

Medieval English Town-House Plans

By W. A. PANTIN

University Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology and History, Oxford

THE purpose of this essay is to examine a certain number of late medieval English town houses, to analyse and compare the various types of plan used, and in particular to see the different ways in which the typical open-hall house plan was adapted to a more or less restricted town site.¹ What we are concerned with is in fact the problem of adapting what was probably in origin a country-house type to urban conditions. This *rus in urbe* tradition, like the townsman's cattle in the common fields and the 'broad gates' and miniature farmyard that sometimes occupied part of his tenement, reminds us how much the medieval town remained part of the countryside. For our purpose the houses that I shall take will be middle-sized and fairly large, but not too large; the kind of house that will normally have an open-roofed hall as the principal element in its plan. I shall on the one hand exclude the smallest houses with only one or two rooms to each floor, where the hall plan, if it can be said to be applied at all, is applied vertically, the solar being piled on top of the hall, or the hall or solar piled on top of the shop. And on the other hand I shall exclude the very large houses, such as Arundel House in the Strand, or the Bishop's Palace or the Old Deanery at Salisbury, where there was so much space that the introduction of a complete manor-house plan presented no problem of adaptation at all.

The house plans with which we are concerned may be classified into two main groups, according to whether the hall is placed parallel to the street, or at right angles to it, and these groups may in turn be subdivided. In each of the various types of plan we shall find that the house is either a three-part house, i.e. with a service-wing at one end of the hall and a solar wing at the other, or a two-part house, i.e. with the solar or principal chamber over the service-rooms at the entrance end of the hall.

¹ I should like to thank all those who have helped to make this present survey possible, by giving me plans and drawings or in other ways, particularly Dr. J. R. L. Highfield of Merton College (no. 1), Mr. D. Sturdy at Burford (no. 3), Mr. S. R. Jones and the National Buildings Record at Coventry (nos. 4, 9-11, 19-21), Mr. B. Anthony at Canterbury (nos. 5, 39), Mr. J. R. Barron, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, at Poole (no. 6), Mr. M. G. Brock at Beam Hall (no. 8), Mr. E. Adams of the City Art Gallery at Bristol (nos. 22, 33), Mr. P. S. Peberdy, Curator of the Tudor House Museum, and the Southampton Corporation at Southampton (no. 23), Mr. R. R. Clarke, Mr. A. P. Baggs, Mr. W. A. Dodd and the Norwich Museums Committee, at Norwich (nos. 26, 28, 37), Mr. A. W. Everett, Mr. D. Portman, Dr. W. G. Hoskins and Mrs. Erskine at Exeter (nos. 27, 31, 32), Mr. J. T. Smith at Shrewsbury (no. 29), Mr. F. H. Thompson and Mr. P. Lawson at Chester (no. 30), Mr. T. W. French, Dr. E. A. Gee and Professor G. F. Webb at York (no. 34), Miss P. Cunnington, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Miss M. L. Keith and the Rev. W. C. Bridge at King's Lynn (no. 35), and the occupants of the houses concerned. For some of the houses described here, namely nos. 22, 25, 30, 31, 33, 35 and 40, cf. also *Culture and Environment: Essays in honour of Sir Cyril Fox*, ed. I. Ll. Foster and L. Alcock (London, 1963), pp. 445 ff.

I. 'PARALLEL' TYPE (FIGS. 69-73)

In these houses the hall lies parallel to the street. This was perhaps the most obvious and natural adaptation of the open-hall house plan, and we find two early examples of it in the twelfth-century houses at Lincoln, where the hall is on the first floor.² The type can take several forms:

- i. *'Extended' plan.* The simplest plan was to arrange the two or three parts of the house in a continuous range along the street end of the tenement; the hall thus lies not only parallel to the street, but also directly on the street. But even with a two-part plan, and still more with a three-part plan, this needs a fairly large frontage, of say 30 to 50 feet. We may therefore expect to find this type of plan either in the side streets of large towns, or in small towns, or in large houses where a broad frontage could be afforded (cf. nos. 1-7 below). In some, side wings run backwards from the main range, to enclose a courtyard behind (cf. nos. 6, 7 below).
- ii. *'Contracted' plan.* As an alternative to the 'extended' plan, where a parallel hall was to be adapted to a narrow site, several methods of economizing space could be used. The hall could be made to stretch across the full width of the tenement; and either (1) the solar could be perched, so to speak, on top of the screens-passage and partly overhanging into the hall—this might be called the 'Beam Hall' type (cf. nos. 8-11); or (2) the solar could be placed behind the hall—this might be called the 'Broad Street' type (cf. nos. 12, 13). Several examples at Coventry of the 'Beam Hall' type were subsequently converted into the 'Broad Street' type by the addition of a two-story rear wing (cf. nos. 9-11); and in these and other examples upstairs accommodation was increased in sub-medieval times by dividing the whole of the hall space into two floors. The minute solar of the 'Beam Hall' type must very early have been found inadequate.
- iii. *'Double-range' plan.* Another economical plan was to make the house consist of two parallel ranges, the hall occupying the back range and a row of shops occupying the front range; this had the advantage of allowing commercial use of the frontage, and so was specially suitable in the main streets of a town. This might be called the 'Tackley's Inn' type (cf. nos. 14-23). This plan could be used with a two-part plan at the back (hall, and solar over service-room), in which case the chambers or solars over the shops in front could be let separately (as at Tackley's Inn). This plan was still more economical of space where the hall at the back stretched the full width of the tenement, and the first floor over the shops was used as the solar (cf. nos. 16, 20, 21). A further development of this 'double-range' type is seen when the hall not only has a street range in front of it but also another range at the back, either parallel (cf. no. 22) or at right angles to the hall (cf. nos. 21, 23).
- iv. *'Courtyard' plan.* In this type the hall range lies parallel to the street, but at the back of a courtyard, which is generally separated from the street

² *Archaeol. J.*, xcii (1935), 194-7 (and plans).

by a row of shops, the courtyard being reached by an entry between the shops. Here, as in the 'double-range' plan, a valuable frontage could be put to commercial use. There is often another court or garden behind the hall range, which thus lies *entre cour et jardin*, like the French town houses of the eighteenth century. This type of plan was of course particularly suitable for larger houses (cf. nos. 24-29).

II. 'RIGHT-ANGLE' TYPE (FIGS. 74-76)

In these houses the hall lies at right angles to the street. This type of plan was obviously economical of street frontage and was thus suitable for comparatively narrow tenements; it must have been common from the earliest times. There are early examples in the 'Music House' at Norwich,³ where there is a first-floor hall over a vaulted cellar (late twelfth century), and in the Eastbridge Hospital at Canterbury,⁴ where the plan is adapted for a hospital; at Moyse's Hall, Bury St. Edmunds,⁵ the house consists of two parallel ranges, at right angles to the street (late twelfth century), and Clifton House, King's Lynn, may similarly have consisted originally of two parallel ranges (thirteenth and fourteenth centuries). Some of the numerous vaulted crypts that survive at Winchelsea, Chester and elsewhere (e.g. Knapp Hall, St. Aldate's, Oxford), may have supported 'right-angle' halls. A vaulted crypt would be a particularly suitable substructure for a hall, since it would safely support a central hearth. The 'right-angle' type of plan can take two forms:

- i. '*Narrow plan*. In this the hall fills the entire width of the tenement. Such a house generally consisted of three parts; a front part, which could contain a shop on the ground floor and a solar and chambers above; an open hall in the middle; and a back part, which could contain a service-room below and chambers above. The front part would of course be lit from the street, and the back from a court or garden; but the lighting of the hall might present a problem; it might have to depend upon light from a neighbouring alley-way, or from windows placed high up, above the roofs of adjoining buildings. Another problem was to provide access from the street to the back of the house, which would be particularly necessary if the service-rooms and kitchen were at the back, as they often seem to have been. This might be solved by making use of an adjoining alley-way. But in a number of examples the through passage is included in the width of the house; the passage thus formed at ground level projects into the body of the hall, and the top of it could form a gallery communicating between the upper floors of the front and back parts. In one example, the Fox Inn, York (no. 34), this plan is combined with a first-floor hall (cf. nos. 30-34). In houses of this type there is often a rear-building beyond a courtyard at the back of the main house; such rear-buildings in their present form

³ *Norfolk Archaeol.*, xxviii (1942-5), 31 ff. (and plan).

⁴ *Archaeol. J.*, lxxxvi (1929), 102 ff. (and plan).

⁵ *Archaeol. J.*, xcii (1935), 203 ff. (and plan).

seem to be post-medieval, but it seems likely that there would have been from the first a detached kitchen in this position.

- ii. '*Broad*' plan. In this type the hall flanks a courtyard, which solves the problem of light and access. In some, the house is L-shaped; the hall range abuts on to a cross range which runs parallel to the street, and might contain shops on the ground floor; this street range would thus cover not only the width of the hall range, but the width of the courtyard as well (cf. nos. 35-37, 39, 40). In others, the house might have only a narrow street front, corresponding to the width of the hall only, but the site would broaden out at the back, the courtyard lying behind a neighbouring tenement (cf. no. 38).

Some general observations may be made. I have mentioned the two-part plan and the three-part plan. The two-part plan, with the solar over the service-room at the lower end of the hall, seems fairly common, especially where the hall is parallel to the street (cf. nos. 1, 3, 5, 14, 26, 29 and perhaps 2, 28); and as we have seen, there is a specially contracted form of the two-part plan, with the solar on top of the screens-passage or at the back (cf. nos. 8-13). On the other hand, the three-part plan, having a central hall with a two-story block at either end, with the solar at the opposite end to the service-room, seems fairly common where the hall is at right angles to the street and the hall range can thus be easily extended. But this is often a three-part plan with a difference. In the ordinary three-part house in the countryside the ground-floor space under the solar would be occupied by a parlour or store-room. In these 'right-angle' town houses, if my interpretation is correct, the 'service-end' of the hall is likely to be at the back, in close proximity to a courtyard and a detached kitchen beyond, while the solar is likely to be at the other end of the hall, on the first floor of the part abutting on the street, with a shop or shops below; in other words, there is no room for a ground-floor parlour below the solar. Indeed in some cases it seems likely that the ground-floor room at the service-end of the hall was used as a parlour, or possibly a counting-house (cf. nos. 30, 31).

In the medieval English town houses, even the grander ones, the principal dwelling-house will often be combined with commercial buildings, shops or warehouses, or perhaps a row of lesser houses let off separately. It would be very natural to use the ground floor of the street front for shops, especially in the main streets of a town. We know from documentary evidence that this was so in Oxford (cf. nos. 14, 15, 17, 18, 24, 36); elsewhere, in the absence of similar evidence, we cannot be certain, but many of these houses now have shops on the ground floor, and it seems likely that it was so from the beginning. The origin and history of the medieval English shop is, however, a subject which badly needs investigation. In Oxford, where decay set in during the later middle ages, the ground floor sometimes had a chequered career, being occupied by shops in the middle ages, then converted into parlours by the sixteenth century, and then reverting to shops by the eighteenth century.⁶ In these houses where the shops occupy the

⁶ E.g. at the Golden Cross and at the Star (Clarendon Hotel), *Oxoniensia*, xx (1955), 46 ff.; *id.*, xxiii (1958), 84 ff.

front, the principal dwelling-house, or at least the hall range, will generally be at the back, where it can open on to a courtyard or garden, with greater space and quiet. This is not unlike the plan of some Roman town houses, where the principal dwelling is fronted or surrounded by *tabernae*.⁷ This may be contrasted with the loftier medieval Italian palazzo, where the principal dwelling, the *piano nobile*, will be above, not behind, being piled on top of the shops, the *botteghe*, which occupy the ground floor—a practice which also may have its roots in antiquity. This contrast perhaps reflects the different character of the building; the medieval English shop was probably in origin a projecting booth or ‘seld’ erected in front of a house, and even when the shops came to have solars above them they were often of light construction.⁸

There is another contrast: a medieval English town house, like some of the inns and Oxford colleges of the period, will often have a fringe of small houses or shops in front, with the main house at the back, as has been said; whereas in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when the process of ‘in-filling’ was going on, one will find the main house in front, with a row of cottages built in the courtyard or garden at the back. Another contrast can be seen in the ways of combining dwelling-house and warehouse. In a typical English example like Hampton Court (no. 35) and in other houses at King’s Lynn, the dwelling-house and warehouse will be ranged round a long courtyard stretching from the street to the quayside; in the more crowded layout of the Hanseatic towns, the warehouse will be piled on top of the dwelling-house. The house at Bucklersbury, London (no. 25), built round a courtyard, but with the hall on top of the warehouse, represents something in between.

The houses which we are considering range in date from the late thirteenth century (nos. 1, 14) to the early sixteenth century. Nearly all of them follow the medieval tradition in having a lofty open-roofed hall as the principal element in the plan, though there are a few exceptions. Even as early as 1380 we find a ground-floor hall with a great chamber above (no. 24), and conversely the older tradition of the first-floor hall survives in some, as at the Stranger’s Hall, Norwich; Bucklersbury; Wincanton; and the Tribunal, Glastonbury (nos. 26, 25, 40, 13). After the middle of the sixteenth century the open hall probably disappeared as an element in the planning of town houses, and, where such a hall survived, it was generally divided into two floors. Nevertheless, some of the types that we have been considering may have exercised an influence on the planning of town houses in the sub-medieval period. This, for instance, may be the case with some of the sub-medieval Oxford town houses which I have examined elsewhere.⁹ Thus one Oxford type, the ‘central chimney-stack’ plan, which consists of two rooms, front and back, divided by a chimney-stack, may perhaps derive from the ‘con-

⁷ For a discussion of shops and their relation to houses in Roman and medieval Italy see Axel Boethius, *The Golden House of Nero* (University of Michigan, 1960), pp. 137 ff.

⁸ St. Catherine of Siena, in a well-known letter (Ep. 273) about the execution of Niccolo di Toldo, compares the wound in Christ’s side to a ‘bottega aperta . . .’ (*Le lettere di S. Caterina da Siena* (ed. N. Tommaseo and P. Misciatelli, Florence, 1940), IV, 174). This homely simile would come naturally to anyone familiar with the cavernous shops of medieval Italy; it would probably not have occurred to a medieval English writer.

