

CARPENTERS' TOWER AND ADJOINING WALL. c. 1827.

#### IV.—WALL KNOLL, SALLYPORT OR CARPENTERS' TOWER.

BY C. H. HUNTER BLAIR, WITH APPENDICES BY L. C. EVETTS  
AND ELIZABETH M. HALCROW.

These names, in sequence of time, are those given to the tower which now stands alone, a solitary reminder of the massive town wall which once abutted upon it. The name Wall Knoll appears as early as 1290, some years before that section of the town wall was built (1299-1307). The name therefore derives from the Roman Wall which passed directly over the knoll on its way from Wallsend to *Pons Aelius*.<sup>1</sup>

Brand<sup>2</sup> writes that "a turret or Roman *Castellum* stood near the Sallyport, as the foundations thereof which were discovered some years ago plainly indicate". No Roman work has however been found in recent excavations either on the Wall Knoll or at the nearby Pandon Gate.<sup>3</sup> The forthcoming restoration of the present tower will give an opportunity for further examination. The Sallyport was built at the same time (1299-1307) as the section of the wall which goes from the Corner tower to Sandgate.<sup>4</sup> The topography of the district was greatly changed when the City Road was made in the years 1880-82. Pandon Dene was filled up, the massive Gate named after it was destroyed and the fine stretch of the town wall, then standing in good repair across the Dene from near the Manors on the west to the Sallyport on its eastern side, was completely destroyed, "workmen employing gunpowder for the purpose as it was

<sup>1</sup> NCH., XIII, pp. 497-498 and plan face, p. 484.

<sup>2</sup> BNC., I, p. 138.

<sup>3</sup> NCH., XIII as cited N.1.

<sup>4</sup> A.A.<sup>2</sup>, XVIII, 1ff.

too firmly built to be rent asunder by any gentler means"<sup>5</sup> (plate IV).

The Wall Knoll itself, near the Tower, was largely cut away and reduced some forty feet in height, only the Tower itself was spared but in such a precarious state that massive buttresses were needed to prevent it falling.

The original Sallyport was "a rectangular building 28 ft. long by 25½ ft. wide, it had a pointed vault, loopholed on

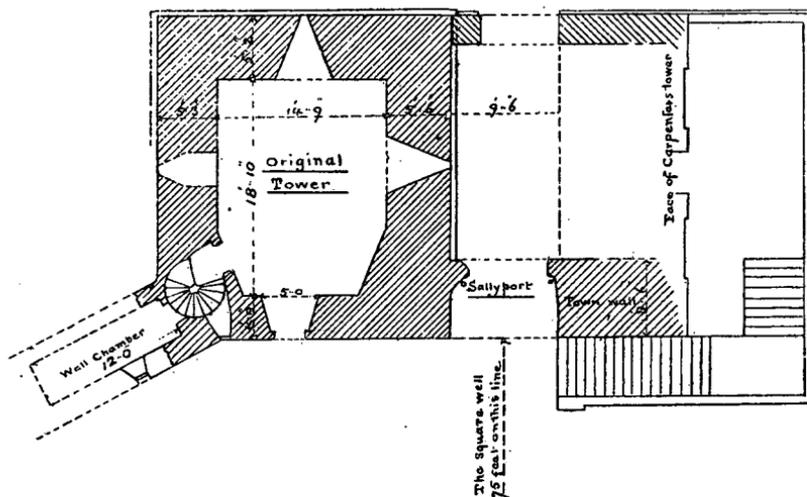


FIG. 1.

its three outer faces and a small newel stair led to the flat battlemented roof, which half way up communicated with a wall chamber"<sup>6</sup>.

There were also said to be steps leading down from the foot of the newel stair to a lower vault. The plan here reproduced<sup>7</sup> shews the shape of the original tower with the town wall abutting upon it at the south and south-west corners. The whole length of the tower flanked the gateway on the west. Because of its rectangular shape and its projection to the outer field Bourne<sup>8</sup> compares it with the tower

<sup>5</sup> A.A.<sup>2</sup>, XI, pp. 236ff. and plate.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 20.

