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**Bishops House  
East Denton Hall  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
RECORD**

**MAY 2007**

Prepared by

**C. E. Barr**

of

**Nicholson Nairn Architects  
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NE16 4PA**

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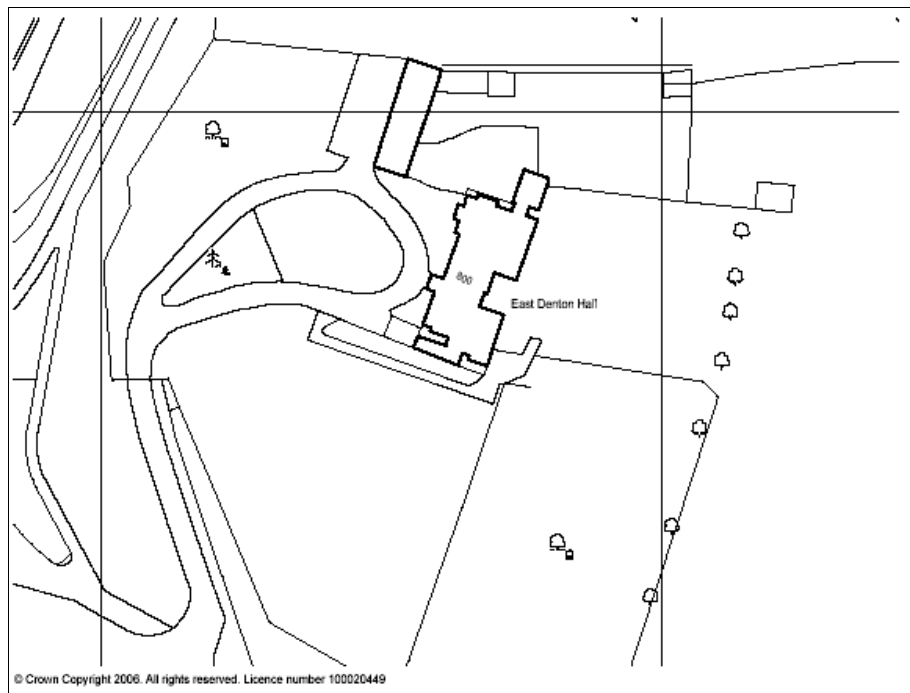
**Fax - 0191 420 0349**

East Denton Hall  
Ref. 12450

1.0

2.0 **Survey Report**

2.1 **Location Plan**



2.2 **Existing Drawings**

Copies of existing architect's plans, cross sections and elevation drawings are provided within Appendix I.

2.3 **Photographic Record**

Appendix II contains the photographic record of the building and relevant features. The photographs are indexed and cross referenced to annotated drawings of the building.

2.4 **Survey Report**

1.4.01 **Location**

The building is located on the northern side of West Road and is known as East Denton Hall, 800 West Road. For ease of reference the building shall be known as East Denton Hall.

1.4.02 **National Grid Reference**

Easting	419900 m
Northing	565700 m

#### 1.4.03 Listed Building

The building is a Grade 1 Listed Building.

#### 1.4.04 Date and Detail of Record

The record was made on the 31<sup>th</sup> May 2007 by Christopher Barr.

#### 1.4.05 Summary Statement

Alterations to 1941 Alterations to Grade 1 Listed Building.

#### 1.4.06 The Building (please note this information is has been adopted from a previous report)

##### **Notes Relating to Alterations to 'Old Dining Hall'**

Terms of Reference:

*Denton Hall and its Association* : William Weaver Tomlinson 1894

*Down Your Aisles*: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle 1850 - 2000

By Michael Main and Leo Gooch

Catholic Year Books

The Old Dining Hall was originally 'a large rectangular chamber, 36 feet by 18 feet.'

The floor plans reproduced from '*Denton Hall*' indicate the layout at 1894.

The Hall was lit by three triple-mullioned windows, 2 on the west face and 1 on the east face.

Page 107 and 108 of '*Denton Hall*' makes reference to a corridor being formed between the principal entrance door and the east-facing window. This was subsequently removed. The position of this partition wall more or less aligns with the present (and proposed) retained partition incorporating the stained glass window.

The Dining Hall had direct access to the kitchen both by door and what is referred to as the 'Buttery Hatch'.