⁹ *Antiq. J.*, xxvii (1947), 120 ff.

tracted' plan, with hall in front and solar wing behind (the 'Broad Street' type), described above, or from the 'double-range' plan (the 'Tackley's Inn' type). And another Oxford type, the 'passage house', may derive from the medieval type of plan where the hall lies at right angles to the street, flanking a courtyard. Even the great town houses of the eighteenth century, with a central block and side wings flanking a courtyard (as at Burlington House), while in the main deriving from the Palladian villa, may owe something to the medieval tradition of the 'courtyard' plan.

Something should be said about terminology, and the functions of the various rooms, and their identification.¹⁰ In houses of the size and period we are dealing with (thirteenth to early sixteenth century) the hall was probably still the main living-room and eating-room for the family. In theory the cooking might also be done in the hall, but this would not be very convenient, where the hall was originally heated by a central hearth (the fireplace being a later insertion), as seems to be the case in the majority of these houses. In such we may expect to find a separate *kitchen*, specifically for the cooking of food, whether this was incorporated in the main body of the house, or detached beyond a courtyard. Besides the kitchen, there are likely to be one or more service-rooms; if there are two of these side by side, we may probably identify them with the *buttery* and *pantry*, for wet and dry stores respectively; of the two, the buttery would probably be the larger, since it would be more convenient to keep beer (or wine) for longer periods and therefore in larger bulk than bread. If there was only one such store-room, it would probably be called the buttery, or (as in no. 24) the *dispence*. By the term *screens-passage* I mean the cross passage at the entrance end of the hall, whether or not it was physically separated from the body of the hall by some form of screen or spere, a point which it is generally now difficult to determine. Such a screens-passage would commonly have an entrance door at each end and one or more doors opening into service-rooms. By the term *parlour* I understand a room affording greater privacy than the hall, and normally on the ground floor, though in the Bucklersbury house (no. 25) the parlour, like the hall, is on the first floor, and the same was probably true of the Fox Inn at York (no. 34). It would presumably be used as what we should call a sitting-room, but might have a bed in it.¹¹ In rural houses, the parlour often served as the principal bedchamber, but in town houses like these the principal bedchamber would I think almost certainly be on an upper floor. The word *solar* could mean any room on an upper floor, and where a shopkeeper had a single solar over his shop, he no doubt used this as a combination of living-room and sleeping-room. But in general I have used the term solar to mean the principal

¹⁰ Inventories of town houses are rare before the sixteenth century, but some idea of the furnishing of houses and shops of well-to-do fifteenth-century merchants and craftsmen can be got from some of the York inventories printed in *Testamenta Eboracensia*, III, IV, V, Surtees Society, XLV (1864), LIII (1868), LXXXIX (1884), e.g. those of Hugh Grantham, mason, 1410 (III, 47), John Talkan, taverner, c. 1425 (III, 87), Robert Tankard, girdler, 1439 (III, 96), John Cadeby, mason, of Beverley, c. 1445 (III, 97), Thomas Gryssop, chapman, 1446 (III, 101), John Carter, tailor, 1485 (III, 300), John Colan, goldsmith, 1490 (IV, 56), William Thwates, founder, 1512 (V, 35), John Tennand, founder, 1516 (V, 79). For a discussion of the functions of rooms in rural houses, see M. W. Barley, *The English Farmhouse and Cottage* (London, 1961), *passim*.

¹¹ The parlours of John Cadeby of Beverley and of John Carter of York (cf. previous footnote) were used for storage of salt fish, dough-tubs, etc.

bedchamber, occupied by the master of the house. By *chamber* I mean a room which would normally have a bed; it might be on the ground floor, but more often on an upper floor. In rural houses, a chamber might often be used purely for storage, but I think this is unlikely in these town houses. In one house, as early as 1380 (no. 24), we find a *great chamber* over the hall; this may have served as a solar or principal bedchamber, but as there is mention of a 'middle solar' as well, it may be that the great chamber was a kind of upper hall, as at Poole (no. 6) and elsewhere in SW. England.

There are certain rooms which would be peculiar to the town house of a merchant or craftsman. One is a counting-house, rather like what we should call an office, another is a warehouse, another a shop. Medieval shops could be extremely small, sometimes only 6 or 10 ft. wide. H. E. Salter has remarked that 'a shop in those days was a workshop, not a store; and though a spicer must keep a stock of goods, a hatter, a glover, a tailor, or a shoemaker kept nothing ready made, but would manufacture in his shop the shoes, gloves, and hats that were required'.¹² Most of the houses examined below had a shop or shops occupying the ground floor of their street front. We cannot tell in most cases whether the shop was actually used by the inhabitant of the house. But it was certainly very common for shops to be let off separately, or even to form separate freeholds.

Deeds and inventories of medieval town houses sometimes mention such offices as brewhouse, malthouse, boltinghouse, and so forth, and in some, at least, the inhabitant is clearly not a professional brewer or baker; this no doubt reflects the 'do-it-yourself' tendency common in medieval households of any size. Such buildings have not recognizably survived; they would be in the back gardens, courtyards and 'backsides' of the long tenements, and would have been swept away by the later reconstruction and enlargement of rear-buildings. There is an almost complete absence of evidence about sanitation in these medieval houses, except in the Bucklersbury contract (no. 25) and the Tudor House at Southampton (no. 23). Inventories sometimes mention close-stools; in general these houses would probably have relied on a privy at the end of a courtyard or garden, as far from the house as the site allowed, and this would accord with the rural tradition of the medieval town. With the large tenements of medieval times there would be no need for the horrific concentration of privies and cess-pits that one finds in post-medieval built-up areas.

When we come to attempt to identify these various rooms with the particular parts of any given house, there is generally a good deal of uncertainty and conjecture, because these houses have undergone so much internal reconstruction and change of use in the course of centuries; it would probably be impossible to find a medieval town house where all the rooms were still in their original use and original state. There is generally least difficulty in identifying the hall, owing to its size and height, once we have mentally removed the floors and partitions that have usually divided it up; though the Wincanton house (no. 40) presents a problem. It is sometimes more difficult to decide at which end of the hall the

¹² H. E. Salter, *Medieval Oxford* (Oxford Hist. Soc., c, 1936), p. 81. This was no doubt true of some shops, but the York inventories show shopkeepers keeping large stocks (e.g. Thomas Gryssop, John Carter).

entrance and screens-passage lay. The ground-floor room adjoining the screens- or service-end of the hall is sometimes a problem; one would expect this to be a buttery, but the presence of a fireplace may suggest a parlour or a counting-house as an alternative. It is remarkable how rarely the position of the kitchen can be certainly identified (but cf. nos. 6, 23, 24, 25, 27); this is probably because the kitchen was so often a detached building, later rebuilt. If there was a shop, it would inevitably occupy the ground floor of the street front; but rooms in this position might at one time be used as shops, at another time as parlours, and later revert to being shops, as has been said.

I. THE 'PARALLEL' TYPE





i. 'EXTENDED PLAN'

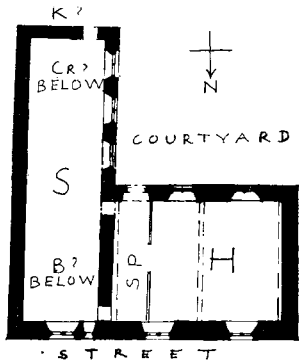
1. *The old Warden's House, Merton College, Oxford* (FIG. 69).¹³

This is a stone-built two-part house of *c.* 1268-86. There was a hall, 29 ft. by 20 ft., by 19 ft. high (to the wall plate), with an open roof of two bays, running E.-W., parallel to and adjoining the street. Each bay was lit on the N. and S. sides by a tall two-light, transomed window. There was a central hearth with a louvre. The entrance door at the E. end of the S. wall may have opened into a screens-passage; but there was no corresponding door at the N. end of the passage, opening into the street, because this house, being part of the college, was entered only from the side of the college quadrangle. At the E. end of the hall, at right angles, was a long narrow two-story wing, about 13 ft. wide by 47 ft. long, presenting a gable end to the street. Its internal divisions are obscure, but the ground floor would no doubt contain service-rooms, probably a buttery and cellar, with a kitchen beyond; while most of the first floor was probably occupied by the solar, or *camera antiqua custodis* (as it was called in the fifteenth century to distinguish it from a later chamber); this had at the N. end a large two-light window towards the street, as well as windows on the W. side. In the time of warden Sever (1455-71) an extension was added to the S. containing on the first floor a chapel, a new chamber for the warden, a study and a 'wardrobe'; warden Fitz-James (1482-1507) added yet more rooms southward, linking the house with the college hall. Of the original house nothing now remains except the hall, divided by floors and with its fine roof concealed. Although this building served a rather special purpose, that is to say, the lodging of the head of a college, it is nevertheless a good example of a town house of *c.* 1300, comparable to the other examples here examined, and normal in every respect except that it has no 'front door' on to the street.

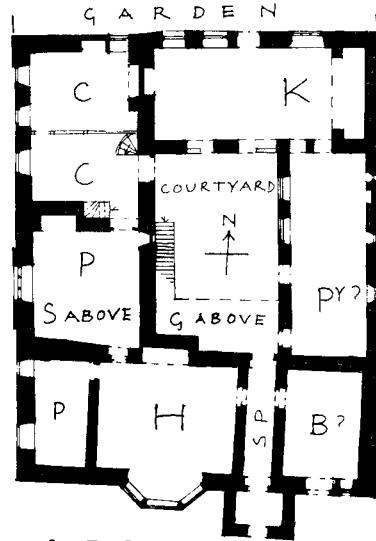
¹³ D. Loggan, *Oxonia Illustrata* (Oxford, 1675), pl. xv; W. Williams, *Oxonia Depicta* (London, 1733), pl. xii; S. J. Skelton, *Oxonia Antiqua Restaurata* (London, 1843), pl. 29; A. Vallance, *The Old Colleges of Oxford* (London, 1912), p. 19; *Inventory of Hist. Monuments, City of Oxford* (R.C.H.M. England, 1939), pp. 76-7. The site was acquired by Merton in 1268 and the house had apparently been built by *c.* 1286; the bursars' rolls refer to repairs to the warden's windows and pentice (*c.* 1286-7), the door of the warden's hall and the roof of his chamber (1289-90), and his cellar and kitchen (1293-4): Merton Muniments 4052, 4053, 4055B.

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|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| B BUTTERY | GC GREAT CHAMBER | SR SERVICE ROOM |
| CR CELLAR | H HALL | S SOLAR |
| C CHAMBER | K KITCHEN | SK SHOP |
| Co COUNTING HOUSE | P PARLOUR | SP SCREENS PASSAGE |
| E ENTRY | PY PANTRY | W WAREHOUSE |
| G GALLERY | | |

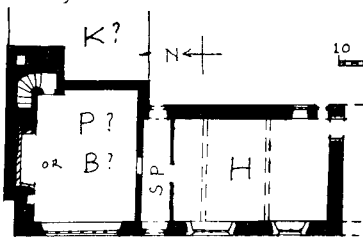
-  MEDIEVAL
-  MEDIEVAL (CONJECTURAL)
-  LATER MEDIEVAL
-  POST-MEDIEVAL



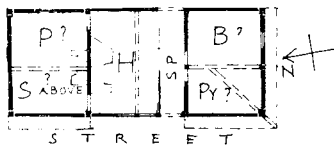
OLD WARDEN'S HOUSE,
MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



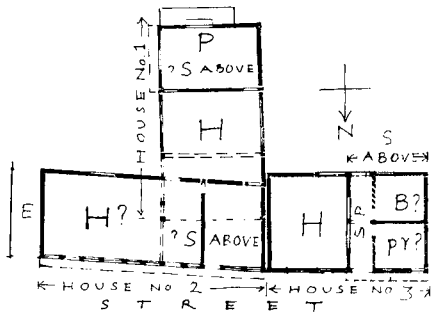
SCAPLEN'S COURT,
POOLE: GROUND
FLOOR PLAN



HILL HOUSE, BURFORD:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



1-3 PRIORY STREET,
COVENTRY:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



HOUSES IN CHURCH STREET,
ST. RADEGUND'S, CANTERBURY
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIG. 6g

i. 'Parallel' type: i. 'Extended' plan (pp. 209 ff.)

2. *Leadenporch House, Deddington, Oxfordshire.*¹⁴

This is an early fifteenth-century stone-built house, a good deal reconstructed in the seventeenth century, but retaining much of its original roof-construction and an original doorway and window. The central part consists of what was originally an open hall, about 25 ft. by 19 ft., by 29 ft. high, now divided by floors, running N.-S., parallel to the street; it has an arch-braced collar-beam roof of three bays, and an original two-light window, now blocked, survives on the W. (street) side. At the S. end of the hall is a two-story block, containing on the ground floor the screens-passage with an original arched doorway at the street end, and a service-room; on the first floor, over both service-room and screens-passage, is a chamber, about 18 ft. by 19 ft., with an arch-braced roof of two bays. At the other end of the hall is a parlour with a chamber above, probably entirely reconstructed in the seventeenth century. This part may have replaced a medieval solar block, making the original house a three-part plan; or the original house may have been a two-part plan, the room over the screens-passage and service-room serving as a solar, and this seems the more likely, as the original numbers which survive on the roof-trusses start at the S. end of the hall and so exclude the parlour block.

3. *Hill House, Burford* (FIG. 69).

