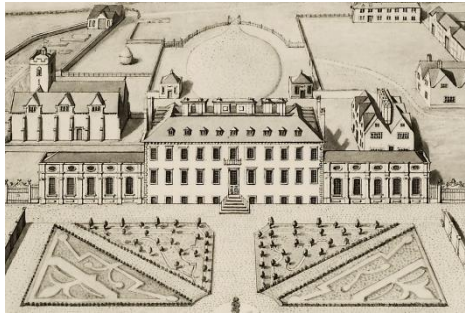


THE RED WING CROOME COURT

Worcestershire

An Interim Report on its Structural Evolution
and Historic Uses



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February 2012

Prepared on behalf of the National Trust

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General Introduction



Figure 1 View of Croome Court from the north-west (Author)

1.1 Background History

The Red Wing is the brick service wing that adjoins the eastern elevation of Croome Court in south Worcestershire. It dates primarily from the 1750s when the earlier 17th century house was remodelled under the supervision of Lancelot Brown to form the centrepiece of his designed landscape. This formed part of a significant series of works that Brown undertook at Croome for the 6th Earl of Coventry and was his first major architectural commission. The Red Wing was built to house the kitchens, offices and servants' accommodation for the mansion house and it also provided an apartment for the 6th Earl in his later life.

The wing is physically attached to the main building and linked to it by two interconnecting doorways. This means that it forms a single entity with the mansion house and the significance of this physical, visual, historical and functional connection is reflected by its inclusion within the Grade I listing of Croome Court.

This important connection was threatened recently when the Red Wing was under separate ownership. Croome Court had remained the seat of the Earls of Coventry for around 350 years. After the family moved out of the mansion house in 1948, the service wing continued to provide ancillary and service accommodation to the main house despite numerous

changes of use during the second half of the 20th century. In 2006 Croome Park came into the care of the National Trust and in 2007 the Croome Heritage Trust acquired the Court and leased it to the National Trust enabling it to be reunited with its landscape park. However for a brief period the Red Wing remained in private ownership. During this time the adjacent stableblock and ancillary buildings were converted into residential units and the Red Wing was allowed to deteriorate into a very serious state of disrepair. It became included within the highest risk category within English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk* register and in October 2009 Malvern Hills District Council served a Repairs Notice upon the owner. The condition of the building became so critical that in July 2011 that it became subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order. This provided the opportunity for its acquisition by the CHT and its lease to the National Trust in 2011.

With Croome Court and its service wing once more under single ownership, there is a need to act quickly to make it windproof, watertight and structurally sound in accordance with MHDC's schedule of repair in order to remove the Repairs Notice and prevent the structure from imminent collapse. Listed Building Consent has now been granted for essential and urgent repairs to the building. Although this is not a normal requirement of repair works to a listed building, this has been a special requirement in this instance to cover any minor alterations that become necessary as works progress and also the use of any non-authentic materials to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays to hinder the repair work. English Heritage has granted £500k towards an estimated £1 million repair project that commenced in February 2013 and is due to be completed before 15th June 2014. Proposals for the future use of the Red Wing will form part of the next phase of the Project. It is intended that the Red Wing will form a key part of the National Trust's overall strategy to secure the care and conservation of Croome Court in its entirety, and also an important component of its exciting new plans for the presentation of the property and for visitor engagement.

1.2 Report Brief

This report on the structural history of the Red Wing has been undertaken at the request of the National Trust's Red Wing Project Board. The aim is to provide an interim analysis of the structural evolution and historical development of the Red Wing and link this physical and structural evidence with the readily-available archival sources. It is hoped that this analysis will inform the ongoing repair work and any future plans for the building's care and maintenance, and also help to identify specific areas of sensitivity and parts of the building that are likely to reveal information of interest and are worthy of further investigation. This report also includes a brief account of the building's historic uses and how it has been adapted to accommodate the social, economic and technical changes of the past 250 years, together with recommendations for the future use and interpretation of the building that could be developed in the subsequent care and management programme.

1.3 Scope and Limitations

This report is based primarily upon the interpretation and analysis of existing structural evidence and known documentary sources. It is therefore by no means exhaustive, and where structural investigations have been restricted by access issues due to the unstable condition of the derelict building, reference has been made to the structural survey undertaken by Kirsty Rodwell in 2005 (K.Rodwell, *The Structural History of the Red Wing, Croome Court, Worcestershire*, 2005 and K.Rodwell, *Further Observations on the Structural Sequence*, 2005) and observations made by Nick Joyce of Nick Joyce Architects, Project Architect.

As the report focuses upon the building's structural evolution and historic uses, it does not form a record of the surviving structure nor an appraisal of its structural condition. Within the limitations of the brief and of the access issues, it conforms to the overall guidelines laid down by English Heritage in *Understanding Historic Buildings-A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, English Heritage, (2006), a revised and expanded version of *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification* (RCHME 1996) and Clark's *Informed Conservation* (2001).

1.4 Sources

This report is based on information gathered on site mainly in December 2012 and January 2013 and is informed by the vast resource of documentary and illustrative material in the Croome Estate Archive (CEA), now held mainly at The Hive in Worcester, with additional reference to the Antony archive (AA) held at Antony House, Cornwall. As noted above, much of the structural detail makes reference to the 2005 survey by Kirsty Rodwell. All the structural drawings are reproduced with the permission of Nick Joyce Architects, although the colour-coded details included on the drawings in Appendix III and IV are the work of the author. Additional sources are listed at the end of this report in the Bibliography section.

2.0 Statutory Protection

Listing Designation

Croome Court is a Grade I listed building and the Red Wing is included within the same Grade I designation. Croome Park is registered as a Grade I landscape in EH's Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest and most of the ancillary buildings and structures associated with the Croome landscape are also listed. Six of these are listed Grade I, two are listed Grade II* and there are twelve listed Grade II.

See Appendix I for complete list description.

3.0 Location and site observation

Croome Court is located at NGR SO 8849444596. around eight miles south of Worcester, eight miles north of Tewkesbury and to the east of the M5 motorway between junctions 7 and 8. It stands as the centrepiece of a relatively flat and open area of parkland that forms a shallow bowl nestled within the undulating countryside and neat arable fields of south Worcestershire. These damp, lowlands of the Worcestershire Plain are formed from soft mudstones and crossed by both the Severn and Avon rivers.



Figure 2 Location map for Croome Court (Google)

This broad expanse of waterlogged marsh and meadowland provided Lancelot Brown with a blank canvas on which to demonstrate his potential at a crucial early stage in his career. The parkland at Croome has retained much of its mature planting and substantial areas have now been restored and replanted so that the original concept, with its serpentine river, lake, clumps of trees and encircling shrubberies, can be appreciated once more much as Brown intended. The Malvern Hills to the west were incorporated within the overall design to form an effective backdrop that appears to provide the distant boundary of the estate, while the middle distance is defined by the wooded ridge of Pirton Park to the north, Knight's Hill and Cubsmoor to the west and the long lias ridge that runs south along the park's eastern boundary. This gently undulating landscape is punctuated with a variety of buildings and structures with ingeniously devised sightlines to and from the mansion house and from the inner and outer circuits around the park. This creates an extraordinary sequence of changing prospects of exquisite artistry and variety.

The house shelters beneath the lias ridge on the eastern side of the parkland and is approached from the north-east via the London Arch. Originally it was also approached from the west via the Worcester Lodge and through the Punchbowl Gates but this western part of the parkland is now severed from the house and lake by the M5 motorway. Immediately surrounding the Court to the north, west and south are flat areas of

ornamental pastureland, separated from the park by the artificial river. The former stables, domestic offices and ancillary buildings lie to the east and north-east of the Court, including the seven-acre walled garden which extends up the ridge almost as far as the Rotunda set among the cedars at the eastern end of the pleasure grounds. The Red Wing adjoins the eastern end of the Court and forms an L-plan. At its eastern side is a small kitchen yard, now known as Laundry Green, which is entered from the north through a screen wall and gateway flanked by rusticated piers. This wall links the Red Wing with the former stablecourt to the east, also designed by Brown and now converted to residential use and known as Dunstall Court.

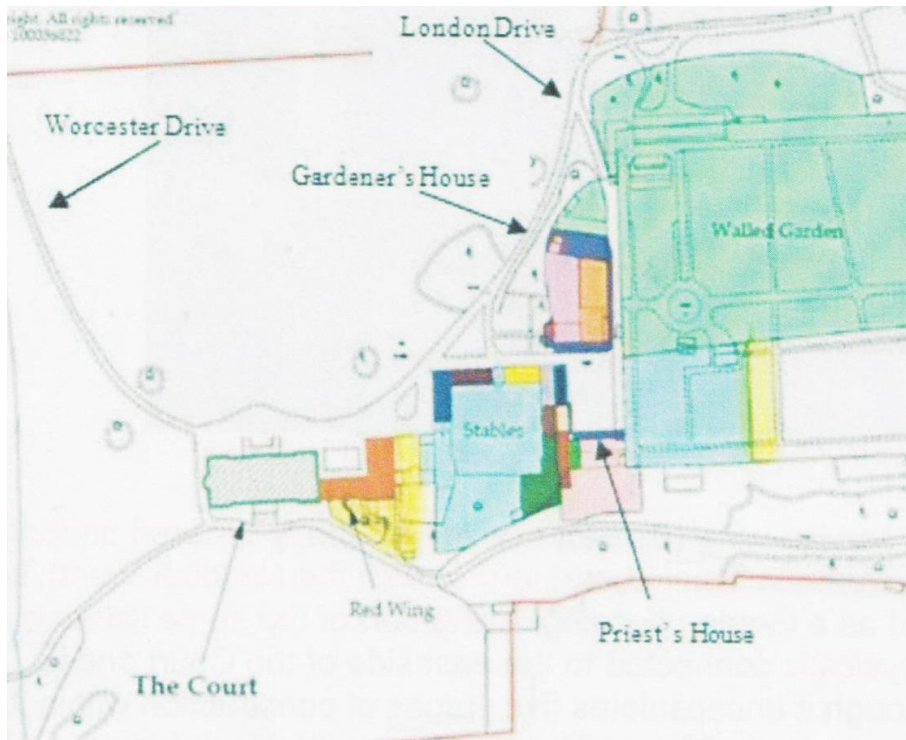


Figure 3 Site Plan of Croome Court (John Goom 2008)

4.0 Relationship of the Red Wing to Croome Court and the Croome Landscape

4.1 Relationship of the Red Wing to Croome Court

The relationship between Croome Court and the Red Wing is physical, visual, statutory, historical, archaeological, architectural and functional as follows:

Physical

The Red Wing is physically attached to the main building and linked to it by two interconnecting doorways and it thus forms a single entity with the mansion house.

Visual

The Red Wing in its present form dates from the same time as the Palladian remodelling of the main house and was therefore conceived as an integral part of the whole composition.

It was designed and constructed by the same architect and craftsmen and shares similarities in its internal fittings and finishings. However it was faced with red brick and stone dressings to distinguish its different status and ensure that it did not impinge unduly upon the form, profile and design of the Court, and to create a valuable visual link with the adjacent brick stableblock and ancillary service buildings.

Statutory

It is included within the Grade 1 listing of Croome Court. This recognises that the house and its service wing are one and the same building.

Historical

The Red Wing has always been in the same ownership as the Court apart from a brief period around the beginning of the 21st century. This means that both structures are the product of the same social and aesthetic ambitions.

Archaeological

Their shared site means that they have a shared archaeology

Architectural

Their parallel evolution means that they were designed, built and evolved as a whole.

Functional

Their historic uses, early technology etc are closely related.

The Red Wing played a crucial supporting role in the everyday life of the Court, housing the kitchen, servants' hall and other essential service accommodation. It also became a place of retreat for 6th Earl in his later life serving as an extension to the mansion house. The adaptation and alteration of the structure and its changing uses is vital to an understanding of the Court's adaptation to the social, economic and technological changes that affected life in an English country house.



Figure 4 Croome Court & Red Wing from the NE (Leonard Edwards)



Figure 5 Junction of Croome Court & Red W from the SW (Author)

4.2 Relationship of the Red Wing to the Croome Landscape

Although essentially inseparable from the main building as detailed above, it is important to establish the role of the Red Wing within the designed landscape. The main house may have been the centrepiece of this landscape set within a complex network of sightlines, but it should be emphasised that in its final 1750s form the Red Wing was not designed to benefit from or contribute in any significant way to its exceptional setting. Brown was careful to ensure that, despite the close relationship between the Court and its service wing, the separate function and status of each was clearly defined by the differences in their design, materials and relationship to the landscape. From the north and especially from the south, the Red Wing is partly screened by mature trees and shrubberies. These were devised by Brown to ensure that the bulky profile of the Red Wing did not appear too dominant, particularly from the eastern approach to the house, and did not distract and overwhelm the compact outline of the remodelled Palladian house from most viewpoints around the inner circuit. Consequently, from a distance the wing reads more as part of the adjacent stable court and ancillary buildings so that the Court can assert its distinctive Palladian profile. This was not always the case. It will be seen that during the earliest phase of its structural evolution it was intended to extend the south elevation visually and increase its impact. Practical considerations dictated otherwise during later phases of construction, and although Adam did draw up a design to remodel the newly-completed building in the 1760s, to give it greater architectural distinction and a lower profile, his scheme was not executed. As Brown intended, the Red Wing became a vital component of the overall composition and of the carefully-contrived layout, making the necessary visual transition between the mansion house and its ancillary buildings massed to the east



Figure 6 Detail from Richard Wilson's painting of Croome Court of 1758 showing proposed effect of the mature planting to screen the Red Wing (CET)



Figure 7 View from the Red Wing looking NW towards the Temple Greenhouse (Author)

5.0 Succession of Ownership

Croome Court was the seat of the Coventry family for 350 years. For reference purpose and historical context, a chronological list of the Coventry succession and ownership of Croome Court is set out in the table below:

| Names and Dates | Incumbency or Ownership |
|---|---|
| Sir Thomas Coventry (1547-1606) | c.1592-1606 |
| Thomas, 1st Baron Coventry (1578-1640) | 1606-1640 |
| Thomas, 2nd Baron Coventry (1606-61) | 1640-1661 |
| George, 3rd Baron Coventry (1628-80) | 1661-1680 |
| John, 4th Baron Coventry (1654-87) | 1680-1687 |
| Thomas, 1st Earl of Coventry (1629-99) | 1687-1699 |
| Thomas, 2nd Lord of Coventry (1663-1710) | 1699-1710 |
| Thomas, 3rd Earl of Coventry (1702-1711/12) | 1710-1711/12 |
| Gilbert, 4th Earl of Coventry (1668-1719) | 1712-1719 |
| George William, 5th Earl of Coventry (1678-1751) | 1719-1751 |
| George William, 6th Earl of Coventry (1722-1809) | 1751-1809 |
| George William, 7th Earl of Coventry (1758-1831) | 1809-1831 |
| George William, 8th Earl of Coventry (1784-1843) | 1831-1843 |
| George William, 9th Earl of Coventry (1838-1930) | 1843-1930 |
| George William, 10th Earl of Coventry (1900-1940) | 1930-1940 |
| Ownership since 1948 | |
| The Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham | 1948-1979 |
| The International Society for Krishna Consciousness | 1980-1984 |
| Martin Sowbey –youth training centre/hotel, | 1984 - |
| Christopher Buxton-hotel/conference centre | |
| John Rudge-private property developer | |
| Laurence Bilton-property developer | -2007 Court -2011 Red Wing |
| Croome Heritage Trust | 2007-present Court 2011-present Red Wing |

6.0 Historical context: a summary

For a full account see Gordon, *The Coventrys of Croome* and Kay, *Conservation, Management and Maintenance Plan*, 2012 and the various archival sources, in particular the Croome Estate Archive (CEA)

6.1 Pre-1640

The site of the house is of medieval origin and was located adjacent to the former parish church within the village of Croome D'Abitot. This medieval house and part of the manor was purchased by Thomas Coventry, a successful London lawyer, towards the end of the 16th century. His son, Thomas, 1st Baron Coventry, (1578-1640) was a man of outstanding ability and ambition, who became Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England. He invested much of his vast wealth in enlarging his estate into the adjacent counties and across eastern and southern England.

Croome House is recorded to have burnt down twice during his time according to an early 18th century history in the Antony Muniments. This reference probably refers to his lifetime rather than his occupancy or ownership as he lived mainly in London and settled the estate on his eldest son, Thomas, later 2nd Baron, in 1627. Entries in the account book for 1624 (CEA: Hive) refer to glazing and ironwork repairs, and between 1627 and 1632 there were improvements to the grounds and outbuildings that would coincide with this change in ownership. Almost certainly the gabled gatehouse and double-pile outbuilding were built at this time. The appearance of the Jacobean house is subject to speculation, but it may have been similar in character to the gabled brick gatehouse, and evidence from this period still survives within the present house. The second fire may have occurred in the late 1630s, as a major rebuilding took place between 1640-9, although the death of the 1st Baron may also have prompted this.

6.2 The Caroline Rebuilding

Thomas, 2nd Baron Coventry, (1606-61) embarked upon his ambitious rebuilding of the Jacobean house at a time of political turmoil which probably delayed its completion till 1649. The Articles of Agreement with the builder, Matthew Browne, a London bricklayer, and with various other craftsmen survive (Badminton Muniments: QV 1/1) and provide a valuable insight into the appearance of the building and its interior in particular. From these documents, from the structural evidence and from the known images of the pre-1751 house, including the 1714 view from the south by Henry Beighton, the c.1750 view from the north, and the Doherty plan of c.1750, it is possible to extract a reasonable idea of what the house, outbuildings and the surrounding courts and gardens looked like prior to the remodelling and landscaping undertaken by Lancelot Brown.

