

Tiles with related designs have been excavated in quantity at several sites near Northill. Two pavements recently excavated at Old Warden (p. 233, PL. xvii) have been lifted for museum display. Quantities of tiles, some with designs identical with those at Northill and almost certainly produced with the same stamps, have been found at Bedford, Elstow Priory, Beadlow Manor and Newnham Priory. Wasters in Bedford Museum from earlier excavations at Old Warden seem to confirm that tiles were fired on the site. Clay is available close to where the tiles were probably made and a stratum of grey clay runs just over 1 m. below the present ground surface.

J. M. BAILEY

ROBERT D'ARCY'S CHANTRY PRIESTS' HOUSE, MALDON, ESSEX

(FIGS. 85-9)

As he lay dying Sir Robert D'Arcy of Maldon (1385-1448) ordained that on his death his executors should set up "as quickly as possible" a chantry called "Darcyes-chauunterye" in All Saints' Church. It was to have two chaplains, one to be known as the first principal chaplain and the other as the second chaplain, who were to celebrate mass daily before the altar of Holy Trinity for the souls of himself and his wives Margaret and Alice (both dead), all his relatives and benefactors, and the king and queen. The two chaplains were to be provided with a "messuage and a garden and an acre of land

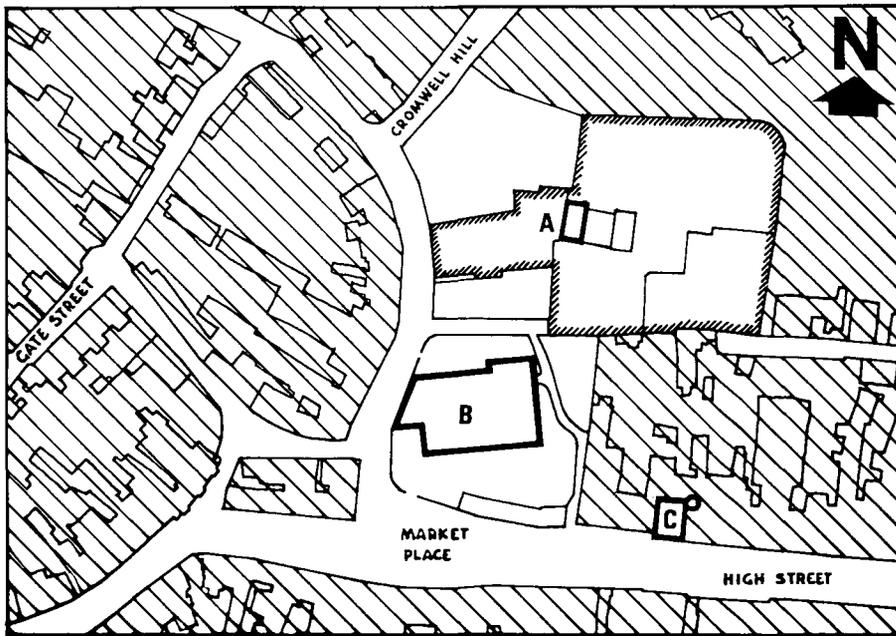


FIG. 85

MALDON, ESSEX

Map showing location of: A. D'Arcy's chantry priests' house;
B. All Saints' Church; C. D'Arcy's Tower (p. 215)

