

HOUSES IN THE CLOSE AT CHICHESTER.¹

BY IAN C. HANNAH, F.S.A.

THE Chantry, the Residentiary and the Deanery have gardens extending to the city wall and are entered from Canon Lane. On the south side of this thoroughfare there is also the unnamed house which adjoins the Palace gateway, but whose garden does not extend to the wall.

There appears to be no reason for doubting the fact that this city wall is an ancient British earthwork which the Romans faced with masonry toward the open country. In the garden of the Residentiary there remains an obviously Roman bastion, a rounded apse-like projection, resembling similar features at Portchester and—though on a far smaller scale—some of those of the Aurelian wall at Rome.

Bastions projecting outwards (to facilitate a flanking fire upon assailants) became usual in the third century—though some may conceivably be earlier. In the second century they were usually square and projected inwards as may be seen at Borcovicium, Cilurnum and other forts on Hadrian's famous wall. The Roman defences of Regnum or Chichester are certainly relatively late. The masonry of the walls having earth against it with many trees growing there has constantly needed renewal, and most of what exists is obviously post-mediæval. At the base of the bastion, however, there remain a few stones and a little pink mortar that may quite possibly be Roman. They face south-east in the apsidal portion. There is a

¹ Very valuable help from my friend Mr. Walter Peckham in preparing this article is gratefully acknowledged. Preby. Bennett has given me some useful suggestions.



ST. RICHARD'S WALK AND HOUSE OF WICCAMICAL
PREBENDARIES.



EAST END CHANTRY ORATORY. RESIDENTIARY
TO RIGHT.

similar bastion further west in the grounds of the Palace. The plan of Chichester published in 1768 by Wm. Gardner shows five others on the circuit; but one at present survives, in the garden of Cawley Priory.

In the Chantry garden is a nineteenth century brick tunnel and doorway through the wall which uses a few stones that may be late mediæval. In the wall above is a 2-light fourteenth century window, which

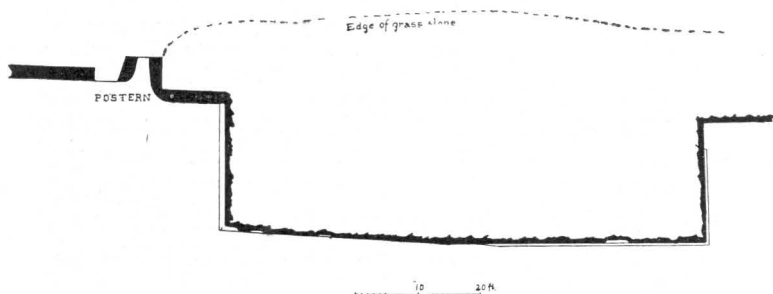


FIG. 1. REMAINS OF OLD DEANERY.

Plan by I.C.H. of the existing walls on the circuit of the city defences.

appears to have been glazed as well as having both its lights and the space above rabbeted for shutters: there seems to be no doubt that this is not in its original position. In all probability this is the doorway made through the walls by a canon named Geoffrey in the early part of the thirteenth century.²

One or two existing houses in Chichester are built upon the wall and the mediæval DEANERY actually projected beyond it toward the open country on the south. This portion still exists up to the level of the present wall. Its length is about 74 feet, and it extends outward from the irregular surface of the wall about 19 feet on the east and 21 on the west. The eastern portion for about 34 feet is furnished with a plinth which on the south dies into the wall and on the east stops four feet short of the city wall (in the north-east corner) for a doorway, of which part of the jamb on the south side can be seen. In the south wall there

² Lib. E; fol. 10. Quoted Mackenzie Walcott *Statutes*, p. 61.

remains the lower portion of a late window. The western section of the structure has one very plain window simply bevelled all round, and another formed of some Norman billet moulding very clearly not in its original position. There used to be a single light fifteenth century cinquefoiled opening, built up like all the rest, but when part of the wall fell, dislocated by the roots of a tree, in 1913, it was not replaced. The missing window did not pierce the wall, but was merely built into the surface,³ which is very probably true of the other details as well. It is really impossible to make anything intelligible out of the ruins of the mediæval Deanery; it used to suffer from the periodical overflowings of the Lavant. Henry II. permitted Dean Seffrid to construct "posternam in muro civitatis Cicestr. contra domum suam, per quam eat ad virgultum suum et ad culturam suam et ad grangias suas."⁴

In Sir William Wallis's letter to the Earl of Essex describing the siege (1642) he refers to "a back gate that issued out of the Deanery through the town wall into the fields, and was walled up by a single brick thick."

The present doorway is of nineteenth century date. Between it and the projecting part of the old Deanery the wall is curiously recessed to receive a little window now blocked and decayed, which is probably of Tudor date.

In 1374, as recorded in the Leiger Book (copied by Dean William Hayley and published by Canon Swainson,⁵ the original now being lost), Dean Roger Freton gave a "store" to the deanery, 17 oxen, 2 wooden "carucas," 7 cows, 1 bull, 100 ewes, &c. He died 1381 "in hospitio decanatus sui." It seems clear that the mediæval deans combined the advantages of city and country life, being able to step into the Close or the

³ I saw this for myself.

⁴ MS. Univ. Coll., fol. 4. Quoted Walcott *Statutes*, 61.

