

Some Notes on the Domestic Architecture of Wallingford, Berkshire.

By P. S. SPOKES, F.S.A.

IT is the object of these notes to record and discuss about sixty-five examples of purely domestic architecture which remain to us in Wallingford, dating from the 16th century to about 1830.

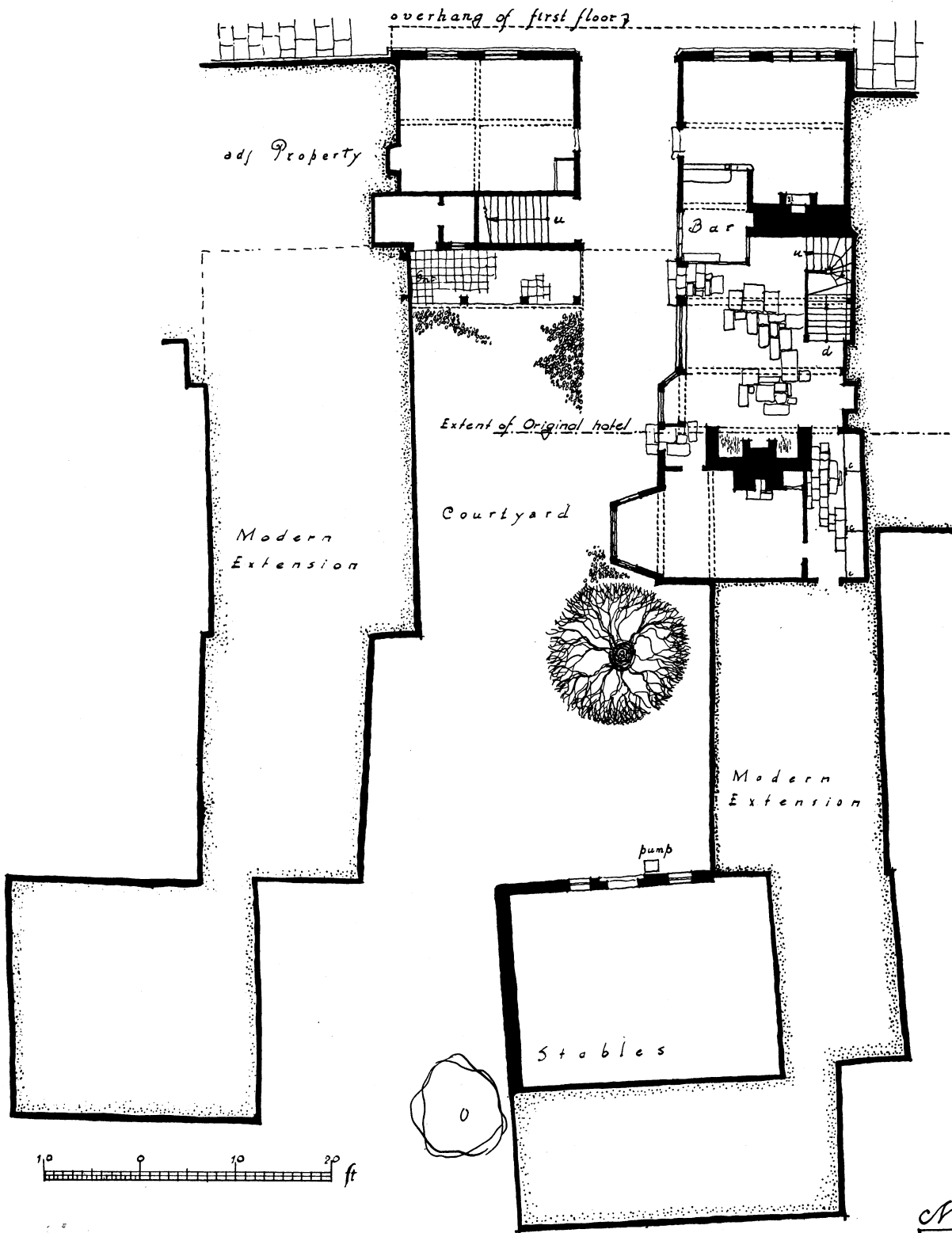
Wallingford owed its origin to the ford across the Thames and the earliest recorded fact is of a mint being in existence here in the 10th century. The ancient plan (Fig. 15) of the town of Wallingford is that of a parallelogram with its eastern side based on the River Thames and the other sides demarcated by a raised bank and moat. It will be seen that nearly all the ancient buildings of the town are confined within the southern part of this parallelogram: those without this area are of more recent date. At the north, west and south were gates. Within the town, roads run north and south and east and west and divide the town into blocks. In mediæval days the high road over the Thames to the west and Gloucester passed through Wallingford until 1415 when bridges at Culham and Abingdon were built. The main way through the town was from east to west, along the present High Street. The way north and south was originally along the present Castle Street, St. Martin's Street and Lovers' Lane, for the present line of St. Mary's (once Fish) Street, appears to have been a minor road parallel to it. The space between these two lines was at one time open and the buildings which now lie between them are of comparatively recent growth. In the 12th century there were fourteen churches in Wallingford and eleven of them seem to have been parochial. The Black Death in 1349 brought about the usual decay in the town and subsequently also in 1415 further degradation took place, mainly owing to the new crossing of the Thames at Abingdon. Of great influence on the town was, of course, the Benedictine Priory of Holy Trinity, probably founded by Robert D'Oilgi, lord of Wallingford Castle, as a cell of St. Alban's between 1077 and 1093. The buildings lay to the north of the High Street, about half-way between the Castle and the west gate; nothing now remains of them above ground. Its history was bound up with that of St. Alban's up to the time when it was dissolved by Wolsey for the foundation of his Oxford college in 1525. After his attainder, the Crown granted the site in 1546 to John Norreys who probably built Flint House of the stone removed from the priory site. Norreys parted with the estate to Christopher Aveleyn in 1553 and the latter may, of course, built Flint House.



Elevation to High Street



Section through arch



SOME NOTES ON THE DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF WALLINGFORD, BERKSHIRE

THE GEORGE INN

PLAN A.

From the Survey made in 1550,¹ it seems clear that most of the northeast part of the town was under the influence of the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas while the Priory ruled over the north-western part, the dividing line being the present Castle Street.

There does not appear to remain any dwelling-house which may reasonably be dated before 1530. The three Inns (the George, the Lamb and the White Hart), St. Lucians, Flint House and Nos. 17-19 High Street all contain work of the 16th century.

