

APPENDIX

Roger North's unpublished memoirs include further references to Wroxton:

[Dudley North] had a great inclination to build a house for himself and to accommodate his designing capacity he bought a plain table and a set of mathematical instruments, and however he might miss his aims, the charge was not lost for he left posterity behind him who have made better use of these than ever he would have done. But he drew, and I drew, and much altercation we had ...

At Wroxton our time was spent much on the same trak [?] mapping the gardens, and projecting amendments and structures, and by the same token a country gentlemen told us thru the nose, aye, sayd he, you may measure and measure as long as ye will, but my lord is not such a fool as to be ruled by you.

BL Add MS 32513 ff.153v-154r

After [Francis North's] lady was dead and he had putt out his children to their respective educations, he left his seat at Hammersmith; and then Wroxton falling to his share, he he made that his retirement recreation. The place afforded him very much pleasure, he took his nearest relations and friends downe with him, and ever kept his family [i.e. his household] full, for he had his desired entertainment by walking in the garden with a friend to hear him discours, he loved not promiscuous company but allwais a select, and his relations were allwais so to him.

It is rarely found that a man of fortune becomes owner of a seat, but he builds; the masters [?] have a saying, that mony will squeak. So his lordship ... being to be owner of this noble seat, desired to make it useful and according to the model of it perfect, for there was wanting not only finishing and for order to the furnishing of the rooms of parade, but also an integral part of the house, being one wing where the family is to dwell and be accomodated, and thus the shift was made with an old ruinous fabrick, that doe [*illeg.*] the rest. His lordship loved workmen well enough, if he were satisfied it were a reasonable purpose, but he would not bear the thought of profusion such as some are guilty of in building ...

As he was desiring to make his seat perfect so he had a shrewd pull back, by the consideration his house was but a renewable lease, and all his improvements might be turned upon him to inhance the fines, but yet something he would try, as long as he had health and spirits. And he considered what was more needful, and that he did first, he had a plain man to put out his work, and see to the executory part, one Watson, very fitt for the buissness, and orderly wher he lived, but I took upon me the honour of being prime architect, and his lordship encouraged my industry that way. I am sure I