⁵ Can. C. A. Swainson, *History of a Cathedral of the old Foundation from Documents in the Registry of Chichester*, p. 69.

open fields at will from their residence, and occupying their leisure in farming.

The old Deanery was destroyed in the siege of 1642, and for a century it was not rebuilt.

Immediately south of its ruined walls is still the Dean's Meadow, which extends to a branch of the Lavant, and there is open country beyond.

The existing house was erected in 1725 by Thomas Sherlock, Dean from 1715 till 1727 (the successor of William Hayley, whose brother Thomas, also Dean, was the grandfather of the poet).

It appears on the engraving of the city by Saml. and Nathl. Buck dated 1738. It is a box-like structure of brick in Flemish bond having two storeys with basement and attic, plastered on the south side. Though it forms a most comfortable residence it is a lamentable piece of work both from the æsthetic and structural point of view, and has needed to be clamped with iron bars.

There is a very depressed gable on each of the four sides. The fabric is of little interest, but the vestibule and a small room to the right in the north-east corner are panelled in soft wood to the ceiling; the front door is a massive nine panelled oak structure, an excellent piece of carpentry.

The staircase is so good that it may have come from some other house. The rail is supported by thin balusters, the lower parts turned and the upper twisting, a thin square portion being left between: there are three on each tread. On the outside under each step is a carved console. At the bottom and at the corners are miniature columns of Roman Doric form. The panelling against the walls corresponding to the railing, with little pilasters, the actual panels moulded all round, is different from the other woodwork of the hall.

No. 45, South Street has a somewhat similar staircase, and there is another in the Palace.

Dean Hook (1859-75) extended the house eastward to the wall of the Residentiary garden. Two old

cottages north of this extension contain the kitchens and quarters for the maids that formerly were provided in the basement.

Facing Canon Lane are very handsome, double, hammered iron, open work gates with brick posts. They have every appearance of being contemporary with the existing house.

While the Deanery lay in ruin the Dean appears for part of the time to have occupied the Chantry and for another a house in the Pallant. According to a local "tradition" it was during this period that the north west portion of the garden was used for the erection of another house which seems never to have possessed any name of its own. It is generally called simply CANON LANE. The south wall of its garden is obviously built of mediæval materials, among which however no moulded stones are to be found; it is possible that they came from the ruins of the old Deanery. The east wall is of more recent character. A photograph in the possession of Rev. S. J. Norman, Vicar of Merston, shows a three-storey brick house of early eighteenth century character, the windows square-headed and the door protected by a round arched canopy on rather widely projecting consoles. The top storey windows were blind. A rather narrow front (north) garden enclosed by iron railings set the house back a few feet from the Lane and kept it from touching the gateway of the Palace. Within living memory the entrance to the kitchen, inside the house, was through a Norman door. This combined with the fact that the house seems to be mentioned in the reign of Elizabeth⁶ appears to show that the tradition about the taking of part of the Deanery garden is untrustworthy.

⁶ "In 1602 the four houses occupied by the residentiaries were that one adjoining the palace gate; a second retaining traces of an archway next to the deanery; the Bursalis prebendal house; and the chancery." Mackenzie E. C. Walcott, F.S.A., præcentor, *Early Statutes of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Chichester*, 1877, p. 61. His reference is *Var. Observ.* 72. The Chancellor's house was just west of the cathedral. Its foundations are well known to the gardeners employed in that part of the Palace domain which occupies the site.

During the seventies of last century Rev. A. R. Ashwell (the first Canon of Chichester to be appointed by the Bishop under the Cathedral Act of 1840), entirely rebuilt the house, bringing it flush with the pavement and into contact by a corner with the gateway of the Bishop's Palace. The entrance is through the Norman door already mentioned. It dates about a century after the Conquest; there are shafts with simple caps and zigzag mouldings having pellets in the interstices of the second order; just within a simple roll continues the plane of the shafts. A simple square-edged inner order, which was reconstructed from the evidence of a single surviving stone, has thin roll mouldings in place of inner shafts.

The house is interesting in possessing a hall open to the roof, round which the rooms are gathered east, south and west.

The vestibule is paved with mediæval encaustic tiles having mostly quatrefoil patterns with a star in each foil. There are others with lions, six pointed stars and fleurs de lis. Nothing appears to be known as to whence they came.

A fireplace, obviously from Halnaker, has a foliage pattern in the spandrels of a very flat arch, and what looks like the initials I T. There are some Dutch Scripture tiles. A bedroom window has armorial glass: *Magnificate Deum Mecum*, &c.

The RESIDENTIARY is a very typical building of its kind, dating from the middle ages, but altered out of all recognition, and so much plastered both within and without that its history is by no means easy to read.