The impressive centrally located fireplace and mantle that is presently separated from the rest of the area of the previous Dining Hall is best appreciated from the photograph taken from '*Denton Hall*' (copy attached).

All existing historical surface features have been retained when the north / south wall was added last century.

##### **Date of Alterations**

East Denton Hall became the Bishops residence in 1941. The Bishops residence before this being at Sandyford House, Newcastle and before this at Tynemouth.

The coats of arms displayed within the doorways into the present chapel are those of Bishop John William McCormack and it can be safely assumed that these were brought from what had been his residence in Tynemouth by Bishop McCormack in 1941.

The stained glass window to the entrance partition displays Bishop McCormack's coat of arms and the reference to "1936" within the glass refers, we believe, to be the death of Bishop McCormack's parents.

### **The Requirement for Change**

Registers, or year books, for 1941-43 indicate that East Denton Hall was the residence of not only Bishop McCormack but two priests, three sisters, Diocese Day Secretary, Diocese Treasurer and at least one Judicial Vicar. It can only be assumed that due to the numbers of people involved and the distance to the nearest church there was a requirement for the creation at that time of a large Chapel.

Since that date numbers of staff have decreased and presently there is only the Bishop and his Housekeeper and Secretary. East Denton Hall is now used by the Diocese to not only provide a home for the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle but to fulfil the role of a "conference centre" for the Diocese. Meetings take place on a daily basis. Present facilities make it difficult to accommodate the large numbers of people who frequently attend those meetings.

It is proposed therefore to open up the Old Dining Hall. The Old Dining Hall would then return to its former importance within the building and provide a useful area that can fulfil the requirements of the Diocese for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

An underused first floor room, that has already been subject to some 1950's alterations (the formation of a W.C.), could then become the setting of a reduced but more appropriately sized Chapel. The dressed stone doorways, already moved from Tynemouth to East Denton Hall in 1941, would be retained and used as part of both the Chapel and the Entrance Corridor.



# DENTON HALL

AND

## ITS ASSOCIATIONS

BY

WILLIAM WEAVER TOMLINSON

AUTHOR OF "THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO NORTHUMBERLAND," "HISTORICAL  
NOTES ON CULLERCOATS, WHITLEY, AND MONKSEATON," ETC., ETC.

*With Drawings by T. Fyre Macklin, and other Illustrations*

LONDON

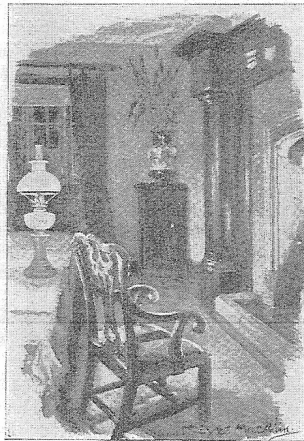
WALTER SCOTT, LTD., 24 WARWICK LANE  
PATERNOSTER ROW

1894



EAST DENTON HALL.