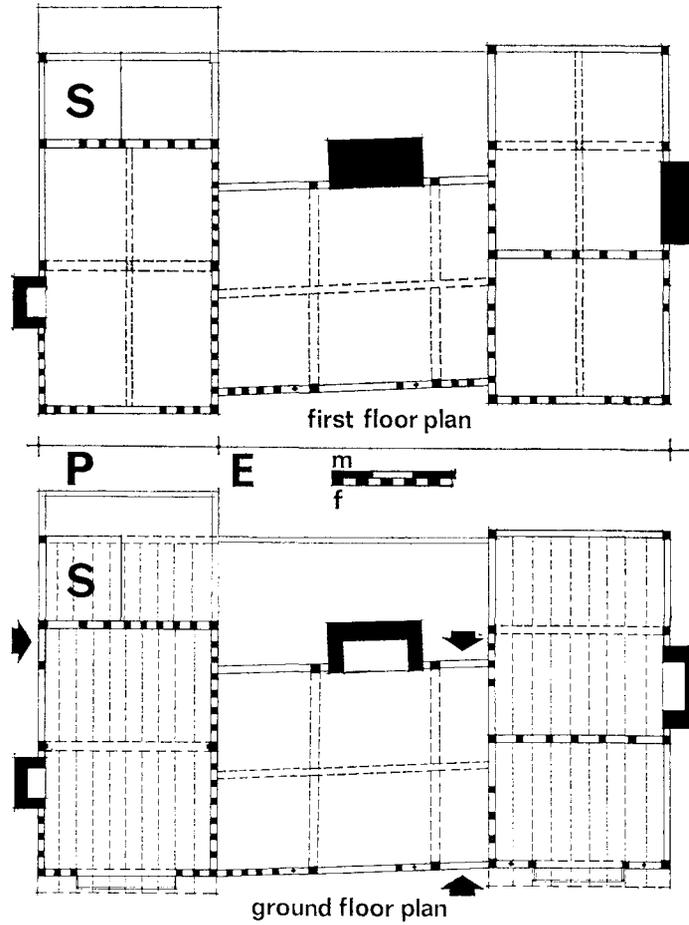


FIG. 86

D'ARCY'S CHANTRY PRIESTS' HOUSE, MALDON, ESSEX
 P. priests' house; E. later extensions; S. staircase (p. 216)

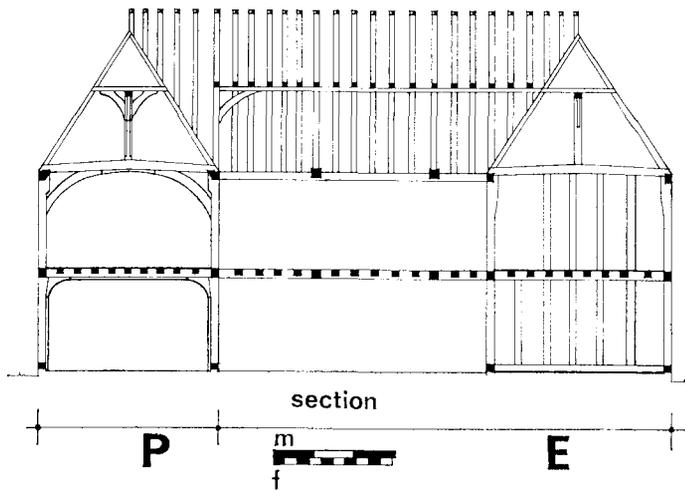


FIG. 87

D'ARCY'S CHANTRY PRIESTS' HOUSE, MALDON, ESSEX
Longitudinal section (p. 216)

in Maldon";⁶² it is intended to show here that this message is now the W. cross-wing and earliest part of the present vicarage of All Saints. On 15 December 1449, Robert's executors, Robert D'Arcy (his son), Robert Roo, Clerk, Henry Felingley, Esq., and others not named, obtained a royal licence on payment of 27 marks and 4s. and 4d. (a total of £18. 4s. 4d.) to set up the chantry, although this was probably only a formal confirmation of what had already been done. Sir Robert had begun building during his lifetime a massive mansion on the N. side of Maldon High Street in All Saints' parish and a short distance E. of the church, of which the present-day Moot Hall (D'Arcy's Tower) is probably all that was ever completed (FIG. 85). The chaplain's house was built on a vacant spot behind the tower and very close to the church. No other vacant pieces of land so near the church and the D'Arcy home could have provided "an acre of land" as specified by Robert. The present site of the vicarage and its garden is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, but there is strong evidence to suggest that there has been an encroachment on the SE. corner.

Inside the building three small sections of wall-painting have been revealed behind glass on the plaster and studs of the W. wall of the ground-floor room. The scheme consists of red and white stripes which probably run the length of the wall behind the later plaster covering. On the red stripes there are alternate clover leaves (otherwise known as slipped trefoils) and the sacred monogram *IHC* with foliage ornament in white. On the white stripes these motifs are in black. Clover leaves are a symbol for the Holy Trinity,⁶³ to whom the chantry was dedicated. The present vicarage consists of a number of timber-framed phases. Leaving aside the 17th-century and later extensions at the E. end, that which remains appears superficially orthodox in form, with a central

⁶² Licence enrolled in Patent Roll 28 Henry VI, pt. 1, m. 4. For untranslated copy see L. Hughes, *A Guide to the Church of All Saints, Maldon*, Appendix III (1909). We are indebted to E. C. Rouse for his comments on the wall-paintings, and to C. A. Hewett for his observations regarding our interpretation of the carpentry details.

