

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 28/97

WALL PAINTING CONDITION AUDIT,
ARCHER PAVILION, WREST PARK,
BEDFORDSHIRE

J Davies
T Manning

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ARCHER PAVILION, WREST PARK,
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Summary

This condition audit of wall paintings at Archer Pavilion includes a wall painting record, general audit information, documentation of original materials and execution of the painting, and deterioration and damage including previously used materials and treatment, as well as proposals for treatment and monitoring strategies.

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Archer Pavilion, Wrest Park Bedfordshire

The following report has been generated by the Wall Painting Section database. This archival system provides a computerised record of all wall paintings in English Heritage Historic Properties and is intended to comprehensively document the collection. Each report has been subdivided into four sections to present the data in a clear format. These include:

1 **Wall Painting Record:**

Includes a description of the site and paintings, as well as archival information, such as bibliographic references and photographic records.

2 **General Audit Information:**

Describes any monitoring undertaken and a synopsis of future conservation requirements.

3 **Technique:**

Documents the nature and condition of the original materials and execution of the painting which is described according to its stratigraphy and any related analysis.

4 **Deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment:**

Deterioration and damage lists the types of alterations which may have occurred, that is either deterioration (natural alterations such as cracking or delamination) or mechanical damage (such as graffiti).

Added Materials documents all non-original materials present on or within a painting. These may include naturally occurring substances (accretions, such as dirt and dust) or deliberately added materials (coatings, coverings and repairs).

Treatment documents previous interventions and proposed treatment and monitoring strategies.

Throughout each section, an area of painting is assigned a number between 1 and 4 which is intended as a general indication of present condition. These are: 1 good, 2 fair, 3 poor, 4 unacceptable.

This report is based on information gathered prior to March 1996 and does not include any changes in condition, further research or treatment undertaken after this date. Amended editions will be produced as necessary.

1 Wall Painting Record

Property name WREST PARK
Region Midlands **County** Bedfordshire
Location of painting Archer Pavilion
Orientation INTERIOR
Century 18th **Date** 1712 **Height (cm)** 0 **Width (cm)** 0
Subjects included
Architectural motifs
Figurative
Heraldry
Various decorative motifs

Description

DESCRIPTION

The Archer Pavilion, which lies to the south of the mansion of Wrest Park, at the base of the Long Water, consists of a small domed rotunda with radiating square- and round-ended chambers. It was designed by Thomas Archer, and was built solely for recreational purposes for the use of the residents of the Park. The interior and porch are entirely painted with trompe l'oeil work, hiding several small doors with passages leading to the kitchens, in the basement, and servants' quarters upstairs. The exterior was originally rendered (as contemporary drawings show) although it now appears stripped back to the brick support.

The domed interior is painted with feigned architecture incorporating busts in niches and figures flanking coats of arms and urns. The dome is painted with feigned coffering. It is signed and dated "Hauduroy pinxit 1712", and is one of two known works to survive in England of Louis Hauduroy, a French painter active c.1700. The other scheme, at Culverthorpe Hall, Lincs., has only recently been rediscovered.

HISTORY

The manor at Wrest was held by the de Grey family in the 1280s. The first mention of Wrest Park is in 1344, after Roger de Grey was summoned to Parliament. His descendants, due to royal favour, became the Earls of Kent. Henry Grey (b.1671), the 12th and last Earl of Kent, served as a member of the Government of both Queen Anne and George I. He held a number of posts including Lord Chamberlain, Lord Steward and Lord Privy Seal. He was made first a Marquess and in 1710 Duke of Kent. None of his sons survived him and the Kent title died with him. However, one of his daughters married a son of the Duke of Devonshire, who made considerable improvements to the estate. He was responsible for developing the Great Garden, the Long Water, and building the Bowling Green House and the Half Houses. He commissioned Thomas Archer to build the Pavilion, and the Hill House (which does not survive).

Photographic Record

TM/JD audit record.

DOE negative search;
Wrest Park, Archer Pavillion

17-2-49

A361/7 Exterior with scaffolding, 'View from the north.'

A361/13 'Interior looking north before repair.'

A361/14 'Interior looking east before repair.'

A361/15 'Interior looking south before repair.'

A361/16 'Interior looking west before repair.'

- A361/17 'Upper part of interior north face from basement, looking through floor joists, before repair.'
- A361/23 'The painted walls and domed ceiling before repair, south-west sector.'
- A361/24 'The painted walls and domed ceiling before repair, south-east sector.'
- A361/25 'The painted walls and domed ceiling before repair. North sector.'
- A361/26 'The domed painted ceiling before repair. Inclination towards north.'