<sup>6</sup> A.A.<sup>2</sup>, VIII, p. 18 and plate IV.

<sup>8</sup> Bourne, p. 17.

of Rudchester<sup>9</sup> "which was certainly one of the towers belonging to the Roman Wall". It will be realized that the Sallyport was entirely different, both in plan and purpose, from the massive fortified Gates—Westgate, Newgate, Pilgrim Gate—placed to guard against attacks from the north. It also differed from the numerous towers around the circumference of the walls which were all semicircular to the field, to defend the sections of the wall adjacent to them.<sup>10</sup> The Sallyport was built not to guard against attacks upon the town but to enable sallies to be made, by the garrison, upon the flank of enemies attacking from the north. The Sallyport stood as originally built until, in 1716, it became the property of the Carpenters' or Shipwrights' Incorporated Company who then "built upon the under part of it a very grand and stately square tower adorned at the top corners with four fair turrets built in the form of a lanthorn"<sup>11</sup> (plate V). This addition extended some distance eastwards from the old tower and thus covered over the old gateway (plan, p. 62). This new tower, known henceforth as the Carpenters' Tower,<sup>12</sup> still stands in a sadly dilapidated state, and, as said above, on a greatly altered site. It was the home of the Shipwrights' Company until about the middle of the nineteenth century, when it ceased to be used by them. In 1895 it was occupied by a private tenant.<sup>13</sup> When it was visited by this Society in 1904, it was used as a slipper factory divided by partitions into several compartments. By 1906 it was let to several tenants and had become much more dilapidated.<sup>14</sup> At the Society's Annual Meeting in January 1906, Mr. Doeg, one of the Company's Wardens, deposited with the Society for safe keeping a finely carved example of the Royal Arms as used by Charles II (plate VI, fig. 1), two large oil paintings representing Father Tyme and

<sup>9</sup> A.A.<sup>4</sup>, I, pp. 93ff.

<sup>10</sup> A.A.<sup>4</sup>, XIII, plates XII to XVI. <sup>11</sup> Bourne, p. 17.

<sup>12</sup> That is Ship Carpenters or Shipwrights. The latter is the official name. The House Carpenters formed a separate Company called The Joiners.

<sup>13</sup> A.A.<sup>2</sup>, XVIII, 1ff.

<sup>14</sup> Proc., 3rd Ser., I, p. 159 and plate facing p. 156.

Neptune and a hatchment carved with the Company's Arms (plate VI, fig. 2). There is no doubt that this is a hatchment, not merely an armorial panel. Its lozenge shape, wide frame with a cherub in each of the corners of the frame and beneath the shield is evidence enough. It would probably be placed above the entrance to their hall upon the death of a member of the Company, possibly it would then have an additional frame covered in crepe. Mr. P. G. Summers, F.S.A., of Bath, who is compiling a complete index of all hatchments in Britain, has recorded only one comparable example, that namely of the Merchant Tailors' Company now in Salisbury Museum.<sup>15</sup> But this, except for its shape, bears none of the usual features of a hatchment, it appears to be only an armorial panel placed lozenge way.

In later years the tower became the workshop of a builder and suffered still more damage, especially to the panelling in the hall. It has now been bought by the City Corporation and will, it is hoped, be restored as far as is now possible and put to some useful public purpose. The armorials of the Shipwrights' Company displayed in the unusual form of a hatchment, mentioned above, shew the chief with St. George's Cross occupying the greater part of the shield whilst the main charge of a ship's hull is cramped into a very small space in base (plate VI, fig. 2).

The armorials are the same as those granted to the Shipwrights' Company of London on 9th June, 1605, by William Camden Clarenceux, King of Arms.

