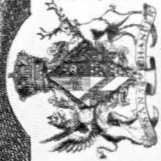
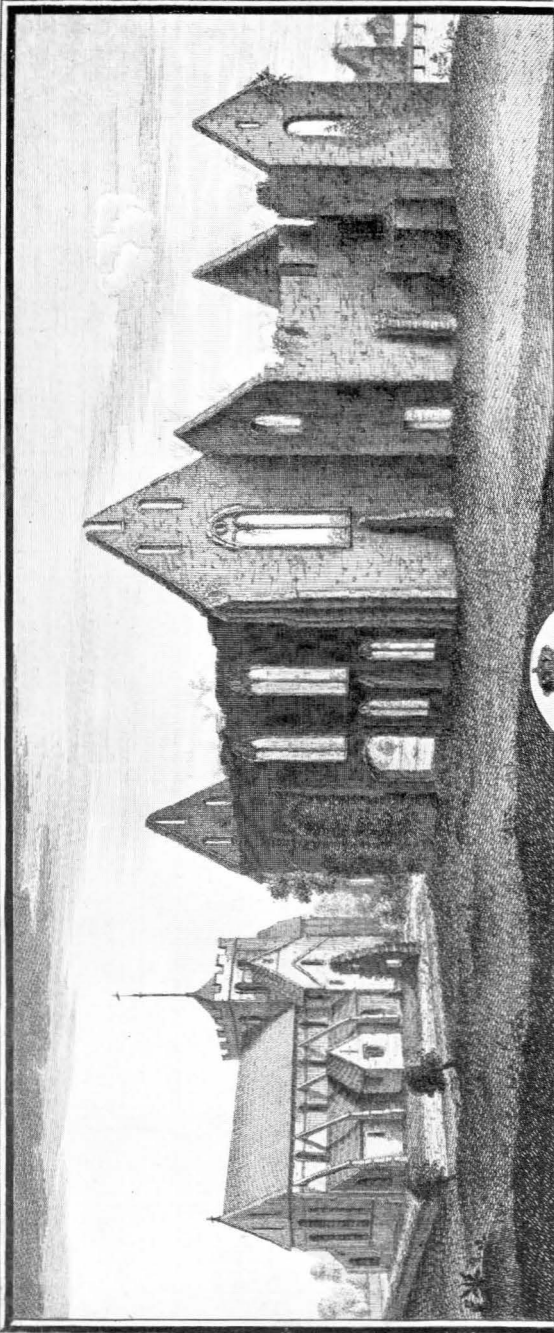


THE NORTH-WEST VIEW OF BOXGROVE-PRIORY, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX.



To the Rev. Mr. H. Long, County, Clergyman
of Derby
This Prospect is humbly presented by
Your Obedient Servant
John Stothard, Engraver

THIS Prospect is intended to give a true and correct Idea of the Situation of this Priory, which stands on the Hillside in the Parish of Boxgrove, in the County of Sussex, and is the only one of the kind in the Kingdom. It is situated in the Parish of Boxgrove, in the County of Sussex, and is the only one of the kind in the Kingdom. It is situated in the Parish of Boxgrove, in the County of Sussex, and is the only one of the kind in the Kingdom. It is situated in the Parish of Boxgrove, in the County of Sussex, and is the only one of the kind in the Kingdom.

Sussex Archæological Society.

THE CONVENTUAL BUILDINGS OF BOXGROVE PRIORY.

BY W. D. PECKHAM, M.A.

It is somewhat remarkable that, while plans of such monasteries as Hardham and Shulbrede have appeared in the Sussex Archaeological Collections, no plan of the Benedictine priory of S.S. Mary and Blaise, Boxgrove, has as yet been published in them. An attempt is here made to fill this gap in Sussex archaeology by a plan which aims at presenting the monastery buildings as they were on the eve of the Dissolution.

While this is primarily concerned with the internal evidence of the ruins themselves, yet a certain number of external authorities have been consulted.

The various allusions to conventual buildings in pre-Dissolution documents are of little help in identifying the buildings to-day. For instance, Bishop Sherburne's Injunctions of 1518¹ speak of the dorter, frater, Chapter House, kitchen and misericorde, but are of no use in determining their position or dimensions.² The analogy of other Benedictine monasteries is, of course, of first-rate value.

The first useful documentary evidence for the buildings of which I am aware is in a Survey made xij Eliz.³ as follows:—

Md. the Scyte of the late Pryorie walled round about wth bricke and stone wth divers ruynous howses viz: one employed for A Brewhouse, one for A Barne to laie the Tythes growinge upon the

¹ *Episcopal Register*, Sherburne 159. *S.A.C.*, IX. 61-66.

² It seems to me quite possible that a small monastery like Boxgrove did not possess a building *exclusively* used as a misericorde.

