

BISPHAM HALL

Interim Report

The Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit

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2. Documentary Background

2.1 The Medieval Estate

2.1.1 The Bispham family can be traced to Robert Banastre, who came to England with William I. The Banastres were given lands in Wales, including the manor of Prestatyn, but were driven out in 1167. They were then granted lands in Lancashire, including the Barony of Newton-in-Makerfield. It seems likely that it was at this point that the lands at Bispham came into the family. The present townships of Billinge (Billinge Hall being one mile east of Bispham) and Winstanley were originally one manor under the Barony, Billinge comprising two-thirds and Winstanley one-third. On his death in 1212 Adam de Billinge was paying a rent of 10s for both townships. By 1310 the lands had passed to the de Heyton family, with the marriage of Mary de Billinge to Henry de Heyton.

2.1.2 In the mid-14th century the manor was divided among four co-heiresses, and in 1346 Margaret de Huyton married Roger de Bispham, making Roger 'Lord of a 4th part of Billinge'. It is likely that the independent Bispham estate owes its origin to this division, and while it would be logical to assume that a residence for the new lord was built on the estate at this time, there is no evidence to support this. Although the estate remained in the hands of the Bisphams throughout the 14th and 15th centuries, there is little documentary evidence concerning the family. Roger's son Henry is attested in the reign on Henry V, and by 1440 his son, Robert, had died, bequeathing the estate to Rafe Bispham. Richard Bispham was head of the estate in 1482, and Thomas Bispham in 1539. With the advent of the second Thomas Bispham in 1559 we enter the period when the estate's history is documented in some detail.

2.2 16th and 17th Centuries

2.2.1 It is thought that the earliest date for the building of Bispham Hall is 1559, when Thomas Bispham conveyed 'one messuage in Billinge lying along Billinge Banke' to his son Thomas and his fiance Elizabeth Smalshaye, as an article of marriage. He also agreed to deliver 'sufficient wood and timber as well to build and erect the said messuage'.¹

2.2.2 It is commonly thought that an older building already existed close to the site of the new hall. It is possible that this structure, which could date back to the 14th century, became known as the 'lower house'.² William Bispham in his book of 1890 regards the 'lower house' as a former residence of the family.³ This building, which lay to the north-east of Bispham Hall, can be seen on 18th and 19th century maps of the estate and was not demolished until the middle of the 20th century.

1) W B Savigny, *Bispham Hall*, 2nd edition, 1976, p 8.

2) *Ibid*, p 6.

3) W Bispham, *Memoranda Concerning the Family of Bispham in Great Britain and the United States*, 1890, p 135.

2.2.3 Archaeological evidence suggests that the western elevation of the hall and the southern gable replaced earlier work. The original Bispham Hall, which is still dated to the 16th century, was a small rectangular structure and would not have had the dramatic appearance of the hall today (see below).

2.2.4 The hall was completely remodelled sometime in the late 16th/early 17th century, and this would have entailed considerable expenditure. At some stage one of the Bispshams must have amassed a small fortune and turned the hall from a small plain building into the impressive structure we have today.

2.2.5 Who was this person? It is unlikely to have been Thomas. Surely after building the original hall he would not then have decided to double it in size. From Thomas the hall should have passed to his son Edmund, but Edmund was a Catholic and so sold his inheritance to his brother William in 1610. (Edmund is recorded as being a convicted recusant in a document of 1628 and had he retained his inheritance two-thirds of it would have been compounded by the state.⁴) William Bispham lived in London and in several documents is referred to as a 'citizen and grocer'. He came into the possession of Rivington Manor in 1602 and had extensive estates in Essex.⁵ It is also thought that the family acquired Orrell Manor in the first decade of the 17th century.⁶ William must have been a wealthy man and it is likely that he was responsible for the extension of the hall. His will of 1639 mentions the building and its contents, suggesting that in spite of living in London he knew the hall well.⁷

2.2.6 Among the few documents surviving from the 17th century are an inventory of Edmund Bispham (July 1641)⁸ and a conveyance between Katherine his widow and Samuel his nephew (August 1641).⁹ The inventory does not give the name of Edmund's abode: it merely states 'of Billinge'. However the conveyance states that Katherine Bispham holds 'messuages & tenements lyeinge & beinge in Billinge aforesaid commonly called the lower house...'. It may therefore be assumed that the inventory refers to this 'lower house', that is the older house.

2.2.7 The inventory mentions seven rooms; thus the building was not small. The original Bispham hall may not have been bigger than the 'lower house' of the inventory. It is not known what status the 'lower house' held when Bispham Hall was built and the evidence would support the view that it was a hall in its own right.

2.2.8 After the conveyance, Samuel Bispham (William's son) made a settlement, thus tying the whole estate together and securing its future.¹⁰

4) W Farrer & J Brownbill (eds), *Victoria County History of Lancashire*, vol 4, 1911, p 86.

5) Bispham, op cit, p 160.

6) Savigny, op cit, p 14.

7) See Appendix 2.

8) Cheshire Wills. Lancashire Record Office, Preston. See Appendix 3.

9) Bankes Family Catalogue, DDBa Div. 7, B6. Lancashire Record Office, Preston. See Appendix 4.

10) Farrer & Brownbill, op cit, p 85.

2.3 18th Century

2.3.1 Four maps survive from the 18th century. One bears the Bispham coat of arms and must therefore be pre-1730 (the last male heir Thomas Bispham died in 1730) and could be as early as the first decade of the 18th century.¹¹ There are two maps from the middle of the century dated 1761 and 1762.¹² The latter is regarded as a copy of the 1761 map. The fourth map depicts the lands belonging to Mrs Holt and is probably late 18th century.¹³ (Joanna Holt bought the estate in 1787; however, on her death in 1794 the estate passed first to her sister Mary Norcross and then to her niece Mary Holt in 1798.¹⁴) In addition one survey, in list form, survives from 1724.¹⁵ It is possible that the maps of 1761 and 1762 are basically copies of the earlier pre-1730 map with some alterations.

2.3.2 From this information it is possible to compare the shape and extent of the estate at the beginning and end of the 18th century. It changes little in overall size; however, there are some alterations to field boundaries. In addition the later map shows the beginnings of some gardens. The estate gardens were eventually landscaped.

2.3.3 The most notable omission from the maps and surveys in the early and middle parts of the 18th century are the fields to the eastern and northern ends of the estate. None are mentioned in 1724. The majority of the fields around the hall and to the north are omitted on the pre-1730 map. Those lying behind the hall are added on the 1761 and 1762 maps, but are treated separately, as 'Gautley Ground'. It is only the late 18th century map which shows the full extent of the northern and north-eastern sides of the estate.

2.3.4 There is evidence, however, to suggest that these lands were part of the estate at the beginning of the 18th century. In particular, two fieldnames are mentioned in the rentals of Thomas Bispham in the early 18th century¹⁶ and reoccur at the end of the century. Firstly, the Slate Delf is mentioned in 1704 and practically every year after. The 1704 entry states the 'The Slate Delf in the Coppice made £13 6s 0d'. The Slate Delf is not in the 'Coppie' on the late 18th century map but it may be that the area of the various 'coppie' extended over the lane which leads to the hall.

2.3.5 Secondly, the area which tends to include the name 'Carr' to the north-west of the hall may be mentioned as early as 1704. The writing is difficult to decipher, but one entry could be read as 'A Close in Billinge Called the Carr Lett for £2 -s -d'.

2.3.6 It would seem therefore that the estate did not really grow in the 18th century. Certain areas were omitted on the pre-1730 and mid-century maps perhaps to make

11) Uncatalogued, Wigan Record Office, Leigh.

12) Bankes Family Catalogue, DDBa, Div.7, B8. Lancashire Record Office, Preston.

13) Catalogue of Plans and Maps of the Bankes Estate, Item 5c. Lancashire Record Office, Preston.

14) Will of Joanna Holt, Cheshire Wills. Lancashire Record Office, Preston. Also listed in the Bankes Family Catalogue.

15) Survey of the Demane of Bispham, 1724. D/DLei, E2/B1. Wigan Record Office, Leigh.

16) Rentall of the Estates of Thomas Bispham (1703-1719). D/DLei E1/C2. Wigan Record Office, Leigh.

way for the scale or a list of fields (see maps), or they were treated separately from the main estate. The 1724 survey is almost exactly the same as the pre-1730 map, except that Hamsons Whittle, the Wall Meadow, Hampsons Meadow, the Crofts, and the Great Wall Hey are absent. However, on the pre-1730 map the first four of these are totalled separately and it may be that we only have the first page of the 1724 survey. As for the Great Wall Hey it may have been included as part of another field in the survey.

