

Divided and Galleried Hall-Houses

By ERIC R. SWAIN

THE PURPOSE of this paper is to describe a particular stage of modification of existing hall-houses effected during the period of about 1480-1660, as found in a number of houses mostly situated in SE. England. The main area is thus delineated because most of the research for this study was undertaken there. It is extremely probable that the structural changes here discussed were accepted practice in a much wider area, and that evidence supporting this will be forthcoming.

A GREAT many timber-framed hall-houses of the late 14th and 15th centuries have survived in the SE. counties, though all have suffered change, some to the extent that externally their original form is almost unrecognizable. Nearly all have at some stage been 'floored-over', i.e. a first-floor level has been built into the hall formerly open to the roof. It is a reasonable assumption that such a major adaptation would be contemporary with the insertion of a chimney-stack to channel the smoke which formerly circulated in the open hall roof. There are many such houses where the evidence supports this, but on detailed investigation a surprising number are found to embody evidence that flooring-over occupied more than one stage of modification, with the insertion of chimney-shafts taking place many years after the initial insertion of a floor over part of the hall.

Examples of this stage entailing division of the hall, intermediate between the open hall and complete flooring-over, form the subject matter of this paper. Some of these contain evidence of a gallery at first-floor level, which connected an original and existing first floor in one of the wings adjacent to the hall with an inserted floor over part only of the open hall. In each of these instances the remainder of the hall left open to the roof served as a smoke-bay or a 'cut-down' hall. Subsequently, and only after many years of use in this form, such houses have had a chimney-stack inserted. This is usually, but not always, placed in the remaining portion of the open hall or smoke-bay as latterly used. The consequent small space surrounding the new stack in the smoke-bay has then been floored over, sometimes embodying the connecting gallery, where one existed, as part of the new floor.

CATALOGUE OF RECORDED EXAMPLES

Each example is numbered for convenience of cross-reference within the text. For the sake of brevity only sufficient of the structure is described to afford general understanding, and the main emphasis is placed upon division of the hall and connected alterations.

I. PAYNE STREET FARM, CHARING, KENT (TQ 923475)

This house is remarkable in retaining much of the dividing partition and gallery in the hall. The present exterior (PL. XV, A) hardly hints at the origins of the house, which is shown nearer to its earlier form in a drawing made in 1835 (PL. XV, C). The house was probably of 'Wealden' type with a two-bay recessed open hall and jettied ends (FIG. 28), although the 1835 drawing suggests that the NE. end may not have been jettied. At some time very soon after 1835 the house was drastically repaired. Ragstone walls were substituted for framing on all exterior elevations and the NE. bay was demolished completely. However, the interior retains ample evidence of the original form and the roof is virtually unaltered except for the shortening at the NE. end. The former existence of another bay at the NE. end was proved in 1967 by excavation, which revealed mortared footings (PL. XV, B; FIG. 28).

At the NW. corner a scar on the under sides of the first-floor rafters confirms the former existence of a supporting bressumer to an end-jetty. This end of the house was apparently the service end, since doorhead and stud mortises indicating two central doorways to the service rooms can be seen in the under side of the first-floor supporting beam between the principal posts of truss A. Truss B has a tie-beam supporting a moulded crown-post (FIG. 29) which is enclosed by an inserted partition filling in the truss, originally open, over the centre of the hall. This partition survives from first-floor level to the apex of the roof. It is heavily smoke-blackened and encrusted on the SW. face, as is the whole of the roof over the hall, i.e. between trusses A and C. The reverse of the inserted partition (i.e. the NE. face) is clean and free of any discoloration from smoke (PL. XVI, A.) The original two-bay hall was first floored over in the NE. bay only, with the inserted partition sealing it off from the remainder of the open hall. Access from the new floor to the floor in the service wing at the SW. end was, however, provided by a connecting gallery at first-floor level on the N. side of the hall. This was separated from the remaining portion of the hall, or smoke-bay as it had now become, by a new wall (FIG. 28), which remains at first-floor level. It is not at present possible to prove or disprove its existence down to ground-floor level because of modern features in the house. Since that part of the lateral partition contained within the rafters of truss B extends down to the eaves, it can be supposed that the connecting gallery was ceiled over at eaves level, and the extant inserted wall of the gallery was never carried up to the rafters as in Barrow Hill House (no. 2).

It is very likely that at this stage a staircase was inserted, providing access to the first floor. The gallery space is wide enough (FIG. 28) to allow for both connecting gallery and staircase, the present flight being a replacement of the original one. The later debasement of the hall involved inserting a chimney-stack within the smoke-bay and flooring over the remaining void on the E. side of the new stack.

2. BARROW HILL HOUSE, UPPER BUSH, KENT (TQ 696668)

This house has been previously recorded¹ and was at that time known as 66, 67 and 68 Upper Bush. A further note on the building has since been

¹ E. R. Swain, 'A hall-house at Upper Bush', *Archaeol. Cantiana*, LXXIX (1964), 149-157.

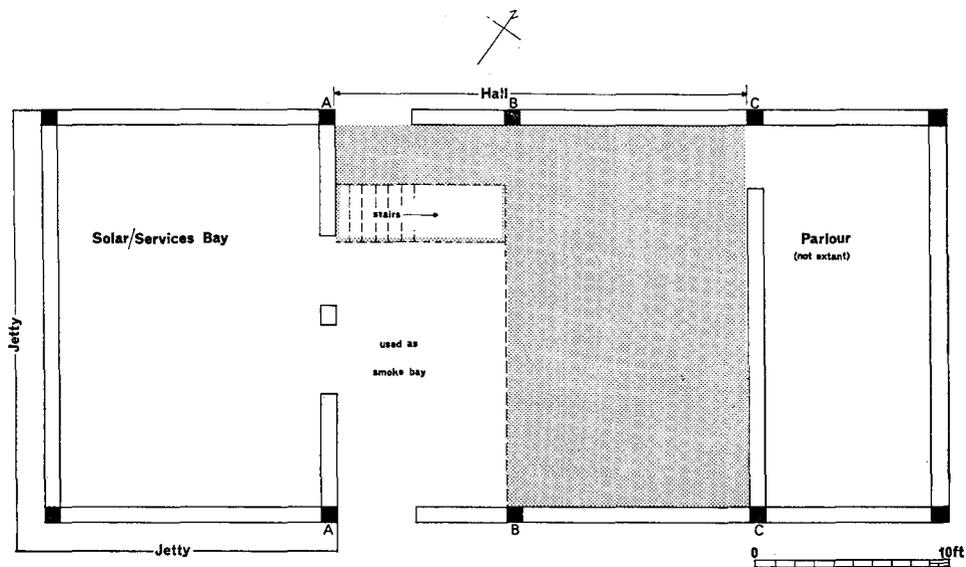


FIG. 28

PAYNE STREET FARM, CHARING, KENT (p. 128)