The blazon as there given is as follows:<sup>16</sup> The ffeild azure in a sea a hull of a shippe or on a cheife argent a crosse gules chardged with a lion passant guardent or. And for their creaste upon a healme a wreathe or and azure on an arke sables resting upon a mounte verte a doue proper bearing an olive braunche mantled gules doubled silver. *Motto*: WITHIN THE ARK SAFE FOR EVER (plate VII).<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> *The Ancient Trade Guilds and Companies of Salisbury*, by Charles Haskins, Salisbury, 1912.

<sup>16</sup> Copied from *Coat-Armour of the London Livery Companies*, by Charles Welch, London, 1914, p. 25.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, plate 75 in Richard Wallis's *London Armory*, published in 1677.



EAST WALL, THOMPSON'S PLAN, 1746.

T. Carliol Tower, V. Plummers Tower, W. Corner Tower,  
X. Pandon Gate, Y. Carpenters' Tower, Z. Sand Gate.



FIG. 1. ROYAL ARMS  
CHARLES II.

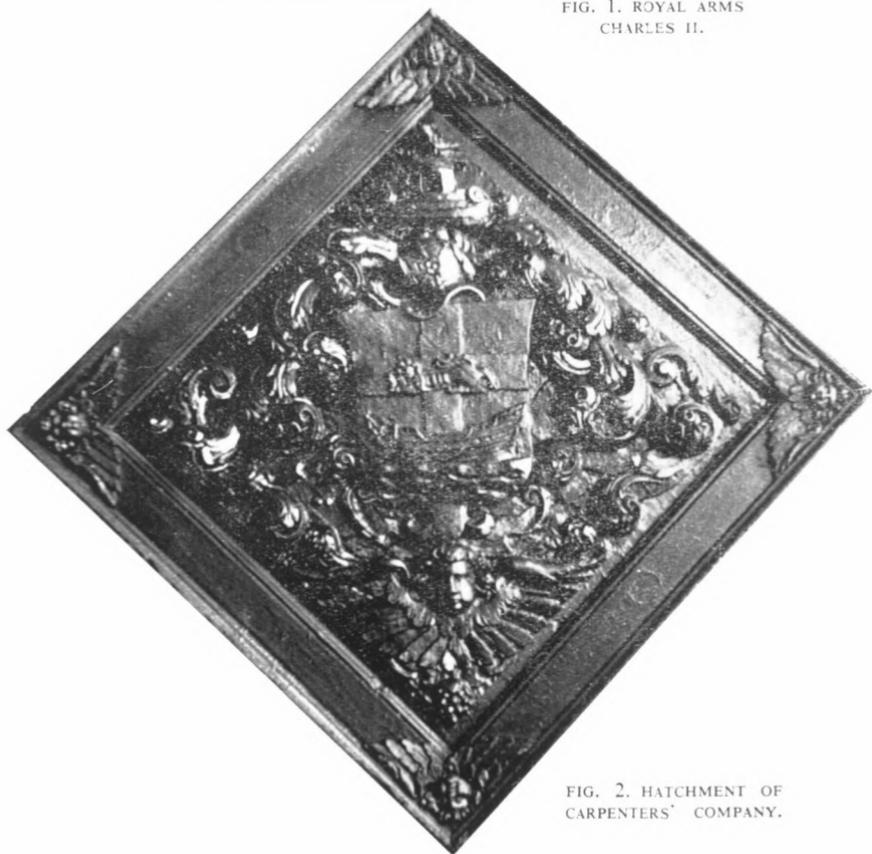
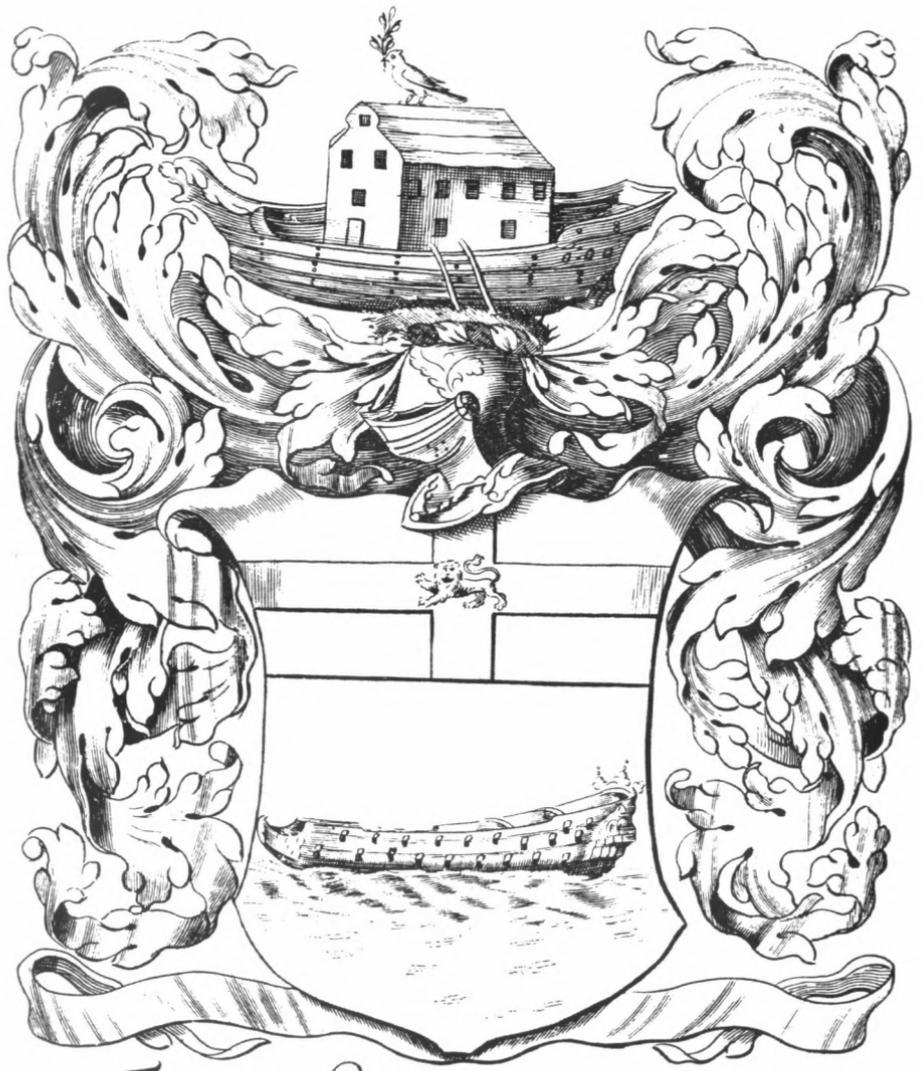