This is a mid fifteenth-century stone-built house, probably of a two-part plan, to judge from existing evidence. The southern part consisted originally of an open hall, about 31 ft. by 17 ft., lying parallel with the street, and now divided by inserted floors and partitions. It has an arch-braced roof of three bays. At the N. end is the screens-passage; at the W. (or street) end of this is an original moulded arched doorway, which formerly stood at the E. end of the passage and was moved to its present position during a modern restoration; no doubt the screens-passage originally had such arched doorways at both ends. On the E. side of the southernmost bay of the hall is an original two-light window with traceried head; there were probably two similar windows on the W. side, but if so, any trace of them has been obliterated by the insertion of later windows. In the S. end wall of the hall there are traces of a blocked door, possibly modern; in the SE. corner, next to the original window, there is a small doorway which perhaps led to a garderobe or a staircase; if the latter, it would seem to imply that there was a now vanished solar wing at the S. end of the hall, where now is a modern gateway with a room above, belonging to the adjoining house; this would make the house a three-part plan. At the N. end of the hall, adjoining the screens-passage, and separated by a timber-framed partition, is a two-storied cross wing, about 22 ft. by 17 ft. The ground-floor room has a large six-light window, of which the two outer lights retain their traceried heads, and a large fireplace which seems to be a sixteenth-century rebuilding or insertion, though the combination of projecting stack and staircase suggests that there was always a fireplace here; and in the NE. corner is an original door leading to a stone staircase with a garderobe adjoining. The room on the first floor originally had a three-bay roof;

¹⁴ R. B. Wood-Jones, 'The Banbury region—minor domestic architecture before 1600,' *Trans. Ancient Monuments Soc.*, IV (1956), 140 ff. and fig. 7.

this would have been the solar, unless there was a solar at the other end of the hall. A timber-framed partition, which may be original or an early insertion, separates the E. bay to form a kind of ante-room to the solar. The function of the ground-floor room is a little obscure. One would expect a service-room in this position; but the large and elaborate window, the fireplace and the staircase leading from the far corner, suggest a more important and dignified room, perhaps a dining-parlour, rather like the one adjoining the screens-passage at Great Chalfield (Wilts.). If so the buttery and kitchen were probably accommodated in a wing at the back, where there is now a more modern wing.^{14a}

4. *Nos. 1-3, Priory Street, Coventry* (FIG. 6g).¹⁵

This is a fifteenth-century timber-framed three-part house; the construction is of the 'wealden' type, that is the first floor of the two end parts is jettied and the centre part (containing the hall) is recessed, while the roof runs in a continuous line, projecting over the recessed centre. The hall was about 16 ft. by 17½ ft. with an open roof of two bays, divided by an arch-braced collar-beam truss; the entrance and screens-passage (if this was in fact screened off) were at the S. end. The ground floor of the southern part probably contained buttery and pantry, with a chamber above; the northern part probably contained a parlour below and a solar above. An original ogee doorway in the NE. corner of the hall, leading to the parlour, survives. The internal arrangements of the house have been much altered.

5. *Houses in Church Street, St. Radegund's, Canterbury* (FIG. 6g).

This is a group of three timber-framed houses of the fifteenth or early sixteenth century. The earliest house is no. 1, at the back of the group, lying at right angles to the street, its N. end having been cut off when the house in front, no. 2, was built; this will be described below (p. 238, no. 39).

The outer two houses lie parallel with the street. The western one, no. 3, is a two-part house; the eastern half was an open one-bay hall, about 12½ ft. by 15 ft. (now divided by a floor); it had a large window towards the street. The western half was a two-storied bay, containing the screens-passage and two small service-rooms below, with a solar above. The chimney-stack is a later insertion, so that the hall and solar must presumably have been heated by a central hearth and a brazier respectively. The construction is of the 'wealden' type, that is, with a continuous roof in line with the solar bay and thus projecting over the hall bay.

The eastern house, no. 2, appears from its construction always to have been divided into two floors, and the plan is difficult to interpret. On the ground floor, the western half was divided into two rooms, and perhaps the eastern half served as a ground-floor hall; on the first floor, the large western room, perhaps a solar or great chamber, has an open roof of two bays. As has been pointed out, the building of this house cut off the northern end of the earlier house, no. 1; it is just

^{14a} This house has been described by Mr. D. Sturdy in *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961-2), 319-20, with plans.

¹⁵ Plans and drawing by Mr. S. R. Jones at the National Buildings Record.

possible that this later house was built to serve as an enlarged service-wing, with new and larger solar, tacked on to the earlier house, the two houses thus forming one large L-shaped house.

6. *Scaplen's Court, Poole, Dorset* (FIG. 69).¹⁶

This is a stone-built house, built round a courtyard; the site measures externally 60 ft. wide by nearly 80 ft. deep. The building may incorporate some work of the fourteenth century, but the main structure and architectural features are of the fifteenth century, with insertions and alterations of the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. After being turned into cottages, it has recently been restored as a museum. The two main ranges, containing the hall and solar, are on the S. and W. sides, bounded by a street and an alley; and on the N. and E. were two service-ranges. The S. or hall range, lying on the street, is unfortunately reduced to a ruin, partly by the collapse of the roof in 1925, partly by war-damage. A porch and a screens-passage led from the street to the courtyard. West of this was the hall, 23 ft. by 18 ft., apparently always divided into a lower and upper hall, an arrangement found in other parts of SW. England.¹⁷ Both halls had a large bay window, with stone-panelled embrasures, towards the street, and a fireplace on the N. side, and both had a small room adjoining on the W.; the upper hall had an open roof. E. of the screens-passage is a cellar or buttery; the upper hall may possibly have extended over this, but more likely this space formed a separate chamber, to judge from analogous houses. The W. range abuts on to the hall range, and contains on the ground floor, at the S. end, a parlour about 18 ft. square; this opens out of the lower hall, and has a fine panelled roof and a large fireplace in the N. wall. Beyond this, occupying the northern part of the range, are two rooms, separated by a timber-framed partition, and having a doorway on to the courtyard. On the first floor, above the parlour, is the solar; this has a door communicating with the upper hall, a fireplace in the N. wall, and a fine open roof with arch-braced collar-beam trusses. From this opens a large chamber to the north. The N. range contained a large kitchen, 36 ft. by 16 ft., with a large fireplace at the E. end; it was entered from the courtyard by a doorway in line with the screens-passage. The long narrow E. range (about 12½ ft. by 35 ft.) linking the kitchen with the hall range was probably divided into a pantry and other service-rooms. It is possible that the kitchen and E. range were originally of one story only, and that the existing chambers above them were added in the sixteenth century. On the S. side of the courtyard was a gallery, with doors giving access to the solar, the upper hall, and the first floor of the E. range; this was reached by an external flight of stone stairs from the courtyard. This would seem to mean that to go from the lower hall and parlour to the upper hall and solar one would have had to go out into the courtyard—a rather primitive arrangement for a town house, even in the fifteenth century; there may perhaps have been an internal staircase somewhere in the northern part of the W. range, connecting the parlour with the solar. It is possible, however, that the lower hall, parlour and rooms beyond, on the one hand, and the upper

¹⁶ H. P. Smith, *The History of the Borough and County of the Town of Poole* (Poole, 1951), pp. 187 ff.

¹⁷ Cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, 1 (1957), 141.

hall, solar and room beyond, on the other hand, were used as two separate suites of apartments, which could be occupied by two parts of a family; this would explain the external staircase. In the sixteenth century the gallery was enclosed in a gable with a long mullioned window.

I have classified this house as belonging to the 'extended' plan, since it has a buttery, hall and a small room beyond the hall, in a continuous range; but it might alternatively be classed as a large-scale example of the 'contracted' plan, since the solar is placed behind the hall (cf. type ii, B, p. 216).

7. *Diocesan Church House (formerly Audley House), Crane Street, Salisbury.*¹⁸

The earliest part of this house consists of a late fifteenth-century stone-built range, running parallel with the street, about 80 ft. long by 25 ft. wide (externally). It has a continuous roof of nine bays. The centre part consists of a hall, c. 25½ ft. by 19½ ft., with an open roof of three bays, divided by arch-braced collar-beam trusses. This was presumably entered from the screens-passage or archway on the E. side, but the dividing wall has been rebuilt. It is lit by four-light windows on each side in the two eastern bays, and a two-story semi-octagonal oriel on the S. side of the western bay, projecting into the courtyard. It seems probable that the hall was originally open from the ground to the roof, with a central hearth, and that in the sixteenth century a floor was inserted and an upper row of windows made, though one cannot perhaps rule out the possibility of an upper and lower hall from the beginning, as at Poole and elsewhere. To the E. is a two-story service-block of three bays. The bay nearest the hall is occupied on the ground floor by a broad screens-passage or entry, 10 ft. wide, with an elaborately-moulded archway from the street; above is a narrow chamber. The two easternmost bays were occupied on the ground floor by the buttery, with a chamber above. The kitchen probably adjoined the buttery to the S., projecting into the courtyard. W. of the hall is the two-story solar block, 25 ft. by 20 ft.; on the first floor is the solar, which had an open roof of three bays, with arch-braced collar-beam trusses, later ceiled over, and a fireplace in the N. wall. The position of the original stairs up to the solar is uncertain; perhaps they led from the oriel. In the sixteenth century a gabled projection, encroaching on to the street, was added on the N. side of the solar, and a long two-story range, abutting on the S. side of the solar, was added on the W. side of the courtyard, with a rectangular projecting staircase adjoining the hall oriel. From 1637 to 1879 the building was used as a workhouse.

ii. 'CONTRACTED' PLAN

A. WITH SOLAR OVER SCREENS-PASSAGE

8. *Beam Hall, Merton Street, Oxford* (FIG. 70).¹⁹

This house, acquired by Corpus Christi College in 1553, had formerly been an academic hall. It is, like Tackley's Inn (no. 14), important as one of the few

¹⁸ C. R. Everett, 'Notes on the history of the Diocesan Church House, Salisbury,' *Wills. Archaeol. Mag.*, XLVIII (1941), 435 ff., and plans.

¹⁹ *Inventory of Hist. Monuments, City of Oxford* (R.C.H.M. England, 1939), p. 166; *Pelican Record*, XXVII (1947), 129 ff.

remaining examples of an academic hall. Such halls would not differ notably from the ordinary large or medium-sized town house of the period, as we know that in some cases the same house served at one period as a hall and at another period as a private house. Beam Hall now consists of two parts; an eastern part of the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century and a western part built or rebuilt *c.* 1586. It is with the eastern part that we are concerned. This consisted in its original form of a stone-built hall, about 33 ft. long by 18 ft. wide, by *c.* 16 ft. high (to the wall plate), running E.-W. parallel to and adjoining the street. The hall was of three bays; the two eastern bays, divided by an arch-braced

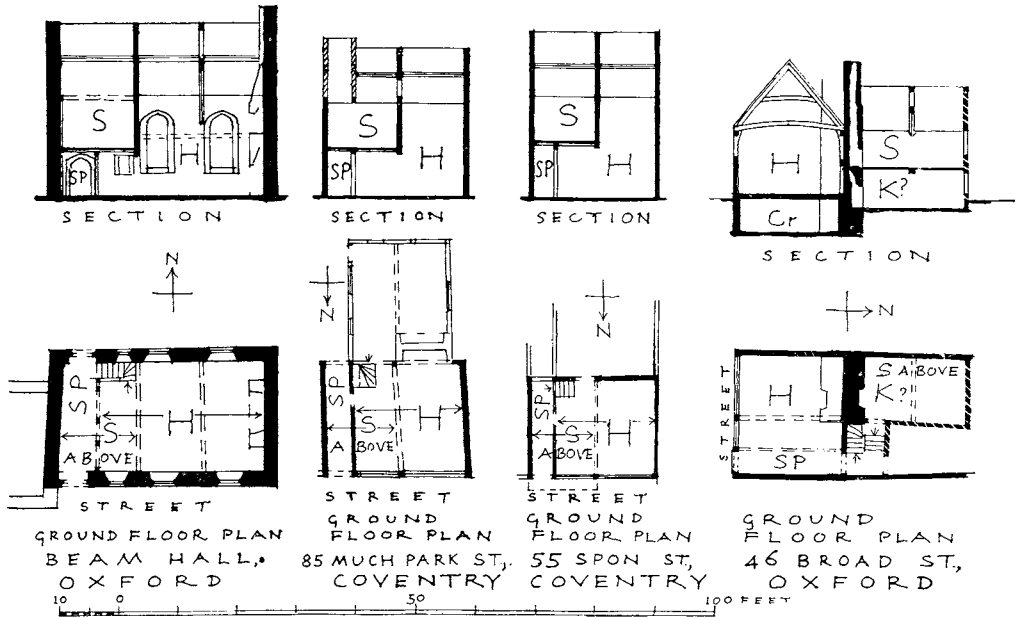


FIG. 70

i. 'Parallel' type: ii. 'Contracted' plan (pp. 214 ff.)
For key see fig. 69

collar-beam truss, were open to the roof. The W. bay was divided into two floors: the first floor formed an upper room or small solar, 18 ft. by 12 ft., probably with an open roof; the ground floor formed an entry bay, of which the W. part was partitioned off to form a screens-passage with a door at either end. In other words, the upper floor, occupying a full bay of the hall, was wider than the screens-passage below. The two eastern, open bays of the hall were lit by two tall windows on each side. A chimney-stack has been inserted at the E. end of the hall, and a floor inserted; the hall would originally, no doubt, have had a central hearth. Thus the medieval house, so far as can be traced from existing remains, may have consisted simply of a lofty hall of two bays, with a single upper chamber over the screens-passage. Even by medieval standards, this seems very scant accommodation, especially for an academic hall which might house a dozen

students or more. The problem therefore arises: did the surviving three-bay hall constitute the whole house or was there an extension westwards, on part of the site of the 1586 building, containing perhaps service-rooms on the ground floor and a solar above? If so this would be a two-part house.

9. *No. 55, Spon Street, Coventry* (FIG. 70).

A timber-framed house of the fifteenth century, consisting of a hall, 17 ft. wide by 16 ft. long (at ground-floor level), with a screens-passage 4 ft. wide. On the first floor is a small solar, 11 ft. by 18 ft., partly over the screens-passage and partly projecting into the hall; thus only one bay of the hall went up to the roof. The solar was reached by a stair or ladder at the back of the hall adjoining the screens-passage. The construction is of the 'wealden' type, with the roof projecting over the recessed bay of the hall. At a later date a chimney-stack was inserted, the hall floored over and a rear wing added.

10. *No. 85, Much Park Street, Coventry* (FIG. 70).

A timber-framed fifteenth-century house, consisting of a hall, 18 ft. square (at ground-floor level), with a screens-passage 4 ft. wide. On the first floor was a solar, 18 ft. by 12 ft., partly over the screens-passage, partly projecting into the hall, and thus occupying one bay of the hall roof. In the seventeenth century a chimney-stack and a two-story rear wing were added at the back of the hall.