⁶³ See C. E. Whittemore (ed.), *Symbols of the Church* (London, 1964), 29.

hall and two cross-wings (FIGS. 86-7), but on closer inspection it becomes evident that the W. cross-wing was originally built as a separate entity. It is this wing which contains the wall-paintings and which we claim to be the original house. Now that the two buildings have been identified, it is fairly easy to discover which is the earlier for the following reasons: 1, the E. wall of the supposed priests' house has no original openings for access to the hall; 2, whilst most of the roof has been rebuilt, it is possible to see that the top plates of the centre part are not framed in with the W. wing, and there is no framed end wall to the hall; 3, the central portion originally had a crown-post roof, the collar purlin of which was carried through to form a common collar in the E. wing, and was, therefore, integral. At its W. end, however, this purlin was supported on a king strut, which had been rather crudely added to the top plate of the cross-wing (FIG. 87). Therefore, the W. end of the hall was dependent for support upon a separate timber frame, which must have been *in situ* before work began.

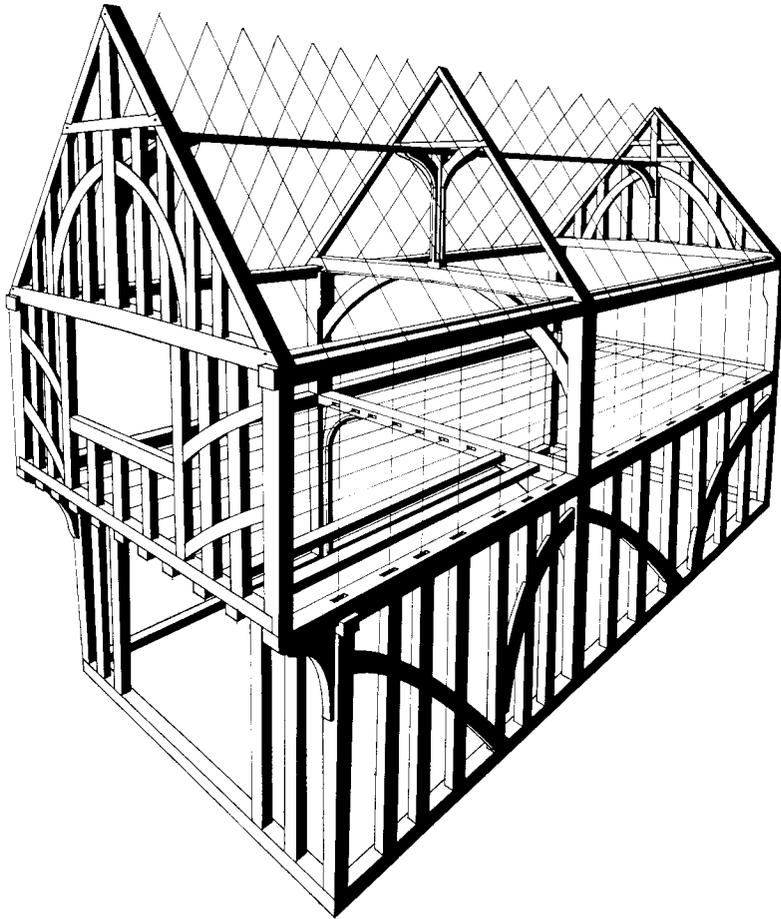


FIG. 88

D'ARCY'S CHANTRY PRIESTS' HOUSE, MALDON, ESSEX

The W. cross-wing (p. 217)

The W. wing (FIGS. 88, 89, *e*), is of two-bays, 6.7 by 4.5 m. internally, gabled and jettied on the S., with double bracing at first-floor level. Both ground and first floor seem to have consisted of one room without partition, open to collar level above, and with a central cross quadrate crown-post mounted on a cambered and arch-braced tie-beam. There is an original doorway in the N. wall, and indications that it opened on to an external stair. Most of this wall was, however, destroyed in alterations that appear to have been carried out in 1638.⁶⁴ The main entrance to the building seems to have been in the W. wall adjacent to the staircase door, with possibly a window immediately to the S., and there were two large windows on the S. wall facing the church. The evidence for the main entrance in the W. wall is strengthened by the fact that both the vicarage and the property which separates it from Silver Street (no. 4 Silver Street) were freehold of the manor of Little Maldon, as is proved by a rental of Little Maldon, dated July 1608,⁶⁵ when 2*d.* was paid for the vicarage and Elisha Garrington paid 4*s.* "for a mesuage next the vikaridge of Maldon" (now no. 4 Silver Street). In 1781 a passage way, 1.1 m. wide, between nos. 4 and 2 Silver Street (the latter then known as 'The Chequer') was purchased by the owner of no. 4 and incorporated into the house.⁶⁶