FIG. 2. HATCHMENT OF  
CARPENTERS' COMPANY.



*THE SIPPWRIGHTS*

R. WALLIS'S *London Armory*, PLATE 75, A.D. 1677.



## APPENDIX I.—NOTE ON THE CARPENTERS' HALL.

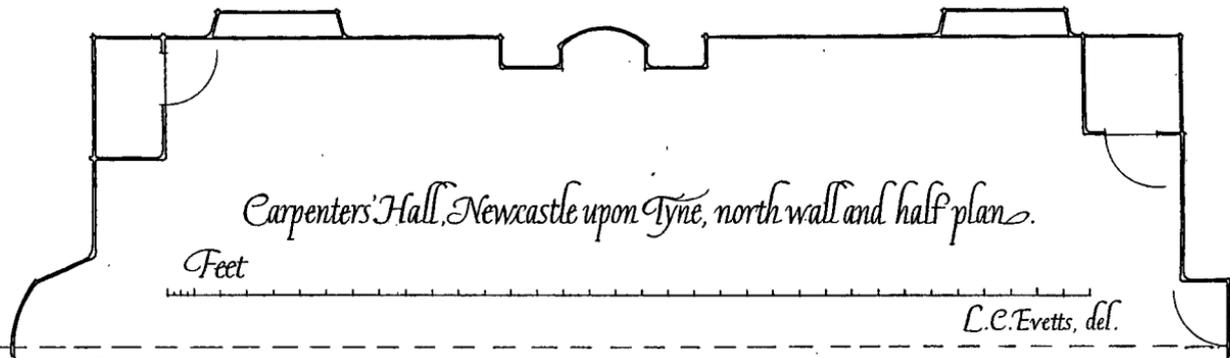
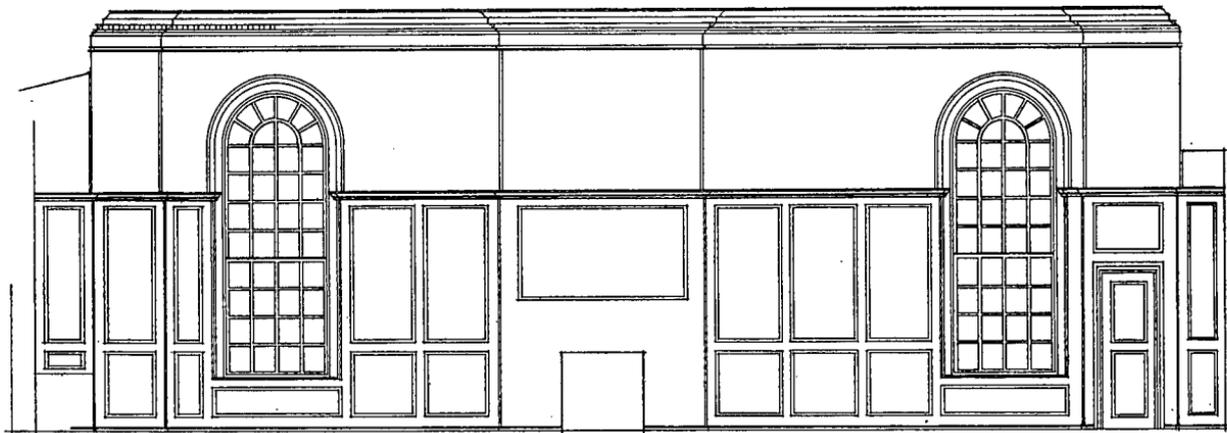
Despite the advanced condition of disrepair of the Carpenters' Hall it has been found possible, with the exception of a few details, to make complete drawings of the architectural character of the interior, which are here illustrated.