In its present form it is L-shaped, the older portion extending into the garden north and south, the more recent lying along Canon Lane, its north wall flush with the pavement. The roof of the ancient hall remains very perfect though now entirely concealed. It would appear that the original house was timber framed and plastered, not very heavily built as such

structures go. The beams are only partially of oak, such being far less readily available on the maritime plain than in the Weald. The roof has three bays with cambered tie-beams neatly bevelled below, this being the only attempt at ornament. Under the collars is a purlin supported above the tie-beams by king-posts, each with four little brackets (those placed

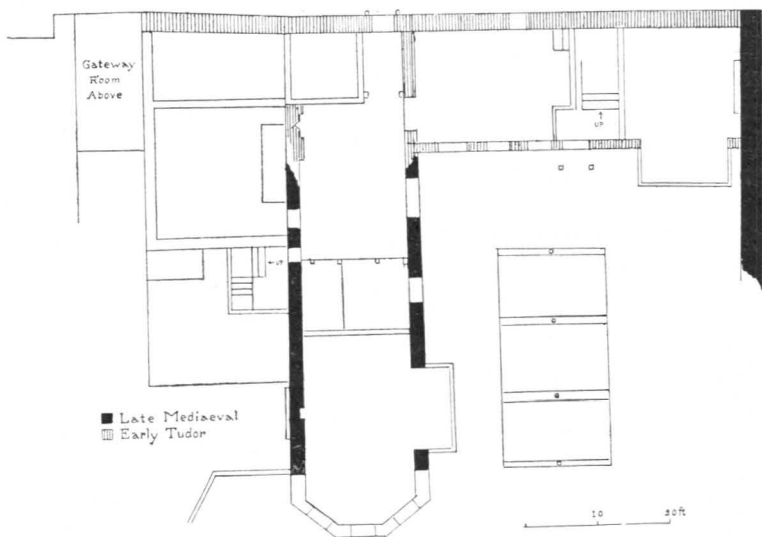


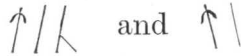
FIG. 2. RESIDENTIARY.

Plan by I.C.H. The building is so completely altered that the original periods are not easy to decipher, but it is clear that the foundations of the hall and a small portion to the north are mediaeval and that most of the rest was added in the early sixteenth century. Modern work is simply outlined. The detached plan of the hall roof is exactly opposite its position in the main building.

east and west supporting the collars above), and at the ends by much larger brackets. Each of the end king-posts is supported by two struts and there is some trace of the nogging by which the gables were enclosed. Their timbers also very clearly were long exposed to the weather. All the rafters are the same size and, as might be expected, there is no ridge-piece.

The work is fastened together with projecting wooden

pegs. The two detached king-posts as well as the adjacent timbers have simple construction marks:



There is no real indication of date, but the work may perhaps be assigned to about the fifteenth century. The existing red tiles are pegged to very frail thin laths, evidently nineteenth century work. The timbers display no trace of smoke, nor of a louvre, but there was probably a chimney one side.

From the height of the building it seems certain that there were chambers under the hall as in the case of the Vicar's Hall and the earlier one (fourteenth century) of the Palace. Outside Chichester there are examples at the two St. Mary Winton Colleges, the supposed abbot's house at Netley and elsewhere.

The bay immediately north of the hall may represent the mediæval solar; all that can positively be said is that it certainly had no gabled roof as high as that of the hall, or the timbers of the latter would not show signs of weathering. The present roof over that portion is modern, but some old material is used.

The east and west walls of this hall block have been built up with brick and a few flints which is mostly plastered over. The south wall is simply covered with weather tiling above, a large bow window for the modern drawing room having been thrown out below it. The timber framing can nowhere be seen, but an examination of the roof leaves little doubt that it still exists in part.

It was probably in early Tudor times, perhaps in the episcopate of Shurburne, that the house was greatly enlarged by the addition of the portion lying along Canon Lane. The walls are of masonry, in parts rather surprisingly thick, rubble of flint and stone, but now entirely plastered. There are two small original windows, one on the lower storey looking south and the other on the upper storey looking north. Both are square headed and simply bevelled all round,

now walled up. This portion has gables looking north and south at either end, the south one on the west joining the older work. The north gable at the east end has characteristic carved barge boards with grape pattern and a head at the top on each side, very much blurred in outline by successive thick coats of paint. The boards of the western gable are evidently replaced.

The roofs where visible have the rafters morticed into the purlins and some of the timbers are re-used. The long roof extending east and west between has been raised to allow better space for attics, probably in the eighteenth century. The dining room has oak beams across its ceiling and a rough bracket supporting one of them is carved with what appears to be a Tudor rose.

The vestibule of the house has a large amount of linen panel, evidently placed in the eighteenth century or later, as it is in close connection with three round arches of timber and a chimney piece of that date.

The arches slightly suggest a screen and practically mark the northern limit of the hall whose roof remains above, but it is unlikely that they were ever connected with it. At what time the hall itself was floored over there is no indication. In the Palace Shurburne floored over an earlier hall during the sixteenth century; on the other hand, as late as the reign of James I., Sir Henry Compton provided a great hall in his mansion at Brambletye. The present fittings of the house are chiefly of the eighteenth century or later, but there is no really first class work. There are two massive panelled chimney pieces of wood, one moved from its original position to the dining room. These are very similar, remarkable for their bold bolection mouldings.

The majority of houses in the old streets of Chichester have façades of the eighteenth century, while dating back to earlier times. The front door of the Residentiary is framed by a wooden structure of a type exceedingly common in the city, two projecting pilasters, in this case square, carry a slight moulding, over which is a lunette window above the door; over

each pilaster is a thin fragment of an entablature which carry between them a pediment crowning the whole. All the four main streets of Chichester present specimens of such doorways and there are three others in the Close, one just opposite, in Blackman House, a simple plastered eighteenth century building with projecting roof of tiles, two in St. Richard's Walk, forming the front doors of the house of the Wiccamical Prebendaries and the small eighteenth century house of brick which joins it on the south, once occupied by Dr. Codrington. The last is the simplest in design, the lunette being omitted.