It should be noted that all the images conflict in detail. The Beighton view was intended as a proposal that was never executed in full. The c.1750 view appears to be an alteration of an

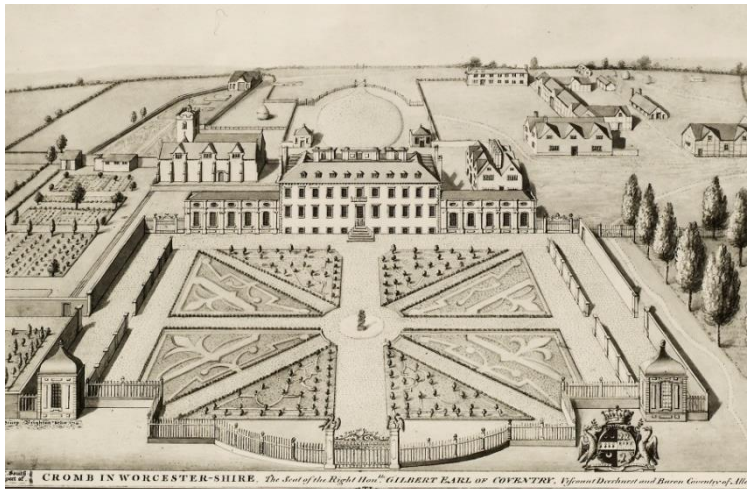


Figure 8 View of proposed alterations to south front and garden. 1714 by Henry Beighton (Hive)

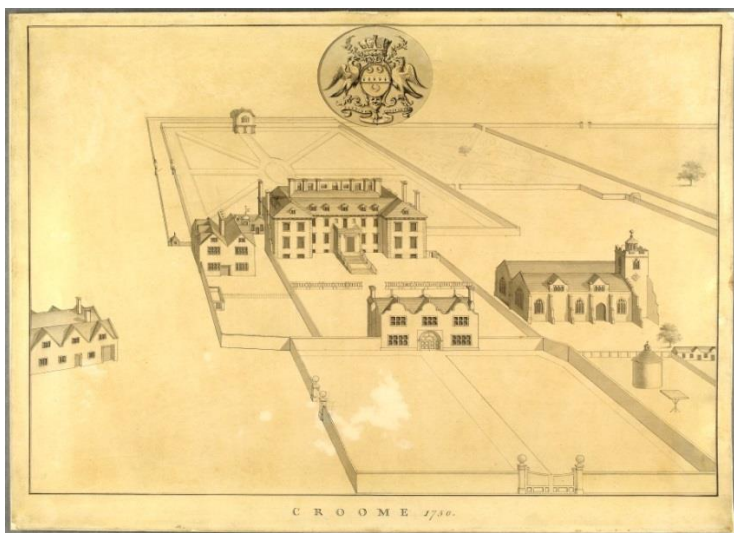


Figure 9 c.1750 drawing of Croome Court from the north (Hive)

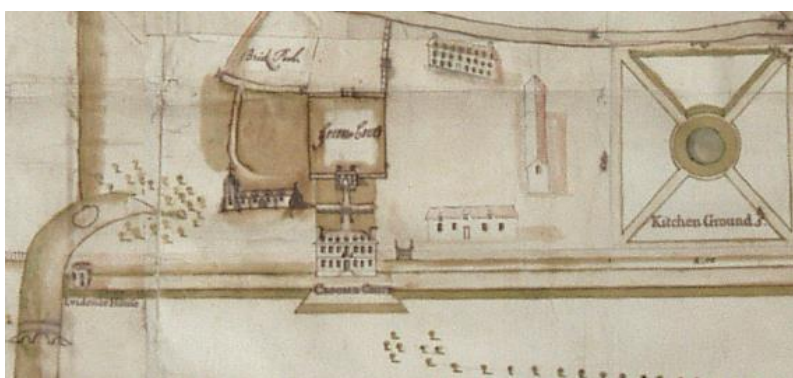


Figure 10 Detail from plan of Croome by Doherty c.1750 (Hive)

earlier drawing and although the main buildings are well-detailed the outlines of the site are decidedly sketchy. Furthermore the buildings recorded in the Doherty plan are simply schematic as he was more concerned with land use than a literal representation.

It seems likely that the design of the Caroline house was progressive and reflected the 2nd Baron's interest in contemporary architectural developments in London and south-east England. (See Gordon, Report 2010). It was built of brick with stone dressings, and it was of two storeys with a basement and had a hipped roof with attic dormers. This was unusual for its date and location but more significant still was its fashionable double-pile plan with projecting north wings and central north porch. It also had distinctive arcaded ridge stacks and large external chimneystacks at each end. The north entrance elevation was of 2:5:2 bays, while the south garden elevation extended for 11-bays and had a central first-floor balcony. Internally the layout was dominated by a massive spine wall, which incorporated brickwork from the earlier house, and it was fitted out to a high standard with fine-quality joinery.

The archival evidence shows that the kitchen and domestic offices were housed in the basement and adjacent outbuilding as part of the emerging preference to separate the family accommodation from the service areas (see Gordon, *Report*, 2010). It is almost certain that there was a formal south garden after 1640 in which an evidence house was located, and that the house was surrounded by various courtyards, walled gardens, orchards and other enclosures, with the domestic offices, agricultural and village buildings lying to the north-east.

In the known images of the early house, the church appears in roughly the same form and location. The Jacobean gatehouse is shown on both the c.1750 view and the Doherty and probably survived till 1751. Its disappearance in the Beighton image suggests that it was planned to demolish it earlier in the eighteenth century

6.3 Early 18th Century Alterations and Proposals

Following the 2nd Baron's death in 1661, the accounts show that there was little building activity till the turn of the century. Thomas, 5th Baron Coventry (1629-99) was created 1st Earl of Coventry and Viscount Deerhurst in 1692. Although an early history in the Antony archive notes that he allowed the Croome estate to become run down, he is recorded to have spent money on the garden, as the 1691 Accounts (AA: CVA/H3/4) refer to "4 load of stone for repairing outwalls of ye house" and to the purchase of 200 plants and garden seeds.

His two sons, Thomas and Gilbert, shared the 2nd Baron's passion for building and improving. Thomas (1663-1710), a distinguished mathematician and astronomer and correspondent of Robert Hooke, had married Anne Somerset, the daughter of the Duke of Beaufort. He and his wife spent large sums improving their family home at Snitterfield in Warwickshire and

Gilbert also undertook extensive improvements at Hidcote House, the family home of his first wife, Dorothy Keyte. This is significant, not least because the architects and craftsmen who worked at Croome at this time were from Warwickshire and are likely to have been employed by the family on previous projects.

By the early 18th century the layout of Croome House had become outdated and it lacked a suite of state rooms appropriate to the family's new status. If the 2nd Earl and his wife made plans for the necessary improvements, little activity is noted in the accounts. This may be because the 2nd Earl had contracted "Great Debts" possibly from his endeavours at Snitterfield, and also as his father had left much of his personal estate, including the contents of Croome, to his second wife. However the tree planting and felling to the south of the house at this time may indicate the start of planned alterations to upgrade the south front and garden. (Antony Accounts) The two bolection-moulded fireplaces, one of which survives in the Court and the other in F16 of the Red Wing, may also date from this period.

After the 2nd Earl's death in 1710, his widow administered the estate for the following year on behalf of their young son, now 3rd Earl, who died in 1712, aged 10. The Antony history states that by this time, "Crombe House, Gardens and Out Houses were neglected and gone to Decay".

On becoming 4th Earl quite unexpectedly, Gilbert (1668-1719) seized the chance to embark on a major scheme of improvements to the house and gardens, referred to in more detail later in the text. From 1712 he began to purchase large quantities of plants and seeds for the garden, he took on a new gardener and he made repairs to the house. In 1714 his friend, Henry Beighton, produced his view of the proposed alterations (Fig.8) including a pair of five-bay wings which elongated the south elevation to create a more imposing and fashionable façade. This proposal also shows a new south parterre and grass walks that led to a pair of pavilions set on either side of a grand pair of gates with eagle finials. In the same year Francis Smith of Warwick provided designs for new stables.

The 4th Earl remarried in 1715, which brought a welcome marriage settlement of £10,000, and also a change in plan. There were significant alterations to the house and a memorandum from the joiner, George Chine, notes that he supplied new sash windows, shutters, floors and wainscoting. Smith submitted new designs and his men were still on site when the 4th Earl died in 1719. The Little Inventory of 1719 (AA) records quantities of timber, coping stone, limestone, freestone, scaffolding and bricks on site, in addition to large numerous sash windows and also wainscoting that were stacked in the wood house and evidence house. There is also reference to the Hercules statue in the south garden and the ornate south gates which would seem to confirm that the 4th Earl's plans were certainly realised in part. More significantly, part of the fabric of the south wall of the Red Wing appears to date from this period.

Between 1719 and the late 1740s there is little evidence of further work on the site. The title reverted to William, 5th Earl of Coventry (1678-1751), who undertook some work on the garden in the early 1720s, probably completing Gilbert's scheme, but for the following twenty years the accounts show no notable entries for the house. However there were important improvements to the estate which resulted in a substantial increase in rental income during this time. (CEA: Hive).

6.4 The mid 18th century Palladian Remodelling

The 5th Earl had three sons. The eldest died suddenly in 1744 and the estate was settled on the second son, George William (1722-1809), who became 6th Earl in 1751. An intelligent and ambitious man of exceptional taste, he was driven by a lifelong obsession to transform his country seat into a centre of aesthetic excellence.

The Doherty plan of c.1750 (Fig.10) illustrates his early tentative steps with the creation of a section of the artificial river and a Chinese bridge. During this initial period he sought advice from his friend, the gentleman-architect, Sanderson Miller (1716-80), who drew up various plans for him. (See Miller's diaries at Warwick RO) The extent of Miller's involvement remains an enigma, but it was Miller who introduced Lancelot Brown to Croome. Brown had just set up as a landscape architect, and the 6th Earl commissioned him to remodel the house in the Palladian manner and to create the landscape park. This was Brown's first major architectural commission and it was a complex engineering challenge. In the years between 1751 and 1757, the north wings of the house were infilled to create a new entrance front, a central portico was applied to the south front, new wings were attached at each end with corner towers in the Palladian manner, and the whole building was clad in ashlar. The former interior layout was also altered and updated, and the offices and stables were rebuilt and enlarged. Around the site, the formal courts, the south garden, the medieval parish church and village were all demolished to make way for a swathe of ornamental pastureland that encircled the house. This provided unrestricted views across the river and ha-ha to Brown's new lake and shrubberies, the sculpted hillside with its new church, and the various park buildings and structures distributed at strategic points within the designed landscape.

Regrettably no bills have survived pre 1757, but the general progress of the build may be established from the account books. (See Appendix II for Bills post 1757) The roofing was completed around 1757, but work on the interior continued for over a decade. Brown and his craftsmen were responsible for the fitting up and decoration of much of the interior, but in 1760 Robert Adam was commissioned to design the fittings and furnishings for the Long Gallery, Library and Tapestry Room and he also made important contributions elsewhere in the house. (See Kay's *CMMP* for full details)



Figure 11 Detail from 1768 survey (surveyed 1763) by John Broome showing laundry wing linking Red Wing with stableblock (Hive)



Figure 12 Detail from 1796 survey by John Snape showing north screen wall to Laundry Green (Hive)

The Red Wing was also rebuilt at this time to house additional new domestic offices. It will be seen that the complex sequence of the build resulted in various compromises. It was eventually roofed c.1753 and in 1755 a bill for reeds suggests that the lime ash floors were laid in the attic at this time. Adam made plans in 1763 to reduce the height of the building and give it a more distinctive and distinguished appearance, but these were never executed.

The Red Wing was linked to the laundry in the stableblock by a brick wing, which, according to the archival evidence, was also part of the laundry. Behind this ran a service passageway which screened the wing from the south. By 1796, when Snape drew up his plan of Croome, the Red Wing was also linked to the stable block by a screen wall and gateway north of the laundry wing to enclose a small kitchen yard. This is now known as Laundry Green, although the actual green, later a drying yard, lay to the south of the laundry wing. South-east of the Red Wing survives a housing for an early underground water tank lined partly with high quality ashlar. This is possibly connected to a bill from William Chapman dated 13 April 1764 (CEA: Hive) for a pumping engine with hand-cranked iron flywheel “to Rise water out of a well fixt in the Old Servant’s Hall [that] serves 2 Cisterns, one in the Cellar the other in a Dark Closett in ye Passage...”. It must be assumed that the ashlar wall belonged to an earlier building of relatively high status that had a well. Chapman’s pump probably supplied the water closet fitted in 1764 for the Alcove Bedroom noted in Hobcraft’s bill (CEA: Hive).



Figure 13 The laundry wing from the north as altered in the 19th and mid 20th century (Leonard Edwards)

In 1765, Henry Holland submitted a bill for Welsh slating on offices at Croome. This may not refer to the Red Wing or it could suggest that a patch of slate had to be relaid or replaced. Then in 1781 Adam made plans for a new apartment for the 6th Earl as he sought more privacy in later life. These plans have not been traced and are presumed not to have been executed, but in 1781 a jib door was created from a first-floor landing of the main staircase through to the Red Wing (CEA: Hive). An apartment was created that occupied the entire first-floor of the link range that included a panelled sitting room and bedroom, a closet and a dressing room. In 1799 James Wyatt made plans to alter the apartment but again these are believed not to have been executed.

6.5 19th and 20th Century Modifications and Modernisation

The 6th Earl died in 1809 and for a period of almost 150 years the house was little altered. Only essential repairs were undertaken during the time of the 7th Earl (1758-1831) and 8th Earl (1784-1843). Even throughout 9th Earl's (1838-1930) long period of ownership no significant structural alterations to the Court occurred. He allowed the house and park to mature with grace and dignity and concentrated his efforts on improving the



Figure 14 Croome Court from the SW showing the screening effect of the mature planting by the mid 19th century (Hive)

estate and indulging his passion for country pursuits. However, from the 1840s some changes were made to make the house more comfortable. Fireplaces were adapted to burn coal and a private gas supply was installed in the 1880s. Alterations were also made to the service accommodation in the basement and Red Wing to meet Victorian standards and new estate offices were built at High Green c.1865-70. Photographs of the Court taken in the 1860s and for *Country Life* magazine in 1902 shows the Court framed by trees to the east and west, almost obscuring the Red Wing as Brown's planting reached maturity.

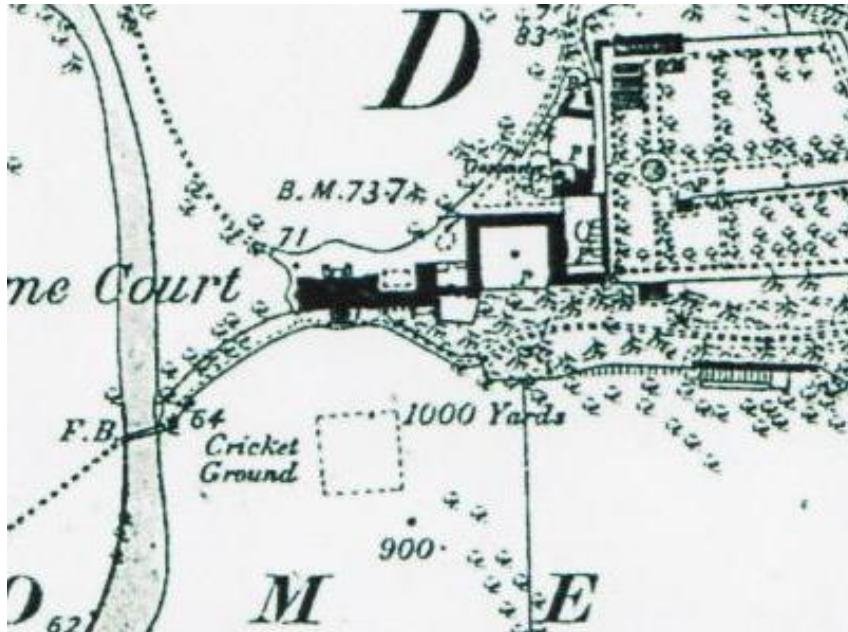


Figure 15 1884 OS map showing drying yard to SE of Red Wing and structures on south side of screen wall N of Laundry Green

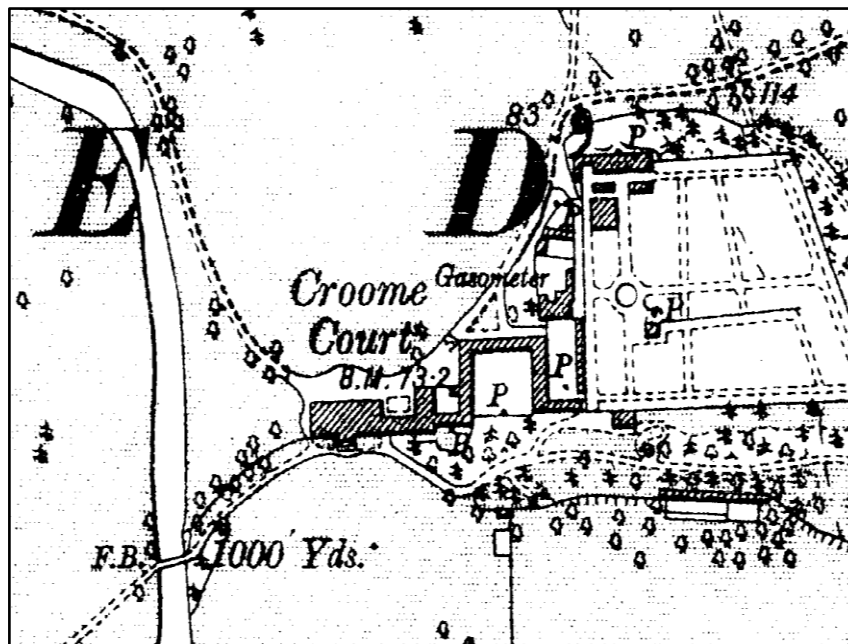


Figure 16 1905 OS map showing new small structures to east of drying yard and removal of western structure on south side of north screen wall

There were also important changes to the area immediately to the south and east of the wing. The 1884 OS map shows two small single-storey outbuildings built onto the south side of the north screen wall and also a small enclosure used as a drying yard at the south-east corner of the Red Wing with several small structures, probably W.C.s, to the west of this. A rectangular lawn is also shown to the north of the wing.