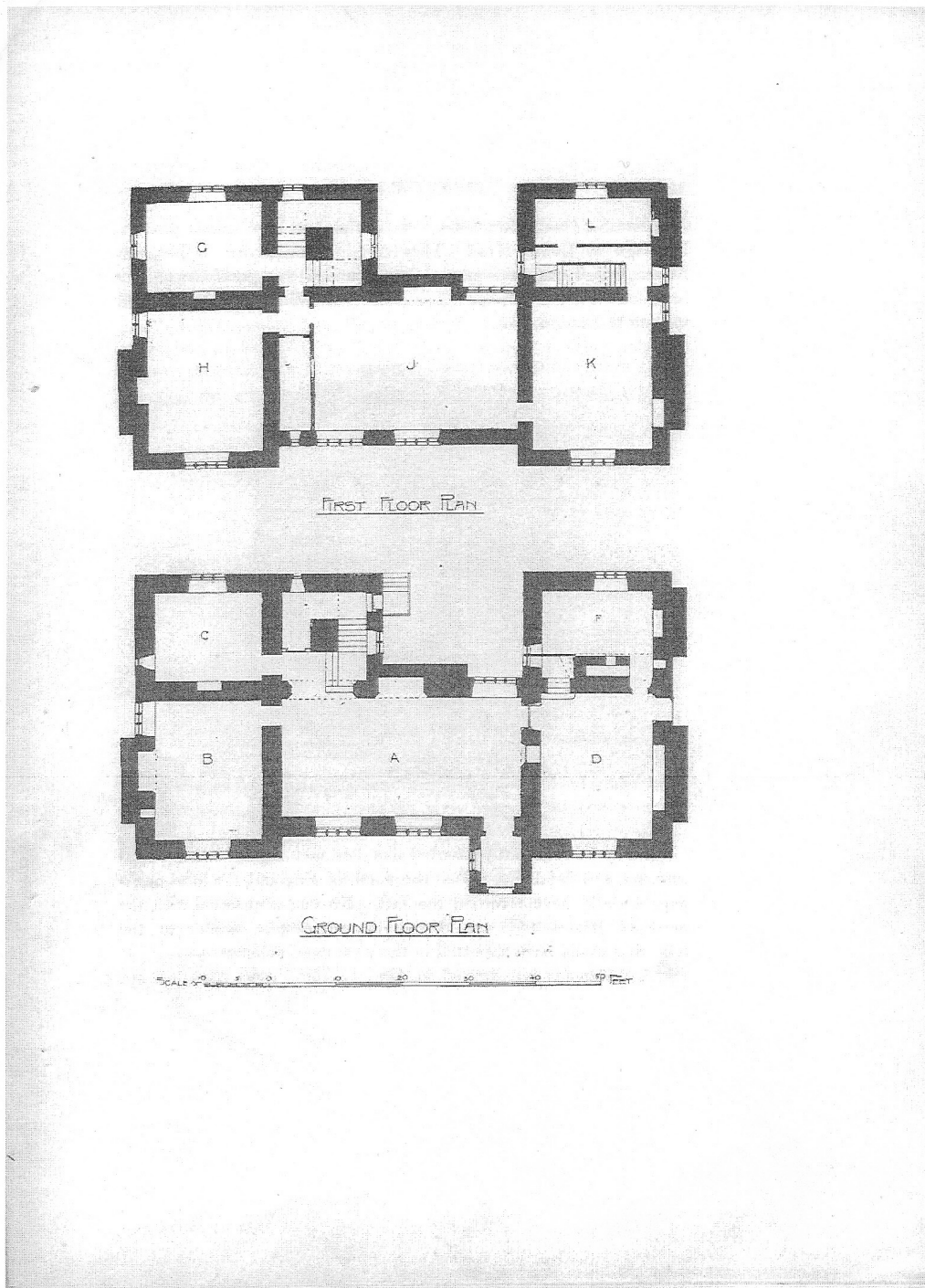
date of the building, above it—into the old Dining Hall (A). This is a large rectangular chamber 36 feet by 18 feet, lighted by three triple-mullioned windows, two on the west and one on the east, the latter being modern, though replacing an original one. It gives access to the present Dining Room (B) on the north, the Smoking



DINING-ROOM.

Room (C) on the north-east, the Kitchen (D) on the south, and the principal staircase on the east.

The Montagus curtailed its length by about 7 feet to make a passage, carrying a partition-wall from the porch to the opposite



P111



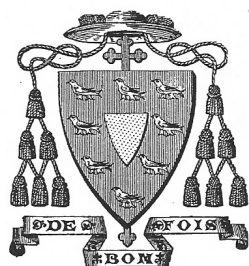


# Down Your Aisles

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle 1850 - 2000

by Michael Morris & Leo Gooch

# Some Episcopal Coats of Arms



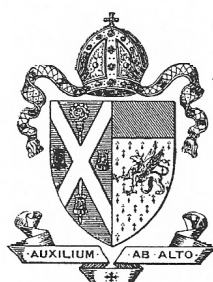
Bishop J. Chadwick



Bishop J.W. Bewick



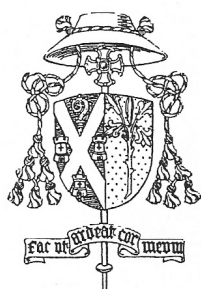
Bishop T.W. Wilkinson



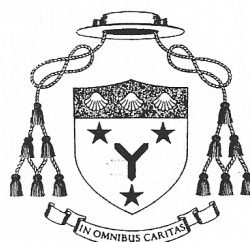
Bishop R. Collins



Bishop J. Thorman



Bishop J. McCormack



Bishop J. Cunningham

continue every Thursday until Pentecost under the team leader, Sister Monica. About 40 people have attended regularly, 25 per cent of whom are non-Catholics. It is hoped to hold this course, annually.