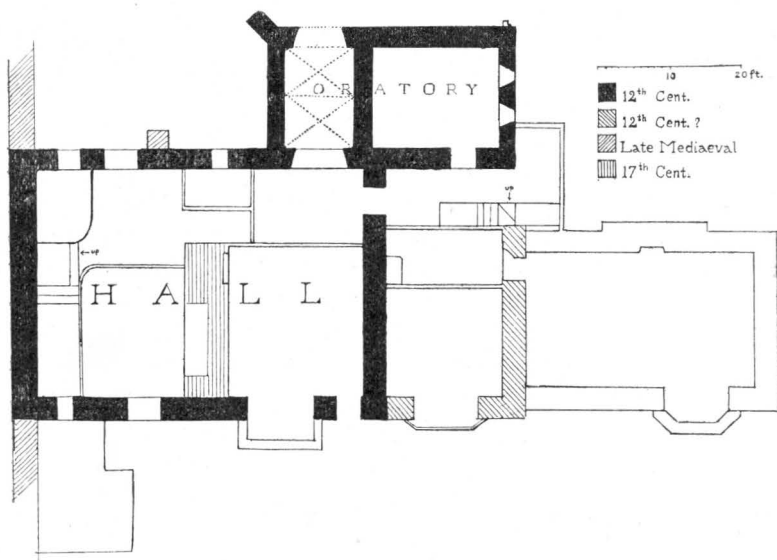


FIG. 3. THE CHANTRY.

Plan by I.C.H. The original date of much of the walling is very doubtful. The portion in the angle between hall and oratory is very possibly original. Modern additions and partitions are indicated in outlines.

The CHANTRY appears to mean simply the dwelling of the Chantor or Precentor. There is no evidence that any endowed mass was ever instituted there, nor is it likely. It was by far the finest of any of the mediæval houses in the Close whose remains have come down to us, except the Bishop's Palace. But

we have really no knowledge of the character of the ancient Deanery.

The Chantry consisted of a large hall, 45 by 31 feet, with a solar or kitchen at the east end, whose roof runs at right angles, and adjoining on the north an oratory with a vaulted vestibule under its western bay leading straight into the east end of the hall. Except for the large drawing room added eastward by Archdeacon Walker in the eighties of last century and trifling offices, the modern house is comprised within these three portions. They are probably contemporary. The oratory alone shows any indication of date. Its details would indicate the last quarter of the twelfth century.

The vault of the vestibule in two bays is of late Norman character, but it is unlikely to be earlier than the rest of the oratory of which it forms an integral part. Except for some Norman castle vaults as, for instance, the very massive one under a house called the Precincts at Lewes, and the east bay of the nave at Boxgrove, it may be the oldest piece of vaulting in Sussex. Only round arches are used; there are two bays.

The ribs spring from very small rounded corbels with straight-edged abaci. The ribs are rather flat and not very massive for the period; each is provided with a simple roll moulding rather deeply cut. The chalk filling is rather curiously sloped as if in a sort of compromise between the French and English methods. As is well known, the vaulting of the Cathedral is mostly on the French principle, the courses of the filling being kept horizontal so as to throw all the weight on to the transverse ribs instead of cross sloping so as to divide it, as is usual in England—though perfect examples of the French system are frequently met with, for example in the fourteenth century crypt of the Merchant Taylors' chapel in London.

This vestibule occupies the western portion of the oratory. The part east has at present a heavy brick

tunnel vault of about the eighteenth century to serve as a wine cellar. The oratory was clearly always on the upper floor. Both east and west walls were pierced by a couple of lancets with a quatrefoil above, all splayed and the lancets rabbeted for shutters within. This remains perfect on the east and in a mutilated condition on the west.

The north wall of the oratory is pierced at the east end by a cinquefoiled window glazed and rabbeted, which possibly came from Halnaker House and further west by a 4-light opening, square headed,⁷ the lights trefoiled, pierced above, which seems certainly to have done so.

The gables are rather steep; the roof is a roughly pegged structure (covered like all the others with tiles), which may probably be of the seventeenth century. Its tie beams cross the lancets and it quite certainly was constructed to be ceiled underneath, not to remain open.

This oratory is of special interest in connection with the entry on p. 24 of the Leiger Book (Swainson, *op. cit.*, p. 68), "Litera Willielmi Cicestrensis Episcopi quod Canonici possint celebrare in oratoriis hospitiorum suorum modo infra clausum ecclesie et extra horas in quibus in ecclesia attenditur, Anno 1378." No other house in the Close retains any trace of having contained an oratory, except the Palace. St. Faith's Chapel was certainly not of such a character.

Of the hall there are no remains beyond the walls, except a later buttress west of the oratory on the north side. The west wall contains no opening of any kind, and is thickly mantled in ivy. Plastered within, largely refaced without, and pierced by all sorts of later windows, the walls give no indication whatever of the original character of the building. From the great width in proportion to length it is possible that there may originally have been pillars, as in the beautiful aisled hall of Winchester Castle,

⁷ The transoms and panelling below are inserted. The original window was considered too low for a bedroom.

a building a little later in date and far more ambitious in design. From the brickwork of the great kitchen chimney which is built up right through its centre it seems likely that the flooring over of the hall was undertaken in or about the reign of James I., as was the case in the priest house at West Hoathly and many other buildings of the kind.