Reconstructed ground-plan of original building, principal posts solid, first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

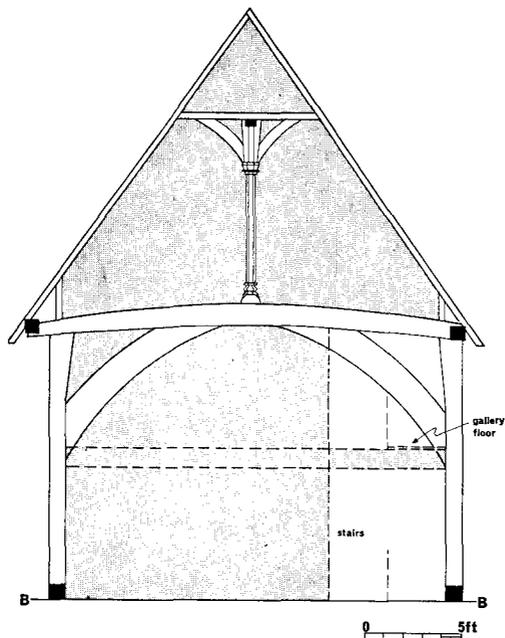


FIG. 29

PAYNE STREET FARM, CHARING, KENT (p. 128)

Open truss over hall (truss B), NE. face. Original timbers shown open, inserted floor and dividing partition of first stage of flooring-over shown by floor-joists in dotted line and stipple

published² in support of the estimated date of the original hall-house. Subsequent restoration has revealed that the W. end of the house was jettied out in the same manner as the parlour end of The Old Cottage, Broadham Green (no. 8).

It is unnecessary to consider the 17th-century extension to the house. The original building was a four-bay house erected in the 14th century. The two centre bays comprised an open hall, later modified by inserting a partition on the line of the centre truss over the hall. The W. half of the hall was floored over, whilst the E. half remained open to the roof, i.e. in use as a smoke-bay. The new floor was connected to the floor over the service rooms by a gallery along the S. side of the smoke-bay (FIG. 30). The joists of this gallery remain and are exactly similar in scantling, chamfering and finish to those of the new floor over the W. bay of the hall. Subsequently the remainder of the smoke-bay was floored over and a chimney-stack erected in the service bay.

Restoration has revealed that the gallery was separated from the smoke-bay by a partition at first-floor level. The partition was continued down to ground level (FIGS. 30-1), thus forming a passage with access to the smoke-bay by a door opening in the partition. In the roof the gallery-partition continued up to the rafters. Although this portion was missing, it could be seen where each vertical stud had been nailed to the rafter. Further, the inserted partition across the roof of the hall (PL. XVI, B, C) did not extend as far as the eaves on the S. side, as had formerly been supposed,³ but was contiguous through a right-angled turn with the gallery-partition. The traces of this angled turn were found on the remains of the partition (PL. XVI, B; FIG. 31).

The evidence of divided hall and connecting gallery differs from the other most complete example here recorded (Payne Street Farm, no. 1) in that: 1, the gallery at the latter included an internal staircase, whereas that at Barrow Hill House had no new stairway; 2, the gallery-partition at Payne Street Farm was ceiled over at eaves level, while that at Barrow Hill House continued up to the angled rafters of the roof.

The chimney-stack later inserted at Barrow Hill House was sited in the service bay, the smoke-bay then being completely floored over. This modification was contemporary with the 17th-century extension, which is also served by flues in the new stack.

3. THE OLD FARM HOUSE, DEAN BOTTOM, FAWKHAM, KENT (TQ 587687)

Originally of 'Wealden' type, this house has a recessed hall of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bays, 18 ft. in length and about $18\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide. The solar jettied wing survives, but the service wing is now missing (PL. XVII, A; FIG. 32). The hall was divided by a partition, surviving from first-floor level to the roof ridge, on the line of the main truss (B) over the hall and enclosing the moulded crown-post. The hall was partly floored over at the same time and the remaining 'half-bay' of the hall at the service

² *Archaeol. Cantiana*, LXXXI (1966), 235-9.

³ *Op. cit.* in note 1, p. 153, fig. 3, which incorrectly shows the roof-partition filling in the left-hand angle between rafter and tie-beam.

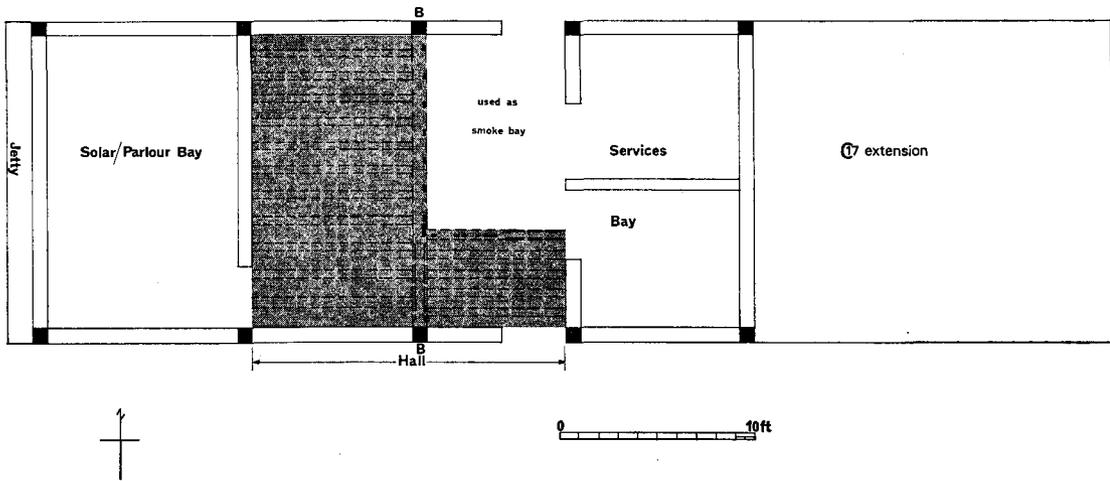


FIG. 30

BARROW HILL HOUSE, UPPER BUSH, KENT (pp. 128, 130)

Ground-plan, original posts solid, first stage of flooring-over shown by floor-joists in dotted line and stipple

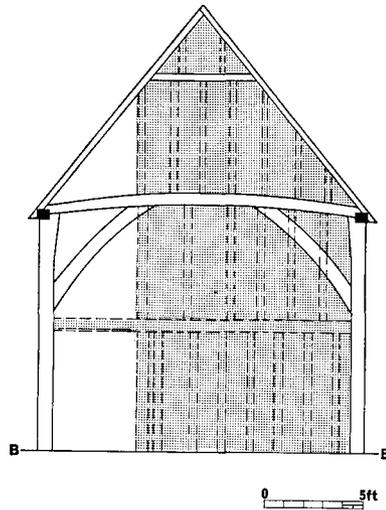


FIG. 31

BARROW HILL HOUSE, UPPER BUSH, KENT (pp. 128, 130)

Open truss over hall (truss B), E. face. Original timbers shown open, inserted floor and dividing partition of first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

end left open to the roof to act as a smoke-bay. The interior surfaces of this partition are, of course, heavily encrusted with soot, while it is clean on the reverse.

