


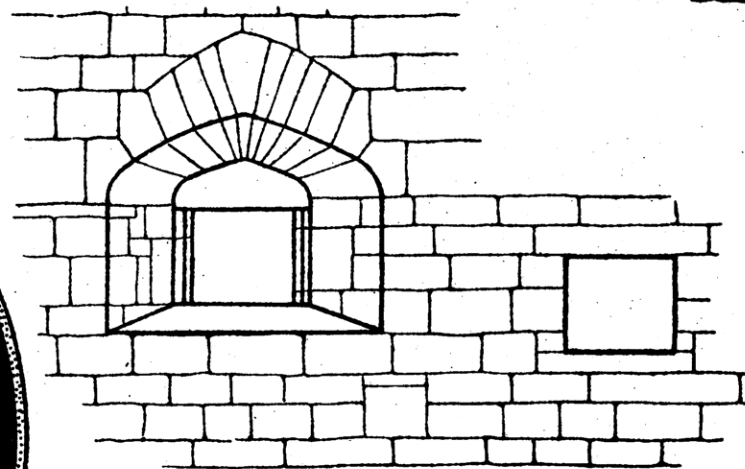
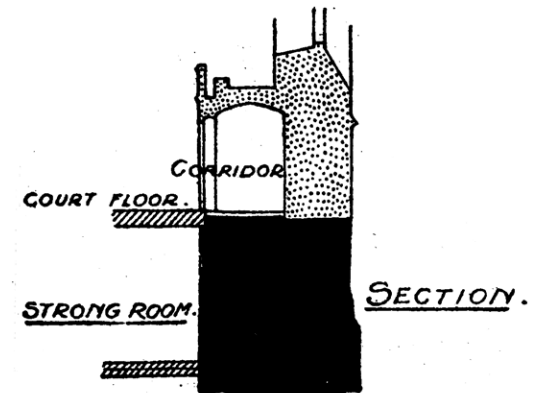
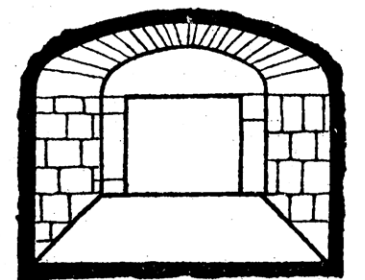


THE NISI PRIUS COURT HOUSE. CARLISLE.

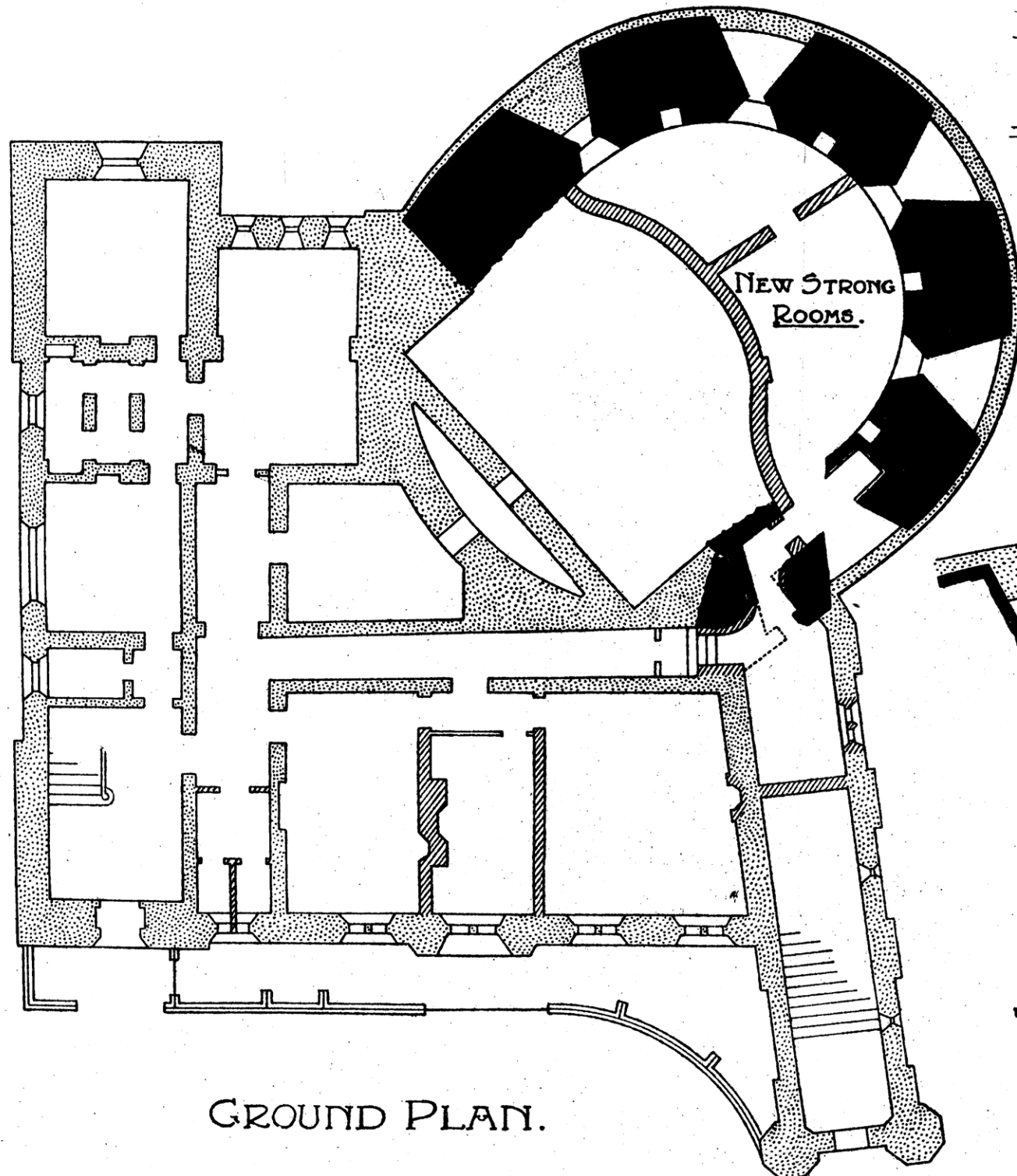
-  CITADEL WALLS.
-  SMIRKE'S DO.
-  RECENT ADDITIONS.



