

HCP 153

Wall 1, West Garden, Georgian House, Hampton Court Palace

Archaeological Building Recording



Accession Code: 3910039

NGR: TQ 15730 68546

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SUMMARY

The curatorial department of Historic Royal Palaces undertook a programme of recording on a wall located in the west garden, Georgian House at Hampton Court Palace.

The wall divides two sets of steps; one descending down to the basement and the other ascending up to the western side entrance into Georgian House. The wall was photographed, drawn to scale, and examined for detail. The bricks were compared to the Hampton Court Brick typology. The wall as it stands comprises of two main sections of differing date and a number of mortar repairs. The wall is in a poor state of conservation and requires a programme of repair and rebuilding.



1 Location and Scope of work

- 1.1 This archaeological project has been undertaken by the Curatorial department of Historic Royal Palaces in advance of works to repair and rebuild the wall located between the basement steps and the western entrance steps of Georgian House.
- 1.2 The building recording took place on 15th September 2016 and was carried out by Assistant Curator, Alexandra Stevenson.
- 1.3 The works were centred on National Grid Reference TQ 15730 68546
- 1.4 The site code assigned to this project was HCP 153. An accession number, 3910039, was allocated encompassing the digital and paper archives associated with this project.

2 Aims and Methodology

Aims

- 2.1 The purpose of the recording on wall 1 was to:
- Record the wall prior to repair and rebuilding works.
 - Identify and date where possible with reference to the HCP Brick Typology all the construction phases.
 - Provide a brief summary of the history and phasing of the wall
 - Create an ordered archive of the work for deposition with Historic Royal Palaces

Methodology

- 2.2 The building recording comprised of three main elements: a photographic, drawn and written survey.
- 2.3 The photographic survey consisted of general photographs both with and without scales as well as close-ups on specific details.
- 2.4 The drawn survey consisted of creating two elevation drawings displaying the east and west faces as well as a profile drawing, each at a scale of 1:20 on archival stable permatrace with key features and phases of brick work indicated.
- 2.5 The descriptive survey complemented the photographic and drawn surveys adding further information and descriptive details.
- 2.6 It is not expected that this project will be the subject of any further work in terms of publication, however, the assessment report will be logged on the Oasis website and HRP will submit a summary of the project for the annual round-up section of London Archaeologist.

The Hampton Court Brick Typology

- 2.7 The Brick Typology was developed by Daphne Ford in the 1980's and was created using a mixture of visual inspection and archive evidence. The archive includes phased plans and elevation drawings of the majority of the Palace. However, the typology has limitations in that it does not cover many elements outside the main Palace building; therefore there are no phased elevations for the wall associated with the outbuilding on the western side of the Georgian House. As such, this building recording exercise was a useful investigation contributing to the overall record of the buildings and structures located outside the main Palace structure.

3 Historical Background

- 3.1 Hampton Court Palace is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Surrey No. 83). The palace, gardens and grounds form an archaeological and historical site of national importance. The historical background to Hampton Court is well documented and will not be repeated here.



Brief historical background of the site

- 3.2 The Georgian House is located on the north side of Hampton Court Palace half-way along Tennis Court Lane and was built as a separate kitchen block in 1717 for George I. It provided food for the king's table and was known as the German Kitchen staffed principally by cooks and servants that had been brought back from to England in 1715. By the 1780's the building was converted into dwellings and later became the residence of the superintendent of the palace. Today there remain two occupied apartments on the western side and one large apartment on the eastern side.
- 3.3 There is no accurate record showing when the outbuildings and entrance on the western side of the Georgian House were created, however, according to evidence from historic plans it appears sometime before 1852. According to Daphne Ford's phased plan they were probably created in 1841 when the west wing was divided up into two apartments for the 'watchman' and 'labourer'.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 3.4 In 2014 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation and watching brief (HCP 122) associated with the Georgian House underpinning. The evaluation consisted of 2 trenches located in the south-west corner of the building and revealed a number of voids beneath the foundations and evidence of subsidence leading to a programme of underpinning and a watching a brief. A number of 13th-16th century deposits were recorded and may be related the fills of the northern arm of an earlier medieval moat. These soft fills are likely to be the reason that the foundations of the south west corner of the Georgian House were supported by 96 Timber piles, which were dated using dendrochronology to the Wolsey (1514-1528).
- 3.5 A building recording project was also undertaken by Historic Royal Palaces in 2015 (HCP 132) as part of a further phase of essential repairs to the Georgian House roof and chimneys as well as stabilising repairs to the ground and first floor windows.