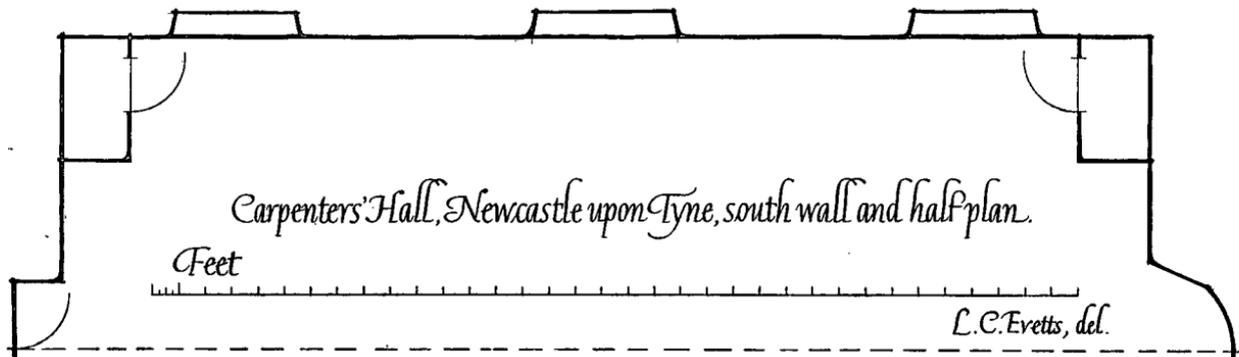
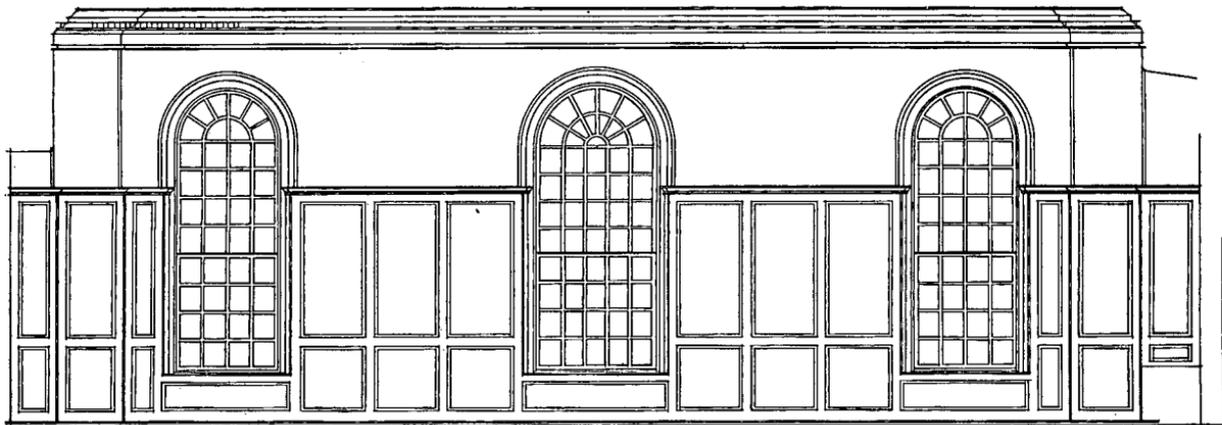
The main form of the room is roughly a double cube with a small cupboard or closet in each of the four corners. Painted yellow pine wainscotting covers the walls to the height of nine feet, thereafter a deep plastered frieze extends to a fairly rich dentil cornice and a plainly plastered ceiling. The wainscotting is typical of the compromise made by craftsmen of the eighteenth century between the elements of Palladian design and the restraint, fineness and economy of form so readily suggested by the character of yellow pine. The sash windows, on the other hand, derive directly from those of the seventeenth century both in form and in the considerable thickness of the sash bars.

Examination of the paintwork reveals that all the woodwork was painted originally in a warm white colour. Subsequently it has been painted in light grey green, darker grey green and even more disastrously in brown during the present century.

Originally one would have doubtless been impressed by the elegance of proportion, material and unity of this room, and not the least interesting feature would have been the carefully contrived shadow in the fielded wainscotting and other mouldings revealed by the warm white paintwork. Realizing how the architects and craftsmen of the time understood the qualities of light and shade in their work, it is unthinkable that the paintwork in this instance could have been other than white.

Features of the original room which are no longer extant or on which insufficient evidence was forthcoming for inclusion in the drawings are as follow: (1) the chimney-piece;





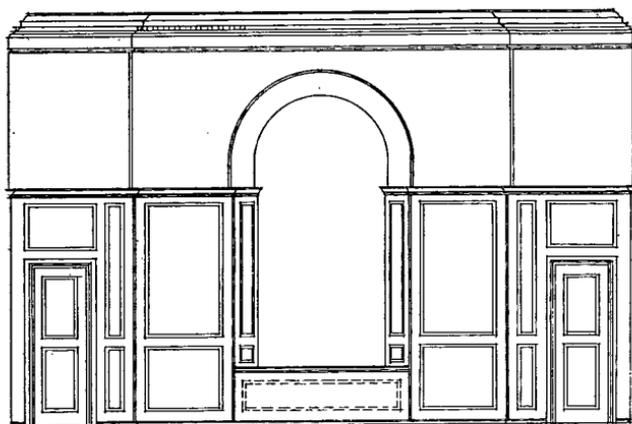
*Carpenters' Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, south wall and half plan.*