— 24-3-52

- A1687/3 Detail paint and plaster?
- A1687/5 Detail figure in porch.

— 12-5-52

- A1788/1-19 During conservation, scaffolding in place.

— 9-11-53

- A2888/3 'The Pavilion. Internal painting'

— 8-2-54

- A3033/1 'The Pavilion, Entrance steps completed.' Also shows porch painting

— 5-11-56

- A4542/1-3 Detail damage and loss of ceiling plaster, insertion of new timber joists? nb lath and plaster support is visible.

— 28-4-58

- A5009/1-6 During conservation, scaffolding in place.

— 24-7-58

- A5091/3-8 During conservation, scaffolding in place, appear to be during retouching.

— 26-10-59

- A5389/6-10 Interiors of the Pavilion after restoration.

— Bibliography

- 1) Cirket, A.F. History of Wrest House, Bedfordshire Historical Records Society, vol. 59, 1980.
- 2) Croft-Murray, E. 1962, Vol. 1, 248.
- 3) Godber, J. The Marchioness Grey of Wrest Park, Bedfordshire Historical Records Society, Vol. 48.
- 4) Godber, J. Wrest Park and the Duke of Kent, Bedfordshire County Council, n.d.
- 5) Hunter, A. Wrest Park, unpublished pamphlet, 1991.
- 6) Wiffen, M. Thomas Archer, London, 1950.

1 Wall Painting Record

Property name	WREST PARK			
Region	Midlands	County	Bedfordshire	
Location of painting	Archer Pavilion			
Orientation	PORCH			
Century 18 th	Date	1712	Height (cm)	Width (cm)
Subjects included				
Figure(s), male				
Masonry pattern				

Description

DESCRIPTION

The Archer Pavilion, which lies to the south of the mansion of Wrest Park, at the base of the Long Water, consists of a small domed rotunda with radiating square- and round-ended chambers. It was designed by Thomas Archer, and was built solely for recreational purposes for the use of the residents of the Park. The interior and porch are entirely painted with trompe l'oeil work, hiding several small doors with passages leading to the kitchens, in the basement, and servants' quarters upstairs. The exterior was originally rendered (as contemporary drawings show) although it now appears stripped back to the brick support.

The domed interior is painted with feigned architecture incorporating busts in niches and figures flanking coats of arms and urns. The dome is painted with feigned coffering. The porch is painted with imitation ashlar and two grisaille figures in niches. It is signed and dated "Hauduroy pinxit 1712", and is one of two known works to survive in England of Louis Hauduroy, a French painter active c.1700. The other scheme, at Culverthorpe Hall, Lincs., has only recently been rediscovered.

HISTORY

The manor at Wrest was held by the de Grey family in the 1280s. The first mention of Wrest Park is in 1344, after Roger de Grey was summoned to Parliament. His descendants, due to royal favour, became the Earls of Kent. Henry Grey (b.1671), the 12th and last Earl of Kent, served as a member of the Government of both Queen Anne and George I. He held a number of posts including Lord Chamberlain, Lord Steward and Lord Privy Seal. He was made first a Marquess and in 1710 Duke of Kent. None of his sons survived him and the Kent title died with him. However, one of his daughters married a son of the Duke of Devonshire, who made considerable improvements to the estate. He was responsible for developing the Great Garden, the Long Water, and building the Bowling Green House and the Half Houses. He commissioned Thomas Archer to build the Pavilion, and the Hill House (which does not survive).

Photographic Record

Bibliography

- 1) Cirket, A.F. History of Wrest House, Bedfordshire Historical Records Society, vol. 59, 1980.
- 2) Croft-Murray, E. 1962, Vol. 1, 248.
- 3) Godber, J. The Marchioness Grey of Wrest Park, Bedfordshire Historical Records Society, Vol. 48.
- 4) Godber, J. Wrest Park and the Duke of Kent, Bedfordshire County Council, n.d.
- 5) Hunter, A. Wrest Park, unpublished pamphlet, 1991.
- 6) Wiffen, M. Thomas Archer, London, 1950.

2 General Audit Information

Property name WREST PARK **County** Bedfordshire
Region Midlands
Location Archer Pavilion
Orientation INTERIOR
Century 18th **Date** 1712 **Height (cm)** 0 **Width (cm)** 0
Auditor(s) JD, TM **Start date** 13/12/95

Overall condition score 2

Recommendations

Wrest Park is an important site both architecturally and art historically. Unfortunately the original paintings, which had survived in fragmentary condition, were heavily restored during the renovation work of the 1950s. During the 1994 audit, access to the dome was not possible. Certain conclusions have been made without this access, but it is recommended that full scaffolding is erected within the next five years.