The east gable which can be seen in the roof is certainly mediæval and perhaps original. The walls are faced with large flints but an ashlar chimney projects up the centre, clearly intended to be seen from without. The present roof is much higher than the original one, as is clear from the way the gables are built up at either end and also from marks upon the brickwork of the great Jacobean chimney. It has four bays with principals, purlins and rafters pegged together in one plane. The timbers are not very stout for the size of the work; there are many construction marks. It must date from the latter part of the seventeenth century or more probably perhaps is a work of the following one.

It seems probable that the hall had a gallery on the level of the oratory floor and if so it probably contained a wooden stair like the Strangers' Hall at Norwich.

The space east of the hall and south of the eastern portion of the oratory is filled in with what was originally a solar or a kitchen.⁸ If it were contemporary with the hall and oratory it must have been kept comparatively low, but its existing roof, though the only mediæval one in the house, is probably not original. It runs at right angles to the others, quite clearly it was originally open and at the north end there still remains a plastered partition wall supported by wattled lathing (made without nails) rising over the south wall of the oratory and showing by its frail character that this roof was originally carried on to join that of the oratory. There are cambered tie

⁸ The chimney was probably for the benefit of this section: if not the hall had a fire-place in its east end which would be unusual.

beams, king-posts and a purlin under the collars which have brackets of their own. It is in two bays and has some rough Roman numerals as construction marks:



Though this is a complete span roof, it is clear that there never was a valley between it and the east wall of the hall, whose roof was probably extended to meet it. A short purlin is introduced to support the rafters that otherwise would need to be fastened into the masonry of the chimney. It seems to be a late mediæval roof. The building, which it covers has no original features.

On the south side is erected a beautiful two-storey bow window of slight projection from Halnaker; its stone roof has a floral cornice with some heads, clearly part of the work of Thomas la Warr in the early sixteenth century. A contemporary work in the study, which is lighted by the lower stage of the bow window is a stone fire place in the spandrels of whose very depressed arch are a crampet like a capital H and a mitred staff. It is evidently by the same hand as his De la Warr Chantry at Boxgrove (dated 1532), and came from Halnaker. Built in within is a fine collection of Dutch scriptural tiles in the usual blue.

A stone aumbrey with shelf under a depressed arch is now built in against the east wall of the hall, and a slight partition which forms the north limit of the study. It may probably have belonged to the house, but it cannot possibly be in its original position.

As was so often the case in Chichester the house underwent considerable alterations during the eighteenth century, but there is nothing of much interest of this period unless possibly a window of iron and lead of a not uncommon Sussex type at the top of the stair to the roof, at the west end of the building.

Much was done about 1840 when the fittings were brought from Halnaker, of which a very conspicuous example is the flat Gothic revival archway of cement

which forms the outer front door, an actively evil piece of work.

The drawing room and chambers above added at the east end in 1887 by Archdeacon Walker is remarkable for its excellent workmanship, but neither this nor subsequent improvements possess archæological interest.

It would not be easy to exaggerate the old-fashioned charm of the gardens of the Chantry, Residentiary and Deanery whose smooth lawns slope up the earthworks that form the inner face of the city wall, whose very flowers seem almost to appreciate the fact that they are growing in soil that is consecrated by the memories of uncounted years. It is remarkable that while Chichester is divided by the four chief streets and others of less width paralleling them, the four corners of the city are all occupied by gardens.

To the north of Canon Lane, between that thoroughfare and the Cathedral, west of the Vicars' Close, are the ancient house of the royal chaplains of Mortimer's Chantry, the old residence of the Wiccarnical prebendaries and, beyond St. Richard's Walk, the Treasury. These buildings determined the limit of the cloisters whose southern walk incorporates their northern walls. They are in line presumably because they were built along the border of the cathedral churchyard.

The house of the two royal chaplains, whose chantry masses were said in the Lady Chapel, consisted of a thirteenth century hall with undercroft, 46 feet 2 inches long, the last thirteen feet of the north wall inclining seven inches toward the south. This north wall is preserved in the cloister walk, built of flint rubble with stone quoins. There are a few pieces of freestone in the rubble work. Three small square-headed windows of the undercroft remain, each opening about 2 feet 9 inches high, and 6 inches wide, and simply bevelled all round. One retains its original iron bars, the holes for which can be seen in the others.

A lancet that opened into the hall remains near the east end of the wall, it is very plain, bevelled all round

and now for many years walled up. There is a chimney in the thickness of the wall, and its flue is very possibly original.

The west wall also remains, displaying a small cinquefoiled rose window in what was a very steep gable, and under it the top of a square-headed trefoil opening, this work belonging to the fourteenth century.

A very fine door was made in the reign of Henry VII., opening into the cloisters, which were about fifty years old at the time. Originally there were steps leading downwards just within it, but as it is far too elaborate and also too high, to have led merely into the undercroft it seems to prove that the hall was floored over and the house reconstructed when it was made.