The floored-over section of the hall was connected to the floor over the service rooms (now lost). This gallery, which is $6\frac{1}{4}$ ft. wide, probably included a staircase and is separated from the remainder of the smoke-bay by an inserted wall of stud, wattle and plaster, which substantially remains (PL. XVII, B). Alterations to the interior of the house make it impossible to determine whether the

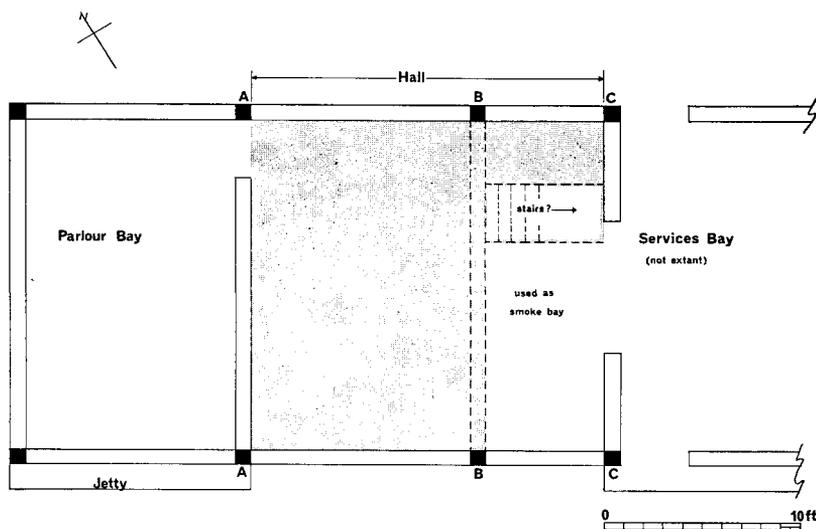


FIG. 32

THE OLD FARM HOUSE, DEAN BOTTOM, FAWKHAM, KENT (pp. 130, 132)
Reconstructed ground-plan of original building, principal posts solid, first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

gallery wall extended up to the rafters as in Barrow Hill House (no. 2) or was ceiled over at eaves level as in Payne Street Farm (no. 1). However, on the under side of the cross-beam supporting the inserted floor in truss B, mortises and a chamfer can be seen, indicating a passage below the gallery connecting the floored-over bay of the hall with the service wing at ground level. Again, it is not possible to establish whether a door led from this passage to the smoke-bay, as in Barrow Hill House (no. 2), though it is probable that the inserted partition came down to ground level. FIG. 32 shows that the 'cut-down hall' or smoke-bay thus left was only about $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 12 ft. in size. The open fire which undoubtedly burned for many years in this restricted area could only have been used for cooking. The area was presumably still open to the screens-passage by way of the usual two door openings as at Barrow Hill House (no. 2), since there is no evidence that the doorways were blocked when the hall was divided.

The smoke-bay was later nearly filled by the chimney-stack, as a result of which the inserted partitions remain largely intact.

4. TONGE CORNER, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT (TQ 938652)

This is a hall-house with an added Georgian brick front (PL. XVIII, A; FIG. 33). The hall was divided by filling in the open truss (B) in the centre of the hall, where a moulded crown-post is supported on the tie-beam. The roof between trusses A and C and the two internal ends of the hall are blackened by soot. The triangle of tie-beam and rafters in truss B has been filled with a partition which has a heavy deposit of smoke on the W. face and remains clean on the reverse side (PL. XVIII, B). The division took place after the hall had been open for a long

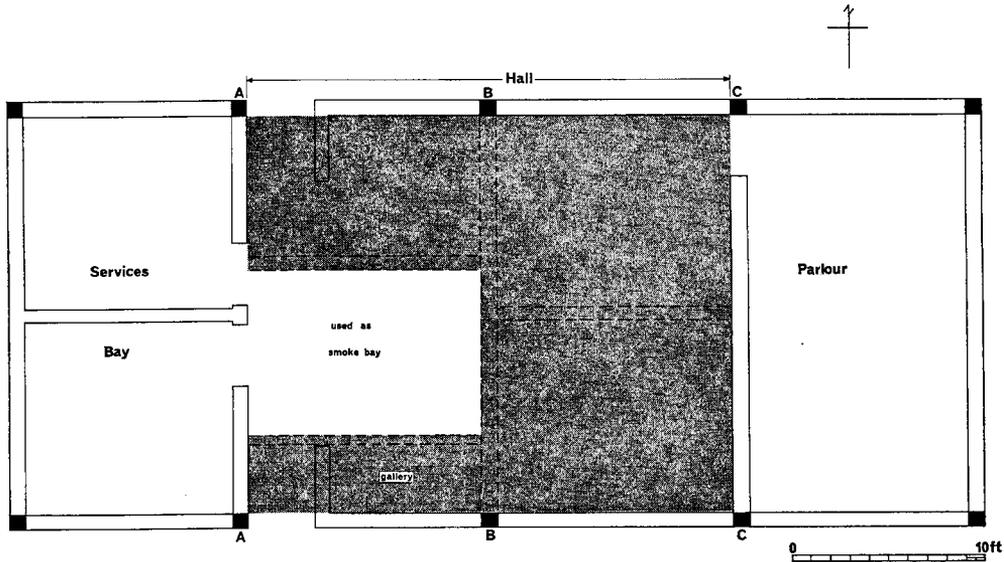


FIG. 33

TONGE CORNER, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT (p. 133 f.)

Reconstructed ground-plan of original building, principal posts solid, first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

period. At the same time the half of the hall between trusses B and C was floored over together with a small portion of the bay between A and B on the N. side. The original floor over the service rooms was connected to the new floor by a gallery on the S. side of the bay with access by means of a new doorway through the original filling of truss A at the W. end of the hall. This doorway was subsequently blocked again (PL. XVIII, c), certainly after the use of an open fire and probably at the time of insertion of the chimney-stack. At ground-floor level the bay between trusses A and B was open to its full width, for there is blackening by soot on the under side both of the gallery and of the new floor on the N. side of the bay. The latter floor was partitioned off from the smoke area at first-floor level up to the tie-beam, where it was ceiled over. At a later stage a chimney-stack was built in the smoke area and the small remaining space floored over, some of the

timbers used for this purpose being taken from the partition between the inserted floor on the N. side of the bay and the smoke area.