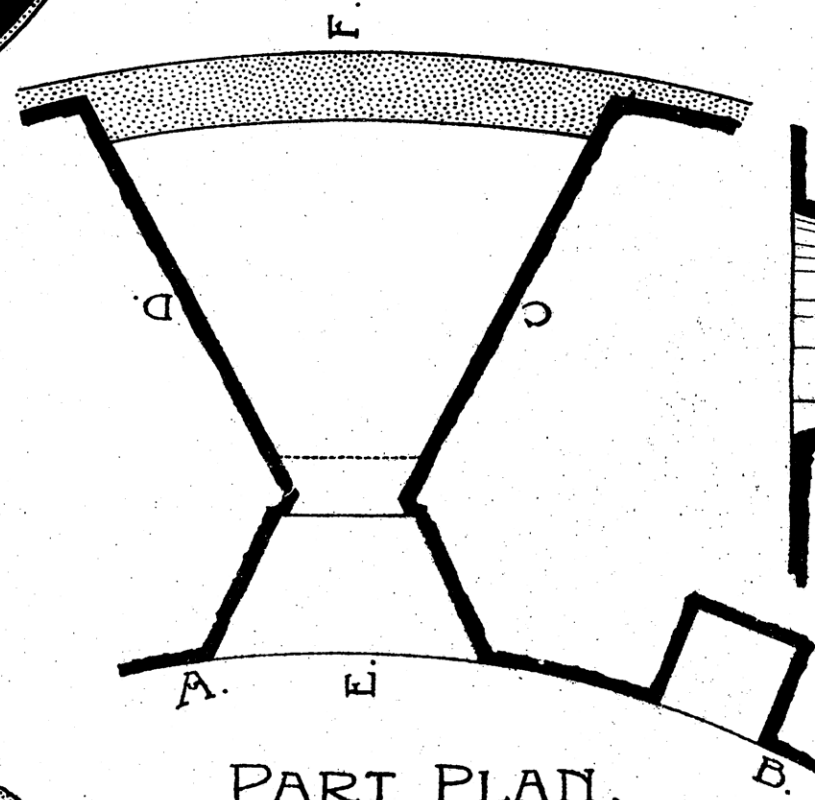
INTERNAL ELEVATION A.B.



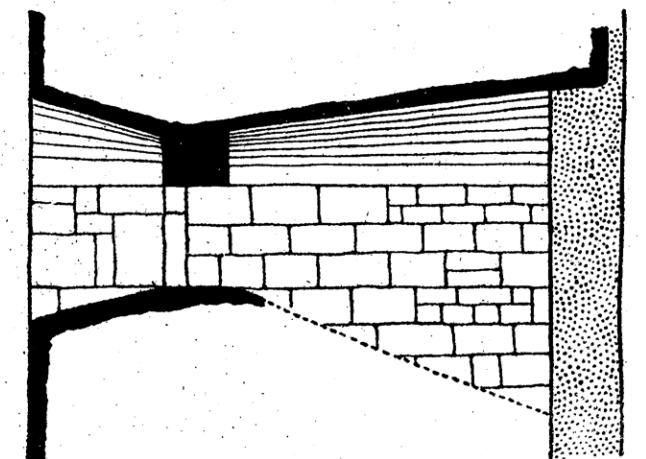
C.D.



