows, whilst the more important panelled upper rooms received sliding sash windows, probably identifiable as 'the...sashes in my dressing room and bedchamber' for which William Blomfield was paid £4 3s 0d in October 1720.<sup>39</sup>

These rooms were accessed after 1622-24 from the hall range, via the staircase inserted then in the north-west bay window (see Ch. 6). This stair was altered at this time though the original balusters were reused.<sup>40</sup> From the landing of this staircase these rooms were entered through a grand round headed archway (which now contains a 20<sup>th</sup>-century fire-door).<sup>41</sup> This archway has pilaster jambs and a moulded arch with keystone set within a wooden surround with tall pilasters supporting a moulded entablature (fig. 7.41). It formed an impressive entrance to the Earl's new suite of rooms, through a small lobby, with an inserted sash window. This arch can possibly be identified as that mentioned in the accounts for June 1716; '20<sup>th</sup> Paid J. Dimbleby for himself, boy, J. Chapman & his son assisting at ye Arch...in full for all works to this times - £8 3s 8d'.<sup>42</sup>



**Figure 7.41** The arched entrance to panelled rooms in the North Lodging Range.  
Pete Smith 2006

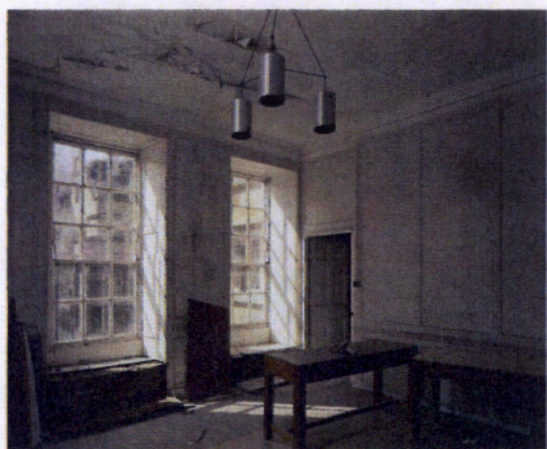
These rooms which were remodelled as the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl's private suite were given flat plaster ceilings, bolection moulded doorcases and full height panelling divided by a dado rail. The west room (fig. 7.43) retains its moulded plaster coving and complete panelling on its south, east and west walls. The western section of this room was partitioned off to form a lobby and bathroom [N.2.18, N2.19] sometime after 1913.<sup>43</sup> A now blocked fireplace with tall external stack was added on the north wall, to replace the former gable stack. The east room (figs 7.10 and 7.42) also retains most of its panelling, though that to the south wall has been partly removed. The former closet doorway to west end of the north wall has been blocked with an internal window. The upper panels to the east wall and the western half of the north wall have been boarded over. The scar of the lost central chimney piece on the north wall has recently been uncovered. Its insertion meant the blocking of the late 15<sup>th</sup>-century window visible on the north front. Two



**Figure 7.42** The eastern panelled room in the North Lodging Block.  
© English Heritage BB039799

The room is shown in a photograph, featuring a large window on the left, a smaller window on the right, and a doorway in the background. The walls are covered in wood paneling, and the ceiling is flat plaster.

wooden casement windows were inserted in the north closets replacing a single stone cross casement window whose frame can still be seen in the present stonework.



**Figure 7.43** The western panelled room in the North Lodging Block.

© English Heritage BB039797

The two large transom and mullion windows in the north wall of the Old Dining Room were replaced by the present sashes in 1716-17 according to the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl's surviving accounts.<sup>44</sup> On 20 June 1716, 'Paid J. Dimbleby for himself, boy, J. Chapman & his son assisting at ye...new sash in the Old Dining room in full for all works to this times - £8 3s 8d'.<sup>45</sup> These tall sash windows have fielded panel shutters. The western pitch of the Old Dining Room roof was over built by the extended new kitchen roof that was added in 1705.

## 7 The Library Block c. 1740

This section of the north range, between the east range (see Ch. 10) and the gatehouse, was almost entirely rebuilt around 1740 for John Fane, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland (fig. 7.2), most probably to the designs of Roger Morris, as part of his plans to rebuild almost the entire house.<sup>46</sup> The timber staircase, known as the Devil's Stair, sited at the junction with the east wing was retained, but altered. These alterations included the insertion of a plaster wall between the two lower flights and the boxing in of the newels and handrails of the flights visible to anyone visiting the new Library on the first floor. The doorway on the first floor leading from this staircase to the Long Gallery (fig. 7.44) has a moulded timber frame with inner raised-and-fielded panelled reveals and a matching six-panel door which was also introduced as part of these alterations.<sup>47</sup>



**Figure 7.44** The doorway to the Long Gallery.

Pete Smith 2006

The new Library block was rebuilt in the Palladian style.<sup>48</sup> The courtyard façade (fig. 7.2) matches that of the court elevation of the south range built at the same time (fig. 9.2). It has a rusticated basement with three windows each with four bold keystone-type voussoirs and above the ashlar *piano nobile* has three large sash windows in moulded stone surrounds topped with moulded cornices. The façade is topped by a Doric entablature. The northern façade of the Library block (fig. 7.45) is of rubble stone with flush ashlar quoins and a plain first-floor band. The windows are mostly small square, irregularly spaced, sashes in ashlar surrounds. The two large sash windows at first-floor level were originally blind, the present sashes were inserted in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century when this block was remodelled internally. According to the 1858 plan of Apethorpe Hall (see fig. 1.6), a closet projected out from behind the east staircase at first-floor level and the blocked opening for this closet can still be identified on the stonework of the north façade. The rainwater heads to either side of the central wall chimney stack are dated 1818. This stack was originally surmounted by a weather vane linked to the Library overmantel below.

