

It is clear that the word 'mill' frequently meant the machinery in a building and not the building itself. This is proved by the descriptions of several mills as being under one roof in the 16th century. Earlier documents, although not so specific, clearly mean this in some cases. A 'water and fulling mill' in Lincolnshire in 1264-5, which was worth £11 1s,<sup>49</sup> and the two water-mills and fulling-mill at Enfield, which were charged with a rent of thirty-five quarters of corn in 1349-50,<sup>50</sup> are examples. Certainly the case concerning the twenty-three mills cited at the beginning of this note only makes sense if it is interpreted as meaning twenty-three sets of machinery in an unspecified number of buildings. It is perhaps significant that it was stones and stocks, not the mill buildings which were chargeable for tithe. It seems reasonable to question whether Domesday 'mills' should always be regarded as separate buildings.

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### A CONTRACTION IN PLAN AT ARCHBISHOP CHICHELE'S COLLEGE IN HIGHAM FERRERS, NORTHANTS. (PL. XXXI, C; FIG. 73).

Among the several foundations of Henry Chichele, archbishop of Canterbury, was a chantry college for eight fellows or chaplains (one to be master), four clerks and six choristers at his birthplace, Higham Ferrers, for which he received licence in 1422.<sup>51</sup> The buildings were described as partly built in 1425, and the college functioned from then until it was surrendered to the crown in 1542. After various vicissitudes the fragmentary ruins were acquired by the Duchy of Lancaster in 1911, who carried out quite extensive alterations to the reduced S. range in order to convert it into cottages. At that time the site was a working farm and so it remained until 1948, when the Duchy placed the college in the care of the Ministry of Works, who since then have gradually been clearing the site of later accretions.

An Elizabethan view of Higham Ferrers showing the college almost intact exists,<sup>52</sup> and there is the early 18th-century print by the brothers Bucks<sup>53</sup> that shows far more extensive remains than survive today. Contemporary with this view is a description by Bridges,<sup>53</sup> and there is a more detailed description in the *Victoria County History*. The present remains consist of the E. part of the S. range, some of the E. wall of the E. range on the College Street frontage including the gateway (PL. XXXI, c), and a ruinous gable end standing to the north-west. The plan was frankly confusing, particularly the position of the N. range; my wife and I spent three weeks with three workmen in October and November, 1966, in attempting to elucidate it.

Fortunately the stone wall-footings had not been robbed and were always just below the turf. Except at the W. end of the S. range, where the jambs of a doorway survived, there were no interruptions in the 3¼ ft.-wide footings which evidently represented a continuous foundation below threshold level. The long ranges clearly had been subdivided by timber-framed partitions as in the contemporary Oxford or Cambridge colleges. The W. wall of the E. range with the jambs of the inner gate arch and the junction of this wall with the S. wall of the N. range came to light in a day or two, and so within quite a short time the plan became clear (FIG. 73, based on a thorough new survey by M. F. Kilburn).

<sup>49</sup> The mill was at 'Calsewat': *Cal. Inq. Misc.*, I, p. 238.

<sup>50</sup> *Cal. Inq. P.M.*, Edward III, ix, p. 311.

<sup>51</sup> A history, description, plan, photographs, and reproduction of the Bucks' view, will be found in *V.C.H., Northants.*, II, 177-79. See also Norman Groome, *Borough of Higham Ferrers, The College* (n.d.). There is a small chartulary, mainly of foundation documents, in the British Museum (Stowe 931). Two visitations have been published by the Lincs. Record Society. For colleges generally and in this area in particular see A. Hamilton Thompson, *The English Clergy and their Organisation in the later Middle Ages* (Oxford, 1947), pp. 152 *et seq.* (I owe this reference to Mr. R. Gilyard-Beer.)

<sup>52</sup> Reproduced in M. W. Beresford, *History on the Ground* (London, 1957), pl. xiii.

<sup>53</sup> J. Bridges, *The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire . . .*, compiled by P. Whalley (Oxford, 1791), II, 178a.

