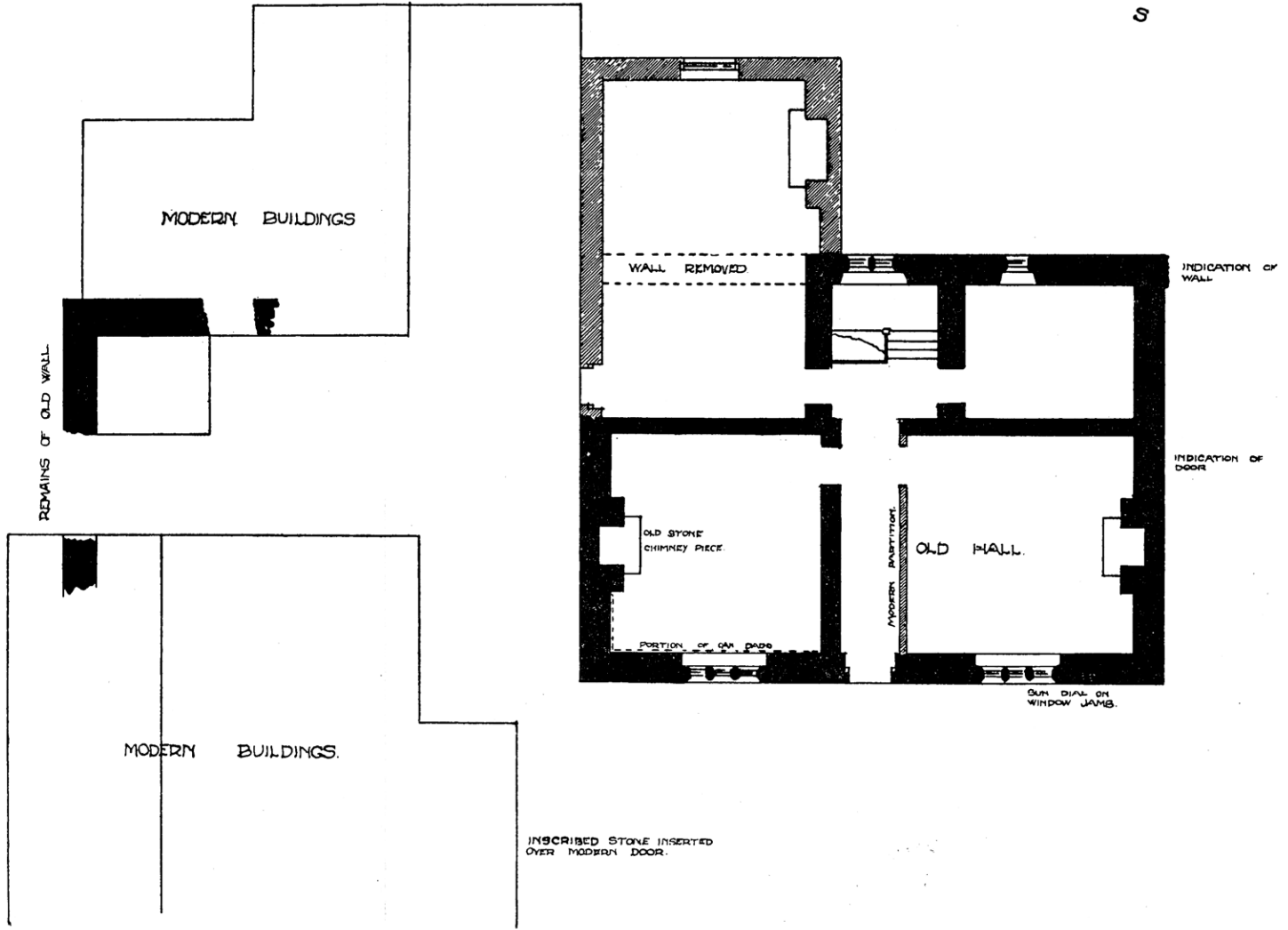
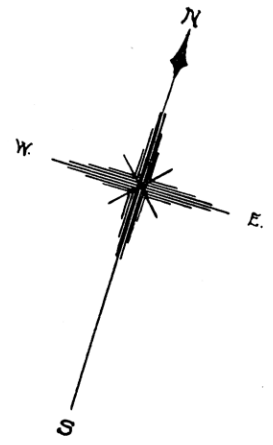
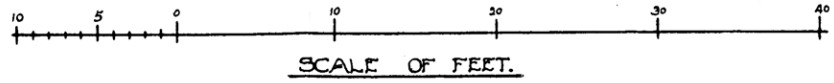


HEWTHWAITE HALL. COCKERMOUTH.



TO FACE P. 163.

ART. X.—*Hewthwaite Hall, Cockermouth.* By J. H. MARTINDALE, F.R.I.B.A.