The following all shew remains of 17th century houses :— the Guildhall, Angiers Almshouses, St. Lucian's Cottage, No. 21 and Caxton House in St. Martin's Street, three buildings in St. Mary's Street (Nos. 16, 23 and 34-35) and Nos. 67 and 68 High Street.

No. 21 Market Place, Nos. 13-15 and 26 High Street, 52 & 53 St. Mary's Street and No. 19 Wood Street may be dated as being within ten years or so of 1700.

By far the most (some 40) of the houses are of the 18th century. Of Regency date (1800-1830) are probably No. 76 High Street, Nos. 5 & 6, 7 & 8, 9 and 13 Market Place, Nos. 6-9 St. Leonard's Square, Nos. 26 and 28-29 St. Mary's Street and No. 18 Wood Street, although there are little distinguishing features in any of these.

The photographs illustrating this article were taken for the National Buildings Record, 37 Onslow Gardens, S.W.7, from whom copies can be obtained, together with those of the buildings noted in the text as "N.B.R." The plans were measured and drawn by Messrs. Alistair and Ian Smith of the Oxford School of Architecture.

(1)² *The George Inn*, on the north side of the High Street, was known as such in 1561 and in the 17th century as the George and Dragon. The structure as we see it now (Fig. 1 & Plan A³) consists of a two-storeyed timber-framed front with two gables with an over-sailing at the first floor supported on dragon beams ; there is a central attic dormer window over the carriage-way leading to the yard at the back. The sash windows in the front gables are in moulded wooden frames and were probably inserted about 1800. In the ground floor, on the front, are windows of the same date, one having three lights. At the back in the yard on the northeast is a modern brick wing. An interesting feature is seen at the north end of the yard. This consists of a two-storeyed roughcast timber-framed building on a brick base all dating possibly from the 17th

¹ *Berks. Bucks. & Oxon. Arch. Jnl.*, 21, 22, 23 & 25 (1915-1920).

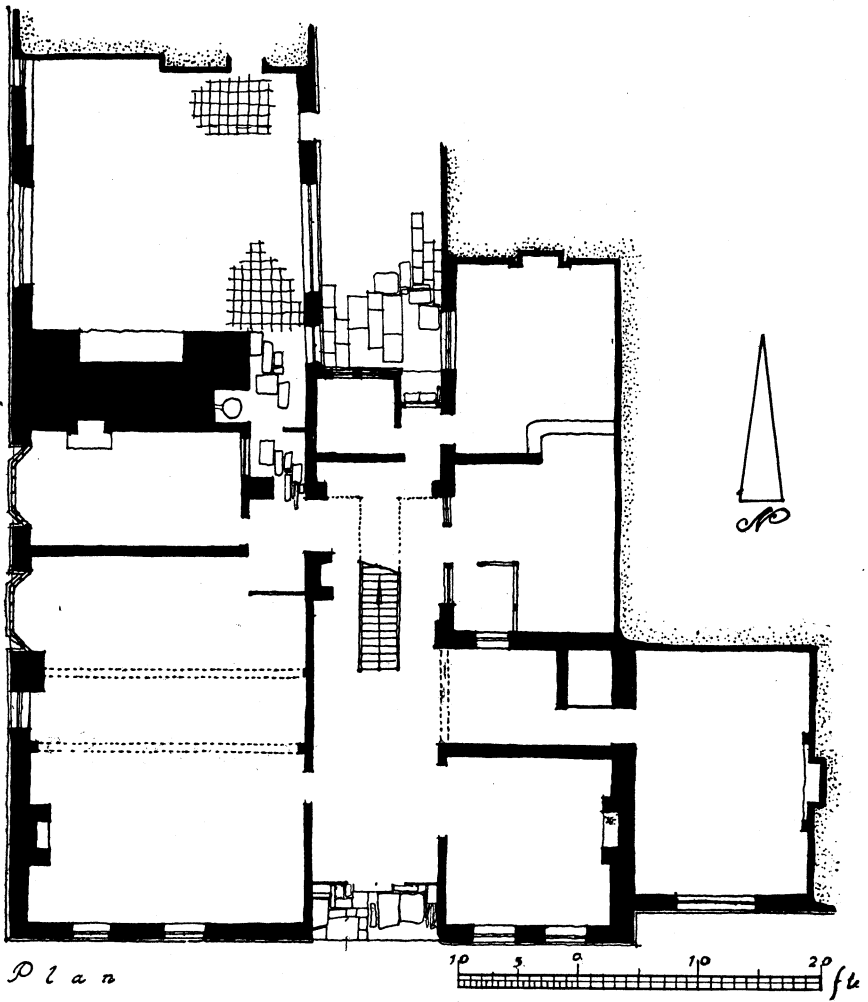
² The numbers indicate also the position of the houses on the Map (Fig. 15).

³ Based on plans kindly supplied by Messrs. Pictor, Snailum & Huggins, Architects, of Bath.

century; it has a reset wooden door-frame of the 16th century having moulded jambs, a four-centred head and carved spandrels. Above this doorway is a late 17th century three-light Venetian window with an iron grill in front of it.

(2). *The Lamb Inn*, on the north side of the High Street (Fig. 7 & Plan B). The inside core of this Inn is probably of the 16th century but the present south front is an early 18th century building in grey brick with red brick dressings and a dentilled cornice. It has a central segmental-headed archway which once, no doubt, led into a yard at the back but which now has the front doorway inserted in it. There are five sash windows each having a segmental and keystone architrave. The west side of the Inn, on Castle Street, is interesting in having a 16th century roughcast timber-framed front with an oversailing at the first and second floors with two large gables and a red tiled roof. In this front are early 18th century double sash windows. The overhang of the second floor is supported on brackets and has a moulded cornice (Fig. 7, & N.B.R.). The remains of an ancient brick chimneystack can be seen. At the back of the house, on the north, a brick and timber gable is visible and there are also modern additions here. The interior of the house has, in the main, been modernized. The history of this Inn shows that it was known as the King's Head in 1550 and in 1690 as the Bell; by 1709 it had become the Lamb. It was here that, in 1688, Silvanus Wiggins, the landlord, entertained William of Orange who had come from Abingdon on his way to London to take the Crown. In about 1720 Thomas Clack was landlord; he had three sons and seven daughters by two wives. Three of the daughters succeeded in bringing to marriage men of substance. Frances married, in 1762, at Edinburgh and again in 1763 at Powderham, Devon, William, Viscount Courtenay, who had matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1761 and was still a minor. Of her George Selwyn, the wit and politician, said when she died in 1782: "The death of Lady C. is an irreparable loss to I do not know how many daughters which she has left behind her; she was I am told, the most valuable parent that ever was." Another daughter married Sir Charles Palmer, 6th baronet, and another, Elizabeth, married William Honeywood and was the mother of Sir John Honeywood, 4th baronet. The proverb "A pet lamb makes a cross ram" may or may not refer to the Clack daughters.