By 1905, the OS map indicates that there were additional small buildings or enclosures on the eastern side of the drying yard built onto the main laundry room in the stableblock. The single storey structure, west of the north screen wall to Laundry Green had also been removed.

When the 9th Earl died in 1930, the 10th Earl (1900-1940) deemed the place uninhabitable and embarked on a major scheme of improvements and modernisation of both the house and service wing. (See Kay's *CMMP* for full details of the works undertaken) Electricity had only been installed in 1928, the sewage discharged into the lake, the water supply and drainage were primitive and little improved, the kitchens and bathrooms were ill-equipped and inconveniently located, and it was no longer possible to rely on numerous staff to make up such shortcomings.

At the same time a survey of wells was undertaken, which identified the well in Laundry Green located within the tank that had housed the Chapman pump of 1764. This was found to supply the wash-house sink, the sink in the Kitchen, the Brushing Room, the W.C.s in the Red Wing and garden and also the tank in the Scullery. There appear to have been 9 tanks in total that supplied water to the house and its ancillary buildings, and this can have been barely adequate. New drainage, a new sewage plant, Internal/external plumbing works, heating, and improvements to the electricity supply were undertaken as well as major repairs and redecorating throughout the building. The Red Wing was used by the family and the 10th Earl's younger children are believed to have grown up there rather than in the main house. This followed significant changes to the accommodation, including the creation of a new kitchen in the former house steward's room. The laundry wing was used as a game larder after this time, and the main laundry and wash-house are believed to have been moved into the former dairy with an ironing room in the adjacent former beef larder and gun room. The main body of the work was complete by 1933, although further drainage and heating problems recurred in 1938, and the inadequacies of the private water supply remained an issue.

The 10th Earl was killed in action in 1940 and, during the War, the Ministry of Works occupied part of the Court, the outbuildings and grounds. At one point there was a possibility that the Women's Land Army would be billeted in the Red Wing but the Croome Estate Trustees refused permission for this and, together with the stableblock, it is believed to have been used by the Ministry of Food for storage.

In 1948 the Court was sold and bought by the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham as a school for disadvantaged boys. During this period the Red Wing provided accommodation for the nuns, a school chapel prior to the conversion of the riding school in the barn, a sewing/workroom, a sanitorium and some additional dormitory space.



Figure 17 Kitchen in Red Wing in use as school chapel in the 1950s. NB the original high ceiling still exists at this date (Leonard Edwards)

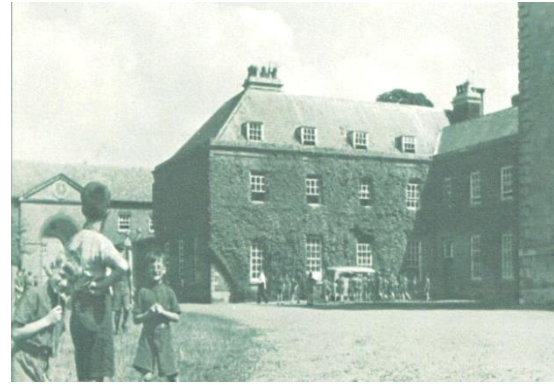


Figure 18 Schoolboys outside the north elevation of the Red Wing (Leonard Edwards)

There were washing facilities and a lavatory block in the adjacent former laundry yard, and pets were kept in a small structure in the south-east angle of the north screen wall. A new heating system was also installed which involved a new underground boiler room to the south-east of the Red Wing.

Between 1980 and 1984 the Court was owned by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness as its worldwide centre for education and several hundred people lived in the main house and the Red Wing. In addition to providing living accommodation for families, the Red Wing also contained a recording studio, a book publishing room, and a sewing room where the altar decorations and clothes for the deities were made and repaired.

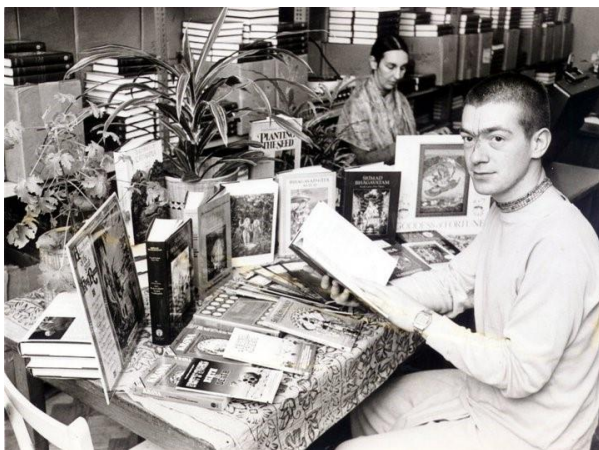


Figure 19 Servants' Hall (G1) in use as a book publishing room by the Hare Krishnas. (Leonard Edwards)

During the following two decades the Court was owned by a series of private developers and served as a youth training centre, a hotel and conference centre and finally it became a private residence once more. Its acquisition by the Croome Heritage Trust in 2007 and lease to the National Trust reunited the house with its landscape park and restored confidence that the 6th Earl's vision would now be protected and enjoyed in the future. The fate of the Red Wing was less secure. After this period the building became used less and less. One developer created a flat for his daughter on the first-floor and offices on the ground floor

but the subsequent owners allowed the building to deteriorate and it was used mainly for storage. The last owner obtained planning permission to convert it into six dwellings but these plans were never realised. The acquisition of the building by the Croome Heritage Trust and its lease to the National Trust in 2011 marks an important new phase in its history.

(For a complete list of the historic room uses see Section 9.0)

7.0 General Description

Materials

The Red Wing is built of finely-jointed orange-red to buff brick handmade on the estate and set in a white lime mortar in a Flemish bond. The window openings have flat arches of a brighter red gauged brick. It stands on a plinth of varied height and form made of part blue

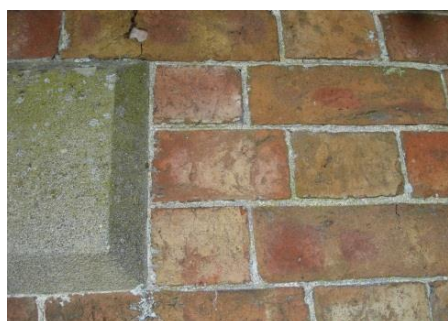


Figure 20 Detail of brickwork and quoin
(Author)

lias coursed rubble to the south façade and part moulded sandstone ashlar elsewhere. The brickwork has dressings of limestone ashlar, including quoins and a continuous deep moulded eaves cornice. The roof is hipped and covered with Welsh slate and has brick ridge stacks with moulded stone cappings. The rainwater goods are mainly of cast iron, but some leadwork remains, including the lead hoppers.

Form and Plan

The building is L-shaped in plan. Its southern range or link range has 5 bays to the south and 7 bays to the north and adjoins the east wing of the Court at its western end just below eaves level. The north range adjoins its eastern end and is 7 bays long and 3 bays wide. The entire building is two storeys high with an attic storey, and the north range has flat-roofed attic dormers to the east and west. The former roof apex of the link range has been truncated while the double-pile roof of the north range had an internal valley which has been enclosed by a flat roof.

Elevations

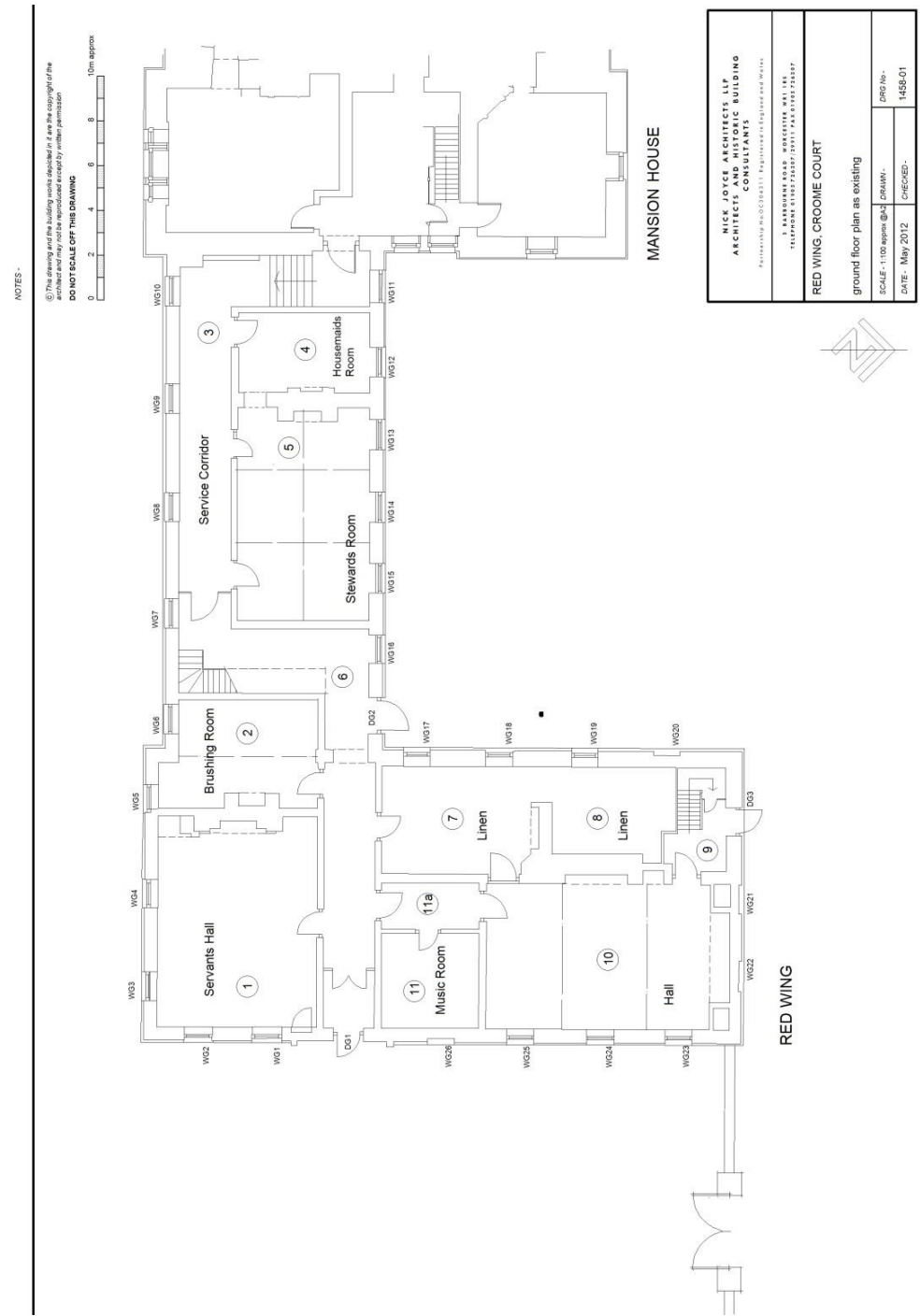
General

The windows are generally regularly spaced and are all glazing bar sashes of varying size and date (See Appendix V). The dormer windows are all three over six panes. There is a roof light to the internal staircase in the north range.

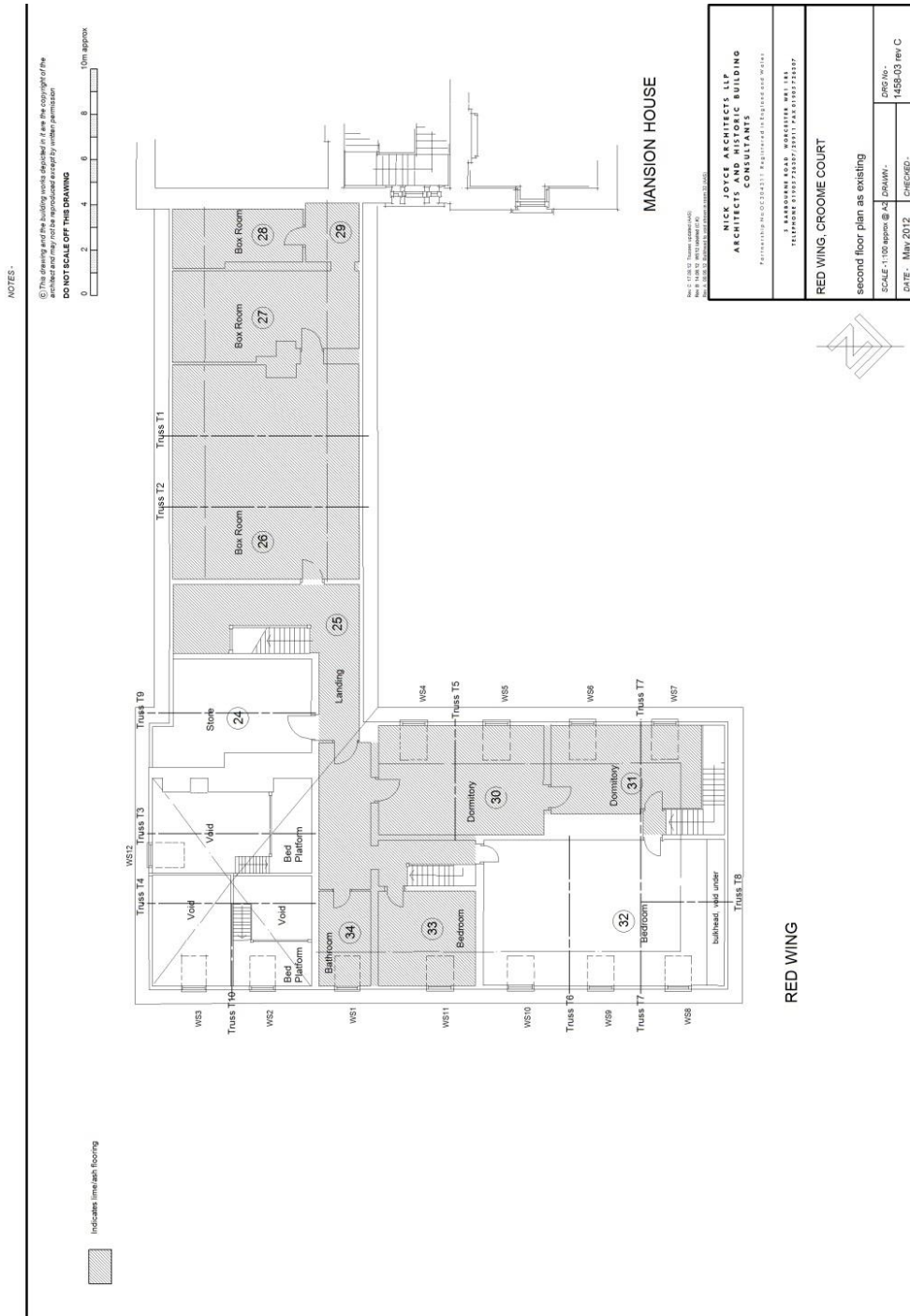


Figure 21 Detail of rainwater goods
on south elevation (Author)

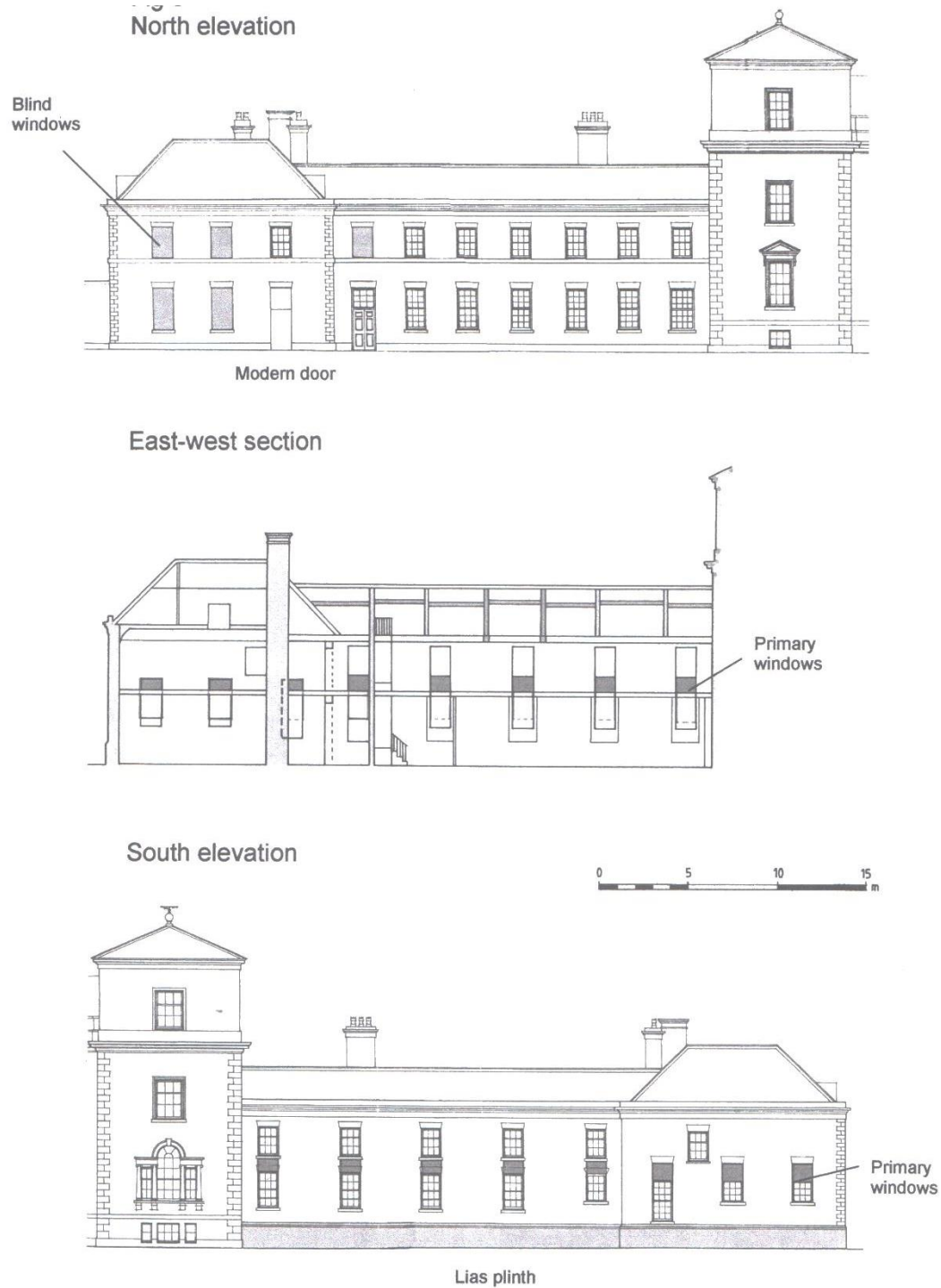
Ground Floor Plan as Existing (Nick Joyce Architects)



Second Floor Plan as Existing (Nick Joyce Architects)



Sections and Elevations showing primary windows (Kirsty Rodwell)



North elevation

The north elevation of the link range is of seven fairly uniform bays with an unmoulded limestone ashlar plinth, two courses deep, the same height as on the main house and similar to that on the north range; some striated tooling and repairs are evident. The windows have nine-pane sashes on the ground floor and six-pane sashes on the first floor with thick glazing bars and almost square panes (250 x 320mm). The only exception to this is the west end ground-floor window, which has a window with twelve-pane sashes of a similar type. There is an original tall doorway at the eastern end that conforms in height to the fenestration and which has a blocked first-floor window painted as a dummy window on lath and plaster. However this is secondary as the blocking is also visible internally.