This example of division and gallery is so far unique in having a separate gallery and a further part of the 'smoke-bay' also floored over.

5. BRISHING COURT, NEAR MAIDSTONE, KENT (TQ 778515)

Brishing Court is substantially built and worthy of detailed examination. The building is of 'Wealden' type (PL. XIX, A; FIG. 34) with mortared and dressed ragstone footings for the ground sill. The wings are jettied at the front and sides. The screens-passage is within the service wing. There were two pairs of braces supporting the wall-plate in front of the recessed hall, but one pair is now missing. Each extant brace has a shallow ogee curve. A most unusual feature is a second 'wall-plate' or eaves-plate in the same horizontal plane as the wall-plate proper and supported about 4 in. in front of the latter by wooden brackets (PL. XIX, B; FIG. 34). This exists on all four sides of the house and supports the lower ends of the original roof rafters. There is no doubt that this second eaves-plate is part of the original house, and its sole purpose appears to be to give a greater depth to the eaves, thus carrying rainwater farther away from the walls. Thatch, by virtue of its thickness, achieves the same result, but the house was almost certainly tiled when built, and this feature is in accordance with the care and finish evident elsewhere.

The interior contains many original features together with later modifications. Mortises, and the lack of them, in the under sides of first-floor cross-beams indicate the positions of the entries to parlour and service wings (FIG. 34). Similarly the existence and position of screens to the hall are evident in truss D. Ladder access-holes are revealed in the first-floor rafters in both the parlour and service wings, each of which contains a dragon-beam facilitating front- and end-jettying. There are no mortises for a partition dividing the ground floor of the service wing into two rooms. The chamfer on the first-floor cross-beam in truss E supports the evidence of a central opening as shown by the lack of mortises for partition studs, but it is not clear whether there was one large central opening or two smaller ones divided by a central post.

The first-floor cross-beam of truss A at the 'high' (W.) end of the hall is moulded (FIG. 34). The principal posts of the main hall truss (B in FIG. 34) are simply moulded up to the braces supporting the tie-beam, which carries a moulded crown-post of simple design. The rafters are mortised and tenoned at the apex, not halved as is the usual local practice. The collars are similarly tenoned into the rafters and there is a collar-purlin. The plain crown-posts at either end of the hall are braced down to the tie-beams on which they stand and longitudinally braced up to the collar-purlin. The central moulded crown-post is braced to the purlin also, but laterally braced not to the collar above but to a diagonal strut bracing the collar down to its rafter on either side. This form of diagonal strut is also used in the trusses at each end of the hall. The scantling of the original timbers is very heavy throughout the building, and the general form of construction, together with that of the hall mouldings, indicates a date of 1380-1400.

The hall was eventually floored over for most of its length. At the point c (FIG. 34) a partition was inserted across the width of the hall completely filling the whole elevation except for a wide entry at ground-floor level to a passage connecting with the NW. end of the old screens-passage. The hall was floored over south-west of the new partition, and the NW. end of the screens was removed to give access to the new connecting passage. The area between the new partition

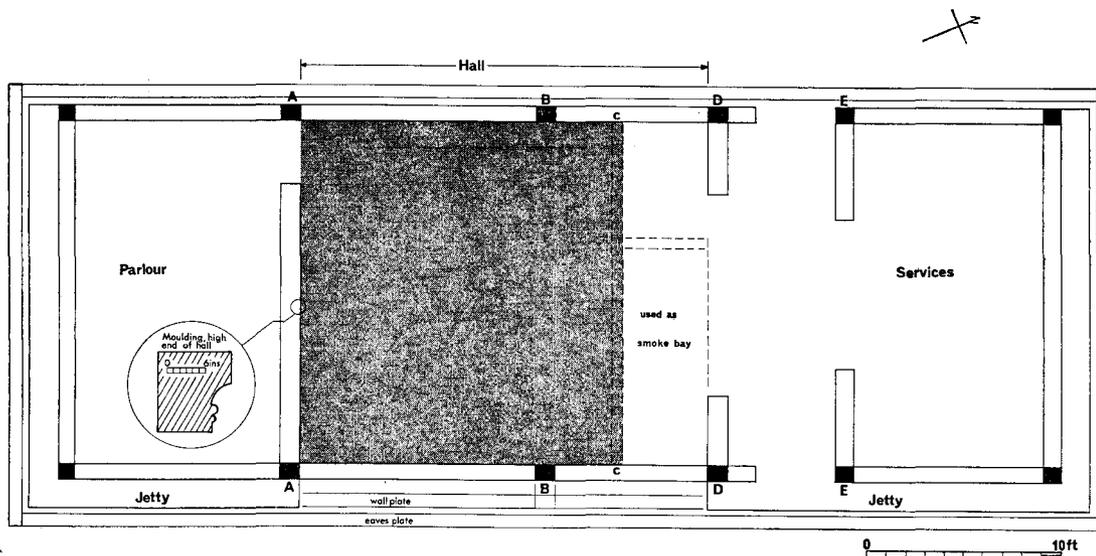


FIG. 34

BRISHING COURT, NEAR MAIDSTONE, KENT (p. 134 f.)

Basic plan, omitting later extensions and including second 'wall-plate' or eaves-plate. Principal posts solid, first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

and the old screens-passage remained open to the roof and served as a smoke-bay for an open fire within the 5-ft.-wide space. It is not clear whether access to the smoke-bay was from the old screens-passage or from the new connecting passage, as at Barrow Hill House (no. 2) and The Old Farm House (no. 3). The inserted partition (c) was unusual in not making use of an existing truss. To stabilize the partition a new 'tie-beam' was inserted resting on the existing wall-plates. Mortises in this new 'tie-beam' show that the new partition extended across the full width of the house at first-floor level. There was no gallery connecting the floor over the service wings and the floor over the hall. Part of the partition remains at first-floor level and the greater part of it is extant within the roof. The NE. face is encrusted with soot whilst the SW. face is clean (PLS. XIX, C, XX, A). Within the roof the SE. end of the partition abuts on the internal face of the hall, and the point of abutment has opened sufficiently for smoke-blackening of the hall-face to be seen on both sides of the partition and behind the butt joint. This confirms that the new partition was inserted after the hall had seen considerable use as an open hall.