(3). *The White Hart Inn*, at the north end of St. Mary's Street (Fig. 2), is a 16th century two-storeyed timber-framed house with two roughcast gables and an overhang. Each gable rests on a moulded beam which has moulded pendants with carved tracery on them; in the spandrels of the angle brackets are carved roses



“ THE LAMB ”

PLAN B.

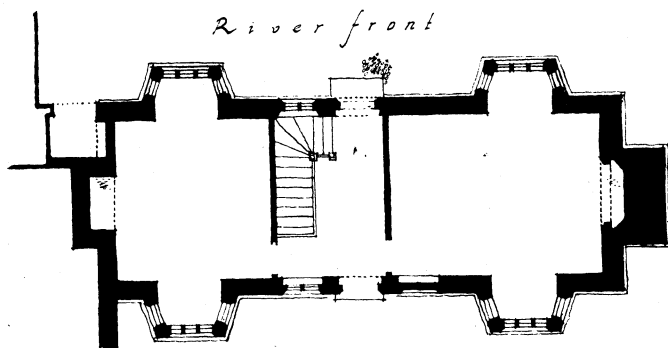
(Fig. 13). In the ground floor on the south side is a 16th century wooden doorframe with moulded jambs and spandrels, in the north one of which is a rose and in the south a blank 16th century shaped shield (N.B.R.). The door itself is also ancient. The ground floor facing the street has a bar front and in the first floor are two modern three-light casement windows. At the back are the 20th century additions.

The site was occupied in 1550 by Thomas Maynard and was then owned by Richard Clack, but in 1561 it had become the freehold of Margery his widow and of John Clack who was perhaps their son. The White Hart may well have been built by the Clacks.

(4). *St. Lucians, Wallingford.* (Plan C.) This is a fairly complete example of a small mid-sixteenth century house as regards the west exterior, though there have been additions on the east and the interior has been modernized. The west side (facing the garden) is interesting, consisting as it does of two storeys and attics on a rubble and flint plinth, the upper parts being rough-cast and finished with pargetting. (Fig. 3). There are three gables with partly ancient bargeboards and at each end of the front is a battlemented three-sided bay carried up for the two storeys. In each floor of these bays are three-light stone mullioned windows with single return lights. The mullions have hollow (or cavetto) mouldings but these have been renewed in places. The roof is tiled. The centre gable between the two bays has modern casement lights, and between these there is a stone doorway with a four-centred head and plain chamfered jambs. On each side of the doorway is a two-light stone mullioned window. The east side (N.B.R.), which now has the main entrance in it, is similar to that on the west but has been restored and a glass pent corridor added. On the north and south gable ends are brick chimney stacks, that on the south projecting; each has a cluster of three diagonally-set shafts; the latter, however, are not of the original brick. On the north is a range which was originally the sixteenth century outbuildings and barn which have now been fitted up as part of the house; it retains the rough ancient roof timbers and has an overhang on the north exterior side (N.B.R.). On the northwest is a barn which is worth mentioning, being built of clunch. Inside the house itself the roof timbers appear to be original. There also remains the first flight of a plain, possibly seventeenth century, staircase with acorn finials, a close string, carved balusters and a plain handrail. In the north and south rooms on the ground floor are sixteenth century fireplaces (N.B.R.) with moulded four-centred heads with carved spandrels and ogee mouldings on the jambs and stops; the head of that in the north room has been renewed. In the rooms above are similar but



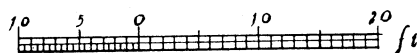
Elevation to Garden



River front

Garden front

Ground floor Plan



WHARF HOUSE

PLAN C.

NOW ST. LUCIANS.

smaller fireplaces. The plan of the main range is simple; the doorway leads into a passage which is continued through to the east doorway and in it, on the north side, is the staircase. North and south of the passage are single rooms having the fireplaces described above. See Garner & Stratton, *Domestic Architecture in England during the Tudor Period*, Pl. C. & Fig. 209, where it is called Wharf House.

(5). *Flint House* (Plan D.) and *Flint Cottage* (Fig. 5), lying on the north side of the High Street at its west end, form one structure now and were probably built about 1550; since then it has been altered and modernized. The south front on the road consists of a two-storeyed building of flint with ashlar quoins and having three large gables and a brown tiled roof. The east bay of the house is on a moulded plinth and now forms Flint Cottage. The gables come down low and the spaces between each appear to have been filled in at some time and a parapet thus formed between them. In the gables at each end are two-light stone mullioned windows, that on the west having a square label over it; the opening in the rebuilt centre gable consists of a three-light wooden casement window. In the first floor are three large four-light stone transomed and mullioned windows with ovolo mouldings and square labels over them. The ground floor windows have all been altered, being now modern three-light sash windows in the two westward bays and in the east bay is a modern casement window. The front doorway of Flint House has a 19th century rusticated stone frame with a semicircular head. Flint Cottage has a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century reeded wooden doorframe with a flat hood to it. The back of the house (N.B.R.) on the north is rendered and has an addition dated 1610. The house may have been built of material taken from the destroyed priory by John Norris who obtained the Priory estate from the Crown in 1547. It is possible, however, that Christopher Avelyn may have built it; Norris conveyed the estate to him in 1553.

