

BELMOUNT HAWKSHEAD, CUMBRIA

Architectural Survey Report



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CUMBRIA

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY REPORT
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SUMMARY

Belmount is a restrained classical villa built in 1774 by the Reverend Reginald Brathwaite, vicar of Hawkshead from 1762 until his death in 1809. The house was built shortly after Brathwaite's marriage in 1770 to a rich heiress. It was a private residence and estate, used by the Brathwaites during his incumbency after initially living in the smaller parish vicarage at Walker Ground. Belmount is situated on rising ground between Hawkshead and Outgate, overlooking Esthwaite Water to the south, its location often remarked upon in contemporary and later publications on tourism and appreciation in the Lake District.

The building, which faces south and is constructed of local slate rubble with ashlar detailing, was designed as a symmetrical composition with a three-storey high, five-bay wide central block connected by two-bay wide, single-storey link blocks to single-bay, two-storey wings. There is a basement under the central block, and the whole is arranged in a straight line with the link blocks slightly recessed. The family accommodation was in the main block while the west wing contained the kitchen, services and bedrooms, and the east wing was a bank barn which served the agricultural needs of the estate as well as containing stables and a coach house. The main entrance to the house, in the centre of the front elevation, opens into an entrance hall which leads through to the main stair hall at the rear, which only rises to first-floor level. On each side of the entrance hall is a reception room, with two further rooms behind, that to the west set behind the back stair hall whose staircase rises from the basement to the second floor. The main bedrooms were on the first floor, reached by the main staircase, the children's and servants' bedrooms on the second floor being reached by the back staircase. Original interior fittings include the two staircases and a number of chimneypieces, doors, architraves and panelled window reveals. The two front reception rooms have enriched cornices as have the entrance hall and the main stair hall, the latter with Adamesque plasterwork on its ceiling.

In the early 19th century the two front reception rooms on the ground floor of the main block had their front elevation windows deepened and their interiors refitted with new architraves. Mid 19th-century alterations were more extensive. New marble fireplaces by the Websters of Kendal were inserted in the front reception rooms in the main block, the west link block was extended and raised, and an external porch was built on to the west wing the interior of which altered, including the conversion of its agricultural north end to domestic use. The east wing was altered to create a larger stable, loose boxes were created in place of byres, a new combined cartshed and coach house was built and two earth closets.

Belmount was bought by Beatrix Potter (Mrs H B Heelis) in 1937, and was given to the National Trust in 1944 by her husband. In the late 20th century, a tenant stripped out much of the interior of the west wing and the first floor of the west link block.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Belmount was built in 1774 for the Reverend Reginald Brathwaite,¹ a local man who was descended from the Brathwaites of Ambleside Hall.² Born in nearby Brathay, at the head of Lake Windermere, and christened at Hawkshead on 9 March 1737/8, he was educated in Ambleside before entering St John's College, Cambridge, in 1755, graduating as thirteenth wrangler³ in 1759. Two years later he was elected a Fellow of the College, receiving his MA in 1762. On 11 May 1761 he was ordained as a deacon at Ely, and on 7 May 1762 as a priest in Chester. In 1762 King George III nominated him to be incumbent at Hawkshead where he remained as resident minister until his death in 1809,⁴ although he also had clerical duties elsewhere, including livings in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.⁵

In 1770 Reginald Brathwaite married Frances, only daughter and heiress of Robert Tubman, a Cockermouth mercer, and widow of Samuel Irton (1714-66) of Irton Hall, Cumberland. For most of her first marriage Frances had lived in Crown Court, Old Soho, London, since her husband did not succeed to Irton Hall until 1762, but she had local associations because Samuel Irton had also bought the Hawkshead Hall and Grizedale Hall estates, together amounting to upwards of 1,000 acres, including 200 acres of valuable woodland. Samuel Irton undertook some rebuilding of Irton Hall, in the Gothic style, when he inherited it,⁶ meaning that the later building of Belmount was the second large-scale building project with which Frances was associated. When Frances Irton married Reginald Brathwaite she brought five of the six children of her first marriage to live at the vicarage at Walker Ground⁷ where the first son by her second marriage, Reginald Tubman Brathwaite, was born in 1772. The new addition to the family caused the vicarage to be deemed too small for their needs, and resulted in the building of Belmount. The house was built at the south end of a linear estate which stretched in a north-easterly direction to the south-west shores of Bletham Tarn, incorporating the hamlets of Waterson Ground, Birkwray and Outgate, and Low Loanthwaite farm. Its south border ran immediately north of Hawkshead Hall, although not including that house, suggesting that the land may have been part of the Hawkshead Hall estate, inherited and brought to her second marriage by Frances Irton.⁸ Belmount was where the Brathwaites' second son, Gawen, was born on 28 November 1774, an event which confirms the completion of the house in 1774. This date at one time appeared on a rainwater head⁹ and on a lead water cistern at the rear of the house which bore the initials R F B, the date 1774, and the crest of the Brathwaites of Ambleside, a greyhound couchant collared and stringed.¹⁰

The Brathwaites showed an appreciation of the surrounding countryside when building their new house, siting it on rising ground between Hawkshead and Outgate, with a fine outlook towards Esthwaite Water to the south and the hills beyond. They named the new residence Belmount,¹¹ a reflection of the pastoral idyll presented by the grounds sweeping away from the house towards the lake, the view carefully framed by clumps of trees, a ha-ha preserving the illusion whilst keeping livestock away from the house. This embracing of the entire agricultural

landscape as a visual prospect¹² is an important component in the concept of 18th-century English villas, and may be seen as part of a wider appreciation of the Lake District in the latter decades of the 18th century when many were influenced by the contemporary aesthetic theories of the beautiful, the sublime and the picturesque in the landscape.¹³ The picturesque location of Belmont was often commented upon in contemporary and subsequent publications on tourism and appreciation in the Lake District. Thomas West's 1779 *Guide to the Lakes in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire* records

At the head of a gentle slope with a just elevation a handsome modern house, Bell-mont, is charmingly situated, and commands a delightful view of the lake, with all its environs.¹⁴

whilst in 1819, William Green commented

Belle-mont is finely situated about a mile north of Esthwaite Water, of which lake it commands a charming view, having Gummers How for its remote distance.¹⁵

This observation was echoed in the same year by John Robinson, who wrote

Upon a gentle elevation stands Belmont, the seat of the Rev. Reginald Braithwaite. It is a neat modern-built house, surrounded with plantations and grounds tastefully laid out, and commanding a pleasing view of the lake and its environs. Few mansions are so charmingly situated.¹⁶

The picturesque view was portrayed in a plate entitled *Estwaite water, from below Bellemount* (Fig.1), published in 1810 in Joseph Wilkinson's *Select Views in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire*, a book of soft-ground etchings for which William Wordsworth wrote an anonymous introduction, the text of which was later revised and published in several editions as Wordsworth's *Guide to the Lakes*.¹⁷ The image idealised the view in the manner of the paintings of the 17th-



Fig.1 Soft-ground etching of 'Estwaite water, from below Bellemount' published in 1810 by Joseph Wilkinson in 'Select Views in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire'.

century French artist Claude Gellée, 'le Lorrain' (1600-82). Comparisons with Claude's classical Italian landscapes frequently occur in 18th-century accounts of the Lake District, particularly around the gentler surroundings of Windermere, while the more rugged, sublime, scenery of Borrowdale evoked comparisons with Claude's Italian contemporary, Salvator Rosa (1615-73).¹⁸

By the end of the 19th century tastes had changed and Belmont was less admired, in 1899 being described somewhat grudgingly as

Though by no means beautiful, it is no eyesore in the landscape, for its tints are mellowed by time ...¹⁹

The architect of Belmont is unknown. Although the building is often referred to as a house or mansion in contemporary literature, it is in effect a neo-classical villa, built as a three-storey central block with single-storey link blocks to two-storey wings. The villa as an 18th-century form, seen as manifesting 'elegance, compactness and convenience',²⁰ was derived from Palladio's 16th-century Italian designs. It first appeared in Britain in the 1720s and grew in popularity through the 18th century, with many advocates from Lord Burlington, who designed the famous Chiswick House, begun in 1725, through the villa designs of Isaac Ware and Sir Robert Taylor, to the work of Sir William Chambers and Robert Adam.²¹ Villas were initially seen as a nobleman's secondary seat, a country retreat for relaxation and contemplation, though from the 1750s onwards they had a strongly mercantile patronage.²² Typical is the circular Belle Isle on Windermere, built in or shortly after 1774 for Thomas English, a London glassmaker,²³ and Brathay Hall near Ambleside, dated 1788 and of similar dimensions to Belmont, built for George Law, a rich West India merchant.²⁴ In 1793 Charles Middleton summed up the different types of villas and their owners:

Villas may be considered under three different descriptions – First, as the occasional and temporary retreats of the nobility and persons of fortune from what may be called their town residence, and must, of course, be in the vicinity of the metropolis; secondly, as the country houses of wealthy citizens and persons in official stations, which also cannot be far removed from the capital; and thirdly, the smaller kind of provincial edifices, considered either as hunting seats, or the habitations of country gentlemen of moderate fortune.²⁵

Reginald Brathwaite, the builder of Belmont, fits into the third category, his use of the villa form reflecting the rising status of the clergy during the 18th century. He was also relatively well-off, being married to an heiress who had lived in London, and was therefore likely to have encountered the grander villa architecture of London-based architects, and who brought with her an estate.

Brathwaite resided in the parish of Hawkshead throughout his ministry, but he had other appointments which must have caused him to spend periods of time travelling away from Belmont. This could explain why William Wilberforce, instigator of the abolition of slavery, was able to contemplate renting Belmont. On 12 April 1788 Wilberforce wrote to William Cookson, William Wordsworth's uncle, enquiring

... I am anxious abt Rayrigg & beg you will press Barton to procure me an answer immediately – Write me but a line only write – I have changed my mind abt Mr Braithwaite's house [Belmount] under the persuasion, on recollection, that the marsh I had apprehended is by no means formidable, and I have desired Keene of Hawkshead to procure me particulars.²⁶

Two days later Wilberforce wrote again to Cookson, saying

I must have either Rayrigg or Belmount & I beg you will let me hear from you instantly abt them.²⁷

He subsequently rented Rayrigg Hall on Lake Windermere.²⁸ Reginald Brathwaite may have been prepared to leave Belmount in 1806, since his wife had died in 1801. Dorothy Wordsworth wrote to Catherine Clarkson on 6 November 1806 about attempts to find a house suitable for themselves and for Coleridge:

We would have gone back to Grasmere, or taken a house near Hawkshead (Belmount), but this he [Coleridge] was against.²⁹

In the event the Wordsworths took Allen Bank at Grasmere, a villa built by John Crump, a Liverpool merchant, shortly before 1808.³⁰

Reginald Brathwaite appears to have sold Belmount and its estate to Robert Ward, owner of a shop in Bold Street, Liverpool, in 1808, a year before he died at Roger Ground, south of Hawkshead.³¹ Belmount is not mentioned in Brathwaite's will, dated 15 December 1808,³² which suggests that William Green was mistaken in 1819 when he noted that Belmount had been sold by Gawen Braithwaite, son of the Reverend Reginald Braithwaite, to Ward.³³ Ward bought the Belmount estate,³⁴ and it is likely that it was he who refitted the front ground-floor reception rooms of the house. In 1830 it was recorded that Belmount was unoccupied,³⁵ and it is possible that Ward died before 1832, when the estate was surveyed with a view to its being sold.³⁶ A plan was made the following year as part of the attempt to sell it.³⁷