The four-bay return at the east end is similarly detailed, except that the glazing bars of the first-floor windows are thinner and the ground-floor window at the northern end is blind. The north end elevation is of three bays with blind windows except for the first-floor window with six-pane sashes in the third bay. The infill is solid brickwork on the ground floor but at least one first-floor window has studwork. Also on the ground-floor of the third bay there is an inserted tall doorway with a 20th century door and nine-pane light above. The brick wall across Laundry Green adjoins the western corner of this elevation and is built over the quoin blocks. This has a central gateway and gate piers, formerly both with stone ball finials, and it links with the stableblock to the east.

East elevation

The east elevation is of seven, almost equally-spaced bays, but although the cornice continues there is no stone band and, from the north-east corner to the door in the third bay, the plinth is of sandstone with an ogee moulding. However, beyond the door, the moulding continues but the plinth is of thin, coursed and squared lias blocks and at the south-east corner it increases in height from three to eleven courses, still with a moulded edge. The windows have six-pane sashes and to the north of the doorway they have thin glazing bars. The windows in the three southernmost bays are earlier and the glazing bars are thicker. Four of the flat-roofed dormers at the southern end of the elevation have their original sliding sash boxes, and the remainder are reconstructed and of varied dates. The doorway is tall with a large light that conforms to the height of the fenestration.

South elevation

The south elevation is slightly different in character. It is of 5: 3 bays, with the three easternmost bays breaking forward, and the deep, moulded plinth of squared and coursed lias rubble is continued right along its length. At the western end of the elevation, the lias plinth does not relate in height to the plinth of the basement level of the main house.

Rodwell notes that there is a straight joint 0.2m from the angle between the two ranges



Figure 22 East elevation (Author)



Figure 23 South-east corner (Author)

that is infilled with lias pieces and mortar. Furthermore it appears that the brickwork of the Red Wing runs behind the ashlar facing of the mansion house. There are quoins on the eastern end of the three-bay projection and at the top of the plinth the moulding has been rebated for a quoin of a different size.

This elevation was intended originally to have a single row of windows set at an intermediate height. In the end three-bay projection, two of these survive unaltered but are boarded externally and have nine-pane lights with thick 50mm oak glazing bars. The sill of the window in the third bay from the east end has been dropped to plinth level, the top of the original light filled in and the frame lowered. Also, between the first two bays in the projection, a first-floor window with thin glazing bars has been inserted and the opening has been rendered to conceal the damage caused to the brickwork.

This five-bay part of the south elevation is now of two storeys but evidence of the original fenestration remains. In fact in the easternmost bay the intermediate arrangement survives but the upper sash has been partly bricked over to form the lintel of the later inserted shorter window. These later windows have six-pane sashes on the ground floor with lowered sills and asymmetric sashes on the first floor with evidence of their insertion visible in the adjacent brickwork; all have thinner glazing bars than the larger windows in the projecting end three bays.

Interior

Within the building the complexity of the building's structural evolution is more apparent. The brick walls are of varying thickness as follows (measurements are approximate and taken at ground floor level. I am grateful to Alan Simcox for this information):

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| <i>South wall</i> | 564mm (link range) . | 590mm (east range) |
| <i>East wall</i> | 590mm (east range) | |
| <i>North wall</i> | 615mm (link range) | 720mm (east range) (532mm in inglenook) |

Ground Floor

The Red Wing is accessed from the main house via a door from the basement next to the boiler room. The party wall has a small projection in the south internal angle at ground floor level. A flight of concrete-screeded stone steps set axially to the entrance lead up onto a passageway (G3) that runs right through the building out onto Laundry Green. In the link range the passageway is deflected around two interconnected rooms. The smaller room (G4) has a north-facing window, a dado, moulded cornice and a 19th century range set in a timber chimneypiece. The larger room (G5) has three north-facing windows with panelled shutters (originally the windows had window seats), a suspended oak floor, plastered walls, a dado rail and a cornice with an egg and dart moulding. The original chimneypiece in the west wall was removed and rebuilt in brickwork in the 1930s, and the former flanking cupboards have also been removed to expose 18th century brickwork in English garden wall bond. Much of the ceiling has collapsed, exposing ceiling beams 0.3m sq.

The passageway (G3) to the south is lined with stone flags, the central ones of which were replaced with blue bricks in the mid 19th century, similar to those in the basement of the mansion house. The walls are plastered and have a simple cornice and the doorways to the north side are mid 18th century and original but with some 20th century alterations. Along the south side are a run of large windows set high in the wall. The openings have been altered and the sills lowered in the four westernmost windows. At the eastern end of the



Figure 24 Passageway on ground floor of link range (Sally Sutton)

passageway is an inserted panelled partition, beyond which the passageway returns to the north side of the building via a staircase hall (G6) adjoining the doorway in the north elevation. The stairs have plain cantilevered stone treads with cast iron stick balusters and a mahogany handrail, as in the basement of the main house. The passageway then runs east to an external doorway with a large light above it. The entrance to this part of the passageway and the doorway onto Laundry Green are set within tall arched openings. A stud partition is exposed north of the external door.

The south-eastern corner of the link range is occupied by two rooms separated by a large inserted chimney that intrudes into a window opening. The smaller room to the west (G2) is a secondary creation and overlaps the original internal division between the two wings now largely substituted by a supporting beam. The south wall incorporates the angle of the projecting east wing and reveals evidence of crudely-executed alterations with cut-back brickwork. There are two south-facing windows set at different heights, the westernmost window having a course of ashlar at sill level. The upper

lights of the easternmost one disappear above ceiling level. In the east wall is a small fireplace with a timber surround and small 19th century cast iron hob grate and to the left of this is a protrusion in the partition wall and a blocked doorway. The larger room in the south-east corner (G2) has two south-facing windows, also with upper lights above ceiling level, and two east-facing windows set at a lower level. The floor is flagged and there was formerly a boarded dado. Rodwell has noted that it is possible to see a break in the build in the south wall “indicated by a slight offset in both window jambs 0.8m above sill level (2.4m above floor level)”. The jambs incorporate wooden fixing blocks and the back of the exposed recess has been bricked up. Furthermore Rodwell suggests that there is evidence that the south and east walls were constructed at different times as they meet in an irregular joint with mismatched jointing about 35cm along the east wall. The room is dominated by a huge fireplace in the west wall with an arched and moulded timber surround and a 19th century cast iron range. This would have been used for heating and enabling the servants to keep food warm and make hot drinks and simple meals. The area left of the fireplace was boxed in probably in the 1930s or possibly earlier to conceal a brick oven and flue. There are also three blocked doorways, one to the right of the fireplace, one at the north end of the east wall where a cupboard door is set in a taller original opening, and one in the adjacent north wall onto the passageway.

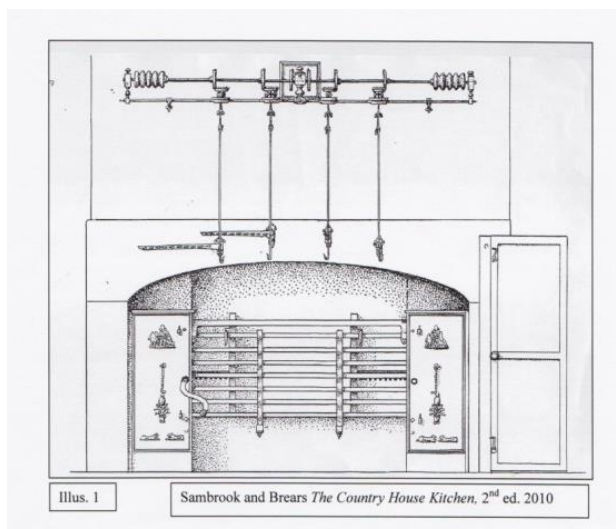


Figure 25 Typical C18 bar grate (Sambrook)

The north range is subdivided by a large chimneystack set within a central angled section of brickwork. The wider half of the range contains the former kitchen (G10) which is lit by three east-facing windows and is identified by two very large and wide fireplaces with ashlar surrounds, the western one of which is square-headed and the northern one arched. This would have been a double-height space originally with windows set high up to provide ventilation, and the arched brickwork visible in the east wall of F21 probably relates to these former openings. The ceiling appears to have been inserted during the 1980s as confirmed by the 20th century plans and photographs. This ceiling is notably lower than the ceilings elsewhere in the wing. The western fireplace backing onto the internal chimneystack would have been fitted with a bar grate designed for large scale catering, roasting etc and was probably fitted with either a clockwork spit mechanism or a smoke jack. (Sambrook) This would have been replaced in the 19th century by a large closed range. The northern fireplace lacks a chimney or obvious signs of blackening from soot and is likely to have vented a charcoal stove with a series of hotplates used for cooking dishes that required a gentle heat. (Sambrook) Vent outlets to allow the carbon monoxide to escape can be seen at eaves level from the present

The north range is subdivided by a large chimneystack set within a central angled section of brickwork. The wider half of the range contains the former kitchen (G10) which is lit by three east-facing windows and is identified by two very large and wide fireplaces with ashlar surrounds, the western one of which is square-headed and the northern one arched. This would have been a double-height space originally with windows set high up to provide ventilation, and the arched brickwork

visible in the east wall of F21 probably relates to these former openings. The

scaffolding. The staircase in the north-east corner (G9) was put in by the school as a fire precaution in 1968. There is a partitioned room (G11 & 11a) to the south of the kitchen and two rooms (G7) and (G8) to the west each with a west-facing window. A boiler was located against the north wall of G7 in the mid 20th century but now there are no special features that survive on the west side of this range.

First Floor

This is similar in plan to the ground floor. Access from the main house to the link range was via a jib door, inserted in 1781 and now blocked, that led off the first-floor landing of the main stairs through the party wall. This wall appears to be set at a slight angle on this floor bearing away to the north-west. The jib door led into a suite of rooms that included a lobby, closet, a dressing room, a sitting room, and a large bedroom with three north-facing windows similar in size to that on the floor beneath. Although it is now in a very serious and dilapidated condition, it retains its original lath and plaster partitions and, more remarkably, its original 18th century fittings, which were of an outstanding quality worthy of their apartment's intended function as an extension to the principal



Figure 26 6th Earl's apartment (G16) as it survives today (Author)

accommodation. The ceiling and floor in the largest room (F16) are partly collapsed, but the ceiling was carried on a grid structure and was plastered with a deep moulded cornice with egg and dart detail. The original door and window surrounds survive, and there was a close-boarded oak floor which was pugged to deaden vibration.



Figure 27 Passageway on first floor of link range (Author)

The walls in the two larger rooms are still lined with reset Jacobean panelling that includes an ornamental frieze, and at the western end of the room is an early 18th century bolection-moulded marble chimneypiece with a Victorian grate. This chimneypiece forms a pair with that in the Alcove bedroom in the main house. The

panelling in the smaller room to the west (F15) only survives in full on its east wall where there is a painted timber chimneypiece with a marble surround and painted Victorian grate.

Along the south passageway (F14) are a row of inserted windows, beneath which the blocked opening and jambs of the original large sash windows are clearly visible where the plaster has fallen off. There is an additional small window inserted later at the eastern end of the passage. The staircase to the attic floor located east of the passageway is different to the lower flight, and is early 18th century in style but was probably salvaged from elsewhere and is similar to the backstairs in the main building in date and type. It has timber treads and an oak balustrade with closely-set turned balusters, moulded newel posts and handrail and a closed string. On the north side of the stair landing a blocked window has been exposed together with the junction of the two arms of the wing, which is in bond. However the upper part of both the north and south walls of the link range are not bonded to the partition walls of the apartment.

Like the ground-floor, there is a large room in the south-eastern corner (F12) which has a close-boarded oak floor, plastered walls and an ashlar chimneypiece of good quality with a central keyblock. To the right of the fireplace is a tall blocked archway, similar to those in the passageway, and the alcove to the left of the fireplace has been infilled, partly to box in the flue to the brick oven beneath. This room contains much evidence of the wing's complex structural history. The ceiling has been raised around 0.8m above its original height and the roof above altered and repaired with new pine trusses. The repairs are likely to be due to

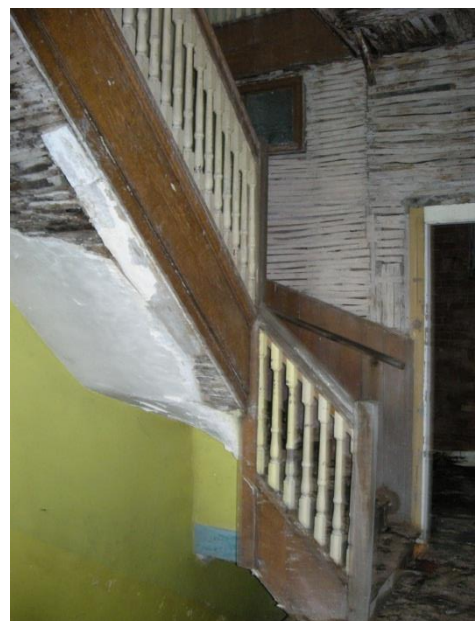


Figure 28 Upper flight of staircase with reused C18 joinery (Author)

defective parapet guttering that caused water ingress and consequent decay of both the roof structure and attic floor above. They appear to be mid 19th century in date and were probably part of the mid 19th century phase of work that occurred after the death of the 8th Earl. Certainly no room is shown on the attic floor above in either the 1940 or the 1968 plans. The walls have been stepped or corbelled out from the wall face to form a deep coving with the former dormer windows adapted to form top lights. There were further repairs and alterations undertaken to the brickwork in the mid 20th century when the steel beams evident in this part of the building were also inserted to help reinforce the fabric. This could have occurred during the 1930s or during the school period, when the room was subdivided and part of it used as a sanatorium. It is believed that the room was again altered during the 1980s to accommodate a mezzanine storey. Further research is required to clarify these phases.



Figure 29 South wall of first-floor corner room (F12) showing raised ceiling (Author)



Figure 30 West wall and chimneypiece in F12 (Author)

Originally the room was lit only from the east but a window was inserted at the west end of the south wall, presumably when it was partitioned. The second doorway onto the passageway is likely to be of a similar date. Both the original large intermediate windows remain in the south wall, and have timber lintels and relieving arches, thick ovolo-moulded glazing bars of unpainted oak and one even retains a section of old glass. Moreover the reveals are unplastered and part of the sash-box fixings can be seen. Part of the oak lintel of the third window to the west runs behind the west wall and inserted chimneystack. The north wall of this room is butted up to the east wall and the latter has an edge-set brick course which runs behind the butted-up north wall. This course does not occur on the south wall.

The smaller room (F13) on the western side of the chimney has a simple timber chimneypiece and, like the room below, contains evidence of the removal of the original internal wall that ran north/south across the centre of this room. A steel beam runs above the window in the south wall.



Figure 31 Straight joint visible in SW corner of F18 (Author)

In the rooms flanking the passageway in the north range, straight joints are visible where the external walls adjoin the link range. The wall that separates the north range from the passageway appears never to have been finished as an external wall but always intended as an internal partition. A reused 17th century timber beam, the only one in the building of this date, has decayed and fallen into F18.