The structural dating evidence from this wing is as follows:

1. The cross quadrate crown-post, at present thought to be typical of the period between *c.* 1380 and *c.* 1465 in this locality. The post length and short braces suggest the latter end of that period.
2. Edge-halved and bridled scarf-joints in the top plates which were in general use between *c.* 1400 and *c.* 1570 (FIG. 89, *d*).
3. A splayed halved and bridled scarf with under squinted abutment cheeks. Although little is known about when this joint was used it is obviously derived from the normal halved and bridled scarf, rather than a development of the earlier splayed scarf tradition (FIG. 89, *c*).
4. The use of double bracing at first-floor level above the jetty was hitherto believed to have died out by about 1400. The present context suggests that isolated examples may be later.
5. The floor-joint joint, a centre tenon with housed soffit shoulder and face peg (FIG. 89, *b*), was believed to have come into use *c.* 1500⁶⁷ and lasted until about 1550. In view of its relationship with other details in this building its period of use must also be revised.⁶⁸

Although somewhat open-ended, items 4 and 5 are valid when considered together. The floor joint could have been in use fifty years earlier than previously supposed, but not 100. Likewise double bracing could recur fifty years after the previously known latest example, but 100 years after would be extremely unlikely.

6. The use of moulded facing-plates applied to the top plates is a feature as yet unknown in the locality after the mid 16th century; the mouldings themselves would be compatible with a 15th-century date (FIG. 89, *a*).
7. The overall structural concept, the quality of timber, the size and spacing of studs and joints, the style of bracing to side walls and tie-beams, and the jowls to the story posts would all fit the suggested date.

⁶⁴ Date painted on plaster of internal wall on first floor.

⁶⁵ Essex Record Office D/B 3/3/523/4. We are indebted to M. C. Crellin of Maldon for this reference.

⁶⁶ Essex Record Office T/B 290/3.

⁶⁷ Paycockes House, Coggeshall: C. A. Hewett, *Development of Carpentry* (Newton Abbot, 1969), 134.

⁶⁸ Indications are that, even so, the use of this joint covers a fairly limited period. It has also been noted at no. 61 Newland Street, Witham; nos. 23 and 27 Bridge Street, Witham; Tudor Tea Rooms, High Street, Great Dunmow; Red Lion Inn, High Street, Colchester; Woodertons Farm, Maplestead; and Paycockes House, Coggeshall, all in Essex. All these buildings appear to belong between 1450 and 1550. For the Witham buildings see M. C. Wadhams, 'Buildings of Witham 1500 to 1881', *Post-Med. Archaeol.*, vi (1973), 1 ff.

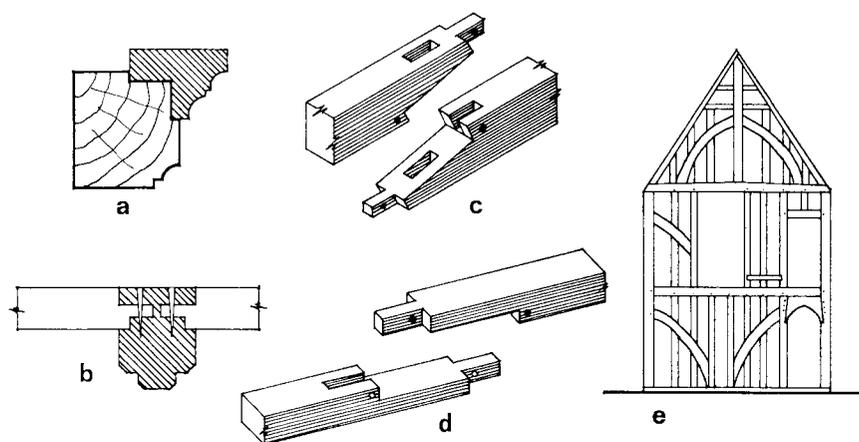


FIG. 89

D'ARCY'S CHANTRY PRIESTS' HOUSE, MALDON, ESSEX (p. 217)

- a. Section through top plates; b. Floor-joist joint; c. Purlin scarf; d. Top-plate scarf;
e. Reconstruction of framing on present rear wall of priests' house

It is interesting to note that if one considers when, according to present knowledge, the various datable features are believed to have been employed, and calculates a median date at which it is most likely they could all occur in the same building, the answer arrived at is 1445, only four years from the suggested documentary dating.

