

level give on to short squinch passages leading to the chamber over the entry porch and the prior's inner chamber; the latter overcame the disadvantage of passing through the chapel, the former replaced the destroyed vice to the lower tower chamber over which a second story was now added linked to the upper great chamber in a manner similar to that below. The chapel was again improved by the enlargement of the windows in the N. wall.

As a result of these alterations the prior was now provided with a suite of chambers at the upper end of the hall comparable to the state rooms of many secular establishments. The north lower great chamber is the focus of this plan and forms what might be called an inner hall or audience chamber from which lead off his own inner chamber and a single-chamber guest lodging (the lower tower chamber). Above, the upper great chamber would form the outer part and the upper tower chamber the inner part of a two-chamber lodging of primary importance.

The work of the 15th century finally welded the whole of the western range into an unmistakable house devoted to the needs of the prior as a great landlord rather than as the head of the community which was the source of his authority. This was achieved by constructing a gallery at first-floor level connecting the prior's inner chamber with the south great guest chamber. The gallery followed, on its W. side, the foundations of the earlier wall enclosing the court. It was entered from the prior's inner chamber by a door, now blocked, in the SW. angle. At this level it was timber-framed, but where it passed in front of the porch it widened out to give a large square space over a new outer porch, forming, in effect, a large bay window glazed on three sides. The northern opening from here to the gallery is blocked, the southern obscured by a modern stack; the present openings in the E. wall are modern also. At its S. end the gallery crossed the stairway to the hall to enter the guest chamber. The purpose of this gallery was, perhaps, that of a waiting room where important visitors could gather or be interviewed away from the more public space available in the hall. The development is closely paralleled at Westminster, where a similar gallery was built, rather earlier, to connect the upper and lower chamber blocks. At Wenlock priory two stages of galleries were introduced, perhaps for the same purpose.

In addition to the creation of the gallery improvements were made to the inner chamber and chapel, where the dividing partition was replaced by a pair of fireplaces serving both rooms, the chamber fireplace being replaced by the present bay window. Again, the contemporary planning at the Wenlock prior's house, where the chapel had been replaced by an oratory attached to a study, suggests that the priors of Castle Acre, too, used this room as a study rather than as a chapel, decorating its ceiling with such secular emblems as the Tudor rose.

It is possible that, at this time, the stairs down to the outer parlour were blocked or disused, for another, more spacious, stair was provided giving direct communication between the lower great chamber and the cloister.

The importance of the Castle Acre prior's house is, first, that it displays on one site all the vital changes that took place in the medieval domestic plan from the 12th to the 15th century; and second, that it demonstrates the extent to which a dwelling within the monastic context followed, from an early date, normal secular practice.

P. A. FAULKNER

PILLOW MOUNDS

The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) is compiling a list of 'pillow mounds'. These are flat-topped, rectangular on plan and surrounded by a ditch, a typical example being about 60 ft. by 30 ft. by 2 ft. high. Their purpose is unknown, but see *Antiquity*, 1 (1927), 432, and O.G.S. Crawford and A. Keiller, *Wessex from the Air* (1928), pp. 18-24. The Commission (at Rougemont, Manor Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire) would be most grateful for further information about such mounds and for particulars of unpublished examples known to members.