³ *S.A.C.*, IX., 225.

demeanes and tennants londe, one stable for xx^{tie} Geldings, one Dove-house w^h is letten to S^r Thomas Palmer in charge for iij^{li} yerely rente, certain rowmes above and under where may be made wth some paynes-taking CC quarters of malte yerely, and chambers sufficient to laie and kepe y^e same. But there is no Cestrall to steepe the Barly, yet one kyll to drye malte, whereuppon may be dried v Combes at one tyme, and that day by day consequently. And there ys one well thereunto adioyninge of v Fadome deepe w^{ch} serveth by pypes under the Grounde.

I shall refer to this as the "Survey."

In the eighteenth century the buildings were sketched three times, once by Buck, twice by Grimm. Buck, 1737, gives one view from the north-east, the most prominent feature of which is the one large fragment of the conventual buildings still existing above ground. This I shall for the present refer to as the Barn, from the last use to which it was put, in order not to pre-judge the question of its use in monastic times.

Grimm's water-colour sketches in the British Museum⁴ of 1781-82 are a much more complete survey. They include a view of the Barn from the north-west (fol. 82) engraved in Dallaway⁵, a view of the Barn from the north-east (fol. 83)⁶, two views of the Church from the south (fol. 84 and 86), one of the Church and the Barn from the east (fol. 85), and one of the interior of the Barn looking south (fol. 87). Grimm's other views, interior of the Church, De la Warr tomb, etc., do not concern the present paper.

I have examined the originals of all these⁷, but have not examined Grimm's other series of drawings in the Bodleian.

While these drawings are of great value as showing the general condition of the buildings in the eighteenth

⁴ M.S.S. Add. Burr. 5675.

⁵ Vol. III., p. 133.

⁶ This, and the interior view of the Barn (fol. 87), are reproduced in *S.A.C.*, XV., 112. It is not there stated that these are Grimm's views, and it is rather easy to suppose that they are views of the building as then existing. The Barn was, however, then roofless, as appears from the drawing in Turner (see below).

⁷ It should be remembered that the reproductions of Grimm's drawings in *Dallaway* and the *S.A.C.* were not made photographically, and consequently are not of the same authority as the originals.

century they cannot always be relied on for detail. For instance, the foundations of the porch at the south-west corner of the Barn (XIV. on plan) are shown by Grimm (fol. 82), but much exaggerated in size, while the lancet window which opened into the porch is omitted, as are also the two small lancets in the gable which should appear in the view of the south end of the Barn (fol. 85).

I am tempted to infer from the fact that neither Buck nor Grimm give any view of the remains of the cloister that the buildings lying round it had disappeared completely, or almost so, in the eighteenth century. But the *argumentum a silentio* is always a dangerous one to use, a fact well illustrated in this case. For among the numerous drawings of Grimm there is none that shows the Chapter House screen, while Buck's view appears to ignore it altogether. But it is worth noting that these authorities fail us almost altogether in researches as to the Claustral buildings.

In 1861 there was published *The Architectural History of Boxgrove Priory*, by the Rev. J. L. Petit, "with some historical remarks and conjectures on the Priory and Church of Boxgrove by the Rev. W. Turner, Vicar." This contains a plan of the Church, including the nave, by E. Sharpe, a sketch of the Barn from the north, and a "Plan of Church and adjacent buildings, foundations, etc." This plan is on too small a scale (about 80 feet to the inch) to show much detail⁸, and would have been of more interest had it been accompanied by letterpress to explain the hatchings, etc., but it has the great merit that it does not introduce conjectures as facts⁹, a vice undesirable

⁸ The accuracy of those parts of my plan which are copied from it is of course affected by the error which easily creeps in in copying from a small scale to a larger.

⁹ There is a possible exception to this. A buttress is marked in the middle of the south wall of the barn. There is no buttress, nor sign of a buttress, there now; nor, to judge from the existence of a fruit tree against the wall, is there any foundation below ground. That any restorer should have removed this and made the wall good while leaving neighbouring wall ends ragged seems very unlikely.

at any time and disastrous at a period when archaeologists could discuss whether the Chapter House screen was once part of the Parish Church. I shall refer to this work as "Turner."¹⁰

The internal evidence does not call for so many remarks. The buildings above ground are of flint rubble with freestone dressings. Where the latter are in position it is, of course, possible to take measurements with accuracy; even where, as sometimes happens in the Barn, the freestone has been removed it is still often possible by stretching string along the faces of the wall to ensure fair accuracy.¹¹ But in tracing the foundations which were visible in the dry weather of 1919 the same degree of accuracy is not attainable. The exact breadth of such foundations as I have traced is rather a matter of inference, as is of course, their exact length. But an error of six inches or a foot shows far less on the length of such a foundation than on its breadth. But if my plan is of no more use than to serve as a guide to some future excavator it will not have been made in vain.

