

all window' and how he had reduced them in size (since then they were altered again more than once).<sup>19</sup> Unusually for the period, this was done in a conscious imitation of the earlier style, but nevertheless the change must have had a profound effect on the appearance of the house both outside and inside. Virtually nothing remains of the decoration of the Popes' house, save for the hall screen and a doorway at the hall's high end, and a narrow cornice in one of the chambers over the hall. However, North noted that in what he called the 'parade rooms' – probably the great chamber on the ground floor – there had been 'a Gothick border of plaster of a yard deep, being barbarous representations of horses bucks and does and I know not what.'<sup>20</sup> When the house was modernised at that date the frieze was done away with, but perhaps one might imagine a cruder and much simpler version of the famous plaster frieze in the High great Chamber at Hardwick Hall. Other room names occasionally suggest decoration: the red and the green 'wrought chambers' will have had hangings of those colours on the walls; the matted chamber, obviously, matting on the floor.

The two later inventories are a good deal fuller than that of 1634, that of 1680 running to over a hundred rooms. However, in the seventeenth century there were certainly many fewer rooms in the house than that, and the lists include very many outbuildings. Some of the principal rooms of the house can be located as with those listed in 1634, but the greatest value of these later inventories is the fuller listing they provide, and thus the picture they give of the complexities and scale of the domestic economy of an aristocratic house of the age. The 1680 inventory is the more detailed, and is to be published separately.

By then there had already been a few changes in the house. The little parlour had been re-named the smoking room. The principal first floor room was now called the dining room; when built, it would have been known as the Great Chamber, the principal entertaining room of the house, used on the grandest occasions. The two later inventories also mention a chapel, apparently lying – from its place in the sequence of rooms – close to the hall. The existing chapel, remodelled in the eighteenth century, lies to the rear of the hall in a space occupied in the 1680s plan by the 'gentleman parlour' – a dining room for upper servants, formed by the enclosure of the space between the two stairs.

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<sup>19</sup> British Library Add MS 32510 f136r.

<sup>20</sup> *ib.*