No sale of the estate took place, however, and by 1839 the owner was the Reverend J B Monk, acting on behalf of his wife, Jane, who was Ward's heir, possibly his daughter, and was the acting executrix of his will.³⁸ The house was only intermittently occupied, if at all, at this time since the Monks' address was 60 Rodney Street, Liverpool, which was where Dr John William Whittaker, Vicar of Blackburn, wrote to them on 18 May 1840 with a view to purchasing Belmount which he described as 'in a forlorn state of disrepair'.³⁹ On 22 May 1840, John William Whittaker agreed to buy Belmount, with Waterson Ground and Low Loanthwaite Farm, for £5,050, although he suspected that he had been 'attempted to be grossly imposed upon'. On 31 May 1840 Whittaker ordered a builder, Thomas Walsh from Staleybridge, to report on the state of the house. He reported that it was of excellent materials and workmanship, but neglected from lack of occupation. The conveyance was not signed until June 1841, with the Whittakers moving in soon after, as the 1841 census records the occupants as Mrs Whittaker, their nine children, five female servants and one male servant; Dr Whittaker must have been away from Belmount at the time.⁴⁰

The Whittakers occupied Belmont as their primary residence except for periods when Dr Whittaker was obliged to attend to his clerical duties in Blackburn. He had a large family - the 1841 census lists nine children - as well as a considerable library,⁴¹ and he was obliged to alter and extend the building. Ordnance Survey maps show that between 1847-8 (Fig.2) and 1888 (Fig.3)⁴² the west link block was

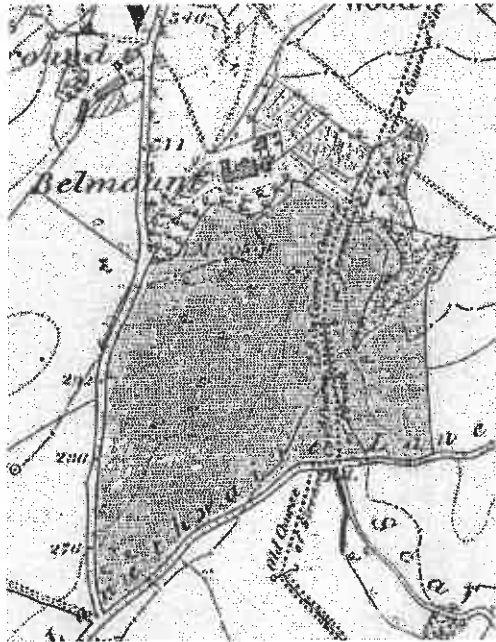


Fig.2 O.S. map of 1847-8.

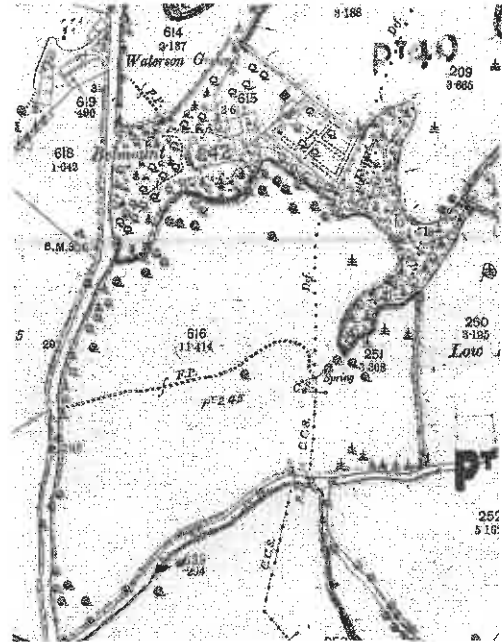


Fig.3 O.S. map of 1888.

extended to project beyond the rear of the main house block, and at the same time was raised to two storeys. The date span confirms that the work was carried out by the Whittaker family, most probably by Dr Whittaker prior to his death in 1854. The Ordnance Survey maps also show that the walled garden to the east of the house was initially used as a kitchen garden, but by 1888 was laid out with formal paths and occasional trees. Dr Whittaker had conveyed the whole estate to the trustees of his marriage settlement in 1847, and by the terms of his will his wife held the estate until her death, with subsequent reversion to their children. The 1861 census of Belmont lists Mrs Whittaker there, identifying her as a landed proprietor, as well as four children, one visitor and four female servants. The house was empty at the time of the 1871 census, the year in which Mrs Whittaker died, but the 1881 census records her eldest son, William Fielden Whittaker, who was 53 years old, as the landed proprietor, together with his wife, seven children and two female domestic servants. Whittaker and his family emigrated to the United States of America in about 1887 but he continued to correspond about Belmont with William Dickinson Heelis, a solicitor in Hawkshead, from a farm in Lewis County, Washington State. Belmont was empty at the time of the 1891 census, and the estate was disentailed in 1894 and placed in the trusteeship of another solicitor, C A Sanderson, in Blackburn. William Fielden Whittaker borrowed £5,000 on the security of the estate to finance his American farm between 1894 and 1896.

An estate map of Belmont, undated but evidently surveyed in the mid 19th century,⁴³ has among later pencil annotations a list of the rooms in the house and its

outbuildings. The pencil list could have been added to the map at any time, but from the number of rooms listed it must post-date Whittaker's extensions, and it may have been added to the plan when the house was put up for rent after the Whittakers left it in about 1887. The list does not include a library, and it is known that Dr Whittaker's extensive library was sold in 1887.⁴⁴ Furthermore, a lavatory and water closet are mentioned on the ground floor, and they, together with two water closets on the first floor, are clearly insertions into the original house: the term 'lavatory' was always used to mean a wash basin until the beginning of the 20th century.⁴⁵ A summary list states that there were ten bedrooms, one dressing room, four box rooms, a chapel, a bathroom and two water closets. This is expanded in a more detailed list which notes that the rooms on the ground floor were a drawing room, dining room, lavatory and water closet, servants' hall, larder, beer place, kitchen, scullery, laundry and butler's pantry. The first floor had, off the front landing, three bedrooms and one dressing room, and also a bathroom, two water closets, a back landing and three bedrooms, two box rooms and a chapel. The second floor, described as the attics, had four bedrooms and two box rooms, and it was recorded that the roof required attention. There were also two loose boxes, a two-stalled stable, harness room, coach house, three loose boxes and a stick house. The barn was listed, but only in the context of its roof being very bad.

Belmont was leased from at least 1904 to Miss Rebekah Owen, an American, and in 1923 the surviving trustee under the disentailing deed, and the mortgagee, sold the house and grounds to Miss Owen for £2,300. In 1937 she sold it to her friend Beatrix Potter (Mrs H B Heelis), who on her death in 1943 left it to her husband, William Dickinson Heelis. He renounced his life interest and gave it to the National Trust in 1944.

Belmont was initially used as a Home Guard headquarters during World War II, but later in the 1940s the National Trust leased it to a Mrs Ross, whose plans to use it as an old people's home did not materialise. In 1952 a Mr D Simmonite became the lessee, running a bed and breakfast business, passing the lease on to his son, who moved out in 1980-81. The house remained empty for a time and was in poor condition when it was leased to a Mr Batty in 1983 on a 21-year lease. He ran Belmont as a small hotel and carried out repair work and alterations, primarily in the west wing. Plans of the house surveyed for the National Trust in 1979 indicate, by comparison with those surveyed by English Heritage in 2000, that the alterations included removing a staircase, internal dividing walls and fireplaces in the west wing and west link block.⁴⁶ Within the main house most of the ground-floor wall between the two east rooms was removed, and all the doors were boarded on one side, probably to comply with fire regulations. The property was empty when recorded, following the death of the lessee.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Belmount stands 1 mile (1.6km) north of the centre of Hawkshead, at the end of a short drive running west from the Hawkshead to Ambleside road. It faces south, overlooking open countryside and Esthwaite Water, while to the east is a large walled kitchen garden, with walks through a small wooded area to the south east.

The original house, built in 1774, was designed as a symmetrical composition with a three-storey high, five-bay wide main block connected by two-bay wide, single-storey link blocks to single-bay, two-storey wings. The whole is arranged in a straight line, with the link blocks slightly recessed. The family accommodation was in the main block, the west wing was a service wing containing the kitchen and other rooms, whilst the east wing was agricultural in use and also contained stables and a coach house, with a yard to its east.

THE 1774 VILLA

House - exterior

The main block at Belmount, the house, is symmetrical in appearance and has restrained classical detailing (Fig.4). It is built to a double-pile plan with a central



Fig.4 Front elevation of Belmount. (National Trust)

projecting stair bay at the rear, is three storeys high over a basement, and has a hipped slate roof with large grouped chimneystacks in the centre of its east and west side walls. The walls are of local slate rubble with ashlar detailing, the quality of the stonework diminishing round the house as less publicly visible elevations were reached. The front elevation is built of relatively well-squared, coursed slate, as is that part of the west wall in front of the west link block, the area above and behind it being plastered (see below). The rear wall is of poor, roughly-shaped rubble, with some larger quoins at the corners (Fig.5), and the east side wall is of the



Fig.5 Rear of main block. (NMR: BB007277)

poorest stonework, with occasional projecting throughstones. The front and west return walls were the two walls visible on the approach to the house from the main drive, and the better quality masonry, together with the use of stone arches over the windows, suggests that the stonework was intended to be seen. The poorer-quality stonework on the rear and east side walls bears no traces of having been plastered to protect it from the weather either, and here the windows have timber lintels. However, these walls may have been plastered. Plaster scored to simulate ashlar survives on the west side wall within the heightened first floor of the west link block. The grey of the surviving plaster is similar in tone to the slate, although the scoring into ashlar blocks is at odds with the dimensions of the squared slate stonework. The lack of plaster on the exposed masonry above the roof of the heightened west link block indicates that it has been thoroughly removed here, and shows that it is not possible to know unequivocally whether or not some or all of the other walls were plastered. If the front elevation was included in this treatment, despite its squared stonework, then the stone arches over the windows could be structural, used because of the relatively larger area of glazing in this wall than in any other wall of the main block.

There is evidence that some other contemporary villas in the Lake District were rendered. Belle Isle on Windermere, a classical villa of circular plan built in or shortly after 1774, was constructed with rubble-built exterior walls and an ashlar lantern and portico.⁴⁷ The rubble stone is presently exposed, and like Belmont the visible stonework has been squared, though again it is unclear whether it was originally intended to be seen. There is a lack of physical evidence, but early views of Belle Isle, including those of its architect, John Plaw, give the impression that it may have been plastered. Certainly it is likely to have been plastered by the 1830s when John Ruskin describes the house as ‘a nondescript, circular, putty-coloured habitation ...’, although it is possible that his eye may have been caught by the ashlar lantern and Ionic portico, which dominate the building. If the building was plastered it too has been thoroughly stripped back to the stonework at a later date.

Brathay, a villa built by George Law at the head of Windermere in 1788 is, in contrast, rendered at present and always appears to have been so. In November 1798, Coleridge wrote

Amid these awful mountains, Mr Law has built a white palace at the head of Wynandermere
...⁴⁸

Also on Windermere is Storrs Hall, built in the 1790s for Sir John Legard, again rendered when it was first built.⁴⁹

The front, south-facing, elevation of the main block at Belmont is five bays wide with a central doorway, whilst the rear, north-facing, elevation is three bays wide with a projecting central stair bay. The front elevation has a plinth, a first-floor band, and a plain frieze and moulded cornice, all of sandstone ashlar. The plinth stops against the east and west link blocks, as does the band, but the frieze and cornice return as far as the central chimney stacks on the side walls. A slate rubble plinth continues to the north of the link blocks and along the rear of the building, but neither the band nor the cornice continue round the rear of the building. All the windows in the house had small-pane hung-sash frames, which decrease in size up the building, although all the windows are three panes wide by four panes high. Some have been altered or replaced. The front windows have sandstone sills and slate camber-arch lintels, as does the ground-floor window on the west return; the other side and rear windows have projecting slate sills and timber lintels under slate drip courses. The only exception on the rear is the large stair window, which is three panes wide by six high, which has a sandstone sill, although it is possible that this is a replacement since there are stone slivers beneath and on either side of it. The ground-floor front windows have been deepened by three courses, and were originally the same depth as the ground-floor window in the west return wall. The west return window has a shouldered stone sill, the only such sill in the building. Original window frames, all of them unhorned hung sashes with small panes of glass with relatively thick glazing bars, survive on the ground floor in the west return window, in the east window of the rear elevation and in the stair window, and to all first-floor windows except the west window of the rear elevation. The basement is lit by a single window, now half blocked, located beneath the ground-floor window in the west return. Its lintel is formed by the shaped underside of the ashlar plinth. The west chimneystack has six flues, whilst the east stack has seven, all now with triangular slate covers, the numbers including several inserted fireplaces.