2.3.7 The hall is depicted in different ways. The pre-1730 map shows Bispham Hall drawn from the front with its five gables, and a straight pathway at a right angle to the main entrance leading to some gates. The late 18th century map gives a floor plan of the hall. In front of the building is a semi-circular pathway; the straight path and the gates must have been removed.

2.3.8 The gates shown on the pre-1730 map may be those mentioned in the rentals of Thomas Bispham. The entry of 1709 includes the erection of gates and some repairs to a chimney at Bispham:

Pd Abram Asercroft mason for building of stone work a New stack of Chimneys at Bispham which were blown down: £10 6s 5d
Pd John Wigan for Brick work upon the same arround & for Bricks slate & timber: £8 4s 2d
Pd Henry Sophton for a stone Chimney piece: £3 -s -d
Pd him more for a pair of stone peers for the gates & taking of old ones down & setting up of New ones: £2 10s -d
Pd Richard Robinson for making up of Gates: £3 -s -d.'

2.3.9 The entry of 1709 also mentions the building of Carr Hall, shown on the late 18th century map:

Pd William Mosling for building a house upon the Carr in Billinge Called Carr hall: £12 -s -d.'

Carr hall was demolished in the early 20th century. It is shown on the 1908 25" but not the 1928 25" OS map.

2.3.10 One item that is not mentioned in the rentals of Thomas Bispham but is a prominent feature of many of the maps is the Pigeon House. It is included in the 1724 survey and depicted on the pre-1730 map, so must date from at least the early 18th century. The remains of the Pigeon House are still visible today.

2.4 19th and 20th Centuries

2.4.1 A major feature of the Bispham estate is its landscaped gardens. William Yates's map of Lancashire of 1786 does not show the Bispham estate emparked, but the beginnings of the gardens can be seen on the late 18th century map and the fully emparked estate is shown on the OS 6" map of 1846. The hall was owned by the Holt Leigh family from the middle of the 18th century until its auction in 1871, although most members of the family did not live at the hall, preferring to rent it to tenants. It is not known who was responsible for landscaping the gardens, but it is likely that the process was started by one of the Holt Leighs in the late 18th century.

2.4.2 Ponds are to be found on the late 18th century and 1846 maps. These could possible indicate the earlier presence of a moat. Certainly William Bispham when he visited the

house in 1871 was in no doubt that a moat did exist:¹⁷

'Traces of the moat and wall once surrounding the house are still distinctly visible, though fast being overgrown and buried in the thick rich grass which grows up to the very edge of the house'.

2.4.3 The evidence for a moat at Bispham Hall is not conclusive. A firm rectangular boundary is shown surrounding the hall on all the 18th century maps and on the late 18th century one a stretch of water is shown on the southern side. Water is not shown on the earlier maps and its possible that the ponds recorded on the late 18th century and 1846 map are part of the landscaped gardens.

2.4.4 William Bispham's book also contains some interesting descriptions of the hall. He quotes an extract from a letter he received in 1876 from a Mr Brancker who was a tenant of the hall:¹⁸

There is no doubt that the House (Bispham Hall) has been added to at two different periods, the original part having been built in the first Tudor reign. But I should say there is nothing more recent than Elizabeth's time. Since you were at Bispham I have added to it as well as made extensive interior alterations, and in doing so have discovered very old partition walls composed of oak frame work, filled up with hazel rods and clay, and chopped straw, and also opened out some of the original windows of the oldest part of the House which had been covered by the additions from time to time. Also the outside windows show their present positions are not as they were originally intended to be placed, and some are partly covered by present outside walls.'

2.4.5 The hall was auctioned in 1871. It was purchased by Meyrick Bankes and stayed in the possession of the Bankes family until 1948 when it was sold to the Boy Scout Association of SW Lancs.

17) Bispham, op cit, p 135.

18) Ibid, p 136.

4. Work Undertaken

4.1 Background

4.1.1 The Listed Building description for Bispham Hall describes the site as 'one of the most complete survivals from the 16th century in the historic county of Lancashire'. Despite the severe fire of 1977, and the subsequent neglect of the building, this conclusion remains valid. During June 1990 the GMAU undertook initial survey work on the site to assess the age and development of the structure, prior to the restoration of the building.

4.2 Survey and Excavation

4.2.1 Survey work was carried out on the internal and external elevations of the hall, with detailed phased plans and elevations being produced at a scale of 1:50 (Figs 1-9). Particular attention was paid to the internal elevations of the hall, which had not been recorded previously. Details of a number of the surviving fittings of the hall were made at a scale of 1:20, including the remains of three 16th/17th century panels with wattle and daub infill, one still in place (Fig 10), from the northern end of the original hall. Careful plotting of all the main structural timbers, including those which had fallen, enabled the original position of these panels to be recovered and details of elements of the first and second floors. A detailed plan was also made of the early 17th century staircase, located at the northern end of the original hall. Those timbers deemed worthy of preservation were labelled and reserved.

4.2.2 Excavation was confined to two test trenches on the eastern and western sides of the hall, and to a number of pilot holes in the interior. The intention was to locate the original 16th/17th century ground level, to examine the hall foundations, and to establish the likelihood of surviving archaeological deposits within the hall itself. The external trenches identified the original ground level on both sides of the hall, indicating that the rear ground level had risen by some 0.3m during the last 400 years. Trench 1, on the western side of the hall, also located the foundations for the 17th century wing, demolished after the fire. The internal pilot holes demonstrated the presence of a pre-existing building on the site, and the survival of archaeological deposits over part of the interior.

4.2.3 The work described above has enabled some preliminary conclusions to be drawn concerning the hall's architectural style and development. However problems still remain and the following discussion is an interim statement only.

4.3 The House

4.3.1 Bispham Hall is a large structure 31.5m in length, 21.5m in width, and standing up to 11.5m in height. The building is aligned north-south, with the main entrance facing towards the east. The structure is built of dressed stone with ashlar dressings, and is of three storeys. The eastern elevation (Fig 4) is composed of five bays, the second and fourth bays project, while the first and fifth bays project further and are wider. Each bay is edged by quoins, and there is a stone plinth, c. 0.75m in height, which is carried around

the base of the building. Most of the windows on this elevation have five lights with transoms, double-chamfered mullions and label moulds, although those on the ground floor are 20th century restorations. The first, second and fifth bays each have four-light ovolo-mullioned windows blocked on the ground floor return sides. These windows have painted glazing. On the first floor the fourth bay has a four-light window above the main entrance, whilst the first, second and fifth bays have ovolo-mullioned blind windows to their inner returns. The second floor windows have no transoms, apart from the four-light window to the fourth bay. The entrance has a rounded head, with impost blocks, now blocked. The family coat of arms under a label mould is to be found immediately above this doorway. The gable to the fifth bay has a round feature in the coping, for which there is no other known parallel in the region. Consequently its function remains obscure.

4.3.2 The southern elevation (Fig 5) has a projecting gabled bay with a canted projecting centre. Originally the roof was hipped, and there was a lead rainwater head immediately below it with the date AD1727. There are continuous label moulds to the windows, those on the ground floor have two-lights with double chamfered mullions and transoms. These appear to have been restored this century. The first floor windows are of a similar design with ovolo mullions, unrestored. The second floor windows are ovolo-mullioned but have no transoms.

4.3.3 The northern elevation (Fig 6) has a projecting lateral chimney stack, against which has been built a lean-to shed with a crow-stepped gable to the east. There are two blocked four-light windows on the first and second floors. The later 18th and 19th century projecting gabled bays have ovolo-mullioned windows with label mouldings; the 18th century bay has one five-light mullioned and transomed window on the ground floor and one three-light mullioned window on the first floor. The 19th century bay has two five-light mullioned windows.

4.3.4 The western elevation (Fig 7) includes a number of later extensions, probably 19th century, at its northern end. There are two truncated chimney stacks marking the limits of an early, probably 17th century, wing with three storeys, demolished after the fire. Four mullioned windows are apparent, one of two lights, two with three lights, and one with four lights. All have label mouldings.

4.4 Internal arrangement of the hall

4.4.1 Further work needs to be done as regards the original internal arrangement of the building, but the initial survey suggests that the ground floor was dominated by a large hall running from the oriel window in the south to the 17th century staircase in the north (Figs 1 and 8). The staircase in bay two appears to be a later addition (Fig 9). The surviving internal remains tally with documentary evidence in suggesting that there was a long corridor on the first floor, running east to west, from the later staircase into the western wing (Fig 2). This wing may have been used as a chapel in the 18th and 19th centuries. Both staircases were carried up to the second floor where there was a second long corridor, this time aligned north to south (Fig 3). Detail of further divisions will have to await additional recording.