The door has Tudor mouldings round a very depressed arch in whose spandrels near the apex are little sprigs of foliage; on the right is a portcullis with chains and below a little human face. On the left is a shield with eight round holes and a Tudor rose upon a cross. Below it is what looks like a little jug and an acorn, to its right is a small irregularly shaped shield upon which is a wattled fret, the saltires not extending to the edge. This evidently formed a rebus, perhaps on the names of the chaplains and other clergy at the time.

Above the square hood-mould is a large double panel with sculpture in rather high relief. The lower section displays in the centre an angel holding the Tudor rose on whose wings the Virgin stands, long-haired. On either side kneels one of the royal chaplains, the scrolls, which were bold and detached, broken away. The figures are also defaced.

Above are the royal arms with lions and fleur de lis, the supporters a dragon and a greyhound, quite spirited in execution.

The cross upon the crown which surmounts the shield divides the surrounding moulding in whose hollow are: on the right the rose, portcullis and fleur-de-lis thrice repeated, irregularly spaced; on the left, four times represented, are the swan and antelope

chained together, between them a beacon, fire issuing from a cauldron supported on wooden beams. This was the badge of Henry V., whose widow, Katharine of France, afterwards married Owen Tudor, and by him was the grandmother of Henry VII. The chantry was founded by Henry V. for his parents and Nicholas Mortymer "familiaris nostri," who was buried in the Lady Chapel. It was confirmed by Edward IV.⁹

Within the stonework is a wooden doorway, set back, the mouldings having characteristic bases and the spandrels carved with foliage. It is largely renewed.

The original stone doorway has been removed to Canon Lane, where it forms the entrance to the south end of the garden. In the old position in the cloister a (not very accurate) replica has been erected.

Over the Canon Lane doorway is a stone which clearly does not belong to it and may have been brought from some other place altogether.

A large letter **W** has through its centre what looks like an inverted **T** with two little lengths of chain issuing from the top. On either side is an **E**, the left one turned round. Above is a roundel under a trefoil. The letters probably stand for William Earnley. They occur in a slightly different form on the two Earnley tombs in the chancel at West Wittering and also in Steyning Vicarage.

The existing house incorporates the north and western walls of the old hall; it is a very plain structure of the eighteenth century having a wing projecting southward into the garden from the east end, not quite at right angles. There are three storeys, the walls of flint and stone with brick arches over the windows. The roofs like those of the Deanery are slated; nearly all others in the Close are tiled.

Its chief interest is that it contains,—on the middle floor in the eastern portion of the old hall, looking

⁹ Claus. Ro., Aug. 12, 1414, 1 Henry V., m. 20. Pat. Rot., 2 Hen. V., p. ii, m. 14, and Rot. Pat., 1 Edw. IV., m. 20. Mackenzie Walcott, *Statutes*, 52, where the documents are printed.

out on to St. Faith's chapel and the Vicar's Close eastward,—the plain and unadorned chamber in which the poet Collins lived the last part of his life and died in 1759.

Edward VI made a grant of this house in 1549 and it has since been in lay hands:

Edwardus VI per literas suas patentes dat 1^o die Augusti anno Regni sui 3^o Johanni Hereford de Bosbury in Comitatu Hereford, Generoso, et Richardo Wilson de Ledbury in eodem Comitatu totum illud messuagium et Tenementum nostrum, ac unum Gardinum continens dimidium Heræ, ac omnes domos scituatas jacentes et existentes infra Clausum Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Cicestrensis in Comitatu Sussexiæ nuper Cantariæ vocatæ Mortimer's Chantry fundatæ in Ecclesia predicta dudum spectantes et parcellem Possessionum nostrarum quondam existentium nuper in Tenura Radulphi Sparke et Henrici Goffi tenend de Domino Rege, ut de manerio suo de Bredforton in Comitatu suo Wigornice absque computatione.¹⁰

THE HOUSE OF THE WICCAMICAL PREBENDARIES also had a hall extending east and west with gallery above and crypt below, other chambers on the south side extending further than the width of the hall and at the east end a projection at right angles toward the south. The original walls of rubble, mostly flint, very largely remain.

This is rather fully described (1523) by Bishop Shurburne:

Quod dicti (Wiccammical) prebendarii nostri et successores sui pro habitacione sua habeant imperpetuum domum illam, cuius ostium est in sinistro muro claustri versus venellam que ducit ad mansionem decanalem (St. Richard's Walk), cum omnibus ortulis, ceterisque commoditatibus eidem annexis, sicut modo includuntur ac per Mag. Edw. More nuper occupabantur. Domum predictam in iij^{or} mansiones, secundum prebendariorum numerum, dimidiamus, ita quod spaciosa illa et ampla Camera, qua est super aulam ibidem, ac camera eidem contigua, ex australi parte, una cum latrinis adjunctis cedant in usum et comodum unius prebendariorum (Bursalis). Alius enim habeat superius illud Deambulatorium, quod ex parte occidentali ipsi Aule adheret, et orientaliter edibus Capellanorum Regiorum, una cum loco subtus deambulatorium predictum, ubi sibi adaptet cameras suas.

Tertius quidem cum partura ex parte australi ipsius aule, una cum ij^{bus} cameris proxime coniunctis sit omnino contentus.