The front entrance to the house is the only external doorway in the main block, although the house could also be reached from the rear through the west service wing. The front door is set in the centre of the five-bay elevation, and it is framed by a porch of sandstone ashlar with attached Tuscan columns, a pulvinated frieze and a triangular pediment. The wide door has six flush beaded panels to the exterior with six small-pane glazed lights above (three wide by two high) with thick glazing bars. The back of the door has fielded panels with quarter-round mouldings, and has strap hinges and a large lock mechanism.

House - interior

The main reception rooms within the house were on the ground floor, with the main bedrooms on the first floor reached by the main staircase which rose only to that floor. This arrangement reflected the greater informality of the villa form in comparison with 17th and earlier 18th-century country houses, which had strict series of state apartments raised on a first-floor *piano nobile*.⁵⁰ The children's and servants' bedrooms on the second floor were reached by the back staircase which rose the full height of the house, from basement to second floor.

Ground Floor

The front door opens into a central entrance hall which leads through to the main stair hall at the rear (Fig.24). On either side of the entrance hall is a reception room with two further rooms to the rear, one on each side of the stair hall. The front and rear rooms to the west are separated by a narrow hall containing the back staircase and a corridor through to the kitchen in the west wing via the link block.

All the doorways opening off the entrance hall and main stair hall on the ground and first floors are original and have original architraves incorporating *cyma reversa* and moulded fasciae, and fielded-panel reveals and soffits. The doorway which opened into the rear of the east front room retains its architrave, and door, in the stair hall, but it has been blocked and plastered over within the room. The doorways opening off the back stair hall have simpler architraves with a heavy quarter-round moulding, but they have the same fielded-panel reveals and soffits. The original doors have six fielded panels, the two upper panels being smaller, with quarter-round mouldings. The inner faces of the doors have been boarded over in the 20th-century, but the door off the main stair hall into the rear east room has had the boarding removed to reveal that both sides have identical fielded panels. The doors off the entrance hall, those off the main stair hall into the east rooms, and those off the back stair hall into the west rooms are original, having the same form of panelling. The only original door which differs is that to the closet under the main staircase which has six fielded panels to the front but plain sunk panels to the rear.

The entrance hall, which acted purely as a circulation space, has an enriched cornice with acanthus-leaf modillions (Fig.6). Two opposing doorways lead into the front reception rooms. Between the entrance hall and the main stair hall is a wide, round-headed opening incorporating a fanlight with wooden glazing bars. The enriched archivolt on both sides of this fanlight are original, as are the sunk-panelled reveals and soffit, but saw marks to the reveals suggest that the skirting of the entrance hall



Fig.6 Entrance hall looking through to the main stair hall. (NMR: BB007285)

originally stopped flush with the opening. The projecting wooden pilasters to the entrance hall, which appear to be applied over the top of the skirting, are likely to be late 20th-century in date, like the double doors which now close what would originally have been an open archway into the stair hall.

The functions of the ground-floor rooms are unknown, although those at the front of the house, which are larger and more highly decorated than those at the rear, are likely to have been the dining and drawing rooms. The smaller west room, with its windows overlooking both the drive and the prospect from the house, may have been the drawing room (Fig.7), the larger east room being used for dining (Fig.8).



Fig.7 West front room on ground floor, possible drawing room. (NMR: BB007289)



Fig.8 East front room on ground floor, possible dining room, looking through to east rear room. (NMR: BB007286)

Both had two doorways: the west room could be reached from the entrance hall and the back stair hall, which connected through the west link block with the kitchen, while the east room had a doorway from the entrance hall and one from the main stair hall, the latter door opening opposite the corridor from the kitchen. Both arrangements meant that servants could enter at the rear of the rooms and guests from the entrance hall. Behind the east front room was perhaps a breakfast room, study or library; it is unlikely that the two rooms originally interconnected but this cannot be confirmed because most of the dividing wall has been removed. The rear west room is the smallest room and is unheated. It could only be reached from the back stair hall and is likely to have been of a lower status, perhaps used by a housekeeper.

The east front room, which has an enriched cornice (Fig.9), is the largest room on the ground floor. It was originally reached from both the entrance hall and the main stair hall, but the latter doorway is now blocked. Only the doorway off the entrance hall retains its original architrave, which is identical on both sides. The room is lit by two windows in the front wall which were deepened in the early 19th century; both have lost their shutters but retain the original fielded-panels to the soffits. The fireplace in the centre of the east wall has lost its original chimneypiece, replaced by a mid 19th-century marble one, but one of the two timber chimneypieces presently stored in the west wing is likely to have been original to this room.⁵¹ Both timber fireplaces are of similar dimensions to the original timber chimneypiece in the east

rear room, though they are more elaborate, each with a shouldered surround, central block with patterned frieze and a moulded overmantel. One, additionally, has an enriched moulded mantelpiece and flower motifs carved on the fire surround.⁵²



Fig.9 Cornice in east front room on ground floor. (National Trust)



Fig.10 Cornice in west front room on ground floor. (NMR: AA006266)

The west front room has an enriched modillioned cornice (Fig.10). The narrower walk-in window in the west wall is unaltered but the two windows in the front elevation were deepened in the early 19th century. All three windows retain their original fielded-panel reveals and soffits and the west window is also panelled beneath the window. Both the window and door architraves are early 19th-century replacements: the doorway from the entrance hall has the more elaborate original architrave to the front, while the doorway opening onto the back stair hall has the simpler quarter-round architrave to its exterior. This room also has a mid 19th-century marble chimneypiece, probably replacing one of the original timber ones noted above.

The east rear room may have lost its original ceiling. It has two plastered beams running north-south and the ceiling, with no cornice, is higher than those in the front rooms, which are set below the presumed beams. It is lit by a single window in the rear wall, with fielded-panel reveals and soffit, but has lost the original panelling beneath the window and any architrave. The doorway has heavy quarter-round moulded architraves, a reduction in quality from the moulding of the exterior architraves in the main stair hall, but like those found in the back stair hall. The same quarter-round moulding is found to the fireplace surround. The fireplace, in the centre of the east wall, has a timber surround, a central block with a plain frieze and a moulded overmantel (Fig.11). The actual grate has been replaced in the 20th century.

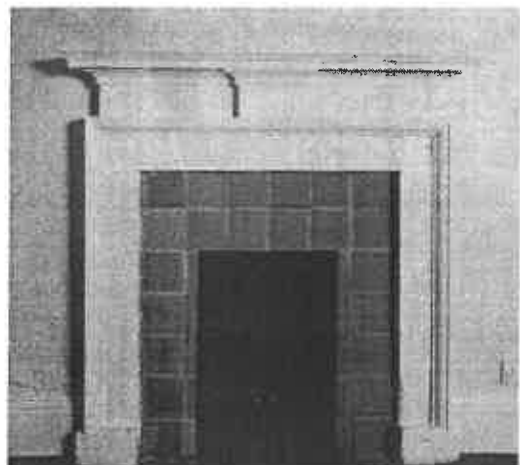


Fig.11 Original fireplace in east rear room on ground floor (NMR: BB007288)

The unheated west rear room has a high ceiling, like the rear east room, but no visible beams, and no cornice. It is lit by a single window in the rear wall, which has neither architrave nor panelled reveals and soffit. The doorway off the back stair hall has original quarter-round architraves to both sides.

The main staircase in the house rises only to the first floor (Fig.12). It is of dog-leg form, its half landing occupying the projecting rear bay, and is lit by a tall stair window. The staircase is of timber and is of false cantilever construction with two column balusters per tread and a swept moulded handrail rising from a heavier



Fig.12 Main staircase to rear of the entrance hall, rising from the ground floor to the first floor (NMR: BB007291)

turned newel. Beneath the half-landing, on the ground floor, is a closet which was originally unlit. The ceiling over the ground floor of the main stair hall has a small ceiling rose and the same enriched cornice as the entrance hall, while the first-floor landing has a cornice enriched by acanthus leaf modillions and pellets. The staircase ceiling is decorated with Adamesque plasterwork comprising a central rose, within an oval with an outer border of ribbon bows, floral garlands and drops, and incorporating the busts of a male and a female figure, no doubt of Mr Brathwaite and his wife (Fig.13). The stair window has fielded-panel reveals and soffit; the stained glass in the upper sash was inserted in the mid 19th century.

The back staircase, which rises from the basement to the second floor, is a dog-leg stair with half landings (Fig.14). It is of timber with an open string with two

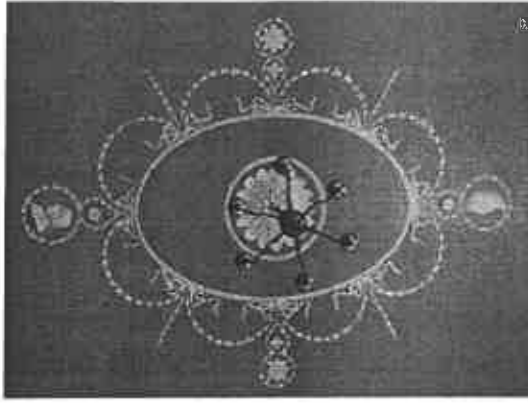


Fig.13 Adamesque plasterwork on the staircase ceiling incorporating busts of Mr and Mrs Brathwaite. (NMR: AA006272)

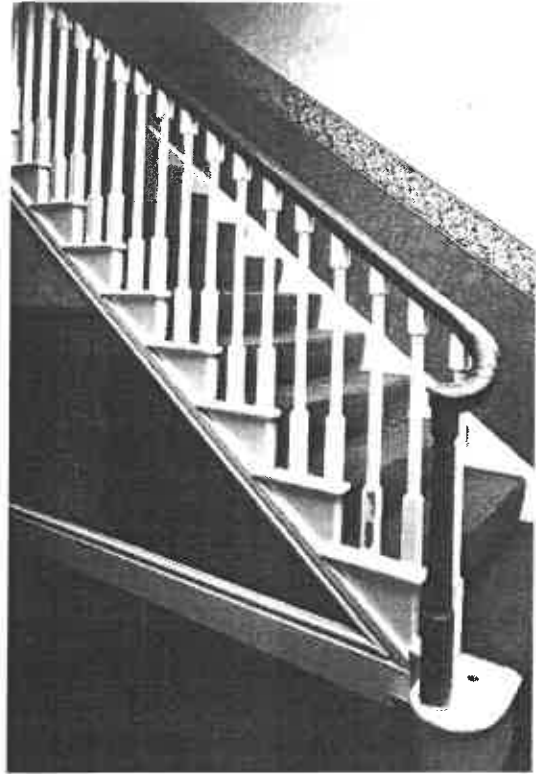


Fig.14 Back staircase. (NMR: BB007293)

column balusters per tread, a newel, and a swept moulded handrail. The staircase was originally lit by a window, set off-centre, on each half-landing, but that to the first half-landing was later converted into a doorway through to the heightened west link block. The second-floor window has a modern replacement hung-sash frame. The stair to the basement is reached through an original fielded-panel doorway, but the steps are modern. A window in the west wall originally lit these steps but this was blocked when the west link block was extended in the mid 19th century.

First floor

The first floor of the house has five rooms opening off the two stair landings, three of them heated bedrooms, and two of them unheated rooms, one at least a dressing room (Fig.25). The unheated room over the entrance hall was definitely a dressing room because it could be reached from the landing and from both of the bedrooms on either side. The rear west room, also unheated, may have been used as a dressing room for the west front bedroom, particularly if guests were staying, as it enabled two of the three bedrooms to have their own dressing rooms. The two west rooms both opened off the back staircase landing, but could also be reached through a doorway which opened on to the top landing of the main staircase. None of the first-floor rooms originally had cornices and several have had their window architraves renewed.

