

## EXCAVATIONS AT LYDIATE HALL, 1981-1982

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Lydiat Hall is a Grade II listed building of national interest and with important regional historical associations. By the end of the 16th century it was a quadrangular building with a central courtyard and very similar in appearance to Speke Hall (Fig. 2). The east wing was demolished in the 18th century and shortly afterwards a further range of kitchens, attached to the north wing, was dismantled (Fig. 1). Extensive renovations were carried out in the late 19th century but, despite these, the hall was abandoned soon afterwards and began to decay.

The main house has not been occupied since the turn of the century and within the past twenty years most of the timber-framing has collapsed. Fortunately, the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments had photographed the site in 1953 and 1962 but no comprehensive drawings of the building were ever made. By 1980 the building was completely derelict with timbers strewn about the site where they had fallen, with only odd fragments of wall and fireplaces still standing. Trees and vegetation were rapidly covering the site and it would not have been long before all vestiges of this once impressive building disappeared. Consequently, in 1981 and 1982, at the instigation of the Merseyside Archaeological Society and the Conservation Officer of Sefton Borough Council, two seasons of archaeological survey and excavation were carried out. This was undertaken by the Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit and the Archaeological Survey of Merseyside, assisted by much local voluntary help and students who attended the archaeological training excavation courses organised by the Adult Education Departments of Liverpool and Nottingham Universities and East Midland Region of the Workers Education Association.

### Location

Lydiat Hall is situated at SD 364049 in woodland north of Maghull and just to the west of the Southport Road. It lies in the township of Lydiat, which, since local government re-organisation has been included in the County of Merseyside. The township is generally a little above 8m OD and lies on the eastern limit of an area of reclaimed mossland which stretches almost to the coast. The hall was built on a low sandstone ridge, a small area of which has been quarried. The ridge reaches a height of 20m OD to the east of the hall. It slopes gently westwards to the coastal mosslands and is bounded by a second band of mossland on the east. The Sudell brook, a tributary of the river Alt, runs around the northern tip of the ridge (Frontispiece). The brook has been straightened

perhaps as a flood prevention measure. At the boundary of Lydiat with Eggargate, the brook was formerly diverted to provide a dam and leet for the medieval watermill. The drift overlying the sandstone ridge consists of Shirdley Hill Sand overlying till, from which a variety of soils has developed. At Lydiat Hall, a podzol soil of the Crannymoor series has developed from the sandstone. Such soils are suitable for arable cultivation, but their natural fertility is low and the addition of organic manures assists in increasing their water-retaining capacity. The natural vegetation was probably oak-birch heath and mixed high forest (Hall and Folland, 1967, 31).

### Historical background

The manorial holding associated with Lydiat Hall can be traced back to the early 13th century. At this time the Barons of Warrington were the superior lords and Lydiat was held from them in two parts by Alan and Benedict, sons of Simon. Alan, the elder brother, held one-third of Lydiat and was also lord of Halsall (Farrer 1903, 8). Benedict and his descendants held the other two-thirds of Lydiat (VCH 3, 1907, 201 n15).

Benedict's portion passed through several generations of the de Lydiat family to Katherine, daughter of John de Lydiat and wife of Robert de Blackburn of Garston whom she married in about 1389 (VCH 3, 1907, 203). Their daughter, Agnes became heir to both the Garston and Lydiat estates, which she took in marriage to Thomas Ireland of Hale. From this union sprang the Ireland family of Lydiat which was to retain an interest in the manor until the 17th century. The manorial family was probably not resident in Lydiat between the late 14th century and 1469 or later. A document of 1411 perhaps indicates that at this time a hall in Lydiat was occupied by tenants (Lancs RO DDM 41/4). In that year Joan, Katherine and Magot, daughters and co-heirs of Richard of the Wolfall of Lydiat, consented to divide their inheritance. William the Fletcher and Joan 'take all the hall and a third of the land on the west of the field, together with the meadow adjoining the northern end, and part of the garden, paying 4d. to the lord of the fee'. John the Molyneux of Sefton and Katherine 'take the chamber between the hall and highway, with the east end of the barn and both doorway and porch, also the middle part of the field and the meadow adjoining its northern end and part of the garden'. They also were to pay 4d. to the lord of the fee. John, son of Robert of Wodefall, and Magot 'have the high chamber at the west end of the hall, the west end of the barn as far as the crokes next to

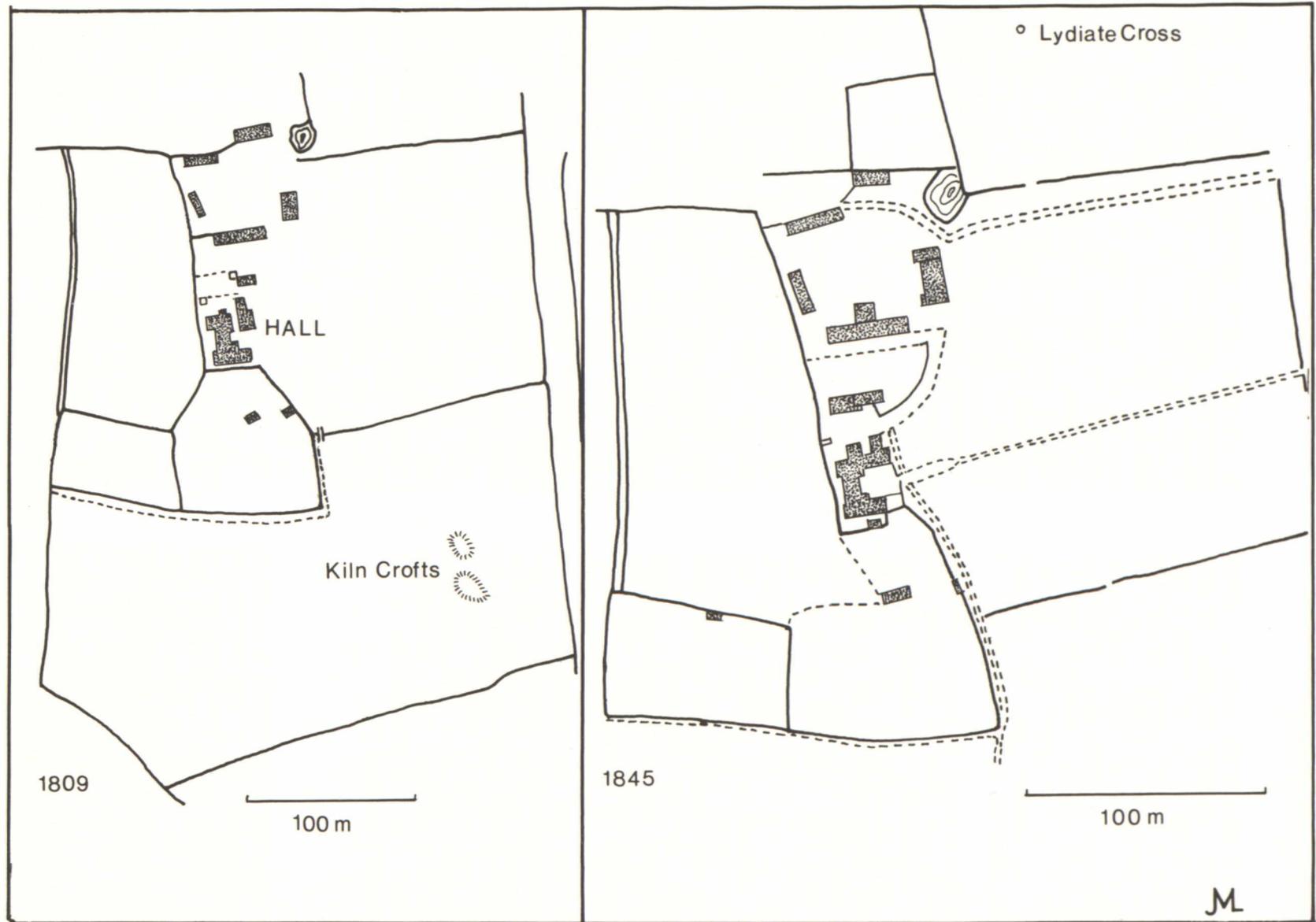


Figure 1. Location of Lydiate Hall: Plan 1809 (Lancs. RO DDIn 63/95a); Plan 1845 (Lancs. RO DRL 1/52)

the doorway, also a third part of the field at the east end, with meadow adjoining its northern end'. The location of this hall, barn and lands has not been indentified, but it might be supposed that they represent the holding at Lydiate Hall. In 1450 Robert de Wolfall, possibly the husband of Magot, granted his land in Lydiate in portions to his three daughters with remainder to a fourth daughter and then to Laurence Ireland, to hold of the chief lord by service at Ince (Lancs RO DDIn 56/23-27). The connection with the manorial lord seems clear from the second document, and indicates that the Wolfalls were, at least in 1450, tenants of the Ireland family.

This is, perhaps confirmed by the fact that Laurence Ireland was a minor in 1435 when he inherited Garston and Lydiate on the death of his grandmother, Katherine de Blackburn. Before his death in c. 1469, Laurence Ireland 'sometime of Garston' drew up a settlement on the occasion of the marriage of his son and heir, John, with Beatrice, daughter of William Norris of Speke. From this document it can be inferred that both parties to the marriage were minors (Lancs RO DDIn 64/33). Their heir, George, was 47 years of age on the death of his father in 1514. From this it must be assumed that the marriage had taken place in, or before, 1467. In 1469 John Ireland was described as 'lord of Garston (VCH 3, 1907, 203).

John Ireland died in 1514 and was succeeded by his son, George, who held Garston and Lydiate until his death in 1535 when his son, Laurence (II) inherited the estates. Laurence appears to have been married first, in c. 1540, to Ellen, sister of Antony Molyneux, the parson of the neighbouring parish of Sefton. It is probably his second marriage to Anne, daughter of John Cross of Chorley and Liverpool, which is recorded in the pedigrees (Gibson 1876, 27). During his lifetime, Laurence undertook a programme of exchange, purchase and consolidation of his possessions. In 1537 he took a lease on the monastic lands in Altcar, held by the Abbot of Merivale (Lancs RO DDIn 64/61) and in about 1540 he purchased the former possessions of Cockersand Abbey in Lydiate and adjoining townships (VCH 3, 1907, 203). A portion of the purchase money (£160) was paid at the time, but lengthy quarrels developed due to non-payment of the balance prior to the death of Laurence 1566. The matter took 20 years to resolve (Gibson 1876, 30). In 1540 he made an exchange of land with Thomas Lydiate (Lancs RO DDIn 56/6-7), and early in the 1540's he exchanged lands with Sir William Norris of Speke, thereby relinquishing his interest in Garston and obtaining the Norris lands in Lydiate and the neighbouring township of Maghull (VCH 3, 1907, 203). In 1546 he acquired the small estate of Eggargate, which lies on the north-east edge of Lydiate township.

William, the eldest son of Laurence, was also married twice. A condition of his first marriage, to

Margaret Torbock in 1550, was that he should live at Lydiate Hall (Lancs RO DDIn 64/61). This is the first clear documented evidence for a hall of that name and suggests that the hall was standing and, perhaps, completed by this date. William's second wife was Eleanor Molyneux of Hawkley, and estate in Pemberton, near Wigan (VCH 3, 1907, 302 n20). His father, Laurence, appears to have moved to Cuncscough, a former possession of the Cockersand Abbey; he was referred to as Laurence Ireland of Cuncscough in 1561 and 1566 (Gibson 1876, 31; Lancs RO DDIn 64/72). At the time of Laurence's death in 1566, he held lands in Lydiate, Eggargate, Melling, Cuncscough, Aughton, Thornton, Halsall and Aintree (Gibson 1876, 31).

William Ireland, the heir, had to contend for the whole estate against his brother, George (Gibson 1876, 32). It was claimed that William was to have for life the manor house of Lydiate, the mill etc. and the demesne of Eggargate (VCH 3, 1907, 203 n17). He was involved also in law suits including possession of the former lands of Merivale Abbey in Altcar (Gibson 1876, 32). William survived his father for only three years and dying in 1569, was succeeded by his 18 year old son, Laurence (III), child of his marriage with Margaret Torbock.