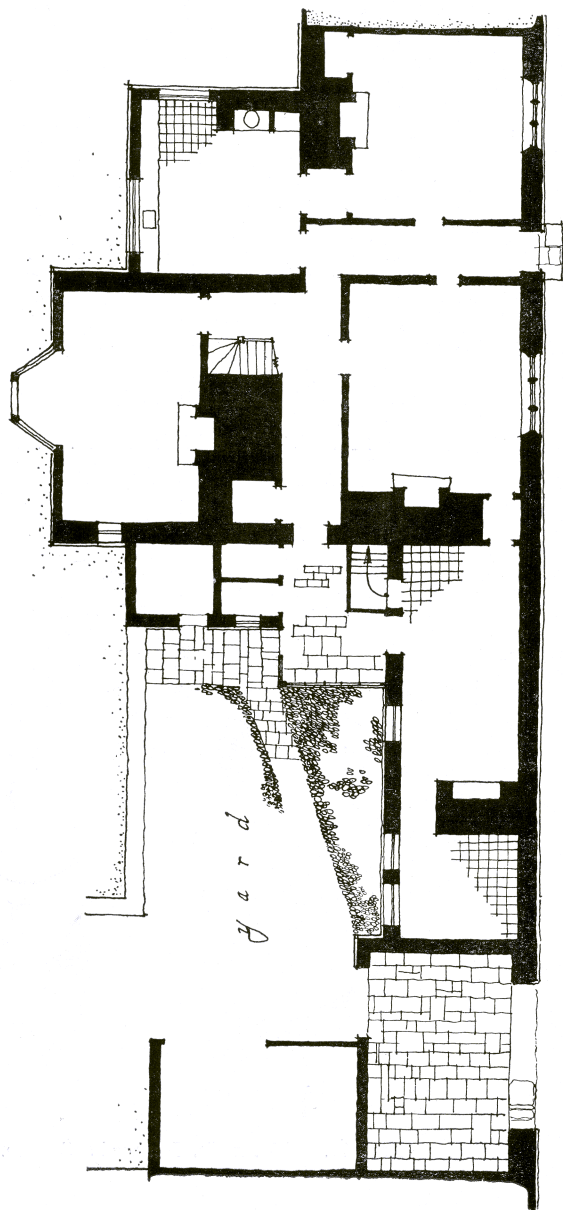
(6). Nos. 17, 18 and 19 High Street, on the south side. Plan E. This structure is of one 16th century building of roughcast timber framing with an oversailing at the first floor. The roof is tiled. In the first floor are three late 18th century sash windows. No. 18 has a large casement window with a late 18th century surround in the ground floor. No. 19 has a shop front and there are sedan steps leading up to Nos. 17 and 18 (N.B.R.). The interest of the house lies, however, in its cellar, for this shows 16th century vaulting of two quadripartite bays with some reused 14th century stones which most probably came from the priory church on its destruction about 1530 when half of the church was also used for the repair of the bridge.

SOME NOTES ON THE DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF
WALLINGFORD, BERKSHIRE

"FLINT HOUSE"

Ground floor plan

garden



PLAN D.

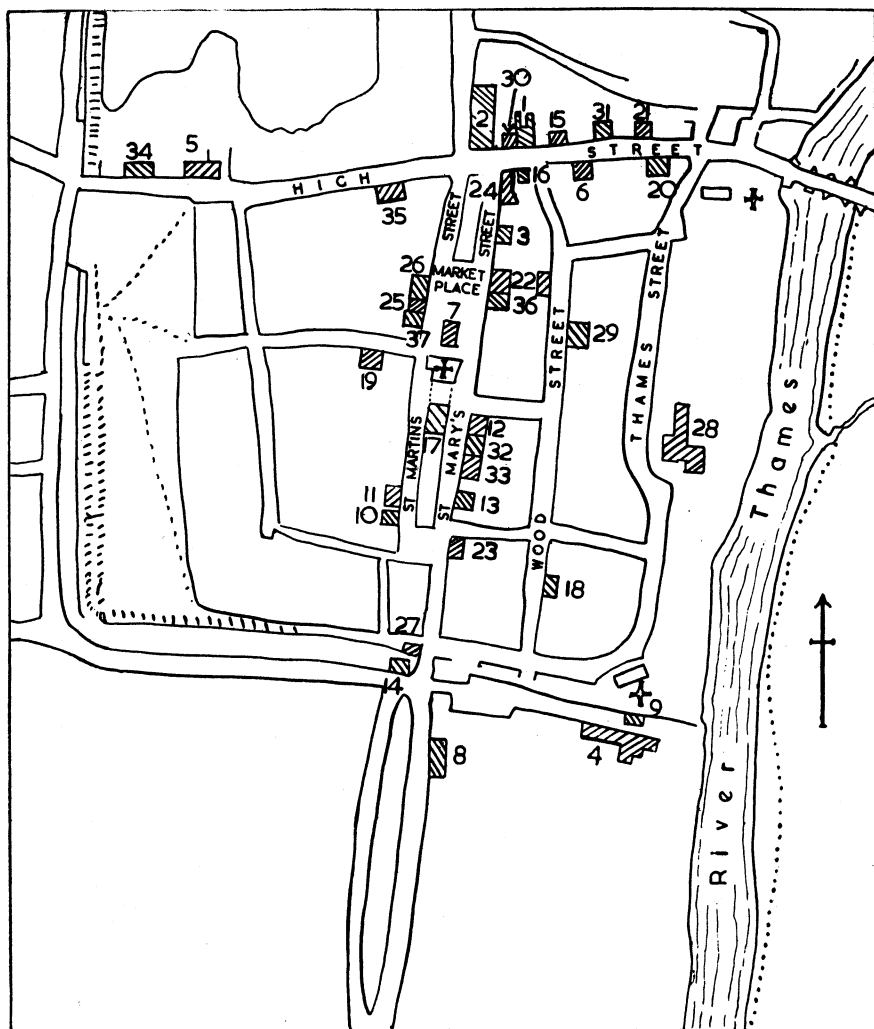


FIG. 15. Wallingford.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

The following houses were all built in the 17th century :—The Guildhall (1670), Angier's Almshouses (1681), St. Lucian's Cottage, No. 21 and Caxton House in St. Martin's Street, three buildings in St. Mary's Street (Nos. 16, 23 and 34-35) and Nos. 67 and 68 High Street.

(7). *The Guildhall* (or Town Hall), at the south end of the Market Place, is probably the most interesting of the larger buildings in Wallingford. It was built in 1670 and was repaired in 1822 and 1877 and an addition was made on the south-west angle in about 1933. The upper storey of plastered half-timbered construction with rusticated quoins is supported on Doric stone columns which are doubled at each corner. It has a hipped roof with two small dormers on each side and a larger gabled one with a three-light window on the north. On the east side in the first floor are five sash windows with moulded cornices over them, while on the north end is a railed balcony projecting in front of a good Venetian window. On the upper floor of the interior is a hall on the north and a council chamber on the south, both having panelled dados.

