

the hall, and in the 1680s probably still in the same location as it had been in 1634. The pantry was where one kept dishes, cups, knives and other things needed for eating and drinking in the hall and parlours; in 1634 the pantry contained 42 candlesticks. Probably on the ground floor also was William Pope's study, with books valued at £50 and where he will have kept his papers: it is here, in the inventory, that the total appears of the large amount of his debts.

The Earl's house had two large staircases, one off the high end of the hall and the other at the low end. The principal stair has been rebuilt, though it is still in its original location, and this rose to the best chambers of the house. The low end stair, which is essentially unaltered, is described on the 1680s plan as 'stairs to the common apartments,' in other words the stair to the chambers used by family and servants. In Elizabethan and Jacobean houses, the best entertaining rooms were on the first floor, and the grandest room in the house was what is now known as the Regency Room. Other first floor rooms that can probably be identified are what was called the gallery over the hall – that is to say, the gallery over the hall screen – and a bed chamber next to it described as 'over the pantry and little withdrawing chamber'. In working out where the rooms in the house were, this description is useful: the 'little withdrawing chamber' is probably the same room as the room called the little low parlour on the ground floor, and since the contents of this bed chamber over it were valued quite highly – £25 – and since it was common for the head of the household to sleep in the best of the bed chambers at the low end of the house, it is probably here – immediately beyond the hall gallery, in a room that has been altered but is now partly occupied by the Director's secretary's office – that William Pope himself slept.

Besides the gallery over the hall, two other galleries are named in 1634: the Upper Gallery and the Long Upper Gallery. Galleries, in the parlance of the time, were often no more than broad passage rooms, and there still exist on the second and third floors of the house just such spaces, linking the stairs and giving access to the chambers on each floor. On the top floor, some of these chambers retain their original door surrounds. There is no mention of a chapel in 1634, though one is mentioned in the inventories of 1668 and 1680. The kitchen and other of the service accommodation cannot be located but must have been mainly in the basement or in old buildings to the south of the new house.

Roger North, who was responsible for modernising the house for his brother in the 1680s, described how the rooms had been 'like bird cages