The room above the kitchen (F21) is a 1980s creation and this is confirmed by the surviving 20th century floor plans which also show there was no doorway into the space prior to this date. The remains of a painted frieze can be seen on the west wall. The room to the south (F22) is very dilapidated but there is evidence of a plaster cornice. It was reduced in size in the mid 20th century when a bathroom was formed that incorporated the east end of the adjoining passage. There was also a bathroom in a similar location on the attic floor above. West of F22 is an internal timber staircase (F23) to the attic storey of probable 1930s origin.

The rooms to the west on this floor of the north range (F18 & 19) have reused oak window lintels and mid 19th century fireplaces that make use of the kitchen chimney that subdivides this range.

Attics and Roof Structure

(As access was impossible due to structural decay, this relies heavily on Rodwell's report).

Again the attic storey repeats the layout of the lower floors. It is plastered and there are lime ash floors laid on reeds throughout with the exception of the south-eastern corner area above F12 & 13 and the area above F21. (See Second Floor Plan p.22) Lime ash floors were a common practice in regions where the materials were readily available as they created a strong, flexible and economic surface that provided good sound and heat insulation and they were also vermin-proof.

In the link range the roof is of a single span. The principals have curved feet and rise from a tie-beam at floor level with straight collars just above attic ceiling level. Above this point, the apex of the former roof has been truncated and replaced by a boarded flat roof which incorporates skylights at intervals as there are no dormers. Rodwell notes that it is possible to see the pegged mortice for an original queen post in the top face of a collar with a carpenter's mark. There is a single tier of staggered square-set purlins, which are built into the wall of the main house where bare brickwork is visible in the roof space.

At the south-east corner the roof structure was altered in the 19th century and the lime ash floor removed due to probable decay from water ingress. The space was originally lit by three dormers to the east which survive but which were boxed in to form light wells.

Although the roof is now constructed of common rafters, Rodwell has identified a purlin arrangement and structural techniques within the roof space that suggest that the original roof over this corner was formerly of a similar type to that found elsewhere. The chimneystack is plastered within the former attic space and has exposed brickwork in the roof apex. The north wall of this room and the adjacent partition wall both act in place of roof trusses.

The north range has a double-pile roof with a central valley, now boarded over, and part of the off-centre chimney is rendered. The wide chimney flue at the north end only extends to attic level but has vents in the soffit of the fireplace arch and must have had outlet vents above this height. The wall-plate at this end of the range is reused. The roof trusses have curved feet and the purlins are square-set as in the link range, but above collar level each is constructed differently. The north end truss has strutted jowled queen posts linked by a ridge beam carrying the hipped roof. Morticed into its south face and running the length of the range, is a centre beam that supports the valley gutter. The two trusses to the south have strutted jowled king posts set alternately and supporting one ridge only, and their

collars do not extend the width of the range: one is lodged on the kitchen chimney, and the other is carried on a diagonal bearer lodged on two internal walls.

8.0 Analysis

Although considerable care was taken in the 1750s to make the Red Wing appear to be of a single build, on close observation a series of anomalies appear externally and internally that indicate a more complex structural history. The main building phases occurred during the early and mid 18th century, but minor phases of change and alteration occurred within these periods and the building was also subject to considerable alteration during the following two centuries, particularly to the layout. Most of the architects, designers and craftsmen who worked at Croome during this period contributed to its design or made unexecuted plans for its alteration, including Francis Smith of Warwick, Lancelot Brown, Robert Adam and James Wyatt. Sanderson Miller may also have exerted his influence too in the crucial years between 1748 and 1756. It is also clear that, as within the Court itself, much of the detailed design and layout was empirical, and there was a heavy dependence upon the masons and carpenters to resolve issues as they emerged as best they could.

Any analysis of the Red Wing's structural evolution needs to be placed within the context of the most significant and relevant events and phases in the structural sequence of Croome Court itself that are known from the archival evidence. These are as follows with the key facts shown in bold:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| C17th | House rebuilt 1640-9. Double-pile Jacobean outbuilding N of site | CEA: Hive |
| 1712 | Work begins on the altering house, offices and south garden Gilbert becomes 4 th Earl of Coventry | |
| 1712 | Letter from Geo. Adams of Bristol regarding supply of plants and offering his services with the design (garden) | AA:CVA/H3/27 |
| 1713 | Seeds, fruit and nut trees bought. Repairs to house | |
| 1714 | Francis Smith of Warwick supplies first design for stables | AA:CVA/H3/22 |
| | 100,000 bricks made at Seggy Mere Croome contract book | CEA:Hive |
| 26 th March | Account entry for laying 1300 ft "bordering stone in ye best garden at Croomb (March) Entry for purchase of yew trees etc (Oct) | CVA/H3/27 |
| 1715 | 4 th Earl remarries. £10,000 settlement. Change of plan. | |
| 1716 | Smith submits second draft of stables | AA:CVA/H3/22 |
| 14 April | George Chine memoranda re: supply of window sashes, laying a floor, and new wainscoting | AA:CVE/Z/10 |
| 30th Oct 1717 | Entry in accounts re: giving "ye stonemasons [something] to drink who paved ye new kitchen | AA:CVA/H3/27 |
| 1718 | New garden wall designed by Mr Davison Stonemasons working on Park Bowling Alley | AA:CVA/H3/22 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1719 20 th March | Payment to Mr Smith “ye builder” £3.3.0d | AA:CVA/H3/22 |
| 18 th April | Payment to Thomas Eberoll, Joyner under Mr Smith 10s 6d | AA:CVA/H3/22 |
| 21 st April | Payment to Thos. Loach for “ laying ye garden wall foundation” 2s 6d | AA:CVA/H3/22 |
| 29 th April | Payment to Mr Smith ye builder £3.3.0 & Mr Smith’s stonemason 10s 6d | AA:CVA/H3/22 |
| 30 th June | Payment to Smith £1.1.0 | AA:CVA/H3/22 |
| | Undated note from Benjamin Taylor of Warwick concerning the supply of gates, gate piers and eagle finials | AA:CVE/Z/10 |
| 27 th Oct | Death of 4 th Earl | |
| | Recorded in the 1719 Little Inventory are a bowling green house, a summer or banqueting house, a garden house and the C17 evidence house; also included is the van Nost statue of Hercules and the eagle gate finials, both from the south garden, and quantities of timber, coping stone, limestone, freestone, scaffolding and bricks on site, together with large numerous sash windows and wainscoting stacked in the wood house and evidence house. | |
| 1720-24 | Garden expenditure continues. Year ending Michaelmas 1722= £432 Sept 1722-Nov 1723= £130 Nov 1723-Nov 1724= £116 | CEA:Hive General Account |
| 1744 | Thomas, Lord Deerhurst, dies | CEA:Hive |
| 1745-6 | Improvements begin again in the garden. Payments for trees and plants and a pedestal for the Hercules statue | CEA:Hive |
| 1749/50 | In his diary, Sanderson Miller’s diary notes that he is drawing plans for Lord Deerhurst (see Meir, <i>Sanderson Miller and his Landscapes</i>, pp.198-200) Refers to request from Deerhurst for a Gothic lodge | Warwick RO |
| 27 Aug 1750 | Miller records in diaries drawing of “Stable &c for Ld D” | Warwick RO |
| 1747-53 | John Phipps and Doherty at Croome New river and Chinese bridge | CEA:Hive |
| 1751 | Lancelot Brown starts work at Croome | |
| 1752 | Work had begun on the house, making and hauling brick, scaffolding poles etc. (See Bills for the Building of Croome Appendix) | CEA;Hive |
| 1753 | Dendrochronological date for roof timbers of the Red Wing (Arnold, Howard and Litton 2004) | |
| 1755 | Bill for supplying reeds in Ladyday Accts. | CEA:Hive |
| Feb 1756 | Letter from 6th Earl to Miller reminding him about the plans for lodge | Warwick R.O |
| 1756-7 | East wing complete 1757 and house re-roofed 1757/8 | |
| 1763 | Adam’s unexecuted design to remodel the Red Wing | CEA:Hive |

| | | |
|------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1765 | Henry Holland bill for Welsh slating on offices at Croome | CEA:Hive |
| March 1781 | Adam plan for a New Apartment for the 6 th Earl. The bill for this survives but the plan has not been traced. Apartment is generally assumed to have been located on the first-floor of the link range of the Red Wing. Access created via a jib door through wall of landing of first-floor main staircase of Court. Adam's plan not executed. Instead salvaged materials were used from the old house, including Jacobean panelling and a bolection-moulded chimneypiece | CEA:Hive Soane Museum |
| 1799 | Wyatt made plans to alter the apartment. Not executed. | CEA:Hive |

Any analysis has also to take into account the numerous structural alterations and anomalies which are as follows:

- The deep moulded lias plinth that runs along the south wall and returns at the east end at a reduced height which appears to be of earlier origin in form and type than that used elsewhere, probably early 18th century but possibly earlier. It does not relate to that on the main house in levels or materials and is actually cut off and infilled clumsily where the buildings adjoin.
- The external brick envelope appears to be of a single build. However there is a break in the build in the south wall, evident on the ground floor in the easternmost bays where there is a slight offset in both window jambs, 0.8m above sill level and just under 2.5m above floor level. In addition there is an irregular joint with mismatched jointing where the south and east walls meet. This seems to disappear near the top which might suggest that the south wall was heightened to match the newer eastern wall. At the junction of the two ranges in the east elevation, the straight joint between the ranges is masked externally. However the junction is evident in the different stone plinths either side of the east doorway and the difference in the design and date of the windows, with earlier thick glazing bars visible in the three bays south of the doorway.
- The various thicknesses of the walls are also significant and indicative of the staged build sequence. The north wall of the link range is notably thicker (615mm) than the south (564mm), possibly due to the need to conceal earlier openings. The walling on the west side of the north range is thicker still. (720mm) This needs further investigation as to the cause.
- The south elevation was intended to have a single row of large intermediate windows. This does not relate to the internal floor levels and the brickwork has been altered and later upper and lower sashes inserted; in one case the earlier top lights of the sash are just bricked over. These original windows survive in the east end projection and have been blanked off leaving the frames in place, still unpainted internally and with the reveals plastered. Their thick glazing bars suggest they are early 18th century in origin.

- The east elevation of the main house lacks symmetry. The Venetian and Diocletian windows of the central bay that light the main staircase are all offset and therefore not in line with the spine corridor. This was necessitated by the junction with the Red Wing. These windows afford a full and possibly unwelcome view of the domestic offices from the main staircase and blind windows are used elsewhere on the elevation. Both this elevation and the truncated roof structure of the link range provide clues to the probable build sequence.
- On the first floor, F12 has been much altered. There are various anomalies within the wall fabric and window openings that raise many issues with regard to its evolution. Later alterations such as the raised ceiling, former partitions, inserted doorway onto the passageway, blocked doorway beside the fireplace etc contribute further to its complex evolution.
- The north wall of F12 and the partition wall between the two ranges are not bonded to the end walls. The eastern end of the partition wall has since been removed on the first floor but the straight joint can still be seen at its western end in G7.
- The internal north walling of the link range is partly butted and partly bonded to the outer wall and lacks the course of edge-set bricks seen externally.
- The levels are curious and awkward with steps leading down to the basement
- The openings have been altered and the sills lowered in four windows in the south elevation of the link range but not in the fifth bay.
- The ground-floor window in the north elevation of the link range next to the main house is larger than the rest of the windows in this elevation.
- The roof structures of both ranges are notably complicated even though the timbers of both roofs were dated to around 1753 in 2004 using dendrochronology. For example, the double-pile north range has a mixed roof construction of queen and king posts, the partition wall between the two wings serves as a roof truss, and the structural members near the partition walls are awkwardly staggered. The roof above the south-east corner end has been altered, and the roof of the link range is truncated above the collar and only the mortices for queen posts provide an indication of its intended form. Even taking into account the later alterations, the complexity of the roof structure supports the view that this was a staged build subject to compromise and various changes in plan and repairs.
- There are many reused materials in the building including the early sash windows, a reused timber beam in the north range, reused oak lintels on the first floor, the timber staircase balustrade, as well as the panelling and chimneypiece in the 6th Earl's apartment. There is also a large stone or concrete slab adjacent to the fireplace in the large ground-floor room of the link range which could have been to support a heavy fixture.

- The angled chimneystack in the kitchen that subdivides the north wing is very irregular in form.
- The internal wall that was in line with the west wall of the north wing has been removed, and a chimneystack inserted. This partially blocks a ground-floor window, and in the corner room on the floor above, a window lintel in the large corner room runs behind this chimneystack.

Following on from Rodwell's report, it seems probable that there were two main phases to the build sequence in the early and mid 18th century, each of which incorporated two or more phases, and three main subsequent phases of internal alteration in the mid 19th century and the mid and late 20th century. These are as follows:

Phase One

The 1640s house was of a relatively progressive design and raised upon a semi-basement, where, as a general rule, the kitchen would have been relocated from its previous position adjacent to the hall. (see Gordon, *Report*, 2010)



Figure 32 Detail from Beighton's 1714 view of proposed S front (Hive)

There is nothing in the accounts to suggest there was any significant work done to the house before 1712, when Gilbert, 4th Earl of Coventry embarked on his major scheme of alterations and improvements. The 1714 Beighton proposal provides some insight into his ambitious plan. The initial priority appears to have been to increase the visual impact of the house from the south, by elongating the façade with a pair of wings and creating a lavish new garden with gates and pavilions, much as he may have admired during the time he spent in Holland and France in the late 7th century. Rodwell has raised the possibility that the wing was intended as an orangery.

Most of the builders and craftsmen that the 4th Earl employed were from Warwick, many of them under the supervision of Francis Smith of Warwick who provided a plan for stables in 1714 and probably also gave advice on improvements elsewhere. Work began on a south-east wing where the lias plinth looks to be of this date. The extent of this initial phase is uncertain. The Beighton proposal shows a 5-bay wing with tall intermediate windows and oculi above, but the plinth as built extends a full 5:3 bays as existing, and it appears to have been of 6.3 bays originally, including the bay demolished to make way for the east wing on the mansion house in the 1750s. Evidently this was intended as a show front that screened the kitchen court and 17th century outbuilding from the fashionable south garden. However,

the seemingly disproportionate length of it is unconvincing. Nick Joyce has noted a scarf joint in the wall-plate adjacent to the demolished wall in the link range which could be significant. This needs to be investigated further. The possibility remains that the decision was finally to form a link to an end pavilion or wing. The principle of attaching a pavilion to the house in this way was becoming an increasingly popular means of providing additional accommodation with minimal disturbance to the main house. The wife of the 2nd Earl, Gilbert's brother, had witnessed similar improvements at her family home at Badminton. Certainly by the early 18th century, the advantages of placing the kitchen in an adjoining wing in this way to reduce the risk of fire and remove noise and smells away from the living accommodation was becoming more widely acknowledged. The recurrent fires at Croome would have underlined the advantages of such a layout.

Work continued on the wall to a height of 2.4m with the windows in their existing positions but with lower sills around 1.6m above floor level. The sudden decrease in height of the lias plinth as it turns the east corner may be attributed to the intended aesthetic function of the south wall or could simply be due to the break in the build.

Phase Two

In 1715 there was a change in plan. Gilbert remarried and this provided him with additional funds for the project, and it may have been due to the influence of his second wife that he asked Smith to revise his designs.

This revised scheme made provision for a new apartment in the house, and the Antony archive has references to the new fittings, including wainscoting, floors, sashes and shutters that were supplied. The extent of this work is unknown but it seems that it was more ambitious than was originally thought. Work on the south garden also continued and work

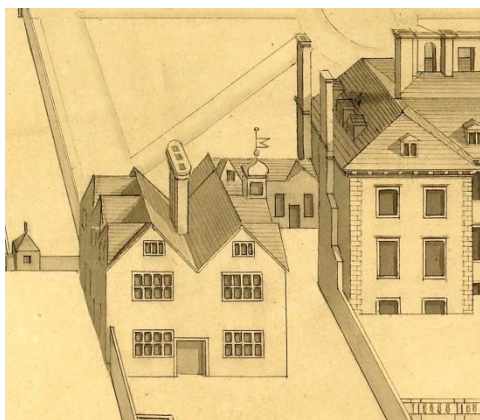


Figure 34 Detail from c.1750 drawing showing SE wing and C17 outbuilding (Hive)

appears to have resumed on the wing. Of particular significance is the reference to laying a floor in the new kitchen, as no kitchen appears in the 1719 inventory in either the basement or outbuilding. Could this have been in the wing? In the c.1750 view, a small wing is shown that appears to run east behind the Jacobean outbuilding and on close observation there seems to be a full-height projection at the southern end of the western range of the Jacobean outbuilding which could have been attached to the wing to enclose the kitchen court. It is true that the wing does not appear in the Beighton or Doharty



Figure 33 Detail showing plinth at SE corner (Author)

images, but it should be emphasised that one is a proposal and the other a rough and schematic plan and the accuracy of the architectural detail seems more reliable in the c.1750 drawing. However in this drawing it is uncertain whether the wing ran between the end chimneys of the house or was butted up flush with the south front as appears from the structural evidence. Whatever the case, the structural evidence implies that this next stage involved taking the walls of the new wing up to the present first-floor level. The lack of bonding of the upper part of the external and internal walls in the link range may be significant, especially as the north wall seems notably thick and might conceal early fabric. Arguably this could mean the intention was to build a single-storey structure at this stage. Also it appears internally that the south-east corner was not bonded properly into the east wall, which could mean a possible break in the build at this point and that this part of the link range remained incomplete at this time. Equally strange was the decision to raise the south windows and to brick up the lower part of the window recesses to create an awkward combination of a tall plinth and high windows. Possibly this might make sense if the plan was to ensure the south garden was not visible from the ground floor of the new wing, and this would support the view that the wing was now to provide additional service accommodation. Certainly the levels inside the Red Wing, with the ground floor situated mid-way between the basement and ground floor levels of the main house would create a lighter and more wholesome working environment than in the basement. They would also have enabled more convenient access to the parlour in the present Tapestry Room via steps beside the former end chimney.

