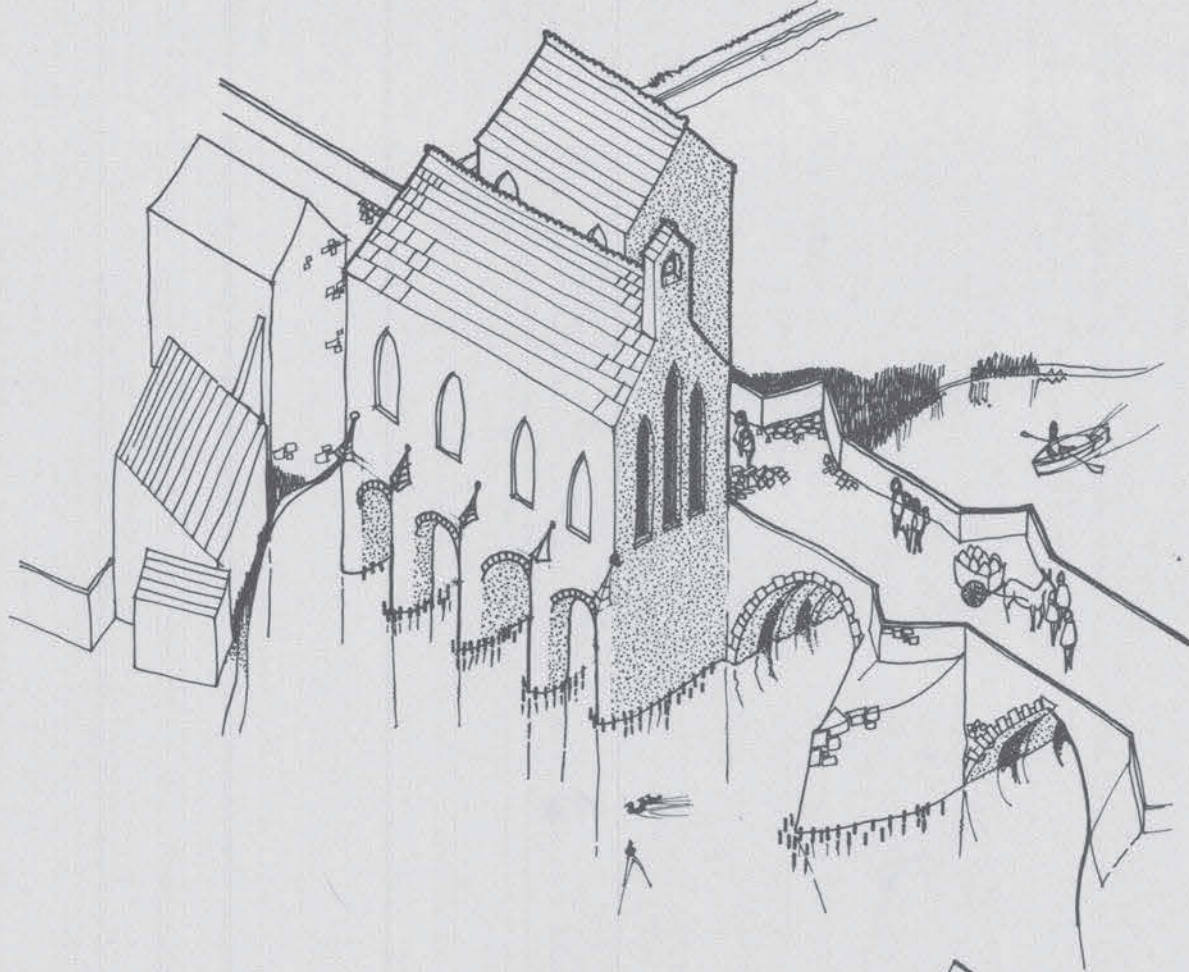


The Exe Bridge Seal was probably made at the time of the completion of the bridge. The earliest surviving impression appears on a document of the mayoralty of Martin Rof, holder of the office in 1256 and 1264. The seal was used by the Wardens of the Bridge on documents relating to the management of the bridge estates. The inscription reads: S' PONTIS : EXE : CIVITATIS : EXONIE. St Edmund's church (or possibly the chantry chapel) is shown flanked by two houses.