¹⁰ Preby. Bennett's notes from Clarke's MSS., B fol.

Quarto enim omnes illæ superiores camere, que sunt inter aulam et coquinam, una cum parva camera versus venellam, pro sua habitacione assignentur.

Bursalis habeat partitionem illam que est de magna camera super aulam.¹¹

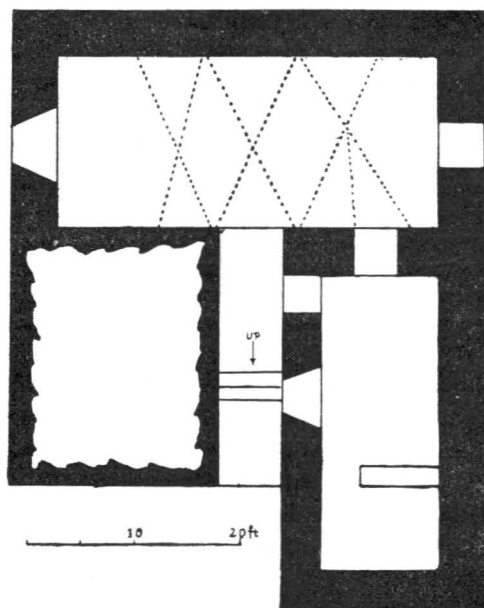


FIG. 4. HOUSE OF WICCAMICAL PREBENDARIES.

The walling as shown appears to be all of the late fourteenth century. The interior of the south-west section is inaccessible, but probably its walling is about as thick as the rest of the work. Plan by I.C.H.

The basement under the hall is perfect, $35\frac{1}{2}$ by $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet, very low, only about seven feet from the uneven floor to the crest of the vault and about two-thirds underground. Its roof is a remarkable segmental vault roughly plastered and supported in the most extraordinary way by ribs for three bays which do not extend to either end of the chamber, and are as irregular in spacing as they well could be, so much so that their intersections are not in line nor along the axis of the building. The ribs are plainly chamfered and simply die into the walls without corbels, nor do

¹¹ Reg. fo. 22b, printed Mackenzie Walcott, *Statutes*, 60.

they connect at the springing, but start from the wall side by side.

The eastern bay is subdivided by an extra rib on the south to allow the vault to be cut away to afford headroom for an entrance from the other part of the basement, while on the north there was a wider doorway presumably to the open air. This was probably blocked when the cloisters were built: there is no indication of its ever having opened into them.

The eastern part only of the rest of the basement is accessible including that under the projection in the south-east corner, but it is modernised, and has no other original feature than a splayed opening through a wall running north and south which at present divides the stairway from the wine cellar.

This whole basement presents little mark of date, but probably it belongs to the fourteenth century. It is very curious and interesting.

Of the hall no detail remains except in the north wall—seen in the cloister. At its west end is a doorway with deeply cut mouldings, the very much mutilated dripstone corbels having apparently been heads of a bishop and a king. A chimney, 6 feet 5 inches wide, projects exactly one foot—this is still in use, the top being eighteenth century brickwork—and on either side is a plain simply bevelled square-headed trefoil window, both now blocked. The original work is of late fourteenth century date. There are traces of the jambs of the west window of the hall, partially built up with brick.

Although the very thick original walls for the most part remain, including that between the hall and the rest of the house, the building was completely remodelled in the eighteenth century, being divided into comparatively small rooms, the floors on new levels.

Originally there was clearly a gallery¹² over the hall, presumably the same size. There are now three

¹² If, as seems likely, this was part of the fourteenth century arrangement, it seems early for a long gallery in England. They came in earlier in France and Scotland.

storeys as well as an attic in the space they occupied, but the present roof is probably very little higher than the old one; it seems eighteenth century work, but it is inaccessible, except in a cupboard where it is evident that purlins and rafters are in the same plane.

Bishop Shurburne makes an interesting division, presumably as fair as possible, of the different rooms of the house, the hall being evidently left as a common room and the basement available for the goods of all the four canons.

The long building (deambulatorium) which connected this house with that of the royal chaplains, evidently had two storeys. Its north wall—in the cloister—has flint and stone rubble in the lower part and above that rough chalk rubble. There is a square-headed doorway with panelled oak door of the late seventeenth century. At present low offices occupy the site.

From the description of the quarters assigned to the fourth canon it may be conjectured that the kitchen was in the south-east projection. It contains on the upper floor an original (blocked) square-headed window in the west wall.

There appears to be no way of reproducing the arrangement of the rooms in the southern part, but it clearly contained the staircase and a number of relatively small apartments. Judging by the evidence of plinths on the west side, the hall was built first, being joined to an existing low wall at the west end; a little later upon this wall the southern chambers were erected, their wall being carried up to the original south-west angle of the hall.

The TREASURY apparently formed an L, extending along St. Richard's Walk and westward along the line of the cloister with another wing stretching northward from the west end of the latter. The outer walls of this last became the inner walls of the cloister of which the angle between the part running east and west and the north wing became the south-west corner.

In this angle is a triangular block of masonry that evidently helped to contain a passage, or possibly stair, connecting two rooms. It has a cross-shaped opening with circle at the end of each arm which is monolithic. Through another stone is pierced a quatrefoil, opening in the east wall of the north block.