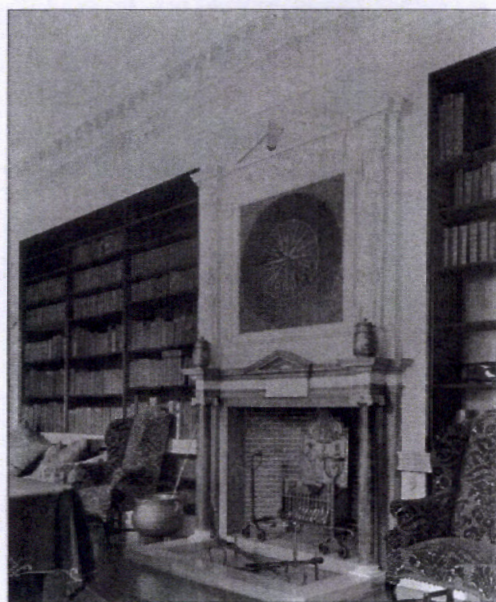


Figure 7.45 The north front of the Library Block.

Pete Smith 2006

The ground floor was originally divided into three rooms, though a passage with timber partitions was divided off from the south side of these rooms in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The original moulded cornice in the two western rooms still continues into the passage

outside these rooms. The centre room also retains an original stone fireplace, now painted. Some re-sited early 17<sup>th</sup>-century panelling survives in the passage to this room; this appears to run behind the later timber partition suggesting that the whole room was lined with re-used panelling in the 1740s. This passage has a number of different door surrounds probably also re-sited.



**Figure 7.46** *The Library in 1909.*  
© *Country Life*.

The Library on the first floor or *piano nobile* occupied almost the whole of this section of the north range apart from the staircase to the east and a pair of closets to the west. This room, which was originally 7.00m high,<sup>49</sup> was fortunately recorded by *Country Life* magazine in a single photograph published in 1909 (fig. 7.46).<sup>50</sup> This photograph shows that the room had a deeply coved plain plaster ceiling with an ornately moulded plaster cornice with pulvinated frieze. It had inset bookcases either side of the chimney piece, with a continuous dado band, and the 1858 plan (see fig. 1.6) indicates that it had similar inset bookcases on the east and west walls. The chimney piece was

of polished marble with projecting Ionic columns and a pedimented mantel shelf with above a painted wooden pedimented overmantel with a central frame containing an ornately painted compass with a direction hand linked to the weathervane on the roof. Only the window frames on the south wall survive with their egg and dart moulded surrounds.

Further alterations took place to the Old Dining Room. The present plain curved plaster ceiling with moulded wooden coving was probably inserted at this time. This ceiling continues into the passage which was cut off from the south end of the Old Dining Room, sometime before 1858. The fact that the coving to the passage continues around all four sides, rather than just around three sides, as one might expect for this type of inserted passage, could well suggest that all this coving was original and that this 1740s refitting included a buffet at the south end separated off from the room by columns; a very common arrangement for an 18<sup>th</sup>-century dining room. If such columns occupied the site of the present south wall then the passage would have been the buffet and hence it would always have had coving around all its four sides. A new stone chimney piece (fig. 7.36) was inserted below the plaster overmantel of





*Figure 7.47 The former west doorway to the Old Dining Room, now a cupboard. Pete Smith 2006*

1622-24, as part of these additions. A doorway was also added which now survives in the form of a cupboard (fig. 7.47) in the lobby to west. This deep doorway retains its original outer door, with eight raised-and-fielded panels and its similarly panelled inner sides forming the interior of the cupboard. The 1858 plan also shows that the Old Dining Room was entered from the east staircase landing through a doorway at the south end of the west wall, which has since been blocked.

The original Kitchen 'sash' windows were removed and the openings enlarged and extended downwards as part of this remodelling of the house.

## **8 The Late 18th-Century Gardener's Cottage**

Attached to the western end of the north range, and facing into the back court, is the Gardener's Cottage (fig. 7.48). This cottage was probably added in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, for it does not appear on Bonney's early 18<sup>th</sup>-century sketch plan (see fig. 1.9). This two bay, lobby entry cottage has a central brick ridge stack and a single coped gable to the west. The roof to this cottage section survives largely unaltered (fig 7.49). It is pegged with a number of carpenter's assembly marks visible. It has two sets of staggered purlins with no collars or ridge piece. The gable wall dividing this cottage from the former Brewhouse, visible in the roof space, is of built of brick. Presumably this original stone gable was rebuilt in brick when the cottage was added. The south front of this cottage (fig. 7.48) is set back slightly from the remainder of the north range. It has a central doorway with plank door flanked by a two-light window to the left and a three-light window to the right, beyond to the right another doorway set slightly lower gives access down to the boiler room to the east. All these openings have timber lintels. Above there are two, two-light hipped dormer windows. All these windows have diamond leaded casements. Attached to the west gable wall of this cottage is a lean-to with a curved corner wall, a pantile roof and a single doorway; it was probably built as a washhouse, with a former privy beyond.