GROUND PLAN.



PART PLAN.



SECTION E.F.

SCALE FOR GENERAL PLAN.
0 10 20 30

SCALE FOR DETAILS.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

E. Dale Oliver - J.R.I.B.A.
April 1915. Carlisle

ART. V.—*The Citadel, Carlisle.* By GEORGE DALE OLIVER,
F.R.I.B.A.

Read at Carlisle, April 23rd, 1915.

THE new strong rooms which have recently been constructed at the Nisi Prius Court House, Carlisle, have been entirely formed out of space under the existing Court Room floor which was previously not utilized, the endeavour in providing these rooms—which are now available for the storage of County Muniments—being to interfere as little as possible with the external appearance of the buildings. The space they occupy was solid earth and building débris, having been filled in probably at the time of Smirke's building; and consequent upon its removal, the interesting work now before us has been opened out.

The intention shewn upon my original drawings for these strong rooms has not been fully carried out, as the discovery of what are undoubtedly the walls of the old Citadel led to a modification of the plans so as to enable these old walls to remain untouched, leaving all openings and the walling internally as they existed in times past.

The Court Houses contain many massive walls, those of the circular towers being about six feet thick at the corridor level; and whilst it was expected that the walls below this level would increase in thickness, it was not anticipated that they would be found to be about double the thickness of the tower walls referred to. The work of excavation soon shewed, however, that a portion of the space under the Court Room floor assumed to be "filled in" was partly foundation walling of enormous thickness; in forming the entrance to the strong rooms it was necessary to pierce a portion of the old walling and whilst this

was in progress the significance of the thickness of the old walling unfolded itself (see section on the Plan). This was not apparent at first, owing to the embrasure or opening having been partially destroyed at an earlier date by the formation of a ventilating duct through it to the heating apparatus.

The embrasures now opened out and visible from the new strong rooms are five in number. The openings are equally spaced around the walls, the daylight opening in each being rectangular, about 2 feet square, set back 3 feet from the inner face of the wall, the full thickness of which is 12 feet, including the modern stone facing.

It will be seen on referring to the detail drawing of these embrasures that the openings are splayed inside and outside both in plan and section. The actual stones of the outer cills are not *in situ*, the sloping line of the cills, however, is indicated on the jamb stones. Holes exist on the jambs inside for door hangings and fastenings, so that the openings could be closed from the inside at the line of the small rectangular openings.

One of the arches—the northernmost—has shewn signs of failure and it was probably built up at the time of Smirke's addition. Rectangular recesses, 2 feet 3 inches wide, 2 feet high and about 2 feet deep, had been formed in the wall midway between each of the embrasures. It has been suggested that behind these openings guns were mounted and that the rectangular recesses were used for shot-lockers.

According to tradition the Court Houses are supposed to have been built upon the foundations of old buildings and the work now uncovered verifies this supposition, and also the correctness of the view drawn by E. Nutter and published by Thurnam, Carlisle, and Ackerman, London, 1835.* This shews the two Citadel Towers with

* This engraving has been recently reproduced in J. F. Curwen's *Castles and Towers* (vol. xiii. of our Extra Series), facing p. 115.

a screen wall and a projecting rectangular building between. The correctness of this view has been doubted, as the building seen from the outside to-day shews no sign of these openings, but this is accounted for by Smirke's rebuilding having covered the face of the remaining walls of the old Citadel with a thin veneer of stone.

The present Court Houses were designed by Robert Smirke, junr., R.A., and built for the Magistrates of the Quarter Sessions at a cost, it is said, of £100,000. They were used for the Assizes in 1811 but their internal decorations were not finished until about 10 years later.

In 1807 an Act of Parliament was passed under the title :—

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1807.

To enable his Majesty to grant the City Walls of the City of Carlisle and certain grounds adjoining thereto to the Justices of the Peace for the County of Cumberland for building Courts of Justice for the said County and for other purposes relating thereto.

At this date the Citadel must have fallen very much into decay and a recent examination of part of the face of the old wall underneath the thin facing wall put on by Smirke shews that the surface had crumbled away. It may now be safely assumed that Nutter's view, already referred to, gives a correct representation of the building as it existed prior to the building of the Court Houses. In explanation of the sketches, Nutter says, in conclusion,

Like the walls & gates they were found to be useless when the minds of men were snatched from their state of comparative barbarism and the softening influence of religion had reached to the utmost part of the kingdom. When these sketches were taken a great change had passed over them. For many years they had been filled with earth and on the top of each was a garden, pleasing emblems of the blessings of peace wherein grew the choicest flowers, as if rejoicing at the change which had come over the mind of man when he could convert buildings which were fashioned for war into nurseries of peaceful and healthful amusement.