(For illustration, see *V.C.H. Berks.*, III, 520 and Mervyn Macartney *Practical Exemplar of Architecture* (5th Ser.), pl. 31, 32, 33.)

(8). *Angier's Hospital* (or Almshouses) on the east side of the Reading Road was built and endowed for six poor people by William Angier and Mary his sister in 1681 ; it was further endowed in 1886 by Francis Bunting. It is a two-storeyed roughcast structure having three gables and a brown tiled roof. In the centre of the front is a stuccoed porch with a large rose placed in the tympanum of the pediment and there is a similar decoration in the top of each of the end gables. In the first floor are four early 19th century iron casement windows, all having "gothick" traceried heads with square labels above them. A coat of arms under an ogee canopy on the central gable bears : Ermine a gryphon segreant and party per fesse. At the back of the building are two projecting wings built of rubble with brick dressings and having ancient two-light wood mullioned windows (N.B.R.).

(9). *St. Lucian's Cottage* which lies to the north of St. Lucians, may possibly have been built in the 17th century. It consists of a brick and timber structure on a flint base and has two storeys. The south front has been rebuilt.

(10). *No. 21 St. Martin's Street*, on the west side, consists of a two-storeyed 17th century house, with a modern shop front,

and is built of roughcast brick on a timber framing. There is a 3-sided bay window on the ground floor on the south side next to the shop window; there are also two three-light casement windows, one of which appears to be original.

(11). *Caxton House* in St. Martin's Street, on the west side, shows at the back a late 16th or early 17th century structure with timber framed gables with ancient three-light casement windows with leaded lights. The front is of two storeyed grey and red brick with an early 19th century reeded doorframe. Above the three sash windows, which have moulded wood frames, was a moulded brick cornice which was altered in 1948.

(12). *No. 16 St. Mary's Street* is a house and shop on the east side with a two-storeyed stuccoed front which conceals a probable 17th century timber framing. It has a bracketed overhang at the first floor in which are two modern three-light casement windows. The steep-pitched roof is of brown tiles. It was once the King's Arms Inn. (Fig. 6).

(13). *No. 23 St. Mary's Street*, on the east side, has one of the most interesting features in Wallingford in the shape of two elegant late 17th century three-light moulded Venetian windows in the first floor front (Fig. 11). These are practically the only ancient features left in this two-storeyed stuccoed timber framed house which has a tiled roof (N.B.R.). To the north is a set-back 19th century stuccoed brick addition and at the back there are some modern alterations and further additions.

(14). *Nos. 34 & 35 St. Mary's Street* form one build which was probably originally built in the 17th century judging from the appearance of the south gable end. It has two storeys with a band or string at the first floor and a brown tiled mansard roof in which are three attic dormers. The front was probably reconstructed and stuccoed about 1800 and has three sash windows. The plan is a double rectangle and there is a valley roof. The back has been rebuilt in modern red brick.

(15). *Nos. 67 & 68 High Street* consists of a house and shop in one build and has not much to show but it is probably 17th century in origin. Its two storeys are of roughcast timber framing with two attic dormers in a tiled roof and there are three late 18th century or early 19th century sash windows.

LATE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES.

(16). *No. 26 High Street*, on the south side, is a house and shop of two storeys with two attic dormers in a brown tiled roof and an

oversailing at the first floor. There are two casement windows above the shop, to the west of which is an 18th century ground floor front.

(17). *Nos. 52 & 53 St. Mary's Street* (known as The Gabled Cottage and being on the west side) is a two-storeyed plastered brick and timber framed house of one build, with two attic dormers on the east front in a re-hung brown tiled roof. It was probably built in the last decade of the 17th century. It has a moulded cornice and a central brick stack. The first floor on the east has three casement windows in wood frames, some being ancient; the ground floor has two pedimented and plain late 18th century doorframes and a restored bow window of original design. In the north gable end the timber framing with a brick filling, is exposed. On the west side is a rebuilt brick and timbered gabled projection (Fig. 8).

(18). *No. 19 Wood Street* is probably late 17th or early 18th century in origin. It is a two-storeyed colour washed brick-fronted house with two attic dormers in a tiled roof.

EARLY 18TH CENTURY.

(19). *No. 1 Church Lane* consists of two builds, the eastern of which is dated "L.C. 1703." There are two storeys of red brick with a dentilled cornice and two sash windows with segmental architraves, one being blocked. The 18th century doorframe is (N.B.R.) pedimented and has a dentilled cornice. The western part of the house is of late 18th century build but is similar in execution.

(20). *Calleva House* (Fig. 4) on the south side of the High Street at the east end, is an outstanding example of a good early 18th century house of distinction. It is said to have been built by William Hucks, M.P. for the Borough from 1714 till his death in 1740; he was Brewer to the household of King George I. The front is of three-storeyed grey brick with red brick dressings with a dentilled cornice at the second and a band at the first floor. There is also a modillioned cornice of moulded brick above which is a parapet. The four pilasters of moulded brick dividing the front into three bays have Doric capitals (Fig. 12). In the first and second floors are five sash windows with their original glazing bars, gauged brick segmental architraves and aprons which have trygliphed pendants. There is a fine central Doric doorway with a segmental pediment (N.B.R.). The back elevation is as good as the front. Inside the house is a fine contemporary staircase

and panelling. The cellars are partly of stone and partly of brick and on the plaster of the cellar ceiling at the front of the house is "August 11th, 1764."

(21). *No. 80 High Street*, on the north side, was probably built early in the 18th century. It has a two-storeyed stuccoed front with cellars and a brown tiled roof in which are four attic dormers with moulded pediments. There is a string, or band, at the first floor and at the angles are rusticated quoins. A deep eaves cornice is supported on carved scrolled consoles. The fenestration consists of seven sash windows, two of which in the first floor being blocked. The top halves of these sashes have the ancient glazing bars, the lower halves having been replaced with modern glazing. The 18th century doorframe has a pediment (Fig. 9).

(22). *No. 2 Market Place*, on the east side, is a three-storeyed house of grey and red brick which was probably built in the first half of the 18th century. The front has three sash windows, a brick dentilled cornice, brick band at the second floor and a Welsh slate roof (N.B.R.). The back is ashlar faced. The stabling of this house, facing on to Wood Street at the back is of red brick and has an elegant cupola with four columns and an ogee lead roof.