The north (fig. 7.50) front has two single-light windows with timber lintels to the east with above a single gabled dormer with two, two-light casement windows. Evidence



**Figure 7.48** *The south front of the Gardener's Cottage.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

for an earlier window with a flush ashlar frame can be seen to the left of this modern window. It was set higher than the present window, at the same level as the windows to the east. Attached to the west is a section of the wall that originally enclosed the back yard. This has had a window inserted into it which lights the washhouse behind. This wall links the cottage to the main gateway, with square stone gate piers, which forms the main entrance to both the rear courtyards.



**Figure 7.49** *The roof of the Gardener's Cottage.*

*Pete Smith 2006*



**Figure 7.50** *The north front of the Gardener's Cottage.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

## 9 The Early and Mid-19<sup>th</sup>-Century Alterations

Modernisation of the house took place in 1818-19 in order to provide adequate guest accommodation for the political house parties of the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl and further alteration took place 1846-59 to accommodate the many guests entertained by the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl. It is not always easy to distinguish these phases, for both sets of alterations were carried out in the then fashionable Tudor revival style.

A corridor was divided off from the rooms either side of the gate tower on the ground floor, providing a direct link from the Boarded Hall in the west to the Library and the Long Gallery in the east. Doorways were inserted within the entrance passage of the gate tower to link these two passages. Both doorways have chamfered surrounds with four-centred heads and triangular inset spandrels, in direct imitation of the original external doorway to the attached stair tower. The passage to the three rooms below the Library still survives and the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century moulded cornices in the two western rooms still continue into the passage outside these rooms.



*Figure 7.51 The south front of the Service Range, showing the double gabled addition of 1818.*

© Lord Brassey

A passage was also divided off from the south side of the first-floor chamber in the gate tower, known as the Canopy Room since at least 1830.<sup>51</sup> The 15<sup>th</sup>-century fireplace in the Evidence Room on the top floor (see fig. 7.9), which had been reduced in size, probably in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, was bricked up completely at this time and an iron door was inserted. This door suggests that at this room was converted at this time

into the strong room or muniment room, and this is confirmed by a reference to it in the 1892 Sale Catalogue as the 'Evidence Room',<sup>52</sup> and on the 1913 plans as the 'Room Loft (Muniment Room)'.<sup>53</sup> The solid stone vault to the Canopy Room below provided the ideal fire-proof floor to this room, an essential feature for a room designed to protect the family's important papers and legal documents. To the west of the gate tower the doorway giving direct access from the court into the former porter's lodge was blocked off. This former doorcase with a flat hood is clearly visible in the sketch of the north side of the courtyard recorded by Bonney in 1838 (see fig. 7.2) and in Bradford Rudge's view of the courtyard from the west (fig. 10.9) reputedly painted in 1846. The rainwater heads to either side of the central chimney stack to the north front of the Library block (fig. 7.45) are dated 1818, and indicate that the roofs and gutters were repaired and reordered at this time.

Edward Browning's 1858 plan (see fig. 1.6) suggests that major changes were also carried out at the junction between the north and hall ranges. The cellar was accessed at this time from the west end of the Boarded Hall down a single flight staircase, in the same position as the present lower flight. The east wall of the cellar has two brick piers which support the fireplace inserted in the east wall of the Housekeeper's Room above. This fireplace was presumably inserted at the same time that the south wall was reinstated between the Housekeeper's Room, and the Boarded Hall to the south.

The single most important addition to the service section of the north range was the new three storey double-gabled block (fig. 7.51) added to its south façade facing into the service court. This block was most likely added in 1818-19 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl as part of his modernisation of the house.<sup>54</sup> There is certainly no sign of this addition on Bonney's early 18<sup>th</sup>-century sketch plan, and it certainly does not date from around 1560, as suggested by the VCH.<sup>55</sup> The ground-floor section of this extension is partly faced in fine quality ashlar, set within a flush ashlar frame. This ashlar walling seems out of place in this service courtyard, and it is difficult to see the reason for its introduction here. It could suggest that this section was built sometime before the rubble-faced upper floors, but that still does not explain the reason for the expensive ashlar facing. Within the flush ashlar frame is an off-centre stone doorway with a chamfered stone surround and a four-centred head.<sup>56</sup> This doorway has an early re-used door with strap hinges and an iron lock. There is a single two-light window to the left and a three-light and then a two-light window to the right. These windows now light a corridor, but the 1858 plan shows that then they lit the extended scullery and pantry. Beyond is a single-light mullion windows set in rubble walling within a flush ashlar frame. Two- and three-light mullion widows on the first floor light the new corridor which gave access to the bedrooms in this range and to the archway that provided a link with the west lodging range. The upper floors of the north range were converted

at this time into the much needed guest accommodation required for the house parties given by the Earl.<sup>57</sup> The western corner of the extension containing the passage has a buttress which is corbelled out approximately two metres from the ground, this once supported a small first-floor pentice which is visible in two photographs in Lord Brassey's collection of around 1920.<sup>58</sup> There are two further three-light windows set high in the gables which light two added attic bedrooms. This façade is topped with a moulded parapet and coped gables.

On the ground floor the south gabled addition was incorporated into the new 'Scullery', 'Pastry' and 'Larders' formed to the west of the Kitchen as was the single-storey addition on the north front. This addition is not shown on the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century sketch plan (see fig. 1.9), but it does appear on the 1858 plan (see fig. 1.6). The doorway between these service rooms and the porter's lodge to the west was blocked at this time, and a corridor was formed out of the Brewhouse beyond to provide external access from the service court to the water closets inserted into the gabled block on the north side of this range.