Before going over the buildings in detail it may be well to consider what we should logically expect to find on such a site.

Besides the buildings of the home farm (which may well have stood on the site of the present Priory Farm) the buildings of Boxgrove Priory must have divided into two classes. First, the buildings composing the Enclosure or Claustrum, which we should expect to find grouped, except the infirmary, in a regular order round the cloister court; and secondly, the non-claustral buildings, bakehouse, brewhouse, dovecote, stables, etc., together with the guest house. This class of buildings we may expect to assimilate closely to the corresponding buildings in a lay establishment.

¹⁰ The precise date when the plan was made is not clear. Petit's paper was read before the Archaeological Institute in 1853, but Turner's notes seem to have been added later. See p. 39.

¹¹ I have been able by this means to reconstruct on plan the splays of two of the ground floor windows of the Barn where not a scrap of ashlar was left.

A dovecote at Boxgrove would not differ in any way from a dovecote of the same date at Halnaker. These buildings were probably not grouped in so regular an order as the claustral, and some of them may easily have been of timber construction.

At the Dissolution it is reasonable to suppose that the claustral buildings suffered, if anything more than the others. They were less easily secularizable as buildings and were consequently stripped of such parts of their material as were readily saleable.¹²

The survey bears this out. A brewhouse, a dovecote and a stable sound like old monastic buildings continued in their old uses. The malthouse appears not to have been too well equipped, malt could only be made "with some paynes-taking," and there was no "Cestrell." But it would not have been so necessary to have a malthouse on the spot in monastic days, the barley may well have been brought in ready malted from the monastic granges, whereas a brewhouse was a necessity in the pre-hop days when beer would only keep a short time.¹³

I. It is not my purpose to discuss the various problems connected with the Church, there are however two or three points where my plan may need explanation.

I have marked those altars whose positions are certain, or at least reasonably probable. The question whether the present porch was originally a chapel is an interesting one, but probably insoluble.

I have omitted from my plan the two doorways in the west wall of the north transept. Both are obviously late Gothic work, and the smaller one, at any rate, can hardly have been in its present position before the Dissolution, as it is arranged for the present

¹² "The King's Grace . . . hath more proffett there than in any other Howse dissolved in Sussex." Cott. MSS., *Cleopatra E*, IV., p. 234 b. Turner, p. 30.

¹³ As an interesting instance of a mediaeval survival, I may note that till a few years ago, if not to-day, three colleges at Oxford still brewed their own beer on the spot.

ground level, which is considerably higher than the ancient. The blocked doorway leading from the cloister to the nave is in quite a typical position, and it seems to me less likely that the door next to it was opened by the monks in later monastic days than that it was inserted, possibly from elsewhere, by staunchly Protestant churchwardens who felt the need of a north door (which was certainly used by the owners of Halnaker¹⁴), and objected to the idea of the monks' door being brought into use again.

The west wall of the present Church appears to consist in part of the old stone choir screen. I have assumed that the *outer* face of this has been altered, probably at the restoration in 1865. The outer jambs of the two small blocked doorways do not correspond exactly with the inner.

Sharpe's plan makes the rudimentary north aisle narrower than the south. In my plan, based on my own measurements, they are of the same breadth. There are two explanations of the difference between Sharpe's plan and present-day conditions: (i) The aisle wall, which was standing in Grimm's day and in Sharpe's may have been pulled down and a new one built two or three feet further north. This rebuilding must have taken place at different dates, as is manifest from the condition of the masonry. (ii) Sharpe may have made an error, probably in transferring measurements from his field book to his plan. No one will be surprised that I have adopted the latter hypothesis.

In connection with the ruin of the nave I would make a suggestion, obvious enough, but which I have nowhere seen put forward. It is that Lord De la Warr exchanged the monastic part of the Church, granted to him at the Dissolution, for the nave, which the parishioners would naturally claim. The presence of the tombs of his relations, and of his own "power chapell" would make him willing to effect an exchange which profited the parish.

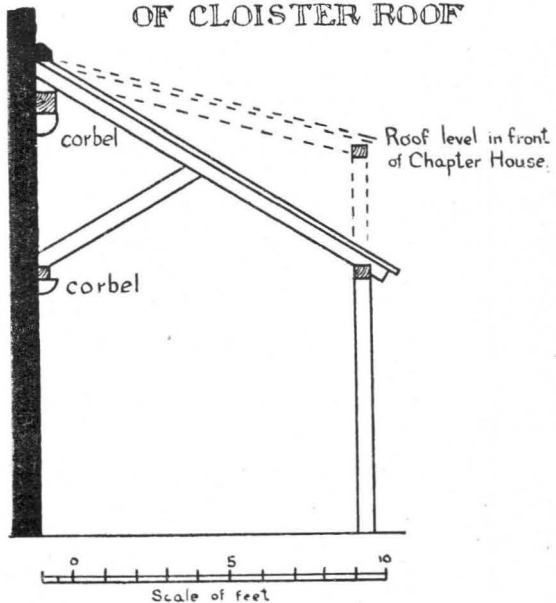
¹⁴ Turner, p. 41; *S.A.C.*, XV., 108.