Within the wider community of Benwell, St. Joseph's and other denominations are involved in offering help where needed. The Good Shepherd Project in Scotswood, funded partly by the Manpower Services Commission and the Catholic Church, is a Drop-In Centre supervised by a Good Shepherd nun, Sister Hilda, where local residents can call for advice, or just a cup of coffee and a chat. Last year Father O'Connell was the chairman of the Benwell Council of Churches. On March 14th, this year, this Council organised a tour of the community projects functioning in the area; Bishop Lindsay was one of the regional church leaders who participated in this event.

The welcoming inscription mentioned at the beginning of the article - spoken 2,000 years ago by Christ - and carved on the stone lintel of St. Joseph's church entrance is a perpetual and important invitation to the parish community to love and serve the Master in his local church and to render service to the wider community in the 20th century.

#### 42. NEWCASTLE      Bishops' Residences      *(April, May 1994)*

Bishop's House, East Denton Hall, West Road, Newcastle, where Bishop Ambrose Griffiths resides has not always been a bishop's residence nor, indeed, the only one.

Before the restoration of the hierarchy in 1850, when Bishop William Hogarth became our first bishop, our part of England had been under the jurisdiction of vicars apostolic for much of the penal era.

In 1685, when Dr. John Leyburn, a Westmorland man, was appointed vicar apostolic he divided England and Wales into four districts each with its own vicar-general. Our present diocese was then part of the Northern District which comprised the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Durham, Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire. The first vicar apostolic in the North was James Smith from 1688 until his death in 1711; he is buried at Cliffe.

The latter three counties became two separate districts each with its own bishop in 1840 so when William Hogarth was consecrated Bishop of Samosata in 1848 he ruled as vicar apostolic of a much smaller area which after the restoration of the hierarchy in 1850 was known as the See of Hexham of which he was the first bishop; the name was altered to Hexham & Newcastle in 1861.

Bishop Hogarth, of old Catholic farming stock, was born at Dodding Green, near Kendal, Westmorland. Along with his elder brother Robert he entered Crook Hall (the precursor of Ushaw) in 1796 to train for the priesthood. With the opening of Ushaw College he moved there and after ordination in 1809 remained as a professor and administrator until 1816 when he went as missionary to Cliffe Hall (vicars apostolic had resided here for a time, too), near Piercebridge, where he remained as chaplain to the Witham family until his move to Darlington in 1824.

Here he built the church of St. Augustine and later the extensions of 1865. Throughout his ministry, as priest and bishop, he continued to live in his house in Darlington which still stands to-day to the right of the entrance gate leading to the church.

His successor was Bishop James Chadwick who was born at Drogheda, in Ireland, studied at Ushaw and after teaching there for a period went on to do diocesan mission work for seven years returning there until raised to the episcopate in 1866. He was consecrated at Ushaw by Archbishop Manning (later cardinal) and resided at 11, Elswick Villas, Newcastle, and also in Rye Hill; he returned in 1877 to Ushaw as president for a year. He died in Newcastle in 1882.

He was followed by John William Bewick who was born at Minsteracres in the year 1824. Appointed vicar-general in 1868 he moved the following year to Tynemouth from North Shields to found the parish of Our Lady and St. Oswin. His residence was initially 48, Front Street, which he named 'Martyr's Peace'. After consecration as bishop of the diocese he continued to live here until his death in 1886 having been bishop for four years; he lies buried in Ashburton Cemetery, Gosforth. Altogether five bishops resided at

one time or another at Tynemouth.

After a vacancy of 14 months the Vatican appointed Henry O'Callaghan in 1888 as bishop of our diocese. He was a friend of Cardinal Manning and a member of the Oblates of St. Charles as well as being rector of the Venerabile (The English College) in Rome for 21 years. Ill-health forced his resignation after six months. 'He had lived so long in Italy that the change of climate and the new way of life proved altogether too much for him.' Father Milburn remarks of him in his *History of Ushaw College*: 'The grey skies and his scrupulosity had so worn him down that he pleaded either a release from or assistance with his burden.' Perhaps Tynemouth's proximity to the cold North Sea was too great a contrast to the warmer weather of Italy.

