

ART. XII.—*A Description of Scales Hall.* By F. HUDLESTON.

Read at the site, September 10th, 1931.

SOMETIME during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Peter Brougham of Blackhall married Anne, daughter and heiress of John Southaik of Scales Hall, and since that time up to a few months ago, when Mr. and Mrs. Hewetson purchased the property, the Brougham family were the owners of it.

There does not seem to have been anything resembling a Pele tower as at Hardrigg; the earliest work is the two-storied Tudor building which forms the nucleus of Scales Hall as we now see it. At either end of this Tudor work there are two-storied buildings of the time of Charles II, when Henry Brougham (son of Thomas Brougham and his wife Mary Fleming of Skirwith) "added greatly to Scales Hall," and he probably inserted the present entrance door to the Tudor building; which is just like the door on our right hand leading to the western portion of the 17th century addition made by Henry Brougham.

Various modifications of Henry Brougham's work have been made at various times, and you will notice that several of the two-light 17th century windows have had their centre mullion removed for the purpose of inserting convenient but unsightly sash window frames, while in quite recent times the eastern half of the Tudor building has been cruelly disfigured by the insertion of plain sash windows.

Firstly let us consider the Tudor building. You enter it by the 17th century doorway to which I have referred, and find yourself in a delightful little hall which has an



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unusually effective oak ceiling, a couple of windows of true Tudor work—although the lead lights have given place to plate glass—and a huge fireplace archway, which I am inclined to regard as a later addition, because there are two other arched fireplaces like it in the ground floor of the western 17th century block, and moreover there is a buttress outside the Tudor south wall to resist the thrust of the arch, and this buttress is not coeval with the original wall, for it is not bonded into it.

The 17th century block on our left hand is erected against the east end of the Tudor building, and it has the usual features of Charles II's time, i.e. the ground floor rooms were offices of some kind with a cellar below ground level, while the first floor consists of one big and important room, 25 feet long, which had five large windows namely three in the eastern wall and one in the northern and southern walls respectively. Many of the openings of these fine windows have been blocked up—as you will see when we walk round to the garden front—and a partition now divides the large entertaining room into two bedrooms, in one of which you will find the masonry of the original fireplace that has been blocked up. In order to get up to this room Henry Brougham demolished a little of the east end of the north wall of the Tudor building and inserted a Carolean stairway in the smaller of the two gable-ended fronts before you.

The south face of the house, as you will see in a few minutes makes a very effective picture. The low Tudor building has two of its original windows still undisturbed in the western portion, but the eastern half of it has been much pulled about. The 17th century addition on the west has the kitchen in its ground floor, with two large arched fireplaces to which I have already referred, and the upper floor has a large four-light window to balance the big eight-light window of the eastern block. The ground floor of this 17th century western block has an

Elizabethan two-light window, and it is possible that there was some building here that Henry Brougham incorporated when he put up the Carolean work. It is not at all improbable that the three big arched fireplaces were part of some addition built between the time of the Tudor building and that of Henry Brougham's work in Charles II's time.

Behind us you will see the remains of the wall which enclosed the 17th century courtyard. It has an effective entrance gateway with a small chamber above it, but although the three-light window of this chamber is of Elizabethan type, the finials on the walls show it to be part of the 17th century addition, and I myself think the window has been brought here from some earlier building.

The building now used as the farm stable which closes in the western side of the courtyard is of some period between the Tudor hall and the 17th century building, the upper windows are undoubtedly old, but the lower ones are insertions of the 17th century, and match the other 17th century work which you see all round you.

There is a lamentable absence of stone inscriptions at Scales Hall, and what little is left to us is hardly legible. You will see some letters and figures on the label over the window of the small room above the entrance gate, but you will find it difficult to decipher them. You will also find a door head built into the west face of the modern barn, bearing the date 1591 and a couple of shields which are weathered away beyond my capacity of discernment, and you will find inside the farmyard an oldish arch built into a newish wall, which has on it "J.B. 1724." This I take it, is the John Brougham who pulled down High-head Castle and re-built it in Italian style for his nephew Henry Richmond Brougham, whose wife—they say—declined even to enter the place when Henry Richmond brought her to his house after their honeymoon.

The Brougham family seem to have deserted Scales Hall for Brougham Hall in 1750 or thereabouts, and since then it has been transformed into one of the best farm-houses of the district, tenanted for some considerable number of years by Mr. Hewetson and his fore-elders.

-: JOHNBYS HALL-GROUND FLOOR:-

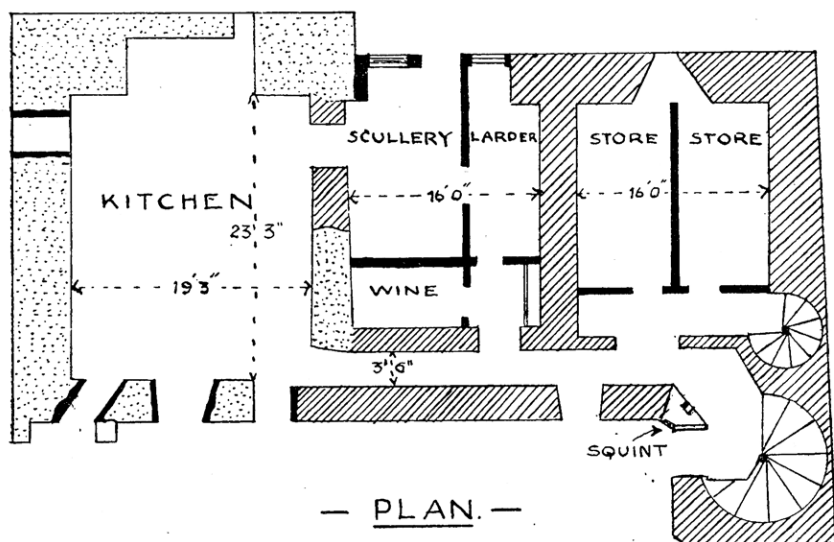
SCALE $\frac{1}{16}$ " OF AN INCH=ONE FOOT:

- REFERENCE :-

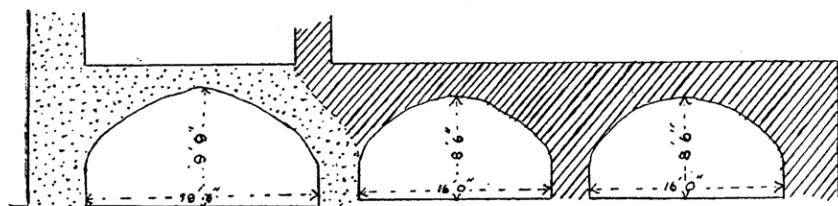
DOTTED :- 12th or 13th CENTURY.

HATCHED: 16th CENTURY.

SOLID: MODERN WORK.



— PLAN. —



— SECTION. —