II. The Cloister Court. The monastic buildings are placed to the north of the Church. There was no objection, so far as the ground was concerned, to placing them to the south. It was probably thought more desirable to use the church as a screen against the south-west winds rather than against the north, for which the line of the Downs would be to some extent a protection.

The main dimensions of the Cloister court are clear. The distance from east to west is visible above ground, and the door from the cloister to the nave or parochial church still traceable.¹⁵ Two fragments of the Refectory wall foundation give the distance from north to south. The

space thus enclosed (62 by 58 feet) approximates pretty closely to the traditional square. The system of roofing the south walk is easily deducible from the corbels and weather-moulding remaining on the walls of the nave. There are two lines of corbels, the lower about eight feet from the original level

PROBABLE ARRANGEMENT OF CLOISTER ROOF



of the cloister pavement, the upper about five feet higher up. These clearly carried timbers of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. scantling in the lower range and of about 9 by

¹⁵ Cf. S.A.C., XLIII., 161.

7in. in the upper, parallel to the face of the wall. On the upper line of timbers rested the rafters of the lean-to roof, the lower carried either tie-beams or diagonal braces. From the presence of notches cut in the shallow Transitional buttresses it would seem that the latter was the method adopted. The diagram may make the presumed arrangement clear.

The same arrangement is traceable on the west face of the transept, and also existed on the west face of the warming room, if the single remaining corbel there is considered sufficient evidence.

But in front of the Chapter House there appears to have been a different arrangement. At the point marked A on the plan there is still visible the spring of a masonry arch which must have spanned the cloister walk. And at B is a block of the same size, rather awkwardly inserted into the Norman work of the Chapter House screen. The surface of this is badly weathered, but it appears to have been the spring of a similar arch. Between the two, above the arches of the Chapter House screen, are two corbels on a horizontal line about twelve feet above the level of the cloister pavement.¹⁶ Nearly, but not quite, opposite B a mass of masonry exists below ground.¹⁷ And Turner marks a foundation opposite A.¹⁸ It would seem therefore that the eaves of the cloister roof, which were presumably level with the lower line of corbels, must have been higher here, and the pitch

¹⁶ The Chapter House screen does not now exist as high as the line of the weather moulding which marks the line of the cloister roof on the Church.

¹⁷ That this masonry exists is certain. It was encountered a few years ago in digging a grave. The arch linking it with B must have been on a skew. This may have been done to place the two piers symmetrically in the cloister arcade. An arch thrown square across the cloister walk from this pier would have had to spring from the haunch of the northernmost arch of the Chapter House screen.

¹⁸ This would lie under the present path and so could not have been visible to me. I had inferred its existence before I saw it marked on Turner's plan. The different size of the two foundations may be accounted for either on the hypothesis that the southern had been partly demolished when Turner found it, or because the northern was deeper to support a flying buttress rendered necessary by a weakness in the dorter wall.

consequently flatter, probably to improve the lighting of the Chapter House.¹⁹

The position of these two foundations gives the east walk of the cloister a breadth of ten feet, a very reasonable dimension for a small monastery. The breadth of the other walks may be taken to have been the same.

Save for these two piers there is no trace of a cloister arcade. It is reasonable to suppose that, like the roof, it was of wood.

III. The Chapter House. The screen of this is still standing, though many of the stones are very badly weathered. A short fragment of the north wall is also standing, and the foundation of the rest of it, and of about half the east wall, clearly traceable, as is also the foundation of one of the pillars. The position of this is somewhat of a problem, as it lies distinctly farther east than the line of the dorter wall²⁰, which it should have supported. It is possible that excavation might show that this block had shifted from its original position. The springings of two severeys of early Norman vaulting, without groin ribs, still remain at the west, and two corbels which carried other springings are visible on the north face of the transept.²¹

IV. The existence of a line of ashlar on the wall of the north choir aisle shows that the east wall of the Chapter House was continued as far as the Church. And the line of a doorway into the choir aisle is also traceable on the outside.²² It seems less likely that the Chapter House was of this irregular shape with direct communication with the choir than that this corner was a separate room. And as the present

¹⁹ I am disinclined to think that these arches carried an upper floor.

²⁰ This is marked on the plan by a dotted line. To the north it is indicated by the line of the warming room wall, to the south the point where it bonded into the transept wall can still be traced by the scraps of ashlar used to make good the present face of the wall. Freestone was too precious in monastic days to be used where flint rubble would have done just as well.

²¹ These are marked on the plan.