Canon Thomas Wilkinson, a convert from Anglicanism, was at this time vicar-general; he was consecrated auxiliary bishop in May 1888, and became the fifth bishop of our diocese in 1889. The Wilkinson home was at Harperley Hall in County Durham and he was educated at Harrow and Durham University. His ability as an administrator set Ushaw College on a firm financial foundation. He was president of the college for almost 20 years as well as bishop of the diocese until his death in 1909. In his later years he was assisted by an auxiliary bishop, Richard Preston, who lived in Tynemouth, but he predeceased Bishop Wilkinson dying at the age of 49.

Richard Collins, who became the auxiliary bishop after Bishop Preston, succeeded Bishop Wilkinson and lived in Newcastle at the cathedral until he died in 1924: the same year that our present diocesan boundaries were defined by an Apostolic Constitution when the two counties of Cumberland and Westmorland were ceded to the Diocese of Lancaster.

When Bishop Joseph Thorman administered the Diocese from 1925 until 1936 he dwelt in Tynemouth as did Bishop Joseph McCormack (1937-58) until 1941 when he moved to Sandyford House, Newcastle. In 1943 he went to live at East Denton Hall, West Road, which has been the residence of our bishops ever since. Here Bishop Ambrose lives as did his two predecessors Bishop Hugh Lindsay (1974-1992) and Bishop James Cunningham (1958-1974). Bishop Owen Swindlehurst, our auxiliary bishop, resides at Oaklea, in Sunderland. He was born at Newburn, a few miles from Denton, educated at Ushaw, ordained priest in 1954 and consecrated auxiliary bishop in 1977.

East Denton Hall, Bishop's House, has a long and varied history. The present structure is said to date from 1622 when the owner, Anthony Errington, had it built in the Jacobean style. From a Christian perspective it would seem that the site had a much earlier occupation. Some of the land in the Denton area was once owned by the nunnery of St. Bartholomew in Newcastle. The Benedictine monastery of Tynemouth is also said to have owned the manor of Denton as early as 1380 and it is also claimed a pre-Reformation chapel once stood in the grounds.

An interesting thought - that some of our earlier bishops lived near the Tynemouth Priory and now we have a Benedictine bishop living at Denton.

Bishop's House has links too with recusant days. Various branches of the old Northumbrian family of Erringtons lived in different locations in the county. The Denton line appear to have established themselves here in the early 16th century. John Errington, a son of Lancelot Errington of Denton, was arrested in 1580 and questioned concerning a journey he had made to France. Part of the document regarding his interrogation still survives:

'An exa. taken of John Errington sonne to Lancelot Errington dwellyng at Denton within thre myles of Newcastle.'

'Being asked where he dyd embarke he saythe he tooke shipping at the Shells (Shields) in a frenche shipp bownde for Deape (Dieppe)...he admitted to have known "the seyd Errington not long".'

This brief reference to the 'seyd Errington' is interesting because it possibly refers to the well-known recusant the Venerable George Errington, of Hirst, near Ashington who devoted his life to aiding students and priests to pass to and from the continental colleges, such as Douai, where these young men could receive a Catholic education and train for the priesthood.

A Mrs Ursula Taylor of South Shields was well-known for the risks she took in supporting Errington



his work. From here he would convey secretly the missionary priests to the homes of Catholics, who would harbour them, and assist them to sustain the faith of those around them. Probably John Errington had accompanied George on one of his voyages hence his interrogation by the state. George was eventually captured and put to death at York in 1596.

The ground floor of East Denton Hall originally had a large reception hall. When it became the residence of our bishops it was sub-divided to create a small intimate chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. To the right of the hall are the domestic quarters where three Sisters of Mercy - Sister Immaculata, Sister Vianney and Sister Fintan - together attend to the household and domestic duties.

On the first floor is the Bishop's office and the offices of his two secretaries and information officers: Father John Foley and Mrs Patricia Campbell.

Bishop Ambrose Griffiths, O.S.B. was born in Twickenham. His early education was at preparatory schools in Seaford and Gilling, the latter being the prep. school for Ampleforth to which he later proceeded. After completing his secondary education he went to Oxford University where he graduated in chemistry in 1950. After graduation he became a novice at Ampleforth and was professed in 1954. He continued with further studies at San Anselmo College in Rome and was ordained priest in 1957. He taught chemistry, R.E. and woodwork at Ampleforth College and Canon Law and Theology to the novices. He was appointed procurator in 1971 until he was elected abbot in 1976 succeeding Cardinal Hume who moved from Ampleforth to become Archbishop of Westminster. When his term as abbot ended in 1984 he became parish priest at St. Mary's, Leyland, in Lancashire, until he was appointed Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle in 1992.