(23). *No. 1 St. Leonard's Square*, on the east side, is a house with a shop front and is built of two-storeyed red brick on a stuccoed plinth. In the first floor are five tall early 18th century sash windows with straight brick architraves, the centre one, however, having a segmental head by way of relief. Two of these windows have been blocked but the general symmetry of the facade has been retained. The shop front appears to have been inserted late in the century (Fig. 14).

(24). *No. 1 St. Mary's Street*, at the north end on the east side, is a fine house the appreciation of which is difficult owing to the narrowness of the street. It was built early in the 18th century of grey brick with red brick dressings, an eaves cornice (now cemented) and a small parapet. The five sash windows retain the original glazing bars and they have segmental brick architraves with keystones. A room on the first floor has contemporary panelling and there is a good original staircase.

MID 18TH CENTURY.

(25). *No. 14 Market Place* is a mid-18th century three-storeyed house, with a shop front, in grey brick with red brick dressings; it has a moulded eaves cornice and a tiled roof. In the first and second floors there is a Venetian window with a red brick architrave (N.B.R.).

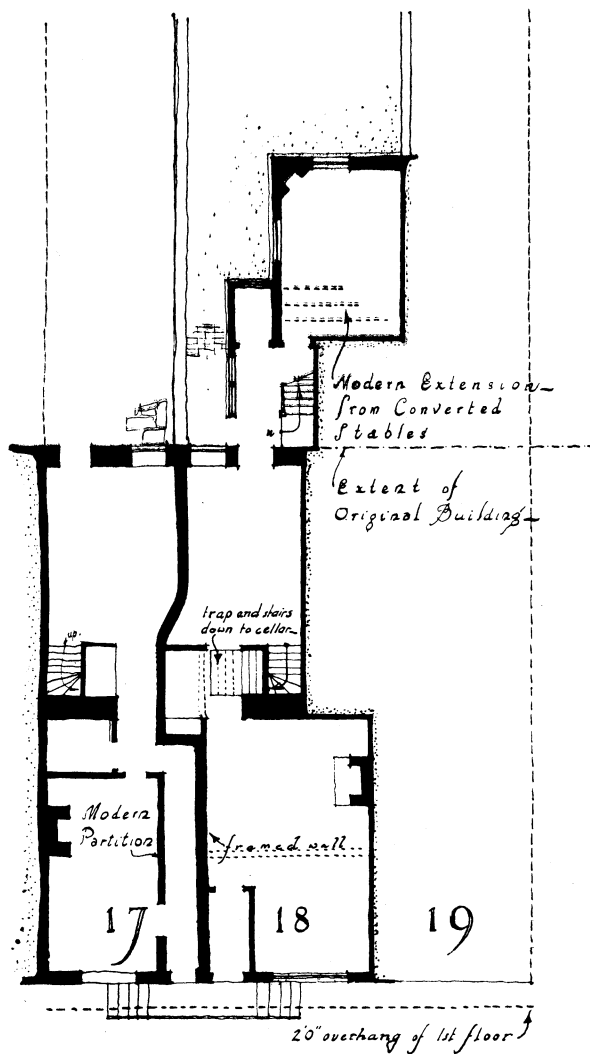
(26). *Barclays Bank*, on the west side of the Market Place to the north of No. 14, is a house with a modern stone-dressed ground floor "Bank" front. The facade consists of three storeys of grey brick with red brick dressings, moulded bands at the first and second floors and a moulded brick eaves cornice. Behind a parapet is a tiled hipped roof. In each floor are two Venetian windows, of varying size, with brick architraves (N.B.R.). The interior has a staircase which seems to be of mid-18th century date.

(27). *No. 36 St. Mary's Street*, at the south end on the west side, consists of a two-storeyed variegated brick front which bears a date panel above the ground floor shop "I. Gyldae Fish Street MDCCLXXI." It has a hipped brown tiled roof and three sash windows. The south side is stuccoed and on the north at the side is a two-storeyed stuccoed refronting made probably in the 18th century; the older core, thus refronted, still retains two attic dormer windows and a staircase projection; in the first floor is a six-light wood-framed casement window.

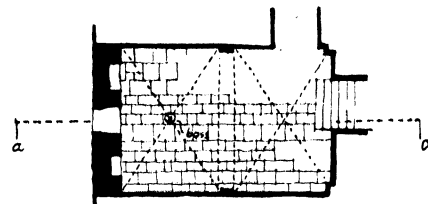
(28). *Castle Priory* is well sited on the bank of the Thames and is approached from Thames Street. No evidence seems to be forthcoming as to its precise date but it was probably built within ten years either way of 1770. The east front (N.B.R.) on the garden facing the river consists of three storeys, stuccoed, and having a modillioned eaves cornice and a slate hipped roof: there is a moulded string at the second floor level. The first floor has five sash windows which have moulded entablatures while those on the ground floor have semi-circular heads with blind boxes. On the north and south of the central range are one-storeyed wings of similar style. The west elevation, having the entrance doorway, is of the same appearance as the east. On the west are the contemporary stables built in brick. The south-east room on the ground floor has a late 18th century marble fireplace and panelled walls with a moulded frieze and dado of later date; an oval in the centre of the ceiling is decorated with an oil painting. Other rooms on the ground floor have good contemporary fireplaces, doorcases and plasterwork; in one of the fireplaces a late 18th century grate remains. This house was occupied by Sir William Blackstone, the judge and Recorder of Wallingford, who died here in 1780. It seems more than probable that he here wrote his famous "Commentaries on the Laws of England" between 1765 and 1769. He was a benefactor to his parish church of St. Peter having been mainly responsible for the building of its spire in 1775 (possibly to the designs of Mr. (after Sir) Robert Taylor) and having given in 1778 a chalice, paten and plate of "silver double gilt." His monument on the south exterior of



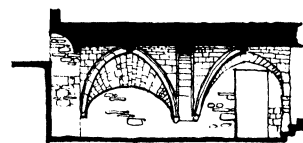
Elevation to High Street.



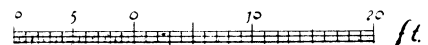
Plan



Plan of cellar of no 18



Section a-a



17, 18, 19 HIGH STREET

St. Peter's church is an interesting essay in 18th century gothic, being constructed mainly of slate, but it is sadly in need of attention if it is to survive.