A claim on Laurence's inheritance was made by his stepmother, Eleanor, on behalf of her son William. In respect of this, in 1583 Laurence received back part of the property formerly granted away by his father, but for this he had to pay £90, of which £10 was paid at the time (Gibson 1876,33). The uncle, George Ireland, again made a claim on the estate, this time regarding non-payment of a loan he had made to his half-brother, William. In 1574, Laurence agreed to pay George the sum of 40 marks yearly (Gibson 1876,33).

Religious persecution of those who continued to adhere to the catholic faith in the late 16th century made further demands on the family. Laurence Ireland was listed as a catholic at the time of Lord Burghley's survey in 1590 (Gillow 1907, 35), and in 1598 he was charged '£10 for his wife's recusancy' (Gibson 1876, 36).

Financial difficulties, because of debts accumulated through purchase of lands 'and otherwise', led to an enfeoffment of the Lydiate estates to Sir Richard Molyneux of Sefton (Rylands 1880, 126-129). The deed of feoffment included the 'hall of Lydiate', 'Lydiate Chapel' standing near the manor house, with the 'chappel yeard' and a dovehouse, barns, closes and named fields. This resulted in division of the estate into three parts. Laurence Ireland had 'use' of the manor of Lydiate for life, but the profits of the other manors were to be used for the discharge of his debts. On his death, the feoffees were to be seised of one-third the capital messuage for use of the male heir; one-third was reserved for the widow, Margaret, daughter of Edward

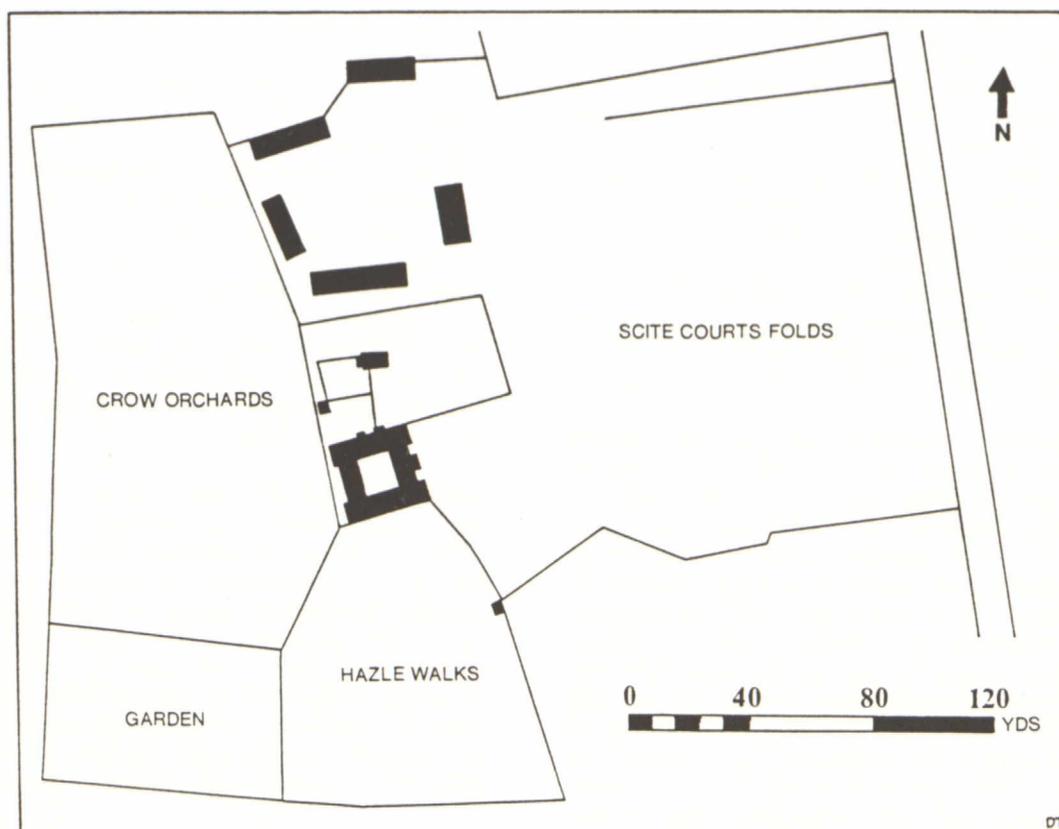


Figure 2. Lydiate Hall 1744-80 (Lancs RO DDIn 56/99)

Scarbrick, as jointure and lieu of all claim for dower; the third part was to be held for the use of named trustees until they reached the age of twenty-four.

When Laurence died in 1609 his estate was found to consist of the capital messuage, sixteen messuages, twelve cottages, a dovehouse, a windmill and watermill and orchards, wood and land in Lydiate and Eggargate. In inventory of his possessions has been preserved (see Appendix 1; Lancs RO WCW Laurence Ireland 1609). His estate was valued at £500 out of which he had debts of £72.

This may be compared with the probate inventory of Laurence's son, Edward, who died in 1637 (Gibson 1876, 39-43) leaving goods worth £1000, with a further valuation of property bequeathed to his son, Laurence (IV). The considerable difference in the valuation of the two estates cannot be explained easily; it is possible that the lower value of the 1609 inventory reflects the financial problems experienced by Laurence III and the feoffment of the estates to Sir Richard Molyneux.

Through his second marriage to Margaret, daughter of Edward Norris, Edward Ireland re-established the connection with Speke Hall, first made about 100

years earlier. Edward's heir, Laurence (IV) was only three years of age when his father died; the family's continuing adherence to catholicism seems to have exacerbated the financial difficulties. Laurence was sent abroad for his education, presumably to be brought up in the catholic faith, and his mother struggled to claim the family's right to the Lydiate estates. In 1651 she petitioned against the sequestration order which permitted her only one-fifth of the third of the property left to her as dower. Her plea was unsuccessful and the remaining two-thirds of the estate were put into guardianship during Laurence's minority (Stanning 1898, 14- 23). Probably Laurence did not inherit until 1655/6 and in 1657 he leased his estates in an attempt to settle his debts which amounted to £1839 (Lancs RO DDIn 64/125). His marriage settlement on his wife, Anne Scarbrick, in 1658 gave her specified accommodation at Lydiate Hall for her use for life (see below p.35). On her death in 1663, Laurence sought admission to the Society of Jesus, leaving his mother, Margaret to bring up her two grand-daughters, Margaret and Katherine (VCH 3, 1907, 204).

After 1666 the hall was leased to a series of tenants though Margaret Ireland reserved half of the fruit trees and one-third of the dovecote (Gibson 1876, 47). She continued to live at the hall after the

marriage of her daughter, Margaret, to Sir Charles Anderton of Lostock. In 1682 she was paying £3 rent for the 'hall, outhousing, orchards, gardens and croft and dufcote' and £5 for the 'farthest field in the lower ground' (Lancs RO DDIn 63/20). She died in 1695, having survived her husband, Edward, for almost 60 years, and an inventory of her possessions has been preserved (see Appendix 2; Lancs RO WCW Margaret Ireland 1695). Perhaps, it reflects the one-third of the estate assigned to her as dower, it seems to identify the rooms in the hall assigned for her occupation.

Sir Charles Anderton and his wife, Margaret, appear to have continued to reside at Lostock. Sir Charles died in 1691 and was survived by Dame Margaret until 1720. An attempt by her to secure the transition of her lands to her sons led to further legal disputes and in 1728 £1000 was paid to the Starkie family, as trustees, further sums being paid as late 1760 (VCH 3, 1907, 205). In 1715 the estates were forfeited following the arrest for treason of Francis, their fourth son. He was pardoned and retired to live at Lydiate in 1729 until his death in 1760 (Gibson 1876, 79-81). As the fourth son of Charles and Margaret, he came into possession of Lydiate in 1724, but the Lostock estates continued to be held by the Crown. He was a lover of country sports, particularly racing, cock-fighting, and fishing and is believed to have been responsible for some building work at Lydiate Hall (see below). Under the terms of his brothers' wills, the estate was to pass to their sister, Mary, who had married Henry Blundell of Ince Blundell. On the death of his uncle, Robert Blundell was swift to lay claim to his mother's estates in Lostock and Lydiate. But in May 1760 Robert made a settlement of his property on his son, Henry, and retired to Liverpool, leaving to himself an annual allowance. Henry, the traveller and collector, took possession of the family estate in Ince Blundell, with a life tenancy in the properties in Aughton, Maghull, Lydiate and Melling (Gibson 1876, 133). In 1761 Lydiate Hall was tenanted by Thomas Haskayne (Lancs RO DDM 41/19) and in 1778 Henry Blundell leased the Hall to John Rimmer, husbandman. The lease included an agreement to share the expenses of repairs to the house and outbuildings (Lancs RO DDIn 57/65). At the end of his term John Rimmer was to replenish the dovecote with 'sixty couple of pigeons'.

The effects of leasing the hall to tenants, with the exception of the period of occupation by Francis Anderton between 1729-1760, together with the heavy demands of sequestration, had no doubt taken their toll. It is believed that John Rimmer applied to Henry Blundell for permission to demolish the east wing when roof repairs became necessary (Gibson 1876, 2). Throughout the 19th century and later, Lydiate was continually in the hands of tenants, though from time to time the Blundells instituted some repairs and renovations at the Hall.

## The buildings

A description of the building may be found in a number of published reports (VCH 3, 1907, 207-208; Gibson 1876, 109; Roberts 1851, 78-83; Taylor 1895, 1-9). However, each tends to repeat information given in an earlier source rather than providing additional information as to the dating, development or destruction of the building. From an examination of both published comments and unpublished documents it is possible to consider the building and its internal details and to attempt a more accurate dating for construction of the present building. Amongst the documents are a number of unpublished drawings; these sometimes provide details which are in conflict with information given in the published reports.

Much of the published material represents the subjective observations of writers in the 19th century and cannot be substantiated when compared with details given in the original documents.

## Internal details: the evidence for dating

A plan of the ceiling joists and description of the details have been given (Garner & Stratton 1911, 176, CXIII). The hall was said to be 'one of the best examples in the country of a timber-built hall one storey in height with a flat ceiling ... The ceiling is unusual in the arrangement of the smaller joists, which are carried in opposite directions in the alternate compartments formed by the main beams; all these oak timbers are slightly moulded with the spaces between filled in with plaster. Over the high end, where there may once have been a shallow dais, the ceiling is brought down in a cove to the end wall, starting from a richly-moulded and carved beam, which spans the hall from wall to wall, and finishing above a delicate cornice with Tudor cresting' .... The cove 'is divided into a number of small panels by moulded ribs, and at every intersection are delightfully carved bosses with monograms and various devices occupying the central circular spaces'. It is lower and smaller than the cove at Rufford Old Hall, but 'shows the same desire to all dignity to the dais end' (Garner & Stratton 1911, 176).

One of the bedrooms on the first floor also had an unusual ceiling. It was carried on cambered oak cross beams and alternate beams had curved braces which connected with the uprights. The purlins and joists were heavily moulded and divided the ceiling longitudinally into panels, the interior of which were strengthened by smaller diagonal oak ribs (Garner and Stratton 1911, 176, Fig. 239).

In a room identified as the 'withdrawing room' carved panels were supposed to represent the five wives of Henry VIII and the King with Katherine of Aragon and Edward VI (Taylor 1895, 7). An

illustration of a carved doorway in one of the bedrooms on the first floor is provided by Garner and Stratton (1911, CLXXIV). The top pair of panels depict a man and a woman, perhaps the King and Katherine identified by Taylor. The central panels carry elaborate carving and include a fleur-de-lis and a horned animal, probably a goat. 'The carving of this door and of most of the woodwork still preserved is executed with much spirit and appears to be entirely native workmanship' (Garner & Stratton 1911, 176).

The drawings show that at least one of the monograms bore the initials I E. A moulding in the ceiling of the great hall was reported to bear the initials I I B I (Roberts 1851, 81). Others were described in detail by Gibson (probably copied from Roberts 1851 rather than of his own observation) and were said to include the initials J I and B I (1876, 4-5). Roberts recorded the initials L I carved on the architrave of the doorway leading from the screens passage to the great hall. He also noted that a 'cross moline pierced' probably related to the marriage of William Ireland with Eleanor Molyneux of Hawkley (1851, 80,81). Roses included in the decorations of the porch were said to commemorate the end of the Wars of the Roses (Gibson 1876, 1-2).