4.5 Development of the hall

4.5.1 The first hall on the site was a rectangular building, 9m wide and between 9.5m and 15m long, constructed from dressed stone blocks. Only the northern and part of the western elevations of this structure survive (Fig 1), although the eastern wall was located beneath bay five of the later hall facade. The only clue to the date of its construction are two windows on the western elevation which suggest a date sometime in the 16th century.

4.5.2 This structure was the basis of the hall we see today. Sometime around 1600 the eastern and southern elevations of the first hall were demolished and replaced by a unified facade, composed of five gables, with the entrance off-set to the north in bay four (Fig 4). The oriel window on the southern elevation probably is part of this rebuilding, although it is not clear whether the western wing (Fig 7) was built now or later in the 17th century. This created a building 25m long and 15m wide. The estate plans indicate that by the end of the 18th century two bays had been added to the northern elevation, and a small building, later the study, to the western elevation. It thus seems likely that the additions built onto the north-western corner of the hall date from the 19th century.

5. Proposals *The Descent of the Manor*

5.1 The work carried out on the hall in June 1990 established the outline of the structural history of the building and allowed the production of phased plans and elevations. However, further recording and excavation work remains to be done in order to complete the architectural and archaeological history of the hall.

5.2 Proposals

5.2.1 Further recording of internal elevations upon the removal of remaining plaster.

5.2.2 Removal of floor boards at ground level to be followed by excavation of surviving archaeological deposits to establish the southern limit of the first hall.

5.2.3 Examination, and limited excavation, of foundations after the demolition of the appropriate 18th/19th century additions, specifically the old study where an earlier wing is indicated on the Holt estate plan for the late 18th century.

5.2.4 A survey of the estate would be of particular archaeological and historical value. The early maps of Bispham are a rare survival and few opportunities exist in Greater Manchester to correlate present landscapes with those of the 16th century. Such a survey would allow the production of a more comprehensive final report which GMAU would hope to publish in the *Greater Manchester Archaeological Journal*.

Survey, excavations and text by Michael Nevell
Documentary research by Debra Stackwood
Illustrations by Barry O'Neil

Appendix 2: Extract from the will of William Bispham, 1639¹⁹

In the name of god Amen. The Twentieth day of June Anno dm 1639. And in the ffifteenth in yare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, ffrance and Ireland, defender of the faith (gm?). I William Bispham of Billinge in the Countie of Lancaster Esqe do in my perfect and sound memorie and vnderstanding make, ordaine and declare this my last will and Testam't: ... I give and bequeath unto my said sonne Samuall Bispham those goods here menconed as the same now are remaining or lie at, in, or about my now dwelling house in Billinge aforesaid viz't: all my bedsteeds, Tables, bords, fformes, stooles, chaires, Cubboards, presses, Shelves (oven?) Vessels, Armer, Weapons, Brewing Vessells, Hodghsheads Barrells, Leade, ffire Irons, Chests, Trunks, Plowes, Marroes, carts and cartgeares (the?) w'ch goods my desire is they may remaine at mysaid house in Billing and be used there and therew'th as Heirloomes. Item, I do give and bequeath unto my said sonne Samuall Bispham all such terme and termes of yeares, leases and tracts of ground and my interest unto the same as I have or am intitled vnto, either, in my owne name or in the names of anie other person or persons for my use benifit or behease of my land or grounds in Billinge aforesaid and Orell, in the Countie of Lancaster or in either of them. Item, I give and bequeath unto my said Elizabeth Bancke, a Twentie shillings peice of Gold. Item, I do give and bequeath unto my sister Elizabeth Heaton, fortie Shillings to buy her a gold ring withall. Item, I give and bequeath unto Richard Whitefield, Minister, of the Church or Chappell of Holland if hee lives there at the time of my death, five pounds. Item, I give and bequeath unto my sonne William Bispham my two silver white bowles comonlie used for Beere and also two white cupps comonlie used for wine. Item, I give and bequeath to my cosin Richard Heaton, five pounds and my cosin Jane Heaton, ffifteene pounds. Item, I give to the poor people of the towneship of Billinge aforesaid Three pounds six shillings and Eight pence and to the poore of Orrell aforesaid, forty Shillings. And to the poore people of Winstanley, Twentie shillings. And to the poor people of the towne of Wigan, fortie shillings. And to the poore people of Pemberton, Twentie shillings. Also to the poore people of Holland ffortie, shillings. And to the poore people of Dalton, Twentie shillings. Item, I do give and bequeath unto all those that shall dwell wih mee as my servants at the time of my decease, Twentie shillings a peice. Item, I do constitute, ordeyn, and make [vnto] my said sonne Samuall Bispham all the rest, residue and remains of my said goods and chattells. And I do constitute, ordeyn and make [vnto] my said sonne Samuall Bispham anywise before the day of the date of these points made, willed, bequeathed and named. In Witnce whereof I the said William Bispham have hereunto set my hand and seall the day and yare first written.

Sealed, delived and published and before the sealing there of these words in the first line vizt: June 1639 and fifteenth yare of our gracious Sovaigne Lord King Charles 1st ...

19) Cheshire Wills. Lancashire Record Office, Preston. This document, and those given in Appendices 3 & 4, are transcribed from the original mss. Some readings are uncertain and may require revision.

Appendix 3: Inventory of Edmund Bispham, 1641

A true and aqurt inventory indentured of all the goods, cattell, chattels household stuffe and implements of household, whatsoever of Edmund Bispham Par' of Billing in the countie of Lancaster, gent, deceased. Taken and made the eight day of July Anno (16) Caroli nunc Anglie docimo septimo 1641 by Thomas Whestill, John Smethhurst, Roger Barton and John Mullings.

Jnth Warton:

	Li	s	d
Imprimis one faire Standing Bedd, one Trockle bed vnder it wth cording to them boath	1	xij	0
Itm one coverlet & ffower Blankets & one vnder cloth of Linen and woollen	1	xij	vij
Itm Two Boulsters, Two ffether Beds one pillow & a chaffe boulder	ij	i	vij
Itm ffive curtaines & curtaine rodds & a ffring about the bed	0	xij	0
Itm one chaffe bed	0	1	vij
Itm one long table and settie & one forme	1	v	0
Itm one carpett, Two window curtains & Eight cushions	0	xij	vj
Itm one libary Cubbard wth a carpett for it	0	vj	0
Itm one Twithen Cheere, one auld Seeled cheare & one throne cheare	0	ij	0
Itm one chest	0	1	0
Itm one Mapp & one coate of Arms wth frames	0	1	0
Itm one hand skreene & a graete	0	1	0
Itm one shelve	0	0	ij
In the Further Chamber			
Imprimis one standing bed, the two fformes	0	xij	0
Itm one table with a greene carpett	0	ij	0

Itm one swerill caghe and two shelves and one chest	0	iiij	xi
For the Entry Chamber			
Imprimis one bed-sted, borders att bottome	0	v	0
Itm one ffether Bed, one Boulster, one pillow			
& one chaffe Bed	1	iiij	viiij
Itm one coveringe & one Blankett	0	v	0
Itm Three Coffers	0	xiiij	0
Itm in Borde Rakes garthinge and other impleme(n)ts, in the littel entry betweene the Chambers	0	iiij	0
In the sifting roome			
Imprimis the Barrell & Siftinge Trough	0	ix	0
The Meale Chest			
Itm the halfe measure & kneiding turnell	0	iiij	iiij
Itm the three Sives	0	iiij	vj
Itm a pare of Weights	0	1	0
In the Corn loft			
Imprimis Two straw basketts	0	ij	0
Itm 4 Seckes	0	ij	viiij
Itm one Banking Turnell & 3 Sives	0	j	j
Itm one Cheese Crate	0	j	0
Itm one Coate of Male	0	j	vj
Itm one auld wheele & other Trumpery	0	j	0
In the Storehouse			
Imprimis 4 Cheese Boules & a pott lid	0	ij	0
Itm one Beefee Tubb ij Basons a water pale	0	iiij	0
Itm a Boxe & a sheepes skine & other Lether	0	ij	vj

Itm in other odd implements there	0	j	vj
In the vper Chamber			
Itm one standing bedd	0	vij	0
Itm one ffether bedd, two Boulsters & one pillow	1	xvij	0
Itm Two coverletts & one blankett	0	vij	0
Itm Curtaines for the bed	0	ij	0
Itm Three Chests	0	x	0
Itm window curtaines & a dore curtain	0	j	0
Itm one Mafkin Presse	0	ij	0
Itm Two white Boxes	0	ij	0
In the loft			
Itm Two Chests	j	0	0
Itm one closse stoole	0	j	0
Itm one Beddstidd, one chaffe bed, a boulster ij blanketts	0	v	0
Itm a skreene, a cartrope, a hawkes perch wth other odd things	0	v	0
Itm Hyves & Napry ware	iiij	v	ij
In the howse			
Imprimis one longe table & ij formes	0	xij	0
Itm a bench, the little Table & playinge Table	0	iiij	vj
Itm one livery Cubbard	0	vj	0
Itm Three cheres & 3 stooles	0	v	0
Itm three cushens	0	j	0
Itm two shelves & a salt pych	0	ij	ij
In the Kitchen			
Imprimis 6 Treene ware	0	xvij	0
Itm in Brasse	ij	v	0