(29). *Suffolk House* (N.B.R.), in Wood Street, may have been built about the middle of the century; it has a somewhat plain three-storeyed front of grey brick with red brick dressings, a band at the third floor and a moulded brick eaves cornice. The five sash windows have segmental architraves which add a certain amount of interest. A feature is the late 18th century Doric door frame which has a semicircular fanlight under its pediment. A modern "boxed-out" bay window has been added to the ground floor on the south.

LATE 18TH CENTURY.

(30). *No. 64 High Street*, on the north side between the Lamb and George Inns, is occupied by the Westminster Bank. It is a three-storeyed late 18th century red brick building with a stuccoed and rusticated "Bank" ground floor; it has bands at the first and second floors, a moulded cornice and parapet and two brick pilaster strips which have capitals. The five plain sash windows have straight brick architraves. Inside there is a late 18th century staircase and in one of the rooms on the first floor is a "duck's nest" grate. The facade gives rather a severe impression and, although it stands back somewhat from the roadway, its position seems cramped.

(31) *No. 75 High Street*, on the north side is a late 18th century tall, plain and severe house of three storeyed grey brick with red brick dressings. It has a parapet and a modillioned brick cornice and five sash windows in plain reveals and straight brick architraves; the front doorway is recessed and has a semicircular head to it. In the garden wall at the back is the date "C.W. 1794." The interior has a contemporary staircase (N.B.R.).

(32). *Nos. 18-20 St. Mary's Street*, on the east side form a row of cottages which are dated at the back as 1776. The two-storeyed variegated brick front seems to be on a brick and timber framed house; it has a brown tiled roof, four sash windows and a central passage-way. This range is not of any particular architectural merit but it forms an inoffensive grouping of a certain quiet dignity.

(33). *Nos. 21 & 22 St. Mary's Street*, on the east side and to the south of Nos. 18-20 mentioned above, form one building of late 18th century two-storeyed grey brick with red brick dressings. There is a modillioned wood eaves cornice and a brown tiled roof

in which are two attic dormers. In the first floor are three sash windows while the ground floor has a shop front, a three-light sash window and a central late 18th century pedimented door-frame.

Of somewhat severe and plain appearance are the following late 18th century houses; they do not perhaps merit individual description but they may all be said to contribute to the general feeling of unobtrusive well-being of the town.

The Croft in Castle Street (with a late 18th century door-frame) (N.B.R.).

Nos. 9-12 Castle Street (being probably originally late 17th or early 18th century in origin and subsequently reconstructed) (N.B.R.).

No. 16 High Street (a late 18th century front probably on an earlier house).

No. 65 High Street (a house and shop of late 18th century grey brick).

No. 65 High Street (a house and shop of late 18th century grey brick).

No. 20 Market Place (a late 18th century brick front on a 17th-18th century two-gabled timber-framed house) (N.B.R.).

No. 4 St. Martin's Street (a brick house with an early 19th century staircase) (N.B.R.).

Winterbrook House in Reading Road (a brick house with a hipped roof having three dormers in it and a pedimented door-frame).

Riverside in Thames Street (seems to have been modernized in the 19th century and since) (N.B.R.).

St. Peter's Rectory in Wood Street (a brick and flint front which was altered in the late 18th century, the wing at the back having a mansard roof).

Nos. 38 & 39 Wood Street (brick cottages dated "H.W.M. 1783" on the south end which was been rebuilt).

The following houses were built in the 18th century but do not exhibit sufficient details on which to base any precise dating. They are all of a certain amount of merit architecturally speaking but none of them are outstanding.

No. 4 High Street, the *Fleur de lys* (a timber-framed house and shop).

No. 5 High Street, Thames House (of red brick partly renewed; two of the sash windows retain the glazing bars).

No. 12 High Street (a stuccoed brick front; the back looks 18th century or earlier and has some flint work in it).

No. 55 High Street, The Priory (is probably all 18th century, but there may be an ancient invisible core) (N.B.R.).

Nos. 60 & 61 *High Street* (red and grey brick house and shops of possibly mid 18th century date).

No. 62 *High Street* (originally two houses but now one grey and red brick front of possibly mid 18th century date) (N.B.R.).

The "Town Arms" in the *High Street* near the bridge a modern front all possibly on an 18th century core).

The "Feathers" Hotel in *Market Place* (originally 18th century but now modernized with a "bar" front) (N.B.R.).

The "Nags Head" in *Reading Road* (roughcast with two attic dormers; probably 18th century in origin).

Nos. 1 & 1A *St. Martin's Street* (is in a poor state but it may have been built in the 18th century).

No. 2 *St. Martin's Street*, the "King's Head," (modernized but possibly 18th century originally).

Nos. 57 & 58 *St Mary's Street* (18th century with two attic dormer windows).

LATE 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURIES.

The following houses do not seemingly merit individual description but they exhibit a few typical features of the period.

No. 76 *High Street*, *St. Nicholas* (stuccoed with a semi-basement and a Doric porch; the house stands back from the road on an artificially raised bank).

Nos. 5 & 6 *Market Place* (variegated brick with an early 19th century partly rusticated office front) (N.B.R.).

Nos. 7 & 8 *Market Place* (a garage with a stuccoed front on (?) three old 18th century houses behind) (N.B.R.).

No. 9 *Market Place* (house and shop of variegated brick) (N.B.R.).

No. 13 *Market Place* (house and shop of variegated brick).

No. 21 *Market Place* (house and shop with a 19th century front on a probably late 17th or early 18th century timber-framed structure) (N.B.R.).

Nos. 6, 7, 8 & 9 *St. Leonard's Square* (row of variegated brick houses with some original glazing bars of the sash windows remaining) (N.B.R.).

No. 26 *St. Mary's Street* (house and shop with a stuccoed front with pilaster strips and a late 18th century doorway).

Nos. 28 & 29 *St. Mary's Street* (Fig. 10) (pair of variegated brick houses with the backs built in flint with brick bands).

No. 18 *Wood Street* (a grey and red brick two-storeyed house).

EARLY 19TH CENTURY.