It was believed that 'some ornamental doorways and oak carvings' were transferred to the west range from the east wing on its demolition in the late 18th century (Gibson 1876, 2). No evidence has been found to substantiate this statement and there is no reason to suppose that the carvings in the west wing were not in their original positions.

The analysis of the carved emblems is outside the scope of this paper but there is a strong indication that they represent a variety of heraldic symbols presumably relating to the arms of the Ireland family and their wives. It is, however, perhaps worth considering the possibility that a 'fleur de lis and spear in bend' which reportedly occurred at least four times on the ceiling bosses described by Gibson, was included in the achievement of George Ireland dated 1516.

To this may be added the comparative evidence for similarity between Lydiate Hall and Speke Hall, bearing in mind the relationship between the families through the marriage of John Ireland with Beatrice Norris, c. 1467. The great hall at Speke dates from the early 16th century. It was built by William Norris, father of Beatrice, at a time when the Norrises were at the height of their wealth and influence (Tibbles 1883, 5). It appears to date from the period 1490-1506 and has 'main wall posts heavily moulded to match the ceiling beams' (Tibbles 1983, 10-11). As at Lydiate it was 'ceiled with a flat ceiling, and does not appear ever to have been open to the roof' (Garner & Stratton 1911, 172). The position of the chimneys may also be

compared lying as they do on a wall against a cross passage. A vineleaf pattern carved in the great hall at Lydiate is believed to have borne similarities to carvings in the north-west bay of the hall at Speke which was probably added in 1525-35. The hall at Lydiate is a little smaller than that at Speke being 32' x 18' (9.75m x 5.48m) and 11'4" (3.45m) high from floor to 'plastered ceiling'. The sill of the windows which ran along both sides of the hall was 7' (2.13m) above floor level (Taylor 1895, 6-7; Garner & Stratton 1911, CXIII; Rimmer 1852). Windows at Speke were also at the upper level only (Tibbles 1983, 11). The great hall at Speke is 33'7" x 25'4" (10.25m x 7.72m) excluding the bays and 19'10" (6m) high.

Another association of style may perhaps be seen in comparison of the monograms at Lydiate with lettering found on pew ends in Sefton Church (Bridgens 1822). This was dated approximately to 1520-35 (Caroe & Gordon 1893, 14). Further, it was stated that 'the same hand has evidently worked at both, as many of the designs and details are exactly the same'. The cornice of the screen at Sefton Church was also stated to have 'Renaissance character ... to be seen in almost precisely similar form at Lydiate hall' (Caroe & Gordon 1893, 17). A drawing of the screen was executed by Bridgens (1822). The chancel, south aisle and both arcades of the nave were rebuilt in the first half of the 16th century, and were believed to be the work of Antony Molyneux, rector between 1535-57. Of this period also is a window believed to relate to Laurence Ireland and his wife Ellen, sister of Antony Molyneux, and dated 1540 (Caroe & Gordon 1893, 19, n3). This perhaps commemorated the marriage of Laurence and Ellen. Although a link between the Irelands and the church at Sefton is strongly indicated there is insufficient dateable evidence to relate the two buildings as the carvings within the church, which are not structural, could be later than the building itself.

The documentary evidence appears to point to a date for the present Lydiate Hall in the first half of the 16th century. There is a conflict between the descriptions given for the monograms and the reliability of the information given by Roberts, and subsequently repeated by Gibson, is somewhat doubtful. The argument becomes circular when one suspects that the carvings in Sefton Church were being dated by reference to Gibson whose reliance on Robert's text is insecure.

Thus, we are left with the elements of information supplied by the drawings in Garner & Stratton. These tend to point to the letters I E, rather than B I, being carved on the ceiling boss, supposedly coupled with I I, perhaps read as J I by Roberts (and repeated by Gibson). This would accord with the 'cross-moline pierced' described by Roberts, although perhaps he mistakenly ascribed it to Eleanor, wife of William, rather than to Ellen wife

of Laurence. If the date of the grant of arms to George Ireland is to be trusted, the inclusion of a motif of "fleur-de-lis and spear in bend" on the ceiling bosses, appears to suggest a date of construction later than 1516. The marriage settlement of William, son of Laurence, in 1550, seems to have led to his residence at Lydiat Hall, from which it might be inferred that building work had been completed by that date. At the same time Laurence himself had removed to Cunsough, a recently acquired property with its own demesne lands which perhaps appealed to his sense of status.

Dendrochronological analysis of 78 timbers from Lydiat Hall has indicated the date of construction in the mid to late 16th century or later (see Leggett and Hughes below). This would correspond with the period of occupation by Laurence Ireland and Ellen Molyneux (c1540-1553); perhaps continuing until Laurence's death in 1566. However, since a condition of William Ireland's marriage to Margaret Torbock in 1550 was that he should live at the hall, it would seem that most of the work had probably been completed by this date.

The dating evidence fits well with Laurence's aspirations and his links with Speke Hall. It may well be that his pecuniary difficulties, noted in the context of his land purchases, were increased by expenses incurred in construction work. What is certain is that his activities landed the estate with debts from which it never really recovered.

#### **The hall in the 17th century: evidence of the inventories and other documents**

The 1609 probate inventory of Laurence Ireland, grandson of the builder of the hall, provides the first detailed information of the number of rooms and their possible disposition (Appendix 1). Rooms were named as the servants' chamber, cabbins, out chamber, green chamber, children's chamber, privy chamber, dining chamber, gallery, parlour, hall and stairhead give some indication of the number or rooms with further relationships indicated by the 'chamber over the hall', 'closet by the great chamber', chambers over the larder, buttery and kitchen, gatehouse chamber, a loft above the 'range' and two chambers over the 'yates'. These last perhaps refer to the entrance to the hall which at this date was probably ranged around all four sides of a courtyard (Fig. 2). It would also appear that the great hall was not open to the rafters, thus confirming the architectural information already discussed.

The inventory of Laurence may be compared with that of his son, Edward, who died in 1637 and was published by Gibson (1876, 39-43). The number of rooms listed in the two inventories is almost identical but differences in the names given to some

of them defy direct comparison. Sleeping accommodation may have changed very little between 1609 and 1637 if the number of bedstocks can be assumed to represent the number of those living in the house. In 1609 there were thirteen featherbeds, eleven chaff beds, eight mattresses and twenty-three pairs of bedstocks, for which there were forty-six blankets and thirty 'coverlits'.

On her marriage to Laurence Ireland in 1658, Anne Scarisbrick was allocated specified accommodation at the hall for her use for life. It incorporated 'all the lower rooms from the gate northwards to the Hall and Entrys, all the higher rooms between the greene chamber and the Chamber called Mrs. Ellen's chamber upon the north, Atherton's barn, the ould barn, the shippon and the range next to the ould barne, the stable next to the kilne croft and all the howseinge under that roofe, and the garner over the servants' chamber called the New Garner, the moietye or one halfe pte of all the orchards, gardens, fields, Backsydes and the Stable croft' (Lancs. RO DDIn 64/126). The reference to Mrs. Ellen's chamber may well invoke a memory of Ellen or Eleanor Ireland and indicate that accommodation for the lady of the house was at the north end of the hall (the north range). Anne's accommodation may be compared with that granted to her mother-in-law, Margaret Ireland, who survived until 1695. An inventory of her possessions has been preserved (Appendix 2). It perhaps reflects the one-third of the estate assigned to her on the death of her husband, Edward, in 1637 and still in her occupation in 1682. This consisted of four rooms in addition to the larder, kitchen, brewhouse, dairy and millhouse, approximately one-third of the twenty-five rooms recorded in the 1609 inventory. Her sleeping accommodation was perhaps in the nursery, where there was a bed with hangings, and in addition she had two closets and a chamber. There was little evidence of earthenware possessions, the total value amounting to 2s.6d., whereas pewter and pot brass were together worth £2.5.0d. In addition she had a small amount of livestock.

An attempt to reconstruct the relationship of the rooms with each other has been made on the evidence of the 1637 inventory (Taylor 1895; Fig. 3.). The disposition of the rooms in the west range is probably based on an examination of the building itself by Taylor. However, the south and east ranges had been demolished long before, and there had been additions and alterations to the north range, so Taylor's assignment of named rooms to a specific part of the house appears to be based on conjecture rather than first-hand knowledge.

Direct comparison by means of inventories may not be a wholly reliable means of establishing the relative wealth of one estate with another but it is perhaps worth a brief examination of the situation at Lydiat in relation to its neighbours. It is not

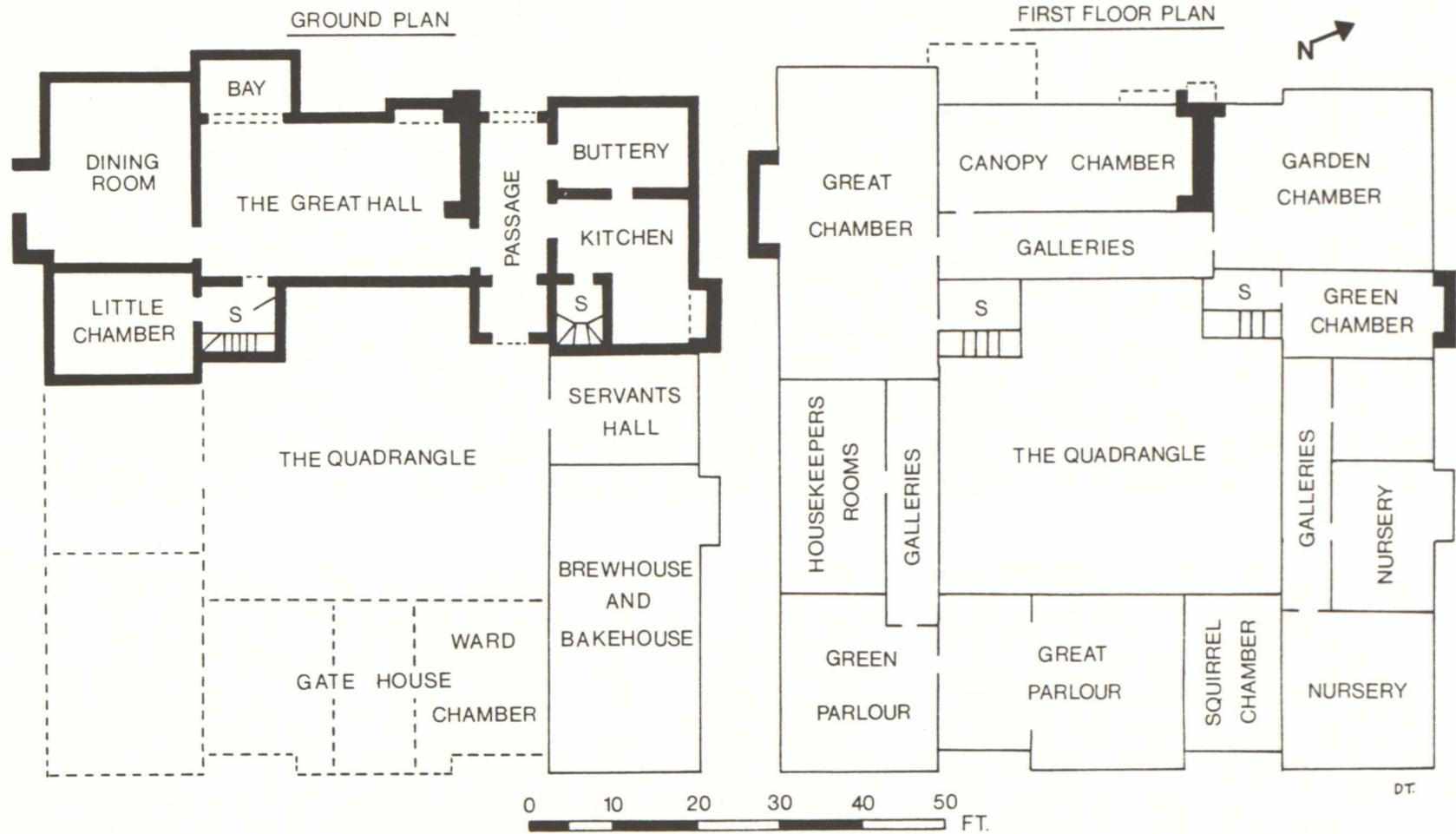


Figure 3. Conjectural plan (based on Taylor 1895)

unusual that about half the value of household goods should be represented in beds and bedding (Ashmore 1959, 65) and Lydiate is no exception. The difference in the total values of the 1609 and 1937 Lydiate inventories prompts caution but it is clear that by the early 17th century the estate was worth considerably less than Speke where, in 1624, the hall contained more than twice the number of rooms, some of which lay in the 'newe buylding' (Saxton 1946, 107-143). Values of the livestock may also give some indication of comparative wealth. On other Lancashire estates the livestock values indicate either greater wealth than at Lydiate or a greater emphasis on pastoral farming. At Speke this was worth almost twice as much as that at Lydiate in 1609. At North Meols in September 1612, the livestock was valued at £103 out of a total estate there of £366 (Lancs. RO WCW Sir Thomas Bold of Bold). This perhaps relates more closely to the size of the Lydiate estate. However, these values lie somewhat above the level of the estates of a typical yeoman, believed to be represented in the estate of Robert Molyneux of Sefton, whose inventory in 1616 included twenty cattle, seven mares and horses, six swine and twenty-nine sheep worth £70 (Ashmore 1959, 100).