Itm Two ould Dishbords	0	v	0
Item one cheese presse & the odd implim(en)ts in the kitchen	0	iiij	0
In the Buttery			
Imprimis	ij	iiij	0
Itm one little table, one dresser, iij joynt stooles & ten shelves	0	vij	iiij
Itm 8 barrellis & a little one & the frame that they stand on	0	ix	0
Itm in the milke howse, one saffe, one Charme, one T(r)essle, Two Basons, one dishcrate, and other odd necessary things	0	x	0
Itm in Earthen potts & muggs	0	j	vj
Itm in Iron ware	j	ij	0
Itm the Iron grate in the howse wth the Crabbe fire shovel & tongs	0	xiiij	iiij
Itm in the shippon, one harrow, Two rakes, clove(ss)wood & treene ware	0	v	0
Itm in the shippon 3i ffellees & other peeces of Tymber	0	viiij	0
Itm one cowe wth a Cafe at her foote	iiij	xiiij	iiij
Itm ffowre, yeare ould Calves	iiij	vj	viiij
Itm xxvij ould sheepe & lambes	iiij	vj	viiij
Itm in beanes in the yeard	0	vj	viiij
Itm Two swarmes or Eyves of Bees	0	x	0
Itm one gander ij gee(se) & 5 goslings	0	iiij	viiij
Itm one chocke & ffive henns	0	iiij	0
Itm one swine	0	xij	0
Itm Three swyne troughes	0	ij	iiij
Itm his Horse & Apparill and saddle & bridle	xiiij	iiij	viiij

Appendix 4: Conveyance between Katherine Bispham and Samuel Bispham, 1641

This indenture made the ffive and twentieth day of August In the Siaventeenth yiare of the Raigne of o'[our] most gracious Soivaigne Lord Charles by the grace of god king of England Scotland ffrance & Ireland defendor of the faith [er']?. Betweene Katherine Bispham of Billinge in the County of Lancaster, Widdowe, of th'one p'tie. And Samuell Bispham of Billinge aforesaid Esq' & doctor of Phisicke of the other p'tie. Wittneseth that whereas the aforesaid Katherine Bispham now holds by Indenture or deeds of ffeoffement all that messuage & tenement situate lyeinge & being in Billinge aforesaid, commonly called the lower house, and all houses, edifies, buildings, lands, Tenements, rents, hereditaments, and apytannes to the same belonginge or anywise, appertaineinge there w'th, all vsually occupied or enoyed lyeinge & being in Billinge and Rainford in the said County of Lancaster, Late in the occupacon of Edmund Bispham gent; Late husband of the said Katherin, for and dureinge the Tearme of the n'[atu]rall life of the aforesaid Katherin. The ymediat revercon or Remainder & Inheritance of w'th said: messuage, Tenement, Lands, Rents & p'misses, of Right belongeth & appertaineth vnto the said Samuell Bispham Esq'. Now to the intent That a perfect recovery or other Conveyance or Assurance may bee had & made of all and singuler the said: messuages, Lands, Tenements, rents, hereditam'ts & p'misses, now in the possession & occupacon of her, the said Katherin Bispham, amongst other Lands, Tenements and hereditaments, To the use of the said Samuell Bispham Esq', his heires & assignes or such use as the said Samuell Bispham Esq' shall Limitt, appoint, or declare or hath Limited, appointed or Declared. Shee the said Katherine Bispham as well for the intent aforesaid, as allsoe for div[er]s other good Causes & Consideracons her therevnto moveinge, Hath grannted & Surrendered, And by these p'sent, doth grannte & Surrender vnto the said Samuell Bispham All and singuler, the aforesaid Messuage & Tenement and all & singuler Lands, Rents, heriditaments & p'misses whatsoever, to the same belonginge in Billinge & Rainford aforesaid, now in the possession or occupacon of her the said Katherin & all her estate interest & by the therevnto. To have and to hould the aforesaid messuages or Tenements, Lands, Rents & p'misses whatsoever, w'th their appurtannces & all her estate right & Tytle of, in and vnto the same, vnto the said Samuell Bispham & his assignes for and dureing all the Tearmes interest & estate of her, the said Katherin Bispham, therein or therevnto Provided allwayes, and vpon this Condicon. That is hee, the said Samuell Bispham Esq', his executors, or assignes doe not well & truly pay or cause to bee paid, vnto her the said Katherin Bispham, or her assignes, the full sume of one Thausand pounds of Currant English money, at one entyre paym'ts in & vpon the ffeast day of St Michaell Th'archangell now next ensueinge the Date hereof. That then & from thence forth, this p'sent Grannte & Surrend'r, to bee altogether voyd, frustrate & of none effect in the Law, And that it shall & may bee lawfull to & for the Said Katherin Bispham & her assignes, vnto the afforesaid messuages Lands & p'misses & eny p'te thereof, to rent & the same, to have againe repossesse & enioy as in her former estate, Any thing herein contained to the contrary hereof in any wise not with standing. And it is agreed by & betweene both the said p'ties, to these p'sents, that shee the said Katherin Bispham, shall & may, remaine,

continue & bee Tenn'ts att will, or sufferance of the aforesaid, messuage, Lands rents & p'misses vnto the said Samuell Bispham, vntil the aforesaid ffeast day of St Michaell th'arch Angell now next ensueinge. And that the said Samuell Bispham Esq', his heires, and assignes, shall & will p'mitt and suffer her, the said Katherin Bispham, her executors and assignes & eny of them, to have p'ceive & take to her & their owne pu' use & behoofe. All & singuler, the uses, p'sitts, benefitts, Comodites and advantages, of all and singuler, the aforesaid messuage, Lands and p'misses, by these p'sents, grannted or Surrendered, vntil the aforesaid ffeast day of Snt Michaell Th'arch Angell, now next ensueinge, accordinge to the true intent & meaninge of these p'sents. And w'thout any Attempt thereof, to bee made to the said Sam' Bispham, his heires, and assignes, in any wise. In wittnes whereof, the parties aforesaid to these p'sente, Indentures, have interchannably put their hands and sealed the Day and yeare ffirst above written.

Signed

Katheren Bispham

Sealed & deliv'ed in the p'sence of

Elizabeth Chaddock.

()rth Bold.