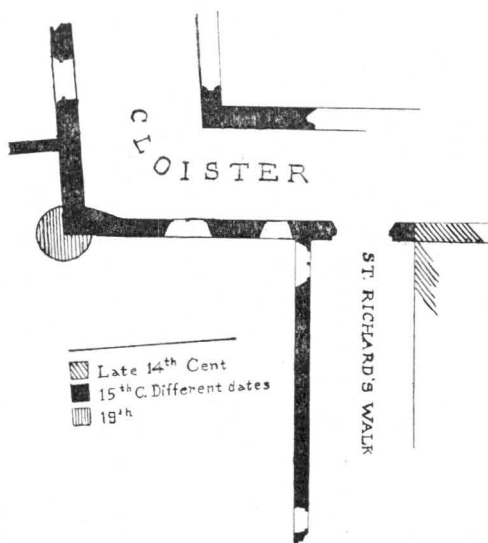


FIG. 5. NORTH AND EAST WALLS OF THE OLD TREASURY.

These have been preserved as part of the south wall of the cloisters and the west wall of St. Richard's Walk. The existing house stands detached a few feet away, but partly upon the old site.

Dean Burgon (1875–1887) erected a round buttress to strengthen the south-west corner of the cloisters. When the foundations were being dug the workmen came across a stair leading down to a vaulted basement, which may have resembled that still existing under the Wiccamicall Prebendaries' house. Unfortunately the Dean was not specially interested, and instead of ordering further investigations he had the whole work filled in.¹³ That the crypt still exists, at least in part, is clear from the fact that the flower

¹³ Miss Glover, who still lives in the house, remembers the whole incident. The Dean came in wearing his quire robes, and after making a cursory inspection said: "I fear this is as far as we can afford to go."

bed above dries up rapidly in the absence of rain, while heavy showers tend to flood the area for some time.

A doorway with good fifteenth century mouldings and dripstone opens into the cloister, and another, square headed, bevelled all round with a hood-mould, into St. Richard's Walk. It seems to belong also to the fifteenth century, its very massive iron hinges (locally "rides") have a mediæval look.

These walls, unlike those of the other two houses, which retain their quoins, are incorporated into the later masonry of the cloisters without visible joints. Two very late windows without arched lights or cusps, open into the cloisters and St. Richard's Walk respectively. The latter has the open air on either side, the former was glazed in 1908 with figures of SS. Nicholas and Richard. Each is of two lights, they are Elizabethan or seventeenth century.

The present house, erected by Rev. H. M. Wagner, who became Treasurer in 1834, and also built the vicarage at Brighton, stands just clear of these walls, south. The garden walls both towards St. Richard's Walk and Canon Lane are largely old, built of stone, brick and flint, overgrown with toadflax, wall flower and creepers. They are partly capped with brick, both battlements and spaces between being gabled, some of them dating from the sixteenth century and resembling Bishop Shurburne's work at the Palace. Only recently uncovered from creepers, facing Canon Lane is a Tudor doorway under a square hood mould of stone. The depressed arch with deeply recessed spandrels is of brick.

Where a cathedral was served by regulars the conventual buildings were erected upon a well ordered design, but at Chichester the canons' houses were spread through the Close without the slightest uniformity on plan, with the result that its general impression would be very much less satisfactory.

It may well have been a desire to correct this so far as it was possible that led to the building of the cloisters

during the fifteenth century. At other secular cathedrals, particularly Salisbury, cloisters had been erected very much on monastic lines. This was impossible at Chichester, where cloisters could only be arranged by building out walks at right angles from the south doors of nave and quire and connecting them—not at right angles—by a southern walk utilising the north walls of the houses of the royal chaplains, the Wiccarnical prebendaries and the treasurer, and connecting them with masonry to form the south wall of the cloisters. It was also necessary to break into the chapel of St. Faith and to convert its western bay into the south-east corner of the cloisters.

It no doubt added very much to the comfort of the officials in question by providing them with a roofed walk to the Cathedral. The cloisters were well adapted for processions, affording a covered way from one south door to the other,¹⁴ but also they immensely enhanced the general effect of the Close by bringing the great church into architectural relations with some at least of the other buildings.

The actual walks, particularly in the wooden arches below each pair of rafters of the roof, bear a striking resemblance to those of the cloisters of Winchester College.

The cloisters, enclosing a paradise of peculiar beauty surrounding the south transept of the Cathedral, do much to reproduce the atmosphere of a great religious house. A solemn hush broods over the Close: it seems to be pervaded by the peace of God.

NOTE.—This paper completes an account of all the old buildings in the Close other than the Cathedral itself. The former articles are:

The Palace, Vol. LII. (1909).

The Prebendal School, Vol. LIV. (1911).

The Vicar's Close, Canon Gate and St. Faith's Chapel, Vol. LVI. (1914).

I. C. H.

¹⁴ The north walk of an ordinary monastic cloister was not used for processions.

Of the other Close gates there are no remains except fragments of the responds on the east side of Paradise Gate, opening to West Street from the north-east corner of the Cathedral churchyard. Preby. Bennett remembers being told by the late E. M. Street (who died some twenty years ago) that in his childhood the gate remained with a quadripartite vault and the porter's chamber was used as a barber's shop. The gate is mentioned in connection with Bp. Storey's reception by the Dean and Chapter.