It is worth noting that many of the household utensils listed in 1609 and 1637 were of brass, pewter or wood, and it is likely that vessels of these materials were still preferred. In 1609, four white bowls were valued at 4d., and glasses and cups were worth 6d. These may be set against three dozen round trenchers (12d.), one dozen square trenchers (4d.), five dozen brass trenchers (8d.) which although of lower value taken item by item, were more numerous. In 1637 a banqueting dish, salts, jugs, glass bottles, gallie pots and other small 'implements' were together with £1.13.4d.

A reference to 'unburnt' brick in 1609 suggests that building work was anticipated though whether at the hall or elsewhere on the estate has not been ascertained. This is amongst the earliest recorded references to brick in south-west Lancashire. A field immediately adjacent to the hall was known as 'Kiln Crofts' in 1809 (Lancs. RO DDIn 63/95a; Fig. 1); the earliest known use of this name was perhaps in the accommodation assigned for the use of Anne Ireland in 1658, though confirmation that these represent the same fields has not been established.

In 1609 four 'iron grates' were listed. These were in the great chamber, the chamber over the kitchen, the children's chamber and the dining chamber. In 1664 Laurence Ireland was assessed for eight hearths 'cosydes his kitchen having an oven smoke in it' (PRO E/179/250/11). There were ten hearths in 1666 (VCH 3, 1907, 183). This assessment may be compared with hearths recorded at Lathom Hall (17), Scarisbrick Hall (18) and Bickerstaffe Hall (11) (VCH 3 1907, 239 n. 10-12), Ince Blundell Hall (16) VCH 3, 1907, 82, n10), Crosby Hall (15)

(VCH 3 1907 89 n 6), Lostock Hall (20) (Fletcher 1986, 72).

### **The 18th century: construction and demolition**

Francis Anderton went to live at the hall in 1729 and it is believed that he was responsible for some building. Alterations to the porch (Roberts 1851, 79) and the erection of a mounting block in the field east of the hall (Taylor 1895, 5) are supposedly his work. A brick outbuilding, still standing in the farmyard, bears his initials and the date 1744. Francis died in a chamber 'at the end of the right wing, a portion of the hall since pulled down' (Gibson 1876, 83). This is perhaps the same accommodation as that occupied by Margaret or Anne Ireland.

An indication that the hall was in a poor state of repair by 1778 is perhaps suggested by a lease of that date whereby the landowner, Henry Blundell, and the lessee, John Rimmer, agreed to share the expenses of repairs to the house and outbuildings (Lancs. RO DDIn 57/65). It is believed that John Rimmer applied for permission to demolish the east wing when roof repairs became necessary (Gibson 1876, 2). The date of demolition has been given variously as 1760s (Roberts 1851, 79; Lancs. RO DP 291/10) and 'soon after 1779' (Gibson 1876, 2) and c.1780 (Taylor 1895, 5). The latter dates are preferred if John Rimmer was the tenant at the time of demolition. The possible removal of doorways and wood carvings from this portion of the house to the west wing has already been noted. Certainly the east wing had disappeared by 1809, when a plan of the hall showed that it consisted of three wings, of which the north wing was divided into two distinct parts (Fig. 1).

### **The 19th century: new works**

Although Thomas Weld Blundell went to live abroad after he inherited his estates it is believed that he undertook a number of building works at Lydiate (Gibson 1876, 148). He enlarged the domestic chapel which, at this time, lay over the great hall. Two priests' hiding holes were discovered in the 19th century, one near the chimney leading from the great hall and a second in the south wing (Gibson 1876, 7). The chapel at the hall was eventually replaced in 1854 by the present Roman Catholic church.

In 1851 repairs to the south wing had been executed 'tastelessly' in brick (Roberts 1851, 79). The hall had been sub-divided into a number of smaller rooms including a passage, kitchen and buttery; the stone chimney behind the screens passage lay within the kitchen; the buttery was situated at the south end of the hall (Roberts 1851, 80-81). Slatting of the centre portion of the roof was renewed in 1865

when the timbers were noted to be 'sound enough to last another century' (Gibson 1876, 3). By 1895 the hall was even more dilapidated. The westerly side had been rebuilt in brick due to weathering. An upper room at the south end of the great hall (?the great chamber of 1609) had been dismantled and the room above the great hall was divided into 'apartments' one of which was used as a chapel. The servants' wing was completely gutted and contained 'few features of interest'; and the house was empty and undergoing extensive repairs and alterations (Taylor 1895). By 1907 the north wing had been nearly rebuilt and retained nothing of its original fittings, its eastern half being in use as the farmhouse. Surviving panelling in the west wing was 'carelessly stacked at the mercy of any chance comer who may see fit to carry off anything that takes his fancy' (VCH 3, 1907, 207).

The hall survived a few more years into the 20th century, but presumably by this time the necessary repairs would have proved too costly and perhaps the years of occupation by tenants had taken their toll.

It appears that Lydiate never achieved the importance envisaged by the Irelands in the 16th century. Debts incurred through the acquisition of land at that time, coupled with the swingeing penalties of adherence to the catholic faith, took their toll. The impressive house, which must once have rivalled Speke Hall in its aspirations to grandeur, was never to gain a status beyond that of a residence of minor country gentlemen, their widows and, eventually, of tenant farmers.

### Summary

1. The manorial holding associated with Lydiate Hall can be traced back to the early 13th century.

2. The manorial family was probably not resident in Lydiate between the late 14th century and c.1469; the hall may have been leased to tenants during this period. There is no secure evidence to associate the building referred to in the 1411 document with the site of the present hall.

3. The present building was probably not built until after the return of the manorial lord. Its construction may well have been influenced by work at Speke Hall in the early 16th century, not least because of the marital connection between the lords of Speke and Lydiate at that time.

4. An expansion of the Lydiate estates can be associated with Laurence Ireland, 1535-1566. Associated with this may well have been construction of a new hall. Detail of heraldic devices suggests that the building took place after the grant of arms to George Ireland in 1516, and together with the suggested monograms, an

association with Ellen Ireland is indicated. If the work is to be attributed to Laurence it presumably occurred after he inherited his estates in 1535 and before the death of Ellen, some time before 1553. It took twenty years to resolve the debts incurred by Laurence.

5. The family was involved in legal disputes after 1566, relating to the rights of inheritance, fines for recusancy and sequestration of the estates.

6. By 1609 debts had resulted in a feoffment of the estates to Sir Richard Molyneux; further petitions were made against sequestration; unburnt brick perhaps indicates plans to rebuild or extend the hall at this time.

7. After 1637 the estate was divided into three parts. When Laurence Ireland succeeded to his father's estates his debts amounted to £1839.5.0d. in payment of which he leased the estates.

8. The hall was leased to tenants after 1666. The Ireland family continued to occupy one-third of the hall.

9. The hall was re-occupied by the owner between 1724-1760. There were some repairs and re-building. After this the hall was leased to tenants.

10. In 1728 £1000 was paid to settle a dispute over the inheritance of the estate.

11. After 1760, further compensation was probably paid regarding the same dispute.

12. 1760-1780 the east wing was demolished.

13. An early 19th century estate map shows the north wing was not a continuous unit.

14. Mid-19th century, another series of disputes regarding the inheritance.

15. 1840s and later - repairs necessary to the roof; rooms divided into smaller units; domestic chapel enlarged; rebuilding of south and west wings.

16. 1895 - the hall was in 'an advanced state of decay'.

17. 1907 - the north wing had been rebuilt; its eastern half was in use as the farmhouse; the south wing was gutted; wooden panelling in the main part of the hall was 'carelessly stacked'.