6. SWALLOWS, CHURCH STREET, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, KENT (TQ 777508)

Although only about half a mile from Brishing Court (no. 5), this house is of a quite different type. It has a two-bay hall with a further bay at each end for parlour and service wings (PL. XX, B; FIG. 35). The parlour and service wings are end-jettied and the floor above the service wings was used as a solar. A moulded crown-post on a longitudinal 'tie-beam' over the solar indicates that the solar was open from the first floor to the roof. This 'tie-beam' is supported on a short

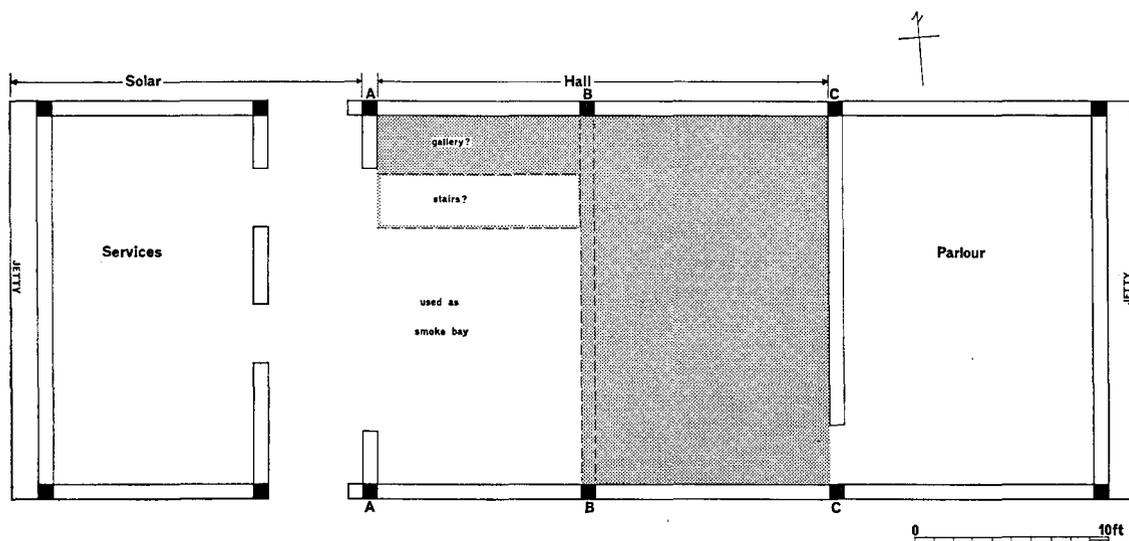


FIG. 35

SWALLOWS, CHURCH STREET, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, KENT (p. 136 f.)

Partly reconstructed plan, principal posts solid, first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

curved bracket at either end. Such an arrangement of the solar conforms thus far to the cross-wing of the 'hall and solar cross-wing' type of house.⁴ However, at Swallows the solar roof is not right-angled to the hall roof and is therefore not truly a wing at all. The collar-purlin supported by the solar crown-post is a continuation of that running through the length of the house and is, of course, above, and parallel to, the solar 'tie-beam'.

The whole roof is otherwise conventional in having rafters of uniform scantling collared in pairs and halved at the apex, there being no ridge-piece. Besides the solar crown-post already referred to there are plain crown-posts supporting the collar-purlin at each end of the hall (trusses A and C). The main truss in the hall (B) has a moulded crown-post similar to that above the solar. The entire hall roof is smoke-blackened, that above the wings is clean. The general layout of the house suggests an early dating by local typology, but this is belied by the mouldings of the cross-beam at first-floor level at the 'high' (E.) end of the hall. The moulding

⁴ Cf. H. Forrester, *The Timber Framed Houses of Essex* (1959), pp. 5-6; R. T. Mason, *Framed Buildings of the Weald* (1964), p. 31. A Kent example is Clements Farm, Upper Halling (unpublished).

is quite simple, consisting of two right angles, one quarter-round convex chamfer and one concave. The moulded crown-posts also are of sophisticated finish and a late 15th-century date is suggested.

The hall was later modified by the insertion of a partition on the line of the hall centre truss (B). This encloses the moulded crown-post, itself further hidden by an even later chimney-stack (PL. XX, c). The inserted partition survives within the roof space, and is completely blackened by smoke on the W. face, which also has a rough unfinished surface. The other side is smooth and clean. At the same time the E. bay of the hall was floored over and the inserted partition carried down to first-floor level. The W. bay of the hall remained open to the roof, serving as a 'cut-down' hall or smoke-bay. The partition must have continued down to the ground floor, but there is now no evidence whether a gallery was built connecting the floored-over half of the hall with the service chambers. This seems likely, however, since a beam, apparently superfluous and removed about 1961,⁵ would have facilitated a passage and gallery on the N. side of the smoke-bay, as at Barrow Hill House (no. 2), Payne Street Farm (no. 1) and The Old Farm House (no. 3). Unfortunately it is now impossible to define the precise position of this beam, supported at the ends by the inserted first-floor cross-beam of truss B and the original first-floor cross-beam of truss A. Similarly, the means of access to the ground floor of the smoke-bay cannot now be determined.

There is a dormer window in the room over the E. bay of the hall. The cornice bracket below the window is dated 1616 and can safely be assumed to date the window, but it is unlikely to date the initial partial flooring-over of the hall. It is far more likely to go with the later erection of the chimney-stack within the smoke-bay. This very substantial structure is built of ragstone to a height of about 4 ft. above the eaves and is then surmounted by brick shafts. At the time of this second modification of the original hall the remaining area of the smoke-bay around the chimney-stack was floored over.

This is a fairly late hall-house, which was completely floored over, with chimney-stack inserted, by 1616. Within about 150 years the hall had thus been divided and partly floored over for a considerable time before the 'chimney-stack phase'.

7. BATCHELOR'S FARM, LIMPSFIELD, SURREY (TQ 426484)

Batchelor's Farm is another 'Wealden' type of hall-house containing evidence of an inserted partition on the line of the hall centre truss. A portion of the partition remains within the apex of the roof and rough mortises on the upper side of the tie-beam point to the former existence of the partition down to that point. The moulded crown-post of the open truss is now lost. The division of the hall provided a smoke-bay at the W. (service) end of the hall. Evidence of the division below eaves level has been destroyed in later alterations, of which the most recent have also removed the inserted floor in the smoke-bay and partially destroyed the chimney-stack built therein. It is thus also impossible to determine whether a

⁵ The restoration was effected by Mr. W. V. Skinner, who remembers the beam referred to.

gallery ever connected the service-wing first floor and the first phase of 'flooring-over' in the E. bay of the hall.