²² Turner traced the line of wall, but does not seem to have detected the door.

vestry is of considerably later date I am inclined to identify this room with the sacristy with which a church of this size may well have been provided.

V. Warming room. Part of this seems to have been above ground in Turner's day. Owing to the small scale of his plan it is impossible to say whether the gaps in the east wall as marked by him were window openings or no. For completeness sake I have indicated them on my plan. The foundation of the north wall is by no means clear, even under favourable conditions, and Turner does not seem to have traced it, but the end of the east wall which he traced tallies with my own previous conclusion as to the position of the north wall.

The north-west corner of the standing Chapter House screen is the jamb of a doorway which must have given access either to the warming room or to a passage leading eastward. The partition between this passage and the warming room may have been of timber, of the heavy type of stud partition still surviving in mediaeval buildings in Oxford. This would account for its having left no trace.

VI. Of the Dormitory no traces now remain except the indications of the bonding of the east wall mentioned above, the weather moulding of the roof still visible on the transept wall and the doorway of the night stairs to the Church. This has been somewhat reduced in height and is now a square-headed window.

VII. The wall, given on Turner's authority, continuing the line of the west wall of the warming room, is presumably one wall of the Rere Dorter. A fragment of wall, with apparently a gable, shown in Buck's view, may have been the east wall of it. There was, of course, no water carriage system in this dry country; this deprives us of the evidence which drains might otherwise have furnished.

VIII., IX., X. The evidence as to the Frater, Kitchen and Cellar is scanty. I have not been able to find any indication as to where the north wall of the

Frater stood. That the Kitchen was in its usual place is I think certain from the position of the monastery well, which is still in use and which must have stood in a small court close to the kitchen. That the low modern wall which bounds the churchyard and orchard on the west rests on ancient foundations I believe, for the following reasons:—(i) The kitchen and cellar must have had a wall about where the present one runs. The cellar wall can hardly have been further east than the present, or it would have made the cellar too small, it cannot have been further west, unless the lancet window existing in the wall of the north aisle has been inserted there out of its proper place to be a plague to the twentieth century archaeologist. (ii) A line of ashlar, marking the bonding of a wall, is traceable in the aisle wall, so far as can be seen for ivy, exactly where the present wall stands. (iii) The foundation extends further north than the present wall, which would hardly have been the case had it been laid for it. See Plan.

The position of the two fragments of wall lying west of this and put in on Turner's authority cannot be verified to-day as the space here is gravel. I can suggest no identification for them. The possibility of their being post-Dissolution work must not be lost sight of.

Grimm (fol. 84 and 86) shows a gable about here. It may have belonged to the Cellar, to the Kitchen, or to these scraps of wall.

XI. The Dovecote. Part of the foundation of this is still visible in dry weather on the Vicarage lawn.²³ In 1863 it was still standing and in use as a dovecote,²⁴ and there seems to me to be no reason to doubt that it is identical with the "dove-house w^h is letten to S^r Thomas Palmer" of the Survey and with the dovecote which the monastery presumably possessed.

XII. North of the Frater site and parallel to it lies

²³ I did not survey this, but have inserted the dovecote entirely on Turner's authority.

²⁴ *S.A.C.*, XV., 112.

the foundation of a long narrow rectangular building divided by walls into three compartments of very unequal size. It seems too long and narrow to have been the monastic misericorde, and its position, close to the well, leads me to think that it may have been the brewhouse. The irregular building adjoining it to the north, half of which seems to have been closed and half an open shed, I am inclined to put down as post-Dissolution, partly because I have traced what appears to be a continuation of the diagonal wall to the eastwards as far as the Barn. This sort of rough-and-ready joining up of angles smacks rather of post-Dissolution work; the north wall of the brewhouse may have been standing when the Barn was first so used, and may have been linked up with it and used as a back wall for the lean-to cattle sheds which were the inevitable accompaniment of a barn. There are, however, no such sheds in Grimm's drawing (fol. 82), though one of the walls running east and west shows some distance above ground.

The building still above ground presents an interesting problem in identification. Before discussing its use in monastic times it may be as well to state in some detail the evidence available as to its component parts.

