

OLD BUILDING, KING'S ARMS LANE, CARLISLE;  
South front, looking east.

*Phot. by Clifford S. Vero.*

TO FACE P. 121.

ART. VII.—*The Old Building in King's Arms Lane, Carlisle.* By J. H. MARTINDALE, F.R.I.B.A.

*Read at the site April 24th, 1914.*

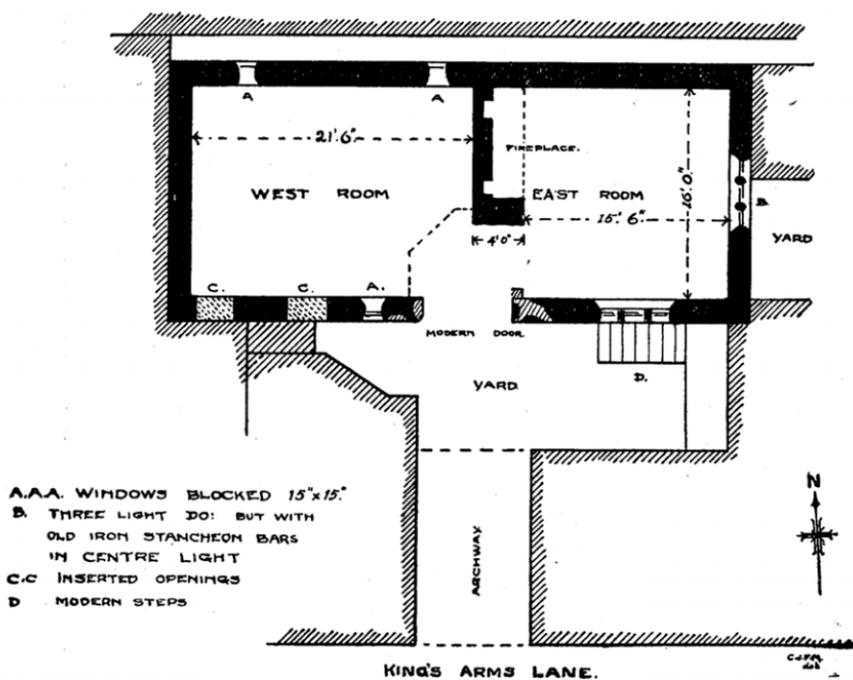
THIS building has been described as "Edwardian" in date, but I venture to think the term is a little too early. Edwardian is usually the name given to buildings dating from the end of the thirteenth or the beginning of the fourteenth century, say the reigns of the first three Edwards. I should give the date as not earlier than the beginning of the sixteenth century. Our member, Mr. Hough, has very kindly looked into the old deeds for information for me, but has been unable to find anything very definite. A younger member of the family of the present owners says "His uncle told him the King used to live there," and that the "Mayor and Guilds met in the Hall"; also that "The Judges used to lodge there." I don't think it likely that any King ever stayed there, and find no record of the Corporation or any of the Guilds meeting there; as to the Judges, they may have occupied the house to the north (now used by Messrs. Thurnam) in the eighteenth century.

The plan from Lord Dartmouth's collection, given in "Royal Charters" of Carlisle, 1684, does not specially show or indicate the building. Hutchinson's plan of 1794 shows the block with a garden at the east end. This plan also shows Peascod's Lane (to the north of the site) as a cul-de-sac *ending in this garden*. This may give a clue to further research, under the name of "Peascod." The site is probably part of the precincts of the Grey Friary which lay near the "South-East corner of Carlisle," and east side of English Street, the church and buildings of which were erected about 1289. The building has no