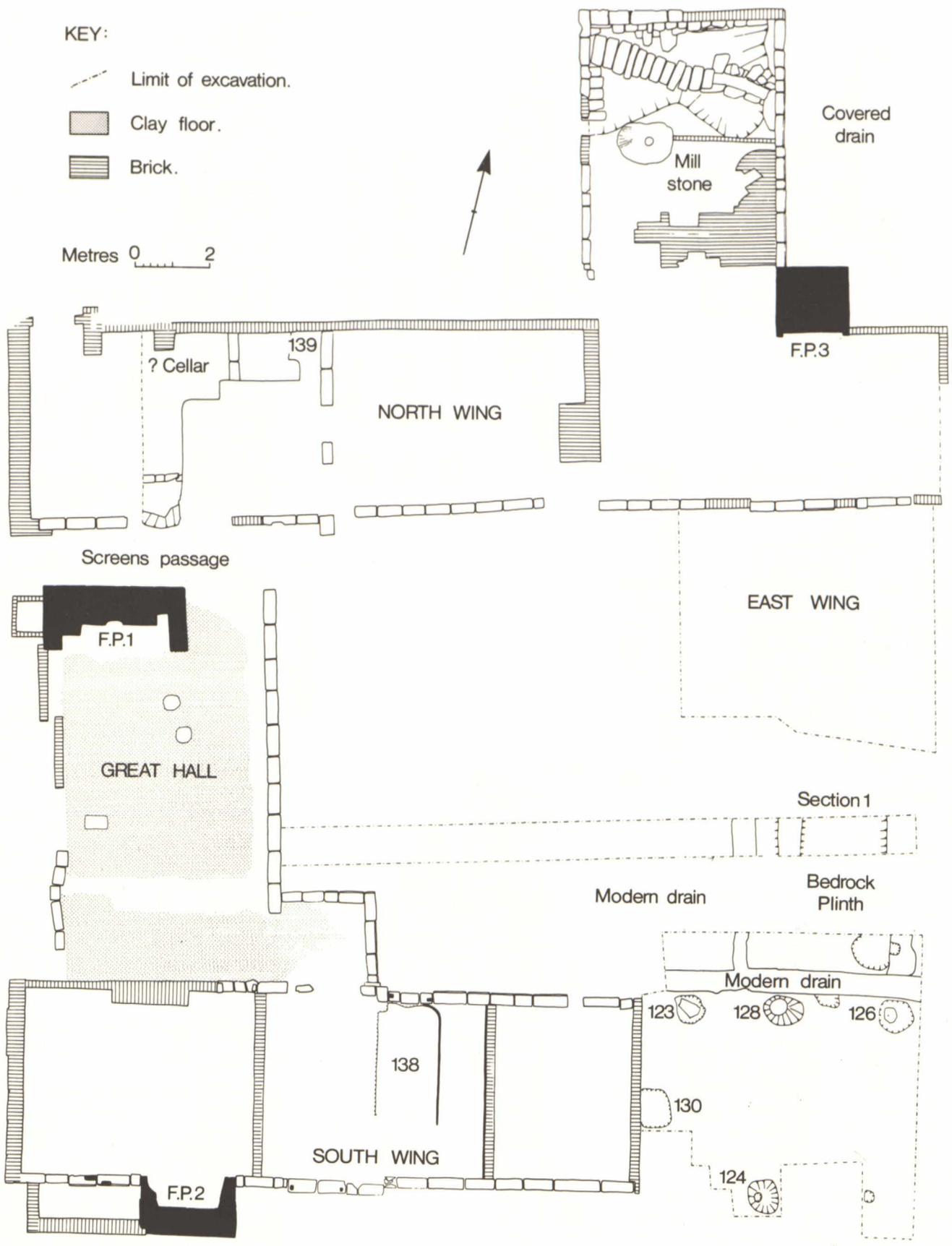


Figure 4. Site plan: excavations 1981-2

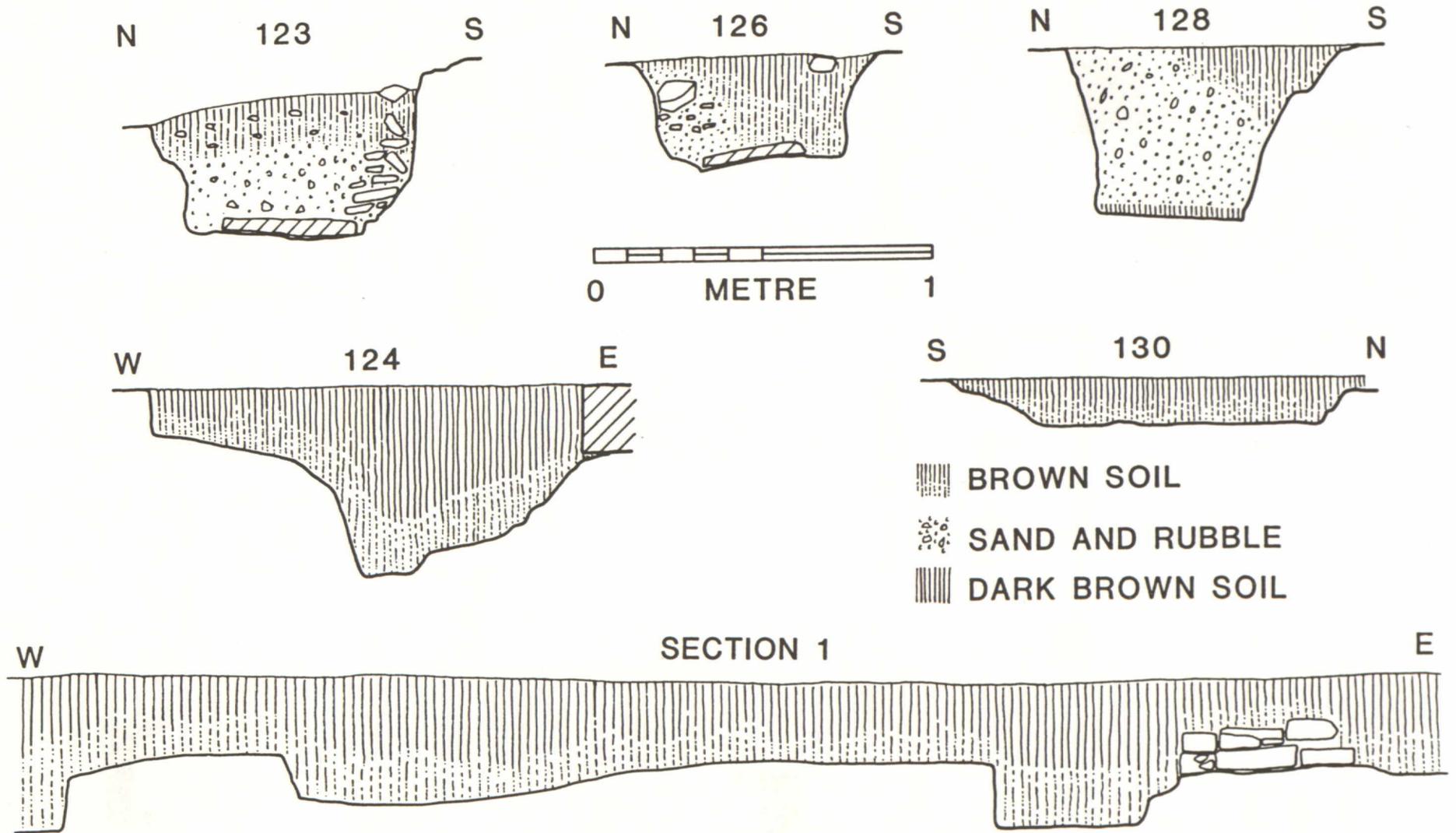


Figure 5. Sections from 1981-2 excavations

## Archaeological survey and excavation

Despite antiquarian interest in the 19th century and two visits by the Royal Commission for the Historical Monuments, no plans had been made of the hall although a number of engravings and photographs do exist. Consequently it was felt that a complete survey of all the surviving structure should be made before it disappeared completely. Where appropriate, it was hoped that excavations would answer questions of relationship.

After clearing the site of vegetation a large number of timbers were revealed, presumably lying where they had fallen. Each timber was given a unique reference code and photographed to record its position. Although it was not practical to attempt a physical reconstruction of the timber framing it was hoped that by producing measured drawings of the complete timbers, it would be possible to use these to make a reconstruction on paper. Two hundred oak timbers were drawn at a scale of 1:10 but apart from the few examples of parts of the framing that had fallen and remained jointed, it was impossible to reconstruct the building from its surviving timbers. Indeed, it became apparent that the site must have been systematically ransacked for small timbers, panelling and floorboards were not found (cf. VCH 1907, 207). None of the fine decorated woodwork for which Lydiat Hall was noted survived except for one small spandrel (Fig. 9) with a rose motif on one side. A jointed fragment of the wall frame that survived from the north wing showed this to have been infilled with riven oak staves and plastered with mud. Part of this frame however, had originally been intended as a doorway although subsequently infilled. Several examples were found of the decorative quatrefoil panels from the courtyard-facing side of the Great Hall, entrance porch and stair turret. These consisted of four planks, each with part of the quatrefoil cut out, which would have been filled in with plaster. Several roof trusses had fallen complete and were either of Queen Post or Principal Rafter construction. Perhaps the most impressive of the surviving pieces of jointed framing were the two doorways from the screens passages in the Great Hall (Fig. 8) and it was particularly unfortunate that this was vandalised before it could be removed to the County Museum storage facilities. After timbers had been recorded the most suitable were selected for dendrochronological sampling and it may be considered that this was the most useful outcome of the whole project (Leggett and Hughes this volume).

Clearance of building debris, mainly timbers and large stone roof slates, revealed the standing remains of the hall. Apart from the stone and brick fire-places and chimney stacks and late 19th century alterations at either end of the Great Hall, the only standing remains were the stone cill walls one to three courses high. Close examination of the walls revealed a discontinuous simple moulding and

evidence that many of the stones had been turned. Inside the Great Hall, a 10cm. thick clay floor had been cut away along the courtyard face and adjacent to the exterior stone cill. No dating evidence was found but cement between the cill blocks suggests that this may have been part of the large-scale restoration work of the late 19th century.

It is remarkable that apart from the clay floor of the Great Hall no complete floor surfaces were found. A modern concrete floor survived in the east end of the North Wing and brick and paving floors in the later kitchen wing to the north. Traces of clay floors were occasionally noted throughout the building but usually there was nothing but the scraped bedrock surface. A groove (F 138), in the bedrock surface of the South Wing, increased in depth as it ran towards the north wall and may have been for drainage. More difficult to explain is why a brick wall, also in the South Wing, should be sitting in a foundation trench cut into the bedrock. Scarping of the bedrock surface may have taken place subsequent to the construction of the cill wall because in the greater part of its length it sits on a raised platform of bedrock generally only 2.4cms high. An alternative explanation, for at least part of the building, was prompted by the rectangular hole on top of the natural bedrock plinth at the junction of two walls in the North Wing (F.P.3). The hole contained rotted fragments of wood and may have been the remains of a cill beam resting on the bedrock plinth which had been later built over in stone.

Generally the stone cill wall had been too disturbed to allow a building sequence to be suggested for each section of the hall. Only in the North Wing could a sequence be seen where, not only did the dividing wall clearly belong to the eastern cill wall, but a doorway had later been cut through it (fig. 4).

At the west end of the North Wing and adjacent to the screens passage the bedrock had been cut away to a depth of 1.46m. It formed an L-shape on its eastern face but was not fully explored to the west for reasons of safety. Presumably a cellar, traces of brick steps were found at the eastern end and it had been filled in at two stages in the 17th and the late 19th centuries.

The three sets of surviving stone fireplaces, despite a similarity in style, are all different. Each of them had been later modified with smaller brick fireplaces inserted and the stonework hacked away. The upper moulding of the fireplace in the Great Hall however, although damaged, would seem to have been unusually asymmetrical (F.P.1). An inverted decorated stone at the base of the fire-place 3 (Fig. 7) in the North Wing suggests re-used material, and from its design possibly came from the ruined Lydiat Chapel. Various masons' marks have been recorded (see Darcy this volume, page 27) and are similar to those recorded from local churches where work was