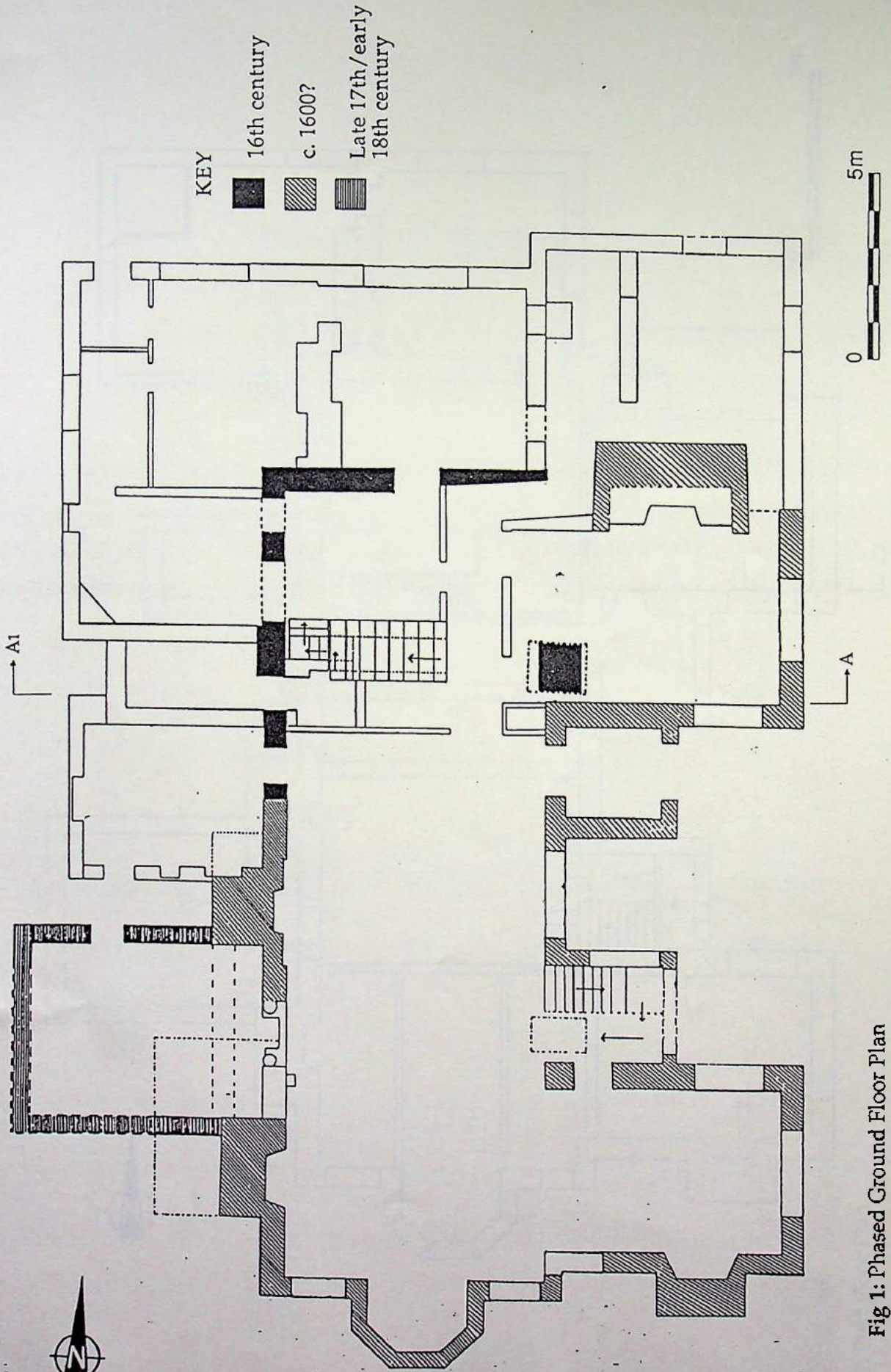


Fig 1: Phased Ground Floor Plan

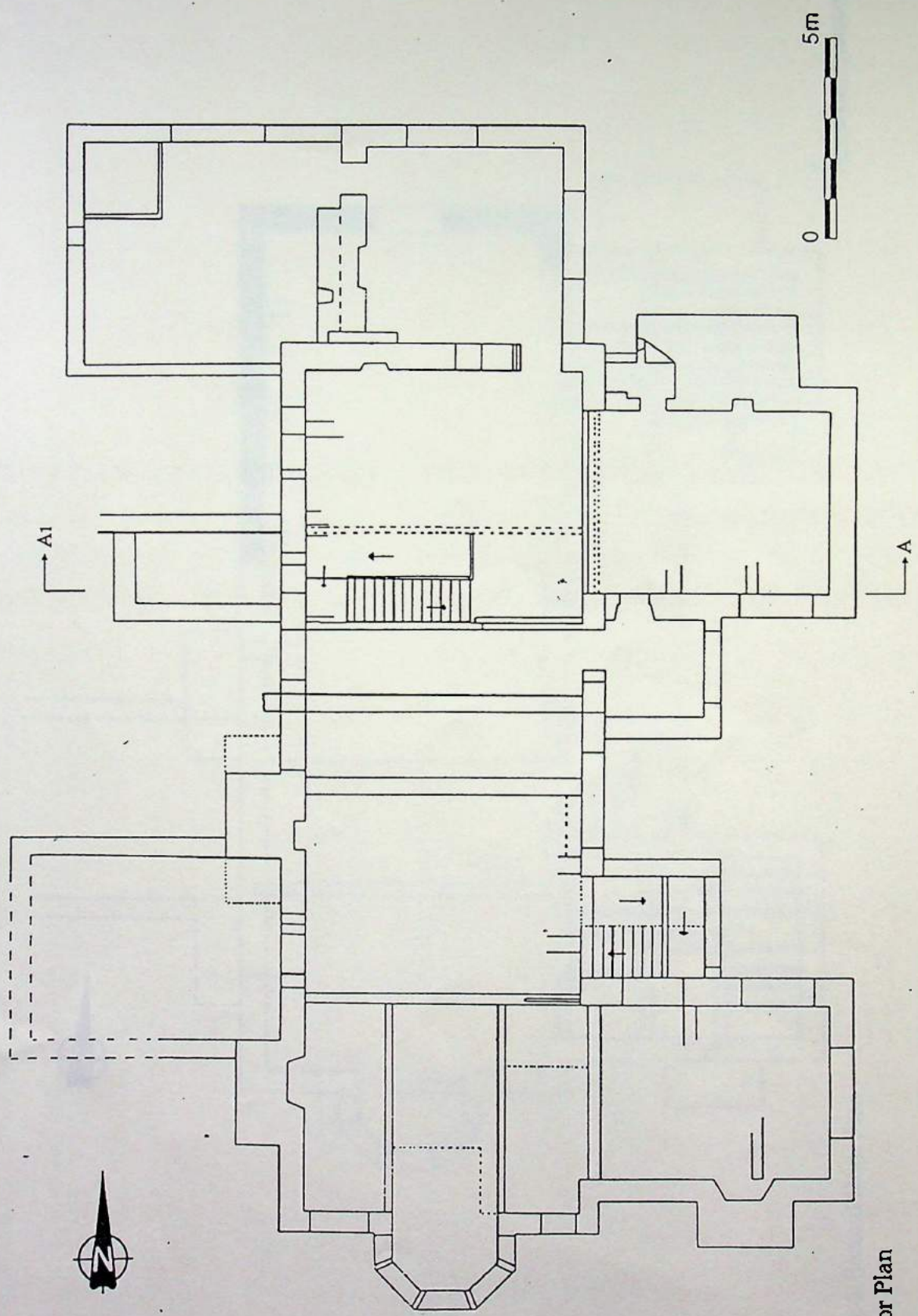


Fig 2: First Floor Plan

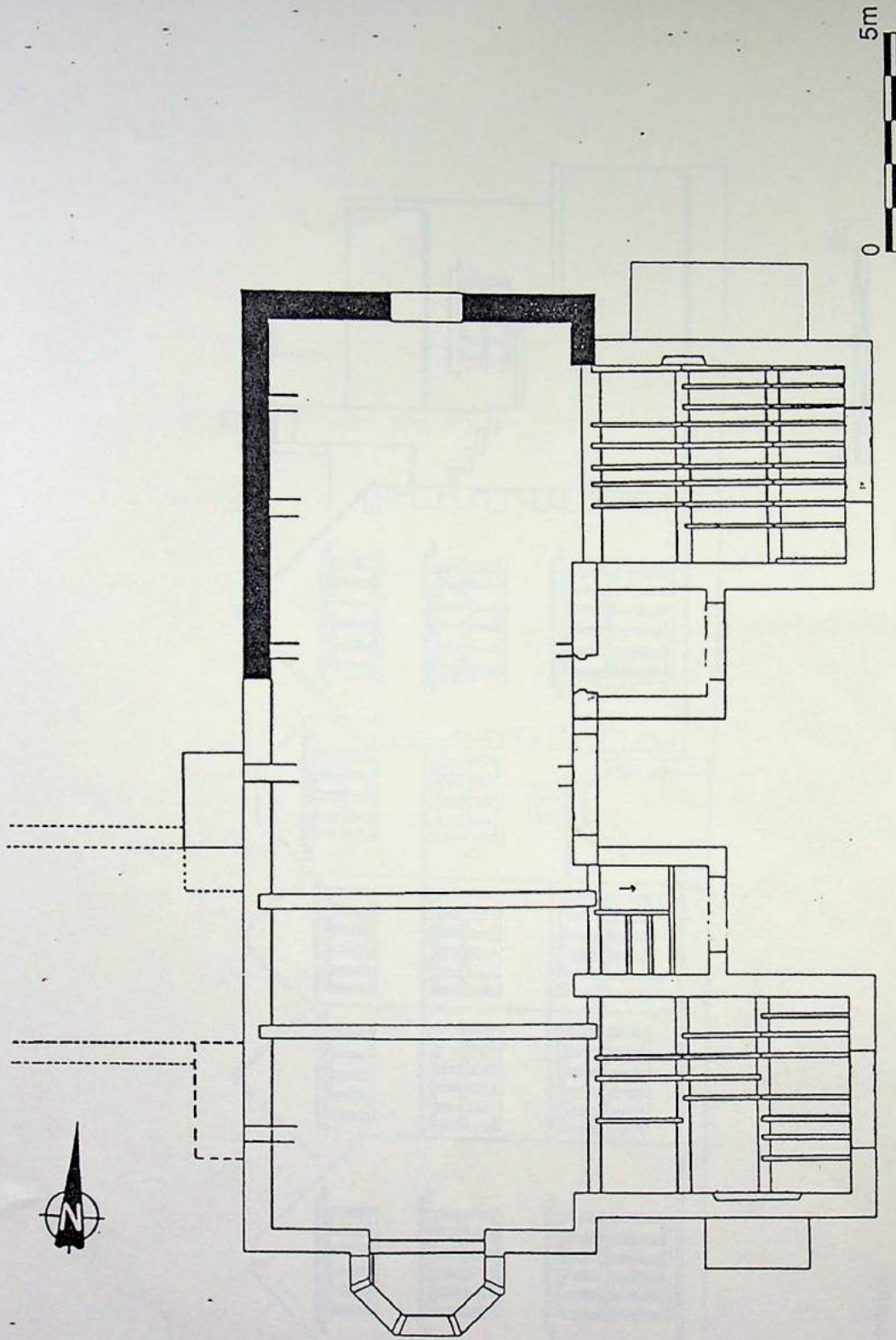


Fig 3: Second Floor Plan