4 Archaeological Description

- 4.1 The wall recorded in the west garden of Georgian House divides two sets of steps: one set leading up to the western side entrance of Georgian House and the other leading down towards the cellar door.
- 4.2 The wall is 1.6 m long with a maximum height of 2.26 m on the northern end from the bottom of the basement. It measures 0.42 m in width. There are 20 courses of brick arranged in either header or stretcher bond, though the arrangement appears quite random. The wall is stepped and is capped with Yorkstone though the capping on the northern section of wall has been removed as part of the conservation works.
- 4.3 The lowest portion of the west-facing elevation presents a section of nine courses of bricks that differ in type to those that comprise the main body of the wall (Fig. 8). Individual bricks measure 180-200 mm x 100 mm x 50 mm on average and are reddish orange to brown in colour with some variation. The surface texture is uneven with a rough and weathered appearance. On the east-facing elevation only one or two individual bricks match this variety (see Fig. 7). The surface of the bricks also appears to be stained black. The bonding material is composed of a gritty creamy white cementitious lime mortar and the pointing is flush though has significantly weathered. This lower portion of the west face would appear to represent an earlier build if not the original build of this partition wall. Comparing the bricks to Daphne Ford's Brick Typology proved difficult. However, in terms of colour and bonding material they are comparable to type T (dated to between the 19th and 20th centuries), but the bricks in this wall are slightly smaller with a rougher surface.
- 4.4 The main body of the structure is composed of a type of stock brick that varies greatly in colour from light brown or ochre to yellow with pinkish tones (Fig. 4), individually measuring 230 mm x 65 mm x 100 mm on average. The bricks have an uneven texture and are porous in places with large holes forming, especially in the upper portion of the wall, with quite rough arrises. The bonding material is composed of white to grey gritty cement mortar with frequent inclusions of small gravels. The pointing is flush though in places not very neat. There is clear evidence of mortar repairs, the most recent of which



appear at the base of the west-facing elevation. These particular bricks are comparable to type W in Daphne Ford's brick typology dating to the 19th - 20th century.

- 4.5 The eastern elevation also comprises of tiles present intermittently in pairs at the base of the wall (Fig.7). Presumably this was to ensure that the brick courses were level. No tiles were observed on the western elevation.
- 4.6 The overall condition of the wall is poor and has separated from the south-facing cellar wall at the top. The mortar has in places weathered away particularly at the southern end, which is probably due to the fact it bears the brunt of the elements. There is a small crack visible in the brick work on the west-face from the 16th course zigzagging down to the 12th course of bricks. The structure has clearly undergone a number of repairs with sections having been re-mortared a number of times. The repair at the base where the wall meets the stairs on the west face is particularly crude and appears to have been done within the last 20 years or so.

5 **Conclusion**

- 5.1 The wall comprises of two phases of build. The earliest fabric appears to be 19th century in date and is formed of red face bricks possibly of Type T brickwork on the lower section of the west-facing elevation. This section of wall is the original build of the wall, which according to phased plans of the Palace (Fig. 9) dates sometime before 1852, and was possibly constructed around 1841 when the west wing of the Georgian House was sub-divided into two apartments, presumably requiring a supplementary entrance on the western side of the building.
- 5.2 The second phase of build comprises of a mix of reddish orange to pale rose and light brown stock bricks that are comparable to Type W brick work dating to between the 19th and 20th century.

6 **Archive, Artefacts, and Ecofacts**

- 6.1 The paper archive consists of HRP Pro Forma record sheets including a photographic and drawing register, various maps and plans and scale drawings on permatrace including two elevation drawings and one profile drawing.
- 6.2 The physical, digital and paper archives will be deposited according to the HRP *Deposition of Archaeological Excavation Archives Guidelines 2015*.
- 6.3 No archaeological material was uncovered during the recording process.





Figure 1: Location of building recording project, extract from Google Earth.

