

III.—DUNSTAN HALL OR PROCTORS STEAD.

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[Read on 27th September 1939.]

The township of Dunston, Donstane or Dunstan, as it was variously spelt, forms part of the parish of Embleton. The most obvious explanation of the name is simply "dun stone," very appropriate for a district whose surface is pierced here and there by dark whinstone outcrops, but a fourteenth century scholar of Oxford¹ thought it meant Dun's town and receives some support from professor Mawer's belief that Dunswood and Dunsheugh mean Dun's wood and heugh.²

There is, of course, an English family named after the place, but only a quarter of the township remained in the hands of Reyner, the first Dunstan of whom we have documentary notice, early in the reign of Henry III. Michael, son of Reyner, held a third of the land in 1298, but Dunstan had been burnt by the Scots, and Richard Wetwang, a Yorkshireman who is thought to have come to Embleton in the service of the earl of Lancaster, had already acquired part of the township. There can be little doubt that Dunstan Hall (*vulgariter* "Proctor Steads") is the site of the home of the Dunstans, and the fragments of foundation running parallel with the later south front may have belonged to it. If so, the house was of the usual

¹ Merton Coll. Deeds, quoted in *N.C.H.* II, from which volume most of the dates and names of owners which follow have been collected and arranged. There is no truth whatever in the story that John Duns, Scot, was born in Dunstan Hall. It is not impossible that he spent part of his childhood in the township.

² Mawer, *Place Names of Northumberland*, p. 67.

early mediaeval plan: a hall, probably of timber framing on a stone base, with a *solar* or *camera*, perhaps of stone, at its east end and a kitchen and offices at the opposite end. The lower parts of the east, south and west sides of the south-west turret may have formed part of this early house, but they are not contemporary with the foundations at the east end, and they seem as likely to be of fourteenth century date.

After Michael's death his son Thomas allowed Richard Wetwang to take over his messuage, and by 1359 a quarter of Dunstan belonged to Richard, and it seems likely that it was he who rebuilt the house in stone, *circa* 1310. The new house was the same width as the old, but twenty feet shorter, and its east end was two stories in height, the lower story about nine feet high and the upper story in a high-pitched roof. Its walls were faced with regular courses of squared ashlar of a type very characteristic of the reign of Edward I; in its east gable were two small lancet windows which still remain, intact but blocked by a later chimney breast.

The Wetwangs continued to flourish. Another Richard, who married an heiress,³ was made receiver of the lordship of Dunstanburgh in 1417, and either he or his son Edward, who was constable of Dunstanburgh in 1440, made good the damage done by the Scots when they again burnt Dunstan in 1385. The house may have lain in ruins for some time, at any rate the south front was beyond repair, and it was taken down to ground level and rebuilt with the old ashlar immediately within its former line, reducing the width of the building by about twenty-six inches. The wallheads were raised and the high-pitched thatch replaced by a lead-covered roof of very low pitch; its gable end is still traceable and the sawn-off ends of its massive cambered tie beams still remain. The house now formed a block about twenty and a half feet by fifty-five feet with a small projection at the west end of its south side, a projection which then, or not much later, was carried up two stories

³ *N.C.H.* xiv, 356.

higher than the main building. The house was still, so far as can be seen, an unfortified mansion, uncrenellated and with walls of no great thickness. It never was fortified, so far as is known, and was never claimed to have been a fortress until F. R. Wilson called it a "pele," when addressing an outdoor meeting of our society, and W. H. D. Longstaffe, on the same occasion, alleged that the base of the turret is of "a very remote period" and in one part shows "an approximation to the long and short work of Saxon times."⁴ Subsequently, on the appearance of volume II of the *Northumberland County History*, some equally odd statements were made about it.

The date of the next reconstruction of Dunstan is uncertain, but it was probably not before the reign of Henry VIII, nor later than that of James I, and it was extensive. The walls were raised, the first floor lowered, and high-pitched gables again built so that there were three stories, the topmost an attic lit by gabled dormer windows or "lucarnes." The main block was lengthened eastwards by twenty feet and an entrance seems to have been in this extension as the doors inserted in the old gable all opened westwards. At the same time a staircase turret was added on the north side, and either then or not long afterwards the west gable was taken down to ground level and rebuilt not at right angles to the main axis as before, but in continuation of the oblique line of the west side of the south-west turret. The western part of the north wall was also rebuilt not quite in line with the eastern part, and a chimney breast was built inside the old east gable.

In 1598 "Dunstan Hall" is for the first time named; it was then the home of Henry Wetwang, and in 1603 Richard Wetwang was fined for taking a sub-tenant "into the whole house of Dunstan," which sounds as if he were in financial trouble; but under the Commonwealth the Wetwangs were rich and they established a flourishing cadet branch in Newcastle. Joshua Wetwang, who succeeded to

⁴ *Proc.*, 2nd ser., II, 83.