8. THE OLD COTTAGE, BROADHAM GREEN, OXTED, SURREY (TQ 387511)

This hall-house (PL. XXII, A), which is being recorded in detail,⁶ is of extreme interest. The parlour wing is end-jettied as in Barrow Hill House (no. 2) and the former building at Upchurch (no. 14), but in The Old Cottage there is a moulded cross-beam at the parlour end of the hall and a steep four-centred doorhead with plain unrecessed spandrels. The construction, mouldings, and finish of the house confirm that it is of the early 15th century. The service end of the house, beyond the hall of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bays, contains some problems concerning a first floor which replaces an earlier one, and smoke-blackening in the roof over the service wing. This roof is separated from the hall roof (also blackened by smoke) by a normal closed truss at the end of the hall. Blackening of the roof does not extend on to the face of the rafters, where this partition, which formerly covered them, has broken away. Therefore this closed truss is original. The entire roof over the hall is blackened by smoke, as is the roof to the south of the partition over the service wing. None of the above detail strictly relates to division of the hall and poses problems regarding the original use and manner of the house. It is possible that an open hall of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bays was originally built with an end-jettied N. parlour wing of one bay, and a S. service wing of one bay, probably not jettied but certainly floored and containing the screens-passage. There is evidence that the service-wing floor was subsequently removed and that an open fire circulated smoke in the service-wing roof for some considerable time. Therefore this wing may have been converted for use as a kitchen after the division of the hall described below. Later the wing was once again floored over.

An inserted partition remains in the roof on the line of the centre truss over the hall. The moulded crown-post, enclosed within this partition, is clean on the N. face (i.e. towards the 'high', parlour end of the hall) and blackened on the S. face. It can be assumed that the full N. bay of the hall was floored over at this time. The remaining half bay of the open hall became a smoke-bay, sealed off from a gallery connecting the new floor in the hall with the original floor over the service bay. A staircase was very probably combined with the gallery, the whole being similar to the arrangements at Payne Street Farm (no. 1). In the 17th century a chimney-stack was built within the smoke-bay and the remainder of that area floored. A further addition is a 16th-century extension abutting on the E. face of the service wing. This was certainly added after the period in which the service-wing roof was open to a hearth fire, since the roof of this extension breaks into the service-wing roof and the smoke-blackening in the latter does not extend into it.

9. BURGoyNE, CHILHAM, KENT (TR 069536)

Burgoyne is a 'Wealden' type hall-house, the hall of which was divided and partly floored over before subsequent and final flooring-over. The structure

⁶ By Mrs. Kay Percy who first realized the significance of the building.

(PL. XXI, A) consists of a recessed hall of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bays, $16\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide internally. The main bay is 12 ft., the lesser or 'half'-bay $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft., long. The E. end (PL. XXI, A, left) is jettied at the front and side for the solar above the 11-ft. parlour bay. The W. end consists of a $15\frac{1}{2}$ -ft. service bay jettied at the front only. Within this was a screens-passage 5 ft. wide, the remainder of the area being used for services.

The main available evidence for division of the hall is apparent outside the house (cf. Tudor Cottages, no. 13), where it can be seen that the hall was first floored over in the full bay only, i.e. up to the main truss over the hall. A first-floor cross-beam was inserted in the main truss over the hall, and a further beam from the centre of the new cross-beam to the centre of the moulded and battlemented beam at the 'high' end of the hall, which carried the ends of the rafters supporting the new floor. These rafters were supported at the back and front of the house on existing bresssummers, and at the front they were carried beyond to form an extension of the parlour-wing jetty. The illustration also shows the two original braces carrying the eaves-plate over the face of the recessed hall. One of these is now an integral part of the new wall built above the inserted floor-jetty. The other remains *in situ* and was matched by a similar brace inserted in front of the remaining recessed smoke-bay. The hall truss remains intact and complete with an elegant moulded crown-post. However, if an inserted division was carried up within the roof it has been completely removed. It is, of course, possible that the new floor was ceiled over at eaves level and separated from the smoke-bay at first-floor level by a wall inserted on the line of the open truss. The extant wall in this position may indeed be the one inserted at that time. With the new floor thus completely sealed in save for access to the solar over the parlour there is no strict need for the roof above the new room over the hall to be sealed from the smoke-bay. Thus in this instance it appears that division was effected while leaving the 'half-bay' of the hall open as a smoke-bay for an open fire, and that possibly the smoke circulated above eaves level in the full length of the hall roof as formerly.

It cannot now be determined if a gallery connected the inserted floor over the hall with the service wing nor can the position of any ground-floor access to the smoke-bay be recognized. An inserted 'tie-beam' connects the wall-plates on the N. and S. sides of the house within the 'half-bay' of the hall (later the smoke-bay). This is misleading in suggesting that there may have been an inserted partition within the 'half-bay', as was the case at Brishing Court (no. 5). At Burgoyne, however, there is no evidence of a coeval partition, neither does the inserted 'tie-beam' align with the inserted floor jettied beyond the face of the hall. It is more likely to have been inserted purely to restrain the badly bowed wall-plate on the S. side of the hall at a point where a scarf-joint has become disengaged.

10. LITTYWOOD, BRADLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE (SJ 889190)

An account of this house has previously been published.⁷ An open hall comprising one bay of about 13 ft. and a second of 7 ft. was divided across its

⁷ *V.C.H. Staffordshire*, iv (1958), 74-6.

width by filling in the open truss between the bays. Reference is made⁸ to plaster filling being blackened on the E. face, i.e. towards the smaller bay, and it is suggested that the latter remained open to the roof '... a vast flue to the hearth fire'. Littywood is thus comparable to some of the examples mentioned in this paper. No evidence is cited in the *Victoria County History*⁹ to indicate whether a gallery connected the new floor over the larger bay of the hall with the service end of the house. Mention is made however, in connexion with an addition to the original building, of 'the 16th-century division of the property when separate accommodation was required for the families of William and John Stapleton'. Since both the division of the hall, and the addition to the building, seem to be of the 16th century, they may have sprung from the same circumstances.

11. MANCETTER MANOR HOUSE, WARWICKSHIRE (SP 320966)

The published account¹⁰ of this building shows it to be another instance of a hall divided in half by filling in the centre truss. Mouldings on timbers of the inserted floor are cited as indicating that division took place c. 1480, whereas the insertion of a chimney-stack in the remaining hall bay, with flooring over that part, did not occur until the 17th century. Since the original aisled hall is dated c. 1330,¹¹ this infers that it remained in use without modification for about 150 years, and that subsequently after division and part flooring-over, the remaining smoke-bay lasted for another 150 years or so before the insertion of a chimney-stack. Certainly it is an instance of a smoke-bay remaining in use into the 17th century, as in nos. 6 and 8, and probably nos. 2, 4 and 14. There is no suggestion of a connecting gallery at Mancetter in the published account.