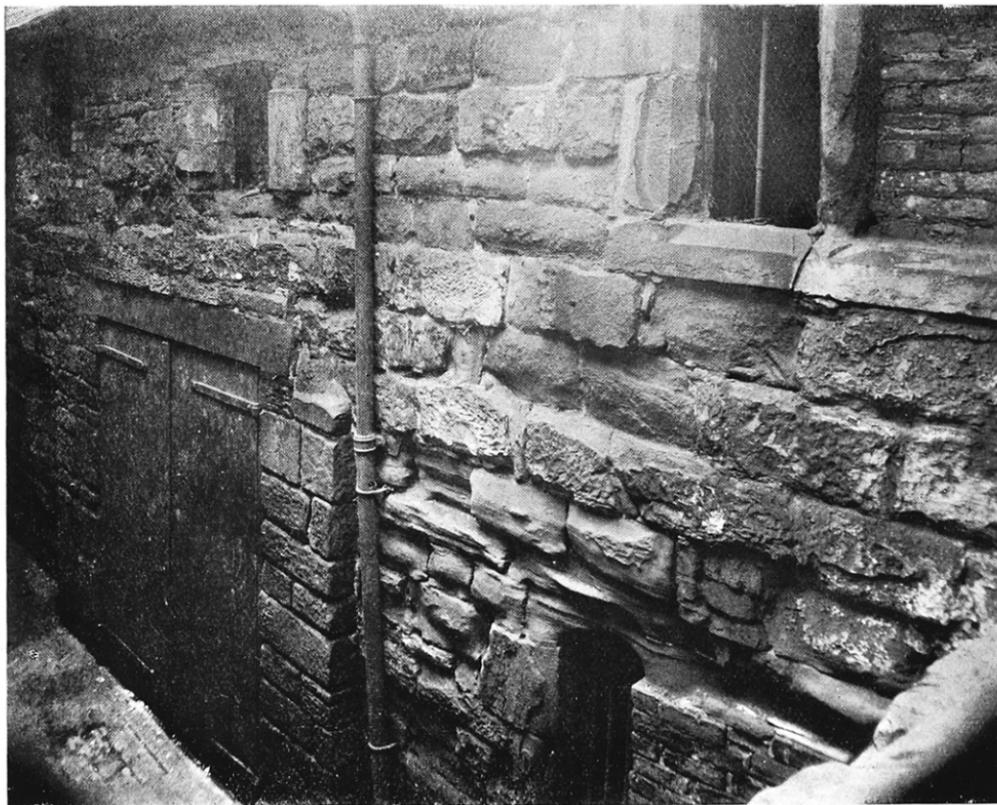
special characteristics of monastic work, but possibly may have been partially built from remains.

The building is an oblong block, the external dimensions being 44 feet by 20 feet, with the major axis running east and west. It is almost entirely covered by modern buildings, the only external walls visible being the south front

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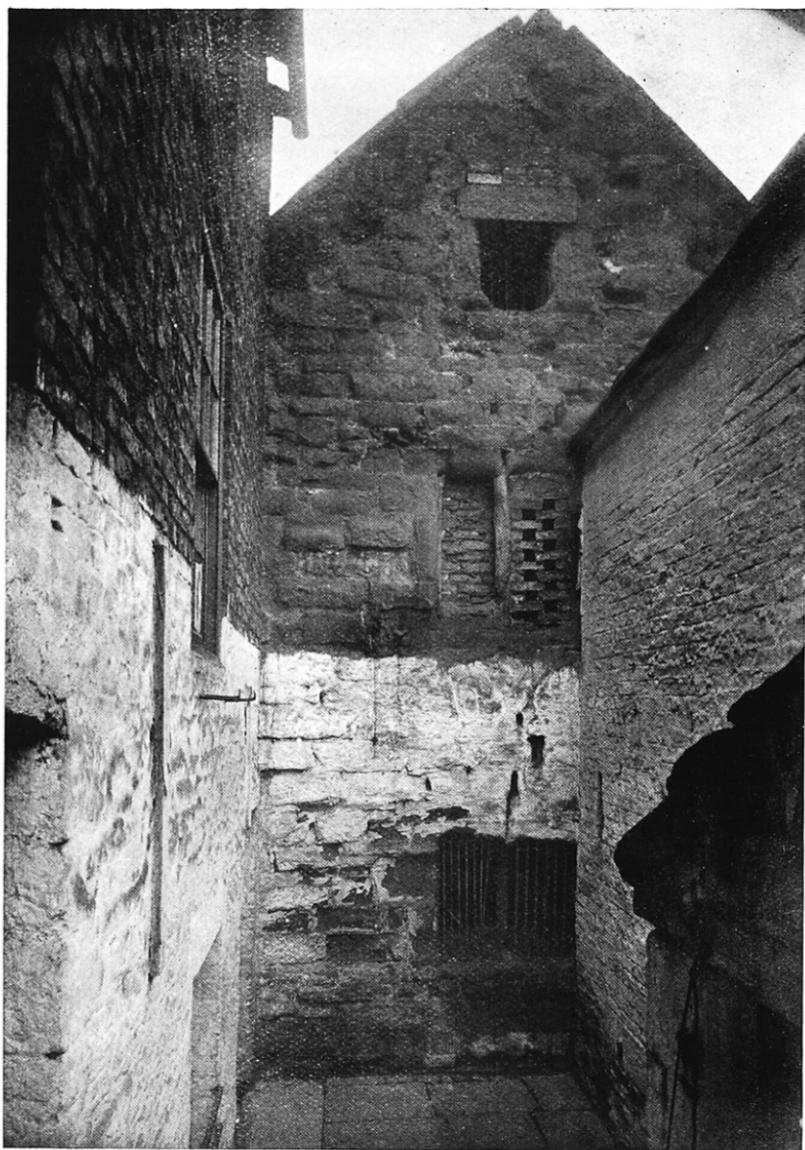
and part of the east. The external walls are of very fine blocked and coursed ashlar, though now very much decayed, about 22 inches thick. The roof is a single span east and west. The internal area is divided by a cross wall some 4 feet thick, not quite in the centre, the smaller room being at the east end. The cross wall contained the fire-place, and the division of the rooms seems to