- 1) Deterioration phenomena such as blanching and flaking appear to be active, and therefore the condition of the paintings should be monitored visually on a routine basis. Closer examination, with a scaffold, is desirable. This will be necessary in order to assess the condition of the flaking and the extent of plaster delamination in the upper areas. Treatment would be desirable within the next ten years.
- 2) Environmental monitoring equipment should be installed as soon as possible in order to gather sufficient data to aid and inform a future conservation campaign.
- 3) Routine maintenance would vastly improve the appearance of the building. The accumulation of bird faeces and insects has detracted from the appearance of, as well as directly harmed, the paintings and furnishings. There is evidence, from within the building, of infiltration damage. It is not clear whether this is historic or active and therefore gutters at dome level should be checked for efficacy. These problems are clearly related to the fact that the building is closed most of the year; however, regular maintenance should be considered a high priority.
- 4) The painted canvases within the lantern appear to be torn and coming away from their support. Scaffolding erected in the future should be sufficiently high to permit access into this area and to allow emergency conservation treatment.
- 5) Re-rendering of the exterior of the building should be considered. It is not clear when or why the brick support was exposed.

2 General Audit Information

Property name WREST PARK **County** Bedfordshire
Region Midlands
Location Archer Pavilion
Orientation PORCH
Century 18th **Date** 1712 **Height (cm)** **Width (cm)**
Auditor(s) TM, JD **Start date** 13/12/95

Overall condition score 3

Recommendations

Wrest Park is an important site both architecturally and art historically. Unfortunately the original paintings, which had survived in fragmentary condition, were heavily restored during the renovation work of the 1950s.

1) Some limited conservation treatment of the paintings in the porch is urgently required. This should include flake fixing, minor repairs, dusting and general cleaning of the porch area.

2) Routine maintenance would vastly improve the appearance of the building. The accumulation of bird faeces and insects has detracted from the appearance of, as well as directly harmed, the paintings and surroundings. These problems are clearly related to the fact that the building is closed most of the year; however, regular maintenance could be improved.

3) Re-rendering of the exterior of the building should be considered. It is not clear when or why the brick support was exposed.

3 Audit Information: Technique

Property name WREST PARK
Region Midlands **County** Bedfordshire
Location Archer Pavilion
Orientation INTERIOR
Century 18th **Date** 1712 **Height (cm)** 0 **Width (cm)** 0
Auditor(s) JD, TM **Start date** 13/12/95

Overall Condition Score 2

Stratigraphy

Layer type Support Layer **Specific condition Score** 2
Thickness 50 cm

Comments

The thickness of the brick support varies. The exterior has been stripped back to the brick, but was originally rendered. Traces of this survive on the surface.
The lantern appears to be constructed of canvas and timber. The canvas appears to be torn and coming away from the timber frame (condition score: 4).
There are signs of infiltration at the west side of the dome.

Layer type Render Layer 1 **Specific condition Score** 2

Thickness

Comments

Only visible in places. Yellowish hair plaster with fine black aggregate (2-3 mm maximum).

Layer type Render Layer 2 **Specific condition Score** 2

Thickness

Comments

Thin smooth white render. Finer aggregate of black and yellow particles. Brushstrokes visible, some brush-hairs caught in surface. Possible oil additive? Several seriously hollow areas, mostly around doors; however it is not always clear what is original and what is repair plaster.

Layer type Ground Layer 1 **Specific condition Score** 2

Thickness

Comments

Possible ground layer; no obvious layer present. Creamy white ground appearance, which could also be the surface of render layer 2. Oil may have been added to a limewash ground, or the surface was oiled before the application of paint, accounting for its smooth brushed appearance.

Layer type	Paint Layer 1	Specific condition Score	3
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Thickness

Comments

Heavily abraded paint layer. Entirely repainted, except for one area uncovered in 1990 (east side, lower part of northeast chamber). Medium probably oil. Original painted scheme in muted colours of brown on greyish-white.

Identified pigments Colours

--- blue
--- green
--- grey
--- brown
--- white

Layer type	Paint Layer 2	Specific condition Score	3
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Thickness .01 cm

Comments

Remains of gilding, perhaps gold leaf, probably applied with a type of gold (oil) size.