(34). *Stone Hall* on the north side of *High Street* at the west end, is an interesting example of its date. It consists of a three-storeyed stuccoed front on what is probably a late 16th or early

17th century house of brick, stone and flint, the walls of which are 1 ft. 10 ins. thick at the ground floor. The front has three pilaster strips with flat relief on them, a moulded cornice and parapet. The Doric porch is supported on two columns and the door has a fanlight. There are three sash windows and another side sash window all in moulded stuccoed frames. The east part of the front was built by Mayor Thomas Greenwood about 1820 and he probably refronted and refitted the ancient house internally at the same time. At the back on the west part of the ancient house is a lead date panel with "I.G. 1768" (possibly for Ion Goodwin, draper), but it may well be reset here.

(35). *No. 35 High Street*, the Municipal Offices on the south side, are housed in a two-storeyed early 19th century red brick structure with a parapet and cornice. The large flat skew-back architraves of the windows are made in very careful gauged brickwork.

(36). *No. 3 Market Place*, on the east side, is a stone-fronted house of three storeys with side pilasters and a balustraded parapet. The shop front looks early 19th century (N.B.R.).

(37). *Church House*, on the west side of *Market Place*, next to the Post Office, is an early 19th century grey and red brick front on a possibly 18th century house. The ground floor and the south end are stuccoed.

Notable Features.

It is to be expected that in a town such as Wallingford there should be found some outstanding external and internal features which deserve particular mention. These may be summarized as follows—

INTERIOR FITTINGS.

Fireplaces (1). The 16th century stone fireplaces (N.B.R.) in St. Lucians (4) are fairly typical of the date and may be compared with those at Marcham "Priory," (N.B.R.), the manor house at Drayton, Berkshire, Fitzharris House in Abingdon (N.B.R.), Hardwick manor house (near Bicester), Kirtlington manor house farm, Oxon., Ickford Rectory, Bucks, and Callas House, Wanborough, Wilts. In all these examples the fireplaces are larger than those in St. Lucians which, it must be remembered, is a comparatively small house.

(2). The 18th century fireplace in Castle Priory (28) is typical for its date but perhaps is not of first rate workmanship.

Panelling. That in No. 1 St. Mary's Street (24) and Calleva House (20) are probably the best examples of 18th century panelling in the town. These compare favourably with those found in some half dozen Berkshire houses in Newbury, in Stratton House, Abingdon, Marcham old vicarage, Ginge manor house and in Barclays Bank and 20 Mill Street in Wantage.

Staircases. Here again the best examples of 18th century staircases are to be found in Calleva House (20), very fine, and in No. 1 St. Mary's Street (24). The staircase in the Westminster Bank seems to be late 18th century in date. That in Calleva House (N.B.R.) may be said to rival other known examples at No. 28 Ock Street, Abingdon, Ginge manor and Sutton Wick House in Sutton Courtenay (all N.B.R.), and on smaller scale in No. 30 Market Place, Barclays Bank and at the Ham, all in Wantage. And in Newbury with those in No. 8 Cheap Street, No. 5 Wharf Street, No. 22 Broadway, No. 2 Bath Road and in St. Nicholas House in West Mills.

EXTERIOR FITTINGS.

Brickwork. Good examples of 18th century brickwork can be studied in Calleva House (20) and No. 35 High Street (35). In the former careful examination of the moulded brickwork of the cornices and pilasters (Fig. 12) will reveal the excellent technique adopted in Georgian times for producing the maximum dignity and effect in a facade of a house in order that it may at the same time exhibit individuality and yet fall into harmony with its neighbours. In No. 35 High Street can be seen the effect of gauged brickwork in such a detail as an architrave to a window in an otherwise plain and severe facade. The alternate banding of flint and brick, employed mainly in the late 18th and early 19th century, which helped to break up the monotony of a blank wall may well be seen in Nos. 28 and 29 St. Mary's Street (Fig. 10).

Dated Houses. These are always useful in any architectural survey of domestic buildings. It may be said, however, as a word of caution, that care must necessarily be taken to see that a date stone does in fact refer to the original construction and not reset in some later work. Examples are: No. 1 Church Lane (19), 1703; No. 18 St. Mary's Street (32), 1776; and No. 36 St. Mary's Street (27), 1771. All these houses are of brick. It is unusual not to find some examples in the 17th century in a town of the size of Wallingford. The date and inscription on No. 36 St. Mary's Street present a problem; is "Gyldae" a surname? Fish Street was the former name of St. Mary's Street.

Doorways. On the whole it may be said that Wallingford is not particularly blest with even an average number of good doorways. Calleva House (20), in Doric style, forms an outstanding example (Fig. 4 & N.B.R.). Suffolk House (29) (N.B.R.) and No. 1 Church Lane (19) (N.B.R.) are perhaps not so distinguished as we should like to see them.

Inns. All the three Inns, the George (1), the Lamb (2) and the White Hart (3) are interesting examples of the work of the 16th century and may be said to contribute useful information on the construction of Tudor and Elizabethan hosteleries (Figs. 1, 2 & 7). Each shews a variety in the treatment of the gables and that exhibited in the ornamented spandrels and pendants in the White Hart is particularly noteworthy (Fig. 13).

Timber Framing. Apart from the three Inns mentioned above the timber framed construction is well shown in No. 17 and No. 26 High Street (6 & 16) and in No. 16 (12) and Nos. 52 & 53 St. Mary's Street (17). See Figs. 6 & 8. In these examples the "oversailing" construction of the 16th and 17th century may well be compared with the later framing of timber with brick filling.

Windows. The two bays of the stone mullioned windows in St. Lucians (4) are typical of the date (Fig. 3). The mullions have the earlier style of hollow moulding as compared with the form of ovolo moulding usually associated with the 17th century. Of late 17th century style is the Venetian window in the north side of the Town Hall (7) and is worthy of study. But perhaps one of the most interesting and elegant in the town is that in No. 23 St. Mary's Street (13). It is doubtless the only surviving example of its kind remaining in Wallingford and long may it be preserved (Fig. 11). If it is destroyed, vandalism is not too strong a word to use. It compares most favourably with the well-known example of No. 126 High Street, Oxford.

The effect of the good proportions of the usual early 18th century window (Figs. 4 & 14) can well be studied in Calleva House (20) and No. 1 St. Leonard's Square (23) and should be compared with the less satisfactory result in say, the Lamb Hotel front (Fig. 7).

Plans.

It will be seen that the plans of the houses have not been described or discussed in the above notes. It is proposed, however, to deal with the domestic architecture of Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon on similar lines in future articles. In the final instalment the regional development of the plan and construction of the earlier houses in North Berkshire will be analysed, the evidence being derived from examples in all four towns.