The fact that in 1717 Smith's men were laying a new kitchen floor and were still on site in 1719 when the 4th Earl died can only mean that progress was slow and that work was disrupted yet again. The western part of the wing may have been partially complete by this time. The amount of scaffolding and building materials stored on site at the time of Gilbert's death would reinforce the theory that extensive building works were planned and were still in progress. (See Antony archive)

Phase Three

Between 1722 and 1724, the 5th Earl spent considerable sums on completing the south garden but nothing has emerged in the accounts to suggest that he undertook works on the house. Following the tragic death of his eldest son in 1744, the estate was settled on the second son, George William, in 1748 and it can be no coincidence that from the mid 1740s the accounts take on a quite different character. (CEA: Hive)

Clearly Lord Deerhurst was already making plans for the improvement of the house and grounds, plans which he had shared with his elder brother and which were now driven by a sense of obligation, loss and grief. (See Dickins & Stanton, *An Eighteenth Century Correspondence*) Still in his mid- twenties, Deerhurst relied heavily on the support and advice of his friend, Sanderson Miller, and the stockpiled building materials would have

provided an incentive to embark on some experimental improvements. In July 1747, he wrote to Miller about “ various Projects” he had in mind. It is possible that the unfinished wing was one of these projects. (See Meir, p.199) Rodwell’s suggestion that the range backing onto the south wall was built in the late 1740s does seem plausible from the structural evidence but whether it involved the alteration or completion of an earlier structure is less clear. If Deerhurst completed the link range this must have been done before he had decided on a definite plan for the main house. The compromised design of the new Palladian east wing would confirm the view that a substantial structure adjoined the house prior to the remodelling. The larger sash at the western end of the north elevation of the link range may even represent the former location of the main entrance into this earlier single-storey wing. The dates are crucial here and further research is necessary. Possibly this was another example of the ongoing decision-making that can be witnessed throughout the mid 18th century remodelling work.

Part of this phase may have involved the completion of the eastern end of the link range using the stockpiled materials, but clearly there was no coherent plan at this point. This would explain the unpainted early 18th century windows that were inserted and soon to be concealed. Indeed the temporary and indecisive treatment of the south-eastern end of the building is further demonstrated by the way in which the roof was adapted so that it could be extended to the north. With this in mind, its north wall was left unfinished as an internal wall and both this and the wall of the adjacent passageway were designed to act in place of a roof truss to literally bridge the gap. If this work was undertaken it would have necessitated the demolition of the 17th century outbuilding at this stage.



Figure 35 Large sash window at W end of N elevation with C18 door into basement on left (Author)

Phase Four

Once plans were finalised for the Palladian remodelling, the form and function of the wing could be determined more satisfactorily. This must have been when the western end bay (two bays to the north) of the link range adjoining the house was demolished, together with the 17th century outbuilding if it had not been demolished previously; the exact position of this outbuilding still needs to be located. As this would leave the house with no domestic offices for up to two years, it is possible that a temporary kitchen was installed in the south-east corner of the existing range to service the early stages of the project. This may be the reason why the former cross-wall that was in line with the proposed new north range was removed and a large chimney inserted to create the two rooms in the south-east corner. The clumsiness of the insertion would certainly imply this was an ill-considered afterthought driven by necessity rather than careful planning.

The insertion of this chimney is likely to have been associated with the construction of the north range to house the double-height kitchen. This was largely just butted up to the partition wall with the straight joints between the two ranges evident internally. The junction in the east wall is masked externally but is reflected in the differences in the plinth and the windows on either side of the east door. However the width of the western wall of this range demands further investigation and may provide further clues to the structural sequence. The earlier link range was then converted to form two main storeys with the insertion of the upper floors and division of the tall south windows to form an upper and lower light- in one case just by bricking over the top part of the sash. Within the three-bay eastern end, the sashes were simply blanked off, sealing the frames that had not yet been painted or the reveals plastered. The somewhat crude handling of the fenestration on the south front may be because the plan was now to screen this elevation with planting. The exterior shell was then skilfully finished so that the L-shaped wing appeared to be of a single build and the entire wing was finally roofed c1753, (NB dendro date although the timbers may have been stored on site).



Figure 36 Blocked sash window to SE (Author)

The present layout of the link wing was established at this time, and the size of the Steward's Room reflects its role as a place for dealing with tradesmen, as a dining area for senior servants, and as a place for keeping accounts etc. In the north range the basic layout is dictated by the large internal chimneystack. The design of the north end wall with its blind windows was evidently devised as an integral part of the design of the 1750s kitchen to provide ventilation for the impressive charcoal stove for slow cooking without compromising the appearance of the external gable end wall. A bar grate would have been fitted into the western fireplace for roasting, and to counteract the intense heat the room would have been ventilated by openings high up in the east wall, the arched remains of which are visible in the brickwork on the floor above.

The interior was fitted out to a high standard by Hobcraft and other craftsmen who were working inside the Court. The larger and more important rooms, the Steward's Room (G5), the Servants' Hall (G1), the room above (G12), and the rooms that became the 6th Earl's Apartment (F15 & F16), were provided with ornate cornices, dados, and good quality chimneypieces in acknowledgement of their status within the hierarchy of rooms. A new staircase was put into the link range, the lower flight of which is probably as Brown intended with its cast stick balusters and mahogany handrail similar to the new stairs in the basement. The early 18th century balustrade on the first-floor is reused and may date from the time when the apartment was created for the 6th Earl. The reference to reeds in the 1755 accounts suggests that the lime ash floor was laid in that year.



Figure 37 Compromised east elevation of Court (Author)

Once the new east wing of the mansion house was nearing completion, it became clear that the proportions of the link range would not fit beneath the projecting cornice of the south-east corner tower. This meant that the original queen-post roof on the link range had to be truncated to fit beneath it. This would have occurred c1756 when the towers were nearing completion. The completed offices may also have been considered too dominant, which prompted Adam's later unexecuted design of 1763. Further alterations to the roof may have occurred in 1765 when Henry Holland billed

for slating to the offices. Also at this time the brick laundry wing was built to link the Red Wing to the stableblock. Like

the Red Wing, it was finished with ashlar dressings, and on its north elevation had a pedimented central gable, moulded door surround to the entrance beneath and a louvred turret and weathervane on the roof. Clearly it was intended to contribute architecturally to the offices prior to the construction of the north screen wall. The Chapman pump was installed to the south-west of the laundry wing in 1764 to take water from the nearby well to the new water closets on the first floor of the main house.

Phase Five

In 1781, there followed further alterations to the internal layout when a jib door was cut through from the main staircase and the first floor of the link wing was fitted out as an apartment for the 6th Earl with reused Jacobean panelling and a bolection-moulded chimneypiece. Adam made designs for an apartment at Croome in early 1781, and these

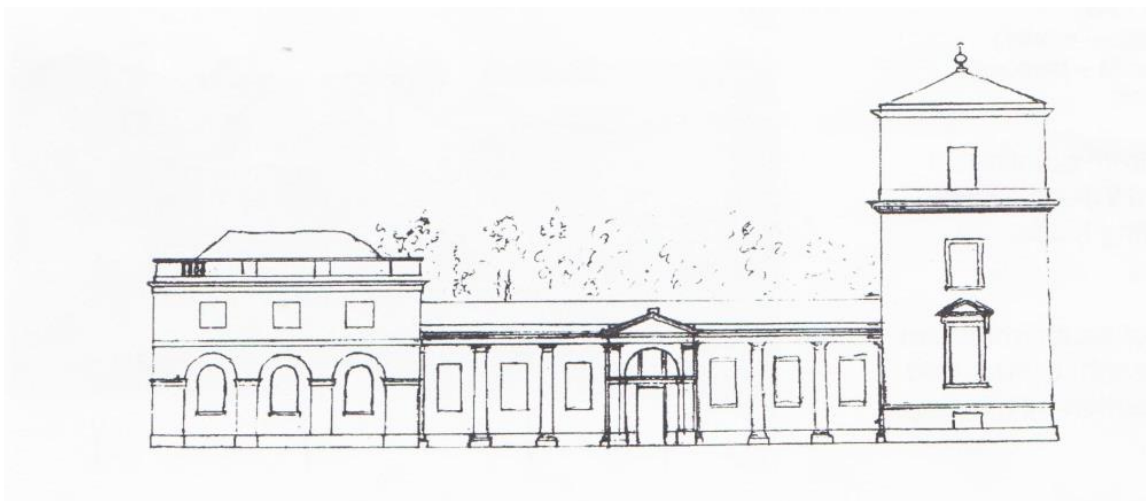


Figure 38 Adam's design to remodel the Red Wing of 1763 (CET)

are assumed to be for the Red Wing, but have never been traced. Alterations to the apartment designed by James Wyatt in 1799 were not executed. It was also during this phase that the brick screen wall was built north of the laundry wing, concealing it from view to the north.

Phase Six

During the mid 19th century, the Red Wing was refurbished and refitted. The passageways were lined with hard-wearing blue brick floors and fitted with panelled partitions to help draught-proof them and it is likely that the kitchen was altered and updated to meet Victorian requirements. Like the rest of the Court, the fireplaces were adapted to burn coal, and the range in the Servants' Hall (G1) probably dates from this period. The roof above F12 was repaired and fitted with new pine trusses, the attic floor above F12 was removed and other minor repairs and alterations were carried out. There were also changes to the surrounding site with the construction of the two buildings on the south side of the north screen wall and also of the various small structures in the drying yard immediately south-east of the Red Wing.

Phase Seven

Further significant alterations occurred during the 20th century. In the 1930s a major rearrangement of the service accommodation took place as part of the general modernisation of the Court. A new kitchen was made in the former steward's room (G5), the fireplace was rebuilt in brick with and an adjacent scullery was put in the former housemaids room (G5). A new internal stair was put in to the attic, electricity was installed (from 1928) and the heating and plumbing was updated. It may also have been at this time that the valley of the double-pile roof above the north range was enclosed and the south-east corner of the structure was reinforced.



Figure 39 Ground floor passageway in link range during the school's occupation (Leonard Edwards)

When the Court was in use as a Catholic school from 1948-79 the layout of the Red Wing was altered and new partitions were inserted to create additional bedrooms, dormitories and bathrooms on the upper floors. These alterations included possibly the structural alterations to, and certainly the subdivision of, the first-floor room in the south-east corner (F12), and the creation of two bathrooms at the east end of the passageway on the first floor and on the attic floor above. These alterations necessitated the removal of part of the north partition wall onto the passageway. In 1968 another staircase was put in at the north-west corner of the north range as a fire precaution, and much re-fitting and maintenance work was undertaken, including the conversion of the laundry wing into a toilet block.

Between 1980-84, when the International Society for Krishna Consciousness were based at the Court, a new floor was inserted over the former kitchen (G12) to create a playroom and the walls were decorated with murals, fragments of which still survive(F21). A mezzanine floor is said to have been inserted in F12 to provide additional bedroom space for families and the apartment (F15 and 16) was altered and redecorated for use by the Temple President.

During the period of ownership by various private developers there were further changes in layout. Another mezzanine floor was put into the Steward's Room (G5) during the Buxton period to provide office space, although this was removed by a later owner, and the apartment was altered again to provide self-contained accommodation for a relative of one owner. Other late 20th century alterations include the demolition of the laundry range and the remaining small structures in Laundry Green, although their footprint remains clearly visible.



Figure 40 Mural in F21 during the ISKC period of occupation in the 1980s (Sylvia Stanley)

9.0. Historic Room Uses

G=Ground Floor F=First Floor S=Attic storey

(See Section 7.0 General Description for Floor Plans with Room Numbers)

1751-1809: The 6th Earl of Coventry 1809-1831: 7th Earl of Coventry

1831-1843: The 8th Earl of Coventry

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| G1 Servants' Hall | F12 Housekeeper's bedroom? |
| G2 Brushing Room | F13 Bedroom |
| G3 Service passageway | F14 Passageway |
| G4 Housemaids Room | F15 Nursery or bedroom/later 6 th Earl's Apartment |
| G5 House Steward's Room | F16 Nursery or bedroom, later 6 th Earl's Apartment |
| G6 Stair hall | F17 Passageway |
| G7 Scullery | F18 Bedroom |
| G8 Cook's Sitting Room/Pastry/Stores | F19 Cook's bedroom, |
| G9 Part of G8 | F21 void |
| G10 Kitchen | F22/23 Bedroom |
| G11 Larder | |

Further bedrooms and storage in the attic space

Adjoining the Red Wing was the laundry wing attached to the laundry in the stableblock

1843-1930: The 9th Earl of Coventry

F15/F16 The 6th Earl's former apartment was used as the e Day Nursery in the C19.

1930-1940: The 10th Earl of Coventry

The inventory compiled in 1930 when the 9th Earl died lists the housekeeper's, steward's, valet's and footmans' bedrooms as being in the Red Wing. As the floor plan is missing, their exact location cannot be identified.

In 1930:

- G1 Servants' Hall
- G2 Brushing Room
- G3 Service passageway
- G4 Housemaids' room
- G5 Steward's Room (much furniture, including a piano, valuable clock, 5 pairs curtains)
- G6 Stairhall
- G7 Scullery
- G8 Cook's Sitting Room and Stores
- G10 Kitchen
- G11 Larder

F12 Accommodation for principal staff member (Housekeeper?)
 F13 Bedroom
 F14 Passageway
 F15 and F16 Hon William Coventry's Suite
 F17 Passageway
 F18 Bedroom
 F19 Cook's bedroom
 F21 void
 F22/23 Bedroom

Attic Floor

The 1930 inventory notes only two bedrooms with two beds in the attic

In 1930 the 10th Earl embarked on major scheme of improvements and modernisation of both the house and service wing. The alterations to the Red Wing included the creation of a second kitchen in the former Steward's Room (G5) with an adjacent Scullery in the Housemaids Room (G4). According to the *Description of the various courses of the different chimney flues in Croome Court*, of 1940, the House Steward's Room was moved into the Basement in B24/25/26. However the accommodation provided for the butler and the house steward in the west wing and the Red Wing needs further clarification.

The details below are extracted from the 1930 Specification and the 1940 Ministry of Works plans which use the old room names. After 1930 a new Servants' Hall was created in the former Still Room in the Basement (B17), even though G1 is still referred to as the Servants' Hall on the 1940 plan. There is a reference to "removing fittings, sink, cupboards and fitting new grate and chimneypiece in the Servants' Hall in the 1930 Specification (CEA: High Green). It is unclear which Servants' Hall this is referring to. Much of the accommodation in the Red Wing was used by the family during this period.

Post 1930s work;

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| G1 Former Servants' Hall | F15 Family Apartment |
| G2 Brushing Room | F16 Family Apartment |
| G3 Service Passageway | F17 Passageway |
| G4 New Scullery | F18 Bedroom |
| G5 New Kitchen | F19 Bedroom |
| G6 Stairhall | F21 Void |
| | F22 Bedroom |
| F12 Day Nursery? | F23 Staircase to attic |

1940-48: The War Period

Early in the War it was proposed that the Women's Land Army were billeted in the Red Wing. Instead it is believed the wing may have been used for storage by the Ministry of Food in addition to the stableblock.

1948-79: The Catholic School

The Red Wing was used by the nuns for a dining room and for sleeping quarters. Their common room was in S3 at the top of the main house. At first the former main kitchen was used as a chapel before the riding school in the barn was converted for this purpose. Then it was used as a recreation room and finally it became a workroom where the boys' clothes were made and stored in wire cages along the wall. The workroom was originally located in main cellar of the basement (B3). G1 became a recreation and television room. The room south of the kitchen was a staff room, and the rooms west of kitchen were linen rooms.

On the first floor were bedrooms, bathrooms and the sanatorium. The boys' toilet block was located in the former laundry wing and the nearby housing for the Chapman pump was used as a soakaway.

1968 Plan

G1 Recreation/TV room

G2 Boot Room

G3 Passageway

G4 Scullery

G5 Nuns' Dining Room

G6 Stairhall

G7 Linen Room (with boiler against north wall)

G8 Linen/Tuck Shop

G9 Back Staircase fitted as fire precaution

G10 Chapel initially, then Workroom

G11 Staff Room

G11a Passageway

F12 Divided into a sanitorium, staff room & dormitory with new entrance off passageway

F13 Dormitory

F14 Passageway with bathrooms and WCs

F15 Nuns' bedrooms and bathrooms

F16 Divided into two dormitories

F17 Passageway with bathroom at east end

F18 Dormitory

F19 Dormitory with staircase shown to be fitted 1968 as fire precaution

F21 Void

F22 Nun's bedroom

F23 Staircase to attic

Void above F12

S24 Store
 S26 and S27 Box rooms over link range
 S30 and S31 Dormitories with new staircase in S31
 S32 Storeroom over kitchen
 S33 Nun's Bedroom
 S34 Bathroom at east end passageway

The laundry wing was converted to form boys' toilets, and are said to have had a grass floor. The south corridor led to the boys' washroom in the former main laundry in the stableblock. Pets were kept in the small structure in the south-east angle of the north screen wall.