11. *The Premier Restaurant, Spon Street, Coventry.*

A timber-framed house of the fifteenth century, consisting of a hall, 17 ft. by 18½ ft., with a screens-passage 3 ft. wide. On the first floor was a solar, 20 ft. by 9 ft., partly over the screens-passage, partly projecting into the hall. The original stair seems to have been in the back corner of the hall adjoining the screens. A two-story rear wing was added later. The construction is of the 'wealden' type, with a roof projecting over the recessed bay of the hall.

B. WITH SOLAR BEHIND HALL

12. *No. 46, Broad Street, Oxford* (FIG. 70).²⁰

This house had been largely reconstructed in the seventeenth century, but during its demolition in 1936 enough was found to make possible the conjectural reconstruction of the original late fifteenth- or early sixteenth-century house. This consisted of a timber-framed two-part house; there was an open hall next to the street, and a two-story wing, probably containing a solar above and a kitchen below, at the back, instead of at one end of the hall; it was thus more economical of frontage space than the Merton Warden's house or Beam Hall, and more suited to a narrow tenement. All that survived of the hall at the time of demolition was the western gable wall. The hall was about 20 ft. by 16½ ft., by *c.* 11 ft. high (to the wall plate), running E.-W.; it was no doubt divided into two bays by an arch-braced truss. It must have been originally heated by a central hearth, the chimney-stack being a late sixteenth-century insertion. The

²⁰ *Antiq. J.*, xxvii (1947), 129.

entry or screens-passage was at the E. end. There was a cellar below the hall. Projecting at right angles from the N. side of the hall was a two-story wing, about 11 ft. wide; the length is uncertain, but probably about 17 ft., comprising two bays. The lower room of this back wing, probably serving as a kitchen or buttery, was sunk about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. below the level of the hall; the room above was no doubt the solar. The chimney serving the back wing seems to have been original. There may possibly have been also a small room above the screens-passage. The total accommodation would thus have been three or four rooms and a cellar.

13. *The Tribunal, Glastonbury*.^{20a}

This building combined the functions of a court-room for the exercise of the abbey's franchisal jurisdiction and a lodging for the justices. It was, thus, not an ordinary dwelling-house, but is interesting for comparison, as showing how such a building might resemble a contemporary dwelling-house. The building is mainly of the fifteenth century, but was refronted by abbot Bere (1493-1524). It is L-shaped, and stone-built, with some timber-framed partitions, and the original front may have been timber-framed before the refronting. The two-story front range, parallel with the street, contains an entry and an ante-room, with an original fireplace, on the ground floor; above this is what is in effect a first-floor hall, used as a court-room; it measures 23 ft. by 16 ft. and has an open roof of four bays, with arch-braced collar-beam trusses; there is an original fireplace in the end wall. The two-story back range, running at right angles to the street, contains a lobby and staircase and behind that a ground-floor room with an external door and an original fireplace, and above this a room with an open roof and an original fireplace, later blocked: these two rooms formed the lodging. In Elizabethan times, when the building had become an ordinary dwelling-house, a kitchen with a chamber above it was added at the back in the NE. corner.

iii. 'DOUBLE-RANGE' PLAN

14. *Tackley's Inn, Oxford* (FIG. 71).²¹

Tackley's Inn (now 106-7, High Street) was built c. 1291-1300 by Roger le Mareschal, parson of Tackley, and in 1324 it was acquired by Adam de Brome and became for a few years the first home of his foundation, later Oriel College. It was a stone-built house consisting of two parallel ranges. (1) The N. or street range formed a commercial or lay unit: a row of five shops, each about 8-12 ft. wide, with solars belonging to them above, and a vaulted cellar of five bays below, having two entrances from the street; possibly it was intended that each shop should have the use of one bay, but by 1363 the whole cellar was let as a wine tavern. (2) The S. range, looking on to a courtyard at the back, was used as an academic hall. It was reached by an entry between two of the shops, and consisted of a two-part hall house. To the W. was a large hall, 33 ft. by 20 ft., with an open

²⁰ C. A. R. Radford, *The Tribunal, Glastonbury, Somerset* (Ministry of Works Guide, 1953).

²¹ *Op. cit.* in note 20, pp. 124-7; *Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 80 ff. Tackley's Inn is mentioned in 1300, *Oxford City Documents*, ed. J. E. Thorold Rogers (Oxford Hist. Soc., XVIII, 1891), p. 156.

roof of three bays (constructed *c.* 1500); there is an original tall, two-light window, with a rear-arch, in the S. wall, and the entrance doors and screens-passage must have been at the E. end. E. of the hall was a two-story block, containing on each floor a large room about 21 or 25 ft. by 17 ft.; the ground-floor room would probably have served as a service-room in a normal house, but here, in an academic hall, both floors probably served as chambers to accommodate the scholars, probably four or five to a room. N. of this two-story block were a staircase and chimney-stack, the latter built or rebuilt *c.* 1465; it is not clear whether these rooms originally had fireplaces. There was probably a detached kitchen in the courtyard at the back. While the house as originally built was divided into these two parts, north and south as just described, by the middle of the fifteenth century it was evidently redivided into two parts, east and west. The W. half, consisting of the hall and three adjoining shops, with the solars above, was now an academic hall (Buckley's Hall); the E. half, consisting of the two-story block at the back, the adjoining two shops and solars, and the cellar below, was a tavern.

15. *St. Mary Hall, Oxford.*²²

This house (98-101, High Street) had originally been the manse or rectory house of St. Mary's church; it was given to Oriel College with the church in 1326 and became an academic hall. It must have closely resembled Tackley's Inn. Like that it consisted of two parallel ranges: (1) a range on the High Street, probably timber-framed, *c.* 60 ft. wide by *c.* 20 ft. deep, containing five shops, presumably with solars or chambers above; and behind this (2) a range, probably stone-built, containing the hall, looking on to a courtyard, as at Tackley's Inn. Anthony Wood speaks of the 'Old Refectory on the north side of the court' as still standing in his time (*c.* 1668).²³ There was probably a two-story block at one or both ends of the hall. The hall and courtyard were presumably reached either from the High Street by an entry between the shops (as at Tackley's Inn) or by an entry from Oriel Street on the west. The hall was replaced by a principal's house in the early eighteenth century; the shops survived, no doubt much altered, until replaced by the Rhodes Building of Oriel College in 1909-11.

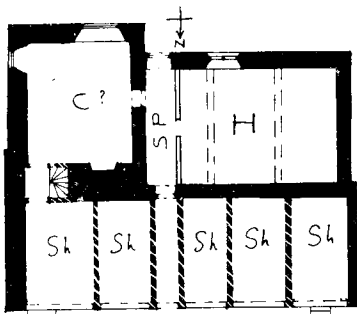
16. *Spicers' Hall, Welsh Back, Bristol* (FIG. 71).²⁴

This was the house of an important merchant family, apparently built in the fourteenth century, and situated on one of the quays. It consisted of two short ranges, parallel with the street, with a courtyard behind. The E. or street range had been entirely rebuilt except for a fine entrance doorway with a traceried and vaulted hood; it presumably consisted originally of shops or parlour below and solar or chamber above. A side-passage led to the open hall at the back; this was 32 ft. by 21 ft. (including the screens-passage), with an arch-braced collar-beam roof

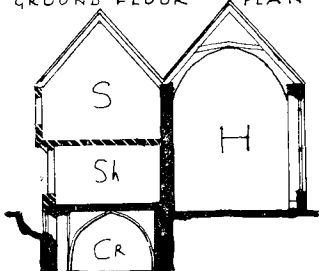
²² C. L. Shadwell and H. E. Salter, *Oriel College Records* (Oxford Hist. Soc., LXXXV, 1926), pp. 72-3, 158-163, and plan of 1814.

²³ A. Wood, *History and Antiquities of the Colleges and Halls in the University of Oxford* (ed. J. Gutch, Oxford, 1786), p. 674.

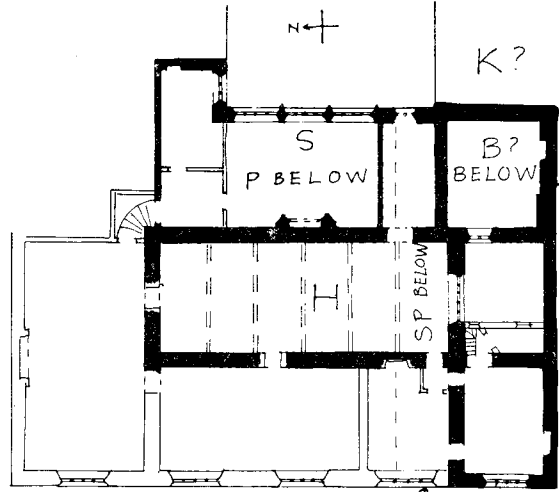
²⁴ F. T. Dollman and J. R. Jobbins, *An Analysis of Ancient Domestic Architecture . . .* (London, 1863), II, 41-2, pls. 55-6.



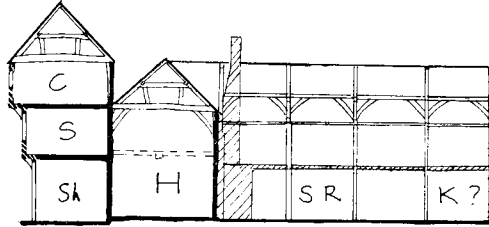
TACKLEY'S INN, OXFORD:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



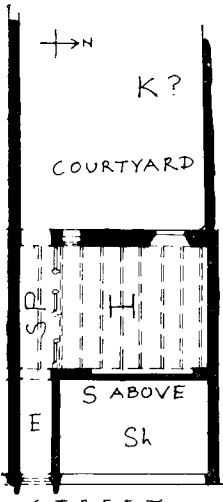
TACKLEY'S INN, OXFORD:
SECTION



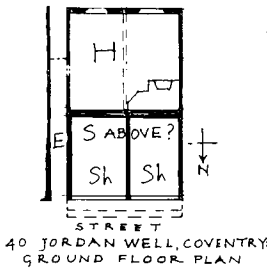
COLSTON'S HOUSE, BRISTOL:
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



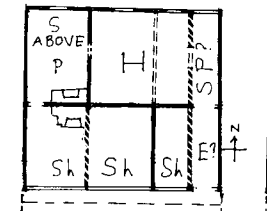
8. GOSFORD STREET, COVENTRY:
SECTION



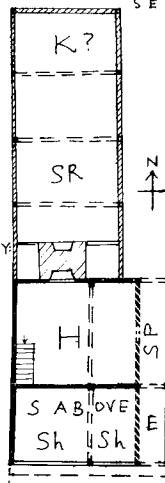
SPICER'S HALL, BRISTOL:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



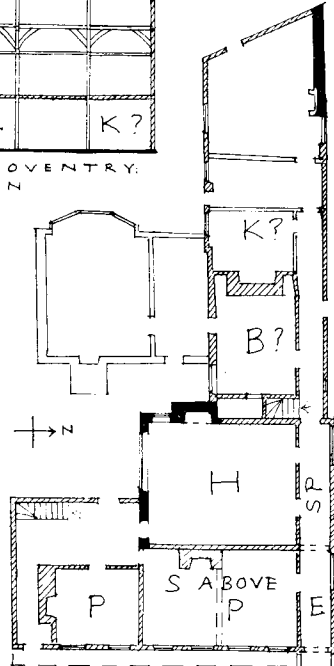
40 JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



20 JORDAN WELL, COVENTRY:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



8 GOSFORD ST, COVENTRY:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



TUDOR HOUSE, SOUTHAMPTON:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIG. 71

i. 'Parallel' type: iii. 'Double-range' plan (pp. 217 ff.)
For key see FIG. 69

of nine narrow bays.²⁵ At the S. end of the hall the screens-passage was divided off by an elaborate screen with four or five arches with traceried spandrels; adjoining this in the SW. corner of the hall was the trace of a doorway and stair leading up to a gallery over the screens-passage and thence probably to the first-floor rooms of the street range. In the W. wall of the hall was a blocked window which must originally have opened into the courtyard; but there appear to have been later buildings built up against the W. side of the hall, partly filling up the courtyard. There was a second courtyard further W. which probably formed an extension of the house, perhaps in the form of warehouses. The hall was burnt out during the air-raids of 1942. A notable feature of this plan is the placing of the hall across a comparatively narrow site; there is thus room only for the hall and screens-passage, with presumably a solar over the shops or parlour in the street range; the service-rooms and kitchen were perhaps in the courtyard at the back.

17. *Setreton's, Cornmarket, Oxford.*²⁶

This was an L-shaped house, made up of a narrow tenement abutting on the street, combined with another building at the back, parallel with the street, known as the *principalis mansio in venella*, presumably because it could be entered from an adjoining lane; the two tenements were perhaps united as early as c. 1190, certainly by 1317. (1) The front part was a typical small Oxford house, 27 ft. long by 13 ft. wide, containing a barrel-vaulted cellar (twelfth century, later widened), two small shops on the ground floor, and solar above. (2) The back part, the *principalis mansio*, 27 ft. long by 13 ft. wide, probably contained an open hall with a chamber at the S. end and an unvaulted cellar below; there was a garden at the back, with a brewhouse. This is an example of the double-range plan artificially formed at an early stage by throwing two tenements together.

18. *Southern part of Marshall's Inn, Cornmarket, Oxford* (FIG. 72).²⁷

This house is described in a lease of 1382; it was probably timber-framed, and consisted of two parts. The street range contained three shops, with a solar above, 23¾ ft. by 19½ ft.; behind this was a diminutive hall, 8½ ft. by 15½ ft., presumably reached through one of the shops, or by an entry, or from the courtyard of the adjoining house. This house is interesting as representing the double-range plan with shops and solar in front and hall behind, reduced to its smallest size. It is really a piece temporarily carved out of Marshall's Inn; this southern portion and the larger northern portion (cf. no. 24) had been united in the early fourteenth century, and were re-united by 1550, if not earlier.

19. *Nos. 20-1, Jordan Well, Coventry* (FIG. 71).²⁸

This is a timber-framed house of the fifteenth century, consisting of two

²⁵ The ends of the arch-braces rested on foliated capitals of Early English type, apparently the remains of an earlier hall.

²⁶ *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958), 106 ff., fig. 36.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 85, fig. 26; *Cartulary of Oseney Abbey*, ed. H. E. Salter (Oxford Hist. Soc., lxxxix, 1929), I, 46.