The four doorways opening off the main stair landing all have the same moulded architraves as those on the ground floor of the entrance hall and the main stair hall, and all have the simpler quarter-round moulded architraves on their other sides. The two doorways to the rooms off the back stair have the quarter-round moulded architraves to both sides. The original doorways on this floor all have fielded-panel

reveals and soffits, and all the original doors are of six panels and are identical to those on the ground floor. The door into the east front room has had the boarding to the rear removed to reveal that both sides again have identical fielded panels; all the other doors have been boarded on the rear.

The east front room is a large room which originally had no cornice, the present simple moulded one being of late 20th-century date. It was originally heated by a fireplace in the centre of the east side wall, since blocked, only the stone hearthstone remaining. Two cuts in the skirting board on the west wall indicate the original position of a doorway into the dressing room beyond. The room is lit by two windows in the front elevation and one towards the rear of the east side wall. The window in the side elevation, which has a window seat with a fielded-panel back, has a simple concave quarter-round moulded architrave but has lost its shutters and possibly panelling to the soffit. The two walk-in windows in the front elevation have lost their shutters but retain sunk-panelled soffits as well as sunk panels beneath the windows; their architraves are modern renewals.

The west front room, reached from the back stair landing, has a mid 19th-century coved cornice. The doorway has the original quarter-round moulded architrave, as does a recess at the north end of the east wall, which was originally a doorway through to the dressing room. The moulded architraves to the two windows in the front elevation are mid 19th-century renewals, contemporary with the cornice. Both walk-in windows retain their fielded-panel shutters, with sunk-panelling to the soffits and beneath the windows. There was originally a fireplace, which is now blocked and retains only its hearthstone, in the centre of the west side wall. The skirting in this room is reeded, which suggests an early 19th-century date, but the 1979 plan shows a recess in the centre of the east side wall, since blocked, which the skirting runs across, perhaps indicating that it is a modern reproduction rather than of earlier date.

The central front dressing room has the same mid 19th-century moulded cornice and window architrave as the west front room. The single walk-in window also has fielded-panel shutters and sunk panels to the soffit and beneath the window. The room could originally have been used by the bedrooms on either side though the interconnecting doorways are both now blocked. The doorway into the east front bedroom survives as a recess, with quarter-round moulded architrave and square-cut fielded panels to the soffit and reveals. The doorway into the west front room has been blocked on this side and the skirting is modern.

The east rear room has a higher ceiling than the front rooms, with no cornice and two plastered beams running north-south, like the room below. The room is lit by a single window in the rear wall which has the same concave quarter-round moulded architrave as the side-elevation window in the east front room as well as fielded-panel shutters and soffit, but no panelling beneath the window. A stone hearth indicates that the room was heated by a fireplace in its east side wall.

The west rear room has no door in the original doorway off the back stair landing because this was removed to form a small lobby area to a modern sub-division of

the room into two bathrooms. The original room had no cornice and was unheated. It was lit by a single walk-in window in the rear wall which has lost any architrave and panelling it may have had.

Second floor

The second floor could only be reached from the back staircase and would have provided accommodation for the children and some of the servants. Seven rooms open off a long central landing, three along the front and rear walls and a small central room against the east side wall (Fig.26). Only the structural walls between the west front room and the back staircase, and between the front and rear east rooms, rise to attic level, the other dividing walls being very thin stoothing partitions. Three of the corner rooms were heated, the four other rooms being unheated. All the doorways off the landing, except that to the west rear room, which is modern, have simple *cyma reversa* moulded architraves and no panelling to the reveals or soffits. The same architraves are found within each doorway, but for that in the front east room which has a coved architrave like those around some first-floor windows. All the doors are six-panelled, like those on the ground and first floors. They are fielded to the landing but on the evidence of that to the central east room, sunk on the face into each room. All the hung-sash window frames have been replaced and none has an architrave, shutters or other panelling.

The east front room, which was the largest room on the other floors, is on the second floor slightly smaller because its position is occupied by two rooms. The larger front room, lit from the front by two windows, had a fireplace in the east side wall, now blocked and marked only by a hearth stone. The second room, situated in the centre of the east wall, is the smallest room on this floor. It is unheated and is lit by a window in the east side wall. The central front room, another unheated room, is lit by a single window in the front wall. The west front room is the largest room on this floor, and it has a beam running north-south, and another abutting it from the centre of the west wall. A hearthstone in the centre of the west side wall marks the position of a blocked fireplace.

The rear east room has a hearthstone in the centre of the east side wall, marking the position of a blocked fireplace, and it is lit by a single window in the rear wall. The rear central room, over the main stair hall, is unheated and is lit by a single window in the rear wall. The 1979 plan shows that the west rear room had been subdivided at some time, the east side being used to house a lead water tank, but it has subsequently been returned to its original form as a single room. Like the rooms beneath it, on the ground and first floors, it was unheated.

Roof

The roof, visible through the trapdoor over the second-floor landing, has pegged king-post trusses along the north and south ranges, with the principals notched into the king posts, a diagonally-set square ridge-piece and two trenched purlins to each side. In the link roofs between the main ranges the trusses are as before but without the king posts.

Basement

The basement is reached from the ground floor through a doorway beneath the first flight of the back staircase. The present wooden stairs, renewed after 1979, occupy the position of the original staircase which was lit by a window in the west side wall which was blocked and plastered over when the west link block was extended north in the mid 19th century.

The basement, only the western end of which is presently accessible, was divided into separate rooms by the structural walls of the house above (Fig.27). The west end of the basement has two rooms, a lit room to the front, perhaps for storage as the ceiling is low, and a wine cellar to the rear. The west front room has two plastered beams running north-south, and it is lit by the only visible window, itself now partially blocked. The west rear room, the cellar, originally had storage bins along both the north and south walls, the latter now represented solely by scarring. On the north, two stone rubble piers support two slate shelves, slate uprights further dividing most of the compartments. There is an original wide doorway, now walled up with breeze blocks, opposite the basement stairs. Two pieces of timber are set into both side walls of the doorway for the attachment of door hinges for a double door. The extent of the basement beyond this blocked opening is uncertain.

West link block

The recessed west link block is two bays wide and was originally only single storeyed. It originally extended back approximately half the depth of the main house, as the 1847-8 map shows, its exterior rear wall being the north wall of the present corridor which runs through the expanded link block to the west wing. This arrangement is confirmed by the position of the blocked ground-floor window which lit the basement stairs. The front elevation of the link block has a slate rubble plinth and has been rendered, so that the junction between the ground floor and the added first floor is not visible. The two original ground-floor windows are round-headed with squared stone sills, the small-pane, hung-sash frames being unhorned and having relatively thick glazing bars. There is no evidence of original openings in the rear wall.

Inside the west link block, modern subdivisions make the original arrangement unclear. The block was, however, reached from a doorway off the back stair hall of the main house, and it led to the kitchen in the west wing. A corridor may have run between these two opposing doorways, with a heated room, perhaps a servants' hall, across the front. Alternatively there could have been a single room through which the servants walked. The room to the front, now subdivided, was lit by the two windows in the front wall which have both lost any architraves or shutters. The fireplace in the east wall, its flue rising into the west stack on the main house, has a chamfered and stopped stone chimneypiece, a wooden mantelpiece, and a modern stove, perhaps replacing an earlier one.

West wing

The two-storey west wing is rectangular in plan and one bay wide with a tall, blind, round-headed recess in the front elevation, presently covered by ivy, mirrored by that in the east wing. It is built of slate rubble, with a hipped, slate roof. The whole wing has been much altered, particularly during the late 20th century, making interpretation difficult. Large fireplaces indicate that the south end and centre of the ground floor housed two kitchens. The original kitchen might have been expected to be within the main house, but there was no evidence for this, and it was clearly in this wing. The north end of the wing, separated from the rest by a slate rubble wall, had slit vents at a high level in the rear wall, suggesting that this part of the building had an agricultural use, a combination not usually found within one building. The first-floor rooms over the kitchen area had ceilings and could have been used for servants' bedrooms, with a storage loft at the north end of the wing.

The west side elevation of the wing has a confused appearance due to the insertion in the mid 19th century of two unequally-sized windows at its north end and the addition of an external porch (Fig.15), the latter not shown on the 1847-48



Fig.15 West side elevation of the west wing. (NMR: BB007275)

Ordnance Survey map. At the south end this elevation has two wide windows on the ground floor with two similar windows above them, all with slate sills and heavy roughly-squared timber lintels under slate drip courses, with a taller stair window between. The first-floor south window retains a Yorkshire sash frame, which may be original; the frames in the other windows have been replaced. The ground-floor south window has had a doorway cut through part of it, some slates on the north side of the doorway cut with a stone-saw, indicating that it was originally just a window. There is no evidence to confirm whether there was originally an external doorway in this wall. The rear, north, wall has three slit vents at first-floor level and four square nesting holes with slate perching ledges above them, close to the wallhead. It is unclear whether this wall originally had a window because that on the ground-floor appears inserted, while blocking indicates that what is now a

window in the ground floor of the east side wall was originally a doorway, providing separate access into the north end of the wing. There may have been a second doorway in the east side wall, opening into the kitchen area, but the later deepening of the west link block has obscured the original plan. The ground and first-floor windows at the north end of the building were inserted during mid 19th-century alterations, and the small first-floor window adjacent to the stair window is probably late 19th or early 20th century in date.

In the mid 19th century the north end of the wing was altered from agricultural to domestic use, and the whole interior has been considerably altered since 1979 (Figs.28 and 29), leaving the ground and first floors largely featureless. The larger south end is divided from the north end by a slate rubble cross wall which probably originally had no doorways in it. The south end, presently one large room with two squared beams running east-west, had large fireplaces with slate segmental arches in the centre of both its north and south walls. The south fireplace is now partially blocked, and the back of the north fireplace has been broken through to unite with the room beyond, but both retain iron brackets for pot cranes. On either side of each fireplace is a round-headed recess, with a slate voussoired head; the north ones have been broken through to connect with the north room. At the rear of the south recesses are narrow flues, indicating that these too were originally fireplaces. It is possible that one or both were hotplates - in the late 18th and early 19th century iron plates were sometimes built in above a masonry firebox, providing a hotplate for cooking oatcakes. They were usually set to one side of the main flue and either linked to it or connected to a separate flue, as was found at Townend, Troutbeck, and appears to be the case here.⁵³

It is likely that the south end was originally subdivided into two rooms, probably by a staircase and thin partition walls, to form a main kitchen and a back kitchen, known locally as a 'downhouse', used for such processes as baking, brewing, and washing.⁵⁴ The 1979 plan shows a transverse dog-leg staircase, now removed, in this position, although if the staircase shown were original it would make the back kitchen fairly small.

The staircase rose to the first floor, probably splitting it into two rooms over the kitchen area, and continued up to an attic. The stair window rose above the height of the now lost first-floor ceiling which is indicated by joist sockets just above the tops of the room windows, to light the attic stairs. The first-floor rooms could have been used as servants' accommodation, perhaps for some of the domestic servants, or as a men's room for farm hands, with attic storage above. It is unclear whether the two large rooms were further subdivided into smaller rooms: there is a fireplace in the south wall, but this is probably a later insertion as both rooms would have been warmed from the kitchen fires below. There are two king-post trusses with a square ridge-piece set on edge and two trenched purlins to each side. Both trusses are of roughly shaped timber, the tie beam of the northern truss, which retains obsolete joist sockets and two mortices at each end, has been turned through 90° and reused. The king posts have tenons projecting through the bottom of the tie beams, and the southern truss has a wooden wedge through the tie beam, holding the king post steady.

The ground floor of the north end of the wing was reached externally from the back of the house, through a doorway, now a window, in its east side wall. No evidence remains for the original use of this room, although the slit vents above suggest that the first floor was used as a storage loft, possibly making this a byre. The present windows are later insertions, the east one in the former doorway, one or both the others perhaps in the position of original windows. How access to the first floor was effected is unknown because the floor is modern, the first-floor doorway connecting with the south end of the wing is almost certainly inserted, and any evidence for a possible taking-in door has been obscured by the later fenestration. The single king-post truss was altered in the mid 19th century, when the room was converted to domestic use and the ceiling was raised.