*Feet*



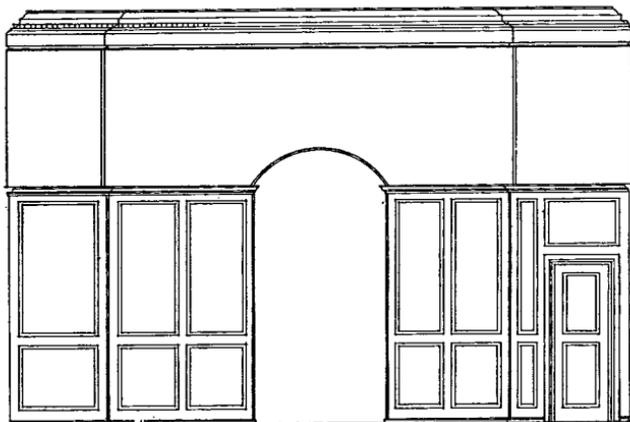
*L.C. Evetts, del.*

*Carpenters' Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne.*



*West wall*

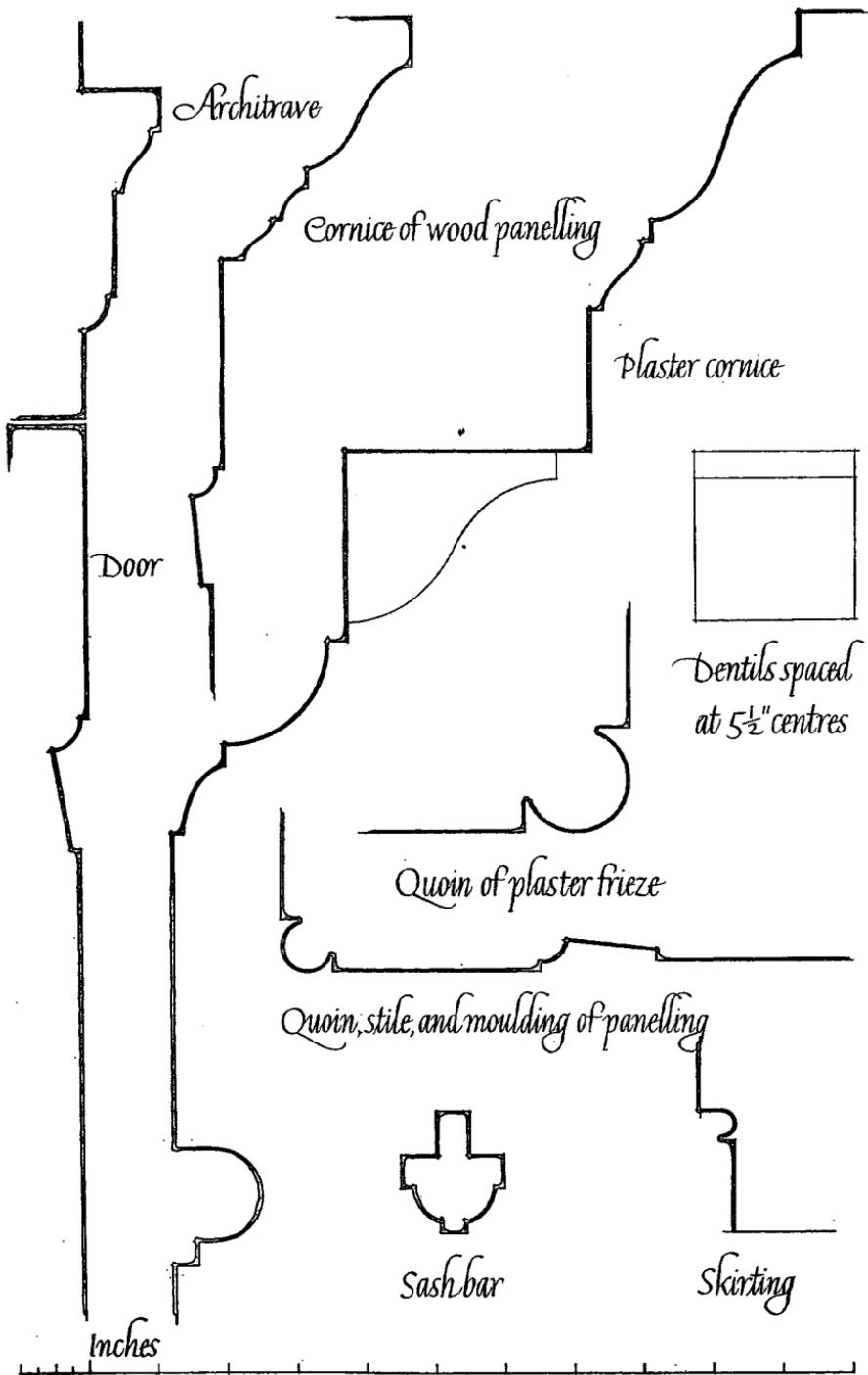
*Feet*



*East wall*

*L.C. Evetts, del*

*Carpenters' Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, details of mouldings*



(2) the window and panelling beneath it in the west wall;  
(3) the entrance door and fanlight in the east wall. It is quite clear from the evidence of the stonework surrounding the opening in the west wall that the window was bowed but in all other respects it probably resembled the windows in the north and south walls.

It is unfortunate that this room, so splendid a symbol of the less elaborate style of architecture of the eighteenth century, should now be in such a woeful state of disrepair.

L. C. EVETTS.

## APPENDIX 2.—RECORDS OF THE SHIPWRIGHTS' COMPANY.

According to John Brand, in *The History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Newcastle* (London, 1789), vol. 11, p. 343, the ordinary of this Company was dated 8th August, 1638. Further orders of the Company were confirmed by the judges of assize 26th August, 1674, and 26th July, 1689. He quotes in his footnotes (*ibid.*) from original records of the Company going back to 1613 and his extracts include a reference to the Shipwrights' Meeting House dated 27th December, 1622. His account of the Company is repeated by James Walker and M. A. Richardson in *The Armorial Bearings of the Incorporated Companies of Newcastle* (1824).

To-day the records from which Brand quotes are not available but in the early days of this century they were in the possession of the late F. E. Forster. Two more recent books of the Shipwrights' Company have been preserved which I was allowed to examine by courtesy of Mr. Porter, steward of the Company.