12. MANOR FARM, WASPERTON, WARWICKSHIRE (SP 264588)

The first published account¹² of this building has recently been reappraised.¹³ In its original form the building consisted of a two-bay open hall, with a further smaller bay of 7 ft. for a screens-passage at the N. end. This structure of c. 1300 had apparently no coeval wings or solar, although some form of detached service building must have existed. The S. bay of the hall was floored over in the 2nd half of the 15th century to provide a solar. Since there was no original first floor in any part of the building, the question of a gallery does not arise. The subsequent insertion of a chimney-stack in the former screens-passage (incorrectly termed solar wing in the *Victoria County History*) contains a Tudor stone fireplace and was apparently part of a general 16th-century modernization. Presumably the N. bay of the hall and the remainder of the screens-passage were floored over at the same time.

⁸ *Op. cit.* in note 7, p. 74.

⁹ *Loc. cit.* in note 7.

¹⁰ *V.C.H. Warwickshire*, IV (1947), 117-19.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *V.C.H. Warwickshire*, V (1949), 187-8.

¹³ See S. R. Jones and J. T. Smith in *Trans. Birmingham Archaeol. Soc.*, LXXVI (1958), 19-28.

13. 1-4 TUDOR COTTAGES, HIGH STREET, FOOTSCRAY, KENT (TQ 474709)

The name of this building belies its early 15th-century origin. The westernmost of the four cottages, i.e. no. 1 (PL. XXI, B, right) can be ignored, since it is a modern extension. The original building is a fairly small 'Wealden' one with a recessed hall, 20 ft. wide, of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bays, and solar and service wings jettied at the front. The parlour with solar over occupied the W. wing (PL. XXI, B, right); the service wing with screens-passage was at the east. The original doorway to the screens-passage forms the front door to cottage no. 4.

Division of the hall was effected by flooring over the full bay of the hall and jettying out the new floor in continuation of the solar jetty. The remaining half-bay of the hall still remains recessed and served as a smoke-bay until final flooring-over. The characteristic brace from jettied wing to eaves-plate remains on the E. side. The twin brace to the west was removed when jettying out the inserted floor over the main bay of the hall, but its position can be noted from pegholes and mortises in eaves-plate and solar wing post. I have not examined the internal features of the building, but the external details described are comparable with Burgoyne (no. 9).

14. COTTAGES NEAR UPCHURCH, KENT (TQ 677845)

This building was destroyed by fire about 1964 after remaining derelict for some time. The simple, rough construction of the house lacked finish, but contained great inherent strength. The open hall in the original plan (FIG. 36) was about 16 ft. wide, but only $15\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long, and comprised one bay with a second, smaller one used as an entry passage without screens. The hall roof over the two bays was stained with soot and sealed from the wings by closed trusses A and C. At the S. end of the building a parlour wing was jettied at the end. Access to the hall was by a doorway at the W. end of the dividing wall. The floor above the parlour was reached through the usual ladder opening. A longer 'wing' at the N. end was not jettied but was floored over.

The roof construction was of common rafters throughout, collared in pairs upon a collar-purlin. Plain crown-posts were braced down to tie-beams in trusses A, B, and C. Each was also braced up to the purlin, but not to collars or rafters. They were identical in scantling and finish except in truss B over the open hall, where the crown-post was merely chamfered off on all four corners as was the under side of the collar-purlin over the hall (PL. XXII, c). Throughout the roof long tapering pegs driven through the mortise-and-tenon joints were left untrimmed.

In spite of external cement rendering (PL. XXII, B, showing the back, or W. face) most of the timbering could be seen, or traced internally. The S. end (PL. XXII, B, right) was the parlour bay, defined by the principal post braced to eaves-plate and by the extension of the truss in the roof, where the daub partition of the end of the hall is visible through a hole in the thatch. On the other hand the end of the house as shown marks the original end above first-floor level; below this the original jetty has been underpinned with rendered brick. There was an original

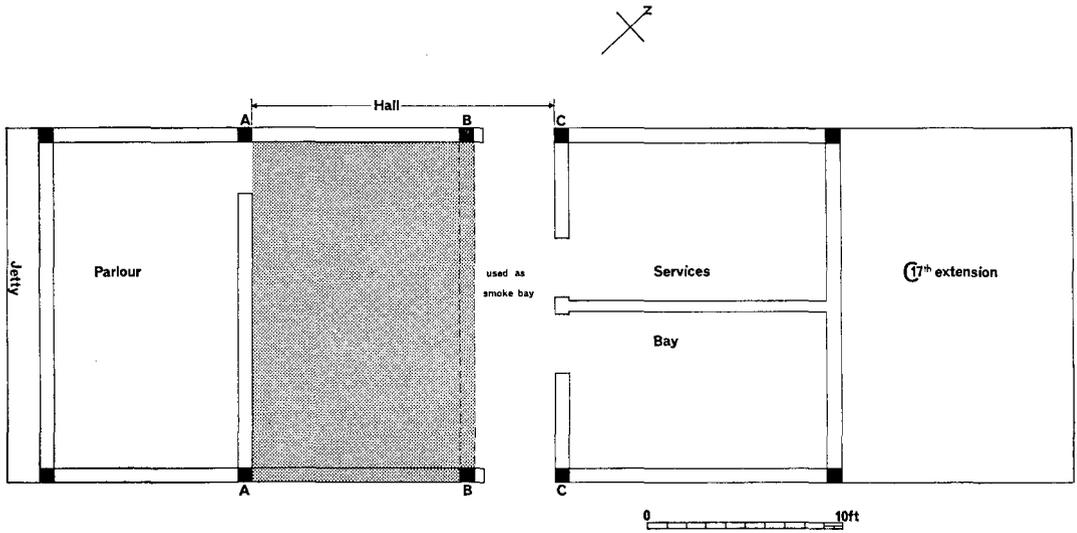


FIG. 36
 COTTAGES NEAR UPCHURCH, KENT (pp. 141, 143)
 Ground-plan, original posts solid, first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

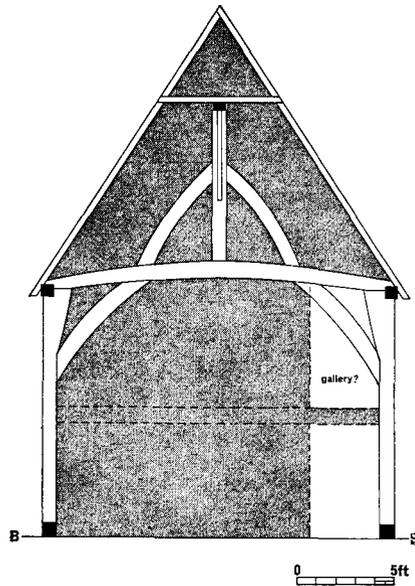


FIG. 37
 COTTAGES NEAR UPCHURCH, KENT (pp. 141, 143)
 Open truss over hall (truss B), SW. face. Original timbers shown open, inserted floor and dividing partition of first stage of flooring-over shown by dotted line and stipple

window-opening of one light with three diamond-set mullions and sliding shutter in the S. wall of the parlour below the jetty. The upper story was lighted on W. and E. walls by window-openings in the S. corners below the eaves. One of these blocked openings is visible (PL. XXII, B).