²⁸ Plans and drawing of this house and of nos. 20 and 21 by Mr. S. R. Jones are in the National Buildings Record.

ranges parallel to the street. (1) The street range is of three bays, three stories high, with projecting upper stories, 33 ft. long by 13 ft. deep (on ground floor) increasing to 17 ft. deep (top floor). (2) At the back is the hall range, 33 ft. by 16 ft., of three bays. The two eastern bays apparently formed an open hall, with arch-braced tie-beam trusses; the third, western bay seems to have had a transverse gabled roof, and perhaps formed a two-story solar block (as at Tackley's Inn). There was presumably an entry and screens-passage running through the house, but it is not clear whether this was at the E. end or at the W. of the hall, adjoining the solar block (as at Tackley's Inn). The ground floor of the front range no doubt contained shops; the rooms above may have gone with the shops, forming separate dwellings (as at Tackley's Inn), or they may have served as chambers belonging to the hall at the back.

20. *No. 40, Jordan Well, Coventry* (FIG. 71).

This is a timber-framed house of the fifteenth century, consisting of two ranges parallel to the street. (1) The street range has been rebuilt, but may be conjectured to have been of two bays, three stories high with projecting upper stories 19 ft. long by 14 ft. deep (ground floor). (2) At the back is the hall range, 19 ft. by 17 ft., with a roof of two bays, with arch-braced tie-beam and queen-post trusses; it is not clear whether the hall occupied both bays, or only the western bay, leaving the eastern bay as a two-storied solar block. The original access to the hall was perhaps, as now, by a side passage outside the framework of the house. The ground floor of the street range was no doubt occupied by shops, with chambers above; and the solar would have been here, if the hall occupied the whole of the back range.

21. *No. 8, Gosford Street, Coventry* (FIG. 71).

This is a timber-framed house of the fifteenth century, consisting of two ranges parallel to the street and a third range behind at right angles. (1) The street range is of two bays, 25 ft. long by (probably) 13 ft. deep on ground floor, three stories high, with presumably projecting upper stories; this no doubt contained shops on the ground floor and solar and chambers above. (2) Behind this was an open hall, 25 ft. by 17 ft., going up the height of two stories, with an open roof of two bays, with arch-braced tie-beam and queen-post trusses; it is now divided by an inserted floor. A carriageway now runs through both the street range and the hall range at the E. end; there was probably always an entry and screens-passage in this position, but probably originally narrower. At the other end of the hall were traces of a stair going up to the upper floors of the street range, so the latter evidently belonged to the main house at the back, and were not let separately with the shops. (3) Behind the hall, at right angles, flanking a narrow courtyard, runs a two-story range of four bays, 45 ft. by 17 ft., later converted into cottages; the upper story does not project. It is not clear whether this range was part of the original plan or an addition—probably the latter. It probably contained service-rooms on the ground floor and chambers above.

22. *Colston's House, Small Street, Bristol* (FIG. 71).²⁹

This was a stone-built house of the fifteenth century, consisting of three ranges parallel with the street. (1) The westernmost range, on the street, seems to have been rebuilt or refronted *c.* 1600, except perhaps for the S. end; it probably consisted originally, as in its rebuilt state, of two stories and cocklofts, with shops on the ground floor and chambers above; the large room at the N. end may represent a later extension. (2) The middle range consisted of an open hall, 48½ ft. by 18½ ft., with a fine hammer-beam roof of six bays; this was lit by a large five-light arched window at the S. end, and perhaps also originally by a similar window at the N. end. The screens-passage was apparently at the S. end of the hall, forming the central portion of a long passage threading through all three ranges from the street on the W. to the courtyard on the E. (3) The easternmost range, opening on to the courtyard, was of two stories, containing on each floor a large room, about 25 ft. by 18 ft., with a small projection at the NE. corner. These two rooms probably constituted the main parlour and (above) the solar or great chamber of the house; they each had a monumental fireplace, and were lit by two continuous ranges of windows, forming a very carefully designed façade towards the courtyard. The kitchen and offices were probably contained in a S. wing projecting into the courtyard. Except for a fragment, the house was demolished in the nineteenth century, but some good drawings of the street and courtyard fronts and of the hall interior and a first-floor plan and some measured drawings make possible a tolerable reconstruction of what must have been one of the finest merchant's houses of the period.

23. *Tudor House, Southampton* (FIG. 71).³⁰

This house somewhat resembles Colston's House, Bristol, in that it is three ranges deep, with the hall in the middle range, lit from one end. It differs, however, in that the back range is at right angles to the two front ranges. Most of the existing house seems to represent a rebuilding of the early sixteenth century, but the S. end of the hall seems to contain some fifteenth-century work, and there is a fourteenth-century cellar under this end of the hall, as well as a garderobe shaft at the NW. corner of the hall. It seems probable that the medieval house followed much the same plan as the existing house, with the hall in its present position, and the street range containing shops with a solar above; the early history of the back wing, running along Blue Anchor Lane, which later became a service-wing, seems more uncertain. The early sixteenth-century house seems to have been laid out on the following plan: (1) The front two-storied range parallel with the street contains two rooms, no doubt serving as parlours, and probably replacing medieval shops. This change from the shops to parlour can be paralleled at the Golden Cross and the Star inns at Oxford. At the N. end of the range is a passage-way leading through to the screens-passage of the hall at the back. The upper floor of the street range would have contained the principal chambers,

²⁹ *Op. cit.* in note 24, II, 45-6; drawings by H. O'Neill and T. L. Rowbotham in the Braikenridge collection, City Art Gallery, Bristol (M. 2464-6); cf. also *op. cit.* in note 1.

³⁰ P. S. Peberdy, *Tudor House Museum* (Southampton Museums publication, no. 1, 1957).

corresponding to the medieval solar; these were probably always approached by a stair at the SE. corner of the hall, in the position of the existing later stair. (2) At the back is the hall, with a large stone-mullioned window nearly filling the S. wall and a smaller window and fireplace in the W. wall; the screens-passage is at the N. end. The medieval hall no doubt had an open roof; when the hall was rebuilt in the early sixteenth century, it was given a flat panelled ceiling, with attics above. (3) The range running out at right angles at the back, as reconstructed in the early sixteenth century, probably contained on the ground floor a buttery and beyond that a kitchen and outbuildings; on the first floor are two secondary chambers, reached by a staircase at the W. end of the screens-passage. A SW. wing was added in the eighteenth century.

IV. 'COURTYARD' PLAN

24. *Northern part of Marshall's Inn, Cornmarket, Oxford* (FIG. 72).³¹

This was a timber-framed house, roofed with stone slates, built round a courtyard, as described in a lease of 1380. The street range contained two shops with an entry between, and two chambers on the first floor; these were reached by two stair-turrets behind, with an 'alure' or gallery between them; the turrets and the gallery were covered with lead. Across the back of the courtyard, to the west, lay the hall range, having on the ground floor the hall and a 'dispenche'. The hall was entered by an 'oriole' or porch, and the screens-passage was presumably at the S. end of the hall, giving access to the buildings and garden beyond. On the first floor of the hall range was the 'great chamber', extending across the full width of the tenement from north to south. N. of the courtyard, over a cellar, was the 'middle solar', probably communicating with the N. end of the hall. S. of the courtyard, perhaps entered from the hall porch, were two more chambers. W. of the hall, towards the garden, were more chambers and a brewhouse, and presumably the kitchen and stables, though these are not mentioned. By 1406 the house was being used as an inn.

25. *House at Bucklersbury, London* (FIG. 72).³²

This is the reconstruction of a house, based on a building contract of 1405. The house was to be timber-framed, and built round a courtyard. To the north was a street range containing on the ground floor an entry, a 'sotelhouse' (possibly a showroom), and a shop, 22 ft. by 18 ft. (large as medieval shops went); there was a cellar below, and two stories above containing a parlour and chambers. At the back of the courtyard to the S. lay the main part of the house, the hall range; this contained on the ground floor a warehouse (with a cellar below), a large latrine pit (16 ft. by 10 ft.), a wood house and a stable. E. of the courtyard an open stair, with an 'oriel' (or balcony) at the top, led up to the hall at first-floor level; this was 33 ft. by 20 ft., with an open roof of two bays, and a bay window

³¹ *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958), 85, fig. 26; Salter, *op. cit.* in note 27, 1, 45-6. On the plan (FIG. 72) I have suggested a lateral fireplace in the hall, as it had another room above it; the fireplaces indicated in the 'middle solar' and the chamber opposite are more conjectural.

³² L. F. Salzman, *Building in England down to 1540* (Oxford, 1952), pp. 478-82; cf. also *op. cit.* in note 1.

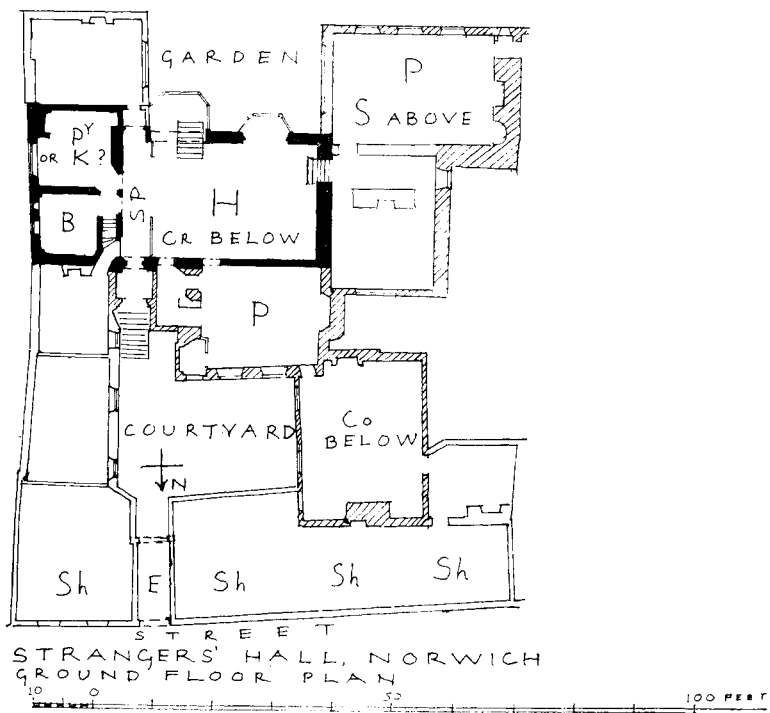
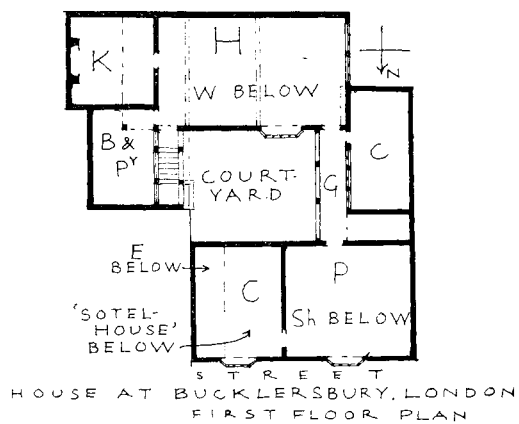
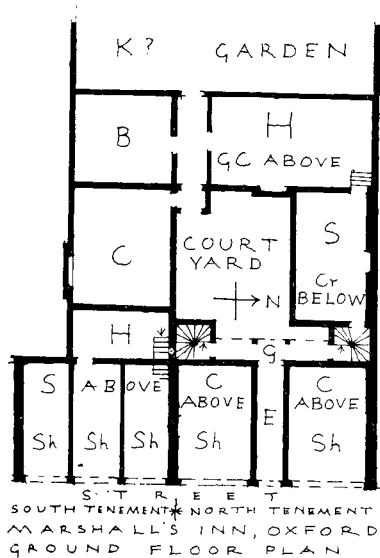


FIG. 72

i. 'Parallel' type; iv. 'Courtyard' plan (pp. 223 ff.)
For key see fig. 69

into the courtyard. At the E. end of the hall was the screens-passage, from which opened the kitchen, buttery and pantry; above were two chambers, one over the buttery and pantry, the other over the screens-passage and part of the kitchen, leaving the other part of the kitchen going up to the roof. From the NW. corner of the hall a door led into a 'tresauce' or gallery running along the W. side of the courtyard and giving access to chambers in the W. range and to the parlour and chambers in the E. range; the principal chamber was on the second floor of the W. range. We cannot be certain that the building was actually erected, but it is an interesting example of an elaborate plan combining a fairly large merchant's residence with a shop, warehouse and cellars for storage, to be erected by the landlord, the dean and chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral, presumably for letting; it may be compared with Hampton Court, King's Lynn (no. 35) and Browne's Place, London,³³ and further afield, with the combined merchants' houses and warehouses of the Hanseatic towns.

26. *Strangers' Hall, Norwich* (FIG. 72).³⁴

A late thirteenth-century vaulted cellar indicates that the earlier house on this site (built by Ralph de Middilton) had its hall running at right angles to the street. When the house was rebuilt *c.* 1450 by William Barley, the position of the hall was turned round, so that the hall range now runs E.-W., parallel to the street, between a courtyard in front and a garden behind. The stone-built hall range represents a two-part plan. The hall, being raised up on the earlier cellar, is approached from the courtyard by a flight of steps. It is 34 ft. by 19½ ft., with an open roof (rebuilt *c.* 1530) of two bays, divided by a king-post truss; there is a blocked window high up in the N. wall, and a bay window in the S. wall was added *c.* 1530 by Nicholas Sotherton. Two arched doorways at the E. end, opening off the screens-passage, led into service-rooms, either buttery and pantry with a detached kitchen perhaps to the south, or buttery and kitchen. Above the service-rooms was the original solar. The present staircase and gallery over the screens-passage were added in 1627. To this original fifteenth-century two-part nucleus various additions were made. About 1500 Thomas Cause converted the house into a three-part plan by adding a block at the west or dais end of the hall; this has an undercroft, 42 ft. by 17 ft., with two transverse brick-moulded four-centred arches, and a projection in the SW. corner containing a garderobe shaft. The upper floors probably followed the same plan, with a parlour or parlours on the ground floor and a new solar or great chamber on the first floor; but the block was remodelled in the seventeenth century and again in the eighteenth. Another block was added in the seventeenth century at the SE. corner of the hall, adjoining the service-rooms. A third block, containing a parlour and a chamber above, was built on to the N. side of the hall; there was probably a smaller room on this site from an early date, since it covers that part of the late thirteenth-century cellar which projects into the courtyard. The ground-floor room

³³ *Archaeologia*, LXXIV (1923-4) 137 ff.