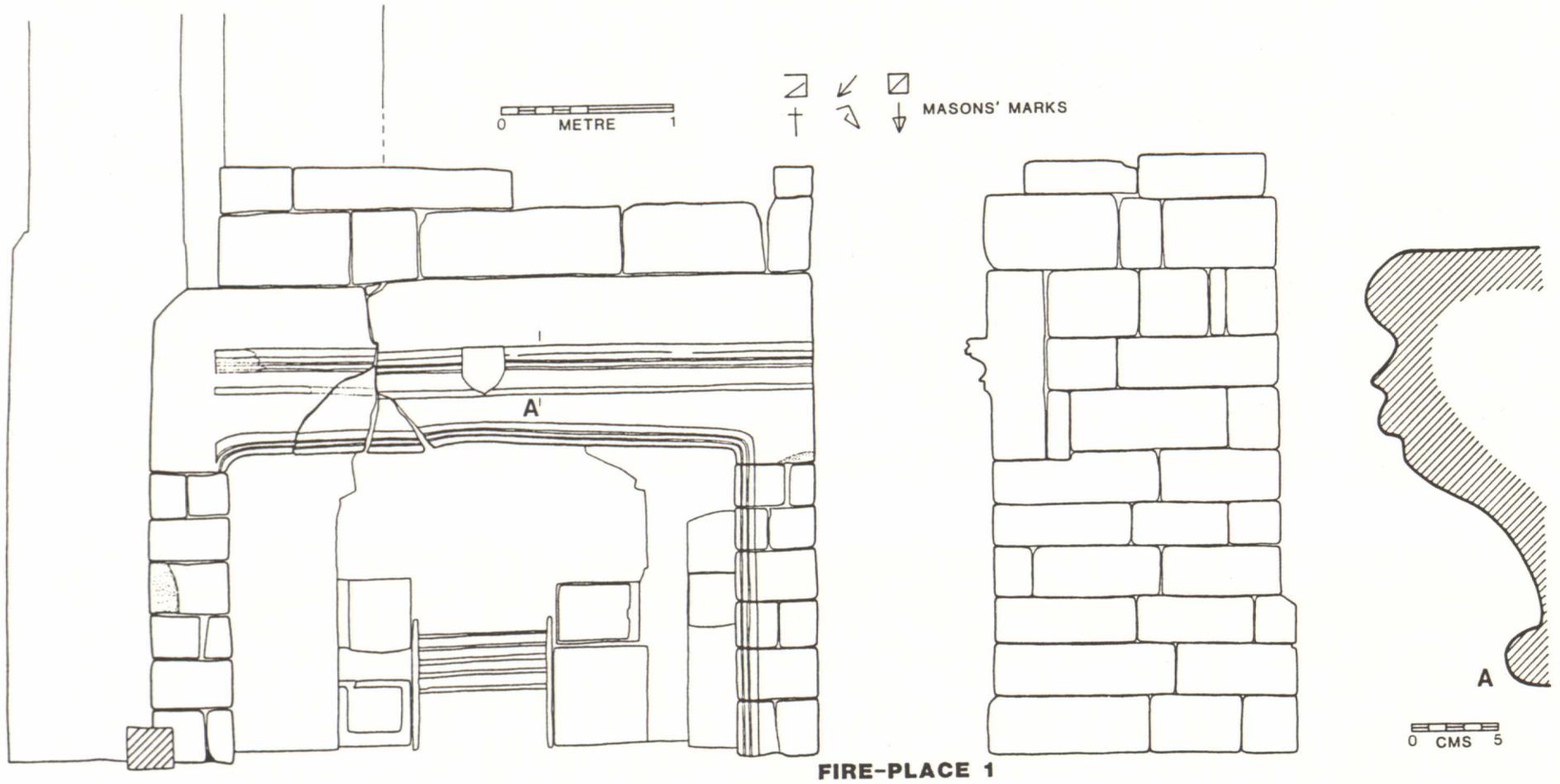
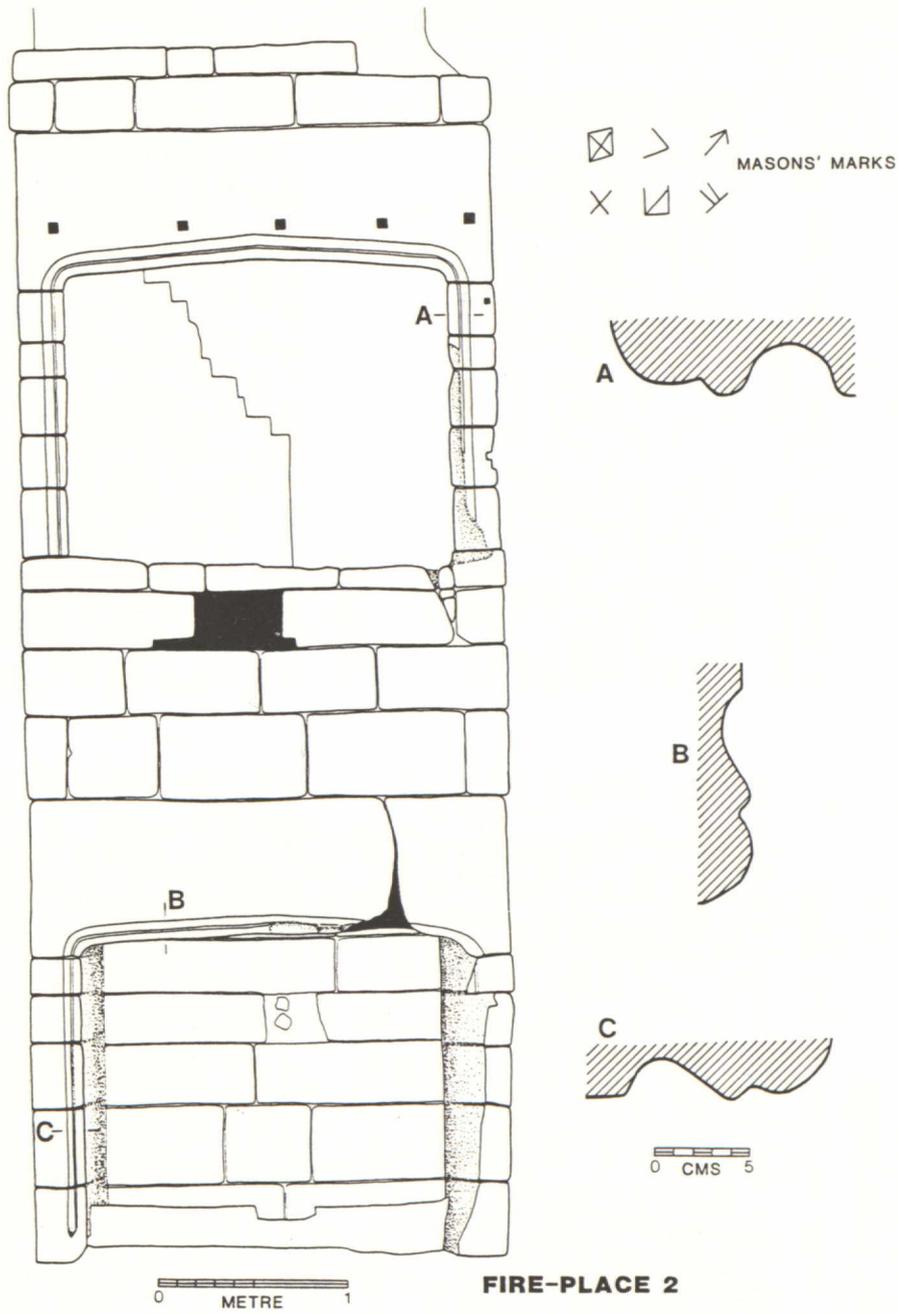
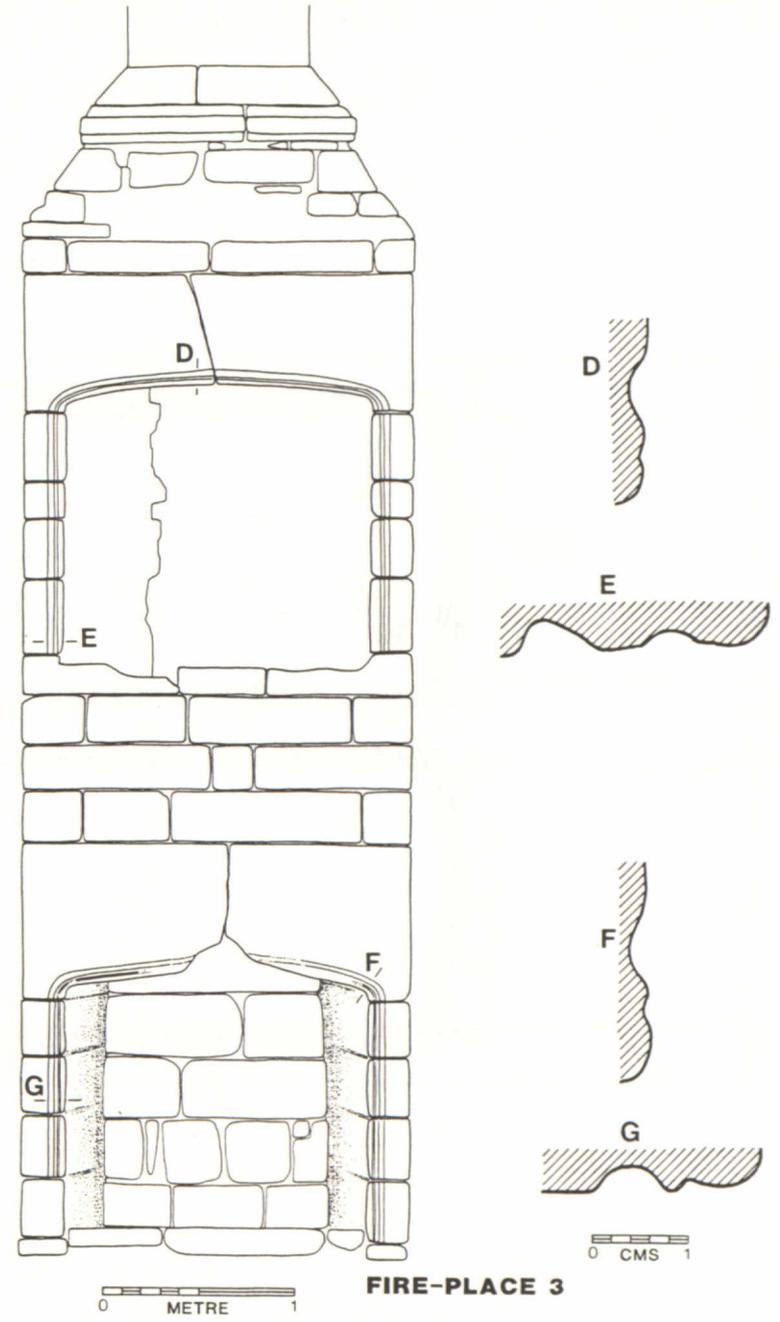


Figure 6. Fireplace 1



**FIRE-PLACE 2**



**FIRE-PLACE 3**

Figure 7. Fireplaces 2 and 3

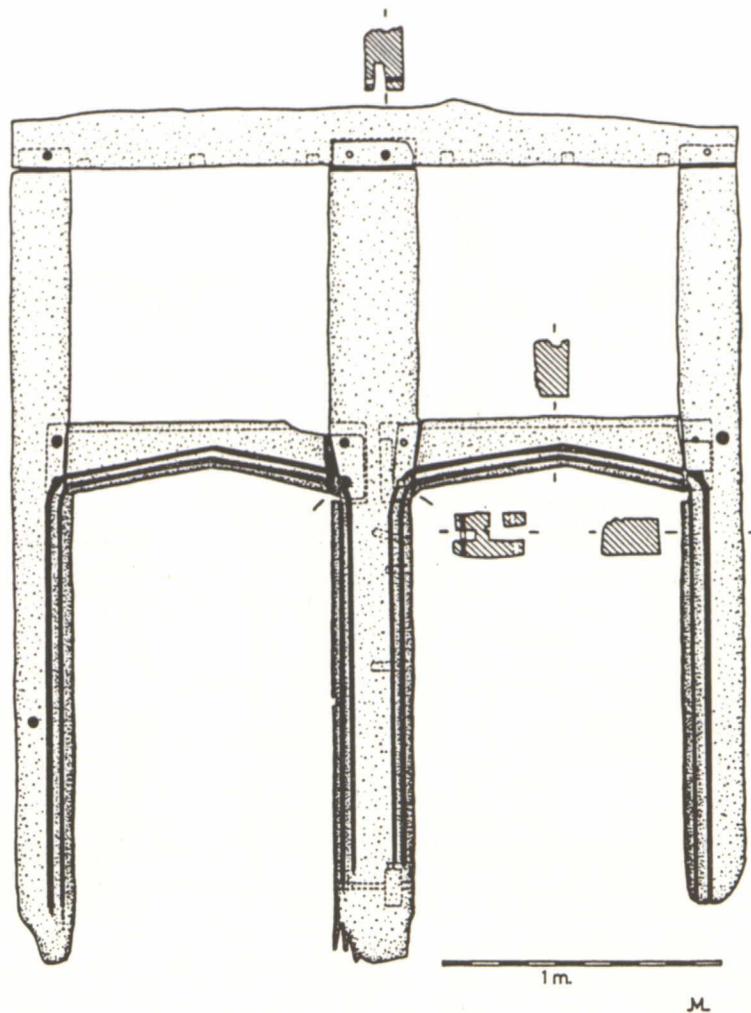


Figure 8. Screens passage

being carried out in the mid-16th century.

The orientation of the stone fireplace 3 in the North Wing shows that it was originally part of the East Wing, reputedly demolished in the 18th century. Nothing else survives above ground of this wing, which was also said to be the oldest part of the hall. Excavation showed that sections of bedrock plinths survived but more surprising was the discovery of six large postholes at the south end. Cut into the bedrock between 15 and 55cms deep no trace of the "post-pipe" was seen, but fragments of brick found suggest that the posts may have been removed in the post-medieval period. There were only three sherds of medieval pottery found in the entire site: all of them in the topsoil in this area.