East link block

The recessed east link block was originally single-storeyed but is now in ruinous condition. Its front wall, which is of coursed slate rubble above a plinth, survives to about half its original height and retains the bases of two blind recesses, each of which is plastered and has a projecting stone sill. The recesses no doubt originally had round-arched heads and mirrored the pair of windows in the west link block. Most of the rear wall of the link block has been lost, although its position is known from map evidence, from changes in the texture of the side walls which it abutted, and from evidence in the ground. The last consists of a wide stone threshold at the east end of the lost wall, and an edge in the cobbling of the yard, which stops at what would have been the external face of the rear wall. The east jamb of the doorway survives as a shallow pier, and its width, implied by that of the threshold, suggests that the link block was a stable, the windows of which must have faced the yard. The stable appears to have been linked to an adjacent tack room in the south end of the east wing. Two projecting lines of flashing at either end of the block, the lower of slate, the upper of mortar, relate to the original roof, lost some time in the 20th century,⁵⁵ which was evidently not conventionally gabled but was probably pyramidal.

East wing

The two-storey east wing, one bay wide and an irregular rectangle in plan, is built of slate rubble which is more regularly coursed across the single-bay front elevation than elsewhere. It has substantial quoins at all corners and a hipped, slate roof. The front elevation, built to mirror that of the west wing, has a tall, blind, round-headed recess which has an inserted window at its base and has now also lost much of its rubble facing (Fig.16). The head of the recess has rubble voussoirs, every other opening in the wing, apart



*Fig.16 Front elevation of the east wing.
(NMR: BB007280)*

from a late garage door, having a timber lintel under a slate drip course.

The east wing was built as a bank barn, in origin a type of farm building which combined a conventional threshing barn, approached by a ramp, at an upper level with rooms such as cartsheds, stables, cow-byres and loose boxes at a lower level (Fig.17). Bank barns were built on farms, particularly in Cumbria and certain other



*Fig.17 West elevation of east wing showing ramp to first-floor threshing barn.
(NMR: BB007282)*

upland areas, to take advantage of sloping land which allowed for compactness and economical combining of a variety of uses.⁵⁶ The incorporation of one in the formal layout of a small country house, where it served domestic as well as agricultural purposes within the constraints of a polite front elevation, is of particular interest. The ground floor of the narrower south part of the east wing appears originally to have contained, from south to north, a tack room, coach house and an open carriageway, with in succession a store, cartshed and byre in the wider north part. Overall there was a threshing barn reached from a ramp which rose up to the wide door close to the north end of the west wall. Bank barns were usually built either along the slope or at right angles to it, but at Belmont the site was almost level, and the versatility which this offered was exploited to the full. The rooms in the south part of the ground floor, whose use was related to the domestic life of the house, opened from the side facing it, whereas the northern rooms, the store excepted, which served the agricultural needs of the estate, opened from the side away from the house. The ramp up to the barn was, however, for convenience of access, towards the house.

The ground floor of the east wing has been much altered. The tack room at the south end of the narrower south part was originally reached from the stable, though the wall between them has been largely rebuilt. The internal wall between the tack room, which was originally unlit, and the coach house has been lost, and although the original wide west doorway which admitted coaches into the coach house has been altered, the narrow doorway off the carriageway retains a ledge and batten door. The south jamb and part of the inner and outer timber lintels of the west doorway survive above the rubble blocking inserted when the ground floor of the

wing was altered in the mid 19th century; the rest of the opening was lost to a garage door in the 20th century. Three timber beams shown spanning the ground floor on the 1959 plan have since been removed, two rolled steel joists replacing them, but in different positions. In the wider north part of the wing, the floors have all been renewed in concrete. The store which opens off the carriageway is entered through a doorway with a harr-hung ledge and batten door. Its interior is unlit and it has a central chamfered east-west beam with joists running across its back. The cartshed, which has a wide west doorway, since narrowed, must originally have run the full depth of the building, its rear wall having what is now a blocked window. The south side wall is unaltered, but that to the north, which thins back under a beam, has been broken through at the rear. Two chamfered beams span the cartshed: at their north ends, where they are tenoned into a cross beam, they have straight-cut stops, but to the south the chamfers run into the masonry of the cross wall. The byre at the north end, entered through a doorway at the north end of the east wall, probably had a passage against the north end wall with stalls south of and at right angles to it. The passage would have been lit from the window at its west end; the window in the east wall is not original. The byre has three north-south beams, all of them chamfered, with either straight-cut or run-out stops, and with joists tenoned into them.

The barn which occupies the whole of the first floor of the east wing has a threshing floor close to its north end with a wide west door and an opposing narrow winnowing door. The west door, approached by an external ramp, has renewed double doors which open outwards and is protected by a canopy with an original braced timber support surviving on its north side but not on the south where it has been lost to an extension. The older ledge and batten winnowing door opens inwards, the opening being precariously high above the level of the yard outside. The walls of the barn have a mixture of slit and square vents (Fig.18), and the roof



Fig.18 The east elevation of the east wing showing slit and square vents in the barn wall. (NMR: MF 000223/20)

is supported by different types of truss, all of which appear to be original. The narrower south part has a king-post truss at the south end and then four tie-beam

trusses. The king post of the first truss has straight sides, its base is tenoned through the tie beam, and the top is notched to receive the principal rafters and support the diagonally-set ridge-piece. The principals support two sets of purlins on each side, as do those of the four tie-beam trusses which have notched apexes and also support the ridge-piece. The wider north part of the barn has three king-post trusses, of identical form to the king-post truss at the south end of the roof except at their lower, extended, eastern ends. They differ because the wallhead is at a constant level along this side of the barn, being almost a metre lower in the wider northern part than is the west wall. The greater width, with its different wallhead levels, was spanned by keeping a constant ridge line but extending the eastern principals down and strengthening the junctions of the tie beams with them with an upper timber wedge and a lower timber brace, the whole strengthened by wrought iron stirrups and bolts. The longer west principal supports three purlins, those to the east two, and there is the same diagonally-set ridge-piece. The interior of the barn, which is likely to have been used for grain and hay storage, has no subdivisions but its floor breaks at an 87 centimetre (35 inch) deep step up sited above the south wall of the carriageway. This step, found in other bank barns, reflects the greater height required by the coachhouse and associated stabling. The floorboards have been renewed and therefore none of the hay drops which must have been in the floor survives.

Early 19th-century alterations

In the early 19th century some minor alterations, and refurbishment, were made to the two front reception rooms on the ground floor of the main house. This work, likely to have been carried out when Robert Ward owned Belmont, involved deepening four ground-floor front windows. The stones of the three courses beneath the original windows were sawn through, giving a clean edge which contrasts with the relatively rough-edged stones above. The new small-paned hung-sash window frames are unhorned, but have thinner glazing bars than the original windows. The window to the return wall of the west front room was left unaltered. Inside, every window in both front rooms was given a new reeded architrave which, because of their size, rose into the mouldings of the original cornices. The doorways in the west front room were also given reeded architraves, although what is now the remaining doorway in the east front room retained its original architrave

Mid and later 19th-century alterations

Mid 19th-century alterations

The Whittakers, who lived at Belmont from 1841 until about 1887, only selling it in the early 20th century, altered and extended its buildings during the mid 19th century to accommodate the large family. They raised and extended the single-storey west link block of the house, as well as building an external porch on to the west side of the west wing as part of their alterations to that wing. They were also evidently responsible for altering the interior of the east wing, for making small additions to its exterior, and for constructing various outbuildings to its east, including some associated with the kitchen garden. The additions to the east wing,

and two outbuildings to its immediate east, are shown on the 1847-8 Ordnance Survey map, but not the extension to the west link block nor the buildings attached to or near the north-west wall of the kitchen garden. All of these are, however, shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map, and it is likely, given the size of Dr Whittaker's family, and his impetuous nature, that at least the alterations to the house, if not also the additions to the kitchen garden, date from between 1847-8 and 1854, the year of his death.

The alterations to the west link block involved raising it to two storeys and doubling its depth to beyond the rear of the original house (Fig.19). It clearly butts against



*Fig.19 Extended west link block projecting beyond the rear of the main block.
(NMR: BB007278)*

the rear of the main block, and at first-floor level its slate rubble wall butts against the east side wall of the original west wing, a doorway obscuring the junction at ground-floor level. The front elevation of the link block is now rendered, obscuring evidence of the heightening and it has a modern roof, hipped to the front and gabled to the rear. The two small-paned sash windows on the first floor of the front elevation have thin, square-cut stone sills, and horned hung-sash frames with thin glazing bars. The rear elevation has a centrally-placed ground-floor window with a doorway on the west side, and two first-floor windows. The single ground-floor window in the east side return wall must be an insertion because there was once a single-storey lean-to built against the wall. The lean-to appears to be shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map, and is also present on the 1979 plan (Fig.28), although it was not there when the National Trust photographed Belmont in 1985.⁵⁷ All the windows in the rear and east side walls have small-pane, horned hung-sashes with thin glazing bars, slate sills and drip courses above squared timber lintels. Slates have been nailed over the lintels to protect them from the weather, and the slate sills to the ground-floor windows are thicker than those above, and are cut with a chamfer.

Inside the west link block, modern refitting and stripping out have left both ground and first floors largely featureless. The ground floor was probably used for service functions, with bedrooms above, serving Dr Whittaker's large family, and there may have been a library for his extensive book collection and a chapel, either here or possibly within the west wing.⁵⁸ On the ground floor two beams run east-west across the extended part of the building. A slate-paved corridor runs from the external doorway in the rear wall along the east side wall of the west wing, with doorways into the north and south rooms in the wing and a doorway into the east rear room of the link block. A lack of original architraves and doors makes it impossible to tell whether some doorways are later insertions, but the awkward junction of the corridor with that through the west end of the original rear wall of the link block, necessitating the east wall of the passageway to be cut back at an angle, suggests that it is modern, as is the doorway in the angled wall. The doorway, now blocked, into the rear east room from the east end of the original rear wall, may have been created during the alterations. The east rear room, marked on the 1979 plan as a store, is presently fitted out as a kitchen, with no original features visible.

The first floor of the extended west link block was reached, up five steps, through a doorway inserted through one of the windows which lit the back stair in the main house. The first floor was completely stripped out after 1979, when all the dividing walls shown on the plan of that date were removed (Fig.29). The stripping out revealed the ashlar-scored external plaster on the east side wall of the main house. It is possible that the east wall of the west wing retains its external plasterwork, too. It is a similar colour to that on the opposing wall, but it is unclear whether it was scribed, or is merely the residue of the later room plaster. The 1979 plan shows a central transverse corridor running between the doorway from the main house and an inserted doorway through into the south first-floor room of the west wing, with a single front room and two rear rooms. The doorway into the main house has recently been blocked up, but that into the west wing has a six-panelled door with fielded panels to the wing and sunk panels to the link block. It must have been re-hung from another position or copied from an original door. The architrave has been removed. There may originally have only been a single room to front and rear because there are only two fireplaces, both now without their chimneypieces. They may originally have had two of the four simply moulded mid 18th-century stone chimneypieces stored in the west wing.⁵⁹ The front room retains its original floorboards, with a cut-out for the removed hearthstone, but the rear room has been re-floored. None of the windows now has an architrave or other detailing. The three king-post roof trusses are modern renewals, the two outer ones reusing some timbers.