³⁴ *Guide to the Strangers' Hall* (Norwich Museums Committee, 1956), *passim*; *Archaeol. J.*, LXXX (1923), 331-3; *id.*, CVI (1949), 80. The plans of this house and of no. 37 are reproduced by permission of the Norwich Museums Committee.

on the W. side of the courtyard is said to have been Nicholas Sotherton's counting-house. The courtyard is approached from the street through an archway in the N. range, the ground floor of which was probably always occupied by shops, with solars above; in one of the first-floor rooms are traces of a fifteenth-century wall-painting.

27. *Courtenay House, Exeter* (FIG. 73).³⁵

This was a prebendal house in the fifteenth century, but was used as the town house of the Courtenay family from the late seventeenth century until 1813, when it was acquired by the Devon and Exeter Institution; since then it has been almost entirely reconstructed, except for the back range and for the lower part of the front wall. A plan of 1764, however, enables us to reconstruct the medieval house, which is a good example of a large town house, with the hall lying between the two courtyards, and a garden beyond. The two-story street (W.) range had a gateway at the N. end; the rest of the range probably contained lodgings, though the first floor may have served as an extension to the private apartments, since it was connected with the solar by a two-story passage or gallery running along the S. side of the courtyard. Behind the street range lay the main courtyard, and behind this the hall range, the main part of the house. In the centre of this range was the hall, 30 ft. by 24 ft., with a screens-passage at the N. end; it presumably had an open roof of, say, three bays. At the S. end of the hall lay a two-story block containing, above an undercroft or cellar, what must have been the solar; this was approached by a large staircase (perhaps representing a rebuilding of the late sixteenth century) opening off the E. side of the hall. At the other end of the hall, opening off the screens-passage, were two doors; one led into a ground-floor room, presumably the buttery (the steward's parlour of 1764); the other led to a straight flight of stairs leading to the chamber above. This range is a typical orthodox three-part hall house, untrammelled by any lack of space. Behind the hall range lay the second court, and beyond this the back range looking on to the garden. The N. end of the ground floor of this range was occupied in 1764 by a brewhouse and kitchen, probably in their original positions, and the S. end by two parlours, one of which had a large bay window looking on to the garden. The upper floor may have served as lodgings or as private apartments. A pentice connected the screens-passage with the kitchen door, and N. of this, across the N. end of the back court, was a cellar, with presumably a room above, linking the hall range with the back range. The back range seems to have been remodelled in the sixteenth century. Between the back range and the garden there seems to have been a ditch, crossed by a footbridge and abutted on by a privy.

28. *Suckling's House, Norwich* (FIG. 73).³⁶

This is a large house of the late fourteenth century, bounded by two streets, St. Andrew's Hall Plain on the north, and St. Andrew's Hill on the west. The

³⁵ E. Lega Weeks, *Some studies in the topography of Exeter Cathedral Close* (1915) pp. 174 ff.; *Archaeol. J.*, cxiv (1957), 178; the plan of 1764 is Exeter Dean and Chapter MSS. 6001/6/26.

³⁶ F. R. Beechono, 'The Suckling's House at Norwich,' *Norfolk Archaeol.*, xix (1917), 197 ff.; *id.*, xx (1920), 158 ff. (inventory of 1589).

house consisted of a street range to the N.; a courtyard; a hall with a two-story range at the W. end; and a second courtyard or garden to the S. Of these there now remain the fourteenth-century hall and a vaulted undercroft in the W. range; these, together with an inventory of 1589, make possible a conjectural restoration of the complete plan, as follows:

1. Fronting on to St. Andrew's Hall Plain was the N. or street range, probably containing the 'counting-house parlour' and the 'warehouse' mentioned in 1589, with chambers above. Either in this range, or round the corner in St. Andrew's Hill, was the main gateway, leading to a wooden pentice (part of which survives), running along the W. side of the courtyard and leading to the screens-passage of the hall.

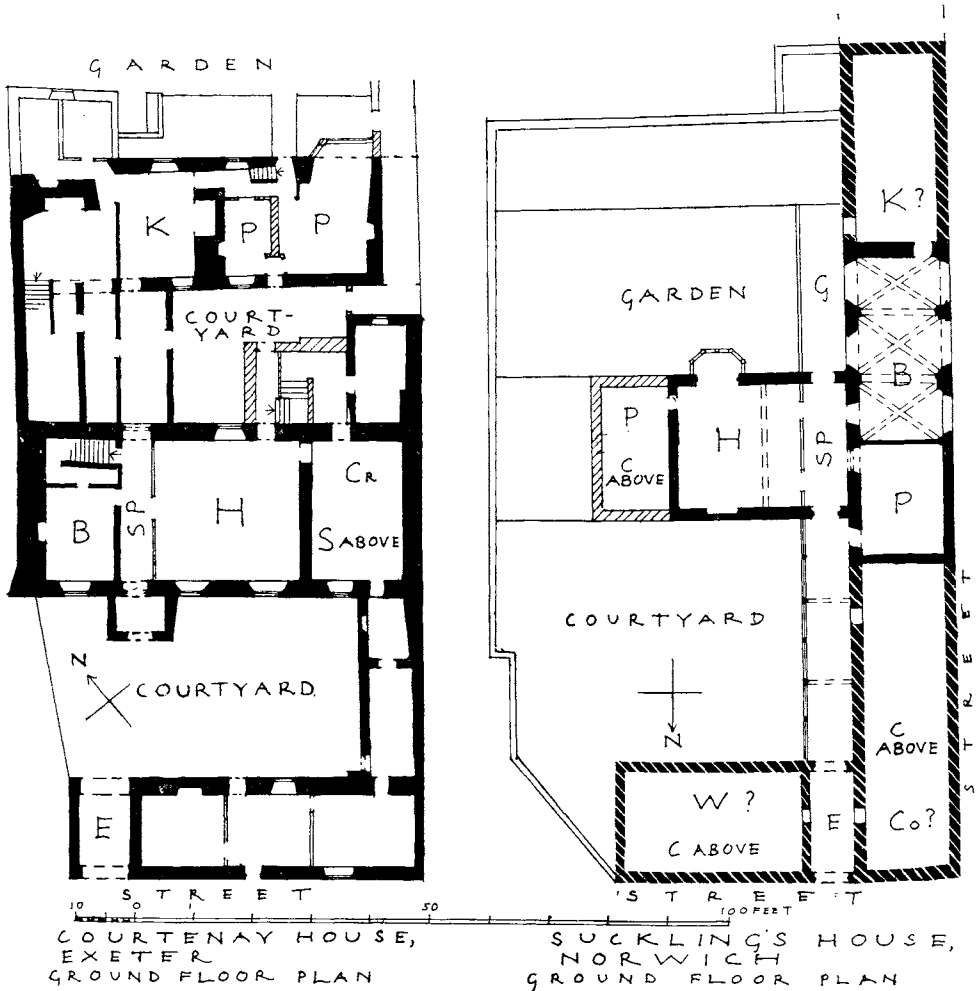


FIG. 73

i. 'Parallel' type: iv. 'Courtyard' plan (pp. 226 ff.)
For key see FIG. 69

2. The main range containing the hall runs E.-W., i.e. parallel to St. Andrew's Hall Plain and at right angles to St. Andrew's Hill, so that this house could be counted as belonging to either type of plan. This range was perhaps originally of two parts: (a) the hall, still existing, 28 ft. by 21 ft., has an open roof of two bays, with a fireplace in the N. wall and a late perpendicular oriel inserted in the S. wall; the screens-passage was at the W. end, where there are two doors leading to service-rooms; (b) at the W. end of the hall was a two-story range, containing on the ground floor three vaulted bays, still existing, which probably formed a buttery or cellar, the kitchen perhaps being beyond to the south; the northern half of the ground floor (now replaced by an eighteenth-century brick house) was perhaps originally another service-room and was probably the 'great parlour' in 1589. On the first floor of this W. range was apparently the 'great chamber' in 1589; this probably represented the original solar (i.e. over the service-rooms). There was an eastern extension of the hall range, probably containing the 'little parlour' and a buttery in 1589; this was probably an addition, making the original two-part plan into a three-part one, but still leaving the solar or great chamber at the service-end of the hall. To the S. of the hall was a second courtyard or garden, along the W. side of which, flanking the service-range and kitchen, ran a pentice with an upper story, described as the 'gallery next the garden' in 1589.

29. *The Nag's Head, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury*.³⁷

This consisted of a timber-framed two-part hall range, 48 ft. long by 22 ft. wide, running E.-W., parallel to the street, and lying at the back (or N. side) of a courtyard. The western half of the range consisted of an open hall, about 24 ft. by 22 ft., of two bays. East of this was a screens-passage, about 6 ft. wide, and east of this again a service-room (later rebuilt), about 18 ft. by 22 ft. A staircase led from the service-room to a lobby over the screens-passage, from which there was access to a solar over the service-room. The hall was divided from the screens-passage and the lobby above by a fine spere-truss, with cusped arch-bracing; this seems to be early fifteenth century. The W. end of the hall was built against the town wall. The courtyard was entered from the street by a narrow entry; the buildings round it had been rebuilt in post-medieval times, and what was perhaps originally a garden beyond the hall had also been built up. The medieval house has mostly been demolished except for a fragment containing the screens-passage.

II. THE 'RIGHT-ANGLE' TYPE

i. 'NARROW' PLAN

30. *Leche House, Watergate Street, Chester* (FIG. 74).³⁸

This is a timber-framed three-part house of the fifteenth century, situated in one of the Chester 'Rows'. As is usual in the Rows, the 'ground floor' is raised

³⁷ Photograph in National Buildings Record, and plan by Mr. J. T. Smith.

³⁸ *J. Chester and North Wales Archaeol. and Hist. Soc.*, no. 3, XXI (1914), 5 ff.; *J. Chester Archaeol. Soc.*, XLV (1958), 21; cf. also *op. cit.* in note 1.

up on a cellar, which in this case is not vaulted. The front part was originally of two stories; it contains on the 'ground floor' a portion of the Row and behind this a shop; above is the solar, 24 ft. by $19\frac{1}{2}$ ft., having originally an open hammer-beam roof of two bays; about 1700 a floor was inserted, making an attic above the first floor, and the front modernized. Behind this is the hall, 24 ft. by $19\frac{1}{2}$ ft., with an open hammer-beam roof of two bays; it was originally heated by a central hearth (of which the hearth-stone has been found), but an early sixteenth-century fireplace has been inserted on the E. side, and about 1600 an elaborate plaster overmantel was added and the roof partly covered in with plasterwork. Behind the hall is a two-story block, containing on the ground floor a screens-passage, $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, entered from the side passage, and beyond this a service-room (or parlour or counting-house); above is a narrow room (perhaps an ante-room) over the screens-passage, and a chamber, 20 ft. by $19\frac{1}{2}$ ft., with an open roof of two bays, over the service-room. There is a long side passage, 4 ft. wide, running along the W. side of the house, the space being taken out of the shop, hall and service-room, so that the top of this passage would have constituted a gallery connecting the solar with the first-floor back chamber. The passage would have provided the normal entrance to the hall, and a way through to the courtyard at the back. It is not clear where the original stairs from the ground floor to the first floor were; they now lead up into the back chamber from the screens-passage. The hall, which is now lit by dormer windows, was probably originally lit by windows in the side walls, opening on to the space behind the neighbouring houses; this implies that the house was always longer than its neighbours. Projecting from the back of the house, and flanking a small courtyard, are a small two-story wing on the SE. and a two-story gallery on the SW. which would formerly have connected the main house with a separate rear-building beyond the courtyard. The kitchen was perhaps always at the rear of the courtyard. The gallery seems to be an addition or rebuilding of *c.* 1600, and the rear-building may have been rebuilt or enlarged about this time. The dining-room mentioned in an inventory of 1640 may have been on the first floor of the rear-building, above the kitchen. The rear-building was entirely rebuilt as a separate house (called Lion House) in the eighteenth century.

31. *No. 36, North Street, Exeter* (FIG. 74).³⁹

This is a fifteenth-century or early sixteenth-century three-part open hall house, with stone-built side walls and timber-framed cross partitions. The front part, about $22\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 18 ft., containing a shop and two stories above, has been rebuilt in the eighteenth century. It is clear from traces in the N. wall that it always consisted of three stories, the upper ones projecting, with a shop below, a solar above that, and a chamber on top. Behind this is the hall, about 22 ft. by 21 ft., originally open to the roof, but now floored over; it has an arch-braced collar-beam roof of three bays and an original fireplace on the N. side, and was

³⁹ The Guildhall at Exeter belongs to the same type as this house and no. 32, having a hall filling the width of the site at the back, and a mayor's parlour on the first floor in front, corresponding to a solar. For 36, North Street, cf. also *op. cit.* in note 1.