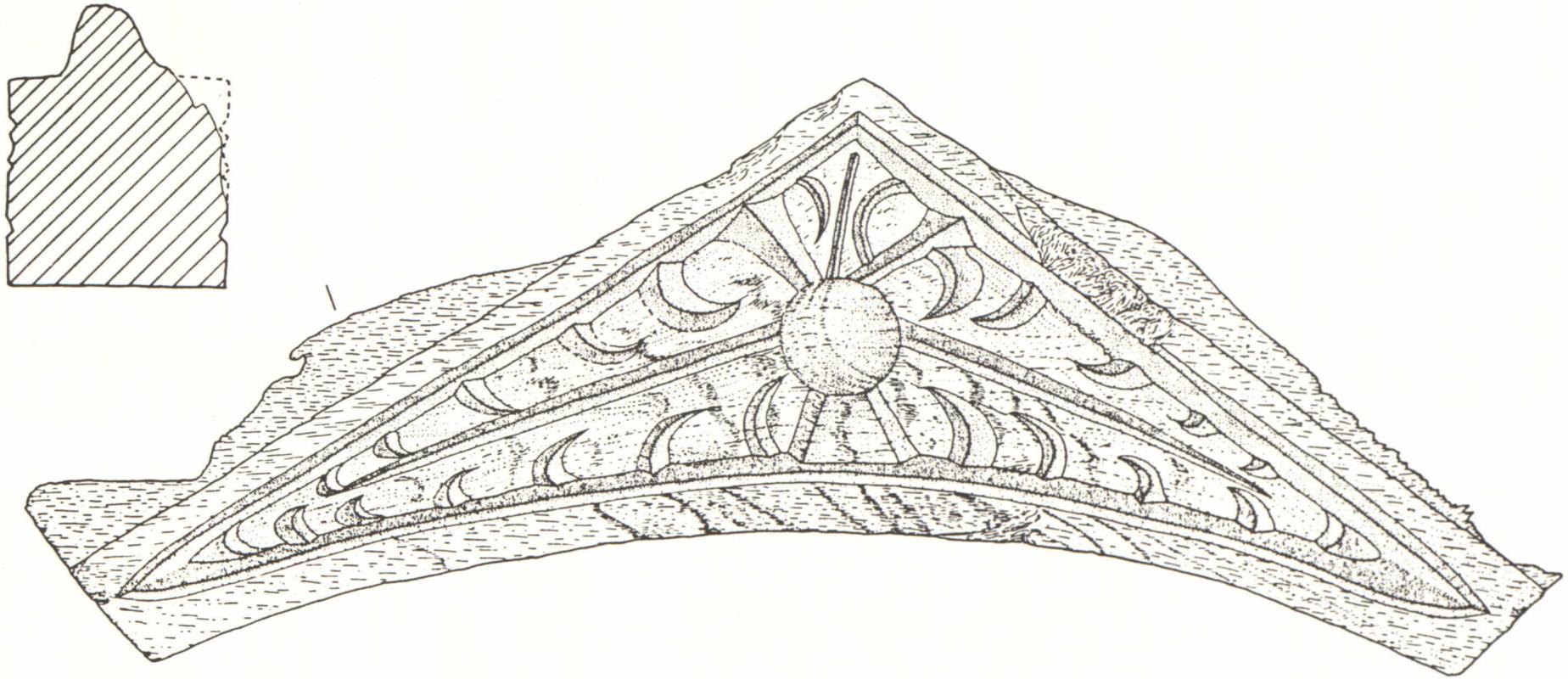
At the north-east corner of the North Wing the stone and brick cill walls and brick and flagstone floors of an adjacent building were found. Brick oven bases show this to have been a post-medieval kitchen area and the building itself may be no earlier. However, beneath the flagstones at the north end was a massive drain cut into the bedrock, but also stone-lined. This had no apparent connection with the existing buildings and was either an earlier field drain or part of another unknown building. Several small sherds of post-medieval and Victorian pottery were found in the silty fill of the drain and may have worked their way down from the floor levelling material above

or, more likely, be proof that the drain was still functioning in the 19th century.

Excavation has shown that the Victorian restoration was thorough and little evidence survived below ground to assist with the interpretation of the building. Victorian and later artefacts were found in abundance, but there was a remarkable absence of earlier finds. The six large postholes indicate that there was a timber-framed building on the site; presumably it was earlier than the rest of the building, but there was no dating evidence apart from the technique of using earth-fast posts.

### Conclusions

The fortunes of Lydiate Hall seem to have been rather mixed. Apart from an early 15th century document, in which reference is made to a hall, and the recovery of six large postholes and a stone-lined drain, there is no evidence of either a documentary or excavation nature to indicate the existence of any structure on the site before the mid-16th century. At this period architectural evidence and that of the dendrochronological analysis combines with the documentary evidence to suggest that it was Laurence and Ellen Ireland who were responsible for the construction of the building which survived into the 20th century.



## Finds

With the exception of three sherds of medieval pottery, all other finds were of post-medieval or later date recovered from disturbed levels and topsoil. In addition to ceramic material, a considerable amount of vessel glass and metalwork was also recovered. All the material has been examined and listed, finds and the accompanying archive is held by Liverpool University. Eventually, they will be passed to Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool.

## Acknowledgements

We should like to thank Mr F J Williams, Leverhume Estates and Mr S Lovelady, Lydiate Hall Farm, for their co-operation and for allowing access to the site. Many individuals and groups have contributed to this research, survey and excavation. In particular we should like to mention David Freke, Director of the Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit, Gill Chitty of the Archaeological Survey of Merseyside, Tony Tibbles, curator of Speke Hall, the staff of the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, Penny Brown, Richard Clarke, Colette Cowan, A D'Arcy, David Higgins, Mike King, Alan Mouldsdales, Dorothy O'Hanlon, Geoffrey Phillips, David Taylor and members of Archaeological Services and students who attended the Lydiate Hall training excavation. Bob Alvery of Nottingham University undertook the initial work of cataloguing the finds and the work was completed by employees of the North West Archaeological Trust, funded by the Manpower Services Commission.

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## Appendix 1

### Inventory of Lawrence Ireland of Lidiate 1609 (Lancashire RO: WCW Laurence Ireland 1609)

A true and perfect inventorie of all the goods and cattells of Lawrence Ireland of Lidet Esquire taken praised and valued the of Maie año dñi 1609 by Edward Smith Gilbert Blundell Richard Tatlock Lawrence Barker Homphrey Holland & William Patrick

Imprimis eight Oxen	xxxiiij <sup>h</sup>	In the hagg house	
It eighteene kine and one bull	"	It One paire of shod wheeles	iiij <sup>h</sup>
It five Stiers	xij <sup>h</sup>	It three corne waines	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It foure bullocks and ij heyfers	ix <sup>h</sup> x <sup>s</sup>	It One paire of new wheles	xiiiij <sup>s</sup>
It ten Sterks and one bull calfe	xiiiij <sup>h</sup>	It three gange spokes of Gapper timber	xij <sup>s</sup>
It ten calves	vj <sup>h</sup> xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	It in fellies Netherheads plough beames and Axletrees	xxiiiij <sup>s</sup>
It four horses & three mares and three colts	xxiiij <sup>h</sup>	It nine ploughs and three harrowes	xvij <sup>s</sup>
It fiftie foure sheeps & xx lambs	xviiij <sup>h</sup>	It seaven paire of plough Irons	xiiiij <sup>s</sup>
It twentie six swine	x <sup>h</sup>	It One mill Shaft	xvj <sup>s</sup>
It twentie seaven geese	xij <sup>s</sup>	It for Offall of the haghhouse	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It eight turkies	viiij <sup>s</sup>	It two angles iiij nogers iiij chissells ij gauges l handsaw l[?] ginete l hamer l paire of pinsers ij iron wedges l brass wimble l brandell	vij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It twentie henns	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	It foure spades ij forkes l cutting axe l framing saw	vij <sup>s</sup>
It nine capons	vj <sup>s</sup>	It xj spade shafts ij yate barrs l side of a muck wain l yate [?]Set	xj <sup>s</sup>
It five duggs	xx <sup>d</sup>	It six Sythropes	xvj <sup>s</sup>
It xx metts of beanes & pease	l <sup>s</sup>	It six paire of tresse iiij paire of lands	viiij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It eight metts of barley	xxiiiij <sup>s</sup>	It nine yokes six dra: ij hed:	ix <sup>s</sup>
It in floure wheate & oates	vj <sup>s</sup>	It two waine ropes	iiiij <sup>s</sup>
It Light Corne	xij <sup>s</sup>	It one paire of threpe Swingel a harroes v harroe bles ij pick	iiij <sup>s</sup>
It threescore metts of barley malt	xij <sup>h</sup>	It five pick forks	iiij <sup>s</sup>
It threescore metts of oate malt	vj <sup>h</sup>	It five plough bucks	ij <sup>s</sup>
It wheat unwinddowed	vij <sup>h</sup>	It old broken Iron	xij <sup>d</sup>
It barley unthreshed	xx <sup>h</sup>	It in pilling hems	viiij <sup>d</sup>
It Wheat uppon the earth	xxxvj <sup>h</sup>	It two brier hookes one warthing hooke one fearne sythe two forkes	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
It Barley uppon the earth	xxxiiiij <sup>h</sup>	It One fret one stone pike one fret for a mill shaft	ij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>
It Oates pease & beanes uppo the earth	x <sup>h</sup>	It One Mathooke	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
		It One horse hide and a halfe	v <sup>s</sup>
		It Woanties and ropes	xij <sup>d</sup>

It nine paire of wheeles and two waines	xj <sup>s</sup>	1 feather bed one mattres	l <sup>r</sup>
It One ladder and foure brakes	v <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>	It One little square table	ij <sup>s</sup>
It two turffe waines one turffe cart	xv <sup>s</sup>	It One paire of virginalls & a table	xx <sup>s</sup>
It ten tun of lime stones	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	It In the Greene Chamber two feather beds ij bouldsters ij mattre <sup>s</sup> ij bouldsters ij covlits ij blankets ij paire of bedstocks ij bords	vj <sup>li</sup> xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
It six paire of waine draughts and one ladder	vij <sup>s</sup>	It in the Chamber over the larder 1 mattre <sup>s</sup> one boulder 1 chaffe bed iij coverlits three blankets 1 paire of bedstocks 1 round table	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
It One muck waine	iiij <sup>s</sup>	It in the great Chamber ij featherbeds two bouldsters iij pillowes one counter pointe 1 covring viij blankets 1 canopie ij paire of bedstocks 1 square table iij imbroydred hares ij mattre <sup>s</sup> 1 buffet stoole 1 covring one covring uppon y <sup>e</sup> square table iij quishions of needle worke 1 Iron grate bed hangings	xvj <sup>li</sup> xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
It three Sleedds	viiij <sup>d</sup>	It in the closset by the great Chamber two bords	ij <sup>s</sup>
In the Stable		It in the chamber over the hall 1 feather bed 1 boulder ij coverlits ij blankets 1 chaffe bed 1 paire of bedstocks 1 table ij chares	iiij <sup>li</sup>
It Old timber at the stable door	xij <sup>d</sup>	It in the chamber over the Butterie one featherbed 1 mattre <sup>s</sup> 1 paire of bed stocks 1 coverlit 1 covring 1 boulder iij blankets ij pillowes ij chares ij buffet stooles three quishions blue and yellow curtons one square table & a covring two little bords	v <sup>li</sup> x <sup>s</sup>
It two gange and a halfe of spokes	ij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	It in the Chamber over the Kitchen xj paire of bedstocks ij featherbeds one mattre <sup>s</sup> 1 chaffe bed ij bouldsters ij pillowes viij blankets 1 coverlit old curtons one Iron grate one Cofer ij trunks	vij <sup>li</sup>
It two Barne Shovells	vj <sup>d</sup>	It in the Childrens chamber iiij paires of bedstocks 1 standing presse iij Cofers 1 Iron grate 1 feather bed ij mattre <sup>s</sup> ij chaffe beds v covlits v blankets iiij bouldsters ij pillowes	vj <sup>li</sup> x <sup>s</sup>
It foure bords for mill trindells	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	It in the privie Chamber 1 cofer 1 presse bord and forms	x <sup>s</sup>
It two bords and iij paire of Raths	v <sup>s</sup>	It in the Chamber over the yates 1 paire of bedstocks 1 featherbed 1 chaffebed 1 boulder ij covlits ij blankets	iiij <sup>li</sup> vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It in sappling ash timber & crabtree timber uppon y <sup>e</sup> Tormve hill	xxij <sup>s</sup>	It in the dining Chamber ij tables iij forms ij chares iij stooles six seatequishions	
It in the loft above y <sup>e</sup> range two coverlits ij blanket ij bouldsters one chaffe bed	x <sup>s</sup>		
It two covlits 1 blanket 1 boulder	x <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>		
It in the Svants Chamber ij covlits three blankets two bouldsters one chaffe bed	xvj <sup>s</sup>		
It in the Cabbins iij coverlits 1 blanket one boulder one chaffe bed	xviiij <sup>s</sup>		
It One paire of bedstocks	iiij <sup>s</sup>		
It foure paire of bedstocks in two out Chambers	viiij <sup>s</sup>		
It in the Cabbins one bord 1 forme	vj <sup>d</sup>		
It in the Gatehouse Cha: iij coverlits ij blankets 1 boulder and one paire of bedstocks	xij <sup>s</sup>		
It One warping Trough	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>		
It in the Greene Cham: iij coverlits iiij blankets iij bouldsters ij pair of bedstocks ij feather beds and two chaffe beds	ii xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>		
It in the Chamber over the yates one coverlit iij blankets 1 boulder 1 pillow 1 paire of bedstocks			