The first is a volume of admissions and enrolments, giving admissions between 1812 and 1949 and at the reverse end enrolments of apprentices taken by brethren of the Company between 1812 and 1867. The entries relating to admissions give the date, the name of the brother admitted, his father's name if he obtained his freedom by patrimony and his master's name if he obtained his freedom by servitude and the names of the stewards and other shipwrights who acted as witnesses. Enrolments give the date, the apprentice's name and the master's name.

The second volume contains minutes and accounts. The minutes run from 1814 to 1952 with gaps between 1876 and 1910 and 1915 and 1920. At the beginning, meetings are held at roughly quarterly intervals—for example March, June, October and December 1815, while in modern times they take place annually on Boxing Day. Up to 1836 entries

consist of lists of absent members only, while from 1836 onwards lists of brethren present are given. From 1910 a record of discussions and business transacted at the meetings is kept—for example in 1910 the financial statement was presented and a discussion took place on property called Slater's Yard, while in 1911, after hearing the financial statement, members discussed the Pinfold and agreed to offer it to the Royal Grammar School, adding that the Grammar School authorities should as a gratuitous recognition arrange that one or more free scholarships should be allotted to the sons of freemen.

The accounts at the reverse end of this volume run from 1887 to 1945. Income consists mainly of rents, and admission fees. Expenditure covers rates, tax—for example 11th June, 1887, "compelled to pay income tax by threat 11s. 8d."—upkeep and cleaning of the Meeting House, dinners and whisky and tobacco afterwards and expenses in connection with the distribution of Town Moor money being payments made to the freemen for cattle pastured on the Moor of which they owned the herbage.

E. M. HALCROW.