Dunstan before 1657, seems to have been a brother of captain sir John Wetwang, the terror of the Dutch, who was Master of the Trinity House in Newcastle in 1677.

Joshua Wetwang built a handsome family pew in Embleton church, where there may very well have been a Dunstan-supported altar before the Reformation,⁵ and he seems to have been responsible for changes at Dunstan Hall, whether the date carved on its south doorway was 1669, as stated in the *County History*,⁶ or 1652 as given by



Tomlinson,⁷ who adds the initials "J.P.," of which J. may have been there, but P. not at either date. All now visible are the feet of the vertical strokes of two initials or, perhaps, the bottom of an H, and faint traces of a secondary incised cutting of smaller size which might pass for 1653. The upper two stories of the eastern annex were removed and the eastern part of the main building reduced from three stories to two by raising the second floor level, leaving a mere loft over in a new roof. Large new windows were inserted in the south front, and the south entrance doorway was heightened by cutting out part of its deep Tudor lintel.

⁵ There were at least three chantry altars in Embleton church. *Proc.*, 3rd ser., v, 119 *et seq.*

⁶ Vol. II.

⁷ *Comprehensive Guide to Northumberland*, p. 423.

This entrance seems always to have been the principal one, and the space within it was the "screens" and afterwards the entrance hall.

The scheme of reconstruction seems to have been interrupted, the westmost of the upper windows being left incomplete with a temporary wood lintel. The restoration of the Stuarts was not favourable to the fortunes of the Wetwangs, and in 1688 colonel John Salkeld of Rock, the veteran Royalist, took the Wetwang pew on the ground that he was "of better quality and greater estate" than Joshua Wetwang's heir Henry. Perhaps the estate, never great, had been exhausted by expenditure on building. Henry sold it in 1692 for £1,800 to Alexander Browne of Twizell⁸ or Doxford,⁹ who in 1705 gave it and other lands to John Proctor of Shawdon and Crawley in exchange for these two properties.

The Proctors were, like the Wetwangs, of Yorkshire origin, though long settled in Northumberland and at Shawdon since 1506. John Proctor lost no time in going on with the reconstruction of Dunstan Hall, and the date 1706, first noticed by Mr. J. E. Morris,¹⁰ is visible in a good side light on the sinister half of the lintel of an entrance doorway at first floor level on the east side of the turret. On the dexter half there are what seem to be initials, but they have not yet been deciphered. They ought of course to be "J.P." The refitting and wainscoting of the main building was completed and a new north wing was built containing kitchen and servants' accommodation: the old kitchen becoming an attractive dining-room or parlour. The new door on the first floor must have been reached by an outside stair, and the house now contained two good rooms on each floor, all lined with well-designed deal panelling, or, perhaps in the upper west room, with tapestry or wall cloths. The new window of

⁸ *N.C.H.*, vol. II.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. XIV.

¹⁰ *Little Guides, Northumberland*, 3rd ed., p. 140.

this room, with its well-moulded stone architrave, must have been inserted about this time, but is strikingly different from the "Jacobean" doorway which bears the date 1706.

John Proctor brought from Shawdon a cellar key to which he was much attached, and the present plan of the ground floor of the turret may be the result of his desire for a cellar worthy of the key. The more usual position for a cellar, under the parlour at the dais end of the hall, may have been impossible at Dunstan owing to the wetness of the ground.

John Proctor's grandson, John Proctor III of Dunstan, sold the property in 1778 to Daniel Craster, of Dunstan Stead and later of Craster, for £7,700,¹¹ more than four times as much as Henry Wetwang received for it in 1692, and went to Berwick bearing with him the ancestral cellar key for which he had a lock made there, and another for a cellar at Softlaw when he moved on to that place. He next removed to Berrington Hill and then again to Berwick, his progress marked by a trail of cellar locks fitted to the family key, and boasting, according to the Smith manuscript at Alnwick, "how many locks it has rusted out"!

The name Proctors Stead does not seem to have been used by the Proctors themselves, and the house is called "Dunstan Hall" on Greenwood's map of Northumberland in 1828 and "Dunston" on Kitchin's map. The present name probably came into use after the house had become an ordinary farm and about the time when the first ordnance survey was made, which would account for its presence on ordnance survey maps. The map calls it Proctors Stead, but it is usually referred to in the neighbourhood as Proctor Steads.

The Crasters do not seem to have interfered with Dunstan Hall till 1831, when it was a good deal altered and repaired by Shafto Craster, the last true Craster to own Dunstan, for his successor was his nephew, Thomas Wood of Beadnell, who assumed the surname of Craster on his suc-

¹¹ N.C.H. II.

cession. A wood stair was inserted in the entrance hall and a new front door made in a shallow porch¹² projecting from the east side of the old staircase projection. Two of the mullioned windows on the north side had their sills lowered and received double-hung sashes, several older sash windows were renewed, and it was probably at this time that the Queen Anne window in the west gable lost its wooden mullion and cross transome. The late seventeenth century stone chimneys with their moulded copes¹³ were replaced by the present not unpicturesque brick heads, though their common brick tops are more recent work; and not only was much of the old wainscoting removed because it was worm-eaten, but both wall panelling and doors, in one room, were made smooth by nailing laths round the panels and flushing up with plaster! The ramshackle but picturesque stables, and the hinds' cottages by the roadside probably date from 1831, but may be later, and this also applies to the removal of what was left of the eastern annex.