#### 43. NEWCASTLE

#### The Shrine of Our Lady (Jesmond)

(June, 1987)

'They came from their farms and homesteads and after spending the night at the Pilgrim's Inn in Pilgrim Street, on the following morning they attended Holy Mass and then assembled in Carliol Square, where they took their positions for the procession to the shrine - the young girls in white dresses, the clergy and religious in their habits, the soldiers, the parishes in groups carrying crosses, the various guilds and then any other pilgrims who had come along. Once outside the City gates the procession would cross the Barras Bridge, keeping well away from the leper colony on their left and go along by Sandyford and so to Jesmond Village and the shrine'.

The above extract is an imaginative account of a medieval pilgrimage to Jesmond from the late Father Daniel Costar's C.T.S. pamphlet entitled: *The Shrine of Our Lady of Jesmond*.

It would seem an appropriate occasion to look at our ancestors' devotion to Mary in our diocese at the beginning of a Marian Year inaugurated by Pope John Paul II on Pentecost Sunday, June 7th, 1987. The Rosary Rally held at Gosforth Park in late May was 'part of the preparation for the Marian Year', which has helped to put before the minds of all the important role of Our Lady in the Church.

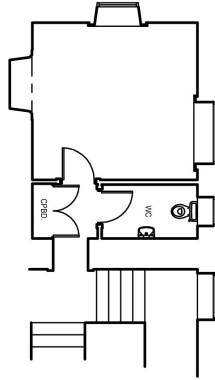
Cardinal Dadaglio, Head of the Vatican Committee for the Marian Year said recently that such a celebration would promote, 'an understanding of the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of her mission in the saving mystery of Christ and the Church'.

England was once known as the 'Dowry of Mary'; the many shrines in her honour were spread across the land to which the faithful journeyed over the centuries to show their devotion to the Mother of God.

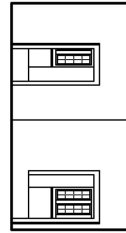
Although Walsingham can claim to be the oldest Marian shrine in England, Our Lady's shrine at Jesmond is, also, steeped in antiquity. Pilgrim Street in Newcastle provides a clue to the popularity of the shrine in pre-Reformation days. Historians have disputed the origin of the name, some suggesting that it was so-called because of the pilgrims who came to the city to see the relics in the Franciscan Friary nearby. However, as there is architectural evidence that St. Mary's chapel in Jesmond was built before 1125 - long before the Franciscan order was founded - it may be that the Marian pilgrims gave the street its name; if not, it is generally agreed that they lodged in Pilgrim Street and set forth from there to the Jesmond shrine.

## **Appendix I**

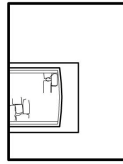
### **Existing Plans Prepared by Nicholson Nairn Architects with Photograph Locations Indicated.**



FIRST FLOOR PART PLAN

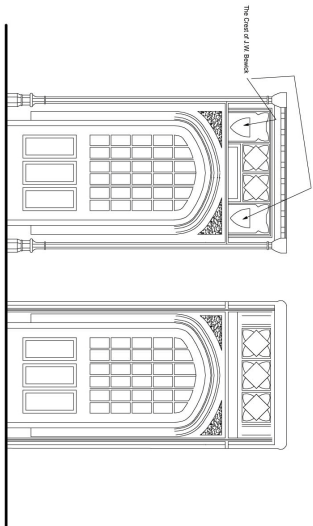
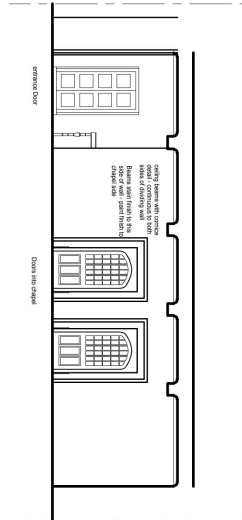