XIII. This is the building which was in use in Grimm's time as a barn. It was clearly designed as a large hall²⁵, resting on a vaulted undercroft. The latter was lighted by windows to the east and west, while four doors gave access to it. (i) To the south-west, opening from the building marked XIV., which appears to have been a porch. This door opens inwards, its mouldings are the most elaborate, and it is broader than the others. From these facts, and from its proximity to the other monastic buildings, I conclude that it was the principal entrance to the undercroft. It is fitted with sockets for a bar. (ii) In the

²⁵ It seems to me contrary to mediaeval building tradition to have designed this large building as two separate rooms. (See *S.A.C.*, XLIII., 165.) There is, so far as I know, not a scrap of evidence that it was so divided, and the burden of proof would fall on those who would establish a partition.

south wall opening outwards with regard to the Barn, and unprovided with bar sockets. Clearly a door of communication.²⁶ (iii) In the east wall, a narrow door, the arch of which appears to have been set askew for some purpose. It has bar sockets, and consequently appears to be an outer door. (iv) Towards the north end of the west wall, giving communication with the building marked XVI. Only one jamb of this survives, and Grimm's drawing (fol. 82) gives no help. It appears to have opened into the splay of a lancet window, shown by Grimm.²⁷ My reconstruction is somewhat conjectural. The whole arrangement suggests that this doorway is an afterthought. Close to it (C on plan) is a shallow niche, 3ft. 8in. broad. This may have been a service hatch blocked when the doorway was opened. In the next bay is an opening (D on plan), now almost entirely blocked by more recent masonry. The shape of this and the presence of tiles set herring-bone fashion suggest that it was a fireplace.

The vaulting system of this undercroft is apparent at a glance.

In the upper floor²⁸ one window survives in very good condition, that in the north wall. It has lost its mullion but seems otherwise perfect. The upper part of each of the lights was glazed, the grooves for the glazing still being traceable. The lower part was closed by shutters, of these the hinges and the bar sockets are clearly visible, as is the groove for draining off water from the outer face of the shutter. There seems to have been a wooden transom at the head of the latter. There are two stone seats in the opening of this window. The remains of the other large window surviving are so covered with ivy that no detail can

²⁶ Grimm (fol. 87) shows another arch (E on plan) in this wall. There is no sign of this on the south face of the wall, and the north is covered by a shed.

²⁷ Dallaway's engraving represents this as a kind of rude trefoil, but this is not nearly so pronounced in Grimm's original. Probably the uppermost freestone voussoirs were still in place, while the lower ones had been wrenched out. No freestone now remains on the outer surface, but enough of the soffit remains to reconstruct the dimensions with fair accuracy.

²⁸ Neither in the existing remains nor in the drawings have I seen any sign of a staircase to the upper floor.

be made out, but from Grimm (fol. 87) it must have resembled the north window. Buck and Grimm (fol. 83 and 87) show two similar windows on the east side. There is also a one-light window with cinque-foiled head in the west wall.

Three doors of similar design and practically identical dimensions exist in the upper floor. One, to the south, opens outwards from the Barn, has no bar, but has three steps in the thickness of the wall leading downwards.²⁹ It has no bar sockets. A second, at the south end of the west wall opens inwards from the upper storey of the porch (XIV.). It has no bar sockets, but doubtful remains of an iron bolt socket. The third opens inwards from the building marked XVI., and has bar sockets. Close to this is a small aumbry.

Both Grimm and Buck show large blocked arches in the east wall of the two southernmost bays.

High in each gable are three lancets, two below and one in the point of the gable, presumably smoke outlets.

Buck shows this building in a fairly perfect condition, but roofless. But the wide opening in the centre bay of the east side can hardly have been the mediaeval arrangement and suggests that it may already have been used as a barn. In Grimm's time it had been re-roofed and the gables somewhat lowered. The drawing in Turner shows it substantively as it is.³⁰

From one or two small indications in this building I believe it and those adjacent to have been the "rowmes above and under" which were used as a malthouse at the time of the Survey.

XIV. This was already ruined in Grimm's time. The foundations of the two side walls are still visible at ground level. The remains of two corbels with

²⁹ The stop of the chamfer on the south face shows that these steps are coeval with the building.

³⁰ If Grimm (fol. 87) is correct in showing a roof without any tie-beam the collapse of the roof and of the upper part of the eastern wall is not to be wondered at.

elaborately undercut foliage and of a vaulting rib show that it was vaulted. These ornamental corbels, the small size of the building, and the fact that a lancet opens into it from what was apparently a coeval building have made me conclude that it was a porch to the undercroft. It is noticeable that the south wall of this building is the only wall of the whole group, so far as accurate measurements can be obtained, which is less in thickness than the 3ft. 4in. which appears to have been adopted as a standard. This, and the fact that its west face aligns with the warming room wall suggests the possibility that there was another building filling the space between it, XV. and the Rere Dorter.

XV. That a two-storeyed building stood here the door in the upper storey of the Barn is sufficient proof. Its roof probably had its ridge running north and south, as the lower pair of smoke lancets in the south gable of the Barn are spaced much wider apart than the corresponding pair in the north gable. The south gable is too much covered with ivy for any weather moulding to be traceable, and Grimm (fol. 85) gives no details. The ground floor does not appear to have been vaulted, and the upper floor must have been at a slightly lower level than that of the main hall, to judge by the steps in the door of communication.