Later in the nineteenth century the house was divided for a while into four tenements for farm labourers, but latterly only two families were accommodated. The mullions of the west attic window were destroyed in the present century, and several rooms were lined with half-inch "cleading," while two and a half of the south windows were boarded up, and various small windows were inserted for pantries in odd corners at different dates.

A few years ago colonel George Craster proposed to restore the house, but his scheme was not proceeded with, and in January 1937 the place was bought by Mrs. Ursula Merz.¹⁴ It was then in a sad condition, damp, worm-eaten, and with part of the south-west turret badly split and full of cracks. The top of the turret had been made into

¹² Destroyed later to make room for a pantry or dairy.

¹³ Part of one was dug up in the garden recently.

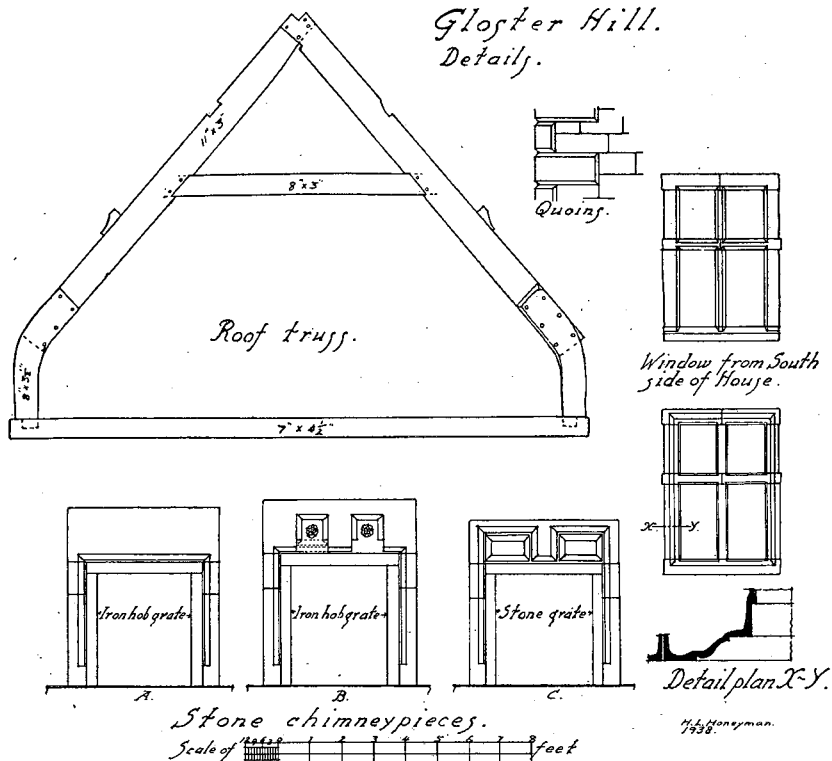
¹⁴ Mrs. Merz is no stranger to Dunstan. A daughter of John Fawcus of South Charlton and Dunstan Steads, her family have farmed Dunstan Steads (the farm on which Dunstanburgh castle is situated) for three or four generations.

a pigeon-house by hacking square pigeon-holes in its walls and cutting down its roof to a southward sloping "lean-to," the walls on each side of the roof being left rough without any coping. As the turret had no damp-course, and was in part built with ordinary surface soil instead of mortar, it was wet from top to bottom and some of the wood inner lintels of its windows were rotten. It is needless to go into technical details here, but it can be said that the whole building is now tolerably dry and a good deal stronger than it has been for a long time.

The north wing had gradually disappeared except for a few fragments of wall and an old doorway or two, and a new north wing has been built on its site. This new wing is of antiquarian interest because nearly all its stonework was brought from Gloster Hill, about which a few particulars may be put on record here, as they are not in the relevant volume of the *County History*. Gloster Hill, near Amble, was a late Tudor house with a doorway in its south side and windows with chamfered mullions and cross transomes, grooved for leaded glass. Late in the seventeenth or early in the eighteenth century the house was rebuilt, except part of the south wall, and given a new entrance doorway, of Jacobean pattern, in the middle of its north front. Massive rusticated quoins decorated the corners of the house, its gables had carved footstones and moulded coping, and its new windows, though still mullioned and transomed, had no external chamfers and were surrounded by architrave mouldings. In the second half of the eighteenth century the front windows had their mullions and transomes removed and were otherwise mutilated to receive double-hung sashes. Also, the front door was altered and covered by one of the pretty "Chippendale gothic" stone hoods of which there used to be so many in the Alnwick district. Gloster Hill house was demolished in 1938, and I happened to hear that all its old stonework would be "put through the crusher" and made into road metal or aggregate for concrete. On Mrs. Merz's

attention being called to this, she agreed to buy all the best of the materials, including some oak roof trusses (see detail drawing), roof tiles and three good stone fireplaces, and they have been used at Dunstan, with the result that the

*Gloster Hill.
Details.*



new wing has not only cost a great deal less than it would otherwise have done, but also its appearance is in keeping with its surroundings.¹⁵ It may be rather a puzzle to future antiquaries, which is one reason why I have prepared a plan showing exactly how much of Dunstan Hall existed a year ago.