l Iron grate	iiij <sup>li</sup>	It six table cloths wherof one dieber	i <sup>s</sup>
It in the Galery ij tables ij forms	vj <sup>s</sup>	It iij square Cubbord cloths	vj <sup>s</sup>
It in the parler l long table one squre table ij carpetts xj quishions l chare viiij buffet stooles l forme one paire of Tables	iiij <sup>li</sup> xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	It thirteene towelles	xxij <sup>s</sup>
It One cofer at the stare head	x <sup>s</sup>	It six square cubbord cloths for chambers	xx <sup>s</sup>
It in the Halle		It twelve dieber napkins	x <sup>s</sup>
It in the Brewhouse six metts of oate meale	xxiiij <sup>s</sup>	It one dozen of napkins ij towells and ij hand towells	x <sup>s</sup>
It the meate Ark	viiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	It six dozen of flaxen napkins	iiij <sup>li</sup> x <sup>s</sup>
It One Brew Combe iij yate Combs xvj barrells v firkins one Cooler	iiij <sup>li</sup> iiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	It thirtie yards of dieber white	iiij <sup>li</sup>
It three turnells ij tubbs v stunds l Esshone l Ruonge l salt barrell	xiiiij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>	It foure table cloths	viiij <sup>s</sup>
It in the Deire house ij Esshones v piggins iiiij butter tubbs xj traies v [?] chesfates ij turneills iiiij leds in a frame vj prints for butter xxj platters Butter muggs v, one dishgrate xxij dishes ij sighes	xxxj <sup>s</sup>	It seaventeene paire of new sheets	iiij <sup>li</sup> v <sup>s</sup>
It in the white larder iij salting tubbs one oxe salted vj fitches of bacon	vj <sup>li</sup>	It five table cloths for the halle	v <sup>s</sup>
It in tallow rendered, l traie l mugg	xiiij <sup>s</sup> viiiij <sup>d</sup>	It ninteene paire of Sheets daily in use	iiij <sup>li</sup> vj <sup>s</sup> viiiij <sup>d</sup>
It One cutting stock l bord l trest in earth woode	iiij <sup>s</sup>	It new linnen praised to	xij <sup>s</sup>
It in the Kitchin iij fitches of bacon	xvj <sup>s</sup>	It in the closset iiiij cofers	xij <sup>s</sup>
It two spitts ij paire of GobIrons ii dripping panns ij frying panns iiij rakendithes iiiij paires of pothookes l brand Iron ij grid Irons l chimley [?]	xLviiiij <sup>s</sup>	It liij slippings of yarne	xLij <sup>s</sup>
It Seaven brasse potts one posnet viiiij panns iiij chafing dishes ij malters ij pestells	viiiij <sup>li</sup> v <sup>s</sup>	It xxxv slippings of yarne	iiiij <sup>li</sup>
It in pewter	v <sup>li</sup> iiij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>	It blanket yarne	v <sup>s</sup>
It in Linnen ij paire of sheets of iiij breadths and iij paire of sheetes of ij breadths & a halfe	iiiij <sup>li</sup>	It fourteen candlesticks in y <sup>e</sup> butterie	xx <sup>s</sup>
It eight paire of flaxen sheetes	iiiij <sup>li</sup>	It three dozen of round trenchers	xij <sup>d</sup>
It ten paire of pillowbeers		It one dozen of square trenchers	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
It foure square Cubbord cloths	xij <sup>s</sup>	It foure white bowles	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
		It foure canns v bottells one lether bottell	iiij <sup>s</sup>
		It glasses and cupps	vj <sup>d</sup>
		It five dozen of Brase trenchers	viiij <sup>d</sup>
		It in the millne l chissell, l stone rope l mill rope xiiij pikes ij tubbs l charne l Wisket l barrell one new mill stone	iiiij <sup>li</sup>
		It [?] clm of brick unburd	iiiij <sup>li</sup> x <sup>s</sup>
		It in plate	xxix <sup>li</sup>
		It in turfes in the Stack & uppon ye mosse	vj <sup>li</sup> xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
		It eighteene sacks and iij pokes	xx <sup>s</sup>
		It two twilsheets iij staskets	xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>

It iij Teme siffes ij meale siffs ix siffs	iiij <sup>s</sup>
It ij halfe metts l [?] Saw v paickes	vj <sup>s</sup>
It One haire uppon the Killne	xxiiij <sup>s</sup>
It One grindle stone and a ) trough and Iron axletree )	
It Certaine stones about ) the yates )	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It his apparrell l paire of velvet breeches iij paire of other breeches iiij dubletts ij cloakes one gowne xiiij paire of stockings iiij Jerkins l paire of basses ij hatts saddle bridell stirrups bates and shoes	viiij <sup>ii</sup> vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It iiij saddells iiij bridles l hogehed ij chenes one pillian	xx <sup>s</sup>
It new cloth for sale cloths	x <sup>s</sup>
It Timber in Tarbocke park	x <sup>li</sup>
Debts owing by y <sup>e</sup> decedent	
Imprimis to M <sup>rs</sup> Jane More	
It to John Whitehead	v <sup>li</sup>
It to William Patrick	x <sup>li</sup> x <sup>s</sup>
It to John Harsnip	xiiij <sup>ii</sup> vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It to Robt Cadick	x <sup>li</sup>
It to Richard Tatlock	vj <sup>ii</sup>
It to Nicolas Jamson	xxij <sup>ii</sup>
It to Uxor Raffe Gore	vj <sup>ii</sup>

### Glossary to Appendix 1

Axletree: The beam or bar connecting two wheels on the end of which the wheels revolve

Basse: possibly bass - a skirt appended to a doublet, reaching from the waist to the knee.

Brandell: possible variation on brandreth - a gridiron

Brew Combe: unknown

Cauper timber: unknown

Chafing dish: a vessel to hold burning charcoal or other fuel for heating anything placed in it

Chenes: chains

Chesfater: cheese-vats

Chimley: chimney

Cofer: coffer

Counter pointe: a quilted cover for a bed

Dieber (diaber): a twillen linen cloth woven with diamond patterns, used for napkins, towels and tablecloths

Digg: a duck

Esshone (eshon): a wooden pail or shallow tub

Fellies: the curved pieces of wood which, joined together form the circular rim of a wheel

Fret: an iron hoop about the navel of a cart-wheel

Gang: the collective term for a set of spokes for a cart-wheel

Ginete: possibly jennet, a carpenter's adze

Grindle stone: a grindstone

Haire: a mat of hair used for various purposes

Harrow boilles (harrow bulls): the longitudinal beams of a wooden harrow in which teeth are inserted.

Kine: cattle

Pairs of lands: unknown

Mett: a measure, generally a bushel

Netherhead: unknown

Noger: an auger

Piggin: a small wooden vessel made in the manner of half barrels with one stave longer than the rest to form a handle

Pillian: pillion, a pad on the back of a saddle for a second person

Pilling: peeling

Pillowbeers: pillow-beres, pillow cases

Plough buck: the front cross-piece of a plough to which the horses were attached

Poke: a sack

Posnett: an iron pot for cooking with a handle and three feet

Presse: a large shelved cupboard

Rathe: the shelving or frame fixed to the sides of a cart to increase the capacity

Rakendith: (rakentithe) vertical band of iron which hung from gallow tree or crane or from fixed bar in chimney from which hooks were suspended to take pots and kettles.

Ruonge: possibly runge - a long tub

Sale cloths: unknown

Sew: unknown

Shod wheels: wheels hooped with iron

Sighe: sie - a milk-strainer

slipping: a skein or hank of yarn

Stasket: unknown

Sterk: a young bulluck or heifer usually between one and two years old

Teme: ?team, ?teem, temse, a sieve?

Threpe swingels: threpe - unknown, a swingle tree, a bar which swings at the heels of a horse when drawing a plough, harrow etc.

Trencher: a plate for meat, usually wooden

Trindell (trindle): a wheel

Turnell: a shallow oval tub

a pair of virginalls: a keyed musical instrument resembling a spinet but set in a box or case without legs

Waine draughts: draught yokes are yokes used by a team of oxen when drawing waines or ploughs

Warping trough: used in weaving

Warthing hook: unknown

Wimble: an auger, gimlet or brace

Wisket: a straw basket with no handles but with hand holes at each end, in which provender was taken to cattle

Woantie: possibly a wantow - a rope for trying objects to horses

Yate: a gate

## Appendix 2

### Inventory of Margaret Ireland 1695 (Lancashire RO: WCW Margaret Ireland 1695)

A true and pfect Inventory of the Goods and chattells of Margarett Ireland of Lidiate in the county of Lanc<sup>e</sup> widowe deceased taken and valued the third day of Aprill 1695 by Roger Pye of Alt carr in the said county yeoman Henry Letherbarrowe of Lidiate in the said county yeoman Henry Heskienne of Lidiate aforesaid yeoman and John Crew of Ormskirk in the said county innkeeper as follows

#### In the Kitchen

Imp <sup>s</sup> One Iron Girdle to Bake Cakes on	00	03	04
Two Iron Chaging dishes	00	01	02
one small sawse pan	00	00	06
one paire of Bellows	00	00	06
4 stooles and 1 trest	00	02	00
one cheirre	00	00	08
one chest of drawers for spices	00	05	00

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00 13 02

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#### In the Larder

5 noggins and a small can	00	00	04
in earthenware	00	01	00
2 old wood basons & a little stand	00	01	04

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00 02 08

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#### In the Brewhouse dairy & millhouse

6 trayes or basons	00	01	00
1 churne churnestaffe and lidd	00	04	06
1 can 1 old pail 1 bason 1 irnening tubb	00	04	06
one old bushell	00	01	06
more in earthenware there	00	01	06
3 pailles and 2 piggins	00	04	00
2 seives	00	01	00

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00 18 00

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#### In the nursery

Two tables	00	11	00
the hanging about y <sup>e</sup> bedd	00	01	06
one chaire	00	00	08

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00 08 06

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In the clossett over y <sup>e</sup> larder	
one pair of bedstocks	00 03 00
one feather bolster	00 03 06
one pair of weights	00 00 06
one box	00 01 06
	<hr/>
	00 08 06
	<hr/>

2 spinning wheeles	00 02 06
4 tubbs about brewing	01 00 00
4 turnells	00 04 00
13 barrells & a firkin with a tundish	01 00 00
in barley to be made into malt	03 10 00
in wheat	00 12 00
in fire	00 10 00
in odd thing not valued	00 10 00
	<hr/>
	07 08 06
	<hr/>

In the decedants clossett	
? pieces of flaxen	05 00 00
6 pair of flaxen sheets	02? 10 00
6 pair of canvas sheets	01 00 00
3(?) dozen of napkins	00 07 06
3 pillow & cases	00 09 00
3 large table cloaths	00 12 00
5 course table cloaths	00 08 00
7 towills	00 03 06
2 trunks	00 04 06
3 boxes	00 03 00
Glasses	00 02 00
one fine spinning wheele	00 04 00
other add things there	00 01 00
	<hr/>
	11 04 06
	<hr/>

In cattle	14 10 00
in swine	01 07 00
one mare	02 07 06
in geese	00 04 06
	<hr/>
	18 09 00
	<hr/>

In money	58 00 00
The decedants apparill	02 10 00
The whole amount to	102 07 07

In the decedant's chamber	
one cabbinnett and frame	00 05 00
one box of drawers	00 06 00
	<hr/>
	00 11 00
	<hr/>

50lb weight in pewter	01 05 00
60lb weight in pot brass	01 00 00
one posnett one mortar & pestall	00 04 00
4 skillets 2 pans i warming 1 pan	
1 laddle & a skimmer	01 00 00
all the Iron ware	00 05 00
all the Tinware	00 01 00
in glass bottles	00 04 00
	<hr/>
	03 19 00
	<hr/>