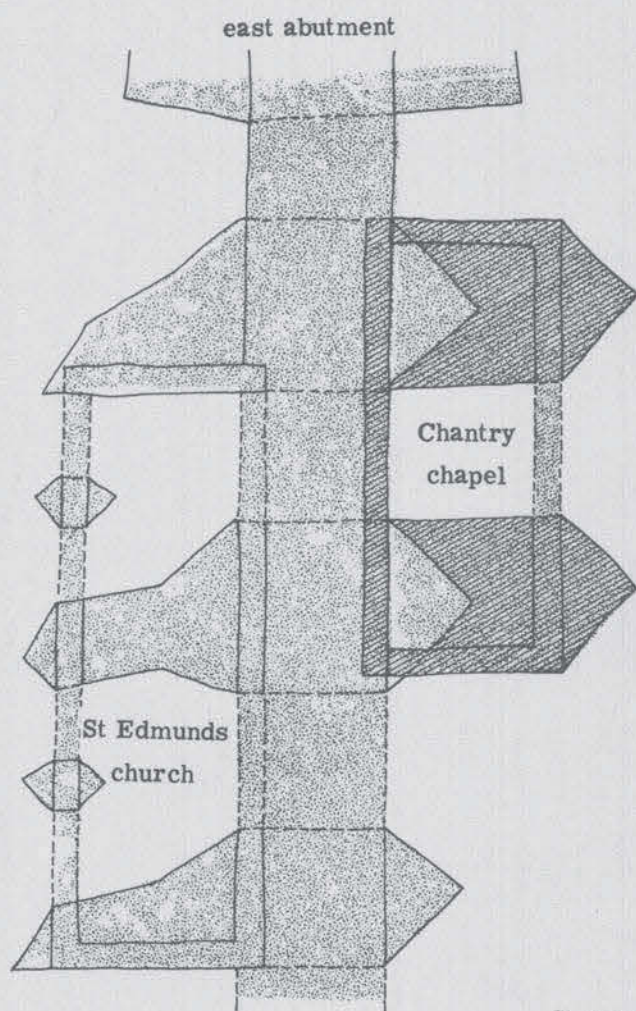


The front wall of the church rested on the side of the bridge, the two end walls on specially shaped cutwaters; the north wall was supported over the water on a row of four round-headed arches springing from the cutwaters and from two intermediate piers (see plan below). The springing for the eastern arch can be seen projecting from the vertical face of the first cutwater.