¹⁵ The Gloster Hill door hood would have been out of place at Dunstan, but another member of our society, captain A. W. Milburn, has given it a home on his estate near Wooler.

DESCRIPTION.

The site of Dunstan Hall closely resembles that of Cartington: the eastern edge of a gentle downward slope with a steeper fall eastwards, and it was probably selected less with an eye to defence than to a good supply of subsoil water draining from the west and easily tapped by a well of moderate depth. The house is built of freestone, both grey and reddish; with a good deal of whinstone in its later portions; and large blocks of hard blue limestone and a kind of slate, particularly in the lower part of the south-west turret. It consists (see plan) of a main building, running E.N.E. and W.S.W., a south turret, a long north wing and a stair turret in the angle between north wing and main building. Until recently there was a modern block of outhouses attached to the north wing, and two wooden huts and two stone sheds were attached to the house some time last century.

Taking the different parts in order, the north wing may first be described:

The *north wing*, which seems to date from the 1706 reconstruction, was irregular in plan, but its west wall, of which only the lower part remained, continued the line of the west gable, to which it was an addition. It contained two or three rooms entered by doors in the east wall, of which a good deal was standing, as was also the lower story of the north gable wall. The northmost room was a kitchen with a large fireplace at the end and two ovens, one of brick the other of hewn stone and domed, and it had a chamfered east doorway of which only part of one jamb remained. The southmost room was entered from the stair turret by a square-headed chamfered doorway, and from the yard by a chamfered doorway with late Tudor arched lintel—a flat triangle with ends rounded to the jambs. In the middle of this room, whose floor was three steps below ground level on the east side, was an oblong hearth made of pieces of parapet coping set with their flat beds upwards and surrounded by a kerb of bricks on edge. Roof marks, and a cupboard at first floor level, show that the north wing was one full story in height with attics in its roof.

The *stair turret*, measuring nine feet square internally with walls two feet two inches thick, is the best built part of the Elizabethan work, having many mediaeval blocks of ashlar re-used in its walls and in the great newel, three feet square, round which its stone steps wind in short straight flights: mutilated and interrupted by wood steps to suit nineteenth century alterations. Its north gable contains two Tudor windows, the upper of two lights

and complete, the lower of three lights and mutilated in two successive periods. On the east side are two windows, one blocked, of no great age. There is a modern north door, and in the corner between stair turret and main building there is a roughly built lobby and pantry on the site of a porch built in 1831 whose date-stone is built-in over the pantry door.

Cross walls divide the *main building* into three parts, the middle one sub-divided by brick-nogged partitions. The eastern part is now represented only by fragments of foundations, broad on north and east but narrow and double on the south. The inner south foundation is an addition to the cross wall which is now the east gable, but the outer seems to run further on and may be a relic of an earlier house. The existing east gable is of some interest. Its lower portion contains two small early English lancet windows, one above the other, set not on the centre line of the present gable but on that of a gable to suit the outer south foundation. Faint traces of the profile of a high-pitched early gable can be seen, and above them the excellent ashlar with which the gable is faced changes slightly in character up to the strongly marked line of a nearly flat roof. The masonry changes to small rough rubble above this level and so continues to the coping of the present roof, where there is a rather clumsy chimney stack. Near the north side of the gable there are three superimposed doors, square-headed and plain chamfered, which gave access from the eastern portion when it was three stories high; and the lower part of the gable is marked with two levels of purlin holes made for the roof of the eastern portion on two successive occasions when it was one story high.

The central portion of the main building has on the top a garret, floored but windowless, under a rough modern roof made up partly with old materials and covered with red pantiles. Evidence of change of floor level is clear; at the east end the blocked door in the gable has its threshold two feet below floor level, a plain square-headed chamfered stone fireplace at the east end is half covered by the floor, and at the west end are two built-up doorways, one in the cross wall and one to the stair turret, intended to suit the old floor level. The cross wall at the west end of the loft shows the same flat pitched top, heightened in rougher masonry as at the east end, and other relics of the mediaeval house are sawn off tie beam ends, three in the north wall and four in the south wall, their level equally unsuited to the present and the Elizabethan floor levels, and their spacing taking no heed of the great projecting chimney breast inside the older east wall. There are two rooms on the first floor; a room six feet three inches wide converted into a staircase in 1831, and a larger room, still containing remains of panelling, to the