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South front, looking west.

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OLD BUILDING, KING'S ARMS LANE, CARLISLE;  
East end.

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have been the same on all floors. There have been ground and first floors, with possibly an attic or loft over in the apex of the roof. The main entrance was probably about the present large door on the south side, and the staircase most probably adjoined it, as there are indications of a return wall from the central thick wall on this side. A small window on the first floor also seems to confirm this position for the stairs. The level of the present ground floor is probably very little above the original floor. The east room, clearly the living-room, from the remains of the large open fire-place with two lockers, one on each side, was lighted by two three-light mullion windows, one in the centre of the east end and one in the south wall ; both are very much decayed, but their size can easily be determined, the lights being 14 inches wide and 30 inches high. In the centre light of the east window, the six stanchions remain *in situ*. The stone corbels to carry the joists of the upper floors remain in the east wall, and give the level of the underside of the joists as about 6 feet 3 inches above the present floor. The fireplace arch has been ruthlessly broken away and the chimney left open to the roof ; but apparently the arch had a span of some 8 feet.

This room is 16 feet by 15 feet 6 inches exclusive of the fire-place recess. The west room, some 21 feet 6 inches by 16 feet, has no trace of any fire-place, and the windows have apparently been very small squares 15 inches by 15 inches. The one in the south wall, the only one which can be examined, is the most interesting ; it is in a fair state of preservation and retains its iron stanchion. The other two are in the north wall, built up and inaccessible. The stone corbels to carry the upper floor remain in the great centre wall. It is impossible to examine the upper part of the structure, the wood floors having been removed, and the present joists, without any boards, are about 18 inches above the original level. Returning to the outside,

on the south wall the eaves are about 14 feet 9 inches above the ground line ; a very fine two-light, early sixteenth century window remains, giving light to the upper room at the east end ; it has a typical hood or label mould with returned and mitred ends. Portions of a similar window remain in the west room. In the east or gable end, above the window to light the ground floor referred to before, portions of a three-light window remain, the lights being about 15 inches wide and 36 inches high—that is, rather larger than those below. There is also indication of a loop in the gable which may have given light to any space or room in the roof. I should be inclined to put the date of this building as early sixteenth century from the character of the windows, but the external walls, being only 22 inches thick, seem to indicate a rather later date. The building is so built up on all sides and the internal work so completely gutted that it is very difficult indeed clearly to understand the arrangements.

The roofs have been reslated, but part of the old stone coping remains on the east gable. The old chimney stack above the roof has been removed entirely.