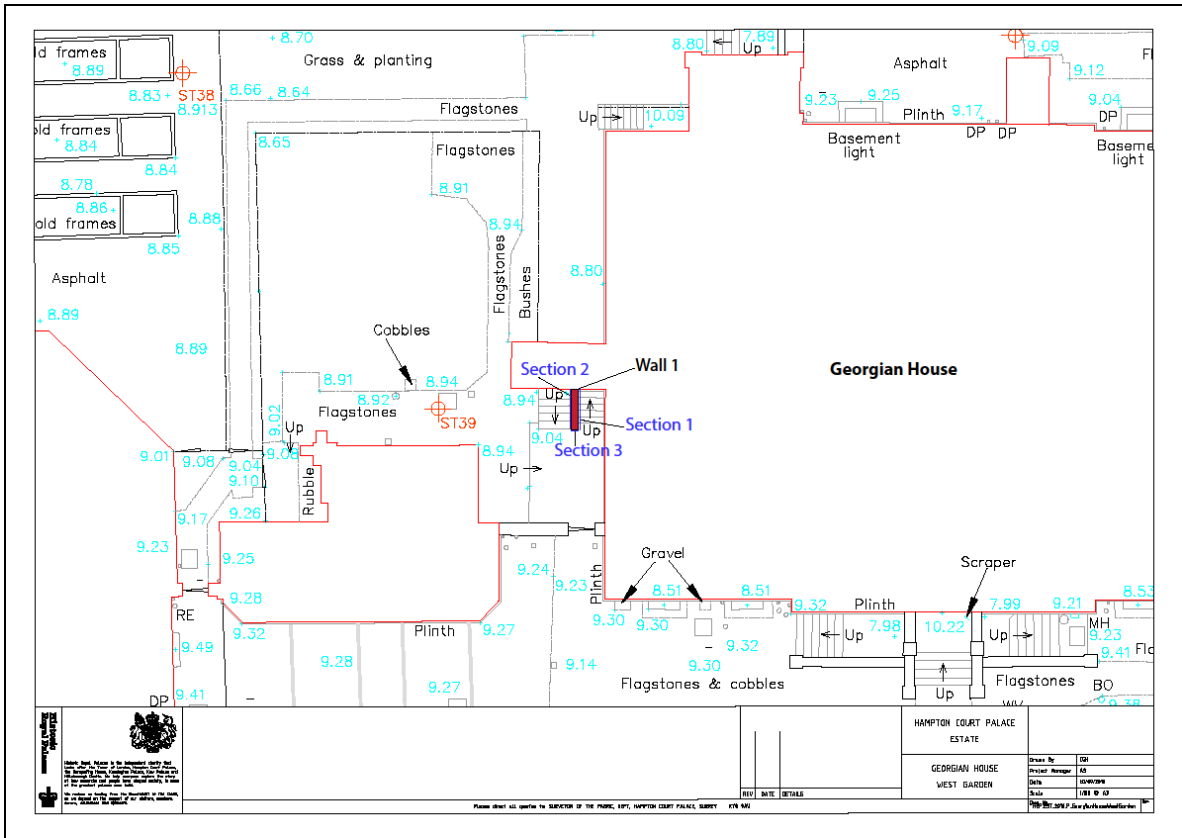


Figure 2: Location of wall 1





Figure 3: General view of wall 1 in profile



Figure 4: West-facing elevation of wall 1



Figure 5: Detail showing the two phases of brick



Figure 6: Crude mortar repairs where wall 1 meets the south face of the shed wall