east of it. Both rooms have large inserted windows in the south wall, and the larger room has on its north side a two-light Tudor window with chamfer and outer rebate and hood moulding similar to those at Embleton Vicarage (*A.A.*³ v, plate xxxii), which was enlarged in 1831 to hold ordinary double-hung sashes. A cupboard on the stair landing had inserted in it a re-used sash glazed with uneven greenish glass, on which was neatly scratched with a diamond in a flowing early eighteenth century hand a signature which seems to be Edwd. Price. On the ground floor is an entrance hall with a large room to the east of it. The latter has been fortunate in retaining all its panelling, though perhaps not unaltered as there is a panel door at the west end which seems to have nothing behind it. There is a good stone fireplace of "Queen Anne" type at the east end, and a closet beside it with a round-topped glazed door in quite an interesting setting of pilasters, etc. The room is lit by two south windows whose sashes have, like those above them, almost certainly been renewed at least once.

The hall is entered from the south by a Tudor door, altered at a later date, with a modern roughly formed window beside it. The west wall of the hall is of fourteenth or fifteenth century date in the centre, stopping with a straight joint one foot ten inches from the south wall and bounded on the north by the lower of three superimposed doors similar to those opposite them in the east gable and opening westwards. There is also a rough modern doorway opening from the hall to the porch beside the modern pantry in the corner beside the stair turret, and in this porch can be seen a well-preserved two-light Tudor window, covered internally by the panelling in the east room, but recently uncovered and opened from the porch.

The west portion has a room on each floor. The topmost is an attic in the roof, an older roof than that of the centre portion, and having a stone slate margin to its pantiles, lined with modern cleading and lit by a three-light Tudor window in the west gable, which, like the north wall of this portion, is roughly built of all sorts and sizes of stones with quoins made out of pieces of mediaeval ashlar. The room on the first floor has considerable remains of eighteenth century elegance in door and window woodwork, and a pretty moulded wood fireplace with panel over. This fireplace had been inserted in a much larger stone fireplace with chamfered stone jambs and head. The room has a south window, which had a wood lintel and an externally unfinished look, and a large west window with a Queen Anne stone moulding round it. Its wood sashes are an ill-fitting later insertion but not displeasing in themselves. The ground floor room has only preserved a fragment of its eighteenth century decoration, a cupboard and part of a mantelpiece then applied to

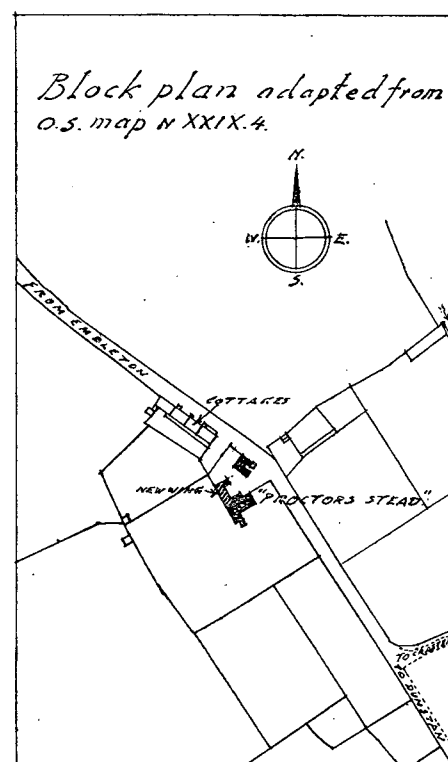
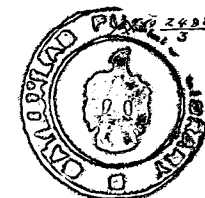
a huge kitchen fireplace with plain chamfered jambs and head. The woodwork was in its turn altered to suit a modern kitchen range—there was another in the east room—and a bench and “brattish” screened the fireside from draughts. There is a south window, under a hood mould and perhaps formerly of two lights but with a simple chamfer without outer rebate, and a Tudor or Elizabethan west window of similar detail to the others but with much larger lights. There is also a small modern west window, and in the north wall there are two doorways leading to the north wing, one probably made in the eighteenth century and the other later, and both blocked up after the destruction of the north wing and the wooden shed which succeeded its south end.

A small stone drain runs southwards under the entrance hall, turns at right angles outside the front door, and runs eastwards along the face of the outermost of the two south foundations at the east end: its purpose and date are uncertain. No trace has been found either of the well which must have existed or of the legendary “underground passage leading to Dunstanburgh castle,” which, if any of it ever existed, may have been a mediaeval drain.