*Figure 7.52 The roof over the Archway passage.*  
*Pete Smith 2006*

On the first floor the new south corridor gave access to the 'Bed Rooms Nos. 1 and 2' marked on the 1858 plan (see fig. 1.6) and this passage was continued westwards by screening off the south sides of 'Bedrooms Nos. 3 and 4'. This new corridor linked these bedrooms directly to the hall range to the east and to the west to the new Archway (see below) which provided a link to the new accommodation provided in the west range, 'Bedrooms Nos. 5 to 8'. A passage was also hived off from the Brewhouse to give access to the water closet inserted in the gabled block on the north front. A staircase was inserted in the corridor outside 'Bedroom No. 3' which gave access to an attic known as The Rookery, which contained three servants'

bedrooms [N3.01,03,04]. The almost inaccessible roof space over 'Bedroom No. 4' has two roof lights and painted gable walls suggesting that this was originally also used as an attic, though this must have been prior to 1858, for it is not shown on Edward Browning's plan.

The detached west range was eventually linked to the north service range by the Archway (see fig. 8.7) at the north-west corner of the service court. This arch allowed

carts and other service traffic access into this court, whilst the bridge at first-floor level provided a direct link between these two ranges. As the 1858 plan reveals, this Archway was originally much narrower than it is today; it was broadened and expanded by Blomfield around 1913.<sup>59</sup> Prior to this it contained a passage to the east with a void to the west containing water tanks. It has a timber-framed and tile-hung upper structure with a simple collar-purlin roof running north/south, this roof survives with later alteration and strengthening (fig. 7.52). This bridge is supported by a plain ashlar archway which was most likely constructed in 1818-19 as part of the modernisation carried out for John Fane, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland (1759-1841).<sup>60</sup>

## 10 The Early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Alterations for Leonard Brassey

Leonard Brassey employed Sir Reginald Blomfield to modernise and restore Apethorpe Hall in a number of phases between 1904 and 1940. The alterations affecting the north range were mostly internal reordering carried out between 1909 and 1913.



*Figure 7.53 The redundant lift mechanism.*  
Pete Smith 2006

These alterations included the conversion of Dr Bonney's Room, below the Library, into a bathroom and the insertion of a corridor on the ground floor of the service range to the south of the scullery, pastry and larders. It also included the virtual rebuilding of the former Brewhouse at the western end of the north range. The eastern end of the double-height Brewhouse was converted into an open well staircase and the western section became part of the boiler house and coke store for the new central heating system, also inserted at this time. On the first floor a new bedroom was created. The roof space above the staircase still contains the pulley mechanism for the lift introduced by Blomfield (fig. 7.53), which has subsequently been removed. The south front of the former

Brewhouse range was completely rebuilt or refaced by Blomfield (fig. 7.54). It has an ovolo-moulded four-light mullion window with hood mould and above two similar windows set into through-eaves gabled dormers lighting the new stair and bedroom. To the left is a stone chamfered doorway with a four-centred arch which may well be an original 18<sup>th</sup>-century doorway that appears to have been widened by the insertion of a chamfered block in the centre of its lintel. This doorway may have been widened to allow better access to the new boiler room and coke store.<sup>61</sup> The north front of the

former Brewhouse (fig. 7.39) is now dominated by the huge four-stack stone chimney added by Blomfield to serve the new boiler house. To the left of the stack is a small opening set high in the wall with a pair of doors and a two-light chamfered mullion window at ground level; to the right is a metal door to the coal shoot. As part of these alterations Blomfield widened the bridge over the Archway creating a new east gable front with a five-light mullion. He widened and moved the corridor to the east creating a house maid's closet and a box room in the centre. All three of these rooms have since been incorporated into a single room over the archway [W2.01].



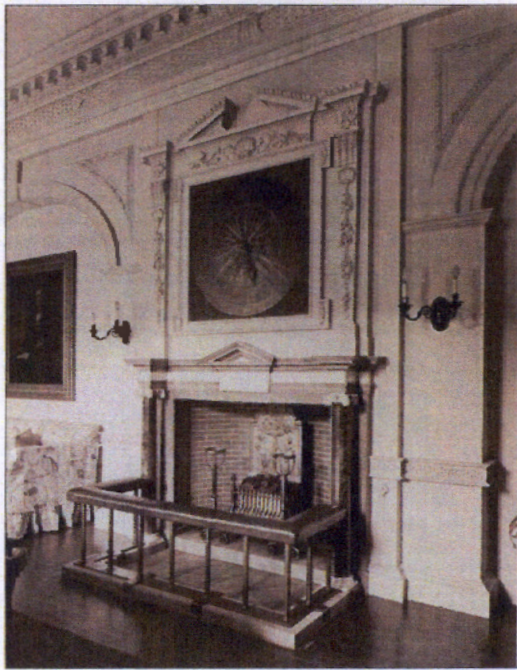
*Figure 7.54 The south front of the former Brewhouse, as rebuilt by Blomfield.*

*Pete Smith 2006*

The western section of the western panelled room was partitioned off to form a lobby and bathroom [N.2.18, N2.19] sometime after 1913 for neither of these rooms appears on the 1913 plans.<sup>62</sup> The sash window inserted to light this bathroom was certainly in place by 1938,<sup>63</sup> so presumably these rooms were partitioned off sometime between 1913 and 1938 by Reginald Blomfield. The original 18<sup>th</sup>-century coving and panelling survives within these rooms and most of the inserted partition walls have accurately matching panelling and coving. The bathroom was subsequently subdivided to form a toilet and washroom in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The small sash was inserted into a taller opening with brick infill below. The top section of the right jamb of this window appears to be the moulded jamb of a former smaller mullion window; presumably the three-light mullion window indicated on the 1858 plan. The east end of the eastern

panelled room had been partitioned off to form a cupboard before 1858 and Blomfield reduced this to a corner cupboard, matching the stair cupboard and forming a central eastern alcove.<sup>64</sup> This corner cupboard has since been removed, though the breaks in the panelling are still clearly visible.