SECTION CC

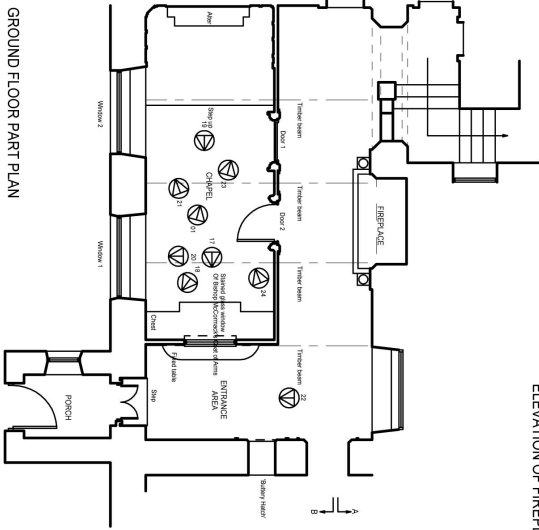


ELEVATION OF FIREPLACE

SECTION BB

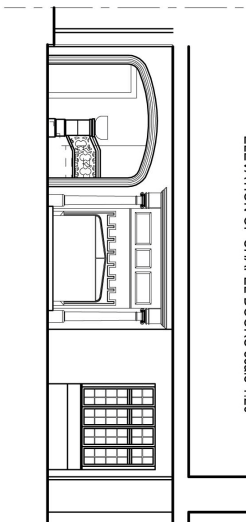


ELEVATION OF CHAPEL DOORS scale 1:20



GROUND FLOOR PART PLAN

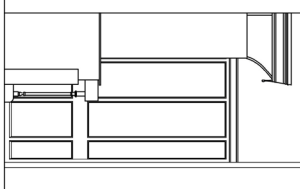
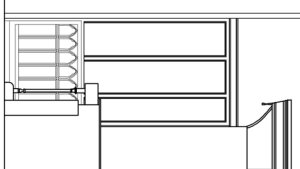
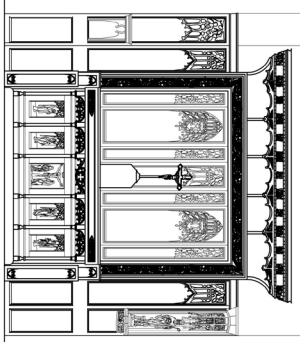
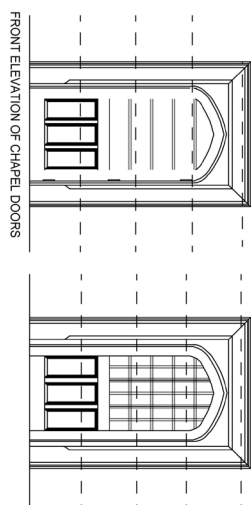
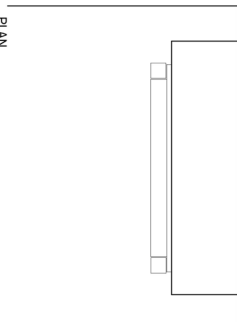
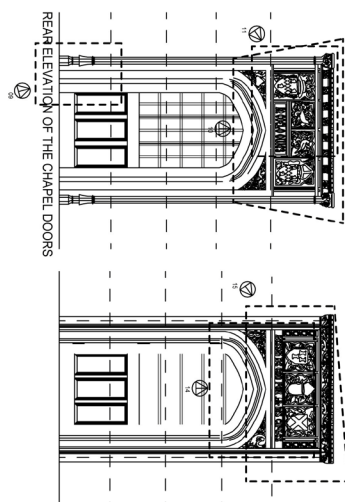
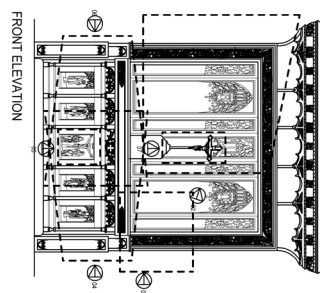
SECTION AA



LOCATION AND DIRECTION  
OF PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Date	Photographer
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<b>NICHOLSON NAIN ARCHITECTS</b> 100-102 The Arcade, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AF Tel: 0191 275 1111 Fax: 0191 275 1112 www.nicholsonnain.co.uk	
Client	Bishop of Newcastle
Project	Building Alterations
Location	Bishop's House
Address	East Denton
Scale	1:50
Date	February 2005
Drawn by	CD/JS
Checked by	JS
Project No.	12450-01
Sheet No.	1

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