Identified pigments Colours

gold leaf gold

3 Audit Information: Technique

Property name WREST PARK
Region Midlands **County** Bedfordshire
Location Archer Pavilion
Orientation PORCH
Century 18th **Date** 1712 **Height (cm)** **Width (cm)**
Auditor(s) TM, JD **Start date** 13/12/95

Overall Condition Score 3

Stratigraphy

Layer type Support Layer **Specific condition Score** 2

Thickness

Comments

Brick support, now stripped back on the exterior. Entirely rendered within the porch area. The stone stairs to the entrance porch were entirely rebuilt during the 1950s restoration. Round-headed niches recessed into wall on east and west sides of porch.

Layer type Render Layer 1 **Specific condition Score** 2

Thickness

Comments

Render layer 1 is not visible and information about its thickness, additives and aggregates are not known.

Layer type Render Layer 2 **Specific condition Score** 3

Thickness

Comments

Possible ground layer; no obvious layer present. Creamy white ground appearance, which could also be the surface of render layer 2. Oil may have been added to a limewash ground, or the surface was oiled before the application of paint, accounting for its smooth brushed appearance.

Layer type Ground Layer 1 **Specific condition Score** 3

Thickness

Comments

Possible ground layer; no obvious layer present. Creamy white ground appearance, which could also be the surface of render layer 2. Oil may have been added to a limewash ground, or the surface was oiled before the application of paint, accounting for its smooth brushed appearance. Medium probably oil.

Identified pigments Colours

--- brown
--- white

Layer type Paint Layer 1 **Specific condition Score** 3

Thickness

Comments

Obscured by extensive overpainting. Flaking in many areas. Medium probably oil.

Identified pigments Colours

--- yellow

--- grey

--- brown

--- white

4 Audit Information: deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment

Property name	WREST PARK		
Region	Midlands	County	Bedfordshire
Location	Archer Pavilion		
Orientation	INTERIOR		
Century 18th	Date	1712	Height (cm) 0
			Width (cm) 0

DETERIORATION AND DAMAGE

Deterioration phenomena

Type damp

Location West side, above cornice, male figure

Comments Appears active. Associated flaking in this area, related to possible infiltration.

Type damp

Location Entire

Comments There has been a history of damp-related problems to the building.

Type flaking

Location Especially, NE ante-room, but also throughout, mainly of retouching

Comments

Type staining

Location Below sills of round recesses and windows, at dome level

Comments Obvious evidence of infiltration and/or condensation, possibly in combination with bird activity within the windows.

Type blanching

Location Throughout

Comments Probably related to 1950s application of wax varnish.

Type blanching

Location SE side

Comments Blanched dripmarks visible on the southeast side of the room, at dome level.

Type delamination (render layer)

Location Low level, render layer 1

Comments Render layer 1 appears to be delaminating from the support. Gentle tapping often revealed hollow pockets, in areas accessible from the ground. The uneven surface of the render higher up on the walls may indicate extensive delamination. Much may have been replastered prior to the repainting.

Type photodeterioration

Location Canvas support in lantern

Comments Tearing and loss to canvas support in lantern (visible from the ground) possibly related to photodeterioration.

Mechanical damage

Type minor losses

Location NW ante-room, west side of arch

Comments

Type abrasion

Location Around doorknobs

Comments Abrasion of paint layer(s) due to keys (hanging from keychains) when doors are locked/unlocked.

ADDED MATERIALS

Accretions

Type biodeterioration

Location Throughout the room, especially in NE chamber arch

Comments Especially visible on the east reveal of arch into the northeast chamber, but found throughout the room. Appear as brown stains/spots.

Type dirt

Location Entire

Comments Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to a general accumulation of surface dirt and dust.

Type dust

Location Entire

Comments Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to a general accumulation of surface dirt and dust.

Type cobwebs

Location Especially corners

Comments Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to a general accumulation of dust, insect activity and cobwebs.

Type insect activity

Location Throughout

Comments Building closed the entire winter, and only open on weekends in summer. This has led to general insect activity, especially moths and flies.

Type bird excreta

Location Under windows

Comments Drip marks and stains on paintings (and on varnished chairs) possibly from birds or bats.

Coatings/Coverings

Type wax

Location Entire

Comments Cleaned and consolidated with wax c.1952, and this remains on the surface. Examination in ultraviolet light showed a greenish fluorescence of the layer. Drip marks visible: appears to have been applied dilute and allowed to run down during cleaning.