XVI. Buck alone shows this standing. Besides the part marked on the plan he shows a small wing further west. I have been unable to trace any foundations of this, and Grimm (fol. 82) shows the foundations existing at ground level in his time as a simple rectangle. At the east end (*i.e.* in the outer wall of the Barn) is a fair-sized aumbry.

Two other sets of foundations are traceable near here, those of a cart shed against the north wall of the Barn, and those of a long wall running in a westerly direction from it. They represent walls which were not there in Buck's time but were standing when the drawing in Turner was made. They are consequently eighteenth or nineteenth century work. I mention them because

they can be somewhat bewildering to the archaeologist on the spot.

Grimm identifies this group of buildings as the Refectory. I hardly imagine that any archaeologist of to-day would bear him out. Sir W. H. St. John Hope³¹ says that the Barn "no doubt served as the infirmary," but unfortunately does not give the reasons which led him to this identification. While I hesitate to disagree with so high an authority, I must admit that I can see no argument in favour of this identification but the fact that no trace of infirmary buildings exists elsewhere.³² To begin with, the position is somewhat unusual for an infirmary, though this argument alone is of little weight. But the great size of it tells against this identification. The dormitory had a floor area of 1560 square feet, while the upper floor of the Barn alone, not counting any of its three annexes, had one of 1716 square feet. Finally, the absence of any chapel is conclusive against the infirmary identification. The two southernmost bays of the east side of the barn seem the only possible place where a chapel could have jutted out. The arches shown in these bays by Buck and Grimm seem at first sight to point to there having been a chapel here. But the buttress marked F on plan is clearly a buttress and not the stump of a wall, hence the wall to the north of it³³ must have been an external wall, and the arch shown by Buck in this bay cannot therefore have opened into a chapel. And if this arch was not a chapel arch the probability of its neighbour having been one is diminished,³⁴ while the door under it, having bar sockets, does not look like a communication door into another undercroft. Neither

³¹ *S.A.C.*, XLIII., 165.

³² The infirmary may have been a wooden-framed building. There is plenty of room for it east of the warming room, but I have traced no foundations.

³³ This is in the main a rather rough post-Dissolution rebuild. Grimm (fol. 87) shows the extent of it. Enough of the original is however left to show that a wall existed here.

³⁴ I suspect that these two arches represent two Perpendicular windows opened to light what by my theory must have been the most important part of the building, and subsequently walled up, probably when it was used as a malthouse.

Buck nor Grimm show any foundations in this neighbourhood, nor have I been able to trace any.

What then was the purpose for which this large building was put up early in the fourteenth century? A glance at the plan shows a large hall lying between two smaller buildings, nearly the typical arrangement of hall, solar and offices of the contemporary manor house.³⁵ A building of this size, on the lines of an ordinary house, it seems to me, is most likely to have been built as the monastery guest house.³⁶

Lying between a part of Stane Street still in use as the Chichester—Petworth road and the road to Arundel and the eastern part of the County, Boxgrove, though so close to Chichester, must have had plenty of opportunities of exhibiting the monastic virtue of hospitality. Besides serving for the actual entertainment of strangers, the Guest House may well have been the place where the Prior played the country gentleman in the latter days of English monasticism when Chaucer's monk looked on the Rule of St. Benedict as "old and som-del streit." Turner's identification as the "Refectory or Prior's Lodging" would seem therefore near the mark.

The southern annex (XV.) I believe to have been the solar for the accommodation of guests of higher rank, hence the two Perpendicular windows, whose previous existence I suggest, would have lighted the High Table. Besides the inherent probability that monasteries would provide different accommodation for guests of different rank, there is the direct evidence that St. Alban's Abbey had already built a hall with an inner parlour as a guest house.³⁷ The undercroft may have served as a kitchen, the opening C on plan originally as kitchen hatch, while the presence of two

³⁵ Purely secular architecture did not usually place the hall on an undercroft at this time, but the Prebendal School at Chichester is an undoubted instance of the same arrangement of even earlier date. *S.A.C.*, LIV., 3.

³⁶ The identification has been made before, I do not know by whom. Kelly's *Directory of Sussex* speaks of "the ruins of a solitary building erected c. 1300 and formerly the guest chamber." I arrived at my conclusion independently.

³⁷ Gasquet, *English Monastic Life*, p. 30.

aumbries at this end of the building bears out the view that it was the lower, or service end.

There remains the question what the monastery site would yield if excavated.³⁸ I think it likely that evidence for the north wall of the Frater and Kitchen exists somewhere below ground, although too deep to be traceable on the surface in dry weather.³⁹ But against this it should be noted that Turner detected none. The plan of the Rere Dorter and of the building which possibly lay north of it might also be recovered. And there would be some chance of establishing the positions of the doorways giving access to various buildings.