The single-story addition to the north of the Scullery and Larders (fig. 7.37) was completely rebuilt by Blomfield in banded rubble stone with new mullion windows linked by flush ashlar bands. The 1858 plan (see fig. 1.6) shows that there had been two two-light and a single four-light window in this wall which Blomfield replaced with a three- a two- and a five-light window. The north front of the final section of the original service range, the former porter's lodge, has a narrow lean-to which links the eastern gable to a double gable projection beyond (figs 7.21 and 7.22). This lean-to was added by Blomfield between 1904 and 1913.<sup>65</sup> The lean-to has a two-light mullion window and the set back first floor window has an altered stone surround and 20<sup>th</sup>-century casements.



**Figure 7.55** *The Billiard Room, as altered by Reginald Blomfield.*  
© Lord Brassey

In 1913 Reginald Blomfield converted the Library into a Billiard Room; he removed the bookcases and replaced them with ornately decorated plaster arches. These alterations are recorded in a surviving photograph now in the possession of Lord Brassey (fig. 7.55).<sup>66</sup> As we have already seen, Reginald Blomfield proposed in 1922 to demolish this Library block completely and replace it with a lower Jacobean style range as part of a scheme to restore the gatehouse and north entrance to the house (fig. 7.26), though nothing ever came of this idea.<sup>67</sup> Finally in 1938, as part of Reginald Blomfield's last alterations to the house, the single-storey addition on the north side of the Still Room was removed to make way

for a new entrance doorway. This new doorway with four-centred head gave access, via a new passage hived off from the west end of the Still Room, directly into the former Boarded Hall.<sup>68</sup>



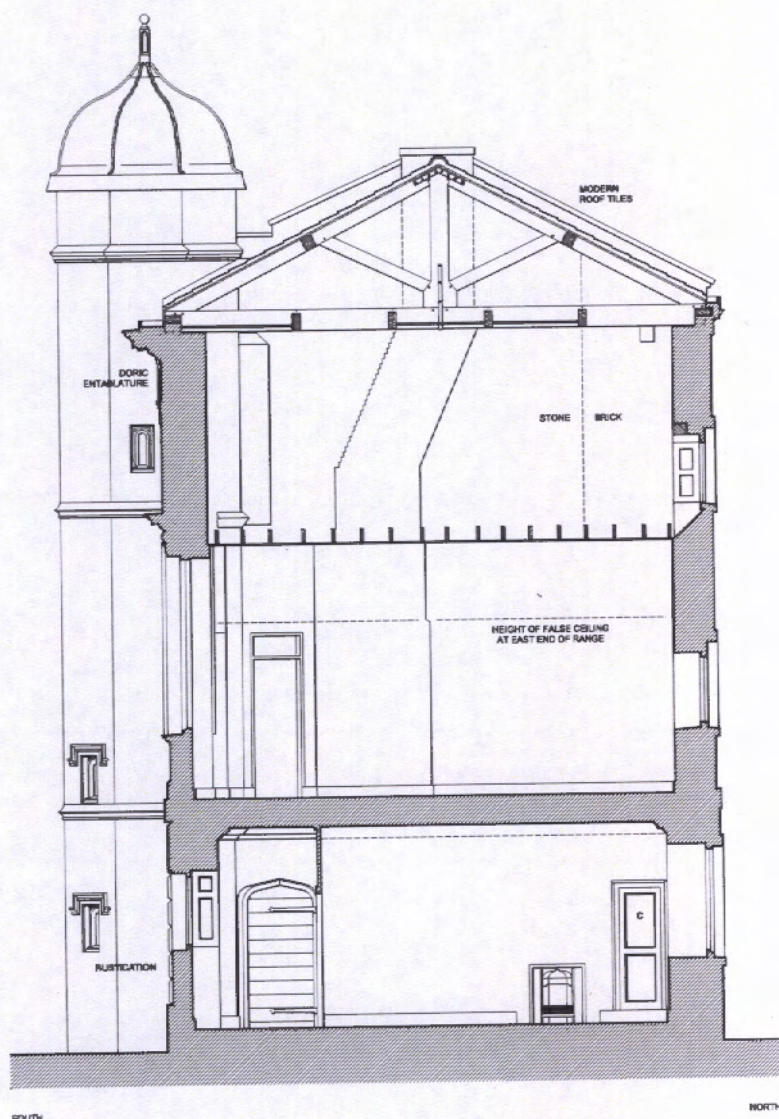
## 11 St John's School and After

A number of relatively minor alterations were carried out to this north range when the house was converted into an Approved School in 1949-54, and further more destructive alterations occurred in 1976-78.