Type repainting

Location Entire

Comments A mixture of overpainting and repainting was carried out during the restoration work of the 1950s. The retouching appears over losses, and also over the original - apparently applied with a broad brush.

Type unidentified

Location Entire

Comments The glossy surface of the painting indicates that an (unidentified) varnish may have been applied.

Repairs

Type gypsum

Location Throughout

Comments See the report of J.S. Jack (1 July 1952) which states that for deep losses : '...a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water...'

Type modern plaster

Location Throughout

Comments Numerous repairs, all overpainted, not easily discernible from the original.

Type lime:sand

Location Throughout

Comments See the report of J.S. Jack (1 July 1952) which states that for deep losses : '...a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water...'

TREATMENT

Past Treatment

Type CLEANING Date 01/05/52

Person J.S. Jack/MOW

Comments Instructions from J.S. Jack (in a letter dated 9/5/52) prescribed the following treatment: 'The first aim is to refresh the remaining paintings by removing any surface dirt so as to give them every opportunity of drying out. Brushing with a soft brush and then with a very thin solution of wax would serve the double purpose of preliminary cleaning and also "fixing" the paint. The wax solution should be brushed downwards so that the liquid carries any remaining dirt down to the bottom edge of the area under treatment. The surplus liquid should then be taken up by the brush and be squeezed out into a bowl and the brush should be wiped or rinsed in turpentine. The wax solution should be very thin so as to avoid sealing the surface too much and so preventing exit of moisture from the plaster... after preliminary "fixing" of the paintings generally they should be cleaned as completely as possible, and be waxed again, so that a further set of photographs can be taken to show the remaining work as clearly as possible for a guide in later restoration.'

Type CONSOLIDATION Date 01/05/52

Person J.S. Jack/MOW

Comments Instructions from J.S. Jack (in a letter dated 9/5/52) prescribed the following treatment: 'Brushing with a soft brush and then with a very thin solution of wax would serve the double purpose of preliminary cleaning and also "fixing" the paint. The wax solution should be brushed downwards so that the liquid carries any remaining dirt down to the bottom edge of the area under treatment. The surplus liquid should then be taken up by the brush and be squeezed out into a bowl and the brush should be wiped or rinsed in turpentine. The wax solution should be very thin so as to avoid sealing the surface too much and so preventing exit of moisture from the plaster... The badly decayed parts of the paintings, where the surfaces of plaster and paint are swollen and blistered will require very careful consideration. The aim here should be to preserve and make more clear any traces of the old composition so that they can be photographed later on as a guide to the artists when the final work of restoration is being considered. It might be possible to fix some of the bad areas with wax and when sufficient wax has been absorbed and become fairly stiff to press back and flatten the blistered surfaces... after preliminary "fixing" of the paintings generally they should be cleaned as completely as possible, and be waxed again...'

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION Date 01/05/52

Person J.S. Jack/MOW

Comments Instructions from J.S. Jack (in a letter dated 9/5/52) for treatment of a crack in the dome prescribed the following: 'As the painted surfaces surrounding the crack are inclined to be powdery they should be treated over a fair margin round the crack with a thin solution of parchment size. When this has dried the crack in plaster should be cut out, thoroughly cleaned and the edges treated with thin shellac in spirit. Thereafter the crack should be filled in with fine plaster of Paris retarded with Cannon's size in water. To avoid weakening the plaster work by cutting out the whole length of the crack at one operation it would be advisable to cut out in lengths of 1 foot leaving intermediate sections of 1 foot undisturbed... when the portions which have been filled are quite set and firm the remaining sections can be dealt with. After this repair the area of plaster should be reinforced temporarily by having 6" wide strips of strong compo board - each about 3 or 4 feet long and screwed through to some of the vertical ribs above the plaster. The strips of compo board to be about 12" apart.'

Past Treatment

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 01/07/52

Person J.S. Jack/MOW

Comments See the report of J.S. Jack (1 July 1952) which stated that 'The intention is to replaster only those parts which show no trace of old painting. Where the old plaster is bad and has lost its surface it should be cleaned back to the brickwork. The brickwork joints should be raked sufficiently to give a good "key" and a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water and the coat should be about 1/4" thick. The lime and sand rough coat should be allowed to mature for a few weeks before the plaster finishing coat is applied.'

Past Treatment

Type UNCOVERING **Date** 01/01/90

Person H. Hughes/C. Babington

Comments A small area on the north reveal of the arch leading to the northeast ante-chamber was uncovered during research undertaken by Helen Hughes in 1990. She stated: 'From the cross-sections I was able to identify an earlier paint scheme on the reveals leading into the small rooms on the ground [floor]. (This arabesque design was indicated below the existing overpaint when the wall was viewed in raking light). With the help of Caroline Babington, I have been able to reveal a small section of this design. The pattern is in brown on a white background.'