*Read at the Site, July 8th, 1910.*

I FIND even in modern times two ways of spelling and also pronouncing the name—viz., Hewthwaite and Huthwaite. Reference to documents also gives several, for the site is ancient, and without doubt gave the name to the family which appears very early in the reign of Henry III. as de Hothwaite. In the Pipe Rolls (Ex. series, vol. xii.) of the 11th and 12th Henry III. (1228-1229) the sheriff accounts for a rent of 6s. from the monks of Holm Cultram for the farm of Howthwaite. According to Hutchinson, the manor was held by homage, providing a witnessman, and rendering a pair of gilt spurs at Easter annually. In the 40th of Henry III. (1255) a Thomas de Huthwaite (Ex. series, vol. xx.), probably in orders, gave his moiety of Brigham Church to Isabel, Countess of Albemarle, and in the 8th Edward I. (1280) Gilbert de Huthwaite seems to have held the moiety again. The will of a Gilbert de Hothwayte (hardly the same) is proved in 1361 both at Carlisle and Richmond, and he seems to have been buried at Cockermouth. The will of a John de Huthwaite is proved in 1369, and he mentions his brothers Gilbert and Thomas, and is probably buried at Plumbland. There is another will of a William de Huthwaite in 1275, and he mentions his sister Ellen. A Thomas de Huthwaite was prior of Carlisle about the middle of the fifteenth century (1460), preceding Prior Gondibour. After a possession of some 300 years the male line seems to have failed in the sixteenth century, when the heiress married a Swinburn, about 1589.

The Swinburns are a Northumbrian family, and

whether this John Swinburn came through the Percies, who had been at Cockermonth Castle for 150 years, or was a Cumbrian from Bewcastle is not clear, but he evidently found the proverbial "grey mare" the better horse, and took up his residence on his wife's estate. From the Swinburns the property passed (I think by inheritance) to the ancestors of the present owner, Colonel Green Thompson.

During the long possession of some 300 years the de Huthwaites were a family of some importance, and their home would correspond to their social position and the character and type of the period. We might therefore expect some sort of a pele tower and wings, but I am afraid very little, if any, of the original house is visible. Modern cement roughcast, a very excellent protection against our north-country storms, is equally effectual against examination and the prying of inquisitive antiquaries. There are walls above ground on the west side of the present house indicating a tower or block of buildings about 25 feet from north to south, and possibly 30 feet east to west. The quoins or angles are not very clear. The centre block or present house is some 45 feet in front, and there are again indications of foundations on the east side; that buildings existed on this side is proved by door openings now obscured by roughcast in the gable wall. The centre part was no doubt rebuilt or remodelled by the first Swinburns, as stated on the panel over the front door. It consisted on the ground floor of a hall about 20 feet by 15 feet 2 inches, with a small parlour to the left 14 feet 8 inches by 15 feet 2 inches, and kitchen, stairs, and offices in the rear, the whole having a depth from north to south of some 30 feet. The kitchen has been extended, and its original size is not quite clear.

In the south elevation, on the ground floor, are two mullioned windows of three lights, one on each side of the entrance. The lights have arched heads and no transom; they have heavy label moulds, with plain shields



*Photo. by Mrs. Dyson.*

HEWTHWAITE HALL.

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on the terminals. Those to the hall window have been renewed, and possibly one of the original ones remains built in the face of wall on the opposite side of the road. It has a grotesque face upon a shield, and, if it is not from the hall window, clearly indicates a window of a similar character having been removed. You will notice a sundial on the jamb of the hall window.

The upstairs windows are two-light with transom, later in date and inferior in character. The building has been reroofed, and the walls raised. I am told there was originally a stone cornice or eaves course.

The stone work of the front door is peculiar, and in my opinion is made up to some extent of fragments from other places. Several of the mouldings do not mitre, or bear any relation to each other; some portions have quite an ecclesiastical appearance, and this brings to mind the fact that Prior de Huthwaite of Carlisle (1460), near the end of the male line, is reputed to have erected the new bishop's throne, which was destroyed in 1727, and other work in the Cathedral. The inscription is "John Swynburn Esquire and Elizabeth his wife did make cost of this work in the days of their life ano dom 1583. ano Reg 25." The armorial bearings are not clear, but seem to me to have some connection with the Percy arms.

On the west and north side are two small windows of two lights, with mouldings of a slightly later section; the original stanchion bars remain at least in one. The head or sill of a similar window is built up in the west side of the barn, again proving that certain domestic buildings have been taken down.

On the north side is a fine two-light window of the Tudor period in its original position, and partly built over by the kitchen wing. The lights have arched heads with five cusps, a square transom with battlements on the outside.

In the interior of the building, the parlour to left of the entrance contains a very plain stone mantel, and a portion

of the oak panelled dado. The staircase is of oak, with well turned balusters and plain handrail. There are some remains of the square framed oak panelling of the spandril, and the old batten doors with wooden latches. One or two of the windows retain the old lead lights, but most of them have been fitted with modern wood casements and frames.

From the present state of the garden and the erection of modern farm buildings, it is impossible to indicate which has been the original outline and arrangement of the entrance. The house stands back from the present road some 80 feet, but this road is a comparatively modern one, and the house would originally stand in a park. The old road lies to the south. Among other fragments which may be noticed about the farm buildings, there is an inscribed stone built in over the door to the stable bearing this inscription :—" This stone is erected in gratitude to Wilfrid Grisdale Esq., by whose will Joshua Lucock Esq. got this allotment 1779 (or 4 ?)."

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