In the case of the hall and the E. cross-wing documentary evidence is lacking, but again the structure tells a great deal. This part consists of hall, with integral first floor, screens passage, and three-bay service wing, the wing being of the same build as the hall. The hall itself lies at a slight angle to the earlier wing and has the remains of original windows on the S. elevation, and a large chimney stack on the N. It is uncertain whether the stack was a later addition. The cross-wing is divided into two, as one would expect, with a door from the screens passage to each room. The S. front is jettied and gabled with single bracing and there are remains of two windows, the one on the ground floor having side lights. The rear of the two rooms is two bays in length, both above and below, but with original connecting door to the front bay at first-floor level. Two crown-posts support the roofs, which was ceiled at collar level. A large chimney stack in the rear bay may be an addition but if the larger room were a kitchen the fireplace and stack would be original. The crown-posts remaining are two-armed, with thin shallow braces, and there are halved and bridled scarf-joints in the top plates. These would indicate a construction not later than *c.* 1570. Close studding and mouldings support this, and, with the floor-joist joint, which is the same as that in the earlier wing, the most likely dating based on present knowledge is *c.* 1550. The floor-joist joint, which Hewett⁶⁹ has shown superseded the one here, i.e. the soffit tenon with diminished haunch, was already in use in high quality ecclesiastical work by 1510. It is unlikely that there was a long time-lag before its appearance elsewhere, particularly as it was obviously both structurally superior and far cheaper to make. In view of the Act of 1547 when the chantries were suppressed and their property confiscated it is suggested that the hall and cross-wing were added shortly after this to provide a house worthy of the vicar of the wealthy parish of All Saints. Continuity of use up to 1547 is shown on the documents relating to the chantry priests.

⁶⁹ C. A. Hewett, *English Cathedral Carpentry* (London, 1974), 45.

To sum up, the W. wing is the earliest structure remaining on the site and its date would fit perfectly with that of the D'Arcy chantry; the style and content of the wall-paintings, although possibly a few years later, also support this date. It appears to have been a very simple form of dwelling, although of considerable quality and somewhat similar to the accommodation for vicars choral in the Vicar's Close at Wells.⁷⁰ Presumably this explains the enlargement 100 years later. The quality of workmanship throughout is very high. Perhaps the double bracing, which was obviously no longer believed to be a structural necessity, was used as a moderate show of ostentation. It is worth recording that the roof was decorated with yellow ochre, which is unusual in Essex. It has been noted by Hewett in two other buildings, the solar of St Clere's Hall, St Osyth, and the service wing at D'Arcy Hall in Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Both buildings were owned by the D'Arcy family.

J. R. SMITH, M. C. WADHAMS

THE DANISH CONFERENCE, 1975

The 18th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Jutland, Denmark, from 14-19 April 1975. The theme was 'Jutland 800-1200', which was the title of the opening lecture by Professor Olaf Olsen. This was followed by a visit to the Forhistorisk Museum and the reconstructed Hedeby house. A reception was then given by the University of Aarhus at Moesgård. On 15 April the Society heard lectures by Else Roesdahl on 'Jelling', H. Hellmuth Andersen on 'The Dannevirke' and H. J. Madsen on 'Early Medieval Aarhus'; members then visited the Viking Cellar Museum in the centre of the town, the Cathedral and the Vor Frue Kirke. In the evening they were entertained to dinner by the Lord Mayor of Aarhus in the town hall. On 16 April there was an excursion to Fyrkat, Lindholm Høje and the Hobro Museum. On 17 April members visited Venge and Tamdrup churches, the monuments at Jelling, and Øster Starup Church and stayed the night at Sandbjerg Manor. On Friday 18 April they visited Hedeby and the Dannevirke as well as excavations in the old town of Schleswig and the Schleswig-Holsteinisches Landesmuseum. They were entertained to a buffet lunch by the town of Schleswig in the Schleswig Museum and heard a lecture on the excavations by Dr V. Vogel. On 19 April the Society was welcomed by the Deputy Mayor and entertained to coffee. Members were then guided round the town and cathedral by Mr M. Bencard. The Society must record its gratitude to Mrs Else Roesdahl and Professor Olaf Olsen who acted as local secretaries to the Conference.

DAVID M. WILSON

MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY, XVIII, 'TWO BURIALS UNDER THE REFECTORY OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL': A CORRECTION

The authors of this note have drawn attention to the fact that a line of the textile report was omitted during retyping (p. 149, lines 22-3). The correct version reads:

"... some European 6th and 7th-century graves contain spun-gold threads from braids contemporary with the flat gold strip already mentioned."

⁷⁰ W. A. Pantin, 'Chantry Priests' Houses and Other Medieval Lodgings, *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959) 216 ff.