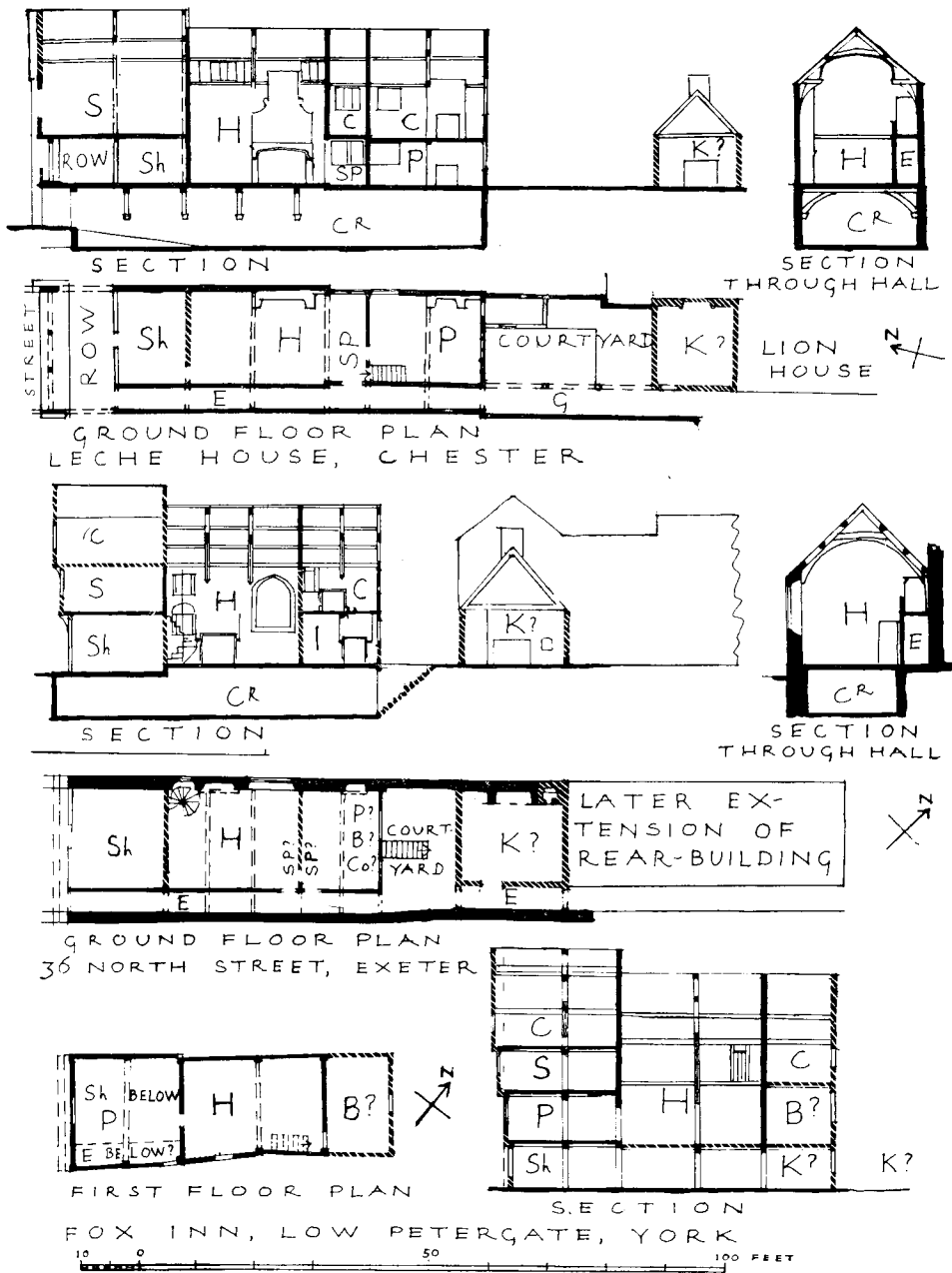


FIG. 74

ii. 'Right-angle' type: i. 'Narrow' plan (pp. 228 ff.)
 For key see FIG. 69

probably lit on the N. side by a window giving on to the adjacent alley. Behind the hall is a two-story block, $15\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 21 ft., the upper room having an open roof of two bays; both stories had medieval fireplaces and were lit from a small courtyard at the back. The ground floor was later extended a little into the courtyard. The floor level of the hall and back room was originally a few feet above that of the shop, but was later lowered to the same level. All along the S. side of the house is a long passage, 4 ft. wide, taken out of the width of the shop, hall and ground-floor back room, so that the top of this passage would have formed a kind of gallery along the S. side of the hall. Presumably the hall was entered from this passage; to judge from analogies elsewhere, it was probably at the E. end, farthest away from the street. If so, the western bay of the ground floor at this end may have formed the screens-passage, with the eastern bay as a small service-room (or parlour or counting-house) and perhaps with the kitchen in the courtyard beyond. The upper room at the street end would thus have been the solar, and the upper room at the other end, over the screens-passage and service-room, would have been a secondary chamber. In the NW. corner of the hall is a semi-circular recess, which may have housed the stair leading to the solar. There is a cellar extending the full length from the street to the courtyard, but not extending under the passage. Beyond the courtyard is a second building, a range 66 ft. long, probably added or rebuilt in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries on the site of the medieval kitchen.

32. *No. 38, North Street, Exeter.*

This is a three-part hall house, at right angles to the street, with stone side walls and timber-framed cross partitions, of the fifteenth or early sixteenth century. The front part, containing a shop and two upper stories, has been partly rebuilt with the face set back from the street in recent times; but the original stone party-wall, with projecting upper stories, survives, and shows the original extent of the front part, which evidently always had two stories above the shop. This part was 25 ft. wide by *c.* 13 ft. deep, increasing to 16 ft. deep on the top floor. Behind this is the hall, 27 ft. by 25 ft. wide, now partly divided by a gallery but originally open; it has an arch-braced collar-beam roof of three bays, now partly concealed. There is an arched window in the E. bay on the N. side, getting light from an adjacent alley. At the back, giving on to a courtyard, is a two-story block of two bays. All along the S. side of the house is a passage-way, 4 ft. wide, taken out of the width of the shop, hall and back room, so that the top of the passage would have formed a gallery along the S. side of the hall, as in no. 36, North Street (no. 31). Owing to the rise of ground level from W. to E. the hall floor is 2 ft. above the shop, and the back room 2 ft. above the hall. On analogy with other examples the hall probably had its entrance at its E. end, being entered from the side passage, and its screens-passage would either be included in the hall, or taken out of the back room, the rest being perhaps a buttery. In the courtyard at the back is a room, *c.* 18 ft. by 14 ft., which may represent the original kitchen. The first-floor room over the shop would presumably have been the original solar.

33. *Canynge's House, Redcliffe Street, Bristol.*⁴⁰

This was a fifteenth-century stone-built house, probably built either by the celebrated William Canynge (the builder of St. Mary Redcliffe church) or his father John Canynge, not later than *c.* 1455, to judge from the floor-tiles. It survived until 1937, when it was demolished for street widening (!). The front part of the house, towards the street, seems to have been rebuilt in modern times; it no doubt originally contained a shop, or parlour, or service-room on the ground floor, with chambers above. Behind this, reached by an entry, was the hall, *c.* 33 ft. long by 22 ft. wide, lying at right angles to the street; it had an elaborate roof of four bays, with cusped arch-braced collar-beam trusses and a louvre, implying a central hearth. In the N. wall of the hall were two large arches which may have represented blocked window-openings, or possibly openings into an aisle; in the S. wall was a single large arch, perhaps also for a window, and a doorway which apparently led to a staircase and to rooms adjoining the hall on this side. The hall probably had its entrance from the side passage towards the E. end and the service-rooms were perhaps to the S. of the hall or in the courtyard to the west. Early nineteenth-century views show a long passage, a continuation of the entry, running along the S. side of the hall, from which it was cut off by a wooden partition, with a gallery above, and this may well represent the original arrangement; compare the similar passage contained within the width of the hall in houses at Exeter and Chester (nos. 30-32). At the W. end of the hall was a room, *c.* 18½ ft. by 12½ ft., with a fine pavement of encaustic tiles of *c.* 1455-60 (now in the British Museum); it must have been a room of some consequence, probably the principal parlour. It was flanked on the S. by a continuation of the passage, leading to a courtyard beyond. Above the parlour and passage was a first-floor room, probably the solar. W. of the courtyard just mentioned was a passage with perpendicular arches at both ends, leading to a second courtyard. Beyond this, and looking on to the Redcliffe Back and the river Avon, was originally a tower, built by William Canynge, described by William Worcester as having four bay windows—whether arranged vertically in four stories or horizontally is not specified. The western part of this very long tenement, stretching from Redcliffe Street to the river, may have included warehouses.

34. *The Fox Inn, Low Petergate, York* (FIG. 74).

This was a fifteenth-century timber-framed house, recently demolished. In its original plan it was a three-part house, with a particularly interesting feature—a first-floor hall, at right angles to the street and occupying the full width of the tenement. (1) The front or street block, about 17½ ft. square, was four stories high, the top story having an open roof; it was of two bays. The front wall had been rebuilt in the eighteenth century; the upper stories had no doubt been originally jettied. Probably the ground floor contained a shop and a side

⁴⁰ *Op. cit.* in note 24, II, 45-6, pls. 61-4; drawings by H. O'Neill in the Braikenridge collection, City Art Gallery, Bristol (M 2047, 2049, 2051, 2052); *J. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, 3 ser. XIV (1951), 33 ff.; *Itineraria Symonis Simeonis et Willelmi de Worcestre* (ed. J. Nasmith, Cambridge, 1778), p. 264; Reece Winstone, *Bristol as it was 1914-1900* (Bristol, 1957), pls. 105-6; *id.*, *Bristol as it was 1939-1914* (Bristol, 1958), p. 23; photographs in the National Buildings Record; cf. also *op. cit.* in note 1.

passage leading to the hall behind, with a solar and chambers above. (2) Behind this was a block containing the first-floor hall, which was 24 ft. by 17 ft., and 18 ft. high to the wall plate; it had an open roof of two bays, divided by an arch-braced tie-beam truss; there was an original window high up on the NW. side. (3) The timber-framing showed the existence of at least one bay beyond the hall; this was probably a service-block, three stories high. It was destroyed during a remodelling in the early seventeenth century, when a chimney-stack was inserted in the NW. bay of the hall, and the service-block rebuilt. There was no indication of the original stairs, either in the front or the back; but there was presumably some way up to the hall from the entry passage on the ground floor.

ii. 'BROAD' PLAN

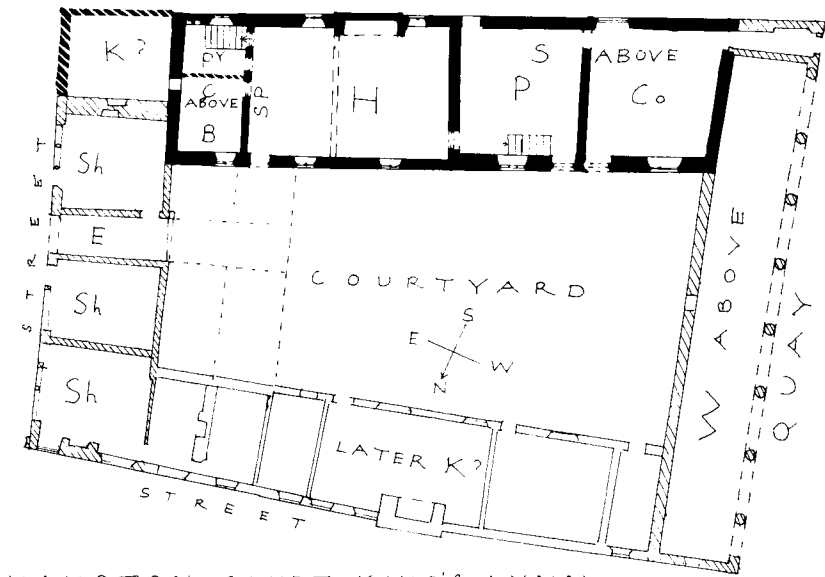
35. *Hampton Court, King's Lynn* (FIG. 75).⁴¹

This is a good example of a large merchant's house combined with a warehouse at the back and shops in front. It now forms a large quadrangle, *c.* 90 ft. long by *c.* 40 ft. wide internally, but it is possible that the original tenement was comparatively narrower, housing the S. range only, and that it was later added to by taking in adjoining tenements to the north. Recent restoration work has shown that the S. range formed a fourteenth-century hall house of three parts, built of stone and brick, running at right angles to the street; it is probably the finest surviving specimen of a medieval house in King's Lynn. The hall, 35 ft. by 22 ft., has an open roof of two bays, divided by a tie-beam and king-post truss, filled in with a large number of crossed scissor-braces, giving the effect of lattice-work. There is a fireplace, apparently original, in the S. wall; two windows are traceable in the S. wall, and there are three arched doorways, two leading to small service-rooms (buttery and pantry) and the third to a stair up to the chamber above the service-rooms. The original kitchen was perhaps beyond, abutting on the street, in the SE. angle of the courtyard, but this part was later rebuilt. W. of the hall is a two-story solar block. The ground floor is divided into two rooms, the eastern communicating by an arched doorway with the hall, and perhaps serving as a parlour, while the western one has an external arched doorway, and perhaps served as a counting-house, being close to the adjoining warehouse and quay. Above the two rooms was a large solar, *c.* 44 ft. by 22 ft., with an open king-post roof of three bays; there is a quatrefoil window in the S. wall, but there is no trace of an original fireplace, the present chimney-stack being a later insertion.

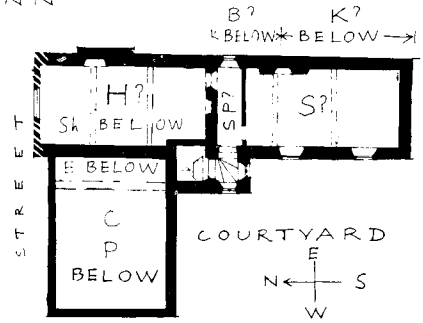
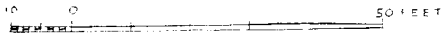
On the W. side of the courtyard, abutting on the solar block, is a long two-story range, added probably *c.* 1500; the lower story had an open arcade of eight bays towards the adjacent quay, and was no doubt intended for receiving merchandize, while the upper story was probably a warehouse. In the eighteenth century the arcade was filled in and the range converted into dwellings.

There were perhaps always shops on the eastern or street side but the existing two-story street range was built early in the sixteenth century. The ground floor

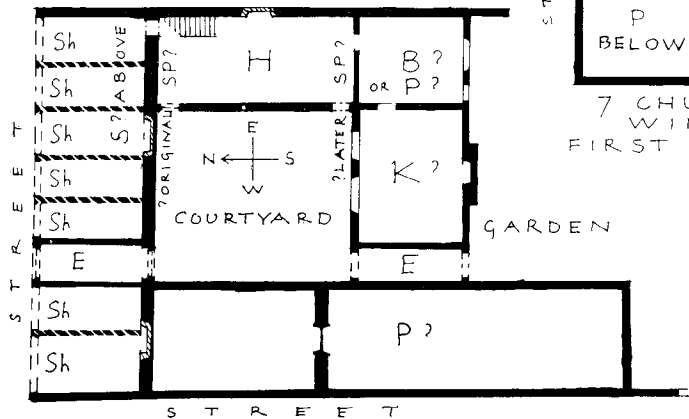
⁴¹ Cf. *op. cit.* in note 1.