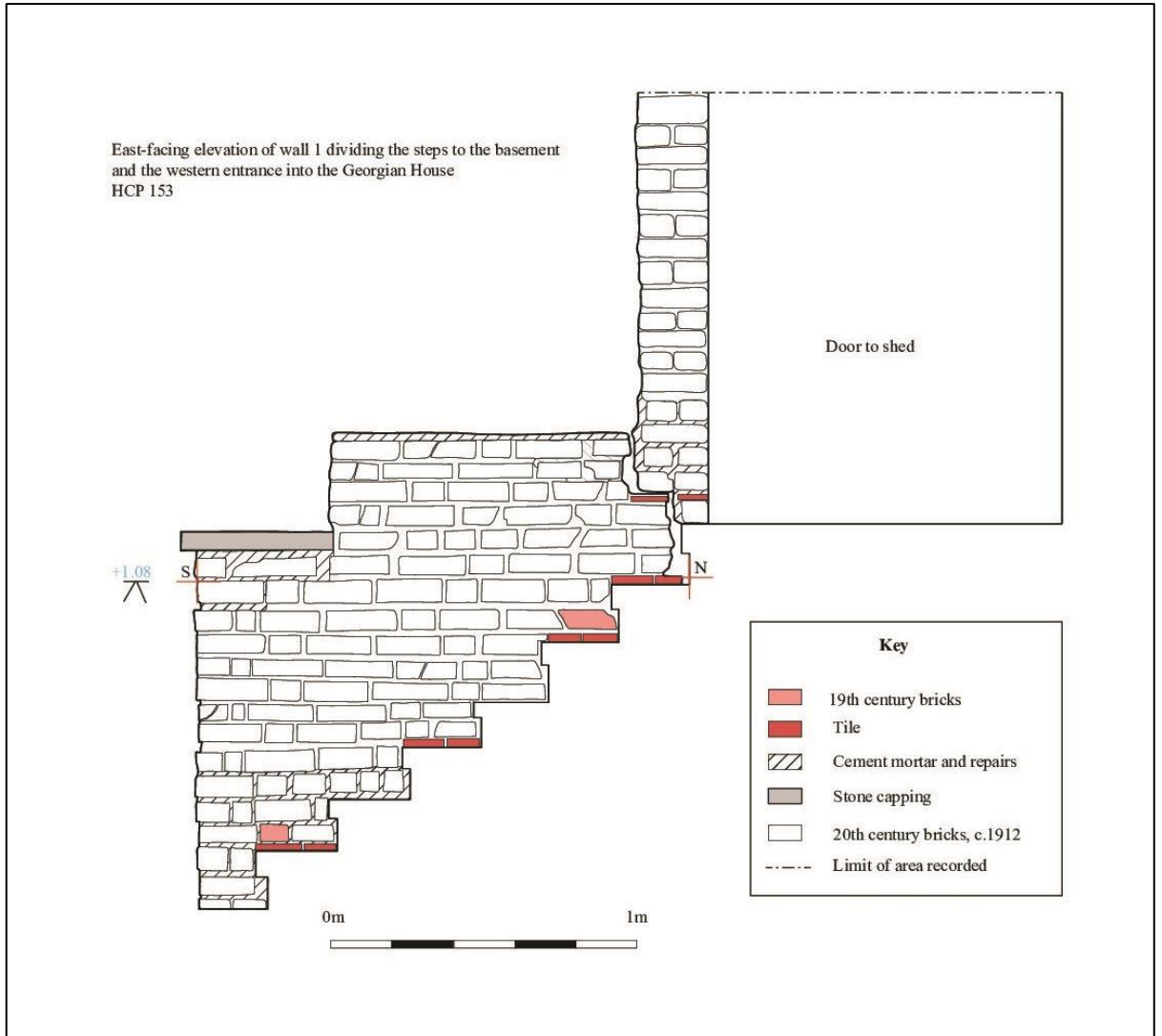


Figure 7: East-facing elevation of wall 1



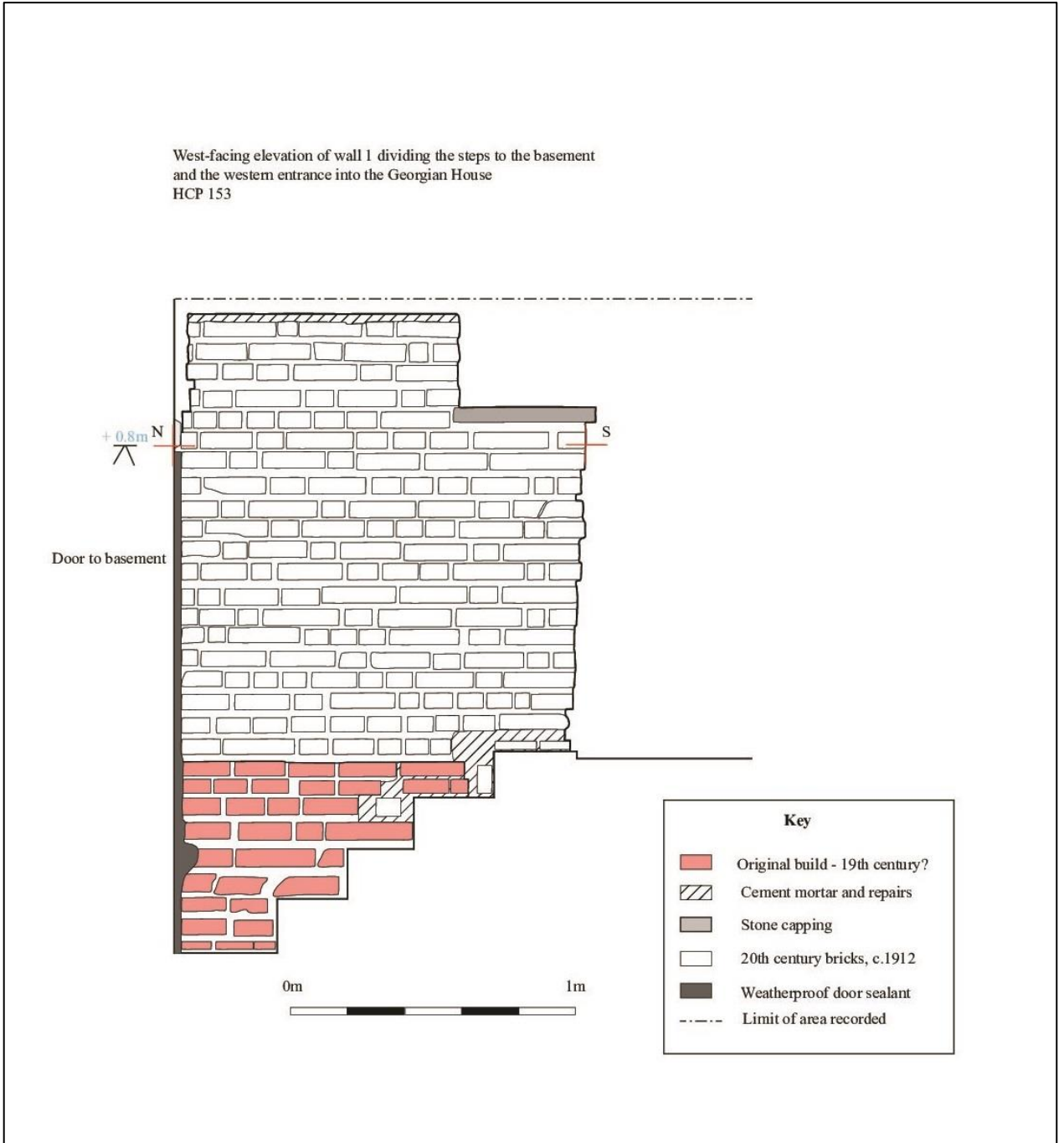


Figure 8: West-facing elevation of wall 1



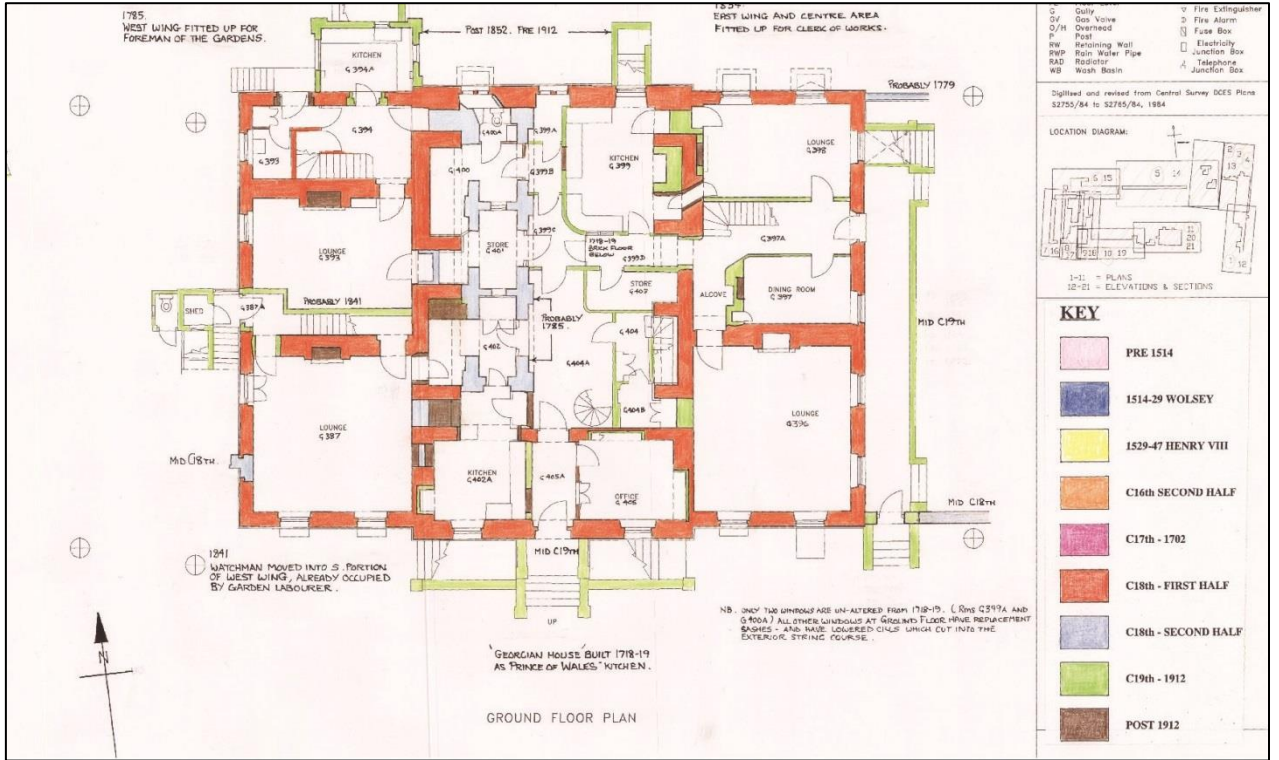


Figure 9: Extract from Daphne Ford's phase plan of the Georgian House



Appendix I

Photographic Register

Jpeg	Description	View	Scale
1	General view of wall 1 in profile	N	1m
2	General view of wall 1 in profile	N	1m
3	General view of wall 1 in profile	N	1m
4	General view of wall 1 in profile	N	1m
5	Oblique view of west-facing elevation	NE	1m
6	Oblique view of west-facing elevation	NE	1m
7	Detail of upper section of west-facing elevation	E	N/A
8	West-facing elevation	NE	1m
9	View looking down the stairs from the west entrance to Georgian House	S	1m
10	View looking down the stairs from the west entrance to Georgian House	S	1m
11	View in plan of wall 1	W	0.5m
12	Detail of east-facing elevation where it meets the shed wall	W	N/A
13	Detail of east-facing elevation where it meets the shed wall	W	0.5m
14	Detail of southern end of wall 1; east-facing elevation	W	0.5m
15	General view of west front of Georgian House	E	N/A
16	View of lower half of west-facing elevation	NE	N/A
17	Detail showing earlier build of wall; west-facing elevation	E	N/A
18	Detail showing earlier build of wall; west-facing elevation	E	0.5m