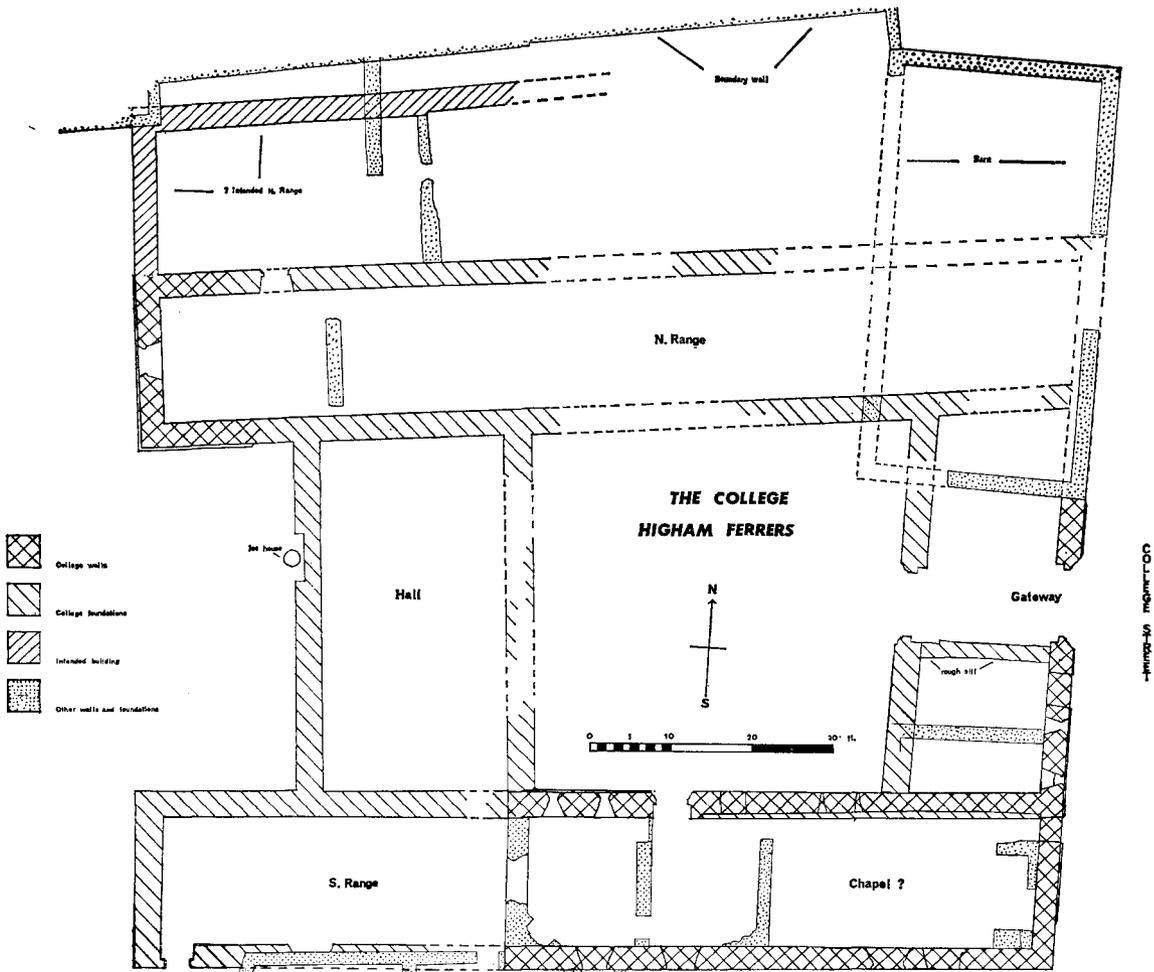


FIG. 73

HIGHAM FERRERS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
Plan of the walls and foundations of the college (pp. 255 f.)