HAMPTON COURT, KING'S LYNN
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



7 CHURCH STREET,
WINCANTON
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



STODLEY'S INN, OXFORD GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIG. 75
ii. 'Right-angle' type: ii. 'Broad' plan (pp. 233 ff., 238 f.)
For key see fig. 69

has traces of the original shop windows; the upper floor may have constituted a series of solars let with the shops below, or may have been lodgings belonging to the main house.

The N. side of the courtyard was built or rebuilt in the seventeenth century; it served as domestic offices and has a large brick chimney-stack on the outside. About the same time an inner range was inserted on the E. side, encroaching on the courtyard; this has now been removed. By the early sixteenth century the whole quadrangle formed one great house, except for the shops on the street front; in the eighteenth century all four ranges, including the hall and solar, were converted into cottages, and floors and partitions and new windows inserted throughout, so that the medieval character was more or less concealed. The building has recently been well restored by the King's Lynn Preservation Trust.

36. *Stodley's Inn, Oxford* (FIG. 75).⁴²

This was a house on the S. side of the High Street (now represented by nos. 120-2). It takes its name from the Stodley family, who may have built it in the early or middle fourteenth century; it belonged to John de Stodley *c.* 1356, and probably before him to Henry de Stodley (d. 1346). Like the Golden Cross, it became the property of Robert Tresilian, was forfeited to the Crown, and was given to New College at its foundation. It was demolished in the middle of the nineteenth century, and a bank built on the site; but surviving plans enable us to reconstruct its layout. The house was built round a courtyard. The N. or street range contained seven shops on the ground floor, with presumably solars or chambers above. Two fireplaces are indicated on one plan in the S. wall of the street range; this may mean that the medieval shops were later turned into parlours, as happened for instance at the Golden Cross and the Clarendon (Star Inn). An entry between two of the shops, with an archway at either end, led from the street into the courtyard. On the E. side of the courtyard, at right angles to the street, was a long narrow building, about 33 ft. by 15 ft., which was probably the hall; at the NE. corner of this was a stair, which presumably led up to a solar above the shops, and in the NW. corner was an arched doorway into the courtyard. There was a fireplace in the E. wall of the hall, probably a later insertion. From an analogy with other houses of this type, and from the fact that the shops left no room for service-rooms in the N. range, one would expect the screens-passage and service-rooms to have been at the S. end of the hall, farthest from the street; and it may be that the room shown with a large chimney-stack on the S. side of the courtyard was the kitchen, and the adjoining room at the S. end of the hall may have been a buttery. It is possible, however, that the house had originally a two-part plan, consisting simply of the hall and of the street range (with shops below and a solar above), the screens-passage being then at the N. end of the

⁴² H. E. Salter, *Survey of Oxford* (Oxford Hist. Soc., n.s. xiv, 1960), I, 176 ff., 217; and the following plans (or tracings) in the Bodleian Library: MSS. Top. Oxon. c. 464 (*c.* 1650), b. 247 (*c.* 1674), c. 468 (*c.* 1800?); MS. G. A. Oxon. a. 41, fo. 19 (1847). The New College bailiff's rolls record building works and repairs at Stodley's Inn *c.* 1384-1425; in 1390-1 a little wall was made between the hall and kitchen, which perhaps at this time adjoined the S. end of the hall; in 1424-5 the 'camera iuxta coquinam le parlour' was in part given a new ceiling ('in parte de novo supracelland'); perhaps this parlour was in the SE. or SW. corner of the courtyard.

hall, which would explain the arched doorway in the NW. corner. It may then have been subsequently converted into a three-part plan by the building of the kitchen and buttery on the S. side, involving the transference of the screens-passage to the S. end of the hall. On the W. side of the courtyard was a long range projecting some way S. of the rest of the buildings; this no doubt contained more chambers. In the SW. corner of the courtyard an entry led through to a second courtyard or garden beyond. In late medieval or post-medieval times the house seems to have been divided up and let as several separate holdings; while the seven shops on the street front seem to have belonged to several different owners as far back as the thirteenth century.

37. *The Bridewell, Norwich* (FIG. 76).⁴³

This house belonged to two important medieval Norwich families: to Geoffrey de Salle and his son Bartholomew (c. 1319-62), who probably began to build it; and to Bartholomew Appleyard (d. 1386) and his son William Appleyard, burgess and mayor (d. 1418), who probably enlarged or improved it. In 1585 it became a Bridewell or house of correction, and is now a museum. It was extensively damaged by fire in 1751, but it is possible to reconstruct the medieval layout. The house occupied a large site bounded on the N. by St. Andrew's churchyard, on the E. by St. Andrew's Hill, on the S. by Bedford Street, and on the W. by Bridewell Alley; but the SW. corner was never part of the property, and the NW. corner, with the entry from Bridewell Alley, was only added by about 1585. There was probably a fringe of shops round the S. and W. sides. The main part of the house was a stone-built, L-shaped or T-shaped building, with two courtyards. The main, or western, courtyard was apparently approached from the S., from Bedford Street, by a great gate (where there is still a right of way); the lesser (eastern) courtyard was approached by a fifteenth-century archway, which, with the adjoining squared flint plinth, still exists in the E. wall. The northern door from the churchyard seems to be modern. The hall range, lying N.-S. between the two courtyards, measures about 50 ft. by 21 ft.; the basement consists of a fourteenth-century vaulted cellar, with brick ribs, of two rows of five bays. Above this was the hall, now much rebuilt, but preserving a pair of arched doorways at the N. end, presumably leading to service-rooms; the screens-passage would therefore have been at this end. It is not clear whether the hall extended the full length of this range, i.e. 50 ft., which would make it very long compared with other local examples, or whether it only extended 30 ft. (over three bays of the cellar), having the two S. bays divided off (perhaps by a timber-framed partition) to form a parlour with a solar above. The N. range, at right angles to the hall and adjoining the churchyard, also has fourteenth-century cellars with brick ribs, of five bays, which are larger than those below the hall; the three western bays are divided by cross walls into separate compartments, while the two eastern bays formed a single compartment. The two stories above have been much altered, except for the flint-faced N. wall, towards the churchyard, which contains two rows of medieval windows. The ground floor was

⁴³ *Archaeol. J.*, cv1 (1949), 80; and notes and plans supplied by Mr. R. R. Clarke, Mr. A. P. Baggs and Mr. W. A. Dodd.

presumably occupied by service-rooms, having the buttery (with stairs down to the cellar) and the pantry at the E. end, opening off the hall; the later kitchen was at the W. end. It is probable, however, that the original kitchen was beyond the hall to the east. The first floor of the N. range must have contained a series of chambers; the easternmost one would be the solar, if this was not at the S. end of

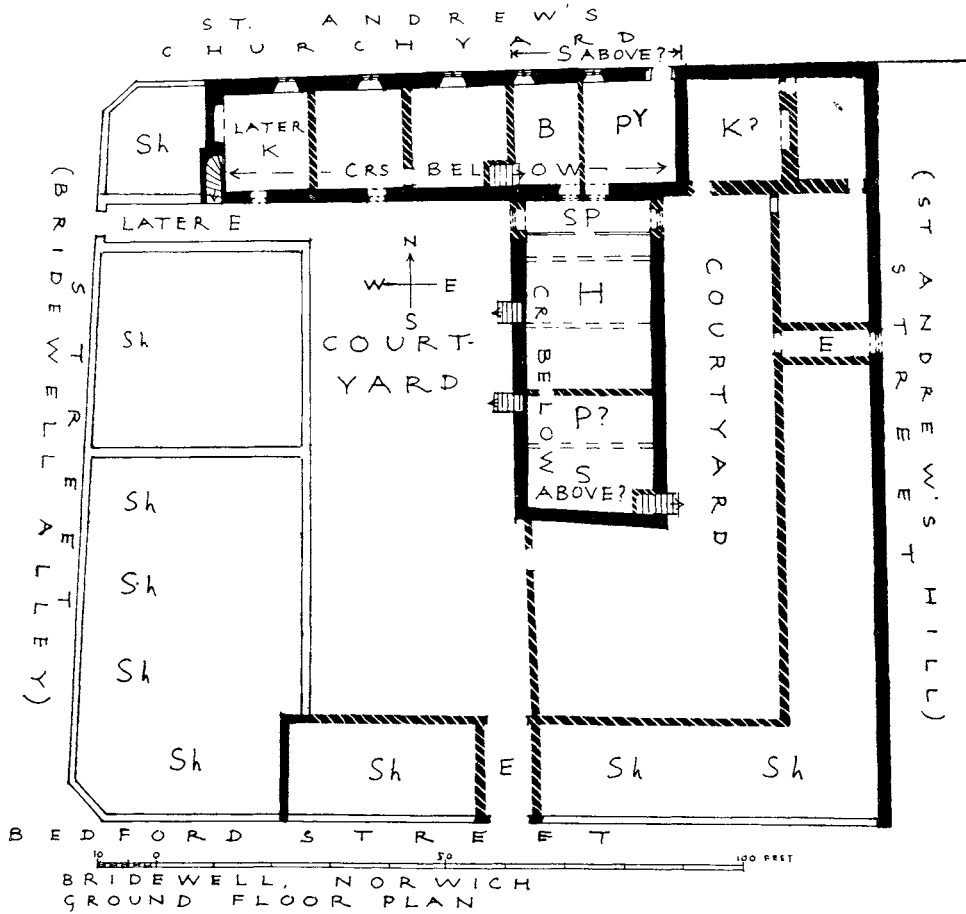


FIG. 76
 ii. 'Right-angle' type: ii. 'Broad' plan (p. 236 f.)
 For key see FIG. 69

the hall. There seems to be some difference in style between the two rows of windows in the N. wall of this range; in the lower, the five windows, lighting the service-rooms, each consist of a pair of arches; these seem to be early or middle fourteenth century and appreciably earlier than the upper row of five windows, square-headed and traceried, lighting the chambers; these upper windows may perhaps have been inserted in the time of the younger Appleyard at the beginning of the fifteenth century.

38. *Hall of John Halle, Salisbury.*

This is a well-preserved hall house of *c.* 1470, partly stone-built, partly timber-framed, standing at right angles to the street, flanked on the E. by a small courtyard reached by an entry from the street. The northern part, next to the street, is timber-framed, three stories high, and probably had a shop on the ground floor and chambers above. It is not clear whether this part was connected with the hall at the back, or was used as a separate tenement. The stone-built hall range at the back contains a hall, *c.* 30 ft. long by *c.* 18 ft. wide, with an open roof of three bays divided by arch-braced trusses, with intermediate trusses in each bay. On the W. side of the hall is an elaborate fireplace and one two-light window, and on the E. side, giving on to the courtyard is a row of windows, two two-light windows, and a third four-light window extending over the entrance door. The entrance from the courtyard and presumably the site of the screens-passage are at the S. end of the hall. S. of this is a two-story continuation of the hall range, containing a ground-floor room, which was presumably a service-room, with perhaps a kitchen beyond; above this was a first-floor chamber. If the timber-framed street building was a separate tenement, the hall range would have constituted a two-part house and the first-floor chamber above the service-room would presumably have been the solar. If, however, the street building was included in the house, then its first-floor room, over the shop, may have served as a solar, the house thus having a three-part plan. The house was restored in the nineteenth century by Pugin, who gave it a new front; and the hall now serves as the foyer to a cinema.

39. *House in Church Street, St. Radegund's, Canterbury* (FIG. 69).

This is the oldest (no. 1) of the group of three houses described above (p. 212, no. 5). It is a timber-framed house lying at right angles to the street; the N. end has been curtailed by the building of house no. 2. As now surviving, it is a two-part house, with a two-story solar block at the S. end, and a two-bay hall, which probably measured 21 ft. by 16 ft. before it was curtailed. The construction is of the 'wealden' type, with the roof projecting over the recessed bay of the hall. The hall was probably lit by a large window on the E. side. The solar is lit by a two-light cinquefoil-headed window on the E. side. The screens-passage was probably originally at the N. end of the hall, in the part cut off by the building of the later house, with perhaps small service-rooms between it and the street; when the hall was curtailed the hall door was moved further south. It is possible, as suggested above (p. 213), that the later house, no. 2, was built, not as a separate house, but as an enlarged service-wing to no. 1, with a new solar above the service-rooms, thus forming together a large L-shaped house.

40. *No. 7, Church Street, Wincanton* (FIG. 75).⁴⁴

This is a stone-built, L-shaped, two-story house, probably with a first-floor hall at right angles to the street, of the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century. The main range, about 60 ft. long, running N.-S. at right angles to the street,

⁴⁴ Cf. *op. cit.* in note 1.

contains on the ground floor a room in front which was perhaps always a shop; behind this, looking W. on to a courtyard, were two service-rooms, perhaps buttry and kitchen. W. of the shop is a passage running back to an original stone staircase, projecting into a corner of the courtyard; the staircase is lit by two two-light windows. The staircase leads up to what may have been a screens-passage in the middle of the first floor of the range. N. of this passage is a large room with an open arch-braced collar-beam roof of three bays and a fireplace in the E. wall; this room now measures *c.* 13 ft. wide by *c.* 27 ft. long, but was probably originally a few feet longer, the N. gable end projecting into the street. S. of the passage is another long room, *c.* 13 ft. wide by *c.* 26 ft. long (now subdivided and modernized), with a roof of three bays, a fireplace in the E. wall, and windows (modernized) looking W. into the courtyard. It is not clear whether the northern room on the first floor towards the street was the hall, and the southern room at the back the solar, or vice versa; alternatively the hall may have been on the ground floor, where the shop is, with the room above as an upper hall. W. of the front room is a two-story wing, dividing the street from the courtyard; the ground floor (now a shop), 18 ft. square, has a panelled ceiling, probably of the early sixteenth century; the floor above has been modernized. It is uncertain whether this wing was part of the main house or a separate tenement.

NOTE

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