Various alterations were also undertaken in the west wing. An external porch, raised over a small ground-floor room, and built against the west side wall, was reached by a wide flight of chamfered slate steps running parallel to the wall. A cast-iron balustrade originally ran up the steps, but the fluted balusters only survive around the landing at the top of the stairs. The porch is built of slate rubble over a ground-floor storage room, and has a flat, leaded roof and slate parapet. The outer doorway has double doors, each of four sunk panels. The windows in the north and

south walls are both modern casements. The inner doorway of the porch was inserted through the lower part of the splayed opening of the stair window, entering onto the half-landing between ground and first floors of the dog-leg staircase shown on the 1979 plans. An inserted doorway opened off the first-floor stair landing to link the west wing to the first-floor corridor through the newly heightened west link block. It is possible that the fireplace towards the west end of the front wall was inserted, and was contemporary with the first-floor fireplace inserted in the north end of the west wing. Both have lost their chimneypieces but they may have had reused mid 18th-century stone chimneypieces, the other two stone chimneypieces being reused in the new first-floor rooms of the west link block.

The ground floor of the north end of the west wing was converted to domestic use and the present windows were inserted. The windows in the west side and the rear walls have modern casement frames with slate sills, drip courses and thin timber lintels. The original external doorway in the east side wall was partially blocked and a hung-sash window inserted. The room was now reached from inside the building, through a doorway off the ground-floor corridor against the west side of the west link block. The storage loft above was also converted into a room lit from small-paned, horned hung-sash windows inserted in both its east and west side walls. A high ceiling was also inserted to clear the full-height sash window in the west side wall. Externally it is possible to see a ragged joint in the stonework to the south of this window, and darker mortar on either side of it, where the wall was rebuilt. It has a slate stone sill and a re-used timber lintel. The original king-post roof truss in this room had to be raised above the level of the raised ceiling, and this was achieved by removing the tie beam, bolting it to the side of the king post, and supporting it at both ends on wooden brackets, which would have been visible in the room. The slit vents were blocked, a fireplace being inserted towards the west end of the rear wall, its insertion removing the inner end of one of the slit vents. The walls of the room were plastered, but this has since been hacked off.

In the main house minor refurbishment was undertaken. The two front reception rooms on the ground floor were given new marble chimneypieces, supplied by Websters' marble works in Kendal.⁶⁰ The east front room fireplace, of grey veined marble, has two fluted columns with Ionic capitals supporting the mantelpiece (Fig.20). The fireplace in the west front room is of black marble containing fossils, and its mantelpiece is supported on square-cut pilasters (Fig.21). On the first floor, moulded, coved cornices were inserted in the west front bedroom and the central front dressing room. Five panes of stained glass were also inserted into the main stair window. Fragments of older glass were used as borders to three coats of arms, a biblical scene and a piece of text: the top half of one of the coat of arms is missing as is most of the text panel. Beneath the lowest coat of arms are the names Whittaker and Buck.

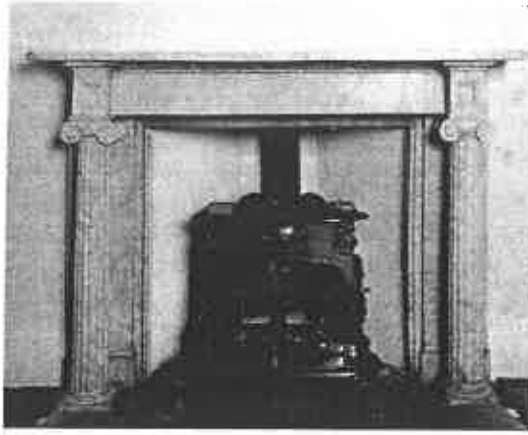


Fig.20 The Webster fireplace in the east front room. (NMR: BB007287)

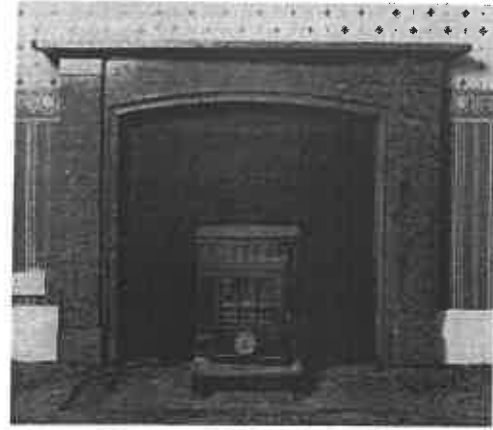


Fig.21 The Webster fireplace in the west front room (NMR: BB007290)

The ground floor of the narrower south part of the east wing had been built in 1774 with a tack room and coach house, and it was probably Dr Whittaker who threw these together to create a single large stable. Two areas of stone cobbling, one close to the north end of the east wall and the other close to the south end of the west wall, survive from the original floor, the rest of which is laid with setts, ten centimetres square, which incorporated cast-iron drains as well as three stone bases which supported the end posts of three stall partitions. The drains, which consist of a nine-centimetre (four inch) wide, six-centimetre (two and a half inch) deep, U-shaped channel with a flat, perforated cover, have three spurs leading from within the standings to the main north-south drain which empties into a sump just within the north doorway on to the carriageway. The stone bases for the end posts of the stall partitions contain central iron pins over which the post fitted, but no other evidence for the rest of the interior survives, the partitions and mangers having been removed and the floor over, with any hay drops, renewed after 1979. Two windows, one in the base of the arched recess in the south front, the other at the north end of the east side wall, are likely to belong to this conversion.

Study of the undated list of rooms on the mid 19th-century estate map of Belmont suggests that as altered the ground floor of the south part of the east wing, described above, probably contained two loose boxes, a two-stalled stable and a harness room. The ground floor of the wider north part of the east wing was also altered, probably also in the mid 19th century, and from the list it can be suggested that it had an unlit stick room at its south end, two loose boxes to its north and one loose box in the west addition. These uses fit with the evidence of the east wing since the former byre at the north end has an extra east window whose timber lintel is thinner than the original lintels and lacks the slate dripstone, while the original doorway to the adjacent cartshed has been altered to contain a two-height stable door and an adjacent fixed small-pane window above rubble blocking. A semicircular area of cobbling stands in front of the narrowed doorway.

The coach house and cartshed displaced from the east wing appear to have been replaced by a new free-standing building, erected east of the east wing, which is shown on the 1847-8 map (Fig.22). Its front elevation is in line with the northern edge of the carriageway through the wing through which the coaches passed. The

combined coach house and cartshed, of unconventional form, is a rectangular, single-storeyed structure built of coursed slate rubble. It has a single-pitch slate roof which descends from the tall rear north wall to the lower, two-bay wide front elevation which has a square pier at its west end, another in the centre, and timber lintels over the two bays. The wider east bay may originally have been the coach house, perhaps divided from the west bay by a partition which has since been lost since the west wall of the building originally appears to have been open, in contrast to the east wall (Fig.23). The roof is carried on two trusses, in the centre and at the



*Fig.22 The combined coach house and cart shed built to the east of the east wing.
(NMR: MF000223/19)*

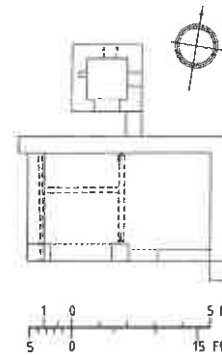


Fig.23 Ground plan of coach house and cart shed.

west end, each with a tie beam, a single principal rafter supporting one purlin, and a vertical strut close to the rear wall. The roof space is floored, has a small window with a slate lintel high up in its rear wall, and the loft within it is reached from two doors in its boarded east end. Small round-headed openings in the base of one of the doors indicate that the loft was probably for pigeons.

An earth closet, shown on the 1847-8 map, was built against the east wall of the south part of the east wing, at the west end of the boundary wall between the east service yard and the gardens. It is built of coursed slate rubble, has a gabled east wall, and is now roofless. It was originally entered from a now-blocked doorway, with a timber lintel, set towards the south end of the east wall, immediately north of which, in the base of the wall, was the soil hole. The original doorway was later superseded by the present one in the south wall. The interior of the closet has a concrete floor with a shallow step up just within the door. The date of the change in door position is unknown, but its purpose was to make this closet accessible to those working in or enjoying the gardens, not now those in the service yard. The change in access could have created the need to build an earth closet behind the coach house. This earth closet, also shown on the 1847-8 map, is a small, square, single-storeyed structure built of randomly coursed slate rubble with a gabled, slate roof. The doorway in the south wall has a timber lintel, in contrast to the thin slate lintel of the window in the east wall, and inside there is a small slate-bound recess in one wall to take cloth or paper. The soil hole is through the centre of the base of the north wall.

The 1847-8 map also shows what is a two-storey addition on the west side of the east wing, between the west door of the barn and the carriageway, its south wall

angled to clear the latter. This building, which blocked the rear window of the cartshed and one of the slit vents of the barn, is built of coursed slate rubble and has a single-pitch slate roof. Its ground floor has a central west doorway between windows; the doorway in the south wall, which has a reset 18th-century six-panelled door with four fielded panels above two beaded, flush panels, must therefore be an insertion. The single ground-floor room has two east-west beams, and may originally have been a cow byre. Its plastered and white-washed walls are commensurate with its late use, as identified on the 1985 plans, as kennels. The first floor, reached from an external doorway in its north wall, next to the barn, and from an internal doorway cut through the barn wall, has windows to north and south. Its roof is supported by a single off-centre truss which has a cranked strut rising from the outer barn wall up to a principal rafter which supports a single purlin.

Later 19th-century alterations

The list of rooms and outbuildings on the undated plan of the Belmont estate⁶¹ may well have been added to the plan when the house was put up for rent after the Whittakers had left it in about 1887. The rooms may, therefore, be a record of those in the house as it had been changed by two successive generations of the Whittaker family. In the main house the list notes a lavatory, that is wash basin, and a water closet on the ground floor, with two further water closets on the first floor. Water closets were not generally used until after the middle of the 19th century, and these may have been inserted by William Fielden Whittaker. The water closet and wash basin on the ground floor, since replaced, were inserted in the closet under the main staircase, and a small casement window was inserted in the rear wall to light the space. The first floor had a bathroom and two water closets. The bathroom and one water closet may have been in the rear west room of the main house, which is now two bathrooms, and in which there is a small inserted casement window at the east end of the rear wall. The other water closet was probably on the first floor of the west wing, in the small room shown as a store on the 1979 plan south of the staircase and lit by a small inserted casement window (Fig.29).

20th-century alterations

Most of the known 20th-century alterations to the house were carried out in the last quarter of the 20th century, after Belmont was given to the National Trust. The south chimneystack of the west wing was removed in the 1970s,⁶² and the west link block was re-roofed.⁶³ It is possible that the second-floor hung-sash windows in the main block were renewed at about this time (Fig.30). During the 1980s and 1990s the tenant stripped out much of the interior of the west wing and the first floor of the west link block, as well as subdividing the south ground-floor room in the west link block and creating a second bathroom in the west rear room on the first floor of the main block. The removal of much of the wall between the front and rear east rooms on the ground floor of the main block may also have taken place at some time during this period.

At some time during the 20th century the stable at the south end of the east wing was converted to hold cows. The stalls and presumed feeding racks, themselves mid 19th-century insertions, were removed and four wooden posts, one of which still retains a tethering ring, were set against the rear wall. This room was later used as a garage, as the wide doorway with its sliding door at the north end of the west wall indicates. The use of the east link block is unknown, but at some time during the century it was largely taken down and its front wall allowed to become semi-ruinous. The window inserted in the west wall of the south part of the barn is probably of 20th-century date.

Acknowledgements

This report on Belmont was commissioned from English Heritage on behalf of the National Trust by Robert Maxwell, Archaeologist for the National Trust's North-West Region. Thanks are due to Janet Martin who kindly shared her research on Belmont and commented on the text, and also for the assistance of Ross Mackintosh of the National Trust, Richard Hall, archivist at Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, Dr Geoffrey Beard for his comments on the plasterwork, and Angus Taylor for his assistance in dating the Webster chimneypieces.