Proposed Treatment

Type CLEANING **Date** 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments The appearance of the paintings would be considerably improved by partial removal of repainting.

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments Minor repairs are necessary to the northwest corner.

Type FLAKE FIXING **Date** 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments The condition of the paintings would be considerably improved by treatment of the blanching and associated flaking.

Type MONITORING CONDITION **Date** 13/12/94

Person JD, TM

Comments The condition of the paintings should be monitored. Treatment will probably be necessary in the long term, probably within the next ten years. However, in the short term, environmental monitoring equipment should be installed. The data gathered over the next few years will help to formulate and inform the conservation work.

4 Audit Information: deterioration and damage, added materials, treatment

Property name	WREST PARK		
Region	Midlands	County	Bedfordshire
Location	Archer Pavilion		
Orientation	PORCH		
Century	18th	Date	1712
		Height (cm)	
		Width (cm)	

DETERIORATION AND DAMAGE

Deterioration phenomena

Type flaking

Location Figures, east and west walls

Comments Dark outlines of figures flaking. More loss in lower half of niches. This is probably due to the partial protection provided by the archway into the porch.

Type delamination (render layer)

Location Pockets throughout; only surveyed from ground level.

Comments Several areas sound hollow when gently tapped. Slightly undulating render.

Type loss

Location East side, south end, centre

Comments Small round loss, in line with repair which pre-dates the overpainting.

Mechanical damage

Type scratches

Location General, lower level

Comments Accidental and deliberate damage to paint and ground layers.

Type graffiti

Location General, low level

Comments Incised and drawn graffiti of various dates, especially to imitation masonry.

Type minor losses

Location West wall, dado height

Comments Gouges to plaster and loss of painting, ground and plaster.

ADDED MATERIALS

Accretions

Type bird excreta
Location Corners of floor, north side, also splashes on walls
Comments Heavy deposits, extremely disfiguring. Routine maintenance could vastly improve the appearance of the porch.

Type dirt
Location General, especially upper level
Comments Disfiguring amount of dirt and deposits, probably brushed away from the lower half of the walls.

Type cobwebs
Location General, especially corners and at upper level
Comments Disfiguring. Probably brushed away from lower half of wall.

Type insect activity
Location West side
Comments Hibernating insects.

Coatings/Coverings

Type repainting
Location Entire
Comments A mixture of overpainting and repainting was carried out during the restoration work of the 1950s. The retouching appears over losses, and also over the original - apparently applied with a broad brush.

Type wax
Location Entire?
Comments The interior was cleaned and consolidated with wax c.1952, and this remains on the surface there. It is likely that the porch paintings were treated in a similar way.

Type unidentified
Location Entire
Comments The glossy surface of the painting indicates that an (unidentified) varnish may have been applied.

Repairs

Type modern plaster
Location East side, south end, centre
Comments Small round overpainted repair, at same height as current loss. The porch was extensively repaired during building works, however, few repairs are visible within the painted area.

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 01/05/52
Person J.S. Jack/MOW

Comments There are no specific references to the treatment of the porch paintings. Presumably the treatment would have been the same as, or similar to, that carried out on the interior paintings. A report from J.S. Jack (dated 1/7/52) prescribed the following treatment for the interior paintings: 'The intention is to replaster only those parts which show no trace of old painting. Where the old plaster is bad and has lost its surface it should be cleaned back to the brickwork. The brickwork joints should be raked sufficiently to give a good "key" and a rough rendering coat of lime and sand should be laid in. The finishing coat should be of fine plaster of Paris retarded with size water and the coat should be about 1/4" thick. The lime and sand rough coat should be allowed to mature for a few weeks before the plaster finishing coat is applied.'

Proposed Treatment

Type DUSTING **Date** 13/12/94
Person JD, TM

Comments General cleaning of the porch area is necessary. Regular basic maintenance is required.

Type FILLS/REPAIRS INSERTION **Date** 13/12/94
Person JD, TM

Comments Small loss to the east side should be repaired. Grouting may be considered.

Type FLAKE FIXING **Date** 13/12/94
Person JD, TM

Comments Flake fixing is quite urgent. The extent of flaking accounts for the poor condition score.



Interior, general view to north



Northeast ante-room, north side, area uncovered in 1990