The roof over the gate tower was raised and reconstructed to accommodate large new water tanks; the scar of the earlier shallow pitched roof is visible on the north wall. The walls of this room are covered with graffiti, mostly dating from the 1960s and 1970s, though with a number of much earlier examples. In the scullery the partition wall, which had internal windows, was removed in the early 1950s. The former Housekeeper's Room was subdivided into three small rooms [N.18, N.19, N.20] and in the cellar below brick piers were inserted to support the timber beams. In the Kitchen a narrow passage and doorway from the former Housekeeper's Room to the east, was cut through the oven to the south of the fireplace. Much of the inner south wall of the Kitchen on the ground floor was removed during these alterations. Doubtless it was refitted again after 1949 when the house became a school. It has since been stripped of all its kitchen fittings and a false ceiling, now partially collapsed, was inserted in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. A doorway was opened up in the south wall of the former Larder to give access to the new dining hall built in the service court in the 1950s. The staircase access up to attics, known as The Rookery, was also altered and a roof link, hidden behind a stone parapet, was opened up from this attic to the Cock Loft in 1976-78. Another new entrance doorway was created at the west end of the north range between the double gabled blocks. The gardener's cottage was modernised and a large three-light metal-framed casement window was inserted into the north wall at this time.

Almost all the internal decoration of the Library/Billiard Room, apart from the frames to the sash windows, was destroyed in 1976-78 when the school was converted into a community college. The original Library ceiling was removed and a new lower ceiling inserted (fig. 7.56); subsequently a further false ceiling has been inserted below this and the space divided into a number of small rooms either side of an irregular central corridor. The space created above the former library was never completely floored, ceiled or plastered and today it survives as a dark and unused space with only a single very small window on the north side. The tall Kitchen windows were replaced with copies by ACEL in 2002 as part of the repairs carried out after the owners were served with a Repairs Notice by East Northamptonshire District Council.

JUNE 2006



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Figure 7.56 A cross-section through the former Library.

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## ENDNOTES TO CHAPTER 7

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1. Coll. Ape., vols. I & II.
2. NRO W (A) Box 6, V, nos. 1 & 2.
3. NRO W (A) Misc. 55 F.
4. Sales Catalogue, 1892; LA, FANE 9/1/2 (c).
5. These doorcases are very similar to the doorway leading from the hall into the crosswing.
6. Morrison 2006, 5, No. 2.
7. DBR 61840.
8. The top of this gable has been removed and the present purlins from the west roof break into a number of these coping blocks.
9. TNA MR 1/314.
10. Samples APT-A281 to A288; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming.
11. Samples APT-A47 and A51; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming.
12. Morrison 2006, 37-8, No. 25.
13. Morrison 2006, 37-8, No. 25.
14. On the west wall of the unused second-floor room the brick inner walling of the 1740s extension can be clearly seen.
15. Since the newel posts have been boxed in it is difficult to be certain that it has not been altered.
16. The position of this landing cannot be taken as absolute proof that this range was raised in 1622-24, for it is possible that the stair was inserted simply to serve the new Long Gallery and the Roof Walk.
17. Drawings by Blomfield for this scheme are reproduced in Edgar 2006.
18. It is difficult to understand which fireplaces these other two flues could have served.
19. Samples APT-A47 and A51; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming. These mid-16<sup>th</sup>-century timbers presumably date from repairs carried out to the stair tower roof by the Crown between 1543 and 1552 or by Sir Walter Mildmay around 1560.
20. Samples APT-A49; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming. The mid-16<sup>th</sup> century dates to the reused timbers presumably indicates that repair work was carried out to the roof of the stair tower after Sir Walter Mildmay acquired the property in 1552.
21. NRO W (A) Box 6, V, nos. 1 & 2.
22. Morrison 2006, 3-4, No. 1.
23. Samples APT-A281 to A288; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming.
24. The c.1736 inventory includes 'the Sirvants Hall' separate from, and next to 'the old Hall',

- which might well be identifiable as this room. NRO W (A) Misc. 55 F.
25. This room may well have been a smaller dining room or a winter parlour before 1622-24.
  26. NRO W (A) Misc. 3, Book of general accounts 1715-22, July 1716.
  27. The south end of this room was partitioned off as a corridor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
  28. Samples APT-A33 to A37; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming.
  29. Claire Gapper has noted a strong similarity between this plaster overmantel and the plaster frieze in the Duke's Chamber. Gapper 2006 (see Appendix 6).
  30. NRO W (A) Box 6, V, nos. 1 & 2. These rooms are listed between the 'Kitchin' and the 'Porters Lodge'.
  31. Edgar 2006.
  32. Samples APT-A23, A24, A 26, A28, A29, A31 and A32; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming.
  33. Samples APT-A25 and A30; Arnold *et al*, forthcoming.
  34. NRO W (A) Box 4, V.
  35. The words 'sash roape' might not necessarily refer to vertical sliding sash windows, instead it might refer to a more primitive type of sash window. These windows were set high up in the north wall and the 'sash roape' could refer to a rope or cord used for opening them from ground level.
  36. NRO W(A) Misc. vol. 5.
  37. Information provided by Nick Hill.
  38. NRO W (A) Misc. 3: Book of general accounts 1715-23.
  39. NRO W (A) Misc. 3: Book of general accounts 1715-23, October 1720.
  40. In the south-east corner of the cellar is a curved section of wall with quoins, which supports this staircase, as shown on the 1858 plan.
  41. Before 1622-24 this range may well have only been accessible from the main court.
  42. NRO W (A) Misc. 3: Book of general accounts 1715-23.
  43. Brassey Collection, Nos. 5555 to 5557, APETHORPE HALL the seat of H L C Brassey ESQ, MP; 1913 plan, included in Edgar 2006.
  44. The entry for 20 June 1716 records 'Paid J. Dimpleby for himself, boy, J. Chapman & his son assisting at ye Arch & new sash in the Old Dineing roome in full for all workes to this time - £8 3s 8d'. Whilst the entry for 10 August 1717 records 'Payement to Thos. Blowfeild for joiners work att the new saches in ye dineing room in full £8 4s 6d.' NRO, W(A) Misc 3: Book of general accounts 1715-23.
  45. NRO W (A) Misc. 3: Book of general accounts 1715-23.
  46. Pete Smith, *A Palladian Palace*, English Heritage Historical Review, 2007, forthcoming.
  47. This doorcase is very similar to one in the west wall of the Old Dining Room (7.2.v.) (fig. 7.47) and to another in the south wall of Lady Violet's Room (see Ch. 6), both are now cupboards.