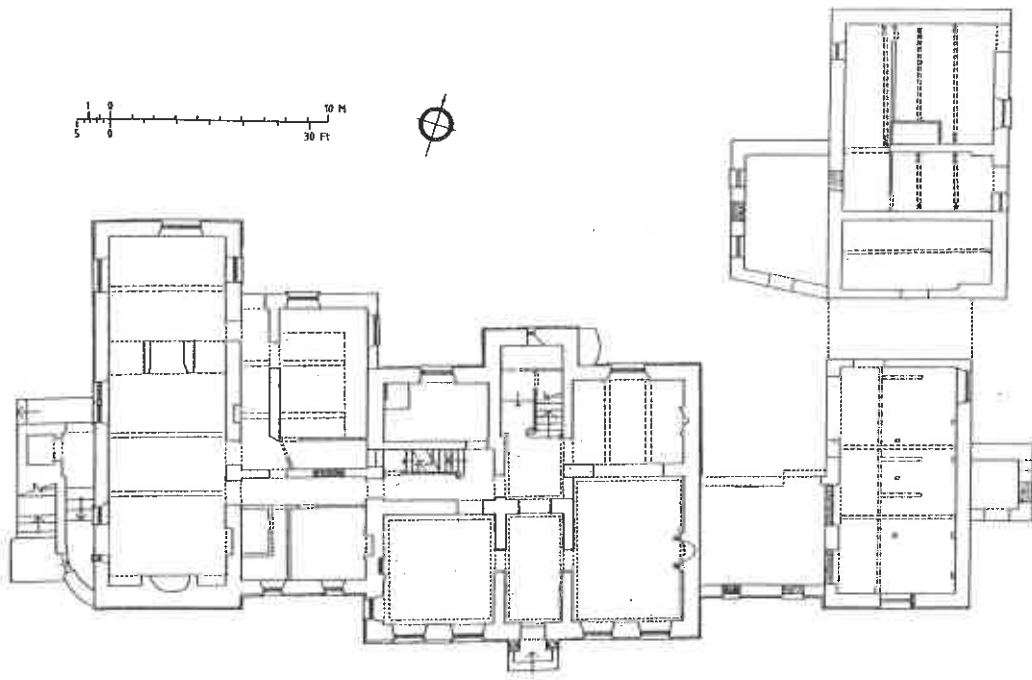


Fig.24 Ground-floor plan of Belmont.

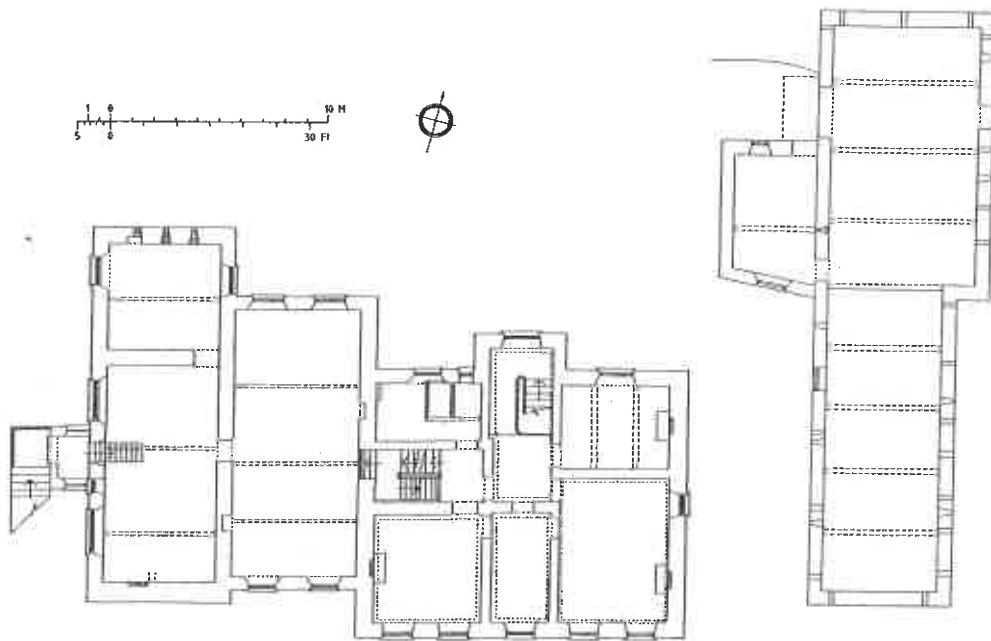


Fig.25 First-floor plan of Belmont.

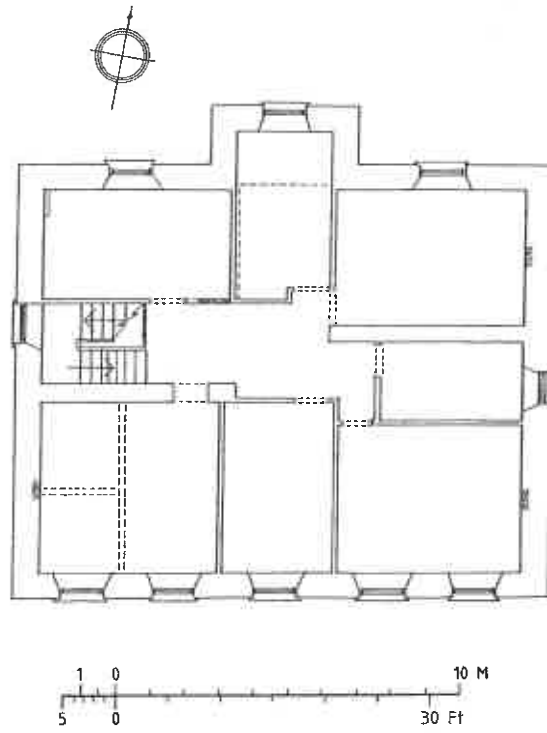


Fig.26 Second-floor plan of Belmont.

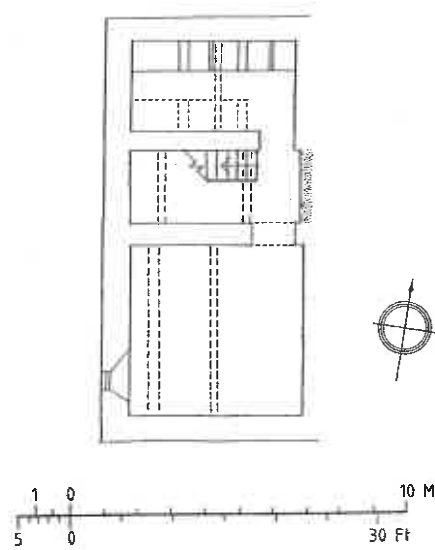


Fig.27 Partial basement plan of Belmont.

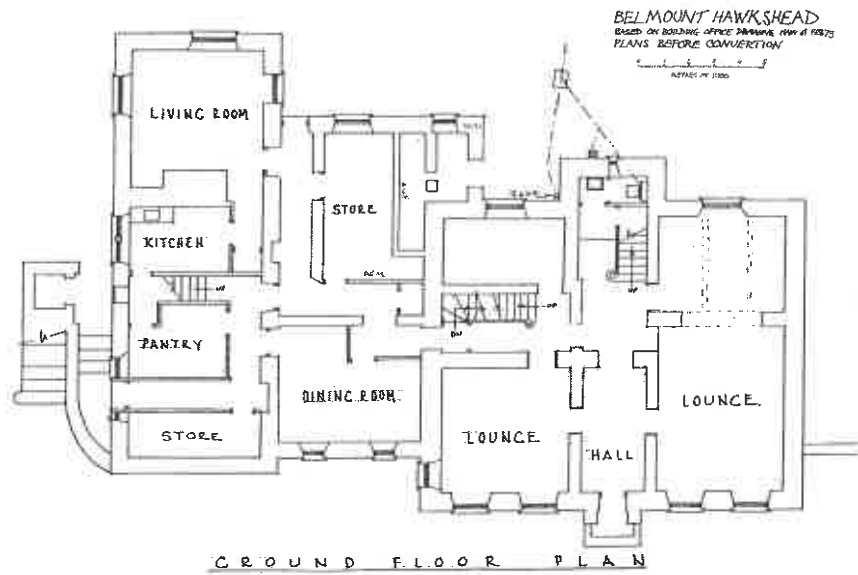


Fig 28 1979 ground-floor plan of Belmont (National Trust)

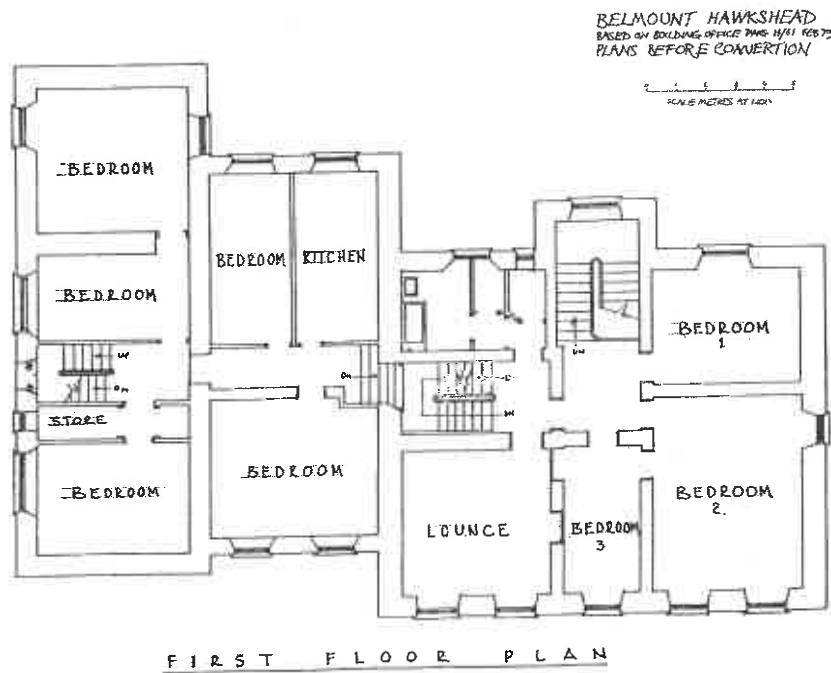


Fig.29 1979 first-floor plan of Belmont (National Trust)

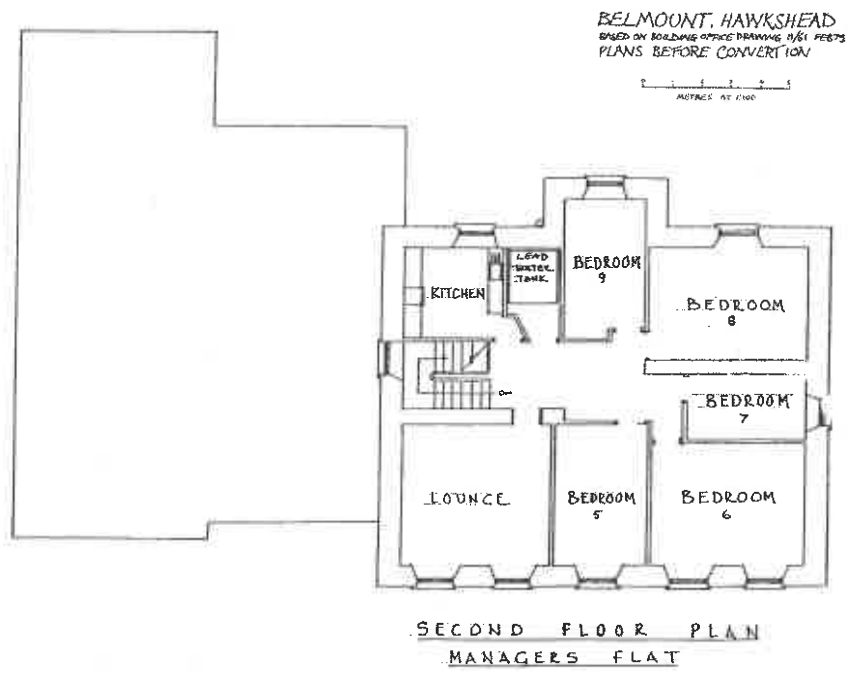


Fig 30 1979 second-floor plan of Belmont (National Trust)

NOTES

¹ There are alternative spellings of Reginald Brathwaite. His first name has been recorded as Reynald or Reginald. Reynald does not appear to have been commonly used (J A Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigiensis. Part II from 1752 to 1900. Volume 1. Abbey-Challis* (Cambridge, 1940), 366), and though his surname was originally spelt Brathwaite, and appears as such on his memorial tablet in Hawkshead Church, it has subsequently been incorrectly spelt Braithwaite.