1980-84: The International Society for Krishna Consciousness

From 1980-84 when the Court was acquired by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness as a worldwide centre for education up to 400 people lived in the main house and the Red Wing. There was a recording studio and a sewing room where the altar decorations and clothes for the deities were made and repaired on the ground floor of the north range. The Temple President made use of the former 18th century apartment, and there was living accommodation and bedrooms for the married couples elsewhere on the upper floors. A ceiling was inserted above the former main kitchen (G21) to create a playroom (F21) decorated with murals. A mezzanine floor is said to have been inserted to provide additional space for families.

| | |
|--|---|
| G1 Book room (publishing & mail order depot) | F12 Divided into 3 rooms with mezzanine |
| G2 Theatre storage room | F13 Dormitory |
| G3 Passageway | F14 Passageway with bathrooms and WCs |
| G4 Royal Rooms | F15 Temple President's Apartment. |
| G5 Royal Rooms | Subdivided |
| G6 Stairhall | F16 Temple President's Apartment. |
| G7 Deity Sewing Room | Subdivided. |
| G8 ? | F17 Passageway with bathroom at E end |
| G9 Staircase | F18 Dormitory |
| G10 Deity Sewing Room | F19 Dormitory with staircase |
| G11 Studio | F21 Playroom with murals |
| | F22 Dormitory |
| | F23 Staircase shown in passage |
| Attic Floor-storage | |

1984-2007: Private Developers

Mainly living accommodation and office space initially. The Steward's Room (G5) was subdivided and a mezzanine floor inserted but subsequently removed. The first-floor apartment was refurbished. By the 1990s the building was used mainly for storage.

10.0 Recommendations

10.1 Recommendations for Further Research and Investigation

The fabric of the Red Wing and the land in the immediate vicinity holds much useful information on the building's structural history. The historic uses of the building are also important to an understanding of the social organisation of the entire household and the introduction of early technology, pumps, water closets etc. The following recommendations for further research and investigations are intended only as a general guide and more specific topics and ideas should become apparent as works progress.

Further Archival Research

Croome Estate Archive (CEA) at Croome Estate Office and the Hive, Worcester
Further exhaustive searches of all related documents

Bodleian Library, Oxford

The Gough MSS relating to Croome (mainly maps and drawings) may provide further information on the historical layout of the site.

Antony Muniments, (AA) Cornwall Record Office

Further research into the work executed at Croome during the time of the 4th Earl.

Badminton Muniments (BM) at Badminton House, Glos.

Further research into the 17th century history of the site

Structural Investigations

- Archaeological exploration in vicinity of the site
- Further detailed study of the external and internal fabric once the building has been stabilised.
- Further investigation of the adjacent area within the east wing of the mansion house possibly with the aid of thermographic imagery
- Plaster and paintwork analysis
- Dendrochronology-already undertaken but may be worth taking further samples if the opportunity arises to confirm pre-1750s work.

Specific topics

- Archaeological evidence on the location of the 17th century outbuilding
- Archaeological evidence of the formal garden
- Evidence of blocked windows or openings in the end walls of the 17th century house
- The early 18th century phase
- Relevant research on Francis Smith, George Chine & other Warwick builders and craftsmen
- The 6th Earl's Apartment and its evolution

- The structural evolution of the rooms in the south-east corner, including alterations to the roof, raising of first-floor ceiling, changing uses etc
- The reference to an Old Servants' Hall in 1764 William Chapman bill
- The layout and equipment in the 18th century kitchen
- The functional relationship between the Red Wing and the basement in the 18th and 19th centuries
- The evolution of Laundry Green
- The changing 20th century room uses
- The original decorative schemes of the principal rooms
- The adaptation of the site to changing technology

10.2 Recommendations for Visitor Interpretation

Although this phase of the project does not consider any future use for the Red Wing, it is understood that it could provide space for essential service and visitor facilities to free up space within the mansion where such facilities might intrude upon its special character. This does not mean that there are no opportunities for the Red Wing to make its own individual contribution to the developing strategies for the overall interpretation and appreciation of Croome. Nor does it mean that its own historic significance should be totally compromised

As the Red Wing retains many layers of its structural history, has had many varied historic uses and is in a derelict condition, its repair offers a rare and ideal opportunity to develop and experiment with new ideas for visitor interpretation. Indeed the story of its repair and conservation and even the very issue of its presentation present challenging and engaging topics for discussion.

In general terms it would be useful to have display boards with colour-coded floor plans and sections to give a broad view of the wing's structural history and how that correlates to the evolution of the mansion house. This information needs to include the area in the immediate vicinity, Laundry Green, the site of the 17th century outbuilding, and the service areas to the SE etc, to give context and to convey how the house and its ancillary buildings were adapted over time. There is ample archival material, inventories, bills etc that could be included in the interpretation material and this could be developed with overlays, scale models, preferably some interactive ones with "lift up" or "open the flap" parts so that visitors can manipulate the displays for themselves. Alternatively leaflets could be specially designed with overlays and lift-up sections, cut-outs etc. Virtual reconstructions using CAD diagrams, large annotated colour plans, and photographs also offer an appropriate means of demonstrating how the service wing appeared and functioned from the early 18th century

onwards. Small discreet areas of protected history, e.g. wall junctions, panelling, an early 18th century window frame and glazing, the mural, a section of lime ash flooring etc could be left exposed with adjacent explanatory text to form part of a structural history trail around the building.

Changing thematic displays could also be used relating to specific topics such as:

- the unexecuted early 18th century scheme
- Francis Smith, George Chine and other early 18th century Warwick builders and craftsmen
- Capability' Brown's remodelling of the Red Wing
- the story behind the windows
- the changing room uses (overlay plans, visualisations etc)
- changing country house technology-ranges, Chapman pump etc
- the kitchen-how it functioned, equipment, furnishings etc
- the 6th Earl's Apartment
- the structural evolution of the servants' hall and its changing uses
- Laundry Green –changing function
- memories of the Red Wing when it was part of the school
- the Red Wing and ISKC- recording studio, murals etc
- the conservation philosophy behind the removal and reinstatement of windows, use of non-traditional materials, the chosen date for restoration
- the conservation techniques in use
- the significance and impact of each phase of 20th century ownership. How this has affected the building's structural history
- the relationship between the Red Wing and the mansion house-physical, visual, status, functional, craftsmanship, fittings etc

Initially while work is in progress, tours and trails should be flexible to incorporate new finds and it would be an added incentive to visitors that their own discoveries could potentially form part of the trails. Depending on how the building is used, there could be trails and routes for visitors opened up on special days, perhaps linked to events in the Court itself for the benefit of schools, specialist tours etc. Eventually, if space permits, a specific room in the Red Wing could be set aside for interpretation material specific to the Red Wing, in addition to display boards/small exposed areas of historic fabric etc.

The involvement of the volunteers and supporters in these issues has been important from the very earliest planning stage, and their specialist knowledge can contribute much to the exploration of different theories and ideas. There should be ample opportunities as work progresses for volunteers and supporters to offer suggestions on how interpretation material could be themed and used in line with the general ethos of *Croome Redefined*.

11.0 Significance and Summary`

The Red Wing is a substantial brick building of fairly reticent design that reflects its purpose and respects the dominant physical presence and status of the adjoining mansion house. Externally it does not appear of exceptional architectural merit. Its proportions are cumbersome, architectural detail is fairly minimal and its elevations have been subject to much alteration, particularly the south elevation. Despite this, the building has presence, due largely to its generous scale. In 1824, in his history of Croome, Dean described the domestic offices as “commodious and complete” (p.46) and certainly the scale of the Red Wing is particularly apparent within where the principal rooms are vast and the ceilings notably high. Its ample proportions pay homage to the main house and also convey a generosity and respect that acknowledges the valuable role of the staff who enabled the Court to fulfil its particular role and function. With the structure stripped to a shell, it retains a quiet dignity even if it has become difficult to visualise the original appearance of the rooms.

11.1. Significance of the relationship between the Red Wing and Croome Court

Croome Court and the Red Wing form a single entity as acknowledged by their designation as a single Grade I listed building. The house and its service wing have always been interdependent upon each other. This relationship may be defined as follows:

Physical

they adjoin each other and are linked to it by two interconnecting doorways

Visual

both were remodelled in the 1750s and are part of the same vision but with the separate role of the Red Wing identified by its deferential design and use of materials

Statutory

they are included within the same Grade 1 listing

Historical

they have almost always been in the same ownership and both are the product of the same social and aesthetic ambitions

Archaeological

their shared site means that they have a shared archaeology

Architectural

their parallel evolution means that they were designed by the same architect using the same craftsmen and built as a single entity.

Functional

their historic uses, early technology etc are closely related.

11.2 Individual significance of the Red Wing

- *It is a Grade I listed building*
- *It is an essential part of the structural evolution of the mansion house. The layers of history incorporated within the structure are vital to our understanding of the evolution of the Court and its site*
- *It forms a vital component of the overall composition of the Court and its stableblock and ancillary buildings*
- *It is an integral part of the historic landscape*
- *It is linked to the work of various other prominent 18th century architects and builders, including Francis Smith of Warwick, Sanderson Miller, Robert Adam and James Wyatt .*
- *It was part of Lancelot Brown's first major architectural commission*
- *It includes the late 18th century apartment of the 6th Earl of Coventry which forms a unique space within the Red Wing that shares the status of the principal rooms within the Court and has much to reveal about the man himself*
- *The other main principal rooms are significant for their scale, character, evolution and specific function*
- *Several original windows survive, including some stockpiled early 18th century sashes*
- *It includes other reused materials, such as the Jacobean panelling and chimneypiece in the apartment and part of an early staircase relevant to an understanding of the history of the Court*
- *Most of the original lime ash floors laid on reeds survive on the attic storey*
- *The site is of archaeological significance as it is adjacent to the former 17th century outbuilding to the north, and the formal south garden, the Laundry Green buildings and the underground chamber that housed the Chapman pump of 1764 to the south and east*
- *Its social history reveals much about the domestic hierarchy of a country house*
- *Its adaptation to various 20th century uses is an important part of the story of the changing role not only of Croome Court during this period but of the fate of the country house in general*
- *The building has an emotional and spiritual significance due to its close links with the Catholic school and ISKC community. Memories of living and working in the building remain strong. .*
- *The building is an essential part of the story of Croome*

11.3 Summary of Structural Evolution

To trace the structural evolution of the Red Wing is to follow a trail of changing aspirations, indecision, crude adaptation, and compromise. Its precise development remains subject to speculation but the following possible main phases of the structural sequence may be summarised as follows:

Phase One

Early 18th century Gilbert, 4th Earl of Coventry and Francis Smith

South wall. Lias plinth and brickwork to 2.4m. Window in existing positions with sills to 1.6m above floor level.

Phase Two

Early 18th century: Gilbert, 4th Earl of Coventry and Francis Smith

South wall completed to first-floor level with window sills raised. Western part of link range may have been wholly or partially completed as a single-storey wing

Phase Three

Mid 18th century: William, 5th Earl of Coventry/George William, Lord Deerhurst and Sanderson Miller

Link range possibly completed to east to be extended to the north later.

Phase Four

Mid 18th century: George William, 6th Earl of Coventry with Lancelot Brown

1751-3, c.1756-7. The demolition of the westernmost bay of the link range and of the 17th century outbuilding if not occurred in phase three. Division of link range into two storeys with an attic. Removal of internal cross-wall and insertion of chimney to south-east possibly for use as temporary kitchen. Insertion of staircase. Construction of north range and laundry wing.

Phase Five

Late 18th century: George William, 6th Earl of Coventry advised by Robert Adam and James Wyatt whose plans were unexecuted

1780s Creation of 6th Earl's apartment in the link range.

Also N.screen wall into Laundry Green built at this time

Phase Six

Mid 19th century: George William, 9th Earl of Coventry

Mid Victorian refurbishment, new floors and fittings. Roof repairs. Attic floor removed to SE corner. Changes to Laundry Green

Phase Seven

20th century: George William, 10th Earl of Coventry/School/ ISKC / Private Developers

1930s 10th Earl Modernisation, installation of new services and attic stair.

1950s/60s/70s School Additional staircase in north range, new layout. Ceiling raised over first-floor SE corner now or in 1930s. New bathrooms.

| | | |
|-----------|------------|--|
| 1980s | ISKC | <i>Toilet block in laundry wing Insertion of floor above kitchen. Mezzanine in F12? Further partitioning</i> |
| 1984-2007 | Developers | <i>Further alterations to layout. Temporary mezzanine G6</i> |

The Red Wing continues to make as vital a contribution to Croome as it has done since the 18th century. It has served as domestic hub, a refined retreat, a chapel, dormitory, recording studio and store, always playing an essential supporting role in the social organisation of the household. Just as it is essential that this close relationship with the Court is maintained, it is equally important that any future use respects the sheer scale and special identity of its interior spaces, and the many layers of its history which invite curiosity and speculation. As the story of its evolution continues to unravel, it will offer many exciting opportunities for further investigative research and creative interpretation. It is important that these are followed up and in this way the rescue of the Red Wing will bring significant benefits that will enrich our understanding and appreciation of the whole site.

Abbreviations

CET Croome Estate Trust
CEA Croome Estate Archive
AA Antony Archive

Sources

Archival

Croome Estate Archive at The Hive and Croome Estate Office, High Green.
Antony Archive, Cornwall

Reports

Catherine Gordon, *An Historical and Archaeological Survey of Croome Court*, 2010
Sarah Kay, *Croome Court Conservation, Management and Maintenance Plan*, 2012
Pamela Sambrook, *A Report on the Basement of Croome Court*, October 2010

Main Published Sources

L Dickens and M Stanton, *An Eighteenth Century Correspondence*, John Murray 1910
Catherine Gordon, *The Coventrys of Croome*, Phillimore 2000
Jennifer Meir. *Sanderson Miller and his Landscapes*, Phillimore 2006

Discussions

Eileen Clement, Leonard Edwards, Sarah Kay, Sally Sutton, Sylvia Stanley, Jill Tovey

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Listed Building Description

**AppendixII: Bills for the mid 18th century
remodelling of Croome Court**

**Appendix III: Ground and First Floor Plans
showing structural sequence**

**Appendix IV: Ground and First Floor Plans showing areas of special
architectural or historical interest**

Appendix V: Elevations showing phases of window replacement

Appendix I : Listed Building Description

SO 84 SE

CROOME D'ABITOT

CROOME COURT

listed as Croome Court with,

Stables, Garden Room or Temple,

Principal Lodge, Lodge on west, and
Panorama)

GV

I

Country house 1751-2 by Lancelot (Capability) Brown with advice from Sanderson Miller. Interior work from 1760 by Robert Adam. Built for the 6th Earl of Coventry. Limestone ashlar Palladian mansion with principal North and South fronts of 11 bays. Basement and 2 storeys with 3 storey end pavilions. Slate roofs, pyramidal over corner towers and 3 paired axial chimneys, pairs linked by arches. 1-3-3-3-1 bay division with pedimented centre to North and fine projecting Ionic tetrastyle portico to South. Modillion cornice and balustrade flanking wings. Moulded window architraves enriched with flat cornices on ground floor main range, pediments to North front pavilions and Venetian windows to South front pavilions. Roman Doric curved pediment doorcase to North front, flat cornice on consoles over South door. Chamfered quoins to projecting centre and to end pavilions. Fine 2 armed balustrade stair to North door and broad straight flight up to South door flanked by cast stone sphinxes.

INTERIOR partly Brown with plasterwork by G Vassalli, [sic] partly Robert Adam with plaster by J Rose Jnr. 2 Adam rooms removed to New York and London. Spine corridor with stone stair at East end with moulded underside and iron balustrade. NORTH SIDE: Entrance hall, with 4 fluted Doric columns and Palladian moulded doorcases, to East, dining-room with plaster cornice and ceiling, original pelmets, to West, billiard room with fielded panelling, plaster cornice and rococo fireplace. These rooms, probably decorated c.1758-9, probably by Brown. SOUTH SIDE: Fine central Saloon with elaborate deep coved ceiling with 3 embellished panels and rich cornice, fine Palladian doorcases and 2 marble Ionic columned fireplaces. Room probably by Brown and Vassalli. To East former tapestry room now dismantled; ceiling a copy of original by R Adam and J Rose. Beyond, former library by R. Adam, largely dismantled; marble fireplace. To West, drawing room with shallow rococo-style plaster and marble fireplace. At WEST END, Gallery by R Adam 1764, with half-hexagonal bay to garden, elaborate octagonal panelled ceiling by J. Rose, plaster reliefs of griffins, painted grisaille panels and marble caryatid fireplace by J Wilton. Attached at east end, SERVICE WING: L-plan, red brick and stone with slate hipped roofs. 2 storey. Stone plinth, band, moulded eaves cornice and chamfered quoins. Glazing bar sash windows with gauged brick heads. Red brick wall joins service wing to stable court beyond: 2 rusticated stone gate piers, one still with ball finial. CL 10.4.1915. A.T.Bolton: *The Architecture of R and J Adam* 1922. D Stroud: *Capability Brown* 1975. G Beard: *Decorative Plasterwork* 1975. R Adam and Croome Court *Connoisseur* October 1753.