48. This room is first referred to as the 'Kings Study' in the limited 1762 survey, NRO W(A) Box 7, XV, and as 'the Library' in the more complete 1774 inventory, NRO W (A) Misc. Box 3 XXXVI, no. 3.
49. It is described as having 'a saloon ceiling about twenty feet high' in the 1762 survey, NRO W(A) Box 7, XV, and 'the height upwards of 22 feet' in H K Bonney's, *Collectanea Apethorpeana*, Coll. Ape., vols. I & II.
50. CL 20 March 1909.
51. Coll. Ape., vols. I & II.
52. Sales Catalogue, 1892; LA, FANE 9/1/2 (c).
53. Brassey Collection, No. 5555 included in Edgar 2006.
54. This block is clearly marked on the 1858 plan and the most likely time for its construction would be as part of the modernization carried out in 1818-19.
55. VCH 1906.
56. Until recently this doorway this gave access to the awkward space between the north range and the late 20<sup>th</sup>-century dining hall, which has now been demolished.
57. All the bedrooms accessed from this new corridor, from the kitchen around into the west lodging range on the 1858 plan, are numbered from Nos. 1 to 8, in a sequence, which suggests that they could be easily identified as guest rooms by the servants. There was a bell system of some sort in the house at this date (evidence surviving in roof) and the numbering of these rooms on the bell board or bells, probably situated in the boarded hall, would have allowed the servants to distinguish which rooms were which. This would not have been necessary if these were servant's rooms. None of the bedrooms in the attics - especially over the south range - are distinguished in this way. See Francis Bamford and the Duke of Wellington (ed.) *The Journals of Mrs Arbuthnot*, 2 Vols., London 1950 for details of these house parties.
58. Lord Brassey's Photograph Albums, 1922.
59. Edgar 2006.
60. There is no indication of an archway on the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century sketch plan, but since this is only a ground-floor plan it cannot be taken as proof that no archway existed before this date.
61. Brassey Collection, Nos. 5555 to 5557, APETHORPE HALL the seat of H L C Brassey ESQ, MP; 1913 plan, included in James Edgar 2006.
62. Brassey Collection, Nos. 5555 to 5557, APETHORPE HALL the seat of H L C Brassey ESQ, MP; 1913 plan, included in James Edgar 2006.
63. Edgar 2006.
64. Brassey Collection, Nos. 5555 to 5557, APETHORPE HALL the seat of H L C Brassey ESQ, MP; 1913 plan, included in Edgar, 2006.
65. Edgar 2006.
66. Lord Brassey's Photograph Albums, 1922.
67. Edgar 2006.

68. Edgar 2006.

## CHAPTER 8: THE WEST RANGE AND OLD DRYING GROUND

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### 1 Introduction

The much-altered west range (fig. 8.1) of Apethorpe Hall is one of the oldest parts of the house, with a roof that has been dated c.1480 by dendrochronology.<sup>1</sup> Some writers have suggested that this structure originated as a lodging range,<sup>2</sup> but by the 19<sup>th</sup> century it contained the wash-house, laundry, dairy and bakehouse. From inventory evidence, it was clearly in use as a service range by 1705, and there is a strong possibility that it served this function from the outset. Significantly, the VCH account published in 1906 -- before radical alterations removed much of the evidence -- considered that this range had ' . . . undergone little structural alteration [and] was probably intended for much the same purpose as those to which it is still put, namely, for the bakehouse, dairy &c'.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 8.1 West Range, view from south-east, 2005.

© English Heritage AA052106

This part of Apethorpe Hall is an unpretentious structure, with little architectural elaboration (figs 8.1 and 8.2). Standing two storeys high, it is built of rubble with ashlar dressings and has a pitched roof covered in Collyweston slate. The gables, to north and south (see fig. 11.1), have parapets and gabled finials. Early 20<sup>th</sup>-century photographs show that the south finial then carried a weathervane. While some original doorways and windows survive, most were replaced in later centuries. All but one of the chimney stacks date from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Buttresses supporting the

north gable end, to east and west, may have been added at different times, in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>4</sup> They may have provided strengthening for a water tank, set over an arch to the north of this building. The arch and tank may have been erected in 1714 when the local mason John Dimbelby was paid for 'the arch of the sesterne',<sup>5</sup> although the arch looks as if it was substantially rebuilt at a later date.