² T W Thompson, *Wordsworth's Hawkshead* ed. Robert Woof (London, 1970), 51. All biographical information about Mr. Brathwaite is taken from this source, 52-4, unless otherwise referenced.

³ A wrangler is a Cambridge University graduate who is placed in the first class of the mathematical tripos, the honours examination at Cambridge for the BA degree.

⁴ A memorial tablet in the church reads, 'NEAR THIS PLACE ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF THE REV. REGINALD BRATHWAITE A.M. WHO DIED OCTOBER VI, MDCCCIX, AGED LXXII YEARS. HE WAS RESIDENT MINISTER OF THIS PARISH FOR FORTY EIGHT YEARS. HIS FRIENDS HAVE CAUSED THIS STONE TO BE ERECTED AS A TESTIMONY OF THEIR RESPECT TO HIS MEMORY'.

⁵ Between 1764 and 1788 Brathwaite was also Rector of Astwick and Vicar of Arlesey, Bedfordshire, and from 1765 was domestic chaplain to the Duke of Roxburgh. In 1770, St John's College, Cambridge, presented him with the Rectory of Brinkley, Cambridgeshire, in lieu of having to relinquish his fellowship on marriage. Between 1791 and 1802 he was Prebendary of St Cross with Morgan in Llandaff Cathedral, which preferment he owed to Dr Richard Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, who lived in Calgarth on the shores of Windermere and rarely visited his diocese. Brathwaite was also a Justice of the Peace for the County of Lancaster.

⁶ John Martin Robinson, *A Guide to the Country Houses of the North-West* (London), 119. Irton retained part of the medieval house but his work was replaced by a Jacobean mansion built in 1874.

⁷ *Alumni Cantabrigienis* lists Reginald Tubman Brathwaite's birthplace as Waterground rather than Walker Ground, although it is likely that they are one and the same place (Venn 1940, 366).

⁸ The boundary of the estate is known from a mid 19th-century estate map, see Note 43. Information from research for the National Trust by Janet Martin (Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WDB 35, Box 5 [556]).

⁹ The listing description of 1987 mentions a rainwater head dated 1774 (Department of the Environment, *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. District of South Lakeland. Peak District National Park, Cumbria* (1987), 47). However, this no longer exists, although a single original rainwater head does bear the greyhound couchant of the Brathwaites of Ambleside.

¹⁰ Henry Swainson Cowper, *Hawkshead (The northernmost parish of Lancashire) its History, Archaeology, Industries, Folklore, Dialect, etc etc* (London, 1899), 21.

¹¹ The house name is spelt Belmont on the 1847-8 Ordnance Survey map (Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, Lancashire Sheet 2, surveyed 1847-8, published 1850), but it also appears as Bell-mont, or Belle-mont in late 18th and early 19th-century literature.

¹² James S Ackerman, *The Villa. Form and Ideology of Country Houses* (London, 1995), 28.

¹³ There is an extensive literature on the 'discovery' of the Lake District in the later 18th and early 19th centuries. There is a concise summary in Esther Moir, *The Discovery of Britain: The English Tourists* (London, 1964), 139-56. The fullest general study, though inaccurate on points of detail, is Norman Nicholson, *The Lakelanders: the Adventures of the First Tourists* (London, 1957). A number of exhibitions in the 1980s covered the theme, with a particular emphasis on aesthetic developments, including Peter Bicknell & Robert Woof (eds), *The Discovery of the Lake District 1750-1810*, Grasmere, 1982, catalogue of an exhibition at the Grasmere and Wordsworth Museum; and *The discovery of the Lake District: A Northern Arcadia and its Uses*, London, 1984, catalogue of an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. A more recent study is contained in Malcolm Andrews, *The Search for the Picturesque* (Stanford, 1989), 153-96.

¹⁴ Thomas West, *A Guide to the Lakes in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire* (2nd edition, London, 1779), 55.

¹⁵ William Green, *The Tourist's New Guide containing A Description of the Lakes, Mountains and Scenery in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire* (Two volumes, Kendal, 1819), Volume 1, 124.

¹⁶ John Robinson, *A Guide to the Lakes in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire* (London, 1819), 280.

¹⁷ The original book was published for the Reverend Joseph Wilkinson by R Ackermann at his Repository of Arts, 101 Strand, London, in 1810. The printers were Harrison and Rutter, 373 Strand. 48 soft-ground etchings, signed 'Rev. Jos. Wilkinson delt'. and 'W F Wells sc. (or sculpt.)' were

published in 12 parts; the view of Esthwaite Water is Number 27 in Part 7. William Frederick Wells was an accomplished London engraver and landscape artist who reproduced Wilkinson's drawings as etchings for publication (Peter Bicknell, *The Picturesque Scenery of the Lake District 1752-1855. A Bibliographical Study* (Winchester, 1990), 96-8). The plate is reproduced in Thompson 1970, 53, plate 5. For details of Wordsworth's *Guide to the Lakes* see Bicknell 1990, 115-18.

¹⁸ Adam Menuge, 'Belle Isle, Windermere, Cumbria', English Heritage (formerly RCHME) Historic Building Report, NBR No.93420 (1997), 6.

¹⁹ Cowper 1899, 21.

²⁰ Damie Stillman, *English Neo-classical Architecture* (Two volumes, London, 1988), Volume 1, 138.

²¹ For further detail on specific examples see John Summerson, *Architecture in Britain 1530-1830* (9th edition, New Haven and London, 1993). For a wider-ranging discussion on the villa as a type see Ackerman 1995, and for 18th-century villas see Dana Arnold (ed), *The Georgian Villa* (Far Thrupp, Stroud, 1996).

²² Summerson 1993, 348.

²³ Menuge 1997, 1.

²⁴ John Martin Robinson, *A Guide to the Country Houses of the North-West* (London, 1991), 165.

²⁵ Description of villas summed up and synthesized in Charles Middleton, *Picturesque and Architectural Views for Cottages, Farm Houses and Country Villas* (1793), quoted in Stillman 1988, 153.

²⁶ Thompson 1970, xix.

²⁷ Thompson 1970, xix.

²⁸ Ian Goodall, 'Rayrigg Hall, Windermere, Cumbria', English Heritage Historic Building Report, NBR No.30579 (2000).

²⁹ Thompson 1970, 53.

³⁰ Menuge 1997, 14.

³¹ Research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin.

³² Research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin.

³³ Green 1819, 124.

³⁴ In 1847 Dr. Whittaker, a later owner of Belmont, conveyed to the trustees of his marriage settlement all of his property in Hawkshead, which included Low Loanthwaite (freehold) and freehold messuages to which Robert Ward was entitled at the date of his death, purchased by Whittaker 11/12 June 1841 – Belmont, Waterson Ground, Birkrow (*sic.*, probably Birkwray) and Scarratt's Moss, a house at Outgate and all other customary messuages to which Robert Ward was entitled at death. Research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin, (Lancashire Record Office, Preston, DDN/4/18).

³⁵ Sir Edward Baines, Junior, *A Companion to the Lakes of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire* (2nd edition, London, 1830), 284.

³⁶ The survey for sale valued the total estate at £6,388 2s. Belmont had a suggested value of £2,563 and timber and Low Loanthwaite had a suggested value of £924 10s and timber. Research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin on the two Belmont scrapbooks; Scrapbook 1 (Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WD/GH).

³⁷ The 1833 plan was said to be inaccurate by Dr. Whittaker when he was thinking of purchasing Belmont in 1840. Research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin using Scrapbook 1 (Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WD/GH).

³⁸ Research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin.

³⁹ Research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin using Scrapbook 1 (Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WD/GH). All subsequent information about Dr. John William Whittaker's purchase and subsequent occupation is from this source unless otherwise referenced.

⁴⁰ All census information is from research for the National Trust by Janet Martin in Lancashire Record Office, Preston.

⁴¹ Cowper 1899, 21.

⁴² Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, Lancashire Sheet 2, surveyed 1847-8, published 1850, Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Lancashire Sheet II.14, surveyed 1888, published 1890. The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map revised in 1912 shows no subsequent alterations to the buildings (Lancashire Sheet II.14, revised 1912, published 1914).

⁴³ The estate map is undated but is probably of mid 19th-century date. It must have been surveyed during or after the lifetime of Dr. Whittaker, since it shows the estate incorporating an isolated piece of land to the north-east which is identified as having been purchased by him. Furthermore, Dr James Dawson of Wray Castle, who is indicated as one of the owners of land adjoining this purchase, is

known to have died in 1875. Information from research for the National Trust by Janet Martin (Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WDB 35, Box 5 [556]).

⁴⁴ Cowper 1889, 21.

⁴⁵ Lucinda Lambton, *Temples of Convenience and Chambers of Delight* (London, 1995), 24-5.

⁴⁶ The National Trust building office drawings HAW/61, dated February 1979, and marked 'PLANS BEFORE CONVERSION' are of all floors of the house and of the west link block and west wing. Plans of the ground floor of the east wing and of various outbuildings date from surveys undertaken for the National Trust in 1985.

⁴⁷ All information on the exterior walls of Belle Isle from Menuge 1997, 16-19.

⁴⁸ Robinson 1991, 165.

⁴⁹ Ian Goodall, 'Storrs Hall, Windermere, Cumbria', English Heritage Historic Building Report, NBR No. 30550 (2000).

⁵⁰ Stillman 1988, 141.

⁵¹ If the two timber chimneypieces were original to the two front reception rooms their survival indicates that they were subsequently used elsewhere in the house when they were removed from the reception rooms.

⁵² Two timber chimneypieces are presently stored on the first floor of the west wing. Both are of similar dimensions to the original timber chimneypiece in the rear east room on the ground floor of the main house, though more elaborate, suggesting that they may have been in the front rooms on this floor, although their survival would indicate that if this were the case they were subsequently used elsewhere. Both have shouldered surrounds and overmantels with a central block and patterned freizes, one with a moulded mantelpiece, the other with an enriched moulded mantelpiece and flower motif to the fire surround. Also stored in the west wing are four moulded stone chimneypieces of mid 18th-century date, which must have been reused in the house from elsewhere.

⁵³ Susan Denyer, *Traditional Buildings & Life in The Lake District* (London, 1991), 25.

⁵⁴ Denyer 1991, 35-6.

⁵⁵ The Ordnance Survey map revised in 1912 shows that the block had a roof then, although this had been lost by the time of the National Trust's survey of the site in 1985 when the condition of the building was much as it is now.

⁵⁶ The bank barn was mainly a development of the 18th and 19th centuries, but prototypes were built in the 17th century on large farms, and earlier examples have been quoted. See R W Brunskill, *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their conservation* (London, 1999), 114-17; *idem*, *Vernacular Architecture of the Lake Counties* (London, 1974), 82-6; and Denyer, *Traditional Buildings & Life in the Lake District*, 134-41.

⁵⁷ Photographs taken by Tim Whittaker in 1985 for the National Trust.

⁵⁸ The undated map of Belmont estate was annotated with a pencilled list of rooms. The number of rooms listed must date it after the extension of the accommodation, but the lack of mention of a library suggests it was made after the dispersal of the library in 1887 (Cowper 1899, 21). A chapel is, however, mentioned, and though it is not possible from the list to locate its exact position, the way the rooms have been written down suggests that it was not in the main house block (Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WDB 35, Box 5 [556]).

⁵⁹ The four mid 18th-century chimneypieces, brought in and reused in Belmont, have subsequently been removed from the rooms they occupied and are now stored in the west wing, along with the two 1774 timber chimneypieces.

⁶⁰ Information from research undertaken for the National Trust by Janet Martin using Scrapbook 1 (Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WD/GH).

⁶¹ Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WDB 35, Box 5 [556].

⁶² Information from Susan Denyer, National Trust.

⁶³ The central king-post roof truss is dated 1980 and signed National Trust.