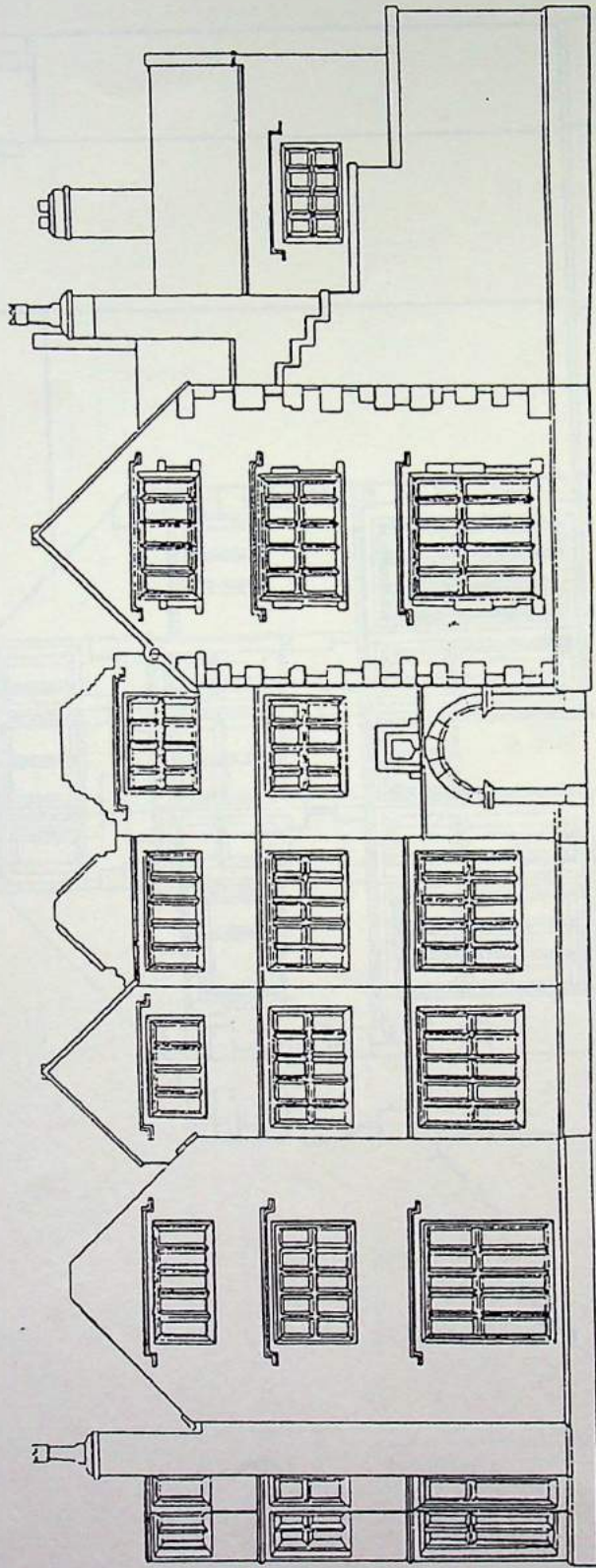


Fig 4: Eastern Elevation

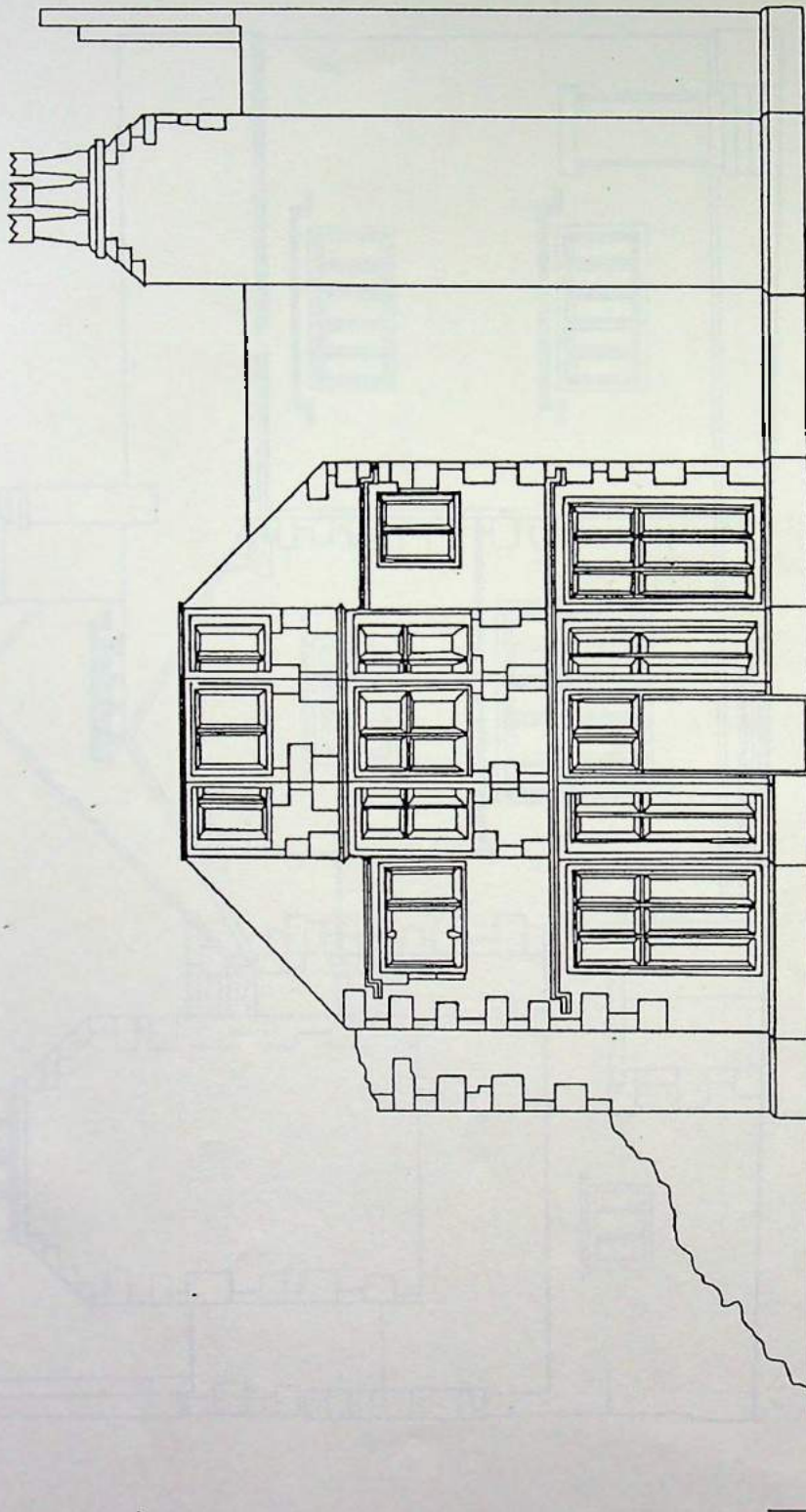


Fig 5: Southern Elevation

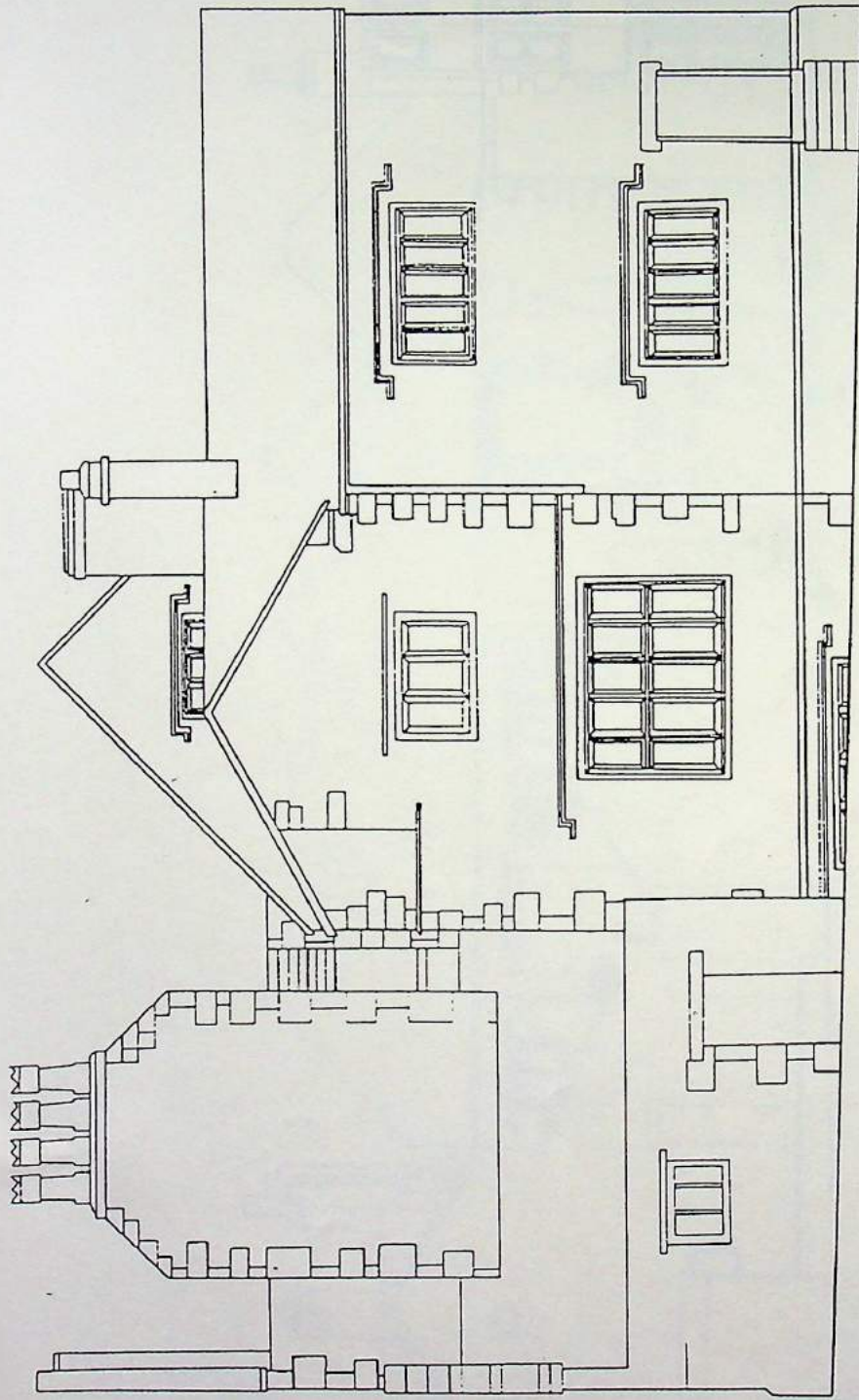


Fig 6: Northern Elevation