Figure 8.2 West Range and Back Yard from west.

© English Heritage AA052035

Apart from its roof trusses, the building has few internal features which pre-date the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was thoroughly remodelled by Blomfield in 1913, and again for the school in 1949.

The drying ground for clothes was situated 'beyond the wash house' in 1705, and so it can be assumed that the walled western courtyard existed by that date. It appears to have been used primarily as a drying ground, wood yard and coal yard, and now contains a miscellany of garages and workshops. Corner Cottage, formerly the Gardener's Cottage, on its north side, is discussed as part of the north range, in Chapter 7.

## 2 The Origins and Early Development of the West Range (c.1480-1800)

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was claimed that the west range of Apethorpe Hall dated from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. According to an advertisement, placed in relation to the attempted sale of property in 1892: 'records show that [Apethorpe] was granted to Henry III to Randolph Brito, who erected a house there in that reign, and it is believed that the buildings now standing on the west side of the second court formed part of



the structure then erected'.<sup>6</sup> The currency of this notion, which can no longer be given any validity, explains the extraordinary dating of the (now missing) fireplace which was moved from the west range to the New Dining Room c.1876, and which was attributed to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (see Ch. 9). Dendrochronological analysis of roof timbers has shown that the range was actually built around 1480.<sup>7</sup>



**Figure 8.3 Laundry doorway and window, detail.**  
*Kathryn Morrison 2005*

Original features of the building include one doorway (fig. 8.3), located on the east elevation. In 1858 this opened into the wash-house. It has a four-centred head and a continuous broad chamfer with pyramid stops.

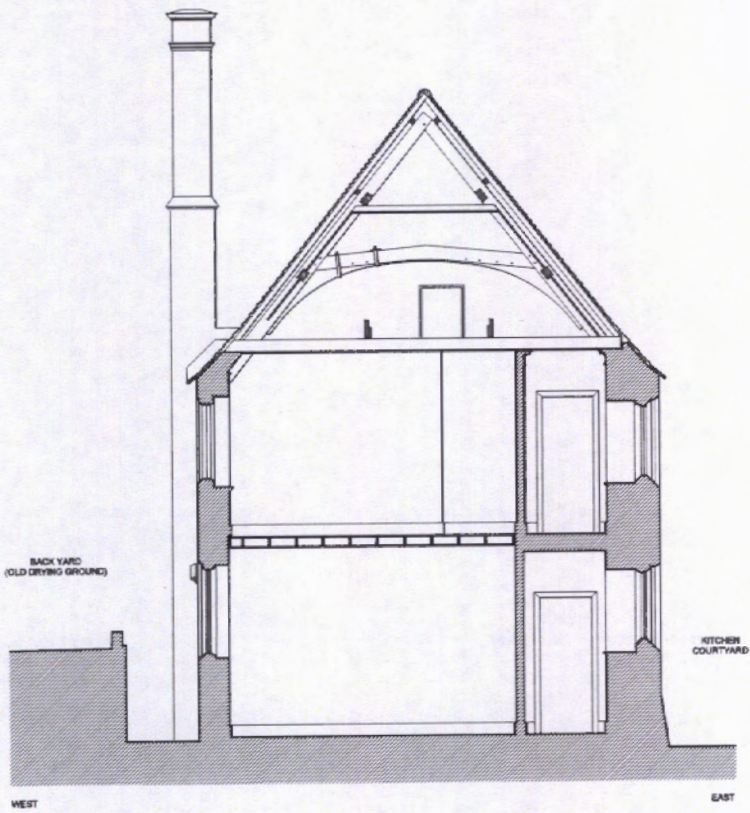
The oldest windows in the range, of similar date to the doorway and probably primary features, have four-centred heads, cavetto-moulded or hollow-chamfered surrounds and hollow spandrels. Four two-light

first-floor windows on the east elevation (see fig. 8.1) are of this type, as is the two-light ground-floor window immediately south of the former wash-house doorway (fig. 8.3). These seem to be *in situ* and give a good idea of the character of the medieval building. A single-light window of similar design, set in the south gable (see fig. 11.1), is absent from a photograph of 1909.<sup>8</sup> Despite having modern brick reveals, it may be a genuine 15<sup>th</sup>- or 16<sup>th</sup>-century window, possibly reset from another part of the house.

Three chimney stacks project from the west side of the range (see fig. 8.2), but only the lower part of the northernmost stack (at one time relating to the bakehouse) is of any age. As it is the only element of the range to have a proper plinth, and as it is identified as a 'later 17<sup>th</sup> century' insertion (ie: after 1624) on the VCH plan of 1906 (see fig. 1.16), it is likely to be secondary. The other stacks date entirely from 1913, but seem to reuse earlier flues that were embedded in the thickness of the wall, without projecting as stacks: one of these served the wash-house and laundry; the other heated two first-floor bedrooms over the dairy. It is difficult to estimate the date of these flues, but the laundry, wash-house and dairy all had grates in 1705.

No original or early staircase has been located: the earliest that we know about was located in the south-east corner of the wash-house/laundry; it is shown on the plan of

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APETHORPE HALL SECTION 3 - LODGING RANGE

Parish of Apethorpe, Northamptonshire  
Surveyed July - September 2005  
Grid reference TL 955 023  
Buildings index no. 51540  
Drawn by A.D.



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Figure 8.4 Cross-section through West Range.

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