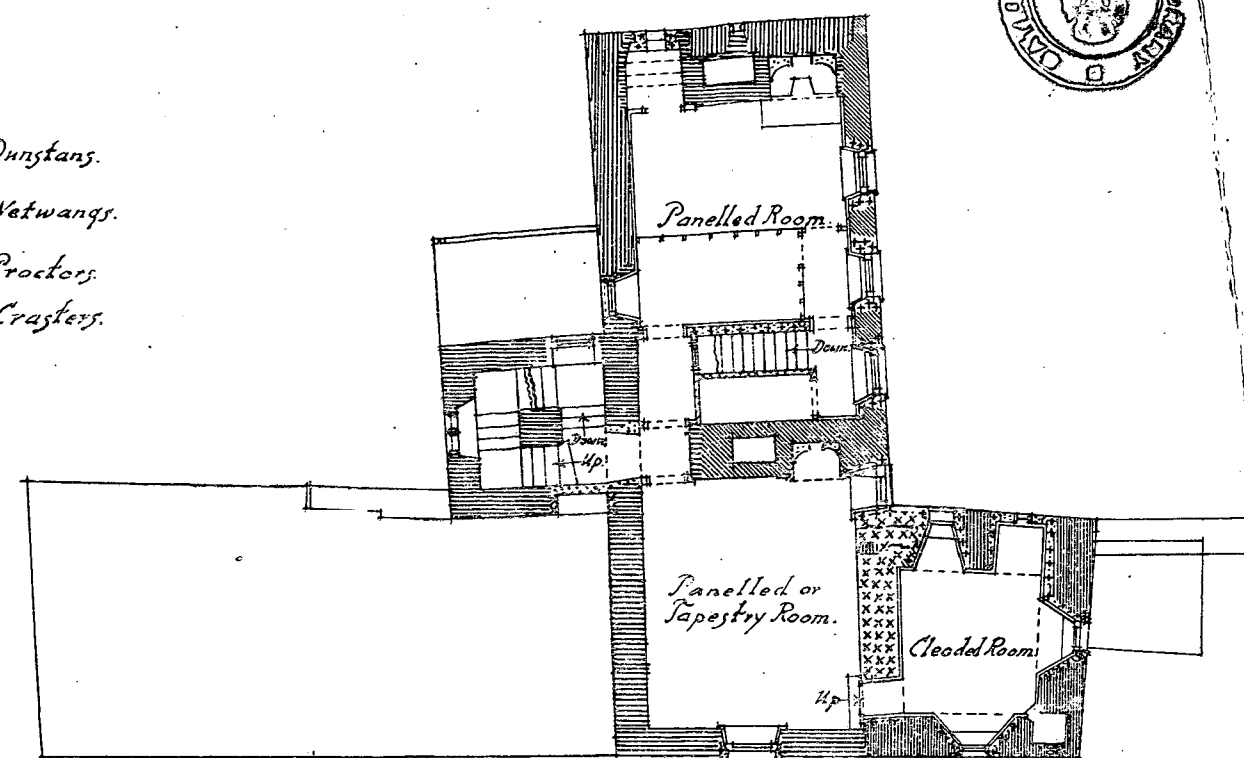
The *south turret* is very puzzling, and the date hatching on this part of the plan is only to be taken as provisional. The ground floor, like the others, consists of a single apartment and it has a slightly pointed barrel vault. Its walls are four feet six inches thick on the east, three feet six inches on the south, three feet on the west and only two feet nine inches on the north: this north wall being badly built with earth mortar and butting with a straight joint against the east wall. In the north wall there is a square-headed chamfered doorway similar to the other internal doors in the house: in the south end there is a roughly formed loop whose internal opening has been reduced, apparently when a rough corbel was inserted to prevent the collapse of part of the vault, which is not bonded to the end walls, and at this point is much deflected. The outside of the lower part of the turret is faced with long blocks of rough hewn whin and limestone in fairly regular courses, the adjoining west gable butts against these with a straight joint, but where they join the south wall of the main building they come in front of the daylight of an apparently Tudor window, and there is a roughly formed recess which had later been filled up and has now been reopened. There is no trace of this recess in the interior where one might suppose the vault had been inserted after the recess was blocked. The room on the first floor has its story obscured by a lining of “cleading.” It has small east, south and west windows, square-headed and chamfered, and apparently widened in 1706; a curious mural cavity in the south-west corner and, beside the east window,