Jefferson gives a more exact account of the building as follows :—

The Citadel was situated at the south-east angle of the City near the English gate and consisted of two immense circular towers one hundred and seventy feet apart from one another, but united by a strong curtain wall, on the inner side of which, pointing towards the Market Place was, besides some other buildings, a half moon battery, commanding the principal street of the City. The structure formed a last resource to the inhabitants in case the City and Castle were taken and from it they could fire upon the enemy who had gained possession of their streets. It was situated as far as possible from the chief point of danger and was surrounded on the outside by a deep ditch. Of the two towers, that on the west was strictly circular but the eastern one was oval shaped, its largest diameter being 76 feet and its shortest 64 feet. This tower with new battlements and windows and some few other alterations remains at present substantially the same as formerly: the western tower was razed to the ground and entirely rebuilt on the same site in its present form.

The Citadel is said originally to have been built by William Rufus, but being in a state of ruin and decay, it was re-edified in the sixteenth century by Henry VIII. and was repaired and enlarged by subsequent Monarchs. Some of the apartments in the Citadel, such as the great hall, the buttery and the boulting house, are particularly specified in the MS. account of its dilapidations and military stores, taken in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and preserved in the British Museum. The entrance to the City from the south by the English gate was then on the south-west, passing over the site of the gaol, not in a line with but at right angles with English Street; the road between the two towers in its present line was formed in 1804 by making a breach in the curtain wall and cutting through the connecting buildings. About that time a garden flourished on the roof of each of the towers and blooming flowers—emblems of peace—shed their fragrance and opened their beauties where once the bristling cannon frowned upon the foe and belched forth fumes of sulphur and the stroke of death.

Nicolson and Burn's account (published 1777) is as follows, the particular interest of it being that it incorporates part of the schedule of dilapidations already re-

ferred to as having been taken in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and preserved in the British Museum :—

It is said that King Henry VIII. built the Citadel of Carlisle. However, be that as it may, it is certain both that and the rest of the fortifications were greatly gone to decay in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as appears by the following return to a Commission of Inquiry for that purpose viz :—

Certificate of the decays of the Castle, town & Citadel of Carlisle by Walter Strykland, Richard Lowther, John Lamplugh, Anthony Barwick, Alan Bellingham, and Thomas Denton Esquires, appointed Commissioners of the same, 12 June, 1563

Decays within the Citadel :—

First, The great round tower, at the east end of the fort of the Citadel, being paved with stone and sand upon the lead roof, was thereby so overcharged, as that a great part thereof is fallen to the ground, and is very needful to be repaired, for that it is the principal of that fort, and standeth upon the most danger of the town.

Item, There be two houses within the said fort, called the buttery & boulting house, standing within the rampire wall, the roofs & timber whereof are fallen to the ground, by means of the like being overcharged with earth, so as the same are both unserviceable.

Item, It is needful to have a platform upon the old gatehouse tower, being a requisite place of service.

Item, Another platform were needful upon the half round tower towards the town.

Item, There is the glass of a great window in the hall of the said fort utterly decayed, by means of a great thunder and hailstones.

Schedule of ordnance, artillery, and munition in the Citadel :—
Sagars * 2, fawcons 4, of brass; dismounted, double basses 3, single basses 8, small serpentines 2, fowlers 2, murderers 2; all unfurnished. Harquebuses 9, not serviceable. Half-haggs 14, decayed and past service. Morispicks 40, not good. Corned

* *Sagar* or *saker*, cannon smaller than a demi-culverin. *Falcon*, a light cannon. *Base*, the smallest kind of cannon. *Serpentine*, a kind of cannon. *Fowler*, a light cannon. *Murderer*, a small cannon or mortar. *Harquebus*, the early type of portable gun. *Half-hagg* or *hake*, small-sized hackbut or harquebus. *Morispick*, Moorish pike. *Corned* powder, granulated (*New English Dictionary*).

powder, two demi-barrels; whereof four of the grained sort. Bows of ewe 20, not good. Arrows, 26 sheafs; in decay. Sagar shot of iron 50. (From the Cotton MSS. in the British Museum).

In pursuance of this report the queen caused many considerable repairs to be made, and supplies to be furnished of artillery and ammunition. (N. & B. ii., 231-234).

Another account from the Survey of Carlisle, 1684 (these *Transactions*, O.S., xiii., 189) shews that the old walls must have been used as a quarry for other repairs :—

For takeing downe Stones out of the Cittadell, and for Leading them, and for Lime Sand and all other Materialls necessary for the Said worke £9-10-0.

Accounts of the building have also been written by R. S. Ferguson in his *History of Cumberland*, pp. 244-5; and by J. F. Curwen in *Castles and Towers*, pp. 115-117.