Listing NGR: SO8849444596

Appendix II : Bills for the Building of Croome

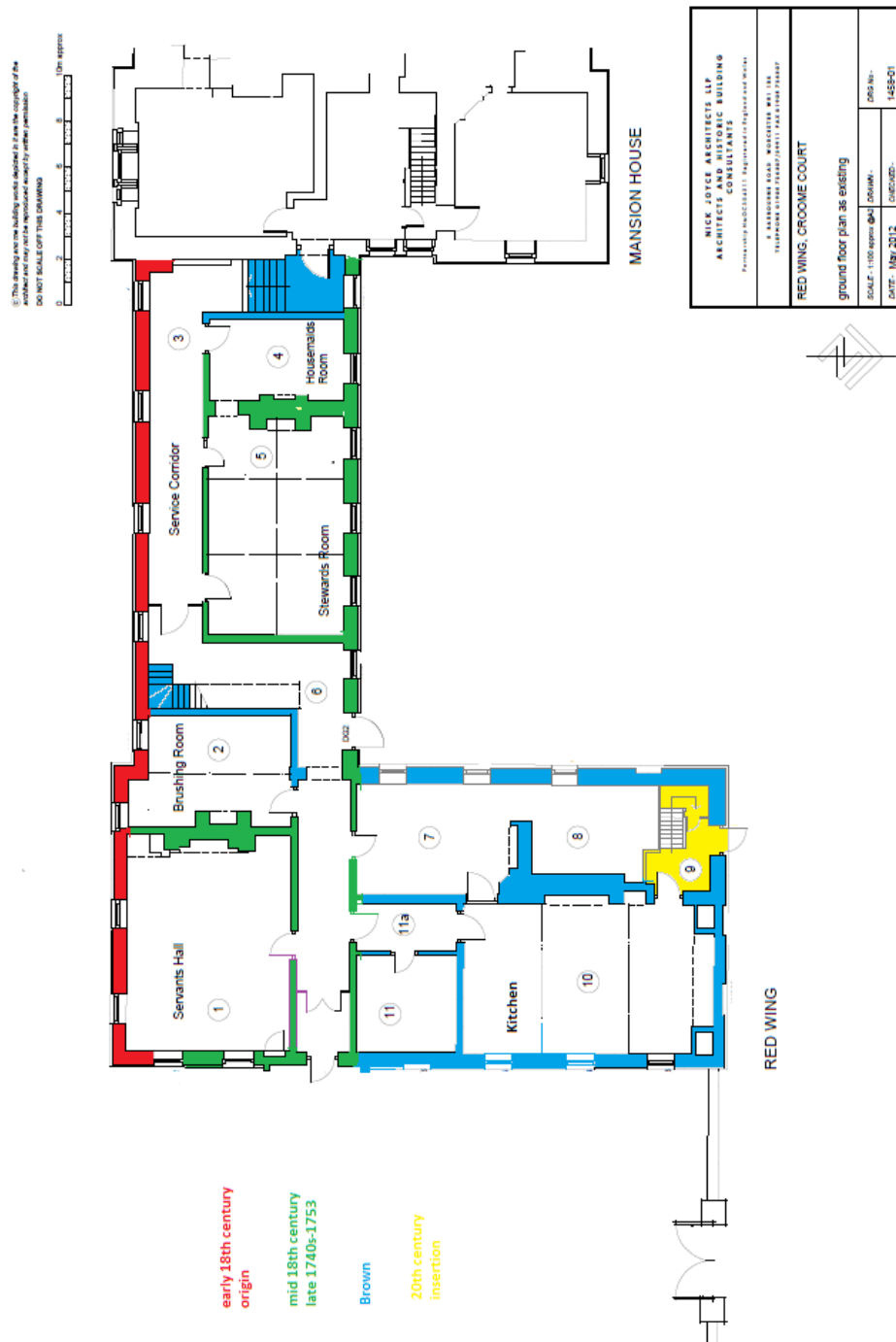
| Bill No. | Craftsman | Remarks | Date |
|----------|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| 1 | V.H.Holland, Brown's partner | Rec. for slating £100 on acct. | 1757 |
| 2 | John Hobcraft | Receipt for carpenter's work | 1758 |
| 3 | George Rawlinson | 4 Weathervanes (examined - LB) | 1757 |
| 4 | William Cobbett | Glazing-by order of Mr Brown | 1756/8 |
| 5 | John Hobcraft | Internal woodwork, exam.Donne & LB | 1756 |
| 6 | James Lovell | Carving various pieces (exam.LB) | 1758 |
| 6a | James Lovell | £100 on acc. 7 Chimney pieces | 1758 |
| 7 | Henry Holland | Slating the House (LB) | 1755/8 |
| 8 | William Vile | £200 on acc. | 1758 |
| 9 | John Hobcraft | Woodwork ('I know nothing about this bill' - LB) | 1758/9 |
| 10 | John Stephens | Carved Bath Grate | 1759 |
| 11 | John Wildsmith | Rich marble table in squares | 1759 |
| 12 | Peter Vanina | Statues-Apollo,& 2 busts | 1759 |
| 12a | Peter Vanina | Statues-Venus, Fone? &Busts | 1759 |
| 13 | Jos. Wilton | Tablets of Lapis-Lazuli&vases | 1760 |
| 14 | John Mackell | Iron Gate at Lodge | ? |
| 15 | John Hobcraft | Large bill for carving (LB) | 1757/9 |
| 16 | John Wildsmith | Marble chimney pieces | 1760 |
| 17 | John Hobcraft | Internal carving(W. Donn & LB) | 1760 |
| 18 | Fran. Vassalli | Plasterwork & Stucco (£643)(W.Donn) | 1761 |
| 19 | James Lovell | Carving in wood & marble | 1758 |
| 20 | Thomas Blockley | Various steel grates & other metalwork | 1759 |
| 20a | Thomas Blockley | Bell systems | 1766 |
| 20b | Thomas Blockley | Bell systems | 1775 |
| 20c | Ditto | Ditto | 1771 |
| 20d | Ditto' | Ditto | 1769 |
| 21 | Henry Holland | Slating the Church (LB) | 1760 |
| 22 | John Hobcraft | Carving in the Church (Rbt. Adam)* | 1762 |
| 23 | Sefferin Alken | On Acct. for carving | 1763 |
| 24 | Jos. Rose | Plasterers work at the Church | 1763 |
| 25 | Sefferin Alken | Carving at House & Church (Adam) | 1761/2 |
| 26 | John Wildsmith | Marble fireplace etc. | 1763 |
| 27 | John Hobcraft | Woodwork, incl. Greenhouse sashes | 1763 |
| 28 | Compton, Spinnage | Wallpaper | 1763 |
| 28a | Compton, Spinnage | Carpet (purple & crimson ground) | 1769 |
| 29 | Wm. Chapman | Plumber | 1764 |
| 30 | John Hobcraft | Carving (Adam) | 1764 |
| 31 | Rich. Hayward | Statuary marble | 1764 |
| 32 | Jos.Rose | Stucco & plasterwork | 1763/4 |
| 33 | Vile & Cobb | Bookcases 'to a design of Mr Adam' | 1763 |
| 34 | Henry Holland | Welsh slating on 'offices at Croome' | 1765 |
| 35 | Sefferin Alken | Carving-Font,Bookcases,G'house pedi. | 1763/4 |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--|---------------|
| 36 | Rachel Laggatt & son | White Dutch tiles | 1764 |
| 37 | John Hobcraft | Carving for Piccadilly | 1765 |
| 38 | Sefferin Alken | Picture frames | 1764 |
| 39 | John Rose | Plasterwork | 1765 |
| 40 | Thos. Robinson | Painting – boats, gates, fences etc. Coventry colours – blue & vermillion | 1765 |
| 41 | Henry Holland et al. | Repairing Slating | 1765 |
| 42 | Hartley & Cooper | Large ornamented stove | 1766 |
| 43 | Fran. Barron | Steel grate | 1766 |
| 44 | John Gilbert | Carving a 'scutchin' for casting in Brass | 1766 |
| 45 | Chas. Aylmer | Painting – inside & outside? | 1768 |
| 46 | Chas. Aylmer | Painting – 5 bills | Various |
| 47 | Mrs Robinson | Painting – Long Room etc. | 1767 |
| 48 | John Devall | Marble fireplace Lady's dressing room | 1767 |
| 49 | John Touzey | Carving - Picture frames etc. (London) | 1768 |
| 50 | Thos. Carter | Marble slabs | 1766 |
| 51 | Jos. Wilton | Statuary marble fireplace, Long room | 1766 |
| 52 | Sefferin Alken | Carving – Pier tables & mirrors | 1765 |
| 53 | Sefferin Alken | Carving – dressing glass frame | 1770 |
| 54 | Sefferin Alken | Large glass frame 8ft. high | 1770 |
| 55 | Sefferin Alken | Receipt – 2 oval glass frames | 1772 |
| 56 | Mr Bent | Stove & fender | 1775 |
| 57 | Wm. King | Marble chimney piece | 1797 |
| 58 | Henry Wood | Stone carving for a Temple | 1778 |
| 59 | Bromwich & Co. | Wall-paper | 1781 |
| 60 | William Adam & Co | Liardels? composition – Basrelief figs. | 1781 |
| 61 | Sefferin Nelson | 2 ¾ Column capitols etc. (London?) | 1781 |
| 62 | Sefferin Alken | Picture frame | 1783 |
| 63 | John Mackell | Pair Iron Gates | 1798 |
| 64 | Jos. Bayliss | Paling at Cubsmore | 1783 |
| 65 | Robt. Evans | Bricks | 1805 |
| 66 | William Aiton, Kew | Estimate & bill for Hot House (in F58) | 1792 |
| 67 | John Gibbs | Various bills for park walling | 1794/5 |
| 68 | Wm. Stephens | Many bills for Mason's work for James Wyatt & others | 1794- 1810 |
| 69 | Thos. Bromwich | Wall-paper | 1757 |
| 69a | Thos. Bromwich | Wall-paper | 1762 |
| 70 | John Hobcraft | Various bills for woodwork | 1772-82 |
| 71 | Anderson & son | Estimate for painting Saloon | 1841 |
| 72 | Thos. Bancks | Various metalwork | 1798 |
| 73a | Geo. Rawlinson | Ironwork | 1764 |
| 73b | Geo. Rawlinson | Ironwork | 1765 |
| 73c | Geo. Rawlinson | Ironwork | 1767 |
| 74 | Charles Aylmer | Painting | 1789 |
| 75 | James Wyatt | Drawings | 1794 |
| 76 | Jos. Davis | Plastering & whitewashing | 1789 |
| 77 | Thos. Crompton | Slate (LB) | 1757 |
| 78 | J. S. Jorden & Co | Letter re. travelling expenses | 1804 |

Appendix III: Ground and First Floor Plans
showing structural sequence

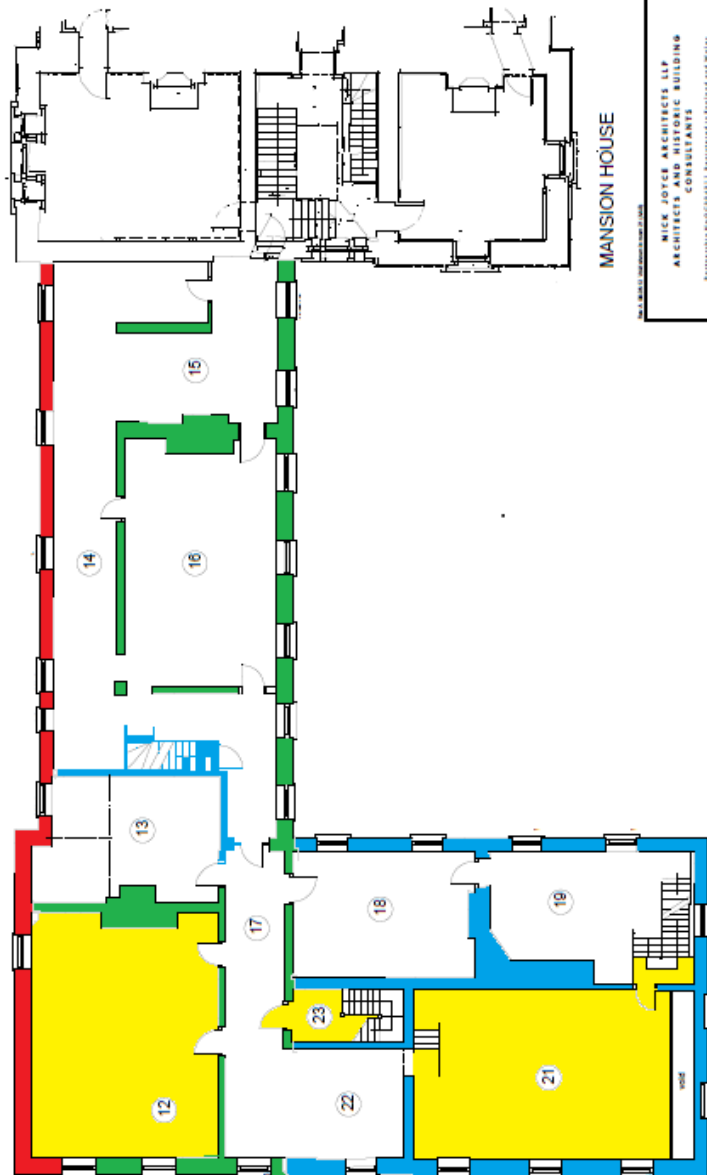
Ground Floor

First Floor



NOTES -

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Early 18th century
origin

late 1740s-1753

Brown remodelling

20th century

12 Ceiling removed
21 Floor inserted
23 Stair inserted

MANSION HOUSE

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| NICK JONES ARCHITECTS LLP ARCHITECTS AND HISTORIC BUILDING CONSULTANTS <small>Partnership of Nick Jones & Partners, Registered in England and Wales</small> | |
| <small>1, BARNARD ROAD, BARNSTAPLE, DEVON, EX16 9JF TEL: 01323 836111 FAX: 01323 836112 EMAIL: nja@nickjonesarchitects.co.uk</small> | |
| RED WING, CROOME COURT | |
| first floor plan as existing | |
| SCALE: 1:100 approx @A1 format | DWS No.: 1458-02 (rev A) |
| DATE: May 2012 | CHECKED: |

RED WING

NB F12 ceiling removed in 19th century

**Appendix IV: Ground and First Floor Plans showing areas of special
architectural or historical interest**

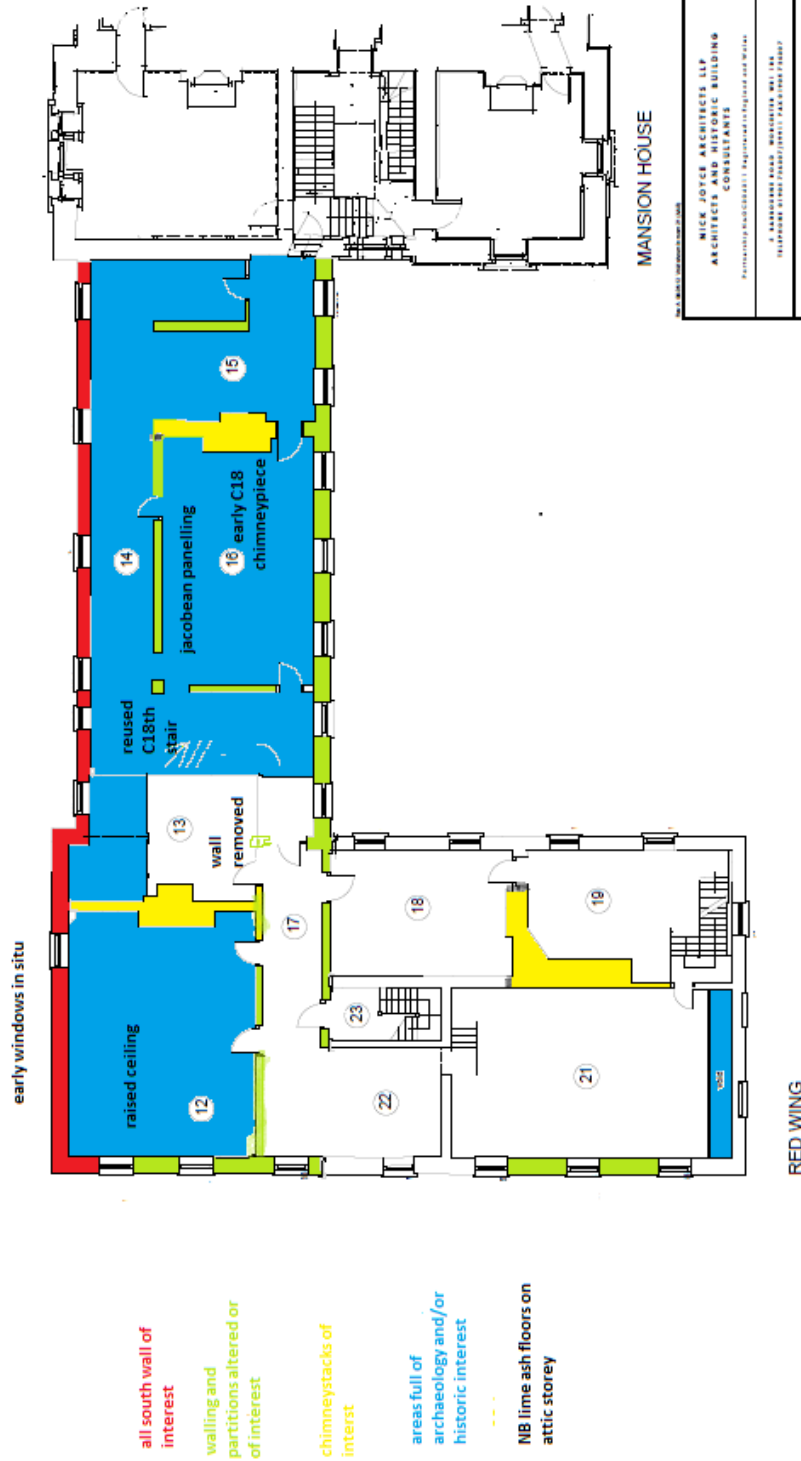
Ground Floor

First Floor



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| RED WING, CROOME COURT first floor plan as existing | |
| SCALE: 1:100 approx @A1 DATE: May 2012 CHECKED: | DWS No: 1459-02 (Rev A) |

Appendix V: Elevations showing phases of window replacement

(Nick Joyce Architects)