The college consisted of two almost identical N. (119 ft. long) and S. (113 ft. long) ranges at right angles to College Street, with an E. range along the street front containing a roughly central gateway, all three ranges having an internal width of 15 feet. The W. range, which is 23 ft. broad internally, was set about 19 ft. east of the W. ends of the N. and S. ranges, and closed the fourth side to create a courtyard of irregular shape about 45 ft. square. Bridges identified this range as the hall, about which there can be no dispute. There are two very curious anomalies in the plan: the projection of the N. and S. ranges beyond the W. range to form wings and the fact that the fairly symmetrical front of the college (90 ft.) does not fill the frontage of the site (113 ft.) in which it is situated. A foundation  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft. wide emerges at the NW. corner of the N. range, runs north and then turns east to run along the edge of the plot. Its width indicates that it was intended for a building and its position strongly hints that it was the intended line of an abandoned N. range, later perhaps retained as a boundary wall (see the Bucks' view).

There is a possible explanation of the puzzling features of the plan. The original intention may have been to form a courtyard, 115 ft. square externally, on the street frontage with (following the Oxford pattern familiar to Chichele) three narrow lodgings-ranges on west, south, and east and a broad range on the north to accommodate the chapel and hall. The S. range, which is exactly the same length as the street frontage, was built first, perhaps, for temporary accommodation and containing a temporary chapel. Work began on the grander N. range, but for some reason a drastic contraction in plan had to be made. As the college was under-endowed and chronically short of money<sup>54</sup> the explanation for such a change may not be far to seek. The N. range was now reduced to the standard 15 ft. width and moved southward, while a new site was found for the hall in a broad W. range brought forward to form a smaller courtyard. As the projection of the wings corresponds exactly to the width of a range, it is fair to presume that the W. wall of the hall corresponds to the E. wall of the intended W. range. There is no special provision for a chapel, although a chantry college without a place of worship is almost a contradiction in terms, and, indeed, we know from the documents that the founder intended a chapel and that the college had one throughout its life.<sup>55</sup> Bridges, who saw the ruins early in the 18th century, when much more survived than can be seen today, identified the existing roofed E. end of the S. range as the chapel by its fenestration.<sup>56</sup> It is noteworthy therefore that by clearing plaster from the E. wall of this range the Ministry has revealed what appears to be a blocked window aperture cut into by the present large window. If the suggestion is right that a proposed large N. range was not built, it must have been necessary to find an alternative place for the chapel by the conversion of a domestic range. Assuming that Bridges's identification is right, the evidence for alteration is readily intelligible.

What I have suggested, then, is that the original intention was to build a court with one broad range to accommodate chapel and hall and three narrow lodgings-ranges, but this intention was abandoned and by contraction a plan was produced much more resembling the contemporary house than the Oxford or Cambridge type of college with its prominent chapel range.<sup>57</sup> The two projecting wings are, I think, unique in a pre-Tudor building, but on this hypothesis were created more or less accidentally.

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#### EAST LAYTON, CO. DURHAM, IN 1608: ANOTHER EARLY CARTOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF A DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE SITE (FIG. 74)

A plan of Fallowfield, Northumberland, drawn *c.* 1583 and showing the now-deserted Fallowfield as *old howses* and *foundacions*, was transcribed and commented upon in the previous volume of this journal.<sup>58</sup> This note offers a parallel treatment of a slightly later estate-plan which indicates the site of a former village in co. Durham, also abandoned by the time that the cartographer and his instruments traversed its fields in the spring of 1608.

<sup>54</sup> Groome, *op. cit.* in note 51, p. 6.

<sup>55</sup> For example the visitation of 1520 was held in the chapel, *Lincs. Rec. Soc.*, 1938, pp. 164-66.

<sup>56</sup> Bridges, *op. cit.* in note 53, p. 178a.

<sup>57</sup> Chichele was also of course founder of All Souls (1437) and had some connexion with the foundation of St. Bernard's College, subsequently St. John's. The plans of those and other colleges can be studied in the relevant R.C.H.M. volumes. Ranges of a width less than 16 to 17 ft. are almost unknown at either university. The relative position of the gateway, chapel and hall at Higham Ferrers perhaps recalls the 14th-century arrangement at Pembroke College, Cambridge, except that at Pembroke the chapel is oriented in the opposite direction because the gateway faces west.

<sup>58</sup> *Med. Archaeol.*, x (1966), 164-67, figs. 69-70. It is hoped to include a transcript and note on the 1601 plan of Whessoe, co. Durham, in the next volume of *Medieval Archaeology*.