Unless steps are taken for its preservation, the days of the Guest House are numbered. The present Vicar, the Rev. R. Wells, has done excellent work in cutting ivy,⁴⁰ but flint rubble deprived of most of its ashlar dressing and exposed to the weather will not last for ever. It is partly in the hope of being as useful to succeeding generations as my own authorities have been to me that I have gone into details with a fullness which may seem tedious to my contemporaries.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since this paper was in type I have had the opportunity of consulting two other ancient drawings.

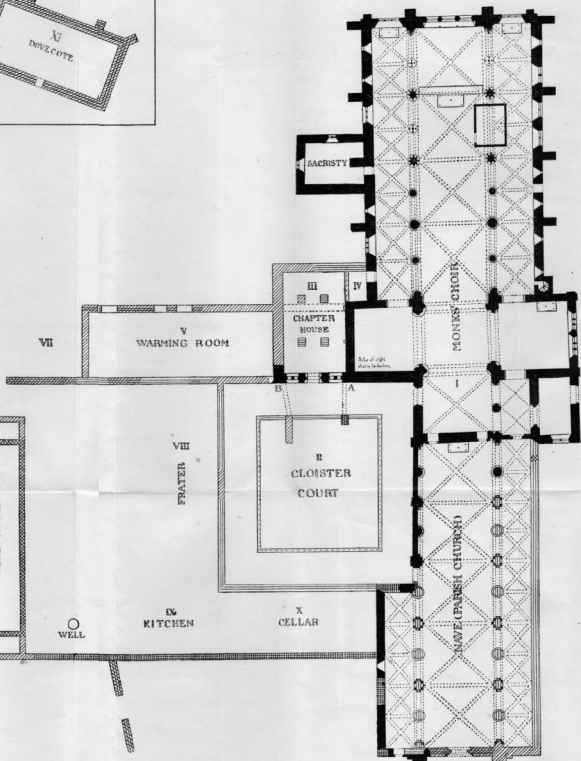
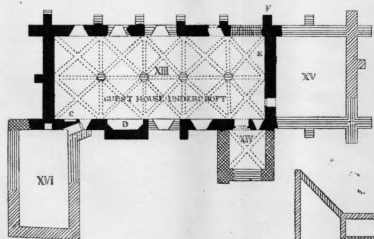
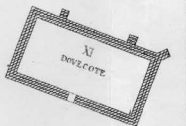
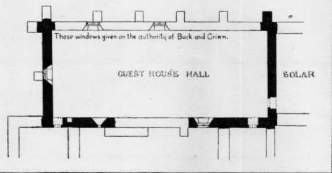
Vol III. of Grose's *Antiquities of England* gives a drawing and some explanatory letterpress. The latter includes the following:—"Several parts of this abby are standing; some of them are converted into dwelling houses. These remains, though they give no great idea of its former elegance, shew, however, that it was a very substantial building."

The view, which the letterpress informs us was taken in 1761, and which is therefore earlier than Grimm, is

³⁸ It should be remembered that it was partially excavated by Turner.

³⁹ The present ground surface is not so favourable for tracing foundations as that on the sites of the Chapter House or the service annex to the Guest House (XVI.).

⁴⁰ *S.A.C.*, XLIII., 165.



BOXCROVE PRIORY

PLAN SHOWING REMAINS OF CONVENTUAL BUILDINGS

- EXISTING ABOVE GROUND
- MODERN WALLS OR ANCIENT FOUNDATIONS
- FOUNDATIONS AT GROUND LEVEL
- FOUNDATIONS BELOW GROUND LEVEL
- ON THE AUTHORITY OF A PLAN OF c.1560
- INFERRED
- CONJECTURAL



DOVECOTE INSET IS INCHES FROM HERE

taken from the south side of the Church, from very much the same viewpoint as Grimm's fol. 84, and gives the Church very accurately. To the north of the ruined nave the upper part of a dwelling house is visible. This appears to be a rectangular building, running east and west. The principal roof ridge runs in the same direction, but the western part of the south wall rises in to a gable, clearly the same gable which is shown as a ruin in Grimm's fol. 84 and 86. The windows visible appear to be post-Dissolution.

I have no doubt that this dwelling house represents the shell, at any rate, of the monastic Frater and Kitchen, the distinction between the two being still traceable in the different directions of the roof ridges. Features such as doors and windows having been modernised, it would not have attracted Buck's attention so much as the Barn, and it was a ruin, and probably largely demolished in Grimm's time.⁴¹ The fact that the Priory site was inhabited right into the eighteenth century casts some doubt on the date of the building marked XII. on plan, which may have been built as offices for this house.

I have also examined Rouse's drawing of 1825. It shows the Barn from the north-east. Generally, it confirms Buck and Grimm, particularly in showing the two high-blocked arches in the southernmost bays of the upper floor. But comparison with existing remains shows that it is less trustworthy for detail than any of the earlier drawings which I have used as authorities.

⁴¹ Cf. *S.A.C.*, XV., 105.