a doorway which must have been reached either from an external stair or from some sort of fore building of which no trace remains. This door is chamfered like the others but has a debased Tudor head, a flat triangle over which the chamfer is carried straight across, of a kind very popular in the seventeenth century. On the outside of the head is the date 1706 already referred to. The door is filled with brickwork, leaving only a very small window in the centre. The north part of the east wall was in bad condition and the process of consolidating it revealed that the lower part of the north scuncheon of the east window was of hewn stone (the rest had been roughly hacked through the wall) and was covered with coal dust behind the eighteenth century plaster behind the modern cleading. Embedded in the north face of the north wall, in line with the middle of the east wall, is a chamfered pier set at the level of the tower floor, not that of the main building, and rising to the springing of two arches, one on each side, now entirely gone: it is evidently a relic of an earlier plan of this part of the house. The room is entered by a door over that on the ground floor, but having formerly had a pointed arch in two stones which was turned into a rectangular doorway in the eighteenth century. The room on the second floor of the turret has walls which are six inches thinner than those below except on the west side, which is the same, and the north side, which is only one foot nine inches thick. Its former floor level is marked by a splayed intake course round the outside, above which, as also a few courses below it, the turret is built very roughly on the inside but faced externally with massive freestone blocks in regular courses. The room is lit by small rectangular windows to south and west, chamfered externally and each with holes for an upright iron stanchion and a rebate for a sash or shutter to open inwards; it is entered by a rough modern opening on the north side, and has on the east side an interesting feature in the shape of the inner doorway, sill, and beginning of the shut of what seems to have been a garderobe whose jutty has entirely disappeared except for two roughly shaped whinstone corbels. On the outside of the north wall can be seen the ledge marking fifteenth century roof level and two grooves, probably representing successive valley gutter levels, the higher one Elizabethan and the other late seventeenth century. The topmost story of the turret had thinner walls, most of its south wall was destroyed when its roof was cut down into a lean-to, but in its east wall is one small window; the high north wall is crowned by a rough cope with a curious little pinnacle at each end, and, according to the *County History*, traces of a parapet could be seen at the north-east corner. Both the top stories of the turret must have been reached by internal ladders. It is possible

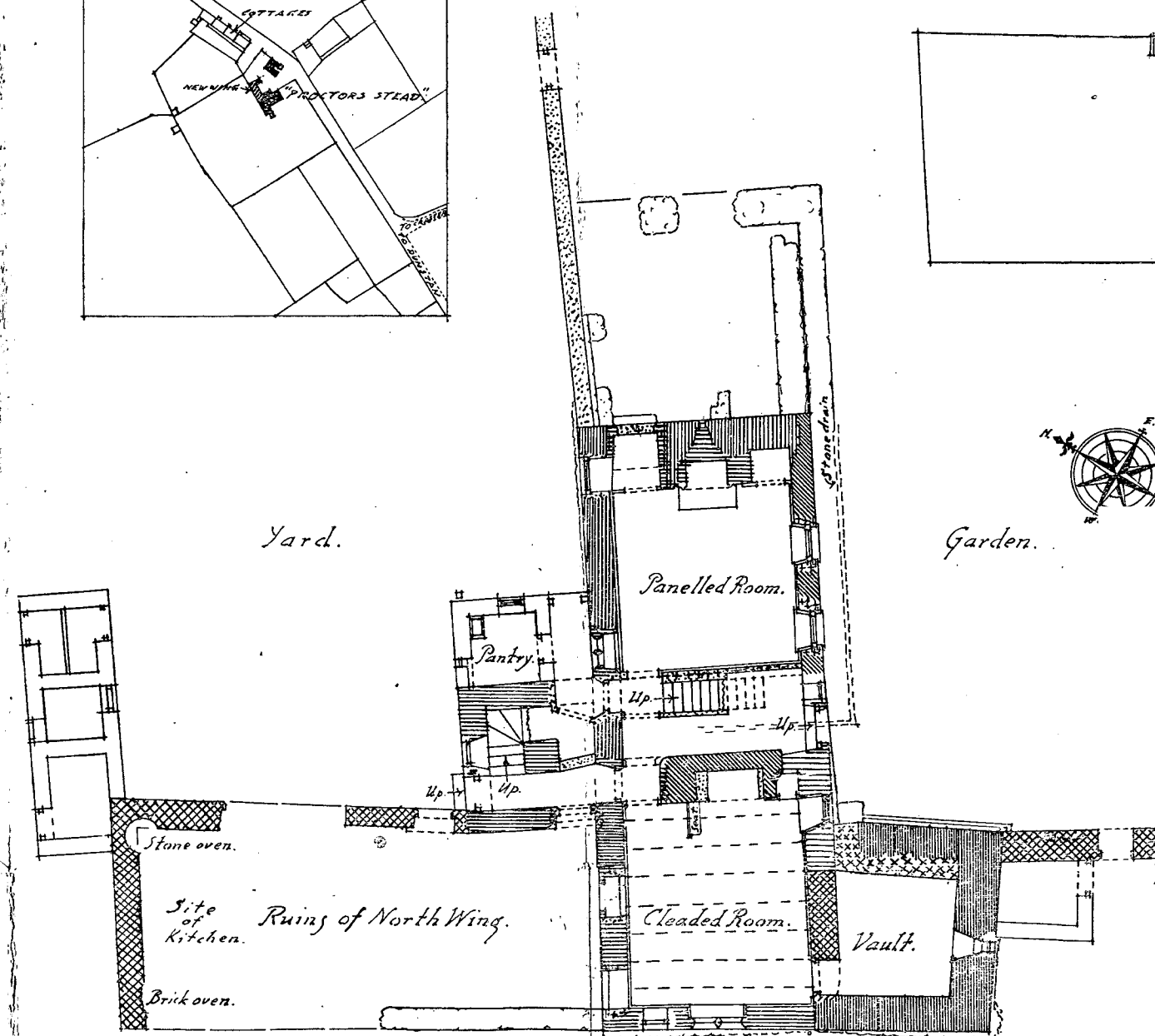
Proctors Stead, Dunstan, Northumberland Plans from survey made in 1939.