The N., service end, of the house can also be seen beginning at the principal post bearing the remains of a brace and discernible to the left (PL. XXII, B) just before the lean-to outhouse. The area between the two braced principals was the open hall. The entry-passage bay and the full bay of the hall can also be distinguished, since the second post to the right of the lean-to marks the main truss over the hall.

The first modification of the open hall was by division on the line of the main truss (B). The floored-over bay of the hall was sealed from the remaining passage by a partition from ground level to the apex of the roof, which filled the truss (FIG. 37) over the original hall. Within the roof the SW. side of this new partition remained clean, contrasting with the soot-stained collars, purlin and crown-post (PL. XXII, C). The NE. side became heavily encrusted with soot while the small bay remained open and in use as a smoke-bay. The deposit of soot within the smoke-bay was very noticeably greater than that in the remainder of the hall roof, i.e. between trusses A and B.

Later, a chimney-stack and staircase were inserted within the smoke-bay. It is known that before this stage no gallery connected the new floor over the hall with the floor over the service end. The N. wall of the hall at this point was intact. Such a gallery may well have existed on the E. side, where the staircase was later placed, but the insertion of this staircase and further alterations made it impossible to be sure about this, and also about the question of access to the smoke-bay at ground level. A further modification was the addition of an extra bay at the N. end in the 17th century. This had a side-purlin, queen-post roof similar to that at Barrow Hill House (no. 2) and may well have been built at the time when the chimney-stack was inserted.

CONCLUSIONS

The details recorded in this paper are not the result of an exhaustive survey of an area with the sole purpose of finding divided halls. A number of hall-houses have been examined, and the divided halls thus found have been supplemented by others brought to my notice through the kindness of fellow researchers. It is significant, however, that, although comparatively few houses have been examined, it has been possible to produce fourteen examples of divided halls. Six of the fourteen have been referred to me as relevant examples. The remaining eight were found by examining buildings known to contain, within their present structure, medieval hall-houses. To achieve the result of eight divided halls, about twenty-five medieval halls were investigated, all in Kent. It would be dangerous to develop any statistical arguments on that basis. However, to phrase a conclusion in the mildest way possible, it does imply that a greater number of hall-houses were divided, before complete and later flooring-over, than has hitherto been thought. The possibility of such an intermediate modification together with the insertion of a connecting gallery should be considered whenever the archi-

tectural history of a hall-house is being investigated. Furthermore it is probable that many such houses already recorded would reveal evidence of such modification if re-examined with this end in view. It appears that hall-houses in the Kent and Sussex Weald have sometimes been divided in the manner described in this paper, for it has been stated: ' . . . In such cases the crownpost is found to be partially encased in plaster, proving the work to be later than that of initial construction.'¹⁴ These would therefore seem to be distinct from examples of houses built with integral chimney-bays or timber and plaster chimneys which were not, apparently,¹⁵ ever of the open-hall type. Unfortunately no details of examples of halls so divided in that area are yet available.¹⁶

Three considerations at least must have been responsible, solely or together, for the division of halls in this manner, in preference to complete flooring-over. The desire to modify an open hall was widespread in the south-east in the 16th century and continued into the 17th, and four or five of the houses listed above provide probable instances of such late modification. The desire for, and appreciation of, greater comfort and convenience led to existing halls being floored over and chimney-stacks installed to channel away unpleasant smoke. Yet such modernization was undoubtedly costly and compromise could be attained by flooring over half, or the greater part, of the hall and enclosing the remainder as a smoke-bay which, as a vast open flue, contained the smoke in some degree even if not as efficiently or safely as a brick stack. Economy of expenditure was therefore one reason for division.

In a few instances a contributory factor may have been conservatism; a reluctance to dispense entirely with the social focus of an open fire, even though grudging acceptance had been given to the decline of the open hall and the desire for more enclosed rooms.

A third, very valid reason for division of the hall would have been simply pressure of space. The need for the social convenience of the open hall declined as the pattern of group life within it faded away. Rising prices and increased rents during the Tudor period sometimes necessitated the use of a building by more than one family, and with the function of the open hall losing importance its space was useful for conversion into rooms. It would seem quite logical that initially this conversion should sometimes be in part only, retaining a reduced open hall to continue its function of providing an open fire.

The subsequent modification in all the instances recorded has been complete flooring-over, together with the insertion of a chimney-stack, which had the great advantage of providing up to four fireplaces in place of the single open fire, as well as being a more satisfactory method of containing fire and smoke. It is significant that, irrespective of the size of room, the largest and most impressive fireplace was usually provided in the room designated to replace the hall. This practice is evident also in new houses of the 16th century, evolved from the medieval plan, with a central stack and rooms on either side.

¹⁴ R. T. Mason, *op. cit.* in note 4, p. 76.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Correspondence between R. T. Mason and E. R. Swain, May 1967.

The evidence detailed establishes a new phase in the history of the medieval house, showing that the first modification of the open hall was not always complete flooring-over. Instead, an earlier stage was, sometimes, division of the hall by partial flooring-over and use of the remaining area as a smoke-bay. The insertion of a chimney-stack and flooring-over of the smoke-bay was the second stage of modification, and any study of existing medieval houses should explore thoroughly the possibility of these two stages of adaptation being contained in the structure.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the Council of the Society for Medieval Archaeology for a generous grant of £40 from the Colt Fund towards the cost of research and preparation of this paper. I have also received much encouragement from Mr. W. E. J. B. Mercer and Mr. J. T. Smith, who first suggested that this paper should be written. The significance of Batchelor's Farm (no. 7) and The Old Cottage (no. 8) was first brought to my notice by Mrs. Kay Percy. Mr. Peter Lambert made known the division of the hall at The Old Farm House (no. 3) and also kindly provided the photograph used in PL. xvii, B. PL. xvi, B and C, are reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and PL. xxii, A, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Jensen, owners of The Old Cottage (no. 8). Finally my deepest debt is to the owners and occupiers of the houses here described. Their enormous patience and cooperation, freely given, has made this paper possible.