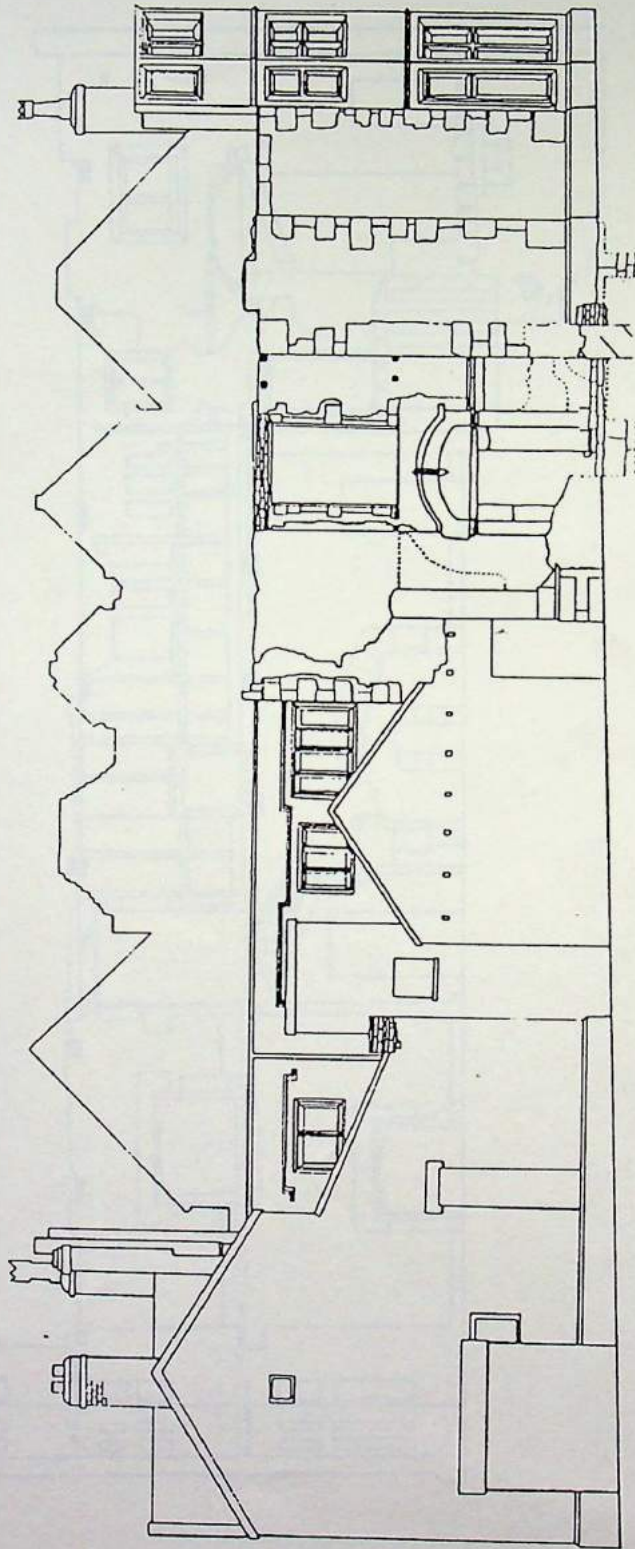


Fig 7: Western Elevation

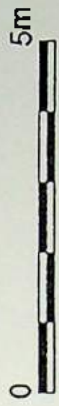
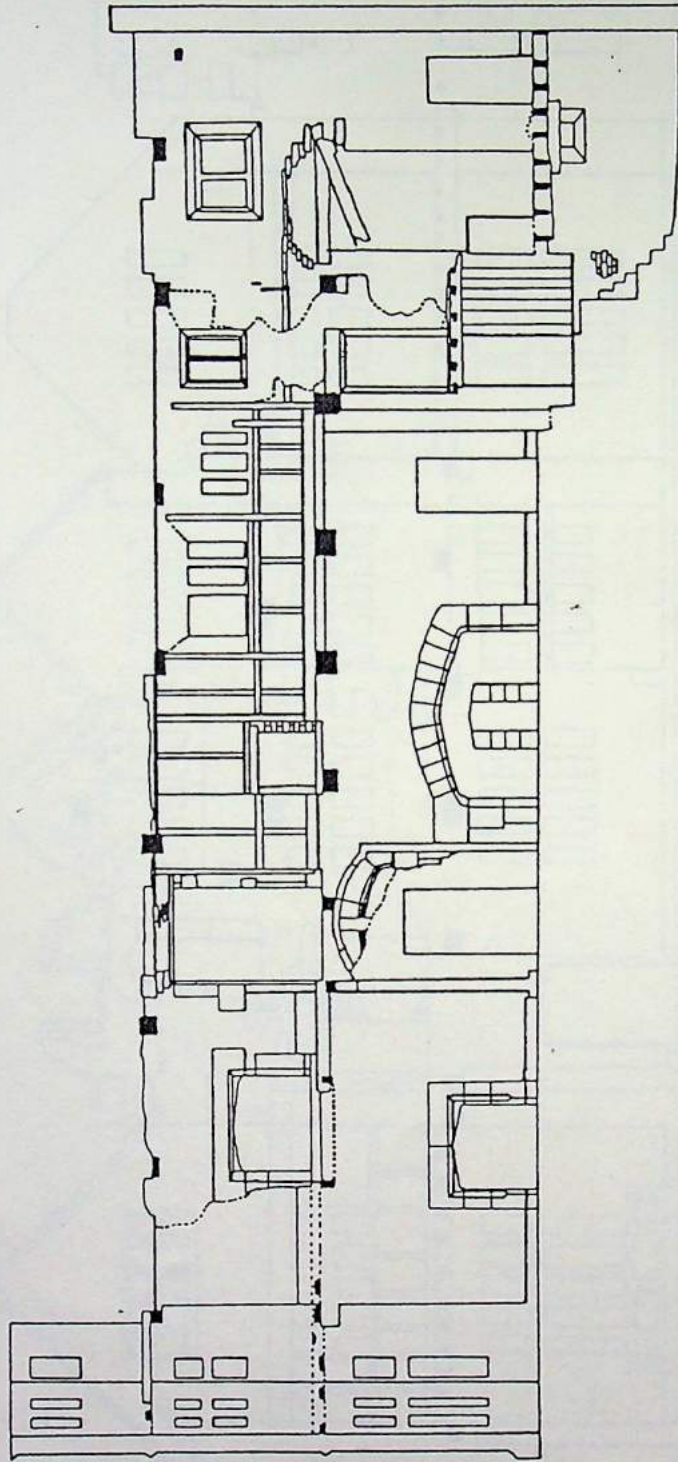
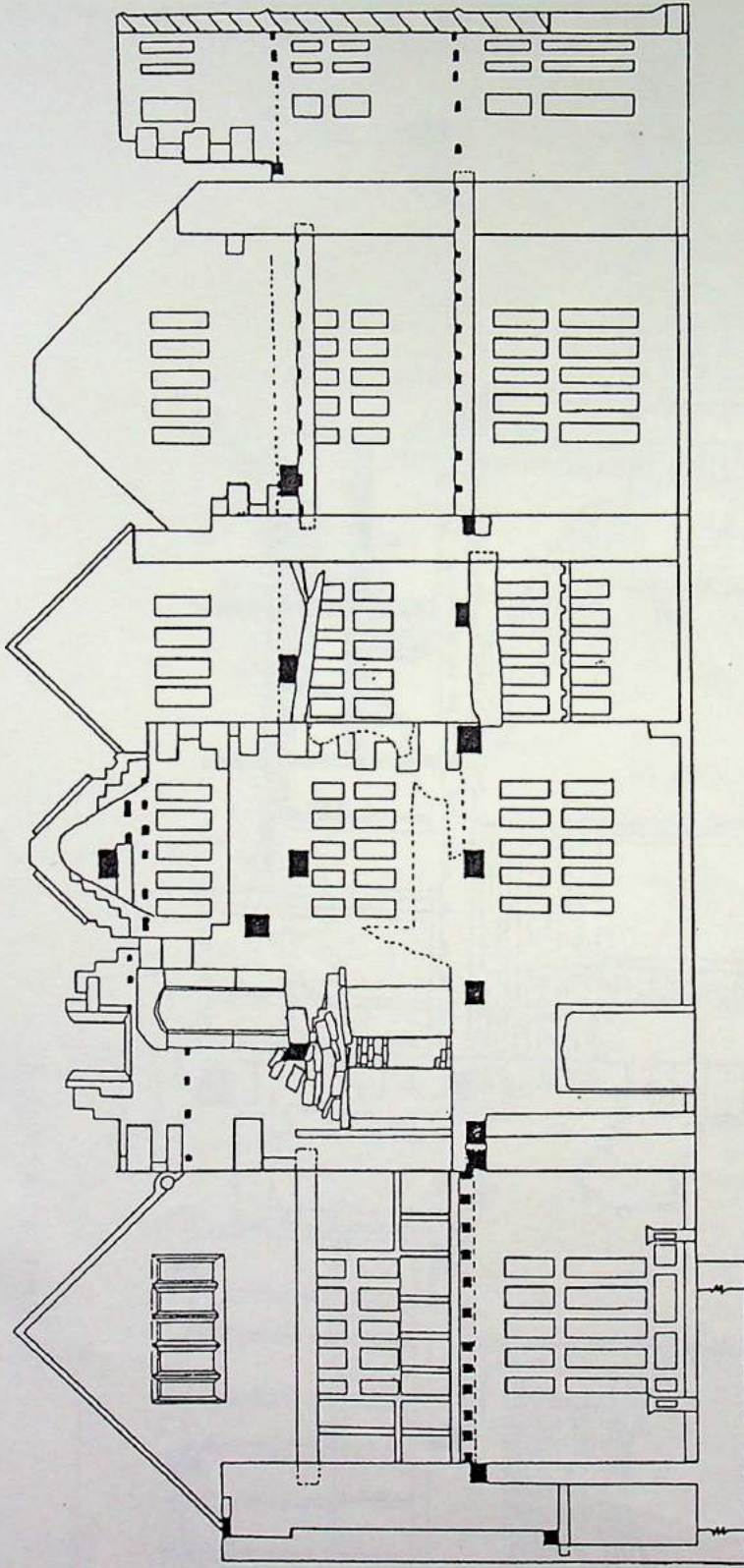
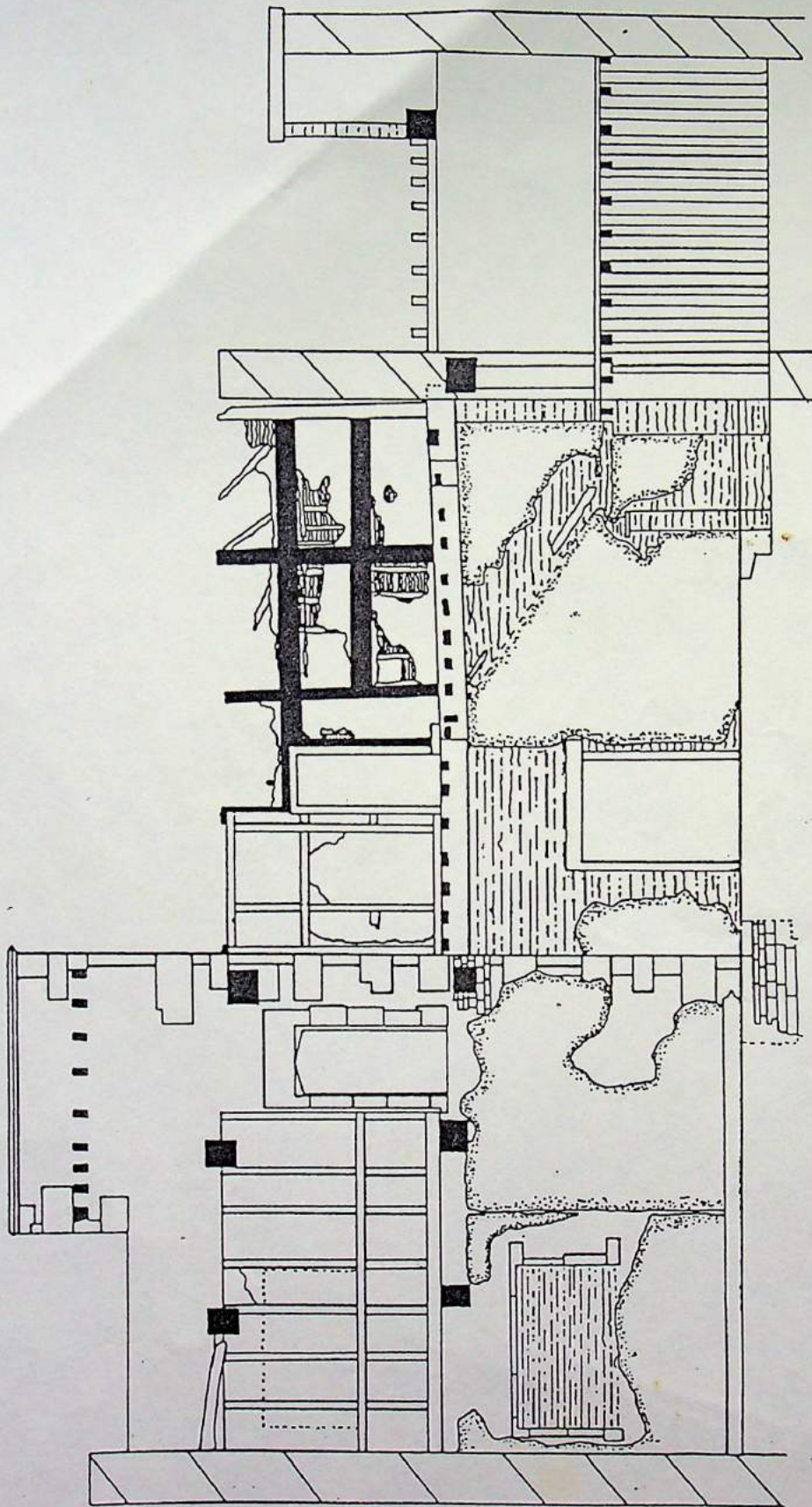


Fig 8: Western Internal Elevation



0 5m

Fig 9: Eastern Internal Elevation



0 5m

Fig 10: Cross-section through northern bay of old hall (A - A1 on Figs 1-2) showing 16th/17th century panelling with wattle and daub infill.