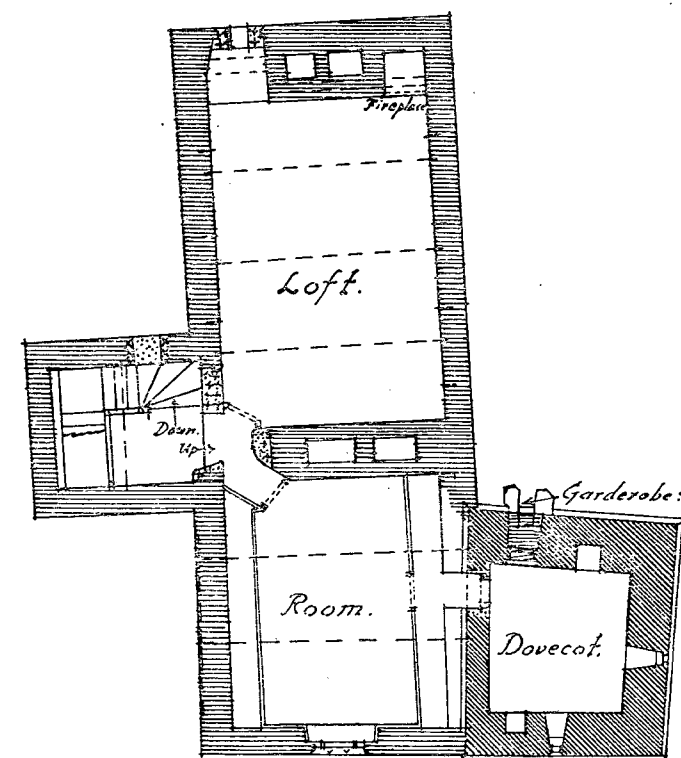
- = Perhaps pre-Edwardian. Dunstons.
 - = Edwardian.
 - = Late 14th or 15th century.
 - = Elizabethan.
 - = Late 17th century.
 - = 18th century.
 - = Perhaps " "
 - = 1831.
 - = Later work.
 - = Uncertain dates.
 - = Foundations only.
- Wetwangs.
Proctors.
Crasters.



Plan of First Floor.



Plan of Ground Floor.



Plan of Second Floor.

SCALE OF 10 20 30 40 FEET.

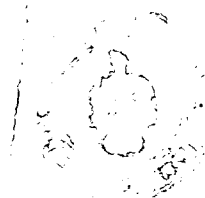




Fig. 3. E. GABLE.



Fig. 4. STAIR TURRET.



Fig. 1. S.W. TURRET.



Fig. 2. S. DOOR.

DUNSTAN HALL.



DUNSTAN HALL—WEST FRONT.

that the topmost was always intended as a pigeon loft and had a central louvre like those formerly at Haughton and Ford castles.

A wall two feet nine inches thick runs for thirteen feet six inches southwards from the south-east corner of the turret, to which it is an addition in spite of its more ancient appearance, and contains the remains of a door with chamfered jambs. It seems to be of late seventeenth or early eighteenth century date, but whether it belonged to one of the fore-courts then fashionable or to a wing projecting from the turret cannot now be ascertained. There is an irregularity in the foundations at the south-west corner of the turret but no trace of a projecting wall there, and the door opened eastwards not westwards.

The following old stonework has been made use of in the *new north wing*, which follows the outline of its predecessor but widened eastwards and with the addition of gables facing east and west at its north end: the east gable going far enough eastwards to form the north side of a small cobbled court at the back door. On the west side, the stonework of four small upper windows came from the ruins of Drythroppe, near Wooler; the other window dressings, rusticated quoins, coping and carved foot-stones of gable, and the ashlar facing, all came from Gloster Hill. The north end is built mostly of materials from old outhouses, etc., of no special interest. The rustic quoins of the east gable are from Gloster Hill, and the gable coping but with new foot-stones. In the little recessed court, the back door is the doorway of the old north wing, and the two mullioned and transomed windows came from Gloster Hill: some of the cobbles in the pavement came from an old house at Warkworth. Inside the new wing, the stone fireplace in the garden room came from Gloster Hill ("C" on detail drawing), and so did the stonework of the doorway leading from this room into the west room in the older part of the house. Two stone fireplaces and three old hob grates from Gloster Hill have been re-used in the old part of the house: one of the fireplaces ("B") in the hall, to hold a heating stove, is in a position where there was no previous fireplace.

From traces found, it appears that the house was whitewashed until 1831, when it was covered with lime roughcast, nearly all of which had fallen off before the end of last century.