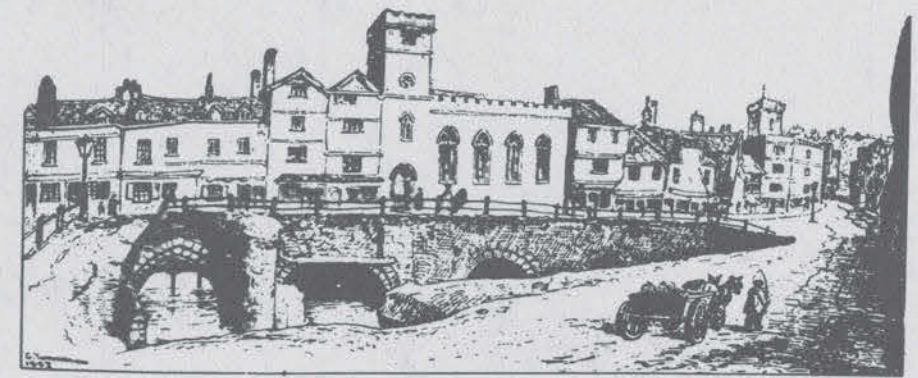
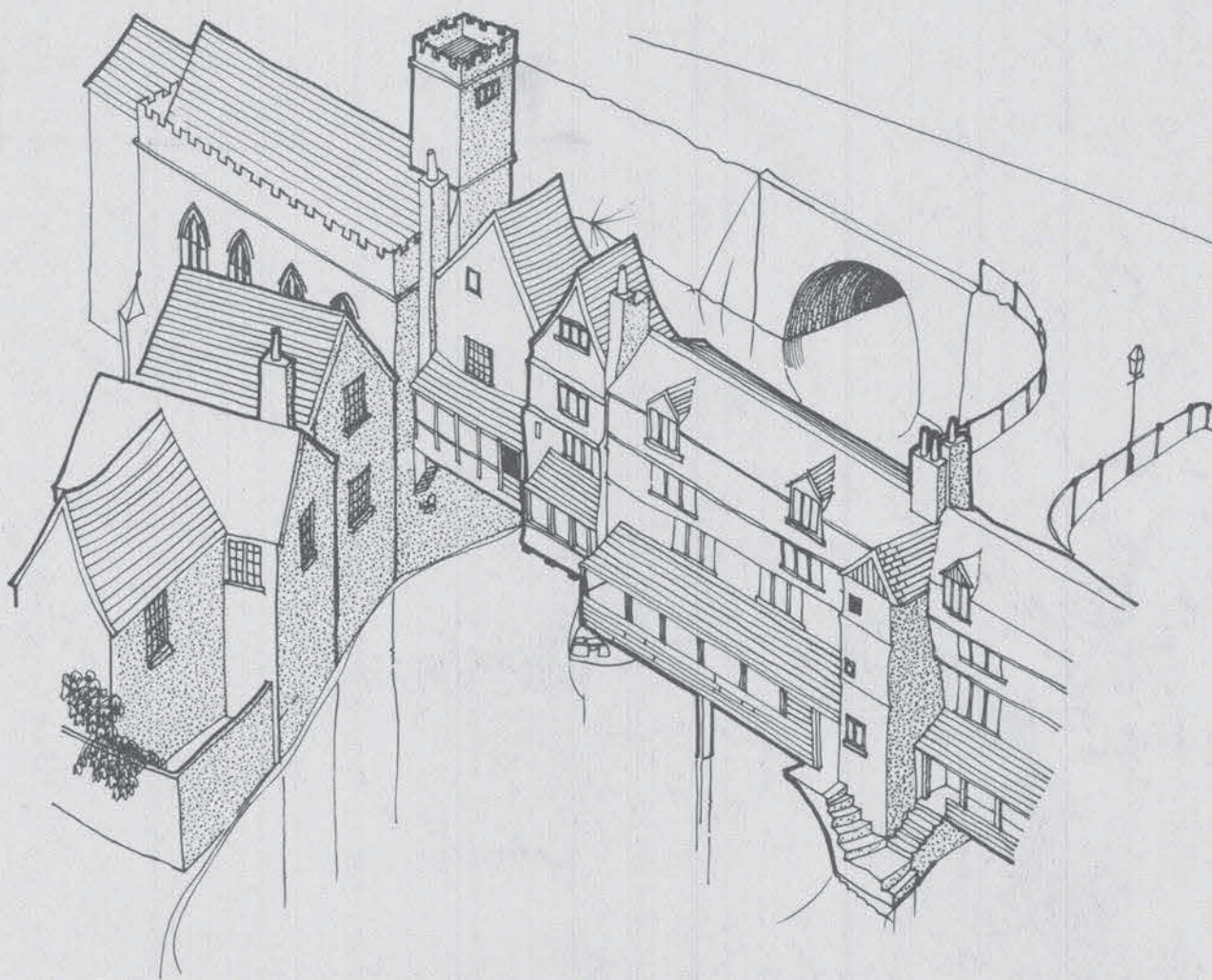


#### CHANTRY CHAPEL

Sometime before his death in 1259, Walter Gervaise built opposite St Edmund's a chantry chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The endowment provided a pension of 50/- a year for a priest to hold three services a week and to pray for the souls of Walter Gervaise and others. The chantry was suppressed in 1546 and from 1556 20/- of the annual income was distributed as alms to the poor. The chapel itself became an ordinary dwelling: in 1580 it was leased to a Mr Ellacot for 87 years at a yearly rent of 8/4d. When demolished in 1833, the east wall was found to contain a three-light lancet window. The plan of the chapel has been reconstructed from measurements taken in the 19th century and from the surviving foundations.



St Edmund's had a long and complex history of alterations and rebuilding. A major rebuild occurred in about 1450 when a tower was added at the west end; in 1449 Bishop Lacy offered indulgences to all those who would contribute towards the building of the new tower. In the early sixteenth century the capacity of the church was increased with the addition of a north aisle. Water still flowed under the church, though probably only in winter; by 1550, however, the aisle had been extended and the area around the church reclaimed. A new river wall on line with the west end of the church protected the reclaimed land from flooding.



#### NINETEENTH CENTURY

The medieval church was destroyed by fire in 1832 and rebuilt the following year. The above drawing by G. Townsend shows the Victorian church in about 1875, viewed from Horsepool bridge. The chantry, by this time demolished, was situated adjacent to the arch on the right - only just visible. Next to it is the site of Moore's Almshouses, erected in 1519 to accommodate three poor men. The backs of the houses to the left of the church are shown in the reconstruction drawing on the left.