Bibliography and References

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OASIS ID: historic9-265171

Project details

Project name	Wall 1, West Garden, Georgian House
Short description of the project	The curatorial department of Historic Royal Palaces undertook a programme of recording on a wall located within the west garden belonging to Georgian House at Hampton Court Palace. The wall divides two sets of steps: one set leading to the western side entrance of Georgian House and the other leading down towards the cellar door. The wall is 1.6m long with a maximum height of 1.58m from the ground surface. It measures 0.42m in width. Twenty courses of brick are arranged in either header or stretcher bond. The wall is capped with Yorkstone. As it currently stands the wall comprises of two types of brick, the earliest type probably representing the original build of the wall, which according to phased plans of the Palace dates sometime before 1852, and possibly around 1841 when the west wing of the Georgian House was subdivided into two accommodations that would in all likelihood have required a supplementary entrance on this western side of the building. The main body of the wall comprises of a variety of brick that varies in colour and is associated with a rebuild probably dating to the early 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 15-09-2016 End: 16-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HCP 153 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	KITCHEN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Recorded Observation""
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON RICHMOND UPON THAMES RICHMOND UPON THAMES Georgian Kitchen, Hampton Court Palace
Postcode	KT8 9AU

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

11/10/2016



Study area 0 Square metres
 Site coordinates TQ 15730 68546 51.40361652222 -0.336021823488 51 24 13 N 000 20 09 W
 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Historic Royal Palaces
 Project brief originator Historic Royal Palaces
 Project design originator Historic Royal Palaces
 Project director/manager David McDonough
 Project supervisor Alexandra Stevenson

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Physical Archive recipient Historic Royal Palaces
 Digital Archive recipient Historic Royal Palaces
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Text", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
 Paper Archive recipient Historic Royal Palaces
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Plan", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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